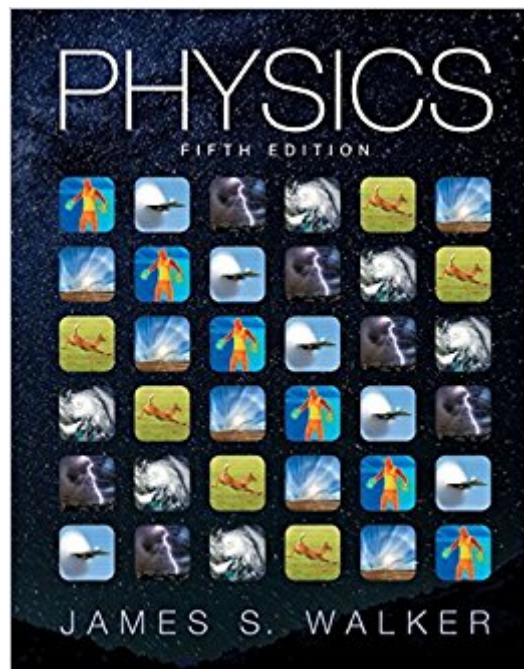


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Physics (5th Edition)



Synopsis

Intended for algebra-based introductory physics courses. An accessible, problem-solving approach to physics, grounded in real-world applications. James Walker's Physics provides students with a solid conceptual understanding of physics that can be expressed quantitatively and applied to the world around them. Instructors and students praise Walker's Physics for its friendly voice, the author's talent for making complex concepts understandable, an inviting art program, and the range of excellent homework problems and example-types that provide guidance with problem solving. The Fifth Edition includes new "just-in-time" learning aids such as "Big Ideas" to quickly orient students to the overarching principles of each chapter, new Real-World Physics and Biological applications, and a wealth of problem-solving support features to coach students through the process of applying logic and reasoning to problem solving.

This text is also available in two volumes, which can be purchased separately: Physics, Fifth Edition, Volume 1 (includes Chapters 1-18) ISBN: 9780134031248 Physics, Fifth Edition, Volume 2 (includes Chapters 19-32) ISBN: 9780134031255

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Customer Reviews

James Walker obtained his Ph.D. in theoretical physics from the University of Washington in 1978. He subsequently served as a post-doc at the University of Pennsylvania, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of California at San Diego before joining the physics faculty at Western Washington University. Professor Walker's research interests include statistical mechanics, critical phenomena, and chaos. His many publications on the application of renormalization-group theory to systems ranging from absorbed monolayers to binary-fluid mixtures have appeared in *Physical Review*, *Physical Review Letters*, *Physica*, and a host of other publications. He has also participated in observations on the summit of Mauna Kea, looking for evidence of extra-solar planets. Jim Walker likes to work with students at all levels, from judging elementary school science fairs to writing research papers with graduate students, and has taught introductory physics for many years. His enjoyment of this course and his empathy for students have earned him a reputation as an innovative, enthusiastic, and effective teacher. Jim's educational publications include "Reappearing Phases" (Scientific American, May 1987) as well as articles in the *American Journal of Physics* and *The Physics Teacher*. In recognition of his contributions to the teaching of physics at Western Washington University, Jim was named the Boeing Distinguished Professor of Science and Mathematics Education for 2001-2003. When he is not writing, conducting research, teaching, or developing new classroom demonstrations and pedagogical materials, Jim enjoys amateur astronomy, eclipse chasing, bird and dragonfly watching, photography, juggling, unicycling, boogie boarding, and kayaking. Jim is also an avid jazz pianist and organist. He has served as ballpark organist for a number of Class A minor league baseball teams, including the Bellingham Mariners,

an affiliate of the Seattle Mariners, and the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes, an affiliate of the San Francisco Giants. He can play Take Me Out To The Ball Game in his sleep.

As a post-bac student at a local public university, I found this text very helpful in understanding the principles and developing my problem-solving techniques in the second-semester of the algebra-based physics sequence. We had reading quizzes, so I read every chapter that corresponded to the course (chapters 16-30) and thus have much familiarity with the textbook. Walker generally presented clear, in-depth explanations for non-physics majors and provided a variety of worked example problems throughout each chapter. Some reviewers complained that he does not provide enough worked-examples, but you can't expect the author to show how to do every single type of physics problem encountered- the book would be too cumbersome and would defeat the problem-solving nature of physics. What I appreciated most, however, were the multitude of real-world applications interwoven throughout each chapter. The author eloquently connected the concepts presented to a diverse array of real-world objects and phenomena, such as bimetallic strips (heat), countercurrent exchange in the body (conduction), diesel engines (thermodynamics), printers (electrostatics), keyboards (capacitance), credit card readers (magnetic flux), rainbows (light), CD players (interference), just to name a few. This motivated me tremendously to learn the material, as I realized that all of it relates to our everyday life. I also found the chapter summaries and conceptual questions at the end of each chapter valuable for testing my understanding. Our class required Mastering Physics, which is an online platform that assigned the same problems as those at the end of each chapter. Walker provided a large variety of problems of easy, medium, and hard difficulty (indicated by the number of dots next to each problem), and doing a large variety of problems was absolutely crucial with developing my confidence in the material. Some of the problems were quite fun, as they related the physics principle to an everyday application. There were some mediocre problems in each chapter, but in my opinion, these were few and far between. The only issue I had with this text was that some of the sections were not clearly written and thus presented formulas and examples in a confusing way, such as chapter 28 regarding interference. Overall though, I found this text much superior to Giancoli's algebra-based text that I used in AP Physics B in high school; Walker's text gave more concise explanations, more worked-out examples, more diagrams/figures to illustrate the concepts, better homework problems, and more real-world applications. It also appears to be better than Cutnell and Johnson's text too. I highly recommend this text for an introductory physics course and for developing an appreciation of physics that is constantly at work in our daily lives.

This is a great introductory text with good explanations and illustrations. It was assigned to cover both semesters of my introductory physics series in college. For one of those semesters I had a teacher who was uninterested in teaching and very unskilled at explaining, but by reading the chapters and doing the practice problems I did well in the class even though I learned next to nothing in lecture. You do have to take an active approach, though; don't just read, but work through the example problems in the text yourself and check your work and reasoning against the example solutions. Don't just read over the solution. A potential criticism is that many of the end-of-chapter problems require thinking beyond the information presented in the chapter. It can be frustrating, because the problems seem different than what was explained in the text, but they are solvable with the concepts presented and some thought. Working these kinds of problems forced me to think through the concepts I was learning rather than just plugging and chugging with formulas. Fortunately, many of the problems (I think most of the odd-numbered problems?) have solutions in the back, and some have explanations as well, so even if you are stuck on an even problem you can find a similar odd-numbered problem and figure it out from the answer.

This is one of the best physics books to learn the basics. It provides aids to help one along the way such as relevant examples, conceptual checkpoints, and step by step solutions to example problems. Although it is algebra-based, it would prove useful for those taking calculus-based physics because it explains the physics so well. Unlike most algebra-based physics textbooks, it provides some coverage of Gauss's Law. It also provides answers to odd exercises both conceptual and numerical. The textbook assumes that one understands basic algebra, geometry, and trigonometry.

It was a very good physics book. The only reason why it isn't 5 stars is just based on how old the information is and the cost basis on it. I honestly could have done the entire semester without the book and just looked to the internet for the topics, which they had aplenty, albeit not as ordered. But I can't really take it up with the publisher since I think all college book requirements are a scam. Other than that, I learned everything because of this book.

I used this textbook in homeschooling my son in high school Physics. He was able to follow the text fairly easily with only periodic help from me for further instruction on details of methods and/or physical concepts. The explanations in the book were clear and complete. There were ample

examples, all of which were appropriate and helpful. The problems were clear and solvable, ranging from easy to more difficult as they progressed forward through each chapter's material. The problems even have markings to show their difficulty, which helped me as an instructor in selecting problems for daily assignments. The book is well organized. (A few of the book's answers were incorrect, but any errors found were minor.) As a final note, my son began this Physics course in the Fall of the academic year but ended up having to transfer into the local high school in the Spring, whereupon he entered into a senior Physics class that had also begun the previous Fall. Although the instructor did not expect him to be able to make the transition into the senior level class, my son, having used this textbook, proved to be well ahead of the high school class and was able to help other students along their way. In conclusion, I would highly recommend this textbook for upper level high school or college level introductory Newtonian Physics.

Bought the textbook for a class. Worked fine and had all the material I needed.

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