Principles of Polymer Chemistry

2nd Edition

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2nd Edition

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Preface

This book, like the first edition, is written for graduate and advanced undergraduate students in polymer chemistry. It is also intended to be used as a reference by practicing chemists and can be used for self-education, because the topics are written without assumption of prior knowledge. The reader should possess, however, thorough knowledge of organic and physical chemistry, at the undergraduate level.

The revisions for the second edition had two goals in mind. The first one was to bring the material in the first edition up to date, because many important and exciting things happened in polymer chemistry since the first edition was written. The second one is to make changes in line with comments of some reviewers. With that in mind, a section was added on the controlled/"living" free radical polymerization. While this subject was still evolving five years ago, today it is an important part of polymer chemistry. Also, such subjects as metathesis type polymerization, matallocene catalysts, and preparation of syndiotactic polystyrene received considerable attention in polymer literature and now require more detailed discussions. To meet the second goal, Chapter 1 was changed to consist of two sections. Section one remains an introduction, while section two addresses the physical properties of polymers. Discussions on the subjects of the thermodynamics of elasticity, rheology and viscoelasticity, and thermodynamics of solutions of polymers are added. In addition, a chapter on the degradation of polymers was included. It was tempting to place all the controlled polymerizations, free radical, cationic and group transfer into one separate chapter, because of similarity in the mechanisms. This was not done, however, for fear of confusing the students.

There are nine chapters in this book. Chapter 1 consists of an introduction and a discussion of physical properties of polymers. The mechanisms of chain-growth polymerizations, free radical and ionic, are discussed in Chapters 2 and 3. Chapter 3 also includes coordinated anionic polymerizations. In addition, there is a section on group-transfer polymerization. Ring-opening polymerizations are presented in Chapter 4. Chapter 5 covers commercially important chain-growth polymers, their industrial preparations, properties, and performance. Step-growth polymerizations are discussed in Chapter 6 together with industrially important step-growth polymers, preparations, and properties. Naturally occurring polymers are described in Chapter 7. While cellulose and starch are presented fully, proteins and nucleic acids are described only briefly, because detailed treatment belongs in biochemistry. Chemical modifications and reactions of polymeric materials, including polymeric reagents and functional polymers, are discussed in Chapter 8. Chapter 9 is devoted to degradation of polymeric materials. This includes causes and mechanism of degradation from thermal, hydrolytic, oxidative, photo, photo-oxidative, and radiation sources.

Greater emphasis is placed on commercially important materials. Most students find employment in industry. Familiarity with materials and commercial

practices are an essential and practical part of their training. Some trade names are included for the same reason.

In the first edition, two of the chapters contained appendixes with computer programs. They were offered to readers for practice. One program was there to help gain greater understanding of the meaning of molecular weights in polymers and to learn how they are calculated from gel permeation chromatogram (GPC) data. The other one was to understand statistical interpretations of the propagation mechanisms from nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) data and to gain greater insight into stereochemistry of polymers. These two programs were removed from the back of the chapters and placed instead on the diskette at the end of the book, together with the material that is ready to run, so that individuals who wish to modify them to suit their particular needs can do so without having to type in the program. A new program on the kinetics of chain-growth homopolymerization was added.

There are review questions at the ends of the chapters. After reading each chapter, the students are advised to try to answer the questions first and then to compare their answers with the discussions in the book.

This book, like the first edition, is dedicated to all scientists whose names appear in the references.

A. Ravve

Contents

1. Introduction and Physical Properties of Polymers

Introduction

1.1. Definitions 1
1.2. Nomenclature of Polymers 5
1.2.1. Nomenclature of Chain-Growth Polymers 6
1.2.2. Nomenclature of Step-Growth Polymers 7

Physical Properties of Polymers

1.3. Structure and Property Relationship in Organic Polymers 8
1.3.1. Effects of Dipole Interactions 8
1.3.2. Induction Forces in Polymers 8
1.4. Amorphous and Crystalline Arrangements 10
1.4.1. The Amorphous State 10
1.4.2.Elasticity 11
1.4.2.1. Thermodynamics of Elasticity 11
1.4.2.2. Rheology and Viscoelasticity of Polymeric Materials 13
1.4.3. Crystallinity 14
1.4.4. Liquid Crystal Polymers 17
1.4.5. Orientation 18
1.4.6. First-Order Transition Temperature 19
1.4.7. Second-Order Transition Temperature 20
1.5. Effect of Chemical Structure Upon Physical Properties 20
1.6. Solutions of Polymers 22
1.6.1. Thermodynamics of Solutions of Polymers 22
1.7. Molecular Weights and Molecular Weight Determinations 24
1.8. Steric Arrangement in Macromolecules 32
Appendix 35
A.1. Additional Definitions 35
Review Questions 35
References 38

2. Free-Radical Chain-Growth Polymerization

2.1. Free-Radical Chain-Growth Polymerization Process 41
2.1.1. Kinetic Relationships in Free-Radical Polymerization 41
2.2. Reactions Leading to Formation of Initiating Free-Radicals 43
2.2.1. Thermal Decomposition of Azo Compound, and Peroxides 43
2.2.2. Bimolecular Initiating Systems 47
2.2.3. Boron Alkyls and Metal Alkyl Initiators of Free-Radical Polymerization 49
2.2.4. Photochemical Initiators 50
2.2.5. Initiation of Polymerization with Radioactive Sources and Electron Beams 50

2.3. Capture of the Free Radical by the Monomers 51
2.4. Propagation 53
2.4.1. Steric, Polar, and Resonance Effects in the Propagation Reaction 54
2.4.2. Effect of Reaction Medium 56
2.4.3. Ceiling Temperature 57
2.4.4. Autoacceleration 58
2.4.5. Polymerization of Monomers with Multiple Double Bonds 59
2.4.5.1. Ring Forming Polymerization 60
2.5. The Termination Reaction 61
2.6. Copolymerization 65
2.6.1. Reactivity Ratios 65
2.6.2. Q and e Scheme 65
2.7. Terpolymerization 68
2.8. Allylic Polymerization 69
2.9. Inhibition and Retardation 70
2.10. Thermal Polymerization 72
2.11. Donor–Acceptor Complexes in Copolymerization 73
2.12. Polymerization of Complexes with Lewis Acids 77
2.13. Steric Control in Free-Radical Polymerization 78
2.14. Controlled / "Living " Polymerization 79
2.14.1. Cobalt Mediated Polymerizations 80
2.14.2. Atom Transfer Polymerizations 82
2.14.3. Nitroxyl Radical Mediated Polymerizations 84
2.14.4. Special Types of Controlled/"Living" Polymerizations 87
2.14.5. The Kinetics of Controlled/"Living" Polymerization 88
2.15. Polymer Preparation Techniques 89
Review Questions 94
References 97

3. Ionic Chain-Growth Polymerization

3.1. Chemistry of Ionic Chain-Growth Polymerization 103
3.2. Kinetics of Ionic Chain-Growth Polymerization 103
3.3. Cationic Polymerization 106
3.3.1. Two Electron Transposition Initiation Reactions 107
3.3.1.1. Initiation by Protonic Acids 107
3.3.1.2. Lewis Acids in Cationic Initiations 108
3.3.1.3. Initiation by Stable Cations 112
3.3.1.4. Metal Alkyls in Initiations of Cationic Polymerizations. 113
3.3.2. One Electron Transposition Initiation Reactions 114
3.3.2.1. Charge Transfer Complexes in Ionic Initiations 115
3.3.2.2. Radiation Initiated Polymerizations 117
3.3.2.3. Electroinitiation of Polymerization 117
3.3.3. Propagation in Cationic Polymerization 118
3.3.3.1. Steric Control in Cationic Polymerization 119
3.3.3.1.a. Control in Homogeneous Polymerization 120
3.3.3.1.b. Control in Heterogeneous Polymerization 123
3.3.3.2. Pseudo-Cationic Polymerization 124
3.3.3.3. Isomerization Polymerization 125
3.3.4. Termination Reactions in Cationic Polymerizations 137
3.3.4.1. Living Cationic Polymerization 128
3.4. Anionic Polymerization of Olefins 131
3.4.1. Initiation in Anionic Chain-Growth Polymerization 131

3.4.1.1. Initiation by Addition of an Anion to an Olefin 131
3.4.1.2. One Electron Transfer Initiation 135
3.4.1.3. Initiations by Alfin Catalysts 137
3.4.1.4. Electroinitiation of Anionic Polymerizations 138
3.4.2. Propagation in Anionic Chain-Growth Polymerization 139
3.4.2.1. Steric Control in Anionic Polymerization 140
3.4.2.2. Hydrogen Transfer Polymerization 145
3.4.3. Termination in Anionic Polymerization 146
3.5. Coordinated Anionic Polymerizations 148
3.5.1. Heterogeneous Ziegler–Natta Catalysts 149
3.5.1.1.Steric Control With Heterogeneous Catalysts 152
3.5.2. Homogeneous Ziegler–Natta Catalysts 155
3.5.2.1. Steric Control With Homogeneous Catalysts 155
3.5.3. Steric Control in Polymerizations of Conjugated Dienes 156
3.5.4. Current Industrially Developed Ziegler–Natta Catalysts 158
3.5.5. Effect of Lewis Bases 164
3.5.6. Terminations in Coordination Polymerizations 164
3.5.7. Reduced Transition Metal Oxide Catalysts on Support 165
3.5.8. Isomerization Polymerizations with Coordination Catalysts 165
3.6. Polymerization of Aldehydes 166
3.6.1. Cationic Polymerization of Aldehydes 166
3.6.2. Anionic Polymerization of Aldehydes 168
3.6.3. Polymerization of Unsaturated Aldehydes 172
3.6.4. Polymerizations of Dialdehydes 173
3.7. Polymerization of Ketones and Isocyanates 173
3.8. Copolymerizations by Ionic Mechanism 174
3.9. Group Transfer Polymerization 176
3.10.Configurational Statistics and the Propagation Mechanism in Chain-Growth Polymerization 179
Review Questions 183
References 185

4. Ring-Opening Polymerizations

4.1. Chemistry of Ring-Opening Polymerizations 193
4.2. Kinetics of Ring-Opening Polymerizations 193
4.3. Polymerization of Oxiranes 194
4.3.1. Cationic Polymerization 195
4.3.2. Anionic Polymerization 198
4.3.3. Polymerization by Coordination Mechanism 200
4.3.4. Steric Control in Polymerizations of Oxiranes 204
4.4. Polymerization of Oxetanes 206
4.4.1. The Initiation Reaction 207
4.4.2. The Propagation Reaction 207
4.5. Polymerization of Tetrahydrofurans 209
4.5.1. The Initiation Reaction 209
4.5.2. The Propagation Reaction 210
4.5.3. The Termination Reaction 211
4.6. Polymerization of Oxepanes 212
4.7. Ring-Opening Polymerizations of Cyclic Acetals 212
4.7.1. Polymerization of Trioxane 213
4.7.2. Polymerization of Dioxolane 215
4.7.3. Polymerization of Dioxepane and Other Cyclic Acetals 216
4.8. Polymerization of Lactones 217

4.8.1. Cationic Polymerization of Lactones 217
4.8.2. Anionic Polymerization of Lactones 218
4.8.3. Polymerization of Lactones by Coordination Mechanism 219
4.8.4. Special Catalysts for Polymerizations of Lactones 221
4.9. Polymerization of Lactams 222
4.9.1. Cationic Polymerization of Lactams 223
4.9.2. Anionic Polymerization of Lactams 227
4.9.3. Hydrolytic Polymerization of Lactams 234
4.10. Polymerization of *N*-Carboxy-α-Amino Acid Anhydrides 235
4.11. Metathesis Polymerization of Alicyclics 238
4.12. Polymerization of Cyclic Amines 242
4.13. Ring-Opening Polymerization of Cyclic Sulfides 243
4.14. Copolymerization of Cyclic Monomers 245
4.15. Spontaneous Alternating Zwitterion Copolymerizations 247
4.16. Ring-Opening Polymerizations by a Free-Radical Mechanism 251
Review Questions 252
References 255

5. Common Chain-Growth Polymers

5.1. Polyethylene and Related Polymers 261
5.1.1. Preparation of Polyethylene by a Free-Radical Mechanism 261
5.1.2. Preparation of Polyethylene by Ionic Mechanism 263
5.1.3. Commercial High-Density Polyethylene, Properties, and Manufacture 265
5.1.4. Materials Similar to Polyethylene 267
5.2. Polypropylene 268
5.2.1. Manufacturing Techniques 271
5.2.2. Syndiotactic Polypropylene 271
5.3. Polyisobutylene 273
5.4. Higher Poly(α-olefin)s 274
5.4.1. Properties of Poly(α-olefin)s 274
5.4.2. Poly(butene-1) 274
5.4.3. Poly(4-methyl pentene-1) 276
5.5. Copolymers of Ethylene and Propylene 276
5.5.1. Ethylene–Propylene Elastomers 276
5.5.2. Copolymers of Ethylene with α-Olefins and Ethylene with Carbon Monoxide 277
5.5.3. Copolymers of Propylene with Dienes 279
5.5.4. Copolymers of Ethylene with Vinyl Acetate 279
5.5.5. Ionomers 279
5.6. Homopolymers of Conjugated Dienes 279
5.6.1. Polybutadiene 279
5.6.1.1. Liquid Polybutadiene 280
5.6.1.2. High Molecular Weight Polybutadiene 281
5.6.2. Polyisoprene 283
5.6.2.1. Natural Polyisoprenes 283
5.6.2.2. Synthetic Polyisoprenes 283
5.7. Methyl Rubber, Poly(2,3-dimethylbutadiene) 286
5.8. Chloroprene Rubber, Poly(2-chloro-1,3-butadiene) 286
5.9. Special Polymers from Dienes 287
5.10. Cyclopolymerization of Conjugated Dienes 288
5.11. Copolymers of Dienes 289
5.11.1. GR-S Rubber 289

5.11.2. GR-N Rubber ... 291
5.12. Polystyrene and Polystyrene-Like Polymers ... 292
5.12.1. Preparation of Polystyrene by Free-Radical Mechanism ... 292
5.12.2. Polystyrene Prepared by Ionic Chain-Growth Polymerization 293
5.12.3. Polymers from Substituted Styrene ... 294
5.13. Copolymers of Styrene ... 295
5.13.1. High-Impact Polystyrene ... 297
5.13.2. ABS Resins ... 298
5.13.3. Copolymers of Styrene with Maleic Anhydride ... 298
5.14. Polymers of Acrylic and Methacrylic Esters ... 299
5.14.1. Polymerizations of Acrylic and Methacrylic Esters ... 300
5.14.2. Acrylic Elastomers ... 302
5.14.3. Thermoplastic and Thermoset Acrylic Resins ... 303
5.15. Acrylonitrile and Methacrylonitrile Polymers ... 305
5.16. Polyacrylamide, Poly(acrylic acid), and Poly(methacrylic acid) ... 307
5.17. Halogen-Bearing Polymers ... 307
5.17.1. Polytetrafluoroethylene ... 308
5.17.2. Polychlorotrifluoroethylene ... 308
5.17.3. Poly(vinylidine fluoride) ... 309
5.17.4. Poly(vinyl fluoride) ... 309
5.17.5. Copolymers of Fluoroolefins ... 309
5.17.6. Miscellaneous Fluorine Containing Chain-Growth Polymers 310
5.17.7. Poly(vinyl chloride) ... 312
5.17.7.1. Copolymers of Poly(vinyl chloride) ... 314
5.17.8. Poly(vinylidine chloride) ... 315
5.18. Poly(vinyl acetate) ... 315
5.19. Poly(vinyl alcohol) and Poly(vinyl acetal)s ... 316
Review Questions ... 317
References ... 320

6. Step-Growth Polymerization and Step-Growth Polymers

6.1. Mechanism and Kinetics of Step-Growth Polymerization ... 327
6.1.1. Reactions of Functional Groups ... 327
6.1.2. Kinetic Considerations ... 329
6.1.3. Ring Formation in Step-Growth Polymerization ... 334
6.1.4. Techniques of Polymer Preparation ... 335
6.2. Polyesters ... 336
6.2.1. Linear Saturated Polyesters ... 337
6.2.1.1. Synthetic Methods ... 337
6.2.1.2. Commercial Linear Saturated Polyesters ... 341
6.2.1.3. Copolyesters ... 343
6.2.2. Linear Unsaturated Polyesters ... 346
6.2.3. Network Polyesters for Surface Coatings ... 347
6.2.4. Polycarbonates ... 349
6.2.5. Polyesters from Lactones ... 351
6.3. Polyamides ... 352
6.3.1. Nylons ... 352
6.3.2. Fatty Polyamides ... 362
6.3.3. Special Reactions for Formation of Polyamides ... 363
6.3.4. Aromatic Polyamides ... 364
6.4. Aromatic Polyamide-Imides and Aromatic Polyester-Imides ... 367
6.5. Polyimides ... 370
6.6. Polyethers ... 375

6.6.1. Poly(phenylene oxide)s ... 375
6.6.2. Phenoxy Polymers ... 378
6.7. Polyacetals and Polyketals ... 379
6.8. Poly(*p*-xylylene)s ... 380
6.9. Sulfur-Containing Polymers ... 383
6.9.1. Polysulfones ... 383
6.9.2. Polythioethers and Polymercaptals ... 385
6.10. Polyurethanes ... 388
6.10.1. Preparations of Polyfunctional Isocyanates ... 388
6.10.2. Commercial Polyisocyanates ... 388
6.10.3. Reactions of the Isocyanates ... 389
6.10.4. The Effect of Catalysts ... 389
6.10.5. Polyurethane Fibes ... 390
6.10.6. Polyurethane Elastomers ... 391
6.10.7. Polyurethane Foams ... 393
6.11. Epoxy Resins ... 393
6.11.1. Preparation of Commercial Epoxy Resins ... 393
6.11.2. The Crosslinking Reactions ... 395
6.11.3. Cycloaliphatic Epoxides ... 401
6.12. Phenol-Formaldehyde Resins ... 402
6.12.1. Resols ... 402
6.12.2. Novolacs ... 406
6.12.3. Ammonia Catalyzed Phenolic Resins ... 408
6.12.4. Typical Commercial Preparations ... 409
6.13. Aminopolymers ... 409
6.13.1. Urea-Formaldehyde Resins ... 410
6.13.2. Melamine-Formaldehyde Resins ... 411
6.14. Silicone Polymers ... 412
6.14.1. Polysiloxanes ... 412
6.14.2. Silicone Elastomers ... 413
6.14.3. Polysiloxane Coating Resins ... 415
6.14.4. Fluorosilicone Elastomers ... 415
6.14.5. Polyarylsiloxanes ... 416
6.15. Polysilanes ... 416
6.16. Phosphonitrilic Polymers ... 417
6.17. High-Performance Polymers ... 419
6.17.1. Fluorine Containing Aromatic Polymers ... 419
6.17.2. Polyphenylene ... 421
6.17.3. Diels-Alder Polymers ... 422
6.17.4. Silicone-Containing Aromatic Polymers ... 427
6.17.5. Direct Condensation Polymers ... 428
6.17.5.1. Polyimidazoles, Polybenzthiazoles, and Related Polymes ... 429
6.17.6. Oligomers with Terminal Functional Groups ... 431
6.17.7. Cardo Polymers ... 433
6.17.8. Double Stranded Polymers ... 433
6.17.9. Poly(arylene ether)s and Poly(arylene ether ketone)s ... 435
6.18. Dendrimers and Polyrotoxanes ... 436
6.18.1. Dendrimers and Hyperbranched Polymers ... 437
6.18.2. Polyrotaxanes ... 438
Review Questions ... 439
References ... 443

7. Naturally Occurring Polymers

7.1. Naturally Occuring Polymers 449
7.2. Polysaccharides 449
7.2.1. Hemicelluloses 449
7.2.2. Starch 450
7.2.3. Cellulose 451
7.2.3.1 Regenerated Cellulose 452
7.2.3.2. Derivatives of Cellulose 453
7.2.4. Miscellaneous Polysaccharides 456
7.3. Lignin 457
7.4. Polyisoprene 458
7.5. Proteins 458
7.5.1. α-Amino Acids 459
7.5.2. Structures and Chemistry of Proteins 462
7.5.3. Synthetic Methods for the Preparation of Polypeptides 465
7.5.4. Chemical Modification of Proteins 467
7.6. Nucleic Acids 468
7.6.1. DNA and RNA 469
7.6.2. Synthetic Methods for the Preparation of Nucleic Acids 470
7.7. Polyalkanoates 471
Review Questions 472
References 473

8. Reactions of Polymers

8.1. Reactivity of Macromolecules 477
8.1.1. Diffusion-Controlled Reactions 479
8.1.2. Paired Group and Neighboring Group Effects 479
8.1.3. Effect of Molecular Size 480
8.1.4. Effects of Changes in Solubility 480
8.1.5. Effects of Crystallinity 481
8.1.6. Reactions That Favor Large Molecules 481
8.2. Addition Reactions of Polymers 481
8.2.1. Halogenation 482
8.2.2. Hydrogenation 484
8.2.3. Addition of Carbenes 485
8.2.4. Electrophilic Additions of Aldehydes 485
8.2.5. Polar Additions 486
8.2.5.1. Michael Condensation 487
8.2.5.2. Hydroboration 487
8.2.5.3. 1,3-Dipolar Additions 487
8.2.5.4. The Ene Reaction 489
8.2.5.5. The Ritter Reaction 490
8.2.5.6. Diels-Alder Condensations 490
8.2.5.7. Epoxidation Reactions 491
8.3. Rearrangement Reactions 492
8.3.1. Isomerization Reactions 492
8.3.2. Cyclizations and Intramolecular Rearrangements 494
8.4. Substitution Reactions 498
8.4.1. Substitution Reactions of Saturated Polymeric Hydrocarbons 498
8.4.2. Substitution Reactions of Halogen Bearing Polymers 500
8.4.3. Substitution Reactions of Polymers with Aromatic Rings 504
8.4.3.1. Halogenation Reactions of Polystyrene 505

8.4.3.2. Chloromethylation Reactions 505
8.4.3.3. Reactions of Halomethylated Polymers 506
8.4.3.4. Friedel-Craft Alkylation Reactions 508
8.4.3.5. Sulfonation Reactions 509
8.4.3.6. Nitration, Reduction, and Diazotization 510
8.4.3.7. Metalation Reactions 511
8.4.4. Reactions of Acrylic, Methacrylic, and Related Polymers 512
8.4.4.1. Reduction of the Ester Groups 512
8.4.4.2. Nucleophilic and Electrophilic Substitutions 514
8.4.5. Substitution Reactions of Poly(vinyl alcohol) 516
8.4.6. Miscellaneous Exchange Reactions 517
8.5. Crosslinking Reactions of Polymers 519
8.5.1. Vulcanization of Elastomers 519
8.5.2. Crosslinking with the Aid of Peroxides 521
8.5.3. Miscellaneous Crosslinking Reactions of Polymers 522
8.5.4. Radiation Crosslinking 523
8.5.5. Photocrosslinking of Polymers 523
8.5.5.1. Photocrosslinking of Polymers with Light-Sensitive Groups 525
8.5.5.2. Ultraviolet Light Curing Technology of Coatings 530
8.5.6. Crosslinking of Polymers with Electron Beams 535
8.6. Polymeric Reagents 536
8.6.1. Immobilized Reagents 536
8.6.2. Polymeric Catalysts 538
8.7. Formation of Graft Copolymers 541
8.7.1. Free-Radical Grafting by the Chain-Transferring Technique 541
8.7.2. Free-Radical Grafting Reactions to Polymers with Double Bonds 543
8.7.3. Preparation of Graft Copolymers with the Aid of Macromonomers 544
8.7.4. Initiations of Polymerizations from the Backbone Polymers 544
8.7.5. Photochemical Syntheses of Graft Copolymers 548
8.7.6. Graft Copolymer Formation with the Aid of High-Energy Radiation 549
8.7.7. Preparation of Graft Copolymers with Ionic Chain-Growth and Step-Growth Polymerization Reactions 550
8.7.8. Miscellaneous Graft Copolymerizations 553
8.8. Block Copolymers 551
8.8.1. Block Copolyesters 554
8.8.2. Block Copolyamides 555
8.8.3. Polyurethane–Polyamide Block Copolymers 555
8.8.4. Polyamide–Polyester Block Copolymers 555
8.8.5. Polyurethane Ionomers 556
8.8.6. Block Copolymers of Poly(α-olefin)s 556
8.8.7. Simultaneous Use of Free-Radical and Ionic Chain-Growth Polymerizations 557
8.8.8. Preparation of Block Copolymers by Homogeneous Ionic Copolymerization 559
8.8.9. Special Reactions for Preparation of Block Copolymers 562
8.8.10. Miscellaneous Block Copolymers 563
8.8.11. Mechanochemical Techniques for Formation of Block Copolymers 564
8.9. Conductive Polymers 564

Review Questions 568
References 571

9. Degradation of Polymers

9.1. Processes in Polymer Degradation 581
9.2. Thermal Degradation of Common Chain-Growth Polymers 581
9.2.1. Thermal Degradation of Polyolefins and Polymers from Conjugated Dienes 582
9.2.2. Thermal Degradation of Polystyrene and Polystyrene Like Polymers 584
9.2.3. Thermal Degradation of Methacrylic and Acrylic Polymers 585
9.2.4. Thermal Degradation of Chlorocarbon and Fluorocarbon Polymers 587
9.2.5. Thermal Degradation of Poly(vinyl acetate) 589
9.3. Thermal Degradation of Common Step-Growth Polymers 590
9.3.1. Thermal Degradation of Polyoxides 590
9.3.2. Thermal Degradation of Polyesters 590
9.3.3. Thermal Degradation of Polyamides 592
9.3.4. Thermal Degradation of Epoxy Resins 594
9.3.5. Thermal Degradation of Polyimides, Pollyoxidiazoles, and Polyquinoxalines 595
9.3.6. Thermal Degradation of Aromatic Polysulfones 596
9.3.7. Thermal Degradation of Polyethers 596
9.4. Thermal Degradation of Cellulosic Materials 597
9.5. Hydrolytic Degradation of Polymers 598
9.6. Oxidative Degradation of Polymers 598
9.6.1. Oxidation of Chain-Growth Polymers 599
9.6.2. Oxidation of Step-Growth Polymers 601
9.7. Photo-Degradation of Macromolecules 609
9.8. Photo-Oxidative Degradation of Polymers 609
9.9. Degradation of Polymeric Materials by Ionizing Radiation 612
Review Questions 613
References 614

Appendix 617

Index 619

Principles of Polymer Chemistry

2nd Edition