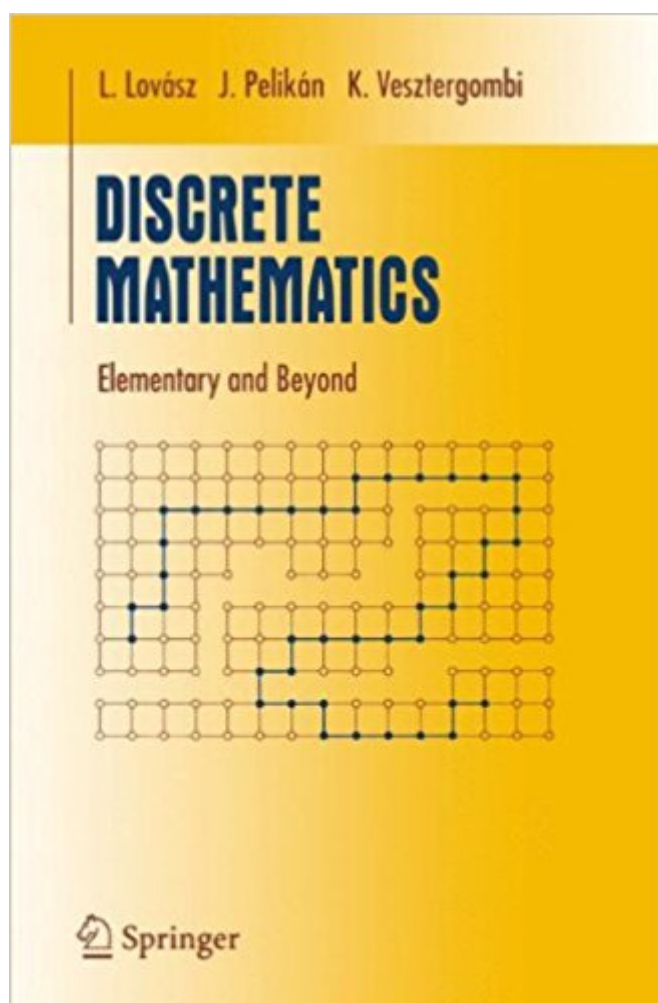


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# Discrete Mathematics: Elementary And Beyond (Undergraduate Texts In Mathematics)



## Synopsis

Aimed at undergraduate mathematics and computer science students, this book is an excellent introduction to a lot of problems of discrete mathematics. It discusses a number of selected results and methods, mostly from areas of combinatorics and graph theory, and it uses proofs and problem solving to help students understand the solutions to problems. Numerous examples, figures, and exercises are spread throughout the book.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

From the reviews: "The goal of this book is to use the introduction to discrete mathematics as a vehicle for teaching proof techniques and to motivate definitions and style. The language is very informal and easy to read. The level is always introductory which makes it possible to give a taste of a wide range of topics. There are a lot of exercises which makes it perfectly suitable for self-study." (T. Eisenkölbl, Monatshefte für Mathematik, Vol. 144 (2), 2005) "The book is aimed at undergraduate mathematics and computer science students interested in developing a feeling for what mathematics is all about, where mathematics can be helpful, and what kinds of questions mathematicians work on. The authors discuss a number of selected results and methods of discrete mathematics. Wherever possible, the authors use proofs and problem solving to help students understand the solutions to problems. In addition, there are numerous examples, figures, and exercises spread throughout the book."

(Zentralblatt für Didaktik der Mathematik, January, 2004) "The title of this book is quite apposite. The text is, in fact, based on introductory courses in discrete mathematics. The emphasis throughout the book is on finding efficient and imaginative ways to tackle problems and to develop general results. I would see it as a valuable resource of enrichment activities for students. It is eminently suited for self-study (there are plenty of exercises and solutions) and can be warmly recommended for the school library." (Gerry Leversha, *The Mathematical Gazette*, Vol. 88 (512), 2004) "This book is an excellent introduction to a lot of problems of discrete mathematics. The authors discuss a number of selected results and methods, mostly from the areas of combinatorics and graph theory. This book is appealed to a broad range of readers, including students and post-graduate students, teachers of mathematics, mathematical amateurs. The authors use proofs and problem solving to help students understand the solutions to problems. In addition, there are numerous examples, figures and exercises spread throughout the book." (M.I. Yadrenko, *Zentralblatt MATH*, Issue 1017, 2003) "This book is aimed at undergraduate mathematics and computer science students interested in developing a feeling for what mathematics is all about, where mathematics can be helpful, and what kinds of questions mathematicians work on. The authors discuss a number of selected results and methods of discrete mathematics. Wherever possible, the authors use proofs and problem solving to help students understand the solutions to problems. In addition, there are numerous examples, figures, and exercises spread throughout the book." (*L'Enseignement Mathématique*, Vol. 49 (1-2), 2003) "The aim of this book is NOT to cover discrete mathematics in depth. Rather, it discusses a number of selected results and methods. The authors develop most topics to the extent that they can describe the discrete mathematics behind an important application of mathematics. Another feature that is not covered in other discrete mathematics books is the use of ESTIMATES. There are questions posed in the text and problems at the end of each chapter with solutions." (*The Bulletin of Mathematics Books*, Issue 43, February, 2003)

Discrete mathematics is quickly becoming one of the most important areas of mathematical research, with applications to cryptography, linear programming, coding theory and the theory of computing. This book is aimed at undergraduate mathematics and computer science students interested in developing a feeling for what mathematics is all about, where mathematics can be helpful, and what kinds of questions mathematicians work on. The authors discuss a number of selected results and methods of discrete mathematics, mostly from the areas of combinatorics and graph theory, with a little number theory, probability, and combinatorial geometry. Wherever possible, the authors use proofs and problem solving to help students understand the solutions to

problems. In addition, there are numerous examples, figures and exercises spread throughout the book. László Lovász is a Senior Researcher in the Theory Group at Microsoft Corporation. He is a recipient of the 1999 Wolf Prize and the Gödel Prize for the top paper in Computer Science. József Pelikán is Professor of Mathematics in the Department of Algebra and Number Theory at Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary. In 2002, he was elected Chairman of the Advisory Board of the International Mathematical Olympiad. Katalin Vesztegombi is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Washington.

It's difficult to give this book an accurate rating. Certain portions of the book are excellent and well written while other sections will skim over a lot of information that I find important to the topic area. The review questions are answered in the back of the book but they are not explained well. At first glance, this book seems good, however if you take a glance at how other authors approach similar subject areas (Book of Proof by Richard Hammack) you will become more aware of the shortcomings of this book.

I like this book. It's much better than the discrete math book I used in college. It is written in a funny, conversational style, and seeks to develop intuition about the subject, while at the same time offering the necessary rigor. Some of the problems are difficult. I spent about 3 days on one before giving up and looking at the answer. The answer said: "The problem as stated is too difficult. The problem was supposed to be ." So why didn't they just change the problem in the problem set? Oh well it made me laugh at the time, even though I'd just spent about 12 hours failing to solve a "too difficult" problem.

An informative book on the various facets of Discrete Mathematics. The authors provide logic problems and examples that aid in the understanding of the thought processes behind the methods discussed (though they have a peculiar fixation with Western culture). Overall, this book is quite interesting.

The description of the book reads: "Aimed at undergraduate mathematics and computer science students, this book is an excellent introduction to a lot of problems of discrete mathematics" - this book definitely delivers on that. If you're looking for a rigorous and complete book on discrete mathematics this is definitely not it (not to mention "Elementary" is in the title). If you're looking for a solid overview of discrete mathematics and you don't wanna shell out of a lot of money, this book is

perfect. It's affordable, it's concise but still has very clear explanations of the problems and their solutions (some descriptions can be a little hard to make sense of, but , but not many), and it has a ton of worked out solutions in the back. For the money, the clarity, and the conciseness, I don't think there's a better book out there.

As a book on its own, I imagine this book would be more helpful for someone who is interested in doing a bit reading into Discreet Mathematics, but as a textbook, this book fails on almost all accounts. The book is abound with examples that lack context or clearly defined criteria on what type of answer that they are expecting for the questions on their practice problems. Looking back to the answer key on the back of the book will not be of much help either. Whenever I'm doing homework and trying to look up an answer to check my work and see if I understand the material, it is nice when the answer key actually fulfills its purpose. All in all, avoid this book like the plague if you are looking for a Discreet Textbook. There are several other books that are of much higher quality.

Made Me Think alot.

very helpful preface, has most topics of introductory Discrete math included. Used in a senior level combinatorial course. Examples are easy to follow.

It is a very nice book with perfect condition. I wish I can buy the same quality book later too.

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