1.	Record Nr.	UNINA9910511623903321
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	Titolo	Bioprocess engineering principles [[electronic resource] /] / Pauline M. Doran
	Pubbl/distr/stampa	London, : Academic Press, c1995
	ISBN	1-281-03277-8
		9786611032777
		0-08-052812-0
	Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (455 p.)
	Disciplina	510 s 512/.55 19
		660.6
	Soggetti	Biochemical engineering
		Biotechnology
		Electronic books.
	Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
	Formato	Materiale a stampa
	Livello bibliografico	Monografia
	Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
	Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
	Nota di contenuto	Front Cover; Bioprocess Engineering Principles; Copyright Page; Contents; Preface; Part 1: Introduction; Chapter 1. Bioprocess Development: An Interdisciplinary Challenge; 1.1 Steps in Bioprocess Development: A Typical New Product From Recombinant DNA; 1.2 A Quantitative Approach; Chapter 2. Introduction to Engineering Calculations; 2.1 Physical Variables, Dimensions and Units; 2.2 Units; 2.3 Force and Weight; 2.4 Measurement Conventions; 2.5 Standard Conditions and Ideal Gases; 2.6 Physical and Chemical Property Data; 2.7 Stoichiometry; 2.8 Summary of Chapter 2; Problems; References Suggestions For Further ReadingChapter 3. Presentation and Analysis of Data; 3.1 Errors in Data and Calculations; 3.2 Presentation of Experimental Data; 3.3 Data Analysis; 3.4 Graph Paper With Logarithmic Coordinates; 3.5 General Procedures for Plotting Data; 3.6 Process Flow Diagrams; Problems; 3.7 Summary of Chapter 3; References; Suggestions for Further Reading; Part 2: Material and Energy Balances; Chapter 4. Material Balances; 4.1 Thermodynamic Preliminaries; 4.2 Law of Conservation of Mass Example; 4.3 Procedure For Material-Balance Calculations; 4.4 Material-Balance Worked Examples

Sommario/riassunto	The emergence and refinement of techniques in molecular biology has changed our perceptions of medicine, agriculture and environmental management. Scientific breakthroughs in gene expression, protein engineering and cell fusion are being translated by a strengthening biotechnology industry into revolutionary new products and services. Many a student has been enticed by the promise of biotechnology and the excitement of being near the cutting edge of scientific advancement. However, graduates trained in molecular biology and cell manipulation soon realise that these techniques are only part of