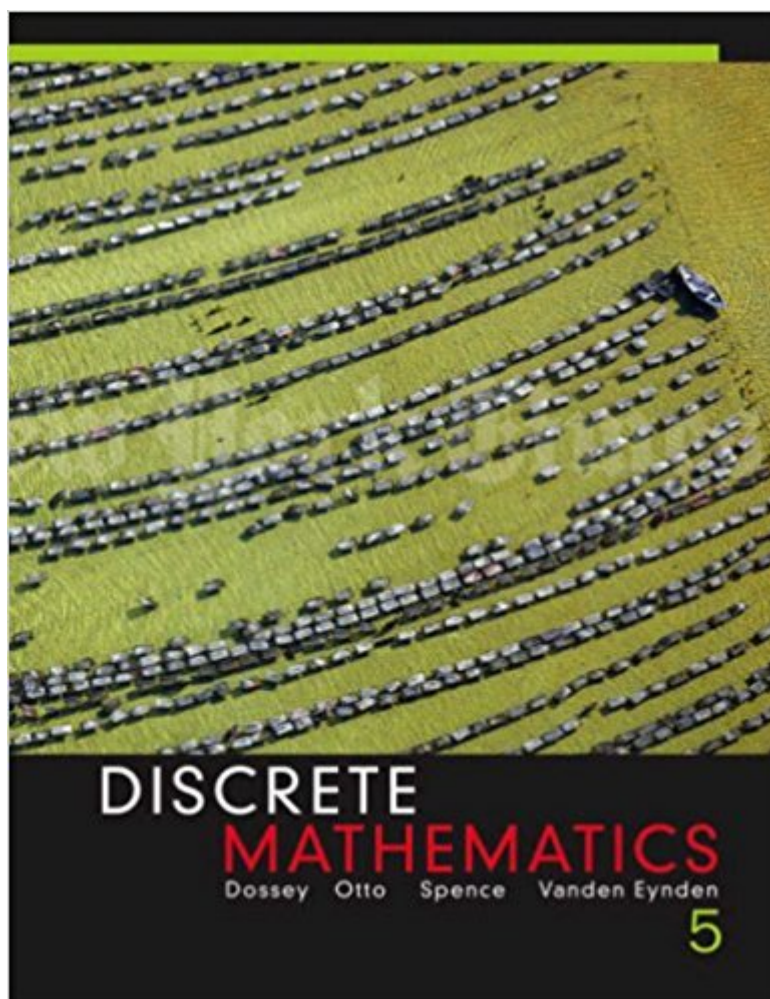


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Discrete Mathematics (5th Edition)



Synopsis

The strong algorithmic emphasis of Discrete Mathematics is independent of a specific programming language, allowing students to concentrate on foundational problem-solving and analytical skills. Instructors get the topical breadth and organizational flexibility to tailor the course to the level and interests of their students. Algorithms are presented in English, eliminating the need for knowledge of a particular programming language. Computational and algorithmic exercise sets follow each chapter section and supplementary exercises and computer projects are included in the end-of-chapter material. This Fifth Edition features a new Chapter 3 covering matrix codes, error correcting codes, congruence, Euclidean algorithm and Diophantine equations, and the RSA algorithm. MARKET: Intended for use in a one-semester introductory course in discrete mathematics.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is one of the worst textbooks I've ever used, and I'm pretty ambivalent with textbooks. This book is disorganized and will have problem sets on random topics that aren't even covered in the book (and not in a way where they want to challenge us by deriving on something they actually did include). I can either spend an hour trying to make sense of their messy-ass and lacking examples, or understand a concept within ten minutes of googling it. This book pretty much killed any joy I had for math until I realized that I wasn't the problem, the book was. Now I only keep it around so I can do the problems my professor tells me to do, otherwise I'm using far better sources like youtube and random university lectures. I hate that I had to spend so much money on renting this book which will

probably do a far better job as toilet paper than teaching me anything. This book is so bad and such a waste of my time that it makes me full-on-rage-angry and there's nothing I want more than to tear it apart and burn the pages (again I'm not stupid, I understand the concepts perfectly when they're presented WELL), but it's a rental so I won't.

This is one of the more sparsely explained textbooks, expect one or two examples at maximum per concept. I wouldn't recommend this book if you haven't any experience with college algebra, or at the very least an intro to programming course. Good luck getting any value from the answer key in the back of this book, the accompanying answer booklet does more explaining than the actual textbook. The one redeeming quality this book has is its solid pseudocode, most of the algorithms are written concisely and explained enough for you to easily convert them into working code. I also enjoyed the small historical footnotes on different mathematicians and their contributions to computer science as a whole, really interesting stuff. That's about it, hopefully future editions can take on a more friendly direction with explaining new concepts because this 5th Edition feels dated.

I was required to get this textbook and used it in an online class. I agree with essentially everything that was said about this book in that it's overly complicated and confusing in explaining the content. My typical learning session goes like this; I read the material assigned, then reread it and then in most cases read it again. After that what I've found helpful is taking the concept of the section and then going to youtube... here I've found no shortage of videos to explain the content. Using the book, youtube, supplemental material, etc.. I've been able to make it through fairly well. It doesn't take a math major like others have stated, just the willingness to put in the time and effort to develop the understanding. I think most students at the sophomore/junior level would find this to be a difficult read. My only positive is that rental program is pretty cool :) .

This book is just plain awful. Several times throughout my Discrete Math course this semester my instructor has had to clarify errors in the text. Unless you are a mathematician, you will have a hard time following the chapters in the book. The only thing this book was useful for was the homework sections, and even then they were riddled with confusing questions at times. The solutions book is just as awful. Good thing we live in the age of the internet, because I probably spent 90% of my time on YouTube trying to clarify what this book was trying to convey.

I'm sure this would be all you needed if you are already fluent in many math disciplines. If you

self-study, forget about it. Examples are not explained well, and there are few of them. There are few exercises as well, though this is the case with many math texts. Those who are math-fluent will have no problem with the subject matter, but others might want to invest in a book like 2000 Solved Problems in Discrete Mathematics. Hope you get a good instructor if you have to use this text; but then, if you're going to a school without a strictly prescribed curriculum (meaning the professor gets to choose their textbook), I'd be wary of a teacher who makes you buy this fairly useless text.

As expected.

Discrete math is a tough subject to begin with; it doesn't help that this book assumes you already know and understand discrete math; it throws many proofs at you, but never actually explains them in English. It also seems that the book requires a solid understanding of calculus - although calculus is not listed as a pre-requisite of the universities Discrete Math course. One of the most frustrating things is that the writers often switch between variables (using X in one sentence, and using Y to represent the same variable in the next sentence). The proofs and discourse is hard enough to follow without this being thrown into the mix. I can't tell you how many times my tutor or my professor has said "That's a terrible way to explain this" when looking over the book and trying to help me understand things... If your professor is requiring you to use this book; my one piece of advice: revolt!

If your looking for a book to use for teaching a discrete structures course do not use this book. It is poorly written, contains mistakes, its vague and all over the place. The examples in the text are too simple to teach you the material needed for the questions. Buying the handbook doesn't help because it doesn't explain anything more and still only contains the answers to the odd numbered problems. Discrete mathematics is a very difficult course and this book does not do a good job of getting a student to grasp the material.

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