The Project Place

Development of an Isotopic Periodic Table for the Educational Community

The objective of this project is to clarify the role of isotopes in chemistry and other sciences. With assistance from the Committee on Chemistry Education (CCE), this project and a follow-on project will develop learner-oriented materials on an interactive periodic table that emphasizes the existence of isotopes and the role of isotopic compositions of elements.

In order to capture the attention and interest of students and teachers at the primary, secondary, and tertiary educational levels, there is a need to make creative use of a wide range of media. Working with CCE, a periodic table will be developed that will provide a wide range of isotopic based information (e.g., number of stable and unstable isotopes, representative isotopic composition, and atomic weight values). Information, case studies, and other links about the application of isotopes to chemistry and other sciences will also be provided. CCE will provide input on topics of interest to students and will provide advice on the types of interactions, while other task group members will provide the scientific data. Advice will be sought on the best educational strategies to capture and hold students' attention. Both online and paper based versions of the materials will be developed.

For more information and comments, contact Task Group Chair Norman E. Holden <holden@bnl.gov>.

www.iupac.org/web/ins/2007-038-3-200

Provisional Recommendations

Provisional Recommendations are drafts of IUPAC recommendations on terminology, nomenclature, and symbols made widely available to allow interested parties to comment before the recommendations are finally revised and published in Pure and Applied Chemistry.

www.iupac.org/reports/provisional

Terminology for Radical Polymerizations with Minimal Termination—The So-Called "Living" and/or "Controlled" Radical Polymerization

This document defines terms related to modern methods of radical polymerization, in which certain additives react reversibly with the radicals, thus enabling the reactions to take on much of the character of living polymerisations. In recent technical literature, these reactions have often been referred to as, inter alia, "controlled" or "controlled/living" polymerizations. The phenomenon is defined, a name for it is recommended, and definitions are provided for the relevant basic terms.

Comments by 30 September 2008
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www.iupac.org/reports/provisional/abstract08/jenkins_300908.html

Dispersity

This recommendation defines just three terms, viz., molar-mass dispersity, degree-of-polymerization dispersity, and dispersity. "Dispersity" is a new word, coined to replace the misleading, but widely used term "polydispersity index." The document, although brief, also has a broader significance in that it seeks to put the terminology describing dispersions of distributions of properties of polymeric (and non-polymeric) materials on an unambiguous and justifiable footing.

Comments by 30 September 2008
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