



Division of the History of Chemistry
American Chemical Society

Citation for Chemical Breakthrough



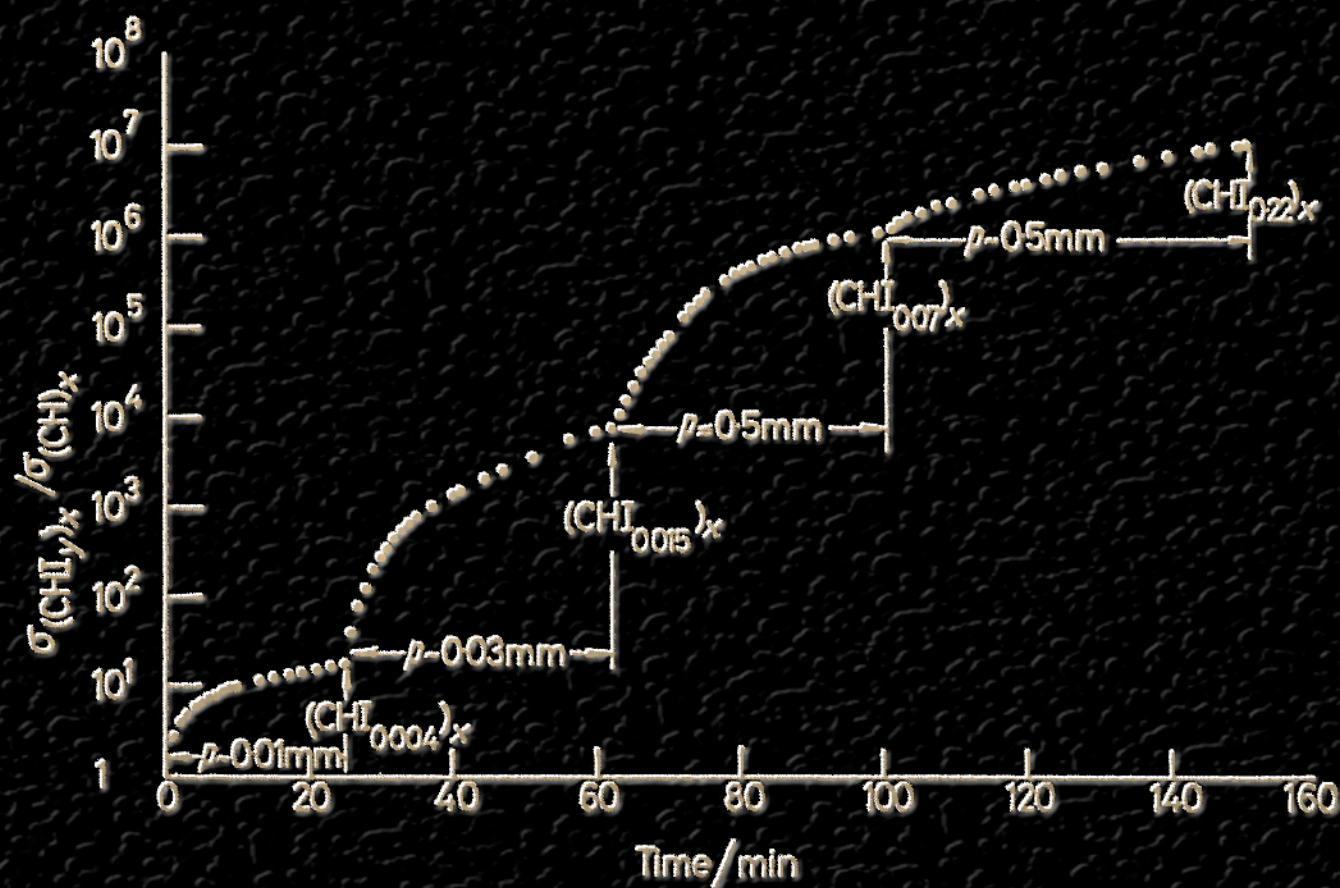
J. Chem. Soc. Chem. Commun. 1977, 578-580.

Synthesis of Electrically Conducting Organic Polymers: Halogen Derivatives of Polyacetylene, $(\text{CH})_x$

By HIDEKI SHIRAKAWA, EDWIN J. LOUIS, ALAN G. MACDIARMID,*
CHWAN K. CHIANG,† and ALAN J. HEEGER†

(Department of Chemistry and †Department of Physics,
Laboratory for Research on the Structure of Matter,
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia 19104)

Summary When silvery films of the semiconducting polymer, *trans* 'polyacetylene', $(\text{CH})_x$, are exposed to chlorine, bromine, or iodine vapour, uptake of halogen occurs, and the conductivity increases markedly (over seven orders of magnitude in the case of iodine) to give, depending on the extent of halogenation, silvery or silvery-black films, some of which have a remarkably high conductivity at room temperature.



Presented to the University of Pennsylvania, 2022