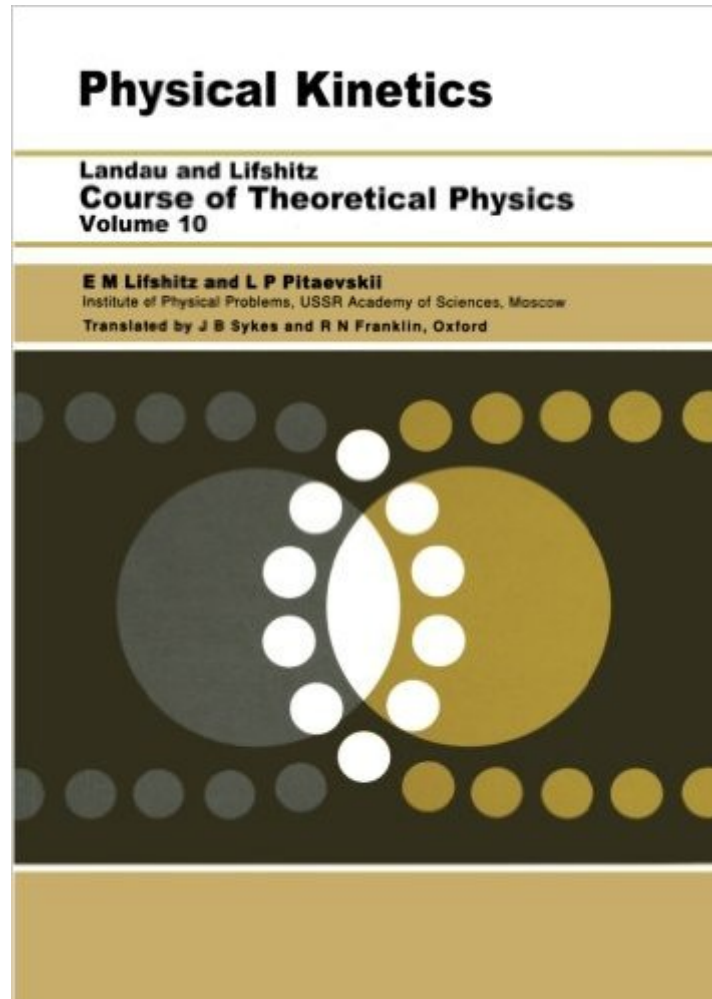


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Physical Kinetics: Volume 10 (Course Of Theoretical Physics S)



Synopsis

This volume is mainly concerned with a systematic development of the theory of plasmas, the authority being firmly rooted in the pioneering work of Landau. Corresponding results are also given for partially ionized plasmas, relativistic plasmas, degenerate or non-ideal plasmas and solid state plasmas.

Book Information

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This is probably the best book written on the physical basis of (classical and quantum) kinetic phenomena. That said, the reader should be aware the book is written in the famous Landau style: derivations are carried out based on strong physical intuition and with minimum mathematical detailing and little rigour; much is expected from the reader. The rewards are high for those who (can) pursue the thing: you will be able to muse your collaborators by deriving all those nonlinear PDEs and at the same time to stand for or against recent experimental data by handwaving arguments (that depends a little bit on your brainware, too...). This book together with the Fluid Mechanics and the Electrodynamics of Continuous Media titles of the same series are almost everything you need to get a solid ground in the study of, e.g., plasma physics.

This book is the volume 10 and the last volume of the great Course of Theoretical Physics by Landau and Lifshitz. It explains in great detail and rigour the theory of the processes occurring in several systems not in statistical equilibrium. The book opens with a complete account of the

transport processes in gases not in equilibrium, certainly the most representative physical system not in equilibrium. The Boltzmann transport equation is derived in a general and elegant way in this chapter. After a second chapter which develops a mathematical technique called the diffusion approximation, the book discusses various processes occurring in several systems not in equilibrium, notably the processes occurring in plasmas. Other systems, such as insulators, quantum liquids, metals etc are discussed. In a final chapter, it develops the kinetics of phase transitions, in a magnificent and concise form. Really this is a superb book, where the reader will learn with detail all these subjects.

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