

CONTENTS

Preface	xi
1 Astronomical sources	1
The electromagnetic spectrum	1
<i>several astronomies</i>	4
Thermal radiation from an ideal source	6
<i>dilute radiation</i>	7
Stars	8
<i>magnitudes</i>	11
<i>magnitude systems</i>	13
<i>inverse square law</i>	13
<i>interstellar dust</i>	15
<i>absolute magnitudes and colour excess</i>	16
<i>bolometric magnitudes and bolometric corrections</i>	19
<i>surface photometry</i>	19
<i>the estimation of absolute magnitude</i>	20
Nebulae and high temperature plasmas	22
<i>thermal radiation</i>	22
<i>emission lines</i>	25
Non-thermal radiation	26
<i>synchrotron radiation</i>	26
<i>inverse Compton scattering</i>	27
<i>Čerenkov radiation</i>	28
The Zeeman effect	29
2 Observational limits	31
Coherence	31
<i>coherence time and length</i>	34
Photon flux	35
<i>photon noise</i>	35
<i>wave noise</i>	37
Detection	40
<i>incoherent detection</i>	40
<i>coherent detection</i>	41

Detection limits	42
<i>optical</i>	42
<i>infrared and radio</i>	45
<i>fluxes and limit estimates in janskys</i>	46
Air mass	46
<i>optical extinction by the atmosphere</i>	47
<i>atmospheric transparency at radio frequencies</i>	50
Sky brightness	51
<i>radio sky brightness</i>	52
Celestial coordinates	53
<i>precession</i>	54
<i>Julian Day</i>	55
<i>proper motion</i>	56
<i>aberration of starlight</i>	56
<i>astrometric precision and astrometric catalogues</i>	57
Doppler shift, radial velocity	60
<i>autocorrelation techniques</i>	61
<i>precise differential radial velocities</i>	62
<i>radio frequency radial velocities</i>	63
<i>red shift and the K correction</i>	63
<i>red shift from colour</i>	64
<i>barycentric and heliocentric corrections</i>	64
3 Telescopes	66
Single telescopes	66
<i>gamma-ray telescopes – Cos-B</i>	66
<i>non-focussing collimators</i>	70
<i>phased arrays</i>	75
<i>pencil beam interferometers</i>	78
Reflecting telescopes	79
<i>telescope exit pupil</i>	82
<i>reflectivity</i>	83
<i>grazing incidence optics</i>	85
Oblique aberrations	91
<i>Schmidt telescopes</i>	93
<i>Ritchey–Chrétien telescopes</i>	101
<i>instrument adaptors/offset guiders</i>	105
Infrared telescopes	105
Coudé focus	109
<i>telescope flexure</i>	111
<i>induced polarisation</i>	114
<i>optical fibres</i>	115
Refracting telescopes	116

Telescope orientation	117
<i>atmospheric refraction</i>	118
Optical apodisation and the tapering of radio antennae	120
<i>optical apodisation</i>	120
<i>tapering of radio antennae and feed horns</i>	122
4 Seeing, speckles, and scintillation	125
Modulation (MTF) and optical transfer functions (OTF)	125
<i>telescope transfer function and atmospheric transfer</i>	
<i>function</i>	126
<i>optimum sampling</i>	127
<i>atmospheric turbulence</i>	130
Speckles	131
<i>speckle interferometry</i>	132
<i>amplitude interferometry</i>	136
Seeing	137
<i>scintillation</i>	139
<i>optical image profiles (long exposure OTF)</i>	140
<i>choice of optical telescope sites</i>	141
<i>seeing compensation techniques</i>	144
Scintillation at radio frequencies	146
<i>ionospheric birefringence</i>	150
5 Spectrographs	151
Grating spectrographs	151
<i>efficiency in the presence of seeing</i>	151
<i>image slicers</i>	154
<i>extended sources</i>	155
<i>spectral resolution and grating characteristics</i>	156
<i>échelle spectrographs</i>	160
<i>X-ray and infrared</i>	162
Wide field spectroscopy	164
<i>objective prism, grism, and gvens</i>	164
<i>aperture plates</i>	165
<i>Fabry–Perot interferometers</i>	169
<i>Michelson interferometer</i>	172
<i>the Fellgett and multiplex advantages</i>	175
<i>the Jaquinot advantage</i>	176
Autocorrelation spectroscopy at radio frequencies	177
6 Dilute apertures	179
The interplanetary gamma-ray burst network	179
Two-beam interferometry	180
<i>intensity interferometry</i>	180
The Michelson stellar interferometer	186

<i>optical</i>	186
<i>infrared incoherent detection</i>	189
<i>infrared coherent detection</i>	191
Radio interferometers	193
<i>long baseline interferometry</i>	195
<i>aperture synthesis</i>	198
<i>the very large array</i>	204
Occultations	207
<i>lunar occultations</i>	207
<i>X-ray</i>	209
<i>optical and infrared</i>	210
<i>radio</i>	212
7 Single channelled detectors	216
Incoherent detection	216
<i>responsive quantum efficiency (RQE)</i>	216
<i>RQE enhancement</i>	218
<i>detective quantum efficiency (DQE)</i>	218
<i>analogue integration</i>	219
<i>photon counting</i>	220
<i>pile-up errors</i>	220
The silicon diode: an analogue detector	220
<i>reset (KTC) noise</i>	221
<i>dark noise</i>	222
The photomultiplier: a photon counting detector	223
<i>dark noise</i>	226
<i>DQE of a photon counting photomultiplier system</i>	228
A photoelectric photometer	230
<i>photometric observations</i>	231
<i>monochromators</i>	231
<i>absorption filters</i>	232
<i>interference filters</i>	233
<i>photometric errors from out-of-band radiation</i>	235
Polarimetry	239
Gamma-ray and X-ray detectors	242
Infrared detectors	244
<i>noise in semiconductors</i>	245
<i>noise equivalent power (NEP)</i>	246
<i>thermal detectors</i>	247
<i>photoconductive detectors</i>	248
<i>photovoltaic detectors</i>	250
<i>background radiation</i>	250
<i>signal-to-noise and DQE</i>	254
Coherent detection	254

<i>radio receivers</i>	254
<i>infrared heterodyne</i>	257
8 Multi-channelled incoherent detectors	260
Photographic emulsion plus microdensitometer	260
<i>the photographic process</i>	260
<i>microdensitometer/microphotometers</i>	261
<i>DQE of photographic emulsions</i>	265
<i>hypersensitising</i>	267
<i>photographic enhancement and unsharp masking</i>	268
<i>photographic emulsion plus image intensifier</i>	273
<i>magnetically focussed intensifiers</i>	276
<i>electrostatically focussed intensifiers</i>	276
<i>proximity focussed intensifiers</i>	277
<i>coupling of phosphor output and detector</i>	279
Electronography	281
Signal generating detectors	284
<i>analogue and photon counting television cameras</i>	284
<i>the SEC vidicon, a 2D analogue integrating detector</i>	285
<i>photon counting television systems</i>	287
<i>the silicon diode, SIT, and ISIT vidicons</i>	288
<i>image tube scanner (ITS)</i>	289
<i>finding and guiding</i>	289
<i>limitations of television cameras</i>	289
Solid state detectors	290
<i>self-scanned silicon diode arrays (Reticon)</i>	290
<i>analogue integration</i>	293
<i>photon counting</i>	294
<i>the digicon</i>	296
Charge transfer devices	297
<i>analogue integration</i>	299
<i>CID</i>	299
<i>CCD</i>	300
<i>photon counting</i>	307
Multi-anode, resistive anode, and microchannel arrays	307
<i>resistive anode MCP</i>	307
<i>the microchannel array (MAMA) detector</i>	309
Effect of cosmic rays	309
Photon counting vs. integration for visible detectors	311
High resolution imaging X-ray detector (HRI)	315
Appendix A – SI Units and symbols	317
Appendix B – Errors of observation	319
<i>References</i>	321
<i>Index</i>	342