

Lecture Notes on the General Theory of Relativity [From Newton's Attractive Gravity to the Repulsive Gravity of Vacuum Energy /

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Springer New York : Imprint: Springer, 2009

Monografía

This book has resulted from a course in the general theory of relativity at the University of Oslo where the author has lectured for more than twenty years. Although the text is designed for master students, it is rather self-contained. Since mathematics courses on differential geometry and tensor calculus usually employ a rather abstract notation different from the component notation used in physical applications, the book introduces not only an introduction to the physical principles of the theory and physical applications of the theory, but also introduces the mathematics which is needed, in particular the calculus of differential forms. Detailed calculations are given of the bending of light, the perihelion precession of Mercury and the predictions for the Hafele-Keating experiment. The Tolman-Oppenheimer-Volkoff equation is deduced and solved for an incompressible fluid to give the internal Schwarzschild solution. Rotating black holes are discussed. The Friedmann-Robertson-Walker universe models are deduced. Also the reader will become familiar with the Universe model which is now considered as the standard model of the universe; a flat model filled with vacuum energy and cold matter. The inflationary era at the first moment of the history of our universe is also discussed

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Título: Lecture Notes on the General Theory of Relativity Recurso electrónico-En línea] From Newton's Attractive Gravity to the Repulsive Gravity of Vacuum Energy by Øyvind Grøn

Editorial: New York, NY Springer New York Imprint: Springer 2009

Descripción física: XII, 252p. 186 illus., 93 illus. in color. online resource

Tipo Audiovisual: Physics Mathematical physics Astronomy Physics Classical and Quantum Gravitation, Relativity Theory Mathematical Methods in Physics Astronomy, Astrophysics and Cosmology

Mención de serie: Lecture Notes in Physics 0075-8450 772

Documento fuente: Springer eBooks

Nota general: Physics and Astronomy (Springer-11651)

Contenido: Newton\2019s Law of Universal Gravitation -- The Special Theory of Relativity -- Vectors, Tensors and Forms -- Accelerated Reference Frames -- Covariant Differentiation -- Curvature -- Einstein\2019s Field Equations -- The Schwarzschild Spacetime -- Black Holes -- Schwarzschild\2019s Interior Solution -- Cosmology

Restricciones de acceso: Accesible sólo para usuarios de la UPV

Tipo recurso electrónico: Recurso a texto completo

Detalles del sistema: Forma de acceso: Web

ISBN: 9780387881348

Entidades: SpringerLink (Servicio en línea)

Enlace a formato físico adicional: Printed edition 9780387881331

Punto acceso adicional serie-Título: Lecture Notes in Physics 0075-8450 772

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