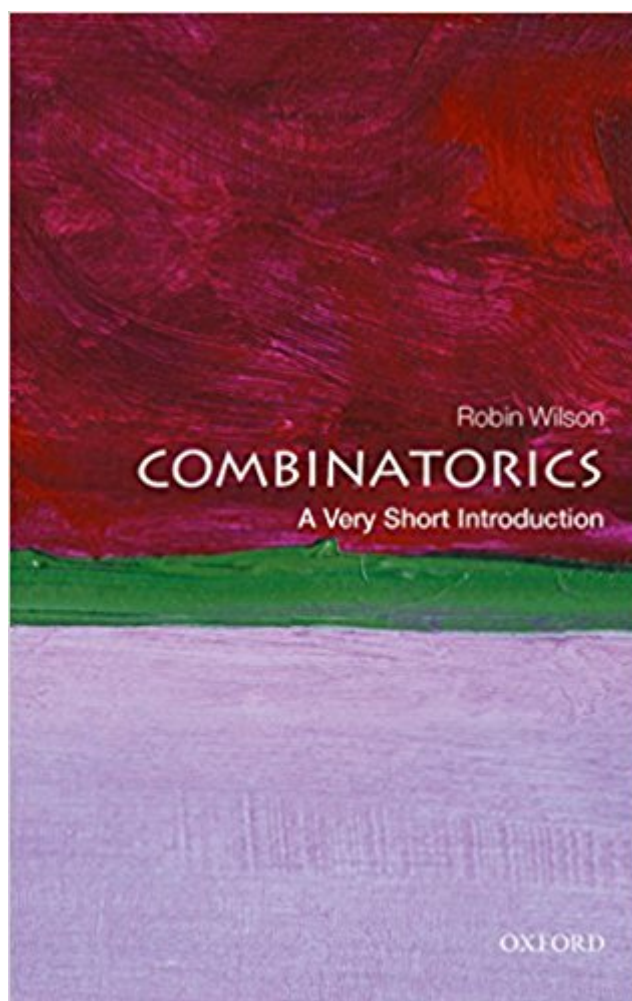


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Combinatorics: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)



Synopsis

How many possible sudoku puzzles are there? In the lottery, what is the chance that two winning balls have consecutive numbers? Who invented Pascal's triangle? (it was not Pascal) Combinatorics, the branch of mathematics concerned with selecting, arranging, and listing or counting collections of objects, works to answer all these questions. Dating back some 3000 years, and initially consisting mainly of the study of permutations and combinations, its scope has broadened to include topics such as graph theory, partitions of numbers, block designs, design of codes, and latin squares. In this Very Short Introduction Robin Wilson gives an overview of the field and its applications in mathematics and computer theory, considering problems from the shortest routes covering certain stops to the minimum number of colours needed to colour a map with different colours for neighbouring countries. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

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Customer Reviews

To begin with, combinatorics is a study that I spend a lot of time on. The question for me with this book is this: Does it teach ol' expert-Steve anything new about combinatoris? You bet A less self-absorbed question might be: "Does it provide a wonderful introduction to combinatorics?" Again, a resounding "yes."

Brief and to the point.

very readable

I bought this book because it mentioned Graph Theory. At the same time, I bought another supposedly introductory book on the subject. Guess what? this book helped me understand the subject very easily. The author's style is lovely and easy to follow. Mathematics is actually not hard. Except for pedants that make it that way. Once again, a book well done. Bravo.

crappy book, so small, difficult to read and content? this is not introduction to anything, just a bunch of problems with mediocre solution given. Wasted \$12 here.

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