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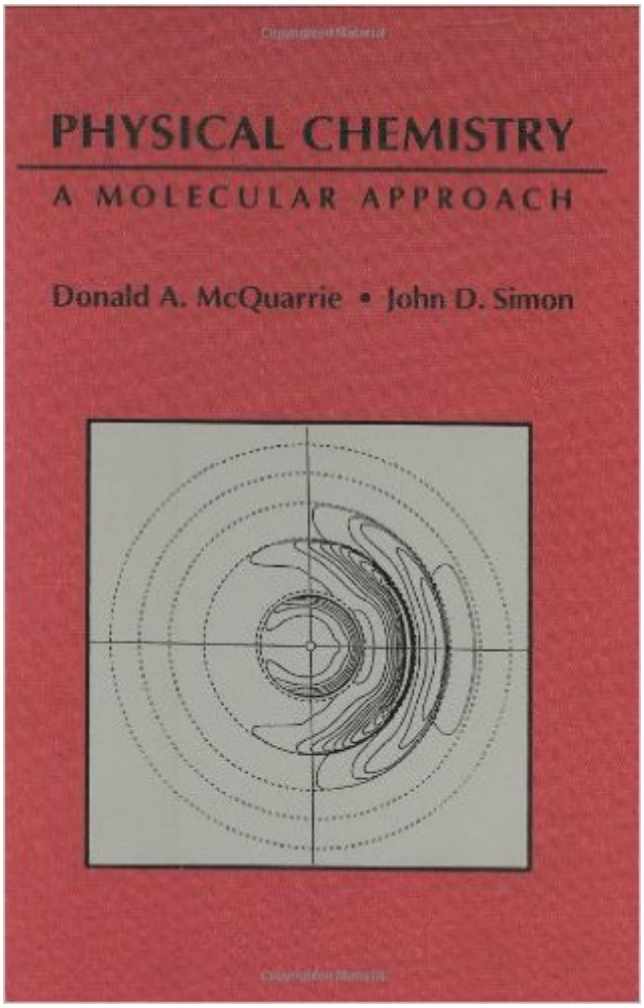
Physical Chemistry: A Molecular Approach



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Synopsis

As the first modern physical chemistry textbook to cover quantum mechanics before thermodynamics and kinetics, this book provides a contemporary approach to the study of physical chemistry. By beginning with quantum chemistry, students will learn the fundamental principles upon which all modern physical chemistry is built. The text includes a special set of "MathChapters" to review and summarize the mathematical tools required to master the material Thermodynamics is simultaneously taught from a bulk and microscopic viewpoint that enables the student to understand how bulk properties of materials are related to the properties of individual constituent molecules. This new text includes a variety of modern research topics in physical chemistry as well as hundreds of worked problems and examples.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I had the good fortune of having Donald McQuarrie as a Professor for 5 Physical Chemistry courses while I was an undergrad at Indiana University (2 undergrad semsters and 3 graduate semesters). (He is now at UC Davis). His clarity and skills of being a classroom teacher was awesome. In the intervening years, I had forgotten a lot of what I had known in PChem - in spite of having gotten a PhD in the subject from Cal Berkeley. (Industry does that to one).Now that my interests coincide with relearning the subject, I was turned off by the textbooks that I had. In searching for a text, I noticed McQuarrie had written one. I decided that it was definately worth checking out. Upon reading it - it became obvious that all those years of teaching the subject had paid off. The clarity in

approaching the subject was set to print!What is great about his text is: 1) Totally self contained. The math needed for a particular subject is put into interleafing chapters on a "just in time basis." I can see how that might be a turnoff for someone whose math skills are sharp, advanced and current. On the otherhand, for folks that need a refresher (like myself) or had limited exposure to the subject - It is right there, right now, no hunting around needed. 2) Comprehensive. YOU DO NOT NEED ANOTHER TEXT. If you have the misfortune of having a class where the Professor has chosen another text this would be THE supplemenatry text (though at [price] new there would be an 'ouch' factor). 3) BREAKS PARADIGMS. If you look at almost any other text on Physical Chemistry (Barrow or Atkins or .....), the Table of Contents is identical - the subject is taught in the order the historical discoveries where made.

[NOTE: This is a revised version of an earlier review titled, "Not undergraduate-friendly; buy the solutions manual." My opinion of this text has changed considerably over the years since I was first exposed to it (and to physical chemistry itself), and I feel I was not fair with my first, rather critical, review. At the time, I gave the text 3 stars, something I frankly thought was being charitable.]I first studied physical chemistry in college nearly four years ago, and at the time, I must confess that I absolutely hated this book. I think my primary source of frustration was really with my foreign professor, who had very poor English skills--and, I suspect, poor teaching skills, in any language. Having been spoiled the year before by a truly outstanding organic chemistry professor and an equally outstanding textbook (Wade's, which I highly recommend for undergraduates), I was not accustomed to using a textbook as my primary source of information. Physical chemistry, then, was something of a rude awakening for me. I certainly didn't appreciate the change in professors, but probably more so, I totally missed the fundamental importance of physical chemistry to the broader discipline. My impression of the subject, at first brush, was of a useless exercise in complexity, something condescending PhD's conjured up to torture undergraduates with. In hindsight, this attitude kept me from appreciating the beauty of the subject, and fostered an intense loathing for this colossal, 1400-page red monstrosity. I am somewhat embarrassed to admit that my previous review was little more than another tirade by a frustrated student blaming his professor and his textbook for all of his problems. At the end of the year, I sold my text back to the bookstore for whatever pittance they offered me.

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