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are described. Scientific, engineering, and business applications are outlined.

This well-indexed reference will be very valuable to computer users, and especially to computer designers.

Beta Decay for Pedestrians. By Harry J. Lipkin. 117 pp. North-Holland Publishing Co., Amsterdam, 1962. Distr. in US by Interscience Publishers, Inc., New York. \$6.00. Reviewed by M. E. Rose, University of Virginia.

CONTRARY to what one might expect from the title, and an acquaintance with some other works from the pen of Harry Lipkin, this slim volume is not a parody. The book is not without touches of humor, but its purpose and the method of achieving it are quite serious. In slightly more than 100 pages, the author describes virtually the gamut of nuclear beta decay with machinery which is never more complicated than the vector model. The purpose is frankly pedagogic and if there is anything new for the cognoscenti it is the fact that all the effects of "parity nonconservation" in allowed transitions can be understood in a quantitative way with some elegant handwaving. This handwaving consists in large measure in the applications of the well-known conservation rules. As the author remarks, allowed transitions are simple enough so that the heavily formal techniques tend to obscure the comparatively simple reasons which underlie the results. While, in principle, even forbidden transitions could probably be discussed in the simple way adopted here, it would be a tour de force to do so. Racah algebra is extremely useful but not always essential. That is one lesson that may be drawn from these pages.

Of course, with no explicit formulation of a beta interaction something is lost, and the author makes no claims to the contrary. The student of this subject would do well to read this book, but it does not eliminate the necessity for the nonpedestrian works. In a book of this length with so little emphasis on formalism one would not expect many technical errors, and very few were found. Such as came to my notice were too trivial to detail. The format supplements the author's style and the book reads like a novel, or perhaps a novelette would be a more appropriate comparison. At any rate it is a very good novelette.

Optical Spectrometric Measurements of High Temperatures. Symp. Proc. (U. of Chicago, Mar. 1960). Philip J. Dickerman, ed. 268 pp. The U. of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill., 1961. \$12.50. Reviewed by Eugene Guth, Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

MANY symposia these days have programs so overloaded that there is little time left for the primary purpose of any gathering—discussion. This symposium was a noteworthy exception.

There were four technical sessions, devoted essentially to the fields of astrophysics, thermonuclear