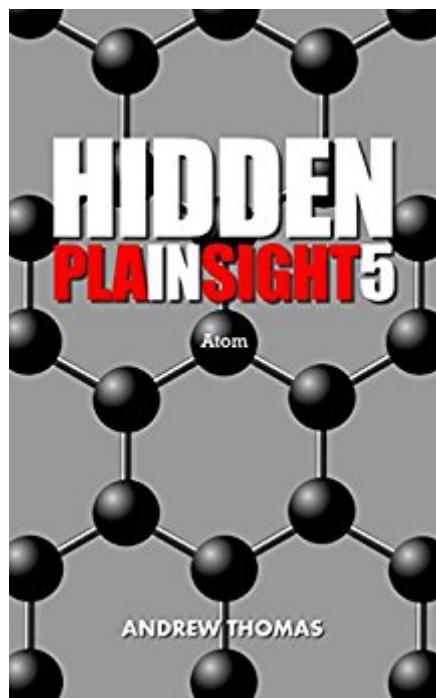


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Hidden In Plain Sight 5: Atom



Synopsis

An introduction to the principles of particle physics. Solve the 100-year-old mystery which the great physicist, Paul Dirac, believed linked atoms to the secret of the entire universe.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The first part of "Hidden in Plain Sight 5" is a very good description and explanation of quantum mechanics. It starts with a very clear and well-written derivation of the Dirac Equation, using the first principles on which Special Relativity is based. Here, Dr. Thomas introduces a bit of matrix algebra, which some readers might find a bit off-putting without having a fairly strong mathematical background. He provides the best explanation I've ever read about the origin of spin, and provides a clear visual demonstration of how an electron rotates 720 degrees to return to its original spin state. After that brief introduction, the book goes into gauge theory, where Dr. Thomas explains the rationale for the forces of nature as consequences of symmetries. There is nothing particularly new here, but the book does provide an excellent foundation for what follows next: the Standard Model of Particle Physics. Here, Dr. Thomas provides a very sensible and logical explanation for why there

are so many "fundamental" particles. This is his underlying theme: Nothing exists without a purpose. However, at times the "rules" of the SM seem kind of arbitrary. For example, he doesn't explain the basis for the rule that requires $(n^2 - 1)$ gauge bosons for each position of a symmetry wheel. Thus, it remains a mystery why $(3^2 - 1) = 8$ gluons are required for the SU(3) symmetry corresponding to the 3 colors of quarks, and why there are $(2^2 - 1) = 3$ bosons for the weak force governed by the SU(2) symmetry of the top and bottom quarks. The final part of the book delves into some pretty wild speculation involving quantum gravity, which is interesting if you're up for it. In fact, Dr. Thomas suggests that some readers may find some of the conjectures put forth a little hard to swallow, so he suggests maybe skipping over that part. Anyway, as in some of his other "Hidden in Plain Sight" books, Dr. Thomas puts forth the claim that unlocking the mysteries of black holes is the key to unifying quantum physics and General Relativity. Unfortunately, I'm not a believer in black holes -- I refer to the papers published by Abbas Mitra, which show that the mass of a black hole, M , is not a free parameter but an eigenvalue of sorts; according to Mitra, the Schwarzschild equation is only valid for $M = \text{Zero}$. J. Robert Oppenheimer and the author of GR, Albert Einstein, came to similar conclusions in the 1930s; i.e., a mass simply won't "fit" within its Schwarzschild radius. Further evidence for the non-existence of black holes is the AMPS paradox, which turned the physics community upside-down and still hasn't been satisfactorily resolved. Even the Godfather of Black Holes himself -- Stephen Hawking -- has wobbled a bit lately, admitting publicly that black holes "may not exist." So I'm more than a little skeptical of Dr. Thomas' claims that black holes can "unify" GR and QM and the universe we live in is inside a black hole. Despite pure speculation toward the end of the book, I would recommend purchasing "Hidden in Plain Sight 5." At the very least, it's well-written, concise, easy to read, and it provides very clear rationales supporting orthodox QM and the Standard Model of Particle Physics. <https://sites.google.com/site/amateurscientistessays/>

I have all 5 of the "Hidden in Plain Sight" books and I enjoy them all very much. I especially love the historical perspective provided of when, how, why and who developed the various ideas of theoretical physics presented. The explanations of time, space, energy, gravity and how they all interact with each other are presented in a fashion that is easy to understand but contains sufficient detail to be compelling. I highly recommend all of the books for anyone interested in thought provoking reading on how the universe works as well as historical background and the individuals who contributed.

I have read Hidden in Plain Sight 1-5 now as I'm writing this review. I stumbled across this series by

Andrew Thomas a few months ago when I was just looking for something interesting to read, and I have to say that I've been blown out of the water with what I've learned and the theories Thomas has developed that have stuck in my head. Although this particular book was probably my least favorite of the 5 I've read so far it still is a great read. The reason it may be my least favorite, probably has more to do with the fact that some of the concepts he covered were beyond my ability to fully understand or comprehend at this point and time. Still as usual I learned a lot I never knew about particle physics.

Mr Thomas has a knack for explaining the more complex physics in an intuitive manner. His explanation of spin is the best and most clear I've read so far, and I've read many! As in all his books, (I have one of the current six left to read), he painstakingly, but clearly, derives formulas and explains concepts that other authors skim over or botch altogether. Worth the price simply for the clear explanation of the nucleus and the forces acting upon it. I would have enjoyed an explanation of all the quarks as opposed to only the 'major' ones with a cursory mention of the rest. Maybe this could be the topic of a future book of his. ;o) While reading this book, many times I thought how great it would have been to have had it while in college (CEGEP) and university!

Another one of Thomas's great books. Read all six of them to get some really good stuff on the current status of sub- atomic particle physics and its implication on the Universe.

So far I have read all his books, except book seven, and have thoroughly enjoyed them. I sometimes have to reread chapters but am able to eventually grasp the concepts. I enjoy his writing style.

Unfortunately titled as there are countless works that use the same title so these books get lost in the shuffle but I find Mr. Thomas' writing style and clarity of expression to be excellent for conveying the issues. I am working my way through each of the books in turn and I feel I am learning a great deal. The entire series so far is absolutely worth reading. I find these to be a great addition to my ongoing education.

The author presents the complexity of how the particles making up our universe work together to create the reality that we are living today. His fluidity of explanation is impressive and dares to tackle particle physics on a level that most can easily grasp. Most will come away with light-years of

additional knowledge and understanding of the ultra micro universe that we live in. This authors entire series is excellent.

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