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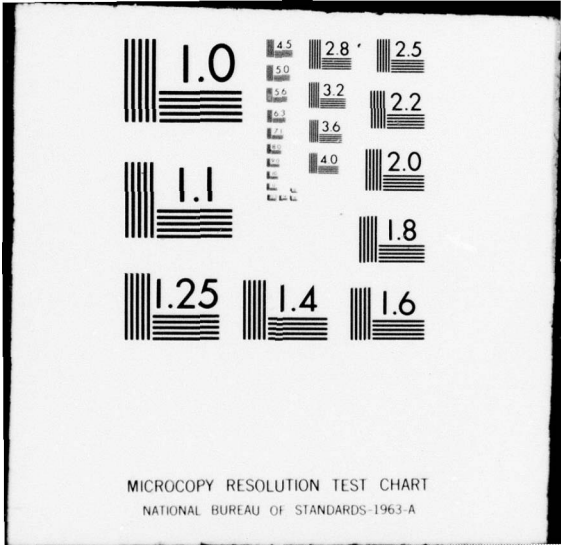
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SOLIDIFICATION OF BOUNDARY LUBRICANT FILMS

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TECHNICAL REPORT AFAPL-TR-78-111  
Final Report - **APRIL 1977 - OCTOBER 1978**

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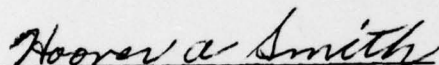
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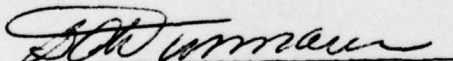


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1. The following corrections have been made to report AFAPL-TR-78-111, "Solidification of Boundary Lubricant Films."

- a. Front cover: Final report date is Apr 77 to Oct 78
- b. DD Form 1473, Block 5: Final report date is 15 Apr 77 to 15 Oct 78

2. Please note these corrections on your copy/copies of this report.

*H. A. Smith*  
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20. ABSTRACT (Continued)

simulated bearing surface were studied by coating the diamond windows with a thin layer of iron. In these experiments the formation of an iron salt of lauric acid was followed by infrared spectroscopy. This work demonstrates conclusively the power of this new experimental technique for studying chemical reactions at interfaces not only of model lubricants but also lubricants and additives of practical interest.

PREFACE

This technical report was prepared by the Chemistry Department of the Columbus Laboratories of the Battelle Memorial Institute. The work described herein was sponsored by the Air Force Aero Propulsion Laboratory (AFAPL), Air Force Systems Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, under contract No. F33615-77-C-2026 for the period 15 April 1977 to 15 October 1978. This work was accomplished under Project 2303, Task 2303S3, Work Unit No. 2303S302.

At the beginning of the program Mr. C. M. Allen was principal investigator. Upon Mr. Allen's retirement on 1 October 1977, Dr. E. Drauglis became principal investigator. Mr. R. J. Jakobsen was responsible for the infrared spectroscopy data. Mr. C. J. Riggle also made substantial technical contributions to the work.

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## SUMMARY

In this research lauric acid, dodecane, solutions of lauric acid in dodecane and a diester E-105 have been studied in a diamond window high pressure cell. Melting and crystallization behavior were studied as functions of pressure, temperature, time, and solution composition, by means of visual microscopic observation and Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy. Of greatest immediate significance with respect to the development of improved lubricating fluids, are the experiments in which chemical reactions at a simulated bearing surface were studied by coating the diamond windows with a thin layer of iron. In these experiments the formation of an iron salt of lauric acid was followed by infrared spectroscopy. This work demonstrates conclusively the power of this new experimental technique for studying chemical reactions at interfaces not only of model lubricants but also lubricants and additives of practical interest.

In experiments performed in a non-metalized diamond cell, dodecane and lauric acid-dodecane solutions were found to crystallize over a pressure range of approximately 4 kbar. The crystallization pressure did not vary to a measurable degree with solution concentration but showed the expected increase with increasing temperature. However, the most concentrated solution (10 percent by weight) exhibited individual crystallization of first the lauric acid and then the dodecane within the pressure range.

The melting behavior of the lauric acid-dodecane solutions did show a dependence on lauric acid concentration. With decreasing pressures, 1 percent solutions gave no indication of partial melting or loss of long-range order until the solution melted sharply at about 2 kbar. On the other hand, 5 percent solutions showed signs of partial melting and loss of long-range order with total melting occurring at about 3 kbar. In the case of the 10 percent solutions, partial melting of dodecane was observed in the 10 to 5 kbar range, followed by the melting of the lauric acid. By the time the pressure was lowered to 4 kbar, both components had completely melted. The 10 percent solution did not show any long-range order in the solid state although some order was observed in the solid 1 percent and 5 percent solutions and in solid dodecane.

Studies of a 10 percent lauric acid-dodecane solutions at constant pressure showed marked spectral changes with time before solidification could be observed visually. These spectral changes are similar to those observed in the crystallization of lauric acid and indicate aggregation of lauric acid in the solution. Some time after these changes were observed, the lauric acid was observed to crystallize and later the dodecane solidified. This study indicates that aggregation of lauric acid in solution is similar to the formation of crystallites. Studies were also made of a diester E-105 (diethylhexyl adipate) and 1 percent solutions of tricresyl phosphate in E-105. No crystallization was observed even at pressures up to 20 kbar.

Preliminary experiments on 10 percent lauric acid-dodecane solutions in a diamond cell with iron-coated windows showed that a chemical reaction occurs between the iron and the lauric acid which results in the formation of iron laurate. This was demonstrated spectroscopically by observing that the intensity of the acid C=O band decreased with time as a new band characteristic of COO- vibrations in a carboxylate group appeared. Eventually the acid C=O band disappeared totally indicating that all of the lauric acid had reacted. The final intensity of the carboxylate band indicated the formation of an iron laurate film of thickness greater than a monolayer. These preliminary experiments show that the use of Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy on systems contained in a metallized diamond cell is a technique of great potential for studying chemical reactions at interfaces as a function of pressure, temperature and composition. In particular, the technique offers exciting new possibilities into obtaining a fundamental understanding of the mechanism by which lubricant additives help to form protective films.

## SECTION I

### INTRODUCTION

To better meet the lubricant requirements for future aero-propulsion systems, the Aero Propulsion Laboratory some time ago supported a program at Battelle's Columbus Laboratories (BCL) which was aimed at developing a more fundamental understanding of the physics and chemistry of boundary lubrication.<sup>(1)</sup> The basic working hypothesis of this program was that boundary lubrication must be attributed to relatively thick films (as much as hundreds of angstroms thick) having chemical and physical properties significantly different from those of the bulk fluid. The anomalous properties of these so-called boundary films could be shown to be due to the presence of a high degree of long-range order<sup>(1,2)</sup>.

In order to test this hypothesis, Battelle workers devoted a great deal of effort to the development of techniques for the study of structure and order in boundary films. Success was obtained with a technique based on attenuated total reflection infrared spectroscopy with polarized radiation. In this technique the film to be investigated is deposited on an iron-coated germanium prism. Polarized infrared radiation is then transmitted through the prism, undergoing many reflections and interactions with the film. Spectra are obtained for several orientations of the polarization plane. By measuring and comparing the intensities of the various bands at different polarizations, one can determine the degree of order and average orientation angle of the molecules in the film. A series of experiments on hexadecane-stearic acid films supported the hypothesis that boundary films are highly ordered.

These results are very encouraging in that they demonstrate the possibility of long-range order even at low or zero loadings. At the extremely high loadings encountered in boundary lubricated systems it is expected that the degree of order would be even higher. Unfortunately, because of the relative fragility of germanium and other IR-transmitting materials, it is not possible to use the ATR technique to study films at high pressures; other techniques must be utilized.

After some background investigation, workers at Battelle decided to develop further the diamond anvil cell as a tool for the study of lubricants under high pressure. In this cell the material to be studied is placed between two opposed diamond faces mounted in separate pistons, one of which is movable. Force is transmitted to the diamond faces by means of a spring,

- 
- (1) Allen, C. M., Drauglis, E., Glaeser, W. A., Alexander, C. A., and Jakobsen, R. J., "Aircraft Propulsion Lubricating Film Additives: Boundary Surface Films" Report to Air Force Aero Propulsion Laboratory AFAPL-TR-73-121, Volume III, ADA029267, June, 1976.
  - (2) Allen, C. M. and Drauglis, E., "Boundary Lubrication: Monolayer or Multilayer", Wear, 14, 363 (1969).

screw and lever arm arrangement. For liquid specimens a gasket 1 to 5 mils thick is used to contain the material. The diameter of a specimen is on the order of 0.5 mm. This type of cell has been used to study pressure effects visually by means of optical microscopy (polarized and unpolarized) and by infrared spectroscopy.<sup>(3)</sup> In the past the usefulness of the apparatus has been severely limited because the low throughput of IR beams made it difficult to obtain good quality spectra. In the work performed at Battelle, this disadvantage was overcome by the use of a Fourier Transform infrared system and associated digital computer. Preliminary experiments performed on a polyphenyl ether and a solution of stearic acid in hexadecane produced results that indicated that the technique is capable of providing useful information on the properties of boundary lubricants at pressures as high as 100 kilobars.

Because of Battelle's success in these preliminary experiments, the diamond anvil cell technique was adopted as the principal experimental tool for the present program. It was expected that the information obtained on the high-pressure behavior of straight-chain hydrocarbons, fatty acids and solution of fatty acids in straight-chain hydrocarbons, along with studies of a typical diester lubricant, could be correlated with the results of the previous Aero Propulsion Laboratory program at Battelle. This should eventually lead to a more rational and systematic basis for the formulation of improved lubricants for use at the extreme conditions encountered by modern aerospace systems.

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(3) Ferraro, J. R., "High Pressure Vibrational Spectroscopy" in Spectroscopy in Inorganic Chemistry, Vol. II, p. 57, C.N.R. Rao and J. R. Ferraro, eds., Academic Press, New York, 1971.

SECTION II  
EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUE

Apparatus

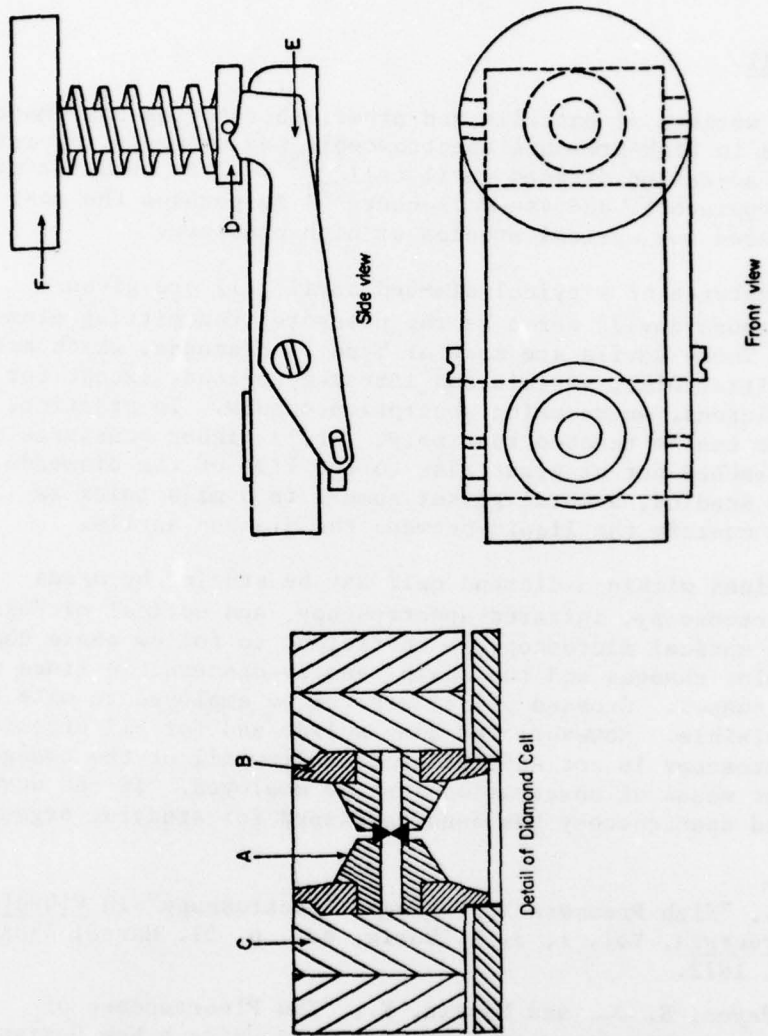
The Diamond Anvil Cell

In recent years workers at Battelle and other laboratories have made considerable progress in high-pressure spectroscopic measurements in various modifications of the so-called diamond anvil cell<sup>(4-8)</sup>. This cell, originally developed by Weir, Lippincott, and Van Valkenberg<sup>(7)</sup> is perhaps the most useful cell yet invented for optical studies at high pressure.

The essential features of a typical diamond anvil cell are given in Figure 1. The diamond anvils serve as the pressure transmitting elements as well as windows. These anvils are made of Type II diamonds, which are transparent in the ultraviolet, visible and infrared regions, except for the range 4 to 5.5 microns, where major absorption occurs. In practice, pressures of 100 kbar can be reached routinely. Still higher pressures up to 300 kbar may be reached but at great risk to the life of the diamonds. If liquids are to be studied, a metal gasket some 1 to 5 mils thick is commonly employed to contain the liquid between the diamond anvils.

Specimens contained within a diamond cell may be studied by means of X-rays, Raman spectroscopy, infrared spectroscopy, and optical microscopy. In some cases simple optical microscopy is sufficient to follow phase changes by observation of color changes and the sharp, easily discernible lines of demarcation between phases. Crossed polarizers can be employed to make the phase changes more visible. However, for some solids and for all organic liquids, optical microscopy is not sufficient to follow all of the changes that can occur; other means of observation must be employed. In the work at Battelle, infrared spectroscopy has been developed for studying organic

- 
- (4) Melveger, A. J., "High Pressure Vibrational Spectroscopy" in Vibrational Spectra and Structure, Vol. 1, J. R. Durig, ed., p. 51, Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, 1972.
  - (5) Adams, D. M., Payne, S. J., and Martin, K., "The Fluorescence of Diamond and Raman Spectroscopy at High Pressures Using a New Design of Diamond Anvil Cell", Applied Spectroscopy, 27, 377 (1973).
  - (6) Lauer, J. L., "High Pressure Infrared Interferometry" in Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy, J. R. Ferraro and L. J. Basil, eds. p. 169, Academic Press, New York, 1978.
  - (7) Ferraro, J. R. and Basile, L. J., "Spectroscopy at High Pressures-- Status Report and Update of Instrumental Techniques", Applied Spectroscopy, 28, 505 (1974).
  - (8) Adams, D. M., and Payne, S. J., "Vibrational Spectroscopy of Solids at High Pressures", Annual Reports on Progress of Chemistry, 69A, 3 (1972).



- A and B - Parts of Piston
- C - Hardened Steel Insert
- D - Presser Plate
- E - Lever
- F - Screw

Figure 1. Diamond Anvil High-Pressure Cell

materials in a diamond cell. The advantages of infrared are that it can give information about phase changes as well as changes in structure.

In the diamond anvil cell used at Battelle, the flat parts of the diamonds are only about 2 mm in diameter. When a metal gasket is used, the total area of the aperture is only on the order of 0.25 to 0.5 square mm. Because of this small aperture, a means of condensing the source infrared beams must be used. In the present work a 4X beam condenser designed and constructed by the Harrick Scientific Corporation was used.

### Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy

Even with an efficient beam condenser the amount of radiation passing through the aperture of a diamond anvil cell is so small that it is almost impossible to obtain satisfactory spectra with a conventional grating spectrometer. Fourier Transform Spectroscopy must be used. This type of spectroscopy differs from conventional dispersive infrared instruments in that the conventional spectrometer uses a monochromator to generate the spectral information whereas an interferometer is used for this purpose in FT-IR.<sup>(9)</sup> The use of an interferometer to obtain spectral information in the form of an interferogram (light intensity versus retardation) gives rise to a second difference between the two types of infrared spectroscopy, in that FT-IR systems use a dedicated computer to obtain the Fourier transform of the interferograms, converting them to the conventional infrared spectrum (light intensity versus wavelength or frequency). These two differences lead to the following major advantages of FT-IR over conventional IR systems:

- (1) Substantial gain in energy of light throughput as compared to a monochromator. This gain in energy leads to a tenfold gain in sensitivity.<sup>(9)</sup>
- (2) The ability to obtain complete spectra in a matter of seconds, enabling IR to be used in kinetic studies.
- (3) Major data-handling advantages. The dedicated computer used with Fourier Transform systems allows storage of both interferograms and spectra, which may then be arithmetically manipulated. (For example, spectra may be ratioed against each other, subtracted, or smoothed.)

If not for the gain in sensitivity available by use of FT-IR, most of the spectra in this project could not have been obtained. Moreover, the use of the dedicated computer to analyze the spectra resulted in great savings in time and effort in obtaining the desired information about phase changes.

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(9) Griffiths, P., Chemical Infrared Fourier Transform Spectroscopy, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1975.

## Procedures

### Sample Preparation

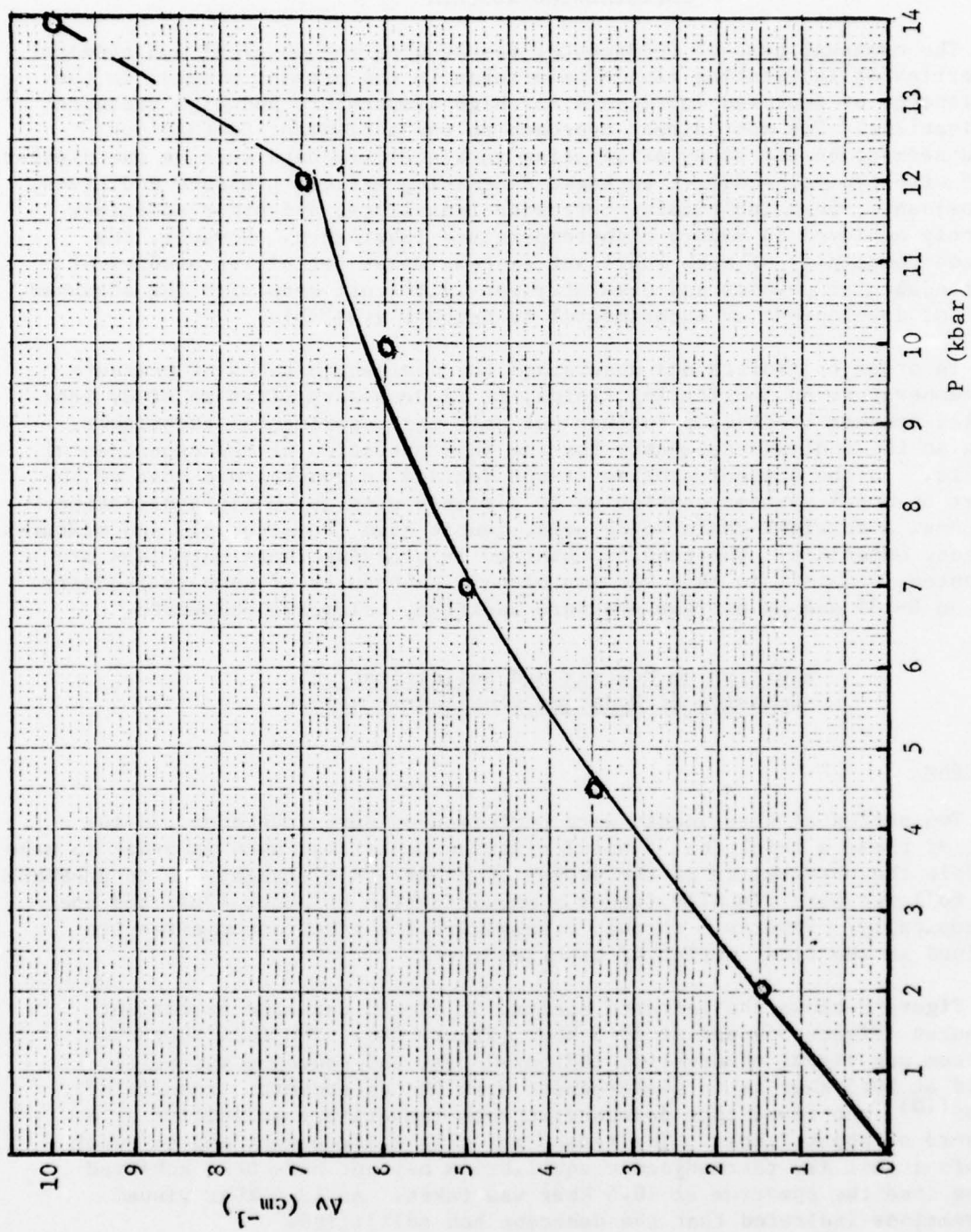
Both the samples of lauric acid and of dodecane were purchased commercially. Infrared spectra of these two samples did not give any evidence of impurities so the samples were used without further purification. The diester E-105 and the tricresyl phosphate (TCP) were obtained from the Aero Propulsion Laboratory and were used without further purification.

Stock solutions (by weight) of lauric acid in dodecane and of TCP in E-105 were prepared and stored. These stock solutions were used for the diamond cell solution experiments reported in the following sections.

### Pressure Calibration

Because of the small sample volume of a diamond anvil cell, it is not possible to determine pressure within the cell by use of pressure transducers. Perhaps the simplest alternative method is the measurement of geometrical parameters, such as lever arm advantage and diamond face areas (within the gasket, of course) and a calibration of the spring constant. However, this method has been shown to be inaccurate because the spring compression--usually expressed in terms of the number of the compressing screw turns--depends too much on gasket flow and hysteresis to be a reproducible pressure parameter<sup>(6)</sup>.

A far superior method of calibrating the cell has been developed by J. W. Brasch of the Naval Surface Weapons Center. This method is based on measuring the frequency shift of the  $660\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band of nitromethane. Mr. Brasch supplied us with pressure versus frequency data which he obtained by placing a very small ruby chip in a sample of nitromethane in a diamond anvil cell. The frequency shift of the ruby line has already been related to pressure by a group at the National Bureau of Standards headed by G. J. Piermarini. Then, determining the ruby frequency shifts and the  $660\text{ cm}^{-1}$  nitromethane frequency shifts, gives us a means of accurately determining pressures by relating the nitromethane frequency shifts to number of turns of the screw. The pressure calibration curve for the  $660\text{ cm}^{-1}$  nitromethane line is given in Figure 2.



( $\Delta\nu$  for the  $660 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  band of  $\text{CH}_3\text{NO}_2$  versus pressure)

Figure 2. Pressure Calibration Curve

## SECTION III

### EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

The eventual goal of fundamental research on the physical and chemical properties of lubricating fluids undertaken in the present program is the development of improved lubricants for high temperature and high pressure applications. The most direct approach to the attainment of this goal would seem to be the study of existing turbine lubricants such as the diester E-105 with typical additive packages containing extreme pressure additives, antioxidants, foam inhibitors, corrosion inhibitors, and other additives commonly employed in modern high-temperature lubricants. However, the extreme complexity of such lubricant systems makes definitive studies of the fundamental physics and chemistry very difficult even with the advanced state of development of experimental techniques available.

In order to isolate and understand the dominant effects of pressure and temperature on lubricating fluids, it is necessary first to study less complex systems to develop further not only the experimental techniques, but also the analysis necessary for the interpretation of the experimental results. In the present program it was decided to concentrate most of the effort on model systems consisting of a simple straight-chain hydrocarbon, dodecane, a straight-chain fatty acid, lauric acid (dodecanoic), and mixtures of these materials. The results obtained in studying these materials are presented in detail in this section along with results of some preliminary work on E-105 and an extreme pressure additive, tricresyl phosphate.

#### Equilibrium Melting and Solidification Behavior of Dodecane Plus Lauric Acid

##### Dodecane

Two series of experiments were performed on pure dodecane. In the first of these a thick (ca. 5 mils) platinum gasket was used in order to make possible the observation of the weaker IR bands. All changes due to pressure were followed both visually (under a magnification of about 100X) and spectroscopically. Figures 3 through 7 summarize the spectroscopic results obtained in the first series of experiments.

Figure 3 shows the infrared spectra of liquid dodecane at ambient pressures (Figure 3A) and at 10.5 kbar (Figure 3B). The fact that the spectrum and visual observation indicated that the dodecane was still liquid at 10.5 kbar is in disagreement with the dilatometric results of Nelson<sup>(10)</sup>, who found that dodecane at room temperature solidifies at a pressure of about 2 kbar. The reason for this disagreement may be supercompression; that is, thermodynamic equilibrium may not have been achieved at the time the spectrum at 10.5 kbar was taken. At 13.5 kbar visual observations indicated that the dodecane had solidified.

(10) Snyder, R. G., "Vibrational Study of the Chemical Conformation of the Liquid n-Paraffins and Molten Polyethylene", J. Chem. Phys., 47, 1316 (1967).

Comparison of the spectra of Figures 3A and 3B indicates that there is little change in liquid dodecane with increasing pressure. This is further illustrated in Figure 4A which shows the results of subtracting the spectrum of Figure 3A from that of Figure 3B. From this difference spectrum it can be seen that the only effects of increasing pressure on liquid dodecane are a slight increase in the  $\text{CH}_2$  bending frequency near  $1455 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and an increase in the intensity of the  $\text{CH}_2$  rock-twist frequency near  $715 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . However, comparison of the spectra of Figures 3B and 3C indicates that solidification brings about more pronounced changes. These changes are illustrated in Figure 4B which shows the results of subtracting the spectrum of Figure 1C from that of Figure 3B. Many different changes in intensity in bands such as the  $1112 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  C-C stretch and the  $895 \text{ cm}^{-1}$   $\text{CH}_3$  rock are observed as well as shifts in frequency in bands such as the  $1455 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  band and the  $715 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  band.

Figure 5 illustrates the effects of pressure on the spectra of solid dodecane. The difference spectrum of Figure 4B is repeated in Figure 5A in order to facilitate comparison with difference spectra obtained on solid dodecane at higher pressures given in Figure 5B and Figure 5C. Figure 5B greatly resembles Figure 5A. That is, Figure 5B shows the same changes as were observed when solidifying liquid dodecane. Figure 5C, which shows the difference spectrum for solid dodecane at higher pressures than those in Figure 5B, is more typical of the effects of pressure on the spectra of solids than Figure 5B. These effects are increasing intensities and frequencies with increasing pressure. The probable reason for the anomaly in Figure 5B is that the specimen was only partially solidified at 13.5 kbar because thermodynamic equilibrium has not yet been attained when the spectrum was taken.

With proper care, single crystals can be grown in the diamond cell. Polarized spectra obtained on a single crystal of dodecane are given in Figure 6. These spectra exhibit a rather high dichroic ratio indicating that the axis of polarization must have been very close to the crystal axis. After the spectra in Figure 6 were obtained, the specimen was melted (by decreasing the pressure) and a polycrystalline mass was obtained by rapidly increasing the pressure again. Polarized spectra were then obtained (Figure 7). Somewhat smaller dichroic ratios were obtained.

After the conclusion of the studies of dodecane with a thick gasket, a thin (1 mil) gasket was prepared and the cell reloaded with dodecane. The pressure was increased to 10 kbar after obtaining a spectrum at ambient pressure. This spectrum showed that the dodecane was still liquid. However, when the cell was placed under the microscope in preparation for further pressure increases, it was observed that the specimen had partially crystallized. Since the crystal appeared to be growing with time, spectra were taken every few hours until it appeared that the liquid had completely crystallized, a process which took about 12 hours. A spectrum of the resulting solid was taken and the pressure was then increased to 14 kbar, at which pressure a phase change of some kind may have occurred. Spectra were taken at this pressure and then at 24 kbar.

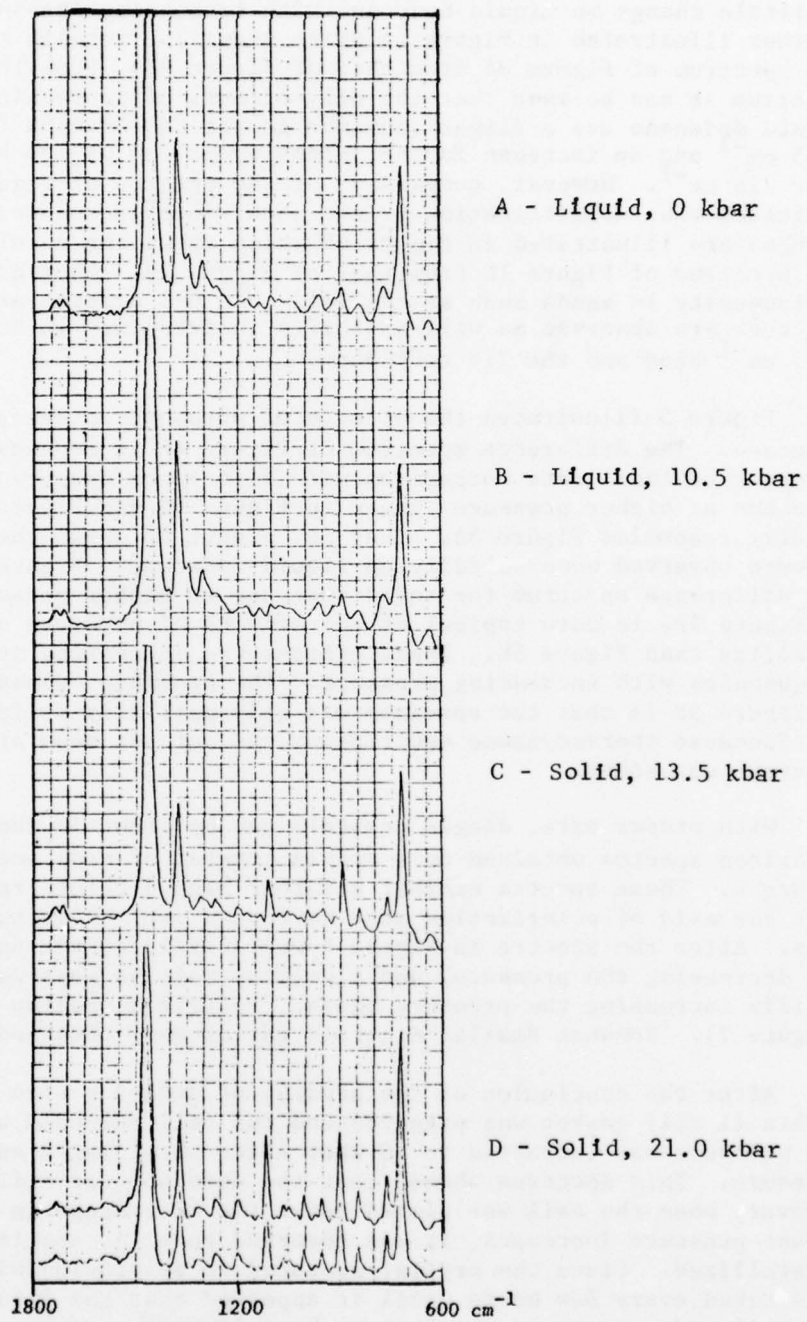
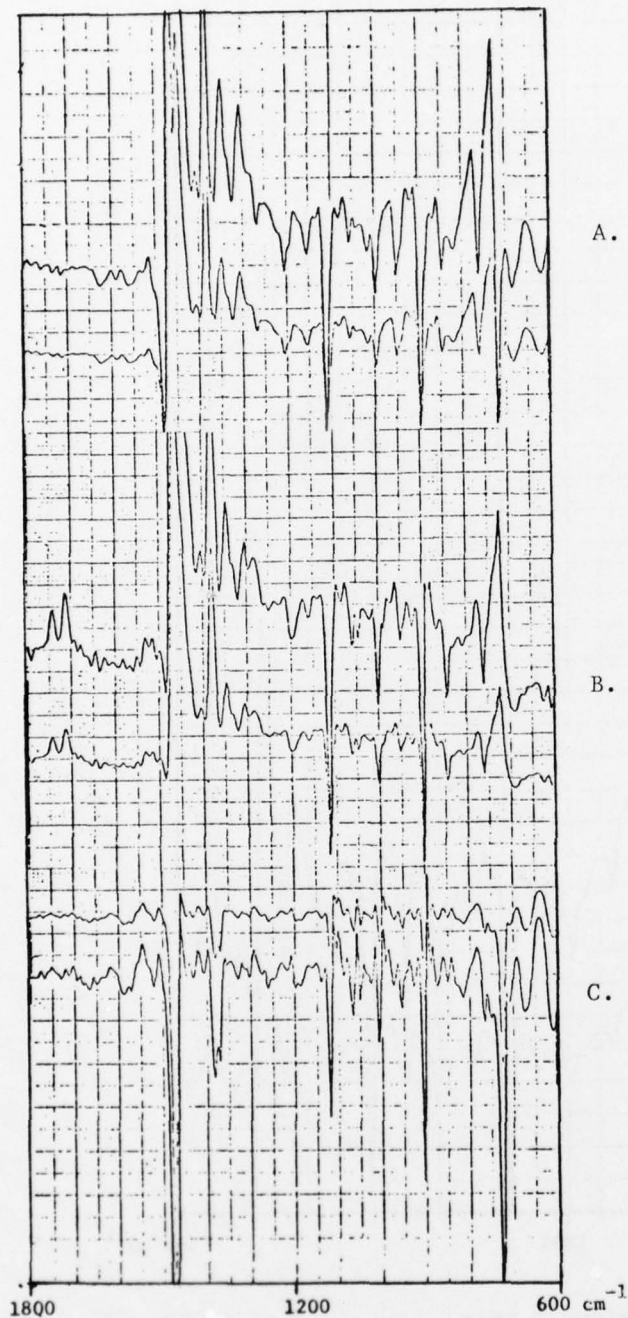


Figure 3. Infrared Spectra of Dodecane at Various Pressures



A = 10.5 kbar pressure minus 0 kbar pressure (Liquid-Liquid)  
 B = 10.5 kbar pressure minus 13.5 kbar pressure (Liquid-Solid)

Figure 4. Subtracted Infrared Spectra of Dodecane at Various Pressures



A. 10.5 kbar Pressure (Liquid) minus  
14 kbar Pressure (Solid) at  
Two Ordinate Scale Expansions

B. 14 kbar Pressure (Solid) minus  
17.25 kbar Pressure (Solid) at  
Two Ordinate Scale Expansions

C. 17.25 kbar Pressure (Solid) minus  
21 kbar Pressure (Solid) at  
Two Ordinate Scale Expansions

Figure 5. Subtracted Infrared Spectra of Dodecane at Various Pressures

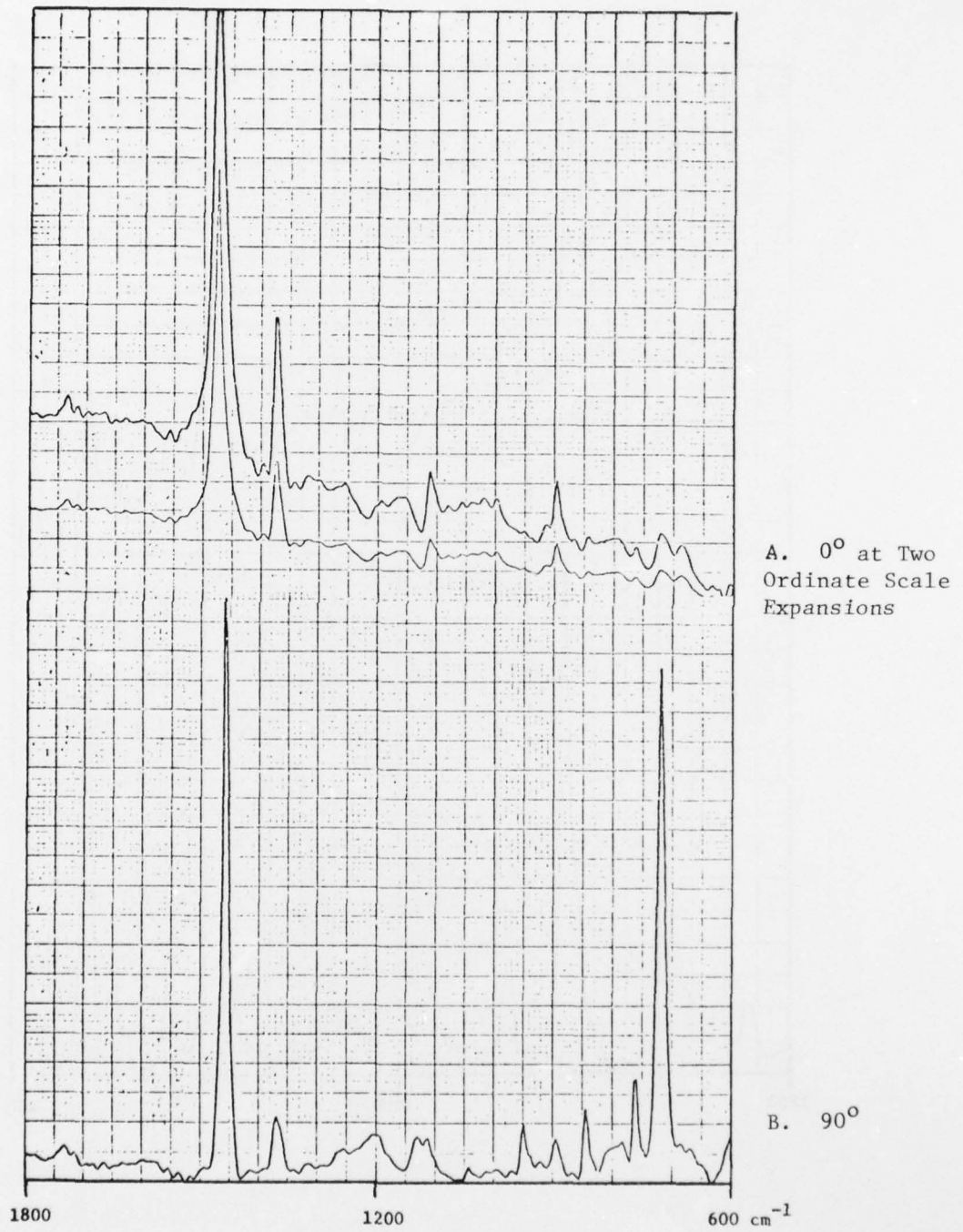


Figure 6. Polarized Infrared Spectra of Single Crystal Dodecane at 16.5 kbar Pressure

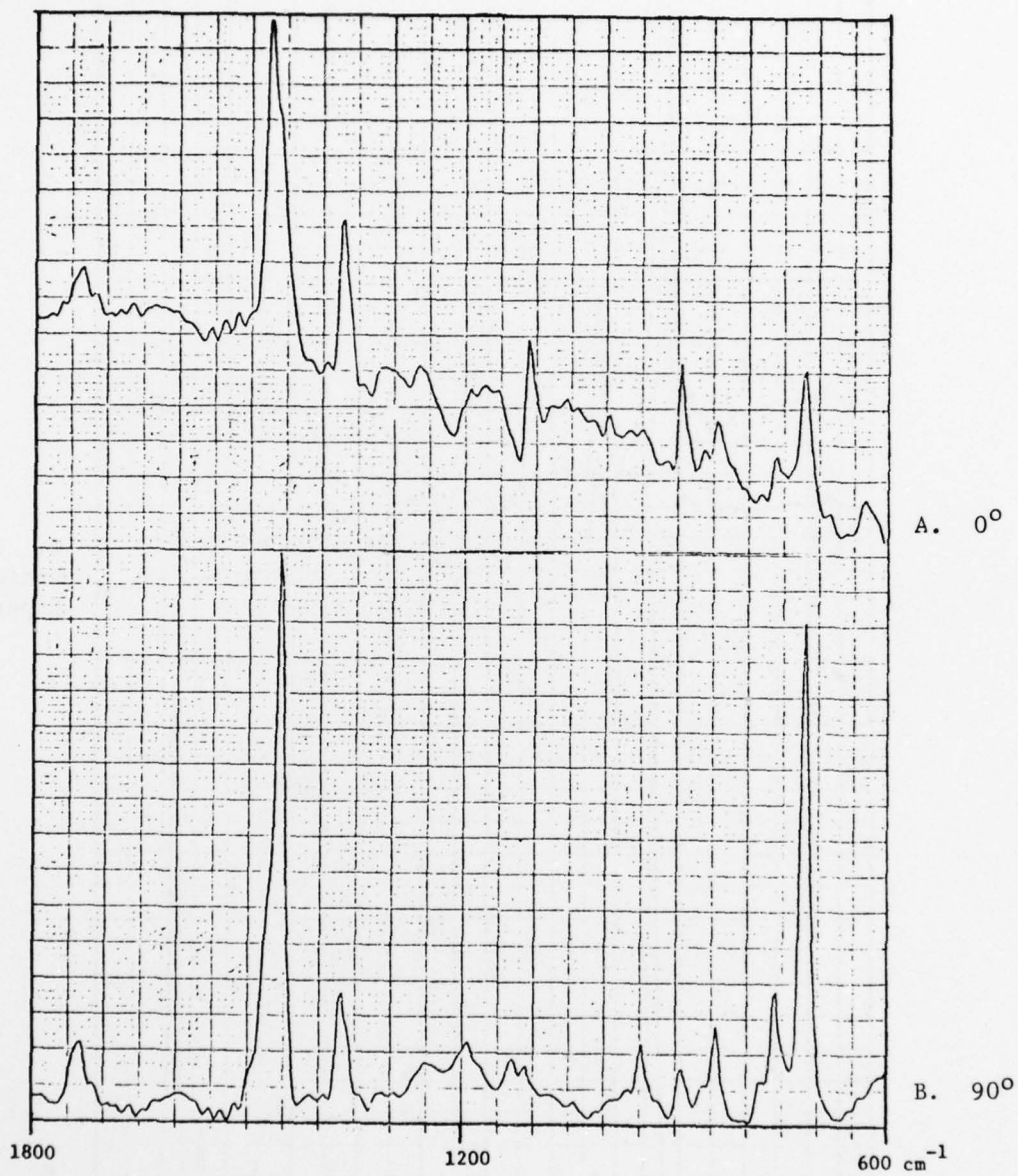


Figure 7. Polarized Infrared Spectra of Polycrystalline Dodecane at 16.5 kbar Pressure

Various difference spectra are shown in Figure 3. Figure 8A shows the subtraction of the liquid spectrum at ambient pressure and the spectrum at 10 kbar. The subtracted spectrum of Figure 8A is identical to the results to be expected from the subtraction of liquid dodecane at two different pressures (a slight increase in the intensity of the  $\text{CH}_2$  bending frequency near  $1455 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and the rock-twist frequency near  $715 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ).

The difference spectrum between the initial spectrum obtained at 10 kbar and the spectrum obtained after 1 hour at 10 kbar is given in Figure 10B. These changes are similar to the differences between liquid and solid dodecane with the exception that the bands which appear on solidification are weaker in comparison with the bands which disappear or lose intensity on solidification. (The bands which appear on solidification are  $112$ ,  $895$ , and  $715 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , while the bands which lose intensity are near  $1455$  and  $1382 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .) These difference spectra demonstrate that at 10 kbar pressure, the dodecane was slowly becoming more crystalline. Figure 8C shows the difference spectrum between 1 hour at 10 kbar and 21 hours at 10 kbar pressure. This is very similar to Figure 8B and indicates that the dodecane is still solidifying at 10 kbar.

The difference spectrum between the overnight 10 kbar spectrum and the spectrum at 14 kbar is shown in Figure 8D. Again, the spectral changes are similar to those observed in Figures 8B and 8C. This demonstrates that even after standing overnight and even though the sample appeared to be visually entirely crystalline, that the changes which occurred at 14 kbar were further solidification of the dodecane. The difference between 14 and 24 kbar pressure is shown in Figure 8E. Here all the infrared bands are gaining intensity with increasing pressure which indicates that the sample was completely crystallized at 14 kbar.

The pressure was then lowered to 10 kbar and a spectrum was obtained. The difference spectrum between the 24 kbar spectrum and the 10 kbar reverse spectrum is given in Figure 9A. Virtually no changes are observed indicating that the sample is still completely crystalline at a pressure of 10 kbar. The pressure was then lowered to 2 kbar and then to less than 1 kbar with spectra obtained at each pressure. A slight decrease in pressure then melted the dodecane. The subtraction between the 10 kbar reverse spectrum and the 2 kbar reverse spectrum is shown in Figure 9B, while the subtraction between the 2 kbar reverse spectrum and the 1 kbar reverse spectrum is shown in Figure 9C. In each case the loss of bands at  $1112$  and  $895 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  indicates that the dodecane is losing crystallinity as the pressure is released. However, the microscopic observations at these pressures do not show any evidence of melting.

#### Lauric Acid

Pure lauric acid (a solid at room temperature) was loaded in the diamond cell by filling the platinum gasket hole with solid lauric acid and then warming the cell until melting of the acid. The cell was then placed in the FT-IR instrument and spectra were obtained. Loading the cell by the

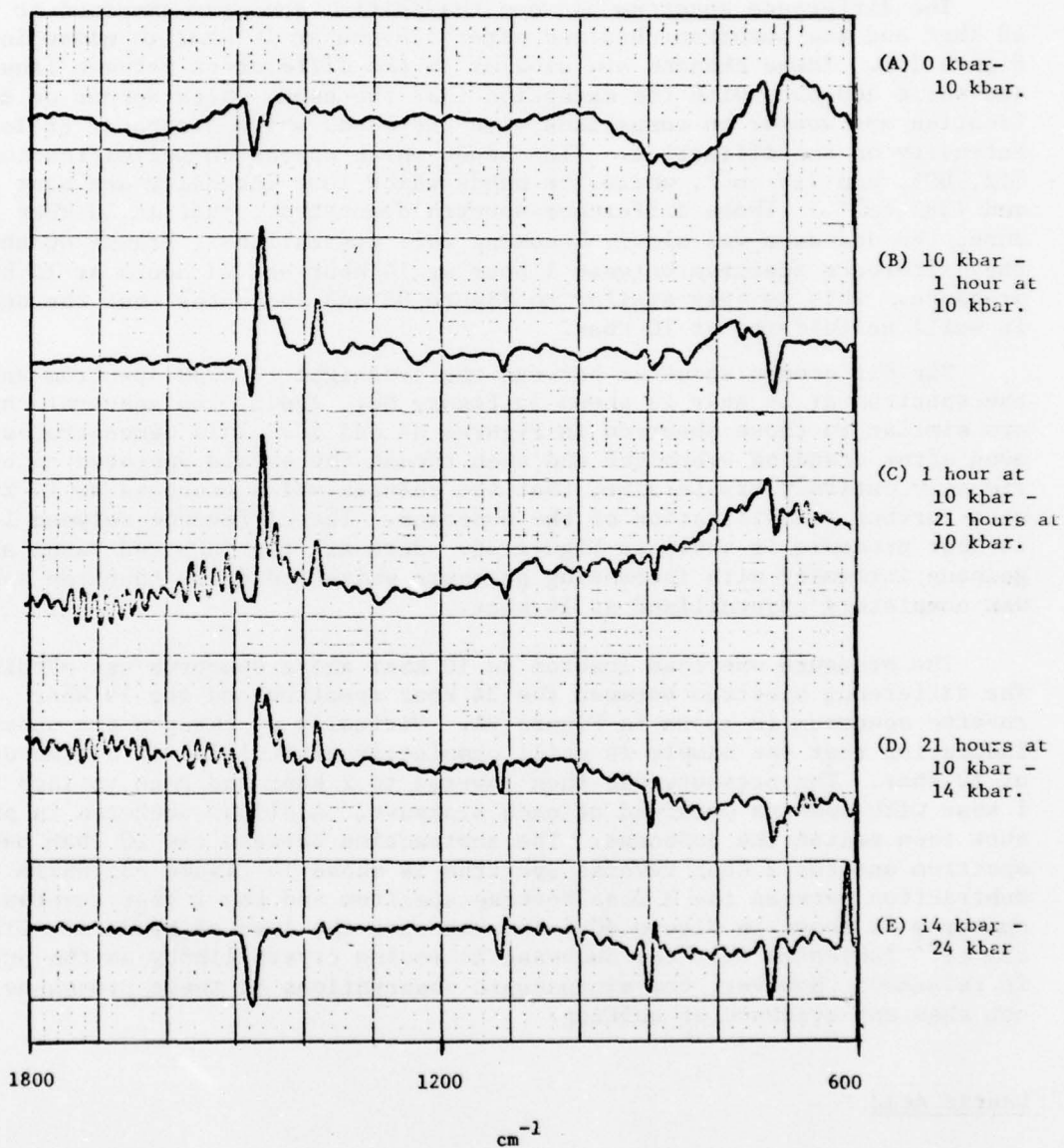
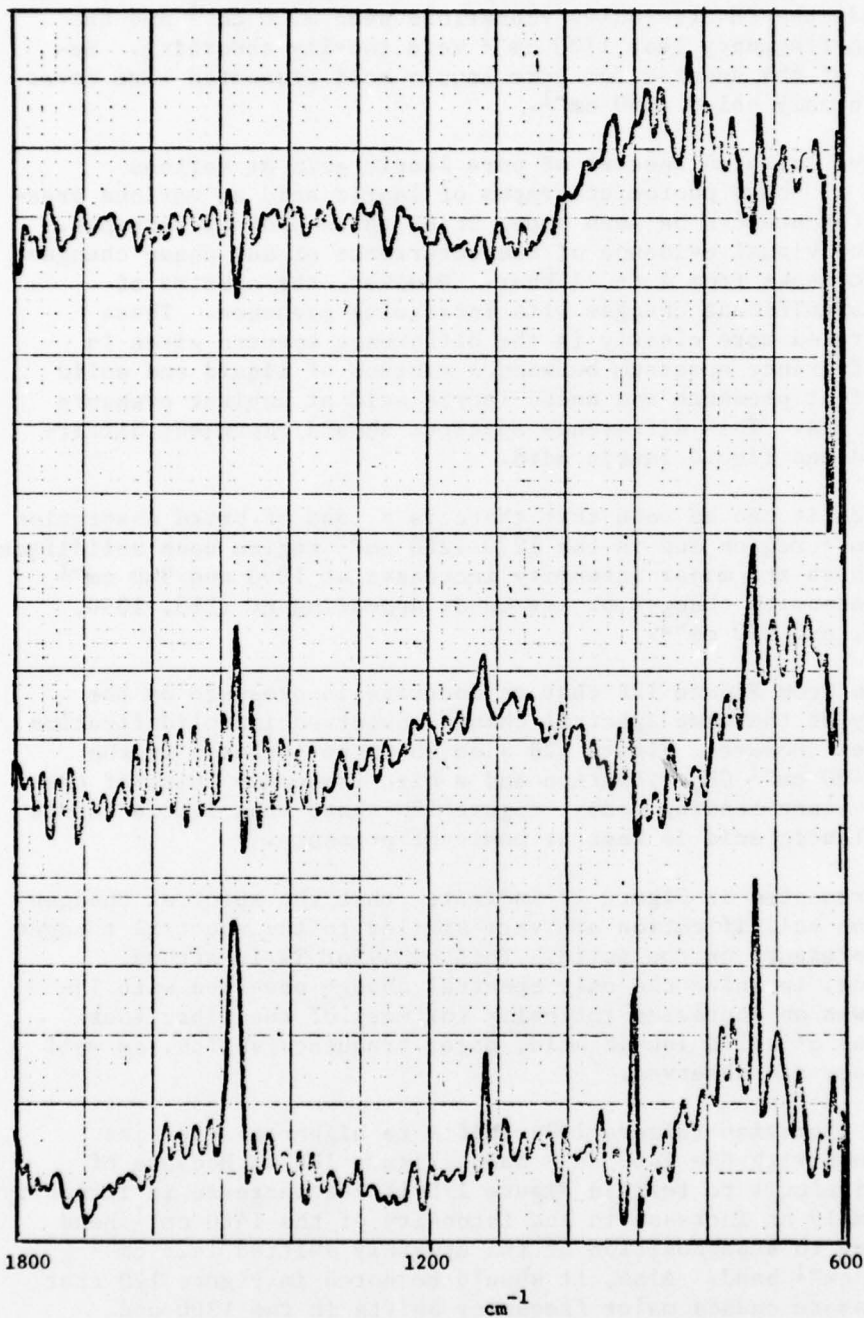


Figure 8. Subtracted Infrared Spectra of Dodecane at Various Pressures (Increasing)



(A) 24 kbar minus  
10 kbar-  
reverse

(B) 10 kbar  
reverse, minus  
2 kbar-  
reverse

(C) 2 kbar  
reverse, minus  
<1 kbar-  
reverse

Figure 9. Subtracted Infrared Spectra of Dodecane at Various Pressures (Decreasing)

above-described technique resulted in a very thick sample and spectra, which were so intense that the CH stretching vibrations near  $2900\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and the carbonyl stretching frequency near  $1700\text{ cm}^{-1}$  were totally absorbing. Because of this, all of the spectra for pure lauric acid presented here cover the spectral region only below  $1600\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

Figure 10 shows infrared spectra of pure lauric acid at various pressures. Figure 11 shows photomicrographs of lauric acid at various pressures. Little difference can be seen among these three photomicrographs. That is, there is no visual evidence of the occurrence of any phase changes as the pressure increases from 4 to 24 kbar. However, the spectra of Figure 8 indicate significant changes with increasing pressure. These changes are illustrated more clearly in the difference spectra given in Figure 12. The difference spectrum between a mixture of liquid and solid lauric acid at ambient pressure and solid lauric acid at ambient pressure is given in Figure 12A. This difference spectrum should represent differences between solid and liquid lauric acid.

From Figure 12A it can be seen that there is a loss of broad absorption in the  $1420\text{--}1460\text{ cm}^{-1}$  region and in the  $1220\text{--}1280\text{ cm}^{-1}$  region upon solidification. Moreover, there are major intensity increases at  $1300$  and  $940\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and either minor intensity changes or new bands appearing at  $1195$ ,  $1090$ ,  $875$ ,  $785$ ,  $730$ ,  $690$ , and  $550\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

It can be seen from Figure 12B that an increase in pressure on the solid leads to many of the same spectral changes observed in solidification at ambient pressure. However, Figure 12B also shows an increase in the intensity of the  $1460\text{ cm}^{-1}$   $\text{CH}_2$  vibration and a high frequency shift of the  $940\text{ cm}^{-1}$  OH out-of-plane bending mode. Figure 12C shows that little change occurs when solid lauric acid is kept at constant pressure.

The results presented in Figure 12 indicate that the spectral changes for lauric acid upon solidification are very similar to the spectral changes due to increasing pressure on the solid. This behavior is in strong contrast to dodecane, in which the only spectral change observed with increasing pressure was an increased intensity for most of the vibrations. However, in the case of solid lauric acid, major frequency shifts, as well as intensity changes, are observed.

The  $1425\text{ cm}^{-1}$  vibration (Figure 10D) shifts to higher frequencies and eventually blends with the  $1460\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band (Figure 10E). Because of this shift it is difficult to tell in Figure 12D if the increase in intensity at  $1460\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is really an increase in the intensity of the  $1460\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band or whether it is due to superposition of the upwardly shifted  $1425\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band with the  $1460\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band. Also, it should be noted in Figure 12D that increasing the pressure causes major frequency shifts in the  $1300$  and  $940\text{ cm}^{-1}$  bands.

The principal reason for the difference in spectral changes of dodecane and lauric acid is the existence of hydrogen bonding in lauric acid.

A. Ambient Pressure  
(Liquid + Solid)

B. Ambient Pressure  
(Solid)

C. 4 kbar

D. 16 hours at  
4 kbar

E. 24 kbar

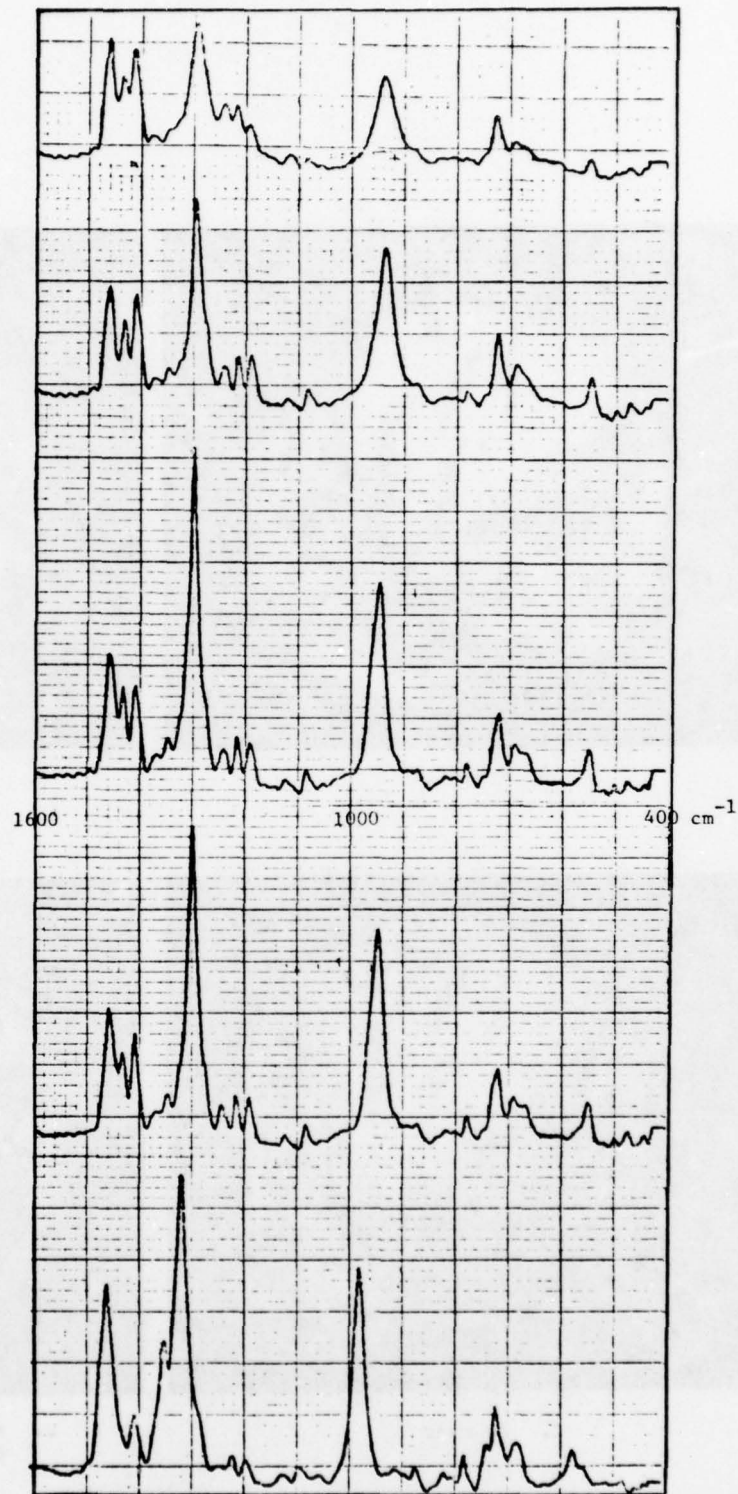


Figure 10. Infrared Spectra of Lauric Acid



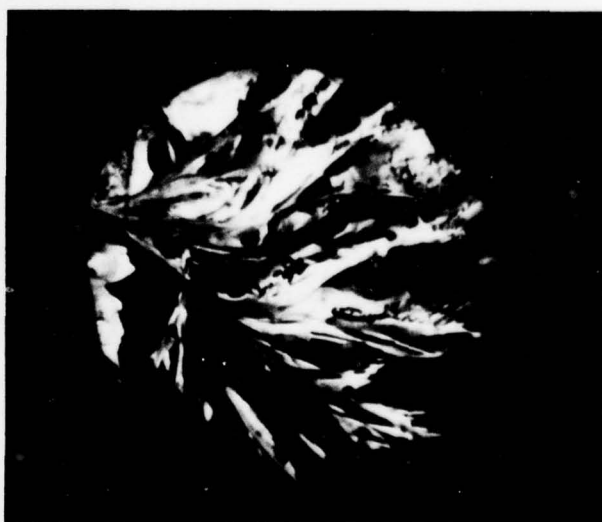
A. 4 kbar



B. 9 kbar



C. 24 kbar



D. Ambient Pressure (Melted and Recrystallized)

FIGURE 11. PHOTOMICROGRAPHS OF LAURIC ACIDS

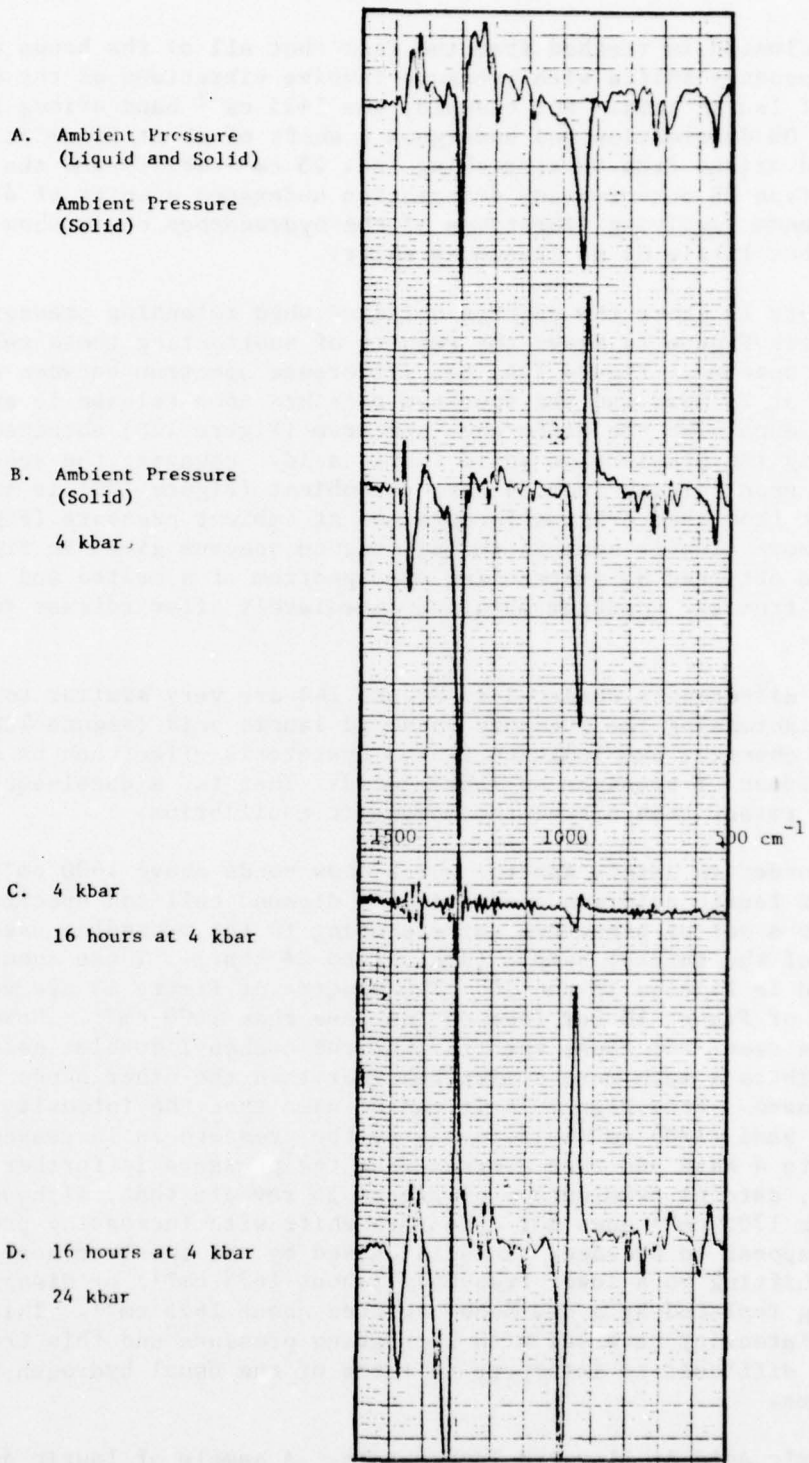


Figure 12. Subtracted Infrared Spectra of Lauric Acid

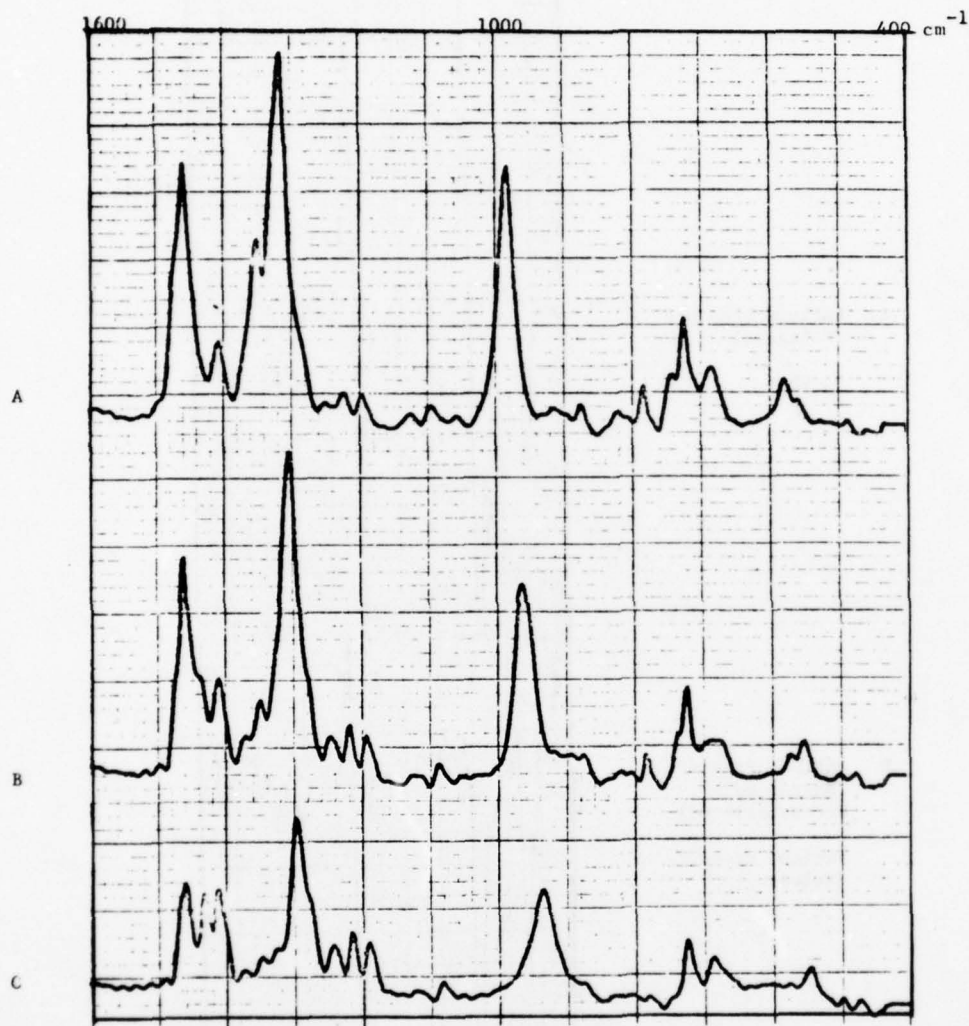
This conclusion is reached from the fact that all of the bands which showed large frequency shifts with pressure involve vibrations of the OH or CO groups of lauric acid. For example, the  $1425\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band arises from the in-plane OH deformation and undergoes a shift of about  $30\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; the  $1300\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band arises from CO stretching (ca.  $25\text{ cm}^{-1}$  shift) and the  $940\text{ cm}^{-1}$  arising from OH out-of-plane deformation undergoes a shift of 40 to  $50\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The IR bands involving vibrations of the hydrocarbon chain show an intensity change, but little or no frequency shift.

Figure 13 shows the spectra obtained when releasing pressure on lauric acid, while Figure 14 shows the results of subtracting these releasing pressure spectra. Figure 14A, the difference spectrum between the spectrum obtained at 24 kbar and the spectrum obtained upon release to ambient pressure, is much like the difference spectrum (Figure 12D) obtained from increasing the pressure on solid lauric acid. However, the spectrum obtained upon release from 24 kbar to ambient (Figure 13B) is significantly different from that originally obtained at ambient pressure (Figure 10B). This is more clearly seen in the difference spectrum given in Figure 14B, which was obtained by subtracting the spectrum of a melted and recrystallized specimen from the spectrum obtained immediately after release to ambient pressure.

The differences observed in Figure 14B are very similar to those seen in increasing the pressure on solid lauric acid (Figure 12B). These spectral observations indicate that a hysteresis effect can be obtained by rapid release of pressure on lauric acid. That is, a quasi-equilibrium is obtained rather than a true thermodynamic equilibrium.

In order to obtain spectra which show bands above  $1600\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , a thinner sample of lauric acid was loaded in the diamond cell and spectra were taken for a set of pressures corresponding to the pressures used in the studies of the thicker sample (ambient to 24 kbar). These spectra are presented in Figures 15 and 16. The spectra of Figure 15 are very similar to those of Figure 10 for frequencies less than  $1600\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . However, it can be seen from these spectra that the carbonyl doublet near  $1700\text{ cm}^{-1}$  exhibits a much more complex behavior than the other bands as pressure is increased. From Figure 16 it can be seen that the intensity of the carbonyl band ( $1705\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) increases as the pressure is increased from ambient to 4 kbar and then decreases as the pressure is further increased. Moreover, careful examination of Figure 15 reveals that, although the peak near  $1705\text{ cm}^{-1}$  does not appear to shift with increasing pressure, it does appear to broaden. This is caused by the shoulder near  $1690\text{ cm}^{-1}$  either shifting to a lower frequency (about  $1675\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) or disappearing and being replaced by a new band centered about  $1675\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . This combination of intensity reversal with increasing pressure and this frequency shift is difficult to interpret in terms of the usual hydrogen bonded structures.

Lauric Acid At Elevated Temperature. A sample of lauric acid was loaded in the diamond cell by filling the gasket with solid lauric acid



- A - 24 kbar
- B - Ambient Pressure (Released from 24 kbar)
- C - Ambient Pressure (Melted and Recrystallized)

Figure 13. Infrared Spectra of Lauric Acid

A. Ambient Pressure  
(Released)

24 kbar

B. Ambient Pressure  
(Melted and  
Recrystallized)

Ambient Pressure  
(Released)

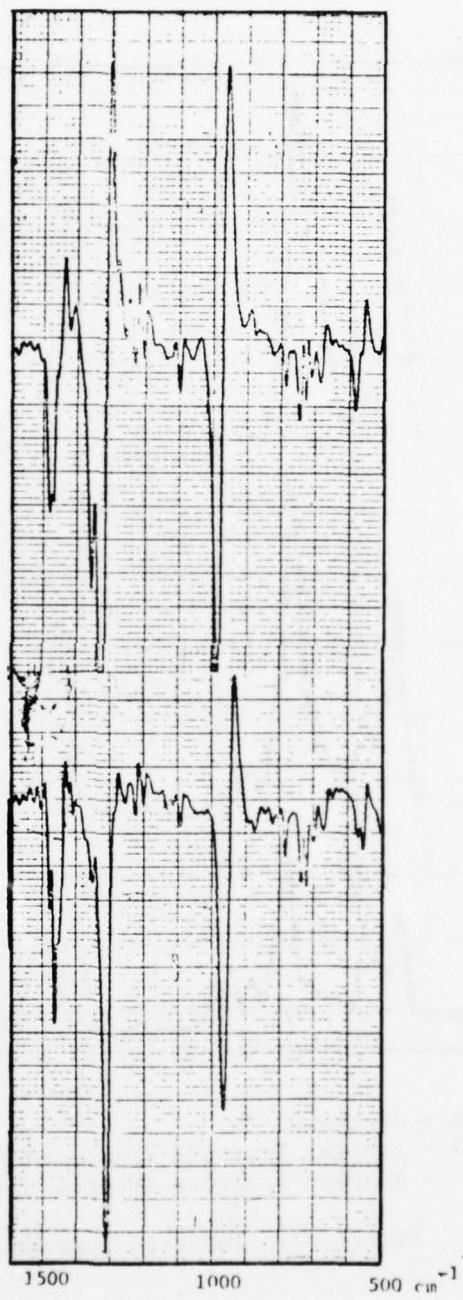


Figure 14. Subtracted Infrared Spectra of Lauric Acid

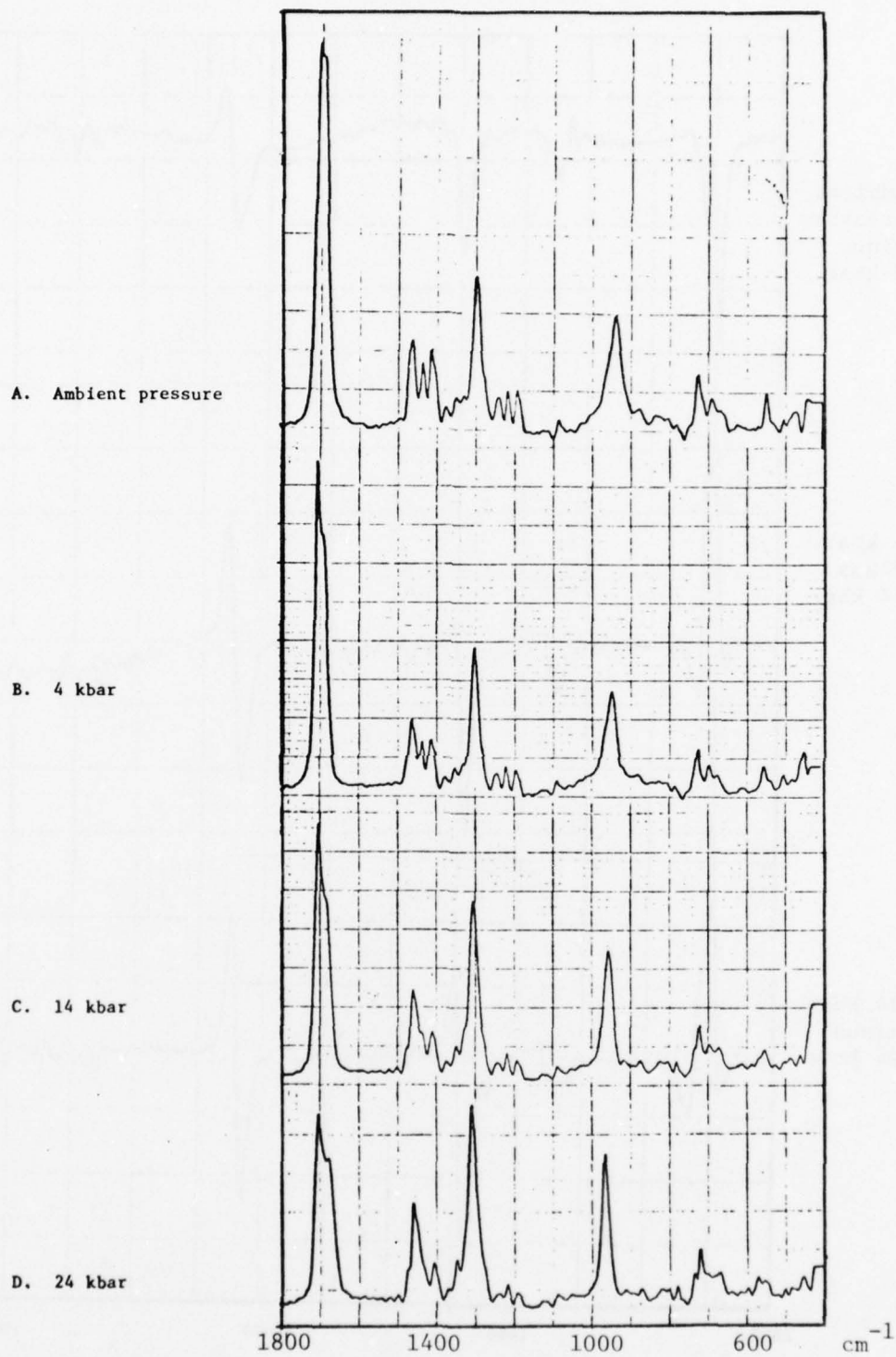


Figure 15. Infrared Spectra of Lauric Acid

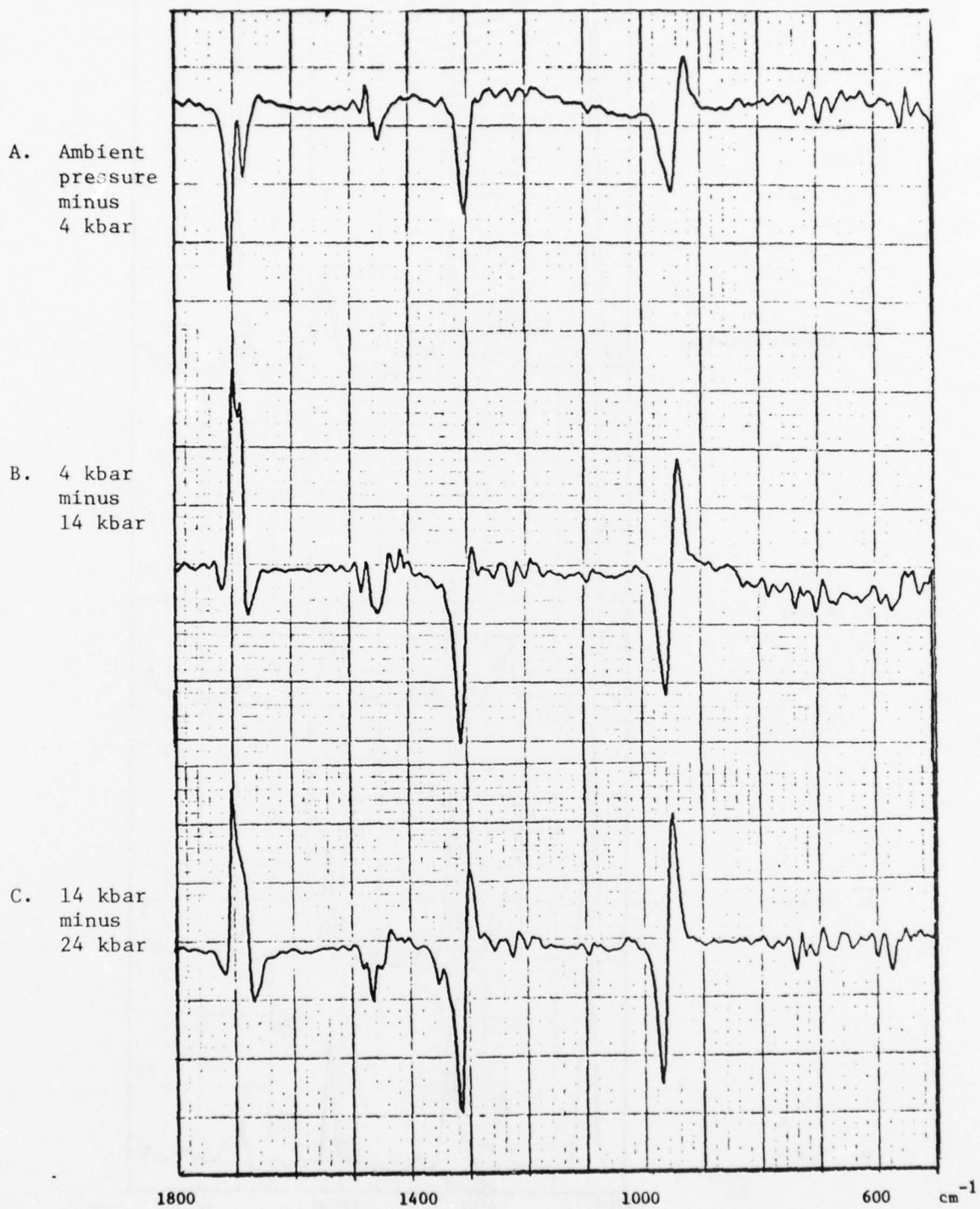


Figure 16. Subtracted Infrared Spectra of Lauric Acid

and then warming the cell until the acid melted. The cell was then allowed to cool to room temperature when the acid solidified. A slight pressure was applied to make certain that the cell was sealed and then the cell was heated to 100 C. During the heating process, the lauric acid melted. Spectra were then obtained at various pressures while at 100 C. Some of these spectra are shown in Figure 17 while Figure 18 shows the subtraction of various pairs of pressure spectra.

Figure 18A shows the result of subtracting the spectrum at 9 kbar, pressure from that at 4 kbar pressure. Microscopic and spectra (see Figure 17A) evidence indicate that the sample is still liquid at 9 kbar pressure. Figure 18A indicates that the only effect of raising the pressure on liquid lauric acid is a small shift of the carbonyl vibration ( $\sim 1720 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) to lower frequencies. When the pressure was raised to 14 kbar, lauric acid remained a liquid and the result of subtracting the 14 kbar spectrum from the 9 kbar spectrum are shown in Figure 16B. In Figure 16B, the low frequency shift of the carbonyl frequency is more pronounced and there are small increases in intensity of the  $1460$  and the  $1290 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  vibrations.

At 100 C, microscopic observation indicated that lauric acid solidifies when the pressure is increased to 19 kbar. This is confirmed by the spectral evidence (Figure 17B). The spectral changes that occur when lauric acid solidifies are shown in Figure 18C which shows the result of subtracting the spectrum at 19 kbar from that at 14 kbar. This figure shows that major spectral changes occur when lauric acid solidifies. These changes include: a large ( $\sim 20 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) low frequency shift of the  $1720 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  carbonyl vibration; loss of a  $1750 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\text{C}=\text{O}$ ?) frequency; loss of intensity of the  $1420 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  frequency; a high frequency shift of the  $1460 \text{ cm}^{-1}$   $\text{CH}_2$  bending vibration; and gain in intensity of the  $720 \text{ cm}^{-1}$   $\text{CH}_2$  wag, the  $880$  OH bending mode, and the  $\text{CH}_2$  rock-wags in the  $1200\text{-}1300 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  region.

Raising the pressure to 24 kbar produces small amounts of the same type of changes (Figure 18D) as seen when the sample solidifies (Figure 18C). However, when the sample (at 24 kbar pressure) is cooled from 100 C to a temperature below 65 C, only a small low frequency carbonyl shift can be detected (Figure 18E).

Figure 19 shows a spectrum of lauric acid at 19 kbar pressure and 100 C (Figure 19A) and a spectrum of lauric acid at 4 kbar pressure and 23 C (Figure 19B). Both samples are solids, but the spectra clearly indicate that Figures 19A and 19B represent different polymorphic forms. Note the differences at  $1420$ ,  $1300$ ,  $940$ , and  $880 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Figure 19B represents the room temperature stable form while Figure 19A shows that at pressure and temperature, a different polymorph is produced.

A. 9 kbar

B. 19 kbar

C. 24 kbar

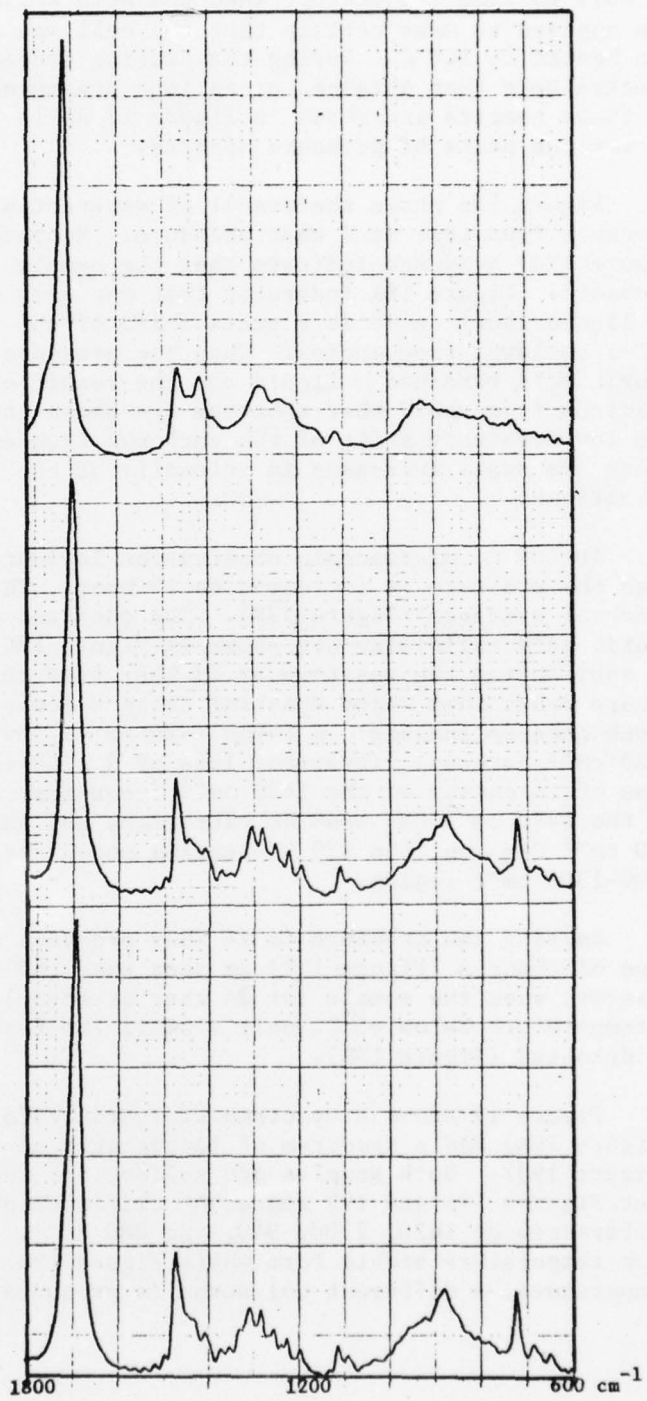


Figure 17. Infrared Spectra of Lauric Acid (100 C)

A. 4 kbar, 100 C  
minus  
9 kbar, 100 C

B. 9 kbar, 100 C  
minus  
14 kbar, 100 C

C. 14 kbar, 100 C  
minus  
19 kbar, 100 C

D. 19 kbar, 100 C  
minus  
24 kbar, 100 C

E. 24 kbar, 100 C  
minus  
24 kbar, <65 C

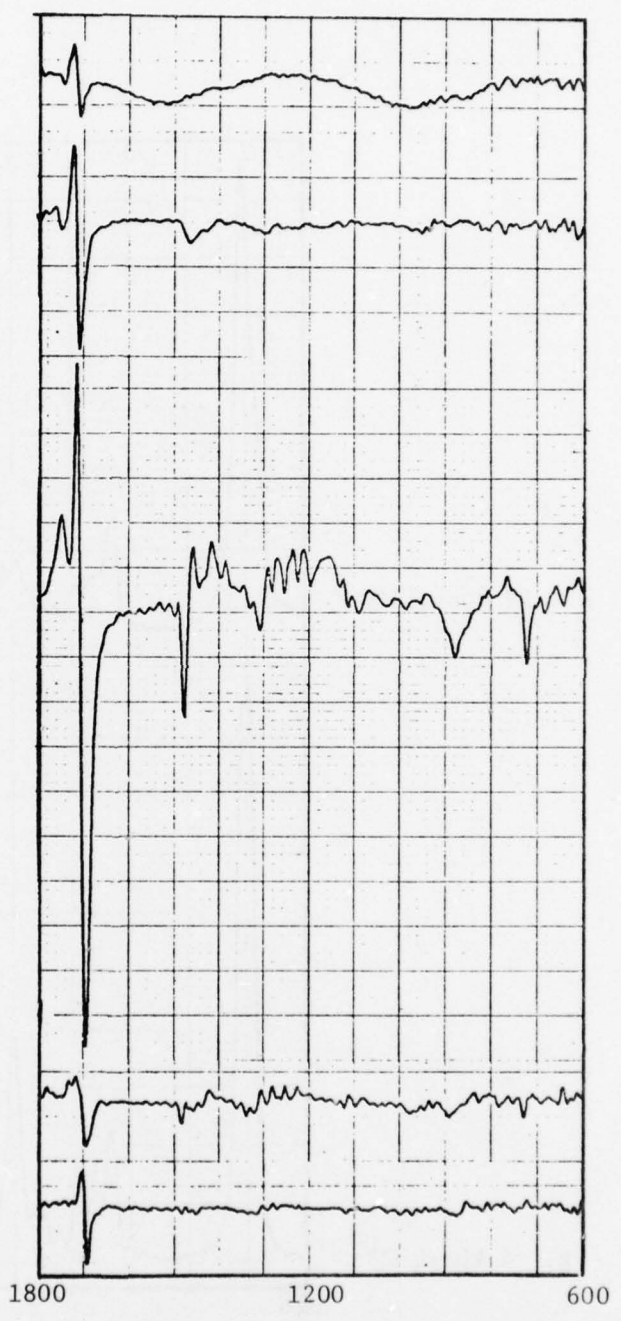


Figure 18. Subtracted Infrared Spectra of Lauric Acid

A. 19 kbar, 100 C

B. 4 kbar, 23 C

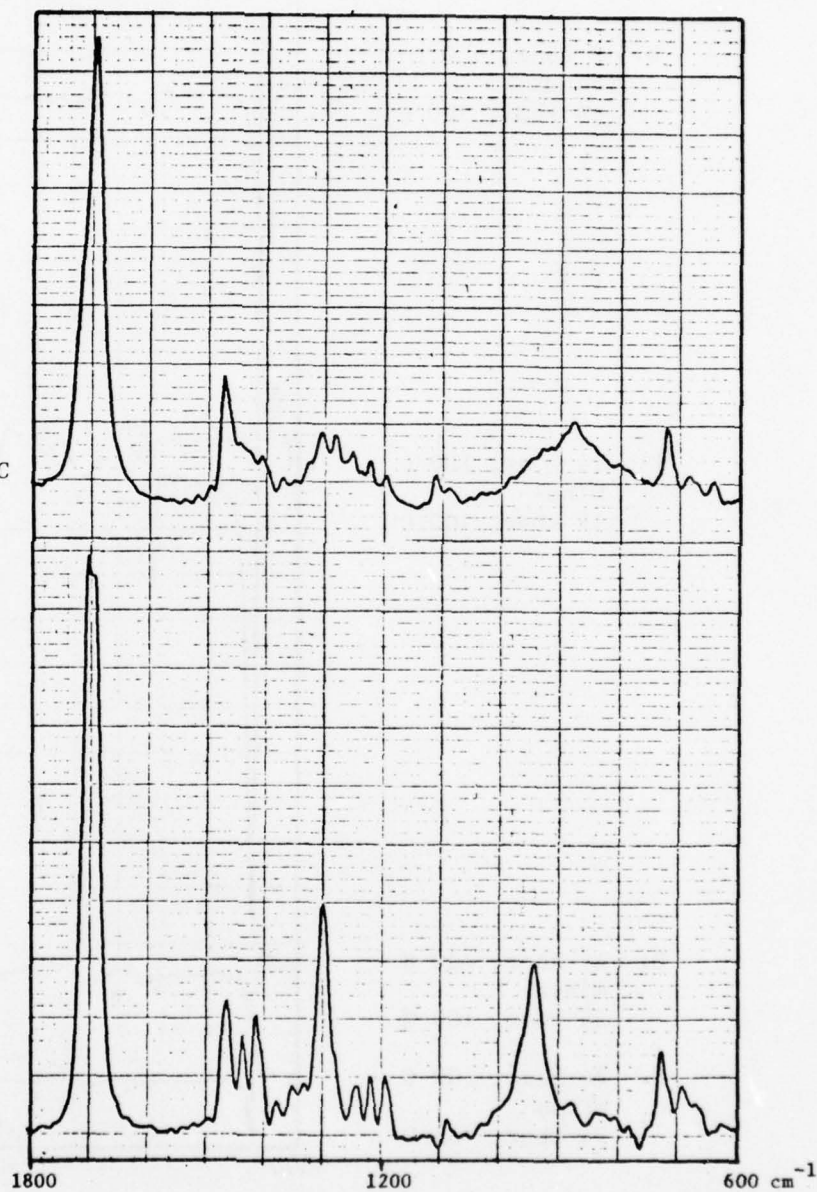


Figure 19. Infrared Spectra of Crystalline Lauric Acid

### Solutions of Lauric Acid in Dodecane

Upon completion of the experiments on pure dodecane and pure lauric acid, a series of studies of solutions of these compounds was initiated. In these studies solutions varying from 1 through 10 net percent of lauric acid in dodecane were employed.

One Percent Solutions at Room Temperature. In the first set of experiments a 1 percent solution of lauric acid was loaded in the diamond cell and spectra were obtained at the same pressures used in the dodecane experiments (ambient to 34 kbar). Figure 20 shows the spectra at 1 atmosphere pressure for pure dodecane and the solution. As expected, the only difference is in the presence of a carbonyl band near  $1715\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . At 10 kbar both microscopic and spectroscopic observation indicated that the sample was still liquid. At 14 kbar rapid and complete crystallization occurred. Raising the pressure to 24 kbar and then to 34 kbar caused no further visually observable phase changes. However, comparison of the spectra did show significant differences.

Figure 21A, the difference spectrum between 24 and 14 kbar, resembles the differences observed on going from liquid to solid solutions. Therefore, it can be concluded that even though the solution had apparently rapidly and completely crystallized at 14 kbar, some liquid solution remained or a "plastic" crystal phase had formed. Microscopic observation showed that the 1 percent solution crystallizes rapidly along two crystal axes but crystallizes very slowly along the third axis. Also, there is no change with pressure in the acid carbonyl vibration near  $1715\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

Figure 21B shows the difference spectra for 24 and 34 kbar pressure. In this spectrum all the CH vibrations are increasing in intensity as the pressure is increased. This is an indication that the solution was completely crystalline at 24 kbar. The acid carbonyl band ( $1715\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) appears to be losing intensity and possibly shows a frequency shift.

The difference between pure dodecane and the 1 percent solution are further delineated in Figure 22 which shows a pair of difference spectra between dodecane and the 1 percent solution at ambient pressure and at 24 kbar pressure. In Figure 22A false bands due to channelling are seen but the spectra do show perfect cancellation of the CH bands, leaving only the acid carbonyl band. Figure 22B, however, contains not only the carbonyl band but also all of the CH bands. Most significant here is that the patterns of the CH bands is similar to what is observed in going from liquid to solid dodecane indicating that the solution was less crystalline than pure dodecane.

The diamond anvil cell was again filled with fresh 1 percent solution and spectra were obtained at the same pressures as used in the dodecane studies (0, 10, 14, 24, 10R, 2R, 0R; where R signifies releasing pressure.) Slow solidification occurred at 10 kbar as in the case of pure dodecane. After 24 hours at 10 kbar, no further changes were observed. Figure 23

(A) One per-  
cent Lauric  
Acid in  
Dodecane.

(E) Dodecane.



Figure 20. Infrared Spectra of Dodecane and One Percent Lauric Acid-Dodecane at Atmospheric Pressure

(A) 24 kbar - 14 kbar.

(B) 34 kbar - 24 kbar.

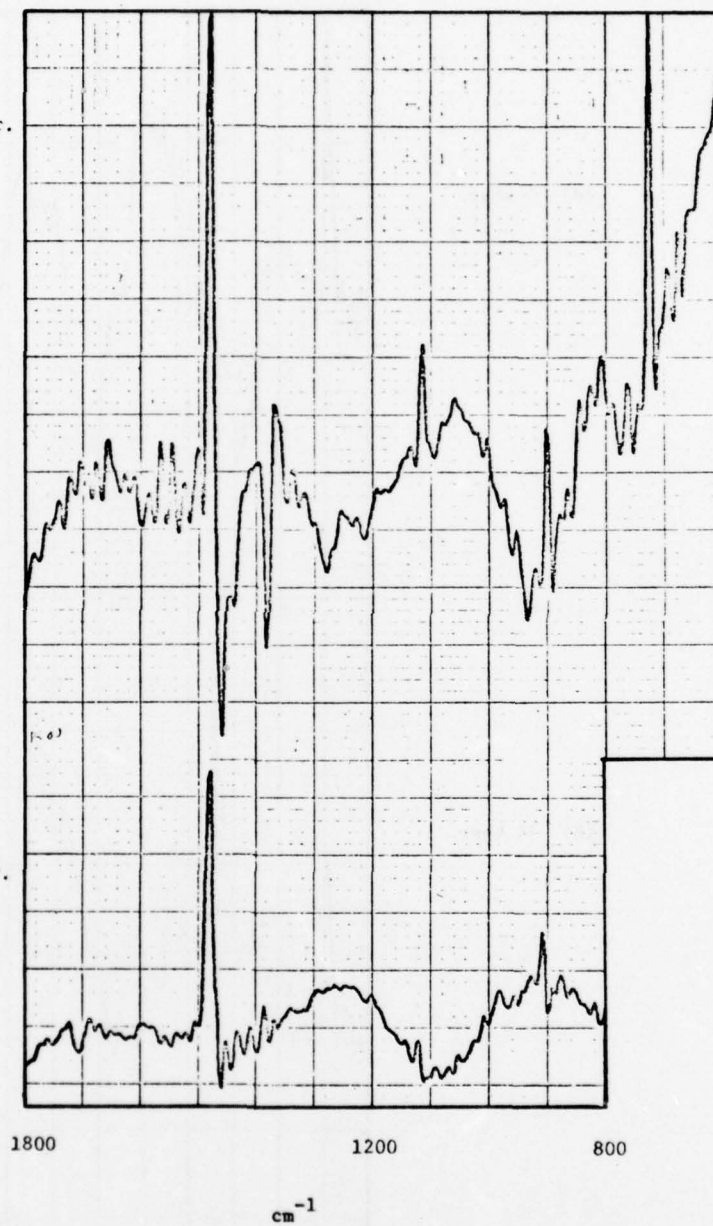


Figure 21. Subtracted Infrared Spectra of One Percent Lauric Acid in Dodecane (Subtractions of Spectra at Various Increasing Pressures)

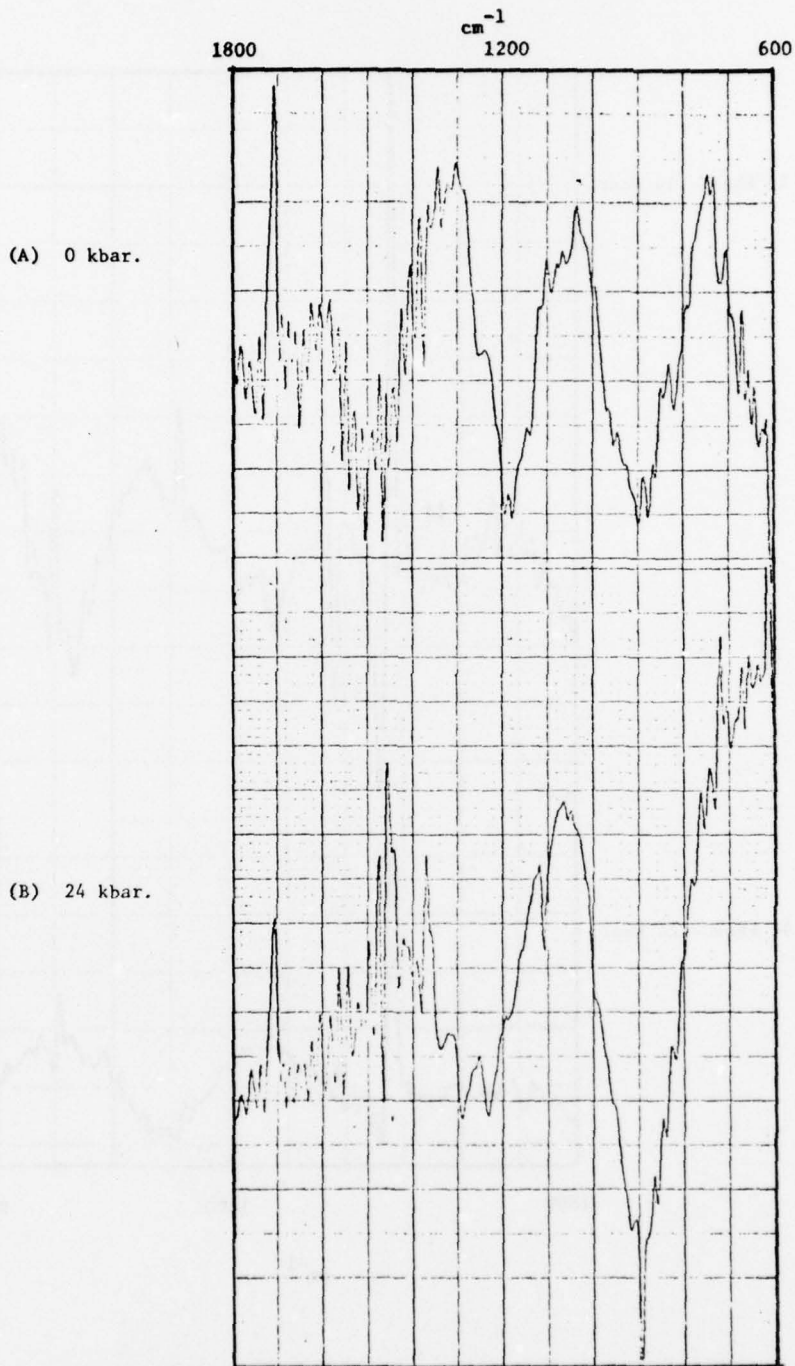
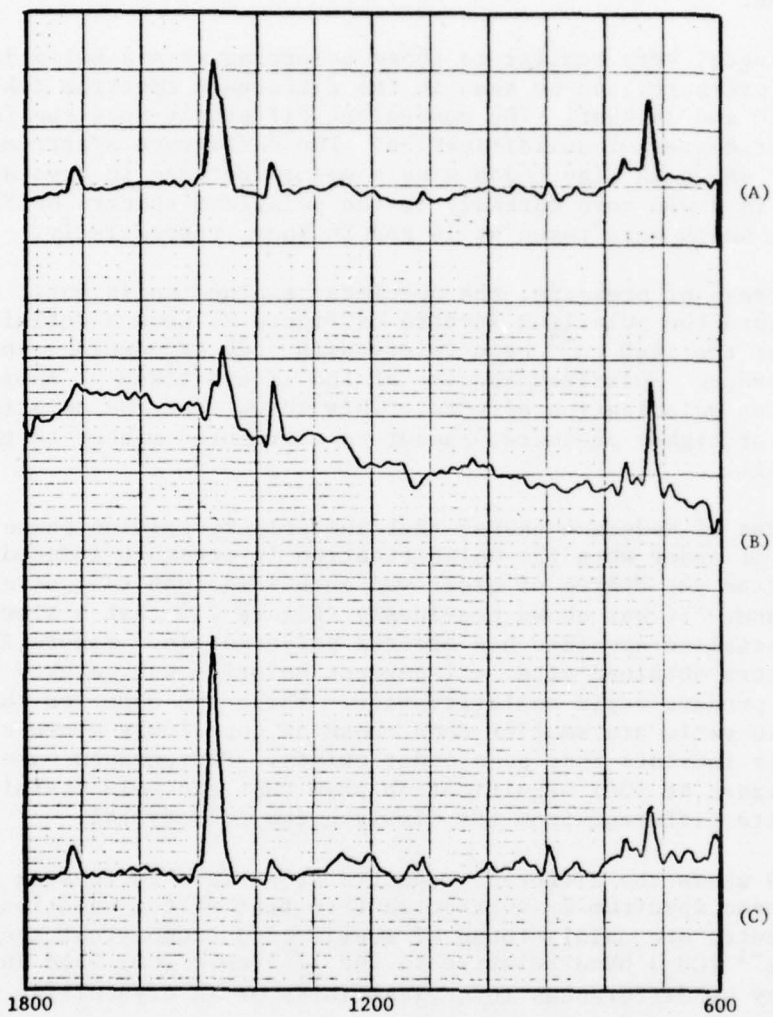


Figure 22. Subtracted Infrared Spectra of a One Percent Solution of Lauric Acid in Dodecane Minus Dodecane



- (A) Nonpolarized
- (B) Polarized - Polarizer at 45 C
- (C) Polarized - Polarizer at 135 C

Figure 23. One Percent Lauric Acid-Dodecane Solution at 10 kbar

shows polarized and unpolarized spectra of the solution at 10 kbar. In the nonpolarized spectrum (Figure 24A), the bands near 890 and 1115  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  indicates the presence of some crystalline material. The polarized spectra of Figure 22B and 22C indicate that some order exists but that the specimen is not a single crystal since the 1460  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  bands are not completely split by polarization.

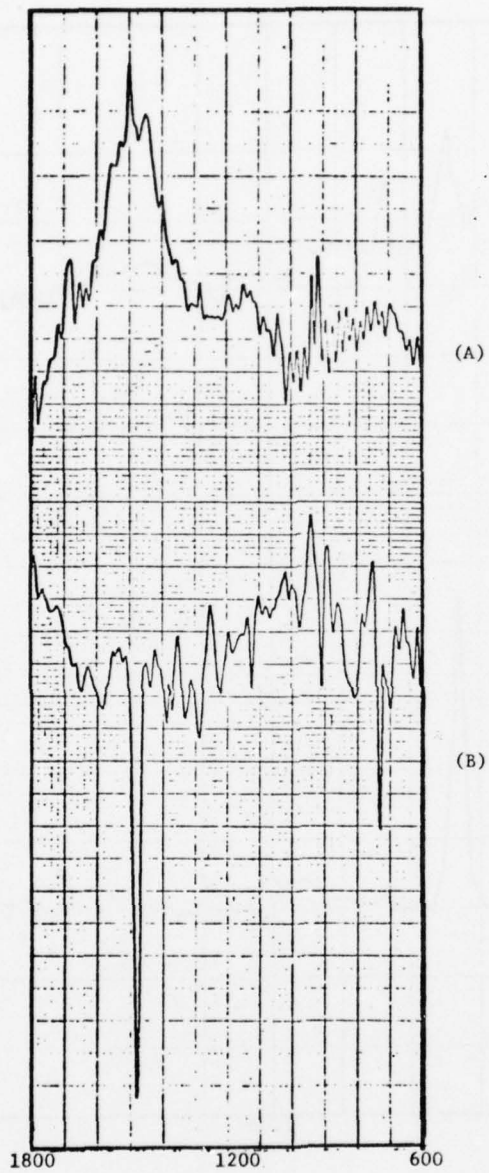
Small changes, very similar to those occurring when a solid is subjected to increasing pressure, can be seen in the difference spectrum taken between pressures of 10 and 14 kbar. The equivalent difference spectrum for dodecane showed a higher degree of solidification. The difference spectrum between 14 and 24 kbar shown in Figure 24B show a major increase in crystallinity. This increase is shown more markedly in the polarized spectra of Figure 25 and Figure 26, which were taken at 14 and 24 kbar, respectively.

Upon decrease of pressure, the specimen remained solid until about 2 kbar at which pressure the polarized spectra of Figure 27 show a definite change in the ratio of the 1460  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  band (along with some broadening) indicating some loss of order. Polarized spectra of the liquid taken at ambient pressure show no polarization effects. This shows that the polarization effects noted at higher pressures cannot be attributed either to the instrument on the cell.

The studies of dodecane showed that the polycrystalline phase has a finite degree of order when the solidification is pressure-induced. As would be expected the degree of order was much less than that of single crystal dodecane. It was shown previously (Figure 24) that a slowly-grown polycrystalline specimen has ordered polycrystals. Figure 28 shows polarized spectra obtained after a 1 percent solution was quickly raised to 19 kbar to produce rapid solidification. While the observed changes in the dichroic ratio are smaller than those of the slowly-grown crystal, they definitely indicate that some order exists. Photographs taken under crossed polarizers at 100X magnification show that the polycrystal grown rapidly is quite different from the slowly grown polycrystal.

Figure 29 shows the difference spectra at various increasing pressures when the dodecane spectrum is subtracted from that of the solution. These difference spectra are mainly those of lauric acid except that the intensity of the 1460  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  ( $\text{CH}_2$ ) band relative to the 1715  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  ( $\text{CO}$ ) band indicates the possibility of differences in crystallinity or in crystalline phase between the solution and pure dodecane.

One Percent Solutions at Elevated Temperatures. A fresh 1 percent solution was placed in the diamond cell spectra were run at ambient pressure, and at 4 kbar pressure. The subtracted spectrum given in Figure 30 shows that there was virtually no change in the liquid from raising the pressure. The cell was then heated to 85 C at 4 kbar. The difference spectrum between 85 C and 23 C given in Figure 30B shows that heating results in major losses in band intensities for all infrared bands including the lauric acid carbonyl band.



(A) 14 kbar - 10 kbar  
(B) 24 kbar - 14 kbar

Figure 24. One Percent Lauric Acid-Dodecane Difference Spectra



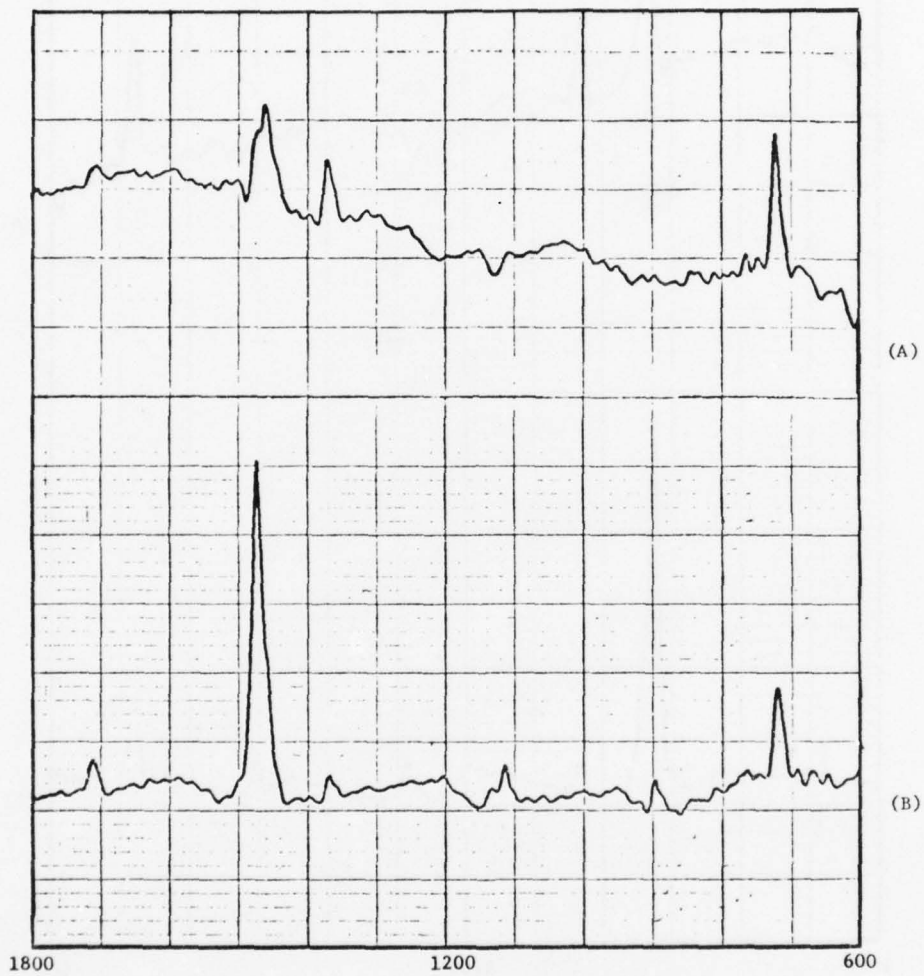
- (A) Polarized Setting = 45 C
- (B) Polarized Setting = 135 C

Figure 25. One Percent Lauric Acid-Dodecane at 14 kbar



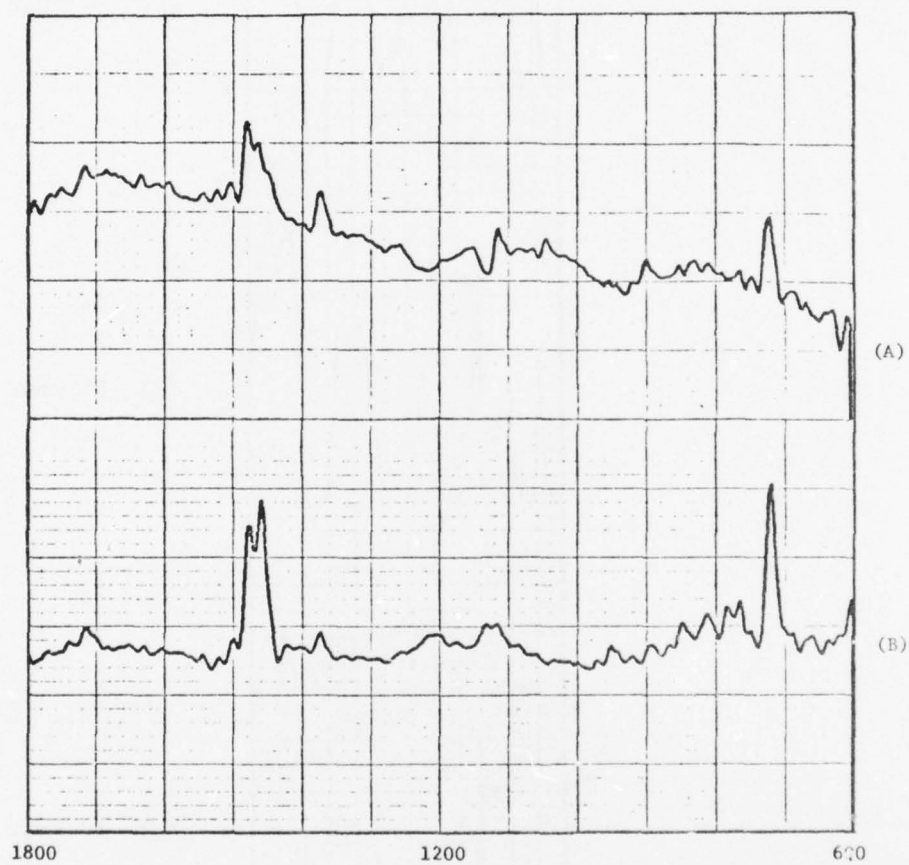
- (A) Polarizer Setting = 45 C
- (B) Polarizer Setting = 135 C

Figure 26. One Percent Lauric Acid-Dodecane at 24 kbar .



(A) Polarizer Setting = 45 C  
(B) Polarizer Setting = 135 C

Figure 27. One Percent Lauric Acid-Dodecane at 2 kbar (Releasing)



- (A) Polarizer Setting = 45 C
- (B) Polarizer Setting = 135 C

Figure 28. One Percent Lauric Acid-Dodecane at 19 kbar

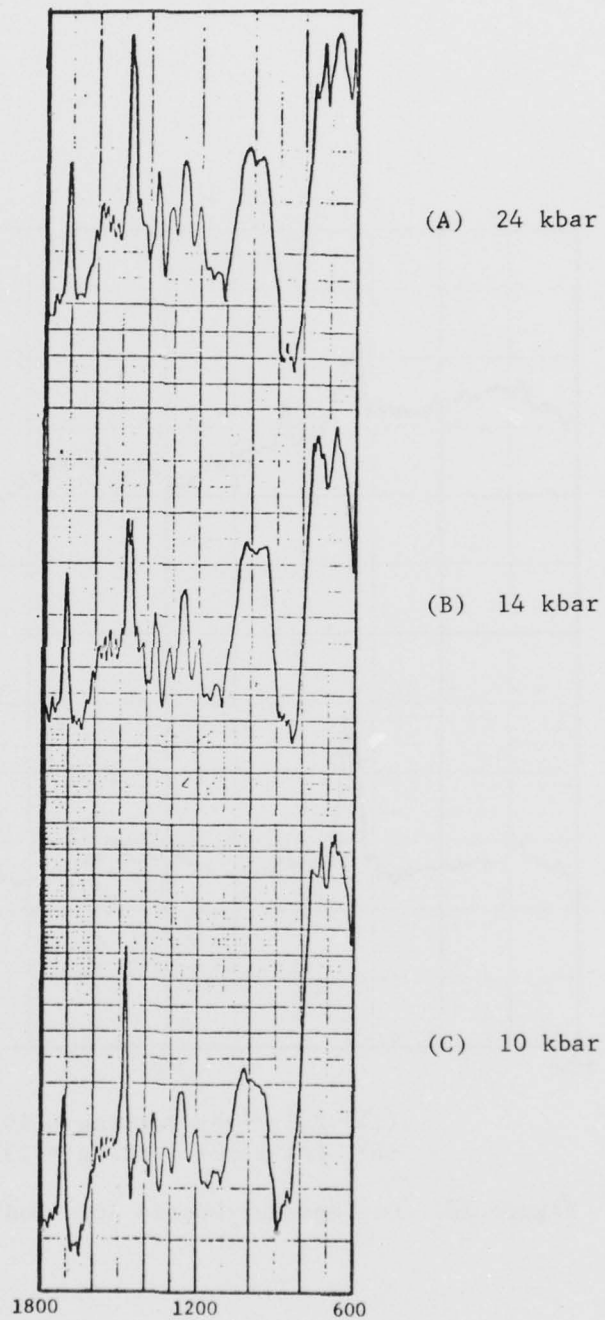


Figure 29. Difference Spectra Between One Percent Lauric Acid-Dodecane

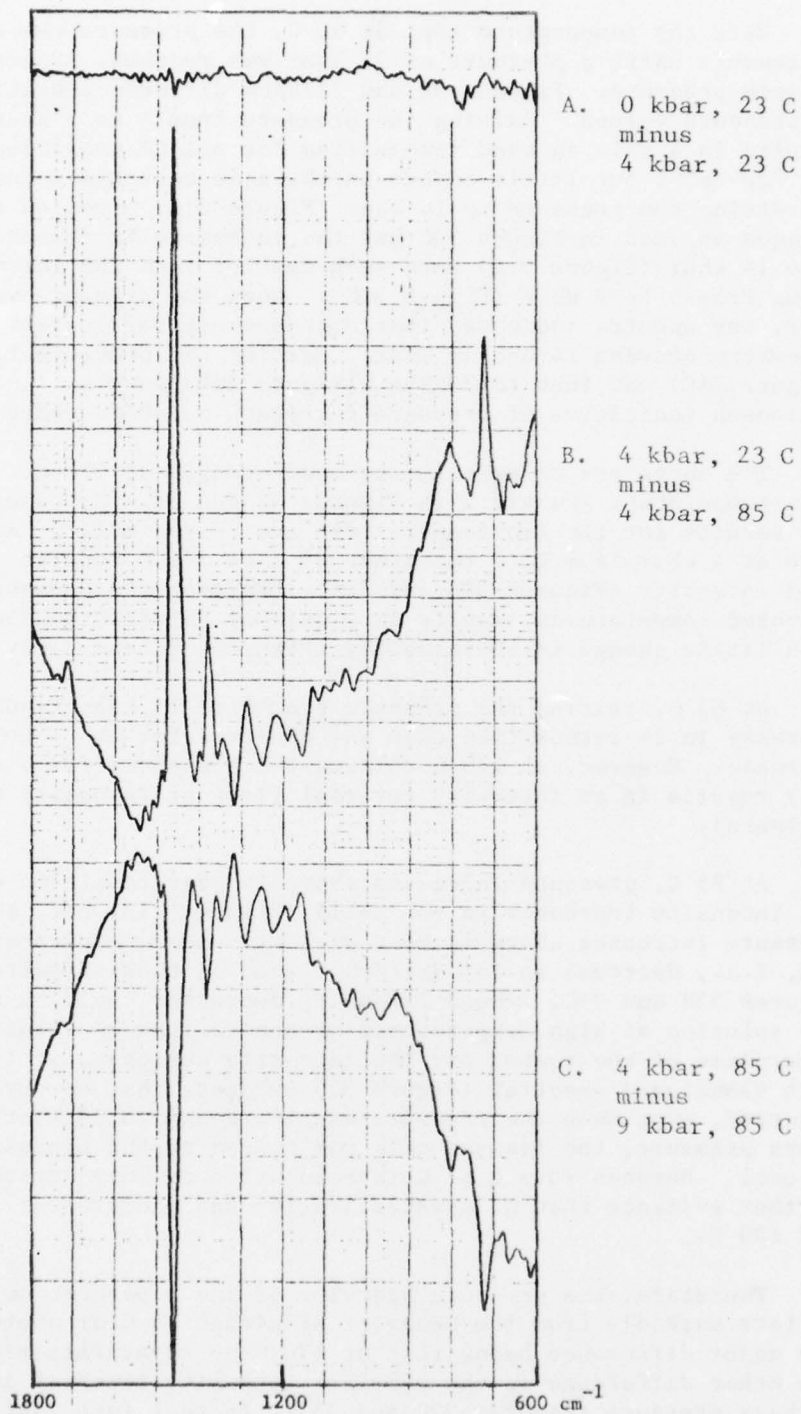


Figure 30. Subtracted Infrared Spectra of One Percent Lauric Acid in Dodecane

With the temperature kept at 85 C, the pressure was raised in 5 kbar increments until a pressure of 29 kbar was reached. Spectra were obtained at each pressure. Figures 30 and 31 show difference spectra between pairs of pressure values. Raising the pressure from 4 to 9 kbar (Figure 30C) results in a gain in band intensities for all CH vibrations (1460, 1380, and 720  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) but little change in the acid carbonyl intensity (1700  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ). Increasing the pressure to 14 kbar (Figure 31A) produced the same type of changes as seen in Figure 30C but the intensity increases on going from 9 to 14 kbar (Figure 31A) were much smaller than the intensity changes on going from 4 to 9 kbar (Figure 30C). When the pressure was raised to 19 kbar, the spectra indicated that dodecane crystallization had occurred somewhere between 14 and 19 kbar. Raising the pressure from 19 to 24 kbar (Figure 31C) and then to 29 kbar (Figure 31D) gave small IR intensity increases indicative of pressure increases on solid dodecane.

The above set of experiments was repeated at 170 C. The results at this temperature are given in Figures 32 and 33. Up to a pressure of 9 kbar, the results for the two temperatures are very similar. Raising the temperature at 4 kbar from 23 C to either 85 C or 170 C results in a loss of IR band intensity (Figures 30B and 34B). Raising the pressure at these elevated temperatures results in a gain of CH vibration band intensities with little change in CO intensity (Figures 30C and 34C).

At 85 C, raising the pressure from 9 to 14 kbar resulted in a smaller increase in IR intensities than was observed for the 4 to 9 kbar pressure increase. However, at 170 C raising the pressure from 9 to 14 kbar (Figure 33A) results in an intensity reversal (loss of intensity with increasing pressure).

At 85 C, pressure increases above 14 kbar result in crystallization and intensity increases in the solid (Figures 31B, 31C, and 31D). At 170 C, pressure increases above 14 kbar yield the same results as shown in Figure 33A, i.e., decrease in intensities. Some of these results are shown in Figures 33B and 33C. These intensity decreases could be due to changes in the solution at high temperatures or due to loss of solution from the cell. Regardless of the reason for the intensity decrease, it is conclusive from both visual and spectral (Figure 33) evidence that no crystallization has occurred, even when the pressure was increased to 39 kbar. While at 39 kbars pressure, the diamond cell was placed in the microscope and allowed to cool. Between 70 and 67 C, the solution rapidly crystallized, which is further evidence that no crystallization had occurred at 39 kbar pressure and 170 C.

Therefore, the pressure behavior of the 1 percent solution at 170 C differs markedly from the behavior at either 85 C or ambient temperature. The major difference being that at 170 C no crystallization occurred. The other difference is the possible intensity reversal at 170 C and over 9 kbars pressure (Figures 32C and 33). If real (not just due to loss of solution), this could be significant and indicating a structural change due to temperature and pressure.

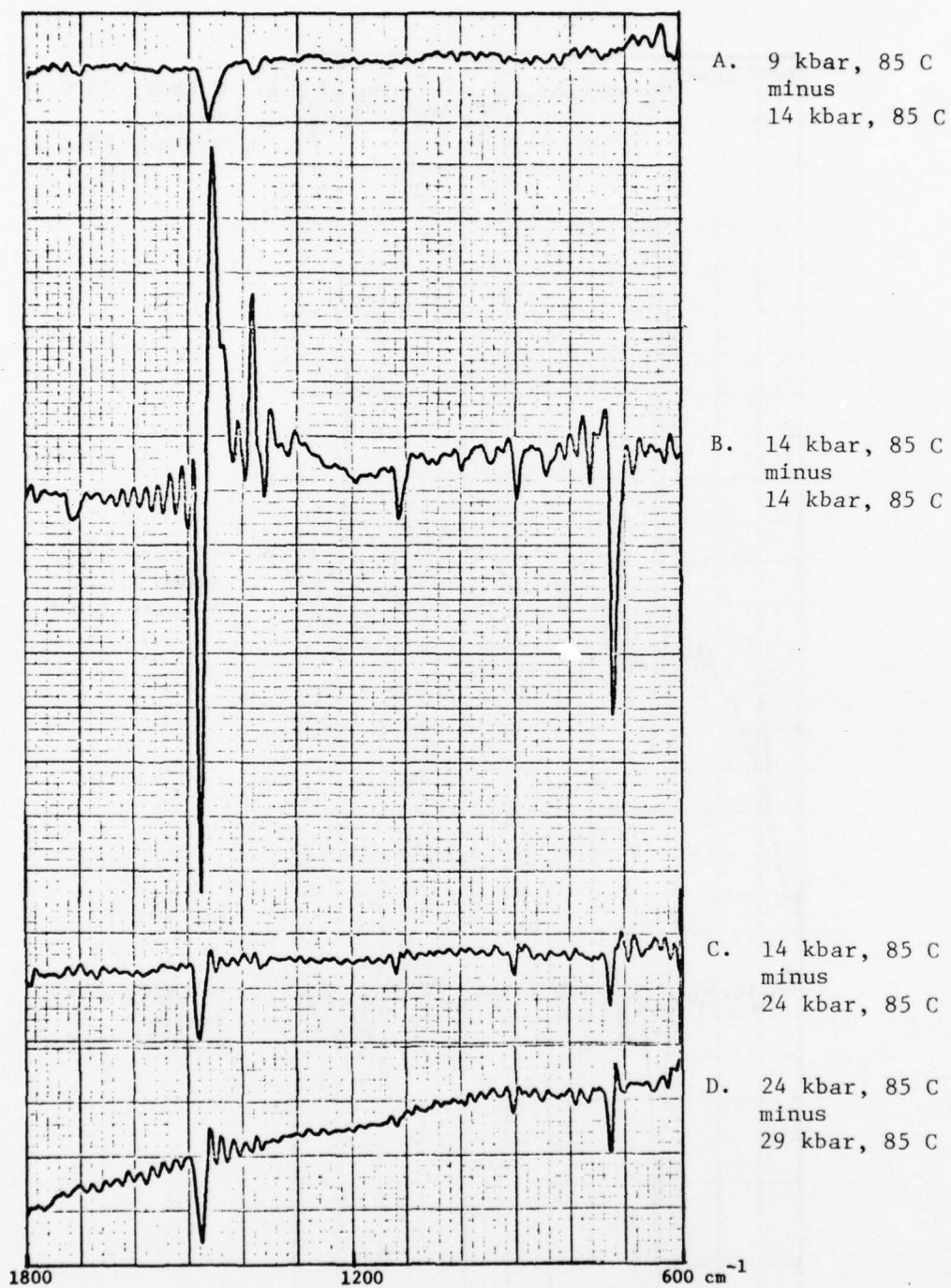


Figure 31. Subtracted Infrared Spectra of One Percent Lauric Acid in Dodecane

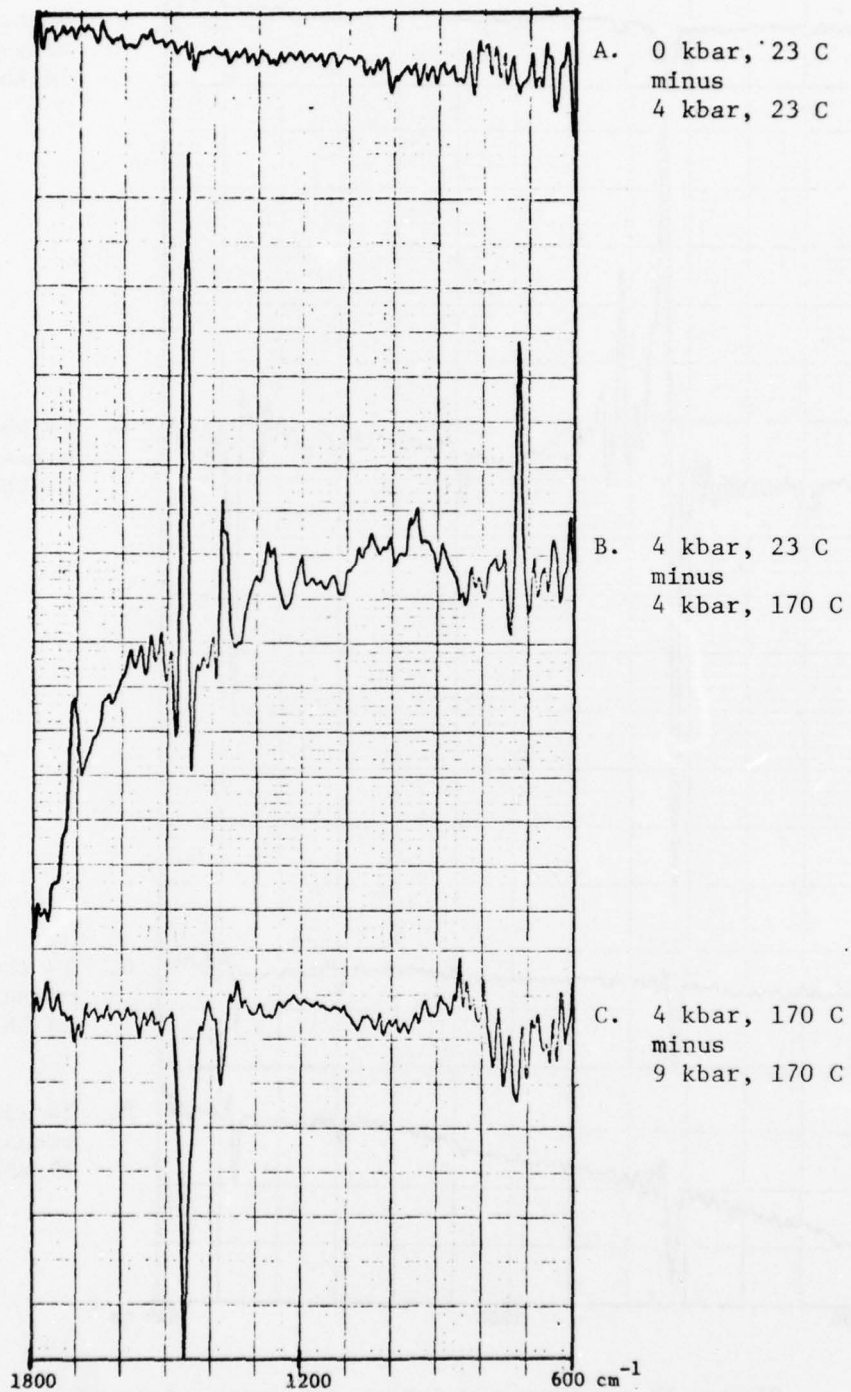


Figure 32. Subtracted Infrared Spectra of One Percent Lauric Acid in Dodecane

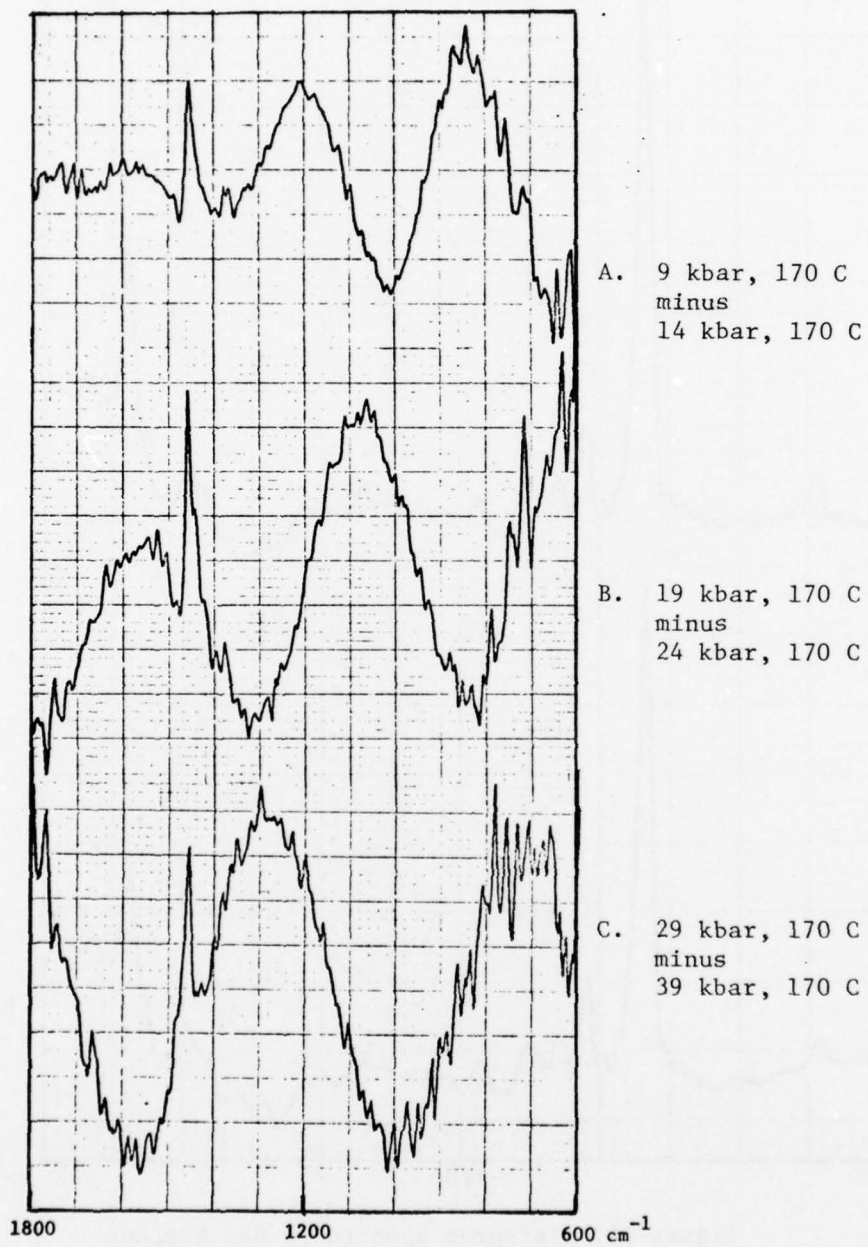


Figure 33. Subtracted Infrared Spectra of One Percent Lauric Acid in Dodecane



Figure 34. Infrared Spectra of One Percent Lauric Acid in Dodecane

Previously we had noted that one difference between heating a 1 percent solution to 85 C and heating the solution to 170 C was in the change in intensity of the carbonyl ( $1700\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) vibration of lauric acid. This is illustrated in Figures 34 and 35. Figure 34A shows the spectrum of a 1 percent lauric acid-dodecane solution at 4 kbar pressure and at 23 C. Figure 34B shows the spectrum of this solution (4kbars pressure) after heating to 85 C. Here it can be seen that the effect of heating this solution to 85 C is to decrease the carbonyl band intensity, but the band does not disappear.

Figure 35A also shows the spectrum (2X expanded compared to Figure 34) of a 1 percent lauric acid-dodecane solution at 4 kbar pressure and at 23 C. The spectrum of this solution after heating to 170 C is shown in Figure 36. At 170 C there is no evidence for a carbonyl vibration (at least to the limits of our detectability). This loss of intensity of the carbonyl vibration at 85 C and at 170 C can also be seen in the subtracted spectra of Figures 30B and 32 B.

Five Percent Solution. A series of experiments showed that a 5 percent solution of lauric acid in dodecane shows the same behavior as a 1 percent solution when the pressure is increased. That is, crystallization began at 10 kbar but was not complete until the pressure reached 15 kbar. This is shown in the difference spectra of Figures 37A and 37B. However, the spectra obtained upon releasing the pressures show significant differences between the 1 percent and 5 percent solutions. Figure 37C, the difference spectrum between 15 kbar (releasing) and 10 kbar releasing shows evidence for partial melting. The equivalent spectra for the 1 percent solution showed only loss of crystallinity and did not show melting changes. The partial melting becomes more evident in Figure 37D which shows the result of subtracting the 10 kbar (releasing) spectrum from the 3 kbar (releasing) spectrum. Thus, the 5 percent solution shows partial melting upon release of pressures, whereas the 1 percent solution showed only loss of crystallinity until it completely melted at about 1 kbar.

The polarized spectra of the 5 percent solution at 10 kbar presented in Figure 38 emphasize these changes. The polarization splitting of the  $1460\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band ( $\text{CH}_2$  bending) indicates order in the polycrystalline phase. On the other hand, when the pressure is released to 15 kbar, there is almost no splitting of the  $1460\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band (Figure 39). Some small dichroic effects are still seen in the  $1375\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band indicating some degree of order but this is far less than observed in the polarized spectra of the 1 percent solution.

Ten Percent Solution. A 10 percent solution of lauric acid in dodecane was placed in the diamond window high pressure cell using a 1 mil platinum gasket. Infrared spectra were obtained at ambient pressure, at 5 kbar, and

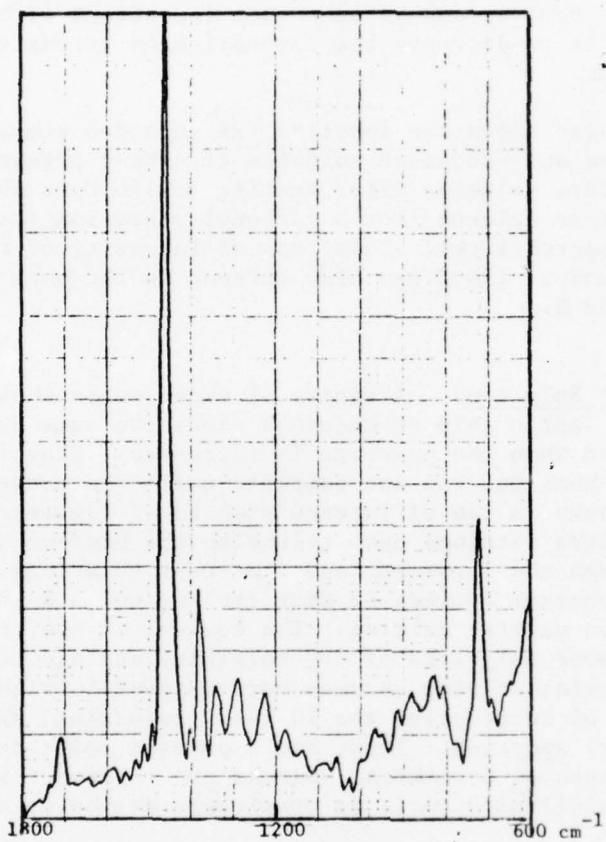


Figure 35. Infrared Spectra of One Percent  
Lauric Acid in Dodecane at 4 Kbar  
(23 C)

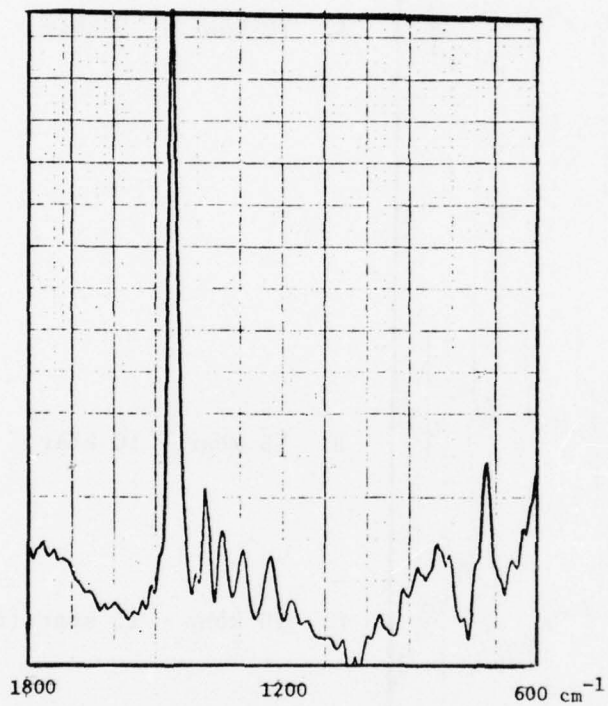


Figure 36. Infrared Spectra of One Percent Lauric Acid in Dodecane at 4 Kbar (170 C)

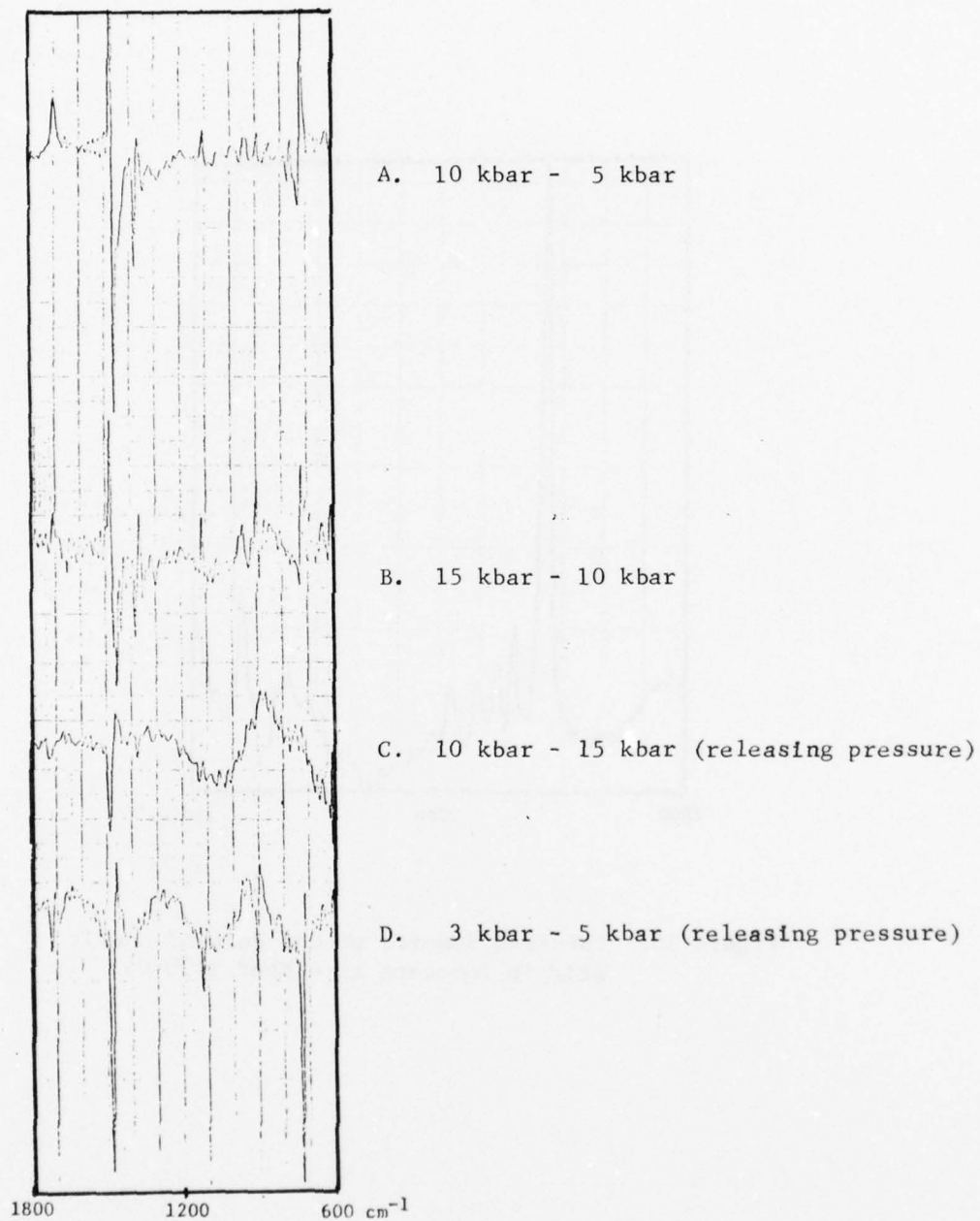
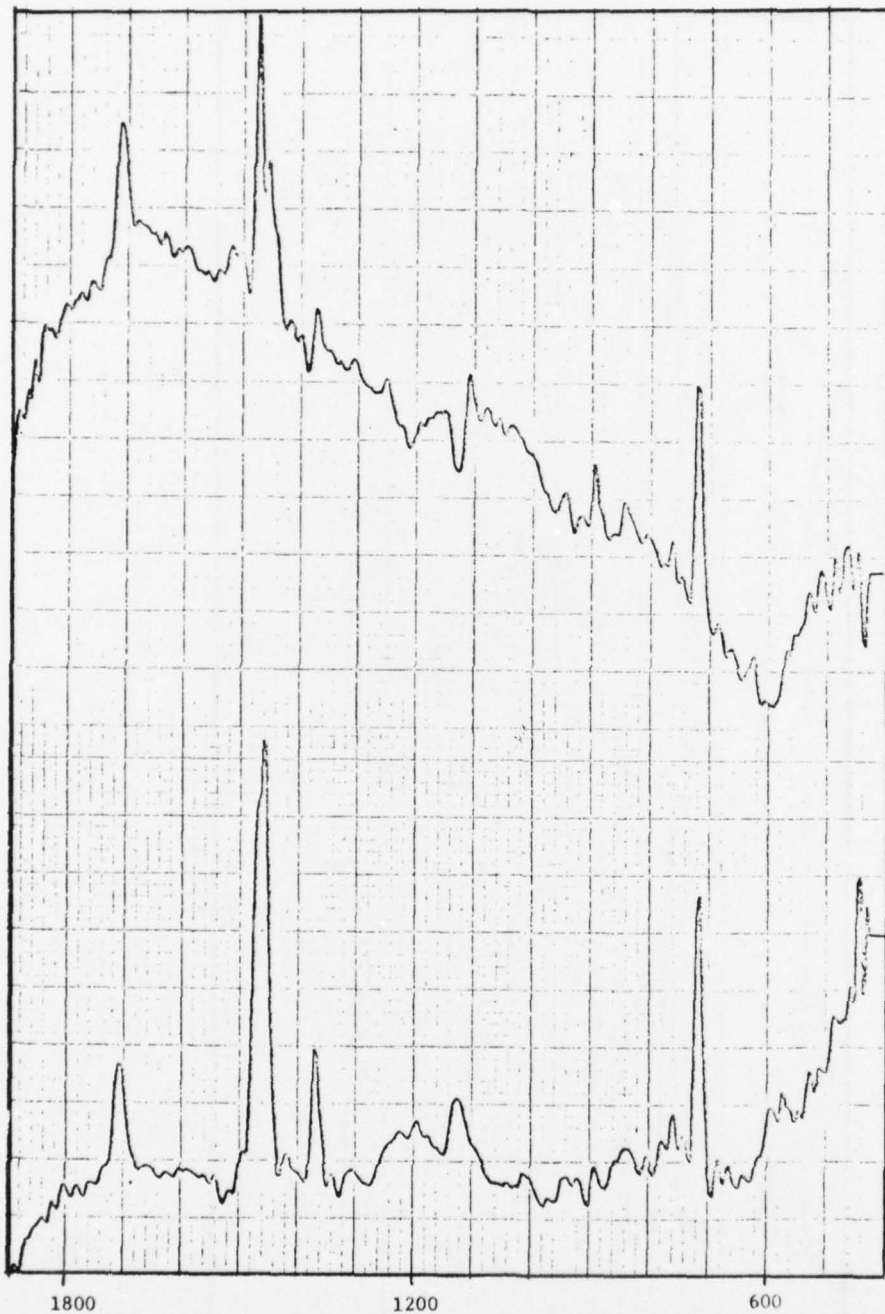


Figure 37. Subtracted Infrared Spectra (5 Percent Lauric Acid in Dodecane at Various Pressures)



A. 45°

B. 135°

Figure 38. Polarized Infrared Spectra of 5 Percent Lauric Acid in Dodecane at 10 Kbar

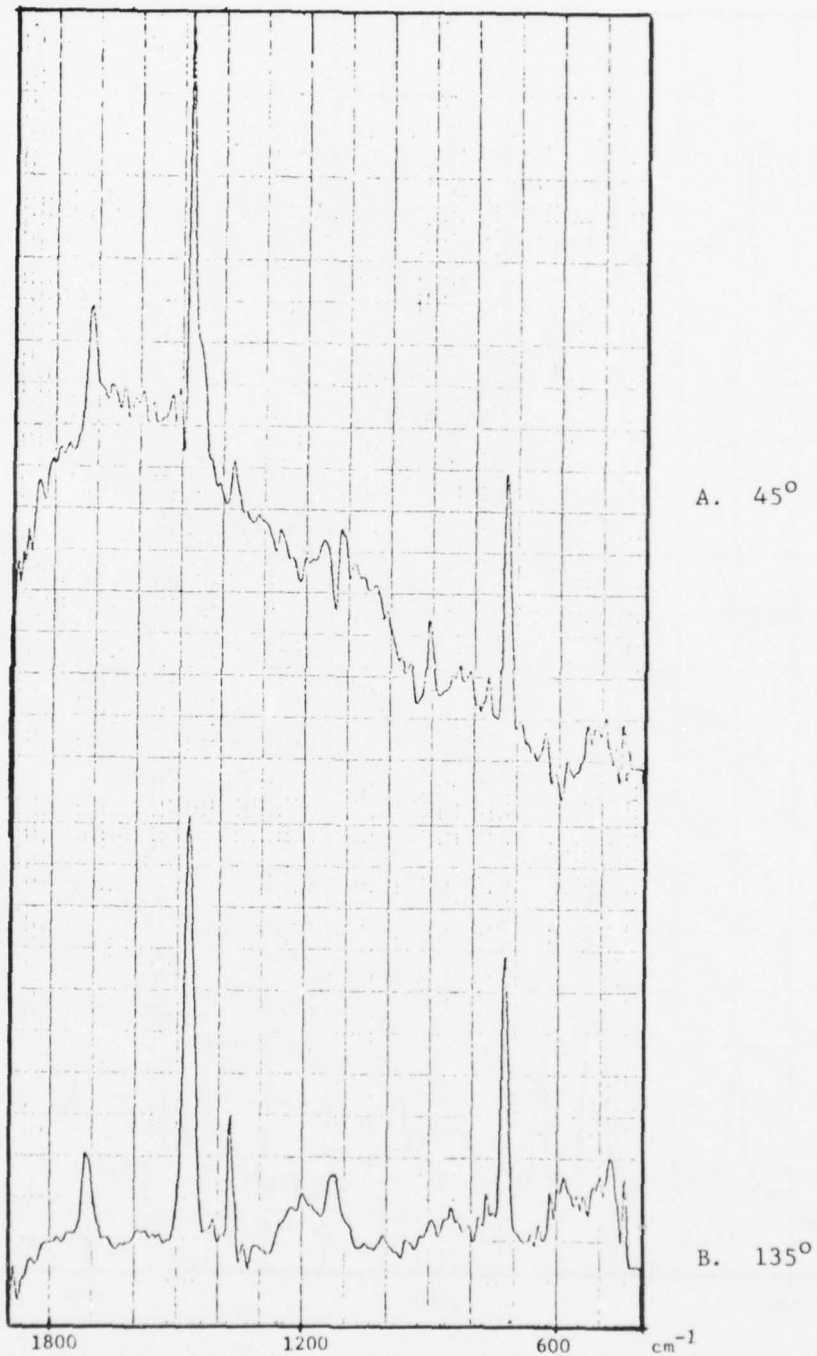


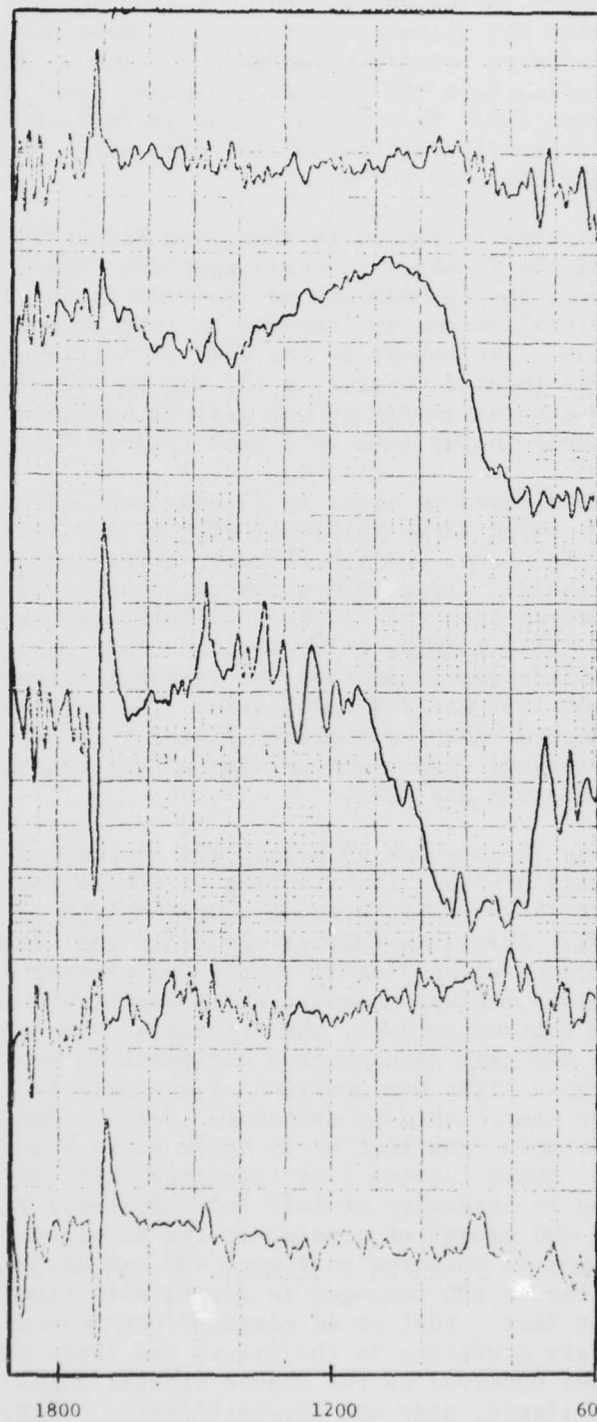
Figure 39. Polarized Infrared Spectra of 5 Percent Lauric Acid in Dodecane at 15 Kbar (Releasing Pressure)

at 10 kbar pressure. Both the visual observations (through a microscope) and the spectral changes indicated that the solution was still liquid at 10 kbar. This solution was allowed to stand at 10 kbar pressure for 70 hours, after which infrared spectra were again obtained. Subtraction of the 10 kbar, 0 hours spectrum from the 10 kbar, 70 hours spectrum gave the results shown in Figure 40A. This result shows an increase (with time) in intensity of the carbonyl vibration ( $1715\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and a broadening of the  $\text{CH}_2$  wag-rock frequency near  $720\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

The pressure was then raised to 14 kbar, and Figure 40B shows the result of subtracting the 10 kbar, 70 hours spectrum from the 14 kbar, 0 hours spectrum. Here the changes are an increase in intensity of the  $1715\text{ cm}^{-1}$  carbonyl vibration and an increase in intensity of the  $1465\text{ cm}^{-1}$   $\text{CH}_2$  bending vibrations. The change in the  $1465\text{ cm}^{-1}$  frequency is characteristic of pressure induced changes in the liquid hydrocarbon and indicate that the changes illustrated in Figure 40A may not be due to pressure changes since there is no change in the  $1465\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band (Figure 40A).

The solution was allowed to stand at 14 kbar applied pressure for 88 hours with spectra being taken intermittently during this period. At 0 and 16 hours both the visual and spectroscopic observations indicated that the solution was a liquid. Figure 40C shows the results of subtracting the 14 kbar, 0 hours spectrum from the 14 kbar, 16 hours spectrum. Even though the sample is still liquid, major spectroscopic changes can be observed, i.e., a low frequency shift of the carbonyl frequency along with intensification of the  $1465$  and  $770\text{ cm}^{-1}$  bands. The magnitude of these changes strongly indicate that the possible slight increase in pressure (due to gasket compression) cannot account for all of the changes (compare Figure 40C with Figures 40A and 40B).

After standing at 14 kbar for 20 hours, visual observation indicated the presence of a small crystal. Subtraction of the 14 kbar, 16 hours spectrum from that of 14 kbar, 20 hours, however, showed no spectral differences (Figure 40D). This is a further clue that the changes in Figure 40C cannot be due to pressure alone. At 21 hours, the crystal had grown by three-four fold (photomicrograph shown in the lower right hand corner of Figure 41). In this photomicrograph, the crystal is the rod-like shape in the upper portion of the cell running from northeast to southwest. The oval object in the upper right hand portion of the cell is a piece of debris and is neither lauric acid or dodecane. Subtraction of the 14 kbar, 20 hours spectrum from that of 21 hours at 14 kbar gave the results shown in Figure 40E. These changes (low frequency shift of  $1715\text{ cm}^{-1}$  carbonyl and increase in intensity of  $1465\text{ cm}^{-1}$   $\text{CH}_2$  bend) likely result from the increase in the amount of crystal in the solution. Note that these are large changes as compared to Figure 40D and are similar to the changes observed in Figure 40C (changes in liquid with time). This could indicate an important fact - that at an elevated but constant pressure, structuring changes are occurring in the liquid and these changes are similar to the changes observed as the liquid crystallizes. In other words, the structure of the liquid, near the crystallization point, approximates



A. 10 kbar,  
70 hour - 0 hour

B. 14 kbar - 0 hour  
10 kbar - 70 hour

C. 14 kbar,  
16 hour - 0 hour

D. 14 kbar,  
20 hour - 16 hour

E. 14 kbar,  
21 hour - 20 hour

Figure 40. Subtracted Infrared Spectra (10 Percent Solution of Lauric Acid in Dodecane)

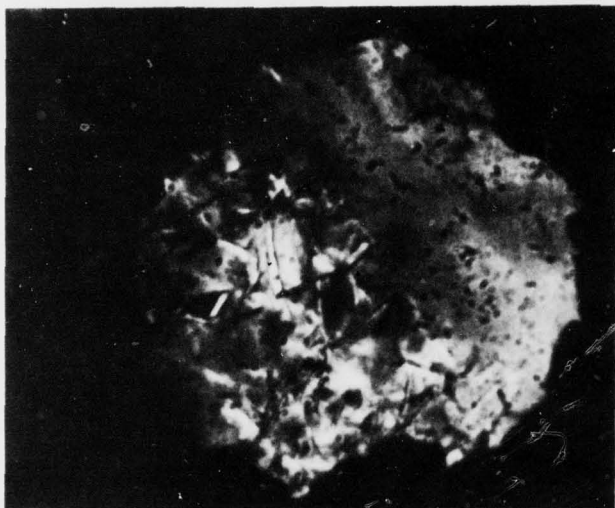
that of the crystal. The only alternative explanation is that at 16 hours at 14 kbar a crystal is present which is not visible under the microscope. If reproducible, these experimental observations can have important consequences in boundary lubrication behavior.

The crystal slowly increased in size, but by 40 hours at 14 kbar, no further growth could be detected. A photomicrograph taken at 40 hours is shown in the upper right hand corner of Figure 41 and the result of subtracting the 21 hours spectrum from the 40 hours spectrum is shown in Figure 40. The spectral changes observed between 21 and 40 hours are the same type as observed (in Figure 40E) between 20 and 21 hours. It is of interest to note that polarized spectra (not shown) obtained at 21 hours show no dichroic effects, i.e., show no signs of long range order.

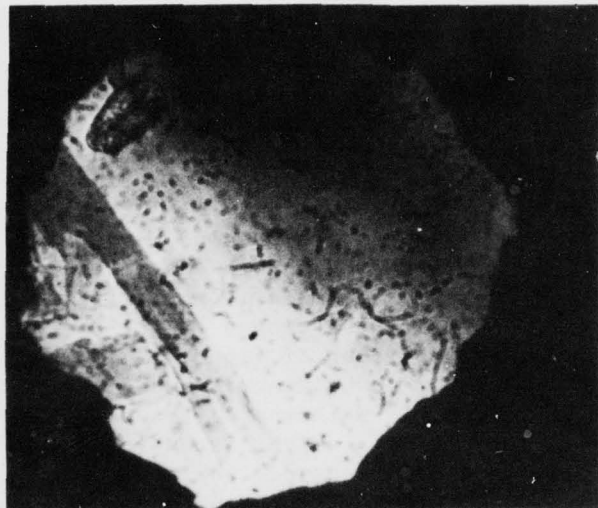
At 45 hours, a polycrystalline mass formed in the remainder of the cell (photomicrograph in the lower left hand corner of Figure 41). This polycrystalline mass is even more apparent (because of different microscope polarizer settings) in the photomicrograph taken at 88 hours (upper left hand portion of Figure 41). The subtracted spectra between 45 and 40 hours and between 88 and 45 hours are shown in Figures 42B and 42C, respectively. Note the differences between Figures 42A and 42B. In Figure 42B, there is a slight intensity increase in the  $1715\text{ cm}^{-1}$  carbonyl band, but not the frequency shift as seen in Figure 40A. Also, there are major differences (between Figure 42A and 42B) in the  $1465$  and  $720\text{ cm}^{-1}$  vibrations. In addition, the  $1385\text{ cm}^{-1}$   $\text{CH}_3$  bend, the  $1118\text{ cm}^{-1}$  C-C stretch, and the  $895\text{ cm}^{-1}$   $\text{CH}_3$  rock appear in Figure 42B, but are not apparent in Figure 42A. The changes observed in Figure 42B are typical of those observed when dodecane solidified, and indicate that the first solidification observed (20 to 40 hours) was solidification of lauric acid. Polarized spectra taken at 45 hours (not shown) still show no dichroic changes, thus, no indications of long range order.

Figure 42C gives very little indication of any changes, thus demonstrating that solidification was essentially complete after 45 hours at 14 kbar. The pressure was then raised to 24 kbar and Figure 42D shows the result of subtracting the 88 hour at 14 kbar spectrum from that at 24 kbar. Here the slight increase in intensity of all bands is typical of pressure increase on solid dodecane.

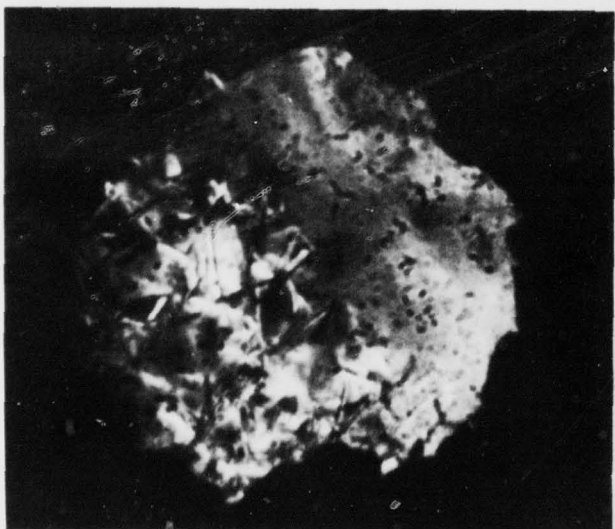
After the pressure had been increased to 24 kbar, we began to release the pressure. Infrared spectra were obtained at the following pressures (releasing pressure): 14 kbar; 10 kbar, 0 hours; 10 kbar, 64 hours; 5 kbar; and 4 kbar. Figure 43 shows the results of subtracting various pairs of these spectra. Figures 43A and 43B show that there is no detectable spectral change on releasing the pressure from 24 to 14 kbar (Figure 43A) or on releasing the pressure from 14 to 10 kbar (Figure 43B). Figure 43C shows that there is no change in the solid after standing for 64 hours at 10 kbar.



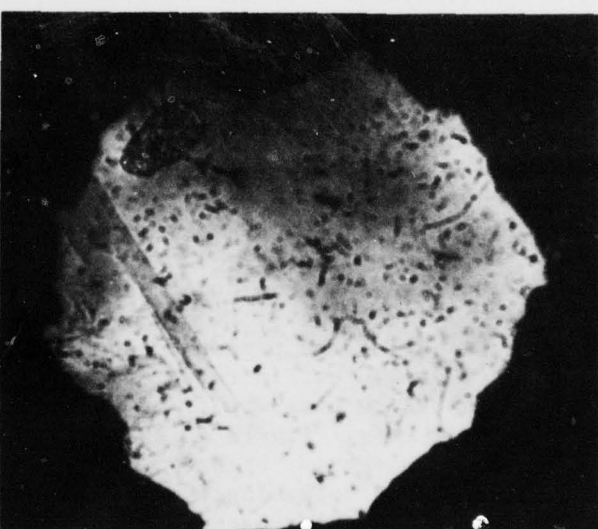
88 Hours



40 Hours



45 Hours



21 Hours

FIGURE 41. PHOTOMICROGRAPHS, 10 PERCENT LAURIC ACID IN DODECANE AT 14 KBAR PRESSURE

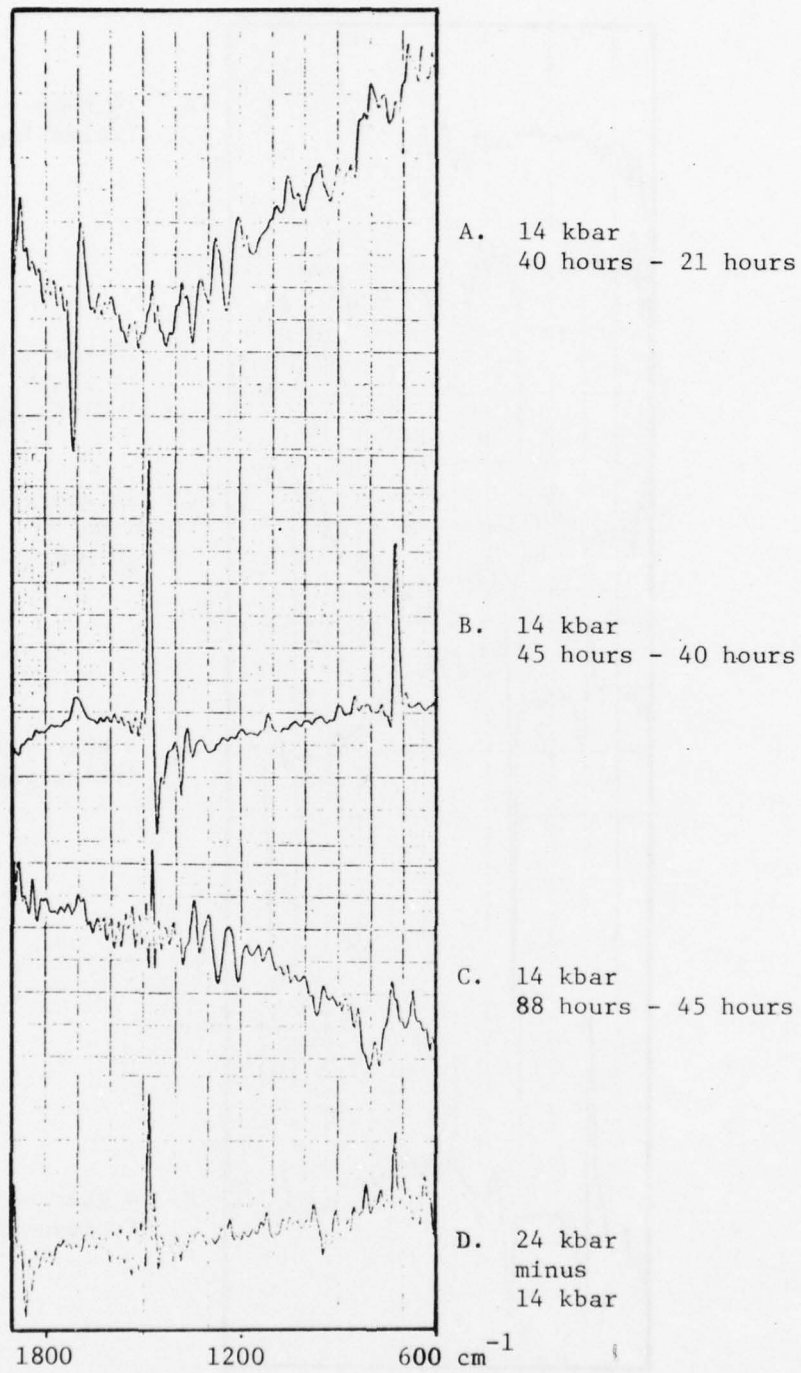


Figure 42. Subtracted Infrared Spectra (10 Percent Solution of Lauric Acid in Dodecane)

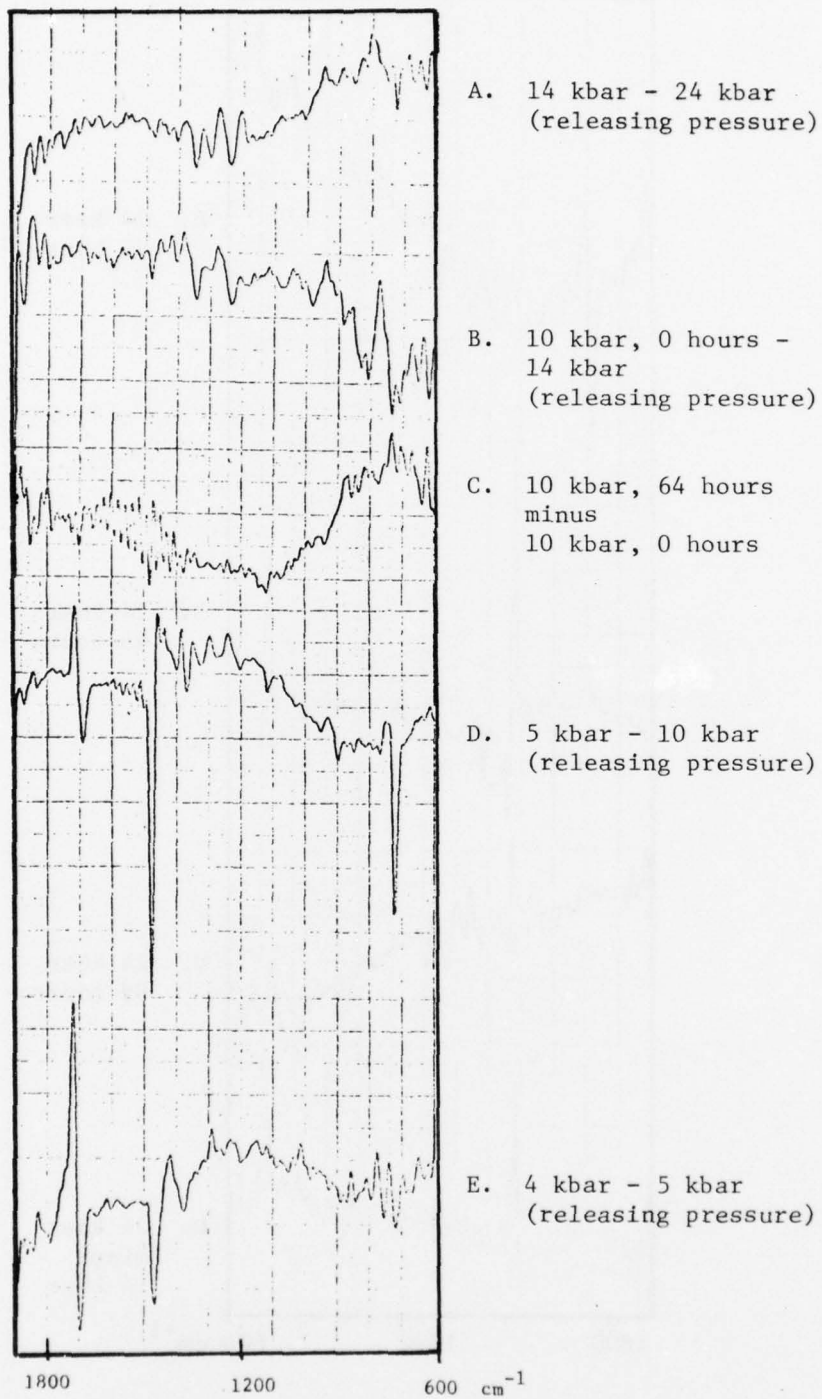


Figure 43. Subtracted Infrared Spectra (10 Percent Solution of Lauric Acid in Dodecane) Decreasing Pressure

However, Figure 43D shows the results of subtracting the 5 kbar spectrum from the 10 kbar spectrum (as pressure is being released) and indicates that the dodecane is melting and some of the lauric acid is melting (confirmed by microscopic observations). Upon releasing the pressure to 4 kbar, all of the sample melts and the spectral differences (Figure 43E) indicate this melting. Furthermore, Figure 43E indicates no melting of dodecane (i.e., all the dodecane had already melted), only lauric acid melting (as evidenced by the large carbonyl change).

Because of the importance of the previous observations (to boundary lubrication behavior), the time dependence experiment (with a 10 percent lauric acid-dodecane solution) was repeated. Figure 44 shows subtractions of pairs of the 10 percent lauric acid-dodecane solution spectra obtained in the course of this second time dependency experiment.

When the pressure was raised from ambient to 10 kbar pressure, no visual evidence for crystallization was observed. The result of subtracting the 10 kbar pressure spectrum from the ambient pressure spectrum is shown in Figure 44A. The changes observed in Figure 44A might represent either pressure effects on liquid lauric acid or they might indicate lauric acid crystallization, but the changes definitely are not due to crystallization of dodecane.

After the solution stood at 10 kbar pressure for a day, microscopic observation indicated that a small part of the solution had crystallized. The changes between zero time at 10 kbar and 1 day at 10 kbar are shown in Figure 44B. Here it can be observed that only small changes had occurred, i.e., a loss in carbonyl intensity ( $1700\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and a gain in CH intensity ( $1470\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) with pressure.

After 3 days at 10 kbar pressure, only crystals - no liquid - could be visually observed. The spectral changes between 1 and 3 days at 10 kbar pressure are shown in Figure 44C. These changes are even smaller than seen in Figure 44B. With increasing time, the spectral changes become even smaller until they are almost unobservable as seen in Figure 44D. This figure shows the spectral changes between 18 and 23 days at 10 kbar pressure. Thus, while visual evidence indicated that crystallization started after 1 day at 10 kbar pressure and was completed after 3 days at 10 kbar pressure, the spectra indicated that lauric acid crystallized, but dodecane did not.

After 23 days at 10 kbar pressure, the pressure on the 10 percent lauric acid-dodecane solution was raised to about 11 kbar. There was slight visual evidence for further crystallization and strong spectral evidence for dodecane crystallization as shown in Figure 44E.

The purpose of this experiment was to check the reproducibility of the experiment on the 10 percent solution detailed in the preceding paragraphs. The original experiment indicated changes occurring in the solution (likely

INFRARED SPECTRA OF  
LAURIC ACID IN DODECANE

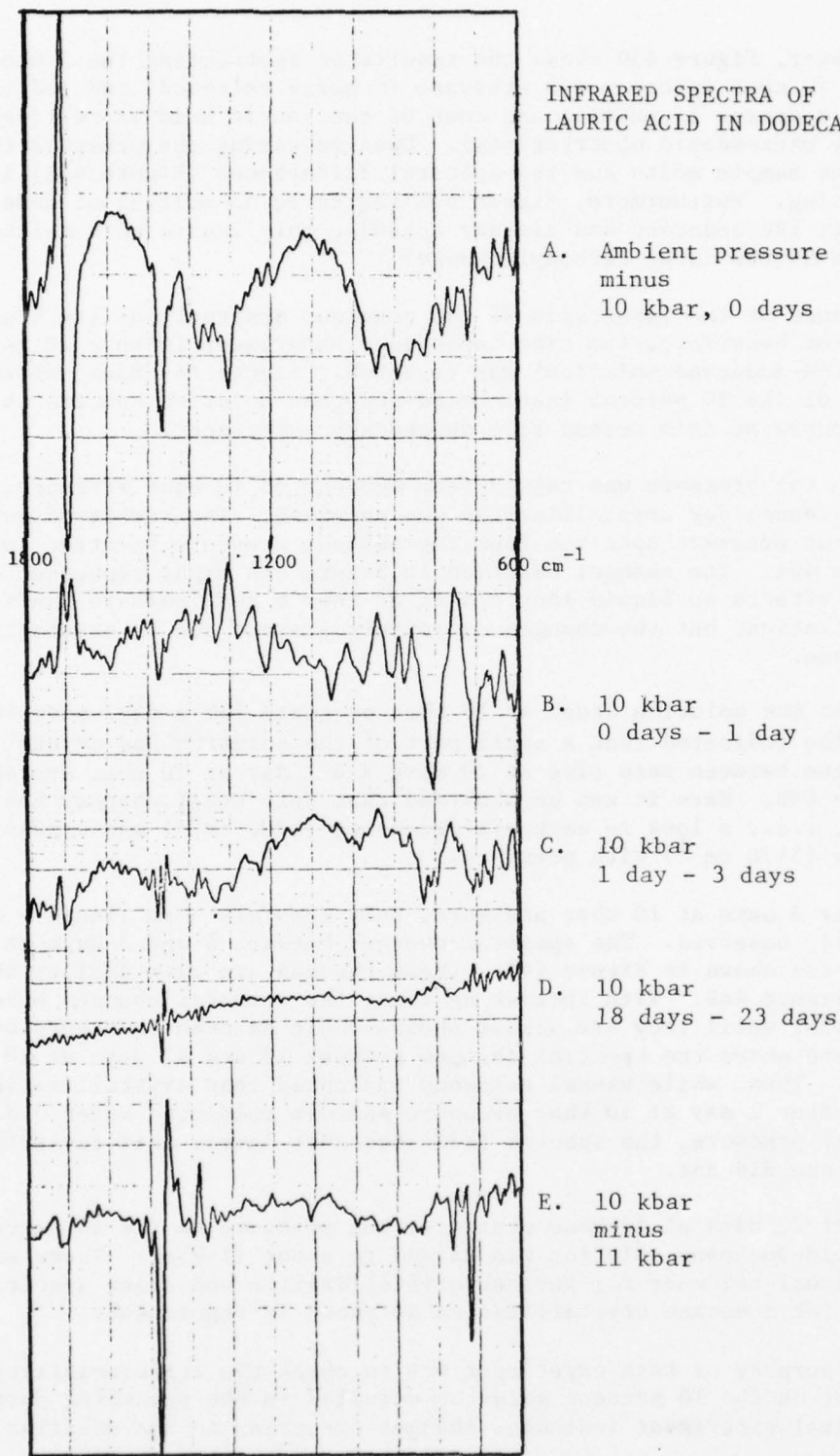


Figure 44. Subtracted Infrared Spectra of 10 Percent  
Lauric Acid in Dodecane

to be lauric acid aggregation) which are similar to the changes observed as lauric acid crystallized. These changes were observed with increasing time at a constant applied pressure and both lauric acid and dodecane eventually solidified at this constant pressure. In the second experiment, changes occurred with increasing time at a constant applied pressure, but eventually (by 23 days) the solution became constant and no further changes were observed (Figure 44D). However, in the current experiment, lauric acid and dodecane began to crystallize at similar, but discrete pressures.

Comparison of the first and second experiments on the 10 percent solution indicate that in this solution lauric acid and dodecane crystallize in overlapping pressure ranges. In the first experiment, it is likely that we were in the middle of this range so eventually both crystallized at the same pressure. However, in the second experiment, it is likely that the solution was near the low (or lauric acid crystallization) end of this range so a pressure increase was needed to crystallize the dodecane.

In the second experiment, when the pressure was raised to 10 kbar from ambient, changes occurred (Figure 44A) which are similar (See Figures 37C, 37E and 39E) to changes previously attributed to lauric acid aggregation in solution (Figure 37C) or to lauric acid crystallization (Figures 37E and 39E). Since in the second experiment no crystallization was observed when the pressure was initially raised to 10 kbar, these spectral changes (Figure 44A) must also be attributed to lauric acid aggregation.

Figure 45 repeats (for comparison purposes) the spectrum of Figure 44E (spectral changes on raising the pressure from 10 to 11 kbar). After standing for one day at 11 kbar, the spectral evidence (Figure 45B) indicates further crystallization of dodecane, but also indicates changes in the lauric acid (note the ratio of the height of the  $1710\text{ cm}^{-1}$  carbonyl band of lauric acid to the height of the  $1470\text{ cm}^{-1}$  CH bands of dodecane).

During the next nine days at 11 kbar, very little change is observed (Figure 45C). Even raising the pressure to 12 kbar does not bring about much change in the solution (Figure 45D). However, after standing for 21 days at 12 kbar pressure, major changes can be observed (Figure 45E). It is important to emphasize that during the time period covered by the spectra of Figure 45, virtually no visual (microscopic) changes were observed. The spectral changes observed in Figure 45E indicate much more dodecane crystallization and more of the same type of lauric acid change as seen in Figure 45 B.

The behavior of the 10 percent solution is extremely interesting and can be summarized as follows:

- (1) Both the dodecane crystallization and what is likely lauric acid crystallization are slow processes and therefore take place over a period of time at a constant applied pressure.

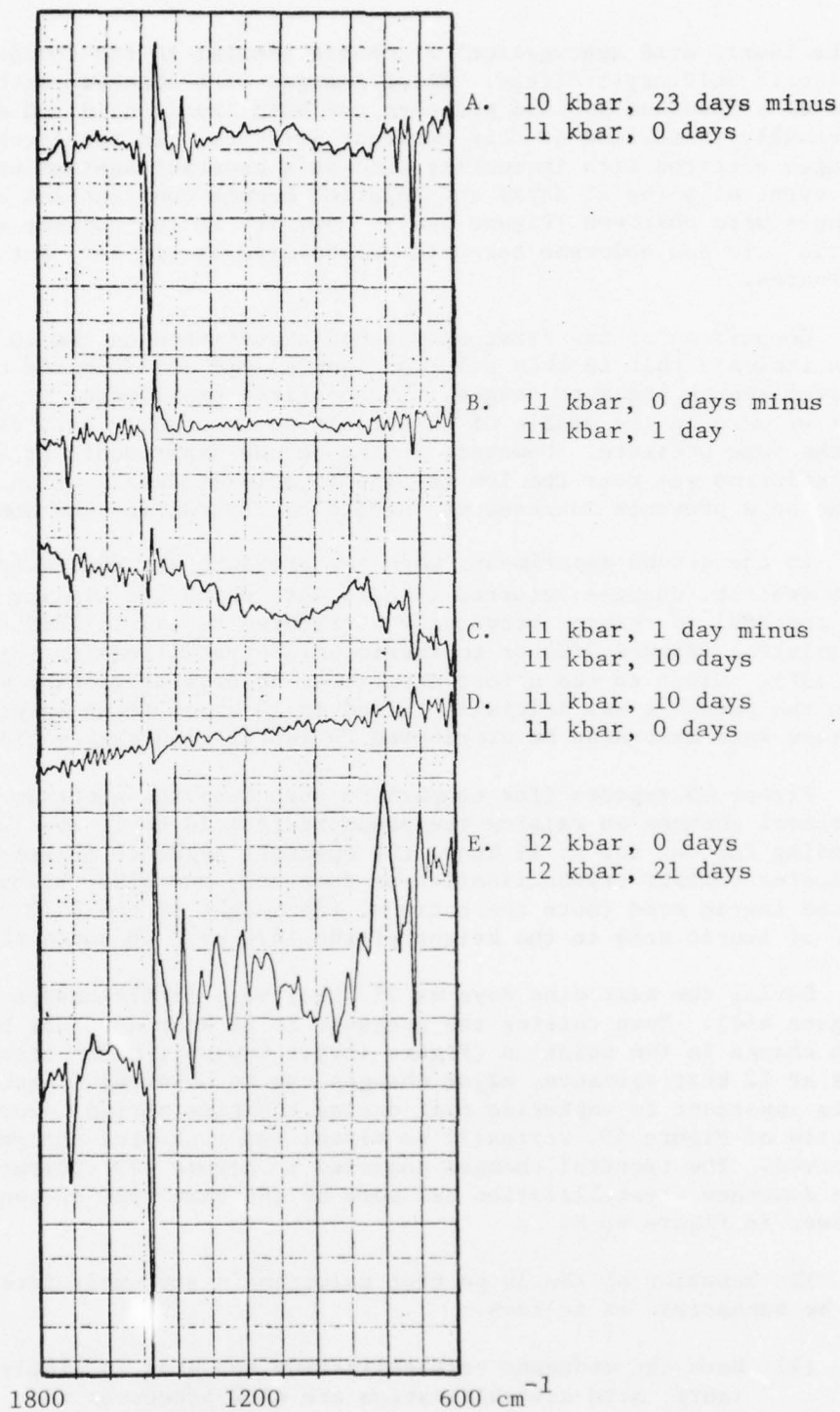


Figure 45. Subtracted Infrared Spectra of 10 Percent Lauric Acid in Dodecane

- (2) At 10 kbar pressure, lauric acid begins to crystallize, but dodecane does not.
- (3) At 11 kbar pressure, dodecane begins to crystallize and the lauric acid either further crystallizes or undergoes some other type of change.
- (4) At 12 kbar, dodecane continues to crystallize and the lauric acid continues to change.
- (5) This is an equilibrium process that covers a pressure range so raising the pressure will shift the equilibrium (towards crystallization), but will not necessarily drive the reaction to completion.

#### Discussion of Lauric Acid-Dodecane

##### Spectral Data

The subtracted spectra of Figures 4 and 5 illustrate that pressure effects on liquid dodecane can be clearly differentiated from pressure effects on solid dodecane and either of these pressure effects can be spectrally distinguished from the changes caused by pressure-induced solidifications. Thus, the infrared spectra of dodecane will reveal if the sample is all liquid, all solid, or changing from liquid to solid. When the sample is changing from liquid to solid, the spectra coupled with visual microscopic observations can be used to tell if the sample has completely crystallized or melted.

In addition, the polarized spectra of Figures 4 and 5 show that dodecane (Figure 6) single crystals exhibit large dichroic effects and thus any pressure-induced molecular order in polycrystalline dodecane would likely be detected (Figure 7). This also illustrates that we will be able to detect small changes in molecular order as dodecane or solutions of dodecane crystallize or melt.

The fact that some molecular order exists in polycrystalline dodecane likely arises from the fact that dodecane is very slow to crystallize. Thus, even though the pressure has been raised above the solidification point (superpression), it still takes a finite period of time before thermodynamic equilibrium is established. This is illustrated by the subtracted spectra of Figure 8 where solidification or crystallization was detected after 1 hour at 10 kbars pressure (Figure 8B). However, solidification was not complete after 21 hours at 10 kbars pressure (Figure 8C) as evidenced by the fact that raising the pressure to 14 kbars (Figure 8D) indicated that solidification was still occurring.

The necessity to achieve thermodynamic equilibrium is supported by the melting data shown in Figure 9. Here (as pressure is released from 24

to <1 kbar), dodecane shows no signs of partial melting (Figures 9A, 9B, and 9C). Indeed, these spectra show only the normal (as defined in Figure 5C) effects of pressure changes on solid dodecane. It is only when the pressure is less than 1 kbar that melting can be detected (both visually and spectrally). At this point the sample rapidly and completely melts.

Since lauric acid exists as a solid at room temperature, it is more difficult to ascertain the pressure effects on liquid lauric acid than it is for dodecane (which is a liquid at room temperature), and it is also more difficult to ascertain the changes caused by pressure-induced solidification. However, Figure 12 clearly delineates the pressure effects on solid lauric acid. As previously stated in the section on lauric acid, pressure effects on solid lauric acid are large (from a spectral standpoint) compared to pressure effects on dodecane. Many IR bands of solid lauric acid show large frequency shifts with pressure changes (not seen in dodecane). All of these vibrations involve the CO or OH groups and the frequency shifts arise from the fact that pressure changes easily affect the hydrogen bond of lauric acid, i.e., an increase in pressure compresses the hydrogen bond. Thus, there are large spectral effects as the hydrogen bond of solid lauric acid is changed by pressure. On the other hand, the hydrocarbon vibrations of solid lauric acid behave much like the vibrations of the hydrocarbon chain of dodecane; that is, they exhibit an intensity change, but little or no frequency shift.

To observe the pressure effects on liquid lauric acid, it is necessary to obtain the spectra at an elevated temperature. Spectra and subtracted spectra of lauric acid (at 100 C) are shown in Figures 17 and 18, respectively. Figures 18A and 18B show that (as for liquid dodecane) pressure effects on the liquid are fewer and smaller than for the solid. For liquid lauric acid this consists mainly of a low frequency shift (with increasing pressure) of the carbonyl vibration near  $1700\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and a small intensity increase of the  $1460$  and  $1290\text{ cm}^{-1}$  vibrations.

Major changes occur as a result of pressure-induced solidification (Figure 18C), most of which have been described in the section on lauric acid and, therefore, will not be repeated here. However, one change that should be noted here is that upon solidification the carbonyl stretching frequency (near  $1700\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) both shifts to lower frequencies and broadens considerably. Because of the low frequency shift, it is difficult to detect the broadening in the subtracted spectra (Figure 18C) between liquid and solid lauric acid. Such broadening is more easily detected by comparing the absorbance spectra of liquid (Figure 17A) and solid (Figure 17B) lauric acid. This can be seen even more readily by comparing Figures 48A and 48B in the next section which describes reactions at a metalized diamond interface. This broadening of the carbonyl vibration is important because in the lauric acid-dodecane solutions (especially the dilute solutions), the only lauric acid vibration that can be observed is the carbonyl vibration. Also, the low frequency shift upon solidification (Figure 18C) can

be confused with the low frequency shift of the carbonyl vibration when the pressure is raised on liquid lauric acid (Figure 18B). Thus in dilute solutions, the broadening of the carbonyl vibration may be the only spectral means of detecting solidification of the lauric acid.

Also of interest to note is that (at 100 C), pressure-induced solidification of lauric acid appears to occur rapidly and completely. This can be seen in Figure 18D where raising the pressure gives no evidence of further solidification. However, it should be noted that the polymorph produced by pressure at 100 C differs from the polymorph produced by melting and cooling to ambient temperature (see Figure 19). Thus, care must be taken when comparing pressure effects on various solids.

For the solutions, the spectral data can best be summarized in terms of crystallization behavior, melting behavior, and the effects of temperature. The crystallization behavior is described in Table 1, while the melting behavior is listed in Table 2 and the effects of temperature are described in Table 3.

Of interest (and not reported in the table are the effects of temperature and pressure on infrared band intensities. In general, a pressure increase brings about an increase in infrared band intensities (see, for example, Figures 19B, 21B, 28C, 30C, 32C, and 43D) unless there is a pressure-induced solidification. Solidification brings about both increases and decreases in band intensities. A temperature increase, on the other hand, generally brings about a decrease in infrared band intensities (see Figures 30B and 32B). Therefore, a pressure increase or a temperature decrease would increase band intensities. Since these (P increase or T decrease) are conditions promoting solidification, it can be said that intensities increase as the sample becomes more like a solid.

The temperature-infrared intensity relationship is especially important in the case of the carbonyl frequency of 1 percent solutions at elevated temperatures (Figures 34 and 35). At 4 kbar pressure, the 1700  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  carbonyl frequency decreases in intensity as the temperature is raised. At 170 C, this band has completely disappeared (to the limits of our instrumental detectability). These results indicate changes in the structure of the lauric acid (as the temperature is raised) and one possible structural change is that the high temperature is changing the hydrogen bonding from a cyclic dimer to a linear dimer or to a monomer. Some evidence for this can be seen in Figure 18C. This figure shows the difference spectrum between liquid and solid lauric acid at 100 C. As can be seen in Figure 18C, liquid lauric acid has a small band near 1745  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  which is lost when the sample solidifies. Such a 1745  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  band (only seen in the heated liquid) likely arises from the carbonyl vibration of a lauric acid monomer (no hydrogen bonding). The carbonyl vibration of a monomer has a smaller absorptivity than the carbonyl vibration of a dimer. Thus at 170 C, the 1 percent solution may have converted (to a large extent) to monomer, and the carbonyl vibration of the monomer would be too small to detect.

TABLE 1  
 CRYSTALLIZATION PRESSURES OF DODECANE AND  
 LAURIC ACID-DODECANE SOLUTIONS

Sample	Crystallization Pressure
Dodecane	10-14 kbar
Lauric Acid-Dodecane, 1%	10-14 kbar
Lauric Acid-Dodecane, 5%	10-14 kbar
Lauric Acid-Dodecane, 10%	
	<u>1st Run</u>
	Lauric Acid, 14 kbar, 20 hours
	Dodecane, 14 kbar, 40 hours
	<u>2nd Run</u>
	Lauric Acid, 10 kbar, 1-3 days
	Dodecane, 10-11 kbar

TABLE 2  
MELTING BEHAVIOR OF DODECANE AND LAURIC ACID-DODECANE SOLUTIONS

Sample	Melting Pressure	Remarks
Dodecane	1 kbar	No partial melting.
Lauric Acid-Dodecane, 1%	2 kbar	No partial melting, no loss of order.
Lauric Acid-Dodecane, 5%	15-5 kbar 3 kbar	Partial melting, loss of order. Completely melted.
Lauric Acid-Dodecane, 10%	10-5 kbar 5-4 kbar	Mainly dodecane melting. No order, initially, therefore no loss of order. Mainly lauric acid melting. No order, initially, therefore no loss of order.

TABLE 3  
 CRYSTALLIZATION PRESSURES OF LAURIC ACID AND  
 LAURIC ACID-DODECANE SOLUTIONS AT ELEVATED TEMPERATURES

Sample	Temperature, C	Crystallization Pressure, kbar
Lauric Acid-Dodecane, 1%	23	10-14
	85	14-19
	170	No Crystallization (Up to 39 kbar)
Lauric Acid	100	14-19 (But crystallizes in different form than if melted and cooled at ambient pressure)

Another important aspect of the solution spectral data is the time behavior of the 10 percent solution (at constant applied pressure). This behavior is illustrated in Figures 40, 42, and 44. Not only do lauric acid and dodecane crystallize (or melt) separately, but the changes observed in the liquid with time (Figure 40C) indicate structuring changes in the liquid. These changes have been attributed to aggregation, or clustering of lauric acid molecules and again may be attributed to the fact that this system is very slow to reach thermodynamic equilibrium. However, the important point is that we are able to ascertain the structural changes that take place during the process of reaching thermodynamic equilibrium. Thus, we cannot only follow the melting and crystallization process, but we can follow the approach to equilibrium.

#### Interfacial Chemical Reactions in the Diamond Cell

The studies described in the previous sections have yielded much data on the effect of pressure on the bulk properties of fluids. Because of the inertness of diamond, no chemical reactions between solutes and substrate were observed in these experiments. This type of bulk data, though of potentially very great utility in developing models for boundary lubrication, must be supplemented by information on interfacial interactions. With some effort the diamond anvil cell can be utilized in the study of interfacial reactions. After some preliminary experiments on various methods of metalization, two diamond anvils were coated by evaporation with a layer of iron a few hundred angstroms thick. A diamond cell with these iron-coated anvils was found to transmit about 18 percent of the infrared radiation transmitted by the uncoated diamonds.

The cell was then loaded with a 10 percent solution of lauric acid in dodecane. In the process of loading, part of the iron was rubbed off of one of the diamonds so that the solution was exposed not only to iron surfaces but also to diamond. Spectra were then obtained at ambient pressure and 8 kbar. The weak bands near  $895\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1118\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in Figure 46A indicate that small amounts of material had crystallized. Also, the breadth of the carbonyl ( $1710\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) vibration of lauric acid indicates the presence of crystalline lauric acid, indicating that the crystalline material responsible for the weak bands near  $895\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1118\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is lauric acid. At 8 kbar (Figure 46B), the  $895\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1118\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are more intense, indicating that some dodecane had crystallized. Figure 46C shows that no further changes occurred after the specimen was kept at 8 kbar for 16 hours.

The changes seen in Figure 46 can be more easily followed in Figure 47 which shows various difference spectra. These spectra indicate the following:



Figure 46. Infrared Spectra of a 10 Percent Lauric Acid-Dodecane Solution (Fe-Coated Diamond Windows)

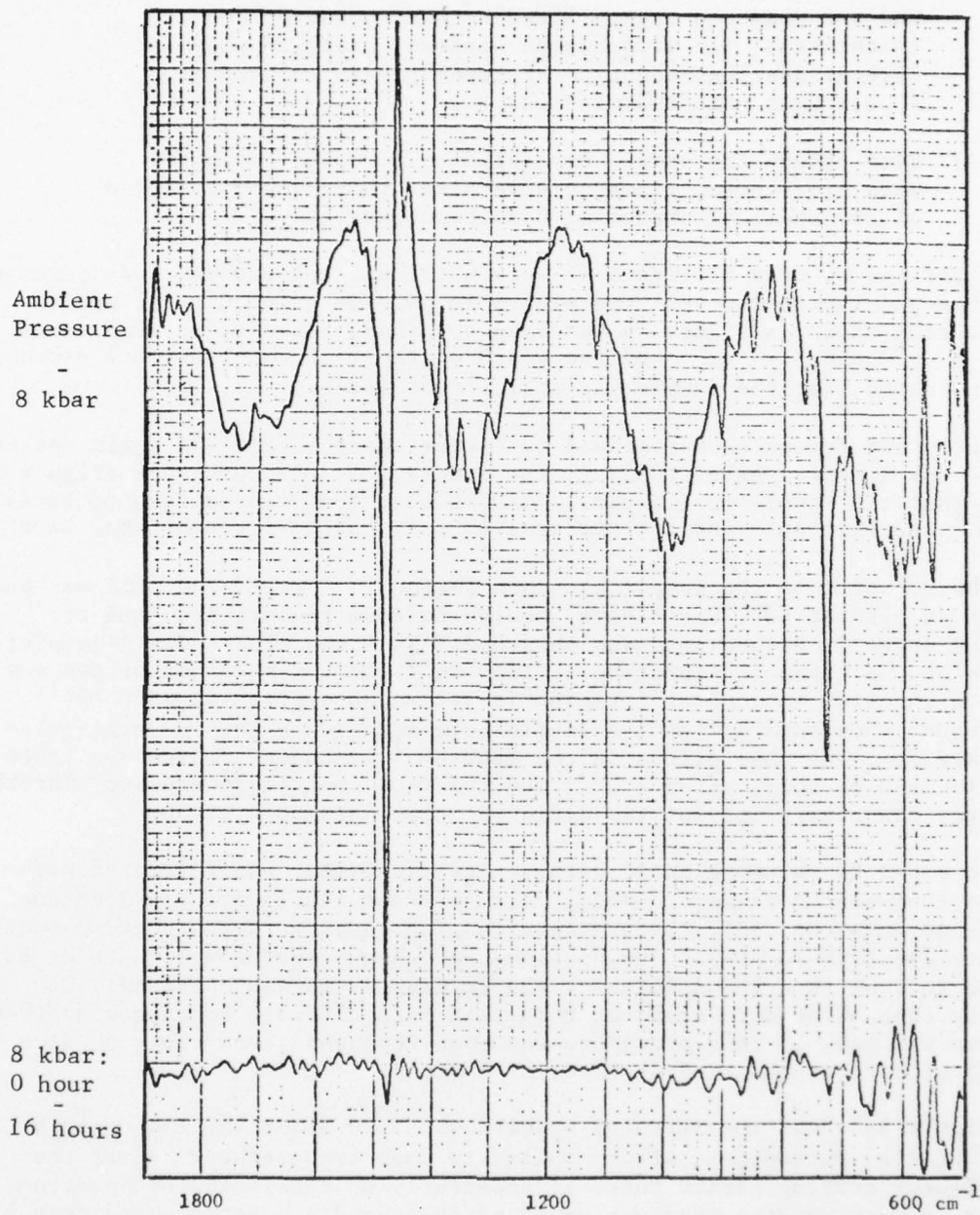


Figure 47. Subtracted Infrared Spectra of 10 Percent Lauric Acid-Dodecane Solution (Fe-Coated Diamond Windows)

- (1) The lauric acid crystallized near ambient pressure and the dodecane crystallized between 0 and 8 kbar in the cell with iron-coated windows. Both of these crystallizations occurred at lower pressures than in a cell with uncoated windows.
- (2) Even though the sample crystallized at lower pressures when iron-coated diamonds were used, there is no evidence of any chemical change at room temperature.

After the spectra of Figure 46 were obtained, the pressure was released to 6 kbar and the entire cell was placed in an oven at 60 C for 1 hour. The spectrum shown in Figure 48 was then obtained. The presence of bands near  $895\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1118\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and the width of the  $1710\text{ cm}^{-1}$  carbonyl vibration indicated that the sample was still crystalline.

The pressure was then released to 1 kbar and the cell was again heated at 60 C for 1 hour. After cooling, the spectrum at this pressure (Figure 48B) showed that the sample was liquid. This is seen from the absence of bands at  $895\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1118\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and the narrow  $1710\text{ cm}^{-1}$  carbonyl vibrational band.

The pressure on the sample was then raised to 6 kbar, the cell was put back in an oven at 60 C for 4 days, cooled to room temperature, and the spectrum shown in Figure 48 C was obtained. This spectrum shows a complete absence of the carbonyl vibration at  $1710\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and the presence of two new bands in the  $1500$  to  $1600\text{ cm}^{-1}$  region (a strong absorption at  $1550\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). These bands show that all of the lauric acid reacted to form a metal salt-iron laurate. The absorptions in the  $1500\text{ cm}^{-1}$  frequency region are those of an ionized carboxyl group ( $\text{COO}^-$ ) and the fact that there are two vibrations indicates the possibility of two different types of  $\text{COO}^-$  group.

In order to obtain kinetic data, a new experiment was initiated with freshly iron-coated diamond anvils. A 10 percent lauric acid in dodecane was loaded into the cell, the pressure was increased to 6 kbar, and a spectrum was obtained (Figure 49A). The specimen was then heated for 2 hours at 60 C, allowed to cool, and the spectrum given in Figure 49B was obtained. The cell was then allowed to stand at room temperature for 16 hours and another spectrum was taken. This procedure was then repeated seven times to give a total of 14 hours heating at 60 C.

Figure 49 shows the infrared spectra obtained after the end of each 2-hour heating period just after cooling to room temperature. After the first 2-hour heating period there is apparently no change in the spectrum. However, a more careful examination of scale-expanded spectra shows that a very small infrared band arising from the  $\text{COO}^-$  vibration of iron laurate can be seen near  $1550\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . This absorption can be seen more clearly in Figure 49C (4 hours heating at 60 C).

The slow growth of the  $1550\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band and the disappearance of the acid carbonyl vibration at  $1710\text{ cm}^{-1}$  can be followed in Figures 49D through 49G.

A. Pressure released to 6 kbar  
heated at 60° C for 1 hour,  
cooled to room temperature.

B. Pressure released to 1 kbar  
heated at 60° C for 1 hour,  
cooled to room temperature.

C. Pressure raised to 6 kbar  
heated at 60° C for 4 days  
cooled to room temperature.

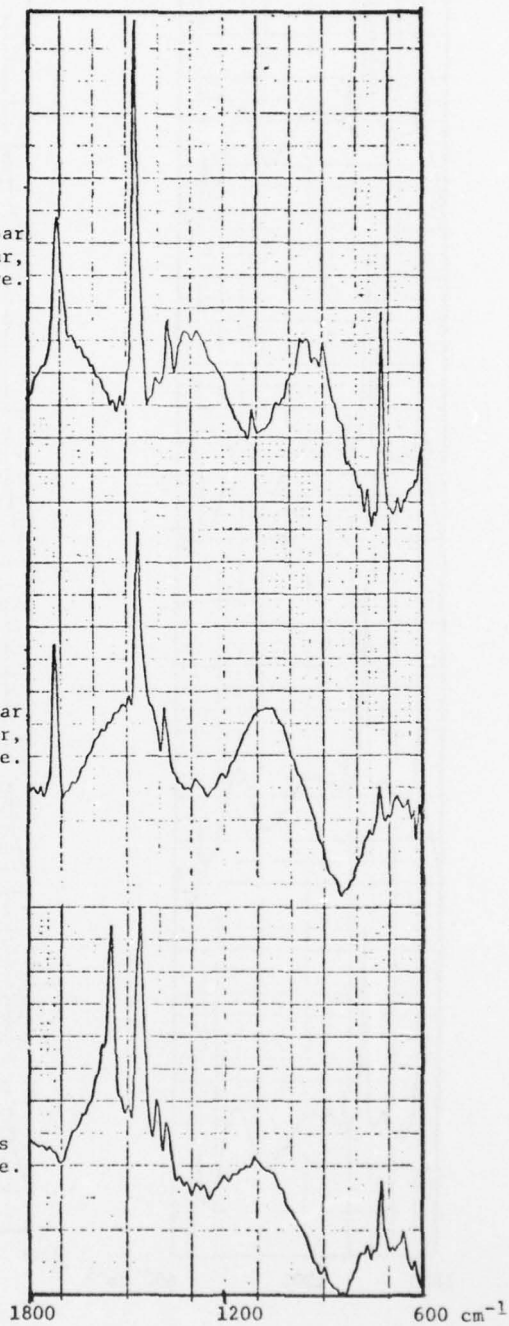


Figure 48. Infrared Spectra of a 10 Percent Lauric Acid-Dodecane Solution (Fe-Coated Diamond Windows)

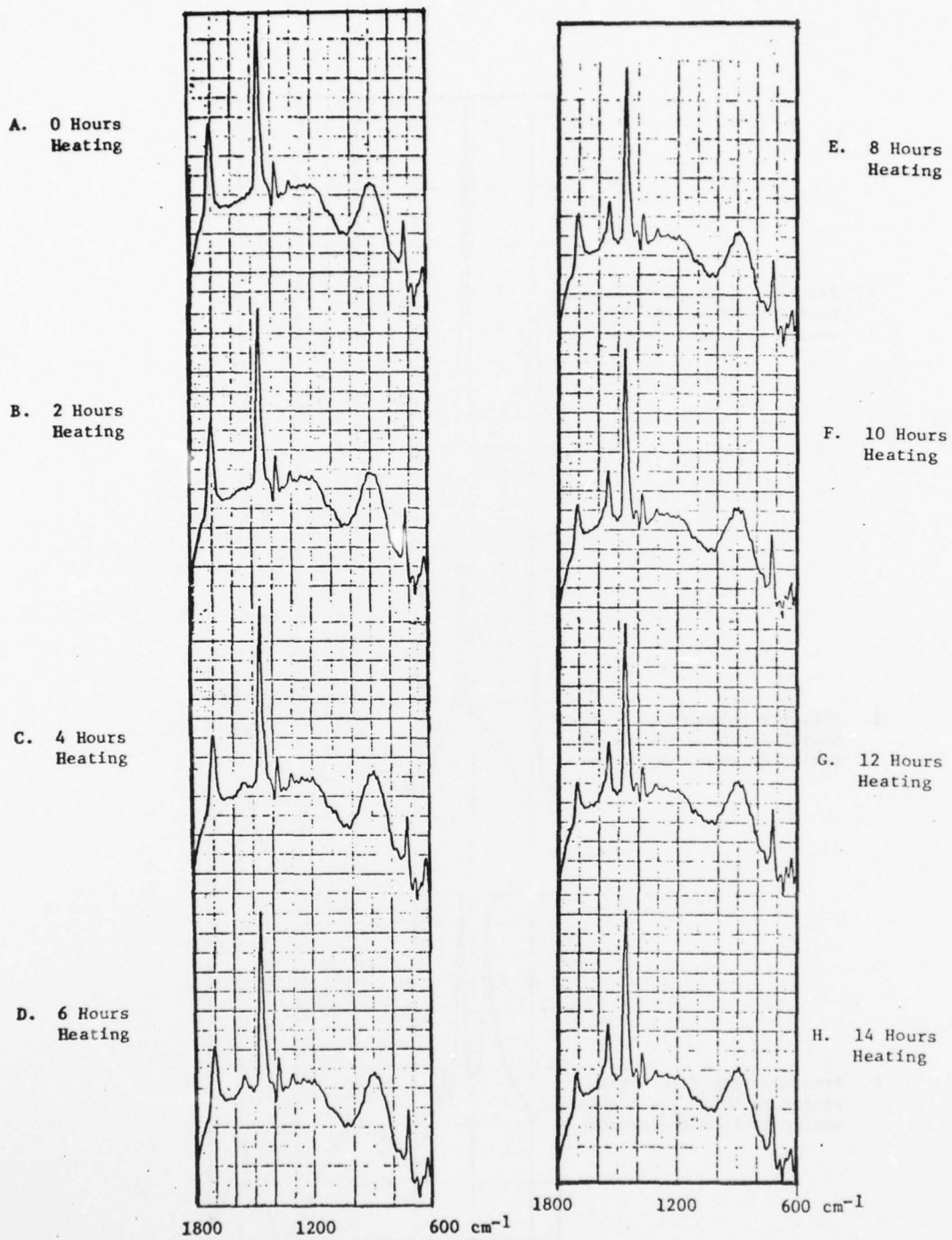


Figure 49. Infrared Spectra of a 10 Percent Lauric-Acid Dodecane Solution at 6 kbar Pressure and After Heating for Various Periods at 60 C (Fe-Coated Windows)

After 14 hours at 60 C, the reaction is about 60 percent complete (as judged by comparison of the  $1710\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band intensity with the original intensity of this band seen in Figure 49A).

The rate of the reaction can be more easily observed in Figure 50 which is a plot of absorbance of the  $1710\text{ cm}^{-1}$  lauric acid carbonyl band versus time. From this plot it can be seen that there is a finite period of time (2 hours) before any reaction can be detected. The reaction proceeds at a fairly uniform rate between 2 hours and 10 hours heating at 60 C and appears to slow down after 10 hours.

The spectra obtained after the cell stood at room temperature for 16 hours show little difference between the corresponding spectra taken shortly after each heating period. A very small loss in the intensity of the acid carbonyl band ( $1710\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and a very small gain in the intensity of the  $\text{COO}^-$  ( $1550\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) band can be observed, indicating that the reaction is proceeding at room temperature but at a much slower rate than at 60 C.

A control experiment, in which a 10 percent lauric acid in dodecane solution was heated for 4 days at 60 C, showed no changes in the intensity of the carbonyl band at  $1710\text{ cm}^{-1}$  or formation of a  $\text{COO}^-$  band at  $1550\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Figure 51). This experiment demonstrates that the changes in these two bands observed in the iron-coated anvil experiments are really caused by reaction with the iron rather than by heating or reaction with the platinum gasket.

#### Preliminary Study of a Diester (E-105) and Tricresyl Phosphate

Spectra were obtained in a diamond window high-pressure cell using a platinum (Pt) gasket (~2 mils thick) to contain the liquid samples. As can be seen from the spectra (Figures 52-54), this Pt gasket was too thick and very intense spectra were obtained. While frequency shifts can be observed even with the thick gaskets, spectral subtraction is not as reliable as when less intense bands are used.

Figure 52 shows infrared spectra of E-105 at ambient pressure (Figure 52 and 52B) at ~20 kbar (Figure 52b). Figure 52C shows the resultant of subtracting the spectrum of Figure 52B from that of Figure 52A. This subtraction spectrum shows several bands pointing up ( $1740$ ,  $1180$ , and  $1140\text{ cm}^{-1}$  CO vibrations), and two bands pointing down ( $1460$  and  $1380\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , CH vibrations). No dispersion curves (part of the band pointing up and part of the band pointing down, see Figure 53) are evident. The lack of dispersion curves indicates that there are no frequency shifts with increasing pressure. Yet the bands pointing upwards and down indicate intensity changes with the CH vibrations becoming less intense with increasing pressure and the CO vibrations becoming more intense with increasing pressure.

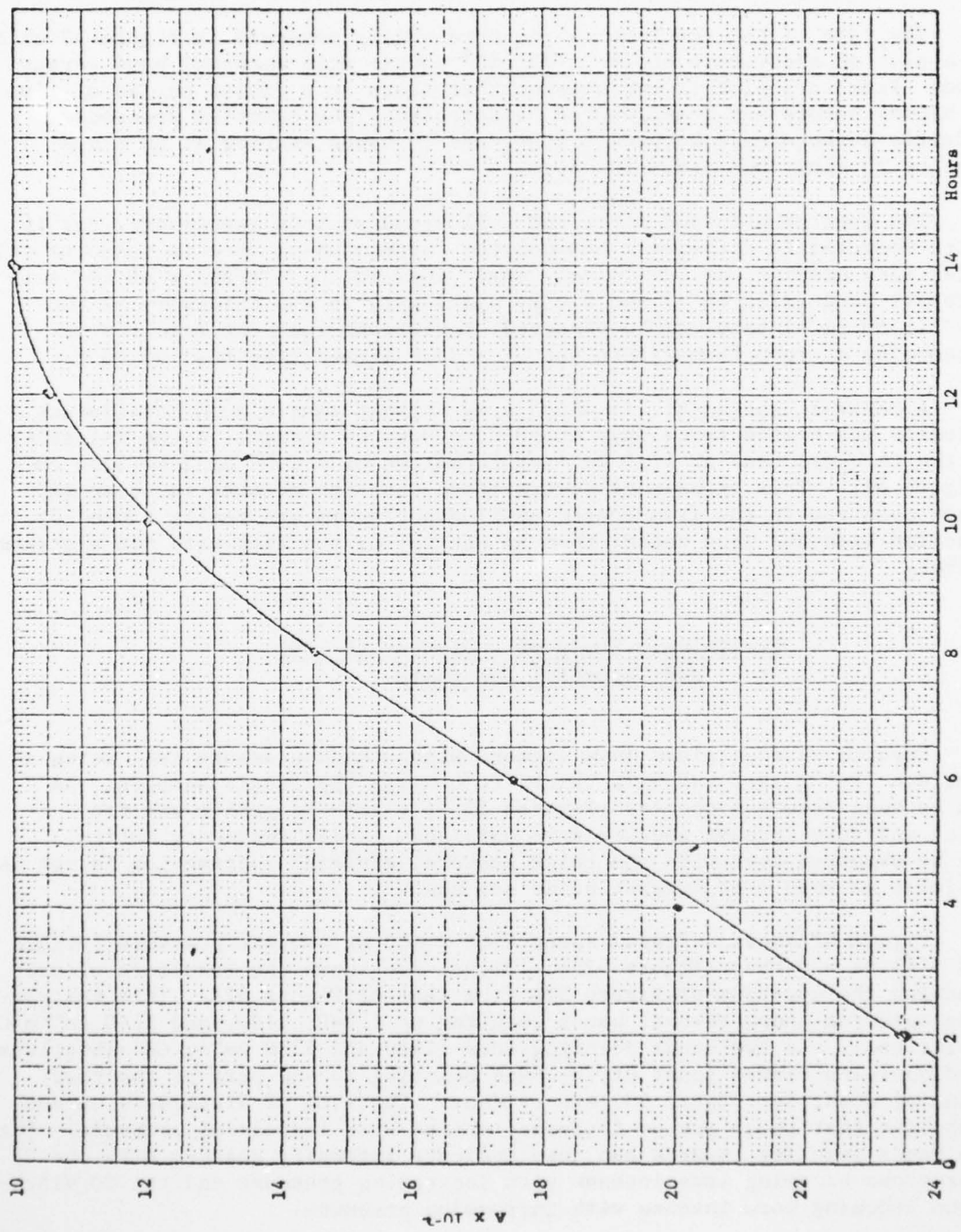


Figure 50. Absorbance of 1710 cm<sup>-1</sup> Carbonyl Vibration as a Function of Heating Time at 60 C

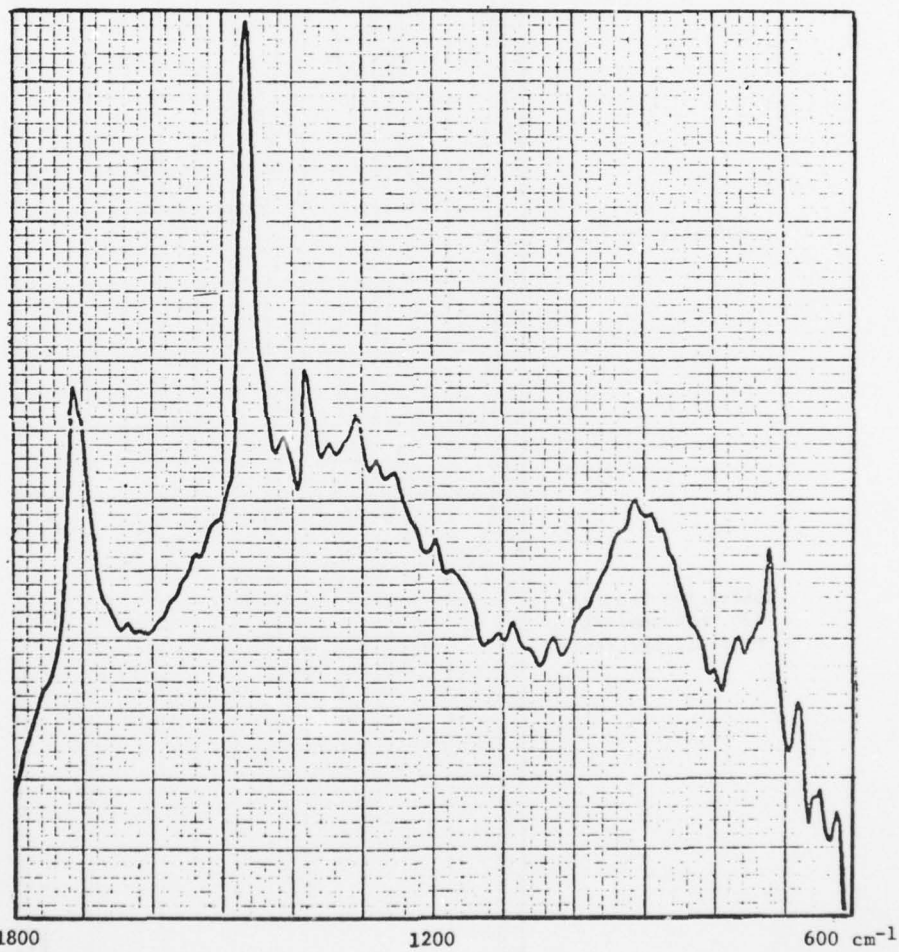


Figure 51. Infrared Spectrum of a 10 Percent Lauric Acid-Dodecane Solution at 6-kbar Pressure and After Heating 4 Days at 60 C

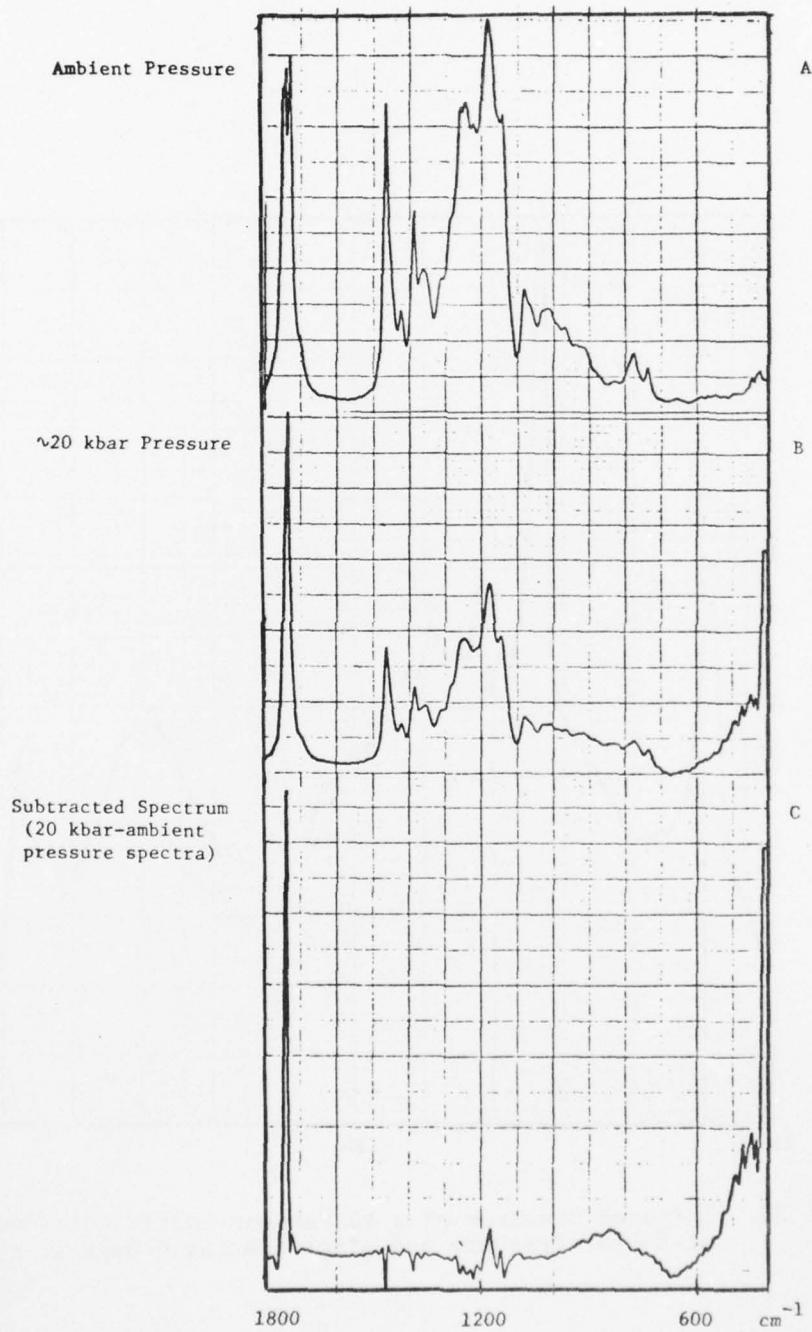


Figure 52. Infrared Spectra of E-105

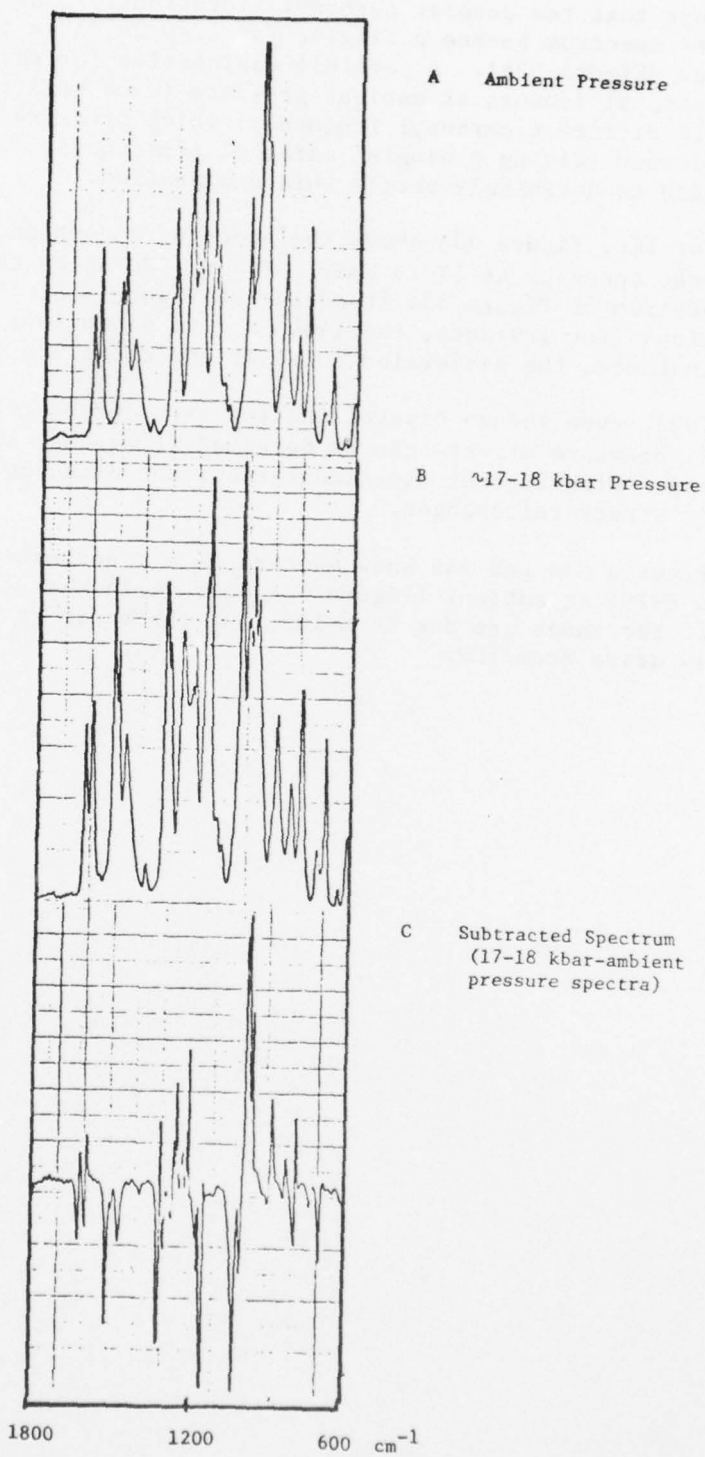


Figure 53. Infrared Spectra of TCP

Note that the doublet carbonyl vibration (around  $1740\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) in the ambient pressure spectrum became a singlet (at  $1740\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) in the high pressure spectrum (Figure 52B). A possible explanation for this behavior is a mixture of rotational isomers at ambient pressure (each rotational isomer having a slightly different carbonyl frequency) which pressure forces into one or the other isomer (giving a singlet carbonyl frequency). Further experimentation is needed to definitely verify this explanation.

For TCP, Figure 53A shows the spectrum at ambient pressure and Figure 53B gives the spectrum at 17-18 kbar. Figure 53C shows the result of subtracting the spectrum of Figure 53A from that of Figure 53B. Here both intensity variations (for instance, the  $1460\text{ cm}^{-1}$  CH vibration) and frequency shifts (for instance, the dispersion curve at  $800\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) are observed.

Thus, even though crystallization was not observed in either E-105 or in TCP, pressure effects can be detected (frequency shifts and/or intensity changes). With further experimentation, these can be related to pressure-induced structural changes.

Figures 51A and 54B show spectra of a 1 percent (by volume) solution of TCP in E-105 at ambient (Figure 54A) and 14-15 kbar (Figure 52B) pressure. Most of the bands are due to E-105, but the bands at  $500$  and  $980\text{ cm}^{-1}$  clearly arise from TCP.

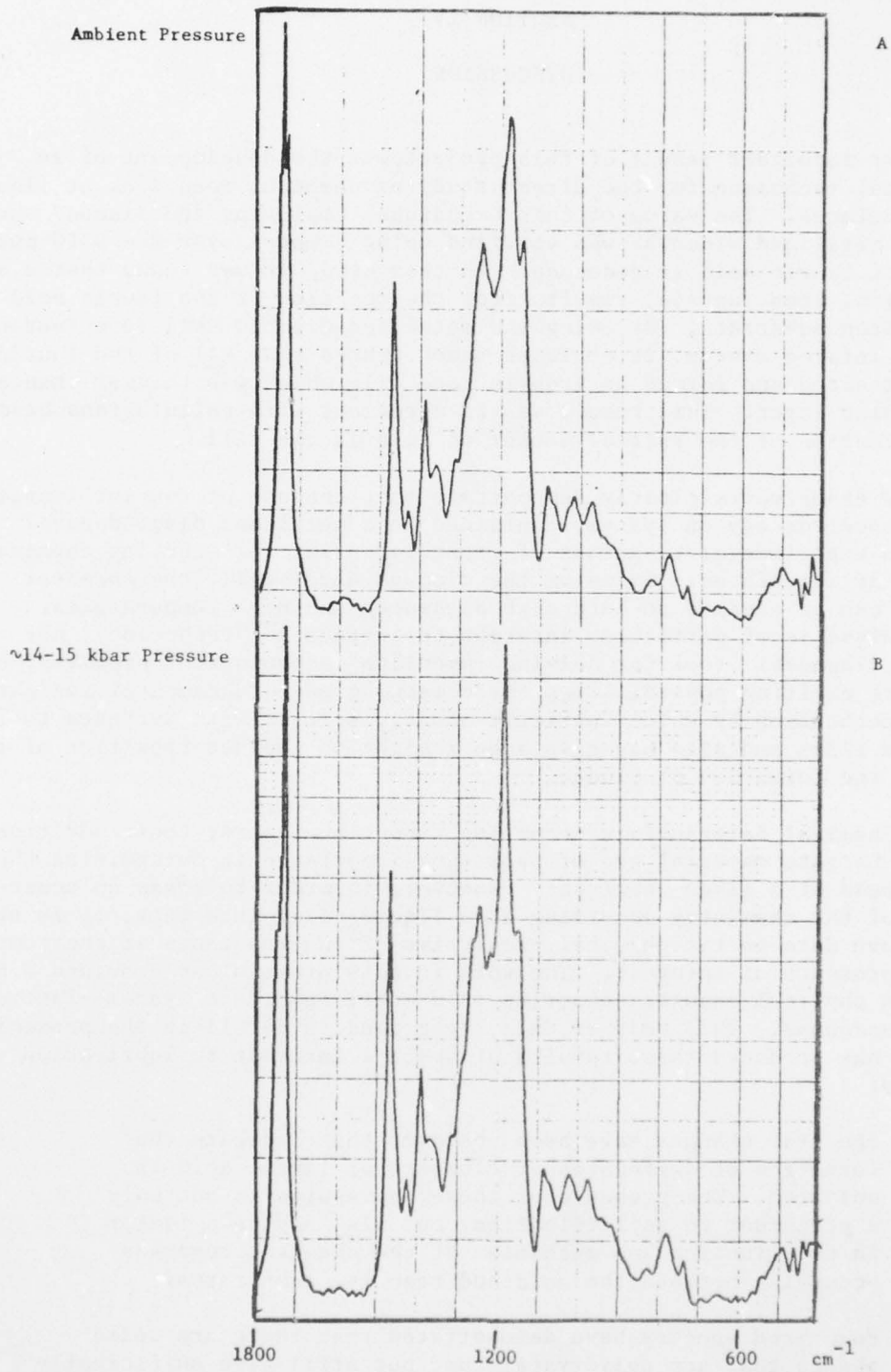


Figure 54. Infrared Spectra of a One Percent Solution of TCP in E-105

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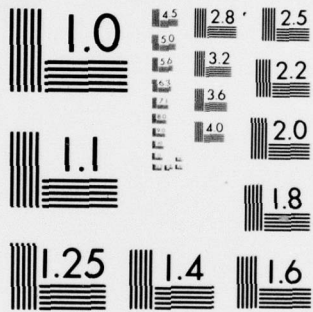
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## SECTION IV

### DISCUSSION

A most important result of this project was the development of an experimental technique for the direct study of chemical reactions at liquid-solid interfaces. The value of this technique, employing the diamond anvil cell with metalized windows, was verified using a model system - a 10 percent solution of lauric acid in dodecane. In this study it was found that a surface species, iron laurate, results from the reaction of the lauric acid with the iron substrate. By using the metalized diamond cell in a Fourier Transform infrared system, it could be demonstrated that all of the lauric acid had reacted and formed an iron laurate film which was thicker than a monomolecular layer. This result was in agreement with calculations based on an estimation of the initial amount of acid in the cell.

These experiments clearly demonstrate that the use of Fourier Transform infrared spectroscopy on systems contained in a metalized diamond anvil cell is an experimental technique of great potential for studying chemical reactions at interfaces. By using the diamond anvil cell, the chemical reactions can be studied at both high pressures and high temperatures. This technique is of particular interest to lubrication technology, not only as a diagnostic tool for solving immediate technological problems, but also offers exciting possibilities for obtaining more fundamental insights into the mechanisms by which lubricant additives react with surfaces to form protective films and also may give some insight on the decomposition of lubricants and the formation of sludge.

The chemical interactions occurring among lubricants, their additions, and the substrate material are of promising importance in determining the effectiveness of a given lubricant. However, in order to grasp an understanding of the chemistry occurring at a liquid-solid interface, it is necessary to have data on the physical properties of the reactants at the temperature and pressure of interest. The work in this program has provided a body of data on physical changes occurring in a model lubricant system--lauric acid and dodecane. This body of data, described in detail in the preceding sections, has produced three results of special interest to lubrication technology:

- (1) Spectral changes have been observed that indicate the formation of aggregates or clusters of lauric acid in solution. The presence of these aggregates is not only a precursor to solidification, but also may be a factor in the kinetics and mechanism of the chemical reaction occurring between the acid and reactive substrates.
- (2) Polarized spectra have demonstrated that there are solid phases that are polycrystalline, but still give sufficiently high dichroic ratios to indicate a significant degree of long-range order.

- (3) Superpression effects have been detected in all of the straight chain systems studied. That is, the systems tended to remain liquid up to pressures much higher than indicated by the melting behavior. For example, dodecane remained liquid until pressures above 10 kbar were attained. Yet upon pressure release it was found that melting did not occur until the pressure was decreased to about 1 kbar.

Late in this program it was found that Dr. J. M. Schnur and his associates at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory were also performing experiments on straight chain alkanes hydrocarbons in a diamond cell. In these studies, Raman spectroscopy is being used to study the conformation of the alkane molecules. Much work has been performed on the conformational analysis of such molecules.<sup>(11,12)</sup> Because of the low barrier to rotation about a C-C bond, such molecules are not rigid (hard rods) in the liquid state, but contain one or more kinks. However, since these molecules are fully extended kinklers in the solid state, it was generally believed that as pressure on a liquid straight-chain alkane is increased until solidification occurs, there would be a straightening out of the molecules. The work of Schnur indicates that this is not true. They found that as the pressure is increased the fraction of kinked molecules rises sharply.<sup>(13)</sup> Unfortunately, these workers have worked only with pure solvents rather than solutions. However, their work has potential application to the understanding of the formation of the aggregates observed in the present program. It is also of interest because in later work they have obtained evidence for a liquid crystalline phase in normal  $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_{38}\text{CH}_3$ <sup>(14)</sup>. This is additional evidence for the model proposed some time ago by workers at Battelle's Columbus Laboratories which explained the observed properties of squeeze films formed from a wide variety of hydrocarbon solvents. The essential feature of this model is that straight-chain alkane solvents can possess smectic liquid crystalline order. The work of Schnur is the first independent corroboration of this hypothesis evidence in support of which is given in Reference 1.

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SECTION V  
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