

Crystal imperfection

An ideal crystal is a perfect crystal in which each atom has identical surroundings. Real crystals are not perfect. A real crystal always has a large number of imperfections in the lattice.

Since real crystals are of finite size, they have a surface to their boundary.

At the boundary, atomic bonds terminate and hence the surface itself is an imperfection.

One can reduce crystal defects considerably, but can never eliminate them entirely.

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