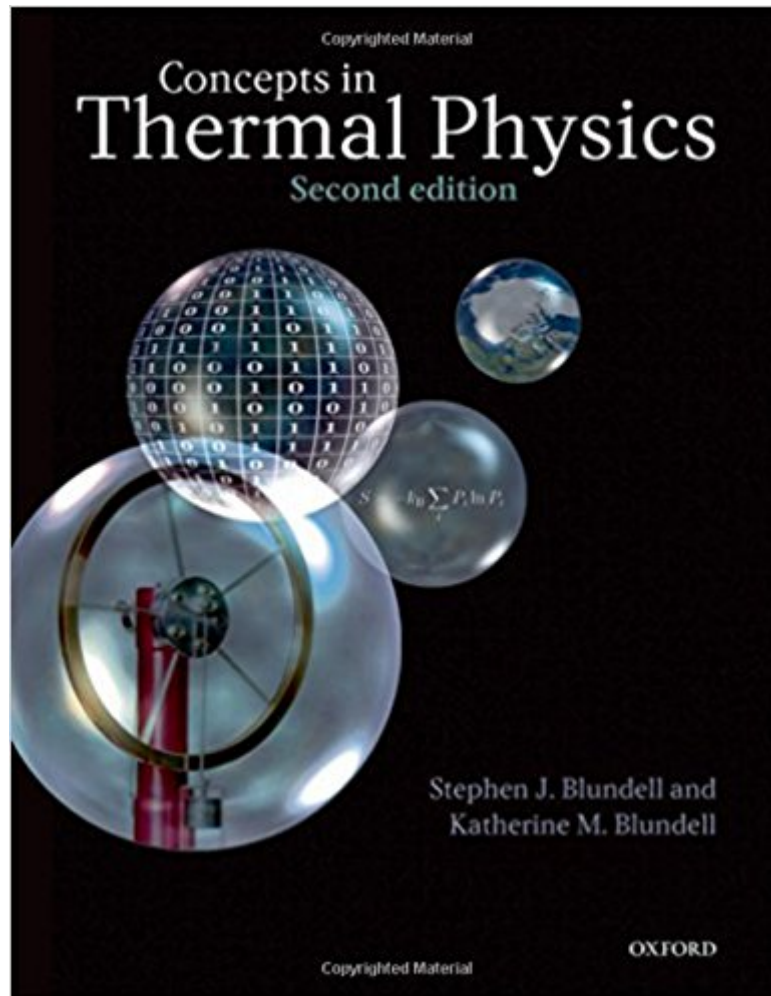




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Concepts In Thermal Physics



Synopsis

An understanding of thermal physics is crucial to much of modern physics, chemistry and engineering. This book provides a modern introduction to the main principles that are foundational to thermal physics, thermodynamics and statistical mechanics. The key concepts are carefully presented in a clear way, and new ideas are illustrated with copious worked examples as well as a description of the historical background to their discovery. Applications are presented to subjects as diverse as stellar astrophysics, information and communication theory, condensed matter physics and climate change. Each chapter concludes with detailed exercises. The second edition of this popular textbook maintains the structure and lively style of the first edition but extends its coverage of thermodynamics and statistical mechanics to include several new topics, including osmosis, diffusion problems, Bayes theorem, radiative transfer, the Ising model and Monte Carlo methods. New examples and exercises have been added throughout. To request a copy of the Solutions Manual, visit: <http://global.oup.com/uk/academic/physics/admin/solutions>

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"With so many results derived from so few assumptions, it is important that the presentation be clear and logical. Concepts in Thermal Physics by Stephen J. Blundell and Katherine M. Blundell fulfills that need admirably, and their textbook will be very useful for an undergraduate course in thermodynamics and statistical mechanics."-- physics Today

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Stephen Blundell did his undergraduate degree in Physics and Theoretical Physics at Peterhouse, Cambridge and his Ph. D. in the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge. He moved to the Clarendon Laboratory at Oxford to take up an SERC research fellowship, followed by a Junior Research Fellowship at Merton College, where he began research in organic magnets and superconductors using muon-spin rotation. In 1997 he was appointed to a University Lectureship in the Physics Department and a Tutorial Fellowship at Mansfield College, Oxford, and was subsequently promoted to Reader and then Professor. He was a joint winner of the Daiwa-Adrian Prize in 1999 for his work on organic magnets. Katherine Blundell did her undergraduate degree in Physics and Theoretical Physics at New Hall College, Cambridge and her Ph. D. in the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge. She moved to Oxford University Astrophysics department, holding a Junior Research Fellowship at Balliol College, an 1851 Research Fellowship, before taking up a Royal Society University Research Fellowship. Her research concentrates on radio galaxies and quasars. In 2005 she won a Leverhulme prize for her research, and became a Professor of Astrophysics in 2008.

This is a fun book to read. No. Really. It is! It is rare for a physics book to talk about spherical chicken or nut roasts, for example. The principles and examples are clearly delineated. There are margin notes from the authors. Suggestions for what math you need for certain sections. Biographies of major players in thermal physics. And suggestions for further reading for some chapters.

I used this book in conjunction with Kittel for an upper division undergraduate course, and was extremely happy that I did. I constantly turned to this text when Kittel became too dense and confusing. This text really helped clarify many of the essential concepts of this course. In addition, I consistently used this as a reference. This book consolidates important information and equations very clearly and concisely; something that Kittel does very poorly. However, Kittel was still essential in getting at the root of the physics behind the concepts. Kittel is a much deeper book when asking "Why?". Blundell and Blundell is a wonderful text, but is not the best stand-alone text. I highly recommend it as a supplemental text.

good info

I would rate this one of the better undergraduate physics books. Why? Because it most effectively teaches and stresses the important physics behind thermodynamics; this is something that most textbooks don't do. Once the physics are learnt and deeply understood, going up to higher level books is easy. Having said that, the book could be improved by the authors having given more (at least 2x as many) questions as they have in the current book.

I love this book. Its funny, clear, exciting, and a good read. The concepts actually make sense. And it is all cut up into sizable little chapters, with important concepts summarized at the end of each chapter. This is the best textbook I've ever had.

Really nice

The best.

Good book

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