
PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

In ancient Chinese literature, it is said that time passes as if it were a galloping white horse crossing in front peered through a narrow gap. My white horse runs fast as well. Already more than 20 years have passed since the first edition of this book was published. Graduate students at that time who studied Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD) with this book are now in their late forties. Many of them may now be professors in particle physics who would be using this book for their students. I would be extremely happy if the book has helped all those people to get a deeper understanding of the basis of QCD.

In this third edition, I tried to keep the original form of the book as far as possible and so the changes are mostly minor corrections of misprints found after the second edition was published. I also included in this edition some memorable pictures that I took a long time ago.

I would like to thank Tomohiro Inagaki, who is an associate professor in Hiroshima University and was a graduate student when the first edition was released, for his full support in the whole process of preparing the third edition. The cover picture (galaxy M74) was selected from many pictures of celestial objects taken by Koji S. Kawabata at the Higashi-Hiroshima Observatory in Hiroshima University whom I would like to acknowledge. The Observatory was established when I was serving as President of Hiroshima University. I would like to thank Hiromi Sugihara for her continuous help in the preparation of the third edition and also with my work as President of Fukuyama University. I am particularly grateful to John Albert Kearley, Jr. who gave me useful advices on how to improve my English sentences.

T. Muta

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