

Contents

Preface	ix
Acknowledgment	x
Author biography	xi
1 Introduction	1-1
1.1 Stellar structure	1-3
1.1.1 Polytropic and isothermal gas spheres	1-4
1.2 Equations of stellar structure	1-5
1.3 Our Sun	1-7
1.4 Stellar atmospheres	1-8
1.5 Stellar evolution	1-9
1.6 Galaxies	1-10
References	1-13
2 The Milky Way Galaxy	2-1
2.1 Coordinate systems, parallax and radial velocities	2-1
2.2 The equatorial coordinate system	2-3
2.3 Rotational transformations	2-4
2.4 Stellar motions	2-5
2.5 Measuring stellar parallaxes	2-7
2.6 Hipparcos results	2-8
2.7 Time in astronomy	2-10
2.8 Inertial reference frames	2-10
2.9 Galactic structure	2-11
2.9.1 Space distribution of stars	2-11
2.10 The interstellar medium	2-14
2.11 Star counts	2-16
2.12 Initial stellar mass function	2-19
2.13 Stellar kinematics	2-20
2.14 Mass of the Galaxy	2-26
2.15 Milky Way formation	2-29
References	2-30

3	External galaxies	3-1
3.1	History	3-1
3.2	Elliptical galaxies	3-4
3.3	Spiral galaxies	3-6
3.4	The Tully–Fisher relationship for spiral galaxies	3-10
3.5	Spiral structures through stochastic star formation	3-11
3.6	The cosmic distance ladder	3-12
3.7	Dark matter	3-13
	References	3-13
4	Active galaxies, quasars and supermassive black holes	4-1
4.1	Active galaxies	4-1
4.2	Classifications of active galaxies	4-3
4.3	Discovery and history of quasars	4-4
4.4	Synchrotron emission	4-11
4.5	Accreting black holes	4-17
4.6	Jet acceleration	4-21
4.7	Synchrotron–self-Compton jets	4-29
4.8	Unified model of quasars	4-31
4.9	Quasar variability	4-32
	References	4-34
5	General relativity and cosmology	5-1
5.1	A brief history of cosmology	5-1
5.2	Newtonian derivation of the cosmological equations	5-2
5.3	General relativistic derivation of cosmology	5-4
5.4	Big Bang cosmology	5-8
5.5	Confirmation of the Big Bang	5-11
5.6	Problems with the Big Bang theory	5-13
5.7	The future evolution of the accelerating Universe	5-15
5.8	Finding mass in the Universe	5-16
5.9	WMAP results	5-18
5.10	Age of the Universe	5-18
5.11	Gravitational waves	5-19
	References	5-22