

Lecture Notes: Introduction to Astrophysics and Cosmology

Based on lectures by **Dr. Shmuel Bialy** in 2025-26
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These notes were typed in the 2026 winter semester *Introduction to Astrophysics and Cosmology* course taught by **Dr. Shmuel Bialy** at the Technion.

The lectures were given in Hebrew and were live-translated by me to English. The document is provided as is and likely contains many errors.

If you find any mistakes or typos please let me know at danielbreger@campus.technion.ac.il.

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Lecture 1.

Thu, October 30, 2025

1.1 introduction

Since astrophysics is a very wide subject we won't be able to dive deep on each subject. The course is introductory so we'll be skipping some things like full solutions to integrals and the such.

1.1.1 So what is astrophysics?

Astrophysics and Cosmology could be broken down into:

Physics of stars

Solar systems planets, comets...

ISM Inter-Stellar Medium, Inter-Galactic Medium

Cosmology development, the big bang, dark energy/matter

Exotic objects black holes, neutron stars, white dwarfs...

Relativity gravitational waves, gravitational lensing

Galaxies types, development, active galactic nuclei, quasars

Explosions novas, supernovas, gamma ray bursts

and the methods used to research those things include

Observations Telescopes IR, radio, xray, gamma rays...

Gravitational waves

Neutrinos

Other particles (via probes)

Labs

Computer simulations hydrodynamics, N-body simulations...

Analytical theory

We'll focus mostly on the analytical theory, but we'll mention the others too.

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