

# VERY SHORT INTRODUCTIONS



# Stars A Very Short Introduction

**Jonathan Braithwaite**



## Stars A Very Short Introduction:

**Stars: A Very Short Introduction** A. R. King, 2012-07-26 Stars are a constant source of fascination In this Very Short Introduction Andrew King introduces us to the science of stars how they are born how they live and how they die He shows how understanding the stars is the key to understanding the galaxies they inhabit and how they provide us with clues to the existence of planets like our own

**Gravity: A Very Short Introduction** Timothy Clifton, 2017-02-16 Gravity is one of the four fundamental interactions that exist in nature It also has the distinction of being the oldest weakest and most difficult force to quantize Understanding gravity is not only essential for understanding the motion of objects on Earth but also the motion of all celestial objects and even the expansion of the Universe itself It was the study of gravity that led Einstein to his profound realisations about the nature of space and time Gravity is not only universal it is also essential for understanding the behaviour of the Universe and all astrophysical bodies within it In this Very Short Introduction Timothy Clifton looks at the development of our understanding of gravity since the early observations of Kepler and Newtonian theory He discusses Einstein's theory of gravity which now supplants Newton's showing how it allows us to understand why the frequency of light changes as it passes through a gravitational field why GPS satellites need their clocks corrected as they orbit the Earth and why the orbits of distant neutron stars speed up Today almost 100 years after Einstein published his theory of gravity we have even detected the waves of gravitational radiation that he predicted Clifton concludes by considering the testing and application of general relativity in astrophysics and cosmology and looks at dark energy and efforts such as string theory to combine gravity with quantum mechanics

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**Galaxies: A Very Short Introduction** John Gribbin, 2008-03-27 In this fascinating Very Short Introduction popular science writer John Gribben tells the story of our growing understanding of galaxies from the days before Galileo to our present day observations of our many hundreds of millions of galactic neighbors Not only are galaxies fascinating astronomical structures in themselves but their study has revealed much of what we know today about the cosmos providing a window on the Big Bang and the origins of the Universe Gribben looks at our own Milky Way Galaxy in detail from the different kinds of stars that are born within it to the origins of its magnificent spiral structure Perhaps most interesting Gribben describes the many exciting discoveries have been made about our own galaxy and about those beyond how a supermassive black hole lurks at the center of every galaxy how enormous forces are released when

galaxies collide how distant galaxies provide a window on the early Universe and how the formation of young galaxies shed needed light on the mysteries of Cold Dark Matter John Gribbin is one of the best known current popular science writers His many books include the acclaimed *The Universe A Biography* *In Search of Schrodinger's Cat* and *Science A History* He has written for many newspapers and regularly contributes to radio and television documentaries and debates and also writes science fiction novels He formerly worked for *Nature* and *New Scientist* and is presently a Visiting Fellow in Astronomy at the University of Sussex

- 1 A Very Short Introduction
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compelling introduction to the fundamental particles that make up the universe Frank Close takes us on a journey into the atom to examine known particles such as quarks electrons and the ghostly neutrino Along the way he provides fascinating insights into how discoveries in particle physics have actually been made and discusses how our picture of the world has been radically revised in the light of these developments He concludes by looking ahead to new ideas about the mystery of antimatter the number of dimensions that there might be in the universe and to what the next 50 years of research might reveal ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert

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