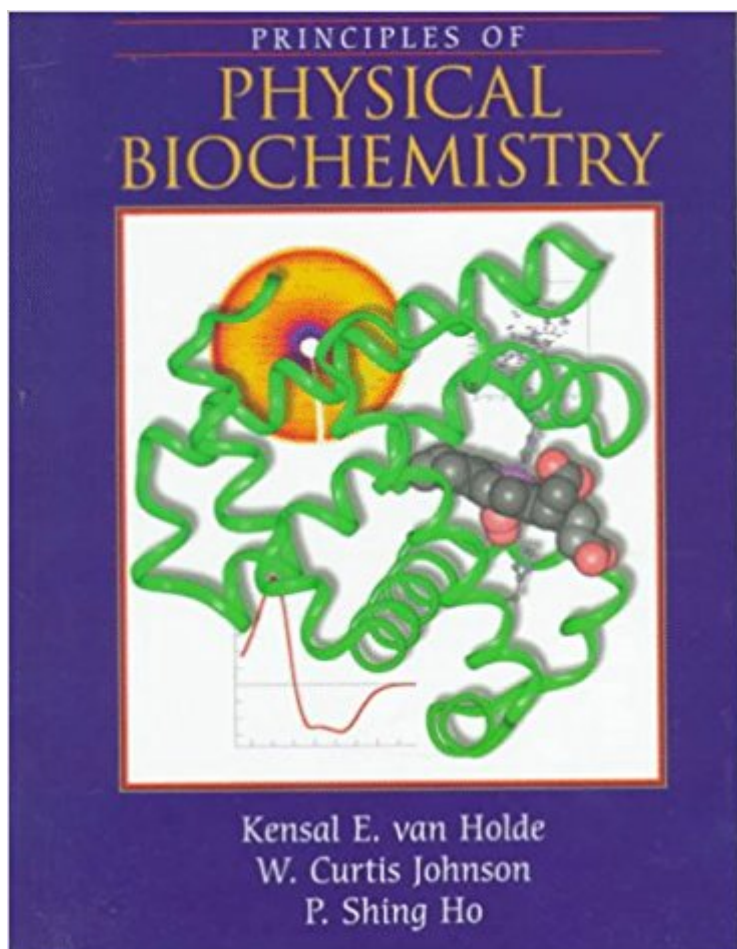


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Principles Of Physical Biochemistry



Synopsis

This book offers the most up-to-date look at the theory and techniques used in the study of the physical chemistry of biological and biochemical molecules. Ken van Holde is one of the leading experts in biophysical chemistry and a well-known author (he is coauthor of an introductory biochemistry book). Comprehensive coverage of all physical techniques currently used by practicing biochemists, including. Up-to-date treatment of NMR and X-ray diffraction. Comprehensive coverage of other types of spectroscopy.

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I'm a graduate student in Physical Chemistry, and from my point of view Principles of Physical Biochemistry is a great book and a welcomed addition to my library! I can see how many students and reviewers can rate this book as negative without the proper preparation. As a matter of fact, most graduate students in Chemistry (organic, inorganic, analytical, materials,...) majors found this book and course to be very difficult and challenging. Let's face it, physical chemistry and all of its sub-disciplines ARE mathematical, and require extensive knowledge of physics. To comprehend and appreciate the material and scope of this book you need to be comfortable with single & multivariable calculus, differential equations (basic understanding of separation of variables; understanding how solutions to D.E.'s are applicable to the equation itself), basic linear algebra (matrix operation, inverse matrix, determinants, etc..), and vector analysis (vector integration, multiplication, etc..). It's not that the math is overwhelming or difficult, but you have to be comfortable with it in the sense that you can understand the basic structure of the equations presented. In addition, you need two semesters of undergraduate physical chemistry or physics courses that have taught statistical mechanics, classical thermodynamics, non-relativistic quantum mechanics (the Schrödinger equation, Dirac's bra and ket formalism, perturbation theory, eigenvalue problems, and so forth), physical kinetics, and some exposure to x-ray structure analysis (Bragg equation, reciprocal space, vector analysis, Fourier analysis). To those students taking a course of this nature not familiar with the physics or mathematics-this isn't the place to be learning prerequisites for the material presented. With the mentioned preparation this book becomes very accessible! It's geared more for graduate students or advanced undergraduates that are specializing in physical chemistry, chemical physics, and so forth. This is the audience that this book is geared for and I'm sure it's the audience that find this book very straight forward (well, at least I did). So, if you're in theoretical or physical chemistry, or any other of the physical sciences, this is your book. If you don't enjoy physics and its application to chemical systems stay away.

The spine of the book had writing on it. One of the pages...that has been found so far has explicit writing all over it. It is even covering part of the text. This isn't professional. Not a book I want on my bookshelf or use for a graduate class.

Great text for introductory courses, with decent illustrations, and condensed but clear information.

Lacking in the hydrodynamics and spectroscopy portions compared to other biophys textbooks.

delivered as promised

Quality was much under my expectations. Several of the pages were already coming off the binding when I first opened it.

I have only been using this book for a few weeks for my undergraduate Biophysics class and I already hate it. It is extremely wordy, does not do a good job at highlighting the key concepts, is difficult to find a specific topic that you are interested in, is inconsistent with itself (it will vary the name that it calls a specific theory or equation), and has an index that is far from helpful. I spend more time flipping through the chapter trying to figure out where the topic is than the homework problem references than I do actually solving the problem. I only give it 2 stars instead of 1 because it does contain a lot of information. That information is presented in a way that makes it extremely difficult to learn from and produces a lot of frustration on the part of the reader. If you are a professor reading this, please find a different book. Your students will thank you.

If you are looking for a good physical chemistry textbook at a graduate study level, this is a good one.

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