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Review of a good Inorganic book for undergraduate study

Here’s where I’m coming from: I came to graduate school with no background in inorganic chemistry. Here’s where I am now: I learned a LOT about the lower half of the periodic table. I never ventured below silicon in my years of chemistry. Here’s what I was missing out on: ALL d orbital interactions! Other than using a metal catalyst for autoclaving or other reduction, metals that were not group I or II weren’t even considered.

Organic chemistry is great, there is a ton of interactions to study, mechanisms to research, products to predict. But that’s not chemistry has to offer.

I first look through the table of contents and I get the feeling that this is prepared for more of an elementary audience. Atomic structure, structure and bonding, lewis acids!?! I would hope that these subjects would have been covered before entering a graduate inorganic class. In fact, it was ASSSUMED that I knew these subjects before starting this class.

I’m disappointed that this book does not have questions in it. I learned a lot from answering questions, for, at times, I can read anything but not soak it up unless tested. I also think about the topics I studied this semester, for instance symmetry. This text has less than 6 pages on the subject of symmetry operations and point groups! I think of all the functions that required the use of character tables this semester. Even my final paper required the use of character tables.

It would be nice to have some topics of modern instrumentation, just to keep up with the times. DMA could use this too.

Great organization of the text, though. It was nice to deal with metals as groups, which was not done in our class, but I guess I don’t really see that value of this manner of study. It would have been better to organize the material by concept instead of by group.

I couldn’t even use this book as a reference! Not a character table in the book! I find Cotton a lot more useful than this book could be.

It would be nice to have an inorganic book that was published within the last 10 years that would reflect some of the latest advancements in the field. Tell me about how some of these advances are being used. Tell me about cis-platinate, tell me about metal use for catalyst (Fischer-Tropsch), tell me a little about weird topics, like high coordinate compounds. But don’t do this at the expense of the covered topics.

This might be a good book for undergrad use, but not for 515. For as much trouble as I had with DMA, I think there is a lot more material that is useful in DMA than this Instant Notes Inorganic Chemistry.