

ION CONDUCTIVE COPOLYMERS CONTAINING ONE OR MORE HYDROPHOBIC OLIGOMERS

TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates to ion conductive polymers which are useful in forming polymer electrolyte membranes used in fuel cells.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Fuel cells have been projected as promising power sources for portable electronic devices, electric vehicles, and other applications due mainly to their non-polluting nature. Of various fuel cell systems, the polymer electrolyte membrane based fuel cell technology such as direct methanol fuel cells (DMFCs) have attracted much interest thanks to their high power density and high energy conversion efficiency. The “heart” of a polymer electrolyte membrane based fuel cell is the so called “membrane-electrode assembly” (MEA), which comprises a proton exchange membrane (PEM), catalyst disposed on the opposite surfaces of the PEM to form a catalyst coated membrane (CCM) and a pair of electrodes (*i.e.*, an anode and a cathode) disposed to be in electrical contact with the catalyst layer.

Proton-conducting membranes for DMFCs are known, such as Nafion® from the E.I. Dupont De Nemours and Company or analogous products from Dow Chemicals. These perfluorinated hydrocarbon sulfonate ionomer products, however, have serious limitations when used in high temperature fuel cell application Nafion® loses conductivity when the operation temperature of the fuel cell is over 80°C. Moreover, Nafion® has a very high methanol crossover rate, which impedes its applications in DMFCs.

- 2 -

U.S. Patent No. 5,773,480, assigned to Ballard Power System, describes a partially fluorinated proton conducting membrane from α , β , β -trifluorostyrene. One disadvantage of this membrane is its high cost of manufacturing due to the complex synthetic processes for monomer α , β , β -trifluorostyrene and the poor sulfonation ability of poly (α , β , β -trifluorostyrene). Another disadvantage of this membrane is that it is very brittle, thus has to be incorporated into a supporting matrix.

U.S. Patent Nos. 6,300,381 and 6,194,474 to Kerres, et al. describe an acid-base binary polymer blend system for proton conducting membranes, wherein the sulfonated poly(ether sulfone) was made by post-sulfonation of the poly (ether sulfone).

M. Ueda in the Journal of Polymer Science, 31(1993): 853, discloses the use of sulfonated monomers to prepare sulfonated poly(ether sulfone polymers).

U.S. Patent Application US 2002/0091225A1 to McGrath, et al. used this method to prepare sulfonated polysulfone polymers.

The need for a good membrane for fuel cell operation requires balancing of various properties of the membrane. Such properties included proton conductivity, fuel-resistance, chemical stability and fuel crossover especially for high temperature applications, fast start up of DMFCs, and durability of cell performance. In addition, it is important for the membrane to retain its dimensional stability over the fuel operational temperature range. If the membrane swells significantly, it will increase fuel crossover, resulting in degradation of cell performance. Dimensional changes of the membrane also put stress on the bonding of the catalyst membrane-electrode assembly (MEA). Often this results in delamination of the membrane from the catalyst and/or electrode after excessive swelling of the membrane. Therefore, it is necessary to maintain the dimensional stability of the membrane over a wide temperature range and minimize membrane swelling.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention provides ion conductive copolymers which can be used to fabricate proton exchange membranes (PEM's), catalyst coated proton exchange membranes (CCM's) and membrane electrode assemblies (MEA's) which are useful in fuel cells and their application in electronic devices, power sources and vehicles.

In one aspect, the ion conductive copolymers comprise at least one hydrophobic oligomer (sometimes referred to as segments or block polymers) that is randomly dispersed in a polymeric backbone comprising one or more ion conducting monomers. In another aspect, the ion conductive polymer comprises at least two different hydrophobic monomers randomly dispensed in the polymer backbone. In a preferred embodiment, a linking monomer is used to link the oligomer and ion conducting monomer.

If two hydrophobic oligomers are used, the first oligomer preferably comprises a first monomer and a second monomer whereas the second oligomer comprises third and fourth monomers. In one aspect, the oligomers are hydrophobic. In another aspect, one of the first or second oligomer is a hard polymer relative to the other.

The ion conductive monomers comprise a monomer and an ion conductive group such as a sulfonic acid group. In some embodiments, the same monomer that does not contain an ion conductive group can be used as the linking monomer in combination with the ion conductive monomer to control the degree to which the copolymer contains ion conductive groups. Alternatively, the linking monomer is structurally distinct, *i.e.*, different from the ion conducting monomer. The relative amounts of monomers and oligomers used to synthesize the copolymer can be varied to control the relative amount of ion conductive groups in the copolymer.

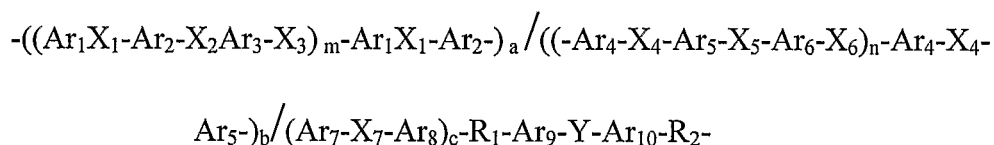
Prior to synthesis, each of the first oligomer, second oligomer and ion conductive monomer contain leaving groups, such as halides, at their distal ends. The linking monomer, on the other hand, comprises two displacement groups such as phenoxide,

- 4 -

alkoxide or sulfide associated with aromatic monomers. Upon reaction of the linking monomer with each of the first oligomer, second oligomer and ion conductive monomer, the displacement groups and the leaving groups react to form a plurality of different motifs within the ion conductive polymer. Alternatively, the first oligomer, second oligomer and ion conducting monomer comprise displacement groups and the linking monomer comprises leaving groups.

A first hydrophobic oligomer can be represented by the formula $(AB)_m A$ or $(BA)_m B$. A second hydrophobic oligomer can be represented by the formula $(CD)_n C$ or $(DC)_n D$. Each of these oligomers are randomly distributed in an ion conductive polymer backbone to form a copolymer that can be represented by Formula I

Formula I

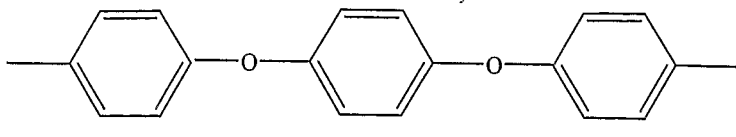
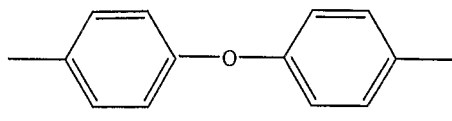
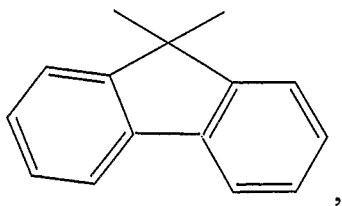
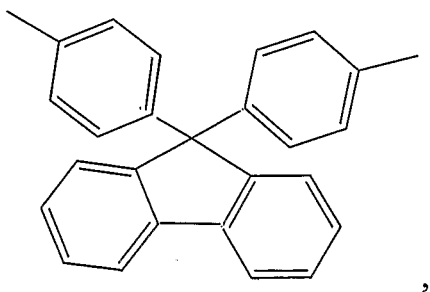
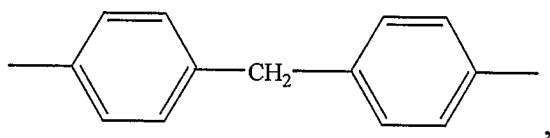
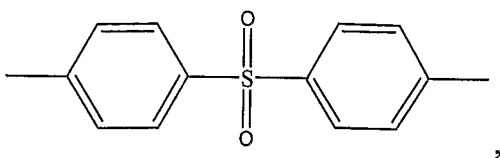
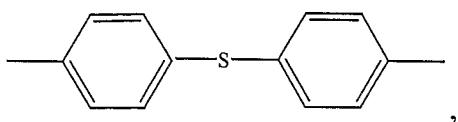
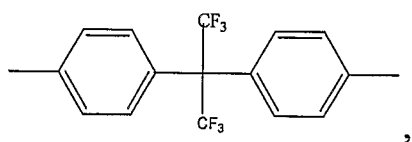
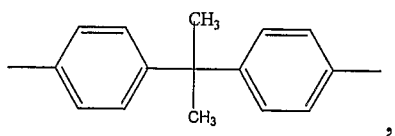


where the first group $(Ar_1X_1-Ar_2-X_2Ar_3-X_3)_m-Ar_1X_1-Ar_2-$ corresponds to $(AB)_m A$, the second group $(Ar_4-X_4-Ar_5-X_5-Ar_6-X_6)_n-Ar_4-X_4-Ar_5-$ corresponds to $(CD)_n C$, where $(AB)_m A$ and $(CD)_n C$ may be the same or different. $(Ar_7-X_7-Ar_8)$ is a monomer that is modified to contain an ion conducting group and $R_1-Ar_9-Y-Ar_{10}-R_2-$ is a linking monomer. In a preferred embodiment, $(AB)_m A$ and $(CD)_n C$ are different.

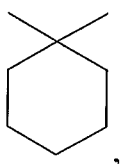
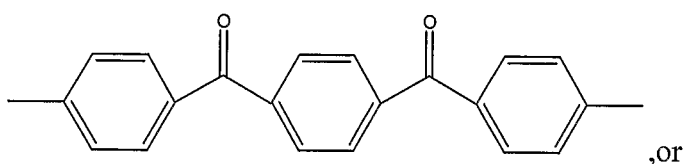
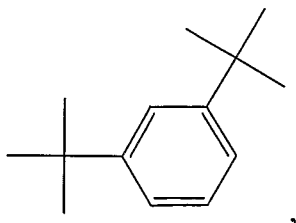
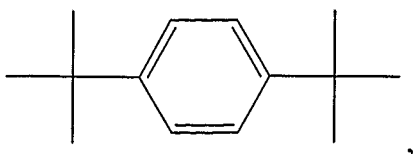
In this formula, $Ar_1, Ar_2, Ar_4, Ar_5, Ar_7, Ar_8, Ar_9, Ar_{10}$, are independently phenyl, substituted phenyl naphthyl, terphenyl, aryl nitrile, substitute aryl nitrile, and one or more of Ar_7 and/or one or more of Ar_8 further comprise one or more pendant an ion conducting groups, X_1 and X_4 are independently $-C(O)-$ or $-S(O)_2$, X_2, X_3, X_5 and X_6 are independently $-O-$ or $-S-$; X_7 is a bond, $-C(O)-$ or $S(O)_2-$.

Ar_3 and Ar_6 are the same or different from each other and are

- 5 -



- 6 -



wherein the ion conductive group comprises $-\text{SO}_3\text{H}$, $-\text{COOH}$, $-\text{HPO}_3\text{H}$ or $-\text{SO}_2\text{NH}-\text{SO}_2\text{-RF}$ where RF is a perfluorinated hydrocarbon having 1-20 carbon atoms and said ion conducting group are pendant to the copolymer backbone;

R_1 and R_2 are independently -O- or -S-.

wherein a, b and c are independently between 0.01 and 0.98 and $a + b + c = 1$,

wherein m is between 1 and 12, n is between 1 and 12,

and wherein Y is a bond, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$, or $-\text{S}(\text{O}_2)-$, and Ar_{10} may be present or absent when Y is a bond.

In some embodiments utilizing a single hydrophobic oligomer, when the ion conducting monomer used to make the copolymer is SBisK, the linking monomer is not BisK.

- 7 -

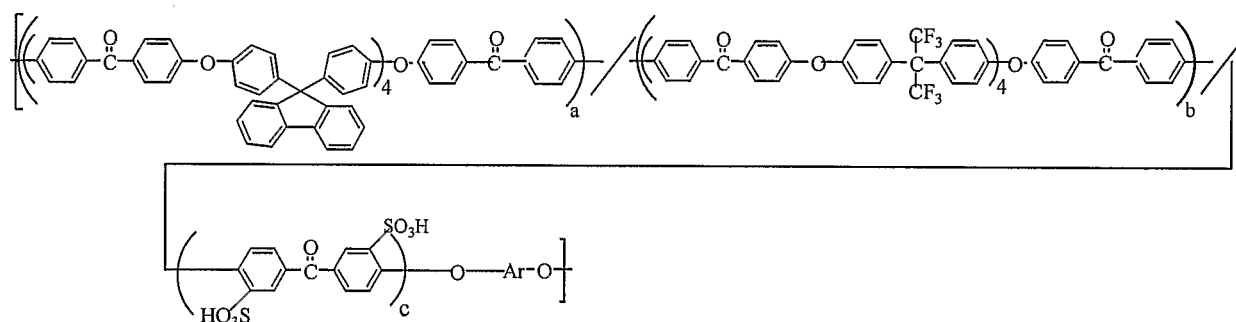
In some embodiments of this or other formulas herein, at least one of m or n = 1. In other embodiments, m and n are each at least 2.

The first oligomer $-(Ar_1X_1-Ar_2X_2-Ar_3X_3)_m-Ar_1X_1-Ar_2-$; the second oligomer $(Ar_4X_4-Ar_5X_5-Ar_6X_6)_n-Ar_4X_4-Ar_5-$, and the ion conducting monomer $Ar_7-X_7-Ar_8$ are randomly linked via linking monomer $R_1-Ar_9-Y-Ar_{10}-R_2-$.

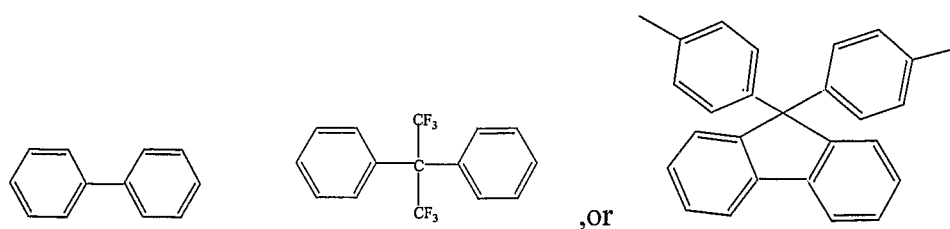
In other embodiments, three or more different hydrophobic oligomers are used.

A particular preferred copolymer of the invention comprises Formula II:

Formula II



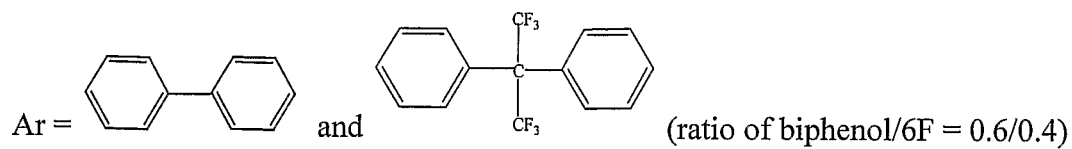
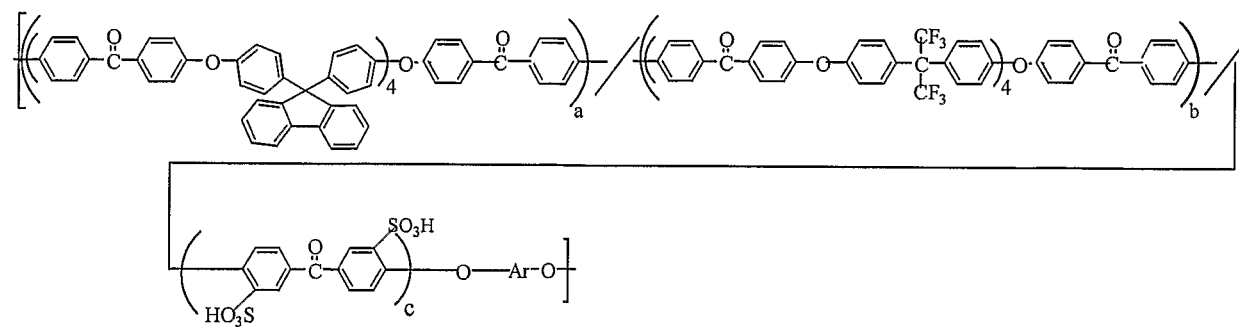
wherein Ar is :



and wherein a is between 0.05 and 0.2, b is between 0.01 and 0.2 and c is between 0.5 and 0.95. In a preferred embodiment, a = 0.13, b = 0.036 and c = 0.83.

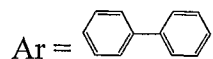
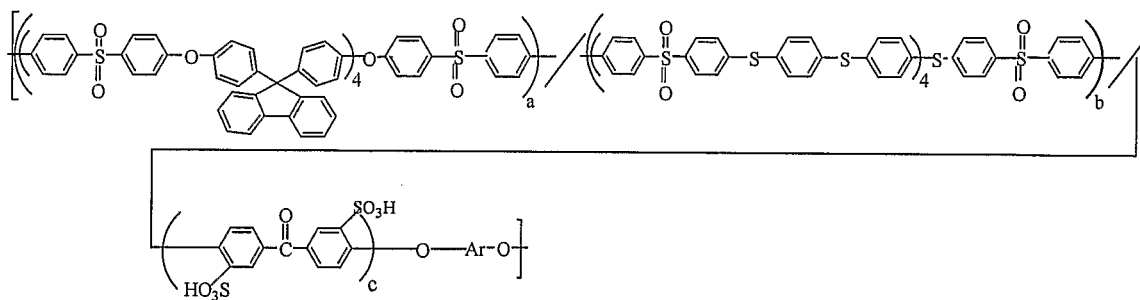
In another preferred embodiment the invention comprises a copolymer of Formula III.

- 8 -

Formula III

$$a = 0.13, b = 0.036, c = 0.834$$

Another preferred embodiment is the copolymer of Formula IV.

Formula IV

$$a = 0.13, b = 0.036, c = 0.834$$

The ion conductive polymers can be used to formulate proton exchange membranes (PEMs) catalyst coated membranes (CCMs), membrane electrode assemblies (MEAs) and fuel cells comprising the PEM membrane.

The foregoing membranes find particular utility in hydrogen fuel cells although they may be used with other fuels such as direct methanol fuel cells. Such fuel cells can be used in electronic devices, both portable and fixed, power supplies including auxiliary power units (APU's) and as locomotive power for vehicles such as automobiles, aircraft and marine vessels and APU's associated therewith.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 demonstrates the conductivity versus temperature for a PEM made from the copolymer of Example 1 (a block copolymer) and a random copolymer made from the same components.

FIG. 2 depicts the fuel cell performance for using the copolymer of Example 1 under various conditions.

FIG. 3 demonstrates the effect of relative humidity on the cell voltage of fuel cells containing the copolymer of Example 1 as compared to Nafion® 112.

FIG. 4 depicts the polarization curves and power density for the MEAs made in Examples 22, 23 and 24. MEA testing conditions: 6 mg/cm² Pt-Ru in anode, 4 mg/cm² Pt in cathode, 60 °C cell temperature, 2.5 stoichiometric air flow, 1M methanol fuel.

FIG. 5 depicts the polarization curves and power density for MEAs 23 and 24. MEA testing conditions: 6 mg/cm² Pt-Ru in anode, 4 mg/cm² Pt in cathode, 60 °C cell temperature, 2.5 stoichiometric air flow, 1M methanol fuel.

- 10 -

FIG. 6 depicts polarization curves and power densities for MEAs from Example ____.

MEA testing conditions: 6 mg/cm² Pt-Ru in anode, 4 mg/cm² Pt in cathode, 2.5 stoichiometric air flow, 1M methanol fuel.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In one aspect, the invention provides ion conductive copolymers comprising (1) first oligomers, (2) optionally, second oligomers, (3) ion conductive monomers and (4) linking monomers. The oligomers preferably are hydrophobic and together with ion conducting monomers are randomly dispersed between linking monomers. When a single hydrophobic oligomer and ion conducting monomer are randomly dispersed in a polymer backbone, it is preferred in some embodiments that when SBisK is the ion conducting monomer that BisK is not used in combination with it to form the copolymer.

In another aspect, one of the first or second oligomer is a hard polymer relative to the other. Generally, the relative hardness or softness of one polymer versus another can be determined by comparing the glass transition temperatures for each of the first and second oligomers. A higher glass transition temperature indicates that the oligomer is harder than the one used for comparison. A determination of whether a particular monomer is harder or softer than another can be made comparing the glass transition temperature of homomonomers. Alternatively, the first monomer and third monomer in the first and second oligomers are the same allowing monomers 2 and 4 to be varied so as to compare the relative hardness of one versus the other.

Uses of such polymeric materials include the formation of polymer electrolyte membranes (PEMs), catalyst coated membranes (CCM's) and membrane electrolyte assemblies (MEA's) which may be used in fuel cells and the like.

In a preferred embodiment, the ion conductive copolymer comprises a first oligomer comprising first and second comonomers, a second oligomer comprising third and fourth comonomers (at least one of which is different from one of the comonomers of the first oligomer) and at least one monomer comprising an ion conducting group. Each of the oligomers, the ion conducting monomer and a linking monomer form the ion conductive copolymer. Some of the ion conductive monomers comprise an ion conducting group that facilitates the transport of ions such as H^+ within and through the ion conducting copolymer.

General methods for the preparation of ion conducting copolymers are as follows. The methods include the steps of combining a first comonomer with a second comonomer to form a first oligomer and separately combining a third and fourth comonomer to form a second oligomer. The first and third comonomer have at least two leaving groups and the second and fourth comonomers have at least two displacing groups. In one aspect, the first and third comonomers are in a molar excess relative to the first comonomer, thereby forming first and second oligomers with leaving groups on the end of the first and second oligomer. The ion conductive monomer preferably also has two leaving groups. The linking monomer has at least two displacing groups .

The term “leaving group” is intended to include those functional moieties that can be displaced by a nucleophilic moiety found, typically, in another monomer. Leaving groups are well recognized in the art and include, for example, halides (chloride, fluoride, iodide, bromide), tosyl, mesyl, etc. In certain embodiments, the monomer has at least two leaving groups, which are “para” to each other with respect to the aromatic monomer to which they are attached.

The term “displacing group” is intended to include those functional moieties that can act typically as nucleophiles, thereby displacing a leaving group from a suitable monomer. The result is that the monomer to which the displacing group is attached becomes attached, generally covalently, to the monomer to which the leaving group

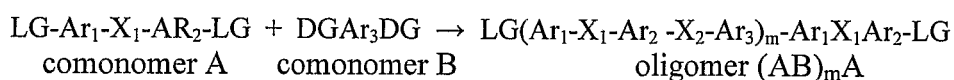
- 12 -

was associated with. The displacing group becomes R₁ and R₂ as set forth above. An example of this is the displacement of fluoride groups from aromatic monomers by phenoxide, alkoxide or sulfide ions associated with aromatic monomers.

An example of the synthesis of a first and a second oligomer is as follows where LG is a leaving group and DG a displacement group.

The first oligomer is made by combining:

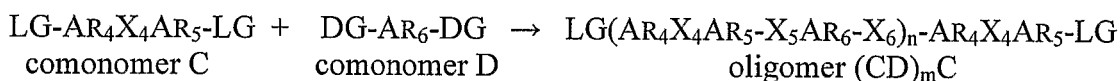
Formula VI



when comonomer A is in excess

The second oligomer is similarly made:

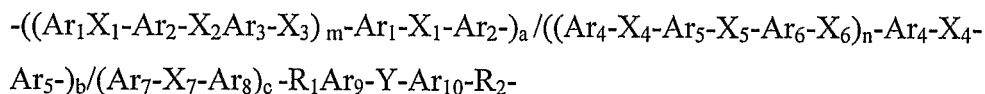
Formula VII



when comonomer C is in excess.

First oligomer I, second oligomer II and an ion conducting monomer with two leaving groups and a linking monomer with two displacement groups are combined in a reaction vessel to form the ion conducting copolymer. Alternatively, the leaving groups and displacement groups can be exchanged. In either of these approaches, the copolymers can be represented by formula I:

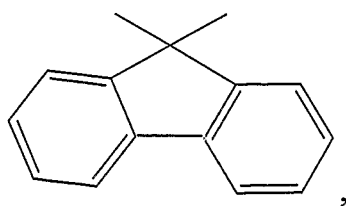
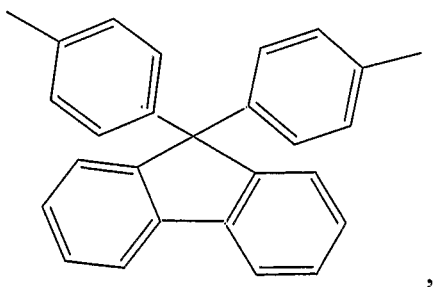
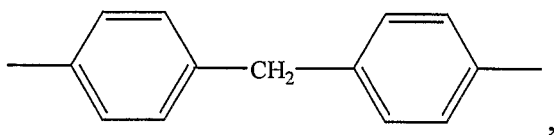
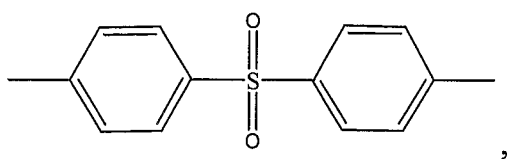
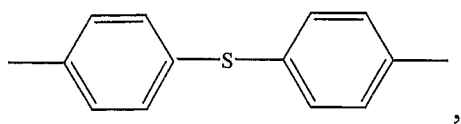
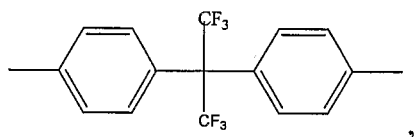
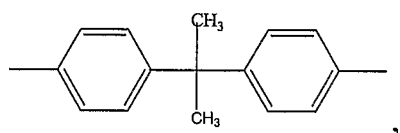
Formula I



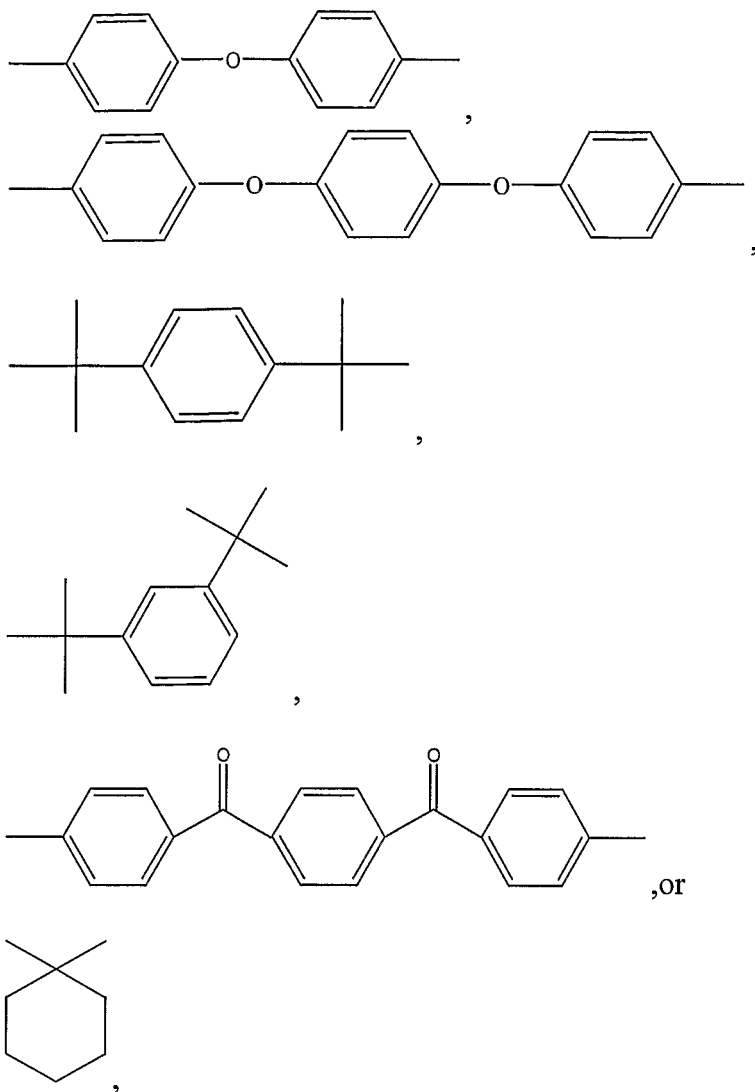
- 13 -

where Ar₁, Ar₂, Ar₄, Ar₅, Ar₇, Ar₈, Ar₉ and Ar₁₀ are independently phenyl, substituted phenyl, naphthyl, terphenyl, aryl nitrile, substituted aryl nitrile, and Ar₇ and/or Ar₈ further comprise an ion conducting group, X₁ and X₄ are independently -C(O)- or -S(O)₂, X₂, X₃, X₅ and X₆ are independently -O- or -S-; X₇ is a bond, -C(O)- or -S(O)₂.

Ar₃ and Ar₆ are the same or different from each other and are



- 14 -



wherein the ion conductive group comprises $\text{---SO}_3\text{H}$, ---COOH , $\text{---HPO}_3\text{H}$ or $\text{---SO}_2\text{NH---SO}_2\text{---RF}$ where RF is a perfluorinated hydrocarbon having 1-20 carbon atoms and said ion conducting group are pendant to the copolymer backbone;

R_1 and R_2 are independently ---O--- , or ---S---

wherein a, b and c are independently between 0.01 and 0.98 and $a + b + c = 1$,

wherein m is between 1 and 12, n is between 1 and 12,

- 15 -

and wherein Y is a bond, -C(O)-, or -S(O₂) and Rr₁₀ may be present or absent when Y is a bond.

In a preferred embodiment Ar₃ and Ar₆ are different from each other.

It is to be understood that the different oligomers and ion conducting monomer may combine head or tail to the linking monomer thus introducing another level of randomness in the polymer so formed.

In these and other formulas, m and n are independently 1-12, more preferably 1-10, and more preferably 2-8, and most preferably 3-6. In a particularly preferred embodiment, m and n = 4. In some embodiments of this or other formulas herein at least one of m or n is 2. In others, m and n are at least 2.

In some embodiments, when SBisK is used as the ion conducting monomer, BisK is not used in combination with SBisK.

The mole fraction of the various components as defined by a, b and c are as follows. a is preferably between 0.05 – 0.4, more preferably between 0.05 – 0.25, and most preferably between 0.05 and 0.15. b is preferably between 0.01 – 0.04, more preferably between 0.05 and 0.3, and most preferably between 0.05 and 0.2. c is preferably between 0.2 – 0.94, and more preferably between 0.5 and 0.94.

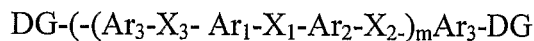
The mole percent of ion conducting groups in the ion conducting copolymer is calculated as follows: $c \text{ divided by } a(n+1) + b(m+1) + c$. In using this formula, the mole percent of a monomer containing a single ion conducting group is preferably between 30 and 70%, or more preferably between 40 and 60%, and most preferably between 45 and 55%. When more than one conducting group is contained within the ion conducting monomer, such percentages are multiplied by the total number of ion conducting groups per monomer. Thus, in the case of a monomer comprising two sulfonic acid groups, the preferred sulfonation is 60 to 140%, more preferably 80 to

- 16 -

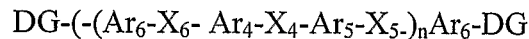
120% ,and most preferably 90 to 110%. Alternatively, the amount of ion conducting group can be measured by the ion exchange capacity (IEC). By way of comparison, Nafion® typically has a ion exchange capacity of 0.9 meq/gm. In the present invention, it is preferred that the IEC be between 0.9 and 3.0 meq per gram, more preferably between 1.0 and 2.5 meq per gram, and most preferably between 1.6 and 2.2 meq per gram.

The foregoing ranges can be readily adapted for use in defining other formulas contained herein.

In an alternative embodiment, comonomer II and comonomer IV are in excess and produce oligomer IA and IIA as follows:



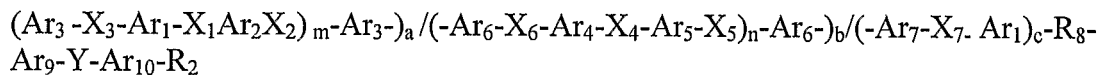
Oligomer IA



Oligomer IIA

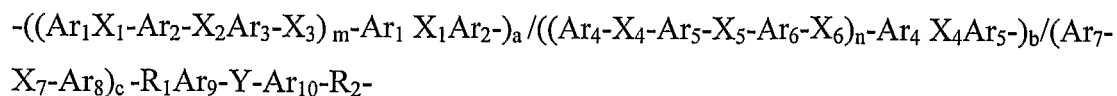
When oligomers IA and IIA are used in combination with an ion conducting monomer comprising two displacement groups and a linking monomer comprising two leaving groups, the copolymer so produced can be represented by formula V:

Formula V



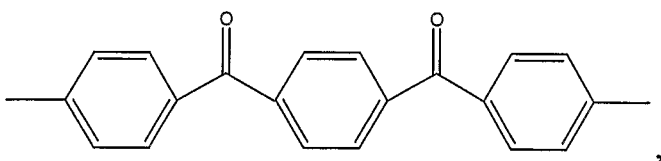
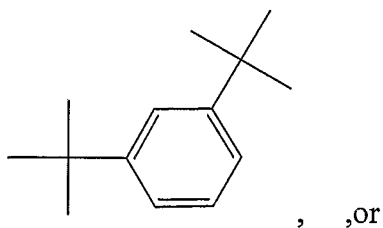
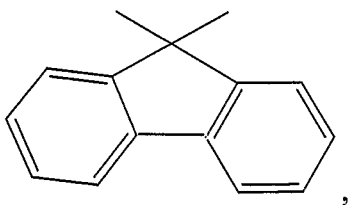
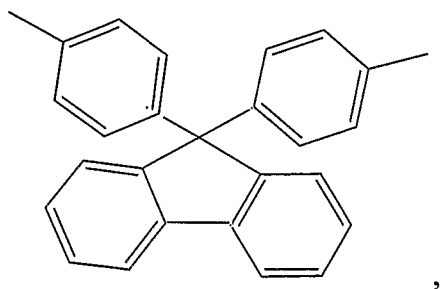
wherein each of the components are as previously described.

In another embodiment, the oligomers have different hardness as compared to each other. Formula VI is an example of such a situation:

Formula VI

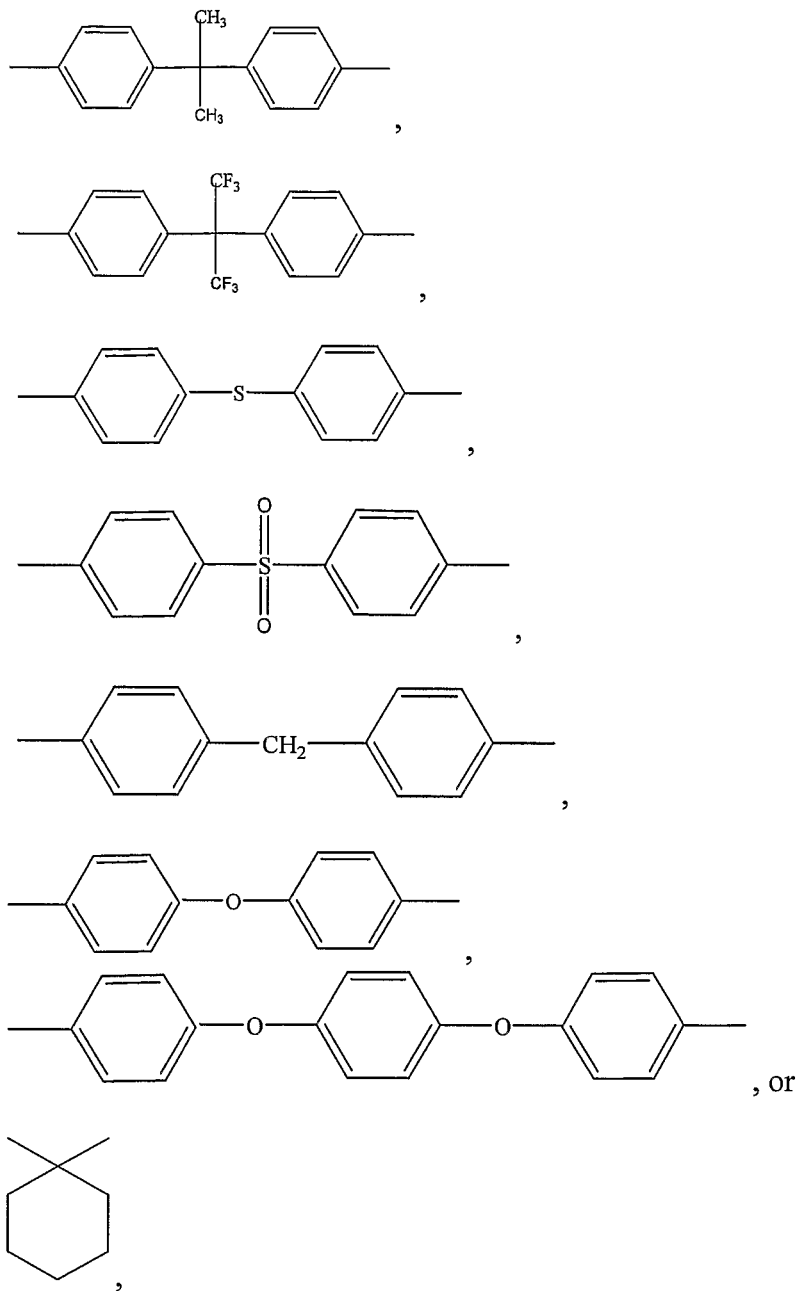
where Ar_1 , Ar_2 , Ar_4 , Ar_5 , Ar_7 , Ar_8 , Ar_9 and Ar_{10} are independently phenyl, substituted phenyl naphthyl, terphenyl, aryl nitrile, substituted aryl nitrile, and Ar_7 and/or Ar_8 further comprise an ion conducting group, X_1 and X_4 are independently $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$ or $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$, X_2 , X_3 , X_5 and X_6 are independently $-\text{O}-$ or $-\text{S}-$; X_7 is a bond, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$ or $\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$.

The Ar_3 monomers are the same or different from each other and are



where the Ar_6 monomers are the same or different from each other and are

- 18 -



wherein the ion conductive group comprises $-\text{SO}_3\text{H}$, $-\text{COOH}$, $-\text{HPO}_3\text{H}$ or $-\text{SO}_2\text{NH}-\text{SO}_2-\text{RF}$ where RF is a perfluorinated hydrocarbon having 1-20 carbon atoms and said ion conducting group are pendant to the copolymer backbone;

R_1 and R_2 are independently $-\text{O}-$ or $-\text{S}-$.

wherein a, b and c are independently between 0.01 and 0.98 and $a + b + c = 1$,

wherein m is between 1 and 10, n is between 1 and 10,

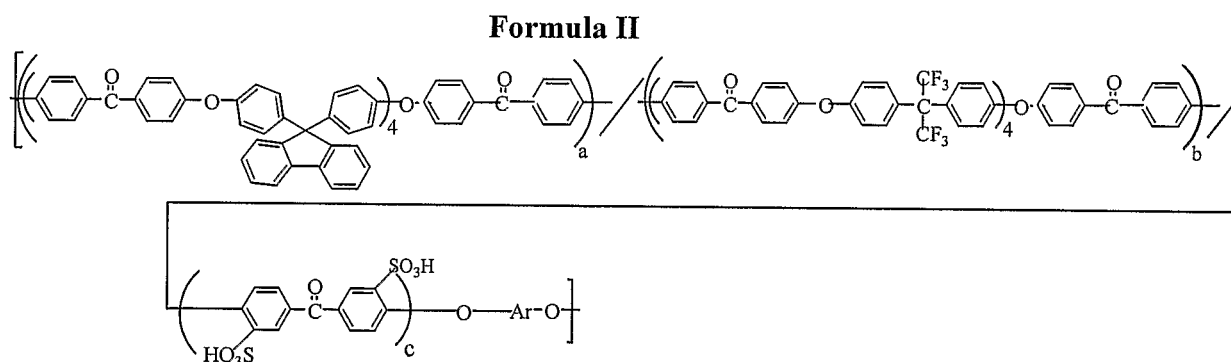
- 19 -

and wherein Y is a bond, -C(O)-, or -S(O₂)-, and Ar₁₀ may be present or absent when Y is a bond.

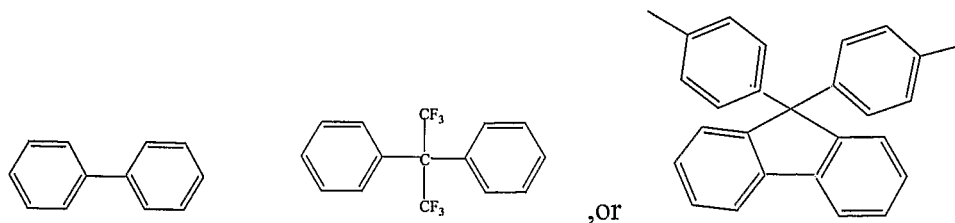
Similarly, Formula V can be modified such that Ar₃ and Ar₆ are selected from the aromatic groups as set forth in Formula VI.

The preparation of the disclosed first and second oligomer and choice of ion conducting and linking monomer provide flexibility in the formulation of the ion conductive copolymer. Selected first and second oligomers and monomers (both ion conductive and linking) can be combined in defined ratios to provide copolymers having a variety of physical and chemical properties.

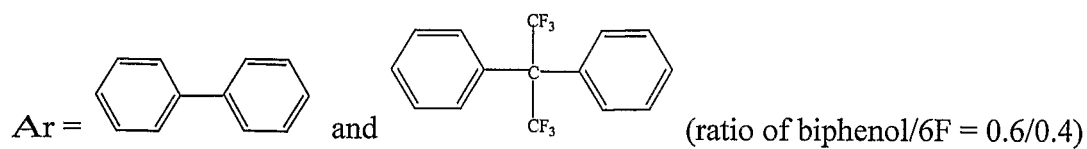
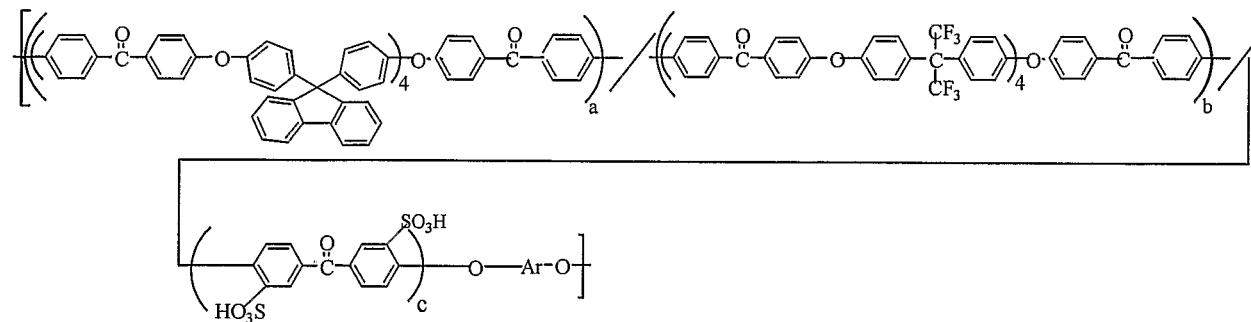
A particularly preferred embodiment is:



wherein Ar is :

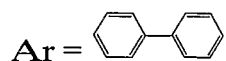
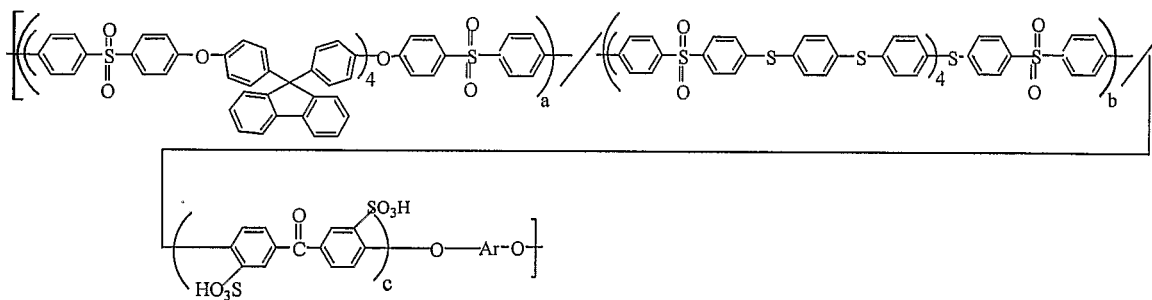


wherein a is between 0.05 and 0.2, b is between 0.01 and 0.2 and c is between 0.5 and 0.95. In a preferred embodiment, a = 0.13, b = 0.036 and c = 0.83.

Formula III

$$a = 0.13, b = 0.036, c = 0.834$$

Another preferred embodiment is the copolymer of formula IIC.

Formula IV

$$a = 0.13, b = 0.036, c = 0.834$$

In alternate embodiments, one oligomer is used rather than two or more different oligomers. Where this is the case, in some embodiments, it is preferred when SBisK is the only ion conducting monomer that the BisK monomer is not used. In another embodiment, where a single oligomer is used, the copolymer is other than that set forth in Examples 63-116 herein.

Polymer membranes may be fabricated by solution casting of the ion conductive copolymer. Alternatively, the polymer membrane may be fabricated by solution casting the ion conducting polymer the blend of the acid and basic polymer.

When cast into a membrane for use in a fuel cell, it is preferred that the membrane thickness be between 0.1 to 10 mils, more preferably between 1 and 6 mils, most preferably between 1.5 and 2.5 mils, and it can be coated over polymer substrate

As used herein, a membrane is permeable to protons if the proton flux is greater than approximately 0.005 S/cm, more preferably greater than 0.01 S/cm, most preferably greater than 0.02 S/cm.

As used herein, a membrane is substantially impermeable to methanol if the methanol transport across a membrane having a given thickness is less than the transfer of methanol across a Nafion® membrane of the same thickness. In preferred embodiments the permeability of methanol is preferably 50% less than that of a Nafion® membrane, more preferably 75% less and most preferably greater than 80% less as compared to the Nafion® membrane.

After the ion conducting copolymer has been formed into a membrane, it may be used to produce a catalyst coated membrane (CCM). As used herein, a CCM comprises a PEM when at least one side and preferably both of the opposing sides of the PEM are partially or completely coated with catalyst. The catalyst is preferable a layer made of catalyst and ionomer. Preferred catalysts are Pt and Pt-Ru. Preferred ionomers include Nafion® and other ion conductive polymers. In general, anode and cathode

catalysts are applied onto the membrane by well established standard techniques. For direct methanol fuel cells, platinum/ruthenium catalyst is typically used on the anode side while platinum catalyst is applied on the cathode side. For hydrogen/air or hydrogen/oxygen fuel cells platinum or platinum/ruthenium is generally applied on the anode side, and platinum is applied on the cathode side. Catalysts may be optionally supported on carbon. The catalyst is initially dispersed in a small amount of water (about 100mg of catalyst in 1 g of water). To this dispersion a 5% ionomer solution in water/alcohol is added (0.25-0.75 g). The resulting dispersion may be directly painted onto the polymer membrane. Alternatively, isopropanol (1-3 g) is added and the dispersion is directly sprayed onto the membrane. The catalyst may also be applied onto the membrane by decal transfer, as described in the open literature (*Electrochimica Acta*, 40: 297 (1995)).

The CCM is used to make MEA's. As used herein, an MEA refers to an ion conducting polymer membrane made from a CCM according to the invention in combination with anode and cathode electrodes positioned to be in electrical contact with the catalyst layer of the CCM.

The electrodes are in electrical contact with the catalyst layer, either directly or indirectly, when they are capable of completing an electrical circuit which includes the CCM and a load to which the fuel cell current is supplied. More particularly, a first catalyst is electrocatalytically associated with the anode side of the PEM so as to facilitate the oxidation of hydrogen or organic fuel. Such oxidation generally results in the formation of protons, electrons and, in the case of organic fuels, carbon dioxide and water. Since the membrane is substantially impermeable to molecular hydrogen and organic fuels such as methanol, as well as carbon dioxide, such components remain on the anodic side of the membrane. Electrons formed from the electrocatalytic reaction are transmitted from the cathode to the load and then to the anode. Balancing this direct electron current is the transfer of an equivalent number of protons across the membrane to the anodic compartment. There an electrocatalytic reduction of oxygen in the presence of the transmitted protons occurs to form water.

- 23 -

In one embodiment, air is the source of oxygen. In another embodiment, oxygen-enriched air is used.

The membrane electrode assembly is generally used to divide a fuel cell into anodic and cathodic compartments. In such fuel cell systems, a fuel such as hydrogen gas or an organic fuel such as methanol is added to the anodic compartment while an oxidant such as oxygen or ambient air is allowed to enter the cathodic compartment.

Depending upon the particular use of a fuel cell, a number of cells can be combined to achieve appropriate voltage and power output. Such applications include electrical power sources for residential, industrial, commercial power systems and for use in locomotive power such as in automobiles. Other uses to which the invention finds particular use includes the use of fuel cells in portable electronic devices such as cell phones and other telecommunication devices, video and audio consumer electronics equipment, computer laptops, computer notebooks, personal digital assistants and other computing devices, GPS devices and the like. In addition, the fuel cells may be stacked to increase voltage and current capacity for use in high power applications such as industrial and residential sewer services or used to provide locomotion to vehicles. Such fuel cell structures include those disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 6,416,895, 6,413,664, 6,106,964, 5,840,438, 5,773,160, 5,750,281, 5,547,776, 5,527,363, 5,521,018, 5,514,487, 5,482,680, 5,432,021, 5,382,478, 5,300,370, 5,252,410 and 5,230,966.

Such CCM and MEM's are generally useful in fuel cells such as those disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,945,231, 5,773,162, 5,992,008, 5,723,229, 6,057,051, 5,976,725, 5,789,093, 4,612,261, 4,407,905, 4,629,664, 4,562,123, 4,789,917, 4,446,210, 4,390,603, 6,110,613, 6,020,083, 5,480,735, 4,851,377, 4,420,544, 5,759,712, 5,807,412, 5,670,266, 5,916,699, 5,693,434, 5,688,613, 5,688,614, each of which is expressly incorporated herein by reference.

The CCM's and MEA's of the invention may also be used in hydrogen fuel cells which are known in the art. Examples include 6,630,259; 6,617,066; 6,602,920;

- 24 -

6,602,627; 6,568,633; 6,544,679; 6,536,551; 6,506,510; 6,497,974, 6,321,145; 6,195,999; 5,984,235; 5,759,712; 5,509,942; and 5,458,989 each of which are expressly incorporated herein by reference.

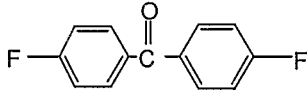
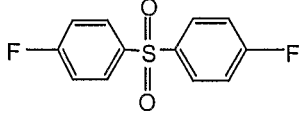
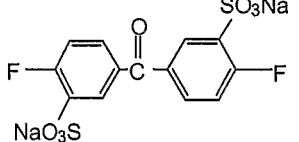
The ion conducting polymer membranes of the invention also find use as separators in batteries. Particularly preferred batteries are lithium ion batteries.

Examples

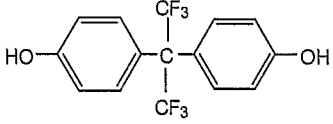
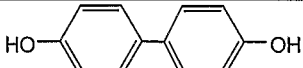
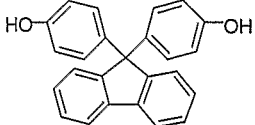
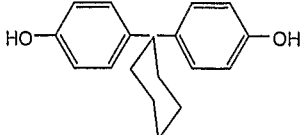
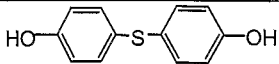
A list of some of the monomers used in practicing the invention are set forth in Table I.

Table I. Monomers Used

1) Difluoro-end monomers

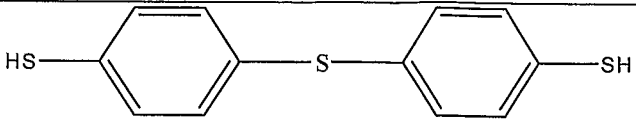
Acronym	Full name	Molecular weight	Chemical structure
Bis K	4,4'-Difluorobenzophenone	218.20	
Bis SO ₂	4,4'-Difluorodiphenylsulfone	254.25	
S-Bis K	3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophenone	422.28	

2) Dihydroxy-end monomers

Bis AF (AF or 6F)	2,2-Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)hexafluoropropane <i>or</i> 4,4'-(hexafluoroisopropylidene)diphenol	336.24	
BP	Biphenol	186.21	
Bis FL	9,9-Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)fluorene	350.41	
Bis Z	4,4'-cyclohexylidenebisphenol	268.36	
Bis S	4,4'-thiodiphenol	218.27	

3) Dithiol-end monomers

Acronym	Full name	Molecular weight	Chemical Structure
---------	-----------	------------------	--------------------

35	4,4'-thiol bis benzene thiol	
----	---------------------------------------	--

This Table also provides acronyms used for the various starting monomers as well as the monomers as contained within ion conductive copolymers. Other acronyms include the following:

Acronym : R = random copolymer, Bl = block copolymer
 RK = random copolymer based on Bis K and S-BisK,
 RS = random copolymer based on BisSO₂ and S-BisK
 B = biphenol, AF = BisAF (6F), FL = BisFL, Z = BisZ
 BLK = Block copolymer containing BisK in its formulation
 BL_ = Block copolymer without BisK in its formulation

Abbreviations include:

IEC: Ion Exchange Capacity (meq/g), IV : Inherent viscosity (dl/g)
 CD: conductivity (S/cm)

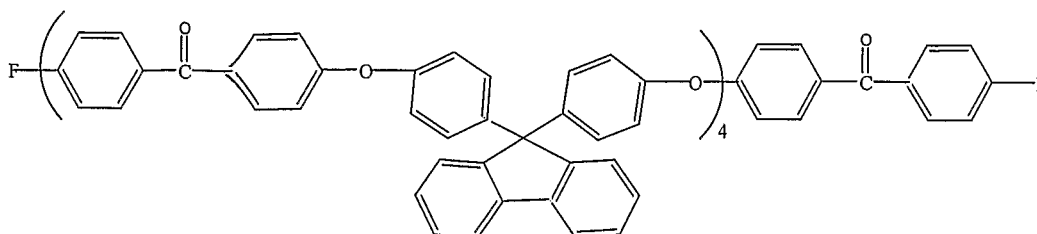
Example 1: BL _ FL4AF4 – B/50, Oligomers Used: FL4 + AF4

Oligomer 1 (FL4, F-end): m or n = 4

In a 500 ml three necked round flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, a thermometer probe connected with a nitrogen inlet, and a Dean-Stark trap/condenser, 4,4'-difluorobenzophenone (BisK, 34.91 g, 0.16 mol), 9,9-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)fluorene (Bis FL, 42.05 g, 0.12 mol), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (19.9 g, 0.192 mol) were dissolved in a mixture of 220 ml of DMSO and 110 ml of Toluene. The reaction mixture was slowly stirred under a slow nitrogen stream. After heating at ~120 °C for 1h and was raised to ~140 °C for 2 h, and finally to ~160 °C for 3 h. After cooling to ~70 °C with continuing stirring, the solution was dropped into 1L of cooled methanol with a vigorous stirring. The precipitates were

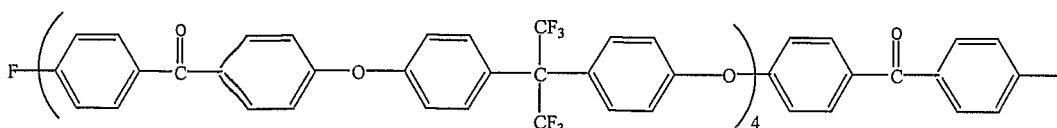
- 27 -

filtrated and washed with DI-water four times and dried at 80 °C overnight, and then dried at 80 °C under vacuum for 2 days. The oligomer has the following structure:



Oligomer 2 (AF4, F-end): m or n = 4

This oligomer was synthesized in a similar way as described in the oligomer 1 synthesis, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophenone (BisK, 34.91 g), 4,4'-(hexafluoroisopropylidene)diphenol (Bis AF, 40.35 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (19.9 g) in a mixture of 220 ml of DMSO and 110 ml of Toluene. The oligomer has the following structure:



Polymerization

In a 500ml three necked round flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermometer, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophenone (S-BisK, 17.61 g), Oligomer 1 (15.16 g), Oligomer 2 (4.10 g), biphenol (9.31 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (8.29 g) were dissolved in a mixture of DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-175°C for 4h. The reaction mixture was precipitated from methanol to get the crude product and washed with DI-water. The polymer was

- 28 -

treated in 0.5 mol H₂SO₄ aqueous solution at 80°C for 1 hour to produce the proton form of sulfonic acid group in the polymer and washed with deionized water and dried at 80°C overnight, and then dried at 80°C under vacuum for 2 days.

Dried polymer was dissolved in dimethylacetamide (DMAc) to make a solution (25wt%) and cast, and dried at 80 °C to make a membrane (2.0 mil thick). The obtained membrane was treated in 1.5 mol H₂SO₄ aqueous solution to get rid of DMAc residue and rinsed in DI-water until no H₂SO₄ residue was detected, and dried at 80 °C.

The polymer membrane was swollen in water at room temperature and the polymer membrane conductivity was measured by AC impedance. The dried membrane was swollen in a boiling water for 1 hour to measure water-uptake and swelling by area.

This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 1.52 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl). IEC is 1.97 meq/g. Conductivity: .093 S/cm (0.112 S/cm, boiled in water 1hr), swelling by area in boiled water 1 hr: 50%, water-uptake after boiling the membrane in water 1 hr 64%

Example 2: BL _ FL4 AF4 – B45 Oligomers Used: FL4 + AF4

This block polymer was synthesized and treated in a similar way as described in example 1: S-BisK (16.98 g), Oligomer 1 (15.86 g), Oligomer 2 (6.83 g), biphenol (9.31 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (8.29 g) were dissolved in a mixture of DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration).

This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 1.11 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl). IEC is 1.78 meq/g. Conductivity: 0.081 S/cm (0.099 S/cm, boiled in water 1hr), swelling by area in boiled water 1 hr: 40%, water-uptake after boiling the membrane in water 1 hr : 57%

Example 3: BL _ FL4 AF4 – B/41 Oligomers Used: FL4 + AF4

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in example 1: S-BisK (16.47 g), Oligomer 1 (14.0 g), Oligomer 2 (11.38 g), biphenol (9.31 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (8.29 g) were dissolved in a mixture of DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration).

This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 1.30 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl). IEC is 1.64 meq/g. Conductivity: 0.068 S/cm (0.092 S/cm, boiled in water 1hr), swelling by area in boiled water 1 hr: 35%, water-uptake after boiling the membrane in water 1 hr : 52%

Example 4: BL _ FL4 AF8 – B/48 Oligomers Used: FL4 + AF8

Oligomer 3 (AF8, F-end): m or n = 8

This oligomer was synthesized in a similar way as described in the oligomer 1 synthesis: BisK (34.91 g), Bis AF (47.07 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (23.22 g) in a mixture of 220 ml of DMSO and 110 ml of Toluene. This structure is the same as oligomer 2 except that the AF unit is repeating 8 times rather than 4 times.

Polymerization

The block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in example 1: S-BisK (17.82 g), Oligomer 1 (14.0 g), Oligomer 3 (7.8 g), biphenol (9.31 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (8.29 g) were dissolved in a mixture of DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration).

This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 1.79 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl). IEC is 1.87 meq/g. Conductivity: 0.092 S/cm (0.100 S/cm, boiled in water 1hr), swelling by area in boiled water 1 hr: 45%, water-uptake after boiling the membrane in water 1 hr : 63%

Example 5: (BL _ FL4 AF4 – B/42 Oligomers Used: FL4 + AF8

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in example 1: S-BisK (17.31 g), Oligomer 1 (14.0 g), Oligomer 3 (13.0 g), biphenol (9.31 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (8.29 g) were dissolved in a mixture of DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration).

This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 1.73 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl). IEC is 1.65 meq/g. Conductivity: 0.074 S/cm (0.100 S/cm, boiled in water 1hr), swelling by area in boiled water 1 hr: 38%, water-uptake after boiling the membrane in water 1 hr : 58%

Table II sets forth the properties of the copolymer made in Examples 1-5 as well as other oligomeric block copolymers.

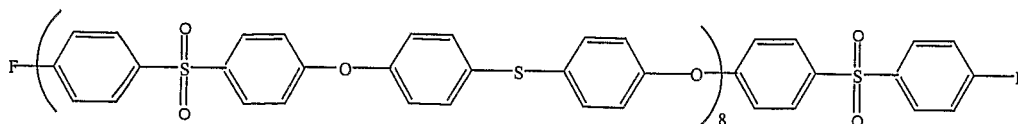
Table II. Properties of Oligomeric Block Membranes

Polymer	IEC	IV	CD(S/cm) at rt	CD (boiled)	Swelling %	Water- uptake%
BIK_AF4-AF/35	1.23	1.12	0.025	0.060	35.7	42.0
BIK_AF10-AF/35	1.23	1.14	0.049	0.045	127	160
BIK_FL4-AF/41	1.40	1.19	0.036	0.080	43.8	58.8
BIK_FL4-B50AF50/42	1.58	1.45	0.048	0.088	43.2	58.3
BI_FL4AF4-B/41	1.64	1.30	0.068	0.092	34.7	52.1
BI_FL4-B/41	1.63	1.54	0.061	0.087	35.0	48.5
BI_FL4AF8-B/42	1.65	1.73	0.074	0.100	37.5	58.3
BI_FL4S8-B/42	1.71	1.36	0.072	0.097	41.1	63.7
BI_FL4AF4-B/45	1.78	1.11	0.081	0.099	39.8	57.2
BIK_FL4-AF/41	1.41	1.11	0.033	0.075	51.3	62.5
BI_FL4AF4-B/50	1.97	1.52	0.093	0.112	50.2	63.9
BI_FL4AF8-B/48	1.87	1.79	0.092	0.100	62.8	45.2
BI_AF8-B/45	1.78	1.21	0.119	0.103	80.9	36.3

Example 6: BL _ FL4 S8 - B/42 Oligomers Used: FL4 + S8)

Oligomer 4 (S8, F-end): m or n = 8

This oligomer was synthesized in a similar way as described in the oligomer 1 synthesis, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorodiphenylsulfone (Bis SO₂, 40.68 g), 4,4'-thiodiphenol (Bis S, 30.56 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (23.22 g) in a mixture of 220 ml of DMSO and 110 ml of Toluene. S8 has the following structure:



Polymerization

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in example 1: S-BisK (17.31 g), Oligomer 1 (14.0 g), Oligomer 4 (11.14 g), biphenol (9.31 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (8.29 g) were dissolved in a mixture of DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration).

This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 1.36 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl). IEC is 1.71 meq/g. Conductivity: 0.072 S/cm (0.097 S/cm, boiled in water 1hr), swelling by area in boiled water 1 hr: 41%, water-uptake after boiling the membrane in water 1 hr : 64%

Example 7: BL _ FL4 – B/41Oligomer Used: FL4 only

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in example 1: S-BisK (16.47 g), Oligomer 1 (25.66 g), biphenol (9.31 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (8.29 g) were dissolved in a mixture of DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration).

This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 1.54 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl). IEC is 1.63 meq/g. Conductivity: 0.061 S/cm (0.087 S/cm, boiled in water 1hr), swelling by area

in boiled water 1 hr: 35%, water-uptake after boiling the membrane in water 1 hr : 49%

Example 8: BLK _ FL4 – B50 AF50/42 Oligomer Used: FL4 only

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in example 1: Bis K (2.75 g), S-BisK (13.26g), Oligomer 1 (14.0 g), biphenol (4.66 g), Bis AF (8.41 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (8.29 g) were dissolved in a mixture of DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration).

This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 1.45 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl). IEC is 1.58 meq/g. Conductivity: 0.048 S/cm (0.088 S/cm, boiled in water 1hr), swelling by area in boiled water 1 hr: 43%, water-uptake after boiling the membrane in water 1 hr : 58%

Example 9: BLK _ FL4 – AF/41 Oligomer used: FL4 only

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in example 1: Bis K (2.4 g), S-BisK (13.51g), Oligomer 1 (16.33 g), Bis AF (16.81 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (8.29 g) were dissolved in a mixture of DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration).

This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 1.19 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl). IEC is 1.40 meq/g. Conductivity: 0.036 S/cm (0.080 S/cm, boiled in water 1hr), swelling by area in boiled water 1 hr: 44%, water-uptake after boiling the membrane in water 1 hr : 59%

Example 10 B: _ AF8 – B/45 Oligomer used: AF8 (oligomer 3) only

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in example 1: S-BisK (18.62 g), Oligomer 3 (25.57 g), biphenol (9.31 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (8.29 g) were dissolved in a mixture of DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration).

- 33 -

This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 1.21 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl). IEC is 1.78 meq/g. Conductivity: 0.119 S/cm (0.103 S/cm, boiled in water 1hr), swelling by area in boiled water 1 hr: 36%, water-uptake after boiling the membrane in water 1 hr : 81%

Example 11: BLK _ AF10 – AF/35 Oligomers Used: AF10 only

Oligomer 5 (AF10, F-end): DP = 10

This oligomer was synthesized in a similar way as described in the oligomer 1 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (34.91 g), Bis AF (48.42 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (23.88 g) in a mixture of 220 ml of DMSO and 110 ml of Toluene.

Polymerization

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in example 1: BisK (2.34 g), S-BisK (14.57 g), Oligomer 5 (25.74 g), BisAF (16.81 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (8.29 g) were dissolved in a mixture of DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration).

This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 1.14 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl). IEC is 1.23 meq/g. Conductivity: 0.049 S/cm (0.045 S/cm, boiled in water 1hr), swelling by area in boiled water 1 hr: 127%, water-uptake after boiling the membrane in water 1 hr : 160%

The membrane conductivity: 0.060S/cm, Swelling after boiled: 68% by area, water up-take:84%

Example 12: Synthesis of partial block polymer with non-sulfonated hydrophobic segment

Fluorine end group oligomer (difluorophenyl sulfone/4,4'-thiolbisbenzenesulfide) preparation (segment size n=4)

In a 250ml three necked round flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermometer, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, 4,4'-Thiolbisbenzenethiol (15.0246g), difluorophenyl sulfone (20.34g), anhydrous potassium carbonate (11g) were dissolved in a mixture DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 4h, then increase temperature to 175°C for 4h. The reaction mixture precipitates from methanol to get the rude product, and then washed by hot water four times. Dry at 80C oven for one day and 75C vacuum oven for 2days.

Polymerization

In a 250ml three necked round flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermometer, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, 4,4'-Thiolbisbenzenethiol (12.5205g), difluorophenyl sulfone (6.102g), sulfonated difluorophenyl sulfone(901664g), oligomer(12.672g, n=4, fluorine end of difluorophenyl sulfone/4,4'-thiolbisbenzenesulfide composition), anhydrous potassium carbonate (9.0g) were dissolved in a mixture DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture precipitates from methanol to get the rude product.

The membrane conductivity: 0.076S/cm, Swelling after boiled: 50% by area, water up-take:41%

Example 13: F-ended Oligomer 1: DP = 4

In a 500 mL three necked round flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, a thermometer probe connected with a nitrogen inlet, and a Dean-Stark trap/condenser, 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 34.91 g, 0.16 mol), 9,9-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)fluorene (42.05 g, 0.12 mol), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (25.87 g, 0.187 mol), 220 mL of DMSO and 110 mL of Toluene. The reaction mixture was slowly stirred under a slow nitrogen stream. After heating at ~85 °C for 1h and at ~120 °C for 1 h, the reaction temperature was raised to ~140 °C for 3 h, and finally to ~170 °C for 2 h. After cooling to ~70 °C with continuing stirring, the solution was dropped into 1L of methanol with a vigorous stirring. The precipitates were filtrated and washed with de-ionized water four times and dried at 80 °C overnight, and then dried at 80 °C under vacuum for 2 days.

A block copolymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in the oligomer 1 synthesis, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 6.49 g), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone (SBisK, 13.39 g), Oligomer 7 (18.29 g), 1,1-Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)cyclohexane (BisZ, 26.28 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (12.51 g), 216 mL of DMSO and 108 mL of Toluene. The dried polymer was converted into acid form by stirring in hot H₂SO₄ (0.5 M) solution for one hour, followed by de-ionized water washing, and dried.

Example 14

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (6.84 g), SBisK (16.76 g), Oligomer 7 (20.90 g), BisZ (21.47 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (14.37 g).

Example 15

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (5.72 g), SBisK (17.04 g), Oligomer 7 (19.59 g), BisZ (20.12 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (13.48 g).

Example 16

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (5.27 g), SBisK (19.80 g), Oligomer 7 (20.90 g), BisZ (21.47 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (14.37 g).

Example 17

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (3.92 g), SBisK (13.48 g), Oligomer 7 (23.51 g), BisZ (16.10 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.78 g).

Example 18

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (2.16 g), SBisK (15.48 g), Oligomer 7 (31.35 g), BisZ (16.10 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.78 g).

Table 1. Ex-situ Data Summary for Block Polymer

Membrane	IEC (meq/g)	$[\eta]_{25}$ (dL/g)	SW (%)	σ r.t./boiled (S/cm)	Methanol crossover r.t./boiled (mg.mil/ cc.min.cm ²)	Water uptake (%, w/w)	λ (H ₂ O/ H ⁺)
Example 13	1.20	0.58	32	NA/0.034	NA/0.018	33	15
Example 14	1.30	1.64	35	0.020/0.037	NA/0.016	26	11
Example 15	1.40	0.72	56	0.024/0.053	0.010/0.017	40	16
Example	1.50	0.99	59	0.041/0.058	NA/0.044	43	16

16							
Example 17	1.20	1.00	27	0.021/0.035	0.003/0.010	25	12
Example 18	1.20	1.44	25	0.023/0.035	NA/0.011	25	12

Example 19

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (8.52 g), SBisK (13.51 g), Oligomer 7 (20.90 g), 2,2'-Biphenol (14.89 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (14.37 g).

Example 20

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (6.97 g), SBisK (12.00 g), Oligomer 7 (17.76 g), 2,2'-Biphenol (12.66 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (12.22 g).

Example 21

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (7.84 g), SBisK (14.83 g), Oligomer 7 (20.90 g), 2,2'-Biphenol (14.89 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (14.37 g).

Example 22

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (5.41 g), SBisK (14.13 g), Oligomer 7 (27.43 g), 2,2'-Biphenol (13.03 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (12.58 g). MEA 10 contains this block copolymer.

Example 23

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (4.35 g), SBisK (12.67 g), Oligomer 7

(23.51 g), 2,2'-Biphenol (11.17 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.78 g). MEA 11 contains this block copolymer.

Example 24

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (4.73 g), SBisK (15.43 g), Oligomer 7 (27.43 g), 2,2'-Biphenol (13.03 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (12.58 g). MEA 12 contains this block copolymer.

Example 25

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (2.94 g), SBisK (12.33 g), Oligomer 7 (28.73 g), 2,2'-Biphenol (10.24 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (9.88 g).

Example 26

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (2.86 g), SBisK (14.11 g), Oligomer 7 (31.35 g), 2,2'-Biphenol (11.17 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.78 g).

Example 27

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (2.54 g), SBisK (14.74 g), Oligomer 7 (31.35 g), 2,2'-Biphenol (11.17 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.78 g).

Example 28

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (1.80 g), SBisK (12.90 g), Oligomer 7 (26.12 g), 2,2'-Biphenol (9.31 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (8.98 g).

Example 29

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (1.55 g), SBisK (13.39 g), Oligomer 7 (26.12 g), 2,2'-Biphenol (9.31 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (8.98 g).

Example 30

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (1.25 g), SBisK (13.96 g), Oligomer 7 (26.12 g), 2,2'-Biphenol (9.31 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (8.98 g).

Table 2. Ex-Situ Data Summary for Block Polymers

Membrane	IEC (meq/g)	$[\eta]_{25}$ (dL/g)	SW (%)	σ r.t./boiled (S/cm)	Methanol crossover r.t./boiled (mg.mil/ cc.min.cm ²)	Water uptake (%, w/w)	λ (H ₂ O/ H ⁺)
Example 19	1.20	1.74	16	0.027/0.039	0.023/0.024	22	10
Example 20	1.25	2.09	18	0.030/0.039	0.012/0.015	24	11
Example 21	1.30	2.14	24	0.033/0.046	0.014/0.027	27	12
Example 22	1.20	1.48	23	0.026/0.037	0.013/NA	20	9
Example 23	1.25	1.59	24	0.030/0.042	0.014/0.024	25	11
Example 24	1.30	2.08	21	0.034/0.044	0.013/0.023	27	12
Example 25	1.15	1.11	24	0.026/0.037	NA	24	12
Example 26	1.20	1.67	22	0.031/0.040	NA/0.009	21	10
Example 27	1.25	1.45	25	0.034/0.043	NA/0.013	24	11
Example 28	1.30	1.46	24	0.038/0.049	0.011/0.027	27	12
Example 29	1.35	1.80	26	0.042/0.058	0.016/0.036	27	11
Example 30	1.40	1.30	28	0.041/0.057	0.017/0.035	29	12

Table 3. In-Situ Data Summary for Block Polymers

Membrane	Thickness (μ)	Power density at 0.4 V (mW/cm ²)	Methanol crossover (mA/cm ²)	HFR (Ohm.cm ²)
Example 19	44	106	46	0.20
Example 20	56	111	39	0.22
Example 21	56	112	44	0.17
Example 22	45	103	40	0.18
Example 23	57	120	45	0.18

Example 24	48	120	58	0.14
Example 25	48	110	43	0.18
Example 26	46	122	53	0.14
Example 27	52	116	65	0.14
Example 28	58	112	52	0.12
Example 29	57	124	71	0.12

Example 31

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in example 1 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (4.99 g), SBisK (12.84 g), Oligomer 1 (15.67 g), Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,4-diisopropylbenzene (20.78 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.78 g).

Example 32

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (4.70 g), SBisK (13.40 g), Oligomer 7 (15.67 g), Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,4-diisopropylbenzene (20.78 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.78 g).

Example 33

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (4.38 g), SBisK (14.01 g), Oligomer 7 (15.67 g), Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,4-diisopropylbenzene (20.78 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.78 g).

Example 34

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (3.24 g), SBisK (14.80 g), Oligomer 7 (23.51 g), Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,4-diisopropylbenzene (20.78 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.78 g). MEA 22 contains this block copolymer.

Example 35

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (2.89 g), SBisK (15.48 g), Oligomer 7 (23.51 g), Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,4-diisopropylbenzene (20.78 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.78 g). MEA 23 contains this block copolymer.

Example 36

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (2.49 g), SBisK (16.27 g), Oligomer 7 (23.51 g), Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,4-diisopropylbenzene (20.78 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.78 g). MEA 24 contains this block copolymer.

Example 37

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (1.23 g), SBisK (14.00 g), Oligomer 7 (26.12 g), Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,4-diisopropylbenzene (17.32 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (8.98 g).

Table 4. Ex-situ Data Summary for Block Polymers 31-37

Membrane	IEC (meq/g)	$[\eta]_{25}$ (dL/g)	SW (%)	σ r.t./boiled (S/cm)	Methanol crossover r.t./boiled (mg.mil/ cc.min.cm ²)	Water uptake (%, w/w)	λ (H ₂ O/ H ⁺)
Example 31	1.20	1.88	27	0.023/0.040	NA/0.010	25	12
Example 32	1.25	1.65	31	0.025/0.042	0.010/0.016	26	12
Example 33	1.30	1.86	30	0.030/0.041	0.010/0.020	30	13
Example 34	1.20	1.17	28	0.024/0.041	0.010/0.014	25	12
Example 35	1.25	1.67	30	0.025/0.045	0.011/0.017	27	12
Example 36	1.30	1.72	33	0.031/0.048	0.014/0.025	30	13
Example 37	1.20	1.38	27	0.025/0.038	NA	24	11

Table 5. In-Situ Data Summary for Block Polymers 31-37

Membrane	Thickness	Power density	Methanol	HFR
----------	-----------	---------------	----------	-----

	(μ)	at 0.4 V (mW/cm ²)	crossover (mA/cm ²)	(Ohm.cm ²)
Example 31	54	105	33	0.21
Example 32	52	120	37	0.19
Example 33	55	108	40	0.19
Example 34	53	102	33	0.22
Example 35	54	114	33	0.20
Example 36	50	122	49	0.16
Example 37	52	100	37	0.18

Example 38

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: 2,6-difluorobenzonitrile (6.10 g), SBisK (13.35 g), Oligomer 7 (22.21 g), 2,2'-Biphenol (15.83 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (15.27 g).

Example 39

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: 2,6-difluorobenzonitrile (5.88 g), SBisK (14.03 g), Oligomer 7 (22.21 g), 2,2'-Biphenol (15.83 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (15.27 g). MEA 27 contains this block copolymer.

Example 40

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: 2,6-difluorobenzonitrile (5.31 g), SBisK (13.88 g), Oligomer 7 (20.90 g), 2,2'-Biphenol (14.90 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (14.37 g).

Example 41

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: 2,6-difluorobenzonitrile (3.88 g), SBisK

(14.57 g), Oligomer 7 (29.39 g), 2,2'-Biphenol (13.96 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (13.48 g).

Example 42

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: 2,6-difluorobenzonitrile (3.66 g), SBisK (15.23 g), Oligomer 7 (29.39 g), 2,2'-Biphenol (13.96 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (13.47 g).

Example 43

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: 2,6-difluorobenzonitrile (3.18 g), SBisK (14.93 g), Oligomer 7 (27.43 g), 2,2'-Biphenol (13.03 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (12.58 g).

Example 44

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: 2,6-difluorobenzonitrile (1.92 g), SBisK (13.83 g), Oligomer 7 (31.35 g), 2,2'-Biphenol (11.17 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.78 g).

Example 45

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: 2,6-difluorobenzonitrile (1.71 g), SBisK (14.47 g), Oligomer 7 (31.35 g), 2,2'-Biphenol (11.17 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.78 g).

Example 46

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: 2,6-difluorobenzonitrile (1.47 g), SBisK (15.20 g), Oligomer 7 (31.35 g), 2,2'-Biphenol (11.17 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.78 g).

Example 47

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: 2,6-difluorobenzonitrile (3.62 g), SBisK (13.39 g), Oligomer 7 (16.98 g), Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,4-diisopropylbenzene (22.52 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (11.68 g).

Example 48

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: 2,6-difluorobenzonitrile (2.17 g), SBisK (14.49 g), Oligomer 7 (23.51 g), Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,4-diisopropylbenzene (20.78 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.78 g).

Table 6. Ex-situ Data Summary for Block Polymers 26-48

Membrane	IEC (meq/g)	$[\eta]_{25}$ (dL/g)	SW (%)	σ r.t./boiled (S/cm)	Methanol crossover r.t./boiled (mg.mil/ cc.min.cm ²)	Water uptake (%, w/w)	λ (H ₂ O/ H ⁺)
Example 38	1.20	2.77	17	0.026/0.033	NA/0.007	18	8
Example 39	1.25	1.92	24	0.031/0.033	NA/0.010	24	11
Example 40	1.30	1.91	26	0.037/0.046	NA	31	11
Example 41	1.20	2.23	30	0.029/0.036	NA/0.013	25	12
Example 42	1.25	2.13	21	0.034/0.046	NA/0.012	26	11
Example 43	1.30	1.29	27	0.037/0.052	NA	28	12
Example 44	1.20	1.36	22	0.030/0.038	NA	22	10
Example 45	1.25	0.93	25	0.031/0.044	NA	31	14
Example 46	1.30	0.81	25	0.037/0.047	NA	28	12
Example 47	1.20	1.13	31	0.023/0.035	NA/0.013	25	12

Example 48	1.20	0.93	33	0.024/0.036	NA/0.014	23	11
------------	------	------	----	-------------	----------	----	----

Table 7. In-Situ Data Summary for Block Polymers 38-44, 47 and 48

Membrane	Thickness (μ)	Power density at 0.4 V (mW/cm^2)	Methanol crossover (mA/cm^2)	HFR ($\text{Ohm}\cdot\text{cm}^2$)
Example 38	50	92	31	0.23
Example 39	47	118	36	0.20
Example 40	44	130	64	0.13
Example 41	56	110	39	0.22
Example 42	43	106	61	0.15
Example 43	49	112	57	0.14
Example 44	47	112	42	0.16
Example 47	52	106	39	0.22
Example 48	55	118	34	0.21

Example 49

F-ended Oligomer 8: DP = 6

This oligomer was synthesized in a similar way as described in the oligomer 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (65.46 g), 9,9-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)fluorene (87.60 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (26.95 g), 540 mL of DMSO and 270 mL of Toluene.

Example 50

A block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (3.97 g), SBisK (14.82 g), Oligomer 8 (22.78 g), Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,4-diisopropylbenzene (20.78 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.78 g).

Example 51

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (3.02 g), SBisK (12.90 g), Oligomer 8 (18.98 g), Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,4-diisopropylbenzene (17.32 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (8.98 g).

Example 52

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (2.70 g), SBisK (13.51 g), Oligomer 8 (18.98 g), Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,4-diisopropylbenzene (17.32 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (8.98 g).

Example 53

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (1.28 g), SBisK (13.34 g), Oligomer 8 (25.63 g), Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,4-diisopropylbenzene (15.59 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (8.08 g).

Example 54

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (0.95 g), SBisK (13.97 g), Oligomer 8 (25.63 g), Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,4-diisopropylbenzene (15.59 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (8.08 g).

Example 55

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (0.61 g), SBisK (14.63 g), Oligomer 8 (25.63 g), Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,4-diisopropylbenzene (15.59 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (8.08 g).

Example 56

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (5.34 g), SBisK (12.16 g), Oligomer 8 (22.78 g), 2,2'-Biphenol (11.17 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.78 g).

Example 57

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (4.65 g), SBisK (13.50 g), Oligomer 8 (22.78 g), BisZ (16.10 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.78 g).

Example 58

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (3.97 g), SBisK (14.82 g), Oligomer 8 (22.78 g), Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,4-diisopropylbenzene (20.78 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.78 g).

Table 8. Ex-situ Data Summary for Block Polymers 37-42

Membrane	IEC (meq/g)	$[\eta]_{25}$ (dL/g)	SW (%)	σ r.t./boiled (S/cm)	Methanol crossover r.t./boiled (mg.mil/ cc.min.cm ²)	Water uptake (%, w/w)	λ (H ₂ O/ H ⁺)
Example 50	1.20	1.09	28	0.020/0.033	0.007/0.026	28	13
Example 51	1.25	0.97	31	0.024/0.037	0.008/0.017	27	12
Example 52	1.30	0.86	40	0.029/0.046	0.011/0.020	28	12
Example 53	1.20	0.89	27	0.021/0.033	0.006/0.019	23	11
Example 54	1.25	1.02	29	0.025/0.037	0.008/0.030	25	11
Example 55	1.30	1.18	33	0.028/0.044	0.008/0.032	27	12

Example 59

OH-ended Oligomer 9: DP = 4

This oligomer 9 was synthesized in a similar way as described in the oligomer 17 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (43.90 g), 9,9-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)fluorene (94.00 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (48.20 g), 540 mL of DMSO and 270 mL of Toluene.

Example 60

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (9.37 g), SBisK (15.64 g), Oligomer 9 (19.72 g), BisZ (19.32 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (14.37 g).

Example 61

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (5.04 g), SBisK (15.59 g), Oligomer 9 (29.58 g), BisZ (12.88 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.78 g).

Example 62

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 13 synthesis, using following compositions: BisK (2.54 g), SBisK (16.22 g), Oligomer 9 (36.97 g), BisZ (9.39 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (8.98 g).

Table 9. Ex-situ Data Summary for Block Polymers 43-45

Membrane	IEC (meq/g)	$[\eta]_{25}$ (dL/g)	SW (%)	σ r.t./boiled (S/cm)	Methanol crossover r.t./boiled (mg.mil/ cc.min.cm ²)	Water uptake (%, w/w)	λ (H ₂ O/ H ⁺)
Example 60	1.25	0.85	30	0.021/0.032	0.015	25	12
Example 61	1.25	0.53	31	0.024/0.034	0.022	28	13
Example 62	1.25	0.56	33	0.019/0.029	0.013	26	12

Table 10. In-Situ Data Summary for Block Polymers 2, 43-47.

Membrane	Power density at 0.4 V (mW/cm ²)	Methanol crossover (mA/cm ²)	HFR (Ohm.cm ²)
----------	--	--	-------------------------------

Example 2	83	53	0.15
Example 43	87	65	0.20
Example 44	90	96	0.19
Example 45	103	31	0.21
Example 46	93	33	0.25
Example 47	73	25	0.24

MEA testing conditions: 3 mg/cm² Pt-Ru in anode, 2 mg/cm² Pt in cathode, 60 °C cell temperature, 2.5 stoichiometric air flow, 1M methanol fuel.

The following examples provide further support for the types of reactions and polymers described throughout this specification.

Example 63

Oligomer 10: DP = 4

This oligomer was synthesized in a similar way as described for oligomer 10, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 34.91 g, 0.16 mol), 9,9-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)fluorene (42.05 g, 0.12 mol), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (25.87 g, 0.187 mol), 220 mL of DMSO and 110 mL of toluene.

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in Example 1, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 7.75 g, 0.0355 mol), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone ((SBisK, 15.00 g, 0.0355 mol), Oligomer 1 (20.90 g), BisZ (21.47 g, 0.08 mol), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (14.37 g, 0.10 mol), 250 mL of DMSO and 125 mL of toluene. This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 0.49 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl). Its one-day swelling in 8 M methanol at 80°C was 52%, cross-over in 8 M methanol was 0.016 mg.mil/cc.min.cm² (non-boiled, conductivity was 0.013 S/cm (non-boiled) and 0.034 S/cm (boiled).

Example 64

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in example 1, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 5.72 g, 0.026 mol), 3,3'-

- 50 -

disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone ((SBisK, 17.04 g, 0.040 mol), Oligomer 10 (19.59 g), BisZ (20.12 g, 0.075 mol), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (13.47 g, 0.097 mol), 250 mL of DMSO and 125 mL of Toluene. This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 0.72 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl).

Example 65

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in example 1, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 4.68 g, 0.021 mol), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone (SBisK, 19.06 g, 0.045 mol), Oligomer 10 (19.59 g), 9,9-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)fluorine (26.28 g, 0.075 mol), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (13.47 g, 0.097 mol), 250 mL of DMSO and 125 mL of Toluene.

Example 66

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in example 1, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 4.68 g, 0.021 mol), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone (SBisK, 19.06 g, 0.040 mol), Oligomer 10 (19.59 g), bisphenol (13.96 g, 0.075 mol), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (13.47 g, 0.075 mol), 250 mL of DMSO and 125 mL of toluene.

Example 67

This example illustrates block copolymer system using BisK-O block in the non-ionic region, and SBisK-Z in ionic region, the non-ionic region consists of 11%. Size 6 of BisK-O block.

Oligomer 11: DP = 6

This oligomer was synthesized in a similar way as described for oligomer 10, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 65.46 g, 0.30 mol), 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenyl ether (0, 50.55 g, 0.25 mol), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (44.92 g, 0.325 mol), 540 mL of DMSO and 270 mL of toluene.

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in example 1, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 6.51 g, 0.030 mol), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone (SBisK, 17.40 g, 0.041 mol), Oligomer 11 (22.40 g), BisZ (21.47 g, 0.08 mol), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (14.37 g, 0.10 mol), 250 mL of DMSO and 125 mL of toluene.

Example 68

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in example 1, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 4.68 g, 0.021 mol), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone (SBisK, 19.06 g, 0.040 mol), Oligomer 2 (19.59 g), 1,5-dihydroxynaphthalene (12.01 g, 0.075 mol), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (13.47 g, 0.097 mol), 250 mL of DMSO and 125 mL of toluene.

Examples 69-75 illustrate block copolymer system using same BisK-Z in non-ionic region, but sBisK with various aryl phenol groups block having different chain mobility and chemical affinity in the ionic region. The non-ionic block size is 8 and block concentration is 11%.

Example 69 *illustrates ionic region consist of sBisK-Z unit:*

Oligomer 12: DP = 8

This oligomer 12 was synthesized in a similar way as described in oligomer 1, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 65.46 g, 0.3 mol), BisZ (70.44 g, 0.262 mol), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (17.97 g, 0.13 mol), 540 mL of anhydrous DMSO (270 mL) of toluene. This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in example 1, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 4.57 g, 0.021 mol), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone (SBisZ 17.41 g, 0.041 mol), Oligomer 12 (29.72 g), BisZ (18.78 g, 0.07 mol), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (12.57 g, 0.091 mol), 270 mL of anhydrous DMSO and 135 mL of toluene. This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 0.62 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl).

Example 70 *illustrates ionic region consist of sBisK-FL unit:*

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in example 1, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 3.91 g, 0.0179 mol), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone (SBisK, 14.92 g, 0.06 mol), Oligomer 12 (25.27 g), 9,9-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)fluorene (21.02 g, 0.07 mol), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.78 g, 0.078 mol), 250 mL of DMSO and 125 mL of toluene. This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 0.84 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl).

Example 71 *illustrates ionic region consist of sBisK-AF unit:*

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in example 1, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 3.91 g, 0.0179 mol), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone ((SBisK, 14.92 g, 0.035 mol), Oligomer 12 (25.47 g), 4,4'-(Hexafluoroisopropylidene)-diphenol (20.17 g, 0.06 mol), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.78 g, 0.078 mol), 250 mL of DMSO and 125 mL of toluene.

This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 0.47 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl).

Example 72 *illustrates ionic region consisting of sBisK-B unit:*

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in example 1, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 4.57 g, 0.021 mol), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone (SBisK, 17.41 g, 0.041 mol), Oligomer 12 (29.72 g), 4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl (13.03 g, 0.07 mol), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (12.57 g, 0.091 mol), 250 mL of DMSO and 125 mL of toluene. This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 1.01 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl).

Example 73 *illustrates ionic region consisting of sBisK-O unit:*

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in example 1, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 4.57 g, 0.021 mol), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone ((SBisK, 17.41 g, 0.041 mol), Oligomer 12

(29.72 g), 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenyl ether (14.15 g, 0.07 mol), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (12.57 g, 0.091 mol), 250 mL of DMSO and 125 mL of toluene. This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 0.94 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl).

Example 74

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in example 1, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 1.298 g, 0.0059 mol), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone (SBisK, 23.736 g, 0.056 mol), Oligomer 12 (29.72 g), 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenyl (13.03 g, 0.07 mol), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (12.57 g, 0.091 mol), 250 mL of DMSO and 125 mL of toluene. This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 1.35 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl).

Example 75

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in example 1, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 3.91 g, 0.018 mol), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone (SBisK, 14.92 g, 0.035 mol), Oligomer 12 (25.47 g), 1,5-dihydroxynaphthalene (9.61 g, 0.060 mol), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.71 g, 0.078 mol), 206 mL of DMSO and 103 mL of Toluene. This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 1.10 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl).

Table 11 summarizes the impact of the chain length and flexible in the ionic region on the final membrane properties from Examples 10-16.

Polymer	One-day Swelling (%)	Cross-over in 8M Methanol (mg.mil/cc.min.cm ²) (Non-boiled/boiled)	Conductivity (S/cm) (Non-boiled/boiled)
Example 7	116	0.034/0.081	0.38/0.055
Example 8	46	0.025/0.020	0.026/0.045
Example 9	141	0.0320/0.11	0.025/0.35
Example 10	47	0.036	0.047/0.075

Example 11	155	0.038/0.11	0.059/0.058
Example 12	62	0.026/0.046	0.061/0.085
Example 13	94	0.056/0.098	0.10/0.11

Example 76 illustrates block copolymer system using BisK-Z block in the non-ionic region, and multi components (more than 2 unit) in the ionic region, in comparison of random copolymer of multi components system.

Example 76

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in example 1, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 3.91 g, 0.0179 mol), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone ((SBisK, 14.92 g, 0.035 mol), Oligomer 12 (25.27 g), BisZ (8.05 g, 0.035 mol), 9,9-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)fluorene (10.51 g, 0.035 mol), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.78 g, 0.078 mol), 250 mL of DMSO and 125 mL of toluene. This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 1.02 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl). Its one-day swelling in 8 M methanol at 80°C was 63%, cross-over in 8 M methanol was 0.036 mg.mil/cc.min.cm² (non-boiled) and 0.038 mg.mil/cc.min.cm² (boiled), conductivity was 0.026 S/cm (non-boiled) and 0.047 S/cm (boiled).

Example 77

Oligomer 13 (FL4): DP = 4

In a 500 mL three necked round flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, a thermometer probe connected with a nitrogen inlet, and a Dean-Stark trap/condenser, 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 34.91 g, 0.16 mol), 9,9-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)fluorene (42.05 g, 0.12 mol), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (25.87 g, 0.187 mol), 220 mL of DMSO and 110 mL of Toluene. The reaction mixture was slowly stirred under a slow nitrogen stream. After heating at ~85 °C for

- 55 -

1 h and at ~120 °C for 1 h, the reaction temperature was raised to ~135 °C for 3 h, and finally to ~170 °C for 2 h. After cooling to ~70 °C with continuing stirring, the solution was dropped into 1L of cooled methanol with a vigorous stirring. The precipitates were filtrated and washed with DI-water four times and dried at 80 °C overnight, and then dried at 80 °C under vacuum for 2 days.

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in the oligomer 1 synthesis, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 4.68 g), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone (SBisK, 19.06 g), Oligomer 13 (19.59 g), 9,9-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)fluorene (26.28 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (13.48 g), 240 mL of DMSO and 120 mL of Toluene. This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 1.00 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl).

Example 78

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in the oligomer 10 synthesis, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 4.68 g), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone (SBisK, 19.06 g), Oligomer 10 (19.59 g), 4,4'-biphenol (13.97 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (13.48 g), 240 mL of DMSO and 120 mL of Toluene. This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 1.89 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl).

Example 79

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in the oligomer 1 synthesis, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 4.68 g), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone (SBisK, 19.06 g), Oligomer 10 (19.59 g), 2,7-dihydroxynaphthalene (12.01 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (13.48 g), 240 mL of DMSO and 120 mL of Toluene. This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 1.00 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl).

Example 80

Oligomer 14 (A8): DP = 8

This oligomer was synthesized in a similar way as described in the oligomer 1 synthesis, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 87.28 g), 4,4'-(1,4-phenylenediisopropylidene)bisphenol (79.90 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (62.88 g), 560 mL of DMSO and 280 mL of Toluene.

A block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in the oligomer 1 synthesis, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 1.94 g), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone (SBisK, 7.50 g), Oligomer 14 (11.66 g), 9,9-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)fluorene (10.51 g), and

- 57 -

anhydrous potassium carbonate (5.39 g), 120 mL of DMSO and 60 mL of Toluene. This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 0.84 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl).

Example 81

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in the oligomer 1 synthesis, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 1.94 g), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone (SBisK, 7.50 g), Oligomer 14 (11.66 g), 4,4'-biphenol (5.58 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (5.39 g), 120 mL of DMSO and 60 mL of Toluene. This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 1.12 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl).

Example 82

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in the oligomer 1 synthesis, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 1.94 g), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone (SBisK, 7.50 g), Oligomer 14 (11.66 g), 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)cyclohexane (8.05 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (5.39 g), 120 mL of DMSO and 60 mL of Toluene. This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 0.64 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl).

Example 83

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in the oligomer 1 synthesis, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 0.64 g), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone (SBisK, 11.88 g), Oligomer 14 (13.60 g), 9,9-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)fluorene (12.26 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (6.29 g), 150 mL of DMSO and 75 mL of Toluene. This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 0.68 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl).

Example 84

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in the oligomer 1 synthesis, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 1.94 g),

- 58 -

3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone (SBisK, 7.50 g), Oligomer 14 (11.66 g), 4,4'-(1,4-phenylenediisopropylidene)bisphenol (6.85 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (5.39 g), 120 mL of DMSO and 60 mL of Toluene. This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 0.84 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl).

Example 85

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in the oligomer 1 synthesis, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 2.42 g), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone (SBisK, 9.37 g), Oligomer 14 (14.57 g), 2,7-dihydroxynaphthalene (6.00 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (6.74 g), 120 mL of DMSO and 60 mL of Toluene. This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 0.97 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl).

Example 86

Oligomer 15 (AF8): DP = 8

This oligomer was synthesized in a similar way as described in the oligomer 1 synthesis, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 87.28 g), 4,4'-(hexafluoroisopropylidene)diphenol (117.69 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (62.88 g), 560 mL of DMSO and 280 mL of Toluene.

Example 87

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in the oligomer 1 synthesis, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (BisK, 3.88 g), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone (SBisK, 15.00 g), Oligomer 15 (29.12 g), 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)cyclohexane (16.10 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.78 g), 240 mL of DMSO and 120 mL of Toluene. This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 0.72 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl).

Example 88

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in the oligomer 1 synthesis, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophenone (BisK, 3.55 g), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophenone (SBisK, 13.75 g), Oligomer 15 (26.70 g), 9,9-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)fluorene (19.27 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (9.88 g), 240 mL of DMSO and 120 mL of Toluene. This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 0.50 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl).

Example 89

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in the oligomer 1 synthesis, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophenone (BisK, 4.20 g), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophenone (SBisK, 16.25 g), Oligomer 15 (31.55 g), 4,4'-biphenol (12.10 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (11.68 g), 240 mL of DMSO and 120 mL of Toluene. This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 1.29 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl).

Example 90

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in the oligomer 1 synthesis, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophenone (BisK, 3.55 g), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophenone (SBisK, 13.75 g), Oligomer 15 (26.70 g), 4,4'-(hexafluoroisopropylidene)diphenol (18.49 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (9.88 g), 240 mL of DMSO and 120 mL of Toluene. This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 0.54 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl).

Example 91

This block polymer was synthesized in a similar way as described in the oligomer 1 synthesis, using following compositions: 4,4'-difluorobenzophenone (BisK, 4.20 g), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophenone (SBisK, 16.25 g), Oligomer 15 (31.55 g), 2,7-dihydroxynaphthalene (10.41 g), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (11.68 g),

- 60 -

240 mL of DMSO and 120 mL of Toluene. This polymer has an inherent viscosity of 1.08 dl/g in DMAc (0.25 g/dl).

Synthesis of Regular Block Copolymers

When the preparation of the fluorine-terminated oligomer was complete, the solution was cooled to 120°C, and introduced directly into a reaction flask containing the phenoxide-terminated oligomer under nitrogen atmosphere. To obtain the equivalent molar molar ration of a phenoxide end-groups and fluorine end-groups, the phenoxide-terminated oligomer reaction flask was washed three times with 20ml DMSO, and the solution was combined and also poured in the reaction flask. Then the temperature was again raised to 175-180°C, and maintained there for 6h. The reaction mixture was filtered and a solid precipitated from acetone or methanol to get the crude product, then washed by hot water four times.

Conductivity: 0.046S/cm, swelling by area in 8M methanol: 88%, 8M methanol cross-over: $8.3 \times 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^2/\text{sec}$.

Example 92

Synthesis of partial block polymer with non-sulfonated hydrophobic segment

Fluorine end group oligomer 16 preparation (Segment size $n=4$)

In a 500ml three necked round flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermometer, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (80.508), Bis K(87.28g), anhydrous potassium carbonate (54g) were dissolved in a mixture DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 4h, then increase temperature to 175°C for 4h. The oligomer precipitates from methanol to get the rude product, then washed by hot water four times. Dry at 80°C oven for one day and 75°C vacuum oven for 2 days.

Polymerization

In a 500ml three necked round flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermometer, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (13.418g), Bis K (4.8878g), S-Bis K (9.2884g), oligomer 16 (11.2112g), anhydrous potassium carbonate (9.0g) were dissolved in a mixture DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173–175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture precipitates from methanol to get the crude product.

Conductivity: 0.015S/cm, Swelling by area in 8M methanol solution: 51%, 8M Methanol Cross-over: $3.5 \times 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^2/\text{sec}$.

Example 93

Synthesis of partial block polymer with non-sulfonated hydrophobic segment

Fluorine end group oligomer 17 (BisZ/BisK) preparation (segment size $n=4$)

In a 500ml three necked round flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermometer, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (80.508g), Bis K (87.28g), anhydrous potassium carbonate (54g) were dissolved in a mixture DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 4h, then increase temperature to 175°C for 4h. The reaction mixture precipitates from methanol to get the crude product, and then washed by hot water four times. Dry at 80°C oven for one day and 75°C vacuum oven for 2 days.

Polymerization

In a 500ml three necked round flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermometer, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (13.418g), BisK (5.2368g), S-Bis K (8.4444g), oligomer 17 (12.0112g, $n=4$, fluorine end of BisZ/BisK composition), anhydrous potassium carbonate (9.0g) were dissolved in a

- 62 -

mixture DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture precipitates from methanol to get the rude product.

Conductivity: 0.014S/cm (0.038 S/cm, boiled), swelling by area in 8M methanol: 60%, 8M methanol cross-over: 0.019 mg/min.ml.mls.

Example 94

In a 500ml three necked round flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermometer, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (13.418), BisK (4.8878g), S-Bis K(9.2884g), oligomer 17 (11.2112g, n=4, fluorine end of BisZ/BisK composition), anhydrous potassium carbonate (9.0g) were dissolved in a mixture DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture precipitates from methanol to get the rude product.

Conductivity: 0.0146S/cm (0.0378 S/cm, boiled), swelling by area in 8M methanol: 51%, 8M methanol cross-over: 0.022 mg/min.ml.mls.

Example 95

Synthesis of partial block polymer with non-sulfonated hydrophobic segment

Fluorine end group oligomer 18 preparation (segment size $n=6$)

In a 500ml three necked round flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermometer, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (89.4533g), 4,4'-difluorobenzophone (Bis K, 87.28g), anhydrous potassium carbonate (54g) were dissolved in a mixture DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 4h, then increase temperature to 175°C for 4h. The reaction mixture precipitates from methanol to get the rude product, and then washed by hot water four times. Dry at 80C oven for one day and 75C vacuum oven for 2days.

Polymerization

In a 500ml three necked round flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermometer, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (13.418), Bis K(4.8878g), 3,3'-disulfonated-4,4'-difluorobenzophone (S-Bis K, 8.444g), oligomer(9.953g, $n=6$, fluorine end of BisZ/BisK composition), anhydrous potassium carbonate (9.0g) were dissolved in a mixture DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture precipitates from methanol to get the rude product.

Example 96

In a 500ml three necked round flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermometer, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, 4,4'-Biphenol (9.3105), Bis K(4.8878g), S-Bis K(9.2884g), oligomer 18 (11.2112g, n=4, fluorine end of BisZ/BisK composition), anhydrous potassium carbonate (9.0g) were dissolved in a mixture DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture precipitates from methanol to get the rude product.

Conductivity: 0.012S/cm(0.0211 S/cm, boiled), swelling by area in 8M methanol: 21%,

Example 97

In a 500ml three necked round flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermometer, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, 4,4'-Biphenol (8.3794g), Bis K(1.2444g), S-Bis K(12.9794g), oligomer 18 (18.00g, n=4, fluorine end of BisZ/BisK composition), anhydrous potassium carbonate (9.0g) were dissolved in a mixture DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture precipitates from methanol to get the rude product.

Conductivity: 0.0427S/cm(0.078S/cm, boiled), swelling by area in 8M methanol: 61%, 8M methanol cross-over: 0.052 mg/min.ml.mls.

Example 98

In a 500ml three necked round flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermometer, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, 4,4'-Biphenol (8.3794g), Bis K(1.1032g), S-Bis K(13.6625g), oligomer 18 (15.1777g, n=4, fluorine end of BisZ/BisK composition), anhydrous potassium carbonate (9.0g) were dissolved in a

- 65 -

mixture DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture precipitates from methanol to get the rude product.

Conductivity: 0.067S/cm(0.096 S/cm, boiled), swelling by area in 8M methanol: 72%, 8M methanol cross-over: 0.06 mg/min.ml.mls.

Example 99

In a 500ml three necked round flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermometer, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, 4,4'-Biphenol (8.3794), Bis K(0.3078g), S-Bis K(15.0287g), oligomer 18 (16.0714g, n=4, fluorine end of BisZ/BisK composition), anhydrous potassium carbonate (9.0g) were dissolved in a mixture DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture precipitates from methanol to get the rude product.

Conductivity: 0.072S/cm(0.0922 S/cm, boiled), swelling by area in 8M methanol: 98%, 8M methanol cross-over: 0.067 mg/min.ml.mls.

Example 100

In a 500ml three necked round flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermometer, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, 4,4'-(Hexafluoroisopropylidene)-diphenol (6F, 16.8065g), Bis K(4.8878g), S-Bis K(9.2884g), oligomer 18 (11.2112g, n=4, fluorine end of BisZ/BisK composition), anhydrous potassium carbonate (9.0g) were dissolved in a mixture DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture precipitates from methanol to get the rude product.

- 66 -

Conductivity: 0.007S/cm(0.0122 S/cm, boiled), swelling by area in 8M methanol: 24%, 8M methanol cross-over: 0.016 mg/min.ml.mls.

Example 101

Synthesis of partial block polymer with non-sulfonated hydrophobic segment

Fluorine end group oligomer 19 (6F/BisK) preparation (segment size $n=4$)

In a 500ml three necked round flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermometer, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, 4,4'-(Hexafluoroisopropylidene)-diphenol (6F, 100.839g), Bis K(87.28g), anhydrous potassium carbonate (54g) were dissolved in a mixture DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 4h, then increase temperature to 175°C for 4h. The reaction mixture precipitates from methanol to get the rude product, and then washed by hot water four times. Dry at 80C oven for one day and 75C vacuum oven for 2days

Polymerization

In a 500ml three necked round flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermometer, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (13.418), Bis K(4.8878g), S-Bis K(9.2884g), oligomer 19 (12.7333g, $n=4$, fluorine end of 6F/BisK composition), anhydrous potassium carbonate (9.0g) were dissolved in a mixture DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture precipitates from methanol to get the rude product.

Conductivity: 0.0114S/cm(0.0321 S/cm, boiled), swelling by area in 8M methanol: 38%, 8M methanol cross-over: 0.013 mg/min.ml.mls.

Example 102

In a 500ml three necked round flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermometer, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, 4,4'-(1,4-phenyldiisopropylidene)bisphenol (17.30g), Bis K(4.8878g), S-Bis K(9.2884g), oligomer 19 (12.733g, n=4, fluorine end of 6F/BisK composition), anhydrous potassium carbonate (9.0g) were dissolved in a mixture DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture precipitates from methanol to get the rude product.

Conductivity: 0.0102S/cm(0.0215 S/cm, boiled), swelling by area in 8M methanol: 37%

Example 103

Synthesis of partial block polymer with non-sulfonated hydrophobic segment

Fluorine end group oligomer 20 (6F/BisK) preparation (segment size n=8)

In a 500ml three necked round flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermometer, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, 4,4'-

- 68 -

(Hexafluoroisopropylidene)-diphenol (6F, 117.6455g), Bis K(87.28g), anhydrous potassium carbonate (54g) were dissolved in a mixture DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 4h, then increase temperature to 175°C for 4h. The reaction mixture precipitates from methanol to get the rude product, and then washed by hot water four times. Dry at 80C oven for one day and 75C vacuum oven for 2days

Polymerization

In a 500ml three necked round flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermometer, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (13.418), Bis K(3.2729g), S-Bis K(12.4151g), oligomer 20 (24.2454g, n=8, fluorine end of 6F/BisK composition), anhydrous potassium carbonate (9.0g) were dissolved in a mixture DMSO and Toluene (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture precipitates from methanol to get the rude product.

Conductivity: 0.011S/cm(0.0211S/cm, boiled), swelling by area in 8M methanol: 37%, 8M methanol cross-over: 0.023 mg/min.ml.mls.

Example 104

Following examples demonstrate the effect of various block size and sulfonation degree

Oligomer 21 Preparation (Block size n = 4)

In a 2L three necked round bottom flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermocouple, heating mantle, controller, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (80.508), Bis K(87.28g), anhydrous potassium carbonate (71.86g) were dissolved in a mixture DMSO and toluene, 720 ml and 360 ml respectively (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene

reflux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 4h, then increasing the temperature to 175°C for 4h. The reaction mixture was precipitated into 2 L of methanol to get the crude product; then washed with hot DI water four times. The product was oven dried at 80°C for one day and vacuum dried at 75°C for 2 days.

Polymerization

In a 500ml three necked round bottom flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermocouple, heating mantle, controller, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (13.418), Bis K(4.8878g), S-Bis K sodium salt (9.2902g), oligomer 21 ($n = 4$) (11.2112g), anhydrous potassium carbonate (17.9g) were dissolved in a mixture dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) (180 ml) and toluene (90 ml) (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture was precipitated into 2 L of methanol. The polymer was then washed with DI water 4 times. The product was oven dried at 80C for one day and vacuum dried at 75C for 2 days. The dried sample (0.1250g) was in 25 ml of dimethylacetamide (DMAc) to determine inherent viscosity. The inherent viscosity of the sodium salt polymer was found to be 0.67 dL/g. A sample was prepared for GPC analysis by dissolving 50 mg of polymer in 20 ml of DMAc containing 0.1M LiBr. The sample was found to have a peak molecular weight of about 46, 350 based upon polystyrene standards.

Example 105

In a 500ml three necked round bottom flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermocouple, heating mantle, controller, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (13.418), Bis K(6.0441g), S-Bis K sodium salt (7.0521g), oligomer 21 ($n = 4$) (17.2480g), anhydrous potassium carbonate (17.9g) were dissolved in a mixture dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) (180 ml) and toluene (90 ml) (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-

- 70 -

175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture was precipitated into 2 L of methanol. The polymer was then washed with DI water 4 times. The product was oven dried at 80°C for one day and vacuum dried at 75°C for 2 days. The dried sample (0.1250g) was in 25 ml of dimethylacetamide (DMAc) to determine inherent viscosity. The inherent viscosity of the sodium salt polymer was found to be 0.49 dL/g.

Example 106

In a 500ml three necked round bottom flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermocouple, heating mantle, controller, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (13.418g), Bis K(3.8621g), S-Bis K sodium salt (11.2750g), oligomer 21 ($n = 4$) (17.2481g), anhydrous potassium carbonate (17.9g) were dissolved in a mixture dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) (180 ml) and toluene (90 ml) (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture was precipitated into 2 L of methanol. The polymer was then washed with DI water 4 times. The product was oven dried at 80°C for one day and vacuum dried at 75°C for 2 days. The dried sample (0.1250g) was in 25 ml of dimethylacetamide (DMAc) to determine inherent viscosity. The inherent viscosity of the sodium salt polymer was found to be 0.643 dL/g.

Example 107

Oligomer 22 Preparation (Block size $n = 8$)

In a 2L three necked round bottom flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermocouple, heating mantle, controller, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (70.4445g), Bis K(65.4600g), anhydrous potassium carbonate (47.1912g) were dissolved in a mixture DMSO and toluene, 540 ml and 270 ml respectively (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene reflux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 4h, then increasing the temperature to 175°C for 4h. The reaction mixture was precipitated into 2 L of

methanol to get the crude product; then washed with hot DI water four times. The product was oven dried at 80°C for one day and vacuum dried at 75°C for 2 days.

Polymerization

In a 500ml three necked round bottom flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermocouple, heating mantle, controller, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (13.4180g), Bis K(3.2729g), S-Bis K sodium salt (12.4151g), oligomer 22 ($n = 8$) (21.2299g), anhydrous potassium carbonate (17.9g) were dissolved in a mixture dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) (180 ml) and toluene (90 ml) (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture was precipitated into 2 L of methanol. The polymer was then washed with DI water 4 times. The product was oven dried at 80°C for one day and vacuum dried at 75°C for 2 days. The dried sample (0.1250g) was in 25 ml of dimethylacetamide (DMAc) to determine inherent viscosity. The inherent viscosity of the sodium salt polymer was found to be 0.90 dL/g.

Example 108

In a 500ml three necked round bottom flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermocouple, heating mantle, controller, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (13.4180g), Bis K(4.8223g), S-Bis K sodium salt (9.4169g), oligomer 22 ($n = 8$) (21.2296g), anhydrous potassium carbonate (17.9g) were dissolved in a mixture dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) (180 ml) and toluene (90 ml) (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture was precipitated into 2 L of methanol. The polymer was then washed with DI water 4 times. The product was oven dried at 80°C for one day and vacuum dried at 75°C for 2 days. The dried sample (0.1250g) was in 25 ml of dimethylacetamide (DMAc) to determine inherent viscosity. The inherent viscosity of the sodium salt polymer was found to be 0.935 dL/g. A sample was

prepared for GPC analysis by dissolving 50 mg of polymer in 20 ml of DMAc containing 0.1M LiBr. The sample was found to have a peak molecular weight of about 106,040 based upon polystyrene standards.

Example 109

In a 500ml three necked round bottom flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermocouple, heating mantle, controller, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (13.4180g), Bis K(1.8984g), S-Bis K sodium salt (15.0757g), oligomer 22 ($n = 8$) (21.2296g), anhydrous potassium carbonate (17.9g) were dissolved in a mixture dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) (180 ml) and toluene (90 ml) (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture was precipitated into 2 L of methanol. The polymer was then washed with DI water 4 times. The product was oven dried at 80°C for one day and vacuum dried at 75°C for 2 days. The dried sample (0.1250g) was in 25 ml of dimethylacetamide (DMAc) to determine inherent viscosity. The inherent viscosity of the sodium salt polymer was found to be 0.992 dL/g.

Example 110**Oligomer 23 Preparation (Block size $n = 2$)**

In a 2L three necked round bottom flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermocouple, heating mantle, controller, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (53.6721g), Bis K(87.2800g), anhydrous potassium carbonate (71.8692g) were dissolved in a mixture DMSO and toluene, 750 ml and 360 ml respectively (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene reflux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 4h, then increasing the temperature to 175°C for 4h. The reaction mixture was precipitated into 2 L of methanol to get the crude product; then washed with hot DI water four times. The product was oven dried at 80°C for one day and vacuum dried at 75°C for 2 days.

Example 111

In a 500ml three necked round bottom flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermocouple, heating mantle, controller, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (20.1270g), Bis K(8.5424g), S-Bis K sodium salt (11.5917g), oligomer 23 ($n = 2$) (6.2215), anhydrous potassium carbonate (17.9g) were dissolved in a mixture dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) (190 ml) and toluene (100 ml) (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture was precipitated into 2 L of methanol. The polymer was then washed with DI water 4 times. The product was oven dried at 80C for one day and vacuum dried at 75C for 2 days. The dried sample (0.1250g) was in 25 ml of dimethylacetamide (DMAc) to determine inherent viscosity. The inherent viscosity of the sodium salt polymer was found to be 0.466 dL/g.

Example 112

In a 500ml three necked round bottom flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermocouple, heating mantle, controller, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (20.1270g), Bis K(9.9827g), S-Bis K sodium salt (8.8046g), oligomer 23 ($n = 2$) (6.2214g), anhydrous potassium carbonate (27.0629g) were dissolved in a mixture dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) (180 ml) and toluene (90 ml) (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture was precipitated into 2 L of methanol. The polymer was then washed with DI water 4 times. The product was oven dried at 80C for one day and vacuum dried at 75C for 2 days.

Example 113

In a 500ml three necked round bottom flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermocouple, heating mantle, controller, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (20.1270g), Bis K(7.2661), S-Bis K sodium salt (14.0620g),

- 74 -

oligomer 23 ($n = 2$) (6.2217g), anhydrous potassium carbonate (13.4759g) were dissolved in a mixture dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) (180 ml) and toluene (90 ml) (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture was precipitated into 2 L of methanol. The polymer was then washed with DI water 4 times.

Example 114**Oligomer 24 Preparation (Block size $n = 12$)**

In a 1L three necked round bottom flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermocouple, heating mantle, controller, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (73.7990g), Bis K(65.4600g), anhydrous potassium carbonate (53.9019g) were dissolved in a mixture DMSO and toluene, 540 ml and 270 ml respectively (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene reflux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 4h, then increasing the temperature to 175°C for 4h. The reaction mixture was precipitated into 2 L of methanol to get the crude product; then washed with hot DI water four times. The product was oven dried at 80C for one day and vacuum dried at 75C for 2 days.

- 75 -

In a 500ml three necked round bottom flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermocouple, heating mantle, controller, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (20.1270g), S-Bis K sodium salt (28.1240g), oligomer 24 ($n = 12$) (31.2316g), anhydrous potassium carbonate (13.5589g) were dissolved in a mixture dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) (300 ml) and toluene (100 ml) (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture was precipitated into 2 L of methanol. The polymer was then washed with DI water 4 times. The dried sample (0.1250g) was in 25 ml of dimethylacetamide (DMAc) to determine inherent viscosity. The inherent viscosity of the sodium salt polymer was found to be 0.490 dL/g.

Example 115

In a 500ml three necked round bottom flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermocouple, heating mantle, controller, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (16.1017g), Bis K (6.3366g), S-Bis K sodium salt (11.6552g), oligomer 24 ($n = 8$) (12.7379g), anhydrous potassium carbonate (10.7841g) were dissolved in a mixture dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) (200 ml) and toluene (100 ml) (about 20% solid concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture was precipitated into 2 L of methanol. The polymer was then washed with DI water 4 times. The polymer was found to have an inherent viscosity of 0.66 dL/g in the proton form.

Example 116

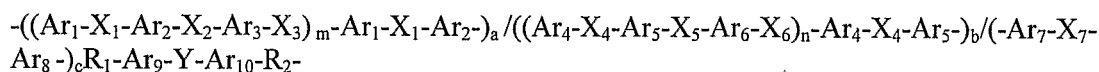
In a 500ml three necked round bottom flask, equipped with a mechanical stirrer, thermocouple, heating mantle, controller, nitrogen inlet and Dean-Stark trap/condenser, Bis Z (13.4180 g), S-Bis K sodium salt (17.5670 g), oligomer 24 ($n = 8$) (31.8444 g), anhydrous potassium carbonate (8.9837 g) were dissolved in a mixture dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) (250 ml) and toluene (125 ml) (about 20% solid

- 76 -

concentration). The mixture was heated to toluene flux with stirring, keeping the temperature at 140°C for 6h, then increase temperature to 173-175°C for 4-4.5h. The reaction mixture was precipitated into 2 L of methanol. The polymer was then washed with DI water 4 times. The polymer was found to have an inherent viscosity of 0.83 dL/g in the proton form.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

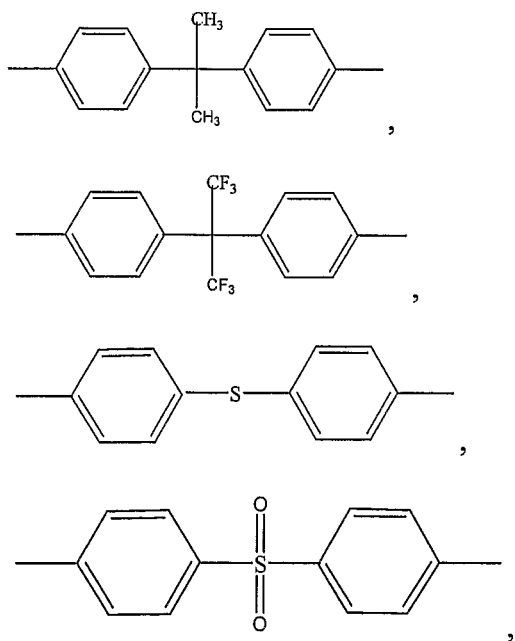
1. An ion conductive copolymer comprising at least one hydrophobic oligomer and an ion conducting monomer randomly distributed within a polymeric backbone.
2. The ion conductive copolymer of claim 1, wherein said copolymer comprises at least two different hydrophobic oligomers.
3. An ion conductive copolymer having the formula:



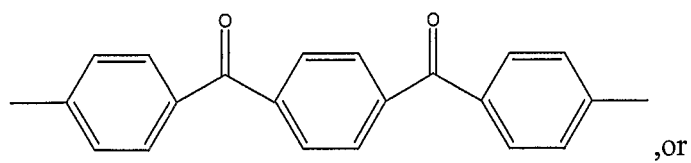
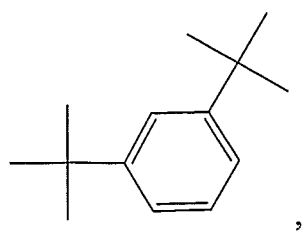
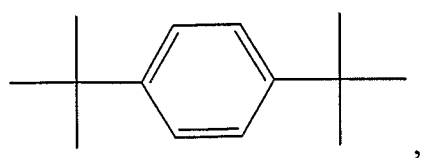
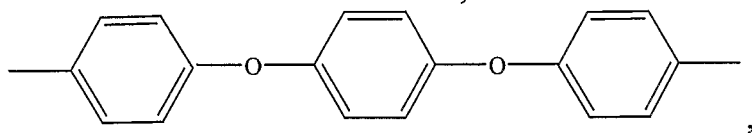
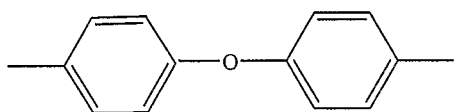
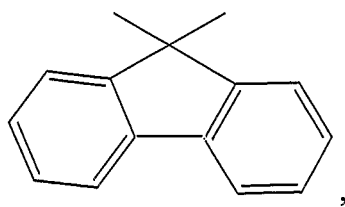
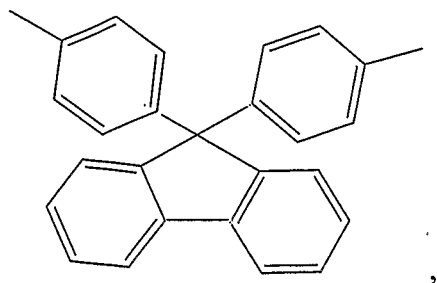
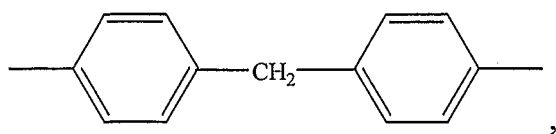
where $-((\text{Ar}_1\text{-X}_1\text{-Ar}_2\text{-X}_2\text{-Ar}_3\text{-X}_3)_m\text{-Ar}_1\text{-X}_1\text{-Ar}_2\text{-})_a$ and $((\text{Ar}_4\text{-X}_4\text{-Ar}_5\text{-X}_5\text{-Ar}_6\text{-X}_6)_n\text{-Ar}_4\text{-X}_4\text{-Ar}_5\text{-})_b$ are the same or different hydrophobic oligomers,

where $\text{Ar}_1, \text{Ar}_2, \text{Ar}_4, \text{Ar}_5, \text{Ar}_7, \text{Ar}_8, \text{Ar}_9$ and Ar_{10} are independently phenyl, substituted phenyl naphthyl, terphenyl, aryl nitrile, substituted aryl nitrile, and Ar_7 and/or Ar_8 further comprise an ion conducting group, X_1 and X_4 are independently $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$ or $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$, $\text{X}_2, \text{X}_3, \text{X}_5$ and X_6 are independently $-\text{O}-$ or $-\text{S}-$; X_7 is a bond, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$ or $\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$.

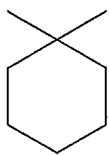
Ar_3 and Ar_6 are the same or different from each other and are



- 78 -



- 79 -



and wherein the ion conductive groups comprise SO_3^- , -COO^- , H_2PO_3^- or sulfonimide;

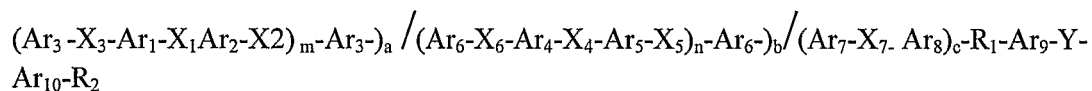
R_1 and R_2 are independently -O- or -S-.

wherein a, b and c are independently between 0.01 and 0.98 and $a + b + c = 1$,

wherein m is between 1 and 12, n is between 1 and 12,

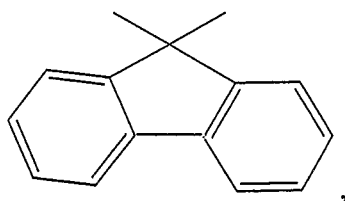
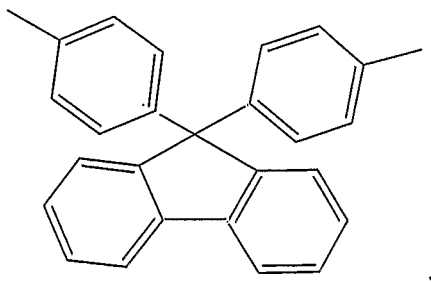
and wherein Y is a bond, -C(O)- , $\text{-S(O}_2\text{)-}$, and Ar_{10} may be present or absent when Y is a bond.

4. An ion conducting copolymer having the formula:

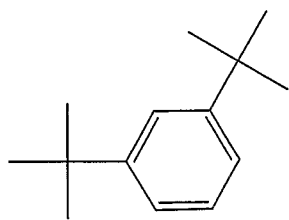


where Ar_1 , Ar_2 , Ar_4 , Ar_5 , Ar_7 , Ar_8 , Ar_9 and Ar_{10} are independently phenyl, substituted phenyl naphthyl, terphenyl, aryl nitrile, substituted aryl nitrile, and Ar_7 and/or Ar_8 further comprise an ion conducting group, X_1 and X_4 are independently -C(O)- or -S(O)_2 , X_2 , X_3 , X_5 and X_6 are independently -O- or -S-; X_7 is a bond, -C(O)- or S(O)_2 -,

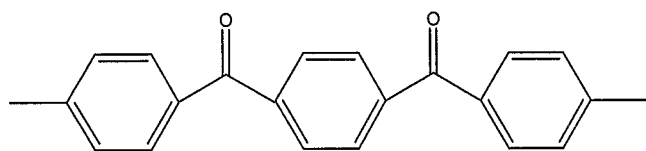
Ar_3 and Ar_6 are the same or different from each other and are



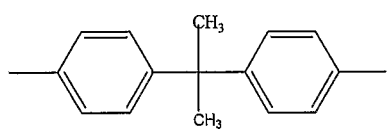
- 80 -



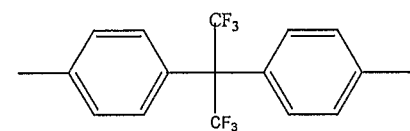
,



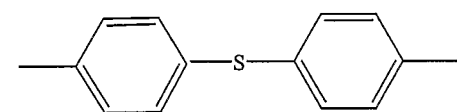
,



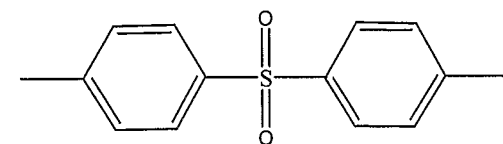
,



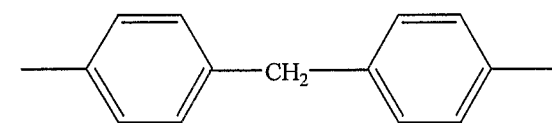
,



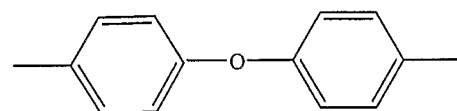
,



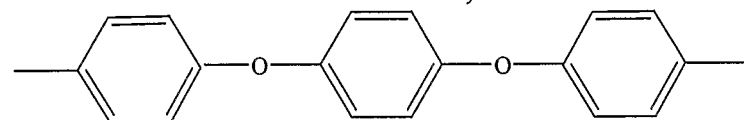
,



,

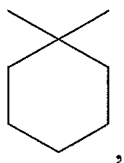


,



, or

- 81 -



wherein the ion conductive group comprises $-\text{SO}_3\text{H}$, $-\text{COOH}$, $-\text{HPO}_3\text{H}$ or $-\text{SO}_2\text{NH}-\text{SO}_2-\text{RF}$ where RF is a perfluorinated hydrocarbon having 1-20 carbon atoms and said ion conducting group are pendant to the copolymer backbone;

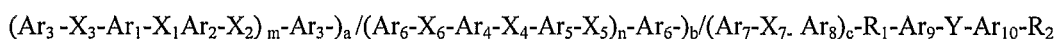
R_1 and R_2 are independently $-\text{O}-$ or $-\text{S}-$.

wherein a, b and c are independently between 0.01 and 0.98 and $a + b + c = 1$,

wherein m is between 1 and 10,

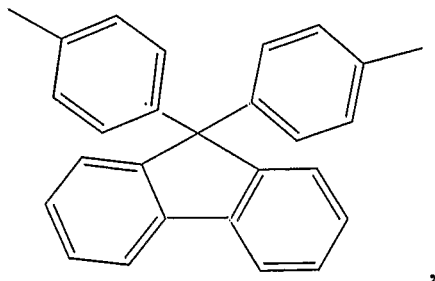
and wherein Y is a bond, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O}_2)-$, and Ar_{10} may be present or absent when Y is a bond.

5. An ion conductive copolymer having the formula

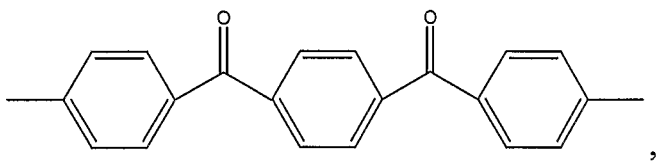
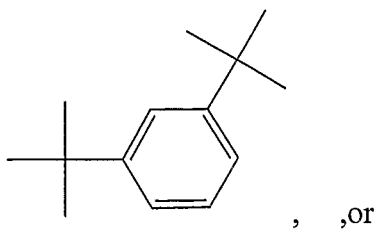
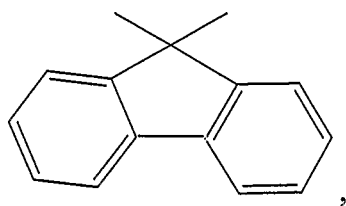


where Ar_1 , Ar_2 , Ar_4 , Ar_5 , Ar_7 , Ar_8 , Ar_9 and Ar_{10} are independently phenyl, substituted phenyl naphthyl, terphenyl, aryl nitrile, substituted aryl nitrile, and Ar_7 and/or Ar_8 further comprise an ion conducting group, X_1 and X_4 are independently $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$ or $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$, X_2 , X_3 , X_5 and X_6 are independently $-\text{O}-$ or $-\text{S}-$; X_7 is a bond, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$ or $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$.

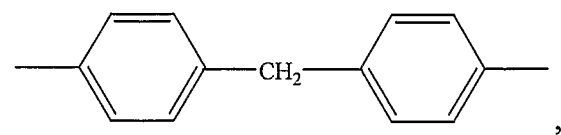
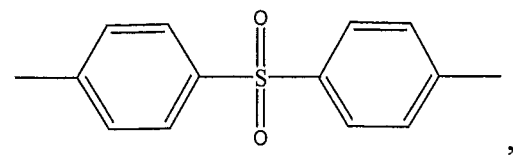
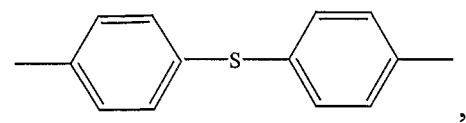
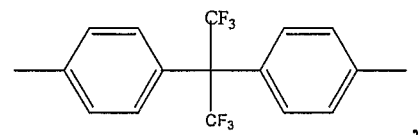
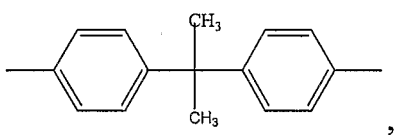
where the Ar_3 monomers are the same or different from each other and are



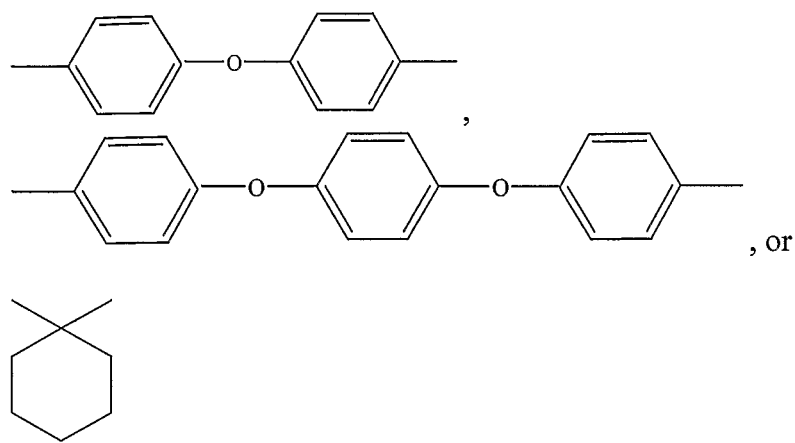
- 82 -



where the Ar₆ monomers are the same or different from each other and are



- 83 -



wherein the ion conductive group comprises $-\text{SO}_3\text{H}$, $-\text{COOH}$, $-\text{HPO}_3\text{H}$ or $-\text{SO}_2\text{NH}-\text{SO}_2-\text{RF}$ where RF is a perfluorinated hydrocarbon having 1-20 carbon atoms and said ion conducting group are pendant to the copolymer backbone;

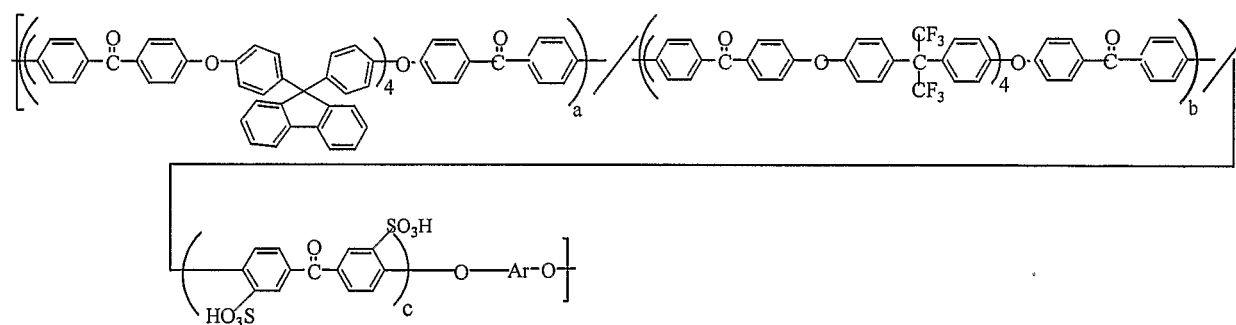
R_1 and R_2 are independently -O-or -S-.

wherein a, b and c are independently between 0.01 and 0.98 and $a + b + c = 1$,

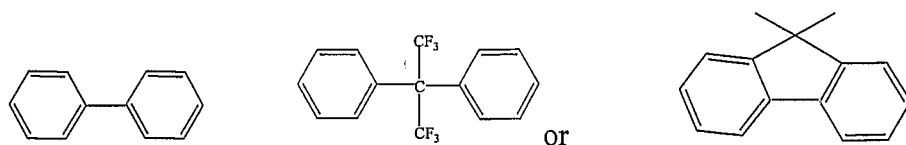
wherein m is between 1 and 12, n is between 1 and 12,

and wherein Y is a bond, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O}_2)-$, and Ar_{10} may be present or absent when Y is a bond.

6. An ion conductive copolymer having the formula:



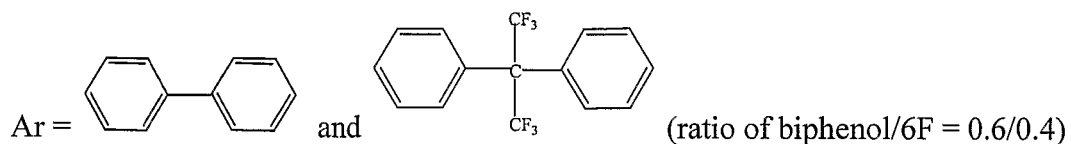
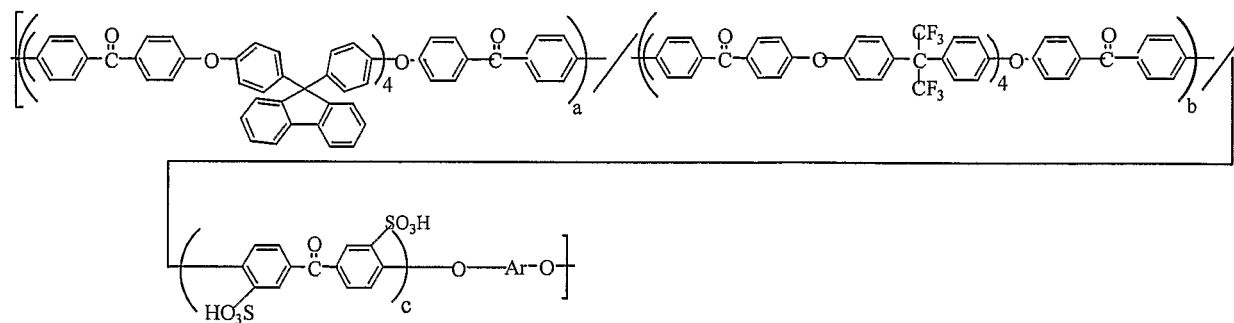
wherein Ar is :



- 84 -

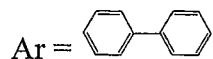
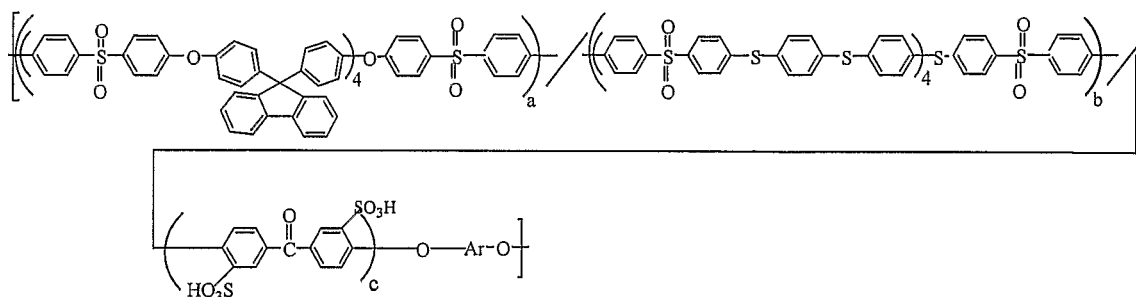
and wherein a is between 0.05 and 0.2, b is between 0.01 and 0.2 and c is between 0.5 and 0.95.

7. An ion conductive copolymer having the formula



a = 0.13, b = 0.036, c = 0.834

8. An ion conducting copolymer having the formula



a = 0.13, b = 0.036, c = 0.834

- 85 -

9. A proton exchange membrane (PEM) comprising the ion conducting copolymer of claims 1-8.
10. A catalyst coated membrane (CCM) comprising the PEM of claim 9 wherein all or part of at least one opposing surface of said PEM comprises a catalyst layer.
11. A membrane electrode assembly (MEA) comprising the CCM of claim 10.
12. A fuel cell comprising the MEA of claim 11.
13. The fuel cell of claim 12 comprising a hydrogen fuel cell.
14. The fuel cell of claim 12 comprises a methanol fuel cell.
15. An electronic device comprising the fuel cell of claims 12 and 13.
16. A power supply comprising the fuel cell of claims 12 and 13.
17. An electric motor comprising the fuel cell of claims 12 and 13.
18. A vehicle comprising the motor of claim 16.