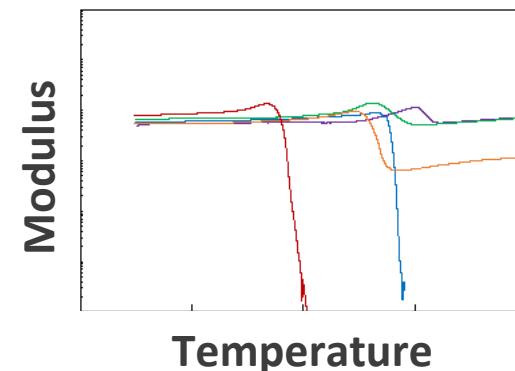




Polybutadiene Elastomers with Degradation Profiles Programmed by Microencapsulation and Controlled Release of Metathesis Catalysts



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6 December, 2022



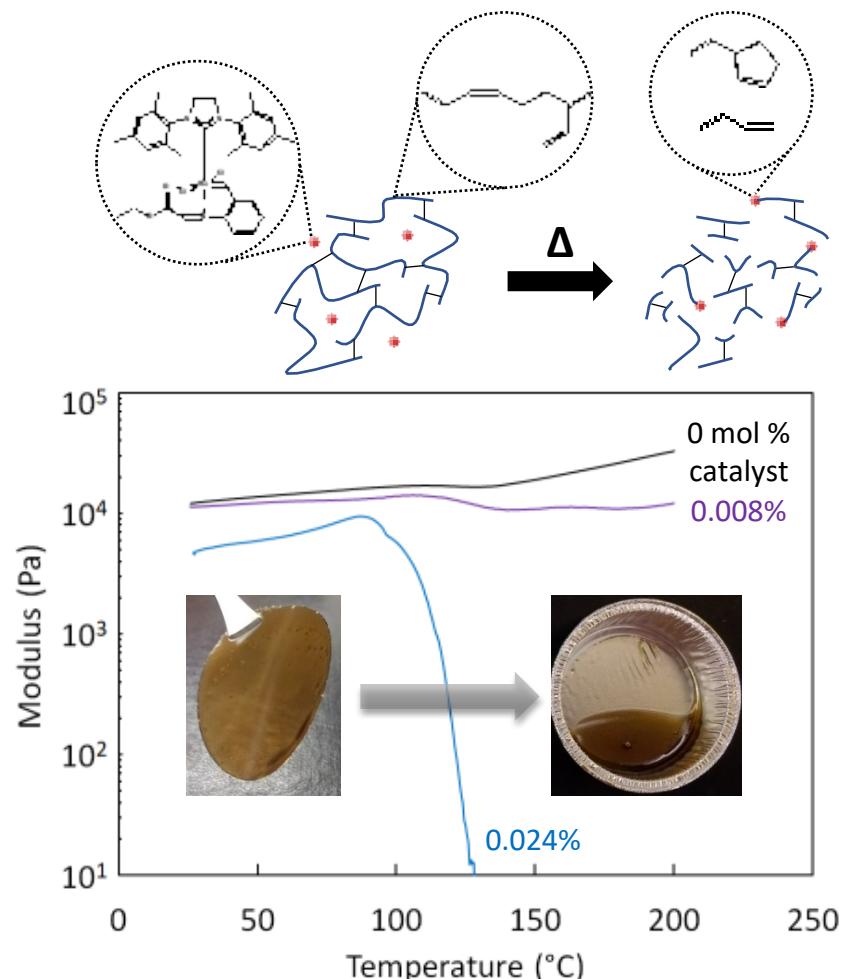
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In Situ Degradation

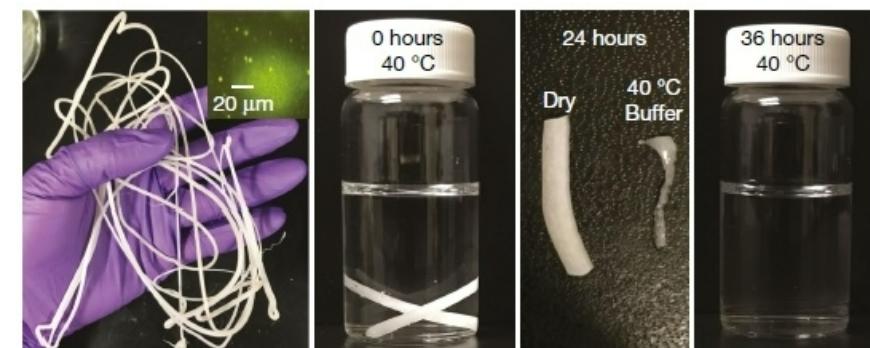
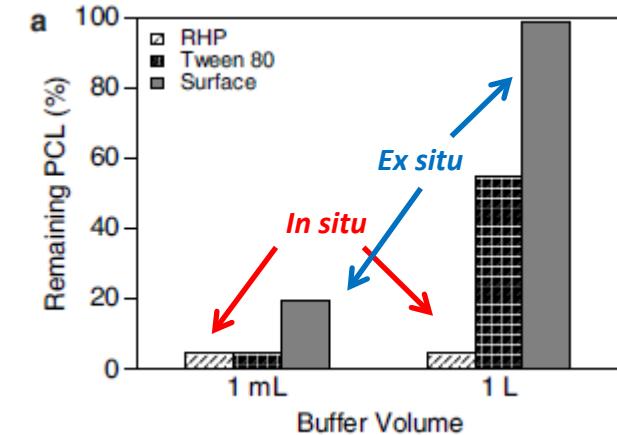
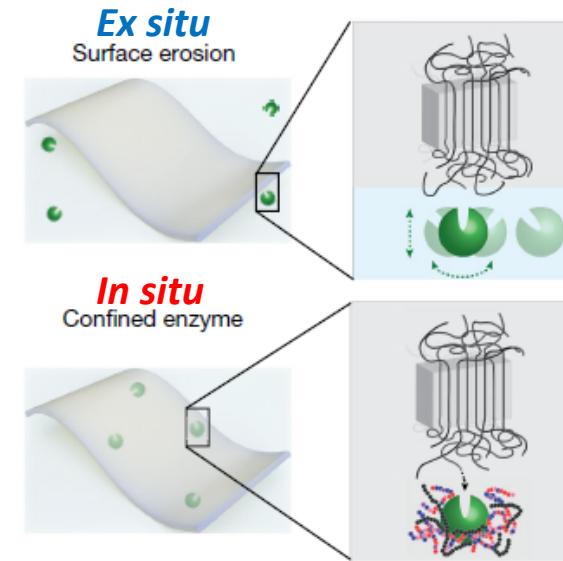


In situ degradation may improve efficiency in waste remediation with greater control over degradation profiles

PB elastomer degradation with latent metathesis catalysts



Polyester degradation with protected, nano-dispersed enzymes

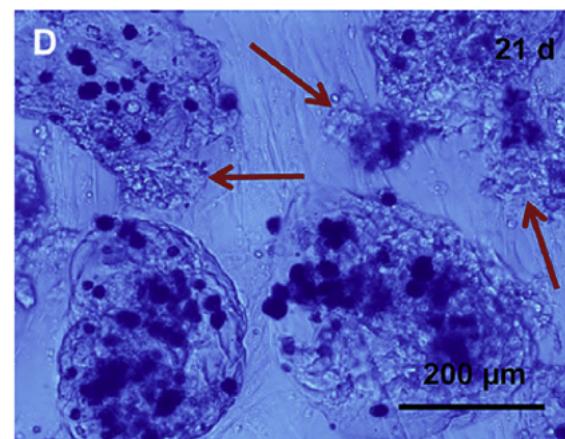
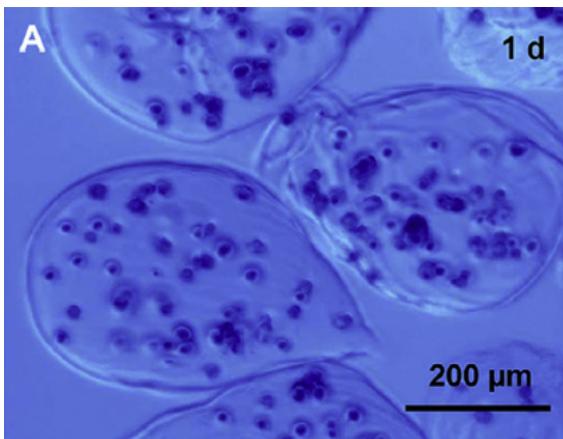
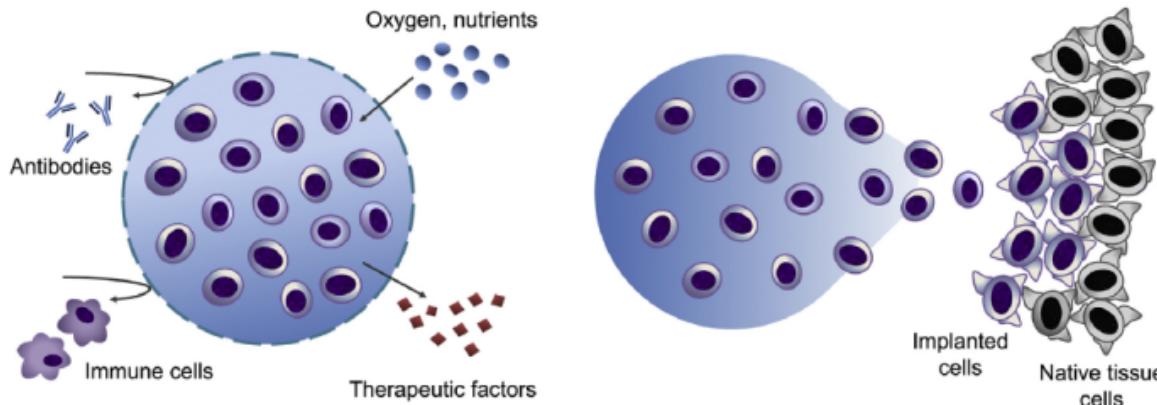


Inspiration from Therapeutics and Self-Healing Materials

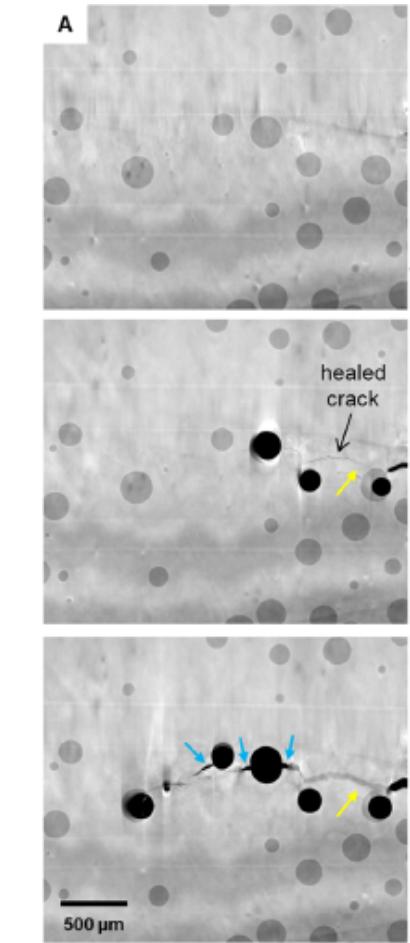
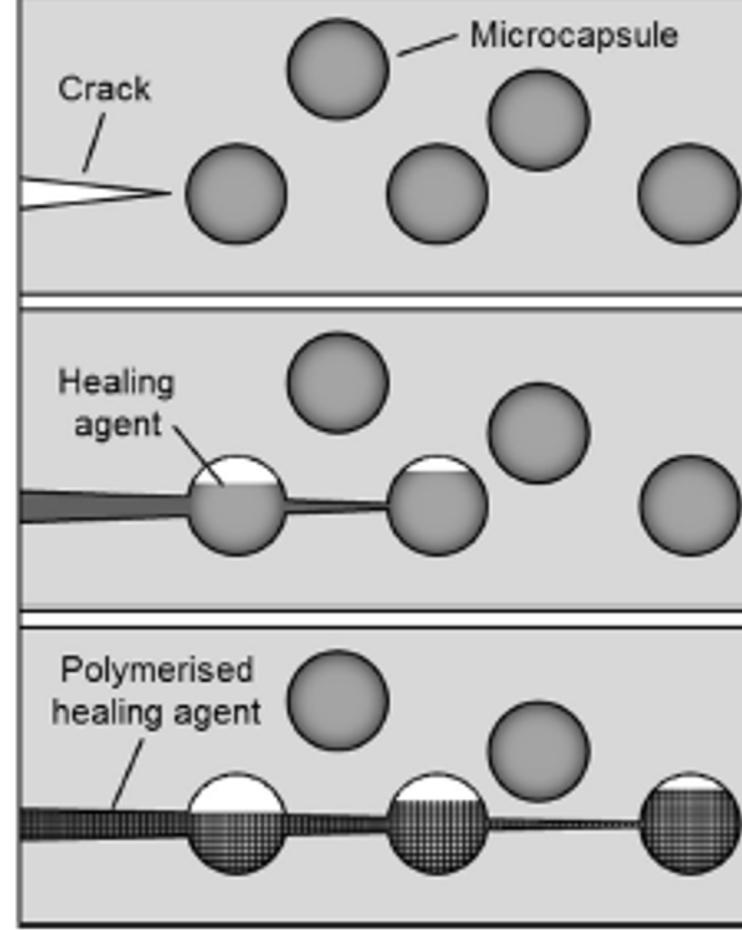


Microencapsulation can be used to program *in situ* physical and chemical processes

Therapeutic delivery with microencapsulated stem cells



Self-healing epoxy with microencapsulated resin

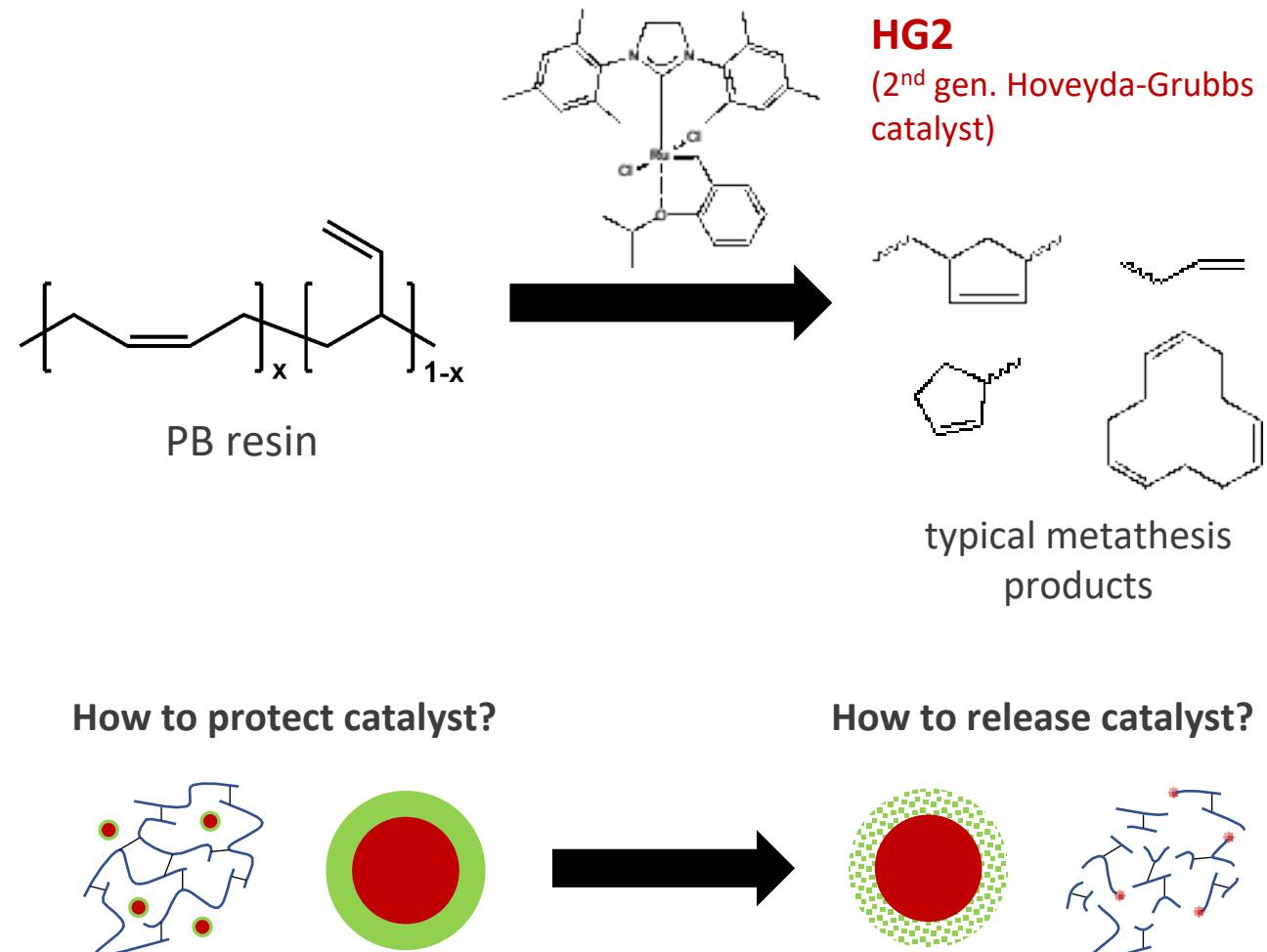
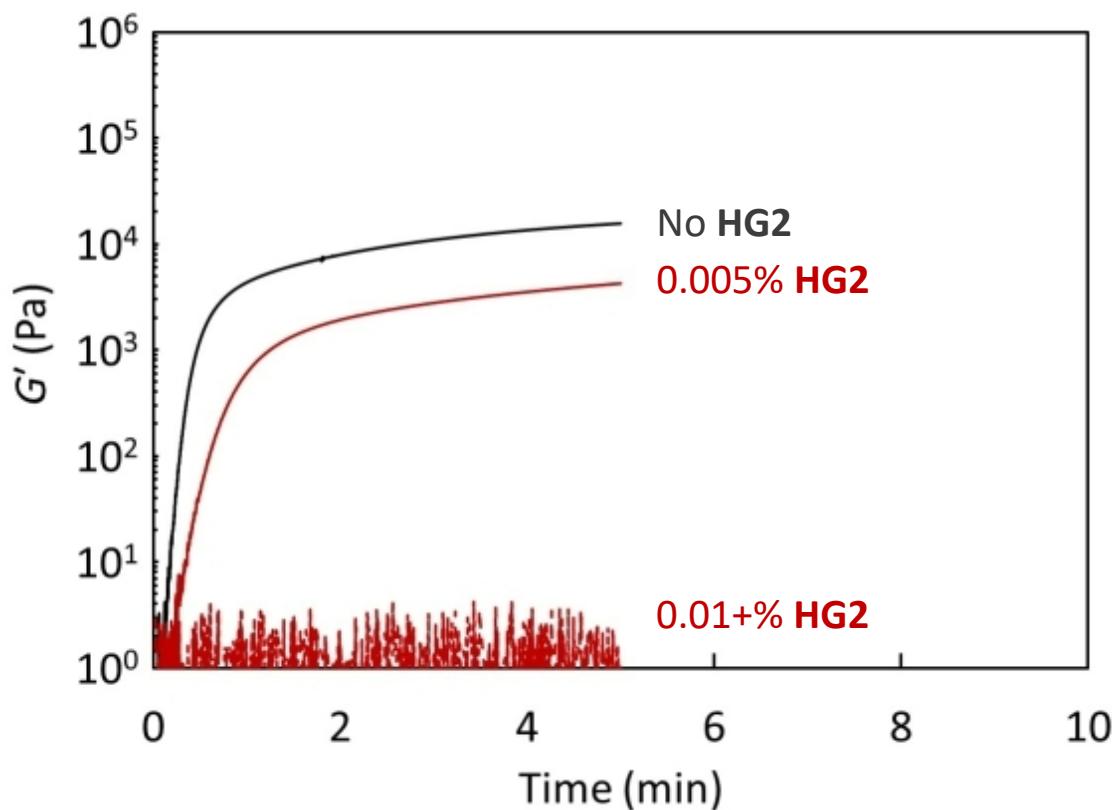


Goal: Controlled Release for Elastomer Degradation



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

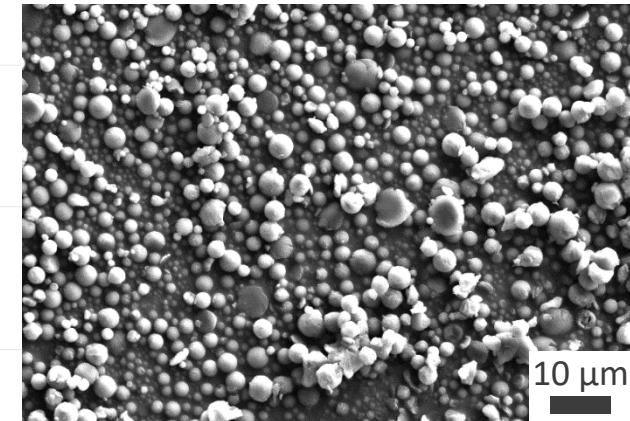
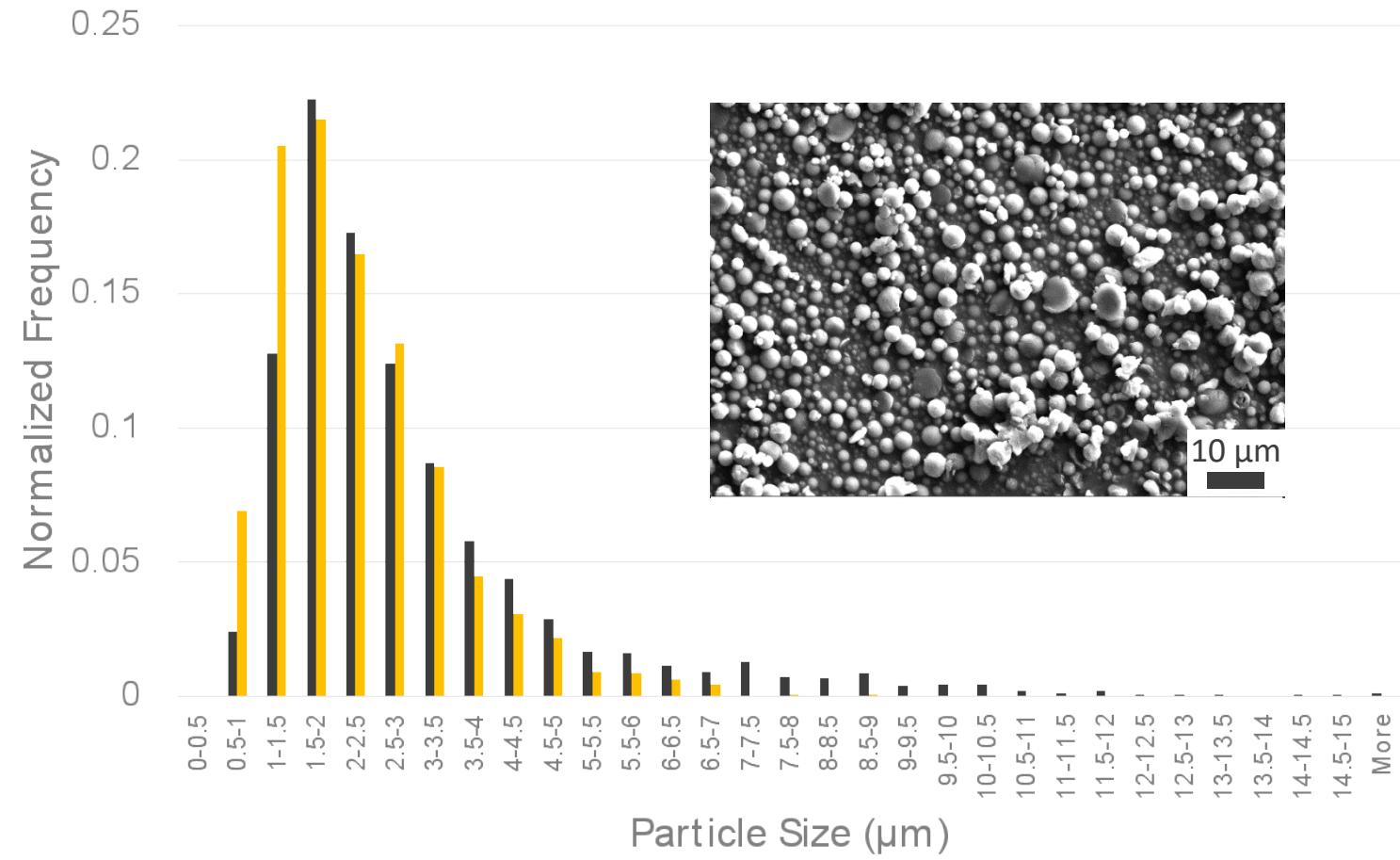
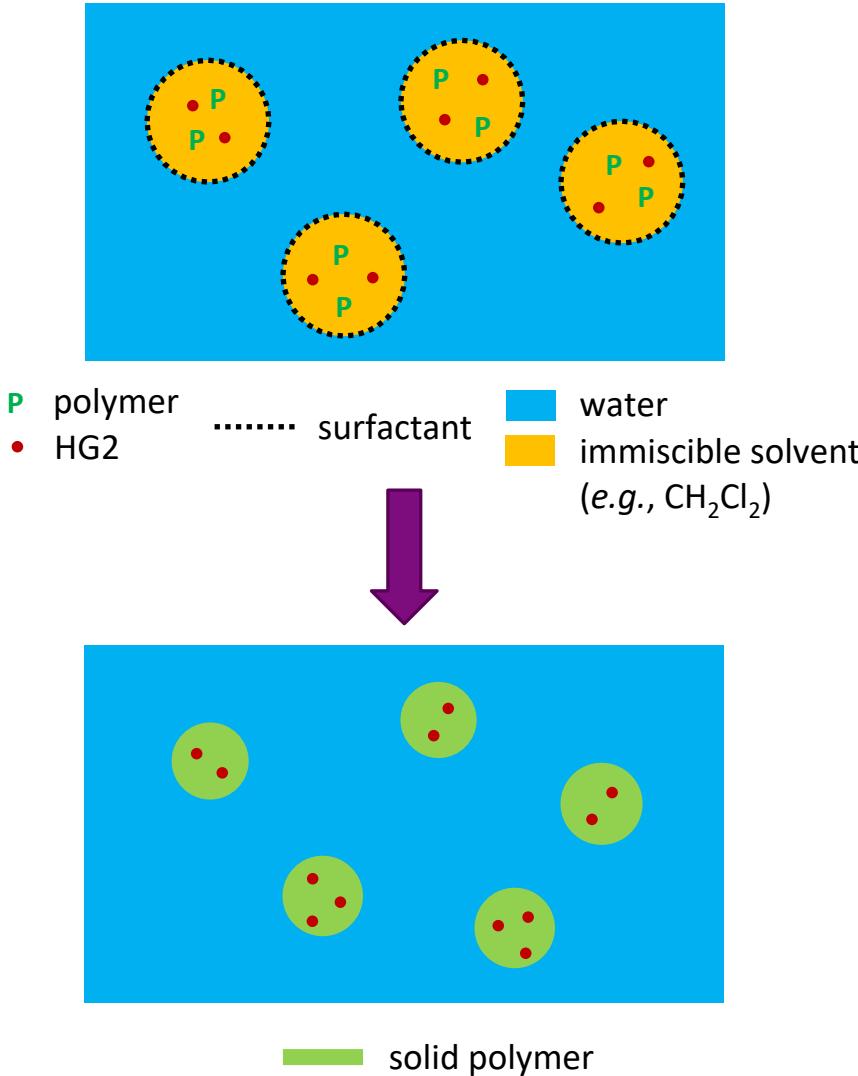
PB resin pre-loaded with **HG2** does not crosslink to a proper elastomer



Microencapsulation via Emulsion Templating



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



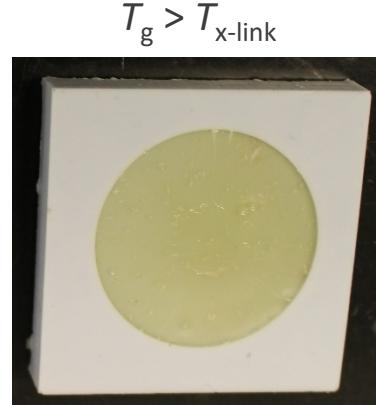
Importance of Glass Transition Temperature (T_g)



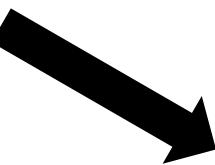
T_g of encapsulant needs to be above processing temperature of elastomer for catalyst protection



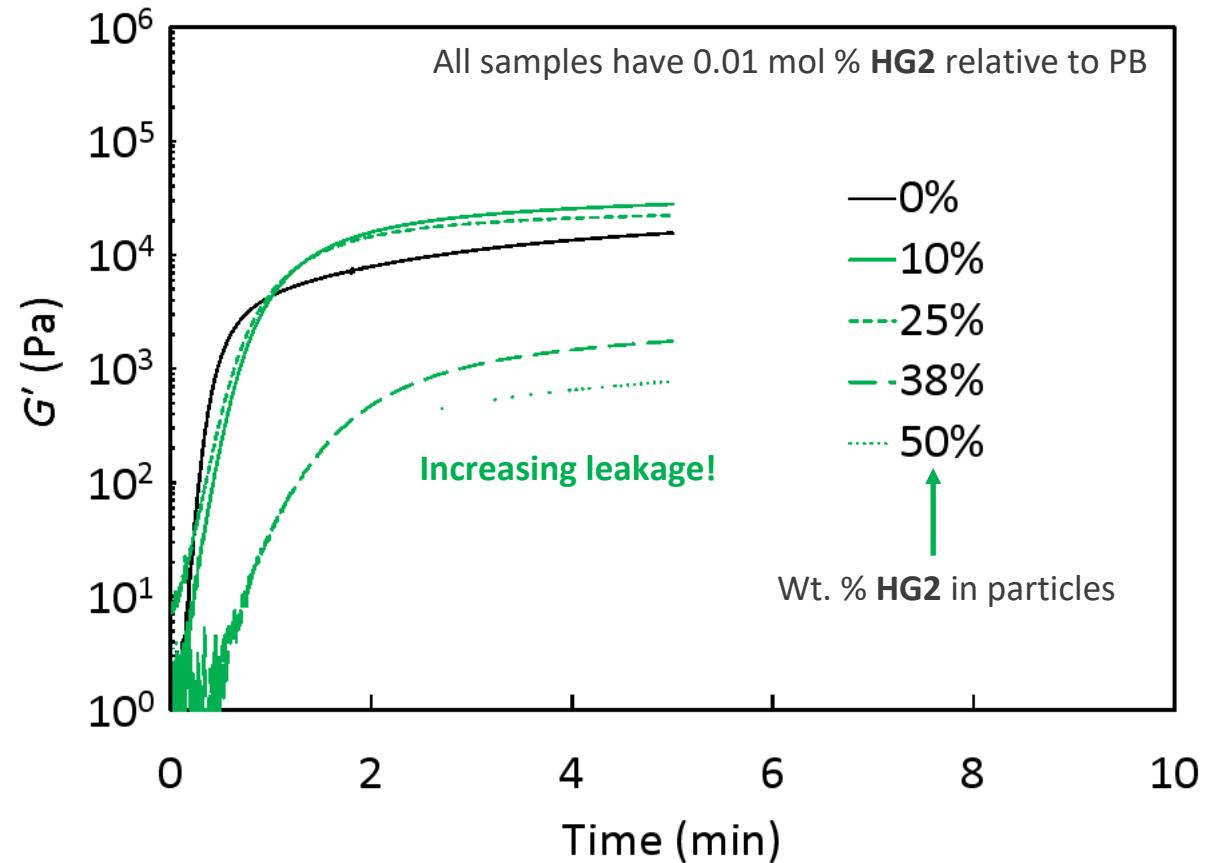
Rapid catalyst release & PB resin degradation
Cannot make a proper elastomer!



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



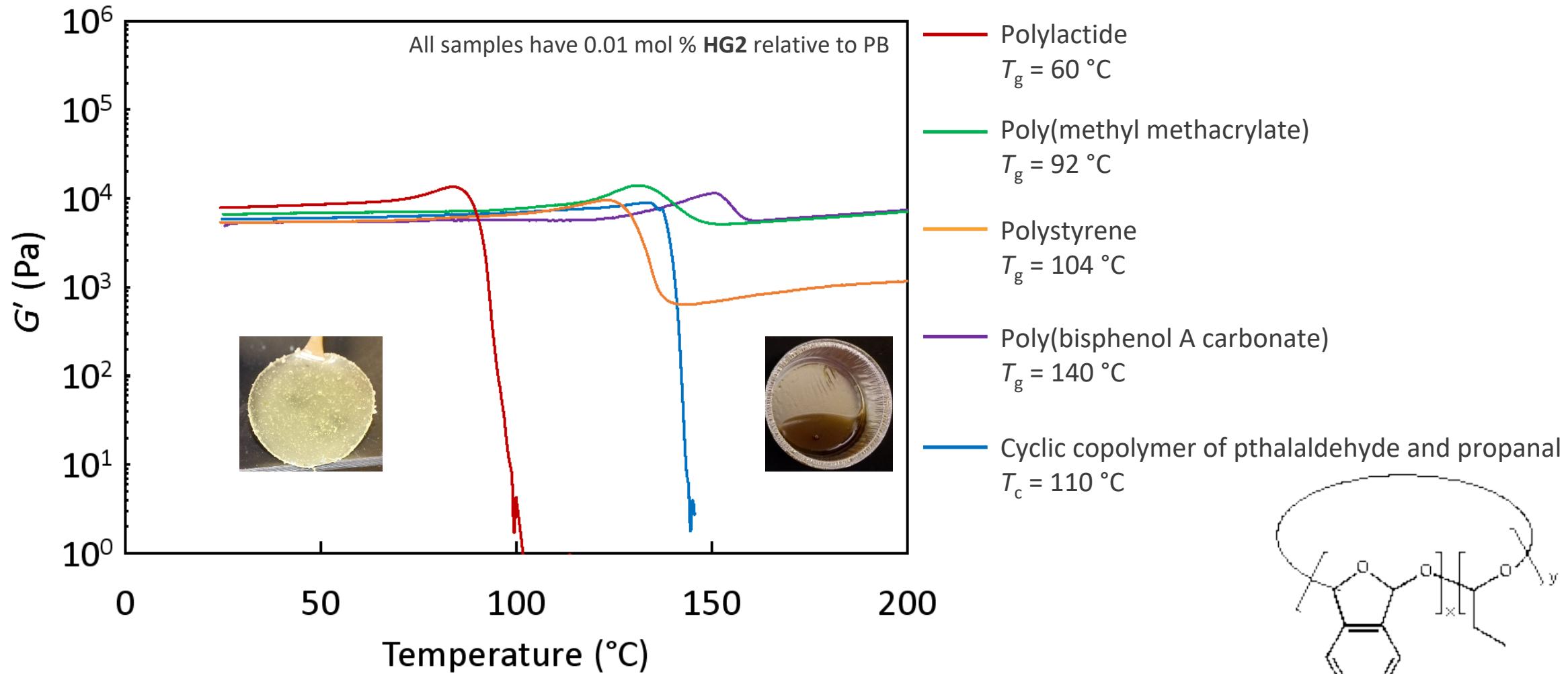
Crosslinking of PB resin with encapsulated **HG2** particles
of varied **HG2**:encapsulant composition



Importance of Glass Transition Temperature (T_g)



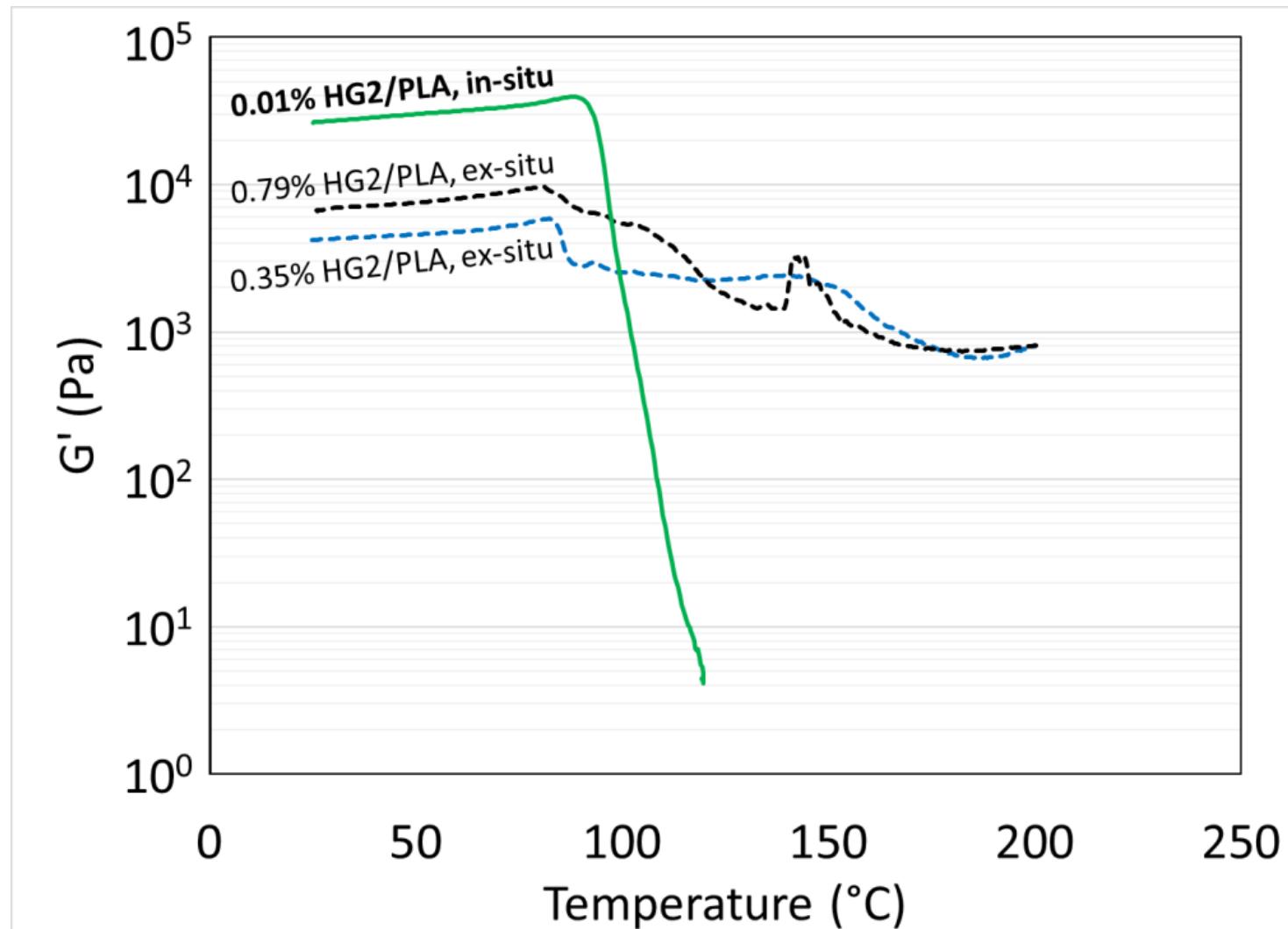
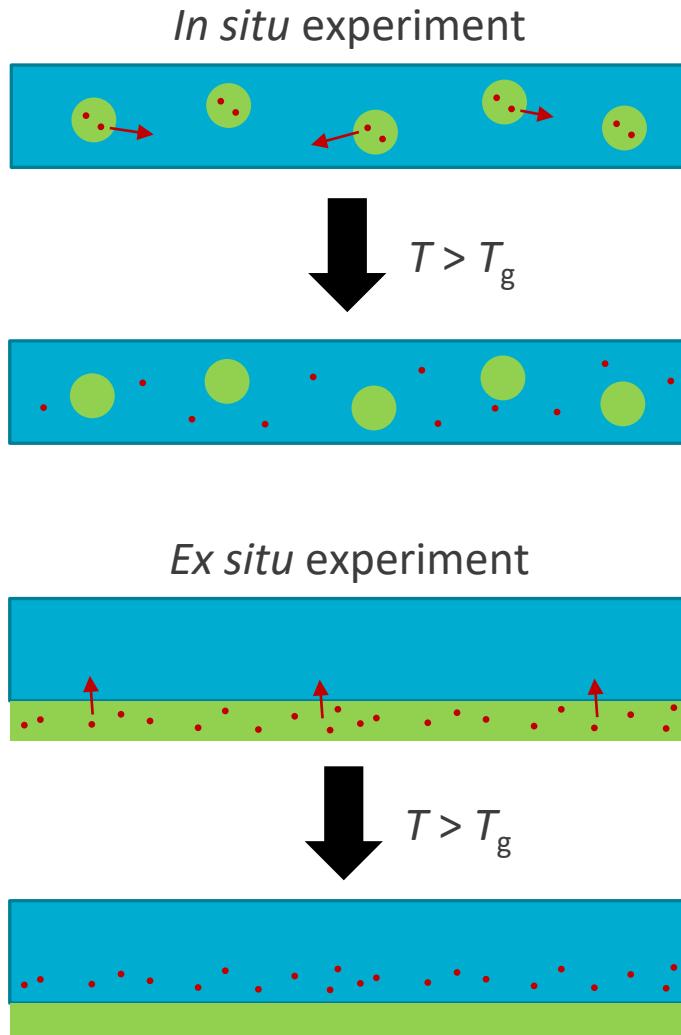
Catalyst is released and elastomers degrade with an onset temperature that trends with encapsulant T_g



In Situ is Better than Ex Situ



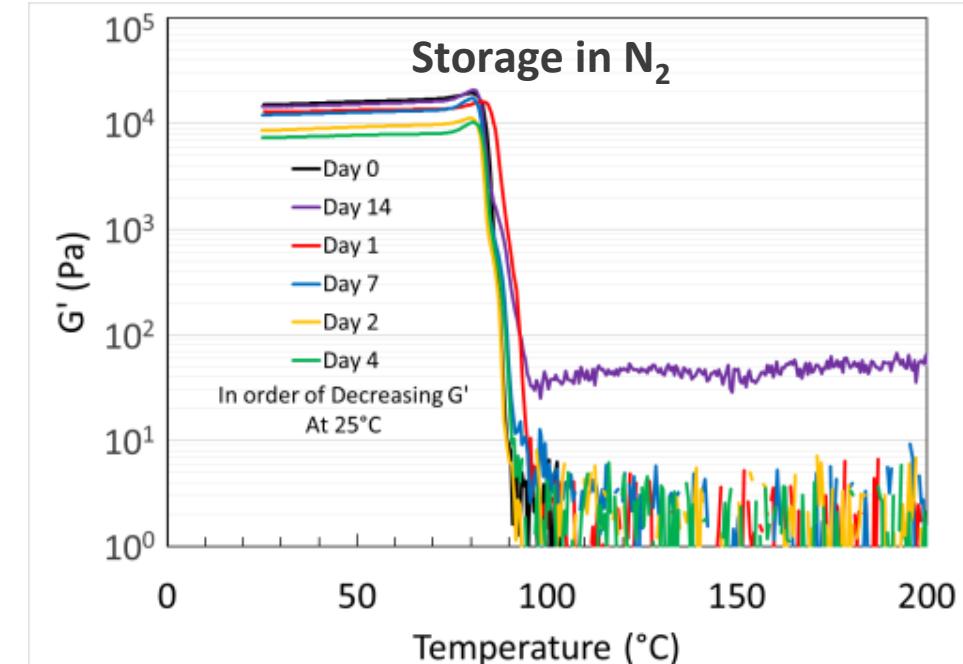
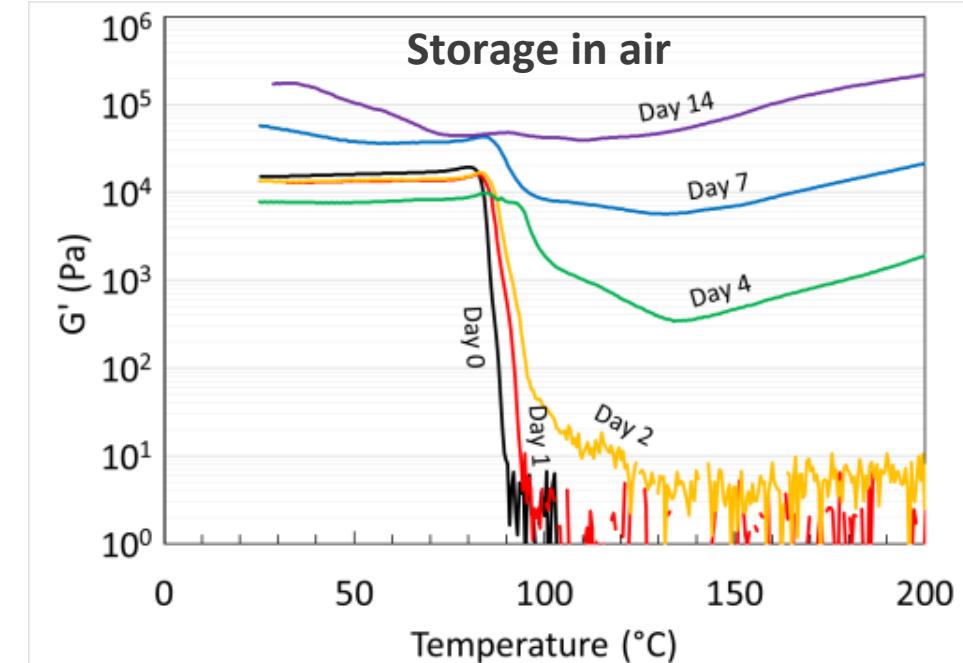
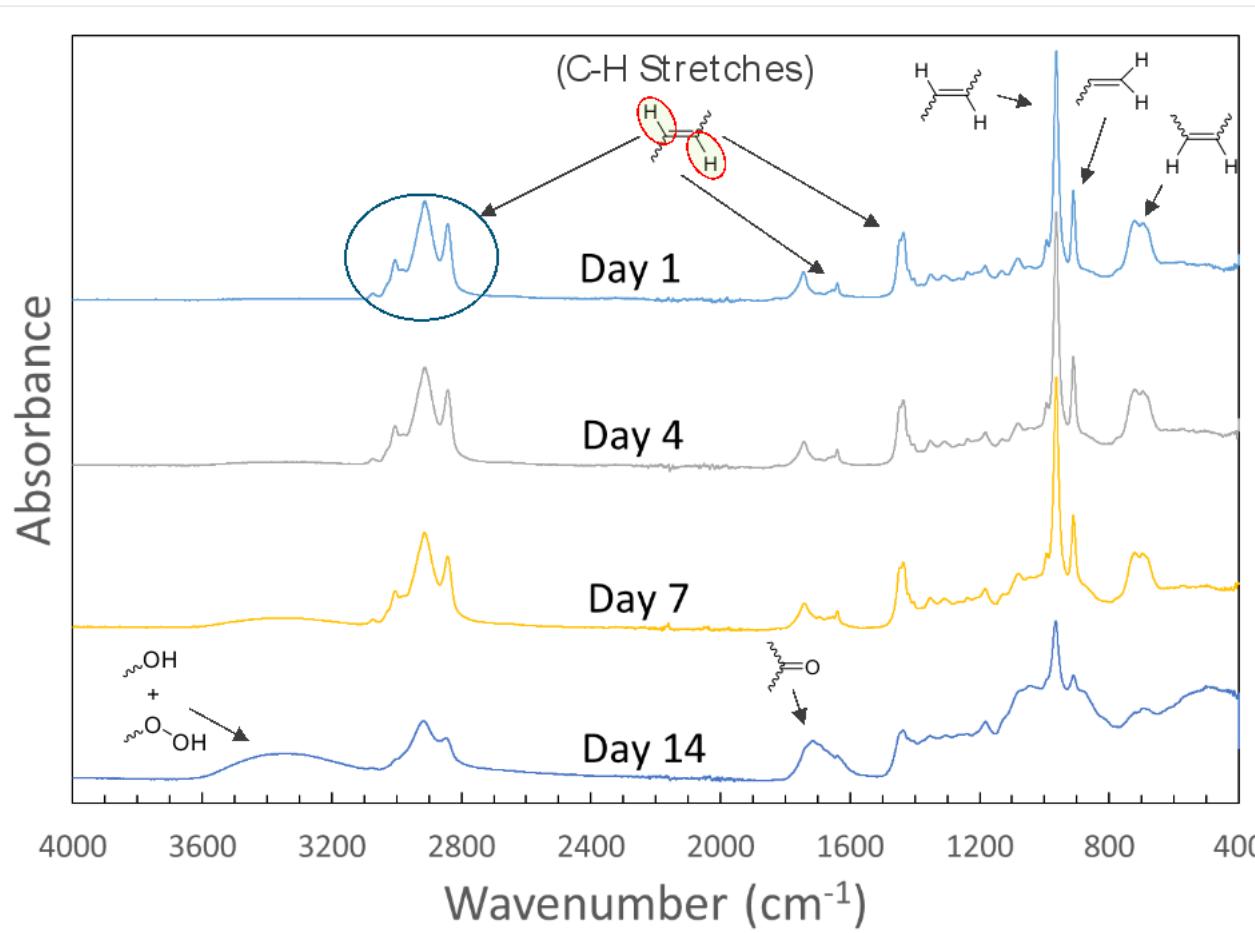
Degradation is far more efficient from inside out rather than outside in



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

Acknowledgements

Paul Kohl, Jared Schwartz, Anthony Engler (Georgia Tech) – collaborators for stimuli-responsive encapsulants

Koushik Ghosh, James Lassa, Sam Leguizamón, Hannah Narcross (Sandia) – discussion and experimental support

Sandia's Laboratory Directed Research and Development Program – financial support