

purchasing guide, the book falls short. By and large, the authors have relied on the manufacturers' product descriptions rather than on their own experience with the programs. There is a lack of needed criticism of or comparison between products, and the prospective end-user may still rely on word-of-mouth recommendations before purchasing a package.

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Time Resolved Vibrational Spectroscopy. Editor and author: George H. Atkinson, Gordon and Breach, London, 1987, 419 pp., US\$89.00. ISBN 2-88124-191-3.

This book is based on the proceedings of a symposium organized in Honolulu in 1985 by the Japanese Society for Promotion of Science and the National Science Foundation. The symposium dealt with the measurements and theory of dynamic structural studies of molecular systems derived from vibrational spectroscopies and covered research in the areas of chemistry, physics and biophysics.

Chapters on biochemistry include discussions of bacteriorhodopsin, β -carotene and cytochrome c oxidase and horse-radish peroxidase and the use of a range of techniques including time-resolved Raman and resonance Raman spectroscopy. These ten biochemical chapters are followed by four chapters on non-linear and coherent spectroscopy in the picosecond and subpicosecond regime. Six chapters in the chemistry section are concerned with vibrational analyses on the range of systems including still *trans*-stilbene and diphenylpolyenes and emphasize excited Raman spectroscopy and transient Raman spectroscopy. Finally, there are five chapters on the theoretical aspects of this research area.

The book is produced by photo offset from camera-ready copy which is for the most part of high quality. There is an authors' index but no subject index. Readers with interest in this field will find this book of especial value.

The Editor's Desk