



新型环境友好绿色增塑剂的分子设计

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摘要 增塑剂是塑料加工助剂中用量最大的品种,可以有效改善其加工性能,经济和社会意义重大. 本文从分子设计的角度,总结了新型环境友好绿色增塑剂的研究进展. 首先剖析了增塑剂的工作原理,着重讨论了润滑理论、凝胶理论和自由体积理论;然后分析了目前主要的商业化增塑剂的优缺点,尤其是增塑剂中最重要的邻苯二甲酸酯类增塑剂. 由于邻苯二甲酸酯类增塑剂的毒副作用、对人类健康和环境的影响,在许多国家和地区已被限制使用,新型绿色环保增塑剂逐渐取代石油基增塑剂是未来塑料工业发展的必然趋势. 本文总结了大豆油、蓖麻油等植物油基增塑剂的最新研究成果;阐述了己二酸基、 ϵ -己内酯基等超支化聚酯增塑剂的结构特点与性能优点. 举例介绍了基于腰果酚、废弃食用油、乳酸、松香、酒石酸等的增塑剂的设计与应用. 最后,分析了增塑剂的化学结构与性能之间的关系,提出了通过分子设计,提高增塑剂性能的思路,并对增塑剂未来的研究和发展趋势进行了展望.

关键词 增塑剂, 增塑机理, 商用增塑剂, 分子设计, 绿色增塑剂

在过去的一个世纪里,塑料已经成为现代文明社会不可或缺的重要材料,广泛应用于航空、航天、通讯工程、计算机、军事以及农业、轻工业、食品工业等各行各业中^[1-4]. 近年来,全球塑料的需求稳步增长,2019年仅五大通用塑料之一的聚氯乙烯(PVC)的使用量就达到4900多万吨,其中中国占比最大^[5]. 由于PVC链之间的相互作用,阻碍了链的流动性,PVC表现出硬而脆的特性,制约了其应用^[6]. 为了提高PVC的性能,降低加工温度,需要加入合适的助剂. 在诸多助剂中,增塑剂是塑料制品中最重要的添加剂. PVC塑料中加入适量的增塑剂,可以极大地改善PVC的可加工性、柔韧性、拉伸性能等^[7].

增塑剂通过膨胀、溶解或其他方式与聚合物发生物理作用,形成均匀的物理单元. 增塑剂添加到塑料中

降低了塑料的黏度、玻璃化转变温度和弹性模量等^[8,9]. 目前,已有数百种增塑剂问世(图1),其中邻苯二甲酸酯由于塑化效果好、成本相对较低,是应用最广的增塑剂(例如邻苯二甲酸二辛酯),占增塑剂总量的80%以上^[10,11]. 然而,商用的邻苯二甲酸酯增塑剂在使用过程中会从产品内部向表面迁移最终进入周围环境中,从而污染环境,并对人体健康产生负面影响,如扰乱内分泌系统,导致癌症^[12-14]. 目前,在土壤、海水和生物体残骸中,甚至在人的母乳中都发现了邻苯二甲酸酯类增塑剂^[15]. 欧洲联盟、美国、加拿大、日本等国家和地区在食品包装材料、医疗器械、儿童玩具等特定领域都已经开始限制包括邻苯二甲酸二(2-乙基己)酯(DEHP)、邻苯二甲酸二异丁酯(DIBP)在内的邻苯二甲酸酯增塑剂的使用^[16,17]. 因此,开发能够替代传

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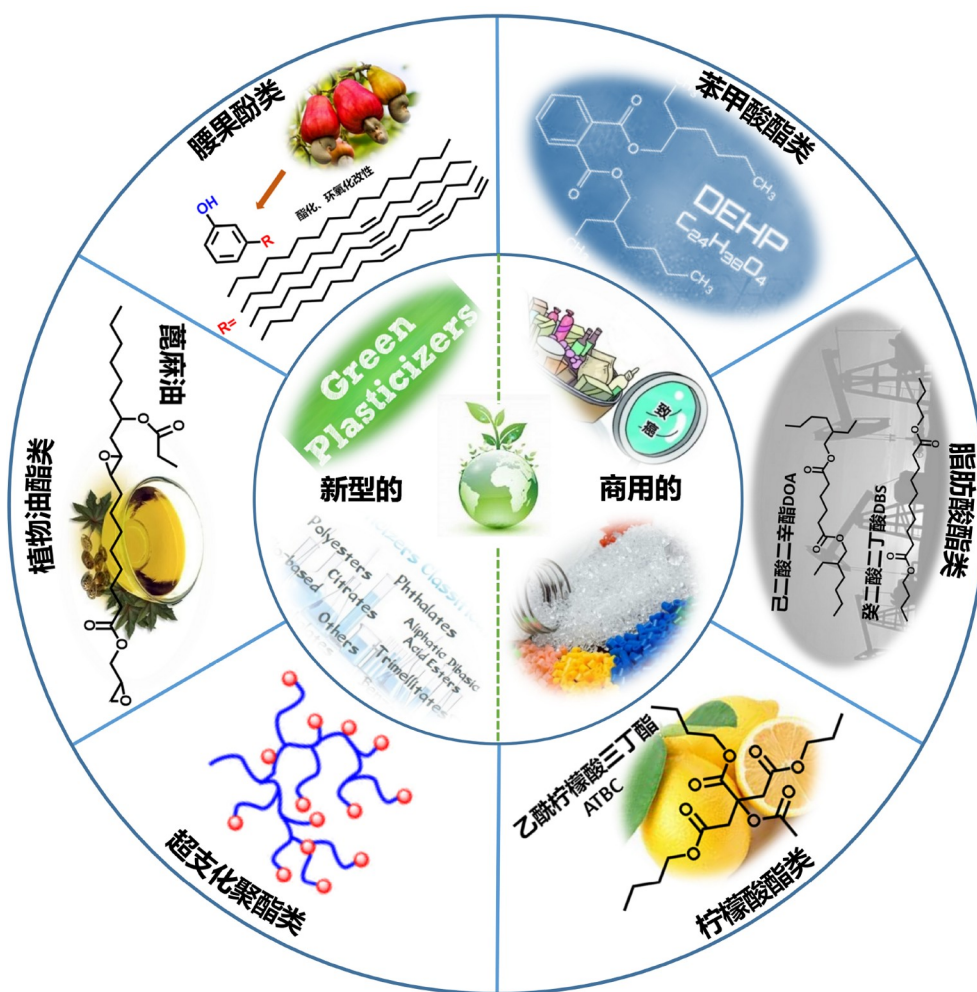


图1 增塑剂的分类
Figure 1 Classification of plasticizers

统石油基增塑剂、无毒、绿色环保的增塑剂具有重要意义。

本文剖析了增塑剂的工作原理，着重讨论了润滑理论、凝胶理论和自由体积理论。分析了目前主要的商业化增塑剂的优缺点，尤其是增塑剂中最重要的邻苯二甲酸酯类增塑剂。新型绿色环保增塑剂逐渐取代石油基增塑剂是未来塑料工业发展的必然趋势。因此，本文总结了近年来不同类型的新型绿色环保增塑剂的研究进展，分析了增塑剂化学结构与性能之间的关系，提出了通过分子设计提高增塑剂性能的思路，对增塑剂未来的发展趋势进行了展望。

1 增塑剂的增塑机理

根据国际纯粹与应用化学联合会(International Un-

ion of Pure and Applied Chemistry, IUPAC)的规定, 增塑剂的定义是“加入到塑料中, 以增加其柔韧性、可加工性或膨胀性的一种物质或材料”。增塑剂最早出现在19世纪, 当时人们使用天然樟脑和蓖麻油作为增塑剂将赛璐珞漆塑化。20世纪初, 磷酸三苯酯取代了樟脑油, 这是一个重要的转折点, 人们发现酯基增塑剂具有很好的增塑性能。随后, 邻苯二甲酸酯于1920年首次作为增塑剂出现。直到现在, 邻苯二甲酸酯类增塑剂依旧是使用量最大的一类增塑剂^[18,19]。增塑剂需要与聚合物基体具有良好相容性才能达到增塑的目的, 主要通过降低玻璃化转变温度(T_g)来提高聚合物的柔韧性和加工性能^[20]。同时还能降低聚合物材料的硬度, 增加聚合物材料抗断裂和抗冲击能力。

关于增塑剂的作用机理, 在20世纪40~50年代提出

了一系列增塑理论,其中有3个经典理论:润滑理论、凝胶理论和自由体积理论(图2)。

凝胶理论是由Kirk等人^[21]和Aiken等人^[22]提出的,认为聚合物分子在不同的时间间隔松散地结合在一起。添加的增塑剂增加了聚合物非缔合区域中聚合物链的随机运动,被增塑的高聚物基体既不是液态也不是固态,呈现凝胶状的三维网络结构,聚合物之间通过弱的次级键(氢键、范德华力等)连接在一起,形成附着点。增塑剂的作用是破坏聚合物之间次级键的相互作用,减少附着点的数量,防止它们的重组,从而达到增塑的目的。

润滑理论由Kirkpatrick^[23]和Clark^[24]提出,认为增塑剂充当分子润滑剂,当外力作用于可塑聚合物时,聚合物链段能够在彼此间自由移动。其中的增塑剂充当着润滑剂和隔离层的作用,减少聚合物分子滑动时产生的内阻和防止刚性基体的重新形成,聚合物分子链段的移动更容易,使得聚合物的玻璃化转变温度大大降低。润滑理论指出聚合物的刚性来自于内摩擦,增塑剂分子在聚合物链之间起到润滑剂的作用,使聚合物链能够更易于滑动。

自由体积理论是由Flory等人^[25,26]在20世纪50年代提出的,是目前广泛认可的理论,其对增塑原理解释是:高于玻璃化转变温度的比体积增加归因于“自由体积”,即分子之间的空间。增塑剂的加入增加了自由体积,使聚合物柔软而有弹性,增加了聚合物分子的运动。随后,这一理论得到不断发展。Sears等人^[27]假设自由体积来自3个主要来源:链端运动、侧链运动和主链运动。聚合物的运动也取决于温度,并随温度的升高而增加,使塑料更加柔韧。Chandola和Marathe^[28]使用自由体积理论准确预测了多种增塑剂的增塑行为。值得一

提的是,通常小分子尺寸增塑剂比大的化合物在体系中增加更大的自由体积。此外,支化增塑剂在增加自由体积方面比线性化合物更有效。因此,为了更有效地提供自由体积,增塑剂应该具有合理的分子量和相对较大的分子尺寸。

2 代表性的商用增塑剂

截至目前,增塑剂有超过1200种,然而只有100余种产品取得了工业化应用。这些商用的增塑剂被应用于60余种聚合物,其中最具代表性的是用于增塑PVC^[29]。超过80%的增塑剂被用于PVC加工行业,是迄今为止增塑剂最重要的用途^[30]。商用增塑剂除邻苯二甲酸酯类外,还包括柠檬酸酯类增塑剂^[31]、脂肪酸酯类增塑剂^[32]、偏苯三酸酯类^[33]、氯化脂肪酸酯类^[34]等(图3)。

2.1 邻苯二甲酸酯类增塑剂

邻苯二甲酸酯类增塑剂是目前用量最大的商用增塑剂,其中邻苯二甲酸二(2-乙基己基)酯(DEHP)是迄今使用最广泛的一种,占全球邻苯二甲酸酯类增塑剂产量的50%。这类增塑剂性能出色,具有优异的兼容性、低挥发性、低成本等。其工业应用范围从医用塑料、地板、壁纸、玩具、电缆到食品包装。但是,这些邻苯二甲酸酯类增塑剂来自石化工业。随着石油资源的开采和储量的逐渐减少,邻苯二甲酸酯类增塑剂的产量和价格都将受到影响。另外,邻苯二甲酸酯类增塑剂由于分子量较小,容易从塑料内部迁移到周围环境中,对环境造成危害,增塑剂的迁移也会导致PVC的性能变差^[35]。研究人员尝试通过增加烷基链的长度和适当添加支链来减小邻苯二甲酸酯类增塑剂的迁移,如邻苯

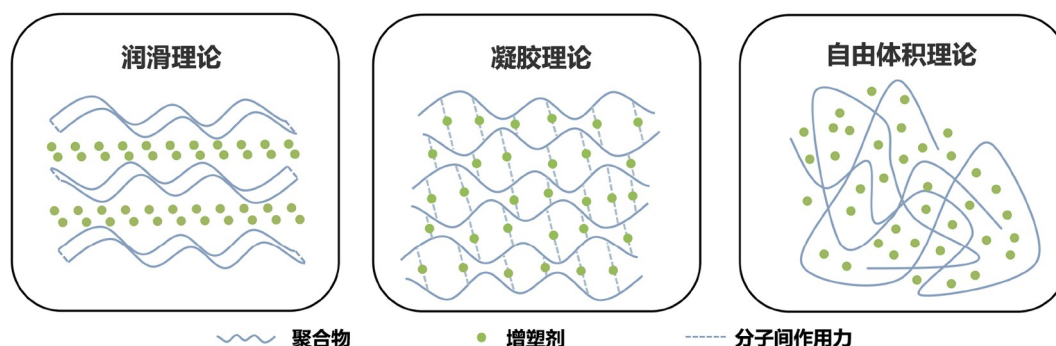


图2 (网络版彩色)增塑剂的增塑机理

Figure 2 (Color online) Working mechanism of plasticizer

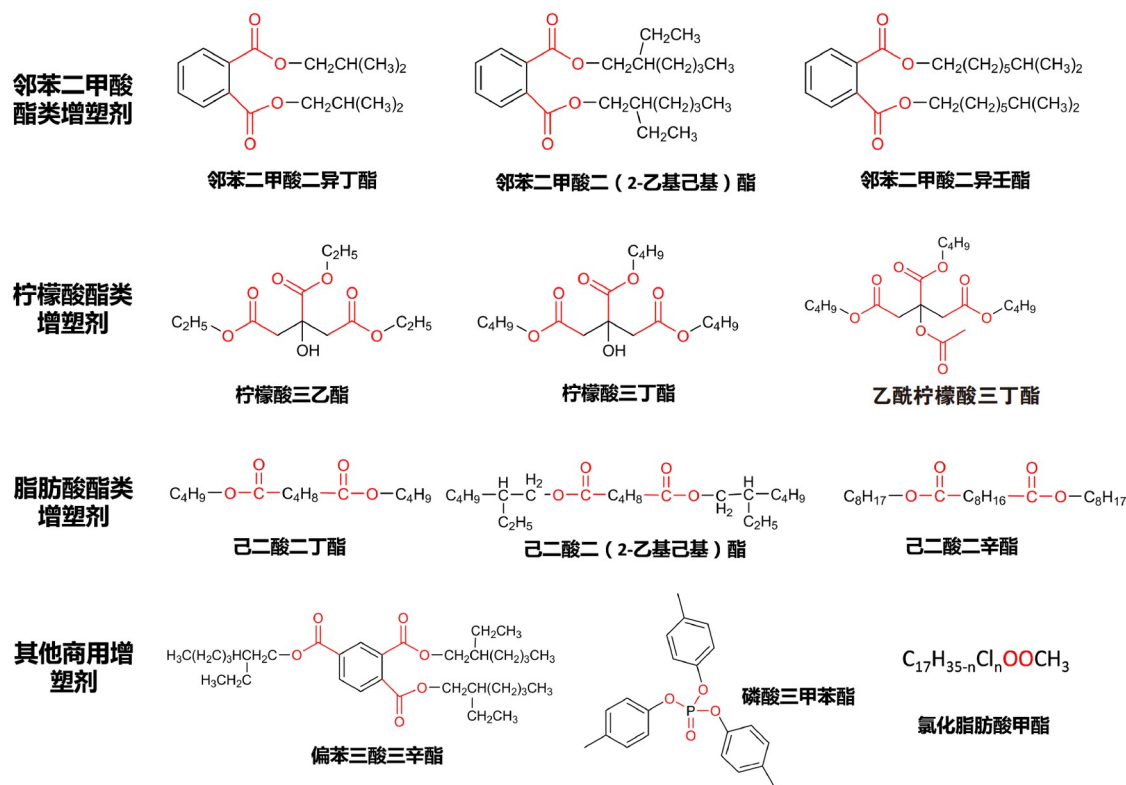


图3 (网络版彩色)代表性工业化应用的增塑剂种类
Figure 3 (Color online) Major types of commercialized plasticizers

二甲酸二异壬酯(DINP)、邻苯二甲酸二异癸酯(DIDP)等^[10]。

2.2 柠檬酸酯类增塑剂

柠檬酸酯类增塑剂的合成原料来自植物发酵生产的柠檬酸,其主要品种有柠檬酸三丁酯(TBC)、柠檬酸三辛酯、乙酰柠檬酸三丁酯(ATBC)、柠檬酸三丁己酯等。柠檬酸酯类增塑剂因具有无毒、不易挥发、耐候性强等特点而成为替代邻苯二甲酸酯类的首选绿色环保增塑剂^[36,37]。目前实现工业化生产的柠檬酸酯类增塑剂约有20种,其中TBC和ATBC是研究比较深入、工业化应用较为成熟的产品。但是,柠檬酸酯类增塑剂由于成本相对过高,主要应用于无毒安全性要求较高的领域,比如塑料玩具、饮料瓶盖、医疗器材、瓶装食品的密封圈等。ATBC环保型增塑剂主要通过两种方法制备:TBC与HOAc^[38]和TBC与Ac₂O^[39]的乙酰化反应。He等人^[40]提出了一种通过酯交换反应合成绿色增塑剂乙酰柠檬三丁酸酯的新方法。在烷基取代的咪唑型N-杂环卡宾(NHCs)的催化下,乙酸乙烯酯能与柠檬酸三丁酯之间发生酯交换反应,以高收率获得ATBC,这是

一种非常有潜力的制备绿色增塑剂的方法。

2.3 其他商业化增塑剂

偏苯三酸酯是在20世纪50年代末开发出的一类性能优良的增塑剂。其结构与邻苯二甲酸酯类似,偏苯三酸酯类增塑剂有较多的可酯化羧基。偏苯三酸三(2-乙基己酯)(TOTM)是最常用的一种,具有低挥发性、良好的耐水性、高温稳定性、高的气体交换能力,有利于血小板的存活,主要应用于PVC管和医疗器械领域^[41]。但由于偏苯三酸酐的产量有限,原料成本较高,因此偏苯三酸酯类增塑剂普遍价格较高。

脂肪酸酯类增塑剂具有优异的低温性能、耐冲击性强、塑化效率高及黏性好等特点^[42]。其中,氯代脂肪酸甲酯被广泛应用在有机树脂材料、光固化等成膜材料中,具有与PVC相近的分子结构,一定程度上减少增塑剂的迁移,与PVC相容性良好。Liu等人^[43]和Yang等人^[44]以碳十八脂肪酸甲酯为主要原料,进行氯化反应合成氯代脂肪酸甲酯。该类增塑剂具有典型脂肪酸酯的结构,同时又含有氯元素,能够提高塑料的阻燃性和电绝缘性,具有价格优势。目前这类增塑剂已经在中国

市场上大量应用,但由于溶解度的原因,添加量有一定限制。同时,氯化脂肪酸酯类增塑剂的生产工艺中需要使用大量氯气作为氯化剂,会对环境造成污染。

环己烷1,2-羧酸酯类增塑剂是一种创新的非邻苯二甲酸酯类增塑剂,巴斯夫已将其成功商业化,常用于敏感度和灵活性要求较高的产品^[32]。在欧洲经过严格的毒理测试,证实了其安全性,使之成为玩具、食品包装、医疗用品等敏感软质PVC产品的首选。

目前,市场中增塑剂种类繁多,但最常用的增塑剂依旧是邻苯二甲酸酯类增塑剂。主要原因在于目前商用的环保增塑剂成本偏高,另外其增塑效率还有待提高。因此,开发低成本、增塑效率优异的新型绿色环保增塑剂依然是增塑剂行业研究的热点。

3 新型环保增塑剂

理想的绿色环保增塑剂应具有如下特点:(1)对人体无毒害;(2)与聚合物具有良好的相溶性;(3)高的增塑效率;(4)高的耐迁移性;(5)成本相对较低。目前,新型环保增塑剂的种类有很多,其中植物油基增塑剂、支化和超支化聚酯增塑剂、腰果酚基增塑剂等被认为是未来具有商业潜力的绿色环保增塑剂(图4)。

3.1 植物油基增塑剂

近年来,研究人员专注于从可再生资源中研发新型增塑剂^[6,45]。通常使用可再生植物油为原料,如大豆

油^[46]、蓖麻油^[47]、葵花籽油^[48]、桐油^[49,50]、棕榈油^[51]、麻风树油^[52]、棉花籽油^[53]等。这类新型增塑剂对环境无害,而且是可生物降解的,但成本高的缺点限制了其应用。因此,目前的挑战是找到一种易于加工、生产成本低、增塑效率与目前商用的增塑剂相媲美的增塑剂^[54]。植物油是一些动物和人类的食物,因此会存在竞争平衡^[55]。此外,植物油与塑料的相容性有限,因此在使用前必须对其进行改性。植物油基增塑剂通常具有相对较高的分子量,因此具有良好的迁移抗力。

(1) 大豆油基增塑剂。最常见的植物油基增塑剂是环氧化大豆油(ESBO),它也被用作PVC共混物的热稳定剂,HCl被认为是导致聚合物热降解的原因之一,而ESBO中的环氧基团能够中和HCl使PVC的稳定性提高^[56]。大豆油是一种廉价、易得的植物油脂,其分子结构包含3个酯基、多个不饱和和双键与长烷基链,是制备增塑剂的理想原料^[57]。ESBO作为PVC增塑剂已有少量应用^[58]。目前研究的重点主要集中在大豆油基增塑剂的功能化、结构设计和工艺优化上。

Chen等人^[59]合成了一种新型环氧化大豆油脂肪酸缩水甘油酯(EGESOFa),研究了EGESOFa取代商用增塑剂DOP在PVC薄膜中的作用。采用动态力学分析(dynamic mechanical analysis, DMA)、热重分析(thermogravimetric analysis, TGA)、拉伸和硬度测试等方法研究了不同EGESOFa含量的PVC增塑薄膜的动态力学性能、热稳定性和力学性能。结果表明,部分取代DOP时,

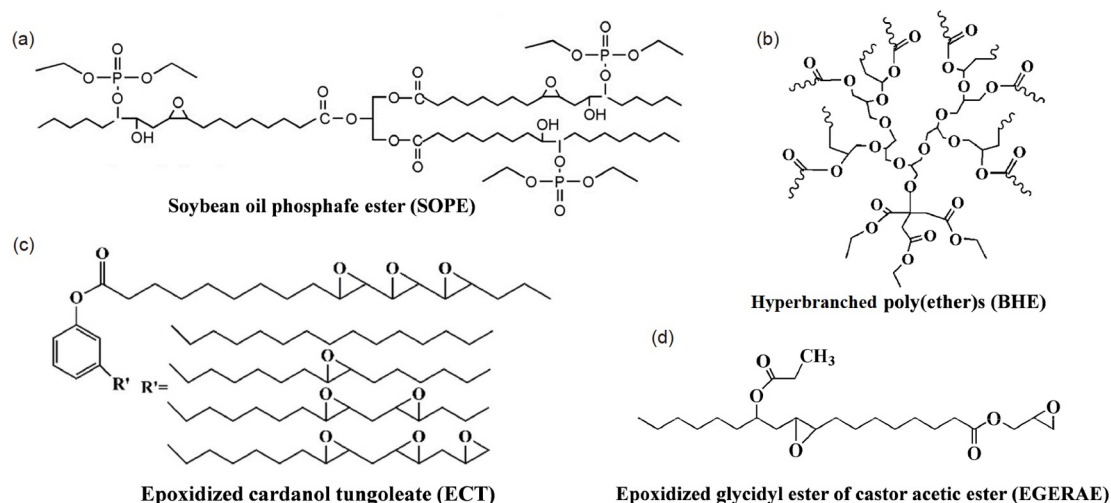


图4 新型绿色增塑剂的代表性种类。(a) 大豆油基增塑剂;(b) 超支化聚酯增塑剂;(c) 腰果酚基增塑剂;(d) 蓖麻油基增塑剂
Figure 4 Types of new green plasticizers. (a) Soybean oil-based plasticizer; (b) hyperbranched polyester plasticizer; (c) cardanol-based plasticizer; (d) castor oil-based plasticizer

大豆油基增塑剂可显著提高PVC共混物的增塑效果,改善其热稳定性.大豆油基EGESOFa有潜力成为食品包装、儿童玩具、医疗器械等PVC制品的增塑剂.

He等人^[60]用 α - Al_2O_3 作为环氧化反应的催化剂, H_2SO_4 作为开环反应的催化剂,将环氧化过程和开环反应结合起来,在连续流动模式下合成生物基增塑剂.他们研究了不同催化剂粒径对催化效率的影响,以及不同微混合器和流动反应器的合理组合与布置对环氧化反应的影响.结果表明,采用两个微混合器和固定床流反应器组成的改进微流系统,在环氧化过程中得到环氧乙烷值为6.1的ESBO.用此方法制备了4种新型大豆油基增塑剂,并对其增塑PVC力学性能进行了比较,实验结果表明:增塑剂中的醚键可以提高增塑PVC的力学性能,而羟基与羧酸反应生成的酯则不利于其力学性能.

有观点认为,大豆油是人类食用的主要油脂之一,在世界范围内需求量很大^[5].将其作为化工原料大规模使用可能会与人类需求产生冲突.此外,目前商用的大豆油基增塑剂与PVC相容性较差,导致其添加量受限,目前大豆油基增塑剂主要作为辅助增塑剂使用.

(2) 蓖麻油基增塑剂.蓖麻油是天然可再生的不可食用植物油,通常用于制作润滑剂、日化用品等,主要产于亚洲和非洲.它具有独特的分子结构,蓖麻油分子中含有羟基、不饱和双键和酯键,可通过环氧化、磺化、卤化、酯化、水解等反应生成不同的产品^[61].例如,环氧化乙酰乙酸甲酯是一种常见的蓖麻油基增塑剂,具有高环氧值和良好的热稳定性.Jia等人^[62]合成了两种环氧乙酰蓖麻油多元醇酯增塑剂,具有比DOP和ESO更好的增塑效果,但PVC共混物的拉伸强度远低于ESO.蓖麻油衍生的增塑剂是一种很有前途的PVC增塑剂,在人类健康和环境保护方面是有潜力的邻苯二甲酸酯替代品.

Chen等人^[63]成功制备了蓖麻油衍生的二缩水甘油酯增塑剂(C26-DGE),并将其加入到PVC中.通过对增塑PVC薄膜的力学性能、热稳定性和迁移稳定性的研究.他们发现蓖麻油基增塑剂的加入提高了PVC基体的柔韧性.与DOP相比,蓖麻油基增塑剂和PVC表现出更好的相容性,能提高PVC的柔韧性和稳定性,其挥发性和耐迁移性均比DOP更好.Chen等人^[64]在C26-DGE的基础上进一步合成了环氧化蓖麻油基邻苯二甲酸二甘油酯(ECODP),结果表明,经ECODP增塑后,PVC薄膜的热稳定性、相容性和柔韧性均显著提高,ECODP

有望作为邻苯二甲酸酯的替代品.

(3) 其他植物油基增塑剂.除上述植物油原料外,研究人员还利用其他植物油制备新型生物基增塑剂.Song等人^[65]以桐油和腰果酚为原料,经酯化和环氧化反应合成了环氧化腰果酚桐油酯(ECT).将ECT作为PVC的主要增塑剂,并与DOP的增塑性能进行了比较.与DOP相比,ECT增塑PVC具有更好的热稳定性、更优异的拉伸强度(17.28 MPa)和更高的拉伸性能(629.41%).此外,ECT的抗迁移性和挥发稳定性也优于DOP.Kamarudin等人^[66]以非食用的麻风树油为原料,制备了新型环氧化麻风树油(EJO)增塑剂.研究了其作为增塑剂对聚乳酸PLA材料热性能的影响.结果表明:EJO的加入降低了共混物的玻璃化转变温度,有助于PLA链的流动性.热重分析结果表明,EJO的加入降低了共混物中PLA的分解速率,提高了共混物的热稳定性,增加EJO增塑剂的含量可以改善PLA材料的热性能.

植物油基增塑剂具有原料可再生、成本低廉等固有优势,具有巨大的发展潜力,但产业化应用还需进一步优化其合成工艺.此外,未来的研究可以重点开发多功能植物油基增塑剂,进一步完善增塑剂性能测试标准.

3.2 超支化聚酯类增塑剂

为了应对使用邻苯二甲酸酯增塑剂带来的一系列问题,研究者试图寻找合适的替代材料和方法,使用生物原料制备超支化聚酯作为新型环保增塑剂受到广泛关注^[67].与线性聚合物相比,超支化结构的分子具有低熔点、低结晶度、低熔体黏度、低链缠结和高溶解度的特点^[68,69].对于增塑而言,超支化分子结构的增塑剂具有更大的分子量、更多的分支和官能团,使得它们与聚合物基体的相容性更好,有更好的耐迁移性能^[70],这是线性增塑剂和小分子增塑剂所不具备的.目前,已报道的生物基超支化分子结构增塑剂具有良好的增塑性能和优异的迁移阻力.

(1) 己二酸基超支化聚酯增塑剂.Zhao等人^[71]以己二酸和丙二醇为原料制备了聚(1,2-己二酸丙二醇酯)(PPA)增塑剂并用于增塑PVC塑料.采用差示扫描量热法、动态力学分析、拉伸试验、扫描电子显微镜和剪切流变仪对PVC/PPA共混物的热学、力学和流变特性进行了表征.结果表明,PPA降低了PVC的玻璃化转变温度.PPA的加入会降低PVC/PPA共混物的拉伸强度和

杨氏模量, 共混物的断裂伸长率显著增加. PPA增塑的PVC在熔体状态下动态存储模量和黏度降低. 由此可见, PPA对PVC具有良好的增塑效果.

Howell和Lazar^[72]以己二酸与甘油为原料制备了一系列的超支化聚酯增塑剂, 制备过程中控制分子量、避免凝胶化和确保羟基端基存在是非常重要的. 结果表明, 通过酯化将端基封端后所得的材料是PVC的有效增塑剂. 这些材料具有良好的热稳定性, 与PVC基体完全兼容, 显示出优异的耐迁移性能. 这类增塑剂是环境友好绿色增塑剂.

(2) ϵ -己内酯基超支化聚酯增塑剂. 聚己内酯(PCL)被证明具有良好的生物相容性和生物降解性, 其原料是来自可持续资源的单体. 研究表明, 柔性PCL段对PVC具有一定的增塑作用^[73,74]. 与传统的邻苯二甲酸酯类增塑剂相比, PCL增塑剂具有更高的分子量和更好的迁移性能, 但其增塑效率远低于邻苯二甲酸酯. Jamarani等人^[75]合成了一系列基于PCL的低聚物作为PVC的增塑剂. 研究发现, 随着PCL基增塑剂添加浓度的增加, 共混物的玻璃化转变温度降低, 断裂伸长率增加, 证实了其增塑作用. 由PCL核心、二酯链接和烷基链组成的整个系列都具有好的抗迁移性. 用PCL基增塑剂制成的共混物的断裂伸长率及拉伸强度与常用的增塑剂邻苯二甲酸二异壬酯(DINP)和可替代的可生物降解增塑剂琥珀酸二庚酯(DHPS)增塑的共混物相当. 而且, 与DINP和DHPS相比, 所有PCL基增塑剂都显著降低了对己烷的浸出. 碳链长度较短的PCL基增塑剂比碳链长度较长的增塑剂更能减少浸出, 由短链醇和酸制成的增塑剂, 如PCL₅₄₀-Succ-C4和PCL₅₄₀-Oxa-C7, 表现出最低的浸出率.

Lee等人^[76]开发了一种简单、低成本的合成高度支化聚己内酯(hbPCL)的方法, 用缩水甘油作为支化单体合成了分子结构可调的hbPCL, 用于增塑PVC. 在Sn(Oct)₂的催化下, 以 ϵ -己内酯和缩水甘油为原料, 采用一锅无溶剂聚合法制备了一系列hbPCL增塑剂, 分子结构可以通过改变缩水甘油与 ϵ -己内酯的摩尔比来控制. 此外, 对共聚动力学的研究揭示了缩水甘油优先与 ϵ -己内酯反应, 在两种单体开环后产生多臂星状共聚物. 研究发现, hbPCL的结晶能力随着支化结构的引入而逐渐减弱, 通过与丁酸酐的酯化, 其分子流动性得到显著提高. 丁基酯化的hbPCL(hbPCL-C4)可与PVC混溶, 它们的混合物具有与PVC/邻苯二甲酸双(2-乙基己基)酯(DEHP)相当的柔韧性. 尤其是PVC/hbPCL-C4的

拉伸性优于PVC/DEHP, 因为其结构均匀性更好. 此外, PVC/hbPCL-C4具有优异的耐迁移稳定性, 浸出后的重量损失比PVC/DEHP低85%以上. hbPCL作为可持续、安全和可行的增塑剂非常有吸引力, 可用于柔性PVC的多种应用.

(3) 其他超支化聚酯增塑剂. Li等人^[77]以柠檬酸三乙酯、甘醇和乙酸酐为原料, 采用一锅法合成了生物基醋酸酯封端的超支化聚醚(BHE), 作为一种可持续、环保的柔性PVC材料的增塑剂. 结果表明, BHE与PVC完全混溶, 但其增塑效果弱于DOP. 用BHE塑化的PVC比用DOP塑化的PVC具有更好的热稳定性. 作为增塑剂, BHE表现出较低的溶剂萃取性和较强的抗挥发性. 急性经口毒性实验中, 实验动物心、肝、肺、脾指数未见异常变化, BHE的毒性剂量为5 g/kg, 表明BHE无毒. 这种优异的性能使得BHE作为生物基、无毒PVC柔性材料的增塑剂极具吸引力.

Fernandes等人^[69]以不同的生物基酸和二元醇为原料, 以2-十四环十二烷-1-醇(TDOD)为封端剂, 经缩聚反应合成了一系列新型饱和聚酯(SPs), 并将其用作PVC材料的增塑剂. 力学性能测试结果表明, 以癸二酸、1,3-丙二醇和TDOD封端合成的增塑剂SP₀₅, 与DEHTP(对苯二甲酸二异辛酯)相比, SP₀₅增塑的PVC有着更高的断裂伸长率和相似的最大拉伸强度. 用SP₀₅和DEHTP进行了PVC增塑管的工业生产, 对样品进行了迁移试验, 结果表明SP₀₅的抗迁移性能优于DEHTP. SPs可以作为DEHTP的替代增塑剂.

3.3 其他增塑剂

生物质资源具有来源广泛、毒性低、化学结构丰富、可再生等优点, 适合作为绿色增塑剂的原料. 除了上述新型增塑剂外, 研究人员还利用其他生物资源制备绿色增塑剂, 如腰果酚^[78]、废弃食用油^[79]、乳酸^[80]、松香^[81]、酒石酸^[82]等. 腰果酚是一种重要的化工原料, 广泛用于制备各种新型增塑剂. Ali等人^[83]以腰果酚为原料合成了含氮和磷酸基团的改性腰果酚基阻燃增塑剂(MC). 结果表明, MC部分替代DOP后, 随着MC含量的增加, PVC共混物的热稳定性显著提高. 添加MC可以使PVC共混物具有良好的柔韧性和强度, 以及良好的抗迁移性能. MC的耐迁移性是DOP的6倍, 表明MC与PVC的相容性较好. 此研究为腰果酚基增塑剂的合成提供了思路.

废弃食用油(waste cooking oil, WCO)是不可食用

的油,其从餐饮和食品加工行业回收,主要成分是脂肪酸甘油酯^[84]。利用WCO合成生物基增塑剂是一个有价值的应用。一方面,WCO价格低廉,其全球产量每年超过500万吨^[85]。另一方面,利用WCO生产生物基增塑剂,将废弃食用油转化为高价值增塑剂,符合循环经济的理念^[86]。然而,与新鲜植物油相比,利用WCO合成增塑剂的研究很少。Feng等人^[87]采用WCO与甲醇进行酯交换、 H_2O_2 环氧化、柠檬酸酯化,研发了一种WCO基多羧酸酯增塑剂。Ang等人^[51]也发现环氧化的WCO甲酯可以部分取代毒性邻苯二甲酸二辛酯增塑剂。然而,废弃食用油需要严格的净化处理后再进行酯交换,才能得到可用的脂肪酸甲酯。

L-乳酸可以从生物质资源中获得,具有无毒、生物相容性好的特点,能够在人体内代谢。因此,L-乳酸已经在食品、医药等许多领域得到了应用^[88]。由于L-乳酸分子具有一个羟基和一个羧基,所以可以通过酯化反应将L-乳酸分子修饰成乳酸酯。此外,在适当的条件下,其可自聚形成具有极性基团(酯基)的乳酸低聚物。研究表明,乳酸和乳酸低聚物^[89]可以用作聚合物的增塑剂。Gao等人^[80]以来源于玉米淀粉的L-乳酸为原料,合成了一种新型增塑剂乙酰化乳酸1,6-己烷二酯(ALHD),并研究了ALHD替代乙酰柠檬酸三丁酯(ATBC)对PVC的增塑效果。结果表明,与ATBC相比,ALHD塑化PVC薄膜在有机溶剂中具有更好的耐迁移性和食品模拟迁移稳定性。力学性能分析结果表明,ALHD取代ATBC后,PVC共混物具有更好的柔韧性和弹性,ALHD为新型绿色增塑剂的开发提供了新选择。

4 增塑剂的特征分子结构和设计原理

如前所述,增塑剂的作用原理是打破聚合物链之间的强相互作用,提高分子链的流动性。即使在结晶度高的情况下,聚合物和增塑剂之间的相容性决定了材料的性能和使用寿命。相容性可以定义为增塑剂与聚合物形成均相体系的能力,如果增塑剂和聚合物的相容性好,在加工过程中会形成均匀的混合物,在冷却后增塑剂仍然分散在化合物中。当观察到有白化、黏接、渗出和低机械性能等现象时,表明增塑剂与聚合物基体的相容性较差。增塑剂分子的极性、官能团类型、链长、分子量等均是影响增塑剂与聚合物相容性的关键参数。

预测增塑剂/聚合物相容性的一个简便方法是分析增塑剂的化学结构。事实上,增塑剂的增塑效率与增塑

剂的分子结构、所带化学基团(酯、环氧、芳香基团)以及脂肪链的性质之间存在着关联。例如,增塑PVC材料的性能与PVC主链和增塑剂分子间的相互作用以及PVC分子链间的相互作用密切相关。不同类型的增塑剂分子存在的不同结构,如酯基、环氧基、芳香环、羟基、脂肪链等,可以与PVC链产生不同的相互作用。每一种结构的增塑机理不完全相同,对不同类型的增塑剂,目前还没有一个统一的增塑理论。Bocqué等人^[90]讨论了增塑剂的化学结构与其增塑效率之间的关系,提出了增塑剂分子的3种主要结构基元:(1)间隔结构,如脂肪链;(2)黏合结构,如酯基;(3)增容结构,如苯环。这些结构基元的性质和增塑剂分子的分子量共同决定了增塑剂的增塑效率和迁移阻力(图5)。

增塑PVC共混物中最常见的分子间作用力是范德华力,包括取向力、诱导力、色散力以及氢键。取向力发生在共混物中极性基团之间,如酯键中的羰基和PVC主链中的氯原子^[91]。在增塑剂分子中,酯基中碳氧双键上的氧和PVC中碳上的氢之间可能出现氢键。这些相互作用降低了聚合物链间原本的取向力,减少了聚合物链的纠缠,从而通过增加聚合物的迁移率来改变聚合物的三维分子结构^[92]。脂肪链在聚合物内部充当着润滑剂和隔离层的作用,减小聚合物分子滑动时产生的内摩擦力并防止刚性基体的重新形成,使得聚合物分子链段更容易移动,从而导致聚合物的玻璃化转变温度大大降低。脂肪链另一个重要功能是增加增塑剂分子的分子量,从而提高增塑剂的耐迁移性。Yang等人^[93]合成了具有不同脂肪链长度的异山梨醇二酯,研究了不同长度的脂肪链对PVC中异山梨醇二酯热性能和力学性能的影响。结果表明,异山梨醇二酯的增塑效率随着脂肪链长度的增加而降低,但随着脂肪链长度的增加,增塑剂与PVC的相容性变差。因此,脂肪链的长度应适中。增塑剂中含有适当的分支和刚性苯环可以进一步增加聚合物的自由体积,使聚合物柔软而有弹性,增加聚合物分子的运动。由于生物原料的脂肪链大都含有不饱和双键,设计增塑剂分子时,通常将不饱和双键环氧化得到极性环氧基团,不仅能提高增塑效率,还能提高PVC材料的热稳定性。

因此,设计新型增塑剂时,首先须考虑增塑剂的化学结构与其增塑效率之间的关系。增塑剂分子须含有适当的脂肪链、足够的极性基团(环氧基、酯基等)、适当的分支和刚性苯环。除此之外,还应考虑它们的其他性能,如物理状态、热稳定性和毒性等参数。

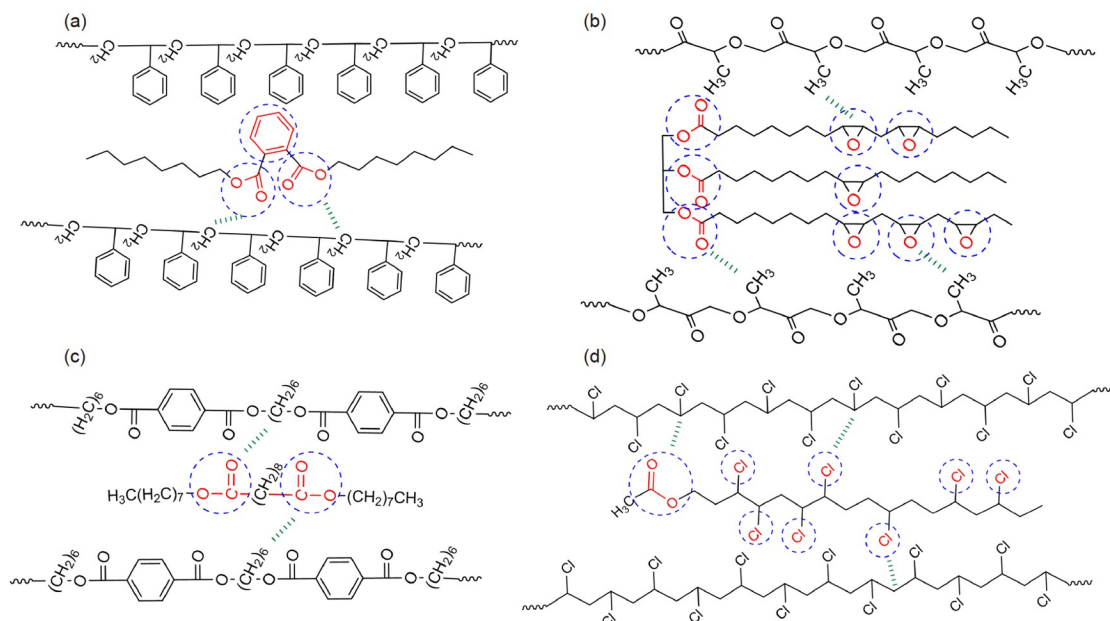


图5 (网络版彩色)常见增塑剂与聚合物的相互作用. (a) 邻苯二甲酸二辛酯与聚苯乙烯. (b) 环氧大豆油与聚乳酸. (c) 己二酸二辛酯与聚对苯二甲酸乙二醇酯. (d) 氯代脂肪酸甲酯与聚氯乙烯

Figure 5 (Color online) The interaction between common plasticizers and polymers. (a) Diethyl phthalate and polystyrene. (b) Epoxidized soybean oil and polylactic acid. (c) Dioctyl adipate and polyethylene glycol terephthalate. (d) Chlorinated fatty acid methyl ester and polyvinyl chloride

5 总结与展望

由于其健康和环境问题, 邻苯二甲酸酯类增塑剂在许多国家和地区已被限制使用. 开发新型绿色增塑剂的关键是基于增塑原理的分子结构设计, 使增塑材料具有优异力学性能、相容性好、耐迁移和低挥发性等理想增塑剂的特征. 将新开发的增塑剂与传统的增塑剂(DEHP、DOP和DOTP)进行比较时, 大多增塑剂性能还不理想, 一部分新型增塑剂虽然性能符合要求,

但生产成本偏高. 近年来, 基于可再生资源的生物基绿色环保塑剂受到了越来越多的关注, 这些增塑剂具有原料可再生、易降解、无毒、耐迁移等优点, 最有可能成为邻苯二甲酸酯类增塑剂的有价值的替代品. 此外, 超支化聚酯增塑剂由于其独特的结构, 具有很强的抗迁移能力, 在儿童用品、食品包装或医药等对耐迁移性能有较高要求的领域中发挥着重要作用. 新型环保绿色增塑剂逐渐取代石油基增塑剂是未来塑料工业发展的必然趋势.

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Summary for “新型环境友好绿色增塑剂的分子设计”

Molecular design of environmental friendly green plasticizers

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Plasticizers are substances that can increase the plasticity and processibility of the polymer materials. Plasticizer is one of the largest chemical additives for plastic processing industry, which can effectively improve its processing performance and has great economic and social significance. Ideal plasticizer should have good compatibility with the polymer. It should have high plasticization efficiency and light, heat, weather resistance. Low volatility, slow migration rate, excellent electrical insulation, non-toxicity, being odorless, tasteless and colorless, excellent stain resistance as well as being cheap and easily available are desirable properties ideal plasticizer would have. Among thousands of compounds that being able to be taken as plasticizers, there are only less than 100 kinds that subjecting to wide application. Phthalic acid esters plasticizers (such as dibutyl phthalate, dioctyl phthalate) are used in the largest amount. The advantages and disadvantages of the main commercial plasticizers are analyzed, especially phthalate plasticizers. However, recently phthalate plasticizers have been restricted in many countries and regions due to their toxic side effects and impacts on human health and environment. Some phthalate plasticizers can kill soil and aquatic organisms when they degrade into relatively persistent toxic metabolites. By designing green plasticizers, researchers are finding alternatives to conventional plasticizers that may alleviate health concerns. In this review, the research progress of environmental friendly green plasticizers is summarized from the molecular design perspective. Firstly, the working principle of plasticizer is elucidated and the lubrication theory, gel theory and free volume theory are discussed. The basic working mechanism is the insertion of the plasticizer molecules between the chains of polymers, making the interaction between polymer chains weakened, and thus decrease the aggregation of molecular chains, and increase the movement property, softness of molecular chains, making the plastic materials more easily to be processed. Polar plasticizer can weak the polarization effect between polar polymer chains and the non-polar plasticizer can increase the space volume between polymer chains. Environmental friendly green plasticizers are alternative solution to gradually replace traditional petroleum based plasticizers in the future. Bio-based plasticizers with renewable resources have attracted significant attention. These plasticizers have the advantages of renewable, easily degradable, non-toxic, and migration resistance, and are promising substitutes for phthalate plasticizers. This review summarizes the latest research progress of plant oil based plasticizers such as soybean oil and castor oil. The distinctive structure and property features of hyperbranched polyester plasticizers (such as adipic acid type and ϵ -caprolactone type polyester plasticizers) are described. In addition, due to the unique structure, hyperbranched polyester plasticizers have strong anti-migration ability and play an important role in applications that require high migration resistance, such as children's products, food packaging and medicine. Specific examples of design and application of plasticizers based on cashew phenol, waste edible oil, lactic acid, rosin and tartaric acid are highlighted. Finally, the relationship between chemical structure and properties of plasticizer is analyzed. It is proposed that molecular design will be promising approach for novel plasticizer design. The replacement of petroleum-based plasticizers with bio-based environmental friendly green plasticizers is the future direction in plastic industrial. This review analyzes the relationship between the characteristic molecular motifs and properties and performances of plasticizer. The approach and perspectives of designing next generation of plasticizers are proposed and future trend and outlook are predicted.

plasticizer, plasticizing mechanism, commercial plasticizer, molecular design, green plasticizer

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