



# Contents

<i>Preface</i>	xi
<i>Some astronomical quantities</i>	xii
<b>1 The discovery of the pulsars</b>	1
1.1 Interplanetary scintillation	2
1.2 The <i>Nature</i> letter of February 1968	3
1.3 The identification with neutron stars	4
1.4 Optical pulses from the Crab Pulsar	6
1.5 X-ray pulses from the Crab Pulsar	8
1.6 The development of pulsar research	8
<b>2 Techniques for search and for observation</b>	11
2.1 The problem of sensitivity	11
2.2 Frequency dispersion in pulse arrival time	12
2.3 Search techniques: single pulses	13
2.4 Search techniques: periodicity	15
2.5 Optical, X-ray and gamma-ray techniques	16
<b>3 The identification with rotating neutron stars</b>	19
3.1 Oscillations of condensed stars	19
3.2 Planetary and binary orbits	21
3.3 Rotating condensed stars	22
3.4 Changes in period	23
<b>4 The X-ray pulsars</b>	25
4.1 Her X-1/HZ Her	26
4.2 Cen X-3	29
4.3 Period changes and mass transfer	30
4.4 Other known X-ray binaries	32
4.5 The physics of the X-ray emission	33
<b>5 The internal structure of neutron stars</b>	36
5.1 Temperature	36
5.2 The outer layers	38
5.3 The neutron drip point	39
5.4 The neutron fluid: superfluidity	40

## *Contents*

5.5	Solidification of the core and formation of hyperons	40
5.6	Neutron star models	41
5.7	The stability and the formation of neutron stars	42
<b>6</b>	<b>The magnetosphere of neutron stars</b>	<b>46</b>
6.1	Electrodynamics of the magnetosphere	46
6.2	Axisymmetric dipole	48
6.3	The oblique rotator	51
6.4	Complications and instabilities	51
6.5	Ruderman's whiskers and the work function	52
6.6	Energy flow from the pulsar	53
<b>7</b>	<b>Pulse timing</b>	<b>55</b>
7.1	Pulsar positions and the barycentric correction	55
7.2	The relativistic correction	58
7.3	Periods, period changes and pulsar positions	59
7.4	The Crab Pulsar	60
7.5	The Vela Pulsar PSR 0833-45	64
7.6	Neutron star structure and the glitch function	65
7.7	Starquakes and corequakes	67
7.8	The age of pulsars and the braking index	68
7.9	Pulsar proper motion	70
7.10	Binary systems	71
7.11	The binary pulsar PSR 1913 + 16	73
<b>8</b>	<b>Properties of the integrated radio pulses</b>	<b>76</b>
8.1	Integrated pulse profiles	76
8.2	On/off ratio : interpulses	80
8.3	Frequency dependence of the integrated pulse profiles	81
8.4	Integrated polarisation	82
8.5	Fine structure in integrated profiles	85
8.6	Mode changing	85
8.7	The spectrum of pulsar radio emission	88
8.8	Long-term variations of flux density	88
<b>9</b>	<b>Individual radio pulses</b>	<b>91</b>
9.1	The structure of individual pulses	92
9.2	Width of the sub-pulses	96
9.3	Microstructure	100
9.4	Histograms of pulse energy	101
9.5	Pulse drifting	103
9.6	Modulation by pulse drifting	105
9.7	Nulling and moding	106

## *Contents*

<b>10</b>	<b>The Crab Nebula</b>	109
10.1	Discovery and early observations	109
10.2	The continuum radiation from the Crab Nebula	111
10.3	The energy supply	112
10.4	The transfer of energy from the pulsar to the nebula	114
<b>11</b>	<b>The Crab Pulsar</b>	117
11.1	The spectrum	117
11.2	Pulse shapes	120
11.3	Dispersion measure and pulse arrival times	121
11.4	Variations of intensity	122
11.5	Variability of pulses: giant pulses	122
11.6	Polarisation: optical	124
11.7	Polarisation: radio	126
11.8	Relation between optical and radio radiation from the pulsar	127
<b>12</b>	<b>The interstellar medium as an indicator of pulsar distances</b>	129
12.1	The interstellar electrons	129
12.2	The galactic HI disc	130
12.3	The disc of HII regions	132
12.4	A model of the electron distribution	134
12.5	Absorption in neutral hydrogen	134
12.6	Pulsars at high galactic latitudes	137
<b>13</b>	<b>The interstellar magnetic field</b>	140
13.1	Eighteen orders of magnitude down	140
13.2	Faraday rotation in pulsars	142
13.3	The configuration of the local field	143
13.4	The more distant field	145
13.5	The galactic magnetic field: summary	146
<b>14</b>	<b>Interstellar scintillation</b>	148
14.1	A thin screen model	148
14.2	Diffraction theory of scintillation	150
14.3	Thick (extended) scattering screens	152
14.4	Observational results	153
14.5	Pulse broadening	156
14.6	Multiple scattering: geometric approach	158
14.7	Diffraction theory of pulse broadening	160
14.8	Observations of pulse broadening	162
14.9	Apparent source diameters	165
14.10	The velocity of the scintillation pattern	166
14.11	Proper motions of the pulsars	169

## *Contents*

<b>15</b>	<b>Radiation processes</b>	<b>171</b>
15.1	Cyclotron radiation	171
15.2	Cyclotron radiation from streaming electrons	173
15.3	Synchrotron radiation	174
15.4	Curvature radiation	177
15.5	Coherence	178
15.6	Maser amplification	179
<b>16</b>	<b>The emission mechanism I: analysis of observed properties</b>	<b>180</b>
16.1	The integrated pulse profiles	180
16.2	Individual pulses: the sub-pulses	181
16.3	Intensity and spectrum	182
16.4	The period $P$ and its derivative $\dot{P}$	183
16.5	Radiation characteristics related to age and period	184
<b>17</b>	<b>The emission mechanism II: geometrical considerations</b>	<b>186</b>
17.1	The width of the integrated profile	186
17.2	The shape of the integrated profile	190
17.3	Sub-pulse width	190
17.4	Relativistic beaming	190
17.5	Sub-pulse polarisation	195
17.6	Position angle of polarisation	196
17.7	Single vector model	197
17.8	Relation to a rotating magnetic field	198
17.9	Conclusions: the location of the emitter	199
<b>18</b>	<b>The emission mechanism: discussion</b>	<b>201</b>
18.1	Location	201
18.2	Energy density	204
18.3	Spectrum	205
18.4	Radio frequency radiation	206
18.5	Concluding discussion	208
<b>19</b>	<b>Supernovae: the origin of the pulsars</b>	<b>211</b>
19.1	Supernova explosions	211
19.2	Frequency of occurrence of supernovae	213
19.3	Supernovae in binary systems	214
19.4	The chances of observing a binary pulsar	217
19.5	Velocities acquired by neutron stars	218
19.6	Associations between pulsars and supernovae	218
<b>20</b>	<b>The distribution and the ages of pulsars</b>	<b>220</b>
20.1	The observed and actual distribution functions	221
20.2	Distribution in period	222

## *Contents*

20.3	Distribution in luminosity	222
20.4	Distribution in $z$ -distance	223
20.5	Distribution with radial distance $R$	223
20.6	The total galactic population	224
20.7	Correlations between the population functions	224
20.8	The ages of the pulsars	225
20.9	The radiation cut-off	227
20.10	Conclusions	228
<b>21</b>	<b>High energies and condensed stars</b>	<b>230</b>
21.1	X-ray binaries	230
21.2	X-rays in clusters	231
21.3	The galactic centre	232
21.4	Extragalactic clusters	232
21.5	Radio galaxies and quasars	233
	Appendix: the positions and periods of 105 pulsars	234
	Index	237