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“This book describes novel and innovative concepts of the utilization of low-dimensional compounds as components of functional materials such as stimuli-responsive gels, quasi-solid electrolytes, and liquid crystals. It presents a lucid and fruitful view of low-dimensional compounds as potentially useful materials. I am delighted to see that this book contains the recent progress in fundamental and applicable aspects of low-dimensional compounds such as clay nanotubes, ladder-like polysilsesquioxanes, layered double hydroxides, and inorganic nanosheets.”

Dr. Takeo Ebina

National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, Japan

Low-dimensional compounds are molecules that correspond to various shapes, such as rod, ladder (one-dimensional compounds), and sheet (two-dimensional compounds). They are ordinarily found in electromagnetic fields. Recently, versatile low-dimensional compounds were proposed for use as components of various functional materials. These new-class low-dimensional compounds contribute significantly to industrial/materials sciences.

The molecular architecture consisting of low-dimensional compounds can also be found in nature. One example is the cell cytoskeleton, which is a network- or bundle-like architecture consisting of rod-like protein assemblies. The cell accomplishes its motility by structural transition of the cytoskeleton—that is, phase transition of the architecture of low-dimensional compounds in response to some stimuli induces shape changes in cells. Another example is nacre, which is composed of layered aragonite platelets, usually a metastable CaCO_3 polymorph. The layered inorganic platelets give nacre its stiffness and noncombustibility. Thus, the molecular architecture of low-dimensional compounds in natural life contributes to their functionality.

This book reviews various advanced studies on the application of low-dimensional compounds and is, therefore, important for the development of materials sciences and industrial technologies.



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