ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY ★ INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

THERMALLY CURABLE POLYBUTADIENES BY CLICK REACTION

M. Sc. Thesis by

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JANUARY 2008

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KLİK KİMYASI İLE ISISAL SERTLEŞTİRİLEBİLEN POLİBUTADİENLER

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TABLE of CONTENTS

LIST of ABBREVIATIONS	v
LIST of TABLES	vi
LIST of FIGURES	vii
LIST of SYMBOL	ix
SUMMARY	x
ÖZET	xi
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. THEORETICAL PART	2
2.1 Rubber	2
2.1.1 Naturel Rubber	2
2.1.2 Synthetic Rubber	3
2.1.2.1 Polybutadiene Rubber	5
2.1.2.2 Styrene-Butadiene-Styrene Rubber	9
2.2 Benzoxazines	13
2.2.1 Features of Benzoxazines	14
2.2.2 Significance of Benzoxazines	17
2.2.3 Necessities for Modification of Benzoxazines	18
2.2.4 Suitable Benzoxazine Compounds for Modification	18
2.2.5 Formation of Curable Resins	20
2.2.6 Rubber Modified Benzoxazines	21
2.3 Click Reactions	22
2.3.1 Suitable Compounds for Click Reactions	23
2.3.2 Mechanism of Click Reactions	23
3. EXPERIMENTAL WORK	25
3.1 Materials and Chemicals	25
3.1.1 Polymers	25
3.1.2 Solvents	25
3.1.3 Other Chemicals and Reagents	26
3.2 Equipments	27
3.2.1 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy	27
3.2.2 Infrared Spectrophotometer	27
3.2.3 Gel Permeation Chromatography	27
3.2.4 Thermal Gravimetric Analysis	27
3.2.5 Differential Scanning Calorimetry	27
3.3 Preparation Methods	27
3.3.1 Preparation of N-(4-hydroxphenyl) acetamide	27
3.3.2 Preparation of N-(4-(prop-2-ynyloxy) phenyl) acetamide	28

3.3.3 Preparation of <i>p</i> -propargyloxy aniline	28
3.3.4 Preparation of 3-(4-(prop-2-ynyloxy)phenyl)-3,4-	
dihydro-2H-benzo[e][1,3]oxazine	28
3.3.5 Synthesis of Polybutadiene Bromine	29
3.3.6 Synthesis of PB-N3 Coploymer	29
3.3.7 Synthesis of Polybutadiene Containing Benzoxazine Side	
Groups	29
4. RESULTS and DISCUSSION	30
4.1 Synthesis and Characterization of Propargylbenzoxazine	30
4.2 Synthesis and Characterization of Azide Functional PB	31
4.3 Synthesis and Characterization of Benzoxazine Functional PB	33
4.3.1 Thermally Activated Curing of PB-Benzoxazine	35
REFERENCES	40
AUTOBIOGRAPHY	48

LIST of ABBREVIATIONS

PB	: Polybutadiene
SBS	: Styrene-butadiene-styrene triblock copolymer
THF	: Tetrahyrofuran
DMF	: N,N-dimethylformamid
GPC	: Gel Permeation Chromatography
TGA	: Thermal Gravimetric Analysis
NMR	: Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy
DSC	: Differential Scanning Calorimetry
FRP	: Free Radical Transfer Polymerization
Tg	: Glass Transition State
Tm	: Melting Point
DMSO	:Dimethylsulfoxide
FT-IR	: Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrophotometer
NaN3	: Sodium Azide
PP-a	: Mono-functional benzoxazine
PB-Benzoxazine	: Benzoxazine functionalized polybutadiene
PB-Br	: Brominated polybutadiene
Tmax	: Maximum Weight Loss Temperature.
Yc	: Char yields
Mn	: Number Average Molecular Weight
Mw	: Molecular Weight
PD	: Polydispersity
NaOH	: Sodium Hyrdoxide
MgSO ₄	: Magnesium Sulfate

LIST of TABLES

Page No

Table 4.1 TGA analysis of cured PB-benzoxazine with PP-a and PB	. 3
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Table 4.2 Molecular weight averages of PB, PB-Br, PB- $N_3 \,and \, PB$ -Benzoxazine $\,\,32$

LIST of FIGURES

Page	No
Figure 2. 1 Polymerization of isoprene	3
Figure 2. 2 Representation of stressed polymer	4
Figure 2. 3 Structure of 1,3 butadiene	5
Figure 2. 4 Structures of FRP initiators	6
Figure 2. 5 Decompositions of FRP initiators	7
Figure 2. 6 Various steps of FRP	8
Figure 2. 7 Polymerization of butadiene with catalyst	8
Figure 2. 8 Polymerization of butadiene without catalyst	9
Figure 2. 9 Representation of SBS rubber	9
Figure 2. 10 Representation of SBS rubber under stress	10
Figure 2. 11 Various steps of anionic polymerization	10
Figure 2. 12 An example of metal organic initiators	11
Figure 2. 13 An example of radical-ionic initiators	11
Figure 2. 14 Synthesis of SBS rubber	13
Figure 2. 15 Basic reaction Scheme for monomer synthesis and polybenzoxazine	e
formation	14
Figure 2. 16 Char Formation	15
Figure 2.17 Flammability of high performance polymers	16
Figure 2. 18 DCS analysis of benzoxazine	17
Figure 2. 19 Suitable benzoxazine compounds for modification	19
Figure 2. 20 Benzoxazine compounds for modification	20
Figure 2. 21 Hybride Resins Including Both Epoxy and Cinnamyl or Styrenic	
Functionality	21
Figure 2. 22 Hybride Resins Including Both Epoxy and Cinnamyl or Styrenic	
Functionality	21
Figure 2. 23 Azide/alkyne-type click reactions	23
Figure 2. 24 Unsuitable compounds for azide/alkyne type click reaction	23
Figure 2. 25 Mechanism of click reaction	24
Figure 4.1 FT-IR spectrum of propargylbenzoxazine	30
Figure 4. 2 ¹ H-NMR spectrum of propargylbenzoxazine	31
Figure 4. 3 Bromination and azidation steps of PB	31
Figure 4. 4 a) FT-IR spectrum of PB-benzoxazine, b) FT-IR spectrum of PB- azi	ide.
	32
Figure 4. 5 Synthesis of PB-benzoxazine	33
Figure 4. 6 a) ¹ H-NMR spectra of propargylbenzoxazine and b) ¹ H-NMR spectra	a of
PB-benzoxazine	34
Figure 4. 7 Cross-linking of PB-benzoxazine	35
Figure 4.8 DSC thermogram of PB-benzoxazine	35
Figure 4. 9 Polymerization of mono-funtional benzoxazine	36
Figure 4. 10 a)TGA thermogram of PB, b) TGA thermogram of PB-benzoxazine	e 37

LIST of SYMBOLS

- :The number of chain segments per unit volume : Boltzmann's Constant n
- k
- : Temperature Т
- д : Ideal stress behavior
- λ_1 : Distortion in the 1 direction.

THERMALLY CURABLE BUTADIENES BY CLICK REACTIONS

SUMMARY

One of the most significant artificially synthesized materials are polybenzoxazines. Polybenzoxazines are derivatives of phenolic type resins that accomplish deficiencies of the traditional phenolics. Phenolic resins have excellent properties such as good mechanical strength, dimensional stability and flame retardance. In addition to these features polybenzoxazines also show nearly zero shrinkage during, low absorption of water, high char yield and non-toxic by-product upon curing. Benzoxazine monomer can be prepared from the reaction of a starting phenolic compound, formaldehyde and primary amines. Another important synthetic materials are rubbers. Rubbers have several desirable properties that allow them to have wide range of usage. Click chemistry brings another aspect to polymer chemistry and gives the opportunity to combine rubbers with benzoxazines to create a polymer with great features. Click reactions occurs between terminal acetylenes and azide by metal catalyst at room temperature. Click reactions are preferable reactions for modification because of moderate reaction conditions, high yields, short periods of reaction times and high selectivity, tolerance of functional groups, insensitivity of the reaction solvents. There is a wide range of application field of this reaction, which varies with the sort of polymers.

side-chain benzoxazine In this study, novel functional polybutadiene (PB- Benzoxazine) was synthesized by using "Click Chemistry" strategy. First, approximately 10% of double bonds were brominated with Br₂ in CCl₄ then these bromo groups converted to azido groups by using NaN₃ in DMF. Propargyl benzoxazine was prepared independently by a ring closure reaction between ppropargyloxy aniline, paraformaldehyde and phenol. Finally, azido functionalized PB was coupled to propargyl benzoxazine with high efficiency by click chemistry. The spectral and thermal analysis confirmed the presence of benzoxazine functionality in the resulting polymer. It is shown that PB containing benzoxazine undergoes thermally activated curing in the absence of any catalyst forming PB thermoset with high char yield.

Keywords: thermoset, click reactions, polybutadiene, benzoxazines, polybenzoxazines

KLİK KİMYASI ile ISISAL SERTLEŞTİRİLEBİLEN POLİBUTADİENLER

ÖZET

Önemli sentetik malzemelerden biri olan polibenzoksazinler fenolik recinelerin bir türevi olup, geleneksel reçinelerin dezavantajlarını ortadan kaldıran polimerlerdirler. Fenolik reçinelerin sahip olduğu mekanik dayanıklılık, yanıcı olamama gibi özelliklerine ek olarak kürleme sırasında geceklesebilcek hacimce kücülmenin olmaması, düşük su absorpsiyonu, kürleme sırasında toksik yan ürünlerin olmuşmaması ve yüksek verimlilikle char eldesi gibi avantajlara da sahiptirler. Benzoksazin monomerleri fenolik bir bileşik ile başlanarak formaldehit ve primer aminlerin reaksiyonu ile sentezlenebilirler. Sahip olduğu mükemmel özelliklerden dolayı büyük öneme sahip sentetik malzemelerden biri de kaçuklardır. Kullanım alanları oldukça geniş olan kauçukların, polimer kimyasına başka bir bakış açısı getiren klik kimyası ile benzoksazin grupları içeren polimerlerinin sentezleri mümkün olabilir. Klik reaksiyonları terminal asetilenler ve azidler arasında gerçekleşen reaksiyonlardır. Klik reaksiyonlarının tercih edilir olmalarının sebepleri arasında; makul reaksiyon koşullarında gerçekleştirilebilmeleri, yüksek verim alınabilmesi, yüksek seçicilik ile gerçekleşmeleri, fonksiyonel grup çeşitliliğine olanak sağlamaları, kısa reaksiyon sürelerine sahip olmaları ve kullanılan cözücülere karşı hassas olmamaları gösterilebilir. Klik reaksiyonlarının uygulama alanları kullanılacak polimer tiplerine bağlı olarak çeşitlendirilebilir.

Bu çalışmada polibutadienin uygun koşullarda bromlanarak aizdleme reaksiyonuna hazır hale getirilip, polibutadienazid elde edilerek klik kimyası uygulanarak propargilbenzoksazin fonksiyonlarının polybutadiene bağlanarak halka kapanması reaksiyonlarının gerçekleştirilmesi ve böylece yüksek oranlarda ısıya dayanıklı özellikteki polimerlerin elde edilmesi amaçlanmaktadır. Bu yöntemle azidleme ve klik reaksiyonu sonucunda polibutadienin mekanik özelliklerindeki değişimler ve avantajları incelenecektir.Benzoksazin fonksiyonu içeren polybutadienlerin ısısal olarak sertleştirilebilir oldukları gösterilmiştir.Sentezlenen polimerlerin molekül ağırlıkları ile polidisperistelerinin belirlenmesinde GPC kullanılacaktır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: termoset, click reaksiyonları, polibutadien, benzoksazin, polibenzoksazinler

INTRODUCTION

With recent advances in technology, chemistry has accelerated its growing pace in its several branches. Technology is based on polymer science which has shown an incredible boost within past fifty years. As the technology develops, the need for new materials to be synthsized is increasing. One of the most promising material is benzoxazine polymers which have high mechanical properties, expansion or nearzero shrinkage during polymerization. On the contrary with the materials contain hydroxyl groups, benzoxazines provide low absorption of water and also excellent dimensional stability. Phenolic resins have low Tg which is a shortcoming of these type of resins but, polybenzoxazines have high Tg values. Furthermore, flexibility of molecular design, non toxic by-products are some of the advantages of polybenzoxazines. Moreover, polybenzoxazines are very stable when they are heated or exposed to UV light and it is easy to synthesize benzoxaznine monomers. Another important synthetic materials are rubbers. Synthetic rubber is any type of artificially made polymeric material which acts as an elastomer. They have amazing mechanical properties, which can be improved, allow them to recover after applied stress with no deformation. In addition to that, synthetic rubbers can be synthesized by polymerization. Monomer types can vary like 1,3-butadine or isobutylene. There is a wide usage area of rubbers like tires, motor vehicles, pharmaceuticals etc...In conclusion; the world needs new materials with superior properties for advanced technology. Therefore, there is a way of having a polymer by combining benzoxazines with rubbers via click chemistry. This kind of polymer which would have unique features deserves a great attention.

2. THEORETICAL PART

2.1 Rubber

Hydrocarbon polymers which can be found in the cauline of plants are milky colloidal suspensions and they are called rubber [4]. Rubber was first discovered in 1771 by Joseph Prisetly [4, 6]. In its native Central America and South America, rubber was collected for a long time [7]. Rubber has a wide range of usage area begins from household products to tires and tubes. Tires and tubes constitute 56 % total consumption of rubbers [8]. Based on its origin, rubber can be divided into two; natural rubber and synthetic rubber [6].

2.1.1 Natural Rubber

The most famous example of natural rubber is polyisoprene which can be obtained from para rubber tree called Hevea Brasiliensis [9]. Polyisoprene can be synthesized by polymerization of isoprene monomer with Zieglar-Natta catalyst (See Figure 2.1) [1, 2]. Natural rubber can be stretched out and it will return to its original shape upon relaxation. It shows the same mechanical properties with thermoplastics and sometimes even with elastomers [9].Most thermoplastics are high molecular weight polymers and they known as plastics in daily life. A thermoplastic can be melted to liquid by heat and freezes to brittle [34, 35].Also, it can undergo heating and cooling processes over and over [10, 11]. Because of that, it can remould by reheating and that makes it recyclable. Thermoplastic polymer chains can be either linear or branched. These chains stay associated with the effect of London forces, hydrogen bonds and polar interactions. Thermoplastics have amorphous structure, which makes thermoplastic flexible below their Tg values.



Figure 2. 1 Polymerization of isoprene

2.1.2 Synthetic Rubber

The types of polymeric materials, which are artificially made and show elastomer features, are called synthetic rubbers [1-3, 5]. An elastomer remains between the Tm and Tg points. Most of them have amorphous structure. If a stress is applied to an elastomer, it can return to its original shape without permanent deformation by the movements of the backbone [74]. This behavior can be explained in two ways.

Firstly, randomly grew polymer chain has higher entropy than organized polymer chain. As the stress is removed polymer chain prefers its previous size, which has higher entropy [74]. The second reason why a permanent deformation does not occur is coiled-up polymer chains can be inter-linked. These inter-links not only protect the polymer coil from split off and keep attached together but also prevent from permanent deformation [74].

Figure 2.2 shows stressed (B) and unstressed (A) polymer. The dots represent crosslinking points where the polymeric chains linked to each other. After the applied force is removed, polymer returns to the A configuration. This type of presentation is generally accepted as 'spaghetti and meatball' structure [74]. There exist many ways to achieve cross-linking between polymer chains. For example, some polymers can be cross-linked by vulcanization process which imparts elastomeric properties to the initial polymer [13, 25].



Figure 2.2 Representation of stressed polymer

%1-3 Sulfur is enough to have elastomeric behavior. It should be pointed out that the excess of sulfur cause thermosetting properties [73]. Also we can find the ideal stress behavior by using the laws of thermodynamics;

$$\sigma = nkT[\lambda_1^2 + \lambda_1^{-1}]$$
(2.2)

where, *n* is the number of chain segments per unit volume, *k* is Boltzmann's Constant, *T* is temperature, and λ_1 is distortion in the 1 direction [13].

Polybutadiene (PB), styrene-butadiene-styrene triblock copolymer (SBS), nitrile rubber etc... are good examples for elastomers.

2.1.2.1 Polybutadiene (PB) Rubber

Polybutadiene (PB) rubber is the second largest volume synthetic rubber produced. Upon low transition temperature, cured PB rubber have low rolling resistance and corrosion resistance [3,36]. Butadiene rubber is usually blended with Styrenebutadiene-styrene (SBS) rubber or natural rubber in order to improve its poor absorption of water (wet traction). A research indicates that, 20.000 tons of high *cis*-PB is used each year in golf ball spheres and also coat of electronic assemlies is butadiene rubber due to its high resistance to electricity [33, 12].

PB is a homopolymer synthesized from the corresponding 1,3-butadiene monomer.



Figure 2. 2 Structure of 1,3 butadiene

Although 1,3-butadiene undergoes free radical polymerization (FRP) to form PB, the polymerization may lead to some side reaction including cross-linking due to the nature of the monomer [15]. When the polymerization involves between the double bond of C1-C2 the polymer contains side chain reactive groups capable of creating cross-linkinking (*vide infra*). However with Zieglar-Natta catalyst it is possible to obtain completly linear polymers [14]. It is the most common and useful reaction to form a polymer from vinyl monomers [72].

FRP has for main steps:

- 1. Initiation
- 2. Propagation
- 3. Transfer Reactions
- 4. Termination

There are three types of initiators such as organic peroxides, azo compounds and peresters for the initiation step of free radical polymerization (See Figure 2.4) [68, 69].

These molecules produces radicals to initiate the polymerization by decomposition (See Figure 2.4).



Benzoyl peroxide



2-2 Azo-bis-isobutyronitrile



Perbenzoate

Figure 2. 3 Structures of FRP initiators

The adding of more and more monomer molecules to the growing chains is called propagation [22, 70]. Propagation step occurs very fast in FRP because of that there are always high weight polymers and unreacted monomers in the reaction mixture [71].



Decomposition of benzoyl peroxide



Decomposition of 2-2'azo-bis-isobutyronitrile

$$CH_{3} \xrightarrow{CH_{3}} O - OH \longrightarrow CH_{3} \xrightarrow{CH_{3}} + 2 H_{2}O$$

$$CH_{3} \xrightarrow{CH_{3}} CH_{3} \xrightarrow{CH_{3}} + 2 H_{2}O$$

$$(2.5)$$

Decomposition of perbenzoate

Figure 2. 4 Decompositions of FRP initiators

The third step of FRP is transfer reactions. As the transfer reactions occur, growing side of the polymer which is the chain end will be removed. These reactions can exist between molecule of solvent or initiator or monomer [70].

Termination process usually includes two types of reactions, recombination and disproportionation [70].



Figure 2. 5 Various steps of FRP

As mentioned before, PB can synthesized by with the presence of Ziegler-Natta catalyst. This catalyst which is a transition metal, helps to generate linear polymers. If the Ziegler-Natta catalyst is used during polymerization of butadiene the final product would be *cis*-PB (See Figure 2.7) [18].But without the catalyst vinyl structures occur on the polymer chain. Vinyl side groups make the polymer avaliable for branching or cross-linking (See Figure 2.8) [16,17].Vinyl tends to increase Tg of the polymer and this is an undesirable condition for rubbers. On the other hand, *cis*-PB has lower Tg and higher cut-growth resistance compared to polymers with vinyl structure after curing[20]. As explained before PB rubbers are mostly used in tires and *cis*-PB rubberss are the most suitable materials for this purpose [19].



Figure 2. 6 Polymerization of butadiene without catalyst

2.1.2.2 SBS Rubber

SBS rubber is a block copolymer consists of butadiene and styrene units. SBS shows plastomer properties [20]. A plastomer is also known as thermoplastic elastomers which behaves like an elastomer without corss-links between the polymer chains [15]. Polystyrene and PB are not suitable polymer types for each other. That means, they do not constitute homogenous mixture [74]. Each polymer prefers to stay seperate phases (See Figure 2.9). Consequently, polystyrene blocks on the copolymer chain, form groups in order to stay together [74]. An outcome of this behavoir of polystyrene, polymer network seems like cross-linked PB by polystyrene groups (See Figure 2.10). When the SBS rubber is heated, polystyrene blocks split off and when it is cooled polystyrene blocks form groups again. This attitude of polymer makes it malleable [74].



Figure 2.10 Representation of SBS rubber under stress

SBS rubber can be synthesized by living-anionic polymerization. This type of polymerization has only two steps (See Figure 2.11).

- 1. Initiation
- 2. Propagation

There would be no termination until all of the monomer has been consumed.

Addition of monomer will let the polymerization continue. This is why it is called living polymerization.

$$I^{\ominus} + M \longrightarrow I - M^{\ominus}$$
 Initiation (2.10)

$$I - M^{\ominus} + M \longrightarrow I - M^{\ominus}_{n+1}$$
 Propagation (2.11)

Figure 2. 7 Various steps of anionic polymerization

There are two types of initiators for living-anionic polymerization.

1. Metal organic initiators : Butyl lithium is the simplest example for this type of metal organic initiators. An example is shown below.

$$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccc} Bu \stackrel{\ominus}{Li} \stackrel{\oplus}{+} & H_2C \stackrel{CH}{=} CH \stackrel{\longrightarrow}{\longrightarrow} & Bu \stackrel{-}{-} CH_2 \stackrel{\oplus}{-} CH \stackrel{\odot}{\ominus} Li \stackrel{\oplus}{\oplus} \\ & & & & \\ & & &$$

Figure 2.8 An example of metal organic initiators

2. Radical-Ionic initiators : Biphenyl and napthalene are the best initiators as radical-ionic initiator. (See Figure 2.13)



Figure 2. 9 An example of radical-ionic initiators

Interaction between Na metal and chosen aromatic hydrocarbon results in electron source species. And this specie will transfer the additional electron back to the any compound which has higher electron affinity than itself.

After the initiation (the electron transfer) species undergo dimerization to yield dianions and polymerization proceeds from these two ends.

Synthesis of SBS rubber by living-anionic polymerization is shown in Figure 2.14.



living polystyrene



living polystyrene



living styrene-butadiene block copolymer



living styrene-butadiene block copolymer

dichlorodimethylsilane (2.16)



the end of copolymer capped with a dichlorosilane.



the end of copolymer capped with a dichlorosilane.



another chain of living polystyrene



styerene-butadiene-styrene triblock copolymer



2.2 Benzoxazines

One of the most significant artificially synthesized materials are polybenzoxazines. Thus, their popularity in scientific society results the researcher to incline on them every each day. This material can be described as a phenolic resin derivative, obtained from the reaction of a starting phenolic compound, formaldehyde and primary amines [28.29]. These polymers can be produced thermally. The proceeding reactions can be performed either in the presence or absence of initiators and catalysts. Basic reaction scheme can be demonstrated as follows [30]:



Figure 2. 11 Basic reaction Scheme for monomer synthesis and polybenzoxazine formation

2.2.1 Features of Benzoxazines

Thermally produced polymers have attracted more attention due to their typical characteristics [28, 29]. As Ishida asserts; benzoxazine resins offer several very unusual properties few polymers are known to exhibit. First, they have expansion or near-zero shrinkage upon polymerization [75, 76]. Moreover, they provide low absorption of water and excellent dimensional stability because of a low shrinkage upon curing, which cannot be found in the traditional phenolic resins. Secondly, these materials possess very high char yield in spite of higher aliphatic content than traditional phenolic resins, much higher hydrophobicity than epoxies and phenolics in spite of high concentration of hydrophilic groups in the polymer chain structure [75, 76]. As indicated above, polybenzoxazines' heat resistance character is as a result of char formation and this formation can clearly be seen in the following chart (See Figure 2.16) [30]:



Figure 2. 12 Char Formation

Moreover, their good anti-flammability characteristics can be clearly seen from the below illustration:

Flammability of High Performance Polymers



Figure 2.13 Flammability of high performance polymers

Thirdly, development of materials with high mechanical and physical properties at low conversion can be achieved by extremely rich molecular design flexibility.

From the thermal history of this compound suggests that, the polymerization of benzoxazine monomers occurs through heterocyclic ring opening at high temperatures in the absence of a catalyst and without generating any by-products [76]. DCS analysis of benzoxazine which shows the exotherm of ring opening reactions is shown in Figure 2.18 [37]. Consequently, benzoxazine monomers are able to polymerize by ring –opening mechanisms due to heat, presence of catalysts or when exposed to UV light [76].



Figure 2. 14 DCS analysis of benzoxazine

2.2.2 Significance of Benzoxazines

Polybenzoxazines can construct these superior properties, in various applications where a high – performance material is needed. Furthermore, it can be said that their significance increases due to their ease in preparation [76]. It can therefore be generalized that benzoxazine-based polymeric systems possess distinguishable superiorities, which can be categorized as follows: monomer synthesis, polymerizability, structural variations offered by the polymerization method, and high performance properties of the resulting polymers [32]. Besides this, it is suggested that their high - performance properties as thermosetting resins can further be improved by tightening their network structure [32]. Moreover additional properties for specific applications such as processability, flame retardancy, and mechanical strength can be introduced in several ways. For example, the thermal and mechanical properties of polybenzoxazines can be improved by blending with a polymer or clay [76]. Maleimide-based benzoxazine polymers exhibit better thermal stability and high char yield which gives good flame retardancy [76-78]. Similarly, chemical modification of novolac resins with benzoxazine rings, or the grafting of various phosphorous compounds to benzoxazine-modified resins, gives rise to nonflammable coatings. And also, benzoxazine monomers with additional polymerizable acetylene functional groups form highly thermally stable cross-linked networks [76]. In another example ortho-, meta-, and para-phenylnitrile-functionalized benzoxazines have been polymerized at different compositions with phthalonitrile functionalized monomers yielding copolymers with high thermal stability and easy processability.

2.2.3 Necessities for Modification of Benzoxazines

Monobenzoxazine and polybenzoxazines compounds have significant application as high-performance materials in semiconductor fabrication industry. As indicated previously, this is due to their high heat resistance, superior electrical properties, low penetration of water, no gas evaporation, low dielectric constant and lastly no shrinkage on cure. On the other hand, these materials' processability is limited because of high viscosity and their tendency to be brittle [75].Consequently, lack of flexibility leads them to not to be used in electronic devices where elasticity is required. In order to create new molecular designs, which are appropriate for electronic devices usages, curable compositions containing at least one monobenzoxazine or polybenzoxazine are needed [77].

2.2.4 Suitable Benzoxazine Compounds for Modification

The previous work suggests that the suitable benzoxazine compounds include those of formula [75-78] (See Figure 2.19, 2.20). Notice that R¹ may be aliphatic and aromatic or both and may contain heteroatoms like, oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, phosphorous, or halogen.

Moreover, according to the same research, in addition to the below presented compounds, benzoxazines in the polymeric form may be synthesized [75-77]. The curable composition that contains the benzoxazine function has the w/w ratio within the range of 1 % or more to 99 %. We have previously reported on several synthetic strategies to combine benzoxazine structures with conventional polymers, namely polystyrene, poly (ϵ -caprolactone), poly (methyl methacrylate) and poly (propylene oxide).



Figure 2. 15 Suitable benzoxazine compounds for modification



Figure 2. 16 Benzoxazine compounds for modification

The polymers contained one or two benzoxazine functionalities per chain and thermal ring-opening copolymerization of these macromonomers with low molar mass benzoxazines yielded cross-linked polybenzoxazines [76]. In these cases, the polymers are linked to the network structure as dangling chains. However, the incorporation benzoxazines as a thermally reactive group into the backbone or sidechains of conventional polymers has scarcely been investigated.

2.2.5 Formation of Curable Resins

The benzoxazines are preferably blended by the curable resins which have vinyl ethers, vinyl silanes, resins containing vinyl or allyl functionality, thiol–enes, or resins including cinnamyl or styrenic functionality, fumurates, maleates, acrylates maleimides, and cyanat esters [75] (See Figure 2.21, 2.22).



Figure 2. 17 Hybride Resins Including Both Epoxy and Cinnamyl or Styrenic Functionality



Figure 2. 18 Hybride Resins Including Both Epoxy and Cinnamyl or Styrenic Functionality

2.2.6 Rubber Modified Benzoxazines

Main problem of thermosets is being brittle. Modifying thermosets with rubber is a way of managing the problem [76, 79, 80]. Cavitations of rubber species may be a reason for rigit structure but it is not the only reason for it [81, 82]. Reasons for brittleness differ from particle size, particle size distribution to matrix-to-particle adhesion [76, 86-84]. The effect of cavitations of rubber is not only a reason for strict structure, but also it has an impact on plastic deformation of the network [76]. The mechanism of the deformation by rubber species can be divided into two; (i) shear yielding of matrix between the neighboring rubber particles and (ii) plastic void growth of the matrix surrounding the particle [83, 85]. According to properties of liquid rubbers like low viscosity and polarity, which is mostly preferred for modification of epoxy, resins can be used to soften the benzoxazine structure [81, 82, 84].

2.3 Click Reactions

The reaction that gives opportunity to attach ligands onto polymers for modification is called click reaction and it is also known as Sharpless 'click' reaction [26, 27]. This modification process provides; a) often quantitative yields, b) a high tolerance of functional groups c) an insensitivity of the reaction to solvents and d) reaction at various types of interfaces such as solid/liquid, liquid/liquid, or even solid/solid interfaces [27,73]. Click reactions are preferable reactions for modification because of moderate reaction conditions, high yields, short periods of reaction times and high selectivity [50, 63, 62]. There is a wide range of application field of this reaction, which varies with the sort of polymers [64]. Click reactions enabled the C-C bond formation in a quantitative yield without side reactions and requirement for additional purification steps. Click reactions are particularly important in preparative methods, in which high conversion of functional groups is desirable [51-53]. Numerous applications of click chemistry in polymer science as well as molecular biology and nanoelectronics have recently been reviewed [27, 26, 50].

Click reactions are derivatives of Huisgen 1, 3 dipolar cyloaddition reactions and occurs between terminal acetylenes and azides by metal catalyst at room temperature (See Figure 2.23) [26, 44, 45].Ru, Ni, Pt, Pd and especially Cu (I) species can be used as catalyst for click reactions [61-63]. As stated by several authors, these metals speed up the reactions [62, 63].



Figure 2. 19 Azide/alkyne-type click reactions

2.3.1 Suitable Compounds for Click Reactions

Exceptions of self-reactive reagents and materials that can produce stable complexes with Cu (I), all functional groups are suitable for click reactions [58-60]. The figure shows the compounds, which are not suitable for, azide/alkyne-type click reactions because of the Huisgen 1, 3 dipolar cyloaddition side reactions [55-57].



Figure 2. 20 Unsuitable compounds for azide/alkyne type click reaction

2.3.2 Mechanism of Click Reactions

As it mentioned before click reactions occurs between terminal acetylenes and azide by metal catalyst. The mechanism of click reactions first explained by Meldal and co-workers and Sharpless and co-workers [38, 58, 59]. Multifarious catalytic systems are present to affect the 1, 3-dipolar cycloaddition process. Cu (I) salts can be directly used or Cu (I) species can be obtained from the reduction of Cu (II) by sodium ascorbarte or metallic copper in catalytic systems [12, 58, 59]. The mechanism of click reactions, shown below, depends on the Cu-acetylide formation [58, 59].



Figure 2. 21 Mechanism of click reaction

Terminal alkynes and Cu (I) particles produce a π -complex (Cu-acetylide) to lower pKa value of the terminal alkynes that allow attack onto C-H bond [63-65].In addition, 1-5 equivalents of base have positive influences on the formation of the copper (I)-acetylide. THF, diethyl ether, DMF, DMSO or halogenated solvents are applicable for click reactions. And also, water/alcohol or water/toluene systems can give excellent results [65-67].

3. EXPERIMENTAL WORK

3.1 Materials and Chemicals

3.1.1 Polymers

Polybutadiene (PB)

PB is kindly provided by Dr. Jergio Corona Galvan. It was used as recieved.

3.1.2 Solvents

Methanol (Technical)

Methanol was used for the precipitation of polymers without further purification.

Chloroform (Sigma)

Chloroform was used without further purification.

Tetrahydrofuran (THF) (J.T.Baker)

Predried over magnesium sulfate followed by sodium wire and then distilled from sodium wire and benzophenone immediately before use.

N,N-dimethylformamid (DMF) (Merck)

Predried over magnesium sulfate followed by sodium wire.

Carbon tetrachloride (J.T.Baker)

Carbon tetrachloride was used as solvent for PBR and SBS without further purification.

Ethanol (Aldrich)

Ethanol was used as recieved.

1,4-Dioxane (Sigma-Aldrich)

1,4 dioxane was used as recieved.

Diethylether (Sigma-Aldrich)

Diethylether was used as recieved.

3.1.3 Other Chemicals and Reagents

Sodium Azide (Carlo-erba)

It was used as received.

Acetic anhydride (Sigma-Aldrich)

Acetic anhydride was used as recieved.

HCl (Sigma-Aldrich)

HCl was used as recieved.

Sodium hydroxide (Sigma-Aldrich)

Sodium hydroxide was used as recieved.

Anhydrous magnesium sulfate (Sigma-Aldrich)

Anhydrous magnesium sulfate was used as received.

Phenol (Sigma-Aldrich)

Phenol was used as received.

Paraformaldehyde (Sigma-Aldrich)

Paraformaldehyde was used as received.

p-Aminophenol (Acros Organics)

p-Aminophenol was used as received.

Propargyl bromide (Fluka)

Propargyl bromide was used as received.

Brom (Merck)

It was used as received.

2,2-Bipyridine (bpy) (Aldrich)

It was used as received.

Copper (I) Bromide (CuBr) (Aldrich)

It was used as received.

3.2 Equipments

3.2.1 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (NMR)

¹H-NMR analyses were recorded on a Bruker 250 MHz NMR Spectrometer.

3.2.2 Infrared Spectrophotometer (IR)

IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin Elmer Spectrum One FT-IR Spectrometer.

3.2.3 Gel Permeation Chromatography (GPC)

Gel permeation chromatography (GPC) analyses were performed with a set up consisting of a Waters 410 Differential Refractometer, a Waters 515 HPLC Pump and an apparatus equipped with three Waters ultrastyragel columns (HR series 4, 3, 2 narrow bore), with THF as the eluent at a flow rate of 0.3 mL/min. Molecular weights were calculated on the basis of a calibration curve recorded with monodisperse polystyrene standards.

3.2.4. Thermal Gravimetric Analysis (TGA)

Thermal gravimetric analysis (TGA) was performed on Perkin–Elmer Diamond TA/TGA with a heating rate of 10 °C min under nitrogen flow.

3.2.5 Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC)

Differential scanning Calorimetry (DSC) was performed on Perkin–Elmer Diamond DSC with a heating rate of 10 °C min under nitrogen flow.

3.3 Preparation Methods

3.3.1 Preparation of N-(4-hydroxphenyl) acetamide

A suspension of *p*-aminophenol (15.3 g, 140 mmol) in water (50 ml) was taken into a 250 mL flask. Acetic anhydride (14.2 ml, 150 mmol) was added to this solution. The mixture was heated at 60 °C with vigorous stirring until formation of clear solution. After about 20 minutes, the solution cooled to ambient temperature and the crude product was filtered and washed with deionized water. Crude solid was recrystallized from water to yield white crystals. (Yield: 80 %, mp: 169 °C)

3.3.2 Preparation of N-(4-(prop-2-ynyloxy) phenyl) acetamide

In a 250 mL flask, of *N*-(4-hydroxphenyl)acetamide (8.1 g, 50 mmol) was dissolved in 100 mL of 0.4 N NaOH. The mixture was heated at 70 °C until a clear solution was formed. To this solution, tetrabutylammonium bromide (1.6 g, 5 mmol,) was added as a phase transfer catalyst. A solution of propargyl bromide (6.5 g 55, mmol) in 50 mL of toluene was added portion wise to the solution. The mixture was kept stirring at 70 °C for 24 h. Then it was cooled to afford solid. In addition, the toluene layer was separated and washed repeatedly with water. Evaporating toluene afforded extra solid. The crude product was dissolved in 1,4-dioxane and precipitated in water (ca. 200 mL) , then filtered, and washed repeatedly with copious amount of water. (Yield: 94 %)

3.3.3 Preparation of *p*-propargyloxy aniline

In a 250 ml flask, *N*-(4-(prop-2-ynyloxy)phenyl)acetamide (8,5 g, 45 mmol) was dissolved in ethyl alcohol (70 ml) and HCl (36%, 70 ml) was added. The mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 3 h. After neutralizing with aqueous sodium hydroxide, the solution was extracted with chloroform, and the organic layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. Evaporation of chloroform gave a yellowish brown viscous product. The crude product was purified by distillation under reduced pressure (bp: 95 °C, 10 mmHg) to afford a colorless and highly viscous liquid, which crystallized into yellowish white crystals after a while in the flask (Yield: 75 %, mp: 49-50 °C).

3.3.4 Preperation of 3-(4-(prop-2-ynyloxy)phenyl)-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[e][1,3] oxazine

In a 250 mL flask, paraformaldehyde (1.9 g, 63 mmol) in 100 mL of dioxane was cooled by ice bath. To this solution, *p*-propargyloxy aniline (34 mmol, 5 g) in 25 mL of dioxane was added portion-wise. The solution was kept stirring for 15 min below 5 °C. Thereafter, a solution of phenol (3.3 g, 35 mmol,) in 25 mL of dioxane was added. The solution was refluxed at 110 °C for 6 h. Removal of the solvent in a rotary evaporator gave a viscous residue that was dissolved in 100 mL of diethylether and washed several times with 1 N sodium hydroxide solution and finally with distilled water. Then, the ether solution was dried with anhydrous sodium sulfate, followed by evaporation of ether under vacuum to afford pale yellow viscous fluid. (Yield: 60 %)

3.3.5 Synthesis of Polybutadiene Bromine (PB-Br)

In a 100 mL flask, polybutadiene dissolved in 20 mL of carbontetrachloride was cooled by ice bath. To this solution, 5-6 drop of brom (Br2) was added. After about 2-3 hours, the precipitation was filtered. The product (See Figure 3.1) was dissolved in chloroform and precipitated into methanol (400mL), filtered and dried under vacuum.

3.3.6 Synthesis of PB-N3 Coploymer

Polybutadienebromine was dissolved in *N*,*N*-dimethylformamid (DMF), NaN3 (2 times excess to the mole of bromine of polybutadiene) was added. The resulting solutuion was allowed to stir at 25°C overnight and precipitated into methanol/water mixture (1/1 by volume).

3.3.7 Synthesis of Polybutadiene Containing Benzoxazine Side Groups (PB-Benzoxazine)

In a flask, PB-N3 (0.30 g), 3-(4-(prop-2-ynyloxy)phenyl)-3,4-dihydro-2Hbenzo[e][1,3]oxzaine (0,4 g 1.5 mmol), copper(I)bromide (0,5, 3mmol), 2,2bipyridine (0,9g, 7mmol), and dry THF (10mL) was added. The flask was capped with a septum and purged with dry nitrogen for 10 minutes. The mixture was stirred overnight at ambient temperature. Copper salts were filtered and functionalized polymer was precipitated in methanol (200mL), filtered and dried under vacuum.

4. RESULTS and DISCUSSION

In this study, we tried to incorporate benzoxazine moieties into PB rubber by using "Click reaction". The synthetic strategy followed involves several steps. First benzoxazine monomer with suitable click functionality was synthesized. The other click component was formed on the rubber molecule. The final click step yields the desired rubber with curable benzoxazine functionalities. The various steps of the procedure will be described below.

4.1 Synthesis and Characterization of Propargylbenzoxazine

In this study, propargylbenzoxazine was selected as thermally reactive click component, which was prepared according to the modified procedure described by Agag and Takeichi [41]. The chemical structure of propargylbenzoxazine was confirmed by both FT-IR and ¹H-NMR.



Figure 4. 1 FT-IR spectrum of propargylbenzoxazine

The characteristic absorptions of benzoxazine structure appeared at 1236 cm⁻¹ (asymmetric stretching of C-O-C), 924 and 1493 cm⁻¹ (trisubstituted benzene ring). The Click functionality, propargyl group was evidenced by characteristic bands of H-C= and -C=C- appeared at 3290 and 2121 cm⁻¹, respectively (See Figure 4.1). The ¹H-NMR spectrum of propargylbenzoxazine showed a triplet at 2.5 ppm and a doublet at 4.5 ppm which are assigned to H-C= and CH_2 (See Figure 4.2). Also, N-C H_2 -O and N-C H_2 -Ar protons of oxazine ring are detectable at 5.3 and 4.6 ppms.



Figure 4. 2¹H-NMR spectrum of propargylbenzoxazine

4.2 Synthesis and Characterization of Azide Functional PB

For the synthesis of parent azide functionalized PB (PB-N₃), approximately 10% of double bonds were brominated with Br_2 in carbontetrachloride then bromo groups converted to azido groups by using NaN₃(Sodium Azide) in DMF (See Figure 4.3). Functionalization was kept deliberately at low level so as to preserve PB properties.



Figure 4. 3 Bromination and azidation steps of PB

The structure of PB-N₃ was further supported by the observation of the azide stretching band at 2094 cm⁻¹ in the FT-IR spectrum of PB-N₃ presented in Figure 4.4b.



Figure 4. 4 a) FT-IR spectrum of PB-benzoxazine, b) FT-IR spectrum of PB- azide.

4.3 Synthesis and Characterization of Benzoxazine Functional PB

For the click reaction, the PB-N₃ was dissolved in THF and reacted with propargyl benzoxazine in the presence of CuBr/bipyridine ligand at room temperature (See Figure 4.5). After removing the catalyst by filtration, the polymer was precipitated and dried under vacuum. As far as the ultimate use of the resulting polymer (PB-

Benzoxazine) in thermal curing is concerned, two points were important; the extent of conversion of the side azido moieties to triazoles and the effect of click reaction on the stability of benzoxazine ring.



Figure 4. 5 Synthesis of PB-benzoxazine

The fist issue was monitored by ¹H NMR spectroscopy by observing the appearance of the new methylene protons adjacent to the triazole ring at 5.1 ppm (triazole-C H_2 -OPh) and the triazole proton (N-CH=C-) at 7.6 ppm (Figure 4.6). Moreover, the band corresponding to -N₃ group at 2094 cm⁻¹ completely disappeared (Figure 4.4a). Thus, the side group click reaction was efficient, as evidenced by near-quantitative functionalization. Besides, the presence of signals at 5.3 and 4.5 ppm in ¹H-NMR spectra corresponding to N-C H_2 -O and N-C H_2 -Ar clearly indicate the retention of the benzoxazine ring during the click reaction.



Figure 4. 6 a) ¹H-NMR spectra of propargylbenzoxazine and **b**) ¹H-NMR spectra of PB-benzoxazine

4.3.1 Thermally Activated Curing of PB-Benzoxazine

The thermally activated curing behavior of resulting polymer was examined by DSC. Figure 4.8 shows the DSC profile for benzoxazine containing PB. The side-chain benzoxazine groups are expected to undergo thermally activated intramolecular ring opening reaction to yield insoluble PB network as depicted in Figure 4.7.



Figure 4. 7 Cross-linking of PB-benzoxazine



Figure 4. 8 DSC thermogram of PB-benzoxazine

The thermogram, shown in Figure 4.8 revealed two exotherms with maximums around 161 and 199°C at the fist run. According to literature, depending on the substituents, the benzoxazine ring opens at the temperature range between 200-250 °C. Hence, the exotherm at 199 °C corresponds to the ring opening polymerization of benzoxazine moiety and cross-linking of the polymer. The second exotherm at 161°C may be due to a transformation of 1, 2, 3-triazole ring. In fact, there is limited information in the literature about the thermal stability of the 1, 2, 3-triazole ring, formed via click chemistry, at elevated temperatures. Interestingly, DSC thermograms of several model compounds possessing triazole ring including those prepared from polystyrene have also exhibited similar exotherm. The possibility of the decomposition of the triazole ring by the evolution of nitrogen was disregarded as it would have exhibited an endotherm. Also, there is no meaningful weight loss observed around 161 °C due to the nitrogen evolution in thermal gravimetric analysis (TGA) of the polymer. The second DSC run did not show any exotherm indicating highly densed network formation and completion of ring opening. Furthermore, it should be noted that thermally treated polymer was not soluble in all common solvents.

Thermal stability of the thermally cured PB was investigated by TGA and compared with commercial PB and cured mono-functional benzoxazine (PP-a, See Figure 4.9). The TGA curves are presented in Figure 4.7 and weight loss behaviors of the species are tabulated at Table 4.1.



Figure 4. 9 Polymerization of mono-funtional benzoxazine

Polymer	$T_{5\%}^{a}$	T _{10%} ^b	T _{max.} ^c	Y _c ^d at 500°C
	(°C)	(°C)	(°C)	(%)
PB	363	411	449	0
PB-benzoxazine (cured)	234	267	309	43
PP-a	297	347	452	50

Table 4.1 TGA analysis of cured PB-benzoxazine with PP-a and PB

^a $T_{5\%}$: The temperature for which the weight loss is 5%

 ${}^{b}T_{10\%}$: The temperature for which the weight loss is 10%

^cT_{max}: Maximum weight loss temperature.

^dY_c: Char yields



Figure 4. 10 a)TGA thermogram of PB, b) TGA thermogram of PB-benzoxazinec) TGA thermogram of PP-a

According to data obtained from TGA studies. It clear that the char yield of the thermally cured PB is enhanced far too much compared to commercial PB. Another

noticeable feature is that the degradation of the thermally cured PB is not similar to the degradation profile of PP-a.

Molecular weight averages of PB, PB-Br, PB- N₃ and PB-benzoxazine are shown below (See Table 4.2).

Polymer	Mn	Mw	PD
РВ	9251	10980	1,186
PB-Br	17551	19039	1,085
PB- N ₃	15468	15594	1,008
PB-Benzoxazine	15622	18169	1,163

 Table 4.2 TGA analysis of cured PB-benzoxazine with PP-a and PB

Mn: Number of Average Molecular Weight Mw: Molecular Weight PD: Polydispersity

In summary, a simple click reaction route to side-chain benzoxazine functional PB is described. This route has the unique feature of being quantitative and at the same time preserving the benzoxazine ring structure. The benzoxazine groups have been shown to readily undergo thermal ring-opening reaction in the absence of added catalyst to form cross-linked polymer networks. The polymers cured in this way, has much more char yield than commercial PB. It is anticipated that this new family of thermally curable polymers can be used as intermediates for the design of more complex macromolecular systems such as interpenetrating networks, nano-particles via intramolecular chain collapse, and high performance thermo-set polymers when used in conjunction with low molar mass benzoxazines. Further studies in this line are now in progress.

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