

Abstract Submitted  
for the MAR10 Meeting of  
The American Physical Society

**Spin-orbit coupling and spin relaxation rate in singly charged pi-conjugated polymer chains** JAMES RYBICKI, THO DUC NGUYEN<sup>1</sup>, YU-GANG SHENG<sup>2</sup>, MARKUS WOHLGENANT, University of Iowa — In inorganic semiconductor spintronics the spin-diffusion length is usually limited by spin-orbit coupling. Here we examine the effect of spin-orbit coupling in organic spintronics. We consider singly charged pi-conjugated polymer chains. We show that the diagonal matrix elements for spin-orbit coupling are zero. Even the off-diagonal matrix elements are zero or negligibly small unless a twisted, non-planar polymer chain is considered. We calculate these matrix elements as a function of twist-angle using tight-binding wavefunctions. We show that time reversal symmetry prevents spin-orbit induced spin-precession and propose a phonon-assisted spin-flip process.

<sup>1</sup>Currently at the University of Utah

<sup>2</sup>Currently at Seagate Technology

James Rybicki  
University of Iowa

Date submitted: 20 Nov 2009

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