A Study of the Termination Reaction Rate of a Polymer Radical of Definite Degree of Polymerization. I. Polystyryl Radical

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ABSTRACT: The difunctional polystyryl anion of a definite degree of polymerization was reacted with triphenylmethylbromide to form a polystyryl radical. The ratio k_{ij}/k_1^2 , where k_{ij} is the rate constant of the termination reaction between two polymer radicals (with *i* and *j* as the degree of polymerization), and k_1 is the rate constant of the termination reaction between a polymer radical and the radical deactivators, was estimated by GPC (gel-permeation chromatography) analysis on the polymer produced from the free radical species formed by the anion—radical transformation reaction. It was found that the ratio k_{ij}/k_1^2 increases when the polymer concentration and the value j-1 (j=1, 2, 3) increase. On the contrary, when the polymer concentration decreases, k_{ij}/k_1^2 decreases. The results were discussed from the viewpoint of a diffusion-controlled reaction.

KEY WORDS Radical / Termination / Definite Degree of Polymerization / Steady State / Gel-Permeation Chromatography /

Kinetic studies concerning the termination reaction of polymer radicals have been carried out by many authors since the so-called "gel-effect"^{1,2} was discovered. In some of these papers, the value $_2k_t$ (rate constant for the termination reaction between two polymer radicals) was discussed in connection with the viscosity of the medium, the flexibility of polymer chains, the interaction between solvent and polymer segments, the degree of polymerization, etc.

The facts that $_{2}k_{t}$ is inversely proportional to the viscosity of the medium,^{3,4} and has some relation with the flexibility of a polymer chain,^{5,6} and with the nature of the solvents (solubility of polymer to solvent)³ have been reported previously. Concerning the effect of the degree of polymerization, some experimental results were obtained by Schulz and his coworker,⁷ and Borgwardt and his coworkers.⁸ But the former used polydisperse polymers and the latter used a polymer on which the reactive groups were located at indifinite positions.

On the other hand, many authors have proposed various diffusion-controlled models for this reaction, 9^{-17} by assuming an analogy between this reaction and the coaguration process, 11^{-13} by considering the microviscosity when the polymer ends penetrate into the medium occupied by the other polymer molecule¹⁴ or by taking into account the relaxation phenomena and the excluded volume effect of the polymer molecules. 15^{-17}

Thus the dependency of $_{2}k_{t}$ on the degree of polymerization has been derived by several authors according to the above models, while it may be considered that the quantitative data needed to decide what kind of model is suitable to express the termination rate are not sufficient. Moreover, the influence of the polymer concentration is not clear, even qualitatively.

The difficulty of clarifying these points lies mainly in the absence of any method to deal with polymer radicals of a definite degree of polymerization.

In this study, we attempt to establish a method to measure the rate constant $_2k_t$ for polymer radicals of a definite degree of polymerization, using living polymer, transforming the styryl anion into its radical with triphenylmethylbromide (TPMB), and employing GPC (gel-permeation chromatography) to measure the molecular weight distribution.

As an actual problem, the absolute vale of $_{2}k_{t}$ is rather difficult to measure and, therefore, we tried to determine the value k_{ij}/k_{1}^{2} , where k_{1} is the rate constant of a termination reaction between the polymer radical and the solvent or other radical deactivator.

EXPERIMENTAL

Living Polystyrene

Living polystyrene solution was prepared using α -methyl styrene living tetramer (counter ion: Na⁺) as the initiator and tetrahydrofuran (THF) as the solvent at -78 °C under vacuum. After polymerization, the living polymer solution was divided into 6–7 small ampoules (ν =3–5 ml),

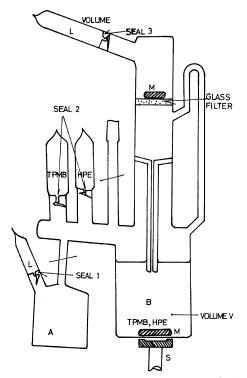


Figure 1. The apparatus to transform styryl anion to its radical and to achieve the steady state of the concentration of reactive species: L, THF solution of living polymer; TPMB, triphenylmethylbromide; HPE, hexaphenylethane; [TPMB]V, [HPE]V \gg [L]₀ M; magnet coated with glass; s, stirrer.

Polymer J., Vol. 8, No. 2, 1976

and one of them was used to determine the concentration of the living ends by deactivation with n-butyl bromide. Another one was used to determine the degree of polymerization and the polymer concentration by deactivation with methanol.

The degree of polymerization was determined by viscometry, using the following relationship:¹⁸

 $\overline{M}_V = 1.7 \times 10^5 [\eta]^{1.35}$ (30°C, in toluene)

Preparation of Hexaphenylethane (HPE) (or Dimer of Triphenyl Methyl Radical)²²

HPE was prepared by the method described by Preckel and Selwood.¹⁹ The silver powder and TPMB were reacted in the apparatus shown in Figure 2 at room temperature for 3-4 days in benzene. When the reaction was over, the solution was filtered and transferred to part B. Then the benzene was evaporated to part A by cooling A. The conversion of TPMB was calculated from the increment caused by the formation of AgBr.

The HPE thus prepared was then dissolved in THF under vacuum, and divided into small, graduated ampoules.

Deactivation of Styryl Anion with TPMB

The apparatus shown in Figure 1 was used to deactivate the polystyryl anion with TPMB in order to form the polystyryl radical and to

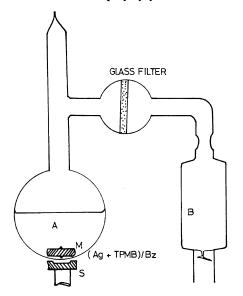


Figure 2. The apparatus to synthetize hexaphenylethane from triphenylmethylbromide *in vacuo*.

continue the subsequent radical reactions.

At first, the breakable seal 1 was broken, and all parts of the apparatus were washed by the solution; then this solution was completely brought into part A, and pure THF only was condensed by cooling part B to -78 °C. After sealing off bottle A, seal 2 was broken. Then the apparatus was immersed totally in the water bath (30 °C), seal 3 was broken, and the living polymer solution was introduced slowly and continuously into part B through the glass filter and the capillary.

The time τ for the living polymer solution to flow out completely was measured.

Other reaction conditions were as follows:

 $V \gg v$; V[TPMB], V[HPE] $\gg v$ [⁻P₁]

 τ ; 10³—10² sec (very long time compared to the life time of the polymer radical and anion) GPC and its Analysis

The experimental conditions were as follows:InstrumentWaters Instrument, Type 200Temp20°CPolymer concn20-30 mg/10 ml THFSolventTHFInjection time90 sec3 Columns for sample 107, 106, 105 Å porosity3 Columns for reference 104, 103, 102 Å porosity

The weight fraction of each polymer composition was calculated by using Tung's expression:²⁰

$$W(v) = \int \left(\frac{c}{\pi}\right)^{1/2} h_j(v_j) \exp\left[-c(v_j - v)^2\right] \mathrm{d}v_j$$

where W(v) means the observed GPC, v is the elution volume, and v_j means the elution volume where GPC shows a maximum peak when *j*-mer

Expt no.	t, sec	Polymer concn, ^a g/100 ml	2γ , ^b mol/ <i>l</i> sec	$[P_1] \times 10^4, \\ mol/l$	$[\mathbf{P}_2] \times 10^4, \\ \mathrm{mol}/l$	$[\mathbf{P}_3] \times 10^4, \\ \mathrm{mol}/l$	k_{11}/k_1^2 , l sec/mol
1	1739.2	2.13	8.9×10 ⁻⁷	4.22	1.53	0.61	2.7×10 ⁵
2	227.4	1.21	4.1×10^{-6}	2.79	0.89	0.00	0.5×10^{5}
3	92.7	0.63	5.2×10-6	1.78	0.32	0.00	0.2×10^{5}
4	1009.8	1.27	4.5×10^{-7}	1.75	0.25	0.00	2.1×10^{5}
5	886.7	1.06	3.9×10-7	1.38	0.18	0.00	2.2×10^{5}
6	216.7	1.03	1.6×10^{-6}	1.22	0.25	0.00	2.2×10^{5}
7	495.5	0.67	5.8×10^{-7}	1.09	0.17	0.00	1.8×10^{5}
8	561.1	0.37	2.4×10^{-7}	0.60	0.04	0.00	1.9×10^{5}

Table I. Reaction conditions and results (I)

^a At the final state of the reaction.

^b This value is equal to the inflow velocity of living ends, and contains *ca.* 10-20% error caused by the local condensation of THF when the solution was divided into small ampoules, in some cases. Other reaction conditions

Expt no. 1—3: \overline{M}_V of living polymer, 1.9×10^4 ; V+v, $49.2 \pm 3.6 \text{ ml}$, v < 4.57 ml; [TPMB], $1.11 \times 10^{-2} (\text{mol}/l)$; [HPE], $5.43 \times 10^{-5} (\text{mol}/l)$. Expt no. 4-8: \overline{M}_V of living polymer, 5.1×10^4 ; V+v, 49.5 ± 4.1 ml, v < 4.58 ml; [TPMB], 0.941×10^{-2} (mol/l); [HPE], 5.56×10^{-5} (mol/l).

Table II. Reaction conditions and results (II)^a

Expt no.	t, sec	Polymer concn, g/100 ml		$[P_1] \times 10^4, \\ mol/l$	$[P_2] \times 10^4, \\ mol/l$	[P₃]×10⁴, mol/ <i>l</i>	$[P_4] \times 10^4, mol/l$	k_{11}/k_1^2 , l sec/mol	k_{12}/k_1^2 , l sec/mol	k_{13}/k_1^2 , l sec/mol
1	400.8	2.50	9.10×10-6	8.00	1.68	0.44	1.39	1.5 ×10-4	3.5×10-4	120×10-4
2	379.0	2.20	8.46×10^{-6}	7.71	1.13	0.50	1.14	1.2×10^{-4}	6.3×10-4	90×10-4
3	41.2	0.67	23.1×10^{-6}	2.83	0.24	0.12	0.27	$0.25\!\times\!10^{-4}$	$2.6\!\times\!10^{-4}$	32×10^{-4}

^a Other reaction conditions:

 \overline{M}_V of living polymer, 1.4×10^4 ; V + v, 49.3 ± 1.5 ml; v < 4.58 ml; [TPMB], 0.983×10^{-2} (mol/l); [HPE], 5.80×10^{-4} (mol/l).

only is measured.

The reaction conditions and the observed values of $[P_1]$, $[P_2]$, $[P_3]$, and $[P_4]$ are reported in Table I and II. In both experimental set, the concentration of living ends is in the order of 10^{-2} — 10^{-3} (mol/l).

Method for the Determination of the Ratios of the Rate Constants

As Richards, *et al.*²¹ have reported previously polystyryl anion can be transformed to polystyryl radical by TPMB

$$(\text{polystyrene})^{-}\text{Me}^{+} + \text{TPMB}$$
$$\xrightarrow{k_{\text{T}}} (\text{polystyrene}). + .C\phi_{3}$$
(1)

then the polystyryl radical continue the following reactions

2(polystyrene).

$$\xrightarrow{2^{k_{t}}} (\text{polystyrene}) \longrightarrow (2)$$

(polystyrene). +
$$C\phi_3 \xrightarrow{\kappa}$$
 (polystyrene)— $C\phi_3$
(3)

(polystyrene). + BrC ϕ_3

$$\xrightarrow{\kappa^{*+}} (\text{polystyrene}) \longrightarrow \text{Br} + .C\phi_3 \tag{4}$$

(polystyrene).+solvent

$$\xrightarrow{\kappa} (\text{polystyrene}) - H + .R \tag{5}$$

If the difunctional polymer is used, the kinetic expressions are as follows.

$$\frac{\mathbf{d}[^{-}\mathbf{P}_{j}^{-}]}{\mathbf{d}t} = \sum_{l+m=j} k_{lm}[^{-}\mathbf{P}_{l}^{-}][^{-}\mathbf{P}_{m}^{-}] - 2k_{\mathrm{D}}[^{-}\mathbf{P}_{j}^{-}] \quad (6-1)$$

$$\frac{\mathbf{d}[^{-}\mathbf{P}_{j}^{-}]}{\mathbf{d}t} = 2\sum_{l+m=j} k_{lm}[^{-}\mathbf{P}_{i}^{-}][^{-}\mathbf{P}_{m}^{-}] + 2k_{\mathrm{D}}[^{-}\mathbf{P}_{j}^{-}] \\ -\sum_{i=1} k_{ij}[^{-}\mathbf{P}_{i}^{-}] + 2[^{-}\mathbf{P}_{i}^{-}] + [\mathbf{P}_{i}^{-}])[^{-}\mathbf{P}_{j}^{-}] \\ -k_{1}[^{-}\mathbf{P}_{j}^{-}] - k_{\mathrm{D}}[^{-}\mathbf{P}_{j}^{-}] \quad (6-2)$$

$$\frac{\mathbf{q}_{1} - \mathbf{y}_{j}}{\mathbf{d}t} = 4 \sum_{l+m=j} k_{lm} [\mathbf{P}_{i}] [\mathbf{P}_{m}] + k_{\mathrm{D}} [\mathbf{P}_{j}] -2 \sum_{i=1} k_{ij} ([\mathbf{P}_{i}] + 2[\mathbf{P}_{i}] + [\mathbf{P}_{i}]) [\mathbf{P}_{j}] -2k_{1} [\mathbf{P}_{j}]$$
(6-3)

$$\frac{\mathbf{d}[\mathbf{P}_{j}^{-}]}{\mathbf{d}t} = \sum_{l+m=j} k_{lm} [^{-}\mathbf{P}_{i}^{-}] [\mathbf{P}_{m}^{-}] + k_{1} [^{-}\mathbf{P}_{j}^{-}] - k_{D} [\mathbf{P}_{j}^{-}]$$
(6-4)

$$\frac{d[P_{j}]}{dt} = 2 \sum_{l+m=j} k_{lm} [P_{i}][P_{m}] + 2k_{1} [P_{j}] + k_{D}[P_{j}^{-}] - \sum_{i=1} k_{ij} ([P_{i}] + 2[P_{i}] + [P_{i}])[P_{j}] -k_{1}[P_{j}]$$
(6-5)
$$(k_{D} = k_{T} [TPMB], k_{1} = k' [.C\phi_{3}] + k'' [TPMB] + k''' [solvent])$$

where $[-P_j]$, $[-P_j]$, $[P_j]$, $[P_j]$, $[P_j]$, and $[P_j]$ are the polymer concentrations when the two ends are both anions, one end is still anion and one end is transformed to radical, both ends are transformed to radicals, one end is anion and one end is inactive, one end is radical and one end is inactive, and both ends are inactive, respectively. The degree of polymerization is equal to the value $j \times (\text{degree of polymerization})$

If the apparatus shown in Figure 1 is used to transform the living polystyrene to its radical, we may consider that the steady-state with respect to all the active species and the constancies of k_1 and k_D are achieved.

In the actual case of the present study, the amounts of P_2 , P_3 , and P_4 were very small compared to the amount of P_1 ; this fact means that the reaction between active species with suffix *j* higher than 2 is rather improbable. So we may consider that P_{j+1} is produced by the reaction between P_j and P_1 . Moreover, on polymers with a degree of polymerization higher than $4 \times (\text{degree of polymerization of living polymer})$ were observed in this study.

Then the kinetic expressions are as follows, considering the above conditions and the steady-state approximation:

$$\frac{d[^{-}P_{1}^{-}]}{dt} = \frac{d\nu}{dt} \frac{C}{V} - 2k_{\rm D}[^{-}P_{1}^{-}] = 0$$
(7-1)

$$\frac{d[^{-}P_{i}]}{dt} = 2k_{D}[^{-}P_{1}^{-}] - k_{11}[^{-}P_{1}]([^{-}P_{1}] + 2[^{+}P_{1}] + [P_{1}]) - k_{1}[^{-}P_{1}] - k_{D}[^{-}P_{1}] = 0$$
(7-2)

$$\frac{d[\mathbf{P}_{1}]}{dt} = k_{D}[\mathbf{P}_{1}] - 2k_{11}[\mathbf{P}_{1}]([\mathbf{P}_{1}] + 2[\mathbf{P}_{1}] + [\mathbf{P}_{1}])$$

$$-2k_{1}[P_{1}]=0$$
(7-3)

$$\frac{d[P_1^-]}{dt} = k_1[^-P_1] - k_D[P_1^-] = 0$$
(7-4)

$$\frac{d[\mathbf{P}_{i}]}{dt} = k_{\mathrm{D}}[\mathbf{P}_{1}^{-}] + 2k_{1}[\mathbf{P}_{i}] -k_{11}[\mathbf{P}_{i}]([\mathbf{P}_{i}] + 2[\mathbf{P}_{i}] + [\mathbf{P}_{i}]) -k_{1}[\mathbf{P}_{i}] = \mathbf{0}$$
(7-5)

where v, V, t, and C are the volume of living polymer solution, the volume of deactivating solution which contains TPMB and HPE, time, and the concentration of living polymer (see Figure 1).

Polymer J., Vol. 8, No. 2, 1976

In this series of equations, one can approximate as follows, when $[P_1] \gg [P_2]$, $[P_3]$, $[P_4]$, or, in other words, when the reaction $(P_1 \rightarrow P_1)$ is very rapid and the reactions $(P_1 \rightarrow P_2, P_3, P_4)$ are very slow.

$$k_{11}([^{-}\mathbf{P}_{1}] + 2[^{+}\mathbf{P}_{1}] + [\mathbf{P}_{1}]) + k_{1} + k_{D} \simeq k_{1} + k_{D} \quad (8)$$

Then,

$$\frac{dv}{dt} \frac{C}{V} = \gamma$$

$$[^{-}P_{1}^{-}] \simeq \frac{\gamma}{2k_{\rm D}}, \quad [^{-}P_{1}^{-}] \simeq \frac{\gamma}{(k_{1}+k_{\rm D})}$$

$$[^{-}P_{1}^{-}] \simeq \frac{k_{\rm D}\gamma}{2k_{1}(k_{1}+k_{\rm D})}, \quad [P_{1}^{-}] \simeq \frac{k_{1}\gamma}{k_{\rm D}(k_{1}+k_{\rm D})},$$

$$[P_{1}^{-}] \simeq \frac{\gamma}{k_{1}} \qquad (9)$$

Moreover, $k_{\rm D}$ is considered to be in the order of 10^0-10^{-1} ($k_{\rm T}$ in eq 1 is considered to be in the order of 10^1-10^2 ,* then considering the experimental condition of this study, $k_{\rm D}$ = $k_{\rm T}$ [TPMB] is in this order) while k_1 is considered to be in the order of 10^1-10^2 .** So we can approximate as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{P}_{1}^{-} \end{bmatrix} \simeq \frac{\gamma}{2k_{\mathrm{D}}} , \quad \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{P}_{1} \end{bmatrix} \simeq \frac{\gamma}{k_{\mathrm{1}}} ,$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{P}_{1} \end{bmatrix} \simeq \frac{k_{\mathrm{D}}\gamma}{2k_{\mathrm{1}}^{2}} , \quad \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{P}_{1}^{-} \end{bmatrix} \simeq \frac{\gamma}{k_{\mathrm{D}}} , \quad \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{P}_{1} \end{bmatrix} \simeq \frac{\gamma}{k_{\mathrm{1}}}$$
(10)

For j=2, we have

$$\frac{d[^{-}P_{2}^{-}]}{dt} = k_{11}[^{-}P_{1}^{-}][^{-}P_{1}^{-}] = 0 \qquad (11-1)$$

$$\frac{\mathbf{d}[^{-}\mathbf{P}_{2}^{\cdot}]}{\mathbf{d}t} = 2k_{11}[^{-}\mathbf{P}_{1}^{\cdot}][^{\cdot}\mathbf{P}_{1}^{\cdot}] + 2k_{D}[^{-}\mathbf{P}_{2}^{-}] - k_{D}[^{-}\mathbf{P}_{2}^{\cdot}] - k_{1}[^{-}\mathbf{P}_{2}^{\cdot}] = 0 \qquad (11-2)$$
$$\frac{\mathbf{d}[^{\cdot}\mathbf{P}_{2}^{\cdot}]}{\mathbf{d}t} = 4k_{11}[^{\cdot}\mathbf{P}_{1}^{\cdot}][^{\cdot}\mathbf{P}_{1}^{\cdot}] + k_{D}[^{-}\mathbf{P}_{2}^{\cdot}] - 2k_{1}[^{\cdot}\mathbf{P}_{2}^{\cdot}] = 0 \qquad (11-3)$$

* The rate constants of the reactions of living polymer with many halogenated compounds, measured in our laboratory are in this order of magnitude. These results will be reported in the near future.

** Considering the orders of magnitude of k_{ij}/k_1^2 obtained in this study and the well-known results that k_{ij} is in the order of 10^7 , k_1 is supposed to be in the order of 10^1-10^2 .

$$\frac{d[P_{2}^{-}]}{dt} = k_{11}[^{-}P_{1}^{-}][P_{1}^{-}] + k_{1}[^{-}P_{2}^{-}] = 0$$
(11-4)
$$\frac{d[P_{2}^{-}]}{dt} = 2k_{11}[^{+}P_{1}^{-}][P_{1}^{-}] + 2k_{1}[^{+}P_{2}^{-}] + k_{D}[P_{2}^{-}]$$

(11-5)

Then

$$[^{-}P_{2}^{-}] \simeq \frac{k_{11}\gamma^{2}}{2k_{D}k_{1}^{2}}, \quad [^{-}P_{2}^{-}] \simeq \frac{k_{11}\gamma^{2}}{k_{1}^{3}},$$
$$[^{+}P_{2}^{-}] \simeq \frac{k_{11}k_{D}\gamma^{2}}{2k_{1}^{4}}, \quad [P_{2}^{-}] \simeq \frac{2k_{11}\gamma^{2}}{k_{D}k_{1}^{2}}, \quad [P_{2}^{-}] \simeq \frac{2k_{11}\gamma^{2}}{k_{1}^{3}}$$
(12)

 $-k_1[P_2]=0$

For j=3, the concentrations of $[^{-}P_{3}^{-}]$, $[^{-}P_{3}^{-}]$, $[^{-}P_{3}^{-}]$ are considered to be almost nil, because if these values were significant, the concentration of $[^{-}P_{4}]$ should not be negligible. In such a case, the amounts of P_{5} and P_{6} must be observed as measurable values. In this study, P_{5} and P_{6} are not observed, and we may conclude that the concentrations of $[^{-}P_{3}^{-}]$, $[^{-}P_{3}^{-}]$, and $[^{-}P_{3}^{-}]$ are nil. Then the kinetic expressions are:

$$\frac{\mathbf{d}[\mathbf{P}_{3}^{-}]}{\mathbf{d}t} = k_{12}[\mathbf{P}_{1}^{-}][^{-}\mathbf{P}_{2}^{-}] + k_{12}[^{-}\mathbf{P}_{2}^{-}][\mathbf{P}_{2}^{-}] - k_{D}[\mathbf{P}_{3}^{-}] = 0$$
(13-1)
$$\frac{\mathbf{d}[\mathbf{P}_{3}^{-}]}{\mathbf{d}t} = 2k_{12}[\mathbf{P}_{1}^{-}][^{-}\mathbf{P}_{2}^{-}] + 2k_{12}[^{-}\mathbf{P}_{1}^{-}][\mathbf{P}_{2}^{-}] + k_{D}[\mathbf{P}_{3}^{-}]$$

$$-k_{1}[\mathbf{P}_{3}^{-}] = 0$$
(13-2)

and the results are

$$[\mathbf{P}_{3}^{-}] \simeq \frac{3k_{11}k_{12}\gamma^{3}}{k_{D}k_{1}^{4}}, \quad [\mathbf{P}_{3}^{-}] \simeq \frac{3k_{11}k_{12}\gamma^{3}}{k_{1}^{5}} \qquad (14)$$

The quantities of P_1 , P_2 , P_3 , P_4 are expressed as follows.

$$[\mathbf{P}_1] = \int_0^\tau k_1[\mathbf{P}_1] dt = \gamma \tau \tag{15-1}$$

$$[\mathbf{P}_{2}] = \int_{0}^{\tau} (k_{11}[\mathbf{P}_{1}]^{2} + k_{1}[\mathbf{P}_{2}]) dt = k_{11} \frac{\gamma^{2}}{k_{1}^{2}} + 2k_{11} \frac{\gamma^{2}}{k_{1}^{2}} \tau$$
$$= \gamma^{2} \frac{3k_{11}}{k_{1}^{2}} \tau = [\mathbf{P}_{1}] \frac{3k_{11}}{k_{1}^{2}} \gamma \qquad (15-2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} [\mathbf{P}_{3}] &= \int_{0}^{\tau} (k_{12}[\mathbf{P}_{1}][\mathbf{P}_{2}] + k_{1}[\mathbf{P}_{3}]) \mathrm{d}t \\ &= k_{\mathrm{D}} \frac{\gamma}{k_{1}} \frac{2k_{11}\gamma^{2}}{k_{1}^{3}} + \frac{3k_{11}k_{12}\gamma^{3}}{k_{1}^{4}}\tau \\ &= 5k_{11}k_{12}\frac{\gamma^{3}}{k_{1}^{4}}\tau = \frac{5}{3}[\mathbf{P}_{2}]\frac{k_{12}\gamma}{k_{1}^{2}} \end{aligned}$$
(15-3)

$$[\mathbf{P}_{4}] = \int_{0}^{\tau} (k_{13}[\mathbf{P}_{1}][\mathbf{P}_{3}] + k_{22}[\mathbf{P}_{2}][\mathbf{P}_{2}]) dt \qquad (15-4)$$

Polymer J., Vol. 8, No. 2, 1976

In eq 15-4, the term $k_{22}[P_2][P_2]$ can be neglected for the reasons discussed in the following paragraph.

Then P₄ becomes:

$$[\mathbf{P}_4] = \frac{3}{5} \, \frac{[\mathbf{P}_3]\gamma}{k_1^2} k_{13} \tag{16}$$

In the above equations, τ is equal to the time for the solution of the living polymer to flow out, and is a sufficiently long time compared to the life time of the active species. So we can estimate the ratios k_{ij}/k_1^2 from the observed values of P_1 — P_4 , τ , and γ .

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The values k_{11}/k_1^2 , k_{12}/k_1^2 , k_{13}/k_1^2 were estimated by eq 15 and 16 and the observed values of $[P_1]$ — $[P_4]$. The results are reported in Tables I and II, and shown in Figures 3 and 4.

In expt no. 9, 10, and 11, we neglected the term $k_{22}[P_2][P_2]$ when we estimated the values of k_{13}/k_1^2 , because in Table I, k_{11}/k_1^2 is not so large at similar conditions of reaction. The error introduced by neglecting the term $k_{22}[P_2][P_2]$ is supposed to the very small.

In Table II, the amounts of $[P_2]$, $[P_3]$, and $[P_4]$ are remarkably increased compared to those in Table I. This may be explained by the high concentration of polystyryl radical caused by the increment of γ in expt no. 9, 10, and 11.

In so far as our results are reliable, the most interesting fact is that, when we consider the values of k_{1j}/k_1^2 , these values increase when the suffix *j* increase (Figure 4).

Several authors have predicted the dependency of the termination rate constant (k_{ij}/k_1^2) on the molecular weight of the polymer.⁹⁻¹⁴ Important results were derived by Ravinowitch,^{9,10} North and Benson,^{11,13} Allen and Patrick,¹² Ito,¹⁶ and Horie,¹⁷ et al.

The tendency of our result seems to agree with the models^{11,16,17} in which the rate determining step in the termination reaction was considered to be the translational diffusion of the center of the mass of a polymer molecule.

The theoretical estimations, such as those related to the segmental diffusion as the rate determining process¹¹ or where a pseudocrystal model was considered for the motion of polymer

Polymer J., Vol. 8, No. 2, 1976

segments,^{9,10} show an inverse dependency on *j*. Furthermore, the observed dependency of k_{ij}/k_1^2 on *j* is very high compared to the predicted dependency.

On the other hand, some of the results reported already show a rather slight dependency of k_{ii} on *i*, except Schulz.⁷

Another remarkable point of our results is

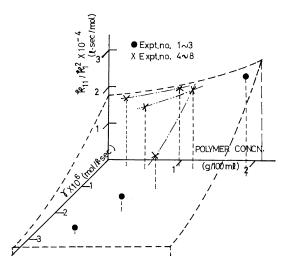


Figure 3. The ratio of the rate constants as a function of polymer concentration and the rate of supply of living polymer solution. (Expt no. 1-8.)

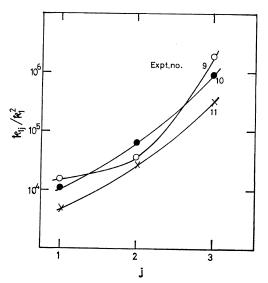


Figure 4. The relationship between the value of k_{1j}/k_1^2 and j. (Expt no. 9-11.)

179

that k_{11}/k_1^2 increases with the increment of polymer concentration. But this apparent result is not so clear when we take into consideration the effect of γ . (Figure 3). Perhaps it may be valid to consider that there is no difference between each k_{11}/k_1^2 with the polymer concentration within the conditions of this study.

The decrease of k_{11}/k_1^2 with the increment of γ may be caused by the rather slow stirring (130 rpm) at part B in Figure 1. This slow stirring caused the local accumulation of triphenylmethyl radical and made k_1 large.

The influences of these parameters (degree of polymerization, polymer concentration) remain open to further investigations.

To estimate the concentration of each reactive group, we approximate that $k_{11}([^{-}P_1]+2[^{-}P_1]+$ $[P_1])$ and k_D are negligibly small compared to k_1 . The error introduced by this approximation may be minimized if we substitute again the concentration (eq 10) into eq 7. This treatment may be necessary when $[P_1] < [P_2]$, $[P_3]$, $[P_4]$, but in the case of this study it seems unnecessary.

As a conclusion, from the tendency of the changes of k_{1j}/k_1^2 when some factors were changed, the technique proposed in this study may be said to be a new and useful method to observe the value of k_{1j}/k_1^2 for polymers of definite chain length. The absolute values of k_{ij} and the experimental technique to measure them will be reported in the near future.

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