

Contents	xiii
Abbreviations and symbols	xiii
1 Basic concepts	1
1.1 Electron: an old, complex and exciting story	2
1.2 Electrons in atoms	4
1.2.1 The electron in the simplest atom: hydrogen	4
1.2.2 The hydrogenoid ion	8
1.2.3 Helium and other atoms	8
1.3 Electrons in molecules	11
1.3.1 Dihydrogen molecule, H ₂	12
1.3.2 AB molecules	17
1.3.3 Dioxygen molecule, O ₂	19
1.3.4 Water molecule, H ₂ O	23
1.3.5 Organic molecular systems	25
1.3.6 Coordination complexes	29
1.3.7 Influence of the electronic structure on the geometric structure: Jahn-Teller effect	38
1.4 Electrons in molecular solids	43
1.4.1 From molecular rings to infinite linear chains	43
1.4.2 Brillouin zone, energy dispersion curve, Fermi level, density of states	48
1.4.3 Peierls distortion	50
1.4.4 Crystal orbitals: more than one orbital per cell	51
1.4.5 Towards 3D systems	54
1.5 Effects of interelectronic repulsion	54
1.5.1 Position of the problem	55
1.5.2 The quantitative Molecular Orbital (MO) method	60
1.5.3 Valence Bond (VB) model: comparison with MO model	74
1.5.4 Density functional theory (DFT) methods	81
1.6 A fundamental quantum effect: tunnelling	82
References	85
2 The localized electron: magnetic properties	87
2.1 Introduction	87
2.1.1 Localization, delocalization, electron transfer	87
2.2 A new look at the electron	90
2.2.1 Orbital and spin angular momenta of the electron	90

Contents

2.2.2	Magnetic properties of one electron in an atom	93
2.2.3	The total angular momentum	95
2.3	Physical quantities, definitions, units, measurements	95
2.3.1	Physical quantities and definitions	95
2.3.2	Units in magnetism	96
2.3.3	Magnetic measurements	98
2.3.4	Understanding the susceptibilities: from Langevin to Van Vleck's formula	104
2.4	Many-electron atoms, mononuclear complexes and spin cross-over	109
2.4.1	Many-electron atoms	109
2.4.2	Mononuclear complexes, electronic structure	115
2.4.3	Spin cross-over: phenomenon and models	121
2.5	Spin Hamiltonian (SH) approach	141
2.5.1	One-centre spin Hamiltonian	142
2.5.2	Two-centre spin Hamiltonians with spin operators S_1 and S_2	146
2.5.3	More than two centres	150
2.6	Orbital interactions and exchange	153
2.6.1	Basic theoretical background	156
2.6.2	From hydrogen to transition metal complexes	161
2.6.3	Other models: from the pioneers to modern computations	171
2.6.4	Ferromagnetic and antiferromagnetic coupling in dinuclear complexes with one spin per centre	175
2.6.5	Complexes with several spins per centre	181
2.7	Extended molecular magnetic systems	190
2.7.1	The one-dimensional world: a Hamiltonian and synthesis factory	191
2.7.2	Bimetallic ferrimagnetic chains: an improbable route to 3D magnets	195
2.7.3	Three-dimensional frameworks, Prussian Blue analogues	205
2.8	Magnetic anisotropy and slow relaxation of the magnetization	211
2.8.1	Single-molecule magnets (SMM)	212
2.8.2	Single-chain magnets (SCM)	220
2.8.3	Single-ion magnets (SIM)	221
	References	223
3	The moving electron: electrical properties	227
3.1	Basic parameters controlling electron transfer	227
3.1.1	The electronic interaction between neighbouring sites: the V_{ab} parameter	228

Contents

	Contents	
3.1.2	The structural change of the surrounding: the λ parameter	232
3.1.3	The interelectronic repulsion: the U parameter	240
3.1.4	The interplay of parameters	240
3.2	Electron transfer in discrete molecular systems	241
3.2.1	Intermolecular transfer	242
3.2.2	Intramolecular transfer: mixed valence compounds	256
3.2.3	Electron transfer in proteins	296
3.3	Conductivity in extended molecular solids	301
3.3.1	Conductivity: definitions, models and significant parameters	301
3.3.2	Extended metallic molecular systems and band theory	304
3.3.3	Peierls instability in 1D: electron–phonon interactions	322
3.3.4	Beyond the one-electron description: narrow-band systems or no band at all	342
	References	362
4	The excited electron: photophysical properties	366
4.1	Introduction	366
4.2	Fundamentals in photophysics: absorption, emission and excited states	368
4.2.1	Energy levels	368
4.2.2	Transition probabilities	370
4.2.3	Nuclear relaxation after excitation	372
4.2.4	A simple photochemical process	375
4.3	Electron transfer in the excited state	376
4.3.1	Properties of the excited state: the example of $[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3]^{2+*}$	377
4.3.2	Molecular photodiodes	379
4.3.3	Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs)	382
4.3.4	Photovoltaic devices	387
4.3.5	Harnessing chemical energy: towards water photolysis	391
4.3.6	Ultrafast electron transfer	395
4.4	Energy transfer	397
4.4.1	Theoretical treatment of energy transfer	398
4.4.2	Some examples	406
4.5	Photomagnetism	414
4.5.1	Introduction	414
4.5.2	Photomagnetism in spin cross-over systems	415

Contents

4.5.3 Photomagnetism originating from metal–metal charge transfer	421
References	435
5 The mastered electron: molecular electronics and spintronics, molecular machines	438
5.1 Introduction	438
5.1.1 Molecular electronics, a historical account	438
5.1.2 Molecular spintronics, a historical account	444
5.1.3 Molecular machines, a short historical account	446
5.2 Hybrid molecular electronics	447
5.2.1 Realization of metal–molecule–metal connections	447
5.2.2 Principles of electrical conduction in nanosystems	450
5.2.3 Molecular wires	483
5.2.4 Molecular diode (rectifier)	488
5.2.5 Memory effect and negative differential resistance in two-terminal devices	494
5.2.6 Two-terminal devices under constraint (pressure, light)	501
5.2.7 Three-terminal devices: field-effect transistor (FET)	505
5.2.8 Nanotubes, graphene and devices	508
5.3 Molecular spintronics	515
5.3.1 Basics of spintronics	515
5.3.2 Molecular spintronics: why molecules?	520
5.3.3 Recent realizations in molecular spintronics	524
5.4 Molecular resources for molecular electronics	535
5.4.1 Systems studied in solution	535
5.4.2 Systems studied in the solid state	540
5.5 Molecular approaches to quantum computing	542
5.5.1 Standard quantum computing	543
5.5.2 Quantum Hamiltonian computing	545
5.6 Molecular machines	547
5.6.1 Introduction and definition	547
5.6.2 Machines based on interlocked molecules	548
5.6.3 Machines based on non-interlocked molecules	551
5.6.4 The problem of motion directionality	557
5.7 Conclusion and perspectives	562
References	564
Index	571