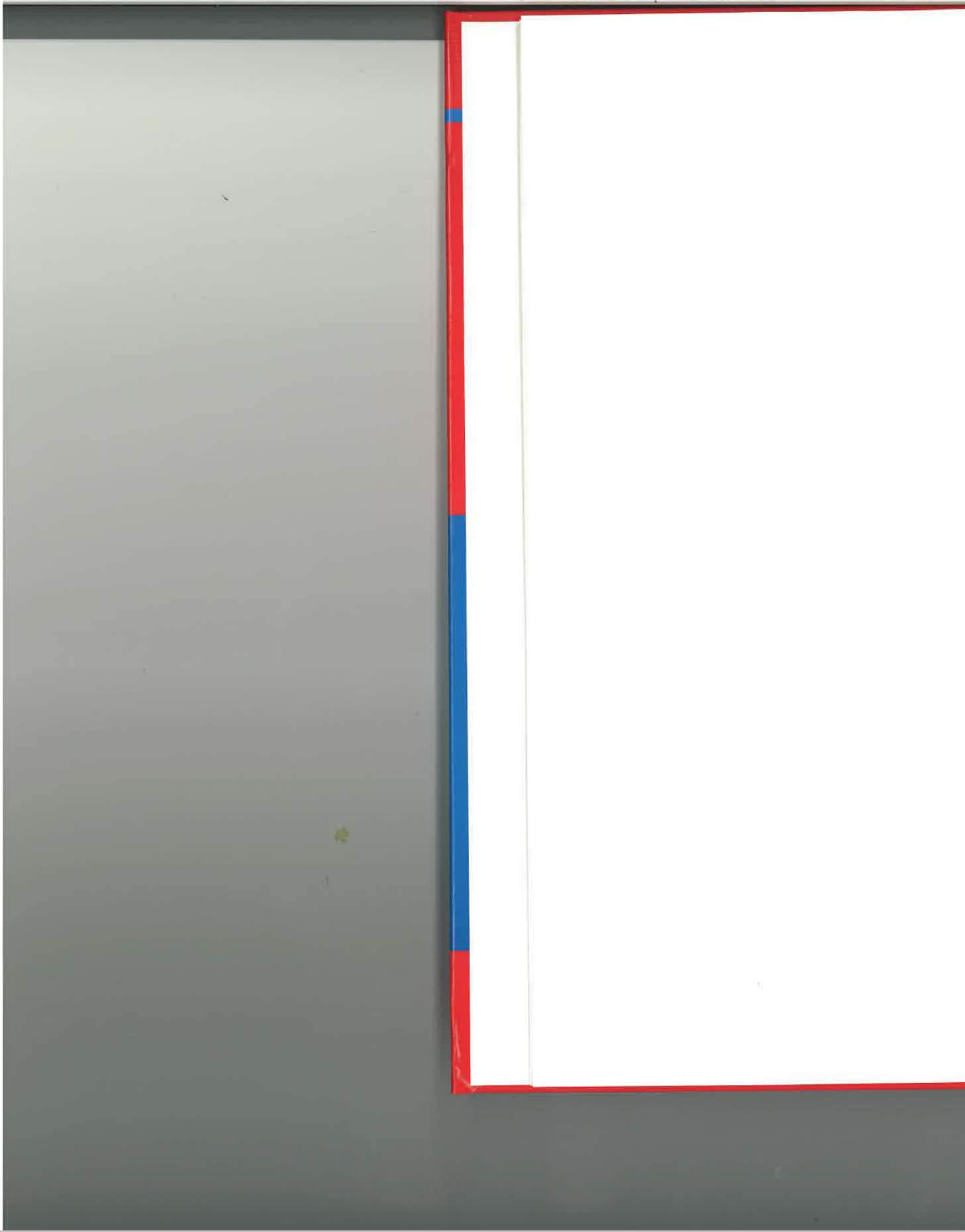


Compression Molding

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exchange membrane (PEM), which uses numerous plates that contain complex patterns of flow channels. The plates have two main functions: manage the hydrogen on one side and the oxygen on the other. The plates also contain the cells where the reaction will take place and produce electricity. Originally, the plates were individually produced. Originally, the plates were individually produced from such as isostatic graphite, aluminum, stainless steel, and titanium. These plates were extremely expensive. Once again plastic was used and in doing so, made the product significantly less expensive and a more superior product. The final product has dimensions with extreme flatness and creep, thermal stability, and does not leach-out contaminants. All this has to be done in a highly filled material that contained evenly mixed fibers. In each fuel cell contains numerous plates, the volume of material and processing had to be completely automated. The operation is the injection-compression process. The cost for this application is huge. One percent penetration of this process could consume between 50 and 100 million pounds of material [8]. This is one example of how compression molding can be used to mold plastic materials in the future.

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thermoset or elastomer category. Thermoplastics in turn which are called thermoplastic elastomers. However, all common that they are made of huge molecules. Some are uncrosslinked, which means that each molecule can move relative to its neighbors, and others are crosslinked, which means that covalent links interconnect the polymer molecules. Thermoplastic elastomers are uncrosslinked. Vulcanized rubber, thermosets are cross-linked.

The configuration of the polymer molecules has a great influence on the properties of the polymer component. The configuration of the polymer chain about the distribution and spatial organization of the side groups during polymerization it is possible to place the X groups on the backbone in different directions. The order in which they are placed is called the *tacticity*. The polymers with side groups that are placed in a random order are called *atactic*. The polymers whose side groups are all placed on the same side are called *isotactic*, and those molecules with regularly alternating side groups are called *syndiotactic*. Figure 2.1 shows the three different tacticities of polypropylene. The tacticity in a polymer determines its crystallinity that a polymer can reach. For example, polypropylene with a high isotactic content will reach a high degree of crystallinity and is strong and hard. Branching of the polymer chains also affects the structure, crystallinity and properties of the polymeric material.

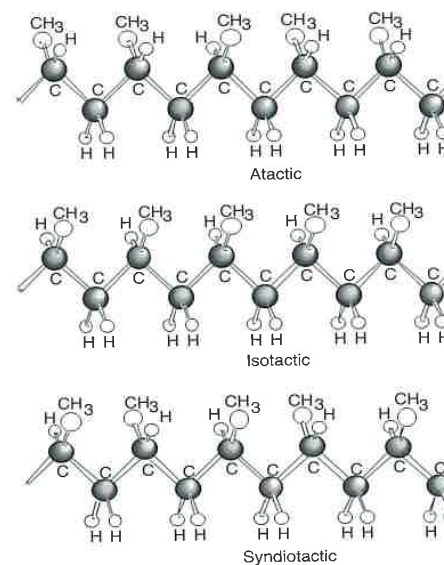


Figure 2.1 Different polypropylene structures.

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