The majority of the text does not require any previous knowledge apart from a onesemester course in calculus. The exceptions to this statement are as follows:

- Sections 5.2 (Two Continuous Random Variables) and 6.1 (Methods for More Than Two Random Variables) both require a light introduction to double integrals and partial derivatives;
- Section 6.1.5 (Random Vectors) uses a few concepts from linear algebra;
- Section 10.2 (Processing of Random Signals) requires familiarity with the Fourier transform.

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