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Record Nr.	UNINA9910139078003321
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Titolo	Introduction to X-ray powder diffractometry / / Ron Jenkins, Robert L. Snyder
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Wiley, c1996
ISBN	1-283-59303-3 9786613905482 1-118-52091-2 1-118-52099-8 1-118-52092-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (428 p.)
Collana	Chemical analysis ; ; v. 138
Altri autori (Persone)	SnyderR. L <1941-> (Robert L.)
Disciplina	548/.83
Soggetti	X-rays - Diffraction - Technique X-ray diffractometer Powders - Optical properties - Measurement
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	"A Wiley-Interscience publication."
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction to X-ray Powder Diffractometry; CONTENTS; PREFACE; CUMULATIVE LISTING OF VOLUMES IN SERIES; CHAPTER 1. CHARACTERISTICS OF X-RADIATION; 1.1. Early Development of X-ray Diffraction; 1.2. Origin of X-radiation; 1.3. Continuous Radiation; 1.4. Characteristic Radiation; 1.4.1. The Photoelectric Effect; 1.4.2. The Auger Effect; 1.4.3. Fluorescent Yield; 1.4.4. Selection Rules; 1.4.5. Nondiagram Lines; 1.4.6. Practical Form of the Copper K Spectrum; 1.5. Scattering of X-rays; 1.5.1. Coherent Scatter; 1.5.2. Compton Scatter; 1.6. Absorption of X-rays; 1.7. Safety Considerations ReferencesCHAPTER 2. THE CRYSTALLINE STATE; 2.1. Introduction to the Crystalline State; 2.2. Crystallographic Symmetry; 2.2.1. Point Groups and Crystal Systems; 2.2.2. The Unit Cell and Bravais Lattices; 2.2.3. Reduced Cells; 2.2.4. Space Groups; 2.3. Space Group Notation; 2.3.1. The Triclinic or Anorthic Crystal System; 2.3.2. The Monoclinic Crystal System; 2.3.3. The Orthorhombic Crystal System; 2.3.4. The Tetragonal Crystal System; 2.3.5. The Hexagonal and Trigonal Crystal Systems; 2.3.6. The Cubic Crystal System; 2.3.7. Equivalent Positions;

Sommario/riassunto

When bombarded with X-rays, solid materials produce distinct scattering patterns similar to fingerprints. X-ray powder diffraction is a technique used to fingerprint solid samples, which are then identified and cataloged for future use-much the way the FBI keeps fingerprints on file. The current database of some 70,000 material prints has been put to a broad range of uses, from the analysis of moon rocks to testing drugs for purity.Introduction to X-ray Powder Diffractometry fully updates the achievements in the field over the past fifteen years and provides a much-needed explanation o