

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910788811503321
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Titolo	Markov operators, positive semigroups, and approximation processes / / Francesco Altomare [and three others]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin, Germany : , : De Gruyter, , 2014 ©2014
ISBN	3-11-036697-5 3-11-038641-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (326 p.)
Collana	De Gruyter Studies in Mathematics, , 0179-0986 ; ; Volume 61
Classificazione	SK 620
Disciplina	515/.48
Soggetti	Boundary value problems Differential operators Semigroups Markov operators
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 indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Preface -- Contents -- Introduction -- Guide to the reader and interdependence of sections -- Notation -- 1. Positive linear operators and approximation problems -- 2. C_0 -semigroups of operators and linear evolution equations -- 3. Bernstein-Schnabl operators associated with Markov operators -- 4. Differential operators and Markov semigroups associated with Markov operators -- 5. Perturbed differential operators and modified Bernstein-Schnabl operators -- Appendices -- Bibliography -- Symbol index -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	This research monograph gives a detailed account of a theory which is mainly concerned with certain classes of degenerate differential operators, Markov semigroups and approximation processes. These mathematical objects are generated by arbitrary Markov operators acting on spaces of continuous functions defined on compact convex sets; the study of the interrelations between them constitutes one of the distinguishing features of the book. Among other things, this theory provides useful tools for studying large classes of initial-boundary value evolution problems, the main aim being to obtain a constructive approximation to the associated positive C_0 -semigroups

by means of iterates of suitable positive approximating operators. As a consequence, a qualitative analysis of the solutions to the evolution problems can be efficiently developed. The book is mainly addressed to research mathematicians interested in modern approximation theory by positive linear operators and/or in the theory of positive C_0 -semigroups of operators and evolution equations. It could also serve as a textbook for a graduate level course.
