

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910791370303321
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Titolo	The dark matter problem : a historical perspective // Robert H. Sanders [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2010
ISBN	1-107-20283-3 1-139-19230-2 1-282-65344-X 9786612653445 0-511-77539-3 0-511-77615-2 0-511-77357-9 0-511-77250-5 0-511-77463-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (viii, 205 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	523.1/126
Soggetti	Dark matter (Astronomy) - History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Early history of the dark matter hypothesis -- The stability of disk galaxies : the dark-halo solution -- Direct evidence : extended rotation curves of spiral galaxies -- The maximum-disk : light traces mass -- Cosmology and the birth of astroparticle physics -- Clusters revisited : missing mass found -- CDM confronts galaxy rotation curves -- The new cosmology : dark matter is not enough -- An alternative to dark matter : Modified Newtonian Dynamics -- Seeing dark matter : the theory and practice of detection -- Reflections : a personal point of view.
Sommario/riassunto	Most astronomers and physicists now believe that the matter content of the Universe is dominated by dark matter: hypothetical particles which interact with normal matter primarily through the force of gravity. Though invisible to current direct detection methods, dark matter can explain a variety of astronomical observations. This book describes

how this theory has developed over the past 75 years, and why it is now a central feature of extragalactic astronomy and cosmology. Current attempts to directly detect dark matter locally are discussed, together with the implications for particle physics. The author comments on the sociology of these developments, demonstrating how and why scientists work and interact. Modified Newtonian Dynamics (MOND), the leading alternative to this theory, is also presented. This fascinating overview will interest cosmologists, astronomers and particle physicists. Mathematics is kept to a minimum, so the book can be understood by non-specialists.
