Supporting Information

Nitroxide-Mediated Alternating Copolymerization of Vinyl Acetate with *tert*-Butyl-2-trifluoromethacrylate Using a SG1-based

Alkoxyamine

Sanjib Banerjee,*^{,†} Ilaria Domenichelli^{‡,§} and Bruno Ameduri^{*,†}

[†]Ingénierie et Architectures Macromoléculaires, Institut Charles Gerhardt, UMR 5253 CNRS,

UM, ENSCM, Place Eugène Bataillon, 34095 Montpellier Cedex 5, France

[‡]Istituto di Chimica dei Composti Organo Metallici (ICCOM), Consiglio Nazionale delle

Ricerche, SS Pisa, Via G. Moruzzi 1, 56124 Pisa, Italy

[§]Scuola NormaleSuperiore, Piazza dei Cavalieri 7, 56126 Pisa, Italy

*Corresponding Author: E-mail: bruno.ameduri@enscm.fr (B. Ameduri) sanjib.banerjee@enscm.fr (S. Banerjee)

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1- Materials. *tert*-Butyl-2-trifluoromethacrylate (MAF-TBE, kindly offered by Tosoh F-Tech Company Shunan, Japan) and vinyl acetate (VAc, ≥99%, Aldrich) were stored under nitrogen and purged for 30 mins with nitrogen before use. SG1-based BlocBuilder alkoxyamine (MAMA-SG1) was kindly offered by Dr. Julien Nicolas (University Paris Sud) via Arkema.

Acetone and laboratory reagent grade pentane (purity >95%), purchased from Sigma-Aldrich were used as received. CDCl₃ and DMSO- d_6 used for NMR spectroscopy were purchased from Euroiso-top (Grenoble, France) (purity >99.8%).

2- Experimental Procedures.

2.1. Copolymerization of VAc and MAF-TBE Using MAMA-SG1. All polymerizations were performed using Schlenk techniques under nitrogen atmosphere. A typical copolymerization (entry 5, Table 1) of VAc with MAF-TBE was performed as follows (Scheme 1): MAMA-SG1 (34 mg, 0.09 mmol) was placed into a Schlenk flask and then purged by three vacuum-nitrogen cycles. Then, degassed VAc (0.7 mL, 8.0 mmol), MAF-TBE (1.4 mL, 8.0 mmol) and DMSO (2.0 mL) were added to the Schlenk flask under a nitrogen flux and the reaction mixture was heated at 40 °C under stirring. During the course of the polymerization, samples were withdrawn periodically from the reaction medium to determine the monomer conversions by ¹H NMR spectroscopy (for VAc) and ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy (for MAF-TBE) and to assess the molar masses (M_n) and dispersities ($D = M_w/M_n$) by SEC analysis. The monomer conversions were determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy (for VAc) and ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy (for MAF-TBE) using equations S1 and S2, respectively:

where $\int_{i}^{j} CH_{x}$ stands for the integral of the signal assigned to CH_x ranging from *i* ppm to *j* ppm in the ¹H NMR spectrum of the reaction at time *t*.

where $\int_{-n}^{-m} CF_3$ stands for the integral of the signal assigned to CF₃ ranging from *-n* ppm to *-m* ppm in the ¹⁹F NMR spectrum of the reaction at time *t*.

After the reaction, the crude product was dissolved in acetone and precipitated twice in chilled pentane, filtered through a filter funnel, and then dried under vacuum $(10^{-3} \text{ bar}, 40 \text{ °C})$ for 12 h. The purified copolymer was characterized by ¹H and ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm, Figure 3): 0.85 to 1.55 {signal for the α -end group containing MAMA fragment: -C(C<u>H</u>₃)₂ of MAMA signal *h*, signal for the ω -end group containing SG1 fragment: -C(C<u>H</u>₃)₃ signal *d*, {-N-C(C<u>H</u>₃)₃ signal *e*, -CH₂C<u>H</u>₃ signal *f*}; 4.10 C<u>H₂CH₃ signal *g* of the ω -end group containing SG1 fragment}; 1.40 {-C(C<u>H</u>₃)₃ of MAF-TBE, signal *a'*} 1.90 ((-OCOC<u>H</u>₃ of VAc, signal *c*); 2.0 to 2.7 (-CH₂ of VAc and MAF-TBE, signal *b* and *b'*); 5.10 (-C<u>H</u>OAc of VAc in the VAc-MAF-TBE alternating dyad, signal *a*); 6.55 (-C<u>H</u>OAc of VAc attached to the SG1 at the ω -end group, signal *i*).</u>

¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm of entry 5, Table S1, Figure S8): peak centered at -69 (-C<u>F</u>₃ of MAF-TBE in the copolymer).

³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm of entry 5, Table S1, Figure S9): peak centered at 25.02 (-<u>P(O)OCH₂CH₃ of the ω-chain end containing SG1).</u> ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm, Figure S10): 20.83 ((-OCO<u>C</u>H₃ of VAc); 27.75 {-C(<u>C</u>H₃)₃ of MAF-TBE}; 38.44 (-<u>C</u>H₂ of VAc and MAF-TBE); 53.49 {-<u>C</u>(CH₃)₃ of MAF-TBE} 66.62 (-<u>C</u>HOAc of VAc in the VAc-MAF-TBE alternating dyad); 83.18 {-CH₂<u>C</u>(CF₃)CO₂C(CH₃)₃ of MAF-TBE}; 125.70 {-CH₂C(<u>C</u>F₃) of MAF-TBE}; 166.81 (-OCOCH₃ of VAc); 169.89 (-COOC(CH₃)₃ of MAF-TBE).

2.2. Determination of the Reactivity Ratios of VAc and MAF-TBE.

Instantaneous copolymer compositions from the radical copolymerization of VAc with MAF-TBE using MAMA-SG1 at 40 °C in DMSO- d_6 in sealed NMR tube at seven different monomer feed compositions ([VAc]₀/[MAF-TBE]₀ = 10/90, 20/80, 30/70, 50/50, 70/30, 80/20, 90/10) were determined by measuring the conversions of VAc and MAF-TBE by ¹H (equation S1) and ¹⁹F (equation S2) NMR spectroscopies. Then monomer-copolymer composition curve (Figure S16) was constructed using these low conversions (< 5 %) composition data points. This curve was then fitted to the Mayo-Lewis copolymerization equation (S3) depicted by the red line¹ to determine the reactivity ratios of VAc and MAF-TBE:

where F_1 , f_1 , f_2 , r_1 and r_2 stands for the molar percentage of MAF-TBE in the copolymer, molar percentages of MAF-TBE and VAc, respectively in the starting comonomer feed and the reactivity ratios of MAF-TBE and VAc, respectively.

The calculation led to the following reactivity ratios: $r_{VAc} = 0.013 \pm 0.011$ and $r_{MAF-TBE} = 0$ at 40 °C.

3- Characterizations.

Size Exclusion Chromatography (SEC) Measurements. Molar masses (M_n s) and dispersities (Ds) of the synthesized polymers were determined from size exclusion chromatography (SEC) using triple-detection GPC (Agilent Technologies). The SEC is equipped with a PL0390-0605390 LC light scattering detector operating at two diffusion angles (15° and 90°), a PL0390-06034 capillary viscometer, and a 390-LC PL0390-0601 refractive index detector and two PL1113-6300 ResiPore 300 × 7.5 mm columns. The entire SEC-HPLC system was thermostated at 35 °C. DMF (containing 0.1 wt % of LiCl) was used as the eluent at a flow rate of 0.8 mL min⁻¹ while toluene was used as the flow rate marker. Poly(methyl methacrylate) standards were used for calibration and the results were processed using the corresponding Agilent software.

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectroscopy. The compositions and microstructures of the synthesized polymers were determined by ¹H, ¹³C, ¹⁹F, and ³¹P NMR spectroscopies. ¹H, ¹³C, ¹⁹F, and ³¹P 1D NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AC 400 Spectrometer (400 MHz for ¹H, 100 MHz for ¹³C, 376 MHz for ¹⁹F and 162 MHz for ³¹P) using CDCl₃ as a solvent using the following experimental conditions for ¹H [or ¹³C or ¹⁹F or ³¹P] NMR spectra: flip angle 90 ° [or 90 ° or 30 ° or 90 °], acquisition time 4.5 s [or 0.3 s or 0.7 s or 0.5 s], pulse delay 2 s [or 1 or 5 s or 2 s], number of scans 32 [or 8192 or 64 or 128], and a pulse width of 12.5, 9.5, 5.0 and 7.6 μs for ¹H, ¹³C, ¹⁹F and ³¹P NMR, respectively. Coupling constants and chemical shifts are presented in Hertz (Hz) and parts per million (ppm), respectively. ¹H decoupling was realized with WALTZ-16 programme. ¹⁹F decoupling was performed with nested loops using 0.5 ms and 1 ms chirped adiabatic pulses with 80 kHz band with in order to desynchronize and minimize decoupling artifacts.

Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA). TGA of the purified copolymer was performed under air

using a TGA 51 apparatus from TA Instruments at a heating rate of 10 $^{\circ}$ C min⁻¹ from room temperature to 580 $^{\circ}$ C.

Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC). DSC analysis was conducted using a Netzsch DSC 200 F3 instrument under N₂ atmosphere. The instrument was calibrated with noble metals and checked just before the analysis with an indium sample ($T_m = 156$ °C). The heating or cooling range of the sample was from -40 ° C to 160 ° C at a scanning rate of 10 ° C min⁻¹, and the T_g was recorded in the second heating cycle to remove the previous thermal history of the polymer. T_g was measured by the inflection point in the heat capacity jump.

4- Supplementary tables.

Table S1. Reaction conditions and results of nitroxide-mediated copolymerization of MAF-

entry	VAc/	solvent	initiator	temp.	time	VAc	MAF-TBE	total	$M_{n,SEC}^{d}$	D^d
-	MAF-			(°C)	(h)	convn ^b	convn ^c	convn	(g/mol)	
	TBE					(% / no.	(% / no. of	(%)	-	
	(mol%)					of moles)	moles)			
1	100/0	DMSO	-	40	24	0	-	0	-	-
2	0/100	DMSO	-	40	48	-	0	0	-	-
3	100/0	DMSO	-	65	24	0	-	0	-	-
4	0/100	DMSO	-	65	48	-	0	0	-	-
5	50/50	DMSO	-	40	0.5	3 / 0.24	3 / 0.24	3	1800	1.33
					1.0	8 / 0.64	7 / 0.56	8	3400	1.28
					2.0	13 / 1.00	12 / 0.92	12	4500	1.27
					4.0	19 / 1.52	19 / 1.52	19	5600	1.27
					8.0	28 / 2.24	27 / 2.16	28	7400	1.28
					16.0	50 / 4.00	49 / 3.92	50	13500	1.26
					24.0	63 / 5.04	62 / 4.96	63	17100	1.25
6	50/50	DMSO	-	65	0.08	37 / 2.96	36 / 2.88	37	8800	1.41
					0.16	39 / 3.12	40 / 3.20	40	9700	1.40
					0.33	42 / 3.36	43 / 3.44	43	10500	1.38
					0.5	45 / 3.60	46 / 3.68	46	11600	1.36
					1.0	50 / 4.00	48 / 3.84	49	12400	1.37
					2.0	55 / 4.40	54 / 4.32	55	13300	1.36
					4.0	60 / 4.80	60 / 4.80	60	14700	1.35
					24.0	65 / 5.20	64 / 5.12	65	15900	1.34
7	50/50	CH_2Cl_2	-	40	18.0	7 / 0.56	7 / 0.56	7	4500	1.55
					24.0	8 / 0.64	8 / 0.64	8	4900	1.53
					36.0	9/0.72	9 / 0.72	9	5100	1.60

TBE with VAc using MAMA-SG1.^a

^aConditions: [VAc]₀/[MAF-TBE]₀/[MAMA-SG1]₀ = 90/90/1. ^bdetermined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy. ^cdetermined by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy. ^ddetermined by SEC in DMF (containing 0.1 wt% LiCl), system was calibrated using poly(methyl methacrylate) standards.

5- Supplementary schemes.



Scheme S1. Degradation of *tert*-butyl ester groups of the poly(VAc-*alt*-MAF-TBE) alternating copolymers upon heating under air above 150 °C.

6- Supplementary figures.



Figure S1. Time evolution of the ¹H NMR spectra (CDCl₃, 20 °C) during the nitroxide-mediated alternating copolymerization of VAc with MAF-TBE using MAMA-SG1 ([VAc]₀/[MAF-TBE]₀/[MAMA-SG1]₀ = 90/90/1) at 40 °C in DMSO (entry 5, Table S1).



Figure S2. Time evolution of the ¹⁹F NMR spectra (CDCl₃, 20 °C) during the nitroxidemediated alternating copolymerization of VAc with MAF-TBE using MAMA-SG1 ([VAc]₀/[MAF-TBE]₀/[MAMA-SG1]₀ = 90/90/1) at 40 °C in DMSO (entry 5, Table S1). The signals in the pink shade are assigned to CF₃ groups in the poly(VAc-*alt*-MAF-TBE) copolymer.



Figure S3. % Conversion vs. time plot of VAc and MAF-TBE during the nitroxide-mediated alternating copolymerization of VAc with MAF-TBE using MAMA-SG1 ([VAc]₀/[MAF-TBE]₀/[MAMA-SG1]₀ = 90/90/1) at 40 °C in DMSO (entry 5, Table S1).



Figure S4. % Total conversion vs. time plot of VAc and MAF-TBE during the nitroxidemediated alternating copolymerization of VAc with MAF-TBE using MAMA-SG1 $([VAc]_0/[MAF-TBE]_0/[MAMA-SG1]_0 = 90/90/1)$ at 40 °C in DMSO (entry 5, Table S1).



Figure S5. Conversion vs. time plot of VAc and MAF-TBE in terms of their % conversion (A) and no. of mmol consumed (B) during the nitroxide-mediated alternating copolymerization of VAc with MAF-TBE using MAMA-SG1 ($[VAc]_0/[MAF-TBE]_0/[MAMA-SG1]_0 = 90/90/1$) at 65 °C in DMSO (entry 6, Table S1).



Figure S6. % Total conversion vs. time (A) and $\ln[M]_0/[M]$ vs. time (B) plots for the nitroxidemediated alternating copolymerization of VAc with MAF-TBE using MAMA-SG1 ([VAc]_0/[MAF-TBE]_0/[MAMA-SG1]_0 = 90/90/1) at 65 °C in DMSO (entry 6, Table S1).



Figure S7. (A) Evolution of SEC traces vs. time and (B) evolution of M_n and D as a function of the total conversion for the nitroxide-mediated alternating copolymerization of VAc with MAF-TBE using MAMA-SG1 ([VAc]₀/[MAF-TBE]₀/[MAMA-SG1]₀ = 90/90/1) at 65 °C in DMSO (entry 6, Table S1).



Figure S8. Representative ¹⁹F NMR spectrum of poly(VAc-*alt*-MAF-TBE) alternating copolymer prepared by nitroxide-mediated alternating copolymerization of VAc with MAF-TBE using MAMA-SG1 ([VAc]₀/[MAF-TBE]₀/[MAMA-SG1]₀ = 90/90/1) at 40 °C in DMSO (entry 5, Table S1), recorded in CDCl₃ at 20 °C.

¹⁹F NMR spectrum (Figure S8) reveals the characteristic signal centered at ca.–69 ppm attributed to the fluorine atoms in $-CF_3$ of MAF-TBE in the alternating copolymer.²⁻⁴



Figure S9. Representative ³¹P NMR spectrum of poly(VAc-*alt*-MAF-TBE) alternating copolymer prepared by nitroxide-mediated alternating copolymerization of VAc with MAF-TBE using MAMA-SG1 ([VAc]₀/[MAF-TBE]₀/[MAMA-SG1]₀ = 90/90/1) at 40 °C in DMSO (entry 5, Table S1), recorded in CDCl₃ at 20 °C.

³¹P NMR spectrum (Figure S9) reveals the characteristic signal centered at ca. 25 ppm attributed to the phosphorous atom in the ω -chain end of the copolymer bearing SG1 fragment.



Figure S10. Representative ¹³C{¹H}{¹⁹F} NMR (¹H and ¹⁹F double decoupled) spectrum of poly(VAc-*alt*-MAF-TBE) alternating copolymer prepared by nitroxide-mediated alternating copolymerization of VAc with MAF-TBE using MAMA-SG1 ([VAc]₀/[MAF-TBE]₀/[MAMA-SG1]₀ = 90/90/1) at 40 °C in DMSO (entry 5, Table S1), recorded in CDCl₃ at 20 °C.

¹³C{¹H}{¹⁹F} NMR (¹H and ¹⁹F double decoupled) spectrum analysis (Figure S10) enabled to confirm the position of the carbon atoms of the poly(VAc-*alt*-MAF-TBE) alternating copolymer. The origin of two signals centered at ca. 67.5 ppm corresponding to the –CH of VAc in the VAc-MAF-TBE alternating dyad might be attributed to the tacticity of the copolymer. Two distinct signals centered at 166.8 and 169.9 ppm were assigned to the carbonyl carbon in VAc and MAF-TBE, respectively.



Figure S11. Comparison of ¹³C NMR spectrum (from bottom to top: without any decoupling, with ¹H decoupling, with ¹⁹F decoupling and with ¹H and ¹⁹F double decoupling) of poly(VAcalt-MAF-TBE) alternating copolymer prepared by nitroxide-mediated alternating copolymerization of VAc with MAF-TBE using MAMA-SG1 ([VAc]₀/[MAF-TBE]₀/[MAMA-SG1]₀ = 90/90/1) at 40 °C in DMSO (entry 5, Table S1), recorded in CDCl₃ at 20 °C.

Comparison of ¹³C NMR spectra with or without ¹H and ¹⁹F decoupling (Figure S11) enables us to confirm the number of H or F atoms attach to the carbon atoms the poly(VAc-*alt*-MAF-TBE) alternating copolymer. This analysis further confirms the structure of the alternating copolymer. Interestingly, both carbonyl groups in VAc and MAF-TBE are represented by two distinct signals centered at ca. 166.8 and 169.9 ppm, respectively.



Figure S12. Representative Distortionless Enhancement by Polarisation Transfer-135 (DEPT-135) ¹³C NMR spectrum of poly(VAc-*alt*-MAF-TBE) alternating copolymer prepared by nitroxide-mediated alternating copolymerization of VAc with MAF-TBE using MAMA-SG1 ([VAc]₀/[MAF-TBE]₀/[MAMA-SG1]₀ = 90/90/1) at 40 °C in DMSO (entry 5, Table S1), recorded in CDCl₃ at 20 °C.

DEPT-135 NMR (CH₃/CH positive, CH₂ negative) spectrum (Figure S12) enables us to confirm the position of the carbon atoms of the poly(VAc-*alt*-MAF-TBE) alternating copolymer. The origin of two signals corresponding to the –CH of VAc in the VAc-MAF-TBE alternating dyad might be attributed to the presence of stereocenters in every monomer unit.



Figure S13. ¹H-¹³C HSQC NMR spectrum of poly(VAc-*alt*-MAF-TBE) alternating copolymer prepared by nitroxide-mediated alternating copolymerization of VAc with MAF-TBE using MAMA-SG1 ([VAc]₀/[MAF-TBE]₀/[MAMA-SG1]₀ = 90/90/1) at 40 °C in DMSO (entry 5, Table S1), recorded in CDCl₃ at 20 °C. Multiple signals for *a* is caused by the tacticity. Horizontal axis: ¹H NMR; Vertical axis: ¹³C NMR. The signals assigned to VAc are highlighted with the blue dashed lines and that for the MAF-TBE by red dashed line.

The ¹H-¹³C HSQC NMR spectrum (Figure S13) of the poly(VAc-*alt*-MAF-TBE) alternating copolymer revealed four correlations between protons and carbon atoms: (i) $-C(CH_3)_3$ protons of MAF-TBE ($\delta_H = 1.40$ ppm) with carbon C(*a*) at $\delta_C = 27.75$ ppm, (ii) $-OCOCH_3$ protons ($\delta_H = 1.90$ ppm) with carbon C(*c*) at $\delta_C = 20.83$ ppm, (iii) $-CH_2$ protons of VAc and MAF-TBE ($\delta_H = 2.0$ and 2.21, respectively) with carbons C(*b*, *b*) at $\delta_C = 37.32$ and 38.44 ppm, respectively, and (iv) the $-CH_2C(CF_3)(COO^tBu)-CH_2CH(OCOCH_3)-CH_2C(CF_3)(COO^tBu)-protons$ ($\delta_H = 5.10$ ppm) with carbon at C(*a*) $\delta_C = 66.62$ ppm



Figure S14. ¹H NMR spectra of [VAc+MAMA-SG1], recorded at 40 °C in DMSO-*d*₆ during *insitu* NMR experiment.



Figure S15. ¹H NMR spectra of [MAF-TBE+MAMA-SG1], recorded at 40 °C in DMSO- d_6 during *in-situ* NMR experiment.



Figure S16. ¹H NMR spectra during in situ NMR experiment for the nitroxide-mediated alternating copolymerization of VAc with MAF-TBE using MAMA-SG1 in DMSO at 40 °C.



Figure S17. Evolution of copolymer- monomer composition curve for the nitroxide-mediated alternating copolymerization of VAc with MAF-TBE using MAMA-SG1 in DMSO at 40 °C.



Figure S18. TGA thermogram of poly(VAc-*alt*-MAF-TBE) alternating copolymer prepared by nitroxide-mediated alternating copolymerization of VAc with MAF-TBE using MAMA-SG1 ($[VAc]_0/[MAF-TBE]_0/[MAMA-SG1]_0 = 90/90/1$) at 40 °C in DMSO (entry 5, Table S1, polymerization time = 24 h), heated at 10 °C min⁻¹ under air.



Figure S19. DSC thermogram of poly(VAc-*alt*-MAF-TBE) alternating copolymer prepared by nitroxide-mediated alternating copolymerization of VAc with MAF-TBE using MAMA-SG1 ($[VAc]_0/[MAF-TBE]_0/[MAMA-SG1]_0 = 90/90/1$) at 40 °C in DMSO (entry 5, Table S1, polymerization time = 24 h).

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