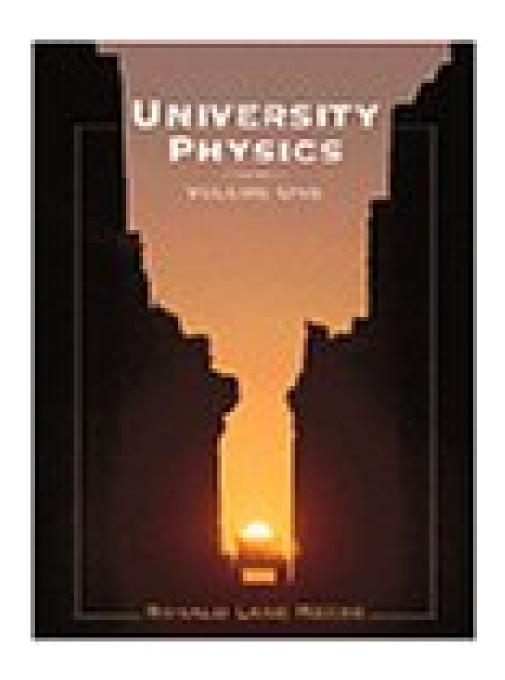


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Reese writes a text that embraces the spirit of many reform goals, such as better integration of modern physics topics, a stronger emphasis on conceptual understanding, and an attention to different learning styles. Most importantly, however, Reese writes for students to allow them not only to learn the tools that physics provides, but also to see why those tools work and the beauty of the ideas that underlie them. Because students sometimes fail to see how the topics of physics connect to each other or to the world outside the classroom, Reese introduces each new topic by describing how it relates to experiences and phenomena with which the student is already familiar or to topics previously discussed. Reese emphasizes introductory physics, rather than encyclopedic physics, leaving appropriate topics for more advanced courses. His thinking is that it is better to build technical knowledge on a firm foundation of fundamental principles rather than on a large collection of mere formulas. In doing this, he helps students develop a thorough understanding of the principles of basic areas of physics: kinematics, dynamics, waves, thermodynamics, electromagnetism, optics, relativity, and modern physics. Because most students cannot discern simplifying patterns and connections when faced with seemingly complex ideas, students learn physics through practice. To assist them, Reese integrates the most significant material from previous chapters into new material; provides an accurate conceptual understanding of fundamental physical principles by placing great emphasis on these principles and how they arose; points out the limits of applicability of the theories and equations of physics; and stresses connections among topics by incorporating many aspects of contemporary physics and astronomy into a mix of traditional topics.

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About the Author

Ph. D. from Johns Hopkins in 1971

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An excellent book for Physics Majors

By Kieran Mullen

This is my absolute favorite introductory Physics textbook. It gives historical background, literary quotes and discussions of underlying philosophy. It uses calculus and real vector notation from the outset. Many other textbooks introduce vector notation, but don't really use it to solve problems). This book is unapologetic in its use of reasonably sophisticated mathematics. Finally, it's just a joy to read. I've been doing physics for thirty years and I learned a few things from it.

However, this is not a book based on the latest pedagogical trend. It is a book for students who will pursue physics, and as such it gives an excellent grounding in the topic. I would not use it for a course aimed at engineers, since it goes well beyond simple problem solving skills and endeavors to actually teach students to think like a physicist.

The problems are original and entertaining. Each chapter ends with a superb set of references for further reading and suggested experiments.

The latest Halliday and Resnick, Serway, or Young and Freedman are (in my opinion) ugly books with short, choppy sections that water down the material. Reese's book is for more interesting and even inspiring. I find these qualities essential in teaching Physics majors.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

A great book overall!

By Liz Cody

Product: 5 stars - great book

Seller: 5 stars - no problems, quick service, good condition

A review of the textbook:

As other reviews have noted, this book is excellent for the self-motivated learner who wants the subject to be taught thoroughly. The authors have made sure to explain their notation and mathematics so that the reader learns to solve physics from the identification and derivation of basic principles, not just the application of memorized formulas.

Many years ago, I took high school physics and two semesters of rigorous introductory physics for engineers and a(n) (un)healthy dose of calculus and linear algebra which may have made me more comfortable with the concepts in this book, but I was able to re-learn from this book without ever opening up a math book or even wikipedia. I think a self-learner who doesn't have that math background would still do just fine with this book (especially if they had a basic calculus book) as the authors are very explicit about showing their work and identifying the methods they use.

Pros:

Teaches necessary problem solving skills and not just formulas to memorize

The mathematical methods, concepts and notations are thoroughly explained, and the sample problems feature clear, step-by-step demonstrations of the mathematical approach

Shows multiple ways of solving problems and uses many examples to highlight how probem solving techniques can be modified to accommodate different scenarios

Highlights connections between different concepts (ie kinematics, newtonian mechanics, work-energy theory, impulse and momentum) and highlight their strengths and limitations

Provides numerous practice problems for each chapter, and a concise chapter summary

Provides historical dimension of the discipline and the larger framework/questions

Has lots of pictures and diagrams that are generally well-constructed to facilitate visual learning

Cons:

There are some minor formatting issues (words cut off) and images are 'cheesy'

Older layout lacks the user-friendly layout features found in more modern textbooks (e.g. a glossary, chapter content maps, sidebars, concept diagrams etc)

There are answers (not solutions) provided to only every other odd numbered question in the back of the book, and a "solutions manual" (SOLD SEPARATELY) only show the detailed solutions to these same problems. So 3/4 of the problems don't have answers or detailed solutions available.

Note that Volume 1 only covers chapters 1-15 (Kinematics-Thermodynamics) and the rest of the material for an introductory physics course is in volume 2. I have no idea if the infotrac works as I haven't tried to use it.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Five Stars

By Grace

Just what I was looking for :)

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Second Law and Third Law Force Diagrams / Weight and the Normal Force of a Surface / Tension in Ropes, Strings, or Cables / Static Friction / Kinetic Friction at Low Speeds / Kinetic Friction Proportional to the Particle Speed / Fundamental Forces and Other Forces Revisited / Noninertial Reference Frames / Chapter Summary / Summary of Problem-Solving Tactics / Questions / Problems / Investigative Projects 6. THE GRAVITATIONAL FORCE AND THE GRAVITATIONAL FIELD How Did Newton Deduce the Gravitational Force Law? / Newton's Law of Universal Gravitation / Gravitational Force of a Uniform Spherical Shell on a Particle / Gravitational Force of a Uniform Sphere on a Particle / Measuring the Mass of the Earth / Artificial Satellites of the Earth / Kepler's First Law of Planetary Motion and the Geometry of Ellipses / Spatial Average Position of a Planet in an Elliptical Orbit / Kepler's Second Law of Planetary Motion / Central Forces, Orbital Angular Momentum, and Kepler's Second Law / Newton's Form for Kepler's Third Law of Planetary Motion / Customized Units / The Gravitational Field / The Flux of a Vector / Gauss's Law for the Gravitational Field / Chapter Summary / Summary of Problem-Solving Tactics / Questions / Problems / Investigative Projects 7. HOOKE'S FORCE LAW AND SIMPLE HARMONIC OSCILLATION Hooke's Force Law / Simple Harmonic Oscillation / A Vertically Oriented Spring / Connection Between Simple Harmonic Oscillation and Uniform Circular Motion / How to Determine Whether an Oscillatory Motion is Simple Harmonic Motion / The Simple Pendulum / Through a Fictional Earth in 42 Minutes / Damped Oscillations / Forced Oscillations and Resonance / Chapter Summary / Summary of Problem-Solving Tactics / Questions / Problems / Investigative Projects 8. WORK, ENERGY, AND THE CWE THEOREM Motivation for Introducing the Concepts of Work and Energy / The Work Done by Any Force / The Work Done by a Constant Force / The Work Done by the Total Force / Geometric Interpretation of the Work Done by a Force / Conservative, Nonconservative, and Zero-Work Forces / Examples of Conservative, Nonconservative, and Zero-Work Forces / The Concept of Potential Energy / The Gravitational Potential Energy of a System near the Surface of the Earth / The General Form for the Gravitational Potential Energy / The Relationship Between the Local Form for the Gravitational Potential Energy and the More General Form / The Potential Energy Function Associated with Hooke's Force Law / The CWE Theorem / The Escape Speed / Black Holes / Limitations of the CWE Theorem: Two Paradoxical Examples / The Simple Harmonic Oscillator Revisited / The Average and Instantaneous Power of a Force / The Power of the Total Force Acting on a System / Motion Under the Influence of Conservative Forces Only: Energy Diagrams / Chapter Summary / Summary of Problem-Solving Tactics / Questions / Problems / Investigative Projects 9. IMPULSE, MOMENTUM, AND COLLISIONS Momentum and Newton's Second Law of Motion / Impulse-Momentum Theorem / The Rocket: A System with Variable Mass / Conservation of Momentum / Collisions / Disintegrations and Explosions / The Centripetal Acceleration Revisited / An Alternative Way to Look at Force Transmission / The Center of Mass / Dynamics of a System of Particles / Kinetic Energy of a System of Particles / The Velocity of the Center of Mass for Collisions / The Center of Mass Reference Frame / Chapter Summary / Summary of Problem-Solving Tactics / Questions / Problems / Investigative Projects 10. SPIN AND ORBITAL MOTION The Distinction Between Spin and Orbital Motion / The Orbital Angular Momentum of a Particle / The Circular Orbital Motion of a Single Particle / Noncircular Orbital Motion / Rigid Bodies and Symmetry Axes / Spin Angular Momentum of a Rigid Body / The Time Rate of Change of the Spin Angular Momentum / The Moment of Inertia of Various Rigid Bodies / The Kinetic Energy of a Spinning System / Spin Distorts the Shape of the Earth / The Precession of a Rapidly Spinning Top / The Precession of the Spinning Earth / Simultaneous Spin and Orbital Motion / Synchronous Rotation and the Parallel Axis Theorem / Rolling Motion Without Slipping / Wheels / Total Angular Momentum and Torque / Conservation of Angular Momentum / Conditions for Static Equilibrium / Chapter Summary / Summary of Problem-Solving Tactics / Questions / Problems / Investigative Projects 11. SOLIDS AND FLUIDS States of Matter / Stress, Strain, and Young's Modulus for Solids / Fluid Pressure / Static Fluids / Pascal's Principle / Archimedes' Principle / The Center of Buoyancy / Surface Tension / Capillary Action / Fluid Dynamics: Ideal Fluids / Equation of Flow Continuity / Bernoulli's Principle for Incompressible Ideal Fluids / Nonideal Fluids / Viscous Flow / Chapter Summary / Summary of Problem-Solving Tactics / Questions / Problems / Investigative Projects 12. WAVES What is a Wave? / Longitudinal

and Transverse Waves / Wavefunctions, Waveforms, and Oscillations / Waves Propagating in One, Two, and Three Dimensions / One-Dimensional Waves Moving at Constant Velocity / The Classical Wave Equation for One-Dimensional Waves / Periodic Waves / Sinusoidal (Harmonic) Waves / Waves on a String / Reflection and Transmission of Waves / Energy Transport Via Mechanical Waves / Wave Intensity / What is a Sound Wave? / Sound Intensity and Sound Level / The Acoustic Doppler Effect / Shock Waves / Diffraction of Waves / The Principle of Superposition / Standing Waves / Wave Groups and Beats / Fourier Analysis and the Uncertainty Principles / Chapter Summary / Summary of Problem-Solving Tactics / Questions / Problems / Investigative Projects 13. TEMPERATURE, HEAT TRANSFER, AND THE FIRST LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS Simple Thermodynamic Systems / Temperature / Work, Heat Transfer and Thermal Equilibrium / The Zeroth Law of Thermodynamics / Thermometers and Temperature Scales / Temperature Conversions Between the Fahrenheit and Celsius Scales / Thermal Effects in Solids and Liquids: Size / Thermal Effects in Ideal Gases / Calorimetry / Reservoirs / Mechanisms for Heat Transfer / Thermodynamic Processes / Energy Conservation: The First Law of Thermodynamics and the CWE Theorem / The Connection Between the CWE Theorem and the General Statement of Energy Conservation / Work Done by a System on Its Surroundings / Work Done by a Gas Taken Around a Cycle / Applying the First Law of Thermodynamics: Changes of State / Chapter Summary / Summary of Problem-Solving Tactics / Questions / Problems / Investigative Projects 14. KINETIC THEORY Background for the Kinetic Theory of Gases / The Ideal Gas Approximation / The Pressure of an Ideal Gas / The Meaning of the Absolute Temperature / The Internal Energy of an Monatomic Ideal Gas / The Molar Specific Heats of an Ideal Gas / Complications Arise for Diatomic and Polyatomic Gases / Degrees of Freedom and the Equipartition of Energy Theorem / Specific Heat of a Solid / Some Failures of Classical Kinetic Theory / Quantum Mechanical Effects / An Adiabatic Process for an Ideal Gas / Chapter Summary / Summary of Problem-Solving Tactics / Questions / Problems / Investigative Projects 15. THE SECOND LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS Why Do Some Things Happen, While Others Do Not? / Heat Engines and the Second Law of Thermodynamics / The Carnot Heat Engine and Its Efficiency / Absolute Zero and the Third Law of Thermodynamics / Refrigerator Engines and the Second Law of Thermodynamics / The Carnot Refrigerator Engine / The Efficiency of Real Heat Engines and Refrigerator Engines / A New Concept: Entropy / Entropy and the Second Law of Thermodynamics / The Direction of Heat Transfer: A Consequence of the Second Law / A Statistical Interpretation of the Entropy / Entropy Maximization and the Arrow of Time / Extensive and Intensive State Variables / Chapter Summary / Summary of Problem-Solving Tactics / Questions / Problems / Investigative Projects

About the Author Ph. D. from Johns Hopkins in 1971

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