

WHAT ARE THE
STARS?

G SRINIVASAN

THE PRESENT REVOLUTION IN ASTRONOMY

 Universities Press

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THE PRESENT REVOLUTION IN ASTRONOMY

This series is intended to convey the excitement of astronomy at the dawn of the new millennium. It is aimed at readers from diverse backgrounds in science.

The outstanding question in astronomy at the turn of the twentieth century was: what are the stars and why are they as they are? In this volume, the story of how the answer to this fundamental question was unravelled is narrated in an informal style, with emphasis on the underlying physics. It also gives an overview of the topics that will be covered in later volumes—white dwarfs, neutron stars, black holes, galaxies, and the universe at large.

G Srinivasan began his career as a solid state physicist and later switched to astrophysics. After his PhD at the University of Chicago, he worked at the IBM Research Laboratory, Zurich, Switzerland; Chalmers University of Technology, Goteborg, Sweden; Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge; and Raman Research Institute, Bangalore. He is a Past President of the Astronomical Society of India, as well as the Division of Space and High Energy Astrophysics of the International Astronomical Union. He is a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences and a former Jawaharlal Nehru Fellow.

This series of splendid and accessible books is very timely for it aims to survey the contemporary scene at an introductory level. The readers will find Dr Srinivasan, an internationally acclaimed leader in this enterprise, to be a clear and enthusiastic guide to the wonders and mysteries of the cosmos.

Lord Martin Rees

Astronomer Royal

Master of Trinity College, Cambridge

I know of no comparable book in the present-day literature that so successfully conveys the excitement of the development of ideas pertaining to the physics of stars, including the newest discoveries, and at the same time explains the fundamentals so well.

E P J van den Heuvel

Professor of Astrophysics

University of Amsterdam,

The Netherlands

Cover image: A colour-composite image of the Pleiades Star Cluster from the Digitized Sky Survey.

Credit: NASA/ESA/AURA/Caltech



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