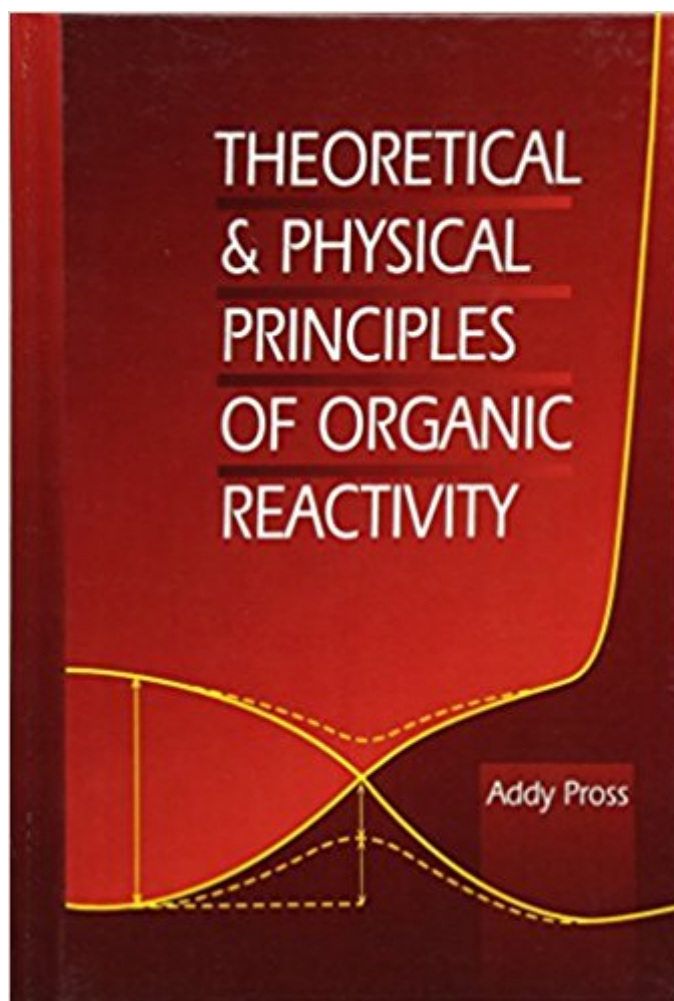


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Theoretical And Physical Principles Of Organic Reactivity



Synopsis

Traditionally, physical organic chemistry and theoretical organic chemistry have been treated as separate disciplines. This new book bridges these two areas in order to give the reader a new perspective on the nature of organic reactivity. A key element of this new approach is the author's extensive nonmathematical description of the recently developed curve-crossing model that describes why chemical reactions have an activation barrier, and specifies the factors that govern the barrier heights. In addition, the author draws from physical chemistry and transition-metal chemistry to present an original and detailed description of electron transfer theory, and covers the recent discovery that the electron transfer process is intimately related to many basic organic processes. This book has been divided into three parts to facilitate its mixture of classical organic chemistry with new and established theoretical ideas. Part A presents an introductory description of molecular orbital and valence bond theories with emphasis on the qualitative aspects that can be applied to practical problems in organic structure and reactivity. Part B describes the key principles of physical organic chemistry and incorporates a mainly qualitative description of the Marcus theory of electron transfer. Building on the theoretical framework developed in parts A and B, part C offers an overview of the basic reactions of organic chemistry: nucleophilic and electrophilic substitution, and radical and pericyclic reactivity. In addition, part C clearly explains the most recent unifying description of organic reactivity for organic chemists and for graduate and advanced undergraduate students.

Book Information

Hardcover: 312 pages

Publisher: Wiley-Interscience; 1 edition (September 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0471555991

ISBN-13: 978-0471555995

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 0.8 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #2,626,237 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in Books > Science & Math > Chemistry > Organic > Reactions #1750 in Books > Science & Math > Chemistry > Physical & Theoretical #6405 in Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Chemistry

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An innovative approach to the general problem of organic reactivity which combines classical organic chemistry with new theoretical ideas developed by the author and his collaborator. Contains an extensive nonmathematical description of the recently created curve-crossing model, expressed in the language of qualitative valence bond theory. The model is applied to the making and breaking of ionic and covalent bonds then extended to basic organic reactions including nucleophilic and electrophilic substitution, radical addition and pericyclic reactivity.

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