



Curriculum Units by Fellows of the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute
1999 Volume V: How Do You Know? The Experimental Basis of Chemical Knowledge

Infrared Spectroscopy: A Key to Organic Structure

Guide for Curriculum Unit 99.05.07
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Molecular structure is a major theme in chemistry, and is especially important in organic chemistry. Have you ever wondered how chemists determine the molecular structures of new reaction products or new materials isolated from natural sources? This curriculum unit will focus on infrared spectroscopy as one way of knowing or determining the structure of organic compounds. The unit is designed to be used in a second year high school chemistry class during the study of organic chemistry. The students should have previously studied atomic structure and bonding.

(Recommended for Advanced Chemistry, grades 11-12.)

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