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Laboratory Safety

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Teaching General Chemistry: A Materials Science Companion

Arthur B. Ellis

Margret J. Geselbracht

Brian J. Johnson

George C. Lisensky

William R. Robinson



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Cover: Magnetic spiking phenomenon observed when a cow magnet is placed beneath a Petri dish containing a ferrofluid. Chapter 2 discusses this phenomenon.

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The Authors



From left to right: Margret J. Geselbracht, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, Reed College, Portland, OR; Brian J. Johnson, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, St. John's University, Collegeville, MN; William R. Robinson, Professor, Department of Chemistry, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN; Arthur B. Ellis, Meloche-Bascom Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, WI; and George C. Lisensky, Professor, Department of Chemistry, Beloit College, Beloit, WI. This is a composite photograph. To the best of the authors' knowledge, the five authors were never all at the same place at the same time!

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Topic Matrix

Topic	Chapter							Experiment							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Atoms	1	2													1
Acids and Bases								8							15
Bands							7	8							7, 8
Batteries		2	3						8						
Bohr model for hydrogen atom									8						
Bonding		3			5	6	7								2
Conductivity, thermal and electrical							7								8, 11, 12
Coordination numbers/geometry					5										2
Crystal structure	2	3			5		7		9						2, 4, 5
Defects						6		8	9						6
Diffusion										10					13
Dipoles		2													
Electrochemistry								8							
Electromagnetic radiation			4		6	7	8								4, 9
Electronegativity							7								7
Electrons		2					7	8							7, 8
Entropy								8	9						
Equilibrium								8	9						
Free energy								8	9						
Heat capacity		2													1
Intermolecular forces		2													2
Ionic solids				5											2
Ionization								8							
Kinetics					6					10					
Lasers			4					8							4, 9
Le Chatelier's principle									9						10
Magnetism		2							9						11, 14
Metals		3		5	6	7									2, 10
Molecular orbital theory							7								
Nuclear chemistry					6										6
pH								8							15
Periodic properties		3		6	7										7
Phase changes						6			9						10, 11, 12
Quantum mechanics					6			8							
Redox		2								9	10				8, 11
Semiconductors		3		5		7	8								2, 7, 9
Smart materials	1	2							9						10
Solid solutions			3		6	7			9	10					3, 7, 14
Spectroscopy - Beer's Law							7	8							7, 9
Stoichiometry		3		5					9	10					2, 11
Structures of solids			3	5	6	7			9						2, 5, 10
Superconductivity	1								9						11
Thermochemistry		2							9						
Thermodynamics						6			9	10					
Transition metals		2								10					3, 10, 11, 12
VSEPR			4	5											2
X-ray diffraction			4												4, 5

Preface

The Spirit of the Companion

With the arrival of the 90s, it is an appropriate time to update and broaden the career advice Dustin Hoffman received in the 1967 movie, “The Graduate.” Instead of urging readers to work with plastics, the intent of this book is to show, more generally, that materials are both a source of great opportunities for chemists in the coming decade and a natural vehicle for introducing chemical principles. Whether the solids are semiconductors, metals, superconductors, polymers, or composites, our society is increasingly dependent on advanced materials and devices that deliver performance within the constraints set by our limited energy and environmental resources. The introductory chemistry course can provide a firm foundation for understanding the burgeoning field of materials chemistry.

Despite the key role that chemistry plays in what is often called “materials science,” there has been relatively little materials chemistry in introductory chemistry courses. In fact, a 1989 National Science Foundation (1) report concluded that “the historic bias of chemistry curricula toward small molecule chemistry, generally in the gaseous and liquid states, is out of touch with current opportunities for chemists in research, education, and technology.” Furthermore, the report notes that “the attractiveness of chemistry and physics for undergraduate majors could be enhanced by greater emphasis on materials-related topics which would help students better relate their studies to the ‘real world.’”

Our experience has been, however, that many chemistry teachers are uncomfortable teaching materials chemistry, which has a strongly interdisciplinary flavor: Teachers may be less confident describing solid-state synthesis, processing, structure and bonding, and those physical and chemical properties of solids which have a language that is largely rooted in physics, engineering, and materials science. The extended, three-dimensional structures of solids, which are often hard to visualize, may represent another formidable obstacle.

The goal of this volume, *Teaching General Chemistry: A Materials Science Companion*, and its supporting instructional materials, is to demystify materials chemistry so that its essence—the interrelationship of synthesis, processing, structure, bonding, and physicochemical properties—can be readily brought into introductory chemistry courses.

A second goal of the Companion is to refresh and enliven general chemistry. The topics presented here enable instructors to put a new spin on the material that is traditionally covered in general chemistry. The examples from cutting-edge research, as well as everyday life, will

serve to maintain student interest while illustrating the basic ideas that are important to an understanding of chemistry.

The Ad Hoc Committee

An ad hoc committee was formed in 1990, in recognition of the fact that both the interdisciplinary nature of materials chemistry and a lack of appropriate instructional tools were preventing many teachers from discussing the subject. The committee's composition reflects both technical and pedagogical expertise: Research areas spanning much of the breadth of modern materials chemistry are represented, as is skill at bringing chemical concepts into the classroom and laboratory (2). The Ad Hoc Committee for Solid-State Instructional Materials comprises Aaron Bertrand, Georgia Institute of Technology; Abraham Clearfield, Texas A&M University; Denice Denton, University of Wisconsin-Madison; John Droske, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point; Arthur B. Ellis, University of Wisconsin—Madison (Chair); Paul Gaus, The College of Wooster; Margret Geselbracht, Reed College; Martha Greenblatt, Rutgers University; Roald Hoffmann, Cornell University; Allan Jacobson, University of Houston; Brian Johnson, St. John's University; David Johnson, University of Oregon; Edward Kostiner, University of Connecticut; Nathan S. Lewis, California Institute of Technology; George Lisensky, Beloit College; Thomas E. Mallouk, University of Texas at Austin; Robert E. McCarley, Iowa State University; Ludwig Mayer, San Jose State University; Joel Miller, University of Utah; Donald W. Murphy, AT&T Bell Laboratories; William R. Robinson, Purdue University; Don Showalter, University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point; Duward F. Shriver, Northwestern University; Albert N. Thompson, Jr., Spelman College; M. Stanley Whittingham, SUNY at Binghamton; Gary Wnek, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; and Aaron Wold, Brown University.

Objectives

The principal objectives of the Ad Hoc Committee in producing the Companion are to revitalize the introductory chemistry course for all students and to increase the number and diversity of technically able students who will pursue careers as chemists, chemistry teachers, scientists, and engineers. To accomplish these objectives, the committee collected and created instructional materials and developed pedagogical strategies for the introduction of these materials into the curriculum.

The philosophy underpinning the committee's effort to mainstream materials chemistry into the curriculum is that *virtually every topic typically discussed in a general chemistry course can be illustrated with examples from materials chemistry*. The Companion is intended to collect, in one place, a critical mass of text, demonstrations, laboratory experiments, and leads to supporting instructional materials (software and kits, for example) that illustrate how materials chemistry fits into the

traditional introductory chemistry course. At the same time, the Companion needs to be sufficiently flexible that it can accommodate, and even help to define, new introductory course structures.

The Companion is presented in a ready-to-use format that will enable teachers to integrate materials chemistry into their courses with minimal effort. Instructors will then have solid-state examples to complement molecular examples. By presenting both, the interconnectedness and universality of scientific thinking can be emphasized.

The Companion assumes essentially no background in materials chemistry but builds on a foundation of molecular chemistry shared by many college and pre-college chemistry teachers. Because the Companion is written for teachers, extra depth is sometimes included beyond the level one might present in an introductory chemistry course; most teachers are more comfortable when they have extra material available for support. The Companion contains enough information in the text, footnotes, and leading references to permit more quantitative and sophisticated treatments for upper-level undergraduate and even graduate courses.

As will be evident throughout the Companion, materials chemistry is intimately connected to other traditional disciplines like physics and engineering. Many colleagues in related scientific and engineering disciplines, who recognize the role of chemistry as a foundation course for students pursuing technical careers, have graciously contributed their expertise to this project (3). Some of the Companion's contents will also be useful in their courses, which span the undergraduate science and engineering curriculum.

We encourage our readers to use and adapt materials from the Companion and to send us constructive comments that can be passed on to other users.

The authors' royalties from the book are being donated to the Institute for Chemical Education (ICE) to assist with dissemination of solid-state instructional materials.

Selection Criteria for Inclusion of Topics

In developing the Companion, we have omitted a great deal of information that would have provided a more comprehensive view of materials chemistry in favor of a more focused, less daunting offering. Furthermore, with a few exceptions, polymers are conspicuously absent from the Companion. This omission is deliberate: A related project, headed by John Droske and also funded by the National Science Foundation (see reference 4), will soon be releasing instructional materials describing how polymers can be integrated into the curriculum. John has graciously shared his group's work with us so that we could best complement rather than duplicate one another's efforts.

Key criteria for including materials in the Companion were that they be thought-provoking, illustrative of core chemical concepts, and easily incorporated into existing course structures. We particularly sought to

include high-tech materials and advanced devices that have or will become an important part of our environment. Student recognition that these advanced materials and devices derive from chemical principles is a major pedagogical objective. We feel, too, that the incorporation of state-of-the-art examples from materials chemistry will provide a strong sense of relevance that will help revitalize the introductory chemistry course for all students, whether or not they pursue technical careers.

Two other criteria were cost and safety considerations. Most of the demonstration and laboratory experiments described herein require relatively little time or money to set up and dismantle, and instructions for doing so safely are provided throughout the Companion. In field tests of these instructional materials, we have found that the ease with which many of the solids can be safely handled and transported and the ability to use them repeatedly, minimizing expense and waste disposal, are particularly appealing to teachers.

How the Companion is Organized

An Introduction to Solids

The first ten chapters of the Companion represent a general introduction to solids that can either be read sequentially, for an overview; or topically, if particular kinds of solid-state illustrations are sought. The first chapter is meant to provide a context for this volume: the chapter describes materials chemistry, provides examples of cutting-edge research and applications that illustrate why materials chemistry is expected to be one of the most rapidly moving scientific and technological frontiers in the next decade, and highlights the role that chemists are playing in advancing this field.

To facilitate integration into the existing course structure at many institutions, the remainder of the first part of the Companion is organized under traditional general chemistry textbook chapter headings, such as “Stoichiometry” and “Equilibrium.” Teachers will recognize some of the Companion’s content as being simply a new twist on well-established and widely used material. In other cases, we believe that teachers will discover, as we have, exciting new approaches to the presentation of fundamental chemical concepts.

Demonstrations are an integral part of the Companion and are listed at the front of the Companion for ease of location. In field tests and workshops we have found demonstrations to be a particularly effective means for stimulating interest in materials chemistry.

Lists of additional reading materials have been included at the end of each chapter. More advanced texts that can be drawn upon are A.R. West’s *Basic Solid State Chemistry* (Wiley, NY, 1988), P. A. Cox’s *The Electronic Structure and Chemistry of Solids* (Oxford University Press,

Oxford, 1987), and L. Smart and E. Moore's *Solid State Chemistry* (Chapman and Hall, London, 1992). *The Materials Research Society Bulletin* (MRS Bull.), published monthly (Pittsburgh, PA), is recommended as a source of current information on all aspects of materials chemistry. Appendix 3 lists articles relevant to materials chemistry that have appeared in the *Journal of Chemical Education* since 1982, arranged according to topic.

A variety of representative exercises of varying levels of difficulty have been included, along with answers.

Laboratory Experiments

The second part of the Companion consists of laboratory experiments provided by members of the Ad Hoc Committee, whose authorship is noted thereon. Most of these experiments have been field-tested in introductory college chemistry courses.

Topic Matrix and Glossary

For much of the material in the Companion, a topic, demonstration experiment, or laboratory experiment could be used under any of several traditional chapter headings, and an arbitrary choice was made. Other possible choices, intended to give teachers maximum flexibility, are identified by using the matrix that follows the table of contents. A glossary has been included (Appendix 1) for quickly identifying definitions of key terms used in the Companion.

Supporting Instructional Materials

Sources of materials needed for demonstration and laboratory experiments are given in the Supplier Information, Appendix 2. A current list of suppliers will be maintained by ICE and can be obtained by writing ICE at the Department of Chemistry, University of Wisconsin—Madison, Madison, WI 53706. If you find alternate suppliers, please send us this information to add to the list.

Among the supporting instructional materials, the ICE Solid-State Model Kit (SSMK) is particularly noteworthy. Because of the periodic three-dimensional nature of many of the solids discussed in the Companion, it is critical that teachers and students have a good model with which to view such structures. The ICE SSMK has been designed to permit ready assembly and viewing of common structures in conjunction with the Companion.

Electronic mail can be used to obtain answers to questions that may arise from the use and adaptation of materials from the Companion. Questions submitted to ellis@chem.wisc.edu (INTERNET) will be answered as expeditiously as possible.

We hope there aren't any errors. However, given the breadth of material covered and our efforts to make this volume available to the community quickly, there may well be some errors, for which we apologize in advance. Please contact the authors to inform us of any mistakes.

The “Big Picture”

At the start of this project, one of the Ad Hoc Committee members, Joel Miller, noted that our objective should be to try to make it possible for solids to be used for at least ten percent of the examples in general chemistry courses. The Companion makes it possible, at the teacher's discretion, for solids to comprise as much as fifty percent of the examples. Lisensky and Ellis have incorporated solids for several consecutive semesters in small (25 students) and large (250 to 350 students) introductory chemistry courses at Beloit College and UW—Madison, respectively. Their findings, based on subsequent course performance and exit surveys, is that the solids-enriched course provides equivalent preparation for further study and gives students, particularly nonmajors, a perspective on chemistry that the students themselves describe as broad and relevant.

James Trefil notes in several of his books that science is like an interconnected web of ideas that can be entered from virtually any point (5). The matrix linking topics in the Companion with traditional chemical concepts and the connections noted throughout with other disciplines is an illustration of this philosophy. What we hope to have shown with the Companion is that materials chemistry is an excellent launching point for exploring the web of chemically based ideas.

At the same time, we would be disappointed if this volume were treated as an end point. The cutting-edge examples presented herein show that chemistry, and science in general for that matter, is a living discipline. Like our research enterprise, the introductory course should be treated as a “moving target” with many opportunities for innovation. The Companion is intended to show that there is a natural synergism between research and teaching that can be used to suffuse introductory chemistry courses with relevance and vitality.

Acknowledgments

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All of us connected with the project hope that succeeding generations of students and teachers will be the beneficiaries of introductory chemistry courses that more effectively engage, prepare, and inspire. As Robert Browning wrote, “our reach should exceed our grasp. Or what's a heaven for?” (6).

Arthur B. Ellis
Chair, Ad Hoc Committee for Solid-State Instructional Materials
University of Wisconsin—Madison, Wisconsin, 53706
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Laboratory Safety

DISCLAIMER

Safety information is included in each chapter as a precaution to the readers. Although the materials, safety information, and procedures contained in this book are believed to be reliable, they should serve only as a starting point for laboratory practices. They do not purport to specify minimal legal standards or to represent the policy of the American Chemical Society. No warranty, guarantee, or representation is made by the American Chemical Society, the authors, or the editors as to the accuracy or specificity of the information contained herein, and the American Chemical Society, the authors, and the editors assume no responsibility in connection therewith. The added safety information is intended to provide basic guidelines for safe practices. Therefore, it cannot be assumed that necessary warnings or additional information and measures may not be required. Users of this book and the procedures contained herein should consult the primary literature and other sources of safe laboratory practices for more exhaustive information. As a starting point, a partial list of sources follows.

General Information on Chemicals

A Comprehensive Guide to the Hazardous Properties of Chemical Substances by Pradyot Patniak. Van Nostrand Reinhold: New York, 1992. This guide classifies chemicals by functional groups, structures, or general use, and the introductions to these chapters discuss the general hazards. Cross-indexed by name-CAS number and CAS number-name.

Catalog of Teratogenic Agents by Thomas H. Shepard. 6th ed. Johns Hopkins University Press: Baltimore, MD, 1989. Among books on this subject, this is perhaps the most thoughtful source list.

Handbook of Reactive Chemical Hazards by Leslie Bretherick. 4th ed.

Butterworths: Stoneham, MA, 1990. This book is a “must” for chemistry researchers or for anyone “experimenting” in the laboratory. It has a very useful format for determining the possible explosive consequences of mixing chemicals.

Fire Protection Guide to Hazardous Materials. 10th ed. National Fire Protection Association, 1991. Laboratory personnel are not the primary audience of NFPA publications, but this document has clear, concise, and easily accessed information on most commercial chemicals and a number of laboratory chemicals.

Safe Storage of Laboratory Chemicals edited by David A. Pipitone. 2nd ed. John Wiley and Sons: New York, 1991. The scope of this book is far broader than the title suggests. Techniques for the proper dispensing of flammable solvents and spill procedures are discussed.

Cryogens

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Compiled by Maureen Matkovich, American Chemical Society.

