1. Record Nr.            UNINA9910257424203321

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   Titolo               Spacetime : foundations of general relativity and differential geometry / / Marcus Kriele

   Pubbl/distr/stampa   Berlin ; ; Heidelberg : , : Springer Verlag, , [1999]
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   ISBN                 3-540-48354-3

   Edizione             [1st ed. 1999.]

   Descrizione fisica   1 online resource (XIX, 436 p.)

   Collana              Lecture Notes in Physics Monographs, , 0940-7677 ; ; 59

   Disciplina           530.11

   Soggetti             Space and time
                        General relativity (Physics) - Data processing

   Lingua di pubblicazione   Inglese

   Formato              Materiale a stampa

   Livello bibliografico     Monografia

   Note generali        Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph

   Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index.

   Nota di contenuto    Local theory of space and time -- Analysis on manifolds -- Space and time from a global point of view -- Pseudo-Riemannian manifolds -- General relativity -- Robertson-Walker cosmology -- Spherical symmetry -- Causality -- Singularity theorems.

   Sommario/riassunto   This textbook is for mathematicians and mathematical physicists and is mainly concerned with the physical justification of both the mathematical framework and the foundations of the theory of general relativity. Previous knowledge of the relevant physics is not assumed. This book is also suitable as an introduction to pseudo-Riemannian geometry with emphasis on geometrical concepts. A significant part of the text is devoted to the discussion of causality and singularity theorems. The insights obtained are applied to black hole astrophysics, thereby making the connection to current active research in mathematical physics and cosmology.