

Historical Perspective

- Beginning of the Material Science - People began to make tools from stone – Start of the Stone Age about two million years ago. Natural materials: stone, wood, clay, skins, etc.
- The Stone Age ended about 5000 years ago with introduction of Bronze in the Far East. Bronze is an **alloy** (a metal made up of more than one element), copper + < 25% of tin + other elements.

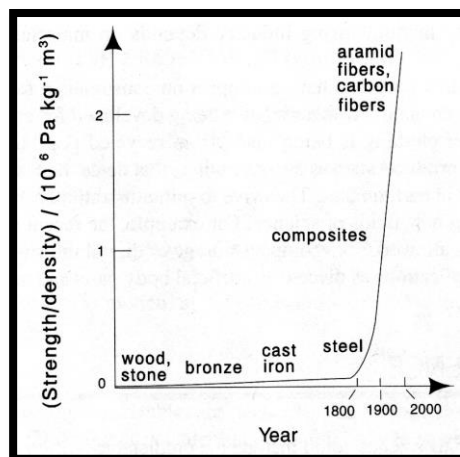
Bronze: can be hammered or cast into a variety of shapes, can be made harder by alloying, corrode only slowly after a surface oxide film forms.

- The Iron Age began about 3000 years ago and continues today. Use of iron and steel, a stronger and cheaper material changed drastically daily life of a common person.
- Age of Advanced materials: throughout the Iron Age many new types of materials have been introduced (ceramic, semiconductors, polymers, composites...).

Understanding of the **relationship among structure, properties, processing, and performance of materials**. Intelligent design of new materials.

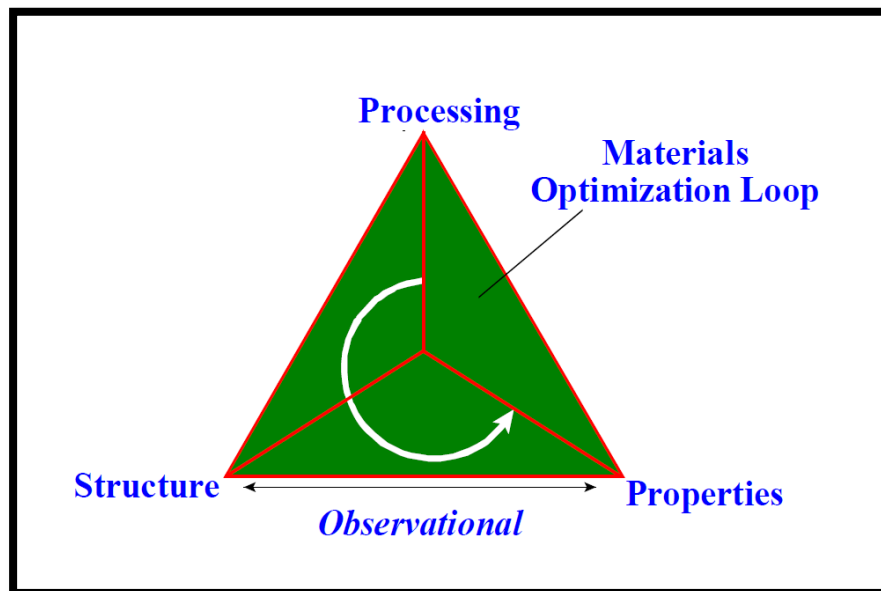
A better understanding of structure-composition –properties relations has lead to a remarkable progress in properties of materials.

Example is the dramatic progress in the strength to density ratio of materials, that resulted in a wide variety of new products, from dental materials to tennis racquets.



What is Materials Science and Engineering?

Material science is the investigation of the relationship among processing, structure, properties, and performance of materials.



Structure

Subatomic level :

Electronic structure of individual atoms that defines interaction among atoms (interatomic bonding).

Atomic level :

Arrangement of atoms in materials (for the same atoms can have different properties, e.g. two forms of carbon: graphite and diamond)

Microscopic structure :

Arrangement of small grains of material that can be identified by microscopy.

Macroscopic structure:

Structural elements that may be viewed with the naked eye.

Length-scales:

Angstrom = $1\text{\AA} = 1/10,000,000,000 \text{ meter} = 10^{-10} \text{ m}$

Nanometer = $10 \text{ nm} = 1/1,000,000,000 \text{ meter} = 10^{-9} \text{ m}$

Micrometer = $1\mu\text{m} = 1/1,000,000 \text{ meter} = 10^{-6} \text{ m}$

Millimeter = $1\text{mm} = 1/1,000 \text{ meter} = 10^{-3} \text{ m}$

- ❖ Interatomic distance ~ a few \AA
- ❖ A human hair is ~ $50 \mu\text{m}$
- ❖ Elongated bumps that make up the data track on a CD are ~ $0.5 \mu\text{m}$ wide, minimum $0.83 \mu\text{m}$ long, and 125 nm high

Types of Materials

Let us classify materials according to the way the atoms are bound together:

1.Metals: valence electrons are detached from atoms, and spread in an 'electron sea' that "glues" the ions together.

Strong, ductile, conduct electricity and heat well, are shiny if polished.

2.Semiconductors: the bonding is covalent (electrons are shared between atoms). Their electrical properties depend strongly on minute proportions of contaminants. Examples: Si, Ge, GaAs.

3.Ceramics: atoms behave like either positive or negative ions, and are bound by Coulomb forces. They are usually combinations of metals or semiconductors with oxygen, nitrogen or carbon (oxides, nitrides, and carbides). Hard, brittle, insulators. Examples: glass, porcelain.

4.Polymers: are bound by covalent forces and also by weak van der Waals forces, and usually based on C and H. They decompose at moderate temperatures (100 – 400 C), and are lightweight. Examples: plastics rubber.

Properties

Properties are the way the material responds to the environment and external forces.

Mechanical properties – response to mechanical forces, strength, etc.

Electrical and **magnetic** properties- response electrical and magnetic fields, conductivity, etc.

Thermal properties are related to transmission of heat and heat capacity.

Optical properties include to absorption, transmission and scattering of light.

Chemical stability in contact with the environment -corrosion resistance.

Future of materials science

Design of materials having specific desired characteristics directly from our knowledge of atomic structure.

- **Miniaturization:** “Nanostructured” materials, with microstructure that has length scales between 1 and 100 nanometers with unusual properties.

Electronic components, materials for quantum computing.

- **Smart materials:** airplane wings that adjust to the air flow conditions, buildings that stabilize themselves in earthquakes...

- **Environment-friendly materials:** biodegradable or photodegradable plastics, advances in nuclear waste processing, etc.

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- **Learning from Nature:** shells and biological hard tissue can be as strong as the most advanced laboratory-produced ceramics, molluscs produce biocompatible adhesives that we do not know how to reproduce.
 - Materials for lightweight batteries with high storage densities, for turbine blades that can operate at 2500°C, room-temperature superconductors? chemical sensors (artificial nose) of extremely high sensitivity, cotton shirts that never require ironing.