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Final Project Report

**THEORETICAL INVESTIGATIONS AND ATTEMPTED SYNTHESIS OF  
ORGANIC MAGNETIC POLYMERS AND OLIGOMERS**

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# THEORETICAL INVESTIGATIONS AND ATTEMPTED SYNTHESIS OF ORGANIC MAGNETIC POLYMERS AND OLIGOMERS

Paul M. Lahti

## I. Brief Summary of Goals of Project:

This project was aimed at designing magnetic properties in new materials, particularly organic polyradicals. We desired to use semiempirical molecular orbital plus configuration interaction computational methods to predict what types of structural features are most important in maximizing desirable ferromagnetic exchange interactions within organic systems (intramolecular exchange). Once appropriate structural models were delineated by theory, we also aimed to develop a solid-state photochemical method to generate phenoxy radical sites in a polymeric material. Use of a solid-state polyradical synthesis method would allow masking techniques for production of magnetic sites on a surface, and would minimize the kinds of radical quenching reactions that tend to reduce stability of radicals under free diffusion (solution) conditions.

## II. Major Accomplishments of This Project:

- (1) The use of the AM1 semiempirical computational model, with limited configuration interaction, gives excellent predictive capability in comparison to experimental results for the qualitative ground state multiplicity of organic diradical models [Tech. Rep. 3, 5, 6, 13, 15]. In addition, computed energy gaps between ground and excited states are in good agreement with ab initio quantum theoretical predictions, where such comparisons are available. The AM1-CI method is readily available through use of the AMPAC (version 2.10) program from the Quantum Chemistry Program Exchange at Indiana University.
- (2) AM1-CI computations predict that several structural types of organic polyradicals should have ferromagnetically coupled exchange, for up to four or five-fold oligomers [Tech. Rep. 13, 15]. Geometric torsion effects that break conjugation can severely reduce exchange through a conjugated chain in some cases. Computations on model polyphenoxy oligomer systems indicate that these are appropriate synthetic targets to achieve long-chain ferromagnetic coupling in a single polyradical chain.
- (3) Experimentally, we have developed an entirely new, photochemical strategy for generating phenoxy radicals [Tech. Rep. 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17]. The method is based upon use of aryl oxalate derivatives, which are cheaply and easily synthesized. A peroxy-ester derivative gives very high quantum yields of products upon photolysis [Tech. Rep. 8, 11], but produces byproducts that are sufficiently reactive to destroy a substantial number of the desired phenoxy radicals. In addition, the peroxy ester-based systems have limited thermal stability in several cases. Diaryl oxalates (DAOs) are thermally much more stable than the peroxy esters, give useful quantum yields of phenoxy radicals, and show much high stability of phenoxy radicals in rigid matrices upon warming [Tech. Rep. 16-18].
- (4) Use of our model DAO methodology has been extended from small molecules, to functionalize pendant polyphenolic polymers. We have attached DAO photoactive groups to poly(4-hydroxystyrene), and photolyzed at 77 K (-196°C) to produce a nonconjugated pendant polyphenoxy radical [Tech. Rep. 18]. We find this method to possess high spin yields of radicals in sufficient proximity to exhibit antiferromagnetic coupling. The poly-DAO photochemical precursor polymer is

thermally stable for indefinite periods, is easy to make, and provides a method previous unavailable for the solid-state generation and study of organic polyradical materials.

### III. Potential Future Directions:

Future extensions of the work described above will involve optimization of the quantum yield of DAO-related phenoxy-generating chemistry, by use of different substituents on the DAO groups. We also must learn to make conjugated poly-DAO precursors, in order to achieve the most desirable and strong magnetism associated with intramolecular, conjugative exchange interactions. Finally, polymer processibility will be an important consideration, since our photochemical method allows only surface production of polyradicals (50-100  $\mu\text{m}$  deep). Gamma-irradiation may eventually also be useful for polyradical-based production of permanent, write-once-read-many (WORM) types of materials.

### IV. Listing of Research Personnel Involved in This Project:

Paul M. Lahti	Assistant Professor	Principal Investigator
David Modarelli	Ph. D. Student	Research Assistant
Frank Rossitto	Ph. D. Student	Research Assistant
Masaki Minato	Ph. D. Student	Research Assistant
Andrew Ichimura	Ph. D. Student	Research Assistant

### Va. Bibliography of Publications Acknowledging ONR Support, Which Were Submitted as or Derived from Technical Reports:

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- P. M. Lahti, A. S. Ichimura, "Computational Modeling of Pi-Conjugated Polyradicals.", *Mol. Cryst. Liq. Cryst.*, **1989**, *176*, 125-138.
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**Vib. Listing of Technical Reports During Project Period.**

1. P. M. Lahti, A. Ichimura, M. Kearley, D. Modarelli, "Electronically and Magnetically Unusual Materials.
2. P. M. Lahti, A. Ichimura, D. Modarelli, M. Kearley, "Non-Kekule Molecules -- Theory, Practice and Uses."
3. P. M. Lahti, A. S. Ichimura, "Computational Modeling of Pi-Conjugated Polyradicals."
4. D. A. Modarelli, F. C. Rossitto, P. M. Lahti, "Experimental Progress Toward Synthesis of Very High Spin State Organic Polyradicals."
5. P. M. Lahti, A. Ichimura, J. A. Berson, "Properties of Organic Diradicaloid Molecules Predicted by Semiempirical Molecular Orbital Theory. A Practical Procedure."
6. P. M. Lahti, A. S. Ichimura, "Computational Modeling of Pi-Conjugated Polyradicals."
7. D. A. Modarelli, F. C. Rossitto, P. M. Lahti, "Convenient Unimolecular Sources of Aryloxy Radicals. I - Aryloxyoxalyl Chlorides." (preprint)
8. D. A. Modarelli, F. C. Rossitto, P. M. Lahti, "Convenient Unimolecular Sources of Aryloxy Radicals. II - Aryloxyoxalyl Tert-Butylperoxides." (preprint)
9. A. S. Ichimura, P. M. Lahti, A. R. Matlin, "An Ab Initio Study of Methano and Ethano Bridged Derivatives of Oxyallyl."
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14. D. A. Modarelli, F. C. Rossitto, M. Minato, P. M. Lahti, "Organic Polyradical Models for Organic Magnetic Materials."
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17. P. M. Lahti, D. A. Modarelli, "Solid State Photochemical Generation of Triplet Phenoxy-Phenoxy Radical Pairs."
18. P. M. Lahti, F. C. Rossitto, "Progress Toward Synthesis of Polymeric Polyradicals."
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