

Book Reviews

Enzymes. A Practical Introduction to Structure, Mechanism, and Data Analysis. Second Edition.

By Robert A. Copeland. Wiley-VCH, New York. 2000. xvi + 397 pp. 16 × 24.5 cm. ISBN 0-471-35929-7. \$99.95.

If I were to describe this text in one word, I would say that it is *thorough*. In some places it is just a little too thorough. It contains all of the elements that one would expect: enzyme mechanisms, kinetics, and inhibition. But the introductory chapter delves into quantum numbers and orbital configurations, subjects that are not used later in the text. Chapter 7 devotes space to chromatography, which probably does not belong in this text. The appendix listing computer software and web sites seems to be a good idea, but it is not very practical. Software tends to have a short shelf life, and most of the web addresses listed are already gone.

The treatment of binding, catalysis, kinetics, and various kinds of inhibition is all that one would expect in a text for graduate or advanced undergraduate students. The graphs are generally large, clear, and well-labeled. Each chapter has a list of references and further reading, which is important because “enzymes” is a huge topic to cover in 400 pages. The examples chosen to illustrate the topics are usually very practical ones. Overall, this is a good text for those interested in enzyme mechanisms and kinetics.

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