physics

FOR SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS

a strategic approach

WITH MODERN PHYSICS

randall d. knight

Useful Data

$M_{ m e}$	Mass of the earth	$5.98 \times 10^{24} \mathrm{kg}$
$R_{ m e}$	Radius of the earth	$6.37 \times 10^6 \mathrm{m}$
g	Free-fall acceleration on earth	9.80 m/s^2
G	Gravitational constant	$6.67 \times 10^{-11} \mathrm{N}\mathrm{m}^2/\mathrm{kg}^2$
$k_{ m B}$	Boltzmann's constant	$1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J/K}$
R	Gas constant	8.31 J/mol K
$N_{ m A}$	Avogadro's number	6.02×10^{23} particles/mol
T_0	Absolute zero	−273°C
σ	Stefan-Boltzmann constant	$5.67 \times 10^{-8} \mathrm{W/m^2K^4}$
$p_{ m atm}$	Standard atmosphere	101,300 Pa
$V_{ m sound}$	Speed of sound in air at 20°C	343 m/s
$m_{ m p}$	Mass of the proton (and the neutron)	$1.67 \times 10^{-27} \mathrm{kg}$
$m_{ m e}$	Mass of the electron	$9.11 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg}$
K	Coulomb's law constant $(1/4\pi\epsilon_0)$	$8.99 \times 10^9 \mathrm{N}\mathrm{m}^2/\mathrm{C}^2$
ϵ_0	Permittivity constant	$8.85 \times 10^{-12} \mathrm{C}^2/\mathrm{N}\mathrm{m}^2$
μ_0	Permeability constant	$1.26 \times 10^{-6} \mathrm{T}\mathrm{m/A}$
e	Fundamental unit of charge	$1.60 \times 10^{-19} \mathrm{C}$
c	Speed of light in vacuum	$3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$
h	Planck's constant	$6.63 \times 10^{-34} \mathrm{J}\mathrm{s}$ $4.14 \times 10^{-15} \mathrm{eV}\mathrm{s}$
\hbar	Planck's constant	$1.05 \times 10^{-34} \mathrm{J}\mathrm{s}$ $6.58 \times 10^{-16} \mathrm{eV}\mathrm{s}$
$a_{ m B}$	Bohr radius	$5.29 \times 10^{-11} \mathrm{m}$

Common Prefixes

Conversion Factors

Prefix	Meaning	Length	Time
femto- pico- nano- micro-	$ \begin{array}{r} 10^{-15} \\ 10^{-12} \\ 10^{-9} \\ 10^{-6} \\ 10^{-3} \end{array} $	1 in = 2.54 cm 1 mi = 1.609 km 1 m = 39.37 in 1 km = 0.621 mi	1 day = $86,400 \text{ s}$ 1 year = $3.16 \times 10^7 \text{ s}$ Pressure 1 atm = $101.3 \text{ kPa} = 760 \text{ mm of Hg}$ 1 atm = 14.7 lb/in^2
milli- centi- kilo- mega-	10^{-3} 10^{-2} 10^{3} 10^{6} 10^{9}	Velocity 1 mph = 0.447 m/s 1 m/s = 2.24 mph = 3.28 ft/s Mass and energy	Rotation 1 rad = $180^{\circ}/\pi = 57.3^{\circ}$ 1 rev = $360^{\circ} = 2\pi$ rad
giga- terra-	10^{10} 10^{12}	1 u = 1.661×10^{-27} kg 1 cal = 4.19 J 1 eV = 1.60×10^{-19} J	1 rev/s = 60 rpm

Mathematical Approximations

Binominal Approximation: $(1+x)^n \approx 1 + nx$ if $x \ll 1$

Small-Angle Approximation: $\sin \theta \approx \tan \theta \approx \theta$ and $\cos \theta \approx 1$ if $\theta \ll 1$ radian

Greek Letters Used in Physics

Alpha		α	Mu		μ
Beta		β	Pi		π
Gamma	Γ	γ	Rho		ρ
Delta	Δ	δ	Sigma	\sum	σ
Epsilon		ϵ	Tau		au
Eta		η	Phi	Φ	ϕ
Theta	θ	θ	Psi		ψ
Lambda		λ	Omega	Ω	ω

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Volume 1 (pp. 1–443) includes chapters 1–15.

Volume 2 (pp. 444–559) includes chapters 16–19.

Volume 3 (pp. 560–719) includes chapters 20–24.

Volume 4 (pp. 720–1101) includes chapters 25–36.

Volume 5 (pp. 1102–1279) includes chapters 36–42.

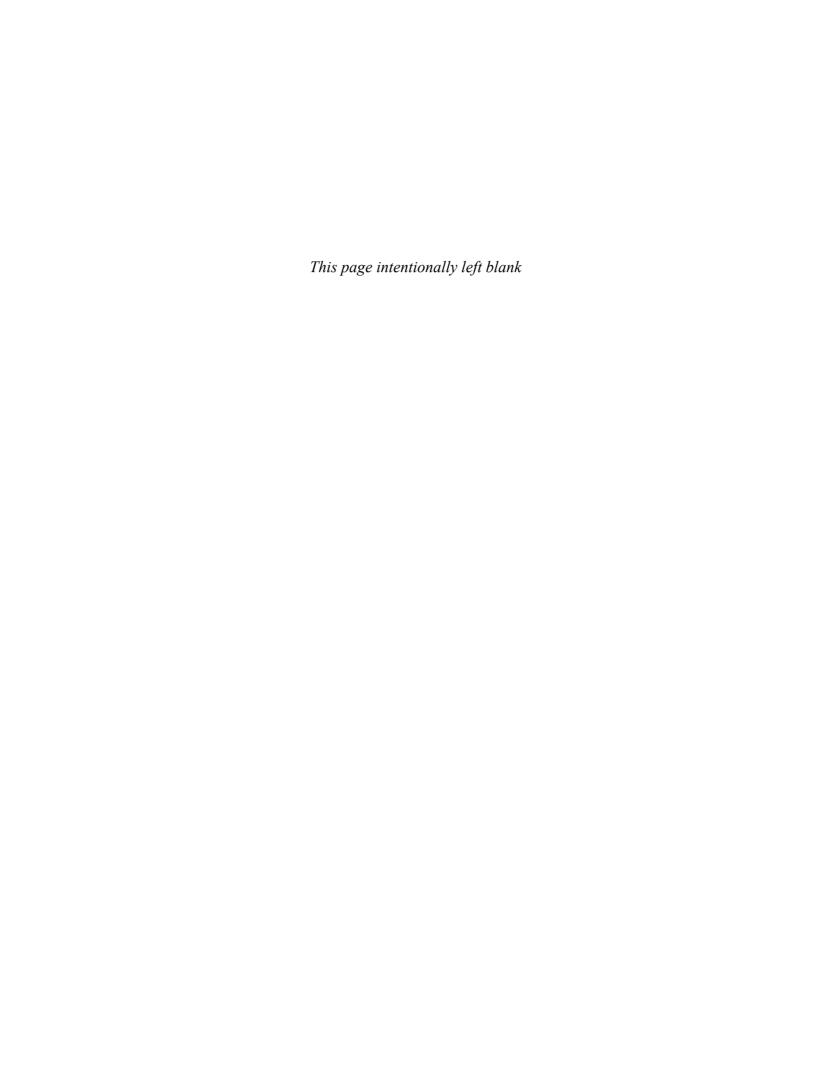
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DISICS FOR SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS a strategic approach

WITH MODERN PHYSICS

randall d. knight

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About the Author



Randy Knight has taught introductory physics for over 30 years at Ohio State University and California Polytechnic University, where he is currently Professor of Physics. Professor Knight received a bachelor's degree in physics from Washington University in St. Louis and a Ph.D. in physics from the University of California, Berkeley. He was a post-doctoral fellow at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics before joining the faculty at Ohio State University. It was at Ohio State that he began to learn about the research in physics education that, many years later, led to this book.

Professor Knight's research interests are in the field of lasers and spectroscopy, and he has published over 25 research papers. He also directs the environmental studies program at Cal Poly, where, in addition to introductory physics, he teaches classes on energy, oceanography, and environmental issues. When he's not in the classroom or in front of a computer, you can find Randy hiking, sea kayaking, playing the piano, or spending time with his wife Sally and their seven cats.



Builds problem-solving skills and confidence...

... through a carefully structured and research-proven program of problem-solving techniques and practice materials.

At the heart of the problem-solving instruction is the consistent 4-step MODEL/ VISUALIZE/ SOLVE/ ASSESS approach, used throughout the book and all supplements. *Problem-Solving Strategies* provide detailed guidance for particular topics and categories of problems, often drawing on key skills outlined in the step-by-step procedures of *Tactics Boxes*. Problem-Solving Strategies and Tactics Boxes are also illustrated in dedicated MasteringPhysics *Skill-Builder Tutorials*.

TACTICS Drawing a before-and-after pictorial representation

PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY 10.1 Conservation of mechanical energy



MODEL Choose a system that is isolated and has no friction or other losses of mechanical energy.

VISUALIZE Draw a before-and-after pictorial representation. Define symbols, list known values, and identify what you're trying to find.

SOLVE The mathematical representation is based on the law of conservation of mechanical energy:

$$K_{\rm f} + U_{\rm f} = K_{\rm i} + U_{\rm i}$$

ASSESS Check that your result has the correct units, is reasonable, and answers the question

Exercise 8

EXAMPLE 4.15 Analyzing rotational data

You've been assigned the task of measuring the start-up characteristics of a large industrial motor. After several seconds, when the motor has reached full speed, you know that the angular acceleration will be zero, but you hypothesize that the angular acceleration may be constant during the first couple of seconds as the motor speed increases. To find out, you attach a shaft encoder to the 3.0-cm-diameter axle. A shaft encoder is a device that converts the angular position of a shaft or axle to a signal that can be read by a computer. After setting the computer program to read four values a second, you start the motor and acquire the following data:

Time (s)	Angle(°)
0.00	0
0.25	16
0.50	69
0.75	161
1.00	267
1.25	428
1.50	620

a. Do the data support your hypothesis of a constant angular acceleration? If so, what is the angular acceleration? If not, is the angular acceleration increasing or decreasing with time?
 b. A 76-cm-diameter blade is attached to the motor shaft. At what

time does the acceleration of the tip of the blade reach 10 m/s^2 ?

MODEL The axle is rotating with nonuniform circular motion. Model the tip of the blade as a particle.

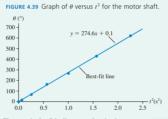
VISUALIZE FIGURE 4.38 shows that the blade tip has both a tangen tial and a radial acceleration.

 $\alpha=2m$. If the graph is not a straight line, our observation of whether it curves upward or downward will tell us whether the angular acceleration us increasing or decreasing.

FIGURE 4.39 is the graph of θ versus t^2 , and it confirms our hypothesis that the motor starts up with constant angular accleration. The best-fit line, found using a spreadsheet gives a slope of $274.6^\circ/s^2$. The units come not from the spreadsheet but by looking at the units of rise (°) over run (s^2 because we're graphing t^2 on the x-axis). Thus the angular acceleration is

$$\alpha = 2m = 549.2^{\circ}/\text{s}^2 \times \frac{\pi \text{ rad}}{180^{\circ}} = 9.6 \text{ rad/s}^2$$

where we used $180^{\circ} = \pi$ rad to convert to SI units of rad/s².



b. The magnitude of the linear acceleration is

 $a = \sqrt{a_r^2 + a_t^2}$

Worked Examples walk the student carefully through detailed solutions, focusing on underlying reasoning and common pitfalls to avoid.

NEW! Data-based Examples (shown here) help students with the skill of drawing conclusions from laboratory data.

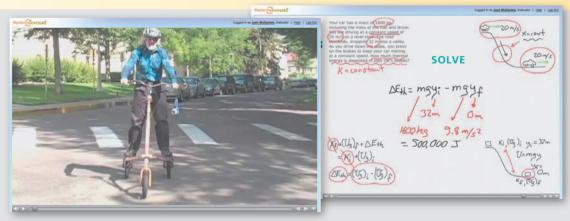
NEW! **Challenge Examples** illustrate how to integrate multiple concepts and use more sophisticated reasoning.

CHALLENGE EXAMPLE 10.10 A rebounding pendulum

A 200 g steel ball hangs on a 1.0-m-long string. The ball is pulled sideways so that the string is at a 45° angle, then released. At the very bottom of its swing the ball strikes a 500 g steel paperweight that is resting on a frictionless table. To what angle does the ball rebound?

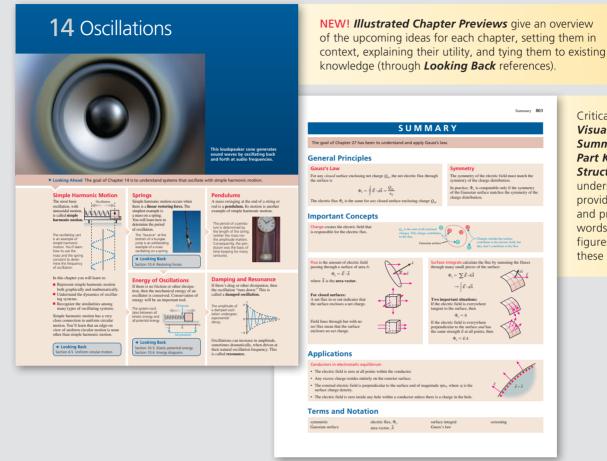


NEW! The Mastering Study Area also has *Video Tutor Solutions*, created by Randy Knight's College Physics co-author Brian Jones. These engaging and helpful videos walk students through a representative problem for each main topic, often starting with a qualitative overview in the context of a lab- or real-world demo.



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Critically acclaimed Visual Chapter Summaries and Part Knowledge **Structures** consolidate understanding by providing key concepts and principles in words, math, and figures and organizing these into a hierarchy.

EXAMPLE 6.1 Finding the force on the kneecap Your kneecap (patella) is attached by a tendon to your quadriceps muscle. This tendon pulls at a 10° angle relative to the the tension in the tendons, and both have a tension of $60\ N$ when the knee is bent to make a 70° angle between the upper femur, the bone of your upper leg. The patella is also attached to your lower leg (tibia) by a tendon that pulls parallel to the leg. To balance these forces, the lower end of your femur pushes outward on the patella. Bending your knee increases and lower leg. What force does the femur exert on the kneecap MODEL Model the kneecap as a particle in static equilibrium FIGURE 6.1 Pictorial representation of the kneecap in static equilibrium $\frac{\text{Known}}{T_1 = 60 \text{ N}}$ $T_{\rm s} = 60 \, \rm N$ List knowns and unknown

Draw free-body diagram

NEW! Life-science and bioengineering examples provide general interest, and specific context for biosciences students.

NEW! PhET Simulations and Tutorials allow students to explore real-life phenomena and discover the underlying physics. Sixteen tutorials are provided in the MasteringPhysics item library, and 76 PhET simulations are available in the Study Area and Pearson eText, along with the comprehensive library of ActivPhysics applets and applet-based tutorials.

Identify forces

NEW! Video Tutor Demonstrations feature "pause-and-predict" demonstrations of key physics concepts and incorporate assessment as the student progresses to actively engage them in understanding the key conceptual ideas underlying the physics principles.

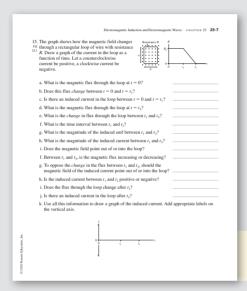




Provides research-enhanced problems...

... extensively class-tested and calibrated using MasteringPhysics data.

Data captured by MasteringPhysics® has been thoroughly analyzed by the author to ensure an optimal range of difficulty (indicated in the textbook using a threebar rating), problem types, and topic coverage are being met.



S6. A uniform rod of mass M and length L swings as a pendulum on a pivot at distance L/4 from one end of the rod. Find an expression for the frequency f of small-angle oscillations.
S7. A solid sphere of mass M and radius R is suspended from a

57. A solid sphere of mass M and radius R is suspended from a thin rod, as shown in FIGURE P14.57. The sphere can swing back and forth at the bottom of the rod. Find an expression for the frequency f of small-angle oscillations.



58. II A geologist needs to determine the local value of g. Unfortunately, his only tools are a meter stick, a saw, and a stopwatch. He starts by hanging the meter stick from one end and measuring its frequency as it swings. He then saws off 20 cm—using the centimeter markings—and measures the frequency again. After

FIGURE P14.57

two more cuts, these are his data:

Length (cm)	Frequency (H		
100	0.61		
80	0.67		
60	0.79		
40	0.96		

Use the best-fit line of an appropriate graph to determine the local value of e.

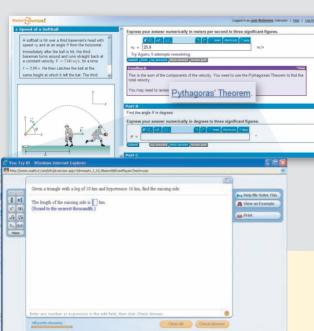
59. Il Interestingly, there have been several studies using cadavers BIO to determine the moments of inertia of human body parts, information that is important in biomechanies. In one study, the center of mass of a 5.0 kg lower leg was found to be 18 cm from the knee. When the leg was allowed to pivot at the knee and swing freely as a pendulum, the oscillation frequency was 1.6 Hz. What

An increased emphasis on symbolic answers encourages students to work algebraically.

NEW! Data-based endof-chapter problems allow students to practice drawing conclusions from data (as demonstrated in the new data-based examples in the text).

NEW! BIO problems are set in life-science, bioengineering, or biomedical contexts.

NEW! Student Workbook exercises help students work through a full solution symbolically, structured around the relevant textbook Problem-Solving Strategy.





NEW! Enhanced end-of-chapter problems in MasteringPhysics now offer additional support such as problem-solving strategy hints, relevant math review and practice, links to the eText, and links to the related **Video Tutor Solution**.

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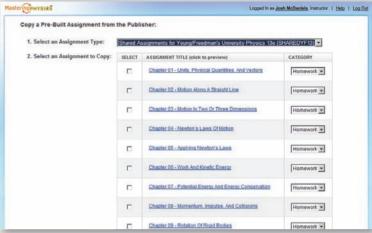
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Preface to the Instructor

In 2003 we published *Physics for Scientists and Engineers: A Strategic Approach*. This was the first comprehensive introductory textbook built from the ground up on research into how students can more effectively learn physics. The development and testing that led to this book had been partially funded by the National Science Foundation. This first edition quickly became the most widely adopted new physics textbook in more than 30 years, meeting widespread critical acclaim from professors and students. For the second edition, and now the third, we have built on the research-proven instructional techniques introduced in the first edition and the extensive feedback from thousands of users to take student learning even further.

FIVE EASY LESSONS Strategies for Successful Physics Teaching RANDALL D. KNIGHT

Objectives

My primary goals in writing *Physics for Scientists and Engineers: A Strategic Approach* have been:

- To produce a textbook that is more focused and coherent, less encyclopedic.
- To move key results from physics education research into the classroom in a way that allows instructors to use a range of teaching styles.
- To provide a balance of quantitative reasoning and conceptual understanding, with special attention to concepts known to cause student difficulties.
- To develop students' problem-solving skills in a systematic manner.
- To support an active-learning environment.

These goals and the rationale behind them are discussed at length in the *Instructor Guide* and in my small paperback book, *Five Easy Lessons: Strategies for Successful Physics Teaching*. Please request a copy from your local Pearson sales representative if it is of interest to you (ISBN 978-0-8053-8702-5).

What's New to This Edition

For this third edition, we continue to apply the best results from educational research, and to refine and tailor them for this course and its students. At the same time, the extensive feedback we've received has led to many changes and improvements to the text, the figures, and the end-of-chapter problems. These include:

- New illustrated Chapter Previews give a visual overview of the upcoming ideas, set them in context, explain their utility, and tie them to existing knowledge (through Looking Back references). These previews build on the cognitive psychology concept of an "advance organizer."
- New Challenge Examples illustrate how to integrate multiple concepts and use more sophisticated reasoning in problem-solving, ensuring an optimal range of worked examples for students to study in preparation for homework problems.
- New Data-based Examples help students with the skill of drawing conclusions from laboratory data. Designed to supplement lab-based instruction, these examples also help students in general with mathematical reasoning, graphical interpretation, and assessment of results.

End-of-chapter problem enhancements include the following:

Data from Mastering Physics[®] have been thoroughly analyzed to ensure an optimal range of difficulty, problem types, and topic coverage. In addition, the wording

- of every problem has been reviewed for clarity. Roughly 20% of the end-of-chapter problems are new or significantly revised.
- **Data-based problems** allow students to practice drawing conclusions from data (as demonstrated in the new data-based examples in the text).
- An increased emphasis on symbolic answers encourages students to work algebraically. The Student Workbook also contains new exercises to help students work through symbolic solutions.
- Bio problems are set in life-science, bioengineering, or biomedical contexts.

Targeted content changes have been carefully implemented throughout the book. These include:

- Life-science and bioengineering worked examples and applications focus on the physics of life-science situations in order to serve the needs of life-science students taking a calculus-based physics class.
- Descriptive text throughout has been streamlined to focus the presentation and generate a shorter text.
- The chapter on Modern Optics and Matter Waves has been re-worked into Chapters 38 and 39 to streamline the coverage of this material.

At the front of the book, you'll find an illustrated walkthrough of the new pedagogical features in this third edition. The Preface to the Student demonstrates how all the book's features are designed to help your students.

Textbook Organization

The 42-chapter extended edition (ISBN 978-0-321-73608-6/0-321-73608-7) of Physics for Scientists and Engineers is intended for a three-semester course. Most of the 36-chapter standard edition (ISBN 978-0-321-75294-9/0-321-75294-5), ending with relativity, can be covered in two semesters, although the judicious omission of a few chapters will avoid rushing through the material and give students more time to develop their knowledge and skills.

There's a growing sentiment that quantum physics is quickly becoming the province of engineers, not just scientists, and that even a two-semester course should include a reasonable introduction to quantum ideas. The Instructor Guide outlines a couple of routes through the book that allow most of the quantum physics chapters to be included in a two-semester course. I've written the book with the hope that an increasing number of instructors will choose one of these routes.

The full textbook is divided into seven parts: Part I: Newton's Laws, Part II: Conservation Laws, Part III: Applications of Newtonian Mechanics, Part IV: Thermodynamics, Part V: Waves and Optics, Part VI: Electricity and Magnetism, and Part VII: Relativity and Quantum Physics. Although I recommend covering the parts in this order (see below), doing so is by no means essential. Each topic is self-contained, and Parts III-VI can be rearranged to suit an instructor's needs. To facilitate a reordering of topics, the full text is available in the five individual volumes listed in the margin.

Organization Rationale: Thermodynamics is placed before waves because it is a continuation of ideas from mechanics. The key idea in thermodynamics is energy, and moving from mechanics into thermodynamics allows the uninterrupted development of this important idea. Further, waves introduce students to functions of two variables, and the mathematics of waves is more akin to electricity and magnetism than to mechanics. Thus moving from waves to fields to quantum physics provides a gradual transition of ideas and skills.

The purpose of placing optics with waves is to provide a coherent presentation of wave physics, one of the two pillars of classical physics. Optics as it is presented in introductory physics makes no use of the properties of electromagnetic fields. There's little reason other than historical tradition to delay optics until after E&M.

- Extended edition, with modern physics (ISBN 978-0-321-73608-6 / 0-321-73608-7): Chapters 1-42.
- Standard edition (ISBN 978-0-321-75294-9 / 0-321-75294-5): Chapters 1-36.
- Volume 1 (ISBN 978-0-321-75291-8 / 0-321-75291-0) covers mechanics: Chapters 1-15
- Volume 2 (ISBN 978-0-321-75318-2/ 0-321-75318-6) covers thermodynamics: Chapters 16-19.
- Volume 3 (ISBN 978-0-321-75317-5 / 0-321-75317-8) covers waves and optics: Chapters 20-24.
- Volume 4 (ISBN 978-0-321-75316-8 / 0-321-75316-X) covers electricity and magnetism, plus relativity: Chapters 25-36.
- Volume 5 (ISBN 978-0-321-75315-1 / 0-321-75315-1) covers relativity and quantum physics: Chapters 36-42.
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The documented difficulties that students have with optics are difficulties with waves, not difficulties with electricity and magnetism. However, the optics chapters are easily deferred until the end of Part VI for instructors who prefer that ordering of topics.

S.4 What Do Forces Do? A Virtual Experiment 9. The figure shows an acceleration-versus-force graph for an object of mans n. Dash have been plotted as individual properties of the properties

The Student Workbook

A key component of *Physics for Scientists and Engineers: A Strategic Approach* is the accompanying *Student Workbook*. The workbook bridges the gap between textbook and homework problems by providing students the opportunity to learn and practice skills prior to using those skills in quantitative end-of-chapter problems, much as a musician practices technique separately from performance pieces. The workbook exercises, which are keyed to each section of the textbook, focus on developing specific skills, ranging from identifying forces and drawing free-body diagrams to interpreting wave functions.

The workbook exercises, which are generally qualitative and/or graphical, draw heavily upon the physics education research literature. The exercises deal with issues known to cause student difficulties and employ techniques that have proven to be effective at overcoming those difficulties. The workbook exercises can be used in class as part of an active-learning teaching strategy, in recitation sections, or as assigned homework. More information about effective use of the *Student Workbook* can be found in the *Instructor Guide*.

Available versions: Extended (ISBN 978-0-321-75308-3/0-321-75308-9), Standard (ISBN 978-0-321-75309-0/0-321-75309-7), Volume 1 (ISBN 978-0-321-75314-4/0-321-75314-3), Volume 2 (ISBN 978-0-321-75313-7/0-321-75313-5), Volume 3 (ISBN 978-0-321-75312-0/0-321-75310-0), Volume 4 (ISBN 978-0-321-75311-3/0-321-75311-9), and Volume 5 (ISBN 978-0-321-75310-6/0-321-75310-0).

Instructor Supplements

- The Instructor Guide for Physics for Scientists and Engineers (ISBN 978-0-321-74765-5/0-321-74765-8) offers detailed comments and suggested teaching ideas for every chapter, an extensive review of what has been learned from physics education research, and guidelines for using active-learning techniques in your classroom. This invaluable guide is available on the Instructor Resource DVD, and via download, either from the MasteringPhysics Instructor Area or from the Instructor Resource Center (www.pearsonhighered.com/educator).
- The Instructor Solutions (ISBN 978-0-321-76940-4/0-321-76940-6), written by the author, Professor Larry Smith (Snow College), and Brett Kraabel (Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara), provide *complete* solutions to all the end-of-chapter problems. The solutions follow the four-step Model/Visualize/Solve/Assess procedure used in the Problem-Solving Strategies and in all worked examples. The solutions are available by chapter as editable Word® documents and as PDFs for your own use or for posting on your password-protected course website. Also provided are PDFs of handwritten solutions to all of the exercises in the *Student Workbook*, written by Professor James Andrews and Brian Garcar (Youngstown State University). All solutions are available

- only via download, either from the MasteringPhysics Instructor Area or from the Instructor Resource Center (www.pearsonhighered.com/educator).
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- MasteringPhysics® (www.masteringphysics.com) is the most advanced, educationally effective, and widely used physics homework and tutorial system in the world. Eight years in development, it provides instructors with a library of extensively pre-tested end-of-chapter problems and rich, multipart, multistep tutorials that incorporate a wide variety of answer types, wrong answer feedback, individualized help (comprising hints or simpler sub-problems upon request), all driven by the largest metadatabase of student problem-solving in the world. NSF-sponsored published research (and subsequent

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MasteringPhysics routinely provides instant and individualized feedback and guidance to more than 100,000 students every day. A wide range of tools and support make MasteringPhysics fast and easy for instructors and students to learn to use. Extensive class tests show that by the end of their course, an unprecedented nine of ten students recommend MasteringPhysics as their preferred way to study physics and do homework.

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- review and practice helping students make the connection between math and physics.
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The online exercises are designed to encourage students to confront misconceptions, reason qualitatively about physical processes, experiment quantitatively, and learn to think critically. The highly acclaimed ActivPhysics OnLine companion workbooks help students work through complex concepts and understand them more clearly. The applets from the ActivPhysics OnLine library are also available on the Instructor Resource DVD for this text.

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Student Supplements

- The Student Solutions Manuals Chapters 1–19 (ISBN 978-0-321-74767-9/0-321-74767-4) and Chapters 20-42 (ISBN 978-0-321-77269-5/0-321-77269-5), written by the author, Professor Larry Smith (Snow College), and Brett Kraabel (Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara), provide detailed solutions to more than half of the odd-numbered end-of-chapter problems. The solutions follow the four-step Model/Visualize/Solve/Assess procedure used in the Problem-Solving Strategies and in all worked examples.
- MasteringPhysics® (www.masteringphysics.com) MP 1 is a homework, tutorial, and assessment system based on years of research into how students work physics problems and precisely where they need help. Studies show that students who use MasteringPhysics significantly increase their scores compared to handwritten homework. MasteringPhysics achieves this
- improvement by providing students with instantaneous feedback specific to their wrong answers, simpler subproblems upon request when they get stuck, and partial credit for their method(s). This individualized, 24/7 Socratic tutoring is recommended by 9 out of 10 students to their peers as the most effective and time-efficient way to study.
- **Pearson eText** is available through MasteringPhysics, either automatically when MasteringPhysics is packaged with new books, or available as a purchased upgrade online. Allowing students access to the text wherever they have access to the Internet, Pearson eText comprises the full text, including figures that can be enlarged for better viewing. With eText, students are also able to pop up definitions and terms to help with vocabulary and the reading of the material. Students can also take notes in eText using the annotation feature at the top of each page.

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Randy Knight, September 2011 rknight@calpoly.edu

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Special thanks go to our third edition review panel: Kyle Altman, Taner Edis, Kent Fisher, Marty Gelfand, Elizabeth George, Jason Harlow, Bob Jacobsen, David Lee, Gary Morris, Eric Murray, and Bruce Schumm.

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xiv Preface to the Instructor

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Preface to the Student

From Me to You

The most incomprehensible thing about the universe is that it is comprehensible.

-Albert Einstein

The day I went into physics class it was death.

-Sylvia Plath, The Bell Jar

Let's have a little chat before we start. A rather one-sided chat, admittedly, because you can't respond, but that's OK. I've talked with many of your fellow students over the years, so I have a pretty good idea of what's on your mind.

What's your reaction to taking physics? Fear and loathing? Uncertainty? Excitement? All of the above? Let's face it, physics has a bit of an image problem on campus. You've probably heard that it's difficult, maybe downright impossible unless you're an Einstein. Things that you've heard, your experiences in other science courses, and many other factors all color your *expectations* about what this course is going to be like.

It's true that there are many new ideas to be learned in physics and that the course, like college courses in general, is going to be much faster paced than science courses you had in high school. I think it's fair to say that it will be an *intense* course. But we can avoid many potential problems and difficulties if we can establish, here at the beginning, what this course is about and what is expected of you—and of me!

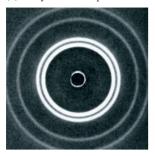
Just what is physics, anyway? Physics is a way of thinking about the physical aspects of nature. Physics is not better than art or biology or poetry or religion, which are also ways to think about nature; it's simply different. One of the things this course will emphasize is that physics is a human endeavor. The ideas presented in this book were not found in a cave or conveyed to us by aliens; they were discovered and developed by real people engaged in a struggle with real issues. I hope to convey to you something of the history and the process by which we have come to accept the principles that form the foundation of today's science and engineering.

You might be surprised to hear that physics is not about "facts." Oh, not that facts are unimportant, but physics is far more focused on discovering *relationships* that exist between facts and *patterns* that exist in nature than on learning facts for their own sake. As a consequence, there's not a lot of memorization when you study physics. Some—there are still definitions and equations to learn—but less than in many other courses. Our emphasis, instead, will be on thinking and reasoning. This is important to factor into your expectations for the course.

Perhaps most important of all, *physics is not math!* Physics is much broader. We're going to look for patterns and relationships in nature, develop the logic that relates different ideas, and search for the reasons *why* things happen as they do. In doing so, we're going to stress qualitative reasoning, pictorial and graphical reasoning, and reasoning by analogy. And yes, we will use math, but it's just one tool among many.

It will save you much frustration if you're aware of this physics—math distinction up front. Many of you, I know, want to find a formula and plug numbers into it—that is,

(a) X-ray diffraction pattern



(b) Electron diffraction pattern



to do a math problem. Maybe that worked in high school science courses, but it is not what this course expects of you. We'll certainly do many calculations, but the specific numbers are usually the last and least important step in the analysis.

Physics is about recognizing patterns. For example, the top photograph is an x-ray diffraction pattern showing how a focused beam of x rays spreads out after passing through a crystal. The bottom photograph shows what happens when a focused beam of electrons is shot through the same crystal. What does the obvious similarity in these two photographs tell us about the nature of light and the nature of matter?

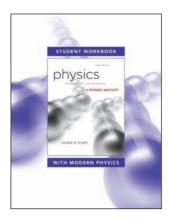
As you study, you'll sometimes be baffled, puzzled, and confused. That's perfectly normal and to be expected. Making mistakes is OK too if you're willing to learn from the experience. No one is born knowing how to do physics any more than he or she is born knowing how to play the piano or shoot basketballs. The ability to do physics comes from practice, repetition, and struggling with the ideas until you "own" them and can apply them yourself in new situations. There's no way to make learning effortless, at least for anything worth learning, so expect to have some difficult moments ahead. But also expect to have some moments of excitement at the joy of discovery. There will be instants at which the pieces suddenly click into place and you know that you understand a powerful idea. There will be times when you'll surprise yourself by successfully working a difficult problem that you didn't think you could solve. My hope, as an author, is that the excitement and sense of adventure will far outweigh the difficulties and frustrations.

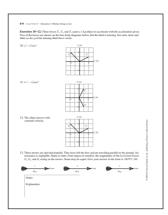
Getting the Most Out of Your Course

Many of you, I suspect, would like to know the "best" way to study for this course. There is no best way. People are different, and what works for one student is less effective for another. But I do want to stress that reading the text is vitally important. Class time will be used to clarify difficulties and to develop tools for using the knowledge, but your instructor will not use class time simply to repeat information in the text. The basic knowledge for this course is written down on these pages, and the number-one expectation is that you will read carefully and thoroughly to find and learn that knowledge.

Despite there being no best way to study, I will suggest one way that is successful for many students. It consists of the following four steps:

- 1. Read each chapter before it is discussed in class. I cannot stress too strongly how important this step is. Class attendance is much more effective if you are prepared. When you first read a chapter, focus on learning new vocabulary, definitions, and notation. There's a list of terms and notations at the end of each chapter. Learn them! You won't understand what's being discussed or how the ideas are being used if you don't know what the terms and symbols mean.
- 2. Participate actively in class. Take notes, ask and answer questions, and participate in discussion groups. There is ample scientific evidence that active participation is much more effective for learning science than passive listening.
- 3. After class, go back for a careful re-reading of the chapter. In your second reading, pay closer attention to the details and the worked examples. Look for the *logic* behind each example (I've highlighted this to make it clear), not just at what formula is being used. Do the Student Workbook exercises for each section as you finish your reading of it.
- 4. Finally, apply what you have learned to the homework problems at the end of each chapter. I strongly encourage you to form a study group with two or three classmates. There's good evidence that students who study regularly with a group do better than the rugged individualists who try to go it alone.







Did someone mention a workbook? The companion *Student Workbook* is a vital part of the course. Its questions and exercises ask you to reason *qualitatively*, to use graphical information, and to give explanations. It is through these exercises that you will learn what the concepts mean and will practice the reasoning skills appropriate to the chapter. You will then have acquired the baseline knowledge and confidence you need *before* turning to the end-of-chapter homework problems. In sports or in music, you would never think of performing before you practice, so why would you want to do so in physics? The workbook is where you practice and work on basic skills.

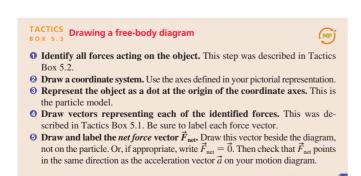
Many of you, I know, will be tempted to go straight to the homework problems and then thumb through the text looking for a formula that seems like it will work. That approach will not succeed in this course, and it's guaranteed to make you frustrated and discouraged. Very few homework problems are of the "plug and chug" variety where you simply put numbers into a formula. To work the homework problems successfully, you need a better study strategy—either the one outlined above or your own—that helps you learn the concepts and the relationships between the ideas.

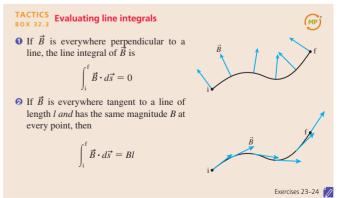
A traditional guideline in college is to study two hours outside of class for every hour spent in class, and this text is designed with that expectation. Of course, two hours is an average. Some chapters are fairly straightforward and will go quickly. Others likely will require much more than two study hours per class hour.

Getting the Most Out of Your Textbook

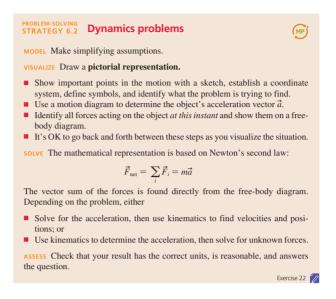
Your textbook provides many features designed to help you learn the concepts of physics and solve problems more effectively.

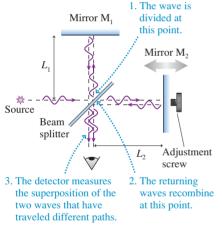
■ TACTICS BOXES give step-by-step procedures for particular skills, such as interpreting graphs or drawing special diagrams. Tactics Box steps are explicitly illustrated in subsequent worked examples, and these are often the starting point of a full *Problem-Solving Strategy*.





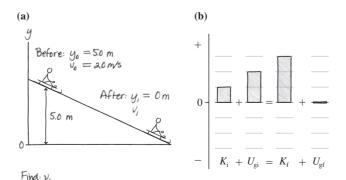
■ PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGIES are provided for each broad class of problems—problems characteristic of a chapter or group of chapters. The strategies follow a consistent four-step approach to help you develop confidence and proficient problem-solving skills: MODEL, VISUALIZE, SOLVE, ASSESS.





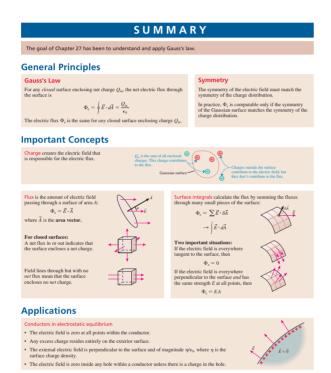
Annotated **FIGURE** showing the operation of the Michelson interferometer.

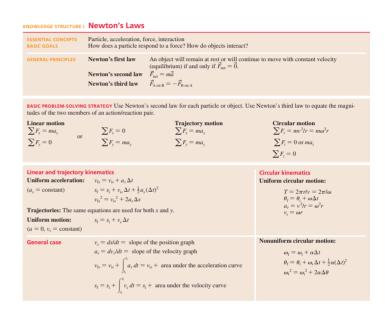
- Worked EXAMPLES illustrate good problem-solving practices through the consistent use of the four-step problem-solving approach and, where appropriate, the Tactics Box steps. The worked examples are often very detailed and carefully lead you through the *reasoning* behind the solution as well as the numerical calculations. A careful study of the reasoning will help you apply the concepts and techniques to the new and novel problems you will encounter in homework assignments and on exams.
- NOTE ▶ paragraphs alert you to common mistakes and point out useful tips for tackling problems.
- STOP TO THINK questions embedded in the chapter allow you to quickly assess whether you've understood the main idea of a section. A correct answer will give you confidence to move on to the next section. An incorrect answer will alert you to re-read the previous section.
- Blue annotations on figures help you better understand what the figure is showing. They will help you to interpret graphs; translate between graphs, math, and pictures; grasp difficult concepts through a visual analogy; and develop many other important skills.
- Pencil sketches provide practical examples of the figures you should draw yourself when solving a problem.



Pencil-sketch **FIGURE** showing a toboggan going down a hill and its energy bar chart.

- Each chapter begins with a *Chapter Preview*, a visual outline of the chapter ahead with recommendations of important topics you should review from previous chapters. A few minutes spent with the Preview will help you organize your thoughts so as to get the most out of reading the chapter.
- Schematic Chapter Summaries help you organize what you have learned into a hierarchy, from general principles (top) to applications (bottom). Side-by-side pictorial, graphical, textual, and mathematical representations are used to help you translate between these key representations.
- Part Overviews and Summaries provide a global framework for what you are learning. Each part begins with an overview of the chapters ahead and concludes with a broad summary to help you to connect the concepts presented in that set of chapters. KNOWLEDGE STRUCTURE tables in the Part Summaries, similar to the Chapter Summaries, help you to see the forest rather than just the trees.





Now that you know more about what is expected of you, what can you expect of me? That's a little trickier because the book is already written! Nonetheless, the book was prepared on the basis of what I think my students throughout the years have expected—and wanted—from their physics textbook. Further, I've listened to the extensive feedback I have received from thousands of students like you, and their instructors, who used the first and second editions of this book.

You should know that these course materials—the text and the workbook—are based on extensive research about how students learn physics and the challenges they face. The effectiveness of many of the exercises has been demonstrated through extensive class testing. I've written the book in an informal style that I hope you will find appealing and that will encourage you to do the reading. And, finally, I have endeavored to make clear not only that physics, as a technical body of knowledge, is relevant to your profession but also that physics is an exciting adventure of the human mind.

I hope you'll enjoy the time we're going to spend together.

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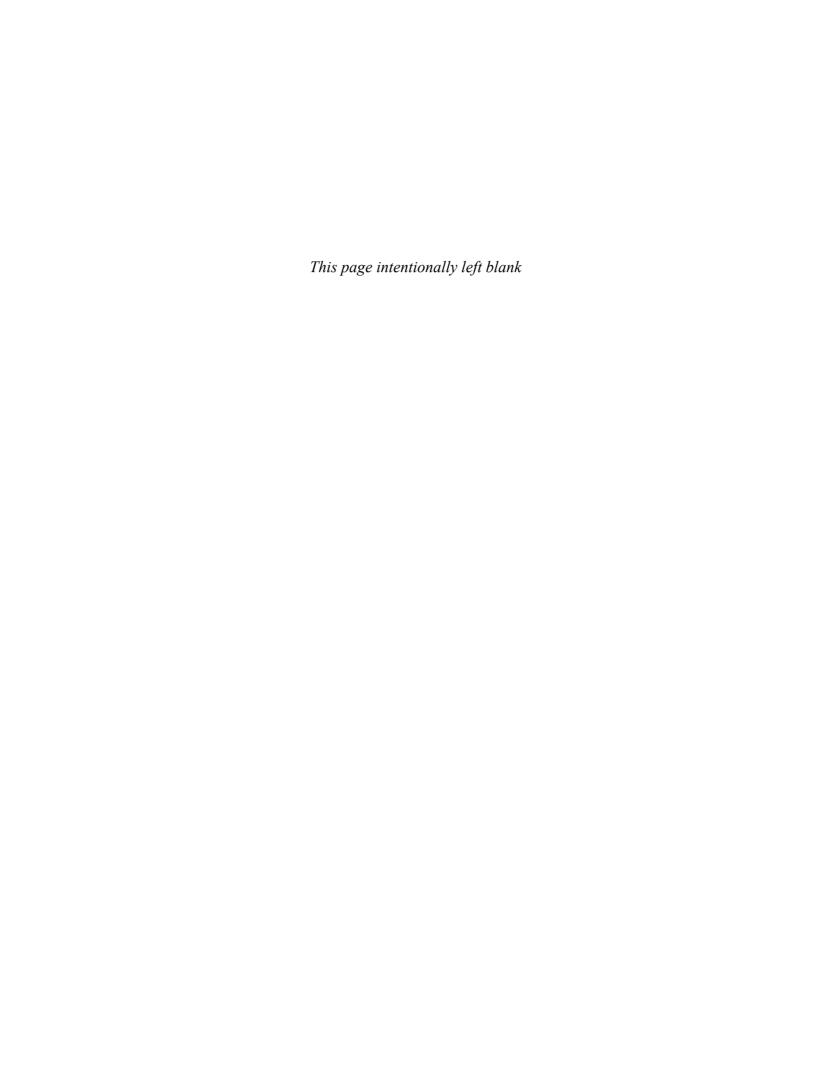
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Introduction

Journey into Physics

Said Alice to the Cheshire cat,

"Cheshire-Puss, would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?"

-Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland

Have you ever wondered about questions such as

Why is the sky blue?

Why is glass an insulator but metal a conductor?

What, really, is an atom?

These are the questions of which physics is made. Physicists try to understand the universe in which we live by observing the phenomena of nature—such as the sky being blue—and by looking for patterns and principles to explain these phenomena. Many of the discoveries made by physicists, from electromagnetic waves to nuclear energy, have forever altered the ways in which we live and think.

You are about to embark on a journey into the realm of physics. It is a journey in which you will learn about many physical phenomena and find the answers to questions such as the ones posed above. Along the way, you will also learn how to use physics to analyze and solve many practical problems.

As you proceed, you are going to see the methods by which physicists have come to understand the laws of nature. The ideas and theories of physics are not arbitrary; they are firmly grounded in experiments and measurements. By the time you finish this text, you will be able to recognize the *evidence* upon which our present knowledge of the universe is based.

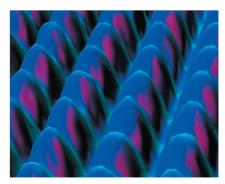
Which Way Should We Go?

We are rather like Alice in Wonderland, here at the start of the journey, in that we must decide which way to go. Physics is an immense body of knowledge, and without specific goals it would not much matter which topics we study. But unlike Alice, we *do* have some particular destinations that we would like to visit.

The physics that provides the foundation for all of modern science and engineering can be divided into three broad categories:

- Particles and energy.
- Fields and waves.
- The atomic structure of matter.

A particle, in the sense that we'll use the term, is an idealization of a physical object. We will use particles to understand how objects move and how they interact with each other. One of the most important properties of a particle or a collection of particles is *energy*. We will study energy both for its value in understanding physical processes and because of its practical importance in a technological society.



A scanning tunneling microscope allows us to "see" the individual atoms on a surface. One of our goals is to understand how an image such as this is made.

[&]quot;That depends a good deal on where you want to go," said the Cat.

[&]quot;I don't much care where—" said Alice.

[&]quot;Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said the Cat.

Particles are discrete, localized objects. Although many phenomena can be understood in terms of particles and their interactions, the long-range interactions of gravity, electricity, and magnetism are best understood in terms of *fields*, such as the gravitational field and the electric field. Rather than being discrete, fields spread continuously through space. Much of the second half of this book will be focused on understanding fields and the interactions between fields and particles.

Certainly one of the most significant discoveries of the past 500 years is that matter consists of atoms. Atoms and their properties are described by quantum physics, but we cannot leap directly into that subject and expect that it would make any sense. To reach our destination, we are going to have to study many other topics along the way—rather like having to visit the Rocky Mountains if you want to drive from New York to San Francisco. All our knowledge of particles and fields will come into play as we end our journey by studying the atomic structure of matter.

The Route Ahead

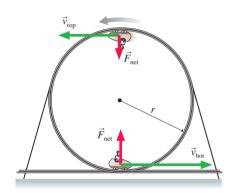
Here at the beginning, we can survey the route ahead. Where will our journey take us? What scenic vistas will we view along the way?

Parts I and II, Newton's Laws and Conservation Laws, form the basis of what is called classical mechanics. Classical mechanics is the study of motion. (It is called classical to distinguish it from the modern theory of motion at the atomic level, which is called quantum mechanics.) The first two parts of this textbook establish the basic language and concepts of motion. Part I will look at motion in terms of particles and forces. We will use these concepts to study the motion of everything from accelerating sprinters to orbiting satellites. Then, in Part II, we will introduce the ideas of momentum and energy. These concepts—especially energy—will give us a new perspective on motion and extend our ability to analyze motion.

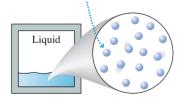
Part III, Applications of Newtonian Mechanics, will pause to look at four important applications of classical mechanics: Newton's theory of gravity, rotational motion, oscillatory motion, and the motion of fluids. Only oscillatory motion is a prerequisite for later chapters. Your instructor may choose to cover some or all of the other chapters, depending upon the time available, but your study of Parts IV–VII will not be hampered if these chapters are omitted.

Part IV, *Thermodynamics*, extends the ideas of particles and energy to systems such as liquids and gases that contain vast numbers of particles. Here we will

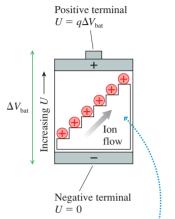
look for connections between the *microscopic* behavior of large numbers of atoms and the *macroscopic* properties of bulk matter. You will find that some of the properties of gases that you know from chemistry, such as the ideal gas law, turn out to be direct consequences of the underlying atomic structure of the gas. We will also expand the concept of energy and study how energy is transferred and utilized.



Atoms are held close together by weak molecular bonds, but they can slide around each other.



Waves are ubiquitous in nature, whether they be large-scale oscillations like ocean waves, the less obvious motions of sound waves, or the subtle undulations of light waves and matter waves that go to the heart of the atomic structure of matter. In **Part V**, Waves and Optics, we will emphasize the unity of wave physics and find that many diverse wave phenomena can be analyzed with the same concepts and mathematical language. Light waves are of special interest, and we will end this portion of our journey with an exploration of optical instruments, ranging from microscopes and telescopes to that most important of all optical instruments—your eye.



The charge escalator "lifts" charge from the negative side to the positive side. Charge q gains energy $\Delta U = q \Delta V_{\rm bat}$.

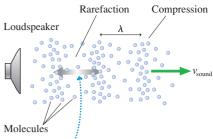
Part VI, Electricity and Magnetism, is devoted to the electromagnetic force, one of the most important forces in nature. In essence, the electromagnetic force is the "glue" that holds atoms together. It is also the force that makes this the "electronic age." We'll begin this part of the journey with simple observations of static electricity. Bit by bit, we'll be led to the basic ideas behind electrical circuits, to magnetism, and eventually to the discovery of electromagnetic waves.

Part VII is *Relativity and Quantum Physics*. We'll start by exploring the strange world of Einstein's theory of *relativity*, a world in which space and time aren't quite what they appear to be. Then we will enter the microscopic domain of *atoms*, where the behaviors

of light and matter are at complete odds with what our common sense tells us is possible. Although the mathematics of quantum theory quickly gets beyond the level of this text, and time will be running out, you will see that the quantum theory of atoms and nuclei explains many of the things that you learned simply as rules in chemistry.

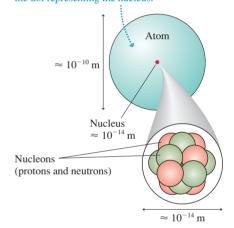
We will not have visited all of physics on our travels. There just isn't time. Many exciting topics, ranging from quarks to black holes, will have to remain unexplored. But this particular journey need not be the last. As you finish this text, you will have the background and the experience to explore new topics further in more advanced courses or for yourself.

With that said, let us take the first step.



Individual molecules oscillate back and forth with displacement D. As they do so, the compressions propagate forward at speed v_{sound} . Because compressions are regions of higher pressure, a sound wave can be thought of as a pressure wave.

This picture of an atom would need to be 10 m in diameter if it were drawn to the same scale as the dot representing the nucleus.



PART T

Newton's Laws



Motion can be exhilarating and beautiful. These sailboats are responding to forces of wind, water, and the weight of the crew as they balance precariously on the edge.



OVERVIEW

Why Things Change

Each of the seven parts of this book opens with an overview to give you a look ahead, a glimpse at where your journey will take you in the next few chapters. It's easy to lose sight of the big picture while you're busy negotiating the terrain of each chapter. In Part I, the big picture, in a word, is *change*.

Simple observations of the world around you show that most things change, few things remain the same. Some changes, such as aging, are biological. Others, such as sugar dissolving in your coffee, are chemical. We're going to study change that involves *motion* of one form or another—the motion of balls, cars, and rockets.

There are two big questions we must tackle:

- How do we describe motion? It is easy to say that an object moves, but it's not obvious how we should measure or characterize the motion if we want to analyze it mathematically. The mathematical description of motion is called *kinematics*, and it is the subject matter of Chapters 1 through 4.
- How do we explain motion? Why do objects have the particular motion they do? Why, when you toss a ball upward, does it go up and then come back down rather than keep going up? Are there "laws of nature" that allow us to predict an object's motion? The explanation of motion in terms of its causes is called *dynamics*, and it is the topic of Chapters 5 through 8.

Two key ideas for answering these questions are *force* (the "cause") and *acceleration* (the "effect"). A variety of pictorial and graphical tools will be developed in Chapters 1 through 5 to help you develop an *intuition* for the connection between force and acceleration. You'll then put this knowledge to use in Chapters 5 through 8 as you analyze motion of increasing complexity.

Another important tool will be the use of *models*. Reality is extremely complicated. We would never be able to develop a science if we had to keep track of every little detail of every situation. A model is a simplified description of reality—much as a model airplane is a simplified version of a real airplane—used to reduce the complexity of a problem to the point where it can be analyzed and understood. We will introduce several important models of motion, paying close attention, especially in these earlier chapters, to where simplifying assumptions are being made, and why.

The "laws of motion" were discovered by Isaac Newton roughly 350 years ago, so the study of motion is hardly cutting-edge science. Nonetheless, it is still extremely important. Mechanics—the science of motion—is the basis for much of engineering and applied science, and many of the ideas introduced here will be needed later to understand things like the motion of waves and the motion of electrons through circuits. Newton's mechanics is the foundation of much of contemporary science, thus we will start at the beginning.

1 Concepts of Motion



Motion takes many forms. The snowboarder seen here is an example of translational motion.

▶ Looking Ahead The goal of Chapter 1 is to introduce the fundamental concepts of motion.

The Chapter Preview

Each chapter will start with an overview of the material to come. You should read these chapter previews carefully to get a sense of the road ahead.

Arrows show the flow of ideas in the chapter.



A chapter preview is a visual presentation that outlines the big ideas and the organization of the chapter that is to come.

The chapter previews not only let you know what is coming, they also help you make connections with material you have already seen.

◀ Looking Back

Each Looking Back box tells you what material from previous chapters is especially important for understanding the new chapter. Reviewing this material will enhance your learning.

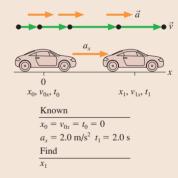
Describing Motion

Before solving problems about motion, we first must learn to describe motion. In this chapter, you'll learn to describe motion with

- Motion diagrams
- Graphs
- Pictures

In Chapter 2, these tools will become the basis of a powerful problem-solving strategy.

Motion concepts that we'll introduce in this chapter include position, velocity, and acceleration.



Vectors

Numbers alone aren't always enough; sometimes the direction of a quantity is also important. We use **vectors** to represent quantities, such as velocity, that have both a size and a direction.

You will learn to use a graphical technique to add and subtract vectors. Chapter 3 will explore vectors in more detail.



Units and Significant

Figures

Calculations in physics are most commonly done using **SI units**– known more informally as the metric system. The basic units needed



The kilogram.

in the study of motion are the meter (m), the second (s), and the kilogram (kg).

A significant figure is a digit that is reliably known. You will learn the rules for using significant figures correctly.

1.1 Motion Diagrams

Motion is a theme that will appear in one form or another throughout this entire book. Although we all have intuition about motion, based on our experiences, some of the important aspects of motion turn out to be rather subtle. So rather than jumping immediately into a lot of mathematics and calculations, this first chapter focuses on visualizing motion and becoming familiar with the concepts needed to describe a moving object. Our goal is to lay the foundations for understanding motion.

FIGURE 1.1 Four basic types of motion.





Linear motion

Circular motion





Projectile motion

Rotational motion

As a starting point, let's define motion as the change of an object's position with time. FIGURE 1.1 shows four basic types of motion that we will study in this book. The first three—linear, circular, and projectile motion—in which the object moves through space are called **translational motion**. The path along which the object moves, whether straight or curved, is called the object's trajectory. Rotational motion is somewhat different in that rotation is a change of the object's angular position. We'll defer rotational motion until later and, for now, focus on translational motion.

Making a Motion Diagram

An easy way to study motion is to make a movie of a moving object. A movie camera, as you probably know, takes photographs at a fixed rate, typically 30 photographs every second. Each separate photo is called a frame, and the frames are all lined up one after the other in a *filmstrip*. As an example, **FIGURE 1.2** shows four frames from the movie of a car going past. Not surprisingly, the car is in a somewhat different position in each frame.

Suppose we cut the individual frames of the filmstrip apart, stack them on top of each other, and project the entire stack at once onto a screen for viewing. The result is shown in FIGURE 1.3. This composite photo, showing an object's position at several equally spaced instants of time, is called a motion diagram. As the example below shows, we can define concepts such as at rest, constant speed, speeding up, and slowing down in terms of how an object appears in a motion diagram.

NOTE ► It's important to keep the camera in a *fixed position* as the object moves by. Don't "pan" it to track the moving object. ◀

FIGURE 1.2 Four frames from the movie of a car.

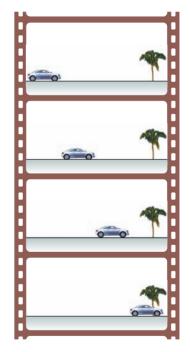
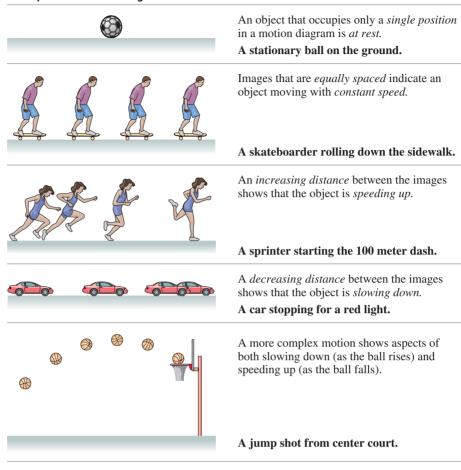


FIGURE 1.3 A motion diagram of the car shows all the frames simultaneously



between each image and the next.



STOP TO THINK 1.1 Which car is going faster, A or B? Assume there are equal intervals of time between the frames of both movies.



NOTE ▶ Each chapter will have several *Stop to Think* questions. These questions are designed to see if you've understood the basic ideas that have been presented. The answers are given at the end of the chapter, but you should make a serious effort to think about these questions before turning to the answers. If you answer correctly, and are sure of your answer rather than just guessing, you can proceed to the next section with confidence. But if you answer incorrectly, it would be wise to reread the preceding sections before proceeding onward. ◀

1.2 The Particle Model

For many types of motion, such as that of balls, cars, and rockets, the motion of the object *as a whole* is not influenced by the details of the object's size and shape. All we really need to keep track of is the motion of a single point on the object, so we can treat the object *as if* all its mass were concentrated into this single point. An object

that can be represented as a mass at a single point in space is called a particle. A particle has no size, no shape, and no distinction between top and bottom or between front and back.

If we treat an object as a particle, we can represent the object in each frame of a motion diagram as a simple dot rather than having to draw a full picture. FIGURE 1.4 shows how much simpler motion diagrams appear when the object is represented as a particle. Note that the dots have been numbered 0, 1, 2, ... to tell the sequence in which the frames were exposed.

Using the Particle Model

Treating an object as a particle is, of course, a simplification of reality. As we noted in the Part I Overview, such a simplification is called a model. Models allow us to focus on the important aspects of a phenomenon by excluding those aspects that play only a minor role. The particle model of motion is a simplification in which we treat a moving object as if all of its mass were concentrated at a single point. The particle model is an excellent approximation of reality for the translational motion of cars, planes, rockets, and similar objects. In later chapters, we'll find that the motion of more complex objects, which cannot be treated as a single particle, can often be analyzed as if the object were a collection of particles.

Not all motions can be reduced to the motion of a single point. Consider a rotating gear. The center of the gear doesn't move at all, and each tooth on the gear is moving in a different direction. Rotational motion is qualitatively different than translational motion, and we'll need to go beyond the particle model later when we study rotational motion.

STOP TO THINK 1.2 Three motion diagrams are shown. Which is a dust particle settling to the floor at constant speed, which is a ball dropped from the roof of a building, and which is a descending rocket slowing to make a soft landing on Mars?

(a) 0 ●	(b) 0 ●	(c) 0 ●
1 ● 2 ●	1 ●	
3 •	2 ●	1 •
3 •		2 •
4 ●	3 ●	3 •
	4 ●	4 •
5 ●	5 ●	5 ●

1.3 Position and Time

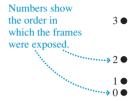
As we look at a motion diagram, it would be useful to know where the object is (i.e., its position) and when the object was at that position (i.e., the time). Position measurements can be made by laying a coordinate system grid over a motion diagram. You can then measure the (x, y) coordinates of each point in the motion diagram. Of course, the world does not come with a coordinate system attached. A coordinate system is an artificial grid that you place over a problem in order to analyze the motion. You place the origin of your coordinate system wherever you wish, and different observers of a moving object might all choose to use different origins. Likewise, you can choose the orientation of the x-axis and y-axis to be helpful for that particular problem. The conventional choice is for the x-axis to point to the right and the y-axis to point upward, but there is nothing sacred about this choice. We will soon have many occasions to tilt the axes at an angle.

Time, in a sense, is also a coordinate system, although you may never have thought of time this way. You can pick an arbitrary point in the motion and label it "t = 0 seconds."

FIGURE 1.4 Motion diagrams in which the object is represented as a particle.

(a) Motion diagram of a rocket launch





(b) Motion diagram of a car stopping



The same amount of time elapses between each image and the next.