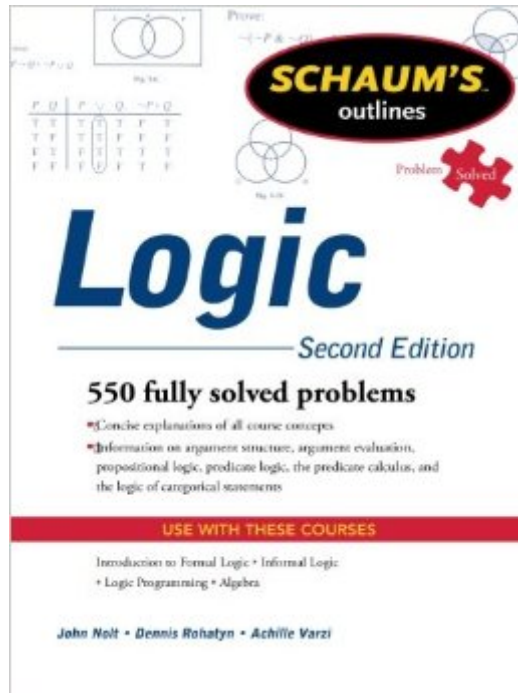


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Schaum's Outline Of Logic, Second Edition (Schaum's Outlines)



Synopsis

The ideal review for your logic course More than 40 million students have trusted Schaum'sTM Outlines for their expert knowledge and helpful solved problems. Written by renowned experts in their respective fields, Schaum'sTM Outlines cover everything from math to science, nursing to language. The main feature for all these books is the solved problems. Step-by-step, authors walk readers through coming up with solutions to exercises in their topic of choice. 500 solved problems Includes non-classical logics Covers the probability calculus Complements or supplements the major Logic textbooks Appropriate for the following courses: Introduction to Formal Logic, Informal Logic, Logic Programming, Algebra Complete course content in easy-to-follow outline form Hundreds of solved problems for effective test preparation

Book Information

Series: Schaum's Outlines

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: McGraw-Hill Education; 2 edition (February 17, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0071755462

ISBN-13: 978-0071755467

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 0.5 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars See all reviews (24 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #87,668 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 in Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Pure Mathematics > Logic #92 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Logic & Language #409 in Books > Education & Teaching > Studying & Workbooks > Study Guides

Customer Reviews

This book is an excellent introduction to what I call the mechanics of logic. If you are interested in metalogic proofs, like the deduction theorem, then don't look here. This book teaches the basics of logic. It presents logic in several different ways: using Aristotle's version (strictly for historical reasons), using Venn diagrams, a Hilbert-style logic (rules to introduce and remove boolean operators), and semantic tableaux. Also, it first introduces propositional logic, then it proceeds to predicate logic. The book has a peculiar approach that it does not introduce functions (not predicate functions) until much later. One of the more interesting chapters covers fallacious arguments.

This is by far the best textbook that I have seen. It's clear and detailed, and full of solved exercises which help the reader verify their understanding of the material. Too bad the cover suggests it's cheap, because it is really a thorough introduction to logic. You'll love it for sure. (To the reader from Miami: First-order logic is the same thing as predicate logic, so what you were looking for IS in this book!)

Although it is thinner than Copi's, I think the author processes the tutorial in a better way, more appealing to me, at least. It is a necessary for a beginner at the gate of logic. It suffices the three standards of a good textbook: general, simple and clear. After that, you can go deeper in some specific areas. In short, I recommend this book without reservation.

The good news. This book is excellent value for the money, and is the best written Schaum's Outline I have ever read. It is certainly not excessively mathematical, compared to nearly everything that passes for logic nowadays. Schaum's outlines are seldom written by first-raters in their respective fields. This is a clear exception; Varzi is a first rate contemporary philosopher. I would even call this book an excellent example of modern scientific communication. The bad news. The book's approach to logic is a bit on the old fashioned side. Much of the material on traditional logic could have been omitted. The book shares a flaw that is sadly all too common: trivial propositions take 20-40 lines to prove. The refutation tree or natural deduction machinery of this and other contemporary texts is far too ponderous. This book, like all too many books in the philosophical logic tradition, devotes time to topics that leave me cold, such as modal logic. Meanwhile, it slights or omits topics that fascinate me, such as mereology, the isomorphism between truth functors and Boolean algebra, and metatheory. I like probability and inductive logic and feel that these have a great deal to offer to logic and philosophy, but this book only scratches the surface of these topics. The main consumers of logic nowadays are computer scientists. It is not at all clear that this book would be of any value to them. On the other hand, this is an excellent book for a philosophy major.

"Schaum's Outlines Logic" covers more material than you can learn in a single semester course in logic. If you will select what to learn after you buy the book, include the chapter on logical fallacies. Logical fallacies are noticable in conversation and in your own thinking. You can find fallacies in newspaper articles, political speeches, and your arguments with your loved ones. My first college course in logic covered the propositional calculus, the final exam involved solving argument

forms for validity. This book covers propositional calculus in a chapter, before it goes on to the predicate calculus in two following chapters. You need mathematics skills to handle the pace this book sets, chapter by chapter. You'll find it easier to follow along if you already know some logic. So stick out the earlier chapters to make it through the later chapters. A bonus final chapter gives you a peek at advanced studies in logic, if those might interest you. The book's explanations are terse. Solved problems and end-of-chapter problems help you learn the material. I don't like that only a quarter of the end-of-chapter problems have solutions you can look up. But the book was great for my needs, so I give it five stars.

I have purchased quite a number of Schaum's Outline books. Most of those books give the reader the sense of being rushed. The material isn't always comprehensive or is so abbreviated as to be incomprehensible. On the other hand, this particular outline on Logic is not merely an outline but serves extremely well as a standalone textbook. In fact, it covers in great detail most of the topics it discusses. The examples and explanations of the topics were very easy to understand, and the structure of the books is very logical. I heartily recommend this book.

If you are learning logic for the first time, either as a non-mathematician or as an engineer, then this is an excellent place to start. The book covers propositional calculus, predicate calculus, induction, and of interest to computer science majors with an interest in automated reasoning, it covers refutation trees and probability calculus. The book does have a peculiar approach to predicate calculus that it does not include functions when it first covers predicate calculus. Functions are introduced in a later chapter. A very interesting chapter covers fallacious forms of argument. Overall, an excellent introduction to logic.

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