Contents

Preface *IX*
Table of Boxes *XI*

1 The Electronic Structure of Organic Semiconductors *1*
1.1 Introduction *1*
1.1.1 What Are "Organic Semiconductors"? *1*
1.1.2 Historical Context *3*
1.2 Different Organic Semiconductor Materials *5*
1.2.1 Molecular Crystals *5*
1.2.2 Amorphous Molecular Films *7*
1.2.3 Polymer Films *9*
1.2.4 Further Related Compounds *14*
1.2.5 A Comment on Synthetic Approaches *15*
1.3 Electronic States of a Molecule *17*
1.3.1 Atomic Orbitals in Carbon *17*
1.3.2 From Atomic Orbitals to Molecular Orbitals *19*
1.3.3 From Orbitals to States *25*
1.3.4 Singlet and Triplet States *28*
1.4 Transitions between Molecular States *31*
1.4.1 The Potential Energy Curve *31*
1.4.2 Radiative Transitions: Absorption and Emission *37*
1.4.3 A Classical Picture of Light Absorption *48*
1.4.4 Non-Radiative Transitions: Internal Conversion and Intersystem Crossing *56*
1.4.5 Basic Photophysical Parameters: Lifetimes and Quantum Yields *62*
1.5 Spectroscopic Methods *64*
1.5.1 Photoluminescence Spectra, Lifetimes, and Quantum Yields *67*
1.5.2 Excited State Absorption Spectra *75*
1.5.3 Fluorescence Excitation Spectroscopy *79*
1.6 Further Reading *80*
References *81*

2 Charges and Excited States in Organic Semiconductors *87*
2.1 Excited Molecules from the Gas Phase to the Amorphous Film *87*
2.1.1 Effects due to Polarization *87*
2.1.2 Effects due to Statistical Averaging *91*
2.1.3 Effects due to Environmental Dynamics *94*
2.1.4 Effects due to Electronic Coupling between Identical Molecules – Dimers and Excimers *99*

2.1.5 Effects due to Electronic Coupling between Dissimilar Molecules – Complexes and Exciplexes *111*
2.1.6 Electromers and Electroplexes *113*
2.2 Excited Molecules in Crystalline Phases – The Frenkel Exciton *114*
2.2.1 The Frenkel Exciton Concept for One Molecule per Unit Cell *114*
2.2.2 The Frenkel Exciton Concept for Two Molecules per Unit Cell *117*
2.2.3 Coherent and Incoherent Motion of Frenkel Excitons *118*
2.2.4 Förster and Dexter Type Energy Transfer *119*
2.2.5 Experimental Examples for Frenkel Excitons in Ordered Molecular Arrays *123*
2.3 Excited States in π-Conjugated Polymers *133*
2.3.1 Crystalline Polymers: Poly(diacetylene)s (PDAs) *133*
2.3.2 Concepts for Noncrystalline Polymers *136*
2.3.3 Brief Overview Over Different Classes of Conjugated Polymers *144*
2.4 Charged Molecules *155*
2.4.1 The Creation of Charged Molecules by Injection, Absorption and Doping *157*
2.4.2 Charged Molecules in Disordered Films *161*
2.4.3 Charged Molecules in Crystals *164*
2.4.4 Determining the Energy Levels of Charged Molecules by Cyclovoltammetry and Photoemission Spectroscopy *167*
2.5 A Comparison between Inorganic and Organic Semiconductors *171*
2.5.1 Crystals *171*
2.5.2 Amorphous Solids *174*
2.5.3 The Su–Schrieffer–Heeger (SSH) Model for Conjugated Polymers *175*
2.6 Further Reading *181*
References *182*

3 Electronic and Optical Processes of Organic Semiconductors *193*
3.1 Basic Aspects of Electrical Current in a Device *194*
3.1.1 Injection Limited Currents *195*
3.1.2 Unipolar Space Charge Limited (SCL) Current *196*
3.1.3 Bipolar Space Charge Limited Current *200*
3.2 Charge Injection Mechanisms *201*
3.2.1 Fowler–Nordheim Tunneling Injection *202*
3.2.2 Richardson–Schottky Thermionic Injection *203*
3.2.3 Thermally Activated Injection into a Disordered Organic Semiconductor *204*
3.3 Charge Carrier Transport *208*
3.3.1 Experimental Techniques to Measure Charge Carrier Mobility *208*
3.3.2 Carrier Transport in the Band Regime and in the Hopping Regime *213*
3.3.3 Trapping Effects *235*
3.3.4 Transport at Higher Charge Carrier Densities *237*
3.3.5 The Impact of Morphology on Transport *239*
3.3.6 Charge Transport on Short Lengths Scales and Time Scales *244*
3.4 Non-Geminate Charge Carrier Recombination *246*
3.4.1 Recombination without Traps (Langevin-Type Recombination) *246*
3.4.2 Recombination with Traps (Shockley–Read–Hall-Like Recombination) *247*
3.5 Generation of Excitations *249*
3.5.1 Optical Generation *249*
3.5.2 Electrical Generation *251*
3.5.3 Secondary Processes *252*
3.6 Dissociation of Excitations *254*
3.6.1 Geminate Pair Creation *254*

3.6.2 The Dissociation of the Geminate Pair *263*
3.7 Diffusion of Excitations *274*
3.7.1 Exciton Diffusion in a Molecular Crystal *274*
3.7.2 Diffusion of Excitations in Amorphous Condensed Phases *276*
3.7.3 Experimental Techniques to Measure Exciton Diffusion *276*
3.8 Decay of Excitations *283*
3.8.1 Monomolecular Decay *283*
3.8.2 Bimolecular Processes *287*
3.9 Further Reading *292*
References *292*

4 Fundamentals of Organic Semiconductor Devices *307*
4.1 Basic Solar Cells and Light-Emitting Diode Structures *311*
4.1.1 Basic Fabrication Steps *311*
4.1.2 Electrode Geometries *315*
4.1.3 The Basic Operation of a Single-Layer OLED *317*
4.1.4 Multi-Layer OLED Architectures *322*
4.1.5 The Current–Voltage–Luminance Characteristics of an OLED *324*
4.1.6 The Basic Operation of an OSC *326*
4.1.7 The Current–Voltage Characteristics of an OSC *327*
4.2 Solar Cell Performance *331*
4.2.1 Determining Solar Cell Efficiencies *331*
4.2.2 Strategies to Increase the Photocurrent *334*
4.2.3 Strategies to Increasing the Open-Circuit Voltage *345*
4.2.4 Strategies to Improve the Fill-Factor *347*
4.2.5 The Thermodynamic Efficiency Limit *349*
4.3 Light-Emitting Diode Performance *353*
4.3.1 Determining OLED Efficiencies and Color *353*
4.3.2 Strategies to Improve the OLED Efficiencies *362*
4.3.3 Strategies to Improving the Emission Color of OLEDs *366*
4.4 Transistors *368*
4.4.1 The Operational Principle of an OFET *369*
4.4.2 Evaluating OFET Performance *373*
4.4.3 Improving OFET Performance *374*
4.4.4 Modifying the Polarity of OFETs *378*
4.5 Further Reading *382*
References *382*

Appendices *389*
Chemical Structures *389*
A.1 Selected Polymers *390*
A.1.1 π-Conjugated Homopolymers *390*
A.1.2 π-Conjugated Copolymers *391*
A.1.3 Other Polymers of Interest *392*
A.2 Selected π-Conjugated Low-Molecular Weight Compounds *393*
A.3 Selected Phosphorescent Compounds *397*
A.4 Non-Conjugated Low-Molecular Weight Compounds *397*

Index *399*