

Phenomenology of Multiferroic Effects

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The chronology of the discovery and understanding of various multiferroic effects (piezoelectric, piezomagnetic, magnetoelectric, etc...) will be recalled. The specific features of the phenomenological theory of these effects will be underlined and concrete examples of materials undergoing multiferroic effects will be discussed. The importance of symmetry considerations for predicting the existence and critical properties of multiferroic materials will be stressed. The possibility of disclosing multiferroic effects in high- T_c superconductors will be briefly discussed.