



# Applied Combinatorics

By Alan Tucker

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## Applied Combinatorics By Alan Tucker

This book teaches students in the mathematical sciences how to reason and model combinatorially. It seeks to develop proficiency in basic discrete math problem solving in the way that a calculus textbook develops proficiency in basic analysis problem solving.

The three principle aspects of combinatorial reasoning emphasized in this book are: the systematic analysis of different possibilities, the exploration of the logical structure of a problem (e.g. finding manageable subpieces or first solving the problem with three objects instead of  $n$ ), and ingenuity. Although important uses of combinatorics in computer science, operations research, and finite probability are mentioned, these applications are often used solely for motivation. Numerical examples involving the same concepts use more interesting settings such as poker probabilities or logical games.

This book is designed for use by students with a wide range of ability and maturity (sophomores through beginning graduate students). The stronger the students, the harder the exercises that can be assigned. The book can be used for one-quarter, two-quarter, or one-semester course depending on how much material is used.

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## Applied Combinatorics By Alan Tucker Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #198381 in Books
- Published on: 2006-11-29
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.69" h x .83" w x 4.92" l, 1.48 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 496 pages

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"...a well-structured text that addresses a broad range of topics... It is well presented, written clearly and easy to follow." (*Times Higher Education Supplement*, November 2007)

#### About the Author

**Alan Tucker** is Deputy Department Chair and Undergraduate Program Director in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics at SUNY Stony Brook.

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