



Practical Astronomy with your Calculator or Spreadsheet

By Peter Duffett-Smith, Jonathan Zwart

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Now in its fourth edition, this highly regarded book is ideal for those who wish to solve a variety of practical and recreational problems in astronomy using a scientific calculator or spreadsheet. Updated and extended, this new edition shows you how to use spreadsheets to predict, with greater accuracy, solar and lunar eclipses, the positions of the planets, and the times of sunrise and sunset. Suitable for worldwide use, this handbook covers orbits, transformations and general celestial phenomena, and is essential for anyone wanting to make astronomical calculations for themselves. With clear, easy-to-follow instructions for use with a pocket calculator, shown alongside worked examples, it can be enjoyed by anyone interested in astronomy, and will be a useful tool for software writers and students studying introductory astronomy. High-precision spreadsheet methods for greater accuracy are available at www.cambridge.org/practicalastronomy

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Review

"This beautifully produced, ring-bound book, now in its fourth edition, is a real reference gem for any astronomer or student. It contains just about all the maths you'd ever need for astronomical applications, presented in an exquisitely clear manner."

John Rowlands, Astronomy Now magazine

"..this book does a good job at what it sets out to do. The formulas and algorithms are presented clearly and with an appropriate level of detail, and the spreadsheets supplement the text by showing an additional way to perform the computations without having to resort to a scientific calculator or writing your own programs." - Michael Coren, reviewer, cloudynights.com

About the Author

Peter Duffett-Smith is a physicist by training, and a radio astronomer by trade. He is a Reader in Experimental Radio Physics at the Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge, and is a fellow of Downing College and the Royal Astronomical Society.

Jonathan Zwart is a Postdoctoral Research Scientist at the Columbia Astrophysics Laboratory in New York, and a co-founder and former editor of Cambridge's science magazine, BlueSci.

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