

# Mathematical modelling of biodegradable polymers

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BioMEC



IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL  
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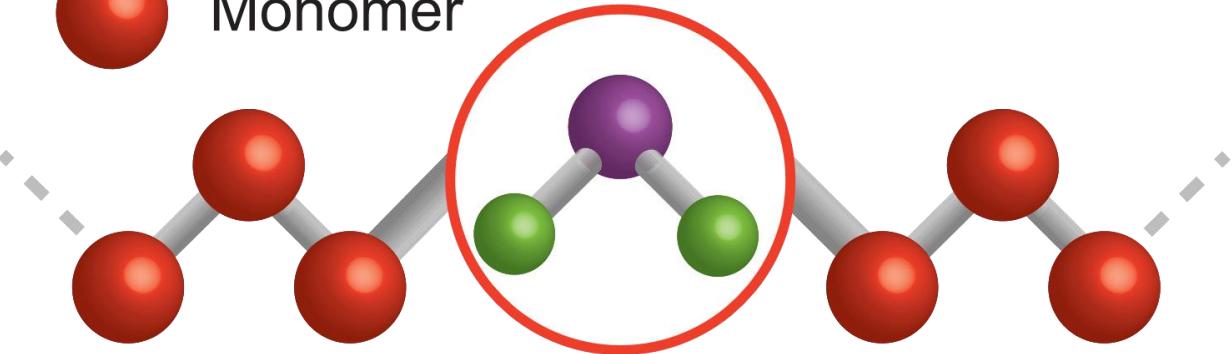


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# Biodegradable polymers

— Chemical bond

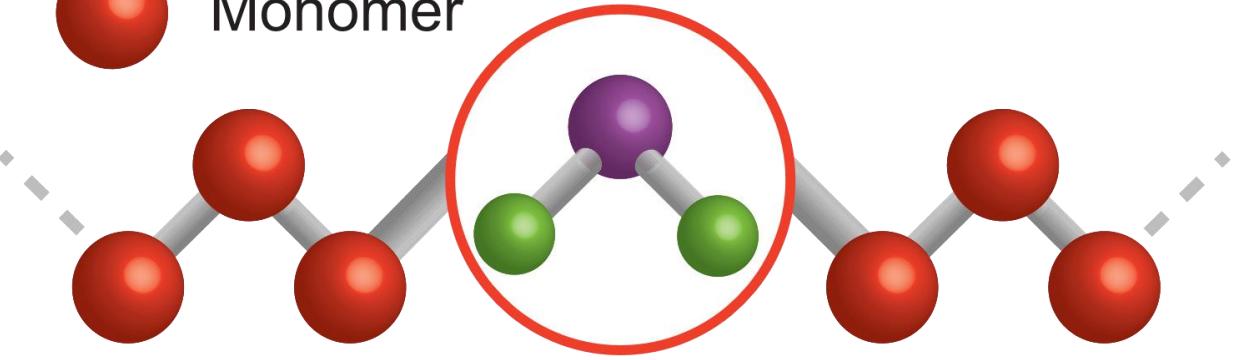
● Monomer



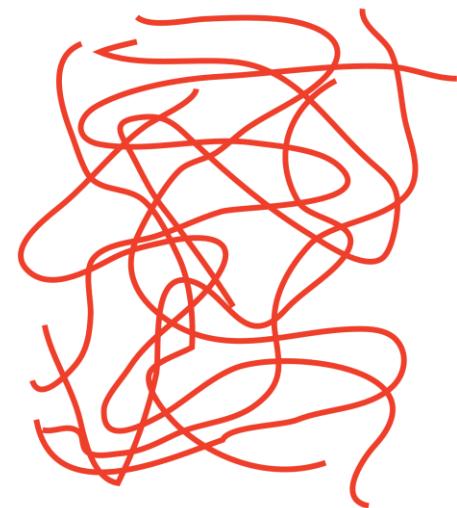
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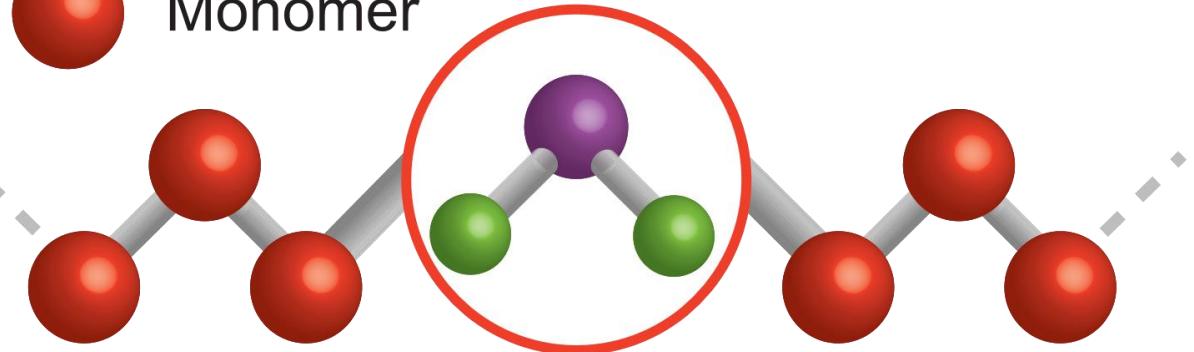
Amorphous



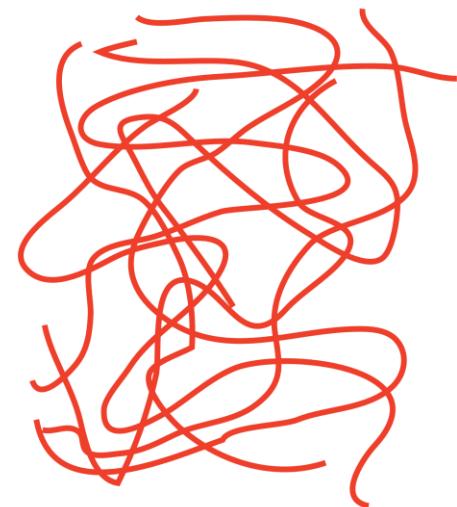
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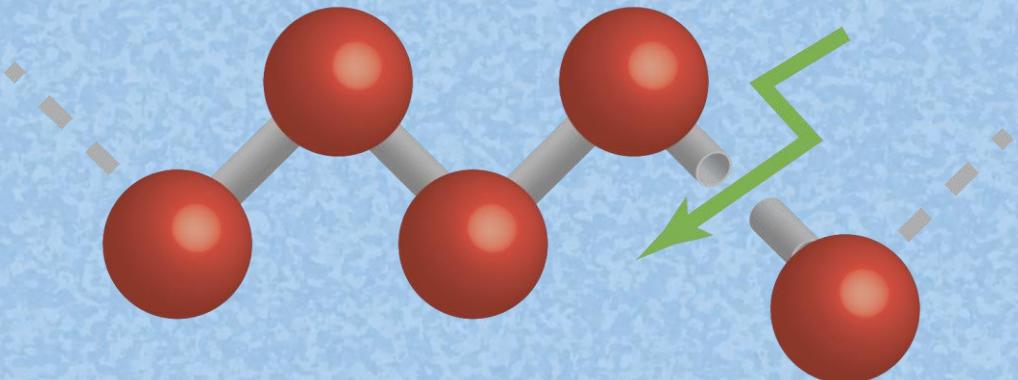
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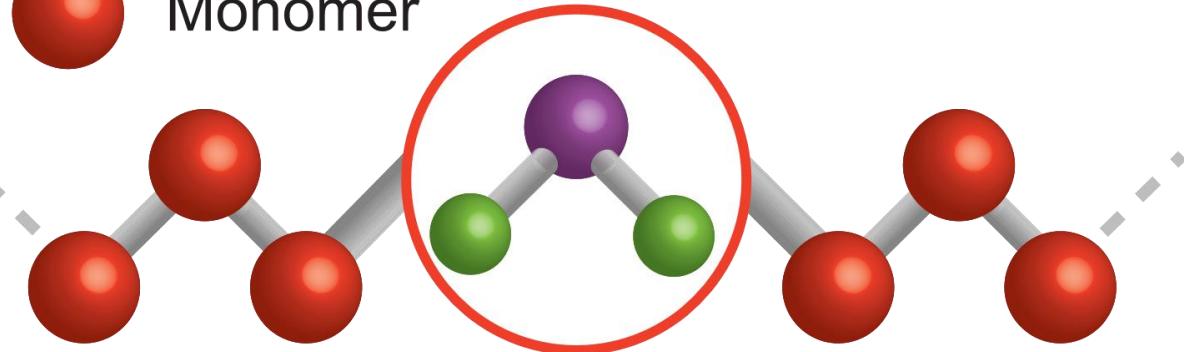
Hydrolysis – scission of bonds



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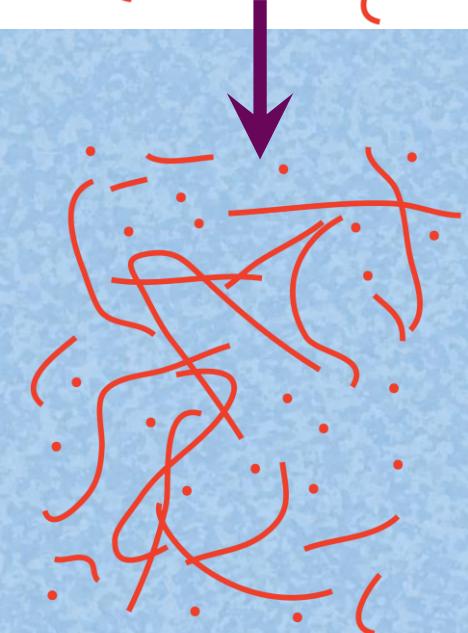
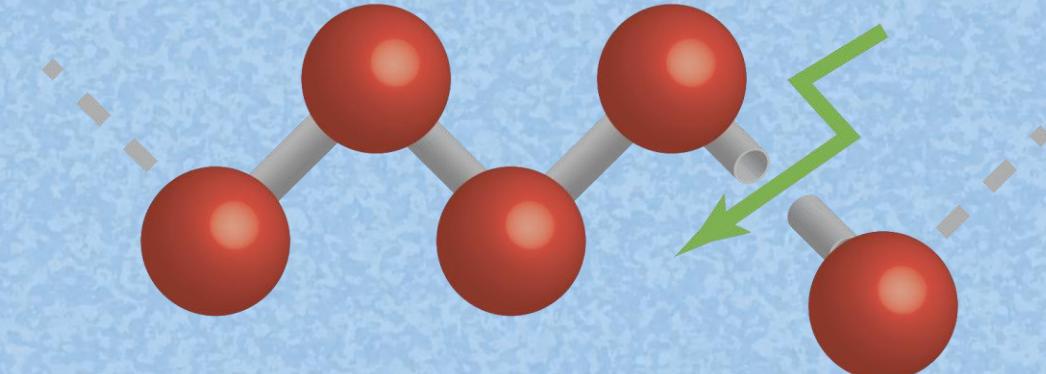
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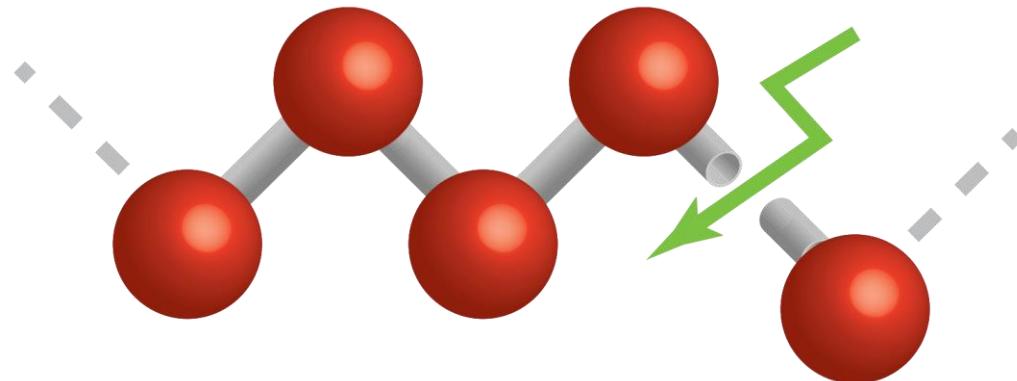
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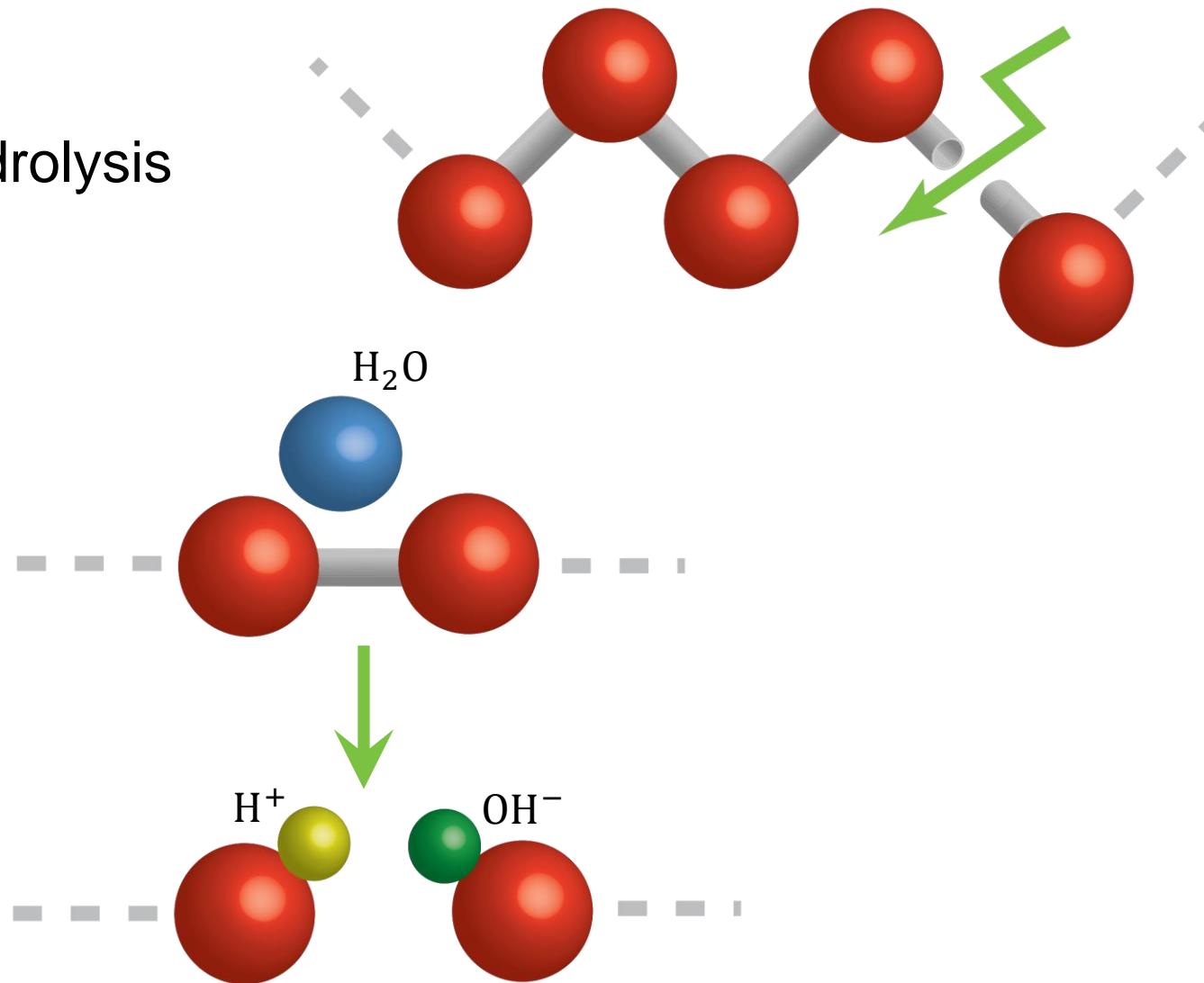
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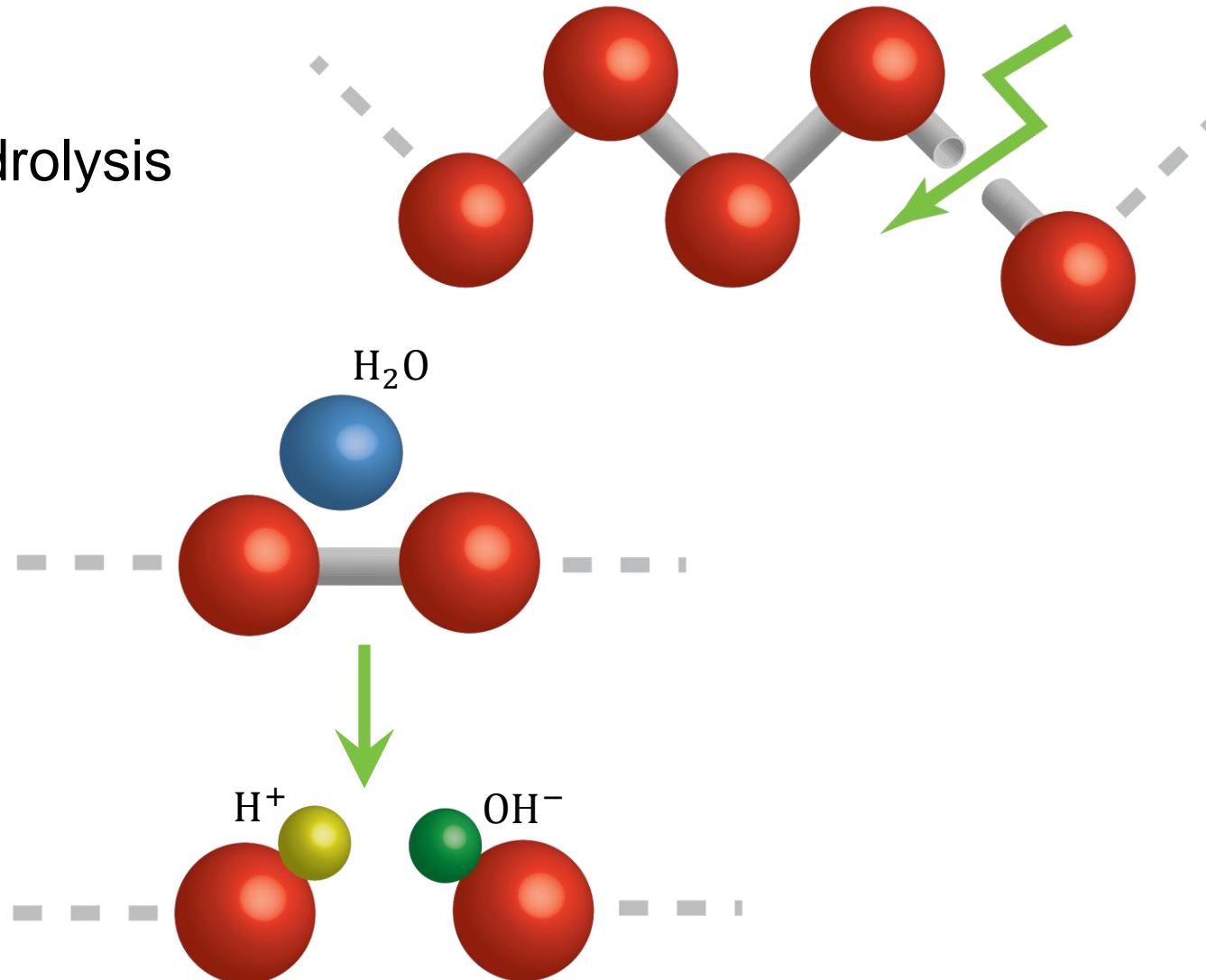
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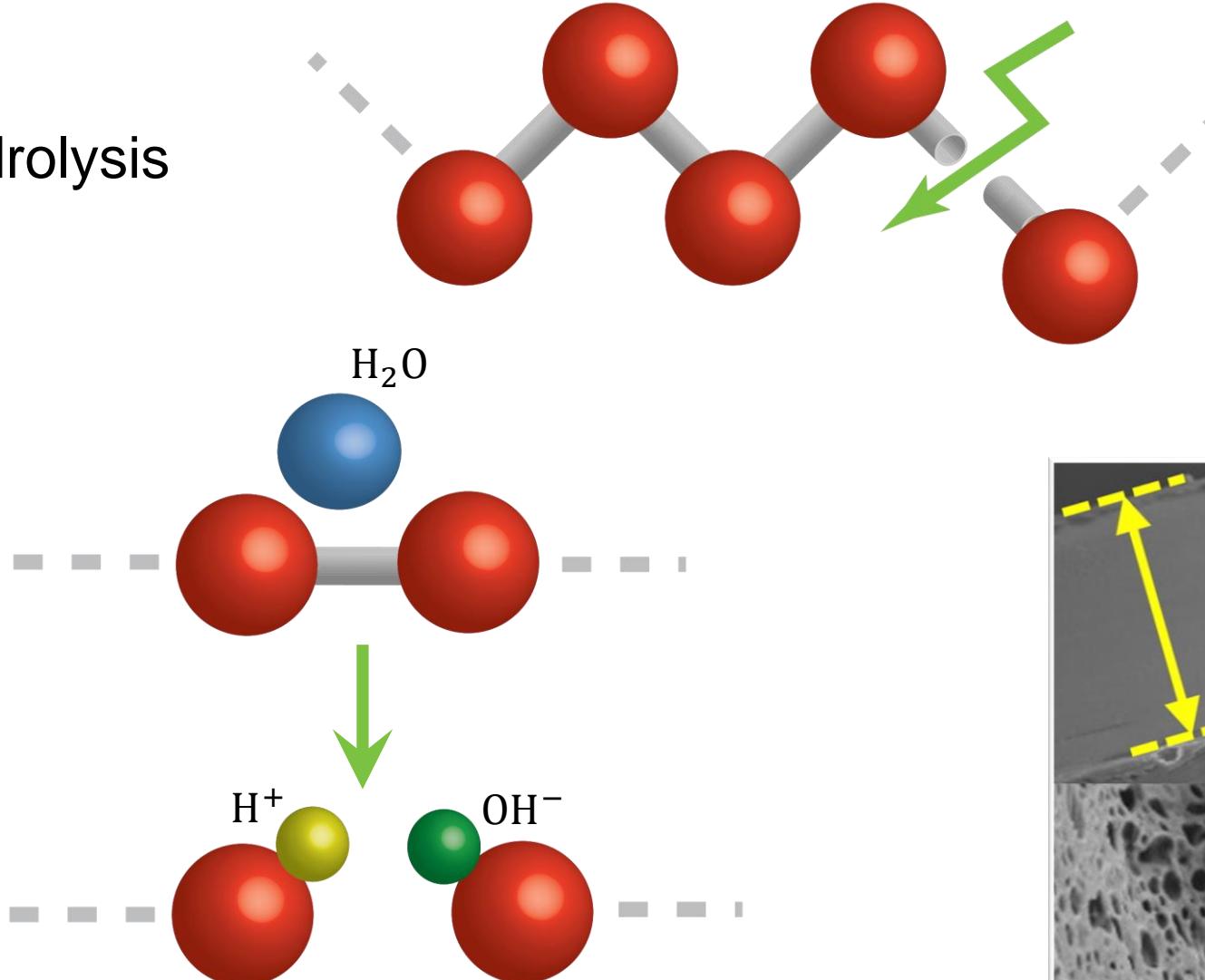


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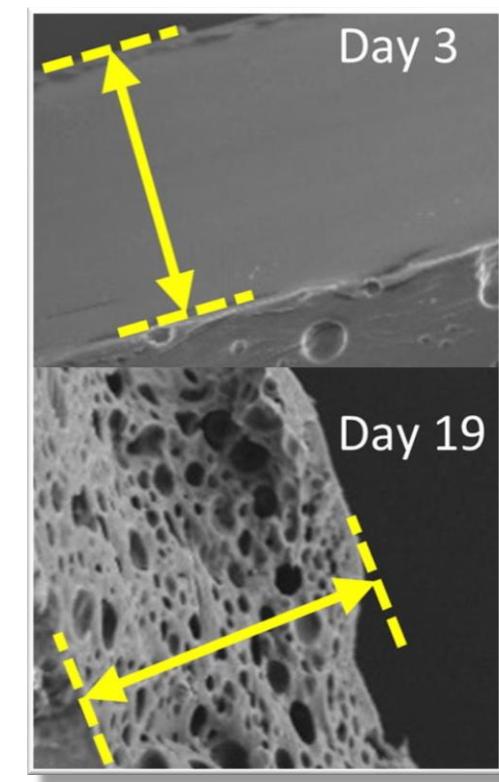


Autocatalysis – hydrolysis accelerated  
by acidic degradation products

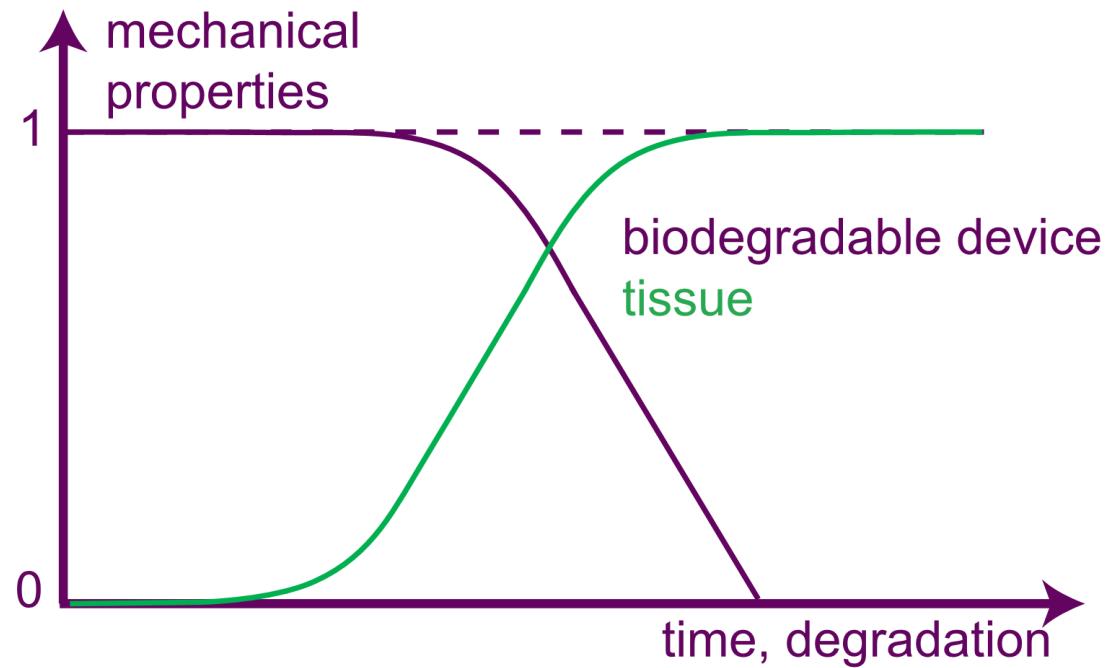
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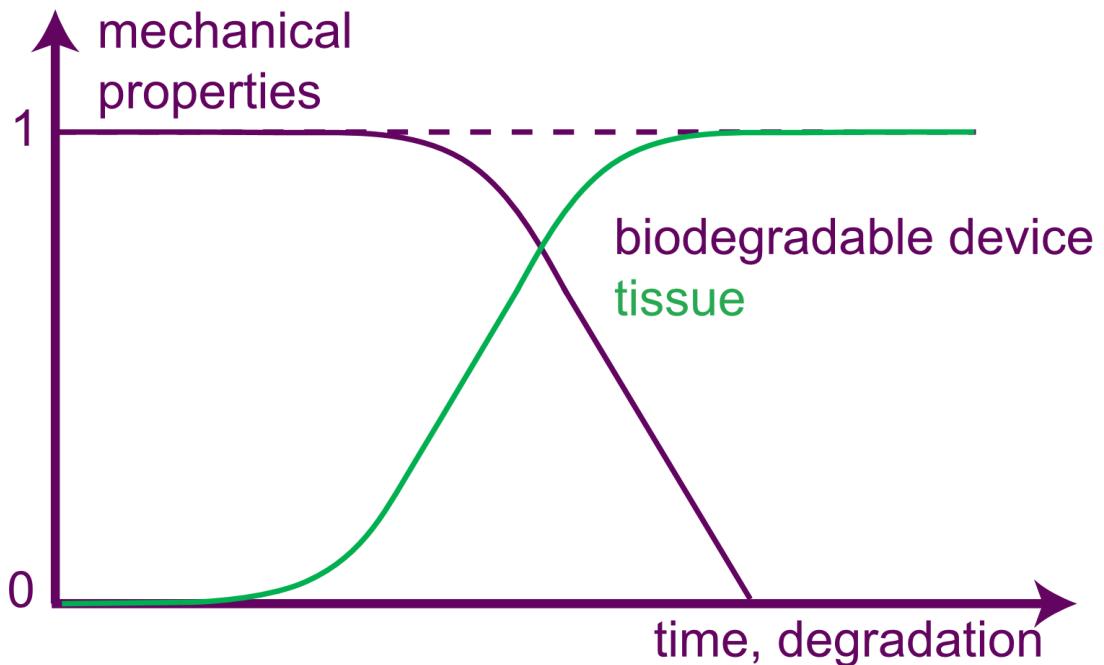
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Sufficient mechanical integrity

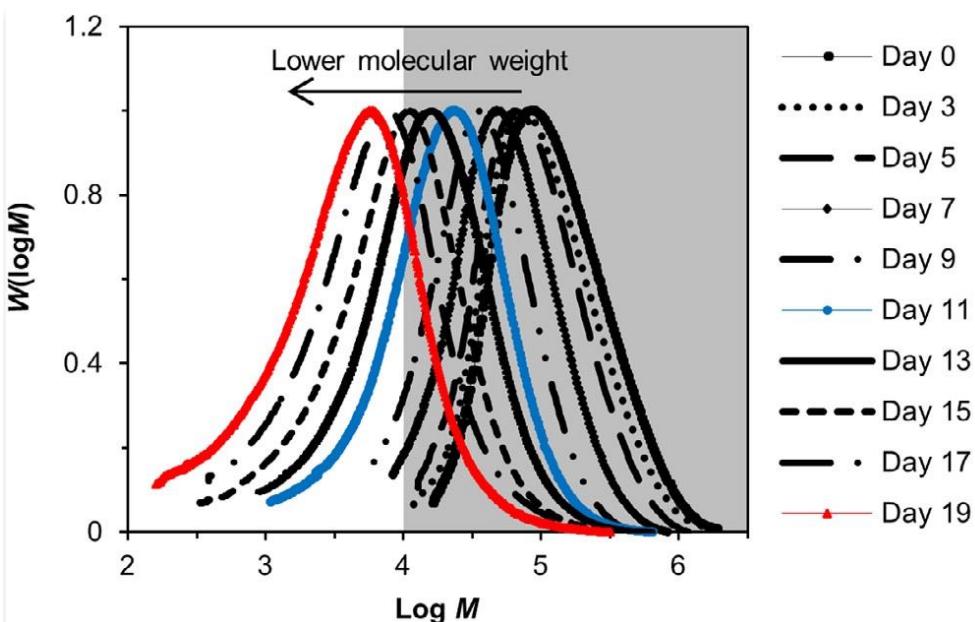
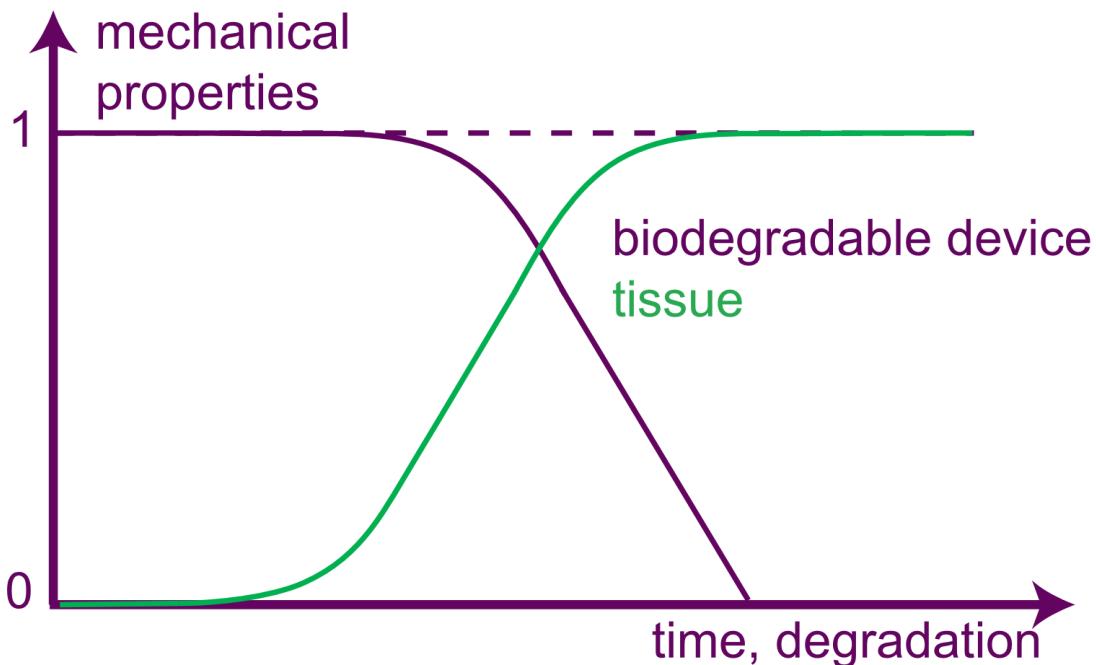
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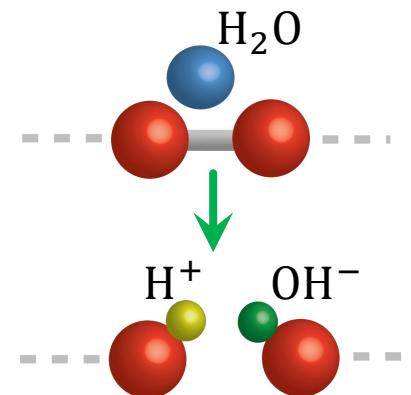
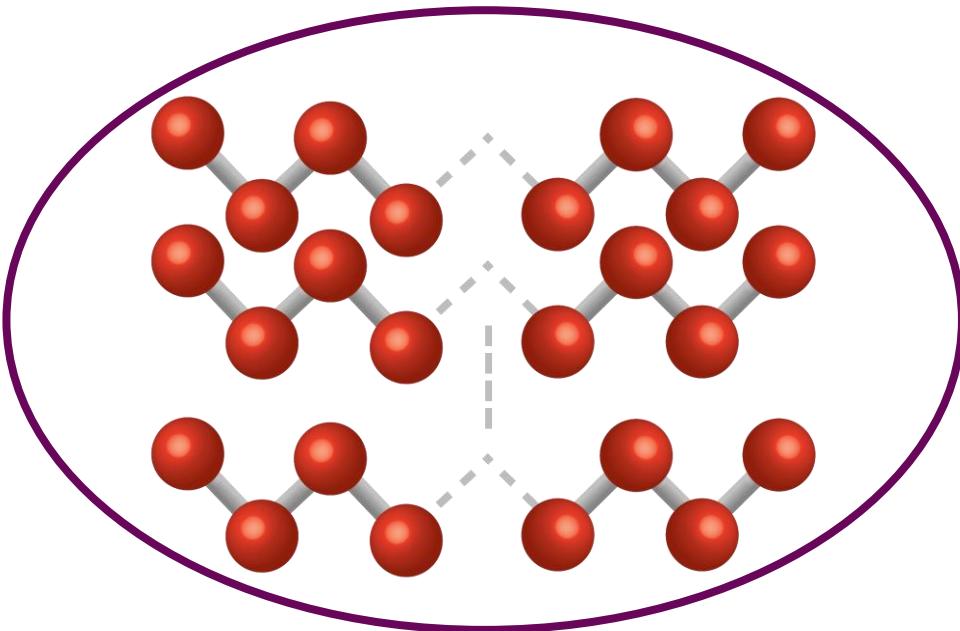


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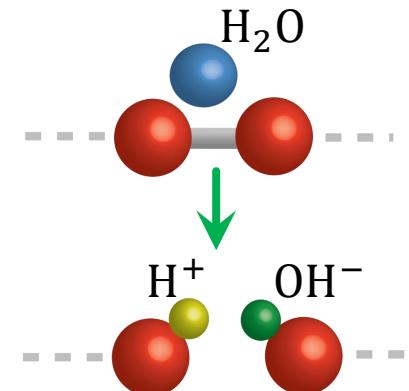
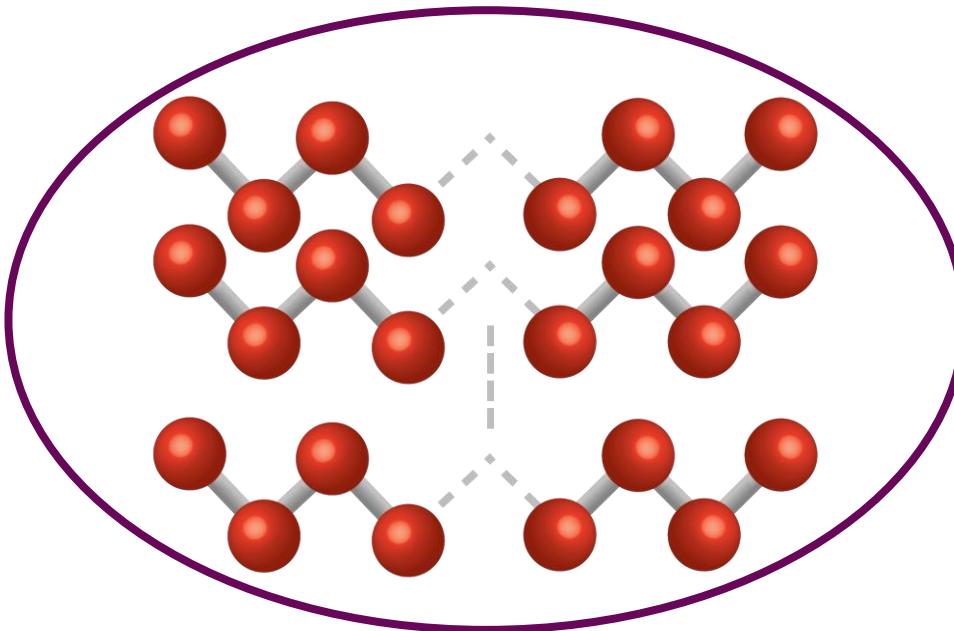
# Kinetic model (closed system)



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Change in ester bond concentration  $\rightarrow \frac{dC_e}{dt} = -(k_h C_e + k_a C_e C_a^{0.5})$

Non-catalytic degradation mechanism

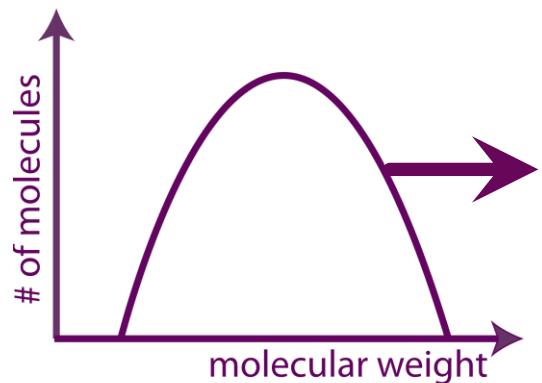
Change in acid chain end concentration

$$\frac{dC_a}{dt} = k_h C_e + k_a C_e C_a^{0.5}$$

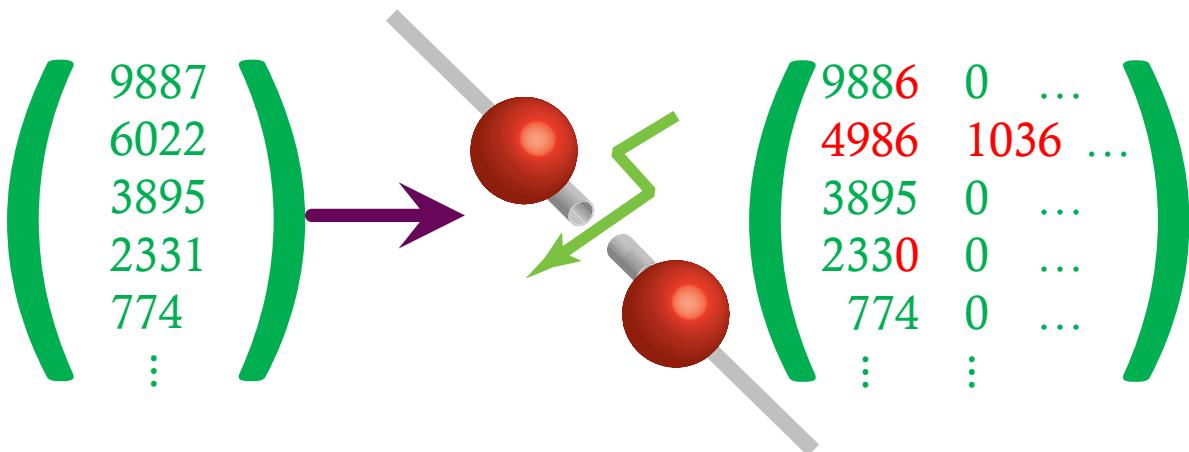


Autocatalytic degradation mechanism

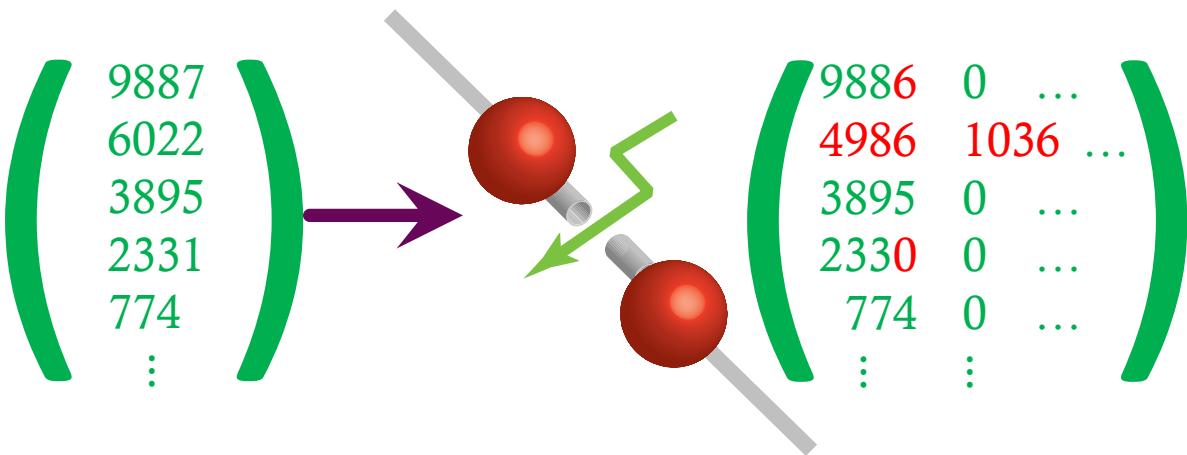
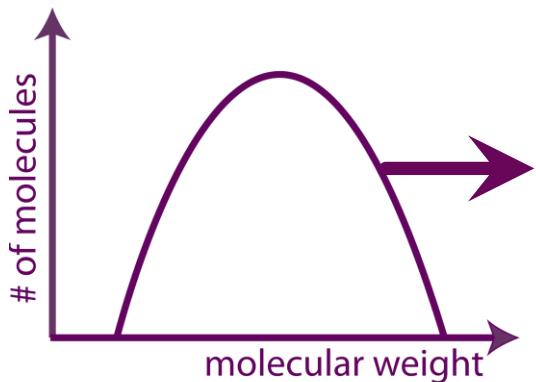
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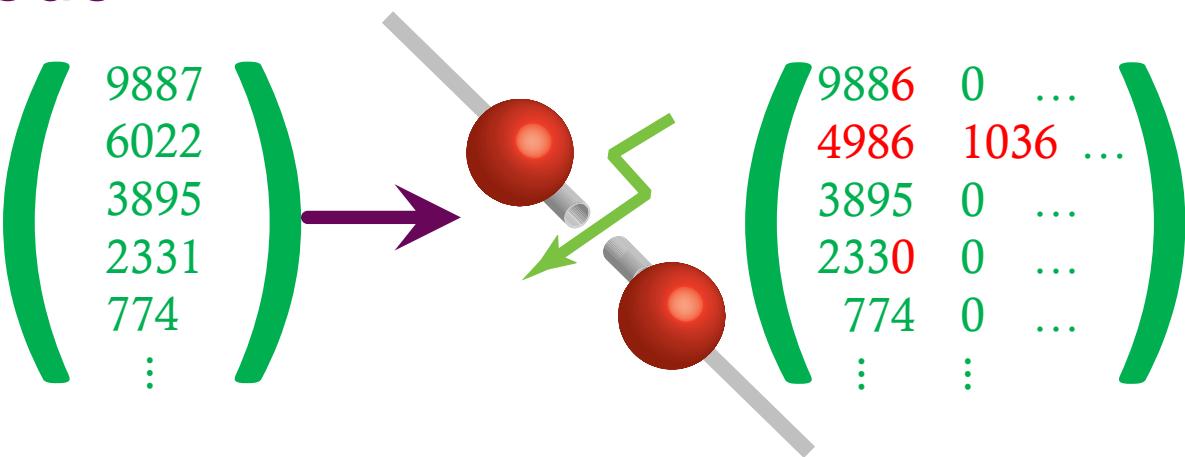
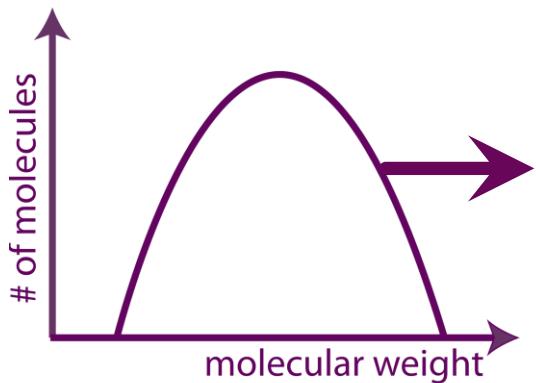
$$\text{EndScissions} = k_{he} C_e + k_{ae} C_e C_a^{0.5},$$

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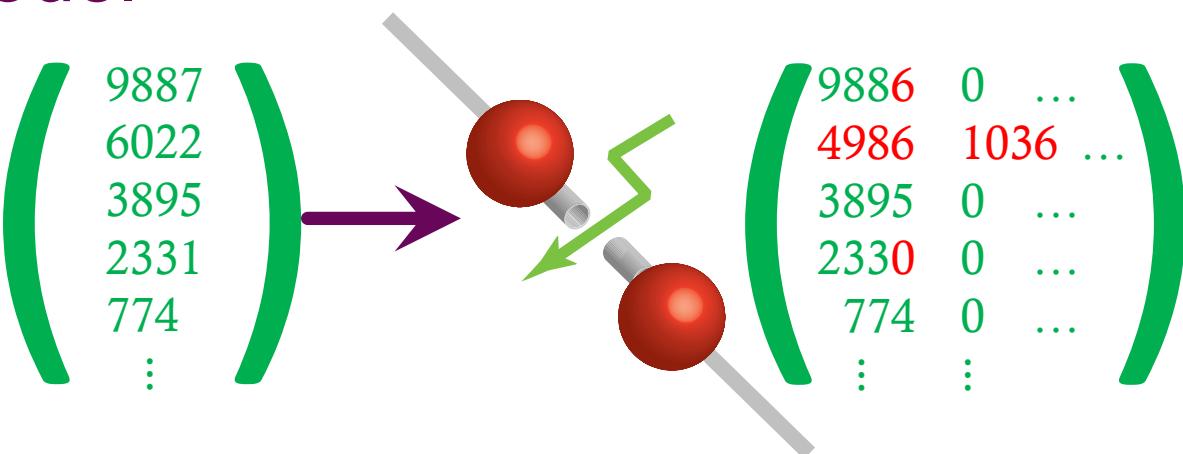
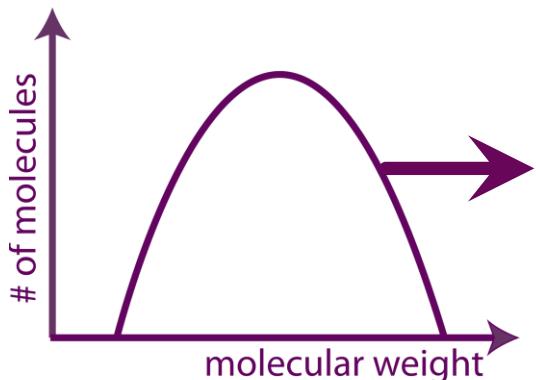
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$$\frac{dC_e}{dt} = -(k_h C_e + k_a C_e C_a^{0.5})$$

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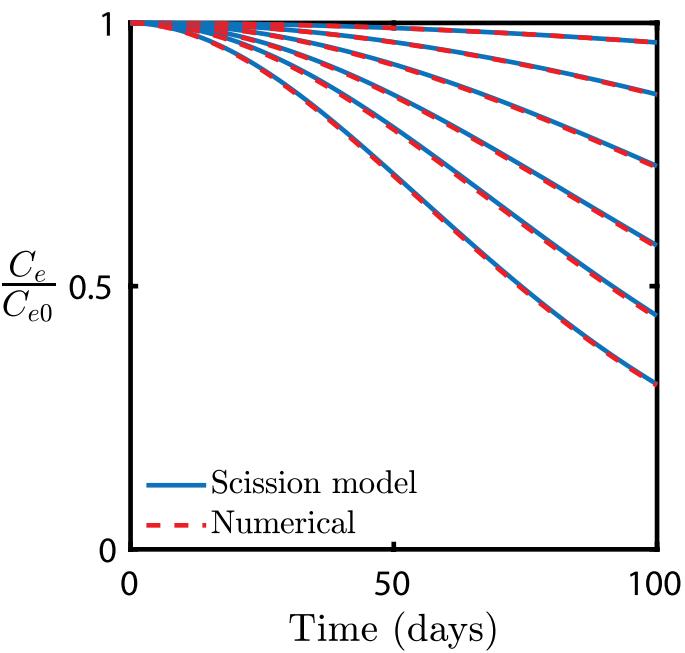
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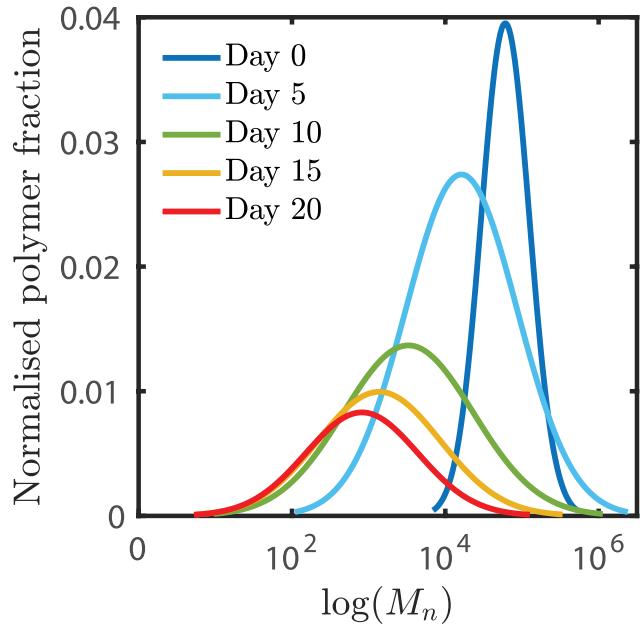
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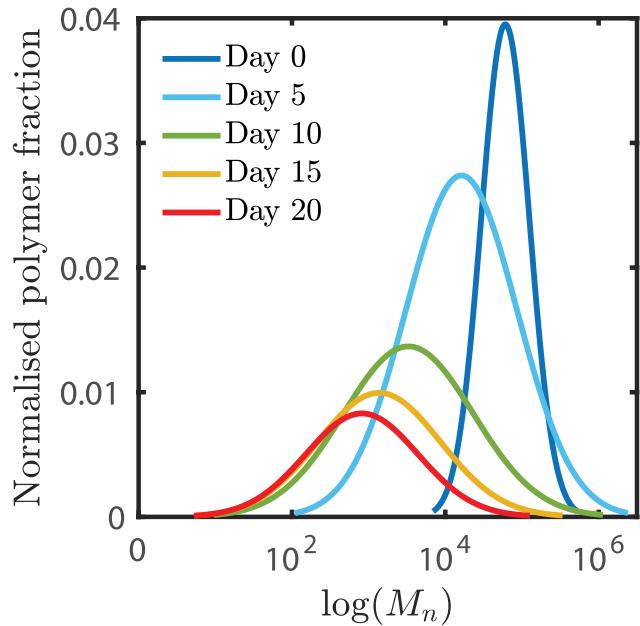
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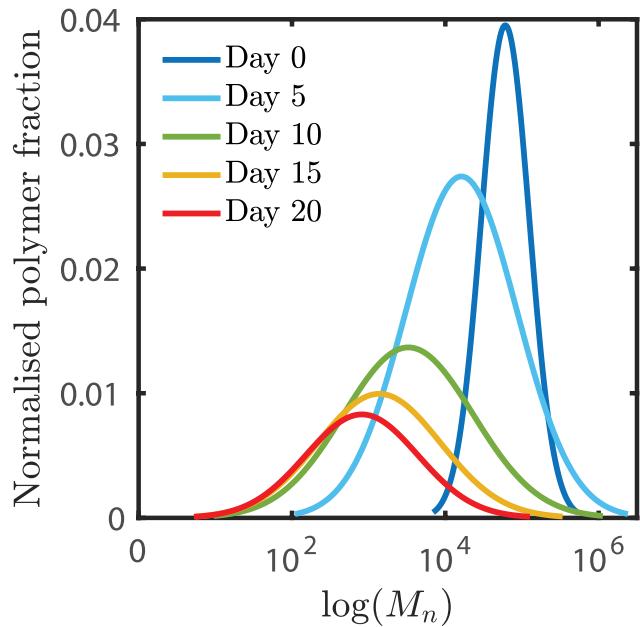


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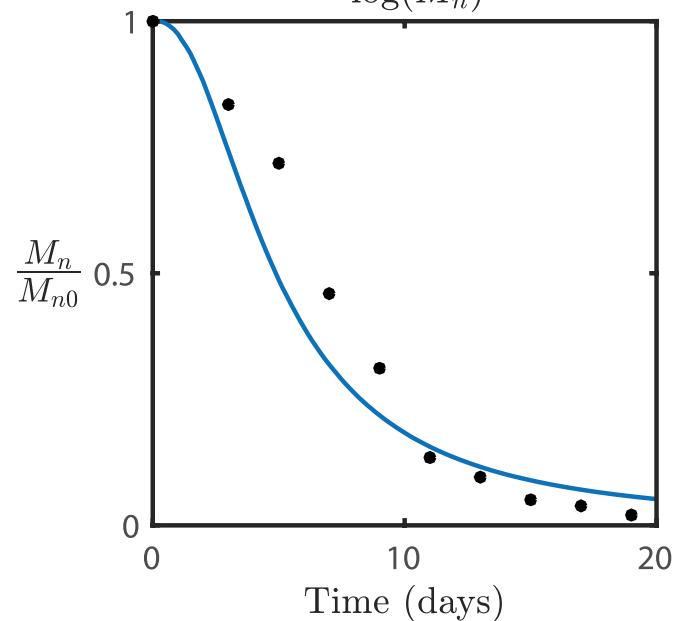
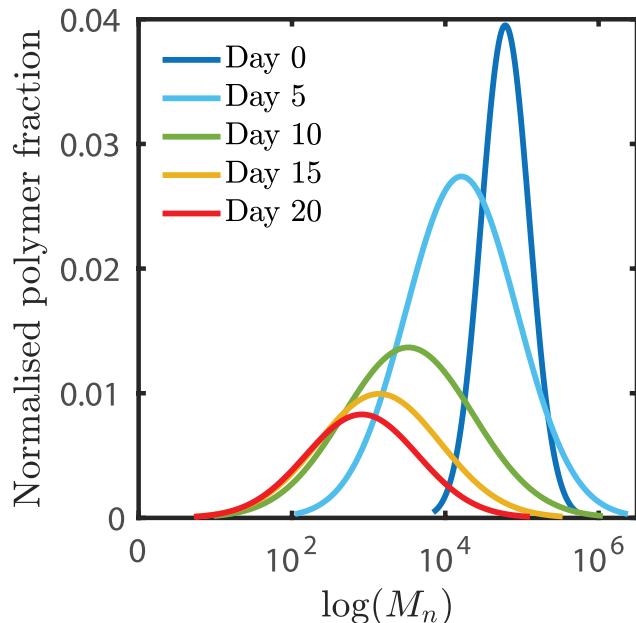
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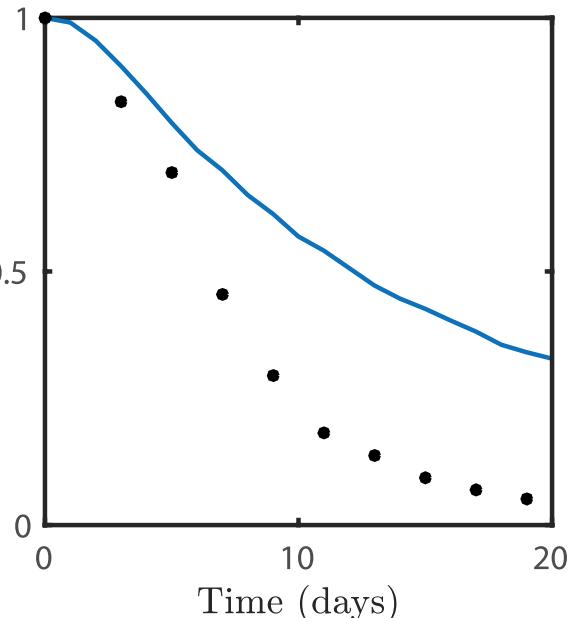
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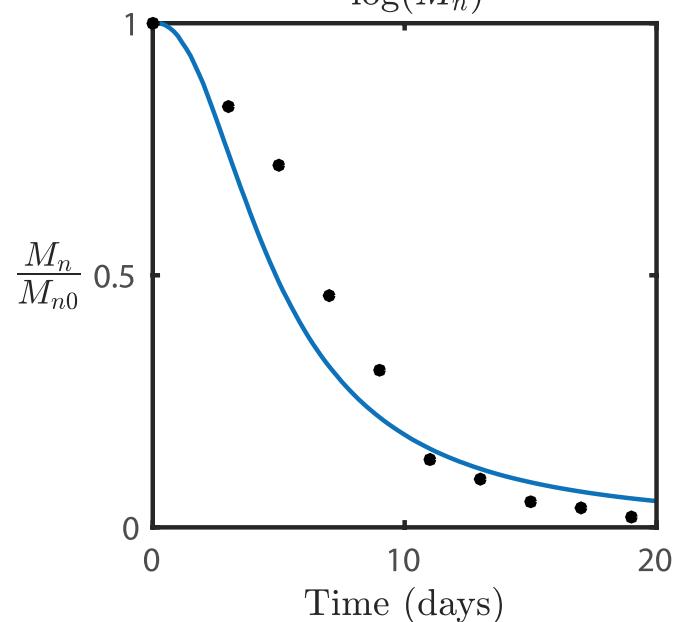
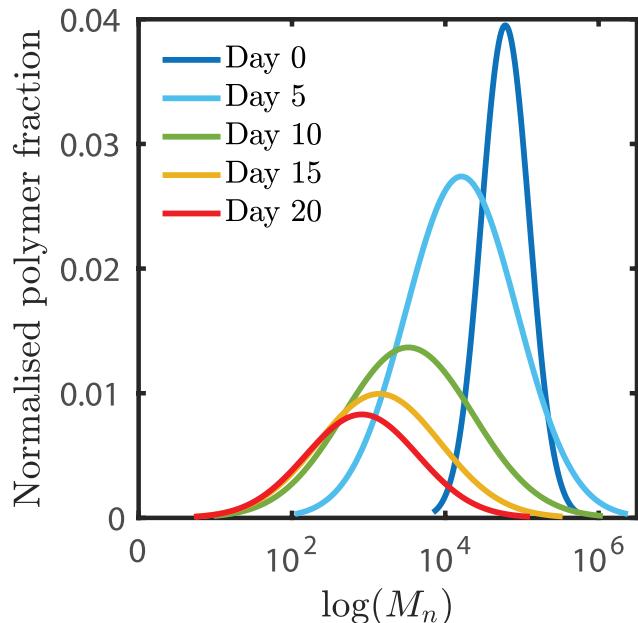
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$$\begin{aligned} k_{he} &= 1e^{-6} \text{ day}^{-1}, \\ k_{ae} &= 1e^{-6} (\text{m}^3 \text{mol}^{-1})^{0.5} \text{ day}^{-1}, \\ k_{hr} &= 0 \text{ day}^{-1}, \\ k_{ar} &= 6e^{-6} (\text{m}^3 \text{mol}^{-1})^{0.5} \text{ day}^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

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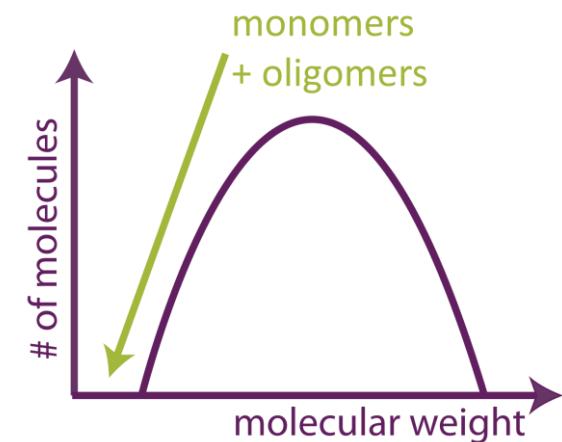
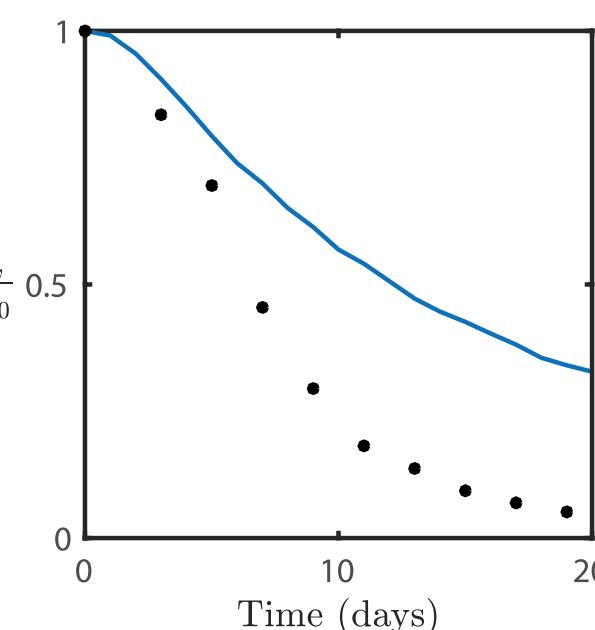
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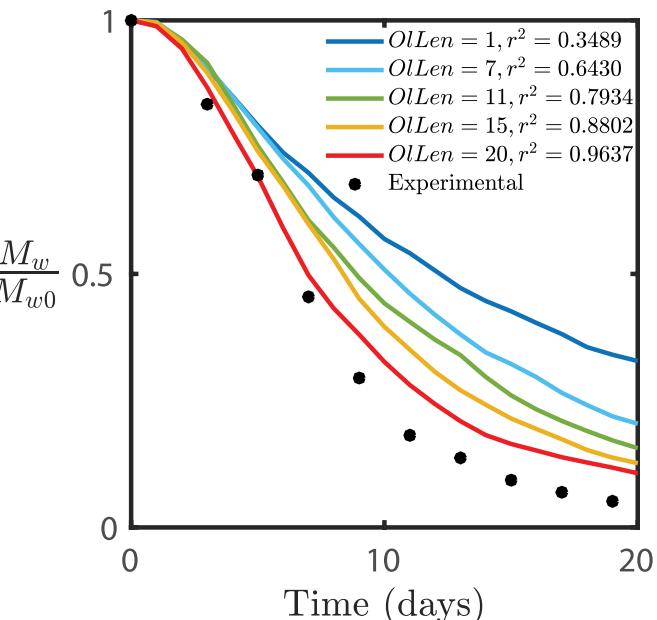
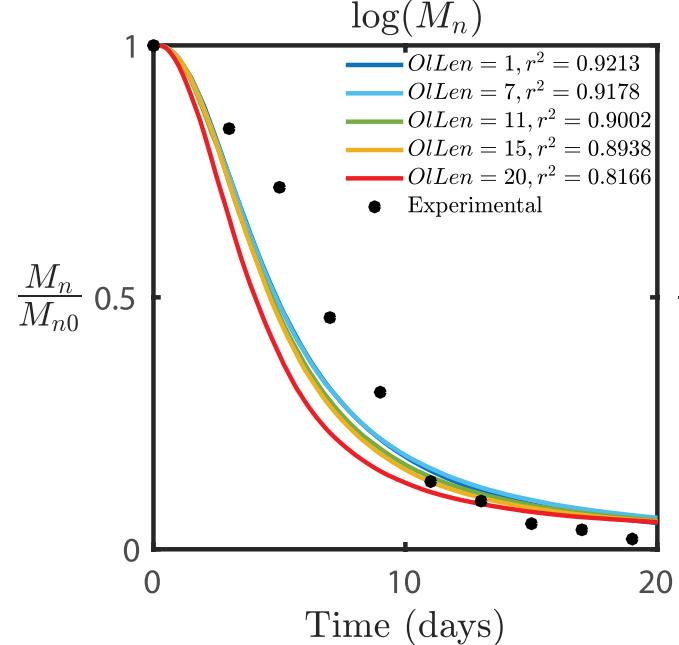
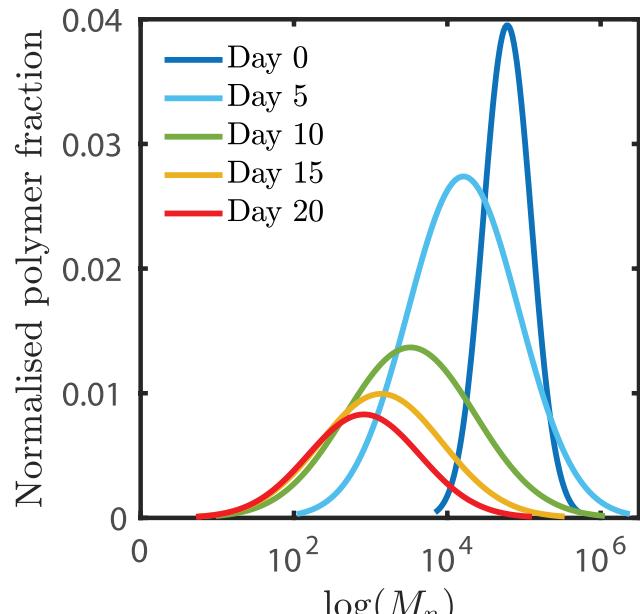
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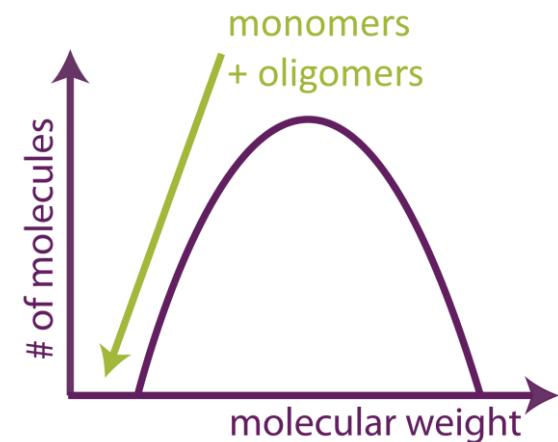
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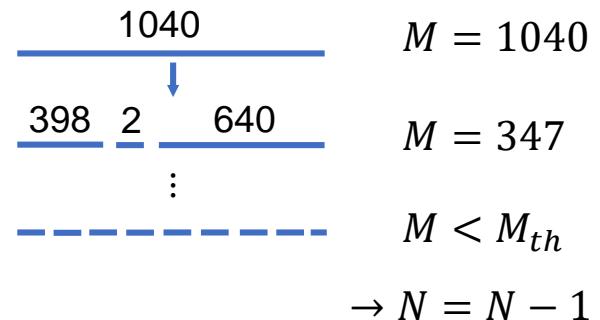
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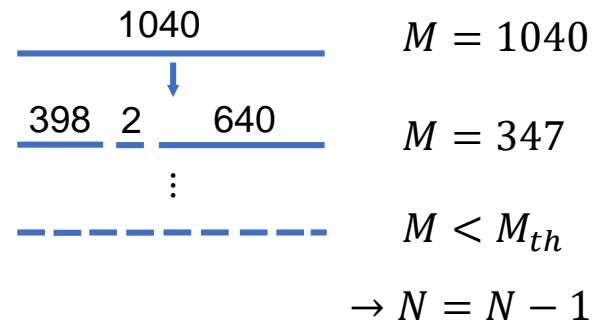
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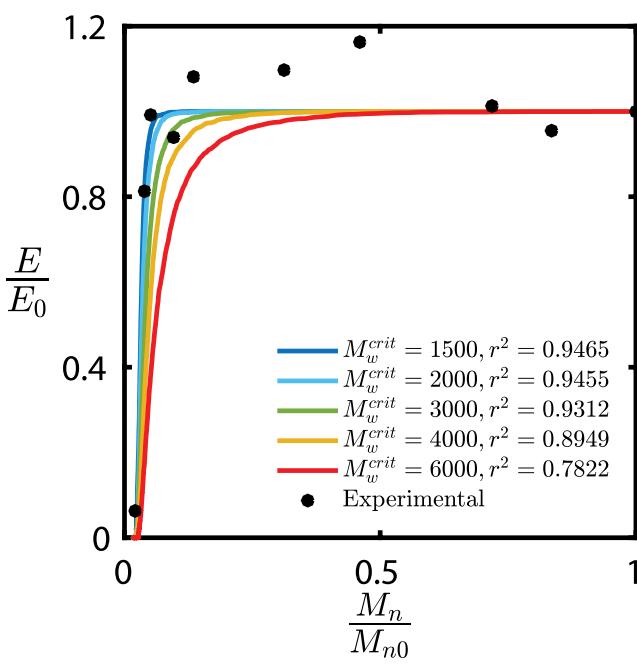
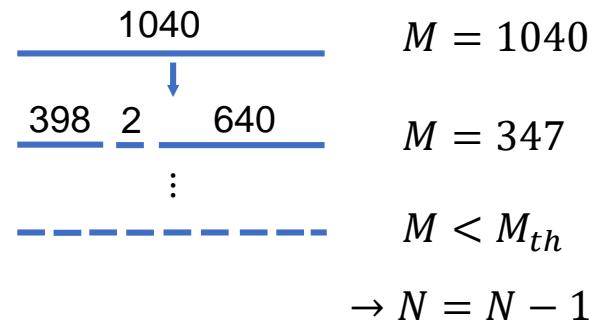
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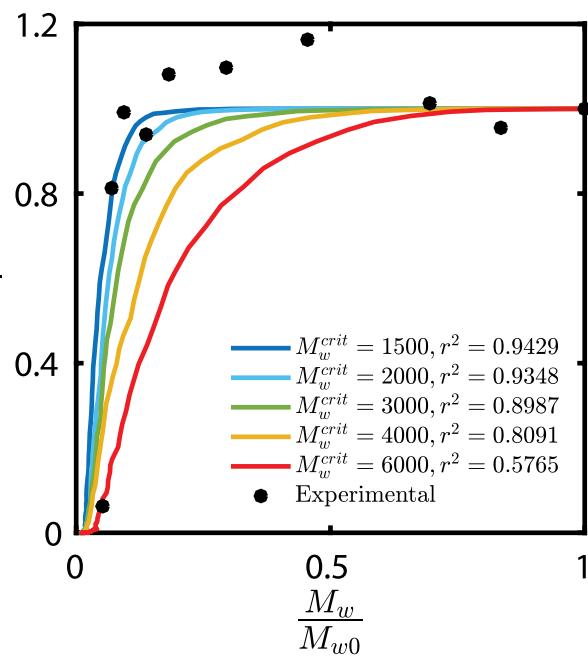
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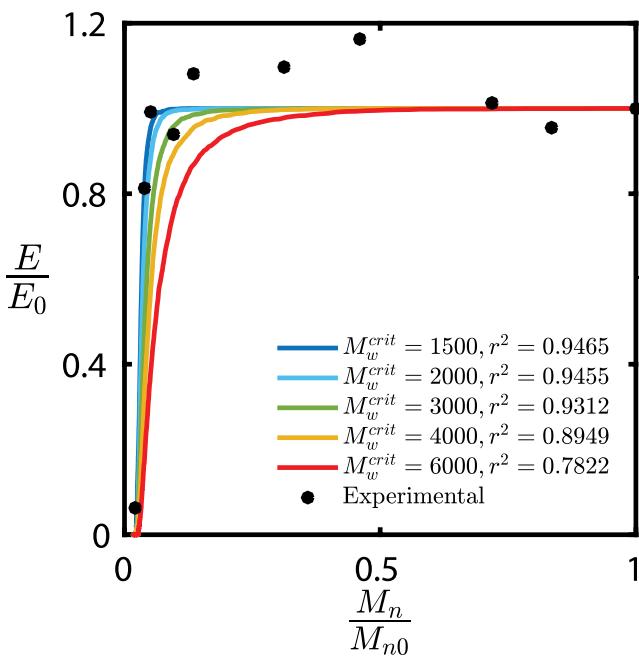
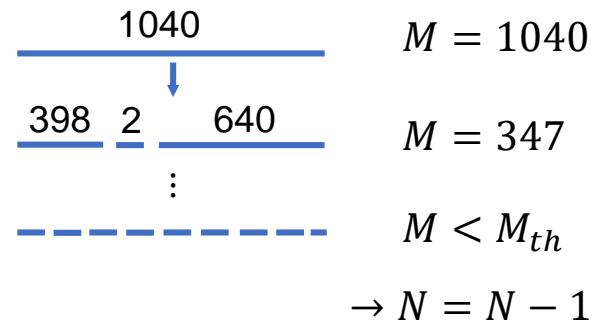
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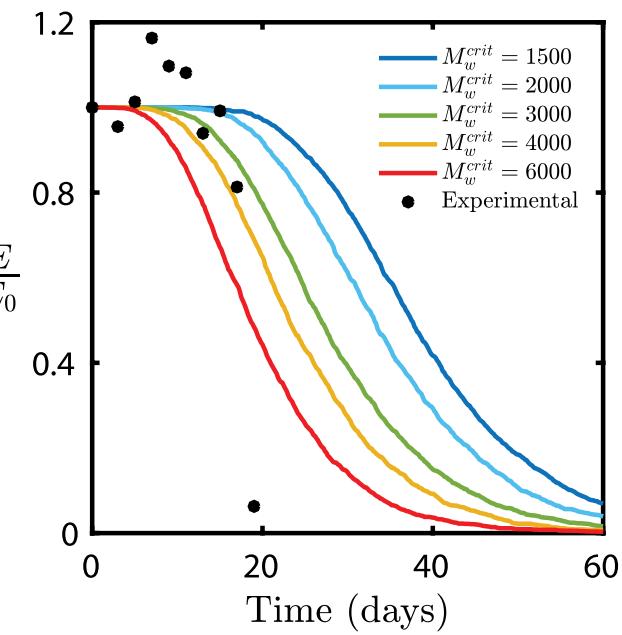
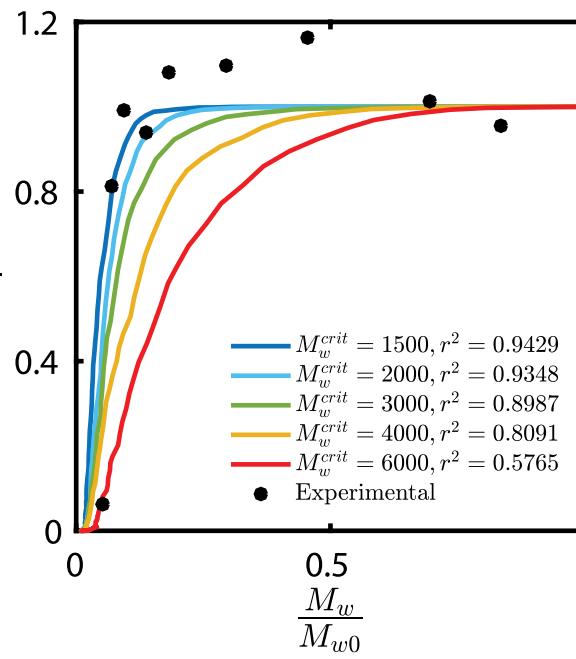
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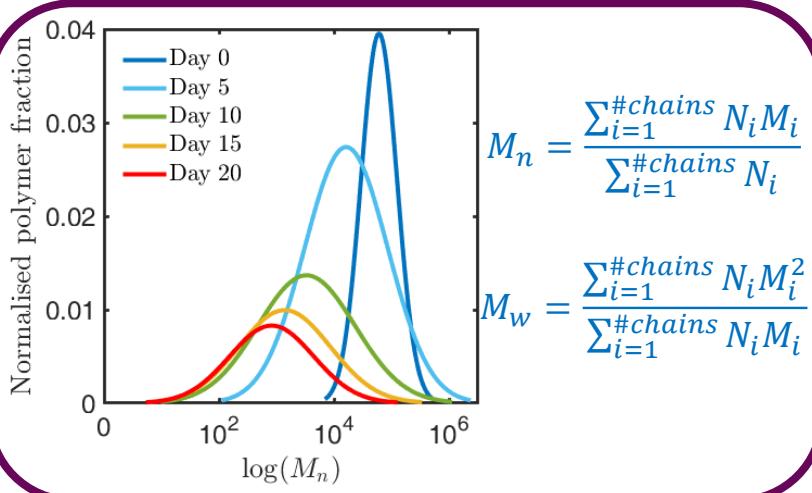
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# Summary

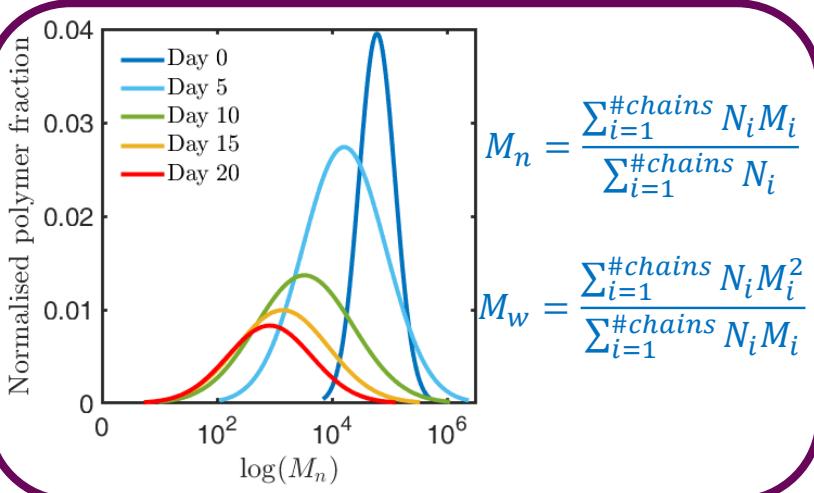
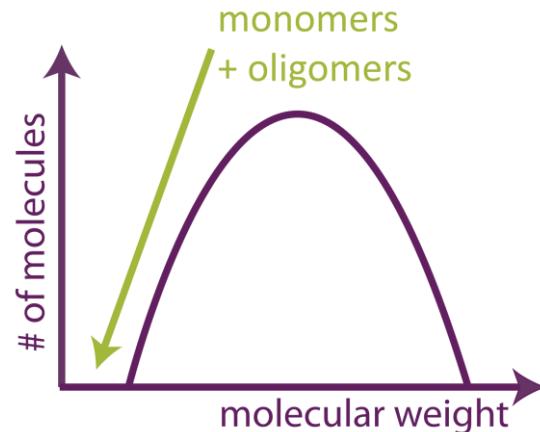
$$\frac{dC_e}{dt} = -(k_h C_e + k_a C_e C_a^{0.5})$$

$$\frac{dC_m}{dt} = k_h C_e + k_a C_e C_a^{0.5}$$



$$EndScissions = k_{he} C_e + k_{ae} C_e C_a^{0.5}$$

$$RandomScissions = k_{hr} C_e + k_{ar} C_e C_a^{0.5}$$



# Summary

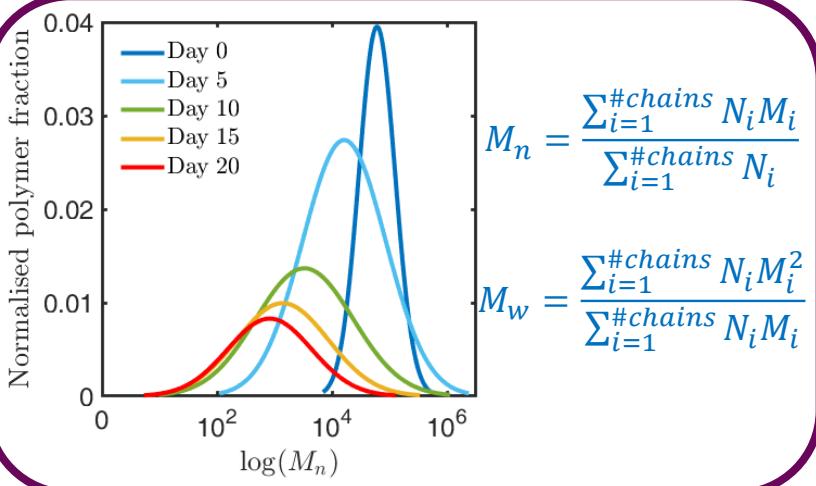
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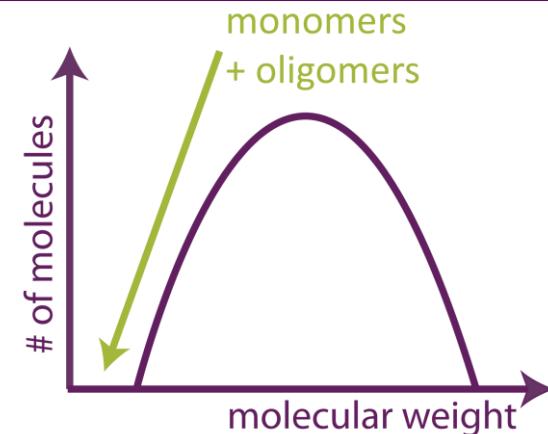
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$$M_w = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{\#chains} N_i M_i^2}{\sum_{i=1}^{\#chains} N_i M_i}$$



$$2.1 M_w < M_w^{crit}: N = N - 1$$

$$\frac{1040}{398 \quad 2 \quad 640} \quad M = 1040$$

$$\frac{398 \quad 2 \quad 640}{\vdots} \quad M = 347$$

$$M < M_{th} \rightarrow N = N - 1$$

# Summary

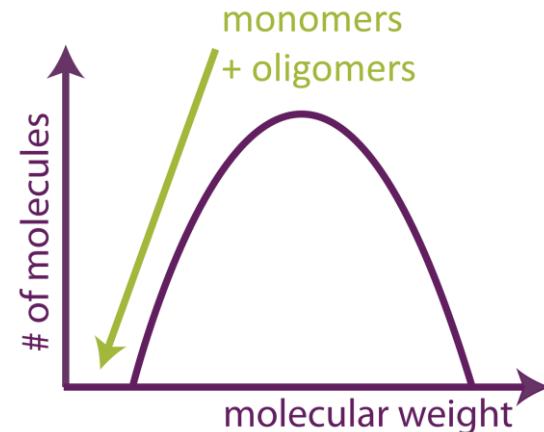
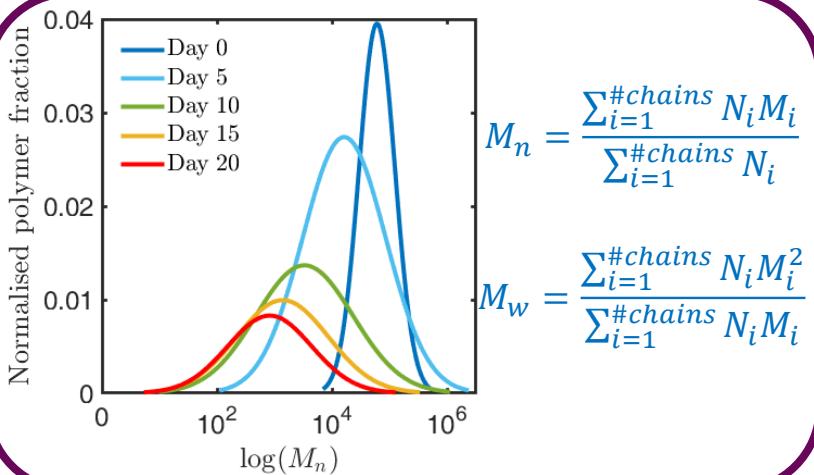
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- Further develop predictions for mechanical properties
- Link to continuum finite element models