

Contents

Preface xv

Copyright acknowledgments xviii

PART I	The scientific enterprise	I
1	Ways of knowing	3
1.1	Philosophy	
1.2	Logical deduction	
1.3	Self-evident first principles	
1.4	Rationalists versus empiricists	
1.5	The status of scientific knowledge	
1.A	Descartes' <i>Regulae</i>	
	Further reading	
2	Aristotle and Francis Bacon	15
2.1	Aristotle	
2.2	Observation versus experimentation	
2.3	The universe as organism	
2.4	Aristotle on motion	
2.5	Francis Bacon	
2.6	<i>The New Organon</i>	
2.7	Bacon and Aristotle compared	
2.A	Aristotle's <i>On the Heavens</i> and <i>Physics</i> on motion	
	Further reading	
3	Science and metaphysics	29
3.1	Origins of scientific method	
3.2	A popular view of science	
3.3	Hume and Mill on induction	
3.4	Popper on observation and hypothesis	
3.5	Justification for hypotheses	
3.6	Scientific knowledge and truth	
3.A	Hume, Mill and Popper on scientific knowledge	
	Further reading	
PART II	Ancient and modern models of the universe	41
4	Observational astronomy and the Ptolemaic model	43
4.1	Elementary observations	
4.2	The celestial sphere	

- 4.3 Eratosthenes' determination of the earth's size
- 4.4 Aristarchus' heliocentric model of the universe
- 4.5 The planets
- 4.6 Ptolemy's geocentric model of the universe
- 4.7 To save the phenomena
 - 4.A Determination of the absolute sizes of planetary orbits
 - Further reading
- 5 The Copernican model and Kepler's laws 59
 - 5.1 Copernicus and his heliocentric model
 - 5.2 Advantages of the Copernican theory
 - 5.3 Shortcomings of the Copernican theory
 - 5.4 Kepler's laws
 - 5.A Conic sections
 - Further reading
- 6 Galileo on motion 74
 - 6.1 The impetus theory
 - 6.2 Galileo's naturally accelerated motion
 - 6.3 Projectile motion
 - 6.4 Inertia
 - 6.5 Galileo on Aristotle
 - 6.A Galileo's *Dialogues Concerning Two New Sciences*
 - Further reading

PART III The Newtonian universe 87

- 7 Newton's *Principia* 89
 - 7.1 Isaac Newton
 - 7.2 Newton's philosophy of science
 - 7.3 Outline of Newton's argument in the *Principia*
 - 7.4 Newton's three laws of motion
 - 7.5 The logical structure of classical mechanics
 - Further reading
- 8 Newton's law of universal gravitation 103
 - 8.1 Newton's astronomical data and deductions
 - 8.2 An inverse-square law
 - 8.3 The moon's centripetal acceleration
 - 8.4 The law of gravitation for point masses
 - 8.5 Gravitation for extended bodies
 - 8.6 Inertial and gravitational masses
 - Further reading
- 9 Some old questions revisited 114
 - 9.1 An illustration of Newton's geometrical proofs
 - 9.2 Kepler's first and third laws
 - 9.3 Perturbations
 - 9.4 The ocean tides prior to Newton
 - 9.5 The earth-moon system and tidal bulges

- 9.A Newton and Young on wave interference
- Further reading

PART IV **A perspective** 133

- 10 Galileo's *Letter to the Grand Duchess* 135
 - 10.1 The background
 - 10.2 A basic issue
 - 10.3 The *Letter to the Grand Duchess*
 - 10.4 Galileo and Urban VIII
 - 10.5 Religion *vis-à-vis* natural philosophy
 - 10.A Galileo's *Letter to the Grand Duchess*
 - Further reading
- 11 An overarching Newtonian framework 148
 - 11.1 A revolution
 - 11.2 A broad coherence
 - 11.3 Views on space prior to Newton
 - 11.4 Newton's absolute space
 - 11.5 Physical versus mathematical spaces
 - Further reading
- 12 A view of the world based on science: determinism 164
 - 12.1 The belief in simple laws
 - 12.2 The meaning of determinism
 - 12.3 Why the clockwork universe?
 - 12.4 An unwarranted optimism
 - 12.5 Two maps as examples
 - Further reading

PART V **Mechanical versus electrodynamical world views** 181

- 13 Models of the aether 183
 - 13.1 Emergence of the optical aether
 - 13.2 The elastic solid aether
 - 13.3 The electromagnetic aether
 - 13.4 Thomson's and Maxwell's models
 - 13.5 Maxwell's arguments for the aether
 - 13.A Maxwell on the aether versus action at a distance
 - Further reading
- 14 Maxwell's theory 195
 - 14.1 Maxwell's equations
 - 14.2 The displacement current
 - 14.3 The final classical theory
 - 14.4 The Michelson–Morley experiment
 - 14.5 Precursors to relativity
 - 14.A Maxwell's equations in mathematical form
 - Further reading

15	The Kaufmann experiments	208
	15.1 Rival theories of electromagnetic mass	
	15.2 Kaufmann's experiments	
	15.3 Planck's analysis of Kaufmann's work	
	15.4 Subsequent determinations of el/m_0	
	15.5 Conclusions	
	15.A Some technical details	
	Further reading	
PART VI	The theory of relativity	223
16	The background to and essentials of special relativity	225
	16.1 Albert Einstein	
	16.2 Einstein's skepticism about classical physics	
	16.3 The postulates	
	16.4 Time dilation and length contraction	
	16.5 The Lorentz transformations	
	16.A A technical detail on Einstein's <i>Gedankenexperiment</i>	
	Further reading	
17	Further logical consequences of Einstein's postulates	241
	17.1 Relativistic Doppler effect	
	17.2 Mass-energy equivalence	
	17.3 The twin paradox	
	17.4 Simultaneity and coexistence	
	17.A Some calculational details	
	Further reading	
18	General relativity and the expanding universe	252
	18.1 The basic principles	
	18.2 Experimental tests	
	18.3 The stability of the classical universe	
	18.4 The Einstein and Friedmann universes	
	18.5 Hubble's law	
	18.6 A modern model of our universe	
	18.A A derivation of Hubble's law	
	Further reading	

PART VII **The quantum world and the completeness of quantum mechanics** 271

19	The road to quantum mechanics	273
	19.1 Some historical background	
	19.2 Planck's hypothesis	
	19.3 Bohr's semiclassical model	
	19.4 Actual discoveries versus rational reconstructions	
	19.5 Two routes to quantum mechanics	
	19.6 Forging the Copenhagen interpretation	
	Further reading	

- 20 Copenhagen quantum mechanics 290
 - 20.1 Some simple quantum-mechanical systems
 - 20.2 Interpretations of the wave function
 - 20.3 A fundamental distinction between large and small
 - 20.4 The uncertainty relation
 - 20.5 Photon interference – the double slit
 - Further reading
- 21 Is quantum mechanics complete? 305
 - 21.1 The completeness of quantum mechanics
 - 21.2 The Bohr–Einstein confrontations
 - 21.3 The measurement problem
 - 21.4 Schrödinger’s cat paradox
 - 21.5 Dirac on the effect of measurement
 - Further reading

PART VIII Some philosophical lessons from quantum mechanics 317

- 22 The EPR paper and Bell’s theorem 319
 - 22.1 The EPR paradox
 - 22.2 An analysis of the EPR paper
 - 22.3 Bell’s theorem
 - 22.4 A derivation of Bell’s theorem
 - 22.A A calculation of the EPRB correlations
 - Further reading
- 23 An alternative version of quantum mechanics 331
 - 23.1 An overview
 - 23.2 The Copenhagen interpretation
 - 23.3 A logically possible, empirically viable alternative
 - 23.4 The value of an alternative interpretation
 - 23.5 Explanation versus understanding
 - 23.6 Attempts at understanding quantum mechanics
 - 23.A Some mathematical details of Bohm’s theory
 - Further reading
- 24 An essential role for historical contingency? 345
 - 24.1 Underdetermination
 - 24.2 A dilemma for the realist
 - 24.3 An alternative historical scenario?
 - 24.4 Internal versus external explanations
 - Further reading

PART IX A retrospective 357

- 25 The goals of science and the status of its knowledge 359
 - 25.1 Einstein on science and its goals
 - 25.2 A reductionist program
 - 25.3 Styles of scientific inference
 - 25.4 A paradox of confirmation

Contents

- 25.5 The paradigm model of science
 - 25.6 An eclectic description of science
 - 25.7 One modern world view based on science
- Further reading

Notes 378

General references 398

Bibliography 400

Author index 412

Subject index 415