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(54) Title: HYDROLYSIS OF POLY(HYDROXYALKANOATES) IN AQUEOUS DISPERSIONS

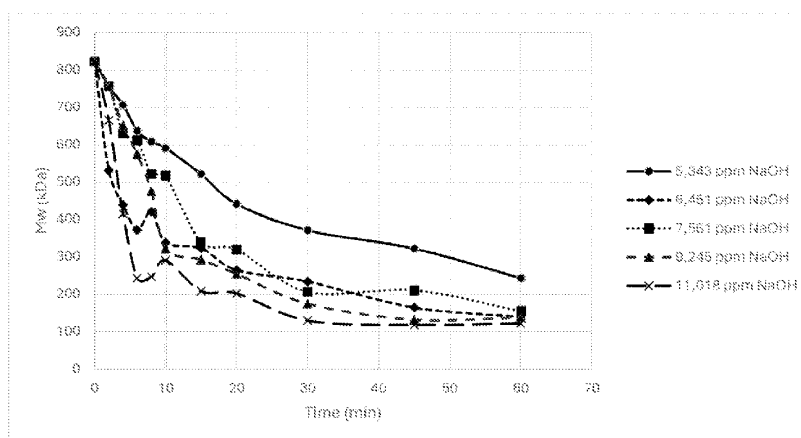


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A method for producing a polyhydroxyalkanoate having a desired weight average molecular weight is disclosed. A dispersion is prepared, which includes polyhydroxyalkanoate having an initial weight average molecular weight and a solvent. A portion of the polyhydroxyalkanoate is then hydrolyzed in the dispersion for a specified reaction time interval so that the weight average molecular weight of the polyhydroxyalkanoate is reduced to a final weight average molecular weight, which is less than the initial weight average molecular weight. The hydrolysis reaction is then quenched so that a polyhydroxyalkanoate having a desired weight average molecular weight is produced.

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WO 2024/220678 A1

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