1.	Record Nr.	UNISA996466051403316
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	Titolo	Semirings for Soft Constraint Solving and Programming [[electronic resource] /] / by Stefano Bistarelli
	Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin, Heidelberg : , : Springer Berlin Heidelberg : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2004
	ISBN	1-280-30701-3
		9786610307012
		3-540-25925-2
	Edizione	[1st ed. 2004.]
	Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (XII, 284 p.)
	Collana	Lecture Notes in Computer Science, , 0302-9743 ; ; 2962
	Disciplina	005.1/1
	Soggetti	Algebra
		Programming languages (Electronic computers)
		Computer programming
		Software engineering
		Computer logic
		Artificial intelligence
		Programming Languages, Compilers, Interpreters
		Programming Techniques
		Software Engineering
		Logics and Meanings of Programs
		Artificial Intelligence
	Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
	Formato	Materiale a stampa
	Livello bibliografico	Monografia
	Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
	Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
	Nota di contenuto	1. Introduction -- 2. Soft Constraint Satisfaction Problems -- 3. Towards SCSPs Solutions -- 4. SCSP Abstraction -- 5. Higher Order Semiring-Based Constraints -- 6. Soft CLP -- 7. SCLP and Generalized Shortest Path Problems -- 8. Soft Concurrent Constraint Programming -- 9. Interchangeability in Soft CSPs -- 10. SCSPs for Modelling Attacks to Security Protocols -- 11. Conclusions and Directions for Future Work.
	Sommario/riassunto	Constraint satisfaction and constraint programming have shown to be very simple but powerful ideas, with applications in various areas. Still,

in the last ten years, the simple notion of constraints has shown some deficiencies concerning both theory and practice, typically in the way over-constrained problems and preferences are treated. For this reason, the notion of soft constraints has been introduced with semiring-based soft constraints and valued constraints being the two main general frameworks. This book includes formal definitions and properties of semiring-based soft constraints, as well as their use within constraint logic programming and concurrent constraint programming. Moreover, the author shows how to adapt existing notions and techniques such as abstraction and interchangeability to the soft constraint framework and it is demonstrated how soft constraints can be used in some application areas, such as security. Overall, this book is a great starting point for anyone interested in understanding the basics of semiring-based soft constraints.