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Book Reviews

CHEMICAL METHODS IN GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY by V. G. Berezkin, *Journal of Chromatography Library*, 24, Elsevier Science Publishers Co. Inc., P.O. Box 1663, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163, USA (for the USA & Canada) ISBN-0-444-41951-9, Price: \$73.25 (USA & Canada) Dfl. 190.00 (Rest of the World).

Several books and reviews have been published in the field of reaction gas chromatography. The advantage of this book is that it provides detailed information on this entire field.

The book starts discussing the different derivatization methods for the preliminary treatment of samples for analysis. The main methods to obtain derivatives for GC are summarized and applications for many classes of substances are shown.

An other part of it deals with pyrolysis-gas chromatographic methods. The equipment and the experimental procedure which can be used are reviewed in great detail. The many areas of application of pyrolysis GC are extensively reviewed, i.e., for the determination of the composition and structure of copolymers and polymer systems and also identification of polymers for drugs and microorganisms.

A chapter is dedicated to applications of reaction GC methods for elemental analysis. With different methods, carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, sulphur, oxygen and some other elements can be determined. Reaction methods are also used for trace and functional group analysis.

Other coherent subjects which are mentioned are kinetic methods in GC, determination of the carbon skeleton in organic compounds, subtraction methods and the use of chemically selective stationary phases.

The book illustrates how widely chemical methods are used in gas chromatography. It is especially useful for someone who wants to get a broad grasp of the area and profit from the wealth of information. The price is somewhat prohibitive if only selected areas are of concern. As a negative aspect one has to mention that the latest references date back to 1978–1979. Obviously producing a book from a Russian author causes some delay time. Nevertheless, the book can be recommended as a valuable source of information for scientists moving into this area.

F. MARIS