

Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER 1 From the History of Astronomy: Measurement and Successive Approximation	3
SECTION 1 MEASUREMENT	3
1 The Tunnel	3
2 Measuring: Triangulating	6
3 How Far Away is the Moon?	7
4 Why Teach Triangulation?	10
SECTION 2 ASTRONOMICAL MEASUREMENTS	10
1 Aristarchus of Samos	10
2 Radius of Earth: Eratosthenes	12
3 Rival Cosmologies	14
4 The Orbit of Venus	19
5 Tycho Brahe and Kepler	21
6 The Mars Year	23
7 The Orbit of Mars	26
8 A Word to the Perceptive Reader	30
9 Newton's Problem of a Comet's Path	31
SECTION 3 SUCCESSIVE APPROXIMATION	32
1 First Application	33
2 Extraction of Square Roots	36
SECTION 4 NEWTON'S METHOD OF SUCCESSIVE APPROXIMATION	37
1 The General Method of Newton	37
2 Newton's Formula	39
3 \sqrt{a}	41
4 $\sqrt[3]{a}$	43
5 $\sqrt[5]{a}$	44

CHAPTER 2	From the History of Statics	47
SECTION 1	STEVINUS AND ARCHIMEDES	47
1	Inclined Plane	47
2	Lever	53
SECTION 2	VECTORS	58
1	Inclined Plane	62
2	Pulley	63
3	Lever	65
4	Archimedes' Application of his Law of the Lever	70
5	$(-)\cdot(-) = (+)$	75
6	Von Mises' Flight Triangle	78
CHAPTER 3	From the History of Dynamics	82
SECTION 1	GALILEO	82
1	Heavier Bodies Fall Faster?	83
2	Not "Why?", But "How?"	83
3	How do Heavy Bodies Fall?	84
4	Dynamics of the Inclined Plane	90
5	Conservation of Energy	94
6	Law of Inertia	98
7	A Cannon Ball's Trajectory	100
SECTION 2	NEWTON	105
1	Apples, Cannon Balls, and the Moon	106
2	Never Smoke Without Fire	107
3	That the Planets do Accelerate Towards the Sun	108
4	What is the Law of Universal Gravitation?	111
5	Uniform Circular Motion: Hamilton's Hodograph	112
6	On Newton's Discovery of the Law of Universal Gravitation	115
7	Scientific Attitude: Verification	117
8	Hindsight and Foresight	122
SECTION 3	THE PENDULUM	125
1	The Dimensions Test	125
2	Simple Pendulum's Time of Swing	128
3	Determination of g by Pendulum Experiment	131
4	The Conical Pendulum	132

SECTION 4	ESCAPE VELOCITY	138
1	Go-Around Velocity	139
2	Apropos Go-Away Velocity	141
3	The Force of Gravity	142
4	That Kepler's Third Law is a Consequence of Newton's Law of Gravitation	145
5	Planetary Mass	147
6	Go-Away Velocity	148
7	Ratio of Escape and Orbital Velocities	157
CHAPTER 4	Physical Reasoning in Mathematics	159
CHAPTER 5	Differential Equations and Their Use in Science	160
SECTION 1	FIRST EXAMPLES	160
1	Rotating Fluid	160
2	Galileo: Free Fall	174
3	Catenary	178
4	Fall with Friction	188
SECTION 2	APPROXIMATE FORMULAE: POWER SERIES	192
	Introduction	192
1	Calculation of $\sqrt[3]{28}$	195
2	Fall with Friction Again	199
3	How Deep is a Well?	203
4	Pendulum: Small Oscillations	211
SECTION 3	PHYSICAL ANALOGY	224
SECTION 4	WHAT IS A DIFFERENTIAL EQUATION?	229
1	Example	229
2	Vector Fields	231
3	Direction Fields	233