

**Corrections and Comments for the 5th edition of: “Introductory  
Combinatorics”  
by Richard A. Brualdi  
Prentice-Hall (Pearson) 2010**

(Other corrections/comments gratefully received. Mail to: brualdi AT math.wisc.edu)

1. Page 16 (the mutually overlapping circles problem): The statement: “Each of the  $2(n - 1)$  arcs divides a region formed by the first  $n - 1$  circles  $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{n-1}$  into two, creating  $2(n - 1)$  more regions” is not correct. It may happen that a region gets divided into more than two regions. It should say that each of the  $2(n - 1)$  arcs creates a new region, giving  $2(n - 1)$  more regions. (This problem and solution has been in various places in the book since its first edition. This is the first time that this subtle error has been brought to my attention! Thanks to Cristina Ballantine)
2. Page 30, line -10: The  $\mathcal{S}$  should be  $A$ . (Thanks to Reza Kahkeshani)
3. page 32 (end of second paragraph): The statement ”We will return to this example in Section 3.5.” should be ”We will return to this example in Section 2.5.” (Thanks to Shuyang Fang)
4. Page 62, Exercise 16: The reference should be to Theorem 2.3.1 (not Theorem 3.3.1). (Thanks to Cristina Ballantine)
5. Page 63, Exercise 23: This exercise may be a little ambiguous. The intent was to determine the number of ways the players could have their sets of 13 cards as the game begins. (Thanks to Doug Shaw)
6. Page 63, Exercises 24 and 25: There may be some ambiguity here. It would be better to say: “In how many ways can the people be seated?” (Thanks to Doug Shaw)
7. Page 79, Proof of Theorem 3.3.1 (Ramsey’s Theorem). On lines  $-11$  and  $-10$  it says “Consider one of the points  $x$  of  $K_n$ ” when it should say “Consider one of the points  $x$  of  $K_p$ ”. (Thanks to Jeff Norden)

8. Page 81, line-15: It should say  $K_{49} \rightarrow K_5, K_5$  and not  $K_{59} \rightarrow K_5, K_5$ . (Thanks to Shuyang Fang, Dartmouth)
9. Page 117, line 17: Change  $(X, \leq)$  to  $(X, |)$ . (Thanks to Reza Kahkeshani)
10. Page 142, lines -15, -14, -13: That sentence should read: More generally, given any  $A \subset S$  with  $|A| = k$ , the number of maximal chains containing  $A$  equals  $k!(n - k)! \dots$ . (Thanks to Michelle Bodnar, University of Michigan, Class of 2013.)
11. Page 156, Exercise 19: “observing” here is meant to imply that a student should “prove.” So maybe it would have been better to say: “by first proving that  $m^2 = 2\binom{m}{2} + \binom{m}{1}$ .” (Thanks to Doug Shaw)
12. Page 157, Exercise 26: The identity is incorrect. It should read:

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \binom{n}{k} \binom{n}{k-1} = \frac{1}{2} \binom{2n+2}{n+1} - \binom{2n}{n}.$$

(Thanks to an unknown Chinese student)

13. Page 159, Exercise 44: The value of the summation should be  $(-3)^n$ ;

$$\sum_{n_1+n_2+n_3=n} \binom{n}{n_1 \ n_2 \ n_3} (-1)^{n_1-n_2+n_3} = (-3)^n.$$

(Thanks to Moa Apagodu and his student Heather Smith)

14. Page 159, Exercise 45: The summation should be  $(-4)^n$  (not 0. (thanks to Huafei Yan).
15. Page 159, Exercises 44 and 45: Other variations of the identities in these exercises are:

$$\sum_{n_1+n_2+n_3=n} \binom{n}{n_1 \ n_2 \ n_3} (-1)^{n_2} = 1$$

$$\sum_{n_1+n_2+n_3+n_4=n} \binom{n}{n_1 \ n_2 \ n_3 \ n_4} (-1)^{n_2+n_4} = 0.$$

(Thanks to Donald Kreher, and independently Rod Peled.)

16. Page 161, line -12: The reference to Chapter 3 should be to Chapter 2. (Thanks to Michael Barrus)
17. Page 170, Line 1: The reference should be to Theorem 2.5.1, and not to Theorem 3.5.1. (Thanks to Christopher White)
18. Page 214, line 6: The  $k$  in the formula for  $g_n$  should be a  $p$ :

$$g_n = \sum_{p=0}^{n-1} \binom{n-1-p}{p}.$$

(Thanks to Stephanie Vance.)

19. Page 223, line 10: The reference should be to Section 7.2, not 7.5. (Thanks to Sultan M. Al-Suleiman and independently Cristina Ballantine)
20. Page 223, line -2: The reference should be to Section 2.4, not Section 2.3. (Thanks to Michael D. Barrus)
21. Page 224, last line: It should be  $\{m_1 \cdot a_1, m_2 \cdot a_2, \dots, m_k \cdot a_k\}$ , not  $\{m_1 \cdot e_1, m_2 \cdot e_2, \dots, m_k \cdot e_k\}$ . (Thanks to Cristina Ballantine)
22. Page 226. near the bottom: Replace  $h_n = 1 + 3 + 3^2 + \dots + 3^{n-1} \dots$  with  $h_n = 2 + 3 + 3^2 + \dots + 3^{n-1} \dots$ . (Thanks to Bernard Lidicky.)
23. Page 238, line 4 from bottom: In the last displayed equation the second  $c_2$  should be  $c_3$ . (Thanks to Brian Gordon,)
24. Page 253, Line 3 from the top: An  $x^n$  is missing. It should be  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+2)3^n x^n$ . (Thanks to Bernard Lidicky.)
25. Page 262, Exercise 49: In front of each term of the summation on the right-hand side of the identity, there should be the factor  $q^{\binom{k}{2}}$ . Thanks to Albert Shih.
26. Page 264, Exercise 51: The reference should be to Section 7.5 (not to Section 7.6). (Thanks to James Sellers.)
27. Page 267, line -11: "The number of sequences of  $(n+1)$  +1s and  $(n+1)$  -1s is the number" should be "The number of sequences of  $(n+1)$  +1s and  $(n-1)$  -1s is the number". Thanks to Chenglin Chen.

28. Page 280, line 1: The reference should be to equation (5.19) not to equation (5.14). (Thanks to Craig Rasmussen.)
29. Page 286, line 16-17: The set  $\{1, 2, \dots, k\}$  should be  $\{1, 2, \dots, p\}$ ; so it is partitions of  $\{1, 2, \dots, p\}$  into  $k$  nonempty, distinguishable boxes that are being counted. (Thanks to Tyson Williams,)
30. Page 293, line right before Example: There is a subscript  $j$  missing on  $n$  in the display. It should read

$$n_i^* = |\{j : n_j \geq i\}| \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, l).$$

(Thanks to Brian Gordon)

31. Page 319, Exercise 37: The initial  $C_n$  should be  $R_n$ : “The large Schröder number  $R_n$  counts ... .” (Thanks to Stephanie Vance.)
32. Page 325, paragraph beginning with “The discussion in ... ”. There is the assertion: “There is a tiling of the board if and only if the domino family has an SDR.” This assertion should have begun with: Assume  $m = n$ . (Thanks to Donald Kreher)
33. Page 367, line -6: ”nir” should be ”nine”. (Thanks to Ricardo Cervantes.)
34. Page 368. in the sixth column of the display on the top of the page, the last triple  $\{6, 7, 10\}$  should be  $\{6, 7, 1\}$ . (Thanks to Ricardo Cervantes.)
35. Page 391, Exercise 36, part (3): the two occurrences of 12 should be 13, that is, ”The 13 blocks developed from  $B_1$  together with the 13 blocks developed from  $B_2$  are the blocks of a Steiner triple system of index 1 with 13 varieties.” (Thanks to Amirbehshad Shahrasbi.)
36. Page 409, last line before footnote: “gtraph” should be “graph”. (Thanks to Michael Barrus)
37. Page 416, line 5: the text refers to Theorem 11.1.1 but should instead refer to Theorem 11.2.2. (Thanks to Michael Barrus)
38. Pages 417–418: The algorithm given to construct a Hamilton cycle in a graph satisfying the Ore condition needs a slight modification. After

applying step (2) (iii) the path is altered. So one should return to step (1) get a longer and longer path until it is not possible to make it any longer. (Thanks to Michelle Bodnar.)

39. Page 422, line 6: The walk  $\alpha_1$  from  $x$  to  $a$  should be from  $x$  to  $z$ :  $\alpha_1 : x - \cdots - z$ . (Thanks to Doug Shaw)
40. Page 432, footnote # 44: It's Claude Shannon (not Clause). (Thanks to Donald Kreher and his student Eric Crawley)
41. Page 451, Exercises 16 and 17: There are two part (b)'s in these exercises. The second (b) in each case should have been (c). In the case of the second (b) in Exercise 16, it says: "Determine all the nonisomorphic subgraphs of order 6." Of course, these are the same as in the first (b). It would have been better to ask: "Determine all the nonisomorphic subgraphs of order 4." (Thanks to Doug Shaw)
42. Page 453, Exercise 34: The intent here was that the graphs are connected, since an Eulerian graph may have vertices of degree 0. (Thanks to Doug Shaw)
43. Page 477, line 21: It should be "and hence a 5-coloring is possible." (Thanks to Cristina Ballantine)
44. Page 478, line 2 below Figure 12.6: The reference should be to Theorem 12.3.1 (not to Lemma 12.1.1 which doesn't exist!). (Thanks to Cristina Ballantine)
45. Page 479, line 1: It should be  $y_2$  (not  $x_2$ ). Thanks to Cristina Ballantine)
46. Page 503, Exercise 58: The answer to part (a) given on page 593 is incorrect if  $n$  is congruent to 3 mod 4. If  $n = 4k + 3$ , then the answer gives  $2k + 1$ , but it is impossible to have a regular graph of odd degree  $d = 2k + 1$  if the number  $n = 4k + 3$  of vertices is odd. In this case the answer should be  $2k + 2$ . (Thanks to Doug Shaw)
47. Page 570, lines 8 and 12:  $\mathcal{C}(p, q)$  should be  $\mathcal{C}_{p,q}$  (Thanks to Reza Kahkeshani)

48. Page 571, line -8: There is a missing right paranthesis at the end of the expression. (Thanks to Reza Kahkeshani)
49. Page 572, line 10:  $P_{D_4}(3, 3, 3)$  should be  $P_{D_4}(3, 3, 3, 3)$ . (Thanks to Reza Kahkeshani)
50. Page 574, line 9: Change  $6((r^2 + b^2)^3$  to  $6(r^2 + b^2)^3$  inside the expression. (Thanks to Reza Kahkeshani)
51. Page 580, Exercise 47: The answer on page 595 has a typo; the  $z_1^{10}$  should be  $z_1^9$ . (Thanks to Zhaochen Wang)
52. Page 594, line -2: Change Theorem 13.2.3 to Theorem 14.2.3. (Thanks to Reza Kahkeshani)
53. Page 595, line 10: Replace  $k$  with  $p$  in the expression. (Thanks to Reza Kahkeshani)