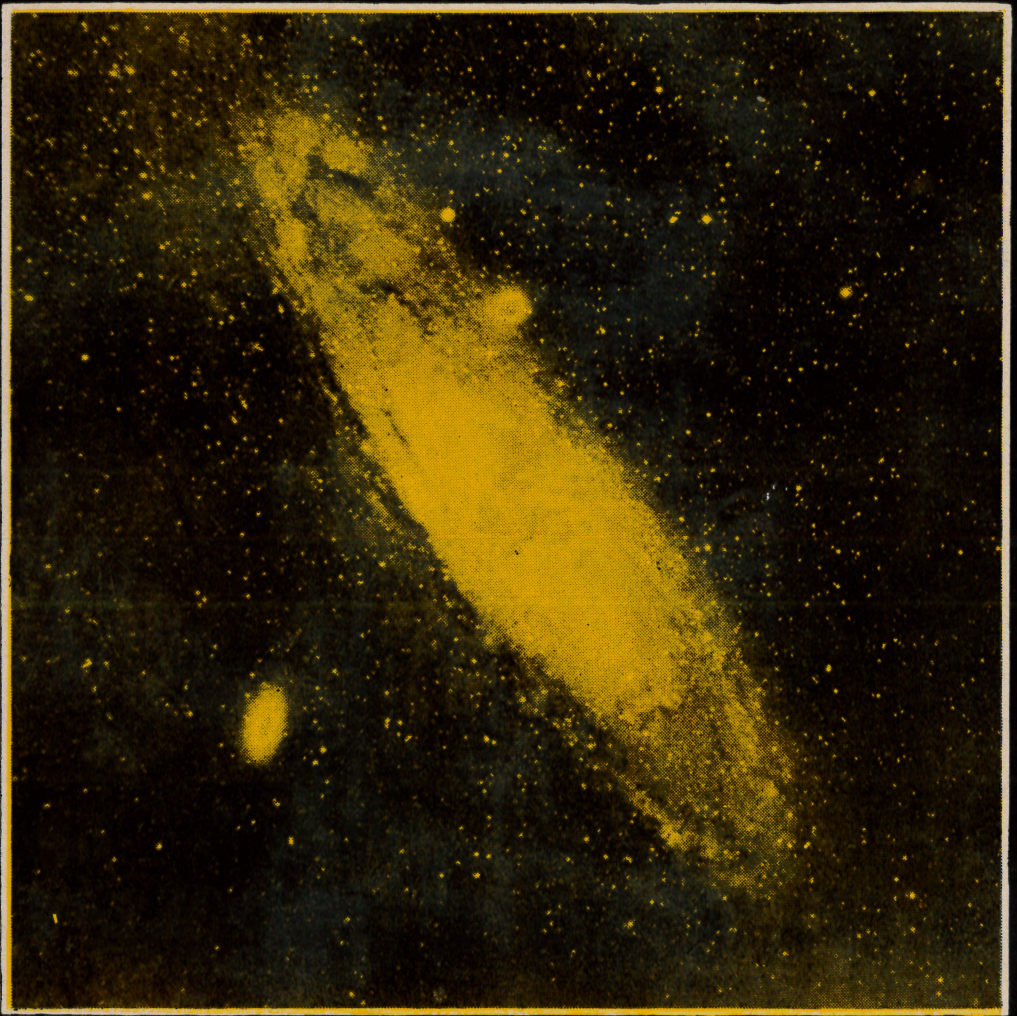


A RANDOM WALK

In Relativity and Cosmology



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A RANDOM WALK IN RELATIVITY AND COSMOLOGY

Essays in honour of

P.C. Vaidya and A.K. Raychaudhuri

EDITED BY

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Contents

<i>List of Contributors</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>Foreword</i> by V.V. Narlikar	<i>ix</i>
<i>Preface</i> by the Editors	<i>xi</i>
1. <i>A. Ashtekar and K.S. Narain</i>	1
Generation of a Mass-gap by Restoration of Broken Symmetry	
2. <i>S. Banerji, T.K. Das and D.R. Mandal</i>	15
Scalar Particle Energy Levels Bound by a Schwarzschild Black Hole	
3. <i>B. Bertotti</i>	23
Long Range Prospects for Low Frequency Gravitational Wave Detection	
4. <i>W.B. Bonnor</i>	33
Curves with Null Normals in Minkowski Space-time	
5. <i>B. Carter</i>	48
The Canonical Treatment of Heat Conduction and Superfluidity in Relativistic Hydrodynamics	
6. <i>Y. Choquet-Bruhat</i>	63
Recent Proofs of the Positivity of Gravitational Energy	
7. <i>N. Dadhich</i>	72
Some Features of the Kerr Geometry	
8. <i>H.G. Dalal and B.K. Datta</i>	85
Some Theorems on Relativistic Magnetohydrodynamics	
9. <i>G.F.R. Ellis and D.R. Matravers</i>	92
Spatial Homogeneity and the Size of The Universe	
10. <i>B.R. Iyer and C.V. Vishveshwara</i>	109
General Relativistic Aspects of Neutron Star Models	
11. <i>P.S. Joshi</i>	128
Topological Properties of Certain Physically Significant Subsets of Spacetimes	

12.	<i>J. Krishna Rao and M. Annapurna</i> Static Gaseous Spheres in General Relativity	137
13.	<i>M. Nagaraj</i> Sp(n)-Fields in General Relativity	147
14.	<i>H. Nariai and H. Ishihara</i> On the de Sitter and Nariai Solutions in General Relativity and Their Extension in Higher Dimensional Spacetime	164
15.	<i>J.V. Narlikar</i> Some Conceptual Problems in General Relativity and Cosmology	171
16.	<i>A. Papapetrou</i> Formation of a Singularity and Causality	184
17.	<i>A.R. Prasanna</i> Equations of Motion for a Radiating Charged Particle in Electromagnetic Fields on Curved Space-time	192
18.	<i>M.M. Som</i> Static Electromagnetic Field Coupled Non-minimally to Gravity	200
19.	<i>M.M. Som</i> Homogeneous and Isotropic Cosmology with Conformally Invariant Scalar Field	207
20.	<i>P. Szekeres</i> Singularities of the Raychaudhuri Kind	211
21.	<i>J.A. Wheeler</i> Gravitational Collapse of a Gravitational Wave via Geon Transition State	222
	<i>Curriculum Vitae of P.C. Vaidya</i>	229
	<i>List of Publications by P.C. Vaidya</i>	230
	<i>Books by P.C. Vaidya</i>	233
	<i>Curriculum Vitae of A.K. Raychaudhuri</i>	234
	<i>List of Publications by A.K. Raychaudhuri</i>	235
	<i>Books by A.K. Raychaudhuri</i>	236

A Random Walk in Relativity and Cosmology

This volume is a collection of essays written in honour of Professor P.C. Vaidya and Professor A.K. Raychaudhuri. These two distinguished scientists are well-known for their important contributions to general relativity and cosmology, and are widely respected as inspiring teachers. The international composition of the authors, including some of their former students, is an indication of the measure of affection and admiration Vaidya and Raychaudhuri enjoy.

Topics in general relativity fall broadly into two types namely the study of gravitational effects around local objects and the investigation of the global structure of spacetime. The Vaidya metric is an example of the former while the Raychaudhuri equation belongs to the latter category. Appropriately, the articles in this volume highlight problems of both kinds and are written by experts in the respective fields. These essays span a wide spectrum of diverse areas from abstract concepts to observational techniques within the framework of relativity, cosmology and astrophysics. Some of them represent original results of recent research, while others are broad-based state of the art reviews. The variety of subjects discussed here includes the detection of gravitational radiation, structure of spacetimes, the nature of singularities, positivity of gravitational energy, relativistic astrophysics in relation to gravitational collapse, neutron stars and black holes, and fundamental conceptual problems in general relativity and cosmology.

General relativity and associated fields constitute today a rapidly expanding area of research. *A Random Walk in Relativity and Cosmology*, by presenting new ideas and offering a glimpse of the excitement of ongoing exploration, should be both useful and stimulating to any interested reader.

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