

Description

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a process for preparing linear α -olefins. More particularly, the present invention relates to a process for preparing α -olefins by oligomerizing ethylene according to which not only linear α -olefins can be prepared in high purities with by-producing wax in small amounts but also long production runs are possible.

Background of the Invention

α -Olefins are useful as a comonomer for modification in the field of preparing polyolefins or as a plasticizer or a surface active agent after they are alcoholized.

Generally, such linear α -olefins are prepared by oligomerizing ethylene in the presence of a catalyst. As for the catalyst there is known, for example, a binary catalyst which consists of titanium tetrachloride and ethylaluminum dichloride. Also, a process for increasing the yield and selectivity of α -olefins using a catalyst which consists of a third component in addition to the above-described binary catalyst composition is known.

On the other hand, binary catalysts with increased activities have recently been proposed which comprise zirconium (Zr) instead of the above-described titanium compound. For example, Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open Nos., 109428/83, 201729/83 and 113138/83 and Japanese Patent Publication No. 30042/75 disclose binary catalysts which consist of a Zr compound and an Al compound.

US-A-4,410,750 discloses the use of binary catalysts consisting of either a titanium halide and an organoaluminum compound or of zirconium tetrachloride and an organoaluminum compound, including certain types of alkyl aluminum alkoxides, aryloxides and dialkyl amides in combination with zirconium tetrachloride of ethylene oligomerization to α -olefins waxes.

However, processes for the oligomerization of ethylene using the above-described binary catalysts comprising Zr have caused various problems. For example, final products contain wax fraction in large amounts or the yield of oligomers having a small number of carbon atoms, e.g., those having about 4 carbon atoms, is increased and the purity of the α -olefins obtained is very low. Further, a long continuous operation of production units is difficult since a wax fraction is formed in a large amount or for other reasons.

US-A-4,486,615 discloses a catalyst composition consisting of a binary catalyst composed of a Zr compound and an Al compound and a Lewis base such as a tertiary amine, a secondary amine, an ether, a phosphine oxide, an alkyl phosphate, an aryl phosphate, a sulfoxide, etc. which is added as a third component in order to increase the activity of the binary catalyst.

DE-A-1,949,878 discloses a process for the manufacture of higher olefins having 8 to 20 carbon atoms by oligomerization of ethylene with high selectivity, producing a product which is useful as a raw material for plasticizers and detergents. The oligomerization is carried out in the presence of a catalyst obtained by mixing an organoaluminum compound with the reaction product of titanium tetrachloride and an electron donor.

However, although it is described in US-A-4,486,615 that a linear α -olefin having high purity as high as 99.5% can be prepared using the catalyst composition containing triethylamine as the most preferred example of the Lewis base it has been confirmed by the present inventors that the use of the catalyst compositions containing Lewis bases referred to in US-A-4,486,615 other than triethylamine results in the preparation of linear α -olefins having low purity and that a large amount of the above-described ternary catalyst containing triethylamine is used in US-A-4,486,615.

Summary of the Invention

An object of the present invention is to obviate the defects of the conventional processes and to provide a process for preparing a linear α -olefin by oligomerizing ethylene according to which the medium fraction containing from about 6 to 20 carbon atoms can be obtained in a high yield and the purity of the α -olefin obtained is high with forming a small amount of wax fraction, thus enabling long production runs.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a process for preparing a linear α -olefin by oligomerizing ethylene according to which linear α -olefins containing low content of halogen derived from the catalyst used can be prepared in high purity.

In order to achieve the above objects extensive investigations have been carried out by the present inventors and as a result it has now been found that excellent effects are obtained by the use of a novel ternary catalyst which consist of a Zr compound, an Al compound and a specified third component. The present invention is based on this discovery.

That is, the present invention provides a process for preparing a linear α -olefin having from 6 to 20 carbon atoms comprising polymerizing ethylene or gas containing ethylene in the presence of a catalyst consisting essentially of a zirconium halide, an organoaluminum compound and a Lewis base, in a solvent and adding a catalyst deactivating agent to the resulting said catalyst consists of:

(A) a zirconium halide represented by the following formula (I)



(I)

(wherein X and A may be the same or different and each represents a chlorine atom, a bromine atom or an iodine atom and a is 0 or an integer of up to 4);

(B) an alkylaluminum sesquihalide represented by the following formula (II):



(wherein R represents an alkyl group of 1—20 carbon atoms, Q represents a chlorine atom, a bromine atom or an iodine atom and said formula (II) may also be represented by $\text{Al}_2\text{R}_3\text{Q}_3$) and/or an alkylaluminum compound represented by the following formula (III):



(wherein R' and Q' have the same meaning as R and Q in formula (II) respectively and b represents an integer of 1 to 3) and

(C) at least one Lewis base selected from the group consisting of thiophene, methyl disulfide, thiourea, triphenylphosphine and trioctylphosphine.

Detailed Description of the Invention

In the process of the present invention, a novel ternary catalyst is used which consists of a zirconium halide (hereinafter, sometimes referred to as "Component A"), the above-described organoaluminium compound (hereinafter, sometimes referred to as "Component B") and a Lewis base specified hereinbelow (hereinafter, sometimes referred to as "Component C").

The zirconium halide used as Component A is a compound represented by formula (I) below



wherein X and A, which may be the same or different, each represents Cl, Br or I, and a is 0 or an integer of up to 4.

Specific examples of the zirconium halide represented by the formula (I) include ZrCl_4 , ZrBr_4 , ZrI_4 , ZrBr_2Cl_2 , ZrBr_2Cl , etc. Among these, ZrCl_4 is particularly preferred. They can be used singly or two or more of them can be used in combination.

The organoaluminium compound which can be used in the present invention is an alkylaluminium sesquihalide represented by formula (II) below



wherein R represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and Q represents Cl, Br or I (formula (II) may also be expressed as $\text{Al}_2\text{R}_3\text{Q}_3$) and/or an alkylaluminium compound represented by formula (III) below



wherein R' and Q' have the same meanings as R and Q in formula (II), and b is an integer of 1 to 3.

The alkylaluminium sesquihalide represented by formula (II) above which can be used as Component B (hereinafter, sometimes referred to as "Component B—1") is not limited particularly as far as R and Q in formula (II) satisfy the above-described conditions. Specific examples thereof include $\text{Al}_2(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{Cl}_3$, $\text{Al}_2(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{Br}_3$, $\text{Al}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3\text{Cl}_3$, $\text{Al}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3\text{Br}_3$, $\text{Al}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3\text{I}_3$, $\text{Al}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3\text{BrCl}_2$, $\text{Al}_2(\text{C}_3\text{H}_7)_3\text{Cl}_3$, $\text{Al}_2(\text{iso-C}_3\text{H}_7)_3\text{Cl}_3$, $\text{Al}_2(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_3\text{Cl}_3$, $\text{Al}_2(\text{iso-C}_4\text{H}_9)_3\text{Cl}_3$, $\text{Al}_2(\text{C}_5\text{H}_{11})_3\text{Cl}_3$, $\text{Al}_2(\text{C}_6\text{H}_{13})_3\text{Cl}_3$, $\text{Al}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2(\text{CH}_3)\text{Cl}_3$.

Among these, compounds in which R represents a methyl group, an ethyl group, a propyl group or a butyl group are preferred and those in which R represents an ethyl group are particularly preferred. It is preferred that Q represents Cl.

Specifically, ethylaluminium sesquichloride ($\text{Al}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_{1.5}\text{Cl}_{1.5}$, i.e., $\text{Al}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3\text{Cl}_3$) is preferred.

These alkylaluminium sesquihalides can be used singly or two or more of them can be used in combination.

The alkylaluminium compound represented by formula (III) above which can be used as Component B (hereinafter, sometimes referred to as "Component B—2") is not limited particularly as far as R' and Q' in formula (III) satisfy the above-described conditions. Specific examples thereof include $\text{Al}(\text{CH}_3)_3$, $\text{Al}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3$, $\text{Al}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_7)_3$, $\text{Al}(\text{iso-C}_3\text{H}_7)_3$, $\text{Al}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_3$, $\text{Al}(\text{iso-C}_4\text{H}_9)_3$, $\text{Al}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_{11})_3$, $\text{Al}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_{13})_3$, $\text{Al}(\text{C}_8\text{H}_{17})_3$, $\text{Al}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2\text{Cl}$, $\text{Al}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2\text{Br}$, $\text{Al}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2\text{I}$, $\text{Al}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)\text{Cl}_2$, $\text{Al}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)\text{Br}_2$, $\text{Al}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)\text{I}_2$.

However, among the compounds represented by formula (III), those in which b is 2 or 3 are preferred. In formula (III), R' is preferably an ethyl group, a propyl group, a butyl group or an isobutyl group and more preferably an ethyl group.

It is preferred that Q' represents Cl.

Specifically, compounds such as triethylaluminium, diethylaluminium chloride and ethylaluminium dichloride are preferred.

These alkylaluminium compounds can be used singly or two or more of them can be used in combination as Component B—2.

The Lewis base which can be used as Component C is at least one member selected from the group consisting of methyldisulfide, thiophene, thiourea, triphenylphosphine and trioctylphosphine.

5 These compounds can be used singly or two or more of them can be used in combination.

In the process of the present invention, compounds belonging to Components A, B and C, respectively, can be selected appropriately and the selected compounds are combined to prepare a catalyst which can be used to achieve the objects of the present invention.

10 However, a catalyst which is obtained by selecting a mixture of Component B—1 and Component B—2 as Component B and combining the mixture with Component A and Component C, and a catalyst obtained by combining Component A, Component B—1 and Component C are preferred. More particularly, a catalyst consisting of a mixture of an alkylaluminium sesquihalide and a trialkylaluminium, zirconium tetrachloride and thiophene, and a catalyst consisting of an alkylaluminium sesquihalide, zirconium tetrachloride and thiophene are preferred. This is because when these catalysts are used not only the
15 content of wax in the product of oligomerization reaction can be further reduced but also the yield of linear α -olefins per weight of zirconium halide can be increased and the purity of the linear α -olefin obtained can be increased.

When a mixture of Component B—1 and Component B—2 is used as a catalyst component Component B—1 and Component B—2 are mixed desirably in a proportion such that Component B—2 is not higher
20 than 50 mol% (Al basis), preferably not higher than 30 mol% (Al basis).

In the present invention, there is no particular limitation on the method of preparing catalysts from Components A, B and C. However, it is preferred to contact Component A with Component B in a suitable solvent to form a catalyst preparation liquor which contain a catalyst precursor and then mix this catalyst preparation liquor with Component C upon or prior to the polymerization (oligomerization) of ethylene to
25 obtain a catalyst liquor.

Upon preparation of the catalyst preparation liquor or catalyst liquor, it is desirable that the mixture is heated at a suitable temperature (usually, a temperature lower than the temperature of polymerization reaction, for example, and more specifically within the range of from 60 to 80°C) for from 10 to 120 minutes to activate the catalyst.

30 As for the solvent which can usually be used in the present invention, there can be cited, for example, aromatic hydrocarbons and halogenated derivatives thereof such as benzene, toluene, xylene, chlorobenzene, ethylbenzene, dichlorobenzene, chlorotoluene, etc., paraffins such as pentane, hexane, heptane, octane, nonane, decane, etc., naphthenes such as cyclohexane, decaline, haloalkanes such as dichloroethane, dichlorobutane. Among these, benzene, toluene, xylene and chlorobenzene are preferred with benzene being particularly preferred.
35

These solvents can be used singly or two or more of them can be used in combination.

In the present invention, the proportion of Components A, B and C mixed per 250 ml of the solvent is usually from 0.005 to 5 mmol and preferably from 0.01 to 1 mmol, of Component A, usually from 0.02 to 15 mmol and preferably from 0.05 to 3 mmol, of Component B, and usually from 0.01 to 20 mmol and
40 preferably from 0.02 to 20 mmol, of Component C when sulfur compounds (thioethers, alkyl disulfides, thiophenes, thiourea and sulfides) are used or from 0.01 to 5 mmol of Component C when phosphines or primary amines are used. As for the proportion of Components A and B, more desirable results can be obtained by setting the proportion of Al/Zr by mole within the range of from 1 to 15.

Upon polymerization, the catalyst liquor can be mixed with the solvent to adjust the concentration of
45 the catalyst, if desired.

The thus prepared catalyst or catalyst liquor and ethylene or a gas containing ethylene are contacted in the above-described solvent at a predetermined reaction temperature under a predetermined reaction pressure to carry out polymerization (oligomerization) of ethylene efficiently.

50 The gas containing ethylene which can be used in the present invention includes an inert gas containing ethylene, purified ethylene gas for polymerization, ethylene gas for polymerization such as high purity ethylene, etc., with high purity ethylene being preferred.

The reaction temperature upon polymerization is usually from 50 to 200°C, preferably from 100 to 150°C. The reaction pressure is usually not lower than 4.9×10^5 Pa (5 Kg/cm²) (gauge pressure), preferably not lower than 24.5×10^5 Pa (25 Kg/cm²) (gauge pressure). The reaction time is usually from 5 minutes to 2
55 hours, preferably from 15 minutes to 1 hour.

All the operations starting from the preparation of the catalyst to the completion of the polymerization reaction are desirably carried out in the absence of air and moisture.

It is preferred that the preparation of the catalyst is carried out under the atmosphere of an inert gas such as nitrogen, argon.

60 Further, it is desirable that starting materials for preparing the catalyst, solvent and starting materials for polymerization are dried sufficiently. However, copresence of a minute amount of moisture or air sometimes results in increase in the activity and selectivity of the catalyst.

Hereinafter, example of the process for preparing linear α -olefins according to the present invention will be described in detail.

65 That is, in a vessel equipped with a stirrer there are dispersed Component A, e.g., zirconium

tetrachloride, and Component B, e.g., ethylaluminium sesquichloride, in the solvent, e.g., benzene, under the atmosphere of the inert gas, e.g., argon, nitrogen, and heated at a temperature of from 60 to 80°C for from 10 to 120 minutes with stirring to prepare a catalyst preparation liquor.

A portion of the catalyst preparation liquor thus obtained is transferred to another vessel equipped with a stirrer under the atmosphere of the inert gas and diluted with the solvent, e.g., benzene, and then Component C, e.g., thiophene, is added thereto at a temperature in the vicinity of room temperature followed by stirring to prepare a catalyst liquor. As a result of the preparation of the catalyst in this manner a complex catalyst derived from a zirconium halide such as zirconium tetrachloride and an alkylaluminium compound is formed, and use of the complex catalyst results in increase in the yield and purity of the objective product, linear α -olefins.

Then, the above-described catalyst liquor is pressed into a reaction vessel kept at a temperature of from 50 to 60°C under the atmosphere of an inert gas, and while stirring the catalyst liquor a gas containing ethylene such as high purity ethylene is introduced followed by oligomerizing ethylene under the above-described reaction conditions.

After a predetermined period of time a conventional catalyst deactivating agent such as an aqueous alkali solution or an aqueous methanol solution containing an alkali can be added to the reaction mixture to terminate the reaction.

As for the catalyst deactivating agent, there can be cited, for example, water, alcohols (monohydric alcohols, polyhydric alcohols, cyclic alcohols, acyclic alcohols, aliphatic alcohols, aromatic alcohols), carboxylic acids, phenols.

When the catalyst is deactivated it is preferred to add a nitrogen containing compound in addition to the catalyst deactivating agent described above to the reaction mixture since addition of halogen derived from the catalyst to the resulting linear α -olefin can be prevented by the addition of the nitrogen containing compound, thus further improving the purity of the linear α -olefin.

As for the nitrogen containing compounds, there can be cited, for example, ammonia or amines such as methylamine, ethylamine, propylamine, butylamine, pentylamine, hexylamine, cyclohexylamine, octylamine, decylamine, aniline, benzylamine, naphthylamine, dimethylamine, diethylamine, dibutylamine, diphenylamine, methylphenylamine, trimethylamine, triethylamine, tributylamine, triphenylamine, pyridine, picoline.

These nitrogen containing compounds can be used singly or two or more of them can be used in combination.

The order of addition is preferably first to add the nitrogen containing compound and then the deactivating agent.

After deactivation of the catalyst in the above-described manner the resulting product liquor contains high content of linear α -olefins which have from about 6 to about 44 carbon atoms, particularly from 6 to 20 carbon atoms in good yield and which do not contain halogen. On the other hand, by-production of wax component is remarkably reduced.

The reaction product liquor after deactivation of the catalyst can be subjected to post-treatments, e.g., washing with water; separation such as extraction, filtration; drying and to recover the objective products, i.e., linear α -olefins of high purity in high efficiency.

That is, according to the process of the present invention, linear α -olefins of such high purity that they contain from 6 to 22 carbon atoms can be obtained stably in high yield. And linear α -olefins having from 6 to 20 carbon atoms can be obtained at high selectivity. It is possible to control the carbon atom number distribution of the product to a further narrow range by appropriately selecting the reaction conditions, catalyst composition, concentration.

The unused ethylene or a low boiling point fraction containing unused ethylene which is recovered may be used as it is or recycled after purification for use as a starting material for the reaction.

The linear α -olefins prepared according to the process of the present invention can be used advantageously as a comonomer for preparing various copolymers and also employed in various fields of industry such as plasticizers, starting materials for preparing surface active agents.

According to the present invention, the following effects can be obtained.

That is, in the process of the present invention, use of the catalyst prepared from a zirconium halide, an organoaluminium compound and a specified Lewis base enables preparation of linear α -olefins of high purity and reduction in the amount of by-produced wax.

More particularly, the catalysts prepared from zirconium tetrachloride (A), alkylaluminium sesquihalide (B—1) or a mixture of alkylaluminium sesquihalide (B—1) and alkylaluminium compound (B—2), particularly trialkylaluminium, and at least one Lewis base (C) selected from the group consisting of methyl disulfide, thiophene, thiourea, triphenylphosphines and trioctylphosphine have a high activity, and when these catalysts are used linear α -olefins of higher purity can be prepared, the amount of gas by-produced can be reduced further, and the yield of linear α -olefins based on the zirconium tetrachloride can be increased.

Further, in the process of the present invention, addition of a nitrogen containing compound upon deactivation of the catalyst in the resulting polymerization reaction product liquor obtained by oligomerization of ethylene the content of halogen in the linear α -olefins can be reduced and linear α -olefins of higher purity can be prepared.

In addition, when the reaction is carried out at high temperatures by-production of wax component is in a small amount and therefore operational performance of the process is improved greatly, thus enabling long production runs.

EXAMPLES

The present invention will be described in greater detail with reference to the following examples and comparative examples.

Examples 1—14

10 Preparation Example of Catalyst (Preparation of Catalyst Liquor)

In a 1,000 ml flask equipped with a stirrer were introduced 50 mmol of anhydrous zirconium tetrachloride and 472 ml of dry benzene under the atmosphere of argon and the resulting mixture was stirred for 30 minutes. To the mixture was added the alkylaluminium compound shown in Table 1 in such an amount that it occupies a molar ratio to zirconium tetrachloride calculated from the amount indicated in Table 1 (for example, in Examples 1 to 4 and 6 to 9 the molar ratio of $\text{Al}_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3\text{Cl}_3/\text{ZrCl}_4$ is 5.0 and therefore 250 mmol of ethylaluminium sesquichloride was added), and the mixture was stirred at 60°C for 30 minutes to obtain a catalyst preparation liquor.

Then, in a 500 ml three-neck flask were introduced dry benzene and the catalyst preparation liquor in predetermined amounts, respectively, under the atmosphere of argon, followed by adjusting the amounts of zirconium tetrachloride, the ethylaluminium compound indicated and benzene to the values indicated in Table 1. To the resulting mixture was added a predetermined amount of the third component (thiophene, thiourea, triphenylphosphine or trioctylphosphine) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 minutes to obtain a catalyst liquor.

25 Preparation Example of α -Olefin (Oligomerization of Ethylene)

In a 1 liter autoclave equipped with a stirrer was introduced the catalyst liquor prepared in the above-described preparation example of catalyst by conveying using pressurized argon under the atmosphere of dry argon. The temperature of the autoclave was kept at 50 to 60°C. After the charging of the catalyst liquor was over stirring was started and high purity ethylene gas was introduced rapidly into the autoclave and charging was continued until the inside pressure reached the reaction pressure indicated in Table 1 and then the temperature was elevated to the reaction temperature indicated in Table 1. Introduction of ethylene was continued in an amount necessary to maintain the reaction pressure. After the reaction was continued for 1 hour with maintaining the reaction conditions an aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide was pressed into the autoclave to deactivate the catalyst and thus terminate the reaction. Then, the following post-treatments were carried out.

At first, 20 g of undecane for use as an internal standard for chromatography was added to the reaction product and then wax component was filtered out using a filter paper. The wax component on the filter paper was washed sufficiently with benzene to drip down light fraction in the filtrate. The product in the filtrate was washed twice with 500 ml of deionized water and dried over anhydrous potassium carbonate.

The thus-obtained transparent solution of the reaction product was analyzed by gas chromatography. The yield of the product was obtained by internal standard method.

On the other hand, the wax component which was filtered out was weighed after it was air dried and then dried in a vacuum drier at a pressure of $26.6 \times 10^2 \text{ Pa}$ (20 mmHg).

The yield of C4 to C8 fraction was calculated from the Schultz-Flory distribution since operational loss could not be avoided.

The results obtained are shown in Table 1.

Comparative Examples 1—5

The same procedures as in Example 1 were repeated except that as shown in Table 1, at least one of zirconium tetrachloride, ethylaluminium sesquichloride and the third component was omitted. And the amount of each component used and the reaction conditions are as indicated in Table 1. The results obtained are shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1

Catalyst Composition	Unit	Ex.1	Ex.2	Ex.3	Ex.4	Ex.5
ZrCl ₄	mmol	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
EASC ¹	mmol	5.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.5
DEAC ²	mmol	—	—	—	—	—
TEA ³	mmol	—	—	—	—	—
Thiophene	mmol	2.0	0.4	1.2	1.2	0.4
MDS ⁴	mmol	—	—	—	—	—
Thiourea	mmol	—	—	—	—	—
TPP ⁵	mmol	—	—	—	—	—
TOP ⁶	mmol	—	—	—	—	—
Al/Zr	mol/mol	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	2.5
Benzene	ml	250	250	250	250	250
Reaction Condition						
Temperature	°C	100	120	120	120	120
Pressure	×10 ⁵ Pa (Kg/Cm ² G)	34.3 (35)	34.3 (35)	34.3 (35)	44.1 (45)	34.3 (35)
Time	min.	60	60	60	60	60

1) EASC stands for ethylaluminium sesquichloride.

2) DEAC stands for diethylaluminium chloride.

3) TEA stands for Triethylaluminium.

4) MDS stands for methyl disulfide.

5) TPP stands for triphenylphosphine.

6) TOP stands for trioctylphosphine.

TABLE 1 (continued)

Catalyst Composition	Unit	Ex.6	Ex.7	Ex.8	Ex.9
ZrCl ₄	mmol	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
EASC ¹	mmol	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
DEAC ²	mmol	—	—	—	—
TEA ³	mmol	—	—	—	—
Thiophene	mmol	—	—	—	—
MDS ⁴	mmol	0.08	—	—	—
Thiourea	mmol	—	0.6	—	—
TPP ⁵	mmol	—	—	0.4	—
TOP ⁶	mmol	—	—	—	0.25
Al/Zr	mol/mol	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Benzene	ml	250	250	250	250
Reaction Condition					
Temperature	°C	120	120	120	120
Pressure	× 10 ⁵ Pa (Kg/Cm ² G)	34.3 (35)	34.3 (35)	34.3 (35)	34.3 (35)
Time	min.	60	60	60	60

1) EASC stands for ethylaluminium sesquichloride.

2) DEAC stands for diethylaluminium chloride.

3) TEA stands for Triethylaluminium.

4) MDS stands for methyl disulfide.

5) TPP stands for triphenylphosphine.

6) TOP stands for trioctylphosphine.

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TABLE 1 (continued)

Catalyst Composition	Unit	Ex.10	Ex.11	Ex.12	Ex.13	Ex.14
ZrCl ₄	mmol	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.05	0.05
EASC ¹	mmol	0.47	0.93	0.38	0.38	0.33
DEAC ²	mmol	0.02	0.05	—	—	—
TEA ³	mmol	—	—	0.08	0.08	0.11
Thiophene	mmol	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3
MDS ⁴	mmol	—	—	—	—	—
Thiourea	mmol	—	—	—	—	—
TPP ⁵	mmol	—	—	—	—	—
TOP ⁶	mmol	—	—	—	—	—
Al/Zr	mol/mol	4.9	4.9	4.6	9.2	8.8
Benzene	ml	250	250	250	250	250
Reaction Condition						
Temperature	°C	120	100	120	120	120
Pressure	× 10 ⁵ Pa (Kg/Cm ² G)	34.3 (35)	34.3 (35)	34.3 (35)	34.3 (35)	34.3 (35)
Time	min.	60	60	60	60	60

1) EASC stands for ethylaluminium sesquichloride.

2) DEAC stands for diethylaluminium chloride.

3) TEA stands for Triethylaluminium.

4) MDS stands for methyl disulfide.

5) TPP stands for triphenylphosphine.

6) TOP stands for trioctylphosphine.

TABLE 1 (continued)

Catalyst Composition	Unit	C.Ex.1	C.Ex.2	C.Ex.3	C.Ex.4	C.Ex.5
ZrCl ₄	mmol	0.2	0.1	—	0.1	—
EASC ¹	mmol	1.0	—	1.0	—	—
DEAC ²	mmol	—	—	—	0.125	0.5
TEA ³	mmol	—	0.5	—	0.125	—
Thiophene	mmol	—	0.2	—	0.2	—
MDS ⁴	mmol	—	—	—	—	—
Thiourea	mmol	—	—	—	—	—
TPP ⁵	mmol	—	—	—	—	—
TOP ⁶	mmol	—	—	—	—	—
Al/Zr	mol/mol	5.0	5.0	∞	2.5	∞
Benzene	ml	250	250	250	—	250
Reaction Condition						
Temperature	°C	100	120	120	120	120
Pressure	×10 ⁵ Pa (Kg/Cm ² G)	34.3 (35)	34.3 (35)	34.3 (35)	34.3 (35)	34.3 (35)
Time	min.	60	60	60	60	60

1) EASC stands for ethylaluminium sesquichloride.

2) DEAC stands for diethylaluminium chloride.

3) TEA stands for Triethylaluminium.

4) MDS stands for methyl disulfide.

5) TPP stands for triphenylphosphine.

6) TOP stands for trioctylphosphine.

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TABLE 1 (continued)

Product α -Olefin	Example 1		Example 2		Example 3	
	C	P	C	P	C	P
	(wt.%)		(wt.%)		(wt.%)	
C ₄	23.9	100	9.4	100	15.2	100
C ₆	21.1	99	10.6	100	15.3	100
C ₈	16.9	98	10.7	99	14.3	100
C ₁₀	12.2	97	10.4	98	12.0	100
C ₁₂	8.6	95	9.1	97	9.2	99
C ₁₄	5.6	94	7.6	97	6.8	98
C ₁₆	3.8	93	7.0	96	5.4	97
C ₁₈	2.8	92	6.2	96	4.9	96
C ₂₀₊	4.8	—	20.2	—	13.7	—
Wax (wt.%)	0.3		8.8		3.2	
Yield (g/g-ZrCl ₄)	1530		2320		1900	

TABLE 1 (continued)

Product α -Olefin	Example 4		Example 5		Example 6	
	C	P	C	P	C	P
	(wt.%)		(wt.%)		(wt.%)	
C ₄	14.5	100	9.4	100	10.7	100
C ₆	14.8	100	10.4	100	12.6	100
C ₈	13.4	100	10.0	100	13.4	100
C ₁₀	11.9	100	9.4	99	12.1	100
C ₁₂	9.3	100	8.2	98	9.9	99
C ₁₄	7.0	100	6.6	98	7.4	98
C ₁₆	5.8	99	5.7	96	6.7	97
C ₁₈	4.7	98	5.0	94	6.0	96
C ₂₀₊	14.4	—	17.3	—	15.7	—
Wax (wt.%)	4.2		18.0		5.5	
Yield (g/g-ZrCl ₄)	2760		2600		1720	

Notes:

"C" and "P" stand for composition and purity, respectively.

Purity is expressed in terms of wt.% of linear α -olefins in each fraction.

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TABLE 1 (continued)

Product α -Olefin	Example 7		Example 8	
	C	P	C	P
	(wt.%)		(wt.%)	
C ₄	15.0	100	12.2	100
C ₆	14.5	100	12.9	100
C ₈	12.6	99	12.3	98
C ₁₀	10.2	98	11.1	98
C ₁₂	7.6	97	8.9	97
C ₁₄	5.5	96	6.8	97
C ₁₆	4.0	96	5.9	96
C ₁₈	3.4	95	5.1	96
C ₂₀₊	12.1	—	15.3	—
Wax (wt.%)	15.0		9.5	
Yield (g/g-ZrCl ₄)	1500		730	

TABLE 1 (continued)

Product α -Olefin	Example 9		Example 10		Example 11	
	C	P	C	P	C	P
	(wt.%)		(wt.%)		(wt.%)	
C ₄	9.0	100	9.8	100	18.2	100
C ₆	9.5	99	10.8	100	17.5	100
C ₈	10.9	98	10.4	100	15.2	100
C ₁₀	9.7	97	10.0	99	12.4	99
C ₁₂	8.9	96	8.7	99	9.2	99
C ₁₄	7.9	95	7.1	98	6.6	99
C ₁₆	8.3	94	5.9	98	4.8	99
C ₁₈	7.3	93	5.3	98	4.1	98
C ₂₀₊	18.2	—	20.4	—	11.3	—
Wax (wt.%)	10.3		11.6		0.7	
Yield (g/g-ZrCl ₄)	1850		3790		2730	

Notes:

"C" and "P" stand for composition and purity, respectively.

Purity is expressed in terms of wt.% of linear α -olefins in each fraction.

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Table 1 (continued)

Product α -Olefin	Example 12		Example 13		Example 14	
	C	P	C	P	C	P
	(wt.%)		(wt.%)		(wt.%)	
C ₄	12.3	100	17.9	100	17.3	100
C ₆	13.0	100	17.5	100	16.7	100
C ₈	12.0	98	15.2	99	14.3	98
C ₁₀	11.3	97	12.4	98	11.8	97
C ₁₂	9.2	96	9.0	98	8.7	96
C ₁₄	7.2	96	6.4	97	6.1	95
C ₁₆	6.1	96	5.0	96	4.8	98
C ₁₈	5.1	97	4.0	96	3.8	92
C ₂₀₊	18.1	—	11.6	—	14.6	—
Wax (wt.%)	5.7		1.0		1.9	
Yield (g/g-ZrCl ₄)	4270		11980		15620	

TABLE 1 (continued)

Product α -Olefin	C. Ex. 1		C. Ex. 2*		C. Ex. 3**	
	C	P	C	P	C	P
	(wt.%)		(wt.%)		(wt.%)	
C ₄	10.9	100				
C ₆	11.7	99				
C ₈	11.4	97				
C ₁₀	9.7	95				
C ₁₂	8.6	92				
C ₁₄	6.8	89				
C ₁₆	5.3	86				
C ₁₈	5.0	85				
C ₂₀₊	15.5	—				
Wax (wt.%)	15.1					
Yield (g/g-ZrCl ₄)	2600					

Notes:

"C" and "P" stand for composition and purity, respectively.

Purity is expressed in terms of wt.% of linear α -olefins in each fraction.

* Only high polymer was synthesized.

** No reaction.

Table 1 (continued)

	Product α -Olefin	C. Ex. 4*		C. Ex. 5**	
		C	P	C	P
		(wt.%)		(wt.%)	
5	C ₄				
10	C ₆				
	C ₈				
15	C ₁₀				
	C ₁₂				
	C ₁₄				
20	C ₁₆				
	C ₁₈				
25	C ₂₀₊				
	Wax (wt.%)				
	Yield (g/g · ZrCl ₄)				

Notes:

"C" and "P" stand for composition and purity, respectively.

Purity is expressed in terms of wt.% of linear α -olefins in each fraction.

* Only high polymer was synthesized.

** No reaction.

Examples 15—26

40 Preparation Example of Catalyst (Preparation of Catalyst Liquor)

The same procedures as in Example 1 were repeated except that the catalyst compositions indicated in Table 2 were used to prepare catalyst preparation liquors.

Then, catalyst liquors were prepared from the catalyst preparation liquors in the same manner as in Example 1.

45 Preparation Example of α -Olefins (Oligomerization of Ethylene)

Polymerization of ethylene was carried out in the same manner as in Example 1 except that the deactivating agents shown in Table 3 were used and the nitrogen containing compounds shown in Table 3 were added in amounts shown in Table 3 prior to the addition of the deactivating agents, and then the catalyst was deactivated.

Thereafter, the resulting polymerization reaction product liquor after deactivation of the catalyst was washed with water, and the concentration of chloride ion in the oily layer thus obtained (a mixture of benzene as a solvent and linear α -olefin produced) was determined and the chlorine content of the resulting linear α -olefin was obtained. The same post-treatments as in Example 1 were carried out. The results obtained are shown in Table 3.

Examples 27—34

As shown in Table 3, the same procedures as in Examples 15—26 were repeated except that the nitrogen containing compound was not used. The amount of each component and reaction conditions are as shown in Table 3.

The results obtained are shown in Table 3.

TABLE 2

Catalyst Composition	Unit	
Zirconium tetrachloride	mmol	0.05
Ethylaluminium sesquichloride	mol	0.21
Triethylaluminium	mmol	0.04
Thiophene	mmol	0.30
Al/Zr	mol/mol	5
Benzene	ml	250

Reaction Condition

Temperature	°C	120
Pressure	$\times 10^5 \text{ Pa}$ (Kg/cm ² G)	34.3 (35)
Time	min.	60

TABLE 2 (continued)

Product	Composition	Purity
α -olefin		
C ₄	14.9	100
C ₆	15.1	100
C ₈	14.0	99
C ₁₀	12.3	98
C ₁₂	9.7	98
C ₁₄	7.2	97
C ₁₆	5.8	96
C ₁₈	5.2	96
C ₂₀₊	14.2	—
Wax (wt%)	1.6	
Yield (g/g · ZrCl ₄)	10300	
Amount of α -Olefin (g)	120	

EP 0 241 596 B1**TABLE 3****Zirconium tetrachloride: 0.05 mM****Triethylaluminium: 0.04 mM****Ethylaluminium sesquichloride: 0.21 mM**

	Ex.15	Ex.16	Ex.17	Ex.18	Ex.19
N-Containing Compound	TEA	TEA	TMA	NH₃	NH₃ ag. (28%)
Amount (mM)	14	4	90	10	165
Temperature (°C)	20	20	20	20	20
Deactivating Agent	Water	Water	Water	Water	Water
Amount (g)	10	10	10	10	7
Cl Content in Product (ppm)	≤ 2	≤ 2	≤ 2	≤ 2	≤ 2

TABLE 3 (continued)

	Ex.20	Ex.21	Ex.22	Ex.23	Ex.24
N-Containing Compound	NH₃ ag. (10%)	NH₃ ag. (10%)	NH₃ ag. (10%)	NH₃ ag. (10%)	NH₃ ag. (28%)
Amount (mM)	58	29	29	18	165
Temperature (°C)	20	20	40	40	120
Deactivating Agent	Water	Water	Water	Water	Water
Amount (g)	9	9	4	4	7
Cl Content in Product (ppm)	≤ 2	≤ 2	≤ 2	4	22

TABLE 3 (continued)

Zirconium tetrachloride: 0.05 mM

Triethylaluminium: 0.04 mM

Ethylaluminium sesquichloride: 0.21 mM

	Ex.25	Ex.26	Ex.27	Ex.28	Ex.29
N-Containing Compound	N—MP —	TEA —	— —	— —	— —
Amount (mM)	17	14	—	—	—
Temperature (°C)	20	20	100	20	20
Deactivating Agent	Methanol	Methanol	Water	Water	Water*1
Amount (g)	10	10	50	50	50
Cl Content in Product (ppm)	7	≤ 2	200	80	80

TABLE 3 (continued)

	Ex.30	Ex.31	Ex.32	Ex.33	Ex.34
N-Containing Compound					
Amount (mM)					
Temperature (°C)	40	40	40	20	20
Deactivating Agent	Methanol	Methanol*1	Butanol	Octanol	Methanol
Amount (g)	5	5	5	5	5
Cl Content in Product (ppm)	50	45	50	50	20

Notes: TEA: Triethylamine, TMA: Trimethylamine,
N—MP: N-Methylpiperidine, *1: containing 1% NaOH,
NH₃ aq.: aqueous ammonia, NH₃: ammonia gas

Examples 35—41 and Comparative Examples 6—8

Preparation Example of Catalyst (Preparation of Catalyst Liquor)

In a 2 liter autoclave equipped with a stirrer was introduced a slurry solution composed of 100 ml of dry chlorobenzene and a predetermined amount (mmol) of zirconium compounds shown in Table 4 under the atmosphere of dry argon.

On the other hand, aluminium compounds and sulfur compounds or nitrogen compounds shown in Table 4 were added to 150 ml of dry chlorobenzene and the mixture was stirred for 10 minutes and then introduced into the above-described autoclave to obtain a catalyst liquor.

Preparation Example of α -Olefins (Oligomerization of Ethylene)

At first, the catalyst liquor was heated for 1 hour until the temperature reached 100°C while stirring in the autoclave to effect activation, and at this timing high purity ethylene gas was introduced rapidly into the autoclave and the charging was continued until the pressure reached 34.3×10^5 Pa (35 Kg/cm²-G).

Thereafter, introduction of ethylene was continued in amounts necessary for maintaining the pressure. The reaction was continued under these conditions for about 30 minutes and then the catalyst was deactivated by pressing a methanol solution containing sodium hydroxide into the autoclave to terminate the reaction.

In the post-treatment, reaction products having 4 to 6 carbon atoms (C₄—C₆) were trapped in a dry ice-methanol bath upon depressurizing the autoclave in order to reduce the loss of light fractions comprising C₄—C₆. Other reaction products were treated as follows. That is, at first wax component was filtered out using a filter paper, and then the filtrate was washed twice with 500 ml of deionized water followed by drying over anhydrous potassium carbonate. The transparent solution thus obtained was analyzed by gas chromatography. On the other hand, the wax component filtered was weighed after air drying and drying in a vacuum drier at a pressure of 26.6×10^2 Pa (20 mmHg).

The composition (wt.%) and purity (wt.% of linear α -olefin in each fraction) of each fraction of α -olefin obtained by the above-described process and the composition of wax (wt.%) are shown in Table 4.

TABLE 4

Catalyst Composition	Example 35		Example 36		Example 37	
	C	P	C	P	C	P
ZrCl ₄ (mmol)	1.0		1.0		1.0	
ZTP ¹ (mmol)	—		—		—	
DEAC ² (mmol)	2.5		2.5		2.5	
EADC ³ (mmol)	—		—		—	
MDS ⁴ (mmol)	0.15		0.4		0.6	
TP ⁵ (mmol)	—		—		—	
TU ⁶ (mmol)	—		—		—	
Al/Zr (mol/mol)	2.5		2.5		2.5	
CB ⁷ (ml)	250		250		250	
Yield (g)	530		162		90	
Product	C	P	C	P	C	P
α -Olefin	(wt.%)	(%)	(wt.%)	(%)	(wt.%)	(%)
C ₄	1.7	100	3.3	100	5.6	100
C ₆	7.6	9.8	10.2	100	15.7	100
C ₈	10.3	96	16.8	99	19.9	99
C ₁₀	10.0	93	15.1	98	16.3	97
C ₁₂	9.8	90	13.2	98	12.6	96
C ₁₄	8.4	87	10.3	97	9.0	95
C ₁₆	7.6	85	8.2	96	7.4	95
C ₁₈	7.0	83	6.1	95	5.0	94
C ₂₀₊	11.3	80	6.8	95	5.8	94
Wax	26.3	—	10.0	—	2.7	—

Notes: 1) ZTP: Zirconium tetra(n-propoxide),
 2) DEAC: Diethylaluminum chloride,
 3) EADC: Ethylaluminum dichloride,
 4) MDS: Methyl disulfide,

5) TP: Thiophene,
 6) TU: Thiourea,
 7) CB: Chlorobenzene.

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TABLE 4 (continued)

Catalyst Composition	Example 38		Example 39		Example 40		Example 41	
ZrCl ₄ (mmol)	1.0		1.0		1.0		1.0	
ZTP ¹ (mmol)	—		—		—		—	
DEAC ² (mmol)	2.5		2.5		2.5		5.0	
EADC ³ (mmol)	—		—		—		—	
MDS ⁴ (mmol)	—		—		—		0.5	
TP ⁵ (mmol)	0.6		0.6		—		—	
TU ⁶ (mmol)	—		—		0.6		—	
Al/Zr (mol/mol)	2.5		2.5		2.5		5.0	
CB ⁷ (ml)	250		250		250		250	
Yield (g)	535		263		62		316	

Product	C	P	C	P	C	P	C	P
α -Olefin	(wt.%)	(%)	(wt.%)	(%)	(wt.%)	(%)	(wt.%)	(%)
C ₄	1.7	100	2.4	100	4.3	100	6.1	100
C ₆	4.9	97	6.3	99	12.1	100	13.9	99
C ₈	9.4	93	13.2	97	12.4	100	15.4	96
C ₁₀	9.7	88	16.1	95	9.9	100	10.8	92
C ₁₂	10.3	85	15.9	93	7.5	99	9.2	90
C ₁₄	8.2	84	8.3	92	6.0	99	6.8	89
C ₁₆	7.6	83	7.6	90	4.6	98	5.1	87
C ₁₈	7.4	81	6.7	89	3.5	97	3.8	85
C ₂₀₊	11.3	80	8.3	87	4.4	97	3.5	83
Wax	29.8	—	15.2	—	35.3	—	25.4	—

Notes: 1) ZTP: Zirconium tetra(n-propoxide),
2) DEAC: Diethylaluminum chloride,
3) EADC: Ethylaluminum dichloride,
4) MDS: Methyl disulfide,
5) TP: Thiophene,
6) TU: Thiourea,
7) CB: Chlorobenzene.

TABLE 4 (Continued)

Catalyst Composition	C.Ex. 6	C.Ex. 7	C.Ex. 8
ZrCl ₄ (mmol)	1.0	1.0	—
ZTP ¹ (mmol)	—	—	1.0
DEAC ² (mmol)	2.5	—	2.5
EADC ³ (mmol)	—	2.5	—
MDS ⁴ (mmol)	—	—	—
TP ⁵ (mmol)	—	—	—
TU ⁶ (mmol)	—	—	—
Al/Zr (mol/mol)	2.5	2.5	2.5
CB ⁷ (ml)	250	250	250
Yield (g)	610	60	—

Product	C	P	C	P	C	P
α -Olefin	(wt.%)	(%)	(wt.%)	(%)	(wt.%)	(%)
C ₄	2.8	85	55.6	75	No Reaction	
C ₆	6.8	78	22.1	55	"	
C ₈	8.4	77	14.8	27	"	
C ₁₀	9.0	75	4.5	12	"	
C ₁₂	8.2	73	2.6	3	"	
C ₁₄	6.2	71	—	—	"	
C ₁₆	5.0	68	0.4	—	"	
C ₁₈	4.5	64	—	—	"	
C ₂₀₊	6.8	64	—	—	"	
Wax	42.3	—	—	—	"	

Notes: 1) ZTP: Zirconium tetra(n-propoxide),
 2) DEAC: Diethylaluminum chloride,
 3) EADC: Ethylaluminum dichloride,
 4) MDS: Methyl disulfide,
 5) TP: Thiophene,
 6) TU: Thiourea,
 7) CB: Chlorobenzene.

Examples 42—43 and Comparative Examples 9—11

Preparation Example of Catalyst (Preparation of Catalyst Liquor)

Catalyst liquors were prepared in the same manner as in Examples 35—41 except that the zirconium compounds shown in Table 5 were used in amounts indicated in Table 5.

Preparation Example of α -Olefins (Oligomerization of Ethylene)

α -Olefins were prepared in the same manner as in Examples 35 to 41 except that the above-described catalyst liquors were used.

The same post-treatments as in Examples 35 to 41 were carried out.

The composition (wt.%) and purity (wt.%) of linear α -olefin in each fraction) of each fraction of α -olefin obtained by the above-described process and the composition of wax (wt.%) are shown in Table 5.

TABLE 5 (continued)

Catalyst Composition	Example 42	Example 43	C.Ex. 9
ZrCl ₄ (mmol)	1.0	1.0	1.0
ZTP ¹ (mmol)	—	—	—
DEAC ² (mmol)	2.5	2.5	2.5
EADC ³ (mmol)	—	—	—
TOP ⁴ (mmol)	—	—	—
TPP ⁵ (mmol)	0.4	0.25	—
Al/Zr (mol/mol)	2.5	2.5	2.5
Benzene (ml)	250	250	250
Yield (g)	120	153	485

Product	C	P	C	P	C	P
α -Olefin	(wt.%)	(%)	(wt.%)	(%)	(wt.%)	(%)
C ₄	15.2	100	20.6	100	5.8	96
C ₆	22.2	100	18.3	99	8.2	94
C ₈	17.8	99	17.5	98	10.1	89
C ₁₀	10.9	96	14.3	97	14.2	87
C ₁₂	9.6	98	10.4	97	9.8	85
C ₁₄	8.5	97	6.7	96	6.7	83
C ₁₆	7.8	96	5.3	95	5.2	80
C ₁₈	4.7	95	3.7	94	3.8	78
C ₂₀₊	2.5	94	2.0	94	4.3	78
Wax	0.7	—	1.2	—	31.9	—

Notes: 1) ZTP: Zirconium tetra(n-propoxide),
2) DEAC: Diethylaluminum chloride,
3) EADC: Ethylaluminum dichloride,

4) TOP: Trioctylphosphine,
5) TPP: Triphenylphosphine.

TABLE 5 (continued)

Catalyst Composition	C.Ex. 10	C.Ex. 11
ZrCl ₄ (mmol)	1.0	—
ZTP ¹ (mmol)	—	1.0
DEAC ² (mmol)	—	2.5
EADC ³ (mmol)	2.5	—
TOP ⁴ (mmol)	—	—
TPP ⁵ (mmol)	—	—
Al/Zr (mol/mol)	2.5	2.5
Benzene (ml)	250	250
Yield (g)	53	0

Product	C	P	C	P
	(wt.%)	(%)	(wt.%)	(%)
α -Olefin				
C ₄	58.2	82	No Reaction	
C ₆	23.1	68	"	
C ₈	13.2	45	"	
C ₁₀	3.8	32	"	
C ₁₂	1.4	23	"	
C ₁₄	—	—	"	
C ₁₆	0.3	—	"	
C ₁₈	—	—	"	
C ₂₀₊	—	—	"	
Wax	—	—	"	

Notes: 1) ZTP: Zirconium tetra(n-propoxide),
 2) DEAC: Diethylaluminum chloride,
 3) EADC: Ethylaluminum dichloride,
 4) TOP: Trioctylphosphine,
 5) TPP: Triphenylphosphine.



Claims

1. A process for preparing a linear α -olefin having from 6 to 20 carbon atoms comprising polymerising ethylene or a gas containing ethylene in the presence of a catalyst consisting essentially of a zirconium halide, an organoaluminum compound and a Lewis base in a solvent and adding a catalyst deactivating agent to the resulting reaction mixture, characterized in that said catalyst consists of: (A) a zirconium halide represented by the following formula (I)



(wherein X and A may be the same or different and each represents a chlorine atom, a bromine atom or an iodine atom and a is 0 or an integer of up to 4);

(B) an alkylaluminum sesquihalide represented by the following formula (II):



(wherein R represents an alkyl group of 1—20 carbon atoms, Q represents a chlorine atom, a bromine atom or an iodine atom and said formula (II) may also be represented by $\text{Al}_2\text{R}_3\text{Q}_3$) and/or an alkylaluminum compound represented by the following formula (III):



(wherein R' and Q' have the same meaning as R and Q in formula (II) respectively and b represents an integer of 1 to 3) and

(C) at least one Lewis base selected from the group consisting of thiophene, methyl disulfide, thiourea, triphenylphosphine and trioctylphosphine.

2. The process according to claim 1 wherein the zirconium halide is zirconium tetrachloride, R and R' are ethyl groups and Q and Q' are chlorine atoms.

3. A process according to claim 1 wherein the zirconium halide represented by the formula (I) is zirconium tetrachloride, the alkylaluminum represented by the formula (II) is ethylaluminum sesquichloride and the alkylaluminum represented by the formula (III) is triethylaluminum.

4. A process according to claim 1 which further comprises adding at least one nitrogen compound selected from the group consisting of trimethylamine, triethylamine, ammonia gas, ammonia water and N-methylpiperidine prior to the addition of the catalyst deactivating agent.

Patentansprüche

1. Verfahren zur Herstellung eines linearen α -Olefins mit 6 bis 20 Kohlenstoffatomen durch Polymerisation von Ethylen oder eines ethylenhaltigen Gases in einem Lösungsmittel in Gegenwart eines im wesentlichen aus einem Zirkoniumhalogenid, einer Organoaluminiumverbindung und einer Lewis-Base bestehenden Katalysators und Zugabe eines den Katalysator desaktivierenden Mittels zur entstandenen Reaktionsmischung, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Katalysator aus:

(A) einem Zirkoniumhalogenid der folgenden Formel (I)



(worin X und A gleich oder voneinander verschieden sein können und jeweils ein Chlor-, Brom oder Iodatome bedeuten und a 0 oder eine ganze Zahl bis zu 4 bedeutet);

(B) einem Alkylaluminiumsesquihalogenid der folgenden Formel (II)



(worin R eine Alkylgruppe mit 1 bis 20 Kohlenstoffatomen und Q ein Chlor-, Brom- oder Iodatome bedeuten und die Formel (II) ebenfalls durch die Formel $\text{Al}_2\text{R}_3\text{Q}_3$ wiedergegeben werden kann) und/oder einer Alkylaluminiumverbindung der folgenden Formel (III):



(worin R' und Q' die gleichen Bedeutungen wie R bzw. Q in Formel (II) haben und b eine ganze Zahl von 1 bis 3 bedeutet) und

(C) mindestens einer Lewis-Base der Gruppe Thiophen, Methyldisulfid, Thioharnstoff, Triphenylphosphin und Trioctylphosphin besteht.

2. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, worin das Zirkoniumhalogenid Zirkoniumtetrachlorid ist, R und R' Ethylgruppen und Q und Q' Chloratome bedeuten.

3. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, worin das Zirkoniumhalogenid der Formel (I) Zirkoniumtetrachlorid, das



Alkylaluminium der Formel (II) Ethylaluminiumsesquichlorid und das Alkylaluminium der Formel (III) Triethylaluminium sind.

4. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei man weiterhin vor der Zugabe des den Katalysator deaktivierenden Mittels mindestens eine Stickstoffverbindung der Gruppe Trimethylamin, Triethylamin, Ammoniakgas, Ammoniakwasser und N-Methylpiperidin zugibt.

Revendications

1. Procédé pour la préparation d'une α -oléfine linéaire ayant de 6 à 20 atomes de carbone, comprenant la polymérisation de l'éthylène ou d'un gaz contenant de l'éthylène, en présence d'un catalyseur essentiellement constitué d'un halogénure de zirconium, d'un composé organoaluminique et d'une base de Lewis dans un solvant, et l'addition d'un agent de désactivation de catalyseur au mélange réactionnel résultant, caractérisé en ce que ledit catalyseur consiste en:

(A) un halogénure de zirconium représenté par la formule (I) suivante



(dans laquelle X et A peuvent être identiques ou différents et représentent chacun un atome de chlore, de brome ou d'iode et a est 0 ou un nombre entier allant jusqu'à 4);

(B) un sesquihalogénure d'alkylaluminium représenté par la formule (II) suivante:



(dans laquelle R représente un groupe alkyle ayant de 1 à 20 atomes de carbone, Q représente un atome de chlore, de brome ou d'iode, et ladite formule (II) pouvant également être représentée par $\text{Al}_2\text{R}_3\text{Q}_3$) et/ou un composé de type alkyl-aluminium représenté par la formule (III) suivante:



(dans laquelle R' et Q' ont les mêmes significations que R et Q, respectivement, dans la formule (II), et b représente un nombre entier allant de 1 à 3) et

(C) au moins une base de Lewis choisie parmi le thiophène, le disulfure de méthyle, la thiourée, la thiorée, la triphénylphosphine et la trioctylphosphine.

2. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel l'halogénure de zirconium est le tétrachlorure de zirconium, R et R' sont des groupes éthyle et Q et Q' sont des atomes de chlore.

3. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel l'halogénure de zirconium représenté par la formule (I) est le tétrachlorure de zirconium, le sesquihalogénure d'alkylaluminium représenté par la formule (II) est le sesquichlorure d'éthylaluminium, et le composé de type alkylaluminium représenté par la formule (III) est le triéthylaluminium.

4. Procédé selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre l'addition d'au moins un composé azoté choisi parmi la triméthylamine, la triéthylamine, l'ammoniac, l'ammoniaque et la N-méthylpiperidine, avant l'addition de l'agent de désactivation de catalyseur.