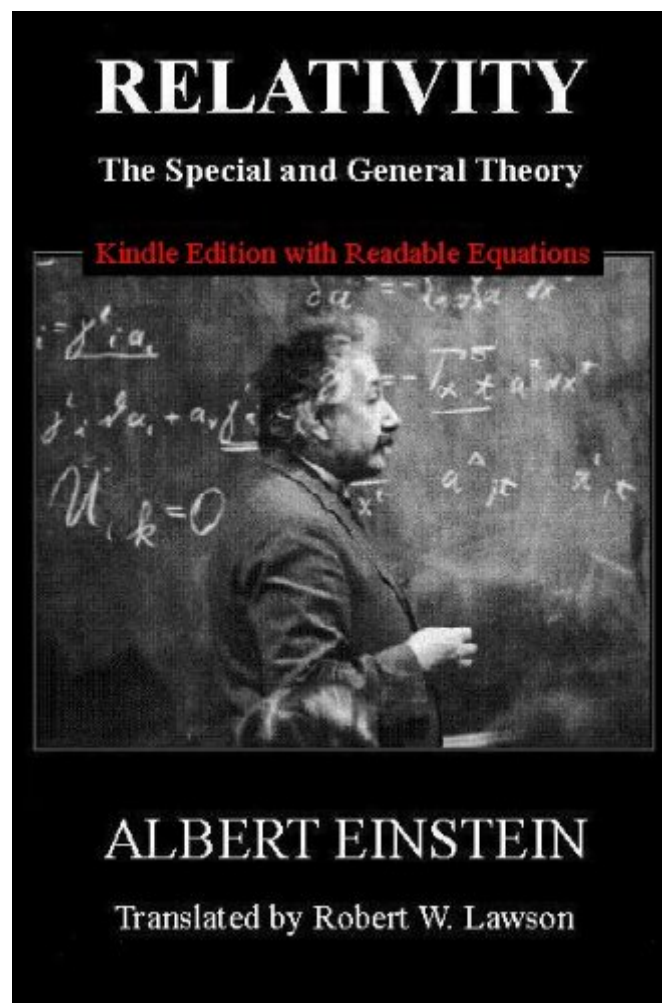




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Relativity: The Special And General Theory [New Edition With Readable Equations]



Synopsis

This book was originally written in German by Albert Einstein in 1916 and later translated to English by Robert W. Lawson in 1920. In Einstein's own words, "The present book is intended, as far as possible, to give an exact insight into the theory of Relativity to those readers who, from a general scientific and philosophical point of view, are interested in the theory, but who are not conversant with the mathematical apparatus of theoretical physics." This new Kindle edition contains all figures and formulas in the original paper edition. In particular, the equations have been carefully typeset with proper scaling, and they are more readable on Kindle. Indeed, in the words of a reader, "a book on Relativity without readable equations makes the book not even worth a penny."

Book Information

File Size: 1057 KB

Print Length: 126 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0415255384

Publisher: Kindle Direct Publishing; 3 edition (February 23, 2014)

Publication Date: February 23, 2014

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B004M8S53U

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #28,997 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #4

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Customer Reviews

A Century later and still teaching us. Thank you Professor! Some of the language is archaic as well as the examples used to describe, such as Train Carriages, however the message is clearly defined.

Good read, and a great layman's introduction to Einstein's relativity theories. It isn't heavy on math and relies more on logic to deduce the characteristics of Special Relativity from the two postulates. The math is briefly presented for those who want to read it, and the appendices cover derivation in more depth. The sections on General Relativity are weak, but this is expected given the target audience. Special Relativity is fairly intuitive (especially as presented in this book), but General Relativity is nearly impossible to understand without an in-depth study of the mathematics involved which this book tries to avoid.

Good but very hard to understand.

A surprisingly readable overview of Special and General Relativity by The Master himself. Einstein clearly wanted the general public to have an understanding of the counterintuitive aspects of Relativity. If you watched "Genius" on NatGeo, this is a great next step in appreciating Einstein's gifts.

Most scientific genius' are poor at communicating their ideas to lay people who aren't versed in their high level math and vocabulary. Einstein, on the other hand, is superb at explaining the complex in simple, non scientific, non mathematical, and NON CONDESCENDING terms! While, obviously, I am against any government forced reading list, if there were one, I'd put this one at or near number one on any such list. It should certainly be required reading for all college graduates, regardless of their major. Park your preconceived ideas of what you *used to* think what the universe was and prepare to be blown away at this incredible "theory" (It should no longer be called a theory as it has been proven over and over in real world experiment after experiment)! It will certainly open your mind to new possibilities and to new ideas of what the universe is (or at least, what it *isn't*). After reading this, go get "Quantum Electro Dynamics", a collection of lectures by Richard P. Feynman, to continue your maddening journey through wacky, but true, insights into what's *really* going on and what this universe really is about. It really is a quantum leap forward in thinking. You'll just have to read it to believe it (possibly several times). After that, search .com for information about faster than light transmission for even more mind blowing ideas that are becoming a reality. If you thought science fiction was way out there, wait til you learn about science fact! Science truly is stranger than fiction.

What can you say? It's Einstein - it's not like he doesn't know what he's talking about. I write on technical subjects all the time - for an audience that is very unsophisticated. On that basis I can say that even though he wrote for the layman here, it could be a bit more accessible if he'd taken a bit different approach. But that's water under the bridge - a classic from the man himself - it's like critiquing Aristotle.

Although the basic concepts of relativity and space-time are nicely illustrated in the early parts of the essay, I personally struggled toward the end as he delves into more detail. I would recommend this book as a starter for anyone interested in pursuing the difficult understand of the theories of relativity as this rather short white-paper deals with the subject in a very concise, straightforward presentation. I will probably go one step further now and read a more contemporary presentation of his theories (facts).

interesting but little math or tech.

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