

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Spherical Astronomy	5
2.1	Coordinate Systems	5
2.1.1	Basic Principle for the Creation of Coordinate Systems	6
2.1.2	Horizon System	6
2.1.3	Equator System	7
2.1.4	Ecliptic System	9
2.1.5	Galactic System	10
2.1.6	Transformations of the Systems	10
2.2	The Time	12
2.2.1	Definitions, Solar Time and Sidereal Time	12
2.2.2	Calendar	15
2.2.3	The Star of Bethlehem	19
2.3	Star Positions	19
2.3.1	Constellations and Zodiac	20
2.3.2	Refraction	21
2.3.3	Aberration	22
2.3.4	Parallax	24
2.3.5	Precession, Nutation	26
2.3.6	Star Catalogues	28
2.3.7	Light Deflection and Exoplanets	30
2.4	Determination of Time and Place	32
2.4.1	Latitude Φ	32
2.4.2	Time Determination	33
2.4.3	Modern Navigation Systems	34
2.5	Further Literature	34
	Tasks	35

3	History of Astronomy	39
3.1	Astronomy of Pre- and Early History	39
3.1.1	Stone Age	39
3.1.2	Egypt, Mesopotamia	41
3.1.3	China	43
3.1.4	Central and North America	44
3.1.5	Old Europe	45
3.2	Astronomy of the Greeks	45
3.2.1	Philosophical Considerations	45
3.2.2	First Measurements	46
3.2.3	Navigation	49
3.3	Astronomy in the Middle Ages and Modern Times	49
3.3.1	Astronomy of the Arabs	49
3.3.2	Middle Ages	50
3.3.3	Geocentric → Heliocentric	51
3.3.4	Kepler, Galileo, Newton	53
3.3.5	Celestial Mechanics	56
3.4	Modern Astrophysics and Cosmology	58
3.4.1	The Discovery of Further Objects in the Solar System	58
3.4.2	Astrophysics	59
3.4.3	The Universe	61
3.4.4	Concluding Remarks	62
3.4.5	What is Matter?	63
3.5	Further Literature	63
4	Celestial Mechanics	65
4.1	Moon and Planetary Orbits	65
4.1.1	Description of Planetary Orbits, Orbital Elements	66
4.1.2	Ephemeris Calculation	68
4.1.3	Apparent Planetary Orbits in the Sky	70
4.1.4	Perihelion Rotation	72
4.1.5	Lunar Orbit	73
4.1.6	Exoplanet Tidal Locking	74
4.1.7	Tides	75
4.1.8	Comparison of Tidal Force of the Moon and Capillary Action in Plants	77
4.2	Two-Body Problem	78
4.2.1	Definition of the Two-Body Problem	78
4.2.2	Angular Momentum, Area Theorem	80
4.2.3	Orbit Shape	81
4.2.4	Energy Theorem	82
4.2.5	Third Kepler's Law	84

4.3	N-Body Problem	85
4.3.1	The General N-Body Problem	85
4.3.2	The General Three-Body Problem	86
4.3.3	Restricted Three-Body Problem	87
4.3.4	The Runge-Kutta Method for Numerical Integration.....	91
4.3.5	Stability	93
4.4	Many-Particle Systems	94
4.4.1	Virial Theorem and Distance of an Interstellar Gas Cloud	94
4.4.2	Ergodic Behavior	95
4.5	Spaceflight	96
4.5.1	Escape Velocities	96
4.5.2	Rocket Formula	98
4.5.3	Satellite in Earth Orbit	102
4.5.4	Influences on Satellite Orbits	103
4.6	Resonances and Chaos in the Planetary System.....	105
4.6.1	Chaos	105
4.6.2	Resonances in the Solar System	106
4.6.3	Migration of Planets.....	106
4.6.4	Chaos in the Solar System	107
4.7	Eclipses	108
4.7.1	Lunar Eclipses	108
4.7.2	Solar Eclipses.....	109
4.7.3	Planetary Transits	113
4.8	Further Literature	115
	Tasks	115
5	Astronomical Instruments	117
5.1	Telescopes	117
5.1.1	Basic Properties	117
5.1.2	Seeing and Large Telescopes	121
5.1.3	Imaging Errors	122
5.1.4	Telescope Types	123
5.1.5	Telescope Mounts	125
5.1.6	Robotic Telescopes	127
5.2	Modern Optical Telescopes.....	128
5.2.1	Modern Earthbound Telescopes	128
5.2.2	The Hubble Space Telescope and Other Projects	130
5.3	Detectors	133
5.3.1	Human Eye and Photography.....	133
5.3.2	CCD.....	134
5.3.3	CMOS	135
5.3.4	Back-Illuminated Sensor.....	135

5.3.5	Speckle Interferometry	135
5.3.6	Image Correction	136
5.4	Non-Optical Telescopes	136
5.4.1	Radio Telescopes	136
5.4.2	Infrared Telescopes.....	140
5.4.3	X-Ray Telescopes	141
5.5	Spectroscopy	143
5.5.1	General Information About Spectroscopy	144
5.5.2	Types of Spectrographs	147
5.6	Radiation and Spectrum	147
5.6.1	The Electromagnetic Spectrum.....	147
5.6.2	Thermal Radiation	148
5.6.3	Emission and Absorption Lines	150
5.6.4	Polarized Light	152
5.6.5	Magnetic Fields and Radiation	154
5.6.6	Einstein Coefficients	156
5.6.7	Coherence	157
5.7	Further Literature	157
	Tasks	157
6	Physics of the Solar System Bodies	161
6.1	Overview	161
6.1.1	Sun and Planets.....	161
6.1.2	A Model of the Solar System	162
6.1.3	The Solar System Seen from Outside	163
6.2	Properties of the Planets	164
6.2.1	Rotation Period	164
6.2.2	Mass Distribution	165
6.2.3	Albedo	165
6.2.4	Spectrum.....	167
6.2.5	Global Energy Budget	167
6.2.6	Hydrostatic Equilibrium	168
6.2.7	Stability of a Satellite, Roche Limit	169
6.2.8	Planetary Atmospheres.....	170
6.3	Earth and Moon	172
6.3.1	Structure of the Earth	172
6.3.2	Geological and Biological Evolution.....	174
6.3.3	Earth's Magnetic Field	174
6.3.4	Earth's Atmosphere	177
6.3.5	The Moon-General Porperties	182
6.3.6	Origin of the Moon.....	185
6.3.7	The Interior of the Moon.....	186

6.3.8	The Far Side of the Moon	187
6.4	Mercury and Venus	188
6.4.1	Mercury: Basic Data	188
6.4.2	The Rotation of Mercury.....	189
6.4.3	The Surface of Mercury.....	190
6.4.4	Venus: Basic Data	191
6.4.5	Surface of Venus	192
6.4.6	Atmosphere of Venus	194
6.4.7	Venus and Climate Change on Earth	196
6.5	Mars	197
6.5.1	Mars: General Data	197
6.5.2	Martian Surface	198
6.5.3	Mars Atmosphere	202
6.5.4	Mars: Terraforming?	203
6.5.5	Martian Moons	204
6.6	Jupiter and Saturn	205
6.6.1	Jupiter: General Properties.....	206
6.6.2	Space Missions to Jupiter	206
6.6.3	Structure of the Giant Planets.....	207
6.6.4	Jupiter Atmosphere.....	208
6.6.5	Magnetosphere of Jupiter	211
6.6.6	Jupiter's Rings and Moons.....	211
6.6.7	Saturn: Basic Data.....	215
6.6.8	Saturn's Rings	216
6.6.9	Saturn's Moons	216
6.7	Uranus and Neptune	220
6.7.1	Discovery of Uranus and Neptune.....	220
6.7.2	Rings and Satellites of Uranus and Neptune	221
6.8	Dwarf Planets and Asteroids	223
6.8.1	Pluto	223
6.8.2	Ceres and Other Dwarf Planets	225
6.8.3	Asteroids: Naming and Types	227
6.8.4	Distribution of Asteroids.....	231
6.8.5	NEOs.....	232
6.9	Comets	234
6.9.1	Comets: Basic Properties	234
6.9.2	Kuiper Belt and Oort's Cloud.....	238
6.9.3	Sungrazer	240
6.10	Meteoroids	240
6.10.1	Nomenclature.....	240
6.10.2	Classification	241
6.10.3	Interplanetary Matter.....	243

6.11	Origin of the Solar System	243
6.11.1	Extrasolar Planetary Systems	244
6.11.2	Theories of Formation	245
6.11.3	Protoplanetary Nebula	246
6.12	Further Literature	247
Tasks		247
7	The Sun	251
7.1	Basic Data and Coordinates	251
7.1.1	Basic Data	252
7.1.2	Coordinates	252
7.1.3	Distance.....	253
7.1.4	Solar Mass	254
7.1.5	Radius.....	254
7.1.6	Luminosity	255
7.1.7	Effective Temperature.....	255
7.1.8	Sun: Observation	257
7.2	The Structure of the Sun, the Quiet Sun	259
7.2.1	General Structure of the Sun.....	259
7.2.2	Sun’s Interior	260
7.2.3	Photosphere.....	261
7.2.4	Chromosphere	264
7.2.5	Corona	264
7.3	The Active Sun	266
7.3.1	Sunspots	266
7.3.2	Faculae.....	270
7.3.3	Prominences	271
7.3.4	Flares and Coronal Mass Ejections.....	272
7.3.5	The Radio Radiation	276
7.3.6	X-rays of the Corona	278
7.4	The Space-Weather-Solar-Terrestrial Relations	281
7.4.1	The Solar Activity Cycle.....	281
7.4.2	Time Series, Period Analysis	282
7.4.3	The Solar Irradiance.....	283
7.5	Helioseismology	287
7.5.1	Mathematical Description	288
7.5.2	Observational Results	291
7.6	Magnetohydrodynamics of the Sun	293
7.6.1	Maxwell’s Equations.....	293
7.6.2	Induction Equation	294
7.6.3	Plasma Equations	295
7.6.4	Motion of a Particle in a Magnetic Field.....	297

7.7	Further Literature	301
	Tasks	301
8	State Variables of Stars	303
8.1	Distance, Magnitudes	303
8.1.1	Apparent Brightness	303
8.1.2	Distance	305
8.1.3	Absolute Brightness, Distance Modulus	305
8.1.4	Bolometric Brightness	307
8.2	Stellar Radii	308
8.2.1	Basic Principle	308
8.2.2	Stellar Interferometer	308
8.2.3	Stellar Occultations by the Moon	309
8.2.4	Eclipsing Variable Stars	310
8.2.5	Speckle Interferometry	312
8.2.6	Microensing	313
8.3	Stellar Masses	313
8.3.1	Kepler's Third Law	313
8.3.2	Gravitational Red Shift	315
8.3.3	Microensing	316
8.3.4	Derived Quantities	316
8.4	Stellar Temperatures	317
8.4.1	Stars as Black Bodies	317
8.4.2	Other Temperature Terms	318
8.5	Classification of Stars, HRD	318
8.5.1	Spectral Classification	318
8.5.2	The Hertzsprung-Russell Diagram	320
8.5.3	Luminosity Classes	323
8.5.4	Balmer Discontinuity	325
8.5.5	Star Population and FHD	326
8.5.6	The Mass-Luminosity Relation	327
8.6	Rotation and Magnetic Fields	328
8.6.1	Rotation	328
8.6.2	Magnetic Fields	330
8.7	Peculiar Stars	331
8.7.1	Bright Stars	331
8.7.2	Algol and Eclipsing Binaries	332
8.8	Further Literature	334
	Tasks	334

9	Stellar Atmospheres	337
9.1	Quantum Mechanical Description	337
9.1.1	Description of a Particle	337
9.1.2	Schrödinger Equation	338
9.1.3	Wave Functions for Hydrogen	339
9.1.4	Quantum Numbers	342
9.1.5	Electron Configurations	343
9.1.6	Hydrogen Fine Structure	343
9.1.7	Complex Atoms	344
9.2	Excitation and Ionization	345
9.2.1	Thermodynamic Equilibrium	346
9.2.2	Boltzmann Formula	347
9.2.3	Saha Equation	348
9.3	Radiation Transport	349
9.3.1	Transfer Equation	350
9.3.2	Solutions of the Transfer Equation	353
9.4	Absorption Coefficients	357
9.4.1	Continuous Absorption	357
9.4.2	Scattering	358
9.4.3	Theory of Absorption Lines	358
9.5	Line Profiles	361
9.5.1	Damping	361
9.5.2	Doppler Broadening	363
9.5.3	Voigt Profile	364
9.6	Analysis of Stellar Spectra	365
9.6.1	Curves of Growth	365
9.6.2	Quantitative Spectral Analysis	367
9.7	Stellar Atmosphere Models	368
9.7.1	Comparison: Sun and Vega	368
9.7.2	Numerical Solutions	370
9.8	Asteroseismology	372
9.8.1	Observations	372
9.8.2	Types of Waves	373
9.9	Further Literature	374
	Tasks	375
10	Stellar Structure	379
10.1	Basic Physical Laws of Stellar Structure	379
10.1.1	Hydrostatic Equilibrium	379
10.1.2	Equation of Motion with Spherical Symmetry	382
10.1.3	General Relativity	384
10.1.4	Equation of State	385

10.1.5	Degeneracy	387
10.1.6	Summary: Equation of State	389
10.2	Energy Transport	389
10.2.1	Convection	389
10.2.2	Opacity	394
10.3	Energy Sources	396
10.3.1	Thermonuclear Energy Production	397
10.3.2	Neutrinos	404
10.4	Special Stellar Models	406
10.4.1	Polytropic Models	406
10.4.2	Homologous Equations	409
10.5	Further Literature	410
	Tasks	411
11	Stellar Evolution	413
11.1	Star Formation and Evolution	413
11.1.1	Protostars	413
11.1.2	Collapse of a Sun-Like Star	416
11.1.3	The Age of Stars	417
11.1.4	Evolution of a Star with One Solar Mass	418
11.2	Comparison of Stellar Evolution	420
11.2.1	Low-Mass Stars	421
11.2.2	Massive Stars	421
11.3	White Dwarfs	422
11.3.1	General Properties	422
11.3.2	General Relativity and White Dwarfs	424
11.3.3	Magnetic Fields	425
11.3.4	Brown Dwarfs	425
11.4	Neutron Stars	426
11.4.1	Formation of Neutron Stars	426
11.4.2	Pulsars	427
11.5	Supernovae	432
11.5.1	Classification	432
11.5.2	Nuclear Synthesis During a SN	434
11.5.3	Observed Supernovae	435
11.6	Black Holes	436
11.6.1	General	437
11.6.2	Candidates for Black Holes	439
11.6.3	Quantum Theory of Black Holes	440
11.6.4	Accretion	442
11.7	Gamma Ray Bursts	442
11.7.1	Properties of GRB	442

11.7.2	Explanation of GRB.....	443
11.8	Variable Stars.....	444
11.8.1	General.....	444
11.8.2	Pulsation Variable	446
11.8.3	Semi-regular Variables	449
11.8.4	Eruptive Variables	451
11.8.5	Peculiar Stars	454
11.8.6	Planetary Nebulae	454
11.9	Stellar Activity	455
11.9.1	Stellar Activity and Convection	456
11.9.2	Mass Loss of Stars	458
11.10	Further Literature	460
	Tasks	460
12	Interstellar Matter	463
12.1	Discovery, General Properties	463
12.1.1	Discovery of Interstellar Matter	463
12.1.2	Composition of Interstellar Matter	464
12.2	Interstellar Dust	465
12.2.1	Extinction	465
12.2.2	Scattering	466
12.2.3	Polarization	467
12.3	Interstellar Gas	468
12.3.1	Neutral Hydrogen	468
12.3.2	Emission Nebulae, H-II Regions	471
12.3.3	Special Emission Nebulae	474
12.3.4	Light Echoes.....	475
12.4	Cosmic Rays	475
12.4.1	Discovery	475
12.4.2	Composition and Origin	475
12.4.3	Magnetic Fields and Charged Particles	476
12.4.4	Solar Activity and Cosmic Rays.....	477
12.5	Further Literature	477
	Tasks	477
13	The Galaxy	479
13.1	Methods for Determining Distances	479
13.1.1	Trigonometric Methods	479
13.1.2	Photometric Standard Candles.....	482
13.2	The Structure of Our Milky Way	484
13.2.1	Rough Structure	484
13.2.2	Galactic Coordinates	485

13.2.3	Distribution of the Stars	487
13.2.4	Galaxy: Components	489
13.2.5	Local Solar Environment, Local Bubble	491
13.2.6	Stellar Statistics	492
13.3	Star Populations and Density Waves	493
13.3.1	Star Populations	493
13.3.2	Density Waves, Spiral Structure	494
13.4	Rotation of the Galaxy	495
13.4.1	Radial and Tangential Motion	495
13.4.2	Galactic Rotation, LSR	496
13.4.3	Galactic Rotation Curve	498
13.5	Dark Matter in the Milky Way	503
13.5.1	The Nature of Dark Matter	504
13.5.2	Galactic Microlensing.....	505
13.6	Galactic Center.....	506
13.6.1	Definition of the Center	506
13.6.2	Central Star Cluster and Black Hole	507
13.7	Evolution of the Galaxy	508
13.7.1	Theories to the Origin of the Spiral-Arms	508
13.7.2	Age of the Galaxy and Magnetic Field.....	509
13.8	Further Literature	510
	Tasks.....	510
14	Extragalactic Systems	513
14.1	Classification	513
14.1.1	Catalogues	513
14.1.2	Hubble Classification	516
14.1.3	Active Galaxies.....	518
14.1.4	Other Classifications of Galaxies.....	520
14.2	Discussion of the Individual Types	521
14.2.1	Elliptical Galaxies, E.....	521
14.2.2	Spiral Galaxies	523
14.2.3	Irregular Galaxies	525
14.2.4	Distribution Among the Types.....	525
14.2.5	Integral Properties and Diameters	525
14.2.6	The Magellanic Clouds	527
14.2.7	Population Synthesis	527
14.3	Supermassive Black Holes	529
14.3.1	Detection of SMBHs	529
14.3.2	SMBHs and Galaxy Properties	530
14.4	Active Galaxies	531
14.4.1	Active Galactic Nuclei	531

14.4.2	Radio Galaxies	533
14.4.3	Quasars	537
14.4.4	Galaxies with High Red Shift.....	541
14.4.5	Blazar	541
14.5	Galaxy Clusters	542
14.5.1	The Local Group	542
14.5.2	Abell Catalogue of Galaxy Clusters.....	542
14.5.3	Galaxy Collisions	544
14.5.4	Super Cluster	545
14.5.5	Special Galaxy Clusters.....	546
14.6	Further Literature	546
Tasks		548
15	Cosmology	551
15.1	Expansion of the Universe.....	552
15.1.1	View into the Past	552
15.1.2	Olbers Paradox	552
15.1.3	Galaxy Counts	553
15.1.4	The Redshift of the Galaxies	554
15.1.5	The Age of the Universe	555
15.1.6	Homogeneity and Isotropy	556
15.1.7	Methods of Distance Determination.....	556
15.2	Newtonian cosmology	557
15.2.1	Expansion.....	557
15.2.2	Equation of Motion	558
15.2.3	Conservation of Energy	559
15.3	Theory of Relativity	560
15.3.1	Special Theory of Relativity	560
15.3.2	Four Vectors, Transformations	564
15.3.3	General Theory of Relativity	566
15.3.4	Matter and Space-Time Curvature.....	567
15.3.5	Metric of the Space.....	569
15.3.6	Friedmann-Lemaître Equations.....	572
15.3.7	The Cosmological Constant and Vacuum Energy	573
15.3.8	Gravitational Waves	576
15.4	Dark Energy, Accelerated Expansion	577
15.4.1	Observations	577
15.4.2	Dark Energy	579
15.5	The Early Universe	580
15.5.1	Big Bang: Observational Hints	580
15.5.2	Sunyaev-Zel'dovich Effect.....	582
15.5.3	Acoustic Oscillations.....	586

15.5.4	Formation of Particles	586
15.5.5	Quarks and Quark-Gluon Plasma	587
15.5.6	Particle Generation	588
15.6	Symmetry Breaking in the Early Universe	590
15.6.1	The Four Forces of Nature	590
15.6.2	The Early Universe	592
15.6.3	Inflationary Universe	592
15.6.4	String Theory	594
15.6.5	Quantum Foam	598
15.6.6	Quantum Vacuum	599
15.6.7	Loop Gravity, Quantum Loop Gravity	599
15.6.8	The First Stars	601
15.6.9	Parallel Universes	602
15.7	Time Scale	602
15.8	Further Literature	602
Tasks		603
16	Astrobiology	605
16.1	Life on Earth and in the Solar System	605
16.1.1	What Is Life?	605
16.1.2	Life on Earth	606
16.1.3	Protective Shields for Life on Earth	607
16.1.4	Life in the Solar System	608
16.2	Discovery of Extrasolar Planetary Systems	608
16.2.1	Astrometry	609
16.2.2	Radial Velocity Method	609
16.2.3	Light Curves, Transit Observations	610
16.2.4	Microlensing	610
16.2.5	Einstein-Beaming	611
16.2.6	Earth-Based Observations	611
16.3	Host Stars	612
16.3.1	Hertzsprung-Russell Diagram	612
16.3.2	Habitable Zone	614
16.3.3	Examples	615
16.4	Further Literature	618
Tasks		618
17	Mathematical Methods	621
17.1	Python-a Crash Course	621
17.1.1	What Is Python?	621
17.1.2	A First Simple Python Program	622
17.1.3	Example: Brightness Measurements	623

17.2	Statistics	624
17.2.1	Mean Values	624
17.2.2	Distribution Functions	627
17.2.3	Moments	628
17.3	Curve Fits and Correlation Calculation	630
17.3.1	Fitting Curves, Least Squares Method	630
17.3.2	Correlations.....	634
17.4	Differential Equations	638
17.4.1	First Order Linear Differential Equations	638
17.4.2	Oscillator Equation	639
17.4.3	Partial Differential Equations	640
17.5	Numerical Mathematics	641
17.5.1	Interpolation Polynomials	641
17.5.2	Divided Differences	642
17.5.3	Newton’s Interpolation Method	643
17.5.4	Interpolation with Unevenly Distributed Grid Points.....	644
17.5.5	Numerical Differentiation	645
17.5.6	Numerical Integration	647
17.5.7	Numerical Solution of Differential Equations	648
17.6	Fourier Methods	653
17.6.1	Autocorrelation	653
17.6.2	The Fast Fourier Transform, FFT	653
17.6.3	Digital Filters	655
17.6.4	Fourier Transforms in Optics	656
17.7	Vector Calculus	659
17.7.1	General.....	659
17.7.2	Gradient, Divergence, Curl	661
17.7.3	Applications	662
17.8	Splines.....	663
17.9	Special Software Packages	665
17.9.1	The Ephem Program Package	665
17.9.2	Calculation of the Light Curves of Exoplanet Transits	665
17.9.3	Image Processing.....	666
17.9.4	The File Format Fits	669
17.10	Further Literature	669
Tasks		670
A	Appendix	673
A.1	Literature	673
A.1.1	General.....	673
A.1.2	Journals	674
A.1.3	Important Internet Addresses	674

	A.1.4 Software (Professional)	675
A.2	Test Questions.....	675
A.3	Tables	677