

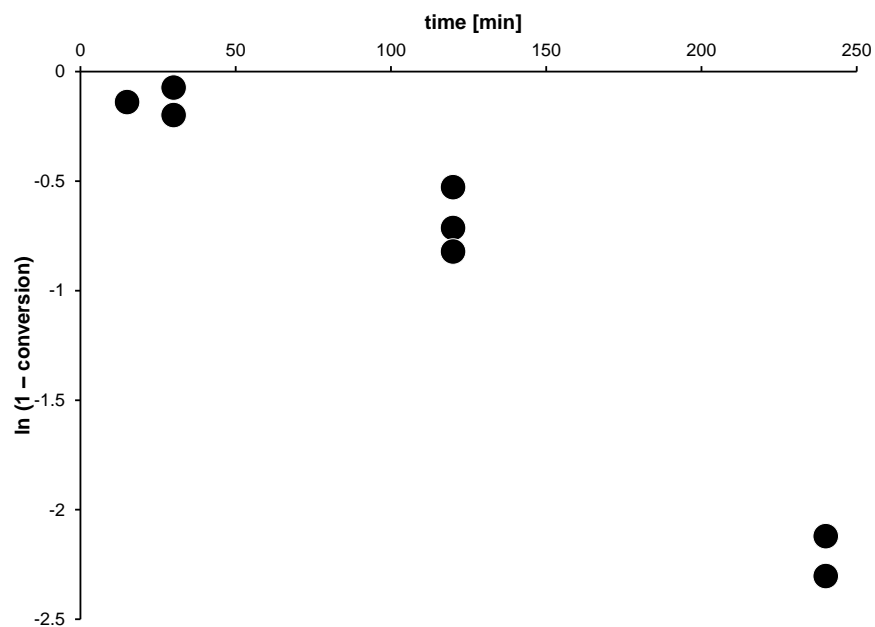
## Lactide Polymerization Catalyzed by Manganese Complexes

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### Supporting Information

- **Figure S1.** Linearized plot (assuming a reaction 1<sup>st</sup> order in lactide) for polymerizations with 5a·MeOH.
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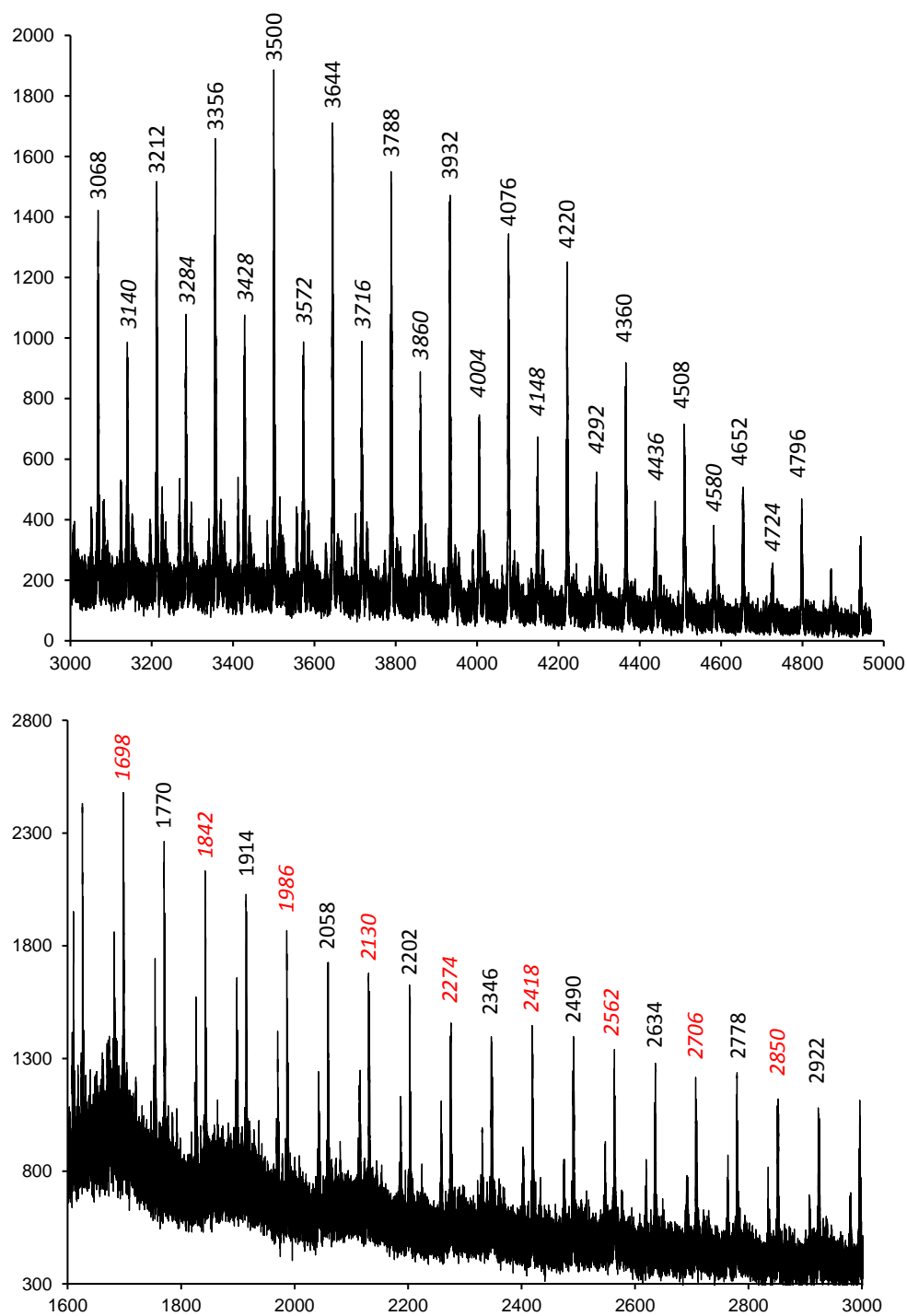


**Figure S1.** Linearized plot (assuming a reaction 1<sup>st</sup> order in lactide) for polymerizations with 5a·MeOH.

**Table S1. Conversions of all *rac*-lactide polymerization experiments <sup>a</sup>**

Catalyst	Alcohol added	Reaction time [min]	Conversion [%]			
			run 1	run 2	run 3	run 4
<b>3a</b>		120	49 <sup>c</sup>	53 <sup>d</sup>		
<b>3a</b>		240	52 <sup>c</sup>	43 <sup>d</sup>		
<b>3a</b>		360	91 <sup>c</sup>	47 <sup>c</sup>	56 <sup>d</sup>	51 <sup>d</sup>
<b>3b</b>		240	38	71 <sup>c</sup>		
<b>3b</b>		360	48	81 <sup>c</sup>		
<b>4a</b> ·MeOH		15	8	7		
<b>4a</b> ·MeOH		30	56 <sup>b</sup>	7	5	10
<b>4a</b> ·MeOH		60	6			
<b>4a</b> ·MeOH		120	7			
<b>4a</b> ·MeOH	1 MeOH	15	7	4	18	
<b>4a</b> ·MeOH	1 MeOH	30	5	0	0	8
<b>4a</b> ·MeOH	2 MeOH	5	4			
<b>4a</b> ·MeOH	2 MeOH	15	49	18	4	8
<b>4a</b> ·MeOH	2 MeOH	30	47	14		
<b>4a</b> ·MeOH	2 MeOH	60	48	17	61	
<b>4a</b> ·MeOH	2 MeOH	90	17	27		
<b>4a</b> ·MeOH	2 MeOH	120	39	88		
<b>4a</b> ·MeOH	2 MeOH	240	30			
<b>4a</b> ·MeOH	5 BnOH	60	16	22		
<b>4a</b> ·MeOH	5 BnOH	120	32			
<b>4a</b> ·MeOH	5 BnOH	240	43			
<b>4a</b> ·MeOH	15 BnOH	30	65	37		
<b>4a</b> ·MeOH	35 BnOH	30	89	59		
<b>4a</b> ·MeOH	95 BnOH	30	97	90		
<b>4a</b> ·MeOH	1 NaOMe	60	27			
<b>4a</b> ·MeOH	1 NaOMe	120	13			
<b>4b</b> ·MeOH	2 MeOH	5	3			
<b>4b</b> ·MeOH	2 MeOH	15	4	5		
<b>4b</b> ·MeOH	2 MeOH	30	5	4	4	
<b>4b</b> ·MeOH	2 MeOH	60	3	7	4	
<b>4b</b> ·MeOH	1 NaOMe	120	1			
<b>5a</b> ·MeOH		15	13			
<b>5a</b> ·MeOH		30	18	7		
<b>5a</b> ·MeOH		120	51	41 <sup>c</sup>	56 <sup>d</sup>	
<b>5a</b> ·MeOH		240	88	90 <sup>c</sup>	88 <sup>d</sup>	70 <sup>e</sup>
<b>5a</b> ·MeOH	5 BnOH	30	17			
<b>5a</b> ·MeOH	5 BnOH	60	19	27		
<b>5a</b> ·MeOH	5 BnOH	120	30			
<b>5a</b> ·MeOH	5 BnOH	240	95			
NaOMe		360	29	38		

<sup>a</sup> Conditions: *rac*-lactide : catalyst = 200:1, sealed tube under N<sub>2</sub>, neat monomer, 130 °C. <sup>b</sup> Outlier, not reported in the main text. <sup>c</sup> *rac*-lactide : catalyst = 100:1. <sup>d</sup> *rac*-lactide : catalyst = 300:1. <sup>e</sup> *rac*-lactide : catalyst = 1000:1.



**Figure S2.** MALDI spectra of polymerizations with **5a**·MeOH, lactide:catalyst = 100. Top: after 2 h, bottom: after 4 h. Numbers in italics correspond to  $m/z = (n+0.5) \cdot M(\text{lactide})$ , thus polymer resulting from transesterification reactions.  $\text{Na}^+$  was added to the matrix and incorporated in the polymer ion. A second small series with  $\Delta m/z = -16$  was attributed to polymer containing  $\text{Li}^+$  instead of  $\text{Na}^+$ .

**Table S2. Comparison of calculated elemental analyses from X-ray structural analysis and combustion analyses after drying. Most data indicate partial or total loss of co-crystallized solvent on drying.**

Compound	Formula according to X-ray structure	Proposed formula after drying	Combustion analysis
<b>3a</b>	C <sub>35</sub> H <sub>57</sub> MnN <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> ·MeOH C, 67.47; H, 9.60; N, 4.37	C <sub>35</sub> H <sub>57</sub> MnN <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> ·MeOH C, 67.47; H, 9.60; N, 4.37	C, 67.00; H, 9.26; N, 4.44
<b>3b</b>		C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>21</sub> Cl <sub>4</sub> MnN <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> C, 43.71; H, 4.05; N, 5.37.	C, 43.35; H, 3.67; N, 5.38
<b>4a</b> ·MeOH	C <sub>36</sub> H <sub>50</sub> ClMnN <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> (MeOH)·H <sub>2</sub> O C, 65.04; H, 8.26; N, 4.10	C <sub>36</sub> H <sub>50</sub> ClMnN <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> (MeOH) <sub>0.5</sub> C, 67.53; H, 8.07; N, 4.31.	C, 67.72; H, 8.14; N, 4.29
<b>4b</b> ·MeOH	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>18</sub> Cl <sub>5</sub> MnN <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> ·2 MeOH C, 42.99; H, 4.08; N, 4.36	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>18</sub> Cl <sub>5</sub> MnN <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> C, 43.60; H, 3.14; N, 4.84	C, 43.49; H, 2.95; N, 4.62
<b>5a</b> ·MeOH	C <sub>38</sub> H <sub>57</sub> MnN <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> ·MeOH C, 67.61; H, 8.87; N, 4.04	C <sub>38</sub> H <sub>57</sub> MnN <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> C, 69.07; H, 8.69; N, 4.24	C, 69.10; H, 8.58; N, 4.34