# Glass Transition of Thermotropic Polymers Based upon Vanillic Acid, *p*-Hydroxybenzoic Acid, and Poly(ethylene terephthalate)

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#### **SYNOPSIS**

Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) and dynamic mechanical and thermomechanical analyses are used to study the glass transition temperature  $(T_g)$  of the thermotropic liquid crystalline polyesters prepared by molten polycondensation of 4-acetoxyvanillic acid (V), 4-acetoxybenzoic acid (B), and poly(ethylene terephthalate) (E). The polyesters exhibit two glass transition ranges at 66-83 as well as 136-140°C, which are attributed to E segmental motion in the E-rich/B-rich phases of the polyesters, as well as to the local mobility of the B component in the B-rich phase. The lower  $T_g$  of the polyesters increases with an increase in the B and V unit contents or with increasing heating rate in the DSC measurements, but the higher  $T_g$  decreases slightly. The experimental  $T_g$  values are compared with the  $T_g$  values predicted from three equations on the basis of the sequence distribution and the monomer reactivity ratio of the polyesters. Uematsu's, Johnston's, and Couchman's equations all give a better fit with the experimental results. © 1996 John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

### INTRODUCTION

In the last two decades, there has been considerable interest in polymers exhibiting thermotropic liquid crystalline order.<sup>1-4</sup> The interest in the polymers based on *p*-hydroxybenzoic acid/poly(ethylene terephthalate) (designated as BE polymer) stems from the formation of a thermally stable nematic liquid crystalline melt and their ease of processing and superior mechanical properties.<sup>1,2</sup> The synthesis,<sup>1</sup> molecular structure,<sup>2,3</sup> thermal behavior,<sup>5</sup> rheological property,<sup>6</sup> and nematic melt spinning<sup>7</sup> of the BE polymers have been investigated by a number of workers. More recently, we have studied new polymers, which are a series of modified BE polyesters incorporating vanillic acid residue as a chain unit (designated as VBE polyesters).<sup>8-12</sup> It has been shown that some of the VBE polyesters exhibit easier preparation and better mechanical

properties than the corresponding BE polyesters.<sup>8</sup> The structure of the VBE polyesters has been characterized by high-resolution NMR,9 gel permeation chromatography,<sup>9</sup> X-ray diffraction,<sup>10</sup> and scanning electron microscope<sup>11</sup> measurements. The liquid crystalline texture of the VBE polyester melts has been observed by a polarizing microscope.<sup>12</sup> The present work is aimed at the glass transition of three series of the VBE polyesters by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), dynamic mechanical analysis (DMA), and thermal mechanical analysis (TMA). For comparison, the glass transition temperature  $T_{a}$ of a series of BE polyesters is also characterized in this paper. Additionally, a few studies have been done on the variation of the  $T_g$  with the BE binary copolyester composition,<sup>13</sup> however, there are few reports concerning the dependence of the  $T_g$  on the VBE ternary copolyester composition and sequence distribution. This paper is concerned with the relationship between the  $T_g$  and the terpolyester composition/sequence distribution/monomer reactivity ratio with the purpose of predicting the  $T_g$  values in the terpolyesters as a function of composition and diad sequence distribution.

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#### **EXPERIMENTAL**

All of the VBE terpolyesters and BE binary copolyesters in this study were synthesized by melt polycondensation reactions of 4-acetoxy-3-methoxybenzoic acid (V), 4-acetoxybenzoic acid (B), and poly(ethylene terephthalate) (E) ( $\eta_{inh} = 0.6 \text{ dL}/\text{g}$ ), as described in an earlier paper.<sup>8</sup> Their nominal structure is shown:



The glass transition temperatures,  $T_g$ , were measured using a differential scanning calorimeter (DSC) (DuPont 9900) operating at six heating rates of 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50°C/min in nitrogen at a flow rate of 50 mL/min. Polymer samples usually weighing 10–15 mg were used for DSC analysis. The  $T_g$  was determined from the intersection between the initial baseline and the sloping portion of the baseline due to the glass transition.

Dynamic mechanical analysis (DMA) was performed on as-drawn films of the polyesters at 11 Hz with a Toyo Baldwin Rheovibron DDV-II-EA apparatus in the temperature range from room temperature to  $180^{\circ}$ C at a heating rate of  $2^{\circ}$ C/min.

The changes in length (or thickness) parallel (or perpendicular) to the rod axis were measured on an as-drawn rod of the VBE polyester with a Perkin-Elmer 7 thermomechanical analyzer (TMA) with a scanning rate of 5°C/min under nitrogen while applying a load of ca. 200 mN. The penetration of a quartz rod with a flat tip under this small load gives an additional and independent information about transition temperature. Thermal linear expansion coefficient,  $\alpha$ , was calculated by

$$\alpha = \Delta L / L \times \Delta T \tag{1}$$

where L is the sample height and  $\Delta L$  is the dimension change of the sample in a certain temperature range  $\Delta T$ .

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### Glass Transition of BE Binary Copolyesters Observed with DSC

The glass transition data from this study and data from the literatures are collected in Figure  $1.^{1,5,7,13-17}$ 



**Figure 1** Glass transition temperatures of BE binary copolyesters as a function of the B-unit content by DSC measurements. ( $\bigcirc$ ) this study; ( $\bullet$ ) ref. 1; ( $\bigcirc$ ) ref. 14; ( $\triangle$ ) ref. 13; ( $\blacktriangle$ ) ref. 5; ( $\diamondsuit$ ) ref. 15; ( $\blacklozenge$ ) ref. 16; ( $\Box$ ) ref. 17.

It is apparent that there are some differences between different sources,<sup>17</sup> probably due to the differences in the procedures used to locate  $T_g$ , to the differences in the sequence distributions of the BE copolyesters, to the differences in the thermal histories of the samples, to the differences in the molecular weight and its distributions, and to the differences in the measuring conditions (including heating rate, sample size of the domains detected).

When the B-unit content is lower than 30 mol %, only one  $T_g$  is observed irrespective of the B-unit content. This single  $T_g$  seems to be practically independent of B-unit content up to 25 mol %. These data points give an average of 74°C for the  $T_g$  with a deviation of  $\pm 4$ °C. However, in the copolyesters of B content ranging from 30 to 80 mol %, two distinct  $T_g$ s are observed, indicating that the copolyesters are phase separated into two phases, an E-rich phase (lower  $T_g$  56–87°C) and a B-rich phase (higher  $T_g$  158–180°C). As the B-unit content increases the two  $T_g$ s both remain invariant or increase slightly except for an abrupt decline in the lower  $T_g$  at the B-unit content of 60 mol %.

### Glass Transition of VBE Terpolyesters Observed with DSC

As one introduces V as a comonomer with the BE polymer for the preparation of VBE terpolyesters, the glass transition temperature,  $T_g$ , increases slightly as compared to that of the BE polymer

shown in Figure 2. The  $T_g$  remains invariant at 65°C as V-unit content is varied from 0 to 3.5 mol %. But the  $T_g$  increases from 66 to 69°C as the amount of V unit is increased from 3.5 to 5 mol %. This may be attributed to the increased stiffness and aromaticity of the polymer chain on the introduction of the V unit. Furthermore, at a given E-unit content of ca. 35 mol %, the  $T_g$  of the VBE terpolyesters will increase obviously from 69 to 87°C with an increase in V content from 15 to 35 mol % (Fig. 3).

On the other hand, the DSC thermograms of the VBE terpolyesters with a given V content of 5 mol % and different B-unit contents indicate that their  $T_{g}$ s are increased (from 68, 74, 77, to 83°C at a heating rate of 20°C/min) with an increase in the B content from 60, 65, 70, to 75 mol %. This may be attributed to the enhanced stiffness of the terpolyester chains on the increase of B unit.

# Dependence of Glass Transition Temperature for VBE Terpolyesters on Heating Rate in DSC Test

Figure 4 shows the relationships between heating rate and the  $T_g$  of five VBE terpolyesters by DSC measurements. The  $T_g$  increases with increasing heating rate. Kyotani et al. investigated other thermotropic polyesters and found a very similar dependence of  $T_g$  on heating rate.<sup>19</sup> Probably, the reason for this increase in  $T_g$  is that the actual temperature within the samples is lower than the temperature around the samples in the DSC measurement at a larger heating rate. These results may be of importance in determining measuring condition and useful service temperature limit.

In Figure 4 two copolyesters with the V/B/E ratios of 0/60/40 and 0.5/60/39.5 exhibited two  $T_{gs}$ probably due to their distinct biphase structure (also see Fig. 1). The lower  $T_{g}$  (57-70°C) may be due to the motion of the E segment in the E-rich phase



**Figure 2** Glass transition temperature of VBE terpolyesters with a fixed B-unit content of 60 mol % as a function of V-unit content at a heating rate of 20°C/min.



**Figure 3** Glass transition temperature of VBE terpolyesters with a fixed E-unit content of 35 mol % as a function of V-unit content at a heating rate of 20°C/min.

and the higher  $T_g$  (85–94°C) might be related to the main chain motions of the E segment located within the E-rich phase in an environment similar to the poly(ethylene terephthalate).<sup>18</sup> These results are somewhat similar to those from DMA studies reported by Benson et al.<sup>18</sup> The other three copolyesters having V/B/E ratios of 5/60/35, 5/65/30, and 5/75/20 showed only one  $T_g$ , maybe owing to their obscure biphase structure because the addition of more unit V might result in more random chain structure of the copolyesters.<sup>9</sup>

# Glass Transition of VBE Terpolyesters Observed with DMA

The four relaxation processes or transitions from this study and the literature are collected in Figure 5 for the BE copolyesters. Obviously, the transition



**Figure 4** Glass transition temperature vs. heating rate of VBE terpolyesters with V/B/E ratios: ( $\bigcirc$ ) 0/60/40; ( $\bigcirc$ ) 0.5/60/39.5; ( $\triangle$ ) 5/60/35; ( $\triangle$ ) 5/65/30; ( $\diamondsuit$ ) 5/75/20.



**Figure 5** Temperature of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  relaxation or transition peaks from tan  $\delta$ -temperature spectra for BE binary copolyesters by DMA measurements: ( $\bigcirc$ ) this study; ( $\bullet$ ) ref. 20; ( $\triangle$ ) ref. 7; ( $\blacktriangle$ ) ref. 21; ( $\diamondsuit$ ) ref. 22, ( $\blacklozenge$ ) ref. 23.

temperature increases with increasing B content. By DMA we can also detect two relaxation processes for the VBE terpolyesters. Figure 6 shows the temperature dependence of the tangent of mechanical loss for as drawn VBE terpolyester films. One relatively sharp maximum at 68–77°C ( $\alpha_3$  transition) and one very broad maximum centered at 136-140°C  $(\alpha_1 \text{ transition})$  are observed. As listed in Table I, with decreasing V-unit content, the lower  $T_g(\alpha_3)$ increases but the higher  $T_g(\alpha_1)$  decreases. The lower  $T_{\nu}$  might be related to the motion of E segment found in the E-rich phase<sup>18</sup> and the higher  $T_g$  may be assigned to relaxation of E segment in oriented E-rich phase and/or the local mobility of the B component in the B-rich phase.<sup>7</sup> Antipov et al. observed a weak maximum at approximately 120°C in studies on Bunit-containing thermotropic polyester fiber.<sup>24</sup>

#### Glass Transition and Thermal Expansion of VBE Terpolyester Observed with TMA

The  $T_g$  for the VBE terpolyester was also verified with a TMA.<sup>25</sup> Typical TMA plots of the VBE terpolyester as-drawn rod with V/B/E ratio of 0.05/ 60/39.95 are shown in Figure 7. There are two obvious inflection points at approximately 41 and 71°C (41 and 60°C) on curve A (curve B) and the third



Figure 6 Tan  $\delta$  vs. temperature spectra at 11 Hz and heating rate of 2°C/min for VBE terpolyesters with the V/B/E ratios: (a) 0/60/40; (b) 0.5/60/39.5; (c) 1.5/60/38.5; (d) 5/60/35; (e) 5/65/30.

weak inflection point at about 92°C. Apparently, these three points all stem from the glass transition of the terpolyester. This result would be analogous to the inflection points at 40, 70, and 87°C of B/E (60/40) polyester-oriented fiber observed with TMA.<sup>7</sup> TMA helps to confirm the results obtained by DSC and DMA methods.

The thermal linear expansion coefficients for the terpolyester in parallel or perpendicular to the rod axis are estimated from Figure 7 to be  $-1.22 \times 10^{-4}$  or  $1.49 \times 10^{-4} \text{ deg}^{-1}$  in the temperature range from 42 to 55°C and  $9.2 \times 10^{-5}$  or  $5.81 \times 10^{-4} \text{ deg}^{-1}$  in the range from 105 to 115°C. Note that the expansion coefficients in the rod axis change drastically from negative to positive values with increasing

Table IGlass Transition Temperatures of VBETerpolyesters by DMA Method

V/B/E	$T_g \alpha_3(^{\circ}\mathrm{C})$	$T_g \alpha_1(^{\circ}C)$	
0/60/40	67	141	
0.5/60/39.5	68	140	
1.5/60/38.5	70	140	
5/60/35	74	138	
5/65/30	77	136	



Figure 7 TMA plots of the VBE terpolyester as drawn rods with V/B/E ratio of 0.05/60/39.95 with a heating rate of 5°C/min; curves a and b are parallel and perpendicular to the drawn direction, respectively.

temperature from 40 to 120°C. These expansion coefficients are larger than that for the BE copolyester fiber<sup>7,26</sup> and B homopolyester,<sup>27</sup> suggesting that the VBE terpolyester chains more highly fluctuate perpendicular to the chain axis. The high coefficient may be explained in terms of worse packing and lower orientation of the terpolyester chains. The torsional vibrations of the terpolyester chains must be less restricted in space, owing to the slightly large free volume.<sup>7</sup> In the temperature range between 79 and 92°C, the expansion coefficient parallel to the rod axis levels off at a value equal to zero. Thus, these thermotropic liquid crystalline polyesters could serve as a coating material for optical fibers to diminish fiber microbending loss.

# **Prediction of the** *T<sub>g</sub>* **Based on Composition and Sequence Distribution of VBE Terpolyesters**

The three simplest relationships that describe the effect of the mole or weight fractions of monomer units of linear terpolymers on their  $T_g$  are the Dimarzio–Gibbs, Pochan, and Fox equations.<sup>28</sup>

For our VBE terpolyester system, the Dimarzio-Gibbs equation can be expressed as

$$T_g = F_V \times T_{gV} + F_B \times T_{gB} + F_E \times T_{gE} \quad (2)$$

where  $T_g$  is the glass transition temperature of a terpolyester composed of three monomer units V, B, and E;  $F_V$ ,  $F_B$ , and  $F_E$  are the mole fractions of units V, B, and E in the VBE terpolyesters;  $T_{gV}$ ,  $T_{gB}$ , and  $T_{gE}$  denote the glass transition temperature of V, B, and E homopolyesters, respectively.

The Pochan and Fox Equations can be written as

$$\ln T_g = W_V \times \ln T_{gV} + W_B \times \ln T_{gB} + W_E \times \ln T_{gE}$$
(3)

and

$$1/T_g = W_V/T_{gV} + W_B/T_{gB} + W_E/T_{gE}$$
 (4)

where  $W_V$ ,  $W_B$ , and  $W_E$  are the weight fractions of the components V, B, and E in the VBE terpolyesters. As can be seen from Table II, our experimental  $T_g$  deviates greatly from the above-said three simple relationships because these classical equations predict that  $T_g$  increases continuously (smoothly) and monotonically with composition. However, it has been observed that the  $T_g$  composition variation of

Predicted T <sub>g</sub>							
V/B/E	Dimarzio	Pochan	Fox	Couchman	Johnston	Uematsu	T <sub>g</sub> a
15/50/35	123	112	97	78	78	76	77
0.5/60/39.5	122	108	93	64	70	66	66
5/60/35	125	113	97	72	74	72	69
5/65/30	129	117	102	78	75	77	74
5/75/20	138	129	114	92	87	83	83
σ(%)	42.3	36.4	26.8	5.49	4.54	2.62	

Table II Predicted and Experimental  $T_{\kappa}$ 's (°C) of the VBE Terpolyesters

<sup>a</sup> Heating rate 20°C/min.

	Ue	Uematsu Equation		Johnston Equation					<i>(</i> , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
B/E	F <sub>BB</sub>	$F_{EE}$	$F_{BE}$	$W_B/W_E$	$P_{BB}$	$P_{EE}$	$P_{BE}$	$P_{EB}$	(°C)
50/50	0.209	0.230	0.561	0.385/0.615	0.44	0.44	0.56	0.56	75
60/40 70/30	$0.313 \\ 0.429$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.130 \\ 0.040 \end{array}$	$0.557 \\ 0.531$	0.484/0.516 0.593/0.407	$\begin{array}{c} 0.54 \\ 0.63 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.31 \\ 0.14 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.46 \\ 0.37 \end{array}$	0.69 0.86	66 76

Table III Diad Sequence Distribution Parameters and  $T_g$  of the BE Binary Copolyesters<sup>a</sup>

\* Heating rate 20°C/min.

the BE and VBE copolyester systems is not monotonic owing to their biphasic structure (Fig. 1 and Table I). The classical equations become invalid.

To describe more precisely the dependence of the VBE terpolyesters'  $T_g$  on composition, the effect of sequence distribution on  $T_g$  has to be considered. Equations that take into account sequence distribution are being used extensively<sup>13,29</sup> because they can predict precisely  $T_g$ -composition relationship for a number of copolymer systems. So far there are three equations that describe the sequence distribution dependence of the  $T_g$  of copolymers, namely, modified Dimarzio-Gibbs equation (Uematsu equation), modified Pochan equation (Johnston equation).

Uematsu and Johnston added an empirical and ponderable extra term to consider diad sequence AB and BA influence on  $T_g$  of Dimarzio-Gibbs and Fox equations, respectively, considering binary copolymer as a blend of the two homopolymers and the alternating copolymer. Couchman described the dependence of  $T_g$  on monomer reactivity ratios in the copolymers.

According to the modified Dimarzio–Gibbs equation presented by Uematsu and Honda,<sup>13</sup> the relationship between  $T_g$ s and diad sequence fractions of random terpolyesters could be expressed:

$$T_{g} = F_{VV} \times T_{gV} + F_{BB} \times T_{gB} + F_{EE} \times T_{gE}$$
  
+  $F_{VB} \times T_{gVB} + F_{VE} \times T_{gVE} + F_{BE} \times T_{gBE}$  (5)

where  $T_{gVB}$ ,  $T_{gVE}$ , and  $T_{gBE}$  denote the glass tran-

sition temperatures of imaginary alternating copolymers, respectively;  $F_{VV}$ ,  $F_{BB}$ ,  $F_{EE}$ ,  $F_{VB}$ ,  $F_{VE}$ , and  $F_{BE}$  are the molar fractions of the corresponding diads in the random terpolyesters. We will designate eq. (5) as the Uematsu equation for brevity.

Another a relationship between  $T_g$ s and diad sequence probabilities of the random terpolyesters is also described by the Johnston equation:<sup>13,30</sup>

$$\frac{1}{T_g} = \frac{W_V P_{VV}}{T_{gV}} + \frac{W_B P_{BB}}{T_{gB}} + \frac{W_F P_{EE}}{T_{gE}} + \frac{W_V P_{VB} + W_B P_{BV}}{T_{gVB}} + \frac{W_V P_{VE} + W_E P_{EV}}{T_{gVE}} + \frac{W_B P_{BE} + W_E P_{EB}}{T_{gBE}}$$
(6)

where  $P_{VV}$ ,  $P_{BB}$ ,  $P_{EE}$ ,  $P_{VB}$ ,  $P_{BV}$ ,  $P_{VE}$ ,  $P_{EV}$ ,  $P_{BE}$ , and  $P_{EB}$  are the terpolyester distribution probabilities of the corresponding diads. Balachandar et al. and Fernandez-Garcia et al. have used the diad sequence- $T_g$  relation for the BE binary copolyester with the B-unit content less than 43 mol % and methyl methacrylate/methylacrylate copolymer and obtained good agreement between predicted and experimental values.<sup>13,29</sup>

The Couchman equation for the VBE terpolyester can be written as

$$\ln T_{g} = \frac{r_{V}f_{V}^{2}\ln T_{gV} + r_{B}f_{B}^{2}\ln T_{gB}}{r_{V}f_{V}^{2}\ln T_{gE} + 2f_{V}f_{B}\ln T_{gVB}} + \frac{2f_{V}f_{E}\ln T_{gVE} + 2f_{B}f_{E}\ln T_{gBE}}{r_{V}f_{V}^{2} + r_{B}f_{B}^{2} + r_{E}f_{E}^{2}} + 2f_{V}F_{B} + 2f_{V}F_{B} + 2f_{B}f_{E}}$$
(7)

Table IVDiad Sequence Fractions and  $T_g$  of Two Model VBE Terpolyesters for UUteration

V/B/E	$F_{VV}$	$F_{BB}$	$F_{EE}$	F <sub>VB</sub>	$F_{VE}$	$F_{BE}$	$T_{g}^{a}(\mathrm{K})$
30/35/35	0.167	0.115	0.061	0.106	0.199	0.354	359
34/33/33	0.204	0.107	0.035	0.088	0.228	0.339	363

<sup>a</sup> Heating rate 20°C/min.

V/B/E	$W_{V}/W_{B}/W_{E}$	$P_{\rm VV}/P_{\rm VB}/P_{\rm VE}$	$P_{BV}/P_{BB}/P_{BE}$	$P_{EV}/P_{EB}/P_{EE}$	$T_g (^{\circ}\mathrm{C})^{\mathrm{a}}$
30/35/35	0.292/0.272/0.436	0.555/0.095/0.350	0.220/0.328/0.453	0.268/0.559/0.173	86
34/33/33	0.331/0.257/0.412	0.600/0.052/0.48	0.213/0.324/0.464	0.331/0.563/0.106	90

Table V Diad Sequence Probabilities and  $T_s$  of Two Model VBE Terpolyesters for Johnston Equation<sup>33</sup>

\* Heating rate 20°C/min.

in which  $r_V(6.97)$ ,  $r_B(0.78)$ , and  $r_E(0.73)$  are the reactivity ratios of monomers V, B, and E in the terpolymerization system;<sup>31</sup>  $f_V$ ,  $f_B$ , and  $f_E$  are the molar fractions of monomers V, B, and E in the feed. The experimental  $T_{gV}$ ,  $T_{gB}$ , and  $T_{gE}$  values of V, B, and E homopolyesters have been found to be 142, 158, and 67°C, respectively by Kricheldorf et al.,<sup>32</sup> Balachandar et al.,<sup>13</sup> and Meesiri et al.<sup>5</sup> The hypothetical  $T_{gBE}$  of the BE alternating copolymer can be calculated from model BE copolyesters according to eqs. (5) and (6). The sequence distribution parameter and  $T_{e}$  of the three model BE copolymers with three B/E monomer ratios are listed in Table III, from which the average  $T^{
m U}_{gBE}$  calculated is 297 K, and the average  $T_{gBE}^{J}$  calculated is 59°C. Similarly, according to eqs. (5) and (6), the respective  $T_{gVB}^{U}$  and  $T_{gVE}^{U}$  calculated from the sequence distribution parameters and the  $T_s$ s of the two model VBE terpolyesters shown in Table IV<sup>33</sup> are 336 and 395 K, and the respective  $T_{gVB}^{J}$  and  $T_{gVE}^{J}$  calculated from Table V are 76 and 154°C. The values of  $T_g$ predicted from eqs. (5)-(7) using these  $T_{gVB}^{U}$ ,  $T_{gVE}^{U}, T_{gBE}^{U}, T_{gVB}^{J}, T_{gVE}^{J}, T_{gBE}^{J}$  and corresponding sequence distribution parameters (Tables VI and VII) are collected in Table II. The experimental values,  $T_{\rm gex}$ , of the corresponding VBE terpolyesters are also listed in Table II. The standard deviation percentage  $\sigma(\%)$  was calculated by  $\sigma = 100d^{0.5}$ , where

$$d = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left[ (T_{gexi} - T_{gpri}) / T_{gpri} \right]^2$$
(8)

where  $T_{gexi}$  and  $T_{gpri}$  represent experimental and predicted values respectively, for the *i* experimental point of a total of *n* experiment points. The results for the standard deviation percentage are gathered in Table II. It can be seen that the experimental  $T_{\rm gex}$  of the terpolyesters show much lower value than the Dimarzio-Gibbs, Pochan, and Fox equations' prediction. Obviously, the three simple equations do not hold for the VBE terpolyester, because these equations do not take into consideration the effect of monomer sequence and reactivity ratio on the  $T_g$ of the terpolyesters. But the Uematsu, Johnston, and Couchman equations give a better fit with experimental results with an accuracy of 2.6–5.5% deviation. It can be said that the diad model seems to be sufficient to predict the dependence of terpolyester  $T_g$  on composition, sequence distribution and monomer reactivity ratio. From the knowledge of the monomer sequence and reactivity ratio of the VBE terpolyesters, their  $T_g$ s could be predicted with a deviation less than 5.5% without prior measurements other than those of the  $T_g$  of homopolymers.

# CONCLUSIONS

Detailed DSC as well as DMA and TMA measurements of the thermotropic liquid crystalline BE and VBE copolyesters reveal the existence of two phases with two  $T_g$ s of approximately 66–83 and 136–140°C. The lower  $T_g$  is attributed to the E-rich phase and the higher  $T_g$  might be assigned to the B-rich phase. Both Uematsu and Johnston equations are able to predict precisely the  $T_g$  of the VBE terpolyesters on the basis of their composition and sequence distri-

 Table VI
 Diad Sequence Fractions of the VBE Terpolyesters for Uematsu

 Equation<sup>9,33</sup>

V/B/E	$F_{VV}$	$F_{BB}$	$F_{EE}$	$F_{VB}$	$F_{VE}$	$F_{BE}$
15/50/35	0.055	0.227	0.039	0.077	0.109	0.493
0.5/60/39.5	0.001	0.270	0.114	0.003	0.005	0.607
5/60/35	0.005	0.287	0.088	0.029	0.038	0.553
5/65/30	0.006	0.359	0.023	0.036	0.020	0.556
5/75/20	0.004	0.513	0.014	0.044	0.018	0.416

V/B/E	$W_V/W_B/W_E$	$P_{VV}/P_{VB}/P_{VE}$	$P_{BV}/P_{BB}/P_{BE}$	$P_{EV}/P_{EB}/P_{EE}$
15/50/35	0.150/0.401/0.449	0.364/0.300/0.330	0.064/0.452/0.484	0.170/0.718/0.112
0.5/60/39.5	0.005/0.485/0.510	0.103/0.345/0.552	0.002/0.467/0.531	0.002/0.727/0.271
5/60/35	0.051/0.491/0.458	0.104/0.443/0.442	0.009/0.449/0.492	0.043/0.729/0.228
5/65/30	0.052/0.545/0.403	0.170/0.569/0.261	0.014/0.553/0.433	0.027/0.919/0.074
5/75/20	0.055/0.662/0.283	0.101/0.703/0.196	0.009/0.690/0.290	0.032/0.910/0.058

Table VII Diad Sequence Probabilities of VBE Terpolyesters for Johnston Equation<sup>9,33</sup>

bution. The thermal linear expansion coefficients for the VBE terpolyester rods parallel and perpendicular to the rod axis are estimated to be  $-1.22 \times 10^{-4}$  and  $1.49 \times 10^{-4}$  deg<sup>-1</sup> at 50°C, respectively.

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