1. Record Nr. UNINA9910337869403321 Autore May Andrew Titolo Fake Physics: Spoofs, Hoaxes and Fictitious Science / / by Andrew May Cham:,: Springer International Publishing:,: Imprint: Springer,, Pubbl/distr/stampa 2019 3-030-13314-1 **ISBN** Edizione [1st ed. 2019.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (X, 170 p. 33 illus., 21 illus. in color.) Collana Science and Fiction, , 2197-1188 Disciplina 530 Soggetti **Physics** Popular Science in Physics Physics, general Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Introduction -- Science Fiction Posing as Science Fact -- The Relativity Nota di contenuto of Wrong -- The Art of Technobabble -- Spoofs in Science Journals --April Fool -- Making a Point -- Thinking Outside the Box -- Appendix: Science for Crackpots. People are used to seeing "fake physics" in science fiction – concepts Sommario/riassunto like faster-than-light travel, antigravity and time travel to name a few. The fiction label ought to be a giveaway, but some SF writers – especially those with a background in professional science - are so adept at "technobabble" that it can be difficult to work out what is fake and what is real. To confuse matters further, Isaac Asimov's 1948 piece about the fictitious time-travelling substance thiotimoline was written, not as a short story, but in the form of a spoof research paper. The boundaries between fact and fiction can also be blurred by physicists themselves - sometimes unintentionally, sometimes with tongue-incheek, sometimes to satirize perceived weaknesses in research practices. Examples range from hoaxes aimed at exposing poor editorial standards in academic publications, through "thought experiments" that sound like the plot of a sci-fi movie to April Fools' jokes. Even the latter may carry a serious message, whether about the sociology of science or poking fun at legitimate but far-out scientific

hypotheses. This entertaining book is a joyous romp exploring the

whole spectrum of fake physics – from science to fiction and back again.		