


# PHYSICS



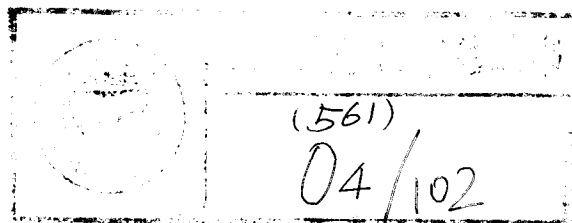
FIFTH EDITION  
PAUL E. TIPPENS

# PHYSICS

FIFTH EDITION

**PAUL E. TIPPENS**

Department of Physics  
Southern Technical Institute



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# PREFACE

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*Physics, 5th edition* is written for the noncalculus physics course designed for students who are pursuing careers in science or engineering technology. It can also be used as the text for many other disciplines where a clear introduction to applications of physical principles is desired. Although a basic understanding of simple algebra and right-triangle trigonometry is assumed, both the text and the appendices provide adequate review. As with the previous editions, it has been a major goal to produce a readable, friendly text that gives a solid foundation in physics without discouraging students who have traditionally been intimidated by the subject. Ideally, the student will consider the text as a study companion, and the instructor will know that important concepts are not compromised.

Regardless of the abilities and charisma of various physics instructors, no one can doubt that each student is ultimately responsible for his or her own learning. The primary goal of any text, therefore, should be to provide the organization, examples, and exercises that lead to understanding and applications. In addition to the popular instructional enhancements offered in previous editions, this edition of *Physics* offers Problem-Solving Strategies throughout the text. These sections are designed to help the student identify the steps in the problem-solving process for many of the examples and problems given in the text. Other improvements include the addition of color, more examples, additional problems, and greater emphasis on the problem-solving process. Entirely new sections have been prepared on gravitation, satellites, Kepler's laws, fiber optics, lasers, and superconductivity. The following features are available in this edition:

1. Clearly stated objectives begin each chapter.
2. Color has been used to highlight certain features and to enhance the appearance of the text.
3. Introductory paragraphs present a rationale and applications.
4. There is extensive use of examples with detailed solutions designed to develop problem-solving skills.
5. Highlighted sections develop general problem-solving strategies for many of the problems at the end of each chapter.
6. Careful selection and use of more than 800 drawings illustrate concepts in a way that complements the boardwork of the instructor.
7. The nonthreatening, informative writing style should enhance learning objectives.
8. Detailed summaries of important concepts and formulas are given at the end of every chapter.
9. More than 500 questions are designed to stimulate thought and to test understanding of basic concepts.
10. More than 1100 carefully selected problems are organized by subject and level of difficulty.

The organization of the text is convenient for both semester or quarter schedules. The treatment of optics is such that it can either precede or follow electromagnetic theory. Typically, those on a semester schedule would cover mechanics, heat, and thermodynamics during the first semester and electricity, magnetism, sound, light, and modern physics during the second semester. On a quarterly basis, the division might be mechanics for the first quarter; heat, light, and sound for the second quarter; and electricity, magnetism, and modern physics for the last quarter. Wherever possible, each chapter has been organized to stand as a complete unit so that the instructor has maximum flexibility to select and organize topics.

The development of the text maximizes the learning process. For example, the treatment of statics precedes the treatment of kinematics. Newton's first and third laws are covered early to provide a qualitative understanding of force, but the second law is delayed until the concepts of free-body diagrams and static equilibrium are understood. This treatment allows each student to develop his or her understanding in a logical and continuous way. Often, when statics is presented in later chapters, a review of the treatment of forces and vectors is needed. Students' familiarity with free-body diagrams, gained with an early treatment of statics, permits more detailed examples with Newton's second law. Those who disagree with this approach will have no difficulty in rearranging topics to present kinematics before statics. The choice of examples and problems allows considerable flexibility. One or two asterisks are placed before problems indicating their difficulty.

*Physics, 5th edition* is supported by a number of ancillary products that were not available in previous editions. For example, a comprehensive test bank of questions, problems, and multiple-choice items is available for those with personal computers, and transparencies are available to supplement classroom instruction. Instructors may obtain a solutions manual in which every problem has been worked in detail to assist in the assignment of appropriate practice problems. All answers have been independently verified. A comprehensive study guide, and a practical laboratory manual are also available for students.

As with any work, there have been many who contributed significantly to the process. The author is indebted to Dr. Russell Patrick, Professor of Physics at Southern College of Technology, for his assistance in preparing the added material on superconductivity and in the development of items to be included in a computer test bank. Scott J. Tippens, Professor of Electrical Engineering Technology at Southern College of Technology, contributed the added material on fiber optics, and Dr. Sam Nalley of Chattanooga State Technical Community College helped verify many of the answers to problems in the fifth edition. The author is grateful to Byron L. Combs, ITT Technical Institute, Portland, Oregon; David E. Craven, Guilford Technical Community College, North Carolina; Jody K. Jorgensen, ITT Technical Institute, Utah; and Catherine A. Johnson, Fox Valley Technical College, Wisconsin who were reviewers.

The author thanks the many people who helped in the preparation of this book including Freida O'Neil-Robinson, the editor, Linda D. Jefferson, the production editor, and Lois Porter, the proofreader. As always, the author thanks the many users of previous editions for their critical reviews and comments. Comments, suggestions, and criticisms are always welcome from readers.

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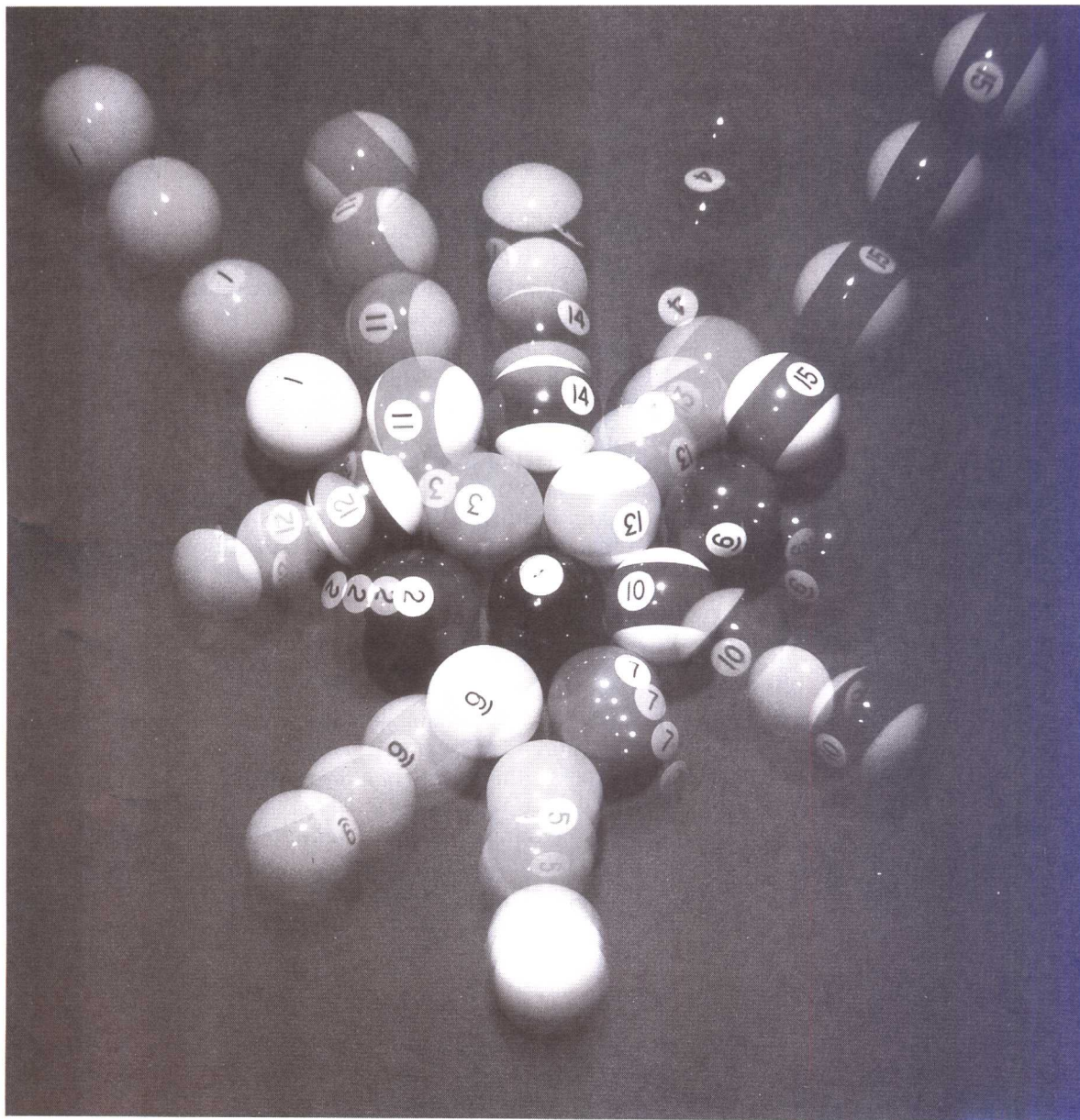
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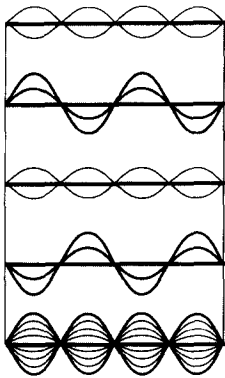
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PART ONE

# MECHANICS





## CHAPTER 1

# INTRODUCTION

A knowledge of physics is essential to an understanding of our world. No other science has been as active in revealing the causes and effects of natural events. A casual glance at our past demonstrates a continuum of experiment and discovery ranging from early measurements of gravity to later conquests of space. By studying objects at rest and in motion, scientists have been able to derive fundamental laws for many applications in mechanical engineering. The investigation of electricity and magnetism produced new sources of energy and new methods of distributing power for the use of mankind. An understanding of the physical principles that govern the production of heat, light, and sound has added countless applications that have served to make us more comfortable and more able to cope with our environment.

It is difficult to imagine a single product available today that does not represent an application of some physical principle. This means that regardless of your career choice, you will need to understand physics in some way. Granted there are some occupations and professions that do not require the depth of understanding necessary for engineering applications, but all fields of work utilize and apply these concepts. With a thorough understanding of mechanics, heat, sound, and electricity, you carry with you the building blocks for almost any career. Should you find it necessary or desirable to change careers either before or after graduation, you will be able to draw from a general base of science and mathematics. By taking this course seriously and by devoting an unusual amount of time and energy, you will have less trouble in the future. In your later coursework, and on the job, you will be riding the crest of the wave instead of merely staying afloat in an angry sea.

### WHAT IS PHYSICS?

Even if you have previously taken courses in high school physics, you probably still have a rather “fuzzy” idea of what *physics* really means and how it might differ, for example, from *science*. For our purpose, the sciences may be divided between *biological* and *physical*. The biological sciences deal with living things. The physical sciences deal primarily with the nonliving sides of nature.

**Physics** can be defined as the science that investigates the fundamental concepts of matter, energy, and space and the relationships between them.

In terms of this broad definition, there are no clear boundaries between the many physical sciences. This is evident from the overlapping fields of biophysics, chemical physics, astrophysics, geophysics, electrochemistry, and so forth.

The goal of this textbook is to provide a basic introduction to the world of physics. The emphasis is on applications, and the broad field of physics will be narrowed to the essential concepts that underlie all technical knowledge. You will study mechanics, heat, light, sound, electricity, and atomic structure. The most basic of these topics, and probably the most important for beginning students, is mechanics.

Mechanics is concerned with the position (statics) and motion (dynamics) of matter in space. *Statics* represents the study of physics associated with bodies at rest. *Dynamics* is concerned with a description of motion and its causes. In each case, the engineer or technician is concerned with measuring and describing physical quantities in terms of their cause and effect.

An engineer, for example, uses physical principles to determine which type of bridge structure will be the most efficient for a given situation. The concern is for the *effect* of forces. If the completed bridge should fail, the cause of failure must be analyzed to apply this knowledge to future construction. It is important to note that by *cause* the scientist means the sequence of physical events leading to an *effect*.

---

## WHAT PART IS PLAYED BY MATHEMATICS?

Mathematics serves many purposes. It is philosophy, art, metaphysics, and logic. These values are subordinate, however, to its main value as a tool for the scientist, engineer, or technician. One of the rewards of a first course in physics is the growing awareness of the relevance of mathematics. A study of physics reveals specific applications of basic mathematics.

Suppose you wish to predict how long it takes to stop a car traveling at a given speed. You might record the initial speed, the change in speed, and the distance and time required to stop the car. When all these facts are recorded, the data might be used to establish a tentative relationship. We cannot do this without the tools of mathematics.

If you completed such an experiment, your measurements plus a knowledge of mathematics would lead you to the following relationship:

$$s = vt + \frac{1}{2}at^2$$

where  $s$  = stopping distance

$v$  = initial speed

$t$  = stopping time

$a$  = rate of change in speed

This statement is a *workable hypothesis*. From this equation we can predict the stopping distance for other vehicles. When it has been used long enough for us to be reasonably sure that it is true, we call it a *scientific*

*theory*. In other words, any scientific theory is just a workable hypothesis that has stood the test of time.

Thus, we can see that mathematics is useful in deriving formulas that describe physical events accurately. Mathematics plays an even larger role in solving such formulas for specific quantities.

For example, in the above formula, it would be a relatively simple matter to find values for  $s$ ,  $v$ , and  $a$  when the other quantities are given, but the solution for  $t$  involves a more specialized knowledge of mathematics. How easily you derive or solve a theoretical relationship depends on your background in mathematics.

A review of the mathematics required for this text is presented in Appendix A. If you are unfamiliar with any of the topics discussed, you should study this appendix carefully. Particular attention should be given to the sections on powers of 10, literal equations, and trigonometry. Skill in applying the tools of mathematics will largely determine your success in any physics course.

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## HOW SHOULD I STUDY PHYSICS?

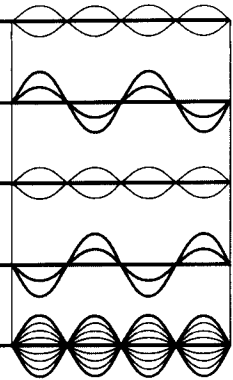
Reading technical material is different from other reading. Attention to specific meanings of words must be given if the material is to be understood. Graphs, drawings, charts, and photographs are often included in technical literature. They are always helpful and may even be essential to the description of physical events. You should study them thoroughly so that you understand the principles clearly.

Much of what you learn will be from classroom lectures and experiments. The beginning student often asks: How can I concentrate fully on the lecture and at the same time take accurate notes? Of course, it may not be possible to understand fully all the concepts presented and still take complete notes. You must learn to note only the significant portions of each lesson. Make sure you listen attentively to the explanation of various topics. Learn to recognize key words like *work*, *force*, *energy*, and *momentum*.

Adequate preparation before class should give you a good idea of which portions of the lecture are covered in the text and which are not. If a problem or definition is in the text, it is usually better to jot down a key word and concentrate fully on what the instructor is saying. These notes can be expanded later.

Organization skills and study habits are essential to success in a beginning physics course. Therefore, you should compile a neat and comprehensive notebook using both lectures and the textbook as source material. At the risk of being too specific, the author recommends a loose-leaf filler notebook with dividers. Possible sections might be labeled as *hand-outs*, *exams*, *problems*, *labs*, and *notes*. If your study materials are well organized, it will be easier for you to successfully review for tests.

# TECHNICAL MEASUREMENT AND VECTORS



## OBJECTIVES

*After completing this chapter, you should be able to:*

1. Write the base units for mass, length, and time in SI and U.S. Customary System (USCS) units.
2. Define and apply the SI prefixes that indicate multiples of base units.
3. Convert from one unit to another unit for the same quantity when given the necessary definitions.
4. Define a vector quantity and a scalar quantity and give examples of each.
5. Determine the components of a given vector.
6. Find the resultant of two or more vectors.

The application of physics, whether in the shop or in a technical laboratory, always requires measurements of some kind. An automobile mechanic might be measuring the diameter or bore of an engine cylinder. Refrigeration technicians might be concerned with volume, pressure, and temperature measurements. Electricians use instruments that measure electric resistance and current, and mechanical engineers are concerned about the effects of forces whose magnitudes must be accurately determined. In fact, it is difficult to imagine any occupation that is not involved with the measurement of some physical quantity.

In the process of physical measurement, we are often concerned with the direction as well as the magnitude of a particular quantity. The length of a wooden rafter is determined by the angle it makes with the horizontal. The direction of an applied force determines its effectiveness in producing a displacement. The direction in which a conveyor belt moves is often just as important as the speed with which it moves. Such physical quantities as displacement, force, and velocity are often encountered in industry. In this



chapter, the concept of *vectors* is introduced to permit the study of both the magnitude and the direction of physical quantities.

## 2-1

### PHYSICAL QUANTITIES

The language of physics and technology is universal. Facts and laws must be expressed in an accurate and consistent manner if everyone is to mean exactly the same thing by the same term. For example, suppose an engine is said to have a piston displacement of 3.28 liters (200 cubic inches). Two questions must be answered if this statement is to be understood: (1) How is the *piston displacement* measured, and (2) what is the *liter*?

Piston displacement is the volume that the piston displaces, or “sweeps out,” as it moves from the bottom of the cylinder to the top. It is really not a displacement in the usual sense of the word; it is a volume. A standard measure for volume that is easily recognized throughout the world is the liter. Therefore, when an engine has a label on it that reads “piston displacement = 3.28 liters,” all mechanics will give the same meaning to the label.

In the above example, the piston displacement (volume) is an example of a *physical quantity*. Notice that this quantity was defined by describing the procedure for its measurement. In physics, all quantities are defined in this manner. Other examples of physical quantities are length, weight, time, speed, force, and mass.

A physical quantity is measured by comparison with some known standard. For example, we might need to know the length of a metal bar. With appropriate instruments we might determine the length of the bar to be 4 meters. The bar does not contain 4 things called “meters”; it is merely compared with the length of some standard known as a “meter.” The length could also be represented as 13.1 ft or 4.37 yards if we used other known measures.

The *magnitude* of a physical quantity is given by a *number* and a *unit* of measure. Both are necessary because either the number or the unit by itself is meaningless. Except for pure numbers and fractions, it is necessary to include the unit with the number when listing the magnitude of any quantity.

*The **magnitude** of a physical quantity is specified completely by a number and a unit, for example, 20 meters or 40 liters.*

Since there are many different measures for the same quantity, we need a way of keeping track of the exact size of particular units. To do this, it is necessary to establish standard measures for specific quantities. A *standard* is a permanent or easily determined physical record of the size of a unit of measurement. For example, the standard for measuring electrical resistance, the *ohm*, might be defined by comparison with a standard resistor whose resistance is accurately known. Thus, a resistance of 20 ohms would be 20 times as great as that of a standard 1-ohm resistor.

Remember that every physical quantity is defined by telling how it is measured. Depending on the measuring device, each quantity can be