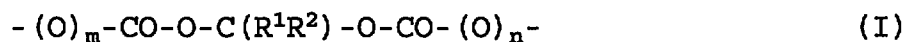


ABSTRACT

Polymer-based gas-containing contrast agents in which microbubbles of gas are encapsulated by non-polymerisable wall-forming block or graft copolymer surfactants. The polymer surfactants are preferably biodegradable and include block and graft copolymers containing linkages of formula



(where R^1 and R^2 each represent a hydrogen atom or a carbon-attached monovalent organic group or R^1 and R^2 together form a carbon-attached divalent organic group and m and n are each zero or 1) which are themselves novel.

This Sheet Has Been Replaced

