# DEGRADATION OF STARCH-BASED HIGH DENSITY POLYETHYLENE BLENDS CONTAINING A PROOXIDANT ADDITIVE

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A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

for the Degree of Master of Science

The Petroleum and Petrochemical College, Chulalongkorn University

in Academic Partnership with

The University of Michigan, The University of Oklahoma

and Case Western Reserve University

1998

ISBN 974-638-482-1

Thesis Title : Degradation of Starch-Based High Density Polyethylene

Blends Containing a Prooxidant Additive

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**Program** : Polymer Science

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#### **ABSTRACT**

## 962019 : POLYMER SCIENCE PROGRAM

KEY WORDS : Starch / Prooxidant / Biodegradation / Thermal oxidative

degradation

Watanaporn Pornsiripong: Degradation of Starch-Based High Density Polyethylene Blends Containing a Prooxidant Additive. Thesis Advisors: Assoc. Prof. David C. Martin, Dr. Ratana Rujiravanit and Mr. John W. Ellis, 52 pp. ISBN 974-638-482-1

Degradation of starch-based high density polyethylene (HDPE) blends containing natural rubber and zinc stearate as a prooxidant additive was studied. The enzymatic degradation of the starch component was investigated using enzyme ∞-amylase and the thermal oxidative degradation of the HDPE component was carried out by heating the polymer blends in an air-forced oven at 80°C and 100°C. The progress of polymer degradation was monitored by measuring the weight loss and characterized using Extrusion Plastimetry, Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR), Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) and a Universal Testing Machine. After being subjected to heat treatment, pure HDPE and starch-based HDPE were not found to be degraded, while for HDPE containing the prooxidant additive, the polymer was found to be degraded. For enzymatic studies, an increase in the starch content of the polymer blends led to an increase in starch hydrolysis. The degradation rate of polymer blends was found to be accelerated by the combination of thermal oxidative degradation and enzymatic degradation rather than by either mechanism operating alone.

## บทคัดย่อ

วัฒนาพร พรสิริพงษ์ : การย่อยสถายของพอถิเอทิถีนความหนาแน่นสูงผสมกับ แป้งและสารช่วยการเกิดปฏิกิริยาออกซิเดชั่น ( Degradation of Starch-Based High Density Polyethylene Blends Containing a Prooxidant Additive ) อ.ที่ปรึกษา : รศ. คร. เควิค ซี มาร์ติน ( Assoc. Prof. David C. Martin ) คร. รัตนา รุจิรวนิช และ มร. จอห์น ดับเบิ้ลยู เอลลิส ( Mr. John W. Ellis ) 52 หน้า ISBN 974-638-482-1

พอลิเอทิลีนความหนาแน่นสูง (HDPE) ผสมแป้งและสารช่วยการเกิดปฏิกิริยา ออกซิเคชั่น ซึ่งประกอบด้วยยางธรรมชาติและซิงค์สเตรียเรด ถูกนำมาศึกษาการย่อยสลายทาง ชีวภาพโดยการใช้เอมไซม์แอลฟาอไมเรส และการย่อยสลายโดยความร้อนด้วยการให้ความร้อน กับพอลิเมอร์ผสมในตู้อบที่อุณหภูมิ 80 และ 100 องศาเซลเซียส การย่อยสลายจะถูกตรวจสอบโดย การวัดการเปลี่ยนแปลงในคัชนีการไหล, คัชนีการเกิดหมู่คาร์บอนิล, สมบัติเชิงกล และลดลงของ น้ำหนักพอลิเมอร์ผสม ผลการศึกษาการย่อยสลายโดยความร้อนพบว่า พอลิเอทิลีนความหนาแน่น สูงผสมแป้งที่มีสารช่วยการเกิดปฏิกิริยาออกซิเคชั่นจะเกิดการย่อยสลายโดยความร้อนได้ ในขณะ ที่พอลิเอทิลีนความหนาแน่นสูงและพอลิเอทิลีนความหนาแน่นสูงผสมแป้งจะไม่มีการย่อยสลาย คังกล่าวเกิดขึ้น ส่วนผลการย่อยสลายทางชีวภาพโดยเอมไซม์พบว่า ปริมาณของแป้งที่ผสมใน พลาสติกมีผลต่ออัตราการย่อยสลาย โดยอัตราการย่อยสลายโดยความร้อนร่วมกับการย่อยสลายทาง ชีวภาพโดยเอมไซม์จะเพิ่มสูงขึ้น เมื่อปริมาณ ของแป้งที่ผสมเพิ่มขึ้น และยังศึกษาพบว่า การย่อยสลายโดยความร้อนร่วมกับการย่อยสลายทาง ชีวภาพโดยเอมไซม์จะเพิ่มสูงขึ้น เมื่อปริมาณ ของแป้งที่ผสมเพิ่มขึ้น และยังศึกษาพบว่า การย่อยสลายโดยความร้อนร่วมกับการย่อยสลายทาง ชีวภาพโดยเอมไซม์จะเพิ่มสูงขึ้น เมื่อปริมาณ โดยกระบวนการหนึ่งเพียงอย่างเดียว

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The author would like to thank the Petroleum and Petrochemical College, Chulalongkorn University, where she has gained invaluable knowledge in the Polymer Science program. Sincere thanks also go to Siam Modified Starch Co., Ltd., Victor & Prosper Limited Partnership and Imperial Industrial Chemicals Thailand Co., Ltd. for providing the raw materials used in this work.

She would like to express her sincere gratitude to her advisor, Assoc. Prof. David C. Martin for his invaluable suggestions. She is deeply indebted to Dr. Ratana Rujiravanit and Mr. John W. Ellis for providing constructive criticisms, suggestions and proof-reading of the manuscript. She would like to give special thank to Dr. Kanchana Trakulcoo for her helpful discussions. She would also like to thank Mr Bernd - Udo Jacob for his technical assistance.

She would like to thank all of the staff of the Petroleum and Petrochemical College, Chulalongkorn University for their assistance and in allowing her to use the research facilities.

She is also indebted to her family who gave her their unfailing love, understanding, and generous encouragement during her studies and thesis work. Thanks also go to her classmates for their help throughout her studies.

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