

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910450442203321
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Titolo	Spontaneous current sheets in magnetic fields : with applications to stellar x-rays // Eugene N. Parker
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, New York ; ; Oxford, [England] : , : Oxford University Press, , 1994 ©1994
ISBN	1-280-45095-9 9786610450954 0-19-536085-0 1-60129-868-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (435 p.)
Collana	International Series on Astronomy and Astrophysics ; ; 1
Disciplina	523.72
Soggetti	Solar x-rays Cosmic magnetic fields Magnetostatics Electronic books. Sun Corona
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	Contents; 1 INTRODUCTION; 2 THE FIELD EQUATIONS; 3 INVARIANCE, DEGENERACY, AND CONTINUOUS SOLUTIONS; 4 FORMAL STRUCTURE OF THE MAGNETOSTATIC EQUATIONS; 5 DIRECT INTEGRATION OF EQUILIBRIUM EQUATIONS; 6 EXAMPLES OF FIELD DISCONTINUITIES; 7 THE OPTICAL ANALOGY; 8 TOPOLOGY OF TANGENTIAL DISCONTINUITIES; 9 FLUID MOTIONS; 10 EFFECTS OF RESISTIVITY; 11 SOLAR X-RAY EMISSION; 12 UNIVERSAL NANOFLARES; References; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Expanding upon the ideas first proposed in his seminal book <i>Cosmical Magnetic Fields</i> , Eugene N. Parker here offers the first in-depth treatment of the magnetohydrodynamic theory of spontaneous magnetic discontinuities. In detailing his theory of the spontaneous formation of tangential discontinuities (current sheets) in a magnetic field embedded in highly conducting plasma, Parker shows how it can

be used to explain the activity of the external magnetic fields of planets, stars, interstellar gas clouds, and galaxies, as well as the magnetic fields in laboratory plasmas. Provocative and fascina
