ADHIKAANSH ACADEMY (IITJEE NEET IX X XI XII)

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CHEMISTRY NOTES (CLASS 12TH)



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CBSE Class-12 Chemistry Quick Revision Notes Chapter-15: Polymers

• Polymers:

Polymers are high molecular mass substance consisting of large number of repeating structural units. As polymers are single, giant molecules i.e. big size molecules, they are also called macromolecules

• Monomers:

The simple molecules which combine to form polymers are called monomers.

• Polymerization:

The process of formation of polymers from respective monomers is called polymerization

• Classification of Polymers:

- A. Based on source of availability, it is classified into
- a) Natural polymers: Polymers obtained from nature, mostly plants and animals. Examples Cellulose, starch, etc.
- b) Synthetic polymers: Polymers prepared in laboratory. Examples Teflon, Nylon 6,6 , Synthetic rubber (Buna S) etc.
- c) Semi synthetic polymers: Polymers derived from naturally occurring polymers by carrying out chemical modifications. Examples Rayon (cellulose acetate), cellulose nitrate, etc.
- B. Based on the structure of polymer, it is classified into
- a) Linear polymers: Polymer consists of long and straight chains. Examples High density polythene, polyvinyl chloride, etc.
- b) Branched chain polymers: Polymers contains linear chains having some branches. Examples - Low density polythene
- c) Cross linked or network polymers: Polymers in which monomer units are cross linked together to form a 3 dimensional network polymers. Examples Bakelite, melamine, etc.
- C. Based on the mode of polymerisation, it is classified into

I. Addition polymers: Polymers are formed by the repeated addition of monomers with double and triple bonds. It is further classified into,

Homopolymers: Polymers formed by the polymerisation of a single monomeric species. Examples - Polythene, Polystyrene.

Copolymers: Polymers formed by addition polymerisation of two different monomers. Examples - Buna-S, Buna – N.

- II. Condensation polymers: Polymers formed by repeated condensation reaction between two different bi-functional or tri-functional monomeric units with elimination of simple molecules. Examples - Nylon 6, 6, Nylon 6.
- D. Based on Molecular forces, it is classified into
- a) Elastomers: Polymer chains are held together by weakest intermolecular forces. Polymers are rubber – like solids with elastic properties. Examples - Buna – S,

Buna – N, Neoprene

- b) Fibre: Polymers have strong intermolecular force like hydrogen bonding. Fibres are the thread forming solids which possess high tensile strength and high modulus. Examples Nylon 6, 6, Polyesters.
- c) Thermoplastic polymers: Polymers are held by intermolecular forces which are in between those of elastomers and fibres. These polymers are capable of repeated softening on heating and hardening on cooling. Examples Polythene, Polystyrene.
- d) Thermosetting polymers: Polymers are cross linked or heavily branched molecules, which on heating undergo extensive cross linking in moulds and eventually undergo a permanent change. Examples Bakelite, Urea-formaldelyde resins
- Addition Polymerisation or Chain Growth Polymerisation: Addition polymerisation is called chain growth polymerisation because it takes place through stages leading to increase in chain length and each stage produces reactive intermediates for use in next stage of the growth of chain. Most common mechanism for addition polymerisation reactions is free radical mechanism
- Steps involved in addition polymerisation:

Step 1: Chain initiating step: Organic peroxides undergo homolytic fission to form free radicals which acts as initiator. Initiator adds to C-C double bond of an alkene molecule to form a new free radical

$$\begin{array}{cccccccccc} & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ C_{6}H_{5}-C-O-O-C-C_{6}H_{5} & \longrightarrow & 2C_{6}H_{5}-C-O & \longrightarrow & 2\mathring{C}_{6}H_{5} & & + & 2CO_{2} \\ & & & & & \\ Benzovl peroxide & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ \end{array}$$

$$\overset{\bullet}{\mathrm{C}}_{_{6}}\mathrm{H}_{_{5}}+\mathrm{CH}_{2}=\mathrm{CH}_{2}\longrightarrow \mathrm{C}_{_{6}}\mathrm{H}_{_{5}}-\mathrm{CH}_{2}-\overset{\bullet}{\mathrm{CH}}_{2}$$

Step 2: Chain propagating step: Free radicals formed by homolytic cleavage adds to a double bond of monomer to form a larger free radical. Radical formed adds to another alkene molecule to form a larger free radical. This process continues until the radical is destroyed. These steps are called propagation steps.

$$C_{6}H_{5} - CH_{2} - \overset{*}{C}H_{2} + CH_{2} = CH_{2} \rightarrow C_{6}H_{5} - CH_{2} - CH_{2} - CH_{2} - \overset{*}{C}H_{2} \rightarrow C_{6}H_{5} - (CH_{2} - CH_{2})_{n} - CH_{2} - \overset{*}{C}H_{2} - CH_{2} - C$$

Step 3: Chain terminating step: For termination of the long chain, free radicals combine in different ways to form polythene. One mode of termination of chain is shown as under:

 $C_{6}H_{5} - (CH_{3} - CH_{2})_{n} - CH_{2} - \overset{*}{C}H_{2} \rightarrow C_{6}H_{5} - (CH_{2} - CH_{2})_{n} - CH_{2} - CH$

• Important Addition Polymers:

- a) Low density polythene (LDP)
 - $nCH_{2} = CH_{2} \xrightarrow[Stheme]{350-570k/1000 \text{ to } 2000 \text{ atm traces of } O_{2}}} (CH_{2} CH_{2})_{n}$

It is used in the insulation of electricity carrying wires and manufacture of squeeze bottles, toys and flexible pipes

b) High density polythene(HDP)

$$nCH_{2} = CH_{2} \xrightarrow{333-343k/6-7 \text{ atm zieglar Natta catalyst}}_{Ethene} \rightarrow (CH_{2} - CH_{2})_{n}$$

It is used for manufacturing buckets, dustbins, bottles, pipes, etc.

c) Polytetrafluoroethene (Teflon)

$$nCF_2 = CF_2 \xrightarrow{\text{catalyst/High pressure}} (CF_2 - CF_2)_n$$

Tetrafluoroethene

It is used in making oil seals and gaskets and also used for non – stick surface coated utensils d) Polyacrylonitrile

$$nCH_{2} = CHCN \xrightarrow{Polymerisation/Peroxide catalyst} (CH_{2} - CN)_{n}$$

$$Acrylonitrile$$

It is used as a substitute for wool in making commercial fibres as orlon or acrilan.

- Condensation Polymerisation or Step Growth polymerization:
- Polymerisation generally involves a repetitive condensation reaction between two bifunctional monomers. In condensation reactions, the product of each step is again a bifunctional species and the sequence of condensation goes on. Since, each step produces a distinct functionalized species and is independent of each other, this process is also called as step growth polymerisation.
- Condensation Polymers:

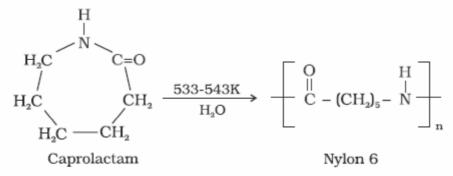
1. Polyamides: Polymers possess amide linkage (-CONH-) in chain. Thesepolymers are popularly known as nylons. Examples:

(a) Nylon 6, 6: It is prepared by the condensation polymerisation of hexamethylenediamine with adipic acid under high pressure and at high temperature.

$$nHOOC(CH_2)_4COOH + nH_2N(CH_2)_6NH_2 \xrightarrow{553K/High \text{ pressure}} [N - (CH_2)_6 - N - C(CH_2)_4 - C]_n$$

It is used in making sheets, bristles for brushes and in textile industry.

(b) Nylon 6: It is obtained by heating caprolactum with water at a high temperature



It is used for the manufacture of tyre cords, fabrics and ropes.

2. Polyesters: These are the polycondensation products of dicarboxylic acids and diols Example: Terylene or Dacron

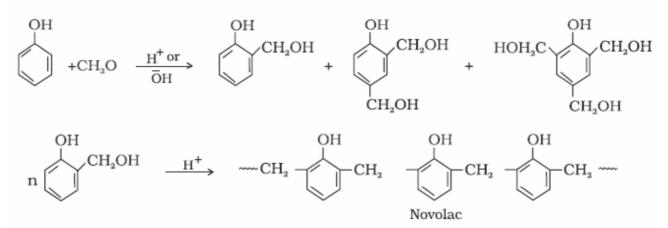
a) Terylene or Dacron: It is manufactured by heating a mixture of ethylene glycol and terephthalic acid at 420 to 460 K in the presence of zinc acetate-antimony trioxide catalyst.

n HOH₂C - CH₂OH + n HOOC
$$\longrightarrow$$
 COOH \longrightarrow OCH_2 -CH₂-CH₂- C \longrightarrow C $\stackrel{[]}{\longrightarrow}$ $\stackrel{[]}{\longrightarrow}$

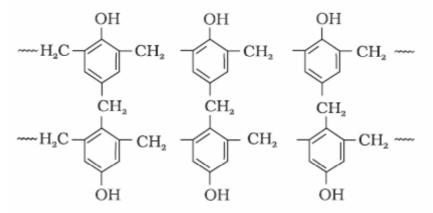
It is used to crease resistant and is used in blending with cotton and wool fibres and also as glass reinforcing materials in safety helmets, etc.

3. Phenol - formaldehyde polymer (Bakelite and related polymers)

a) Bakelite: These are obtained by the condensation reaction of phenol with formaldehyde in the presence of either an acid or a base catalyst. The initial product could be a linear product – Novolac used in paints.

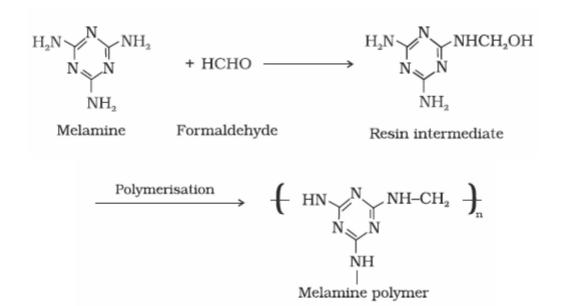


b) Novolac on heating with formaldehyde forms Bakelite



It is used for making combs, phonograph records, electrical switches and handles of various utensils

4. Melamine – formaldehyde polymer: Melamine formaldehyde polymer isformed by the condensation polymerisation of melamine and formaldehyde



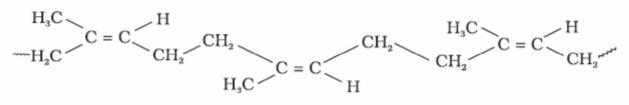
It is used in the manufacture of unbreakable crockery

• Vulcanisation of rubber:

The process of heating a mixture of raw rubber with sulphur and an appropriate additive in a temperature range between 373 K to 415 K to improve upon physical properties like elasticity, strength etc.

Sulphur cross links in vulcanised rubber

- Classification of rubber:
 - a) Natural rubber: Natural rubber is a linear polymer of isoprene (2-methyl-1, 3butadiene) and is also called as *cis* - 1, 4 - polyisoprene.



Natural rubber

b) Synthetic rubber: Synthetic rubbers are either homopolymers of 1, 3 - butadiene derivatives or copolymers of 1, 3 - butadiene or its derivatives with another unsaturated monomer.

Examples of synthetic rubber:
 A) Neoprene or polychloroprene

$$nCH_{2} = \overset{Cl}{C} - CH = CH_{2} \xrightarrow{Polymerisation} [CH_{2} - \overset{Cl}{C} = CH - CH_{2}]_{n}$$

It is used for manufacturing conveyor belts, gaskets and hoses B) Buna – N

$$nCH_{2} = CH - CH = CH_{2} + nCH_{2} = CN \xrightarrow[Acrylonitrile]{CN} \xrightarrow[Copolymerisation]{Copolymerisation}} [CH_{2} - CH = CH - CH_{2} - CH_{2} - CH_{1}]_{n}$$

It is used in making oil seals, tank lining, etc. because it is resistant to the action of petrol, lubricating oil and organic solvents

C) Buna – S

$$nCH_{2} = CH - CH = CH_{2} + nC_{6}H_{5}CH = CH_{2} \longrightarrow [CH_{2} - CH = CH - CH_{2} - CH_{2} - CH_{1}]_{n}$$

$$\stackrel{C_{6}H_{5}}{\underset{Styrene}{}}$$

$$I.3-butadiene$$

$$I.3-butadiene$$

$$I.3-butadiene$$

- Biodegradable Polymers: Polymers which are degraded by microorganisms within a suitable period so that biodegradable polymers and their degraded products do not cause any serious effects on environment.
- Examples of biodegradable polymer:
 - a) Poly β -hydroxybutyrate co- β -hydroxy valerate (PHBV):

It is obtained by the copolymerisation of 3-hydroxy butanoic acid and 3 - hydroxy pentanoic acid

3-Hydroxybutanoic acid 3-Hydroxypentanoic acid

It is used in speciality packaging, orthopaedic devices and in controlled release of drugs.

b) Nylon 2–nylon 6: It is an alternating polyamide copolymer of glycine(H₂N–CH₂–COOH) and amino caproic acid (H₂N (CH₂)₅ COOH)

$$nH_2N - CH_2 - COOH + nH_2N - (CH_2)_5 - COOH \rightarrow (HN - CH_2 - C - HN - (CH_2)_5 - C)_n$$

• Commercially important polymers along with their structures and uses:

Name of Polymer		Structure	Uses
	Propene	СН3	Manufacture of
		$(CH_2 - CH)_n$	ropes, toys,
			pipes,
			fibres, etc.
Glyptal	(a) Ethylene		Manufacture of
	glycol	$+ \operatorname{och}_2 - \operatorname{ch}_2 \operatorname{ooc}_2 \operatorname{oo}_n$	paints and
	Manufacture of	$\langle \circ \rangle$	lacquers
	(b) Phthalic		
	acid		
	Styrene	$(CH_2 - CH)_n$	As insulator,
		$(CH_2 - CH)_n$	wrapping
			material,
			manufacture
			of toys, radio
			and
			television
			cabinets
Polyvinyl			Manufacture of
chloride		$(CH_2 - CH)_n$	rain
(PVC)			coats, hand
			bags, vinyl
			flooring, water
			pipes

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