

PHYSICS FOR BEGINNERS

A Novice's Guide to the Mysteries of the Universe

by

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Self-published books by Matthew Raspanti, available at amazon.com:

The Virtual Universe – Philosophy, Physics and the Nature of Things
(1998)

Virtualism, Mind and Reality – An Approach to Untangle the
Consciousness Problem (2008)



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PREFACE

I was born in 1924 in New York City. When I was seven, however, my family moved to Sicily. I lived there until I graduated from the University of Palermo with a doctorate in industrial engineering summa cum laude. After returning to the States in 1947, I earned a master's degree in electrical engineering from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. Starting in 1954, I was a member of the technical staff at world-renowned Bell Labs for 35 years; for the last 24, as a department head. My fields of interest were the hardware and software of computers and computer-controlled telephone switching systems, fields in which I did also part-time college-level teaching for a number of years. I hold three patents, and am an associate member of the research fraternity Sigma Xi. I retired in 1990.

For many years, I have been a great admirer of physics, its quest, methods and achievements. After retiring, I decided I would revisit physics both for my own sake and to write about it in a book for lay readers. I tried to have the book published but without success. I then moved on to other projects that had been sparked in the meantime by my writing. The book lay dormant for years in my computer hard-drive. I distributed copies to a few people, and their reactions confirmed my own expectation that the book can be very helpful to a beginner.

To make the book available to as many interested people as possible, I have decided to offer it free in digital form on the Internet. I have e-mailed copies to several people, and plan to make it available at a website of mine, where it will be downloadable at no cost. The book can be freely printed for personal use, or forwarded to others.

I will greatly appreciate any feedback, most particularly if something is found that would be unacceptably wrong, even in a book for beginners, where a few "poetical" licenses are unavoidable, or even desirable for the sake of clarity.

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