

The Physics of



The Physics of applications of physics principles

To show students that physics has a widespread impact on their lives, we have included a large number of applications of physics principles. Many of these applications are not found in other texts. The most important ones are listed below along with the page number locating the corresponding discussion. They are identified in the text of the page on which they occur with the label **The Physics of**. Biological or medical applications are marked with an icon in the shape of a caduceus . The discussions are integrated into the text, so that they occur as a natural part of the physics being presented. It should be noted that the list is not complete. There are many additional applications that are discussed only briefly or that occur in the homework questions and problems.

CHAPTER 1

Body mass index 4

CHAPTER 2

Catapulting a jet 36

Spacecraft retrorockets 39

CHAPTER 3

The “hang time” of a football 67

Raindrops falling on car windows 75

CHAPTER 4

Seat belts 87

Automatic trailer brakes 92

The human skeleton 97

Rock climbing 103

Walking 106

Traction for the foot 108

CHAPTER 5

A bobsled track 133

A trapeze act 135

Flying an airplane in a banked turn 137

The Daytona International Speedway 139

The Hubble Space Telescope 140

The Global Positioning System 140

Locating a black hole 141

Digital satellite system TV 141

Apparent weightlessness 143

Artificial gravity 143

The loop-the-loop motorcycle stunt 146

CHAPTER 6

Weight lifting 157

An ion propulsion drive 160

A giant roller coaster 171

Human metabolism 174

Transforming chemical energy in food into mechanical energy 177

A compound bow 178

CHAPTER 7

Measuring the speed of a bullet 201

CHAPTER 8

Synchronous communications satellites 217

A total solar eclipse 217

“Crack-the-whip” 223

CHAPTER 9

The Achilles tendon 242

Bodybuilding 246

The static stability factor and rollover 249

Wheelchairs 256

Archery and bow stabilizers 257

A spinning skater 263

A satellite in an elliptical orbit 264

CHAPTER 10

A tire pressure gauge 277

A loudspeaker diaphragm 281

A body-mass measurement device 283

Detecting and measuring small amounts of chemicals 284

A door-closing unit 285

Walking 289

A shock absorber 291

High tides at the Bay of Fundy 292

Surgical implants 293

Bone structure 293

Bone compression 294

Bungee jumping 300

CHAPTER 11

Lynx paws 312

Blood pressure 315

Pumping water 316

A sphygmomanometer 317

A hydraulic car lift 318

A state-of-charge battery indicator 322

A Goodyear airship 322

A clogged artery 327

An enlarged blood vessel 331

Household plumbing 332

Airplane wings 333

A curveball 333

Pipeline pumping stations 337

A hypodermic syringe 337

CHAPTER 12




Thermography 351

An antiscalding device 353





Thermal stress 354

An automatic coffee maker 355




The overflow of an automobile radiator 358

Ice formation and the survival of aquatic life 359 
 Bursting water pipes 359
 Steam burns 367 
 High-tech clothing 367
 A dye-sublimation color printer 368
 Spray cans 371
 Evaporative cooling of the human body 372 
 Relative humidity 372
 Fog formation 373
 A home dehumidifier 373

CHAPTER 13

Heating and cooling by convection 385
 Thermals 385
 An inversion layer 386
 Rapid thermal exchange 386 
 The windchill factor 387 
 Dressing warmly 389
 Heat transfer in the human body 389 
 Layered insulation 391
 Protecting fruit plants from freezing 392
 Summer clothing 394
 A white sifaka lemur warming up 394 
 A wood-burning stove 396
 Rating thermal insulation by R values 398
 Regulating the temperature of an orbiting satellite 398
 A thermos bottle 399
 A halogen cooktop stove 399







CHAPTER 14

Gemstones 408
 Oxygen in the lungs 410 
 Rising beer bubbles 411
 Scuba diving 412
 Drug delivery systems 420 
 Water loss from plant leaves 422 

CHAPTER 15

A heat engine 443
 Extracting work from a warm ocean 446
 Thermal pollution 447
 Refrigerators 448
 Air conditioners 448
 Heat pumps 449

CHAPTER 16

Waves on guitar strings 471
 A loudspeaker diaphragm 474
 A touch-tone telephone 474
 An ultrasonic ruler 477
 Sonar 478
 Cataract surgery 479 
 NEXRAD 489
 Ultrasonic imaging 490 
 The cavitron ultrasonic surgical aspirator 491 
 Bloodless surgery with HIFU 491 
 The Doppler flow meter 491 
 Hearing 491 






CHAPTER 17

Noise-canceling headphones 505
 Wiring the speakers in an audio system 507
 Loudspeakers 509
 Tuning a musical instrument 511
 The frets on a guitar 515
 A flute 517
 A spectrum analyzer 520




CHAPTER 18

Electronic ink
 Adhesion
 Shielding electronic circuits
 Xerography
 A laser printer
 An inkjet printer



CHAPTER 19

Random-access memory (RAM) chips
 A computer keyboard
 An electronic flash attachment for a camera
 A defibrillator 
 An action potential 
 Electrocardiography 
 Electroencephalography 
 Electroretinography 

CHAPTER 20


Electrical extension cords
 Impedance plethysmography 
 A heating element on an electric stove
 Personal digital assistants
 A joystick
 Main and remote stereo speakers
 A three-way light bulb
 Automobile batteries
 An automobile electrical system
 An ammeter
 A voltmeter
 Heart pacemakers 
 Windshield wipers
 Safe electrical grounding
 The physiological effects of current 

CHAPTER 21




Navigation in animals 
 A velocity selector
 A mass spectrometer
 A loudspeaker
 A direct-current electric motor
 Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) 
 Television screens and computer display monitors
 Detecting fingerprints
 Magnetic tape recording
 A magnetically levitated train

CHAPTER 22






An automobile cruise control
 A ground fault interrupter

An induction stove
 The electric guitar pickup
 A tape-deck playback head
 Microphones
 An electric generator
 A bike generator
 Operating a motor
 Transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) 
 Transformers


CHAPTER 23

Body-fat scales 
 Transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) 
 A heterodyne metal detector
 A semiconductor diode
 Light-emitting diodes (LEDs)
 A fetal oxygen monitor 
 Rectifier circuits
 Solar cells
 Transistors



CHAPTER 24



Radio and television reception
 Cochlear implants 
 Wireless capsule endoscopy 
 Astronomy and the electromagnetic spectrum
 A pyroelectric ear thermometer 
 AM and FM radio reception
 A microwave oven
 The greenhouse effect 
 Radar speed traps
 Astronomy and the Doppler effect
 IMAX 3-D films
 A liquid crystal display (LCD)
 Polaroid sunglasses
 Butterflies and polarized light 

CHAPTER 25


Digital movie projectors and micromirrors
 Capturing solar energy with mirrors
 Automobile headlights
 Makeup and shaving mirrors
 A head-up display for automobiles
 Passenger-side automobile mirrors
 Keratometers 

CHAPTER 26

Rearview mirrors
 Why a diamond sparkles
 Fiber optics
 Endoscopy 
 Arthroscopic surgery 
 Rainbows
 A camera
 A slide or film projector
 A magnifying glass
 The human eye 

Nearsightedness 
 Farsightedness 
 The compound microscope
 The telescope

CHAPTER 27

Nonreflecting lens coatings
 The Michelson interferometer
 Producing computer chips using photolithography
 Comparing human eyes and eagle eyes 
 A diffraction grating
 A grating spectroscope
 Retrieving information from compact discs
 and digital video discs
 The three-beam tracking method for compact discs
 X-ray diffraction






CHAPTER 28

The Global Positioning System and special relativity
 Space travel and special relativity





CHAPTER 29

Charge-coupled devices and digital cameras
 A safety feature of garage door openers
 Photoevaporation and star formation
 Solar sails and spaceship propulsion



CHAPTER 30

Neon signs and mercury vapor street lamps
 Absorption lines in the sun's spectrum
 X-rays
 CAT scanning 
 The laser
 A laser altimeter
 PRK eye surgery 
 LASIK eye surgery 
 Removing port-wine stains 
 Photodynamic therapy for cancer 
 Holography

CHAPTER 31

Radioactivity and smoke detectors
 Gamma Knife radiosurgery 
 An exercise thallium heart scan 
 Brachytherapy implants 
 Radioactive radon gas in houses 
 Radioactive dating
 Radiation detectors

CHAPTER 32

The biological effects of ionizing radiation 
 Nuclear reactors
 Magnetic confinement and fusion
 Inertial confinement and fusion
 PET scanning 
 An expanding universe
 "Dark energy"