

What is Claimed is:

1. A method of forming a modified precursor composition of a Ziegler-Natta (ZN) catalyst, comprising:

5 providing a precursor composition of the ZN catalyst for treatment with an aluminum alkyl compound in a liquid organic solvent, where the precursor composition of the ZN catalyst includes at least one titanium compound;

treating the at least one titanium compound in the precursor composition with the aluminum alkyl compound in the liquid organic solvent, where the aluminum alkyl compound
10 converts the at least one titanium compound in the precursor composition into a modified state of the ZN catalyst; and

removing at least a portion of the aluminum alkyl compound and reaction by-product compounds in the liquid organic solvent not consumed in converting the at least one titanium compound in the precursor composition into the modified state from the precursor composition
15 to form the modified precursor composition of the ZN catalyst.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the aluminum alkyl is selected from the group consisting of tri-n-hexyl aluminum, triethyl aluminum, diethyl aluminum chloride, trimethyl aluminum, dimethyl aluminum chloride, methyl aluminum dichloride triisobutyl aluminum, tri-n-butyl
20 aluminum, diisobutyl aluminum chloride, isobutyl aluminum dichloride, $(C_2H_5)_3AlCl_2$, $(C_2H_5O)_3AlCl_2$, $(C_6H_5)_3AlCl_2$, $(C_6H_5O)_3AlCl_2$, $(C_6H_{12}O)_3AlCl_2$ and combinations thereof.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the aluminum alkyl is selected from the group consisting of tri-n-hexyl aluminum, triethyl aluminum, diethyl aluminum chloride and combinations
25 thereof.

4. The method of any one of claims 1-3, further including drying the modified precursor composition after the removing step to remove the liquid organic solvent from the modified precursor composition of the ZN catalyst.

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5. The method of any one of claims 1-4, wherein treating the at least one titanium compound in the precursor composition with the aluminum alkyl compound includes providing a molar ratio of the aluminum alkyl compound to the at least one titanium compound in a range of 1:1 to 10:1.
- 5 6. The method of any one of claims 1-5, wherein treating the at least one titanium compound in the precursor composition with the aluminum alkyl compound includes providing a molar ratio of the aluminum alkyl compound to the at least one titanium compound in a range of 4:1 to 8:1.
- 10 7. The method of any one of claims 1-4, wherein treating the at least one titanium compound in the precursor composition with the aluminum alkyl compound includes providing a molar ratio of the aluminum alkyl compound to tetrahydrofuran in a range of 0.2:1 to 1:1.
- 15 8. The method of any one of claims 1-7, wherein the liquid organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of isopentane, hexane, heptane, toluene, xylene, naptha and combinations thereof.
9. The method of any one of claims 1-7, wherein the liquid organic solvent is an aliphatic mineral oil.
- 20 10. The method of any one of claims 1-9, further including recycling the portion of the aluminum alkyl compound not consumed in converting the at least one titanium compound in the precursor composition into the modified state for use in treating at least one titanium compound in an additional precursor composition.
- 25 11. The method of any one of claims 1-10, wherein providing the precursor composition includes precipitating at least one titanium compound on a carrier material.
- 30 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one titanium compound has the formula $Ti(OR)_aX_b$, wherein R is selected from the group consisting of: a C1 to C14 aliphatic

hydrocarbon moiety, a C1 to C14 aromatic hydrocarbon moiety, and COR' where R' is a C1 to C14 aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon moiety; X is selected from the group consisting of Cl, Br, I and combinations thereof; a is selected from the group consisting of 0, 1 and 2; b is an integer of 1 to 4 inclusive; and $a + b = 3$ or 4.

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13. The method of any one of claims 11-12, wherein the at least one titanium compound is selected from the group consisting of: TiCl_3 , TiCl_4 , $\text{Ti}(\text{OCH}_3)\text{Cl}_3$, $\text{Ti}(\text{OC}_6\text{H}_5)\text{Cl}_3$, $\text{Ti}(\text{OCOCH}_3)\text{Cl}_3$ and $\text{Ti}(\text{OCOC}_6\text{H}_5)\text{Cl}_3$.

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14. The method of claim 11, further including precipitating at least one magnesium compound with the at least one titanium compound on the carrier material.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the at least one magnesium compound has the formula MgX_2 , wherein X is selected from the group consisting of Cl, Br, I and combinations thereof.

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16. The method of claim 15, wherein the at least one magnesium compound is selected from the group consisting of: MgCl_2 , MgBr_2 and MgI_2 .

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17. The method of claim 12, where precipitating the at least one magnesium compound with the at least one titanium compound on the carrier material includes:

dissolving the at least one magnesium compound and the at least one titanium compound in a mole ratio of 3:1 to 5:1 (mole the at least one magnesium compound : mole at least one titanium compound) in tetrahydrofuran to form a Magnesium compound/Titanium compound solution;

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mixing the carrier material in the Magnesium compound/Titanium compound solution; and

removing the tetrahydrofuran to form the precursor composition of the ZN catalyst.

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18. The method of any one of claims 11-17, where the carrier material is a non-porous silica support.

19. The method of any one of claims 1-18, further including removing the liquid organic solvent from the modified precursor composition of the ZN catalyst.
20. The method of any one of claims 1-19, wherein removing at least a portion of the
5 aluminum alkyl compound and reaction by-product compounds in the liquid organic solvent not consumed in converting the at least one titanium compound in the precursor composition includes neutralizing the aluminum alkyl compounds in the liquid organic solvent with hydroxyl groups.