
BOOK REVIEW

Experiments in Electronics by S. V. Subrahmanyam, (published by Macmillan India Ltd., 2/10, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi 110 002), 1983, pp. 358, Price Rs. 38.

The field of Electronics is characterised by the phenomenal advances in fundamental discoveries and the resultant experimental growth in the technology. The lead time from a concept to the commercial product is uncomfortably small. Perhaps Electronics is the only area wherein skills and knowhow gained become irrelevant in a short period of time. This calls for a continuous updating of the teaching programmes to ensure that the Engineers and Scientists do not graduate with irrelevant methods and skills. It is much harder, in the Indian context, to keep pace with changing needs at the level of laboratory training, which is so central to the teaching programmes in Electronics. But without such a constant updating of the laboratory training programmes, there is the danger of converting the subject of Electronics into a descriptive one. It is in this context, the effort of Prof. S. V. Subrahmanyam has a special significance. This book would be a very useful instructional aid to all teaching programmes in Electronics at the level of MSc. and B.E.

The seventy experiments presented in this book are

classified into ten chapters: (1) Passive Elements, (2) Active Devices, (3) Power Supply Systems, (4) Amplifiers, (5) Oscillators, (6) Operational Amplifiers, (7) Digital Electronics, (8) Experiments with Cathode Ray Oscilloscope, (9) Electronic Instruments and (10) Communications. Each experiment has been divided into five coordinated sections; objectives, outline of the theory of experiment, the equipment required, and a set of questions. The material is presented in a format that is self-explanatory and the student should be able to conduct the experiments.

The main emphasis in all the experiments is to make the student familiar with the theory of networks, devices and circuits. The student will be able to verify his understanding of the analysis of the circuits. Even the questions, at the end of each experiment, were designed to verify this aspect. If the experiments, at least the advanced ones, are more design-oriented the book would have been much more valuable. After all, the final goal in any course on Electronics is to enable the student to design electronic circuits.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

STUDYING SCIENCE

... "For most working scientists, excursions into the history of science are rather like eating Easter eggs a harmless amusement, enjoyed by the very young and the very old, but strictly for holidays . . . in the past 25 years or so, study of the history of science has changed out of all recognition, in a word it has been 'professionalized'. It is taught in several hundred universities in the Western world. A new breed of professionals, equally hungry for knowledge and anxious to display their skills, sustain a whole range of specialists journals and societies. Whatever be the causes (and they are complex), the professionalisation of history of science and history of technology has not

only given the subject its most substantial boost so far but has also posed new problems. The raising of professional standards of scholarship really does mean that the 'old' history of science is no longer adequate. It simply will not do, for instance, for books to be produced without references, adequate documentation or an index. Popular works that ignore such aids to the reader will have only the most limited value nowadays." (Reproduced with permission from *Press Digest, Current Contents*® No. 35, August 27, 1984, p. 11, Copyright by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia PA, USA).