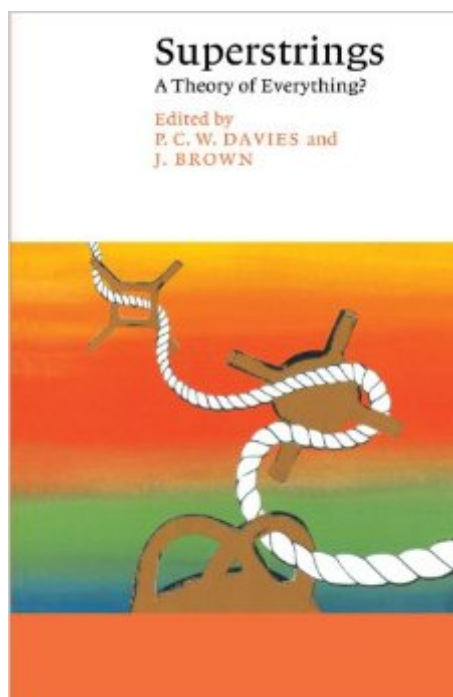


The book was found

Superstrings: A Theory Of Everything? (Canto)



Synopsis

Geared to the layperson, a clear, concise, non-mathematical explanation of the "Theory of Everything" and its profound implications is followed by transcripts of interviews with most of the physicists involved in its development.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This little book is a must for those interested in superstring theory. Those who have read books like "the elegant universe" should complement with this one. It gives a historical perspective, but unfortunately is a bit dated, given that it was originally published in 1988. String theory moves real fast, and a lot of things viewed as problems in the book are now somewhat clarified. The book starts with the best crash-course I have read of modern physics. In just 60 pages, you are introduced to supersymmetry, relativity theory, quantum mechanics, particle physics, superstrings, and other conceptual issues. The main body of the book however, involves interviews with various physicists concerning superstring theory. Green, Gross, Witten, Feynmann, Salam, Weinberg among others all give their points of view of this putative "theory of everything". They talk about the structure of the theory, its limitations in experimentation, its main obstacles, and their personal views of what lies in the future for superstrings. Some main issues come up regularly, like the multidimensional aspect of the theory, the fact that there are various different superstring theories, and issues on topology. Unfortunately this was before some very interesting results that clarify some of these issues. For

example, Calabi-Yau spaces were not in the spotlight, as they currently are. Also, all of this is pre "M-theory". That is, the 5 kinds of theory described (E8*E8 for example) are now linked through "M-theory", so there is no real problem of unification anymore (at least one could see how it comes together, but these issues are still controversial). Also, current theories sometimes use 11 dimensions, whereas in the book 10 dimensions seemed to be the standard.

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