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| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA9911001462003321 |
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| Titolo | The Physics of Stars : Structure, Evolution and Properties // by Mathias Scholz |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Berlin, Heidelberg : , : Springer Berlin Heidelberg : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2025 |
| ISBN | 3-662-70016-6 |
| Edizione | [1st ed. 2025.] |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (966 pages) |
| Disciplina | 523.8 |
| Soggetti | Astrophysics Astronomy Nuclear fusion Astronomy, Cosmology and Space Sciences Nuclear Fusion |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Nota di contenuto | Prologue -- 1. Observation of Stars? -- 2. Stellar spectra and atmospheres.-3. Stellar Structure -- 4. Nuclear fusion and nucleosynthesis -- 5. Stellar evolution -- 6. Stellar remnants. |
| Sommario/riassunto | This book introduces the physics of stars. It covers observational methods, star formation, and the life cycles of stars. In this book, you will find a comprehensive overview of the physical properties of stars. The current state of knowledge regarding star structure and evolution is summarized here, and a glimpse into exciting, open questions in astrophysics is offered. Interested students in the natural and engineering sciences, as well as high school graduates, instructors, teachers, and amateur astronomers, will find a valuable overview of the physics of stars in this book. The only prerequisite is a basic mathematical and physical background, which does not go beyond the knowledge of integral and differential calculus. In this regard, this book aims to bridge the gap with the specialized literature available on the internet, allowing readers to benefit from it. The first part traces the historical development that led to a detailed understanding of the nature of stars and their life cycles. The goal of the following chapters |

is to provide a pragmatic introduction to the physical processes that determine the structure and evolution of stars based on their fundamental parameters such as mass and chemical composition. It will show what can be learned from the analysis of starlight about stellar atmospheres, the fundamental role of the virial theorem in the lives of stars, and the nuclear processes deep inside stars that provide the energy that makes them shine. Finally, there will be an in-depth phenomenological look at the final stages of stellar evolution. This section will discuss states of matter that are far from experimental realization but whose properties can be, at least in principle, inferred from the observation of concrete objects such as white dwarfs or neutron stars. Exciting developments are still expected in this area in the future.

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