
CONTENTS

Preface	ix
Chapter One Introduction—Why Astronomy?	1
The relevance of astronomy	1
The structure and evolution of the universe	2
Earth and the cosmic environment	3
Celestial physical laboratories	4
Astronomy and mathematics	7
Summary	8
Chapter Two The Forces of Nature	9
The forces of physics	9
Nuclear forces and astronomy	9
Gravitation and astronomy	10
Magnets and magnetic fields	11
Electricity and magnetism	14
Electromagnetic radiation	17
Measuring celestial magnetic fields	22
Summary	26
Chapter Three The Magnetic Field of Earth	27
Brief history of geomagnetism	27
The magnetosphere	30
Solar–terrestrial relationships	32
Aurorae and magnetospheric substorms	32
Other short-term changes in the geomagnetic field	39
History of Earth’s magnetic field	42
Relevant properties of the Earth	45
The origin of the geomagnetic field	47
Biological and meteorological effects of the geomagnetic field	49
Concluding comments	50

Chapter Four	Solar and Interplanetary Magnetic Fields	51
	The Sun	51
	Sunspots	52
	Other signs of solar activity	55
	Solar magnetic fields	57
	Magnetic fields and solar activity	58
	The solar wind and interplanetary magnetic fields	61
	Possible planetary effects on solar activity	64
	Solar activity, the Earth's rotation, and earthquakes	65
	Solar activity, weather and climate	66
	Concluding comments	67
Chapter Five	Magnetic Fields in the Solar System	68
	Methods of investigating the internal structure of planets	68
	Interiors of Jupiter and Saturn	70
	Internal structure of terrestrial planets and the Moon	71
	Rotation of the planets	71
	Magnetospheres of Jupiter and Saturn	73
	The magnetic field of Uranus	81
	Planetary rings	82
	Magnetic measurements of terrestrial planets	84
	Lunar magnetism	86
	Magnetic fields in the early solar system	88
	Comets and the interplanetary field	89
	The dynamo problem	91
	Concluding comments	92
Chapter Six	Magnetic Fields in Stars and Pulsars	93
	Classification of stars	93
	Aspects of stellar evolution	95
	Detecting magnetic fields of stars	97
	Magnetic Ap stars	98
	Effect of the interstellar field on star formation	100
	Magnetic white dwarfs	100
	Magnetic fields in Sun-like stars	100
	Pulsars	102
	Magnetic fields in double-star systems	107
	Magnetic fields in x-ray sources	108
	Concluding comments	109
Chapter Seven	Magnetic Fields of the Milky Way	111
	Structure and dynamics of the Milky Way galaxy	111
	Cosmic rays and magnetic fields	118
	Magnetic fields and spiral arms	120

Polarisation of starlight	120
Synchrotron radiation from the galaxy	122
Faraday rotation of extragalactic radio sources	124
Pulsars and the interstellar medium	126
A unified model of the large-scale galactic magnetic field	126
Summary and concluding comments	127
Chapter Eight The Magnetic Fields of Other Galaxies	129
The realm of the nebulae	129
Quasars	135
Magnetic fields in other galaxies	136
Intergalactic and cosmological magnetic fields	140
Summary	141
Technical Appendix	143
Magnetic field strengths in celestial objects, and the units used to measure them	
Further Reading	145
Index	147