



## Nuclear Physics: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)

By Frank Close

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Nuclear physics began long before the identification of fundamental particles, with J. J. Thomson's discovery of the electron at the end of the 19th century, which implied the existence of a positive charge in the atom to make it neutral. In this *Very Short Introduction* Frank Close gives an account of how this area of physics has progressed, including the recognition of how heavy nuclei are built up in the cores of stars and in supernovae, the identification of quarks and gluons, and the development of quantum chromodynamics (QCD). Exploring key concepts such as the stability of different configurations of protons and neutrons in nuclei, Frank Close shows how nuclear physics brings the physics of the stars to Earth and provides us with important applications, particularly in medicine.

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#### About the Author

**Frank Close** is Professor of Physics at Oxford University and a Fellow of Exeter College. He was formerly the Head of the Theoretical Physics Division at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, and Head of Communications and Public Education at CERN. He is the author of several books, including the best-selling *Lucifer's Legacy* (OUP, 2000), and was the winner of the Kelvin Medal of the Institute of Physics for his 'outstanding contributions to the public understanding of physics'. His other books include *The Cosmic Onion* (1983), *The Particle Explosion* (1987), *End* (1988), *Too Hot to Handle* (1991), and *The Particle Odyssey* (OUP, 2002). In 2013 Professor Close was awarded the Royal Society Michael Faraday Prize for Communication of Science.

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