

Sink or Float? Thought Problems in Math & Physics (Dolciani Mathematical Expositions)

By Keith Kendig

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Sink or Float: Thought Problems in Math and Physics is a collection of problems drawn from mathematics and the real world. Its multiple-choice format forces the reader to become actively involved in deciding upon the answer. The book s aim is to show just how much can be learned by using everyday common sense. The problems are all concrete and understandable by nearly anyone, meaning that not only will students become caught up in some of the questions, but professional mathematicians, too, will easily get hooked. The more than 250 questions cover a wide swath of classical math and physics. Each problem s solution, with explanation, appears in the answer section at the end of the book.

A notable feature is the generous sprinkling of boxes appearing throughout the text. These contain historical asides or little-known facts. The problems themselves can easily turn into serious debate-starters, and the book will find a natural home in the classroom.

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Sink or Float? Thought Problems in Math & Physics (Dolciani Mathematical Expositions) By Keith Kendig Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1954255 in Books
- Published on: 2008-07-08
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.96" h x .94" w x 6.97" l, 1.10 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 392 pages

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Editorial Review

Review
This book is well written and easy to understand and little is required in the way of a mathematical background. The challenging problems will interest both beginning students and those with a strong mathematical background. Readability is enhanced by over 210 figures and nearly 70 notes which contain historical and related facts. Recommended. --D. P. Turner, Choice

About the Author

Keith Kendig was born in Los Angeles and raised in Santa Monica, California. He attended UCLA, receiving a B.S. in Mathematics in 1960 Summa cum laude, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He received his M.S. in mathematics from UCLA a year later and his Ph.D. from there in 1965, working under Basil Gordon. He subsequently spent two years at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, working with Hassler Whitney.

Kendig wrote the book *Elementary Algebraic Geometry*, published by Springer-Verlag. In 2000, he received the MAA Lester Ford Award for the Mathematical Monthly article *Is a 2000-Year-Old Formula Still Keeping Some Secrets?* In 2005, his book *Conics* appeared in the MAA's Dolciani series. He is currently an associate editor of The Mathematics Magazine and is also on the editorial board of the Spectrum series of MAA books.

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