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K. S. Birdi: Handbook of Surface and Colloid Chemistry, Second Edition (CRC Press, Boca Raton, London, New York, Washington, D. C., ISBN 0-8493-1079-2, acid-free paper, 765 pages, Price: 182 £)

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The second edition of the handbook brings the reader the most recent developments in surface and colloid chemistry. A unifying theme of information on surface and colloid chemistry is presented by a team of international experts on various subjects pertaining to this science. The book makes theoretical and experimental information on the systems related to surface and colloid chemistry readily available. Many questions about monomolecular films on solid surface are answered with the use of modern scanning probe microscopes (SPMs). The impact of the scanning tunneling microscope (STM) and the atomic force microscope (AFM) is depicted. Colloidal structures and their stability have been found to be of much interest, as described extensively in this second edition of the handbook. The theoretical basis of colloids and their stability is thoroughly described. Chemical

physics of colloidal systems and interfaces regarding surface tension of surfactant solution and capillarity, surface force due to intermolecular interactions, hydrodynamic forces originating from the viscosity and diffusion, kinetics of coagulation, foams containing oil drops and solid particulates, electrokinetic and optical properties of dispersions is described in detail with a bibliographical references well in excess of 1000. Nowadays colloids find applications in different systems: paints, cements, adhesives, photographic products, water purification, sewage disposal, emulsion, chromatography, oil recovery, the paper and print industry, microelectronics, soap and detergents, catalysts, food products, pharmaceutical products, and biology. Hence this handbook with extensive data in the form of tables and figures is very helpful for readers in the above branches.

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