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Beyond the Crystalline State

By Venkataraman Balakrishnan

Springer Dez 2011, 2011. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 23.5x15.5x cm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Condensed matter exhibits a rich variety of phases. Of these, the crystalline state has, until recently, received most attention. This is not surprising, given the geometric regularity of crystals. At the other extreme one has amorphous materials. In between there are the various types of liquid crystals, the recently discovered quasicrystals, and so on. While the absence of the high degree of regularity that characterizes the crystalline phase is certainly a problem, these noncrystalline states have nevertheless been receiving some attention over the years. However, it is only during the last few years that something like a unified view of all these phases has begun to emerge, through an application of various sophisticated concepts. Geometry and symmetry (and unusual realizations of the latter) provide a unifying thread in this new and emerging perspective. This book is an attempt to capture the flavour of some of these recent developments. The approach is substantially descriptive, being intended to be accessible not only to experimental physicists, but also to chemists, materials scientists, metallurgists and ceramicists, whose work...

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