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Titolo	Macroscopic Metaphysics : Middle-Sized Objects and Longish Processes // by Paul Needham
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Soggetti	Science - Philosophy Analytical chemistry Physics - Philosophy Metaphysics Chemistry - History Philosophy of Science Analytical Chemistry Philosophical Foundations of Physics and Astronomy History of Chemistry
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Ch. 1 Mereology -- Ch. 2 Occupying Space -- Ch. 3 Constitution -- Ch. 4 Distributivity and Cumulativity -- Ch. 5 The Ancients' Ideas of Substance -- Ch. 6 The Nature of Matter -- Ch. 7 The Relation of Macroscopic Description to Microstructure -- Ch. 8 Longish Processes -- Ch. 9 Modal Properties of Quantities.
Sommario/riassunto	This book is about our ordinary concept of matter in the form of enduring continuants and the processes in which they are involved in the macroscopic realm. It emphasises what science rather than philosophical intuition tells us about the world, and chemistry rather than the physics that is more usually encountered in philosophical discussions. The central chapters dealing with the nature of matter

pursue key steps in the historical development of scientific conceptions of chemical substance. Like many contemporary discussions of material objects, it relies heavily on mereology. The classical principles are applied to the mereological structure of regions of space, intervals of time, processes and quantities of matter. Quantities of matter, which don't gain or lose parts over time, are distinguished from individuals, which are typically constituted of different quantities of matter at different times. The proper treatment of the temporal aspect of the features of material objects is a central issue in this book, which is addressed by investigating the conditions governing the application of predicates relating time and other entities. Of particular interest here are relations between quantities of matter and times expressing substance kind, phase and mixture. Modal aspects of these features are taken up in the final chapter.
