

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910254078003321
Autore	Kragh Helge
Titolo	Varying Gravity : Dirac's Legacy in Cosmology and Geophysics / / by Helge Kragh
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Birkhäuser, , 2016
ISBN	3-319-24379-9
Edizione	[1st ed. 2016.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (197 p.)
Collana	Science Networks. Historical Studies, , 1421-6329 ; ; 54
Disciplina	523.1
Soggetti	Mathematics History Cosmology Geophysics History of Mathematical Sciences Geophysics and Environmental Physics
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Preface -- 1. Introductory Issues -- 2. Varying Gravity -- 3. The Expanding Earth -- 4. After Plate Tectonics -- Bibliography -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	The main focus of this book is on the interconnection of two unorthodox scientific ideas, the varying-gravity hypothesis and the expanding-earth hypothesis. As such, it provides a fascinating insight into a nearly forgotten chapter in both the history of cosmology and the history of the earth sciences. The hypothesis that the force of gravity decreases over cosmic time was first proposed by Paul Dirac in 1937. In this book the author examines in detail the historical development of Dirac's hypothesis and its consequences for the structure and history of the earth, the most important of which was that the earth must have been smaller in the past.