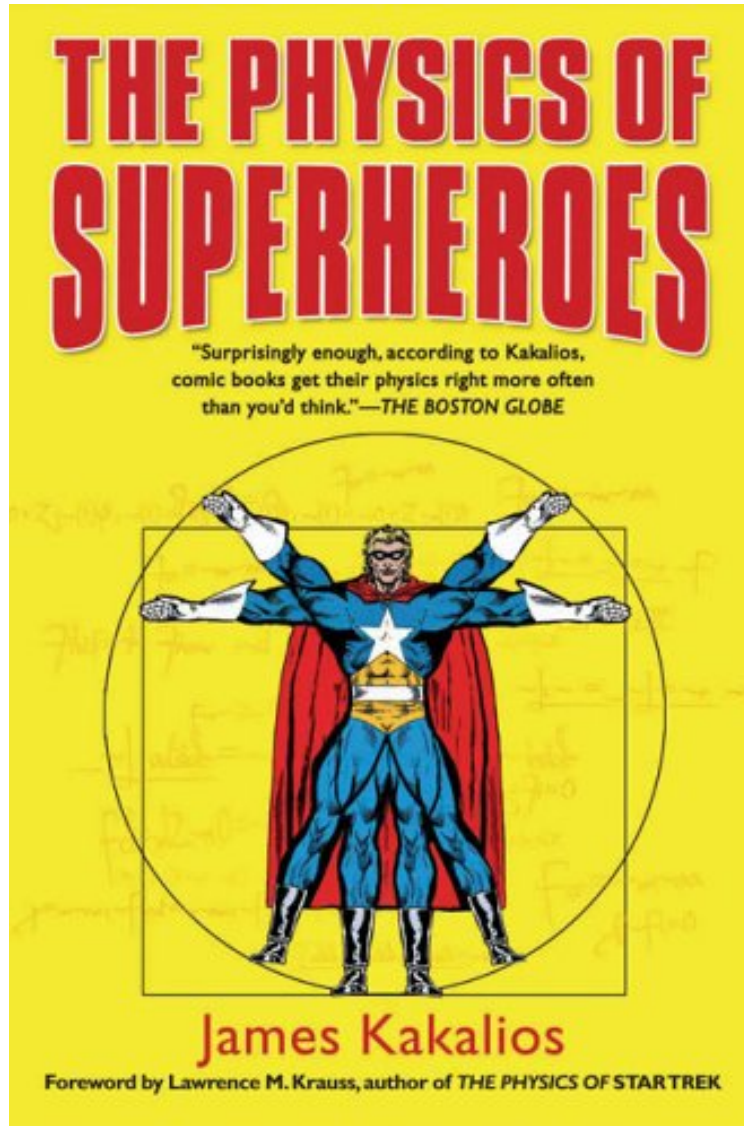


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# The Physics of Superheroes

James Kakalios

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**James Kakalios : The Physics of Superheroes** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Physics of Superheroes:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... physics course that uses this book instead of the terribly dry college physics I took many years agoBy Just another reviewerI wish that I could have taken the author's physics course that uses this book instead of the terribly dry college physics I took many years ago. This is a very fun but also serious book and a wonderful job by the author. (Aside: If you are thinking of taking a standard physics book, you might read this one first; also, my experience as a college student taught me that probably a better thing to do before

taking a standard college physics course would be to take something more fun that uses physics heavily, such as a first astronomy-for-majors course, to develop a stronger reason to be interested in learning physics BEFORE subjecting oneself to the dry way most physicists teach their subject. But better yet, find a way to go up to the University of Minnesota to take this author's course and transfer the credits!)1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fun read!By Brandon HartLoved it! He gets bogged down a little in the science stuff but comes out of it with simple but colorful examples of EXACTLY what is happening when a superhero performs their feat of power. He keeps based in reality though so if you expect him to tell you how Superman flies without wings then you're out of luck.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great informative and fun read for all!By CustomerHe was my junior year In college quantum teacher and he wrote a great, informative book here just alike to his teaching style. A good read for all!

James Kakalios explores the scientific plausibility of the powers and feats of the most famous superheroes and discovers that in many cases the comic writers got their science surprisingly right. Along the way he provides an engaging and witty commentary while introducing the lay reader to both classic and cutting-edge concepts in physics, including: What Supermans strength can tell us about the Newtonian physics of force, mass, and acceleration How Icemens and Storms powers illustrate the principles of thermal dynamics The physics behind the death of Spider-Mans girlfriend Gwen Stacy Why physics professors gone bad are the most dangerous evil geniuses!

From Publishers WeeklyStarred . This terrific book demonstrates a number of important points. First, a subject that everyone "knows" is difficult and boring can, in the hands of a master teacher, be both exciting and fun. Second, it's a myth that only people particularly adept at mathematics can understand and enjoy physics. Third, superhero comic books have socially redeeming qualities. By combining his love for physics with his love of comic books, University of Minnesota physicist Kakalios has written a book for the general reader covering all of the basic points in a first-level college physics course and is difficult to put down. Among many other things, Kakalios uses the basic laws of physics to "prove" that gravity must have been 15 times greater on Krypton than on Earth; that Spiderman's girlfriend, Gwen Stacy, died because his webbing stopped her too abruptly after she plunged from the George Washington Bridge; and that when the Flash runs, he's surrounded by a pocket of air that enables him to breathe. Kakalios draws on the Atom, Iron Man, X-Men, the Ant-Man and the Hulk, among many others, to cover topics as diverse as electromagnetism, quantum mechanics, string theory and thermodynamics. That all of this is accomplished with enough humor to make you laugh aloud is an added bonus. Bw illus. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From the Back CoverPraise for *The Physics of Superheroes* "Surprisingly enough, according to Kakalios, comic books get their physics right more often than youd think." *The Boston Globe* "Writing with tongue firmly planted in cheek, Kakalios looks at classic comics with a physicists eye. . . . Outstanding." *The Orlando Sentinel* "Kakalios, a University of Minnesota physicist and unrepentant comics nerd, offers up jovial, largely equation-free deconstructions of Ant-Mans shrinking ability, the centripetal acceleration of Spider-Mans swing, and the strength of his silk web." *Discover* "Wildly entertaining, yet scientifically accurate Comprises a fairly solid introductory education in physics, sweetened with a history lesson in classic comic book superheroes." *Metro* "Offers a droll but sincere look at what Superman and Spider-Man can teach about physics. . . . Entertaining. . . . His explanations are lucid and smooth." *Science magazine*About the AuthorJames Kakalios is a professor in the School of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Minnesota, where he has taught since 1988, and where his class "Everything I Needed to Know About Physics I Learned from Reading Comic Books" is a popular freshman seminar. He received his Ph.D. in 1985 from the University of Chicago, and has been reading comic books for much longer.