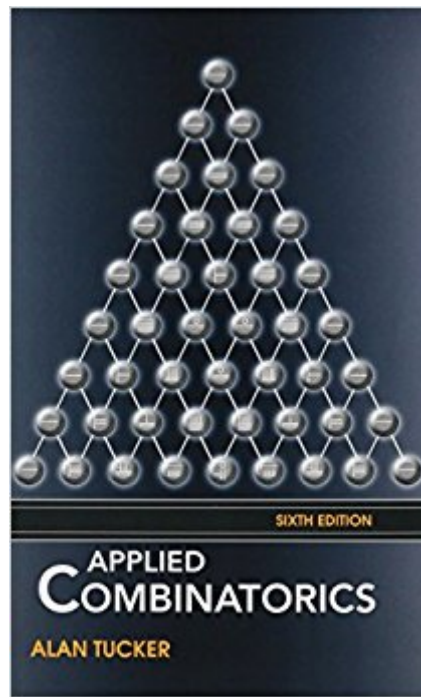


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# Applied Combinatorics



## Synopsis

Alan Tucker's newest issue of *Applied Combinatorics* builds on the previous editions with more in depth analysis of computer systems in order to help develop proficiency in basic discrete math problem solving. As one of the most widely used book in combinatorial problems, this edition explains how to reason and model combinatorically while stressing the systematic analysis of different possibilities, exploration of the logical structure of a problem, and ingenuity.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When a math book is that slim, there's a lot to worry about. This book was required for a Combinatorics class I took in Spring. While I got an A, I can certainly say that it didn't have to do a lot with this book. There are explanations, but they are very scarce and very basic. The actual exercise problems get far more complicated than the examples very quickly and you're left with doing your best to figure them out on your own. Don't rely on the back of the book for answers, as there are no explanations and some of the answers were actually wrong. I guess the only good thing about the book is that it's well-written (i.e. it's easy to read). Other than that... if you're required to buy this book, there isn't a whole lot you can do, but if you don't have to buy it, I suggest doing some research to see if you can find a better one.

This is a great book and I give it 4 stars, but it is not without its flaws. I did encounter a wrong solution in the back to problem Ch1.3 exercises, #1a, #1b, pg29. I get 1a)v=8; 1b)v=10. I am not sure of 1c) and how v=10, or v=20, or v=40. Maybe that is wrong too. I also wish there were more

examples in the beginning of the chapters, specifically Chapter 5. Page 179 says, "The first exercises at the end of each section are similar to the examples discussed in the section. The later exercises, however, have little in common with the examples except that they require the same general types of logical reasoning, clever insights, and mathematical modeling." It is my opinion that the more examples one sees, the easier it is to learn the material. The examples provided were great though and they helped me tremendously to learn the material. Also, this book is very similar to the 5th edition and the exercise problems are the same, just moved around. Overall, great book.

Have come across multiple wrong answers in the back of the book, even some questions that have been solved incorrectly. The actual substance of the chapters and example problems are good though, making for a good, but not the best choice.

I write this from the perspective that I have no prior experience with combinatorics or graph theory. This book does a good job of explaining the material succinctly in most places. It's logically formatted and gives a good number of examples. I will say, though, the proofs are much more complicated than just seeing the equivalent visual proofs in my opinion. However, within the limits of a textbook, the author did a pretty good job overall. Where it seems to fall apart is in two places. There is a good share of wording ambiguity, and some of the exercises don't seem feasible after only having read the corresponding section (I don't mean reading an isolated section, but for example, if I have read up until 2.6 some of the problems may require material covered in later chapters). There are some errors as well. All in all not a bad choice, but not ideal either.

I chose to review the Applied Combinatorics textbook by Alan Tucker. I am currently using this textbook in my Combinatorics class, and I would just like to say that I am not sure if I could survive this class without this textbook. This book has a variety of examples and exercises, and it is easy to read. Not only that, but this is one of my only textbooks that does not break my back when I carry it haha. The examples in this book make it very easy for me to reference back and see how to correctly do a problem if I am having issues on the exercises. I would have to say this is one of my favorite textbooks because it is easy to follow, small in size, and top notch in content. Right now, we just finished working with permutations and combinations, and this is an area I struggle in because I overthink things too much. Without this book, I am not sure I would've understood. I was constantly reading over the chapter to look for little hints on how to do the problem. I would definitely recommend this to other professors and students.

I'd say I love it, but this is a book that means a lot of hard work. I'll love it when the hard work is done. Some of the questions contain an element of ambiguity in the English, and there are some missing parenthesis in at least one answer, but all in all there is a ton of good instruction and opportunity to practice. My professor rates it highly and assures us that this book is the authority on combinatorics, and that this book will be an asset in our future. It is a blessing to be able to own it.

The book is well explained and well written. However, solved exercises at the back of the book are wrong and this makes the book a bad option for self-studying. I would only buy having in mind these two things. However the book is expensive for what it offers. An option that I like a lot is [http://www..com/gp/product/038795225X?keywords=enumerative%20combinatorics&qid=1445879268&ref\\_=sr\\_1\\_3&sr=8-3](http://www..com/gp/product/038795225X?keywords=enumerative%20combinatorics&qid=1445879268&ref_=sr_1_3&sr=8-3), this is a hands on book, which I like a lot!

Son's college textbook. It was exactly what he needed for class. It did the job and arrived quickly. Wouldn't have purchased it if he didn't need it for class though

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