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The present volume is concerned with optical properties, including lattice effects, intrinsic absorption, free-carrier phenomena and photoelectronic effects. Volume 4 will include thermodynamic properties, phase diagrams, diffusion, hardness, and phenomena in solid solutions as well as the effects of strong electric fields, hydrostatic pressure, nuclear irradiation, large impurity concentrations, and nonuniformity of impurity distributions on electrical and other properties of III-V compounds. Much of the information presented is intended to be of permanent value.

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The reviewer is manager of the materials research laboratory, Martin Marietta Corp., Orlando, Fla.

## Positional astronomy

PRINCIPLES OF ASTROMETRY: WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON LONG-FOCUS PHOTOGRAPHIC ASTROMETRY. By Peter Van de Kamp. 227 pp. Freeman, San Francisco, 1967. \$6.50

## by Herbert Malamud

Peter Van de Kamp, of the Sproul Observatory, is a leading authority in the field of astrometry. This book is the first general introduction to the field available in book form. Since the po-

sitions of the stars on the celestial sphere have been studied for more than two millenia, it is surprising that this book was not written earlier. It is all the more welcome now that it has appeared.

First, the subject of spherical astronomy is introduced by a survey of the most frequently used relations of spherical trigonometry. There follows a brief description of celestial coördinate systems, definitions and formulas of astrometry, and an elementary treatment of the effects of atmospheric refraction. Precession, stellar parallax, aberration, solar motion and galactic rotation are discussed.

The second part of the book is concerned with the relation between plane and spherical astrometry and the techniques involved. Van De Kamp deals with determination of stellar parallaxes, plane reduction of stellar paths and spherical reduction of the positions of nearer bodies including planets, comets, asteroids and satellites. Orbital analysis of visual binaries, including the multiple-exposure technique, is the next subject. From this analysis one may deduce the mass ratio of double-star components and the individual masses if the total mass of the binary is known.

The observation of perturbations in the paths of what appear to be single stars often indicates presence of unseen companions. Particularly interesting are those cases in which the mass of the companion is low enough to be considered of planetary size. The second section is concluded by a survey of the application of the long-focus technique to star fields, clusters and widely separated binaries.

The final section of the book consists of one chapter on the general theory of errors and another on the method of least squares.

The book is meant as an intermediate-level text; a knowledge of elementary astronomy, solid geometry, trigonometry and calculus is expected of the reader. It is concerned with the mathematics of astrometry rather than with the mechanical tools of the trade, thus filling a serious gap in the literature.

Van de Kamp has written a fine text for a course on astrometry that may also be used as supplementary reading for other courses such as those on multiple stars, galactic structure and so forth. It is too succinct, perhaps, to be easily used for independent study; for such study I would have preferred another hundred pages or so for more detailed explanation of the concepts involved (the mathematics is very adequately detailed).

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Herbert Malamud is director of physics at the Radiation Research Corporation.

## Physical acoustics and the solid state

PHYSICAL ACOUSTICS, VOL. 3/A: THE EFFECT OF IMPERFECTIONS. Warren P. Mason, ed. 512 pp. Academic Press, New York, 1966. \$18.50

PHYSICAL ACOUSTICS, VOL. 3/B: LATTICE DYNAMICS. Warren P. Mason, ed. 336 pp. Academic Press, New York, 1965. \$12.00

## by Walter G. Mayer

Twenty-one experts have contributed to the two parts of volume 3 of Warren P. Mason's treatise on physical acoustics. While volume 2 was concerned with the motion of atoms and molecules in fluids, these books discuss aspects of mechanical behavior that are to be expected in solids. Part A deals primarily with relaxation phenomena and effects of imperfections;

part B is concerned with the relation of acoustic waves and the dynamics of the lattice.

The first two chapters of part A describe the use of internal friction peaks in the study of point defects. The other sections give thorough and extensive discussions of dislocations and their interaction with mechanical waves. Various theoretical and experimental considerations are presented that describe in great detail the important properties of defects including plastic deformation, fatigue parameters and diffusion of defects.

Part B is to some extent a continuation of part A, with main emphasis on special topics of lattice dynamics. With the exception of one section on elastic waves in the earth, the chap-



# PRINCIPLES OF SOLID STATE PHYSICS

By Robert A. Levy University of Cincinnati

This new, introductory text is designed for use in a one semester, under graduate course. The text material has been divided into three parts: Part 1 considers mechanical or geometrical properties, that is, those properties describable by a lattice of mass points; Part 2 discusses what happens if electric charge and magnetic moment are to be associated with the lattice points: and Part 3 provides an introduction to band theory and its applications including a chapter on imperfections.

March 1968, about 450 pp., approx. \$11.50

## PRINCIPLES OF RELATIVITY PHYSICS

By James L. Anderson Stevens Institute of Technology

This text provides a comprehensive account of the current work being done in the field of relativity theory with emphasis on its relationship to current physics research. Written for the graduate student, it is designed for either a one or two semester course, and is valuable as a reference work for mathematicians, researchers and physicists. Professor Anderson presents an expanded treatment of the relativistic systems of particles, and stresses the role of symmetry in time-space theories with regard to foundations and applications.

March 1967, 484 pp., \$14.75

