

# CONTENTS

<b>Preface</b>	viii
<b>Conventions and notations</b>	xiii
<b>1 Rethinking motion in the seventeenth century</b>	1
1.1 Galileo's science of motion	2
1.2 Beeckman and Descartes on free fall	8
1.3 Descartes's world	10
1.4 Newton's laws of motion	13
1.5 Huygens's mechanics	19
Conclusions	23
<b>2 Deriving Newton's second law from relativity principles</b>	28
2.1 Rational mechanics in the eighteenth century	29
2.2 Nineteenth-century French textbooks	36
2.3 Principles and deductions	42
Conclusions	47
<b>3 The space–time–inertia tangle</b>	52
3.1 From Huygens to Kant	53
3.2 Criticism in the last third of the nineteenth century	61
3.3 The measurement of time	75
Conclusions	79
<b>4 The optics of moving bodies</b>	84
4.1 The speed of light	85
4.2 The corpuscular approach	88
4.3 Stellar aberrations in the wave theory	92
4.4 The Fresnel drag	102
4.5 Toward an optical relativity	108
Conclusions	114
<b>5 The electrodynamics of moving bodies</b>	118
5.1 Early electrodynamics	119
5.2 German action at a distance	121
5.3 British field theories	124
5.4 Maxwell in Germany	133
5.5 Effects of absolute motion	137

5.6	The separation of ether and matter	141
	Conclusions	152
<b>6</b>	<b>Poincaré's relativity theory</b>	<b>157</b>
6.1	Critical teaching	159
6.2	For the Lorentz jubilee	165
6.3	Inside the electron	170
6.4	The postulate of relativity	175
	Conclusions	184
<b>7</b>	<b>The relativity theory of Einstein, Minkowski, and Laue</b>	<b>188</b>
7.1	The young Einstein's ventures in electrodynamics	191
7.2	Alternatives to Lorentz's theory	195
7.3	Einstein's relativity theory	202
7.4	Early reception 1905–1908	212
7.5	Constructing a relativistic electron	222
7.6	Outside Germany	229
	Conclusions	231
<b>8</b>	<b>From Riemann to Ricci</b>	<b>236</b>
8.1	Gauss's curved surfaces	239
8.2	Riemann's curvature	244
8.3	Non-Euclidean geometries	250
8.4	The absolute differential calculus	256
	Conclusions	267
<b>9</b>	<b>Mostly Einstein: To general relativity</b>	<b>269</b>
9.1	Heuristic arguments (1906–1911)	272
9.2	The static theory of 1912	280
9.3	The Zürich notebook	289
9.4	The <i>Entwurf</i> theory of 1913	298
9.5	The scalar theory	302
9.6	Bridled covariance	305
9.7	Justified transformations and adapted coordinates	309
9.8	November 1915	314
	Conclusions	326
<b>10</b>	<b>Mesh and measure in early general relativity</b>	<b>341</b>
10.1	A Gaussian preliminary	344
10.2	Einstein's <i>Grundlage</i> of 1916	348
10.3	The gravitational redshift	360
10.4	The gravitational deflection of light	368

10.5	The advance of Mercury's perihelion	375
	Conclusions	386
<b>11</b>	<b>Epilogue</b>	<b>389</b>
11.1	Actors and stages	389
11.2	Mechanical relativity	392
11.3	Optical relativity	398
11.4	Electrodynamic relativity	400
11.5	Special relativity	404
11.6	General relativity	407
	<b>Abbreviations</b>	<b>416</b>
	<b>References</b>	<b>417</b>
	<b>Index</b>	<b>465</b>