

laudably compact book to be exhaustive would be too much.

To my taste, Tanaka's writing style is a bit too formal and dry, and he rarely inspires readers to use their intuition. That approach, together with the advanced level of the book and the uninviting price of its hardbound edition—I really hope for a paperback—makes *Polymer Physics* poorly suited for most educational purposes. Nevertheless, I found its original approach to polymer conformation quite instructive. For instance, the concept of a Langevin chain, essential for any discussion of nonlinear elasticity, is introduced at the start. The detailed parallel between thermoreversible gelation and Bose–Einstein condensation is another gem I may use as suggested reading in the courses I teach on soft-matter physics.

As a valuable technical book and as a source of inspiration when teaching a graduate-level course, *Polymer Physics* fully deserves its place on the bookshelves of soft-matter scientists, and maybe even in the libraries of other condensed-matter physicists and chemists.

Roberto Piazza

*Polytechnic University of Milan
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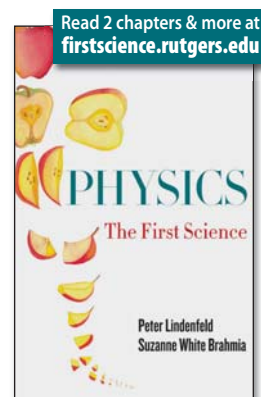
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