

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9911020137403321
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Titolo	Competing interactions and patterns in nanoworld // Elena Y. Vedmedenko
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Weinheim, : Wiley-VCH, c2007
ISBN	9786610854691 9781280854699 1280854693 9783527610501 3527610502 9783527610518 3527610510
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (217 p.)
Disciplina	530.41 548
Soggetti	Nanoscience Pattern formation (Physical sciences) Solid state physics Critical phenomena (Physics)
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 index.
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

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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