

## Research Article

# Synthesis of New Thiophene Derivatives and Their Use as Photostabilizers for Rigid Poly(vinyl chloride)

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Five new thiophenes, namely, *N*-[(3-bromo-2-methylthiophen-5-yl)methylene]-4-methoxyaniline (**4a**), *N*-[(3-bromo-2-methylthiophen-5-yl)methylene]-3,4-dimethoxyaniline (**4b**), *N*-[(3-bromo-2-methylthiophen-5-yl)methylene]-3,4-dimethylaniline (**4c**), 3-[(3-bromo-2-methylthiophen-5-yl)methyleneamino]-2-methylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (**4d**), and 3-[(3-bromo-2-methylthiophen-5-yl)methyleneamino]-2-isopropylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (**4e**), have been synthesized. All of these materials brought about a reduction in the level of photodegradation of poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC) films containing the synthesized thiophenes (0.5%; by weight). The results obtained showed that the extent of photostabilization of PVC in the presence of an additive was in the order **4e** > **4d** > **4b** > **4a** > **4c**. For the most favorable additive (**4e**), the rate of appearance of infrared absorption bands of degradation products was reduced by around two-thirds, while the quantum yield of chain scission was calculated to be reduced by a factor of more than one thousand. It is suggested that the additives may help stabilize PVC by direct absorption of UV radiation and dissipation of the energy as heat or that electrostatic attraction between the additives and PVC may assist transfer of energy from excited state PVC to the additive, from where it can be dissipated.

## 1. Introduction

Poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC) is second to polyethylene among the highest selling types of plastic materials, which are widely used in a wide range of industries including architecture, electronics, packaging, and transportation [1]. However, low photostability of PVC leads to hydrogen chloride loss, discoloration, and finally serious corrosion phenomena, accompanied by changes of physical and chemical properties of the PVC. The low cost and the good performance of PVC products have increased the utilization of this polymer in building, mainly in exterior applications such as window profiles and cladding [2]. However, ultimate user acceptance of the PVC products for outdoor building applications

depends on their ability to resist photodegradation over long periods of sunlight exposure. To ensure weatherability, the PVC resin needs to be compounded and processed properly using suitable additives, leading to a complex material whose behavior and properties are quite different from those of the PVC resin itself [3]. Because of this, it is important to perform reliable weathering methods to test factors, like light and temperature, which influence the degradation of PVC based materials in accelerated service conditions. Due to the growing importance of the PVC, various studies have been reported that deal with the rheological behavior and mechanical properties of its blends [4], the properties of PVC/thermoplastic polyester elastomer blend systems [5], and fabrication of new antimicrobial PVC plastic [6]. The

effect of UV light on the molecular structure of the PVC is an important issue that has attracted the attention of researchers [7].

As part of on-going research on the synthesis of polymeric materials [8], lithiation reactions [9], and the synthesis of various substituted heteroaromatic compounds [10] and on the stabilization of polymers [11], we became interested in the synthesis of thiophene derivatives. Here we report the syntheses of various imines derived from thiophenes, namely, *N*-[(3-bromo-2-methylthiophen-5-yl)methylene]-4-methoxyaniline (**4a**), *N*-[(3-bromo-2-methylthiophen-5-yl)methylene]-3,4-dimethoxyaniline (**4b**), *N*-[(3-bromo-2-methylthiophen-5-yl)methylene]-3,4-dimethylaniline (**4c**), 3-[(3-bromo-2-methylthiophen-5-yl)methyleneamino]-2-methylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (**4d**), and 3-[(3-bromo-2-methylthiophen-5-yl)methyleneamino]-2-isopropylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (**4e**) and studies of their activity in the photostabilization of PVC. To the best of our knowledge this is the first attempt to investigate the photostabilization of PVC films containing such compounds.

## 2. Experimental

**2.1. General.** Bromine-lithium exchange reactions were performed under an inert atmosphere. Glassware was oven dried, assembled hot, and allowed to cool under a stream of nitrogen gas. All chemicals and reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used without further purification. THF was distilled from sodium benzophenone ketyl and other solvents were purified by standard procedures [12]. IR spectra were recorded as KBr discs for solid materials or by applying droplets of liquid materials on a NaCl plate.  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a spectrometer operating at 400 MHz for  $^1\text{H}$  and 100 MHz for  $^{13}\text{C}$  measurements, respectively. Chemical shifts  $\delta$  are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS). Low- and high-resolution mass spectra were recorded on a time-of-flight mass spectrometer using electron impact (EI). Column chromatography was carried out using Fischer Scientific silica 60A (35–70 micron). *n*-Butyllithium was obtained from Aldrich Chemical Company and was estimated prior to use by the method of Watson and Eastham [13].

**2.2. Synthesis of 3,5-Dibromo-2-methylthiophene (2).** A solution of bromine (12.00 mL, 37.20 g, 232.8 mmol) in acetic acid (16 mL) was added in a dropwise manner over 10 min to a stirred solution of 2-methylthiophene (**1**; 9.82 g, 100.0 mmol) in acetic acid (40 mL) at (0°C). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 2 h and at room temperature for 16 h. The mixture was quenched with water (20 mL) and solid  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  was then added to bring the pH to  $\geq 9$ . The product was extracted with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  ( $3 \times 60$  mL) and the combined organic extracts were dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give the crude product as a reddish liquid, which was purified by distillation under reduced pressure to give pure **2** (23.04 g, 90.0 mmol; 90%) as a colorless oil (lit. [14] colorless oil).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 6.87 (s, 1H) and 2.36 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 136.0, 131.9,

108.8, 108.6, and 14.9. EI-MS ( $m/z$ , %): 258 ( $[\text{M}^{81}\text{Br}_2]^+$ , 62), 257 (30), 256 ( $[\text{M}^{81}\text{Br}^{79}\text{Br}]^+$ , 98), 255 (60), 254 ( $[\text{M}^{79}\text{Br}_2]^+$ , 80), 253 (32), 175 (100) and 96 (84). HRMS (EI): Calcd for  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_4\text{Br}_2\text{S}$   $[\text{M}^{79}\text{Br}_2]^+$  253.8409; found, 253.8400. FTIR ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3097, 2918, 1534, 1449 and 1305.

**2.3. Synthesis of 3-Bromo-2-methylthiophene-5-carboxaldehyde (3).** A solution of *n*-butyllithium (64.0 mL, 1.60 M; 64.0 mmol) in hexane was added in a dropwise manner over 5 min to a stirred solution of 3,5-dibromo-2-methylthiophene (**2**; 16.0 g, 62.5 mmol) in anhydrous THF (100 mL) at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  under nitrogen. The solution turned orange then greenish yellow and finally yellowish orange. The reaction mixture was stirred at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  for 30 min and DMF (4.80 g, 65.7 mmol) was then added. The cooling bath was removed and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h. The mixture was quenched with aqueous HCl (20 mL, 2 M) and the product was extracted with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  ( $3 \times 100$  mL). The organic layer was washed with saturated aqueous  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  solution (100 mL) and brine (100 mL) and then dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give pure **3** (10.88 g, 53.05 mmol; 85%) as a yellow solid, m.p.  $56\text{--}57^\circ\text{C}$  (lit.  $57\text{--}58^\circ\text{C}$ ) [15].  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm): 9.69 (s, 1H), 7.51 (s, 1H) and 2.41 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  (ppm): 181.6, 145.9, 140.1, 138.8, 111.3 and 15.9. EI-MS ( $m/z$ , %): 206 ( $[\text{M}^{81}\text{Br}]^+$ , 75), 205 (98), 204 ( $[\text{M}^{79}\text{Br}]^+$ , 77), 203 (100), 177 (25), 125 (20), 96 (40), 84 (32) and 69 (49). HRMS (EI): Calcd for  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{BrOS}$   $[\text{M}^{79}\text{Br}, 1]^+$  202.9172; found, 202.9166. FTIR ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3080, 2859, 1678 and 1521.

**2.4. Synthesis of Imines 4a–e.** In a 10 mL microwave vial charged with a magnetic bar, 3-bromo-2-methylthiophene-5-carboxaldehyde (**3**; 0.30 g, 1.46 mmol) and the appropriate amine (1.46 mmol) were dissolved in absolute methanol (6 mL) and a drop of HCl was added to the mixture. The vial was sealed and subjected to microwave irradiation at  $100^\circ\text{C}$  for 5 min. The mixture was cooled and then decanted into a 50 mL round bottomed flask and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The solid crude product was recrystallized from ethanol to give the desired product.

**2.4.1. *N*-[(3-Bromo-2-methylthiophen-5-yl)methylene]-4-methoxyaniline (4a).** Produced from 4-methoxyaniline (0.18 g, 1.46 mmol); yield: 0.41 g, 1.32 mmol; 91%; m.p.  $73\text{--}74^\circ\text{C}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 8.36 (s, 1H), 7.20–7.10 (m, 4H), 6.83 (s, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), and 2.38 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 158.5, 149.6, 143.8, 139.8, 139.4, 133.8, 122.4, 114.4, 109.9, 55.5, and 15.5. EI-MS ( $m/z$ , %): 311 ( $[\text{M}^{81}\text{Br}]^+$ , 88), 309 ( $[\text{M}^{79}\text{Br}]^+$ , 90), 296 (97), 294 (100), 86 (51), 84 (96). HRMS (EI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{12}\text{BrNOS}$   $[\text{M}^{79}\text{Br}]^+$  308.9823; found, 308.9825. FTIR ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2960, 2836, 1614, 1505, 1469.

**2.4.2. *N*-[(3-Bromo-2-methylthiophen-5-yl)methylene]-3,4-dimethoxyaniline (4b).** Produced from 3,4-dimethoxyaniline (0.224 g, 1.46 mmol); yield: 0.44 g, 1.30 mmol; 89%; m.p.  $118\text{--}119^\circ\text{C}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 8.47 (s, 1H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 6.90–6.81 (m, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H), and 2.48 (s, 3H).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 150.0, 149.3, 147.9, 144.2, 139.7, 139.6, 134.0, 112.1, 111.2, 110.0, 105.8, 56.1, 55.9, and 15.52. EI-MS ( $m/z$ , %): 341 ( $[\text{M}^{81}\text{Br}]^+$ , 53), 339 ( $[\text{M}^{79}\text{Br}]^+$ , 54), 326 (51), 324 (54), 86 (94), 84 (100). HRMS (EI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrNO}_2\text{S}$   $[\text{M}^{79}\text{Br}]^+$  338.9929; found 338.9924. FTIR ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2998, 2933, 2833, 1612, 1587, 1510.

**2.4.3. *N*-[(3-Bromo-2-methylthiophen-5-yl)methylene]-3,4-dimethylaniline (4c).** Produced from 3,4-dimethylaniline (0.177 g, 1.46 mmol); yield: 0.40 g, 1.30 mmol; 89%; m.p. 51–52°C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 8.34 (s, 1H), 7.19 (s, 1H), 7.10–6.90 (m, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H), and 2.19 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 150.7, 148.7, 139.8, 139.6, 137.4, 134.9, 133.9, 130.3, 122.5, 118.2, 109.9, 19.9, 19.4, and 15.5. EI-MS ( $m/z$ , %): 309 ( $[\text{M}^{81}\text{Br}]^+$ , 46), 308 (32), 307 ( $[\text{M}^{79}\text{Br}]^+$ , 47), 306 (24), 206 (41), 205 (44), 204 (33), 203 (42), 86 (64), 84 (100). HRMS (EI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrNS}$   $[\text{M}^{79}\text{Br}]^+$  307.0030; found, 307.0029. FTIR ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3084, 3014, 2966, 2917, 1615, 1591.

**2.4.4. 3-[(3-Bromo-2-methylthiophen-5-yl)methyleneamino]-2-methylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (4d).** Produced from 3-amino-2-methylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (0.256 g, 1.46 mmol). Yield: 0.48 g, 1.33 mmol; 91%; m.p. 231–232°C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 9.12 (s, 1H, CH), 8.22 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.72–7.66 (m, 1H), 7.60 (d,  $J$  = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (app. t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (s, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), and 2.42 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 159.1, 157.4, 154.2, 146.3, 141.3, 136.3, 134.6, 134.5, 127.2, 126.9, 126.5, 121.4, 110.5, 22.9, and 15.6. EI-MS ( $m/z$ , %): 363 ( $[\text{M}^{81}\text{Br}]^+$ , 8), 361 ( $[\text{M}^{79}\text{Br}]^+$ , 9), 203 (100), 160 (98), 122 (97), 86 (92), 84 (94), 70 (88). HRMS (EI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{BrN}_3\text{OS}$   $[\text{M}^{79}\text{Br}]^+$  360.9884; found, 360.9877. FTIR ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2917, 1673, 1601, 1568.

**2.4.5. 3-[(3-Bromo-2-methylthiophen-5-yl)methyleneamino]-2-isopropylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (4e).** Produced from 3-amino-2-isopropylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (0.297 g, 1.46 mmol). Yield: 0.50 g, 1.28 mmol; 88%; m.p. 165–166°C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 9.15 (s, 1H), 8.28 (d,  $J$  = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.78–7.76 (m, 2H), 7.51–7.45 (m, 1H), 7.36 (s, 1H), 3.57 (sept,  $J$  = 7 Hz, 1H), 2.51 (s, 3H), and 1.40 (d,  $J$  = 7 Hz, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 160.6, 159.4, 158.1, 141.4, 136.2, 134.7, 134.4, 127.2, 127.2, 126.6, 121.1, 110.5, 32.0, 20.4, and 15.6 (one quaternary carbon signal was of insufficient intensity to allow confident discrimination from noise, but may have been at 147.8 ppm). EI-MS ( $m/z$ , %): 391 ( $[\text{M}^{81}\text{Br}]^+$ , 32), 389 ( $[\text{M}^{79}\text{Br}]^+$ , 39), 203 (90), 174 (100), 160 (95), 122 (98), 103 (95), 77 (97). HRMS (EI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_3\text{OS}^{79}\text{Br}$   $[\text{M}^{79}\text{Br}]^+$  389.0197; found, 389.0198. FTIR ( $\nu_{\text{max}}$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2987, 2932, 1671, and 1599.

**2.5. Preparation of Polymer Films.** The polymer matrix used in this study was PVC ( $K$  value = 67, degree of polymerization = 800) supplied by SABIC (Saudi Arabia). It was reprecipitated from a THF solution (THF is the best solvent for PVC) by alcohol several times and finally dried under vacuum at room temperature for 24 h. PVC films were prepared by dissolving PVC (5 g) in THF (100 g) under vigorous stirring

for 30 min. It was necessary to control the hygrometry and the rate of evaporation of solvent during casting to maintain good optical quality and very limited turbidity. The film transmission should be greater than 80% in the near-UV range. After 3 h, the solution was spread on a slide of stainless steel ( $250 \times 120 \times 0.5$  mm) and air-dried for 24 h. After the solvent evaporation, the samples were dried in a vacuum at room temperature for 30 h. The thickness of the resulting PVC film (30  $\mu\text{m}$ ) was measured by a micrometer type 2610 A, Germany.

## 2.6. Irradiation Experiments

**2.6.1. Accelerated Testing Technique.** A QUV Accelerated Weather Tester (Q-Lab, USA) was used for irradiation of polymers films. The accelerated weathering tester contained a stainless steel plate, which had two holes in the front side and a third one behind. Each side contained a 40 watt fluorescent ultraviolet light. These lamps were of the type UV-B 313, giving a spectrum range between 290 and 360 nm with a maximum wavelength at 313 nm. The polymer film samples were vertically fixed parallel to the lamps to make sure that the UV incident radiation was perpendicular to the samples. The irradiated samples were rotated from time to time to ensure that the intensity of light incident on all samples was the same.

## 2.7. Photodegradation Measuring Methods

**2.7.1. Measuring the Photodegradation Rate of Polymer Films Using Infrared Spectrophotometry.** The degree of photodegradation of polymer film samples was followed by monitoring FTIR spectra in the range 4000–400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  using a Shimadzu FTIR 8300 spectrophotometer. Absorptions due to an alkene group at 1631  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , a carbonyl group at 1724  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , and a hydroxyl group at 3400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  were specifically monitored. The progress of photodegradation during different irradiation times was followed by observing the changes in these peaks. Then hydroxyl ( $I_{\text{OH}}$ ), carbonyl ( $I_{\text{CO}}$ ), and polyene ( $I_{\text{PO}}$ ) indices were calculated by comparison of these absorption peaks with a reference peak at 1328  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , which is not significantly affected by the degradation process. The method used was the band index method, which includes the following features [16]:

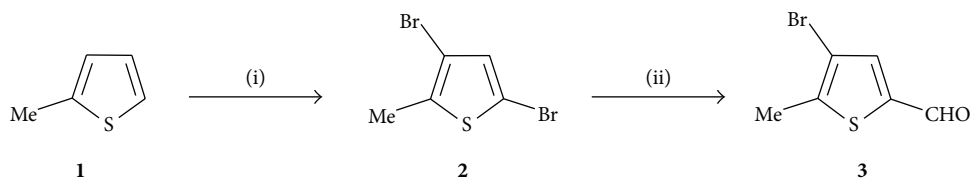
$$I_s = \frac{A_s}{A_r} \quad (1)$$

$A_s$  = absorbance of peak under study,  $A_r$  = absorbance of reference peak, and  $I_s$  = index of group under study.

Actual absorbance, the difference between the absorbance of top of peak and base line ( $A_{\text{Top of Peak}} - A_{\text{Base Line}}$ ), is calculated using the base line method [16].

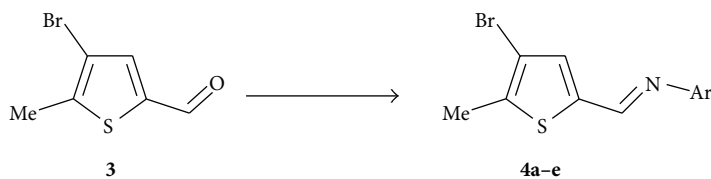
**2.8. Determination of Average Molecular Weight ( $\overline{M}_v$ ) Using Viscometry.** The viscosity property was used to determine the average molecular weight of polymer, using the Mark Houwink relation [17]:

$$[\eta] = K \overline{M}_v^\alpha \quad (2)$$

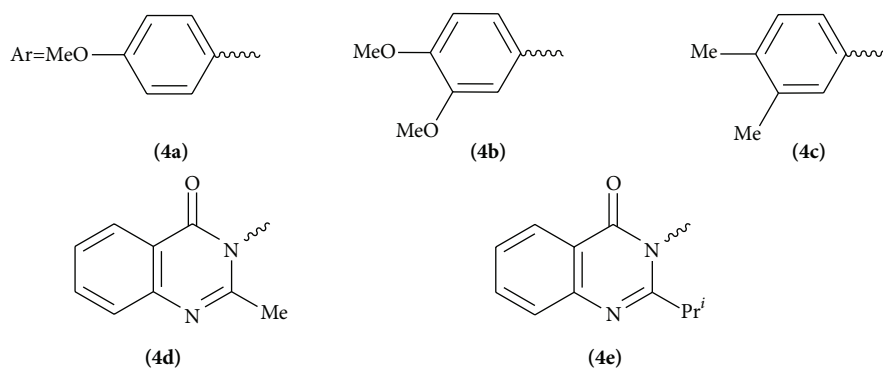


Reagents and conditions: (i)  $\text{Br}_2/\text{AcOH}$ ,  $0^\circ\text{C}$ , 16 h (95%). (ii) *n*-BuLi (1 equiv.), THF,  $-78^\circ\text{C}$ , 30 min, then DMF, RT, 16 h,  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  (90%)

SCHEME 1: Synthesis of 3-bromo-2-methylthiophene-5-carboxaldehyde (3).



Reagents and conditions:  $\text{ArNH}_2$  (1 equiv.), MeOH, MW,  $100^\circ\text{C}$ , 5 min.



SCHEME 2: Synthesis of imines 4a-e.

where  $[\eta]$  = the intrinsic viscosity and  $K$  and  $\alpha$  are constants that depend upon the polymer-solvent system at a particular temperature. The intrinsic viscosity of a polymer solution was measured with an Ostwald U-tube Viscometer. Solutions were made by dissolving the polymer in a solvent (0.2 g/100 mL) and the flow times of polymer solution and pure solvent are  $t$  and  $t_o$ , respectively. Specific viscosity ( $\eta_{\text{sp}}$ ) was calculated as follows:

$$\eta_{\text{rel}} = \frac{t}{t_o}, \quad (3)$$

where  $\eta_{\text{rel}}$  = relative viscosity

$$\eta_{\text{sp}} = \eta_{\text{rel}} - 1. \quad (4)$$

The single-point measurements were converted to intrinsic viscosities by the following relationship:

$$[\eta] = \left( \frac{\sqrt{2}}{C} \right) (\eta_{\text{sp}} - \ln \eta_{\text{rel}})^{1/2}, \quad (5)$$

where  $C$  = concentration of polymer solution (g/100 mL).

Molecular weights of PVC with and without additives were calculated from intrinsic viscosities measured in THF solution using the following equation:

$$[\eta] = 1.38 \times 10^{-4} M_v^{0.77}. \quad (6)$$

The quantum yield of main chain scission ( $\phi_{\text{cs}}$ ) [18] was calculated from viscosity measurement using the following relationship:

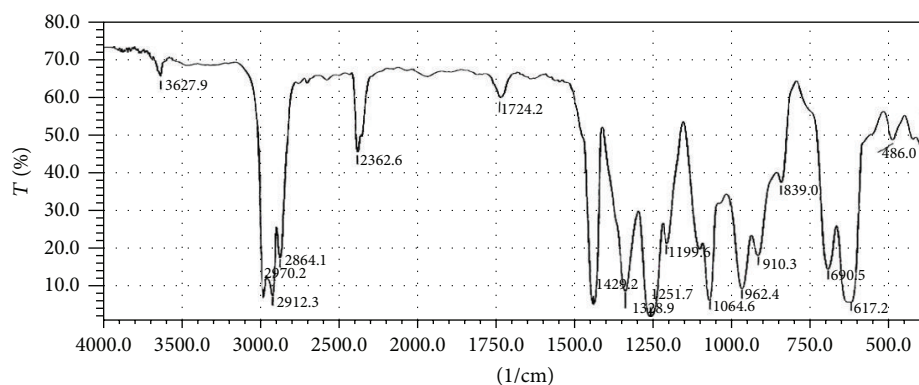
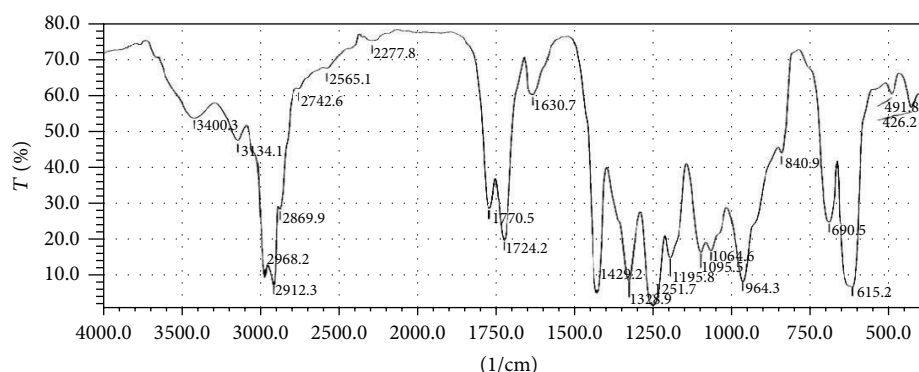
$$\phi_{\text{cs}} = \left( \frac{CA}{\overline{M}_{v,0}} \right) \frac{([\eta_o] / [\eta])^{1/\alpha} - 1}{I_o t}, \quad (7)$$

where  $C$  = concentration;  $A$  = Avogadro's number;  $(\overline{M}_{v,0})$  = the initial viscosity - average molecular weight;  $[\eta_o]$  = intrinsic viscosity of PVC before irradiation;  $I_o$  = incident intensity ( $1.052 \times 10^{-8} \text{ ein dm}^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ); and  $t$  = irradiation time in seconds.

### 3. Results and Discussion

**3.1. Synthesis of the Target Imines 4a-e.** The target imines (4; Schiff bases) were synthesized by the condensation reactions of 3-bromo-2-methylthiophene-5-carboxaldehyde (3)



FIGURE 1: FTIR spectrum of PVC film (control) (30  $\mu\text{m}$ ) at zero time.FIGURE 2: FTIR spectrum of PVC film (control; 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ) after 250 hours.

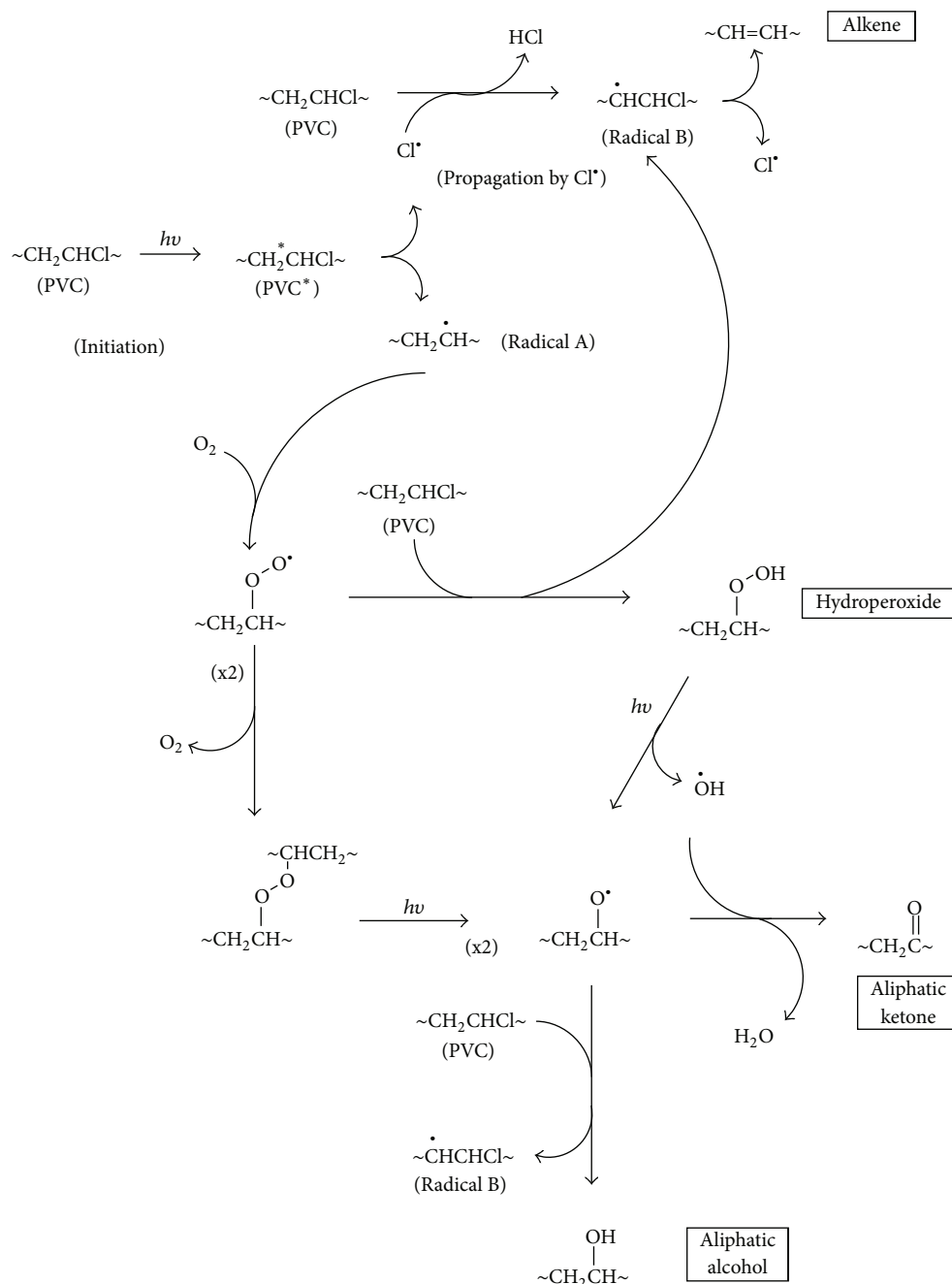
with the appropriate amine. The required aldehyde **3** was synthesized from 3-methylthiophene (**1**) in two steps. The first one involved bromination of **1** to give 3,5-dibromo-2-methylthiophene (**2**) which was then converted to the aldehyde **3** in the second step by selective bromine-lithium exchange of the  $\alpha$ -bromo group, followed by treatment with dimethylformamide (DMF) as shown in Scheme 1.

For the synthesis of the target imines **4**, aldehyde **3** (1 molar equivalent) was allowed to react with various amines, namely, 4-methoxyaniline, 3,4-dimethoxyaniline, 3,4-dimethylaniline, 3-amino-2-methylquinazolin-4(3H)-one, and 3-amino-2-isopropylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (Scheme 2). Reactions were carried out under microwave irradiation for 5 min in absolute methanol. The solvent was removed and the crude products were recrystallized to give pure imines **4** in high yields. The structures of the synthesized imines **4a–e** were confirmed by FTIR,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR, and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectroscopy and by mass spectrometry (EI-MS and HRMS).

The FTIR spectra of **4a–e** showed the presence of a characteristic band for the C=N stretching vibration within the 1599–1615  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra showed a characteristic singlet signal at  $\delta = 8.34\text{--}9.15$  ppm corresponding to H-C=N. The structures of **4a–e** were confirmed further by EI-mass spectrometry, which showed the presence of molecular ion peaks, the elemental compositions of which were proved by high resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS). See Section 2 for details.

**3.2. Photostabilization Study.** Compounds **4a–e** were used as additives for the photostabilization of PVC films. In order to study the photochemical activity of these additives for the photostabilization of PVC films; the carbonyl and alkene indices were monitored as a function of irradiation time using IR spectrophotometry. The irradiation of PVC films with UV light of wavelength,  $\lambda = 313$  nm, led to a clear change in their FTIR spectra, as shown in the FTIR spectra of the PVC before (Figure 1) and after (Figure 2) irradiation. Appearance of bands at 1770  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and 1724  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  was attributed to the formation of carbonyl groups related to chloroketone and to aliphatic ketone, respectively. A third band was observed at 1631  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , which implied formation of a C=C double bond conjugated to a carbonyl group. The hydroxyl band that appeared at 3400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  was attributed to the OH of the hydroperoxide and alcohol groups, as shown in Scheme 3 [16, 19].

The changes in the intensities of the stretching absorption bands of the hydroxyl, carbonyl, and alkene groups were used to follow the extent of polymer degradation during irradiation, because the intensities of these bands are directly proportional to the extent of degradation [11]. The degradation was calculated in terms of the hydroxyl index ( $I_{\text{OH}}$ , as OH formation indicator), carbonyl index ( $I_{\text{CO}}$ , as C=O formation indicator), and polyene index ( $I_{\text{PO}}$ , as C=C formation indicator). Figure 3 shows the effects of adding the new imines **4a–e** to the PVC (0.5% by weight) on the growth



SCHEME 3: Some of the photooxidation processes of PVC: reactions of radical B with molecular oxygen, akin to those of radical A, would give rise to chloroketone, chloroalcohol, and chlorohydroperoxide moieties; further reactions of such reactive functionalities may lead to chain cleavage and reduction in molecular weight.

of the  $I_{\text{CO}}$ , which reflects the extent of degradation of the PVC. It is clear that the addition of any of the compounds **4a–e** lowered the growth of the carbonyl index of the PVC in comparison with the control sample. So, it is reasonable to conclude that these additives might be considered as photostabilizers of PVC polymer.

Since an efficient photostabilizer shows a longer induction period, compound **4e** is considered as the most active photostabilizer, followed by **4d**, **4b**, **4a**, and **4c**. Just as formation of carbonyl groups indicates degradation of polymer,

so does the formation of alkene units. Therefore, the polyene index ( $I_{\text{PO}}$ ) was also monitored with irradiation time in the presence of each of **4a–e**. As shown in Figure 4 the results are comparable with those of the effect on the  $I_{\text{CO}}$ ; compounds **4a–e** showed the same order in their efficiency at reducing the growth of  $I_{\text{PO}}$ .

The hydroxyl index ( $I_{\text{OH}}$ ) growth versus irradiation time was also monitored for the PVC in the presence of each of compounds **4a–e** against the pure PVC. All of the compounds **4a–e** showed a positive effect by lowering the growth of the

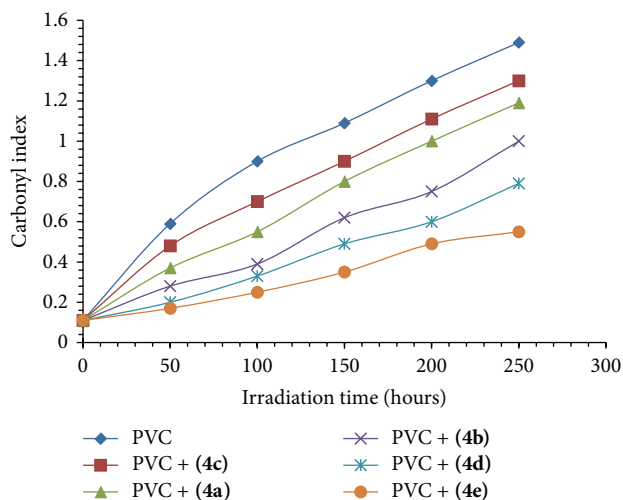


FIGURE 3: The relationship between the carbonyl index and irradiation time for PVC films (30  $\mu\text{m}$  thickness) containing each of **4a–e** (0.5% by weight) compared to PVC without additive (blank).

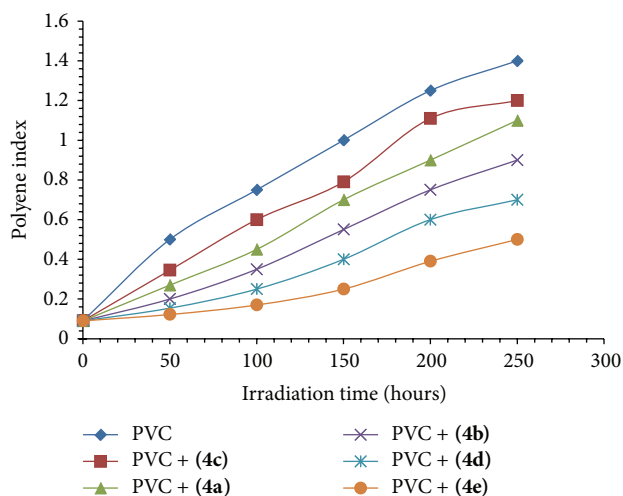


FIGURE 4: The relationship between the alkene index and irradiation time for PVC films (30  $\mu\text{m}$  thickness) with or without additives **4a–e** (0.5% by weight).

hydroxyl index in the same order of efficiency as for both  $I_{\text{CO}}$  and  $I_{\text{PO}}$  (Figure 5).

**3.3. Variation of PVC Molecular Weight during Photolysis in the Presence of 4a–e.** The photodegradation of polymers causes changes in viscosity average molecular weight ( $\overline{M}_v$ ) [20]. Accordingly, we decided to monitor the photodegradation process by monitoring the change in  $\overline{M}_v$  and other parameters that are related to it, particularly the average number of chain scissions (average number of cuts per single chain) ( $N$ ) and the quantum yield of the chain scission process ( $\Phi_{\text{cs}}$ ).

Figure 6 shows the change of the  $\overline{M}_v$  values with the irradiation time for PVC films in the presence of each of the selected additives **4a–e** 0.5% (wt/wt) and for the pure PVC

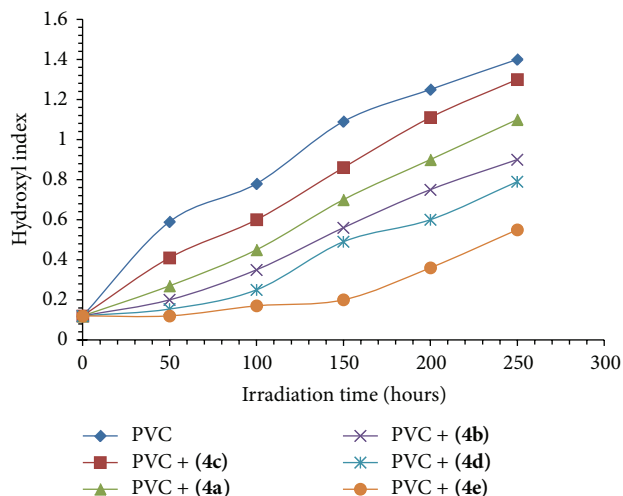


FIGURE 5: The relationship between the hydroxyl index and irradiation time for PVC films (30  $\mu\text{m}$  thickness) with or without **4a–e** (0.5% by weight).

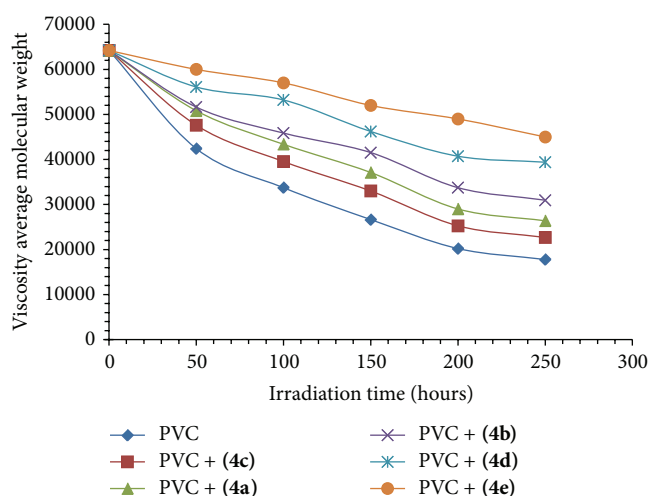


FIGURE 6: Changes in the viscosity-average molecular weight ( $\overline{M}_v$ ) during irradiation of PVC films (30  $\mu\text{m}$ ) with or without **4a–e** (0.5% by weight).

as control ( $\overline{M}_v$  was calculated using (2) with THF as solvent at 25°C). It is clear that addition of **4a–e** to the PVC films reduces the decrease in the  $\overline{M}_v$ , which means that the additives inhibit the photodegradation process and stabilize the PVC. Again the efficiencies of **4a–e** were in the same order found in the previous tests.

Chain scissions occur as a result of photodegradation of polymers and increase in number with increasing irradiation time. Therefore, the average number of chain scissions (average number of cuts per single chain) ( $N$ ) [20, 21], calculated using (8), is used to monitor photodegradation. Consider

$$N = \frac{\overline{M}_{v,0}}{\overline{M}_{v,t}} - 1. \quad (8)$$

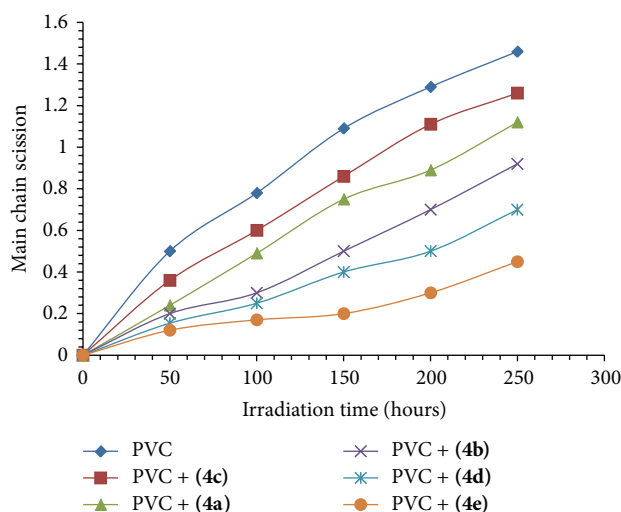
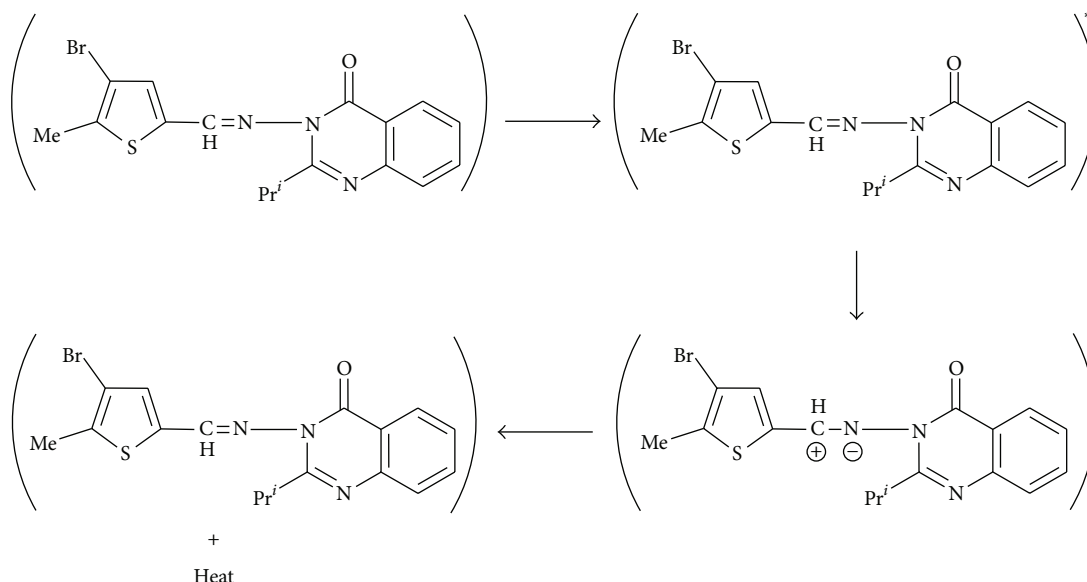


FIGURE 7: Changes in chain scission ( $N$ ) during irradiation of PVC films ( $30\ \mu\text{m}$ ) containing **4a–e** (0.5% by weight) or no additive.



SCHEME 4: A suggested mechanism of photostabilization of PVC by **4e** through absorption of UV light and dissipation of the light energy as heat.

To study the effect on its stability of adding compounds **4a–e** to the PVC, the values of the average number of chain scissions  $N$  were calculated at the irradiation time intervals that were used in this study. The plot of  $N$  versus irradiation time is shown in Figure 7, which shows that the growth of the value of the chain scissions in the presence of **4a–e** follows the same trend as the decrease in molecular weight.

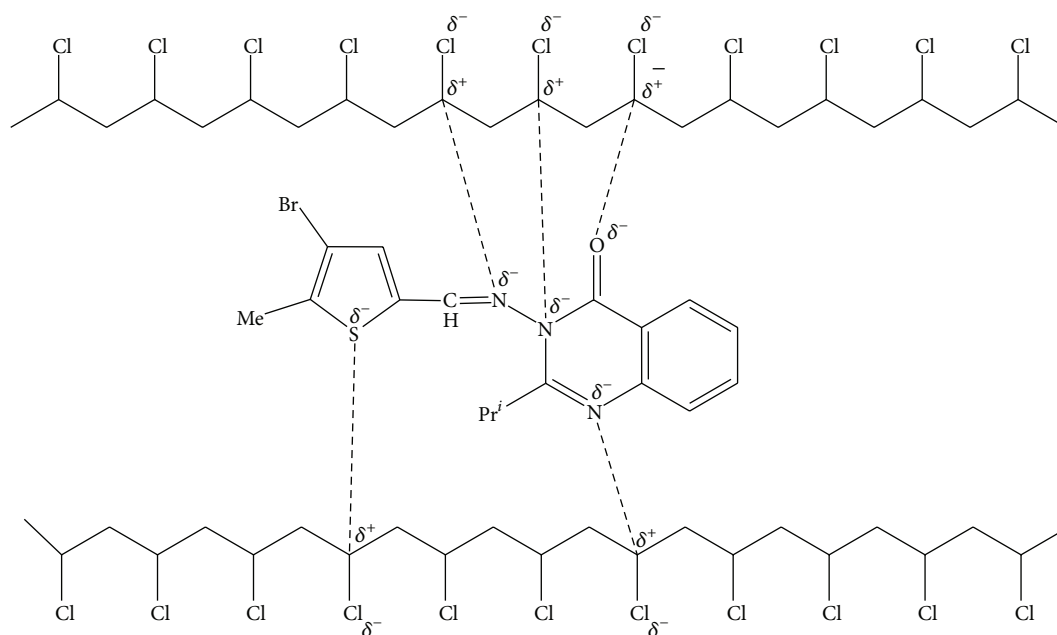
Finally, the change in the quantum yield of main chain scission ( $\Phi_{cs}$ ) was studied. After 250 h of irradiation the  $\Phi_{cs}$  was calculated using (7) for the PVC films with and without 0.5% (wt/wt) of compounds **4a–e** (Table 1).

The  $\Phi_{cs}$  values for PVC films in the presence of additive were of course less than that of pure PVC (control), and the values increased in the following order: **4e** < **4d** < **4b** < **4a** < **4c**. The explanation for low value of  $\Phi_{cs}$  of PVC

(control) is that, in the macromolecules of PVC, the energy is absorbed at one site, and then the electronic excitation is distributed over many bonds so that the probability of a single bond breaking is small, or the absorbed energy is dissipated by nonreactive processes. However, the additives caused a further reduction of around 1000-fold in the value of  $\Phi_{cs}$ , which is comparable with the reduction brought about by use of salicylidene imines of substituted aminothiadiazoles [22].

It is well established that the quantum yield ( $\Phi_{cs}$ ) increases with increasing temperature [23] around the glass transition temperature ( $T_g$ ) of amorphous polymers and around the melting temperature of crystalline polymers. In the study presented in this work, the photolysis of PVC film was carried out at a temperature 35–45°C, well below the glass transition temperature ( $T_g$  of PVC = 80°C). Therefore,





SCHEME 5: A suggested mechanism of photostabilization of PVC by **4e** through interaction between the polymer chains and Schiff base compounds, leading to more effective energy transfer.

TABLE 1: Quantum yield ( $\Phi_{cs}$ ) for chain scission for PVC films (30  $\mu\text{m}$ ) with and without additive (0.5%wt) after 250 h irradiation time.

Additive (0.5%wt)	Quantum yield of main chain scission ( $\Phi_{cs}$ )
PVC + <b>4e</b>	$4.83E - 08$
PVC + <b>4d</b>	$5.97E - 08$
PVC + <b>4b</b>	$6.55E - 08$
PVC + <b>4a</b>	$7.09E - 08$
PVC + <b>4c</b>	$7.79E - 08$
PVC (blank)	$8.34E - 05$

dependency of  $\Phi_{cs}$  on temperature was not expected to be significant.

**3.4. Suggested Mechanisms of Photostabilization of PVC by 3-[(3-Bromo-2-methylthiophen-5-yl)methyleneamino]-2-isopropylquinazolin-4(3H)-one (**4e**).** The efficiency of the new compounds **4a–e** as photostabilizers for PVC films decreases in the order **4e** > **4d** > **4b** > **4a** > **4c**. These compounds may stabilize PVC by direct absorption of UV radiation and dissipation of the energy as heat (Scheme 4).

Thiophene moieties themselves may also be able to act in a similar way to absorb UV radiation and to dissipate the energy as heat, but obviously the nature of the nitrogen substituent on the imine group had a significant effect on the efficiency of the additives as stabilizers so any direct effect of the thiophene ring alone is likely to be minor. The polarity of the thiophene ring may also lead to attraction between the stabilizer and PVC, which again would be influenced by the nature of the nitrogen substituent on the imine group, as shown for additive **4e** in Scheme 5. Such attraction may assist

transfer of energy from excited state PVC to the additive, from where it can be dissipated. The observed trends may help in the design of even better photostabilizers for PVC.

## 4. Conclusion

New thiophene derivatives **4a–e** incorporating an imine group have been successfully synthesized and characterized. The level of photodegradation of (PVC) films containing the synthesized thiophenes (0.5%; by weight) was reduced in all cases, with effectiveness of the additives in the order **4e** > **4d** > **4b** > **4a** > **4c**. For the most favorable additive (**4e**), the rate of appearance of infrared absorption bands of degradation products was reduced by around two-thirds, while the quantum yield of chain scission was calculated to be reduced by a factor of more than one thousand.

It is suggested that the additives may help stabilize PVC by direct absorption of UV radiation and dissipation of the energy as heat, or that electrostatic attraction between the additives and PVC may assist transfer of energy from excited state PVC to the additive, from where it can be dissipated.

## Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

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