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Polymerization of *N*, *N*-Dimethylaminopropyl-Acrylamide Through

Hydrogen Transfer Induced by the Propagation of the Polyacrolein Anion Natsuki Yamashita^a; Atsuhito Tadokoro^b; Eiichiozu Toshihisa Maeshima^b; Ion C. Baianu^c; Lun-Shin Wei^a

^a Department of Food Science, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois ^b Department of Applied Chemistry, Faculty of Science and Engineering Kinki University, Higashi-Osaka, Japan ^c Physical Chemistry and NMR Laboratories, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois

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POLYMERIZATION OF *N,N*-DIMETHYLAMINOPROPYL-ACRYLAMIDE THROUGH HYDROGEN TRANSFER INDUCED BY THE PROPAGATION OF THE POLYACROLEIN ANION

NATSUKI YAMASHITA

Department of Food Science University of Illinois Urbana, Illinois 61801

ATSUHITO TADOKORO, EIICHI OZU, and TOSHIHISA MAESHIMA

Department of Applied Chemistry Faculty of Science and Engineering Kinki University 3-4-1 Kowakae, Higashi-Osaka, 577 Japan

ION C. BAIANU

Physical Chemistry and NMR Laboratories University of Illinois Urbana, Illinois 61801

LUN-SHIN WEI

Department of Food Science University of Illinois Urbana, Illinois 61801

ABSTRACT

The anionic polymerization of acrolein (AL) with N,N-dimethylaminopropylacrylamide (DMAPA) in the presence of water was investigated in tetrahydrofuran, benzene, and ethanol at 0°C in a nitrogen atmosphere. The resulting polymers were found to be essentially vinyl poly-

1223

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mers with one DMAPA attached and an aldehyde side chain. From observations of the polymerization process by ¹H NMR, we find that polymerization was initiated by the hydroxyl anion formed in the thermodynamic equilibrium between the amine of DMAPA and water. The hydrogen transfer reaction of DMAPA was caused by the propagating poly-AL anion. On the other hand, the monomer reactivity ratios and the Q_2 - e_2 values of DMAPA were determined by the free-radical copolymerization of styrene (St, M₁) with DMAPA and AIBN as initiator.

INTRODUCTION

In earlier reports [1, 2] we described how acrolein (AL) and methyl vinyl ketone could be homopolymerized by a mixture of amine and water below room remperature. Kinetic investigations revealed that the polymerization was initiated by the hydroxyl anion formed in the thermodynamic equilibrium between amine and water. The anionic polymerization of AL [3], methyl vinyl ketone [3], methyl methacrylate [4, 5], and acrylamide [6] in the presence of imidazole has also been reported previously in detail. This polymerization was found to be initiated by a thermodynamic equilibrium between the imidazole and an initial adduct of imidazole and the monomer in the initial polymerization step.

We have also reported the anionic copolymerizations of AL with acrylamide and its derivatives in the presence of a mixture of pyridine and water or an imidazole catalyst [6, 7]. In this case the copolymerization of AL with methacrylamide readily yielded a typical vinyl copolymer; however, N,N-dimethylacrylamide was not copolymerized because of its poor anionic polymerizability (e = -0.45). It is interesting to note that the acrylamide copolymerizes with AL through a hydrogen transfer reaction from the poly-AL anion. This observation may be explained by the interactions between a propagating poly-AL anion (carbanion) and an amide group, and between a carbonyl and an amide group.

In recent years, N,N-dimethylaminopropylacrylamide (DMAPA), which is an acrylamide derivative with an amide and an amine group, has become well known as an important agent for practical applications [8-13]. This report provides strong evidence for the hydrogen transfer polymerization of DMAPA induced by the propagating poly-AL anion.

EXPERIMENTAL

Materials

Acrolein (AL) and methyl vinyl ketone (MVK) were prepared as described in previous papers [14, 15]. Styrene (St), tetrahydrofuran (THF), benzene, dioxane, ethanol, and *n*-hexane were purified by conventional methods [16]. *N,N*-Dimethylaminopropylacrylamide (DMAPA) was purified by vacuum distillation at 103°C/0.01 torr (lit. bp 117°C/2 torr [12, 13]) with hydroquinone and calcium hydride. The purities of these monomers and solvents were confirmed by gas chromatography as well as by IR and NMR spectroscopy. 2,2'-Azobisisobutylonitrile (AIBN) was used as a radical initiator, and imidazole (Im) was used as an anionic catalyst after recrystallization from benzene [16]. *n*-Butyllithium (*n*-BuLi) was used directly as a typical anionic catalyst.

Polymerization Methods

Free-radical copolymerization of St (M_1) with DMAPA in benzene by AIBN at 60°C was carried out in a sealed tube. The required amounts of the monomers, the initiator, and the solvent were placed in a tube. After degassing by repeated freezing and thawing cycles, the tube was sealed. The radical copolymerization was stopped at the 10% conversion level. The reaction mixture was poured into a large amount of *n*-hexane to precipitate at 45°C; the precipitate was then filtered and dried in vacuum to constant weight.

The radical copolymerization of MVK (M_1) with SMAPA in dioxane by AIBN at 60°C was carried out similarly to the above procedure. The reaction mixture was poured into a large amount of ether, then the copolymer was filtered off and dried in vacuum to constant weight.

The monomer-copolymer composition curves, the monomer reactivity ratios $(r_1 \text{ and } r_2)$, and the *Q*-*e* values of the Alfrey-Price equation [17] were calculated on a microcomputer by using a program for analyzing copolymer composition [18].

The anionic polymerization in THF and ethanol at 0° C under nitrogen was carried out as described in the preceding papers [1, 3, 6].

Analyses

Elementary analysis of polymers was performed with a Yanaco CHN Corder MT-2. IR spectra were recorded with a KBr disk with a Nihon-bunkou IRA-2 spectrophotometer. ¹H-NMR spectra were recorded at 90 MHz in THF-d8 with a Hitachi-Perkin Elmer Model 25 cw spectrometer. The viscosity of the polymers was determined in methanol at 25°C with an Ostward viscometer. The intrinsic viscosity, $[\eta]$, was determined from the specific viscosity, η_{sp}/c , as described in Ref. 19.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Copolymerization Parameters of DMAPA

The copolymerization parameters of DMAPA for the radical copolymerization with St and MVK were investigated. No data are available in the literature for this reaction. Radical copolymerizations of St (M_1) and DMAPA in benzene at 60°C were carried out with AIBN (Table 1). These polymers, obtained as white powders, were soluble in acetone, methanol, benzene, THF, and water.

The IR spectra of the copolymers in KBr disks have several characteristic absorption bands of poly-St: $-C_6 H_5$ at 3030, 2850, 760, and 690 cm⁻¹. The absorption bands of the -CONH- (amide II) group of the DMAPA unit were observed at 1650 and 1530 cm⁻¹; the bands of the =N-CH₃ group were observed at 1380 and 1240 cm⁻¹. However, the bands of the vinyl group (expected to occur at 990 and 910 cm⁻¹) were not present in the IR spectra. The intrinsic viscosity of the DMAPA homopolymer was obtained in methanol at 25°C and found to be 0.422 dL/g [19]. The melting points of copolymers were in the range 36-120°C.

The reactivity ratios were determined to be $r_1 = 1.63$ and $r_2 = 0.45$. The monomer-copolymer composition curves are summarized in Fig. 1; the experimental values fall on the calculated curve. The radical copolymerizations of MVK (M₁) with the DMAPA in dioxane at 60°C are reported in Table 2. These polymers, obtained as white or pale-yellow powders, were soluble in acetone, methanol, dioxane, benzene, THF, and water. The IR spectra of the copolymers have several characteristic absorption bands: the $-CH_2$ -chain at 3000-2890 cm⁻¹, the =C=O group at 1710-1690 cm⁻¹, the $-COCH_3$ group at 1350 cm⁻¹)based on the poly-MVK unit), the -CONH-group at 1650 and 1530 cm⁻¹, and the =N-CH₃ group at 1380 and 1240 cm⁻¹ (based on the poly-DMAPA unit). The melting points of the copolymers in this system were in the range 65-120°C.

The monomer reactivity ratios were found to be $r_1 = 1.18$ and $r_2 = 0.39$. The corresponding monomer-copolymer composition curves are also shown

St charged, mol%	Polymerization time, min	Conversion, %	Nitrogen in polymer, %	Incorporated St, mol%
0	20	49.2	17.3	0
20	190	13.9	13.4	33.5
30	122	9.4	11.6	45.3
40	130	7.7	10.0	54.2
50	152	8.8	8.1	64.5
60	232	5.9	6.5	72.5
70	245	8.4	4.9	80.1
80	240	2.9	3.2	87.5
100	420	13.0	0	100

TABLE 1. Copolymerization of St (M_1) with DMAPA $(M_2)^a$

^aCopolymerization conditions: Total monomers, 1.0 mol/L; AIBN, 0.02 mol/L; solvent, benzene; temperature, 60° C.

in Fig. 1. The Q-e values were determined from the above results (Table 3). The e_2 value of DMAPA is smaller than the values of other monomers such as acrylamide, methacrylamide, and N, N-dimethylacrylamide, i.e., this is a typical example of a nonconjugated monomer. It can be inferred from our evalues that the anionic polymerizability of this monomer is relatively low compared to other monomers.

Anionic Copolymerizability of AL and DMAPA

The anionic polymerizability of DMAPA unexpectedly gave a negative e value (-0.26) for the electron-accepting monomer. We have already reported the hydrogen transfer polymerization of acrylamide induced by the propagation of the poly-AL anion [6, 7], as well as the interaction between the carbonyl group and the amide group in the polymerization reaction [8-11]. The latter reactivity depends on the structure of the amide group rather than on the value of the p K_a or the group polarity. In order to examine this point, several anionic copolymerizations were carried out in THF, benzene, and



St in monomers (mil%)



ethanol under various conditions (Table 4). It was found that DMAPA did not have appreciable anionic homo- and copolymerizabilities in the presence of *n*-BuLi and imidazole. We have also reported the anionic polymerization of AL in the presence of a mixture of amine and water [1, 14, 15]. Kinetic investigations revealed that the hydroxyl anion was formed as a result of a thermodynamic equilibrium between amine and water. Therefore, the polymerizability of AL in the presence of DMAPA and water was investigated in THF

MVK charged, mol%	Polymerization time, min	Conversion, %	Nitrogen in polymer, %	Incorporated MVK, mol%
0	30	6.4	0	0
20	313	9.2	5.4	33.7
40	315	7.5	9.1	52.6
50	315	7.9	10.3	61.9
60	277	7.4	12.0	68.6
80	315	8.6	14.6	83.7
100	315	9.7	17.5	100

TABLE 2. Copolymerization of MVK(M_1) with DMAPA (M_2)^a

^aCopolymerization conditions: Total monomers, 0.75 mol/L; AIBN, 0.002 mol/L; solvent, dioxane; temperature, 60°C.

and ethanol at 0° C without a catalyst (Table 5). The addition of water initiated the polymerization reaction; the reactivity increased with the amount of water added. The tendency of instantaneous polymerization with a large amount of water added was indicated in previous papers [1, 14, 15]. No polymerization took place, of course, in the absence of water (Table 4).

Poly-AL is converted into an insoluble and infusible polymer by intramolecular cyclization and/or intermolecular crosslinking of the side chains [1, 20]. The poly-AL has an adsorptive capacity which depends on the interactions between the carbonyl groups [20]. To further investigate this point,

TABLE 3. Copolymerization Parameters^a M_1 r_1 r_2 $r_1 \cdot r_2$ Q_2 e_2 St 1.63 0.40 -0.26 0.46 0.75 **MVK** 0.46 0.32 -0.24 1.18 0.38

 ${}^{a}Q$ and *e* for acrylamide derivatives: Acrylamide, 1.18 and 1.30; methacrylamide, 0.59 and -0.88; *N*,*N*-dimethyl acrylamide, 0.53 and -0.54.

,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	Solvent	Monomers charged, mol%		Temperature	Time	Conversion
Catalyst		M ₁	M ₂	°C	h	%
n-BuLi ^b	THF	0	100	0	140	0
		80	20	0	41	36.0
Im ^c	THF	0	100	30	141	0
		50	50	30	141	3.1
		100	0	30	141	41.9
None	Benzene	45	55	0	72	0
	Ethanol	45	55	0	72	0
	THF	45	55	0	72	0

TABLE 4.	Anionic	Homo-	and	Copolymerizabilities	of	Al	(M_1)	and
DMAPA (M	$(a)^{a}$							

^aPolymerization conditions: Total monomers, 2.0 mol/L; atmosphere, nitrogen gas. Nitrogen content of the polymer in all cases was 0%.

^bn-Butyllithium, 1.95 mmol/L [4].

^cImidazole, 100 mmol/L [5].

purified polymer fractions were obtained by using the separation procedures indicated in Fig. 2.

The purified polymers, white or pale-yellow powders, were generally insoluble in organic solvents. It is interesting to note that the results of the elemental analyses indicate the presence of nitrogen in the polymer (Table 5). The IR spectrum (Fig. 3c) has several characteristic absorption bands of poly-AL [1, 20], such as the $-CH_2$ – chain (3000-2900 cm⁻¹) and the =C=O group (1720-1680 cm⁻¹). The absorption bands of poly-DMAPA, such as those of the -CONHR and -CONH- groups observed at 1680-1640, 1350, and 1240 cm⁻¹, indicate the presence of several poly-DMAPA units in the polymer. The absorption bands of the vinyl group were also present at 980 and 935 cm⁻¹. These observations clearly suggest a chain transfer reaction between the poly-AL and DMAPA [6, 7].

Solvent	Volume of added water, mL	Conversion, %	Nitrogen in polymer, %
Ethanol ^b	0	0	0
	3.2	0	0
	5.6	7.7	1.44
	9.6	9.4	1.69
	11.2	d	-
THF ^c	0	0	0
	1.4	44.6	0.59
	2.7	54.9	0.81
	3.2	d	
	5.6	d	—

TABLE 5. Polymerization of AL in the Presence of DMAPA and Water at $0^{\circ}C^{a}$

^aPolymerization conditions: Total volume, 20 mL; time, 26 h; atmosphere, nitrogen gas.

^bMonomer: AL, 0.75 mol/L.

^cMonomers: AL, 0.75 mol/L; DMAPA, 0.61 mol/L.

^aExplosive, instantaneous reaction.

Observations of the Initial Polymerization Step by ¹ H NMR

As previously described, structural analyses of the insoluble poly-AL are difficult by classical or standard procedures. In order to investigate the polymerization mechanism of AL with DMAPA, several mixtures of the monomers in $H_2 O/D_2 O$ and THF-d8 were examined by ¹H NMR, as described previously [3, 4].

A mixture of both monomers did not react or polymerize without water (Figs. 4a and 5a). This result agrees very well with the results in Table 1. On the other hand, the OH proton signal from water usually occurs at 4.7 ppm, but in our samples the signal from the hydroxyl proton of H_2O occurred near 3.4 ppm (Fig. 4). We attribute this downfield shift to the interactions between the monomer and water. It was also interesting that the proton peak at 3.4



FIG. 2. Separation procedures for polymers.

ppm shifted gradually downfield with increasing reaction time (Figs. 4c and d). The proton signal near 3.9 ppm shifted downfield upon addition of D_2O , and the peak at 3.3 ppm from DMAPA showed evidence of multiplicity (Figs. 5a, b, and c). On the other hand, the vinyl group peak at 6.3-6.6 ppm of AL decreased in a stepwise manner with the reaction time, whereas the peak from the vinyl groups at 5.4-5.6 ppm did not change (Figs. 5a and c). These data are summarized in Table 6. The proton peaks from the aldehyde groups of AL at 9.6-9.8 ppm decreased as a result of the reaction (Figs. 5a, b, and c), consistent with intramolecular cyclization or intermolecular crosslinking of the aldehyde groups in the AL monomer or in the polymer [3, 20].



FIG. 3. IR spectra of polymers in a KBr disk. a: AL homopolymer. b: DMAPA homopolymer. c and d: AL-DMAPA polymer.



FIG. 4. ¹ H-NMR spectra for the polymerization reaction of the AL-DMAPA system with water in THF-d8.



FIG. 5. ¹H-NMR spectra for the polymerization reaction of the AL-DMAPA system with H_2O and D_2O in THF-d8.

Reaction time, min	Vinyl group of AL, ppm	Vinyl group of DMAPA, ppm	H ₂ O, ppm
	6.3-6.6 (8, m)	5.4-5.6 (1, q), 6.1-6.3 (2, q)	
2	6.3-6.6 (8, m)	5.4-5.6 (1, q), 6.1-6.3 (2, q)	3.9 (2, s)
18	6.3-6.6 (6, m)	5.4-5.6 (1, q), 6.1-6.3 (2, q)	4.0 (2, s)
36	6.3-6.6 (6, m)	5.4-5.6 (1, q), 6.1-6.3 (2,q)	4.1 (2, s)
74	6.3-6.6 (4, m)	5.4-5.6 (1, q), 6.1-6.3 (2, q)	3.9 - 4.3 (2, b)
151	6.3-6.6 (1, m)	5.4-5.6 (1, q), 6.1-6.3 (2, q)	3.9-4.3 (-, b)
240	6.3-6.6 (1, m)	5.4-5.6 (1, q), 6.1-6.3 (2, q)	3.8-4.5 (-, b)

TABLE 6. ¹H-NMR Chemical Shift Data for the Polymerization of DMAPA Induced by AL

POLYMERIZATION MECHANISMS

Based on the above observations, the following explanation is put forward. The polymerization of AL is initiated by the reversible equilibrium between the DMAPA monomer and water.

Initiation:

CH₂=CHCONH $(CH_2)_3 N(CH_3)_2$ (DMAPA) CH₂=CHCONH $(CH_2)_3 N(CH_3)_2$ (Hydroxyl anion) H^+ (DMAPA cation)

Hydroxyl anion + CH₂=CH
$$\xrightarrow{k_i}$$
 HO-CH₂CH⁻
| CHO CHO
(AL) (AL anion)

This initiation mechanism was considered in detail in previous papers [1, 14, 15] for the polymerization of AL induced by a mixture of triethylamine and water. DMAPA could not be ionically polymerized by this hydroxyl group, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, because this monomer has an e_2 value of -0.26 (Table 3).

Propagation:

AL anion + DMAPA
$$\xrightarrow{k_p}$$
 -CH₂CH⁻
|
CHO

(Poly-AL anion)

In previous reports [6, 7] we showed that the hydrogen transfer polymerization of acrylamide with AL occurs in the presence of a mixture of amine and water or of imidazole. The same mechanism may also operate for the polymerization reactions discussed above. The hydrogen transfer mechanism of the polymerization of DMAPA with the poly-AL propagating anion may therefore be considered to be as follows.

Termination and Chain Transfer:

(Polymer)

(DMAPA anion)

Re-initiation:

DMAPA anion + AL $\xrightarrow{k_i'}$ CH₂=CHCONH-CH₂CH⁻ | CHO (CH₂)₃N(CH₃)₂

CONCLUSIONS

DMAPA serves as an initiator of the anionic polymerization, as a counterion on the propagation step, as a chain transfer agent, and as a terminator. The investigations of the hydrogen transfer mechanism of DMAPA induced by the AL and poly-AL anions were reviewed, and it became evident that more kinetic work by different approaches is necessary and that the analysis of the new polymers formed requires new techniques.

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