



Symmetry through the Eyes of a Chemist

Magdolna Hargittai, Istvan Hargittai

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It is gratifying to launch the third edition of our book. Its coming to life testifies about the task it has fulfilled in the service of the community of chemical research and learning. As we noted in the Prefaces to the first and second editions, our book surveys chemistry from the point of view of symmetry. We present many examples from chemistry as well as from other fields to emphasize the unifying nature of the symmetry concept. Our aim has been to provide aesthetic pleasure in addition to learning experience. In our first Preface we paid tribute to two books in particular from which we learned a great deal; they have influenced significantly our approach to the subject matter of our book. They are Weyl's classic, *Symmetry*, and Shubnikov and Koptsik's *Symmetry in Science and Art*. The structure of our book has not changed. Following the Introduction (Chapter 1), Chapter 2 presents the simplest symmetries using chemical and non-chemical examples. Molecular geometry is discussed in Chapter 3. The next four chapters present group-theoretical methods (Chapter 4) and, based on them, discussions of molecular vibrations (Chapter 5), electronic structures (Chapter 6), and chemical reactions (Chapter 7). For the last two chapters we return to a qualitative treatment and introduce space-group symmetries (Chapter 8), concluding with crystal structures (Chapter 9). For the third edition we have further revised and streamlined our text and renewed the illustrative material.

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