

disposition of subject matter is thus a compromise between contending interests. In general, the material is arranged in order of increasing difficulty, and each reader should thus proceed according to his own needs and background. We would, however, like to offer several suggestions:

1. The reader who is completely unfamiliar with the subject but seeks detailed information should follow the sequence presented in the book.
2. The reader interested only in a general acquaintance with the subject should read the first seven chapters consecutively, followed by Chapter 12; after this he may glance through Chapter 13, and finish by reading Chapters 8, 9, 10, and 11.
3. The reader familiar with the fundamentals of mathematical logic and its technical applications is advised to begin with Chapter 3.
4. Finally, the mathematician interested in engineering applications may safely omit Chapters 1, 12, and 13.

Sections 2.5 and 8.4 deal with the special problems of minimizations of Boolean functions and the realization of finite automata, defined in the language of regular expressions; these sections (which go beyond the basic principles of the general theory of finite automata and sequential machines) were written, at the author's request, by V.D. Kazakov and O.P. Kuznetsov, respectively.

The authors would welcome all comments and suggestions.

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE

This translation of the original Russian edition contains problems, additions, and revisions prepared by the author for the English edition.