Structure and Dynamics of Perfluoroalkanes and Their β-Cyclodextrin Inclusion Compounds Investigated by Solid-state 19F MAS NMR

Hiroto Tatsuno, Shinji Ando

1 Department of Organic and Polymeric Materials, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo, Japan
sando@polymer.titech.ac.jp

Introduction

Perfluoropolymers such as poly(tetrafluoroethylene) (PTFE) are high performance functional materials that exhibit a variety of outstanding properties such as chemical resistance, low surface tension, low dielectric constant and low refractive indices. Despite such invaluable advantages, the applications of perfluoropolymers to blends or composites are less advanced due to their incompatibility with unfurnished materials. As an effective and facile approach, we focused on cyclodextrin (CD) as an inclusion host that is capable of including polymers as well as small molecules in their hydrophobic cavities. In fact, we have recently found that perfluoroalkanes (PFAs), those are model compounds of PTFE, form solid-state inclusion compounds (ICs) with β-CD [1]. Meanwhile, several works on the molecular structure and dynamics of both CDs and guest polymers have been reported using solid-state H-1/13C cross polarization (CP) / magic angle spinning (MAS) NMR [2]. In the present work, we investigated the molecular structure and dynamics of PFAs in β-CD ICs using solid state 19F MAS and H-1/19F CP/MAS spectroscopy with the aid of thermal analyses, infrared (IR) spectroscopy, and X-ray diffraction method.

Experimental

Inclusion compounds (ICs) consisting of n-perfluorononane (n-C11F23) and β-CD (abbreviated as CβF20/β-CD) was prepared by vigorous stirring of CβF20 with saturated aqueous solution of β-CD. The obtained precipitate was washed by water to remove unreacted CβF20 and β-CD and then dried under vacuum. CβF20/β-CD IC was also prepared in a similar manner. Solid-state 19F NMR measurements were performed between 20 and 120 °C at a MAS rate of 15 kHz.

Results and discussion

The elemental analyses indicate that the molar ratio of CβF20 to β-CD in CβF20/β-CD is 1:2, while that of C11F23 to β-CD in C11F23/β-CD is approximately 1:4. Both the ratios are reasonable from the view of the molecular sizes estimated by quantum chemical calculations. For each IC, specific IR absorption band associated with the vibrations along the longer axis of PFAs were weakened with the inclusion by β-CD, suggesting that the inclusion may give rise to certain conformational changes in PFAs (figures are not shown).

The WAXD patterns shown in Figure 1 (Left) suggest that CβF20/β-CD forms a channel-type crystal at room temperature, while C11F23/β-CD is nearly amorphous. The 19F direct polarization (DP) MAS NMR signals for CβF20/β-CD IC resonate at higher frequencies by 1.4–2.3 ppm than those for neat CβF20 (Figure 1, Right). The high-frequency shift is also observed for C11F23/β-CD. These changes in chemical shift may be predominantly caused by the less dielectric environment in the β-CD cavities. When CβF20/β-CD is heated, new 19F signals are observed at lower frequencies than the signals observed at low temperatures. By analogy with the chemical shifts of isolated CβF20, they can be assigned to the fluorines in the uncovered part of CβF20. The 1H-19F CP/MAS NMR spectrum of CβF20/β-CD observed at 120°C is shown in Figure 2 (Left, red line), in which fluorines located at relatively immobile sites or in components close to protons are preferentially observed [3]. Since the newly appearing signals (pointed by arrows) are weakened in the CP/MAS spectrum (green line), they can be ascribed to the fluorines distant from hydrogens of β-CD or indeed those in the part coming out of the β-CD host. However, PFAs confined in β-CD channel hardly evaporate or degrade unless the host is pyrolytically decomposed above 300°C as demonstrated by thermo-gravimetric analysis (TGA). As estimated from the 19F peak area, the uncovered CβF20 reaches approximately 60% of the total amount at 120°C, while the other part still stays in the β-CD channel.

![Figure 1](image1.png)

**Figure 1.** (Left) WAXD patterns of (a) β-CD, (b) CβF20/β-CD, and (c,d) C11F23/β-CD. (a) to (c) were obtained at room temperature while (d) was at 60°C. (Right) 19F NMR spectra of CβF20/β-CD (A) and neat CβF20 (B) at -35°C and that at 20°C (C).

![Figure 2](image2.png)

**Figure 2.** (Left) 19F DP MAS and 1H-19F CP/MAS NMR spectra of CβF20/β-CD at 120°C with a contact time of 0.1 ms. (Right) DSC curves for CβF20/β-CD and C11F23/β-CD.

On the other hand, 19F NMR signals for CβF20/β-CD do not show significant changes in the measurement temperature range. However, the differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) curve of CβF20/β-CD gives an exothermic peak at ca.40°C (Figure 2, Right), suggesting that β-CD molecules rearrange to form more ordered structures. Actually, thermal treatment of CβF20/β-CD at 60°C for several hours leads to channel-type crystallites similar to CβF20/β-CD (Figure 1, Left). For both ICs, the structural changes caused by heating are reversible but time-consuming, which are due to the hydration and dehydration processes of crystal water that are deeply involved in the IC formation.

The 19F spin-lattice relaxation times in the laboratory frame (T1’s) for the fluorines of neat PFAs are different from each other, while those of PFA/β-CD ICs are similar at every temperature. This is because librational motion of C–F bond is effectively suppressed in the β-CD channel, and thereby 19F spin diffusion effectively occurs. The T1's values for PFA/β-CD ICs are smaller than those for the corresponding PFAs, indicating that the internal rotation of –CF3 is on the Larmor timescale in the β-CD channel. The 19F spin-lattice relaxation times in the rotating frame (T1's) for fluorines of PFA/β-CD ICs are very long, suggesting that the PFAs undergo no motions around ca.100 kHz such as conformational changes and/or overall rotation along the molecular axis even in the β-CD channel.

Conclusions

For CβF20/β-CD IC, approximately 60% of CβF20 guests may come out of the β-CD channel around 120°C, but they scarcely evaporate unless the IC decomposes. In contrast, most of C11F23 molecules cannot be uncovered even at 120°C, but C11F23/β-CD commences rearrangements above 40°C, which leads to more ordered structures. In β-CD channel, PFA molecules undergo reduced libration at C–F bonds but vigorous rotation at the terminal –CF3.

References