

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910272354503321
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Titolo	The Cosmic Web : Scientific Field Models and Literary Strategies in the Twentieth Century // N. Katherine Hayles
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Ithaca : , : Cornell University Press, , 1984 ©1984
ISBN	0-8014-1742-2 1-5017-2297-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (208 pages)
Disciplina	809/.93356
Soggetti	Literature and science Literature, Modern - 20th century - History and criticism
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Bibliography: p. 199-204.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- Introduction -- Part I. Mathematical and Scientific Models -- Chapter 1. Spinning The Web -- Part II. Literary Strategies -- Chapter 2. Drawn to the Web -- 3. Evasion: The Field of the Unconscious in D. H. Lawrence -- Chapter 4. Ambivalence -- 5. Subversion -- Chapter 6. Caught In The Web Cosmology and the Point of (No) Return in Pynchon's Gravity's Rainbow -- References Cited -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	From the central concept of the field-which depicts the world as a mutually interactive whole, with each part connected to every other part by an underlying field- have come models as diverse as quantum mathematics and Saussure's theory of language. In The Cosmic Web, N. Katherine Hayles seeks to establish the scope of the field concept and to assess its importance for contemporary thought. She then explores the literary strategies that are attributable directly or indirectly to the new paradigm; among the texts at which she looks closely are Robert Pirsig's Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance, Nabokov's Ada, D. H. Lawrence's early novels and essays, Borges's fiction, and Thomas Pynchon's Gravity's Rainbow.