

John T. Mariska, *The Solar Transition Region*, Cambridge astrophysics series nr. 23, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge UK, 276 + xiv pp., 1992, hardbound, Dfl. ??.-, \$ ??.-, £ 30.-, ISBN 0 521 38261 0.

This volume is a welcome review of the enigmatic layer between the thermally constrained lower atmosphere of the Sun and the highly nonthermal solar corona. The first regime is dominated by radiation hydrodynamics; the second by MHD and plasma processes. The transition region between the two is extraordinary complex. It displays a host of dynamical structures and phenomena from which much astrophysics may be learned. These are the topic of this book. Many of them “stubbornly refuse to fit into the simple theoretical models that we try to construct”; indeed, the strength of the book is in presenting them with emphasis on observations and direct interpretation. It provides a well-balanced observational picture, with excellent coverage of the pertinent (not easy to tackle) literature. The book is well produced. I recommend it highly. It belongs in every astrophysical library and on the desk of many astrophysicists, certainly those with interest in real-life plasma phenomena.

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