



ELSEVIER

Journal of Power Sources 93 (2001) 285

JOURNAL OF
**POWER
SOURCES**

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Book review

Fuel Cell Systems Explained

James Larminie, Andrew Dicks (Eds.), Wiley, Chichester, Weinheim, New York, Brisbane, Singapore and Toronto, ISBN 0-471-49026-1

Interest in fuel cells is currently at an all-time high, and for the many scientists and engineers with no prior experience of fuel cells but wishing to become au fait with the topic this book provides a good introduction.

The authors have adopted a sound teaching style with the important factors emphasized by careful explanation and by a well-judged use of repetition. The book has a sensible structure covering an initial introduction to the basic principles of fuel cells, followed by the explanation of the fundamental thermodynamics and electrochemistry that are necessary to an understanding of the operation and limitations of fuel cells. The different types of fuel cells are introduced in a logical sequence following their respective operating temperatures. The important matters of fuel

selection and methods of fuel preparation are thoroughly treated, and coverage of the technology necessary for the implementation of fuel cell systems is completed by surveys of ancillary equipment and of power conversion and use.

It is a pity that the publisher has failed to remove the type of printing blemishes that are not picked up by 'spell check' and to polish grammar that occasionally lacks rigour. Nevertheless, the book will be successful in providing a wealth of valuable information in a format that will lead newcomers to the subject to a good understanding of fuel cells and fuel cell systems.

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