

# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	
CHAPTER I LIGHT, WAVES, ATOMS AND MOLECULES	1
<b>1.1 Electromagnetic radiation</b>	1
1.1a A classical description	1
1.1b Photons	2
<b>1.2 Energy Levels in Atoms</b>	4
1.2a The Bohr-Sommerfeld Theory	4
1.2b Wave mechanics	6
1.2c Atomic orbitals and electronic states	12
1.2d The effect of magnetic and electric fields	17
<b>1.3 Molecular Orbitals and Electronic States</b>	19
1.3a Diatomic molecules	19
1.3b Molecular symmetry	32
1.3c Polyatomic molecules	41
<b>1.4 Vibrational and Rotational Energies: Potential Energy Functions</b>	56
1.4a Diatomic molecules	56
1.4b Polyatomic molecules	61
<b>1.5 Electronic Transitions: Selection Rules</b>	66
1.5a Transition moments	66
1.5b The Franck-Condon principle	71
1.5c Polyatomic molecules	73
1.5d Induced and spontaneous transitions	76
References	81
CHAPTER II LIGHT ABSORPTION AND ITS PHYSICAL CONSEQUENCES (‘What Goes Up Must Come Down’)	84
<b>2.1 Atomic Spectra</b>	85
2.1a Selection rules: spin-orbit coupling	85
2.1b Line width	91
<b>2.2 Diatomic Molecular Spectra</b>	94
2.2a Band spectra	94
2.2b Continuous spectra	101
2.2c Diffuse spectra: predissociation	106
<b>2.3 Decay and Deactivation of Excited Atoms and Diatomic Molecules</b>	110
2.3a Fluorescence and phosphorescence in the gas phase	111
2.3b Energy transfer	115
2.3c Dissociation: correlation rules	129

- 2.4 Polyatomic Molecular Spectra**
  - 2.4a Types of electronic transition: notation
  - 2.4b Special effects in solution
  - 2.4c Rotational and vibrational structure
  - 2.4d Diffuse and continuous spectra: predissociation and radiationless transitions
- 2.5 Decay and Deactivation of Excited Polyatomic Molecules**
  - 2.5a Dissociation
  - 2.5b Fluorescence
  - 2.5c Radiationless conversion
  - 2.5d Phosphorescence and the triplet state
  - 2.5e Delayed fluorescence
  - 2.5f Energy transfer and luminescence quenching
- References

**CHAPTER III CHEMICAL CONSEQUENCES OF LIGHT ABSORPTION**  
(A selection of case histories)

- 3.1 Light absorption by atoms**
  - 3.1a Experimental: the study of primary processes
  - 3.1b Results and discussion
- 3.2 Some diatomic and simple polyatomic molecules**
  - 3.2a Experimental: the identification of primary products
  - 3.2b Results and discussion
- 3.3 More complex polyatomic molecules**
  - 3.3a Experimental: primary processes in condensed media
  - 3.3b Results and discussion
- References

**INDEX**