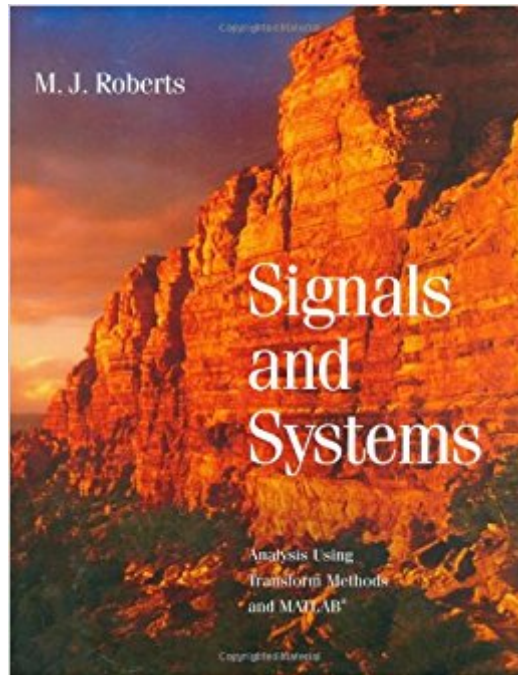




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Signals And Systems: Analysis Of Signals Through Linear Systems



Synopsis

***Book is published and available as of 6/03!!! Signals and Systems by M.J. Roberts offers a student-centered, pedagogically driven approach to teaching Signals and Systems. The author has a clear understanding of the issues students face in learning the material and does a superior job of addressing these issues. The book is intended to cover a two-semester sequence in Signals and Systems for Juniors in engineering.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It is well written and rather student friendly but I will not say that it is an ideal choice. My major complaint is that the examples that the author works in the text which are scant understandable are nothing similar or very, very trivial compared to some of the homework problems (although some are quite trivial themselves). Several of the Chapter 9 z-transforms are basically just a very nasty excuse to swing the algebra hammer. I would suggest using Matlab or Mathematica before you give up in frustration. That being said this text could have been much, much worse. I did particularly like approach of presenting the Laplace Transform as a generalization of the Fourier Transform, and the Z-transform as a generalization of the DTFT, and also how sampling ties both domains together and creates the problem of aliasing in the frequency domain and unique signal reconstruction in time domain. Ideally I wonder if sampling might be presented in conjunction with the DFT however I recognize why the Roberts choose his layout as such. I also wish he had pointed out (in BOLD WORDS) that the roots of the characteristic equation of a linear, nth order differential equation are

the growth factors of the exponential terms in the fundamental solution and are exactly the location of the poles in the complex s-plane of the transfer function. There are of course several other pedagogical complaints with the textbook but I differ. I will say that it is much better than most of the competition though (Haykin, Poularikas, Hsu, etc.). Haven't read the Oppenheim, Willsky and Nawab book although I am aware of it. Something about having a student buy a 957 page book seems wrong. I should point out that the binding on this particular edition is well done. Great job McGraw-Hill!

Great book/product.

Great!

- Paragraphs marked with red and blue pen on several pages- several sheets ripped- The book arrived in a "bag" with damaged corners- The book came in a plastic cartridge, no protection by bubble wrap or cardboard to protect the hardcover

Everything was perfect.

Great price, fast shipment, great condition, overall a great seller! Hope to do business again.

Not terrible, but it could be better. There are strengths and weaknesses. The strength of the book is practice problems with solutions. Although it provides only the final answers, they are very helpful, because many problems ask to draw plots, and the answer is right there. Now the weaknesses of the book. First, chapters on discrete systems are often written much briefer than equivalent chapters for continuous systems, making it impossible to understand discrete systems before continuous systems. It would be much better if chapters on both continuous and discrete systems are self-contained, so that the reader can start with either one. Second, it can lead to misunderstanding on DTFS and DFT. It compares as a continuous-discrete pair. (which is wrong, it should be pair). The DTFS is covered very briefly. (2 pages) This kind of structure can cause misunderstandings. Now, here is my suggestion.

1. $\hat{A}$ Signals and Systems (2nd Edition) The standard. Excellent structure. but weak on some topics (LTI system properties, filters, etc).
2. $\hat{A}$ Continuous and Discrete Time Signals and Systems with CD-ROM Excellent structure. Very clear explanation. Lots of Figures (helpful in convolution). Covers filter design.
3. $\hat{A}$ Linear Systems and Signals, 2nd Edition Excellent for

self-study. Very clear explanation. but the chapter order may be different from class lecture (Laplace & z comes before Fourier)

This is a pretty good book for a first time introduction to the topic, but as a reference book it is one of the worst books I have ever seen. The reason for this is that the author gives very long and fairly well written descriptions of every topic, but there are very few summary sections for future reference. So, when the reader needs a quick refresher on a particular topic they won't be able to find it; they'll be forced to re-read at least one page, even for small topics. One advantage of this type of long-winded writing is that it's quite readable and you'll probably find yourself reading about 1.5 - 2 times faster than you do for most other textbooks. The book provides a fairly good amount of both solved and unsolved problems. Unfortunately, many of them have ambiguous wording, and many solved problems have useless solutions. In fact, many "solved" problems have no answer at all! Also, solved problems that require a diagram as an answer provide the proper diagram, but it's not labelled. So, when there are many parts to a particular problem, there's no way of knowing which solution diagram is for which part of the problem. This problem is also true of most other diagrams in the book. I would not recommend this book to anyone. It worked fairly well for me, but I know there are much better books available. For example, I hear that Alan Oppenheim's book on this subject is pretty good.

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