

As in previous editions, the enzymes are grouped on the basis of the type of reaction they catalyse with recommended (trivial), other, and systematic names included. All entries are in numerical order. Comments are included with each entry and although they do not give a complete account of the enzyme, any unusual features are noted. Each entry is accompanied by one or more references. Although it is not a complete bibliography and does not necessarily contain the first published reference to an enzyme, the references do contain sufficient information to establish the existence of the enzyme that catalyses the reaction described.

This is a book which is essential for any library in an establishment where enzymolysis is carried out. The information contained within it will be of use not only to those working on the isolation and characterisation of enzymes but also to those who utilise enzymes in the course of their work.

J. F. Kennedy
L. L. Lloyd

ChemWindow Version 2.1. SoftShell International, USA/Cherwell Scientific Ltd, Oxford, UK. Price £399.00 (educational discount available).

Today's scientist is faced not only with the problem of obtaining high quality data but also of presenting research results in a professional manner to fellow scientists. Although with the multitude of word processing and desk top publishing packages this task has become easier, publication-quality chemical structures are not easily produced with general packages.

ChemWindow is a programme which runs on an IBM or compatible PC equipped with at least a 286 CPU, 2 MB RAM, hard disc drive, and Microsoft Windows 3.0 or above for drawing publication-quality black and white structures. Installation is quickly accomplished and, being menu-driven, the programme is quick and easy to learn. The manual is well produced, as are the

tutorials, and enable even the novice to quickly produce chemical structures. On-line help and multi-step undo commands and eraser are also useful.

With the increased understanding of carbohydrate structures, two-dimensional representations together with indication of molecular shape have become even more important as a means of communication. ChemWindow is applicable to carbohydrates as much as other chemical structures. There are a number of features which make this package particularly attractive. A disc containing over 300 predrawn structures is supplied free of charge to all registered users and includes hexoses, pentoses and several disaccharides. Even if the actual structure required is not included in the templates, an analogous structure can often be quickly modified using the graphics handling tools. Even if no such template is available, the chemical building blocks; rings, bonds, arrows, acyclic chains, arcs, curves, and labels can be quickly assembled. The template so produced can then be easily manipulated using flip, rotate, join, group, align, and duplicate commands to obtain the required structure. The scrap-book facility enables the complete drawing or part thereof to be saved and accessed for future use. A structure should only ever need to be drawn once. In addition to individual structures, reaction schemes and annotated chemical structures can also be obtained with multiple fonts, styles and sizes for labels and captions. The completed diagram can be saved in WMF, EPS, or WPG file formats for incorporation in other Windows based packages. A molecular mass calculator is also included in the package.

With the scaling feature included in this package, it is possible to produce not only structures suitable for research papers and reports but also, by enlargement, artwork from which slides or overheads can be produced. This versatility combined with the ease of use makes the package extremely useful. It is highly recommended for those who publish/present/teach.

Linda L. Lloyd
John F. Kennedy