



Synthesis, Characterization and Some Properties of Chelating Polymers for Metal Ion Sorption

THESIS

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment for
the Degree of M.Sc. in Chemistry

BY

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B.Sc. of Chemistry (2004)

2010



APPROVAL SHEET

Synthesis, Characterization and Some Properties of Chelating Polymers for Metal Ion Sorption

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Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements of the Degree of

Master of Science

To

CHMESTRY DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF SCIENCE, AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

Ion-exchange membranes have been prepared by radiation induced grafting using simultaneous technique based on low cost starting material and established process technologies. Methacrylic acid (MAA) and styrene (Sty) were selected as the grafted monomers to provide two different types of functional groups. Currently; there is much on going research for developing non fluorinated polymers with better performance and lower cost as alternative ion exchange membrane materials. The polymer chosen for this study is low density polyethylene (LDPE) film of two different thicknesses (40 & 70 μ m). The influence of grafting conditions, i.e. the effect of total irradiation dose and comonomer concentration and compositions have been investigated. These are important parameters in correlation with the grafting yield because they can markedly influence the composition of the resulting copolymer. Once grafted, the materials were readily sulfonated using concentrated sulfuric acid or chlorosulfonic acid in dichloroethane to produce a selection of graft copolymers with performer properties.

The grafting and sulfonation of the membranes were confirmed by (FTIR) X-ray diffraction (XRD) and thermal analysis (TGA, DSC). The physicochemical properties of the prepared membranes such as, ion-exchange capacity (IEC), equilibrium swelling and electrical conductivity of the grafted membranes and their derivatives were investigated as a function of composition and degree of grafting.

The range of ion exchange capacities obtained with different degrees of grafting of MAA/Sty of composition (50/50) that sulfonated with sulfuric acid was in the range of 1.9-3.4 meq/g, whenever, for membranes that sulfonated with chlorosulfonic acid the IEC of 4.2 meq/g was achieved which is better than most of the commercially available membranes in addition to their low cost.

The possibility of practicable use of membranes in various fields, such as the removal of some heavy metal ions is investigated.

Acknowledgement

First of all, thanks to GOD for the infinite helps and persistent supply with patience and efforts to accomplish this work successfully.

*I would like to express my great indebt and appreciation to **Prof. Dr. El Sayed A. Hegazy** for his precious care and time and I'm very proud being his student. I feel very fortunate for having worked with such a very knowledgeable and personable adviser.*

*Many thanks to **Prof. Dr. El-Sayed A. Soliman** for his valuable advice and guidance through this work, I think without his help this work wouldn't come out.*

*I am heartily thankful to my supervisor, **Assti. Prof. Dr. Hanaa Kamal**, whose encouragement, guidance and support from the initial to the final level enabled me to develop an understanding of the subject.*

*Deepest thanks and sincere gratitude are due to **Dr. Afaf Abd El-Maksood** for her keen support through this work,*

*I gratefully thank **Assti. Prof. Dr. Ghada Adel**. I would like to thank her for being the first person who taught me a great deal about polymer science, and training*

me while I was in undergraduate student how to work as researcher and enjoy with work.

*Where would I be without my family? My parents deserve special mention for their inseparable support, prayers, neverending love. My Father, **Sayed Ali**, in the first place is the person who put the fundament my learning character, showing me the joy of intellectual pursuit ever since I was a child. My Mother, **Zainab**, is the one who sincerely raised me with her caring and gently love. **Eslam, Ahmed, Reham, Mohamed and shaimaa** thanks for being supportive and caring siblings.*

*Many thanks is due to my husband **Ahmed**, my dear mother in law, **Eman**, and my daughter **Maryam**, for accepting and understanding my long hours in the laboratories and lately in front of the computer while I am writing this dissertation. Their support, encouragement and patience enable me to pursue my career, while at the same time enjoying a lifetime of happiness with them.*

Finally, I offer my regards and blessings to all of those who supported me in any respect during the completion of the thesis.

*One's work may be finished some day,
but one's education never.*

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