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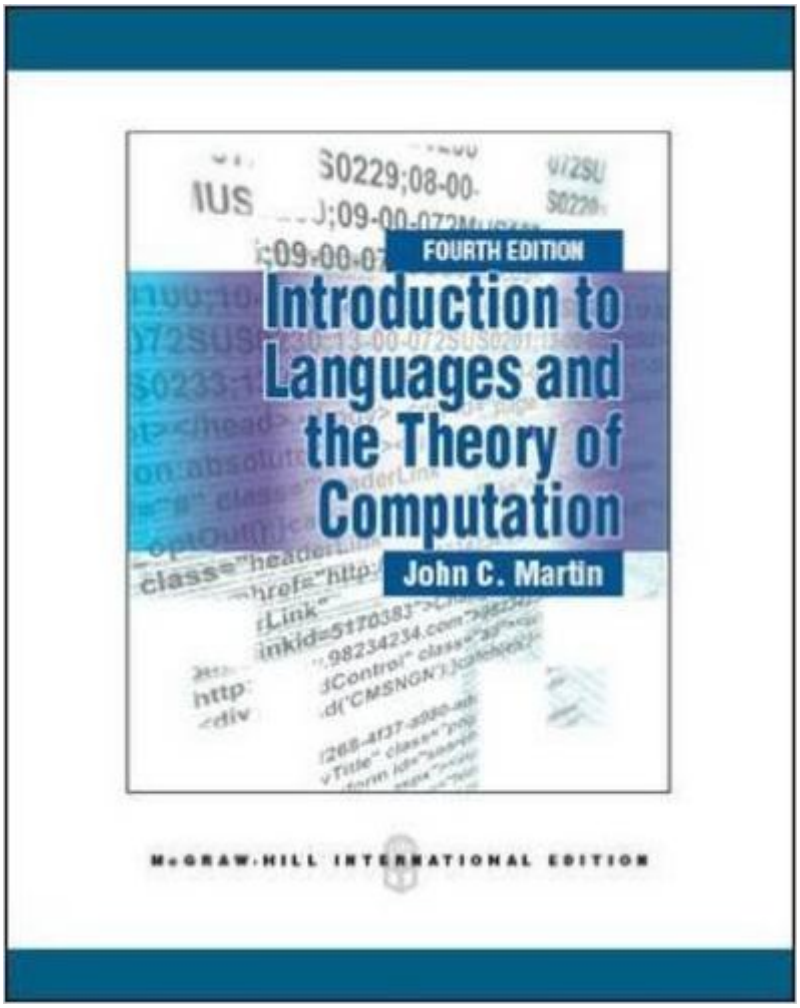
Introduction To Languages And The Theory Of Computation



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Synopsis

"Introduction to Languages and the Theory of Computation" helps students make the connection between the practice of computing and an understanding of the profound ideas that defines it. The book’s organization and the author’s ability to explain complex topics clearly make this introduction to the theory of computation an excellent resource for a broad range of upper level students. The author has learned through many years of teaching that the best way to present theoretical concepts is to take advantage of the precision and clarity of mathematical language. In a way that is accessible to students still learning this language, he presents the necessary mathematical tools gently and gradually which provides discussion and examples that make the language intelligible.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am a 39-year-old MBA student in an AACSB-accredited business school, with a C.S. degree from Purdue University. When I took "Theory of Languages and Computation" (hereafter: TOLAC) in my 20’s, this text did not suit me at all.Recently, however, I’ve been refreshing my CS-foundations by reading (CLR) "Intro. to Algorithms", my discrete math text, and others. Though I graduated having understood the broad conclusions of TOLAC (e.g., the equivalence of various languages and the abstract machines which recognize them, complexity classes, etc.), I never felt that I "knew" them deeply the way I prefer to know things.I study and build compilers for a hobby; there are many practical issues to which the TOLAC lends itself. As I was gearing up for some hobby compiler projects, I decided to reacquaint myself with TOLAC. Though I still have my undergraduate Martin text, I recalled how I didn’t connect well with it, so decided to peruse for suggested texts (with Sipser’s work getting an impressive number of high marks, the likes of which I’ve not seen from a

"CS book").I was right on the verge of purchasing Sipser's book, with its glowing reviews, when I decided to lift my Martin text (1991-edition) from its tucked away position on the bookshelf. I was immediately pleased with its slim and concise presentation (having a wife and three kids can be a damper on my study time). As I started reading the first pages, I was struck with an elegance that I obviously had missed years before. Before I knew it, I had been reading for a few hours and was completely taken by the subject, including Martin's mathematical style.I found myself asking, "Why did I so dislike then the book from which I am receiving so much pleasure now?

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