Record Nr. UNINA9910789167203321 Autore Dasgupta Subrata Titolo It began with Babbage: the genesis of computer science / / Subrata Dasgupta Pubbl/distr/stampa New York:,: Oxford, University Press,, 2014 ©2014 **ISBN** 0-19-930943-4 0-19-756285-X 0-19-930942-6 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (346 p.) Collana Oxford scholarship online 004.09 Disciplina Soggetti Computer science - History - 19th century Computer science - History - 20th century Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Previously issued in print: 2014. Note generali Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto Cover; It Began with Babbage; Copyright; Dedication; Contents; Acknowledgments; Prologue; 1. Leibniz's Th eme, Babbage's Dream; 2. Weaving Algebraic Patterns; 3. Missing Links; 4. Entscheidungsproblem : What's in a Word?: 5 Toward a Holy Grail: 6 Intermezzo: 7 A Tangled Web of Inventions; 8 A Paradigm Is Born; 9 A Liminal Artifact of an Uncommon Nature; 10 Glimpses of a Scientifi c Style; 11 I Compute, Th erefore I Am; 12. "The Best Way to Design . . . "; 13 Language Games; 14. Going Heuristic; 15 An Explosion of Subparadigms; 16 Aesthetica; Epilogue; Dramatis Personae1; Bibliography; Index Sommario/riassunto As a field, computer science occupies a unique scientific space, in that its subject matter can exist in both physical and abstract realms. An artifact such as software is both tangible and not, and must be classified as something in between, or 'liminal.' The study and production of liminal artifacts allows for creative possibilities that are, and have been, possible only in computer science. In this volume, Subrata Dasgupta examines the unique history of computer science in terms of its creative innovations, spanning back to Charles Babbage in 1819.