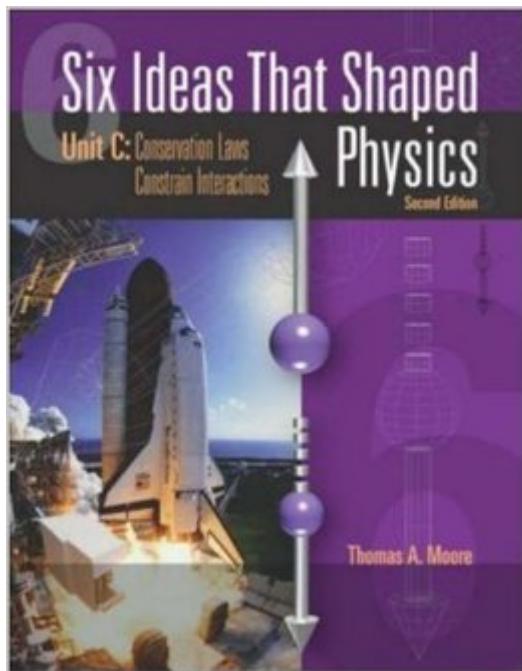


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Six Ideas That Shaped Physics: Unit C: Conservation Laws Constrain Interactions



Synopsis

SIX IDEAS THAT SHAPED PHYSICS is the 21st Century's alternative to traditional, encyclopedic textbooks. Thomas Moore designed SIX IDEAS to teach students: --to apply basic physical principles to realistic situations --to solve realistic problems --to resolve contradictions between their preconceptions and the laws of physics --to organize the ideas of physics into an integrated hierarchy

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Six Ideas That Shaped Physics series is one of those physics textbooks that tries very hard to change how students think about physics. And maybe it represents the start of a new trend in physics education: introducing the great conservation laws of mechanics instead of Newton's laws in an attempt to introduce students to the heart of physics. But on the other hand, the old guard of physics texts, Kleppner's An Introduction to Mechanics and The Feynman Lectures on Physics, are too timeless to put aside. When I picked up Unit C the summer after taking calculus based physics as a high school senior, I was impressed by the approach to mechanics I had never seen before. But after a year of honors introductory physics using the Six Ideas Series in college, my appreciation for Moore's unique textbooks cooled. That is, his books were useful only once. Unit C: Conservation Laws Constrain Interactions covers the bare minimum for any student's physics education: vectors, energy, and linear and angular momentum. Notably, Moore refuses to cover forces in any great extent in his first text of the series, which for a person (like myself) with a strong

introductory physics background, should be highly novel and interesting. However, I can only imagine the complexities this approach presents to a student trying to grasp physics for the first time, and my own experience taught me the book was useless for one who has already gone through it once!

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