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Characterization of Functionalized Polymers: Synthesis of Cyanomethylated Polystyrenes and Reaction Chemistry with Palladium(II)

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ABSTRACT: The reactions of linear and cross-linked chloromethylated polystyrenes with NaCN/DMSO have been investigated. Unlike the model compound benzyl chloride, which reacts exclusively by substitution, these functionalized polystyrenes react by substitution and oxidation, producing products bearing both cyanomethyl and aldehyde functional groups. The substrates and reaction products have been fully characterized by solid-state ¹³C NMR spectroscopy and diffuse reflectance infrared Fourier transform (DRIFT) spectroscopy, in conjunction with more routine methods. The differences in reactivity of benzyl chloride and chloromethylated polystyrenes are attributed to a matrix effect which is believed to be operative in the case of polymeric substrates. Penetration of the ionic reactant and/or the polar solvent through the nonpolar polymer network is shown to be limited in the case of cross-linked resins by use of electron probe analysis and energy dispersive spectroscopy. An alternative route to cyanomethylated polystyrenes free of aldehyde functionality has been developed. Palladium(II) complexes of polystyrenes bearing cyanomethyl groups have been prepared by displacement of weakly bound nitromethane ligands from solvated palladium(II) precursors. Such complexes are of interest as immobilized promoters and catalysts in organic syntheses.

Introduction

Functionalized polymers have found numerous applications in solid-phase synthesis,¹ as supports in chromatography,² as macromolecular ligands for the immobilization of catalytically active metal complexes,³ and as reagents in organic synthesis.⁴

Despite widespread interest in the chemistry of functionalized polymers there is a paucity of structural and mechanistic data on these solid-phase systems. The problems encountered in acquiring structural and mech-

anistic data of such materials revolve around the low concentration of functional groups typically encountered and the lack of solubility of cross-linked polymeric systems. These two factors lead to acute analytical problems which eliminate the use of many standard instrumental methods.

We have previously reported⁵⁻¹⁰ that structural information may be acquired by the application of solid-state NMR techniques,¹¹ employing cross-polarization,¹² magic angle spinning,¹³ and high-power proton decoupling (CP/MAS NMR), to both inorganic and organic substrates

bearing pendant ligand groups and to transition-metal complexes of such support systems. Similarly we have described the application of diffuse reflectance infrared Fourier transform (DRIFT) spectroscopy to the characterization of organic¹⁴ and inorganic¹⁵ substrates bearing Lewis base groups and to the structural analysis of transition-metal complexes of these ligated support materials.

A combination of solid-state NMR and DRIFT spectroscopic methods is particularly valuable in the chemical characterization of functionalized polymers and yet even this powerful combination of analytical techniques provides no information on the spatial distribution of functionality within a polymer matrix. Such information can, however, be acquired by the application of electron microprobe analysis or allied surface techniques.^{16,17}

In this paper we describe the synthesis of cyanomethylated polystyrene and its reaction with palladium(II) chloride. A combination of CP/MAS NMR and DRIFT techniques has been employed to analyze reaction products and electron microprobe analysis has shed light on matrix effects observed during reactivity studies. There is considerable interest in this class of functionalized polystyrene and its palladium(II) complexes since low molecular weight analogues, such as $[\text{PdCl}_2(\text{NCCCH}_3)_2]$ and $[\text{PdCl}_2(\text{NCC}_6\text{H}_5)_2]$, are ubiquitous catalysts and promoters in organic synthesis.¹⁸ Applications include acetylene oligomerization,¹⁹ α,β -dehydrogenation of aldehydes and ketones,²⁰ amination of conjugated dienes,²¹ selective cleavage of epoxides,²² and other transformations of synthetic utility.

After completion of this work, Darling and Frechet²³ reported some observations on the reaction of chloromethylated polystyrene with DMSO/CN⁻ and described contamination of the cyanomethylated product by oxidation byproducts. These workers went on to develop a phase-transfer catalyzed route to cyanomethylated polystyrene using dry DMF as a solvent. The problem that they describe and their solution to it agree entirely with the results we describe here.

Experimental Section

Physical Measurements. Diffuse reflectance infrared Fourier transform (DRIFT) spectra^{14,15} were obtained by using a Nicolet 5DX FT-IR spectrometer equipped with a 64K \times 20-bit high-speed data processor, a DTGS room temperature pyroelectric bolometer with a KBr window, a Harrick "preying mantis" diffuse reflectance accessory and a Zeta 8 printer/plotter. The 5DX spectrometer has f5 optics and all spectra were recorded with 4-cm⁻¹ resolution over the range 4600–400 cm⁻¹ at a maximum gain setting. Happ-Ganzel apodization was applied and the spectra are presented without Kubelka-Munk transformation since they are for qualitative interpretation only. Polymer samples were prepared for DRIFT analysis by dilution with dried KBr (ca 1:20 w/w) and the spectra were obtained by ratioing against a KBr background by using a dry nitrogen purge system.

¹H and ¹³C high-resolution NMR spectra were obtained for CDCl₃ solvent swollen gels at 89.56 and 22.49 MHz, respectively, on a JEOL FX 90 Q NMR spectrometer operating in the Fourier transform mode. Chemical shifts are relative to internal tetramethylsilane, with more positive values of the chemical shift representing deshielding.

¹³C CP/MAS NMR spectra were obtained at 22.6 MHz by using a Bruker CXP 100 spectrometer equipped with a homemade probe with an Andrews-Beams type of spinning apparatus.¹³ Sample spinners of ca. 460- μ L capacity were constructed of Kel-F [poly(chlorotrifluoroethylene)] and were spun at ca. 3 kHz. Spectra were typically acquired with a 1-ms contact time and a 1-s delay between sequences. The number of scans acquired and the line broadening applied are cited in the appropriate figure legends. Spectra in which signals due to protonated carbon atoms have been reduced in intensity by delayed acquisition were typically acquired with a 1-ms contact, a 1-s recycle delay, and decoupler gated off for 50 μ s before acquisition.

An ARL electron microprobe coupled with a Kevex energy dispersive spectrometer was employed for the sulfur and chlorine analyses of bead cross sections. A relatively large beam size (diameter = 80 μ m) was chosen to minimize sample damage and analyses were performed in 100- μ m step intervals across traverses passing through the approximate centers of the sectional samples. The intensities of the K α X-ray emission lines of chlorine (2.622 keV) and sulfur (2.307 keV) were measured by using counting intervals of 20 s (excluding dead time). Intensities were integrated for peak widths taken at one-half maximum peak intensity, which corresponded to window widths of 21 and 15 channels for chlorine and sulfur, respectively. Raw counts were corrected for background by subtraction of a visually estimated linear background for each element.

Elemental analyses were performed by Micanal, AZ, and Galbraith, TN.

Syntheses. Linear biological grade polystyrene was obtained from Baker Chemicals. Other reagents were obtained as follows: polyvinyl alcohol (MCB, Inc., 99% hydrolyzed); divinylbenzenes (Pfaltz and Bauer, ca. 80% para by NMR spectroscopy); chloromethylstyrene (Polysciences, Inc., ca. 60% meta and ca. 40% para by NMR spectroscopy).

Preparation of Linear Chloromethylated Polystyrene 1.²⁴ Chloromethyl methyl ether (60 mL; 0.79 mol; **NOTE**, chloromethyl methyl ether is a carcinogen—use all appropriate precautions in handling and disposal) was added with stirring (using a high-speed mechanical stirrer) to polystyrene (10 g; 96 mmol) at 50 °C. After the polymer beads were dissolved, a further aliquot of chloromethyl methyl ether (60 mL) containing anhydrous stannic chloride (3.04 g; 11.6 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 7.5 h. It was then quenched with methanol at which time precipitation occurred. The polymer was filtered off; washed with methanol, water, ethanol, and methanol; dried under vacuum; and characterized.

Preparation of Cross-Linked Chloromethylated Polystyrene 2. Polyvinyl alcohol (0.054 g) was added to degassed water (32 mL) under a nitrogen atmosphere in a three-necked round-bottomed flask fitted with a high-speed mechanical stirrer. The mixture was heated to dissolve the polyvinyl alcohol and then styrene (0.667 g; 6.41 mmol), divinylbenzenes (1.273 g; 9.78 mmol), (chloromethyl)styrene (a mixture of isomers, 5.0 g; 32.80 mmol), azobisisobutyronitrile (0.037 g; 0.22 mmol), and acetonitrile (1.8 mL) were added and the reaction mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 8 h. The polymer beads were collected on a filter and washed with methanol, ethanol, and acetone and then dried in vacuum prior to characterization.

Preparation of Polymer 3.²⁵ Polymer 1 (0.50 g) and sodium cyanide (excess, 0.30 g) were dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO, 25 mL) and heated with stirring on a boiling water bath for 6 h. The reaction mixture was then diluted with water and filtered. The polymer was washed with water, methanol, and acetone and then dried in vacuum prior to characterization.

Preparation of Polymer 4.¹⁴ Polymer 1 (0.75 g) and sodium bicarbonate (0.41 g) dissolved in excess DMSO (50 mL) were heated at 110 °C with stirring for 24 h. The reaction mixture was then diluted with water, filtered, washed with water, followed by methanol, and dried in vacuum for analysis.

Reaction of 3 and 4 with Schiff's Reagent. Polymers 3 and 4 (about 0.05 g of each) were suspended separately in 2-mL portions of Schiff's reagent (prepared by dissolving 0.1 g of *p*-rosaniline hydrochloride in 100 mL of water, adding 4 mL of saturated aqueous sodium bisulfite solution, and then, after 1 h, adding 2 mL of concentrated hydrochloric acid), heated on a steam bath for 1 min, and then allowed to cool. Both cooled samples showed the characteristic purple color indicative of the presence of aldehyde groups. As a control, both polystyrene itself and polymer 1 were similarly treated with Schiff's reagent. Neither sample gave a purple coloration.

Reaction of 3 and 4 with Thionyl Chloride. Polymers 3 and 4 (about 0.05 g of each) were suspended separately in thionyl chloride (excess, 5 mL) and refluxed with stirring for 3 h. After they were cooled, the polymeric products were filtered off and dried under vacuum.

Preparation of Polymer 5. Polymer 4 (0.50 g) was suspended in excess acetone (25 mL) and an excess of Jones' reagent (10 mL, prepared by dissolving 26.72 g of chromium trioxide in 23 mL

of concentrated sulfuric acid and diluting to 100 mL with water) was added to this mixture. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 h. The polymer was then filtered off; washed with cold water, hot water, methanol, and acetone; and then dried in vacuum. The washing procedure used here was not effective at removing entrapped impurities and the resulting product had a green color, presumably due to chromium-containing byproducts from the oxidation process.

Preparation of Polymer 7. Polymer 2 (1.00 g) was suspended in DMSO (25 mL), sodium cyanide (excess, 0.50 g) was added, and the suspension was heated with stirring on a boiling water bath for 6 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled, diluted with water, and filtered. The polymer was washed with water, methanol, and acetone and then dried under vacuum.

Preparation of Polymer 8. Polymer 8 was prepared by using the method described above for polymer 3 except that the DMSO solvent was replaced by an equal volume of *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF).

Preparation of the Palladium(II) Complex of Polymer 3.
Method 1. Following the literature method,²⁵ polymer 3 (0.10 g) was packed into a small glass column. Through this column a 0.1 M aqueous solution of palladium(II) chloride was passed slowly. The column was then washed through with water, methanol, and acetone and then dried in vacuum. **Method 2.** Polymer 3 (0.10 g) and palladium(II) chloride (0.065 g; 0.37 mmol) in nitromethane (25 mL) were refluxed with stirring for 3.5 h. The reaction mixture was then filtered while hot, to prevent unreacted palladium from precipitating out of solution during cooling and contaminating the product. The filtered polymer was washed with methanol and acetone and then dried in vacuum.

Results and Discussion

It is reported²⁵ that commercial chloromethylated styrene-divinylbenzene (80%/20%) copolymer, containing 16.7% chlorine, reacts with sodium cyanide in DMSO at boiling water bath temperatures over a 6-h period to yield a cyanomethylated polymer containing 5.7% nitrogen and 2.6% residual chlorine. The analytical data imply a ca. 85% conversion of chloromethyl groups to cyanomethyl groups. We have employed this literature method with two types of well-characterized chloromethylated polystyrene as follows:

(i) **Linear Chloromethylated Polystyrene 1.** A biological grade high-purity polystyrene was chloromethylated under conditions to minimize cross-linking via dehydrohalogenation.²⁴ The chloromethylated product (20.2% chlorine; calcd for 85% chloromethylation = 20.6%) was characterized by ¹H and ¹³C high-resolution NMR and solid-state ¹³C NMR methods and by DRIFT spectroscopy. The ¹H NMR spectrum of a chloroform *d*₁ gel showed the expected resonances for the aliphatic and aromatic protons of the polystyrene matrix and an additional resonance at 4.51 ppm due to the benzylic protons of the chloromethyl groups. The high-resolution ¹³C NMR spectrum similarly showed the expected resonances for the aliphatic and aromatic carbons of the polystyrene matrix and a new resonance at 46.3 ppm for the benzylic carbon of the chloromethyl group.

The solid state ¹³C NMR spectra of the polystyrene substrate before and after chloromethylation are shown in Figure 1. Prior to chloromethylation the spectrum shows overlapping resonances for the aliphatic carbon atoms of the polystyrene backbone (46.1–41.0 ppm) and discrete resonances for the protonated (128.1 ppm) and nonprotonated (146.7 ppm) aromatic carbon atoms of the phenyl residues. After chloromethylation, new resonances appear due to the pendant benzylic carbon atom (47.4 ppm) and the quaternary carbon atom (135.9 ppm) of the aromatic residue which bears the pendant functionality.

Both the high-resolution and solid-state ¹³C NMR methods give useful structural data for sample 1 since it is a linear polymer capable of forming a relatively mobile

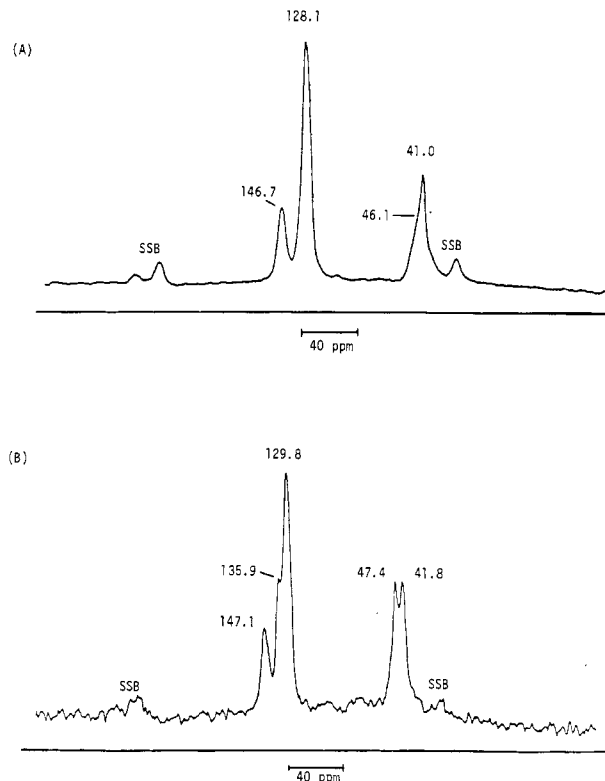


Figure 1. (A) ¹³C CP/MAS NMR spectrum of linear polystyrene: 38 586 scans; 20-Hz line broadening. (B) ¹³C CP/MAS NMR spectrum of chloromethylated polystyrene 1: 8100 scans; 20-Hz line broadening.

gel and since it has a high degree of functionalization. In cases where the mobility of the matrix is restricted (e.g., cross-linked polymers) the usefulness of the high-resolution method decreases and the solid-state technique becomes the method of choice. Thus, high-resolution measurements give rise to substantially smaller line widths for the ¹³C resonances of mobile (typically linear) polymers, but the solid-state ¹³C NMR technique is superior for cases where the mobility is restricted (typically for cross-linked polymers) and the line widths obtained by high-resolution techniques are large.

The DRIFT spectra of this substrate before and after chloromethylation have been described previously,¹⁴ with the chloromethylated polystyrene exhibiting new bands at 1266 and 677 cm⁻¹. The former is diagnostic of the CH₂Cl group while the latter is attributed to ν (C–Cl). We have found the DRIFT technique to be valuable in obtaining well-resolved IR spectra of functionalized polymers. A major advantage lies in the simplicity of sample preparation. Thus, we find that polymer particles with elastic properties resist preparation as pressed KBr pellets and are similarly difficult to prepare as mulls for IR study. The DRIFT technique bypasses these practical problems and offers a useful alternative.

(ii) **Cross-Linked Chloromethylated Styrene-Divinylbenzene (80%/20%) Copolymer (2).** A cross-linked chloromethylated resin was prepared by suspension polymerization of styrene (13.1 mol %), divinylbenzenes (20.0 mol %), and chloromethylstyrenes (66.9 mol %). Elemental analysis indicated a chlorine content of 14.1% and DRIFT spectroscopy confirmed the presence of chloromethyl groups (vide supra).

Reaction of the linear substrate 1 with sodium cyanide in DMSO under the reported²⁵ reaction conditions yielded a product, 3, whose DRIFT spectrum showed the complete disappearance of bands due to the chloromethyl groups and the presence of new bands due to both nitrile- and

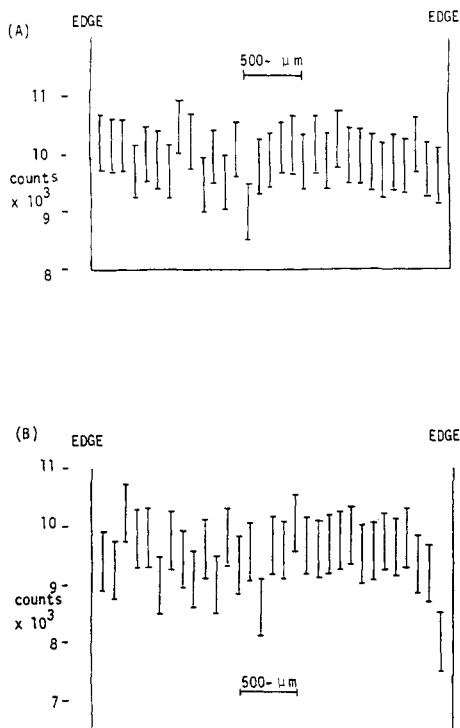


Figure 3. EDS analysis for chlorine across a sectional sample of chloromethylated polystyrene 2. Plots A and B represent traverses along the x and y axes of a single polymer bead.

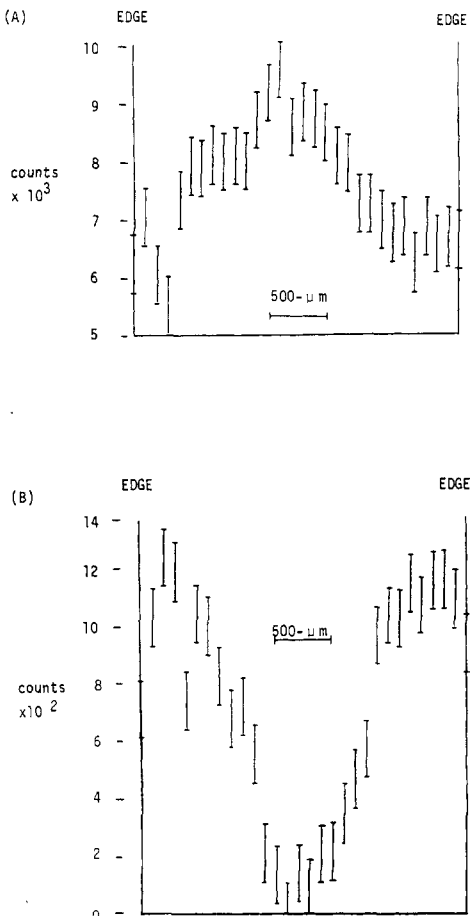


Figure 4. EDS analyses for (A) chlorine and (B) sulfur across a sectional sample of polymer 7. Both plots represent traverses along one axis of a single polymer bead.

constant across the bead. After reaction, the chlorine content is low at the edges, but high in the middle. These results thus confirm the DRIFT spectroscopic data,

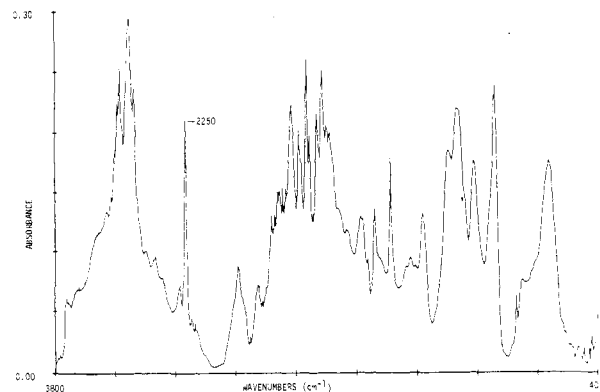


Figure 5. DRIFT spectrum of cyanomethylated polystyrene 8.

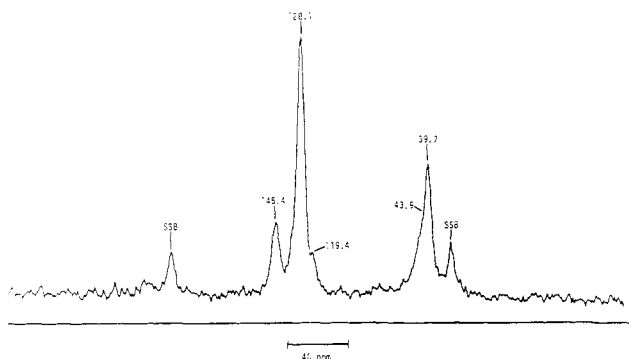


Figure 6. ^{13}C CP/MAS NMR spectrum of cyanomethylated polystyrene 8: 3900 scans; 10-Hz line broadening.

showing that the chloromethyl groups only undergo extensive reaction at the edges of the bead. Although the EDS study was unable to monitor oxygen or nitrogen content across the polymer bead, which would have allowed us to correlate substitution/oxidation phenomena with matrix penetration, we were able to monitor sulfur content in sample 7, the product of reaction with DMSO/NaCN. Clearly the sulfur detected results from entrapped solvent, which is retained even after drying in vacuum. The plot of sulfur content as a function of penetration is shown in Figure 4, which indicates how effectively the polar DMSO solvent penetrates the polymer matrix. It is immediately apparent that penetration of the solvent is accompanied by a decrease in chlorine content and hence that cyanomethylation and/or oxidation phenomena are limited by the ability of the polar DMSO solvent to transport the ionic reactant through the non-polar polymer matrix.

In order to prepare cyanomethylated polystyrene free of any oxidized functionality²⁵ it is necessary to use a nonoxidizing solvent. We have found that reaction of 1 with NaCN in *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF) yields a product, 8, whose DRIFT spectrum, Figure 5, shows the complete disappearance of chloromethyl groups, the absence of any carbonyl-containing functionality, and a new band at 2250 cm^{-1} due to cyanomethyl groups. The solid-state ^{13}C NMR spectrum, Figure 6, shows resonances due to both aliphatic (43.9, 39.7 ppm) and aromatic (145.4, 128.1 ppm) carbon atoms and a weak resonance at 119.4 ppm which is assigned to the cyano carbons. This assignment was confirmed by repeating the solid-state NMR experiment with a cross-polarization sequence in which a short delay was inserted between the cross-polarization step and the free induction decay acquisition during which the decoupling field was turned off. The overall effect of this pulse sequence is to suppress resonances which are due to protonated carbon atoms and to enhance resonances which are due to nonprotonated carbon atoms.¹¹ The

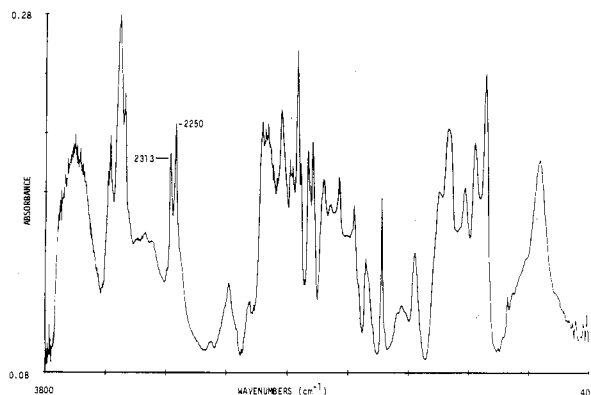


Figure 7. DRIFT spectrum of polymer 3 after reaction with palladium(II) chloride in refluxing nitromethane.

resulting spectrum showed large enhancements of the peaks assigned to the quaternary aromatic carbon atoms and the cyano carbon atoms.

It is reported²⁵ that cyanomethylated styrene-divinylbenzene copolymer and other polymers bearing cyanide groups separated from the polymer backbone by at least one methylene group react with palladium(II) chloride to form immobilized complexes of the type $[\text{PdCl}_2(\text{nitrile})_2]$. The technique used in synthesis was to pass solutions of palladium(II) chloride down a column packed with resin and to elute excess PdCl_2 by washing. The presence of palladium in the product was confirmed by elemental analysis. We have used this method²⁵ to treat the cyanomethylated polystyrene 3 with palladium(II) chloride. The DRIFT spectrum of the product, however, shows no positive shift in the $\nu(\text{CN})$ band, which would be expected upon complexation (vide infra). Indeed, the pale brown color of the product that we obtained suggests that palladium(II) chloride is simply physically entrapped in the resin. Accordingly, results relating to the hydrolysis of olefins promoted by such samples²⁵ may refer solely to the activity of entrapped palladium(II) chloride and not to immobilized nitrile complexes.

Immobilized nitrile complexes may be prepared by treatment of the cyanomethylated polystyrene 3 with palladium(II) chloride in refluxing nitromethane. In such a reaction system, the polymeric halide bridged structure of palladium(II) chloride is broken down by the weakly coordinating solvent to form nonisolable solvated complexes of the type $[\text{PdCl}_2(\text{O}_2\text{NCH}_3)_2]$.²⁷ Displacement of the weakly bound nitromethane ligands by the immobilized nitrile groups leads to formation of the polymer-supported complex. The DRIFT spectrum of the product, Figure 7, shows $\nu(\text{CN})$ bands due to unreacted cyanomethyl groups at 2250 cm^{-1} and due to complexed cyanomethyl groups at 2313 cm^{-1} . For comparison,²⁵ the $\nu(\text{CN})$ mode of $[\text{PdCl}_2(\text{NCC}_6\text{H}_5)_2]$ occurs at 2316 cm^{-1} . The spectrum shown in Figure 7 also indicates that water is present in the sample, which may imply the presence of species such as $[\text{PdCl}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})(\text{nitrile})]$ which could form in instances where the spatial requirements of the polymer matrix prohibit coordination of two nitrile groups to a single metal center.

Further studies with these characterized palladium-nitrile systems will focus on reactivity with small organic

molecules, such as olefins, and will attempt to exploit the modifications in reactivity as a function of matrix penetration that we have observed as a means to control selectivity in catalytic processes.

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Registry No. NaCN, 143-33-9; SOCl_2 , 7719-09-7; PdCl_2 , 7647-10-1; $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}$, 100-44-7; (styrene)(divinylbenzene)-((chloromethyl)styrene) (copolymer), 55844-94-5; *p*-rosaniline hydrochloride, 569-61-9.

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