

20.462J/3.962J Molecular Principles of Biomaterials

Summary of course objective:

Develop a firm understanding of the **fundamental materials science & engineering principles** underlying synthetic/engineered materials used in **biology, biotechnology, and biomedical** applications-- focusing on a subset of problems that can be quantitatively understood (and that we have time to cover!)

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Please see:

Fig. 1(a) in Richardson T. P., M. C. Peters, A. B. Ennett, and D. J. Mooney. "Polymeric System for Dual Growth Factor Delivery." *Nature Biotechnology* 19, no. 11 (2001): 1029-34.

Prelude to degradable solid polymers: *In vivo* applications of Biomaterials

'active' lifetime:

8-10 yrs

≤ 1 year

≤ 6 months

Hours - days



- Implants
 - Artificial hips, artificial heart, pacemaker, etc.
- Tissue engineering, cell therapy
 - Delivery of cells
 - Scaffolds for *in vivo* tissue guidance
- Drug delivery
 - Injected or implanted devices
- Biosensors
 - *In situ* measurements of pH, analyte concentrations, etc.

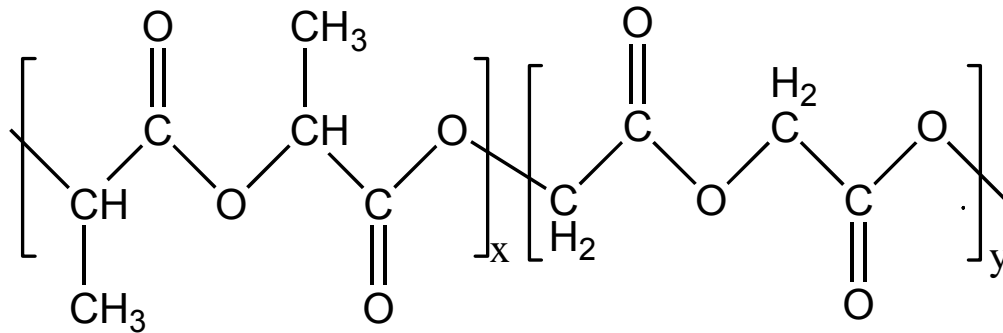
If a material is to be utilized *in vivo*, what characteristics must it have in addition to fulfilling device requirements?

[CBS News | FDA Rejects Silicone Implants | January 8, 2004](#)
[09:38 ...](#)

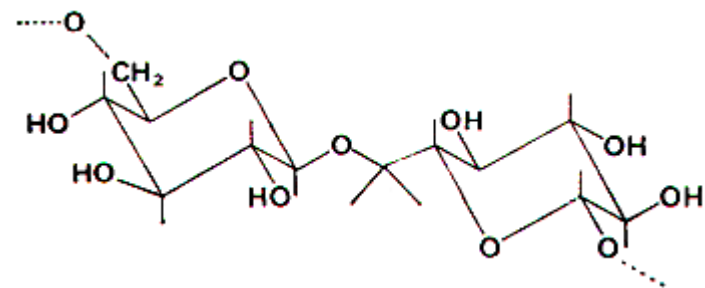
"Long-term safety, the concern that prompted the removal from the market 11 years ago, was clearly not demonstrated," Whalen wrote.

3 classes of materials used in vivo:

(1) biodegradable materials



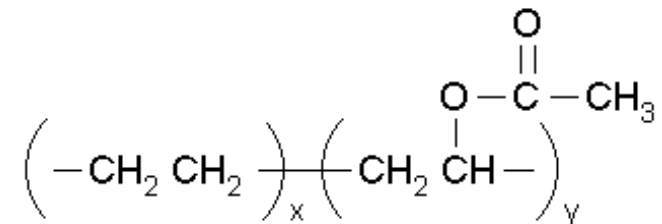
(2) Bioeliminable Materials



(3) Permanent/retrievable materials



Extracellular environment



Poly(ethylene-co-vinyl acetate)
(PEVAc)

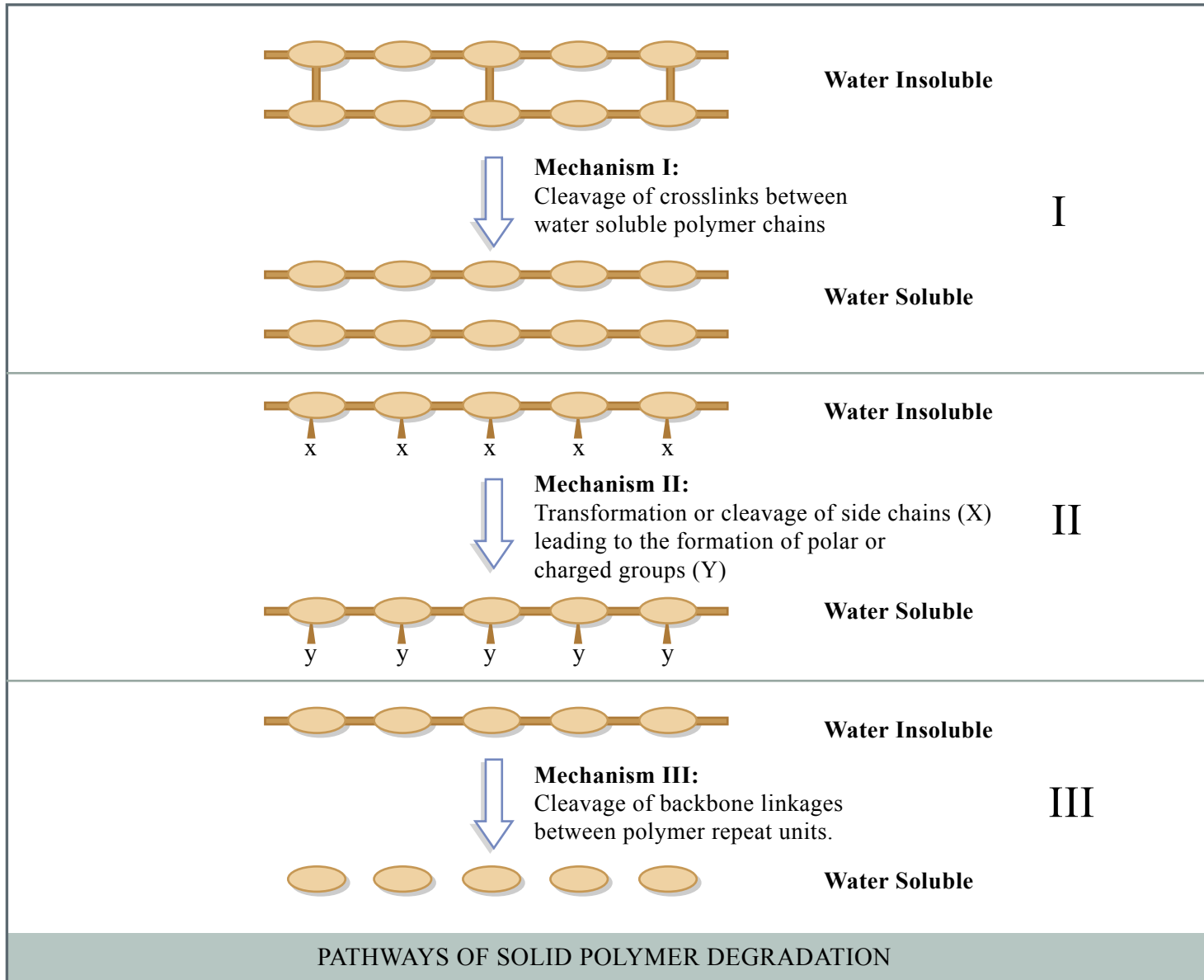
Biodegradable solid polymers

- our definition of 'biodegradable' for this course:

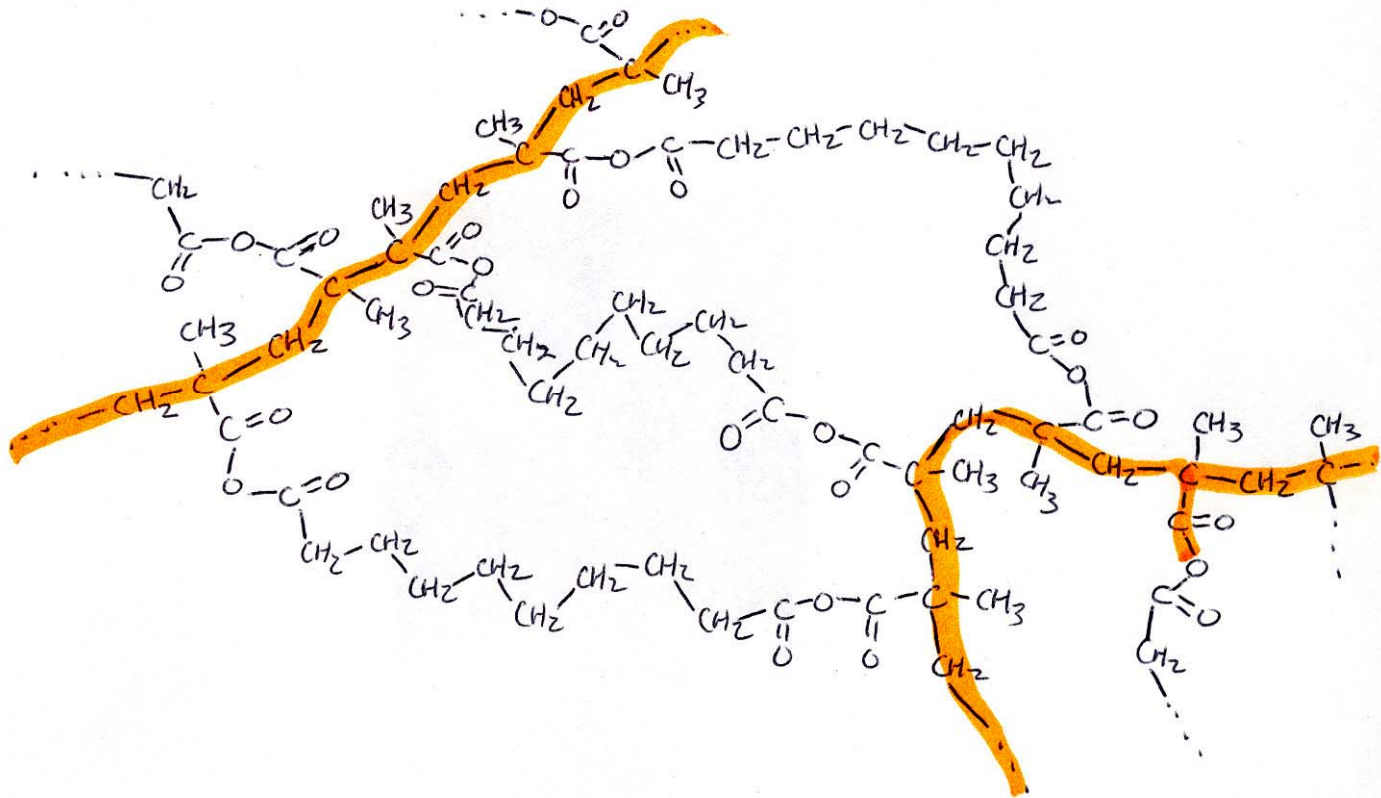
- Why use biodegradable materials?

hydrolysis-susceptible bonds

Pathways of solid polymer degradation



Mechanism I example: polyanhydride networks



Burkoth A. K., and K. S. Anseth. "A Review of Photocrosslinked Polyanhydrides: In Situ Forming Degradable Networks." *Biomaterials* 21, no. 23 (December 2000): 2395-404.

Mechanism III

- Example: Polyphosphazenes:

Medically-applied degradable polymers are chosen for metabolizable or excretable final breakdown products

- PLGA
- Poly(caprolactone) (PCL)
- Poly(hydroxybutyrate)

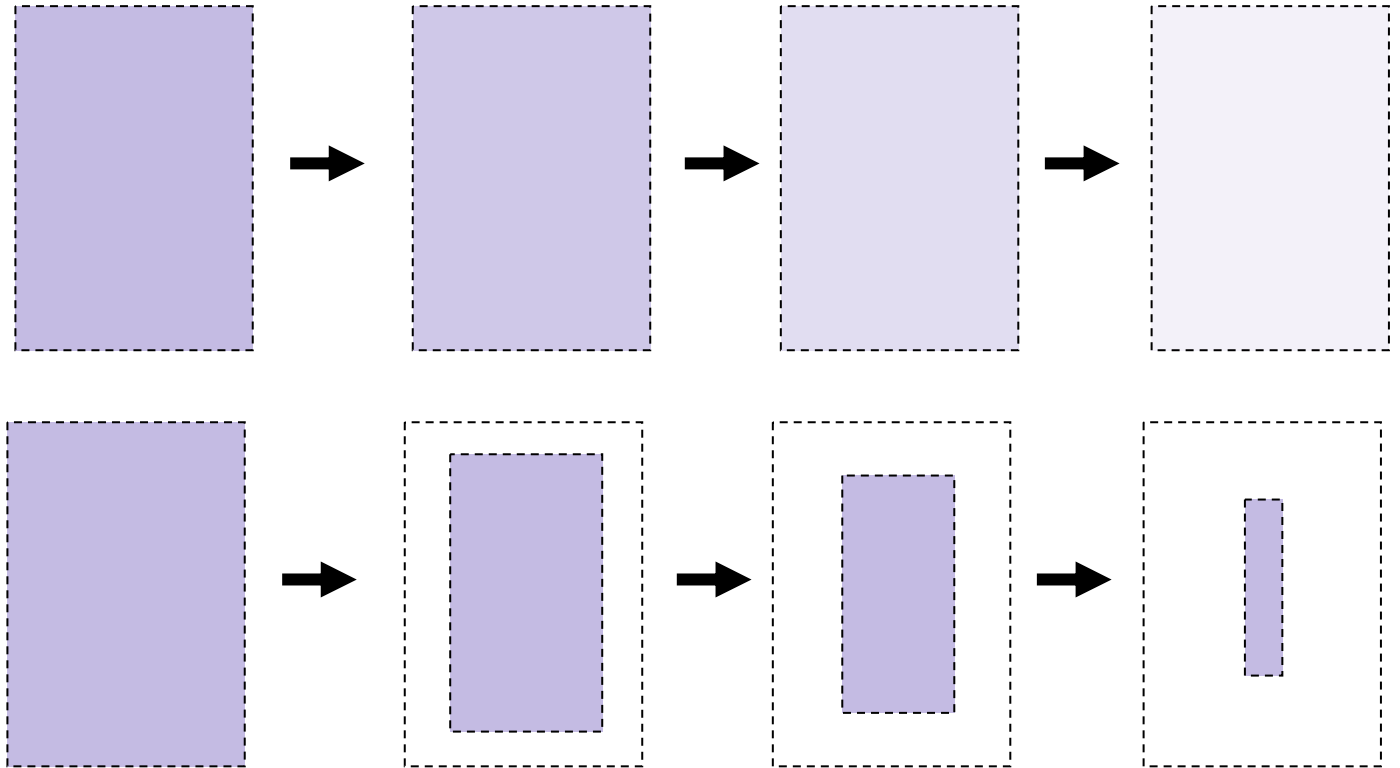
What doesn't work?

- Degradation too slow
- Breakdown products not clearable

Physical chemistry of hydrolysis

structure influences mechanism of erosion as well as overall rate

- Mechanisms of dissolution:



Bulk vs. surface erosion

Bulk erosion

Surface erosion

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Please see:

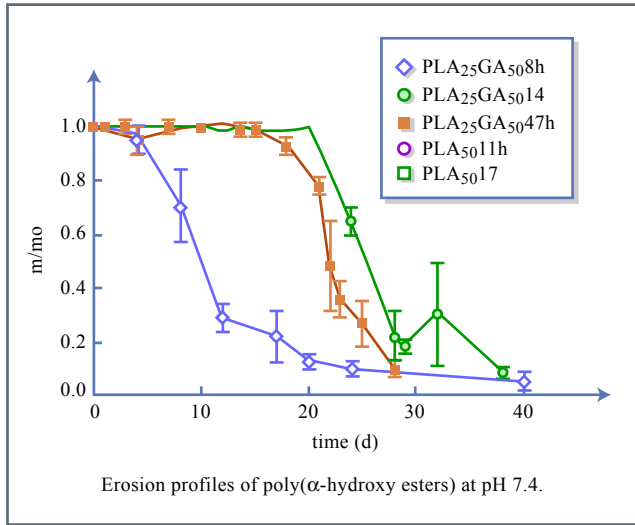
Fig. 8(b) in Lu, L., C. A. Garcia, and A. G. Mikos. "In Vitro Degradation of Thin Poly(DL-lactic-co-glycolic acid) Films." *J Bio Med Mater Res* 46 (1999): 236-44.

Images of surface erosion removed due to copyright restrictions.

Fig. 6(d) in Agrawal, C. M., and K. A. Athanasiou. "Technique to Control pH In Vicinity of Biodegrading PLA-PGA Implants." *J Biomed Mater Res* 38 (1997): 105-14.

Dissolution during hydrolysis

Bulk erosion:



Surface erosion:

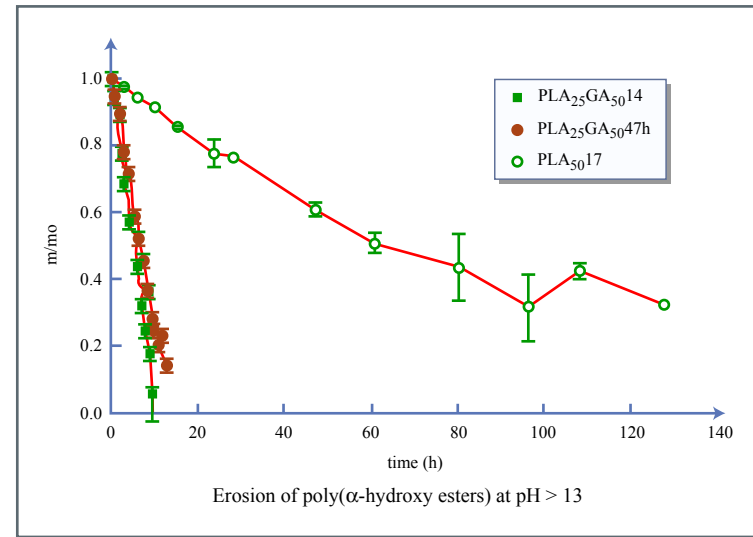


Figure by MIT OCW.

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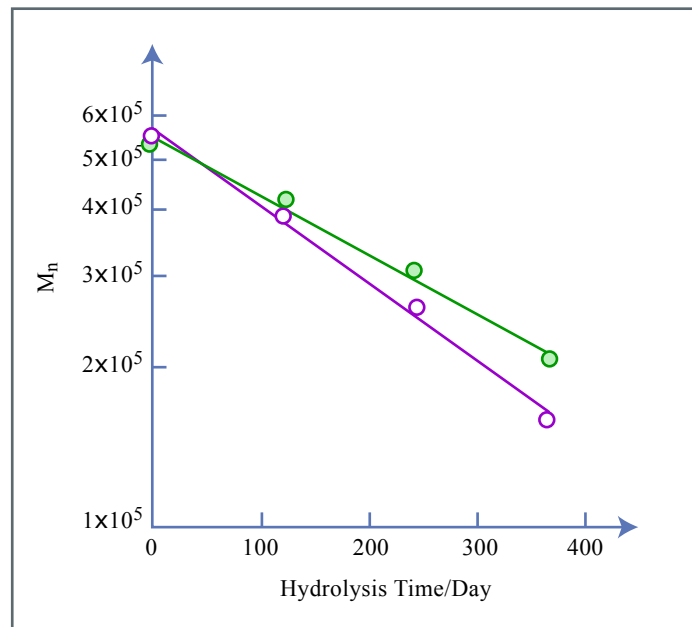
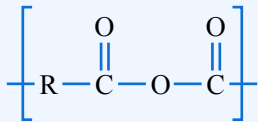
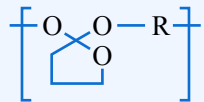
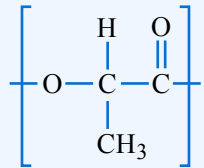
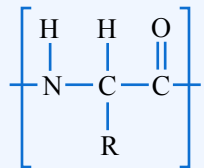


Figure by MIT OCW.

Role of molecular structure in hydrolysis rate:

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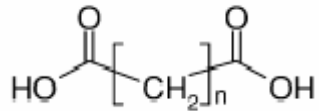
(1) Relative bond stability:

Polymer Class	Half-life
	poly(anhydrides) 0.1 h
	poly(ortho esters) 4 h
	poly(esters) 3.3 yrs
	poly(amides) 83000 yrs

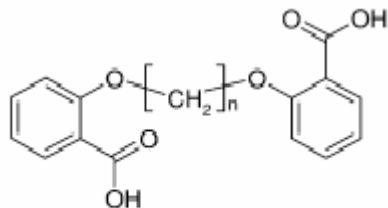
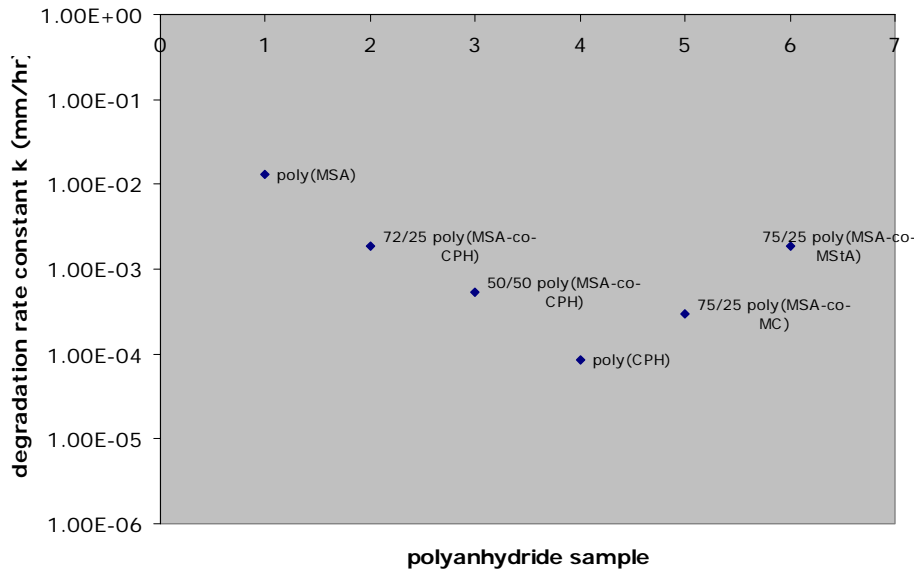
Classes of Hydrolysable Bonds with Half-Lives

Figure by MIT OCW.

(2) Effect of polymer hydrophobicity on solid polymer erosion rate



Sebacic acid



n = 6 : 1,6-bis(o-carboxyphenoxy)hexane (o-CPH)

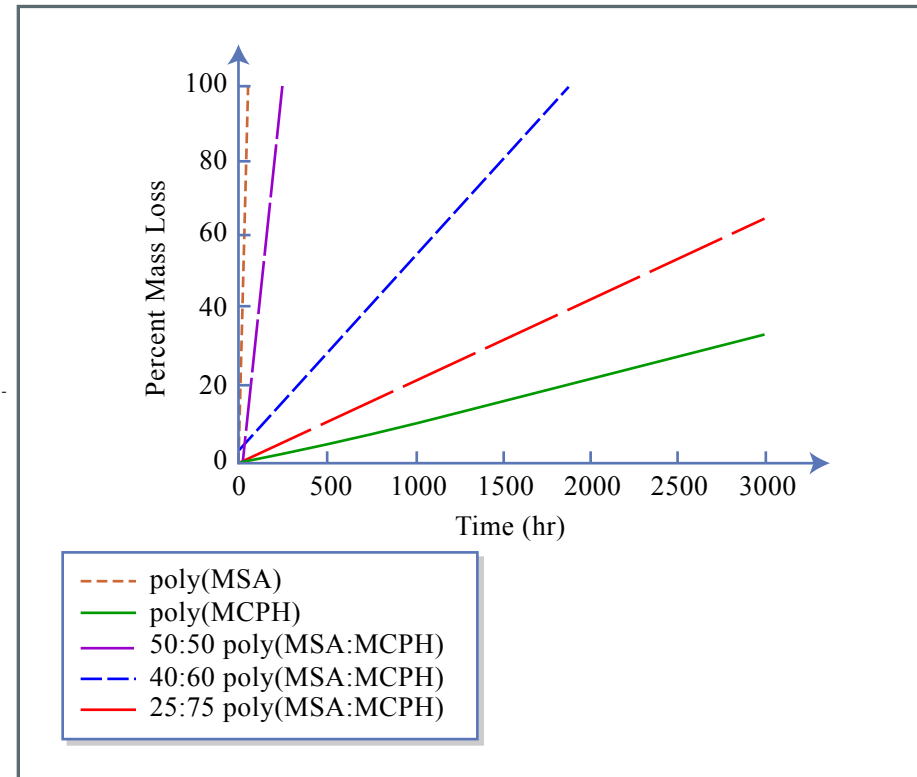


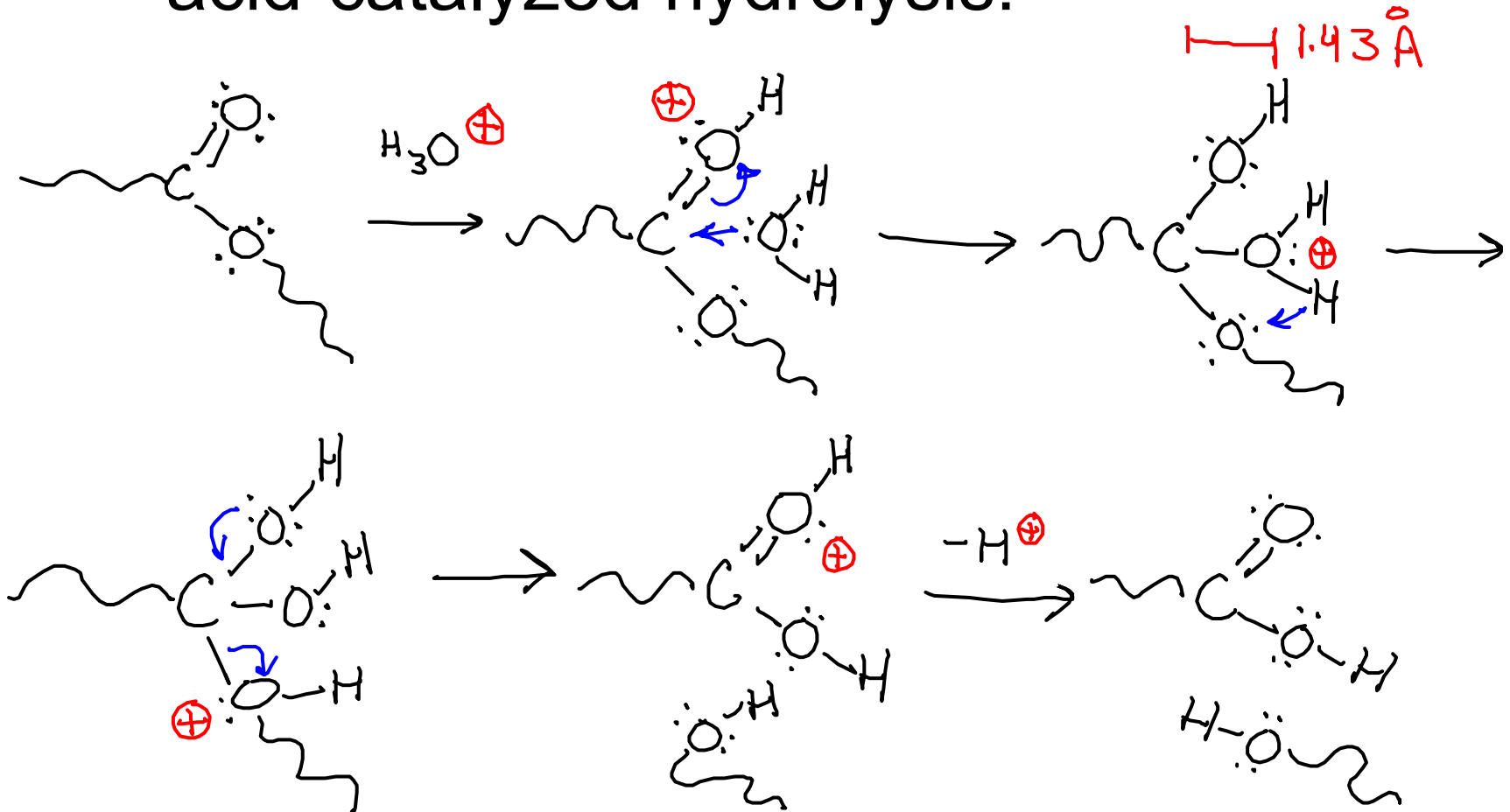
Figure by MIT OCW.

(4) Production of autocatalytic products

- Polyesters:

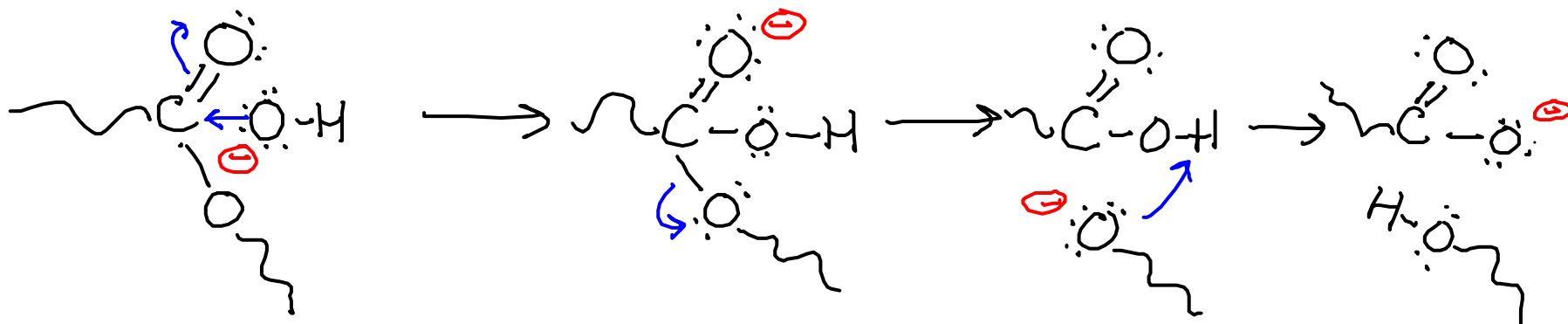
Mechanisms of hydrolysis: polyesters

- acid-catalyzed hydrolysis:



Mechanisms of hydrolysis: polyesters

- Base-catalyzed hydrolysis:
(saponification)



Nucleophilic substitution at acyl carbon

Physical properties

Semicrystalline polymers boxed

Polymer	Glass Transition (°C)	Melting Temperature (°C)	Tensile Strength (MPa)	Tensile Modulus (MPa)	Flexural Modulus (MPa)	Elongation	
						Yield (%)	Break (%)
Poly(glycolic acid) (MW: 50,000)	35	210	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Poly(lactic acids)							
L-PLA (MW: 50,000)	54	170	28	1200	1400	3.7	6.0
L-PLA (MW: 100,000)	58	159	50	2700	3000	2.6	3.3
L-PLA (MW: 300,000)	59	178	48	3000	3250	1.8	2.0
D, L-PLA (MW: 20,000)	50	–	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
D, L-PLA (MW: 107,000)	51	–	29	1900	1950	4.0	6.0
D, L-PLA (MW: 550,000)	53	–	35	2400	2350	3.5	5.0
Poly(β -hydroxybutyrate) (MW: 422,000)	1	171	36	2500	2850	2.2	2.5
Poly(ϵ -caprolactone) (MW: 44,000)	-62	57	16	400	500	7.0	80
Polyanhydrides ^b							
Poly(SA-HDA anhydride) (MW: 142,000)	n/a	49	4	45	n/a	14	85
Poly(ortho esters) ^c							
DETOSU: t-CDM:1,6-HD (MW: 99,700)	55	–	20	820	950	4.1	220
Polyiminocarbonates ^d							
Poly(BPA iminocarbonate) (MW: 105,000)	69	–	50	2150	2400	3.5	4.0
Poly(DTH iminocarbonate) (MW: 103,000)	55	–	40	1630	n/a	3.5	7.0

^aBased on data published by Engelberg and Kohn (1991). n/a = not available, (–) = not applicable. ^bA 1:1 copolymer of sebacic acid (SA) and hexadecanedioic acid (HDA) was selected as a specific example. ^cA 100:35:65 copolymer of 3, 9-bis(ethylidene 2, 4, 8, 10-tetraoxaspiro [5,5] undecane) (DETOSU), *trans*-cyclohexane dimethanol (t-CDM) and 1, 6-hexanediol (1,6-HD) was selected as a specific example. ^dBPA: Bisphenol A; DTH: desaminotyrosyl-tyrosine hexyl ester.

Mechanical Properties of Some Degradable Polymers^a

Figure by MIT OCW.

Further Reading

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