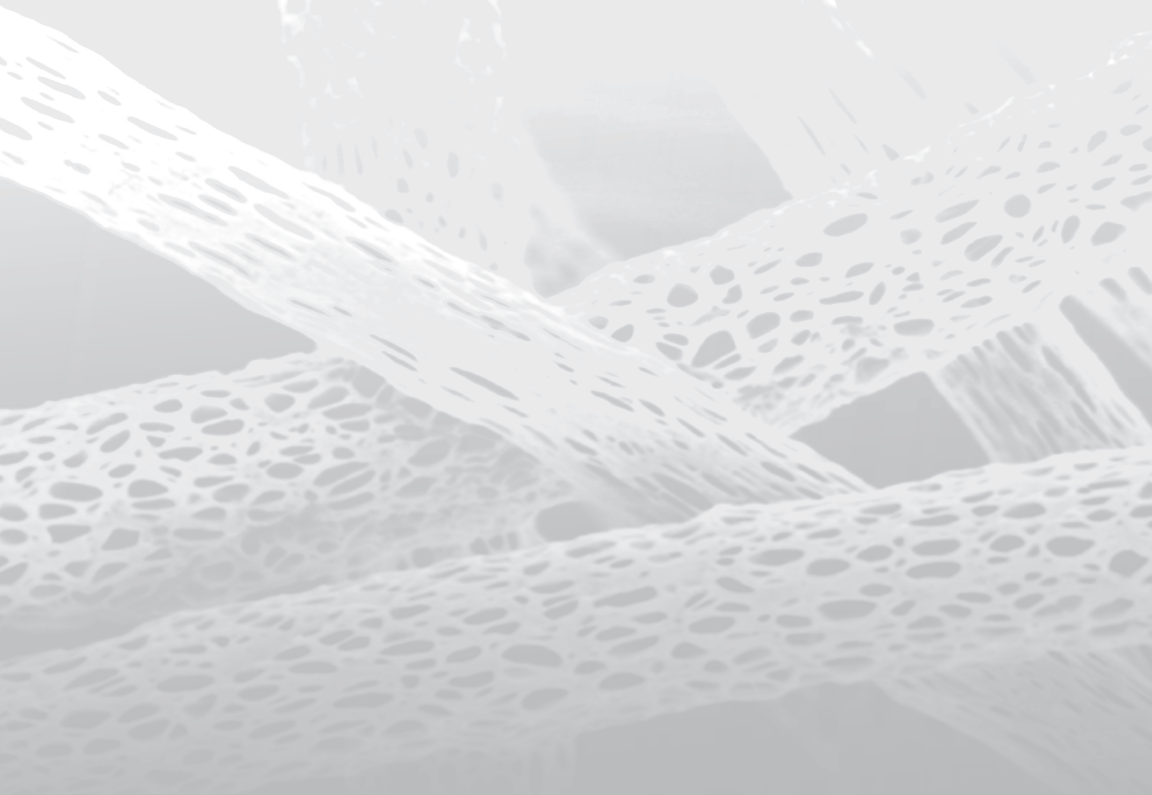




Nanofibers of Conjugated Polymers

A. Sezai Sarac





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Contents

<i>Preface</i>	xi
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.1.1 Polymeric Nanofibers	1
1.1.2 Nanofiber Production with Other Techniques	6
1.2 Previous Development	7
1.3 Electrospinning Setup	8
1.4 Uses and Types of Electrospinning	10
1.5 Parameters Affecting Electrospinning	11
1.5.1 Polymer Solution Parameters	12
1.5.1.1 Surface tension	12
1.5.1.2 Solution conductivity	16
1.5.1.3 Dielectric effect	16
1.5.1.4 Solution viscosity	20
1.5.1.5 Volatility of the solvent	22
1.5.2 Polymer Processing Parameters	23
1.5.2.1 Applied voltage	23
1.5.2.2 Flow rate	23
1.5.2.3 Distance	24
1.5.2.4 Effect of the collector	24
1.5.2.5 Diameter of the needle	25
1.6 Theoretical Considerations in Electrospinning	25
1.6.1 Electrospinning of Solutions in the Semidilute Concentration Regime	30
1.7 Effect of Polymer Concentration and Filler	34
1.8 Conductive Nanofibrils by Coating Cellulose	42
2. Applications of Nanofibers	45
2.1 Applications of Nanofibers	45
2.1.1 Filtration Applications	45
2.1.2 Nanocomposites	46
2.1.3 Biomedical Applications	53
2.1.4 Agricultural, Electrical, Optical, and Other Applications	61

2.2	Electrospun Ceramic Nanofibers and Their Applications	63
2.3	Electrospun Metallic Nanofibers	65
2.4	Electrospun Carbon/Graphite Nanofibers	65
3.	Conjugated Polymers	71
3.1	Conjugated Polymers	71
3.1.1	Conductivity of Conjugated Polymers	71
3.1.2	Electronic Conduction	72
3.2	The Molecular Structure of PEDOT	74
3.2.1	Doping in Poly(<i>p</i> -Phenylene Vinylene) and Poly(3,4-Ethylenedioxythiophene)	75
3.2.2	Chemical Doping: Protonation of Polyaniline	85
3.3	Applications of Conducting Polymers	88
3.3.1	Electro-Optic Activity	89
3.3.1.1	Excitons and free charges	89
3.3.2	Tissue Engineering and Sensor Applications	91
3.4	Alkyl-Substituted Polythiophenes	93
3.4.1	Regioregularity	94
3.4.2	Solubility	95
3.4.3	Chemical Oxidative Polymerization	96
3.4.4	Catalyst for the Deprotonation of Oligomers of 3-Methylthiophene	99
3.5	Poly(3,4-Ethylenedioxythiophene) Composites	100
3.5.1	Poly(3,4-Ethylenedioxythiophene)/Polystyrene Sulfonic Acid	101
3.5.2	Conductivity Enhancement of PEDOT-PSS	102
3.5.3	Charge Transport in the Conducting Polymer PEDOT-PSS	102
3.5.4	Morphology of PEDOT-PSS	102
3.6	Copolymers of PEDOT	103
3.7	Supercapacitors	106
3.8	Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy	108
4.	Polymerization Techniques	111
4.1	Polymerization Techniques	111

4.2	Synthesis and Characterization of PEDOT and PEDOT/PSS	112
4.2.1	Oxidative Chemical Polymerization of EDOT-Based Monomers	112
4.3	PEDOT as an Electrode Material for Solid Electrolyte Capacitors	113
4.3.1	Preparation of Poly(Vinyl Acetate)/Poly(3,4-Ethylenedioxythiophene) Poly(Styrene Sulfonate) Composites	114
4.3.2	Synthesis of Poly(3,4-Ethylenedioxythiophene) in a Poly(Vinyl Acetate) Matrix	115
4.3.3	Preparation of Electrospinning Solutions: PEDOT in PVAc Matrix	116
4.3.3.1	Electrospinning of PEDOT-PSS/PVAc	116
4.4	Conjugated Polymeric Nanostructures	118
4.4.1	Electrochemical Polymerization of Heterocyclic and Aromatic Monomers	120
4.4.2	Composites with Carbon Nanomaterials	122
4.4.3	Composites with Insulating Polymers	123
4.4.4	Composites with Metal or Oxide Nanoparticles	124
4.4.5	Applications of Electrosynthesized CP Nanomaterials	125
4.4.5.1	Sensors	125
4.4.5.2	Fuel cell electrode	126
4.4.5.3	Batteries	127
4.4.5.4	Electrochemical actuators	127
4.5	MWCNT/PS and PPy/PS Nanofibers	128
5.	Electrospinning: The Velocity Profile	131
5.1	Electrospinning: The Velocity Profile	131
5.2	Electrospinning and Nanofibers: Applications	135
5.3	Electrospinning of Polyaniline Blends	138
5.3.1	Effect of Rotating Speed on Fiber Alignment	143

5.3.1.1	Yarn formation	144
5.3.2	Conductivity and Mechanical Properties of PEDOT Composite Fibers	146
5.4	Characterization of PEDOT-PSS/PVAc Composites	146
5.4.1	FTIR-ATR Spectrophotometric Analysis	146
5.4.2	UV-Vis Spectrophotometric Analysis	149
5.4.3	Morphological Analysis	151
5.4.4	Dynamic Mechanical Analysis	153
5.4.5	BET Surface Area	155
5.4.6	Broadband Dielectric Spectrometer	156
5.4.7	Organic Vapor-Sensing Characteristics of PEDOT-PSS/PVP and PVP Nanofibers	158
6.	Impedance Spectroscopy and Spectroscopy on Polymeric Nanofibers	161
6.1	Impedance Spectroscopy on Polymeric Nanofibers	161
6.2	Impedance Spectroscopy: A General Overview	162
6.2.1	Equivalent Circuits Modeling	162
6.3	Modeling Charge Transport within the Conjugated Polymer Film	164
6.4	Synthesis, Characterization, and Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy of PEDOT-PSS/PVAc and PEDOT/PVAc	168
6.5	Characterization of Synthesized PEDOT in PVAc Matrix by FTIR-ATR, UV-Vis Spectrophotometric Analysis	171
6.6	Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy of Nanofiber Mats on ITO-PET	173
6.7	Molecular Structure and Processibility of Polyanilines	175
6.8	Solubility and Processability	177
6.9	Substitution onto the Backbone	181
6.9.1	Sulfonated Polyaniline	181

6.9.2	Poly(Anthranilic Acid)	182
6.9.3	Preparation of Poly(Anthranilic Acid)/Polyacrylonitrile Blends and Electrospinning Parameters	184
6.9.4	UV-Vis Spectrophotometric Investigation of Polymer Solutions	184
6.9.5	FTIR-ATR Spectrophotometric Analysis of PAN/PANA Nanofibers	187
6.9.6	Morphology of Electrospun Nanofibers of PANA/PAN Blends	189
6.9.7	Cyclic Voltammetry of Nanofibers of PANA/PAN Blends	190
6.9.8	Dynamic Mechanical Analysis	191
6.9.9	Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy	191
7.	Electrochemical Capacitive Behavior of Nanostructured Conjugated Polymers	197
7.1	Electrochemical Capacitive Behavior of Nanostructured Conjugated Polymers	197
7.1.1	PANI Electrochemical Supercapacitor	198
7.2	Polypyrrole and Its Composites	201
7.2.1	Synthesis of Polypyrrole and PEDOT Carbon Nanofiber Composites	203
7.2.2	Synthesis and Pseudocapacitance of Chemically Prepared PPy	206
7.2.3	Graphite/Polypyrrole Composite Electrode	208
7.3	EIS Study of Poly(3,4-Ethylenedioxythiophene)	210
7.3.1	Carbon Nanofibers and PEDOT-PSS Bilayer Systems	212
8.	Preparation of Conductive Nanofibers	215
8.1	Preparation of Conductive Nanofibers	215
8.2	Polyaniline Nanofibers	216
8.3	Addition of Nanoparticles	222
8.4	Polypyrrole Nanofibers with Carriers	223
8.5	Polyurethane/Polypyrrole Composite Nanofibers	229
8.6	Doped Nanofibers and Conductivities	238

8.7	Light-Emitting Polymer Nanofibers	244
8.7.1	Light Emission and Waveguiding in Conjugated Polymer Nanofibers Electrospun from Organic Salt-Added Solutions	245
8.8	Bioapplications	247
8.8.1	Polymer Nanofibers for Biomedical, Biotechnological and Capacitor Applications	250
8.9	Concluding Remarks	252
	Bibliography	255
	<i>Index</i>	277

Preface

Conjugated polymer composites with high dielectric constants are being developed by the electronics industry in response to the need for power-grounded decoupling to secure the integrity of high-speed signals and to reduce electromagnetic interference.

Electrically conducting polymers are materials which simultaneously possess the physical and chemical properties of organic polymers and the electronic characteristics of metals. Electrospinning based on the application of a static electric field on a polymer solution or melt through a spinneret appears to be a simple and well-controllable technique able to produce polymeric nanofibers. It is a versatile method for generating ultrathin fibers from a rich variety of materials that include polymers, composites, and ceramics. Due to its good adhesion to a number of substrates, and to some extent because it can be produced in large quantities, it can be used in emulsions, paints, adhesives, and various textile-finishing operations.

Conductive materials in fibrillar shape may be advantageous compared to films due to their inherent properties such as anisotropy, high surface area, and mechanical strength. Fibrous conductive materials are of particular interest in electroactive composites. Fine metal nanoparticles, carbon fibers, and carbon nanotubes have been efficiently distributed in an insulating polymer matrix in order to improve both electrical and mechanical properties.

Combination of electrical properties with good mechanical performance is of particular interest in electroactive polymeric technology. Fibers have intrinsically high structure factor that results in lower percolation threshold values avoiding material fracture with low filler content. Also, the use of mechanically stronger fibers will result in stronger composites.

Multifunctional micro- and nanostructures of conjugated polymers have received great attention. Some of them have several advantages, for example, pyrrole, aniline, and 3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene have properties of easy polymerization, high conductivity, and good

thermal stability; but disadvantages of brittleness and hard processibility can be overcome by the production of their nanocomposites. Conjugated polymer composites as a nanofiber mat with different dielectric properties can be used in electronics industry, sensors, batteries, and electrical stimulation to enhance the nerve-regeneration process and for the construction of scaffolds for nerve-tissue engineering. Electrospinning is a technique used for the production of thin continuous fibers from a variety of materials including blends and composites. The extremely small diameters (\sim nm) and high surface-to-volume and aspect ratios found in electrospun fibers cannot be achieved through conventional spinning.

This book covers general aspects, fundamental concepts, and equations of electrospinning used for the production of nanofibers and reviews latest researches on inclusion of conjugated polymer in different polymeric structures such as composites or blends of conjugated polymer nanofibers obtained by electrospinning.

Prof. Dr. A. Sezai Sarac
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