



Book Review

Handbook of analytical techniques

Vol. I; H. Günzler, A. Williams (Eds.); WILEY-VCH verlag GmbH, Weinheim, Germany, 2001, pp 559; Vol. II; H. Günzler, A. Williams (Eds.); WILEY-VCH verlag GmbH, Weinheim, Germany, 2001, pp 1182, ISBN No: 3 527 30165 8

“Analytical chemistry” (more simply: *analysis*) is understood today as encompassing any examination of chemical material with the goal of eliciting information regarding its constituents: their character, quantity, distribution, and structure. This goal is pursued using an appropriate combination of chemical, physical, and biological methods.

The broad spectrum of analytical techniques available today is covered in the two-volume book *Handbook of Analytical Techniques*. It starts with general articles on purpose and procedures of analytical chemistry, quality assurance, chemometrics, sampling and sample preparation followed by articles on individual techniques, including chromatographic and spectrophotometric methods, immunoassays, activation analysis, chemical and biochemical sensors, and techniques for DNA-analysis.

Most of the information presented is a thoroughly updated version of that included in the fifth edition of the 36-volume “Ullmann’s Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemistry”. The chapters were written and reviewed by acknowledged experts and cover the fundamentals, the instrumentation

and the applications of each technique. There have been significant developments in the analytical techniques since the last printed edition of the Encyclopedia was published. With respect to the development of new products—such as materials, semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, crop protein agents, or surfactants—analysis plays a companion role at every stage in the progression from research laboratory to market. Studies related to physiological and ecological behaviour demand comprehensive analytical efforts as well as intimate knowledge of the materials in question.

Users of the *Handbook of Analytical Techniques* will have the benefit of up-to-date professional information on this topic, written and revised by acknowledged experts. This new handbook will prove to be very helpful to meet the many challenges that analysts in all fields are facing today.

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