

# CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. INTRODUCTION   | 1  |
| 1.1 Glass transition and slow dynamics                        | 1  |
| 1.2 Present trend   | 3  |
| 1.2.1 Classification of liquid and fragility                  | 3  |
| 1.2.2 Relaxation modes  | 4  |
| 1.2.3 Dielectric and calorimetric measurements                | 5  |
| 1.3 Aim of this thesis  | 6  |
| 1.3.1 Alcohols and hydrogen bonding                           | 6  |
| 1.3.2 Organization of this thesis                             | 7  |
| 2. THEORY OF GLASS TRANSITION AND SLOW DYNAMICS               | 8  |
| 2.1 Free volume theory  | 9  |
| 2.1.1 Vogel-Tammann-Fulcher (VTF) law                         | 9  |
| 2.1.2 Molecular weight effect on glass transition temperature | 10 |
| 2.2 Adam-Gibbs theory - Configurational entropy model         | 13 |
| 2.2.1 Transition probability                                  | 13 |
| 2.2.2 Critical size of CRR                                    | 14 |
| 2.2.3 VTF equation  | 15 |
| 2.3 Domain model  | 17 |
| 2.3.1 Domain and conformer                                    | 17 |
| 2.3.2 Derivation of the VTF law                               | 19 |
| 2.4 Two order parameter model                                 | 20 |
| 2.4.1 Frustration of two order parameter                      | 20 |
| 2.4.2 Relaxation features                                     | 21 |
| 2.5 Mode coupling theory                                      | 23 |
| 3. EXPERIMENTS  | 24 |
| 3.1 Broadband dielectric spectroscopy                         | 25 |
| 3.1.1 Impedance analyzer                                      | 25 |
| 3.1.2 Time domain reflectometry (TDR)                         | 26 |
| 3.1.2.1 Basic theory of TDR                                   | 27 |
| 3.1.2.2 Difference method in TDR                              | 28 |
| 3.1.2.3 Real measurement by TDR                               | 29 |
| 3.1.2.4 Reflection from sample cell                           | 29 |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 3.2 Modulated differential scanning calorimetry (MDSC)        | 31 |
| 3.2.1 Frequency dependent heat capacity                       | 31 |
| 3.2.2 Modulated DSC (MDSC)                                    | 32 |
| 3.2.3. Experimental conditions                                | 33 |
| 3.3 Choice of materials                                       | 34 |
| <br>  |    |
| 4. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS                                       | 36 |
| 4. 1 Complex dielectric permittivity                          | 36 |
| 4.1.1 Dielectric spectra                                      | 36 |
| 4.1.1.1 Expression in frequency domain                        | 36 |
| 4.1.1.2 Expression in time domain                             | 37 |
| 4.1.1.3 Relationship between HN and KWW functions             | 38 |
| 4.1.2 Dielectric strength                                     | 38 |
| 4.1.3 Temperature dependence of relaxation                    | 39 |
| 4.2 Complex heat capacity                                     | 40 |
| 4.3 Glass transition temperature                              | 40 |
| 4.5 Combination of Adam-Gibbs theory and the domain model     | 41 |
| <br>  |    |
| 5. DISCUSSION   | 43 |
| 5.1 Relaxations in n-Propanol, Propylene Glycol and Glycerol  | 44 |
| 5.1.1 Fragility of nPrOH, PG and Gly                          | 44 |
| 5.1.2 Summary   | 45 |
| 5.2 Differences in relaxational behaviors of propanol isomers | 46 |
| 5.2.1 Relaxational behaviors                                  | 47 |
| 5.2.2 Analysis using two order parameters model               | 49 |
| 5.2.3 Summary   | 51 |
| 5.3 Deuteration effect  | 52 |
| 5.3.1 Relaxation behaviors of deuterated propanols            | 52 |
| 5.3.2 Discussions on the origin of each relaxation process    | 56 |
| 5.3.3 Summary   | 57 |
| 5.4 Role of end group in glass transition and slow dynamics   | 58 |
| 5.4.1 Slow dynamics of PG and PGME monomers and oligomers     | 58 |
| 5.4.2 Fragility and glass transition temperature              | 59 |
| 5.4.3 Summary   | 61 |
| 5.5 Role of molecular weight                                  | 62 |
| 5.5.1 Results obtained from dielectric method                 | 63 |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 5.5.2 Cooperativity and domain size                           | 64 |
| 5.5.3 Domain size and non-exponentiality                      | 66 |
| 5.5.4 Results obtained from calorimetric method               | 66 |
| 5.5.5 Relationship between glass transition and slow dynamics | 67 |
| 5.5.6 Summary   | 68 |
| 6. CONCLUSIONS  | 69 |
| REFERENCES  |    |
| ACKNOWLEDGMENTS   |    |
| FIGURES   |    |