1. Record Nr. UNINA9910781106903321

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Titolo	The blind spot [[electronic resource]] : science and the crisis of uncertainty / / William Byers
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton, : Princeton University Press, c2011
ISBN	1-283-00150-0 9786613001504 1-4008-3815-0
Edizione	[Course Book]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (334 p.)
Disciplina	500
Soggetti	Science - Social aspects Uncertainty (Information theory)
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface: The Revelation of Uncertainty -- 1. The Blind Spot -- 2. The Blind Spot Revealed -- 3. Certainty or Wonder? -- 4. A World in Crisis! -- 5. Ambiguity -- 6. Self-Reference: The Human Element in Science -- 7. The Mystery of Number -- 8. Science as the Ambiguous Search for Unity -- 9. The Still Point -- 10. Conclusion: Living in a World of Uncertainty -- Acknowledgments -- Notes -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In today's unpredictable and chaotic world, we look to science to provide certainty and answers--and often blame it when things go wrong. The Blind Spot reveals why our faith in scientific certainty is a dangerous illusion, and how only by embracing science's inherent ambiguities and paradoxes can we truly appreciate its beauty and harness its potential. Crackling with insights into our most perplexing contemporary dilemmas, from climate change to the global financial meltdown, this book challenges our most sacredly held beliefs about science, technology, and progress. At the same time, it shows how the secret to better science can be found where we least expect it--in the uncertain, the ambiguous, and the inevitably unpredictable. William Byers explains why the subjective element in scientific inquiry is in fact what makes it so dynamic, and deftly balances the need for certainty

and rigor in science with the equally important need for creativity, freedom, and downright wonder. Drawing on an array of fascinating examples--from Wall Street's overreliance on algorithms to provide certainty in uncertain markets, to undecidable problems in mathematics and computer science, to Georg Cantor's paradoxical but true assertion about infinity--Byers demonstrates how we can and must learn from the existence of blind spots in our scientific and mathematical understanding. The Blind Spot offers an entirely new way of thinking about science, one that highlights its strengths and limitations, its unrealized promise, and, above all, its unavoidable ambiguity. It also points to a more sophisticated approach to the most intractable problems of our time.