Solid State Materials Chemistry

This book explores the fascinating world of functional materials from the perspective of those who are tasked with inventing them, solid state chemists. Written in a clear and accessible style, this book provides a modern-day treatment of solid state materials chemistry for graduate and advanced undergraduate level courses. With over 330 problems and 400 original figures, this essential reference covers a wide range of materials in a holistic manner, including inorganic and organic, crystalline and amorphous, bulk and nanocrystals.

The introductory chapters cover topics such as crystal structures, defects, diffusion in solids, chemical bonding, and electronic band structure. Later chapters focus on important classes of functional materials including pigments, phosphors, dielectric materials, magnets, metals, semiconductors, superconductors, nonlinear optical materials, battery materials, zeolites, metal–organic framework materials, and glasses. The technological applications and synthesis methods used to prepare the materials that drive modern society are highlighted throughout.

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Solid State Materials Chemistry

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Preface

Functional materials are an integral part of daily life. As an example, consider the materials that underpin smartphone technology. The integrated circuitry is made from complex patterns of semiconductors, metallic conductors, and insulators. Organic light-emitting diodes convert electrical signals from the processor into a vibrant high-resolution color display. The display is protected by a screen made from tough but lightweight Gorilla® glass, which is coated with a transparent conducting oxide to make the screen responsive to the touch of a finger. Magnetic materials are used in the speakers, a lithium-ion battery powers the device, specific dielectric materials are used to receive and isolate a call once the signal reaches a base station, and the list goes on.

This book explores the fascinating world of functional materials from the perspective of those who are tasked with inventing them, solid state chemists. We therefore adopt the chemist’s definition of a material as a substance whose structure and properties are controlled at the atomic level to produce a specific function. Returning to our example, a modern smartphone contains over half of the non-radioactive elements on the periodic table. A few are used in their elemental form, but in most cases the desired function can only be achieved by combining elements to form compounds. With the periodic table as a palette, how does the chemist design and synthesize the mind-boggling variety of functional materials that future technologies depend upon? That question is the topic this book explores.

The book is written specifically with teaching in mind and is intended primarily for use in upper-level undergraduate or graduate level courses. While our perspective is that of a chemist, the book is accessible to physicists and engineers as well. Mathematical details are given where they add deeper understanding, but the focus is always on relating the properties of a material to the characteristics of the atoms and molecules from which it is built.

The first six chapters cover the fundamentals of extended solids: crystal structures, defects, reactivity, phase diagrams, phase transitions, chemical bonding, and band structure. The remaining chapters, each of which is organized around a specific property or class of materials, show how the properties of modern functional materials can be understood from these fundamental concepts. Recognizing that the field of solid state chemistry is much more expansive than can be covered in a single course, the later chapters are designed to be largely independent of each other. This organization provides the instructor freedom to tailor a course to cover those materials that are most relevant for their students.

Coverage of inorganic and organic materials is interwoven throughout the book to place the emphasis on properties. To keep the scope at a manageable level, neither synthesis nor
characterization are covered in detail. Instead, boxes on synthetic methods and characterization methods are placed throughout the book to highlight specific examples. In a similar vein, boxes are used to describe how the properties of nanoscale solids differ from bulk materials (Nanoscale Concepts), and to highlight important technological applications of materials (Materials Spotlight). Students learn by practice, and, in this spirit, we have included dozens of problems at the end of each chapter to allow students to test their understanding of the concepts covered in the chapter. Instructors can obtain a full set of worked solutions on request.

We hope that this book will be a valuable source of learning for the next generations of solid state scientists and engineers and a resource for those who already work in this fascinating field.

Patrick Woodward
Pavel Karen
John Evans
Thomas Vogt
Acknowledgments

We are indebted to several organizations and countless people for their support and encouragement. PMW would like to acknowledge the Leverhulme Foundation for supporting his stay at Durham University as a Visiting Professor during the 2017–2018 academic year. TV spent the beginning of 2018 as a Fellow at Durham University’s Institute of Advanced Study. He is grateful to Linda Crowe and the rest of the team at the institute, as well as David Wilkinson, Principal at St. John’s College, for their warm hospitality and for providing an environment so conducive to scholarly work. These overlapping stays in Durham were instrumental in making the final push to finish this book. PMW is grateful for many years of support from the Solid State Materials Chemistry program of the National Science Foundation. PMW and JSOE thank Arthur Sleight for inspiration and early career mentoring. In these data-dominated times, PK is grateful to the now Professor Jiří Hanika for teaching Fortran programming in the 1970/1 course Computational Technology at the VŠCHT in Prague, and to the now Ing. František Hovorka, CSc, for the idea of taking an external typing course during the sophomore year 1967/8 at the SPŠCH Praha. We all would like to thank both colleagues and students who provided key feedback on early versions of the chapters. Finally, we thank our families for their patience and support over this long journey.