

Contents

1	Introduction: Basics of High Field Transport	1
1.1	Introductory Remarks	1
1.2	Coherent vs. Incoherent Transport of Electrons in a Band ..	2
1.3	Basics of Bloch Oscillations	4
1.4	Coupling to Higher Bands: Zener Tunneling	7
	References	8
2	Semiconductor Superlattices	9
2.1	Introduction	9
2.2	Electronic States in Superlattices Without an Electric Field ..	11
2.3	Electronic States in Superlattices with an Electric Field ..	15
2.3.1	Introduction	15
2.3.2	The Kane Approach	16
2.3.3	The Tight-Binding Approach	18
2.4	Optical Transitions in Biased Superlattices	20
2.4.1	General Picture	20
2.4.2	The Excitonic Wannier–Stark Ladder	21
2.4.3	Experimental Observation of the Wannier–Stark Ladder	23
2.5	Summary	25
	References	25
3	Interband Optical Experiments on Bloch Oscillations: Basic Observations	27
3.1	Coherent Optical Excitation of Superlattices: Relation to the Gedankenexperiment	27
3.2	Interband vs. Intraband Dynamics in Optical Experiments ..	29
3.2.1	Introduction	29
3.2.2	Description of Bloch Oscillations	32
3.2.3	Extension to Real Semiconductors	33
3.3	Optical Techniques to Detect Bloch Oscillations	35
3.3.1	Interband Optical Techniques	35
3.3.2	Other Techniques	41
3.4	Observation of Bloch Oscillations by Transient Four-Wave Mixing	42

3.5	Further Investigations with Four-Wave Mixing	47
3.5.1	Quantum vs. Polarization Oscillations.....	47
3.5.2	Influence of Miniband Width	48
3.6	Summary.....	49
	References	50
4	Interband Optical Experiments on Bloch Oscillations: Measurements of the Spatial Dynamics	53
4.1	Determination of the Spatial Amplitude from Transient Peak Shifts	53
4.2	Control of the Amplitude by Changing the Laser Excitation: Tuning Between Breathing Modes and Spatial Oscillations ..	60
4.3	Influence of Scattering and Coupling to the Plasma on Bloch Oscillation Dynamics	67
4.4	Self-Induced Shapiro Effect	76
4.4.1	Relation Between Bloch Oscillations and Josephson Effect	76
4.4.2	Observation of Linear Transport in Optically Excited Superlattices	77
4.4.3	Theoretical Model	80
4.5	Summary.....	85
	References	85
5	Emission of Terahertz Radiation	87
5.1	Techniques of Terahertz Spectroscopy	87
5.2	Basic Experiments Observing THz Emission from Bloch Oscillations	89
5.3	Temperature Dependence.....	91
5.4	Excitation Above the Band Edge	92
5.5	THz Experiments on Miniband Transport and Crossover to Bloch Oscillations	97
5.6	THz Emission in Crossed Electric and Magnetic Fields	100
5.7	Summary.....	101
	References	102
6	Damping of Bloch Oscillations I: Scattering.....	103
6.1	Damping Times in Optical and Transport Experiments	103
6.2	Damping of Bloch Oscillations by Phonon and Interface Scattering	105
6.2.1	Decay Dynamics vs. Lattice Temperature.....	106
6.2.2	Decay Dynamics vs. Excitation Intensity	109
6.2.3	Discussion of the Decay Dynamics	111
6.3	Coupling of Bloch Oscillations and Optical Phonons	113
6.4	Summary.....	116
	References	116

7 Damping of Bloch Oscillations II: Zener Tunneling	119
7.1 Spectrum of a Superlattice in a Very High Field	121
7.1.1 First Experiments	121
7.1.2 Theoretical Considerations	123
7.1.3 Experimental Investigation of Zener Tunneling in Linear Optical Experiments	125
7.1.4 Dynamics of Single Wannier–Stark Ladder States in the Presence of Strong Zener Tunneling	134
7.2 Wave Packet Dynamics in the Zener Tunneling Regime	139
7.2.1 Experimental Approach	139
7.2.2 Field-Induced Decay of the Intraband Polarization	141
7.2.3 Wave Packet Revival in the Presence of Zener Tunneling	145
7.3 Summary	149
References	149
8 Electrical Transport Experiments	151
8.1 Modeling of Transport in Superlattices	151
8.1.1 Semiclassical Miniband Transport Theories	151
8.1.2 Scattering Mechanisms in Superlattices	154
8.2 Experimental Investigations of Miniband Transport	156
8.2.1 Investigations of Low-Field Transport	156
8.2.2 Resonances with Higher Minibands: Domain Formation	159
8.3 High-Field Transport: Observation of Negative Differential Conductivity	160
8.3.1 Experiments on Undoped Superlattices	161
8.3.2 Experiments on Doped Superlattices	162
8.3.3 Magnetotransport Experiments on Superlattices	162
8.3.4 AC Conductivity Measurements of Superlattice Transport	164
8.3.5 Superlattice Transport Measurements by Time-of-Flight Techniques	166
8.4 Details of Miniband Transport	169
8.4.1 Introduction	169
8.4.2 Coupling of Miniband Transport to the xy Dispersion	169
8.4.3 Transport in Narrow Minibands: Suppression of Phonon Scattering and Influence of Disorder	171
8.4.4 Electrical Spectroscopy Using Transistor Structures	176
8.5 Negative Differential Conductivity in Bulk Silicon Carbide	179
8.6 Combined Transport and Optical Experiments	181
8.6.1 Comparison of Transport and Optical Experiments	181
8.6.2 Observation of Thermal Saturation in a Superlattice by Infrared Absorption	188

8.6.3	Electrical Transport Under Infrared Illumination	190
8.6.4	Investigation of Zener Tunneling: Transport and Infrared Experiments	193
8.7	Summary	196
	References	196
9	Bloch Oscillations in Other Systems	201
9.1	Bloch Oscillations of Atoms	201
9.2	Bloch Oscillations in Optical Wave Guides	204
	References	207
10	Future Prospects and Possible Applications	209
10.1	Basic Considerations for Coherent Electronic Devices	209
10.2	Device Concepts Using Coherent Transport Effects in Superlattices	211
10.2.1	Detector Applications	211
10.2.2	Free-Running Bloch Emitters	212
10.3	Bloch Lasers, or Is There Gain in a Biased Superlattice?	217
10.3.1	Existence of Gain	218
10.3.2	Stable Operation of a Bloch Oscillator	223
10.4	Comparison with Other Potential Sources of THz Radiation	227
10.5	Summary	229
	References	229
	Selected List of Symbols	233
	Index	237