

## Contributors

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## How to use this book

In astronomy, perhaps more than in most other disciplines, practice cannot for long remain divorced from theory – at least, not in the minds of those whose interest is more than casual. In its previous edition, however, this book was uncompromisingly theoretical throughout. This put it beyond the reach of beginners in practical astronomy, unless they were already conversant with recent developments in general physics.

To overcome these difficulties, the most relevant parts of the previous edition have been retained in a comprehensively revised and updated form, and an entirely new approach has been adopted to the presentation of practical material. This is intended particularly to assist the practising amateur astronomer, whether new to the subject, or advanced.

This practical material can be easily identified on leafing through the book: it consists of self-contained sections, the pages of which have a broad tinted border.

Terms which are included in the Glossary (page 249) are shown in small capital letters the first time they occur in the text (e.g. ABSOLUTE ZERO).

Technical terms which are explained in the text are indicated by the use of bold type (e.g. **parallax**). Such references may be located by use of the index.

All photographs and diagrams are orientated with north at the top, except where any confusion might arise due to reversed relief, or for other considerations. In such cases the orientation is given.

The constants (and derived data) used throughout this book are those adopted at the 16th Congress of the International Astronomical Union at Grenoble in 1976.

All quantities are expressed in Systeme Internationale (SI) units.