

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910571729903321
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Titolo	Nascita della meccanica quantistica / / Salvatore Califano, Vincenzo Schettino
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Florence : , : Firenze University Press, , 2018
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (174 pages)
Collana	Studi e saggi
Disciplina	530.12
Soggetti	Quantum theory
Lingua di pubblicazione	Italiano
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Sommario/riassunto	<p>Quantum mechanics constituted a great scientific and cultural revolution that profoundly changed our approach to the study of the microscopic and subatomic world. The birth and evolution of the theories of quantum mechanics are revived through the personal and scientific history of the protagonists, their attempts and their working hypotheses, the discoveries, doubts and discussions. The substantially counterintuitive concepts of the new mechanics have redesigned the meaning of our knowledge of the world of atoms; particular attention is then paid to the impact that this new vision of the microscopic world has had on chemistry and our knowledge of the structure and reactivity of atoms and molecules.</p>