

Title	分子不斉構造単位を有する光学活性ポリアミドの合成
Author(s)	唐, 鴻志
Citation	
Issue Date	1999-09
Type	Thesis or Dissertation
Text version	none
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/10119/2078
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Description	Supervisor:川上 雄資, 材料科学研究科, 博士

Synthesis of Optically Active Polyamides with Molecularly Asymmetric Units

Hongzhi Tang

*School of Materials Science,
Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology*

(Supervised by Yusuke Kawakami)

Keywords: Molecularly asymmetric units, spiro[3.3]heptane-2,6-dicarboxylic acid, optical resolution, chiral HPLC, optical purity, optically active polyamides, conformation, ordered conformation

Abstract

Specific conformation like helix of an optically active polymer plays an important role in the potential applications of the polymer in chiral chromatographic separation or in catalyst for asymmetric induction. Conformationally optically active polymer can be synthesized by introduction of an optically active monomer into polymer main chains. Among the optically active monomers, C₂-symmetric units such as binaphthyl led to numbers of optically active polymers taking helical structures. In this study, a novel type of molecular asymmetric unit as spiro[3.3]heptane-2,6-dicarboxylic acid was noticed, in which two functional carboxylic acid groups twist 90° *strictly due to the twisting of the two cyclobutane rings. Thus, introduction of this unit into polymer main chains is expected to take ordered conformations in solution.*

Spiro[3.3]heptane-2,6-dicarboxylic acid was synthesized starting from pentaerythritol, and the optical purity was estimated to be 90% by ¹³C NMR. Using ¹³C NMR, its optical purity was estimated to be 90%.

In order to obtain optically pure spiro[3.3]heptane-2,6-dicarboxylic acid, a series of spiro[3.3]heptane-2,6-dicarboxylic acid esters were synthesized, and chromatographic separation of the monomer and optically active polymers was performed. Especially, dicinnamyl esters showed high solubility in propanol solvent system and high separation ability by HPLC on cellulose carbamate stationary phase. Optically pure spiro[3.3]heptane-2,6-dicarboxylic acid were first obtained by hydrolysis of the optically pure dicinnamyl esters with hydrochloric acid. The optical purity of the obtained spiro[3.3]heptane-2,6-dicarboxylic acid was estimated to be 90% by ¹³C NMR.

Optically active polyamides were synthesized by NMP solution polycondensation of diamines and optically active spiro[3.3]heptane-2,6-dicarboxylic acid chloride. Comparing with suitable model compound and oligomers, the conformation of the polyamides was estimated. For example, 1,4-bis(phenylenediamine), 2',5'-diamino-4-(dimethylamino)-4'-nitro-stilbene, 3,3'-dimethoxybenzidine took ordered conformations in solution.

Acknowledgements

The author expresses his sincere gratitude to Professor Yusuke Kawakami, for his continuous guidance and encouragement thought this study. The author also expresses his sincere gratitude to Associate Professor Tsuneji Sano and Eiji Shirakawa, for his valuable and active discussions. The author gratefully acknowledges valuable discussions of Associate Professor Atsunori Mori, Tokyo Institute of Technology. The author also expresses his sincere gratitude to Associate Ichiro Imae and Teruhisa Tsuchimoto, for his valuable and active discussions. The author is grateful to ShinEtsu Chemicals Co. Ltd. for generous donation of organosilicon compounds. The author expresses his sincere gratitude to the students of Kawakami Laboratories.

September 16, 1999