

tions. Lectures aimed at more technological topics focused upon a wide and interesting array of present and potential applications, including: non-linear optical properties and integrated optics; semiconductor devices; sensors; integrated circuit processing; aerospace applications; textiles and high-strength fibre materials; organic batteries; molecular electronics; and various applications involving both low and high frequency electromagnetic responses. D.T. Clark closed the workshop with a positive look towards the future rôle of conjugated polymers within the chemical industry.

Particularly noteworthy among the industrial discussions were the three following items: researchers at IBM reported on the application of radiation-induced doped polyaniline in high spatial resolution electroresists and electron beam discharge layers where conducting lines as small as 0.25 μm have been produced. Lockheed, USA, has recently contracted for the large-scale production of polyaniline for use in conjunction with other polymers in the aerospace industry. Neste Corporation, Finland, has formed UNIAX, a California-based joint venture with a small consortium of American scientists prominent in the field of conjugated polymers. Representatives from several other industrial companies alluded to coming announcements about applications of "conducting polymers" but only a few could be pinned down.

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1991 Hewlett-Packard Europhysics Prize

The Hewlett-Packard Prize for 1991 has been awarded to Klaus Bechgaard of the H.C. Ørsted Institute, University of Copenhagen and to Denis Jérôme, Laboratoire de Physique des Solides, Université de Paris-Sud, Orsay for the synthesis of a new class of organic metals and the discovery of their superconductivity and novel magnetic properties. The award ceremony will take place during the 11th Annual General Conference of the EPS Condensed Matter Division on 8–12 April 1991 in Exeter, UK.



Klaus Bechgaard, an organic chemist, has been a Full Professor in the Department of General and Organic Chemistry, H.C. Ørsted Institute, Copenhagen since 1989 following successive appointments, starting in 1969, as Research Assistant, Lecturer and Research Professor. After being awarded his doctorate from the University of Copenhagen in 1973, he became a postdoc at the John Hopkins University, USA. International collaboration continued with visiting positions in the USA (IBM, San Jose; University of Pennsylvania) and France (University of Paris-Sud; CNRS). Professor Bechgaard won the B.S. Friedmann Award in 1986 and the I. Henriksen Award in 1987, has been a member of the Royal Danish Academy since 1984 and serves as a regional editor of Synthetic Metals.

Denis Jérôme, an accomplished musician and alpinist, is a Director of Research in the CNRS, France and leads the research group in organic conductors and superconductors at the Laboratoire de Physique des Solides, University of Paris-Sud, Orsay. He studied physics at the University of Paris, receiving his doctorate in 1965, before working as a postdoc at the University of California, La Jolla, USA. He moved back to Orsay in 1967 to head the high pressure group in Professor Friedel's laboratory. A Lauréat of the French Academy of Sciences in 1980 and winner of the 1985 Holweck Prize he became a correspondent of the Academy last year. Professor Jérôme is the Chairman of the Publications Committee of the French Physical Society, serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal de Physique and is a Member of the Executive Board of the Journal of Physics (Condensed Matter).



Organic chemistry has had much success over the last half century in designing and fabricating materials with specific mechanical and optical properties, culminating in the 1970's with the development of novel electronic and magnetic characteristics. There arose a unique cooperation between solid state physicists and organic chemists, one aim of whose work was to understand changes in physical properties in terms of molecular design: the prizewinners represent these two groups.

The organic compounds which have generated most interest comprise relatively small, planar molecules with weak intermolecular interactions that give rise to exotic new physical phenomena. Many of the compounds are also anisotropic, a feature that leads to effectively one-dimensional electronic characteristics in some classes of materials, and two-dimensional characteristics in others. The former have attracted considerable international interest, mainly because of the possibility of high-temperature superconductivity proposed by some workers. In 1964, W.A. Little at Stanford University argued that organic conductors with their one-dimensional conducting chains surrounded by easily polarizable molecules can generate the necessary couplings. K. Bechgaard and D. Jérôme published results six years later describing the first organic material to exhibit superconductivity.

Detailed analyses by many different workers have shown, however, that the superconducting state is not of the one-dimensional type proposed by Little, but is instead related to the classical BCS mechanism. Nonetheless, details of the superconducting state are influenced by the low-dimensional character of the compounds, and phenomena occurring above the superconducting transition temperature indicate the likely existence of fluctuations which can be interpreted as relating to one-dimensional superconductivity.

The one-dimensional character of the materials also produces a variety of other, by now well known, phenomena such as Peierls transitions, where the electronic charge and spin can be effectively decoupled to give separate transition temperatures for charge (metal-insulator) and spin (magnetic transition). The two-dimensional character found in some classes of organic conductors induces novel properties including, for example, the quantum Hall effect involving electrons moving in a plane.

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