

Carbon-13 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Chemical Shifts and the Microstructures of the Fluoro Polymers Poly(vinylidene fluoride), Poly(fluoromethylene), Poly(vinyl fluoride), and Poly(trifluoroethylene)

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ABSTRACT: Simultaneous ^1H and ^{19}F broad-band decoupled ^{13}C NMR spectra are recorded for poly(vinylidene fluoride) (PVF₂), poly(fluoromethylene) (PFM), poly(vinyl fluoride) (PVF), and poly(trifluoroethylene) (PF₃E). Observed ^{13}C chemical shifts are compared to those calculated as a function of stereoregularity and/or defect structure, i.e., head-to-head to tail-to-tail (H-H:T-T) addition of monomers. Calculated chemical shifts are obtained through enumeration of the numbers and kinds of γ effects (three-bond gauche arrangements) involving each carbon atom as dictated by the conformational characteristics of each polymer. Agreement between measured and predicted ^{13}C chemical shifts is observed for each fluoro polymer when the following γ effects are assumed: $\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2} = -5.3$, $\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_2} = -2.2$, $\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{CHF}} = -3.7$, $\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{F}} = -3.8$, $\gamma_{\text{CHF}_2} = -5.0$, $\gamma_{\text{CHF}_3} = -3.0$, $\gamma_{\text{CF}_2\text{C}} = -2.1$, and $\gamma_{\text{CF}_2\text{F}} = -1.4$ ppm, where $\gamma_{a,b}$ is the upfield shift (ppm) at carbon a produced by atom or group b when in a gauche arrangement with a. This agreement permits detailed assignments of ^{13}C NMR resonances in the spectra of all four fluoro polymers, including identification of those ^{13}C resonances belonging to the carbon atoms in the H-H:T-T defects present in PVF₂, PVF, and PF₃E chains, whose abundance increases in this order. The effects of β -fluorine substituents on the ^{13}C chemical shifts in these polymers are also evaluated from the observed defect resonances.

Introduction

We have recently demonstrated¹ that the ^{13}C NMR spectra of vinyl homo- and copolymers can be predicted from analysis of the numbers and kinds of γ interactions involving each carbon atom type in the polymer chain. Each nonhydrogen γ substituent in a three-bond gauche arrangement (see Figure 1) with a given carbon atom produces an upfield chemical shift of that carbon resonance relative to its trans arrangement. The frequency with which such γ gauche interactions occur can be evaluated from the conformational characteristics of the polymer chain as manifested by calculated bond rotation probabilities.

The sensitivity of vinyl homo- and copolymer ^{13}C chemical shifts to stereosequence and comonomer sequence results from the dependence of bond rotation probabilities on the same microstructural features, which lead via the γ gauche effect to a dispersion of ^{13}C chemical shifts reflecting the different possible microenvironments found along the vinyl polymer chain. All that is needed to calculate the effects of polymer microstructure on ^{13}C NMR chemical shifts are the bond rotation probabilities obtained from the polymer's conformational characteristics and the magnitudes of the upfield γ effects produced by the gauche arrangements of a given carbon atom with its substituents.

This approach, which fully utilizes all the microstructural information provided by ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy, has been successfully applied to the calculation of the ^{13}C chemical shifts in a variety of vinyl homo- and copolymers.¹ Polypropylene oligomers^{2,3} and homopolymer⁴ and its copolymers with ethylene^{5,6} and vinyl chloride,⁷ poly(vinyl chloride)⁸ oligomers and homopolymer and its copolymers with ethylene⁹ and propylene,⁷ and polystyrene¹⁰ and its oligomers have all been treated via the γ -effect method of predicting ^{13}C chemical shifts in polymers.

In the present work we extend the application of the γ -effect method to the calculation of the ^{13}C NMR chemical shifts expected for the carbon atoms in fluoro polymers. We treat poly(vinylidene fluoride) (PVF₂), poly(vinyl fluoride) (PVF), poly(fluoromethylene) (PFM), and poly(trifluoroethylene) (PF₃E).

Three principal reasons prompted our study. First, these polymers possess fluorine atoms whose ^{19}F nuclei

exhibit magnetic resonance and whose chemical shifts are at least as sensitive to polymer microstructure as their ^{13}C nuclei. In a subsequent paper¹¹ we shall discuss the γ -effect prediction of ^{19}F chemical shifts. Second, we were curious to learn of the magnitude of the upfield ^{13}C chemical shift produced at a carbon atom by a γ -fluorine substituent when in a gauche arrangement. Third, with the exception of PVF₂,¹² the conformational characteristics of these fluoro polymers have never been studied experimentally. We hope to test the recently predicted (by one of us) conformational characteristics¹³ of PVF, PF₃E, and PFM by comparing their observed and predicted ^{13}C chemical shifts, the latter of which are derived from bond rotation probabilities as obtained¹⁴ from their conformational models.

Experimental Section

Materials. The synthesis of the PFM employed in this study has been previously reported.¹⁵ PF₃E was provided through the courtesy of Dr. Gordon Leader of Pennwalt Corp. PVF was a commercial sample purchased from Aldrich, and the PVF₂ employed is Kynar 301, a product of Pennwalt Corp.

Method. Spin-spin coupling between directly bonded ^{13}C and ^{19}F nuclei generally obliterates the detailed structure of the dispersion in ^{13}C NMR chemical shifts produced by different fluoro polymer microstructures. Only in the methylene carbon regions of the usual ^1H -decoupled ^{13}C NMR spectra of PVF₂ and PVF can we begin to separate the effects of ^{19}F coupling and microstructure on the ^{13}C chemical shift dispersion. Consequently, we have performed ^{13}C NMR measurements on these fluoro polymers with simultaneous decoupling of both the ^1H and ^{19}F nuclei. The details of this triple-resonance experiment will be published in the near future.¹⁶

The NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker WH-90 spectrometer at a ^{13}C frequency of 22.62 MHz. In all measurements the pulse angle was 90°, and the free induction decays were stored in 8K computer locations, using a spectral window of 4000 Hz. A delay time of 6.0 s was used between pulses. For each polymer sample 10 000 scans were accumulated, except for PVF₂ where 25 000 scans were collected. Hexamethyldisiloxane (HMDS) was employed as an internal reference (2.0 ppm vs. Me₄Si). The polymer samples were observed at concentrations of 0.2 g/cm³. PFM was observed in acetone-*d*₆ at 38 °C. PVF was dissolved in a 4:1 mixture of ethylene carbonate and *p*-dioxane-*d*₈ and observed at 100 °C. PVF₂ was dissolved in the same solvent mixture but observed at 75 °C. PF₃E was observed in a 4:1

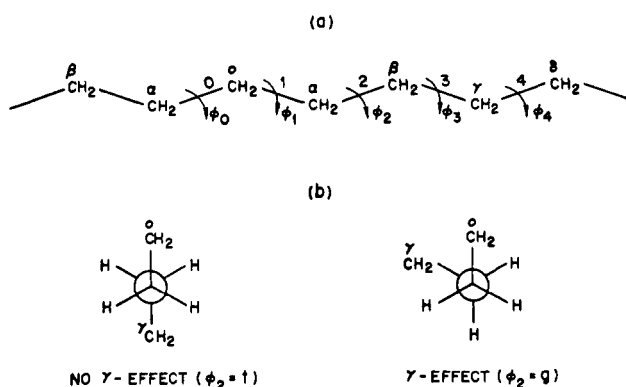


Figure 1. (a) Portion of a paraffinic hydrocarbon chain in the all-trans, planar zigzag conformation. (b) Newman projections along bond 2 in (a) illustrating the γ effect.

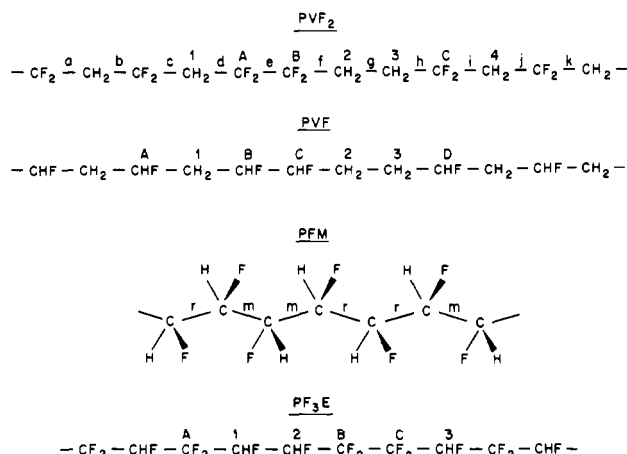


Figure 2. Schematic drawings of portions of PVF₂, PVF, PFM, and PF₃E chains illustrating H-H:T-T defect and stereosequence microstructures.

mixture of *N,N*-dimethylacetamide and *p*-dioxane-*d*₈ at 35 °C.

¹³C NMR Chemical Shifts

Poly(vinylidene fluoride). The absence of asymmetric centers in PVF₂ should result in a simple ¹³C NMR spectrum with single resonances for the methylene and methine carbons. However, head-to-head to tail-to-tail (H-H:T-T) addition of monomer units¹⁷ (see Figure 2) does produce several nonequivalent environments for both carbon types and should result in ¹³C NMR resonances which differ from their positions in head-to-tail (H-T) PVF₂. This expectation is realized in the spectrum presented in Figure 3, where in the methylene carbon region 4 resonances of low intensity appear -0.8, -8, -15, and -21 ppm upfield from the major H-T CH₂ peak.¹⁸

These minor upfield peaks result from occasional H-H:T-T addition of monomer units.¹⁷ The ¹⁹F NMR spectra of PVF₂ and appropriate model compounds presented by Wilson and Santee¹⁷ and the equal intensities of the defect resonances observed here in the ¹³C NMR spectrum of PVF₂ (Figure 3) support the H-H:T-T nature (see Figure 2) of the structural defects in PVF₂.

We may write expressions for the ¹³C NMR chemical shifts (ν) of H-T methylenes and those methylene carbons in the vicinity of H-H:T-T defects in terms of β and γ effects and the bond rotation probabilities (P) which determine the frequencies of γ gauche effects. From Figure 2, we obtain

$$\nu_{\text{CH}_2}^{\text{H-T}} = 2(1 - P_t)\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_2}$$

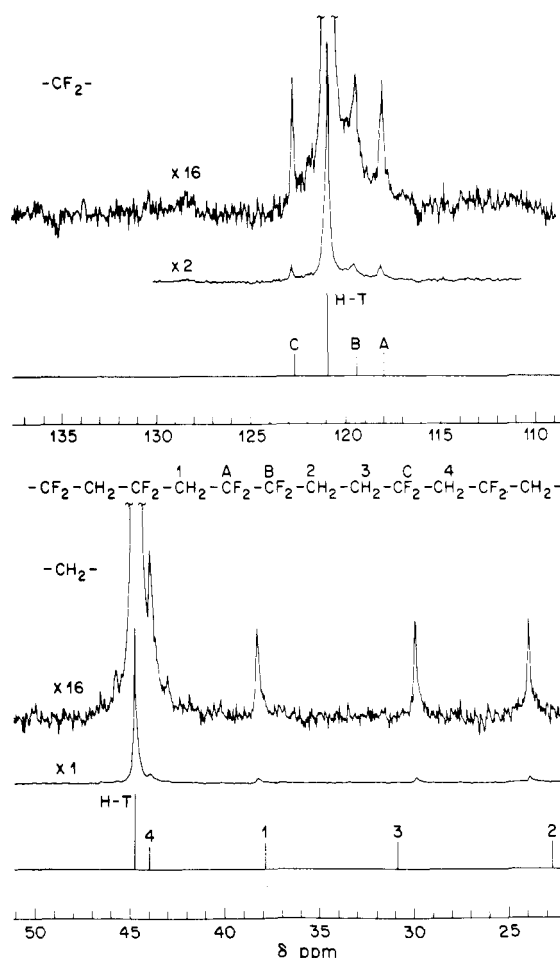


Figure 3. ¹³C NMR spectrum and calculated ¹³C chemical shifts for PVF₂.

where P_t is the probability of trans conformations about the bonds in H-T PVF₂.

$$\nu_{\text{CH}_2}^1 = (1 - P_{b,t})\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_2} + (1 - P_{e,t})\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2} + (1 + P_{e,t})\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{F}}$$

$$\nu_{\text{CH}_2}^2 = (2 - P_{e,t} - P_{h,t})\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2} + (2 + P_{e,t} + P_{h,t})\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{F}} - \beta_{\text{CH}_2\text{F}_2}$$

$$\nu_{\text{CH}_2}^3 = (2 - P_{f,t} - P_{i,t})\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_2} + (1 + P_{f,t})\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{F}} - \beta_{\text{CH}_2\text{F}_2}$$

$$\nu_{\text{CH}_2}^4 = (1 - P_{h,t})\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2} + (1 - P_{k,t})\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_2}$$

Bond rotation probabilities P_t , $P_{b,t}$, $P_{e,t}$, $P_{f,t}$, $P_{h,t}$, $P_{i,t}$, and $P_{k,t}$ are obtained¹⁴ from the conformational model developed previously by one of us¹² for H-T and H-H:T-T PVF₂. Our conformational model¹² for PVF₂ correctly predicts the unperturbed dimensions and the recently measured²⁰ dipole moments of PVF₂ as observed in dilute solutions.

Because $P_t(\text{H-T}) = P_{k,t}(\text{H-H:T-T})$ (see Figure 2), the difference between chemical shifts of H-H:T-T methylene 4 and H-T methylene carbons reduces to $\nu_{\text{CH}_2}^4 - \nu_{\text{CH}_2}^{\text{H-T}} = (1 - P_{h,t})\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2} - (1 - P_t)\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_2} = 0.34\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2} - 0.48\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_2}$. From our studies⁴ of hydrocarbon polymers we know that $\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2} = -5.3$ ppm; therefore, $\nu_{\text{CH}_2}^4 - \nu_{\text{CH}_2}^{\text{H-T}} = -1.85 - 0.48\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_2}$. $\nu_{\text{CH}_2}^4 - \nu_{\text{CH}_2}^{\text{H-T}}$ must equal -0.8 ppm because if $\nu_{\text{CH}_2}^4$ were assigned to the defect peaks -7.0, -15.0, or -21.0 ppm upfield from $\nu_{\text{CH}_2}^{\text{H-T}}$, then $\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_2}$ would have to be -11, -27, or -40 ppm, respectively. Values this large (-11 to -40 ppm) for $\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_2}$ are clearly unreasonable based on our experience^{8,9} with vinyl chloride oligomers, homopolymer, and copolymers. Thus, $\nu_{\text{CH}_2}^4 -$

$\nu_{\text{CH}_2}^{\text{H-T}} = -0.8 \text{ ppm} = -1.85 - 0.48\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_2}$, which leads to $\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_2} = -2.2 \text{ ppm}$.

H-H:T-T methylenes 2 and 3 must be most upfield from H-T CH₂ because they possess two fewer deshielding β -fluorine substituents.²¹ By elimination, $\nu_{\text{CH}_2}^1 - \nu_{\text{CH}_2}^{\text{H-T}} = -7.0 \text{ ppm}$, which results in $\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{F}} = -3.8 \text{ ppm}$. Because H-H:T-T methylene carbon 2 has twice as many shielding γ fluorines as methylene 3, we are led to conclude $\nu_{\text{CH}_2}^2 - \nu_{\text{CH}_2}^{\text{H-T}} = -21$ and $\nu_{\text{CH}_2}^3 - \nu_{\text{CH}_2}^{\text{H-T}} = -15 \text{ ppm}$. These expressions result in $\beta_{\text{CH}_2\text{F}_2} = +8 \text{ ppm}$.

The β and γ effects ($\beta_{\text{CH}_2\text{F}_2} = +8$, $\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_2} = -2.2$, and $\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{F}} = -3.8 \text{ ppm}$) derived by comparison of observed H-T and H-H:T-T methylene carbon chemical shifts result in the line spectrum drawn below the observed methylene carbon spectrum in Figure 3.

An analysis similar to that described above for the CH₂ carbons, when applied to the ¹³C chemical shifts of the quaternary CF₂ carbon, leads to the calculated line spectrum presented below the observed CF₂ region of the PVF₂ spectrum in Figure 3. The following substituent effects are deduced from the comparison of observed and calculated CF₂ chemical shifts: $\gamma_{\text{CF}_2\text{C}} = -2.1$, $\gamma_{\text{CF}_2\text{F}} = -1.4$, and $\beta_{\text{CF}_2\text{F}_2} = -5.0 \text{ ppm}$. The γ effects experienced by the CF₂ carbons are less than half as large as those governing the CH₂ carbon chemical shifts.

An even more striking difference exists between the effects produced by a pair of fluorine atoms in the β position²² upon the chemical shifts of the CH₂ and CF₂ carbons in PVF₂; $\beta_{\text{CH}_2\text{F}_2} = +8.0$ and $\beta_{\text{CF}_2\text{F}_2} = -5.0 \text{ ppm}$. The β -fluorine atoms deshield the CH₂ carbons, as is usually observed²¹ with β substituents, but the CF₂ carbons are shielded by β -fluorine atoms.

To further test the validity of the derived shielding effect produced by fluorines β to CF₂ carbons and the effects of carbons and fluorines γ to CF₂ carbons, we calculated the chemical shift expected at the central carbons in perfluorooctane and compared it to the CF₂ chemical shifts in PVF₂. The γ and β effects derived for the CF₂ carbons in PVF₂ were used along with the conformational model derived and tested for the perfluorinated alkanes and poly(tetrafluoroethylene) by Bates and Stockmayer.²³ The CF₂ carbons in H-T and H-H:T-T (C) PVF₂ do not have β -fluorine substituents, while H-H:T-T CF₂ carbons A and B in PVF₂ (see Figure 2) and the central CF₂ carbons in perfluorooctane possess two and four β fluorines, respectively. The following relative chemical shifts are calculated for the CF₂ carbons in H-T PVF₂, H-H:T-T (A, B, C) PVF₂, and perfluorooctane (PFO): $\nu_{\text{CF}_2}^{\text{PFO}} - \nu_{\text{CF}_2}^{\text{A}} = -6.6$, $\nu_{\text{CF}_2}^{\text{PFO}} - \nu_{\text{CF}_2}^{\text{B}} = -8.1$, $\nu_{\text{CF}_2}^{\text{PFO}} - \nu_{\text{CF}_2}^{\text{H-T}} = -9.5$, and $\nu_{\text{CF}_2}^{\text{PFO}} - \nu_{\text{CF}_2}^{\text{C}} = -11.3 \text{ ppm}$. These compare favorably with the chemical shifts observed here for the CF₂ carbons in PVF₂ and the central CF₂ carbons in neat perfluorooctane reported by Lierla and VanderHart,²⁴ i.e., 122.75 [H-H:T-T PVF₂ (C)], 120.94 (H-T PVF₂), 119.47 and 118.05 [H-H:T-T PVF₂ (B, A)], and 111.8 (perfluorooctane) ppm (ppm downfield from Me₄Si). This comparison strengthens our confidence in the γ - and β -substituent effects we derived for the CF₂ carbons in PVF₂.

The ability to calculate the relative ¹³C NMR chemical shifts in both the CH₂ and CF₂ regions of PVF₂ confirms the previously derived conformational model of this polymer and also provides us with a set of β - and γ -substituent effects which may be used to help analyze the ¹³C NMR spectra and therefore the microstructure of other fluoro polymers.

Poly(fluoromethylene). PFM is unique among the fluoro polymers discussed here. Each backbone carbon atom possesses a single fluorine substituent, thereby pre-

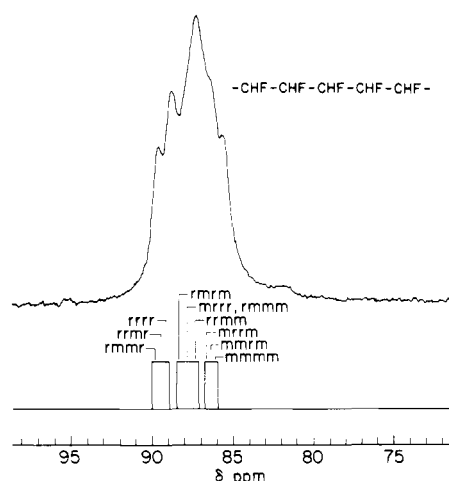


Figure 4. Same as Figure 3 except PFM instead of PVF₂.

cluding any differentiation between H-T and H-H:T-T addition of monomer units (*cis*- and *trans*-1,2-difluoroethylenes).¹⁵ Aside from the possibility of branching, stereosequence remains as the single structural feature of importance in characterizing the microstructure of PFM.

Unlike the PVF and PF₃E vinyl polymers considered here, PFM possesses asymmetric carbon atoms separated by a single backbone bond rather than two C-C backbone bonds.²⁵ Consequently, in calculating ¹³C NMR chemical shifts we have considered the effects of stereosequence up to the nonad level, resulting in the estimation of bond rotation probabilities for 136 different stereoisomers.

Bond rotation probabilities were estimated from the conformational characteristics derived previously for PFM chains¹³ as a function of their stereosequence. $\gamma_{\text{CHF,C}} = -5.0$ and $\gamma_{\text{CHF,F}} = -3.0 \text{ ppm}$ were used to obtain calculated chemical shifts.

In Figure 4 we have presented below the observed ¹³C NMR spectrum of PFM the calculated ¹³C NMR chemical shifts of the ten pentads of PFM obtained by averaging over all possible nonad stereosequences. The pentads are sensitive to nonad stereosequence, resulting in a ¹³C chemical shift dispersion of 0.2–0.5 ppm for each pentad.

The long-range sensitivity to stereosequence of the calculated PFM pentad ¹³C chemical shifts coupled with the sensitivity of the observed¹⁵ spectra to solvent makes a quantitative comparison of observed and predicted ¹³C chemical shifts difficult. However, the overall observed dispersion in ¹³C chemical shifts due to stereosequence effects (~4 ppm) is reproduced by the calculated chemical shifts.²⁶ In addition, the observed¹⁵ narrowing of the ¹³C chemical shift dispersion with increasing temperature is also predicted by the calculated chemical shifts. What is clear from the comparison of observed and calculated ¹³C chemical shifts is that the sample of PFM employed in this study can be characterized as predominantly atactic.¹⁵

Poly(vinyl fluoride). The ¹³C NMR spectra of PVF are considerably more complicated than those of PVF₂, due principally to stereosequence effects. Not only is H-H:T-T addition of monomer units more prevalent in PVF, but as in PFM we have to consider the stereosequence of the monomer units in both the H-T and H-H:T-T portions of the chain.

We adopt the substituent effects derived for the CH₂ carbons in PVF₂ and the CHF carbon in PFM when calculating the ¹³C chemical shifts expected in PVF; i.e., $\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2} = -5.3$, $\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{CHF}} = -2.2$, $\gamma_{\text{CH}_2\text{F}} = -3.8$, $\gamma_{\text{CHF,C}} = -5.0$, and $\gamma_{\text{CHF,F}} = -3.0 \text{ ppm}$. The effects of β -fluorine substituents on the CH₂ and CHF ¹³C chemical shifts are

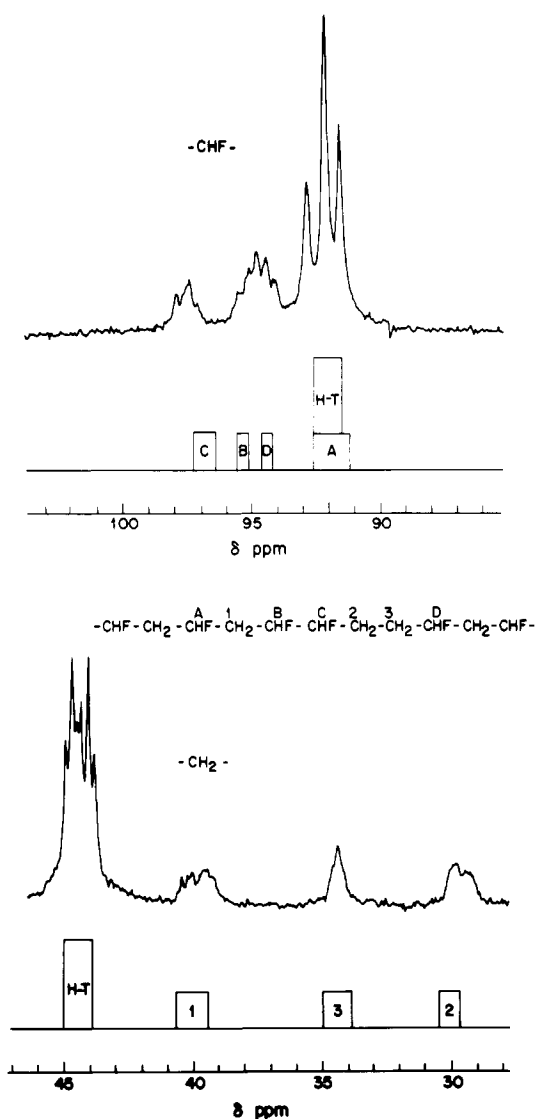


Figure 5. Same as Figure 3 except PVF instead of PVF₂.

deduced through achievement of the best agreement between observed and calculated chemical shifts. Bond rotation probabilities are obtained from the conformational model developed previously for PVF¹³ by one of us, but which to date has remained experimentally untested.

A comparison of the ^{13}C NMR chemical shifts observed and calculated for PVF is presented in Figure 5. In both the CH_2 and CHF regions of the spectrum there is good agreement between the predicted ^{13}C chemical shifts and the positions of the observed resonances. This agreement is achieved for $\beta_{\text{CH}_2\text{F}} = +6.0$ and $\beta_{\text{CHF}\text{F}} = +1.0$ and by considering stereosequence effects to the pentad, tetrad, and octad levels for the H-T CHF , H-T CH_2 , and H-H:T-T CHF and CH_2 carbons, respectively. In addition, the calculated ^{13}C chemical shifts are insensitive to the presence or absence of neighboring defects (see the next section on PF₃E for details).

Apparently the substituent effects derived for PVF₂ and PFM also apply to PVF. In addition, the conformational model proposed for PVF seems to satisfactorily describe the bond rotational probabilities in both H-T and H-H:T-T portions of PVF, thereby supporting its validity.

Poly(trifluoroethylene). For PF₃E chains we once again must consider the possibility of H-H:T-T addition of monomer units, in addition to stereosequence effects, when considering the dependence of calculated ^{13}C chemical shifts upon microstructure. In the H-T portions of

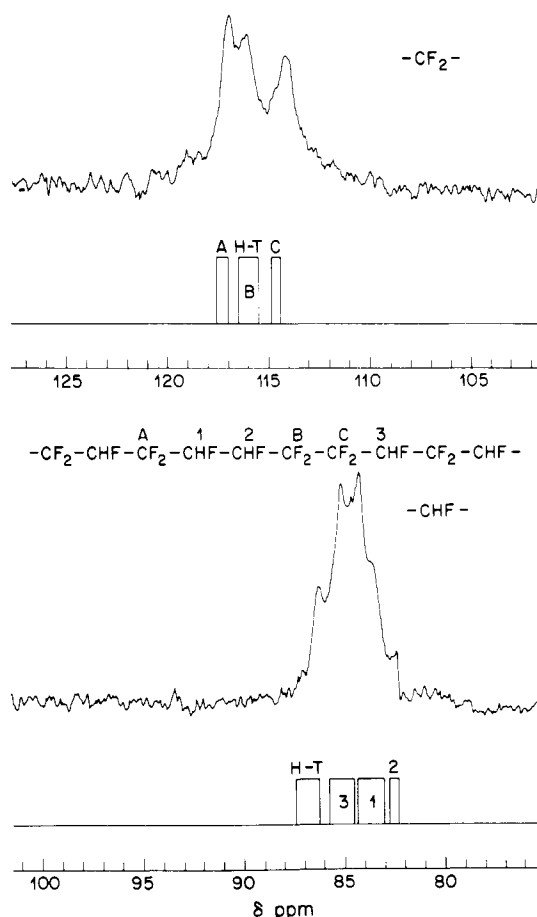


Figure 6. Same as Figure 3 except PF₃E instead of PVF₂.

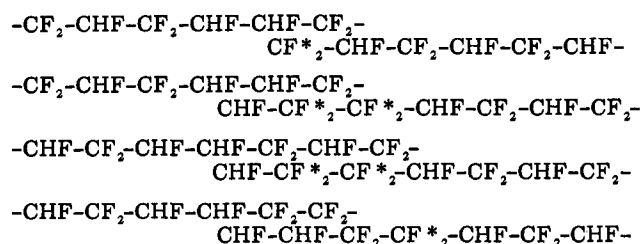
PF₃E we consider the effects of stereosequence to the tetrad and pentad levels for the CF_2 and CHF carbons, respectively. When calculating the ^{13}C chemical shifts for the carbons in the vicinity of a H-H:T-T defect, we consider all possible octad stereosequences.

The β and γ effects derived from PVF₂, PFM, and PVF are adopted for PF₃E; i.e., $\gamma_{\text{CHF}\text{C}} = -5.0$, $\gamma_{\text{CHF}\text{F}} = -3.0$, $\gamma_{\text{CF}_2\text{C}} = -2.1$, $\gamma_{\text{CF}_2\text{F}} = -1.4$, $\beta_{\text{CHF}\text{F}} = +1$, and $\beta_{\text{CF}_2\text{F}} = 1/2\beta_{\text{CF}_2\text{F}_2} = 1/2(-5.0) = -2.5$ ppm. Bond rotation probabilities are obtained from the previously derived¹³ conformational model of PF₃E.

In addition to isolated H-H:T-T defects, as seen in Figure 2, neighboring H-H:T-T defects and H-H addition of monomers followed by one or two H-T additions before a T-T monomer addition were considered when calculating ^{13}C chemical shifts. The need to consider neighboring H-H:T-T defects is apparent from comparison of observed and calculated chemical shifts (see below), which indicate that the frequency of H-H:T-T addition is at least as high as that of H-T addition. In general, the calculated ^{13}C chemical shifts for both the CF_2 and CHF carbons in H-H:T-T defects depend primarily on the numbers and kinds of β and γ substituents and show only a minor sensitivity to the presence or absence of neighboring defects. As an example, the calculated chemical shifts of CF_2^* in the PF₃E fragments shown in Chart I differ by only 0.2 ppm.

In Figure 6 we compare the first reported ^{13}C NMR spectrum of PF₃E with the calculated ^{13}C chemical shifts. The ranges in the calculated chemical shifts for H-T and H-H:T-T carbons in both the CHF and CF_2 regions correspond to the effects of stereosequence and the presence or absence of neighboring defects. There is a good correspondence between observed resonances and predicted

Chart I



chemical shifts. It appears that of the polymers considered in this study, PF₃E possesses the greatest amount of H-H:T-T defect structure.

Discussion and Summary

We have extended our calculation of ¹³C NMR chemical shifts to the fluoro polymers PVF₂, PFM, PVF, and PF₃E. A consistent set of β- and γ-substituent effects is sufficient to describe the ¹³C chemical shifts and their dependence on chain microstructure for each of these fluoro polymers. Although nearly a dozen β and γ effects are employed in the calculation of the ¹³C chemical shifts, there are many more independently observed resonances with which to compare, making the derived set of β and γ effects unique.

The generally good agreement achieved between the observed and calculated ¹³C chemical shifts implies that the bond rotation probabilities used to evaluate the frequencies of the various γ effects occurring for the carbon atoms in each of the microstructural environments possible in these polymers are realistic. This provides, for the first time, direct microstructural support for the conformational models previously derived^{12,13} for these chains.

Traditional measures¹⁴ of the conformational characteristics of polymer chains, such as end-to-end distance and dipole moment, were predicted^{12,13} to be relatively insensitive to microstructure (both stereosequence and defect content) for the fluoro polymers considered here. Thus, the successful testing of their conformational models as provided by the correct prediction of their ¹³C NMR chemical shifts takes on added importance.

Not only can we study the microstructure of these polymers by comparing observed and calculated ¹³C NMR chemical shifts, but the confidence gained in their conformational descriptions through these comparisons can now be utilized to search for the presence of similar well-behaved γ effects in their ¹⁹F NMR spectra. This search is described in a subsequent paper.¹¹

The detailed assignment of resonances in the ¹³C NMR spectra of PVF₂, PVF, and PF₃E achieved by comparison to predicted ¹³C chemical shifts permits a quantitative estimate of the H-H:T-T defect content in each fluoro polymer. Integration of defect (H-H:T-T) and normal (H-T) resonances to obtain peak areas leads to estimates of the defect content in each fluoro polymer. We find 3.2, 10.6, and ~50 mol % H-H:T-T monomer addition in the

samples of PVF₂, PVF, and PF₃E, respectively, observed in the present study.

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- (25) In H-H:T-T PVF and PF₃E, H-H and T-T asymmetric CHF carbons are also adjacent (see Figure 2) and are assigned to m and r dyads as shown for PFM.
- (26) To get an idea of the sensitivity of the calculated overall dispersion in chemical shifts to γ_{CC} and γ_{CF} the following values of these γ effects lead to these dispersions: -4, -2 → 3.3 ppm; -4, -3 → 3.1 ppm; -4, -4 → 2.8 ppm; -5, -2 → 4.2 ppm; -5, -3 → 4.0 ppm; -5, -4 → 3.7 ppm; -6, -2 → 5.2 ppm; -6, -3 → 5.0 ppm; -6, -4 → 4.7 ppm; -6, -5 → 4.4 ppm; -6, -6 → 4.1 ppm. We selected γ_{CC} = -5, γ_{CF} = -3 based on the agreement achieved between calculated and observed ¹³C chemical shifts in PVF as well as PFM for these γ's and because these values are similar to those derived^{8,9} for chlorinated vinyl polymers.