



## Physics of Baseball & Softball

By Rod Cross



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This book describes the physics of baseball and softball, assuming that the reader has a basic background in both physics and mathematics. The physics will be explained in a conversational style, with words and illustrations, so that the explanations make sense. The book provides an excellent opportunity to explain physics at a relatively simple level, even though the primary objective is to explain the many subtle features concerning the physics of baseball. For those readers who already know quite a bit of physics and who will be comfortable with mathematical equations, additional material of this nature will be provided in appendices. The latest research findings and statistical data have been incorporated by the author. The book also contains many simple experiments that the reader can perform to convince themselves that the effects described do indeed exist.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

From the reviews:

“Provide the clearest and most extensive explanation of what happens the instant bat meets the ball. ... Cross takes pains to explain the issues so that a motivated nonphysicist could follow the explanations. ... It could serve as the basis for laboratory experiments in an introductory physics course. ... it is a treatise on bats and balls and on batting balls. ... So invest in this book if you care about how baseball bats work or want to teach undergraduates about it.” (Cliff Frohlich, *Physics Today*, May, 2011)

“This book revisits the science of the motion of baseballs and softballs, with little to distinguish between them. ... The author uses basic physics and mathematics to explain the behavior of a baseball after a pitcher throws the ball and a batter hits it. ... provides a list of 12 activities that one can perform to appreciate the motion of baseballs. ... contains excellent diagrams, graphs, and a good index. Summing Up: Recommended. Students of all levels and researchers/faculty.” (N. Sadanand, *Choice*, Vol. 49 (1), September, 2011)

#### From the Back Cover

This book describes the physics of baseball and softball, assuming that the reader has a background in both physics and mathematics at the high school level. The physics is explained in a conversational style, and illustrated with experimental results obtained both in the laboratory and in the field. Simple equations are also used in order to model the experimental results and to test whether the explanations are actually valid. The subject matter provides an excellent opportunity to explain physics in an interesting manner, given the universal popularity of baseball and softball as pastimes. There is also the interaction between a bat and ball, which is a classic problem in physics involving large forces, short time intervals, momentum, and energy transfer, vibration, rotation, and the different physical properties of the wood (or aluminum) of the bat, and the ball. The flight of the ball through the air is another fascinating example of physics in action, involving the effects of gravity, air resistance and ball spin on the ball trajectory. For those readers who already know quite a bit of physics and who are comfortable with mathematical equations, additional material is provided in the appendices. The book also describes many simple projects for readers who wish to perform their own experiments, whether it is for fun, for a school project, or both.

#### Advance Praise for *The Physics of Baseball & Softball*

“...so compelling that I read every page. Rod has compiled a wonderful selection of insight and discovery to the game...I think it would be a great reference book for a physics teacher to enrich lectures or explain topics.”

-Prof. Lloyd Smith, School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering, Washington State University

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