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Nota di contenuto	Title Page; Contents; Introduction; Chapter 1. Diffusion Phenomena and Models; 1.1. General presentation of diffusion process; 1.2. General balance equations; 1.3. Heat conduction equation; 1.4. Initial and boundary conditions; Chapter 2. Probabilistic Models of Diffusion Processes; 2.1. Stochastic differentiation; 2.1.1. Definition; 2.1.2. Examples; 2.2. Ito's formula; 2.2.1. Stochastic differential of a product; 2.2.2. Ito's formula with time dependence; 2.2.3. Interpretation of Ito's formula; 2.2.4. Other extensions of Ito's formula; 2.3. Stochastic differential equations (SDE) 2.3.1. Existence and unicity general theorem (Gikhman and Skorokhod [GIK 68]) 2.3.2. Solution of SDE under the canonical form; 2.4. Ito and diffusion processes; 2.4.1. Ito processes; 2.4.2. Diffusion processes; 2.4.3. Kolmogorov equations; 2.5. Some particular cases of diffusion processes; 2.5.1. Reduced form; 2.5.2. The OUV (Ornstein-Uhlenbeck-Vasicek) SDE; 2.5.3. Solution of the SDE of Black-Scholes-Samuelson; 2.6. Multidimensional diffusion processes; 2.6.1. Multidimensional SDE;

2.6.2. Multidimensional Ito and diffusion processes; 2.6.3. Properties of multidimensional diffusion processes  
2.6.4. Kolmogorov equations  
2.7. The Stroock-Varadhan martingale characterization of diffusions (Karlin and Taylor [KAR 81]); 2.8. The Feynman-Kac formula (Platen and Heath); 2.8.1. Terminal condition; 2.8.2. Discounted payoff function; 2.8.3. Discounted payoff function and payoff rate; Chapter 3. Solving Partial Differential Equations of Second Order; 3.1. Basic definitions on PDE of second order; 3.1.1. Notation; 3.1.2. Characteristics; 3.1.3. Canonical form of PDE; 3.2. Solving the heat equation; 3.2.1. Separation of variables  
3.2.2. Separation of variables in the rectangular Cartesian coordinates  
3.2.3. Orthogonality of functions; 3.2.4. Fourier series; 3.2.5. Sturm-Liouville problem; 3.2.6. One-dimensional homogeneous problem in a finite medium; 3.3. Solution by the method of Laplace transform; 3.3.1. Definition of the Laplace transform; 3.3.2. Properties of the Laplace transform; 3.4. Green's functions; 3.4.1. Green's function as auxiliary problem to solve diffusive problems; 3.4.2. Analysis for determination of Green's function; Chapter 4. Problems in Finance; 4.1. Basic stochastic models for stock prices  
4.1.1. The Black, Scholes and Samuelson model  
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4.4.2. The CIR model (1985)

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## Sommario/riassunto

The aim of this book is to promote interaction between engineering, finance and insurance, as these three domains have many models and methods of solution in common for solving real-life problems. The authors point out the strict inter-relations that exist among the diffusion models used in engineering, finance and insurance. In each of the three fields, the basic diffusion models are presented and their strong similarities are discussed. Analytical, numerical and Monte Carlo simulation methods are explained with a view to applying them to obtain the solutions to the different problems pres

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