

Supporting Information for

A Switchable Dimeric Yttrium Complex and Its Three Catalytic States in Ring Opening Polymerization

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NMR spectra

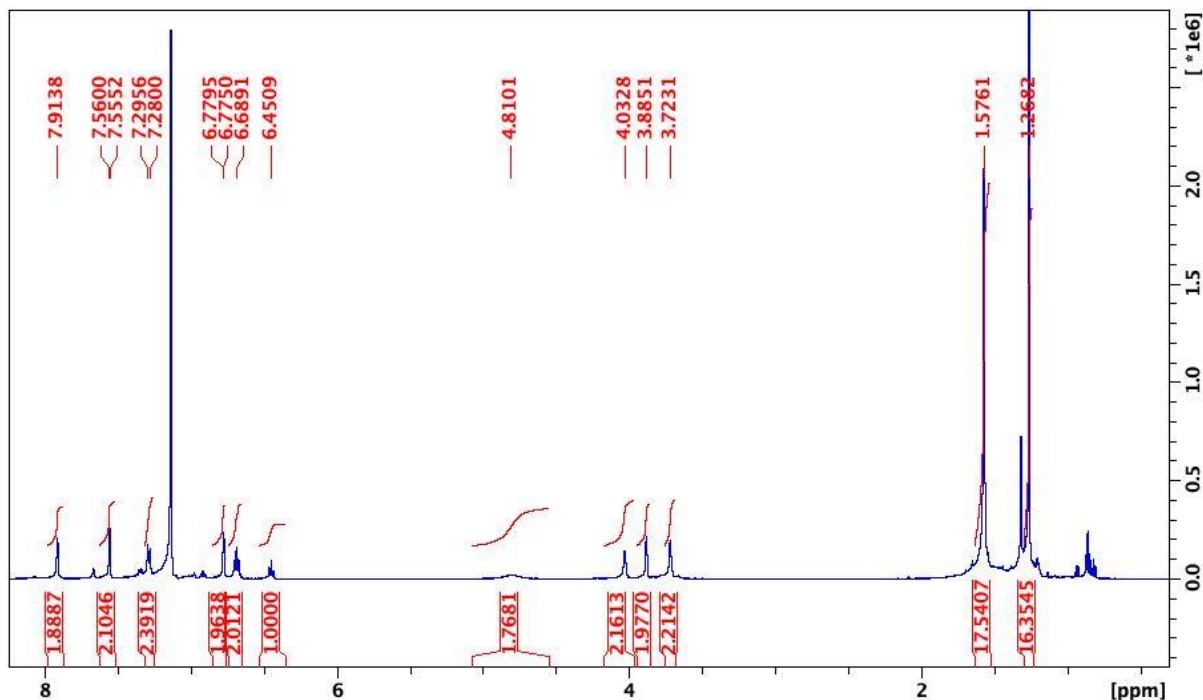


Figure S1. ^1H NMR (C_6D_6 , 500 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2$ δ (ppm): 7.91 (s, 2H, $\text{N}=\text{CH}$), 7.56 (d, 2H, ArH), 7.29 (d, 2H, ArH), 6.78 (d, 2H, ArH), 6.69 (t, 2H, ArH), 6.45 (t, 1H, ArH), 4.81 (s, 2H, fc-H), 3.72-4.03 (s, s and s, 6H, fc-H), 1.58 (s, 18H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 1.27 (s, 18H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$).

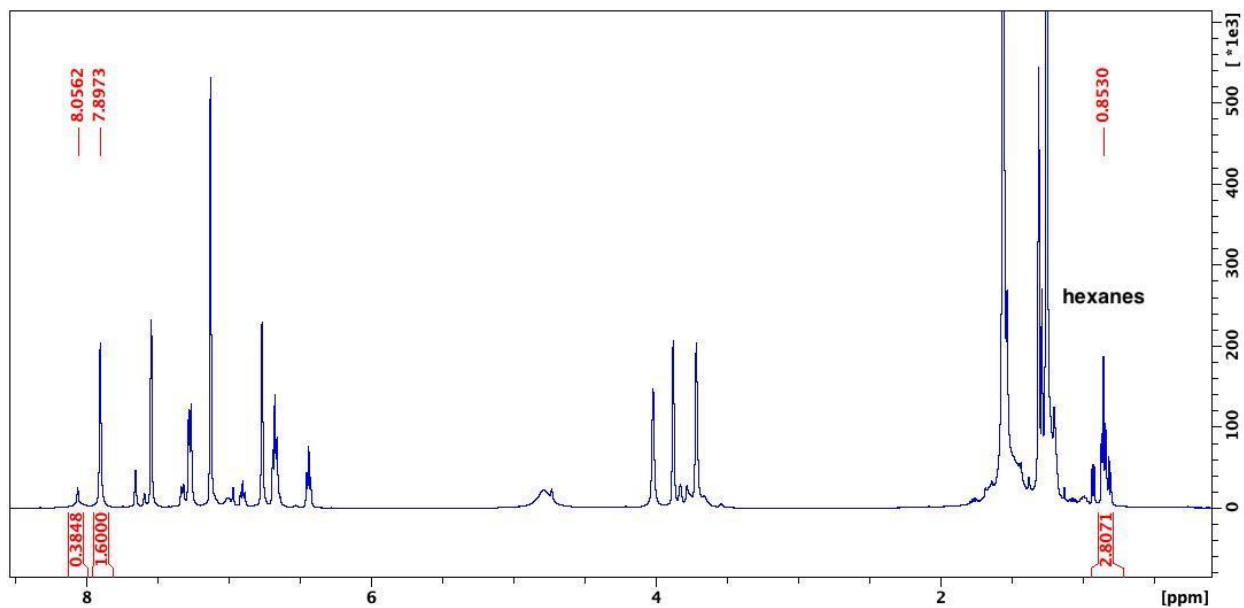


Figure S2. ^1H NMR (C_6D_6 , 500 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2$. The peaks at 8.05 ppm and 7.90 ppm integrate together to 2 H atoms. The peak at 0.85 ppm, which represents hexanes remaining in the sample, integrates as 2.80 H. The integration indicates that the formula of the sample is $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2 \cdot (\text{C}_6\text{H}_{14})_{0.2}$.

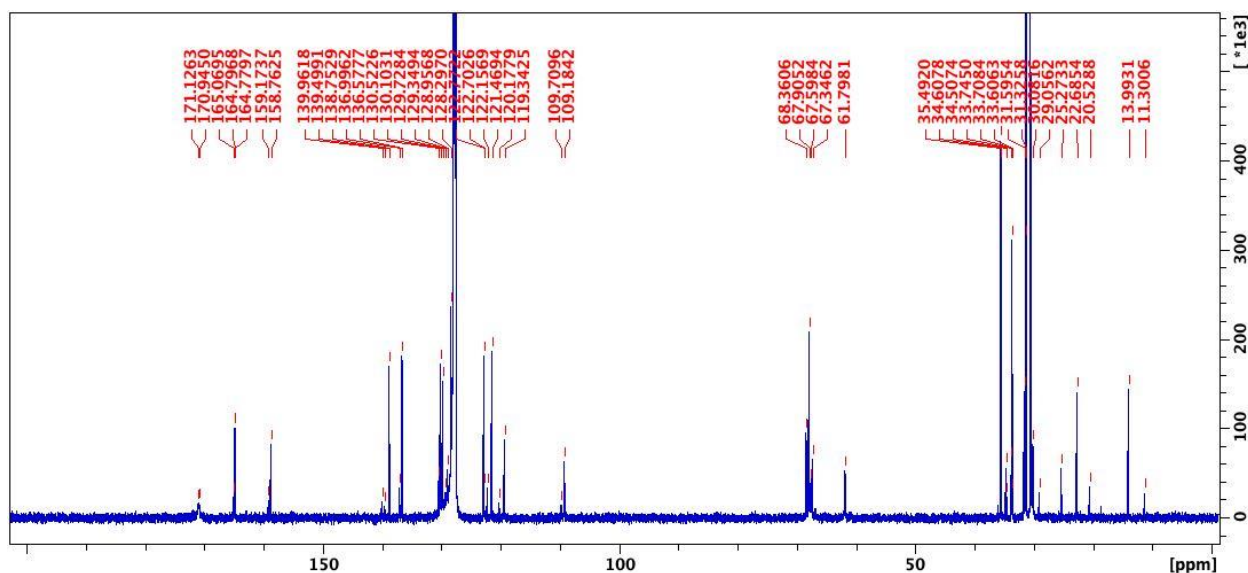


Figure S3. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (C_6D_6 , 125 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2$ δ (ppm): 164.8 (N=C), 158.8 (m- OC_6H_2), 138.8 (m- OC_6H_2), 136.6 (m- OC_6H_2), 130.1 (m- OC_6H_5), 129.7 (m- OC_6H_5), 128.3 (m- OC_6H_2), 122.7 (m- OC_6H_2), 121.4 (m- OC_6H_2), 119.3 (m- OC_6H_5), 109.2 (m- OC_6H_5), 61.8-68.3 (C_5H_4), 34.5 ($\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 33.6 ($\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 31.3 ($\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 30.5 ($\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$).

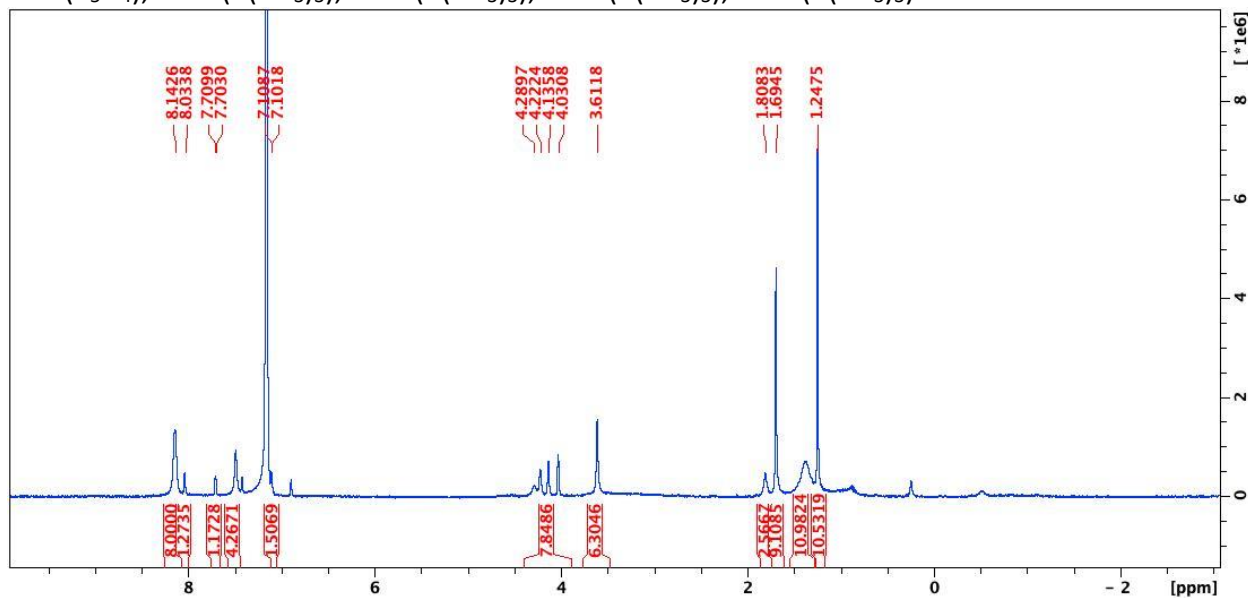


Figure S4. ^1H NMR (C_6D_6 , 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2[\text{BAr}^{\text{F}}]$ δ (ppm): 8.14 (s, 8H, BAr^{F} , o- ArH), 8.03 (d, 2H, ArH), 7.70 (d, 2H, ArH), 7.49 (s, 4H, BAr^{F} , p- ArH), 4.03-4.29 (m, 8H, Cp-H), 3.61 (s, 9H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 1.69 (s, 9H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 1.34 (br, 9H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 1.24 (s, 9H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$). Other ^1H NMR peaks were not observed due to the paramagnetic nature of this compound.

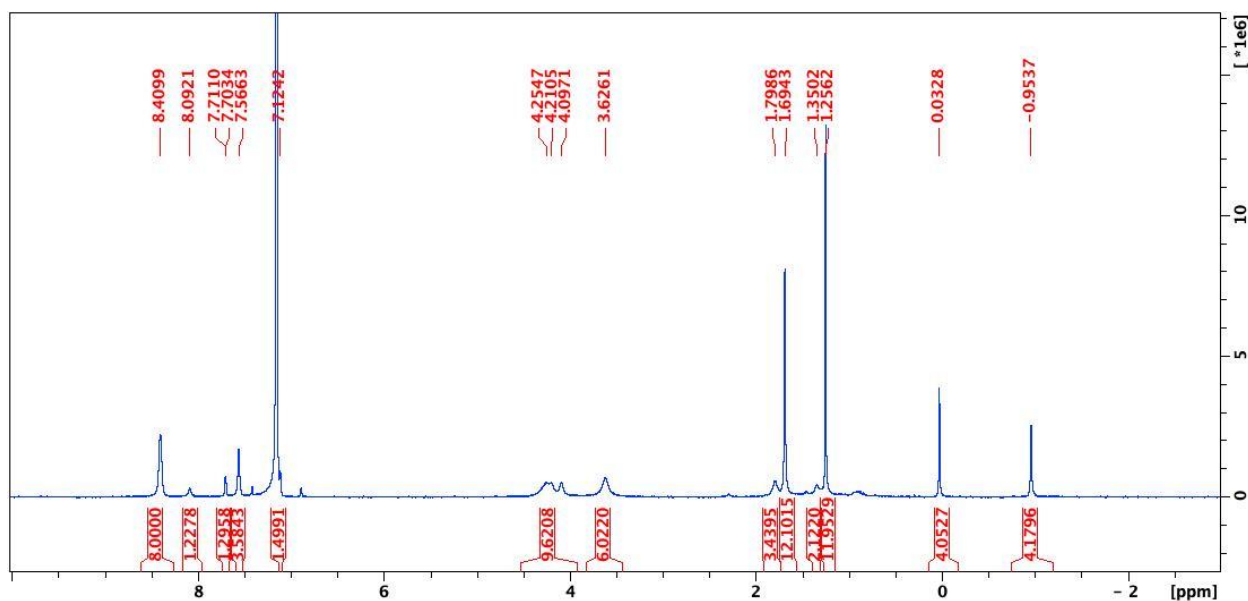


Figure S5. ^1H NMR (C_6D_6 , 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2[\text{BAr}^{\text{F}}]_2$ δ (ppm): 8.41 (s, 8H, BAr^{F} , *o*-ArH), 8.09 (d, 2H, ArH), 7.71 (d, 2H, ArH), 7.56 (s, 4H, BAr^{F} , *p*-ArH), 4.09-4.25 (m, 8H, ArH), 3.63 (br, 9H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 1.69 (s, 9H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 1.25 (s, 9H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 0.03 (s, 24H, Cp-H), -0.95 (s, 4H, Cp-H). Other ^1H NMR peaks were not observed due to the paramagnetic nature of this compound.

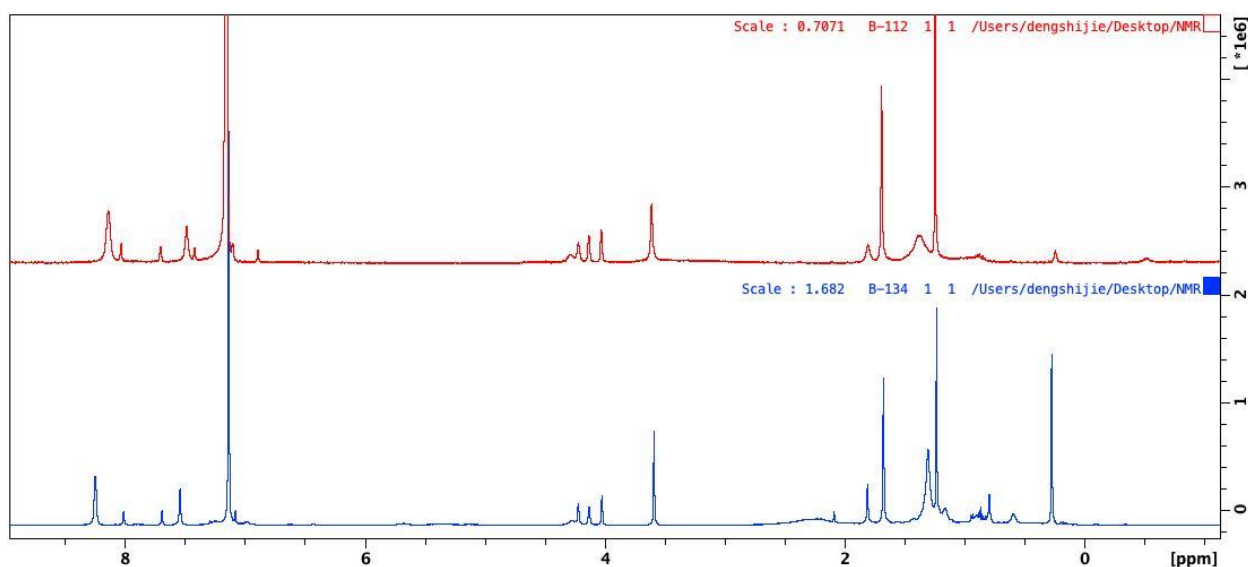


Figure S6. ^1H NMR (C_6D_6 , 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2[\text{BAr}^{\text{F}}]$ (top) and $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2$ + 1 equivalent of $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2[\text{BAr}^{\text{F}}]_2$ (bottom).

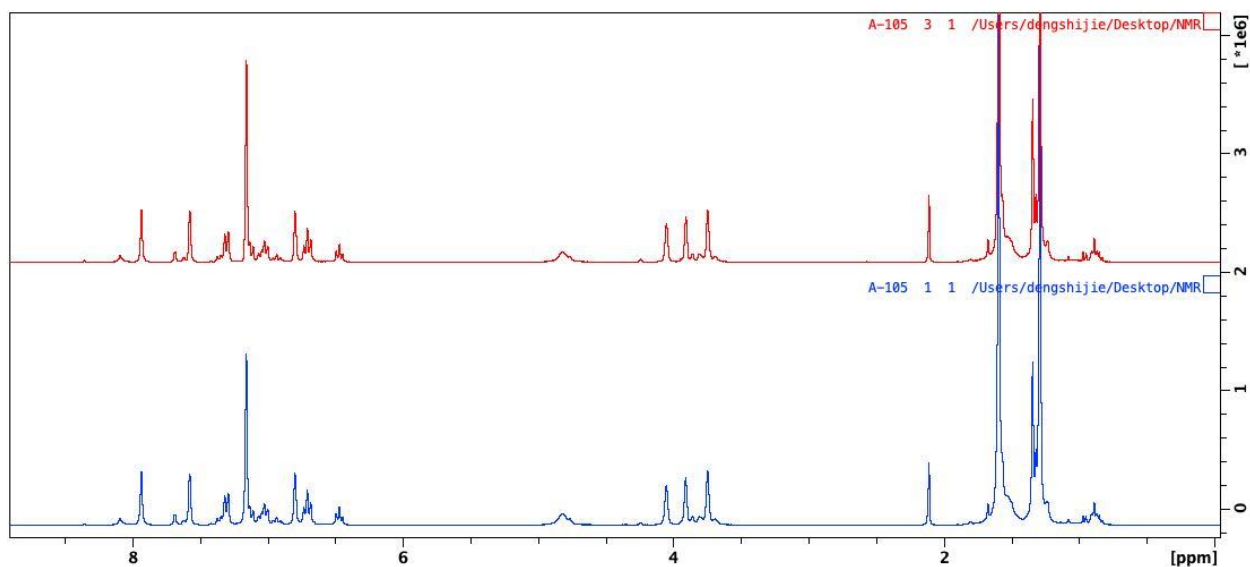


Figure S7. Thermal decomposition study (C_6D_6 , 300 MHz, 298 K) of $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2$. $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2$ before heating (bottom) and after heating at 80°C for 24 h (top).

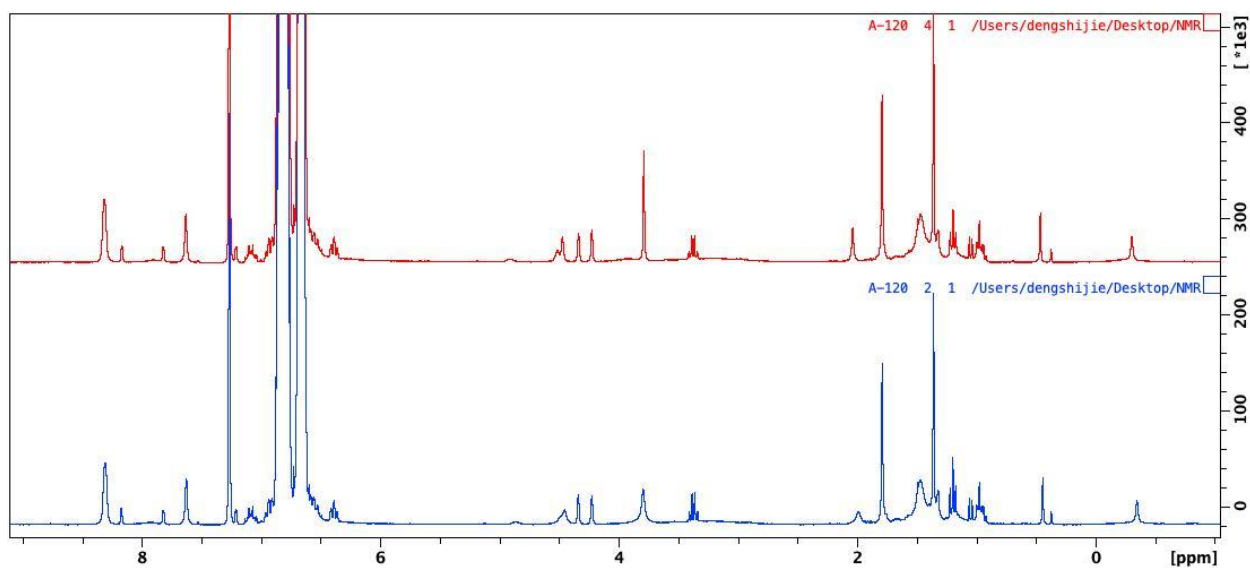


Figure S8. Thermal decomposition study (C_6D_6 , 300 MHz, 298 K) of $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2[\text{Bar}^{\text{F}}]$. $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2[\text{Bar}^{\text{F}}]$ generated *in situ* before heating (bottom) and after heating at 80°C for 24 h (top).

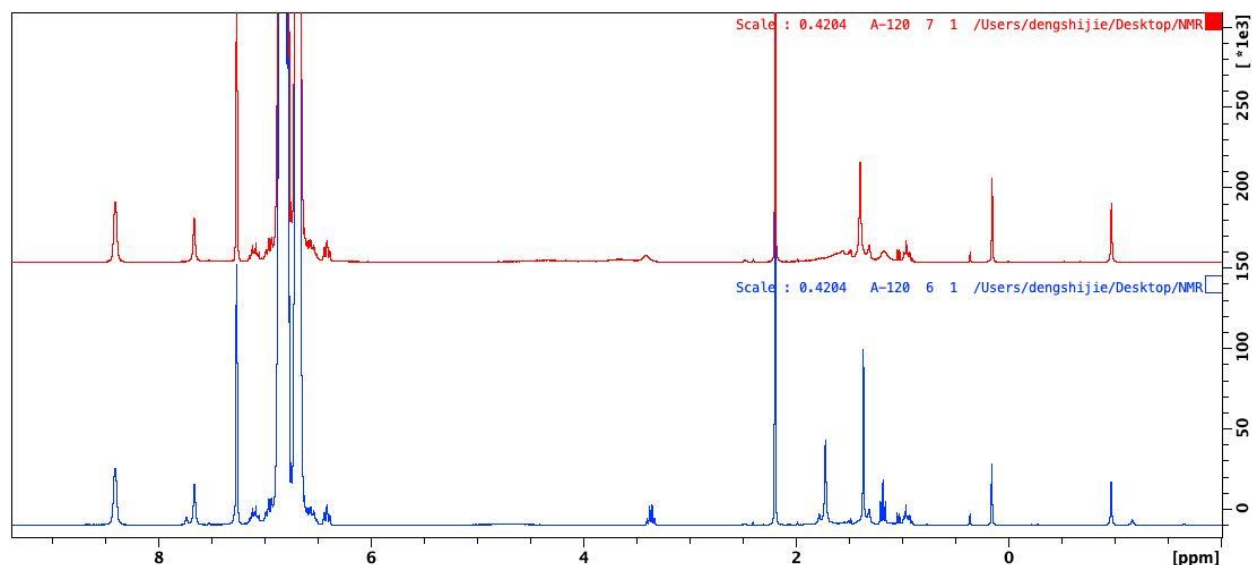


Figure S9. Thermal decomposition study (C_6D_6 , 300 MHz, 298 K) of $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})_2][\text{BAR}^{\text{F}}]_2$. $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})_2][\text{BAR}^{\text{F}}]_2$ generated *in situ* before heating (bottom) and after heating at 80°C for 24 h (top).

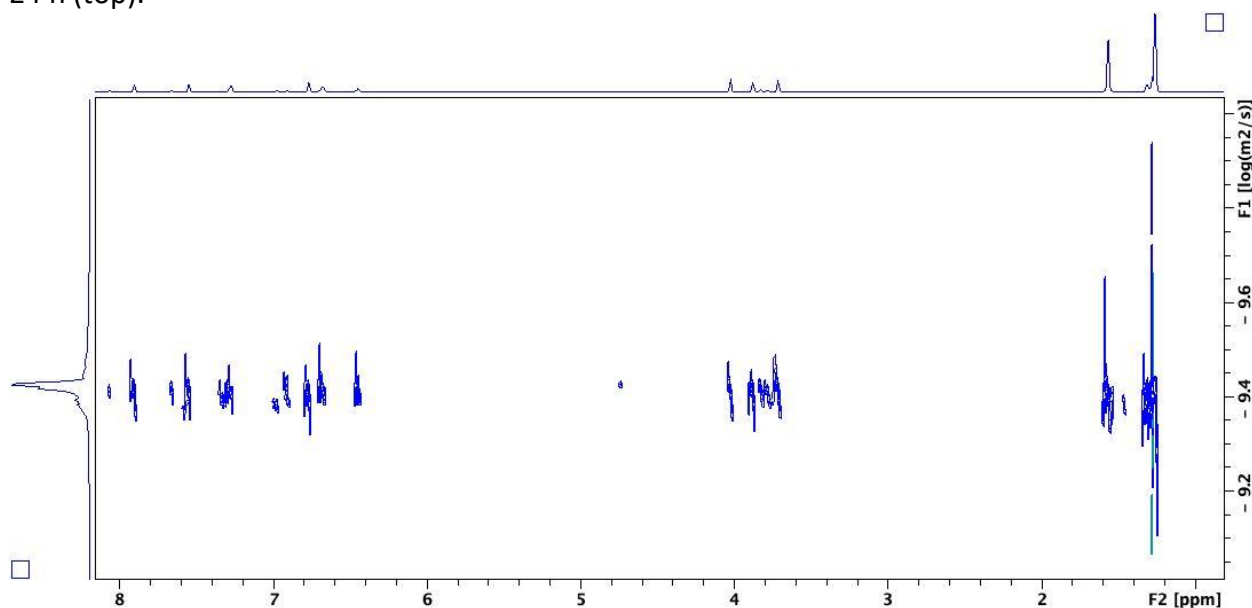


Figure S10. DOSY (C_6D_6 , 500 MHz, 298 K) of $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})_2]$.

Radius in benzene, r_{H} : Stoke-Einstein equation $D = (kT)/(6\pi\eta r_{\text{H}})$ was used to calculate hydrodynamic radius in solution, D was obtained from DOSY NMR spectrum.

Radius in solid state, $r_{\text{X-ray}}$: The molecular volume was obtained from Olex2.¹ The molecule was assumed to be a sphere and the solid-state radius was calculated using the sphere volume equation.

Reference: 1. O. V. Dolomanov, L. J. Bourhis, R. J. Gildea, J. A. K. Howard and H. Puschmann, *J. Appl. Crystallogr.*, 2009, **42**, 339-341.

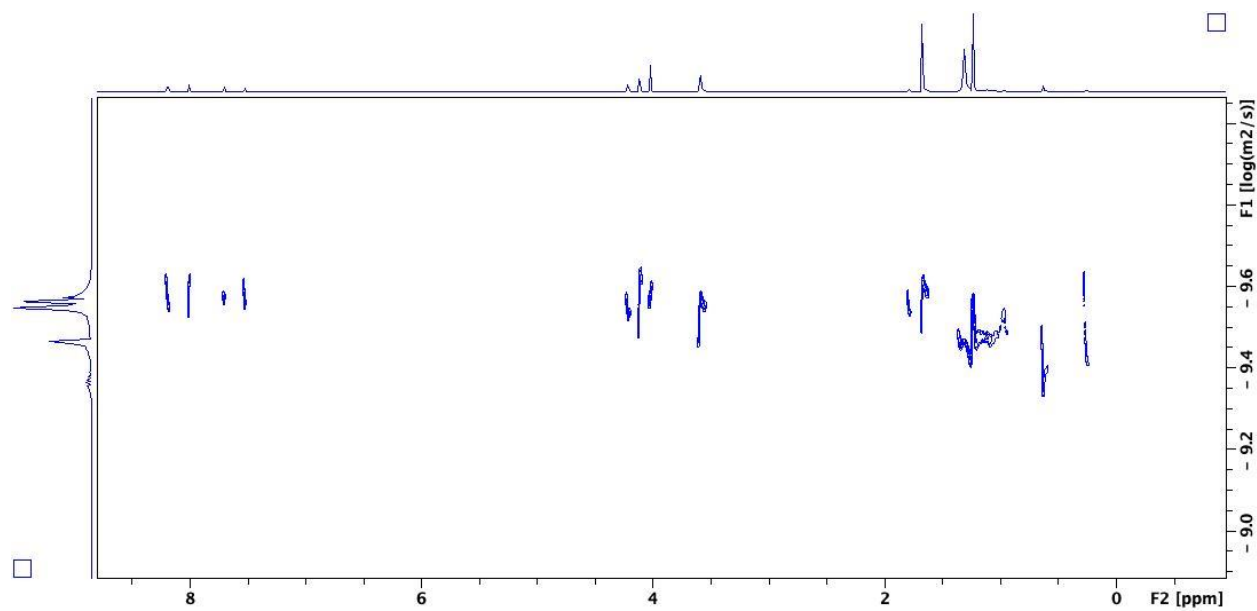


Figure S11. DOSY (C_6D_6 , 500 MHz, 298 K) of $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2[\text{BAr}^{\text{F}}]$.

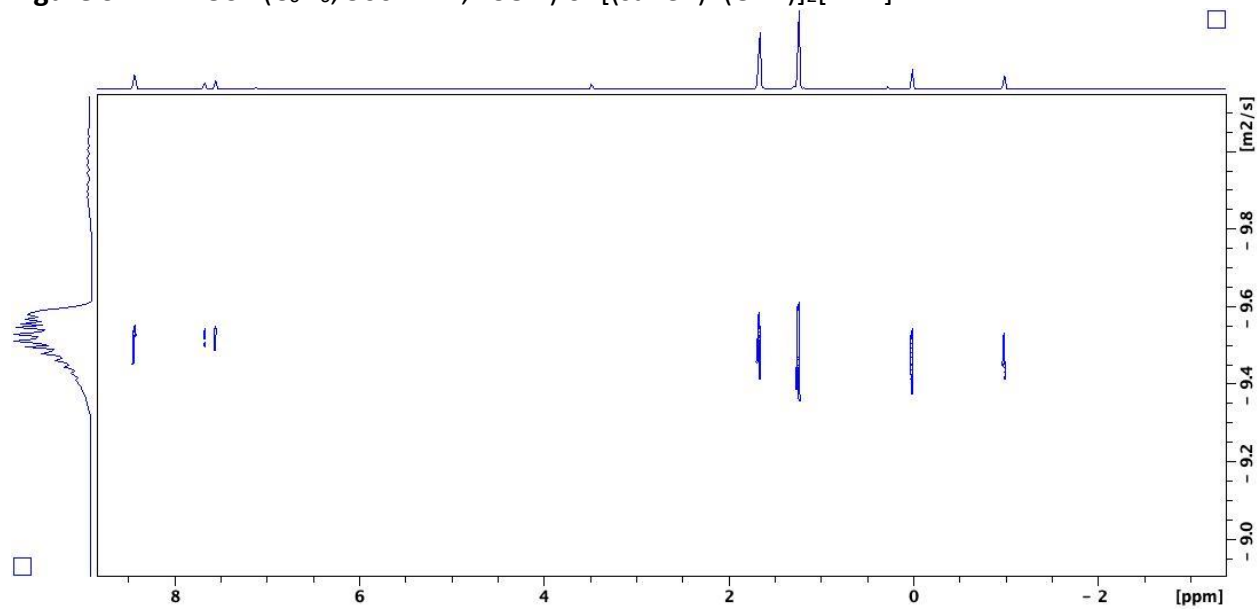


Figure S12. DOSY (C_6D_6 , 500 MHz, 298 K) of $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2[\text{BAr}^{\text{F}}]_2$.

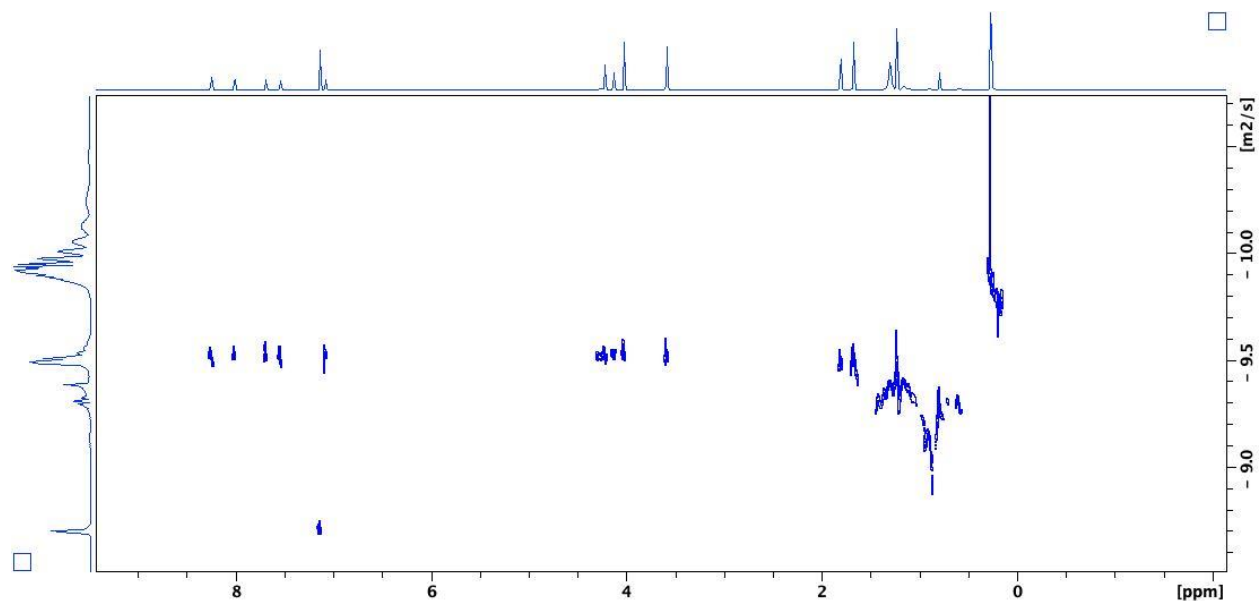


Figure S13. DOSY (C_6D_6 , 500 MHz, 298 K) of $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2$ + 1 equivalent of $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2[\text{BAr}^{\text{F}}]_2$.

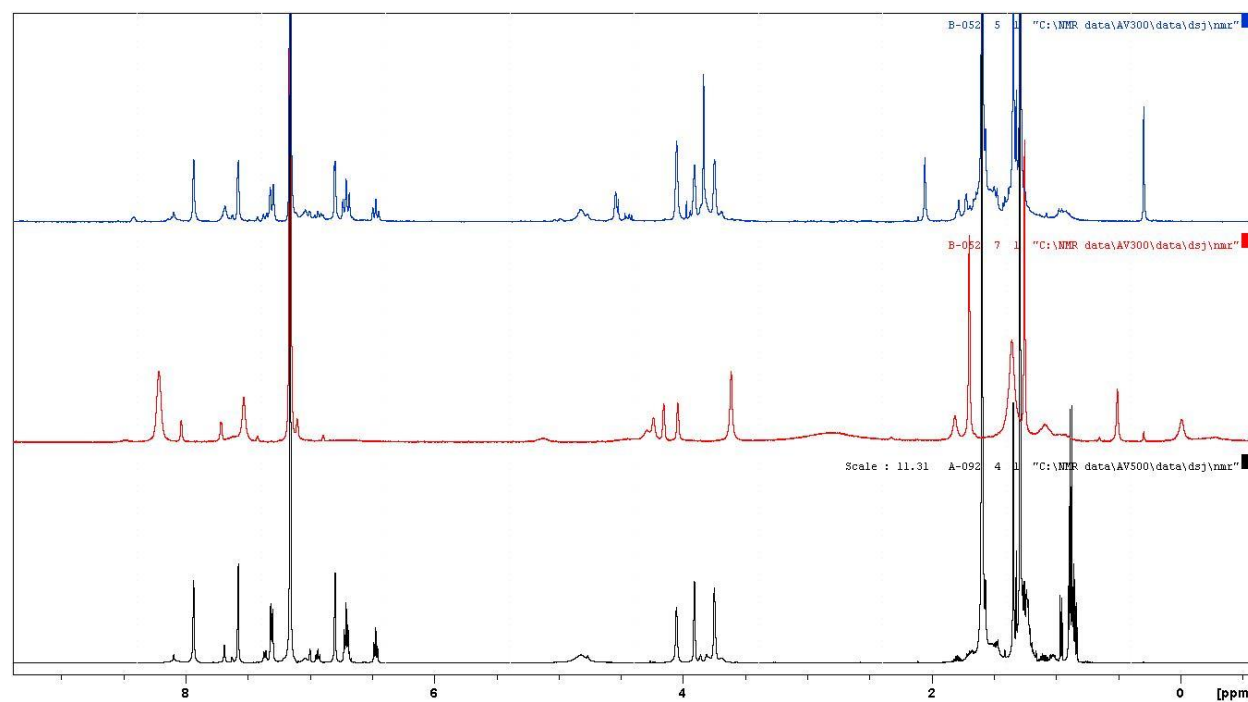


Figure S14. ^1H NMR (C_6D_6 , 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2$ (bottom), $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2[\text{BAr}^{\text{F}}]$ generated in situ (middle), and $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2$ generated from $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2[\text{BAr}^{\text{F}}]$ (top). All the peaks in the top spectrum match those in the bottom spectrum. The extra peaks in the bottom spectrum belong to $^{\text{A}}\text{cFc}$ and $\text{CoCp}_2[\text{BAr}^{\text{F}}]$.

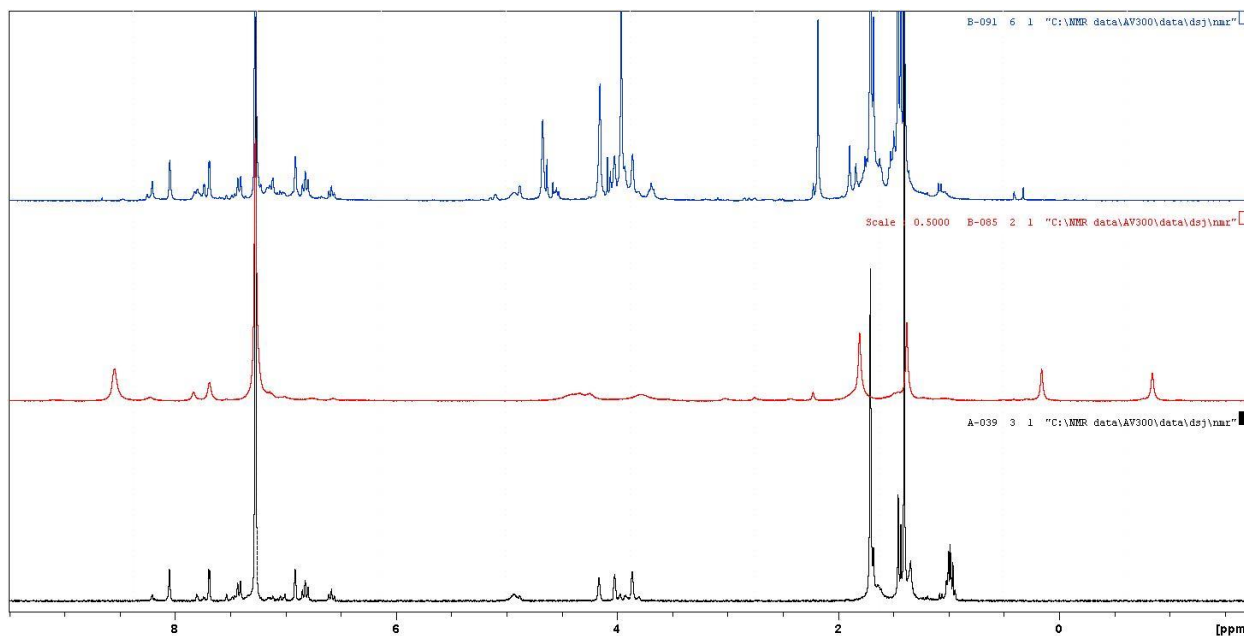


Figure S15. ^1H NMR (C_6D_6 , 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2$ (bottom), $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2[\text{BAr}^F]_2$ generated in situ (middle), and $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2$ generated from $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2[\text{BAr}^F]_2$ (top). All the peaks in the top spectrum match those in the bottom spectrum. The extra peaks in the bottom spectrum belong to AcFc and $\text{CoCp}_2[\text{BAr}^F]$.

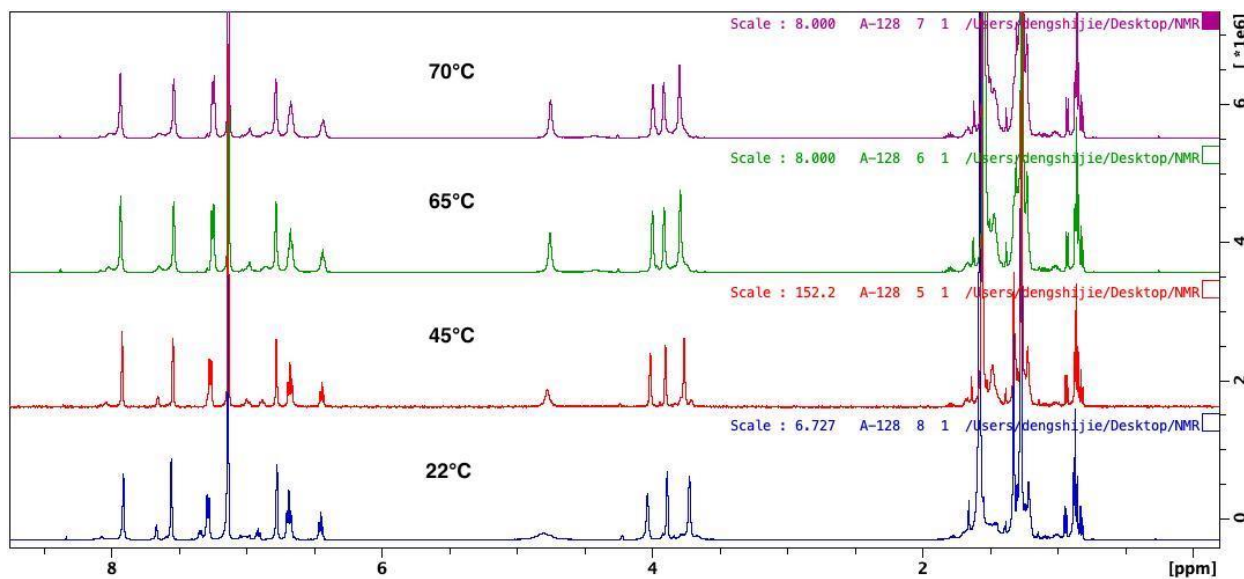


Figure S16. Variable temperature ^1H NMR (C_6D_6 , 500 MHz) study of $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2$.

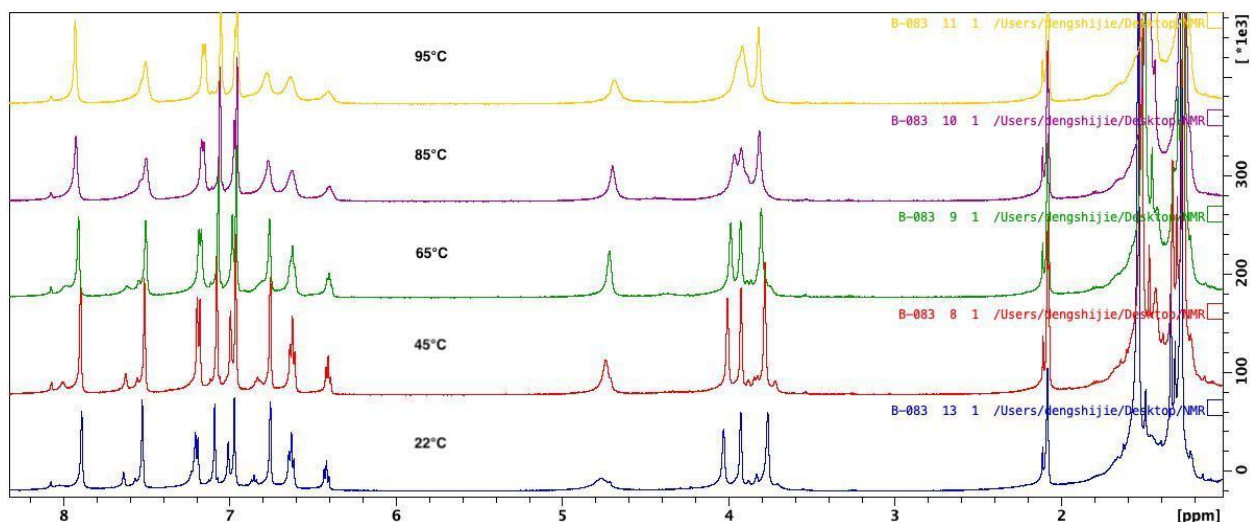


Figure S17. Variable temperature ^1H NMR (toluene- d_8 , 500 MHz) study of $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2$.

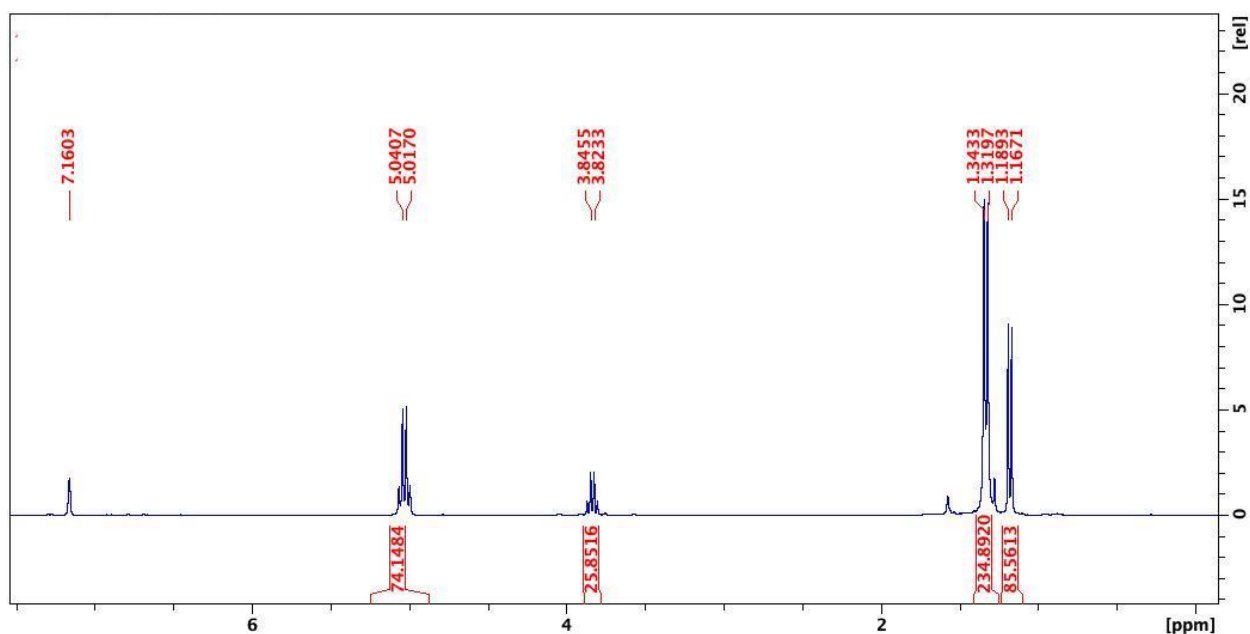


Figure S18. ^1H NMR (C_6D_6 , 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of 200 equivalents of L-lactide polymerization by $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2$ (Table 1, entry 1). δ (ppm): 5.04 (q, 1H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{COO}$, PLA), 3.83 (t, 1H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{COO}$, LA), 1.34 (d, 3H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{COO}$, PLA), 1.19 (d, 3H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{COO}$, LA).

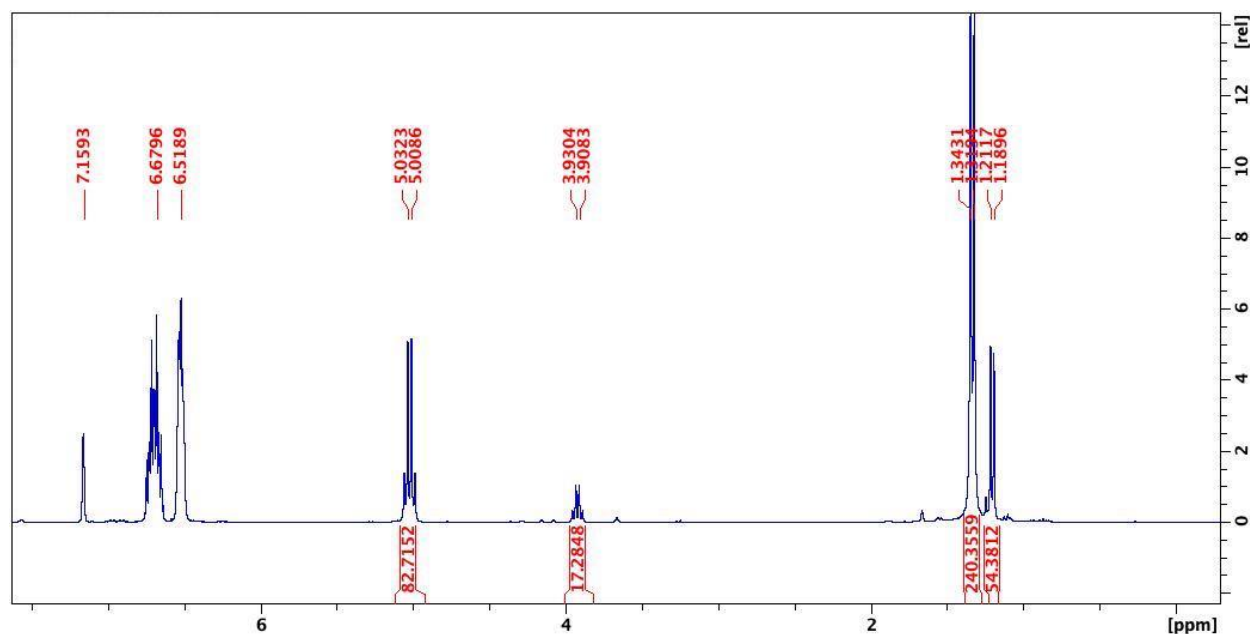


Figure S19. ^1H NMR (C_6D_6 , 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of 200 equivalents of L-lactide polymerization by *in situ* generated $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2^+$ (Table 1, entry 2). δ (ppm): 5.03 (q, 1H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{COO}$, PLA), 3.93 (t, 1H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{COO}$, LA), 1.34 (d, 3H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{COO}$, PLA), 1.21 (d, 3H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{COO}$, LA).

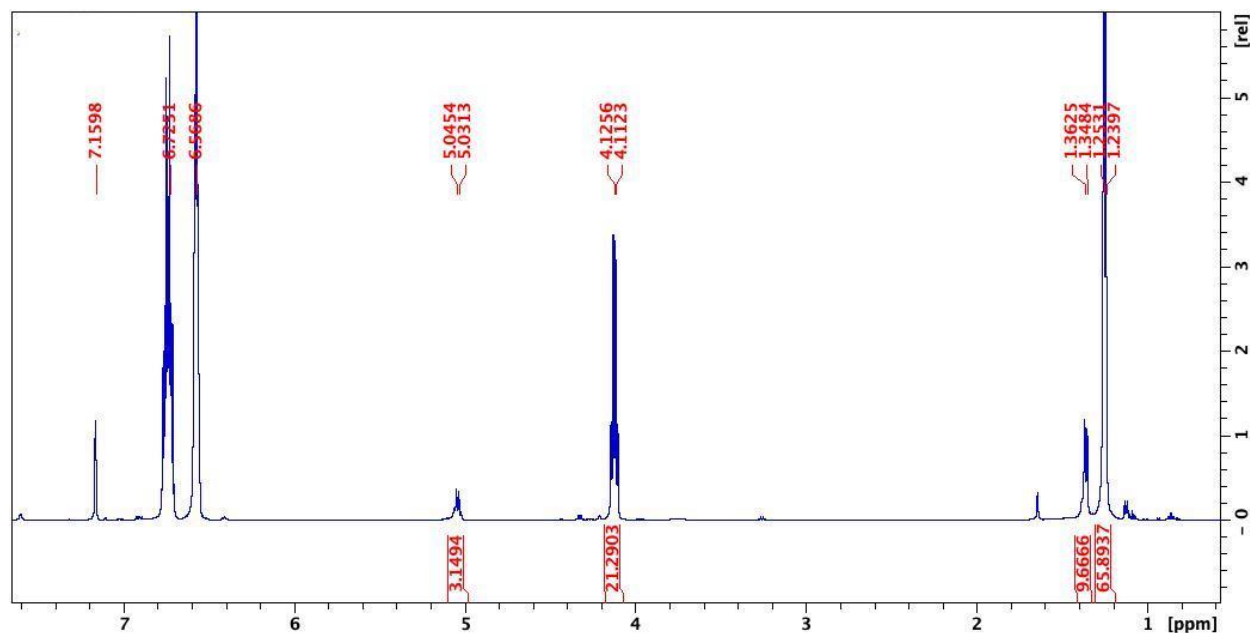


Figure S20. ^1H NMR (C_6D_6 , 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of 200 equivalents of L-lactide polymerization by *in situ* generated $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2^{2+}$ (Table 1, entry 3). δ (ppm): 5.03 (q, 1H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{COO}$, PLA), 4.12 (t, 1H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{COO}$, LA), 1.36 (d, 3H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{COO}$, PLA), 1.24 (d, 3H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{COO}$, LA).

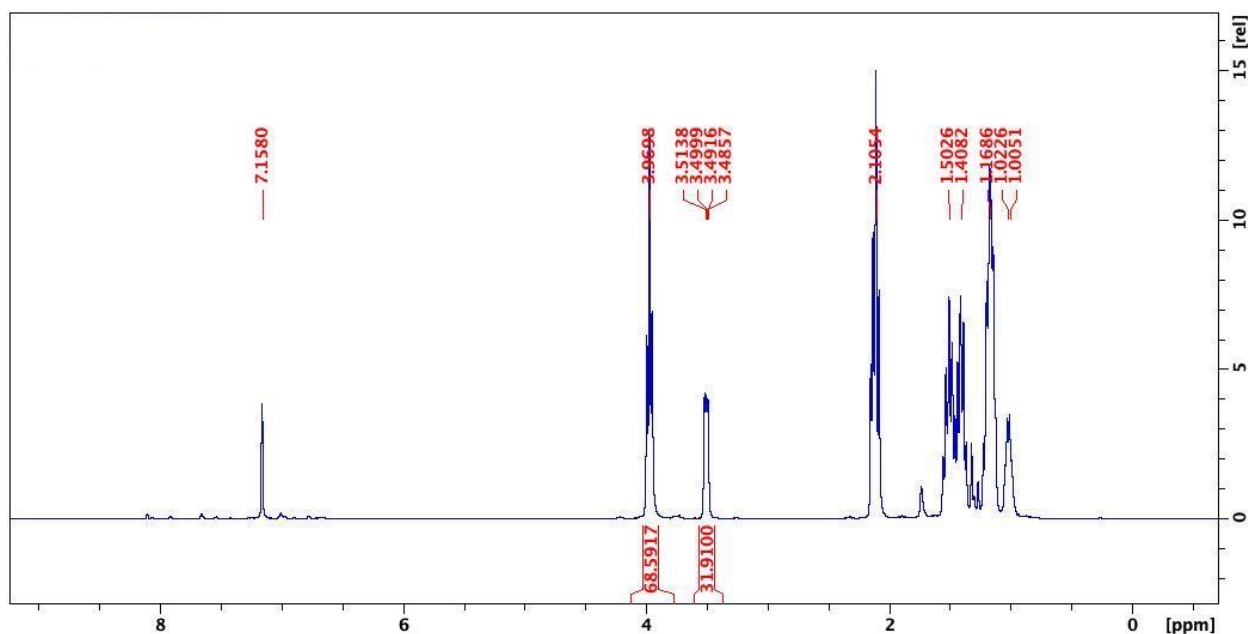


Figure S21. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of 200 equivalents of ε-caprolactone polymerization by [(salfen)Y(OPh)]₂ (Table 1, entry 4). δ (ppm): 3.97 (t, 2H, COOCH₂, PCL), 3.50 (t, 2H, COOCH₂, CL), 2.10 (t, 2H, CH₂COO, PCL), 1.50 (m, 2H, COOCH₂CH₂, PCL), 1.40 (m, 2H, COOCH₂CH₂CH₂, PCL), 1.16 (m, 2H, COOCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂, PCL), 1.02 (m, 2H, COOCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂, CL).

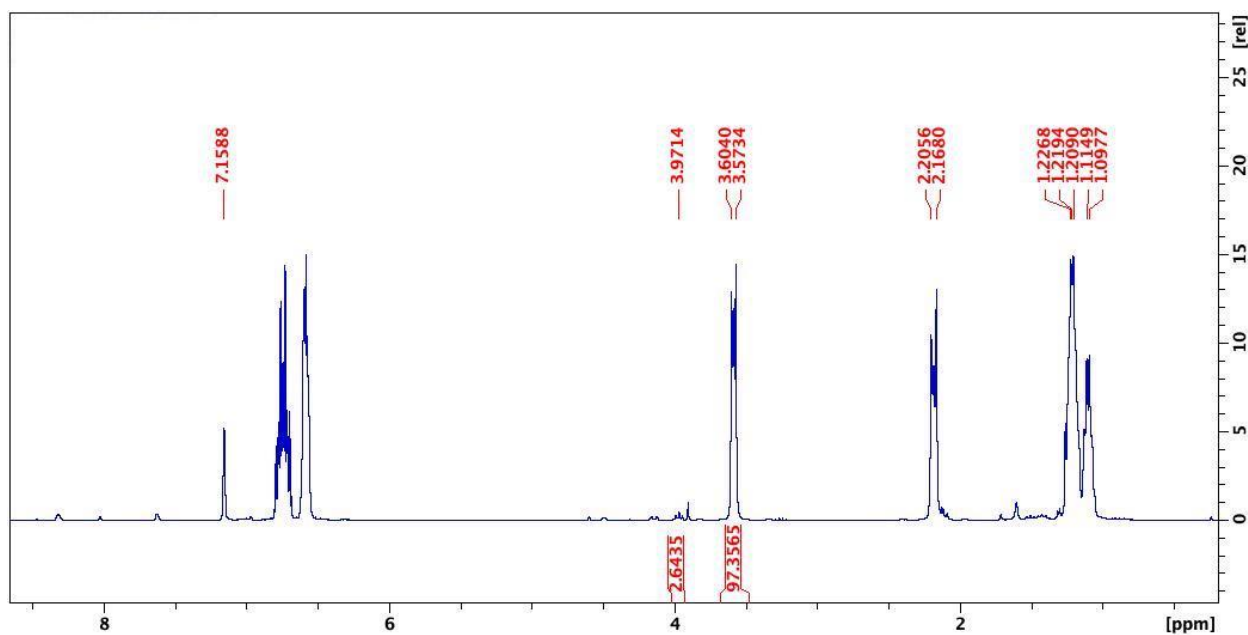


Figure S22. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of 200 equivalents of ε-caprolactone polymerization by *in situ* generated [(salfen)Y(OPh)]₂⁺ (Table 1, entry 5). δ (ppm): 3.97 (t, 2H, COOCH₂, PCL), 3.60 (t, 2H, COOCH₂, CL), 2.20 (t, 2H, CH₂COO, PCL), 1.50 (m, 2H, COOCH₂CH₂, PCL), 1.40 (m, 2H, COOCH₂CH₂CH₂, PCL), 1.16 (m, 2H, COOCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂, PCL), 1.10 (m, 2H, COOCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂, CL).

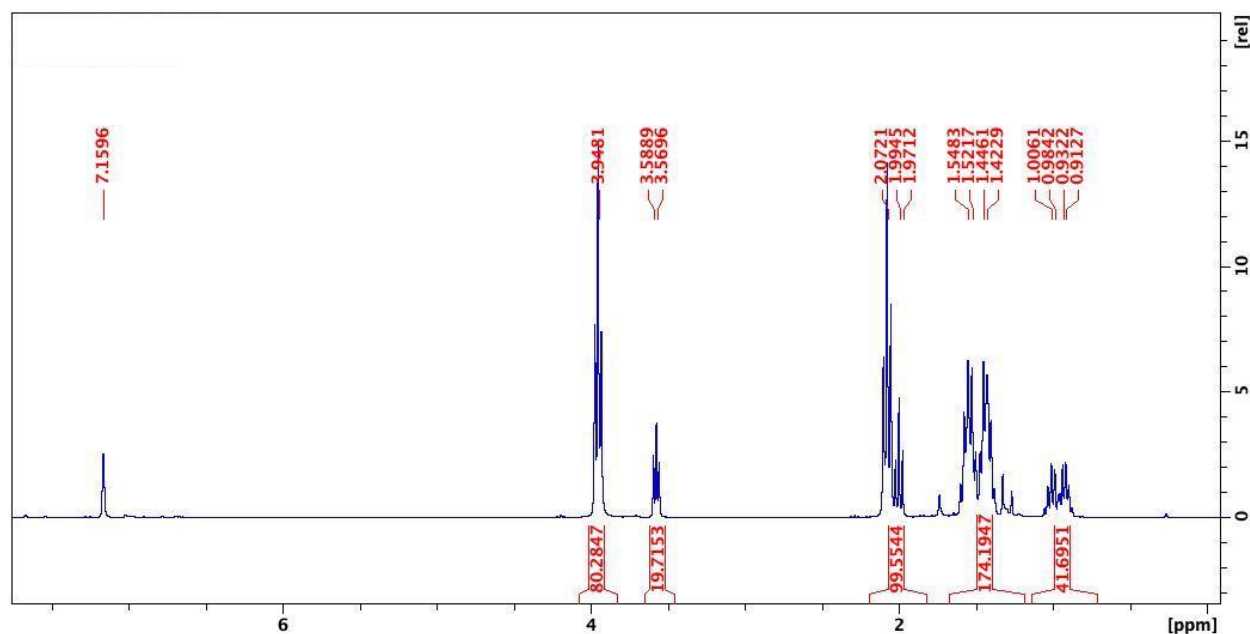


Figure S23. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of 200 equivalents of δ -valerolactone polymerization by [(salfen)Y(OPh)]₂ (Table 1, entry 7). δ (ppm): 3.95 (t, 2H, COOCH₂, PVL), 3.57 (t, 2H, COOCH₂, VL), 2.07 (t, 2H, CH₂COO, PVL), 1.99 (t, 2H, CH₂COO, VL), 1.54 (m, 4H, CH₂CH₂CH₂COO, PVL), 0.96 (m, 4H, CH₂CH₂CH₂COO, VL).

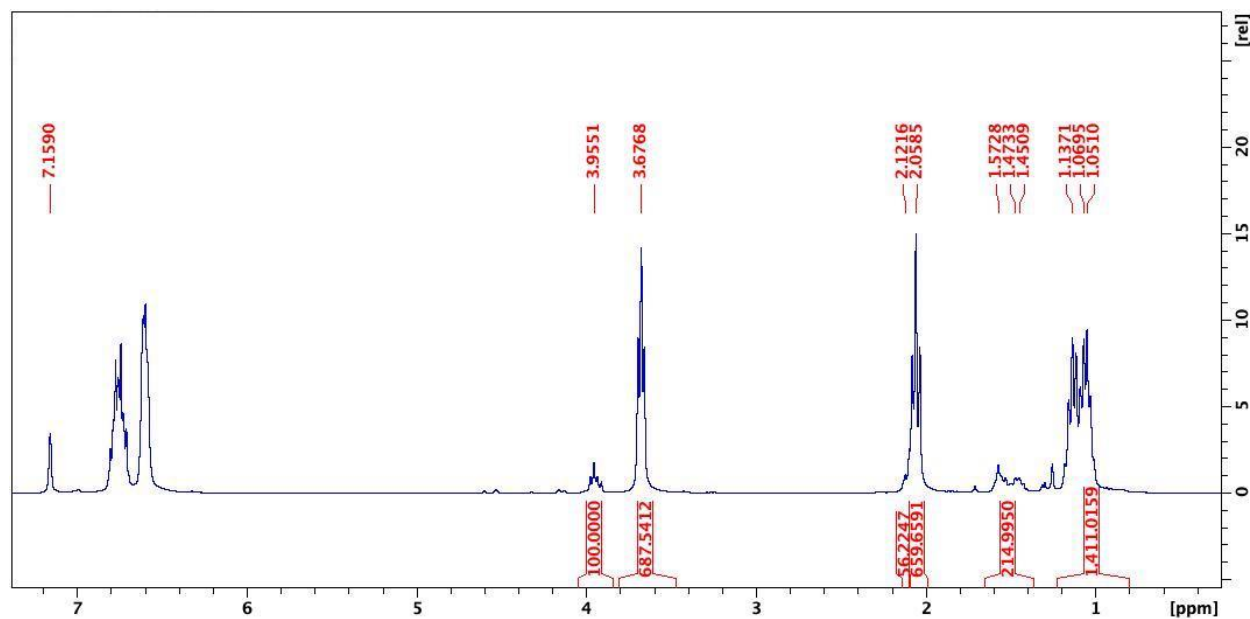


Figure S24. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of 200 equivalents of δ -valerolactone polymerization by *in situ* generated [(salfen)Y(OPh)]₂⁺ (Table 1, entry 8). δ (ppm): 3.95 (t, 2H, COOCH₂, PVL), 3.57 (t, 2H, COOCH₂, VL), 2.07 (t, 2H, CH₂COO, PVL), 1.99 (t, 2H, CH₂COO, VL), 1.54 (m, 4H, CH₂CH₂CH₂COO, PVL), 0.96 (m, 4H, CH₂CH₂CH₂COO, VL).

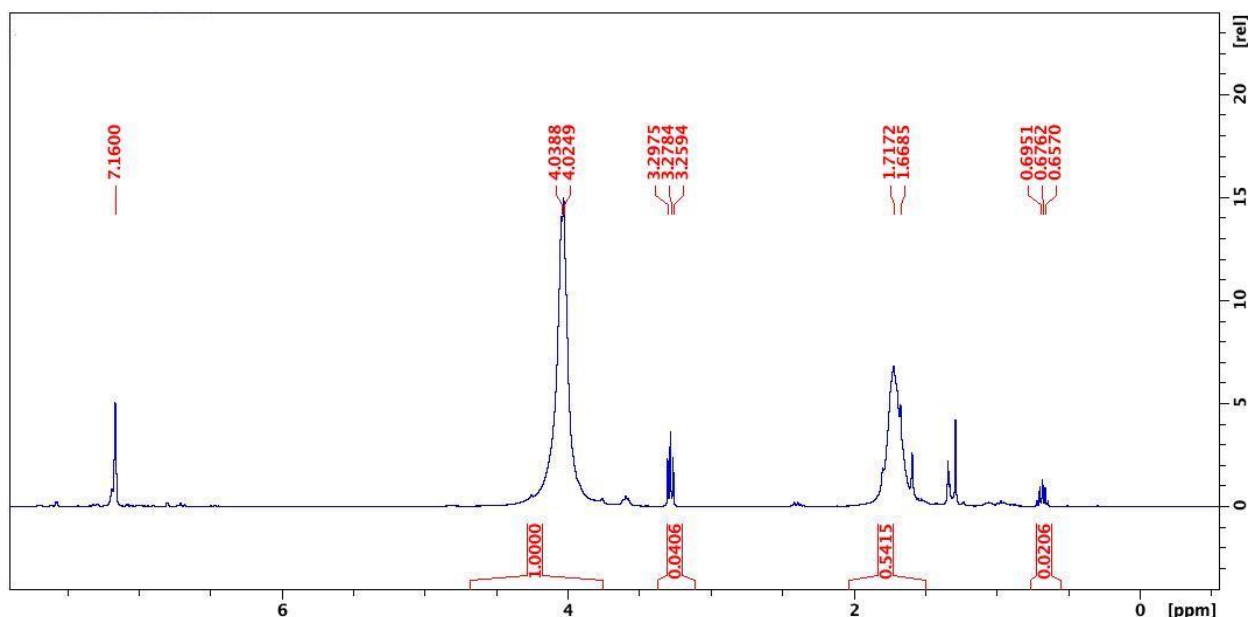


Figure S25. ^1H NMR (C_6D_6 , 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of 200 equivalents of trimethylene carbonate polymerization by $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2$ (Table 1, entry 10). δ (ppm): 4.03 (s, 4H, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, PTMC), 3.28 (t, 4H, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, TMC), 1.71 (br, 2H, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, PTMC), 0.70 (m, 2H, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, TMC).

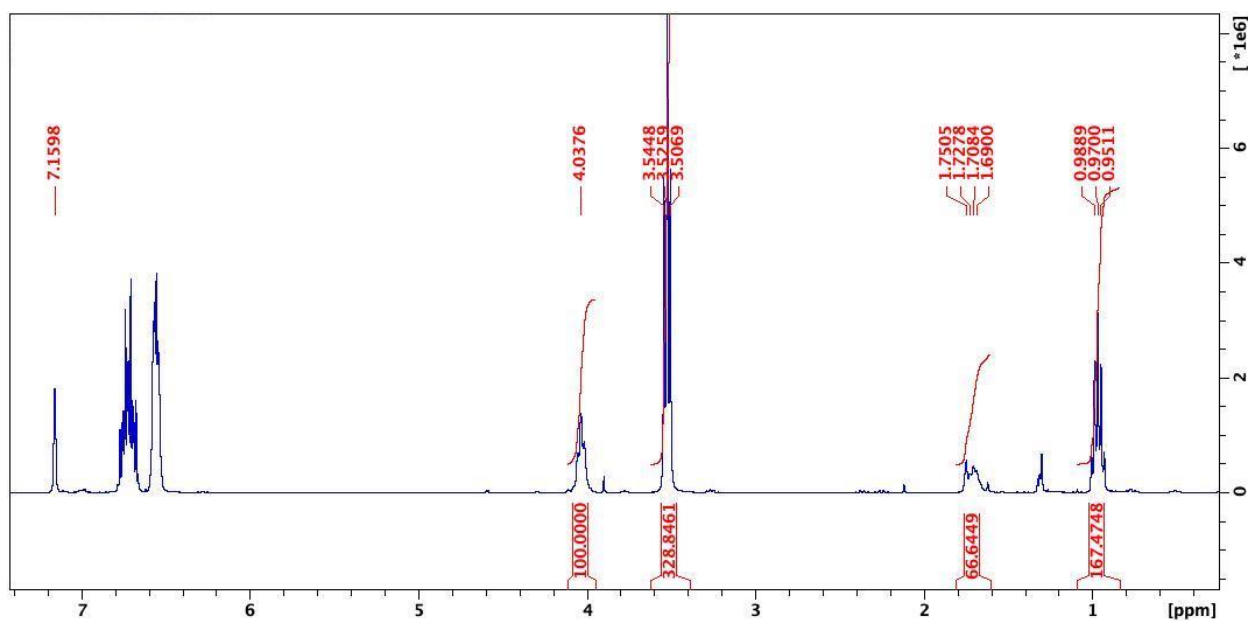


Figure S26. ^1H NMR (C_6D_6 , 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of 200 equivalents of trimethylene carbonate polymerization by *in situ* generated $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2^+$ (Table 1, entry 11). δ (ppm): 4.04 (s, 4H, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, PTMC), 3.53 (t, 4H, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, TMC), 1.73 (br, 2H, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, PTMC), 0.97 (m, 2H, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, TMC).

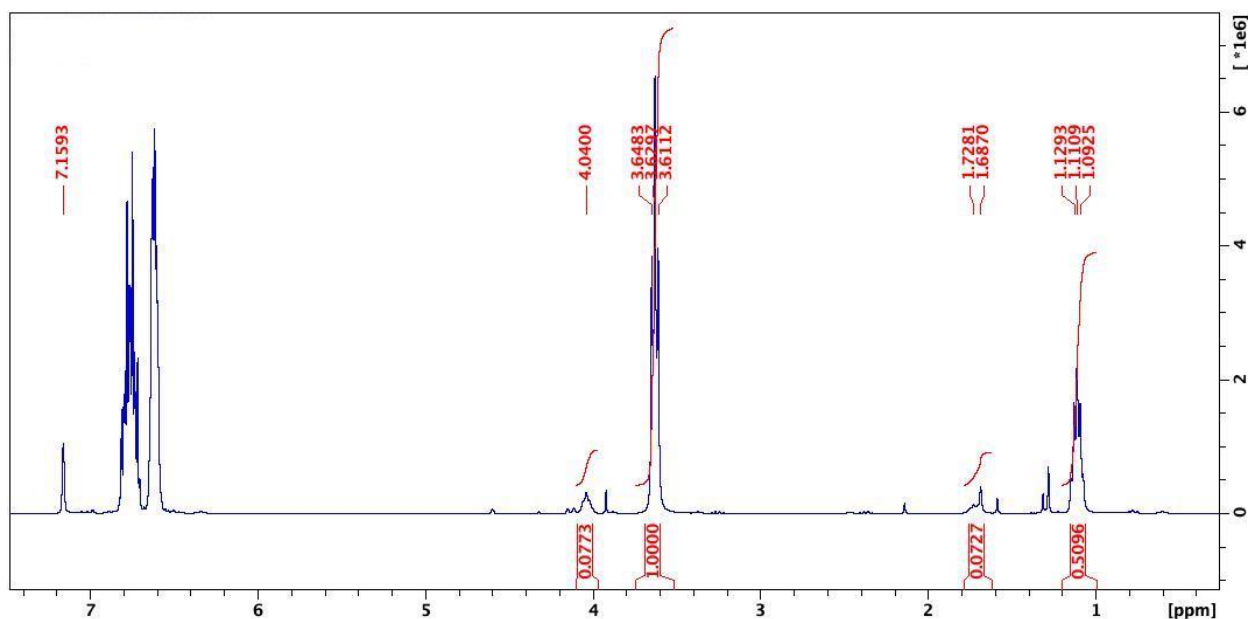


Figure S27. ^1H NMR (C_6D_6 , 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of 200 equivalents of trimethylene carbonate polymerization by *in situ* generated $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2^{2+}$ (Table 1, entry 12). δ (ppm): 4.04 (s, 4H, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, PTMC), 3.63 (t, 4H, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, TMC), 1.73 (br, 2H, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, PTMC), 1.11 (m, 2H, $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, TMC).

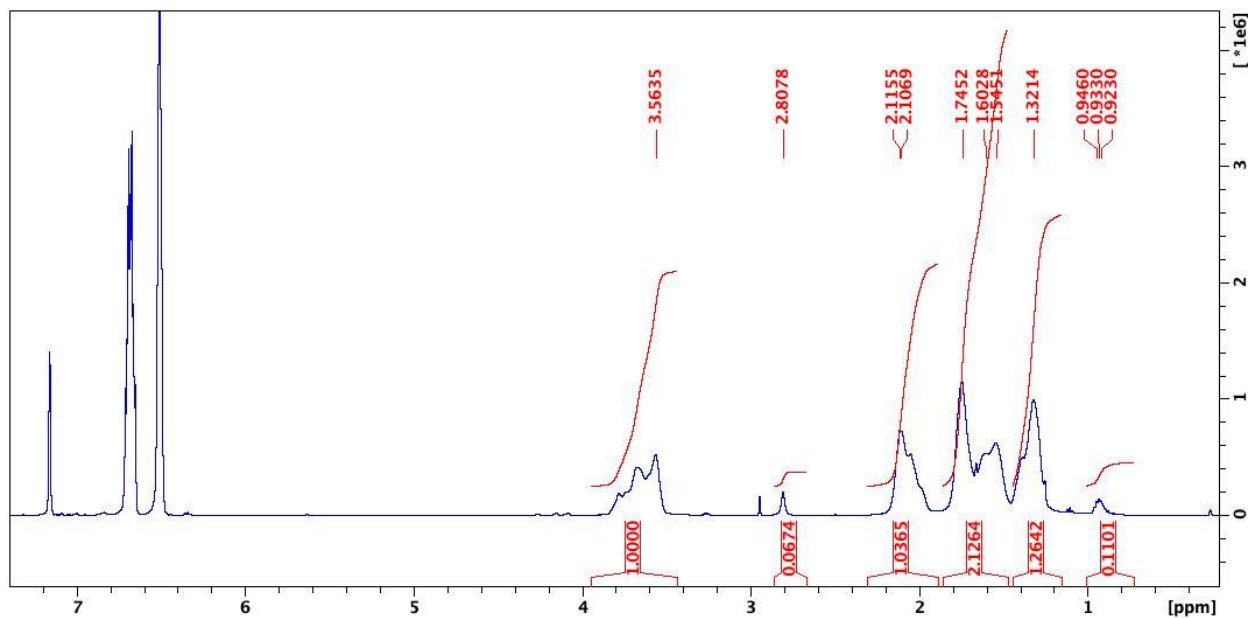


Figure S28. ^1H NMR (C_6D_6 , 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of 200 equivalents of cyclohexene oxide polymerization by *in situ* generated $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2^{2+}$ (Table 1, entry 14). δ (ppm): 3.56 (br, 2H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{O})$, PCHO), 2.80 (br, 2H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{O})$, CHO), 2.11 (br, 2H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{O})$, PCHO), 1.74 (br, 2H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{O})$, PCHO), 1.54 (br, 2H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{O})$, PCHO), 1.32 (br, 2H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{O})$, PCHO), 0.94 (br, 2H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{O})$, CHO).

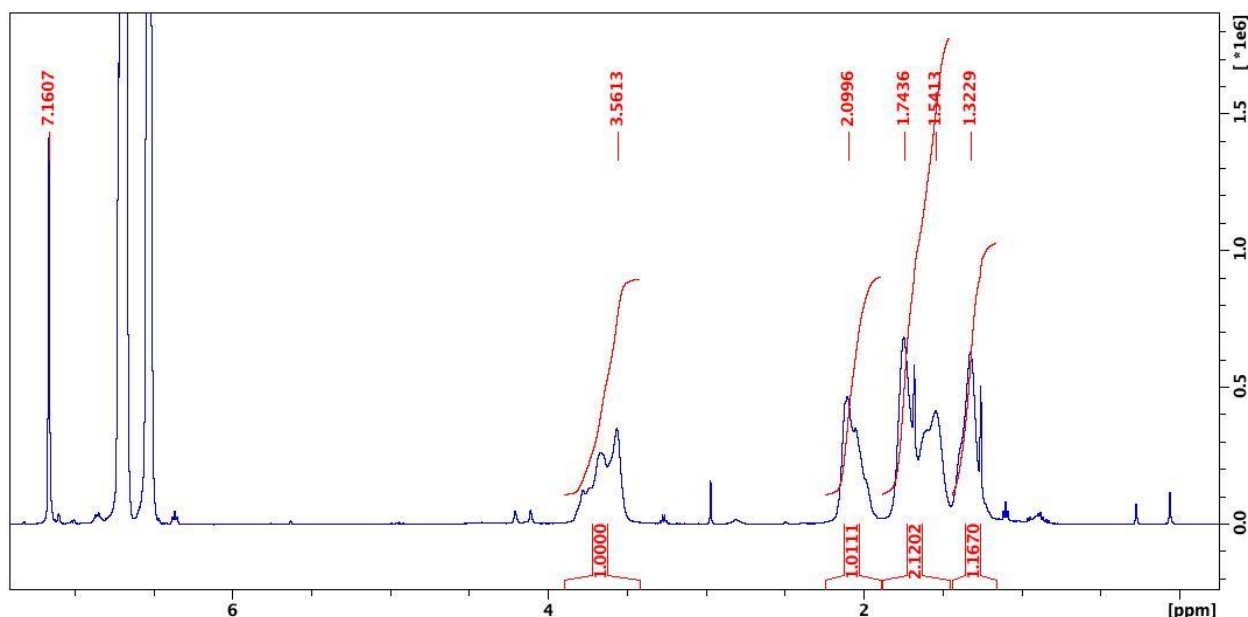


Figure S29. ^1H NMR (C_6D_6 , 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of 200 equivalents of cyclohexene oxide polymerization by *in situ* generated $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2^{2+}$ (Table 1, entry 15). δ (ppm): 3.56 (br, 2H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{O})$, PCHO), 2.10 (br, 2H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{O})$, PCHO), 1.74 (br, 2H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{O})$, PCHO), 1.54 (br, 2H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{O})$, PCHO), 1.32 (br, 2H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{O})$, PCHO).

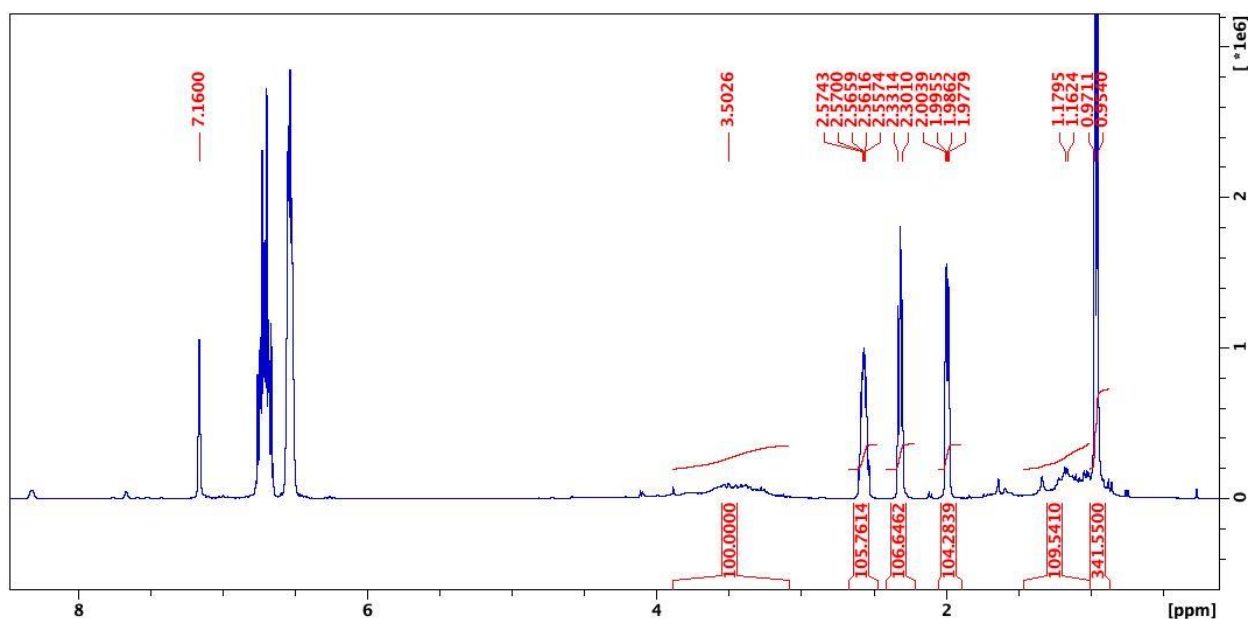


Figure S30. ^1H NMR (C_6D_6 , 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of 200 equivalents of propylene oxide polymerization by *in situ* generated $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2^{2+}$ (Table 1, entry 17). δ (ppm): 3.50 (br, 3H, $\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, PPO), 2.57(m, 1H, $\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, PO), 2.32(t, 1H, $\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, PO), 2.00(m, 1H, $\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, PO), 1.17 (br, 3H, $\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, PPO), 0.97(d, 3H, $\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, PO).

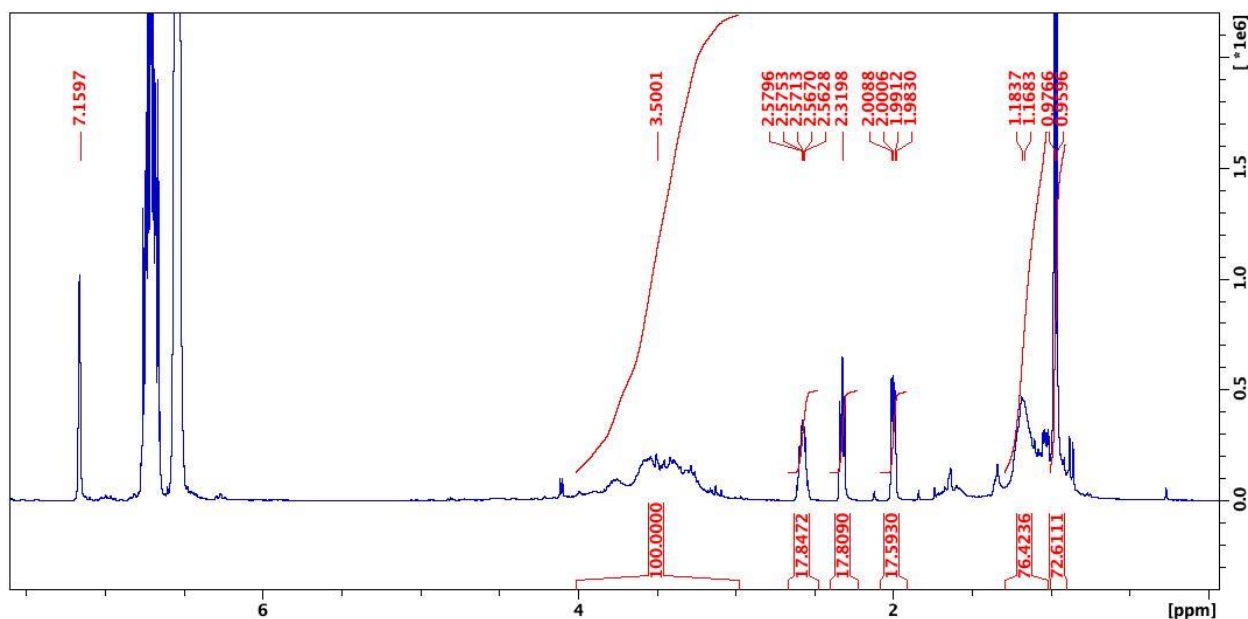


Figure S31. ^1H NMR (C_6D_6 , 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of 200 equivalents of propylene oxide polymerization by *in situ* generated $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2^{2+}$ (Table 1, entry 18). δ (ppm): 3.50 (br, 3H, $\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, PPO), 2.57(m, 1H, $\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, PO), 2.32(t, 1H, $\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, PO), 2.00(m, 1H, $\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, PO), 1.18 (br, 3H, $\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, PPO), 0.97(d, 3H, $\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, PO).

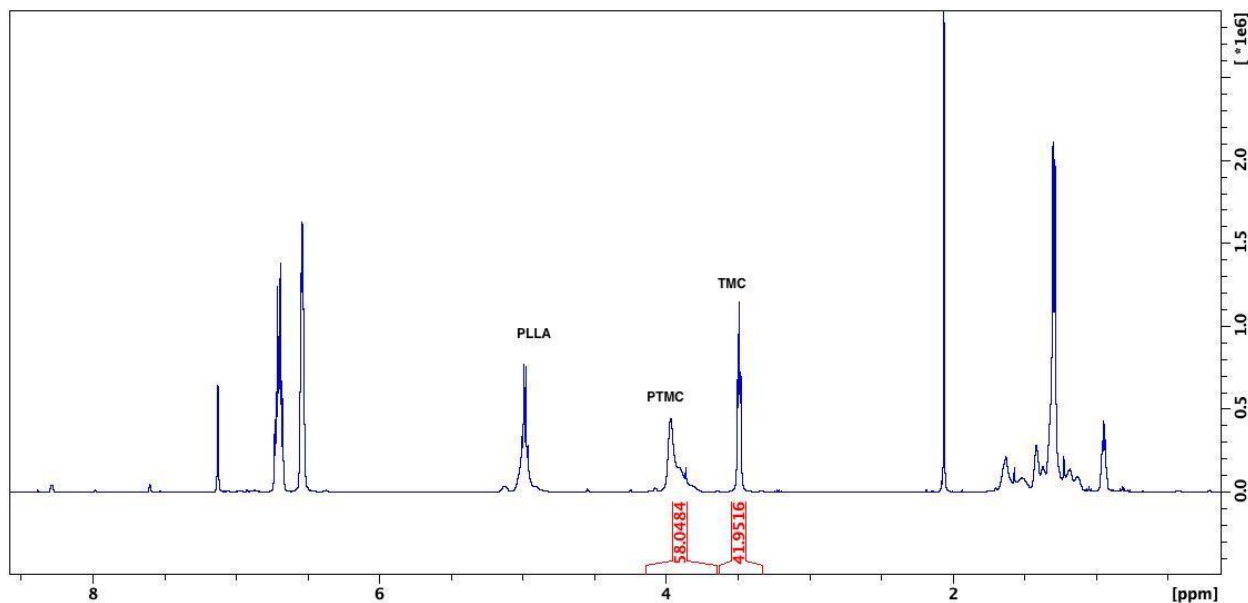


Figure S32. ^1H NMR (C_6D_6 , 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of 200 equivalents of LLA and 200 equivalents of TMC copolymerization (Table 2, entry 2).

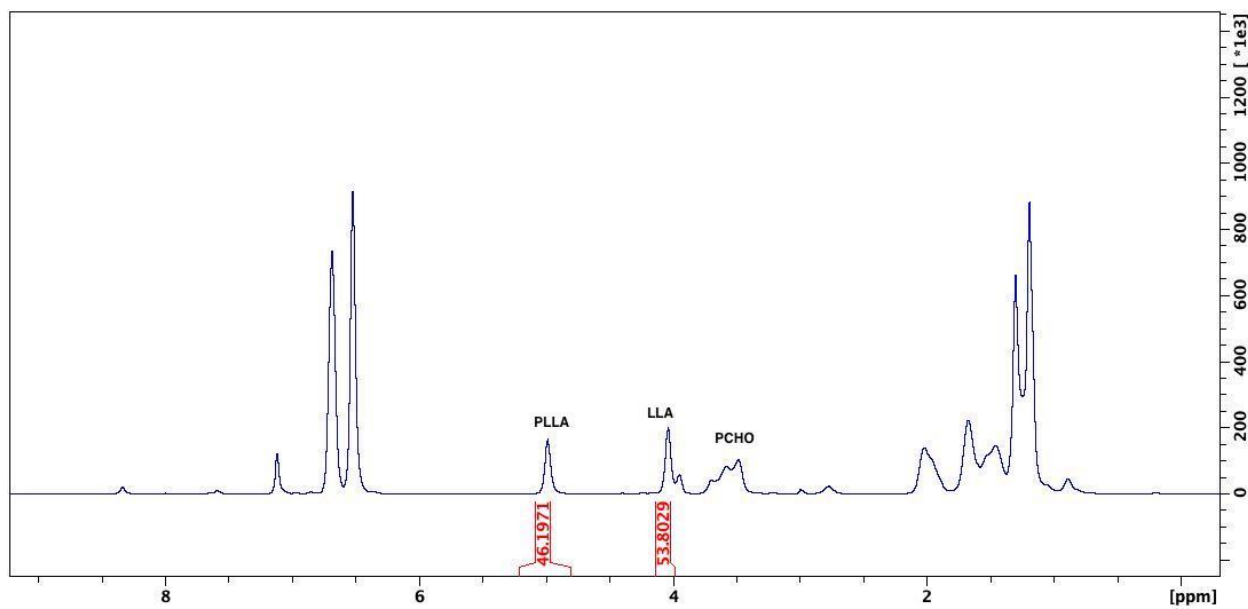


Figure S33. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of 200 equivalents of LLA and 200 equivalents of CHO copolymerization (Table 2, entry 3).

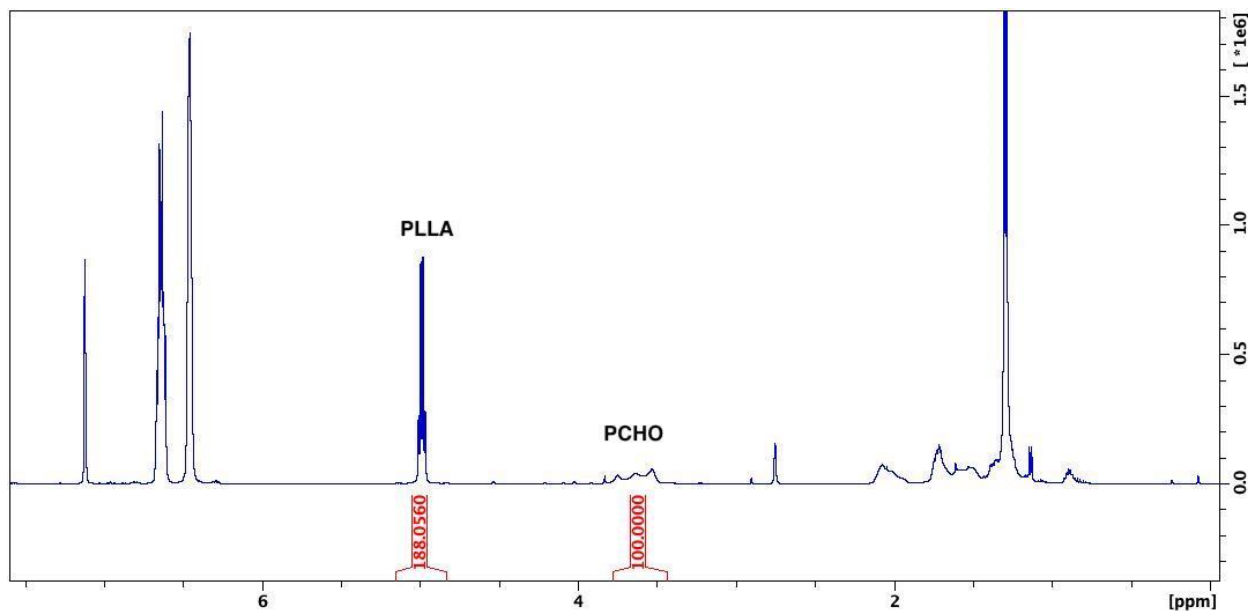


Figure S34. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of 200 equivalents of LLA and 200 equivalents of CHO and another 200 equivalents of LLA copolymerization (Table 2, entry 4).

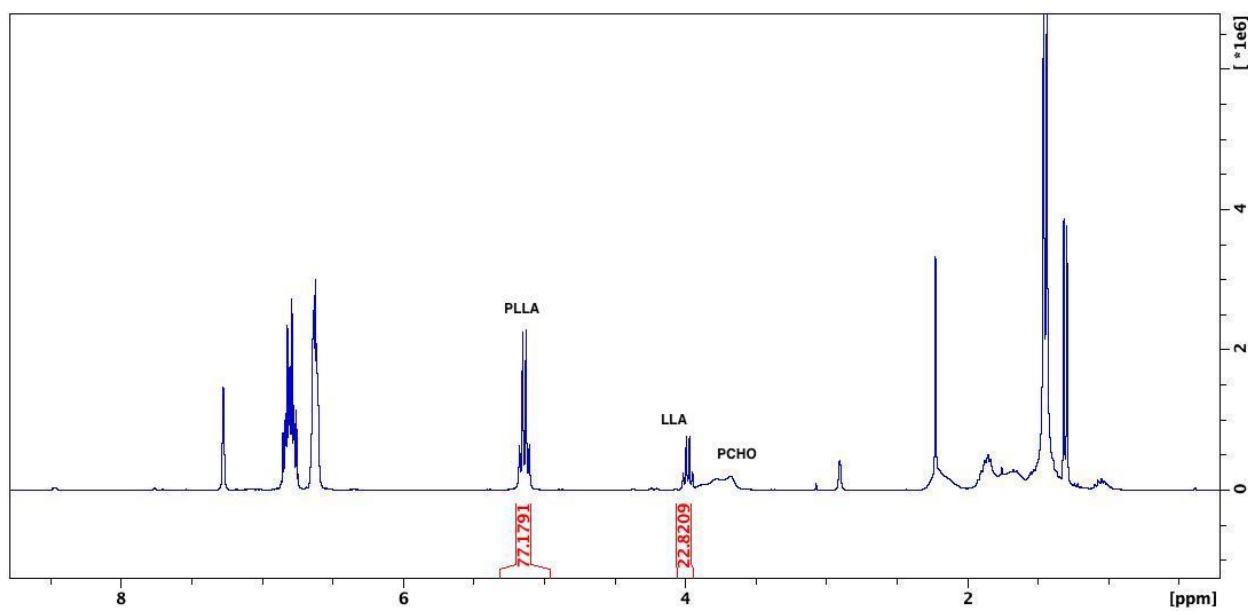


Figure S35. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of 200 equivalents of LLA, 200 equivalents of CHO, and another 200 equivalents of LLA copolymerization (Table 2, entry 5).

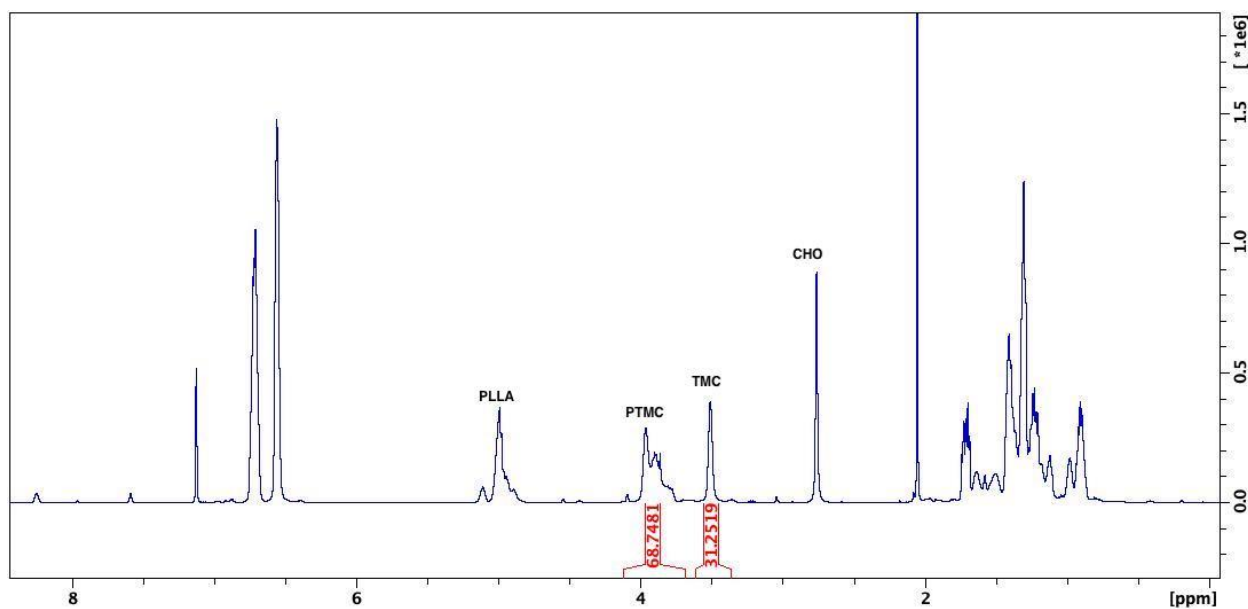


Figure S36. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of 200 equivalents of LLA, 200 equivalents of TMC and 200 equivalents of CHO copolymerization (Table 2, entry 6).

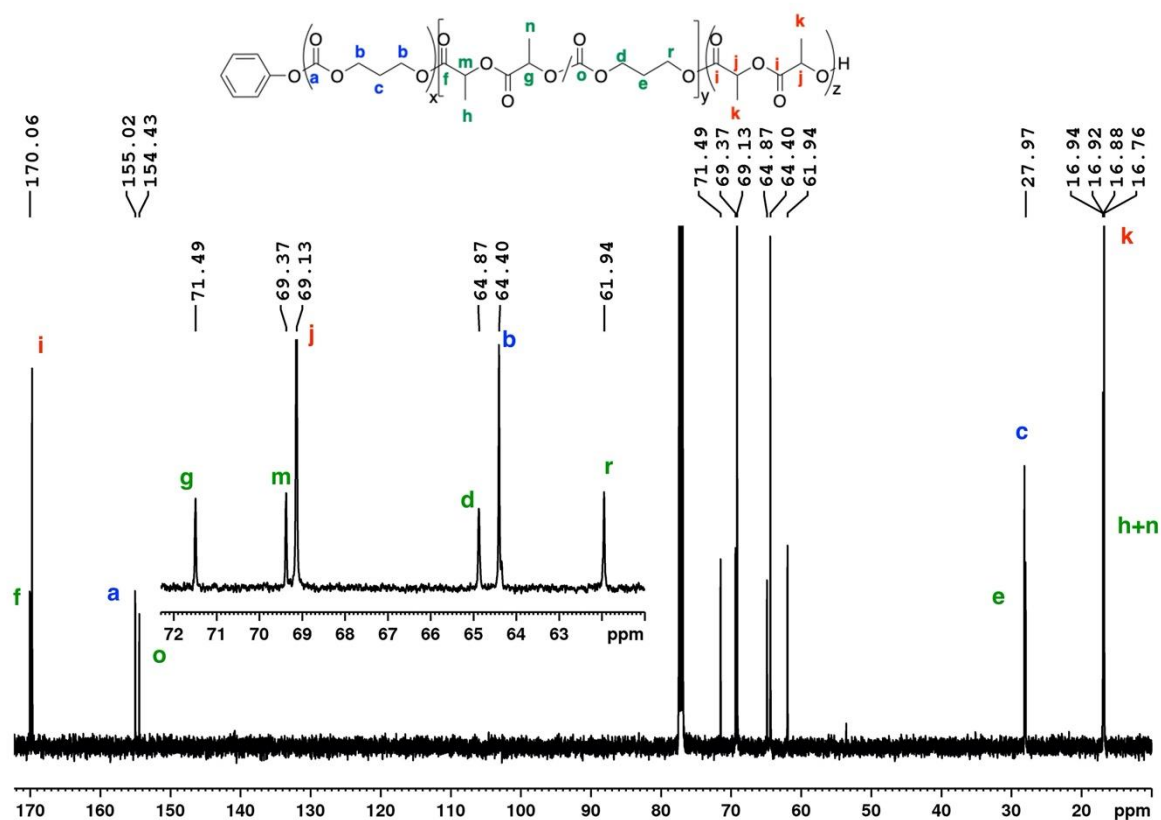


Figure S37. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of 200 equivalents of LLA, 200 equivalents of TMC copolymerization (Table 2, entry 1).

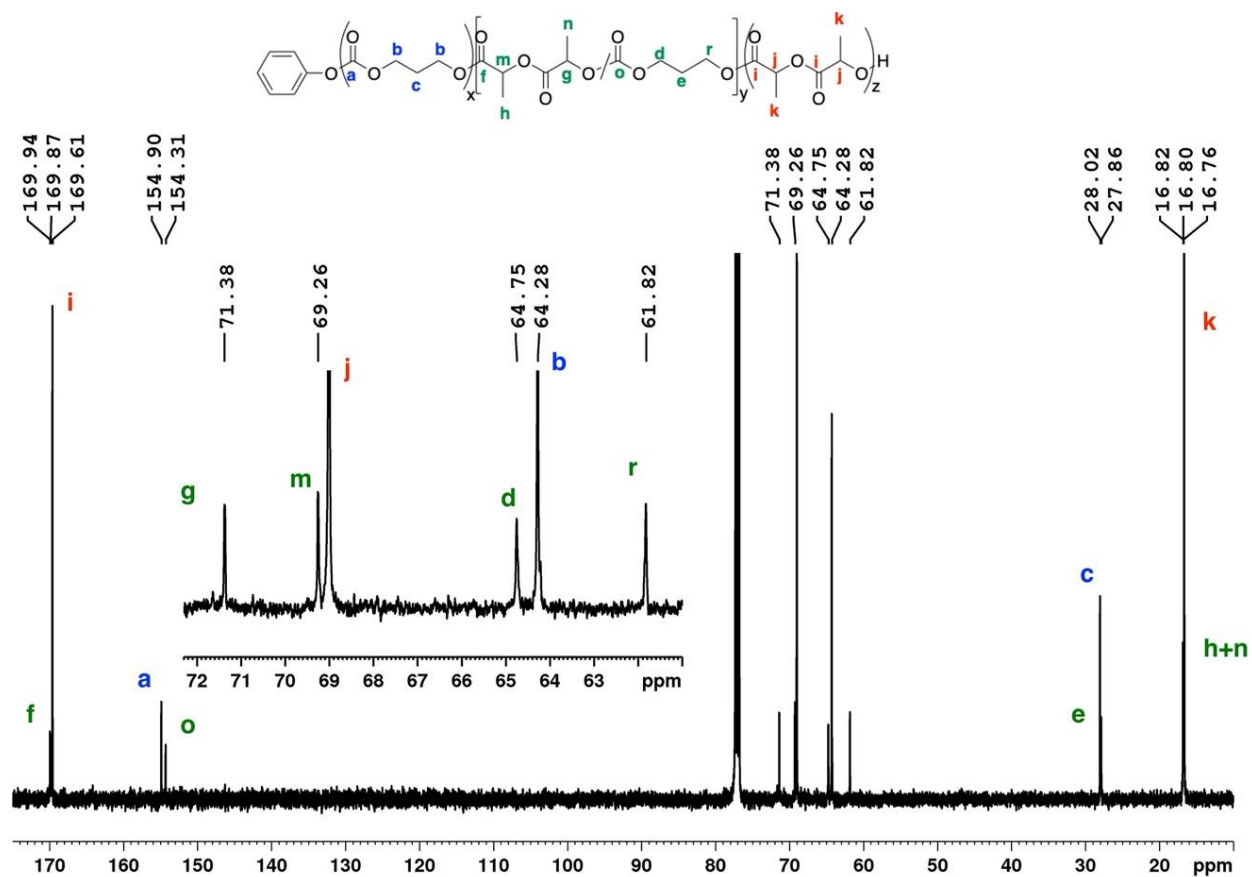


Figure S38. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CDCl_3 , 125 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of 200 equivalents of LLA, 200 equivalents of TMC copolymerization (Table 2, entry 2).

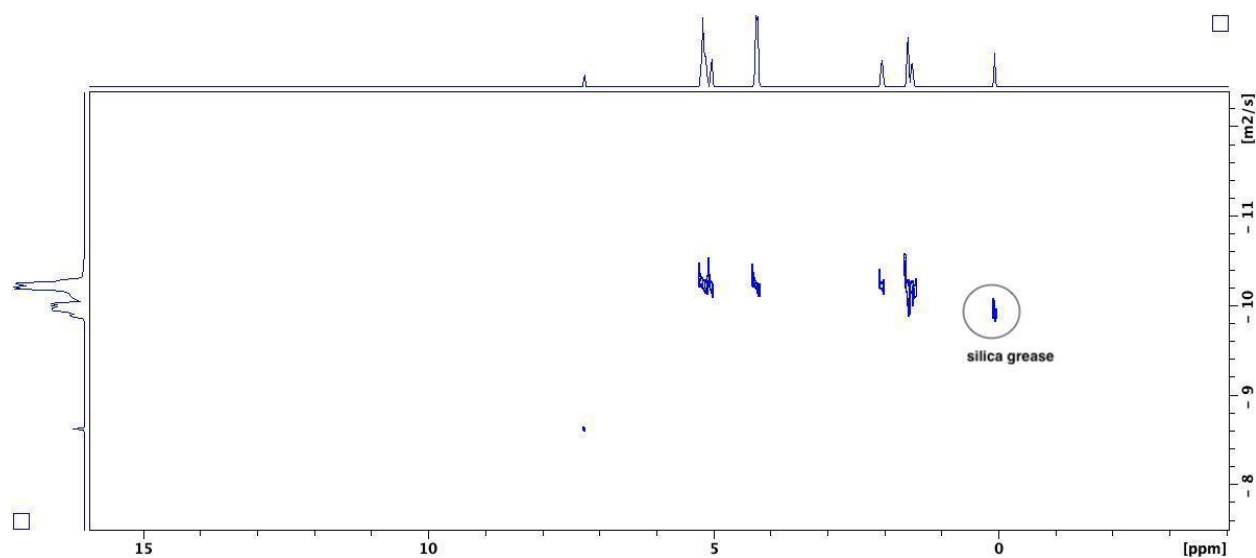


Figure S39. DOSY (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz, 298 K) of PLLA-PTMC copolymer (Table 2, entry 1).

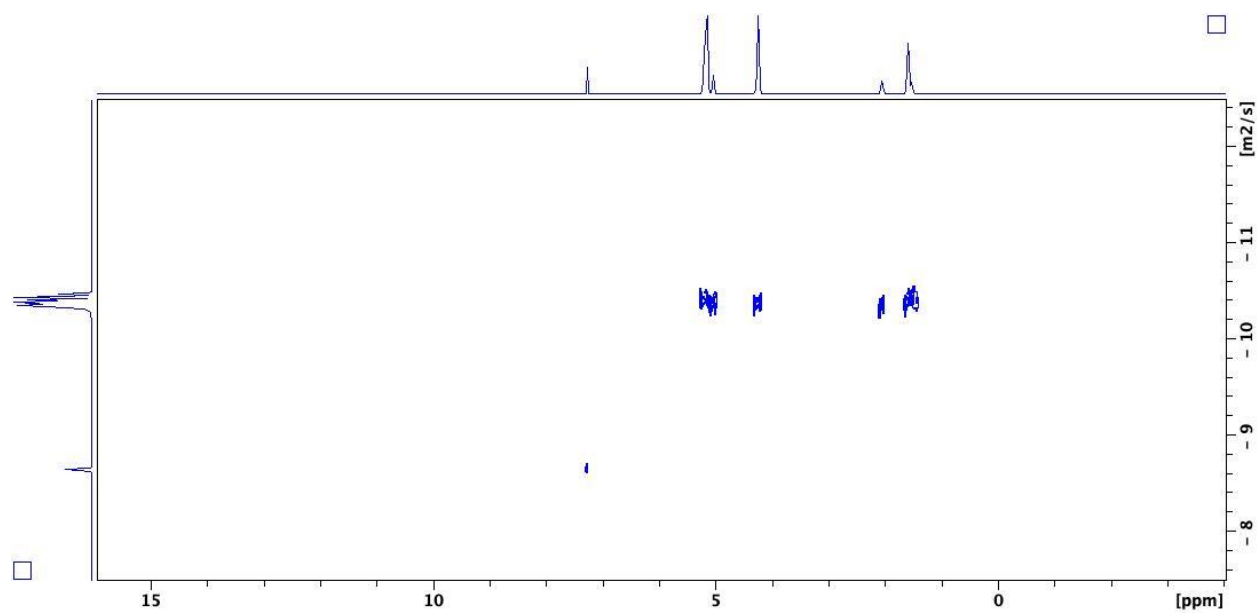


Figure S40. DOSY (CDCl₃, 500 MHz, 298 K) of PLLA-PTMC copolymer (Table 2, entry 2).

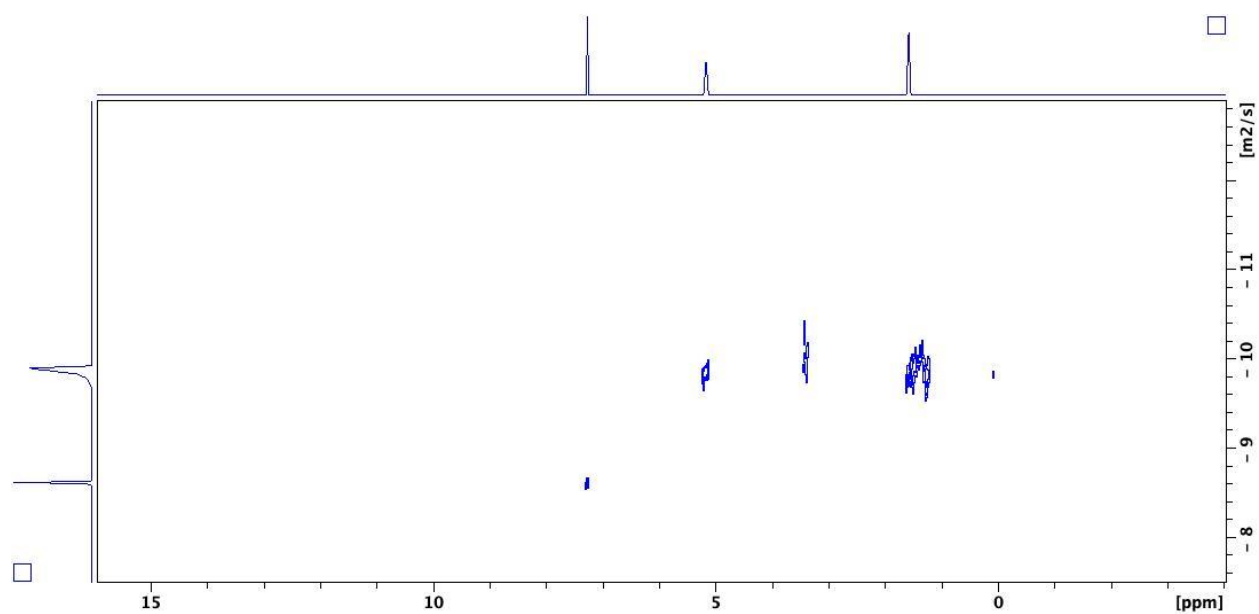


Figure S41. DOSY (CDCl₃, 500 MHz, 298 K) of PLLA-PCHO copolymer (Table 2, entry 3).

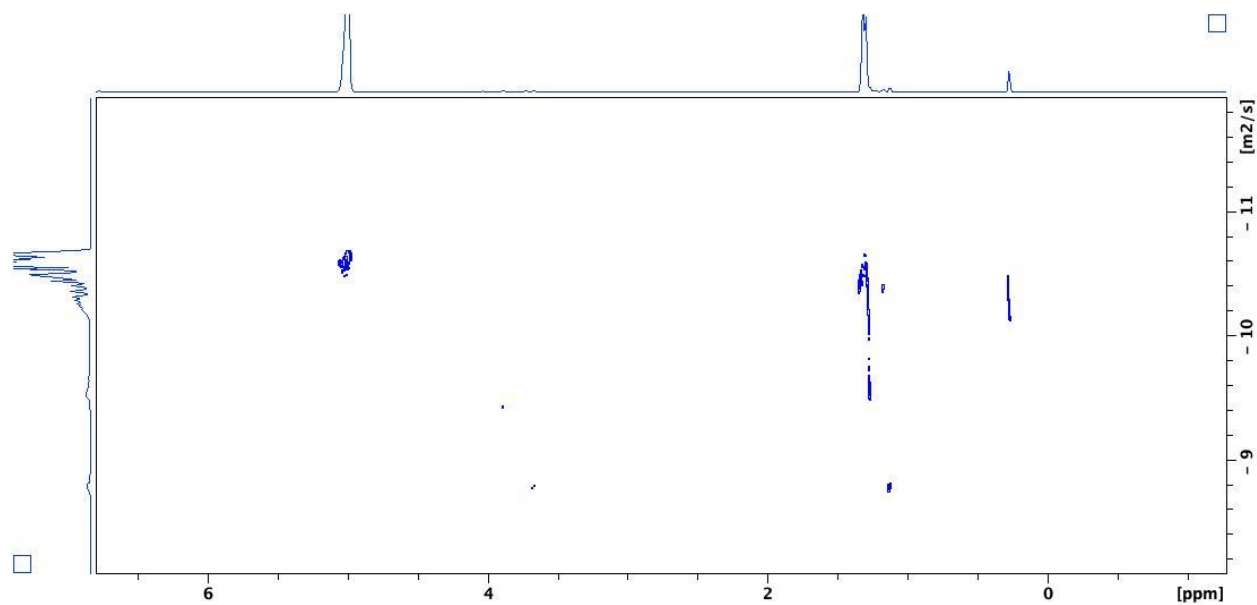


Figure S42. DOSY (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz, 298 K) of PLLA before quenching with H_2O .

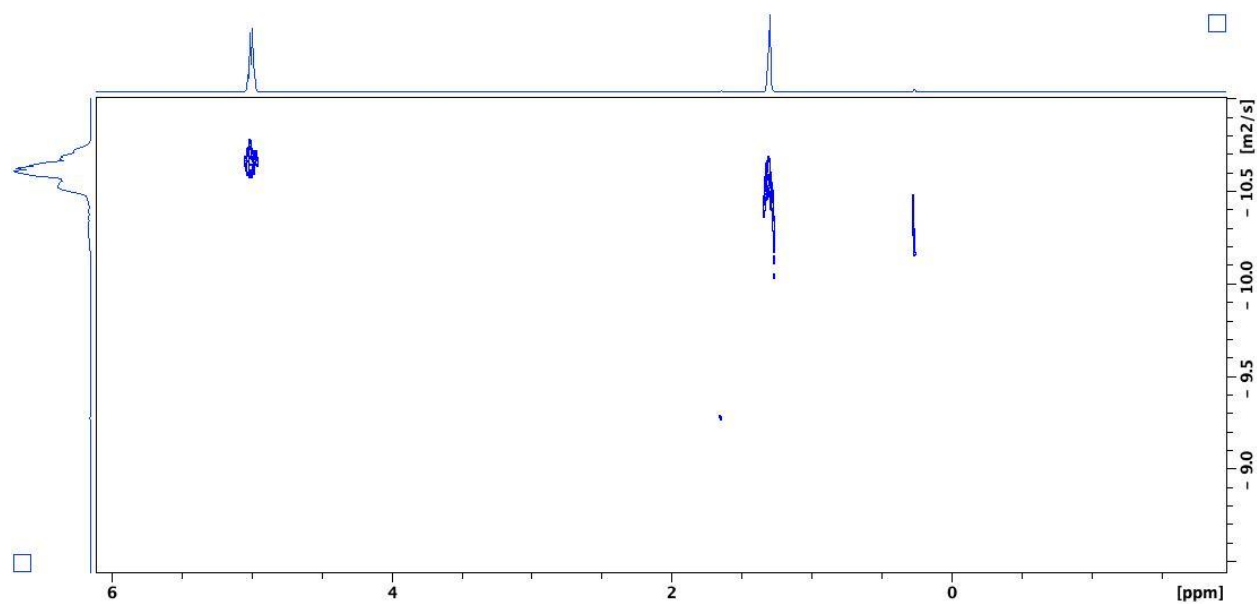


Figure S43. DOSY (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz, 298 K) of PLLA after quenching with H_2O .

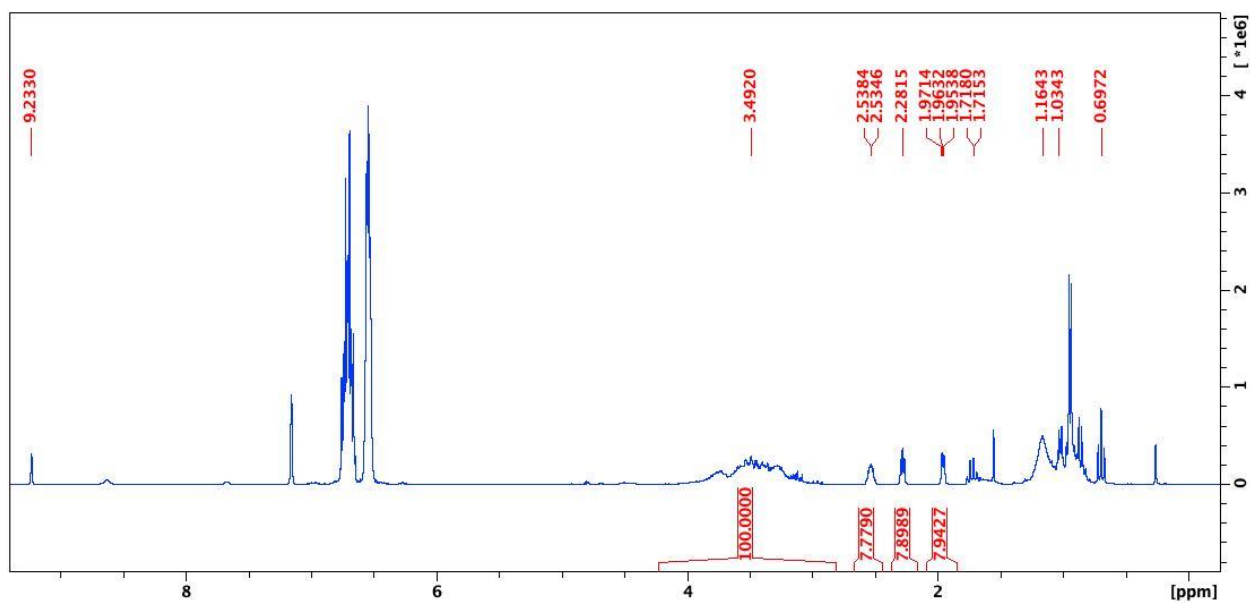


Figure S44. ^1H NMR (C_6D_6 , 300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of 200 equivalents of propylene oxide polymerization by $^{\text{Ac}}\text{FcBAr}^{\text{F}}$ at 298K after 2 hours. δ (ppm): 3.50 (br, 3H, $\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, PPO), 2.57(m, 1H, $\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, PO), 2.32(t, 1H, $\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, PO), 2.00(m, 1H, $\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, PO), 1.18 (br, 3H, $\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, PPO), 0.97(d, 3H, $\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{O}$, PO).

SEC traces

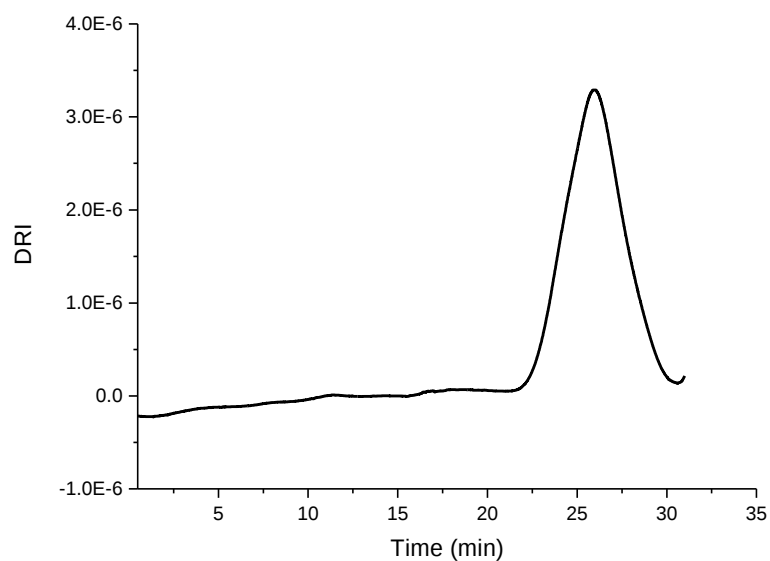


Figure S45. SEC trace for the reaction between 200 equivalents of LLA and $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2$ (Table 1, entry 1).

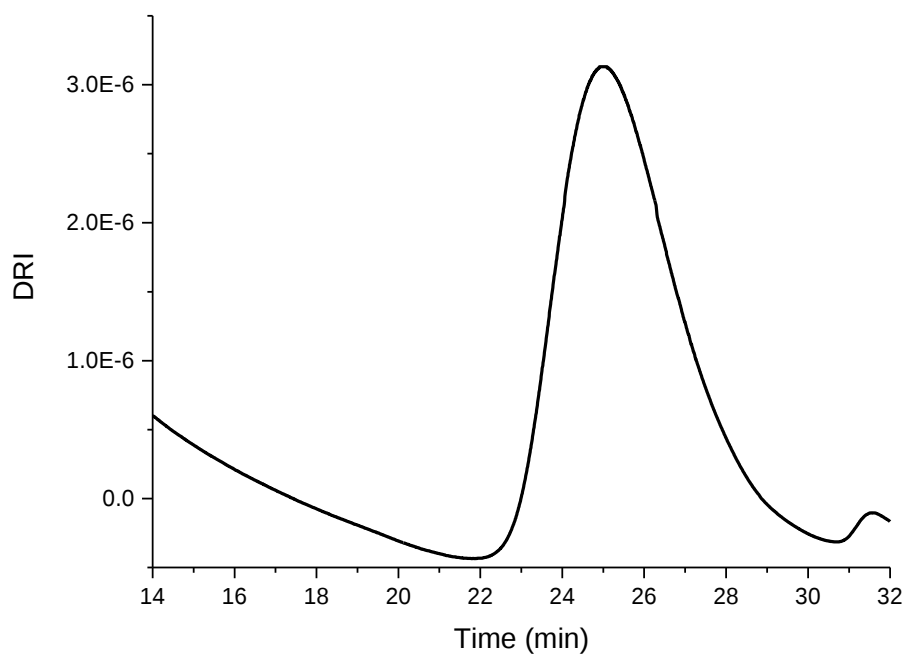


Figure S46. SEC trace for the reaction between 200 equivalents of LLA and *in situ* generated $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2^+$ (Table 1, entry 2).

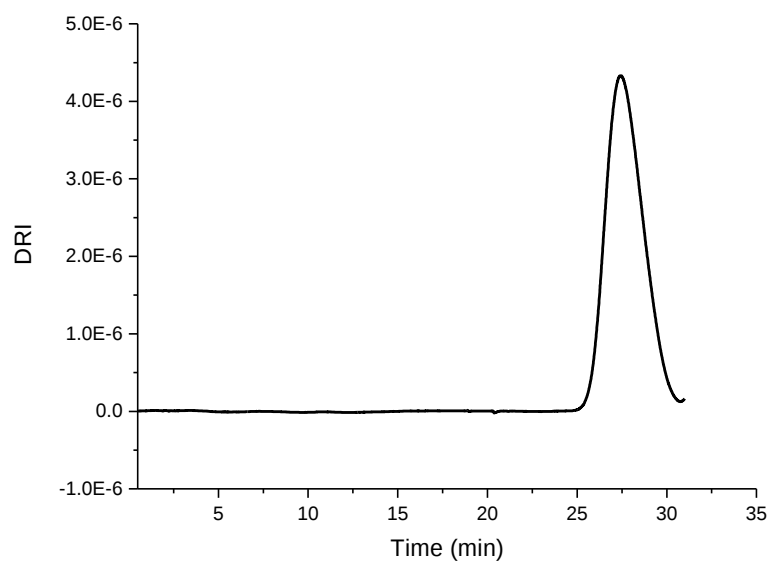


Figure S47. SEC trace for the reaction between 200 equivalents of LLA and *in situ* generated $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2^{2+}$ (Table 1, entry 3).

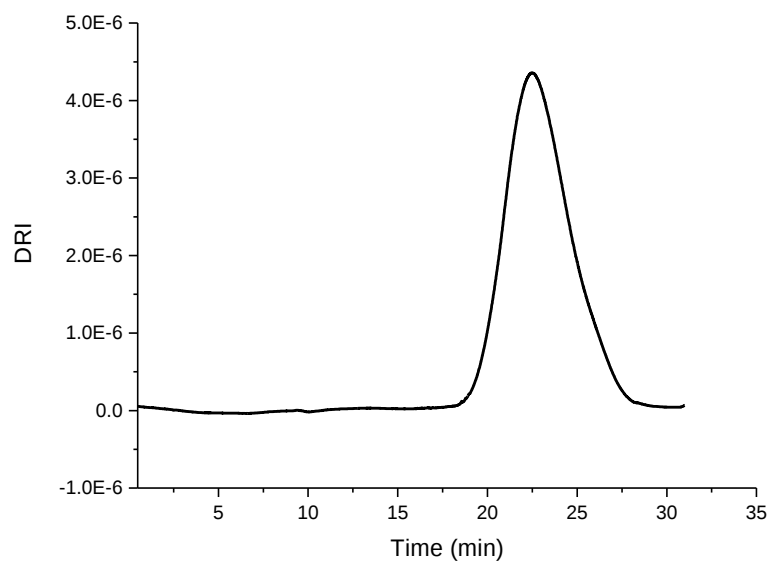


Figure S48. SEC trace for the reaction between 200 equivalents of CL and $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2$ (Table 1, entry 4).

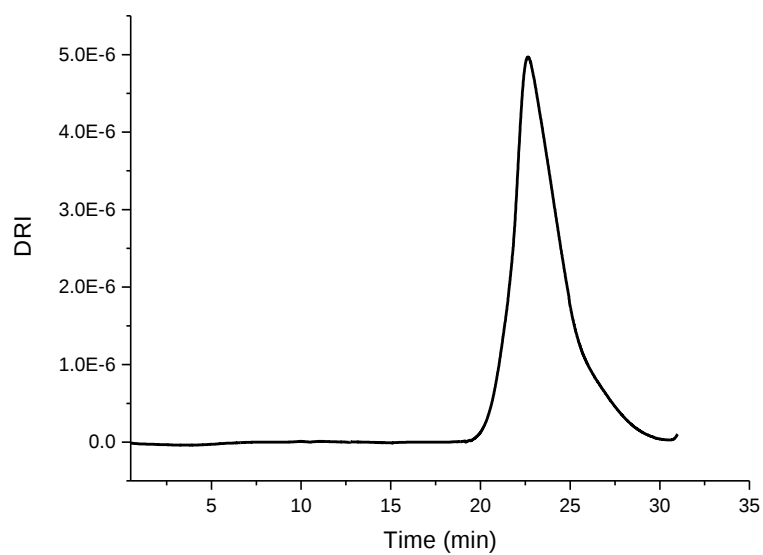


Figure S49. SEC trace for the reaction between 200 equivalents of VL and [(salfen)Y(OPh)]₂ (Table 1, entry 7).

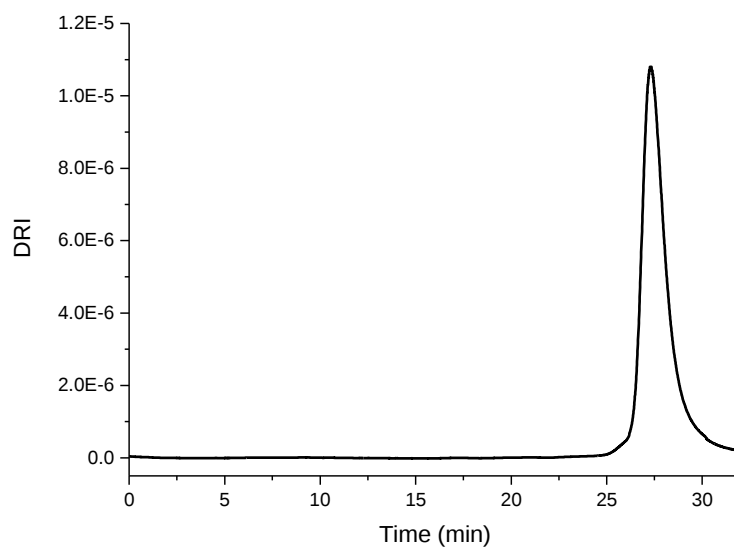


Figure S50. SEC trace for the reaction between 200 equivalents of VL and *in situ* generated [(salfen)Y(OPh)]₂⁺ (Table 1, entry 8).

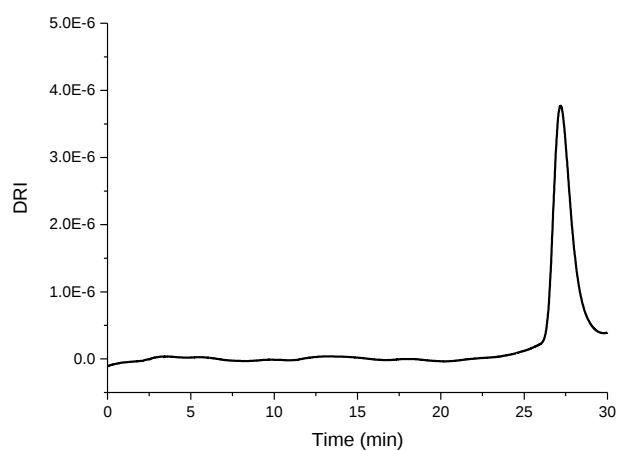


Figure S51. SEC trace for the reaction between 200 equivalents of VL and *in situ* generated $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2^{2+}$ (Table 1, entry 9).

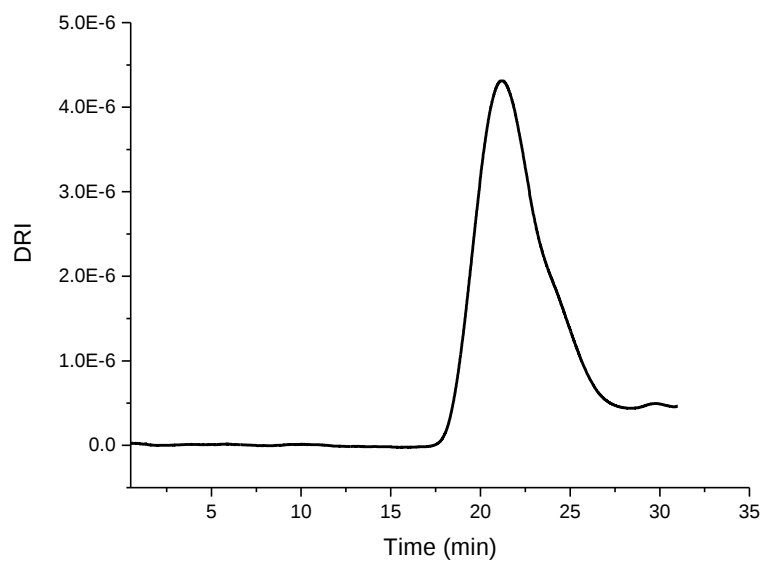


Figure S52. SEC trace for the reaction between 200 equivalents of TMC and $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2$ (Table 1, entry 10).

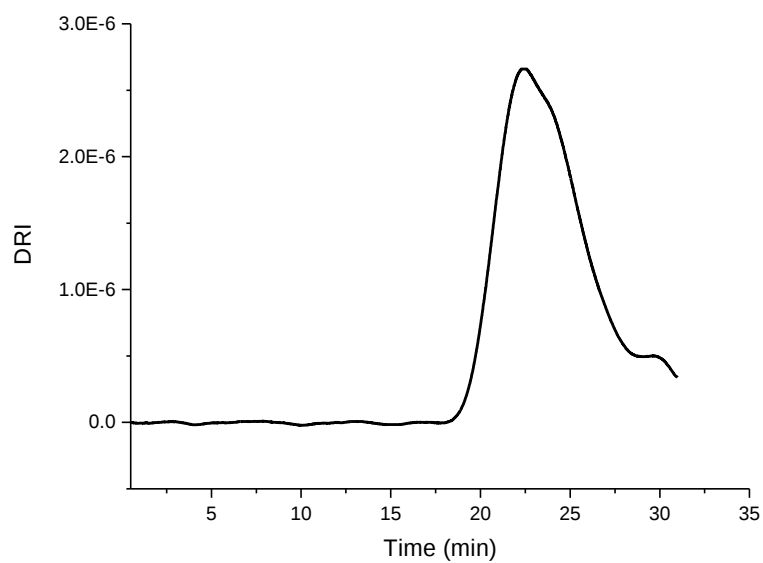


Figure S53. SEC trace for the reaction between 200 equivalents of TMC and *in situ* generated [(salfen)Y(OPh)]₂⁺ (Table 1, entry 11).

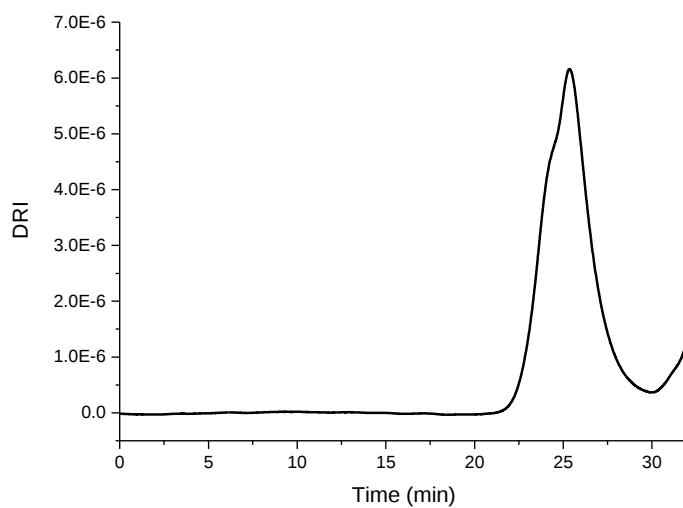


Figure S54. SEC trace for the reaction between 200 equivalents of TMC and *in situ* generated [(salfen)Y(OPh)]₂²⁺ (Table 1, entry 12).

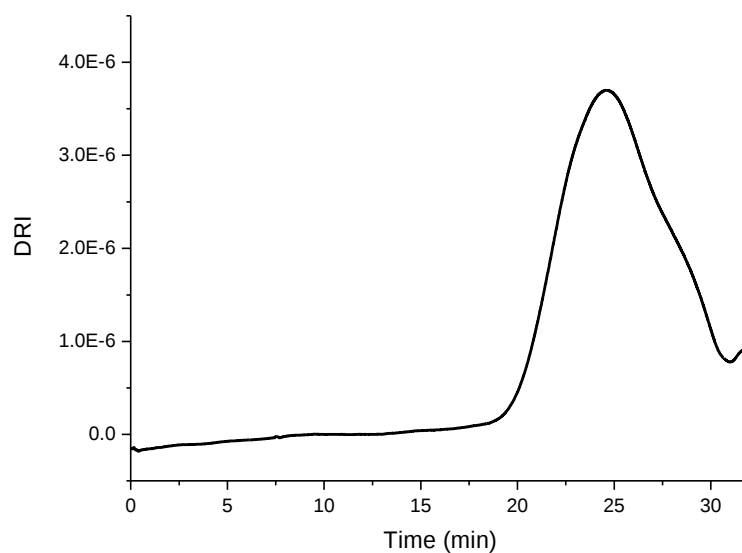


Figure S55. SEC trace for the reaction between 200 equivalents of CHO and *in situ* generated $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2^+$ (Table 1, entry 14).

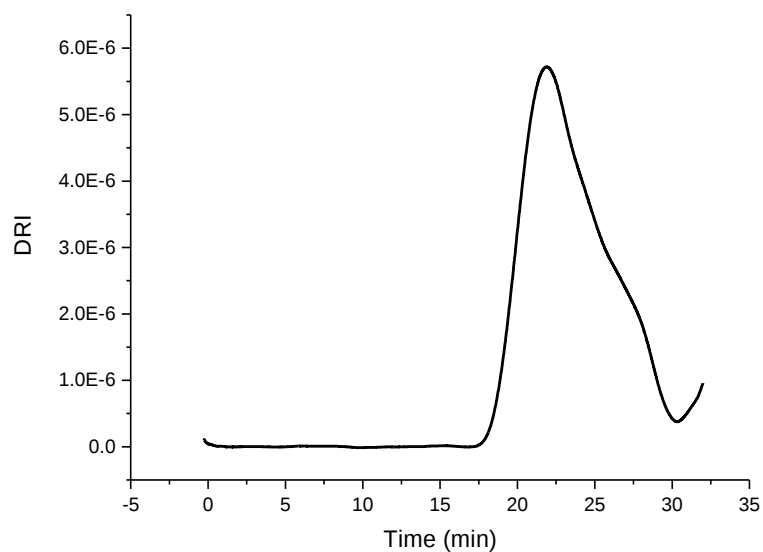


Figure S56. SEC trace for the reaction between 200 equivalents of CHO and *in situ* generated $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2^{2+}$ (Table 1, entry 15).

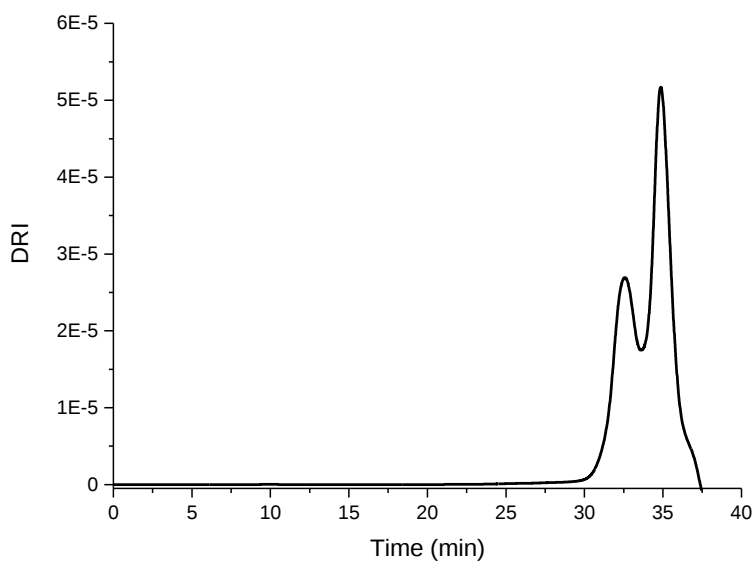


Figure S57. SEC trace for the reaction between 200 equivalents of PO and *in situ* generated [(salfen)Y(OPh)]₂⁺ (Table 1, entry 17).

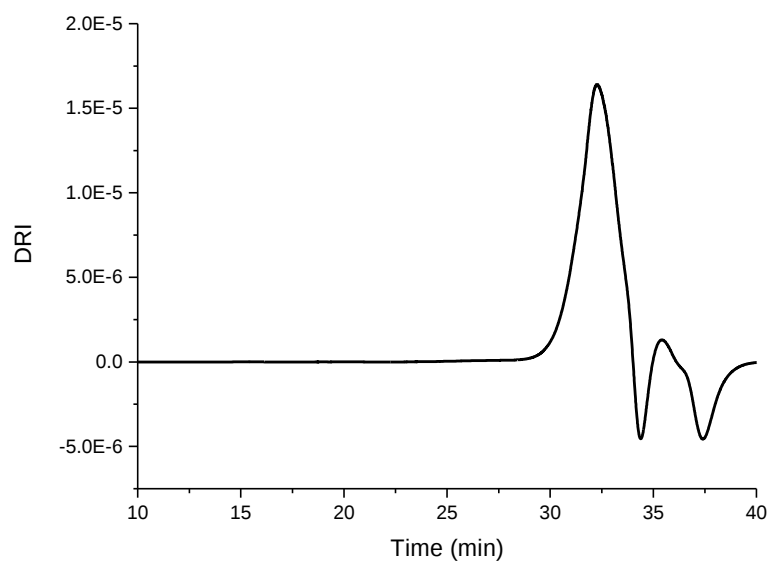


Figure S58. SEC trace for the reaction between 200 equivalents of PO and *in situ* generated [(salfen)Y(OPh)]₂²⁺ (Table 1, entry 18).

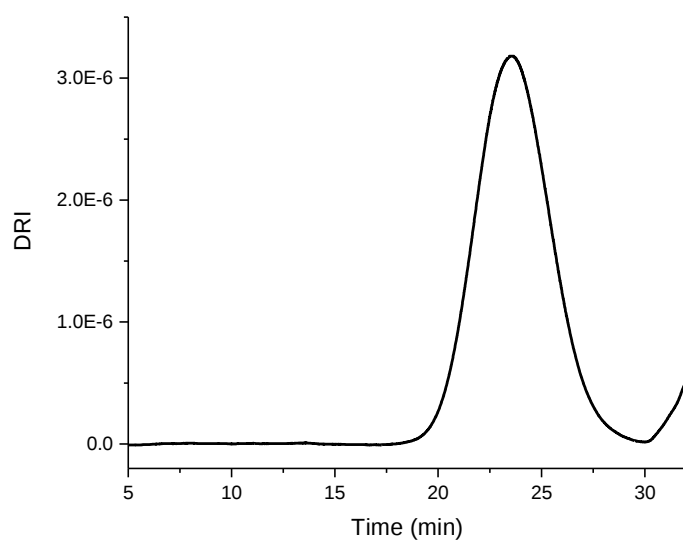


Figure S59. SEC trace for PLLA-PTMC copolymer (Table 2, entry 1).

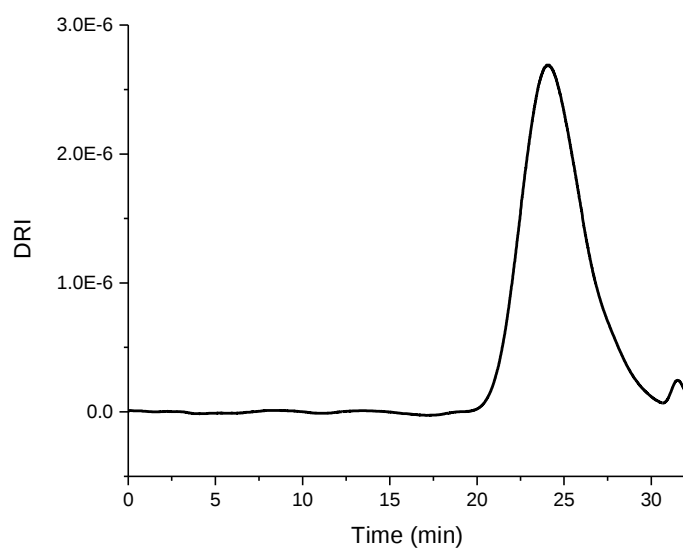


Figure S60. SEC trace for PLLA-PTMC copolymer (Table 2, entry 2).

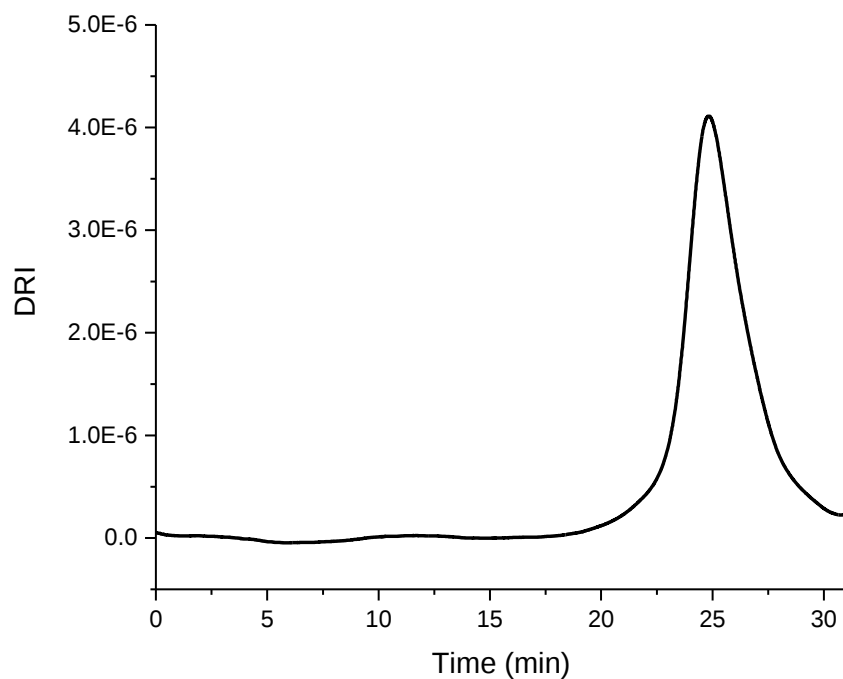


Figure S61. SEC trace for PLLA-PCHO copolymer (Table 2, entry 3).

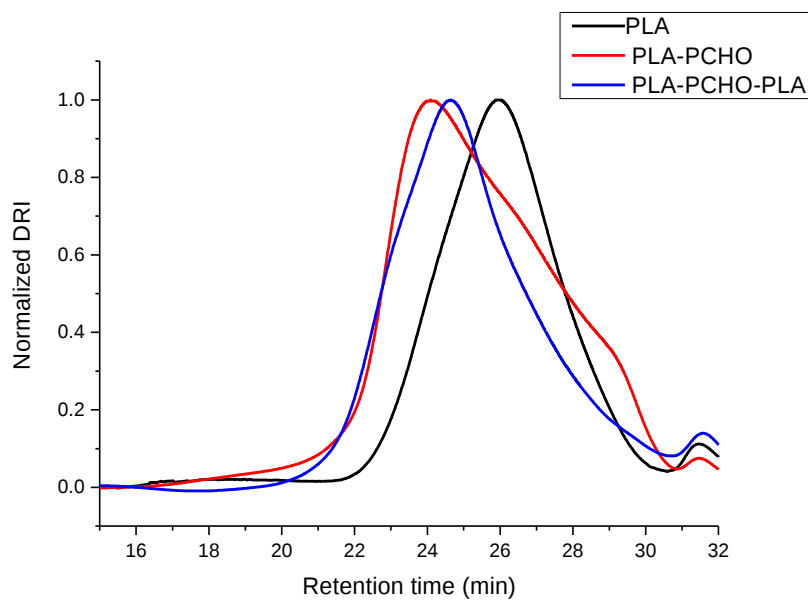


Figure S62. SEC traces corresponding to the stepwise preparation of PLLA-PCHO-PLLA (Table 2, entry 4).

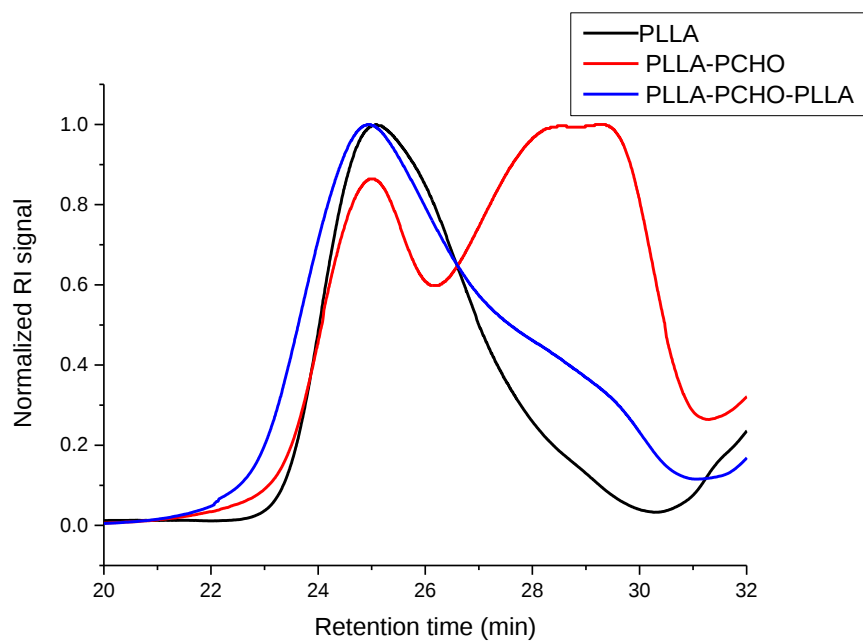


Figure S63. SEC traces corresponding to the stepwise preparation of PLLA-PCHO-PLLA (Table 2, entry 5).

Table S1. Replication of homopolymerization results

Entry	Monomer ^b	Cat. ^c	Time	Conv. (%)	M _{n,calc} ^d (kDa)	M _{n,exp} ^e (kDa)	Đ
1	LLA	red	0.6 h	92	13	17	1.26
2	LLA	ox ⁺	5 h	84	12	29	1.20
3	LLA	ox ²⁺	24 h	31	4.4	7.9	1.27
4	CL	red	21 h	81	8.3	83	1.59
5	CL	ox ⁺	24 h	11	N/A		
6	CL	ox ²⁺	24 h	0	N/A		
7	VL	red	10 h	82	N/A		
8	VL	ox ⁺	24 h	32	N/A		
9	VL	ox ²⁺	24 h	7	N/A		
10	TMC	red	25 h	99	10	118	1.50
11	TMC	ox ⁺	72 h	84	8.6	16	1.33
12	TMC	ox ²⁺	72 h	40	N/A		
13	CHO	red	24 h	0	N/A		
14	CHO	ox ⁺	5 min	99	9.7	27	2.5
15	CHO	ox ²⁺	5 min	99	9.7	60	3.5
16 ^f	PO	red	24 h	0	N/A		
17 ^f	PO	ox ⁺	48 h	25	N/A		
18 ^f	PO	ox ²⁺	49 h	56	3.3	300	1.39

^a All polymerization reactions were performed with 2.5 μ mol precatalyst, 0.6 mL of C₆D₆ as the solvent, 200 equivalents of monomer, at ambient temperature unless otherwise mentioned; conversions were determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy. ^b LLA stands for L-lactide, CL stands for ϵ -caprolactone, VL stands for δ -valerolactone, TMC stands for 1,3-trimethylene carbonate, CHO stands for cyclohexene oxide, and PO stands for propylene oxide. ^c “red” represents [(salfen)Y(OPh)]₂, “ox⁺” represents *in situ* generated [(salfen)Y(OPh)]₂⁺, and “ox²⁺” represents *in situ* generated [(salfen)Y(OPh)]₂²⁺. ^d M_{n,calc} is calculated based on initiation from both phenoxide groups, M_{n,calc} = M_{monomer} × 100 × conversion. ^e M_{n,exp} were determined by SEC measurements. ^f Polymerization was conducted at 80 °C.

TGA traces

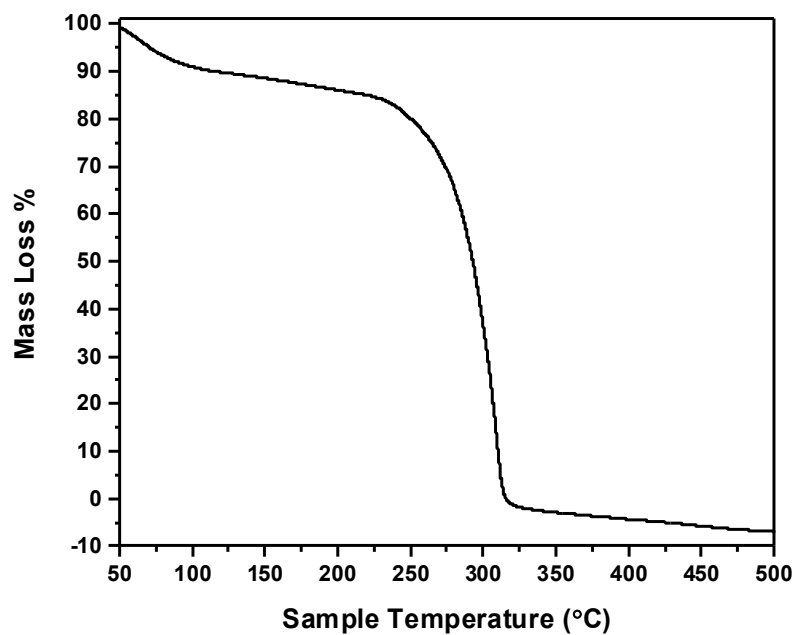


Figure S64. TGA trace for PLLA-PTMC copolymer (Table 2, entry 1)

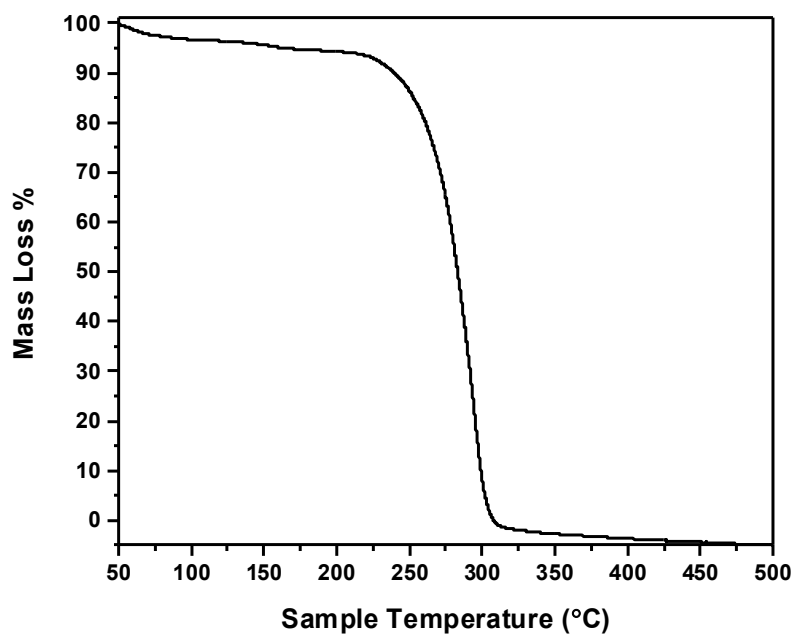


Figure S65. TGA trace for PLLA-PTMC copolymer (Table 2, entry 2).

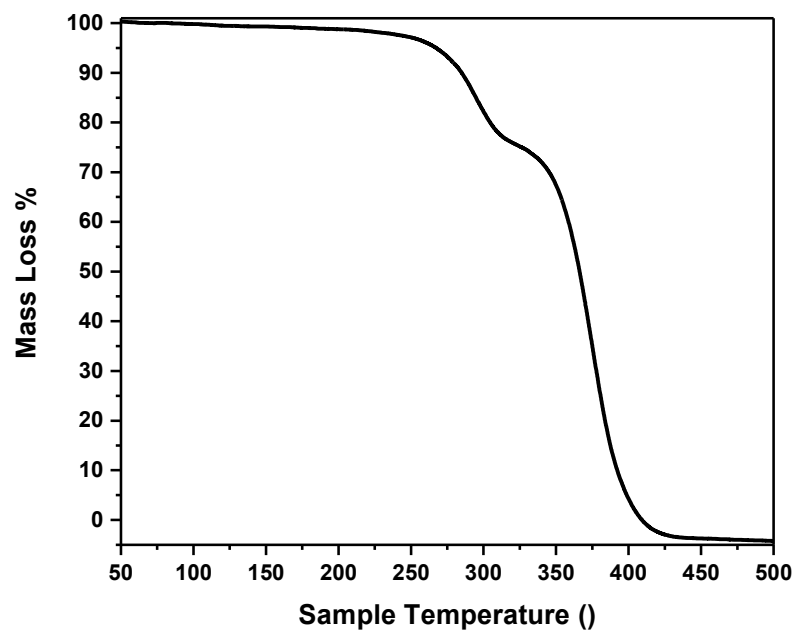


Figure S66. TGA trace for PLLA-PCHO copolymer (Table 2, entry 3).

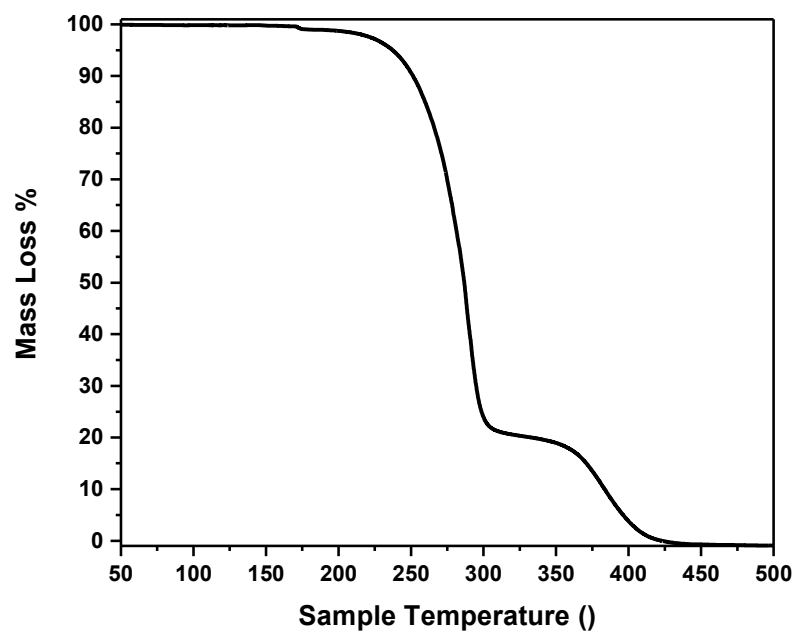


Figure S67. TGA trace for PLLA-PCHO-PLLA copolymer (Table 2, entry 4).

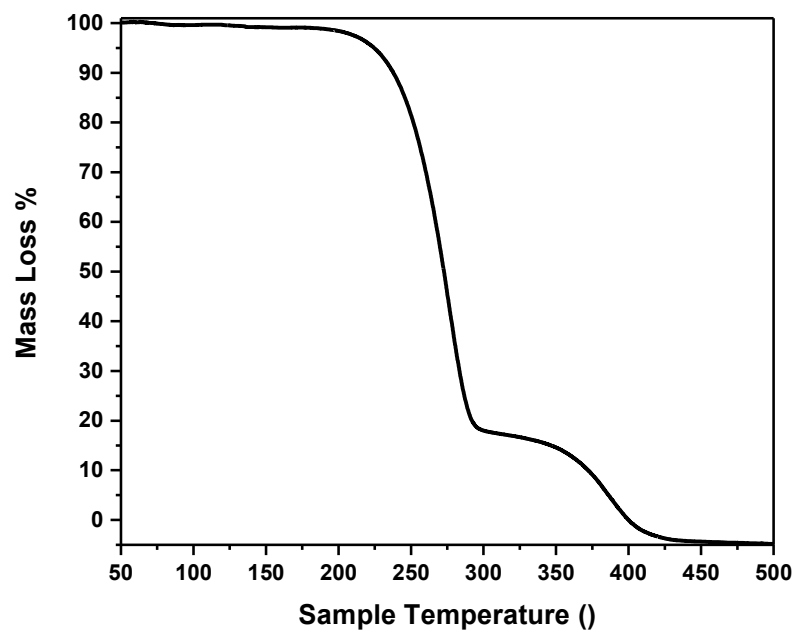


Figure S68. TGA trace for PLLA-PCHO-PLLA copolymer (Table 2, entry 5).

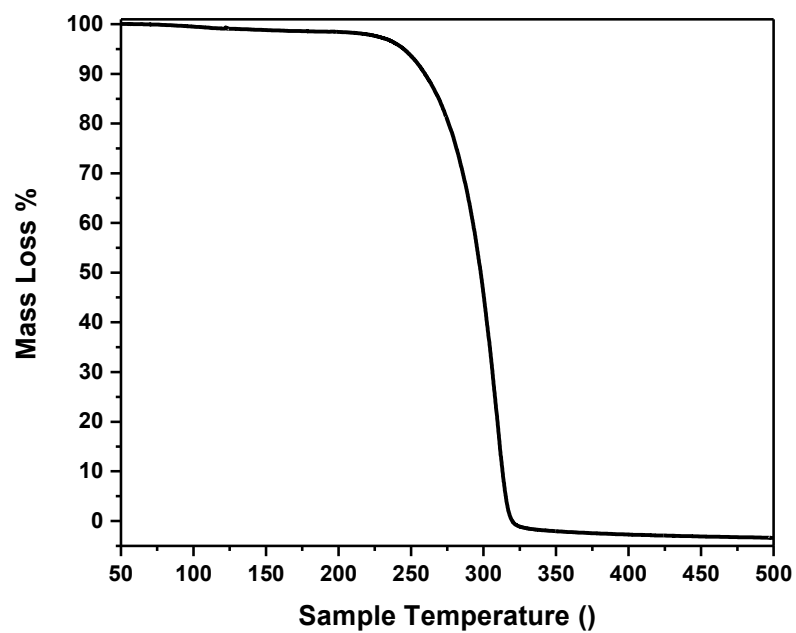


Figure S69. TGA trace for PLLA-PTMC copolymer (Table 2, entry 6).

X-ray data

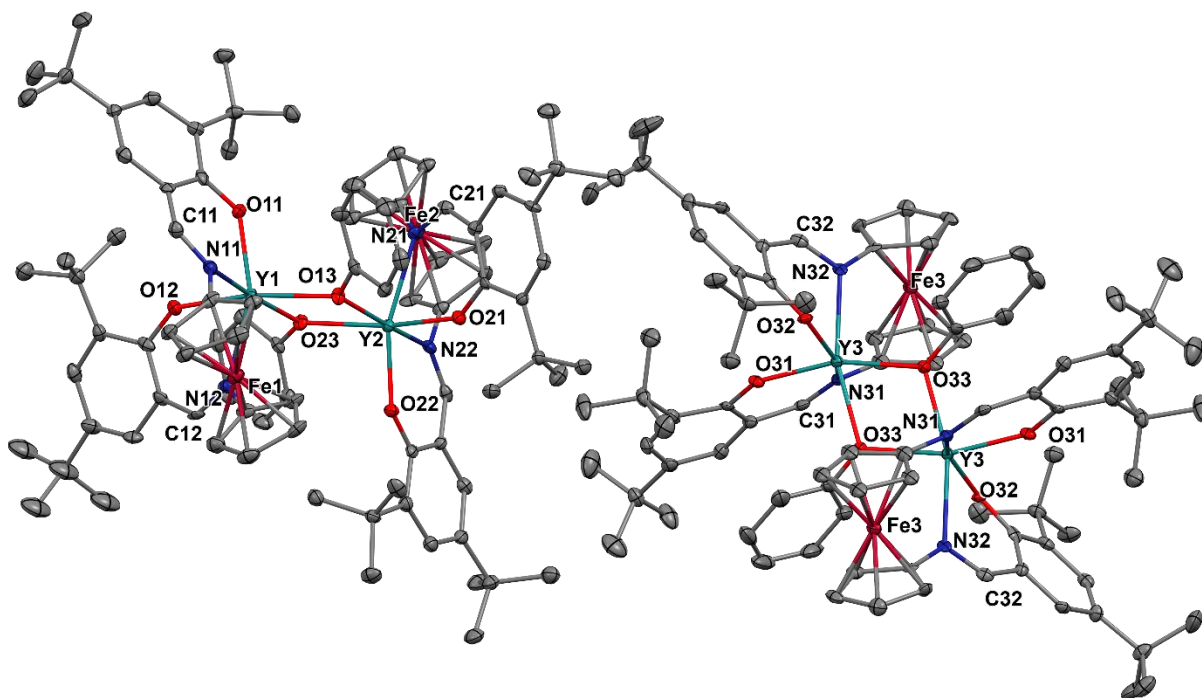


Figure S70. Thermal ellipsoid (50% probability) representation of the crystallographically independent molecules of $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2$ in the unit cell (CCDC# 2049815). Hydrogen atoms were omitted for clarity. Single crystals suitable for X-ray crystallography were grown from a hexanes solution. A total of 102675 reflections ($-17 \leq h \leq 17$, $-18 \leq k \leq 18$, $-39 \leq l \leq 39$) were collected at $T = 100 \text{ K}$ with $2\theta_{\text{max}} = 50.00^\circ$, of which 23299 were unique. The residual peak and hole electron density were 1.62 and $-0.83 \text{ e}\text{\AA}^{-3}$. The least-squares refinement converged normally with residuals of $R_1 = 0.0550$ and $\text{GOF} = 0.965$. Crystal and refinement data for $[(\text{salfen})\text{Y}(\text{OPh})]_2$: formula $\text{C}_{92}\text{H}_{110}\text{Fe}_2\text{N}_4\text{O}_6\text{Y}_2$, space group $P-1$, $a = 14.8170(17)$, $b = 15.3498(18)$, $c = 33.240(4) \text{ \AA}$; $\alpha = 84.575(2)$, $\beta = 81.112(2)$, $\gamma = 62.305(2)^\circ$; $V = 6611.2(13) \text{ \AA}^3$; $Z = 3$; $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$; $\mu = 1.678 \text{ mm}^{-1}$; $d_{\text{calc}} = 1.249 \text{ g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-3}$; $F(000) = 2604$, $R_1 = 0.1025$ and $wR_2 = 0.1370$ (based on all data, $I > 2\sigma(I)$).