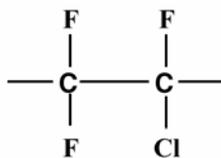


15.18 The strength of a polychlorotrifluoroethylene having the repeat unit structure



will be greater than for a polytetrafluoroethylene having the same molecular weight and degree of crystallinity. The replacement of one fluorine atom within the PTFE repeat unit with a chlorine atom leads to a higher interchain attraction, and, thus, a stronger polymer. Furthermore, poly(vinyl chloride) is stronger than polyethylene (Table 15.1) for the same reason.