



Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of Genius

By Hans C. Ohanian



Download



Read Online

Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of Genius By Hans C. Ohanian



Get Print Book

“A thought-provoking critique of Einstein’s tantalizing combination of brilliance and blunder.”?Andrew Robinson, *New Scientist*

Although Einstein was the greatest genius of the twentieth century, many of his groundbreaking discoveries were blighted by mistakes, ranging from serious errors in mathematics to bad misconceptions in physics and failures to grasp the subtleties of his own creations. This forensic biography dissects Einstein’s scientific mistakes and places them in the context of his turbulent life and times. In lively, accessible prose, Hans C. Ohanian paints a fresh, insightful portrait of the real Einstein at work, in contrast to the uncritical celebrity worship found in many biographies.

Of the approximately 180 original scientific papers that Einstein published in his lifetime, about 40 are infested with mistakes. For instance, Einstein’s first mathematical proof of the famous formula $E = mc^2$ was incomplete and only approximately valid; he struggled with this problem for many years, but he never found a complete proof (better mathematicians did). Einstein was often lured by irrational and mystical inspirations, but his extraordinary intuition about physics permitted him to discover profound truths despite?and sometimes because of?the mistakes he made along the way. He was a sleepwalker: his intuition told him where he needed to go, and he somehow managed to get there without quite knowing how.

As this book persuasively argues, the defining hallmark of Einstein’s genius was not any special mathematical ability but an uncanny talent to use his mistakes as stepping stones to formulate his revolutionary theories. 25 illustrations



[Download Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of Ge ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of ...pdf](#)

Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of Genius

By Hans C. Ohanian

Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of Genius By Hans C. Ohanian

“A thought-provoking critique of Einstein’s tantalizing combination of brilliance and blunder.”?Andrew Robinson, *New Scientist*

Although Einstein was the greatest genius of the twentieth century, many of his groundbreaking discoveries were blighted by mistakes, ranging from serious errors in mathematics to bad misconceptions in physics and failures to grasp the subtleties of his own creations. This forensic biography dissects Einstein’s scientific mistakes and places them in the context of his turbulent life and times. In lively, accessible prose, Hans C. Ohanian paints a fresh, insightful portrait of the real Einstein at work, in contrast to the uncritical celebrity worship found in many biographies.

Of the approximately 180 original scientific papers that Einstein published in his lifetime, about 40 are infested with mistakes. For instance, Einstein’s first mathematical proof of the famous formula $E = mc^2$ was incomplete and only approximately valid; he struggled with this problem for many years, but he never found a complete proof (better mathematicians did). Einstein was often lured by irrational and mystical inspirations, but his extraordinary intuition about physics permitted him to discover profound truths despite?and sometimes because of?the mistakes he made along the way. He was a sleepwalker: his intuition told him where he needed to go, and he somehow managed to get there without quite knowing how.

As this book persuasively argues, the defining hallmark of Einstein’s genius was not any special mathematical ability but an uncanny talent to use his mistakes as stepping stones to formulate his revolutionary theories. 25 illustrations

Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of Genius By Hans C. Ohanian Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #556178 in Books
- Published on: 2009-11-09
- Released on: 2009-11-09
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.20" h x 1.00" w x 5.50" l, .70 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 416 pages

 [Download Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of Ge ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of Genius By Hans C. Ohanian

Editorial Review

From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

In *Einstein's Mistakes*, Hans C. Ohanian draws on his own background in physics to gleefully point out some of Einstein's more glaring errors. That part of the book is solid, and readers will find a capable guide in Ohanian. What might be less engaging is the author's fast-and-loose writing style (Van Gogh became a great artist "when he went bonkers") and a tendency to botch some of the historical facts (related to Einstein's research, his Nobel Prize, and so forth) that underpin much of the narrative. Still, the book's ambitious scope—when calling out Einstein, writers weak of heart need not apply—and Ohanian's self-assured reportage make this a worthwhile read. Bring your thinking cap.

Copyright 2008 Bookmarks Publishing LLC

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review In this “forensic biography,” Ohanian shows astonished readers that the most brilliant scientist of the twentieth century was frequently found making—in his own words—“a sacrifice on the altar of stupidity.” The great physicist’s admirers may already know that Einstein foolishly defied the quantum revolution he helped launch. The well-informed may even know something of Einstein’s disastrous missteps in his personal life. But it will come as a revelation to most readers that scientists have identified serious flaws in four of the five papers that established Einstein’s reputation during his annus mirabilis of 1905. Ohanian drops an even bigger bombshell in documenting Einstein’s repeated failure to provide a valid proof for his most famous equation: $E = mc^2$. More surprising than the number and severity of Einstein’s errors, however, is the mystifying way the Berne genius reached correct—even revolutionary—conclusions despite these mistakes. In strange ways, some of Einstein’s blunders (such as the synchronization error in his “Special Relativity” paper) actually helped him achieve theoretical breakthroughs. Drawing on Arthur Koestler’s provocative analysis of Kepler, Ohanian characterizes Einstein as a similarly charmed sleepwalker whose profound intuition guided him to epoch-making conclusions along tortured pathways. A compelling portrait of a titan who stumbled his way into immortality. --Bryce Christensen

Review

“Recounts [Einstein’s] chronicle of errors in clear and engaging prose, giving us in the process a short course in the history of modern physics and a witty and provocative account of the subject’s life.” (Darrin M. McMahon - Wall Street Journal)

“The book’s quixotic approach?retelling Einstein’s story by homing in on his blunders?makes for good intellectual entertainment. . . . [It] kept me eagerly turning the pages.” (George Johnson - Los Angeles Times)

“A wonderful story that is well worth taking the time to read....We get a short course in this history of modern physics, one that is well-written and entertaining as well.” (Alan S. McRae - Mathematical Reviews)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alysha Johnson:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book specifically book entitled Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of Genius the mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe unknown for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a reserve then become one type conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get ahead of. The Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of Genius giving you a different experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful information for your better life in this era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

Fred Dean:

This Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of Genius is great book for you because the content that is full of information for you who always deal with world and also have to make decision every minute. This particular book reveal it details accurately using great arrange word or we can say no rambling sentences within it. So if you are read the item hurriedly you can have whole info in it. Doesn't mean it only will give you straight forward sentences but hard core information with beautiful delivering sentences. Having Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of Genius in your hand like having the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous one. We can say that no publication that offer you world inside ten or fifteen second right but this guide already do that. So , this is certainly good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt that?

Robert Carroll:

In this period globalization it is important to someone to find information. The information will make you to definitely understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of recommendations to get information example: internet, magazine, book, and soon. You can observe that now, a lot of publisher that print many kinds of book. The particular book that recommended to you is Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of Genius this book consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented how does the world has grown up. The dialect styles that writer require to explain it is easy to understand. The actual writer made some research when he makes this book. That's why this book appropriate all of you.

Robert Russell:

Don't be worry for anyone who is afraid that this book will certainly filled the space in your house, you could have it in e-book approach, more simple and reachable. This Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of Genius can give you a lot of friends because by you considering this one book you have point that they don't and make you actually more like an interesting person. This book can be one of one step for you to get success. This e-book offer you information that maybe your friend doesn't realize, by knowing more than additional make you to be great individuals. So , why hesitate? We need to have Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of Genius.

Download and Read Online Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of Genius By Hans C. Ohanian #IAKHQ18N654

Read Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of Genius By Hans C. Ohanian for online ebook

Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of Genius By Hans C. Ohanian Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of Genius By Hans C. Ohanian books to read online.

Online Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of Genius By Hans C. Ohanian ebook PDF download

Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of Genius By Hans C. Ohanian Doc

Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of Genius By Hans C. Ohanian Mobipocket

Einstein's Mistakes: The Human Failings of Genius By Hans C. Ohanian EPub