

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	The idea behind general relativity	1
1.2	Fundamental properties of gravity	4
1.3	Consequences of the equivalence principle	7
1.4	Futile attempts	9
2	Differential Geometry I	15
2.1	Differentiable manifolds	15
2.2	The tangent space	18
2.3	Dual vectors and tensors	24
2.4	The metric	27
3	Differential Geometry II	31
3.1	Connections and covariant derivatives	31
3.2	Geodesics	34
3.3	Curvature	38
3.4	Riemannian connections	42
4	Physics in Gravitational Fields	47
4.1	Motion of particles	47
4.2	Motion of light	49
4.3	Energy-momentum (non-)conservation	54
4.4	The Newtonian limit	58
5	Differential Geometry III	63

5.1	The Lie derivative	63
5.2	Killing vector fields	68
5.3	Differential forms	69
5.4	Integration	73
6	Einstein's Field Equations	77
6.1	The physical meaning of curvature	77
6.2	Einstein's field equations	82
6.3	Lagrangian formulation	84
6.4	The energy-momentum tensor	86
7	Weak Gravitational Fields	91
7.1	Linearised theory of gravity	91
7.2	Gauge transformations	93
7.3	Nearly Newtonian gravity	95
7.4	Gravitational waves	100
8	The Schwarzschild Solution	111
8.1	Cartan's structure equations	111
8.2	Stationary and static spacetimes	115
8.3	The Schwarzschild solution	116
8.4	Solution of the field equations	120
9	The Schwarzschild Spacetime	127
9.1	Orbits in the Schwarzschild spacetime	127
9.2	Comparison to the Kepler problem	130
9.3	Perihelion shift and light deflection	133
9.4	Spins in the Schwarzschild spacetime	137
10	Schwarzschild Black Holes	143
10.1	The singularity at $r = 2m$	143
10.2	The Kruskal continuation	147

10.3 Physical meaning of the Kruskal continuation	152
10.4 Redshift approaching the Schwarzschild radius	156
11 Charged, Rotating Black Holes	161
11.1 The Reissner-Nordström solution	161
11.2 The Kerr-Newman solution	164
11.3 Motion near a Kerr black hole	172
11.4 Entropy and temperature of a black hole	177
12 Homogeneous, Isotropic Cosmology	183
12.1 Spherically-symmetric spacetimes	183
12.2 Homogeneous and isotropic spacetimes	187
12.3 Friedmann's equations	191
12.4 Density evolution and redshift	194
13 Relativistic Astrophysics	199
13.1 Light bundles	199
13.2 Gravitational lensing	201
13.3 The Tolman-Oppenheimer-Volkoff solution	206
13.4 The mass of non-rotating neutron stars	209
A Electrodynamics	213
A.1 Electromagnetic field tensor	213
A.2 Maxwell's equations	213
A.3 Lagrange density and energy-momentum tensor	214
B Differential Geometry	217
B.1 Manifold	217
B.2 Tangent and dual spaces	217
B.3 Tensors	218
B.4 Covariant derivative	219
B.5 Parallel transport and geodesics	220

B.6	Torsion and curvature	220
B.7	Pull-back, Lie derivative, Killing fields	221
B.8	Differential forms	223
B.9	Cartan's structure equations	224
B.10	Differential operators and integration	225
C	Penrose-Carter diagrams	227