

THE COSMIC WEB

Scientific Field Models and Literary Strategies in the Twentieth Century

N. KATHERINE HAYLES



CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS

ITHACA AND LONDON

CONTENTS

Preface	9
Introduction	15
PART I: MATHEMATICAL AND SCIENTIFIC MODELS	
1. Spinning the Web: Representative Field Theories and Their Implications	31
PART II: LITERARY STRATEGIES	
2. Drawn to the Web: The Quality of Rhetoric in Pirsig's <i>Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance</i>	63
3. Evasion: The Field of the Unconscious in D. H. Lawrence	85
4. Ambivalence: Symmetry, Asymmetry, and the Physics of Time Reversal in Nabokov's <i>Ada</i>	111
5. Subversion: Infinite Series and Transfinite Numbers in Borges's Fictions	138
6. Caught in the Web: Cosmology and the Point of (No) Return in Pynchon's <i>Gravity's Rainbow</i>	168
References Cited	199
Index	205