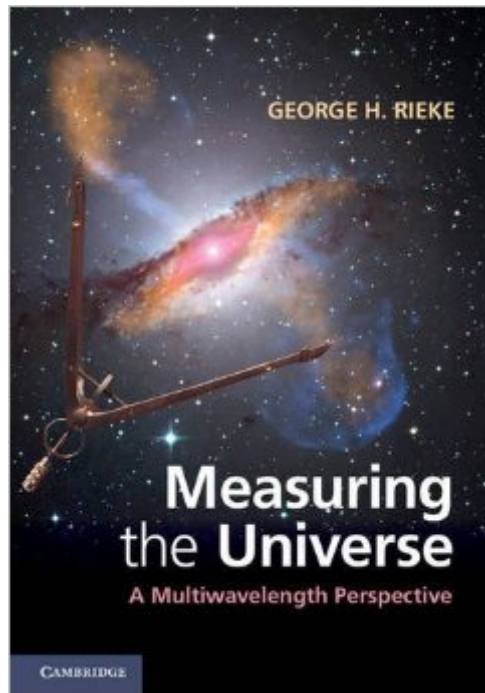


The book was found

Measuring The Universe: A Multiwavelength Perspective



Synopsis

Astronomy is an observational science, renewed and even revolutionized by new developments in instrumentation. With the resulting growth of multiwavelength investigation as an engine of discovery, it is increasingly important for astronomers to understand the underlying physical principles and operational characteristics for a broad range of instruments. This comprehensive text is ideal for graduate students, active researchers and instrument developers. It is a thorough review of how astronomers obtain their data, covering current approaches to astronomical measurements from radio to gamma rays. The focus is on current technology rather than the history of the field, allowing each topic to be discussed in depth. Areas covered include telescopes, detectors, photometry, spectroscopy, adaptive optics and high-contrast imaging, millimeter-wave and radio receivers, radio and optical/infrared interferometry, and X-ray and gamma-ray astronomy, all at a level that bridges the gap between the basic principles of optics and the subject's abundant specialist literature. Color versions of figures and solutions to selected problems are available online at www.cambridge.org/9780521762298.

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Customer Reviews

This should be mandatory reading for anyone starting research in Astronomy - observational or otherwise. Basically this book talks about observational astronomy from the radio to gamma rays and even touches on other messenger particles such as cosmic rays, neutrinos and gravitational waves (understandably not in much detail). The level is high enough to be useful to a non-specialist

astronomer. For example, after having read this book, someone who observes primarily in the optical will possess a good enough basic understanding of observational radio astronomy to not get lost when listening to a radio-astronomer talk. At the same time, the book is very far from boring - a hard optimum to achieve. The language is also superb - very colloquial and lively. Good 'down-time' reading. I can think of only two things that will make the book even more useful - a more detailed discussion of what physical phenomenon are important at what wavelengths. Perhaps a three-way table connecting astrophysical objects to radiation mechanisms to principal observational characteristics. The second thing is a slightly more detailed discussion of polarimetry - right now it's lumped into the chapter on photometry as a single sub-chapter. Still...fantastic book delightful reading.

The book is OK, but the illustrations are horrible.

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