

15.13. Write the name and structure of one of the common initiators used in free radical addition polymerisation.

Ans:

Benzoyl peroxide,
$$C - 0 - 0 - C$$
.

15.14. How does the presence of double bonds in rubber molecules influence their structure and reactivity?

Ans: Natural rubber is cis-polyisoprene and is obtained by 1, 4-polymerization of isoprene units. In this polymer, double bonds are located between $\rm C_2$ and $\rm C_3$ of each isoprene unit. These cis-double bonds do not allow the polymer chains to come closer for effective interactions and hence intermolecular forces are quite weak. As a result, natural rubber, i.e., cis-polyisoprene has a randomly coiled structure not the linear one and hence show elasticity.

Isoprene

$$CH_2$$
 CH_3
 CH_2
 CH_3
 CH_2
 CH_3
 CH_2
 CH_3
 CH_2
 CH_3
 CH

(Natural rubber)

15.15. Discuss the main purpose of vulcanisation of rubber. Ans: Natural rubber has the following disadvantages:

- (a) It is soft and sticky and becomes even more so at high temperatures and brittle at low temperatures. Therefore, rubber is generally used in a narrow temperature range (283-335 K) where its elasticity is maintained.
- (b) It has large water absorption capacity, has low tensile strength and low resistance to abrasion.
- (c) It is not resistant to the action of organic solvents.
- (d) It is easily attacked by oxygen and other oxidising agents. To improve all these properties, natural rubber is vulcanised by heating it with about 5% sulphur at 373-415 K. The vulcanized rubber thus obtained has excellent elasticity over a larger range of temperature, has low water absorption tendency and is resistant to the action of organic solvents and oxidising agents.

15.16. What are the monomeric repeating units of Nylon-6 and Nylon 6,6?
Ans:

The monomeric repeating unit of nylon-6

is
$$-NH - (CH_2)_5 - C - which is derived$$

from caprolactam.

The monomeric repeating unit of nylon 6, 6 is derived from two monomers, hexamethylenediamine and adipic acid and has the following structure:

$$-NH - (CH_2)_6 - NH - C - (CH_2)_4 - C -$$

15.17. Write the names and structures of the monomers of the following polymers:

- (i) Buna-S
- (ii) Buna-N
- (iii) Dacron
- (iv) Neoprene

Ans:

(i) Buna-S:
$$CH_2 = CH - CH = CH_2$$
 and $C_6H_5 - CH = CH_2$.

(ii) Buna-N:
$$CH_2 = CH - CH = CH_2$$
 and $CH_2 = CH - CN$.

Acrylonitrile

(iv) Neoprene:
$$CH_2 = C - CH = CH_2$$
 and Chloroprene or 2-chloro-1,3-butadiene.

15.18. Identify the monomer in the following polymeric structures:

(i)
$$\begin{bmatrix} O & O \\ \parallel & \parallel & \parallel \\ C - (CH_2)_8 - C - NH - (CH_2)_6 - NH \end{bmatrix}_n$$
(ii)
$$\begin{bmatrix} HN & NH - CH_2 \\ N & NH \end{bmatrix}_n$$

Ans:

Monomers

(i)
$$HOOC - (CH_2)_8 - COOH$$
 and $H_2N - (CH_2)_6 - NH$

Sebacic acid

(ii) $H_2N - (CH_2)_8 - NH$

Hexamethylenediamine

(ii) $H_2N - (CH_2)_6 - NH$

Hexamethylenediamine

Formaldehyde.

(2, 4, 6-Triamine - 1, 3, 5-triazine.)

15.19. How is dacron obtained from ethylene glycol and terephthalic acid?

Ans: Dacron is obtained by condensation polymerization of

ethylene glycol and terephthalic acid with the elimination of water molecules. The reaction is carried out at 420 - 460 K in presence of a catalyst consisting of a mixture of zinc acetate and antimony trioxide.

$$n \text{ HOCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH} + n \text{ HOOC} \longrightarrow \text{COOH} \xrightarrow{420 - 460 \text{ K}} \text{COOCH}_3)_2 + \text{Sb}_2\text{O}_3 \longrightarrow \text{Ethylene glycol}$$

$$\text{Terephthalic acid}$$

$$O - \text{CH}_2 - \text{CH}_2 - \text{O} - \text{C} \longrightarrow \text$$

15.20. What is a biodegradable polymer? Give an example of a biodegradable aliphatic polyester.

Ans: Polymers which disintegrate by themselves over a period of time due to environment degradation by bacteria, etc., are called biodegradable polymers. Example is PHBV, i. e., Poly- β -Hydroxybutyrate-co- β - Hydroxyvalerate.

$$n \text{ HO} - \text{CH} - \text{CH}_2 - \text{COOH} + n \text{ HO} - \text{CH} - \text{CH}_2 - \text{COOH} \xrightarrow{\text{Polymerization}}$$

$$CH_3 \qquad CH_2CH_3$$
3-Hydroxybutanoic acid
$$- CH - CH_2 -$$