

ground in this rapidly growing area.

What of areas of opportunity? On the side of methods, particularly methods that give information at the molecular level, *in situ*, time-resolved methods to determine surface structure and composition (especially spectroscopic and scattering methods) and computer simulations continue to develop at an amazing rate. On the side of thematic problems, it seems clear that present emphasis on nonpolar polymers will become generalized in the future—to copolymers, charged polymers, water-soluble polymers, and polymers and surfactants with biological activity.

We conclude on a cautionary note. Surfaces, especially against solids, are typically heterogeneous (both in chemical composition and in topography)—not the uniform plane often assumed. In other words, chemical as well as topographical surface heterogeneity should be expected to be a fact of life. Given that most experimental data integrates over a large surface area, one must be aware that the measurement represents an average. In the future, advances in understanding may be expected from experimental probes of high lateral resolution, and also from deliberate control of the surface chemistry and topography.

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