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the night sky is positively teeming with wonders from star clusters and nebulae to quasars astronomy is the means by which these and other similar phenomena are discovered and observed this stellar resource traces the path of modern astronomy from initial efforts to map the heavens to today s use of high tech telescopic devices that help people delve deeper into celestial discovery

one of the most attractive features of the young discipline of space science is that many of the original pioneers and key players involved are still available to describe their field hence at this point in history we are in a unique position to gain first hand insight into the field and its development to this end the century of space science a scholarly authoritative reference book presents a chapter by chapter retrospective of

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light observed from distant objects is found to be deflected by the gravitational field of massive objects near the line of sight an effect predicted by einstein in his first paper setting forth the general theory of relativity and confirmed by eddington soon afterwards if the source of the light is sufficiently distant and bright and if the intervening object is massive enough and near enough to the line of sight the gravitational field acts like a lens focusing the light and producing one or more bright images of the source this book by renowned researchers in the field begins by discussing the basic physics behind gravitational lenses the optics of curved space time it then derives the appropriate equations for predicting the properties of these lenses in addition it presents up to date observational evidence for gravitational lenses and describes the particular properties of the observed cases the authors also discuss applications of the results to problems in cosmology

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