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155

New Polymerization
Techniques and
Synthetic Methodologies



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Contents

Cyanate Ester Resins, Recent Developments C.P. Reghunadhan Nair, D. Mathew, K.N. Ninan	1
Radical Polymerization in Direct Mini-Emulsion Systems I. Capek, C.-S. Chern	101
Recent Progress in Synthesis and Evaluation of Polymer-Montmorillonite Nanocomposites M. Biswas, S. Sinha Ray	167
Author Index Volumes 101-155	223
Subject Index	235

1	Introduction	5
1.1	State-of-the-Art Matrix Systems for Advanced Composites	5
1.1.1	Epoxies	5
1.1.2	Polyimides	7
1.1.3	Phenolic Resins	8
1.1.4	Cyanate Ester Resins	8
2	Synthesis and Reactions of Cyanate Esters	10
2.1	Synthesis of Cyanate Esters	10
2.2	Reactions of Cyanate Esters	11
3	Structure-Property Relations	12
3.1	Dicyanates	12
3.2	Cyanato Telechelics	18
3.3	Cyanate Esters of Poly Phenols and Phenolic Triazine (PT Resins)	20
4	Thermal Curing and Cure Monitoring	24
5	Polymerization Catalysis and Kinetics	28
5.1	Diffusion Controlled Kinetics	35
6	Gelation and Vitrification	37
7	Processing	38
7.1	Processing of Composites	41
8	Blends and IPNs of CEs	46
8.1	Blends with Epoxy and Bismaleimide Resins	46
8.1.1	CE-Epoxy Reaction Mechanism	46
8.1.2	Blends with Bismaleimides	57
8.2	Reactive Blending with Phenols and Anhydrides	71
9	Toughening Studies on Cyanate Ester Resins and Composites	72
9.1	Interlaminar Toughening	76
10	Interpenetrating Polymer Networks (IPN)	77
11	Liquid Crystalline Cyanate Esters	77
12	Degradation Studies on Cyanate Esters and Composites	79

13	Molecular Simulation	83
14	Applications of Cyanate Esters	83
14.1	Electronics Application	83
14.2	Aerospace Applications	84
14.3	Adhesion Applications	87
14.4	Miscellaneous Applications.	88
15	Outlook	88
	References	90

Radical Polymerization In Direct Mini-Emulsion Systems

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1	Introduction	105
1.1	Oil-in-Water (o/w) Emulsions	105
1.2	Polymerization in Micellar Systems	108
2	Formation of Direct Monomeric Mini-Emulsions	114
2.1	General Features	114
2.2	Conventional Coemulsifiers	119
2.3	Other Types of Hydrophobes	122
2.4	Future Research on the Formation of Monomeric Mini-Emulsions	125
3	Kinetics of Radical Polymerization of Conventional Monomers in Fine Emulsions	128
3.1	Effect of Fatty Alcohol and Mercaptan Coemulsifiers	128
3.2	Effect of Oil-Soluble Initiator Coemulsifiers	132
3.3	Effect of Alkane Coemulsifiers	134
3.4	Effect of Reactive Coemulsifiers	144
3.5	Other Kinetic Aspects	153
4	Conclusions	159
	References	162

Recent Progress in Synthesis and Evaluation of Polymer-Montmorillonite Nanocomposites

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Abstract. The review aims at highlighting the significant developments in the field of polymer-montmorillonite clay based nanocomposites with specific focus on synthetic methodologies used, characterization, and evaluation of relevant bulk properties of these composites.

Synthetic procedures include (a) monomer impregnation of clay followed by polymerization, (b) intercalation of monomers/polymers in clay, and (c) clay exfoliation techniques.

Structural and morphological characteristics of selective composite systems as studied by X-ray diffraction, scanning electron microscopy, and transmission electron microscopy have been discussed. Results of thermogravimetric analysis of various nanocomposites endorsing the general enhancement of the thermogravimetric stabilities of the polymer-based composites relative to the base polymer and application of differential scanning calorimetry for studying delamination and cooperative relaxation phenomenon in these composites have been reviewed. Conductivity characteristics of various composites and manifestation of conductivity anisotropy in several systems have also been discussed.

The prospects of application of the montmorillonite-polymer nanocomposites as high performance materials in several applications have been discussed.

1	Introduction	170
2	Types of Polymers So Far Used for Composite Preparation with Clay (MMT)	170
2.1	Vinyl Polymers	170
2.2	Condensation (Step) Polymers	171
2.3	Specialty Polymers	171
3	Synthetic Methodologies	171
3.1	Impregnation with Monomers Followed by Polymerization	171
3.1.1	Effect of FeCl ₃ on Polymerization/Nanocomposite Formation in <i>N</i> -Vinylcarbazole-MMT System	173
3.2	Intercalation of Monomers/Polymers into the Clay Lamellae	175
3.2.1	Solution Radical Polymerization Technique	175

3.2.2	Direct Intercalation of Polymers from Solution	176
3.2.3	Direct Polymer-Melt Intercalation	178
3.3	Clay Exfoliated Polymer Composites	180
4	Characterization of Montmorillonite-Based Nanocomposites . .	183
4.1	X-ray Diffraction Characterization	183
4.1.1	PNVC-MMT Nanocomposite System	183
4.1.2	ATBN-MMT Composite System	183
4.1.3	PAN-KAO Composite System	184
4.1.4	PS-MMT Composite System	186
4.1.5	PANI-MTLS Composite System	187
4.1.6	Delamination Studies	187
4.2	Thermogravimetric Analysis	193
4.2.1	MMT-based Nanocomposites of PNVC, PPY, and PANI	193
4.3	Differential Scanning Calorimetric Studies	194
4.3.1	PS-Organosilicate Composite System	194
4.3.2	Organoclay-Epoxy Nanocomposites	195
4.3.3	OMTS-DGEBA Curing Process	197
4.3.4	Clay-PEO Nanocomposites	199
4.4	Transmission Electron Micrographic (TEM) Analysis	200
4.4.1	ATBN-MMT Composite	200
4.4.2	PNVC/PPY/PANI-MMT Nanocomposite Systems	200
4.4.3	Polyether-MMT Nanocomposites	204
4.5	Scanning Electron Micrographic (SEM) Analysis	204
5	Evaluation of Mechanical Properties	205
5.1	OMTS-DGEBA-BMDA Composite	205
5.2	PLS Nanocomposites	206
5.3	Epoxy-Clay Nanocomposites	207
5.4	Organoclay-PU Nanocomposites	208
6	Evaluation of Thermodynamic Parameters	210
7	Conductivity Characteristics	211
7.1	PANI-Fluorohectorite Intercalates	211
7.2	PNVC-MMT Nanocomposite System	211
7.3	Effect of FeCl ₃ on Conductivity	212
7.4	PPY-MMT Nanocomposite System	212
7.5	PANI-MMT Nanocomposite System	213
7.6	Conductivity Anisotropy Studies in MMT-Based Composites . . .	213
8	Water Dispersibility of MMT-Based Nanocomposites of PNVC, PPY, and PANI	215

9	Conclusion: Status and Prospects of Application of Polymer-Clay Nanocomposites	217
9.1	Advantages of PLS Nanocomposites	217
9.2	Specialty Polymer-Based Nanocomposites	218
	References	218