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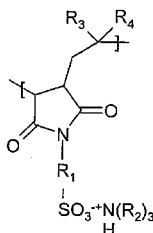
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(54) Title: WATER SWELLABLE AND WATER SOLUBLE POLYMERS AND USE THEREOF



(III)

(57) **Abstract:** The present invention provides a polymer comprising units according to formula (III) wherein R₁ is selected from C₁ to C₁₀ alkylene and C₅ to C₂₀ arylene; each R₂ is selected independently from H and C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl; and R₃ and R₄ are selected independently from H and C₁ to C₃₀ alkyl. Embodiments of the invention provide polymers that are water soluble or water swellable and can form transparent and flexible films.