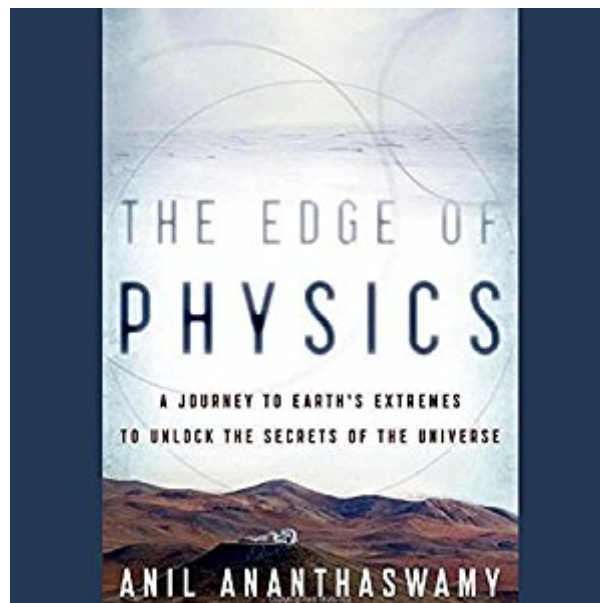




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The Edge Of Physics: A Journey To Earth's Extremes To Unlock The Secrets Of The Universe



Synopsis

Why is the universe expanding at an even faster rate? What is the nature of the 'dark matter' that makes up almost a quarter of the universe? Why does the universe appear fine-tuned for life? And are there other universes besides our own? In this timely and original book, science writer Anil Ananthaswamy sets out in search of the world's most audacious physics experiments: the telescopes and detectors that promise to shed new light on dark matter, dark energy and quantum gravity - and answer some of the most profound questions that confront humanity. Weaving together stories about the people and places at the heart of this research, while beautifully explaining the problems that scientists are trying to solve, Ananthaswamy provides a unique portrait of the universe and our quest to understand it. An atmospheric, engaging and illuminating read that shows us that, at its heart, science is a field that attracts us all. The Edge of Physics brings cosmology - with all its rarefied concepts - back down to earth. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Extraordinary book- wonderfully written - about the nuts and bolts, the really hard work behind the hard earned insights that shape our cosmologies. In frozen Siberian lakes to shivering cubic hectares of ice and unspeakably deep caves- searching for the subtle particles that reveal the nature of our universe.

Some real insights into our quest for knowledge in simple elegant writing. The human stories keep the topic real. The machines the scientists use star alongside the people in this wonderful book. I got a little lost at the end though. The section on spacecraft left me behind a bit. Gravity waves, acoustic harmonics in the young universe, open and closed universes became too expansive for me. It is as if the only location the author cannot visit is a metaphor for subjects too hard for me to grasp.

The book is unique in that :- it is not mired in detail but rather intended to give the reader a good high-level overview of the state-of-the-art.- it is a focus on experimental physics, although does point out the *raison d'être* for the experiment.- it is more of narrative of the author's travel - inspires one to do the same and go on a "Physication (physics vacation)".- it actually chronicles bits of the lives of numerous unsung players and characters, whose dedication to science is just remarkable. What would have been useful is some more description or pointers to the Physics itself and a summary which chronicles all efforts towards a given goal (e.g. finding neutrinos - and then having the author point out which ones he visited and why). But all in all a good read from where you can launch your own "physication" or exploration into an area of physics that catches your fancy.

Best physics book for a general audience I have ever read.

One of the best books on the new cosmology I've read. It covers an amazing range of topics, but does it well. The approach of using of a travel log to earth's extremes, profiling scientists trying to unravel dark matter, dark energy, and empirically verify or disprove the various theories of everything, was a fantastic premise for a book. Credit to Ananthaswamy that it turned out so well! Be sure to visit the author's website to see pictures of the fascinating locations and characters described in the book!

Having participated in one of the projects documented makes it even more entertaining to read. Especially when you can read between the lines of the text and know a bit of the backstory. Odd though that the paperback version I bought was less expensive than the Kindle version.

Well written and insightful, the author has traveled to some of the strangest places on Earth as physicists look for the clues to understanding the Universe. He explains the science in easy to understand terms and leaves you hoping they find what they are looking for in our life-times.

A different perspective towards physics and the human stories behind experimental science. The reader will appreciate the science and the history alike.

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