

## Supporting Information

### **Manganese carbonyl induced reversible addition-fragmentation chain transfer (RAFT) polymerization under visible light**

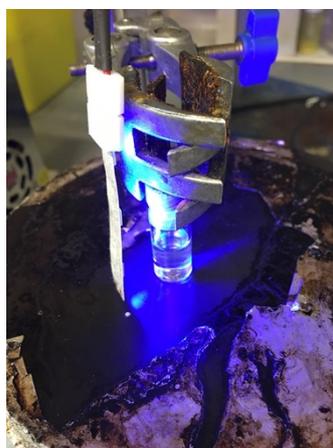
Jiajia Li,<sup>a</sup> Andrew Kerr,<sup>b</sup> Satu Häkkinen,<sup>b</sup> Thomas Floyd,<sup>b</sup> Mengmeng Zhang,<sup>a</sup>  
Xiangqiang Pan,<sup>a</sup> Xiulin Zhu,<sup>a</sup> Sebastien Perrier,<sup>\*b,c,d</sup> and Jian Zhu<sup>\*a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> State and Local Joint Engineering Laboratory for Novel Functional Polymeric Materials, Jiangsu Key Laboratory of Advanced Functional Polymer Design and Application, Department of Polymer Science and Engineering, College of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, Soochow University, Suzhou 215123, China Tel: +86 512 65880726; Fax: +86 512 65882787; E-mail: chemzhujian@suda.edu.cn

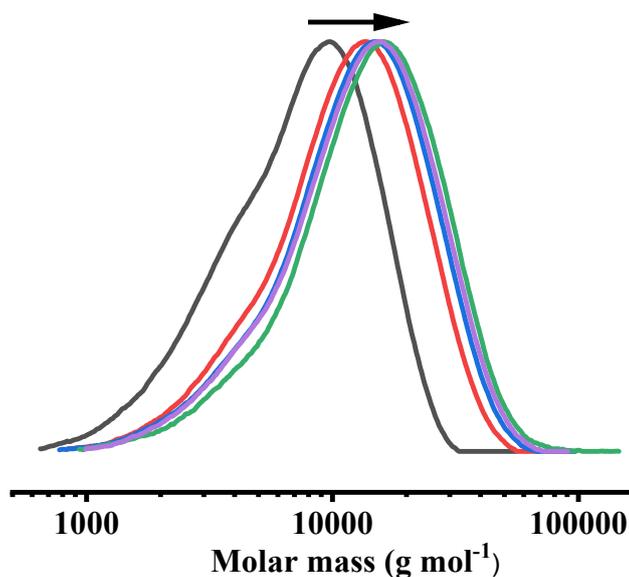
<sup>b</sup> Department of Chemistry, The University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, UK;

<sup>c</sup> Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Monash University, 381 Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria 3052, Australia

<sup>d</sup> Warwick Medical School, The University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, U.K. Tel: +44 2476 528 085; E-mail: s.perrier@warwick.ac.uk



**Figure S1.** Photograph of the 460 nm blue LED photoreactor.



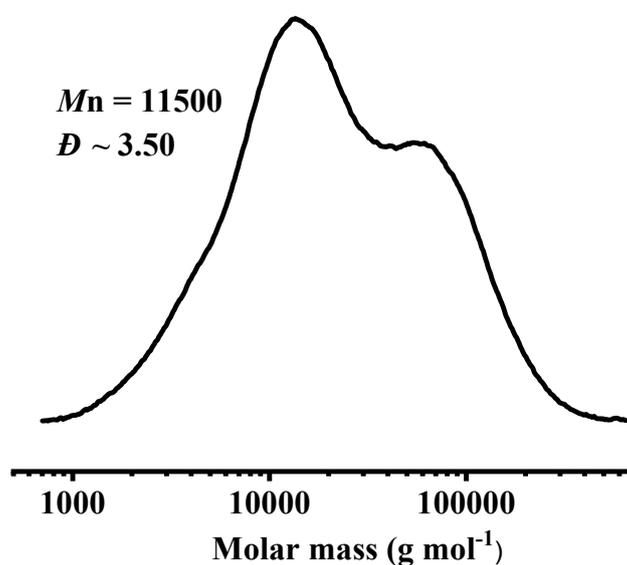
**Figure S2.** SEC traces for kinetic experiments of polymerization of IBVE in bulk with the molar ratio  $[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [2\text{a}]_0 : [\text{EBP}]_0 : [\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}]_0 = 100 : 1 : 0.1 : 0.1$  at 25 °C.

**Table S1. Controlled experiments for polymerization of IBVE with different conditions.**

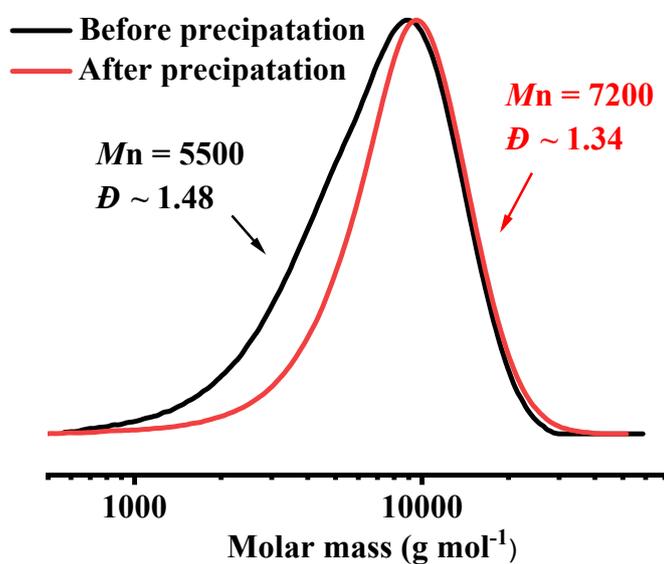
Entry	$[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [2\text{a}]_0 : [\text{EBP}]_0 : [\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}]_0$	Time (min)	Conv.%	<sup>a</sup> $M_{n,\text{th}}$ (g/mol)	<sup>b</sup> $M_{n,\text{SEC}}$ (g/mol)	$\bar{D}$
1	100 : 1 : 0 : 0.1	5 h	-	-	-	-
2	100 : 1 : 0.1 : 0	5 h	-	-	-	-
3	100 : 0 : 0.1 : 0.1	20 min	70.8	71000	44600	1.51
<sup>c</sup> 4	100 : 1 : 0.1 : 0.1	5 h	-	-	-	-
<sup>d</sup> 5	100 : 1 : 0.1 : 0.1	100 min	75.7	7800	25300	1.74

a) Calculated based on conversion ( $M_{n,\text{th}} = [\text{M}]_0/[\text{EBP}]_0 \times \text{conversion} \times \text{MW}_{\text{M}} + M_{\text{EBP}}$ ); b) Determined by SEC using polystyrene (PS) as standard in THF; c)

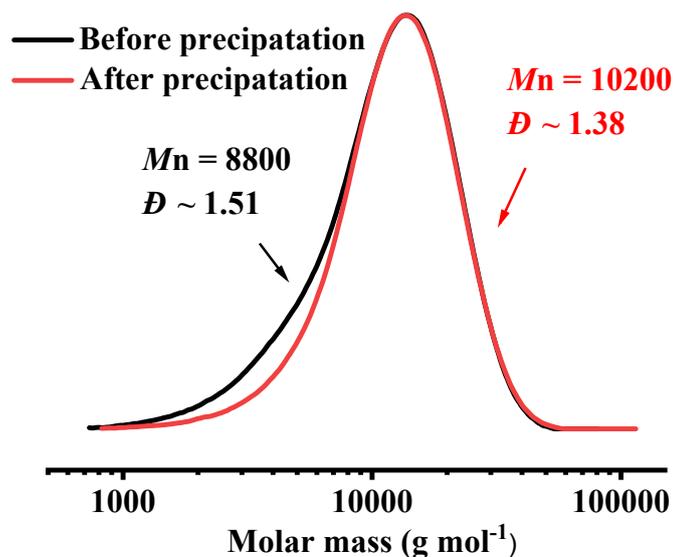
In the dark; d) Polymerization in the dark after 20 min irradiation of blue LED.



**Figure S3.** SEC trace for polymerization of IBVE in bulk with the molar ratio  $[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [2b]_0 : [\text{EBP}]_0 : [\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}]_0 = 100 : 1 : 0.1 : 0.1$  at  $25\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .

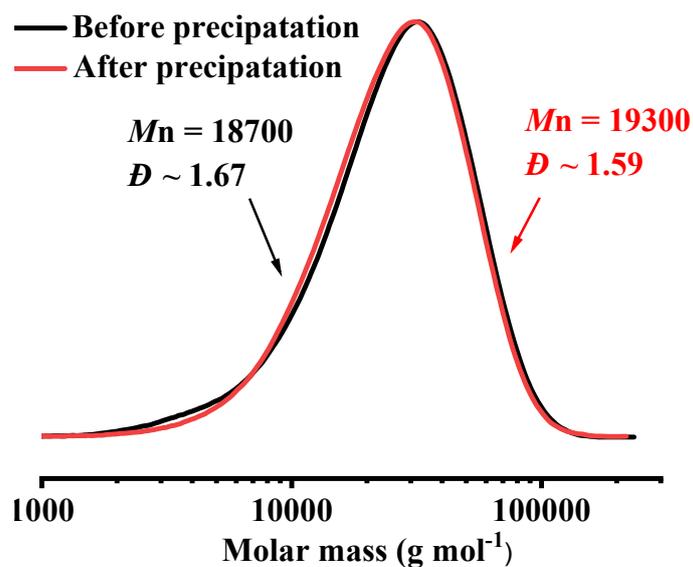


**Figure S4.** SEC trace for polymerization of IBVE in ethyl acetate with the molar ratio  $[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [2b]_0 : [\text{EBP}]_0 : [\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}]_0 = 50 : 1 : 0.1 : 0.1$  at  $25\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .



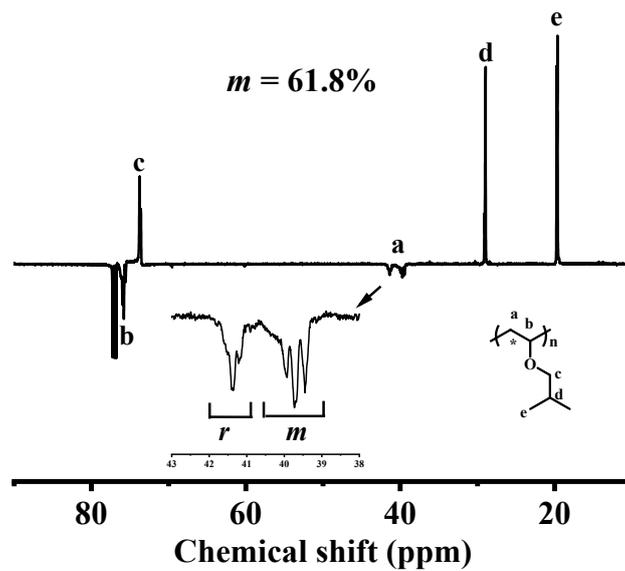
**Figure S5.** SEC trace for polymerization of IBVE in ethyl acetate with the molar ratio

$[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [\text{2b}]_0 : [\text{EBP}]_0 : [\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}]_0 = 100 : 1 : 0.1 : 0.1$  at 25 °C.

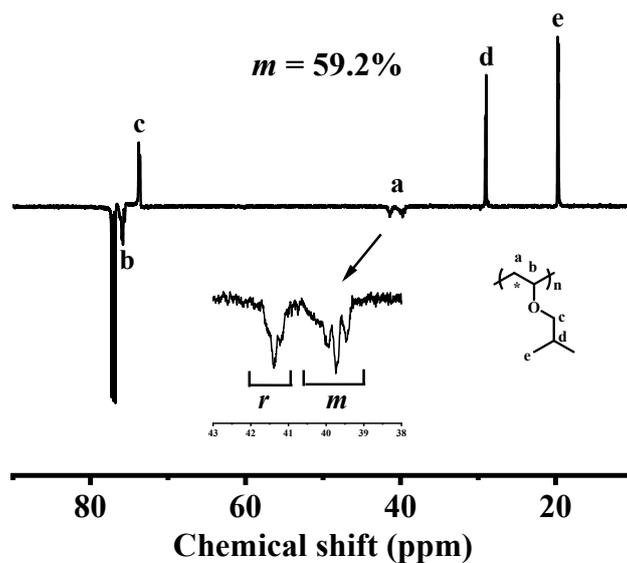


**Figure S6.** SEC trace for polymerization of IBVE in ethyl acetate with the molar ratio

$[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [\text{2b}]_0 : [\text{EBP}]_0 : [\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}]_0 = 200 : 1 : 0.1 : 0.1$  at 25 °C.

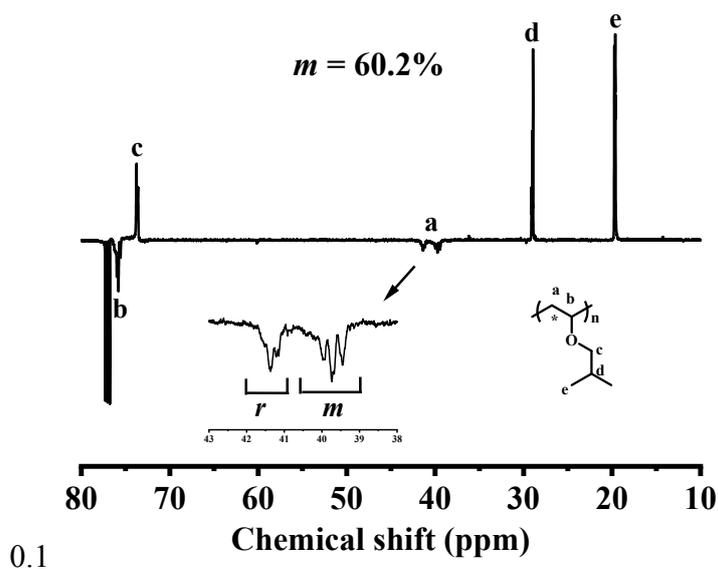


**Figure S7.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra (in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of poly(IBVE) ( $M_n = 8700$ ,  $D = 1.43$ ) obtained with the molar ratio  $[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [2\text{a}]_0 : [\text{EBP}]_0 : [\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}]_0 = 50 : 1 : 0.1 : 0.1$



**Figure S8.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra (in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of poly(IBVE) ( $M_n = 8300$ ,  $D = 1.27$ )

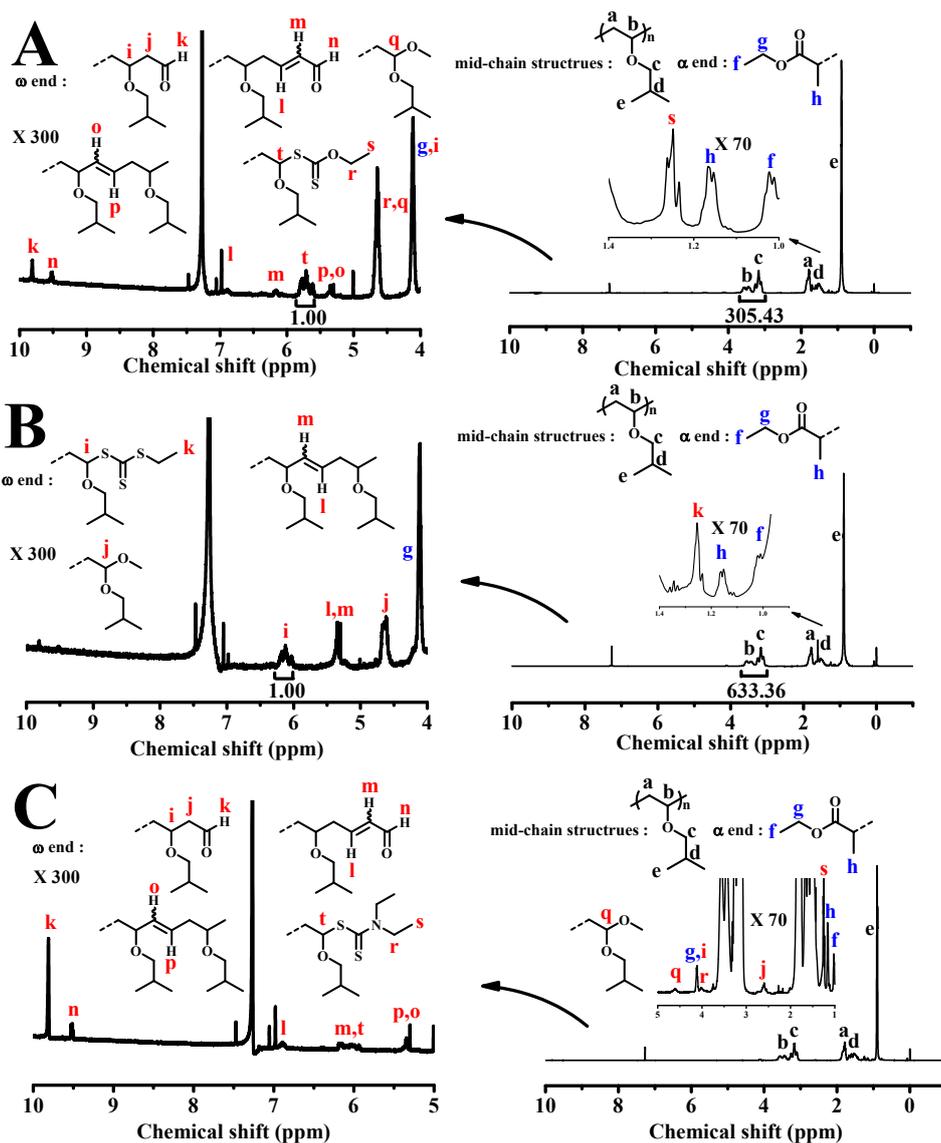
obtained with the molar ratio  $[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [2\text{b}]_0 : [\text{EBP}]_0 : [\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}]_0 = 50 : 1 : 0.1 :$



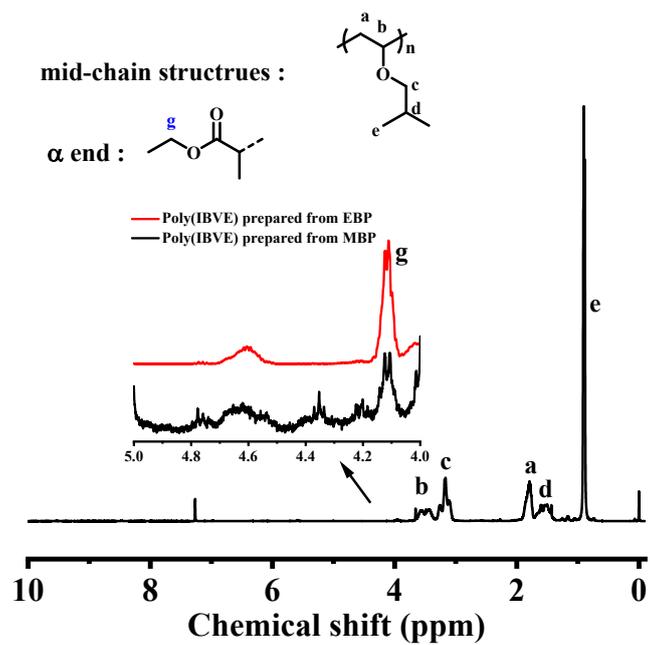
**Figure S9.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra (in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of poly(IBVE) ( $M_n = 5400$ ,  $D = 1.11$ )

obtained with the molar ratio  $[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [2\text{c}]_0 : [\text{EBP}]_0 : [\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}]_0 = 50 : 1 : 1 :$

0.1.



**Figure S10.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra (in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of (A) poly(IBVE) ( $M_n = 8700$ ,  $D = 1.43$ ) obtained with the molar ratio  $[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [2a]_0 : [\text{EBP}]_0 : [\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}]_0 = 50 : 1 : 0.1 : 0.1$ ; (B) poly(IBVE) ( $M_n = 8300$ ,  $D = 1.27$ ) obtained with the molar ratio  $[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [2b]_0 : [\text{EBP}]_0 : [\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}]_0 = 50 : 1 : 0.1 : 0.1$ ; (C) poly(IBVE) ( $M_n = 5400$ ,  $D = 1.11$ ) obtained with the molar ratio  $[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [2c]_0 : [\text{EBP}]_0 : [\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}]_0 = 50 : 1 : 1 : 0.1$ .



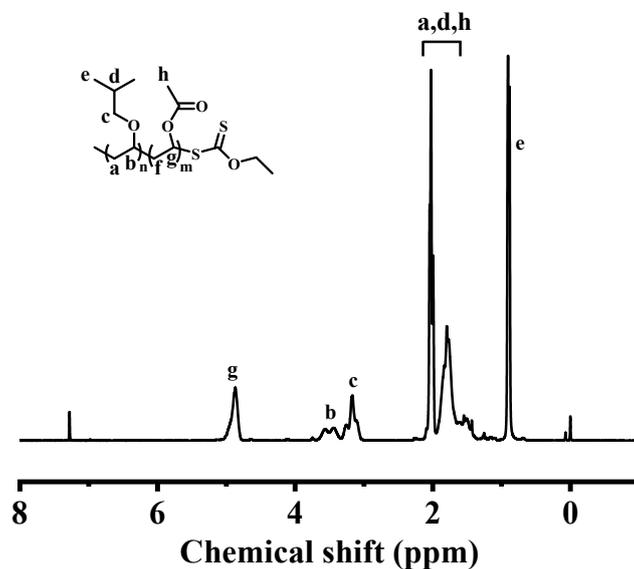
**Figure S11.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra (in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of poly(IBVE) ( $M_n = 5400$ ,  $D = 1.11$ )

obtained with the molar ratio  $[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [2c]_0 : [\text{MBP}]_0 : [\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}]_0 = 50 : 1 : 1 :$

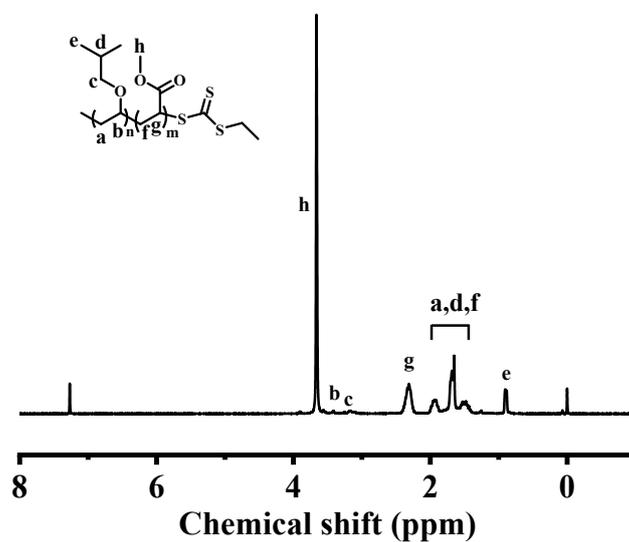
0.1.



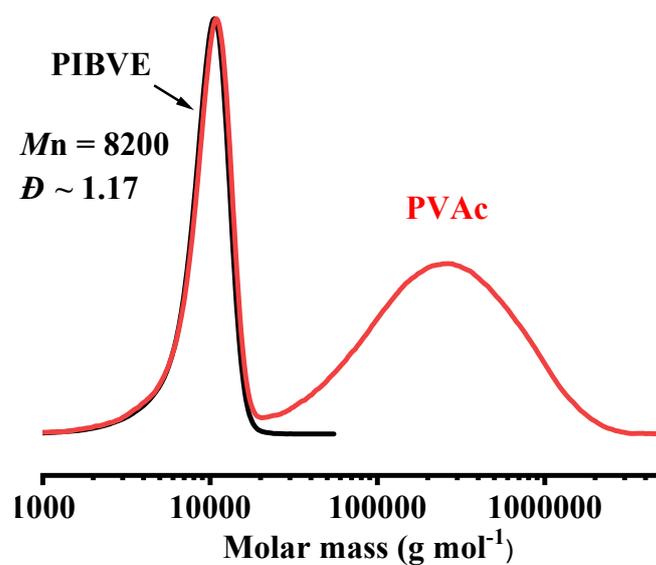
1.11) obtained with the molar ratio  $[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [2\text{c}]_0 : [\text{EBP}]_0 : [\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}]_0 = 50 : 1 : 1 : 0.1$ .



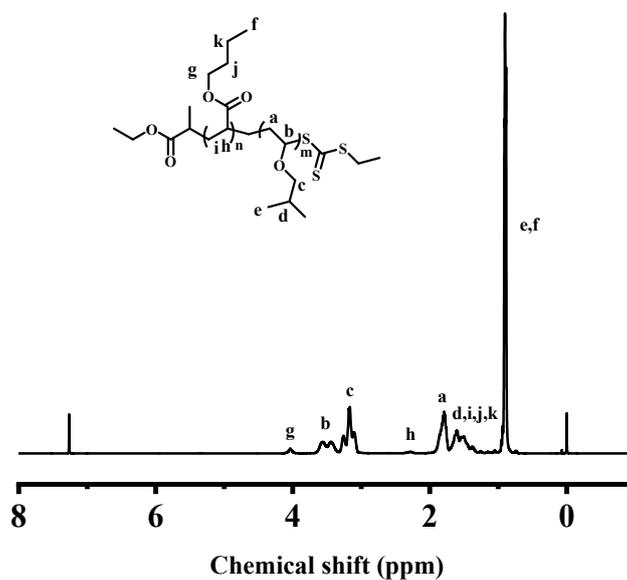
**Figure S13.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of poly(isobutyl vinyl ether)-*b*-poly(vinyl acetate)



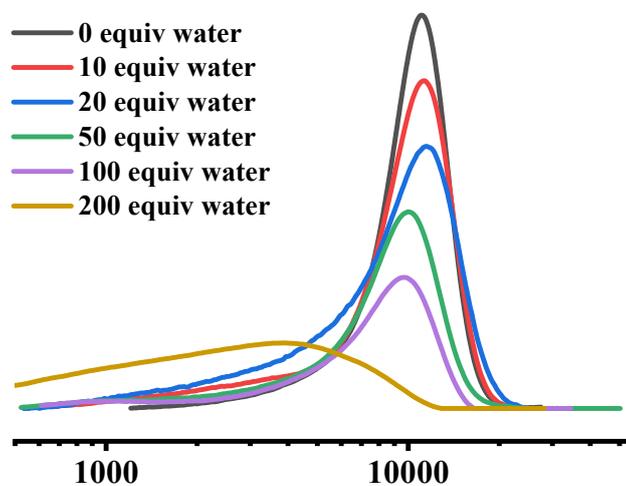
**Figure S14.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of poly(isobutyl vinyl ether)-*b*-poly(methyl acrylate)



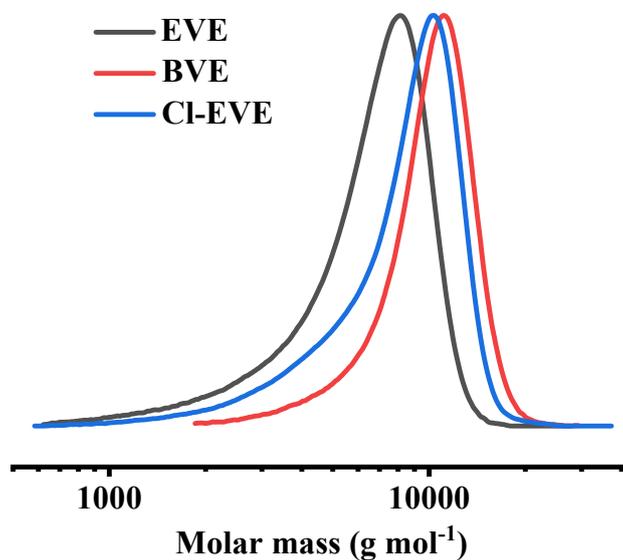
**Figure S15.** SEC traces of chain extension experiments using 2c derived poly(IBVE)s as macroRAFT agent with VAc



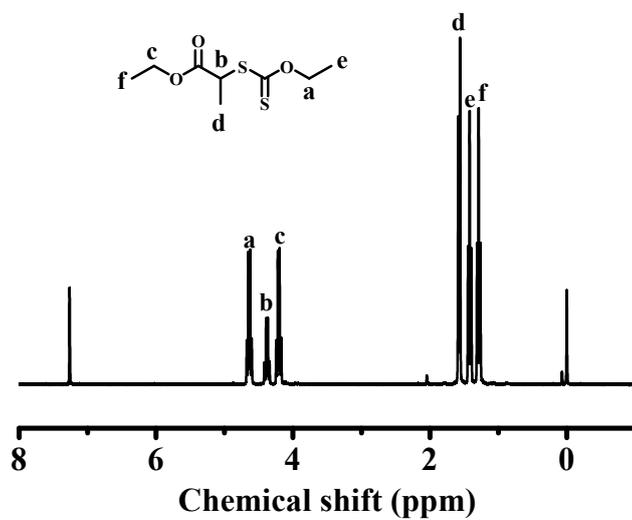
**Figure S16.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra (in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of poly(butyl acrylate)-*b*-poly(isobutyl vinyl ether)



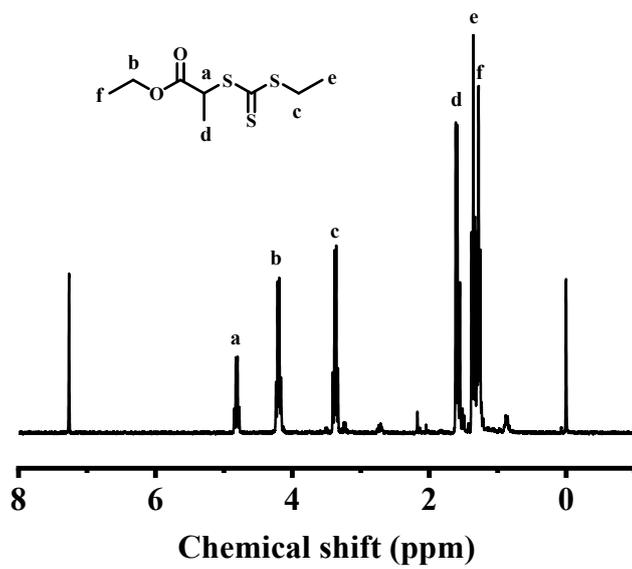
**Figure S17.** SEC traces of the cationic RAFT polymerization in the presence of water with the molar ratio  $[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [2\text{c}]_0 : [\text{EBP}]_0 : [\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}]_0 = 100 : 1 : 1 : 0.1$



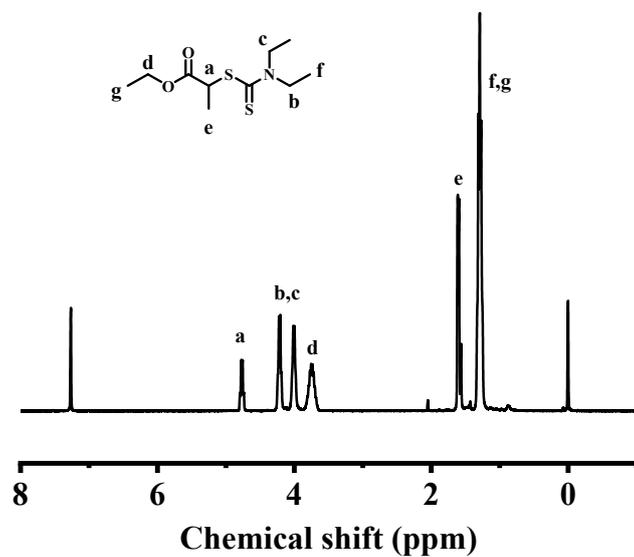
**Figure S18.** SEC trace for cationic RAFT polymerization of different monomers with the molar ratio  $[\text{Monomer}]_0 : [2\text{c}]_0 : [\text{EBP}]_0 : [\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}]_0 = 100 : 1 : 1 : 0.1$  under blue LED at 25 °C.



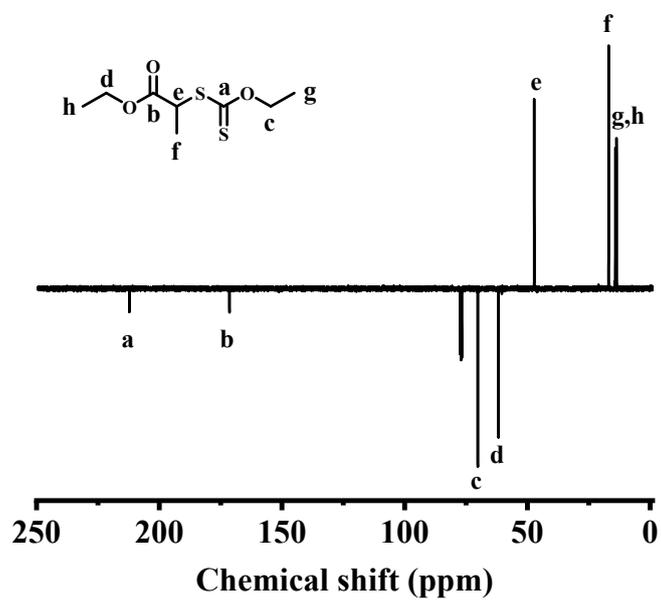
**Figure S19.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2a



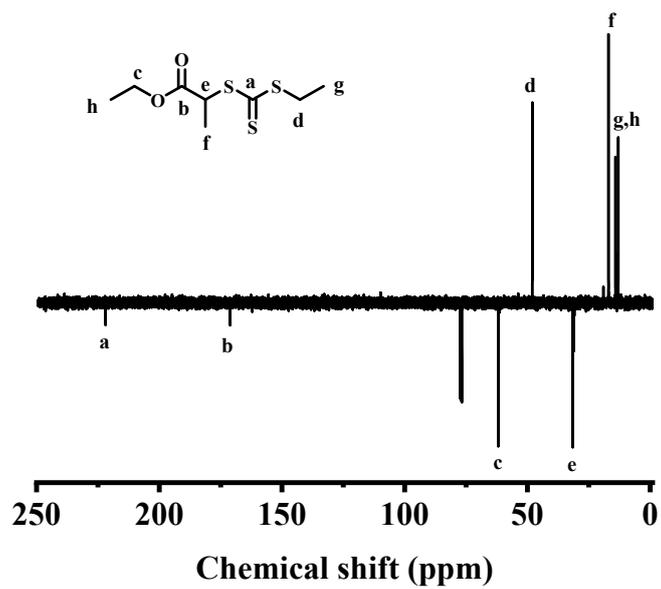
**Figure S20.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2b



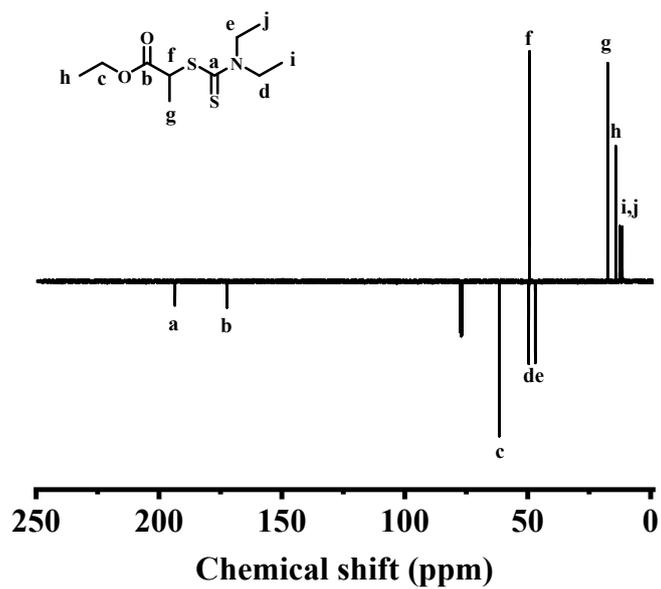
**Figure S21.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2c



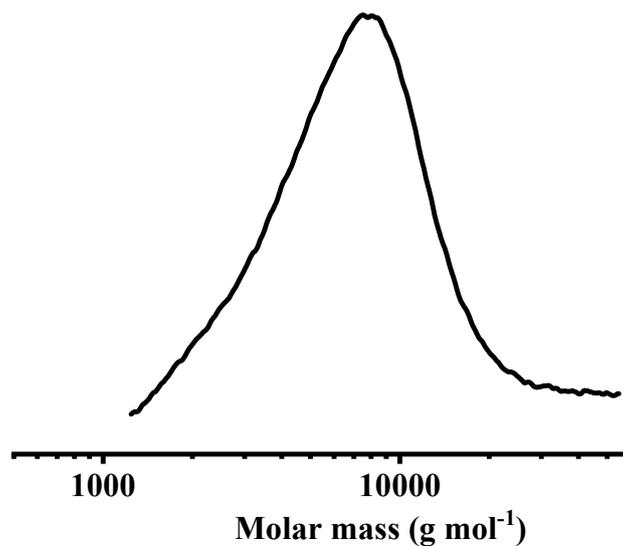
**Figure S22.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2a



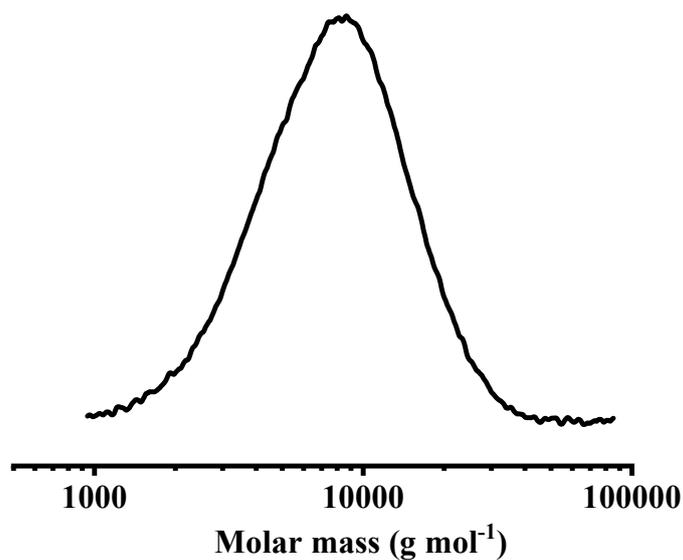
**Figure S23.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2b



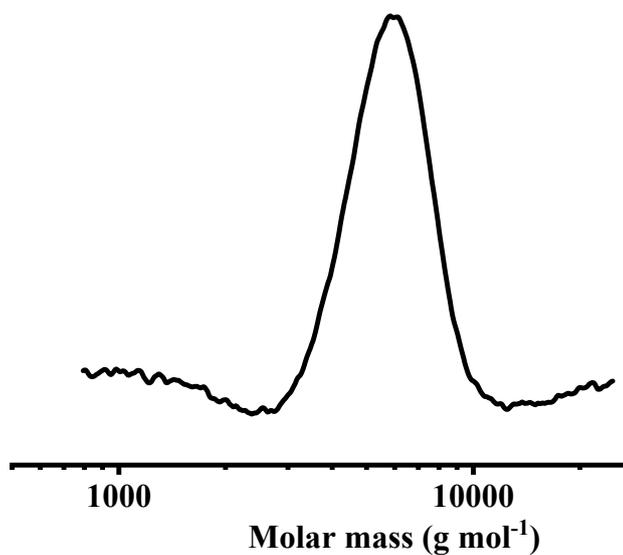
**Figure S24.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2c



**Figure S25.** UV absorption at 309 nm for SEC detection of poly(IBVE) ( $M_n = 8700$ ,  $D = 1.43$ ) obtained with the molar ratio  $[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [2\text{a}]_0 : [\text{EBP}]_0 : [\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}]_0 = 50 : 1 : 0.1 : 0.1$



**Figure S26.** UV absorption at 309 nm for SEC detection of poly(IBVE) ( $M_n = 8300$ ,  $D = 1.27$ ) obtained with the molar ratio  $[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [2\text{b}]_0 : [\text{EBP}]_0 : [\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}]_0 = 50 : 1 : 0.1 : 0.1$



**Figure S27.** UV absorption at 309 nm for SEC detection of poly(IBVE) ( $M_n = 5400$ ,  $D = 1.11$ ) obtained with the molar ratio  $[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [2c]_0 : [\text{EBP}]_0 : [\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}]_0 = 50 : 1 : 1 : 0.1$ .