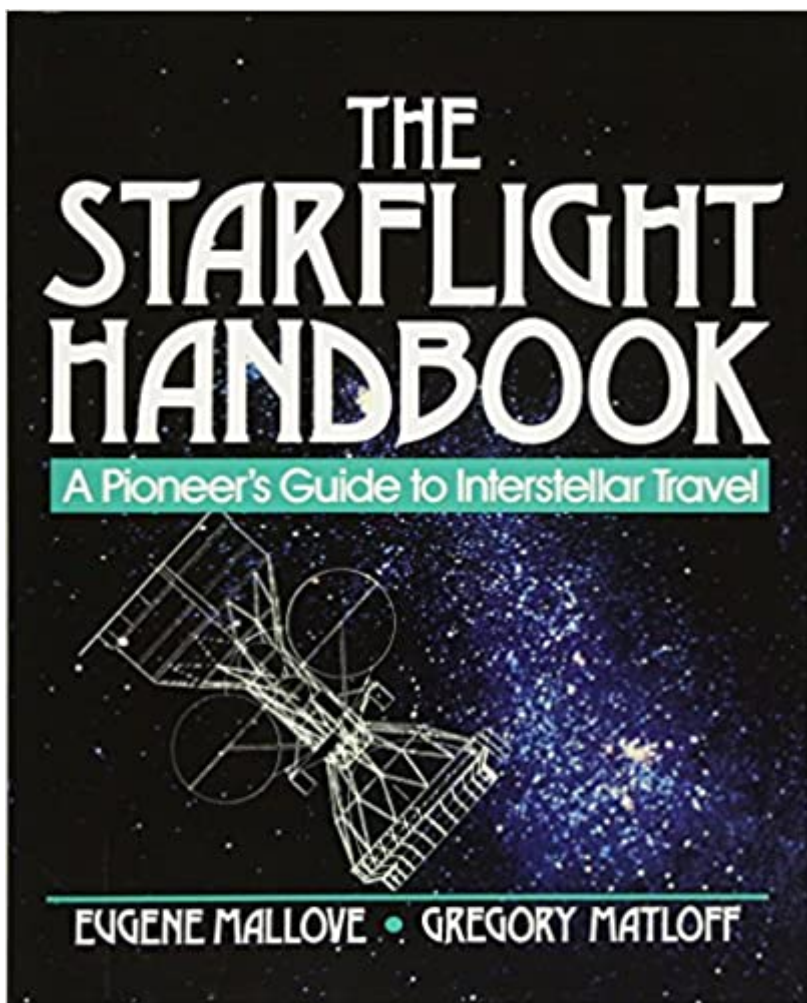


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The Starflight Handbook: A Pioneer's Guide To Interstellar Travel



Synopsis

The Starflight Handbook A Pioneer's Guide to Interstellar Travel "The Starflight Handbook is an indispensable compendium of the many and varied methods for traversing the vast interstellar gulf--don't leave the Solar System without it!" --Robert Forward "Very sensible, very complete and useful. Its good use of references and technical 'sidebars' adds to the book and allows the nontechnical text to be used by ordinary readers in an easy fashion. I certainly would recommend this book to anyone doing any thinking at all about interstellar flight or the notion of possibilities of contacts between hypothetical civilizations in different star systems." --Louis Friedman Executive Director, The Planetary Society The Starflight Handbook is the first and only compendium on planet Earth of the radical new technologies now on the drawing boards of some of our smartest and most imaginative space scientists and engineers. Scientists and engineers as well as general readers will be captivated by its: * In-depth discussions of everything from nuclear pulse propulsion engines to in-flight navigation, in flowing, non-technical language * Sidebars and appendices cover technical and mathematical concepts in detail * Seventy-five elegant and enlightening illustrations depicting starships and their hardware

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Customer Reviews

The first popular compilation, in book form, of scientific and engineering knowledge about interstellar travel. A working guide for the would-be star traveler, this book concentrates on current and proposed propulsion systems that might be applied to starflight. Provides a compendium of

interstellar concepts, formulas, and reference material, including discussions of interstellar navigation, communication systems for sending data, relativistic effects in starflight, and effects of the interstellar medium. Mathematical and other detailed technical developments are separated from the main text, relegating them to accessible boxes that can be glanced over.

From the Tower of Babel to the Starship Enterprise, some part of our collective mind has always been at work scheming of ways to storm the heavens and reach the stars. Now, as we approach a time when the future of our species may depend upon more than what our beautiful but meager portion of galactic real estate offers, we are, fortunately, closer than ever to fulfilling that age-old ambition. But beyond the known planets, our closest extrasolar neighbor is 270,000 times more distant than the Sun, and bridging the vast distances to the fertile worlds that may lay beyond our Solar System will require radically new technologies—technologies as different from current capabilities as was Apollo 11 from The Spirit of St. Louis. The technological revolution that began in 1957, when Sputnik I pierced the atmosphere and made its way into Earth orbit, is really only the prelude to the much grander story of interstellar travel. The Starflight Handbook is the first compendium on planet Earth of the many and varied approaches to starflight now on the drawing boards of some of our most talented scientists and engineers. In an easy, nontechnical style, the authors offer in-depth discussions of everything from nuclear pulse propulsion engines to interstellar navigation systems, while detailed technical and mathematical information is reserved for sidebars and special appendices. Interwoven through the text are historical perspectives as well as related social and cultural considerations about the necessity and feasibility of starflight within the next quarter to half century. Generous coverage is given to interstellar propulsion schemes of all kinds; space-time problems in starflight; long-range, star to Earth communications; effects of the interstellar medium on people and machines; scientific payloads; interstellar arks and colonies; and techniques for spotting extrasolar planets. Throughout, the text is liberally sprinkled with elegant and enlightening illustrations depicting many of the ingenious and fantastic designs for starships and their hardware. The Starflight Handbook belongs on the shelf of anyone who has ever given thought to mankind's destiny in space. Specialists and laymen, astronomers, and science fiction buffs alike will appreciate its wealth of detailed information and its graphic presentations.

A hidden gem of a book. If you have ever wondered about traveling through interstellar space, this is your book. Loads of examples, basic mathematics on the fundamentals of propulsion technologies, navigations, and other stuff that needs to be accounted for. And while the book is

dated (1988), it is still a great primer about understanding the topic better.

Great book that discusses many futuristic aspects of spaceflight, from near future technologies all the way to the far-fetched ideas that push the laws of physics. The book is relatively old so some of the information is outdated, but is still a great read for anyone interested in spaceflight and the technical aspects behind it. I'm an Aerospace Engineering student, so when I get done with all my projects and homework I rarely have the energy to read a textbook. This book is written in a manner that makes it enjoyable to read, and has technical asides for those with the science background to understand them.

I loved this book. It is a perfect introductory text for anyone who is interested in the science of interstellar travel.

Very interesting!

This is a good, entertaining story. Nothing like having a good book that you look forward to reading in your spare time.

Very good read! Full of ideas for interstellar travel and the science and math to back each case. The only reason it doesn't get 5 stars is because some sections are pretty dated (the book published in 1988).

A bet over my head with math but a cool book.

Advanced concepts are in the book but more focus should have been on imaginative diagrams than math formulas.

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