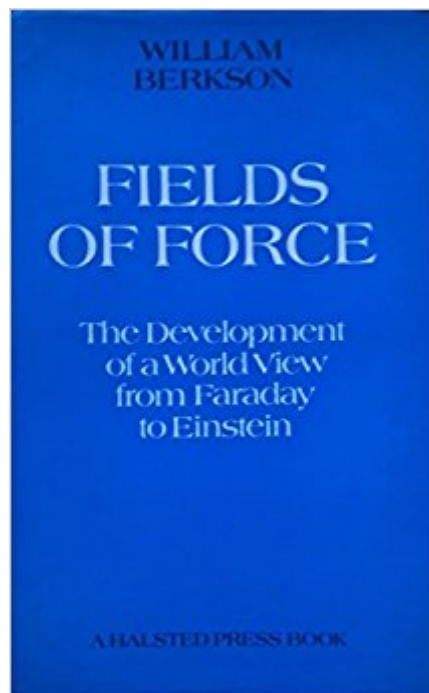




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Fields Of Force: The Development Of A World View From Faraday To Einstein



Synopsis

This book describes the picture of reality given by Newton, and the development of the later picture of reality given by field theory. In telling this story, the author explains what problem each scientist faced, and how the process of solving them led to new discoveries. By this method he gives unique insight into the understanding of Einstein's special theory of relativity, as he explains exactly what problems led to the invention of the theory, and exactly where Einstein's solution differed from his predecessors'. A similar analysis is given of the discoveries of Faraday, Maxwell, Hertz and Lorentz. The problem-oriented approach of the book, originally published in 1974, enables the reader to share in the original creative process, and in the excitement of the discoveries. It puts physics problems into new perspective and discusses the philosophical implications of the history - an illuminating account of a great episode in the history of thought. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

On page 338, Berkson gives J.D. Jackson's Classical Electrodynamics as an example of a textbook whose history is "a pack of lies." On page 339, Berkson writes: "The question is: Is any harm done by such false and misleading history? Certainly the historical comments in most textbooks are not intended very seriously, but I fear they may have had serious consequences. The nature of scientific discovery is persistently clouded over and a wrong idea of the nature of research is given. This textbook impression is perhaps corrected in some cases by researchers who explain that there is a problem situation in science, and that there is much uncertainty and many weaknesses in existing theories. But the fact is that the usual science education is almost entirely textbook

education."The last two or so pages are reason enough to read this book. Yet the other 337 pages aren't bad either.

I have spent many years developing my own view of the fundamental nature of the universe. Dr. Berkson's "Fields of Force" was by far the best source I found. It helped me to understand the differences between the views of many prominent physicists in history. A very big thank you to Dr. William Berkson!Richard

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