

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910961301503321
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Titolo	Cosmic catastrophes : exploding stars, black holes, and mapping the universe / / J. Craig Wheeler
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2007
ISBN	1-107-16652-7 1-316-09947-4 1-280-75048-0 0-511-27013-5 9786610750481 0-511-26957-9 0-511-26844-0 0-511-32300-X 0-511-53662-3 0-511-26911-0
Edizione	[Second edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xviii, 339 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	523.84465
Soggetti	Stars Supernovae Black holes (Astronomy) Hyperspace
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
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Sommario/riassunto

From supernovae and gamma-ray bursts to the accelerating Universe, this is an exploration of the intellectual threads that lead to some of the most exciting ideas in modern astrophysics and cosmology. This fully updated second edition incorporates new material on binary stars, black holes, gamma-ray bursts, worm-holes, quantum gravity and string theory. It covers the origins of stars and their evolution, the mechanisms responsible for supernovae, and their progeny, neutron stars and black holes. It examines the theoretical ideas behind black

holes and their manifestation in observational astronomy and presents neutron stars in all their variety known today. This book also covers the physics of the twentieth century, discussing quantum theory and Einstein's gravity, how these two theories collide, and the prospects for their reconciliation in the twenty-first century. This will be essential reading for undergraduate students in astronomy and astrophysics, and an excellent, accessible introduction for a wider audience.
