CONTENTS

PREFACE xvii LOOKING UP ILLUSTRATIONS xxiv

PREVIEW

The Cosmic Landscape 1

The Earth, Our Home 1 The Moon 2 The Planets 2 The Sun 3 The Solar System 4 The Astronomical Unit 5 The Astronomical Unit 5 The Milky Way Galaxy 5 The Light-Year 6 Galaxy Clusters and the Universe 7 Gravity 8 Atoms and Other Forces 8 The Still-Unknown Universe 9 The Scientific Method 10 Projects 13

CHAPTER 1

The Cycles of the Sky 15

1.1 The Celestial Sphere 16 Constellations 17 Daily Motions of the Sun and Stars 17 Annual Motion of the Sun 19 The Ecliptic and the Zodiac 19
1.2 The Seasons 21

- The Ecliptic's Tilt 22 Solstices and Equinoxes 23
- 1.3 The Moon 26 Extending Our Reach: Observing the Moon 28
- 1.4 Eclipses 30 Appearance of Eclipses 30 Rarity of Eclipses 32 Precession of the Moon's Orbit 34 Projects 37

CHAPTER 2

۲

The Rise of Astronomy 39

Early Ideas of the Heavens: Classical 2.1 Astronomy 40 The Shape of the Earth 40 The Size of the Earth 41 Distance and Size of the Sun and Moon 42 Extending Our Reach: Measuring the Diameter of Astronomical Objects 44 Extending Our Reach: The Moon Illusion 45 The Planets 46 2.2 Explaining the Motion of the Planets 48 Ptolemy 48 Islamic Contributions 49 Asian Contributions 49 Astronomy in the Renaissance 50 2.3 Nicolaus Copernicus 50 Tvcho Brahe 52 Johannes Kepler 52 2.4 The Birth of Astrophysics 55 Galileo Galilei 55 Isaac Newton 57 Astronomy and Astrology 57 New Discoveries 57 New Technologies 58 Project 61

ESSAY 1

Backyard Astronomy 62

Learning the Constellations 62 Star Lore 63 Amateur Astronomy 65 Small Telescopes 66 Star Charts 66 Celestial Coordinates 67 ()

Planetary Configurations 67 Your Eyes at Night 68 Project 71

CHAPTER 3

Gravity and Motion 73

- 3.1 Inertia 74
- 3.2 Orbital Motion and Gravity 75
- 3.3 Newton's Second Law of Motion 76 Acceleration 77 Mass 78
 - . .
- 3.4 The Law of Gravity 78
- 3.5 Newton's Third Law of Motion 79
- 3.6 Measuring an Object's Mass Using Orbital Motion 80
- 3.7 Surface Gravity 81 Extending Our Reach: Weighing the Sun 82
- 3.8 Escape Velocity 83 Project 87

CHAPTER 4

Light and Atoms 89

4.1 Properties of Light 90

The Nature of Light—Waves
or Particles? 90
Light and Color 91
Characterizing Electromagnetic Waves
by Their Frequency 92
White Light 92

- 4.2 The Electromagnetic Spectrum: Beyond Visible Light 93 Infrared Radiation 95 Ultraviolet Light 95 Radio Waves 95 Other Wavelength Regions 95 Energy Carried by Electromagnetic Radiation 96
- 4.3 The Nature of Matter and Heat 96 The Kelvin Temperature Scale 97

Temperature and Radiation 98 Extending Our Reach: Taking the Temperature of the Sun 99

- 4.4 Radiation from Individual Atoms 100

 The Chemical Elements 100
 Electron Orbitals 101
 The Generation of Light by Atoms 102
- 4.5 Formation of a Spectrum 103 How a Spectrum Is Formed 104 Identifying Atoms by Their Light 106 Types of Spectra 108 Astronomical Spectra 109
- 4.6 The Doppler Shift: Detecting Motion 110
- 4.7 Absorption in the Atmosphere 111 Extending Our Reach: Observing the Crab Nebula at Many Wavelengths 112 Projects 115

ESSAY 2

Special and General Relativity 116

Rest Frames 116 The Speed of Light from Moving Objects 117 The Michelson-Morley Experiment 117 Einstein's Theory of Special Relativity 118 Special Relativity and Space Travel 119 The Twin Paradox 121 Rethinking Gravity 121 General Relativity 122

CHAPTER 5

Telescopes 125

- 5.1 Telescopes 126 Light-Gathering Power 126 Focusing the Light 127 Extending Our Reach: Refraction 128
- 5.2 Resolving Power 132 Interferometers 133
- 5.3 Detecting Light 134

()

Contents ix

Visible Light 134 Observing at Nonvisible Wavelengths 135

- 5.4 Telescopes on the Ground and in Space 137 Atmospheric Blurring 138 *Extending Our Reach: Exploring New Wavelengths: Gamma Rays 139* Space Telescopes Versus Ground-Based Telescopes 140
 5.5 Observatories 141
- Going Observing 143 Computers 144 Projects 147

CHAPTER 6

The Earth 149

- 6.1 The Earth as a Planet 150 Shape and Size of the Earth 150 Composition of the Earth 151 Density of the Earth 152 *Extending Our Reach: Measuring the Earth's Mass 152*
- 6.2 The Earth's Interior 153 Probing the Interior with Earthquake Waves 153 Heating of the Earth's Core 155
- 6.3 The Age of the Earth 156
- 6.4 Motions in the Earth's Interior 158 Convection in the Earth's Interior 158 Plate Tectonics 158
- 6.5 The Earth's Magnetic Field 160 Origin of the Earth's Magnetic Field 162 Magnetic Effects on Cosmic Particles 162 Extending Our Reach: Measuring Reversals
 - of the Earth's Magnetic Field 163
- 6.6 The Earth's Atmosphere 165 Structure of the Atmosphere 165 Composition of the Atmosphere 166 The Greenhouse Effect 167

The Ozone Layer 168 Origin of the Atmosphere 168 6.7 Motions of the Earth 170 Air and Ocean Circulation: The Coriolis Effect 170 Precession 172 Projects 177

ESSAY 3

۲

Keeping Time 178

Hours of Daylight 178
The Day 178
Time Zones 180
Universal Time 181
Daylight Saving Time 181
The Week 182
The Month 182
The Calendar 182
Leap Year 183
Religious Calendars 183
Other Calendars 183
Moon Lore 183
The Abbreviations A.M., P.M., B.C., A.D., B.C.E., and c.E. 184

CHAPTER 7

The Moon 187

- 7.1 The Surface of the Moon 188 Surface Features 188 Origin of Lunar Surface Features 190
- 7.2 Structure of the Moon 192 Crust and Interior 192 The Absence of a Lunar Atmosphere 193
- 7.3 Orbit and Motions of the Moon 194 The Moon's Rotation 194 Oddities of the Moon's Orbit 195
- 7.4 Origin and History of the Moon 196
- 7.5 Tides 198 Cause of Tides 198 Solar Tides 199

()

۲

x Contents

Tidal Braking 200 Projects 203

CHAPTER 8

Survey of Solar Systems 205

Components of the Solar System 206 8.1 The Sun 206 The Orbits and Spins of the Planets 206 Two Types of Planets 208 Satellites 209 Asteroids and Comets 209 **Composition Differences Between the** Inner and Outer Planets 210 Density as a Measure of a Planet's **Composition 210** Age of the Solar System 212 Extending Our Reach: Bode's Rule: The Search for Order 213 Formation of Planetary Systems 213 8.2

Interstellar Clouds 214 Formation of the Solar Nebula 214 Condensation in the Solar Nebula 216 Accretion and Planetesimals 216 Formation of the Planets 217 Final Stages of Planet Formation 218 Formation of Satellite Systems 218 Formation of Atmospheres 219 Science at Work: Direct Formation of Giant Planets 220 Cleaning Up the Solar System 220

8.3 Other Planetary Systems 221 Science at Work: Migrating Planets 224 Project 227

CHAPTER 9

The Terrestrial Planets 229

9.1 Mercury 230 Mercury's Temperature and Atmosphere 232

Mercury's Rotation 233 9.2 Venus 234 The Venusian Atmosphere 234 The Greenhouse Effect 236 The Surface of Venus 236 The Interior of Venus 239 Rotation of Venus 240 9.3 Mars 240 The Surface of Mars 240 Water on Mars 244 The Martian Atmosphere 246 The Martian Interior 249 The Martian Moons 249 Life on Mars? 250 9.4 Why Are the Terrestrial Planets So Different? 251 Role of Mass and Radius 251 Role of Internal Activity 251 Role of Sunlight 253 Role of Water Content 253 Role of Biological Processes 254

Mercury's Interior 232

CHAPTER 10

The Outer Planets 259

10.1 Jupiter 260

Jupiter's Appearance and Physical
Properties 260
Jupiter's Interior 260
Jupiter's Atmosphere 262
Jupiter's Rings 264
Jupiter's Moons 265

10.2 Saturn 268

Saturn's Appearance and Physical
Properties 268
Saturn's Rings 269
Origin of Planetary Rings 270
The Roche Limit 270
Saturn's Moons 271

()

10.3 Uranus 274

Uranus's Structure 274
Uranus's Odd Tilt 275
Uranus's Rings and Moons 276

10.4 Neptune 277

Neptune's Structure 278
Neptune's Atmosphere 278
Neptune's Rings and Moons 278

10.5 Pluto and Beyond 279

CHAPTER 11

Meteors, Asteroids, and Comets 287

11.1 Meteors, Meteoroids, and Meteorites 288 Heating of Meteoroids 288 Types of Meteorites 289 11.2 Asteroids 290 Size and Shape 291 **Composition 292** Origin of Asteroids 292 **Unusual Asteroids 293** 11.3 Comets 295 Structure of Comets 295 **Composition of Comets 296** Origin of Comets 298 Formation of the Comet's Tail 299 Short-Period Comets and the Kuiper Belt 300 Fate of Short-Period Comets 301 Meteor Showers 302 11.4 Giant Impacts 303 Giant Meteor Craters 303 Science at Work: Meteorites Can Be Deadly 304 Science at Work: Ghost Craters, or No Tell-Tale Fragments 305

Mass Extinction and Asteroid/Comet Impacts 305 Projects 309

CHAPTER 12

۲

The Sun, Our Star 311

12.1 Size and Structure 312 Measuring the Sun's Properties 312 The Solar Interior 313 Energy Flow in the Sun 314 The Solar Atmosphere 315 12.2 How the Sun Works 316 Internal Balance (Hydrostatic Equilibrium) 316 Pressure in the Sun 317 Powering the Sun 317 Nuclear Fusion 318 The Structure of Hydrogen and Helium 318 The Proton–Proton Chain 319 12.3 Probing the Sun's Core 320 Solar Neutrinos 320 Solar Seismology 321 Science at Work: Solving the Neutrino Puzzle 322 12.4 Solar Magnetic Activity 323 Sunspots 323 Solar Magnetic Fields 323 Prominences and Flares 324 Extending Our Reach: Detecting Magnetic Fields: The Zeeman Effect 326 Heating of the Chromosphere and Corona 326 The Solar Wind 327 12.5 The Solar Cycle 328 Cause of the Solar Cycle 328 Changes in the Solar Cycle 330 Links Between the Solar Cycle and **Terrestrial Climate 330** Projects 335

()

CHAPTER 13

Measuring the Properties of Stars 337

13.1 Measuring a Star's Distance 338 Measuring Distance by Triangulation and Parallax 338 Extending Our Reach: Measuring the Distance to Sirius 340 Measuring Distance by the Standard-Candles Method 341 13.2 Measuring the Properties of Stars from Their Light 341 **Temperature 341** Luminosity 343 The Inverse-Square Law and Measuring a Star's Luminosity 343 Radius 345 The Stefan-Boltzmann Law 345 Extending Our Reach: Measuring the Radius of the Star Sirius 346 The Magnitude System 347 13.3 Spectra of Stars 349 Measuring a Star's Composition 349 How Temperature Affects a Star's Spectrum 350 Classification of Stellar Spectra 351 Science at Work: New Spectral Types 352 Definition of the Spectral Types 352 Measuring a Star's Motion 354 13.4 Binary Stars 355 Visual and Spectroscopic Binaries 356 Measuring Stellar Masses with **Binary Stars 356 Eclipsing Binary Stars 358** 13.5 Summary of Stellar Properties 358 13.6 The H-R Diagram 359 Constructing the H-R Diagram 360 Analyzing the H-R Diagram 360 Giants and Dwarfs 361 The Mass-Luminosity Relation 361

Luminosity Classes 362 Summary of the H-R Diagram 363

- 13.7 Variable Stars 364
- 13.8 Finding a Star's Distance by the Method of Standard Candles 365 Project 369

CHAPTER 14

Stellar Evolution 371

- 14.1 Overview of Stellar Evolution 372

 The Importance of Gravity 372
 The Life Story of the Sun—A Low-Mass
 Star 373
 The Life Story of a High-Mass Star 374
 Stellar Recycling 375

 14.2 Star Formation 376

 Interstellar Gas Clouds 376
 Protostars 376
 Bipolar Flows from Young Stars 377
 Stellar Mass Limits 379

 14.3 Main-Sequence Stars 379

 Why a Star's Mass Determines Its Core
 Temperature 379
 - Structure of High-Mass and Low-Mass Stars 380

Main-Sequence Lifetime of a Star 380

- 14.4 Giant Stars 381
 Leaving the Main Sequence 381
 Nuclear Fuels Heavier Than
 Hydrogen 382
 Degeneracy in Low-Mass Stars 383
- 14.5 Yellow Giants and Pulsating Stars 383 Why Do Stars Pulsate? 384 The Period–Luminosity Law 385
- 14.6 Death of Stars Like the Sun 386Ejection of a Low-Mass Star's OuterLayers 386Planetary Nebulas 386
 - Science at Work: Planetary Nebulas 387 The Fates of Other Low-Mass Stars 388

()

- 14.7 Old Age of Massive Stars 389
 Formation of Heavy Elements: Nucleosynthesis 389
 Core Collapse of Massive Stars 390
 Supernova Explosions 391
 Supernova Remnants 391
- 14.8 History of Stellar Evolution Theories 393 Early Stellar Models 393 *Extending Our Reach: Measuring the Age* of a Star Cluster 394 Testing Stellar Evolution Theory 395 Project 399

CHAPTER 15

 (\bullet)

Stellar Remnants: White Dwarfs, Neutron Stars, and Black Holes 401

- 15.1 White Dwarfs 402 General Properties, Origin, and Fate 402 Structure of White Dwarfs 403 Degeneracy and the Chandrasekhar Limit 403 White Dwarfs in Binary Systems: Novas and Supernovas of Type Ia 404
 15.2 Neutron Stars 406 General Properties and Origin 406 Pulsars and the Discovery of Neutron Stars 407
 - Emission from Neutron Stars 408 Structure of Neutron Stars 410 Neutron Stars in Binary Systems 410 X-Ray Binary Stars 410 Gravitational Waves from Binary Neutron Stars 411

15.3 Black Holes 412

The Nature of Space Around Black Holes 413 The Formation and Observation of Black Holes 415 Hawking Radiation 417 Projects 421

CHAPTER 16

۲

The Milky Way Galaxy 423

- 16.1 Discovering the Milky Way 424 Shape of the Milky Way 424 Size of the Milky Way 425
- 16.2 Overview of the Milky Way 427Content and Structure 427Mass of the Milky Way and the Number of Stars 429Age of the Milky Way 429
- 16.3 Stars of the Milky Way 430
 Stellar Censuses 430
 Two Stellar Populations: Population I and Population II 430
 Star Clusters 432
- 16.4 Gas and Dust in the Milky Way 434 Distribution and Composition of Interstellar Matter 434 Interstellar Dust: Dimming and Reddening 435 Interstellar Gas 437
- 16.5 Motion of Stars and Gas in the Milky Way 439 Extending Our Reach: Mapping the Milky Way with Radio Waves 440
- 16.6 Measuring the Milky Way 443 Diameter of the Milky Way 443 Mass of the Milky Way 444 Extending Our Reach: Measuring the Mass of the Milky Way 445
- 16.7 The Galactic Center 446
- 16.8 Evolution of the Milky Way 448
 Birth of Population I and II Stars 448
 Evolution by Mergers 450
 Population III 450
 The Future of the Milky Way 451
 Projects 455

()

CHAPTER 17

Galaxies 457

17.1 Discovering Galaxies 458 Early Observations of Galaxies 458 Types of Galaxies 459 Differences in the Stellar and Gas Content of Galaxies 463 The Evolution of Galaxies: Collisions and Mergers 464 17.2 Measuring the Properties of Galaxies 468 Galaxy Distances 468 Extending Our Reach: Measuring the Distance of a Galaxy Using Cepheid Variables 469 The Redshift and the Hubble Law 469 Measuring the Diameter of a Galaxy 471 Extending Our Reach: Other Ways to Measure a Galaxy's Distance 472 Measuring the Mass of a Galaxy 472 17.3 Dark Matter 473 Science at Work: Dark Matter or Maybe Not 474 17.4 Active Galaxies 475 The Discovery of Nuclear Activity 475 Quasars 476 A Unified Model of Active Galaxies 477 Extending Our Reach: Estimating the Diameter of Astronomical Objects by Using Their Light Variability 478 Science at Work: Superluminal Jets 479 17.5 Probing Intergalactic Space 481 Quasar Absorption Lines 481 Gravitational Lenses 482 17.6 Galaxy Clusters 483 The Local Group 483 The Relationship of Cluster Size and Galaxy Type 484 Superclusters 486

CHAPTER 18

Cosmology 493

18.1	Observations of the Universe 494	
	Distribution of Galaxies 494	
	Motion of Galaxies 494	
	Age of the Universe 495	
	Extending Our Reach: Estimating the Age	
	of the Universe 496	
	Are We at the Center of the Universe? 496	
18.2	Looking Back Toward the Beginning	
	of Time 497	
	Olbers' Paradox 497	
	The Cosmic Horizon 499	
	The Cosmic Microwave Background 500	
	Composition of the Oldest Stars 501	
	Deductions from Basic Observations of	
	the Universe 502	
18.3	Evolution of the Universe: Expansion	
	Forever or Recollapse? 502	
	The Density of the Universe 504	
	Dark Energy 505	
18.4	The Curvature of the Universe 506	
	Science at Work: The Universe's Fate 508	
18.5	The Origin of the Universe 509	
	The Early Universe: Radiation, Matter,	
	and Antimatter 509	
	History of Matter and Radiation in the	
	Early Universe 510	

18.6 The Inflationary Universe 512 Extending Our Imagination: Other Universes? 513 The Flatness Problem 513 The Horizon Problem 514 Project 517

The Formation of Galaxies 512

ESSAY 4

Life in the Universe 518

Life on Earth 518 The Unity of Living Beings 520

Projects 491

()

Contents xv

Deductions from the Unity of Life and the Time Line 521 The Origin of Life 521 Origin of Complex Organisms 522 Life Elsewhere in the Universe 523 Searching for Life Elsewhere 523 Panspermia 524 Are We Alone? 524 Arguments for Many Worlds 524 Arguments That We Are Alone 525 Radio Searches 526 Life and the Transformation of Planets 526 The Anthropic Principle 527

Answers to Test Yourself 530

Appendix 531

()

Scientific Notation 531 Some Useful Formulas 531 Solving Distance, Velocity, Time (*d*, *V*, *t*) Problems 531 Table A.1 Physical and Astronomical Constants 532

Table A.2	Conversion Between American and
	Metric Units 533
Table A.3	Physical Properties of the Planets 533
Table A.4	Orbital Properties of the Planets 534
Table A.5	Satellites of the Solar System 534
Table A.6	Properties of Some of the Solar
	System's Dwarf Planets 537
Table A.7	Meteor Showers 537
Table A.8	The Brightest Stars 538
Table A.9	The Nearest Stars 539
Table A.10	Properties of Main-Sequence
	Stars 540
Table A.11	Known and Suspected Members of the
	Local Group of Galaxies 541
Table A.12	The Brightest Galaxies Beyond the

Local Group 543

Glossary 544 Credits 555 Index 558

۲