Book Review

Air pollution control engineering
Edited by Lawrence K Wang, Norman C Pereira and Yung-Tse Hung
(Vol 1, Handbook of Environmental Engineering)
Humana Press, Totowa, NJ, 2004, 604 pp


The book starts with a useful introductory chapter on air pollution control basics. This will help the reader (such as new students) to understand the various concepts in the subsequent chapters. In any book it is difficult to find the best level but on the whole most chapters get the level right in terms of complexity and explanation. The chapters provide a short introduction to the topic before discussing practical control technologies in more detail. The examples are also practical and will help the student reader to reinforce the concepts outlined in the chapters. The approach to the mathematical treatment is also pragmatic and on the whole the level should be understandable to any good university-level science or engineering student.

The list of symbols in the nomenclature and examples with solutions for most chapters is also very helpful. The final chapter on ‘Emerging air pollution control technologies’ provides a summary for the reader of the solutions and options that are becoming available to reduce pollution emissions. This will help to identify future areas of interest in the field.

Although the work has many good points it also suffers from a few shortcomings. For example, the quality of figures is poor in many places. The figures are not sourced properly to enable the reader to access the original documents. Although the examples serve a very important purpose their placing within the chapters is not consistent. Usually they appear at the end but sometimes within the text of the chapter. The number of examples included also range from 2 to 30 in the various chapters! These, however, are relatively minor points and should not detract the reader from the many strengths of this book. Given the level of the book the text will be equally useful for environmental engineering University students or those working in industry.

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