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Sommario/riassunto	By studying the degeneration of abelian varieties with PEL structures, this book explains the compactifications of smooth integral models of all PEL-type Shimura varieties, providing the logical foundation for several exciting recent developments. The book is designed to be accessible to graduate students who have an understanding of schemes and abelian varieties. PEL-type Shimura varieties, which are natural generalizations of modular curves, are useful for studying the arithmetic properties of automorphic forms and automorphic representations, and they have played important roles in the development of the Langlands program. As with modular curves, it is desirable to have integral models of compactifications of PEL-type Shimura varieties that can be described in sufficient detail near the

boundary. This book explains in detail the following topics about PEL-type Shimura varieties and their compactifications: A construction of smooth integral models of PEL-type Shimura varieties by defining and representing moduli problems of abelian schemes with PEL structures An analysis of the degeneration of abelian varieties with PEL structures into semiabelian schemes, over noetherian normal complete adic base rings A construction of toroidal and minimal compactifications of smooth integral models of PEL-type Shimura varieties, with detailed descriptions of their structure near the boundary Through these topics, the book generalizes the theory of degenerations of polarized abelian varieties and the application of that theory to the construction of toroidal and minimal compactifications of Siegel moduli schemes over the integers (as developed by Mumford, Faltings, and Chai).