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Soggetti	Groups & group theory Group theory and generalizations
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Sommario/riassunto	This book quickly introduces beginners to general group theory and then focuses on three main themes: finite group theory, including sporadic groups; combinatorial and geometric group theory, including the Bass-Serre theory of groups acting on trees; the theory of train tracks by Bestvina and Handel for automorphisms of free groups. With its many examples, exercises, and full solutions to selected exercises, this text provides a gentle introduction that is ideal for self-study and an excellent preparation for applications. A distinguished feature of the presentation is that algebraic and geometric techniques are balanced. The beautiful theory of train tracks is illustrated by two nontrivial examples. Presupposing only a basic knowledge of algebra, the book is addressed to anyone interested in group theory: from advanced undergraduate and graduate students to specialists.