

Contents

1	Towards a circular economy — 1
1.1	History of plastics — 1
1.2	Introduction to the plastics economy — 2
1.3	The new plastics economy — 5
1.4	The story continues — 8
2	Introduction to polymer science — 9
2.1	Classification — 9
2.1.1	Origin — 9
2.1.2	Chemistry — 10
2.1.3	Properties — 11
2.1.4	Polymerization — 11
2.1.5	Application — 11
2.1.6	Nomenclature — 12
2.2	Structure of macromolecules — 12
2.2.1	Chain composition — 13
2.2.2	Chain architecture — 15
2.2.3	Chain regularity — 16
2.2.4	Chain length — 18
2.2.5	Characterization of macromolecules — 20
2.3	Synthesis of polymers — 23
2.3.1	Step-growth polymerization — 24
2.3.2	Chain-growth polymerization — 32
2.3.3	Copolymerization — 42
2.3.4	Polymerization techniques — 48
2.3.5	Post-polymerization reactions — 52
2.4	Polymer materials — 54
2.4.1	Polymer morphology — 55
2.4.2	Thermal transitions — 56
2.4.3	Characterization of T_g and T_m — 58
2.4.4	Viscoelasticity — 59
2.4.5	Crystallization of polymers — 61
2.4.6	Mechanical behavior of polymer solids — 64
2.4.7	Rheological behavior of polymer melts — 65
2.4.8	Electrical properties — 66
2.4.9	Liquid crystalline morphologies — 67
2.4.10	Block copolymer morphologies — 67
2.5	From polymer to product — 68
2.5.1	Polymer additives — 68

2.5.2	Processing of plastics —	69
2.5.3	Processing of fibers: spinning —	73
2.5.4	Processing of foams —	74
2.5.5	Processing of fiber-reinforced plastics —	75
2.6	Exercises —	76
2.6.1	Classification —	76
2.6.2	Structure of macromolecules —	77
2.6.3	Synthesis of polymers —	77
2.6.4	Polymer materials —	78
2.6.5	From polymer to product —	79
3	Bioplastics —	81
3.1	Biorefinery technologies —	81
3.1.1	Platforms —	82
3.1.2	Products —	88
3.1.3	Feedstocks —	88
3.1.4	Processes —	89
3.1.5	Process flow diagrams —	89
3.2	Biochemicals —	90
3.3	Chemistry of bioplastics —	92
3.3.1	Polyethylene (PE) —	94
3.3.2	Polypropylene (PP) —	102
3.3.3	Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) —	110
3.3.4	Polystyrene (PS) —	111
3.3.5	Polyvinyl acetate (PVAc) —	117
3.3.6	Polyacrylic acid (PAA) —	119
3.3.7	Polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) —	123
3.3.8	Polyacrylonitrile (PAN) —	126
3.3.9	Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) —	129
3.3.10	Polyethylene furanoate (PEF) —	139
3.3.11	Polytrimethylene terephthalate (PTT) —	140
3.3.12	Polybutylene terephthalate (PBT) —	142
3.3.13	Thermoplastic polyetherester (TPEE) —	146
3.3.14	Isosorbide-based polymers —	147
3.3.15	Polyamide 6 (PA6) —	150
3.3.16	Polyamide 6,6 (PA6,6) —	154
3.3.17	Polyphthalamides (PPA) —	163
3.3.18	Polyether block amides (PEBA) —	164
3.3.19	Aramids (aromatic polyamides) —	164
3.3.20	Elastane —	165
3.3.21	Polybutylene succinate (PBS) —	166
3.3.22	Poly(butylene-co-succinate-co-adipate) (PBSA) —	168

- 3.3.23 Polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs) — **168**
- 3.3.24 Polylactic acid (PLA) — **173**
- 3.3.25 Polyglycolic acid (PGA) — **178**
- 3.3.26 Poly(butylene-*co*-adipate-*co*-terephthalate) (PBAT) — **180**
- 3.3.27 Poly(butylene-*co*-succinate-*co*-terephthalate) (PBST) — **181**
- 3.3.28 Polycaprolactone (PCL) — **182**
- 3.4 Bioplastics — **184**
- 3.4.1 Bio-based plastics — **185**
- 3.4.2 Biodegradable plastics — **190**
- 3.4.3 Global production of bioplastics — **197**
- 3.5 Exercises — **201**
- 3.5.1 Biorefining technologies — **201**
- 3.5.2 Biochemicals — **201**
- 3.5.3 Chemistry of bioplastics — **202**
- 3.5.4 Bioplastics — **203**

- 4 Recycling of plastics — 205**
- 4.1 Circular plastics — **205**
- 4.2 Plastic packaging — **207**
- 4.2.1 Polymers used in packaging — **207**
- 4.2.2 Multilayer packaging — **211**
- 4.2.3 Decoration of packaging — **214**
- 4.3 Mechanical recycling — **215**
- 4.3.1 First sorting — **216**
- 4.3.2 Second sorting — **224**
- 4.3.3 Spectroscopic methods — **229**
- 4.3.4 Marker systems — **236**
- 4.3.5 Post-processing — **239**
- 4.3.6 Applications of recyclates — **246**
- 4.3.7 Challenges in mechanical recycling — **247**
- 4.4 Chemical recycling — **255**
- 4.4.1 Chemical recycling techniques — **256**
- 4.4.2 Solvent-based purification — **257**
- 4.4.3 Feedstock recycling — **258**
- 4.4.4 Depolymerization — **262**
- 4.5 Sustainable plastic product development — **264**
- 4.5.1 Application of recyclates in products — **265**
- 4.5.2 Design for recycling — **270**
- 4.5.3 Recyclability incorporating in design — **271**
- 4.5.4 Life-cycle assessment — **272**
- 4.6 Exercises — **276**
- 4.6.1 Circular plastics — **276**

VIII — Contents

- 4.6.2 Plastic packaging — **276**
- 4.6.3 Mechanical recycling — **277**
- 4.6.4 Chemical recycling — **278**
- 4.6.5 Sustainable plastic-product development — **278**

Acknowledgment — 281

Bibliography — 283

Index — 287