

ABSTRACT

A method of producing a stereocomplex polylactic acid having a high melting point and a high molecular weight, wherein only stereocomplex crystals are grown even when melting and crystallization are repeated.

The method comprises the steps of:

(1) obtaining a first polylactic acid by the ring-opening polymerization of a first lactide composed of lactic acid units of the same chirality;

(2) obtaining a purified first polylactic acid by removing the lactide from the first polylactic acid in a molten state under reduced pressure;

(3) obtaining a second polylactic acid by the ring-opening polymerization of a second lactide which differs from the first lactide in chirality in the presence of the purified first polylactic acid; and

(4) obtaining a purified second polylactic acid by removing the lactide from the second polylactic acid in a molten state under reduced pressure.