

Analysis of Plasma polymerized Hydrocarbons by  
Pyrolysis and Gaschromatography

M. Seeger and R. J. Gritter  
J. Tibbitt, M. Shen and A. T. Bell

Plasma polymerized hydrocarbons were investigated by flash pyrolysis followed by hydrogenation of the fragments and gaschromatography, all under reproducible conditions. With the different monomers, studied: ethane, ethylene, acetylene, butadiene and benzene, none of the programs resembled those from commercial polyethylene, polybutadiene or polystyrene. Each of the programs did exhibit essentially the same fragments up to  $C_8$ , but in a different distribution. This indicates that the samples are structurally very similar with a random arrangement of side chains, crosslinks and double bonds. Changes in the fragment distribution were obvious when the sample is a powder, a film deposited on the pyrolyzer probe, or on oily film. It was shown that powders generally have the highest concentration of long branches and/or crosslinks. Both the oils and the high molecular weight films have predominately short branching, however, the oil fraction from ethylene and butadiene contain, in addition, aromatic structures.

M. Seeger, R. J. Gritter  
IBM Research Laboratory  
San Jose, Cal. 95193  
USA

J. Tibbitt, M. Shen  
A. T. Bell  
Dep. of Chemical Engin.  
University of Calif.  
Berkeley, Cal. 94720  
USA