

Contents

List of Complements xv

List of Biographies..... xvii

1. Space and Time Before Einstein..... 1

1.1.	Absolute Space and Time	1
1.2.	Geometric Properties of the Space	2
1.3.	Galileo and the Laws of Motion.....	4
1.4.	Change of Coordinates Between Frames in Relative Motion.....	6
1.5.	Principle of Inertia	8
1.6.	Principle of Relativity	9
1.7.	Physical Phenomena having a Privileged Reference System	11
1.8.	Maxwell's Electromagnetism.....	13

2. In Search of the Ether 17

2.1.	Two Models for the Light.....	17
2.2.	First Determination of the Speed of Light	21
2.3.	The Aberration of Light.....	23
2.4.	First Terrestrial Method to Measure c	26
2.5.	The Luminiferous Ether	27
2.6.	Searching for the Absolute Terrestrial Motion: Dragging of Ether	29
2.7.	Fizeau's Experiment.....	32
2.8.	Hoek's Experiment.....	34
2.9.	Airy's Experiment.....	36
2.10.	Michelson–Morley Experiment.....	36
2.11.	FitzGerald–Lorentz Length Contraction.....	43
2.12.	The Twilight of the Ether	44

3. Space and Time in Special Relativity	47
3.1. Postulates of Special Relativity	47
3.2. Length Contractions and Time Dilatations.....	49
3.3. The Muon Journey	52
3.4. Lengths Transversal to Motion	53
3.5. Composition of Motions	54
3.6. Interpretation of Fizeau's Experiment	57
3.7. Transversal Components of the Velocity	58
3.8. The Notion of Simultaneity	58
3.9. Events and World Lines.....	62
3.10. Coordinate Lines of S' in the Space-Time Diagram of S	65
3.11. Lorentz Transformations	69
3.12. Comparing Clocks in Different Frames	74
3.13. Velocity and Acceleration Transformations.....	78
3.14. "Paradoxes": Remnants of Classical Thought.....	81
3.15. Doppler Effect	86
3.16. Transformation of Light Rays	90
3.17. Transformation of a Plane Wave	92
3.18. Propagation of Light in Material Media.....	95
4. Geometric Structure of Space-Time	97
4.1. Interval.....	97
4.2. Calibration Hyperbola.....	98
4.3. Light Cone.....	100
4.4. Timelike-Separated Events	101
4.5. Twin Paradox	103
4.6. Spacelike-Separated Events	107
4.7. Velocity Parameter: Rapidity	109
4.8. Wigner Rotation	111
5. Transformation of the Electromagnetic Field	117
5.1. The Electromagnetic Plane Wave.....	117
5.2. Transformation of E and B	119
5.3. Charge and Current Transformations	122
5.4. Field of a Uniformly Moving Charge	126
5.5. Transformation of Potentials	127
5.6. Fields in Material Media.....	128
5.7. Moving Dipoles Fields.....	130
5.8. Lorentz Force Transformation	132
5.9. Electromagnetic Field Invariants	133

6. Energy and Momentum	135
6.1. Conservation Laws	135
6.2. Energy and Momentum of a Particle	137
6.3. Energy–Momentum Invariant. Force	141
6.4. Charge Movement in Uniform Fields	143
6.5. Center-of-Momentum Frame	146
6.6. Phenomena Derived from Mass–Energy equivalence	148
6.7. Center of Inertia	153
6.8. Elastic Collisions	155
6.9. Interaction Between Electromagnetic Radiation and Matter	163
7. Covariant Formulation	171
7.1. Four-Tensors	171
7.2. Metric	176
7.3. Four-Vector “Norm” and Argument	180
7.4. Angular Momentum	181
7.5. Volume and Hypersurfaces	184
7.6. Energy–Momentum Tensor of Continuous Media	188
7.7. Electromagnetism	197
7.8. Fermi–Walker Transport	202
8. Inertia and Gravity	207
8.1. The Criticism of Absolute Motion	207
8.2. The Principle of Equivalence	210
8.3. The Inertial–Gravitational Field	215
8.4. Riemannian Geometry	220
8.5. Motion of a Freely Gravitating Particle	223
8.6. Covariant Derivative. Minimal Coupling	227
8.7. Riemann Tensor. Einstein Equations	234
9. Results of General Relativity	243
9.1. Schwarzschild Solution. Black Hole	243
9.2. Inertial Movement in Schwarzschild Geometry	246
9.3. Light Deflection in Schwarzschild Geometry	251
9.4. Kruskal-Szekeres Coordinates	253
9.5. Cosmological Models	257
9.6. Evolution of the Universe	264
9.7. Non-Machian Solutions. Cosmological Constant	272
9.8. Problems of the Standard Big-Bang Model	278
9.9. Experimental Tests	282

Appendix.....	287
A.1. Euler–Lagrange Equation.....	287
A.2. The Action Functional	288
A.3. Metric Energy–Momentum Tensor.....	291
A.4. Gauge Transformations and Source Conservation.....	292
A.5. Killing Vectors and Energy–Momentum Conservation.....	294
Bibliography.....	297
Cited Papers.....	299
Index.....	303