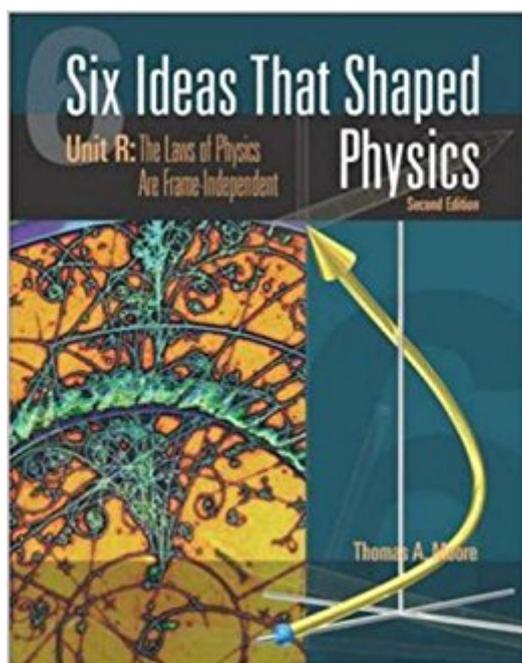


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Six Ideas That Shaped Physics: Unit R - Laws Of Physics Are Frame-Independent



Synopsis

SIX IDEAS THAT SHAPED PHYSICS is the 21st century's alternative to traditional, encyclopedic textbooks. Thomas Moore designed SIX IDEAS to teach students: --to apply basic physical principles to realistic situations --to solve realistic problems --to resolve contradictions between their preconceptions and the laws of physics --to organize the ideas of physics into an integrated hierarchy

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Six Ideas That Shaped Physics Unit R is a one of a kind introductory physics textbook, catering to advanced high school mechanics classes and university-level introductory mechanics. The book itself is thin enough to be manageable, yet examines the experiments leading up to the development of Special Relativity and clearly explains the consequences of the field. The Six Ideas series as a whole provides a far superior introduction to physics than stock college textbooks (such as Halliday & Resnick, etc), but falls short of the great introductory textbooks used by elite schools (Berkeley Physics Course, Kleppner and Kolenkow). This can easily be seen due to the insufficient coverage of angular momentum in this unit. Rather than give a thorough treatment of physics, the author seems to have built the book (in combination with Units C and N) to fit a semester-based time schedule which consequently allows for in-depth focus on a few chosen topics. It should be noted that the series as a whole seems to be geared for the MCAT Physics section (six chapters on geometric optics available on the Six Ideas website). The book is written in a conversational tone which mitigates the dullness of technical lecture. In addition, I am particularly fond of the pre-chapter

outline; a tool that informs the reader the general direction of the arguments and proofs before he or she dives in. The few examples provide challenging demonstrations of problem-solving technique; they are not merely plug-and-chug. These combined with the in-chapter mental exercises are perhaps less testing of knowledge (although some are fairly complex), but are more beneficial as much needed breaks between new ideas.

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