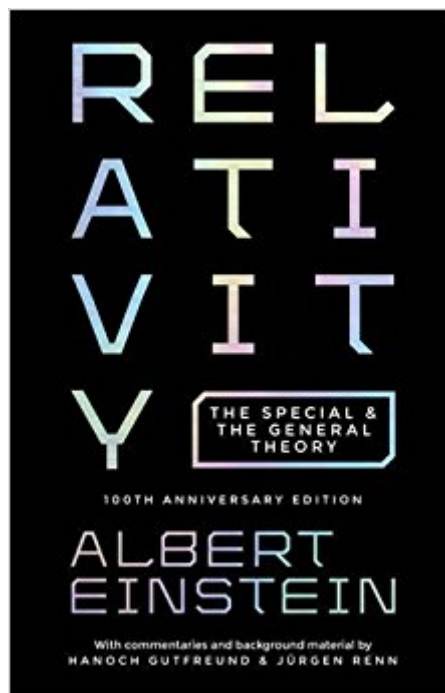




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Relativity: The Special And The General Theory, 100th Anniversary Edition



Synopsis

After completing the final version of his general theory of relativity in November 1915, Albert Einstein wrote a book about relativity for a popular audience. His intention was "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." The book remains one of the most lucid explanations of the special and general theories ever written. In the early 1920s alone, it was translated into ten languages, and fifteen editions in the original German appeared over the course of Einstein's lifetime. This new edition of Einstein's celebrated book features an authoritative English translation of the text along with an introduction and a reading companion by Hanoch Gutfreund and Jürgen Renn that examines the evolution of Einstein's thinking and casts his ideas in a broader present-day context. A special chapter explores the history of and the stories behind the early foreign-language editions in light of the reception of relativity in different countries. This edition also includes a survey of the introductions from those editions, covers from selected early editions, a letter from Walther Rathenau to Einstein discussing the book, and a revealing sample from Einstein's handwritten manuscript. Published on the hundredth anniversary of general relativity, this handsome edition of Einstein's famous book places the work in historical and intellectual context while providing invaluable insight into one of the greatest scientific minds of all time.

Book Information

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: Princeton University Press; 100th Anniversary edition (June 16, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0691166331

ISBN-13: 978-0691166339

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 1.1 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #193,527 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 in Books > Science & Math > Physics > Gravity #110 in Books > Science & Math > Physics > Relativity #1167 in Books > Science & Math > History & Philosophy

Customer Reviews

One of Symmetry magazine's Physics Books of 2015 "I can still see some fugitive magic in

Relativity . . . it conjures Einstein as the oracle presenting a theory to the world--one of the most revolutionary and profound theories of all time."--Pedro Ferreira, Nature
"Nobody is better at explaining relativity than Einstein himself; his account provides a combination of depth and clarity that only he could confidently produce. . . . This 100th anniversary edition is complemented by commentary from Gutfreund and Renn, who clarify some key points and add historical perspective, making Einstein's own words even more accessible and meaningful."--Tom Siegfried, Science News
"Hanoch Gutfreund, professor emeritus of theoretical physics at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and Jurgen Renn, director of the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, augment the 100th anniversary edition of [Relativity] with a reading companion to make Einstein's thinking clearer to present-day readers."--Mike Perricone, Symmetry Magazine

"This new edition of Einstein's popular presentation of both special and general relativity is a joy to read. Over the past hundred years, relativity has been brought to the public in many forms--magazines, books, documentaries--but there's nothing quite like being guided through one of the most profound scientific insights of all time by the master himself."--Brian Greene, Columbia University
"This book is not only an important historical document, but displays the style and clarity of Einstein's thought in a manner accessible to a wide readership. It's good that it is being reissued in this fine new edition to mark the centenary of his greatest insights."--Martin Rees, Trinity College, University of Cambridge, and Astronomer Royal
"I grew up reading this book. Many people have written expositions of relativity, but the master himself speaks with a certain authority. We get not only the content of the ideas, but the thought processes that helped create them. There's nothing quite like learning relativity from Einstein."--Sean Carroll, California Institute of Technology
"This book will play a vital role in introducing new readers to Einstein and the many fascinating questions surrounding his work."--Richard Staley, author of Einstein's Generation: The Origins of the Relativity Revolution
"This exciting new edition of Einstein's book will be of real interest to scholars as well as general readers--and it is perfectly timed for the centennial of Einstein's general theory of relativity."--David Kaiser, author of How the Hippies Saved Physics: Science, Counterculture, and the Quantum Revival

I very much enjoyed this book. It expanded my understanding on the theory of relativity by Einstein's own hand, which is what I was searching for when I purchased the book. I also especially enjoyed the later sections, which help the reader understand the concepts as written. As a published author of eBooks, I find it appalling that a reader would attack this book and author by a "one star" rating -

just because he doesn't believe in the theory. That's like attacking Dairy Queen because you don't like ice cream. It's completely unwarranted and juvenile. And despite this person's raving arguments "against" the theory, yes, the theory is proven even 100 years later by people much smarter than you. The atomic clocks on the international space station are slow by 0.007 seconds every six months, and the GPS satellites are ever so slightly faster (because they are in geosynchronous orbit - same speed but less gravity). So yes, the theory is proven and the book is a great representation of what it is. So thanks to the author for a well organized and informative book. You get 5 stars from me.

I've browsed this book, which will be my next read. I purchased this book based on my current read, "Einstein" by Walter Isaacson, published by Simon & Schuster. I'm about 99% sure "Relativity The Special & The General Theory" will be way over my head, but even so it will find a welcome place next to "Einstein" in my own library.

If you have trouble grasping Einstein's theories read this. Get his thought processes straight from him.

outstanding

Classic Albert.. Good mostly non technical review.

The book itself is a classic. However, since there are many cheaper versions, people may expect more from this "special" collectible version. I should say, the quality of the book is not so good. The edges of pages are ragged (mathematically, non-differentiable), which renders the book a little bit "antique". I am not sure if this kind of "antiquity" is their intention. If that is the case, even if you do not want to read this book, you may still want to put it in your shelf and it looks cool.

Hearing him in his own words is the best way to understand Relativity

Very good. The book is super new and clean. And content is easier to understand than other relativity editions due to its gradually process to the final equations.

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