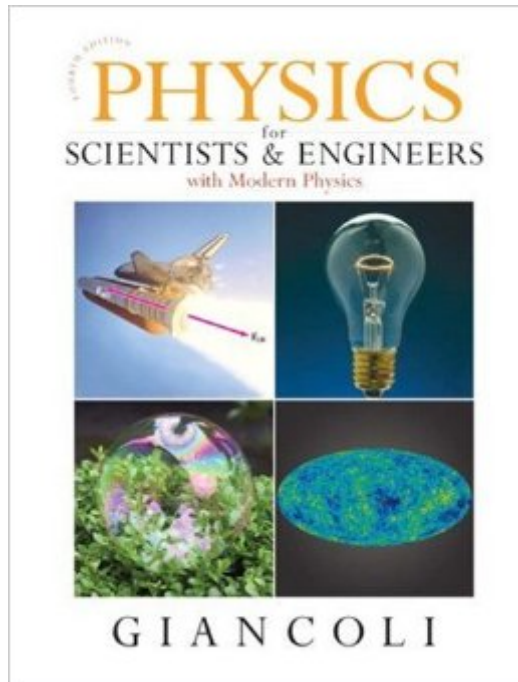


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Physics For Scientists & Engineers With Modern Physics (4th Edition)



Synopsis

>For the calculus-based General Physics course primarily taken by engineers and science majors (including physics majors). This long-awaited and extensive revision maintains Giancoli's reputation for creating carefully crafted, highly accurate and precise physics texts. Physics for Scientists and Engineers combines outstanding pedagogy with a clear and direct narrative and applications that draw the student into the physics. The new edition also features an unrivaled suite of media and on-line resources that enhance the understanding of physics. This book is written for students. It aims to explain physics in a readable and interesting manner that is accessible and clear, and to teach students by anticipating their needs and difficulties without oversimplifying. Physics is a description of reality, and thus each topic begins with concrete observations and experiences that students can directly relate to. We then move on to the generalizations and more formal treatment of the topic. Not only does this make the material more interesting and easier to understand, but it is closer to the way physics is actually practiced.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have used 3 separate introductory textbooks for physics -(1) "Physics for Scientists and Engineers" by Giancoli(2) "Essentials of University Physics" by Wolfson and Ayars(3) "Fundamentals of Physics" by Halliday, Resnick, and WalkerI used Giancoli for two semesters of AP Physics, Wolfson for my first semester of college physics, and Halliday for my second semester of college physics. I am also currently working through the "modern physics" section of Giancoli in preparation for a course in modern physics.I can tell you that all the books are about the same, with subtle

differences. So ignore the morons who say things like "this is the worst book ever it doesn't explain anything blah blah I'm dumb." Giancoli(1) seems to take the most mathematical approach, reaching physical conclusions from derived equation, whereas Halliday(3) tends to take a more physical approach, explaining the physics and then deriving the equations. Wolfson(2) seems to be somewhere inbetween these approaches. Which is better is a matter of preference and surprise. As primarily a math student, I was surprised to find I enjoyed Halliday's physical approach more. There seem to be more problems in Giancoli than in the other two. And Giancoli offers some more difficult problems than the other two. Giancoli and Wolfson also offer a large number of "general problems" at the end of the problems section, which help to tie together the different sections. I should note here for students planning to use any of these books that the calculationless questions at the end of the chapter are a very useful step toward the more difficult problems.

There are two types of people: people who are physics majors, and people who don't really care about the subject and are taking because it is a required course for their ultimate goal. I belong to the first group(physics major) and have a few semesters of experience with this text. In my opinion it falls short compared to the more mainstream university texts. Each chapter is divided into section with a brief introductory paragraph or two, then dives head first into the examples. Diagrams are adequate and appropriately correlates with the examples and explanations. This text can be thought of as an extremely detailed outline of physics, not a comprehensive study. It is also assumed that you know your calculus. From time to time, he'll explain where got this from or that from but generally you have to have excellent math skills. This can cause some of the examples to become quite frustrating as your left wondering "why"? I do however like the difficulty of his examples, and they semi prepare you for the end of chapter problems. What I don't like is that there is no coherence of the examples-they are random. They don't follow any particular problem solving strategy. This results in relative difficulty in trying to solve the end of chapter problems. The text is written in a colloquial style and is relatively easy to read like previous reviewers have mentioned. The biggest problem I find is the lack of outside resources. There is no companion site or anything web related to help reinforce topics. The solutions manual only provides solution for 1 out of 6 problems-very, very, very inadequate in my opinion. There is mastering physics, but this is only used if your professor uses it. So all in all this text is perfect for non physics majors, providing a roughly solid foundation of physics.

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