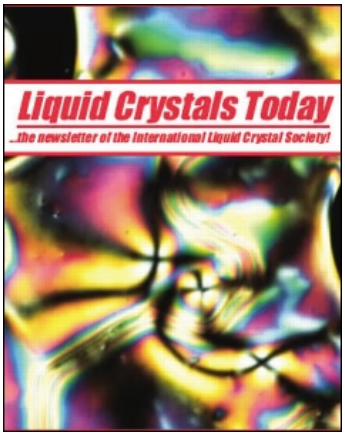

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did not choose to apply their perspective on anchoring to the specific cases of liquid crystal composites or micro-confined material systems. As such, the chapter, as good as it is, stands by itself with respect to the rest of the book.

The book's strongest aspect is that the chapters are (for the most part) well-written and referenced. The chapters concern areas that are still of current scientific and technical interest. In several chapters a significant amount of information is provided that is either unpublished, or found only in limited form in conference proceedings or theses. These particular chapters (mainly concerning LC/polymer electro-optics) provide a useful overview of material that is otherwise difficult to obtain.

The primary weakness of the book is that of organization, a fact perhaps inevitable in a book with 52 (total) authors. Some chapters overlap considerably and could have been combined under a single set of authors without loss of detail. In a few topical areas (the LC 'paste' work and polymer-stabilized TN/STN chapters, for example) the amount of work in the area is relatively small, and the topics perhaps better served by incorporating the work into a larger chapter with a broader perspective.

In a sense, there are really two books here under one cover: one on the structure and electro-optics of LC/network composites, the other on the order and phase transitions in microconfined nematics. The diversity of material is substantial, both in the choice of topics and in the formality of presentation. While I learned much reading the book, it was difficult to find connections between the rich phenomenology of structure and electro-optics described in the first half of the book and the detailed order and phase-transition information covered in the second half. Nevertheless, the overall coverage of each of these subjects is very good, and the readers looking for authoritative reviews of the current status of these sub-topics will not be disappointed.

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