Polystyrene Recrystallized by ASES Process in Supercritical ${\rm CO_2}$

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The ASES (aerosol solvent extraction system) process, which is one of the SAS (supercritical antisolvent) processes, was select to recrystallize Polystyrene(PS) into submicrometer particles. In the ASES process, there are two key factors. One is atomization for fine droplets, and the other is mass transfer of droplets during precipitation in the vessel, which causes nucleation and growth of particles. They are affected by several elements such as temperature, pressure, concentration, injection rate of solution and feed rate of CO_2 . In this work, we studied the effects of temperature, pressure, concentration, solution injection rate and CO_2 feed rate on atomization and mass transfer. From variation of solution injection rate and feed rate of CO_2 we found out that the relative velocity difference between CO_2 and the PS/DCM solution was an important factor for fine PS particles.