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Introduction to Liquid Crystals Chemistry and Physics

Peter J Collings, *Swarthmore College, USA*
and Michael Hird, *University of Hull, UK*

Liquid crystals combine the material properties of solids with the flow properties of liquids. As such they have provided the foundation for a revolution in low-power, flat-panel display technology (LCDs). In this book, the essential elements of liquid crystal science are introduced and explained from the perspectives of both the chemist and the physicist, making it the only available primer for liquid crystals.

The text begins with an historical account of the discovery of liquid crystals and continues with a description of how different phases are generated and how different molecular architectures affect liquid crystalline properties. The rest of the book is concerned with understanding and explaining the properties of the various types of liquid crystal, and in the final part of the book, the technology of LCDs is discussed and illustrated.

Contents

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Synthesis of Liquid Crystals – Strategies and Methods; Identification of Liquid Crystal Phases – Mesophase Characterisation; Liquid Crystals in Electric and Magnetic Fields – A Delicate Response; Light and Liquid Crystals – A Panoply of Colour; Theoretical Insights; Liquid Crystal Technology; Bibliography; Index

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