
Preface

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DOI: 10.1039/b908461b

After ten years and five volumes of the *Specialist Periodical Reports on Chemical Modelling: Applications and Theory* edited by Alan Hinchliffe, this sixth volume introduces some changes.

At first, the series has a new editor. I, Michael Springborg, am a professor of physical and theoretical chemistry at the University of Saarland in Saarbrücken, Germany, and have research interests on the border between chemistry and physics. The major parts of the research activities of my group concentrate on development and application of theoretical methods and accompanying computer codes for the calculation of properties of materials. Of particular interest to us are structural and electronic properties of systems that are larger than small molecules, but smaller than macroscopic solids. These systems include clusters and colloids, polymers and chain compounds, and surfaces without and with adsorbants. Also fundamental issues like the theoretical treatment of extended systems exposed to electromagnetic fields as well as foundations of density-functional theory are of interest to us.

Second, it is the plan to increase the frequency of these *Specialist Periodical Reports*. In the future the volumes shall appear annually.

Third, since the internet, including advances in search engines for scientific purposes, has made long lists of recent scientific studies within a well-defined smaller area obsolete, it is my plan to make a smaller change in the format of the reports. Each of these shall contain a short but self-contained introduction to the subject as well as a critical presentation of recent publications within the area of interest. Specialists with expertise in the given area will be asked not only to present their own results but also those of colleagues, thereby covering a broader area.

It is my hope that I can identify exciting and relevant subjects in all areas of chemical modelling, but I will, of course, be grateful for any suggestion, both with respect to authors and with respect to subjects.

Due to these changes, you may not be surprised to discover that many of the topics and authors of the present volume are new compared to the previous volumes. Nevertheless, I hope that the reports will stimulate your interest and that the volume keeps the high standards set by Alan Hinchliffe.

