

sible for a novice to figure out whether an argument is new or follows from something that has already been established. Similarly, Fox sometimes fails to successfully convey subtler points. For instance, I do not think he has managed to put his finger on what exactly is counterintuitive about David Bohm's version of the Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen paradox. The book also contains oddities ranging from simple typos to inaccuracies such as a supposed description of the magneto-optical trap (MOT) that actually describes something halfway between a MOT and a magnetic trap. Yet such questionable items are by no means unusual for a textbook.

Given the book's broad coverage, instructors need to be selective. Woe to the student who is supposed to absorb all of the material in a semester. Fortunately, there is ample material to choose from, and one cannot go too wrong picking from Fox's book. Instructors do not have to be experts in quantum optics to put together a good course. However, they probably need some experience in modern optics or atomic, molecular, and optical physics, lest sorting out the more impressionistic arguments in the book prove to be a tough outing.

To run a class, you need a slot in the curriculum, students, and an instructor; a text would be good. Today's quantum optics can make a much more interesting topical and engaging undergraduate course than most traditional areas of physics. Attracting students should not be a problem. The unique virtue and the main shortfall of *Quantum Optics* are one and the same—good coverage of quantum optics on a semi-quantitative level. You may want an instructor with prior exposure to the subject matter, to make sure a coherent message goes out. But that decision still leaves a broad choice of faculty specialties. The way I see it, a genuinely interesting experiment in undergraduate education could be put together on the basis of Fox's textbook.

Juha Javanainen
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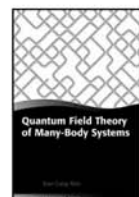
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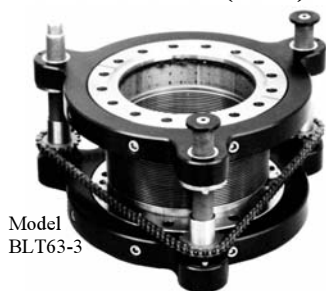
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