

## Electronic Supplementary Information

Efficient synthesis of 2-methylene-4-phenyl-1,3-dioxolane, a  
cyclic ketene acetal for controlling the NMP of methyl  
methacrylate and conferring tunable degradability

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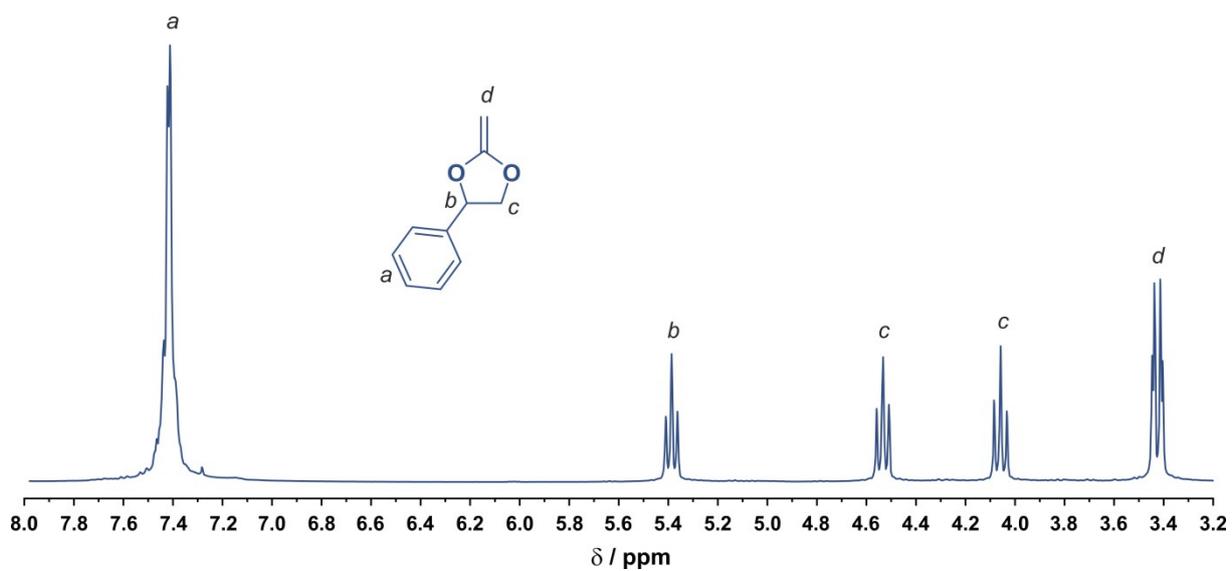
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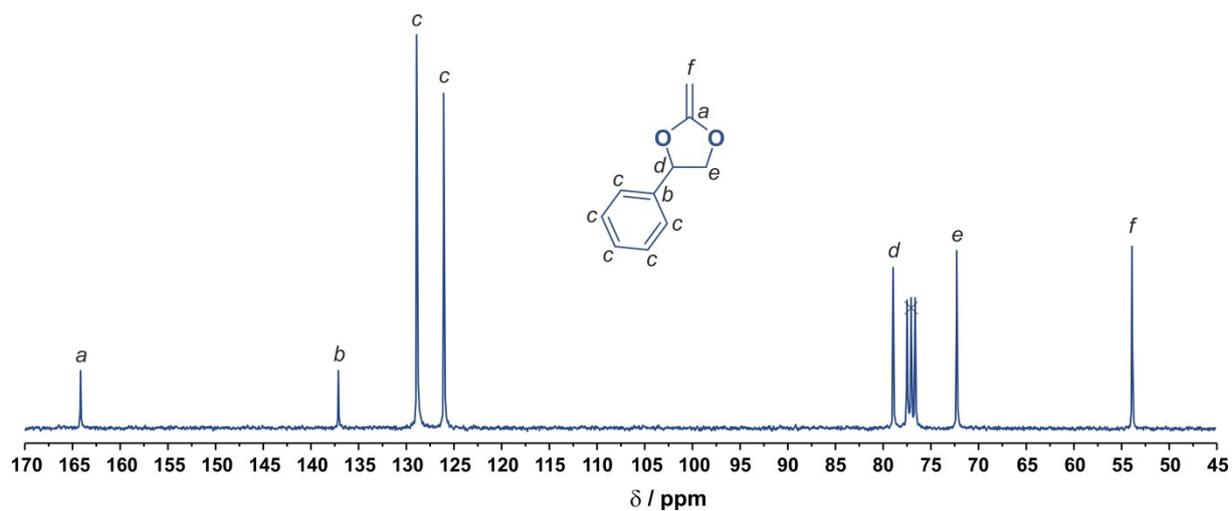
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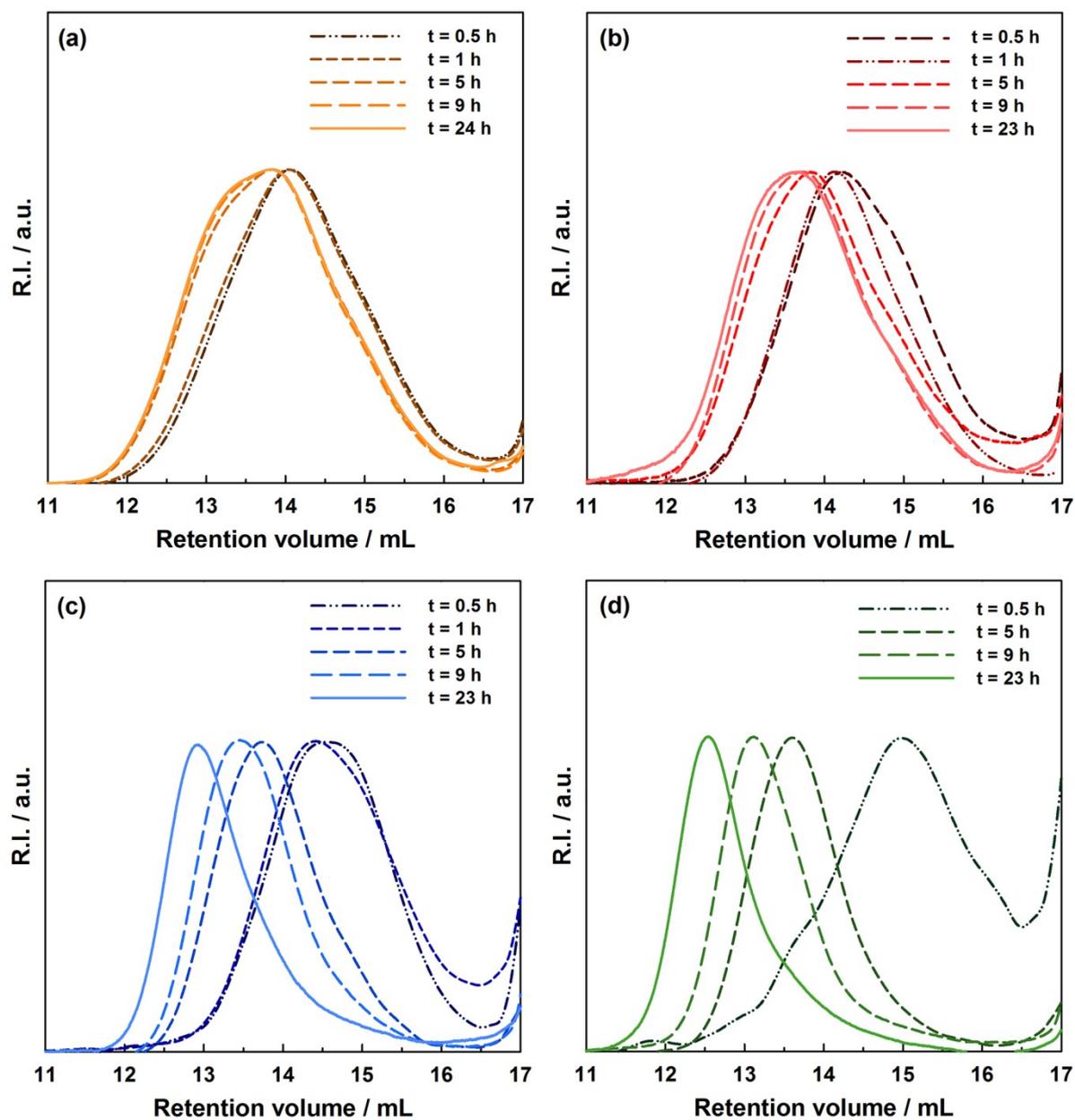
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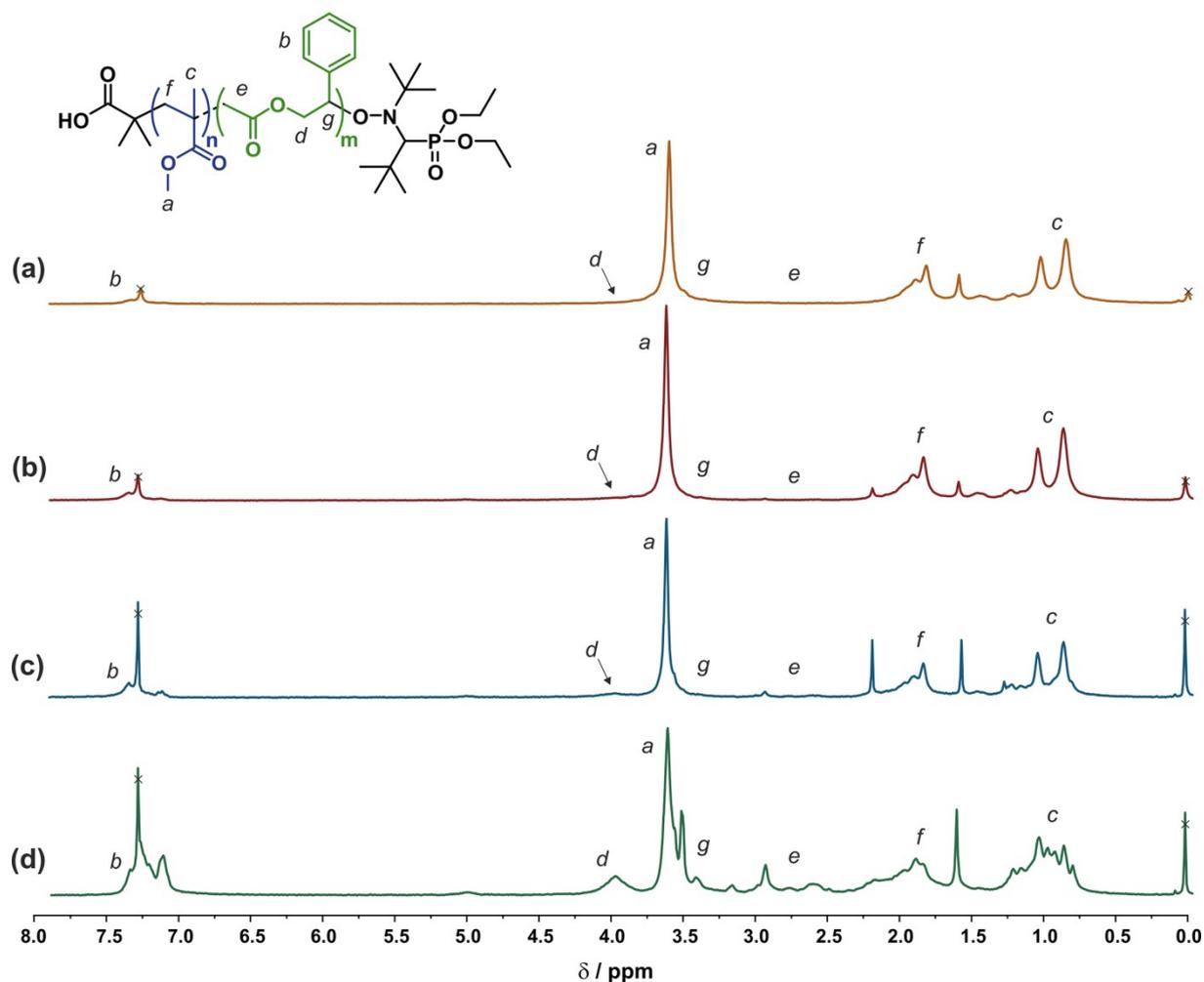
**Figure S1.** Representative <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> in the 3.2–8.0 ppm region of MPDL.



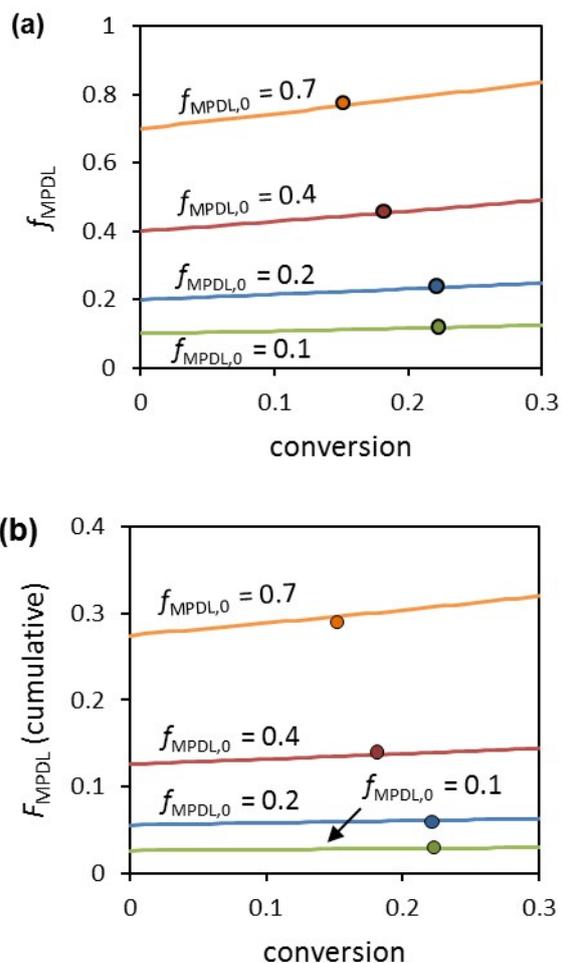
**Figure S2.** Representative <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> in the 45–170 ppm region of MPDL.



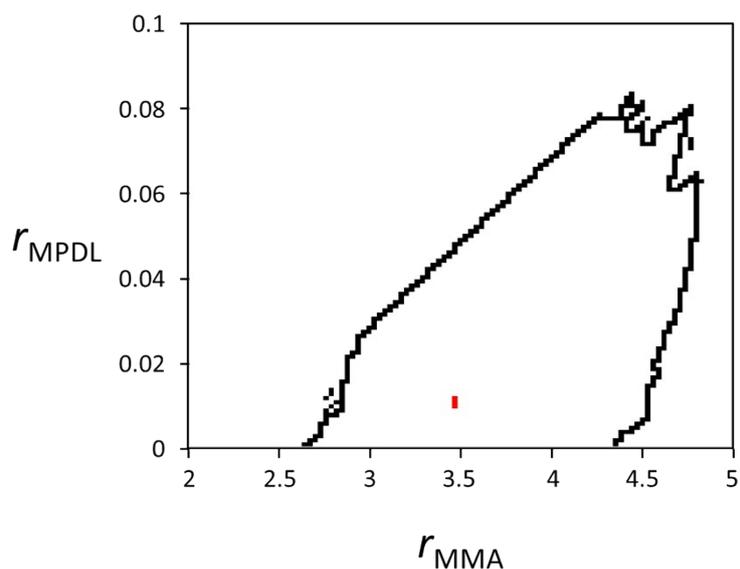
**Figure S3.** SEC traces taken at different time intervals during the NMP of MMA and MPDL in toluene initiated by the BlocBuilder alkoxyamine at 90 °C, as a function of the initial amount of MPDL: (a) expt. 1 ( $f_{\text{MPDL},0} = 0.1$ ); (b) expt. 2 ( $f_{\text{MPDL},0} = 0.2$ ); (c) expt. 3 ( $f_{\text{MPDL},0} = 0.4$ ); (d) expt. 4 ( $f_{\text{MPDL},0} = 0.7$ ).



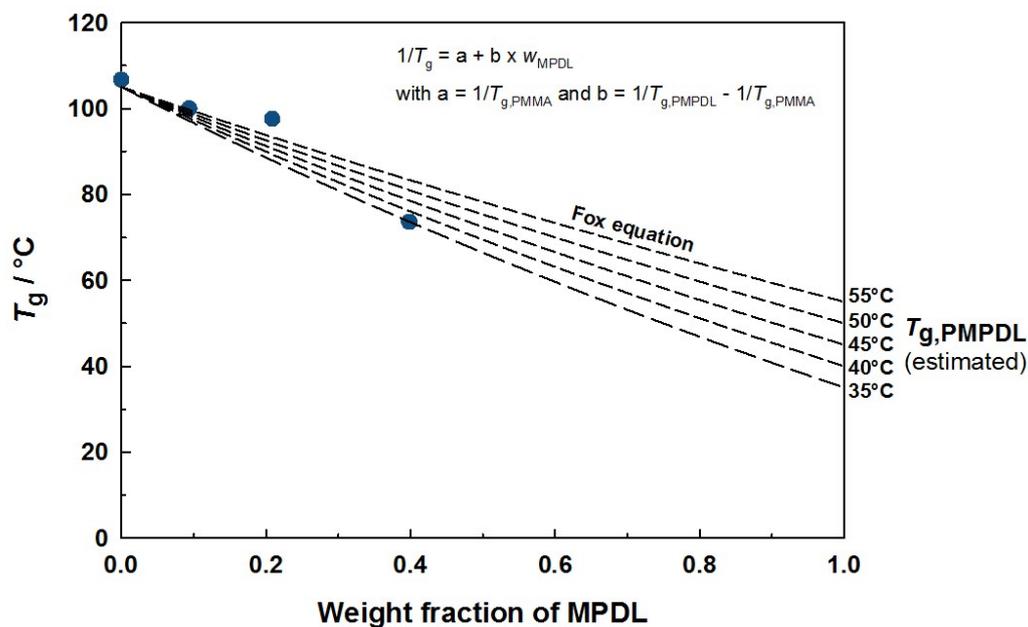
**Figure S4.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  of the purified copolymers resulting from the NMP of MMA and MPDL in toluene initiated by the BlocBuilder alkoxyamine at  $90\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ , as a function of the initial amount of MPDL: (a) expt. **1'** ( $f_{\text{MPDL},0} = 0.1$ ); (b) expt. **2'** ( $f_{\text{MPDL},0} = 0.2$ ); (c) expt. **3'** ( $f_{\text{MPDL},0} = 0.4$ ); (d) expt. **4'** ( $f_{\text{MPDL},0} = 0.7$ ).



**Figure S5.** Comparison of modeled and experimental data for (a) the monomer feed ratio and (b) the cumulative copolymer composition as a function of conversion. Modeled data were obtained by nonlinear least squared fitting of the integrated copolymer composition equation to the experimental data, yielding reactivity ratios of  $r_{\text{MPDL}} = 0.01$ ,  $r_{\text{MMA}} = 4.0$ .



**Figure S6.** 95% joint confidence region for reactivity ratios of MPDL and MMA, calculated by the ‘visualisation of the sum of least squares space’ method of van den Brink et al.<sup>1</sup> The red point represents the best estimate of  $r_{\text{MPDL}} = 0.01$ ,  $r_{\text{MMA}} = 4.0$ .



**Figure S7.** Experimental  $T_g$  values of the different copolymers as function of the weight fraction of MPDL in the copolymer, and curve of the Fox equation<sup>2</sup> ( $1/T_g = w_{\text{PMPDL}}/T_{g,\text{PMPDL}} + w_{\text{MMA}}/T_{g,\text{PMMA}}$ , with  $w$  and  $T_g$  the weight fraction and  $T_g$  of each homopolymer) with an estimated  $T_g$  for PMDPL of  $45 \pm 10$  °C.

## References

1. Van Den Brink, M.; Van Herk, A. M.; German, A. L. *J. Polym. Sci., Part A: Polym. Chem.* **1999**, *37*, 3793-3803.
2. Fox, T. G. *Bull. Am. Phys. Soc.* **1956**, *1*, 123-125.