



The Physics of Star Trek

By Lawrence M. Krauss

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What warps when you're traveling at warp speed?

What's the difference between a holodeck and a hologram?

What happens when you get beamed up?

What's the difference between a wormhole and a black hole?

What is antimatter, and why does the Enterprise need it?

Are time loops really possible, and can I kill my grandmother before I am born?

Discover the answers to these and many other fascinating questions from a renowned physicist and dedicated Trekker.

Featuring a section on the top ten physics bloopers and blunders in *Star Trek* as selected by Nobel-Prize winning physicists and other devout Trekkers!

"Today's science fiction is often tomorrow's science fact. The physics that underlines *Star Trek* is surely worth investigating. To confine our attention to terrestrial matters would be to limit the human spirit."

--From the foreword by Stephen Hawking

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This book was not prepared, approved, licensed, or endorsed by any entity involved in creating or producing the *Star Trek* television series or films.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Sure, we all know *Star Trek* is fiction, but warp drives and transporters and holodecks don't seem altogether implausible. Are any of these futuristic inventions fundamentally outlawed by physics as we understand it today? *The Physics of Star Trek* takes a lighthearted look at this subject, speculating on how the wonders of *Star Trek* technology might actually work--and, in some cases, revealing why the inventions are impossible or impractical even for an advanced civilization. (Example: "dematerializing" a person for transport would require about as much energy as is released by a 100-megaton hydrogen bomb). *The Physics of Star Trek* deserves merit for providing a refresher course on topics such as relativity and antimatter, but let's face it: the reason most people will want to read this book is simply that it's fun to poke holes in the premises of their favorite science fiction shows!

From Publishers Weekly

Even those who have never watched an episode of *Star Trek* will be entertained and enlightened by theoretical physicist Krauss's adventurous investigation of interstellar flight, time travel, teleportation of objects and the possibility of extraterrestrial life. Case Western Reserve professor Krauss maintains that *Star Trek*'s writers were sometimes far ahead of scientists?and famed astrophysicist Stephen Hawking's foreword, endorsing the possibilities of faster-than-light travel and journeying back in time, supports that notion. On the other hand, Krauss also argues that the show is riddled with bloopers and huge improbabilities, as when the *Voyager*'s crew escapes from a black hole's interior. This informal manual for Trekkers offers a porthole on the wonders of the universe as it ponders the potential existence of aliens, "wormholes" that allow astronauts to tunnel through space, other dimensions and myriad baby universes. \$75,000 ad/promo; BOMC and QPB alternates; Astronomy Book Club dual main selection; Library of Science, Natural Science Book Club and Newbridge Computer Book Club alternates.

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From Library Journal

Although a bit more physics than *Star Trek*, this latest effort from the author of *Fear of Physics* (LJ 10/1/93) is another worthy attempt to coax the TV generation into the esoteric realm of such abstract curiosities as wormholes, time/space curvature, quantum particles, and the Heisenberg uncertainty principle. The strategy of drawing on the enormous familiarity of the *Star Trek* universe seems natural and intriguing, and the book certainly informs and entertains-to an extent. The cultural phenomenon of *Star Trek* is never fully integrated into the book, as the title would imply, with fewer, briefer references and no photos from any of the films or television series that might properly be expected. Krauss does provide memorable descriptions of the immense difficulties facing the actual development of various *Star Trek* technologies, particularly with the prohibitive energy requirement to power starships near or past the speed of light and the rather shocking operations necessary for transporters and replicators. For general readers.

Patrick Dunn, East Tennessee State Univ. Lib., Johnson City

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

John McCord:

As people who live in the modest era should be upgrade about what going on or info even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era that is certainly always change and make progress. Some of you maybe will update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to you is you don't know which one you should start with. This The Physics of Star Trek is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Ray Ellis:

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also get a life style. This reading habit give you lot of advantages. The advantages you got of course the knowledge the actual information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The data you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want attract knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want experience happy read one together with theme for entertaining such as comic or novel. Typically the The Physics of Star Trek is kind of guide which is giving the reader capricious experience.

Hazel Reinoso:

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Joel Barnhardt:

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