comes in a brand that is predicated on knowledge and understanding. To wit, the book concludes with a play written by Bohr's students which was performed in 1932 in Copenhagen. It is a spoof of Goethe's Faust: Pauli (Mephistopheles) tries to seduce a reluctant Ehrenfest (Faust) with the idea of a weightless neutrino (Gretchen).

Gamow's world is intellectually demanding, but also one that is very much alive, honourable, and fun. A world to which he makes us want to belong.

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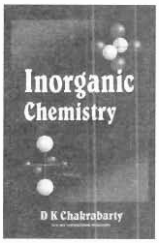
Inorganic Chemistry

K C Patil



Inorganic Chemistry
D K Chakraborty
New Age International Publishers
New Delhi, p.383, 2003
ISBN: 81-224-1462-1

Inorganic chemistry deals with the preparation, properties and applications of a hundred odd elements (metals and non-metals) and their compounds. Modern inorganic chemistry has experienced an impressive renaissance due to the recent developments in organometallics, bioinorganic and solid state chemistry. Particularly, advances in structure, bonding and reactivity of inorganic solids have been spectacular.

The present book on inorganic chemistry by D K Chakraborty is aimed at meeting the requirements of undergraduate students (BSc level) of Indian universities. It contains 18 chapters similar to 18 groups in the modern periodic table of elements. Twelve chapters are devoted to hard-core inorganic chemistry like the periodic table; s, p, d and f block elements; acids-bases; oxidation-reduction; coordination compounds (complexes); organometallics and bioinorganic chemistry. The remaining six chapters describe the structure of the atom, bonding, electronic spectra and magnetic properties. The subject is dealt with scholarly and clearly with suitable illustrations. Solved problems and exercises at the end of each chapter help the students to understand the subject better.

The book though well written, contains mistakes in formulae, balanced equations and structures which could have been avoided with careful proof reading. Particularly the absence of groups 17 and 18 in the periodic table (p.31, *Figure* 2.2) is quite glaring. The Bibliography on inorganic chemistry texts is incomplete without the reference to standard books by James E Hugheey and T Moeller.

In summary, the author has succeeded in achieving his goal of providing an excellent textbook of Inorganic Chemistry to Indian students at an affordable price.

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