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**A review of: “Steric Exclusion Liquid Chromatography of Polymers”, Josef Janca, ed., Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York and Basel, 1984, 329 pp., \$55.00(US)”**

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BOOK REVIEWS

"STERIC EXCLUSION LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPHY OF POLYMERS", Josef Janca, ed., Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York and Basel, 1984, 329 pp., \$55.00 (US).

This volume is another compilation of a type which has become popular in the last few years; that is, a series of chapters covers specific areas of a broader subject, each chapter written by a recognized authority in that area. The editor has done an excellent job of coordinating and assembling the material. Cross references among the various chapters are frequent and, as a result, the reader benefits from a review which is more coherent than many reviews of this type.

The book is divided into seven chapters as follows:

1. Principles of Steric Exclusion Chromatography.
2. Calibration of Separation Systems.
3. Correction of Axial Dispersion.
4. Effect of Experimental Conditions.
5. Use for Polymer Analysis.
6. Automatic Data Treatment.
7. Precision and Accuracy of Results.

As described by the contents above, this is not a "how to do it" book for the practitioner, but is a serious attempt to present to the reader an up-to-date review of the fundamental aspects of steric exclusion chromatography. As such, it fills a void in the published literature. The extensive reference list for each section should also be very useful.

For the most part, the various authors have done an excellent job of presenting to the reader the existing state of the method. The chapters on calibration, experimental conditions and polymer analysis are especially well written and informative.

If there is any criticism to be given, in several instances the authors present conflicting opinions or alternate explanations taken from the literature with no attempt to evaluate or express an opinion as to which may be the more correct. Perhaps this was done intentionally, but it is especially distracting in the chapter on "Correction for Axial Dispersion."

This book is especially recommended to polymer researchers and chromatographers who, in order to fully utilize the information available from the analysis, need to have a thorough understanding of the principles and mechanisms involved in size exclusion chromatography of polymers and oligomers.

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