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H. G. Kiess (Ed.)

Conjugated Conducting Polymers

With 118 Figures

With Contributions by

D. Baeriswyl, D. K. Campbell, G. C. Clark,
G. Harbeke, P. K. Kahol, H. G. Kiess,
S. Mazumdar, M. Mehring, W. Rehwald

Springer-Verlag

Berlin Heidelberg New York

London Paris Tokyo

Hong Kong Barcelona

Budapest

Dr. rer. nat. Helmut G. Kiess
Paul Scherrer Institut Zürich
Badenerstrasse 569
CH-8048 Zürich, Switzerland

Series Editors:

Professor Dr., Dres. h.c. Manuel Cardona
Professor Dr., Dr. h.c. Peter Fulde
Professor Dr., Dr. h.c. Klaus von Klitzing
Professor Dr. Hans-Joachim Queisser

Max-Planck-Institut für Festkörperforschung, Heisenbergstrasse 1
W-7000 Stuttgart 80, Fed. Rep. of Germany

Managing Editor:

Dr. Helmut K. V. Lotsch
Springer-Verlag, Tiergartenstrasse 17
W-6900 Heidelberg, Fed. Rep. of Germany

ISBN-13:978-3-642-46731-8
DOI: 10.1007/978-3-642-46729-5

e-ISBN-13:978-3-642-46729-5

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Conjugated conducting polymers / H. Kiess (ed.); with contributions
by H. Kiess ... [et al.]. p. cm.—(Springer series in solid state sciences; vol. 102)
ISBN 3-540-53594-2 (Berlin: acid-free paper)

ISBN 0-387-53594-2 (New York: acid-free paper)

1. Polymers—Electric properties. 2. Polymers—Optical properties. I. Kiess, H. (Helmut),
1931— II. Series: Springer series in solid state sciences; 102.

QD381.9.E38C664 1992 530.4'13—dc20 91-25652 CIP

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Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 1992

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Typesetting: Thomson Press (India) Ltd., New Delhi
54/3020-5 4 3 2 1 0 – Printed on acid-free paper

Preface

This book reviews the current understanding of electronic, optical and magnetic properties of conjugated polymers in both the semiconducting and metallic states. It introduces in particular novel phenomena and concepts in these quasi-one-dimensional materials that differ from the well-established concepts valid for crystalline semiconductors.

After a brief introductory chapter, the second chapter presents basic theoretical concepts and treats in detail the various models for π -conjugated polymers and the computational methods required to derive observable quantities. Specific spatially localized structures, often referred to as solitons, polarons and bipolarons, result naturally from the interaction between π -electrons and lattice displacements. For a semi-quantitative understanding of the various measurements, electron–electron interactions have to be incorporated in the models; this in turn makes the calculations rather complicated. The third chapter is devoted to the electrical properties of these materials. The high metallic conductivity achieved by doping gave rise to the expression *conducting polymers*, which is often used for such materials even when they are in their semiconducting or insulating state. Although conductivity is one of the most important features, the reader will learn how difficult it is to draw definite conclusions about the nature of the charge carriers and the microscopic transport mechanism solely from electrical measurements. Optical properties are discussed in the fourth chapter. Measurements on dopant- and light-induced changes in the optical spectra help to clarify many controversial aspects concerning the nature of the charge carriers and the question of electron–phonon and electron–electron interactions. It is important to note also that the nonlinear optical coefficients of these materials are high, so they could conceivably become useful in optical processing. The final chapter gives an account of the magnetic properties of these polymers. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and electron spin resonance (ESR) measurements allow direct probing of properties on a microscopic scale and can thus give detailed information which is otherwise not accessible, for example, we can establish whether the charge carriers induced by doping carry spin (i.e. are bipolarons, solitons or polarons). Data on spin dynamics also provide information on the mobility of the carriers, the spin distribution in defects and electron–electron interactions, which is otherwise difficult to obtain.

This book is dedicated to the late Prof. Günther Harbeke, who contributed to one of the chapters. His interest in the optical properties of condensed matter

stimulated much of the work which was followed up experimentally in the former Laboratories RCA Ltd., Zürich, and which finally helped to shape the chapter on optics. It is therefore with deep respect that the coauthors dedicate this book to his memory.

Zürich, February 1992

Helmut Kiess

Contents

1. Introduction	
By H. G. Kiess	1
References	5
2. An Overview of the Theory of π-Conjugated Polymers	
By D. Baeriswyl, D. K. Campbell, and S. Mazumdar (With 37 Figures)	7
2.1 Synopsis	7
2.2 Theoretical Concepts, Models and Methods	13
2.2.1 The Born-Oppenheimer Approximation	14
2.2.2 Ab Initio Calculations	15
2.2.3 Model Hamiltonians	18
2.3 The Hückel and SSH Models: Independent-Electron Theories	28
2.3.1 From Polyethylene to Polyacetylene	28
2.3.2 Bond Alternation	31
2.3.3 The Strength of the Electron-Phonon Coupling	34
2.3.4 Stability of the Dimerized State and the Phonon Spectrum	35
2.3.5 Spatially Localized Nonlinear Excitations: Solitons, Polarons and Bipolarons	36
2.3.6 Predictions of the Model	47
2.4 Hubbard Model: A Paradigm for Correlated Electron Theories	49
2.4.1 Ground State and Excitation Spectrum	50
2.4.2 Correlation Functions	53
2.4.3 Relevance for Conjugated Polymers	54
2.5 The One-Dimensional Peierls-Hubbard Model	56
2.5.1 The Model Hamiltonian and its Parameters	57
2.5.2 Methods	60
2.6 The Combined Effects of Electron-Phonon and Electron-Electron Interactions: Theory and Experiment	67
2.6.1 Ground State	67
2.6.2 Electronic Excitations and Excited States	82

2.6.3 Vibrational Excitation: Raman and Infrared Spectroscopy	102
2.7 Beyond Simple Models: Discussion and Conclusions	105
2.7.1 Effects of Disorder	105
2.7.2 Interchain Coupling and Three-Dimensional Effects	106
2.7.3 Lattice Quantum Fluctuations	108
2.7.4 Doping Effects and the Semiconductor–Metal Transition	109
2.7.5 Transport	111
2.7.6 Concluding Remarks	112
References	114
 3. Charge Transport in Polymers	
By W. Rehwald and H.G. Kiess (With 15 Figures)	135
3.1 Models for the Insulating and Semiconducting States	136
3.1.1 The Electronic Ground State	136
3.1.2 The Nature of the Charge Carriers	141
3.1.3 Disorder Along the Chains	146
3.1.4 Low and Intermediate Doping	147
3.2 Models for Transport Processes	149
3.2.1 Conduction in Extended States	149
3.2.2 Conduction in Localized States	150
3.2.3 Transport in One Dimension	152
3.2.4 Transport by Quasi-Particles	154
3.3 Experiments in the Insulating and Semiconducting State	157
3.3.1 Polyacetylene	157
3.3.2 Other Polymers	162
3.4 The Semiconductor–Metal Transition and the Metallic State	164
3.4.1 Models for the Highly Doped State	165
3.4.2 Experiments in the Highly Doped State	167
3.5 Summary	170
References	171
 4. Optical Properties of Conducting Polymers	
By H. G. Kiess and G. Harbeke (With 21 Figures)	175
4.1 Elementary Considerations	175
4.2 Dielectric Response Function and Band Structure	177
4.3 Band Gap and Band Structures of Undoped Conjugated Polymers	178
4.3.1 Results of Band Structure Calculations	178
4.3.2 Experimental Results	182
4.4 Photon–Phonon Interaction	185
4.4.1 General Remarks	185

4.4.2	Calculations of Vibrational Spectra of Polymers	186
4.4.3	Experimental Results	188
4.5	The Study of Elementary Excitations in Conjugated Polymers	191
4.5.1	General Considerations	191
4.5.2	The Electronic States of the Quasi-Particles	192
4.5.3	The Vibrational State of the Quasi-Particles	198
4.5.4	Experimental Results	198
4.6	Highly Conducting Conjugated Polymers	206
4.6.1	General Considerations	206
4.6.2	The Highly Conducting Phase of Trans-Polyacetylene	207
4.6.3	Polyacetylene: Experimental Results	209
4.6.4	Highly Conducting Polymers with Nondegenerate Ground State	211
4.6.5	Concluding Remarks	213
	References	214
5.	Magnetic Properties of Conjugated Polymers	
	By P. K. Kahol, G. C. Clark, and M. Mehring (With 46 Figures) . .	217
5.1	General Aspects of Magnetic Properties and Resonance Techniques	218
5.1.1	Susceptibility	218
5.1.2	Lineshapes, Linewidths and Lineshifts	220
5.1.3	Spin Relaxation (T_1 , T_2 , $T_{1\rho}$)	224
5.1.4	Double Resonance Techniques	228
5.1.5	High-Resolution NMR	231
5.2	Structure and Lattice Dynamics of Conjugated Polymers in the Non-Conducting Phase	233
5.2.1	Lattice Structure Determination from Dipole–Dipole Interactions	233
5.2.2	Bond Length Determination from Dipole–Dipole Interactions	238
5.2.3	Chemical Shift Tensor	240
5.3	Spin Dynamics of Conjugated Defects in the Non-Conducting Phase	245
5.3.1	ESR and ENDOR Lineshapes	245
5.3.2	Dynamic Nuclear Polarization	253
5.3.3	Nuclear Spin Lattice Relaxation	256
5.3.4	Electron Spin Relaxation	261
5.3.5	Light-Induced ESR	265
5.4	Magnetic Properties of Conjugated Polymers in the Conducting Phase	267
5.4.1	Susceptibility	267

5.4.2 ESR Lineshapes and Linewidths	272
5.4.3 NMR Results	278
5.5 Magnetic Properties of Polydiacetylenes (PDA)	281
5.5.1 Structure	281
5.5.2 Solid-State Polymerization	283
5.5.3 Quasi-Particle Excitation	289
5.6 Other Conjugated Polymers	291
5.7 Conclusions and Remarks	295
References	297
Subject Index	305

Contributors

Baeriswyl, Dionys

Institut de Physique Théorique, Université de Fribourg,
CH-1700 Fribourg, Switzerland

Campbell, David K.

Center for Nonlinear Studies, Los Alamos National Laboratory,
Mail Stop B 262, Los Alamos, NM 87545, USA

Clark, Gilbert C.

Department of Physics, University of California,
Los Angeles, CA 90024, USA

Harbeke, Günther (deceased)

Formerly at Paul Scherrer Institut, c/o Laboratories RCA Ltd.,
Badenerstrasse 569, CH-8048 Zürich, Switzerland

Kahol, Pawan K.

II. Physikalisches Institut, Universität Stuttgart,
Pfaffenwaldring 57, W-7000 Stuttgart 80,
Federal Republic of Germany

Kiess, Helmut G.

Paul Scherrer Institut, c/o Laboratories RCA Ltd.,
Badenerstrasse 569, CH-8048 Zürich, Switzerland

Mazumdar, Sumitendra

Department of Physics, University of Arizona,
Tucson, AZ 85721, USA

Mehring, Michael

II. Physikalisches Institut, Universität Stuttgart,
Pfaffenwaldring 57, W-7000 Stuttgart 80,
Federal Republic of Germany

Rehwald, Walther

Paul Scherrer Institut, c/o Laboratories RCA Ltd.,
Badenerstrasse 569, CH-8048 Zürich, Switzerland