

Contents

Chapter 1 Introduction	1
Chapter 2 Essentials of Special Relativity	11
2.1 Basic principles	11
2.2 The spacetime interval and the Lorentz transformation	13
2.3 Lorentz contraction and time dilation	15
2.4 Causality	17
2.5 Transformation of velocity and the aberration of light	19
2.6 Four-vectors and four-tensors	21
2.7 Special relativistic dynamics	23
2.8 Relativistic Doppler shift	26
Chapter 3 Bondi’s k-Calculus Approach to Special Relativity	31
3.1 Introduction	31
3.2 Velocity–Doppler factor connection	33
3.3 Composition law for velocities and Doppler factors . .	35
3.4 Derivation of the Lorentz transformation	38
3.5 The twin or clock paradox	40
Chapter 4 Essentials of General Relativity	47
4.1 The need for a new theory of gravity	47
4.2 The Principle of Equivalence	48
4.3 The metric tensor	49
4.4 Basic tensor calculus–introduction	50
4.5 Parallel transport, spacetime curvature and the Riemann tensor	54
4.6 Geodesics	56

4.7	Covariant conservation laws and the Einstein field equations	57
4.8	Einstein–Maxwell equations and motion of a charged body in general relativity	61
4.9	Summary of the steps from Newtonian gravity to Einstein’s general relativity	62
Chapter 5 Schwarzschild Solution and its Consequences		65
5.1	The metric	65
5.2	The measurement of distance and time in general relativity	66
5.3	The event horizon, black holes and singularities	68
5.4	The tests of general relativity	78
Chapter 6 Gravitational Waves		83
6.1	Introduction	83
6.2	Linearized field equations	83
6.3	The energy issue and the pseudotensor	85
6.4	The energy localization hypothesis	86
Chapter 7 The Normal Scales of Physics and the Planck Scale		93
7.1	The hierarchy of scales	93
7.2	The fundamental interactions of nature	95
7.3	The Planck scale and the issue of the quantization of gravity	96
7.4	Adding spin and charge to the Planck scale	97
7.5	Quantum limits, spectra, the value of α	100
Chapter 8 General Relativistic Cosmology		103
8.1	Sizes of astronomical elements	103
8.2	Early ideas about cosmology	104
8.3	Friedmann universes	108
8.4	The cosmological term	110
Chapter 9 Motion of the Stars in the Galaxy		115
9.1	Introduction	115
9.2	General relativistic effects on the stellar motions in galaxies	117

9.3	Modeling the observed galactic rotation curves	121
9.4	A velocity dispersion test for the presence of extra matter	130
9.5	Summary comments on rotation velocities of galaxies .	131
Chapter 10 Clusters of Galaxies		135
10.1	Preliminary comments	135
10.2	Spherical dust collapse	136
10.3	Velocity of particles falling in vacuum toward a spherical concentration of mass	138
10.4	The velocity of dust in collapse	142
10.5	Observing an idealized galactic cluster	147
10.6	Current evidence for dark matter	154
Chapter 11 Closed Timelike Curves and Time Machines		161
11.1	The background	161
11.2	Creating closed timelike curves and Gödel's spacetime	163
11.3	Re-examining the standard closed timelike curve interpretation	165
11.4	The role of our experience in nature	171
11.5	Gott's moving cosmic strings	172
Chapter 12 The Direction of Physics Research		179
Chapter 13 Summary with Concluding Commentary		187
Appendix A Critical Challenges and Our Replies		195
Appendix B Radial Velocity Derivation Details		213
Bibliography		217
Acknowledgements		225
Index		227