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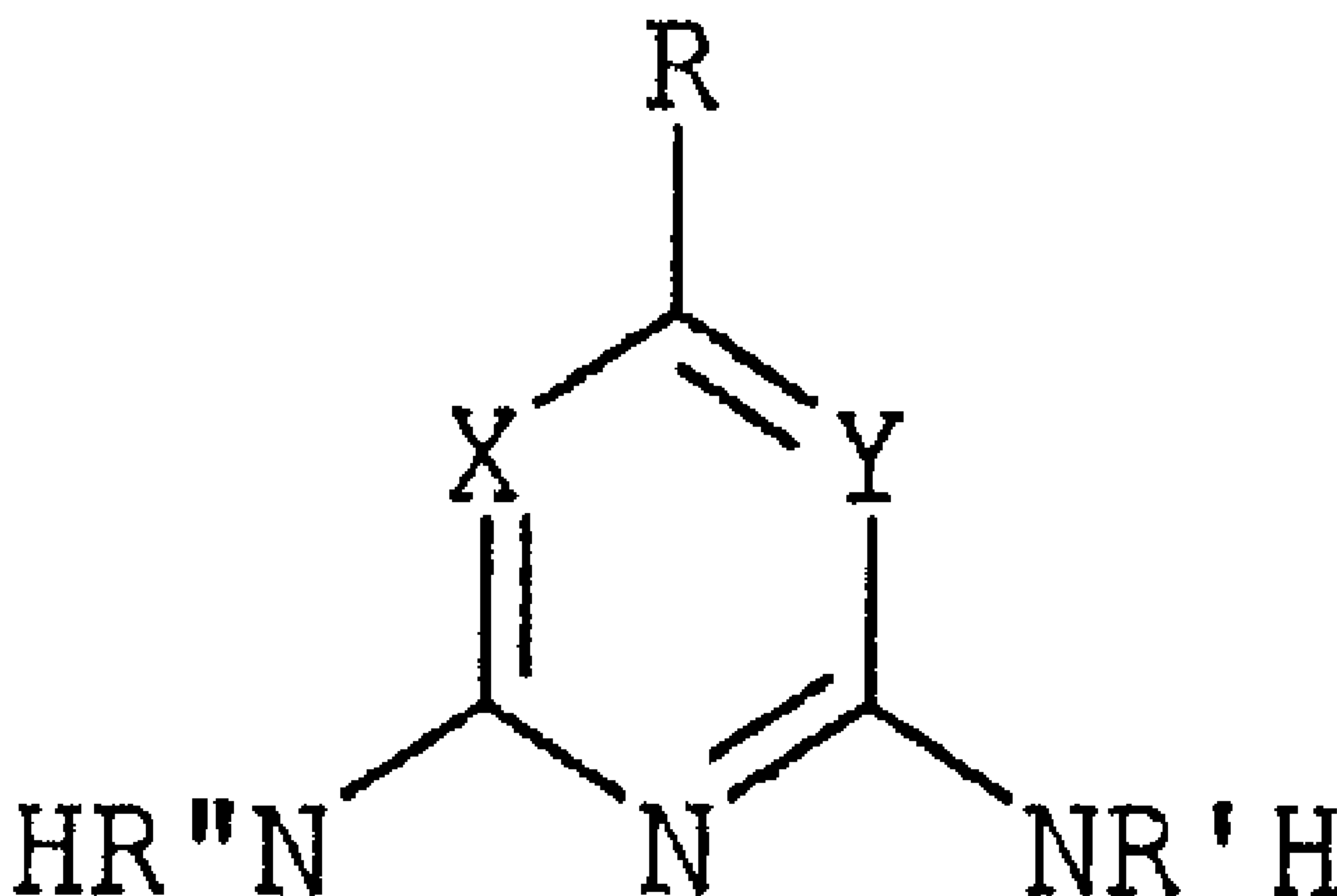
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(54) Titre : ALLONGEUR DE CHAÎNE UTILE DANS LA PRODUCTION DE POLYURETHANES ET POLYURETHANES CORRESPONDANTS

(54) Title: CHAIN EXTENDER USEFUL IN THE MANUFACTURE OF POLYURETHANES AND THE CORRESPONDING POLYURETHANES



(I)

(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

The invention provides a novel chain extender which is a diamino-substituted heterocycle of formula (I), and its use in the manufacture of polyurethanes (PUs), the PUs thus obtained, reactive compositions containing said chain extender, and processes for manufacturing PUs. The formula (I) is represented as follows:

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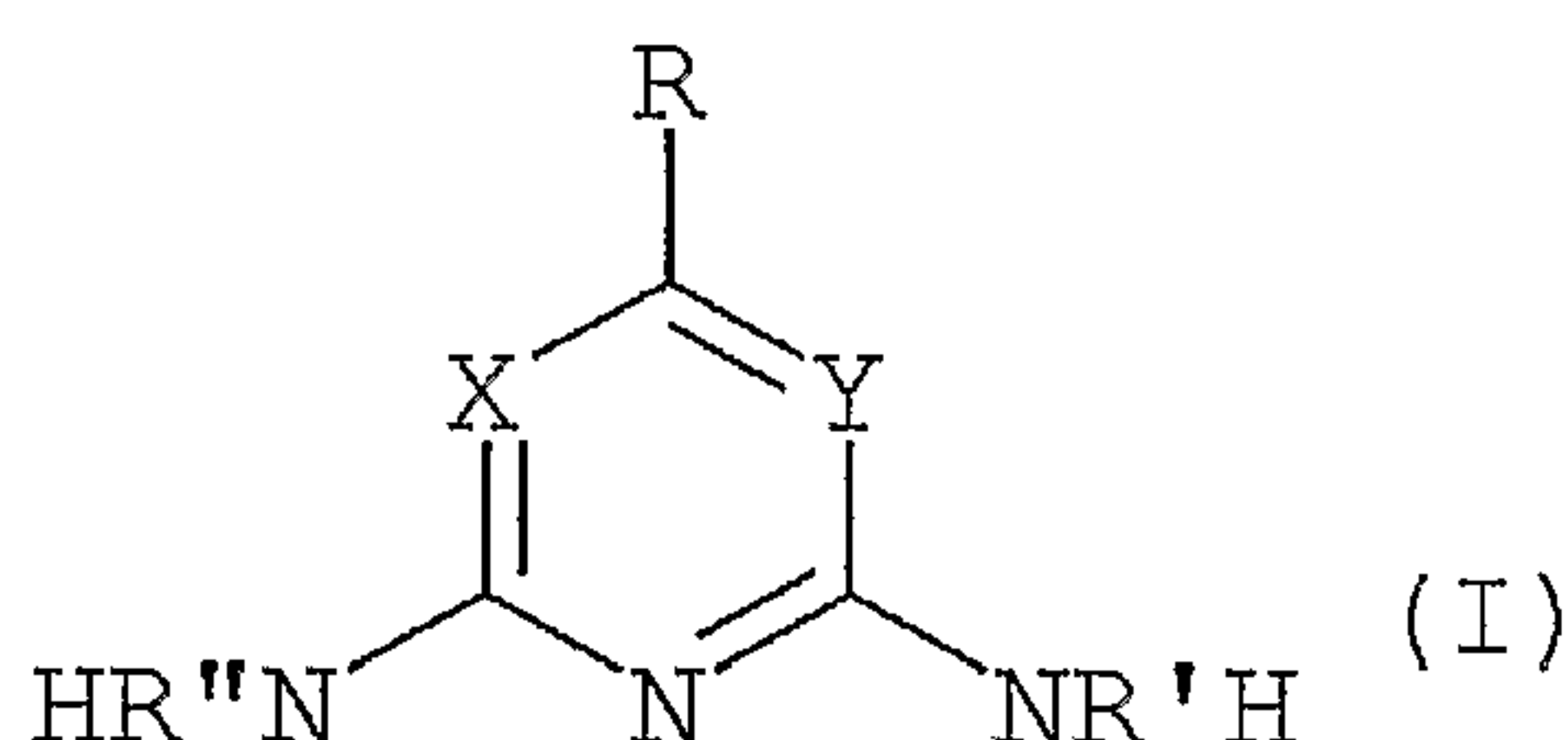
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(54) Title: NOVEL CHAIN EXTENDER USEFUL IN THE MANUFACTURE OF POLYURETHANES AND THE CORRE-
SPONDING POLYURETHANES



(57) Abstract: The invention provides a novel chain extender which is a di-
amino-substituted heterocycle of formula (I), and its use in the manufacture of
polyurethanes (PUs), the PUs thus obtained, reactive compositions containing
said chain extender, and processes for manufacturing PUs. The formula (I) is
represented as follows:

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CHAIN EXTENDER USEFUL IN THE MANUFACTURE OF POLYURETHANES AND THE CORRESPONDING POLYURETHANES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 This invention relates to a novel chain extender which is a diamino-substituted heterocycle, and its use in the manufacture of polyurethanes (PUs), the PUs thus obtained, reactive compositions containing said chain extender, and processes for manufacturing PUs.

Thermoplastic polyurethanes (TPUs) are known and are used in many applications
10 so far. However, there exist problems in their manufacture, their use and their final properties, especially in the balance of properties that up to now have been recognized as opposite one to the other.

Also known are supramolecular polymers, which are formed by H-bonding (or H-bridges) of polymers or oligomers. The skilled reader may revert to WO-A-9746607 and
15 EP-A-1213309; "Reversible Polymers Formed from Self-Complementary Monomers Using Quadruple Hydrogen Bonding", by R. P. Sijbesma *et al.*, Science, Vol. 278, 28 November 1997.

A supramolecular polymer blend based on triple hydrogen bond formation between imide-and 2,4-diaminotriazine units has also been described. Maleimide-styrene
20 and 2,4-diamino-6-vinyl-1,3,5-triazine-styrene blend compositions were prepared using the co-precipitation method. The copolymers had to be dissolved in a strong solvent and coagulated in water. A molecularly miscible polymer blend was obtained due to the hydrogen bond interactions between the copolymers.

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Also described are 2,4-ureido-6-methyl-1,3,5-triazine dimers. The monomers were synthesized by reaction of 2,4-diamino-6-methyl-1,3,5-triazine with a monofunctional isocyanate. The crystal structure was determined via single crystal X-ray diffraction. A quadruply hydrogen bonded dimer was not observed because one of the intra-molecular
5 hydrogen bonds was directed to the central nitrogen between the ureido substituents.

The thermotropic liquid crystalline behaviour of disc-shaped ureidotriazine derivatives has been studied. The monomers were also synthesized by reaction of 2,4-diamino-6-methyl-1,3,5-triazine with a monofunctional isocyanate.

However, none of the above documents teaches or suggests the instant invention.

10 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of this invention is therefore to provide a polyurethane polymer comprising the following monomers:

- a) at least one isocyanate-reacting compound;
- b) at least one polyisocyanate; and
- 15 c) at least one chain extender of the invention, as defined below, of formula I.

A further object of this invention is to provide a process for the preparation of the above polymer, comprising reacting the at least one isocyanate-reacting compound, the at least one polyisocyanate and the at least one chain extender of the formula I.

Preferably, the process is solvent-free.

20 In one embodiment, the process comprises a pre-dissolution step of the at least one chain extender of formula I into the at least isocyanate-reacting compound.

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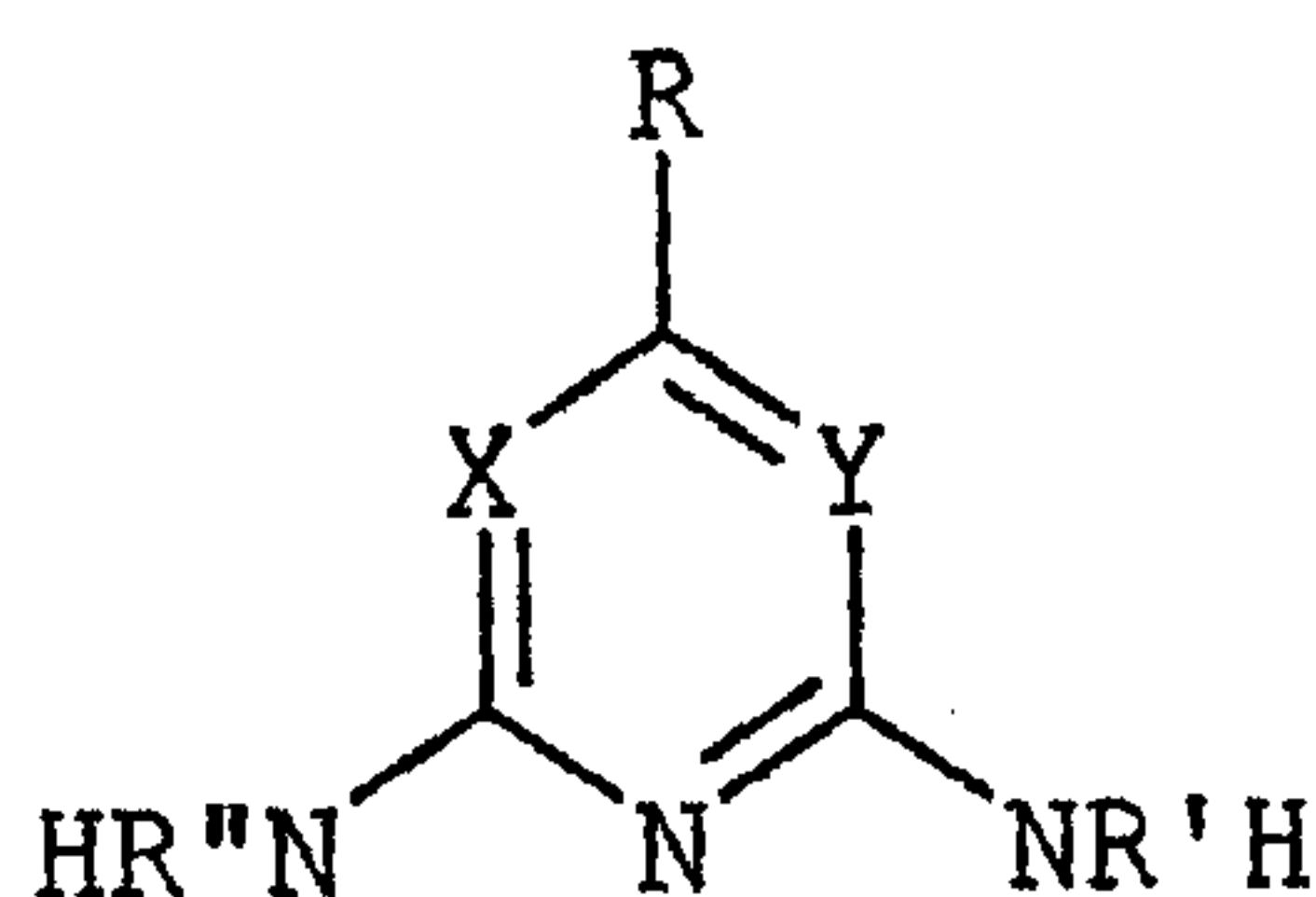
In another embodiment, the process comprises the step of reacting the at least one chain extender of formula I in the form of a powder with the at least one isocyanate-reacting compound and the at least one polyisocyanate.

Still a further object of the invention is to provide a reactive mixture comprising the at least one isocyanate-reacting compound, the at least one polyisocyanate and the at least one chain extender of the formula I.

Still a further object of the invention is to provide a mixture comprising the at least one isocyanate-reacting compound and the at least one chain extender of the formula I.

Yet a further object of the invention is to provide the use as a chain extender in the manufacture of polyurethanes of a compound of the formula I.

According to one aspect, the present invention relates to an elastomeric polyurethane polymer having a hard block content in the range of 5 to 60%, and comprising the following monomers at least one isocyanate-reacting compound; at least one polyisocyanate; and at least one chain extender of the formula I



(I)

wherein X and Y both represent nitrogen; R is hydrogen, hydroxyl, linear or branched C1-C36 alkyl, linear or branched C2-C24 alkenyl, C3-C6 cycloalkyl, C10 aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, polyether, perfluoroalkyl, or is -OR''', -C(O)R''', -CO(O)R''', -C(O)OR''' where R''' has the

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meaning of R, C1-C36 oligooxyalkylene, perfluoroalkyl; and R' and R'' are each independently hydrogen or C1-C6 alkyl.

According to another aspect, the present invention relates to a process for manufacturing the polyurethane polymer as defined herein, comprising reacting the at least one isocyanate-reacting compound, the at least one polyisocyanate and the at least one chain extender of the formula I.

According to still another aspect, the present invention relates to a reactive mixture comprising the at least one isocyanate-reacting compound, the at least one polyisocyanate and the at least one chain extender of the formula I, as defined herein.

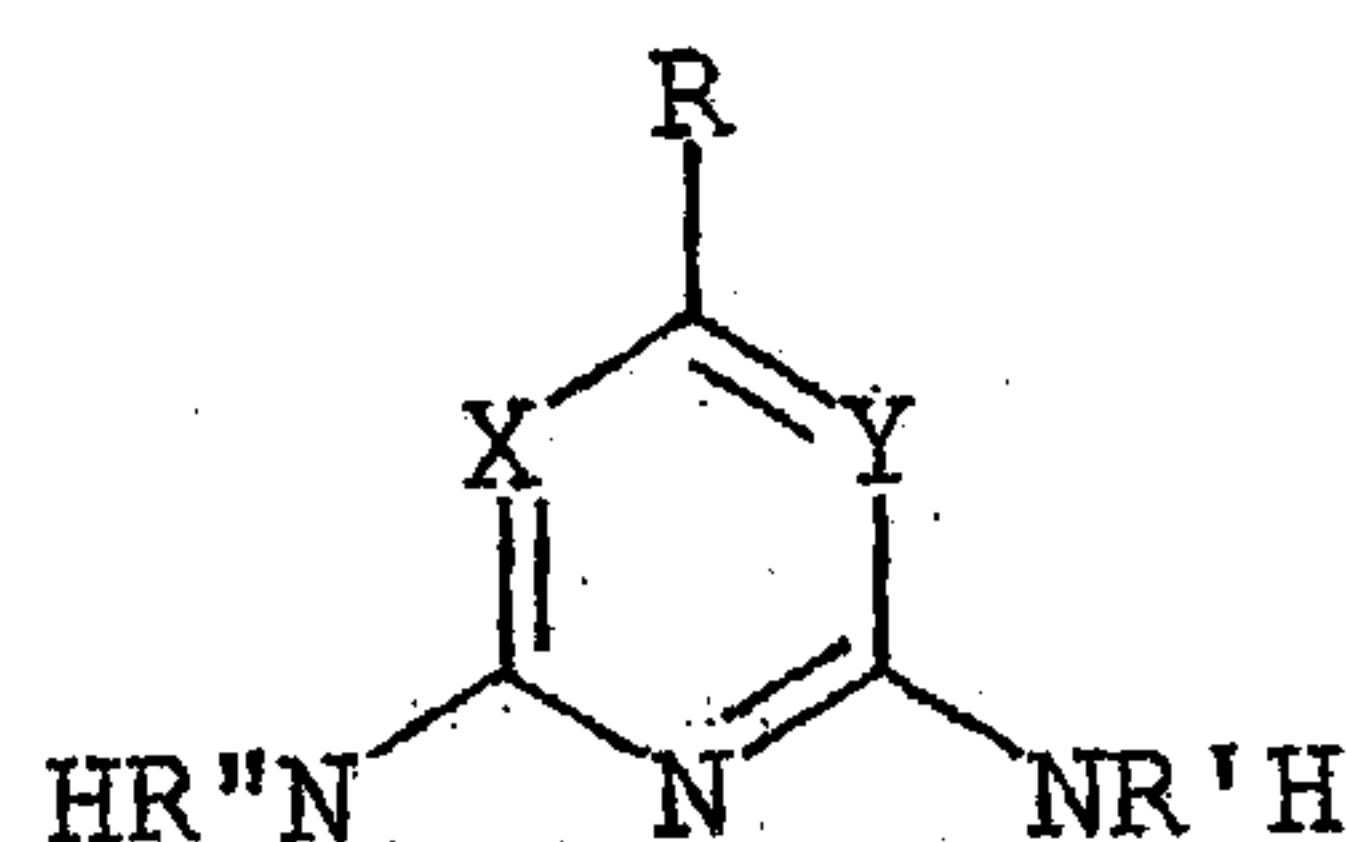
According to yet another aspect, the present invention relates to a mixture comprising the at least one isocyanate-reacting compound and the at least one chain extender of the formula I, as defined herein.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Other objects, features and advantages will become more apparent after referring to the following specification.

The invention is based on the use of a specific chain extender, which allows the final polyurethane to have the desired properties.

The chain extender used in the present invention is one of the formula I as follows:



(I)

- [023] wherein:
- [024] X and Y independently one from the other represent N or C, where at least one of X and Y is nitrogen;
- [025] R is hydrogen; hydroxyl; linear or branched C1-C36 alkyl, preferably C1-C24; linear or branched C2-C24 alkenyl; C3-C6 cycloalkyl; C6-10 aryl; aralkyl, alkaryl, polyether, perfluoroalkyl; or is -OR', -C(O)R', -CO(O)R', -C(O)OR' where R' has the meaning of R; C1-C36, preferably C1-C20 oligooxyalkylene; perfluoroalkyl; and
- [026] R' and R" are each independently hydrogen or a C1-C6 alkyl.
- [027] In the above formula, aryl means an aromatic group, containing 5 to 10 carbon atoms. Examples are phenyl and naphthyl. This group may optionally be interrupted by one heteroatom which is O, N or S. Examples of such groups are thionyl, indenyl, furan, pyrrole, quinoline, isoquinoline, etc..
- [028] Alkylaryl is a group containing an alkyl group and an aryl group such as defined above, linked to the rest of the molecule by the aryl moiety.
- [029] Aralkyl is a group containing an alkyl group and an aryl group such as defined above, linked to the rest of the molecule by the alkyl moiety.
- [030] Perfluoroalkyl is an alkyl group as defined above, with all hydrogens substituted by fluorine.
- [031] Preferably, the chain extender of the invention is a 2,4-diamino-6-R-1,3,5-triazine, with R having the meaning as above.
- [032] A preferred alkenyl group is vinyl.
- [033] Preferably, both R' and R" are hydrogen.
- [034] Preferably, R is an alkyl group, especially with 1 or 2 to 30, preferably 18 carbon atoms, notably 1 or 2 to 12 carbon atoms; R is preferably linear.
- [035] The chain extender is generally available from the market, e.g. from Degussa. It may also be manufactured according to methods known in the art. For example, the process may involve reacting R-yl cyanide with dicyandiamide to yield the corresponding 2,4-diamino-6-R-1,3,5-triazine.
- [036] This chain extender is used in the manufacture of a polyurethane, from at least one isocyanate-reacting compound; at least one polyisocyanate; and at least one chain extender of the invention.
- [037] For example, the suitable organic polyisocyanates for use in the invention include any of those known in the art for the preparation of polyurethanes, and may be selected from aromatic, aliphatic, cycloaliphatic and araliphatic polyisocyanates.
- [038] In particular are used the aromatic polyisocyanates such as diphenylmethane diisocyanate in the form of its 2,4'-, 2,2'- and 4,4'- isomers and mixtures thereof, the mixtures of diphenylmethane diisocyanates (MDI) and oligomers thereof known in the art as "crude" or polymeric MDI (polymethylene polyphenylene polyisocyanates)

having an isocyanate functionality of greater than 2, although these are not preferred, toluene diisocyanate (TDI) in the form of its 2,4 and 2,6-isomers and mixtures thereof, 1,5-naphthalene diisocyanate and 1,4-diisocyanatobenzene (PPDI). Other organic polyisocyanates which may be mentioned include the aliphatic diisocyanates such as isophorone diisocyanate (IPDI), 1,6-diisocyanatohexane and 4,4'-diisocyanatodicyclo-hexylmethane (HMDI). Preferred are TDI or MDI, PPDI, IPDI, HMDI and other aliphatic isocyanates. Most preferred is MDI, especially 4,4'-MDI. Prepolymers can also be used. Mixtures may be used.

- [039] Suitable isocyanate-reactive compounds to be used in the invention include any of those known in the art for the preparation of polyurethanes. Of particular importance are polyols and polyol mixtures having average hydroxyl numbers of from 5 to 500, especially from 10 to 150 mg KOH/g, and hydroxyl functionalities of from 1.5 to 3, especially from 1.8 to 2.2, and a MW generally from 500 to 20,000, preferably 500 to 10,000. Mixtures may be used.
- [040] These polyols can be polyether polyols, polyester polyols, polyamides polyols, polyesteramides polyols, polythioether polyols, polycarbonate polyols, polyacetal polyols, polyolefin polyols, polysiloxane polyols, and the like. The isocyanate-reactive compound is preferably a polyol which is preferably a polyether or a polyester or mixtures thereof.
- [041] Polyether polyols, which may be used, include products obtained by the polymerization of alkylene oxides, for example ethylene oxide, propylene oxide, butylene oxide or tetrahydrofuran in the presence of polyfunctional initiators, said initiator containing generally from 2 to 8 active hydrogen atoms per molecule. Suitable initiator compounds contain a plurality of active hydrogen atoms and include water, butanediol, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, ethanolamine, diethanolamine, triethanolamine, toluene diamine, diethyl toluene diamine, phenylene diamine, toluene diamine, diphenylmethane diamine, ethylene diamine, cyclohexane diamine, cyclohexane dimethanol, resorcinol, bisphenol A, glycerol, trimethylolpropane, 1,2,6-hexanetriol, pentaerythritol, sorbitol and sucrose. Mixtures of initiators and/or cyclic oxides may be used. Especially useful polyether polyols include polyoxypropylene diols and triols and poly(oxyethylene-oxypropylene) diols and triols obtained by the simultaneous or sequential addition of ethylene and propylene oxides to di- or trifunctional initiators as fully described in the prior art. Other particularly useful and preferred polyether polyols include polytetramethylene glycols obtained by the polymerization of tetrahydrofuran.
- [042] Polyester polyols which may be used include hydroxyl-terminated reaction products of polyhydric alcohols such as ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, diethylene glycol,

1,4-butanediol, neopentylglycol, 1,6-hexanediol, cyclohexane dimethanol, glycerol, trimethylolpropane, pentaerythritol or polyether polyols or mixtures of such polyhydric alcohols, and polycarboxylic acids, especially dicarboxylic acids or their ester-forming derivatives, for example succinic, glutaric and adipic acids or their dimethyl esters sebacic acid, phthalic anhydride, tetrachlorophthalic anhydride or dimethyl terephthalate or mixtures thereof. Polyesters obtained by the polymerization of lactones, for example caprolactone, in conjunction with a polyol, or of hydroxy carboxylic acids such as hydroxy caproic acid, may also be used.

[043] Polyamide polyols, polyesteramide polyols, polythioether polyols, polycarbonate polyols, polyacetal polyols, polyolefin polyols, polysiloxane polyols, and the like are also known in the art. The skilled man may revert to the known publications, such as for example Polyurethanes Handbook 2nd edition, G. Oertel, 1994.

[044] A further low molecular weight chain extender may be used, albeit this is not preferred. A classical chain extender is traditionally a low molecular weight polyol, typically a diol.

[045] Other conventional ingredients (additives and/or auxiliaries) may be used in making the polyurethanes. These include catalysts, surfactants, flame proofing agents, fillers, pigments, stabilizers and the like.

[046] As catalyst those may be used which enhance the formation of urethane and urea bonds like tin compounds, such as a tin salt of a carboxylic acid, e.g. dibutyltin dilaurate, stannous acetate and stannous octoate; amines, e.g. dimethylcyclohexylamine and triethylene diamine.

[047] This PU chain is obtained by classical methods known in the art (see for example Polyurethanes Handbook 2nd edition, G. Oertel, 1994). The chains are notably obtained by the reaction of an isocyanate, an isocyanate-reactive compound (a polyol) and the chain extender of the invention.

[048] This reaction can be a batch process or a continuous process. All reactants can be reacted at once, or can be reacted in a sequential manner. A prepolymer, known in the art, may also be used. It is also possible to first mix all or part of the chain extender of the invention with all or part of the isocyanate-reactive compound, and then to cause the remainder of the reactants to react together. By prior mixing of all or part the chain extender of the invention with all or part of the isocyanate-reactive compound solutions or suspensions or dispersions are obtained, depending on the chain extender and isocyanate-reactive compound used.

[049] It is also possible to make use of the process involving reactive extrusion, reaction-injection moulding and generally speaking any batch or continuous process derived therefrom. For example, in one embodiment, the chain extender is prior mixed with the polyol (see above) and the thus-obtained solutions or suspensions or dispersions are

used in the reactive extrusion process. For example, in another embodiment, the isocyanate and the polyol will be charged at one end of the extruding screw while the chain extender of the invention will be added at the same point or at a point downstream. In that embodiment, the chain extender is preferably in the form of a powder, the particle size of which will control the reaction rate. Using the particle size of the solid chain extender is a useful means to control the reaction rate, compared to heretofore known amine-based chain extenders (liquid), which are very reactive unless chemically protected.

[050] In one embodiment, the solvent-free route is followed (where solvent is intended to mean any volatile organic compound in which the reaction products and/or mixture are dissolved but which is removed from the product subsequent to synthesis).

[051] The quantities of the polyisocyanate compositions and the polyfunctional isocyanate-reactive compositions as well as those of the chain extender to be reacted will depend upon the nature of the polyurethane to be produced and will be readily determined by those skilled in the art. The isocyanate index can vary within broad limits, such as between 80 and 400, preferably between 95 and 105.

[052] In a preferred embodiment, the amount (wt%) of the chain extender of the invention, based on the total weight, is comprised between 0.5 and 20wt%, preferably between 1 and 15wt%, most preferably 1 to 10wt%. Lower values such as from 1 to 5wt% are for soft PUs while higher values (above 5wt%) would be for harder PUs.

[053] The polyurethane chain preferably comprises from 5 to 60%, preferably 10 to 50%, most preferably 10 to 40% hard blocks, even more preferably 10 to 30%. Here we recall that the hard block content is typically defined as the ratio of (isocyanate plus chain extender reaction product) on total PU weight.

[054] The polyurethane chain may have a molecular weight (MW_n) ranging between large limits, as is known from the art.

[055] The polyurethane polymer of the invention is useful in many aspects. The chain extender of the invention allows obtaining PUs having characteristics that have up to now not been reached. Especially, the PUs of the invention are generally thermoplastic, albeit the invention is not limited to this specific embodiment.

[056] The chain extender of the invention opens up possibilities in many areas, such as coatings, films, adhesives, clothing, footwear, sealing and automotive application areas.

[057] The invention is especially suitable for production of TPUs with high dynamic and elasticity requirements (i.e. the PU is elastomeric). The tensile hysteresis is very low, and the resilience is high. In another embodiment, the invention can produce TPUs with low hardness, but good physical properties. The invention allows obtaining TPUs with low Shore A hardness values. In yet a further embodiment, the invention can be

applied to medium to high hardness TPUs with good dynamic performance and improved heat stability. Foams may also be produced thanks to the invention; especially foamed films can be obtained.

[058] The invention also provides for cross-linked elastomeric PU (where cross-linking can be obtained by using trifunctional components).

[059] The instant PUs are generally not foamed. Optionally foamed PUs can be produced, their density being normally in the range 100-1000kg/m³, preferably 300-900kg/m³. The foaming can be achieved in-situ during synthesis or preferably via a post-processing step.

[060] It should also be pointed out that the chain extender of the invention also provides additional benefits in terms of health and toxicity requirements, since it is not toxic, in contrast with aromatic amines known up to now. Also, compared to aliphatic diamine chain extender, the production is enhanced, thanks to a different reactivity.

[061] The following examples illustrate the invention without limiting it.

[062] **EXAMPLES**

[063] Example 1.

[064] A calculated amount of 2,4-diamino-6-nonyl-1,3,5-triazine (obtained from Degussa) was dissolved in a calculated amount of polyester polyol which is a two-functional ethyleneglycol-1,4-butanediol adipate with a numerical mole weight of 2200 g/mole (obtained from Huntsman) by heating this mixture to 110-120°C under continuous stirring. A masterblend of chain extender dissolved in polyol is obtained. A calculated amount of this masterblend, at a temperature of 50-60°C, is weighed in a cardboard cup of 425cm³, then a calculated amount of diphenylmethane-4,4'-diisocyanate is added. Eventually the catalyst Metatin® S26 (from Rohm and Haas) or Dabco® S (from Air Products) is added. All reagents are mixed in a vacuum mixer at a speed of 1500rpm for 20-30 seconds. The mixed and degassed blend is poured onto a teflon-coated metal pan, heated to approximately 80°C by a hot plate set at 140°C. The reaction mixture is allowed to cure for 1 hour on the hot plate, and 16 hours in an oven at 80°C.

[065] Reference materials were made according to the same procedure except that in the initial step the polyester polyol was mixed with a calculated quantity of 1,4-butanediol chain extender instead of the triazine chain extender of the invention.

[066] A range of TPUs in the Shore A Hardness range 60-80 were prepared by systematic variation of the proportion of the chain extender in the formulation (from 2 to 5wt%). Typically, the triazine chain extender based TPUs showed improved ball rebound (10% higher) and tensile hysteresis (30% lower) performance compared to reference materials of the same hardness based on 1,4-butanediol chain extender.

[067] Example 2.

- [068] A series of materials was made using the same procedure as described in Example 1, with the exception that the polyol component was poly-tetrahydrofuran (obtained from DuPont) with a functionality of 2 and a numerical molecular weight of 1000 (p-THF1000) or 2000 (p-THF2000). In the case of pTHF-1000 the polyol/chain extender solution was cured with diphenylenemethane-4,4'-diisocyanate whereas the pTHF-2000/chain extender solution was cured with a prepolymer (33.3 wt/wt% p-THF 2000 / 66.6 wt/wt% diphenylenemethane-4,4'-diisocyanate, made by stirring the reagents for two hours at 80°C under a nitrogen blanket).
- [069] Reference materials were made using 1,4-butanediol and 4,4'-bis(2-hydroxyethyl)quinone (HQEE) as chain extenders.
- [070] A range of materials in the Shore A Hardness range 50-75 was prepared by systematic variation of the quantity of chain extender in the formulation (from 2 to 4wt%). The triazine chain extender based TPUs showed improved ball rebound (10-20% higher) and tensile hysteresis (30-40% lower) compared to TPUs of similar hardness based on 1,4-butanediol or HQEE.
- [071] Example 3.
- [072] A calculated amount of 2,4-diamino-6-nonyl-1,3,5-triazine (obtained from Degussa) was dissolved in a calculated amount of polyester polyol which is a two-functional ethyleneglycol-1,4-butanediol adipate with a numerical mole weight of 2200 g/mole (obtained from Huntsman) by heating this mixture to 110-120°C under continuous stirring. A masterblend of chain extender dissolved in polyol is obtained. A calculated amount of this masterblend, at a temperature of 50-60°C, is weighed in a cardboard cup of 425cm³, then a calculated amount of diphenylmethane-4,4'-diisocyanate is added. Eventually the catalyst Metatin® S26 (from Rohm and Haas) or Dabco® S (from Air Products) is added. All reagents are mixed in a vacuum mixer at a speed of 1500rpm for 20-30 seconds. The mixed and degassed blend is poured onto a teflon-coated metal pan, heated to approximately 80°C by a hot plate set at 140°C. The reaction mixture is allowed to cure for 1 hour on the hot plate, and 16 hours in an oven at 80°C. The additives package (Irganox® and Irgafos® both from Ciba) is dissolved in the polyol using the same procedure. After homogenization by stirring for few minutes, a masterblend of chain extender/additives package dissolved in the polyol is obtained. A calculated amount of this masterblend, at a temperature of 60°C, is weighed into a 20L pail. Stirring is started. The catalyst (Sn(II)octoate) as a 20wt/wt% solution in ethoxyethylacetate is added and mixed in. Eventually a calculated amount of diphenylmethane-4,4'-diisocyanate is added. This reaction mixture is stirred for another 45 seconds and poured in a tray. The reaction-exotherm is measured with a thermocouple for about 15 minutes. The tray is put in an oven and allowed to cure for 16h at 80°C. The TPU is allowed to cool down and is granulated at

ambient temperature. Films are extruded and test parts are injection-moulded, both at a temperature of 155°C.

[073] A range of materials was prepared by systematic variation of the quantity of chain extender in the formulation (from 2 to 3wt%).

[074] The results are the following: Shore A hardness values range from 59 to 64; residual strain after elongation at 200% is below 3.4%; the hysteresis is very low; the resilience is from 64 to 68%.

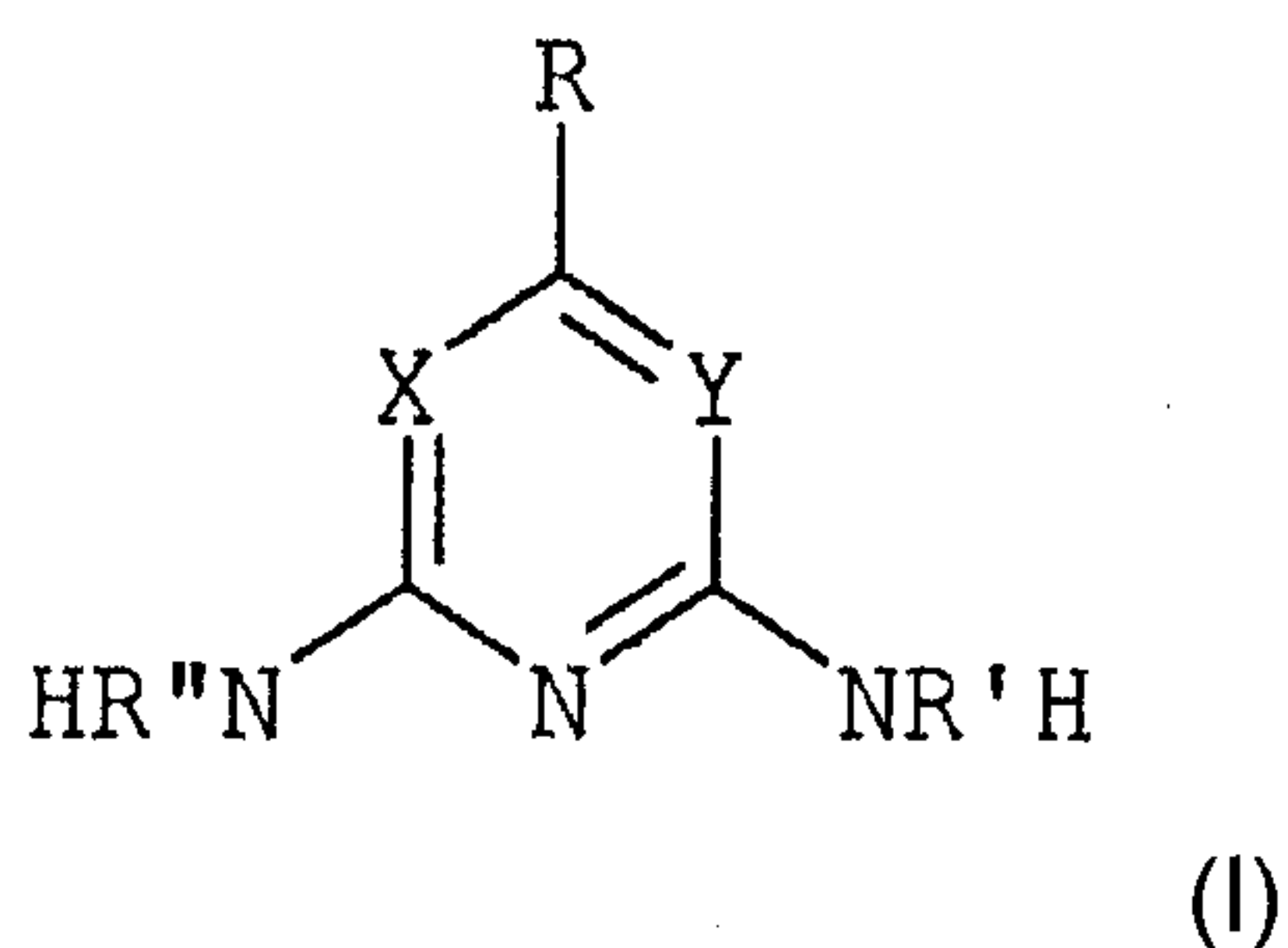
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CLAIMS

1. An elastomeric polyurethane polymer having a hard block content in the range of 5 to 60%, and comprising the following monomers:

- a) at least one isocyanate-reacting compound;
- b) at least one polyisocyanate; and
- c) at least one chain extender of the formula I



wherein:

X and Y both represent nitrogen;

- 10 R is hydrogen, hydroxyl, linear or branched C1-C36 alkyl, linear or branched C2-C24 alkenyl, C3-C6 cycloalkyl, C10 aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, polyether, perfluoroalkyl, or is $-OR'''$, $-C(O)R'''$, $-CO(O)R'''$, $-C(O)OR'''$ where R''' has the meaning of R, C1-C36 oligooxyalkylene, perfluoroalkyl; and

R' and R'' are each independently hydrogen or C1-C6 alkyl.

- 2. The elastomeric polyurethane polymer as defined in claim 1, which is thermoplastic.
- 3. The elastomeric polyurethane polymer as defined in claim 1 or 2, wherein the hard block content is in the range 10 to 30%.
- 4. The elastomeric polyurethane polymer as defined in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein both R' and R'' are hydrogen.

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5. The elastomeric polyurethane polymer as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein R is a linear C1-C30 or C2-C30 alkyl group.
6. The elastomeric polyurethane polymer as defined in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the isocyanate-reacting compound is a polyether polyol.
7. The elastomeric polyurethane polymer as defined in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the isocyanate-reacting compound is a polyester polyol.
8. The elastomeric polyurethane polymer as defined in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the polyisocyanate is selected from the group consisting of aromatic, aliphatic, cycloaliphatic and araliphatic polyisocyanates.
- 10 9. The elastomeric polyurethane polymer as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, having a weight content of chain extender in the range of 0.5 to 20 wt%.
10. The elastomeric polyurethane polymer as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, having a weight content of chain extender in the range of 1 to 10 wt%.
11. The elastomeric polyurethane polymer as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, having a weight content of chain extender in the range of 1 to 5 wt%.
12. A process for manufacturing the elastomeric polyurethane polymer as defined in any one of claims 1 to 11, comprising reacting the at least one isocyanate-reacting compound, the at least one polyisocyanate and the at least one chain extender of the formula I.
13. The process as defined in claim 12, being solvent-free.
- 20 14. The process as defined in claim 12 or 13, comprising a pre-dissolution step of the at least one chain extender of formula I into the at least one isocyanate-reacting compound.

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15. The process as defined in claim 12 or 13, comprising the step of reacting the at least one chain extender of formula I in the form of a powder with the at least one isocyanate-reacting compound and the at least one polyisocyanate.

16. The process as defined in any one of claims 12 to 15, comprising reactive extrusion.

17. A reactive mixture comprising the at least one isocyanate-reacting compound, the at least one polyisocyanate and the at least one chain extender of the formula I, as defined in any one of claims 1 to 11.

18. A mixture comprising the at least one isocyanate-reacting compound and the at least one chain extender of the formula I, as defined in any one of claims 1 to 11.

