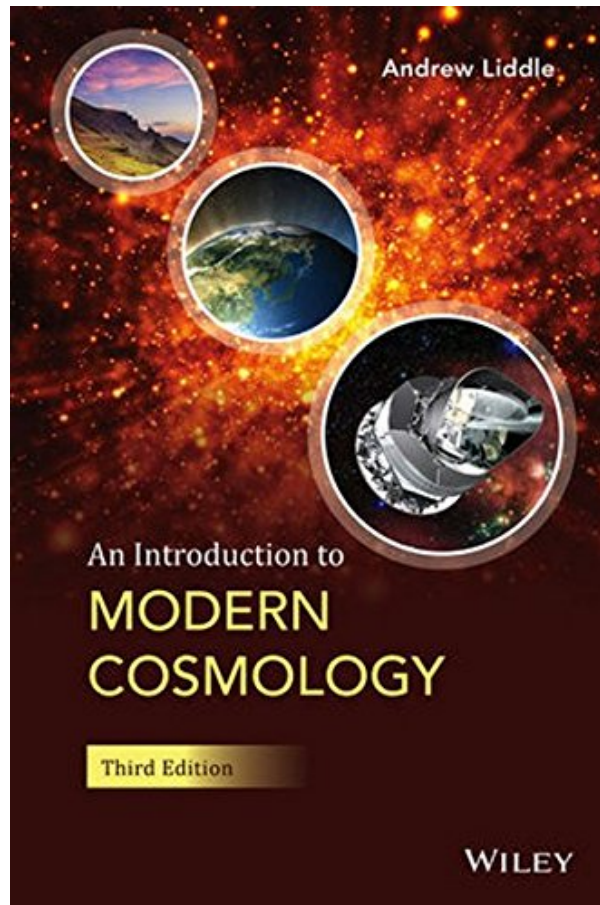
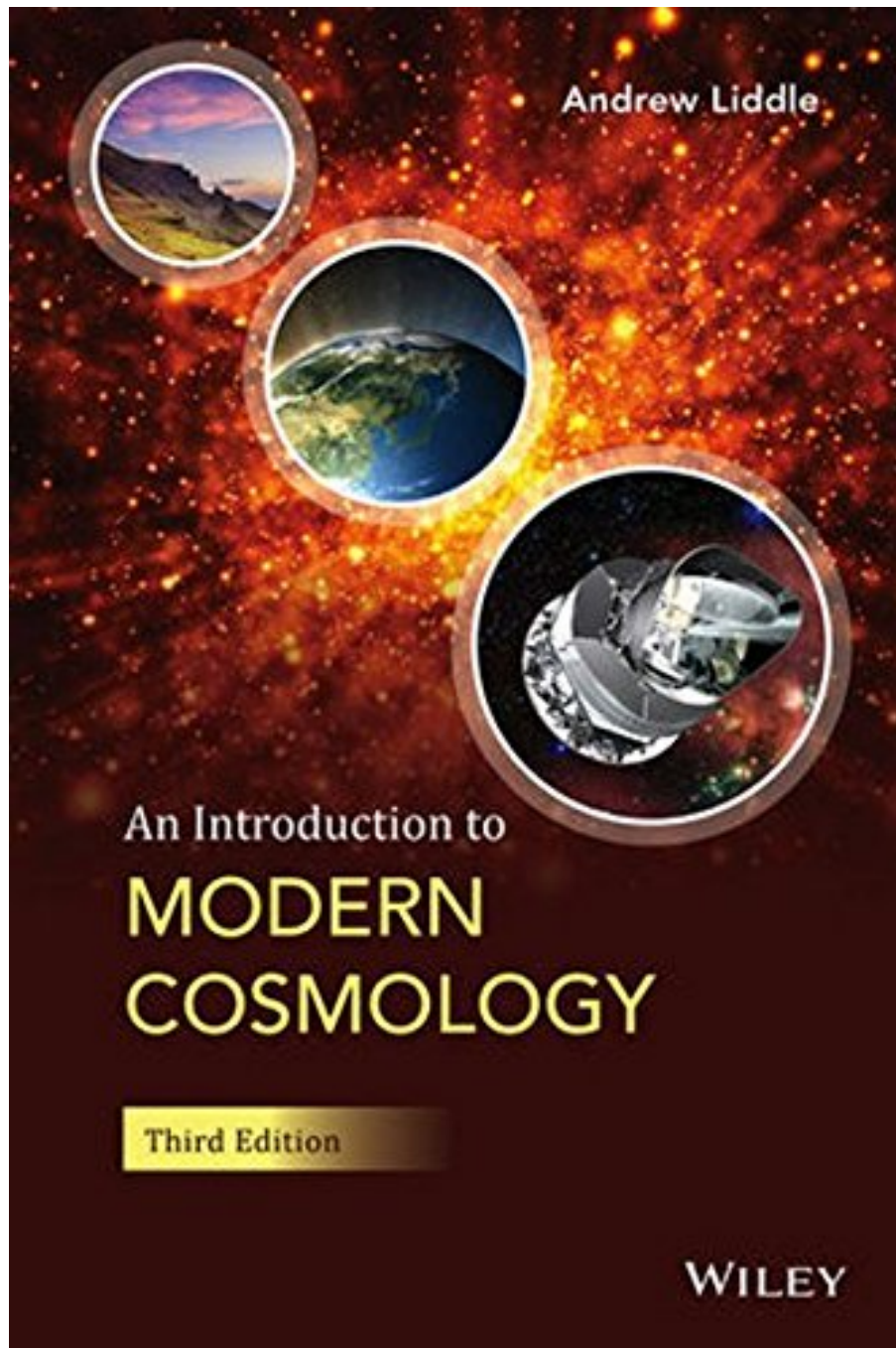


# AN INTRODUCTION TO MODERN COSMOLOGY BY ANDREW LIDDLE



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An Introduction to Modern Cosmology Third Edition is an accessible account of modern cosmological ideas. The Big Bang Cosmology is explored, looking at its observational successes in explaining the expansion of the Universe, the existence and properties of the cosmic microwave background, and the origin of light elements in the universe. Properties of the very early universe are also covered, including the motivation for a rapid period of expansion known as cosmological inflation. The third edition brings this established undergraduate textbook up-to-date with the rapidly evolving observational situation.

This fully revised edition of a bestseller takes an approach which is grounded in physics with a logical flow of chapters leading the reader from basic ideas of the expansion described by the Friedman equations to some of the more advanced ideas about the early universe. It also incorporates up-to-date results from the Planck mission, which imaged the anisotropies of the Cosmic Microwave Background radiation over the whole sky. The Advanced Topic sections present subjects with more detailed mathematical approaches to give greater depth to discussions. Student problems with hints for solving them and numerical answers are embedded in the chapters to facilitate the reader's understanding and learning.

Cosmology is now part of the core in many degree programs. This current, clear and concise introductory text is relevant to a wide range of astronomy programs worldwide and is essential reading for undergraduates and masters students, as well as anyone starting research in cosmology. Supplementary material, including full-colour images, updates and links for students and instructors, is available on the author's website: [www.roe.ac.uk/~arl/cosbook.html](http://www.roe.ac.uk/~arl/cosbook.html).

## **About the Author**

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- An Introduction to Modern Cosmology

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#### About the Author

Andrew Liddle

Institute for Astronomy, University of Edinburgh, UK

#### Most helpful customer reviews

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful.

##### **SMALL BOOK WITH A BIG PUNCH!**

By Bob Zuidema

The author says the book summarizes a "short course" of about 20 lectures he gave in a course on Cosmology (the history and development of the universe). He states the book's emphasis is on physical intuition rather than mathematical rigor and is meant to be studied by upper level college or master's degree students in their next-to-last year. I found the book to be challenging and perhaps a bit lacking showing applications of the equations it derived. Condensing 20 lectures down to a small book is bound to leave some things missing.

The book derives the Friedman Equation (the basic equation of cosmology) non-relativistically, then solves and briefly analyzes its implications for the radiation, then matter dominated, universe we live in. It also works its way backward in time toward the beginning Big Bang.

I did ok understanding and solving the problems for chapters 1-10 which dealt with: Ch1-Cosmological Ideas, Ch2-Observational Overview, Ch3-Newtonian Gravity, Ch4-Geometry of the Universe, Ch5-Simple Cosmological Models, Ch6-Observational Parameters, Ch7-The Cosmological Constant, Ch8-Age of the Universe, Ch9-Density of the Universe, Ch10-The Cosmic Microwave Background.

The author's mathematics in Ch11-The Early Universe, was hard to follow and problems seemed to assume more background knowledge than presented in the chapter. The mathematics in Ch12-Nucleosynthesis, was also difficult requiring a background course in nuclear physics to fully understand. Ch13 Inflation, was interesting and basically understandable. Ch14-The Initial Singularity, was presented in a general way, probably because the mathematics was beyond the scope of this book. Ch15-Final Overview, gave a nice summary.

These chapters are followed by 5 Advanced Topic chapters: 1.General Relativity, 2.Distances and Luminosities, 3.Neutrino Cosmology, 4.Baryogenesis, 5.Structures. All of these require advanced knowledge in cosmology and General Relativity and were beyond my reach (at this time, anyway).

I found the book to be very interesting. Perhaps more problems at the end of the chapters would have been useful in developing better understanding of the important equations and their implications. More problems rated "easy" to "hard" as some book do would be nice with not just answers, but maybe some solutions available. This would have helped a lot for a person like me doing a self study of the topic. It for sure stimulated my interest in perhaps getting another book on the topic.

16 of 16 people found the following review helpful.

Highly Recommended!

By James Lynch

As a professional scientist (physics background) who is interested in cosmology and astronomy as a hobbyist, I have read a number of books on this topic, up through the advanced level of Dodelson's excellent "Modern Cosmology." Liddle's book stacks up very well with the "beginner to intermediate" level books for those with a technical background. I particularly like its good discussions and physical insights. If you want two good books (with useful problem sets) at this level, I would recommend this book and Barbara Ryden's "Introduction to Cosmology" without reservation.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent content but poor print quality

By Science Reader

My original review was harsh based on the poor print quality. I revised my rating because the content is exceptional. I will keep this book as a reference at my desk. I ordered a paperback version of the book. The book must have been printed just for the order. The pages are poor quality, the print is uneven, and the pages are filled with text with little margin at the top and bottom. Nevertheless, I like the book. It would have received five stars except for the physical print aspects of the book.

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