

Contents

Part I Foundations

1	Astrophysical Information	3
1.1	Carriers of Information.....	4
1.1.1	Electromagnetic Radiation	4
1.1.2	Matter: From Electrons and Nuclei to Meteorites.....	5
1.1.3	Neutrinos	6
1.1.4	Gravitational Waves	9
1.1.5	In Situ Observation	10
1.2	Data Acquisition.....	12
1.2.1	The Main Characteristics of Photons	12
1.2.2	Observing Systems	12
1.2.3	Reaching a Systematic Description of Observation.....	27
1.3	Global Organisation of Astronomy	28
1.3.1	People	29
1.3.2	Research Policies and Institutions	31
1.3.3	Publications	34
2	The Earth Atmosphere and Space	39
2.1	Physical and Chemical Structure of the Atmosphere	40
2.1.1	Vertical Structure	40
2.1.2	Constituents of the Atmosphere.....	41
2.2	Absorption of Radiation	45
2.3	Atmospheric Emission	50
2.3.1	Fluorescent Emission	50
2.3.2	Thermal Emission	55
2.3.3	Differential Measurement Techniques	56
2.4	Scattering of Radiation	58
2.5	Atmospheric Refraction and Dispersion	61

2.6	Turbulence Structure of the Earth Atmosphere	62
2.6.1	Turbulence in the Lower and Middle Atmosphere	63
2.6.2	Ionospheric Turbulence	70
2.7	The Atmosphere as Radiation Converter	70
2.7.1	Ground-Based Gamma-Ray Astronomy	70
2.7.2	Air Showers and Cosmic Rays	71
2.8	Terrestrial Observing Sites	71
2.8.1	Visible, Infrared, and Millimetre Observations	72
2.8.2	Centimetre and Metre Wave Radioastronomy	74
2.8.3	Very High Energy Gamma-Ray Astronomy	75
2.8.4	Very High Energy Cosmic Radiation	75
2.8.5	Man-Made Pollution and Interference	75
2.8.6	The Antarctic	76
2.9	Observation from Space	77
2.9.1	The Advantages of Observation from Space	79
2.9.2	Sources of Perturbation	79
2.9.3	Choice of Orbits	86
2.10	The Moon as an Astronomical Site	87
	Problems	89
3	Radiation and Photometry	93
3.1	Radiometry	94
3.2	Aspects of Radiation	99
3.2.1	Blackbody Radiation	99
3.2.2	Coherence	100
3.3	Magnitudes	104
3.4	Photometry Through the Atmosphere	109
3.5	Calibration and Intensity Standards	110
3.5.1	Radiofrequencies	110
3.5.2	Submillimetre, Infrared, and Visible	112
3.5.3	Ultraviolet and X Rays	117
3.5.4	Gamma-Ray Radiation	120
3.5.5	Some Examples of Spectrophotometry	120
3.6	Calibration of Angular Dimensions	123
	Problems	124
4	Space–Time Reference Frames	127
4.1	Spatial Reference Systems	129
4.1.1	Definitions of Spatial Frames	129
4.1.2	Astronomical Reference Frames	131
4.1.3	Change of Frame	138
4.2	Practical Realisation of Spatial Frames	144
4.2.1	Celestial Reference Systems	144
4.2.2	Fundamental Catalogues	145
4.2.3	The Extragalactic System	147

- 4.2.4 The Hipparcos Frame..... 151
- 4.2.5 The Near Future: The Gaia Mission 155
- 4.3 Temporal Reference Systems 157
 - 4.3.1 Time Scales 157
 - 4.3.2 Atomic Time 161
 - 4.3.3 Coordinated Universal Time (CUT or UTC) 164
 - 4.3.4 GPS Time 166
 - 4.3.5 Dynamical Time Scales 167
 - 4.3.6 Dates and Epochs. Dealing with Long Periods..... 169

Part II Data Collection

- 5 Telescopes and Images 175**
 - 5.1 Image and Object in Astronomy 176
 - 5.1.1 The Telescope and Geometrical Optics..... 177
 - 5.1.2 Gravitational Optics 183
 - 5.2 Telescopes 184
 - 5.2.1 Radiotelescopes..... 185
 - 5.2.2 Ground-Based Optical Telescopes: Visible
and Near Infrared 189
 - 5.2.3 Space Telescopes, from Ultraviolet to Submillimetre 194
 - 5.2.4 X-Ray Telescopes 199
 - 5.2.5 Gamma-Ray Telescopes..... 201
- 6 Diffraction and Image Formation 209**
 - 6.1 Diffraction by an Arbitrary Aperture 210
 - 6.1.1 The Zernike Theorem 211
 - 6.1.2 Coherence Etendue 214
 - 6.1.3 Diffraction at Infinity 216
 - 6.1.4 Spatial Filtering by a Pupil..... 221
 - 6.2 The Earth Atmosphere and Coherence Losses..... 228
 - 6.2.1 Perturbations of the Wavefront..... 229
 - 6.2.2 The Perturbed Image 232
 - 6.2.3 Effect of the Atmosphere on Interferometry 238
 - 6.3 Adaptive Optics 240
 - 6.3.1 Wavefront Measurement 241
 - 6.3.2 Phase Correction Devices 245
 - 6.3.3 The Final Image 246
 - 6.3.4 Sensitivity and Reference Sources 248
 - 6.3.5 New Concepts 252
 - 6.4 Astronomical Interferometry 256
 - 6.4.1 Obtaining an Interferometer Signal..... 257
 - 6.4.2 Light Transfer 262
 - 6.4.3 Temporal Coherence..... 264
 - 6.4.4 Loss of Spatial Coherence..... 264

6.4.5	Calibrating the Instrumental MTF	268
6.4.6	Phase Closure	271
6.5	Astronomical Interferometers.....	274
6.5.1	Radiotelescope Arrays.....	274
6.5.2	Ground-Based Optical Arrays	286
6.5.3	Space-Based Optical Interferometry	294
6.6	High Dynamic Range Imaging (HDRI)	298
6.6.1	Coronagraphy and Apodisation	299
6.6.2	Nulling Interferometry	311
	Problems	316
7	Detectors	323
7.1	General Properties.....	324
7.1.1	Amplitude Detectors. Quadratic Detectors	325
7.1.2	Spatial Structure of Detectors	326
7.1.3	Temporal Response	329
7.1.4	Noise	330
7.1.5	Characterisation of Detectors	331
7.2	Fundamental Fluctuations	332
7.2.1	Quantum Noise	336
7.2.2	Thermal Noise	340
7.3	Physical Principles of the Detection of Electromagnetic Radiation.....	343
7.3.1	Detection of Quanta	344
7.3.2	Detection of the Electromagnetic Field.....	355
7.4	Astronomical Detectors from X Ray to Submillimetre.....	355
7.4.1	Noise Performance	356
7.4.2	Photographic Plates.....	357
7.4.3	Photomultipliers and Classical Cameras: X Ray, UV, and Visible	359
7.4.4	X-Ray Detection (0.1–10 keV)	364
7.4.5	Solid-State Imagers	365
7.4.6	Charge Coupled Device (CCD)	366
7.4.7	The Hybrid CMOS Detector	373
7.4.8	Observing Conditions in the Infrared.....	380
7.4.9	Development of Solid-State Imaging Arrays.....	381
7.4.10	Bolometers	383
7.5	Astronomical Detectors: Radiofrequencies	387
7.5.1	General Features	388
7.5.2	Heterodyne Detection	393
7.5.3	The Diversity of Radioastronomy	403
7.6	Observing Systems for Gamma-Ray Astronomy	404
7.6.1	Spatial Resolution of Gamma-Ray Sources.....	407
7.6.2	Spectral Analysis of Gamma-Ray Sources	412

- 7.7 Neutrino Observing Systems 420
 - 7.7.1 Radiochemical Detection of Solar Neutrinos 421
 - 7.7.2 Neutrino Detection by Cherenkov Radiation 424
 - 7.7.3 High Energy Neutrino Astronomy 425
- 7.8 Gravitational Wave Detection 431
- Problems 437
- 8 Spectral Analysis 441**
 - 8.1 Astrophysical Spectra 442
 - 8.1.1 Formation of Spectra 442
 - 8.1.2 Information in Spectrometry 448
 - 8.2 Spectrometers and Their Properties 455
 - 8.2.1 Quantities Characterising a Spectrometer 456
 - 8.2.2 Spectral Discrimination 459
 - 8.2.3 The Modes of a Spectrometer 460
 - 8.3 Interferometric Spectrometers 462
 - 8.3.1 General Criteria 462
 - 8.3.2 Interference Filters 463
 - 8.3.3 Grating Spectrometers 463
 - 8.3.4 Fourier Transform Spectrometer 481
 - 8.3.5 The Fabry–Perot Spectrometer 489
 - 8.3.6 The Bragg Crystal Spectrometer (X-Ray Region) 491
 - 8.4 Radiofrequency Spectrometry 494
 - 8.4.1 Spectral Discrimination Methods 495
 - 8.4.2 Submillimetre Spectroscopy 501
 - 8.5 Resonance Spectrometers 503
 - Problems 504

Part III Data Analysis

- 9 The Signal in Astronomy 509**
 - 9.1 The Signal and Its Fluctuations 510
 - 9.1.1 Observing System and Signal 510
 - 9.1.2 Signal and Fluctuations. Noise 511
 - 9.1.3 Elementary Signal Processing 519
 - 9.1.4 A Specific Example of Data Processing 528
 - 9.2 Complete Model of an Observing System 529
 - 9.3 Overall Performance of an Observing System 532
 - 9.3.1 Observing with the IRAM Millimetre Interferometer ... 533
 - 9.3.2 Observing with NAOS Adaptive Optics 536
 - 9.3.3 Observing with the Photometric Satellite COROT 538
 - 9.3.4 Observing with a Coded Mask Gamma-Ray Instrument 541
 - 9.4 Removing Instrumental Signatures 544
 - 9.4.1 Intrinsic Emission from the Instrument 545
 - 9.4.2 Dark Current 545

9.4.3	Non-Linearity Defects	546
9.4.4	Bias	547
9.4.5	Light Interference	547
9.4.6	Flat Field Corrections	548
9.4.7	Defective Pixels	549
9.4.8	Effects of High Energy Particle Impacts	549
9.5	The Problem of Estimation	550
9.5.1	Samples and Statistics	550
9.5.2	Point Estimation	551
9.5.3	Elements of Decision Theory	551
9.5.4	Properties of Estimators	554
9.5.5	Fréchet or Rao–Cramér Inequality	564
9.5.6	Efficient Estimators	566
9.5.7	Efficiency of an Estimator	568
9.5.8	Biased Estimators	568
9.5.9	Minimum Variance Bound and Fisher Information	570
9.5.10	Multidimensional Case	570
9.5.11	Robust Estimators	571
9.5.12	Some Classic Methods	573
9.6	From Data to Object: the Inverse Problem	575
9.6.1	Posing the Problem	576
9.6.2	Well-Posed Problems	579
9.6.3	Conventional Inversion Methods	581
9.6.4	Inversion Methods with Regularisation	587
9.6.5	Application to Adaptive Optics Imaging	592
9.6.6	Application to Nulling Interferometry	595
	Problems	597
10	Sky Surveys and Virtual Observatories	605
10.1	Statistical Astrophysics	605
10.2	Large Sky Surveys	608
10.2.1	Sky Surveys at Visible Wavelengths	610
10.2.2	Infrared Sky Surveys	614
10.3	A Virtual Observatory	615
A	Fourier Transforms	619
A.1	Definitions and Properties	619
A.1.1	Definitions	619
A.1.2	Some Properties	620
A.1.3	Important Special Cases in One Dimension	622
A.1.4	Important Special Cases in Two Dimensions	625
A.1.5	Important Theorems	626
A.2	Physical Quantities and Fourier Transforms	631
A.3	Wavelets	635

B Random Processes and Variables 637

 B.1 Random Variables 637

 B.2 Random or Stochastic Processes 644

 B.3 Physical Measurements and Estimates 653

 B.3.1 An Example of Estimation: The Law
 of Large Numbers 654

 B.3.2 Estimating the Moments of a Process 655

C Physical and Astronomical Constants 659

D Tables of Space Missions 661

E Webography 663

 E.1 Main Earth-Based Telescopes 663

 E.2 Recent Space Missions 667

 E.3 Databases 669

 E.4 Journals 672

 E.5 Bibliographical Research 673

 E.6 Image Sources 673

 E.7 Education 675

 E.8 Computing and Astronomy 676

 E.9 Resources 677

F Acronyms 679

Bibliography 687

Index 705



<http://www.springer.com/978-3-642-21814-9>

Observational Astrophysics

Léna, P.; Rouan, D.; Lebrun, F.; Mignard, F.; Pelat, D.

2012, XV, 719 p. 128 illus., 71 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-642-21814-9