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SHORT COMMUNICATION

Contributions intended for publication under this heading should be expressly so marked; they should not exceed about 1000 words; they should be forwarded in the usual way to the appropriate Co-editor; they will be published as speedily as possible.

Acta Cryst. (1983). **B39**, 399

Atom distributions in sigma phases. II. Erratum. By H. L. YAKEL, *Metals and Ceramics Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, PO Box X, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830, USA*

(Received 14 February 1983)

Abstract

A printer's error is corrected. In Fig. 2 of the paper by Yakel [*Acta Cryst.* (1983), **B39**, 28–33] the lowest of the three bar
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graphs shown for the iron distributions should be diagonally lined to match the description in the figure legend.

The *Abstract* contains all relevant details.

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Book Reviews

Works intended for notice in this column should be sent direct to the Book-Review Editor (J. H. Robertson, School of Chemistry, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, England). As far as practicable books will be reviewed in a country different from that of publication.

Acta Cryst. (1983). **B39**, 399–400

Geometrical and structural crystallography. By J. V. SMITH. Pp. xiii + 450. London: John Wiley, 1982. Price £18.75.

I enjoyed this book; insofar as the author ends his preface with the words 'Enjoy yourself too', he has plainly succeeded in his aims in respect of at least one reader. It is a beautifully produced, well written and clearly illustrated account of classical crystallography of the sort normally associated with mineralogy courses. The treatment of the topics covered is

thorough, and a particularly appealing feature is the inclusion of copious exercises at the end of each chapter.

The book begins with a treatment of packing considerations, and from this develops the ideas of pattern, unit cell and crystal shape and symmetry, introducing in two dimensions concepts later treated more fully in three. Polyhedra and crystal drawing are thoroughly and clearly treated, and finally the reader is gently led towards a full discussion of space-group considerations. At each stage the concepts are illustrated by reference to real structures (generally of mineralogical significance) and the author is always careful to introduce the relevant physical picture before filling in the mathematical background.