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Note generali

Record Nr. UNINA9910965342603321 Autore Jayawardhana Ray Titolo Strange new worlds: the search for alien planets and life beyond our solar system / / Ray Jayawardhana Princeton,: Princeton University Press, c2011 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 9786613001344 9781400838134 1400838134 9781283001342 1283001349 9781400846542 1400846544 Edizione [With a New afterword by the author] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (279 p.) Disciplina 576.839 Soggetti Extrasolar planets Solar system Inglese Lingua di pubblicazione **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Frontmatter -- Contents -- Chapter 1: Quest for Other Worlds --Nota di contenuto Chapter 2: Planets from Dust -- Chapter 3: A Wobbly Start -- Chapter 4: Planet Bounty -- Chapter 5: Flickers and Shadows -- Chapter 6: Blurring Boundaries -- Chapter 7: A Picture's Worth -- Chapter 8: Alien Earths -- Chapter 9: Signs of Life -- Glossary -- Selected Bibliography -- Afterword to the Paperback Edition -- Index -- Acknowledgments -- About the Author Sommario/riassunto In Strange New Worlds, renowned astronomer Ray Jayawardhana brings news from the front lines of the epic quest to find planets--and alien

In Strange New Worlds, renowned astronomer Ray Jayawardhana brings news from the front lines of the epic quest to find planets--and alien life--beyond our solar system. Only in the past two decades, after millennia of speculation, have astronomers begun to discover planets around other stars--thousands in fact. Now they are closer than ever to unraveling distant twins of the Earth. In this book, Jayawardhana vividly recounts the stories of the scientists and the remarkable breakthroughs that have ushered in this extraordinary age of exploration. He describes the latest findings--including his own--that are challenging our view

of the cosmos and casting new light on the origins and evolution of planets and planetary systems. He reveals how technology is rapidly advancing to support direct observations of Jupiter-like gas giants and super-Earths--rocky planets with several times the mass of our own planet--and how astronomers use biomarkers to seek possible life on other worlds. Strange New Worlds provides an insider's look at the cutting-edge science of today's planet hunters, our prospects for discovering alien life, and the debates and controversies at the forefront of extrasolar-planet research. In a new afterword, Jayawardhana explains some of the most recent developments as we search for the first clues of life on other planets.