

**ANALYSIS OF THE ALIGNMENT AND CRYSTALLINITY OF BULK  
POLYVINYLIDENE FLUORIDE (PVDF)**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	<b>viii</b>
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1 Overview	1
1.2 Polarized light optical microscopy	3
1.3 Objective	6
<b>CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	
2.1 Crystallization Behaviour of PVDF	7
2.2 Stretching Effect of Bulk PVDF	10
2.3 Preliminary Study	12
<b>CHAPTER 3 METHDOLOGY</b>	
3.1 Materials	14
3.1.1 PVDF	14
3.1.2 <i>N, N</i> -dimethylformamide (DMF)	14
3.1.3 Instruments	15
3.1.4 Apparatus and glassware	16
3.2 Methods	18
3.2.1 Preparation of solution PVDF	18
3.2.2 Preparation of sample	18
3.2.3 Stretching of sample	19
3.2.4 Observation of crystallization alignment using PLOM	20
3.2.5 Annealing	21
3.2.6 Reobservation of crystallization alignment using PLOM	21
<b>CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION</b>	
4.1 Pulling and stretching of the sample	22
4.2 Comparison between samples under PLOM with analyzer and without analyzer	28
4.3 Observation alignment and crystallinity of PVDF after stretching and annealing.	30
4.4 Observation of PVDF under FESEM	32

## **ABSTRACT**

### **ANALYSIS OF THE ALIGNMENT AND CRYSTALLINITY OF BULK POLYVINYLIDENE FLUORIDE (PVDF)**

The analysis of the alignment and crystallinity of bulk polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) was studied. The alignment and orientation of the crystallization were observed by stretching at speed of 5mm/min, 10mm/min, 30mm/min, 40mm/min and 50mm/min. The variation of speed of pulling is to enhance the orientation of the crystals. The samples were observed under the polarized light optical microscopy (PLOM) at 5x, 10x, 20x and 50x magnification. The samples were then annealed at temperature 120°C. The sample was reobserved under PLOM. The stretching was caused a reduction in the sample thickness and resulted in the alignment of the crystals. The speed of pulling at 30mm/min was found to be a favourable because of their clear alignment of the crystals.

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Overview

Polyvinylidene Fluoride is the first commercial polymer for which a D-E (electric displacement - electric field) hysteresis loop and a fast-switching phenomenon were demonstrated because the ferroelectric properties originated from the crystalline region. The experimental data are strongly influenced by the higher order structure, such as the degree of crystallinity, crystal size, crystal orientation and alignment.

The objective of the study is to get a better understanding about the alignment and the crystallinity of polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF). The piezoelectric applications of (PVDF) are intimately related to the crystalline phase, known as  $\beta$  phase. In addition to this phase, (PVDF) also crystallizes into two other phases, a non polar phase, also known as alpha ( $\alpha$ ) and a gamma ( $\gamma$ ), which is dependent on the temperature. The  $\alpha$  (TG+TG-) conformation is the most easily obtainable. The  $\beta$  conformation, which is responsible for the piezo and the pyro-electrical properties, is not easily obtainable. The  $\beta$  phase has a TTTT conformation. Meanwhile, the  $\gamma$  form has a GTTT conformation, whilst the  $\delta$  corresponds to the polar form of the  $\alpha$  phase. (Badr-Eddine El Mohajir et al. 2001)