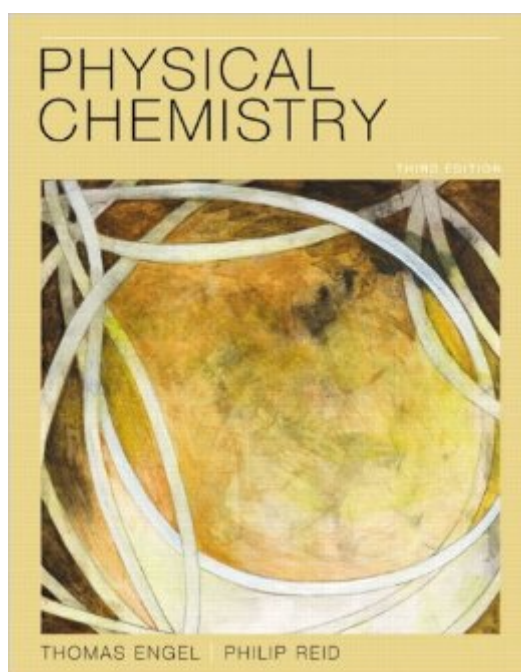


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Physical Chemistry (3rd Edition)



Synopsis

Engel and Reid's Physical Chemistry provides students with a contemporary and accurate overview of physical chemistry while focusing on basic principles that unite the sub-disciplines of the field. The Third Edition continues to emphasize fundamental concepts, while presenting cutting-edge research developments to emphasize the vibrancy of physical chemistry today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When one peruses Engel's chapter headings, one gets the impression that he/she will get a clear, practical exposition of topics of use to the chem student, or working chemist. When reading through the text, this expectation is invariably disappointed. Topics are presented in an ad-hoc, haphazard manner, with no apparent unifying reason. Engel does have reasons for choosing the topics and examples he does, but I only knew what they were because I studied the same material in other sources. If you want to develop an intuitive sense for this material, and wish to think strategically and conceptually about how to solve these problems, you won't find much guidance here. The text comes off rather more like a hodgepodge of science trivia. Engel does present much valuable information, but his great weakness is his inability to distinguish a conceptual framework from the details of his exposition. In chapter two, for example he presents, out of the blue, a detailed discussion of the dependence of heat capacity on temperature, having not yet shown the role that heat capacity would play in solving energy conservation problems. One cannot help being misled, and ultimately wasting much time and effort in trying to apply concepts in a context where their application is inappropriate. In retrospect, Dr. Engel's text could be made much more effective were

it re-written, with more emphasis given to conceptual development. In presenting a text, one must constantly have in mind the questions, what is my goal, and what tools am I developing to enable me to reach it. Engel seems not to have had these questions at the forefront.

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