

Fetter And Walecka Solutions

From the bestselling author of *The Theoretical Minimum*, a DIY introduction to the math and science of quantum physics. First he taught you classical mechanics. Now, physicist Leonard Susskind has teamed up with data engineer Art Friedman to present the theory and associated mathematics of the strange world of quantum mechanics. In this follow-up to *The Theoretical Minimum*, Susskind and Friedman provide a lively introduction to this famously difficult field, which attempts to understand the behavior of sub-atomic objects through mathematical abstractions. Unlike other popularizations that shy away from quantum mechanics' weirdness, *Quantum Mechanics* embraces the utter strangeness of quantum logic. The authors offer crystal-clear explanations of the principles of quantum states, uncertainty and time dependence, entanglement, and particle and wave states, among other topics, and each chapter includes exercises to ensure mastery of each area. Like *The Theoretical Minimum*, this volume runs parallel to Susskind's eponymous Stanford University-hosted continuing education course. An approachable yet rigorous introduction to a famously difficult topic, *Quantum Mechanics* provides a tool kit for amateur scientists to learn physics at their own pace.

Our understanding of the physical world was revolutionized in the twentieth century — the era of “modern physics”. This book, aimed at the very best students, presents the foundations and frontiers of today's physics. It focuses on the following topics: quantum mechanics; applications in atomic, nuclear, particle, and condensed-matter physics; special relativity; relativistic quantum mechanics, including the Dirac equation and Feynman diagrams; quantum fields; and general relativity. The aim is to cover these topics in sufficient depth such that things “make sense” to students and they can achieve an elementary working knowledge of them. Many problems are included, a great number of which take dedicated readers just as far as they want to go in modern physics. Although the book is designed so that one can, in principle, read and follow the text without doing any of the problems, the reader is urged to attempt as many of them as possible. Several appendices help bring the reader up to speed on any additional required mathematics. With very few exceptions, the reader should then find the text, together with the appendices and problems, to be self-contained.

Our future scientists and professionals must be conversant in computational techniques. In order to facilitate integration of computer methods into existing physics courses, this textbook offers a large number of worked examples and problems with fully guided solutions in Python as well as other languages (Mathematica, Java, C, Fortran, and Maple). It's also intended as a self-study guide for learning how to use computer methods in physics. The authors include an introductory chapter on numerical tools and indication of computational and physics difficulty level for each problem. Readers also benefit from the following features:

- Detailed explanations and solutions in various coding languages.
- Problems are ranked based on computational and physics difficulty.
- Basics of numerical methods covered in an introductory chapter.
- Programming guidance via flowcharts and pseudocode.

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Intended for graduates in physics and related fields, this is a self-contained treatment of the physics of many-body systems from the point of view of condensed matter. The approach, quite traditionally, covers all the important diagram techniques for normal and superconducting systems, including the zero-temperature perturbation theory, and the Matsubara, Keldysh, and Nambu-Gorov formalisms. The aim is not to

be exhaustive, but to present just enough detail to enable students to follow the current research literature or to apply the techniques to new problems. Many of the examples are drawn from mesoscopic physics, which deals with systems small enough that quantum coherence is maintained throughout the volume, and which therefore provides an ideal testing ground for many-body theories. '

Gregory's Classical Mechanics is a major new textbook for undergraduates in mathematics and physics. It is a thorough, self-contained and highly readable account of a subject many students find difficult. The author's clear and systematic style promotes a good understanding of the subject: each concept is motivated and illustrated by worked examples, while problem sets provide plenty of practice for understanding and technique. Computer assisted problems, some suitable for projects, are also included. The book is structured to make learning the subject easy; there is a natural progression from core topics to more advanced ones and hard topics are treated with particular care. A theme of the book is the importance of conservation principles. These appear first in vectorial mechanics where they are proved and applied to problem solving. They reappear in analytical mechanics, where they are shown to be related to symmetries of the Lagrangian, culminating in Noether's theorem.

The author has published two texts on classical physics, Introduction to Classical Mechanics and Introduction to Electricity and Magnetism, both meant for initial one-quarter physics courses. The latter is based on a course taught at Stanford several years ago with over 400 students enrolled. These lectures, aimed at the very best students, assume a good concurrent course in calculus; they are otherwise self-contained. Both texts contain an extensive set of accessible problems that enhances and extends the coverage. As an aid to teaching and learning, the solutions to these problems have now been published in additional texts. A third published text completes the first-year introduction to physics with a set of lectures on Introduction to Quantum Mechanics, the very successful theory of the microscopic world. The Schrödinger equation is motivated and presented. Several applications are explored, including scattering and transition rates. The applications are extended to include quantum electrodynamics and quantum statistics. There is a discussion of quantum measurements. The lectures then arrive at a formal presentation of quantum theory together with a summary of its postulates. A concluding chapter provides a brief introduction to relativistic quantum mechanics. An extensive set of accessible problems again enhances and extends the coverage. The current book provides the solutions to those problems. The goal of these three texts is to provide students and teachers alike with a good, understandable, introduction to the fundamentals of classical and quantum physics.

A concise treatment of variational techniques, focussing on Lagrangian and Hamiltonian systems, ideal for physics, engineering and mathematics students.

This book provides a practical approach to consolidate one's acquired knowledge or to learn new concepts in solid state physics through solving problems. It contains 300 problems on various subjects of solid state physics. The problems in this book can be used as homework assignments in an introductory or advanced course on solid state physics for undergraduate or graduate students. It can also serve as a desirable reference book to solve typical problems and grasp mathematical techniques in solid state physics. In practice, it is more fascinating and rewarding to learn a new idea or technique through solving challenging problems rather than through reading only. In this aspect, this book is not a plain collection of problems but it presents a large number of problem-solving ideas and procedures, some of which are valuable to practitioners in condensed matter physics.

This is the fifth edition of a well-established textbook. It is intended to provide a thorough coverage of the fundamental

principles and techniques of classical mechanics, an old subject that is at the base of all of physics, but in which there has also in recent years been rapid development. The book is aimed at undergraduate students of physics and applied mathematics. It emphasizes the basic principles, and aims to progress rapidly to the point of being able to handle physically and mathematically interesting problems, without getting bogged down in excessive formalism. Lagrangian methods are introduced at a relatively early stage, to get students to appreciate their use in simple contexts. Later chapters use Lagrangian and Hamiltonian methods extensively, but in a way that aims to be accessible to undergraduates, while including modern developments at the appropriate level of detail. The subject has been developed considerably recently while retaining a truly central role for all students of physics and applied mathematics. This edition retains all the main features of the fourth edition, including the two chapters on geometry of dynamical systems and on order and chaos, and the new appendices on conics and on dynamical systems near a critical point. The material has been somewhat expanded, in particular to contrast continuous and discrete behaviours. A further appendix has been added on routes to chaos (period-doubling) and related discrete maps. The new edition has also been revised to give more emphasis to specific examples worked out in detail. Classical Mechanics is written for undergraduate students of physics or applied mathematics. It assumes some basic prior knowledge of the fundamental concepts and reasonable familiarity with elementary differential and integral calculus. Contents: Linear Motion Energy and Angular Momentum Central Conservative Forces Rotating Frames Potential Theory The Two-Body Problem Many-Body Systems Rigid Bodies Lagrangian Mechanics Small Oscillations and Normal Modes Hamiltonian Mechanics Dynamical Systems and Their Geometry Order and Chaos in Hamiltonian Systems Appendices: Vectors Conics Phase Plane Analysis Near Critical Points Discrete Dynamical Systems — Maps Readership: Undergraduates in physics and applied mathematics.

A gentle introduction to the physics of quantized fields and many-body physics. Based on courses taught at the University of Illinois, it concentrates on the basic conceptual issues that many students find difficult, and emphasizes the physical and visualizable aspects of the subject. While the text is intended for students with a wide range of interests, many of the examples are drawn from condensed matter physics because of the tangible character of such systems. The first part of the book uses the Hamiltonian operator language of traditional quantum mechanics to treat simple field theories and related topics, while the Feynman path integral is introduced in the second half where it is seen as indispensable for understanding the connection between renormalization and critical as well as non-perturbative phenomena.

A modern, graduate-level introduction to many-body physics in condensed matter, this textbook explains the tools and

concepts needed for a research-level understanding of the correlated behavior of quantum fluids. Starting with an operator-based introduction to the quantum field theory of many-body physics, this textbook presents the Feynman diagram approach, Green's functions and finite-temperature many-body physics before developing the path integral approach to interacting systems. Special chapters are devoted to the concepts of Fermi liquid theory, broken symmetry, conduction in disordered systems, superconductivity and the physics of local-moment metals. A strong emphasis on concepts and numerous exercises make this an invaluable course book for graduate students in condensed matter physics. It will also interest students in nuclear, atomic and particle physics.

An introduction to the application of Feynman diagram techniques for researchers and advanced undergraduate students in condensed matter theory and many-body physics.

The previously published book *Introduction to Electricity and Magnetism* provides a clear, calculus-based introduction to a subject that together with classical mechanics, quantum mechanics, and modern physics lies at the heart of today's physics curriculum. The lectures, although relatively concise, take one from Coulomb's law to Maxwell's equations and special relativity in a lucid and logical fashion. That book contains an extensive set of accessible problems that enhances and extends the coverage. As an aid to teaching and learning, the present book provides the solutions to those problems. The book is an introduction to quantum field theory applied to condensed matter physics. The topics cover modern applications in electron systems and electronic properties of mesoscopic systems and nanosystems. The textbook is developed for a graduate or advanced undergraduate course with exercises which aim at giving students the ability to confront real problems.

Encouraging students' development of intuition, this original work begins with a review of basic mathematics and advances to infinite series, complex algebra, differential equations, Fourier series, and more. 2010 edition.

The science of statistical mechanics is concerned with defining the thermodynamic properties of a macroscopic sample in terms of the properties of the microscopic systems of which it is composed. The aim of this book is to provide a clear, logical, and self-contained treatment of equilibrium statistical mechanics starting from Boltzmann's two statistical assumptions, and to present a wide variety of applications to diverse physical assemblies. The coverage is enhanced and extended through an extensive set of accessible problems. An appendix provides an introduction to non-equilibrium statistical mechanics through the Boltzmann equation and its extensions. The book assumes introductory courses in classical and quantum mechanics, as well as familiarity with multi-variable calculus and the essentials of complex analysis. Some knowledge of thermodynamics is assumed, although the book starts with an appropriate review of that topic. The targeted audience is first-year graduate students, and advanced undergraduates, in physics, chemistry, and

the related physical sciences. The goal of this text is to help the reader obtain a clear working knowledge of the very useful and powerful methods of equilibrium statistical mechanics and to enhance the understanding and appreciation of the more advanced texts.

Classical Mechanics presents an updated treatment of the dynamics of particles and particle systems suitable for students preparing for advanced study of physics and closely related fields, such as astronomy and the applied engineering sciences. Compared to older books on this subject, the mathematical treatment has been updated for the study of more advanced topics in quantum mechanics, statistical mechanics, and nonlinear and orbital mechanics. The text begins with a review of the principles of classical Newtonian dynamics of particles and particle systems and proceeds to show how these principles are modified and extended by developments in the field. The text ends with the unification of space and time given by the Special Theory of Relativity. In addition, Hamiltonian dynamics and the concept of phase space are introduced early on. This allows integration of the concepts of chaos and other nonlinear effects into the main flow of the text. The role of symmetries and the underlying geometric structure of space-time is a key theme. In the latter chapters, the connection between classical and quantum mechanics is examined in some detail.

Self-contained treatment of nonrelativistic many-particle systems discusses both formalism and applications in terms of ground-state (zero-temperature) formalism, finite-temperature formalism, canonical transformations, and applications to physical systems. 1971 edition.

Our understanding of the physical world was revolutionized in the twentieth century — the era of “modern physics”. Two books by the second author entitled *Introduction to Modern Physics: Theoretical Foundations* and *Advanced Modern Physics: Theoretical Foundations*, aimed at the very best students, present the foundations and frontiers of today's physics. Many problems are included in these texts. A previous book by the current authors provides solutions to the over 175 problems in the first volume. A third volume *Topics in Modern Physics: Theoretical Foundations* has recently appeared, which covers several subjects omitted in the essentially linear progression in the previous two. This book has three parts: part 1 is on quantum mechanics, part 2 is on applications of quantum mechanics, and part 3 covers some selected topics in relativistic quantum field theory. Parts 1 and 2 follow naturally from the initial volume. The present book provides solutions to the over 135 problems in this third volume. The three volumes in this series, together with the solutions manuals, provide a clear, logical, self-contained, and comprehensive base from which students can learn modern physics. When finished, readers should have an elementary working knowledge in the principal areas of theoretical physics of the twentieth century. Request Inspection Copy

Some vols., 1920-1949, contain collections of papers according to subject.

The first edition of this book was published in 1978 and a new Spanish edition in 1989. When the first edition appeared, Professor A. Martin suggested that an English translation would meet with interest. Together with Professor A. S. Wightman, he tried to convince an American publisher to translate the book. Financial problems made this impossible. Later on, Professors E. H. Lieb and W. Thirring proposed to entrust Springer-Verlag with the translation of our book, and Professor W. Beiglbock accepted the plan. We are deeply grateful to all of them, since without their interest and enthusiasm this book would not have been translated. In the twelve years that have passed since the first edition was published, beautiful experiments confirming some of the basic principles of quantum mechanics have been carried out, and the theory has been enriched with new, important developments. Due reference to all of this has been paid in this English edition, which implies that modifications have been made to several parts of the book. Instances of these modifications are, on the one hand, the neutron interferometry

experiments on wave-particle duality and the 211" rotation for fermions, and the crucial experiments of Aspect et al. with laser technology on Bell's inequalities, and, on the other hand, some recent results on level ordering in central potentials, new techniques in the analysis of anharmonic oscillators, and perturbative expansions for the Stark and Zeeman effects.

Covering the key theories, tools, and techniques of this dynamic field, *Handbook of Nanophysics: Principles and Methods* elucidates the general theoretical principles and measurements of nanoscale systems. Each peer-reviewed chapter contains a broad-based introduction and enhances understanding of the state-of-the-art scientific content through fundamental equations and illustrations, some in color. This volume explores the theories involved in nanoscience. It also discusses the properties of nanomaterials and nanosystems, including superconductivity, thermodynamics, nanomechanics, and nanomagnetism. In addition, leading experts describe basic processes and methods, such as atomic force microscopy, STM-based techniques, photopolymerization, photoisomerization, soft x-ray holography, and molecular imaging. Nanophysics brings together multiple disciplines to determine the structural, electronic, optical, and thermal behavior of nanomaterials; electrical and thermal conductivity; the forces between nanoscale objects; and the transition between classical and quantum behavior. Facilitating communication across many disciplines, this landmark publication encourages scientists with disparate interests to collaborate on interdisciplinary projects and incorporate the theory and methodology of other areas into their work.

The textbook *Introduction to Classical Mechanics* aims to provide a clear and concise set of lectures that take one from the introduction and application of Newton's laws up to Hamilton's principle of stationary action and the lagrangian mechanics of continuous systems. An extensive set of accessible problems enhances and extends the coverage. It serves as a prequel to the author's recently published book entitled *Introduction to Electricity and Magnetism* based on an introductory course taught some time ago at Stanford with over 400 students enrolled. Both lectures assume a good, concurrent course in calculus and familiarity with basic concepts in physics; the development is otherwise self-contained. As an aid for teaching and learning, and as was previously done with the publication of *Introduction to Electricity and Magnetism: Solutions to Problems*, this additional book provides the solutions to the problems in the text *Introduction to Classical Mechanics*. Superconductivity covers the nature of the phenomenon of superconductivity. The book discusses the fundamental principles of superconductivity; the essential features of the superconducting state—the phenomena of zero resistance and perfect diamagnetism; and the properties of the various classes of superconductors, including the organics, the buckminsterfullerenes, and the precursors to the cuprates. The text also describes superconductivity from the viewpoint of thermodynamics and provides expressions for the free energy; the Ginzburg-Landau and BCS theories; and the structures of the high temperature superconductors. The band theory; type II superconductivity and magnetic properties; and the intermediate and mixed states are also considered. The book further tackles critical state models; various types of tunneling and the Josephson effect; and other transport properties. The text concludes by looking into spectroscopic properties. Physicists and astronomers will find the book invaluable.

TV artist and teacher Hazel Soan is well known for her watercolours of Africa. This illustrated guide is both a safari through her beloved southern Africa and an instructional journey through a range of subjects, showing different ways to see and paint them. Aimed at the more practised painter, this is an useful book for the reader looking to add adventure to their painting. Focusing on the popular medium of watercolour, Hazel travels through South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe, getting to know her destinations by painting them. As the journey unfolds, she presents a series of

painting projects.

Our understanding of the physical world was revolutionized in the twentieth century — the era of "modern physics". Three texts presenting the foundations and frontiers of modern physics have been published by the second author. Many problems are included in these books. The current authors have published solutions manuals for two of the texts Introduction to Modern Physics: Theoretical Foundations and Topics in Modern Physics: Theoretical Foundations. The present book provides solutions to the over 180 problems in the remaining text Advanced Modern Physics: Theoretical Foundations. This is the most challenging material, ranging over advanced quantum mechanics, angular momentum, scattering theory, lagrangian field theory, symmetries, Feynman rules, quantum electrodynamics (QED), higher-order processes, path-integrals, and canonical transformations for quantum systems; several appendices supply important details. This solutions manual completes the modern physics series, whose goal is to provide a path through the principal areas of theoretical physics of the twentieth century in sufficient detail so that students can obtain an understanding and an elementary working knowledge of the field. While obtaining familiarity with what has gone before would seem to be a daunting task, these volumes should help the dedicated student to find that job less challenging, and even enjoyable.

Theoretical Mechanics of Particles and Continua Courier Corporation

Unusually varied problems, with detailed solutions, cover quantum mechanics, wave mechanics, angular momentum, molecular spectroscopy, scattering theory, more. 280 problems, plus 139 supplementary exercises.

Statistical mechanics is concerned with defining the thermodynamic properties of a macroscopic sample in terms of the properties of the microscopic systems of which it is composed. The previous book Introduction to Statistical Mechanics provided a clear, logical, and self-contained treatment of equilibrium statistical mechanics starting from Boltzmann's two statistical assumptions, and presented a wide variety of applications to diverse physical assemblies. An appendix provided an introduction to non-equilibrium statistical mechanics through the Boltzmann equation and its extensions. The coverage in that book was enhanced and extended through the inclusion of many accessible problems. The current book provides solutions to those problems. These texts assume only introductory courses in classical and quantum mechanics, as well as familiarity with multi-variable calculus and the essentials of complex analysis. Some knowledge of thermodynamics is also assumed, although the analysis starts with an appropriate review of that topic. The targeted audience is first-year graduate students and advanced undergraduates, in physics, chemistry, and the related physical sciences. The goal of these texts is to help the reader obtain a clear working knowledge of the very useful and powerful methods of equilibrium statistical mechanics and to enhance the understanding and appreciation of the more advanced texts.

In their prior Dover book, the authors provided a self-contained account of classical mechanics; this supplement/update offers a bridge to contemporary mechanics. Topics include nonlinear continuous systems. 2006 edition.

This two-part text fills what has often been a void in the first-year graduate physics curriculum. Through its examination of particles and continua, it supplies a lucid and self-contained account of classical mechanics — which in turn provides a natural framework for introducing many of the advanced mathematical concepts in physics. The text opens with Newton's laws of motion and systematically develops the dynamics of classical particles, with chapters on basic principles, rotating coordinate systems, lagrangian formalism, small oscillations, dynamics of rigid bodies, and hamiltonian formalism, including a brief discussion of the transition to quantum mechanics. This part of the book also considers examples of the limiting behavior of many particles, facilitating the eventual transition to a continuous medium. The second part deals with classical continua, including chapters on string membranes, sound waves, surface waves on nonviscous fluids, heat conduction, viscous fluids, and elastic media. Each of these self-contained chapters provides the relevant physical background and develops the appropriate mathematical techniques, and problems of varying difficulty appear throughout the text.

Superb introduction for nonspecialists covers Feynman diagrams, quasi particles, Fermi systems at finite temperature, superconductivity, vacuum amplitude, Dyson's equation, ladder approximation, and more. "A great delight." — Physics Today. 1974 edition.

Modern experimental developments in condensed matter and ultracold atom physics present formidable challenges to theorists. This book provides a pedagogical introduction to quantum field theory in many-particle physics, emphasizing the applicability of the formalism to concrete problems. This second edition contains two new chapters developing path integral approaches to classical and quantum nonequilibrium phenomena. Other chapters cover a range of topics, from the introduction of many-body techniques and functional integration, to renormalization group methods, the theory of response functions, and topology. Conceptual aspects and formal methodology are emphasized, but the discussion focuses on practical experimental applications drawn largely from condensed matter physics and neighboring fields. Extended and challenging problems with fully worked solutions provide a bridge between formal manipulations and research-oriented thinking. Aimed at elevating graduate students to a level where they can engage in independent research, this book complements graduate level courses on many-particle theory.

While the two previous books entitled Introduction to Modern Physics: Theoretical Foundations and Advanced Modern Physics: Theoretical Foundations exposed the reader to the foundations and frontiers of today's physics, the goal of this third volume is to cover in some detail several topics omitted in the essentially linear progression of the first two. This

book is divided into three parts. Part 1 is on quantum mechanics. Analytic solutions to the Schrödinger equation are developed for some basic systems. The analysis is then formalized, concluding with a set of postulates for the theory. Part 2 is on applications of quantum mechanics: approximation methods for bound states, scattering theory, time-dependent perturbation theory, and electromagnetic radiation and quantum electrodynamics. Part 3 covers some selected topics in relativistic quantum field theory: discrete symmetries, the Heisenberg picture, and the Feynman rules for quantum chromodynamics. The three volumes in this series taken together provide a clear, logical, self-contained, and comprehensive base from which the very best students can learn modern physics. When finished, readers should have an elementary working knowledge in the principal areas of theoretical physics of the twentieth century.

Our understanding of the physical world was revolutionized in the twentieth century — the era of “modern physics”. The book *Introduction to Modern Physics: Theoretical Foundations*, aimed at the very best students, presents the foundations and frontiers of today's physics. Typically, students have to wade through several courses to see many of these topics. The goal is to give them some idea of where they are going, and how things fit together, as they go along. The book focuses on the following topics: quantum mechanics; applications in atomic, nuclear, particle, and condensed-matter physics; special relativity; relativistic quantum mechanics, including the Dirac equation and Feynman diagrams; quantum fields; and general relativity. The aim is to cover these topics in sufficient depth that things “make sense” to students, and they achieve an elementary working knowledge of them. The book assumes a one-year, calculus-based freshman physics course, along with a one-year course in calculus. Several appendices bring the reader up to speed on any additional required mathematics. Many problems are included, a great number of which take dedicated readers just as far as they want to go in modern physics. The present book provides solutions to the over 175 problems in *Introduction to Modern Physics: Theoretical Foundations* in what we believe to be a clear and concise fashion.

It is important for every physicist today to have a working knowledge of Einstein's theory of general relativity. *Introduction to General Relativity* published in 2007 was aimed at first-year graduate students, or advanced undergraduates, in physics. Only a basic understanding of classical lagrangian mechanics is assumed; beyond that, the reader should find the material to be self-contained. The mechanics problem of a point mass constrained to move without friction on a two-dimensional surface of arbitrary shape serves as a paradigm for the development of the mathematics and physics of general relativity. Special relativity is reviewed. The basic principles of general relativity are then presented, and the most important applications are discussed. The final special topics section takes the reader up to a few areas of current research. An extensive set of accessible problems enhances and extends the coverage. As a learning and teaching tool, this current book provides solutions to those problems. This text and solutions manual are meant to provide an

introduction to the subject. It is hoped that these books will allow the reader to approach the more advanced texts and monographs, as well as the continual influx of fascinating new experimental results, with a deeper understanding and sense of appreciation.

A working knowledge of Einstein's theory of general relativity is an essential tool for every physicist today. This self-contained book is an introductory text on the subject aimed at first-year graduate students, or advanced undergraduates, in physics that assumes only a basic understanding of classical Lagrangian mechanics. The mechanics problem of a point mass constrained to move without friction on a two-dimensional surface of arbitrary shape serves as a paradigm for the development of the mathematics and physics of general relativity. After reviewing special relativity, the basic principles of general relativity are presented, and the most important applications are discussed. The final special topics section guides the reader through a few important areas of current research. This book will allow the reader to approach the more advanced texts and monographs, as well as the continual influx of fascinating new experimental results, with a deeper understanding and sense of appreciation.

In a certain sense this book has been twenty-five years in the writing, since I first struggled with the foundations of the subject as a graduate student. It has taken that long to develop a deep appreciation of what Gibbs was attempting to convey to us near the end of his life and to understand fully the same ideas as resurrected by E.T. Jaynes much later. Many classes of students were destined to help me sharpen these thoughts before I finally felt confident that, for me at least, the foundations of the subject had been clarified sufficiently. More than anything, this work strives to address the following questions: What is statistical mechanics? Why is this approach so extraordinarily effective in describing bulk matter in terms of its constituents? The response given here is in the form of a very definite point of view—the principle of maximum entropy (PME). There have been earlier attempts to approach the subject in this way, to be sure, reflected in the books by Tribus [Thermostat ics and Thermodynamics, Van Nostrand, 1961], Baierlein [Atoms and Information Theory, Freeman, 1971], and Hobson [Concepts in Statistical Mechanics, Gordon and Breach, 1971].

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