
People and things

Bookshelf

Conceptual Developments of 20th Century Field Theories, by Tian Yu Cao, Cambridge University Press, ISBN 0 521 43178 6 (hbk, £45/\$59.95)

With the mighty edifice of field theory standing as a monument to the achievements of 20th century physics, Dr. Cao's book is the result of more than a decade of diligent striving for academic excellence in the analysis of the evolution of modern field-theoretic ideas. Arriving on the scene, he picked up the accepted wisdom of field theory by the scruff of the neck, shook it hard, so that a few superfluous pieces fell off, and then looked at it from all directions. Rather than being a textbook, it is more a 'historico-critical exposition of the conceptual foundations of the theories'. Its three sections cover first the geometrical approach of relativity, then the quantum field approach with its early successes and its subsequent ups and downs, leading to its revival in the early 1970s, and finally gauge fields, terminating with a deep study of 20th century field theory as an example of how science develops. The book is required reading for any field theorist or admirer of field theory achievements, and already widely acclaimed as a masterly synthesis

Books received

Using REDUCE in High Energy Physics, by A. G. Grozin, Cambridge University Press, ISBN 0 521 56002 0 (hbk, £55/\$80)

The use of the symbolic manipulation language REDUCE, described by a specialist from Novosibirsk.

On people

Lyle H. Schwartz, Director of the Materials Science and Engineering Laboratory at the US National Institute of Standards and Technology, becomes President of Associated Universities Inc, the consortium which operated Brookhaven under contract to the US Department of Energy, succeeding Robert Hughes.

Max Born Prize

Robin Marshall of Manchester receives the 1997 Max Born Prize for his work on particle physics. This prize is awarded by the German Physical Society to a UK physicist in odd-numbered years, and by the UK Institute of Physics to a German physicist in the intervening years.

Chien-Shiung Wu (1912-1997)

Chien-Shiung Wu, one of the giants of modern experimental physics, died of a stroke in New York City on

During her visit to CERN on 24 February, Swiss Federal Councillor and Head of the Home Affairs Department Ruth Dreifuss (left) admired preparations for the LHC proton collider and its experimental programme. She is seen here talking to Felicitas Pauss of ETH Zurich, a member of the CMS experiment for the LHC.

(Photo CERN HI 28/2/97)

