(19) Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

(11) **EP 1 309 633 B1**

(12) EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention
of the grant of the patent:
13.06.2007 Bulletin 2007/24

(21) Application number: **01961955.0**

(22) Date of filing: **08.08.2001**

(51) Int Cl.:
C08F 10/14 *(2006.01)* ***C08F 4/642*** *(2006.01)*
C10M 143/08 *(2006.01)* *C10N 30/02 (2006.01)*

(86) International application number:
PCT/US2001/024815

(87) International publication number:
WO 2002/014384 (21.02.2002 Gazette 2002/08)

(54) PROCESS FOR PRODUCING LIQUID POLYALPHAOLEFIN POLYMER, METALLOCENE CATALYST THEREFOR AND LUBRICANTS CONTAINING THE SAME

VERFAHREN ZUR HERSTELLUNG VON FLÜSSIGEM POLY-ALPHA-OLEFIN, METALLOCEN DAFÜR UND DIESE ENTHALTENDE SCHMIERMITTEL

PROCEDE DE PRODUCTION D'UN POLYMERE POLYALPHAOLEFINE LIQUIDE, CATALYSEUR METALLOCENE UTILISE, POLYMERE AINSI OBTENU ET LUBRIFIANT LE CONTENANT

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC NL PT SE TR

(30) Priority: **11.08.2000 US 637791**

(43) Date of publication of application:
14.05.2003 Bulletin 2003/20

(73) Proprietor: **UNIROYAL CHEMICAL COMPANY, Inc.**
Middlebury, CT 06749 (US)

(72) Inventors:
- **DIMAIO, Anthony, J.**
  Wdbury, CT 06798 (US)
- **BARANSKI, John, R.**
  Southington, CT 06489 (US)
- **BLUDWORTH, John, G.**
  Wolcott, CT 06716 (US)
- **GILLIS, Daniel, J.**
  Victoria, TX 77904 (US)

(74) Representative: **Spott, Gottfried**
Spott, Weinmiller & Böhm
Patentanwälte
Sendlinger-Tor-Platz 11
80336 München (DE)

(56) References cited:
EP-A- 0 516 019 **EP-A- 0 586 777**
WO-A-97/38019

- **DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 199027 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class A18, AN 1990-207253 XP002185472 & JP 02 140295 A (KAO CORP), 29 May 1990 (1990-05-29)**

Remarks:
The file contains technical information submitted after the application was filed and not included in this specification

EP 1 309 633 B1

Note: Within nine months from the publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent, any person may give notice to the European Patent Office of opposition to the European patent granted. Notice of opposition shall be filed in a written reasoned statement. It shall not be deemed to have been filed until the opposition fee has been paid. (Art. 99(1) European Patent Convention).

Printed by Jouve, 75001 PARIS (FR)

Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0001] This invention relates to a process for producing a liquid polyalphaolefin homopolymer, e.g., 1-decene, or copolymer, e.g., one derived from 1-decene, employing hydrogen and a metallocene catalyst therefor. The resulting polymer is useful in a lubricant composition in which the liquid polyalphaolefin functions as a viscosity modifier.

2. Description of the Prior Art

[0002] Catalytic oligomerization of olefins is a known technique for manufacturing hydrocarbon basestocks useful as lubricants. Efforts to improve upon the performance of natural mineral oil based lubricants by the synthesis of oligomeric hydrocarbon fluids have been the subject of important research and development in the petroleum industry for several decades, leading to recent commercial production of a number of superior poly(alphaolefin) synthetic lubricants (hereinafter referred to as "PAO"). These materials are primarily based on the oligomerization of alphaolefins such as C_6-C_{12} olefins. Industrial research effort on synthetic lubricants has generally focused on fluids exhibiting useful viscosities over a wide range of temperature, i.e., improved viscosity index (VI), while also showing lubricity, thermal and oxidative stability and pour point equal to or better than mineral oil. These newer synthetic lubricants provide lower friction and hence increase mechanical efficiency across the full spectrum of mechanical loads and do so over a wider range of operating conditions than mineral oil lubricants.

[0003] Well known structural and physical property relationships for high polymers as contained in the various disciplines of polymer chemistry have pointed the way to alphaolefins as a fruitful field of investigation for the synthesis of oligomers with the structure thought to be needed to confer improved lubricant properties thereon. Due largely to studies on the polymerization of propene and vinyl monomers, the mechanism of the polymerization of alphaolefins and the effect of that mechanism on polymer structure is reasonably well understood, providing a strong resource for targeting on potentially useful oligomerization methods and oligomer structures. Building on that resource, oligomers of alphaolefins from 6 to 12 carbon atoms have been prepared with commercially useful synthetic lubricants from, e.g., 1-decene oligomerization, yielding a distinctly superior lubricant product via either cationic or Ziegler catalyzed polymerization.

[0004] A significant problem in the manufacture of synthetic lubricants is the production of lubricants in a preferred viscosity range in good yield without excessive catalyst deactivation. Frequently, it is difficult to directly produce lower viscosity range lubes without incurring lower yields due to the production of non-lubricant range materials. Methods to control molecular weight of lubricants in the oligomerization step are sought after in the art to overcome the problems in the manufacture of, particularly, lower viscosity lubricants.

[0005] EP 0 586 777 A1 discloses a process for producing liquid ethylene-type random copolymers. WO 97/38019 discloses a polyolefin elastomer. Derwent WPI; AN: 1990-207253 (JP 2140295 A) discloses a lubricating oil containing an olefin oligomer and a modified silicone oil. EP 0 516 019 A2 discloses a process for producing syndiotactic polyolefins having a molecular weight distribution M_w/M_n of $\geqq 3$.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] It is an object of the present invention to provide a polymerization process, e.g., one carried out under solution or slurry conditions and in batch or continuously, for producing a liquid polyalphaolefin polymer employing hydrogen and as the catalyst composition an activated bridged metallocene in which the bridging group possesses at least two bulky groups.

[0007] It is a further object of the invention to provide such a process for the polymerization of olefins which eliminates the need for a hydrogenation step to provide saturated liquid, low molecular weight polyalphaolefin homopolymers, e.g., 1-decene, or copolymers, e.g., one derived from 1-decene.

[0008] Additional objects of the invention include providing a liquid polyolefin homo- or copolymer from at least on α-olefin containing from 6 to 12 carbon atoms, possessing a combination of low molecular weight (M_w), low polydispersity index (M_w/M_n), controllable kinematic viscosity (Kv_{100}), low Iodine Number (I_2), and low glass transition temperature (T_g) with the resulting polyolefin being substantially amorphous, the process comprising contacting at least one monomer having from 6 to 12 carbon atoms under polymerization conditions with hydrogen and a catalytically effective amount of a catalyst composition comprising the product obtained by combining (a) a metallocene procatalyst, preferably one containing a bridging group possessing at least two bulky groups, and (b) a cocatalyst, preferably an aluminoxane.

[0009] The terms "metallocene" and "metallocene procatalyst" as used herein shall be understood to refer to compounds possessing a transition metal M, at least one non-cyclopentadienyl-derived ligand X and zero or one heteroatomcontaining ligand Y, the ligand being coordinated to M and corresponding in number to the valence thereof. Such compounds, cocatalysts useful for their activation to provide metallocene catalysts that may be employed for the polymerization of olefins to provide polyolefin homopolymers and copolymers and/or polymerization processes employing one or more of the metallocene catalysts are described in, among others, U.S. Patent Nos. 4,752,597; 4,892,851; 4,931,417; 4,931,517; 4,933,403; 5,001,205; 5,017,714; 5,026,798; 5,034,549; 5,036,034; 5,055,438; 5,064,802; 5,086,134; 5,087,677; 5,126,301; 5,126,303; 5,132,262; 5,132,380; 5,132,381; 5,145,819; 5,153,157; 5,155,080; 5,225,501; 5,227,478; 5,241,025; 5,243,002; 5,278,119; 5,278,265; 5,281,679; 5,296,434; 5,304,614; 5,308,817; 5,324,800; 5,328,969; 5,329,031; 5,330,948; 5,331,057; 5,349,032; 5,372,980; 5,374,753; 5,385,877; 5,391,629; 5,391,789; 5,399,636; 5,401,817; 5,406,013; 5,416,177; 5,416,178; 5,416,228; 5,427,991; 5,439,994; 5,441,920; 5,442,020; 5,449,651; 5,453,410; 5,455,365; 5,455,366; 5,459,117; 5,466,649; 5,470,811; 5,470,927; 5,477,895; 5,491,205; and, 5,491,207.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0010] The liquid polyalphaolefin polymers obtained by this invention are substantially saturated, i.e., one possessing a low iodine number which is discussed hereinbelow, and can be obtained by polymerizing at least one monomer, e.g., 1-decene, in the presence of hydrogen and a catalyst composition formed by activating a metallocene procatalyst with a suitable cocatalyst.

[0011] The α-olefins suitable for.use in the preparation of the saturated, liquid polyalphaolefin polymers described herein contain from 6 to 12 carbon atoms. Suitable α-olefins include 4-methyl-1-pentene, 1-hexene, 1-heptene, 1-octene, 1-nonene, 1-decene, 1-undecene, 1-dodecene, 1-tridecene, 1-tetradecene, 1-pentadecene, 1-hexadecene, 1-heptadecene, 1-octadecene, 1-nonadecene, 1-eicosene and the like and vinyl aromatic monomers such as styrene, α-methyl styrene and the like. Preferred α-olefins for use herein are 1-octene, 1-decene and 1-dodecene with 1-decene being most preferred.

[0012] The preferred liquid polyalphaolefin homopolymer will contain up to about 100 weight percent 1-decene while the preferred liquid polyalphaolefin copolymer can contain up to 95, preferably from 20 to 90, and more preferably from 30 to 85, weight percent 1-decene, the balance being other α-olefin(s).

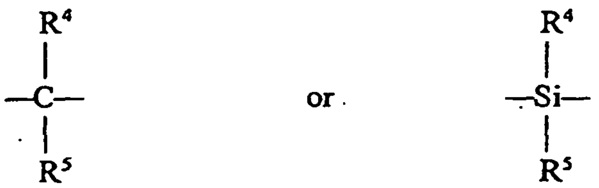
[0013] The catalyst composition for use herein is formed by activating a metallocene procatalyst with a suitable catalyst. The metallocene procatalyst is one or a mixture of metallocene compounds of the following general formula:

$$(Cp^1R^1{}_m)R^3(Cp^2R^2{}_p)MX_q$$

wherein Cp^1 of ligand $(Cp^1R^1{}_m)$ and Cp^2 of ligand $(Cp^2R^2{}_p)$ are the same or different cyclopentadienyl rings, R^1 and R^2 each is, independently, a hydrocarbyl, halocarbyl, heterocarbyl, hydrocarbyl-substituted organometalloid or halocarbyl-substituted organometalloid group containing up to about 20 carbon atoms, m is 0 to 5, p is 0 to 5 and two R^1 and/or R^2 substituents on adjacent carbon atoms of the cyclopentadienyl ring associated therewith can be joined together to form a ring fused to the cyclopentadienyl ring, the fused ring containing from 4 to about 20 carbon atoms, R^3 is a bridging group bridging Cp^1 and Cp^2, M is a transition metal having a valence of from 3 to 6, each X is a non-cyclopentadienyl ligand and is, independently, halogen or a hydrocarbyl, oxyhydrocarbyl, halocarbyl, hydrocarbyl-substituted organometalloid, oxyhydrocarbyl-substituted organometalloid or halocarbyl-substituted organometalloid group containing up to about 20 carbon atoms, and q is equal to the valence of M minus 2.

[0014] Methods for preparing these and other useful metallocene procatalysts are known in the art and do not constitute a part of the present invention.

[0015] When employing the foregoing metallocene procatalyst and the cocatalyst is entirely an aluminoxane, ligand $(Cp^1R^1{}_m)$ must be different from ligand $(Cp^2R^2{}_p)$, and bridging group R^3 possess the structure



$$-\overset{\displaystyle R^4}{\underset{\displaystyle R^5}{\overset{|}{\underset{|}{C}}}}- \quad \text{or} \quad -\overset{\displaystyle R^4}{\underset{\displaystyle R^5}{\overset{|}{\underset{|}{Si}}}}-$$

in which bulky groups R^4 and R^5 each, independently, is, or contains, a cyclohydrocarbyl group containing up to about 20, and preferably from 6 to about 12, carbon atoms and from 0 to 3 heteroatoms such as oxygen, sulfur, tertiary nitrogen, boron or phosphorus, and is selected from cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, alkaryl, alkylheteroaryl, aralkyl, and heteroaralkyl. Preferably, M is titanium, zirconium or hafnium, q is 2 and each X is halogen.

[0016] Of this preferred group of bridged metallocenes, those in which ligand $(Cp^1R_m^1)$ is substituted or unsubstituted cyclopentadienyl, ligand $(Cp^2R_p^2)$ is indenyl or fluorenyl, M is zirconium, R^4 and R^5 each is substituted or unsubstituted phenyl and each X ligand is chlorine are still more preferred.

[0017] Still other preferred bridged metallocenes (I) that can be used in the polymerization process of this invention include: diphenylinethylene(indenyl)(fluorenyl)zirconium dichloride, diphenylmethylene(cyclopentadienyl)(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-indenyl)zirconium dichloride, diphenylinethylene(cyclopentadienyl)(2-methylindenyl) zirconium dichloride, diphenylmethylene(2,4-dimethylcyclopentadienyl)(3',5'-dimethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dichloride, diphenylmethylene(2-methyl-4-tert-butylcyclo-pentadienyl) (3'-tert-butyl-5'-methylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dichloride, dixylylmethylene(2,3,5-trimethylcyclopentadienyl) (2',4',5'-trimethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dichloride, dixylylmethylene(2,4-dimethylcyclopentadienyl)(3',5'-dimethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dichloride, dixylylmethylene(2-methyl-4-tert-butylcyclopentadienyl) (3'-tert-butyl-5-methylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dichloride, diaylylmethylene(cyclopentadienyl)(fluorenyl)zirconium dichloride, di-o-tolylmethylene(cyclopentadienyl)(3,4-dimethyl-cyclopentadienyl)zirconium dichloride, di-o-tolylmethylene(cyclopentadienyl)(3,4-dimetliyl-cyclopentadienyl)zirconium dichloride, di-o-tolylmethylene(cyclopentadienyl)(3,4-dimethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dichloride, di-o-tolylmethylene(cyclopentadienyl)(indenyl)zirconium dichloride, dibenzylmethylene(cyclopentadienyl)(tetramethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dichloride, dibenzylmethylene(cyclopentadienyl)(indenyl)zirconium dichloride, dibenzylmethylene(cyclopentadienyl)(fluorenyl)zirconium dichloride, dicyclohexylmethylene(cyclopentadienyl)(indenyl)zirconium dichloride, dicyclohexyl(cyclopentadienyl)(fluorenyl)zirconium dichloride, dicyclohexylmethylene(2-methylcyclopentadienyl)(fluorenyl) zirconium dichloride, diphenylsilyl(2,4-dimethylcyclopentadienyl)(3',5'-dimethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dichloride, diphenylsilyl(2,4-dimethylcyclopentadienyl)(3',5'-dimethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dichloride, diphenylsilyl(2,3,5-trimethylcyclopentadienyl)(2,4,5-trimethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dichloride, tetraphenyldisilyl(cyclopentadienyl)(indenyl)zirconium dichloride, tetraphenyldisilyl(3-methylcyclopentadienyl)(indenyl) zirconium dichloride, tetraphenyldisilyl(cyclopentadienyl)(fluorenyl)zirconium dichloride, di-o-tolylsilyl(cyclopentadienyl)(trimethylcyclopentadienyl) zirconium dichloride, di-o-tolylsilyl(cyclopentadienyl)(tetramethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dichloride, di-o-tolylsilyl(cyclopentadienyl)(3,4-diethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dichloride, di-o-tolylsilyl(cyclopentadienyl)(triethylcyclopentadienyl) zirconium dichloride, dibenzylsilyl(cyclopentadienyl)(fluorenyl) zirconium dichloride, dibenzylsilyl(cyclopentadienyl)(2,7-di-t-butyl-fluorenyl)zirconium dichloride, and dicyclohexylsilyl(cyclopentadienyl)(fluorenyl)zirconium dichloride.

[0018] The cocatalyst, or activator, employed with the preferred bridged metallocene procatalysts of formula (I) can be any of the aluminoxanes known to activate metallocene procatalysts. For further details of the aluminoxane cocatalysts including such alkylaluminoxanes as MAO see, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 5,229,478. In general, the bridged metallocene procatalyst can be present in the reactor in an amount, expressed in terms of its transition metal content, of from 0.0001 to 0.02, preferably from 0.0002 to 0.015 and more preferably from 0.00025 to 0.01, millimoles/liter. Corresponding to these amounts of transition metal, the aluminoxane cocatalyst can be utilized in an amount of from 0.01 to 100, preferably from 0.02 to 75 and more preferably from 0.025 to 50, millimoles/liter. It will, of course, be recognized that optimum levels of bridged metallocene procatalyst and aluminoxane cocatalyst will to some extent depend upon the specific procatalyst and cocatalyst selected as well as other polymerization process variables.

[0019] When employing an aluminoxane cocatalyst, it can be advantageous to include a trialkylaluminum such as trimethylaluminum, triethylaluminum, tri(n-propyl)aluminum, triisopropyaluminum, tri(n-butyl)aluminum, triisobutyl-aluminum, and the like, to reduce the amount of aluminoxane required for suitable activation of the metallocene procatalyst. In general, the optional trialkylaluminum can be utilized in a molar ratio to metallocene procatalyst of from 1 to 1000 and preferably from 2 to 500.

[0020] It is also contemplated that a neutral or anionic metal- and/or metalloid-containing component can optionally be employed with the aluminoxane cocatalyst in activating the metallocene procatalyst.

[0021] Useful neutral metal- and/or metalloid-containing components for use herein include boranes such as perfluoroarylborane compounds, e.g., tris(pentafluorophenyl)borane, tris(methoxyphenyl)borane, tris(trifluoromethylphenyl)borane, tris(3,5-di[trifluoro-methyl]phenyl)borane, tris(tetrafluoroxylyl)borane, tris(tetrafluoro-o-tolyl)borane, etc., and the like. Of the foregoing boranes, tris(pentafluorophenyl)borane and tris(3,5-di[trifluoromethyl]phenyl)borane are preferred. Other useful second components include aluminum homologues of the foregoing compounds.

[0022] Suitable anionic metal- and/or metalloid-containing components for use herein include borates such as perfluoroaryl borates, e.g., lithium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate, lithium tetrakis(trifluoromethylphenyl)borate, lithium tetrakis(3,5-di[tri-fluoromethyl]phenyl)borate, sodium tetrakis(pentafluoro-phenyl)borate, potassium tetralcis(pentafluorophenyl)borate, magnesium tetralcis(pentafluorophenyl)borate, titanium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate, tin tetrakis (pentafluorophenyl)borate, dimethylanilinium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate, etc., and the like. Of the foregoing borates, dimethylanilinium tetralcis(pentafluorophenyl)borate and alkali metal borates such as lithium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate and lithium tetrakis(3,5-di[trifluoro-methyl]phenyl)borate are preferred. Other useful components include aluminate homologues of the foregoing compounds.

[0023] In general, the optional neutral or anionic metal- and/or metalloid-containing components can be utilized in a molar ratio to metallocene procatalyst of from 0.1 to 10 and preferably from 0.5 to 3.

[0024] Activation of the metallocene can be achieved by combining the aforementioned metallocene procatalysts with the aluminoxane cocatalyst either simultaneously or in any sequence and with any interval of time therebetween and either within the presence of, or in the absence of, the olefin monomer(s) and hydrogen.

[0025] It is particularly advantageous to prepare the activated metallocene catalyst compositions in advance and thereafter introduce it into the polymerization reactor with the olefin monomer(s) in the presence of hydrogen. The reaction of the metallocene procatalyst with the aluminoxane cocatalyst is advantageously conducted at a temperature ranging from 0 to 50°C for a time period of from about 1 minute to 72 hours.

[0026] Polymerization or copolymerization of the aforementioned monomers using hydrogen and the catalyst herein can be carried out in any known manner, e.g., in the liquid phase, i.e., in a solution or slurry process, or in a suspension process, either continuously or in batch. These processes are generally carried out at temperatures in the range of from 0 ° C to 200°C and preferably from 50°C to 150°C, and pressures from 10 to 3000 psig. As one skilled in the art would readily appreciate, control of the polymerization temperature has a direct bearing on the quality of the polymerization, e.g., activity, as well as the final product properties, e.g., Iodine Number. However, as these temperatures approach 150°C or greater, the exothermic temperature, i.e., the maximum temperature reached during the polymerization, should be substantially close to the initial polymerization temperature, e.g., at temperatures above 150°C the exothermic temperature should be no more than 20°C greater than the initial polymerization temperature.

[0027] Due to the nature of the final liquid polyolefin, the polymerization can be carried out in liquid monomer and in the absence of solvent or, if desired, in the presence of solvent. Dilution solvents that can be employed include straight and branched chain hydrocarbons such as the butanes, the pentanes, the hexanes, the heptanes, the octanes, and the like, cyclic and alicyclic hydrocarbons such as cyclopentane, cyclohexane, cycloheptane, methyl-cyclopentane, methylcyclohexane, methylcycloheptane and the like, and alkyl-substituted aromatic compounds such as toluene, xylene, and the like and mixtures thereof.

[0028] A typical batch solution polymerization process can be carried out by first introducing the liquid monomer, e.g., 1-decene, either alone or in combination with an optional hydrocarbon solvent, e.g., hexane, xylenes, etc., into a stirred tank reactor. If copolymerization with an additional liquid monomer is desired, e.g., 1-octene, it can be added either sequentially or simultaneously with the other monomer. A minor amount of an inert impurity scavenger, e.g., the aforementioned trialkylaluminum compounds, can also be added at this time. The reactor is then brought up to the desired temperature, e.g., from 0 to 200°C, preferably from 20 to 175°C, and a measured amount of hydrogen is then introduced into the stirred tank reactor. If copolymerization is desired with a gaseous monomer, a monomer feed comprising, for example, 1-decene, is then sparged into the liquid phase, either in combination with, or separate from the hydrogen feed. By carrying out the polymerization reaction in the presence of hydrogen and employing the catalyst herein, a hydrogenation step is eliminated and the liquid polyalphaolefins of this invention are substantially saturated and, therefore, will possess a low iodine value, e.g., an Iodine Number of from 0.0 to 10, preferably from 0.1 to 5, and most preferably from 0.2 to 3.

[0029] Once the desired conditions are established, a hydrocarbon solution of the catalyst in the required amounts are then added to the liquid phase in the reactor. The rate of polymerization is controlled by the concentration of the catalyst and monomer(s) present or added during polymerization. The reactor temperature is controlled by means of cooling coils, etc., and the initial total pressure in the reactor is maintained by a constant flow of hydrogen, inert gas, gaseous monomer(s) or a combination thereof. After polymerization is complete, the reactor is depressurized and the catalyst is deactivated by conventional means.

[0030] Depending on the amount of monomer conversion and viscosity of the reactor contents, a hydrocarbon solvent can be added to aid in removal the product liquid polyolefin. Spent catalyst components can be isolated from the reaction product via mixing with, e.g., alcohol, water or a mixture of both, then by phase separation of the hydrocarbyl component from the aqueous component. The liquid polyolefin can then be recovered from the hydrocarbyl component by conventional methods, e.g., evaporation, distillation, etc., and then further processed as desired.

[0031] The liquid polyalphaolefin homo- or copolymers obtainable from monomers containing from 6 to 12 carbon atoms, that can be obtained by the polymerization process herein are substantially amorphous, i.e., wherein a crystalline phase is substantially absent from the resulting polyolefin as defined by an exothermic peak observation in a differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) experiment. In addition to being substantially amorphous, liquid polyalphaolefin homo- or copolymers obtainable from monomers containing from 6 to 12 carbon atoms that can be obtained by the polymerization process herein possess a unique combination of low molecular weight (M_w), low polydispersity index (M_w/M_n), controllable kinematic viscosity (Kv_{100}), high viscosity index (VI), low Iodine Number (I_2), i.e., a substantially saturated polyolefin, and low glass transition temperature (T_g) that distinguish them from known liquid polyolefin. The liquid polyalphaolefin homo- or copolymers obtainable from monomers having from 6 to 12 carbons according to this invention are substantially amorphous and possess a M_w of from 500, preferably from about 750, to 60,000 and more preferably from about 1,000 to about 40,000. Further, they may have a M_w/M_n of from 1.0 to 10, preferably from about 1.5 to about 5 and more preferably from about 1.75 to 4. Moreover, they have a Kv_{100} of from 10 to 10,000, preferably from 20 to 7,500 and more preferably from 25 to 5,000, cSt. Further, they may have an Iodine Number of from 0.0 to 10, preferably from 0.1 to 5, and most preferably from 0.2 to 3 and a T_g of below -20°C, preferably below -30°C and more preferably below -40°C.

[0032] These advantageous properties can be exploited in a variety of products such as, for example, products which require a viscous oil or an inert material with fluid properties such as dispersants, heat transfer fluids, cosmetics or other such consumer products, and the like. Additionally, the products of this invention can be used in grafting applications to produce functionalized low molecular weight polymers. The polyalphaolefin polymers of this invention are particularly useful as a viscosity modifier for lubricating oils wherein the polymer is employed in a viscosity-modifying amount. Concentrations of from 1 to 99 weight percent based on the total weight of the lubricating oil composition can be used. Preferably, the concentration is from 5 to 85 weight percent.

[0033] In general, mineral oils, both paraffinic, naphthenic and mixtures thereof, including those oils defined as American Petroleum Institute Groups I, II, and III can be employed as the lubricant vehicle, and can be any suitable lubricating viscosity range, as for example, from 2 cSt at 100°C to 1,000 cSt at 100°C and preferably from 2 to 100 cSt at 100°C. These oils can have viscosity indexes preferably ranging to 180. The average molecular weights of these oils can range from 250 to 800. Where synthetic oils are employed, they can include, but are not limited to, polyisobutylene, polybutenes, hydrogenated polydecenes, polypropylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, trimethylpropane esters, neopentyl and pentaerythritol esters, di(2-ethylhexyl) sebacate, di(2-ethylheayl) adipate, dibutyl phthalate, fluorocarbons, silicate esters, silanes, esters of phosphorus-containing acids, liquid ureas, ferrocene derivatives, hydrogenated synthetic oils, chain-type polyphenyls, siloxanes and silicones (polysiloxanes), alkylsubstituted diphenyl ethers typified by a butyl-substituted bis(p-phenoxy phenyl) ether, and phenoxy phenylethers.

[0034] The lubricating oil compositions herein can also contain one or more other materials. For example, detergents, corrosion inhibitors, oxidative inhibitors, dispersants, pour point dispersants, anti-foaming agents, anti-wear agents, other viscosity modifiers, friction modifiers and the like at the usual levels in accordance with well known practice. Other materials which can be employed herein include extreme pressure agents, low temperature properties modifiers and the like can be used as exemplified respectively by metallic phenates or sulfonates, polymeric succinimides, non-metallic or metallic phosphorodithioates and the like, at the usual levels in accordance with well known practice. These materials do not detract from the value of the compositions of this invention, rather the materials serve to impart their customary properties to the particular compositions in which they are incorporated.

EXAMPLES

[0035] The examples that follow include those that are illustrative of the invention (Examples 1-31) and those that are outside the scope of this invention (Comparative Examples A-K). The procatalysts, cocatalyst, solvents and monomers employed in these examples are as follows:

1. diphenylmethylidene(cyclopentadienyl)-(9-fluorenyl)zirconium dichloride [$Ph_2C(Cp\text{-}9\text{-}Flu)ZrCl_2$]
2. diphenylmethylidene(3-n-butyl-cyclopentadienyl)-(9-fluorenyl)zirconium dichloride [$Ph_2C(nBuCp\text{-}9\text{-}Flu)ZrCl_2$]
3. diphenylsilyl(cyclopentadienyl)-(9-fluorenyl)zirconium dichloride [$Ph_2Si(Cp\text{-}9\text{-}Flu)ZrCl_2$]
4. isopropylidene(cyclopentadienyl)-(9-fluorenyl)zirconium dichloride [$Me_2C(Cp\text{-}9\text{-}Flu)ZrCl_2$]
5. dimethylsilylbis(9-fluorenyl)zirconium dichloride [$Me_2Si(Flu)_2ZrCl_2$]
6. *racemic*-ethylenebis(1-indenyl)zirconium dichloride [*rac*-$Et(Ind)_2ZrCl_2$]
7. dimethylsilylbis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium dichloride [$Me_2Si(Cp)_2ZrCl_2$]
8. *racemic*-dimethylsilylbis(2-methyl-1-indenyl)zirconium dichloride [*rac*-$Me_2Si(2\text{-}MeInd)_2ZrCl_2$]
9. *meso*-dimethylsilylbis(2-methyl-1-indenyl)zirconium dichloride [*meso*-$Me_2Si(2\text{-}MeInd)_2ZrCl_2$]
10. dimethylsilyl(tetramethylcyclopentadienyl)(*tert*-butylamido)titanium dichloride [$Me_2Si(C_5Me_4)(ButN)TiCl_2$]
11. bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium dichloride [Cp_2ZrCl_2,]
12. bis(n-butyl-cyclopentadienyl)zirconium dichloride, [$(nBuCp)_2ZrCl_2$,]
13. Methyl aluminoxane [MAO], 10 weight % Al in toluene
14. Triisobutylaluminum [$Al(Bu^i)_3$], 25 weight % Al in hexanes

[0036] Hexane solvent, olefin monomers 1-hexene, 1-octene, 1-decene, 1-dodecene and 1-hexadecene were purified over 3 Å molecular sieves and activated silica/alumina. Anhydrous grade toluene solvent was used as received from Aldrich Chemical Co. (Milwaukee, Wisconsin) and stored over dry, deoxygenated nitrogen or argon.

[0037] Unless indicated otherwise, all polymerizations were performed in a jacketed 3 liter Büchi autoclave reactor equipped with a magnetically coupled agitator, a thermocouple, and various inlets. The autoclave was flushed with nitrogen and anhydrous hexane prior to use, then filled with monomer(s) and optionally with an inert diluent. TIBAl was used optionally as an impurity scavenger, then the reactor was brought up to the desired pressure and temperature prior to addition of the catalyst components. Polymerization was started upon addition of catalyst components. If desired, reactor pressure was maintained by addition of Argon, Nitrogen and/or Hydrogen. The polymerization was terminated by depressurization of the autoclave, then transfer of the reactor contents into an agitated vessel containing a mixture of isopropanol and water acidified with 1% HCl. Periodically hexane was used to help facilitate removal of higher viscosity products from the reactor and into the wash vessel.

[0038] The following procedures were used to determine the properties of the liquid polyolefins.

Kinematic Viscosity (Kv) and Viscosity Index (VI)

[0039] The kinematic viscosity (Kv) of te liquid polyolefins, Kv, was measures using a modified Ostwald viscometer according to ASTM standard D445 and reported at temperatures of 100°C (Kv at 100°C) or 40 ° C (Kv at 40°C). The viscosity index (VI) was measured according to ASTM standard D2270 using the measured kinematic viscosities for each polyolefin.

Weight Average Molecular Weight (M_w), Number Average Molecular Weight (M_n) and (M_w/M_n)

[0040] The molecular weights of the liquid polyolefins, M_w and M_n, were measured in tetrahydrofuran at 35 °C on a Waters GPC II gel permeation chromatograph equipped with a Waters RA401 refractive index detector and 5 Waters Styragel HT columns (HT6, HT5, HT4, HT3, and HT2). The flow rate was 1 ml./min., and the concentration was 0.25 %. Molecular weights were calculated from elution times calibrated against polystyrene standards from American Polymer Standards Corp. (ranging for 162 molecular weight to 600,000 molecular weight) using a quadratic fit.

Glass Transition Temperature (T_g) and Crystalline Transition Temperature (T_c)

[0041] The glass transition temperatures and crystalline transition temperatures of liquid polyolefins (T_g and T_c, respectively) were measured by differential scanning calorimetry upon 20-25 mg of polymer without molding. T_g is reported as the midpoint of the glass transition, while T_c (if observed) is reported as the peak maximum of the exothermic peak on the heating curve of the sample, recorded on a Perkin Elmer DSC 7 differential scanning calorimeter (from -100°C to 180°C at a heating rate of 20°C/minute). Calibration was performed with both indium and octane standards.

Branching Ratio and Relative Unsaturation

[0042] The branch content of the liquid polyolefins were determined by infrared spectroscopy of thin polymer films on a Perkin-Elmer infrared spectrophotometer model Paragon 1000 PC, by comparison of the relative intensities of methyl to methylene groups in the polymer. This method closely parallels measurements from ASTM standard D3900, which determines the relative ethylene to propylene ratio in EP copolymers. Relative unsaturation in the polymer was qualitatively determined via analysis of the region from 800-1100 cm^{-1} and 1600-1700 cm^{-1} of the same polymer film.

Unsaturation Determination by Iodine Number

[0043] The amount of unsaturation in the liquid polyolefins was determined by measurement of the Iodine Number (I_2 No.) which is defined as the number of grams of iodine that add to 100 grams of sample. Only halogen that combines with a sample by way of addition to double bonds is a true measurement of unsaturation. Substitution reactions and, to a lesser extent, splitting-out reactions contribute to some error in the determination. In this method, the slow rate of addition of iodine to double bonds is catalyzed by Mercuric Acetate allowing the reaction to be completed in about one hour where the effects of the slower substitution and splitting-out reactions are minimized. The method was adapted from Gallo et al., "Unsaturation in Isoprene-Isobutylene Copolymers", Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, Vol. 40, (1948) pp. 1277-1280. An Iodine Number of less than about 5 is considered substantially saturated.

Polymer Analysis by NMR Spectroscopy

[0044] Polymer NMR analysis was provided by Process NMR Associates, LLC (Danbury, CT). Structural assignments performed included detection of unsaturation in polymer, carbon chemical shift assignments, analyses of monomer addition mechanisms and pentad, triad, and dyad sequence determinations. C_3 chemical shift assignments and integration were used to determine polymer sequence information. The C_3 resonance in these samples was structurally similar to the methyl resonance in polypropylene used for sequence determination in John C. Randall, "Polymer Sequence Determination" Academic Press, New York (1977) Chapter 1. The effect of substituting an alkyl chain at C_3 shifts the resonance position from 21 ppm to 34 ppm as well as reduces the overall chemical shift dispersion by approximately 28 percent. However, all pentad sequences were resolved in these polymer samples as was observed in polypropylene. Pentad functionalities were integrated and, triad, and dyad functionalities were calculated from the pentad functionalities.

[0045] The specific polymerization conditions and physical properties of the resulting polymers for each of the examples are summarized below in Tables 1-10, infra.

EXAMPLE 1

[0046] The dried 3 liter Büchi reactor was filled under argon with 750 ml of dry 1-decene monomer. To this, 1.15 ml of a 25% by wt. solution of triisobutylaluminum in hexane was added to scavenge moisture and impurities, and the reactor temperature was brought up to 70°C. Once the temperature reached 70°C, 1 mole of hydrogen gas was added to the reactor via pressure drop from a vessel of known volume. Then, a solution of 0.007 g of $Ph_2C(Cp\text{-}9\text{-}Flu)ZrCl_2$ was dissolved in 8.8 ml of a 10 wt. % solution of MAO in toluene, which had been prepared 30 minutes prior to its use, was injected into the stirring reactor under 200 psig argon pressure. The reactor was maintained at a temperature of 70°C and 200 psig for a period of 30 minutes.

[0047] When complete, the reactor was depressurized and 400 ml hexane was added to the polymerized decene solution to aid in transfer. The reactor contents were then pressure transferred to a vessel equipped with an agitator containing 100 ml of acidified isopropanol, and agitated for 2 minutes. A white flocculent material presumed to be an aluminum alkoxide precipitated and settled in the aqueous phase. One liter of deionized water was then added to the washed mixture, stirred, allowed to settle, and then the organic layer was removed from the aluminum residue-laden aqueous layer.

[0048] The polymer was obtained from the remaining organic solution by evaporation under reduced pressure in a rotary evaporator. 460 Grams of polyolefin material was obtained with a Mn of 9,000 and a polydispersity M_w/M_n of 2.00. DSC analysis gave a T_g of -72.6°C, with no indication of crystallinity. Kinematic viscosity measurements at 100°C gave a viscosity of 635 cSt, and a viscosity index of 282. Unsaturation as measured by Iodine Number was 0.9.

[0049] ^1H and ^{13}C NMR analysis performed on this material indicated that there was no detectable unsaturation in the polymer. Polymer distribution analysis of the polymer demonstrated that the product was primarily syndiotactic in structure; the triad %rr result was 72.95%, and the pentad %rrrr was 44.39%. NMR results are summarized in the table of Example 6.

EXAMPLE 2

[0050] The procedure of Example 1 was repeated with the same materials and amounts but using a higher temperature to note the dependence of polymer viscosity on reaction temperature. The reaction was set at an initial temperature of 95°C, then the reactor temperature was increased to 160°C before bringing it back under control at its original setpoint. After polymerization and workup, 450 grams of polymeric material was obtained with a M_n of 3,780 and a polydispersity M_w/M_n of 2.14. DSC analysis gave a glass transition temperature T_g of -76.6°C, with no indication of crystallinity. Kinematic viscosity measurements at 100°C gave a viscosity of 144 cSt, and a viscosity index of 217. Unsaturation as measured by Iodine number was 3.75. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR analysis performed on this material indicated that there was no detectable unsaturation in the polymer. Polymer distribution analysis of the polymer demonstrated that the product was primarily syndiotactic in structure; the triad %rr result was 56.87%, and the pentad %rrrr was 22.31 %. NMR results are summarized in the table of Example 6.

EXAMPLE 3

[0051] The procedure of Example 1 was repeated using the same materials at 150°C temperature and under reactor control (i.e., the reactor did not exhibit a significant exotherm) to prepare material comparable to a commercially available poly(1-decene) at 100 cSt viscosity. After polymerization and workup, 133 grams of polymeric material was obtained. Kinematic viscosity measurements at 100°C gave a viscosity of 107 cSt, and a viscosity index of 210. Unsaturation as measured by Iodine number was 5.6.

[0052] A commercial sample of high viscosity poly(1-decene) known as Synton® PAO-100 available from Crompton Corporation (Middlebury, CT) was obtained and compared against the material synthesized. It's Kv at 100°C was 100.3 cSt, and its VI was calculated at 171. Unsaturation as measured by Iodine number was 5.2. Thus, at comparable viscosities, the material of Example 3 exhibits an increase in viscosity index of 39 points, indicative of its improved temperature-viscosity behavior over the prior art.

EXAMPLES 4-12 AND COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE A

[0053] Examples 4-12 and Comparative Example A illustrate the effect of temperature on the polymerization of 1-decene using $Ph_2C(Cp\text{-}9\text{-}Flu)ZrCl_2$ and MAO under conditions similar to those of Examples 1-3 as shown below in Table 1. In all of the examples the molar ratio of MAO to procatalyst was maintained at 1000:1, although the catalyst charge may have differed.

TABLE 1

Example/ Comp. Ex	catalyst (g)	Temp. (°C)	Exotherm (°C)	Activity (Kg/ gcat)	% Decene Conversion	Kv (at 100°C)	Kv (at 40°C)	VI	I_2 No.
1	0.007	70	70	65.74	82.8	635	7,275	282	0.9
2	0.007	95	160	64.25	81.0	144	1,371	217	3.8
3	0.003	150	157	44.18	24.0	107	958	210	5.6
4	0.014	40	43	26.05	65.6	2,463	34,232	344	0.4
5	0.028	40	112	16.84	84.8	698	8,120	286	1.8
6	0.014	70	115	33.42	84.2	282	2,884	246	2.6
7	0.014	70	150	32.49	81.8	175	1,657	228	5.2
8	0.007	95	98	38.74	73.0	521	5,907	271	0.8
9	0.007	95	122	66.00	83.0	316	3,303	250	2.2
10	0.002	120	124	124.10	45.0	280	2,872	245	1.8
11	0.007	150	169	40.61	51.0	58	465	195	9.4
12	0.007	120	182	49.49	65.0	64	516	199	8.1
A	0.007	150	200	38.57	49.0	34	241	188	15.9

[0054] As these data illustrate, poly(1-decene) viscosity is controlled primarily by polymerization temperature in a hydrogen-rich environment. In addition, the degree of unsaturation can be influenced by the degree to which the batch polymerization exotherm can be controlled. In instances where the temperature setpoint or exotherm exceeds 20°C over the initial temperature of 150 °C as shown by Comparative Example A compared to Examples 3 and 11 where the exotherm temperature did not exceed 20°C over the initial temperature of 150 °C, a drop in viscosity accompanied by an increase in the Iodine Number was achieved, indicating that the chain transfer by hydrogenolysis is in increasing competition with beta-hydride elimination, leading to an unsaturated chain end. Also note that catalyst decay may also become prevalent, as demonstrated in the drop-off in 1-decene conversion and procatalyst efficiency.

EXAMPLES 13-16 MAO Concentration Effects

[0055] Utilizing the conditions of Example 1 at 70°C, the ratio of MAO to $Ph_2C(Cp\text{-}9\text{-}Flu)ZrCl_2$ catalyst was varied from 250:1 to 1000:1 with 0.44 mmol of $Al(Bu^i)_3$ being added in addition to the MAO to serve as an impurity scavenger. The polymerization conditions and properties are set forth below in Table 2.

TABLE 2

Example	catalyst (g)	MAO/ M	Temp. (°C)	Exotherm (°C)	Activity Kg/ gcat	% Decene Conversion	Kv (at 100°C)	Kv (at 40°C)	VI	I_2 No.
13	0.007	1,018	70	72	63.69	80.2	800	9,818	289	0.4
14	0.007	1,018	70	71	59.25	74.6	982	12,250	300	0.4
15	0.007	509	70	71	58.94	74.2	1,132	14,254	307	0.5
16	0.007	254	70	70	43.05	54.2	1,308	16,881	314	0.5

[0056] As these data show, a change in MAO concentration does not effect the degree of polymer saturation as measured by Iodine Number. With a modest drop in MAO/M ratio, a slight drop in catalyst activity and decene conversion is seen, and is accompanied by a slight rise in poly(1-decene) viscosity. Although a molar ratio range of 250-1000 was used in these examples, it is only representative; this range may in fact be much more versatile than outlined in the examples, depending upon the final desired polymer viscosity and catalyst efficiency.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE B

[0057] The conditions of Example 2 were repeated with the same materials, however, hydrogen was not added to the reactor. Upon polymerization and workup, 39 grams of polymer was obtained, indicating a significant drop in both catalyst efficiency and in monomer conversion. Kinematic viscosity measurements at 100°C gave a viscosity of 1,085 cSt, demonstrating a significant increase in molecular weight. Unsaturation as measured by Iodine number was 26.35.

[0058] ^1H and ^{13}C NMR analysis performed on this material indicated that there was significant terminal vinylidene unsaturation in the polymer, occurring as two peaks between 110 and 140 ppm in the ^{13}C NMR. Polymer sequence distribution analysis demonstrated that the product was primarily syndiotactic in structure; the dyad %rr result was 86.59%, and the pentad %rrrr was 40.36. The results of this comparative example are summarized in Table 3 and compared to similar analyses performed for Examples 1 and 2.

TABLE 3

Example or Comparative Example	1	2	B
H_2 (mmol)	1,000	1,000	0
Polym'n Temp (°C)	70	95	95
Activity (Kg/gcat)	65.73	64.2	5.5
% Decene Conversion	82.8	80.9	6.9
Kv(at100°C) (cSt)	635	144	1,085
Iodine Number (I_2 No.)	0.9	3.8	26.35
Olefinics detected (via ^{13}C-NMR)	none detected	none detected	116,139ppm Strong
^{13}C-NMR, Dyad distribution			
%r	83.35	56.87	86.59
%m	16.65	43.13	13.41
Triad distribution			
%rr	72.95	36.10	76.81
%rm	20.80	41.54	19.57
%mm	6.25	22.35	3.62
Pentad distribution			
%rrrr	44.39	22.31	40.36
%rrrm	20.73	13.12	21.35
%rmrm	10.46	18.21	10.62
%mmmm	0.86	1.30	1.06
%mmmr	1.68	3.27	0.56
%rmmr	3.72	17.78	2.00
%mmrr	9.50	9.50	5.24
%mrrm	7.83	0.68	15.10
%mmrm/rmrr	3.62	13.84	3.71

[0059] Examples 1 and 2 employing hydrogen addition in the polymerization of 1-decene using the catalyst $Ph_2C(Cp\text{-}9\text{-}Flu)ZrCl_2$ (within the scope of this invention) resulted in a substantially saturated polyolefin as compared to a polyolefin obtained without the addition of hydrogen (which is outside the scope of this invention) of Comparative Example B. Also hydrogen is able to serve all at once as a molecular weight regulator, a catalyst activator, and as an efficient chain terminating agent for the $Ph_2C(Cp\text{-}9\text{-}Flu)ZrCl_2$/MAO catalyst system. Subsequent comparative examples will further demonstrate the efficiency of this type of bridged metallocene structure over other metallocenes outside the scope of this invention.

EXAMPLES 17- 21 Hydrogen concentration effects

[0060] Examples 17-21 were carried out to determine the magnitude of hydrogen concentration effect in the reactor. All materials used in Examples 17-21 were similar to Example 1, with 0.007 g of $Ph_2C(Cp\text{-}9\text{-}Flu)ZrCl_2$ catalyst dissolved in a 10 weight percent MAO in toluene solution at a 1000:1 MAO:Zr ratio. Reactor conditions were set at a temperature of 95°C with 750 ml 1-decene and 0.44 mol of $Al(BU^i)_3$ added prior to inclusion of gaseous components and catalyst solution. Each example was carried for 30 minutes, with no significant reactor exotherm. Examples 17-20 were run while feeding hydrogen on demand at the specified pressures. Example 21 differed in that hydrogen was added in a manner identical to Example 1 and combined with Nitrogen to give 200 psig total reactor pressure prior to polymerization. The results are summarized below in Table 4.

TABLE4

Example	Pressur e (psig)	H_2 (mol)	Activity, Kg/ gcat	% Decene Conversion	Kv (at 100°C)	Kv(at 40°C)	VI	I_2No.
17	5	0.033	34.14	43	998	11,818	307	4.1
18	8	0.045	38.9	49	1,074	13,074	308	2.5
19	15	0.123	53.03	60	863	10,326	296	1.7
20	30	0.212	50.02	63	722	8417	288	1.4
21	200	2.18	61.13	77	512	5781	271	1.2

[0061] Examples 17-21 illustrate that hydrogen is effective at saturating the terminal end group of the formed polymer at minimal concentration and pressure. However, in order to effectively lower the molecular weight to a usable kinematic viscosity, and to realize the full activation effect, there needs to be a substantial concentration of hydrogen in the polymerization vessel, partly due to the low solubility of hydrogen in the reaction medium.

EXAMPLES 22-27

[0062] Employing essentially the same procedure and materials as in Example 2, polymerizations were carried out with various monomers. In Examples 22-26, 500 ml of monomer was combined with 500 ml of hexane to bring the reactor volume up to 1 liter, then $Al(Bu^i)_3$ was added to scavenge impurities. In Example 27, a mixture of monomers were used which consisted of 274 ml of 1-octene, 165 ml of 1-decene and 311 ml of 1-dodecene for a total of 750 ml in the reactor. The results of these examples are summarized below in Table 5.

TABLE 5

Example	Monomer(s)	Activity Kg/gcat	% Decene Conversion	Kv (at 100°C)	VI	I_2 No.	T_g (°C)	M_w	M_w/M_n
22	1-hexene	27.84	57.7	2,862	251	1.2	-42.5	13,800	2.24
23	1-octene	40.38	79.1	888	276	0.6	-62.9	14,000	2.12
24	1-decene	40.97	77.4	515	272	1.5	-70.5	15,500	2.04
25	1-dodecene	39.20	72.4	402	264	1.2	-21.7	15,800	1.84
26	1-hexadecene	38.35	68.6	193	n/a	4.2	40.1	15,700	1.82
27	1-octene, 1-decene, and 1-dodecene	45.9	58	561	271	1.1	-67.7	14,900	2.54

[0063] As these data show, the catalyst contemplated in the invention are versatile across a wide range of monomers and are limited only in the desired properties of the final product. Thus, polymerizing the different monomers with the specific metallocene catalyst (of Example 2) and hydrogen illustrates that even though the Kv_{100} drops as the monomer size is increased in homopolymerization, the overall molecular weight of the resulting polymer remains approximately the same as measured by GPC. Additionally, the Iodine Number remains significantly low throughout, indicating little, if any, unsaturation present in the polymer. Also note that amorphous behavior, as measured by the glass transition temperature (T_g) reaches a minima for 1-decene as the monomer.

EXAMPLES 28-29

[0064] A dried 3 liter Büchi reactor was filled under Ar with 750 ml of dry 1-decene monomer. Next, 1.15 ml of a 25% by wt. solution of $Al(Bu^i)_3$ in hexane was added to scavenge moisture and impurities and the reactor temperature was increased to a temperature of 95°C. 1 Mole of hydrogen gas was then added to the reactor via pressure drop from a vessel of known volume. Then, a solution of 0.008 g of $Ph_2C(3\text{-}nBuCp\text{-}9\text{-}Flu)ZrCl_2$ for Example 28 and $Ph_2C(Cp\text{-}9\text{-}Flu)ZrCl_2$ for Example 29 dissolved in 8.8 ml of a 10 wt. % solution of MAO in toluene, which had been prepared 30 minutes prior to its use, was injected into the stirring reactor under 200 psig Ar pressure. The reactor was maintained at a temperature of 95°C and a pressure of 200 psig for 30 minutes.

[0065] When polymerization was complete, the reactor was depressurized and 400 ml hexane was added to the polymerized decene solution to aid in transfer. Then the reactor contents were pressure transferred to a vessel equipped with an agitator containing 100 ml of acidified isopropanol and agitated for 2 minutes. A white flocculent material presumed to be an aluminum alkoxide precipitated and settled in the aqueous phase. One liter of deionized water was then added to the washed mixture, stirred, allowed to settle, and the organic layer was removed from the aluminum residue-laden aqueous layer. The polymer was obtained from the remaining organic solution by evaporation under reduced pressure in a rotary evaporator. 461 Grams of polymeric material was obtained for each example. The results are summarized below in Table 6.

TABLE 6

Example	catalyst (g)	Temp. (°C)	Activity Kg/gcat	% Decene Conversion	Kv (at 100°C	Kv (at 40°C)	VI	I_2 No.
28	0.008	92	57.66	83	335	3,379	258 -	2.7
29	0.007	86	61.13	77	521	5,781	271	1.2

EXAMPLES 30-31

[0066] A dried 3 liter Büchi reactor was filled under Ar with 750 ml of dry 1-decene monomer. To this, 1.15 ml of a 25% by wt. solution of $Al(Bu^i)_3$ in hexane was added to scavenge moisture and impurities and the reactor temperature was increased to the desired temperature, listed in Table 7 below. Once the desired temperature was reached, 1 mole of hydrogen gas was added to the reactor via pressure drop from a vessel of known volume. Then, a solution of 0.029 g of $Ph_2Si(Cp\text{-}9\text{-}Flu)ZrCl_2$ dissolved in 10 wt. % solution of MAO in toluene at a 1000:1 molar MAO:Zr ratio, which had been prepared 30 minutes prior to its use, was injected into the stirring reactor under 200 psig Ar pressure. The reactor was maintained at the desired temperature and at a pressure of 200 psig for 30 minutes.

[0067] When polymerization was complete, the reactor was depressurized and 400 ml hexane was added to the polymerized decene solution to aid in transfer. Then the reactor contents were pressure transferred to a vessel equipped with an agitator containing 100 ml of acidified isopropanol and agitated for 2 minutes. A white flocculent material presumed to be an aluminum alkoxide precipitated and settled in the aqueous phase. One liter of deionized water was then added to the washed mixture, stirred, allowed to settle, and the organic layer was removed from the aluminum residue-laden aqueous layer. The polymer was obtained from the remaining organic solution by evaporation under reduced pressure in a rotary evaporator. The results are summarized below in Table 7.

TABLE 7

Example	H_2 (mol)	catalyst (g)	Temp. (°C)	Activity Kg/gcat	% Decene Conversion	Kv (at 100°C)	Kv (at 40°C)	VI	I_2 No.
30	1.0	0.029	40	4.45	23	1,080	12,555	314	0.8
31	1.0	0.029	95	4.95	26	110	900	222	9.2

[0068] As these data show, the nature of the bridge substituent of the catalyst (within the scope of this invention) is important both to attain an adequate rate of polymerization as well as provide some moderate effect on the efficiency of hydrogenolysis during polyermization.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES C-E

[0069] A dried 3 liter Büchi reactor was filled under Ar with 750 ml of dry 1-decene monomer. To this, 1.15 ml of a 25% by wt. solution of $Al(Bu^i)_3$ in hexane was added to scavenge moisture and impurities and the reactor temperature was increased to the desired temperature, listed in the table below. Once at the desired temperature, hydrogen gas was added to the reactor via pressure drop from a vessel of known volume to the desired molar quantity, listed in the table below. Then, a solution of 0.022 g of $Me_2C(Cp\text{-}9\text{-}Flu)ZrCl_2$ dissolved in 10 wt. % solution of MAO in toluene at a 1000:1 molar MAO:Zr ratio, which had been prepared 30 minutes prior to its use, was injected into the stirring reactor under 200 psig Ar pressure. The reactor was maintained at the desired temperature and at a pressure of 200 psig for 30 minutes.

[0070] When complete, the reactor was depressurized and 400 ml hexane was added to the polymerized decene solution to aid in transfer. Then the reactor contents were pressure transferred to a vessel equipped with an agitator containing 100 ml of acidified isopropanol and agitated for 2 minutes. A white flocculent material presumed to be an aluminum alkoxide precipitated and settled in the aqueous phase. One liter of deionized water was then added to the washed mixture, stirred, allowed to settle, and the organic layer was removed from the aluminum residue-laden aqueous layer. The polymer was obtained from the remaining organic solution by evaporation under reduced pressure in a rotary evaporator. The results are summarized below in Table 8.

TABLE 8

Comparative Example	H_2 (mol)	Temp. (°C)	Activity Kg/ gcat	% Decene Conversion	Kv (at 100°C)	Kv (at 40°C)	VI	I_2 No.
C	1.0	40	2.68	11	290	2,347	276	10.4
D	1.0	95	9.66	38	18	83	237	48.5
E	3.7	95	6.66	26	20	103	219	32.1

[0071] As these data show, employing a catalyst outside the scope of this invention effects the rate of polymerization, monomer conversion and efficiency of hydrogenolysis during polymerization thereby resulting in a significantly higher Iodine Number as compared to those 1-decene polyolefins obtained in Examples 17-21, 24, and 28-31 utilizing a catalyst within the scope of this invention.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES F-I

[0072] A dried 3 liter Büchi reactor was filled under Ar with 750 ml of dry 1-decene monomer. To this,1.15 ml of a 25% by wt. solution of $Al(Bu^i)_3$ in hexane was added to scavenge moisture and impurities and the reactor temperature was increased to the desired temperature, listed in the table below. Once at the desired temperature, hydrogen gas was added to the reactor via pressure drop from a vessel of known volume to the desired molar quantity, listed in the table below. Then a solution of various unbridged metallocene catalysts (for Comparative Examples F, G, and H) and a bridged metallocene catalyst (for Comparative Example I), whose type and weight are specified in the table below, and who are known to produce amorphous polymers were dissolved in 10 wt. % solution of MAO in toluene at a 1000:1 molar MAO: Zr ratio, which had been prepared 30 minutes prior to its use, was injected into the stirring reactor under 200 psig Ar pressure. The reactor was maintained at the desired temperature and at a pressure of 200 psig for 30 minutes.

[0073] When complete, the reactor was depressurized and 400 ml hexane was added to the polymerized decene solution to aid in transfer. Then the reactor contents were pressure transferred to a vessel equipped with an agitator containing 100 ml of acidified isopropanol and agitated for 2 minutes. A white flocculent material presumed to be an aluminum alkoxide precipitated and settled in the aqueous phase. One liter of deionized water was then added to the washed mixture, stirred, allowed to settle, and the organic layer was removed from the aluminum residue-laden aqueous layer.

[0074] The polymer was obtained from the remaining organic solution by evaporation under reduced pressure in a rotary evaporator. The results are summarized below in Table 9.

Table 9

Comp. Example	Procatalyst M	grams M	H_2 (mol)	Temp. (°C)	Activity Kg/gcat	% Decene Conversion	Kv (at 100°C)	Kv (at 40°C)	VI	I_2 No.
F	Cp_2ZrCl_2	0.030	0.0	40	5.39	29	41.4	295	196	26
G	Cp_2ZrCl_2	0.013	1.0	86	15.12	34	2.56	7.81	181	157
H	$(nBuCp)_2ZrCl_2$	0.009	1.0	89	21.97	34	2.34	7.12	163	133
I	$Me_2Si(C_p)_2ZrCl_2$	0.018	1.0	40	4.28	14	12	68	175	49.1

[0075] As these data show, employing a catalyst outside the scope of this invention provides a polyolefin possessing significantly high Iodine Numbers.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE J

[0076] A dried 3 liter Büchi reactor was filled under Ar with 750 ml of dry 1-decene monomer. To this, 1.15 ml of a 25% by wt. solution of $Al(Bu^i)_3$ in hexane was added to scavenge moisture and impurities and the reactor temperature was increased to 40°C. Next, 1 mole of hydrogen gas was added to the reactor via pressure drop from a vessel of known volume. Then, a solution of 0.011g of *rac*-$Et(Ind)_2ZrCl_2$ dissolved in 10 wt. % solution of MAO in toluene at a 1000:1 molar MAO:Zr ratio, which had been prepared 30 minutes prior to its use, was injected into the stirring reactor under 200 psig Ar pressure. The reactor was maintained at a temperature of 40°C and at a pressure of 200 psig for 30 minutes.

[0077] After polymerization and workup, 379 grams of polymeric material was obtained with a viscosity of 702 cSt, and a viscosity index of 296. Unsaturation as measured by Iodine Number was 0.4. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR analysis performed on this material indicated that there was no detectable unsaturation in the polymer by these methods. Polymer sequence distribution analysis revealed that the product was primarily isotactic in structure; i.e., the triad sequence %mm result was 78.66%.

[0078] DSC analysis performed on the polymer of Example J revealed that in addition to a glass transition temperature of-73.8°C, there was a crystalline transition temperature of 24.5°C in the polymer illustrating that the polymer is not amorphous thus making the polymer unsuitable for lubricant applications. The results of this example are summarized below in Table 10.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE K

[0079] Employing essentially the same procedure and materials as in Comparative Example I, 0.024 grams of $Me_2Si(2\text{-}MeInd)_2ZrCl_2$ was polymerized under the same conditions. After workup, 355 grams of poly(1-decene) was recovered, representing 64% monomer conversion. The polymer had a Kv_{100} of 1,624 cSt, a VI of 341 and an Iodine Number of 0.35. DSC analysis performed on the polymer revealed that in addition to a glass transition temperature of -66.0°C, there was a crystalline transition temperature of 33.1 °C in the polymer illustrating that the polymer is not amorphous thus making the polymer unsuitable for lubricant applications.

Table 10

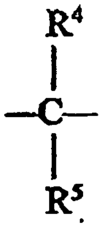
Comp. Example	Procatalyst	H_2 (mol)	Temp. (°C)	Activity Kg/gcat	% Decene Conversion	Kv (at 100°C)	Kv (at 40°C)	VI	I_2No.	Crystalline Transition Temp. (°C)
J	*rac*-Et $(Ind)_2ZrCl_2$	1.0	40	34.44	68	702	7,528	296	0.4	24.5
K	*rac*-$Me_2Si(2\text{-}MeInd)_2ZrCl_2$	1.0	40	14.79	64	1,624	18,529	341	0.35	33.1

Claims

1. A process for producing a liquid polyalphaolefin homo- or copolymer having a kinematic viscosity at a temperature of 100°C (Kv_{100}) of from 10 to 10,000 mm^2s^{-1} (cSt) and possessing a molecular weight (M_w) of from 500 to 60,000, the process comprising polymerizing at least one α-olefin containing from 6 to 12 carbon atoms in the presence of hydrogen and a catalytically effective amount of catalyst comprising the product obtained by combining a metallocene procatalyst with a cocatalyst, the metallocene procatalyst being at least one compound of general formula:

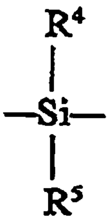
$$(Cp^1R^1_m)R^3(Cp^2R^2_p)MX_q$$

wherein Cp^1 of ligand $(Cp^1R^1_m)$ and Cp^2 of ligand (Cp^2R^2p) are the same or different cyclopentadienyl rings, R^1 and R^2 each is, independently, a hydrocarbyl, halocarbyl, heterocarbyl, hydrocarbyl-substituted organometalloid or halocarbyl-substituted organometalloid group containing up to about 20 carbon atoms, m-is 0 to 5, p is 0 to 5 and two R^1 and/or R^2 substituents on adjacent carbon atoms of the cyclopentadienyl ring associated therewith can be joined together to form a ring fused to the cyclopentadienyl ring, the fused ring containing from 4 to about 20 carbon atoms, R^3 is a bridging group bridging Cp^1 with Cp^2, M is a transition metal having a valence of from 3 to 6, each X is a non-cyclopentadienyl ligand and is, independently, halogen or a hydrocarbyl, oxyhydrocarbyl, halocarbyl, hydrocarbyl-substituted organometalloid, oxyhydrocarbyl-substituted organametalloid or halocarbyl-substituted organometalloid group containing up to about 20 carbon atoms, and q is equal to the valence of M minus 2, the cocatalyst being an aluminoxane and it being provided that ligand $(Cp^1R^1_m)$ is different from ligand $(Cp^2R^2_p)$ and bridging group R^3 possesses the structure



$$-\overset{R^4}{\underset{R^5}{C}}-.$$

or



$$-\overset{R^4}{\underset{R^5}{Si}}-$$

in which groups R^4 and R^5 each, independently, is, or contains, a cyclic group of from 6 to about 20 carbon atoms, from 0 to 3 heteroatoms and hydrogens as the remaining atoms, selected from cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, alkaryl, alkylheteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl.

2. The process of Claim 1 wherein in the metallocene procatalyst, the cyclic group is a cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, alkaryl, alkylheteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group.

3. The process of Claim 2 wherein in the metallocene procatalyst, ligand $(Cp^1R^1_m)$ is unsubstituted cyclopentadienyl, ligand $(Cp^2R^2_p)$ is substituted or unsubstituted indenyl or fluorenyl, M^1 is zirconium, R^4 and R^5 each is phenyl and each ligand X is chlorine.

4. The process of Claim 1 wherein the metallocene procatalyst based in terms of the transition metal M, is present in an amount from 0.0001 to about 0.02 millimoles/liter and the aluminoxane cocatalyst is present in an amount from 0.01 to about 100 millimoles/liter.

5. The process of Claim 1 wherein the α-olefin is 1-octene, 1-decene or 1-dodecene, and is especially 1-decene.

6. The process of Claim 1 wherein the metallocene procatalyst is combined with the aluminoxane cocatalyst and hydrogen in any order thereof and in the presence or absence of α-olefin.

7. The process of Claim 1 wherein polymerization is carried out under solution polymerization conditions.

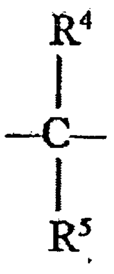
8. The process of Claim 1 wherein polymerization is carried out under slurry polymerization conditions.

Patentansprüche

1. Verfahren zur Herstellung eines flüssigen Polyalphaolefinhomo- oder -copolymers, das eine kinematische Viskosität bei einer Temperatur von 100 °C (Kv_{100}) von 10 bis 10.000 mm^2s^{-1} (cSt) aufweist und das ein Molekulargewicht (M_w) von 500 bis 60.000 besitzt, wobei das Verfahren umfasst ein Polymerisieren von mindestens einem α-Olefin, das 6 bis 12 Kohlenstoffatome enthält, in Gegenwart von Wasserstoff und einer katalytisch wirksamen Menge eines Katalysators, der das Produkt umfasst, das erhalten wird durch Kombinieren eines Metallocenprokatalysators mit einem Cokatalysator, wobei der Metallocenprokatalysator mindestens eine Verbindung der folgenden allgemeinen Formel ist:

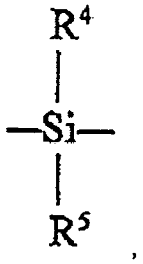
   $$(Cp^1R^1_m)R^3(Cp^2R^2_p)MX_q,$$

   wobei Cp^1 des Liganden ($Cp^1R^1_m$) und Cp^2 des Liganden ($Cp^2R^2_p$) die gleichen oder verschiedenen Cyclopentadienylringe sind, R^1 und R^2 jeweils unabhängig steht für eine Hydrocarbyl-, Halogencarbyl-, Heterocarbyl-, durch Hydrocarbyl substituierte metalloidorganische oder durch Halogencarbyl substituierte metalloidorganische Gruppe, die bis zu etwa 20 Kohlenstoffatome enthält, m für 0 bis 5 steht, p für 0 bis 5 steht, und zwei R^1- und/oder R^2-Substituenten an benachbarten Kohlenstoffatomen des Cyclopentadienylrings, der damit verbunden ist, verbunden sein können, um einen Ring zu bilden, der an den Cyclopentadienylring anelliert ist, wobei der anellierte Ring 4 bis etwa 20 Kohlenstoffatome enthält, R^3 für eine Verbrückungsgruppe steht, die Cp^1 mit Cp^2 verbrückt, M für ein Übergangsmetall mit einer Wertigkeit von 3 bis 6 steht, jedes X für einen Nicht-Cyclopentadienylliganden steht und unabhängig steht für Halogen oder eine Hydrocarbyl-, Oxyhydrocarbyl-, Halogencarbyl-, durch Hydrocarbyl substituierte metalloidorganische, durch Oxyhydrocarbyl substituierte metalloidorganische oder durch Halogencarbyl substituierte metalloidorganische Gruppe steht, die bis zu etwa 20 Kohlenstoffatome enthält, und q gleich der Wertigkeit von M minus 2 ist, wobei der Cokatalysator für ein Aluminoxan steht und unter der Bedingung, dass der Ligand ($Cp^1R^1_m$) verschieden ist von dem Liganden ($Cp^2R^2_p$) und die Verbrückungsgruppe R^3 die folgende Struktur besitzt

   $$\begin{array}{c} R^4 \\ | \\ -C- \\ | \\ R^5 \end{array}$$

   oder

   $$\begin{array}{c} R^4 \\ | \\ -Si- \\ | \\ R^5 \end{array},$$

   in der die Gruppe R^4 und R^5 jeweils unabhängig eine cyclische Gruppe ist oder enthält mit 6 bis etwa 20 Kohlenstoffatomen, mit 0 bis 3 Heteroatomen und Wasserstoffen als den verbleibenden Atomen, ausgewählt aus Cycloalkyl, Heterocycloalkyl, Cycloalkenyl, Heterocycloalkenyl, Aryl, Heteroaryl, Alkylaryl, Alkylheteroaryl, Aralkyl oder Heteroaralkyl.

2. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei in dem Metallocenprokatalysator die cyclische Gruppe für eine Cycloalkyl-, Heterocycloalkyl-, Cycloalkenyl-, Heterocycloalkenyl-, Aryl-, Heteroaryl-, Alkylaryl-, Alkylheteroaryl-, Aralkyl- oder Heteroaralkylgruppe steht.

3. Verfahren nach Anspruch 2, wobei in dem Metallocenprokatalysator der Ligand ($Cp^1R^1_m$) für ein unsubstituiertes Cyclopentadienyl steht, der Ligand ($Cp^2R^2_p$) für substituiertes oder unsubstituiertes Indenyl oder Fluorenyl steht, M^1 für Zirconium steht, R^4 und R^5 jeweils für Phenyl steht und jeder Ligand X für Chlor steht.

4. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Metallocenprokatalysator basierend in Bezug auf das Übergangsmetall M in einer Menge von 0,0001 bis etwa 0,02 Millimol/Liter vorliegt und der Aluminoxancokatalysator in einer Menge von 0,01 bis etwa 100 Millimol/Liter vorliegt.

5. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei das a-Olefin für 1-Octen, 1-Decen oder 1-Dodecen und insbesondere für 1-Decen, steht.

6. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Metallocenprokatalysator kombiniert wird mit dem Aluminoxancokatalysator und Wasserstoff in einer beliebigen Reihenfolge davon und in Gegenwart oder Abwesenheit von α-Olefin.

7. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Polymerisation ausgeführt wird unter Bedingungen einer Lösungspolymerisation.

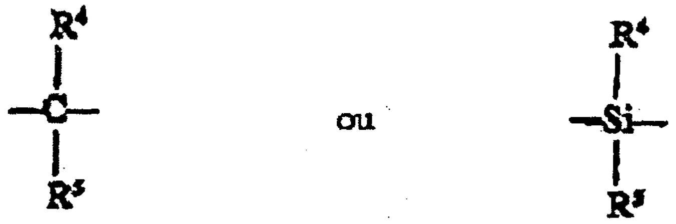
8. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Polymerisation ausgeführt wird unter Bedingungen einer Fällungs- oder Slurry-Polymerisation.

Revendications

1. Procédé de production d'un homo- ou d'un copolymère de polyalpha-oléfine liquide ayant une viscosité cinématique à une température de 100°C ($K\nu_{100}$) de 10 à 10 000 mm^2s^{-1} (cSt) et possédant une masse moléculaire (M_p) de 500 à 60 000, le procédé comprenant la polymérisation d'au moins une α-oléfine contenant de 6 à 12 atomes de carbone en présence d'hydrogène et d'une quantité efficace au plan catalytique d'un catalyseur comprenant le produit obtenu par combinaison d'un pro-catalyseur de type métallocène avec un co-catalyseur, le pro-catalyseur de type métallocène étant au moins un composé de formule générale:

$$(Cp^1R^1{}_m)R^3(Cp^2R^2{}_p)MX_q$$

dans laquelle Cp^1 du ligand ($Cp^1R^1{}_m$) et Cp^2 du ligand ($Cp^2R^2{}_p$) sont des cycles cyclopentadiényle identiques ou différents, R^1 et R^2 sont chacun indépendamment un groupe hydrocarbyle, halogénocarbyle, hétérocarbyle, organométalloïde hydrocarbyl-substitué ou organométalloïde halogénocarbyl-substitué contenant jusqu'à environ 20 atomes de carbone, m vaut 0 à 5, p vaut 0 à 5 et deux substituants R^1 et/ou R^2 sur des atomes de carbone adjacents du cycle cyclopentadiényle associé à ceux-ci peuvent être liés l'un à l'autre pour former un cycle condensé au cycle cyclopentadiényle, le cycle condensé contenant de 4 à environ 20 atomes de carbone, R^3 est un groupe pontant reliant Cp^1 à Cp^2, M est un métal de transition ayant une valence de 3 à 6, chaque X est un ligand qui n'est pas un groupe cyclopentadiényle et est indépendamment un atome d'halogène ou un groupe hydrocarbyle, oxyhydrocarbyle, halogénocarbyle, organométalloïde hydrocarbyl-substitué, organométalloïde oxyhydrocarbyl-substitué ou organométalloïde halogénocarbyl-substitué contenant jusqu'à environ 20 atomes de carbone, et q est égal à la valence de M moins 2, le co-catalyseur étant un aluminoxane et à condition que le ligand ($Cp^1R^1{}_m$) soit différent du ligand ($Cp^2R^2{}_p$) et le groupe pontant R^3 a la structure



dans laquelle chacun des groupes R^4 et R^5 est indépendamment, ou contient, un groupe cyclique de 6 à environ 20 atomes de carbone, de 0 à 3 hétéroatomes et des atomes d'hydrogène en tant qu'atomes restants, choisis parmi les groupes cycloalkyle, hétérocycloalkyle, cycloalcényle, hétérocycloalcényle, aryle, hétéroaryle, alkaryle, alkylhétéroaryle, aralkyle ou hétéroaralkyle.

2. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel, dans le pro-catalyseur de type métallocène, le groupe cyclique est un groupe cycloalkyle, hétérocycloalkyle, cycloalcényle, hétérocycloalcényle, aryle, hétéroaryle, alkaryle, alkylhétéroaryle, aralkyle ou hétéroaralkyle.

3. Procédé selon la revendication 2, dans lequel, dans le pro-catalyseur de type métallocène, le ligand ($Cp^1R^1{}_m$) est un groupe cyclopentadiényle non substitué, le ligand ($Cp^2R^2{}_p$) est un groupe indényle ou fluorényle substitué ou non substitué, M^1 est un atome de zirconium, R^4 et R^5 sont chacun un groupe phényle et chaque ligand X est un atome de chlore.

4. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le pro-catalyseur de type métallocène, en termes de métal de transition M, est présent dans une quantité de 0,0001 à environ 0,02 millimole/litre et le co-catalyseur de type aluminoxane est présent dans une quantité de 0,01 à environ 100 millimoles/litre.

5. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel l'α-oléfine est le 1-octène, le 1-décène ou le 1-dodécène et en particulier le 1-décène.

6. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le pro-catalyseur de type métallocène est combiné avec le co-catalyseur de type aluminoxane et de l'hydrogène dans un ordre quelconque de ceux-ci et en présence ou en l'absence de l'α-oléfine.

7. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la polymérisation est réalisée dans des conditions de polymérisation en solution.

8. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la polymérisation est réalisée dans des conditions de polymérisation en suspension.

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

This list of references cited by the applicant is for the reader's convenience only. It does not form part of the European patent document. Even though great care has been taken in compiling the references, errors or omissions cannot be excluded and the EPO disclaims all liability in this regard.

Patent documents cited in the description

- EP 0586777 A1 **[0005]**
- WO 9738019 A **[0005]**
- JP 2140295 A **[0005]**
- EP 0516019 A2 **[0005]**
- US 4752597 A **[0009]**
- US 4892851 A **[0009]**
- US 4931417 A **[0009]**
- US 4931517 A **[0009]**
- US 4933403 A **[0009]**
- US 5001205 A **[0009]**
- US 5017714 A **[0009]**
- US 5026798 A **[0009]**
- US 5034549 A **[0009]**
- US 5036034 A **[0009]**
- US 5055438 A **[0009]**
- US 5064802 A **[0009]**
- US 5086134 A **[0009]**
- US 5087677 A **[0009]**
- US 5126301 A **[0009]**
- US 5126303 A **[0009]**
- US 5132262 A **[0009]**
- US 5132380 A **[0009]**
- US 5132381 A **[0009]**
- US 5145819 A **[0009]**
- US 5153157 A **[0009]**
- US 5155080 A **[0009]**
- US 5225501 A **[0009]**
- US 5227478 A **[0009]**
- US 5241025 A **[0009]**
- US 5243002 A **[0009]**
- US 5278119 A **[0009]**
- US 5278265 A **[0009]**
- US 5281679 A **[0009]**
- US 5296434 A **[0009]**
- US 5304614 A **[0009]**
- US 5308817 A **[0009]**
- US 5324800 A **[0009]**
- US 5328969 A **[0009]**
- US 5329031 A **[0009]**
- US 5330948 A **[0009]**
- US 5331057 A **[0009]**
- US 5349032 A **[0009]**
- US 5372980 A **[0009]**
- US 5374753 A **[0009]**
- US 5385877 A **[0009]**
- US 5391629 A **[0009]**
- US 5391789 A **[0009]**
- US 5399636 A **[0009]**
- US 5401817 A **[0009]**
- US 5406013 A **[0009]**
- US 5416177 A **[0009]**
- US 5416178 A **[0009]**
- US 5416228 A **[0009]**
- US 5427991 A **[0009]**
- US 5439994 A **[0009]**
- US 5441920 A **[0009]**
- US 5442020 A **[0009]**
- US 5449651 A **[0009]**
- US 5453410 A **[0009]**
- US 5455365 A **[0009]**
- US 5455366 A **[0009]**
- US 5459117 A **[0009]**
- US 5466649 A **[0009]**
- US 5470811 A **[0009]**
- US 5470927 A **[0009]**
- US 5477895 A **[0009]**
- US 5491205 A **[0009]**
- US 5491207 A **[0009]**
- US 5229478 A **[0018]**

Non-patent literature cited in the description

- Derwent WPI; AN. 1990-207253 **[0005]**
- **GALLO et al.** Unsaturation in Isoprene-Isobutylene Copolymers. *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry,* 1948, vol. 40, 1277-1280 **[0043]**
- **JOHN C. RANDALL.** Polymer Sequence Determination. Academic Press, 1977 **[0044]**