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Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (121 pages)
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Soggetti	Industrial organization Industrial policy Microeconomics Space in economics Industrial Organization Regulation and Industrial Policy Market Structure and Economic Design Spatial Economics
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Nota di contenuto	Chapter 1. Introduction -- Chapter 2. Differentiated goods and industry -- Chapter 3. Horizontal product differentiation -- Chapter 4. Vertical product differentiation -- Chapter 5. Network effects and product differentiation -- Chapter 6. Nesting horizontal and vertical differentiation -- Chapter 7. Monopolistic competition -- Chapter 8. Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	This book provides a comprehensive exploration of product differentiation, blending insights from industrial organization, spatial economics, and game theory. In modern economies, nearly every product—from consumer electronics to household goods—comes in multiple variants, reflecting firms' strategic efforts to differentiate their offerings. But why do firms differentiate their products? How do they set prices for these variants? And does this process lead to an efficient market outcome? It examines both horizontal and vertical differentiation, investigating how firms compete not only on price but also on product characteristics such as location, quality, and perceived

value. Special attention is given to the role of network effects, industry structure, and monopolistic competition, shedding light on how differentiation influences market dynamics. Key topics include: The historical evolution of product differentiation theories and recent advances in the field. The spatial metaphor of a differentiated industry and the structure of demand. Horizontal differentiation models, including Hotelling's framework and political science analogies. Vertical differentiation and the role of quality, production costs, and regulatory standards. The impact of network effects on pricing, market equilibria, and two-sided markets. Monopolistic competition and its implications for excess capacity and market efficiency. With rigorous theoretical models and real-world applications, this book is essential reading for economists, researchers, and students seeking to understand the fundamental mechanisms shaping modern industrial competition.
