

Contents

<i>List of tables</i>	xv
<i>Preface</i>	xvii
1 The Earth and the celestial sphere	1
1.1 Angles on a plane	2
1.2 Angles on a sphere	5
1.3 Poles and secondaries	8
1.4 Coordinates	9
1.5 The Earth	10
1.6 The sky, or celestial sphere	14
1.7 The celestial poles and equator	18
1.8 North, south, east, and west	21
1.9 Horizon coordinates: altitude and azimuth	22
1.10 The orientation of the celestial sphere	25
2 The moving Earth and the traveling observer	28
2.1 Declination and hour angle	28
2.2 The rotating Earth: daily paths	30
2.3 Units of time	32
2.4 The rising and setting of stars	34
2.5 Horizon-equatorial relations: the astronomical triangle	38
2.6 Stars on the meridian	42
2.7 Maximum and minimum azimuths	45
2.8 The traveling observer: to the north pole	45
2.9 Proof that the Earth spins: the Foucault pendulum	48
2.10 South to the equator	50

2.11 Into the southern hemisphere	52
2.12 A summary: rules of rising and setting	53
3 The orbital motion of the Earth	55
3.1 The sky at night	55
3.2 The ecliptic path	58
3.3 The tilt of the ecliptic	58
3.4 The ecliptic and the seasons	61
3.5 The ecliptic and the horizon	62
3.6 The changing ecliptic	63
3.7 Solar time	67
3.8 The position of the Sun	70
3.9 The daily path of the Sun	71
3.10 The origin of the seasons	73
3.11 Ideal sunrise and sunset	74
3.12 The tropics, arctic, and antarctic	76
3.13 Solar and sidereal days	80
3.14 Sidereal time	83
3.15 Right ascension and declination	84
3.16 Right ascension, hour angle, and sidereal time	86
3.17 Setting the astronomical telescope	88
3.18 Celestial, or ecliptic, coordinates	89
3.19 A summary of coordinates	92
4 Stars and constellations	93
4.1 The constellations	94
4.2 The ancient 48	94
4.3 The modern constellations	102
4.4 The defunct constellations	105
4.5 Asterisms and other groups	107
4.6 The brightnesses and colors of the stars	112
4.7 The names of the stars	117
4.8 Star and constellation maps	125
4.9 Stars and the Sun: the heliacal rising	128
4.10 Distances	128
4.11 Double stars	129
4.12 Variable stars	131
4.13 Exploding stars	133
4.14 The Milky Way	134
4.15 Star clusters	136
4.16 Nebulae	141
4.17 Galaxies	142

<i>Contents</i>	xi
5 Precession, nutation, and aberration	145
5.1 The third motion: precession	145
5.2 Polar flattening	145
5.3 The cause of precession	147
5.4 Polar motion	149
5.5 Precession of the equinoxes	151
5.6 Changes in coordinates	153
5.7 The visibility of the constellations	157
5.8 The length of the year	158
5.9 Nutation	158
5.10 Planetary precession	159
5.11 Aberration of starlight	160
6 Time	163
6.1 Local apparent solar time	163
6.2 The Earth's orbit	164
6.3 Local mean solar time and the equation of time	166
6.4 Standard and Universal Time	169
6.5 The <i>Astronomical Almanac</i>	173
6.6 The international date line	174
6.7 The calendar	174
6.8 Sidereal time	177
6.9 The determination of time	179
6.10 Clocks and the Earth's rotation	183
6.11 Modern timekeeping	185
6.12 Time services and time signals	189
7 Sunrise and sunset	193
7.1 The solar disk	193
7.2 Refraction	194
7.3 The location and time of sunrise and sunset	196
7.4 Summary: finding sunset and sunrise	198
7.5 The visible horizon	200
7.6 Twilight	201
8 Positions in the sky and on Earth	204
8.1 Astrometry	204
8.2 Star catalogues and atlases	208
8.3 Celestial navigation	211
8.4 Precise terrestrial position	216
8.5 Satellite navigation	219

9	The Moon	220
9.1	Distance and size	220
9.2	The lunar phases	221
9.3	Synodic and sidereal periods	233
9.4	Visible aspects of the Moon	234
9.5	The Moon's orbit	239
9.6	The elements of an orbit	244
9.7	Perturbations of the orbit	249
9.8	The parallax of the Moon	251
9.9	Librations of the Moon	253
9.10	Occultations	254
9.11	Moonrise and moonset: basic concepts	255
9.12	Moonrise and moonset: true time and azimuth	258
10	Tides, eclipses, and calendars	262
10.1	Tides	262
10.2	Tides and the Sun	263
10.3	Tides and orbits	265
10.4	Prediction of the tides	266
10.5	Tidal effects on the Moon	267
10.6	Eclipses	268
10.7	Eclipse conditions and seasons	270
10.8	Frequency and prediction	275
10.9	The path and duration of a solar eclipse	279
10.10	The saros	282
10.11	The phenomena of the lunar eclipse	283
10.12	The phenomena of the solar eclipse	285
10.13	The Moon and the calendar	288
11	The planets	292
11.1	Organization and orbits	292
11.2	Names and identification	297
11.3	Planetary aspects	299
11.4	Synodic periods	302
11.5	Retrograde motion	304
11.6	Phases and brightness	306
11.7	Transits and cycles	308
11.8	Old theories of planetary motion	310
11.9	The revolution	312
11.10	Newton's laws and gravity	316
11.11	Generalization of Kepler's laws	318
11.12	True orbits	320
11.13	Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto	321

<i>Contents</i>	xiii
11.14 The final step	322
11.15 Chaos	323
11.16 Spaceflight	324
11.17 Telescopic views: physical natures of the planets	328
11.18 Astrology	340
12 The small bodies of the Solar System	346
12.1 Satellites	346
12.2 Asteroids	354
12.3 Comets	355
12.4 Meteors	363
12.5 Meteorites	368
12.6 The zodiacal light	373
12.7 The origin of the Solar System	375
13 Light and the atmosphere	378
13.1 Light	378
13.2 The spectrum	379
13.3 Reflection of light	381
13.4 Refraction	381
13.5 Dispersion	382
13.6 Diffraction	383
13.7 Polarization	386
13.8 Telescopes	387
13.9 Reflecting telescopes	388
13.10 Telescope aberrations	392
13.11 Resolving power	393
13.12 Observatories	395
13.13 Amateur telescopes	400
13.14 The blue sky	403
13.15 The red Sun: atmospheric extinction	404
13.16 Sunsets	408
13.17 Crepuscular radiation	408
13.18 Noctilucent clouds	409
13.19 Sun pillars	410
13.20 The Earth's shadow	410
13.21 The Moon illusion	410
13.22 Atmospheric refraction	411
13.23 Seeing and scintillation	412
13.24 Atmospheric dispersion	415
13.25 The green flash	415
13.26 Rainbows	416
13.27 Coronae	419

xiv

Contents

13.28 Halos and sundogs	420
13.29 Unidentified flying objects	423
13.30 The aurora	425
13.31 The sky	431
APPENDICES	
1 Graphs and tables	432
2 Star maps	456
3 Trigonometric relationships	463
A3.1 Basic plane trigonometry	463
A3.2 Spherical trigonometry	467
A3.3 The astronomical triangle	468
A3.4 Equatorial and celestial coordinates	472
<i>Bibliography</i>	476
<i>Index</i>	480