Comment

Reference Codes

A brief reference citation or "squib" is a string of characters used to identify a reference in a bibliographic database. It can be used in text the same way as reference numbers or author names to identify articles. The elements of the squib are year, author indicator, and suffix number.

The squib suggested by the ISTT Codata Task Group on Chemical Thermodynamic Tables contains usually 9 and, at most, 13 characters. Contents of their squib are as follows: (*a*) year, using two digits for the twentieth century, and four digits for years prior to 1900; (*b*) author, or first two authors, using the first three letters, in upper case (for computer use), of each last name (when two names are present, they are separated by a slash); and (*c*) suffix number, if needed, adding one or two digits to the code to distinguish among entries that would have the same reference code (when omitted, number is assumed to be one). This type of brief reference was used by Auer and Kienitz, *Landolt-Börnstein*, 6th ed., Vol. II, Part 4, p 569-687 (1961) and is being applied more and more in the physical properties data literature. For citations within your own field, it is fairly easy to guess from the squib which paper is being referenced.

The *Bulletin* uses a similar but more limited system, in which the first three letters, in upper and lower case, of the first author only, are used. This squib contains a maximum of nine characters. This is sufficient for small bibliographies, but there is more need for suffix numbers.

Examples of the two styles are shown below:

Author and year of reference	Codata	Bulletin
Westley (1975)	75WES	75Wes1
Westrum; Eyring (1975)	75WES/EYR	75Wes2
Berthelot (1885)	1885BER	1885Ber
Wu (1975)	75WU	75Wu1
Wu; Herbold (1975)	75WU/HER	75Wu2
Wu; Lu (1975)	75WU/LU	75Wu3
Wu; Lu (1975)	75WU/LU2	75Wu4

Above remarks by
David Garvin
National Bureau of Standards
and
I. Ansara
E.N.S.E.E.G., St. Martin d'Hères, France

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We invite your comments on this or any other topic.
—*Editor*

Addenda

Atomic Weight

The best value for ^{2}H (deuterium) is 2.0141018 ± 1 [77Wap]. For convenience, it may be added to the table that accompanies the "Atomic Weights of the Elements" tear-out periodic chart in Vol. 1, No. 2 of the *Bulletin*.

Reference

77Wap: A. H. Wapstra and K. Bos, "The 1977 Atomic Mass Evaluation", Atomic Data and Nuclear Data Tables, *19*(3), 175 (Mar 1977).

Properties of Cerium

The values of metallic radius for the allotropes of cerium given on page 234 in Vol. 2, No. 2 of the *Bulletin* are labeled as nanometers, although they are actually in Angstroms. To change them to nanometers, the decimal points for all six values should be moved one place to the left.

Properties of Iron

The values for the lattice parameters and atomic volumes of high-temperature iron phases given on page 224 in Vol. 3, No. 2 of the *Bulletin* are inaccurate. The correct values are provided in the table below. Dr. L. J. Swartzendruber wishes to thank Prof. J. P. Neumann, University of Alabama, for bringing this to his attention.

Lattice Parameters and Atomic Volumes

Temperature, °C	Volume, cm^3/mol	Lattice parameter, nm *a*
912	7.38	0.2904
912	7.31	0.3647
1394	7.56	0.3688
1394	7.59	0.2932
1538	7.66	0.2941
1538	7.94	···

Venn Diagram

In the Venn diagram shown in the Editor's Corner on page 280 in Vol. 3, No. 3 of the *Bulletin*, the area represented by the letter T possesses *translational* symmetry. Accordingly, the riddle question should read: What is the solid structure called that has long-range order but no *translational* symmetry?