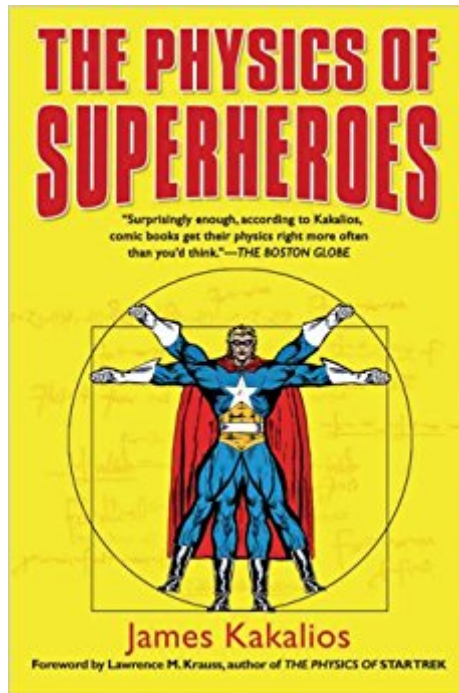




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The Physics Of Superheroes



Synopsis

James Kakalios explores the scientific plausibility of the powers and feats of the most famous superheroes and discovers that in many cases the comic writers got their science surprisingly right. Along the way he provides an engaging and witty commentary while introducing the lay reader to both classic and cutting-edge concepts in physics, including: What Superman's strength can tell us about the Newtonian physics of force, mass, and acceleration How Iceman's and Storm's powers illustrate the principles of thermal dynamics The physics behind the death of Spider-Man's girlfriend Gwen Stacy Why physics professors gone bad are the most dangerous evil geniuses!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. This terrific book demonstrates a number of important points. First, a subject that everyone "knows" is difficult and boring can, in the hands of a master teacher, be both exciting and fun. Second, it's a myth that only people particularly adept at mathematics can understand and enjoy physics. Third, superhero comic books have socially redeeming qualities. By combining his love for physics with his love of comic books, University of Minnesota physicist Kakalios has written a book for the general reader covering all of the basic points in a first-level college physics course and is difficult to put down. Among many other things, Kakalios uses the basic laws of physics to "prove" that gravity must have been 15 times greater on Krypton than on Earth; that Spiderman's girlfriend, Gwen Stacy, died because his webbing stopped her too abruptly after she plunged from

the George Washington Bridge; and that when the Flash runs, he's surrounded by a pocket of air that enables him to breathe. Kakalios draws on the Atom, Iron Man, X-Men, the Ant-Man and the Hulk, among many others, to cover topics as diverse as electromagnetism, quantum mechanics, string theory and thermodynamics. That all of this is accomplished with enough humor to make you laugh aloud is an added bonus. B&w illus. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Praise for *The Physics of Superheroes* "Surprisingly enough, according to Kakalios, comic books get their physics right more often than you'd think." —The Boston Globe "Writing with tongue firmly planted in cheek, Kakalios looks at classic comics with a physicist's eye. . . . Outstanding." —The Orlando Sentinel "Kakalios, a University of Minnesota physicist and unrepentant comics nerd, offers up jovial, largely equation-free deconstructions of Ant-Man's shrinking ability, the centripetal acceleration of Spider-Man's swing, and the strength of his silk web." —Discover "Wildly entertaining, yet scientifically accurate… Comprises a fairly solid introductory education in physics, sweetened with a history lesson in classic comic book superheroes." —Metro "Offers a droll but sincere look at what Superman and Spider-Man can teach about physics. . . . Entertaining. . . . His explanations are lucid and smooth." —Science magazine

Loved it! He gets bogged down a little in the science stuff but comes out of it with simple but colorful examples of EXACTLY what is happening when a superhero performs their feat of power. He keeps based in reality though so if you expect him to tell you how Superman flies without wings then you're out of luck.

He was my junior year In college quantum teacher and he wrote a great, informative book here just alike to his teaching style. A good read for all!

2 of my favourite things are science and comic books and this book gives pretty well reasoned explanations of why the Flash can move so fast and why Spiderman doesn't dislocate his shoulders swing through NYC and also just what would entail to leap over a tall building in a single bound

This is a different way to approach physics that makes it relevant to everyone who wants to explore

the scientific possibilities of superheroes and their powers. It is a book that requires your concentration, but is manageable for those who are just average folks. It is fun too!

A great way for an air-head such as myself (17) to get a grip on physics. Buy this if you love superheroes and want to learn physics. Simple as that :D

This is a fun book that breaks physics principles down into easily understandable, non math intensive, bite sized chunks in a fun and entertaining way. I bought it to have on my desk as a science teacher.

I love this book! It's so fun and interesting. It's a history lesson on comics and some amazing science! For the first time physics makes sense! I'm using it to teach my son for homeschooling and I'm learning as much as he is!

I took some Physics classes in college, and was able to grasp most of the ideas in the first reading. I had to reread some of the concepts a second time to understand them. This book is recommended for those who at least have basic knowledge of Physics, or you will be struggling. One of my favourite chapters would be the one on Spiderman! I also learnt about the background of lesser known Superheroes. For the price of a bargain book, definitely a good buy!

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