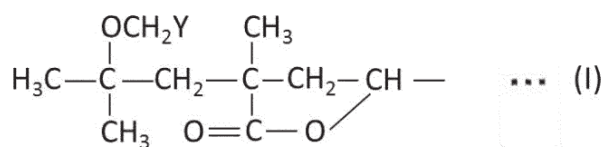


ABSTRACT

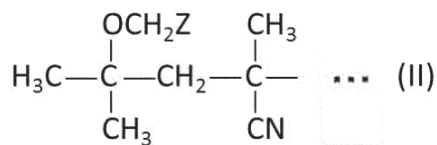
Provided is an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer with an ethylene unit content of 15 to 60 mol% and a saponification degree of 85 mol% or more,

5 wherein the copolymer contains a molecule having a structure (I) below at an end and a molecule having a structure (II) below at an end, a total content of the structure (I) and the structure (II) in all monomer units is from 0.002 to 0.020 mol%, and a molar ratio $R [I/(I + II)]$ of the structure (I) to the total of the structure (I) and the structure (II) satisfies formula (1) below. The ethylene-

10 vinyl alcohol copolymer has excellent viscosity stability at the initial stage of melting start so as to be able to stabilize the melt molding process and excellent coloration resistance at high temperature (for example, 80°C) under alkaline conditions:



15 wherein Y represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;



wherein Z represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; and

$$0.8 < R + \text{Et}/100 \quad (1)$$

wherein Et represents the ethylene unit content (mol%).