

## ELECTRON SPIN ECHO INVESTIGATIONS ON TRAPPED EPR ACTIVE CENTERS IN OXYGEN CONTAMINATED POLYACETYLENE

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**Abstract:** In this work, investigations of the electron spin-lattice relaxation of the trapped centers are presented. Electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) is a method for separating the spectrum of these centers to calculate the spin-lattice relaxation time  $T_1$ . The experimental results suggest the conclusion that oxygen contaminated polyacetylene undergoes a structural phase transition of second order.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Polyacetylene is very active to react with oxygen with catalyses the dimerization already at lower temperature close to room temperature [1]. The mobility of the so formed neutral solitonlike paramagnetic conjugation defects is drastically reduced [2,3]. Time resolved EPR have been proved to be a powerful method for separating the spectrum of the trapped spin centers from that of the mobile centers [4,5].

The spin-lattice relaxation time  $T_1$  shows two peculiarities. It has an unusually strong temperature dependence below 200K which can be related with a strongly harmonic motion of the neighbored mobile centers contributing to the spin-lattice relaxation through magnetic dipolar and hyperfine interaction. Furthermore,  $T_1$  showing a minimum at about 210K is discussed to be attributed to a new second order phase transition in oxygen contaminated polyacetylenes.

### I. EXPERIMENTAL

Polyacetylene was synthesized at 220 K following the procedure of Shirakawa. Immediately after the preparation the samples were 15 minutes exposed to air and then vacuum stored at room temperature. Sample A is the untreated cis-rich polyacetylene whereas sample B was heat-treated at 150 C for 30 minutes and is trans-rich.

The  $T_1$  measurements were carried out with a electron spin echo heterodyne beat spectrometer working in X-band [7]. A three pulse sequence was used where the magnetic field recovery was monitored by the primary echo.

The sample temperature was varied using a nitrogen gas flow controlled to  $\pm 0.1$  K between 90 K and 300 K and a Oxford helium flow cryostat ESR 9 between 4 K and 30 K.

### II. RESULTS

The electron spin-lattice relaxation rates  $1/T_1$  of both samples A and B in the low temperature range are nearly identical and in comparison with the mobile centers in the pure polyacetylene [4,8], by one order of magnitude lower. In the middle

20 K and 300 K the relaxation rate of sample A is some what higher. The temperature dependence can be described by:

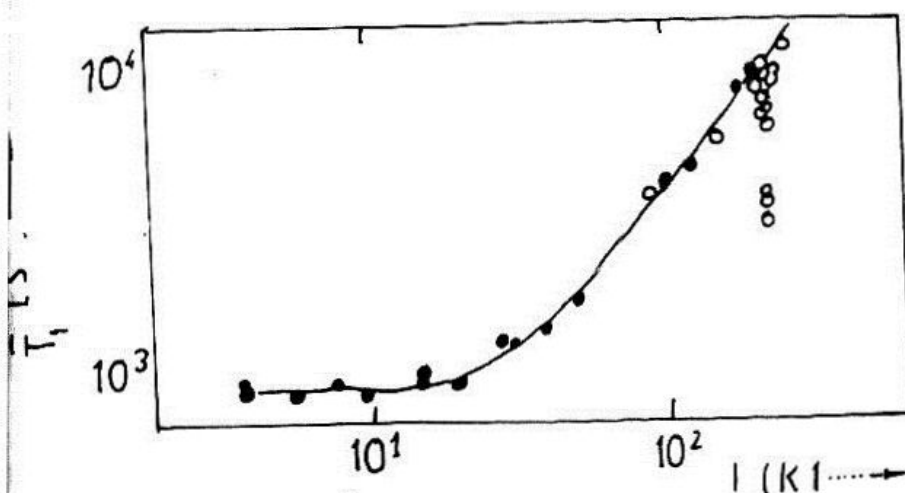
$$\frac{1}{T_1} = A_0 + A_1 \cdot M_1 \cdot \frac{\Theta_{ALM}}{T} + A_2 \frac{\exp(\Theta_0/T)}{[\exp(\Theta_0/T) - 1]^2} \quad (1)$$

where  $A_i, i = 1, 2$ , are constants. The third term is a usual Raman process due to a local lattice mode of energy  $k\Theta_0$ . The second term describes the contribution of anharmonic local motion (ALM) to the spin-lattice relaxation of the trapped particle as e. g. discussed in [9] for a phonon assisted relaxation process via vibrational states of a particle within a square well potential.

$$M_1 \frac{\Theta_{ALM}}{T} = \left[ \sum \exp(-m^2 \Theta_{ALM}/T) \right]^{-1} \cdot \left\{ \sum (2m+1) [1 - (2m+1)^{-2}]^2 \times \frac{\exp(-m^2 \Theta_{ALM}/T)}{\exp[(2m+1)\Theta_{ALM}/T] - 1} \right\} \quad (2)$$

in [9] where the characteristic temperature,  $\Theta_{ALM} = h/32kMa^2$  is related to the energy states of a particle of mass  $M$  within an one-dimensional infinite well of the length  $2a$ . A computer fit of the experimental data with equation (1) gives  $A_0 = 850s^{-1}$  and  $A_1 = 1,6 \cdot 10^3 s^{-1}$  and  $0,5 \cdot 10^3 s^{-1}$ ,  $\Theta_{ALM} = 25$  K and 19 K,  $A_2 = 22 \cdot 10^3 s^{-1}$  and  $1, \Theta_0 = 745$  K and 700 K for the samples A and B, respectively. Identifying the particle as a moving soliton in a neighbored chain the characteristic temperatures, corresponds to a range of the soliton motion of 44 and 50 c-c units sample A and B.

In the temperature range between 200 K and 230 K a very striking anomaly of the spin-lattice relaxation is observed. Several sharp peaks in the  $T_1$  temperature dependence are observed where  $t_1$  increase by more than 100  $\mu s$  within a small interval of few Kelvin.



Temperature dependence of  $1/T_1$  (sample A).  
The drawn curve corresponds to equation (1)

The observed anomalies are far outside the limit of the experimental error. This type of anomaly is similar to that observed by the authors on paramagnetic defect centers in crystals undergoing structural phase transitions of second order [10]. Therefore, the experimental results suggest the conclusion that oxygen contaminated polyacetylene undergoes a structural phase transition of second order which takes place at somewhat higher temperatures due to the structural imperfections of the material.

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## NGHIÊN CỨU ĐIỆN TỬ SPIN-MẠNG TRÊN CÁC TÂM HOẠT TÍNH EPR CỦA POLYAXÊTYLEN NHIỄM O<sub>2</sub>

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Bài báo này trình bày việc nghiên cứu về thời gian hồi phục điện tử spin-mạng với các tâm hoạt tính. Cộng hưởng từ điện tử (EPR) là một phương pháp hữu ích để xác lập phổ của các tâm này, từ đó tính được thời gian hồi phục spin-mạng  $T_1$ . Kết quả thực nghiệm thu được khẳng định rằng ô xy xâm nhập vào trong cácpolyaxetylen tạo nên một chuyển pha cấu trúc bậc 2.