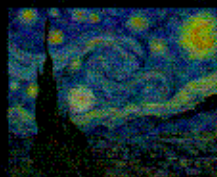


Uniting the conceptual foundations of the physical sciences and biology, this groundbreaking multi-disciplinary book explores the origin of life as a planetary process.

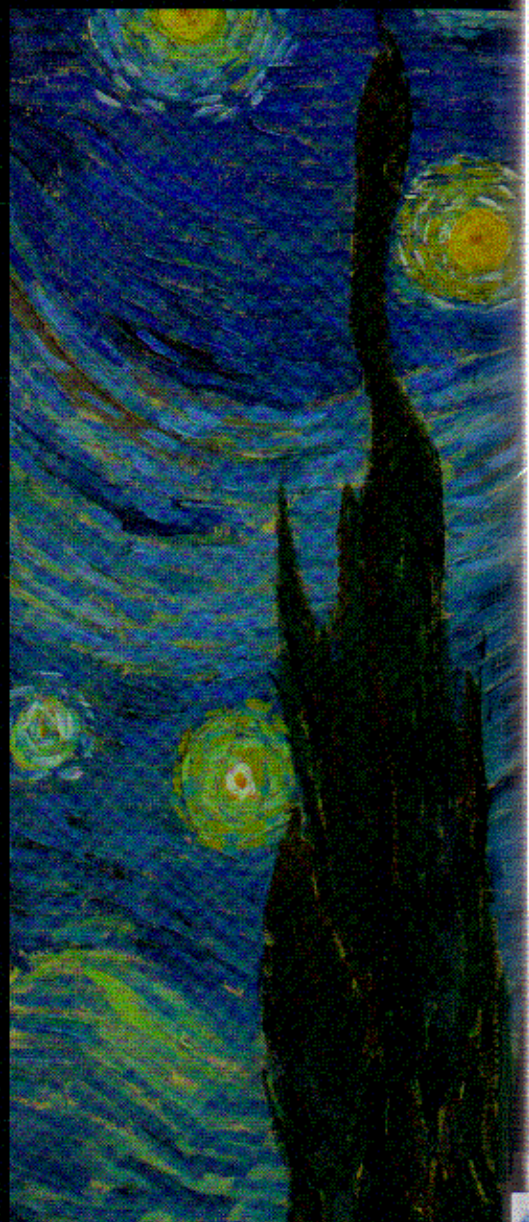
Combining geology, geochemistry, biochemistry, microbiology, evolution, and statistical physics to create an inclusive picture of the living state, the authors develop the argument that the emergence of life was a necessary cascade of non-equilibrium phase transitions that opened new channels for chemical energy flow on Earth. This full-color and logically structured book introduces the main areas of significance and provides a well-ordered and accessible introduction to multiple literatures outside the confines of disciplinary specializations, as well as including an extensive bibliography to provide context and further reading.

For researchers, professionals entering the field, or specialists looking for a coherent overview, this text brings together diverse perspectives to form a unified picture of the origin of life and the ongoing organization of the biosphere.



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Cover design: Andrew Ward



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UNIVERSITY PRESS
www.cambridge.org

ISBN 978-1-107-12188-1



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