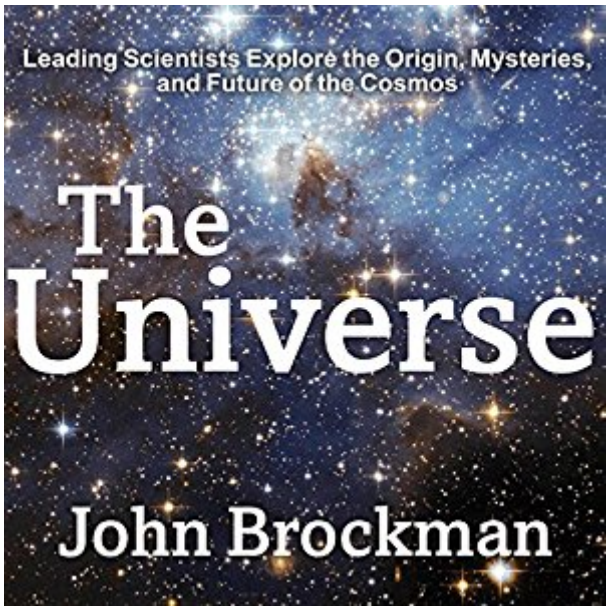
The Universe: Leading Scientists Explore The Origin, Mysteries, And Future Of The Cosmos



Synopsis

In The Universe, today’s most influential science writers explain the science behind our evolving understanding of The Universe and everything in it, including the cutting-edge research and discoveries that are shaping our knowledge. Lee Smolin reveals how math and cosmology are helping us create a theory of the whole universe. Neil Turok analyzes the fundamental laws of nature, what came before the big bang, and the possibility of a unified theory. Seth Lloyd investigates the impact of computational revolutions and the informational revolution. Lawrence Krauss provides fresh insight into gravity, dark matter, and the energy of empty space. Brian Greene and Walter Isaacson discuss Albert Einstein. And much more. Explore The Universe with some of today’s greatest minds: what it is, how it came into being, and what may happen next.

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Customer Reviews

I have always been interested in anything to do with astronomy and cosmology. This 379 page soft cover volume (The Universe edited by John Brockman) has some of the greatest physicists in the world writing about various aspects of cosmology. Each chapter is written by a different scientist. Even though some of the material is difficult to grasp; nevertheless, even a non-scientist will be able to grasp some of the basic principles explained in this text. I have no doubt that this book is probably required reading in many college level course.This book has 21 thought provoking essays. Some of these include the following: A golden age of cosmology. The cyclic universe, the inflationary universe, a balloon producing more balloons, theories of the brane, why does the

universe look the way it does? In the matrix, think about nature, science is not about certainty, Einstein: an edge symposium, Quantum monkeys, and a theory of roughness.This is a book that is not always an easy read but if you are fascinated with the many mysteries about the cosmos these essays will be of interest to you. It touches about numerous scientific principles as it explores the origin and future of the cosmos. I found this book to be an interesting educational lesson in cosmology.Rating: 4 Stars. Joseph J. Truncale (Tactical Principles of the most effective combative systems).

I ask myself for whom this book is written? I think the best answer is a high-school or undergraduate student interested in math, physics, cosmology (or all three) looking for a direction to proceed into one or more of those fields. The first half of the book is heavily biased towards string theory and one or another variation of inflation scenarios that continue to create universes. The value of "the anthropic principle" (things are the way they are because that is the only way we can be here to observe them) to science is hotly debated. In later essays other more general and philosophical issues are discussed. I've been reading about all of this for years so the earlier essays here seem more repetitive to me, a few cosmologists summarizing their positions with respect to one another. But as the book moves along the essays stop addressing one another and begin to raise broadly interesting questions, unsolved riddles, that present day physics and cosmology, even philosophy, wrestle with today.All in all a decent read for anyone wanting some introduction to what this modern cosmology business is all about. Mostly this is about the theoretical side of the field, but the experimental side is addressed frequently as well as it should.

It's said (several times in this book) that Cosmology is living a golden time. Indeed this collection of texts mentions huge ideas and changes that came out in the last 10 or 5 years. All this progresses do not point in the same direction though. On the contrary, there are many different theories and interpretations that describe all sorts of 'realities'. It might be that we live in the only universe it exists and had existedÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| or that multiple universes exist in parallel, or in cycles one after the other, or forming a sort of fractal, with bubbles inside bubbles (pockets) that astonishingly follow a type of evolution by selection akin to life on Earth. These descriptions are based on consequences from different theories, specially different variants of string theory, that is intensively debated in this book. with some of the authors pointing that it's the best and only possible path to continue doing physics in a deeper level, and other rejecting it completely. Two major sub-debates are important: 1.Will string theory someday contact experimental physics?, are string theory hypothesis, and some

of their views, such as the ’landscape’, verifiable and falsifiable? 2. Is the anthropic principle serious science? Not only theories are debated in this book but the very essence of science, of what constitutes a (valid) theory, and, very interestingly, how much philosophy can help on its progress (some authors here actually suggest that unless new philosophical ideas arrive, deep physics will get stuck).I particularly enjoyed the chapter 14 in which Brian Greene and Paul Steinhardt have an intense discussion about the anthropic principle, string theory and the future of cosmology. They have opposite views in all these subjects, and the conversation feels like a chess game played by masters in which the lay person can only feel the intensity and grasp the boldest movements.

I recommended Brockman’s The Universe to friends after reading only the first 3 chapters. Brockman is an anthologist and organizer of conferences. Some of these papers, especially the later ones, may be a decade old - unacceptable for a "2014" book.My scoring:First 5 chapters - 5 stars; really gave me new insightsNext 5 chapters - 4 stars, perhapsNext 5 chapters - 3 stars at bestLast 5 chapters 1 star; I recommend skipping the last 2There are a couple of chapters in the middle that I may have rated too high or too low, but you get the idea.I am writing this in an attempt to claw my way back into book recommendation credibility,

When scientists tell us a story about the promising new theories that they have helped develop, we are in for a treat. This compendium of such stories, told by some of today’s leading theoretical physicists, serves up one treat after the next including a polite philosophical tussle between Brian Greene and Paul Steinhardt. If you’ve ever wondered about where the Universe came from, where it is going, and what answers scientists may have culled from their deep mathematical theories, these storiesÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â ¢explained in clear proseÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â ¢ might just be a sweet treat for your curiosity.

A challenging read, but very interesting for those interested in the theories about the origin of our universe. This book contains almost no math, yet discusses many current theories about the Big Bang.

An elegant book of physicists debating different strucures and laws of our quantum universe!! A great read!!!

The Universe: Leading Scientists Explore the Origin, Mysteries, and Future of the Cosmos DARK

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