"Tensors, Relativity and Cosmology" by E.A. Lord (Tata McGraw Hill, LCUE), p. 208 - viii, Price Rs. 19.50

This book will be useful as a first course in the theory of relativity, both special and general. The author covers the standard topics such as Lorentz transformations, relativistic dynamics, the four dimensoinal view of Maxwellian electrodynamics, the equivalence principle, the Schwarzschild solution, the classical tests of general relatvity etc. Spinors, not usually found in textbooks on relativity are extensively discussed. Cosmological models are described; but more as geometrical solutions of Einstein's equations than as physical models. There

is also a discussion of unified field theories and scalar tensor theories.

It is arguable, how much subject matter a first course on relativity should include. In my view the recent developments in the areas of relativistic astrophysics, the black holes and gravitational collapse, the observational tests of the non-Euclidean nature of cosmological models are conspicuous by their absence in this book. Also, this book would have gained in value if it had contained a few exercises at the end of each chapter.

I appreciate the way the author has approached the subject in a straightforward manner, and has avoided the danger of overawing the reader with abstract mathematics. The book is well illustrated and contains a comprehensive list of references at the end. It will be a valuable addition to the low cost University Edition series.

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