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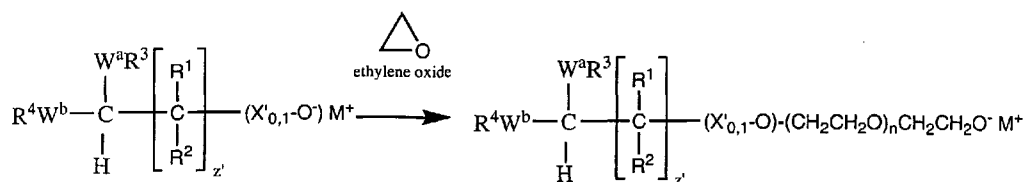
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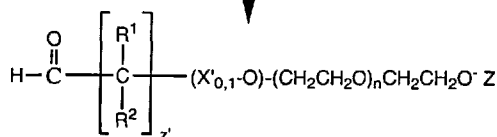
(54) Title: WATER-SOLUBLE POLYMER ALKANALS



Acetal precursor having an anionic site, where M^+ is a metal counterion, and $(\text{X}'_{0,1}-\text{O})^-$ indicates a linker terminating in an alkoxide, where $\text{X}'_{0,1}-\text{O}$ when taken together may be simply "O", or the portion X' may comprise any of the herein described linkers or combinations of linkers.

terminate H^+/HOH
optionally end cap

hydrolyze to polymer alkanal



$\text{Z} = \text{H}$ or end-capping group

(57) Abstract: The present invention is directed to alkanal derivatives of water-soluble polymers such as poly(ethylene glycol), their corresponding hydrates and acetals, and to methods for preparing and using such polymer alkanals. The polymer alkanals of the invention are prepared in high purity and exhibit storage stability.

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