Chapter 15 Conclusions



This book is an "experiment" to demonstrate that, starting from simple arguments of Euclidean geometry, it is possible to arrive at the geometric formulation of physical theories: in the specific case, Special and General Relativity and, consequently, up to Relativistic Cosmology. Our attempt was aimed, above all, at undergraduate students, in particular those of our university courses, to demonstrate that, by a rigorous and extended mathematical development, theories deemed "difficult", such as General Relativity, can be understood and operationally used. We turned to students, and not to colleagues, to avoid falling into unnecessary technicalities that would have made the text unsuitable for a truly "basic" reading of Special and General Relativity. During the discussion, however, we introduced some advanced topics with the aim of stimulating the reader to further deepen and personal research. Our hope is not to have bored the reader but to have contributed something useful to the vast literature on the subject. Ours was a humble attempt, with no claim to completeness. We hope that our efforts have proved useful to someone eager to understand the wonderful book of Nature with the beautiful language of Mathematics which, as said by Leibniz, is "the honor of the human spirit".

We are all in the gutter but some of us are looking at the stars.

Oscar Wilde