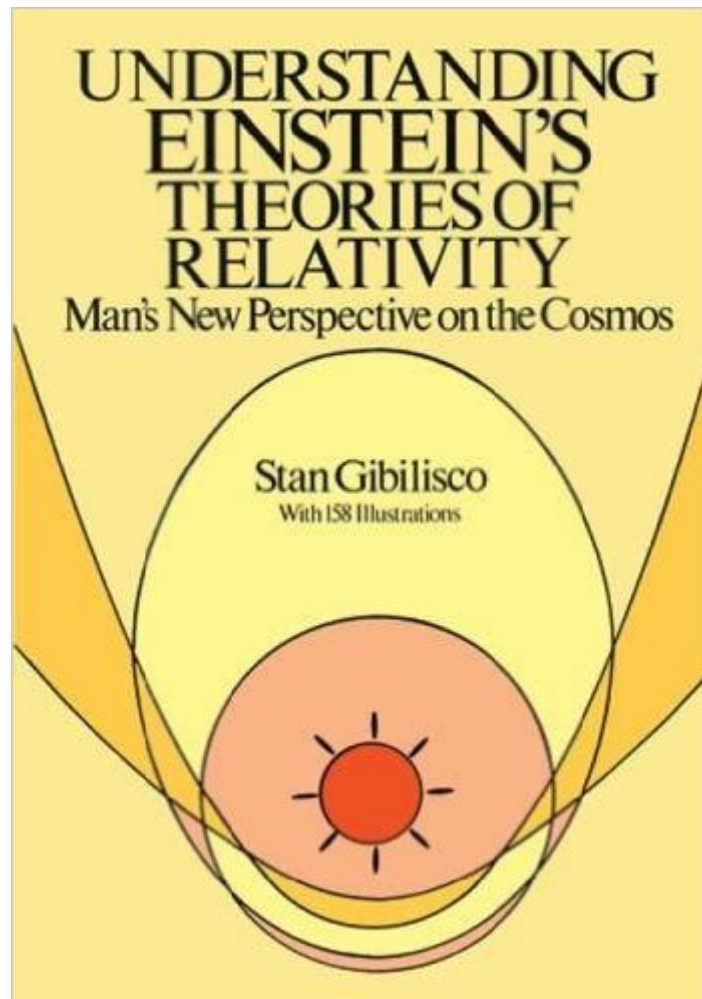


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Understanding Einstein's Theories Of Relativity: Man's New Perspective On The Cosmos



Synopsis

"The style is very clear and concise, and the treatment is authoritative throughout." â

ChoiceRelativity remains a topic of crucial interest for scientists grappling with its implications for physics, astronomy, cosmology, and other disciplines. Laymen, too, are fascinated by relativity theory, which overturned the classical order of Newtonian physics and postulated ideas about space and time that often seem to contradict common sense. The present work is a very clear, concise, and authoritative exposition of both the special and general theories of relativity. Intended for nonscientific readers with a knowledge of high school math, the book offers illuminating coverage of such topics as the speed of light, simultaneity, time distortion of space and mass, journeys to the stars, dimension and hyperspace, the theory of general relativity, anomalies in space, and the structure and evolution of the universe. Readers with an inquisitive bent for cosmic affairs will enjoy this mind-stretching journey into the mysteries and majesty of the physical universe, where they'll share the author's explanations and speculations about why the speed of light is the speed of time, whether it may be possible to travel backward in time, how black holes are formed, how it is possible that space is curved, and much more. For anyone curious about the nature of the universe and how relativity theory continues to help scientists unlock its secrets, this accessible popular treatment is an invaluable companion and guide.

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Customer Reviews

OK, I admit it - I violated my own rule and bought this book without checking the reviews first. It was available locally at a good discount, looked interesting (based largely on the figures and a quick

skimming of some of the text), and being a Dover reprint I was willing to overlook the fact that nowhere in the book was there anything about the qualification of the author to write a book on Relativity. Dover generally reprints classic scientific texts - written by those who are eminently qualified in the subject matter of the book. Unfortunately, in the case of this book Dover let me down. According to the Web information that I was able to find, the author is a professional writer, perhaps an electrical engineer - some of his previous books have been on that subject. He does not appear to be a theoretical physicist, or perhaps even a physicist of any kind and his grasp of Relativity Theory appears to be, putting it charitably, unique at best. I have previously read 4 of the 9 books listed in the suggested readings and I have also read most of the general treatments of Special Relativity, so I have a general familiarity with the subject. On this basis I cannot recommend this book. The author has tried to present a general treatment of Relativity and its implications for cosmology and space travel in a way that he found understandable. Unfortunately, many of his interpretations are just plain wrong, leading me to believe that he does not understand the basic ideas of special relativity. For instance, Gibilisco states (on p49) - "Time distortions may be caused by the acceleration that occurs because of "pushing" on such a space ship and it can also be caused by gravitational fields.

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