
Contents

Preface	xv
Acknowledgments	xxi
1 Early History of Spin	1
1.1 Spin	1
1.2 Bohr planetary model and space quantization	3
1.3 Birth of “spin”	4
1.4 The Stern-Gerlach experiment	6
1.5 Advent of spintronics	9
1.6 Problems	10
1.7 References	14
2 Quantum Mechanics of Spin	17
2.1 Pauli spin matrices	19
2.1.1 Eigenvectors of the Pauli matrices: Spinors	22
2.2 The Pauli equation and spinors	23
2.3 More on the Pauli equation	25
2.4 Extending the Pauli equation - the Dirac equation	26
2.4.1 Connection to Einstein’s relativistic equation	30
2.5 Time-independent Dirac equation	30
2.5.1 Non-relativistic approximation to the Dirac equation	31
2.5.2 Relationship between the non-relativistic approximation to the Dirac equation and the Pauli equation	32
2.6 Problems	34
2.7 Appendix	37
2.7.1 Working with spin operators	37
2.7.2 Two useful theorems	38
2.7.3 Applications of the <i>Postulates of Quantum Mechanics</i> to a few spin problems	40
2.7.4 The Heisenberg principle for spin components	43
2.8 References	44
3 Bloch Sphere	45
3.1 Spinor and “qubit”	45
3.2 Bloch sphere concept	47
3.2.1 Preliminaries	47

3.2.2	Connection between the Bloch sphere concept and the classical interpretation of the spin of an electron . . .	50
3.2.3	Relationship with qubit	51
3.2.4	Special spinors	53
3.2.5	Spin flip matrix	54
3.2.6	Excursions on the Bloch sphere: Pauli matrices revisited	54
3.3	Problems	58
3.4	References	63
4	Evolution of a Spinor on the Bloch Sphere	65
4.1	Spin-1/2 particle in a constant magnetic field: Larmor precession	65
4.1.1	Rotation on the Bloch sphere	67
4.2	Preparing to derive the Rabi formula	69
4.3	Rabi formula	74
4.3.1	Spin flip time	77
4.4	Problems	87
4.5	References	89
5	The Density Matrix	91
5.1	Density matrix concept: Case of a pure state	91
5.2	Properties of the density matrix	92
5.3	Pure versus mixed state	96
5.4	Concept of the Bloch ball	99
5.5	Time evolution of the density matrix: Case of mixed state . .	101
5.6	Relaxation times T_1 and T_2 and the Bloch equations	105
5.7	Problems	118
5.8	References	129
6	Spin–Orbit Interaction	131
6.1	Microscopic or intrinsic spin–orbit interaction in an atom . .	132
6.2	Macroscopic or extrinsic spin–orbit interaction	135
6.2.1	Rashba interaction	136
6.2.2	Dresselhaus interaction	139
6.3	Problems	141
6.4	References	144
7	Magneto-Electric Subbands in Quantum Confined Structures in the Presence of Spin–Orbit Interaction	147
7.1	Dispersion relations of spin resolved magneto-electric subbands and eigenspinors in a two-dimensional electron gas in the presence of spin–orbit interaction	147
7.1.1	Magnetic field in the plane of the 2-DEG	151

7.1.2	Magnetic field perpendicular to the plane of the 2-DEG	161
7.2	Dispersion relations of spin resolved magneto-electric subbands and eigenspinors in a one-dimensional electron gas in the presence of spin-orbit interaction	162
7.2.1	Magnetic field directed along the wire axis (x -axis)	162
7.2.2	Spin components	165
7.2.3	Magnetic field perpendicular to wire axis and along the electric field causing Rashba effect (i.e., along y -axis)	170
7.2.4	Spin components	175
7.3	Magnetic field perpendicular to the wire axis and the electric field causing the Rashba effect (i.e., along the z -axis)	177
7.3.1	Spin components	179
7.3.2	Special case	179
7.4	Eigenenergies of spin resolved subbands and eigenspinors in a quantum dot in the presence of spin-orbit interaction	180
7.5	Why are the dispersion relations important?	185
7.6	Problems	186
7.7	References	192
8	Spin Relaxation	195
8.1	Spin-independent spin-orbit magnetic field	197
8.2	Spin relaxation mechanisms	200
8.2.1	Elliott-Yafet mechanism	200
8.2.2	D'yakonov Perel' mechanism	203
8.2.3	Bir-Aronov-Pikus mechanism	211
8.2.4	Hyperfine interactions with nuclear spins	212
8.3	Spin relaxation in a quantum dot	212
8.3.1	Longitudinal and transverse spin relaxation times in a quantum dot	215
8.4	Problems	220
8.5	References	230
9	Some Spin Phenomena	235
9.1	The Spin Hall effect	235
9.1.1	The intrinsic Spin Hall effect	241
9.2	The Spin Galvanic effect	253
9.3	The Spin Capacitor	257
9.4	The Spin Transfer Torque	262
9.5	The Spin Hanle effect	264
9.6	The Spin Seebeck effect	266
9.7	The Spin Peltier effect	268
9.8	Problems	268
9.9	References	271

10 Exchange Interaction	277
10.1 Identical particles and the Pauli exclusion principle	277
10.1.1 The helium atom	278
10.1.2 The Heitler–London model of the hydrogen molecule	287
10.2 Hartree and Hartree–Fock approximations	290
10.3 The role of exchange in ferromagnetism	292
10.3.1 The Bloch model of ferromagnetism	292
10.3.2 The Heisenberg model of ferromagnetism	293
10.4 The Heisenberg Hamiltonian	294
10.5 Problems	295
10.6 References	299
11 Spin Transport in Solids	301
11.1 The drift-diffusion model	301
11.1.1 Derivation of the simplified steady-state spin drift-diffusion equation	305
11.2 The semiclassical model	309
11.2.1 Spin transport in a quantum wire: Monte Carlo simulation	310
11.2.2 Monte Carlo simulation	311
11.2.3 Specific examples: Temporal decay of spin polarization	312
11.2.4 Specific examples: Spatial decay of spin polarization	313
11.2.5 Upstream transport	313
11.3 Concluding remarks	317
11.4 Problems	319
11.5 References	319
12 Passive Spintronic Devices and Related Concepts	321
12.1 Spin valve	321
12.2 Spin injection efficiency	323
12.2.1 Stoner–Wohlfarth model of a ferromagnet	324
12.2.2 A simple two-resistor model to understand the spin valve	328
12.2.3 More advanced treatment of the spin valve	331
12.2.4 A transfer matrix model	338
12.2.5 Application of the Jullière formula to extract the spin diffusion length in a paramagnet from spin valve experiments	353
12.2.6 Spin valve experiments	354
12.3 Hysteresis in spin valve magnetoresistance	354
12.4 Giant magnetoresistance	360
12.4.1 Applications of the spin valve and GMR effects	361
12.5 Spin accumulation	366
12.6 Spin injection across a ferromagnet/metal interface	371

12.7	Spin injection in a spin valve	376
12.8	Spin extraction at the interface between a ferromagnet and a semiconductor	382
12.9	Problems	386
12.10	References	391
13	Active Devices Based on Spin and Charge	395
13.1	Spin-based transistors	395
13.2	Spin field effect transistors (SPINFET)	396
13.2.1	Particle viewpoint	398
13.2.2	Wave viewpoint	400
13.2.3	Effect of scattering on the Datta–Das SPINFET	402
13.2.4	Transfer characteristic of the Datta–Das transistor	403
13.2.5	Sub-threshold slope	405
13.2.6	Effect of non-idealities	407
13.2.7	The quantum well SPINFET	410
13.3	Analysis of the two-dimensional SPINFET	411
13.3.1	SPINFET based on the Dresselhaus spin–orbit interaction	417
13.4	Device performance of SPINFETs	419
13.4.1	Comparison between MISFET and SPINFET	422
13.4.2	Comparison between HEMT and SPINFET	423
13.5	Power dissipation estimates	425
13.6	Other types of SPINFETs	426
13.6.1	Non-ballistic SPINFET	426
13.6.2	Spin relaxation transistor	429
13.7	Importance of spin injection efficiency	432
13.8	Transconductance, gain, bandwidth, and isolation	435
13.8.1	Silicon SPINFETs	437
13.9	Spin Bipolar Junction Transistors (SBJT)	438
13.10	GMR-based transistors	439
13.10.1	All-metal spin transistor	440
13.10.2	Spin valve transistor	440
13.11	Concluding remarks	446
13.12	Problems	447
13.13	References	449
14	All-Electric spintronics with Quantum Point Contacts	453
14.1	Quantum point contacts	453
14.2	Recent experimental results with QPCs and QDs	456
14.3	Spin–orbit coupling	459
14.4	Rashba spin–orbit coupling (RSOC)	460
14.5	Lateral spin–orbit coupling (LSOC)	462
14.6	Stern–Gerlach type spatial spin separation in a QPC structure	465
14.7	Detection of spin polarization	466

14.8	Observation of a $0.5 G_0$ conductance plateau in asymmetrically biased QPCs with in-plane side gates	468
14.9	Prospect for generation of spin-polarized current at higher temperatures	472
14.10	Prospect for an all-electric SpinFET	473
14.11	Conclusion	475
14.12	Problems	475
14.13	References	480
15	Single Spin Processors	485
15.1	Single spintronics	485
15.1.1	Bit stability and fidelity	486
15.2	Reading and writing single spin	487
15.3	Single spin logic	488
15.3.1	SSL NAND gate	488
15.3.2	Input-dependent ground states of the NAND gate	489
15.3.3	Ground state computing with spins	498
15.4	Energy dissipation issues	505
15.4.1	Energy dissipated in the gate during switching	505
15.4.2	Energy dissipated in the clocking circuit	509
15.5	Comparison between spin transistors and single-spin-processors	509
15.6	Concluding remarks	510
15.7	Problems	511
15.8	References	513
16	Quantum Computing with Spins	517
16.1	Quantum inverter	517
16.2	Can the NAND gate be switched without dissipating energy?	522
16.3	Universal reversible gate: Toffoli–Fredkin gate	527
16.3.1	Dynamics of the T-F gate	529
16.4	A-matrix	529
16.5	Quantum gates	530
16.5.1	The strange nature of true quantum gates: The “square root of NOT” gate	530
16.6	Qubits	532
16.7	Superposition states	534
16.8	Quantum parallelism	536
16.9	Universal quantum gates	537
16.9.1	Two-qubit universal quantum gates	538
16.10	A 2-qubit “spintronic” universal quantum gate	538
16.10.1	Silicon quantum computer based on nuclear spins	539
16.10.2	Quantum dot-based spintronic model of universal quantum gate	540
16.11	Conclusion	542

16.12 Problems	543
16.13 References	545
17 Nanomagnetic Logic: Computing with Giant Classical Spins	549
17.1 Nanomagnetic logic and Bennett clocking	553
17.2 Why nanomagnetism?	561
17.2.1 All-spin logic	562
17.2.2 Magneto-elastic magneto-tunneling junction logic . . .	566
17.3 Problems	569
17.4 References	572
18 A Brief Quantum Mechanics Primer	577
18.1 Blackbody radiation and quantization of electromagnetic energy	577
18.1.1 Blackbody radiation	577
18.2 Concept of the photon	578
18.3 Wave-particle duality and the De Broglie wavelength	581
18.4 Postulates of quantum mechanics	584
18.4.1 Interpretation of the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle	590
18.4.2 Time evolution of expectation values: Ehrenfest theorem	593
18.5 Some elements of semiconductor physics: Particular applications in nanostructures	595
18.5.1 Density of states: Bulk (3-D) to quantum dot (0-D) .	595
18.6 Rayleigh–Ritz variational procedure	609
18.7 The transfer matrix formalism	614
18.7.1 Linearly independent solutions of the Schrödinger equation	615
18.7.2 Concept of Wronskian	616
18.7.3 Concept of transfer matrix	617
18.7.4 Cascading rule for transfer matrices	617
18.8 Peierls’ transformation	622
18.9 Problem	624
18.10 References	625
Index	627