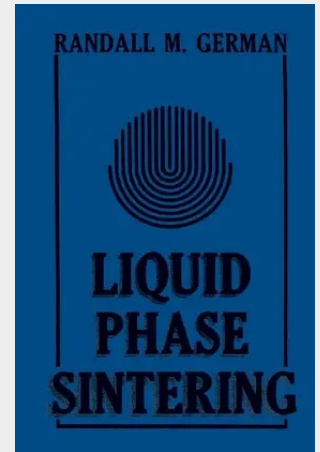


Liquid Phase Sintering

In the past few years there has been rapid growth in the activities involving particulate materials because of recognized advantages in manufacturing. This growth is attributed to several factors; i) an increased concern over energy utilization, ii) a desire to better control microstructure in engineering materials, iii) the need for improved material economy, iv) societal and economic pressures for higher productivity and quality, v) requirements for unique property combinations for high performance applications, and vi) a desire for net shape forming. Accordingly, liquid phase sintering has received increased attention as part of the growth in particulate materials processing. As a consequence, the commercial applications for liquid phase sintering are expanding rapidly. This active and expanding interest is not well served by available texts. For this reason I felt it was appropriate to write this book on liquid phase sintering. The technology of liquid phase sintering is quite old and has been in use in the ceramics industry for many centuries. However, the general perception among materials and manufacturing engineers is that liquid phase sintering is still a novel technique. I believe the diverse technological applications outlined in this book will dispel such impressions. Liquid phase sintering has great value in fabricating several unique materials to near net shapes and will continue to expand in applications as the fundamental attributes are better appreciated. I am personally involved with several uses for liquid phase sintering.

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