

Contents

1	Introduction and fiber-processing methods — 1
1.1	Fibers — 1
1.2	Natural fibers – fibers provided by nature — 2
1.3	Synthetic fibers – polymer fibers produced by technical processes — 5
1.4	Spinning of fibers — 7
1.5	Fiber structure — 9
1.6	Fiber applications — 10
1.7	Interesting to know — 10
2	Nanofibers — 12
2.1	Benefits of nanofibers — 12
2.2	Production techniques for thin fibers — 13
2.2.1	Capillary flows — 13
2.2.2	Melt blowing — 13
2.2.3	Solution blowing — 15
2.3	Nanofibers via electrospinning — 17
2.3.1	Fibers by electrospinning using a needle-type electrospinning setup — 18
2.3.2	Bicomponent fibers by electrospinning — 25
2.3.3	3D and patterned fibrous structures — 28
2.4	Interesting to know — 33
3	Characterization of spinning solutions and fibers — 40
3.1	Characterization of the spinning solution — 40
3.1.1	Solubility — 40
3.1.2	Electrical conductivity — 46
3.1.3	Rheology — 48
3.1.3.1	Theoretical background — 48
3.1.3.2	Typical measuring systems for rheological behaviors — 53
3.2	Characterization of the fibers — 59
3.2.1	Morphology and size — 59
3.2.1.1	Optical microscopy — 59
3.2.1.2	Electron microscopy — 63
3.2.2	Molecular structure — 71
3.2.2.1	Infrared spectroscopy — 71
3.2.2.2	Thermogravimetric analysis — 77
3.2.2.3	Differential scanning calorimetry — 80
3.2.2.4	Tensile testing — 84
3.3	Interesting to know — 90

4 Electrospinning experiments — 96

- 4.1 Introduction about parameters affecting electrospinning — 96
- 4.2 Electrospinning of synthetic water-soluble polymers — 98
 - 4.2.1 Electrospinning of poly(vinyl alcohol): Randomly oriented and aligned fibers — 98
- 4.3 Biodegradable and biocompatible fibers — 105
 - 4.3.1 Poly(L-lactide) nanofibers: effect of concentration and conductivity on fiber formation — 106
- 4.4 Silk fibroin fiber formation by electrospinning — 109
- 4.5 Aqueous dispersion electrospinning: Green electrospinning — 111
 - 4.5.1 Biodegradable fibers by aqueous dispersion electrospinning — 111
- 4.6 Formation of high-performance polyimide fibers — 114
 - 4.6.1 Polyimide nanofibers by electrospinning — 115
 - 4.6.2 Composite polyimide (PI) fibers: Incorporation of antibacterial silver nanoparticles in PI fibers by electrospinning — 117
- 4.7 Special fiber arrangements via electrospinning — 122
 - 4.7.1 3D porous hollow tubes by electrospinning — 122
 - 4.7.2 Bicomponent fibers – Coaxial and side-by-side electrospinning — 123
- 4.8 Interesting to know — 125

5 Selected applications of electrospun fibers and chemistry of corresponding polymers — 128

- 5.1 Thermoplastics, elastomers and thermosets for electrospinning — 128
 - 5.1.1 General introduction — 128
 - 5.1.2 Polymers for selected applications of electrospun fibers — 135
 - 5.1.2.1 Filter applications — 135
 - 5.1.2.2 Tissue engineering and drug-release applications — 138
 - 5.1.2.3 Gas-sensing, fuel-cell and battery applications — 143
 - 5.1.2.4 Polymeric electrospun fibers as reinforcing materials — 145
 - 5.1.2.5 Electrospun fibers as support for catalysts — 146
 - 5.1.2.6 Emulsions and dispersions for agricultural and biomedical applications — 148
- 5.2 Hydrogel fibers — 155
- 5.3 Electrospinning of polymers with complex architectures — 160
- 5.4 Chemistry on electrospun fibers — 165
- 5.5 Interesting to know — 168

List of abbreviations — 173**Polymer index — 177****Subject index — 179**