

Contents

Preface to the <i>second</i> edition	xiii
Acknowledgments	xv
1 Hubble Space Telescope and the universe	1
Astronomy and light	11
Astronomy: the observational science	12
HST: the multi-frequency time machine	14
The HST science instruments	18
The Wide Field and Planetary Cameras	18
The Faint Object Camera	21
The Goddard High Resolution Spectrograph	21
The Faint Object Spectrograph	22
The Near-Infrared Camera and Multi-Object Spectrometer	25
Space Telescope Imaging Spectrograph	25
The High Speed Photometer	26
The Fine Guidance Sensors	26
COSTAR	27
Observing with HST	27
2 HST and the Solar System	31
Pre-HST exploration	31
Hubble's dynamic Solar System	34
Mars	34
Venus	40
The Jupiter system	41
Saturn	51
Uranus and Neptune	57
Pluto	61

HST and comets	63
Asteroids	66
Other planets?	67
3 Stars and the interstellar medium	69
The lives of stars	69
Chemical abundances in the interstellar medium	72
Newborns in space	74
The Orion Nebula	74
The Eagle Nebula	78
Herbig-Haro objects	81
Beta Pictoris	86
Cone Nebula / NGC 2264	89
HST and the stellar zoo	89
Supergiants, stellar winds and recycled stars	90
Melnick 42	90
Betelgeuse	91
Binary stars	92
NGC 6624	92
Nova Cygni 1992	93
Star clusters	93
M15	94
Chemically peculiar stars	95
Faint stars and dark matter	99
Planetary nebulae	101
Etched Hourglass Nebula	101
Cat's-Eye Nebula	103
Helix Nebula	105
Stellar death throes	105
White dwarf stars	105
S u p e r n o v a 1987a	106
<i>The Crab Nebula Pulsar</i>	107

Supernova 1006	123
The Cygnus Loop	124
Eta Carinae, the cataclysmic variable star	124
Stars outside our galaxy	127
Stars in the Large Magellanic Cloud	129
Stars in M33	129
Stars in M31	130
Intergalactic stars	130
4 Galaxies	133
The evolution of galaxies	137
The Hubble Deep Field (HDF): the survey	138
Ultraviolet dropout	143
Rate of star formation	143
Evolution of galactic forms	145
Before galaxies	146
Individual galaxies	146
Galaxies with central black holes	147
M87	149
NGC 4261 and M84	150
M31	152
Quasars	153
Collisions between galaxies	155
Arp 220	155
NGC 1275	157
The Cartwheel Galaxy	157
Gamma-ray bursts	159
5 Cosmology	161
Cosmological distances	162
The expanding universe and the Standard Model	165
Dark matter	168

HST and cosmology	170
Lyman-alpha forest in nearby quasars	170
The deuterium-to-hydrogen ratio in the local interstellar medium	172
Determination of distances	175
Distant galaxies and clusters	180
General relativity and gravitational lenses	182
Where are we now?	185
6 The once and future Space Telescope	187
First light, first frustrations	189
HST's place in history	193
Building HST	197
The Space Telescope Science Institute	199
Launch, deployment, and 'attitude shift'	200
Memories of missions	202
The Hubble end game	208
Glossary	213
References and further reading	219
Index	221