

Contents

Preface	xi
Acknowledgements	xiii
1 Introducing the stars and nebulae	1
2 Stellar rainbows	15
3 Atoms and molecules – stellar building blocks	35
4 The climate in a stellar atmosphere	57
5 Analyzing the stars	72
6 Dwarfs, giants, and supergiants	104
7 What makes the stars shine?	127
8 The youth and middle age of a common star	142
9 Wind, dust, and pulsations: a star's last Hurrah!	167
10 The interstellar medium and gaseous nebulae	204
11 Uncommon stars and their sometimes violent behavior	255
12 High-energy astronomy	281
Epilogue	314
Appendix A Designations of stars and nebulae	317
Appendix B Some physical quantities and relations useful in astronomy	319
Appendix C The ionization and excitation formulas, and curves of growth	324
Appendix D Astronomical constants	330
Appendix E Stellar magnitudes and colors	331
Appendix F Interstellar molecules	347
Appendix G The determination of stellar masses	350
A selected bibliography	351
Name index	356
Object index	360
Subject index	362

ix