CONTENTS

Preface v

Chapter 1: BASIC CONCEPTS OF GENERAL RELATIVITY

1.1. The Aims and Characteristics of Astrophysics 1
1.2. Newtonian Mechanics and Absolute Space 3
1.3. The Difficulties of Newtonian Gravitation 6
1.4. Special Relativity and Gravity 10
1.5. Mach's Principle 12
1.6. Principle of Equivalence 14
1.7. Local Inertial Frames 17
1.8. Metrics of Spacetime 19
1.9. Geodesics 23
1.10. Curved Spaces 26
1.11. Relation between Curvature and Matter 33
References 38

Chapter 2: EFFECTS IN A WEAK GRAVITATIONAL FIELD

2.1. Gravitational Redshift 40
2.2. Schwarzschild Metric 44
2.3. Clocks Moving Around the Earth 46
2.4. Precession of the Perihelion 49
2.5. Deflection of Light 56
2.6. Experiments on Radar Echoes 61
2.7. Precession of the Axis of Rotation 65
References 70

Chapter 3: COMPACT STARS

3.1. Historical Records 71
3.2. Crab Nebula 77

3.3. Theory of Cold Stars 83
3.4. Neutron Stars 90
3.5. The Discovery of Pulsars 96
3.6. Basic Properties of Pulsars 103
References 110

Chapter 4: BLACK HOLES
4.1. Critical Mass 111
4.2. The Phenomena in a Collapse 114
4.3. The Types of Black Holes 121
4.4. Horizons and Emissions from Black Holes 123
4.5. Identification of Black Holes 129
4.6. X-ray Pulsars in Close Binary Star Systems 135
4.7. Close X-ray Binary Star Systems with Fluctuating Luminosities 140
References 143

Chapter 5: GRAVITATIONAL WAVES
5.1. Gravitational Fields of 1/r Type 144
5.2. Deviation Equation 147
5.3. Essential Properties of Gravitational Waves 148
5.4. The Radiation of Gravitational Waves 151
5.5. Gravitational Radiation of Binary Stars 153
5.6. Observational Verification of Gravitational Radiation Damping 156
References 164

Chapter 6: RELATIVISTIC COSMOLOGY
6.1. Difficulties between the Infinite Universe and Newtonian Theory 165
6.2. Spacetime of a Homogeneous and Isotropic Universe 167
6.3. Relations between Apparent Magnitudes and Red-Shifts 170
6.4. The Darkness of the Night Sky 178
6.5. Number Counts 180
6.6. Dynamical Equation for R(t) 183
6.7. Age of the Universe 187

6.8. Background Black Body Radiation 193
6.9. Helium Abundance 201
6.10. Formation of Galaxies 205
6.11. The Very Early Universe 211
References 214

Index 215