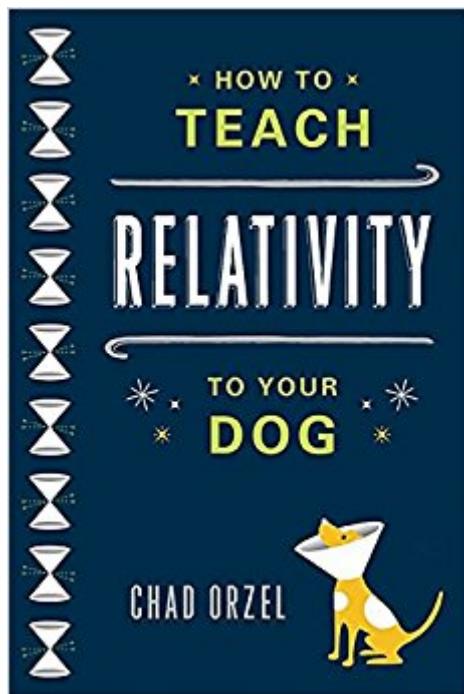


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# How To Teach Relativity To Your Dog



## Synopsis

They say you can't teach an old dog new tricks. But what about relativity? Physics professor Chad Orzel and his inquisitive canine companion, Emmy, tackle the concepts of general relativity in this irresistible introduction to Einstein's physics. Through armchair-and sometimes passenger-seat-conversations with Emmy about the relative speeds of dog and cat motion or the logistics of squirrel-chasing, Orzel translates complex Einsteinian ideas—the slowing of time for a moving observer, the shrinking of moving objects, the effects of gravity on light and time, black holes, the Big Bang, and of course,  $E=mc^2$ —into examples simple enough for a dog to understand. A lively romp through one of the great theories of modern physics, *How to Teach Relativity to Your Dog* will teach you everything you ever wanted to know about space, time, and anything else you might have slept through in high school physics class.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Steve Nadis, coauthor of *The Shape of Inner Space*; Emmy may be one smart dog, but her owner also happens to be an uncommonly gifted communicator. Chad Orzel's treatment of special and general relativity is comprehensive, informative, and amazingly accessible, yet it's funny too. This is, by far, the most entertaining discussion of the subject that I've ever had the pleasure of reading. —Frank Close, author of *The Infinity Puzzle*; With Nero, the egocentric cat who believes it is the centre of the universe, and Emmy, the student dog whose questions and misunderstandings would drive any teacher to distraction, and whose interest in

relativity is how  $E=mc^2$  can turn squirrels into energy, Chad Orzel has created a delightful cast of characters to make his introduction to relativity relatively painless. A cleverly crafted and beautifully explained narrative that guides readers carefully into the depths of relativity. Whether you are a hare or a tortoise, or even a dog, you will enjoy this. —Louisa Gilder, author of *The Age of Entanglement* For the price of a book, Orzel delivers the heady, joyful experience of taking a small college class with a brilliant and funny professor who really knows how to teach. A thoroughly winning romp through a rock-solid presentation of a beautiful subject. —Booklist With canine humor and math- or physics-related jokes, Orzel keeps readers interested, while teaching the elements of physics that we promptly forgot after we took the test. —Library Journal Readers who enjoy Michio Kaku, Brian Greene, or Neil deGrasse Tyson will love this book. Full of quotes, math jokes, and silly canines, the book strives to make its audience amazed by, not frightened of, physics. With exuberant Emmy at the lead, readers can't help but be dragged (willingly!) toward a better understanding of special and general relativity. —Washington Post Rather than barking or growling, Emmy leavens the mood with requests for walks; and when the academics get heavy, she interjects to beg for clarification. Obviously, real-life dogs will not walk away from the book with a grasp of the universe's mechanics, but the human sort of non-scientist can get some benefit. —Nature Physics [E]ngaging and readable for a general audience.... I suggest people who baulk at the idea of a talking dog but are nevertheless interested in the broad sweep of one of the two great theories of the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries should give this book a chance. After all, every dog has its day. —Publishers Weekly [A] compact and instructive walk through Einstein's theory of relativity.... [T]he prose is breezy and straightforward, and the material well organized.... Relativity constantly amazes, and the glimpses of understanding provide rewarding and satisfying moments. —Kirkus Reviews Unlike quantum physics, which remains bizarre even to experts, much of relativity makes sense. Thus, Einstein's special relativity merely states that the laws of physics and the speed of light are identical for all observers in smooth motion. This sounds trivial but leads to weird if delightfully comprehensible phenomena, provided someone like Orzel delivers a clear explanation of why. —Science News A clever introduction to the often intimidating concepts of special and general relativity, couched as a series of conversations between the author and his dog, Emmy. It may sound like a strange setup, but the somewhat kooky concept works well for explaining a field of physics that can sound, well, kooky to the uninitiated.... While keeping the math to a minimum, Orzel provides a clear and thorough primer. It might take some practice to start

equating subatomic particles to running bunnies, but the reader will find that puzzling through the details is worth the effort.â•James Kakalios, Professor of Physics, University of Minnesota, and author of *The Physics of Superheroes* and *The Amazing Story of Quantum Mechanics*Move over, Krypto;there's a new superdog in town! Chad Orzel's dog Emmy, having mastered quantum physics, now helps us understand Einstein's theories of relativity in a deep and accessible way. Get this dog a cape!â•Jennifer Ouellette, author of *The Calculus Diaries*;Everyone's favorite physics-loving canine is back, this time giving us a dog's eye view of Einstein and relativity. Physics professor Chad Orzel leads Emmy (and us) through an engaging tour of light speed, time dilation, and amazing shrinking bunnies (length contraction);not to mention what all this means for the search for the elusive bacon boson.â•Ã Sean Carroll, author of *From Eternity to Here*;Dogs are a practical species. They aren't interested in speculation and conjecture; they like food, walks, and proven physics like Einstein's relativity. If you really want to further your dog's education (and learn something yourself in the process), Chad Orzel's book is the first place you should turn.â•

Chad Orzel received his BA in physics from Williams College, his Ph.D. in chemical physics from the University of Maryland, and his postdoctorate from Yale University. He maintains a regular blog, *Uncertain Principles*, and is author of *How to Teach Physics to Your Dog*. He is currently a professor at Union College in Schenectady, New York. He lives near campus with his wife, their daughter, and, of course, Emmy.

Chad Orzel's *How to Teach Relativity to Your Dog* is a terrific book for anyone wanting to learn more about the elementary physics from the basics of the theory of relativity to the speed of light to more complex notions associated with blackholes, the curvature of the universe, and particle science. We also learn what is happening at CERN. Did you know that physicists there have developed conditions to create their own black hole? But to make this physics more fun, Dr. Orzel presents his teaching to his beloved dog, Emmy. Whether her attempting to trick her master into giving her more treats or making backhanded comments about her number one nemesis, the black cat, Nero, she adds a delightful comic relief that keeps the reader entertained. Dr. Orzel's clever introduction of Emmy further allows us to see how physics plays a key role in the everyday life of humans and dogs and even cats alike. This is one book that can make anyone a physics enthusiast, even those previously wary of science. I can definitely see this work as even a

supplement to any physics class, as it is one physics book you will not want to put down as it has one of the cutest and furriest teaching assistants you'll ever have.

I bought this as a little surprise for my boyfriend's 14 year old son. He is fascinated by physics, but getting him to read is a struggle. He finished this book in no time and giggled all the way through.

As a physicist in another field, I thought this was a great conceptual review of the main ideas of relativity. However, I don't think one has to be a physicist to understand! The last chapter was a particularly good summary of the standard model and four forces - all explained in an entertaining, easy to read package.

The author uses imaginary conversations with his dog to introduce the chapters and main sections. These conversations very nicely bring out the questions that non-scientists would ask about relativity. Then the author explains the concepts in non-technical and understandable language. This book is a fun, informative read!

It is a great read and keeps chatty people away unless welcomed while on vacation.

I'm loving it so far... It has nice little historical detours and very nice humor and some simple math equations... Friends and spouses not interested in physics still can enjoy the charming writing style when I read to them.

Great book, very clear concepts, has a nice humor to a dense subject

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. The author did a great job of providing the big picture of relativity without having to resort to very much math. I'm an engineer and so have taken several high school and university-level physics courses; I believe that I (and my fellow students) would have benefited from first reading this book, before the big picture was, if not lost, then obscured by the oft times difficult math associated with relativity. Teaching relativity through conversations with Emmy the dog was very clever and effective! I would recommend this book to high school and beginning college students who are about to take physics and anyone who is interested in relativity without wanting to wade through the gory math details.

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