# LIFE CYCLE MATERIAL FLOW ANALYSIS OF PVC PRODUCTS IN THAILAND

Thanakorn Rodcharoen

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfilment 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,
Case Western Reserve University and Institut Français du Pétrole

2014

Thesis Title:

Life Cycle Material Flow Analysis of PVC products in

Thailand

By:

Mr. Thanakorn Rodcharoen

Program:

Petroleum Technology

Thesis Advisors:

Asst. Prof. Pomthong Malakul

Asst. Prof. Manit Nithitanakul

Accepted by the Petroleum and Petrochemical College, Chulalongkorn University, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Science.

.....College Dean

(Asst. Prof. Pomthong Malakul)

**Thesis Committee:** 

(Asst. Prof. Pomthong Malakul)

(Asst. Prof. Manu Nithitanakul)

(Asst. Prof. Kitipat Siemanond)

(Assoc. Prof. Thumrongrut Mungcharoen)

#### **ABSTRACT**

5573037063: Petroleum Technology Program

Thanakorn Rodcharoen: Life Cycle Material Flow Analysis of PVC

Products in Thailand

Thesis Advisors: Asst. Prof. Pomthong Malakul and Asst. Prof.

Manitt Nithitanakul, 104 pp.

Keywords: Material Flow Analysis (MFA), PVC metabolism

The purposes of this research work were to study material flows of selected PVC products based on life\_cycle approach (gate-to-grave) covering production, usage, and end-of-life and to develop models for life cycle material flow analysis (LC-MFA) in order to assess the metabolism of PVC products in Thailand. First, the proposed material flow models were developed for LC-MFA of the selected PVC products, both hard and soft products, including pipe, profile, cable, floor-tile, floorcovering, shoes and hose. Production data of these PVC products during 1971-2013 were used as an inflow of the models. Adjustable parameters of the models were the average service lifetime of each product, variation of the service lifetime based on normal distribution, and PVC waste management systems (recycle, landfill, and incineration). Based on this, dynamic models of input and output of the system could be constructed and used to calculate/predict of the outflow of PVC products in different pathways. In addition, four scenarios were created by varying different ratios of waste managements. From all PVC waste management scenarios studied, the results indicate that the recycle process had a significant role in reducing PVC waste emission and accumulation. Moreover, on-site data were collected at actual waste collection sites, disposal sites, and recycle shops and used to adjust the LC-MFA model to reflect present situation. From landfill site visits, the target PVC products have a relatively small amount of PVC waste at landfill sites. From recycle shop, we found that up to 95% of Pipe & fitting are being recycled which is highest followed by hose (63% recycled) and shoes (almost 20%). Other products still show low recycling rate which may be due to lack of application for recycled wastes, etc.

## บทคัดย่อ

ธนากร รอคเจริญ : การศึกษาการใหลของมวลสารตลอควัฏจักรชีวิตของผลิตภัณฑ์พีวีซี ในประเทศไทย (Life-Cycle Material Flow Analysis of PVC Products in Thailand) อ. ที่ปรึกษา: ผศ. คร. ปมทอง มาลากุล ณ อยุธยา และ ผศ. คร. มานิตต์ นิธิธนากุล, 104 หน้า

งานวิจัยนี้ทำการศึกษาทำการศึกษาการไหลของมวลสารตลอดวัฏจักรชีวิตของ ผลิตภัณฑ์พีวีซี ภายใต้วิธีการเข้าฉึงวงจรชีวิตแบบ จากประตูโรงงานสู่หลุมขยะ (gate to grave) ซึ่ง ครอบคลุมตั้งแต่ กระบวนการผลิต การใช้งาน และการสิ้นสุดชีวิตของผลิตภัณฑ์พีวีซี อีกทั้งยังทำ การพัฒนาแบบจำลองการใหลของมวลสารของผลิตภัณฑ์พีวีซีภายในประเทศไทย เริ่มต้นด้วยการ สร้างแบบจำลองการใหลของตัวแทนผลิตภัณฑ์พีวีซี ซึ่งครอบคลุมทั้งในส่วนที่เป็น พีวีซีนิ่ม และ พีวีซีแข็ง ได้แก่ ท่อและข้อต่อ กรอบประตู หน้าต่าง สายไฟ กระเบื้องยาง เสื่อน้ำมัน รองเท้า และ สายยาง ข้อมูลการผลิตผลิตภัณฑ์พีวีซี ตั้งแต่ปี 2524 ถึงปี 2556 ถูกใช้เป็นข้อมูลป้อนเข้าใน แบบจำลอง อีกทั้งยังมีการสร้างตัวแปรที่ทำการปรับค่าได้ ได้แก่ อายุเฉลี่ยของผลิตภัณฑ์ การ กระจายตัวของอายุของผลิตภัณฑ์ รวมถึงสัดส่วนการจัดการขยะหลังการใช้งาน (ฝังกลบ เผา และ รีไซเคิล) ภายใต้การศึกษาในครั้งนี้ การป้อนค่าของการผลิตอย่างต่อเนื่องทุกปีในแบบจะลองการ ใหล จะทำให้เราสามารถคำนวณและทำนายปริมาณขยะพีวีซีที่จะออกสู่สิ่งแว คล้อม นอกจากนี้ยังมีการสร้างสี่สถานการณ์ตัวอย่างโคยการปรับเปลี่ยนค่าอัตราส่วนการจัดการ ขยะพีวีซี จากการศึกษาทั้งหมดสี่สถานการณ์พบว่า สถานการณ์ที่มีการรีไซเคิลมาก จะทำให้ขยะ พีวีซืออกสู่สิ่งแวคล้อมและสะสมในสิ่งแวคล้อมนั้นน้อยลงอย่างเห็นได้ชัดเจน นอกจากนี้ยังมีการ ออกเก็บข้อมูลภาคสนามเพื่อที่จะนำข้อมูลมาปรับแบบจำลอง ให้สามารถสะท้อนการ ใหลเวียน ของพีวีซี ภายในประเทศไทย จากการออกเก็บข้อมูลภาคสนามพบว่า ที่หลุมฝังกลบมีการพบขยะ พีวีซีน้อยมาก และการการเก็บข้อมูลที่ร้านรีไซเคิล พบว่าท่อและข้อต่อพีวีซี สามารถรีไซเคิลได้ มากถึงร้อยละ 95 รองลงมาคือ สายยาง ร้อยละ 63 และรองเท้า ประมาณร้อยละ 20 ส่วนผลิตภัณฑ์ อื่น ๆ เช่นพบว่ายังมีสัดส่วนการรีไซเคิลที่น้อย ทั้งนี้อาจเนื่องมาจาก การขาดผลิตภัณฑ์ที่รองรับ สำหรับการพีวีซีรีไซเคิล

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This work would not have been possible if there is no the assistance of the following individuals.

First of all, I greatly appreciate Asst. Prof. Pomthong Malakul, my thesis advisors, and Asst. Prof. Manit Nithitanakul, my thesis co-advisors, for providing invaluable recommendations, creative comments, and kindly support throughtout the course of this research work.

I would like to thank Assoc. Prof. Thumrongrut Mungcharoen and Asst. Prof. Kittipat Siemanond for their kind advice and for being my thesis committee. Their suggestions and comments are very beneficial for me and thesis work.

I also thank Miss Jirawadee Pipattanatornkul and Mr. Namsak Choonhajutha for your kind suggestion and kind support throughout this research work.

The author is grateful for the scholarship and for the research funding of the thesis work provided by The Petroleum and Petrochemical College, ASEAN Vinyl Council Association, and Center of Excellence on Petrochemical and Materials Technology, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.

Special appreciation goes to all of The Petroleum and Petrochemical College's staff who help in various aspects, especially the research affairs staff who kindly help with the analytical instruments used in this work.

For my friends at PPC, I would like to give special thanks for their friendly support, encouragement, cheerfulness, and assistance. Without them, two years in the college will be meaningless for me. I had the most enjoyable time working with all of them.

Finally, I wish to thank my family for moral support, understanding, and always give me greatest love, willpower and financial support until this study completion.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

		PAGE
Title	e Page	i
Abs	tract (in English)	iii
Abs	tract (in Thai)	iv
Ack	nowledgements	V
Tab	le of Contents	vi
List	of Tables	- x
List	of Figures -	xiii
СНАРТЕ	CR CR	
I	INTRODUCTION	1
II	BACKGROUND AND LITERATURE REVIEW	3
	2.1 Background of PVC	3
	2.1.1 Definition and manufacturing process	3
	2.1.2 PVC Application	4
	2.2 Overview PVC Industry in Thailand	8
	2.2.1 Industry Review for 2009	8
	2.2.2 Industry Review for 2010	9
	2.2.3 Industry Review for 2011	10
	2.2.4 Industry Outlook for 2012	10
	2.2.5 Thailand is a member of ASEAN Vinyl Counci	1 12
	2.2.6 Thailand PVC market	13
	2.2.7 PVC producers in Thailand	14
	2.2.8 Type of PVC product in Thailand	16
	2.3 PVC waste management	20

CHAPTE	₹	PAGE
	2.3.1 Landfill	20
	2.3.2 Mechanical Recycling	20
	2.3.3 Chemical Recycling	21
	2.3.4 Incineration	21
	2.4 Material Flow Analysis (MFA)	22
	2.4.1 What is MFA?	22
	2.4.2 Historical development of MFA	23
	2.4.3 Methodological foundations	23
	2.4.4 Example of Material Flow Analysis on some	
	Materials	25
	2.5 Material Flow Analysis on Plastic and PVC wastes	29
	2.5.1 Plastic flow in India	32
	2.5.2 PVC product flow in China	31
	2.5.3 PVC product flow in Sweden	34
Ш	METHODOLOGY	36
	3.1 System Boundary	36
	3.2 Generic Model for MFA of PVC Products	
	and Adjustable Parameters	36
	3.3 Data Collection	38
	3.3.1 Domestic consumption of PVC products	38
	3.3.2 Average service lifetime and service lifetime	
	Distribution	44
	3.4 Model Testing and Scenarios Analysis	47
	3.5 Site Visits	
	3.5.1 Sampling Method	49
	3.6 Material Flow Analysis and Model Tuning	51
2	3.7 Assumptions	52

PTEF	₹	PAGE
IV	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	
	4.1 LC-MFA Model Results	54
	4.1.1 Analysis based on single-year input	54
	4.1.2 Analysis based on multiple-year inputs	57
	4.2 PVC Waste Management Scenarios	62
	4.3 Actual Results from Site Visits	_64
	4.3.1 Recycle shop	64
	4.3.2 Landfill sites	68
	4.5 Material Flow Analysis and Model Tuning	72
V	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	75
	5.1 Conclusions	75
	5.2 Recommendations	76
	5.2.1 Suggestions for improvement of an accuracy	
	of LC-MFA model	76
	5.2.2 Suggestions for improvement of PVC	
	environmental friendly	76
	5.2.3 Suggestion for improvement of identifying	
	mismatch amount between LC-MFA result and	
	actual result from site visit	76
	5.2.4 Suggestions for using LC-MFA models to predict the	2
	PVC waste in the future	76
REI	FERENCES	77
API	PENDICES	79
	Appendix A Results of LC-MFA Model	79
	Appendix B Results of Waste Management Scenarios	87

CHAPTER	PAGE
Appendix C Results of Landfill Site Visit	94
CURRICULUM VITAE	104

## LIST OF TABLES

TABLI	${\mathbb E}$	PAGE
2.1	The compositions in PVC products both rigid and	
	soft PVC products	6
2.2	Main use categories of PVC in Europe	8
2.3	The capacity, production and consumption of PVC in Thailand	
	from 2008 to 2012	11
2.4	Three major PVC resin producers in Thailand and their capacity	14
2.5	Examples of PVC products manufacturers in Thailand and	
	their products	15
2.6	Examples of hard PVC products in Thailand	16
2.7	Examples of soft PVC products in Thailand	17
2.8	Lifetimes of PVC product in Thailand	19
2.9	PVC products structure and average life expectancy	
	in China during different periods	32
3.1	Sources of data	39
3.2	PVC resin consumption of PVC in Thailand from 1971 to 2013	40
3.3	Proportion resin used in each PVC applications	41
3.4	Formulations of PVC compound in target PVC products	42
3.5	Amount of PVC product production in Thailand from 1971 to 201	3 43
3.6	Quantity of imported PVC products	45
3.7	Average service life and service life distribution of target	
	PVC products	46
3.8	Proposed sites to visit in this study	48
3.9	Procedures of waste sampling in this study	50
4.1	Annual product outflows based on multiple-year inputs	
•	of mixed PVC products from 1971 to 2020	61
4.2	Four different scenarios of waste management technology	63
4 3	Results of the site visit at Amorn recycle shop	66

TABLI	${f E}$	PAGE
4.4	Eight categories of municipal solid waste in this study	69
4.5	Results from landfill site visits	70
4.6	Possibility find of PVC target products in landfill site visits	72
4.7	Results of material balance between the results from model	
-	and the results from actual site visit	74
Al	All PVC products inflow from 1971 to 2013	79
A2	Results of LC-MFA model: the amount of PVC outflow	
	based on single year input	80
<b>A</b> 3	Results of LC-MFA model: the amount of PVC outflow	
	based on multiple year inputs	82
B1	Amount of PVC waste emission to landfill on four end-of-life	
	Scenarios	85
B2	Amount of PVC waste accumulation on four end-of-life scenarios	87
B3	Amount of PVC recycle which can be used as a new material	
	on four end-of-life scenarios	89
B4	Amount of PVC recycle accumulation on four end-of-life scenario	s 91
C1	Municipal solid waste compositions at On-nuch site	94
C2	Municipal solid waste compositions at Kanjana Buri site	95
C3	Municipal solid waste compositions at Chaiyaphum site	96
C4	Municipal solid waste compositions at Nakhon Ratchasima site	97
C5	Municipal solid waste compositions at Chaing Rai site	98
C6	Municipal solid waste compositions at Chaing Mai site	99
C7	Municipal solid waste compositions at Meahongsorn site	100
C8	Municipal solid waste compositions at Krabi site	101
C9	Municipal solid waste compositions at Phuket site	102
C10	Municipal solid waste compositions at Surat Thani site	103

### LIST OF FIGURES

FIGUI	GURE F	
2.1	Polymerization of vinyl chloride monomer (VCM)	4
2.2	PVC application sold in Western Europe and Czech Republic,	
	Hungary, Poland and Slovakia in 2007	7
2.3	Bar chart of capacity, production, and consumption of PVC	
	in Thailand from 2008 to 2012	12
2.4-	All members of ASEAN Vinyl Council (AVC)	12
2.5	PVC Market Segmentation in South-East Asia	14
2.6	Consumption of PVC Grouped by application & products' life	19
2.7	Landfill site at Phuket province	20
2.8	The different steps of PVC recycling process	21
2.9	The incineration site at Phuket province	22
-2.10	The basic model of material flow accounting and analysis (MFA)	25
2.11	French Copper cycle system boundary	26
2.12	Computer material flow analysis for the United States, 2010	27
2.13	Material flow of steel in Korea	28
2.14	The flow of plastic materials in India for 2000/2001	30
2.15	Projection of total plastics consumption (including recycling	
	and additives), waste generated, waste available for disposal,	
	waste recycled and additives consumption	30
2.16	Framework of PVC products metabolism process	31
2.17	Annual emissions and accumulation of PVC material	
	input in 2003 in China	33
2.18	Annual emission and accumulation of PVC wastes after	
	metabolism in China from 1958 to 2048	33
2.19	Development of the inflow of new products and the outflow	
	of waste of the three major PVC applications using model 1	35

FIGUF	RE PA	AGE
2.20	Development of the generation of PVC waste as a result	
	of the dynamics of the three major PVC applications,	
	assuming different models	35
3.1	System boundary of this study	36
3.2	Generic model for MFA of PVC product	37
3.3	Group meeting with ASEAN Vinyl Council association	38
3.4	Amount of PVC product production in Thailand from 1971 to 2013	42
3.5	Amount of municipal solid wastes (MSW) in Thailand	48
3.6	Dynamic MFA model for PVC construction products	- 51
3.7	Dynamic MFA model for PVC household products	52
4.1	Annual outflow based on a single year input of PVC products	55
4.2	Annual emission based on a single year input of mixed	
	PVC products	56
4.3	Annual outflow of multiple-year inputs of PVC products	58
4.4	Annual waste outflow of multiple-year inputs of mixed	
	PVC products	60
4.5	Annual emission and accumulation based on normal distribution	
	of PVC products service life	62
4.6	Amount of PVC waste emission to landfill on four waste	
	management scenarios	64
4.7	Amount of PVC waste accumulation on four waste management	
	scenarios	64
4.8	Amount of PVC recycling which can be used as a new material	
	on four waste management scenarios	65
4.9	Amount of PVC recycle accumulation on four waste management	
	scenarios	65
4.10	The used PVC products found in recycle shop	67
411	Research team and workers at landfill site visits	68

FIGUR	RE	PA	GE
4.12	The overview municipal solid waste composition in Thailand		
	from this study	-	71
4.13	The proportion of plastic applications in plastic waste in municipal	al	
	solid waste		71
4.14	LC-MFA model of PVC construction products		73