1.	Record Nr.	UNINA9910247444103321
	Autore	Jens Høyrup
	Titolo	Algebra in Cuneiform: Introduction to an Old Babylonian Geometrical Technique
	Pubbl/distr/stampa	Edition Open Access, 2017
	Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (156 p.)
	Collana	Textbooks 2: Max Planck Research Library for the History and Development of Knowledge.
	Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
	Formato	Materiale a stampa
	Livello bibliografico	Monografia
	Sommario/riassunto	This textbook analyzes a number of texts in "conformal translation," that is, a translation in which the same Babylonian term is always translated in the same way and, more importantly, in which different terms are always translated differently. Appendixes are provided for readers who are familiar with basic Assyriology but otherwise philological details are avoided. All of these texts are from the second half of the Old Babylonian period, that is, 1800-1600 BCE. It is indeed during this period that the "algebraic" discipline, and Babylonian mathematics in general, culminates. Even though a few texts from the late period show some similarities with what comes from the Old Babylonian period, they are but remnants. Beyond analyzing texts, the book gives a general characterization of the kind of mathematics involved, and locates it within the context of the Old Babylonian scribe school and its particular culture. Finally, it describes the origin of the discipline and its impact in later mathematics, not least Euclid's geometry and genuine algebra as created in medieval Islam and taken over in European medieval and Renaissance mathematics.