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Book Review: Planetary Rings: A Post-Equinox View 2nd Ed

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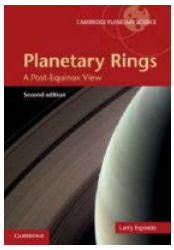
Planetary rings : a post-equinox view 2nd ed



Esposito, Larry W. Cambridge, 2014

246p bibl index, 9781107028821 $120.00
LC Call Number: QB603

Esposito (Univ. of Colorado Boulder) brings to this updated and expanded edition (1st ed., 2006) a comprehensive review of planetary rings recast in the light of the most recent NASA planetary missions, especially the extended Cassini mission to Saturn, on which he was one of the principal investigators. In the past decade or so, rings have been discovered to be the norm rather than the exception in planetary systems. They may seem to be a narrowly focused specialty within the planetary sciences, but Esposito shows they are a rich testing ground for orbital mechanics and theories of planetary formation and evolution, not only for the solar system, but also for the thousands of exoplanets now known to be orbiting many nearby stars. Without getting bogged down in mathematical details, the author provides enough rigor to make this an excellent primer for students and professionals new to the field, as well as knowledgeable laypersons. Moreover, it offers a framework for the next round of planetary explorations via space missions and planned ultra-large-aperture, ground-based telescopes that will be commissioned during the coming decade. Supported by an online collection of beautiful NASA images, this is a critical resource for anyone interested in planetary sciences.

Summing Up: Essential. Lower-division undergraduates and above; informed general audiences.

Reviewer: T. D. Oswalt, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Recommendation: Essential
Readership Level: General Readers, Lower-division Undergraduates, Upper-division Undergraduates, Graduate Students, Researchers/Faculty, Professionals/Practitioners
Interdisciplinary Subjects:
Subject: Science & Technology - Astronautics & Astronomy
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