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	Soggetti	Quantum field theory
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	Nota di contenuto	Background Field Method in Quantum Field Theory -- Technique for Calculation of De Witt Coefficients -- Partial Summation of Schwinger-De Witt Expansion -- Higher-Derivative Quantum Gravity -- Conclusion.
	Sommario/riassunto	This book tackles quantum gravity via the so-called background field method and its effective action functional. The author presents an explicitly covariant and effective technique to calculate the de Witt coefficients and to analyze the Schwinger-de Wit asymptotic expansion of the effective action. He also investigates the ultraviolet behaviour of higher-derivative quantum gravity. The book addresses theoretical physicists, graduate students as well as researchers, but should also be of interest to physicists working in mathematical or elementary particle physics.