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Autore	Weinstein Lawrence <1960->
Titolo	Guesstimation [[electronic resource]] : solving the world's problems on the back of a cocktail napkin / / Lawrence Weinstein and John A. Adam
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton, N.J., : Princeton University Press, c2008
ISBN	1-282-15913-5 9786612159138 1-4008-2444-3
Edizione	[Course Book]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (320 p.)
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Altri autori (Persone)	AdamJohn A
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Soggetti	Estimation theory Problem solving
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 (p. 295-297) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Preface -- How to Solve Problems -- Dealing with Large Numbers -- General Questions -- Animals and People -- Transportation -- Energy and Work -- Hydrocarbons and Carbohydrates -- The Earth, the Moon, and Lots of Gerbils -- Energy and the Environment -- The Atmosphere -- Risk -- Unanswered Questions -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Guesstimation is a book that unlocks the power of approximation--it's popular mathematics rounded to the nearest power of ten! The ability to estimate is an important skill in daily life. More and more leading businesses today use estimation questions in interviews to test applicants' abilities to think on their feet. Guesstimation enables anyone with basic math and science skills to estimate virtually anything--quickly--using plausible assumptions and elementary arithmetic. Lawrence Weinstein and John Adam present an eclectic array of estimation problems that range from devilishly simple to quite sophisticated and from serious real-world concerns to downright silly ones. How long would it take a running faucet to fill the inverted dome of the Capitol? What is the total length of all the pickles consumed in the US in one year? What are the relative merits of internal-combustion and electric cars, of coal and nuclear energy? The problems are

marvelously diverse, yet the skills to solve them are the same. The authors show how easy it is to derive useful ballpark estimates by breaking complex problems into simpler, more manageable ones--and how there can be many paths to the right answer. The book is written in a question-and-answer format with lots of hints along the way. It includes a handy appendix summarizing the few formulas and basic science concepts needed, and its small size and French-fold design make it conveniently portable. Illustrated with humorous pen-and-ink sketches, Guesstimation will delight popular-math enthusiasts and is ideal for the classroom.