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**Tetrahedral Atom Zincophosphate Structures:  
Synthesis, Crystal Structure, and Spectroscopic Studies  
of  $\{Zn[PO_2(OC_2H_5)_2]_2\}_x$ , a One-Dimensional Inorganic 'Polymer'**

by

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**Tetrahedral-Atom Zincophosphate Structures.  
Zinc Diethylphosphate,  $[\text{Zn}(\text{O}_2\text{P}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2)_2]_x$ ,  
a One-Dimensional Inorganic "Polymer".**

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## ABSTRACT

The synthesis, structure and some properties of a new, anhydrous, zinc ethyl phosphate are described.  $\text{Zn}(\text{O}_2\text{P}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2)_2$  ( $\text{ZnPOEt}$ ) crystallizes in the monoclinic space group  $C2/c$  (No. 15) with  $a = 22.176(6)$ ,  $b = 8.042(2)$ ,  $c = 9.0883(3) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\beta = 96.553(8)^\circ$ ,  $V = 1610 \text{ \AA}^3$ ,  $\rho_{\text{calc}} = 1.533 \text{ g/cm}^3$ ,  $\mu = 17.8 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $Z = 4$ , with  $R(F_o) = 6.94\%$  for 658 observed reflections ( $I > 3\sigma(I)$ ). The novel structure consists of infinite 1-dimensional chains of vertex-linked zinc-oxygen and phosphorus-oxygen tetrahedra forming "4-rings": two of the phosphate P-O vertices are coordinated to ethyl ( $-\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$ ) groups, and the "herringbone" crystal packing is determined by van der Waals' forces between these terminal organic groups. Physical (TGA, DSC) and spectroscopic data (IR,  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR) are presented. The physical data show a melting, followed by a decomposition reaction, eventually resulting in  $\text{Zn}(\text{PO}_3)_2$ .  $\text{ZnPOEt}$  is soluble in, and recrystallizable from several polar and non-polar solvents: the NMR data suggest that  $\text{ZnPOEt}$  maintains a "polymeric" state in solution.  $\text{ZnPOEt}$  is contrasted with its sulphur-containing analogue,  $\text{Zn}(\text{S}_2\text{P}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2)_2$

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## Introduction

Over the past few years there has been considerable interest in the structures and properties of layered metal/phosphorus/oxygen/organic phases, comprised of organophosphate ( $O_{3-n}P(OR)_n$ ,  $n = 1, 2$ ) or organophosphonate ( $O_3PR$ ) groups, in combination with di- or trivalent metal ions. Several metal-organophosphonate phases, exemplified by the typical formula  $M(O_3PR) \cdot H_2O$  ( $M = Mg, Ca, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Cd, etc.$ ;  $R = methyl, ethyl, phenyl, etc.$ ) were first prepared by Cunningham *et al.*<sup>1</sup> and structurally studied by Alberti *et al.*<sup>2</sup> Mallouk and coworkers prepared a number of divalent metal organophosphonates as single crystals and determined the structure of manganese phenylphosphonate hydrate,  $Mn(O_3PC_6H_5) \cdot H_2O$ .<sup>3</sup> Clearfield and coworkers solved the structures of zinc phenylphosphonate hydrate,  $Zn(O_3PC_6H_5) \cdot H_2O$ ,<sup>4</sup> and zinc ethylphosphate hydrate  $Zn(O_3POC_2H_5) \cdot H_2O$  and a functionalized, amide-containing congener,  $Zn(O_3POC_2H_4NH_3)(O_2CCH_3)$ , by X-ray diffraction methods.<sup>5</sup> The layered structure of  $VOC_6H_5PO_3 \cdot H_2O$  has been determined by Huan *et al.*,<sup>6</sup> and a new family of ferric phosphonates has been reported,<sup>7</sup> which contain layers of  $FeO_6$  octahedra and  $O_3PC_6H_5$  tetrahedra.

Crystal-structure studies have demonstrated that the above materials contain 2-dimensional layers of  $M$ - and  $P$ -centered polyhedra, separated by organic groups. These phases have been considered to be model compounds for the industrially-important pillared clays,<sup>8</sup> since these structures have a well-defined and predictable layer topology. Substitution in the metal coordination sphere and intercalation reactions have been demonstrated for several of these layered phases.<sup>8,9</sup>

In this paper we report the synthesis, structure and some properties of zinc diethylphosphate,  $Zn(O_2P(OC_2H_5)_2)_2$  ( $ZnPOEt$ ), a new zinc organo/phosphate which has a 1-dimensional chain-like rather than a layered structure: these chains have tetrahedral ionic

cores surrounded by hydrocarbon coatings. ZnPOEt is compared to zinc *O,O*-diethyl dithiophosphate,  $\text{Zn}(\text{S}_2\text{P}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2)_2$  (ZnSEt),<sup>10,11</sup> a material which has found extensive applicability in lubrication science.<sup>12</sup> However, ZnSEt has a different chain connectivity and reactivity to the material reported here.

### Experimental

**Synthesis:** The ZnPOEt was prepared hydrothermally: 1.63 g of ZnO, 29.14 g of triethyl phosphate,  $(\text{EtO})_3\text{PO}$  and 20 cc of water were placed in a teflon bottle, resulting in a white slurry, which was placed in a 100 °C water bath, enclosed in a well-ventilated fume hood. Ethanol was given off (detected by its odor) and large translucent crystals formed over several days, after which the solution was cooled, and upon washing with methanol, a very large mass of fibrous, intergrown crystals was recovered. The yield was 5.07 g (68% based on ZnO). ZnPOEt appears to be indefinitely stable in air.

**Structure Determination:** ZnPOEt crystals are extremely soft and easily damaged, but a good-quality, sharply diffracting (typical  $\omega$ -scan width = 0.17°), needle-shaped translucent crystal (dimensions *ca.* 0.5 × 0.1 × 0.1 mm) was finally selected and mounted on a thin glass fiber with cyano-acrylate glue. Room temperature (25(1) °C) intensity data were collected on a Huber automated 4-circle diffractometer (graphite-monochromated Mo K $\alpha$  radiation,  $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$ ) as outlined in Table I. A total of 21 reflections were located and centered by searching reciprocal space and indexed to obtain a unit cell and orientation matrix. The lattice constants were optimized by least-squares refinement, resulting in the parameters shown in Table I. 2358 unique intensity data were collected using the  $\theta$ -2 $\theta$  scanning mode between 0 and 45° in 2 $\theta$ , with standard reflections monitored for intensity variation throughout the course of the experiment: no significant variation in standards was observed. The scan speed was 3°/min with a scan range of 1.4° below K $\alpha_1$

*Tables.*<sup>18</sup> Final Fourier difference maps revealed no regions of significant electron density (min. =  $-0.4 e/\text{\AA}^3$ , max. =  $0.5 e/\text{\AA}^3$ ). Tables of observed and calculated structure factors are available as supplementary material.

X-ray powder data (Scintag automated PAD-X diffractometer,  $\theta$ - $\theta$  geometry, flat plate sample, Cu K $\alpha$  radiation,  $\bar{\lambda} = 1.54178 \text{\AA}$ ,  $T = 25(2)^\circ\text{C}$ ) were collected for a crushed sample of ZnPOEt. The instrumental K $\alpha_1$ /K $\alpha_2$  profile was reduced to a single Cu K $\alpha_1$  peak ( $\lambda = 1.540568 \text{\AA}$ ) by a stripping routine, and  $d$ -spacings were established using silicon powder ( $a = 5.43035 \text{\AA}$ ) as an internal standard, relative to this wavelength. The data were of insufficient resolution to reveal any observable K $\alpha_1$ /K $\alpha_2$  splitting. The pattern could be indexed with monoclinic cell parameters determined in the single crystal study, and the powder lattice parameters were optimized by least-squares refinements using Scintag software routines, resulting in the refined values listed in Table II. The pattern was successfully simulated in terms of line positions and intensities with LAZY-PULVERIX<sup>19</sup> using the single crystal structural parameters described below. Many calculated positions were too weak to be observed, but no evidence for other phases was visible from inspection of the powder data.

**Intercalation Studies:** The novel structure of ZnPOEt (*vide infra*) and previous studies on similar compounds<sup>7,8</sup> suggested that intercalation of other species in the structure might be possible. No inclusion was observed, but ZnPOEt is soluble to various degrees in several polar and non-polar organic solvents, including methanol, ethanol, cyclohexane and substituted xylenes.

ZnPOEt was redissolved in hot water, then ethanol was added and the mixture was cooled. Giant needle-like crystals (typical dimensions  $20 \times 0.5 \times 0.5 \text{ mm}$ ) readily crystallized. The powder pattern of the ground, recrystallized product is identical to that of the starting material, ZnPOEt. The powdered starting material is sparingly soluble in cyclohexane

to  $1.5^\circ$  above  $K\alpha_2$ . Crystal absorption was monitored by using  $\psi$ -scans through  $360^\circ$  for selected reflections with  $\chi \approx 90^\circ$ . Absorption was negligible, and no correction was applied to the data. The raw data were reduced using a Lehmann-Larsen profile-fitting routine<sup>13</sup> and the normal corrections for Lorentz and polarization effects were made. All the data collection and reduction routines were based on the UCLA package.<sup>14</sup> After data merging to 678 unique intensities, (observability criterion  $I > 3\sigma(I)$ ;  $R_M = 2.4\%$ ), systematic absences ( $hkl$ ,  $h+k$ ;  $h0l$ ,  $h,l$ ;  $0k0$ ,  $k$ ) were compatible with space groups  $Cc$  and  $C2/c$ . The number of observed reflections, expressed as a percentage of the total number possible in the molybdenum sphere, was 28%, compatible to the 31% of reflections found to have measurable intensities in the structure determination of  $Zn(S_2P(OC_2H_5)_2)_2$ .<sup>10</sup>

The structure was solved by direct methods, assuming the space group was centrosymmetric  $C2/c$  (No. 15), as confirmed by the course of the subsequent refinement. A chemically-reasonable direct-methods solution for all the non-hydrogen atoms was obtained from the program SHELXS-86.<sup>15</sup> No reasonable proton locations could be determined from difference Fourier syntheses, and after anisotropic refinement, all the proton positions were located geometrically on their respective carbon atoms. The protons were attached to the carbon atoms assuming  $sp^3$  geometry around these species: for the three terminal protons attached to C(2) and C(4) the torsion angle ( $\varphi(O-C-C-H)$  for one of the 3 methyl hydrogen atoms was set at  $180^\circ$ . The protons were then refined by riding on their respective carbon atoms with the distance and angle constraints of  $d(C-H) = 0.95 \text{ \AA}$  and  $\xi(H-C-H) = 109^\circ$  respectively. Final agreement factors of  $R(F) = 6.94\%$  and  $R_w(F) = 6.21\%$  ( $w_i = 1/w_i^2$ ) were obtained, as defined in Table I. The least-squares and subsidiary calculations were performed by using the Oxford CRYSTALS system,<sup>16</sup> running on a DEC  $\mu VAX-II$  computer. Final full-matrix refinements were against  $F$  and included anisotropic temperature factors for non-hydrogen thermal parameters not refined) and a secondary extinction correction<sup>17</sup> (reduced value = 121(11)). Neutral-atom scattering factors were obtained from *International*



at room temperature, resulting in a translucent solution. Upon evaporation, poor quality crystals of the starting phase of ZnPOEt were recovered. ZnPOEt was also dissolved in hot xylene, resulting in a perfectly clear solution, which was filtered through 0.2-micron filter paper to insure the absence of gross nucleating sites: no residue was recovered. Cooling the solution yielded crystals of the original material with no evidence for xylene incorporation.

**Physical and Spectroscopic Studies:** differential scanning calorimetry was carried out on ground crystals of ZnPOEt using a DuPont 2000 scanning calorimeter, with a heating rate of 10 °C/min. TGA data were collected on a DuPont 9900 thermogravimetric analysis machine in air, using a heating rate of 10 °C/min. The infra-red spectrum of a disk of finely ground ZnPOEt/KBr was recorded on a BioRad FTS-60 diffuse reflectance spectrometer as described previously. <sup>1</sup>H NMR data were collected on a Nicolet NT300 spectrometer. A 0.1g gram sample of ZnPOEt was dissolved in deuterated methanol and data were collected at 300.5 MHz (field strength 7.05 T) with 24 acquisitions. <sup>31</sup>P liquid-state NMR data were obtained using a General Electric GN-300 spectrometer system at 121.65 MHz (field strength 7.05 T) with 2122 acquisitions. <sup>31</sup>P peak positions were established relative to standard 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>.

## Results

**Crystal Structure:** The asymmetric unit of ZnPOEt is shown in Figure 1, with the complete unit-cell contents are illustrated in Figure 2. Final atomic positional and isotropic thermal parameters are listed in Table III, with selected bond distance/angle data in Table IV. The asymmetric unit of ZnPOEt consists of 1 zinc atom, 1 phosphorus atom, 4 oxygen atoms, 4 carbon atoms and 10 protons.

The zinc atom is on a 4-fold special position (Wyckoff position: 4e; site symmetry 2) and

the other atoms are on general 8-fold crystallographic sites. Both the zinc and phosphorus atoms are tetrahedrally coordinated by oxygen atoms: each zinc atom makes 4 Zn-O-P bonds, 2 *via* O(1) and 2 *via* O(2), to two different P atoms. The P atom is surrounded by one each of the crystallographically-distinct oxygen atoms and bonds to 2 distinct zinc atom neighbors, *via* O(1) and O(2). The average Zn-O bond length is 1.90(1) Å and the average O-Zn-O angle is 109(1)°. Values for the PO<sub>4</sub> tetrahedron are 1.46(1) Å (oxygen atoms bonded to P and Zn), 1.55(2) Å (O's bonded to P and C) and 109(2)° (O-P-O angle). Due to the large thermal factors of the chain atoms, a rigid-body-motion analysis<sup>20</sup> was carried out for the ZnO<sub>4</sub> and PO<sub>4</sub> groups. The behavior of both moieties could be successfully described by the L component of the TLS-analysis, with the T and S components having negligible magnitudes, indicating that libration about the central atom was the dominant group motion for both species. Libration-corrected bond lengths for Zn-O, P-O (to Zn) and P-O (to C) were calculated to be 1.92(1), 1.50(1) and 1.62(1) Å respectively, whilst the corrected bond angles were virtually unchanged from their as-refined values. This connectivity of Zn, P and O creates an infinite chain of stoichiometry ZnP<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub><sup>4+</sup>, which propagates in the c-unit cell direction. The other 2 phosphorus vertices (O(3) and O(4)) are part of ethoxide (-OEt) groups, resulting in a chain (and molecular) stoichiometry of Zn(O<sub>2</sub>P(OEt)<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, schematically illustrated in Figure 3. By way of contradistinction, the thermal parameter situation in the related Zn(S<sub>2</sub>P(OEt)<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub><sup>10,21</sup> could not be successfully analyzed by a rigid-body vibration formalism.

There are two distinct ethoxy configurations in each chain in ZnPOEt. Adjacent -OEt(1) units, comprised of -O(3)-C(1)-C(2) (hydrogens omitted), pack in interleaved "herringbone" configuration with next-neighbors in the *same* chain. Adjacent -OEt(2) groups (-O(4)-C(3)-C(4)) form a herringbone array with the equivalent group in *adjacent* chains. Thus, there are *no* direct connections or hydrogen-bonds between adjacent chains, and van der Waals' inter-chain contact in the a-direction is *via* corrugated sheets of -OEt(1)

groups, and in the b-direction via interleaved, herringbone contacts of -OEt(2) entities. Oxygen-carbon torsion angles ( $\varphi$ ) for both ethoxy chains are similar: for P(1)-O(3)-C(1)-C(2),  $\varphi = 175(1)^\circ$  and for P(1)-O(4)-C(3)-C(4),  $\varphi = 173(1)^\circ$ , indicating that both chains are close to their ideal *anti* configuration, expected on simple steric grounds alone. Close inter-chain non-bonded C-C contacts include C(1)-C(4) (4.05(3) Å), C(3)-C(3') (4.01(5) Å) and C(2)-C(3) and C(2)-C(4) (both 4.16(3) Å), in good agreement with expected van der Waals' contacts for these methylene and methyl species, and similar to the values determined for non-bonding C...C contacts in the sulphur-containing analogue,  $\text{Zn}(\text{S}_2\text{P}(\text{OEt})_2)_2$ .<sup>10</sup>

However, the Zn/S/P and chain-chain connectivity in  $\text{Zn}(\text{S}_2\text{P}(\text{OEt})_2)_2$  are different to the situation in ZnPOEt (see Figure 3). Topologically, in ZnPOEt, each diethylphosphate group bridges two *adjacent* zinc atoms, leading to a chain of (O-atom-bridged) "4-rings" of Zn and P centers, while in ZnPSEt, one O,O-diethyl dithiophosphate group bridges adjacent zinc atoms, and the other chelates to the *same* Zn atom. Hence, in ZnPSEt, a single Zn-S-P-S-Zn "polymeric" strand propagates through the structure, as opposed to the double strand in ZnPOEt. This difference is doubtless partly due to a size effect ( $d(\text{Zn-O}) \sim 1.94 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $d(\text{Zn-S}) \sim 2.36 \text{ \AA}$ ) but it is also worthy of note that in ZnPSEt the van der Waals' bonding interactions are more complex, also involving S...C interactions as short as 3.7 Å.<sup>10</sup>

**Structure Analysis:** A variety of analytical methods have been used to confirm and elaborate upon the  $\text{Zn}(\text{O}_2\text{P}(\text{OEt})_2)_2$  repeat unit of this structure, as determined by X-ray crystallography. A TGA analysis (Figure 4) of this material reveals the onset of decomposition (loss of diethylether) at about 225 °C with the reaction being complete at 325 °C. The residue, heated to 800 °C, showed a clean X-ray diffraction pattern of  $\text{Zn}(\text{PO}_3)_2$ . The weakness of the van der Waals' bonds between chains is indicated by the softness of the

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crystals and the fact that a DSC (Figure 5) analysis did not show a heat effect at the melting point, but only the endothermic decomposition at about 300°C. Carefully dried ZnPOEt melts at 168–175°C to a syrup which recrystallizes to a product identical to the original material (comparison of X-ray powder patterns) if the cooling is carried out slowly enough. However, holding the ZnPOEt syrup at 200°C for 2 days suffices to vaporize all of the organic moiety, leaving a dark-colored amorphous residue.

As noted above, ZnPOEt is soluble in water, methanol, and xylenes. The length of the oligomeric unit (in aqueous solution) has been studied through the use of  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR. Disregarding solvent peaks, the characteristic methylene and methyl peaks of the -OEt side chains of ZnPOEt are evident (Figure 6): a quintuplet, centered at 2.729 ppm, is attributable to the methylene group: these two protons are split into a quadruplet by the methyl protons. It is then further split by the phosphorus into a doublet. For the methyl group (Figure 7), a distinct triplet centered at 0.690 ppm is shadowed by a much smaller triplet centered at 0.755 ppm ( $^3J_{\text{PH}} 7.2 \text{ Hz}$ ,  $^3J_{\text{PH}} 1.27 \text{ Hz}$ ). A peak integration shows that the larger set is in a 5:1 ratio with the smaller set.

One explanation for the "double" methyl signal is that the solution phase zinc organophosphate is made up of a distinct number of repeating  $\text{Zn}(\text{O}_2\text{P}(\text{OEt})_2)_2$  units. The end units' protons will be different than the inner units' protons, as seen by the observed shift and by the small doublet splits due to phosphorus coupling. An approximate chain length has been determined by integration to contain two end and ten inner units, for a total of twelve ethoxy zinc phosphonate units in a chain, *i.e.*,  $[\text{Zn}(\text{O}_2\text{P}(\text{OEt})_2)_2]_{12}$ . Conversely, for  $\text{Zn}(\text{S}_2\text{P}(\text{OEt})_2)_2$ , a monomeric solution species was indicated.<sup>10</sup>

The  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectrum of ZnPOEt (Figure 8) shows a singlet at 0.849 ppm, with a slight shoulder at approximately 0.820 ppm. This too can be explained as two different phosphorus atoms, one greatly out-numbering the other due to unit location on the chain.

The diffuse-reflectance infra-red spectrum of ZnPOEt is illustrated in Figure 9. The methane and methylene C-H stretches are evident from 2800-3000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , the P-O-C (aliphatic) stretches in the 2200-2500  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and the 1500  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  regions, and the Zn/P/O "framework" in the region of 1000-500  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . These latter bands are qualitatively similar to those observed for other metal-organophosphonate/phosphate phases,<sup>8</sup> whilst the characteristic, strong O-H stretch bands seen in materials which contain a metal-coordinated water<sup>2</sup> ( $\nu \approx 3300-3500 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) are absent in this structure. We attribute the weak -OH broad band stretch to be from water in the KBr used for dilution of the sample.

### Discussion

Zn(PO<sub>2</sub>(OC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (ZnPOEt) represents yet another type of zinc organophosphate, distinctly different from previously known species. In Zn(O<sub>3</sub>PC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)·H<sub>2</sub>O, the zinc atom is octahedrally coordinated by phosphonate-group oxygen atoms and water molecules, resulting in a layer-like "ionic" structure, with the phenyl groups separating adjacent sheets. A similar structure was also found for Mn(O<sub>3</sub>PC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)·H<sub>2</sub>O. In Zn(O<sub>3</sub>POC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)·H<sub>2</sub>O (ZnPOEtW) and Zn(O<sub>3</sub>POC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>NH<sub>3</sub>)(O<sub>2</sub>CCH<sub>3</sub>) (ZnPOEtN), the zinc atom is tetrahedral, with one vertex occupied by a water molecule in ZnPOEtW and one vertex by an acetate ion in ZnPOEtN. These species are also layered, and H-bonding plays an important role in establishing the structure, as well as van der Waals' inter-layer bonding. The mobility of the coordinated water in the M(O<sub>3</sub>PR)·H<sub>2</sub>O structures has already been demonstrated.<sup>1,7,8</sup>

In ZnPOEt, as in ZnPSEt, *chains*, rather than layers, are the structural *motif*, which here may be considered to have "ionic" Zn/P/O cores and 'covalent' C/H exterior surfaces. The tetrahedral zinc atom only sees oxygen atoms, all of which are bound to ethyl-phosphate groups as Zn-O-P links, with typical bond distance/angle parameters. There are no layer-building H-bonds in ZnPOEt, and adjacent chains are only loosely bonded through van

der Waals' forces. The combination of the ionic core and hydrophobic exterior of these chains allows ZnPOEt to dissolve in several polar *and* non-polar solvents, but no inclusion chemistry has yet been shown to occur. Spectral data suggest an average length of about 12 repeating units of the ZnPOEt chain in methanol solution.

ZnPOEt shows certain characteristics of a polymer, *viz.* the infinite hydrophobic chains, interacting through van der Waals' forces. However, in ZnPOEt these chains are highly aligned, presumably by bonding requirements of the zinc/phosphate 1-dimensional core, to the extent of forming a normal, sharply diffracting crystal, although the large thermal factors of the terminal ethyl groups (*vide supra*) indicate a considerable degree of static/dynamic disorder in these groups. Questions such as the relative importance of ionic bonding in the chain-cores and covalent interactions of the hydrocarbon chain-exterior and if the chains may make *collective* motion relative to each other need to be resolved. ZnPOEt may even serve as a model compound for highly-aligned polymers<sup>23</sup> and further experiments are now in progress to examine these effects in ZnPOEt and related materials. ZnPSEt has been used extensively as an anti-wear and antioxidant in lubricants.<sup>12</sup> Whether ZnPOEt has any technological applications as an oil additive also merits further investigation—for instance, the above experiments indicate that it (ZnPOEt) appears to be more resilient to degradation by hydrolysis than its sulphur-containing analogue.<sup>11</sup>

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**Supplementary material available:** Tables of atomic coordinates, anisotropic thermal factors, hydrogen atom coordinates, bond distances and angles (4 pages) and final observed and calculated structure factor amplitudes (4 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

## References

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**Table I: Crystallographic Parameters**



empirical formula	$\text{ZnP}_2\text{O}_8\text{C}_8\text{H}_{20}$
mol wt.	371.4
habit	colorless needle
crystal system	monoclinic
$a$ (Å)	22.176 (6)
$b$ (Å)	8.042 (2)
$c$ (Å)	9.088 (3)
$\alpha$ (°)	90
$\beta$ (°)	96.553 (8)
$\gamma$ (°)	90
$V$ (Å <sup>3</sup> )	1610
$Z$	4
space group	$C2/c$ (No. 15)
$T$ (°C)	25 (1)
$\lambda(\text{Mo K}\alpha)$ (Å)	0.71073
$\rho_{\text{calc}}$ (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	1.533
$\mu(\text{Mo K}\alpha)$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	17.8
absorption correction	none applied
$hkl$ limits	$\pm 21, +8, +9$
total data	2358
observed data†	658
parameters	88
$R(F_o)^a$ (%)	6.94
$R_w(F_o)^b$ (%)	6.21

†  $I > 3\sigma(I)$

$$R^a = \Sigma ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \Sigma |F_o|, R_w^b = [\Sigma w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2 / \Sigma w|F_o|^2]^{1/2}$$

Table II: Powder Data



Monoclinic,  $C2/c$ ,  $a = 22.193(13) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 8.041(4)$ ,  $c = 9.091(8) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\beta = 96.44(4)^\circ$

$h$	$k$	$l$	$2\theta_{obs}$	$\Delta 2\theta^*$	$d_{calc}$	$I(\text{rel})$
2	0	0	8.050	0.010	11.027	100
1	1	0	11.730	-0.003	7.554	72
1	1	-1	15.000	-0.012	5.908	1
1	1	1	15.602	0.009	5.689	4
3	1	0	16.365	0.012	5.425	6
3	1	-1	18.364	-0.014	4.831	6
3	1	1	19.790	0.005	4.490	2
2	0	2	22.111	0.013	4.024	2
5	1	0	23.022	0.015	3.867	16
1	1	2	23.355	0.015	3.813	3
4	0	-2	24.037	-0.001	3.703	3
6	0	0	24.219	-0.003	3.676	2
3	1	-2	24.578	-0.010	3.622	0†
2	2	-1	25.183	-0.028	3.533	3
2	2	1	25.934	0.013	3.438	1
4	0	2	26.925	0.035	3.316	1
3	1	2	26.730	0.018	3.338	0†
4	2	0	27.458	-0.003	3.248	3
6	0	-2	29.545	-0.023	3.021	1
0	2	2	29.718	-0.036	3.003	1
4	2	-1	28.563	-0.022	3.123	0†
2	2	-2	30.264	0.004	2.954	0†
7	1	0	30.479	0.002	2.933	0†
2	2	2	31.448	-0.006	2.844	0†
5	1	2	31.837	-0.075	2.804	0†
6	2	0	33.037	0.016	2.713	3
8	0	-2	36.283	0.063	2.480	0†
5	-3	0	39.340	0.010	2.291	0†
8	2	0	39.637	0.001	2.274	0†
7	3	0	44.357	-0.006	2.041	1
4	4	0	48.150	-0.019	1.889	1
11	1	-2	48.885	-0.025	1.862	0†
0	4	2	49.672	0.047	1.837	0†

\*  $2\theta_{obs} - 2\theta_{calc}$ , †  $I < I_{max}/100$

Table III: Atomic Positional Parameters



Atom	x	y	z	$U_{eq}^*$
Zn(1)†	0.0000	-0.0084(3)	0.2500	0.0829
P(1)	0.0804(2)	-0.1853(5)	0.5228(3)	0.0881
O(1)	0.0525(4)	-0.151(1)	0.3728(8)	0.1161
O(2)	0.0490(4)	0.132(1)	0.1468(9)	0.1159
O(3)	0.1454(5)	-0.106(1)	0.531(1)	0.1424
O(4)	0.0915(7)	-0.372(1)	0.548(1)	0.1439
C(1)	0.1814(8)	-0.084(3)	0.661(2)	0.1778
C(2)	0.2364(9)	-0.025(3)	0.651(2)	0.2393
C(3)	0.0867(9)	-0.494(2)	0.458(2)	0.1690
C(4)	0.1066(7)	-0.649(2)	0.508(2)	0.1385

\*  $U_{eq}(\text{Å}^2) = (U_1 U_2 U_3)^{1/3}$ , †Wyckoff site 4e

Table IV: Bond Distances (Å) and Angles (°)



Zn(1)-O(1)	1.903(8) × 2	Zn(1)-O(2)	1.888(8) × 2
P(1)-O(1)	1.458(8)	P(1)-O(2)	1.456(8)
P(1)-O(3)	1.57(1)	P(1)-O(4)	1.53(1)
O(3)-C(1)	1.36(2)	O(4)-C(3)	1.27(2)
C(1)-C(2)	1.32(2)	C(3)-C(4)	1.39(2)
O(1)-Zn(1)-O(1)'	105.8(6)	O(2)-Zn(1)-O(1)	107.6(4)
O(2)-Zn(1)-O(1)	114.7(3)	O(2)-Zn(1)-O(2)'	106.7(6)
O(2)-P(1)-O(1)	118.6(5)	O(3)-P(1)-O(1)	104.9(6)
O(3)-P(1)-O(2)	111.1(6)	O(4)-P(1)-O(1)	111.5(6)
O(4)-P(1)-O(2)	104.9(6)	O(4)-P(1)-O(3)	105.1(8)
P(1)-O(1)-Zn(1)	145.9(6)	P(1)-O(2)-Zn(1)	156.1(6)
C(1)-O(3)-P(1)	122.5(11)	C(3)-O(4)-P(1)	131.2(12)
C(2)-C(1)-O(3)	115.8(20)	C(4)-C(3)-O(4)	118.9(16)

## Figure Captions

Figure 1: ORTEP<sup>23</sup> view of the asymmetric unit of  $\text{Zn}(\text{O}_2\text{P}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2)_2$ , showing the atom labelling scheme and 20% probability ellipsoids. Protons are omitted for clarity.

Figure 2: Packing diagram for  $\text{Zn}(\text{O}_2\text{P}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2)_2$ , viewed down the b-direction. One chain is indicated by stippling, showing *inter*-chain herringbone packing in the c-direction and *intra*-chain packing in the a-direction.

Figure 3: Schematic views of the chain connectivity in a)  $\text{Zn}(\text{O}_2\text{P}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2)_2$  and b)  $\text{Zn}(\text{S}_2\text{P}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2)_2$ , showing the distinct "double" and "single" tetrahedral chains respectively.

Figure 4: Thermogravimetric analysis plot for  $\text{Zn}(\text{O}_2\text{P}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2)_2$ .

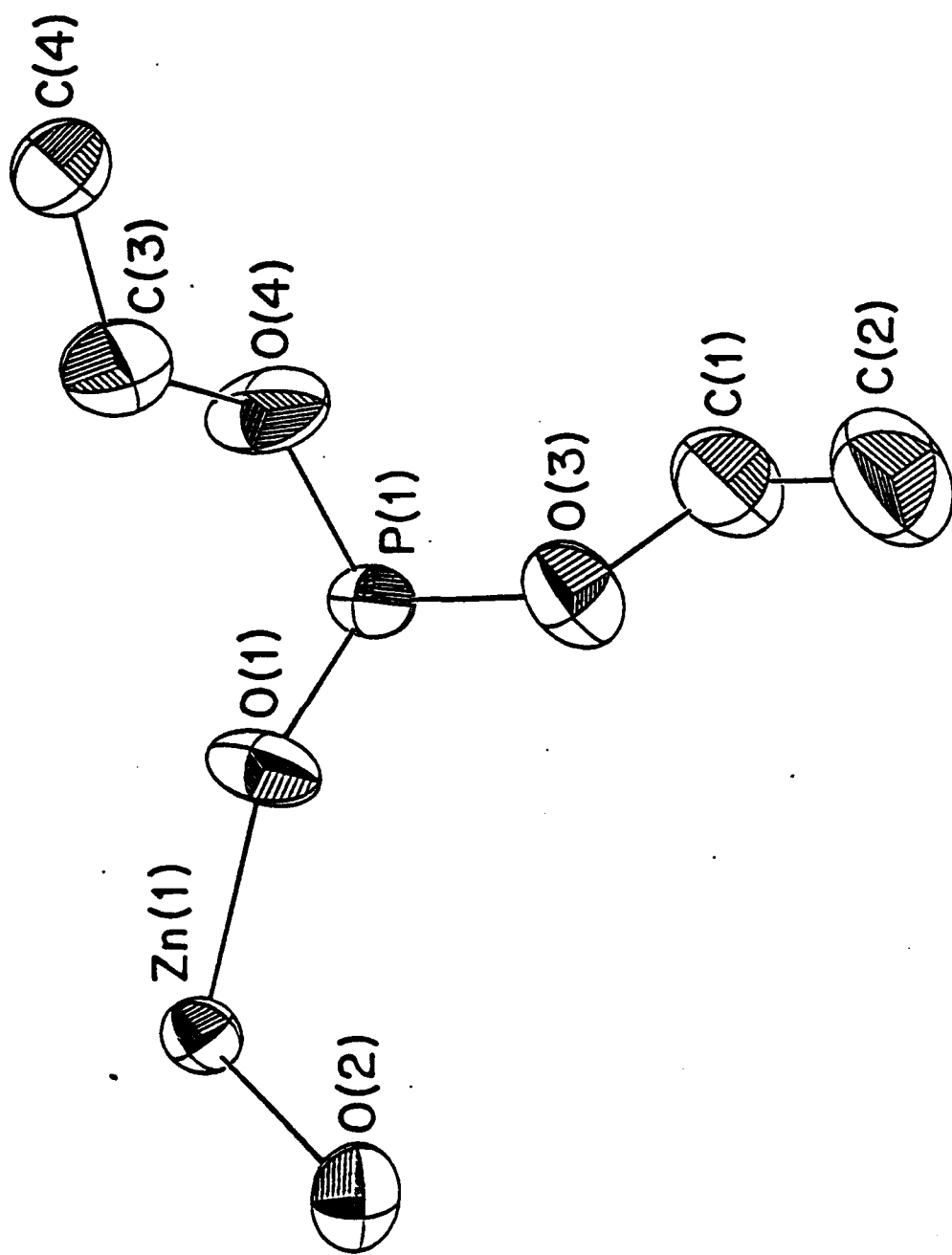
Figure 5: Differential scanning calorimetry plot for  $\text{Zn}(\text{O}_2\text{P}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2)_2$ .

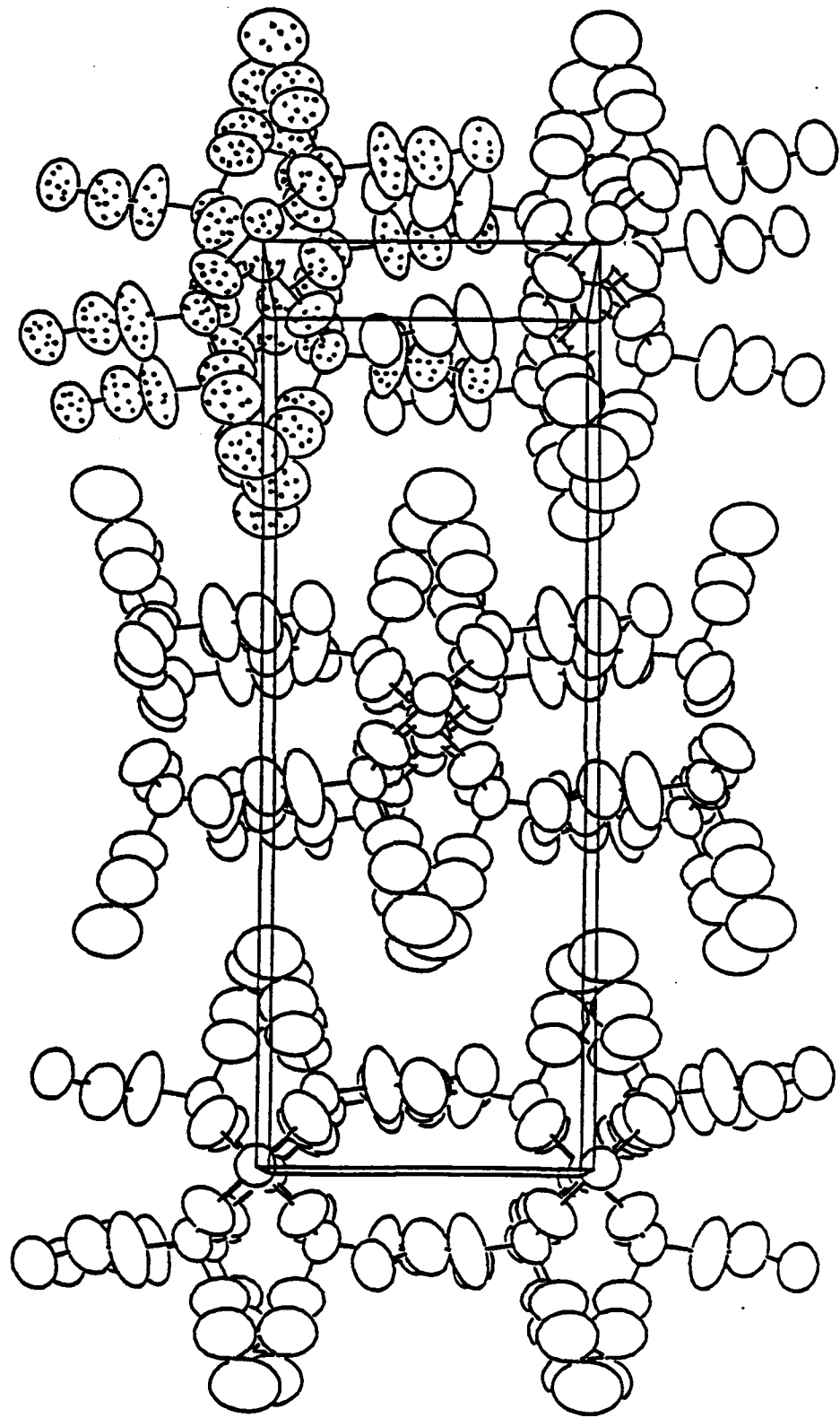
Figure 6: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum for the methylene ( $-\text{CH}_2-$ ) protons in  $\text{Zn}(\text{O}_2\text{P}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2)_2$ .

Figure 7: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum for the methyl ( $-\text{CH}_3$ ) protons in  $\text{Zn}(\text{O}_2\text{P}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2)_2$ .

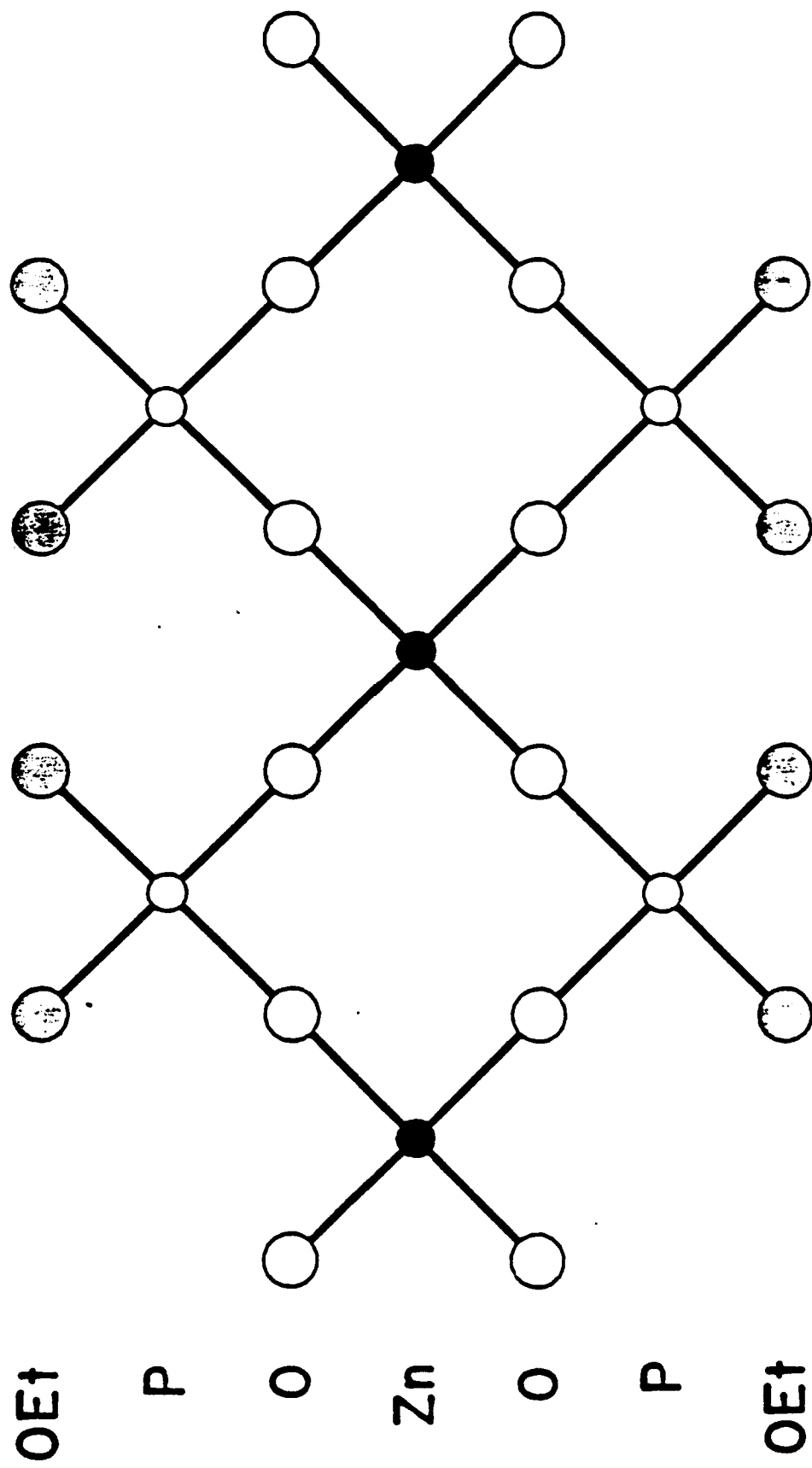
Figure 8: <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum for  $\text{Zn}(\text{O}_2\text{P}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2)_2$ .

Figure 9: Infra red spectrum of  $\text{Zn}(\text{O}_2\text{P}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_2)_2$ .

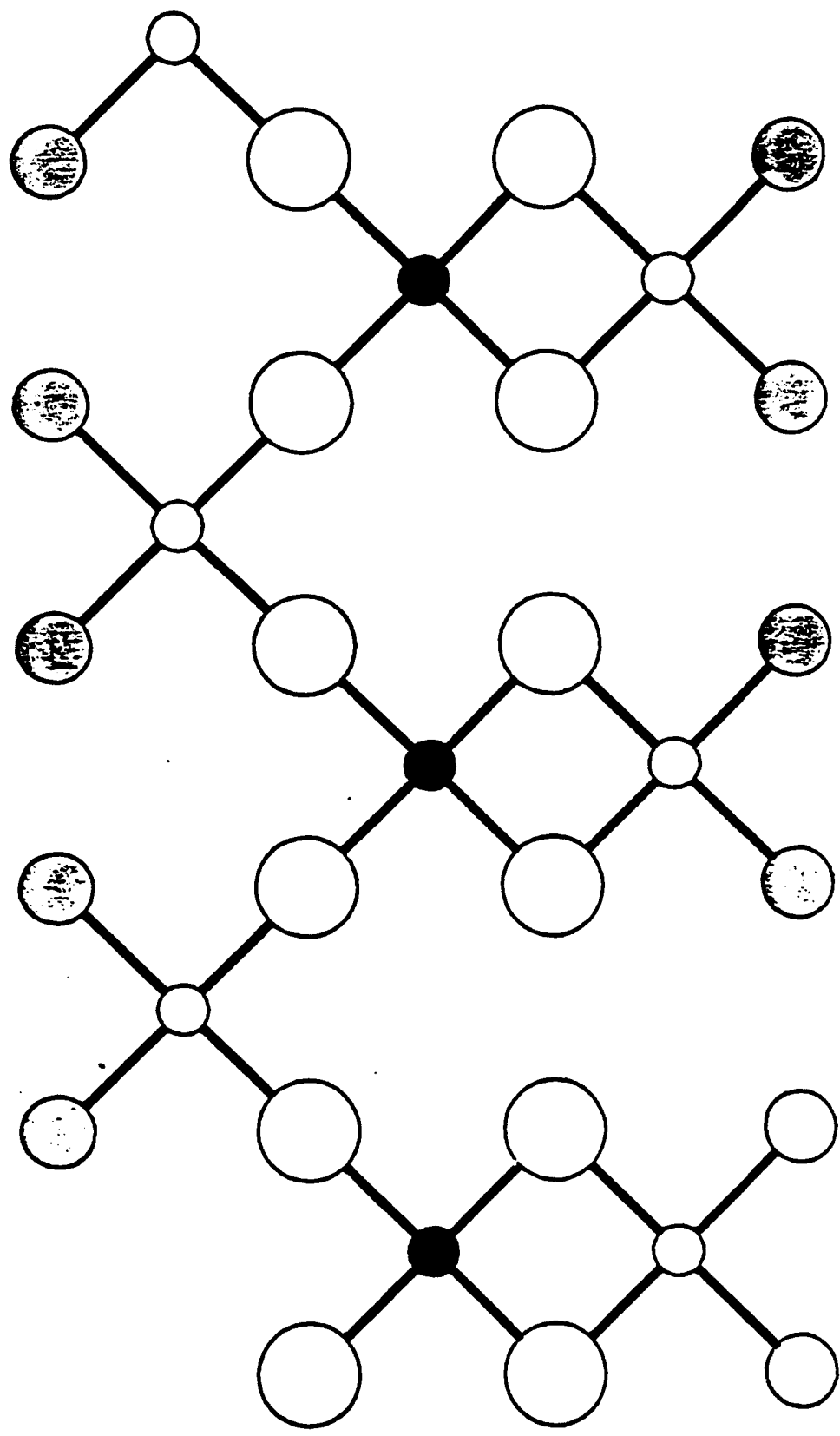




2.7.2







OEt

P

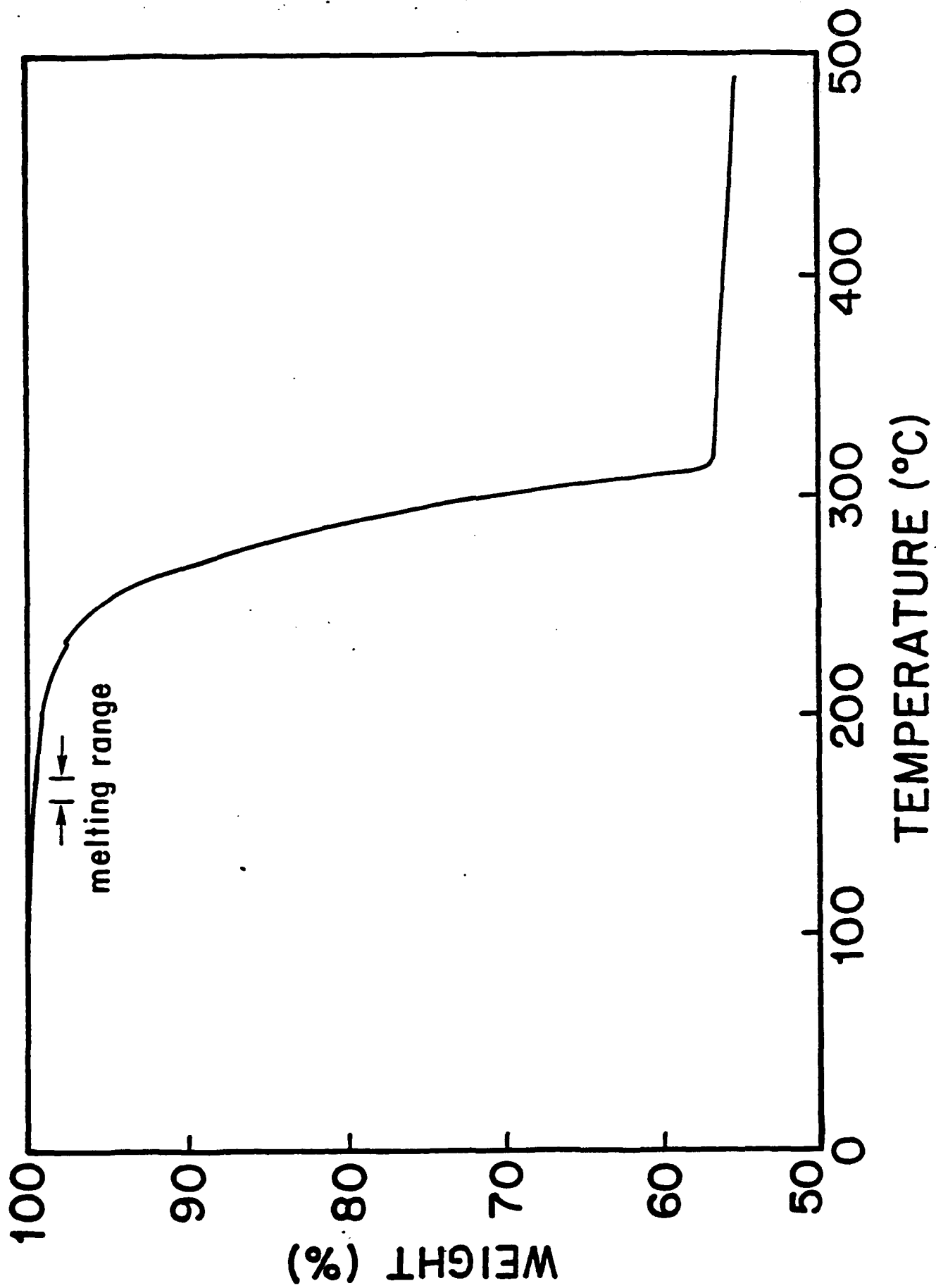
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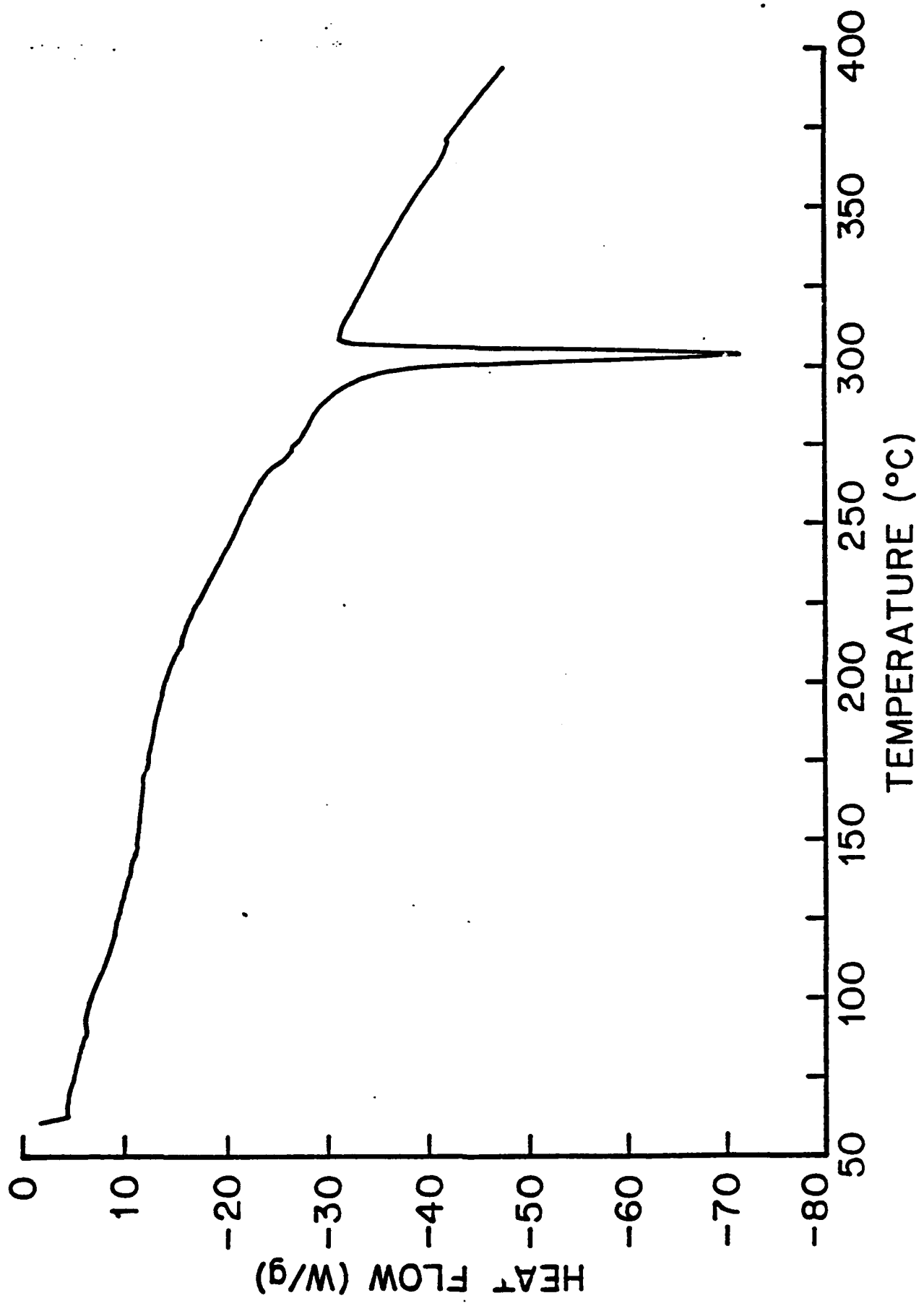
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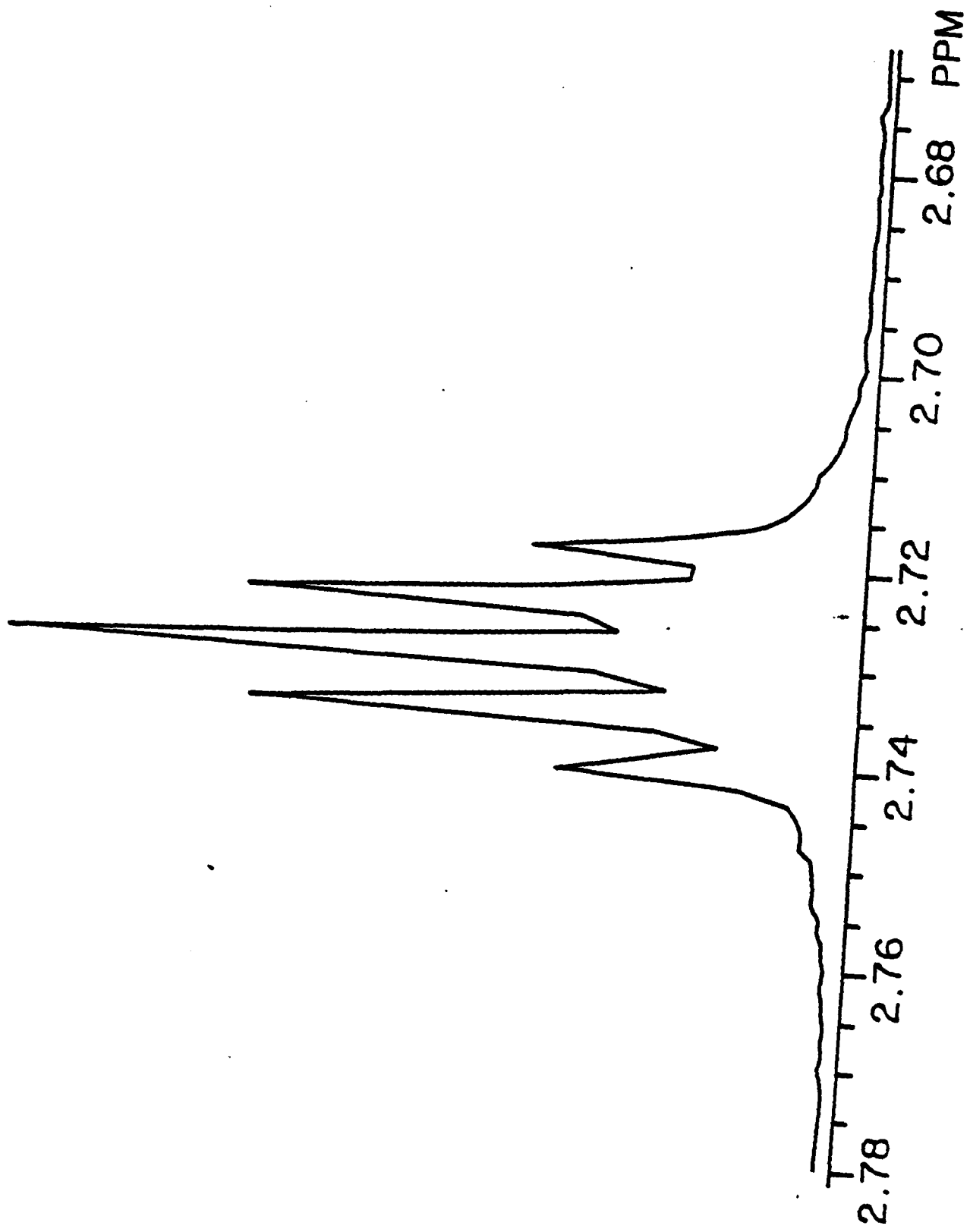
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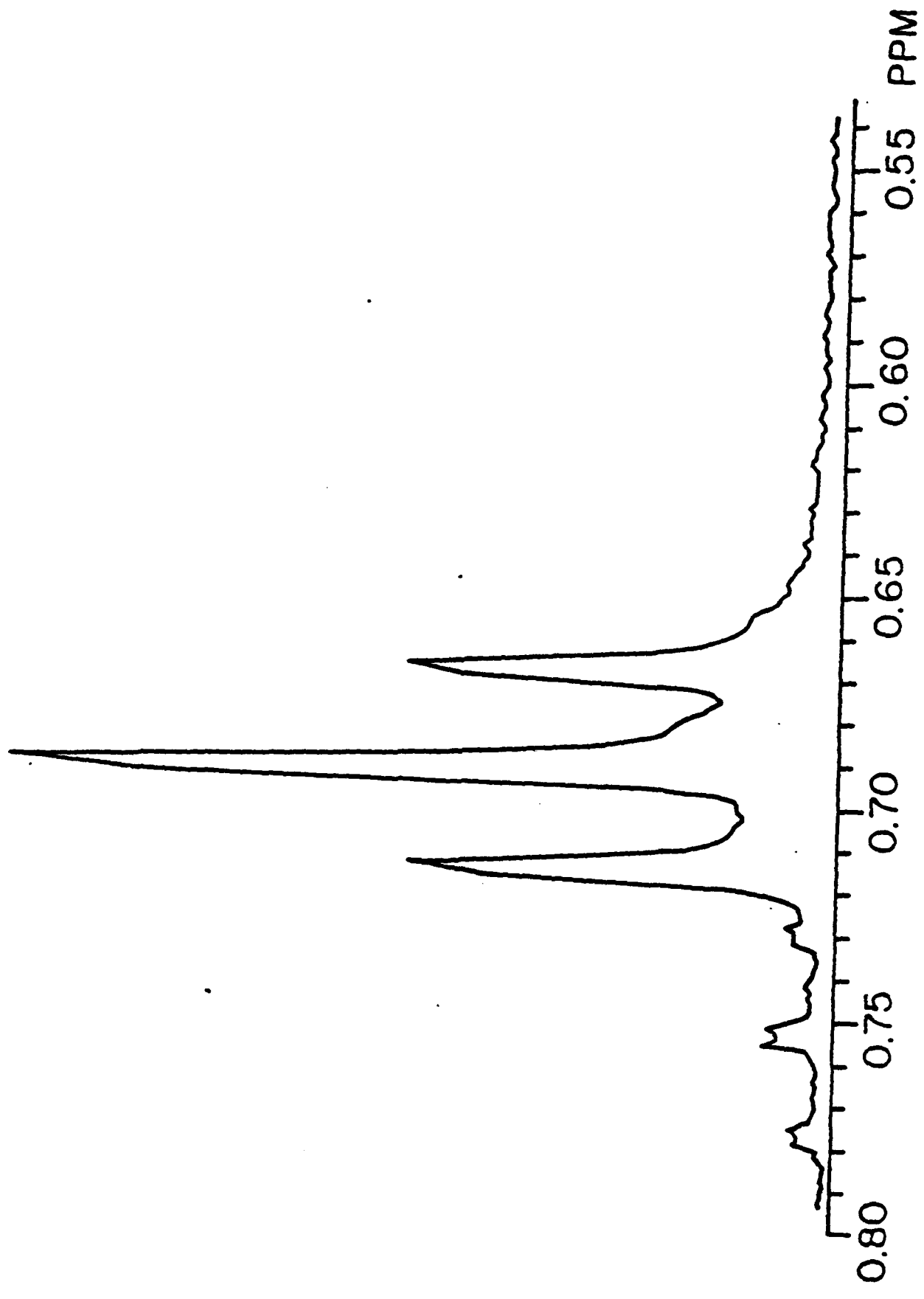
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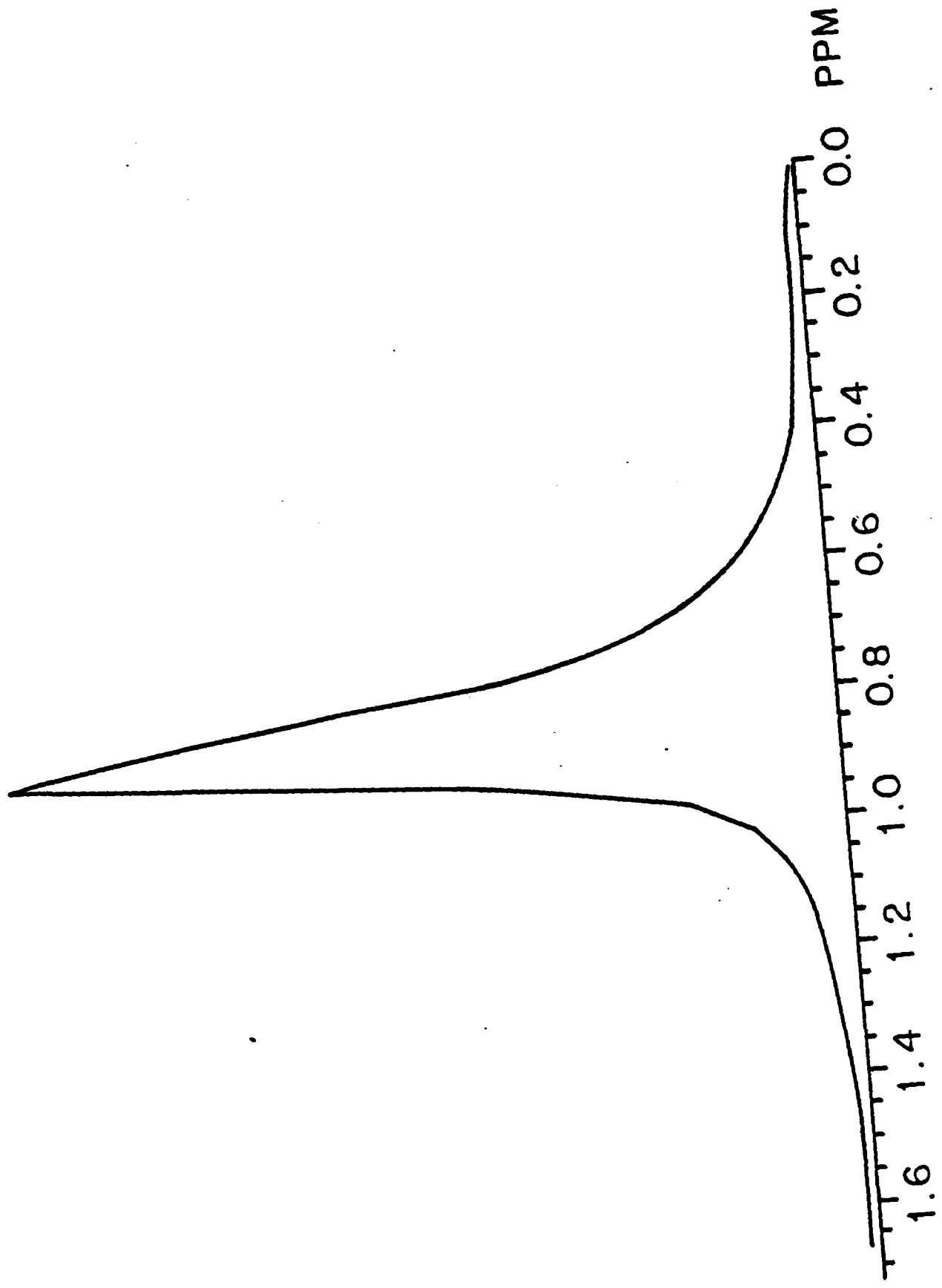
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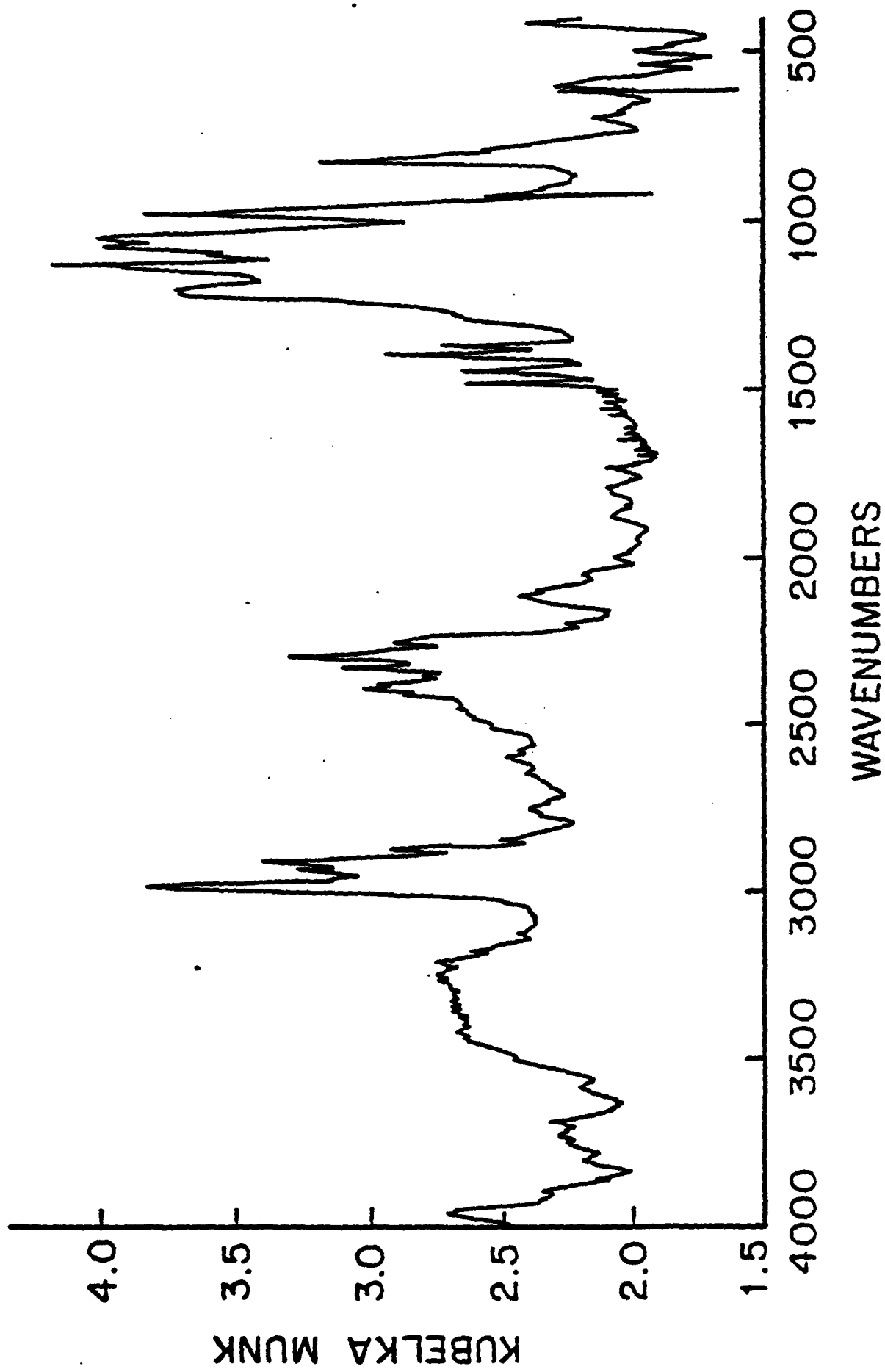












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