ASTROFISICA

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High Energy Astrophysics

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THIRD EDITION

I take this term to mean the astrophysics of high energy processes and their application in astrophysical and cosmological contexts. These processes, their application in astrophysics and how they lead to some of the most challenging problems of contemporary physics, are the subjects of this book.

For example, we need to explain how the massive black holes present in the nuclei of active galaxies can be studied, how charged particles are accelerated to extremely high energies in astronomical environments, the origins of enormous fluxes of high energy particles and magnetic fields in active galaxies, the physical processes in the interiors and environments of neutron stars, the nature of the dark matter, the expected fluxes of gravitational waves in extreme astronomical environments, and so on.

Thus, high energy astrophysics makes feasible the study of the properties of matter under physical conditions which cannot yet be reproduced in the laboratory. Indeed, in many cases, the problems can only be addressed in the astrophysical environment.







Jupiter's auroras





Rock

Earth

Ionized liquid water, ammonia, and methane Liquid metallic hydrogen and atomic helium Molecular hydrogen and atomic helium

Jupiter

100,000 kilometers 60,000 miles Uranus

Neptune

Saturn



















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LOCAL GALACTIC GROUP





VIRGO SUPERCLUSTER



10 Mpc

Virgo Cluster



LOCAL SUPERCLUSTERS



100 Мрс







North Celestial Pole -60° **North Pole** -50 Equator 3h 4h Celestial 2h 22h 23h 0h Equator 10 Vernal 20° **Ecliptic** Equinox 30° 40° **South Pole**

South Celestial Pole











Figure 14.2 Henrietta Swan Leavitt (1868–1921). (Courtesy of Harvard College Observatory.)



Figure 14.3 Classical Cepheids in the Small Magellanic Cloud, with the period in units of days. (Figure from Shapley, *Galaxies*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA, 1961.)

Hubble Law



Edwin Hubble, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, vol. 15 no. 3, pp.168-173

 $v = H_o d$

 $H_{o} \sim 72$ km/s / Mpc



SN la as standard candles





