

Contents

About the Authors	xi
Series Editor's Foreword	xiii
1 Introduction	1
References	5
2 Mechanisms of LC Photoalignment	7
2.1 Cis-Trans Isomerization	9
2.1.1 'Command Surface'	9
2.1.2 Cis-Trans Transformations in Azo-Dye Side-Chain Polymers and Azo-Dye in a Polymer Matrix	10
2.2 Pure Reorientation of the Azo-Dye Chromophore Molecules or Azo-Dye Molecular Solvates	13
2.2.1 Diffusion Model	13
2.2.2 Polarized Absorption Spectra	24
2.2.3 Modifications: Repeated Cis-Trans Photoisomerization Reaction Resulting in the Reorientation of the Backbone Structure	25
2.3 Crosslinking in Cinnamoyl Side-Chain Polymers	26
2.4 Photodegradation in Polyimide Materials	28
2.5 Photoinduced Order in Langmuir–Blodgett Films	33
References	33
3 LC-Surface Interaction in a Photoaligned Cell	39
3.1 Pretilt Angle Generation in Photoaligning Materials	39
3.2 Generation of Large Pretilt Angles	45

viii **CONTENTS**

3.2.1	Generation of Large Pretilt Angles by Controlled Photodegradation	45
3.2.2	Generation of Large Pretilt Angles by Nanostructured Surfaces	47
3.3	Anchoring Energy in Photoaligning Materials	51
3.4	Stability of Photoaligning Materials: Sensitivity to UV Light	56
3.5	Comparison of the Characteristics of Photoalignment Layers for Different Mechanisms of LC Photoalignment	59
3.6	Various Methods for the Experimental Characterization of Photoalignment Layers	59
	References	64
4	Photoalignment of LCs	69
4.1	Vertical LC Alignment	69
4.2	Twisted LC Photoalignment	72
4.3	Photoalignment of Ferroelectric LC	74
4.4	Optical Rewritable LC Alignment	78
4.5	Photoalignment with Asymmetric Surface Anchoring	82
4.6	LC Photoalignment on Plastic Substrates	83
4.7	Photoalignment on Grating Surface	85
4.8	Photoalignment of Lyotropic and Discotic LCs	90
4.9	Other Types of LC Photoalignment	93
	References	96
5	Application of Photoalignment Materials in Optical Elements	101
5.1	Polarizers	101
5.1.1	Dichroism	101
5.1.2	Direct Photoalignment	104
5.1.3	Indirect Photoalignment	107
5.1.4	Patterned Polarizers	108
5.2	Retardation Films	109
5.2.1	Types of Films	109
5.2.2	Direct and Indirect Photoalignment	111
5.2.3	Examples of Photoaligned Retardation Films	113
5.2.4	Photo-patterned Phase Retarders and Color Filters	118
5.3	Transflective LCD with Photo-patterned Polarizers and Phase Retarders	123
5.4	Security Applications of Photoaligning and Photo-patterning	129
5.5	Optical Elements Based on Photoaligning Technology	131
	References	133
6	Novel LCDs Based on Photoalignment	137
6.1	Bistable Nematic Displays	137
6.2	Photoaligned Liquid-Crystal-on-Silicon Microdisplays	140
6.3	Photoaligned Ferroelectric LCDs	143
6.4	New Optical Rewritable Electronic Paper	148

CONTENTS ix

6.5 Application of Photoalignment in Photonic LC Devices	151
References	154
7 US Patents Related to Photoalignment of Liquid Crystals	157
7.1 Introductory Remarks	157
7.2 List of Patents: Patent Classification	167
7.3 Analysis and Comments on the Patents	218
Index	221

