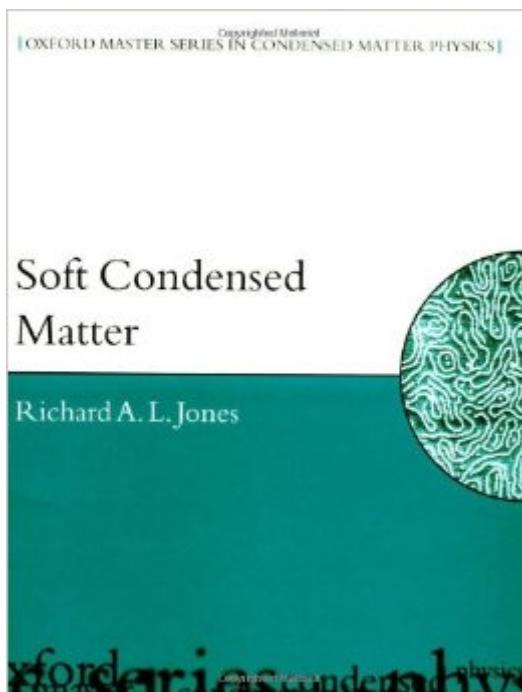


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Soft Condensed Matter (Oxford Master Series In Condensed Matter Physics, Vol. 6)



Synopsis

Probably one of the most fashionable areas in the physical sciences today, Soft Condensed Matter provides an excellent introduction to the topic, and includes colloids, polymers, liquid crystals, and amphiphiles. It is suitable for advanced undergraduate and beginning graduate students of physics, chemistry, materials science and chemical engineering.

Book Information

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The chapters are written in straightforward language, conveying essential ideas and fundamentals in very readable manner. The book illustrates how one can convey complex ideas in simple words and yet capture all intricacies of the subject. The book is self contained introduction to colloids, polymers, liquid crystals, self-assembly, crystallization, glass transition, phase behavior and gelation. I have not encountered a better book that presents such a rich overview of these vastly different yet interrelated domain of condensed matter physics in less than 200 pages. Since the book was written fairly recently, it presents a very modern understanding of described topics. The book by Chaikin and Lubensky (~700 pages) is the one written for anyone interested in meaty details, and equations in their full grandeur. Strobl's recent book on condensed matter is another excellent text and presents lots of physics in very well written graduate level text. But to taste and tempt into soft matter, Jones book definitely is the one to pick!

We use this book in our masters course of soft matter physics. The strength is that it is the only book I know that covers so many aspects of soft matter physics. However, many of the derivations

are quite unclear and hard to follow in my opinion. I usually have to spend a lot of time actually figuring out what the author means and do calculations by myself. There are also some typos etc. but I know this is hard to avoid entirely (I wrote a book myself so I know). It would be nice to see an improved new release of this book in the future.

This book excels at giving you a qualitative view on soft matter and discusses briefly some of the mathematics involved. However, it has some typos and contradicting statements in the discussion versus the summary of the section which confuses the reader.

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