

## Preface

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Dear Reader,

Welcome to Volume 3 of this SPR. It follows the ground rules that I set out in Volume 1; colleagues reporting on 'new' topics are asked to give the rest of us an easily understandable historical perspective, together with their critical comments on recent developments. Colleagues reporting on continuing topics are simply asked to give a critical review of the literature for the period under consideration.

First of all, I have to thank the regular contributors, whose names and topics you will readily identify from the Contents. It is a pleasure to work with such a nice bunch of people.

I believe that the SPR is fast approaching equilibrium. It is a dynamic equilibrium, with colleagues leaving and joining, so first I should say that Jan van Knop has joined Nenad Trinajstić's team to review enumeration. Second, it is a real pleasure to welcome Karl Travis, who has taken over the liquid state mantle from David Heyes.

Finally I want to mention my old friend Brian Sutcliffe, who writes on the new topic of 'Calculations of the Vibration-Rotation Spectra of Small Molecules'.

The idea of cyclical time has arisen in many different civilizations. The ancient Chinese believed in a cyclical interplay between the opposing cosmic principles of yin and yang, and calculated a cycle of 23 639 years.\* They might have had a point for Brian and I both contributed articles to the precursor SPR *Theoretical Chemistry*, which was edited by Richard Dixon and Colin Thomson (although not 23 639 years ago).

It only remains for me to add my usual comment, that there are still a few gaps in the coverage. I'm sure you will have your own ideas what is good and what is bad with this SPR. Rather than grumbling to your colleagues at coffee-time, why not volunteer your expertise? I am always willing to listen to constructive suggestions and can be reached at [Alan.Hinchliffe@umist.ac.uk](mailto:Alan.Hinchliffe@umist.ac.uk)

Better still, I am always willing to consider new topics for inclusion in the SPR. It won't make you a (£ sterling) millionaire, but it gives you the opportunity to promote your subject.

Adam Hinchliffe

\* 'Achilles in the Quantum Universe' by Richard Morris, Souvenir Press, London, 1997.

