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Sommario/riassunto	Dr Wai-Fah Chen - a Chinese-born American academic and widely recognized structural engineering specialist in the field of mechanics, materials, and computing - has certainly led a fascinating life. A well- respected leader in the field of plasticity, structural stability, and structural steel design over the past half-century, he has made major contributions to introduce the mathematical theory of plasticity to civil engineering practice, especially in the application of limit analysis methods to the geotechnical engineering field. Having headed the engineering departments at the University of