

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910480408403321
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Titolo	Stellar Interiors [[electronic resource]] : Physical Principles, Structure, and Evolution / / by Carl J. Hansen, Steven D Kawaler
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, NY : , : Springer New York : , : Imprint : Springer, , 1994
ISBN	1-4684-0214-5
Edizione	[1st ed. 1994.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (XIV, 446 p.)
Collana	Astronomy and Astrophysics Library, , 0941-7834
Disciplina	520
Soggetti	Observations, Astronomical Astronomy—Observations Astrophysics Geophysics Astronomy, Observations and Techniques Astrophysics and Astroparticles Geophysics/Geodesy
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
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Sommario/riassunto

That trees should have been cut down to provide paper for this book was an ecological affront. From a book review. - Anthony Blond (in the Spectator, 1983) The first modern text on our subject, Structure and Evolution of the Stars, was published over thirty years ago. In it, Martin Schwarzschild described numerical experiments that successfully reproduced most of the observed properties of the majority of stars seen in the sky. He also set the standard for a lucid description of the physics of stellar interiors. Ten years later, in 1968, John P. Cox's two-volume monograph Principles of Stellar Structure appeared, as did the more specialized text Principles of Stellar Evolution and Nucleosynthesis by Donald D. Clayton-and what a difference ten years had made. The field had matured into the basic form that it remains today. The past twenty-plus years have seen this branch of astrophysics flourish and develop into a fundamental pillar of modern astrophysics that addresses an enormous variety of phenomena. In view of this it might seem foolish to offer another text of finite length and expect it to cover any more than a fraction of what should be discussed to make it a thorough and self-contained reference. Well, it doesn't. Our specific aim is to introduce only the fundamentals of stellar astrophysics. You will find little reference here to black holes, millisecond pulsars, and other "sexy" objects.
