

Preface

This book is an edited version of the lectures delivered during the 1st Aegean Summer School on Cosmology, held on Samos island, Greece, in September 21-29, 2001, and organized jointly by the Department of Mathematics, University of the Aegean and the Department of Physics, National Technical University of Athens.

Cosmology, the science of the universe, stands at the crossroads of many fields of physics and mathematics and presents us with challenging problems of many forms. Although there are by now many textbooks discussing the subject at many levels, it is true that no single book has the characteristics we had in mind when editing this volume. We have tried not to produce a proceedings volume but more a multiauthored textbook which could serve as a reference source of current ideas in cosmology. We believe this book covers at an introductory level most of the issues which are considered important in modern cosmological research and can be read by a graduate student or researcher who wishes to acquire a reasonable knowledge of cosmology that will, we hope, continue to be of value for years to come.

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