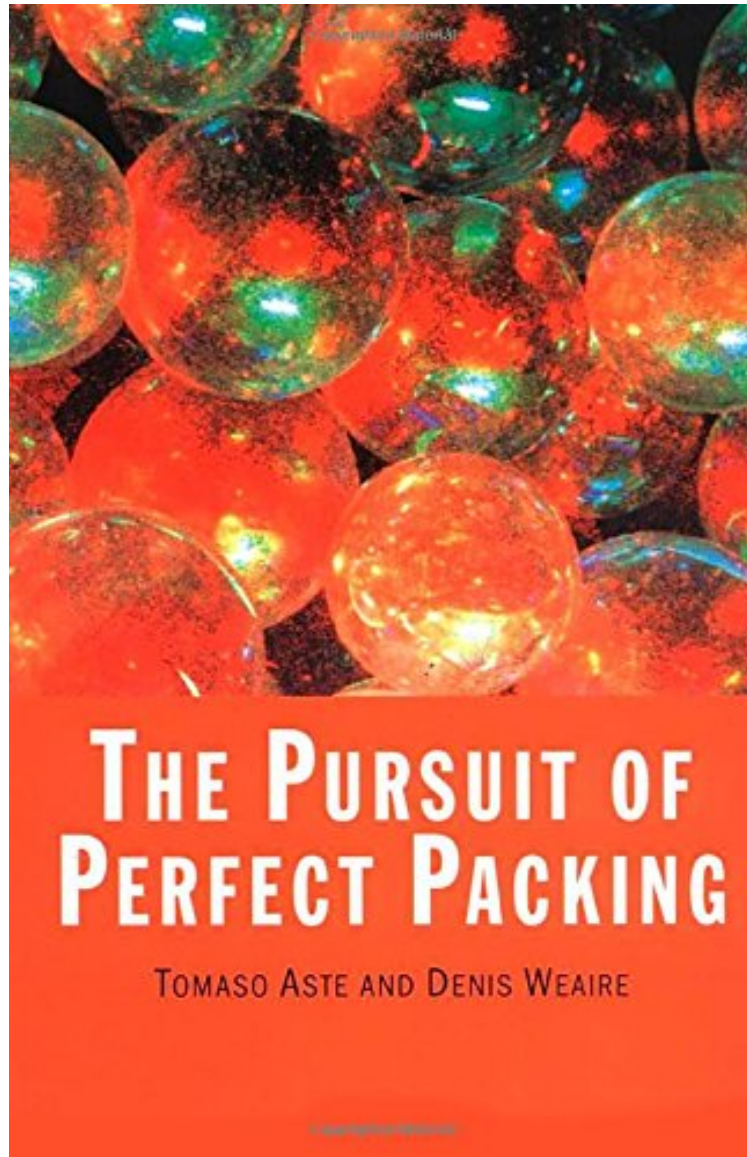


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The Pursuit of Perfect Packing

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Denis Weaire, Tomaso Aste : The Pursuit of Perfect Packing before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Pursuit of Perfect Packing:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Introduction to mysteries and myths of packing!By Vivek SharmaThe text is packed with both 'ordered' and 'disordered' discussions of several packing problems that arise in daily life as well as in crystallography, physics and abstract mathematics. A book serves as a nice introduction to the solved and the unsolved mysteries and myths of packing problems. The enthusiasm of Aste and Weaire is infectious,

and the reach of concepts described here is far ranging and deep. Yet the text itself an easy read, perhaps even high school kids can enjoy it, though graduate students and teachers will find it most illuminating and informative!(May 11/2004)5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Excellent introduction to packingBy Ed Pegg JrA good starting discussion for packing problems, even though several issues are not covered (look at Erich's Packing Center for the next edition). Chapters cover Circle packings, sphere packings, the Hales proof, seed shapes, honeycombs, bubbles, atoms and crystals, fractal aggregates, The Giant's Causeway, buckyballs, higher dimensional packings, and various odds and ends. There are lots of illustrations and good discussions. I would have preferred for more to be packed into the book. Still, it's the best introductory book on packing I know of.

In 1998 Thomas Hales dramatically announced the solution of a problem that has long teased eminent mathematicians: what is the densest possible arrangement of identical spheres? The Pursuit of Perfect Packing recounts the story of this problem and many others that have to do with packing things together. The examples are taken from mathematics, physics, biology, and engineering, including the arrangement of soap bubbles in foam, atoms in a crystal, the architecture of the bee's honeycomb, and the structure of the Giant's Causeway. Using an informal style and with key references, the book also includes brief accounts of the lives of many of the scientists who devoted themselves to problems of packing over many centuries, together with wry comments on their efforts. It is an entertaining introduction to the field for both specialists and the more general public.

This is a timely book In general, materials scientists and engineers venturing into the world of nano-structures should read this book as a general introduction to a fascinating field. -T. M Sabine, Consultant Physicist, The PhysicistIt is an entertaining introduction to the field for both specialists and the more general public. -Zeitschrift fur KristallographieThis book is full of goodies. It is a romp through and around sphere packings and its relatives. From the catchy titles of the sections to the charming photographs, anecdotes, verses, quotes, snippets of philosophy there is so much to enjoy All the diagrams and the many photographs of models are excellent. -William Moser, Zentralblatt MathThis is an excellent read! -Short Book sthe reader will want to return to it often to treasure its various little gems. I found it a most delightful book. -The London Mathematical Society