What is claimed is:

1. A lubricating grease composition comprising:

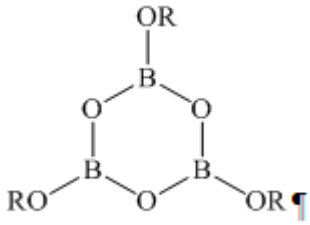
(a) an oil of lubricating viscosity,

(b) 0.1% by weight to 45% by weight of a metallic soap thickener;

(c) 0.1% by weight to 10% by weight of a borate ester comprising at least one alkyl group, wherein the alkyl group is a 2-propylheptyl group, a 2-butyloctylgroup, a 2-hexyldecyl group, or a 2-octyldodecyl group, having 10 to 32 carbon atoms, said alkyl group having a branch at the β or higher position.

2. The lubricating grease composition of claim 1 wherein the alkyl group is derived from a Guerbet alcohol.

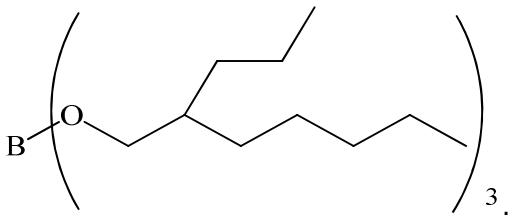
3. The lubricating grease composition of any one of claims 1 to 2 wherein the borate ester is represented by one or more of the formulas $(RO)_3B$, $(RO)_2B–O–B(OR)_2$, or



wherein each R is independently an alkyl group having 10 to 32 carbon atoms and having a branch at the β or higher position.

4. The lubricating grease composition of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the borate ester comprises a trialkylborate.

5. The lubricating grease composition of any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the borate ester comprises a material represented by the structure



6. The lubricating grease composition of any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the metallic soap is reaction of an alkali or alkaline earth metal with a fatty acid.

7. The lubricating grease composition of claim 6 wherein the alkali metal is lithium.

8. The lubricating grease composition of claim 6 wherein the alkaline earth metal is calcium.

9. The lubricating grease composition of claim 6 wherein the fatty acid comprises a derivative of castor oil.

10. The lubricating grease composition of claim 6 wherein the fatty acid comprises a 12-hydroxycarboxylic acid.

11. The lubricating grease composition of claim 10 wherein the 12-hydroxycarboxylic acid is 12-hydroxystearic or ricinoleic, or mixtures thereof.

12. The lubricating grease composition of any one of claims 1 to 11 wherein the lubricating grease comprises:

0.1% by weight to 45% by weight of the metallic soap thickener; and

0.1% by weight to 10% by weight of the borate ester.

13. The lubricating grease composition of any one of claims 1 to 12 further comprising one or more additives.

14. A method for lubricating a mechanical device, comprising supplying thereto the lubricating grease composition of any one of claims 1 to 11.