

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page</i> xi
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xiv
PART I	Visible Matter
	1
1	Light
1.1	The Electromagnetic Spectrum, Imaging, and Spectroscopy
	4
1.2	Apparent and Intrinsic Quantities, Standard Rods, and Standard Candles
	10
1.3	Emission from Complex Sources and Mass-to-Light Ratios
	16
1.4	Dynamical Measurement of the Distance to a Globular Cluster
	19
2	Optical Astronomy
2.1	The Hubble Deep Fields
	24
2.2	Distant Supernovae and the Acceleration of the Universe
	26
2.3	Astrometry: From <i>Hipparcos</i> to <i>Gaia</i>
	29
2.4	Lagrangian Points of the Sun–Earth System as Optimal Sites
	29
3	Radio Astronomy
3.1	The 21-cm Neutral-Hydrogen Line
	38
3.2	Cosmic Microwave Background
	39
3.3	Pulsars
	42
3.4	Quasars and Gravitational Lensing
	45
3.5	Rotating Systems
	49
4	X-Ray and Gamma Ray Astronomy
4.1	X-Ray Binaries
	56
4.2	Diffuse Emission from Clusters of Galaxies
	57

4.3	Gamma Ray Bursts	59
4.4	Fluid Models	61
5	Astroparticle Physics, Gravitational Waves, and Space Physics	67
5.1	The Solar Neutrino Problem	71
5.2	Direct Detection of Gravitational Waves	74
5.3	The Solar Wind as a Collisionless Plasma	75
5.4	Gravity Assists and Other Curiosities	76
PART II Dark Matter		81
6	Galaxies	83
6.1	The Discovery of Galaxies and Their Morphological Classification	85
6.2	Scales	91
6.3	Structure and Kinematics of Spiral Galaxies	96
6.4	The Virial Theorem for a Self-Gravitating System	98
7	The Supermassive Black Hole at the Center of the Milky Way	106
7.1	The Dynamical Paradigm at the Basis of the “Discovery” of Invisible Mass	107
7.2	Early Evidence for a Supermassive Black Hole at the Galactic Center	108
7.3	The Orbit of the Star S2 around SgrA*	109
7.4	Supermassive Black Holes in Other Galaxies	112
7.5	Ellipses as Closed Orbits in Different Potentials	113
8	Two Precursors of the Problem of Dark Matter	119
8.1	Clusters of Galaxies	119
8.2	The Thickness of the Galactic Disk in the Solar Neighborhood	125
8.3	The Isothermal Self-Gravitating Slab	128
9	The Discovery of Dark Halos around Spiral Galaxies	132
9.1	Flat Rotation Curves	135
9.2	Decomposition of an Observed Rotation Curve	141
9.3	Self-Consistent Decomposition	145
9.4	Dynamical Arguments	147
10	The Cosmological Context	151
10.1	Dark Matter Halos in Elliptical Galaxies	152
10.2	Impact of Galaxy Halos on the Cosmological Density Parameter	157

Contents

ix

10.3 Numerical Simulations of Structure Formation in the Universe	159
10.4 <i>Gaia</i> Studies of the Near Universe	162
10.5 Dark Matter in Globular Clusters?	163
10.6 Lensing Studies of Dark Matter in the Distant Universe	165
10.7 An Alternative to Dark Matter	167
<i>Index</i>	173