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Nota di contenuto	Competing Interactions and Patterns in Nanoworld; Contents; Preface; 1 Introduction; 1.1 How the Story Began; 1.1.1 Structure Periodicity and Modulated Phases; 1.1.2 Ferromagnetic and Ferroelectric Domains; 1.2 First Theoretical Approaches for Competing Interactions; 1.2.1 Frenkel-Kontorova Model; 1.2.2 Theoretical Models of the Magnetic/Ferroelectric Domains; 1.2.2.1 Phenomenology of the Dipolar Interaction; 1.2.2.2 Phenomenology of the Exchange and Exchange-Like Interactions; 1.2.2.3 Mechanism of the Domain Formation; 1.3 Summary; 1.4 Exercises; References 2 Self-Competition: or How to Choose the Best from the Worst2.1 Frustration: The World is not Perfect; 2.2 Why is an Understanding of Frustration Phenomena Important for Nanosystems?; 2.3 Ising, XY, and Heisenberg Statistical Models; 2.4 Order-Disorder Phenomena; 2.4.1 Phase Transitions and their Characterization; 2.4.2 Order Below T(c); 2.4.3 Measure of Frustration: Local Energy Parameter; 2.5 Self-Competition of the Short-Range Interactions; 2.5.1 Ising

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 3.1.3.1 Periodic Lattices

## Sommario/riassunto

Systems displaying competing interactions of some kind are widespread - much more, in fact, as commonly anticipated (magnetic and Ising-type interactions or the dynamics of DNA molecules being only two popular examples). Written for researchers in the field with different professional backgrounds, this volume classifies phenomena not by system but rather by the type of competing interactions involved. This allows for a straightforward presentation of the underlying principles and the universal laws governing the behaviour of different systems. Starting with a historical overview