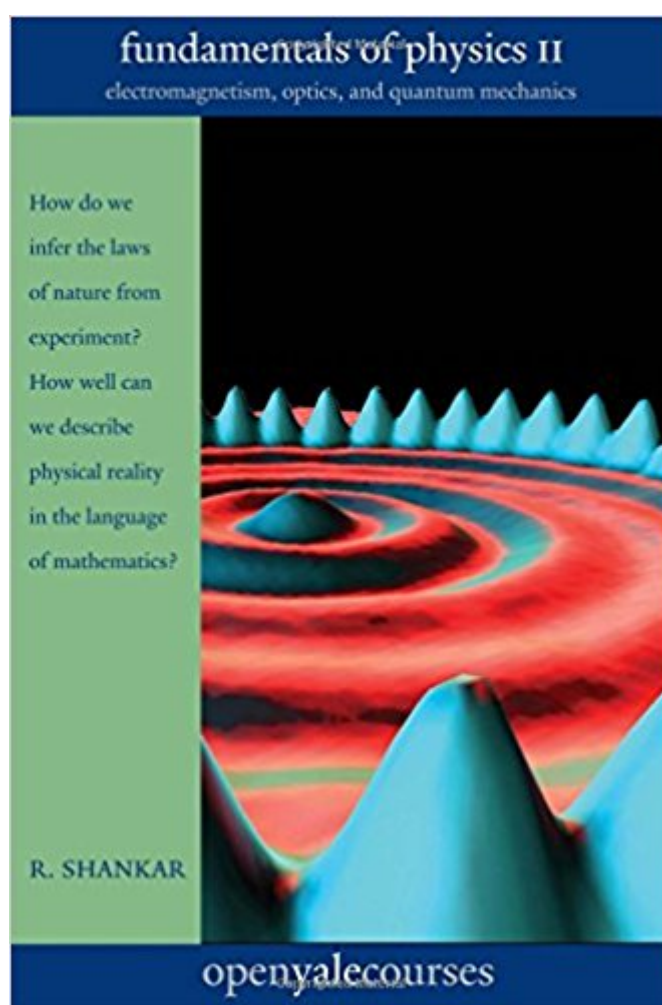


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Fundamentals Of Physics II: Electromagnetism, Optics, And Quantum Mechanics (The Open Yale Courses Series)



Synopsis

R. Shankar, a well-known physicist and contagiously enthusiastic educator, was among the first to offer a course through the innovative Open Yale Course program. His popular online video lectures on introductory physics have been viewed over a million times. In this second book based on his online Yale course, Shankar explains essential concepts, including electromagnetism, optics, and quantum mechanics. The book begins at the simplest level, develops the basics, and reinforces fundamentals, ensuring a solid foundation in the principles and methods of physics. It provides an ideal introduction for college-level students of physics, chemistry, and engineering; for motivated AP Physics students; and for general readers interested in advances in the sciences.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Masterfully developing the student’s facility with symmetry, dimensional analysis, physical intuition, and solid mathematical reasoning, Shankar once again explains the essentials of introductory physics with great clarity and elegance.”
—Daniel Arovas, University of California, San Diego
“Shankar makes the study of modern physics easy going for students and general readers. A wonderful combination of clarity, humor, and depth.”
—David Gross, Nobel Laureate in Physics, 2004
“A worthy companion to the excellent first volume. Shankar’s deep understanding and unique insights shine through. His explanations are clear and thorough and presented with an inimitably light touch.”
—Alan Chodos, American Physical Society (retired)
“This delightful volume, a textbook and lecture notes all

in one, is a worthy sequel to Fundamentals of Physics I. In his interactive and humorous way, Shankar builds a serious foundation for physics knowledge. — Igor Klebanov, Princeton University

R. Shankar is John Randolph Huffman Professor of Physics, Yale University. He is the 2009 winner of the American Physical Society's Lilienfeld Prize and the author of three previous textbooks.

After reading Shankar's Fundamentals of Physics last year, I couldn't help but get a feeling of satisfaction upon realizing that, in only a little over 400 pages, I had reviewed the essentials of introductory physics in stunning elegance. I credit that book with giving me an intuitive outlook on physics, something that has come in handy in my upper division physics classes. There's something oddly satisfying about Shankar's writing style and the clear expository manner in which he explains physics. Shankar has a way in which he can explain the essentials of something complicated, without compromising the depth of the subject. Hence, drawing once again on his prodigious skills as a teacher, his Fundamentals of Physics II covers not just the essentials of Electrodynamics and Magnetism, it goes above and beyond to even explain the role of electromagnetism in relativity. Among the other topics included in his masterful book, one can also find a few chapters in optics that contain a nice and neat introduction to the principle of least action. The section on quantum mechanics is very well written, and serves as a very neat introduction to the basic principles of quantum mechanics (for those interested, Shankar wrote another excellent book titled "Principles of Quantum Mechanics." A more advanced text, but worth the read). The mathematics throughout the book is not terribly challenging and will come in handy for future courses. Overall, I am quite satisfied with Shankar's latest entry into the Open Yale course series, as this is a worthy sequel to his previous Fundamentals of Physics textbook. I will be using his new book as a refresher before I take my first serious E&M upper division class at Cal Poly. For anyone who is looking to enhance their physics intuition and knowledge, one can never go wrong with Shankar. Update: Now that I have taken E&M I and E&M II and gotten A's in both classes, I can confidently say that without Shankar was hugely helpful in my understanding of the subject. I will now be taking Quantum Mechanics and (you guessed it) I'll be using Shankar's masterful Quantum Mechanics textbook.

This is a great textbook to read up on physics. There is some expectation that the reader has already seen this material. Great book for a nice review and it has more in depth explanations, as

well as pictures to help clarify things.

Very good approach to teaching these subjects

I enjoyed immensely reading this book, especially the chapter on quantum mechanics. He simply makes the subject very down to earth and he is fanny.

I had terrible Physics teachers/books in high school but, somehow, my mathematics teachers and books were very good. At age 47, I wanted to learn Physics for the sake of it. Shankar's books have been wonderful. He does not water down the subject but develops a strong intuition for the subject at the same time.

Only one word...Excellent!

Great text book.

This has been a good review of a topic I studied a long, long time ago.

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