

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910462125203321
Titolo	Discontinuities in ecosystems and other complex systems [[electronic resource] /] / Craig R. Allen and C.S. Holling, editors
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Columbia University Press, c2008
ISBN	0-231-51682-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (287 p.)
Collana	Complexity in Ecological Systems Complexity in ecological systems series
Altri autori (Persone)	AllenCraig R HollingC. S
Disciplina	577
Soggetti	Discontinuous groups Ecology - Statistical methods 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 (p. [241]-263) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- Preface -- PART 1. BACKGROUND -- 1. Panarchies and Discontinuities / Holling, Crawford S. / Peterson, Garry D. / Allen, Craig R. -- 2. Self- organization and Discontinuities in Ecosystems / Peterson, Garry D. -- 3. Discontinuity, Multimodality, and the Evolution of Pattern / Cumming, Graeme S. / Havlicek, Tanya D. -- 4. Discontinuities in Body- Size Distributions / Marquet, Pablo A. / Abades, Sebastian / Keymer, Juan E. / Zeballos, Horacio -- PART 2. PATTERNS -- 5. Patterns of Landscape Structure, Discontinuity, Mammal Phylogeny, and Body Size / Sendzimir, Jan P. -- 6. Biophysical Discontinuities in the Everglades Ecosystem / Gunderson, Lance H. -- 7. Discontinuities in the Geo graph i cal Range Size of North American Birds and Butterflies / Restrepo, Carla / Arango, Natalia -- 8. Discontinuities in Urban Systems / Garmestani, Ahjond S. / Allen, Craig R. / Michael Bessey, K. -- 9. Evaluating the Textural Discontinuity Hypothesis / Stow, Craig A. / Sendzimir, Jan P. / Holling, Crawford S. -- PART 3. CONSEQUENCES -- 10. Dynamic Discontinuities in Ecologic- Economic Systems / Barkley Rosser, J. -- 11. The Ecological Significance of Discontinuities in Body- Mass Distributions / Skillen, Jennifer J. / Maurer, Brian A. -- 12. Cross- Scale Structure and the

**Sommario/riassunto**

Following the publication of C. S. Holling's seminal work on the relationship between animal body mass patterns and scale-specific landscape structure, ecologists began to explore the theoretical and applied consequences of discontinuities in ecosystems and other complex systems. Are ecosystems and their components continuously distributed and do they adhere to scaling laws, or are they discontinuous and more complex than early models would have us believe? The resulting propositions over the structure of complex systems sparked an ongoing debate regarding the mechanisms generating discontinuities and the statistical methods used for their detection. This volume takes the view that ecosystems and other complex systems are inherently discontinuous and that such fields as ecology, economics, and urban studies greatly benefit from this paradigm shift. Contributors present evidence of the ubiquity of discontinuous distributions in ecological and social systems and how their analysis provides insight into complex phenomena. The book is divided into three sections. The first focuses on background material and contrasting views concerning the discontinuous organization of complex systems. The second discusses discontinuous patterns detected in a number of different systems and methods for detecting them, and the third touches on the potential significance of discontinuities in complex systems. Science is still dominated by a focus on power laws, but the contributors to this volume are convinced power laws often mask the interesting dynamics of systems and that those dynamics are best revealed by investigating deviations from assumed power law distributions. In 2008, a grand conference on resilience was held in Stockholm, hosting 600 participants from around the world. There are now three big centers established with resilience, the most recent one being the Stockholm Resilience Center, with others in Australia (an international coral reef center), Arizona State University's new sustainability center focusing on anthropology, and Canada's emerging social sciences and resilience center. Activity continues to flourish in Alaska, South Africa, and the United Kingdom, and a new center is forming in Uruguay.