



The Quantum World: Quantum Physics for Everyone

By Kenneth W. Ford

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As Kenneth W. Ford shows us in *The Quantum World*, the laws governing the very small and the very swift defy common sense and stretch our minds to the limit. Drawing on a deep familiarity with the discoveries of the twentieth century, Ford gives an appealing account of quantum physics that will help the serious reader make sense of a science that, for all its successes, remains mysterious. In order to make the book even more suitable for classroom use, the author, assisted by Diane Goldstein, has included a new section of Quantum Questions at the back of the book. A separate answer manual to these 300+ questions is available; visit *The Quantum World* website for ordering information.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Albert Einstein's objections to the theoretical underpinnings of quantum physics are usually summed up in his famous quote, "God doesn't play dice." Unfortunately for Einstein, experimental evidence over the past 75 years has consistently showed that the cosmos does indeed play dice. Whereas what we can see obeys laws of certainty (we know where Mars will be in five years or when the next lunar eclipse will occur), the subatomic world obeys laws of probability: you never know for sure where an electron will be at any given moment; worse, it may be in two places at once. In this approachable book for the armchair science buff or student struggling through a physics class, Ford (Quantum Foam), retired director of the American Institute of Physics, offers his services as cicerone through the subatomic world. He explains why quarks are said to have "flavors," and why scientists refer to "strange" and "charm" quarks and their being red, blue or green. Ford provides readers with a brief but adequate history of the early development of quantum theory and introduces the present-day scientists who use multimillion-dollar machines to detect particles that pop in and out of existence in less than the blink of an eye. If readers blink, they might miss the author's mention of string theory, which deserves more discussion than it receives here. Even scientists never really understand the quantum world, but this book will help readers wrap their minds around the paradoxical concepts of how the building blocks of existence lead a strange, if not charmed, life. 33 photos, 52 line illus., 6 tables. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Review

In this approachable book for the armchair science buff or student struggling through a physics class, Ford, retired director of the American Institute of Physics, offers his services as cicerone through the subatomic world. He explains why quarks are said to have 'flavors,' and why scientists refer to 'strange' and 'charm' quarks and their being red, blue or green...Even scientists never really understand the quantum world, but this book will help readers wrap their minds around the paradoxical concepts of how the building blocks of existence lead a strange, if not charmed, life. (*Publishers Weekly* 2004-02-09)

Ford deals with topics as difficult as granularity, quantum numbers, superposition, entanglement, and the uncertainty principle, but he uses explanations and examples that make these concepts easy to understand and quantum weirdness far less daunting. (*Science News* 2004-05-01)

Ford writes in a clear, easy-to-follow manner...[He] broadly surveys the important topics in quantum theory and experiment that would offer someone without a mathematical background a very strong conceptual understanding. This is a very pleasant book to read. (E. Kincanon *Choice* 2004-09-01)

The Quantum World is an excellent book--one of the best popular accounts of quantum theory I have read. Ford has a deep understanding of his demanding subject and he leavens his account with colour and anecdote. (Elizabeth Sourbut *New Scientist* 2004-09-18)

Quantum Physics for Everyone uses clear explanations and examples to highlight and elucidate ideas and thinkers of quantum physics, showing how the laws governing the very small and the very swift defy conventional thinking and stretch the mind. (*Dallas Morning News* 2004-08-30)

Excellent introduction to the strange world of the quantum with just enough interpolated mundane comments to keep the reader interested in going on to the next weird idea. (John Hubisz *Physics Teacher* 2005-04-01)

Review

A clear and simple map of the strange world of the quantum by an experienced guide. (John D. Barrow, Author of *The Constants of Nature*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joseph Cobble:

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Luis Hahn:

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