

15.31 (a) Yes, it is possible to determine which polymer has the higher melting temperature. The linear polyethylene will most likely have a higher percent crystallinity, and, therefore, a higher melting temperature than the branched polyethylene. The molecular weights of both materials are the same and, thus, molecular weight is not a consideration.

(b) Yes, it is possible to determine which polymer has the higher melting temperature. Of these two polytetrafluoroethylene polymers, the PTFE with the higher density (2.20 g/cm^3) will have the higher percent crystallinity, and, therefore, a higher melting temperature than the lower density PTFE. The molecular weights of both materials are the same and, thus, molecular weight is not a consideration.

(c) Yes, it is possible to determine which polymer has the higher melting temperature. The linear polyethylene will have the greater melting temperature inasmuch as it will have a higher degree of crystallinity; polymers having a syndiotactic structure do not crystallize as easily as those polymers having identical single-atom side groups. With regard to molecular weight, or rather, degree of polymerization, it is about the same for both materials (8000), and therefore, is not a consideration.

(d) No, it is not possible to determine which of the two polymers has the higher melting temperature. The syndiotactic polypropylene will have a higher degree of crystallinity than the atactic material. On the basis of this effect alone, the syndiotactic PP should have the greater T_m , since melting temperature increases with degree of crystallinity. However, the molecular weight for the syndiotactic polypropylene (500,000 g/mol) is less than for the atactic material (750,000 g/mol); and this factor leads to a lowering of the melting temperature