



Astrophysics in a Nutshell

By Dan Maoz

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Astrophysics in a Nutshell By Dan Maoz

Winner of the American Astronomical Society's Chambliss Award, *Astrophysics in a Nutshell* has become the text of choice in astrophysics courses for science majors at top universities in North America and beyond. In this expanded and fully updated second edition, the book gets even better, with a new chapter on extrasolar planets; a greatly expanded chapter on the interstellar medium; fully updated facts and figures on all subjects, from the observed properties of white dwarfs to the latest results from precision cosmology; and additional instructive problem sets. Throughout, the text features the same focused, concise style and emphasis on physics intuition that have made the book a favorite of students and teachers.

Written by Dan Maoz, a leading active researcher, and designed for advanced undergraduate science majors, *Astrophysics in a Nutshell* is a brief but thorough introduction to the observational data and theoretical concepts underlying modern astronomy. Generously illustrated, it covers the essentials of modern astrophysics, emphasizing the common physical principles that govern astronomical phenomena, and the interplay between theory and observation, while also introducing subjects at the forefront of modern research, including black holes, dark matter, dark energy, and gravitational lensing.

In addition to serving as a course textbook, *Astrophysics in a Nutshell* is an ideal review for a qualifying exam and a handy reference for teachers and researchers.

- The most concise and current astrophysics textbook for science majors—now expanded and fully updated with the latest research results
- Contains a broad and well-balanced selection of traditional and current topics
- Uses simple, short, and clear derivations of physical results
- Trains students in the essential skills of order-of-magnitude analysis
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- Contains instructive problem sets at the end of each chapter
- Solutions manual (available only to professors)

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Editorial Review

Review

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Praise for the first edition: "Dan Maoz aims to provide a concise guide to the subject for advanced science undergraduates. The essentials of modern astrophysics are covered, from traditional topics such as stellar remnants and galaxies to recent research including dark matter and dark energy, while training students in order-of-magnitude analysis."--***Times Higher Education***

Praise for the first edition: "Maoz makes generous and excellent use of back-of-the-envelope calculations and approximations to the more complete theory, accurate enough to both illustrate the physics and to arrive at decent numerical answers. . . . Lots of material is squeezed into this thin volume. The treatment of stellar physics is particularly insightful; other topics--galaxies and galactic structure and cosmology--are also very well done."--**K. L. Schick, *Choice***

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Praise for the first edition: "This is, without a doubt, one of the best books that I have used for an introductory course in astrophysics over the past decade. The book is unique in providing a pedagogical and authoritative overview of all the important topics in present-day astrophysics with mathematical rigor. The equations are self-contained and well explained, and the results are derived in a concise, factual manner with careful attention to details. My students, teaching assistant, and I have all found the book to be outstanding."--**Avi Loeb, Harvard University**

Praise for the first edition: "*Astrophysics in a Nutshell* introduces the serious student to the tools, diversity, and power of modern astrophysical theory. In one panoramic volume, both text and reference, the author presents and applies essential concepts and equations, introducing the methods by which we seek to understand the inner workings of the cosmos. It will make a useful addition to the libraries of novice and pundit alike."--**Adam Burrows, Princeton University**

Praise for the first edition: "*Astrophysics in a Nutshell* is just that--a no-nonsense, fast-paced textbook that authoritatively covers the concepts underlying modern astronomy at an advanced undergraduate level. Dan Maoz does a remarkably good job of presenting the widest range of material that can be reasonably contained in a serious one-semester course. The book's scholarship is excellent and fully up to date."--**Greg Laughlin, University of California, Santa Cruz**

Praise for the first edition: "I have nothing but praise for this textbook. It is a significant contribution to a field that is short on introductions to astronomy for science majors. *Astrophysics in a Nutshell* fills a basic need."--**Lynne Hillenbrand, California Institute of Technology**

"The book is outstanding and belongs on all physics professors' desks and in all colleges and libraries."--***Choice***

About the Author

Dan Maoz is the George S. Wise Professor at Tel-Aviv University, where he chairs the School of Physics and Astronomy.

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