

This work will be of great value not only for direct-methods experts, but also for crystallographers who are involved in the study of methods where the statistical properties of structure factors play a role. It will earn its place in every crystallographic library. Because of its extensive treatment of the mathematical aspects of direct methods, and the lesser emphasis on the practical applications, the book is less suitable for students beginning direct methods.

Finally, the publishers have done a good job on the presentation of the book.

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#### Book Received

*The following book has been received by the Editor. Brief and generally uncritical notices are given of works of marginal crystallographic interest; occasionally a book of fundamental interest is included under this heading because of difficulty in finding a suitable reviewer without great delay.*

**Liquid crystals: the fourth state of matter.** Edited by F. D. SAEVA. Pp. x + 491. New York: Dekker, 1979. Price, SFr 106.00, £33.40. A review of this book, by M. Kléman, has been published in the July issue of *Acta Crystallographica*, Section A, pages 607–608.