



Rudolf Peierls

More Surprises in Theoretical Physics

PRINCETON SERIES IN PHYSICS

More Surprises In Theoretical Physics

Sadi Turgut

More Surprises In Theoretical Physics:

More Surprises in Theoretical Physics Rudolf Peierls, 2020-06-16 Like its predecessor this book by the renowned physicist Sir Rudolf Peierls draws from many diverse fields of theoretical physics to present problems in which the answer differs from what our intuition had led us to expect. In some cases an apparently convincing approximation turns out to be misleading in others a seemingly unmanageable problem turns out to have a simple answer. Peierls's intention however is not to treat theoretical physics as an unpredictable game in which such surprises happen at random. Instead he shows how in each case careful thought could have prepared us for the outcome. Peierls has chosen mainly problems from his own experience or that of his collaborators often showing how classic problems can lend themselves to new insights. His book is aimed at both graduate students and their teachers. Praise for Surprises in Theoretical Physics: A beautiful piece of stimulating scholarship and a delight to read. Physicists of all kinds will learn a great deal from it. R J Blin-Stoyle, Contemporary Physics.

Surprises in Theoretical Physics Rudolf Peierls, 2020-09-01 Problems in theoretical physics often lead to paradoxical answers yet closer reasoning and a more complete analysis invariably lead to the resolution of the paradox and to a deeper understanding of the physics involved. Drawing primarily from his own experience and that of his collaborators Sir Rudolf Peierls selects examples of such surprises from a wide range of physical theory from quantum mechanical scattering theory to the theory of relativity from irreversibility in statistical mechanics to the behavior of electrons in solids. By studying such surprises and learning what kind of possibilities to look for he suggests scientists may be able to avoid errors in future problems. In some cases the surprise is that the outcome of a calculation is contrary to what physical intuition seems to demand. In other instances an approximation that looks convincing turns out to be unjustified or one that looks unreasonable turns out to be adequate. Professor Peierls does not suggest however that theoretical physics is a hazardous game in which one can never foresee the surprises a detailed calculation might reveal. Rather he contends all the surprises discussed have rational explanations most of which are very simple at least in principle. This book is based on the author's lectures at the University of Washington in the spring of 1977 and at the Institut de Physique Nucléaire, University de Paris Sud, Orsay during the winter of 1977-1978.

From Nuclei To Stars: Festschrift In Honor Of Gerald E Brown Sabine Lee, 2011-07-06 In one way or another Gerry Brown has been concerned with questions about the universe about its vast expanse as well as about its most minuscule fundamental constituents of matter throughout his entire life. In his endeavours to understand the universe in many manifestations from nuclei all the way to the stars he has been influenced by some of the most prominent physicists of the 20th century and he himself in turn has influenced a great many scholars. This volume a collection of articles dedicated to Gerry on his 85th birthday contains discussions of many of the issues which have attracted his interest over the years. The contributions are written by his former students, co-authors, colleagues and admirers and they are strongly influenced by Gerry's own scientific tastes. With this compilation we want to express our respect, admiration and gratitude we want to

celebrate Gerry's scientific and scholarly achievements the inspirational quality of his teaching and the enthusiasm which he himself displayed in his research and which stimulated so many of his students and colleagues over the decades **Sir**

Rudolf Peierls: Selected Private And Scientific Correspondence (Volume 2) Sabine Lee, 2009-05-12 This edition of the private and scientific correspondence of Sir Rudolf Peierls gives a unique insight into the life and work of one of the greatest theoretical physicists of the 20th century Rudolf Peierls' scientific work contributed to the early developments in quantum mechanics and he is well known and much appreciated for his contributions to various disciplines including solid state physics, nuclear physics and particle physics. As an enthusiastic and devoted teacher he passed on his knowledge and understanding and inspired the work of collaborators and students alike. As an effective administrator he was responsible almost single handedly for the establishment of an outstanding successful centre of theoretical physics in Birmingham and later contributed much to theoretical physics in Oxford. A meticulous collector of correspondence Sir Rudolf left a fascinating collection of letters in some cases spanning more than seven decades. This collection includes correspondence with his parents, his wife the Russian born physicist Genia Kannegieser, life long friends such as Hans Bethe and many great physicists including Wolfgang Pauli, Niels Bohr, Werner Heisenberg, Lev Landau and George Placzek to name but a few. The second volume which covers the years 1945 to 1995 contains fascinating documents from the early postwar period when Peierls, like many of his colleagues elsewhere, attempted to rebuild academic life in the aftermath of the Second World War. Materials from the 1950s provide evidence for the significance of the research undertaken by Peierls' group at Birmingham and for the positive impact of his determined implementation of international exchange on the development of theoretical physics. Later documents illustrate the role played by Peierls in nuclear disarmament and as a link between East and West through his own personal contacts and within international organisations such as the Pugwash Movement. The extensive apparatus provides an invaluable background which allows the reader to put the documents into their multi faceted social, political and scientific context.

Sir Rudolf Peierls Sabine Lee, 2009 This edition of the private and scientific correspondence of Sir Rudolf Peierls gives a unique insight into the life and work of one of the greatest theoretical physicists of the 20th century. Rudolf Peierls' scientific work contributed to the early developments in quantum mechanics and he is well known and much appreciated for his contributions to various disciplines including solid state physics, nuclear physics and particle physics. As an enthusiastic and devoted teacher he passed on his knowledge and understanding and inspired the work of collaborators and students alike. As an effective administrator he was responsible almost single handedly for the establishment of an outstanding successful centre of theoretical physics in Birmingham and later contributed much to theoretical physics in Oxford.

Selected Scientific Papers of Sir Rudolf Peierls Rudolf Ernst Peierls, 1997 This book is a collection of the major scientific papers of Sir Rudolf Peierls 1907-95 including the Peierls-Frisch Memoranda of 1940 on the feasibility and the predicted human effects of an atomic bomb made of uranium 235. His papers range widely in topic. They include much on the

fundamentals of solid state physics the thermal and electric conductivity of materials as a function of temperature T especially T 0 the interpretation of the de Haas van Alphen effect observed for a metal in a magnetic field and the basics of transport theory Many are on problems in statistical mechanics including his constructive paper demonstrating the existence of a phase transition for Ising's model for a two dimensional ferromagnet In nuclear physics they include the first calculations with Bethe on the photo disintegration of the deuteron made in response to a challenge by Chadwick the Kapur Peierls theory of resonance phenomena in nuclear reactions the Bohr Peierls Placzek continuum model for complex nuclei which first explained the narrow resonances observed for low energy neutrons incident on very heavy nuclei and the Peierls Thouless variational approach to collective phenomena in nuclei Several of Peierls's wartime papers now declassified are here published for the first time Brief commentaries on most of the papers in this book were added by Peierls to indicate subsequent developments and their relationship with other work or to correct errors found later on A complete bibliography of his writings is given as an appendix [Why Quark Rhymes with Pork](#) N. David Mermin, 2016-01-13 A collection of offbeat entertaining and primarily nontechnical essays on physics and those who practice it from eminent theoretical physicist N David Mermin Bringing together for the first time all thirty of his columns published in Physics Today's Reference Frame series from 1988 to 2009 with updating commentary this humorous and unusual volume includes thirteen other essays many of them previously unpublished Mermin's lively and penetrating writing illuminates a broad range of topics from the implications of bad spelling in a major science journal to the crises of science libraries and scientific periodicals the folly of scientific prizes and honors the agony of getting funding and how to pronounce quark His witty observations and insightful anecdotes gleaned from a lifetime in science will entertain physicists at all levels as well as anyone else interested in science or scientists at the turn of the twenty first century [American Journal of Physics](#) ,1994 [**Symposium**](#) International Astronomical Union,1994 [**Anisotropy and Inhomogeneity in Elasticity and Plasticity**](#) Yves Christian Angel,1993

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