

Inevitably, some of the author's statements are oversimplifications or just downright wrong. For example, Padmanabhan states that the first stars belong to population II. But population II stars actually contain enough heavy elements to function in ways significantly different from the first stars, and astronomers are still hunting for those first stars, the denizens of population III. In reality, however, those stars may all be extinct. Newtonian gravity is not adequate so long as the gravitational potential satisfies $\varphi \ll c^2$, but only when this condition is combined with $v \ll c$. Moreover, the author's discussion of the precession of the equinoxes is confusing because he first estimates the subdominant effect of the Sun and then makes a correction for the dominant contribution of the Moon.

Yet the blemishes are minor. The author often derives familiar results in an unusual order or from an unconventional perspective; thus even the most distinguished professor of astrophysics will gain fresh insights from *An Invitation to Astrophysics*. It is an unconventional but very worthwhile book.

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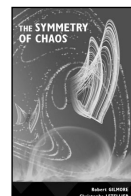
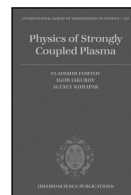
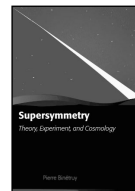
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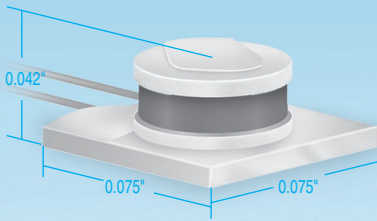


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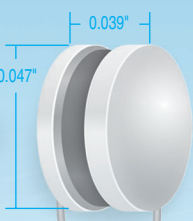
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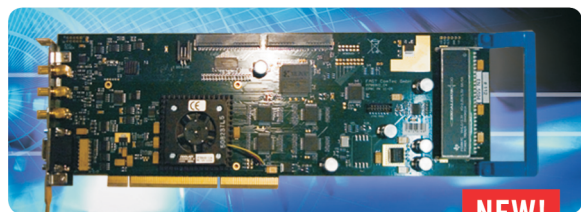
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