微小流体デバイスを利用した機能性微粒子開発

Functional Polymer Beads Production Using Microfluidic Devices

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Abstract

Functional polymer beads production using microfluidic device has following advantages. Diameter of polymer beads can be controlled flexibly, such as one half to three times of microchannel size. Mono-dispersed droplets can be produced with CV below 5%. Production rate is very high that several thousand of droplets per second are generated when using 100 micron microchannel. In this paper, core-shell beads and Janus beads are introduced for functional polymer beads production using microfluidic devices. As for core-shell polymer beads, a new type of connection technology using flexible rubber balls with core-shell structure, polyimide as a shell, and silicone rubber as a core, and metals, such as copper and gold, are coated on its surface. Silicone rubber works as a damper to shock and vibration, but expand thermally, therefore, polyimide, low thermal expansion coefficient, is used to prevent heat expansion. Janus beads are hemispherically black-and-white balls with different electrical charges for the electronic paper. Janus beads rotate according to applied voltage, therefore, two different colors are displayed. Large scale production method for commercially used are also realized. For the fabrication of these beads, surface tension and viscosity are critical properties for the precise fabrication. These effects are described mainly in this paper.

キーワード:液滴、界面張力、拡張係数、コアーシェル、微小流体工学

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1. はじめに

高分子微粒子の製造法では、乳化重合法や懸 濁重合による場合が多く、粒子径の分布も狭い 単分散の粒子を生成できるが¹⁾、微粒子外径が 5 µm 以上になると粒子径を揃えることが難し くなる²⁾。

そのため、筆者らは粒子径の大きな高分子微 粒子の生成法として、微小流体デバイスを利用 した液滴生成法を利用することにより、粒子径のそろった微粒子を生成してきた。さらに流路構造を工夫することで機能性微粒子の製造も行ってきた³⁾。微小流体デバイスによる液滴生成法は、次のような特徴をもつ。

- 1. 液滴径を精密に、かつ幅広く制御することが出来る(流路サイズの1/2から3倍程度まで)。
- 2. 生成した液滴の粒径分布にばらつきが少ない(CV5%以下)
- 3. 液滴生成速度が速い (100 μm 程度の液滴 では秒間数千個生成する)

微小流体デバイスによる液滴生成法は、親和

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