

Chapter 3

Step Polymerization

Introduction

Ch 3 Sl 2

- step polymers are:
 - grouped by linking structure
 - heteroatoms in main chain
← reaction of functional groups
 - molar mass range of 1E4 – 1E5
 - more often, 15000 – 30000
 - chain polymers ~ one order higher
 - considering
 - property
 - processability
 - prepared by
 - polycondensation
 - polyaddition

Table 3.1

Class of Polymer	Structure of Linking Group
Polyether	$\sim\sim\text{O}\sim\sim$
Polysulphide	$\sim\sim\text{S}\sim\sim$
Polyester	$\sim\sim\text{C}=\text{O}-\text{O}\sim\sim$
Polycarbonate	$\sim\sim\text{O}-\text{C}=\text{O}-\text{O}\sim\sim$
Polyamide	$\sim\sim\text{C}=\text{O}-\text{N}(\text{H})-\sim\sim$
Polyurethane	$\sim\sim\text{N}(\text{H})-\text{C}=\text{O}-\text{O}\sim\sim$
Polyurea	$\sim\sim\text{N}(\text{H})-\text{C}=\text{O}-\text{N}(\text{H})-\sim\sim$

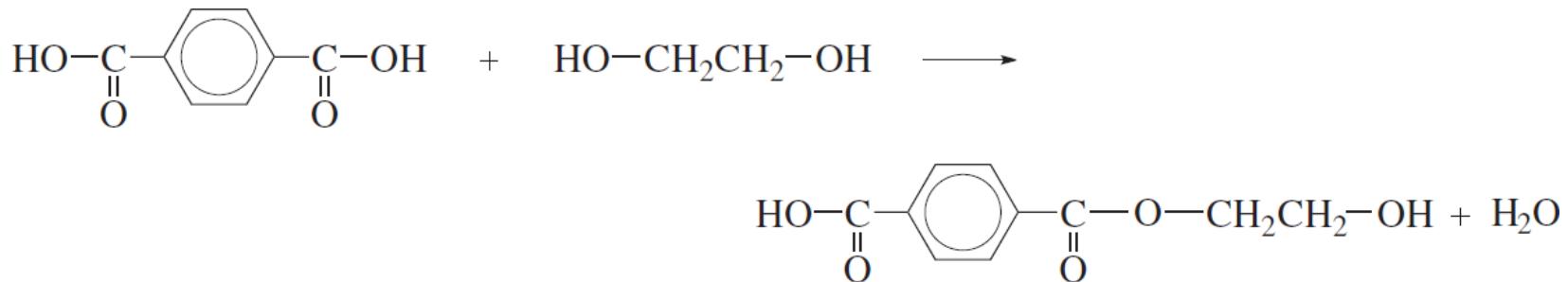
Linear step polym'n

Ch 3 Sl 3

- monofunctional monomers ($f=1$) → no polym'n



- useful for MM control, when needed
- difunctional monomers ($f=2$) → linear polym'n



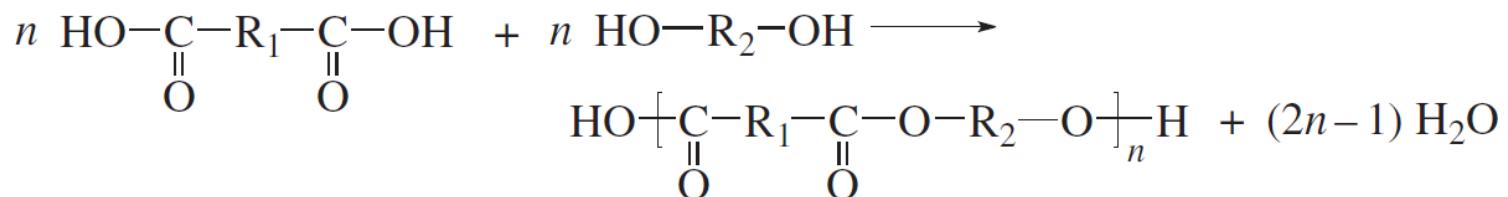
- $f > 2 \rightarrow$ non-linear polym'n Section 3.3

Polycondensation polymers

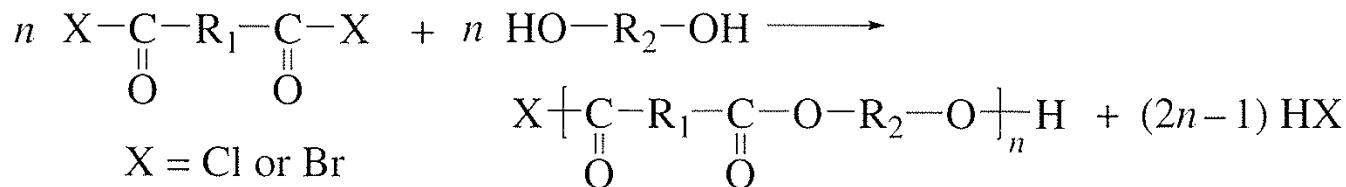
Ch 3 Sl 4

□ polyesters

□ RA₂+RB₂ step polym'n [diacid + diol]



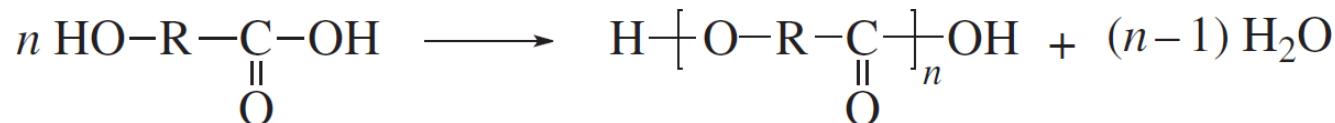
- at high Temp with catalyst (under reduced pressure)
- for high conversion and MM
- diacid halide (faster) or diester can be used instead of diacid



Polycondensation polymers

Ch 3 Sl 5

- polyesters (cont'd)
- ARB step polym'n [self-polycondensation]

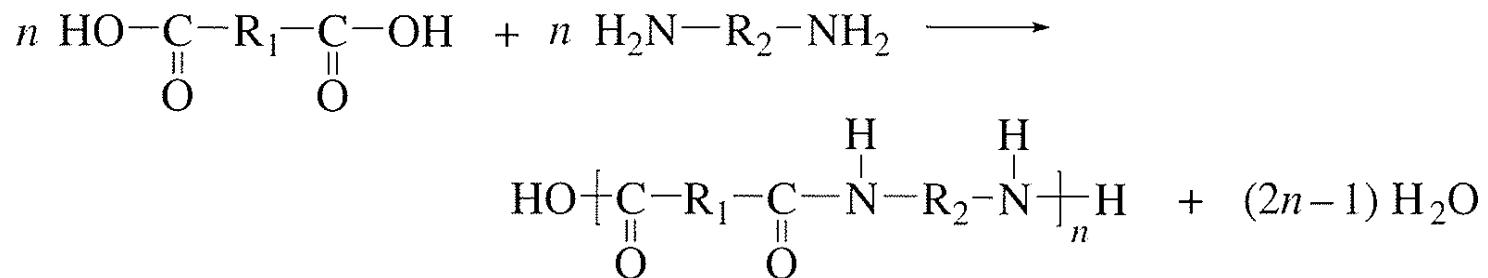


- stoichiometric balance kept automatically
- HO-R-COX is not available. ~ not stable

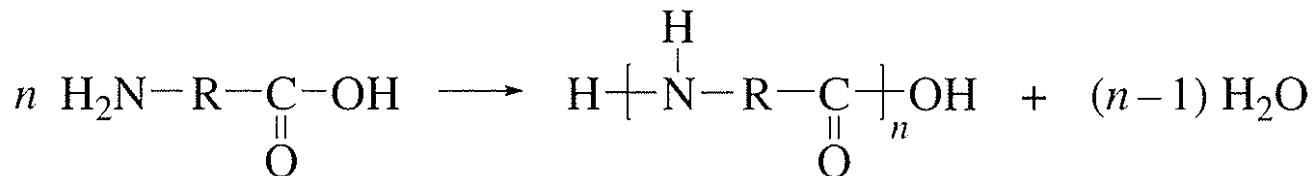
□ polyamides

□ synthesis analogous to polyester

- $\text{RA}_2 + \text{RB}_2$ [diacid (or diacid halide) + diamine]

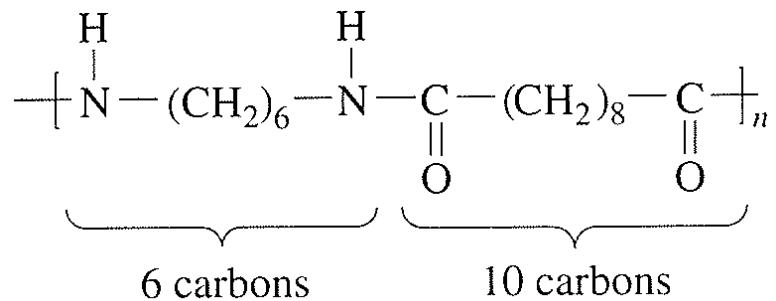


- ARB with amino acid



- polyamides (cont'd)
- nylon = aliphatic polyamide
 - nylon xy
 - x = number of C in amine
 - y = number of C in acid

- nylon x
 - x = number of C in repeat unit
 - from ARB step or (more frequently) ring-opening polym'n



nylon 610; nylon 6 10;
 nylon 6.10; nylon 6,10;
 nylon 6-10

Table 7.1 p170

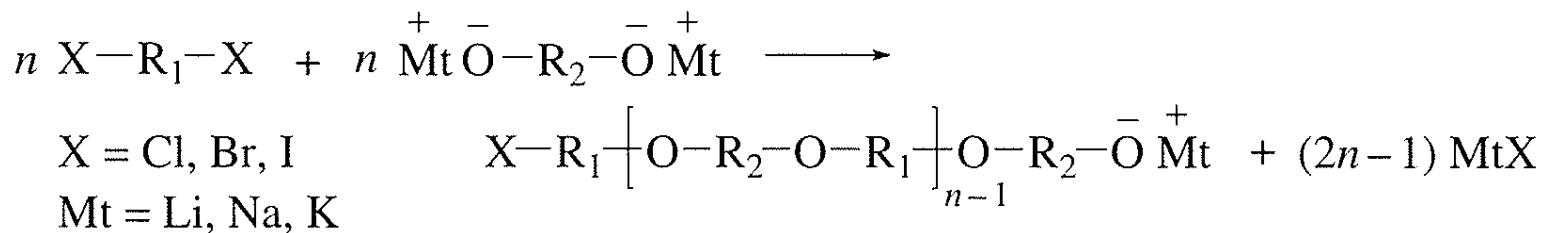
- even-odd effect Figure 17.37 p442

- ❑ polyethers
- ❑ polycondensation ~ not popular

- RA₂ of diol



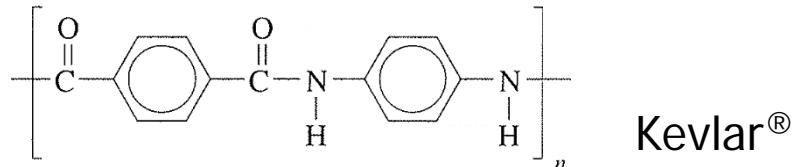
- RA₂+RB₂ [dihalide + dialkoxide]



- ❑ ring-opening polym'n of cyclic ether ~ more popular

Table 7.1 p170

- engineering plastics (EP)
- high thermal and mechanical properties
 - withstand high temperature and load
 - for engineering applications, replacing metals
 - high-performance polymers [고성능]
 - <cf> functional polymers [기능성]
 - <cf> commodity or general-purpose plastics ← chain polym'n
- structure? contain (aromatic) rings Table 3.2 p25
- 5 EPs ~ polyamides, polyesters, PC, polyacetal, mPPO
 - PAs ~ aliphatic and aromatic
 - aramid = aromatic polyamide (fiber)

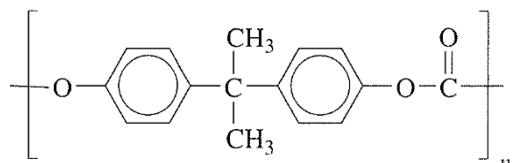


❑ 5 EPs (cont'd)

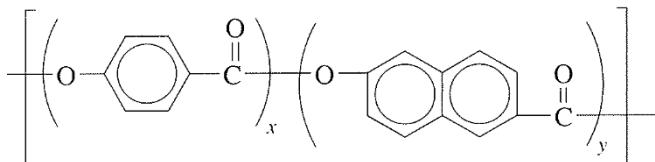
- polyesters ~ partially or fully aromatic

- PET, PBT, PEN, Vectra(n), ---

- polycarbonate

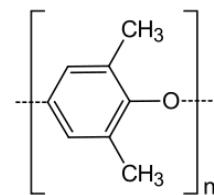
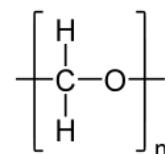


- polyacetal (POM)



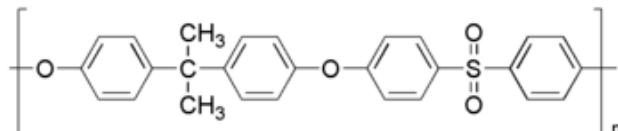
Vectran® LCP

- modified PPO ~ PPO blended with PS

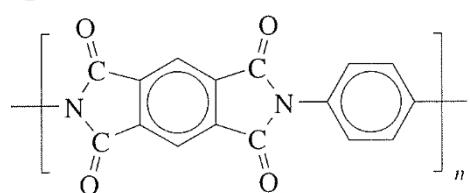


❑ super EPs

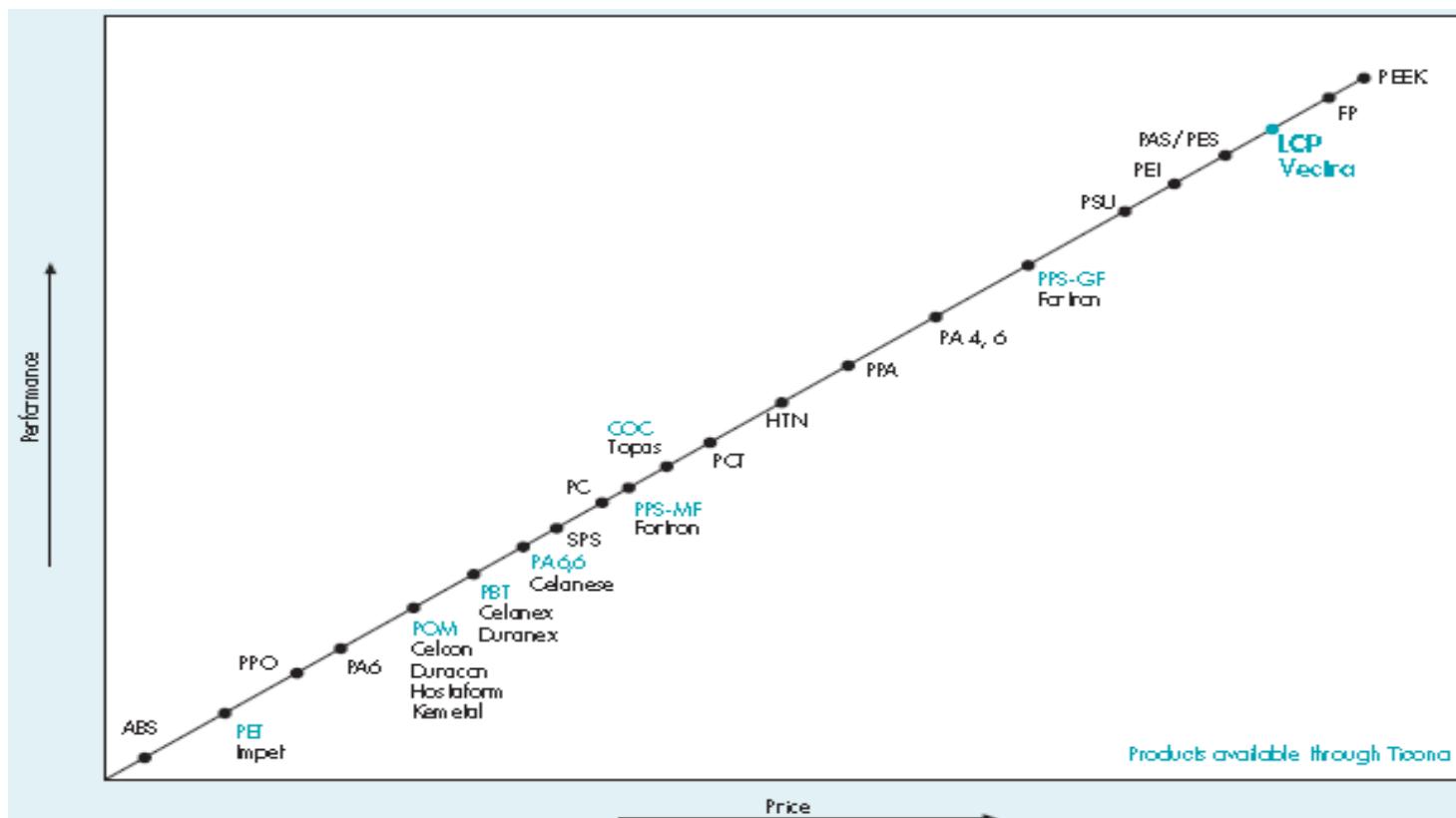
- polysulfone (PSF)



- polyimides (PI)



Kapton®



* High Performance Plastics Acronyms

ABS	= acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene
COC	= cyclic olefin copolymer
FP	= fluoropolymers
PA6	= polyamide 6 (nylon)
PA4,6	= polyamide 4,6 (nylon)
PBT	= polybutylene terephthalate
PEEK	= polyether ether ketone
PES	= polyether sulfone
POM	= polyacrylate (polyacetal)
PPS-MF	= polyphenylene sulfide (mineral filled)
PPA	= polyphthalamide
SPS	= syndiotactic polystyrene

HTN	= high temperature polyamide (nylon)
LCP	= liquid crystal polymer
PA6,6	= polyamide 6,6 (nylon)
PAS	= polysulfone
PCT	= polycyclohexylenedimethylene terephthalate
PEI	= polyether imide
PET	= polyethylene terephthalate
PPO	= modified polyphenylene oxide
PPS-GF	= polyphenylene sulfide (glass filled)
PSU	= polysulfone
PC	= polycarbonate

□ conducting [conductive] polymers

□ structural characteristic?

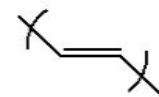
□ some CP prepared by polycondensation
(pp24-27)

- Wittig, Heck, or McMurry coupling for PPV

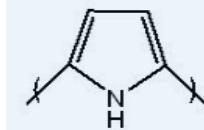
□ some by chain polym'n
(Section 8.3 pp194-197)

- more popular

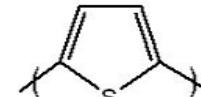
poly(acetylene)
PA



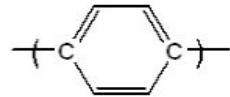
poly(pyrrole)
PPy



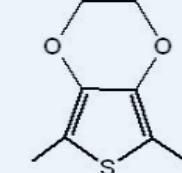
poly(thiophene)
PT



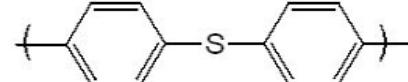
poly(para-phenylene)
PPP



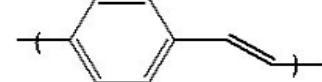
poly(3,4-ethlenedioxythiophene)
PEDOT



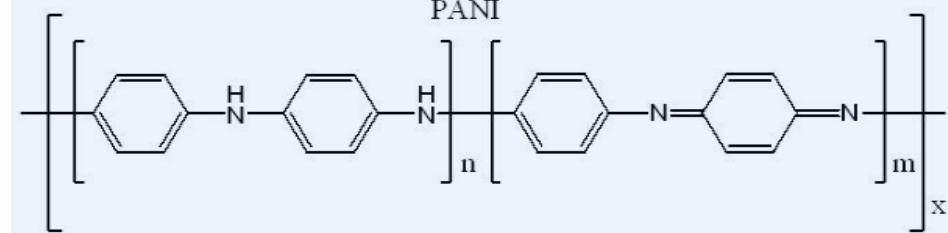
poly(phenylene sulfide)
PPS



poly(para-phenylene vinylene)
PPV

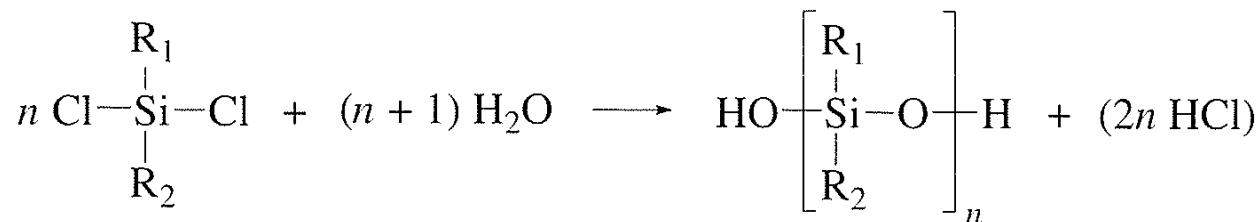


polyaniline
PANI



❑ polysiloxanes

❑ = siloxanes? (p27) → polymerized siloxanes (better)



❑ silicones = silicon-containing polymers

- silicone ≠ silicon ≠ polysilicon

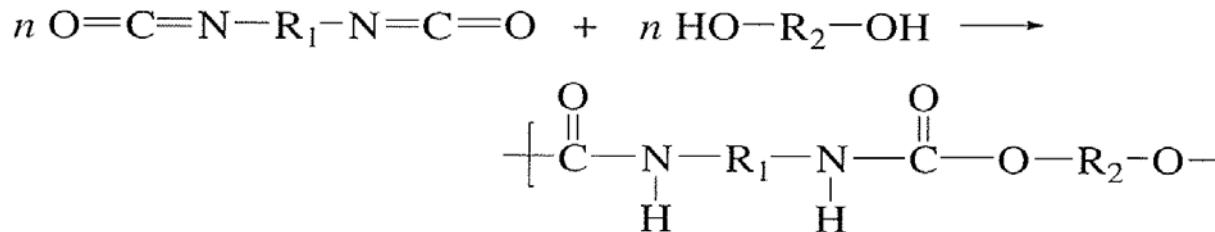
❑ PDMS ~ most popular

- silicone oil, rubber, resin
- depending on MM and/or crosslinking
- higher MM silicones by ring-opening polym'n (Ch 7)

Polyaddition polymers

Ch 3 SI 14

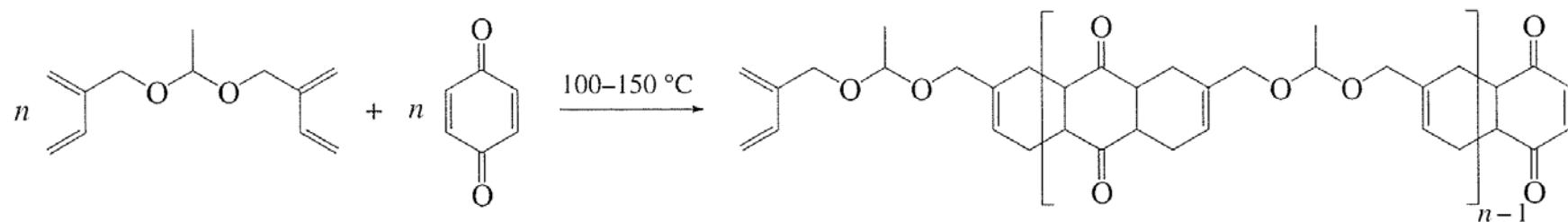
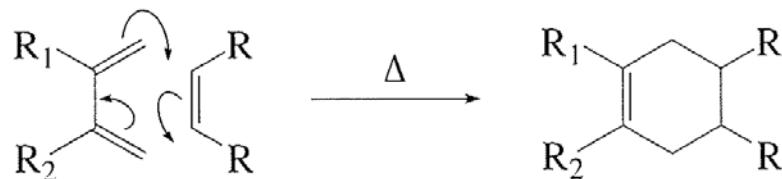
- ❖ no small group released → not condensation, but addition
- polyurethanes (PU)
- $\text{RA}_2 + \text{RB}_2$ [diisocyanate + diol]



- wide range of monomers p29
 - aromatic or aliphatic diisocyanate
 - small to polymeric diol ~ give rigid to rubbery PU
 - segmented copolymers ~ thermoplastic PU [TPU] Section 9.4.1
 - polyureas
 - $\text{RA}_2 + \text{RB}_2$ [diisocyanate + diamine]
- $$\left[\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ \parallel \\ \text{C}-\text{N}-\text{R}_1-\text{N}-\text{C} \\ | \qquad | \\ \text{H} \qquad \text{H} \\ \text{O} \\ \parallel \\ \text{C}-\text{N}-\text{R}_2-\text{N} \end{array} \right]_n$$

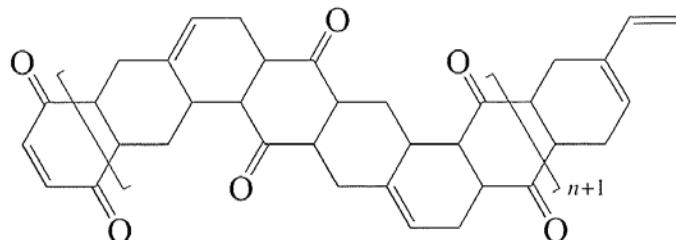
□ Diels-Alder polymers

□ cycloaddition of diene and dienophile

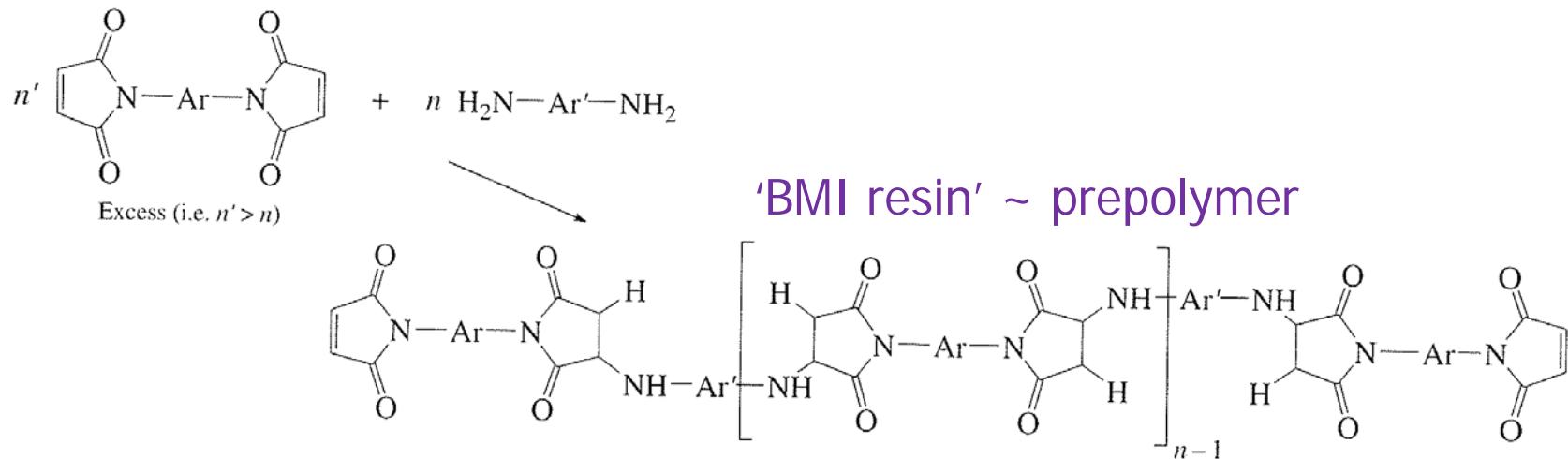


□ may give ladder polymers

- high heat resistance [耐熱性] and thermal stability [熱安定性]



□ bismaleimide (BMI) resins



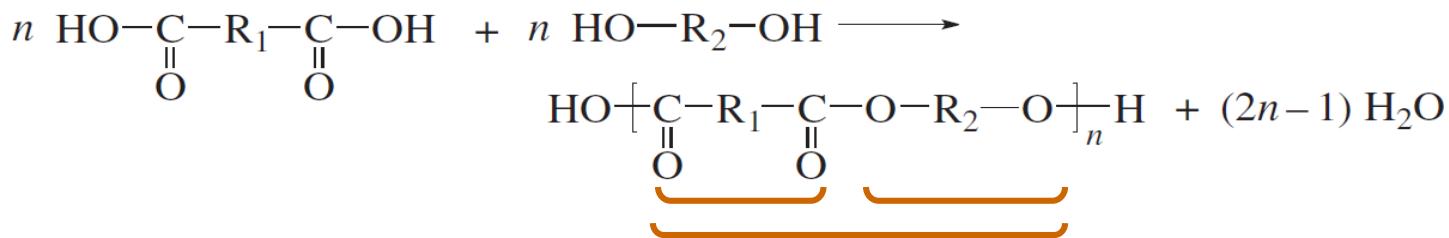
- further reaction [crosslinking] using (bis)maleimide group
 - C=C or multifunctional amine
- composite matrix or high-Temp adhesive ~ better epoxy
 - composite ~ polymer + filler [carbon, ceramics, ---]
 - polymer blend ~ polymer + polymer

Theories for step polym'n

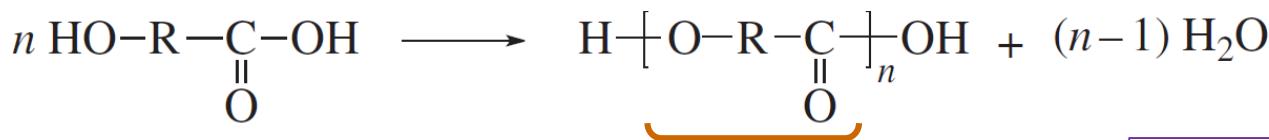
Ch 3 SI 17

- ❑ assumption: principle of equal reactivity of ft'nal grp
- ❑ (number avg) deg of polym'n, x_n
- ❑ based on number of monomer units, not repeat units

- in $\text{RA}_2 + \text{RB}_2$, monomer unit \neq repeat unit



- in ARB, monomer unit = repeat unit



- ❑ $M_n = x_n M_0$

end group? ignore

- $M_0 = (\text{mean}) \text{ MM of monomer unit} = [\text{MM of repeat unit}] / 2$

Carothers theory for MM

Ch 3 SI 18

□ Carothers theory for stoichiometric balance (# A = # B)

□ $x_n = N_0/N$

- N_0 = initial # of molecules

- N = present # of molecules

□ extent of reaction [conversion] , p

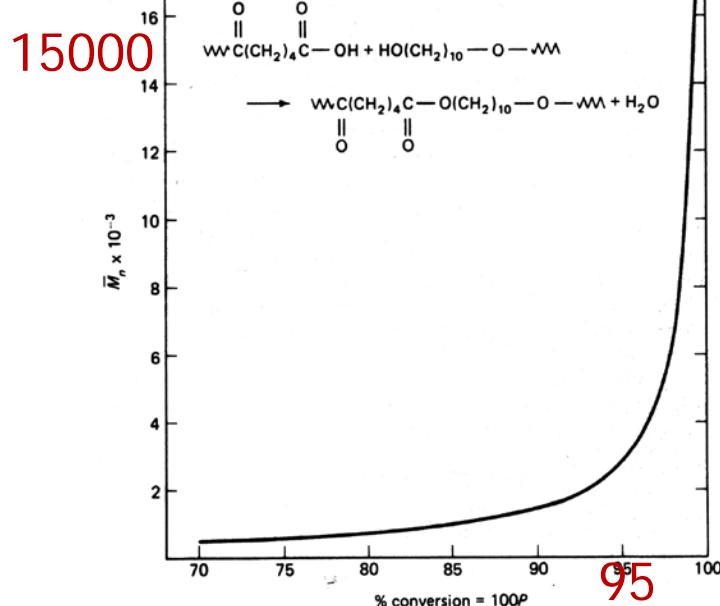
- $p = \# \text{ ft'nal group reacted}/\text{initial } \#$

$$= (N_0 - N)/N_0$$

- $N = N_0 (1 - p) \rightarrow$

$$\bar{x}_n = \frac{1}{1-p}$$

□ For high x (MM), high p is critical.



□ Carothers theory for imbalance

□ reactant ratio, $r = N_A/N_B$

- $N_A = \# \text{ of final group A} = N_B r \quad (r \leq 1, \text{ defined})$

- $N_0 = (N_A + N_B)/2 = N_B(1+r)/2$

- $N = [\{N_A - pN_A\} + \{N_B - pN_A\}] / 2 = \frac{rN_B(1-p) + N_B(1-rp)}{2}$

□ $x_n = N_0/N \rightarrow$

$$\bar{x}_n = \frac{1+r}{1+r-2rp}$$

- $r = 1 \rightarrow x_n = 1/(1-p)$

- $p = 1 \rightarrow x_n = (1+r)/(1-r)$

□ For high MM, r and p close to 1 necessary.

- $r = 1 \leftarrow \text{high purity monomer and accurate feed}$

Table 3.3 p31
When $p = r = .99$,
 $x = 67$

- ❑ controlling MM (not too high) by
 - ❑ stopping reaction early ~ not practical
 - ❑ imbalanced monomer feed
 - slight excess of one monomer
 - lowering r
 - chain end still reactive
 - ❑ addition of monofunctional monomer
 - $\text{RA}_2 + \text{RB}_2 + \text{RB}$ or $\text{ARB} + \text{RB}$
 - methanol in polyester synthesis
 - lowering r
 - chain end inactive

$$r = \frac{N_A}{N_B + 2N_{\text{RB}}}$$



1 RB as effective as 1 RB_2

Statistical theory for MM

Ch 3 SI 21

- developed by Flory
 - probability of finding a x -mer, chain with x monomer units

$$P(x) = p^{x-1}(1 - p)$$

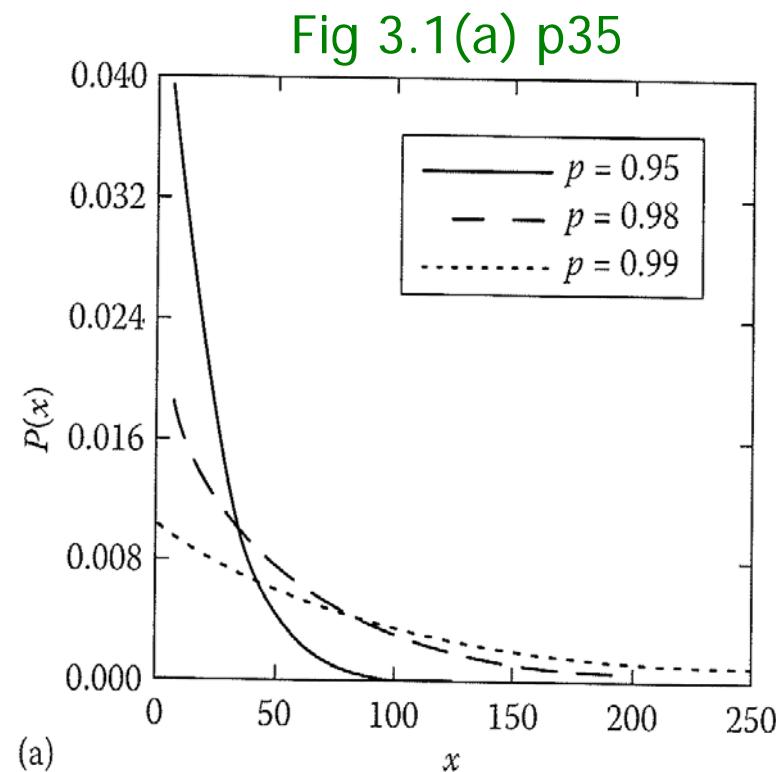
- number of x -mers

$$N_x = N P(x) = N_0 (1 - p)^2 p^{x-1}$$

$$N = N_0 (1 - p)$$

- $P(x)$ vs x

- number [mole] fraction
- Monomer is of the largest number.
- as p up, $P(x)$ gets broader



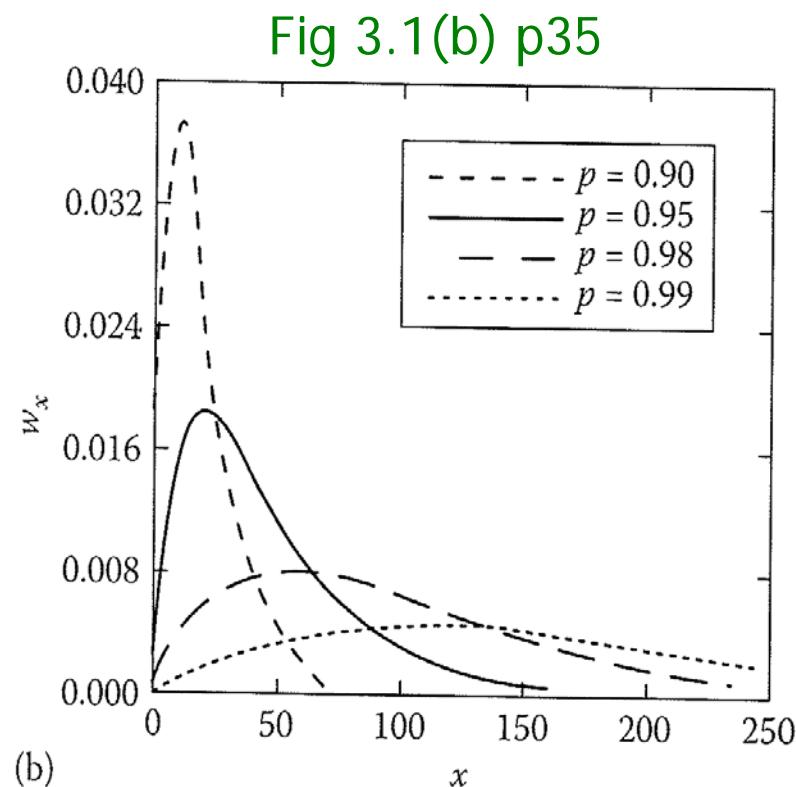
□ weight fraction of x-mer

$$\begin{aligned} w_x &= N_x M_x / N_0 M_0 = N_x x M_0 / N_0 M_0 = x N_x / N_0 \\ &= x (1 - p)^2 p^{x-1} \end{aligned}$$

$$N_x = N_0 (1 - p)^2 p^{x-1}$$

□ w_x vs x

- MM distribution curve usually presented
- As p up;
 - Max moves to higher x [MM].
 - Distribution gets broader.



□ M_n vs M_w

$$\begin{aligned} \square M_n &= \sum P(x)M_x = \sum (1-p)p^{x-1} xM_0 = M_0(1-p) \underbrace{\sum x p^{x-1}}_{x=1} \\ &= M_0 / (1-p) \quad x_n = 1/(1-p) \end{aligned}$$

$$\sum_{x=1}^{\infty} x p^{(x-1)} = (1-p)^{-2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \square M_w &= \sum w(x)M_x = \sum x(1-p)^2 p^{x-1} xM_0 = M_0(1-p)^2 \underbrace{\sum x^2 p^{x-1}}_{x=1} \\ &= M_0 (1+p)/(1-p) \end{aligned}$$

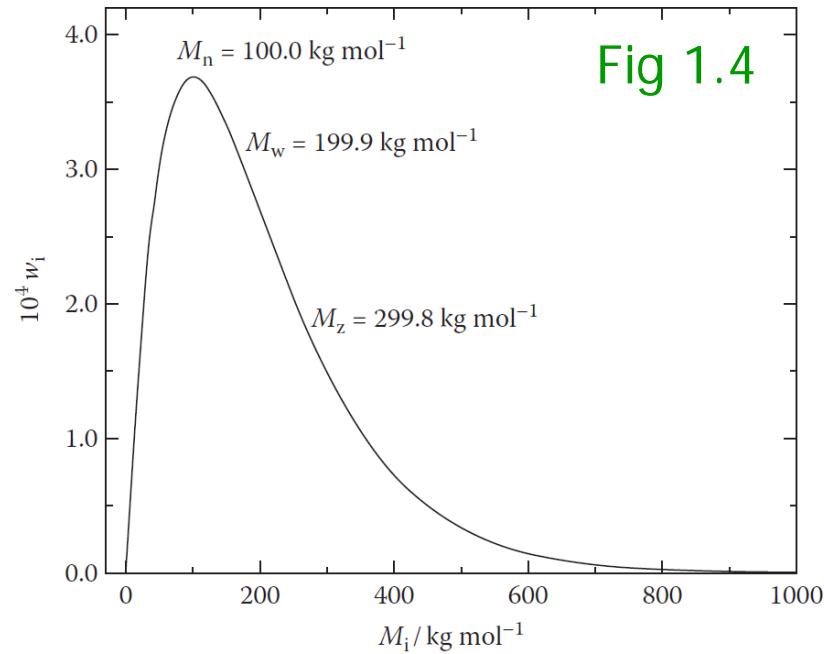
$$\sum_{x=1}^{\infty} x^2 p^{(x-1)} = (1+p)(1-p)^{-3}$$

□ PDI or D,

$$\frac{\bar{M}_w}{\bar{M}_n} = 1 + p$$

- 'most probable [Flory(-Schultz)] distribution'
- When $p \rightarrow 1$, PDI $\rightarrow 2$

- ❑ MM distribution
- ❑ Flory distribution $\sim M_n/M_w/M_z = 1/2/3$ (when $p \approx 1$)
- ❑ theoretically PDI < 2 ; in practice PDI > 2
- ❑ distribution curve and avg MM



max at M_n ?

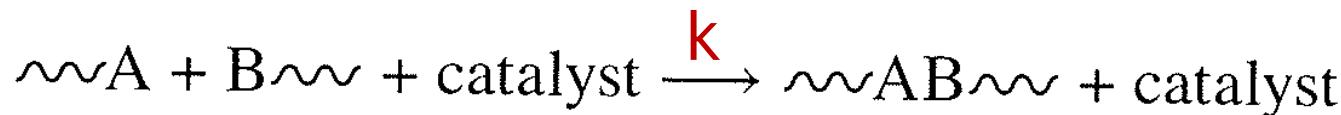
$$w_x = x (1 - p)^2 p^{x-1}$$

$$dw_x/dx = 0 \rightarrow$$

$$x = -1/\ln p \approx 1/(1-p) = x_n$$

Kinetics of step polym'n

Ch 3 SI 25



□ equal reactivity \rightarrow all k's are equal indep of size

□ rate of **external-catalyzed** polym'n

$$\square -d[A]/dt = -d[B]/dt = k'[A][B][\text{cat}] = k[A][B]$$

$$\cancel{\leftarrow} [A] = [B] = c$$

$$\square -dc/dt = kc^2$$

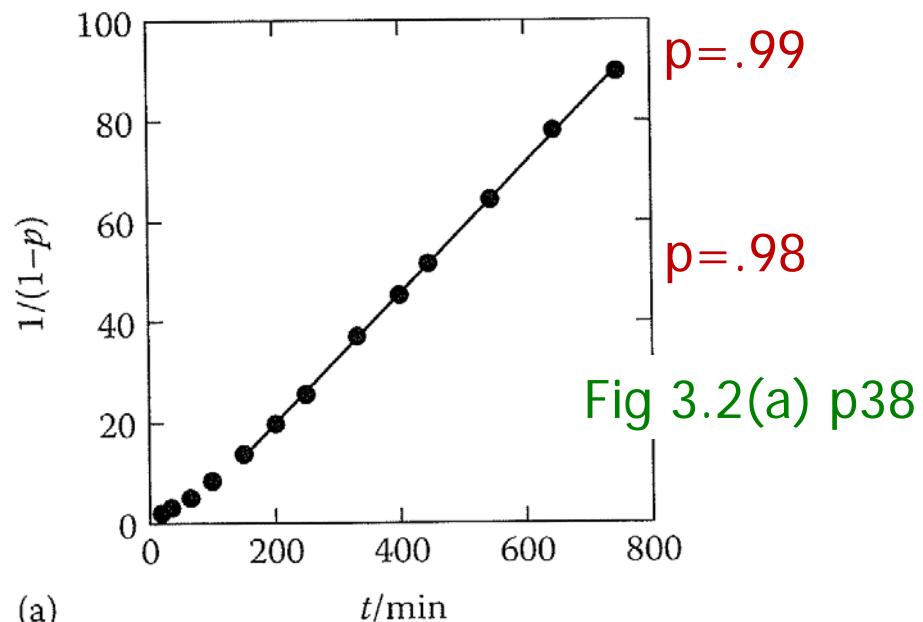
$$\square \int (-1/c^2) dc = \int k dt$$

$$\square (1/c) - (1/c_0) = kt$$

$$\cancel{\leftarrow} c = c_0 (1-p)$$

$$\square 1/(1-p) = c_0 kt + 1$$

$$k'[\text{cat}] = k$$



❑ rate of self-catalyzed polym'n

- A is catalyst awa ftnal group (eg -COOH in polyesterification)

❑ $-d[A]/dt = k''[A][B][A]$

↙ $[A] = [B] = c$

❑ $-dc/dt = k''c^3$

❑ $(1/c^2) - (1/c_0^2) = 2k''t$

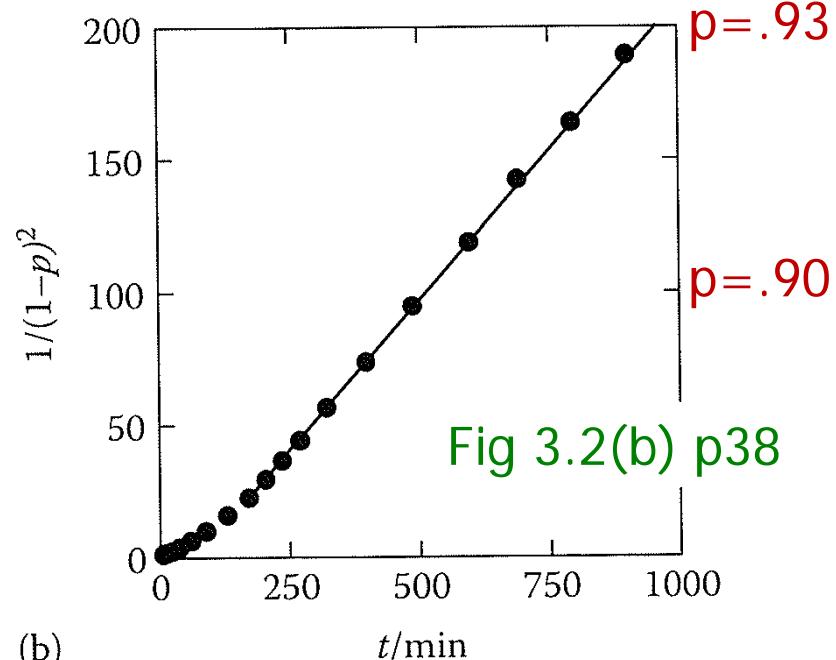
↙ $c = c_0 (1-p)$

❑ $1/(1-p)^2 = 2c_0^2k''t + 1$

❑ very slow ~ impractical

❑ Actually, equilibrium rxn

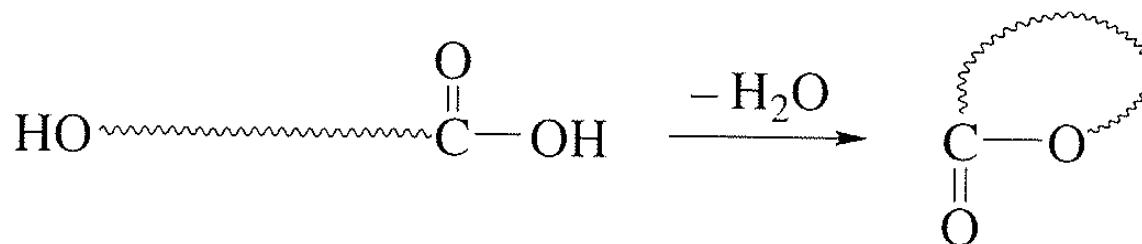
❑ Equilibrium consideration requires removal of eliminate products!



(b)

Ring formation (cyclization)

Ch 3 SI 27



- Cyclization favored for 5, 6, 7-membered rings.
- Cyclization interferes the growth → lower MM
- intramolecular vs intermolecular rxn
 - unimolecular vs bimolecular rxn
 - inter favored at high conc'n → bulk process preferred

Step polym'n processes

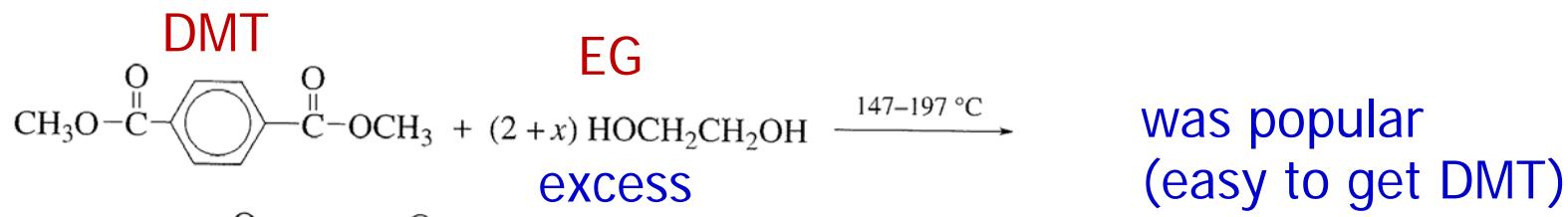
Ch 3 SI 28

- ❑ For high MM
 - ❑ high conversion ($p \rightarrow 1$)
 - long reaction time, high Temp
 - use of catalyst
 - shifting equilibrium by removing small molecule like water
 - may need high vacuum
 - ❑ stoichiometric balance ($r \rightarrow 1$)
 - use of high purity monomer
 - self-polycondensation, ARB
 - multi-stage polym'n
 - ❑ avoiding cyclization
 - bulk, no solvent

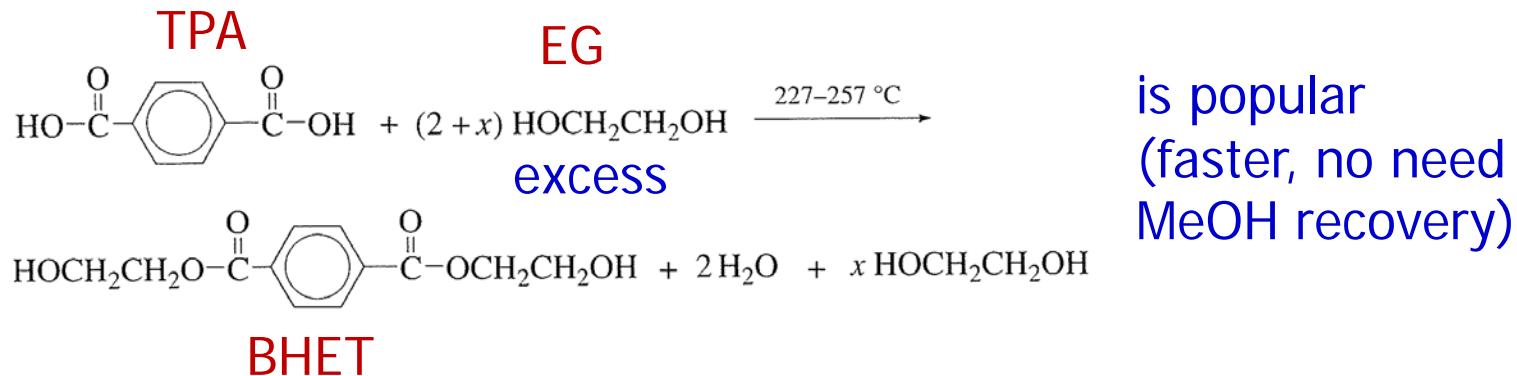
Polyethylene terephthalate (PET)

Ch 3 SI 29

- ❑ direct esterification of TPA and EG not popular
 - ↳ difficulty in stoichiometry control at high Temp
 - ❑ (two-stage) transesterification preferred
 - ❑ 1st stage

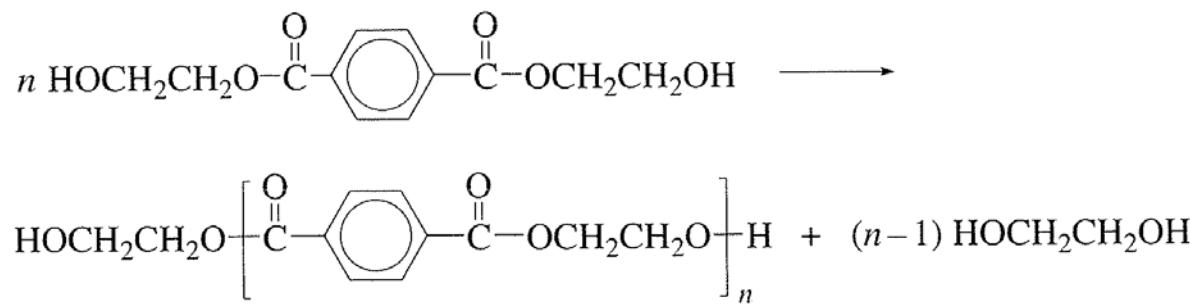


or



□ 2nd stage

- at higher Temp
- EG pumped out under high vac



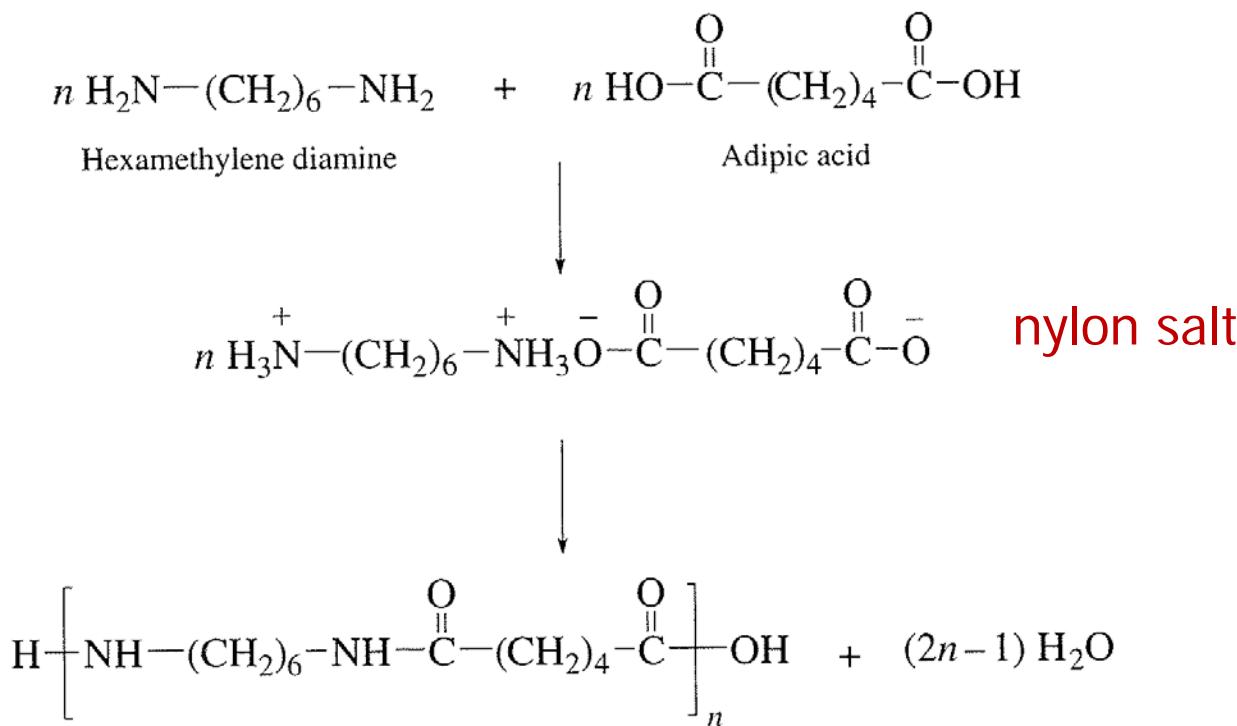
□ automatic stoichiometry

Nylon 66

Ch 3 SI 31

❑ melt polym'n of 'nylon salt'

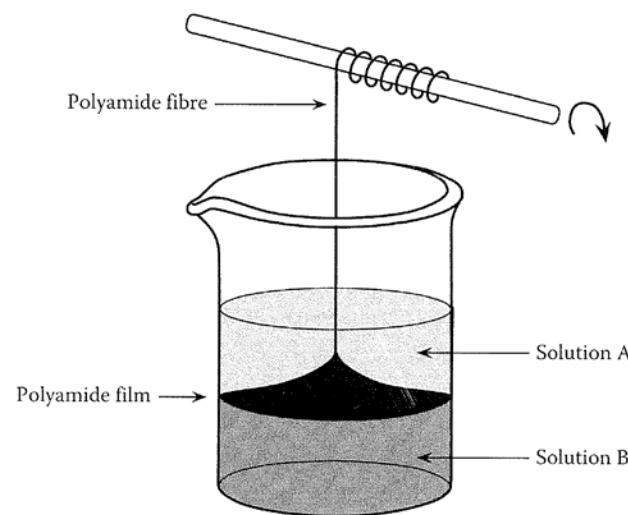
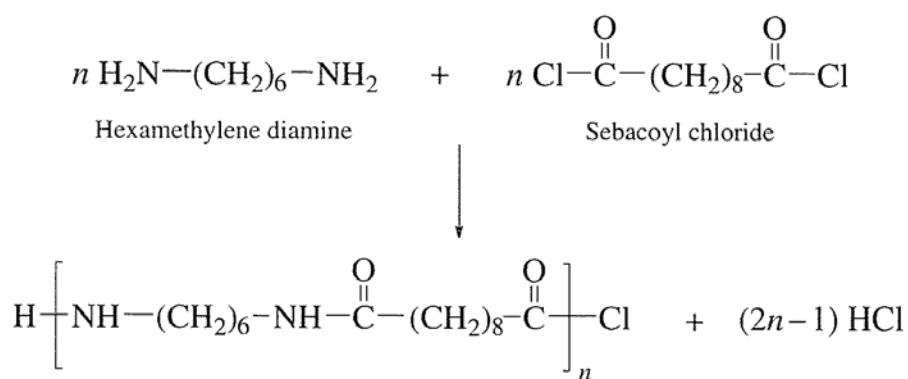
- separated by recrystallization
- stoichiometry kept



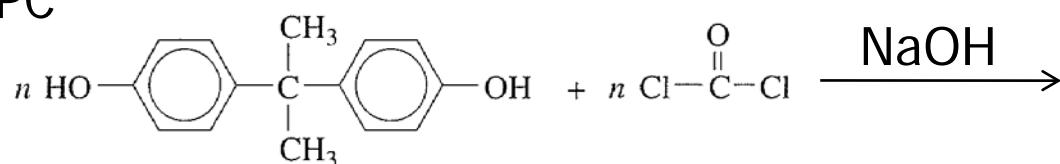
Interfacial polym'n

Ch 3 SI 32

- polycondensation at aqueous/organic interface
 - Reaction must be fast.
 - use of diacid halide rather than diacid
 - Schotten-Baumann reaction



- ❑ High MM achieved ← stoichiometry kept
 - ❑ typically with vigorous agitation
 - commercial process for PC



Polymerization processes

Ch 3 SI 33

- ❑ 4 types
 - ❑ bulk polym'n ~ monomer (+ initiator) only
 - ❑ solution polym'n ~ monomer(s) (+ initiator) in solvent
 - polymer precipitates ~ precipitation polym'n
 - ❑ suspension polym'n ~ monomer + initiator in non-solvent
 - ❑ emulsion polym'n ~ monomer and initiator in different phase
- ❑ only bulk and solution processes for step polym'n
 - ❑ bulk more favored
 - low viscosity
 - low heat evolution

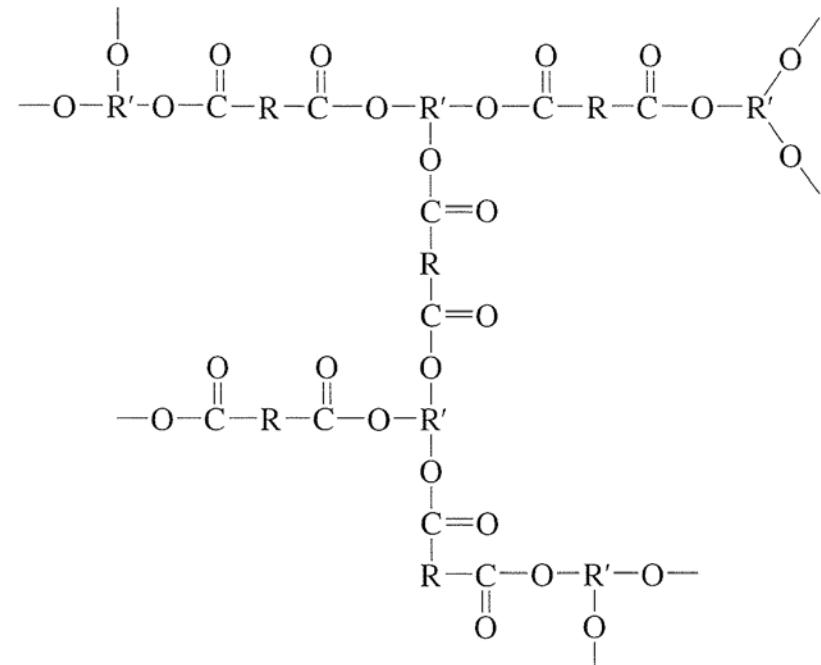
Non-linear step polym'n

Ch 3 SI 34

- monomer with $f > 2 \rightarrow$ branching \rightarrow crosslinking



- $\text{RA}_2 + \text{RB}_f$
- $\text{RA}_2 + \text{RB}_2 + \text{RB}_f \sim \text{general}$
- $\text{ARB} + \text{RA}_2 + \text{RB}_f$
- $\text{ARB} + \text{RB}_f \rightarrow \text{branching only}$
- $\text{ARB}_f \rightarrow \text{HBP}$



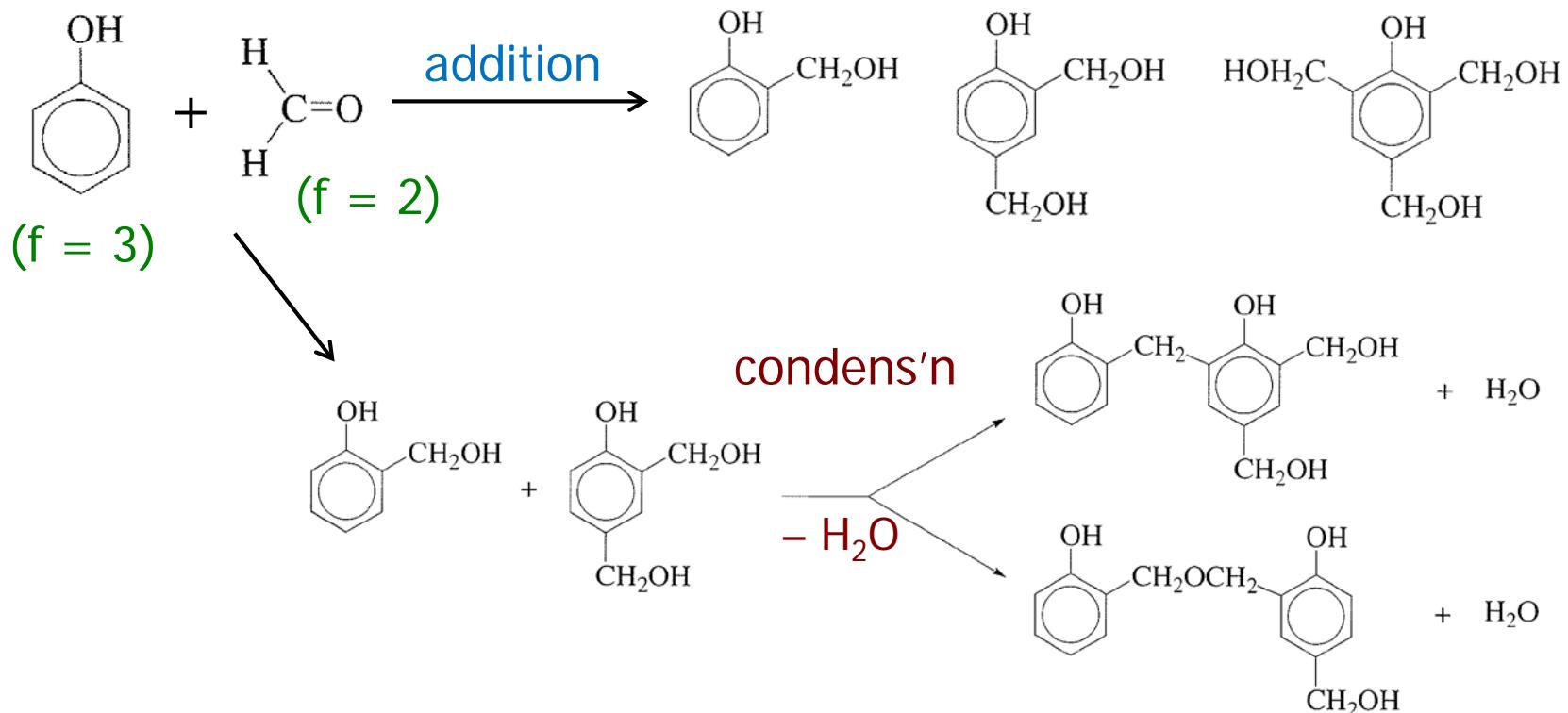
- gelation \sim network formation
- gel point \sim at which the first network molecule is formed

Network polymers

Ch 3 SI 35

- p42 'Network polymers are termed resin.' ~ wrong
 - network polymers = crosslinked polymers
 - resin [樹脂] = thermoplastic resin + thermosetting resin

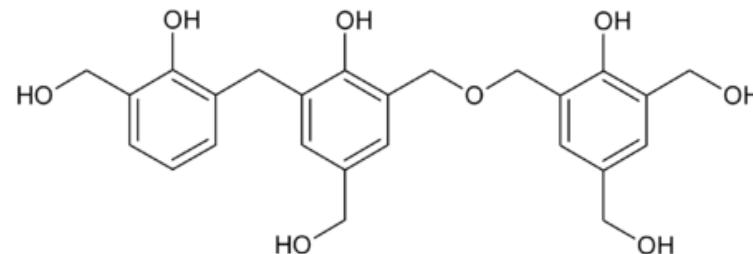
□ phenol-formaldehyde resin [phenolic resin]



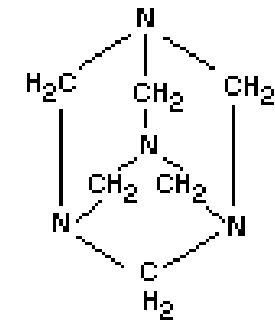
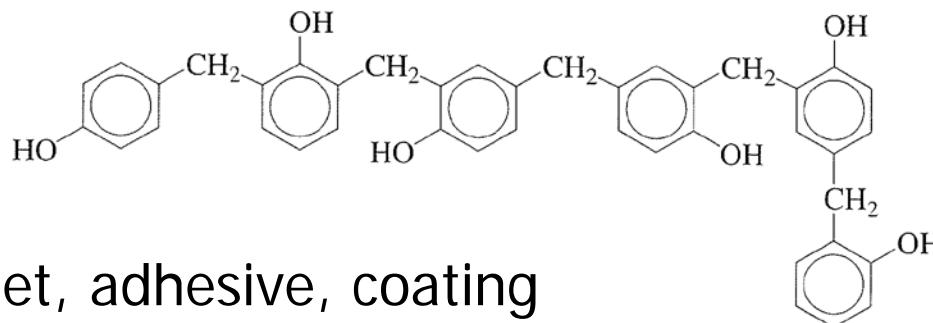
- phenol-formaldehyde resin (cont'd)

- prepolymers

- resole [resol] ~ aldehyde xs → more addition → polyalcohol → cured by heat



- novolac [novolak] ~ phenol xs → more condens'n → polyphenol → cured by hardener like 'hexa' (HMTA)



- thermoset, adhesive, coating

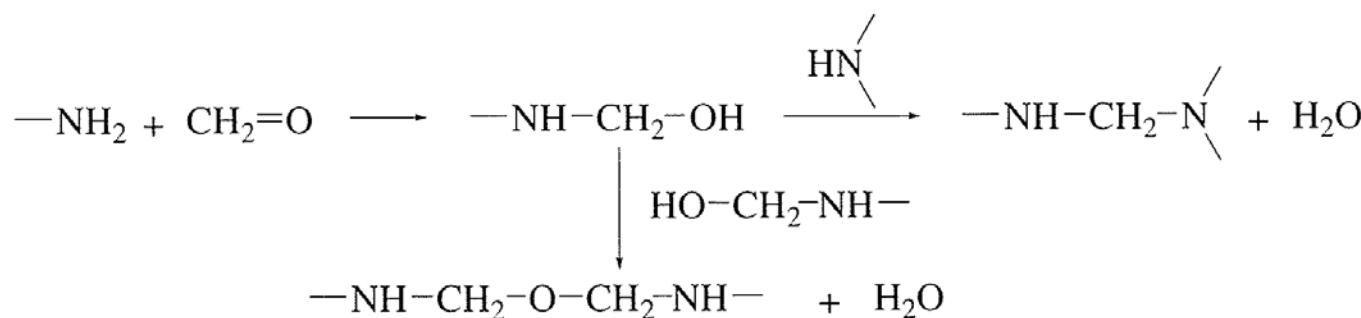
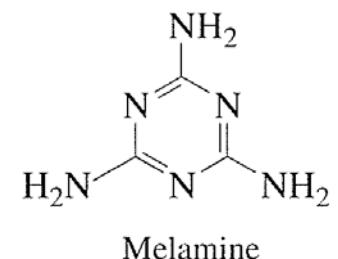
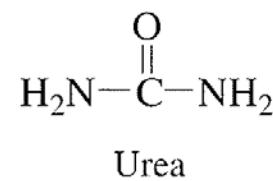
- amino resins = UF resin + MF resin

urea-formaldehyde resin

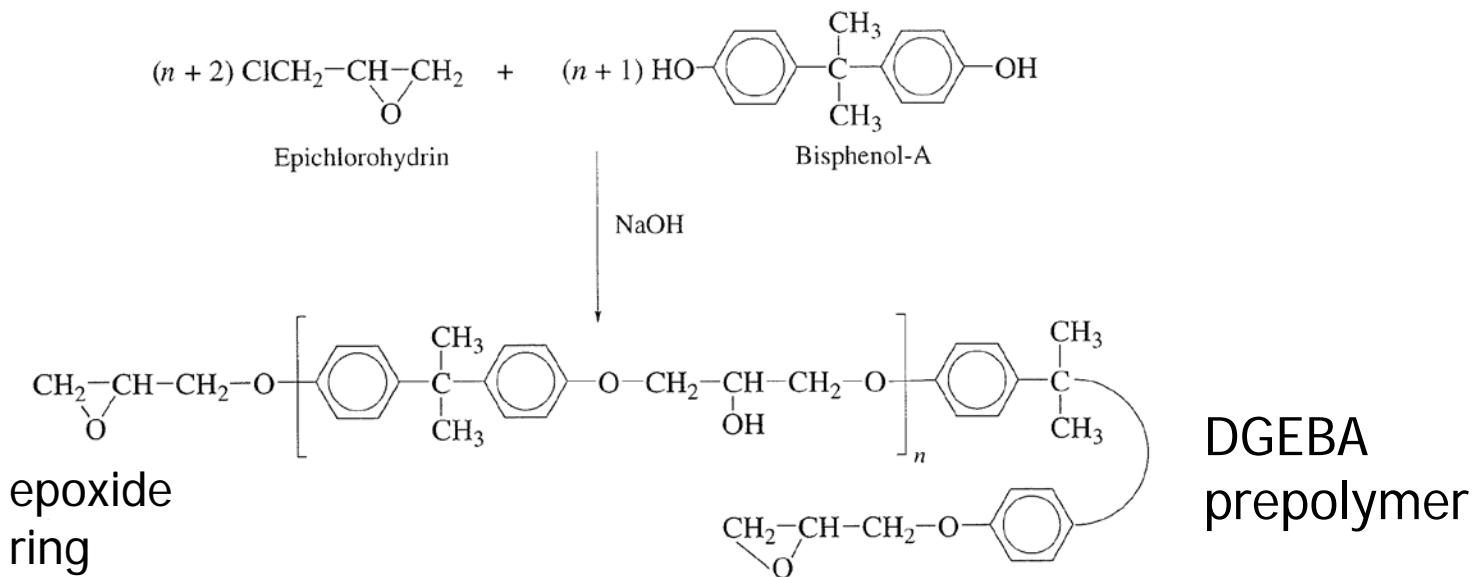
- urea ~ $f = 4$
 - $U + F \rightarrow$ prepolymer \rightarrow hardening
 - molding, laminating, adhesive

melamine-formaldehyde resin

- melamine ~ $f = 6$
 - reaction, application similar to PF and UF
 - utensil, table-top Formica®



□ epoxy resins = epoxy



□ cured by hardener

- amine curing (f of DGEBA = 2)
 - tertiary amine
 - multifunctional amine pp44-45

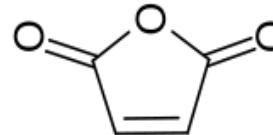
curing = crosslinking
hardener = curing agent

□ epoxies (cont'd)



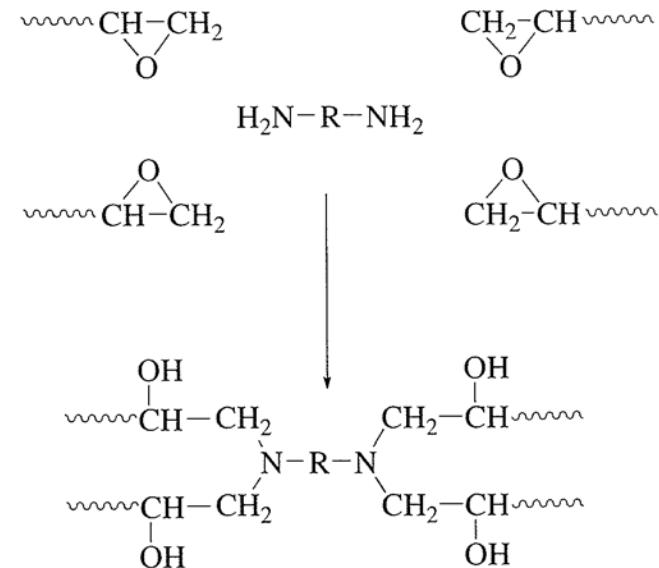
Diethylenetriamine (DETA), $f = 5$

■ anhydride curing (f of DGEBA > 2)



$f = 2$

catalyzing rxn of -OH



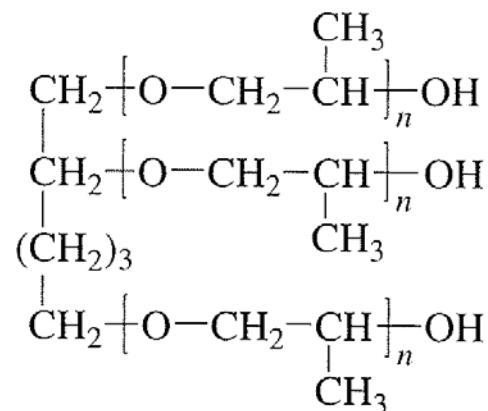
□ variety of property and application

- dep on structure of prepolymer and hardener
- (high-performance) composite matrix, adhesive, coating
- electronics part, insulator (PCB)

❑ network PU's

□ diisocyanate + polyol

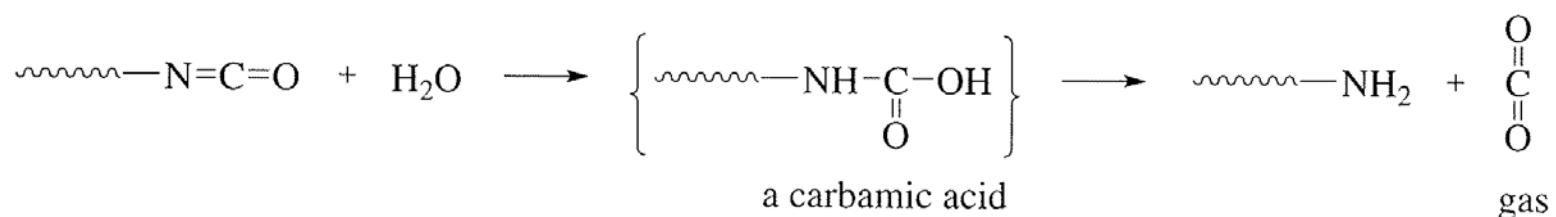
- polyether polyol
 - polyester polyol



- ❑ property dep on length of polyol

- rigid ($MM < 1000$) to flexible ($MM > 2000$)

□ elastomer, foam (sponge)



Carothers theory of gelation

Ch 3 SI 41

- gelation [crosslinking] at $x_n = \infty$

- avg functionality, f_{av}

$$f_{av} = \frac{\sum N_i f_i}{\sum N_i}$$



- extent of reaction, p

$$p = \frac{2(N_0 - N)}{N_0 f_{av}} = \frac{2}{f_{av}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\bar{x}_n} \right)$$

$$x_n = N_0/N$$

- gel point, p_c

$$p_c = \frac{2}{f_{av}}$$

- $f_{av} \uparrow \rightarrow p_c \downarrow$ Table 3.4 p47

- valid only for stoichiometric balance ($r = N_A/N_B = 1$)

- like 3 mol of diacid + 2 mol of glycerine

- $f_{av} = 12/5 = 2.4 \rightarrow p_c = .83$

- for non-stoichiometric system, See Odian pp106-108

Statistical theory of gelation

Ch 3 SI 42

- developed by Flory
- For $RA_2 + RB_2 + RA_f$
- crosslinking when there exist chain segment like

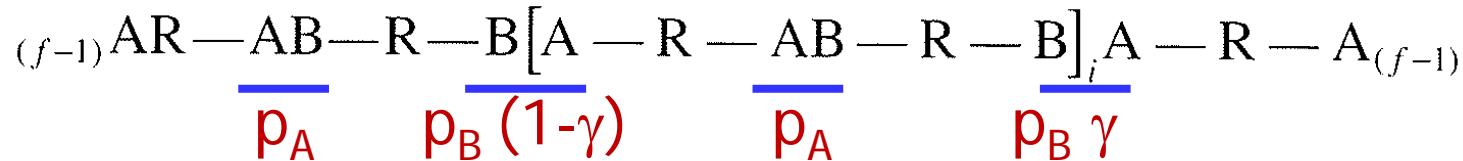


- branching coeff, α
 - probability of a chain branching point (from A_f) meets another chain from branching (A_f)
 - probability of having the above chain segment
- gelation when $\alpha \geq 1/(f-1)$
 - For $f = 3$, gelation when $\alpha \geq 1/2$.
 - When $\alpha < 1/(f-1)$, only branching occur.

□ probability of the chain segment

$$= p_A [p_B(1 - \gamma)p_A]^i p_B \gamma$$

$$\gamma = N_A \text{ in } A_f / \text{total } N_A$$



$$\alpha = p_A p_B \gamma \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} [p_A p_B (1 - \gamma)]^i = p_A p_B \gamma [1 - p_A p_B (1 - \gamma)]^{-1}$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} x^i = \frac{1}{(1-x)} \quad \text{for } x < 1$$

□ gel point,

$$\alpha_c = \frac{1}{(f-1)}$$

$$r = N_B/N_A = p_B/p_A; r \leq 1$$

$$(p_A p_B)_c = \frac{1}{1 + \gamma(f-2)}$$

$$(p_A)_c = [r + r\gamma(f-2)]^{-1/2}$$

$$(p_B)_c = r^{1/2} [1 + \gamma(f-2)]^{-1/2}$$

Comparison of theories

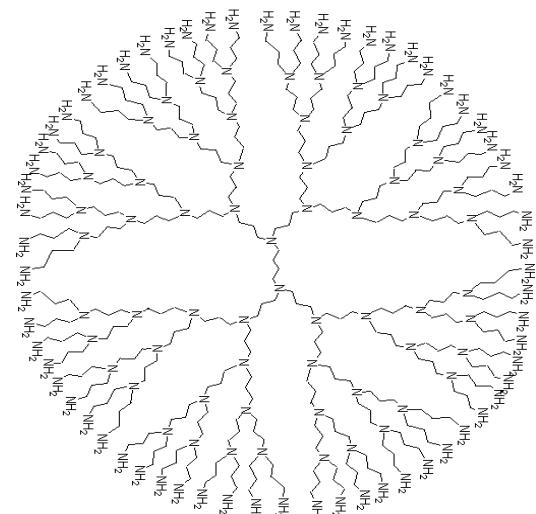
Ch 3 SI 44

- ❑ 3 mol of diacid + 2 mol of glycerine
 - ❑ by Carothers ~ $p_c = 2 / 2.4 = .833$
 - ❑ by statistical ~ $p_c = 2^{-\gamma/2} = .707$
 - $r = 1, \gamma = 1, f = 3$
 - ❑ experimental (with a few acids), $p_c = .765$
- ❑ Carothers theory overestimates p_c .
 - ❑ Molecules larger than average present, which gel earlier.
- ❑ Statistical theory underestimates p_c .
 - ❑ Cyclization wastes reactants.
 - ❑ Reactivity of functional groups in A_f not the same.

Dendrimers

Ch 3 SI 45

- dendritic polymer with regular structure
 - highly branched to form sphere
 - monodisperse MM and symmetric
 - internal void and dense surface
- property-applications
 - compact, no entanglement
→ low viscosity → rheology modifier
 - internal void → holds catalyst, drug
 - high conc'n of surface group
→ attaching sensor, drug, gene



□ synthesis

□ # of branching unit N_{br}

$$N_{\text{br}} = \sum_{x=1}^g f_{\text{core}}(f_{\text{br}} - 1)^{x-1} \quad x \sim \text{generation}$$

- increases rapidly with generation

□ starburst limit

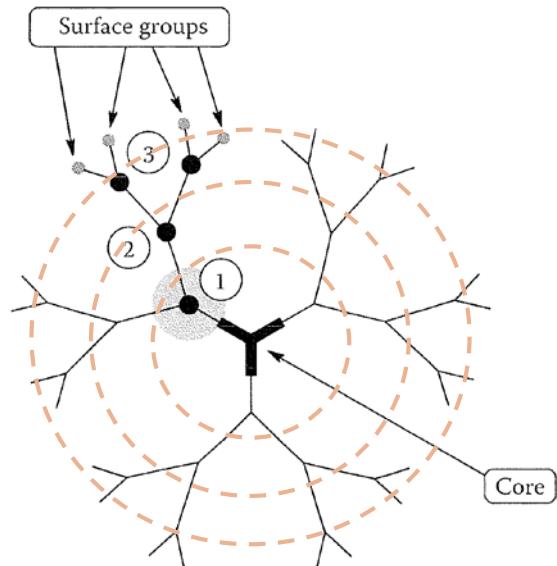
- crowding at surface → imperfect surface, broken symmetry
- 10th generation when $f_{\text{br}} = 3$; 5G for tetrafunctional

□ methods ~ multi-step ← multi-generation

- divergent, convergent, mixed, double exponential

□ reactions

- must be fast and clean



□ divergent approach

- G by G from core
- repeated coupling – activating [deprotecting]

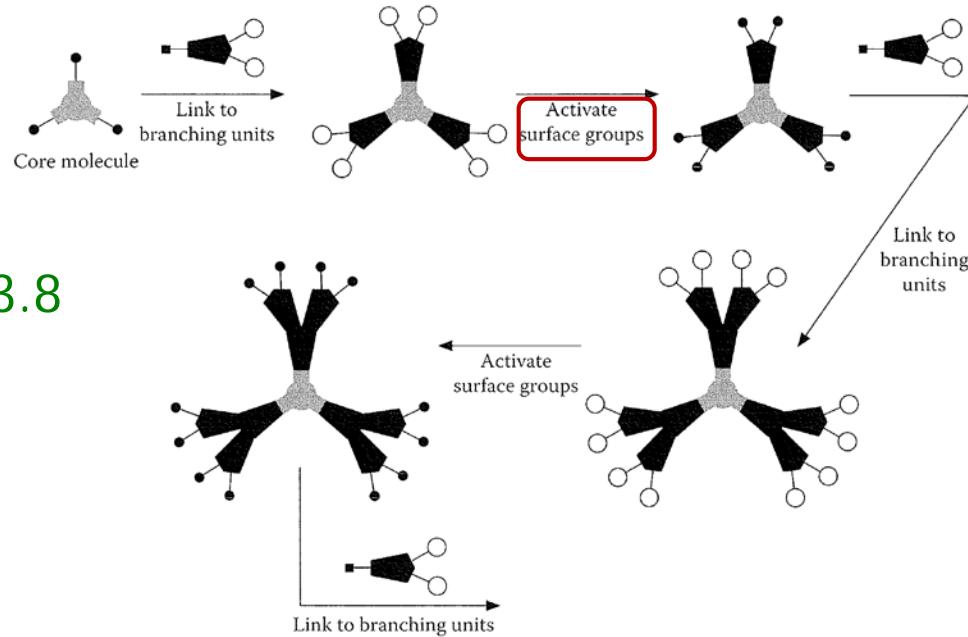
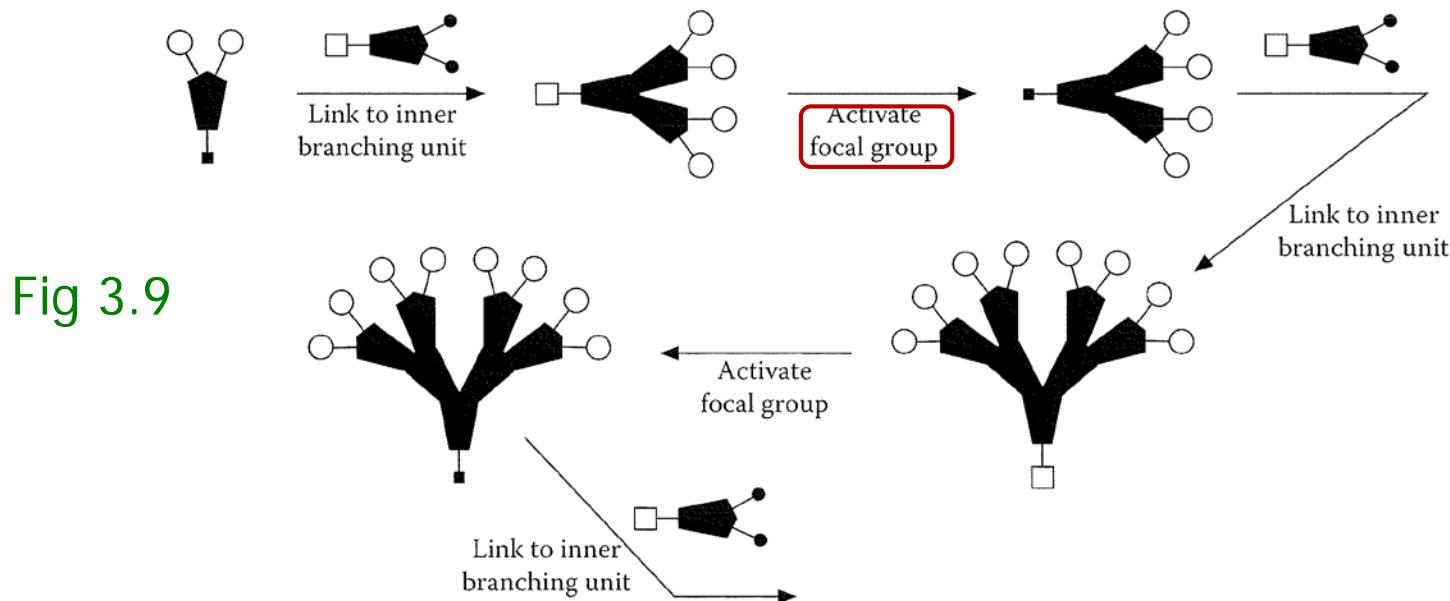


Fig 3.8

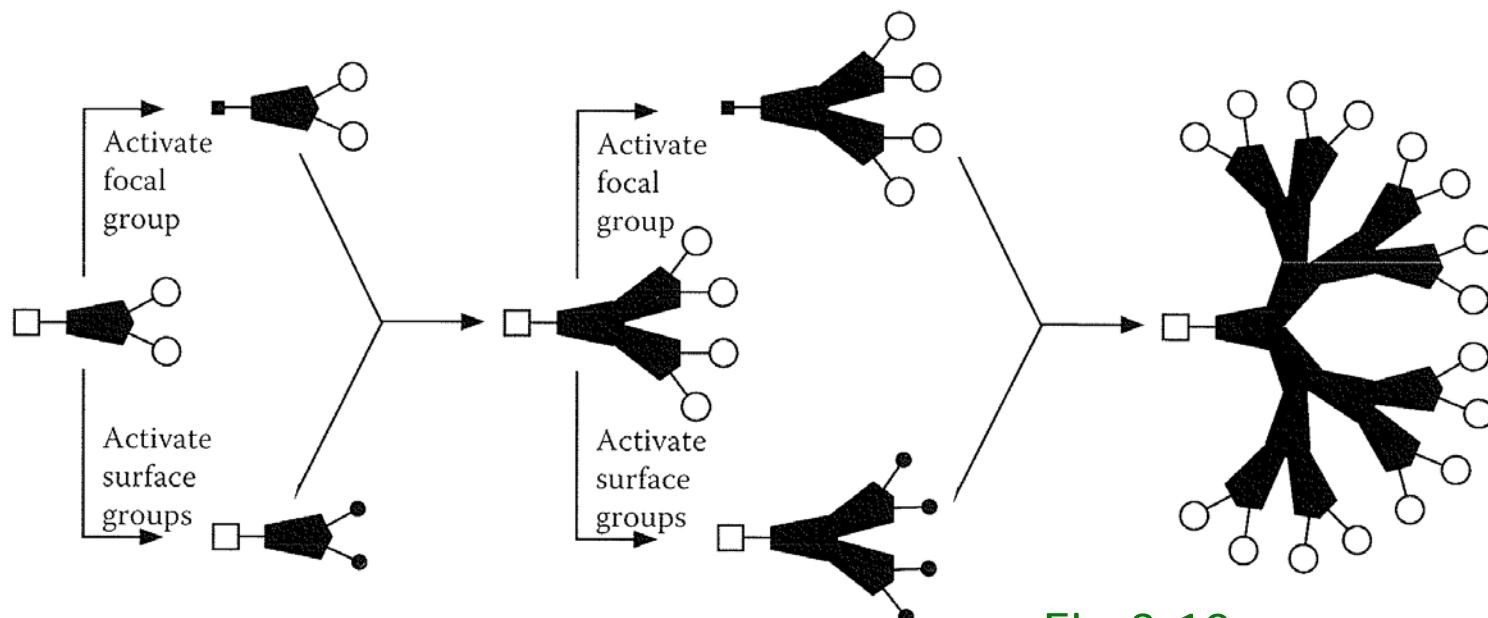
eg, p52

□ convergent approach

- wedges [dendrons] connected to core
- coupling – activating also
- starburst limit also
- possible to prepare chemically-asymmetric dendrimer



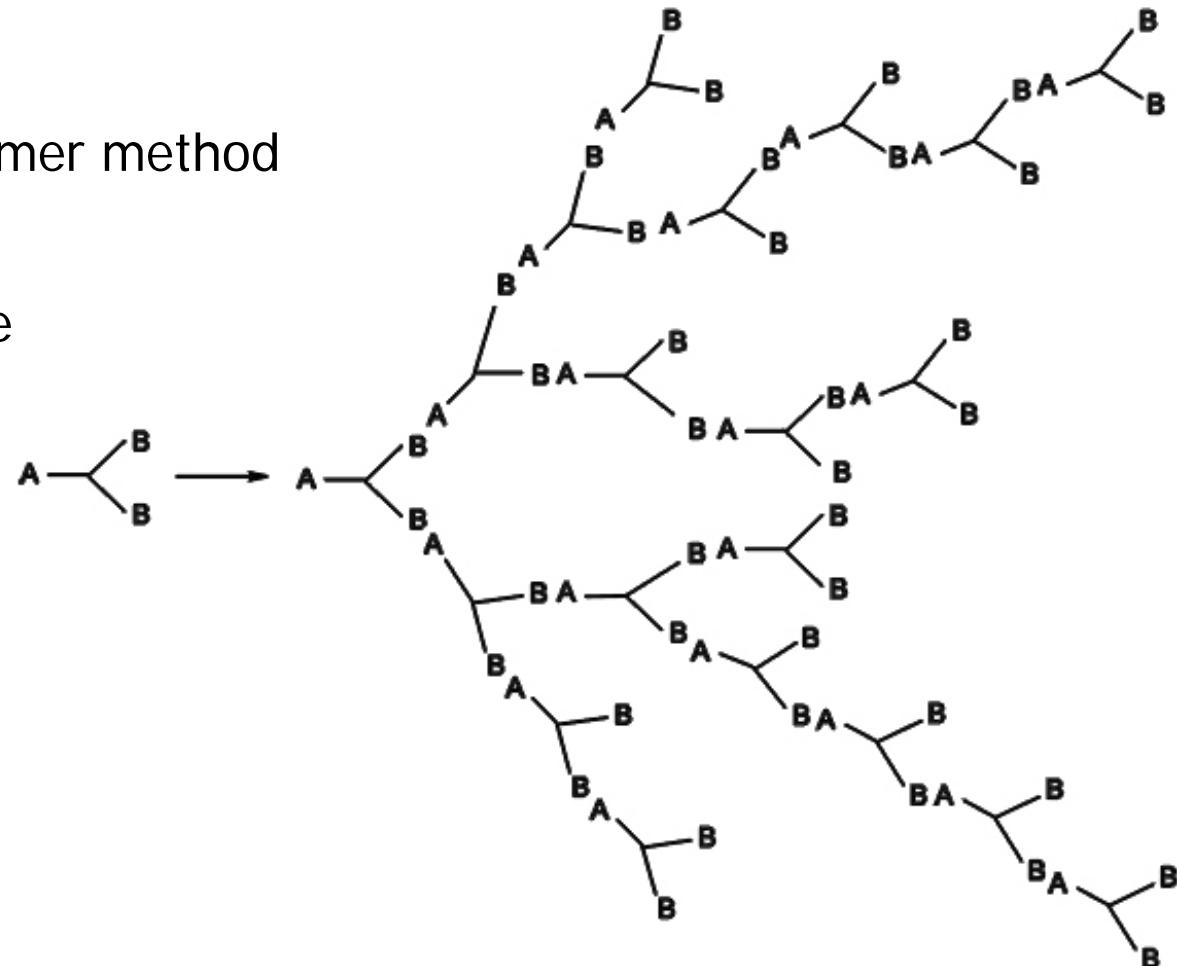
- divergent and convergent mixed
 - wedges linked to 3-4 G dendrimer from divergent
- double exponential approach
 - coupling – activating surface and focal group



Hyperbranched polymers (HBP)

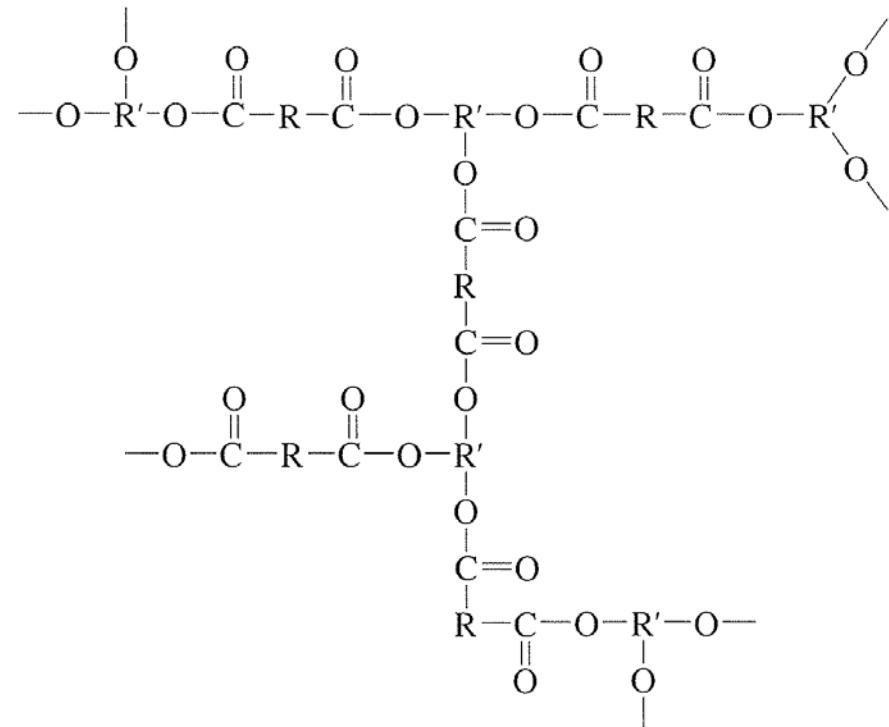
Ch 3 SI 50

- dendritic polymer with **irregular** structure
- 'one-pot' synthesis
- ARB_x monomer
 - AB_x or single monomer method
 - x ≥ 2
 - no gelation possible



□ $\text{RA}_2 + \text{RB}_f$

- A2B3 or double monomer method
- $f > 2$
- can crosslink
- stop before gel point

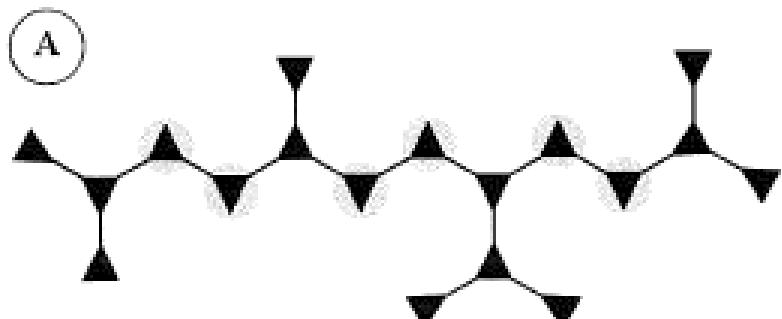


- ❑ structure
- ❑ distribution of MM and branching
- ❑ branching factor [(average) degree of branching]

$$\text{branching factor} = \frac{N_{\text{fbr}} + N_{\text{term}}}{N_{\text{total}}}$$

■ $N_{\text{total}} = N_{\text{fbr}} + N_{\text{term}} + N_{\text{linear}}$

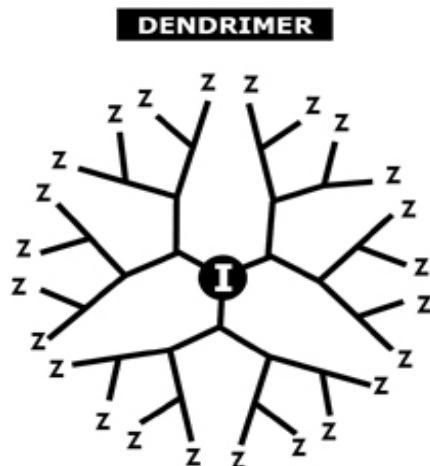
Fig 3.11 p56



$$\text{Branching factor} = 12/18 = 0.67$$

- ❑ max 0.5 for AB_2 , 0.8 for A_2B_3 HBP

- ❑ property-application
- ❑ irregular but close to spherical
 - irregular inner voids ~ carrier
 - low viscosity ~ rheology modifier
- ❑ dense surface with functional B



- Well-defined core (I)
- Maximum branching
- Isomolecularity
- Large-number of end-groups (Z)
- Almost spherical shape
- Intramolecular cargo space

