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Abstract

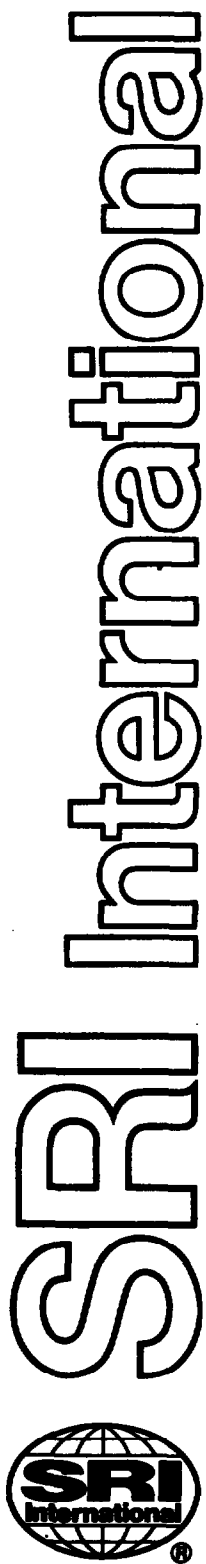
Process Economics Program Report No. 164

POLYACETYLENE AND OTHER INHERENTLY CONDUCTING POLYMERS

(May 1984)

Polyacetylene is the prototype of a novel class of compounds known as inherently conducting polymers (ICPs). When doped with certain chemicals, these materials exhibit electroactive properties, including conductivity which can be varied and in some cases approaches that of metals. Development of ICPs has gathered substantial momentum in recent years and a number of forecasts suggest commercialization on a large scale within the decade.

The present report examines in broad technoeconomic terms the status of polyacetylene and other ICPs, and presents conceptual designs and order of magnitude estimates of their production costs. The analysis suggests that commercialization on any large scale is unlikely. The achievement of high conductivity appears to be related to the characteristically poor stability, poor strength, and poor workability of the ICPs in their highly doped states; attempts to decouple these other characteristics from conductivity have met with very limited success. Commercialization of these fascinating materials will therefore most probably be limited to highly specialized applications in which their unique properties outweigh their relatively high cost and poor mechanical properties, e.g., the electroactive materials in specialty batteries.



Report No. 164

**POLYACETYLENE AND OTHER
INHERENTLY CONDUCTING POLYMERS**

by **WALTER SEDRIKS**

May 1984

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PROCESS ECONOMICS PROGRAM

Menlo Park, California 94025

For detailed marketing data and information, the reader is referred to one of the SRI programs specializing in marketing research. The CHEMICAL ECONOMICS HANDBOOK Program covers most major chemicals and chemical products produced in the United States and the WORLD PETROCHEMICALS Program covers major hydrocarbons and their derivatives on a worldwide basis. In addition, the SRI DIRECTORY OF CHEMICAL PRODUCERS services provide detailed lists of chemical producers by company, product, and plant for the United States and Western Europe.

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	SUMMARY	3
	Conduction Mechanisms and Properties	4
	Market Potential	9
	Feasibility and Costs of Production	9
	Polyacetylene	10
	Poly(p-phenylene sulfide)	14
	Conclusions on Production Costs	15
3	INDUSTRY STATUS	17
4	INHERENTLY CONDUCTING POLYMERS: OVERVIEW	21
	Background	21
	Electrical Conductivity	28
	Conduction Mechanisms of Classical Metals and Semiconductors .	29
	Band Theory	30
	Metals	31
	Semiconductors and Insulators	33
	Semimetals	35
	Electrical Conductivity in Organic Polymers	35
	Polyacetylene	36
	Poly(p-Phenylene)	41
	Graphite	41
	General	42
	Characteristics, Applications, and Prospects for ICs	44
	Stability	45
	Processability/Mechanical Strength	46
	Economics of Manufacture and Doping	48
	Applications	52
	Wire and Cable	53
	Electromagnetic Interference Shielding	54
	Semiconductor Junction Devices	54
	Solar Cells	55
	Electric Storage	56
5	POLYACETYLENE	61
	Background	63
	Properties and Behavior of Polyacetylene	65
	Reference Product	66
	Cis-Trans Content	69

CONTENTS

5	POLYACETYLENE (continued)	
	Degree of Crystallinity and sp^3 Content	73
	Molecular Weight	76
	Microscopic Morphology	79
	Macroscopic Morphology	80
	As-Polymerized Films	83
	Gels	84
	Slurries	85
	Doping of Polyacetylene	87
	Degradation/Stabilization	90
	Polymer-Polymer Reactions	92
	Polymer-Oxygen/UV Reactions	94
	Polymer-Water Reactions	96
	Polymer-Dopant Reactions	96
	Stabilization	97
	Polymerization Mechanism and Kinetics	103
	Premises for Process Design	107
	Polyethylene Process	110
	A Conceptual Polyacetylene Process	113
	Cost Estimates	115
	Capital Costs	116
	Material Costs	117
	Production Cost and Product Value	118
6	POLYPYRROLE, POLYPHENYLENE, AND POLYPHENYLENE SULFIDE	125
	Polypyrrole	125
	Poly(p-phenylene)	128
	Poly(p-phenylene sulfide)	131
	Evaluation of Poly(p-phenylene sulfide) Manufacture	135
	Process Description	135
	Cost Estimates	138
APPENDIX A	DEFINITIONS OF ELECTRICAL CONDUCTIVITY	143
APPENDIX B	DOUBLE BONDS/ π -BONDS	147
APPENDIX C	p-n JUNCTIONS	153
APPENDIX D	INHERENTLY CONDUCTING POLYMER ELECTRODES	159
APPENDIX E	PATENT SUMMARIES	163

CONTENTS

CITED REFERENCES	179
PATENT REFERENCES	193

ILLUSTRATIONS

2.1	Inherently Conducting Polymer Structures	6
4.1	Typical Room Temperature Conductivities of Selected Materials	24
4.2	Electrical Conductivity (Room Temperature) As a Function of Dopant Concentration	27
4.3	Band Structure of Solids	32
4.4	Formation of Band Gap in an Infinite Polyene	36
4.5	Comparison of the Structure of Cis-Polyacetylene, Poly(p-Phenylene), and Graphite	40
4.6	Product Value as a Function of Production Scale for Thermoplastics	49
5.1	Variation of Cis-Trans Content of Nascent Polyacetylene with Polymerization Temperature	70
5.2	Variation of Conductivity with the X-Ray Crystallinity Fraction	73
5.3	Variation of Molecular Weight with Polymerization Temperature	77
5.4	Variation of Molecular Weight with Catalyst Concentration	78
5.5	Variation of Macroscopic Morphology of As-Prepared Polyacetylene with Catalyst Concentration	82
5.6	Variation of Mechanical Properties of Polyacetylene Film with Cis Content.	84
5.7	Micrographs of Particulates in Polyacetylene Slurry	85
5.8	Variation of Resistance with Time for an Iodine Doped Polyacetylene under Vacuum	97
5.9	Consumption of Acetylene in Quiescent Reactor	105
5.10	Ethylene Polymerization by a First Generation Ziegler Process Flow Sheet	197
5.11	Conceptual Scheme for Acetylene Polymerization by a Ziegler Process Flow Sheet	199

ILLUSTRATIONS

5.12	Polyacetylene Slurry Effect of Operating Level and Plant Capacity on Production Cost	124
6.1	Polyphenylene Sulfide Powder from p-Dichlorobenzene and Sodium Sulfide	136
C.1	A p-n Junction with Reverse Bias	154
C.2	A p-n-p Transistor	156
D.1	Charging of Battery with $(\text{CH})_4$ Electrodes	160

TABLES

2.1	Summary of Estimated Costs	13
4.1	Polyacetylene and Analogs: Conductivity of Doped Material .	25
4.2	Phenylene Polymers: Conductivity of Doped Material	25
4.3	Conductivity of AsF ₅ Doped Polymers and Derivative Copolymers	43
5.1	Variation of the Doped Conductivity of Polyacetylene with Molecular Structure	74
5.2	Conductivities of Pristine and Doped Polyacetylene	98
5.3	Rates of Polymerization Based on Data from Mitsui Patent Examples	106
5.4	Design Parameters for Acetylene Polymerization	109
5.5	Design Parameter Comparison Between Polyacetylene and Polyethylene	110
5.6	Manufacture of Polyacetylene Production Costs	121
6.1	Manufacture of Polyphenylene Sulfide Powder Production Costs	140
E.1	Polyacetylene as an ICP Patent Summary	164
E.2	Miscellaneous ICPs Patent Summary	176