**Physics** is the [natural science](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_science) that studies [matter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matter),[[a]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physics#cite_note-2) its [fundamental constituents](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elementary_particle), its [motion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motion_(physics)) and behavior through [space and time](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spacetime), and the related entities of [energy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Energy) and [force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Force).[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physics#cite_note-maxwell1878-physicalscience-3) Physics is one of the most fundamental [scientific](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science) disciplines, and its main goal is to understand how the [universe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universe) behaves.[[b]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physics#cite_note-4)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physics#cite_note-youngfreedman2014p1-5)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physics#cite_note-youngfreedman2014p2-6)[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physics#cite_note-holzner2003-physics-7)

Physics is one of the oldest[academic disciplines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_discipline)and, through its inclusion of[astronomy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astronomy), perhaps the oldest.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physics#cite_note-krupp2003-8)Over much of the past two millennia, physics,[chemistry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemistry),[biology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biology), and certain branches of[mathematics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematics)were a part of[natural philosophy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_philosophy), but during the[Scientific Revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_Revolution)in the 17th century these natural sciences emerged as unique research endeavors in their own right.[[c]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physics#cite_note-10)Physics intersects with many[interdisciplinary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interdisciplinarity)areas of research, such as[biophysics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biophysics)and[quantum chemistry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum_chemistry), and the boundaries of physics are not[rigidly defined](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demarcation_problem). New ideas in physics often explain the fundamental mechanisms studied by other[sciences](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physics#cite_note-youngfreedman2014p1-5)and suggest new avenues of research in academic disciplines such as mathematics and[philosophy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophy).

Advances in physics often enable advances in new [technologies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technology). For example, advances in the understanding of [electromagnetism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electromagnetism), [solid-state physics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solid-state_physics), and [nuclear physics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_physics) led directly to the development of new products that have dramatically transformed modern-day society, such as [television](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Television), [computers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer), [domestic appliances](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domestic_appliance), and [nuclear weapons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_weapon);[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physics#cite_note-youngfreedman2014p1-5) advances in [thermodynamics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thermodynamics) led to the development of [industrialization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrialization); and advances in [mechanics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mechanics) inspired the development of [calculus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calculus)

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