

Contents

1	Planetary Systems	1
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	The Plurality of Worlds: A Question as Old as the Hills	1
1.2.1	From Antiquity to the Copernican Revolution	1
1.2.2	The First Theories on the Formation of the World	3
1.3	First Searches for Other Worlds	5
1.3.1	The First Astrometric Searches	6
1.3.2	The Velocimetry Method	6
1.3.3	The First Results and the Problems Raised	9
1.3.4	Planets Around Pulsars	10
1.3.5	The Search for Protoplanetary Disks	12
1.4	The Solar System: A Typical Planetary System?	13
1.4.1	The Sun as an Average Star	14
1.4.2	Brown Dwarfs: Between Stars and Planets	15
1.4.3	A Specific Planetary System: The Solar System	15
1.4.4	The Formation of the Planets by Nucleation	15
1.4.5	Terrestrial and Giant Planets	18
	Bibliography	20
2	Detection Methods	21
2.1	The Extent of the Problem	21
2.1.1	Contrast Between Star and Planet	21
2.1.2	Angular Separation Between the Objects	22
2.1.3	Environment of the Earth and Exoplanets	23
2.2	The Indirect Detection of Exoplanets	24
2.2.1	The Effect of a Planet on the Motion of Its Star	24
2.2.2	The Effect a Planet has on Photometry of Its Star	36
2.2.3	Comparison of the Different Indirect Methods	46
2.3	Direct Detection of Exoplanets	46
2.3.1	Choice of Spectral Region	47
2.3.2	Coronagraphic Methods and Adaptive Optics	48

2.3.3	Interferometry	55
2.3.4	Interferometry and Imagery: Hypertelescopes	62
2.3.5	Detection by Radio.....	65
	Bibliography	67
3	Extrasolar Planets, 12 Years After the First Discovery	69
3.1	Exoplanets and Exoplanetary Systems	70
3.2	The Mass-Distribution of Exoplanets	70
3.3	The Distance-Distribution of Exoplanets	74
3.4	The Relationship Between the Mass of Exoplanets and Their Distance from Their Star	76
3.5	Orbital Eccentricity Among Exoplanets	78
3.6	Exoplanets and Their Parent Stars	80
3.7	Mass/Diameter Ratio	82
3.8	Characteristics of Extrasolar Planetary Atmospheres	83
	Bibliography	84
4	What we Learn from the Solar System	85
4.1	Observational Methods	85
4.2	The Observational Data	87
4.2.1	Orbits that are Essentially Co-Planar and Concentric.....	87
4.2.2	Terrestrial Planets and Giant Planets	87
4.2.3	The Small Bodies	88
4.2.4	Dating the Solar System Through Radioactive Decay	90
4.3	The Emergence of a ‘Standard Model’	91
4.3.1	The Nebular Theory	91
4.3.2	The Standard Model: The Chronology of Events	92
4.4	The Physical and Chemical Properties of Solar-System Objects	100
4.4.1	The Electromagnetic Spectrum of the Objects in the Solar System.....	100
4.4.2	Planetary Atmospheres	101
4.4.3	The Terrestrial Planets	105
4.4.4	The Giant Planets	110
4.4.5	Rings and Satellites in the Outer Solar System	120
4.4.6	Small Bodies in the Solar System.....	124
4.5	Conclusions: The Solar System Compared with Other Planetary Systems	129
4.5.1	The Scenario for the Formation of the Solar System	129
4.5.2	Objects in the Planetary Systems Observable from Earth ..	130
	Bibliography	131
5	Star Formation and Protoplanetary Disks	133
5.1	The First Stages in Star Formation	133
5.1.1	Properties of the Interstellar Medium.....	133
5.1.2	The Formation of Molecular Clouds	135

5.1.3	Collapse of a Molecular Cloud	136
5.1.4	Observation of Young Stars	136
5.2	Structure and Evolution of Protoplanetary Disks	139
5.2.1	Observation of Protoplanetary Disks	139
5.2.2	Stellar Accretion Flux	142
5.2.3	The Rotation of T-Tauri Stars	143
5.2.4	The Formation of Binary Systems	144
5.2.5	The Principal Stages of Star Formation	145
5.2.6	Later Stages of Stellar Evolution: Evolution Towards the Main Sequence	149
5.2.7	The Structure of Protoplanetary Disks	151
5.2.8	Composition of the Gas and Dust	155
5.3	Planetary Disks and Debris Disks	156
5.3.1	Observation of the Disk of HR 4796A	157
5.3.2	Observation of the Disk of β Pic	158
5.4	The Formation of Planetesimals and Planetary Embryos	161
5.4.1	From Microscopic Particles to Centimetre-Sized Grains	161
5.4.2	From Centimetre-Sized Grains to Kilometre-Sized Bodies	162
5.4.3	From Protoplanets to Planets	163
	Bibliography	165
6	The Dynamics of Planetary Systems	169
6.1	Characteristics of the Orbits	169
6.1.1	Calculation of Radial Velocities	169
6.1.2	Orbital Characteristics from Radial-Velocity Curves	170
6.1.3	Multiple Systems Case	172
6.1.4	Exoplanets and Known Multiple Systems	173
6.1.5	Rotation of the Planets	176
6.2	Migration	177
6.2.1	Migration in the Solar System	177
6.2.2	Migration in Exosystems	179
6.2.3	The Different Migration Mechanisms	180
6.2.4	Observational Indications	182
6.2.5	The End of the Migration and Tidal Effects	184
6.3	Stability of Planetary Systems	185
6.3.1	Dynamical Categories	185
6.3.2	The GJ 876 System	187
6.3.3	The HD 82943 System	188
6.3.4	The ν Andromedae System	188
6.3.5	The HD 202206 System: A Circumbinary Planet?	189
6.3.6	The HD 69830 System: Three Neptunes and a Ring of Dust	191
6.4	Planetary Systems Around Pulsars	191
6.5	The Dynamics of Debris Disks	193
	Bibliography	196

7 Structure and Evolution of an Exoplanet	197
7.1 The Internal Structure of Giant Exoplanets	198
7.1.1 The Observable Features	198
7.1.2 The Equations of Internal Structure	199
7.1.3 Rotation Effects	201
7.1.4 Equations of State	201
7.1.5 Construction of Models of Internal Structure	203
7.1.6 Evolutionary Models	206
7.2 The Internal Structure of Terrestrial-Type Exoplanets and Ocean Planets	208
7.2.1 Terrestrial-Type Exoplanets	209
7.2.2 Ocean Planets	211
7.3 The Atmospheres of Exoplanets: Their Structure, Evolution and Spectral Characteristics	214
7.3.1 Giant Exoplanets	214
7.3.2 Terrestrial Planets and Habitable Planets	225
7.3.3 Hot Neptunes, Super-Earths, and Ocean Planets	239
Bibliography	242
8 Present and Future Instrumental Projects	245
8.1 Indirect Methods of Detection	246
8.1.1 Velocimetry	246
8.1.2 Astrometry	250
8.1.3 The Study of Planetary Transits	255
8.1.4 Searching for Microlensing Events	266
8.2 Direct Methods of Detection	270
8.2.1 Imaging	270
8.2.2 Interferometry	279
8.2.3 Direct Detection of Radio Waves	288
Bibliography	291
9 The Search for Life in Planetary Systems	293
9.1 What is Life?	293
9.1.1 How Should Life be Defined?	293
9.1.2 The Role of Carbon and of Liquid Water	294
9.1.3 The Building-Block of Life: Macromolecules	296
9.1.4 Nucleic Acids	297
9.1.5 The Role of the Cell	298
9.2 Prebiotic Material in the Universe	299
9.2.1 Organic Material in the Universe	299
9.2.2 The Synthesis of Organic Molecules: Miller and Urey's Experiment	301
9.2.3 Transport of Complex Organic Molecules to the Primordial Earth	303
9.3 Stages on the Road to Complexity	306

9.3.1	Polymers and Macromolecules	306
9.3.2	The Formation of Membranes	307
9.3.3	RNA and DNA	307
9.4	The Appearance of Life on the Primitive Earth	308
9.4.1	Favourable Conditions	308
9.4.2	The Environment of the Primitive Earth: The Hydrosphere and Atmosphere	309
9.5	The Search for Habitable Locations in the Solar System	311
9.5.1	The Planet Mars	311
9.5.2	The Satellites of the Outer Planets	315
9.6	The Search for Life on Exoplanets	319
9.6.1	Exoplanets' Habitable Zones	319
9.6.2	How May Life on an Exoplanet be Detected?	321
9.7	The Search for Extraterrestrial Civilisations	324
9.7.1	The Drake and Sagan Equation	324
9.7.2	Communication by Radio Waves	325
9.7.3	The State of SETI and CETI Searches	325
	Bibliography	327
	Appendix A	329
A.1	Star or Planet?	329
A.2	Gravitation and Kepler's Laws	330
A.3	Black-Body Emission – Planck's Radiation Law – Stefan's Law	330
A.4	The Hertzsprung-Russell Diagram and the Spectral Classification of Stars	332
A.5	Resonances	334
	Index	337