Bijective Combinatorics (Discrete Mathematics and Its Applications) by Nicholas Loehr

Good Start - Sketchy Finish

Bijective proofs are some of the most elegant and powerful techniques in all of mathematics. Suitable for readers without prior background in algebra or combinatorics, Bijective Combinatorics presents a general introduction to enumerative and algebraic combinatorics that emphasizes bijective methods.

The text systematically develops the mathematical tools, such as basic counting rules, recursions, inclusion-exclusion techniques, generating functions, bijective proofs, and linear-algebraic methods, needed to solve enumeration problems. These tools are used to analyze many combinatorial structures, including words, permutations, subsets, functions, compositions, integer partitions, graphs, trees, lattice paths, multiset sets, rook placements, set partitions, Eulerian tours, derangements, posets, tilings, and abaci. The book also delves into algebraic aspects of combinatorics, offering detailed treatments of formal power series, symmetric groups, group actions, symmetric polynomials, determinants, and the combinatorial calculus of tableaux. Each chapter includes summaries and extensive problem sets that review and reinforce the material.

Lucid, engaging, yet fully rigorous, this text describes a host of combinatorial techniques to help solve complicated enumeration problems. It covers the basic principles of enumeration, giving due attention to the role of bijective proofs in enumeration theory.

Features:
My Personal Review:
BC is not a bad entry in this important field but it is somewhat uneven. The exposition tends to be abbreviated toward the end - just when things are getting interesting - and the solutions at the back are a study in terseness. Perhaps a future edition can address these issues.

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