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WETTING OF FUNCTIONALIZED POLYETHYLENE FILM HAVING IONIZABLE ORGANIC ACIDS AND BASES AT THE POLYMER-WATER INTERFACE: RELATIONS BETWEEN FUNCTIONAL GROUP POLARITY, EXTENT OF IONIZATION, AND CONTACT ANGLE WITH WATER

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Technical Report No. 6 (March 1988)

Interim Technical Report

(Accepted for publication in Langmuir)

PREPARED FOR DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY  
1400 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington VA 22209

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
Office of Naval Research, Code 1130P  
800 North Quincy Street  
Arlington VA 22217-5000

ARPA Order No.: NR 356-856  
Contract No.: N00014-85-K-0898  
Effective Date: 85 September 01  
Expiration Date: 88 August 31

Principal Investigator: George M. Whitesides  
(617) 495-9430

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

1a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION Unclassified		1b. RESTRICTIVE MARKINGS	
2a. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY		3. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY OF REPORT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited	
2b. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE		5. MONITORING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER(S)	
4. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER(S) Technical Report #6		7a. NAME OF MONITORING ORGANIZATION Office of Naval Research	
6a. NAME OF PERFORMING ORGANIZATION Harvard University	6b. OFFICE SYMBOL (If applicable)	7b. ADDRESS (City, State, and ZIP Code) Code 11130P 800 North Quincy Street Arlington VA 22217-5000	
5c. ADDRESS (City, State, and ZIP Code) Office for Sponsored Research Holyoke Center, Fourth Floor Cambridge MA 02138-4993		9. PROCUREMENT INSTRUMENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	
3a. NAME OF FUNDING/SPONSORING ORGANIZATION ONR/DARPA	3b. OFFICE SYMBOL (If applicable)	10. SOURCE OF FUNDING NUMBERS	
3c. ADDRESS (City, State, and ZIP Code) 800 North Quincy Street Arlington VA 22217-5000		PROGRAM ELEMENT NO 85-K-0898	PROJECT NO NR 356-856
11. TITLE (Include Security Classification) "Wetting of functionalized polyethylene film having ionizable acids and bases at the polymer-water interface: relations between functional group...contact angle with water"			
12. PERSONAL AUTHOR(S) Stephen Randall Holmes-Farley, Colin D. Bain and George M. Whitesides			
13a. TYPE OF REPORT Interim	13b. TIME COVERED FROM _____ TO _____	14. DATE OF REPORT (Year, Month, Day) March 1988	15. PAGE COUNT
16. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTATION			
17. COSATI CODES		18. SUBJECT TERMS (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number)	
FIELD	GROUP	Polyethylene Ionization Monolayers	
		Surfaces Acids Gold	
		Wettability Bases	
19. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number)			
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20. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY OF ABSTRACT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNCLASSIFIED/UNLIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> SAME AS RPT <input type="checkbox"/> DTIC USERS		21. ABSTRACT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	
22a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL Kenneth J. Wynne		22b. TELEPHONE (Include Area Code)	22c. OFFICE SYMBOL

19. Abstract (cont'd)

hydrophilicity. The influence of a functional group on wettability was related to the normalized fraction of the area of the interface occupied by that type of functional group: in some instances this area fraction appears more useful in describing interfacial properties than is the simpler mole fraction. Interfaces containing ionizable functional groups usually showed a contact angle that varied with pH, with the lower contact angle observed at values of pH for which the interfacial groups were in the more polar, charged form; interfaces without ionizable functional groups did not display a change in contact angle with pH. The paper rationalizes the change in contact angle with pH in terms of the relative areas of the interface occupied by the functional groups in different ionization states and in terms of the extent of ionization of acidic and basic groups. The interfacial values of  $pK_a$  are compared with the values of  $pK_a$  for similar functional groups in aqueous solution. In all cases, it is more difficult to generate the charged form of the functional group at the interface than it is in aqueous solution, probably due in major part to the lower dielectric constant of the interface.

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Wetting of Functionalized Polyethylene Film Having Ionizable Organic  
Acids and Bases at the Polymer-Water Interface: Relations between  
Functional Group Polarity, Extent of Ionization, and Contact Angle  
with Water<sup>1</sup>

Stephen Randall Holmes-Farley,<sup>2</sup> Colin D. Bain<sup>3</sup> and George M. Whitesides\*

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Abstract. This paper examines the wetting by water of low-density polyethylene film modified at the polymer-water(air) interface by introduction of polar organic functional groups (carboxylic acids, amines, and others). Water/polymer contact angles were determined for each of these interfaces; for interfaces containing acidic or basic functional groups, the contact angle was determined as a function of the pH. The observed contact angle was related to the hydrophilicity of these functional groups: As the hydrophilicity (as measured by Hansch  $\pi$  parameters) increased up to a certain point, the contact angle decreased. Beyond that point, increased hydrophilicity had little additional influence on the contact angle. This result is interpreted in terms of water adsorbed on the polar interfacial functional groups: extensive hydration of interfacial groups having large negative  $\pi$  parameters moderates their effective hydrophilicity. The influence of a functional group on wettability

was related to the normalized fraction of the area of the interface occupied by that type of functional group: in some instances this area fraction appears more useful in describing interfacial properties than is the simpler mole fraction. Interfaces containing ionizable functional groups usually showed a contact angle that varied with pH, with the lower contact angle observed at values of pH for which the interfacial groups were in the more polar, charged form; interfaces without ionizable functional groups did not display a change in contact angle with pH. The paper rationalizes the change in contact angle with pH in terms of the relative areas of the interface occupied by the functional groups in different ionization states and in terms of the extent of ionization of acidic and basic groups. The interfacial values of  $pK_a$  are compared with the values of  $pK_a$  for similar functional groups in aqueous solution. In all cases, it is more difficult to generate the charged form of the functional group at the interface than it is in aqueous solution, probably due in major part to the lower dielectric constant of the interface.

### Introduction

Treatment of low-density polyethylene film with aqueous chromic acid solution yields "polyethylene carboxylic acid" (PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H), a material containing carboxylic acid and ketone and/or aldehyde groups concentrated in a thin oxidatively-functionalized interfacial region.<sup>4</sup> We are using this material, and other materials derived from it by modification of its constituent functional groups, to study the relation between the molecular-level characteristics of the interfacial region--structure, polarity, reactivity, location, and

concentration of functional groups--and macroscopic materials properties of the functionalized polymer such as wettability and adhesion strength.<sup>4-9</sup> Previous papers have demonstrated that the wettability of PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H by water changes with the pH of the water, and that this change correlates with the state of ionization of the carboxylic acid groups.<sup>4</sup> Examination of changes in the contact angle of water on PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H as a function of pH is a technique we call "contact angle titration": it provides a particularly convenient (if indirect) method for examining the state of ionization of functional groups influencing the wetting of the functionalized polymer. Empirically, results obtained using this technique correlate well with estimates of the extent of ionization obtained by direct spectroscopic measurements using ATR-IR spectroscopy<sup>4</sup> and fluorescence spectroscopy,<sup>5</sup> and by conventional titration.<sup>4</sup> We have previously proposed a qualitative justification for this correlation,<sup>4</sup> but the more detailed examination of this paper suggests that the basis of contact angle titration is not simple.

This paper has four objectives: First, to survey a range of organic functional groups on the surface of polyethylene for their influence on wettability, and to search for a correlation between some appropriate measure of polarity of the individual functional groups in solution and the wettability of an interface incorporating them. Second, to confirm that changes in wettability with pH of interfaces having acidic or basic groups reflect protonation or deprotonation and to examine how such ionizations influence wetting. Third, to compare the proton acidities of functional groups in the interfacial region with their acidities in solution. Fourth, to clarify the physical



chemical basis of the technique of contact angle titration.

As previously,<sup>5,6</sup> we refer to that part of the functionalized interface of PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H and its derivatives that determines the wettability of the polymer as the "contact angle interphase" or " $\theta$  interphase" and to parts of the interface lying below the  $\theta$  interphase and having no influence on contact angle as the "sub- $\theta$  interphase." Although the structural features that determine whether an interfacial group influences wetting are not yet precisely established, we believe that the groups in the  $\theta$  interphase must be within  $\overset{\circ}{\text{a}}\text{ngstroms}$  of the outermost part of the polymer.<sup>10-13</sup>

PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H and Its Derivatives: Background. The morphology of the interface of PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H at  $\sim 1000 \overset{\circ}{\text{A}}$  resolution is not detectably different from that of the unfunctionalized polymer.<sup>4</sup> The only important functional groups present are carboxylic acid and ketone and/or aldehyde moieties in approximately 3:2 ratio. PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H has a relatively low interfacial free energy and resists contamination by adsorption of contaminants from the air. It can be handled briefly in air without special precautions. We have not yet been able to establish by direct observation the thickness of the functionalized interface or the distribution of functional groups, but it appears that  $\sim 30\%$  of the carboxylic acid groups determine the wettability of this material, and the remainder of these carboxylic acid groups have little or no influence on wettability.<sup>6</sup> Indirect evidence suggests

that the functionalized interface in PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H is thin--that is, probably <20 Å in thickness.<sup>6</sup>

All carboxylic acid groups in the functionalized interface are accessible to aqueous base,<sup>4</sup> and are converted to carboxylate ions at values of solution pH ≥ 12. The polarity experienced by a fluorophoric reporter group (the dansyl moiety) incorporated in the interface is uniform and, when placed in contact with water, is similar to that of methylene chloride.<sup>5</sup> The functionalized interface is reasonably stable: the functional groups do not migrate away from the  $\theta$  interphase at room temperature or under reaction conditions used in forming derivatives, although migration is rapid at 100 °C.<sup>7</sup>

The interface of PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H and its derivatives is composed of a number of types of organic groups, including methyl, methylene, ketone/aldehyde, carboxylic acid, and possibly others. We use several nomenclatural devices to simplify discussion of the interfacial chemistry of PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H. Groups present anywhere in the oxidatively functionalized interfacial region are indicated with square brackets ([ ]) following the name of the polymer: for example, PE[>C=O][CO<sub>2</sub>H][CONH<sub>2</sub>] is polyethylene containing ketone/aldehyde, carboxylic acid and amide groups in its functionalized interface. Using this nomenclature, the material PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H made in the initial oxidation reaction can be described more accurately as PE[>C=O][CO<sub>2</sub>H]. Since the majority of the reactions that we use to

introduce functionality into the interfacial region involve derivatization of the interfacial carboxylic acid groups rather than the ketones, we often omit the  $[>C=O]$  from the name and assume that, unless otherwise specified, there is a background of ketone/aldehyde (and, of course, methylene groups) in the interface of all samples. Thus, if the nature of the group derived from the ketone/aldehyde groups is not specified, these groups are assumed to be unchanged:  $PE[CONH_2]$  is  $PE[>C=O][CONH_2]$ , not  $PE[>CHOH][CONH_2]$ .

### Theory

Contact Angle Titration. Figure 1 shows representative advancing contact angles  $\theta_a$  of buffered water on  $PE-CO_2H$  and several of its derivatives as a function of pH. Much of the work in this paper is directed toward understanding three features of these data: First, only surfaces containing ionizable functionality ( $RCO_2H \rightleftharpoons RCO_2^-$ ;  $RNH(CH_2)_4^+ \rightleftharpoons RN(CH_2)_4$ ) show a pH dependence of the contact angle. Why? Second, the magnitude of  $\theta_a$  decreases as the polarity of the functional group in the interface increases. What is the relation between the polarity of a functional group (a concept that is intuitively clear if not quantitatively uniquely defined) and its influence on wetting characteristics of an interface? Third, all of the interfaces show pronounced hysteresis in contact angle.

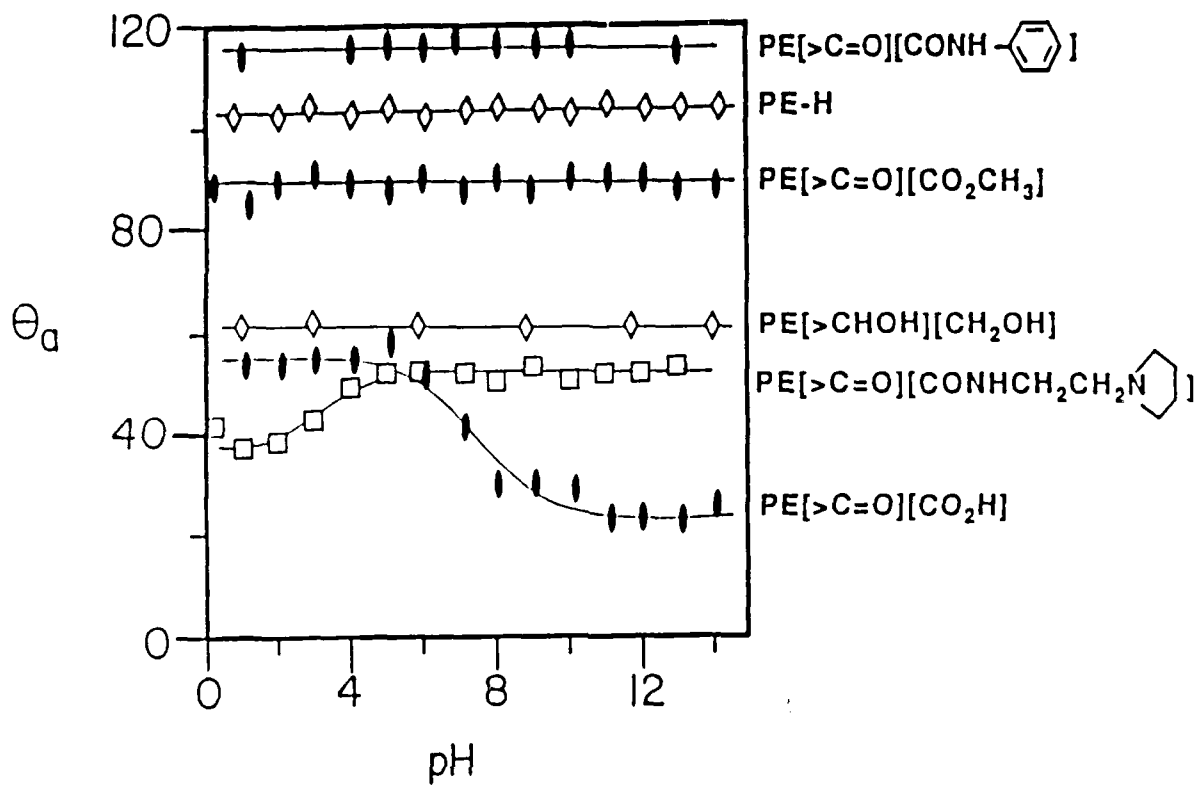


Figure 1. Advancing contact angle  $\theta_a$  (obtained by using sessile drops) as a function of the pH of the drop for several derivatives of PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H. Solutions were buffered (0.05 M).

What physical model should we use in discussing this hysteresis?

The theoretical discussion that follows suggests a simplified physical model for the wetting of PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H and its derivatives. In particular, we note that the assumption (below) that the functional groups in the interface contribute independently to the interfacial free energy is inaccurate, but leads to a tractable and physically reasonable picture. We start with an analysis similar to one used in discussions of equilibrium wetting (Young's equation, Figure 2, eq 1).<sup>13-15</sup> Consider the

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\gamma_{SV} - \gamma_{SL}}{\gamma_{LV}} \quad (1)$$

free energy  $\Delta G$  of a system composed of a drop of water on a homogeneous solid containing only one type of interfacial functional group as the edge of the drop moves from a position  $L_1$  to a position  $L_2$  with a corresponding change in the area  $\delta A$  of the solid under the drop (eq 2). If the solid interface contains groups reactive toward water (for example, carboxylic

$$\Delta G/\delta A = \gamma_{LV} \cos \theta + \gamma_{SL}^{PH} + \eta_R^{PH} - \gamma_{SV} \quad (2)$$

acid or amine moieties), the free energy of reaction ( $\eta_R^{PH}$ , in units of energy per area) must be included. All of our experiments involve the wetting of interfaces under air saturated with water vapor: that is, "moist" spreading. We assume that polar functional groups in the interface are to some extent hydrated and believe that the water molecules

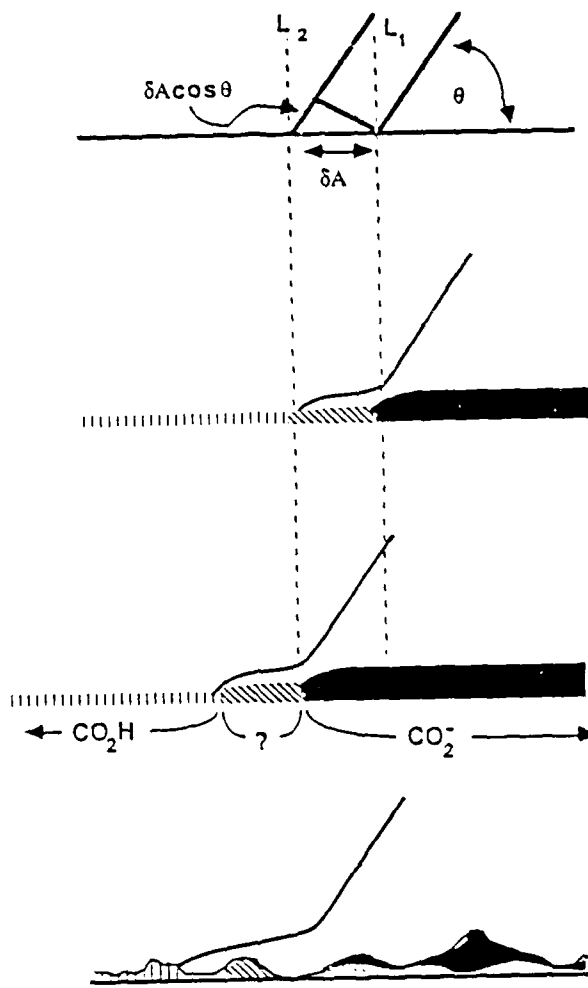


Figure 2. Schematic illustration of the edge of a drop as it moves from position  $L_1$  to position  $L_2$ . The edge of the drop makes an angle of  $\theta$  with the interface. As the drop advances, it sweeps over an area  $\delta A$  and the liquid experiences an increase in interfacial area of  $\delta A \cos \theta$  (top). The nature of the interface may change as the drop moves over it, due to, for example, ionization of carboxylic acid groups on contact with basic water (middle). The real polymer surface is rough and heterogeneous (bottom).

adsorbed at the interface have a significant influence on the solid-vapor interfacial free energy ( $\gamma_{SV}$ , see below).

The type of reactivity in which we are most interested is the reaction between acids (bases) in the  $\theta$  interphase and bases (acids) present in the aqueous drop. In this instance, both  $\eta_R^{pH}$  and  $\gamma_{SL}^{pH}$  depend on the nature of the functional groups present and on the pH of the drop.<sup>16</sup> In general, we expect  $\eta_R^{pH}$  and  $\gamma_{SL}^{pH}$  to be related, in the sense that if a reaction occurs when the solid comes in contact with the liquid,  $\gamma_{SL}$  should also change. We discuss in greater detail the relation between  $\eta_R^{pH}$  and  $\gamma_{SL}^{pH}$  later; here we combine them in a single term  $\gamma_{SL}^*$ .

The equilibrium contact angle defined in eq 1 can be modified to take into account the influence of reaction of interfacial groups, by deriving an expression (eq 3) analogous to Young's equation (eq 1) starting with eq

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\gamma_{SV}^{pH} - (\gamma_{SL}^{pH} + \eta_R^{pH})}{\gamma_{LV}} = \frac{\gamma_{SV}^{pH} - \gamma_{SL}^*}{\gamma_{LV}} \quad (3)$$

2. If  $\gamma_{SV} - \gamma_{SL}^*$  is less than or equal to  $\gamma_{LV}$ , and if there are no kinetic barriers to movement of the drop edge, the equilibrium contact angle should be given by eq 3. If  $\gamma_{SV} - \gamma_{SL}^*$  is greater than  $\gamma_{LV}$ , the system is not at equilibrium. The term  $S^*$  (eq 4) is defined by analogy with the

$$S^* = \gamma_{SV} - \gamma_{SL}^* - \gamma_{LV} \quad (4)$$

classical spreading pressure: for the system to be at equilibrium,  $S^* \leq 0$ .<sup>13</sup>

For a material such as PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H having a number of different interfacial groups, we can postulate eqs 5 and 6 in estimating  $\gamma_{SV}^{pH}$  and  $\gamma_{SL}^*$ . In these equations,  $A_{SV,i}$  is the normalized function of the area of

$$\gamma_{SV}^{pH} = \sum_{i = \text{interfacial groups}} A_{SV,i} \gamma_{SV,i}^{pH} \quad (5)$$

$$\gamma_{SL}^* = \sum_{i = \text{interfacial groups}} A_{SL,i} \gamma_{SL,i}^* \quad (5)$$

the solid-vapor interphase occupied by the functional group  $i$ .<sup>17</sup> These equations are based on the assumption that each functional group contributes to the interfacial free energy independently of other interfacial groups according to the normalized fraction  $A_i$  of the interfacial area it occupies. We note three features of these equations. First, the assumption of independence of functional groups is certainly incorrect in detail. Second, the concept of the "area fraction" of an interfacial group is not exactly defined. Nonetheless, it is evident that for a very large group (for example, an oligosaccharide) the area fraction and the more familiar mole fraction ( $\chi_i$ ) will be quite different. Third, the values of  $A_{SV,i}$  and  $A_{SL,i}$  are not necessarily the same: the interface might reconstruct or hydrate on contact with water to minimize its free energy and thereby change the value of  $A_i$ . PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H itself provides a probable example of a system in which the  $\theta$  interphase reconstructs on contact with bulk water.<sup>6</sup>

The principal objective of this section is to generate a qualitative understanding of the response of the contact angle to



changes in the polarity of the interface. To this end, we ignore the difference between  $\underline{A}_{SV,i}$  and  $\underline{A}_{SL,i}$ , and write eq 7 as a description of an interface having mixed functionality. An analogous expression (eq 3) gives the spreading pressure  $S^*$  in terms of contributions from independent functional groups. In a well-behaved case ( $\cos \theta_i \leq 1$ ;  $S_i^* \leq 0$ ) this equation carries the useful indication that  $\cos \theta$  for the interface can be thought of in terms of area-weighted contributions

$$\cos \theta \approx \sum_i \underline{A}_i \frac{\gamma_{SV,i}^{pH} - \gamma_{SL,i}^*}{\gamma_{LV}} = \sum_i \underline{A}_i \cos \theta_i \quad (7)$$

$$S^* = \sum_i S_i^* \quad (\text{for } \underline{A}_{SL,i} = \underline{A}_{SV,i}) \quad (8)$$

from each constituent type of functional group. A more complex case arises when some or all of the  $S_i^*$  are greater than zero, and especially when  $S^* \leq 0$  but with some  $S_i^* > 0$ . This case includes PE-CO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> (and perhaps PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H itself).

We are primarily interested in systems in which the interface includes both polar (especially ionizable polar) groups and nonpolar, non-ionizable groups. As a limiting case, we consider a system containing only one type of polar and one type of nonpolar group (eq 9) with  $\underline{A}_p$  describing the area fraction occupied by the polar group.

$$\cos \theta \approx \underline{A}_p \cos \theta_p + (1 - \underline{A}_p) \cos \theta_{NP} \quad (9)$$

For sufficiently polar, hydrophilic functional groups at 100% relative humidity, these groups will be covered with hydrating water molecules. In such a case, we hypothesize that the polar groups are

functionally "buried" under a layer of water. Equation 9 can then be simplified by assuming that  $\gamma_{SV,p}$  (interfacial free energy of the solid-vapor interface with an equilibrium coverage of adsorbed water) is equal to  $\gamma_{LV}$ . This equality follows from the fact that the solid interface is in thermodynamic equilibrium with the vapor: if  $\gamma_{SV,p}$  were greater than  $\gamma_{LV}$ , water would condense on the interface; if  $\gamma_{SV,p}$  were less than  $\gamma_{LV}$ , water would evaporate from it. It also follows that, in this limiting case,  $\gamma_{SL,p} \approx 0$ , because the interface generated under the drop as it advances (Figure 2) is an interface between adsorbed water and bulk water. Thus, it follows from eq 1 that  $\cos \theta_p = 1$  and eq 9 can be simplified to eq 10.

$$\cos \theta \approx \underline{A}_p + (1 - \underline{A}_p) \cos \theta_{NP} \quad 10$$

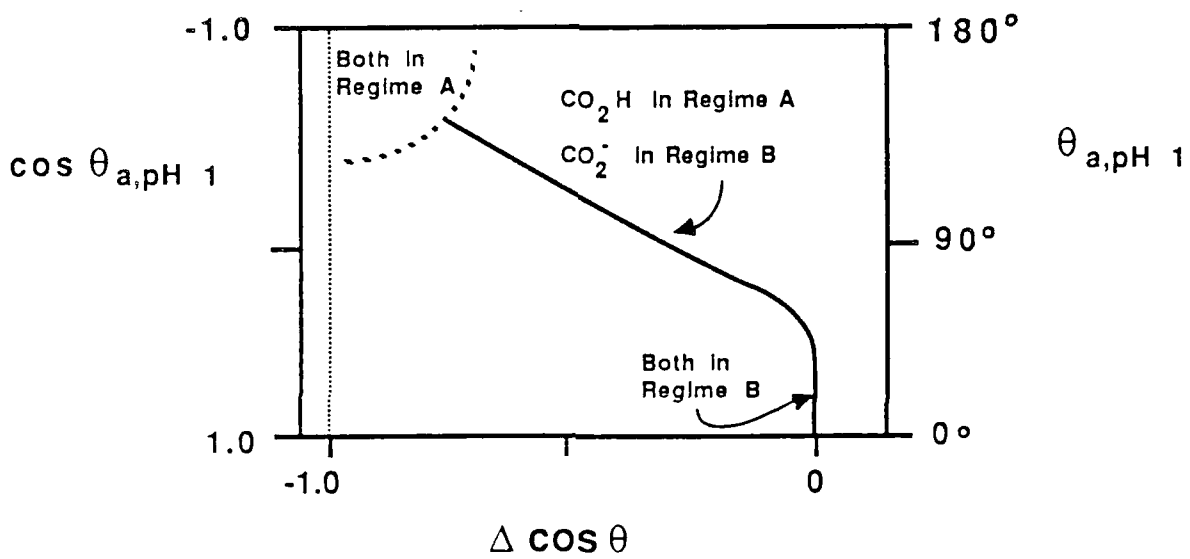
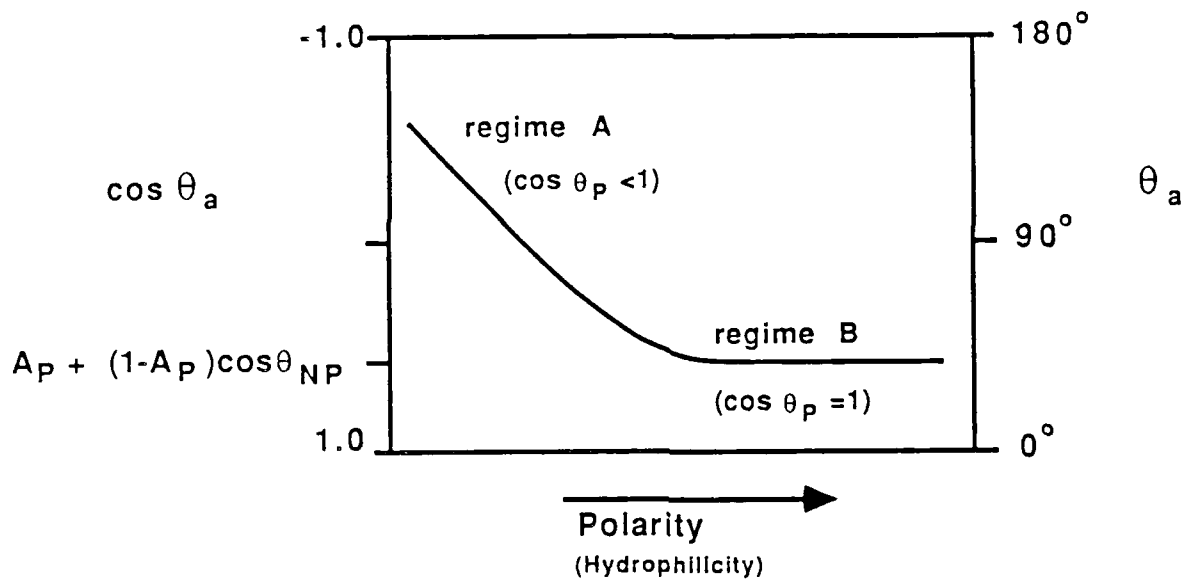
(for groups P sufficiently hydrophilic that  $\cos \theta_p = 1$ )

Our interest in this type of equation stems from the fact that the interfaces generated from PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H contain nonpolar regions (unreacted methylene groups) and polar regions (derived from the carboxylic acid and ketone groups). The "polar" region of these interfaces varies in polarity as the nature of the interfacial groups changes (and can, in fact, become less hydrophilic than the "nonpolar" regions, as with fluorinated carboxylic acid esters). As the polarity of the "polar" region changes, the change in contact angle should follow eq 7. In the low polarity limit the contact angle responds to the polarity of

the polar region through changes in  $\cos \theta_p$ . As the groups in the  $\theta$  interphase become more hydrophilic,  $\cos \theta_p$  increases and the contact angle decreases (Figure 3, regime A). When the interfacial groups become sufficiently polar and hydrophilic, water vapor begins to adsorb on and hydrate them. At some value of hydrophilicity, the interfacial groups will be completely hydrated and  $\cos \theta_p$  will approach 1 (i.e. eq 10 will apply). In this model, additional increases in hydrophilicity will not result in a change in  $\theta$  because  $\cos \theta_p$  remains unchanged at 1 and  $\cos \theta_{NP}$  is not influenced by the polar groups (Figure 3, regime E). As an initial hypothesis, we suggest that eq 9 and 10 provide a qualitative rationalization for the experimental data we observe for PE[R].

We note that the hypothesis that the hydrophilicity of very polar groups is "leveled" by adsorption of water from the vapor onto these groups does not explicitly involve reaction of these groups (protonation or deprotonation): these equations apply to both non-ionizable groups and to PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H and PE-NR<sub>2</sub>H<sup>+</sup>. Assuming that Figure 3 (upper) qualitatively describes the relationship between the polarity of groups in the the interface and the resulting contact angle with water, we can predict a relationship between the contact angle on an interface that contains carboxylic acid groups and the change in contact angle expected when those carboxylic acid groups are ionized. For example, if the carboxylic acid group is already very polar prior to ionization (Figure 3, top, regime B), an increase in

Figure 3. Top: Qualitative correlation between the contact angle (plotted as  $\cos \theta$ ) and the polarity (hydrophilicity) of interfacial groups. Less polar groups fall into regime A. An increase in the polarity of a group in this regime results in an increase in  $\cos \theta$  (eq 7). Very polar groups fall into regime B. These groups are effectively buried by adsorbed, hydrating water at 100% humidity. Since these hydrated clusters present an interface similar to that of bulk water, increasing the hydrophilicity of the focal polar groups does not result in a further increase in  $\cos \theta$  (eq 8). Bottom: Qualitative relationship between the polarity of an unionized carboxylic acid group (described by  $\cos \theta_{a, \text{pH } 1}$ ) and the change in contact angle upon ionization of this group ( $\Delta \cos \theta$ , eq 11). The relationship can be classified according to the regimes (top) into which the carboxylic acid and carboxylate groups fall (eq 12b-d). If both groups were to fall into regime B, for example, the difference in hydrophilicity between  $\text{CO}_2\text{H}$  and  $\text{CO}_2^-$  would have no influence on  $\theta$ .



polarity upon ionization of the groups in the  $\theta$  interface should not result in a significant decrease in  $\theta$ . On the other hand, if the carboxylic acid group were initially fairly nonpolar (Figure 3, top, regime A), then an increase in polarity should result in a decrease in  $\theta$ . The experimental data in Figure 1 suggest that the latter description applies to carboxylic acids and tertiary amines; data described later suggest that the former description applies to primary amines.

A more quantitative expression connects the difference in  $\cos \theta$  between the fully ionized (e.g. PE-CO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>) and fully unionized form (e.g. PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H),  $\Delta \cos \theta$ , and the value of  $\cos \theta$  in the unionized form (eq 11). In the specific case in which the polar functional groups of interest are CO<sub>2</sub>H and CO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> groups, we measure the contact angle at pH 1 to ensure that all of these groups are protonated, and at pH 13 to ensure that all are deprotonated (eq 11). We can imagine three types of behavior for  $\Delta \cos \theta$ , depending

$$\Delta \cos \theta = \cos \theta_{\text{pH } 1} - \cos \theta_{\text{pH } 13} \quad (11)$$

on whether the CO<sub>2</sub>H and CO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> groups fall in regime A or B of Figure 3 (upper). In regime A,  $\cos \theta_p < 1$ . Assuming for eq 7 that  $\underline{A}_p = \underline{A}_{\text{CO}_2\text{H}} = \underline{A}_{\text{CO}_2^-}$ , we write the general expression (eq 12a):

$$\Delta \cos \theta = \underline{A}_p (\cos \theta_{\text{CO}_2\text{H}} - \cos \theta_{\text{CO}_2^-}) \quad (12a)$$

$$\Delta \cos \theta = 0 \quad (12b)$$

$$(\cos \theta_{\text{CO}_2\text{H}} = \cos \theta_{\text{CO}_2^-} = 1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta \cos \theta &= \cos \theta_{\text{pH } 1} - [\underline{A}_p + (1 - \underline{A}_p) \cos \theta_{\text{NP}}] & (12c) \\ &= \underline{A}_p (\cos \theta_{\text{CO}_2\text{H}} - 1) \\ &(\cos \theta_{\text{CO}_2\text{H}} < 1; \cos \theta_{\text{CO}_2^-} = 1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta \cos \theta &= \underline{A}_p (\cos \theta_{\text{CO}_2\text{H}} - \cos \theta_{\text{CO}_2^-}) & (12d) \\ &(\cos \theta_{\text{CO}_2\text{H}} < 1; \cos \theta_{\text{CO}_2\text{H}} < \cos \theta_{\text{CO}_2^-} < 1) \end{aligned}$$

In this equation  $\cos \theta_{\text{CO}_2\text{H}}$  is the contact angle of water on an interface containing only  $\text{CO}_2\text{H}$  groups ( $\underline{A}_{\text{CO}_2\text{H}} = 1$ ), and  $\cos \theta_{\text{CO}_2^-}$  is the contact angle on an interface containing only  $\text{CO}_2^-$  groups. If both  $\text{CO}_2\text{H}$  and  $\text{CO}_2^-$  groups are in regime B, eq 12b holds; if the  $\text{CO}_2\text{H}$  group is in regime A and the  $\text{CO}_2^-$  group in regime B, eq 12c holds; if both groups are in regime A, eq 12d holds. This treatment predicts that as  $\cos \theta_{\text{pH } 1}$  decreases,  $\Delta \cos \theta$  should also decrease (eq 12c) and should, for sufficiently polar groups, go to zero (eq 12b). Figure 3 (lower) summarizes these equations schematically.

We note that the relations (eq 12a-d) neglect both changes in  $\underline{A}_p$  that might result from the ionization of the interfacial groups and contributions from the energy of reaction  $n_{\text{R}}^{\text{pH}}$ . Both of these parameters are expected to influence the contact angle (eq 3 and 9). While potential changes in  $\underline{A}_p$  are difficult to evaluate, we can estimate the contribution to contact angle from  $n_{\text{R}}^{\text{pH}}$  by quantifying the relationship between  $n_{\text{R}}^{\text{pH}}$  and pH. The free energy of ionization of an

interfacial acid,  $\Delta G_i$ , is given by eq 13. In order to determine the total amount of energy resulting from the partial ionization of  $n$  surface groups at any given pH ( $\eta_R^{pH}$ ), we integrate this value from no ionization of interfacial groups ( $\alpha = 0$ ) to the extent of ionization existing at equilibrium under the drop ( $\alpha_i$ ; eq 14).<sup>13</sup>

$$\Delta G_i = -RT \ln \frac{K_a}{[H^+][A^-]} + RT \ln \frac{[H^+][A^-]}{[HA]} = -RT \ln K_a + RT \ln \frac{[H^+]\alpha}{1-\alpha} \quad (13)$$

where  $\alpha = [A^-]/([A^-] + [HA])$

$$\eta_R^{pH} = \int_0^{\alpha_i} \Delta G_i d\alpha = nRT \ln (1 - \alpha_i) \quad (14)$$

If we assume that  $\gamma_{SV}$  and  $\gamma_{SL}$  are independent of pH, eq 14 can be combined with eq 3, resulting in eq 15 and 16. This assumption is probably incorrect, but it will allow the contribution to changes in  $\theta_a$  due to  $\eta_R^{pH}$  to be distinguished easily from changes due to  $\gamma_{SV}$  and  $\gamma_{SL}$ .

$$\cos \theta_{pH} = \frac{\gamma_{SV}^{pH} - \gamma_{SL}^{pH} - nRT \ln (1 - \alpha_i)}{\gamma_{LV}} \quad (15)$$

$$\cos \theta_{pH}^n = \cos \theta_{pH}^1 - [nRT \ln (1 - \alpha_i)]/\gamma_{LV} \quad (16)$$

Using eq 16, we can predict changes in  $\theta_a$  as a function of pH due solely to the free energy of ionization.<sup>19</sup> This prediction is discussed further after presentation of relevant experimental data.

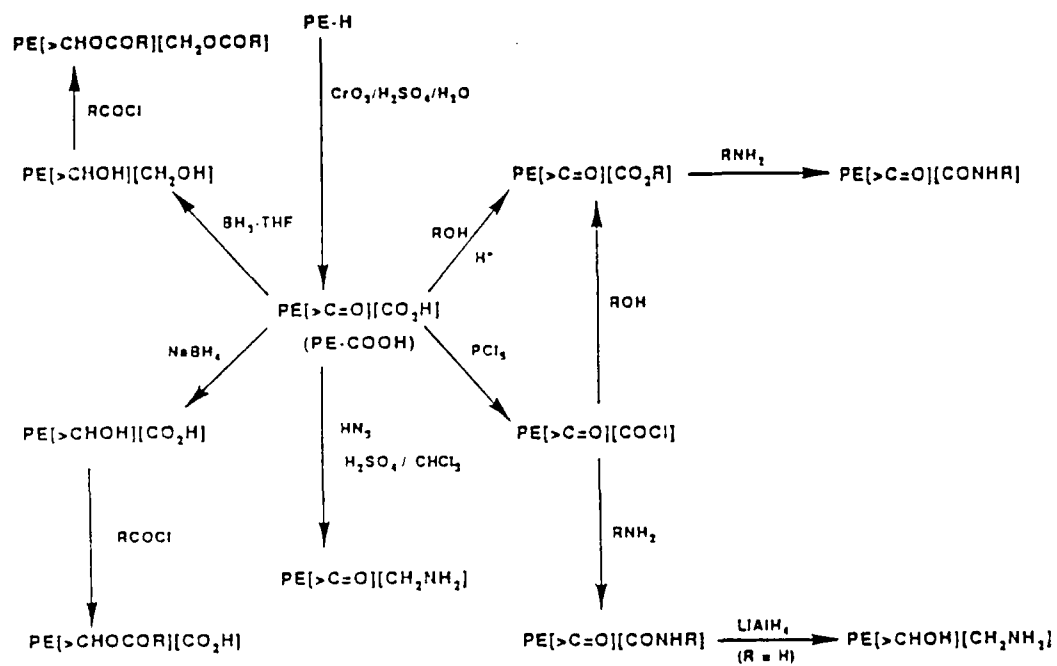
These discussions are based on the assumption of a system showing no kinetic barriers to the advance or retreat of the drop edge. In fact, all of the derivatives of polyethylene examined show pronounced



hysteresis. For example, although water at low pH reaches a stable, reproducible advancing angle on PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H ( $\theta_a \approx 55^\circ$ ), the receding angle is  $\theta_r \approx 0^\circ$ : that is, the drop edge is completely pinned and cannot be withdrawn. The interface of PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H is rough and certainly chemically heterogeneous. It also may swell in contact with water. The position of the drop edge and the value of the contact angle may thus be influenced by kinetic factors; we discuss this problem of disentangling kinetic and thermodynamic determinants of  $\cos \theta$  later.

## Results and Discussion

Preparation and Characterization. The polyethylene film samples were first extracted in refluxing methylene chloride to remove antioxidants and other film additives. The samples were oxidized in aqueous chromic acid (Scheme I).<sup>4</sup> Scheme I summarizes pathways used to derivatize the functionalized interface. Using the analytical methods described in previous papers (XPS, ATR-IR, wetting) we estimate that the yields in conversion of carboxylic acid groups into esters or amides exceed 90%. In most of our work, the ketone groups originally generated by oxidation are left unchanged. They may also be reduced to alcohols and derivatized. Figure 4 shows typical ATR-IR spectra. For example, PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H has a



Scheme I. Reactions Used to Modify the Interface of Polyethylene Film.

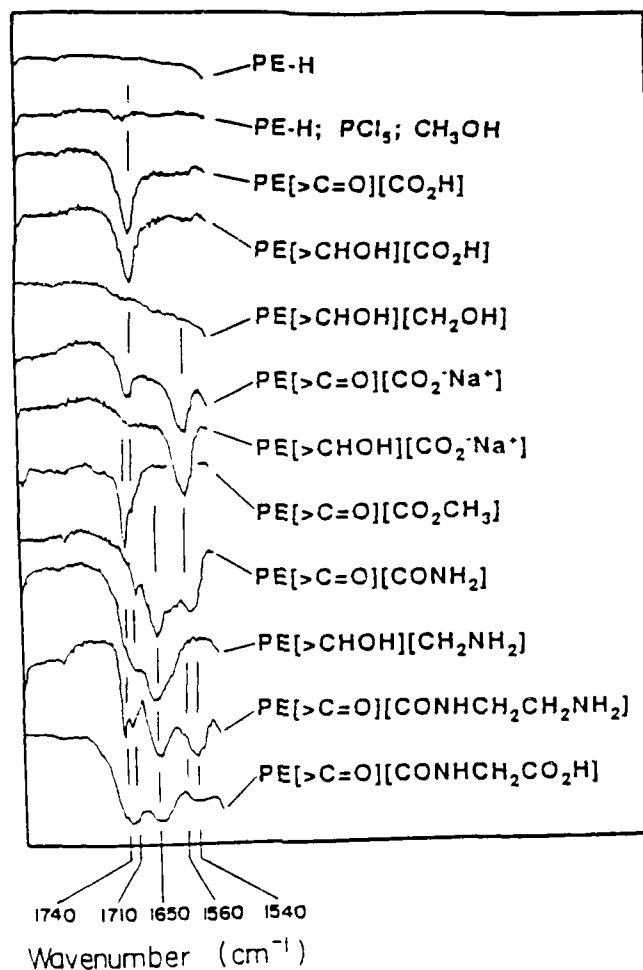


Figure 4. ATR-IR spectra of the carbonyl region of several derivatives of surface modified polyethylene. Wavenumbers indicated are those representative of esters ( $1740\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), carboxylic acids and ketones ( $1710\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), amides ( $1650\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) ( $\text{C}=\text{O}$ ) and  $1540\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\text{NH}$ ), and carboxylate anions ( $1560\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). The peak at  $1640\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for  $\text{PE}[\text{>CHOH}][\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2]$  results from an  $\text{NH}_2$  scissoring vibration. Because absolute absorbances are influenced by many experimental parameters (e.g. the extent of contact between the film and the KRS-5 crystal) only relative peak intensities within a single spectrum can be compared quantitatively.

peak at  $1710\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (carboxylic acid and ketone/aldehyde functionality). Following treatment with aqueous base two peaks are present, one at  $1710\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (ketone/aldehyde) and a second at  $1560\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (carboxylate anion). When the  $\text{CO}_2\text{H}$  groups in the interface are esterified and form  $\text{PE}[\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_3]$ , a new peak appears at  $1740\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (carboxylic acid ester); the spectrum of this material is unchanged when it is treated with base.

These spectra are for the most part self-explanatory. The spectrum of  $\text{PE}[\text{>CHOH}][\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2]$  may require some discussion. We attribute the absorbance at  $1640\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to the  $\text{NH}_2$  scissoring vibration and believe that the absence of a significant peak at  $1540\text{ cm}^{-1}$  indicates that most of the amide  $\text{NH}$  groups have disappeared. The presence of  $\text{NH}_2$  groups in this interface is confirmed by reaction of  $\text{PE}[\text{>CHOH}][\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2]$  with dansyl chloride (see below). The resulting material,  $\text{PE}[\text{>CHOH}][\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2\text{-dansyl}]$ , is fluorescent<sup>5</sup> and exhibits a curve in contact angle titration similar to other interfaces that contain dansyl groups (see below). Dansyl chloride does not react with aliphatic alcohols,<sup>20</sup> and, when allowed to react with  $\text{PE}[\text{>CHOH}][\text{CH}_2\text{OH}]$ , no fluorescence or inflection in contact angle titration is observed.

All of the methods used to characterize the derivatives of  $\text{PE-CO}_2\text{H}$  are only semi-quantitative, but based on them we believe that most of the transformations used here proceed in yields sufficiently high that the functional groups introduced by the transformation are the primary functionality present on the surface. We have endeavored to ensure that when other species are present in the interface as contaminants (due to low yields or side reactions) they are not

ionizable species. For example, the reaction of PE[CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>] with NH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> generates a material that shows primarily amide absorption in the ATR-IR spectrum (1650 cm<sup>-1</sup>) although some methyl ester (1740 cm<sup>-1</sup>) remains (Figure 4). These remaining esters are probably below the  $\theta$  interphase of the polymer. Even if they are present in the  $\sigma$  interphase, we do not expect them to influence the pH dependence of the contact angle (see below). They can, of course, influence the magnitude of the pH-independent component of the contact angle.

Contact Angle Titration. The experimental techniques used in measuring the advancing contact angle ( $\theta_a$ ) as a function of pH on PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H and derivatives have been described elsewhere.<sup>4</sup> We emphasize the importance of using buffered solutions, and of carrying out measurements in an atmosphere maintained at 100% relative humidity.

Certain of the contact angle titrations involved interfaces having relatively small values of  $\Delta\theta_a$  between the ionized and unionized form. To provide a sense for the reproducibility of contact angle measurements, we performed a contact angle titration on a single type of surface, PE[CONHCH(CO<sub>2</sub>H)CH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H], which was synthesized and examined on four different occasions. Figure 5 shows the individual contact angle measurements determined at pH 1 and pH 13 (all integral values of pH between 1 and 14 were examined and had similar reproducibility) on the four different samples. From the statistics obtained from this (Figure 5) and other experiments, we conclude that contact angle measurements are reproducible from sample to sample  $\pm 5^\circ$ , and on a given sample  $\pm 3^\circ$ . The advancing angles were reproducible, and

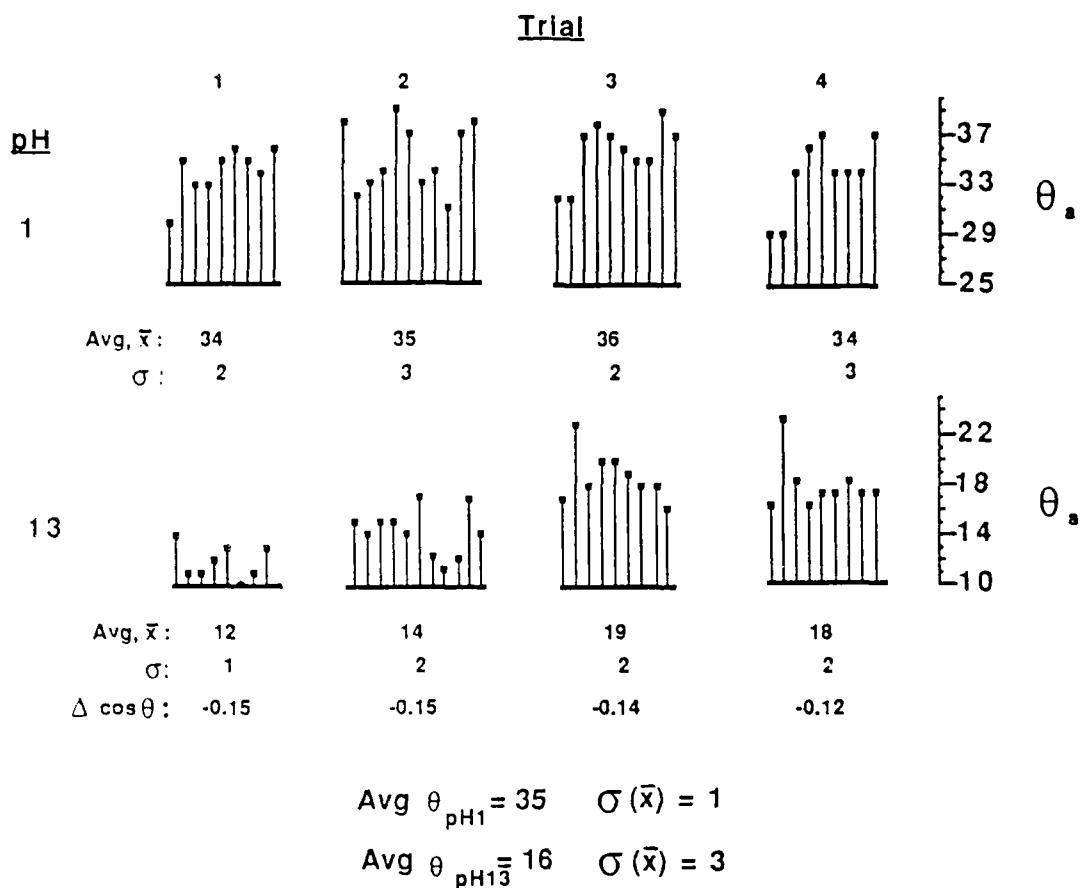


Figure 5. Examination of the types of errors observed in contact angle measurements. The contact angle (pH 1 and pH 13) was determined on four samples of  $PE[>C=O][CONHCH(CO_2H)CH_2CO_2H]$  independently synthesized and examined on four different occasions. Each point represents a separate measurement of contact angle using a new drop of water and a new region of the interface. The average and the associated error for each trial, along with the change in  $\cos \theta$  between pH 1 and pH 13, is also indicated for each trial. The overall average and associated error are also reported for each pH. Measurements of  $\theta_a$  at other values of pH between 1 and 14 had similar reproducibility, as did measurements using different samples.

surprisingly stable. The contact angle of a number of aqueous drops on the surface of PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H was constant for more than one hour when the chamber in which the sample was examined was maintained at 100% relative humidity.<sup>4</sup> Tapping the sample to jar the drop had no significant effect. Even tilting the sample had only a small influence on contact angle (Figure 6). The drops used in all our work (1 μL, R ~1 mm) were small compared with the capillary length<sup>13</sup>  $\kappa^{-1} \approx 3$  mm; for these drops, gravitational effects are not important. For larger drops (10-50 μL), the advancing contact angle (pH 1) on PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H was still relatively unchanged ( $\pm 5^\circ$ ).

We have surveyed the hysteresis<sup>14</sup> of a range of samples representing different polarities by drawing liquid back into a syringe in contact with the drop and reading  $\theta_r$  when the drop edge had stopped receding. We have arbitrarily plotted these results against the Hansch  $\pi$  parameter (see below) characteristic for that substituent (Figure 7).<sup>21</sup> All samples, including those with nonpolar interfaces, show hysteresis.

Non-Ionizing Functionalities. Table I gives advancing contact angles for a range of functional groups R in the contact angle interphase of PE[R]. None of these groups change their state of ionization over the pH range 1-13. Even incorporation of very polar, hydrophilic groups such as N-acylglucosamine, sulfate, and sulfonate into the interphase does not yield systems showing complete wetting.

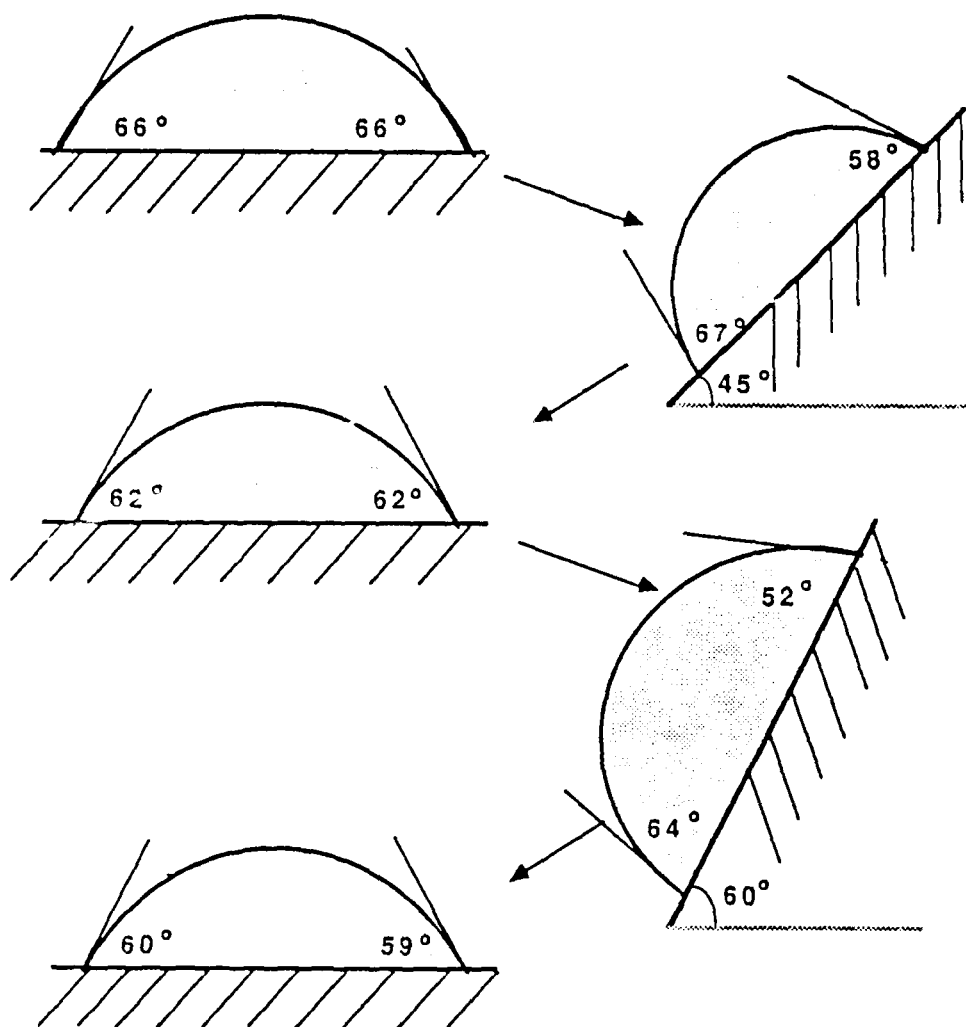


Figure 6. Influence of tilting the sample (PE[>CHOH][CH<sub>2</sub>OH]; pH 1) on the contact angle  $\theta$ . Drops were tilted while under 100% humidity. The drop did not move along a surface tilted to 45° or 60° from normal.



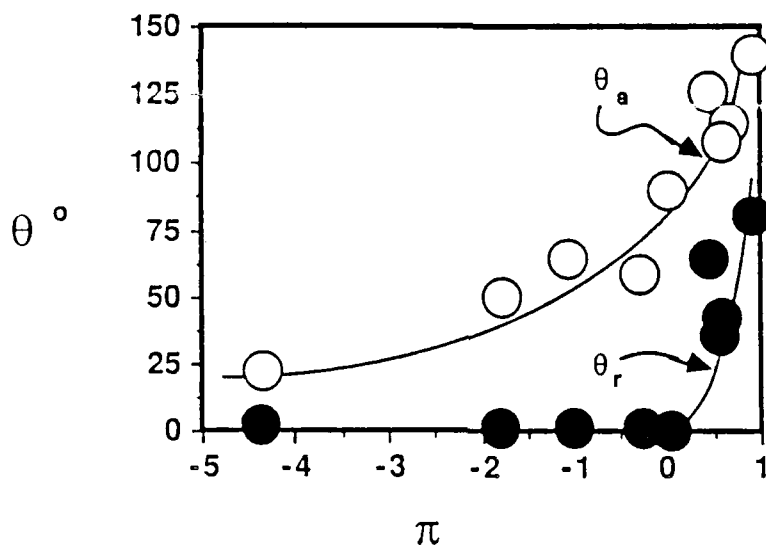


Figure 7. Advancing ( $\theta_a$ ) and receding ( $\theta_r$ ) contact angles of water (pH 1 (except for PE[CO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>]: pH 13)) on samples of functionalized polyethylene with a range of polarities in the contact angle interphase. Samples shown: PE[CO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>],  $\pi = -4.4$ ; PE[CONH<sub>2</sub>],  $\pi = -1.92$ ; PE[>CHOH][CH<sub>2</sub>OH],  $\pi = -1.13$ ; PE[CO<sub>2</sub>H],  $\pi = -0.72$ ; PE[CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>],  $\pi = -0.01$ ; PE-O<sub>2</sub>C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>17</sub>,  $\pi = 0.55$ ; PE-[>CHOCOR][CH<sub>2</sub>OCOR], R = C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>35</sub>,  $\pi = 0.55$ ; R = CF<sub>3</sub>,  $\pi = 0.5$  (estimate); R = C<sub>7</sub>F<sub>17</sub>,  $\pi = 0.88$ .

Table I. Contact angle of water on interfaces containing no functional groups whose state of ionization changes with pH<sup>a,b</sup>.

Code	Sample	$\theta_a$	Code	Sample	$\theta_a$
1	PE-H (unoxidized)	103			
	Anides			Esters	
2	PE[CONH-glucose]	20	18	PE[CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ]	90
3	PE[CONHCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> OH]	40	19	PE[CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> Br]	97
4	PE[CONH <sub>2</sub> ]	50	20	PE[CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ]	103
5	PE[CONHCH <sub>3</sub> ]	49	21	PE[CO <sub>2</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ]	107
6	PE[CON(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	53	22	PE[CO <sub>2</sub> CH(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	110
7	PE[CONHCH(CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	91	23	PE[CO <sub>2</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ]	116
8	PE[CONHCH(CH <sub>2</sub> (CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ]	100	24	PE[CO <sub>2</sub> CH(CH <sub>3</sub> )CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ]	115
9	PE[CONHCH <sub>2</sub> -(c-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>11</sub> )]	103	25	PE[CO <sub>2</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>5</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ]	123
10	PE[CONHNHCOC <sub>11</sub> H <sub>23</sub> ]	110	26	PE[CO <sub>2</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>7</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ]	125
11	PE[CONHC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ]	113			
12	PE[CONHC <sub>8</sub> H <sub>17</sub> ]	114		Others (always ionized)	
	Alcohol Derivatives <sup>a</sup>		27	PE[CONHCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ]	32
13	PE[CH <sub>2</sub> OH] (=PE[>CHOH][CH <sub>2</sub> OH])	68	28	PE[CONHCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> OSO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ]	36
14	PE[CH <sub>2</sub> OCO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>16</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ]	123			
15	PE[CH <sub>2</sub> OCOCF <sub>3</sub> ]	126			
16	PE[CH <sub>2</sub> OCO(CF <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CF <sub>3</sub> ]	134			
17	PE[CH <sub>2</sub> OCO(CF <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> CF <sub>3</sub> ]	141			

<sup>a</sup> The alcohol derived surfaces actually contain esters formed from primary and secondary hydroxy groups derived from the reduction of carboxylic acid and ketone groups, respectively.

<sup>b</sup> Amides were either prepared by reaction of PE-COCl with RNH<sub>2</sub> (NH<sub>3</sub>, and methyl, dimethyl, and octyl amines) or by reaction of PE-CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> with RNH<sub>2</sub>; esters were prepared by acid-catalyzed esterification of PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H; alcohol derivatives were obtained by reaction of PE-CH<sub>2</sub>OH with acid chlorides or anhydrides.

Equations 9 and 10 provide a rationalization for this lower limit to contact angle, as well as an interesting implication for efforts to design fully wettable surfaces derived from PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H. In the plateau region of Figure 3 (top), increasing the polarity of R has no influence on  $\theta$  (although it might influence behavior in "dry spreading").<sup>13</sup> The only practical method to increase the wetting of the interface beyond the plateau value appears to be to increase  $\underline{A}_p$ , either by increasing the extent of functionalization of the interface, or by increasing the size of the polar substituents R so that they occupy a larger area fraction of the interface sensed by the wetting liquid.

Figure 8 shows the contact angle on a series of interfaces modified by formation of esters with oligomeric polyethylene glycols PE[CO<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>n</sub>H]. These experiments are designed to test the hypothesis that large groups have a larger influence on  $\theta_a$  than do small groups with similar hydrophilicity. As the length of the poly(ethylene glycol) (PEG) chain increases over the interval  $n = 1$  to  $n = 14$ ,  $\theta_a$  decreases. Above  $n = 14$ , however,  $\theta_a$  increases slowly with  $n$ . We attribute the decrease in  $\theta_a$  between  $n = 1$  and  $n = 14$  to the effects of size:  $\underline{A}_p$  increases as  $n$  increases, and the contact angle drops as nonpolar regions of the interface are covered by the polar chains. We suggest that the increase in  $\theta_a$  for  $n > 14$  can be attributed to a slight decrease in the average polarity of the PEG group as  $n$  increases. The OH group at the end of each chain is appreciably more hydrophilic than the ether units,<sup>21</sup> and increasing the chain length lowers the overall polarity. For small values of  $n$  the increased area  $\underline{A}_p$  is more important, but as  $n$  increases the predominance of the ether groups outweighs the increase in area.<sup>22</sup>

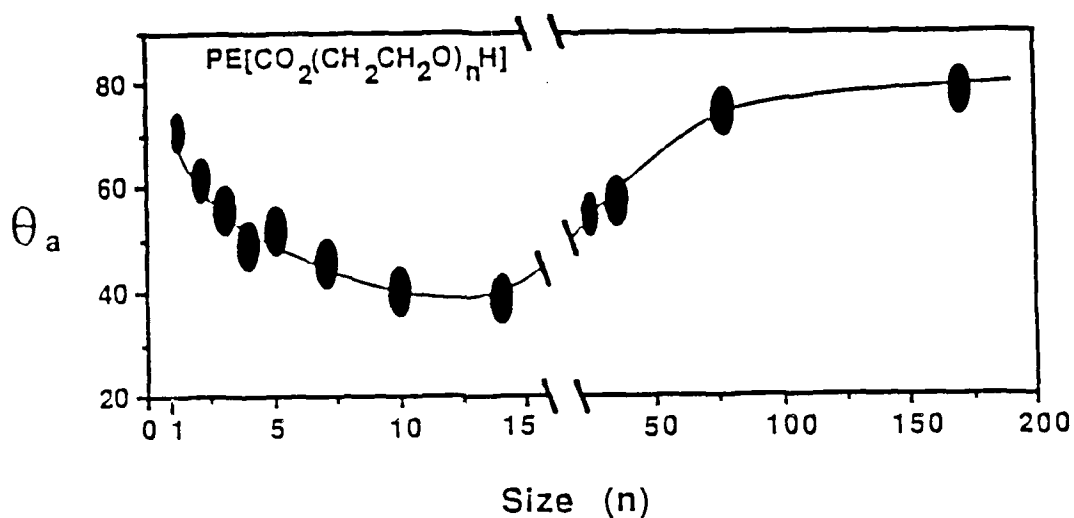


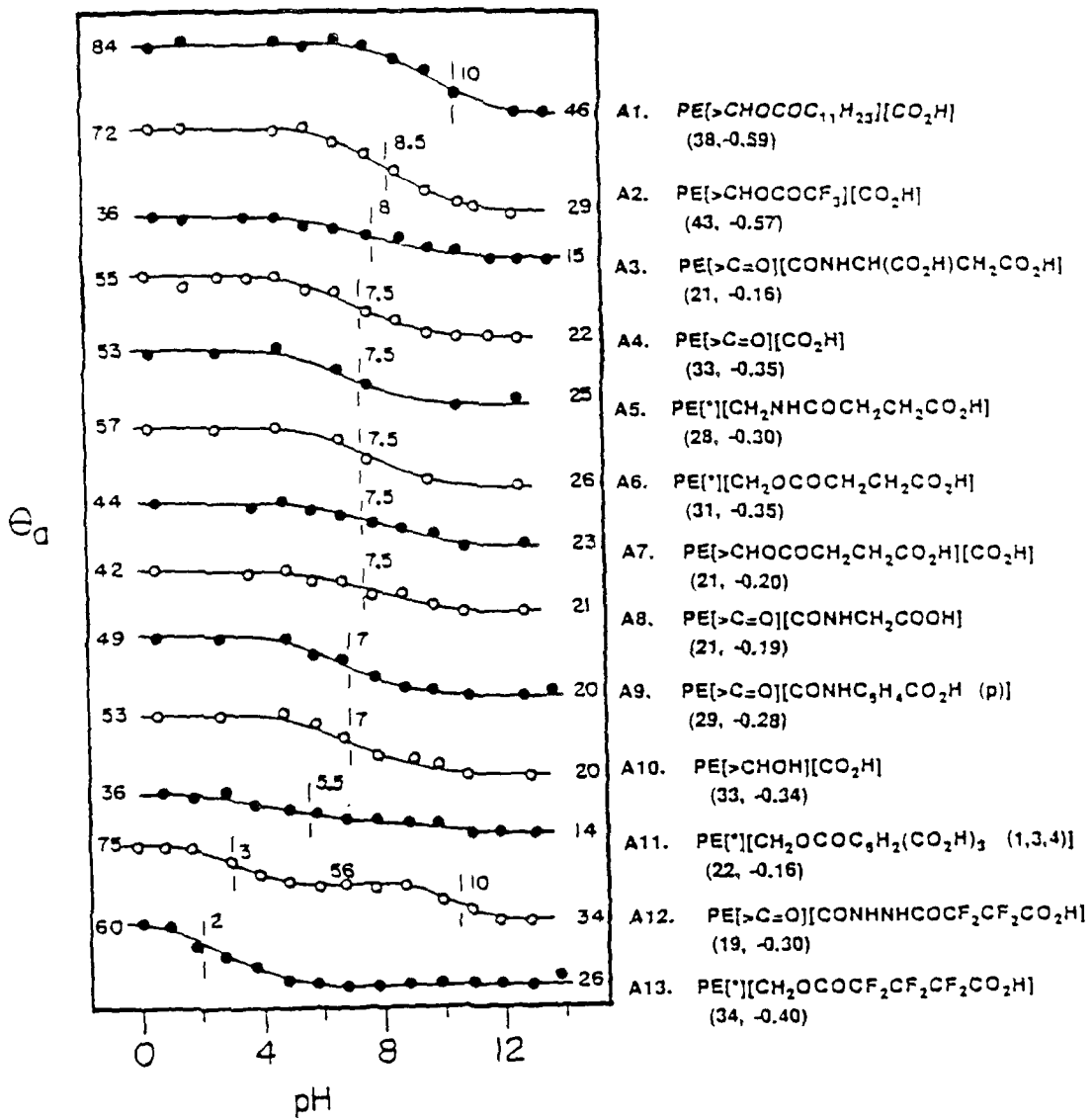
Figure 8. The influence of the size of the polar group  $\Lambda_p$  on the contact angle (pH 1). All samples were esters of poly(ethylene glycol), PE[CO<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>n</sub>H], with the size determined by the length of the ether chain, n. Note: The abscissa undergoes a change in scale after n = 15. The interfaces were prepared by reaction of PE[COCl] with the appropriate oligomer or polymer. For n = 1 to n = 4 the pure, neat liquids were used as reactants; for n > 4, molecular weight mixtures were used, with n indicative of the average molecular weight; for n > 14, the reaction between PE[COCl] and the polymer was carried out in acetone since the polymers were solids.

From these and other experiments, it appears that it is possible to reduce the contact angle on these types of interfaces by increasing the effective area covered by polar molecules. We have not been able to generate a surface from PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H that has  $\theta_a = 0$ , even when large, polar polymers (such as poly(acrylic acid)) have been attached to the interface.<sup>23</sup> This failure may be due in part to crystalline, oxidation-resistant regions of the interface having dimensions of 0.01 to 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$ .<sup>24</sup> If (relatively) unfunctionalized regions of this geometry are present in the interface, it would be difficult or impossible to cover them completely with individual molecules attached to the polar regions of the interface.

Carboxylic Acids. Figure 9 summarizes contact angle titrations of a number of derivatives of PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H having carboxylic acid groups in the functionalized interface. All of these materials having monocarboxylic acid functionalities show a pH dependence of the contact angle that is qualitatively similar to that of PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H. The width of the inflection (4-5 pH units) is similar for all monoacids (although di- and tri-acids are broader); the magnitude of the difference between low and high value of pH is also similar.

The acidity of carboxylic acid groups is low on interfaces that have low polarity as a result of intentional inclusion of non-polar functions: examples of representative values of  $pK_{1/2}$  (the value of solution pH at which the contact angle has a value midway (in terms of  $\cos \theta_a$ ) between those of the high and low pH plateaus) include

Figure 9. Contact angle titration for interfaces containing carboxylic acid groups. All curves are to the same vertical scale. The limiting values of the contact angle and the values of  $pK_{1/2}$  are shown for each interface. Following the structures summarizing the functional groups in the interface are values for the changes in  $\theta_a$  on ionization and for  $\Delta \cos \theta_a$ . The inflection at pH 10.5 for PE-[>C=O][CONHNHCOCF<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H] is due to ionization of the NHCOCF<sub>2</sub> proton. The number to the left of the structure is used for identification in later figures. Structures derived from PE[>CHOH][CH<sub>2</sub>OH] are abbreviated with an \*: PE[\*][CH<sub>2</sub>OR] = PE[>CHOR][CH<sub>2</sub>OR].



PE[>CHOH][CO<sub>2</sub>H], 7.5; PE[>C=O][CO<sub>2</sub>H], 7.5; PE[>CHOCOCF<sub>3</sub>][CO<sub>2</sub>H], 8.0; PE[>CHOCOC<sub>8</sub>H<sub>7</sub>][CO<sub>2</sub>H], 10. This effect can be attributed in major part to an increase in the difficulty of ionization (and thus an increase in  $pK_{1/2}$ ) of the CO<sub>2</sub>H groups as the local polarity they experience decreases.<sup>5</sup>

The relationship between  $\theta_{pH 1}$  (that is, the contact angle on the protonated form of the interface) and  $\Delta \cos \theta_a$  is instructive (Figure 10): As  $\theta_{pH 1}$  decreases,  $\Delta \cos \theta_a$  also decreases. This relationship is consistent with eq 12c.

We note that  $\Delta \cos \theta_a$  changes significantly for interfaces in which the nature of the ionizing group is unchanged (PE[>CHOH][CO<sub>2</sub>H],  $\Delta \cos \theta_a = -0.34$ ; PE[>CHOCOCF<sub>3</sub>][CO<sub>2</sub>H],  $\Delta \cos \theta_a = -0.57$ ; PE[>CHOCOC<sub>11</sub>H<sub>23</sub>][CO<sub>2</sub>H],  $\Delta \cos \theta_a = -0.59$ ). This observation indicates that the nature of the functional groups surrounding the carboxylic acid group influences the magnitude of  $\Delta \cos \theta_a$ , and that the contributions of functional groups to interfacial free energies are cooperative, rather than independent as assumed in eq 7.

Model Systems: Oriented Organic Monolayers. PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H is a complex system: interpretation of its wetting behavior is difficult because evidence concerning the molecular-scale structure of its  $\theta$  interphase is inferential. We have, in a related project,<sup>25</sup> examined in detail the properties of oriented organic monolayers of thiols having the structures HS(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H and HS(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> adsorbed on thin gold films. Here we summarize several conclusions concerning their structure and describe a



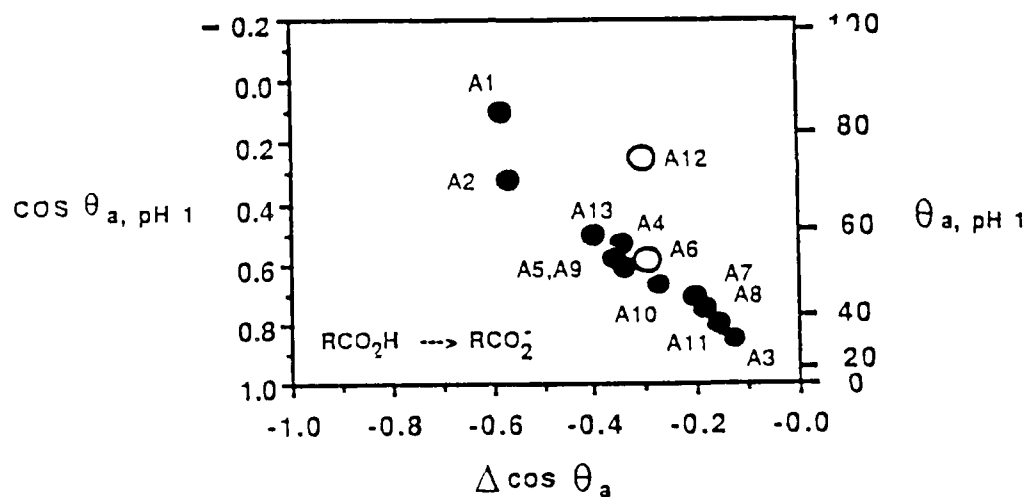


Figure 10. Correlation between  $\theta_a, \text{pH } 1$  (the contact angle on the unionized surface) and  $\Delta \cos \theta_a$  for the interfaces listed in Figure 9. The labels correspond to the labels used in Figure 9. The filled points (●) represent interfaces made in two or fewer synthetic steps; open symbols (○) represent surfaces made in four or more synthetic steps. These latter points may have a lower surface density of  $\text{CO}_2\text{H}$  groups due to low yields in the syntheses.

number of data relevant to their behavior in contact angle titration. These data are useful in interpreting the more extensive data for PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H and its derivatives.

Long-chain alkyl thiols functionalized in the  $\omega$ -position with a number of organic groups adsorb spontaneously on gold and form oriented monolayer films (Figure 11). The packing density of these films is high, and the component thiols highly oriented.<sup>26-29</sup> The oxidation state of the sulfur when adsorbed is still not unambiguously established; here we write it simply as thiol (SH).<sup>29</sup> We and several other groups working on these systems have concluded that the alkyl chains are fully extended, with densities similar to that expected for a crystalline sheet,<sup>30</sup> and have significant crystalline order.<sup>31</sup> They provide the most highly ordered system presently applicable to the study of the physical-organic chemistry of interfaces. Figure 12 summarizes observations made on the wettability of films prepared by adsorption of mixtures of HS(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>15</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H and HS(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>15</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> on gold. The mole fraction  $x$  of the carboxylic acid component in this mixture refers to the solution value. (X-ray photoelectron spectra suggest that surface acid mole fraction in mixed monolayers is less than the solution value; however, the exact surface composition is not critical in our analysis below.) Because CH<sub>3</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>H groups are similar in size,<sup>31</sup>  $x_i = A_i$  (eq 9). Several observations are relevant to the behavior of PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H. First, when  $x_{\text{CO}_2\text{H}} = 1$ , the interface is completely wettable at both pH 1 and 13. Thus, an interface composed of closely packed CO<sub>2</sub>H groups is completely wetted ( $\cos \theta_{\text{CO}_2\text{H}} = 1$ , eq 10). For intermediate values of  $x$ , the contact angle at pH 13 is

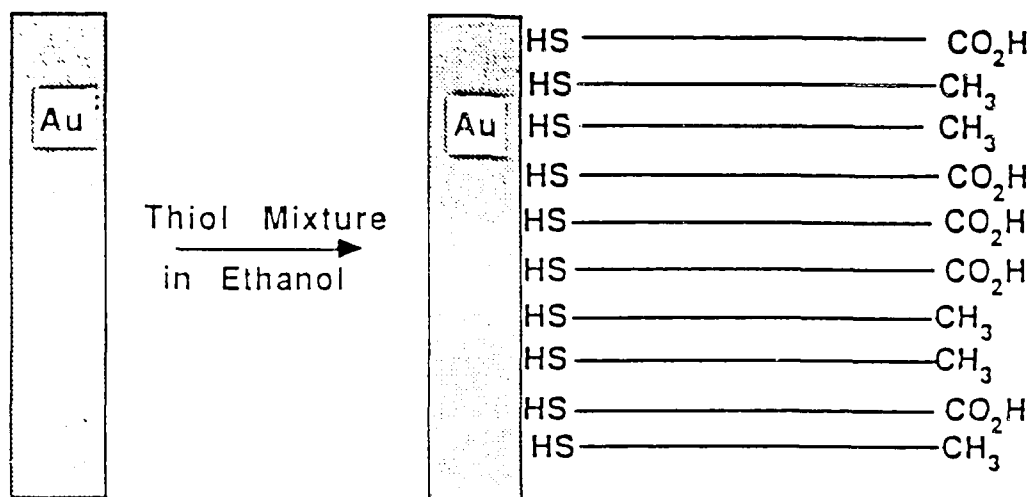


Figure 11. Schematic illustration of the formation of monolayers from  $\text{HS}(\text{CH}_2)_{15}\text{CH}_3$  and  $\text{HS}(\text{CH}_2)_{15}\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ . Monolayers were formed by the spontaneous adsorption of the thiols onto the gold surface from ethanol solution.

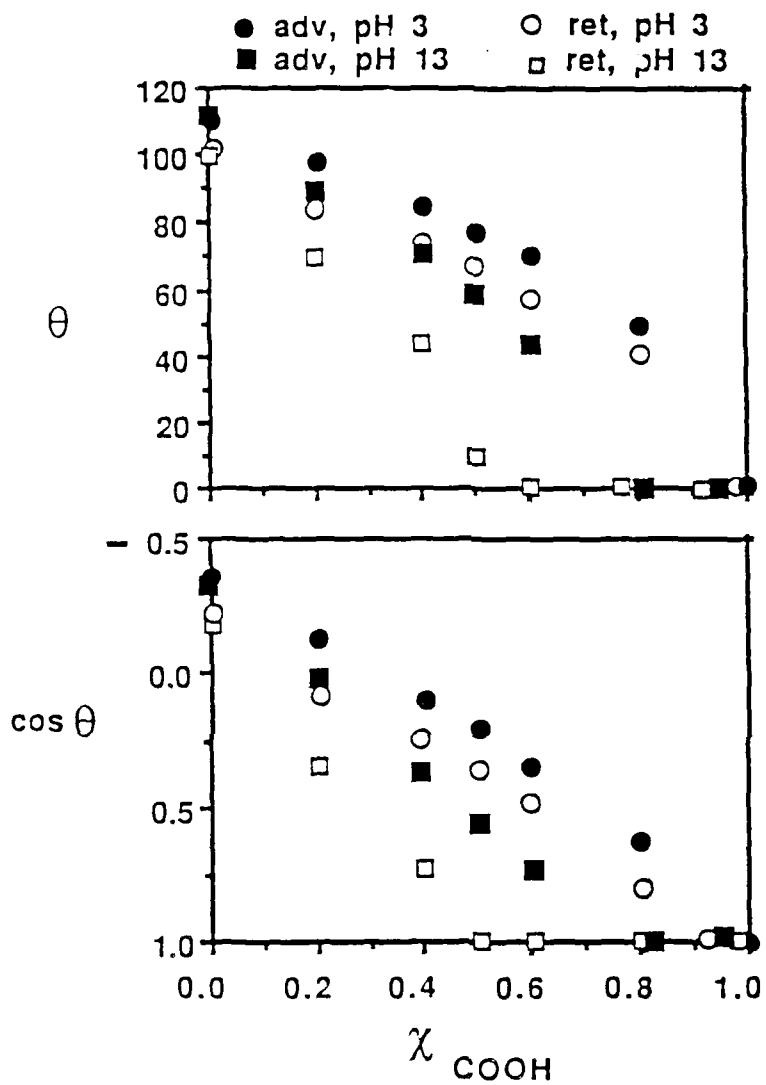


Figure 12. Contact angle as a function of  $\chi_{\text{CO}_2\text{H}}$ . Advancing and receding angles were determined at pH 1 and pH 13.

lower than the contact angle at pH 1, the difference presumably being due to ionization of the interfacial carboxylic acid groups at high pH. Second, the hysteresis in this system, although large, is significantly less than that observed for PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H. Tilting the sample, however, still does not cause the drop to roll down the plate, as with PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H. The magnitude of the hysteresis for measurements at pH 1 appears to be independent of the polarity of the interface:  $\cos \theta_a - \cos \theta_r \approx 0.15$  at  $\chi = 0$  and at  $\chi = 0.8$ . For measurements at pH 13, the hysteresis increases as  $\chi_{\text{CO}_2\text{H}}$  increases, until the receding angle is zero. Third, the contact angle titration curve at  $\chi = 0.6$  (Figure 13, selected because  $\theta_{a, \text{pH } 1}$  is approximately equal to that for PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H) is, in some respects, similar to that observed for PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H: in particular, the values of  $\theta_{\text{pH } 1}$  and  $\theta_{\text{pH } 13}$  are similar for the two systems. The carboxylic acid groups in the monolayer are, however, significantly less acidic than those for PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H ( $\text{p}K_{1/2} > 11$ ). It is also unclear whether the contact angle reaches a plateau at high pH.<sup>33</sup>

To help evaluate the importance of contributions from  $\eta_{\text{R}}^{\text{pH}}$  to the change in  $\theta_a$  on this interface, Figure 13 also includes a plot of  $\theta_a$  as a function of pH derived using eq 16 assuming the interfacial  $\text{p}K_a = 11$ . This plot also assumes that the density of carboxylic acid groups in the  $\theta$  interphase is equivalent to that in a close packed stearic acid crystal,<sup>30</sup>  $5 \times 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ , reduced by the mole fraction of acid groups present in the monolayer (assumed to be equal to mole fraction in solution, 0.6) to yield  $n = 3 \times 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ . In this analysis, the drop in  $\theta_a$  as the pH increases is due solely to the entropy of dilution of the proton that is released upon ionization. Although eq 16 clearly does not

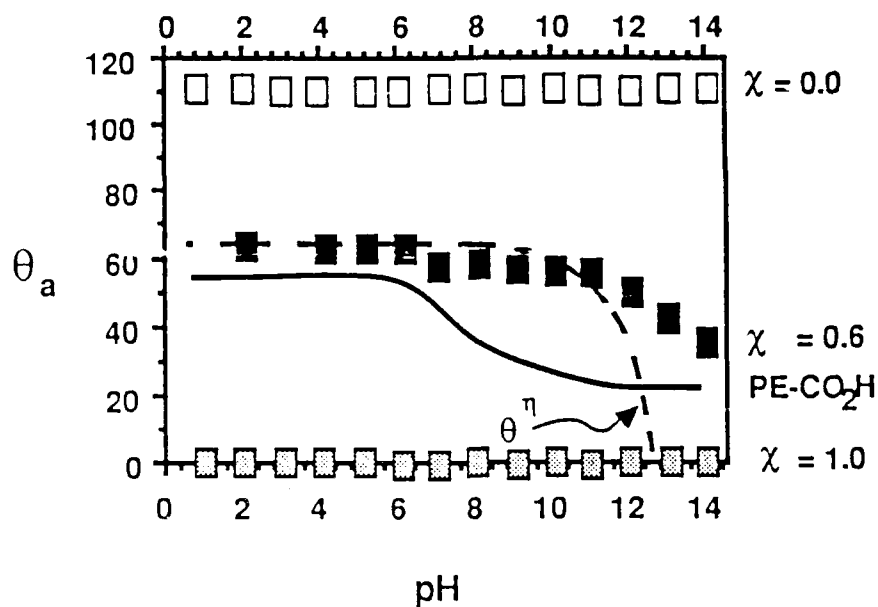


Figure 13. Contact angle titrations of monolayer surfaces containing methyl and carboxylic acid groups ( $x_{\text{CO}_2\text{H}} = 0.0$ ,  $\square$ ;  $0.6$ ,  $\blacksquare$ ; and  $1.0$ ,  $\boxtimes$ ; Figure 12). The contact angle titration obtained for PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H is shown as a solid line for comparison. The dashed line is the behavior expected on the basis of eq 16 with the following assumptions:  $\text{pK}_a = 11$ ;  $\theta_{a, \text{pH } 1} = 62^\circ$ ; and  $n = 3 \times 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-2}$  (see text).

describe quantitatively the behavior of either PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H or the monolayer system, it does indicate that the free energy of ionization is in principle sufficiently large to influence  $\theta_a$ .

It is important to later discussions to note that  $\cos \theta_{\text{CO}_2\text{H}} \rightarrow 1$  only close to  $x_{\text{CO}_2\text{H}} = 1$ , while  $\cos \theta_{\text{CO}_2^-} \rightarrow 1$  at  $x_{\text{CO}_2^-} \approx 0.7$ . The difference between these two intercepts is that expected qualitatively on the basis of hydrophilicity. Moreover, the question of whether  $\cos \theta_{\text{CO}_2\text{H}} = 1$  (eq 12) in the environment provided by PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H is, however, not unambiguously answered from these experiments, since the polarity experienced by CO<sub>2</sub>H in a monolayer and on a hypothetical perfectly functionalized polyethylene interface may not be the same.

The data in Figure 12, in conjunction with data from PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H, raise certain questions about the model used in deriving eqs 2-12, and especially about the assumption that the contributions of functional groups to interfacial free energies are linearly independent (eq 4, 5). An ordered monolayer interface composed only of CO<sub>2</sub>H groups (Figure 12,  $x = 1.0 \approx \frac{A_{\text{CO}_2\text{H}}}{A}$ ) has  $\theta_a = 0^\circ$ . This result suggests that this interface has a significant amount of adsorbed water: that is,  $\gamma_{\text{SV}} \approx \gamma_{\text{LV}}$ .<sup>34</sup> Thus, the carboxylic acid groups on this interface fall into the range of functional group hydrophilicity where increased hydrophilicity should have no influence on  $\theta_a$  or  $\cos \theta_a$  (Figure 3, regime B). In fact, however, the observed value of  $\theta_a$  on interfaces with  $x_{\text{CO}_2\text{H}} < 1$  is lower at pH 13 than at pH 1. There are two possible explanations for this behavior. First, the decrease in  $\theta_a$  at high pH is due to the energy of ionization (Figure 13,  $\theta_a$ ), a possibility that we cannot presently disprove. Second, the amount of water adsorbed on the CO<sub>2</sub>H groups is less when surrounded by

hydrophobic methyl groups than when surrounded by  $\text{CO}_2\text{H}$  groups. Thus, when  $x_{\text{CO}_2\text{H}} < 1$ , the carboxylic acid groups may not, in fact, be polar enough to have a thick layer of adsorbed water. Conversion of these carboxylic acid groups into carboxylate anions could then result in the observed decrease in  $\theta_a$ . We note that this second explanation is consistent with data from PE- $\text{CO}_2\text{H}$  and derivatives.

We conclude from the similarities between the contact angle titration curves for PE- $\text{CO}_2\text{H}$  and the oriented thiol monolayers that the behavior of the former is not unexpected for an interface containing a mixture of ionizable  $\text{CO}_2\text{H}$  and non-ionizable, non-polar functionality, and is not predominately an artifact of swelling or reconstruction in the complex polymer interface (although these phenomena probably are important in determining hysteresis). The important observation that the values of  $\theta_a$  are similar on rough, heterogeneous PE- $\text{CO}_2\text{H}$  and on relatively flat, homogeneous monolayer systems that plausibly simulate the mixture of functionality present in the polymer interface ( $x \approx 0.5$ ), but that hysteresis is relatively much smaller on the monolayer than on the polymer, implies that the observed values of contact angle on the polymer are close to equilibrium values. How it is possible to obtain quasiequilibrium values from a system in which high hysteresis implies important non-equilibrium determinants to wetting, and what combination of thermodynamic and kinetic factors (in detail) fixes the observed values of  $\theta_a$ , remains to be established.

Amines. Figure 14 summarizes the results of contact angle titration on amine-containing interfaces. All of the interfaces in this figure (and most simple secondary tertiary amines) yield



changes in the contact angle as a function of pH; interfaces containing other types of amine groups (especially primary amines), do not (see below). The form of the curve of  $\theta_a$  vs pH is the reverse of that obtained with interfaces containing carboxylic acid groups: the contact angle increases on going from low to high pH. This result is expected for an interface containing basic species that are more hydrophilic in the charged, protonated form ( $\text{NHR}_3^+$ ) than in the neutral, deprotonated form ( $\text{NR}_3$ ).

The  $\text{pK}_{1/2}$  of each of the interfaces summarized in Figure 14 is significantly lower than the  $\text{pK}_a$  of the corresponding soluble species. This result is the opposite of that for the carboxylic acid interfaces, for which the  $\text{pK}_{1/2}$  was always higher than the  $\text{pK}_a$  of the soluble analog. We attribute the shift in  $\text{pK}_{1/2}$  relative to the analogous solution  $\text{pK}_a$  in the interfaces containing both carboxylic acids and amines to the difficulty associated with creating a charged group at the interface (due to a low local dielectric constant and perhaps to charge-charge interactions).

The four amine-containing interfaces that did not display any change in the contact angle with water as a function of pH (Figure 15)--three containing  $\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$  groups and one a pyridine--were made by independent methods (Scheme I) to minimize the chance that a synthetic artifact (failure of a synthesis, interfacial reconstruction during synthesis) was responsible for the surprising absence of an inflection in the titration curves. All have a relatively low contact angle that is independent of pH.

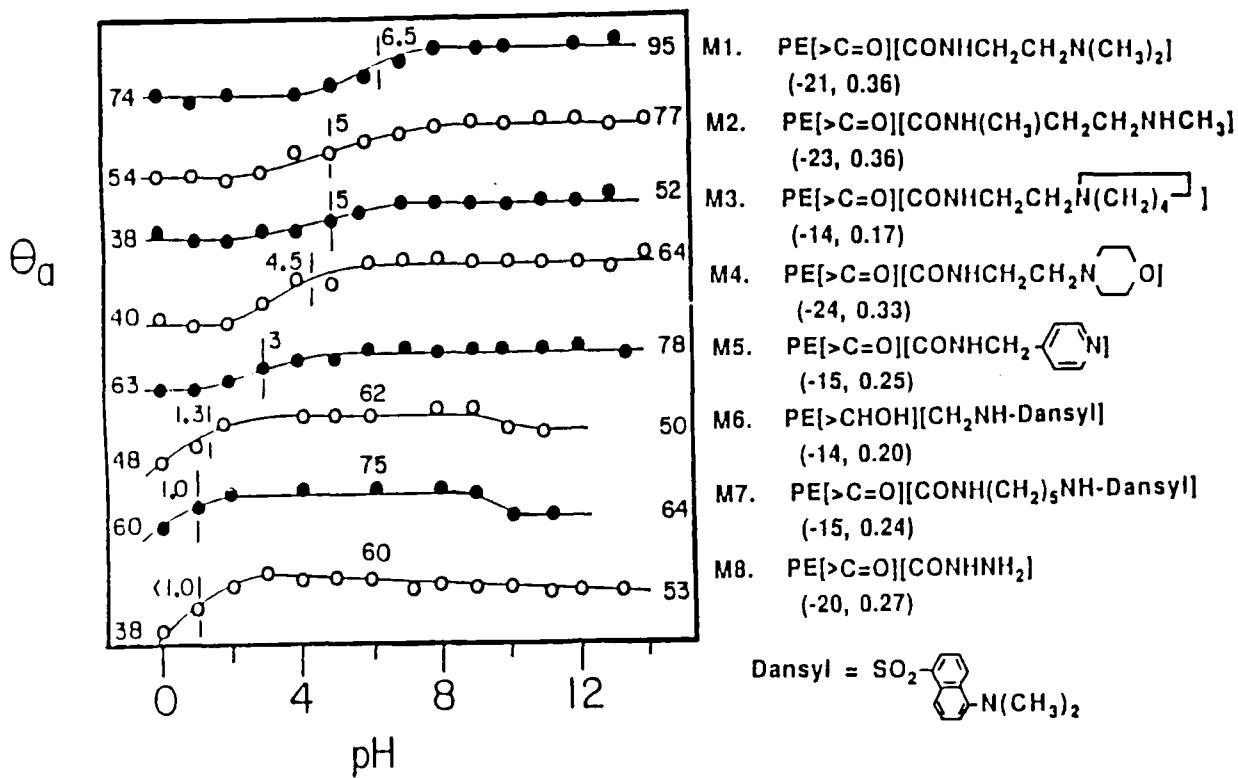
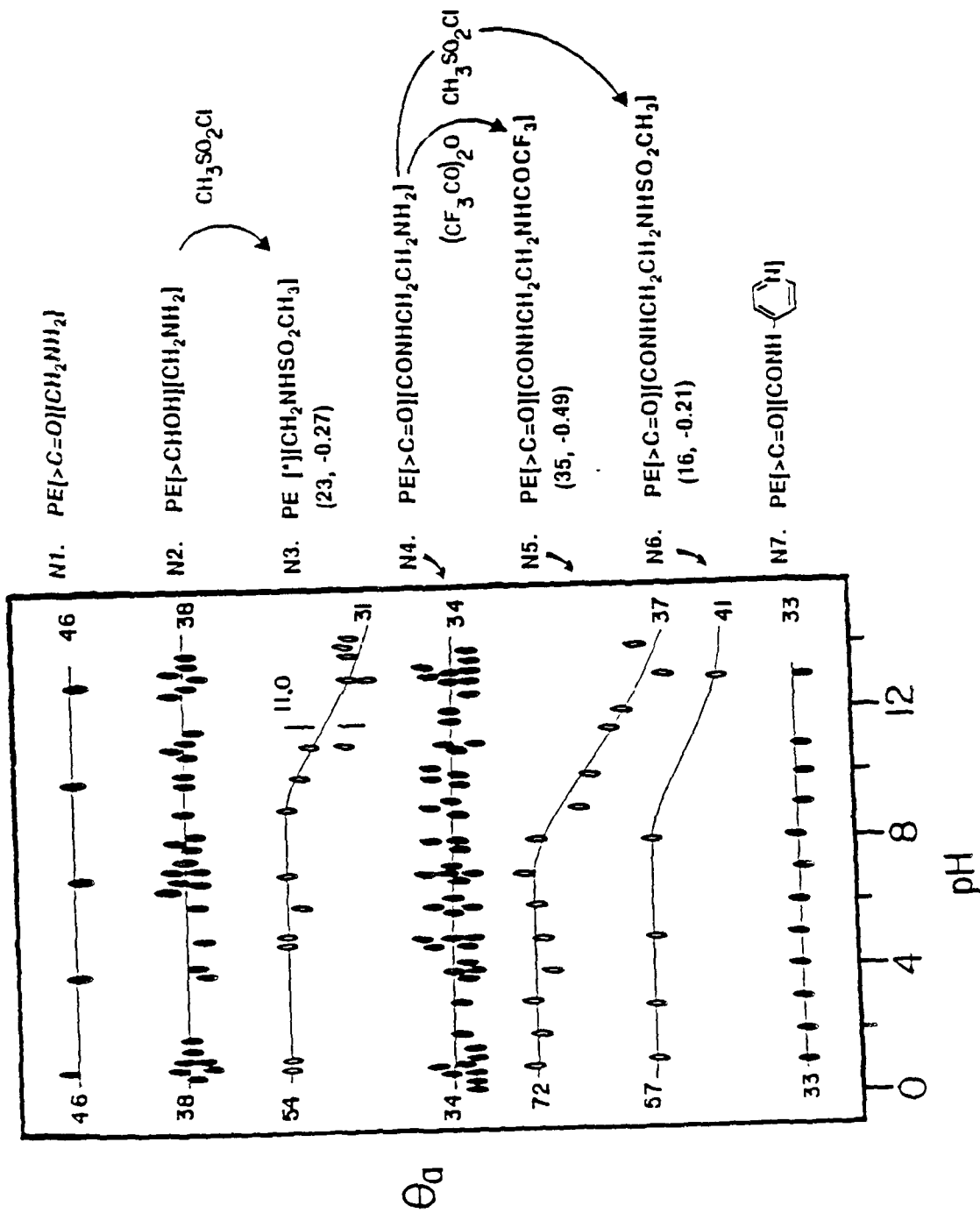


Figure 14. Advancing contact angle  $\theta_a$  as a function of pH for interfaces containing amine moieties. Each curve shows values of  $\theta_a$  at high and low pH, and the values of  $pK_{1/2}$ . Following the structure summarizing the functional groups in the interface are values for the change in  $\theta_a$  on ionization and for  $\Delta \cos \theta_a$ . The number to the left of the structure is for identification in later figures.

Figure 15. Contact angle titration of four amine- and pyridine-containing interfaces that show no dependence of  $\theta_a$  on pH, together with contact angle titrations for derivatives of these substances. The data for PE[>CHOH][CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>] and PE[>C=O][CONHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>] summarize data both from a number of replicate titrations and for materials prepared by different synthetic methods (seven titrations and one synthetic method for the former; nine titrations and two different synthetic methods for the latter). The scatter in the data shown for these two samples is indicative of the magnitude of the variation in different experiments, rather than the smaller scatter in one experiment. Individual experiments gave data of the sort shown for PE[>C=O][CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>], but the plot shifted up or down for different samples. A second derivative of PE[>CHOH][CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>] was made by reacting it with dansyl chloride, a material that does not react with aliphatic alcohols.<sup>20</sup> The titration curve for this interface is shown in Figure 14 (M6). The structure shown as PE[\*][CH<sub>2</sub>NHR] is an abbreviation for PE[>CHOR][CH<sub>2</sub>NHR].



N1.  $PE[>C=O][CH_2NH_2]$

N2.  $PE[>CHOH][CH_2NH_2]$

N3.  $PE[']][CH_2NHSO_2CH_3]$   
(23, -0.27)

N4.  $PE[>C=O][CONHCH_2CH_2NH_2]$

N5.  $PE[>C=O][CONHCH_2CH_2NHCOCF_3]$   
(35, -0.49)

N6.  $PE[>C=O][CONHCH_2CH_2NHCO_2CH_3]$   
(16, -0.21)

N7.  $PE[>C=O][CONH-C_6H_5]$

$\epsilon_d$

pH

PE[>C=O][CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>] was prepared by reaction of PE[>C=O][CH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H] with NH<sub>3</sub> in sulfuric acid-chloroform. The interface of this material may have reconstructed partially under the conditions employed (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 50 °C, 1 h); reconstruction would result in a decrease in  $A_p$ .<sup>17</sup>

PE[>CHOH][CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>] was prepared by initial reaction of PE[COCl] with NH<sub>4</sub>OH to form PE[>C=O][CONH<sub>2</sub>], followed by reduction of both amide and ketone groups.<sup>5</sup> PE[>C=O][CONHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>] was made either by esterifying PE[>C=O][CO<sub>2</sub>H] in methanol and forming PE[>C=O][CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>] and allowing this interface to react with ethylenediamine, or by causing PE[COCl] to react with ethylenediamine. The ketone groups are probably still present after these transformations, but we have not characterized them explicitly. The interfaces made by these two synthetic routes are indistinguishable. PE[>C=O][CONHpyr] was prepared by reaction of PE[>C=O][COCl] with *p*-aminopyridine.

The fact that none of these samples show a pH dependence of the contact angle establishes that this property is not simply an artifact of a single synthetic method. ATR-IR spectra of samples containing CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> groups suggest that amine functionalities comprise a significant portion of the functional groups present in the functionalized interfaces (based on the ATR-IR peaks at 3350 cm<sup>-1</sup> (NH and OH) and 1640 cm<sup>-1</sup> (NH<sub>2</sub> scissor) (Figure 4) and 1120 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C-N)).<sup>35</sup> In order to prove, however, that the amine groups are present in the  $\theta$  interphase and actually do not influence the contact angle (although secondary and tertiary amines do so), we converted them to new functionalities (CH<sub>2</sub>NHSO<sub>2</sub>R and CH<sub>2</sub>NHCOCF<sub>3</sub>), both sufficiently acidic to deprotonate in an accessible range of pH. The

resulting amides display the expected dependence of contact angle on pH (Figure 15). In addition, PE[>C=O][CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>] was allowed to react with lauroyl chloride. The resulting interface was hydrophobic ( $\theta_a > 100^\circ$ ), presumably as a result of forming PE[>C=O][CH<sub>2</sub>NHCOC<sub>11</sub>H<sub>23</sub>]. Thus, unless these interfaces reconstructed during these reactions to bring "buried" amine groups into the  $\theta$  interphase, we conclude that amines are present in the  $\theta$  interphase but do not change hydrophilicity with pH. We believe reconstruction of the interface during reaction to be unlikely: CH<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>Cl does not appreciably swell polyethylene at room temperature, and even in solvents that swell polyethylene (methylene chloride, toluene) reconstruction typically results in the loss of functionality from the contact angle interphase to the interior.<sup>7</sup>

Why is the wetting of the three interphases containing CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> groups independent of pH? We propose that these groups have reached a limit in hydrophilicity and that conversion of CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> to CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> does not appreciably increase the hydrophilicity of the interface (that is, that  $\cos \theta_p \approx 1$  for both CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> (eq 8,9)). This proposal is justified in detail below. We note here, however, that a plot of  $\Delta \cos \theta_a$  vs  $\cos \theta_{pH 13}$  for all the amine-containing interfaces examined (Figure 16) shows a general trend similar to that observed for carboxylic acid containing interfaces (Figure 10):  $\Delta \cos \theta_a$  decreases with  $\cos \theta_a$  for the unionized interface.

Other Ionizing Functional Groups. We have surveyed interfaces containing several other ionizable functional groups (Figure 17). All

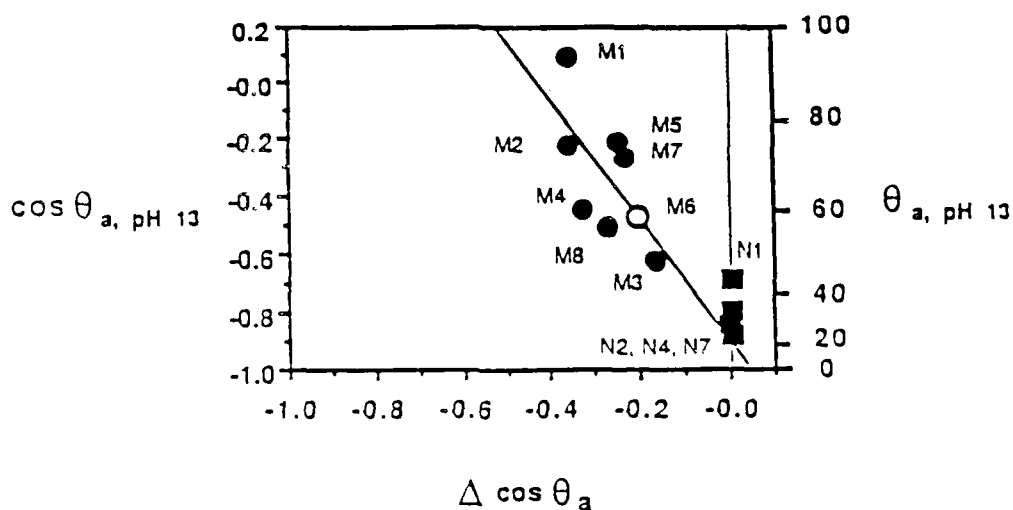


Figure 16. Correlation between the contact angle at pH 13 (the contact angle on the unionized interface) and the change in contact angle upon ionization for amine-containing interfaces shown in Figures 14 and 15. The labels correspond to the labels used in those figures. The solid line represents a least squares fit to only those samples that showed a change in  $\theta_a$  with pH ( $\Delta \cos \theta_a \neq 0^\circ$ ; ●, ○). The open symbol (○) represents an interface requiring four synthetic steps and thus may have a lower interfacial density of amine moieties than the other interfaces. The value of  $\cos \theta_{\text{pH } 6}$  was used in place of  $\cos \theta_{\text{pH } 13}$  for the interfaces that contained an acidic group in addition to the amine function (M6, M7, Figure 14).

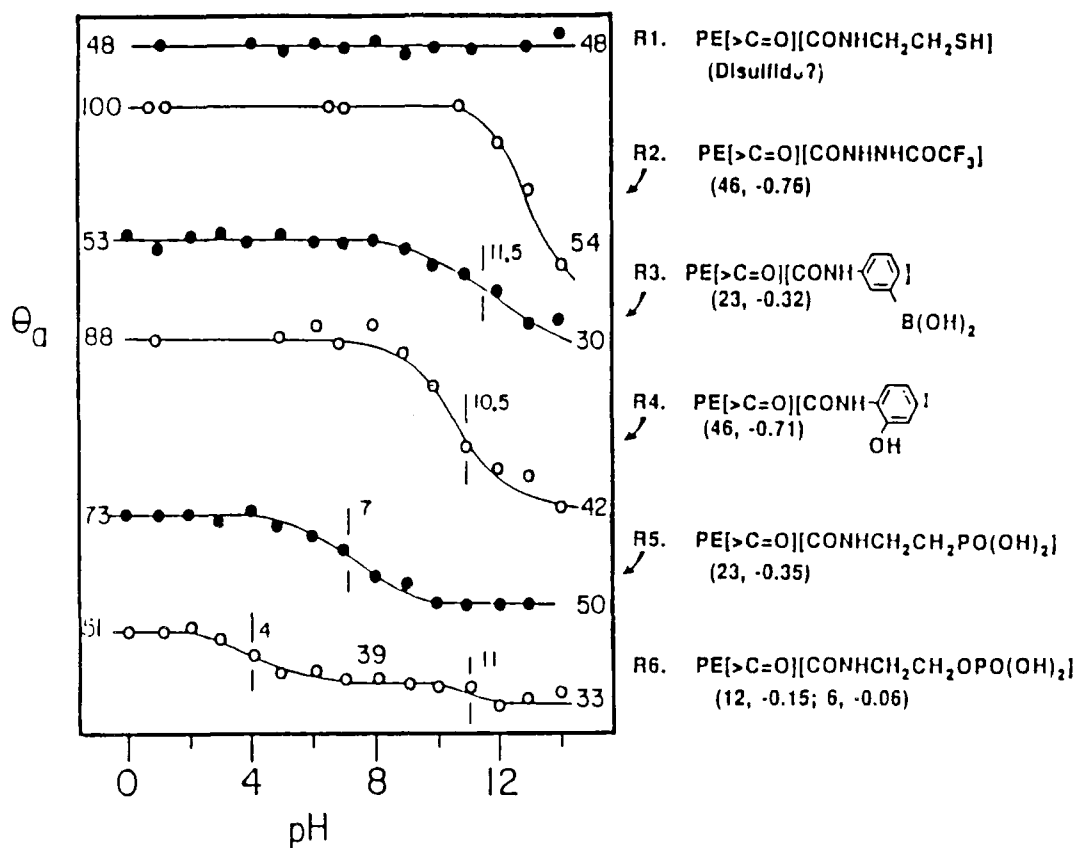


Figure 17. Advancing contact angle  $\theta_a$  as a function of pH for interfaces containing a variety of ionizable functional groups. Each curve shows values of  $\theta_a$  at low and high pH, and the values of  $pK_{1/2}$ . Following the structure summarizing the functional groups in the interface are values for the change in  $\theta_a$  on ionization and for  $\Delta \cos \theta_a$ . The number to the left of the structure is for identification in later figures.



of these samples, except that containing a thiol group,<sup>36</sup> shows a pH dependence for the contact angle that is qualitatively consistent with the solution ionization of these functional groups. For comparison with previous data, Figure 18 plots  $\Delta \cos \theta$  on ionization against  $\cos \theta_{\text{pH } 1}$  of the unionized surface. As for interfaces containing carboxylic acid and amine moieties, the change in contact angle decreases as the contact angle on the unionized surface decreases.

Correlations between the Contact Angle of Water on Functionalized Interfaces and Functional Group Hydrophilicity. We have

defined the hydrophilicity of functional groups in terms of their Hansch  $\pi$  parameters.<sup>21</sup> The  $\pi$  parameter is given by eq 17, and is defined as the log of the partition coefficient (octanol/water) of the functional group attached to a benzene ring minus the log of the partition coefficient of benzene itself (2.13). Thus,  $\pi$  is a parameter that measures the relative

$$\pi = \log \frac{[c]_{\text{octanol}}}{[c]_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}} - 2.13 = (2.303 RT)^{-1} (G_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}^{\circ} - G_{\text{octanol}}^{\circ}) \quad (17)$$

stability of a functional group in water and in a low-polarity medium (octanol). In an ideal system having only one type of interfacial functional group, Young's equation (eq 1) could be interpreted similarly as measuring the relative stability of that group at the interface between polymer and water (relatively high polarity) and at the interface between polymer and air saturated with water vapor (relatively low polarity). Because

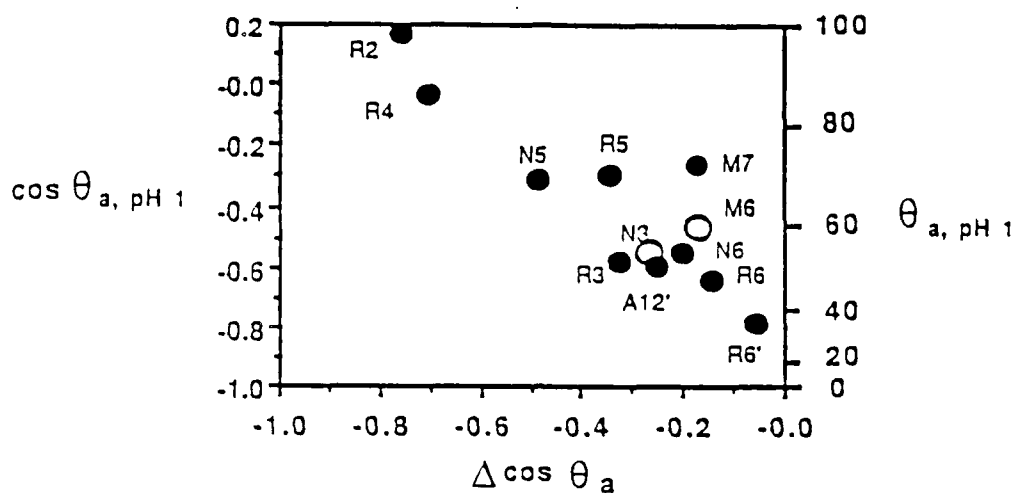


Figure 18. Correlation between  $\theta_{a, \text{pH } 1}$  on the unionized (or less ionized in the case of multiple ionizations) surface and  $\Delta \cos \theta_a$  for interfaces containing various functional groups. Data plotted are for interfaces shown in Figure 17 and for the sulfonamides and fluorinated amides shown in Figures 9 and 15. The labels correspond to the labels used in those figures; A12' and R6' represent the second (high pH) ionization of interfaces A12 and R6 with difunctional acid groups. The value of  $\cos \theta_{\text{pH } 8}$  was used in place of  $\cos \theta_{\text{pH } 1}$  for A12' and R6'. The open symbols (○) represent interfaces requiring four or more synthetic steps and thus may have lower interfacial concentrations of the particular functional group concerned.

both  $\pi$  and  $\theta_a$  are measures of the relative stability of a functional group in polar and nonpolar environments, we postulate that  $\pi$  and  $\cos \theta_a$  are linearly related (eq 18, 19). Eq 13 hypothesizes a linear

$$\underline{K}_{IL}(\gamma_{S,H_2O} - \gamma_{SV}) = \sigma_{IL}(G_{H_2O}^\circ - G_{\text{octanol}}^\circ) \quad (13)$$

$$\cos \theta_a = -\sigma_{IL} \left( \frac{2.3 RT}{\underline{K}_{IL} \gamma_{LV}} \right) \pi \quad (19a)$$

$$\cos \theta_a = \underline{C} \pi \quad (19b)$$

free energy relationship between corresponding interfacial and solution free energy terms:  $\sigma_{IL}$  is a dimensionless constant of proportionality between interfacial and solution terms, and  $\underline{K}_{IL}$  is a constant that converts interfacial free energy (in ergs/cm<sup>2</sup>) into free energies (in kcal/mol of surface groups).<sup>37</sup> Simplification of eq 19a yields eq 19b, where  $\underline{C}$  is simply a dimensionless combination of constants (for experiments at constant T). An obvious extension of eq 19 to interfaces with more than one functional group yields eq 20.

$$\cos \theta_a = \sum_i \underline{A}_i \underline{C}_i \pi_i \quad (20)$$

$$\pi^* = \sum_i \underline{A}_i \pi_i \quad (21)$$

As indicated previously, we have no method to measure  $A_i$  experimentally, but we have estimated  $x_i$ , the mole fraction of the different functional groups present in the interface. We assume that  $x_i = A_i$  for most of the interfaces considered. We have previously estimated that for the starting material PE[>C=O][CO<sub>2</sub>H],  $x_{\text{CO}_2\text{H}} = 0.3$ ,  $x_{\text{C=O}} = 0.2$ ,  $x_{\text{CH}_2} = 0.5$ .<sup>4</sup> For PE[>C=O][CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>], the corresponding values would be  $x_{\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_3} = 0.3$ ,  $x_{\text{C=O}} = 0.2$ , and  $x_{\text{CH}_2} = 0.5$ ; for PE[>CHOCOFCF<sub>3</sub>][CH<sub>2</sub>OCOFCF<sub>3</sub>] in which both carboxylic acid and ketone moieties are reduced to alcohols before acylation, the values would be  $x_{\text{CHOCOFCF}_3} = 0.5$  and  $x_{\text{CH}_2} = 0.5$ . Values of  $\pi$  for the functional groups were obtained from the literature<sup>21</sup> or estimated following the procedure outlined in the Experimental section.

Figure 19 is the first of two plots relating the hydrophilicity of the interfacial functional groups to the wettability of the interface. It is simply a plot of the observed values of  $\theta_a$  (or  $\cos \theta_a$ ) as a function of  $\pi_i$  for the major functional group involved. This plot makes no correction for the functional groups derived from the ketones (whether in the form of a ketone or alcohol) nor does it take into account the presence of CH<sub>2</sub> groups. It does, however, establish the important qualitative point that the wettability of the interface does not seem to respond to decreases in  $\pi$  below -2 (that is, to increases in hydrophilicity beyond the level represented approximately by PE[CONHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>], PE[CONH-glucose] or PE[CONHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>]).

The second plot (Figure 20) follows eq 21 in determining the  $\pi^*$  value for each interface and thus takes into account the hydrophilicity of all of the functional groups on the surface. Again, there is a strong suggestion of the influence of the hydrophilicity on

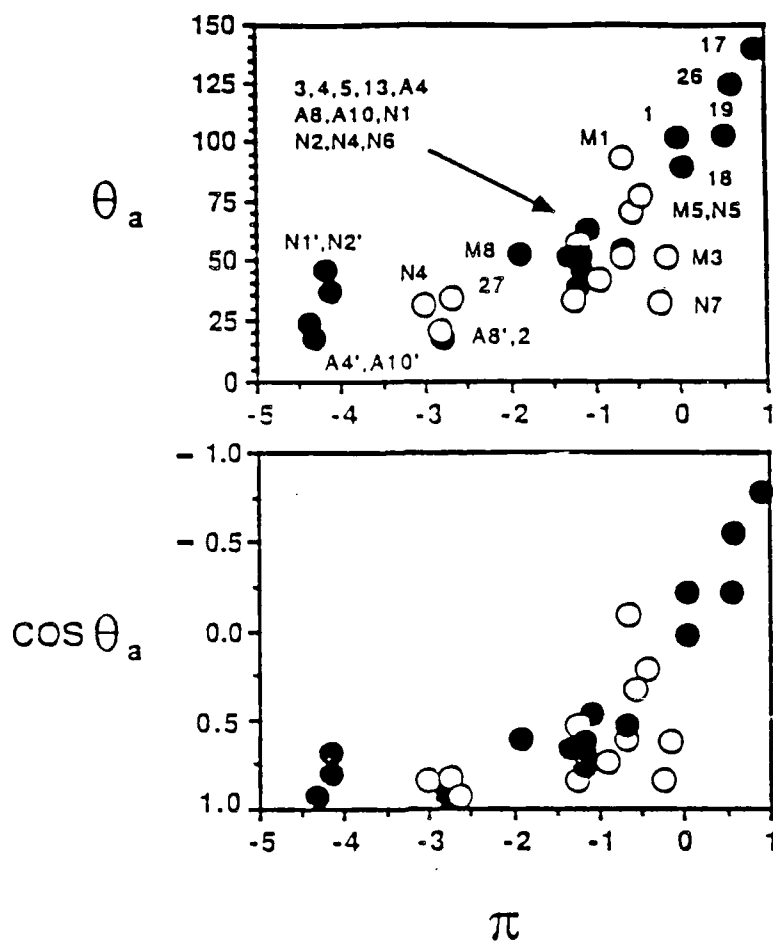
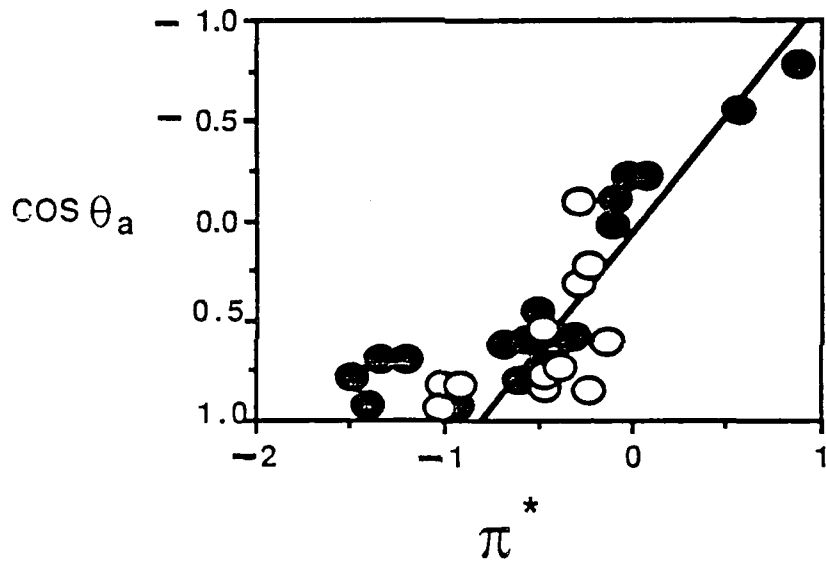
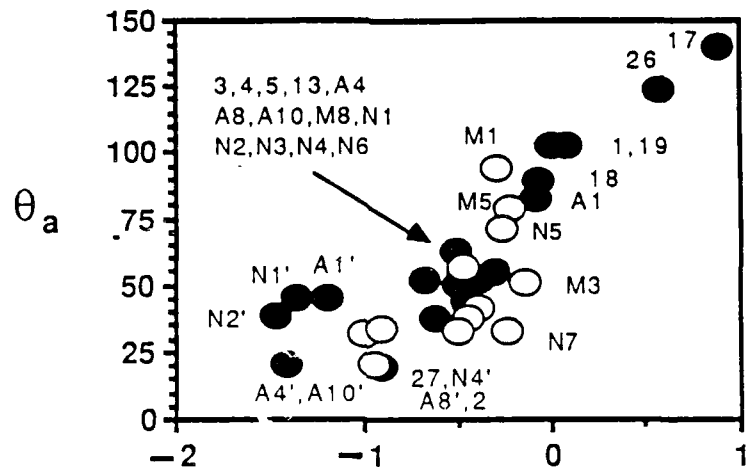


Figure 19. Correlation between  $\theta_a$  (top) and  $\cos \theta_a$  (bottom) and the  $\pi$  value of the functional groups attached to PE-R. The  $\pi$  values were obtained either directly from the literature (filled symbols, ●),<sup>21</sup> or estimated (open symbols, ○; see Experimental). The  $\pi$  values of the open symbols should be considered less accurate than those for the filled symbols. Interfaces shown contain either >C=O or >CHOH groups and CH<sub>2</sub>/CH<sub>3</sub> groups; these were not taken into account. Larger (more positive)  $\pi$  values indicate lower hydrophilicity. The data points labeled with an "'" (e.g. A4') represent  $\theta_a$  on the ionized form of the appropriate surface (e.g. A4).

Figure 20. Correlation between  $\theta_a$  (top) and  $\cos \theta_a$  (bottom) and  $\pi^*$  (eq 21;  $\pi^*$  takes into account all of the functional groups believed to be present in the interface) determined for each interface in Figure 19 and others. The  $\pi$  values used to determine  $\pi^*$  were obtained either directly from the literature (filled symbols, ●),<sup>21</sup> or estimated (open symbols, ○; see Experimental). The  $\pi$  values of the open symbols should be considered less accurate than those for the filled symbols. The data points labeled with a "' (e.g. A4') represent  $\theta_a$  on the ionized form of the appropriate surface (e.g. A4). The line is a best fit to the linear portion of the graph ( $\pi^* > -0.8$ ).



the contact angle, as anticipated by eq 9 and 10 (Figure 3). This figure also shows the predicted relationship between  $\cos \theta_a$  and  $\pi^*$  (eq 18b) using  $\pi^*$  in place of  $\pi$ . The constant  $C$  was determined from a best fit to the data with  $\pi^* > -0.8$ :  $C = -1.1$ .<sup>37</sup> At lower  $\pi^*$ ,  $\cos \theta_a$  becomes unresponsive to changes in  $\pi^*$  and the data deviates significantly from this line.

Correlations Between Values of Interfacial  $pK_{1/2}$  and Solution  $pK_a$ . Figure 21 summarizes the data obtained for all the ionizable species as a plot of the observed values of  $pK_{1/2}$  vs the  $pK_a$  of the relevant functional group in aqueous solution. In some instances the  $pK_a$  values reported for the solution analogs are literature values (e.g.  $pK_a = 3.24$  for  $\text{CH}_3\text{CONH}_2$  as an appropriate soluble analog for  $\text{PE}[\text{CONH}_2]$ ).<sup>38</sup> In other cases the  $pK_a$  values are predictions based on the widely recognized relationships between the various functional group interactions in a molecule and the resulting  $pK_a$ .<sup>39</sup> A datum falling along the diagonal line in this plot would have the same values of  $pK_{1/2}$  and  $pK_a$ : that is, the value of solution pH required to achieve half-ionization would be the same for that group at the interface and in solution. In fact, all of the data examined fall in groups above and below the line. Those falling above the line, with the surface  $pK_{1/2}$  larger than solution  $pK_a$  are all acidic species, while those falling below the line are all basic species. The origin of the difference between acidic and basic species is certainly the difficulty in generating either positively or negatively charged functional groups from neutral groups in the interfacial region.



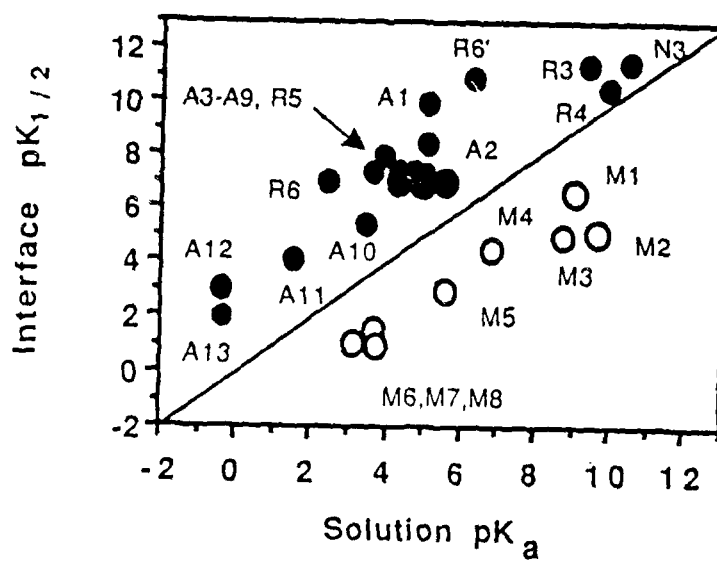


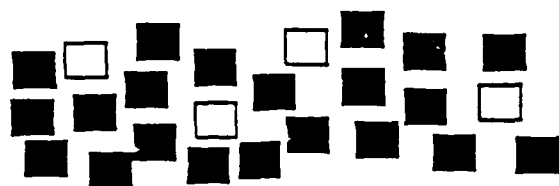
Figure 21. Correlation between  $pK_{1/2}$  determined by contact angle titration and the  $pK_a$  for similar functional groups in solution. Open symbols (○) represent basic species (amines) and filled symbols (●) represent acidic species (carboxylic acids, phenols, fluorinated amides, sulfonamides, phosphonic acids, alkyl phosphates, boronic acids). The data point labeled R6' represents the second (more basic)  $pK_{1/2}$  and  $pK_a$  of interface R6 (Figure 17).

## Conclusions

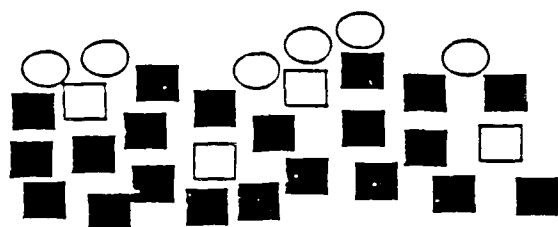
We summarize the conclusions from this work.

1) The advancing contact angle of water on PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H and its derivatives correlates with the hydrophilicity of the functional group in the interface. The quality of the correlation between  $\cos \theta_a$  and  $\pi$  is remarkably good (Figure 20). We emphasize one hidden similarity: In both "moist" wetting of the polymer interface by water and in partitioning of organic molecules between octanol and water, the non-polar phase (air or octanol, respectively) is saturated with water. Hence, polar groups are free to solvate with water both at the solid-vapor interphase and in the octanol phase, provided that their affinity for water is sufficiently high.

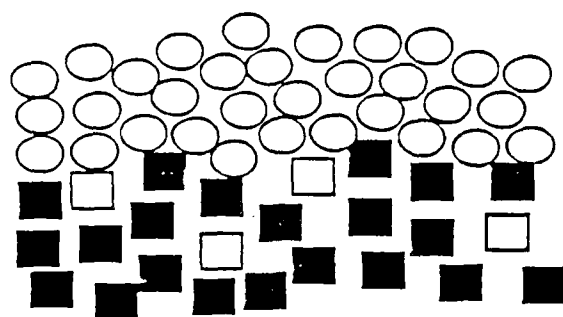
2) The influence of increased hydrophilicity on contact angle appears to saturate for very hydrophilic substituents ( $\pi \lesssim -2$ ). The chemical potential of water is constant throughout the system (liquid water is in equilibrium with water vapor and with water adsorbed on the functionalized interface). Sufficiently hydrophilic groups will be solvated (that is, strongly associated with adsorbed water) on the moist interface used to determine  $\theta_a$  (Figure 22). These water-solvated groups will resemble water itself from the vantage of additional water molecules. Hence, all interfacial groups that are sufficiently polar to be highly associated with adsorbed water at 100% relative humidity should give rise to an interface having roughly the same interfacial free energy (that is, roughly that of the surface tension of liquid water). Under the moist conditions employed to determine contact angles, the specific hydrophilicity of the groups



DRY



MOIST



WET: S/L

Figure 22. Schematic representation of a solid composed of hydrophilic (□) and hydrophobic (■) functional groups, dry, in equilibrium with water (○) vapor, and in contact with liquid water.

attached to the interface is therefore, to a first approximation, irrelevant as long as the groups are sufficiently hydrophilic to be fully solvated. Our data suggest that functional groups with  $\pi$  values less than -1 to -2 are sufficiently polar to be fully solvated at 100% humidity. This range of  $\pi$  values includes such functional groups as  $\text{CO}_2^-$  (-4.36),  $\text{NH}_3^+$  (-4.19),  $\text{SO}_3^-$  (-4.76), glucose (-2.84), and  $\text{CONH}_2$  (-1.92). Groups that fall into the transition region between full and partial coverage by water (i.e. those at the inflection in the relationship between  $\pi$  and  $\cos \theta_a$ , Figure 19) include  $\text{CO}_2\text{H}$  (-0.72),  $\text{NH}_2$  (-1.23),  $\text{CONH}_2$  (-1.23),  $\text{OH}$  (-1.13), and  $\text{NHSO}_2\text{CH}_3$  (-1.13). Groups that collect little water (i.e. those in the linear portion of the relationship between  $\pi$  and  $\cos \theta_a$ , Figure 19) include  $\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_3$  (-0.01),  $\text{CH}_2\text{OCOCF}_3$  (0.55, estimate),  $\text{CH}_2$  (0),  $\text{CH}_3$  (0.56), and  $\text{CF}_3$  (0.88).

3) An important parameter in determining the influence of a functional group on the wetting of these types of interfaces appears to be the surface area that this group covers. The "area fraction" is probably more important in determining the influence of a functional group on wetting than is the mole fraction of that group in the interface. In particular, in cases where some of the interfacial functional groups are significantly larger than others, the larger groups will probably make more important contributions to the interfacial free energy. Definition of the area covered by a functional group is not a simple procedure. For example, long functional groups attached at the interface (such as  $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n-$ ) could extend out into the bulk water and thus, in principle, occupy a relatively small fraction of the interfacial area, or they might condense onto the surface and cover a large area.

The increase in interfacial area coverage upon ionization of functional groups might also have a significant influence on wetting. A carboxylate anion in an interface in contact with water vapor might, for example, collect a larger "pool" of associated water than would an unionized carboxylic acid group. The resulting increase in the effective  $\underline{A}_i$  would result in a decrease in contact angle, even in the absence of a change in  $\gamma_{SV,i}$  or  $\gamma_{SL,i}$ ; the possibility that  $\underline{A}_i$  might be a function of the ionization state of the group  $i$  could significantly influence interpretation of relationships between  $\theta_a$  and  $n$  (a parameter whose sensitivity to size is probably more to functional group surface area than to projected area on an interface). The increase in  $\underline{A}_i$  upon ionization of the carboxylic acid groups of PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H may, in fact, be one reason why the contact angle decreases at high pH. Similar arguments would apply to the contact angle titrations of all of the interfaces tested in this paper.

4) Contact angle titration provides a convenient method for measuring the ionization of functional groups on an interface: the conversion of an uncharged (less hydrophilic) to a charged (more hydrophilic) group is often accompanied by an increase in wettability and a decrease in contact angle. It is something of a puzzle why this technique works as well as it does. Results obtained using contact angle titration are internally consistent and physically reasonable. The values of  $pK_{1/2}$  inferred from this technique and from direct observation using ATR-IR<sup>4</sup> and fluorescence<sup>5</sup> spectroscopies (and occasionally using direct titration<sup>4</sup>) are in good agreement. Systems derived from PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H are, however, not at thermodynamic equilibrium: hysteresis is large; the drop does not move on a tilted sample: the

drop edge appears to be pinned. Model monolayer systems show less hysteresis, but values of contact angle that are compatible with those observed for PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H and derivatives are also obtained with these structurally better-defined systems. Thus,  $\theta_a$  for PE[R] is apparently not determined solely by the same factors that result in the large observed hysteresis. We presume that the hysteresis reflects some combination of interfacial heterogeneity (e.g. roughness or uneven distribution of functional groups) and reaction on contact with the bulk water (swelling and/or ionization). Although the values of contact angles can only be considered approximations to those that would be observed for a system in true thermodynamic equilibrium, we presently believe that the differences between the non- or quasi-equilibrium values obtained with the polymer interfaces and equilibrium values that would be obtained on an ideal system containing the same functional groups are (hysteresis notwithstanding) small.

Several factors might, in principle, cause a decrease in  $\theta_a$  on ionization of the interfacial groups in PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H: These include an increase in  $A_p$ , an increase in  $\gamma_{SV}$ , a decrease in  $\gamma_{SL}$ , swelling of the interfacial region, and processes making a contribution to  $\eta_R^{pH}$  (eq 3) such as the free energies of ionization or swelling. We draw upon the comparison of PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H to the structurally better-defined monolayer systems based on organic thiols absorbed on gold to suggest that interfacial swelling is relatively unimportant in determining  $\theta_a$ . Since these monolayer systems are not expected to swell significantly in either the ionized or unionized state, and since their behavior in

wetting is qualitatively similar to that of the functionalized polymer, we conclude that swelling of the interfacial region of PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H is not essential for a decrease in  $\theta_a$ .

We do not currently know whether the energy of reaction ( $n_R^{pH}$ ) is important in determining the contact angle as a function of pH for PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H. One fact suggests, however, that it is not: If the energy of ionization were driving the movement of the drop to lower contact angles, the contact angle would be expected to continue to drop beyond the pH of full ionization (eq 16, Figure 13). For example, even if the interface were fully ionized at pH 10, the free energy of ionization at pH 14 would be greater than that at pH 11 by the entropy of dilution of the protons ( $RT \Delta \text{pH} = 1.4$  kcal/mol), and the contact angle would be lower at pH 14 than at 11. This continued drop in  $\theta_a$  above the point of full ionization is not observed for PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H or any material derived from it.

The remaining factors that might plausibly contribute to the decrease in  $\theta_a$  on ionization may all be important. Changes in  $\Delta P$  on ionization of an interfacial group are likely to be important for many of the materials studied. Changes in  $\gamma_{SV}$  and  $\gamma_{SL}$  on ionization may also be important, although the monolayer studies indicate that  $\cos \theta_{CO_2H} = \cos \theta_{CO_2^-} = 1$ , and our first-order analysis (eq 3-10) suggests that interfaces containing these two functional groups should not be distinguishable by contact angle. In fact, both the relationship between  $\tau$  and  $\theta_a$  (Figure 19) and the relationship between  $\cos \theta_a$ , pH 1 and  $\Delta \cos \theta_a$  (Figures 10, 16, 13) suggest that the influence of a particular functional group on the interfacial free energy may depend on its environment, and conclusions drawn from the

monolayer system may not be directly applicable to PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H.

Certainly, qualitatively, the hydrophilicity of the CO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> group is greater than that of a CO<sub>2</sub>H group, and the wettability of the interface follows the same order.

5) The supposition that in an interface containing a number of different functional groups, the contribution of each group towards the wetting properties can be considered additive and independent (eq 5, 6) provides a valuable starting point for analysis and leads to a qualitatively revealing physical model of wetting, but may be incorrect in many situations.



## Experimental

General. All solvents were reagent grade and were used as received. Water was distilled in a Corning Model AG-1b glass distillation apparatus. XPS spectra were determined on a Physical Electronics Model 548 spectrometer (Mg  $K_{\alpha}$  X-ray source, 100-eV pass energy,  $10^{-3}$  to  $10^{-9}$  torr, instrument calibrated according to ASTM STP 599).

ATR-IR Measurements. Pieces of polyethylene film were cut to the size of the KRS-5 (thallium bromide/iodide,  $45^{\circ}$ ) crystal faces and pressed against the faces with an MIR (Perkin-Elmer) sample holder. Films treated with aqueous solution were dried in vacuum (60 min, 0.01 torr, room temperature) prior to contact with the KRS-5 crystal to prevent crystal damage and to eliminate peaks due to excess water from the spectrum. Rectangular pieces of thin cardboard the same size as the film pieces were inserted between the films and the steel sample holder to distribute the pressure on the film evenly. Spectra were obtained on a Perkin-Elmer Model 598 spectrometer.

Contact Angle Measurements. Contact angles were determined on a Ramé-Hart Model 100 contact angle goniometer equipped with an environmental chamber by estimating the tangent normal to the radius of the drop at the intersection between the sessile drop and the surface. These values were determined 5-20 sec after application of the drop. The humidity in the chamber was maintained at 100% by filling the wells in the sample chamber with distilled water. The temperature was not controlled and varied between 20 and 25  $^{\circ}$ C. The volume of the drop used was always 1  $\mu$ L. Polyethylene samples were cut to a size of 0.5 x 2 cm and attached by the back of the sample to

a glass slide using two-sided Scotch tape to keep the sample flat. All values reported are the average of at least eight measurements taken at different locations on the film surface and have a maximum error in the mean of  $\pm 3^\circ$ . The pH profiles were fully reversible on the interfaces after removing the drops from the interfaces by washing with distilled water, and drying in air. Some samples, such as PE[CONHNHCOCF<sub>3</sub>] could be imagined to hydrolyze at high pH. None of the titration curves are dominated by such reactions, as shown by treating the interfaces with base for a few seconds (the time necessary to determine  $\theta_a$ ) and then re-determining  $\theta_a$  at low pH. The buffers used (0.05 M) were as follows: pH 1, 0.1 N HCl; pH 2, maleic acid; pH 3, tartaric acid; pH 4, succinic acid; pH 5, acetic acid; pH 6, maleic acid; pH 7 and 8, HEPES; pH 9 and 10, CHES; pH 11, 4-aminobutyric acid; pH 12, phosphate; pH 13, 0.1 N NaOH; other buffers<sup>4</sup> were substituted with no apparent differences in  $\theta_a$ .

$\pi$  Values for Interfacial Functional Groups. The functional group  $\pi$  values used in determining the  $\pi^*$  values for the interfaces were obtained from the literature.<sup>21</sup> In many cases, the  $\pi$  value for the exact functional groups were not available. In some cases, estimates were made for  $\pi$  based on the functional groups present. This averaging was only used for interfaces of the type PE[CONHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>R]. The  $\pi$  value estimated for this functional group was the numerical average of  $\pi$  for the secondary amide (-1.27) and the functional group R. While the results of this averaging are probably only approximations to the values that would be obtained in actual experiments, the values appeared to be useful in understanding the wetting properties of these types of surfaces. A second type of

deviation from the strict use of  $\pi$  values for the functional groups was used in the case of the very long hydrocarbon or fluorinated hydrocarbon chains of surface esters. Although the length of an ester would clearly influence  $\pi$ , it would probably not influence  $\theta_a$  above a certain length because only a portion of the chain would be exposed at the edge of the surface. For this reason,  $\pi$  was estimated to be 0.55 for the methyl surface resulting from PE[CO<sub>2</sub>C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>] ( $\pi = 0.55$  for -CH<sub>3</sub>). Similarly,  $\pi$  was estimated to be 0.38 for PE[CH<sub>2</sub>OCOC<sub>7</sub>F<sub>15</sub>] ( $\pi = 0.38$  for -CF<sub>3</sub>). Other values of  $\pi$  used in this work were: -CO<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>, 0.55 (estimate); -CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, 0.51; >CH<sub>2</sub>, 0; -CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, -0.01; -CONHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>, -0.19 (avg); -CONHCH<sub>2</sub>-pyridine, -0.48 (avg); -CONH-pyridine, -0.48 (avg); >C=O, -0.55; -OH, -1.13; -CONHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NHCOCF<sub>3</sub>, -0.60 (avg); -CO<sub>2</sub>H, -0.72; -OSO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, -0.88; -CONHCH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H, -1.0 (avg); -NHSO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, -1.18, -CONHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH, -1.2 (avg); -CONH<sub>2</sub>, -1.23; -NH<sub>2</sub>, -1.23; -CONHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NHSO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, -1.23 (avg); -CONHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, -1.25 (avg); -CONHCH<sub>3</sub>, -1.27; -CONHNH<sub>2</sub>, -1.92; -CONHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>, -2.73 (avg); -glucose, -2.8; -CONHCH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>, -2.82 (avg); -CONHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, -3.02 (avg); -NH<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>, -4.19; -CO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>, -4.36; -SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, -4.8.

Polyethylene (PE-H) (Film 1). Low-density biaxially blown polyethylene film (100  $\mu$ m thick,  $\rho = 0.92$  g/mL) was a gift from Flex-O-Glass, Inc (Flex-O-Film DRT-600B). The film was cut into 10 x 10 cm squares. These were extracted by suspending the film in refluxing CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> for 24 h to remove antioxidants and other additives present in the film. The removal of additives could be monitored using the carbonyl region of the ATR-IR spectrum. Prior to extraction, a peak at 1650 cm<sup>-1</sup> was present. This peak was eliminated by the

extraction. The samples were dried under vacuum (20 °C, 0.01 torr, 4 h) or in air (20 °C, 4 h) prior to oxidation to allow residual solvent to evaporate. Samples that were not oxidized immediately were stored under dry argon. In all cases, experiments were performed on the side of the film facing the inside of the stock roll.

$PE-CO_2H = PE[>C=O][CO_2H]$  (Film A4). PE-H was oxidized by floating on  $H_2SO_4/H_2O/CrO_3$  (29/42/29; w/w/w) at 72 °C for 60 s. These samples were rinsed 4 times in distilled water and once in acetone, dried in air for 1 h, and stored under dry argon. The samples are indistinguishable from PE-H to the unaided eye. The samples had a peak in the ATR-IR at  $1710\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

$PE[>CHOH][CO_2H]$  (Film A10) Derivatives. A solution of 4 g of  $NaBH_4$  (98%, Alfa) in 100 mL of 0.1 N NaOH was heated to 50 °C. PE- $CO_2H$  was added and stirred for 2 h, removed, and immersed in 1 N HCl for 10 min. The film was rinsed in water, 1 N HCl, 3 times in distilled water, and once each in methanol and methylene chloride. At the resolution employed, the XPS spectrum was indistinguishable from that of PE- $CO_2H$ . The contact angle with water (pH 1) was  $54^\circ$  and the sample had a new ATR-IR peak at  $3350\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . In order to form  $PE[>CHOCOR][CO_2H]$ ,  $PE[>CHOH][CO_2H]$  was treated with neat trifluoroacetic anhydride (or lauroyl chloride, both Aldrich) for 13 h at room temp. The films were then rinsed in water (4 times), methanol (twice) and dried in the air to form  $PE[>CHOCOCF_3][CO_2H]$  (Film A2) (or  $PE[>CHOCOC_{11}H_{23}][CO_2H]$  (Film A1). To generate  $PE[>CHOCOCH_2CH_2CO_2H][CO_2H]$  (Film A7),  $PE[>CHOH][CO_2H]$  was treated with 30 mL of acetone containing 10 g of succinic anhydride and 1 mL of

triethylamine for 1 h. The film was rinsed in acetone, water, and then methanol before being air dried.

$\text{PE}[\text{>CHOH}][\text{CH}_2\text{OH}] = \text{PE}[\text{CH}_2\text{OH}]$  (Film 13) and Derivatives. PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H was treated with excess 1 M BH<sub>3</sub>-THF (Aldrich) at 50 °C for 20 h under argon. The films were rinsed twice in water, soaked in 1 N HCl for 5 min and rinsed 3 times in water. The carbonyl ATR-IR peaks were absent and a new peak appeared at 3350 cm<sup>-1</sup>. In order to keep the nomenclature as brief as possible, derivatives of PE[>CHOH][CH<sub>2</sub>OH] are often shown as derivatives of PE[CH<sub>2</sub>OH], and it should be assumed that the secondary hydroxy groups are similarly derivatized. In order to generate PE[CH<sub>2</sub>OCO(CF<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>] (Films 15-17), PE[CH<sub>2</sub>OH] was allowed to react with neat [CF<sub>3</sub>(CF<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>CO]<sub>2</sub>O (Lancaster Synthesis, just enough to cover the film) for 18 h at room temp. The films were rinsed 5 times in methanol, twice in acetone, and twice in water. The ATR-IR spectrum (n = 0) showed new peaks at 1790 (CF<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>R), 1165, and 1225 (C-F) cm<sup>-1</sup>. PE[CH<sub>2</sub>OH] was allowed to react with stearic acid chloride (Fluka, 5 g) in acetone (50 mL) containing 5 mL of triethylamine for 18 h. The film was removed, rinsed in methanol, water, acetone, and hexane, and dried in air to form PE[CH<sub>2</sub>OCO(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>16</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>] (Film 14). Alternatively, to form PE[CH<sub>2</sub>OCOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H] (Film A6), PE[CH<sub>2</sub>OH] was treated with 30 mL of acetone containing 10 g of succinic anhydride and 1 mL of triethylamine for 1 h. The film was rinsed in acetone, water, and then methanol before being dried in air. PE[CH<sub>2</sub>OH] was allowed to react with a saturated acetone solution of 1,2,4,5-benzenetetracarboxylic acid anhydride for 2 h at room temp. The film was removed, rinsed in acetone, methylene chloride, 0.1 N NaOH for 10 min, water, and acetone, and dried in air to form

PE[CH<sub>2</sub>OCOC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>(CO<sub>2</sub>H)<sub>3</sub>] (1,3,4) (Film A11). Finally, PE[CH<sub>2</sub>OH] was allowed to react with neat perfluoroglutaric anhydride (Lancaster Synthesis, just enough to cover the film) for 1 h at room temp. The film was removed, rinsed in methanol (3 times), water once, and dried in air to form PE[CH<sub>2</sub>OCOCF<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H] (Film A13).

PE[COCl]. PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H was soaked in 30 mL of dry diethyl ether containing 3 g of PCl<sub>5</sub> for 1 h at room temperature. The film was quickly removed and used immediately without workup to minimize hydrolysis of the acid chloride groups by ambient water vapor.

PE[CO<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>n</sub>H]. For n ≤ 14, PE[COCl] was immersed in the appropriate neat liquid polyethylene glycol. Lower n values were the pure compounds (n = 1 and 2 were obtained from Fisher; n = 3 and 4 were obtained from Aldrich). The higher n values were mixtures of different molecular weight, and the reported n values are indicative of the average molecular weights (n = 5, 7, 10, and 14 were all obtained from Aldrich). After 1 h the films were removed, rinsed 7 times in water and once in acetone, and allowed to dry in air. For n > 14 the reactions were carried out similarly in 20% polymer (Aldrich)/30% acetone mixtures.

PE[CONH<sub>2</sub>] (Film 4). PE[COCl] was put directly into concentrated NH<sub>4</sub>OH for 20 min, rinsed in water (5 times) and methanol (twice), and then dried in air. ATR-IR showed new peaks at 1400 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C-N stretch), 3150 cm<sup>-1</sup> (NH), 1560 cm<sup>-1</sup> (NH), and 1660 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C=O/NH); XPS N/O ratio = 0.58.

PE[CHOH][CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>] (Film N2) and Derivatives. PE[CONH<sub>2</sub>] was treated with 1 M LiAlH<sub>4</sub> in refluxing diethyl ether (Aldrich, 1 M LiAlH<sub>4</sub> in ether) for 13 h. After the film was rinsed in water (4

times) and methanol (once), its surface appeared cloudy. The film was soaked in conc HCl for 10 min and rinsed in water (3 times) and methanol (twice). After repeating the HCl treatment, the film was again clear. ATR-IR showed new peaks at  $3350\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $-\text{NH}_2$  and  $-\text{OH}$ ) and  $1640\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $-\text{NH}_2$ ). The peak at  $1560\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $-\text{NH}$  of  $-\text{CONH}_2$ ) had disappeared. (Note: This film has a foul, fishy smell. This smell may be  $\text{PH}_3$  or some other toxic phosphorus compound derived from the reaction between residual  $\text{PCl}_5$  in the film and  $\text{LiAlH}_4$ . Appropriate caution should be exercised.) In order to generate  $\text{PE}[\text{>CHOSO}_2\text{CH}_3][\text{CH}_2\text{NHSO}_2\text{CH}_3]$  (Film N3),  $\text{PE}[\text{>CHOH}][\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2]$  was treated with 5 mL of neat  $\text{CH}_3\text{SO}_2\text{Cl}$  containing 1 mL of triethylamine for 1 min (Note: the triethylamine was added slowly and carefully). The film was rinsed several times in water, once in methanol, and dried in air.  $\text{PE}[\text{>CHOCOCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CO}_2\text{H}][\text{CH}_2\text{CONHCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CO}_2\text{H}]$  (Film A5) was generated by reacting  $\text{PE}[\text{>CHOH}][\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2]$  with succinic anhydride (10 g) in acetone (50 mL) containing 1 mL of triethylamine for 1 h at room temp. The film was removed, rinsed in acetone (3 times), water, and acetone, and dried in air.  $\text{PE}[\text{>CHOH}][\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2]$  was allowed to react with 100 mg of dansyl chloride (Sigma) in acetone (10 mL) for 10 s. At that point 0.5 mL of aqueous  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  (sat.) was added and the film was removed after 30 s. The film was rinsed in methanol (5 times), water, and acetone, and dried in air to form  $\text{PE}[\text{>CHOH}][\text{CH}_2\text{NH-dansyl}]$  (Film N6).

$\text{PE}[\text{>C=O}][\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2]$  (Film N1).  $\text{PE-CO}_2\text{H}$  was put into a mixture of 100 mL of chloroform, 25 mL of concentrated sulfuric acid, and 1 g of  $\text{NaN}_3$  (Kodak). The mixture was stirred at  $50\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  for 1 h, and the film was removed. The sample was rinsed in water, acetone, water, acetone, and ether, and dried in air. ATR-IR peaks:  $1120\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C-N);  $1640\text{ cm}^{-1}$

(NH<sub>2</sub>); 3350 cm<sup>-1</sup> (NH). Upon reaction with lauroyl chloride (3 min in neat reagent) the film become hydrophobic ( $\theta_a > 100^\circ$ ).

PE[CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>] (Film 13). The methyl ester has been made by three different methods with the resulting interfaces being indistinguishable.<sup>4</sup> Here, PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H was stirred for 13 h in 500 mL of anhydrous methanol containing 75 mL of sulfuric acid at 40 °C. The film was rinsed twice in methanol, 3 times with distilled water, and once in acetone. For all three methods, ATR-IR spectra showed a new peak at 1740 cm<sup>-1</sup> and no -CO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> peak (1560 cm<sup>-1</sup>) after treatment with 1 N NaOH, indicating complete reaction.

PE[CO<sub>2</sub>R]. The ethyl, 2-bromoethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, s-butyl, n-hexyl, and n-octyl esters (Films 19-25) were made by soaking PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H in the appropriate anhydrous alcohol (50 mL) containing sulfuric acid (10 mL) at 40 °C for 18 h (for ethyl and bromoethyl) or 72 h. The films were worked up as for PE[CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>]. Alternatively, the propyl ester was made by putting PE[COCl] in propan-1-ol for 30 min and rinsing once with methanol, twice with water, and once with acetone.

PE[CONHNNH<sub>2</sub>] (Film M8) and Derivatives. PE[CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>] was heated at 50 °C in 95% NH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> (Eastman) for 1 h. The film was rinsed three times in methanol and twice in water. The ATR-IR spectrum showed a new peak at 1650 cm<sup>-1</sup>. This material (PE[CONHNNH<sub>2</sub>]) was put into 50 mL of THF containing 10 mL of lauroyl chloride and 0.2 mL of triethylamine. After 42 h, the film was removed, rinsed in methanol, water, acetone, and hexane, and dried in air to form PE[CONHNNHCOC<sub>11</sub>H<sub>23</sub>] (Film 10). Alternatively, PE[CONHNNH<sub>2</sub>] was stirred for 13 h in 10 mL of THF containing 0.2 g of tetrafluorosuccinic



anhydride (K and K Chemicals) at room temp. The film was removed, rinsed in THF, methanol, water, and acetone, and dried in air to form PE[CONHNHCOCF<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H] (Film A12). In order to form PE[CONHNHCOCF<sub>3</sub>] (Film R2), PE[CONHNH<sub>2</sub>] was stirred in 10 mL of THF containing 0.5 mL of [CF<sub>3</sub>CO]<sub>2</sub>O and 0.2 mL of triethylamine for 18 h at room temp, followed by rinsing in THF, methanol, water, and acetone, and drying in air.

PE[CONHR]. PE[CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>] was soaked in the appropriate, neat, commercially obtained amine for 4 weeks at room temperature. The samples were soaked for several h in water and/or methanol to remove excess amine reactant from the film. The samples were then rinsed in methanol and dried in air. Samples made in this manner were those derived from 2-aminoethanol (MCB, Film 3); N-(2-aminoethyl)morpholine (Lancaster Synthesis, Film M4); N-(2-aminoethyl)pyrrolidine (Lancaster Synthesis, Film M3); 4-(aminomethyl)pyridine (Alfa, Film M5); aminomethylcyclohexane (Lancaster Synthesis, Film 9); N,N-dimethylethylenediamine (Aldrich, Film M1); N,N'-dimethylethylenediamine (Alfa, Film M2); 1,7-dimethyl-4-heptylamine (Lancaster Synthesis, Film 3), 2-aminoethanol (MCB, Film), ethylenediamine (Fisher; this reaction is one approach to N4); and 4-heptylamine (Lancaster Synthesis, Film 7).

PE[CONHR']. PE[COCl] was put into aqueous solutions (unless otherwise specified) containing the appropriate amine-containing substances for 5 min. The samples were rinsed in water (4 times) followed by methanol (once), and dried in air. Surfaces made in this manner include those derived from commercially obtained p-aminobenzoic acid (Eastman, Film A9, 50 mL of acetone containing 5 mL of

triethylamine); aminoethanethiol (Aldrich, Film R1, 30%, pH 8.3); 2-aminoethylphosphonic acid (Sigma, Film R5, 50 mg (sat.) in 5 mL of methanol with 0.2 mL of triethylamine); 2-aminoethyl phosphate (Alfa, Film R6, 1 g in 5 mL of methanol with 0.5 mL of triethylamine); 2-aminoethyl hydrogen sulfate (Sigma, saturated in 5 mL of methanol with 0.5 mL of triethylamine, Film 28); o-aminophenol (Baker, Film R4, saturated); m-aminophenylboronic acid (Film R3, 0.5 g of free base (Alfa) in 5 mL of methanol with 0.5 mL of triethylamine); 4-aminopyridine (Sigma, Film N7, saturated solution); aniline (Fisher, neat, Film 11); aspartic acid (Film A3, 0.5 M at pH 10 (NaOH)); dansyl cadaverine (Sigma, Film M7, 50 mg in 10 mL of methanol with 0.5 mL of triethylamine); ethylenediamine (Fisher, this reaction is one approach to N4, neat; the  $\text{CF}_3\text{CO}-$  and  $\text{CH}_3\text{SO}_2$  derivatives of this surface (N5 and N6) were made as for  $\text{PE}[\text{>CHOH}][\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2]$ ); glucosamine hydrochloride (Sigma, 2 M adjusted to pH 10 (NaOH), Film 2); glycine hydrochloride (Aldrich, Film A8, 2 M at pH 10 (NaOH)); methylamine (Eastman, 40% in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , Film 5); dimethylamine hydrochloride (Baker, 30% in 1 N NaOH, Film 6); n-octylamine (Eastman, neat, Film 12); taurine (Aldrich,  $\text{H}_2\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{SO}_3^-$ , saturated, pH 9.5, Film 27).

Monolayers. Monolayers were formed by adsorption of mixtures of  $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_{15}\text{SH}$  (0 to 1 mM) and  $\text{HO}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_2)_{15}\text{SH}$  (0 to 1 mM) from degassed absolute ethanol solution (20 mL) onto freshly evaporated gold surfaces for 12 h at room temperature. These gold surfaces were made by thermal evaporation of a 2000 Å thick layer of gold onto a 3" silicon wafer, with a thin (200 Å) intervening layer of chromium to increase adhesion between the gold and silicon. The monolayers were rinsed in water and ethanol prior to determination of  $\theta$ .

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- 16) It is also possible that  $\gamma_{SV}$  may change due to a reaction between the drop and the functional groups on the interface but beyond the drop edge. We have evidence that protons, for example, can migrate beyond the edge of a drop of aqueous acid and protonate basic species in the "solid-vapor" interface. Thus, formally, we should treat the functional groups on the outside of the drop (those that determine  $\gamma_{SV}$ ) as being also capable of reaction with reagents in the drop and consider the possibility that  $\gamma_{SV}^{pH}$  might to some extent also be a function of pH for interfaces with acidic or basic groups (such as PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H). This phenomenon is intrinsically a non-equilibrium one, and is difficult to treat realistically at the elementary level of this paper. We note that the possibility of reaction between groups in the interface beyond the edge of the drop and reagents in the drop may not be general. Details concerning this phenomenon will be reported in a separate paper.
- 17) The term  $\underline{A}_i$  is not precisely defined. The average projected area of a functional group might be suitable at this level of complexity. In this paper,  $\underline{A}_i$  takes the place of  $3_i$ , which we used in previous papers.<sup>4-6</sup> For related discussions see: Cassie, A. B. D. Discuss. Faraday Soc. 1948, 3, 11-16.

13) The result of this integration  $[nRT \ln (1 - \alpha_i)]$  assumes that the interfacial acid groups follow the relation

$$pK_a = pH - \log \frac{\alpha_i}{1 - \alpha_i}$$
. PE-CO<sub>2</sub>H has been shown not to follow this simple relation.<sup>4</sup> It also assumes no change in bulk pH on ionization: that is, that the pH of the drop is buffered.

19) To formulate a prediction from eq 16, three parameters must be known or estimated:  $\cos \theta_{pH}$ ; n, the number of surface groups per cm<sup>2</sup>;  $\alpha_i$ , the extent of ionization as a function of pH.<sup>13</sup>

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22) The relationship between the mw of attached polymers and  $\underline{A}$  is decidedly unclear. Whether  $\underline{A}$  even increases as the mw increases depends on whether the polymeric chains are extended into the solution or coiled up into a ball.

23) PE[>CHOH][CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>] was allowed to react with poly(acrylic acid chloride) (in acetone solution containing triethylamine for 13 h), followed by rinsing in basic water. Observed values of  $\alpha_a$  were pH 1, 53%; pH 13, 30%;  $pK_{1/2} = 7$ .

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- 25) We will shortly publish details of the characterization of these thiol monolayers.
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- 32) We believe that the extended all trans methylene chains of these monolayers each occupy approximately 20-25 Å<sup>2</sup> of the surface and that the volume at the terminal end of the chain is occupied by the methyl or carboxylic acid group. Thus, the effective area occupied by each of these groups is similar, even though a carboxylic acid group is slightly larger than a methyl group.

- 33) These differences may stem from different causes of the change in  $\theta_a$  with pH.  $A_p$ ,  $\gamma_{SV}^{pH}$ ,  $\gamma_{SL}^{pH}$ ,  $\gamma_R^{pH}$  and interfacial swelling may all contribute, in different proportions, to the change in  $\theta_a$  on ionization in these surfaces.
- 34) A contact angle of  $0^\circ$  on a pure  $CO_2H$  surface should be accompanied by the adsorption of a significant amount of water at the interface, a prediction confirmed by measurement of hexadecane contact angles. At 100% relative humidity, hexadecane beads on a  $CO_2H$  surface ( $\theta_a = 35-40^\circ$ ) even though it wets the surface at ambient humidity (30-70%). If the relative humidity is allowed to decrease, a point is reached where the adsorbed aqueous film evaporates and the hexadecane drop suddenly spreads. Since hexadecane wets neither a pure methyl surface ( $\theta_a = 47^\circ$ ) nor a pure acid surface ( $\theta_a \approx 35^\circ$ ) at 100% RH, the model developed for polyethylene would predict that hexadecane should bead at all intermediate surface compositions. In fact, a 30% acid surface is wet by hexadecane at all relative humidities. This result militates strongly against island formation and suggests that for monolayer systems the different components of the interface cannot be treated entirely as being independent.
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37) This empirical value for  $\underline{C}$  also allows  $\sigma_{IL}$  to be evaluated if  $\underline{K}_{IL}$  is known. If we assume the interface contains  $10^{15}$  groups/cm<sup>2</sup> (equivalent to the packing density in a stearic acid crystal multiplied by a roughness factor of 2),<sup>30</sup> then  $\underline{K}_{IL} \approx 0.0144$  (kcal/mol)(erg/cm<sup>2</sup>)<sup>-1</sup>. Using  $\underline{K}_{IL} = 0.0144$  and  $C = -1.12$ , we calculate (eq 19)  $\sigma_{IL} = 0.9$ . This value is within our expected error (arising primarily in assuming a value for the surface roughness) of 1.

The change in the interfacial free energy,  $\gamma_{SL}$ , between pH = 1 and pH = 11 is only 0.4 kcal/mol if  $\gamma_{SV}$  is assumed to pH-independent. This energy change is small compared with the free energy of ionization,  $\Delta G_i$ , for  $RCO_2H$  (pH = 1)  $\rightarrow$   $RCO_2^-$  (pH = 11) +  $H^+$ : approximately 5 kcal/mol for a  $pK_a$  of 7.5.

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