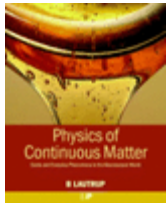


*Physics of Continuous Matter: Exotic and Everyday Phenomena in the Macroscopic World* by B Lautrup, Institute of Physics Publishing, 2005, ISBN 0750307528.



The physics of the continuum underlies much of modern physics, but especially astrophysics and geophysics. This textbook covers the fundamentals of this field, together with the mathematical tools necessary to develop the physical ideas. It does so with frequent reference to real macroscopic examples, often geophysical or astrophysical, and both sets and answers realistic problems.

The whole thrust of the book is that there are problems in the macroscopic world that we cannot solve without understanding the physical principles and applying, then amending, generic methods. Lautrup puts his money where his mouth is, scattering simple sketches, figures and relevant data in the margins through the book, stressing their value in drawing out the underlying principles of a problem. There are also photographs and more formal figures, but it is these sketches that typify the approach that the author wants to foster: seeing the physical patterns that underlie the macroscopic world. This is a text that will find a home on many bookshelves – from the physics undergraduate seeking the fundamentals, to professionals faced with new and diverse phenomena.

*Sue Bowler*

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## Books Received

### Martian meteorology

*The Martian Climate Revisited: Atmosphere and Environment of a Desert Planet* by Peter L Read and Stephen R Lewis, Springer, 2004, ISBN 354040734X.



Mars is fast becoming the most familiar of our planetary companions in the solar system, thanks to the continuing success of ESA and NASA missions that have shown us intriguing images of the surface, cratered and strewn with rubble, with deep chasms and looming volcanoes. This book, however, focuses on the climate of our near neighbour, drawing on advances from missions such as Mars Global Surveyor and the leaps and bounds made by terrestrial climate modelling, to draft a picture of the climate and environment of Mars today.

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