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Sommario/riassunto	The concept of dependence permeates the Earth and its inhabitants in a most profound manner. Examples of interdependent meteorological phenomena in nature and interdependence in the medical, social, and political aspects of our existence, not to mention the economic structures, are too numerous to be cited individually. Moreover, the dependence is obviously not deterministic but of a stochastic nature. However, it seems that none of the departments of statistics, engineering, economics and mathematics in the academic institutions throughout the world offer courses dealing with <i>dependence c