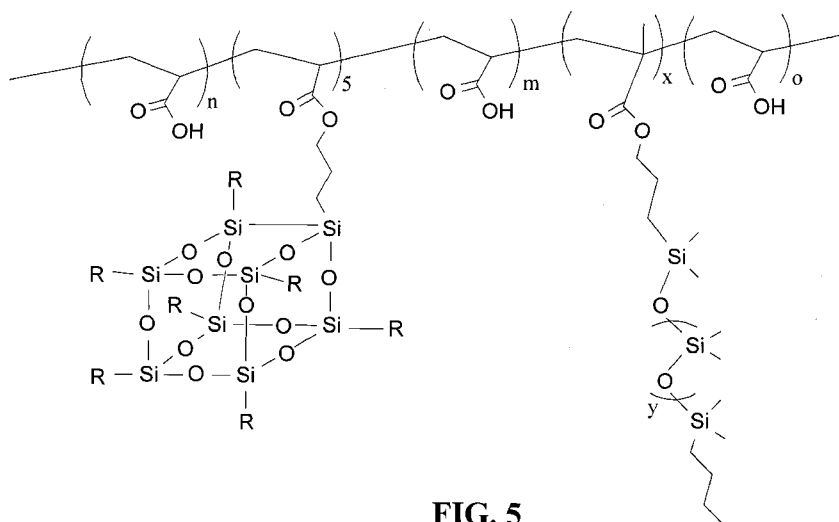




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(54) **Title:** COPOLYMER, COMPOSITION AND METHOD FOR MODIFYING RHEOLOGY**FIG. 5**

(57) **Abstract:** A copolymer for modifying rheology is formed of monomer units consisting essentially of at least one first monomer unit comprising a polyhedral oligomeric silsesquioxane having an ethylenically unsaturated radical; at least one second monomer unit comprising an unsaturated oligo-poly(dimethyl siloxane) (meth)acrylate; and a sufficient amount of at least one unsaturated water-soluble monomer, such that the copolymer is soluble in water. A composition may comprise an electrolyte and the copolymer. The rheology of an environment comprising an electrolyte may be modified by adding the copolymer to the environment.