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Condensed-Phase Dynamics: Introduction

We were pleased with the response to the thematic issue on chemical dynamics that appeared 3 years ago and concentrated on gas-phase behavior (*Chem. Rev.* 1987, 87, 1-288). However, we were told, in no uncertain terms, that condensed-phase dynamics should not be viewed as a poor Charlie of the family. The present thematic issue demonstrates that indeed it is not.

Three of the six articles are concerned with dynamics in solids. Fayer and collaborators deal with organic glasses and analyze results obtained with variable time scale optical dephasing measurements. Dynamic processes in ionic glasses are reviewed by Angell, and theoretical simulation of dynamic processes in molecular solids is reviewed by Klein and Lewis.

Of the three additional articles, that by Harris and collaborators treats the more specialized but very fundamental topic of vibrational relaxation of diatomics in liquids and that of Davis and McCammon the role of electrostatics in the structure and dynamics of biological molecules. Finally, Leutwyler and Bösiger review the dynamics of clusters, a form of matter halfway between condensed and gas phase.

We hope that the effort invested by the authors of these six articles will result in many hours of happy reading by those interested in condensed-phase dynamics.

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