

It is this gap in the literature that John Brandt's book fills with notable success. Intended as an intermediate-level reference text, the book provides a comprehensive but highly readable account of the evolution of present-day ideas about the interplanetary medium and its relation to solar activity. The treatment is self-contained, requiring little or no prior knowledge of interplanetary physics. Pertinent supplementary references are listed after each chapter.

I found one of the most rewarding parts of the book to be the opening chapter, in which Brandt traces the history of early thoughts and theories of the interplanetary medium. In my opinion, even most experts in the field of space physics would benefit from reading this brief account of little-known facts.

The obvious place to begin a discussion of the solar wind is at the sun, and the author sets the stage by summarizing current knowledge of classical solar physics. Probably all of the material in chapter 2 is relevant to an understanding of the origin of the solar wind. Upon completing the book, however, I am left with the impression that little reference is actually made to it in subsequent chapters. This is not so much a fault of the book as it is a reflection of our present lack of understanding of the relation of observed solar wind properties to visible features on the sun (a point which, however, Brandt might well have stressed).

Topically, the chapter devoted to basic theory is complete and up to date. Brandt has succeeded in extracting the important physics from many theoretical analyses and presenting it in a concise manner. Occasionally, completeness of argument has been sacrificed for the sake of brevity, which is an unfortunate situation. I was particularly dissatisfied with the section on subsonic versus supersonic solar wind solutions, a topic of such colorful controversy in the technical journals. Brandt's discussion of the subject leaves me unconvinced (apart from observational evidence) that the supersonic solution is the only physically acceptable one.

In the chapters dealing with observations, the author presents representative facts and figures about the average properties of the solar wind and describes in some detail the experimental techniques by which they are obtained. At the same time, he impresses upon the reader the importance of fluctuations of these properties. An important

research problem in the future of solar wind physics will be to relate these fluctuations to the evolution of specific coronal features.

As with any technical book written by an active worker in the field, the book under review shows some tendency to overemphasize the author's own contributions to the subject. I found this to be true especially in the lengthy discussion of ionic comet tails in chapter 4.

*Introduction to the Solar Wind* is basically an excellent, well-organized text. It correctly delineates the most important aspects of modern solar wind research. In the style with which it was written, the book should appeal to readers with a wide variety of technical backgrounds. Each reader, however, expects something different of a book. For instance, I would have liked to see greatly expanded the final chapter, dealing with the impact of the existence of the solar wind on classical astrophysics. Without enlarging the book significantly, this might have been done by condensing the review of solar physics in chapter 2. Certainly new ideas and directions for future research are stimulated by discussions of the type encountered all too briefly in the last 15 pages of the book.

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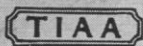
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Fishes, Aquatic Invertebrates, Reptiles, Birds, and Mammals. William Bridges. American Heritage Press, New York, 1970. 288 pp., illus. Cloth, \$6.95; paper, \$2.95.

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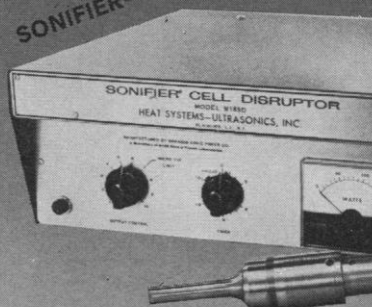
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