

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|------------|
| INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| CHAPTER 1 SEEING THE SUN | 7 |
| 1.1 Introduction | 7 |
| 1.2 Seeing the Sun's surface | 7 |
| 1.3 Seeing the Sun's inner atmosphere | 18 |
| 1.4 Seeing the Sun's outer atmosphere | 30 |
| 1.5 Summary of Chapter 1 | 39 |
| CHAPTER 2 THE WORKING SUN | 43 |
| 2.1 Introduction | 43 |
| 2.2 Inside the Sun | 43 |
| 2.3 Solar activity | 63 |
| 2.4 The Sun in space | 74 |
| 2.5 Summary of Chapter 2 | 82 |
| CHAPTER 3 MEASURING STARS | 85 |
| 3.1 Introduction | 85 |
| 3.2 Stars in space | 86 |
| 3.3 The stars as bodies | 100 |
| 3.4 Measuring stellar masses and radii using binary stars | 112 |
| 3.5 Stellar spectroscopy | 118 |
| 3.6 Summary of Chapter 3 | 128 |
| CHAPTER 4 COMPARING STARS | 133 |
| 4.1 Introduction | 133 |
| 4.2 The Hertzsprung–Russell diagram | 133 |
| 4.3 Observing through the interstellar medium | 144 |
| 4.4 Summary of Chapter 4 | 153 |
| CHAPTER 5 THE FORMATION OF STARS | 157 |
| 5.1 Introduction | 157 |
| 5.2 Conception | 157 |
| 5.3 Starbirth | 165 |
| 5.4 Summary of Chapter 5 | 177 |
| CHAPTER 6 THE MAIN SEQUENCE LIFE OF STARS | 179 |
| 6.1 Introduction | 179 |
| 6.2 Stellar structure | 179 |
| 6.3 Nuclear reactions | 187 |
| 6.4 Stellar masses | 193 |
| 6.5 Summary of Chapter 6 | 201 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| CHAPTER 7 THE LIFE OF STARS BEYOND THE MAIN SEQUENCE | 203 |
| 7.1 Introduction | 203 |
| 7.2 Post main sequence lifetime of low-mass stars | 203 |
| 7.3 Post main sequence lifetime of high-mass stars | 213 |
| 7.4 The influence of binarity | 220 |
| 7.5 Summary of Chapter 7 | 221 |
| CHAPTER 8 THE DEATH OF STARS | 223 |
| 8.1 Introduction | 223 |
| 8.2 The death of low-mass stars | 223 |
| 8.3 The death of high-mass stars – supernovae and related events | 227 |
| 8.4 Feeding the interstellar medium | 236 |
| 8.5 Summary of Chapter 8 | 244 |
| CHAPTER 9 THE REMNANTS OF STARS | 247 |
| 9.1 Introduction | 247 |
| 9.2 White dwarfs | 247 |
| 9.3 Neutron stars | 251 |
| 9.4 Black holes | 262 |
| 9.5 Stellar remnants in binary systems | 266 |
| 9.6 Gamma-ray bursts | 278 |
| 9.7 Summary of Chapter 9 | 280 |
| CONCLUSION | 283 |
| ANSWERS AND COMMENTS | 287 |
| APPENDICES | 329 |
| Appendix A1 Useful quantities and units | 329 |
| Appendix A2 Stellar nomenclature | 330 |
| Appendix A3 The 50 closest star systems to the Sun | 333 |
| Appendix A4 The 100 brightest stars visible from Earth | 336 |
| Appendix A5 The chemical elements and their abundances in the solar photosphere | 340 |
| GLOSSARY | 343 |
| FURTHER READING | 357 |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | 358 |
| FIGURE AND TABLE REFERENCES | 362 |
| INDEX | 364 |