

[Title of Document] ABSTRACT

This invention provides a polyarylene sulfide having a narrow molecular weight distribution and of a high molecular weight and high purity which is industrially useful and a production method thereof, and characterized in that the polyarylene sulfide has a weight average molecular weight of 10,000 or more, and weight loss when heated, $\Delta W_r = (W_1 - W_2)/W_1 \times 100 \leq 0.18(\%)$ (here, ΔW_r is weight loss ratio (%), W_1 is sample weight when arrived at 100°C and W_2 is sample weight when arrived at 330°C), and its production method is characterized in that a polyarylene sulfide prepolymer which contains a cyclic polyarylene sulfide at least 50 wt% or more, and of which weight average molecular weight is less than 10,000 is heated to be converted to a high polymer of which weight average molecular weight is 10,000 or more.