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Excitonic Processes in Solids

By M. Ueta, H. Kanzaki, K. Kobayashi,
Y. Toyozawa, and E. Hanamura

With 307 Figures

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Preface

An exciton is an electronic excitation wave consisting of an electron-hole pair which propagates in a nonmetallic solid. Since the pioneering research of Frenkel, Wannier and the Pohl group in the 1930s, a large number of experimental and theoretical studies have been made. Due to these investigations the exciton is now a well-established concept and the electronic structure has been clarified in great detail.

The next subjects for investigation are, naturally, dynamical processes of excitons such as excitation, relaxation, annihilation and molecule formation and, in fact, many interesting phenomena have been disclosed by recent works. These excitonic processes have been recognized to be quite important in solid-state physics because they involve a number of basic interactions between excitons and other elementary excitations. It is the aim of this quasi monograph to describe these excitonic processes from both theoretical and experimental points of view.

To discuss and illustrate the excitonic processes in solids, we take a few important and well-investigated insulating crystals as playgrounds for excitons on which they play in a manner characteristic of each material. The selection of the materials is made in such a way that they possess some unique properties of excitonic processes and are adequate to cover important interactions in which excitons are involved. In each material, excitonic processes are described in detail from the experimental side in order to show the whole story of excitons in a particular material. Part of this book is devoted to the theoretical description of the excitonic processes which play particularly important roles in the materials chosen in this book but are not necessarily restricted to these materials. The theory is presented in a general fashion so as to cover a variety of phenomena which have been of recent interest.

It should be remarked that, although this book has been written through the cooperation of five authors, the main contribution to Chap. 3 was made by Ueta, Chaps. 5 and 6 by Kanzaki, Chaps. 7, 8, and 9 by Kobayashi, Chaps. 1 and 4 by Toyozawa and Chap. 2 by Hanamura.

The authors wish to express their gratitude to all of their colleagues for collaboration and discussions at various stages of their researches on excitons. One of the authors (MU) would like to acknowledge the assistance of Prof. T. Itoh and Dr. Y. Nozue in completing the manuscript. The authors thank the original authors of the figures used in this book who kindly gave permission to reproduce them. Thanks are also due to the Physical Society of Japan, The American Physical Society, The Institute of Physics, Progress of Theoretical

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*M. Ueta, H. Kanzaki, K. Kobayashi,
Y. Toyozawa, E. Hanamura*

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