Consider a Cylindrical Cow

More Adventures in Environmental Problem Solving

JOHN HARTE

Mike J. Barnsley

Consider a Cylindrical Cow John Harte, 2001-02 This book uses real problems in environmental sciencerather than relying on the more traditional cookbook problems found in textbooks Following in the tradition of Consider a Spherical Cow the Cylindrical Cow will help students achieve a whole new level of environmental modeling and problem solving Featuring a new core set of 25 fully worked out problems this book uses real problems in environmental science rather than relying on the more traditional cookbook problems found in textbooks It is organized according to five thematic sections on probability optimization scaling differential equations and stability feedback Each section begins with a general treatment of the relevant mathematical concepts and concludes with a range of homework exercises to help students sharpen their modeling skills Like its predecessor this book will empower students with the mathematical skills needed to cut through the complexity of real world problems Critical Skills for Environmental Professionals Jennifer Pontius, Alan McIntosh, 2019-12-20 This textbook focuses on a set of skills based learning outcomes common among undergraduate environmental programs It covers critical scientific skills and ways of thinking that bridge the gap between the knowledge based content of introductory environmental textbooks and the professional skills students of the environment need to succeed in both their academic programs and professional careers This emphasis on skills is gaining more traction among academic programs across the country as they shift focus from knowledge delivery to learning outcomes and professional competencies. The book features clear methodological frameworks engaging practice exercises and a range of assessment case studies suitable for use across academic levels For introductory levels this text uses guided practice exercises to expose students to the skills they will need to master At the capstone level this text allows students to apply the knowledge they have gained to real world issues and to evaluate their competency in key programmatic learning outcomes A detailed answer key with rubrics customized for specific questions and sample answers at various competency levels is available to verified course instructors Access to these answer key resources can be obtained by contacting the Springer Textbook Team at Textbooks springer com Consider a Spherical Cow, second edition John Harte, Maxine Singer, 2024-03-06 This textbook teaches how to make and derive useful insight from relatively simple models of many seemingly complex environmental problems facing our world today This new edition of Consider a Spherical Cow teaches basic mathematical modeling skills that are widely applicable to a huge range of environmental problems facing the world today Organized both by modeling tools and environmental topics this innovative book includes 56 posed problems and worked out solutions Readers will find introductions to topics extensive pedagogic material explaining how to use the relevant modeling tools and opportunities to think more deeply about or confirm steps in the provided solutions This new edition includes 101 new quantitative homework exercises an appendix compendium of updated environmental data a glossary and a bibliography plus entirely new sections on probability toxics radiation and radioactivity and epidemics With wide topical coverage Harte teaches the math step by step in the context of actual posed

environmental problems emphasizes limitations and strengths of models and describes practical applications to real problems and situations Along with the many worked out problems discussion questions and quantitative problems are provided as exercises for the reader The book emphasizes creative applications of math to environmental science not plug in Naturally Dangerous James P. Collman, 2001-09-21 Examines the scientific facts behind claims about the safety or dangers of organic and commercial foods natural herbs modern medicine and the environment Dimensional Analysis Across the Landscape of Physics Richard W. Robinett, 2025-01-20 Aimed at students throughout the undergraduate Physics curriculum this textbook emphasizes the utility of dimensional analysis techniques in research applications with examples ranging from famous papers in the historical literature to recent advances and includes an extensive array of worked examples and end of chapter problems Environmental Modeling Mike J. Barnsley, 2007-02-13 Increasingly used to represent climatic biogeochemical and ecological systems computer modeling has become an important tool that should be in every environmental professional s toolbox Environmental Modeling A Practical Introduction is just what it purports to be a practical introduction to the various methods techniques and skills required for computerized environmental modeling Exploring the broad arena of environmental modeling the book demonstrates how to represent an environmental problem in conceptual terms formalize the conceptual model using mathematical expressions convert the mathematical model into a program that can be run on a desktop or laptop computer and examine the results produced by the computational model Equally important the book imparts skills that allow you to develop implement and experiment with a range of computerized environmental models. The emphasis is on active engagement in the modeling process rather than on passive learning about a suite of well established models. The author takes a practical approach throughout one that does not get bogged down in the details of the underlying mathematics and that encourages learning through hands on experimentation He provides a set of software tools and data sets that you can use to work through the various examples and exercises presented in each chapter as well as presentational material and handouts for course tutors Comprehensive and up to date the book discusses how computational models can be used to represent environmental systems and illustrates how such models improve understanding of the ways in which environmental systems function **Exercises in Environmental Physics** Valerio Faraoni, 2007-01-15 The study of environmental physics requires understanding topics from many di erent areas of physics as well as comprehension of phy cal aspects of the world around us Several excellent textbooks are available covering most aspects of environmental physics and of appli tions of physics to the natural environment from various points of view However while teaching environmental physics to university students I sorelymissed abookspeci cally devoted to exercises for the environmental science student. Thus the motivation for this book came about as in physics as well as in many other disciplines satisfactory knowledge of a subject cannot be acquired without practice Usually students are not familiar with the various areas of physics that are required to describe both the environment and the human impact upon it

At the same time students need to develop skills in the manipulation of the ideas and c cepts learned in class Therefore this exercise book is addressed to all levels of university students in environmental sciences Because of the wide range of potential users this book contains both calculus based and algebra based problems ranging from very simple to advanced ones Multiple solutions at di erent levels are presented for certainproblems thestudentwhoisjustbeginningtolearncalculuswill bene t from the comparison of the di erent methods of solution The material is also useful for courses in atmospheric physics environmental aspects of energy generation and transport groundwater hydrology soil physics andoceanphysics andselected parts may even be used for basic undergraduate physics courses. This collection of exercises is based on courses taught at the University of Northern British Columbia and at the University of Victoria Canada Biologist's Toolbox Marc Mangel, 2006-07-27 Mathematical modelling is widely used in ecology and evolutionary biology and it is a topic that many biologists find difficult to grasp In this new textbook Marc Mangel provides a no nonsense introduction to the skills needed to understand the principles of theoretical and mathematical biology Fundamental theories and applications are introduced using numerous examples from current biological research complete with illustrations to highlight key points Exercises are also included throughout the text to show how theory can be applied and to test knowledge gained so far Suitable for advanced undergraduate courses in theoretical and mathematical biology this book forms an essential resource for anyone wanting to gain an understanding of theoretical ecology and evolution Radiation and Climate Michael A. Box, Gail P. Box, 2015-10-14 Our current climate is strongly influenced by atmospheric composition and changes in this composition are leading to climate change Physics of Radiation and Climate takes a look at how the outward flow of longwave or terrestrial radiation is affected by the complexities of the atmosphere's molecular spectroscopy This book examines the planet in **Energy at the Crossroads** Vaclav Smil, 2005-02-11 An objective comprehensive and accessible examination of today s most crucial problem preserving the environment in the face of society s insatiable demand for energy In Energy at the Crossroads Vaclav Smil considers the twenty first century s crucial question how to reconcile the modern world s unceasing demand for energy with the absolute necessity to preserve the integrity of the biosphere With this book he offers a comprehensive accessible guide to today s complex energy issues how to think clearly and logically about what is possible and what is desirable in our energy future After a century of unprecedented production growth technical innovation and expanded consumption the world faces a number of critical energy challenges arising from unequal resource distribution changing demand patterns and environmental limitations The fundamental message of Energy at the Crossroads is that our dependence on fossil fuels must be reduced not because of any imminent resource shortages but because the widespread burning of oil coal and natural gas damages the biosphere and presents increasing economic and security problems as the world relies on more expensive supplies and Middle Eastern crude oil Smil begins with an overview of the twentieth century s long term trends and achievements in energy production He then

discusses energy prices the real cost of energy and energy linkages the effect energy issues have on the economy on quality of life on the environment and in wartime He discusses the pitfalls of forecasting giving many examples of failed predictions and showing that unexpected events can disprove complex models And he examines the pros and cons not only of fossil fuels but also of alternative fuels such as hydroenergy biomass energy wind power and solar power Finally he considers the future focusing on what really matters what works what is realistic and which outcomes are most desirable

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