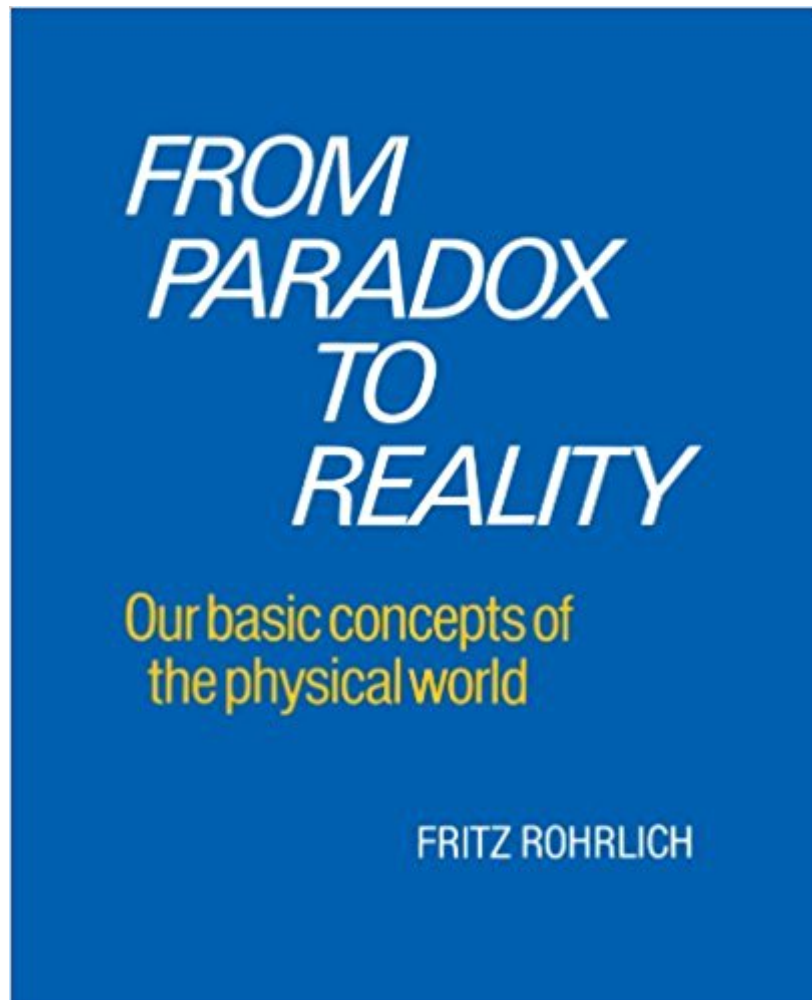




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From Paradox To Reality: Our Basic Concepts Of The Physical World



Synopsis

Using a clear, non-technical style, Professor Rohrlich discusses the two major theories of twentieth-century physics: relativity and quantum mechanics. Discussed conceptually and philosophically, rather than using mathematics, the philosophical issues raised show how new discoveries forced physicists to accept often strange and unconventional notions. He aims to remove the mystery and misrepresentation that often surround the ideas of modern physics and to show how modern scientists construct theories, so that the reader can appreciate their successes and failures and understand problems that are as yet unresolved.

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Customer Reviews

"...an ideal book prize for a budding physics undergraduate." R.V. Cox, School Science "...a text that can help redress a serious problem in the present educational system in the US. It is a response to the science illiteracy that is rampant even among so-called educated Americans. His goal is a worthy one, and this vehicle could be effective in many courses for nonscience students." Physics Today "...I would recommend the book to anyone willing to explore the world of physics and of the physicist of today." Oren Quist, The Physics Teacher

Based on successful courses taught by the author, this work shows how new discoveries forced physicists to resort to unconventional notions to remove the mystery and misrepresentation that often surrounds modern physics.

We use it as a textbook for an introductory level philosophy class (philosophy of space and time), and I think this is a really good choice for that purpose. Narration is easy to follow and the connection between sections is solid not only in terms of chronology but also pedagogically. Beside being a textbook, I also recommend it as daily reading.

This book gives me new angles to look at complex, often lofty topics, especially when one has little experience with the mathematics involved.

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