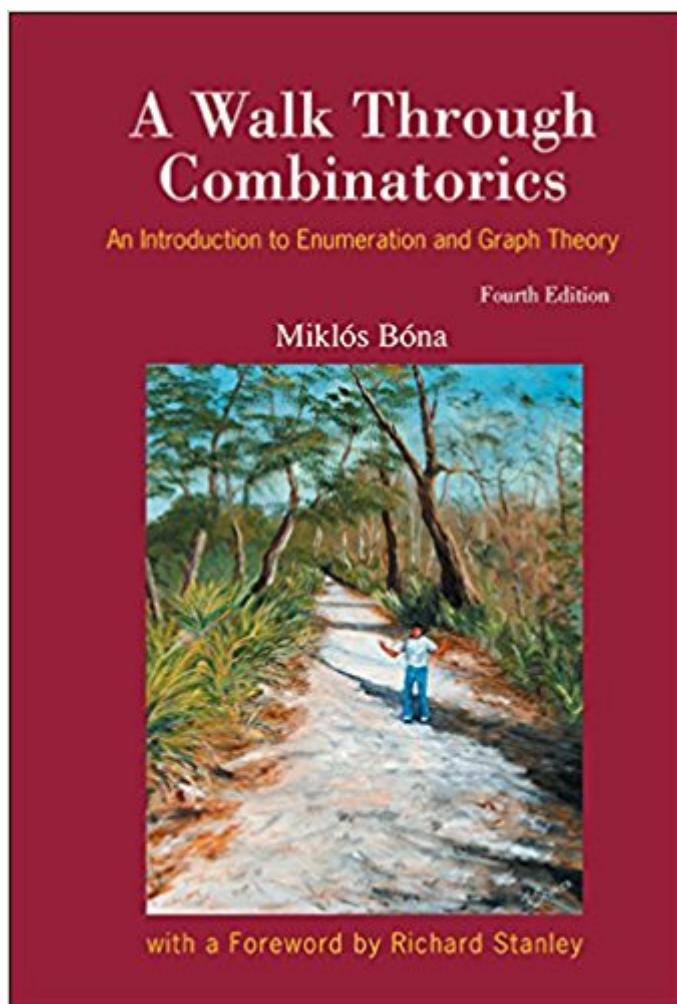


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Walk Through Combinatorics, A (Fourth Edition)



Synopsis

This is a textbook for an introductory combinatorics course lasting one or two semesters. An extensive list of problems, ranging from routine exercises to research questions, is included. In each section, there are also exercises that contain material not explicitly discussed in the preceding text, so as to provide instructors with extra choices if they want to shift the emphasis of their course. Just as with the first three editions, the new edition walks the reader through the classic parts of combinatorial enumeration and graph theory, while also discussing some recent progress in the area: on the one hand, providing material that will help students learn the basic techniques, and on the other hand, showing that some questions at the forefront of research are comprehensible and accessible to the talented and hardworking undergraduate. The basic topics discussed are: the twelvefold way, cycles in permutations, the formula of inclusion and exclusion, the notion of graphs and trees, matchings, Eulerian and Hamiltonian cycles, and planar graphs. New to this edition are the Quick Check exercises at the end of each section. In all, the new edition contains about 240 new exercises. Extra examples were added to some sections where readers asked for them. The selected advanced topics are: Ramsey theory, pattern avoidance, the probabilistic method, partially ordered sets, the theory of designs, enumeration under group action, generating functions of labeled and unlabeled structures and algorithms and complexity. The book encourages students to learn more combinatorics, provides them with a not only useful but also enjoyable and engaging reading. The Solution Manual is available upon request for all instructors who adopt this book as a course text. Please send your request to sales@wspc.com. The previous edition of this textbook was also translated into Korean and adopted at various schools.

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Customer Reviews

This book is simply the best book for people first time learning combinatorics. Couple thing that stands out about this book compared to many other textbooks:1, This book is very readable. Proofs and explanations are written precisely in a way that most students without advanced math knowledge would understand. Think about Rudin, Munkres or even Dummit/Foote. This is still a math book, so you still might spend an hour or more stuck on one page trying to understand one proof, but for this book the "blue screen of confusion" should not occur as often.2, Important proofs are proved in the chapter. Have you ever encountered a book where author leaves essential proofs in the exercises? This ain't one of them.3, Well organized, the topics are in general fairly simple designed for a first semester combinatorics course or two semester combinatorics course.4, Good (and challenging) exercises with answers. If you have had analysis or algebra (the one that deals with groups and rings) and is familiar with Pigeonhole and Induction, start from chapter 3. But of course it does not hurt going over them again and doing the exercises, which is essential to become a greater mathematician. Good complements are Diestel's Graph Theory, Lint's A Course in Combinatorics and Stanley's Algebraic Combinatorics. After finishing this book, the Enumerative Combinatorics by Stanley would be a good continuation if you're interested in algebraic combinatorics. (Good Luck).

Excellent book for learning combinatorics. Material is well taught, with an appropriate number of examples to demonstrate principles, as well as many problems and exercises for practice and learning. All the material is well discussed and explained excellently, appropriate for beginners and for experience students of mathematics. Excellent text, highly recommend for all those looking to learn combinatorics.

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