

## Supporting information

### **Immortal Ring-Opening Polymerization of $\epsilon$ -Caprolactone by a Neat Magnesium Catalyst System: An Approach to Block and Amphiphilic Star Polymers *In Situ*†**

Yang Wang <sup>a,b</sup>, Bo Liu <sup>a</sup>, Xue Wang<sup>a,b</sup>, Wei Zhao<sup>a,b</sup>, Dongtao Liu<sup>a</sup>, Xinli Liu<sup>\*a</sup> and Dongmei Cui<sup>\*a</sup>

Table S1. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for complex **2**

| Bond length (Å) |            | Angel (°)         |            |
|-----------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
| Mg(1)–O(1)      | 1.8645(12) | O(1)–Mg(1)–O(1A)  | 136.45(9)  |
| Mg(1)–O(1A)     | 1.8645(12) | O(1)–Mg(1)–O(2A)  | 110.93(6)  |
| Mg(1)–O(2A)     | 2.0224(15) | O(1A)–Mg(1)–O(2A) | 97.64(5)   |
| Mg(1)–O(2)      | 2.0224(15) | O(1)–Mg(1)–O(2)   | 97.64(5)   |
|                 |            | O(1A)–Mg(1)–O(2)  | 110.93(6)  |
|                 |            | O(2A)–Mg(1)–O(2)  | 97.32(10)  |
|                 |            | C(1)–O(1)–Mg(1)   | 138.52(11) |

Table S2. Crystallographic data and refinement for complex **2**

| <b>2</b>  |  |
|---|--|
| Empirical formula   | C <sub>46</sub> H <sub>46</sub> MgO <sub>4</sub> |
| Crystal colour  | Colorless  |
| formula weight  | 687.14   |
| Crystal system  | Monoclinic                                       |
| space group   | C2/C   |
| <i>a</i> (Å)  | 19.0981(16)                                      |
| <i>b</i> (Å)  | 9.6221(8)  |
| <i>c</i> (Å)  | 22.024(3)  |
| $\alpha$ (deg)  | 90   |
| $\beta$ (deg)   | 109.3890(10)                                     |
| $\gamma$ (deg)  | 90   |
| <i>V</i> (Å <sup>3</sup> )                                  | 3817.8(6)  |
| <i>Z</i>  | 4  |
| D <sub>calcd</sub> (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )                     | 1.195  |
| radiation ( $\lambda$ ), Å                                  | 0.71073  |
| $\mu$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )                                   | 0.089  |
| F(000)  | 1464   |
| $\theta$ range, (°)   | 1.96–25.10                                       |
| No. of reflns collected                                     | 29853  |
| No. of unique reflns ( $I > 2\sigma(I)$ )                   | 9382   |
| no. of params refnd   | 231  |
| Goodness of fit   | 1.020  |
| Final <i>R</i> , <i>R</i> <sub>w</sub> ( $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ) | 0.04371, 0.1079                                  |

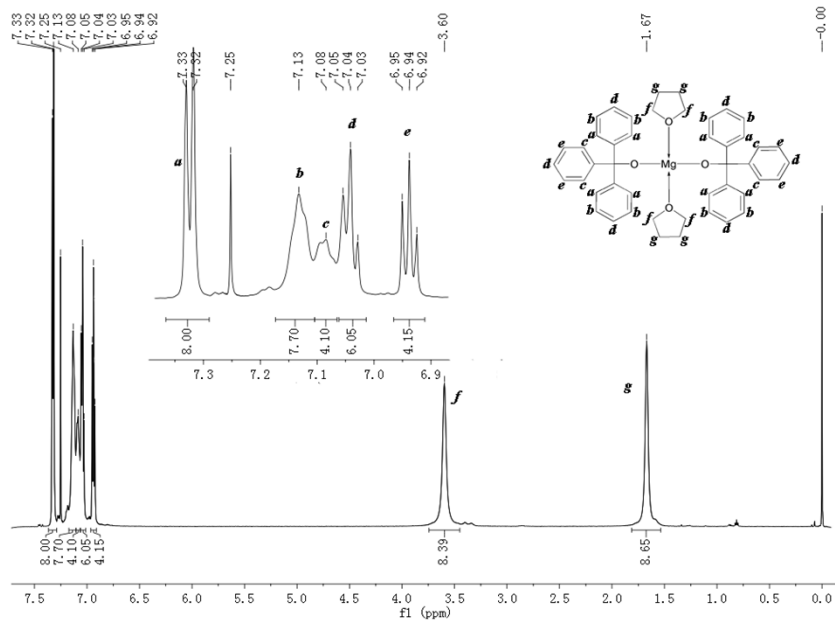


Figure S1.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  of complex **2** (400 MHz,  $25^\circ\text{C}$ ).

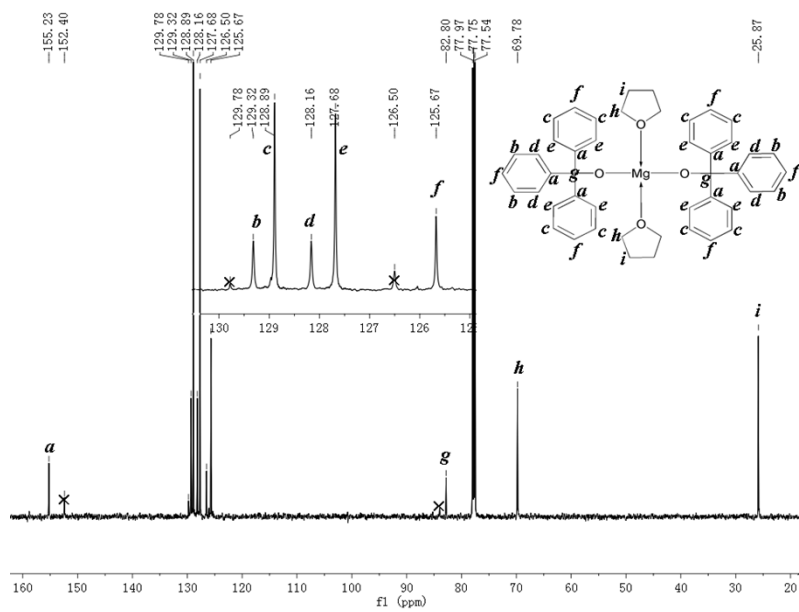


Figure S2.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  of complex **2** (100 MHz,  $25^\circ\text{C}$ ).

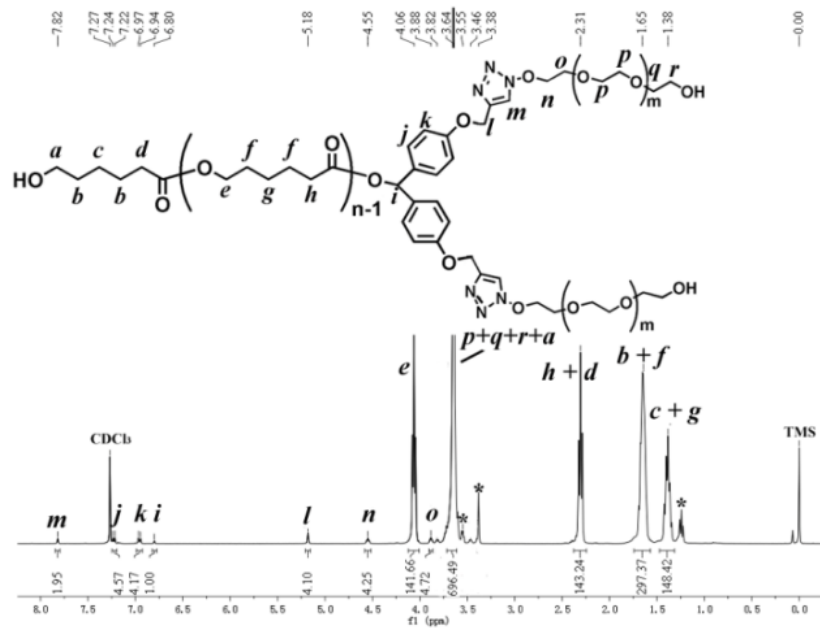


Figure S3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR in CDCl<sub>3</sub> of topologic Star-PCL-PEG (400 MHz).