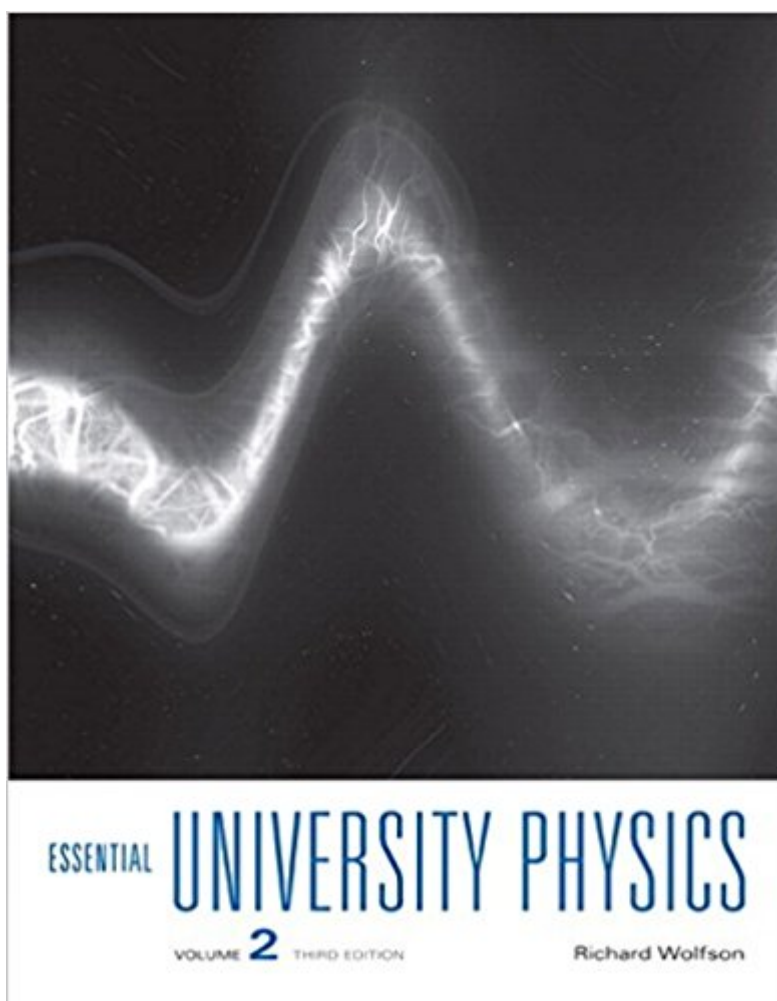


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Essential University Physics: Volume 2 (3rd Edition)



Synopsis

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Customer Reviews

Richard Wolfson has been professor of physics at Middlebury College for more than twenty-five years. In addition to his textbooks, *Essential University Physics*, *Physics for Scientists and Engineers*, and *Energy, Environment, and Climate*, he has written two science books for general audiences: *Nuclear Choices: A Citizen's Guide to Nuclear Technology* and *Simply Einstein: Relativity Demystified*. His video courses for the Teaching Company include *Physics in Your Life*, *Einstein's Relativity and the Quantum Revolution: Modern Physics for Non-Scientists*, and *How the Universe Works: Understanding Physics, from Quark to Galaxy*.

I bought this book because I have Dr. Wolfson's "Great Courses" physics lectures and was impressed with his presentations. Unlike his GC lectures that only use algebra and trig to solve problems, this is strictly a college level book for physics, math and engineering majors who are familiar with the use of calculus equations. I believe some other college physics book may have more example problems, but this book is above average in utilizing figures and drawings to help the reader visualize, "what's going on." Typical of any college level general physics books, explanatory lectures and demonstrations are needed to fully understand the subject, demonstrations and important details. This also applies to Dr. Wolfson's, Vol 1 *Essential University Physics* book. What's different and above average in this book are the 3, "Answers Sections." At the bottom of the 1st page of each chapter is a question that is posed to the reader. The answer is provided at the end of the chapter in, "Answers to Chapter Questions." Also as you go along in each chapter, Dr. Wolfson poses some, "Got It?" questions to get you thinking about the material being presented. The answers to the "Got It?" questions are also at the end of the chapter in the, "Answers to Chapter Questions." Another section at the end of each chapter is called, "For Thought and Discussion." There are no answers provided to these questions because they are designed as questions that would be good for a class discussion or recitation classes. Then there is a section of standard physics problems at the end of each chapter. The answers to the odd-number problems are provided in the back of the book and usually start with problems 11 or 13. My guess is the earlier odd-numbered problems (1-9) are considered to be rather easy and straight forward. I gave the book the 5th star because of the excellent diagrams, "Got It" and "For Thought and Discussion" sections

that really assist and test your comprehension of the material. Unlike some 1st general physics text books that use only algebra and trig, I believe very few students could use this book to sit down and teach themselves physics. All general physics text books are terse in order to keep the page count below 1,000.

There was extensive water damage to the top half of the whole textbook. The pages were noticeably crinkly because of the water damage, and I had to carefully separate each page from each other since they were stuck together (from the water damage). The corners were a bit worn down and folded, and there were some dirt and mold on the pages. However, the text was thankfully still legible and there were seemingly no marks made on the pages. The state of the textbook wasn't too revolting since it's understandable that the used rental textbook would inevitably get damaged along the way.

Amazing college book. Could easily get an A in my physics class just by following the book's methodology and solved problems.

Works great.

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