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for the subject.

Magnetofluiddynamic shock waves and detonation-deflagration waves are studied in considerable detail in the third and fourth chapters. Realistic, stable waves are chosen from the plethora of mathematical solutions and their structure is examined in a qualitative but convincing manner. The wedge and piston problems are discussed in some detail with a useful section on necessary conditions for well posed initial-boundary value problems. This includes a proper accounting of converging and diverging characteristics. The study of one-dimensional MFD flows concludes with a discussion of unsteady nozzle flow and a few pages at the end on steady MFD flow in ducts with circular cross-sections.

The last chapters concern flow past a flat plate, with considerable attention devoted to the simplification and solution of the flow equations. Flow past a magnetized sphere and flow past slender, aerodynamic bodies (for example, thin wings in aligned-field and crossed-field flows) for both compressible and incompressible fluids are presented in similar fashion. magnetofluiddynamic effects are found in these otherwise classical aerodynamic problems including special upstream wakes in the subalfvenic regime.

One cannot expect a book of this length to compete as the principal text for a graduate course in magnetofluiddynamic theory, when several more complete books, some in excess of 500 pages, have recently been published in this field. References have not been included in the text, which makes the book a little clumsy to use. However, references are mentioned in the preface and listed at the end of the book by chapter. This book is probably most suitable as a supplementary text for a graduate course in magnetofluiddy-namics because of the several classical flow problems presented in detail by the author.

> Robert Taussig Columbia University

General Physics

By G. J. Aitchison

522 pp. Barnes and Noble, New York 1970. \$9.50

"Why write another textbook for a general first-year, calculus-based physics course?" This is the question that the author raises in his preface. The answer is that there is no text suitable for the one-year terminal course in the Australian system. A quick look at the table of contents reveals that only 43 pages are devoted to the entire subject of particle kinematics and dynamics. All of electricity and magnetism including some nonstandard topics takes less

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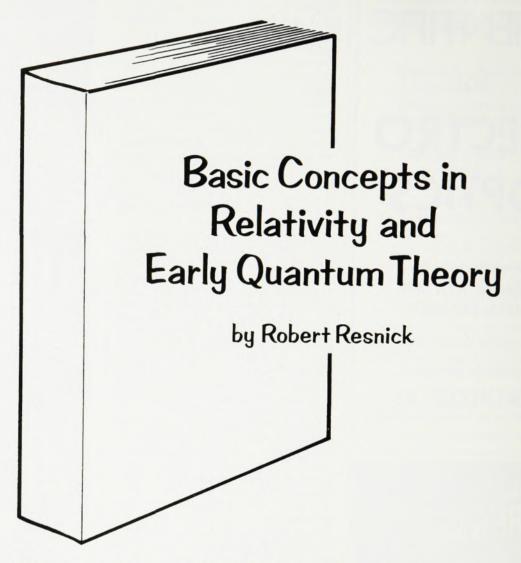


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Basic Concepts in Relativity and Early Quantum Theory
By Robert Resnick, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
1972 Approx. 320 pp. \$5.95 paper (tent.)

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than 100 pages, while relativity and atomic and nuclear physics receive a more extensive coverage than one finds in the usual introductory book. One can only envy Gordon Aitchison for the preparation of the Australian students.

On the other hand, the mathematical sophistication is not great enough for this book to be used for a "second time through" course as sometimes occurs in the sophomore year. While calculus is used, its use is minimal. Where, then, does it fit in the American system? I feel that this book complements the standard American text. It could be used as a supplement for a section of honors students, where the instructor wants to have some extra topics available for the students.

An example of some of the discussions that could be used as supplements is Aitchison's discussion of the properties of solids and liquids, including the connection between thermal expansion and the elastic properties of solids, and non-Newtonian liquids. Other interesting topics are the behavior of electrical discharges in gases, the extensive section on hearing, acoustics of rooms, and the eye. Unfortunately, at a list price of \$9.50 it is a little on the expensive side for a supplementary text. Perhaps this book could be used as a third-semester text since there is considerable emphasis on "modern physics," including some of solid state, but the coverage is not as complete as in many of the existing modern physics texts.

General Physics covers the usual topics (and then some) but arranged in a somewhat different manner. For example, all of wave phenomena is found together, whether it be sound waves or electromagnetic waves. The interesting chapter entitled "Systems of Particles" on the solid, liquid and gaseous states of matter also covers rigid-body dynamics. The book gets off to a slow start with its first chapter on measurement, which does include a section on statistics and data handling, subjects not often found in a general text. The author uses dimensional analysis in several places to derive the basic dependence of certain laws, which I feel is good. His discussion of waves includes coherence, but is weak in the treatment of diffraction. In his second chapter on electricity and magnetism he gets into some electronics, including transistors.

The author's style of writing is generally good. In a few places there is an uneven coverage of detail: sometimes he leaves many steps for the reader, and other times he goes through a rather tedious amount of detail. In places it reads like a cookbook. The author's long experience in teaching shows up in that he frequently anticipates and answers questions that are being formed in the reader's mind. There were many cases where I felt that something needed

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qualifying or further explanation, and I would find in the next sentence or paragraph that in fact the needed details were supplied. The book is in paperback form with unusually wide margins, which are useful for making notes.

There are places where I disagree with his pedagogical style, and other places where I find myself in most warm agreement. I do not care for his treatment of kinetic theory of gases, but I like his fluid dynamics. Two of the areas to which I am most sensitive as to how they are treated are rotational dynamics and the Bohr atom. Aitchison unfortunately handles both of these in the conventional manner. I am convinced that it is quite possible to treat these subjects correctly and still not get beyond the students. Some of his historical treatments are not correct, whereas in other places he has proper history on subjects often incorrectly handled in general texts. There are a few places where I feel that there are erroneous statements made or, at best, they must be considered misleading. However, these last few remarks are in the nature of nit-picking, which appears to be a disease of reviewers. The book really is better than many I have seen.

In summary, then, I feel that this book on the whole is quite good as a supplement for general introductory courses in the US. However, I can not imagine many places where it could fit into the standard system as a text.

JOHN I. SHONLE University of Colorado, Denver

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Concepts in Hadron Physics. P. Urban, ed. 424 pp. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1971.

Economic Integration of Nuclear Power Stations in Electric Power Systems (Conf. proc. International Atomic Energy Agency, Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations, Vienna, Austria, 5-9 Oct. 1970). \$20.00

Instrumentation for Neutron Inelastic Scattering Research (Conf. proc. Vienna, Austria, 1–5 Dec. 1969). 290 pp. Unipub, New York, 1970. \$7.00

The Magellanic Clouds: A European Southern Observatory Presentation: Principles, Prospects, Current Observational and Theoretical Approaches, and Prospects for Future Research (Conf. proc. Santiago, Chile, March 1969). A. B. Muller, ed. 189 pp. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1971. \$14.70

The Physics of Semimetals and Narrow-Gap Semiconductors (Conf. proc. Dallas, Tex., 20, 21 March 1970). D. L. Carter,



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