

I would think twice before using the book. Examples of simple mistakes include incorrect values listed for the lowest temperature ever achieved and for the proton-to-electron mass ratio. Two other issues are that many of the qualitative questions are poorly worded and their sample solutions are sometimes wrong or highly misleading. Those errors point to a lack of attention to detail and to poor editing.

After reading the book, I got a new appreciation for just how well written and well edited the large, expensive textbooks are. Yes, the prices are high, but you're paying for the work of authors vetted by a large publishing house and its problem writers, photographers, numerous editors, and several reviewers. But, you might say, \$200 is a lot to spend on a textbook, no matter how well written. The teacher can do much to compensate for the problems with a book like *Physics Around Us*, so why not use it when cost is an issue?

There are better options. OpenStax College offers *College Physics*, a free online textbook at the same level; readers have the option to pay roughly \$50 to get a bound copy. That book is 1270 pages long and devotes lots of space to real-world examples, problem-solving tactics, and links to Web-based applications. It also includes good illustrations. And the section on the drag force—or any other comparable section—is much better written and more accurate than the discussion in *Physics Around Us*. There is no question which book I would choose to use.

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