CONTENTS

Preface v
About the Authors ix
Acknowledgements xi
Structure of the Book xiii

1 Mesoscopic Physics and Nanotechnologies 1
1.1. Outlook of the book 3
1.2. Trends in nanoelectronics and optoelectronics 4
1.3. Characteristic lengths in mesoscopic systems 8
1.4. Quantum mechanical coherence 11
1.5. Quantum wells, wires, and dots 12
1.6. Density of states and dimensionality 13
1.7. Semiconductor heterostructures 15
1.8. Quantum transport 17
References 17
Further Reading 18
Problems 18

2 Survey of Solid State Physics 21
2.1. Introduction 23
2.2. Short review of quantum mechanics 24
2.2.1. Wave-particle duality and the Heisenberg principle 24
2.2.2. Schrödinger wave equation. Applications 26
2.2.3. Fermi–Dirac and Bose–Einstein distributions 28
2.2.4. Perturbation methods 29
2.3. Free electron model of a solid. Density of states function 31
2.4. Bloch theorem 34
2.5. Electrons in crystalline solids 35
2.5.1. Nearly free electron model 35
2.5.2. Tight binding approximation 37
2.6. Dynamics of electrons in bands 40
2.6.1. Equation of motion 40
2.6.2. Effective mass 41
2.6.3. Holes 43

2.7. Lattice vibrations . . . 45
2.7.1. One-dimensional lattice . . . 45
2.7.2. Three-dimensional lattice . . . 49
2.8. Phonons . . . 50
References . . . 51
Further Reading . . . 51
Problems . . . 51

3 Review of Semiconductor Physics . . . 55
3.1. Introduction . . . 57
3.2. Energy bands in typical semiconductors . . . 57
3.3. Intrinsic and extrinsic semiconductors . . . 60
3.4. Electron and hole concentrations in semiconductors . . . 63
3.5. Elementary transport in semiconductors . . . 69
3.5.1. Electric field transport. Mobility . . . 69
3.5.2. Conduction by diffusion . . . 71
3.5.3. Continuity equations. Carrier lifetime and diffusion length . . . 72
3.6. Degenerate semiconductors . . . 75
3.7. Optical properties of semiconductors . . . 76
3.7.1. Optical processes in semiconductors . . . 76
3.7.2. Interband absorption . . . 77
3.7.3. Excitonic effects . . . 80
3.7.4. Emission spectrum . . . 82
3.7.5. Stimulated emission . . . 84
References . . . 87
Further Reading . . . 87
Problems . . . 87

4 The Physics of Low-Dimensional Semiconductors . . . 89
4.1. Introduction . . . 91
4.2. Basic properties of two-dimensional semiconductor nanostructures . . . 92
4.3. Square quantum well of finite depth . . . 96
4.4. Parabolic and triangular quantum wells . . . 98
4.4.1. Parabolic well . . . 98
4.4.2. Triangular wells . . . 99
4.5. Quantum wires . . . 100
4.6. Quantum dots . . . 102
4.7. Strained layers . . . 104
4.8. Effect of strain on valence bands . . . 106
4.9. Band structure in quantum wells . . . 109

4.10. Excitonic effects in quantum wells . . . 111
References . . . 113
Further Reading . . . 113
Problems . . . 114

5 Semiconductor Quantum Nanostructures and Superlattices . . . 117
5.1. Introduction . . . 119
5.2. MOSFET structures . . . 120
5.3. Heterojunctions . . . 123
5.3.1. Modulation-doped heterojunctions . . . 123
5.3.2. SiGe strained heterostructures . . . 126
5.4. Quantum wells . . . 127
5.4.1. Modulation-doped quantum well . . . 127
5.4.2. Multiple quantum wells (MQW) . . . 129
5.5. Superlattices . . . 131
5.5.1. The concept of a superlattice . . . 131
5.5.2. Kronig–Penney model of a superlattice. Zone folding . . . 132
5.5.3. Tight binding approximation of a superlattice . . . 137
5.5.4. nipi superlattices . . . 138
References . . . 141
Further Reading . . . 141
Problems . . . 141

6 Electric Field Transport in Nanostructures . . . 143
6.1. Introduction . . . 145
6.2. Parallel transport . . . 145
6.2.1. Electron scattering mechanisms . . . 146
6.2.2. Experimental data on parallel transport . . . 149
6.2.3. Hot electrons in parallel transport . . . 151
6.3. Perpendicular transport . . . 153
6.3.1. Resonant tunnelling . . . 153
6.3.2. Electric field effects in superlattices . . . 155
6.4. Quantum transport in nanostructures . . . 159
6.4.1. Quantized conductance. Landauer formula . . . 160
6.4.2. Landauer–Büttiker formula for multi-probe quantum transport . . . 163
6.4.3. Coulomb blockade . . . 165
References . . . 169
Further Reading . . . 169
Problems . . . 169

7 Transport in Magnetic Fields and the Quantum Hall Effect 173
7.1. Introduction 175
7.2. Effect of a magnetic field on a crystal 176
7.3. Low-dimensional systems in magnetic fields 178
7.4. Density of states of a 2D system in a magnetic field 179
7.5. The Aharonov–Bohm effect 180
7.6. The Shubnikov–de Haas effect 183
7.7. The quantum Hall effect 185
7.7.1. Experimental facts and elementary theory of the integer quantum Hall effect (IQHE) 185
7.7.2. Edge states and the IQHE 186
7.7.3. Extended and localized states 189
7.7.4. Applications in metrology 191
7.7.5. The fractional quantum Hall effect (FQHE) 192
References 194
Further Reading 194
Problems 195

8 Optical and Electro-optical Processes in Quantum Heterostructures . . . 197
8.1. Introduction 199
8.2. Optical properties of quantum wells and superlattices 199
8.3. Optical properties of quantum dots and nanocrystals 204
8.3.1. Growth techniques. Self-assembled quantum dots 204
8.3.2. Optical properties 206
8.4. Electro-optical effects in quantum wells. Quantum confined Stark effect 213
8.5. Electro-optical effects in superlattices. Stark ladders and Bloch oscillations 216
References 220
Further Reading 221
Problems 221

9 Electronic Devices Based on Nanostructures 223
9.1. Introduction 225
9.2. MODFETs 227
9.3. Heterojunction bipolar transistors 229
9.4. Resonant tunnel effect 232
9.5. Hot electron transistors 234
9.6. Resonant tunnelling transistor 237
9.7. Single electron transistor 240
References 242

Further Reading . . . 243
Problems . . . 243

10 Optoelectronic Devices Based on Nanostructures . . . 245
10.1. Introduction . . . 247
10.2. Heterostructure semiconductor lasers . . . 247
10.3. Quantum well semiconductor lasers . . . 251
10.4. Vertical cavity surface emitting lasers (VCSELs) . . . 254
10.5. Strained quantum well lasers . . . 256
10.6. Quantum dot lasers . . . 258
10.7. Quantum well and superlattice photodetectors . . . 262
10.8. Quantum well modulators . . . 265
References . . . 267
Further Reading . . . 267
Problems . . . 268

Index . . . 271