# Effects of Anion and Solvent on Properties of Alternating Ethylene/CO Copolymer Catalyzed by the Pd(II) Complex

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(Received July 10, 2000; Accepted October 18, 2000)

ABSTRACT: Alternating copolymerization of ethylene and carbon monoxide was carried out using  $(dppp)Pd(OAc)_{2}/2$ anion complexes (dppp=1,3-bis(diphenylphosphino)propane) with various anions and solvents. Catalytic activity in a protic solvent (methanol) was found higher than that in an aprotic solvent (acetone). When *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (*p*-TSOH) was used as an anion, molecular weight and melting temperature as well as the catalytic activity, increased with an appropriate combination of methanol and acetone instead of each methanol or acetone. The type of anion and solvent seemed important for catalytic activity and polymer properties. Catalytic activity decreased due to steric hindrance of alcohol in the order, methanol>*i*-butanol>*t*-butanol. Polymer properties such as molecular weight, melting temperature and crystalline structure as well as catalytic activity were significantly affected by the presence of water. KEY WORDS Palladium Catalyst / Ethylene / Carbon Monoxide / Copolymerization /

Alternating ethylene-carbon monoxide copolymers can be obtained using catalysts based on Group VIIItransition metal compounds. There has been increasing interest in these polymers due to low cost, carbonyl functionality, and potential for further functionalization. $^{1-3}$ The catalyst system typically consists of Pd(II) salts in methanol in combination with acids, mono- or bi-dentate phosphines, or bidentate nitrogen ligands and an oxidizing agent. Most research in this field has been focused on the copolymerization of carbon monoxide with ethylene or with  $\alpha$ -olefins such as propylene and styrene to increase catalytic activity. To achieve high catalytic activity, a more efficient catalyst system requires a suitable bidentate ligand and weakly- or non-coordinating anion to be replaced from the coordination site by an incoming nucleophile molecule.<sup>2,4-6</sup> Little has been reported on the effects of anions and/or solvent on polymer properties. In general, hydrogen is used as a chain transfer agent to control the molecular weight in Ziegler -Natta and metallocene catalysts. In this system, molecular weight of copolymer depends on the nature of anions and solvent as well as hydrogen.

The copolymerization of ethylene and carbon monoxide was carried out in a mixture of protic and/or aprotic solvent using the  $(dppp)Pd(OAc)_2/anion$  complex catalyst. The effects of the anions and solvent and water addition on the properties of copolymer were investigated.

## EXPERIMENTAL

# Materials

Carbon monoxide (99.3% purity) and ethylene (polymerization grade) were purified with columns of RIDOX and molecular sieve 5A. Palladium(II) acetate and 1,3bis(diphenylphosphino)propane (dppp) were purchased from Strem Chemicals. p-Toluenesulfonic acid (p-TSOH, monohydrate, 99%), trifluoroacetic acid, pentafluoro benzoic acid were directly used without purification. The solvents were purified according to standard methods.

# Preparation of Catalysts

The catalyst  $(dppp)Pd(OAc)_2$  was prepared according to a general method. 1.00 g (4.46 mmol) of palladium acetate was dissolved in 100 mL acetone and filtered. To the filtrate, a solution of dppp (1.839 g, 4.46 mmol) in 20 mL acetone was slowly added over a period of 30 min. Soon, needle-like crystal began to form, 20 mL ether were then slowly added and the mixture was allowed to stand for 30 min. The pale-yellow precipitate was filtered, washed with 10 mL toluene and dried *in vacuo* to give a (dppp)Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>.

# Copolymerization and Polymer Characterization

The copolymerization of ethylene and CO was conducted in a magnetically driven stainless steel autoclave (Parr reactor) of 600 mL. Air in the system was eliminated by purging with CO. The catalyst  $(dppp)Pd(OAc)_2$ (0.026 mmol), *p*-TSOH (0.053 mmol) was dissolved in methanol (10 mL) and charged into the reactor containing methanol (90 mL) as solvent. Ethylene (20 bar) and CO (20 bar) were added to the reactor and the system was heated to 80°C. After a period of 1 h, the reaction was quenched to room temperature and the unreacted gas was vented. The product was recovered by filtration, washed several times with methanol, and dried *in vacuo*.

 $^{13}\mathrm{C}$  NMR spectra of the copolymer were recorded at 120°C using a Bruker AMX-500 spectrometer operating at 125.6 MHz. Copolymer sample was dissolved in 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropanol/benzene- $d_6$  (4/1 by vol.) up to a concentration of 10 wt% at ambient temperature in NMR tubes (5 mm o.d.). Tetramethylsilane was used as the internal standard. Melting temperature and heat of fusion of polymers were measured by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) (Dupont analyst

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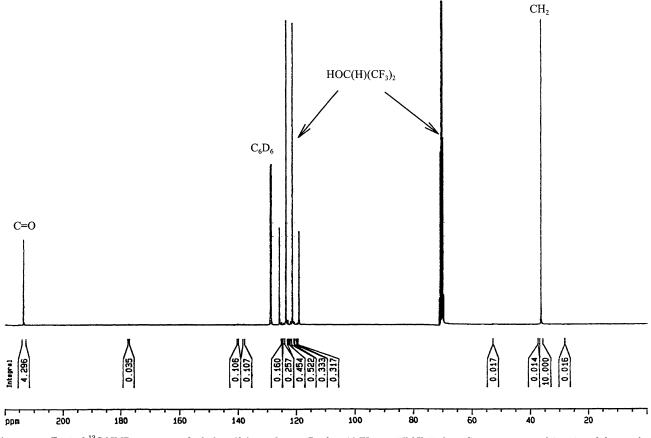


Figure 1. Typical <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of ethylene/CO copolymer. Bruker AMX, 500 FT-NMR, hexafluoroisopropanol (90%) and deuterobenzene (10%) as solvent.

2000) at a heating rate of  $10^{\circ}$  min<sup>-1</sup>. The infrared spectrum was recorded using KBr pellet technique with Bomem MB 102 Fourier transform infrared (FT-IR) spectrometer. X-Ray diffractomeric data were recorded using Cu- $K_{\alpha}$  radiation at 30 keV and 25°C. Diffraction patterns of samples were taken in the range 5° <2 $\theta$  <60°. Intrinsic viscosity of the copolymer was measured in *m*-cresol solution at several concentrations and 100°C using an Ubbelohde viscometer.

# **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### Characteristics of the Copolymer

The copolymer samples were off-white powders with high melting temperature. These polyketones are insoluble in common organic solvents and dissolve appreciably only in highly polar solvents such as HFIP (hexafluoroisopropanol), m-cresol or in strong protic acids such as trifluoroacetic acid. Elemental analysis was in agreement with the ethylene: CO ratio of 1. Spectroscopically (NMR and FT-IR), the polyketones obtained were identical with those previously reported.<sup>6</sup> <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra (Figure 1) show two resonances due to carbonvl (217 ppm) and  $\alpha$ -methylene (36 ppm) carbons. The absence of resonance at  $\sim$ 24 ppm (observed in case of random ethylene/CO copolymers)<sup>7</sup> indicates the absence of  $\beta$ -methylene carbons, leading to the conclusion that the copolymers obtained have regular structures with alternating ethylene and carbon monoxide units. The FT-IR spectrum showed a strong absorption band at  $1700 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ 

due to the v(C=O) stretch and a band at 1259 cm<sup>-1</sup> due to the v(C=C) stretch.

# Effects of the Chemical Nature of Anion and Solvent

Effective binding of the anion as well as its ability to abstract the ancillary ligand (OAc) has major control over the catalytic activity. Drent *et al.*<sup>2</sup> reported that higher electrophilicity at the palladium center with weakly- or non-coordinating anions and its corresponding higher catalytic activity with such anions must be due to easier access of substrate molecules, solvent, olefin, and CO to coordination sites on the metal center.

Various anions were tested for copolymerization of carbon monoxide and ethylene in a protic (methanol) and/or aprotic (acetone) solvent mixture (Table I). When *p*-TSOH was used as an anion, catalytic activity, molecular weight (intrinsic viscosity) and melting temperature increased with an appropriate combination of methanol and acetone instead of each methanol or acetone. For other anions such as  $CF_3CO_2H$ ,  $C_6F_5CO_2H$ , and  $(Ph_3C)[B(C_6F_5)_4]$  this effect was not observed. The  $(Ph_3C)[B(C_6F_5)_4]$  compound as bulky anion source gave relatively higher molecular weight than other anions presumably because this compound cannot donate protons.

The catalytic activity of copolymerization in a protic solvent (methanol) was higher than in an aprotic solvent (acetone). A protic solvent serves as coinitiator as well as chain transfer agent in its reaction with the palladium complex, which forms not only a palladium methoxy spe-

<b>.</b>	Solvent/mL		Yield	Activity	$\eta$ "	$T_{ m m}$
Anion type	MeOH	Acetone	g	g-PK/g-Pd · h	$dLg^{-1}$	Ĉ
P-TSOH	100		3.8	1354	0.24	217
P-TSOH	65	35	5.0	1771	0.38	229
P-TSOH	35	65	6.7	2382	0.51	237
P-TSOH		100	1.6	582	0.32	224
CF <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H	100		7.1	2534	0.99	245
CF <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H	65	35	6.9	2446	1.06	245
CF <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H	35	65	6.0	2154	0.98	242
$CF_3CO_2H$	—	100	2.1	736	1.04	249
C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H	100		2.1	761	0.32	229
C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H	65	35	0.7	232	0.02	231
C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H	35	65	0.6	225	0.01	217
$C_6F_5CO_2H$	—	100	n.d.	_		—
$(Ph_{3}C)[B(C_{6}F_{5})_{4}]$	100		5.9	2121	1.06	237
$(Ph_{3}C)[B(C_{6}F_{5})_{4}]$	65	35	4.6	1646	1.08	225
$(Ph_3C)[B(C_6F_5)_4]$	35	65	4.1	1479	1.09	240
$(Ph_{3}C)[B(C_{6}F_{5})_{4}]$		100	5.1	1821	1.13	221

Table I. Copolymerization of ethylene with CO over (dppp)Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> catalyst using different anions and solvents

Experimental conditions: (dppp)Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (0.026 mmol), anion (0.053 mmol),  $P_{C2H4/CO}$  (20/20 bar), solvent (100 mL), 80°C, 1 h. *p*-TSOH=CH<sub>3</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>H.H<sub>2</sub>O. <sup>a</sup> Intrinsic viscosity in *m*-cresol at 100°C using Ubbelohde viscometer.

 Table II.
 Copolymerization of ethylene with CO over (dppp)Pd(OAc)2 catalyst using different alcohols

Solvent mixture/mL		Yield	Activity	$\eta$ a	$T_{ m m}$
		g	g-PK/g-Pd · h	$dLg^{-1}$	°C
MeOH (100)		3.8	1354	0.24	217
MeOH (65)	Acetone (35)	5.0	1771	0.38	229
MeOH (35)	Acetone (65)	6.7	2382	0.51	237
	Acetone (100)	1.6	582	0.32	224
<i>i</i> -BuOH (100)		3.2	1136	0.44	201
<i>i</i> -BuOH (65)	Acetone (35)	2.1	736	0.41	211
<i>i</i> -BuOH (35)	Acetone (65)	2.9	1021	0.38	214
	Acetone (100)	1.6	582	0.32	224
<i>t</i> -BuOH (100)		n.d.			
t-BuOH (65)	Acetone (35)	1.2	421	1.36	222
t-BuOH (35)	Acetone (65)	1.9	686	0.98	233
_	Acetone (100)	1.6	582	0.32	224

Experimental conditions:  $(dppp)Pd(OAc)_2 (0.026 \text{ mmol}), p$ -TSOH (0.053 mmol),  $P_{C2H4/CO} (20/20 \text{ bar})$ , solvent (100 mL), 80°C, 1 h. <sup>a</sup> Intrinsic viscosity in *m*-cresol at 100°C using Ubbelohde viscometer.

cies  $[Pd-OCH_3]$  but also a palladium hydride species [Pd-H]. For reactions in aprotic solvents, the initiation is possible only through a palladium hydride species [Pd-H] by dihydrogen, which is provided by trace water (protic impurities) or trace  $H_2$  in the reactant gas.<sup>8-10</sup>

The choice of polymerization solvent affected polymer properties, especially molecular weight. Molecular weight of copolymer was lower in methanol than in acetone with various anions. Propagation reaction progressed by the addition of ethylene to Pd-acyl and of CO to Pd-alkyl species alternatively. All chains were terminated mainly by reaction of methanol with various propagating species producing a new initiating species. Alcoholysis occurs from the Pd-acyl species (eq 1) and in the case of Pd-alkyl species alcoholysis (eq 2) and protonolysis (eq 3) were possible.<sup>2,11,12</sup>

Chain-transfer:

 $\begin{array}{ccc} Pd^{+1}-C(O)-P+CH_{3}OH \longrightarrow Pd^{+1}-H+CH_{3}OC(O)-P & (1) \\ Pd^{+1}-CH_{2}CH_{2}C(O)-P+CH_{3}OH \\ & \longrightarrow Pd^{+1}-H+CH_{3}O \ CH_{2}CH_{2}C(O)-P & (2) \\ & \longrightarrow Pd^{+1}-OCH_{3}+CH_{3}CH_{2}C(O)-P & (3) \end{array}$ 

# Effects of Alcohol

Catalytic activity increased with the addition of alcohols. The increase was significantly influenced by steric hindrance of alcohol in the order, methanol (MeOH) $\geq i$ butanol (i-BuOH) > t-butanol (t-BuOH) as shown in Table II. Copolymerization yield was significantly lower in a t-BuOH/acetone mixture compared to a MeOH/acetone mixture. The low activity in the case of *t*-BuOH may be due to other reasons. The formation of Pd-O-t-Bu is slow, the insertion of ethylene or carbon monoxide into Pd-O-t-Bu bond is slower than that into Pd-OCH<sub>3</sub> bond and Pd-H cannot form from Pd-O-t-Bu.<sup>4</sup> The molecular weight and melting temperature of copolymer can be varied with a proper combination of alcohol and acetone. Especially, *t*-BuOH showed higher molecular weight than others, probably due to the absence of  $\beta$ -hydrogen in *t*-BuOH species.

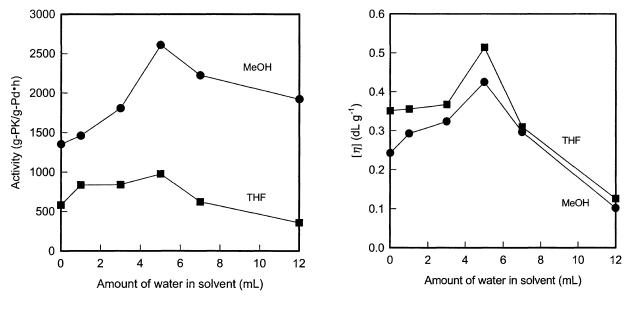
# Effects of Water Addition on the Properties of Copolymer

Catalytic activity was significantly influenced by the presence of water. The promoting effect of a small amount of water on the copolymer yield was reported by Toniolo *et al.*,<sup>13</sup> but the effect on polymer properties was

	$H_2O$	H <sub>2</sub> O/solvent % v/v	Yieldg	Activity g-PK/g-Pd · h	$\frac{\eta^{\rm a}}{{\rm dLg}^{-1}}$	$\frac{T_{\rm m}}{\mathbb{C}}$	$\frac{\Delta H_{\rm f}}{\rm J~g^{-1}}$	$\frac{X_{c}^{b}}{\%}$
	mL							
MeOH (100)			3.8	1354	0.24	217	61	27
MeOH (100)	1	1.0	4.1	1461	0.29	219	60	26
MeOH (100)	3	2.9	5.1	1807	0.32	226	87	38
MeOH (100)	5	4.8	7.3	2607	0.43	238	114	50
MeOH (100)	7	6.5	6.2	2225	0.30	230	137	60
MeOH (100)	12	10.7	5.4	1921	0.10	228	90	40
THF (100)			1.6	582	0.35	226	64	28
THF (100)	1	1.0	2.3	836	0.36	226	73	32
THF (100)	3	2.9	2.4	839	0.37	234	77	34
THF (100)	5	4.8	2.7	975	0.51	243	103	45
THF (100)	7	6.5	1.7	621	0.31	242	127	56
THF (100)	12	10.7	1.0	357	0.13	233	79	35

Table III. Copolymerization of ethylene with CO over (dppp)Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> catalyst with water addition

Experimental conditions:  $(dppp)Pd(OAc)_2 (0.026 \text{ mmol}), p$ -TSOH (0.053 mmol),  $P_{C2H4/CO} (20/20 \text{ bar})$ , Solvent (100 mL), 80°C, 1 h. <sup>a</sup> Intrinsic viscosity in *m*-cresol at 100°C using Ubbelohde viscometer. <sup>b</sup> Crystallinity =  $\Delta H_f / \Delta H_m^{\circ} (\Delta H_m^{\circ} = 227 \text{ J g}^{-1})$ .



(a)

(b)

**Figure 2.** Effect of water addition on the activity (a) and molecular weight (b) of ethylene/CO copolymerization. Experimental conditions:  $(dppp)Pd(OAc)_2 (0.026 \text{ mmol}), p$ -TSOH (0.053 mmol),  $P_{C2H4/CO} (20/20 \text{ bar})$ , Solvent (100 mL), 80 °C, 1 h.

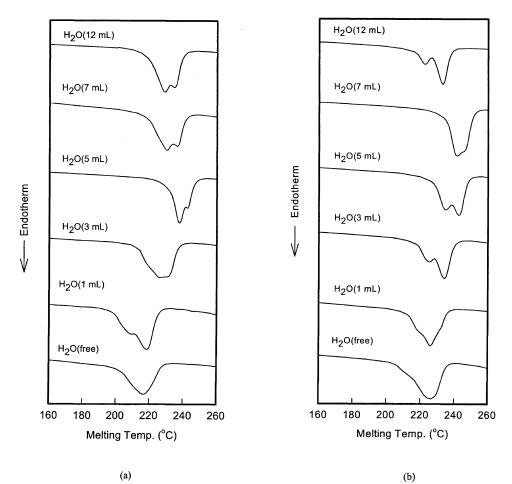
not investigated in ethylene/CO copolymerization. Rieger et al.<sup>14,15</sup> reported the effect of activator (methanol, water) on the copolymerization of propylene and CO over [(dppp)Pd(NCMe)<sub>2</sub>][BF<sub>4</sub>] in methylene chloride. Molecular weight, regioregularity and elastic properties of copolymer were influenced by activator content. Table III and Figure 2 shows the results of water addition on the copolymerization of ethylene and carbon monoxide. Catalytic activity increased from 1354 up to 2607 gpolyketone/g-Pd · h and from 582 up to 975 g-polyketone/ g-Pd·h in the presence of 4.8 vol% of water in methanol and tetrahydrofuran (THF). Further addition of water decreased catalytic activity. This suggests that water competes with monomers for coordination sites of palladium metal. Catalytic activity for the copolymerization of carbon monoxide and ethylene increased since water increases the concentration of hydride species, which initiate the insertion of the olefin into a Pd-H bond resulting in the water gas shift reaction (WGSR) as follows (eq 4). The palladium complex is well known to catalyze  $\rm WGSR.^2$ 

$$Pd^{+2}+CO \longrightarrow [Pd-CO]^{+2}$$

$$\xrightarrow{+H_2O} [Pd-(COOH)]^+-H^+$$

$$\xrightarrow{-CO_2} [Pd-H]^+ \xrightarrow{+H^+} Pd^{+2}+H_2 \qquad (4)$$

While water and methanol may be involved in the reduction of  $Pd^{+2}$ , they can also be a source of hydrides. Figure 2b shows that molecular weight is also strongly influenced by the presence of water in methanol and THF, respectively. Intrinsic viscosity increased from 0.24 up to 0.43 dL g<sup>-1</sup> and from 0.35 up to 0.51 dL g<sup>-1</sup> in the presence of 4.8 vol% of water in methanol and THF, respectively. Intrinsic viscosity shows similar variation with water to activity. The addition of water as a proton source may increase not only the concentration of active



**Figure 3.** DSC curves of ethylene/CO copolymer with water addition in (a) MeOH, (b) THF. Experimental conditions:  $(dppp)Pd(OAc)_2 (0.026 \text{ mmol}), p$ -TSOH (0.053 mmol),  $P_{C2H4/CO} (20/20 \text{ bar})$ , Solvent (100 mL), 80 °C, 1 h.

species, *i.e.*, palladium hydride species, but also stability of the palladium hydride species. Increase in the stability of active species must enhance the possibility of coordination and insertion of monomers, which may increase molecular weight (or intrinsic viscosity). Excess water would accelerate chain transfer. Accordingly, intrinsic viscosity would show a maximum point with an optimum amount of water.

Figure 3 shows the DSC spectrum of ethylene/CO copolymers. The melting temperature  $(T_m)$  and crystallinity  $(X_c)$  of copolymers were strongly influenced by the addition of water in the copolymerization and showed similar trend with molecular weight. Melting temperature and heat of fusion of copolymer increased with the addition of water as shown in Table III. Copolymers with no addition of water had one  $T_{
m m}$ , but copolymers with water showed two  $T_{\rm m}$ . Multiple melting points are possibly due to two active sites or two different polymer phase formation.<sup>16</sup> In the X-Ray diffractogram (XRD) (Figure 4), the copolymer was confirmed to be partially crystalline. From Table III and Figure 4, the degree of crystallinity of copolymer increased with volume ratio of water to methanol and THF up to 6.5 vol%, then decreased beyond this ratio. Even if there is the possibility that the content of water in the solvent, used for re-deposit of isolated copolymer, may vary crystallinity, the effect of water on crystallinity of the copolymer is yet to be understood. There are two crystalline forms ( $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ ) in

the alternating ethylene/CO copolymers.<sup>17</sup> The  $\alpha$ -phase has carbonyl groups in adjacent chains at equal heights, but the  $\beta$ -phase has carbonyl groups of chains at the corners of the cell pointing in different directions from those of the chain in the center of the cell. While the polymer chains are the same in each phase, orientation of the carbonyls along the chain is less ordered in the  $\beta$ phase.<sup>18</sup> The crystalline form, favored strongly, depends on polymer composition as well as other factors like temperature, and applied stress. The  $\alpha$ -phase has been reported in well-oriented perfectly alternating ethylene/ carbon monoxide copolymers. The  $\beta$ -phase is exclusive in ethylene/propylene/carbon monoxide terpolymers above 2.5 mol% of propylene.<sup>17</sup> In this study, we used two peaks at an angle of 31° and 29°, which assigned to the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -phases (210), respectively. The  $\beta$ -phase decreased with content of water in copolymerization and then disappeared above 10.7 vol% water, but the  $\alpha$ phase did not disappear. This indicates that the crystalline structures of ethylene/carbon monoxide copolymers can be changed with the addition of water in copolymerization.

# CONCLUSIONS

The catalytic activity of ethylene–carbon monoxide copolymerization using  $(dppp)Pd(OAc)_2/anion$  complexes in a protic solvent (methanol) was found higher than in

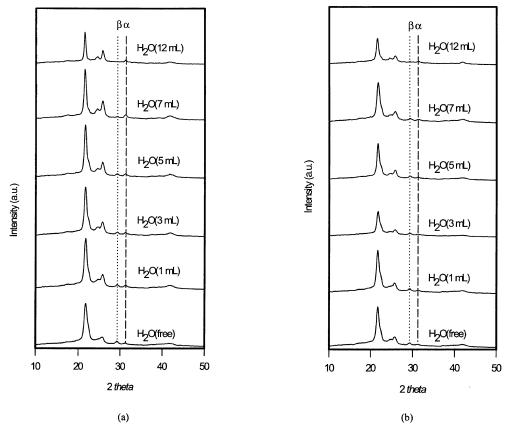


Figure 4. XRD curves of ethylene/CO copolymer with water addition in (a) MeOH, (b) THF. Experimental conditions:  $(dppp)Pd(OAc)_2$  (0.026 mmol), p-TSOH (0.053 mmol),  $P_{C2H4/CO}$  (20/20 bar), Solvent (100 mL), 80 $^{\circ}$ C, 1 h.

an aprotic solvent (acetone). When p-TSOH was used as an anion, molecular weight and melting temperature as well as the catalytic activity could be controlled with an appropriate combination of methanol and acetone instead of each methanol or acetone. Catalytic activity decreased due to steric hindrance of alcohol in the order, MeOH>i-BuOH>t-BuOH. Polymer properties such as molecular weight, melting temperature and crystalline structure were affected by the presence of water. Catalytic activity increased with water possibly because increased concentration of hydride species may easily initiate the insertion of the olefin into a Pd-H bond viawater gas shift reaction.

Acknowledgments. This work was partially supported by the Brain Korea 21 Project and also by the National Research Laboratory Project of Korea.

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