

# Preparation of Supported Nickel Diimine Catalysts with Borate Activator for Ethylene Polymerization

Yiyoung Choi and J. B. P. Soares

Institute for Polymer Research (IPR), Department of Chemical Engineering

### Characteristics of Nickel Diimine Catalyst



- High catalyst activity at low temperature
- Aluminoxanes or borates are needed as activators
  Copolymerization of ethylene and polar comonomers is possible due to less oxophilic active sites (Ni, Pd)
  Resultant polyolefin has many branches in the absence
- C N Ni Br

#### Commercial Needs for Supported Catalysts

of  $\alpha$ -olefin comonomer

	HDPE	LLDPE	PP
Gas phase	Supported	Supported	Supported
	Ziegler-Natta or	Ziegler-Natta or	Ziegler-Natta
	Metallocene	Metallocene	
Slurry phase	Supported	Not Available	Supported
	Ziegler-Natta,		Ziegler-Natta
	Metallocene or		
	Phillips		
Solution phase	Not Available	Ziegler-Natta or Metallocene	Not Available

#### Key Factors of Preparation of Supported Catalysts

- Catalyst structure should be maintained after its heterogenization
- Supported catalyst needs to maintain the high catalyst activity and comonomer reactivity ratios of the equivalent homogeneous catalyst
- Catalyst should not leach from the support during polymerization to avoid reactor fouling

#### Ex.) Reactor fouling (0.2 m<sup>3</sup>, loop slurry pilot plant)



#### Preparation of Supported Nickel Diimine Catalysts

Step 1. Synthesis of Nickel Diimine Complexes



## Ethylene Polymerization Results



site)