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Functional materials are an integral part of daily life. As an example, consider the materials that underpin smartphones 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