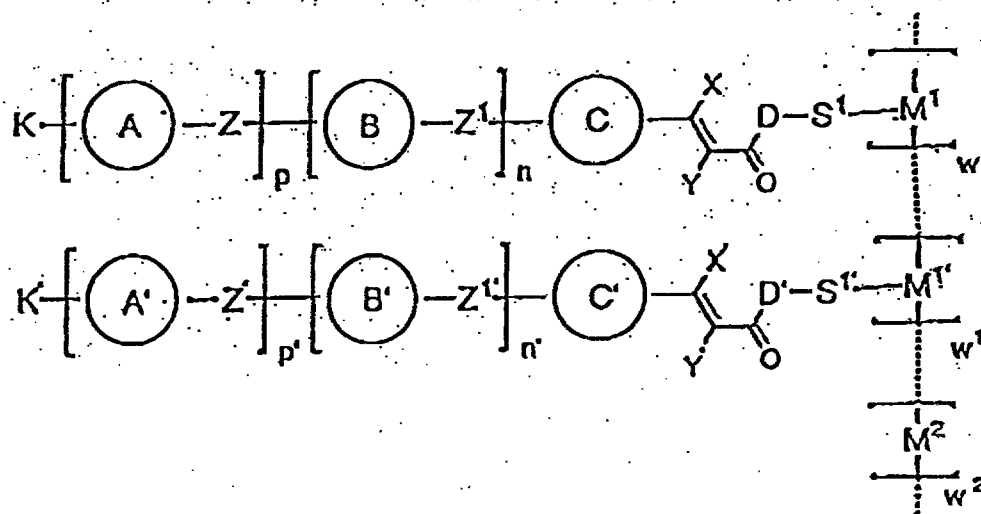


PHOTOCROSSLINKABLE POLYMERS

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to polymers of the general formula I:



in which

$M^1, M^{1'}, M^2$ denote a recurring monomer unit from the group: acrylate, methacrylate, 2-chloroacrylate, 2-phenylacrylate;

w, w^1, w^2 are molar fractions of the comonomers with $0 < w \leq 1, 0 \leq w^1 < 1$ and $0 \leq w^2 \leq 0.5$;

S^1 and $S^{1'}$, independently of one another, denote a straight-chain or a branched alkylene group $-(CH_2)_t$;

D, D' , independently of one another, denote $-O-$;

X, X', Y, Y' independently of one another, denote hydrogen;

A, A', B, B' independently of one another, denote phenylene, which is unsubstituted or optionally substituted by fluorine, chlorine, cyano, alkyl, alkoxy or fluoroalkoxy;

K and K' , independently of one another, denote hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, cyano;

$Z, Z', Z^1, Z^{1'}$ independently of one another, denote a single covalent bond

t denotes an integer from 1 to 4;

u denotes an integer from 1 to 3; and

p, p', n, n' independently of one another, denote 0 or 1.

The present invention also relates to the use of the above mentioned polymers as an orientation layer for liquid crystals and to their use in optical components.