Solutions for the Polymer Industry

Analyzing polymer properties with Bruker’s minispec systems

To determine various physical and chemical properties of polymers, Bruker provides a powerful method of giving fast and reliable answers within all possible production and processing steps: Time Domain NMR. This method offers various NMR parameters that are directly related to the material’s qualities, such as crystallinity or cross link density. Thus, the minispec is the system of choice when you need speed and reliability for your quality control process or sophisticated R&D applications.

Bruker’s versatile TD-NMR applications are widely used in the study of polymerization reaction kinetics, material properties of filled and modified polymers and failure analysis.

Range of Applications

Key applications
- Xylene soluble content in Polypropylene
- Crystallinity & Density of Polyethylene
- Oil and rubber content in PS / ABS
- Cross-link density of elastomers

Further applications
- Plasticizers, additives and monomer content
- Solid content of emulsions / latex
- Soft-coatings on polymers
- Oil and water content analysis
- Fluorine content in polymers
- Copolymer analysis, degree of polymerization
- Aging and irradiation induced effects

Key Advantages – Compared to chemical and mechanical analysis

Fast and easy
The full analysis – from sampling to final result – typically takes less than 30 min. A fully automated system for sample tempering and measurement is available.

Compact and robust
The small foot-print of the minispec unit allows placement near the production line. No dedicated supplies and no consumables are required.

Reproducible and non-invasive
The repeatability and reproducibility of the minispec analysis are significantly better compared to wet chemical approaches. Moreover, the analysis is non-invasive and non-destructive.

Key Advantages – Compared to optical methods

Flexible and independent
Bulk measurement of the samples which can be either liquid, powder, pellet, film or plate. The result is independent of surface characteristics, color, or filler content.
Customized Solutions for R&D
Sample temperature control
The minispec provides several temperature options:
- Fixed temperature by regulating the sample chamber through magnet temperature (i.e. sample temperature from 35 °C to 45 °C)
- Variable temperature by external heating or cooling water bath, ranging from -5 °C to +65 °C
- Wide-range variable temperature by using a gas flow system from -100 °C to +200 °C.

RF pulse options
The minispec can be configured for RF pulse attenuation and/or RF pulse shapes for demanding applications (e.g. T1p experiments).

Pulsed field gradients and diffusion analysis
The minispec can be extended for gradient applications. Retro-fittable probes and dedicated systems are available.

minispec ProFiler
This single-sided NMR device is perfectly tailored to industrial requirements and allows relaxation time analysis at various measurement depths.

Advanced curve fitting tools
Curve fitting routines for up to 4 polymer components are available. Also relaxation decay analysis by Inverse Laplace Transformation (ILT/CONTIN) is implemented.

The Polymer Value Chain

The Bruker minispec Polymer Analyzer is widely used in different industry segments and along the value chain from resin producer to manufacturer. Applications range from polymerization process control to QC to failure analysis.
The Bruker Commitment

Application Consulting
Bruker’s minispec application groups are located in key sites around the world to provide expert system support, method development, and application improvement. The corporate philosophy and commitment guarantee customers a long-term, reliable partnership and

- application training courses
- direct support through telephone and electronic communication

Training
Individual training sessions can be arranged directly at Bruker facilities around the world. A visit to one of the company’s demo facilities allows the customers to see all minispec configurations and the full range of accessories.

Service
Bruker instruments are designed to provide many years of trouble-free operation. However, should a problem occur, a network of Bruker companies and representatives around the world are ready to respond fast and competently to customer needs. Professional installations and a high standard of post delivery service are main commitments to Bruker customers.