The strength of this book lies in the chapters on instrumentation and solution kinetics. Here the author draws from his scientific experience and convincingly shows how a general knowledge in physical chemistry is applied to obtain experimentally reliable information and theoretically sound interpretations.

The digressions in some of the introductory remarks of the individual chapters are doubtless a matter of taste. For example, the comparison of chemical kinetics with a road between two cities that are separated by a small or a tall mountain seems—from the reviewer's point of view—a bit too simplistic.

In addition, some misleading statements in the theoretical chapters should be eliminated in the next edition. For example, in one section a catalyst is described as "shifting the equilibrium to the right." However, catalysts increase the rate at which equilibrium is attained, but do not effect its position.

To summarize, it can be said that Streng's book covers compactly a wide variety of theoretical and practical aspects of characterizing compounds of pharmaceutical relevance using physicochemical methods. It will be most beneficial to readers who plan to set up their own experimental investigations to characterize compounds in solution.

*Reviewed by Heinz Gamsjäger, Montanuniversität Leoben, Austria.*

http://www.wkap.nl/prod/b/0-306-46595-7

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Dávid Kozma (Ed.)
*CRC Press*, September 2001, pp. 800.
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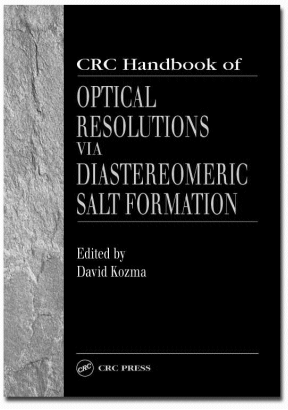


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