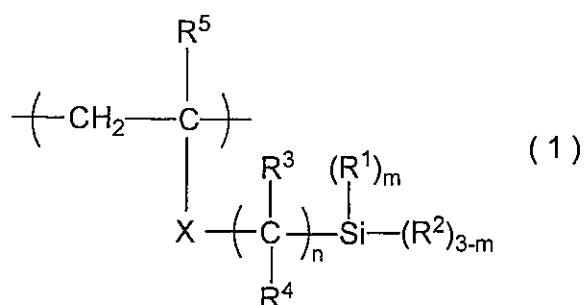


ABSTRACT

Provided is a vinyl alcohol polymer that provides a coating film having superior water resistance and binder performances, and has sufficient solubility in water and viscosity stability even in a neutral pH region. Further provided are an aqueous solution, a coating agent, an ink jet recording material, a thermal recording material and a base paper for a release paper that comprise the vinyl alcohol polymer, and a method for producing same, and the like. The vinyl alcohol polymer includes a monomer unit represented by the following formula (1), with the following inequality (I) being satisfied. Preferably, the following inequalities (II) and (III) are further satisfied according to the PVA:



$$370 \leq P \times S \leq 6,000 \quad (\text{I})$$

$$200 \leq P \leq 4,000 \quad (\text{II})$$

$$0.1 \leq S \leq 10 \quad (\text{III})$$

wherein, P represents the viscosity average degree of polymerization; and S represents the content (mol%) of the monomer unit.