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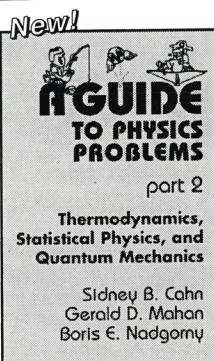
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relatively scarce, with calculation from much more abundant rotational dispersion data.

Through his own work and in important collaborations in the early 1960s with Carl Djerassi, Kurt M. Mislow and Robert B. Woodward, Moscovitz made major contributions to our understanding of the relation between the rotational strengths of electronic transitions and the structure of chiral molecules. A chromophore (the molecular group responsible for the transition) was classified either as chiral in its own right or as achiral, but chirally perturbed. In the latter case it proved possible to formulate a simple procedure, called the octant rule, for estimating the contribution of each part of the molecule to the rotational strength.

Together with his students and associates, Moscovitz calculated the rotational strengths required to test these ideas on a wide variety of molecules. He extended his calculations to magnetically induced circular dichroism, which can occur even in achiral species. In collaboration with John Overend, he developed a charge flow model of vibrational contributions to optical activity in the infrared region.

Although primarily a theorist, Moscovitz often worked with experimental colleagues, both in this country and abroad. Many of these collaborations were in biomedical areas. An example is his work on the structure of bile pigments, a joint project with David A. Lightner and the research group of Cecil J. Watson.

Albert Moscovitz was widely admired and respected by his many students, colleagues and friends for his altruism, integrity and humor, as well as for his extraordinary courage and endurance in the face of his final long-term illness. He retained his zest for science to the end; his last paper appeared only a month before his death.

**C. ALDEN MEAD
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Joseph John Loferski

Joseph John Loferski, noted for his pioneering work on the development of modern solar cells, died of cancer at 71 in Providence, Rhode Island, on 20 January 1997.

Born in Hudson, Pennsylvania, Loferski earned a BS in physics from the University of Scranton in 1948 and received his MS (1949) and PhD (1953) in physics from the University of Penn-

sylvania. From 1953 to 1960, he was on the technical staff of RCA Laboratories in Princeton, New Jersey, where he worked on p-n junction photovoltaic cells with Paul Rappaport. The early work of Loferski and other researchers on solar cells demonstrated that semiconductor devices might one day produce commercially competitive, pollution-free electricity.

In 1961, Loferski was appointed professor of engineering at Brown University, where he remained for the rest of his career. He served as chairman of the division of engineering from 1968 to 1974 and associate dean of the graduate school from 1980 to 1983. He was codirector of the Rhode Island Center for Thin Film and Interface Research, established in 1988, and became professor of engineering emeritus in 1990. At Brown, Loferski was a popular teacher and was deeply involved in the education reform processes.

Having been an exchange fellow at the Institute for Nuclear Research in Warsaw, Poland, from 1974 to 1975, Loferski served as science counsellor at the US embassy in Warsaw, from 1985 to 1987. In 1988, he was appointed one of four US members of the US-Poland Joint Commission on Cooperation in Science and Technology. At other times in his career, he served as a consultant to NASA, to other Federal agencies and also to the private sector.

Some of Loferski's papers have become classics. They cover such topics as calculations of limiting efficiencies for solar cells made from various semiconductors and include some of the earliest papers on spectral responses of cells, radiation damage and radiation hardening to gallium arsenide cells, tandem structure cells and the utilization of new semiconductor materials. Today, Loferski's steadfast faith that energy from the Sun would eventually play an important role in meeting our energy needs may be vindicated by the growing energy and environmental crisis.

Loferski was a man of many talents and wide interests who will be remembered with great affection. He treated his students generously, and his graduate students became his extended family. As the pastor said at his funeral, "Joseph Loferski was a man who acted justly, loved tenderly and worked humbly."

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