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*Physics Today* **66** (6), 55–57 (2013);  
<https://doi.org/10.1063/PT.3.2016>



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other subjects discussed by Susskind and Hrabovsky. I loaned her a copy so that I could get a student perspective. She reported back that the book is too elementary and too inconsistent in small ways to be useful to her. It provides a decent overview, but isn't deep enough to help students much with their problem solving, nor is it organized to offer much help in answering conceptual questions, which require little or no algebra or calculus but do require a clear understanding of units, scaling, and what's actually going on.

Another complaint is related to the inconsistencies my student found: The book has a handful of errors that perhaps should have been caught and fixed in the editorial process. A position vector is incorrectly called "the displacement" without adding "from the origin." The natural log is notated as  $\log(x)$  on one page, and as  $\ln(x)$  on another. Those are small errors that I'm sure will be corrected, but they could easily confuse "the professional amateur."

What I am very happy with is the writing itself. The book is a pleasure to read for a physicist already moderately familiar with the concepts—as I expected it to be, given my earlier experiences with Susskind's writings. My

advisee's comments notwithstanding, I also think that many physics majors would find the book useful as an adjunct to a second-year mechanics course. It might not help them solve difficult problems, but it will provide them with a beautiful, high-level overview of the entire subject with a sufficiently complete exposition of the supporting mathematics to ensure that a student who is a bit weak in one or more areas can instantly get up to speed. I look forward to keeping *The Theoretical Minimum* on my shelf to help selected students in exactly that way and occasionally taking it out to read myself.

**Robert G. Brown**  
Duke University  
Durham, North Carolina

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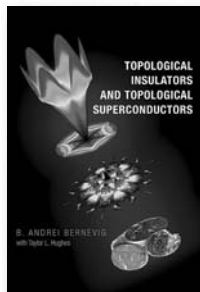


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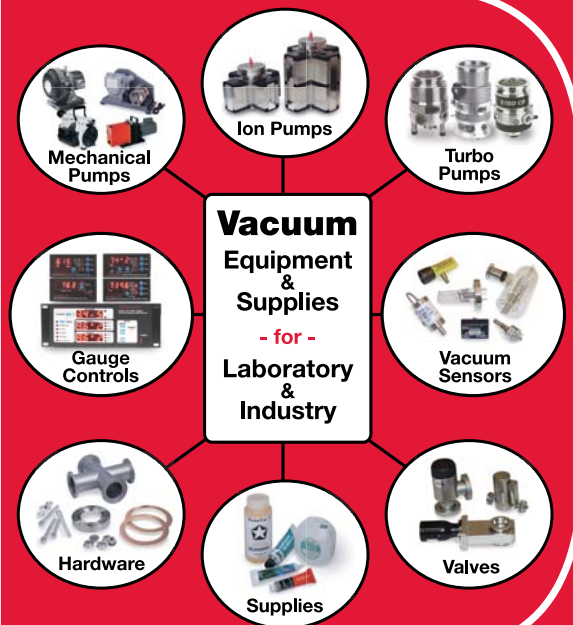
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