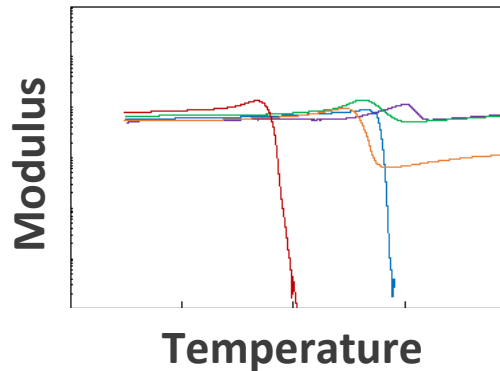




Polybutadiene Elastomers with Degradation Profiles Programmed by Microencapsulation and Controlled Release of Metathesis Catalysts



Brad H. Jones and Matthew J. Warner

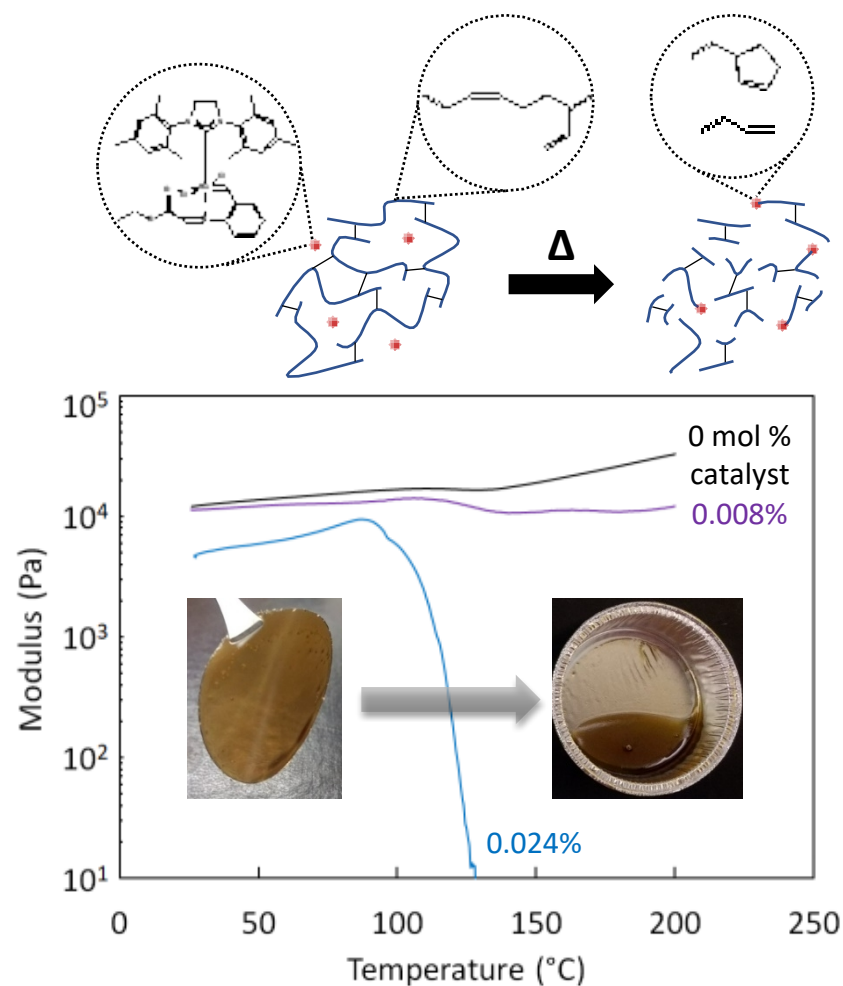
6 December, 2022

In Situ Degradation

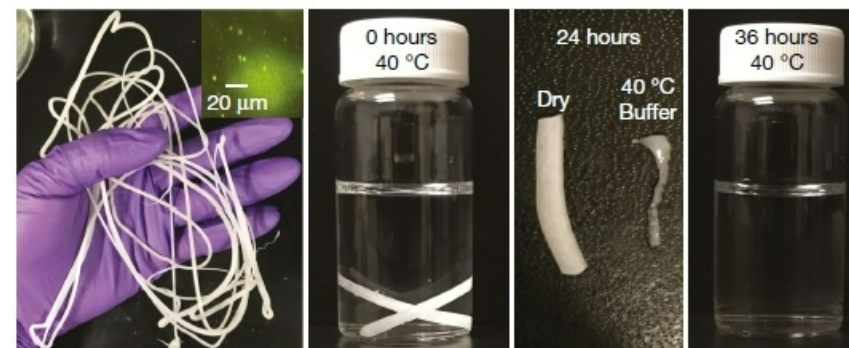
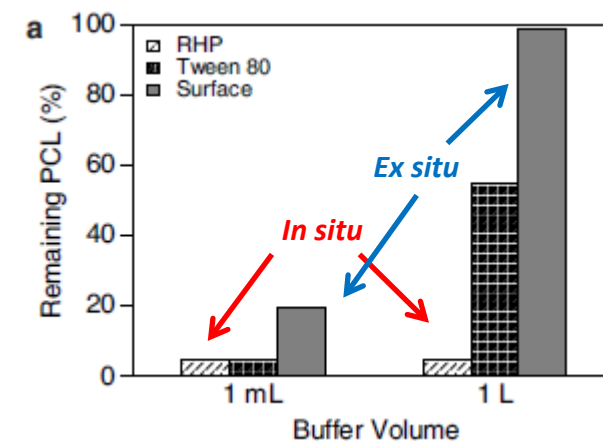
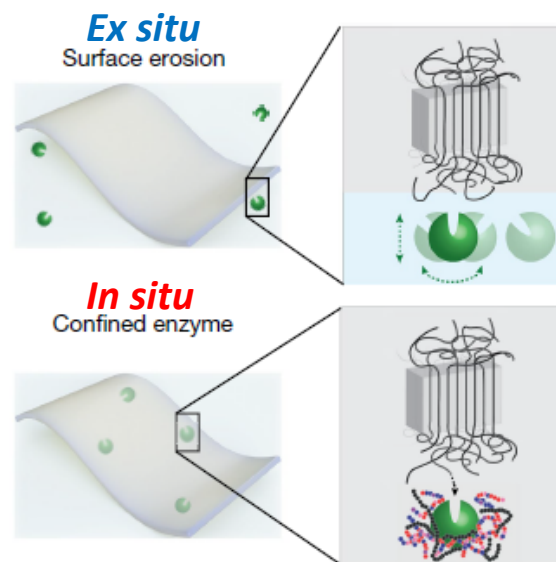


In situ degradation may improve efficiency in waste remediation with greater control over degradation profiles

PB elastomer degradation with latent metathesis catalysts



Polyester degradation with protected, nano-dispersed enzymes

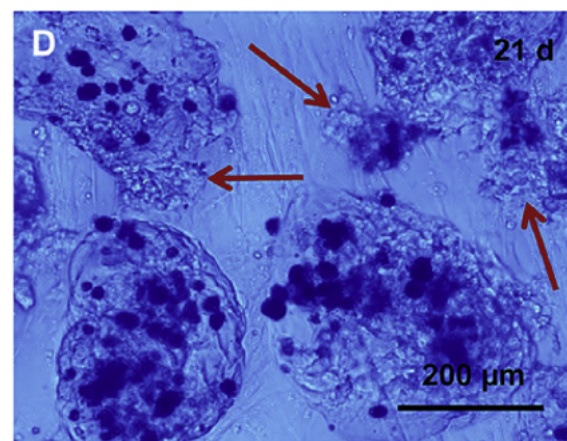
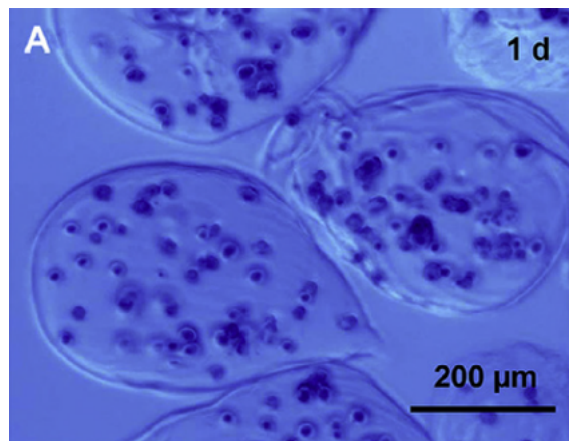
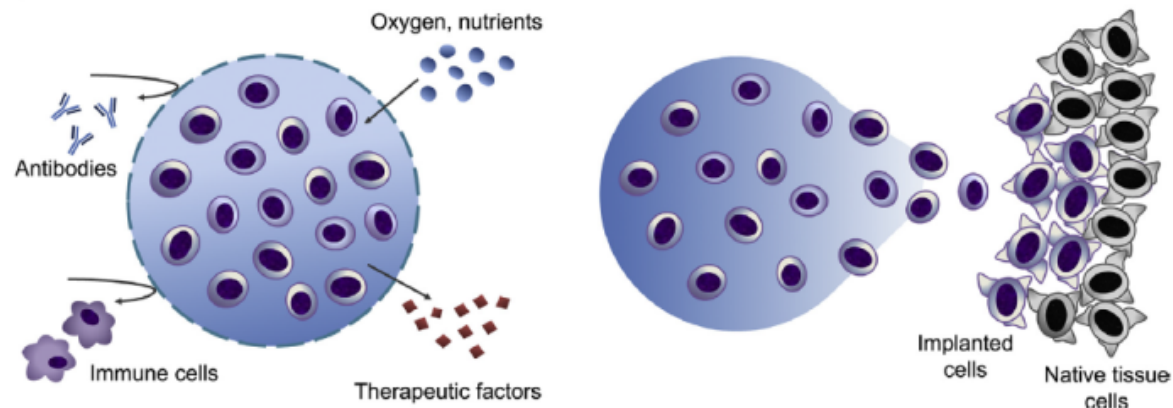


Inspiration from Therapeutics and Self-Healing Materials

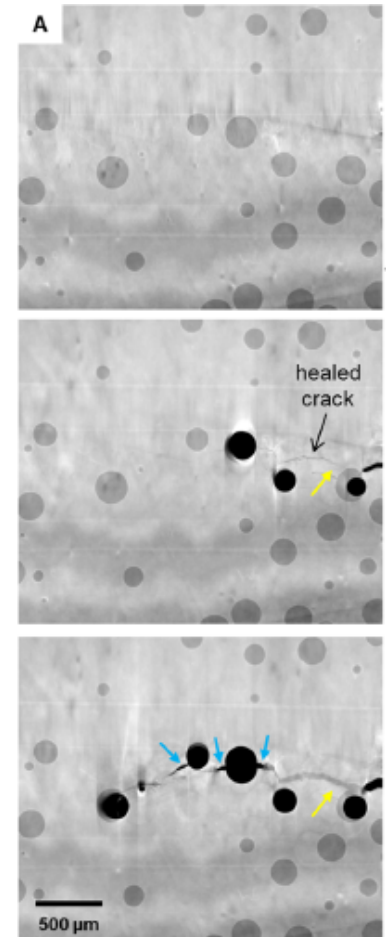
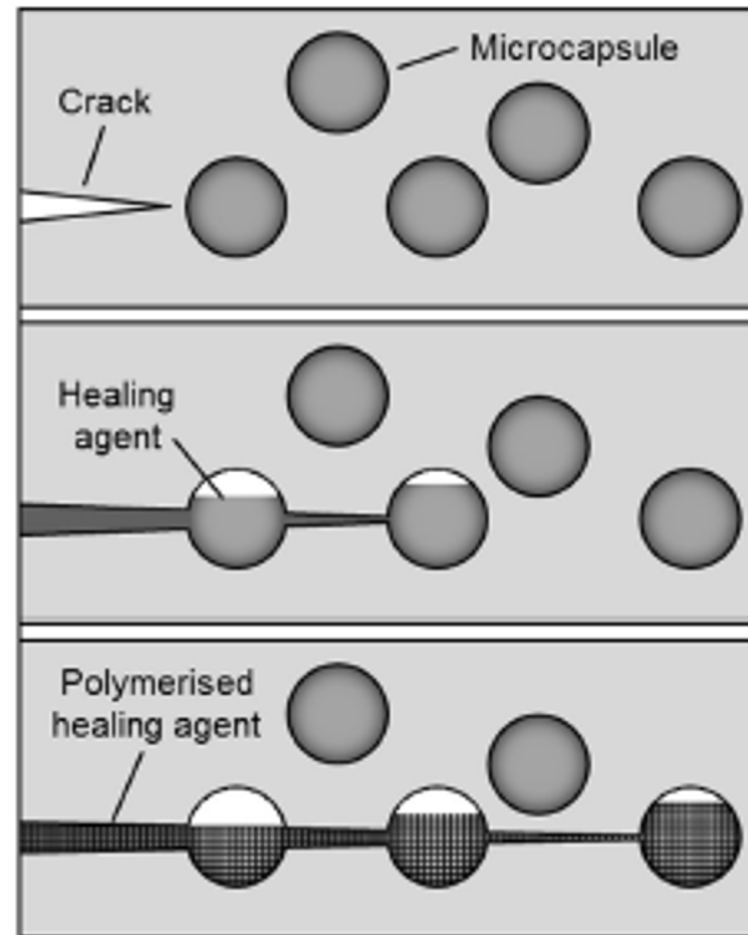


Microencapsulation can be used to program *in situ* physical and chemical processes

Therapeutic delivery with microencapsulated stem cells



Self-healing epoxy with microencapsulated resin

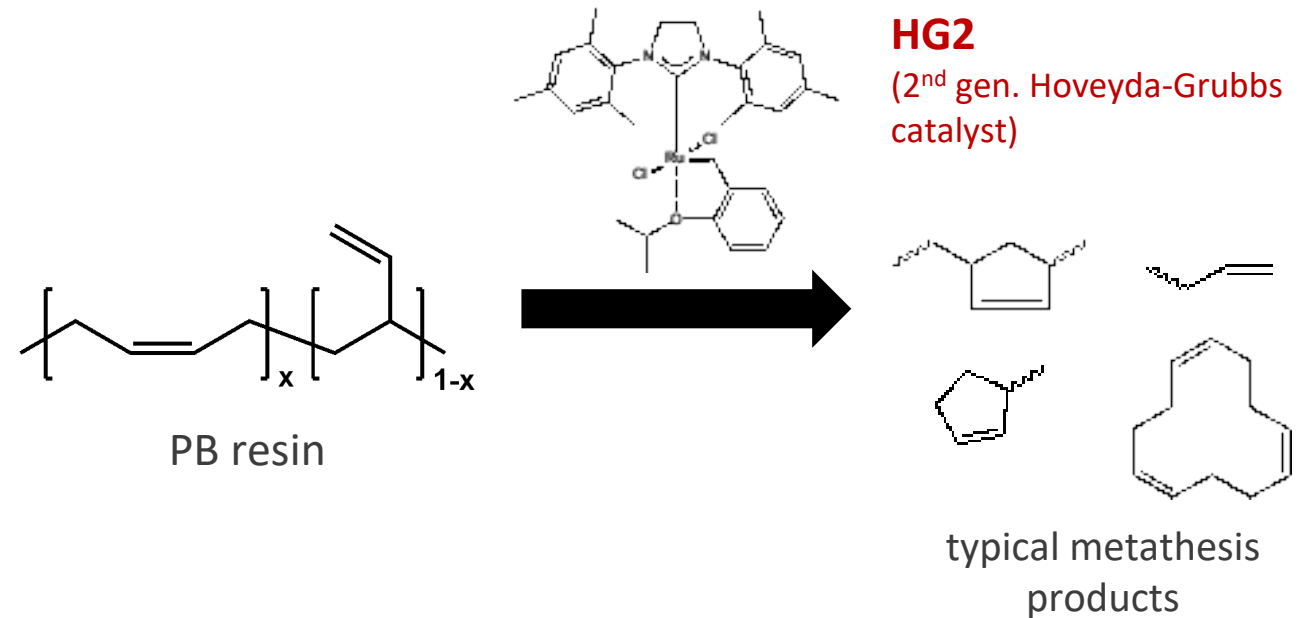
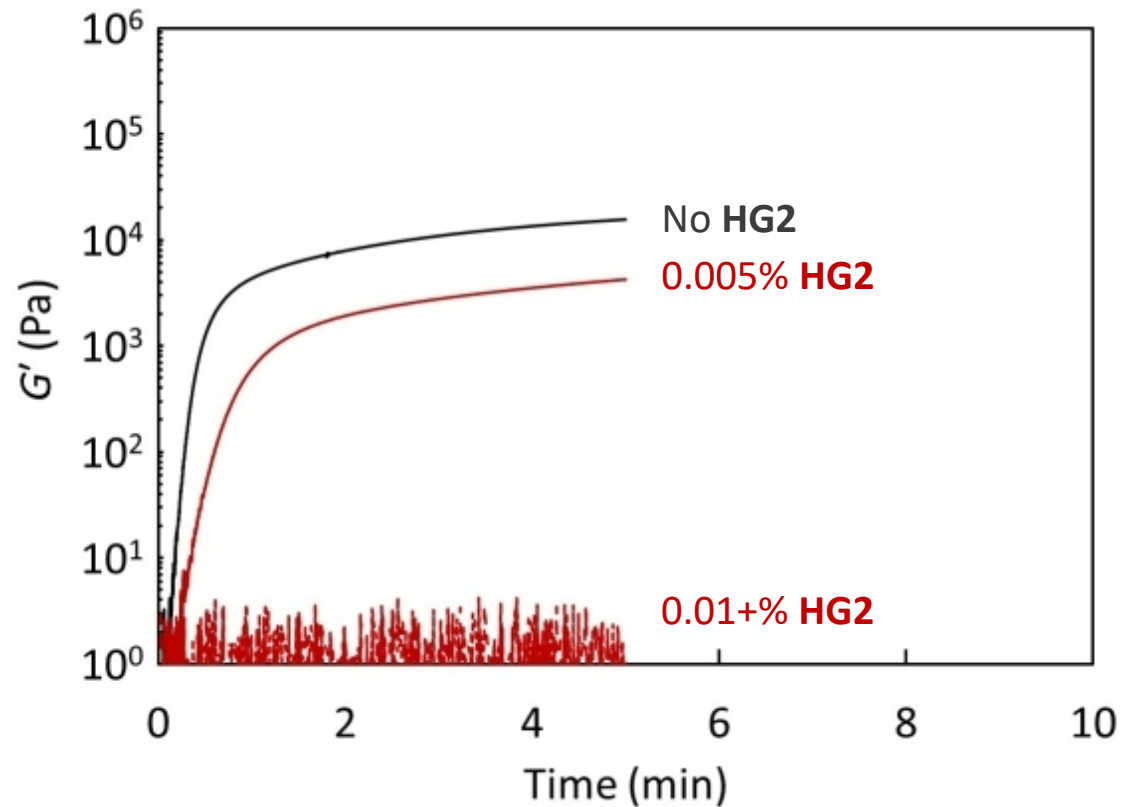


Goal: Controlled Release for Elastomer Degradation

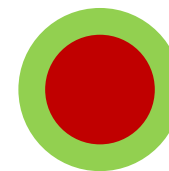
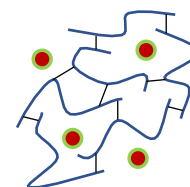


This work explores microencapsulation of metathesis catalysts for polybutadiene (PB) elastomer degradation

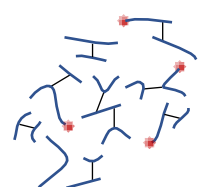
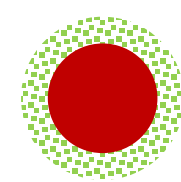
PB resin pre-loaded with **HG2** does not crosslink to a proper elastomer



How to protect catalyst?



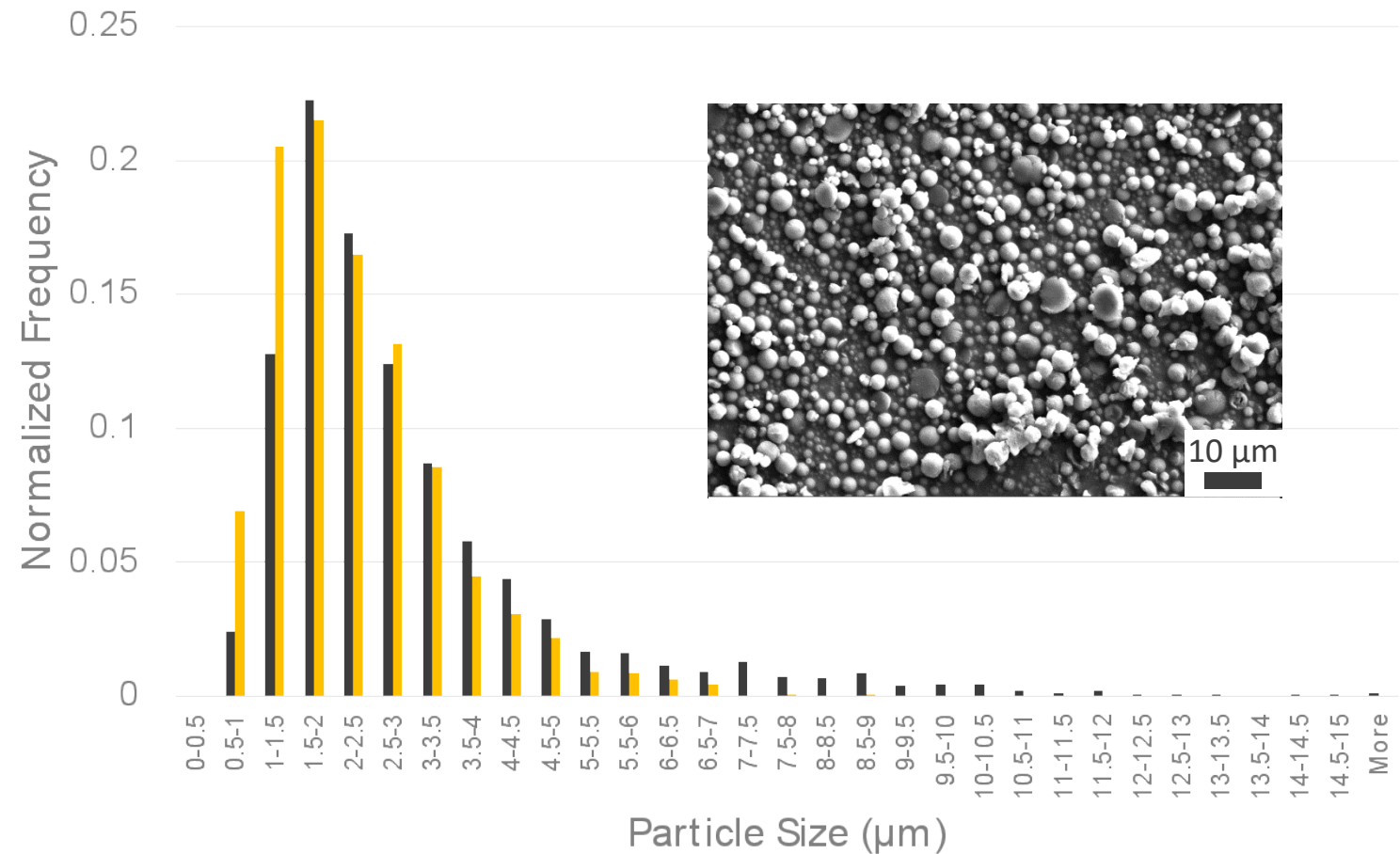
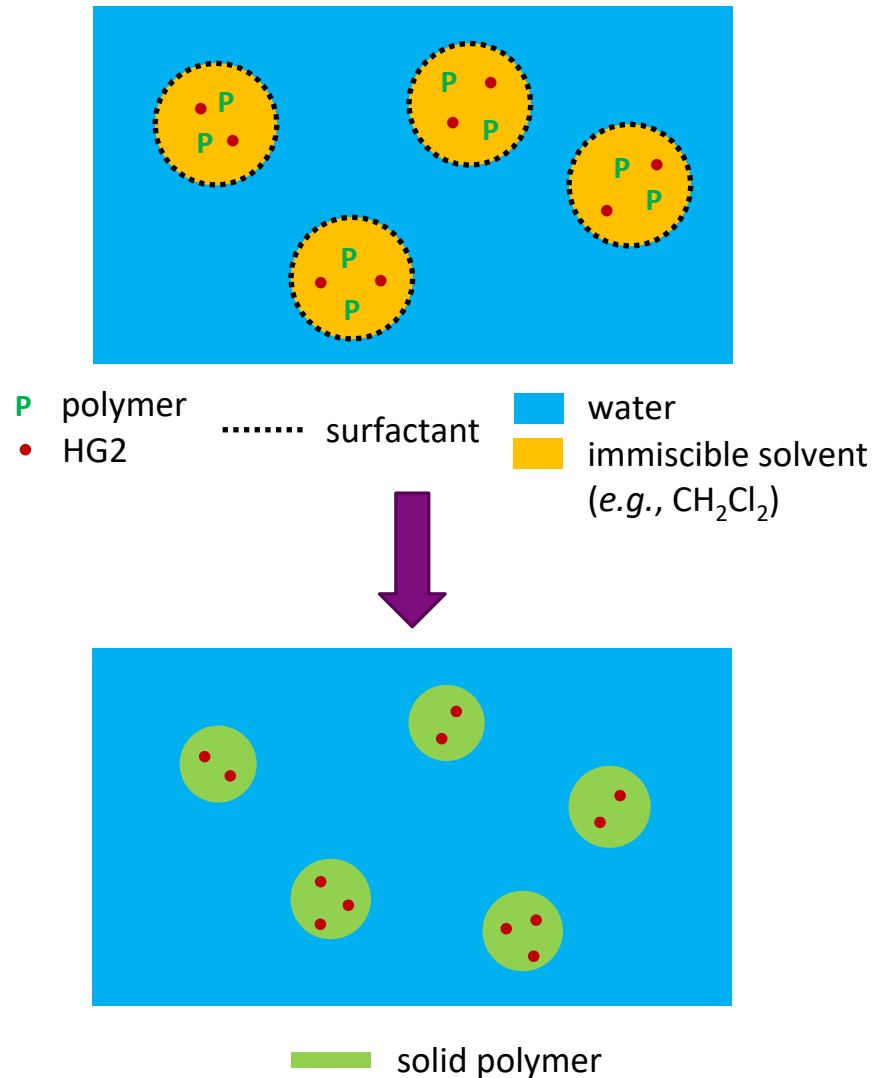
How to release catalyst?



Microencapsulation *via* Emulsion Templating



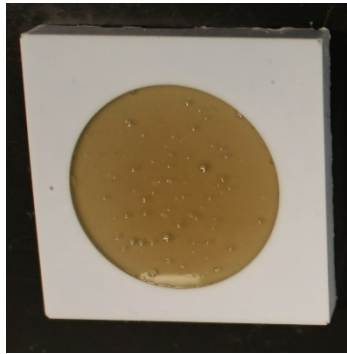
Co-solubilization of polymer (encapsulant) and catalyst in dispersed phase of emulsion is a simple route to microencapsulation



Importance of Glass Transition Temperature (T_g)

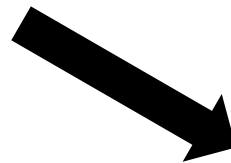
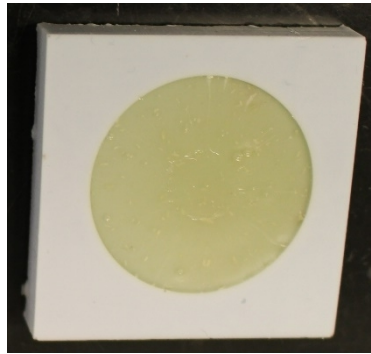
T_g of encapsulant needs to be above processing temperature of elastomer for catalyst protection

$$T_g < T_{x-link}$$

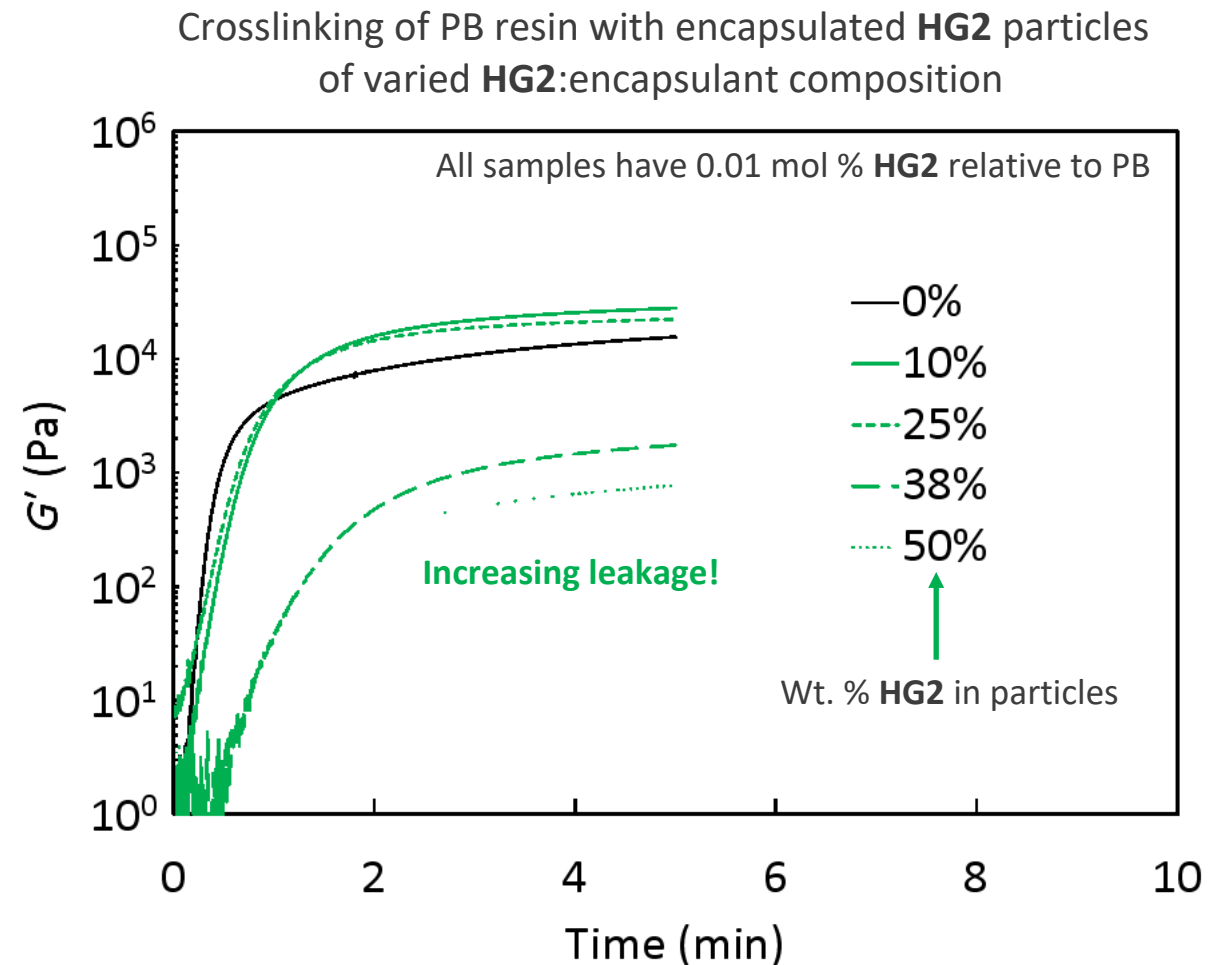


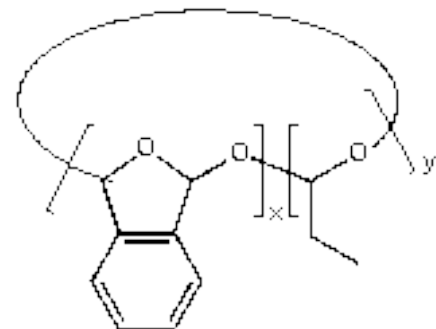
Rapid catalyst release & PB resin degradation
Cannot make a proper elastomer!

$$T_g > T_{x-link}$$



No catalyst release
(Aside from leakage)
Can make a proper elastomer!

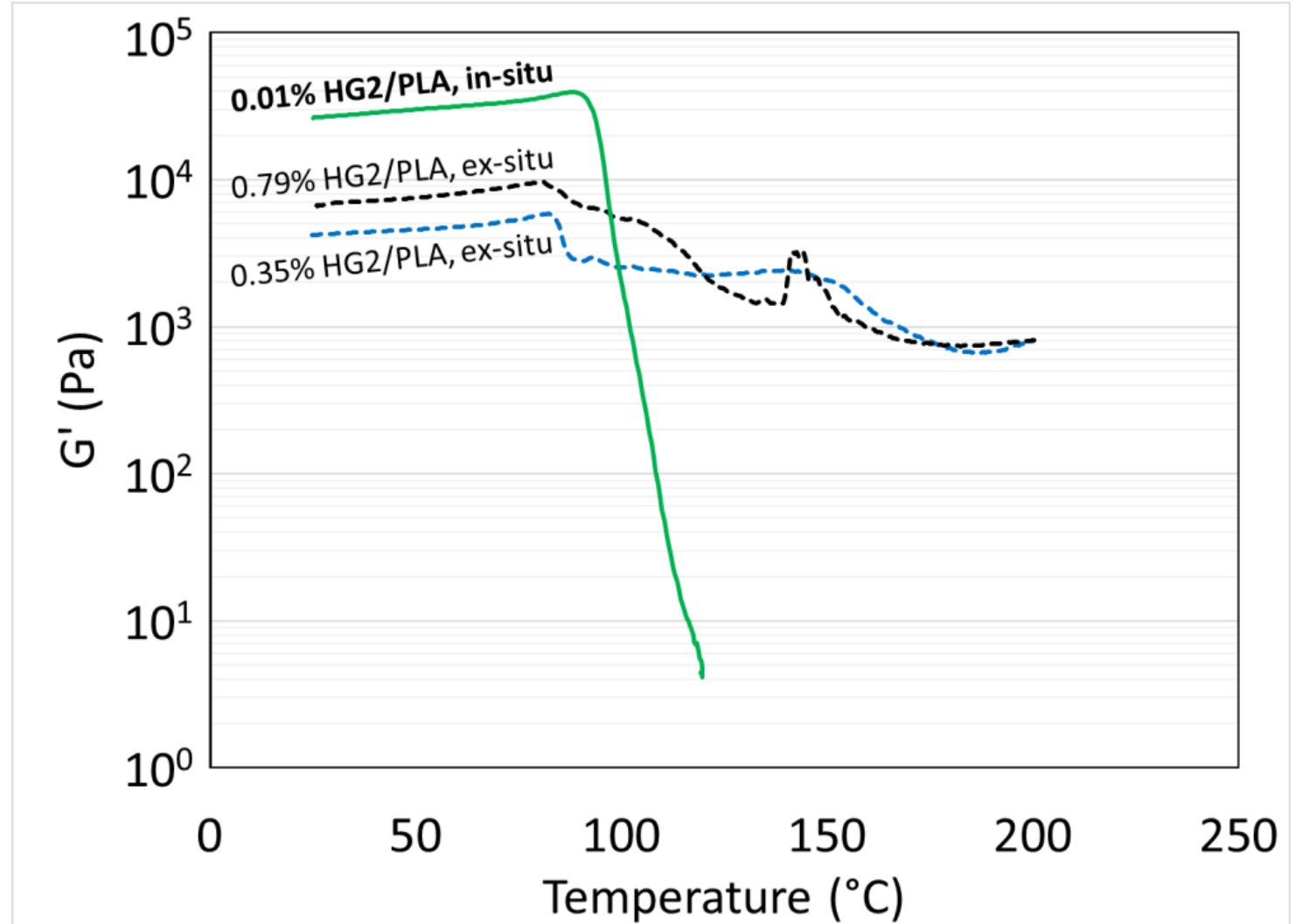
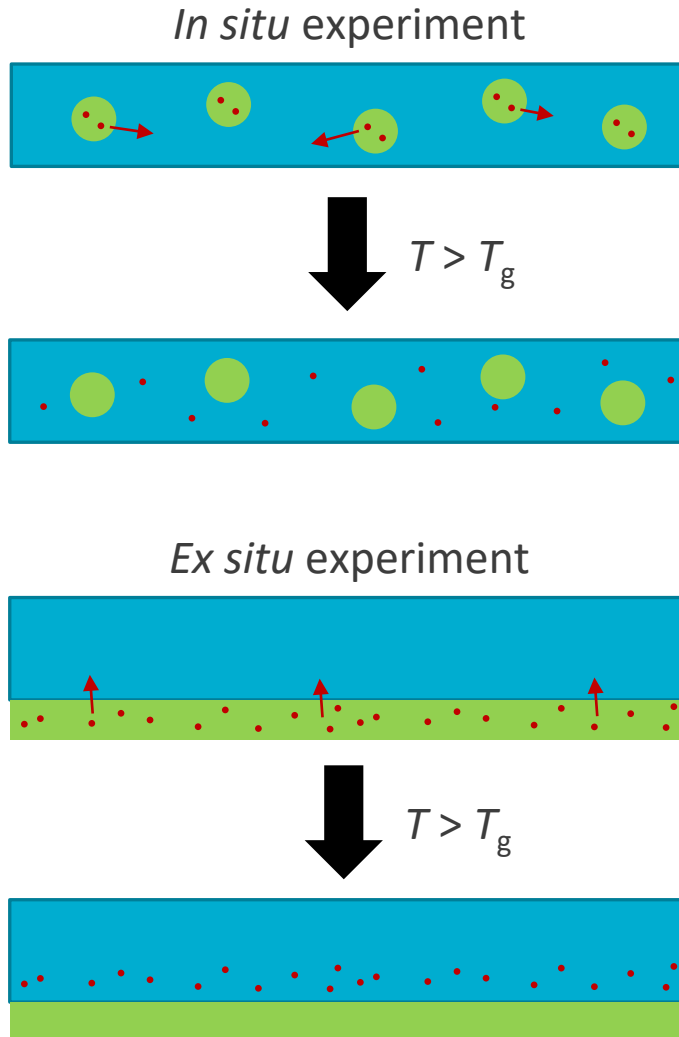




In Situ is Better than *Ex Situ*



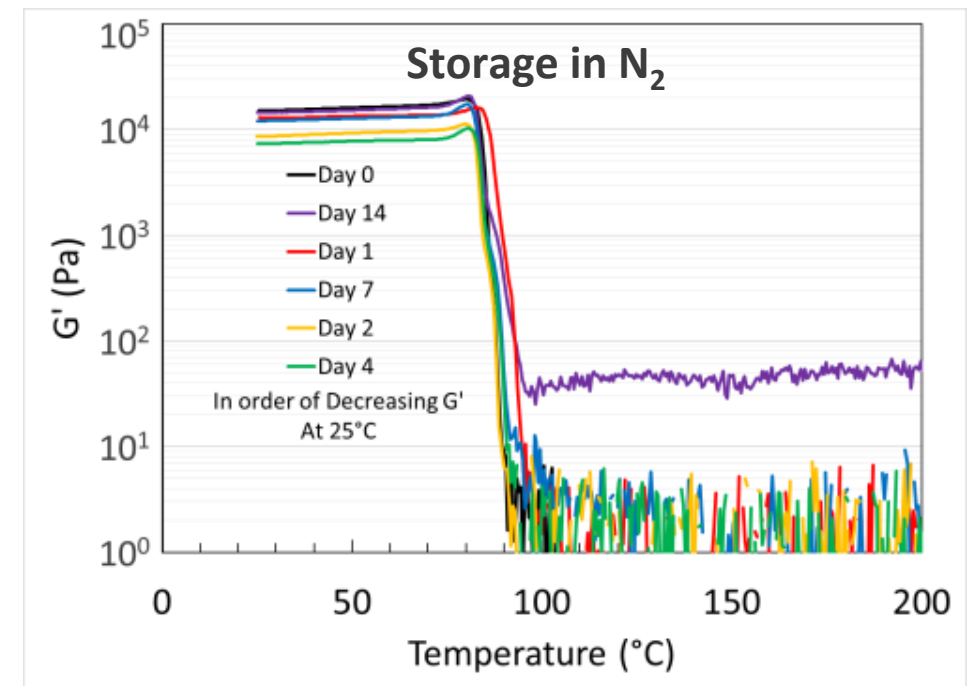
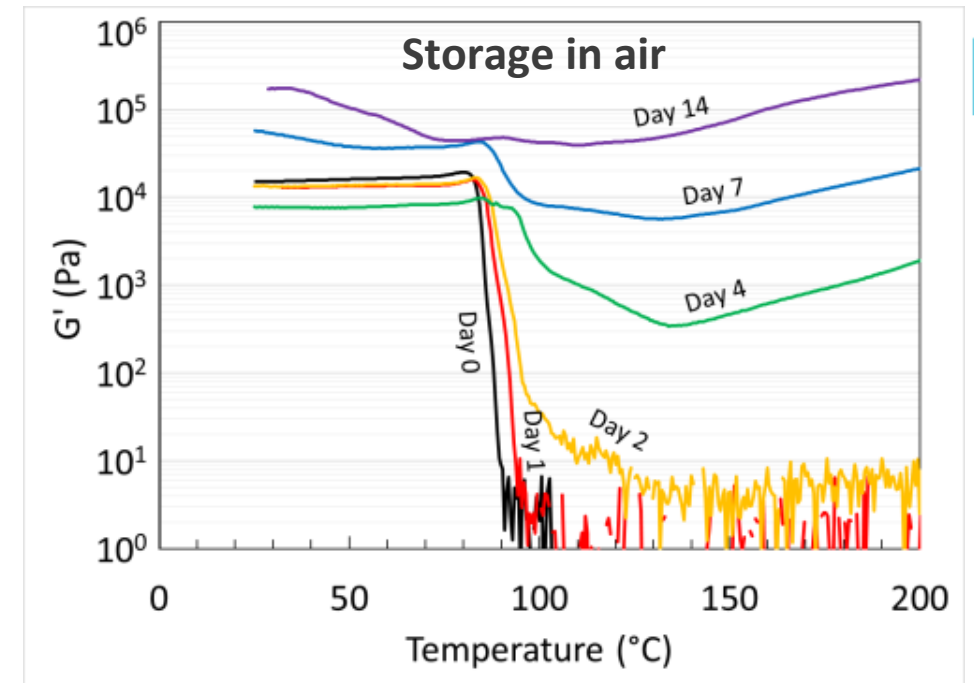
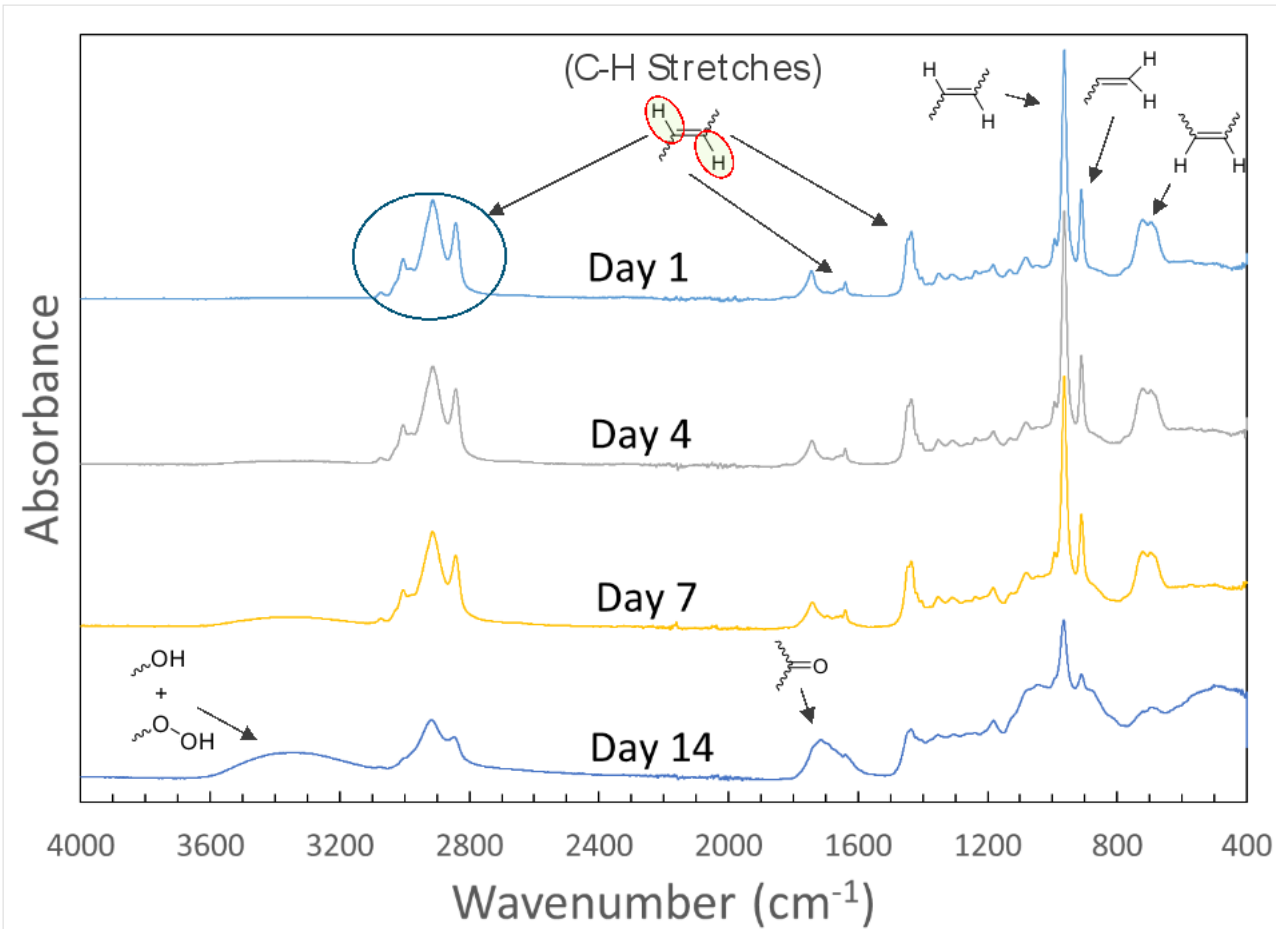
Degradation is far more efficient from inside out rather than outside in



Stability and Efficacy with Time

Oxidation of PB network decreases efficacy with storage

FTIR spectra, elastomers stored in air



Summary



1. Microencapsulated catalyst particles enable *in situ* degradation of elastomers for waste remediation
2. Glassy encapsulants protect catalyst from interaction with elastomer during crosslinking
3. Catalyst release/elastomer degradation temperature correlates with encapsulant T_g or T_c
4. Currently requires inert storage conditions for extended stability

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