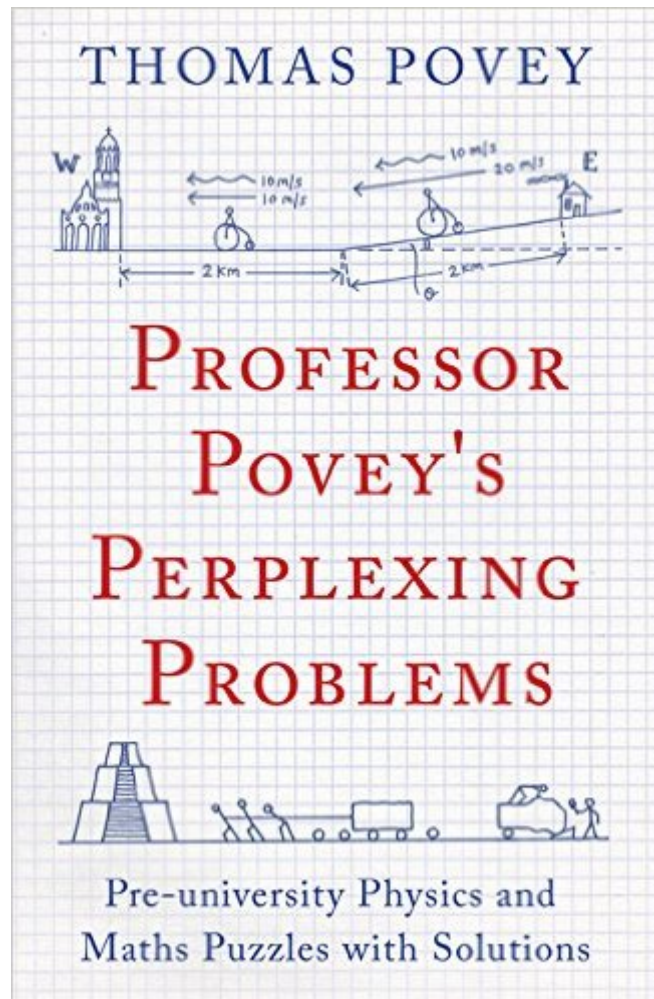


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Professor Povey's Perplexing Problems: Pre-university Physics And Maths Puzzles With Solutions



Synopsis

In Professor Povey's Perplexing Problems, Thomas Povey shares 109 of his favorite problems in physics and maths. A tour de force of imagination and exposition, he guides us through uncompromisingly challenging territory that expands our minds and encourages a playful and exploratory approach to study. "The puzzles," he says, "are like toys. We should pick up the one we most enjoy, and play with it." Whether you are an aspiring scientist or an old-hand, pitting yourself against these problems will test your ability to think, and inspire you with curiosity and enthusiasm for physics. Presented with charm and wit, the questions span the gap between high-school and university-entrance standard material. Detailed answers are lightened with a fascinating and refreshing blend of scientific history, application and personal anecdote. On this delightful and idiosyncratic romp through pre-university maths and physics, the author shows us that behind every single one of these questions lies a new way of thinking about subjects we thought we had understood. He argues that engaging with the unfamiliar is key to forming deeper insights and developing intellectual independence. Professor Povey's Perplexing Problems is a manifesto that science should be playful, and a celebration of the curious.

Book Information

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Oneworld Publications (September 15, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1780747756

ISBN-13: 978-1780747750

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 1.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #178,914 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 in Â Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Math Games #2871 in Â Books > Education & Teaching > Higher & Continuing Education #3326 in Â Books > Science & Math > Mathematics

Customer Reviews

Professor Povey's Perplexing Problems: Pre-University Physics and Maths Puzzles with Solutions by Thomas Povey and published by Oneworld Publications, 10 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3SR, England, pp. x + 374, (2015), \$26.99, paperback, ISBN:

978-1-78074-775-0. Here we have 14 chapters listed as topics that one would expect in any

introductory physics textbook with problems/puzzles related to the physics topic. In total there are 104 problems, e.g. there are 17 under Geometry, 12 under Mathematics and Gravity, and anywhere from 3 to 9 under Statics, Dynamics and collisions, Circular motion, Simple harmonic motion, Kinematics, Electricity, Optics, Heat, and Buoyancy & hydrostatics. Then there are chapters on Mad inventions & perpetual motion and Estimation (This chapter is too short so I recommend that you add Guesstimation 2.0 by Lawrence Weinstein to fill in when you get stuck and need a break). Each problem is labelled with from one to four stars (*) indicating the level of difficulty (Not too difficult to exceptionally hard). I found the stars to be well-chosen. Jump to "The Deadly Game of Puzzle Points" at the end of the book to learn how to build up your score perhaps to reach the level of Expert Puzzlist. My advice: because you are going to have to get through all of them eventually, start with the single stars. Many of them you will be already familiar with and you will begin to feel good with your successes. The author, however, has a "mean streak" in that he has some single starred puzzles followed by multiple starred extensions.

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