

## Additions and Corrections

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**Radical and Concerted Mechanisms in Oxidations of Amines, Sulfides, and Alkenes by Peroxynitrite, Peroxynitrous Acid, and the Peroxynitrite-CO<sub>2</sub> Adduct: Density Functional Theory Transition Structures and Energetics** [*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1996**, *118*, 13002]. K. N. HOUK,\*  
KEVIN R. CONDROSKI, AND WILLIAM A. PRYOR

The one-electron reduction potential of HOONO was erroneously estimated relative to the two-electron reduction potential of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. Since the electron affinity of HOONO is calculated to be 0.6 eV larger than that of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and the aqueous reduction potential of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> is -0.03 V (Stanbury, D. *Adv. Inorg. Chem.* **1989**, *33*, 125), the estimated reduction potential of HOONO should be 0.6 V. We thank Professor D. Stanbury for this insight.

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S0002-7863(97)05401-2

## Computer Software Reviews

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**KR OnDisc Encyclopedia of Physical Science and Technology, 2E CD-ROM.** Academic Press, Inc.: 525 B Street, Suite 1900, San Diego, California 92101-4495. Tel: 619-699-6410. \$2995.00. ISBN 0-12-000200-0. 1995.

This encyclopedia is produced on two CD-ROMs and has the following hardware requirements for installation on PCs: 386 or higher CPU; MS-DOS 3.3 or higher; Microsoft Windows 3.1 (or Windows 95 for Personal Librarian v. 4.15); 2 MB of RAM (4 MB or more is recommended); EGA or higher video adapter (VGA highly recommended); 8-10 MB free hard disk space for creation of temporary file; mouse; and color monitor. The Macintosh version requires a minimum of Mac Classic II and System 7 with 4 MB RAM. The Install program on the CD-ROM is straightforward and modifies the AUTOEXEC.BAT file automatically after renaming the old file to AUTOEXEC.BAK. The encyclopedia is easier to use if the CD-ROMs are in a CD-ROM tower or in daisy-chained drives because switching the discs is time consuming and can become annoying after extended use with only a single drive.

The content of these KR Information OnDisc CD-ROMs is equivalent to the complete 18 volume print version of the *Academic Press Encyclopedia of Physical Science and Technology*, 2nd ed. Each of the more than 700 articles includes a table of contents, glossary, subject text, and references, and each is signed by its specialist author. The print version of the second edition appeared in 1992 and, like the 1987 first edition, is well regarded as an excellent background or review source written at a fairly sophisticated level. All areas of the physical sciences and technology are represented in the articles.

It is possible to browse the Table of Contents alphabetically as one could the print encyclopedia. For direct access to specific topics, the CD-ROM product, first released in 1995, uses Personal Librarian full-text retrieval software as its search engine. The Personal Librarian search software permits "natural language" searching rather than requiring formal Boolean search statements, although full Boolean searching is supported for users who prefer more precision from their searches. Most users will discern how to browse from the table of contents or perform a basic search intuitively from the screen layout and will not require lengthy explanations or study of the User's Guide.

The search results screen display shows the total number of relevant records found, the title and author of the articles, and a bar graph depicting the relative relevance of the articles. The user can open an article by double-clicking on the title or double-clicking on its bar in the graph. The bar graph gives a helpful representation of article relevance and can keep the user from unproductive browsing through a long list of results.

The software offers several ways to redefine or redirect a search through advisors on the search screen. Clicking on the "relate" advisor

generates a list of words that seem statistically related to the search words by co-occurrence within articles. The "fuzzy match" advisor identifies words that are spelled similarly to a search word, e.g., color and colour.

The CD-ROMs contain two versions of the database. One is a straight text version with few equations (no superscripts or subscripts) and no diagrams shown. The other is an image file built from the pages of the printed encyclopedia with full diagrams and equations shown. There are hypertext links on the text pages to take one quickly to the corresponding full-image page.

While the content of the encyclopedia is of high quality and the search software works smoothly, portions of the user interface would not function on the machines we used for testing. The encyclopedia was installed on a 486SX running Windows 3.1 and on a Pentium running Windows 95. In both systems, the software failed to print a report when asked. After several calls to a technical support number, we were finally able to print an image file representing pages from the printed encyclopedia but were not able to print a results list or a simple text version of an article.

The User's Guide accompanying the discs appeared hastily produced and was less helpful than expected since it did not match the version of the software it accompanied. (The User's Guide warned that the included Personal Librarian v. 4.11 would *not* work with Windows 95. During installation the CD-ROM identified the software as Personal Librarian v. 4.15 which Technical Support said would work with Windows 95.) Also, several pages of the User's Guide were printed out of order and the title of the encyclopedia varied from chapter to chapter. The inconsistencies in this User's Guide make it difficult to use successfully.

The printed *Academic Press Encyclopedia of Physical Science and Technology* has a very good reputation as a reference work. Similarly, Personal Librarian has a reputation as a good text-indexing and retrieval package. Unfortunately, it appears that the two products were hastily put together without the attention needed to produce a fully working electronic product and a helpful User's Guide. The potential of a CD-ROM encyclopedia with full-text search capability is very appealing, but the reality of this version does not meet expectations. We would recommend buying the printed encyclopedia rather than an expensive CD-ROM version if the printing and documentation issues are not resolved successfully.

Carol Gill and Michael P. Doyle, *Trinity University*

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S0002-7863(96)05922-7