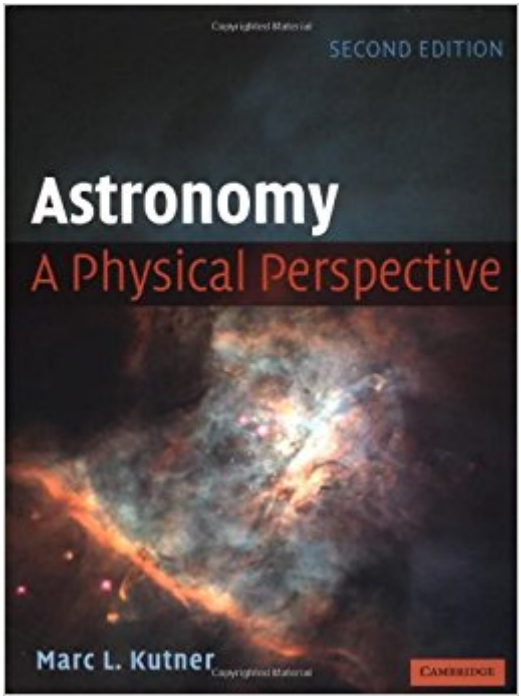
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Astronomy: A Physical Perspective



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Synopsis

This revised and updated comprehensive introduction to astronomical objects and phenomena applies basic physical principles to a variety of situations. Students learn how to relate everyday physics to the astronomical world with the help of useful equations, chapter summaries, worked examples and end-of-chapter problem sets. It will be suitable for undergraduate students taking a first course in astronomy, and assumes a basic knowledge of physics with calculus.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This excellent book provides a very thorough and up-to-date introduction to astronomy and astrophysics... [T]his well-written, comprehensive work would be an excellent choice for an introductory course on modern astrophysics for astronomy and physics majors. Highly recommended." Choice

This fully revised and updated text is a comprehensive introduction to astronomical objects and phenomena. By applying some basic physical principles to a variety of situations, students will learn how to relate everyday physics to the astronomical world. The text contains useful equations, chapter summaries, worked examples and end-of-chapter problem sets. It is suitable for undergraduate students taking a first course in astronomy, and assumes a basic knowledge of physics with calculus.

This is my bedside book for the study of the theoretical aspect of the science of astronomy. Has an intermediate level in terms of difficulty, and it is exactly what I was looking for. I did not find another like it. Highly recommended. (I’m an electrical engineer, amateur astronomer)

I’m a little disappointed. This book was supposed to delve into the "physical" aspect of astronomy, but it doesn’t even explain the concepts well.

It came in perfect condition. Awesome

The textbook is old, slightly outdated, and sometimes un intuitive and hard to follow.

THIS IS NOT THE BOOK YOU NEED FOR ASTRO 228 at umass. Otherwise it is great. It is out of date, but a lot of info is legit

This book offers a good introduction to astronomy, with chapters devoted to everything from telescope technology to general relativity and cosmology. Its explanations are generally clear and instructive, although the sections on subjects like nuclear and particle physics could be a little overwhelming to the uninitiated - it’s simply a lot of information to present in a relatively small amount of space, but the author does a decent job. The book gives a good understanding of the science aspect of astronomy, but rushes through some of the technicalities, with, for example, a surprisingly brief and uninformative section (3 pages!) on astronomical coordinates and timekeeping.My big complaint about this book is that it is chock full of errors! Some entire diagrams need to be replaced, and more importantly, there are way too many errors in the equations and exercises. As a student with weekly problem sets to get through, I found this quite frustrating. In one case, an entire exercise was an error and had to be replaced with a different question. If you’re thinking of using this book for a course, make sure you find the list of after press corrections, and hand it out on the first day of class.

The book is awesome and appears to have been pretty complete by the time of first print, which was 2003. However, astronomy is a rapidly developing field and after more than ten years, some of the information is already outdated. This concerns in particular the field of extrasolar planets, which has boomed over the past ten years. The information on this hot topic is very limited. If not for that, I would have given the book a full five stars.

I like this up-to-date textbook. I like the explanations, the diagrams, the marvellous photographs, the exercises. It covers pretty much everything I'd want as a teacher or student, and in well under 600 pages. Maybe the parts I liked best were the sections on relativity and cosmology. But it was all just great, as it sailed through telescopes, stars, spectra, binaries,the Sun, stellar evolution, the Milky Way, star formation, the interstellar medium, normal galaxies, active galaxies, clusters of galaxies, and the Sun's planetary system. The treatment of the solar planetary system included planetary atmospheres, surfaces, and interiors. It even talked about planetary resonances.One weakness, to my way of thinking, was the overly brief appendix on astronomical coordinates and timekeeping. And there were a couple of minor topics I would have wanted to see mentioned. One was Gamma Ray Bursters. Another was Blue Stragglers.

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