

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Preliminary Aspects of Classical Physics	9
2.1	Newton and His Laws of Motion	9
2.2	Frames of Reference	10
2.3	Let There Be Light	12
2.4	The Whole Electromagnetic Spectrum	14
3	A Simple Approach to Einstein's Special Relativity	17
3.1	Navigating in Spacetime	17
3.2	The Relativity of "Now"	24
3.3	Relativity Transformations for Space and Time	26
3.4	The Twin or "Clock" Paradox	28
3.5	Perceptions of Length and Time	32
3.6	More Paradoxes in Special Relativity	34
3.7	Exploring Spacetime	39
3.8	Types of Intervals and the Light Cone	42
3.9	Energy-Momentum—the Relativity Modifications	47
4	Introducing Einstein's General Relativity	51
4.1	What is Gravity?	51
4.2	Towards a New Theory of Gravity	57
4.3	Motion of Bodies in General Relativity	59
5	Testing Einstein's General Relativity	63
5.1	Motion of the Planets Around the Sun	63
5.2	The Schwarzschild Solution	65
5.3	Other Classical Tests of General Relativity	69
5.4	Singularities and Black Holes	72

6	Gravitational Waves and Energy-Momentum	79
6.1	Introduction	79
6.2	Gravitational Waves in Einstein's Theory	80
6.3	The Energy Issue	81
6.4	Can Energy Be Localized?	86
7	The Universe According to Relativity	91
7.1	Getting Acquainted with the Elements of the Cosmos.	91
7.2	Evolving Views on the Universe	92
8	Spacetime Diagrams for General Relativity	101
9	The Motion of the Stars in the Galaxies	103
9.1	The Dark Matter Paradigm: An Overview	103
9.2	Galactic Dynamics: Newtonian and General Relativistic Approach	105
9.3	General Relativity Applied to the Observed Galactic Velocity Data.	108
10	The Motion of Galaxies in Galaxy Clusters	115
10.1	Preliminary Notes.	115
10.2	Perceptions of Velocity: Free-Fall in Vacuum	116
10.3	Spherical Dust Collapse	117
10.4	Summing Up the Dark Matter Picture.	119
11	Dark Energy	123
12	Time Machines, the Multiverse and Other Fantasies	127
12.1	Closed Time-Like Curves	127
12.2	Topological Twists	129
12.3	The Multiverse.	130
13	Concluding Commentary	133
	Appendix A: Proving That the Spacetime Interval is an Invariant . . .	135
	Appendix B: Deriving the Einstein Field Equation	137
	Index	143