

Five Years of Basic Energy Sciences Accomplishments

Presented below are some significant Basic Energy Sciences (BES) program accomplishments from FY 2001, FY 2000, FY 1999, FY 1998, and FY 1997. These vignettes appear in the BES portion of the President's FY 2003, FY 2002, FY 2001, FY 2000, and FY 1999 Budget Requests to Congress, respectively. The selected program highlights are representative of the broad range of studies supported in the BES program. These brief accounts describe the discovery of new knowledge, the rapidity with which such new knowledge can often be incorporated into other scientific disciplines and into the commercial sector, and the great potential of new knowledge for future impacts in energy production and use.

Selected FY 2001 Scientific Highlights/Accomplishments

Materials Sciences and Engineering Subprogram

Micro-size Light Emitters for Solid State Lighting Applications. Energy savings of tens of billions of dollars per year could be achieved by replacement of household 100-watt light bulbs by white light emitting diodes (LED) made by mixing LEDs emitting primary colors. However, improved LED efficiency is necessary before such replacement becomes feasible. New research has shown that interconnecting hundreds of micro-size LEDs to replace larger conventional LEDs can boost the overall emission efficiency by as much as 60 percent.

A New Method for Obtaining Crystal Structures Without Large Crystals. High-resolution x-ray diffraction using polycrystalline samples ("powders") rather than traditional single-crystal samples has advanced to the point where the structures of complex materials including oxides, zeolites, and small organic structures can be solved. Advantages of powder diffraction are that it is not affected by crystal fracture and polycrystalline samples can be formed over a much wider range of conditions than large single crystals. Recently, powder diffraction was demonstrated for large molecules, such as proteins, that were considered far too complex for powder diffraction experiments. In addition to the many important applications to materials sciences, this technique will also be useful in chemistry and biosciences.

NMR and MRI Outside the Magnet. NMR (nuclear magnetic resonance) imaging and MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) have required large high-field magnets that impose extremely uniform magnetic fields upon the sample. In many circumstances, however, it is impractical or undesirable to place or rotate objects and subjects within the bore of such a large magnet. A new approach for the recovery of highly resolved NMR spectra and MRI images of samples in grossly non-uniform magnetic fields was recently demonstrated. The approach will be useful for the enhanced study of fluids contained in porous materials, such as deep underground oil-well logging studies, and is expected to have dramatic research applications in chemistry, materials sciences, and biomedicine.

Terabit Arrays (One trillion bits per square inch). A 300-fold increase in magnetic storage density has been achieved using a patented technique of self-assembly of block copolymers under the influence of a small voltage. The new technique is simple, robust, and extremely versatile. The key to this discovery lay in directing the orientation of nanoscopic, cylindrical domains in thin films of block copolymers. By coupling this with routine lithographic processes, large area arrays of nanopores can be easily produced. Electrochemical deposition of metals, such as cobalt and iron, produces nanowires that exhibit excellent magnetic properties, key to ultrahigh density magnetic storage. The nanowires are also being used as field emission devices for displays.

Observations of Atomic Imperfections. A new electron beam technique has been developed that has measured atomic displacements to a record accuracy of one-hundredth of the diameter of an atom. Such small imperfections in atomic packing often determine the properties and behavior of materials, particularly in nano-structured devices. This capability has been made possible by a new technique that couples electron diffraction with imaging technology. The result is a greatly enhanced capability to map imperfections and their resulting strain fields in materials ranging from superconductors to multi-layer semiconductor devices.

Semiconductor Nanocrystals as “Artificial Leaves.” Recent experiments demonstrated that carbon dioxide could be removed from the atmosphere with semiconductor nanocrystals. These “artificial leaves” could potentially convert carbon dioxide into useful organic molecules with major environmental benefits. However, to be practical, the efficiency must be substantially improved. New theoretical studies have unraveled the detailed mechanisms involved and identified the key factors limiting efficiency. Based on this new understanding, alternative means for improving efficiency were suggested that could lead to effective implementation of artificial leaves to alleviate global warming and the depletion of fossil fuels.

“Magic” Values for Nanofilm Thickness. A key issue for nanotechnology is the structural stability of thin films and the devices made from nanostructures. It was recently demonstrated that nanofilms are significantly more stable at a few specific values of film thickness. The origin of this effect arises from the confinement of electrons within the film leading to electronic states with discrete energy values, much as atomic electrons are bound to the nucleus at discrete energy levels. Calculations demonstrated that increased stability occurred when the number of electrons present in the film completely filled the set of available states, just as filled electronic shells make the noble gases very stable.

Materials Resistant to Damage from Nuclear Waste. The ability to predict the composition and structure of materials that are resistant to radiation damage, such as in nuclear waste storage, has been formulated on a firm scientific basis. Current nuclear storage materials cannot resist radiation damage for the required thousands of years because radioactive emissions in a storage material jostle atoms out of their carefully ordered arrangements. These materials become unstable and eventually leach into the environment. Computer simulations and experiments revealed that a special class of complex ceramic oxides called fluorites is able to resist this fate. The fundamental principle is rather simple: the configurations of atomic arrangements in these oxides are relatively disordered to begin with allowing them to tolerate displaced atoms caused by radiation.

Brilliant X-Rays Shine Light on Welds. Using high-brightness synchrotron radiation, the details of microstructural changes of welds were mapped and studied for the first time. This advanced capability shows how the welding process alters the structure and changes the properties of metals. Its application is virtually unlimited, since it can investigate dynamic changes in crystal structure near the melting point of any metal. Knowledge gained from this award winning work on titanium and stainless steels is being used to advance and refine theories and numerical models of welding fundamentals. Dramatic savings to the U.S. economy would result from better quality, more reliable welds.

Micro Lens for Nano Research. A silicon lens that is 1/10 the diameter of a human hair has been fabricated and used to image microscopic structures with an efficiency 1,000 times better than existing probes. The combination of high optical efficiency and improved spatial resolution over a broad range of wavelengths has enabled measurement of infrared light absorption in single biological cells. This spectroscopic technique can provide important information on cell chemical composition, structure, and biological activity.

Nanofluids. Nanofluids (tiny, solid nanoparticles suspended in fluid) have been created that conduct heat ten times faster than thought possible, surpassing the fundamental limits of current heat conduction models for solid/liquid suspensions. These nanofluids are a new, innovative class of heat transfer fluids and represent a rapidly emerging field where nanoscale science and thermal engineering meet. This research could lead to a major breakthrough in making new composite (solid and liquid) materials with improved thermal properties for numerous engineering and medical applications to achieve greater energy efficiency, smaller size and lighter weight, lower operating costs, and a cleaner environment.

Chemical Sciences, Geosciences, and Energy Biosciences Subprogram

Capturing Molecules in Motion with Synchrotron X-Ray Pulses. Photochemical conversion of solar energy depends on light-driven chemical reactions. Absorption of light ultimately leads to atomic rearrangements necessary to produce photochemical products. The intermediate molecular configurations created by absorption of light are short-lived and their structures are largely unknown. In novel experiments at the Advanced Photon Source, molecular structures of laser-generated reaction intermediates in solutions, having lifetimes as short as 28 billionth of a second, have been obtained. Future experiments are planned that will allow for capture of intermediate structures on even shorter time scales. These studies are providing the fundamental knowledge needed to develop artificial photoconversion devices.

Early Precursor Identified in Water Radiolysis. Radiolytic decomposition of water produces hydrogen gas, which is flammable and potentially explosive. This is of concern in maintenance of water-moderated nuclear reactors, long-term storage of transuranic fissile materials containing adsorbed water, and management of high-level mixed-waste storage tanks. In recent studies on the effects of ionizing radiation on condensed media, a common precursor to essentially all hydrogen from irradiated water has been discovered. This precursor is a solvated electron. External intervention and capture of this precursor can prevent the generation of hydrogen gas from water. The reactivity of the precursor with a large number of scavengers has previously been determined in pulse radiolysis experiments, thus a priori predictions can be made on the efficiency of the intervention and prevention of gas generation.

The World's Smallest Laser. A team of materials scientists and chemists has built the world's smallest laser - a nanowire nanolaser 1,000 times thinner than a human hair. The device, one of the first to arise from the field of nanotechnology, can be tuned from blue to deep ultraviolet wavelengths. Zinc oxide wires only 20 to 150 nanometers in diameter and 10,000 nanometers long were grown, each wire a single nanolaser. Discovering how to excite the nanowires with an external energy source was critical to the success of the project. Ultimately, the goal is to integrate these nanolasers into electronic circuits for use in "lab-on-a-chip" devices that could contain small laser-analysis kits or as a solid-state, ultraviolet laser to allow an increase in the amount of data that can be stored on high-density optical disks.

Polymerization to Make Plastics. The discovery of metallocene catalysts caused major advances in polymer production (e.g., polyethylene, polypropylene), the most widespread of synthetic materials. The ability to control the orientation of each link of a polymer chain allows control of crystallinity, density, softening point, and other important properties. A recent improvement in these catalysts is the synthesis of bimetallic complexes in which two catalytic centers and two cocatalytic centers are held in close proximity in solution or adsorbed on surfaces. By altering the nature of the centers, it is possible to control rate of reactivity, the degree of chain branching, and plastic rigidity.

First Ever Chemistry with Hassium, Element 108. Element 108 - hassium - was discovered in 1984. It does not exist in nature but must be created one atom at a time by fusing lighter nuclei. Recently, the first experiments to examine its chemical properties were performed by an international team (German, Swiss, Russian, Chinese and American scientists) at the Gesellschaft für Schwerionenforschung (GSI) in Darmstadt, Germany using novel techniques developed at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Energetic magnesium projectiles bombarded targets of curium, a rare artificial isotope produced and processed at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The hassium atoms formed by impacts between beam and target reacted with oxygen to form hassium oxide molecules enabling the study of the properties of this new chemical compound. The chemistry of man-made and heavy elements, particularly chemistry impacting environmental insults, is of major interest, and these experiments are a first step for this element.

Improved Materials for Fuel Cells. Major impediments for the commercialization of fuel cells include the inability to use hydrogen fuel containing traces of carbon monoxide and the necessity of using large amounts of expensive platinum catalysts. A novel ruthenium/platinum catalyst has been produced through a new preparation method involving spontaneous deposition of platinum on metallic ruthenium nanoparticles. The resulting catalyst has a higher carbon monoxide tolerance than commercial catalysts and uses smaller amounts of platinum.

Platinum Encrusted Diamond Films. Research on new catalytic electrodes, e.g., for fuel cells, has shown that synthetic diamond thin films are excellent supports for catalysts because of their corrosion resistance. The challenge to produce an electrode is to incorporate nanometer sized platinum and platinum/ruthenium catalyst particles into the surface structure of the diamond film. Recently, the ability to incorporate 10 to 500 nanometer diameter particles into the bulk structure of the films has been demonstrated. These new surface modified systems may result in significantly improved catalytic activity and stability, and could have even broader applications in chemical synthesis, toxic waste remediation, and chemical and biomedical sensors.

Complex Flow in the Subsurface. Recovery of subsurface fluids, whether oil and gas or contaminants, requires understanding the way fluids flow within porous and fractured rocks and soil. This is particularly complicated when there are multiple fluids (oil-methane-water; water-carbon dioxide). New experiments combined with theory and computational modeling have tracked the simultaneous flow of two fluids in

fractured and porous media. Flow paths of both fluids are significantly longer than under single fluid conditions and transport is very sensitive to differences in fluid structure.

Complete Plant Genome of the First Model Plant. The first complete sequencing of a plant genome was completed by an international consortium of researchers from Europe, Japan and the U.S. The DOE was one of the supporters of the U.S. effort. The sequencing of the genome of Arabidopsis will provide the information needed to increase food production in an energy-efficient and environmentally friendly manner, provide increased wood and fiber production, and increase the use of plant materials for energy and the production of petroleum-replacing chemicals.

Selected FY 2001 Facility Accomplishments

The four synchrotron radiation light sources and three BES neutron scattering facilities served 6,982 users in FY 2001 by delivering a total of 26,476 operating hours to 204 beam lines at an average of 96.1% reliability (delivered hours/scheduled hours)¹. The High Flux Isotope Reactor at Oak Ridge National Laboratory did not operate in FY 2001 due to the installation of upgrades. Statistics for individual facilities are provided below. In one instance, less time was needed for maintenance activities than was scheduled, so more time was delivered to users than planned.

The maximum number of total operating hours for these 7 facilities is estimated to be about 37,100 hours. Most of the BES facilities already operate close to the maximum number of hours possible for their facility. The next priority is to support and maintain beamlines and instruments at the state-of-the art. For the synchrotron radiation light sources and the neutron scattering facilities, the number of beamlines and instruments would need to be increased in order to achieve the full capacity of each of the facilities. Capacity at the light sources could increase by nearly a factor of two if all beamlines were fully instrumented. Capacity at the neutron sources could also increase substantially by upgrading existing instruments and fabricating new ones.

The Advanced Light Source (ALS) served 1,163 users in FY 2001 by delivering 5,261 operating hours to 37 beam lines at 96.2% reliability (delivered hours/scheduled hours). The ALS is supported by the Materials Sciences and Engineering subprogram.

A new beamline for x-ray microscopy of polymers. Owing to its elemental and chemical specificity, x-ray microscopy is a superior tool for the study of multicomponent polymers. A scanning x-ray microscope that is specifically optimized to the demands of polymer research is being commissioned.

Ambient-pressure photoemission spectroscopy. The real world of chemistry, biology, and environmental science is a world that is frequently wet, hot, and under atmospheric or higher pressures, whereas experimental measurements are often best done under vacuum with cold samples. One step toward bridging the gap is the development of a new experimental chamber for *in-situ* investigation of samples under ambient conditions.

Interferometer controls scanning x-ray microscope. In scanning microscopy, it is essential to locate and control the position of the probe over the sample. A control system developed for a scanning x-ray microscope is able to position the x-ray beam with nanometer accuracy, so that features in the sample can be studied at the finest spatial resolution of the instrument.

¹ BES defines "users" as researchers who conduct experiments at a facility (e.g., received a badge) or receive primary services from a facility. An individual is counted as one user per year regardless of how often he or she uses a given facility in a year. "Operating hours" are the total number of hours the facility delivers beam time to its users during the Fiscal Year. Facility operating hours are the total number of hours in the year (e.g., 365 days times 24 hour/day = 8,760 hours) minus time for machine research, operator training, accelerator physics, and shutdowns (due to maintenance, lack of budget, faults, safety issues, holidays, etc.).

Superbend beamlines developed. To broaden the spectral range of the Advanced Light Source to cover shorter wavelengths, superconducting bend magnets were designed. The first two beamlines will be implemented sequentially over the next year to serve protein crystallographers and to provide much needed harder x-ray sources for ALS diffraction studies.

The Advanced Photon Source (APS) served 1,989 users in FY 2001 by delivering 4,788 operating hours to 37 beam lines at 95.8% reliability (delivered hours/scheduled hours). The APS is supported by the Materials Sciences and Engineering subprogram.

Storage ring "top-up operation" becomes routine. After successful tests with 25% of the scheduled user-beam time dedicated to top-up operation, the APS is scheduling the majority of future operations for top-up mode. During top-up operation, injecting a pulse of electrons once every two minutes holds the stored current constant to 0.2 percent. This operating mode delivers a constant heat load on x-ray optics and various accelerator components, thus improving the x-ray beam stability. It also allows flexibility in operating modes, which are traditionally limited by the short lifetime of the stored beam. Top-up operation has significantly enhanced the research capabilities of the APS.

Two undulators on a single straight section deliver two independent x-ray beams to users. For the first time, a novel concept of spatially separating the beams from two insertion devices placed on single straight section was realized. This was accomplished by placing the undulator axes at a small angle with respect to each other. Successful implementation of this concept enabled 100% efficient utilization of the delivered beam.

Low-emittance lattice developed. Machine studies have successfully established operating conditions for the APS storage ring with the horizontal emittance reduced by approximately a factor of two. This reduces the horizontal source size and divergence of the x-ray beam and results in at least a factor of two improvement in the overall brilliance. Initial user results are encouraging and routine operation with this mode is scheduled for the near future.

The National Synchrotron Light Source (NSLS) served 2,523 users in FY 2001 by delivering 5,556 operating hours to 86 beam lines at 100.0% reliability (delivered hours/scheduled hours). The NSLS is supported by the Materials Sciences and Engineering subprogram.

Polarization modulation spectroscopy for magnetism research. A new high-resolution soft x-ray beamline and a phase sensitive detection system were completed to take advantage of the fast switching capability of the Elliptically Polarized Wiggler. The new system provides high sensitivity and enables magnetic field dependent studies.

Focusing of high energy x-rays with asymmetric Laue crystals. Theoretical prediction and experimental verification of a new concept for focusing of high energy x-rays was demonstrated. This new design results in a more than 100 fold increase in the photon flux delivered to the sample. A new monochromator based on this design was constructed and implemented at the superconducting wiggler beamline for high pressure and materials research.

High magnetic field, far-infrared spectroscopy beamline commissioned. A new high magnetic field, far-infrared beamline was commissioned with a far-infrared spectrometer and 16 Tesla superconducting magnet. Combining this with a high-field magnet system opens up new opportunities for measuring electron spin resonance (ESR), cyclotron resonance, and other magneto-optic effects in solids.

X-ray optics for microbeam diffraction, elemental mapping, and high pressure research developed. A new system for micro-focusing of x-rays was implemented, achieving a focus of 3 microns (vertical) by 9 microns (horizontal). The system has been used in the study of bone diseases, materials under high pressure, and semiconductors.

High gain harmonic generation (HG) free electron laser (FEL) achieves saturation. By frequency multiplying and amplifying a seed laser signal, an HG FEL imposes the properties of the laser onto the FEL output beam. In a demonstration, light at long wavelength was frequently doubled. Full characterization of the FEL light and its harmonics agreed with theory and demonstrated the utility of an HG FEL for producing intense coherent light pulses.

The Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory (SSRL) served 907 users in FY 2001 by delivering 4,539 operating hours to 25 beam lines at 94.9% reliability (delivered hours/scheduled hours). The SSRL is supported by Materials Sciences and Engineering subprogram.

Stanford-Berkeley synchrotron radiation summer school. The first Stanford-Berkeley summer school on synchrotron radiation and its applications was held with 36 students from a diverse range of scientific fields. The goal was to introduce young scientists to the fundamental properties of synchrotron radiation and the understanding and use of several techniques, including spectroscopy, scattering, and microscopy.

New actinide facility commissioned. Synchrotron-based measurements are a crucial part of chemical and materials research programs involving radionuclides and radiologic materials. In order not to limit the scope of experiments that can be performed, a radiologic sample analysis facility has been integrated into a modern synchrotron beamline. This combination insures safe handling of actinide and other radiology materials and also provides state-of-the-art measurement capabilities that have proven extremely useful in remediation efforts.

Materials science small angle x-ray scattering beamline facility completed. The materials science small and wide-angle x-ray scattering station is now in full user operation. The integrated beamline and experimental equipment facility allows for studies of weakly scattering systems, such as dilute polymer solutions.

Microfocus optics system for X-ray micro-spectroscopy. An experimental apparatus employing tapered metal capillary optics for conducting X-ray micro-spectroscopy is now in operation. This capability allows X-ray micro-spectroscopy experiments in the materials, biological, and environmental sciences.

Successful 3 GeV injector test. The SPEAR injector was successfully run at 3 GeV, proving that it is ready to provide at-energy injection for SPEAR3. The 3 GeV test came toward the end of the two-year Injector Upgrade Accelerator Improvement Project, in which power supplies, magnets, and diagnostics were upgraded to insure reliable 3 GeV operation. At-energy injection will improve SPEAR3 performance by providing better fill-to-fill orbit reproducibility and thermal stability.

RF waveguide dampers improve beam stability and lifetime. RF waveguide dampers were installed in the two radio frequency (RF) waveguides in the SPEAR storage ring to eliminate high frequency oscillations excited by the electron beam in the RF cavity/waveguide system. The dampers not only eliminated the instabilities but they allowed the use of operations parameters that gave a 20% improvement in the electron beam lifetime.

The Intense Pulsed Neutron Source (IPNS) served 240 users in FY 2001 by delivering 3,968 operating hours to 13 beam lines at 102.6% reliability (delivered hours/scheduled hours). The IPNS is supported by the Materials Sciences and Engineering subprogram.

IPNS hosts the national neutron and x-ray scattering school. In August 2001, Argonne National Laboratory again hosted the two-week National School on Neutron and X-Ray Scattering. The school continues to attract outstanding graduate students and post-doctoral appointees with 179 applications for the 60 available positions.

Upgrade of IPNS instruments. The High Resolution Medium Energy Chopper Spectrometer (HRMECS) instrument was completely upgraded and a chopper was added to the General Purpose

Powder Diffractometer (GPPD). The HRMECS upgrade included the complete overhaul of data collection/control software and hardware, addition of position-sensitive detectors at low scattering angles and improved neutron choppers. The T0 chopper on GPPD blocks high energy neutron from entering the diffractometer.

Auto-anneal capabilities added to moderator system. Regular annealing required for IPNS's unique ultra-cold moderator has been accomplished by installing a system that automatically anneals the solid methane moderator every three days. This automation allows for reduced manpower and improved operation of the IPNS target moderator assembly.

The Manuel Lujan Jr. Neutron Scattering Center at the Los Alamos Neutron Science Center

LANSCE served 122 users in FY 2001 by delivering 2,364 operating hours to 6 beam lines at 82.0% reliability (delivered hours/scheduled hours). The Lujan Center is supported by the Materials Sciences and Engineering subprogram.

HIPPO diffractometer commissioned. Following three years of design and construction, the recently completed HIPPO (High Pressure, Preferred Orientation) diffractometer took its first neutron-beam-related diffraction pattern on a sample of nickel on July 7, 2001. The scientific thrust of this new state-of-the-art spectrometer is the investigation of dynamic processes in heterogeneous bulk materials in a variety of environments.

SMARTS will provide new capabilities in materials research. SMARTS, a third generation neutron diffractometer for the study of polycrystalline materials, received its load frame and furnace, which were successfully tested onsite during 2001. SMARTS is scheduled to receive first beam in August 2001, followed by commissioning through the remainder of the year.

BES partners on new institutional instruments. Three institutionally funded instruments, ASTERIX, PHAROS, and IN500 were supported in part under the auspices of BES. ASTERIX produces a highly polarized intense beam of cold neutrons that has a very large cross section and covers a wide wavelength range while minimizing the fraction of the neutron beam that is not used. PHAROS, a high-resolution chopper spectrometer, is designed for low-angle studies. IN500 is a cold neutron time-of-flight spectrometer, which will offer all the advantageous capabilities of reactor-based instruments.

Instrument performance improves with use of new chopper technology. All of the Lujan Center's new instruments and some of the existing instruments have enjoyed dramatic improvements in chopper technology in FY 2001. These performance improvements in two technical areas, timing reference generators and chopper controls, now enable the accelerator and all neutron choppers to run as slaves of the master timing generator. This success in chopper technology has drawn the attention of several other spallation neutron facilities and has redefined the timing specifications for the Spallation Neutron Source.

Upgrades to small-angle scattering instrument. A new frame-overlap chopper was procured and installed, which enables the small-angle scattering instrument, LQD, to make full use of the higher flux it enjoys from the hydrogen moderator installed over the last two years. Recent additions to LQD also include a gravity-focusing device, which compensates for gravitational drop, especially for slow neutrons.

Upgrades to SPEAR improve instrument performance. SPEAR (Surface Profile Analysis Reflectometer) is used for determining chemical density profiles at solid/solid, solid/liquid, solid/gas, and liquid/gas interfaces. Upgrades to SPEAR during 2001 included the installation of shutter hardware to reduce closure time, and additional automation of flight-path components. For better performance, an evacuated flight path, and two digital chopper controllers were added. In addition, a new collimation system, together with improved software, allowed for the first real-time reflectivity measurements. These upgrades were made to make the instrument user-friendlier.

The High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR) served 38 users in FY 2001 by delivering 8 operating hours for materials irradiation and institutes that utilize the transplutonium program and medical isotopes. The reactor was shut down at 8:00 a.m. on October 1, 2000, for the scheduled replacement of the beryllium reflector and installation of upgrades and remained shutdown for the remainder of the year. The HFIR is supported by the Materials Sciences and Engineering subprogram.

Installation of new components enhances scientific capabilities at HFIR. Many of HFIR's internal components have been replaced with new, upgraded components that will significantly enhance its neutron scattering research capabilities without diminishing its isotope-production or material-testing capabilities. Replaced components include the beryllium reflector, its support structure, and three of the four neutron beam tubes. Beam intensity for some instruments is expected to be three times that of the original design.

Cold Source Project progress. The moderator vessel has been fabricated and has passed acceptance pressure tests at room and liquid-nitrogen temperatures.

Spectrometers for cold neutron research. The cold source to be installed at HFIR will provide long wavelength neutron beams that are unsurpassed worldwide. Instrumentation has been designed to make optimum use of the cold neutron beams. Instruments include small angle spectrometers for measurements on large-scale structures, reflectometers for the study of surface phenomena, and triple-axis spectrometers for the determination of low-energy excitations.

Spectrometers for thermal neutron research. The larger beam tubes and new monochromator drums installed at HFIR will permit considerable gains in intensity for the thermal neutron spectrometers, by as much as a factor of five.

The Combustion Research Facility (CRF) is supported by the Chemical Sciences, Geosciences, and Energy Biosciences subprogram.

New capabilities. The CRF provides a primary interface for the integration of BES programs with those of DOE's Offices of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and Fossil Energy related to combustion by collocating basic and applied research at one facility. Three laboratories were completed. The particle diagnostic laboratory can now generate flames with controllable fuel and oxidizer feeds to develop a fundamental understanding of small particle formation from combustion sources. A time-resolved fourier transform spectrometer for chemical kinetics and dynamics studies is now available in the kinetics and mechanisms laboratory. Related to applied research, the investigation of a novel engine combustion concept is being conducted in the new homogeneous-charge, compression-ignition engine laboratory.

Selected FY 2000 Scientific Highlights/Accomplishments

Materials Sciences Subprogram

Magnetism at the atomic scale. When information is written to a computer hard drive, local magnetic moments associated with atoms in a small region of the surface reverse direction like sub-microscopic compass needles. A new theory has helped explain these dynamical processes. This work recently received the Gordon Bell Award for the fastest real supercomputing application and was named to the Computerworld Smithsonian 2000 collection for being the first supercomputing application to surpass one teraflop.

Functional nanostructured materials that replicate natural processes. A newly developed class of nanostructured materials can selectively filter molecules by their size and chemical identity. These remarkable materials are made from a solution of molecular building blocks that spontaneously arrange themselves into a porous solid as the solvent evaporates. This achievement involved creating the self-organizing precursors, controlling the pore size, and employing a novel evaporation process that promotes

self-assembly. These materials hold the promise for significant applications. For example, in the future we may wear “breathing” fabrics that block hazardous chemicals while admitting benign species like oxygen.

The Library of Congress on a single disk? The vision that information can be written and erased near the single molecule limit has been realized for the first time. Disordering and re-ordering tiny regions of a thin film show promise for storing a million times more information than with today's computer disks with no increase in space. The film is made of organic material and supported by graphite. It is so thin that 40,000 layers would be only as thick as a sheet of paper. By exposing the film to voltage pulses with a scanning tunneling microscope, nanometer-sized regions can be switched from crystalline to disordered, increasing their ability to conduct electricity by 10,000 times. Each tiny region is one bit of information, not much bigger than a single molecule of the film.

Analyses of nanocrystals using coherent (laser-like) synchrotron radiation. A powerful new x-ray diffraction method for characterizing the structure of nanocrystalline solids has been developed. Tailoring nanocrystalline properties for specific applications depends critically on detailed knowledge of three-dimensional structure. Traditional x-ray diffraction methods are inadequate; however, coherent x-ray diffraction patterns of gold nanocrystals show surface facets, fringes due to interference among facets, nanocrystal lattice distortion, and, ultimately, equilibrium nanocrystal shape.

Ion-implantation for strong metal-ceramic bonds. Ceramics are hard and corrosion resistant but fracture easily. Metals resist fracture but are not as wear or corrosion resistant as ceramics. Coating a metal with a ceramic is a way to improve both. However, current coating technologies can degrade the performance of metals. A new approach has been successfully developed that employs ion-beam intermixing of the coating with the metal from collision cascades, which are microscopic (nanometer-sized) “hot-zones” formed along the ion track. Since the heating in collision cascades is very short and localized, macroscopic heating of the metal does not occur. A patent has been filed using this new approach to improve hip, knee, and dental prosthetic devices. Ion implantation is used to coat the bone mineral (hydroxyapatite) on titanium starting with a high density layer bonded well to the titanium and changing progressively toward a porous bone mineral outer surface that promotes bone growth and bonding to bone.

Long-term storage of plutonium. Worldwide, nuclear energy production and defense programs have created 1,350 metric tons of plutonium. Because plutonium is radiotoxic and has a long half-life (24,500 years), a long-term storage solution must immobilize plutonium in materials that are resistant to radiation damage for millennia. Using heavy-ion irradiation, advanced characterization techniques, and computer simulation methods, researchers have discovered that highly durable gadolinium zirconate can lock plutonium into its structure while remaining resistant to radiation damage for millions of years.

Boron doping of silicon semiconductor devices -- faster, lower-power computing. Boron doping of silicon improves electrical conductivity and other important aspects of silicon device performance. A fifty-fold increase in active boron doping -- far above nature's maximum of 0.01 percent -- has been achieved using a new process involving atomic hydrogen. Resulting ultra-highly doped silicon layers provide self-aligned "metallic" contacts, improve semiconductor devices, eliminate etching steps in device fabrication, reduce manufacturing costs, and minimize the use of toxic etching gases and chemicals.

Seeing electrons. A novel, quantitative, and highly sensitive method has been developed to image and measure the distribution of valence electrons, which are responsible for chemical bonding and the transport of electrical charge in solids. This new technique, combining imaging and diffraction in the electron microscope, was used to reveal the spatial distribution of valence electrons in complex structures of high-temperature superconductors. The ability to directly observe and measure valence electron distributions with atomic scale resolution will greatly help in the search for better superconductors, ferroelectrics, and semiconductors.

Fluctuation microscopy. Fluctuation microscopy, a new discovery, challenges the common perception that glassy materials have no organization. Fluctuation microscopy relies on the ability of the electron microscope to measure diffraction from tiny volumes (~1000 atoms). It is based on detailed computational simulations coupled with computer-assisted statistical analysis of multiple electron images. It has required development of advanced image-detection methods. In one of the first applications of this method, studies of amorphous silicon and germanium show that both are highly organized over distances of tens of atoms,

even though other measurement techniques see these atoms as completely random. This finding is critical to improving the ability of amorphous solar cells.

A smart transistor. A breakthrough in developing the world's smartest transistor has been accomplished. Germanium-based transistors using a new ferroelectric dielectric would be “smart” devices capable of remembering their state. The heart of this new scientific advance is the understanding of the relationship between polarization and microstructure and how to control it. This breakthrough offers enormous potential for energy savings in a myriad of electronic sensors and devices as no power is necessary to maintain a given on/off state. A low-power, gigabyte chip could thus serve as a computer hard drive.

Design of semiconductors with prescribed properties. A theoretical method has been invented by which one can first specify the properties desired in a semiconductor and then work backward to predict the structure of the material that will show those properties. This work was featured in *Fortune Magazine*.

Chemical Sciences Subprogram

Direct measurement of chemical reactions in turbulent flows. Long known for their dramatic advancements in laser instrumentation for monitoring gas-phase reactions and chemically reacting flows, scientists at the Combustion Research Facility have for the first time monitored multiple flame species directly and simultaneously. These measurements provide a powerful test of combustion models that could lead to improved combustion efficiency.

Dynamics of a single molecules. Reactions of single molecules have been observed by monitoring molecular fluorescence using newly developed experimental methods, thus separating the effects of the motion of one molecule from the ensemble motion of the molecule in its environment. The dynamics of a single molecule have been shown to be significantly different from motion in an ensemble, and should lead to the development of new theories for predicting chemical reactivity.

Blinking quantum dots. Quantum dots -- nanometer-size particles in which electrons are confined in a relatively small volume -- have recently been shown to emit light at multiple wavelengths, blinking on and off on a time-scale of seconds. This remarkable behavior, attributed to luminescence from different electronic states, has potential applications for optical logic and photonics and may one day lead to nano-scale computers and/or portable analytical instrumentation.

Generation of laser-like x-ray beams. Combining state-of-the-art ultrafast laser systems with evolutionary computer algorithms has led to a dramatic new demonstration of the controlled generation of coherent x-rays. This represents an important new source of ultrafast, coherent soft x-rays for studies of materials properties and chemical physics.

Biomolecular photobatteries. Voltages have been measured from a single photosynthetic reaction center -- the five nanometer wide molecular structure in green plants that captures solar energy and converts it into electrical energy. The reaction center may be thought of as a tiny photobattery. The reaction center functions as nanometer-sized diodes with possible applications to molecular scale logic devices and computers.

Radiation induced chemistry. Solid particles have been found to enhance the effects of water radiolysis and the resulting production of hydrogen. Furthermore, gas bubbles form on the particles and that impedes the continuous, safe release of hydrogen from the suspension. These results may provide an explanation for the “burps” in storage tanks containing aqueous suspensions and radioactive material.

Plutonium chemistry in the environment. Using newly constructed beamlines at the BES synchrotron radiation light sources, scientists are now able to study small quantities of radioactive materials. X-ray absorption studies on plutonium-containing soils from Rocky Flats revealed that the plutonium is predominantly present as the solid oxide, PuO₂, a form substantially less mobile in soil and ground water than other possible forms. This result demonstrates that the plutonium will remain stable and has led to substantial cleanup cost savings.

Actinide supramolecular complexes. Researchers have for the first time built a supramolecular actinide complex. Supramolecular complexes are molecules that are built from smaller subunits, yet retain their own distinct molecular properties. While there may be future applications in separation science and

catalysis, the current worldwide effort in supramolecular chemistry is to understand the principles that govern assembly of such molecules.

Molecular theory of liquids. A molecular theory for the liquid state, which has eluded scientists for years, has now been developed. This provides new opportunities in one of the most important areas for process engineering and one of its most perplexing problems - the prediction of liquid-gas equilibria based on the well-known properties of molecules.

Engineering and Geosciences Subprogram

Engineering at the nanoscale. Using nanoscale devices in real-world engineered systems is one of the greatest challenges facing nanoscale research. A portfolio of research activities explores how to engineer at the nanoscale. Recent activities include the development of physics-based models to represent crack initiation as a nanoscale phenomenon; studies of the frictional response of nanochains; electric charge transfer in semiconductor nanostructures; nanoscale quantum-dot self assembly using DNA templates; and the integration of nanoscale biomotors with mechanical devices. In this last activity, researchers constructed integrated nanoscale devices that are powered by biomolecular motors and fueled by light. In one such system, a protein from a photosynthetic bacterium generates an electrochemical gradient across an artificial membrane system. This system is chemically closed, enabling the motors to be continuously supplied with fuel using a total light collection area less than 400 square nanometers.

Geosciences imaging from the atomic scale to the kilometer scale. Advances in geosciences imaging were demonstrated this year at a variety of disparate length scales. At the smallest length scale, the GeoCARS beamline at the Advanced Photon Source was used to examine the interaction of liquid water with alumina as a model for understanding aluminum containing minerals such as clays. Unlike other techniques used to characterize surfaces, the new beamline can study wet crystal surfaces. The result showed a significant change from the experiments using dry surfaces and will help researchers understand water-solid interactions in nature at the atomic level. At an intermediate length scale, researchers are using advanced laser scanning confocal microscopy to image, reconstruct, and characterize fluid flow through pores and cracks. Predicting the magnitudes and directions of flow in earth material is critical in performance assessment of oil and gas reservoirs. Finally, at the largest length scales, researchers are using specially instrumented regions in an earthquake zone to help model and improve geophysical imaging on the kilometer scale.

Biogeochemistry. It is increasingly evident that living processes play a fundamental role in determining the geochemistry of groundwater, near-surface sediments, and deeper rocks. Microbes affect the weathering of rocks and minerals, and microbial metabolism affects the accumulation of heavy metals in soils or their release to groundwater. These and other processes determine how soils, sediments, and ore bodies form and how water quality is affected. Work identifying how microbes affect the fate of zinc released to groundwater percolating through lead-zinc mines and other biogeochemistry work recently led to the award of MacArthur Foundation Fellowship to a BES supported researcher. Biogeochemistry, which links three BES subprograms, is expected to play an increasingly important role in addressing DOE missions.

Energy Biosciences Subprogram

Completion of the gene sequence of Arabidopsis thaliana, the first plant genome. *Arabidopsis thaliana*, a small weed belonging the mustard family, became the world's "model" plant owing to its small physical size, small genome size, low level of junk and repetitive DNA, short life cycle, large number of mutations, and ease in genetic analysis. An international collaboration involving scientists from the U.S., Europe, and Japan announced the completion of the complete sequence of this plant genome in December 2000. The *Arabidopsis* genome is entirely in the public domain, making the results available to scientists worldwide. The Energy Biosciences subprogram has been a partner in this project since its inception; support for research on *Arabidopsis* dates to the early 1980s.

Snapshot of a light-driven pump. Sunlight causes the bacteriorhodopsin protein to change shape, and in the process transport protons across a membrane to provide chemical energy. X-ray crystallographic structure determinations of this light-driven proton pump captured for the first time the molecule frozen mid-stroke of this shape modification. This novel view of the intermediate conformation enables us to see how biological nanostructures capture and transform energy.

Selected FY 2000 Facility Accomplishments

The four BES synchrotron radiation light sources served 6,009 users in FY 2000 by delivering a total of 19,854 operating hours to 184 beam lines at an average of 99.5% reliability (delivered hours/scheduled hours). The three BES neutron scattering facilities served 524 users in FY 2000 by delivering a total of 10,395 operating hours to 34 beam lines at an average of 94.7% reliability (delivered hours/scheduled hours). Statistics for individual facilities are given below.

“Users” are defined by BES as researchers who conduct experiments at a facility (e.g., received a badge) or receive primary services from a facility. An individual is counted as one user per year regardless of how often he or she uses a given facility in a year. “Operating hours” are the total number of hours the facility delivers beam time to its users during the Fiscal Year. Facility operating hours are the total number of hours in the year (e.g., 365 days times 24 hour/day = 8,760 hours) minus time for machine research, operator training, accelerator physics, and shutdowns (due to maintenance, lack of budget, faults, safety issues, holidays, etc.).

The Advanced Light Source (ALS) served 1,036 users in FY 2000 by delivering 5,367 operating hours to 34 beam lines at 95.0% reliability (delivered hours/scheduled hours). The ALS is supported by the Materials Sciences subprogram.

New technique for improved storage-ring stability. The electron beam parameters in the storage ring determine x-ray beam lifetime and stability. Using a mathematical technique, accelerator physicists have understood the strength and location of harmful resonances that cause irregular, chaotic electron behavior leading to loss of electrons from the beam.

Third-harmonic cavities enhance beam lifetime. The electron beam lifetime in a synchrotron-radiation source determines how long users can record data before being interrupted when accelerator operators replenish the train of short bunches that make up the beam. A desirable way to increase the lifetime is to lengthen the bunches. Five new third-harmonic cavities accomplish the bunch lengthening and have increased electron beam lifetime increased by about 50%.

X-ray science possible at femtosecond speeds. X-ray experiments to study physical, chemical, and biological processes that occur on a time scale of one molecular vibration (typically 100 femtoseconds) are an emerging area of research. Three developments at the ALS brought x-ray science into the femtosecond realm. First, researchers developed a high-speed x-ray detector (a streak camera) with a picosecond time resolution. Second, researchers showed how to use a femtosecond laser to “slice” tiny slivers from the circulating electron bunches in the storage ring and use them to produce pulses of synchrotron radiation lasting just 300 femtoseconds. Finally, accelerator physicists devised an arrangement of magnets that allow a narrow-gap undulator optimized for the production of femtosecond x rays to be installed in the storage ring.

Undulator has complete polarization control. The elliptically polarizing undulator (EPU) in the ALS is now in full user operation with a high-resolution beamline to provide state-of-the-art performance. This capability opens up many new experimental possibilities in polymer, biophysics, and magnetism research all without rotation of the sample.

Upgrades improve photoemission electron microscopy. By imaging the photoelectrons emitted from a sample with high spatial resolution, the photoemission electron microscope is an ideal tool for combining spectroscopy with variable polarization microscopy in the study of materials ranging from magnetic materials to polymers. The performance and sample-preparation facility of this instrument have been upgraded, making possible new experiments, such as probing the magnetic roles of the different elements in multilayer structures of the type under development for magnetic memory and data storage.

A facility for sub-micron x-ray diffraction developed. Many properties depend on behavior within individual grains and on the details of grain-to-grain interactions. The ALS has pioneered the technology needed for x-ray micro-diffraction and its application to thin-film stress analysis. The system is capable of measuring structural parameters from grains as small as 0.7 micron. The

technique is starting to play a major role in many materials projects, from stress-induced cracking of indented high-strength materials to stress in magnetic thin films.

The Advanced Photon Source (APS) served 1,527 users in FY 2000 by delivering 4,724 operating hours to 34 beam lines at 93.6% reliability (delivered hours/scheduled hours). The APS is supported by the Materials Sciences subprogram.

3-D imaging in real time. A real-time, three-dimensional x-ray microtomography imaging system that can acquire, reconstruct, and interactively display rendered 3-D images of a sample at micrometer-scale resolution within minutes has been developed. This system could bring better understanding of an array of physical processes, ranging from failure in microelectronic devices to growth and depletion processes in medical samples.

Novel x-ray microprobe developed. The magnetic contribution to the cross section for x-ray scattering is of significant interest. A technique has been developed that combines microfocusing x-ray optics with Bragg-diffracting phase retarders to produce a circularly polarized x-ray microprobe. This will enable a wide variety of magnetic scattering experiments in applied fields like magnetic materials and superconducting compounds.

New beam chopper improves time-resolved experiments. A new beam chopper has been developed for time-resolved experiments. The time window of 10 nanoseconds enables time-resolved experiments in condensed-matter physics, atomic physics, and biological science.

Beam-position monitor improvements started. Significant upgrades have been made to the particle beam and x-ray beam position measurement systems. Further progress is expected when these changes are incorporated in all of the beamlines at the APS. This state-of-the-art improvement in beam stability will provide the APS users with more efficient beamlines and the capability of working with smaller samples and increased measurement resolution.

Storage-ring "top-up" operations developed. The APS is the first facility to implement "top-up" filling of the storage with electrons during normal operations. During 136 hours of top-up operation, the stored current was held constant to about two parts per thousand by injecting a pulse of electrons once every two minutes. This resulted in improvements in x-ray beam stability. Ultimately, top-up filling will be the routine operating mode of the APS.

Record FEL SASE achieved. Using the Low-Energy Undulator Test Line (LEUTL) and the injector linac, an experimental verification was obtained of the self-amplified spontaneous emission (SASE) process for 530 nm light. More recently, saturation of the SASE process at a power level 10,000,000 times higher than the light produced by a single undulator insertion device was verified. These experiments are viewed as necessary experimental milestones for achieving an x-ray free-electron lasers.

The National Synchrotron Light Source (NSLS) served 2,551 users in FY 2000 by delivering 5,620 operating hours to 90 beam lines at 112.9% reliability (delivered hours/scheduled hours). The NSLS is supported by the Materials Sciences subprogram and the Chemical Sciences subprogram.

New optical polarizer. A newly developed quadruple-reflector optical polarizer efficiently converts VUV light from linear to either left-circular or right-circular polarization. This polarizer expands the capability the U5UA beamline in the area of ultra-thin magnetic films.

High-resolution photoelectron spectrometer. A high resolution photoelectron spectrometer was installed on the U13UB beamline, and has already produced new physical insights into the electronic structure of high temperature superconductors.

Infrared beamlines revitalized. The 10 year-old infrared microspectrometer at U10B beamline was replaced with a state-of-the-art continuum microscope and advanced Fourier transform infrared spectrometer. The system has been used for the study of interplanetary materials, biological tissues, corrosion, and materials formed at high pressure. Also, the beam delivery optics for the U12IR beamline were rebuilt to provide infrared radiation to a new high-resolution spectrometer. This spectrometer will be used for magnetospectroscopy studies of materials such as LaMnO_3 .

Fluorescence microscopy. For the first time, an infrared microscope has been modified such that fluorescence sample visualization and infrared microspectroscopic analysis can be performed simultaneously. This unique combination is a valuable analysis tool for probing the chemical composition of materials.

Advanced x-ray detector array enables study of trace elements. X-ray absorption spectroscopy of trace elements in samples poses a serious detection problem. The detector technology developed for high-energy physics applications was used to produce a 100-element energy-resolving detector array for use on an NSLS beamline.

Advanced x-ray detector system developed. One of the ways in which diffraction experiments can be made more efficient is to detect the entire diffraction pattern with high resolution. In order to accomplish this, a novel curved cylindrical detector was developed. In addition, a highly-parallel readout system was developed that is capable of processing events 10 times faster than before.

Low-cost monochromator; low-maintenance spectrometer. A simple device that consists of a monolithic silicon diffracting element is near- zero maintenance and almost adjustment free. It is now used on five NSLS beamlines; several more such detectors will be installed at NSLS and at other facilities. The new device removes need for ultra-fine mechanisms that contribute to most of the cost of such an instrument and makes x-ray monochromators difficult to control.

Digital feedback system improves storage ring stability. Meeting the needs of the large population of NSLS users for high quality photon beams requires an extremely stable electron orbit. To that end, digital orbit feedback systems to replace the original analog ones were designed in both the VUV and the X-ray rings. The main advantage of switching to a digital architecture is the ability to use a higher number of beam position monitors to achieve a better match between disturbances on the beam and corrective action by the feedback system. The digital global orbit feedback system was put into operations in the VUV ring in August 2000. Implementation of the digital orbit feedback system on the X-ray ring is expected in FY 2001.

The Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory (SSRL) served 895 users in FY 2000 by delivering 4,143 operating hours to 26 beam lines at 96.8% reliability (delivered hours/scheduled hours). The SSRL is supported by Materials Sciences subprogram and the Chemical Sciences subprogram.

Reliability of SPEAR improved. The reliability of the injector was improved by rebuilding the regulation of power supplies in the beam transport line. This contributed to shorter filling times, and, consequently, to longer beam times available to the users.

Quality of the photon beam enhanced. Stable photon beam intensity is one of the requirements for performing demanding synchrotron radiation experiments. Accelerator physics studies determined that one type of beam noise was due to the excitation of high order electro-magnetic modes in the accelerating cavities. To alleviate this problem, waveguide dampers were installed in the radio-frequency accelerating system. As a consequence, SPEAR operates more reliably and the beam stability is improved.

SSRL beam line systems modernized. Six beam line stations were upgraded to the SSRL standard data acquisition system and control software. This greatly increases reliability while reducing user training time, spares requirements, and staff support requirements.

High magnetic field x-ray scattering station commissioned. A new high magnetic field end station incorporating a 13 Tesla superconducting magnet was constructed and commissioned on SSRL's premiere x-ray scattering beam line, BL7-2. This facility is one of the few facilities in the world that enable state-of-the-art x-ray scattering experiments in high field environments. The unique matching of a versatile, high-field magnet with an intense synchrotron x-ray source allows scientists to unravel the properties of these new materials. Eventually, the fundamental understanding that will be derived from this research will lead to higher performance sensors and magnetic storage devices.

Photoemission beamline improved for higher throughput and resolution. The high-resolution angle resolved photoemission beam line station 5-4 has been used to study the fundamental mechanisms of high temperature superconductivity and improvements in FY2000 have brought the station to new

levels of performance. The upgrades include a new primary focusing mirror and an angle mode option to the photoelectron energy analyzer greatly improving throughput.

Molecular environmental science facility commissioned. The importance of molecular based research in the environmental area is increasing in importance due to the emergence problems ranging from environmental remediation at the DOE weapons labs, to long term storage of nuclear waste, to basic questions concerning molecular interactions of pollutants at the surfaces of soils. Beam line station 11-2 has been optimized for x-ray absorption studies of samples in a variety of states and under dilute field conditions. The station also includes capabilities for small spot analysis as well as specialized facilities for the safe handling and analysis of radioactive materials such as soils contaminated with actinides or wastes from nuclear storage sites.

New research and training gateway program initiated. A Gateway pilot program involving SSRL and the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) is providing training and research opportunities targeted toward Mexican and Mexican American students. In FY 2000, a group of 16 UTEP students and staff underwent training and carried out experiments on four separate beam lines.

The Intense Pulsed Neutron Source (IPNS) served 230 users in FY 2000 by delivering 3,842 operating hours to 15 beam lines at 101.6% reliability (delivered hours/scheduled hours). The IPNS is supported by the Materials Sciences subprogram.

Upgrade of QENS instrument. The quasielastic neutron scattering (QENS) instrument was completely upgraded. This instrument is used for measurements that determine the diffusion rates of both molecular rotation and translation on the typical time-scales of simple liquids, adsorbates etc. QENS is also capable of measuring vibrational excitations up to a few hundred meV, providing access to both external and internal vibrational modes for hydrogenous systems.

IPNS hosts second National Neutron and X-Ray Scattering School. During the two-week period of August 14-26, 2000, Argonne National Laboratory once again hosted the National School on Neutron and X-Ray Scattering. The success of the previous year was so overwhelming that additional funds were provided by BES to increase the size of the school from 48 to 60 graduate students. Funding was also provided by the National Science Foundation. This school fulfills a continuing need for training graduate students in the utilization of national user facilities. The formal program included 32 hours of lectures given by an internationally known group of scientists recruited from universities, national laboratories and industry.

The Manuel Lujan Jr. Neutron Scattering Center at the Los Alamos Neutron Science Center LANSCE served 25 users in FY 2000 by delivering 736 operating hours to 7 beam lines at 78.8% reliability (delivered hours/scheduled hours). LANSCE was down for installation of upgrades and safety shutdowns in FY 2000. The Lujan Center is supported by the Materials Sciences subprogram.

Neutron flux increased. The Lujan Center is the first spallation neutron source to exploit the increased neutron flux provided by coupled moderators. A new coupled liquid-hydrogen moderator provides an increase of approximately 2.5 times over the previous decoupled moderator. Both the small-angle diffractometer, LQD, and the Surface Profile Analysis Reflectometer, SPEAR, benefits from this increased flux at Lujan. The increase in flux is a result of the interaction of the moderator, the reflector surrounding the moderator, and the lack of decouplers.

The High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR) served 269 users in FY 2000 by delivering 5,817 operating hours to 12 beam lines at 92.9% reliability (delivered hours/scheduled hours). The HFIR is supported by the Materials Sciences subprogram and the Chemical Sciences subprogram.

Cold source progress. Work continues on the development of the nation's highest-intensity cold neutron source. This cold source, which will be comparable in intensity to the world's best at the Institut Laue-Langevin (ILL) in Grenoble, France, will support four neutron guides and instruments. The cold source building and refrigeration plant have been completed, and the guides and cold-source moderator vessel are in fabrication.

The Combustion Research Facility (CRF) is supported by the Chemical Sciences subprogram.

New capabilities brought on line. The CRF provides a primary interface for the integration of BES programs with those of DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and Office of Fossil Energy related to combustion by collocating basic and applied research at one facility. Phase II of the CRF more than doubled the laboratory floor space to 37,000 square feet, increasing the number of labs to 37. The new wing houses unique instruments, such as picosecond lasers for diagnosing molecular energy transfer. The turbulent flame diagnostics laboratory, which has become an international standard, has been expanded to accommodate two simultaneous and independent experimental stations for visitors. The new laser-imaging laboratory has also been expanded to include several flame geometries with controlled, reproducible flow structures. New staff members have been or are being hired in theoretical chemistry, computer science, and experimental chemical dynamics.

Selected FY 1999 Scientific Highlights/Accomplishments

Serendipitous Applications of Research in the Physical Sciences to the Life Sciences. It has long been recognized that tools and concepts developed in the physical sciences can revolutionize the life sciences. One need only consider the impact of x-ray synchrotron radiation and MAD (multiple wavelength anomalous diffraction) phasing on macromolecular crystallography; both were developed within the BES program. In FY 1999, many of the annual BES program highlights illustrate the rapidity with which advances in the physical sciences are impacting the life sciences. Two examples are given here. First, new techniques of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) are being used to study the molecular structures of solid protein deposits implicated in brain diseases such as Alzheimer's Disease and BSE (Mad Cow Disease); both diseases involve the transformation of normal, soluble proteins in the brain (whose structure is known) into fibers of insoluble plaque (whose structure is largely unknown). Second, a nano-laser device has been shown to have the potential to quickly identify a cell population that has begun the rapid protein synthesis and mitosis characteristic of cancerous cell proliferation. Pathologists currently rely on microscopic examination of cell morphology using century-old staining methods that are labor-intensive, time-consuming, and frequently in error.

Materials Sciences Subprogram

Seashell Provides Key to Strong Composites. Mollusk shells have evolved over millions of years to provide hard, strong, tough shelters for fragile occupants. These outstanding mechanical properties derive from a laminated construction of alternating layers of biopolymer – a biologically produced rubber – and calcium carbonate, commonly known as chalk. It has been recognized for decades that materials with alternating hard and soft layers absorb energy and impede cracking. Unfortunately, it has proven difficult to transcribe seashell-like designs into manufacturable materials. Now, a rapid, efficient self-assembly process has been developed for making “nanocomposite” materials that mimic the construction of seashells. This process can be generalized and should lead to materials with unprecedented mechanical properties.

Imaging Fluid Distribution and Flow in Materials. Dramatic pictures of the distribution and flow of fluids inside intact objects and porous solid materials have been obtained by magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR). The ability to observe such images and spectra results from the use of noble gases, particularly xenon, magnetically polarized by means of a laser. This advance makes possible the observation of MRI pictures and NMR spectra in ultralow magnetic fields. The technique produces brilliant pictures (up to a millionfold increase in brightness) and provides a new capability for noninvasive investigation of flow and transport. The images and spectra allow the characterization of atomic distribution and flow from the smallest scale of nanotubes to the largest scale of macroscopic samples. The flow of fluids through solid materials is a crucial component of many industrial processes from the catalytic conversion of petroleum to the containment of toxic environmental agents. These advances will eliminate the need for high magnetic fields in some applications of MRI and NMR, a welcomed event given the cost, bulk, hazard, and lack of portability of the magnets used in contemporary instrumentation.

New Fullerene Species Synthesized - Stickyball, C₃₆. A new fullerene species, C₃₆, has been synthesized and produced in bulk quantities for the first time. Fullerenes or "buckyballs" are hollow clusters of carbon atoms. They have been studied extensively since the Nobel prize-winning discovery of C₆₀ in 1985 (supported by BES). C₃₆ is the smallest fullerene discovered to date and is characterized by unusual and potentially very useful properties. For example, in contrast to C₆₀ molecules, which interact only very weakly with one another, C₃₆ molecules stick together – hence the nickname "stickyballs." The lower fullerenes, such as C₃₆ are predicted to have more highly strained carbon bonds, resulting in exciting properties for those molecules such as very high chemical reactivity and high temperature superconductivity. The synthesis of C₃₆ is particularly significant, because previously it was believed that any fullerene smaller than C₆₀ would be too unstable to isolate in bulk.

Seeing Clearly Now. Using a new imaging technique called Z-contrast imaging, researchers have achieved the highest resolution electron microscope image of a crystal structure ever recorded, resolving adjacent columns of silicon atoms separated by a scant 0.78 angstroms (3 billionths of an inch). Better resolution enables scientists to see and understand important details they had not been able to see before. This technique also offers both high spatial resolution and the ability to distinguish different kinds of atoms. The precise atomic-scale structure of a material controls the performance of materials for semiconductor devices, superconductors, and a host of other applications. Combined with improved electron imaging optics currently under development, this result promises to revolutionize the atomic-scale understanding of materials.

New Family of Bulk Ferromagnetic Metallic Glasses for Energy Efficient Motors and Transformers. New rules for designing alloys have been developed that enable the creation of a family of bulk metallic glass alloys. These alloys exhibit outstanding ferromagnetic behavior with virtually no energy loss. These new alloys are at least 65 percent iron plus contain up to seven other elements. Until now, such alloys could only be produced as thin foils. Commercial transformers based on the thin foil ferromagnetic metallic glasses are in service, but their size and application are limited due to difficulties in thin foil assembly and manufacturing processes. The new bulk glasses can be cast into exact shapes and substituted into the standard assembly processes now in use for traditional crystalline materials. It is expected that the availability of bulk ferromagnetic glasses will decrease the energy losses of transformers by about 2/3 compared to today's transformers made from crystalline ferromagnetic materials. That's good news for electric utility customers, since it is estimated that power-distribution transformer losses cost about \$4 billion annually.

Universal Magnetic Behavior in High-Temperature Superconductors. Understanding high temperature superconductors remains one of the most significant research issues in condensed matter physics. The observed properties of two major classes of high temperature superconductors initially appeared to be significantly different from one other, leading scientists to believe that the fundamental interactions responsible for the superconducting behavior were quite different in the two materials. However, recent neutron scattering results have shown that the superconducting behavior of both major classes of superconductors is connected to excitations of the magnetic spin system in each material. The new results offer insight on high-temperature superconductivity including the promise that a single physical mechanism can account for this phenomenon.

Chemical Sciences Subprogram

Measuring Chemical Processes in Combustion One Molecule at a Time. A powerful new experimental instrument just completed at the Combustion Research Facility promises to provide new information about how molecules dissociate when given enough internal energy. Understanding such processes is critically important for combustion, because, at the high temperatures of combustion, dissociation occurs in a variety of ways that are difficult to observe, model, and predict. In the experiment, pulses of laser light a few femtoseconds in duration pump enough energy into a molecule to cause it to dissociate. (One femtosecond is one millionth of a billionth of a second.) A second femtosecond laser pulse ionizes the molecular fragment during the dissociation process. From the simultaneous measurements of the fragments produced by the second laser, the details of the dissociation process can be extracted. These measurements are made

one molecule at a time. This new experimental facility promises to be a tool of unrivaled power for the validation of predictive models and theories of chemical reactions.

New Designs for Molecular Wires Help Mimic Photosynthesis. One way to capture and store the sun's energy is to design systems that mimic photosynthesis. In nature, biological systems use charge separation to store energy. This charge separation occurs by transfer of an electron from a photoexcited donor molecule through a bridge molecule to an acceptor molecule. Researchers have recently constructed donor-bridge-acceptor systems in which the bridge – or molecular wire – is a conjugated organic molecule analogous to natural carotenes that transfer charge over long distances. This research may lead to new molecular devices for efficient charge separation and storage.

New Insights into Surface Catalysis. One of the oldest problems in surface-catalyzed reactions is understanding how the molecules actually come together on a metal surface. Researchers studying the hydrogenation of acetylene on crystalline nickel using sophisticated atomic and molecular beam preparations and subsequent thermal desorption spectroscopy demonstrated that this simple reaction proceeds via hydrogen adsorbed into the bulk of the metal rather than adsorbed on its surface, as previously thought. This startling discovery has changed the way we think about industrial hydrogenation catalysts such as Raney nickel and palladium, and may have general implications for heterogeneous catalysts presently used in energy-intensive industries such as ammonia production (the Haber Process).

First Observation of Relativistic Thomson Scattering – 60 Years After its Prediction. British physicist J. J. Thomson, who identified the electron in 1897, showed in 1906 that light could cause electrons to oscillate up and down and reemit at the same frequency in a dipole pattern; this phenomenon was subsequently termed Thomson scattering. Nearly a century later, researchers have demonstrated a new phenomena – relativistic Thomson scattering – in which electrons oscillate in a more complex figure-8 pattern and emit light at both the exciting laser frequency and multiples of that frequency, each emitted in a different direction. The more complex pattern results from the electron interacting simultaneously with both the electric and magnetic fields of the laser light. To observe this phenomena, the research team built a tabletop neodymium-glass laser and compressed its billionth-of-a-second pulses by a factor of about 1,000, boosting their power to 4 trillion watts of very high-quality beam. This experiment is an important milestone in the study of nonlinear optics with electrons unbound to atoms. Furthermore, this work may lead to new laboratory tabletop x-ray sources producing very short x-ray pulses useful, for example, for probing molecular motion during reactions.

Engineering and Geosciences Subprogram

Making Waves. Unfortunately, many facets of nature exhibit chaotic changes, driven by external forces, never settling down to a predictable state. Progress has been made in understanding one kind of chaos in which information travels from one point to another by means of traveling waves. Examples include the ripples on a wind-blown lake, light in a laser, weather patterns, and even the fibrillation of a human heart. In order to understand this kind of chaos, scientists studied the flow patterns in a thin layer of fluid heated from below. In certain fluid mixtures, the patterns move laterally like waves on a pond. The key discovery is that these patterns can be understood in terms of so-called phase defects, which are places where the waves circle around a point in a pinwheel-like motion. Looking at only the defects to understand the entire pattern is much like keeping track of traffic jams and accidents to understand the operation of a freeway system. The next step will be to predict how the patterns change with time. If present ideas are confirmed, they could be useful controlling such important phenomena as heart fibrillation, and controlling lasers used in communications, cutting and welding.

Changes in Seismic Properties of Rocks Detects Damage. Seismology uses the reflection and transmission of elastic waves to locate subsurface features of interest. Various types of rocks respond differently to different kinds and frequencies of waves. The theoretical geophysics program has developed new techniques to study these phenomena. The research examines rock behavior through ultrasonic resonance experiments, which show that rock has both a rapid resonance response and a slow resonance response. The resonance between the vibrational modes gives the rock a memory of the shaking it has been through. The resonance behavior has implications for accurately locating subsurface features, and for

understanding strong ground motion damage patterns during earthquakes when the resonant modes of regions of different ground properties couple with those of man-made structures. A similar resonance response is also characteristic of damaged man-made materials such as metals, ceramics and composites. Thus the nonlinear elastic wave studies can contribute to understanding and testing the characteristics of most man-made materials as well as rock or concrete.

Energy Biosciences Subprogram

Orienting Molecular Syntheses. A component of plant cell walls that severely restricts the use of the carbohydrates in plant biomass is lignin. Lignins are aromatic polymers that make up a significant fraction of the earth's renewable carbon resources. Research has provided evidence that the biosynthesis of these large polymers from smaller lignol units does not proceed in a random fashion, as was previously thought. Novel plant genes have been discovered that encode proteins that serve as a scaffold, helping to hold the lignol units in the right orientation as they are joined together by other biosynthetic enzymes. These results have broad implications for the efficient use of plant biomass as well as offering new strategies for enzyme catalysis in an industrial setting.

Plant Cell Walls. The characteristics of plant cell walls – the major energy component of renewable biological resources – vary to meet the structural, metabolic, and developmental needs of different plant cell types. The biosynthesis of the plant cell wall is precisely regulated to conform to these constraints; however, relatively little is known about how such variation is achieved during cell wall formation. Researchers recently identified an enzyme responsible for modifying the xyloglucan polymer backbone, an important factor in determining cell wall strength. This discovery offers the potential to isolate similar enzymes that modify cell wall properties. A better understanding of plant cell wall biosynthesis can eventually improve the properties of wood and other biomass materials through the efficient design of specific complex carbohydrates and other renewable carbon resources.

Designer Enzymes. Research on fatty acid desaturases and hydroxylases has deciphered the mechanism that controls how these two types of enzymes introduce a double bond (desaturase) or a hydroxyl group (hydroxylase) at specific sites along the carbon atom backbone of long-chain fatty acids. This knowledge of the active site of the two enzymes has enabled the modification of the gene that encodes the desaturase for a specific fatty acid to change it into the hydroxylase and vice versa. Both enzymes perform important tasks in altering the melting response of the fatty acid to heat. This pioneering work lays the groundwork for future advances in designing vegetable oils—which have hundreds of potential uses from heart-healthy margarine to lubricants and nylon.

Selected FY 1998 Scientific Highlights/Accomplishments

Materials Sciences Subprogram

Helping to Solve the Mystery of High-Temperature Superconductivity. Understanding high-temperature superconductivity, discovered in 1987, remains the outstanding problem in modern condensed matter physics. Recent neutron scattering experiments suggest that the electric current in high temperature superconductors may be like “stripes” of flowing current separated by stripes where current does not flow. These stripes can be static or dynamic (like the stripes on our flags, waving in the wind). These and other experiments point to a very different electron pairing mechanism than that seen in low-temperature superconductors. Once the pairing mechanism is understood, it will be easier to find materials with higher critical superconducting temperatures and better mechanical properties.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Without Magnets. Striking, high resolution MRI images have been obtained without the need for high field magnets or high frequency detectors normally required for MRI. The breakthrough involves MRI enhancement by noble gases magnetically polarized (100,000 fold) through laser treatment. A new ultra-low-field MRI instrument now makes it possible to obtain extremely bright MRI pictures of polarized samples in the earth's natural magnetic field, which is thousands of times weaker than fields obtained from traditional MRI magnets (which are bulky, expensive, and often hazardous). The new instrument has been used with localized injection of polarized xenon solutions into

human blood to provide the first observations of the real-time process of xenon penetrating red blood cells. (Xenon is an inert gas and an FDA-approved anaesthetic.) This combination of techniques opens the way to provide high resolution MRI images of localized areas in animal and human subjects.

Discovery of New Materials Using LEGO. Of the enormous number of combinations of elements in the periodic table, only a very small fraction are used in real materials. It is quite certain that materials with optimum properties for various applications have not yet been discovered. For example, high-temperature superconductivity occurs in ceramic compounds with a most unlikely combination of elements. A new strategy using fast computers and concepts from quantum mechanics has been developed to search for "winning combinations" of atoms to produce materials with improved physical properties. This approach -- Linear Expansion in Geometric Objects (LEGO) -- recognizes that even complex crystal structures can be viewed as a collection of simple geometric objects such as dumbbells, triangles, etc. By assigning each geometric object an energy value, computers can rapidly scan hundreds of thousands of candidates looking for the lowest overall energy and, therefore, the most stable structures. LEGO has already predicted several new intermetallic compounds missed through conventional approaches.

Electrically Conducting Nanoscale Ropes. Incredibly light synthetic metals with a potential electrical conductivity 50-100 times better than copper per weight are being made from carbon nanotubes doped with metals. First discovered in 1991, nanotubes are a new class of materials formed from graphite-like sheets of carbon rolled into exquisitely small cylinders. They self organize in the vapor phase during growth to form well ordered crystalline bundles of individual nanotubes. The introduction of dopant atoms, such as potassium or lithium, into the open spaces between adjacent tubes within a rope can increase electrical conductivity significantly at room temperature. Doped nanotube ropes are also attracting increased interest as constituents of novel nanoscale device structures and as replacements for pure lithium metal in Li ion batteries.

Molecular Bricks for Nanotechnology. Lightweight materials are commonly composed of polymers, which are long chains of atoms. The chains are difficult to order completely, which limits their functionality and durability. Researchers have recently demonstrated new possibilities for the design of polymers using nano-objects, which can be regarded as molecular bricks. These bricks, which might have shapes as diverse as those of nature's proteins, create a toolbox for the design of lightweight materials that could self assemble into structures with surprising functionality. Using the first elements of this toolbox, a spherical nanostructure has been created that has internally continuous channels; some channels transport water and ions, while others block water but accept organic substances. These nano-sponges could trap toxic metals from water streams.

What Makes Stainless Steel Stainless? Corrosion damage is estimated to cost the U.S. 4.2 percent of the Gross National Product each year. Metals can be used in industrial and technological applications only when appropriately protected. In the case of stainless steel and many other metals, protection is provided by a thin oxide film that prevents further corrosion. However, the structure of these oxide films has remained a mystery despite decades of study. Recent research using surface-sensitive synchrotron x-ray diffraction with a combination of electrochemical experiments has now unambiguously determined that the oxide film on pure iron has a very fine-grained, nanocrystalline structure. Results for iron-chromium alloys (e.g., stainless steel) have shown that the oxide films are also nanocrystalline. This overturns the long accepted belief that stainless steel is corrosion resistant because its oxide film is non-crystalline. These surprising results provide a more realistic basis for understanding corrosion resistance and for the development of better corrosion protection coatings.

Do Cracks "Melt" Their Way through Solids? Predicting and explaining why, how, and when solids fracture is a significant scientific challenge. The driving force for fracture is intensification of the local stress at a crack tip, yet the mechanism by which local strain is dissipated during crack propagation is not well understood. Can strain energy be dissipated via "local melting" around the crack tip? Recent computer simulations of crack formation predict this intriguing possibility. Simulations indicated that the melting in front of a crack tip can lead to catastrophic fracture. Using high-voltage electron microscopy, observations of moving crack tips in an intermetallic compound confirmed the prediction of the computer simulations and showed the development of melted and rapidly re-solidified regions adjacent to the crack

tip. This new picture of fracture as a stress-induced melting process may lead to new approaches to stress-corrosion cracking in the automotive, aerospace, power generation, and ship building industries.

Smart Filters. New materials with tailored pore sizes and pore chemistry can selectively remove deadly heavy metals -- such as mercury, lead, and silver -- from water. Researchers discovered that precise control over the amount of water in the pores of porous silica enabled the insertion of useful organic molecules on the walls of the pores. Using this knowledge, monolayers of organic sulfur compounds were bound to the internal surfaces of porous silica to prepare selective filter materials. The high surface area of the porous silica (a few grams have as much surface area as a football field) coupled with the bonding characteristics of the organic compounds results in high filtering capacity and high selectivity for specific contaminants. In addition, pore openings in the silica are designed to be too small for microbes to enter and digest the contaminants, later causing human illness from, for example, mercury contamination. The filter materials can purify highly contaminated water in a single treatment to a level that exceeds drinking water standards. The filters can also be recovered and reused after removing the contaminants.

A Line in the Sand. Granular materials like gravel, salt, or dry chemicals are ubiquitous in our daily lives and central to many industrial processes, yet controlling their motion is both surprisingly difficult and not well understood. For example, granular material subjected to a driving force remains at rest until a minimum "critical force" is applied; then it moves in uncontrollable events like avalanches. Inefficiency in handling granular materials may result in the loss of up to 40 percent of the design capacity of industrial plants. In its retrospective of the last 50 years, *Physics Today* highlighted the emerging science of granular materials as a notable event of the last decade. Scientists have recently developed a theoretical approach to describe the motion of granular materials in a vibrating environment. This theory correctly describes the unexpected formation of stripe, square, and hexagon patterns on the surface of vibrated granular media and the formation of localized excitations called "oscillons." The theory also predicted how to control aspects of granular motion -- a prediction that was confirmed by experiment. The new theory brings the description and control of granular motion to a higher level of understanding and shows promise of substantial advances in basic granular science, which can lead to industrial applications that exploit the controlled motion of granular materials.

Vortex Matter -- A New Understanding of Magnetism in Superconductors. Magnetic fields in superconductors are carried by "vortices." Each vortex consists of a tube of magnetic field surrounded by a circulating flow of electrons that move without resistance. It is this free flow of electrons that gives superconducting materials their special property. Recently, it has been shown that the system of magnetic vortices can take many forms analogous to the solid, liquid, and gaseous forms of ordinary matter. The analogy between the behavior of vortices and ordinary matter is so strong that a new term has entered the scientific vocabulary -- vortex matter. Vortex matter melts from a crystalline to a liquid state in much the same way that ice melts to water. The properties of vortex matter can be controlled over a wide range. For example, the density of vortices can be varied by a factor of 10,000 simply by changing the applied magnetic field. This remarkable control enables the study of many types of phenomena in vortex matter whose analogies in ordinary matter are difficult or impossible to observe. Thus, the identification and characterization of the melting transition in vortex matter has significant implications for phase transitions in ordinary matter, for understanding the electromagnetic properties of superconductors, and for developing applications of superconductivity.

Chemical Sciences Subprogram

Landmark Experiment Challenges Combustion Models. Combustion is perhaps the oldest technology in human experience, yet its complexity limits predictions of combustion processes in devices ranging from simple laboratory burners to automobile engines. The challenge is characterizing the influence of chemistry and fluid dynamics on one another. A simple experiment recently has demonstrated a major error in current models for combustion processes. The experiment allows the interaction of chemistry and turbulence to be examined in quantitative detail for the first time. A planar flame sheet is deformed by a puff of air generated by a small loudspeaker. Spectroscopic techniques are used to determine the concentrations of reaction intermediates as the flame sheet deforms. Comparisons of these experiments

with computational simulations showed that the widely accepted chemical reaction mechanism for simple methane combustion is in error, thus, requiring a fundamental change in our models for combustion.

Fishing for Radioactive Actinides with Molecular Hooks. The selection, separation, and removal of radioactive actinide ions from complex aqueous waste stream mixtures remain vexing technical issues. The development of new, improved separation approaches will result in significant cost savings for nuclear waste treatments as well as improve environmental safety and materials safeguard security. A new family of chelate agents or "chemical fish hooks" suitable for the reversible "catch and release" of trivalent actinide ions in highly acidic solutions has been designed, prepared, and characterized. The latest chelate derivatives show separation characteristics that are especially suited to practical, batch type waste treatments.

First Isolation of a Catalytic Oxidation Intermediate. Despite worldwide efforts over the last 15 years on catalytic olefin oxidation, little progress has been made in extrapolating from ethylene (the smallest olefin) to larger olefins such as propylene. The key question -- the molecular mechanism of ethylene epoxidation (which gives us anti-freeze and polyester fibers) -- remains unresolved. Now, a combined experimental and theoretical tour de force has yielded the first definitive isolation and spectroscopic characterization of a stable intermediate in the catalytic process -- an oxametallacycle. Calculations were employed to determine the structure for the oxametallacycle on silver and to predict the infrared spectrum and molecular motions for that structure. Conclusive identification was provided by the excellent agreement between the predicted infrared spectrum and the experimental electron energy loss spectrum.

Liquid Crystalline Organic Semiconductors Discovered. Liquid crystals change their optical properties as they transition between distinctive geometric states. Digital watch displays, for example, cycle between transparent and opaque forms. They, like other technologically important liquid crystals, are electrically insulating. Semiconducting crystals could have much broader application than insulating crystals, but large single crystals of these materials are difficult and expensive to produce. In a recent breakthrough, a family of liquid crystalline derivatives of perylene diimide was discovered that has semiconductor properties. The films of one compound self organize from a red, polycrystalline phase with randomly oriented crystallites into a black phase with highly ordered ribbon-like structure. The fluorescence intensity increases seven-fold during the transformation. This spontaneous change in photophysical properties makes this class of organic liquid crystals look very promising for future photoconversion applications.

Diode Lasers Detect Radiotoxic Isotopes. Solid-state diode lasers, similar to those used in compact disc players, have been used in a new approach to detect the toxic radioisotope strontium-90, which received attention because of high levels found in milk after atomic weapons tests and the Chernobyl reactor accident. Diode lasers excite and efficiently ionize the strontium atoms; the resulting ions are detected using a mass spectrometer. The high efficiency allows the detection of less than one femtogram (femto = 10⁻¹⁵, e.g., a single postage stamp compared to the area of Texas) of strontium 90. Furthermore, it is possible to selectively ionize the strontium 90 even in the presence of large excesses of the stable, naturally-occurring isotopes of strontium. Measurements can be performed in a few minutes as compared to the several weeks required previously for conventional radiochemical decay counting methods. Thus, this new approach should significantly improve the capabilities for near real-time monitoring of environmental restoration activities, nuclear weapons tests, reactor accidents, and the processing of nuclear fuels.

Photochemical Studies on the Light-Activated Drug Hypericin. The popular herbal remedy St. John's wort contains the compound hypericin, which upon exposure to light is toxic to tumors and HIV, the human AIDS virus. Now, the fundamental photochemistry of hypericin has been elucidated. A novel laser spectroscopic technique, fluorescence upconversion, was used to show definitively that the primary photochemical process is excited-state intramolecular proton or hydrogen transfer. Any incomplete proton or hydrogen atom transfers would acidify the aqueous solution immediately surrounding hypericin, which may be of importance in its toxicity to viruses. The study is yet another example of the role that the physical sciences play in providing fundamental information relevant to a wide variety of subject areas.

Engineering and Geosciences Subprogram

Remote Sensing of Fractures and Prediction of Failure in Rocks. Long before catastrophic fracturing and failure of a material, sound waves transmitted through the material show a dramatic frequency shift. This shift has been documented before in fractured materials, but the observation of the shift before the formation of a continuous crack is a new discovery. Monitoring for the frequency shift can therefore be used to provide a warning of failure. The sound shifts to a lower frequency because the high-frequency sound (with shorter wavelengths) is preferentially absorbed or scattered. Because the frequency shift occurs prior to creation of a single fracture, there should be a network of oriented, disconnected features appearing prior to a crack that absorb or scatter the high-frequency sound in the same way as do observable cracks. Connected cracks in rocks provide pathways for water, oil, or pollutant flow. The growth of cracks can improve fluid flow or cause failure of well-bores, reservoirs, and tunnels or engineered structures; therefore, it is very important to understand how and when cracks form.

Energy Biosciences Subprogram

Building Doors into Cells. Before any molecule can enter a cell, it must first pass through the cell membrane—the thin, fat-containing film that covers all cells. The passage of most molecules through biological membranes is controlled by pores, defined openings made with specific proteins. The composition and structure of pore proteins can now be altered through genetic engineering. Changes in the size of the pore, the selectivity of the pore for letting different molecules pass through, and the pore's ability to open and close are three properties currently being studied by bioengineering new pore proteins. Successful attempts to engineer modified pore opening and closing properties have provided insight on how these processes can occur mechanistically as well as for developing new biotechnological applications. Among the potential products of this research are chemical triggers or molecular switches that can be used to create new sensors to detect harmful chemicals or viruses. Other potential applications are the development of small light switches and new drug delivery systems.

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The Advanced Photon Source (APS) Completes Its First Year of Operation. As the floor of the APS became crowded with experimental hutches, new results emerged that took advantage of the very high brightness of this new light source and that could not have been done elsewhere. While much of the work at the APS and the other BES synchrotron radiation light sources has been and will continue to be in the area of materials sciences and condensed matter physics, many studies are also being done in the areas of biological, plant, environmental, and geosciences. For example,

- A new structural determination and biochemical analysis of the human fragile histidine triad (FHIT) protein has been performed. The FHIT protein derives from a fragile site on human chromosome 3 that is commonly disrupted in association with cancers. The understanding of this tumor suppressor protein will focus on a diverse human HIT family member in search of their *in vivo* function throughout biology.
- The first experiments were conducted with a newly constructed beamline for geosciences/soil/environmental research. Molecular-scale observations (made possible by the high brightness of the APS) enable new understanding of local structural and chemical changes that govern the mechanisms of mineral-fluid interactions. For example, the molecular form or speciation of environmental contaminants, such as chromium, arsenic, lead, uranium or plutonium, determines their toxicity and bioavailability.
- Over 90% of the world's plants, including essentially all crops, make use of symbiotic associations with fungi. X-ray imaging studies performed on these systems using an x-ray microprobe have provided detailed information on the elemental distribution in plant roots and associated fungi. These images, with

unprecedented spatial resolution, will be a key to understanding the symbiosis between the plant roots and fungi.

Materials Sciences Subprogram

Breakthrough in Processing of Aerogel Films. A breakthrough in the processing of ceramic aerogel films won a prestigious award of the American Chemical Society and was cited as an important discovery by the Wall Street Journal. This breakthrough overcame the sixty year barrier to the large scale commercial utilization of these films. Aerogel films have a foam-like structure, exceptional lightness and transparency, and are ideal insulating materials for double-paned windows and other uses. When freshly formed from a liquid, the film can be easily torn until it has been hardened. Older processes required a toxic liquid and high pressure and temperature to dry the films. Employing a new understanding of film drying and chemical treatment of the surfaces of the pores in the film, a non-toxic, low-pressure and temperature process was developed to keep the film flexible and resilient as it formed.

Cool Sounds. Air conditioning from your favorite music? Not quite yet. However, sound, or acoustic energy, has now been used to make refrigerating and heating units. These devices, called thermoacoustic refrigerators, or thermoacoustic engines when operated in a heating mode, have no moving parts and use sound waves in air or helium to transfer heat. Operation of these devices has been based upon a standing acoustic wave in a closed system, limiting their usage. Now, a radically new concept has been devised in which the air or helium would flow slowly through the device during operation. This concept would allow for heating and cooling of buildings and for other industrial air conditioning applications with an economic advantage over current technology through the elimination of the bulky heat exchangers on building roofs. First results from a test system operating as a refrigerator using helium or air have confirmed the concept. Further developments of this concept are under way.

Slick and Sticky. Pencil-shaped organic molecules called "rod-coils," designed and synthesized to have half of the molecule rigid and the other half flexible, were discovered to exhibit unusual and important clustering mechanisms on several size scales. Aggregates of these molecules self-assemble into mushroom-shaped clusters with the rigid ends forming the stems and the flexible coils forming the caps. At the next level of organization, the mushroom clusters pack side by side into layered sheets to form, ultimately, a thick film. Because the building-block molecules are all oriented in the same direction, the film's properties mirror those of the individual molecules, resulting in a film whose bottom surface is sticky and top surface is slippery. Such a film has many potential applications, for example as an anti-ice coating on an airplane wing or an anti-blood-clot lining for artificial blood vessels. This new molecular organizational technique is being explored to make films with other properties by replacing the slippery and sticky groups capping the rodcoils with compounds that perform other functions, such as conducting electricity or changing their size in response to an electrical pulse.

Materials Failure in a Radiation Environment. The safe storage of nuclear materials and radioactive wastes is a major challenge for the post cold-war generation. The long term effects of radiation on the physical integrity of these materials and their containers is still poorly understood. Recent work using simultaneous electron microscopy and ion irradiation experiments shows that the impact of just a single high energy ion on the surface of a material has a much greater effect than previously realized and disrupts tens of thousands of atoms near the surface of the material. The impact causes local melting, displacement of many atoms beneath the surface, and the formation of surface craters and holes. This work should lead to a correct understanding of how materials are damaged by radiation and will help explain and predict the behavior of materials used for waste storage and other applications.

Powder Process Produces Cheaper Stronger Permanent Magnets. A collaborative team from two laboratories is a recipient of a prestigious R&D 100 Award for the processing of nanocrystalline composite powder for high-strength, permanent magnets. The permanent magnet industry is a very large global industry worth 3.2 billion dollars in 1995 and is predicted to reach 10 billion dollars by 2010. The high magnetic strength of the prize-winning neodymium-iron-boron 'super magnets' results from matching the crystallite size formed on cooling the alloy from the melt to the size of the magnetic domains. The previously used rapid cooling process that creates the fine-grained polycrystalline material is too expensive

for many commercial magnet applications. It was discovered that adding titanium and carbon to the molten alloy allows a spray atomization process to create appropriately sized particles that can be consolidated into magnetic compacts.

New Process Forms Diamond-Like Boron Nitride Films. A process to grow diamond-like boron nitride films, the second hardest material known, has been discovered based on a new understanding of how hard nitride films are formed. Like diamond, films of boron nitride can be grown from hot gases and plasmas without the use of high pressures. However, it was recently discovered that irradiation of boron nitride films with low-energy ion beams will produce films of boron nitride that contain the hard, diamond-like form rather than the soft graphite-like form. This new process to form ultra-hard boron nitride films could revolutionize the tool industry, because, unlike diamond, boron nitride does not react with iron or steel; therefore, boron nitride is an ideal material for cutting tools.

A Microscopic Understanding of Materials Joining Enables the Intelligent Processing of Materials. Welding is a critical fabrication technology used extensively in a wide variety of industries such as energy, automotive, construction, aerospace, shipbuilding, and electronics. Weld failures are among the most common reason for unscheduled outages in power plants with the cost of replacement power often exceeding \$1,000,000 per day. Recent advances in materials joining science have improved our understanding of the welding process and welded materials. With the help of massively parallel computers, complex physical models that link both macro- and microscopic scale phenomena during the melting and solidification of a weld have been developed. Using such models it is now possible to visualize directly the solidified weld microstructure for a given set of processing conditions. The resulting knowledge has been transferred to industry thereby allowing the intelligent processing of defect-free, structurally sound and reliable welds.

Magnetic Refrigeration to Eliminate Harmful Freon. Conventional air conditioning of domestic and commercial buildings, and cooling in food processing and other industrial plants requires enormous quantities of electricity and uses huge amounts of environmentally harmful chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). Magnetic refrigeration uses the magneto-caloric effect, the ability of a magnetic material to raise its temperature upon application of a magnetic field and to lower it upon removal of that field. For many years the alloys showing this effect operated only at impracticably low temperatures. New understanding of thermal and magnetic behavior uncovered a gadolinium-silicon-germanium alloy that cools efficiently near room temperature. Refrigerator devices based on magneto-caloric material could cut energy costs and eliminate ozone-depleting CFCs.

Chemical Sciences Subprogram

"Green" Separation Process for Hanford Wastes. The radioactive components in the Hanford waste tanks comprise a mere 1/100th of a percent of the millions of gallons of contaminated waste in storage. Thus, highly selective removal of the radioactive components could significantly reduce the volume of waste, which will require very costly processing and long-term storage. Fundamental studies of technetium extraction in the 1980s, followed by more recent investigations of the structural and thermodynamic aspects of the extraction of alkali metal salts with crown ethers has led to a new technetium extraction process. The crown ether binds sodium ions already present in the waste, and then extracts technetium as much as four orders of magnitude better than others ions in the waste, such as nitrate, which are present at much higher concentrations. The crown ether complex is readily decomposed by contact with water to release the extracted technetium thereby affording a convenient, safe, and economical stripping method. The crown ether is then recycled thus minimizing secondary waste production.

New Metallocene Catalysts Lead to Commercial Applications. The new family of metallocene polymerization catalysts, in which polymerization occurs principally at a single type of metal center with a well-defined coordination environment, are a substantial advance over the prior heterogeneous polymerization catalysts. Recent advances on two fronts -- strained early transition metals and non-coordinating counterions -- have resulted in new commercial applications by Dow Chemical and by Exxon Chemical. The remarkable stereospecificity features of these new catalysts have not only led to a variety of new, advanced polymer products over a wide range of densities, but they also provide the ability to "turn a

microscope on" the underlying molecular mechanisms, thus leading to continually improved catalysts and products. The new polymers produced from these catalysts are found in wide-ranging applications from food wrapping to the plastic front end front bumper combinations on automobiles. The impact of these new products can be imagined from the Dow Insite process, which produces plastics with a market of about \$2,000,000,000 per year at Dow's Texas plant.

Joint Program Results in a New "Smart" Window. Windows with reduced transmission have been shown to be energy savers by reflecting some of the heat from solar radiation. However, such windows have fixed transmission that also reduces visible light. On a cloudy day a building or home equipped with such windows may not have adequate natural lighting. Research jointly supported by BES and the Department's Energy Efficiency program has led to the initial development of a self-powered "smart" window that can control its own transparency. Integration of two technologies, electrochromic windows and dye-sensitized solar cells, yields a smart window that darkens, reversibly, when exposed to sunlight.

Engineering and Geosciences Subprogram

Fast-Transport Predicted in Subsurface Fluids. Underground flow properties of fluids containing two or more components (oil(s)/water) are a major issue for environmental remediation. New experimental work documents how upward and downward flow of different fluids can be driven by differences in their density and their tendency to diffuse. Such transport occurs much more rapidly than has been predicted by earlier models. This new research developed innovative experimental methods to test the earlier predictions, and successfully measured and modeled the effects of multiphase flow in simple porous materials. This work is a significant step towards developing improved models to make better predictions for complex and highly variable natural subsurface environments.

Energy Biosciences Subprogram

New Sensor Provides Instant Litmus Test for Pathogens. A new class of colorimetric sensor materials has been invented that makes it possible to instantaneously and inexpensively detect a wide range of biological toxins and common disease-causing organisms. Building on earlier discoveries, researchers have developed a thin film consisting of receptor molecules attached to a film of linked diacetylene molecules. The film transmits blue light. The surface receptor molecules are designed to very selectively bind specific pathogens causing the film molecules to reorganize and the film to turn red. Pathogens thus far detected with good sensitivity include an influenza virus, cholera toxin, botulism toxin, and the toxin produced by the bacteria responsible for 200 deaths per year in the US alone, as noted by the recent contamination of fruit drinks and fast food hamburgers. Existing tests for all of these pathogens require at least a 24 hour culture. After further development, the sensors can be placed on plastic, paper, or glass and incorporated into inexpensive packaging and portable detection devices.

Silicon in Biology. Silicon is an element that is a principal component of glass, computer chips, coatings and numerous consumer products. There are only a few biological systems that metabolize this element. Silicon is metabolized by some simple animals, by algae to make the equivalent of glass houses, and by some higher plants (the rough feel of corn leaves comes from shards of silicates in the leaves). Recently a gene was identified that encodes a protein that is involved in binding and transporting silicon into a cell. This discovery will extend our understanding of how silicon is taken up and processed by biological systems which may lead to applications such as the mining of silicon from seawater and the manufacture of silicon-containing products.

Bioproduction of Natural Gas. The few microorganisms that possess the ability to produce methane (natural gas) have been studied for a number of years in the hope of using these organisms to produce a renewable energy source. Last year the genome of a methane-producing bacterium was sequenced which showed the uniqueness of these organisms. It is now thought that these bacteria are among the first life forms ever developed on earth. Recently, procedures have been developed which will permit the genes of methane-producing bacteria to be manipulated. This development will allow scientists to determine the nature and properties of these organisms and their unusual metabolism.

Controlling Natural Energy Resources through Plant Genetic Engineering. Cellulose is the most prevalent biological compound on earth. It is the principal component of all plants, wood, paper and cotton. When considered globally, cellulose constitutes an enormous supply of chemical energy, all of it renewable. Recently, several plants have been manipulated to make significantly less cellulose. This modification is important because it may now permit identification of the factors that control the synthesis and deposition of cellulose and related compounds. This development may permit the genetic engineering of plants to produce either more cellulose, or plants that produce larger amounts of other chemicals such as liquid fuels and plastics.