

## Supporting Information

### **Uncatalyzed Reactions of 4,4'-Diphenylmethane-Diisocyanate with Polymer Polyols as Revealed by Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization Mass Spectrometry**

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## I. Estimation of the relative MALDI-TOF MS response factors

The intensities of the reference were compared to those of the different series, and the corresponding relative response factors were estimated by means of eq. S1.

$$I_{\text{ref}} = p_1 I_A + p_2 I_B + p_3 I_C + p_4 I_D \quad (\text{S1})$$

where  $p_1 = qf_{\text{ref}}/f_A$ ,  $p_2 = qf_{\text{ref}}/f_B$ ,  $p_3 = qf_{\text{ref}}/f_C$  and  $p_4 = qf_{\text{ref}}/f_D$ ,  $q$  is the concentration ratio of the reference and the starting polymer triol (PPG\_GL),  $I_{\text{ref}}$ ,  $I_A$ ,  $I_B$ ,  $I_C$  and  $I_D$  stand for the MALDI-TOF MS intensities for the reference and series  $A_n$ ,  $B_n$ ,  $C_n$  and  $D_n$ , respectively, while  $f_{\text{ref}}$ ,  $f_A$ ,  $f_B$ ,  $f_C$  and  $f_D$  are the MALDI-TOF MS response factors for the reference and the series  $A_n$ ,  $B_n$ ,  $C_n$  and  $D_n$ , respectively. The relative MALDI-TOF MS response factors of the oligomer series with respect to that of series  $A_n$  were obtained as  $f_A/f_B = p_2/p_1$ ,  $f_A/f_C = p_3/p_1$  and  $f_A/f_D = p_4/p_1$ . For polymer diols (PPG, PTHF, PCLD) eq. S1 reduces to eq. S2

$$I_{\text{ref}} = p_1 I_A + p_2 I_B + p_3 I_C \quad (\text{S2})$$

## II. Derivation of eq. 21

Using eqs. 10-12, from eq. 12 the time ( $t$ ) can be expressed as

$$t = \frac{-\ln(X_{A_n})}{4k_1} \quad (\text{S3})$$

Substituting eq. S3 into eq. 11, we get eq. S4.

$$X_{B_n} = \frac{1}{\frac{k_2}{2k_1} - 1} \left( X_{A_n} - e^{-\ln(X_{A_n}) \frac{k_2}{2k_1}} \right) \quad (\text{S4})$$

Denoting  $k_2/2k_1$  as  $\alpha$  and substituting it into eq. S4, after rearrangement, eq. S5 can be obtained which is equivalent to eq. 21.

$$X_{B_n} = \frac{X_{A_n}^\alpha - X_{A_n}}{1 - \alpha} \quad (\text{S5})$$

### III. Derivation of eq. 23

Using eqs. 17-20, from eq. 17 the time (t) can be expressed as

$$t = \frac{-\ln(X_{A_n})}{6k_1} \quad (S6)$$

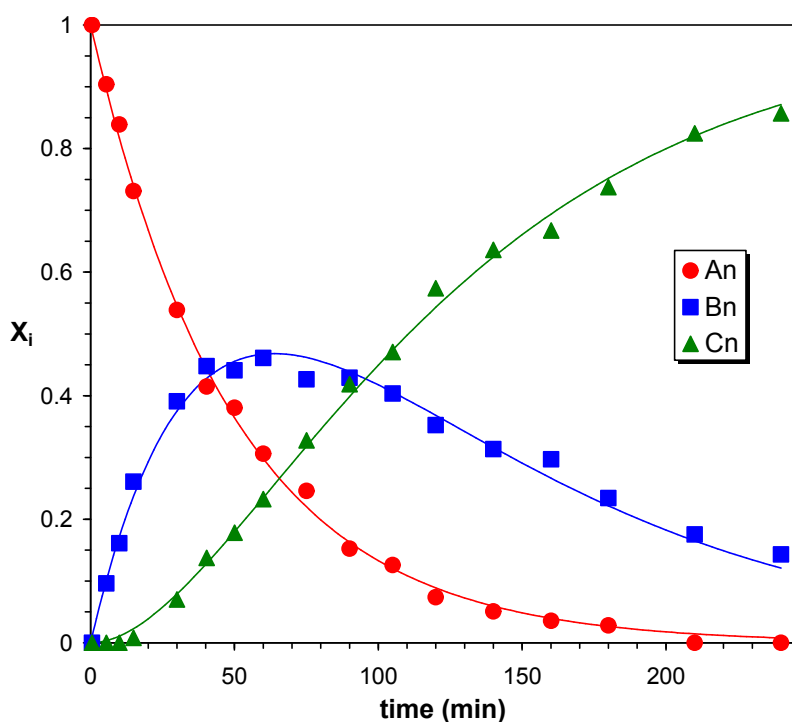
Substituting eq. S6 into eq. 19, we get eq. S7.

$$X_{C_n}(t) = \frac{\frac{2k_2}{3k_1}}{\left(1 - \frac{2k_2}{3k_1}\right)\left(1 - \frac{k_3}{3k_1}\right)} \left( X_{A_n} - e^{\ln((X_{A_n})^{\frac{k_3}{3k_1}})} \right) + \frac{1}{\left(1 - \frac{2k_2}{3k_1}\right)\left(1 - \frac{k_3}{2k_2}\right)} \left( e^{\ln((X_{A_n})^{\frac{k_3}{3k_1}})} - e^{\ln((X_{A_n})^{\frac{2k_2}{3k_1}})} \right) \quad (S7)$$

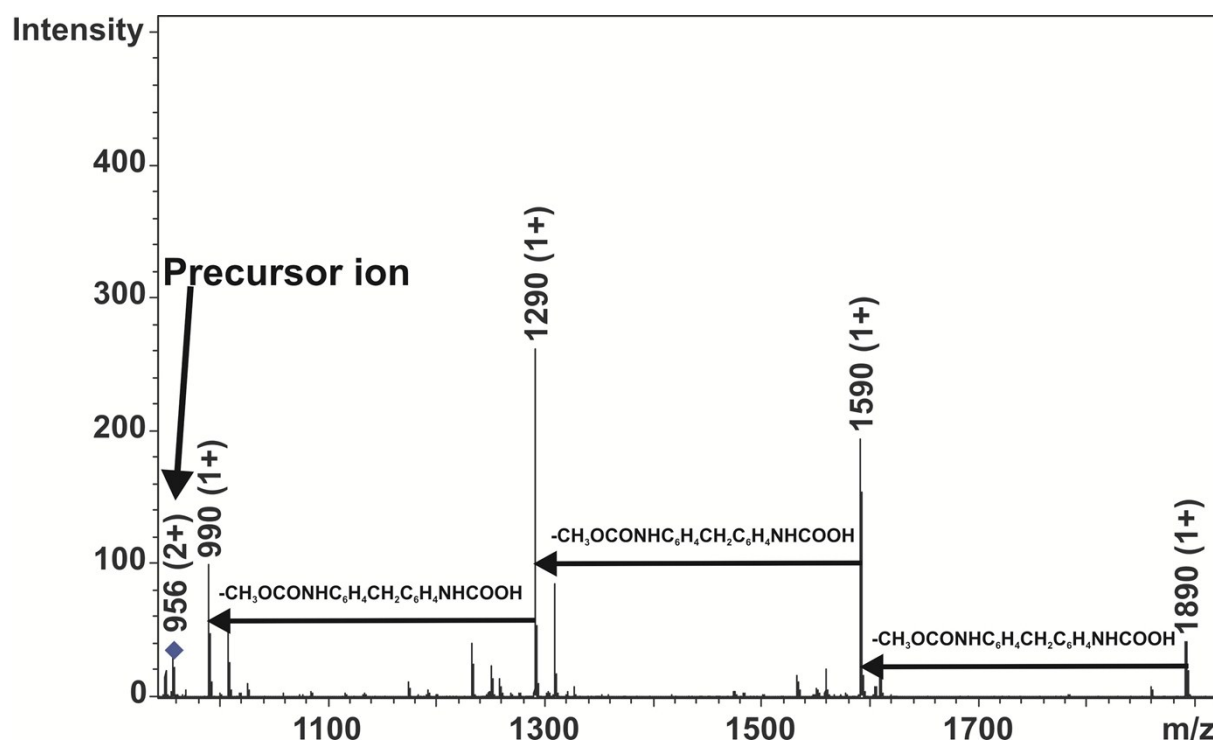
Substituting  $\alpha = 2k_2/3k_1$  and  $\beta = k_3/2k_2$ . into eq. S7 and taking into account that  $\alpha\beta = k_3/3k_1$ , eq. S8 can be obtained which is equivalent to eq. 23.

$$X_{C_n} = \frac{\alpha}{(1-\alpha)(1-\alpha\beta)} (X_{A_n} - X_{A_n}^{\alpha\beta}) + \frac{\alpha}{(1-\alpha)(1-\beta)} (X_{A_n}^{\alpha\beta} - X_{A_n}^{\alpha}) \quad (S8)$$

## IV. Figures



**Fig. S1.** Product distributions *versus* time in the PTHF-MDI reaction determined by MALDI-TOF MS. The solid lines represent the fitted curves calculated by eqs. 10-12. Experimental conditions:  $[MDI]_0 = 0.32$  M,  $[PCLD]_0 = 0.01$  M and  $T = 80$  °C.



**Fig. S2.** ESI-MS/MS spectrum of the  $[PPG\_GL+3MDI+3CH_3OH+2Na]^{2+}$  adduct ion with a number of repeat units  $n=16$ . ESI-MS/MS spectrum was obtained at collision energy of 142 eV.