IUPAC seeks your comments

In this section we publish synopses of IUPAC’s latest provisional recommendations on nomenclature and symbols. All comments on these recommendations are welcome and will be taken into consideration. The final revised versions are published in Pure and Applied Chemistry and synopses of these are published in Chemistry International as recent reports.

If you would like to comment on the provisional recommendations please write to your nearest national/regional centre requesting a copy of the full report. Copies are not available from the IUPAC Secretariat. The most recent list of the national/regional centres appeared in Chemistry International 1997, 17, 141.

Nomenclature, symbols, units and their usage in spectrochemical analysis—XVII. Laser-based molecular spectroscopy for chemical analysis: absorption

(Prepared by G. Gauglitz & D.S. Moore)

This document, part XVII of this series, deals with the fundamentals and applications of laser absorption spectroscopy used in laser-based molecular spectroscopy for chemical analysis. It has four main sections: fundamentals of laser absorption spectroscopy, Doppler-limited spectroscopy, sub-Doppler laser spectroscopy, and time-resolved laser spectroscopy.

Basic aspects of spectral resolution limited by the Doppler width of molecular absorption are treated, application of single mode or multi-mode lasers is discussed, approaches to high-resolution sub-Doppler laser spectroscopy are given, and applications are discussed.

This document does not cover laser-induced effects causing luminescence, which are covered in Part XVI [Pure Appl. Chem. 1997, 69(7), 1435–1449], or scattering processes covered in Part XVIII [Pure Appl. Chem. 1997, 69(7), 1481–1488]. Some relevant common terms have already been defined in Part XVI and are not redefined in this document.

Comments on these recommendations are welcome and should be sent by 1 September 1998 to: Dr D.S. Moore, Group DX-2, Mail Stop C920, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM 87545 USA, Fax: +1 (505) 667 0500, e-mail: moored@lanl.gov

Meeting reports

Summary minutes of meetings of the Physical Chemistry Division Committee during the 39th General Assembly of IUPAC, Geneva, 23–27 August 1997

The future structure of IUPAC and the reorganization of the union that is expected as a result of the work of the Strategy Development and Implementation Committee were extensively discussed during the PCD Committee meetings. It was generally felt that changes are needed. The organization is elaborate and inflexible, and the work should be more focused on subjects which are coordinated over an international scale. The present statutes of IUPAC are too vague and nonspecific to allow the measurement of achievements. Its activities can be considered to represent two different interest areas: a scientific side exemplified by the ‘Green Book’, and data compilation and bodies such as CHEMRAWN and COCI on the other side. It was generally felt that the suggestions for restructuring in the VPCA report, involving the mergers of Commissions of the Analytical and Physical Chemistry Divisions would not result in a more responsive or relevant organization. Divisions and Commissions are criticised for not fulfilling the IUPAC mission, yet this mission remains vaguely defined.

To set the stage for the discussion, each participant of the meeting was asked to answer the question ‘Would IUPAC be created if it did not exist?’ There was a consensus that an international body is needed for matters such as international nomenclature, atomic weights, tables of thermodynamic and thermophysical properties.