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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	pt. 1. Abelian covers -- pt. 2. Applications : special cases and symmetries -- pt. 3. Free covers, nilpotent quotients and completion.
Sommario/riassunto	This book serves as a reference on links and on the invariants derived via algebraic topology from covering spaces of link exteriors. It emphasizes the features of the multicomponent case not normally considered by knot-theorists, such as longitudes, the homological complexity of many-variable Laurent polynomial rings, the fact that links are not usually boundary links, free coverings of homology boundary links, the lower central series as a source of invariants, nilpotent completion and algebraic closure of the link group, and disc links. Invariants of the types considered here play an essent