

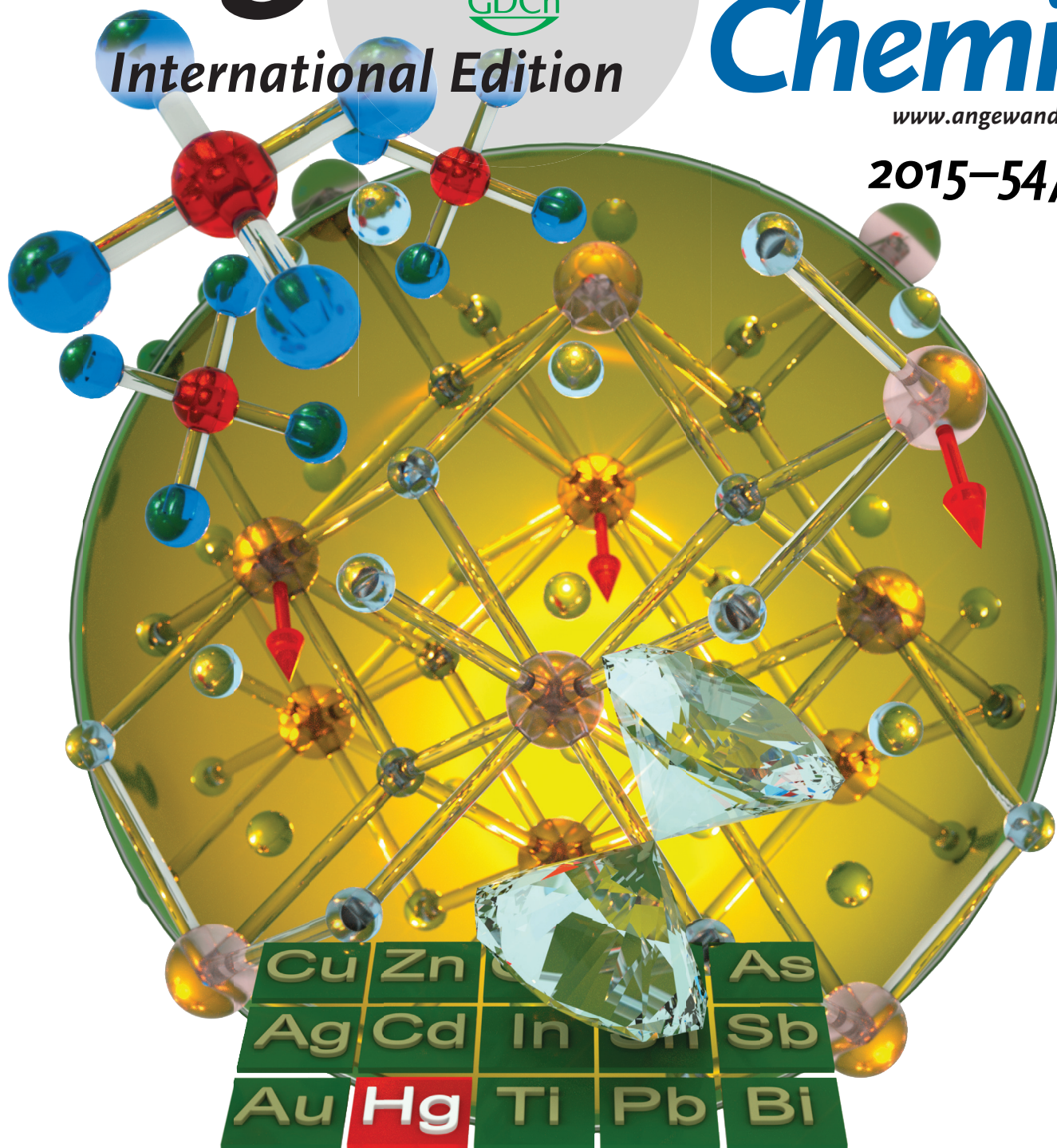
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## The 5d core electrons of Hg ...

... become active and involved in forming chemical bonds under high pressure. In their Communication on page 9280 ff., M.-S. Miao and co-workers show by means of first-principles calculations that Hg can form stable compounds of  $\text{HgF}_4$  and  $\text{HgF}_3$  under high pressure. The  $\text{HgF}_4$  molecular crystal consists of square-planar  $\text{HgF}_4$  molecules.  $\text{HgF}_3$  is an extended solid and exhibits exotic properties. It is metallic, ferromagnetic, and transparent to visible light.

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