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Sommario/riassunto	Ion channels are a diverse class of trans-membrane proteins that are responsible for rapid, passive movement of selected ions across cell membranes. They play a crucial role in regulating diverse cell functions in both electrically excitable and non-excitable cells.; Ion channels provide a unique opportunity to use computational approaches to attempt an understanding of the function of a membrane protein, starting with an atomic resolution structure and progressing through a hierarchy of theoretical descriptions until one can account quantitatively for their physiological function. This book brings together physiologists, structural biologists and theorists to help define the direction of the field.