1.	Record Nr.	UNINA9910456152203321
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	Titolo	Knots and physics [[electronic resource] /] / Louis H. Kauffman
	Pubbl/distr/stampa	Singapore ; ; River Edge, NJ, : World Scientific, c2001
	ISBN	1-281-86964-3
		9786611869649
		981-238-483-9
	Edizione	[3rd ed.]
	Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (788 p.)
	Collana	K & E series on knots and everything ; ; v. 1
	Disciplina	514/.224
	Soggetti	Knot polynomials
		Mathematical physics
		Electronic books.
	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	Table of Contents; Preface to the First Edition; Preface to the Second Edition; Preface to the Third Edition; PART I. A SHORT COURSE OF KNOTS AND PHYSICS.; PART II. KNOTS AND PHYSICS - MISCELLANY.; APPENDIX
	Sommario/riassunto	This invaluable book is an introduction to knot and link invariants as generalised amplitudes for a quasi-physical process. The demands of knot theory, coupled with a quantum-statistical framework, create a context that naturally and powerfully includes an extraordinary range of interrelated topics in topology and mathematical physics. The author takes a primarily combinatorial stance toward knot theory and its relations with these subjects. This stance has the advantage of providing direct access to the algebra and to the combinatorial topology, as well as physical ideas.