# Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY . . . . . 1

1 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS . . . . 3
Perspectives for Society: Applications, Implications, and Interfaces of Physics, 3
Scientific Synergy: The Scientific Interfaces of Physics, 4
Biological Physics, 5
Physics and Materials Science, 6
The Physics-Chemistry Interface, 7
Geophysics, 8
Mathematical Physics and Computational Physics, 10
Today's Science/Tomorrow's Technology: the Process of Innovation, 11
Progress in the Applications of Physics: Microelectronics, 13
Optical Technology, 15
Instrumentation, 16
Energy and Environment, 18

National Security, 20
Medical Applications, 21
Recommendations, 22

2 BIOLOGICAL PHYSICS . . . . . 26
Introduction, 26
Biological Macromolecules, 29
Experimental Methods of Molecular Biophysics, 32
Biophysics of Membranes and Cell Physiology, 38
Biophysics of Brain and Nerve, 42
Membrane Channels, 43
Organization of Brain and Memory, 46
Theoretical Biophysics, 47
Conclusions and Recommendations, 49

3 NEW ASPECTS OF THE PHYSICS-CHEMISTRY INTERFACE 53
Introduction, 53
Instrumentation-Driven Collaboration, 55
Laser Science, 55
Surface and Interface Probes, 56
Neutrons and Synchrotron Radiation, 59
Polymers and Complex Fluids, 61
Organic Electronic Materials, 63
Conducting Molecular Crystals, 63
Conjugated Polymers, 64
Molecular Assemblies, 65
Recommendations, 66
Education, 66
Academic Research, 67
Funding, 67
Summary, 68

4 PHYSICS AND MATERIALS SCIENCE . . . . 69
Introduction, 69
Historical Highlights, 71
The Physics/Materials-Science Interface, 74
New Materials, 75

New Processes, 77
Chemical Separation and Analysis, 78
Surfaces, 78
Defects, 79
Instrumentation, 80
Theory and Modeling, 80
Amorphous and Disordered Materials, 81
Metallurgical Microstructures, 85
Concluding Remarks, 90

5 GEOPHYSICS 91
Introduction, 91
Scientific Background, 93
Plate Tectonics, 93
The Earth as a Thermodynamic Engine, 93
Continental Deformation, 94
Geochemical Reservoirs, 95
The Atmosphere and Oceans, 97
Comparative Planetology, 99
The Moon, 99; Mars, 99; Venus, 100
Applications, 101
Hazards, 101
Seismicity, 101; Volcanic Eruptions, 101
Energy, 102
Fossil Fuels, 102; Nuclear Energy, 103;
Geothermal Energy, 103
Data Acquisition from Space, 104
National Security, 104
Future Directions of Research, 105
Seismic Studies of the Continents, 105
Deep Drilling in the Continents, 105
Global Digital Seismic Array, 105
Large-Scale Computing Facilities, 106
Studies of Crustal and Mantle Materials Under
High Pressure, 106
Remote Sensing from Space, 106
Other Geophysical Data Sets, 107

6 COMPUTATIONAL PHYSICS . . . . . 108
Introduction, 108

Theoretical Investigation of Complex Systems, 109
Elementary-Particle Physics, 110
Statistical Mechanics, 112
Condensed-Matter Theory, 112
Atomic and Molecular Physics, 113
Plasma Physics, 115
Nuclear Physics, 116
Physics of Fluids, 118
Astrophysics, 119
Gravitation Theory, 120
The Character of Computational Physics as Scientific Research, 120
Policy Implications and Recommendations, 123

7 THE INTERFACE BETWEEN PHYSICS AND MATHEMATICS 125
Introduction, 125
Field Theory and Mathematics, 126
Chaos at the Interface of Mathematics and Physics, 129

8 MICROELECTRONICS AND PHYSICS . . . . 134
Introduction, 134
From Transistor to Ultralarge-Scale Integration, 135
Decade of Very-Large-Scale Integration, 136
Symbiosis, 141
Other Technologies, 142
Gallium Arsenide, 142
Josephson Junctions—A Superconducting Computer? 145
Amorphous Semiconductors, 147
Scaling Down—Limits to Miniaturization, 147
Materials, 148
Interfaces and Surfaces, 150
Transport, 151
Packaging, 152
Magnetic Information Technology—Storing the Bits, 153

Magnetic Recording, 155
Magnetic Bubble Technology, 156
Magnetic-Optic Recording, 157
Into the Future, 158
What Next? 159

**9** APPLICATIONS OF PHYSICS TO OPTICAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES . . . . . 161
Introduction, 161
Optical Communications Technology, 163
Optical Communications System Components, 163
Evolving Systems Configurations, 171
Technological Challenges, 171
Fiber-Optic Sensor Technology, 172
Optical Information Processing, 173
Optical Memory, 173
Integrated Optics and Optoelectronics, 176
The Photonic Future: Today's Research for Tomorrow's Technology, 176
All-Optical Logic, 176
Slicing the Second: Fundamental Limits to High Speed, 181
Exotic Propagation Modes and Media, 182
Synergy Between Optical Science and Fundamental Physics, 183

**10** INSTRUMENTATION . . . . . 185

**11** APPLICATIONS OF PHYSICS TO ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION . . 197
Energy, 197
Condensed-Matter Physics and Solar-Energy Conversion, 198
Materials, 201
Fusion Energy, 202
Plasma-Surface Interactions, 202; Radiation Effects in Fusion Reactors, 203; Coherent Radiation Sources and Particle Acceleration Physics, 204; Inertial-Confinement Fusion, 204

The Role of Physics in Combustion Research, 205
Diagnostics for Combustion, 206; Fuel Preparation and Mixing, 206; Ignition, 206; Flame Propagation and Extinction, 206; Pollutant Formation, 206
Future Developments, 207
Environment, 208
Atmospheric Science, 208
Acid Rain, 208
Carbon Dioxide Concentration and the Greenhouse Effect, 210
Hydrospheric Studies, 212
Soil Physics, 213
Biota and Ecology, 213
Recommendations, 214

12 PHYSICS AND NATIONAL SECURITY . . . . 216
Introduction, 216
Examples of Recent Contributions of Physics to National Security, 217
Lasers and Their Applications, 218
Cyclotron Resonance Masers and Free-Electron Lasers, 219
Optical Fibers and Integrated Optics, 220
Accurate Clocks and Relativity Applications, 221
Applications of Ion Implantation, 221
Compound-Semiconductor Electronics, 223
Magnetic Bubble Memories, 223
Future Directions, 224
Sensing, Processing, and Deception, 224
Directed-Energy Weapons, 226
Low-Observables Technology, 227
Physics and Arms Control, 227
Enhancing the National-Security/Physics Interface, 229

13 MEDICAL APPLICATIONS OF PHYSICS . . . 236
Introduction, 236

Radiology, 237
Diagnostic Radiography, 238
Isotopes and Nuclear Medicine, 239
X-Ray Computed Tomography, 240
Positron Emission Tomography, 242
Ultrasonics, 243
Nuclear Magnetic Resonance, 245
Photonics and Medicine, 249
Lasers, 249
Fiber Optics in Endoscopes and Sensors, 251
Fluorescence Immunoassay, 253
Closing Remarks, 254
Recommendations, 255

INDEX 257