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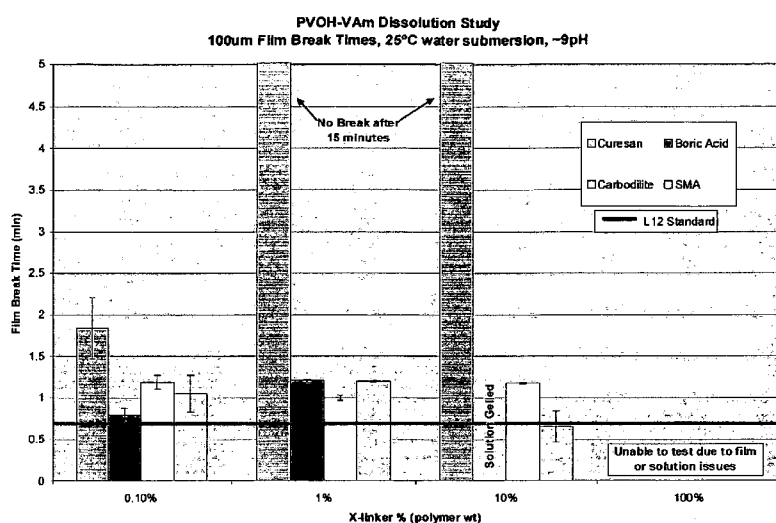
Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))

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(54) Title: IMPROVED BARRIER LAYER

Figure 1



(57) Abstract: Disclosed herein is a barrier layer comprising a polyvinyl amine-polyvinyl alcohol copolymer applied to a substrate as a water-soluble composition, wherein the polyvinyl amine- polyvinyl alcohol copolymer is formed by copolymerizing: (a) from 99 to 1 mol% of N-vinylformamide and (b) from 1 to 99 mol% of one or more vinyl Ci-Ci0 alkyl esters, and then hydrolyzing from 30 to 100 mol% of the formyl groups from the copolymerized units (a) to form amino groups and from 30 to 100 mol% of the Cj-Cio alkyl ester groups from the copolymerized units (b) to form hydroxyl groups, wherein the copolymer has a unimodal compositional distribution as evidenced by essentially one peak in a gel permeation gradient elution chromatographic analysis. A method of producing a barrier layer is also disclosed.



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- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*
- *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))*
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