

The Perfect Machine

Building the Palomar Telescope



Ronald Florence

"A perfect job of science writing for the general public. Over to you, Pulitzer Prize Committee."—Arthur C. Clarke

Perfect Machine Building The Palomar Telescope

Ronald Florence



Perfect Machine Building The Palomar Telescope:

The Perfect Machine Ronald Florence, 2011-08-16 Almost a half century after its completion the 200 inch Palomar telescope remains an unparalleled combination of vast scale and microscope detail As huge as the Pantheon of Rome and as heavy as the Statue of Liberty this magnificent instrument is so precisely built that its seventeen foot mirror was hand polished to a tolerance of 2×10^{-6} of an inch The telescope's construction drove some to the brink of madness made others fearful that mortals might glimpse heaven and transfixed an entire nation Ronald Florence weaves into his account of the creation of the perfect machine a stirring chronicle of the birth of Big Science and a poignant rendering of an America mired in the depression yet reaching for the stars

The Perfect Machine Ronald Florence, 1994 Author describes the building of the Palomar telescope in California one of the greatest technical achievements of this century

Optics in Astrophysics Renaud Foy, Françoise Claude Foy, 2006-01-14 Astrophysics is facing challenging aims such as deep cosmology at redshift higher than 10 to constrain cosmology models or the detection of exoplanets and possibly terrestrial exoplanets and several others It requires unprecedented ambitious R D programs which have definitely to rely on a tight cooperation between astrophysics and optics communities The book addresses most of the most critical interdisciplinary domains where they interact or where they will do A first need is to collect more light i e telescopes still larger than the current 8-10 meter class ones Decametric and even hectometric optical from UV to IR wavelengths telescopes are being studied Whereas up to now the light collecting surface of new telescopes was approximately 4 times that of the previous generation now this factor is growing to 10 to 100 This quantum leap urges to implement new methods or technologies developed in the optics community both in academic labs and in the industry Given the astrophysical goals and technological constraints new generation adaptive optics with a huge number of actuators and laser guide stars devices have to be developed from theoretical bases to experimental works Two other newcomers in observational astrophysics are interferometric arrays of optical telescopes and gravitational wave detectors Up to date reviews of detectors and of spectrographs are given as well as forefront R D in the field of optical coatings and of guided optics Possible new ways to handle photons are also addressed based on quantum physics More and more signal processing algorithms are a part and parcel of any modern instrumentation Thus finally the book gives two reviews about wavefront processing and about image restoration and deconvolution algorithms for ill conditioned cases

Enchantment Of Urania, The: 25 Centuries Of Exploration Of The Sky Massimo Capaccioli, 2024-03-19 Today we know much about the sky how stars are born how they live and die and how the universe as a whole evolves We have learned of the existence of another type of matter indifferent to light and yet decisive for the formation of galaxies and we have a hint of a dark energy that since the last 4-5 billion years has taken over the control of the cosmos We postulated and then discovered and even photographed black holes and listened to the faint rustle of the space time ripple produced when these monsters devour each other We reached these astonishing results recognized by a bunch of

Nobel Prizes and filling every day the media with wonders for the eyes and the mind by the marriage of physics and astronomy that unified the Earth with the sky and then by the leap forward of science and technology in the Twentieth Century This rich heritage has ancient roots It was built by accumulating discoveries with errors observations with fantasies myths and superstitions with flashes of genius over a span of millennia since Homo sapiens turning his eyes to the immutable and perfect sky began to ask questions The book is a narration of the answers to these questions that had evolved over time a progressive path inserted in the general history with some second thoughts and many obstacles This is a saga of men and machines where greatness sometimes mixes with misery and passion often borders on sacrifice and even martyrdom Why should we know it Because our current knowledge is the result of these efforts and of the preconceptions that accompanied them The challenge has been to present this complex and intricate subject without resorting to any formulas so that it can be accessible to a wide audience of curious people including high school and university students and in general all those who normally keep themselves informed of scientific things A rich bibliography has also been added in the appendix for those wishing to learn more on one or more topics

Deep Space Craft Dave Doody, 2010-04-03 Deep Space Craft opens the door to interplanetary flight It looks at this world from the vantage point of real operations on a specific mission and follows a natural trail from the day to day working of this particular spacecraft through the functioning of all spacecraft to the collaboration of the various disciplines to produce the results for which a spacecraft is designed These results are of course mostly of a scientific nature although a small number of interplanetary missions are also flown primarily to test and prove new engineering techniques The author shows how in order to make sense of all the scientific data coming back to Earth the need for experiments and instrumentation arises and follows the design and construction of the instruments through to their placement and testing on a spacecraft prior to launch Examples are given of the interaction between an instrument's science team and the mission's flight team to plan and specify observations gather and analyze data in flight and finally present the results and discoveries to the scientific community This highly focused insider's guide to interplanetary space exploration uses many examples of previous and current endeavors It will enable the reader to research almost any topic related to spacecraft and to seek the latest scientific findings the newest emerging technologies or the current status of a favorite flight In order to provide easy paths from the general to the specific the text constantly refers to the Appendices Within the main text the intent is general familiarization and categorization of spacecraft and instruments at a high level to provide a mental framework to place in context and understand any spacecraft and any instrument encountered in the reader's experience Appendix A gives illustrated descriptions of many interplanetary spacecraft some earth orbiters and ground facilities to reinforce the classification framework Appendix B contains illustrated detailed descriptions of a dozen scientific instruments including some ground breaking engineering appliances that have either already been in operation or are poised for flight Each instrument's range of sensitivity in wavelengths of light etc and its physical principles of operation is described

Appendix C has a few annotated illustrations to clarify the nomenclature of regions and structures in the solar system and the planets ring systems and places the solar system in context with the local interstellar environment

Observatories of the Southwest Douglas Isbell, Stephen E. Strom, 2016-12-15 With its clear skies and low humidity the southwestern United States is an astronomer's paradise where observatories like Kitt Peak have redefined the art of skywatching The region is unique in its loose federation of like minded research outposts and in the quantity and diversity of its observatories places captured in this unique guidebook Douglas Isbell and Stephen Strom both intimately involved in southwestern astronomy have written a practical guide to the major observatories of the region for those eager to learn what modern telescopes are doing to understand the role each of these often quirky places has played in advancing our understanding of the cosmos and hopefully to visit and see the tools of the astronomer up close For each observatory the authors describe its history highlights of its contributions to astronomy with an emphasis on recent results and information for visitors Also included are wide ranging interviews with astronomers closely associated with each site Observatories covered range from McDonald in Texas to Palomar in California with significant outposts in between Arizona's Kitt Peak National Observatory southwest of Tucson the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff and the Whipple Observatory outside Amado and New Mexico's Very Large Array near Socorro and Sacramento Peak close to Sunspot In addition to describing these established institutions they also take a look ahead to the most powerful ground based telescope in the world just beginning to operate at full power on Mount Graham in Safford Arizona With more than three dozen illustrations *Observatories of the Southwest* is accessible to amateur astronomers tourists students and teachers anyone fascinated with the contributions that astronomy has made to deepening our understanding of humanity's place in the universe whether exploring the solar system from Lowell Observatory or studying the birth of stars using the army of giant radio telescopes at the Very Large Array This book aims to inspire visits to these sites by illuminating the major scientific questions being pursued every clear night beneath the dark skies of the Southwest and the amazing machinery that makes these pursuits possible

Space and Astronomy Kyle Kirkland, 2010 *Frontiers of Science* is an eight volume set that explores notable issues at the forefront of scientific research and inquiry The interdisciplinary set focuses on the methods and imagination of people who push the boundaries of science by investigating subjects not readily observable or shrouded in obscurity Understanding the science behind scientific advances is critical because new knowledge and theories sometimes seem unbelievable until the underlying methods leading to their discovery become clear Designed to complement science curricula the set covers a broad range of complex relevant topics that will extend the limits of knowledge and satisfy the curiosity of readers *Space and Astronomy* investigates the research and discoveries of scientists who explored the frontiers of space and astronomy and found significant objects and environments that no one had ever seen before from Earth The book presents not only basic concepts relating to space and astronomy but also the impact that the field has on the future of technology research and exploration Each chapter traces the evolution of a

prominent topic concerning space and astronomy and offers an introduction a conclusion a chronology and a list of resources that allow the reader to focus on the subject being considered The volume includes information on dark matter and dark energy extrasolar planets galaxy formation and evolution gravitational waves interstellar travel space colonization The book contains more than 40 color photographs and line illustrations sidebars a glossary a detailed list of additional print and Internet resources and an index Frontiers of Science is essential for high school students teachers and general readers who wish to understand the newest areas of scientific research from groundbreaking issues that are making headlines to ones that are not as well known Book jacket **Opto-Mechanical Systems Design, Volume 2** Paul Yoder, Daniel

Vukobratovich, 2017-12-19 Opto Mechanical Systems Design Fourth Edition is different in many ways from its three earlier editions coauthor Daniel Vukobratovich has brought his broad expertise in materials opto mechanical design analysis of optical instruments large mirrors and structures to bear throughout the book Jan Nijenhuis has contributed a comprehensive new chapter on kinematics and applications of flexures and several other experts in special aspects of opto mechanics have contributed portions of other chapters An expanded feature a total of 110 worked out design examples has been added to several chapters to show how the theory equations and analytical methods can be applied by the reader Finally the extended text new illustrations new tables of data and new references have warranted publication of this work in the form of two separate but closely entwined volumes This second volume Design and Analysis of Large Mirrors and Structures concentrates on the design and mounting of significantly larger optics and their structures including a new and important topic detailed consideration of factors affecting large mirror performance The book details how to design and fabricate very large single substrate segmented and lightweight mirrors describes mountings for large mirrors with their optical axes in vertical horizontal and variable orientations indicates how metal and composite mirrors differ from ones made of glass explains key design aspects of optical instrument structural design and takes a look at an emerging technology the evolution and applications of silicon and silicon carbide in mirrors and other types of components for optical applications **History**

of Science in United States Marc Rothenberg, 2012-10-12 This Encyclopedia examines all aspects of the history of science in the United States with a special emphasis placed on the historiography of science in America It can be used by students general readers scientists or anyone interested in the facts relating to the development of science in the United States Special emphasis is placed in the history of medicine and technology and on the relationship between science and technology and science and medicine **Handbook of Physical Vapor Deposition (PVD) Processing** Donald M. Mattox, 2010-04-29

This updated version of the popular handbook further explains all aspects of physical vapor deposition PVD process technology from the characterizing and preparing the substrate material through deposition processing and film characterization to post deposition processing The emphasis of the new edition remains on the aspects of the process flow that are critical to economical deposition of films that can meet the required performance specifications with additional

information to support the original material The book covers subjects seldom treated in the literature substrate characterization adhesion cleaning and the processing The book also covers the widely discussed subjects of vacuum technology and the fundamentals of individual deposition processes However the author uniquely relates these topics to the practical issues that arise in PVD processing such as contamination control and film growth effects which are also rarely discussed in the literature In bringing these subjects together in one book the reader can understand the interrelationship between various aspects of the film deposition processing and the resulting film properties The author draws upon his long experience with developing PVD processes and troubleshooting the processes in the manufacturing environment to provide useful hints for not only avoiding problems but also for solving problems when they arise He uses actual experiences called war stories to emphasize certain points Special formatting of the text allows a reader who is already knowledgeable in the subject to scan through a section and find discussions that are of particular interest The author has tried to make the subject index as useful as possible so that the reader can rapidly go to sections of particular interest Extensive references allow the reader to pursue subjects in greater detail if desired The book is intended to be both an introduction for those who are new to the field and a valuable resource to those already in the field The discussion of transferring technology between R D and manufacturing provided in Appendix 1 will be of special interest to the manager or engineer responsible for moving a PVD product and process from R D into production Appendix 2 has an extensive listing of periodical publications and professional societies that relate to PVD processing The extensive Glossary of Terms and Acronyms provided in Appendix 3 will be of particular use to students and to those not fully conversant with the terminology of PVD processing or with the English language Fully revised and updated to include the latest developments in PVD process technology War stories drawn from the author s extensive experience emphasize important points in development and manufacturing Appendices include listings of periodicals and professional societies terms and acronyms and material on transferring technology between R D and manufacturing

Asteroids Curtis Peebles, 2016-04-26 Asteroids suggest images of a catastrophic impact with Earth triggering infernos tidal waves famine and death but these scenarios have obscured the larger story of how asteroids have been discovered and studied During the past two centuries the quest for knowledge about asteroids has involved eminent scientists and amateur astronomers patient research and sudden intuition advanced technology and the simplest of telescopes newspaper headlines and Cold War secrets Today researchers have named and identified the mineral composition of these objects They range in size from 33 feet to 580 miles wide and most are found in a belt between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter Covering all aspects of asteroid investigation Curtis Peebles shows how ideas about the orbiting boulders have evolved He describes how such phenomena as the Moon s craters and dinosaur extinction were gradually and by some scientists grudgingly accepted as the results of asteroid impacts He tells how a band of icy asteroids rimming the solar system first proposed as a theory in the 1940s was ignored for more than forty years until renewed interest and technological

breakthroughs confirmed the existence of the Kuiper Belt Peebles also chronicles the discovery of Shoemaker Levy 9 a comet with twenty two nuclei that crashed into Jupiter in 1994 releasing many times the energy of the world s nuclear arsenal Showing how asteroid research is increasingly collaborative the book provides insights into the evolution of scientific ideas and the ebb and flow of scientific debate **Space and Astronomy** Marianne J. Dyson, 2014-05-14 Contains a history of the subjects of space and astronomy providing definitions and explanations of related topics plus brief biographies of scientists of the twentieth century **Opto-Mechanical Systems Design, Two Volume Set** Paul Yoder, Daniel Vukobratovich, 2018-12-14 Opto Mechanical Systems Design Fourth Edition is different in many ways from its three earlier editions coauthor Daniel Vukobratovich has brought his broad expertise in materials opto mechanical design analysis of optical instruments large mirrors and structures to bear throughout the book Jan Nijenhuis has contributed a comprehensive new chapter on kinematics and applications of flexures and several other experts in special aspects of opto mechanics have contributed portions of other chapters An expanded feature a total of 110 worked out design examples has been added to several chapters to show how the theory equations and analytical methods can be applied by the reader Finally the extended text new illustrations new tables of data and new references have warranted publication of this work in the form of two separate but closely entwined volumes The first volume Design and Analysis of Opto Mechanical Assemblies addresses topics pertaining primarily to optics smaller than 50 cm aperture It summarizes the opto mechanical design process considers pertinent environmental influences lists and updates key parameters for materials illustrates numerous ways for mounting individual and multiple lenses shows typical ways to design and mount windows and similar components details designs for many types of prisms and techniques for mounting them suggests designs and mounting techniques for small mirrors explains the benefits of kinematic design and uses of flexures describes how to analyze various types of opto mechanical interfaces demonstrates how the strength of glass can be determined and how to estimate stress generated in optics and explains how changing temperature affects opto mechanical assemblies The second volume Design and Analysis of Large Mirrors and Structures concentrates on the design and mounting of significantly larger optics and their structures including a new and important topic detailed consideration of factors affecting large mirror performance The book details how to design and fabricate very large single substrate segmented and lightweight mirrors describes mountings for large mirrors with their optical axes in vertical horizontal and variable orientations indicates how metal and composite mirrors differ from ones made of glass explains key design aspects of optical instrument structural design and takes a look at an emerging technology the evolution and applications of silicon and silicon carbide in mirrors and other types of components for optical applications Contact with Alien Civilizations Michael Michaud, 2010-05-05 The proper study of mankind is not merely Man but Intelligence 1 Arthur C Clarke 1951 In the long running television series The X Files the original Deep Throat said to FBI Special Agent Mulder that there are those like yourself who believe in the existence of extraterrestrial life Ah but that s

not the question If extraterrestrial life exists most of it may be in simpler forms comparable to the one celled organisms of Earth biology Finding such life would be fascinating for scientists but may be of only passing interest to the general public What intrigues the average citizen is the possibility of contact with extraterrestrial intelligence We want to communicate with other sentient beings learning what they know and telling them about ourselves We want to find out how they are like us and how they are different Microorganisms don't have a lot to say There is another implication of contact that underlies this book Intelligent extraterrestrials might have an impact on our future The information they send us if any might change our cultures They could have conscious intentions toward us and possibly the technologies to reach us directly Their intentions may be benign or not Our interest in alien minds is not new The idea that intelligent beings exist beyond the Earth has been part of the Western intellectual tradition for more than 2000 years Sometimes this belief was widespread at other times it was out of fashion

Quantitative MRI of the Brain Mara Cercignani, Nicholas G. Dowell, Paul S. Tofts, 2018-01-12 Building on the success of the first edition of this book the winner of the 2004 British Medical Association Radiology Medical Book Competition *Quantitative MRI of the Brain Principles of Physical Measurement* gives a unique view on how to use an MRI machine in a new way Used as a scientific instrument it can make measurements of a myriad of physical and biological quantities in the human brain and body For each small tissue voxel non invasive information monitors how tissue changes with disease and responds to treatment The book opens with a detailed exposition of the principles of good practice in quantification including fundamental concepts quality assurance MR data collection and analysis and improved study statistical power through minimised instrumental variation There follow chapters on 14 specific groups of quantities proton density T1 T2 T2 diffusion advanced diffusion magnetisation transfer CEST 1H and multi nuclear spectroscopy DCE MRI quantitative fMRI arterial spin labelling and image analysis and finally a chapter on the future of quantification The physical principles behind each quantity are stated followed by its biological significance Practical techniques for measurement are given along with pitfalls and examples of clinical applications This second edition of this indispensable how to manual of quantitative MR shows the MRI physicist and research clinician how to implement these techniques on an MRI scanner to understand more about the biological processes in the patient and physiological changes in healthy controls Although focussed on the brain most techniques are applicable to characterising tissue in the whole body This book is essential reading for anyone who wants to use the gamut of modern quantitative MRI methods to measure the effects of disease its progression and its response to treatment Features The first edition was awarded the book prize for Radiology by the British Medical Association in 2004 Written by an authority in the field Professor Tofts has an international reputation for quantification in MRI Gives specific how to information for implementation of MRI measurement sequence techniques

The Long Space Age Alexander C. MacDonald, 2017-01-01 A NASA insider highlights the current and historic roles of private enterprise in humanity's pursuit of spaceflight

Telescopes: A Very Short Introduction Geoff

Cottrell,2016-12-01 From the first telescopes have made dramatic revelations about the Universe and our place in it Galileo's observations of the Moon's cratered surface and discovery of Jupiter's four big satellites profoundly altered the perception of the heavens overturning a two thousand year cosmology that held the Earth to be the centre of the Universe Over the past century the rapid development of computer technology and sophisticated materials allowed enormous strides in the construction of telescopes Modern telescopes range from large Earth based optical telescopes and radio arrays linking up across continents to space based telescopes capturing the Universe in infrared ultraviolet X rays and gamma rays In combination they have enabled us to look deep into the Universe and far back in time capturing phenomena from galactic collisions to the formation of stars and planetary systems and mapping the faint glow remaining from the Big Bang In this Very Short Introduction Dr Geoff Cottrell describes the basic physics of telescopes the challenges of overcoming turbulence and distortion from the Earth's atmosphere and the special techniques used to capture X rays and gamma rays in space telescopes He explains the crucial developments in detectors and spectrographs that have enabled the high resolution achieved by modern telescopes and the hopes for the new generation of telescopes currently being built across the world 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 authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

Long Hard Journey: The Story of Relativity John R. Matthews,2015-05-15 Long Hard Journey begins in ancient Greece where science originated 2000 years ago From the advances made in physics since the days of philosopher scientists like Pythagoras and Aristotle key breakthroughs are laid out these shed a very bright light on the postulates and laws of Einstein's theory of relativity The scientific psyche is on display too with the reader seeing the biting vindictiveness of a Sir Isaac Newton the despair of the reluctant revolutionary Max Planck and the utter astonishment of men like James Clerk Maxwell and Ernest Rutherford Physics is thus shown to be high drama instead of the tedious march toward the truth that it is oft perceived to be Grab this delightful little primer if you've never quite gotten the gist of relativity before Take it home and partake of the drama

Between Human and Machine David A. Mindell,2003-04-30 Today we associate the relationship between feedback control and computing with Norbert Wiener's 1948 formulation of cybernetics But the theoretical and practical foundations for cybernetics control engineering and digital computing were laid earlier between the two world wars In *Between Human and Machine* Feedback Control and Computing before Cybernetics David A Mindell shows how the modern sciences of systems emerged from disparate engineering cultures and their convergence during World War II Mindell examines four different arenas of control systems research in the United States between the world wars naval fire control the Sperry Gyroscope Company the Bell Telephone Laboratories and Vannevar Bush's laboratory at MIT Each of these institutional sites had unique technical problems organizational imperatives and working environments and each

fostered a distinct engineering culture Each also developed technologies to represent the world in a machine At the beginning of World War II President Roosevelt established the National Defense Research Committee one division of which was devoted to control systems Mindell shows how the NDRC brought together representatives from the four pre war engineering cultures and how its projects synthesized conceptions of control communications and computing By the time Wiener articulated his vision these ideas were already suffusing through engineering They would profoundly influence the digital world As a new way to conceptualize the history of computing this book will be of great interest to historians of science technology and culture as well as computer scientists and theorists Between Human and Machine Feedback Control and Computing before Cybernetics *The Fourth Source* Robert J. Tuttle, 2012 This book describes how the effects of nature's own nuclear reactors have shaped the Earth the Solar System the Universe and the history of life as we know it It focuses on observed effects that are poorly explained by our standard theories identifies certain errors in those theories and shows how these effects are caused by natural nuclear fission reactors The theory of Plate Tectonics is wrong and it is shown that expansion of the Earth causes continental drift A physically reasonable mechanism is proposed for expansion and observational data are presented to show that this occurs Evolution is explained as punctuated equilibrium with mutations caused by abrupt surges of radiation and related life forms that have been interpreted as separate species are actually the result of radiation injury This view is particularly effective as applied to humans The ability of the dinosaurs to live so large is explained by use of Earth Expansion and a more massive atmosphere to provide buoyancy and effective transpiration of oxygen These effects also explain how pterodactyls and ancient birds could fly Expansion induced by impacts at the end of the Cretaceous caused the atmosphere to thin and the dinosaurs collapsed Analysis of geological and biological data supports this The astronomical distance scale is shown to be wrong based on the misconception that trigonometric parallax is an absolute measurement It isn't and the method is led astray by the overwhelming number of asteroidal fragments masquerading as stars The measurements of an expanding Universe are shown to be in error and an expanding Universe is not needed by an alternative interpretation of Einstein's equations This interpretation is based on the equal creation of matter and antimatter which is known to occur Spiral galaxies are not vast Island Universes of stars as we have thought but are shown to be the strewn fields of debris from the nuclear fission detonation of distant planets The Universe is not made up of 96% Dark Matter and Dark Energy but is instead very ordinary Abundant evidence and references provide support for all these interpretations This book opens new opportunities for research by correcting several fundamental errors in our concepts of the Earth Life and the Universe

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Perfect Machine Building The Palomar Telescope Introduction

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