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Peer reviewed|Thesis/dissertation

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

SANTA CRUZ

**INTERNAL PLASTICIZATION OF POLY(VINYL CHLORIDE) USING THERMAL
AZIDE-ALKYNE HUISGEN CYCLOADDITION AND COPPER-MEDIATED ATOM
TRANSFER RADICAL POLYMERIZATION**

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of the requirements for the degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

in

CHEMISTRY

by

Longbo Li

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Abstract

Internal Plasticization of Poly(Vinyl Chloride) using Thermal Azide-Alkyne Huisgen Cycloaddition and Copper-Mediated Atom Transfer Radical Polymerization

Longbo Li

Poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC) is one of the most widely used thermoplastics; uses range from building materials, medical devices, toys, and sports equipment. Pure PVC is rigid and brittle. Typically, small molecule plasticizers are added to modify the flexibility and durability of PVC. The most common external plasticizers are phthalate esters. These small molecules leach out of the PVC matrix into the environment; when inhaled, absorbed, or ingested into the human body, phthalates and their metabolites pose a significant risk to human health. The most efficient way to prevent leaching of plasticizers is to covalently attach them to PVC. This is referred to as “internal plasticization.”

Two strategies have been used to achieve internal plasticization of PVC in this thesis. In the first strategy, thermal azide-alkyne Huisgen cycloaddition was utilized to attach electron-poor acetylenediamides using a branched glutamic acid linker to azidized PVC, incorporating four plasticizing moieties per attachment point. A systematic study incorporating either alkyl or triethylene glycol esters provided materials with varying degrees of plasticization, with depressed glass transition temperature (T_g) values ranging from -1 °C to 62 °C. T_g values of these internally plasticized PVC samples were shown to decrease with increasing chain length of the plasticizing ester. A branched internal plasticizer bearing a triethylene glycol ester had lower T_g values compared to that with a same length linear alkyl ester. Thermogravimetric analysis of PVC bearing internal plasticizers revealed that these branched internal plasticizers bearing alkyl ester chains are more thermally stable than similarity branched plasticizers bearing ethylene glycol esters. These internal tetra-plasticizers were synthesized and attached to PVC-azide in three simple synthetic steps.

In the second strategy, internal plasticization of PVC was achieved in one step using copper-mediated atom transfer radical polymerization (ATRP) to graft random *n*-butyl acrylate (BA) and 2-2-(2-ethoxyethoxy)ethyl acrylate (2EEA) copolymers from defect sites on the PVC chain. Five graft copolymers were made with different ratios of PBA and P2EEA; T_g values of these functionalized PVC polymers ranged from -28 °C to -50 °C. Single T_g values were observed for all polymers, indicating good compatibility between PVC and the grafted chains, with no evidence of microphase separation. Plasticization efficiency is higher for polyether P2EEA moieties compared with PBA components. The resultant PVC graft copolymers were thermally more stable compared to unmodified PVC. Increasing the reaction scale from 2 g to 14 g produced consistent and reproducible results, suggesting this method could be applicable on an industrial scale. Further optimizations of the ATRP conditions were carried out shortening the reaction time and varying the acrylate monomer to VC unit ratios. Nine different internally plasticized PVC graft copolymers with different weight percents of plasticizer spanning from 24% to 75% were prepared. A wide range of T_g values (-54 °C to 54 °C) were achieved, with T_g values below zero for samples with weight percent of plasticizer more than 50%. In summary, highly effective internal plasticization of PVC was accomplished by Cu-mediated ATRP in only one step. Whereas the azide-alkyne approach may be suffered from the potential danger in handling azides on large scale, the ATRP graft copolymerization approach is expected to be very attractive to industry, to afford internally plasticized PVC products with reliable and durable physical properties.

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Please never change. Rosa, thanks for your help with the photo-ATRP project. You brought me so much joy. I wish you could always be around.

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1 Introduction: Internal Plasticization of PVC

Poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC) (**Figure 1.1**) is one of the most commonly used thermoplastics in the world. In 2018, PVC encompassed 17% of global plastic production.¹ The global market demand has been continuously increasing from 38.3 million tons in 2013 to 41.3 million tons in 2016.²

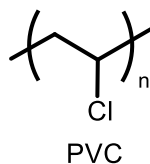
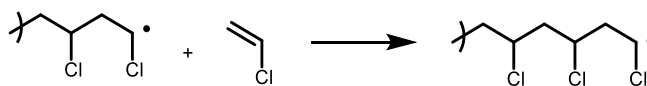


Figure 1.1 Structure of PVC

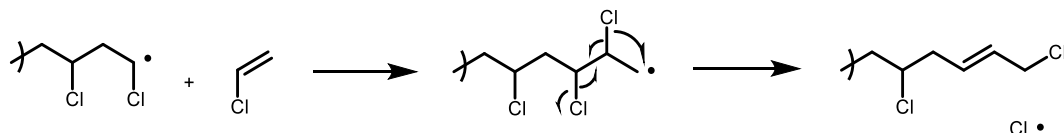
1.1 Synthesis of PVC

PVC was first discovered by Eugen Baumann in 1872.³ Baumann found that a white solid (PVC) was formed after vinyl chloride was left exposed to sunlight. Currently, PVC is synthesized by free radical polymerization of vinyl chloride monomer (VC). This polymerization occurs through three distinct steps: initiation, propagation, and termination. The choice of initiator affects the polymerization rate and the molecular weight. Common initiators include azobisisobutyronitrile (AIBN) and various peroxides. In the propagation step, there are two ways that VC can add: head-to-tail and head-to-head (**Scheme 1.1**). Normally, head-to-tail addition occurs, however, head-to-head addition can happen, yielding an unstable primary radical which rearranges to form an allylic chloride, terminating chain growth (**Scheme 1.1**).⁴ Head-to-tail addition is controlled by the polymerization temperature, which plays an important role in the resulting molecular weight and molecular weight distribution. Also, PVC is an atactic polymer, which means the repeating units do not have consistent stereochemistry. However, polymerization conducted under lower temperatures do favor formation of syndiotactic polymer because lower temperatures slow down the rotation of VC significantly.⁴ The polymerization is terminated by a radical-radical disproportionation or dimerization reaction (**Scheme 1.2**).⁵

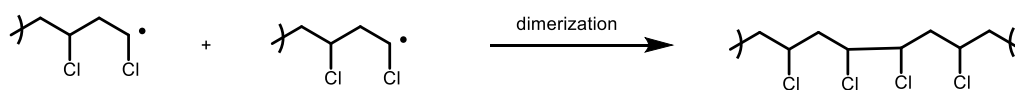
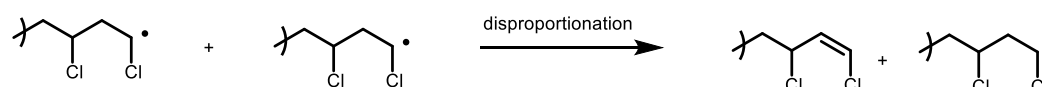
Head-to-tail addition



Head-to-head addition



Scheme 1.1 Two Types of Addition Patterns of VC during Growth of PVC



Scheme 1.2 Two types of termination

There are three main polymerization methods: suspension polymerization (dominant type), emulsion polymerization, and bulk polymerization.^{4,5} The molecular weight and polydispersity of commercial PVC synthesized via different polymerization methods are summarized in **Table 1.1**.⁶⁻⁸

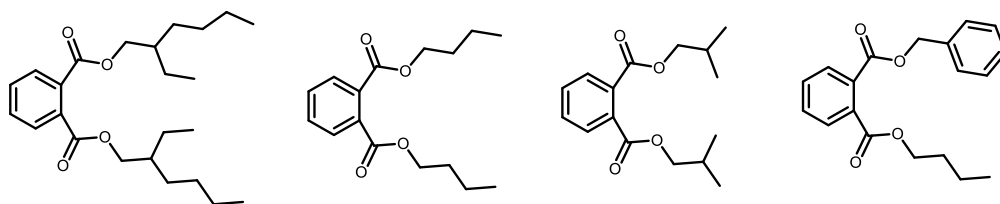
Table 1.1 Molecular Weights and Polydispersity Ranges for Commercial PVC

| Polymerization method | M_n (Da) | M_w (Da) | M_w/M_n (PDI) |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Suspension | 20,32-69,141 | 38,611-179,123 | 1.90-2.59 |
| Emulsion | 27,173-49,540 | 61,650-131,191 | 2.14-2.65 |
| Bulk | 26,351-37,772 | 52,683-77,829 | 2.00-2.06 |

1.2 Plasticizers

PVC was not widely used immediately after its discovery in 1872, because the polymer is inherently rigid and brittle.³ In 1926, Waldo Semon at B.F. Goodrich Company made PVC flexible and practical by blending additives to PVC.⁹ The additives used to make PVC flexible are also known collectively as “plasticizers”. Plasticizers are used to provide durability, elasticity, and flexibility in PVC, allowing it to be used in applications from toys, clothing, packing materials,

1) Ortho-phthalates (low molecular weight)



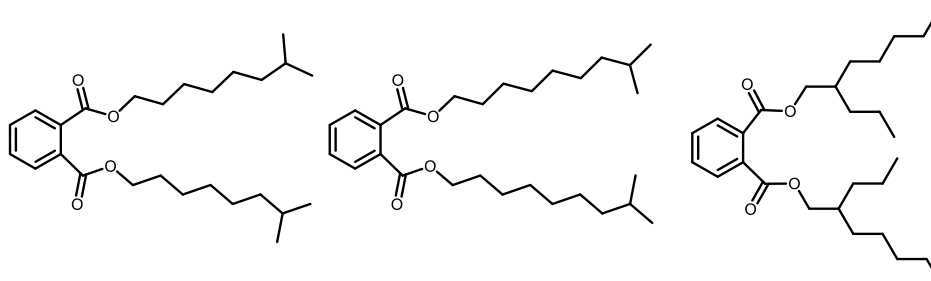
Di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP)

Dibutyl phthalate (DBP)

Diisobutyl phthalate (DIBP)

Benzyl butyl phthalate (BBP)

2) Ortho-phthalates (high molecular weight)

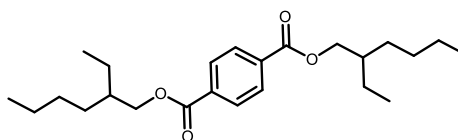


Diisononyl phthalate (DINP)

Diisodecyl phthalate (DIDP)

Di(2-propylheptyl) phthalate (DHPH)

3) Terephthalates



Di-(2-ethylhexyl) terephthalate (DEHT)

Figure 1.2 Examples of Common Phthalate Plasticizers

medical devices, electrical cable jacketing, auto interiors, and construction (wall covering and flooring).^{2,10} Plasticizers that have been used in the PVC market are mostly esters: including phthalates (**Figure 1.2**), cyclohexane diesters, trimellitates, citrates, adipates, azalates, sebacates, and others (**Figure 1.3**).^{4,11} Phthalates are the most common plasticizers, making up 65% of the global plasticizer market in 2017. This percentage is decreasing slowly, but phthalates will continue to account for the largest global consumption in the near future.¹⁰

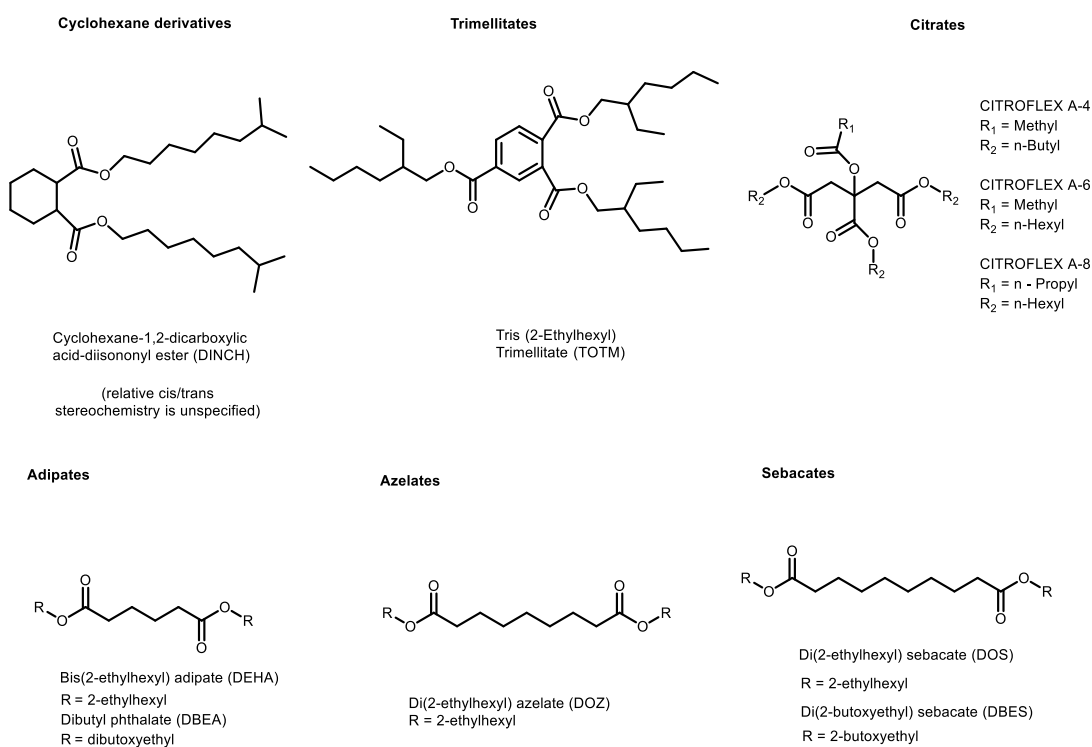


Figure 1.3 Examples of Commercial Phthalate Alternatives

1.3 Mechanisms of Plasticization

Several theories, include lubricity theory, gel theory, Moorshead's empirical approach, and the free volume theory have been used to explain plasticization.¹² In lubricity theory, plasticizers act like lubricants to reduce the intermolecular forces between the polymer chains. The resistance to polymer chains sliding past each other in the presence of the lubricants is reduced, resulting in more flexible materials.¹² Kirkpatrick,¹³ Cark,¹⁴ and Houwink¹⁵ contributed

to lubricity theory. In Kirkpatrick's proposal, in which the polymer structure was treated as a plastic micelle, part of the plasticizer molecule coordinates to the polymer molecule (acting as a solvent); the other part of the plasticizer molecule acts as a lubricant between the polymer chains.¹³ Clark believed plasticizers, working as lubricants, fill in between the network of polymer molecules. The lubricants lie between parallel layers of polymer molecules, allowing the polymer chains to glide past one another.¹⁴ In the gel theory, the polymer chains form a honeycomb network causing rigidity in the polymer. Plasticization is caused by plasticizers interacting with polymer chains in a solvation-desolvation equilibrium. This continuous dynamic equilibrium causes the polymer chains to aggregate and deagglomerate, resulting in a less rigid structure.¹² Moorshead designed an empirical approach to summarize certain requirements for being good plasticizers.¹⁶ In this method, plasticizers need to be compatible with the polymers. The cohesive forces between plasticizer and polymer should be same as the cohesive forces between individual polymer chains. Otherwise, plasticizers and polymer chains will prefer to self-aggregate. For PVC, good plasticizers require both polar and nonpolar functional groups. In the PVC structure, chlorine atoms form dipole-dipole interactions with hydrogen atoms. Polar groups like esters show good compatibility with PVC because the polar groups break the dipole-dipole interactions between PVC chains, replacing them with new dipole-dipole interactions between plasticizer and the polymer chain. Polar groups also help reduce plasticizer migration from the PVC matrix, due to their polar interactions with PVC chains. Apolar aliphatic groups can sit in between polymer chains without introducing significant additional cohesive forces, increasing polymer flexibility.

The free volume theory was hypothesized by Fox and Flory¹⁷ in 1950, multiple contributions have been added by others since that time.¹² This theory states that there is nothing but free volume between polymer chains. The only factor in plasticization is increasing the free volume, to give a more flexible material. One important concept in the free volume theory is the glass transition temperature (T_g): the temperature at which a polymer undergoes

a phase change from a glassy to a rubbery state. Fox and Flory defined the free volume at temperatures above the transition temperature as the specific volume above the T_g minus the solid volume extrapolated to the same temperature.¹⁷ This definition has a problem, because the free volume is always zero below the T_g when defined in this way. Another definition by Kanig¹⁸ gives the free volume as the difference between the volume observed at absolute zero temperature and the volume of the real crystal, glass, or liquid, although the volume at absolute zero has to be obtained by extrapolation. Some other models have also been proposed, such as the William-Landel-Ferry approach.¹⁹ In this system, free volume can be measured by obtaining the specific volume of a polymer as a function of temperature through dilatometry. The free volume theory suggests that 1) longer chain substituents typically introduce more free volume more compared to short chains; 2) with the same weight fraction of plasticizer, small molecules create more free volume per mass added, thus they are more efficient than large molecule plasticizers; 3) branched structures increase free volume more than linear structures with the same number of carbon atoms.

Several mathematical models have been established based on the free volume theory to calculate the T_g of the plasticized polymer using the T_g of the pure polymer and the T_g of the plasticizer.²⁰⁻²² For example, one of the earliest is the Fox equation (**Equation 1.1**).²⁰

$$\frac{1}{T_g} = \frac{w_1}{T_{g,1}} + \frac{w_2}{T_{g,2}} \quad \text{Equation 1.1}$$

T_g : The glass transition temperature of the plasticized polymer

$T_{g,1}$: The glass transition temperature of the pure polymer

$T_{g,2}$: The glass transition temperature of the pure plasticizer

w_1 : The weight fraction of the polymer

w_2 : The weight fraction of the plasticizer.

None of the theories explains the observed effects of plasticization on their own. Instead, some combination of these theories is required to provide a general explanation of plasticization.¹²

1.4 Migration of Traditional Plasticizers from PVC

Small molecule plasticizers migrate out from the PVC matrix^{23–28} due to relatively weak non-covalent interactions (**Figure 1.4**). Plasticizers can escape as a gas to the surrounding environment, be removed due to bulk mechanical abrasion, be leached into a solvent, or be removed from the polymer by direct diffusion into dust particles on the polymer surface.²⁹ Migration of plasticizers causes deterioration of the properties of the PVC material. But even worse, phthalate plasticizers contaminate the environment^{26,30–37} and pose a significant risk to human health when ingested, absorbed or inhaled into the body, due to the toxicity of the parent phthalate itself and the subsequent metabolites.^{38–43}

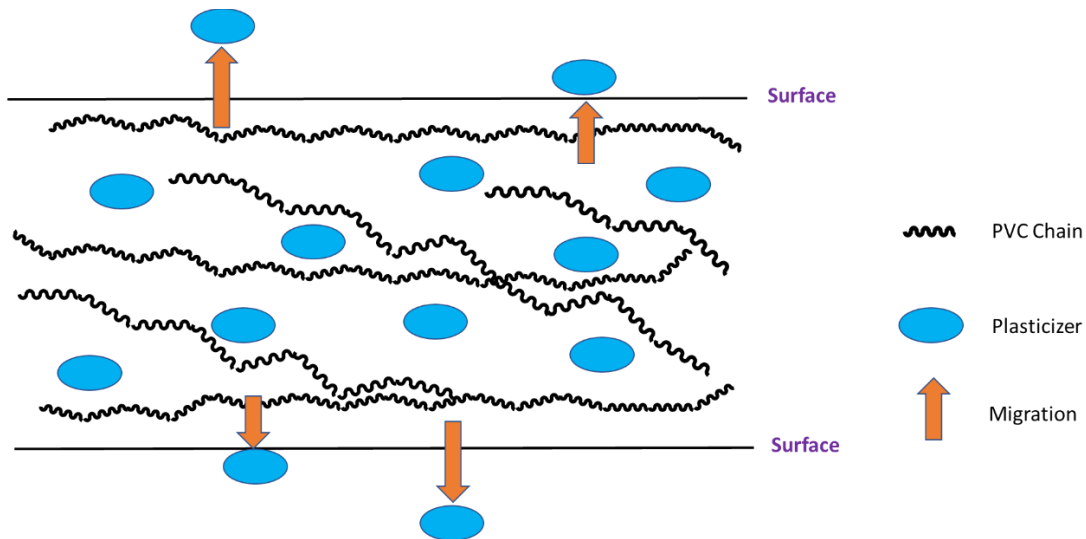


Figure 1.4 Schematic of Migration of Plasticizers from the PVC Matrix into the Environment, based on Guo⁴⁴

1.5 DEHP and Its Toxicity

Di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP) is the most utilized phthalate plasticizer. When DEHP enters the human body, it is metabolized through different stages (**Figure 1.5**). First,

DEHP is hydrolyzed to form mono-2-ethylhexyl phthalate (MEHP). Then, various methyl/methylene carbons on MEHP are oxidized into alcohols. These alcohols can be further oxidized to the corresponding ketones or carboxylic acids.⁴⁵

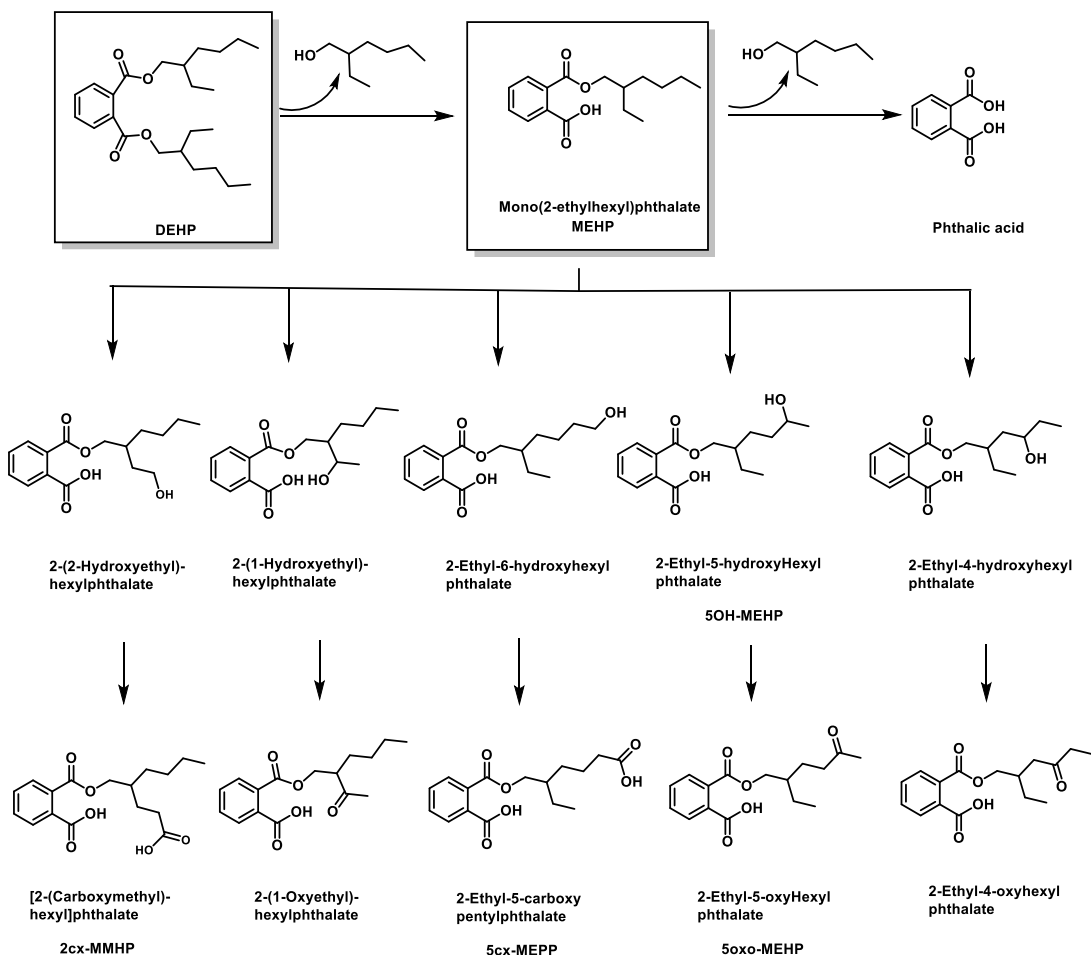


Figure 1.5 Metabolites of DEHP in Human Body⁴⁵

The toxicities of DEHP and its metabolites (mainly MEHP) have been studied by scientists over decades. The toxicities include the following:⁴⁶

1) Endocrine toxicity. The effects of DEHP metabolites on the endocrine system are well documented. For example, studies show that after male rats were exposed to DEHP, their aldosterone and testosterone concentrations decreased.^{47,48} DEHP can also enhance

estrogenic activity in zebrafish, suggesting potential effects on humans.⁴⁹ DEHP and MEHP can change the level of thyroid hormones and impact the synthesis, regulation, and action of these hormones in zebrafish larvae.^{50,51} Data also suggest that DEHP and its metabolites have a positive association with body mass index (BMI) of children.⁵²

2) Testicular toxicity. Testicular toxicity was observed in male rats treated with MEHP.⁵³ DEHP can potentially affect male genital development. Studies also show that the anogenital distance of human newborn boys decreases when the mom was exposed to DEHP in the first-trimester. No effect was observed on the anogenital distance of newborn girls.⁵⁴ Newborn male genital anomalies have also been correlated to DEHP.⁵⁵

3) Ovarian toxicity. Ovarian toxicity has been mainly associated with MEHP.^{56,57} All studies were done in mice or *in vitro*. No human data is available.

4) Renal toxicity. Renal toxicity was observed in rats and mice.⁵⁸⁻⁶⁰ However, studies show DEHP had no negative effect on the kidney of male monkeys.⁶¹ No human data is available.

5) Other possible toxicities: neurotoxicity, hepatotoxicity, cardiotoxicity.⁴⁶

6) Studies also found high plasma concentrations of DEHP or MEHP were detected in women with endometriosis, indicating endometriosis may be caused by DEHP and its metabolites.⁶²⁻⁶⁵

1.6 Approaches to Solve Migration of Plasticizers

One approach to solving the plasticizer migration problem is to use polymeric plasticizers. These are mainly polyesters, and they show significant improvement in migration resistance compared to small molecule plasticizers. In general, polymeric plasticizers have molecular weights greater than 500 g/mol. Polyadipates (**Figure 1.6**) are the only polymeric plasticizers used in PVC medical devices.¹¹ In general, polyesters show good compatibility with PVC;⁶⁶ a leaching study showed that the polyadipate migration rate is 100 times lower than DEHP in gastric juices.⁶⁷

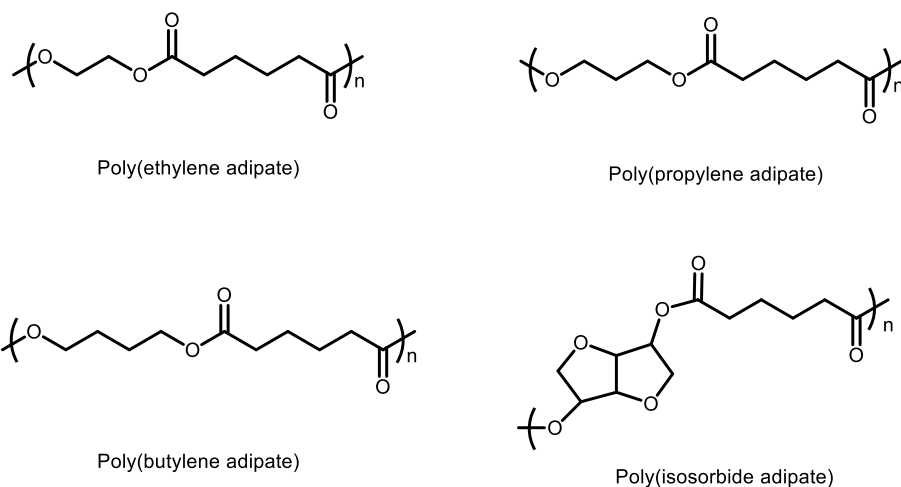


Figure 1.6 Examples of Polyadipate Plasticizers

Other polymeric plasticizers have been developed for PVC, including poly(ϵ -caprolactone) (PCL) and its copolymers (**Figure 1.7**).^{11,68} No migration was observed for branched PCL from volatility, extractability, and exudation tests.⁶⁹ Other polyesters have been

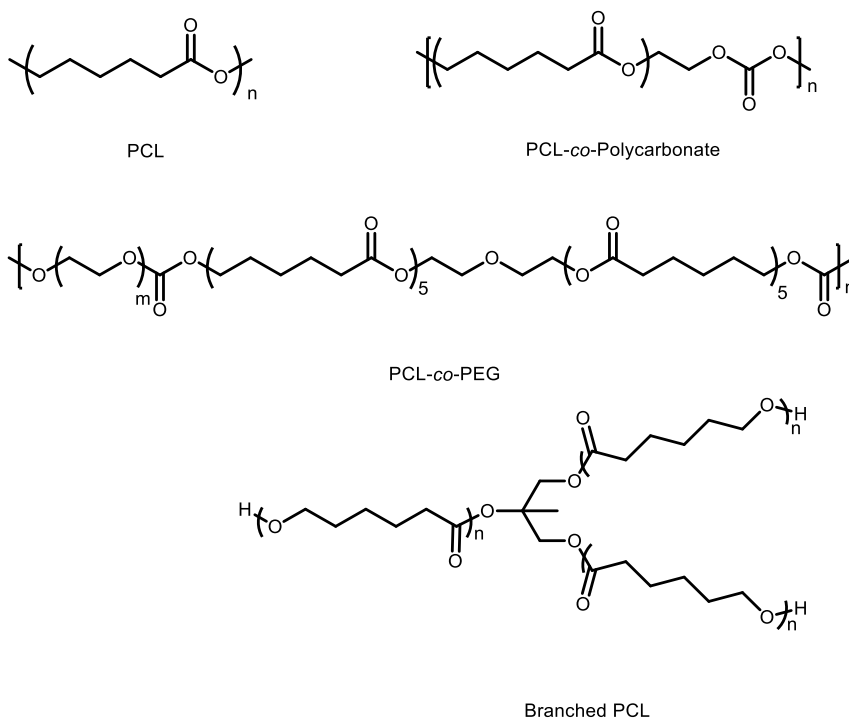
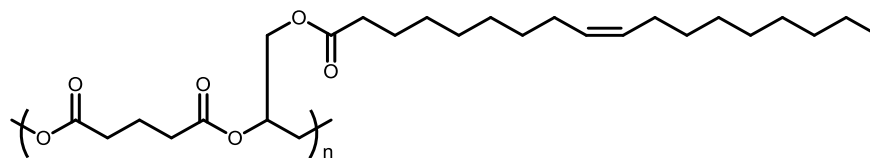
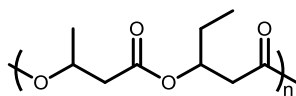


Figure 1.7 Examples of Polyadipates

investigated, showing desirable plasticization properties (**Figure 1.8**).⁷⁰⁻⁷²



Poly(glutaric acid-glyceryl monooleate)



Poly(3-hydroxybutyrate-co-3-hydroxyvalerate)

Figure 1.8 Other Polyester Polymeric Plasticizers⁷⁰⁻⁷²

The major drawbacks of polymeric plasticizers are their lack of homogeneous mixing with the PVC resin, and lower plasticization efficiency compared to low molecular weight traditional plasticizers. Toxicity has yet to be studied for the majority of polymeric plasticizers.

Surface treatment is another approach to reduce plasticizer migration. Various surface treatment procedures for PVC are possible, including surface crosslinking,⁷³⁻⁷⁹ surface grafting,^{74,80,81} and surface coating.^{82,83} However, surface treatment may compromise the flexibility and mechanical properties of the polymer.

1.7 Internal Plasticization: Covalent Attachment of Plasticizers to PVC

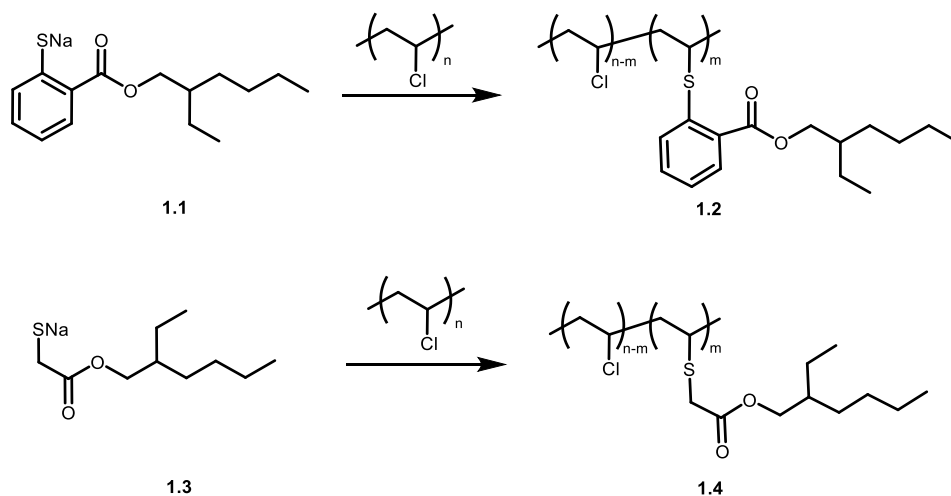
Covalently attaching plasticizers to PVC is one of the most effective ways to prevent plasticizer migration. Multiple different approaches have been utilized, including nucleophilic substitution and methods involving polymerization.

1.7.1 Covalent Attachment of Plasticizers via Nucleophilic Substitution to

PVC

1.7.1.1 Sulfide Linkages

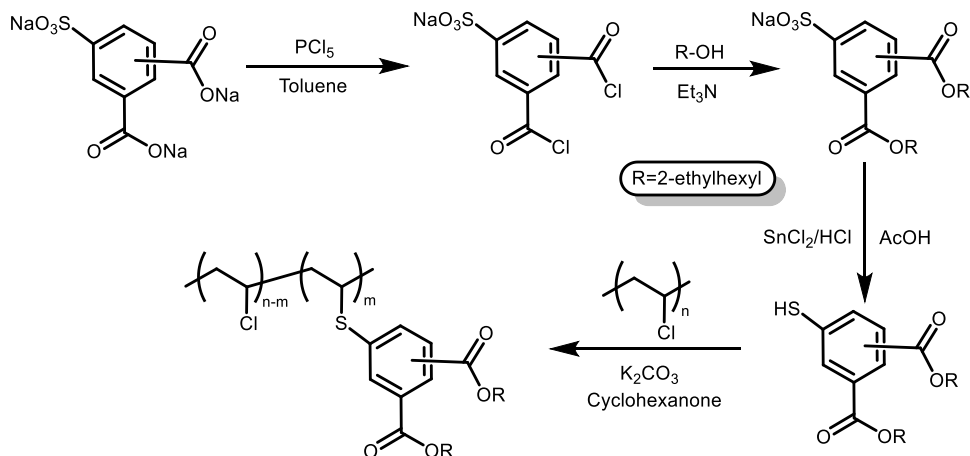
The first example of internal plasticization of PVC was reported by Michel *et al.*⁸⁴ in 1986 using sodium thiolates to covalently bond the 2-ethylhexyl ester of *o*-mercaptobenzoic acid and of the similar ester of thioglycolic acid **1.3** to PVC (**Scheme 1.3**). The T_g values of the polymer decreased with increasing amounts of sulfide substitution. As mentioned in the Free Volume Theory, T_g is the glass transition temperature. For a polymer, this is the temperature at which a polymer changes from a glassy state to a rubbery state. As a result, materials with lower T_g value will be more flexible. T_g of commercially available PVC is around 81 °C.⁸⁵ The 2-ethylhexyl ester of thioglycolic acid **1.3** showed better plasticization efficiency compared to 2-ethylhexyl ester of *o*-mercaptobenzoic acid **1.1**. The lowest T_g achieved in this work was 56 °C with 15 mol% of covalently linked 2-ethylhexyl ester of thioglycolic acid.



Scheme 1.3 Covalently Bonding the 2-Ethylhexyl Ester of *o*-Mercaptobenzoic Acid and Thioglycolic Acid to PVC using a Sulfide Linkage

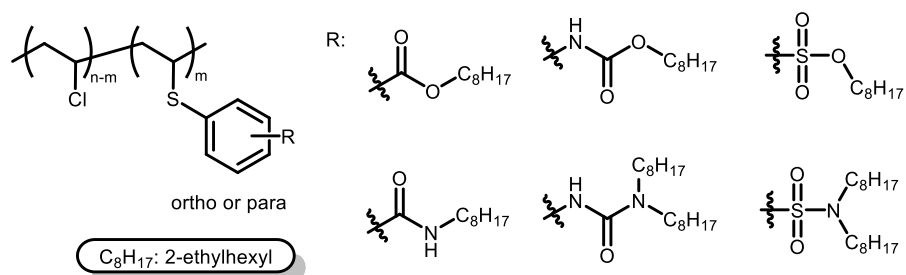
In 2010, the Reinecke group⁸⁶ synthesized several regioisomers of 2-ethylhexyl thiol-phthalates in three steps, and covalently linked them to PVC by nucleophilic substitution (**Scheme 1.4**). The lowest T_g in obtained was 0 °C for 23 mol% substitution. This is the first

example of directly attaching the phthalate motif to PVC. Extraction studies were done at room temperature using heptane as solvent, which showed no migration at all.

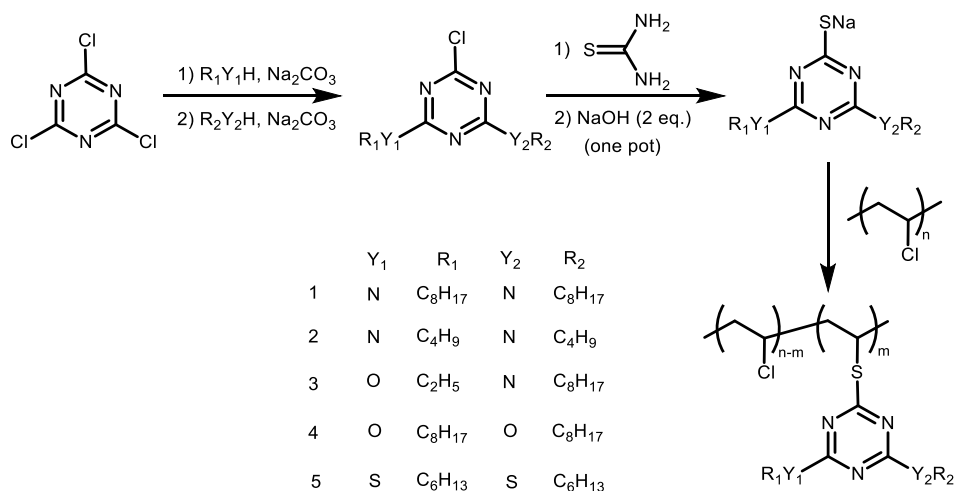


Scheme 1.4 Covalent Attachment of 2-Ethylhexyl Thiol-Phthalate Regioisomers to PVC

In 2016, the Reinecke group developed two strategies to attach plasticizers via aromatic (**Scheme 1.5**) or hetero-aromatic thiols (**Scheme 1.6**).⁸⁷ Both strategies required 4-5 synthetic steps. For the first strategy, T_g values for PVC bearing 40 wt% plasticizer range from 28 to 37 °C (**Scheme 1.5**). The second strategy used trichlorotriazine (TCTA) as the starting material (**Scheme 1.6**). Two chlorines on TCTA were replaced either by amines or alcohols. Then the third chlorine was converted to the sodium thiolate using thiourea followed by NaOH, and then attached to the PVC backbone at 85 °C for 2 hours. For PVC bearing 40 wt% thiol-based plasticizer, T_g values range from 35 to 55 °C.

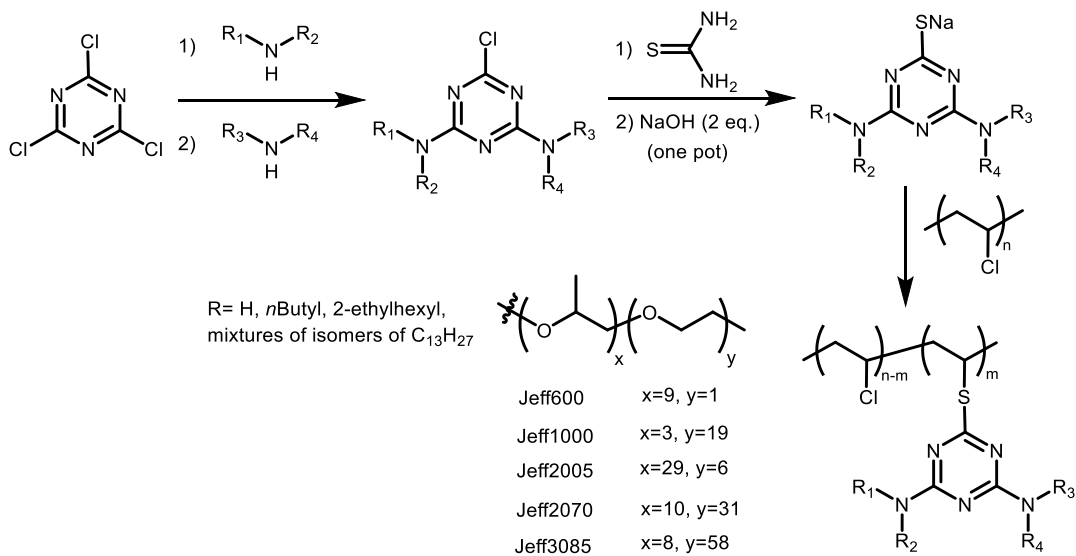


Scheme 1.5 Covalent Attachment of Aromatic Thiol Plasticizers to PVC



Scheme 1.6 Covalent Attachment of Hetero-Aromatic Thiol Plasticizers to PVC

In 2016 and 2017, the Reinecke group^{88,89} used high molecular weight plasticizers to achieve plasticization with less chlorine substitution (**Scheme 1.7**). They also explored the influence of the compatibility of the covalently attached plasticizers on T_g by changing the ratio

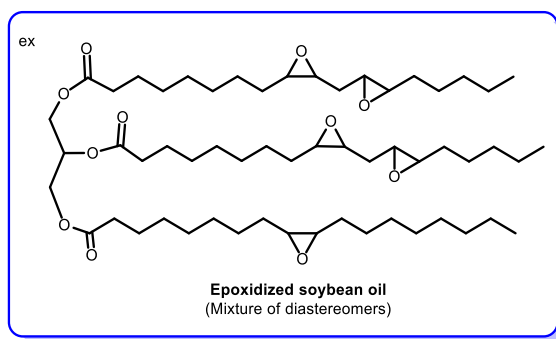
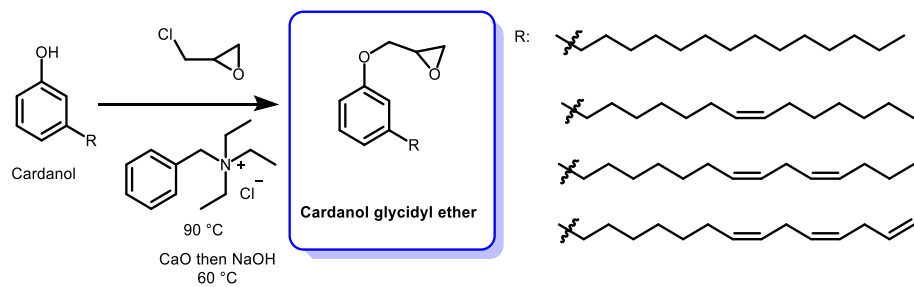
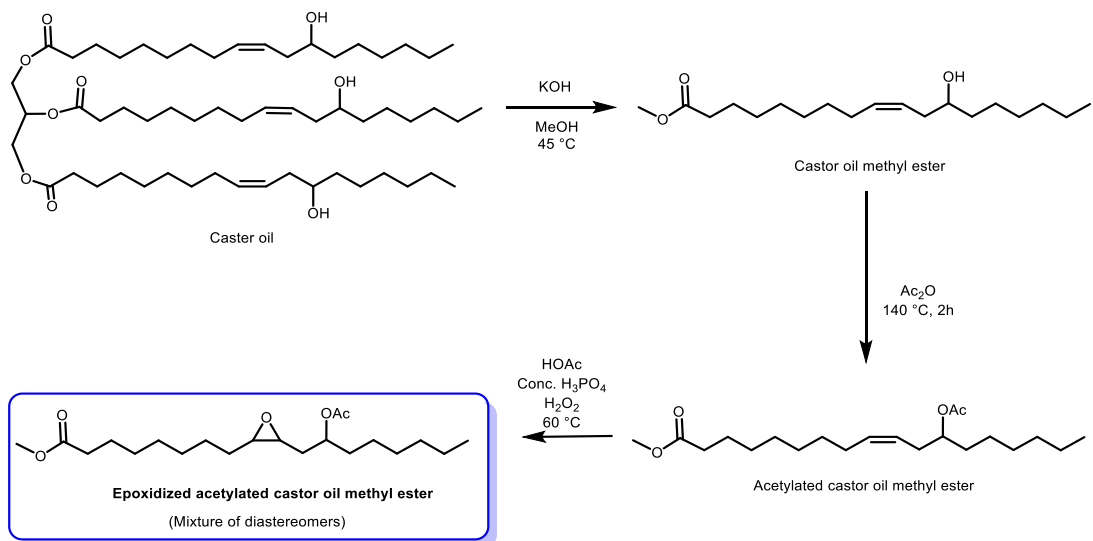


Scheme 1.7 Covalent Attachment of PEG-PPO TCTA Plasticizers to PVC

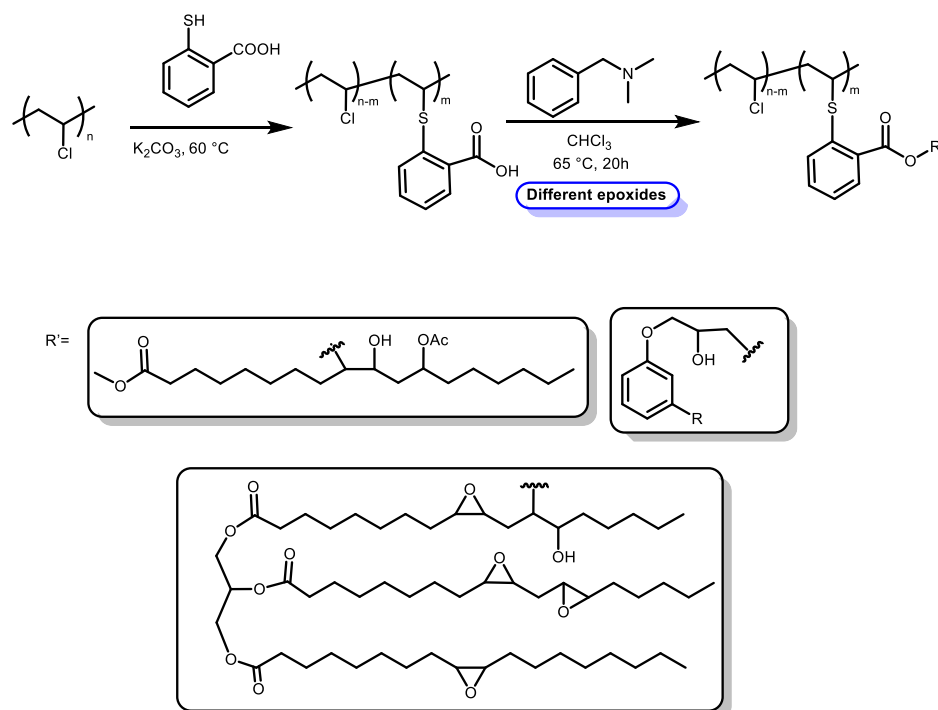
of PVC-miscible polyethylene glycol (PEG) and PVC-immiscible polypropylene oxide (PPO) made using commercially available Jeffamines[®] in the designed plasticizers. Compared to

previous studies, these new PEG-PPO trichlorotriazine (TCTA) derivatives exhibited low T_g values. For example, when $R_1=(PO)_3(EG)_{19}$, $R_2=H$, $R_3=(PO)_3(EG)_{19}$, $R_4=H$ (with $M_w=2100$ g/mol), the T_g value was -18 °C for 45 wt% plasticizer, and the T_g was -41 °C for 73 wt% plasticizer. Comparing traditional non-covalently attached DEHP/PVC mixtures at 45 wt%, the PEG-PPO TCTA system plasticizes at an equivalent efficiency. Amines containing more EG repeat units have higher plasticization efficiency compare to amines with more PO repeat units. Interestingly, several polymers showed an additional T_s peak at $T_m = 24$ °C. The authors explain this as the fusion of crystallized EO segments.

In 2019, Zhou *et al.*⁹⁰ reported a method to attach epoxidized biomass-based plasticizers, including cardanol glycidyl ether, epoxidized acetylated castor oil methyl ester, and epoxidized soybean oil to PVC using thiosalicylic acid (**Scheme 1.8 & 1.9**). Three biomass-based plasticizers were attached with the same mol amount by carboxylate nucleophilic addition to epoxides. The lowest T_g value obtained was 38 °C with epoxidized soybean oil. T_g values for the grafted epoxidized acetylated castor oil methyl ester and cardanol glycidyl ether were 44 °C and 42 °C, respectively. From these sulfide linked plasticizer studies, one can conclude: 1) at a constant weight percent of incorporation, large molecular weight plasticizers efficiently decrease the T_g value because large plasticizers introduce fewer anchor points to the PVC backbone. The anchor points, which are considered anti-plasticizing, reduce the free movement of the PVC backbone. 2) miscibility of the plasticizer with PVC is important. One can use these results to further improve internal plasticizer design. There are several drawbacks to sulfides: 1) Sulfides are susceptible to oxidation;⁹¹ 2) the resulting oxidation products (sulfoxides, sulfones, etc.) can undergo elimination, leading to degradation of the polymer; 3) sulfides and thiols can release foul odors upon degradation, as well as potential odors from residual thiols in the material. Sulfides and other sulfur compounds can lead to discoloration of the PVC products.



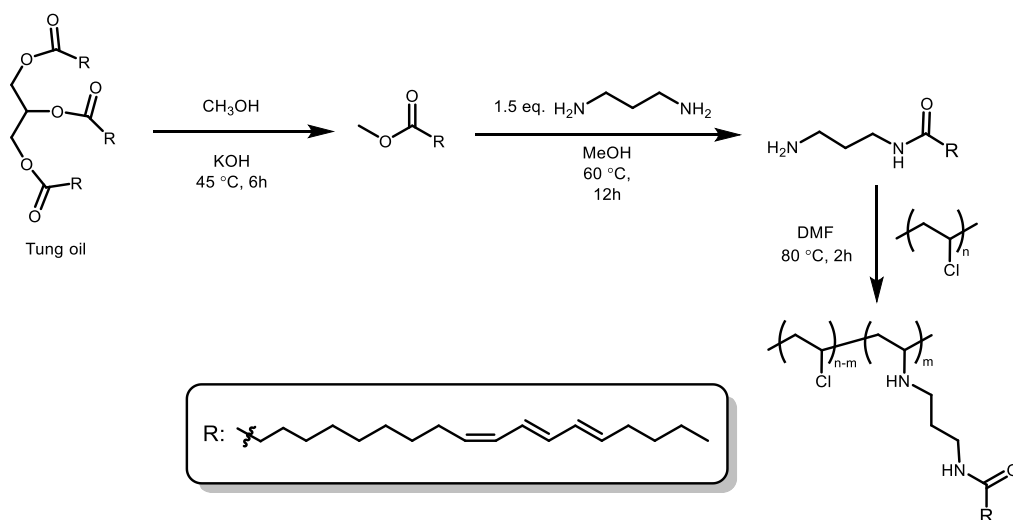
Scheme 1.8 Synthesis of Biomass-Based Epoxides from Cardanol and Soybean Oil



Scheme 1.9 Covalent Attachment of Epoxidized Biomass-Based Plasticizers to PVC Modified with Thiosalicylic Acid

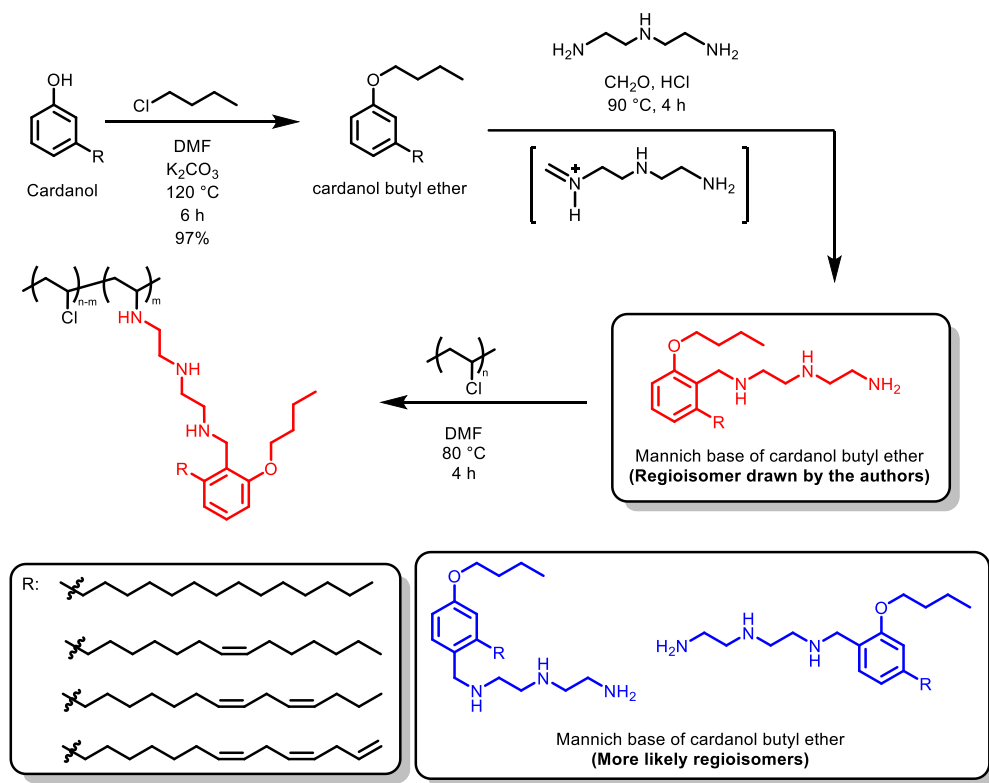
1.7.1.2 Amine Linkages

Zhou *et al.* published two papers using inexpensive and environmentally-friendly compounds: tung oil⁹² and cardanol⁹³ as sources of internal plasticizers. In particular, cardanol is a waste byproduct of the cashew industry: it is the oil from the cashew shells, which can cause dermatitis upon contact for sensitive individuals. These plasticizers were covalently bonded to PVC by nucleophilic substitution, using an amine as the nucleophile. To prepare the amine-terminated plasticizing group, tung oil was transesterified with methanol to give the methyl ester (**Scheme 1.10**). Amidolysis with propylenediamine formed an amide with a terminal amine. This aminated tung oil was attached to PVC by substitution of chlorine under heat. Interestingly, there was no mention if competitive HCl elimination by the primary amine. The lowest T_g value achieved was 44 °C for 37 wt%. Tensile modulus and tensile strength decreased while elongation at break increased.



Scheme 1.10 Covalent Attachment of Aminated Tung Oil Plasticizers to PVC

Using cardanol, Jia et al. synthesized the Mannich base of cardanol butyl ether in 2 steps (**Scheme 1.11**). In the first step, cardanol was treated with butyl chloride and base under



Scheme 1.11 Covalent Attachment of Aminated Cardanol Butyl Ether Plasticizers to PVC

heat to give cardanol butyl ether. In the second step, the reactive iminium ion was formed under acidic conditions to further react with cardanol butyl ether through aromatic electrophilic substitution to give the Mannich base of cardanol butyl ether. However, the authors proposed formation of a regioisomer that is least likely to be formed due to steric hindrance. The Mannich base of cardanol butyl ether was then attached to PVC as a plasticizer by amine nucleophilic solution. Possible competing base mediated elimination on PVC was not discussed, and the lowest T_g value obtained was 49 °C for 38.4 wt% of cardanol plasticizer.

1.7.2 Covalent Attachment of Plasticizers to PVC via 3+2 Azide-Alkyne

Cycloaddition

1.7.2.1 Copper-Free 3+2 Thermal Azide-Alkyne Cycloaddition

The Braslau group has focused on covalently attaching phthalate or phthalate mimics to PVC via thermal azide-alkyne cycloaddition (TAAC), as the triazole diester resembles the phthalate structure consisting of a flat, aromatic ring bearing two ortho esters (**Figure 1.9**). Thermal 3+2 Azide/Alkyne was first discovered by A. Michael⁹⁴ in 1893, and then popularized and developed by Huisgen⁹⁵ 70 years later (**Scheme 1.12**).

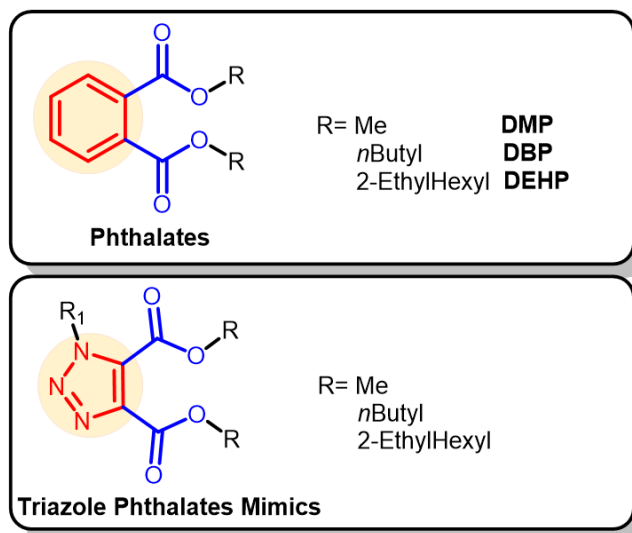
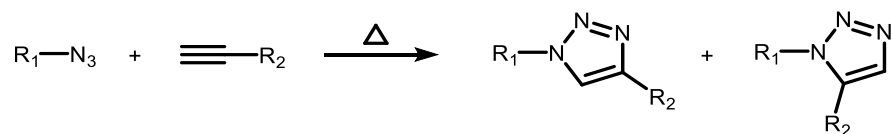


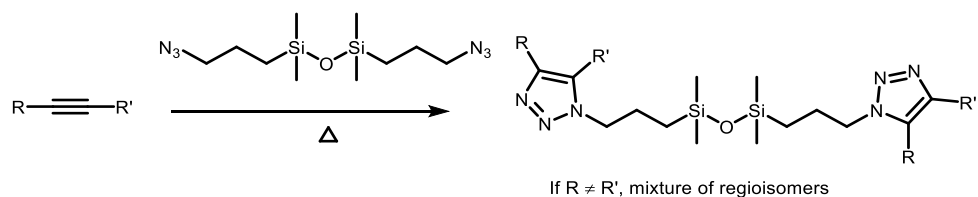
Figure 1.9 Phthalates or Triazole Phthalate Mimics



Scheme 1.12 Thermal Azide-Alkyne Dipolar Huisgen Cycloaddition

The ease of the thermal azide-alkyne cycloaddition (TAAC) is primarily a function of the HOMO-LUMO gap of the azide/alkyne pair.⁹⁶ A low energy gap between the azide HOMO and the alkyne LUMO increases the rate of cyclization. For example, Brook⁹⁷ investigated a series of alkynes with differing electronic structures, measuring the TAAC reaction onset temperatures by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) (**Table 1.2**). The conclusion from this study is that increasing the number of electron withdrawing R-groups on the alkyne increases the reaction rate for the TAAC reaction. The most reactive alkyne was diethyl acetylenedicarboxylate, because it has two electron withdrawing groups connected to the alkyne to lower the energy of

Table 1.2 Onset Temperatures of Different Alkynes for TACC⁹⁷



| R≡R' | Onset Temp.(°C) | R≡R' | Onset Temp.(°C) |
|---|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| <chem>EtO2C-C#C-CO2Et</chem> | 37 | <chem>C#CC(=O)NCC[Si](C)(C)OC[Si](C)(C)OC(=O)C#C</chem> | 74 |
| <chem>C#CC(=O)OCC1=CC=CC=C1</chem> | 51 | <chem>C#CC(=O)OC[Si](C)(C)C</chem> | 90 |
| <chem>C#CC(=O)OCC[Si](C)(C)OC[Si](C)(C)OC(=O)C#C</chem> | 64 | <chem>C#CC(=O)OCC(=O)CC(=O)OCC[Si](C)(C)OC[Si](C)(C)OC(=O)C#C</chem> | 101 |
| <chem>C#CC(=O)NCC1=CC=CC=C1</chem> | 72 | | |

the alkyne LUMO, resulting in a cycloaddition onset temperature of 37 °C.⁹⁷ Electron poor alkynes, particularly diesters, are attractive for thermal attachment to azide.

In 2019, Patrick Skelly in the Braslau lab also studied the effect of electron withdrawing groups on the rate of the TAAC reaction with a wider scope of alkynes (**Table 1.3**) both experimentally and by DFT calculations.⁹⁸ The most reactive alkyne studied contained a sulfone group and an ester group, to make it the most electron poor alkyne of the series.

Table 1.3 Relative Reaction Rates of Different Alkynes for TACC⁹⁸

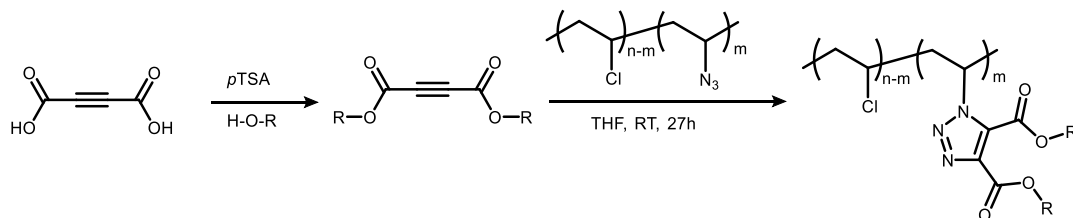
CDCl₃
75 °C

If R ≠ R', mixture of regioisomers

| R—C≡C—R' | Relative Rate | R—C≡C—R' | Relative Rate |
|----------|---------------|----------|---------------|
| | 1.0 | | 25 |
| | 1.4 | | 130 |
| | 3.7 | | 150 |
| | 8.8 | | 2400 |
| | 15 | | |

In 2014, Aruna Earla and Braslau⁹⁹ demonstrated covalent attachment of phthalate mimics to PVC via TAAC (**Scheme 1.13**). In 2018, Chad Higa in the Braslau lab expanded the scope to polyethylene glycol methyl ethers.⁸⁵ The lowest T_g value obtained was -29 °C for PEG₅₅₀Me at 15 mol% plasticizer. Interestingly, the T_g value for the dimethyl ester phthalate

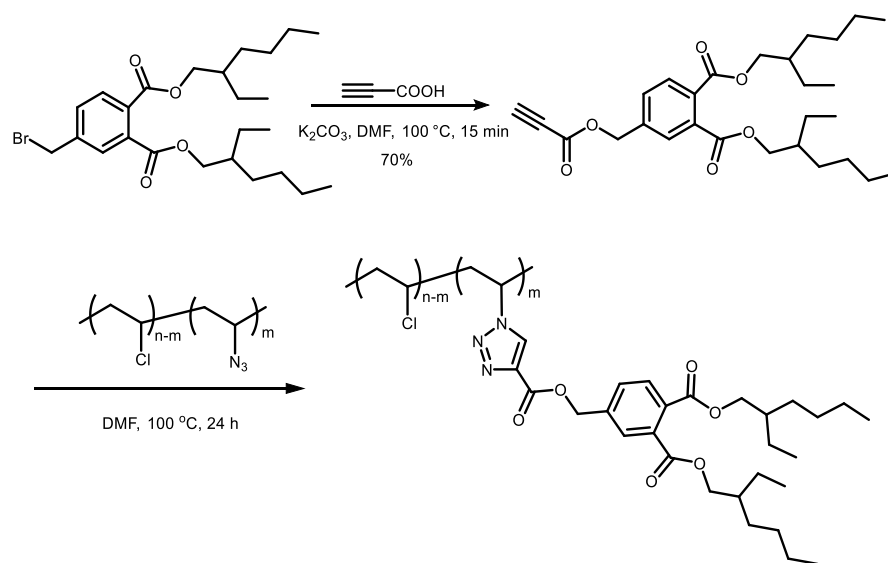
mimic (R=Me) was 96 °C, which was higher than the T_g of unmodified PVC (81 °C). This indicates that the rigidity of triazole ring is inherently anti-plasticizing.



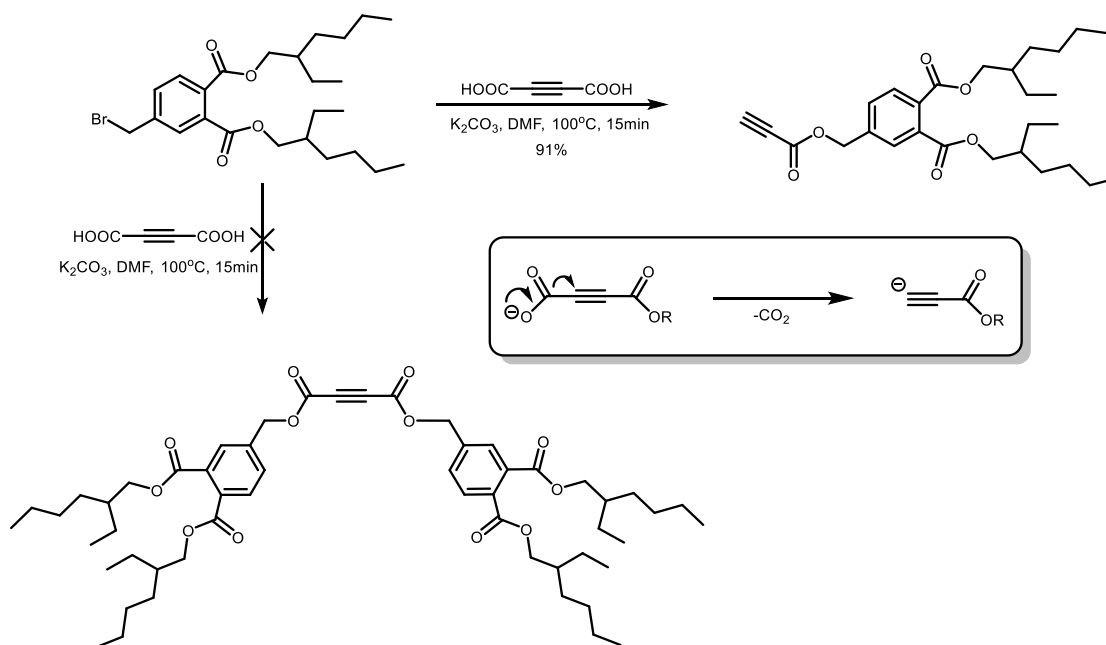
| | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|------|-----------------------------------|------|------|
| R= Me | Earla | 2014 | R= | Higa | 2018 |
| nButyl | Earla | 2014 | R= | Higa | 2018 |
| 2-Ethylhexyl | Earla | 2014 | n \geq 7 PEG ₃₅₀ Me | | |
| | | | R= | Higa | 2018 |
| | | | n \geq 11 PEG ₅₅₀ Me | | |

Scheme 1.13 Covalent Attachment of Phthalate Mimics onto PVC via TAAC

In 2017, Earla¹⁰⁰ made a propargylated DEHP derivative and covalently attached it with a tether to PVC via TAAC. The ester linker was used to 1) increase the rotational degree of freedom of DEHP to increase the efficiency of plasticization and 2) increase the activity of the alkyne by lowering the LUMO with an electron withdrawing group to achieve TAAC (**Scheme 1.14**). PVC substituted with 15 mol% of covalently linked DEHP resulted in a material with a T_g of 60 °C. This synthetic route from commercially available starting material to the tethered DEHP modified PVC product was four steps. Interestingly, acetylenedicarboxylic acid was chosen to obtain a diester bearing two DEHP groups to increase the plasticization. However, only the monoester was obtained since decarboxylation occurred under basic conditions and heat, as shown in the box of **Scheme 1.15**.¹⁰⁰



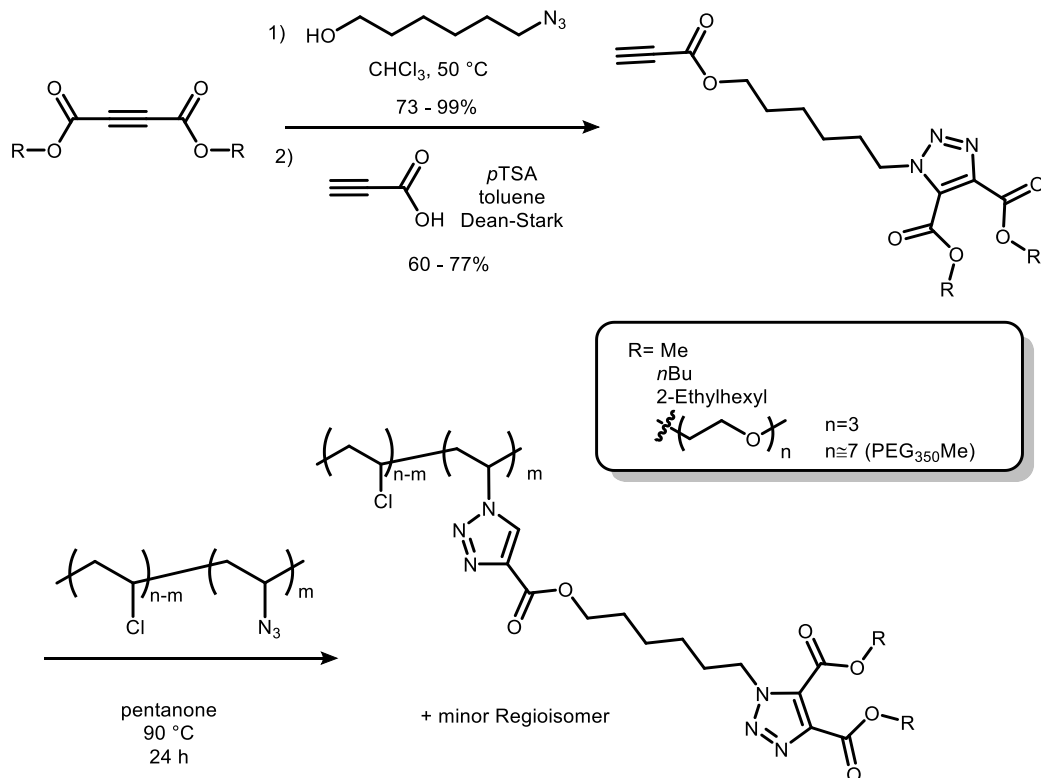
Scheme 1.14 Covalent Attachment of Tethered DEHP to PVC via TAAC



Scheme 1.15 Decarboxylation of Acetylenedicarboxylic Acid upon Reaction with Benzyl Bromide under Basic Conditions

Higa continued work in the Braslau lab on thermal azide-alkyne attachment of plasticizers to PVC (**Scheme 1.16**).⁸⁵ A six-carbon linker, chosen for the low-cost and easy to synthesize, was added in between the linking triazole to reduce the rigidity caused by the

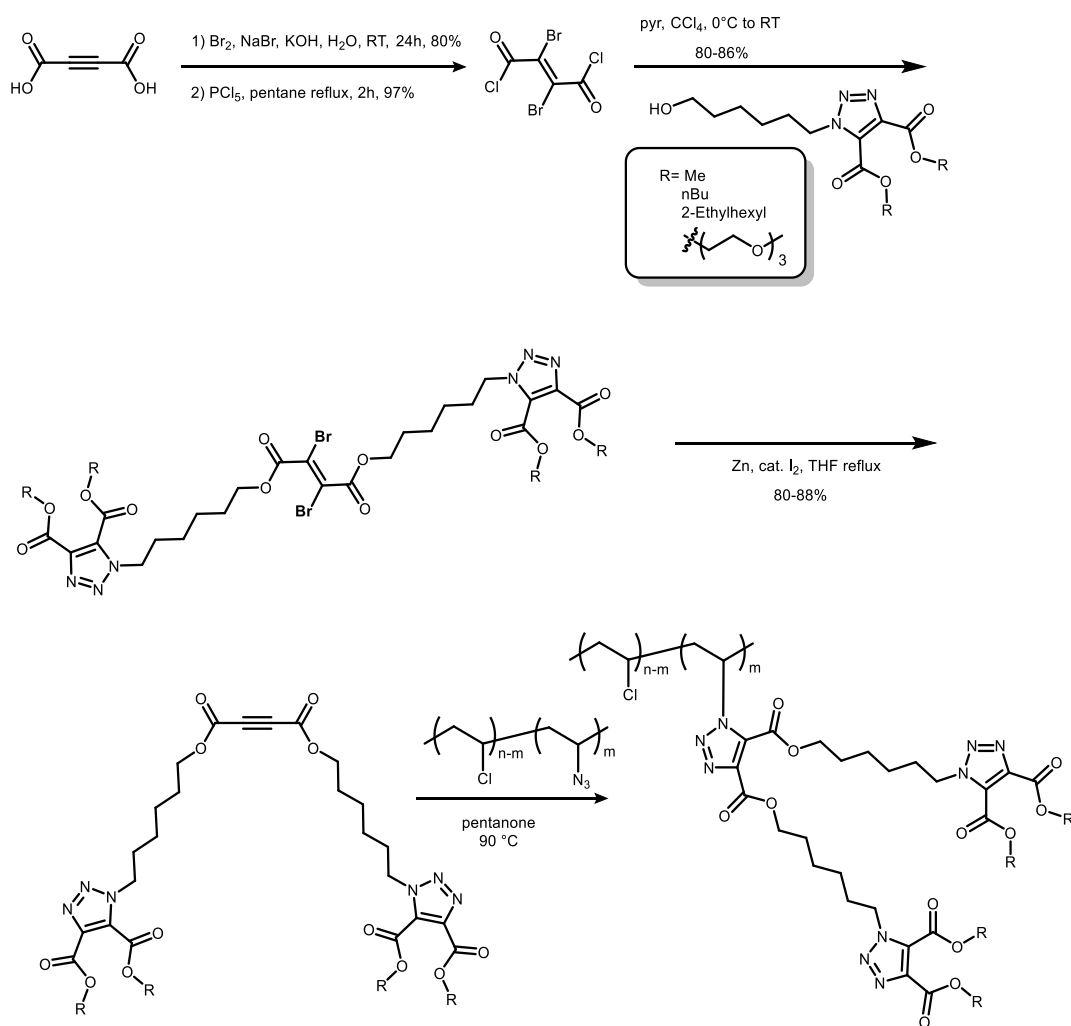
aromatic ring. The T_g values for internal plasticization with this six-carbon linker are lower than the analogues PVC samples where the triazole diester is directly attached to the PVC chain. The lowest T_g obtained in this series was 18 °C, where R = TEGMe at 15 mol% azidation.



Scheme 1.16 Covalent Attachment of Rotationally Labile Phthalate Mimics with a Six Carbon Tether to PVC

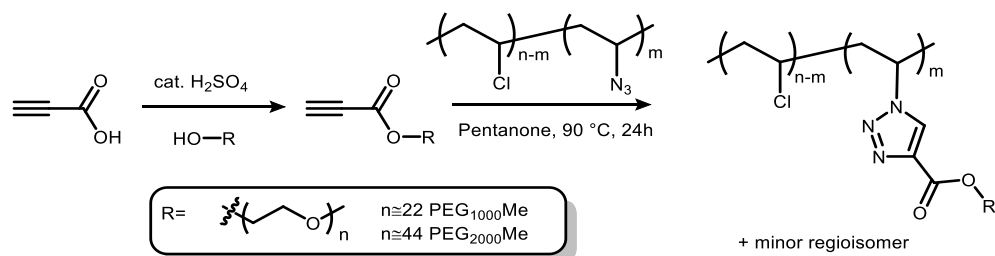
Higa then developed a branched internal plasticizer bearing two tethered triazole mimics with a larger molecular weight (**Scheme 1.17**).⁸⁵ Because acetylene dicarboxylates are excellent Michael acceptors, one can not use traditional coupling agents nor make the corresponding diacid chloride. Thus one must protect the alkyne as the 1,2-dibromide, make the diacid chloride, esterify, and then restore the alkyne. Following this protocol, the synthesis of the plasticizer required four steps. Acetylene dicarboxylic acid was converted to dibromofumaryl chloride in two steps. Esterification followed by deprotection of the alkyne was carried using Zn and a catalytic amount of iodine to give double-sided hexyl tethered alkynes.

The lowest T_g value was $-17\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for the sample bearing two TEGMe polyether esters (**Figure 1.10**). Even though the T_g value is higher than that of non-covalent DEHP at the same weight percentage, this internal plasticizer illustrates the efficacy of this approach.



Scheme 1.17 Covalent Attachment of an Internal Plasticizer with Two Tethered Triazole Mimics to PVC

Higa then developed the most impressive internal plasticizers of this series with high plasticization efficiencies from propionic acid single sided alkynes with PEG₁₀₀₀Me, and PEG₂₀₀₀Me ester in only two synthetic steps (**Scheme 1.18**). A low T_g value of $-42\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ was obtained with PEG₂₀₀₀Me at 15% azidation.



Scheme 1.18 Covalent Attachment of Polyether Propionic Esters made in Two Steps to PVC

Overall, Higa developed four generations of triazole plasticizers (**Figure 1.10**). The T_g values for all generations at 15 mol% plasticizer are summarized in **Figure 1.11**. The T_g value decreases with the increasing length of the R ester groups within the same generation. Generations one and four, which required the fewest number of reaction steps, gave the lowest T_g values, due to the attachment of very long polyether chains as the ester moiety.

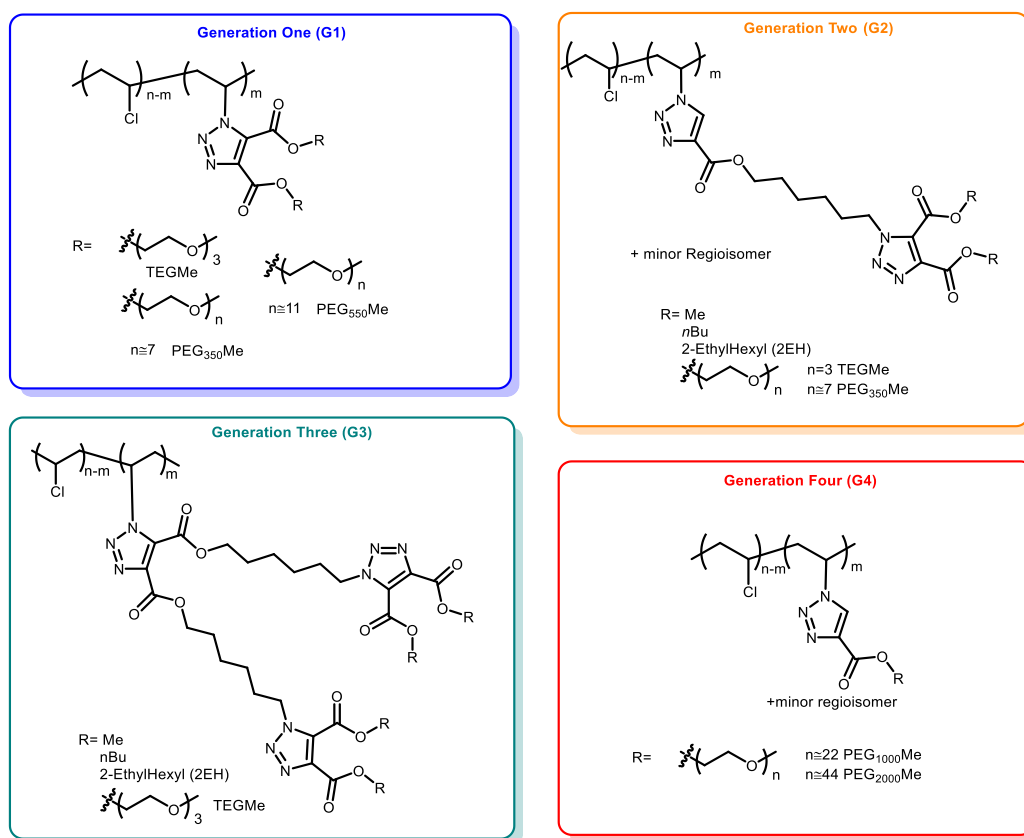


Figure 1.10 Higa's Four Generations of Triazole Plasticizers⁸⁵

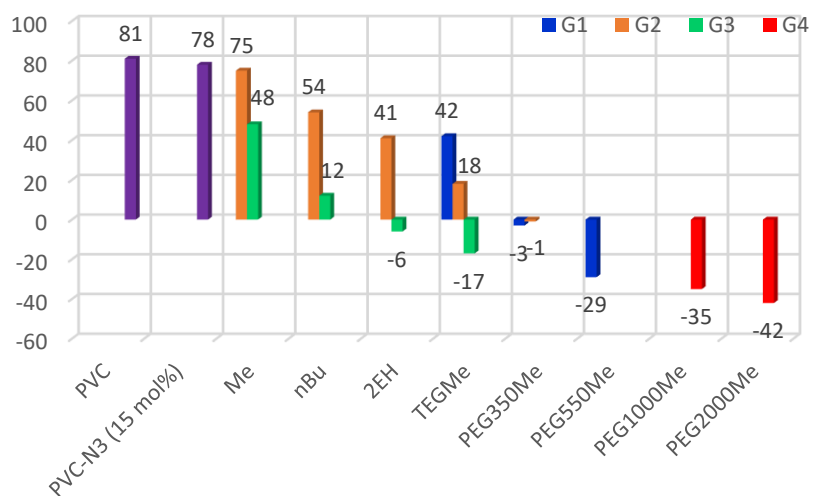
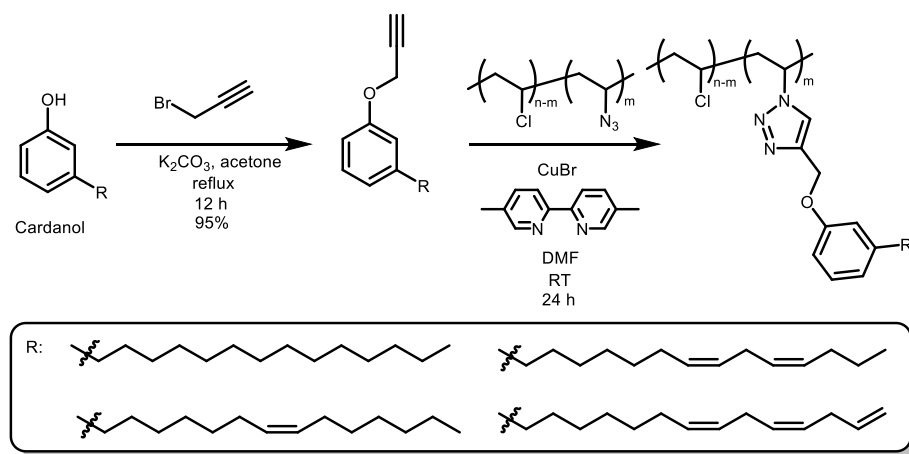


Figure 1.11 T_g Values for Four Generations at 15 mol% Plasticizer (Higa)⁸⁵

1.7.2.2 Copper-Catalyzed 3+2 Azide-Alkyne Cycloadditions

Following the publication of the attachment of phthalate mimics to PVC by thermal azide/alkyne cycloaddition in the Braslau lab⁹⁹, in 2015 the Shi group¹⁰¹ used cardanol as starting material to make propargyl ether cardanol using S_N2 reaction with propargyl bromide,

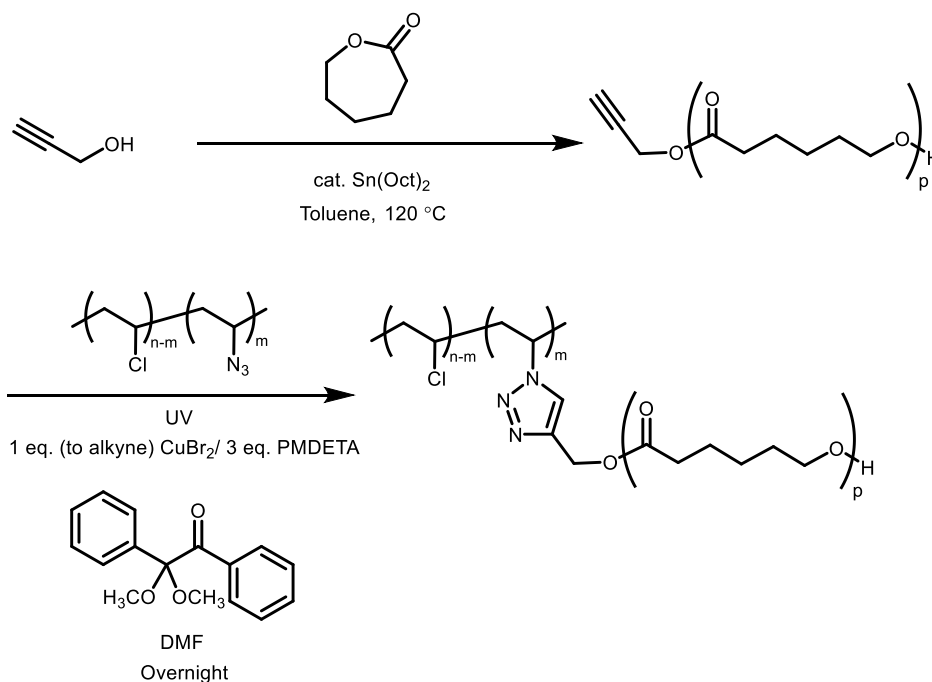


Scheme 1.19 Covalent Attachment of Cardanol to PVC via CuAAC¹⁰¹

followed by copper-catalyzed 3+2 azide-alkyne cycloaddition (CuAAC)^{102–104} to attach 10 mol% cardanol to PVC (**Scheme 1.19**). The lowest T_g value was 51 °C. In this chapter, approximately

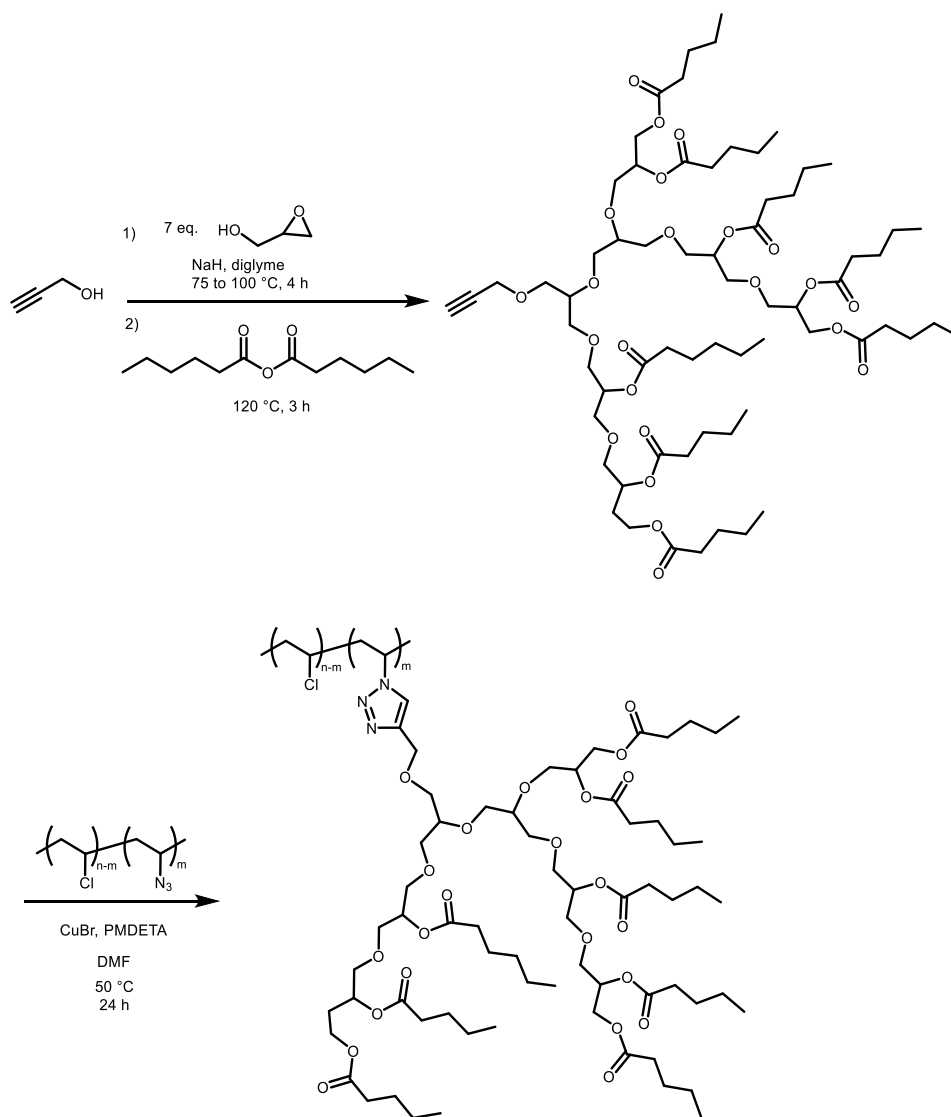
one equivalent of copper catalyst was utilized for CuAAC, a fair amount of which remained in the polymer.

In 2015, Demirci and Tasdelen¹⁰⁵ utilized photoinduced copper-catalyzed 3+2 azide-alkyne cycloaddition to attach alkyne-terminated poly(epsilon-caprolactone) (PECL) to azide-functionalized PVC. Alkyne-terminated PECL was synthesized from propargyl alcohol by ring opening polymerization using Sn(Oct)₂ as the catalyst. Cycloaddition was conducted under UV light with catalytic Cu(II)Br₂ and PMDETA as the ligand, using 2, 2-dimethoxy-2-phenyl acetophenone as photoinitiator in DMF (**Scheme 1.20**).



Scheme 1.20 Covalent Attachment of PVC-g-PECL PECL to PVC via CuAAC¹⁰⁵

In 2016, the Kwak group¹⁰⁶ developed a hyperbranched polyglycerol (HPG) plasticizer, which was grafted onto PVC utilizing CuAAC. The HPG was synthesized by a one-pot ring opening polymerization (**Scheme 1.21**). Although gel permeation chromatography (GPC) data was obtained, the exact structure of this plasticizer is not known (M_n 1606 g/mol). Excellent low

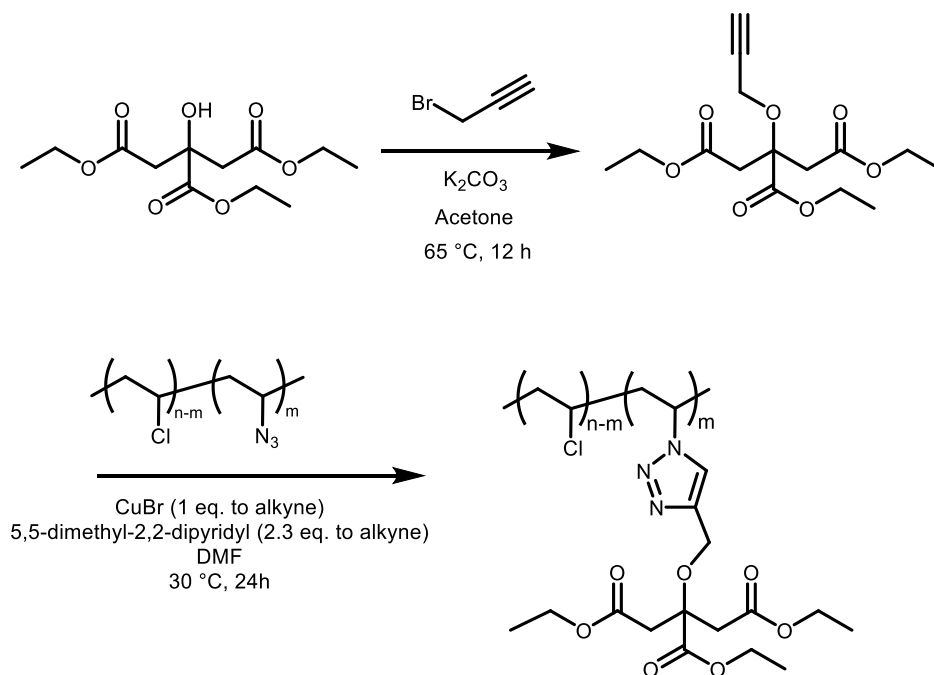


Scheme 1.21 Covalent Attachment of Alkyne-Terminated HPG to PVC via CuAAC¹⁰⁶

T_g values were achieved: T_g of 16 °C, -5 °C, and -29 °C were found for 3.6 mol%, 5.8 mol%, and 9.0 mol% plasticizer, respectively. The storage modulus data indicate this covalent plasticizer promotes segmental motion in the system and improves the softness of the HPG linked PVC at room temperature. The HPG modified PVC was softer and more flexible than PVC/DEHP for the same T_g values. Several mechanical properties of these grafted polymers were tested. The most interesting result is that the elongation at break of HPG linked PVC

increased with increasing amounts of incorporated plasticizer, and reached 912% at 9 mol% of HPG whereas noncovalent HPG plasticized PVC reached its maximum value of 153% at 1.7 mol% of added HPG, then decreased with increasing mol% of HPG. The CuAAC is a simple one-pot covalent attachment of HPG to PVC, and demonstrates several important points: 1) covalent plasticizers can decrease T_g to levels achieved by conventional plasticizers; 2) covalent plasticizers can increase the elongation at break of a polymer; 3) attachment of a hyperbranched plasticizer allowed PVC to maintain its structure under tensile testing. These results using semi-dendritic covalently linked HPG plasticizer points to possible further developments of internal plasticizers.

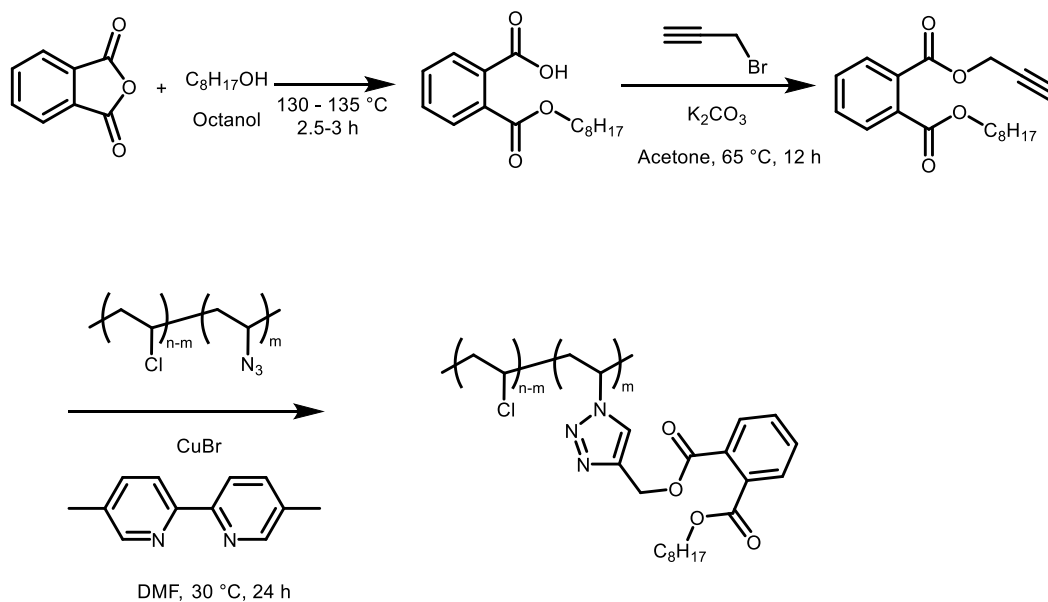
In 2017, the Zhou group¹⁰⁷ covalently attached a triethyl citrate based plasticizer to PVC via CuAAC to give a material with a T_g value of 36 °C at 34 wt% plasticizer (**Scheme 1.22**).



Scheme 1.22 Covalent Attachment of Alkyne-Terminated Triethyl Citrate Based Plasticizer to PVC via CuAAC¹⁰⁷

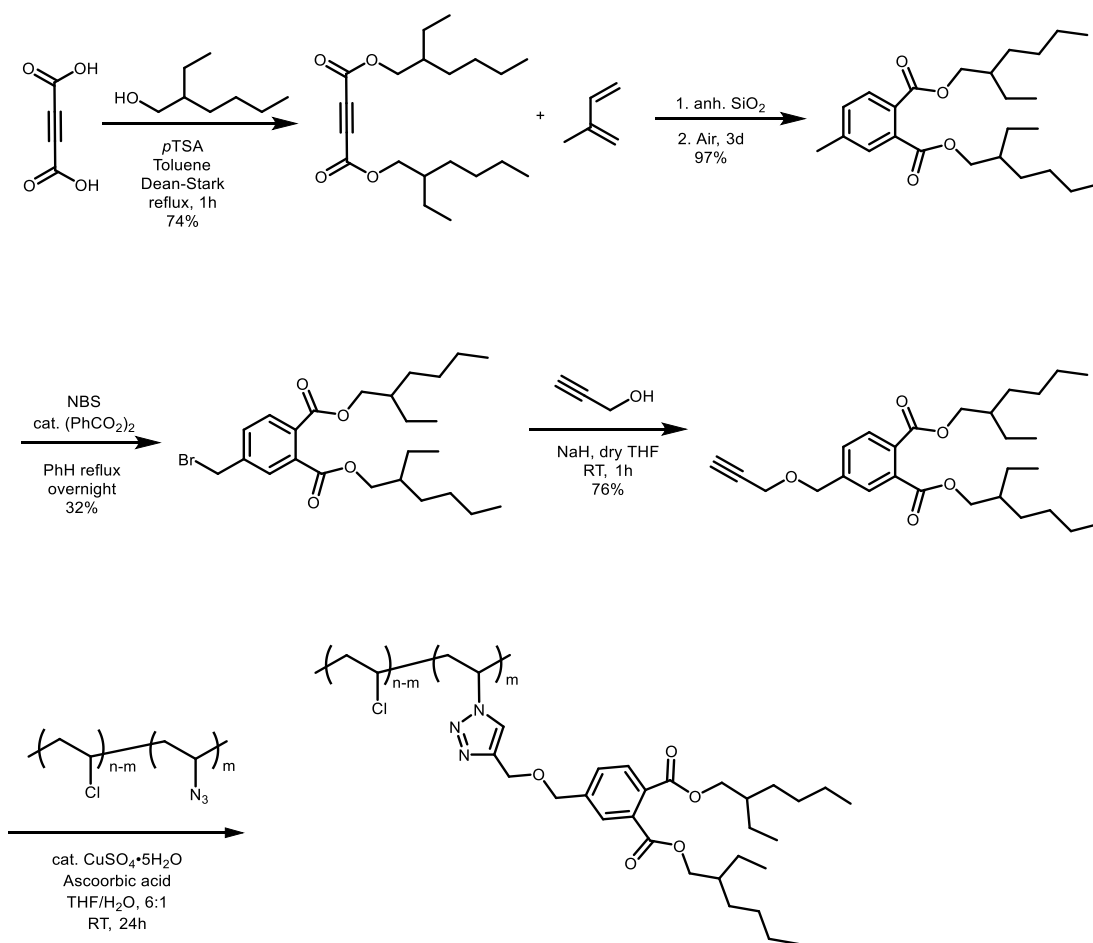
Based on TGA data, this modified PVC is thermally more stable compared to unmodified PVC. Migration tests showed no leaching in distilled water, 10% aq. ethanol, 30% aq. acetic acid, and petroleum ether, confirming the covalent attachment.

Also in 2017, the Zhou group¹⁰⁸ covalently attached mono-octyl phthalate derivatives to PVC to achieve a T_g value of 66 °C (**Scheme 1.23**). TGA data showed this modified PVC was less stable than unmodified PVC. No migration was observed in different solvents including distilled water, 10% aq. ethanol, 30% aq. acetic acid and petroleum ether.



Scheme 1.23 Covalent Attachment of Alkyne-Terminated Mono-octyl Phthalate Derivatives to PVC by CuAAC¹⁰⁸

In 2017, Earla made a DEHP derivative by Diels-Alder cycloaddition, benzylic bromination and propargylation, and covalently attached it to PVC via CuAAC (**Scheme 1.24**).¹⁰⁰ An ether linker rather than an ester linker was used to enhance the rotational degrees of freedom of the attached plasticizer. PVC with 15 mol% of covalently linked DEHP resulted in a T_g of 55 °C. This synthetic route from commercially available starting materials to this DEHP-modified PVC product required four steps.

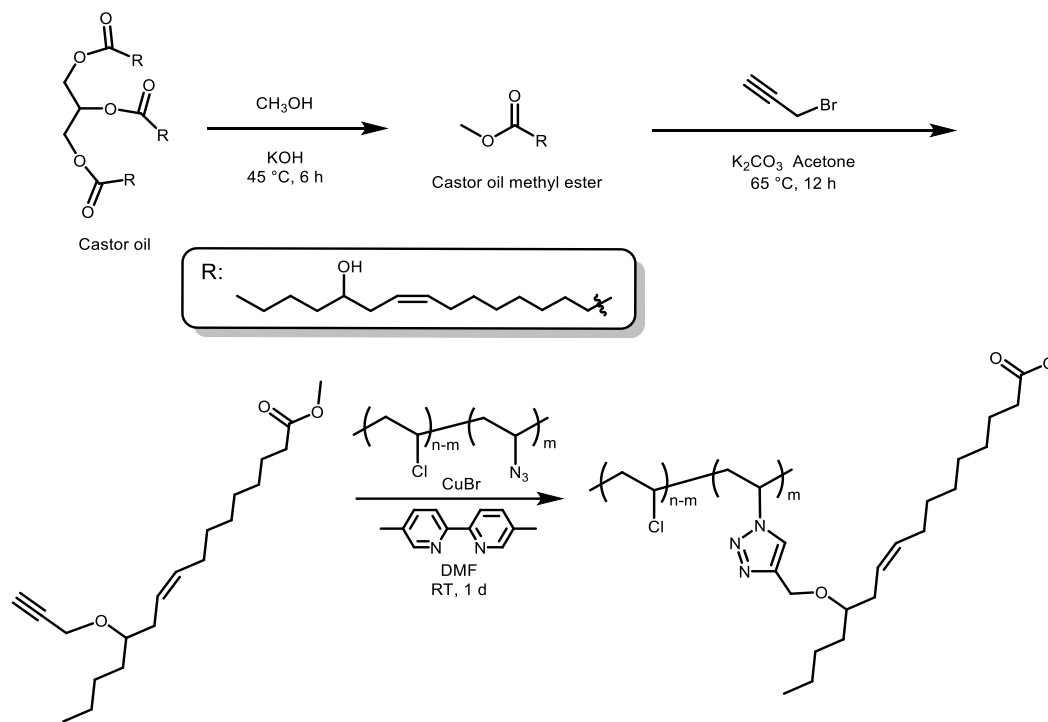


Scheme 1.24 Covalent Attachment of Alkyne-Terminated DEHP with an Ether Linker to PVC by CuAAC¹⁰⁰

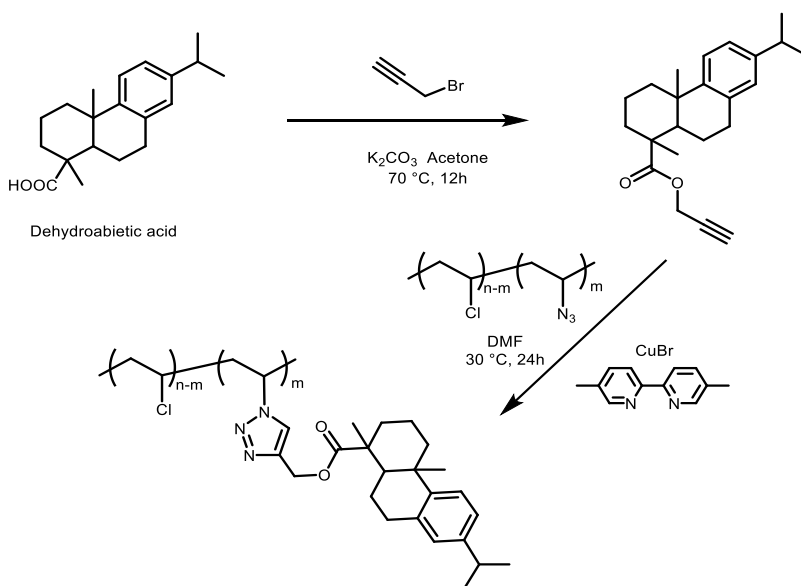
In 2018, Chu and Ma¹⁰⁹ applied CuAAC to attach a propargylated castor oil based derivative to PVC-azide. (**Scheme 1.25**) The T_g value achieved for modified PVC was 41.6 °C. TGA indicates that direct attachment of the triazole group decreases the thermal stability of modified PVC.

The Zhou group¹¹⁰ used biomass-sourced dehydroabietic acid, a common diterpene from conifer trees, as a plasticizer to be covalently attach to PVC-azide (**Scheme 1.26**). Among three materials, the lowest T_g value achieved was 37 °C with about 23 wt% of plasticizer. The paper claims modified PVC materials were less thermally stable at 150-300 °C than unmodified

PVC due to the triazole group. This instability of the triazole has also been noted by other researchers.⁸⁵



Scheme 1.25 Covalent Attachment of Alkyne-Terminated Propargylated Castor Oil Methyl Ester with an Ether Linker to PVC by CuAAC¹⁰⁹

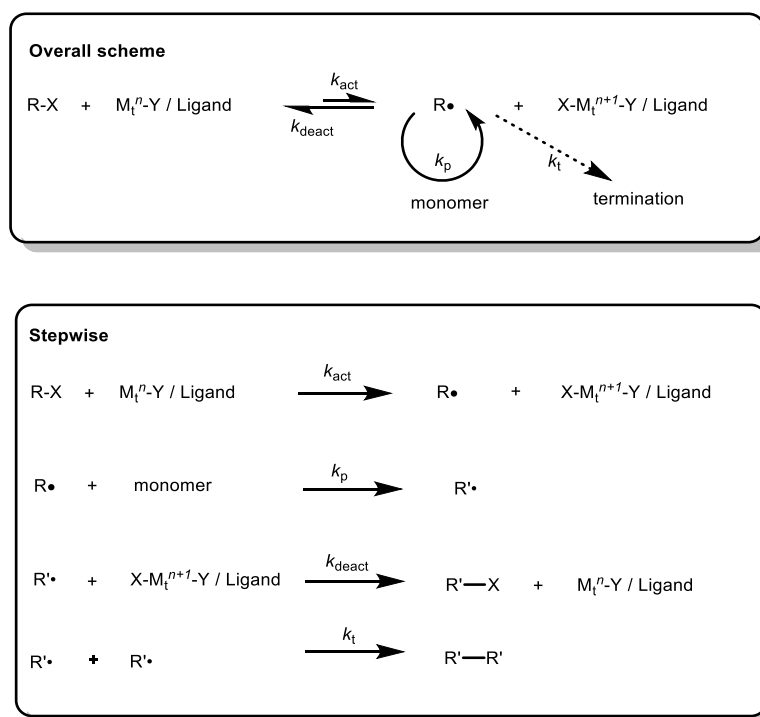


Scheme 1.26 Covalent Attachment of Alkyne-Terminated Dehydroabietic Acid with an Ether Linker to PVC by CuAAC¹¹⁰

1.7.3 Covalent Attachment of Plasticizers to PVC via Polymerization

1.7.3.1 Grafting Internal Plasticizers to PVC by Atom Transfer Radical Polymerization (ATRP)

Atom transfer radical polymerization (ATRP),^{111–113} has been utilized to grow graft copolymers off of PVC from defect sites in the PVC chain.^{114–125} ATRP is a reversible – deactivation radical polymerization,¹²⁶ also known as a controlled radical polymerization (CRP). The general reaction scheme of transition-metal-catalyzed ATRP is shown below (**Scheme 1.27**).¹¹¹



Scheme 1.27 General Scheme of Transition-Metal-Catalyzed ATRP¹¹¹

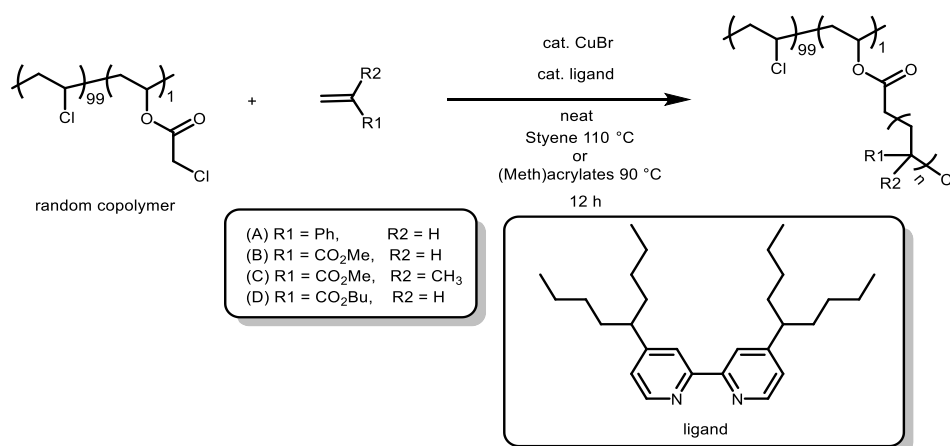
In ATRP, at any one time, there are a large amount of dormant species, usually alkyl halides, and a tiny fraction of active alkyl radicals species. Alkyl radicals are generated from alkyl halides by a metal complex (M_t^{n-}Y), with an activation via rate constant k_{act} though single electron transfer concurrently with halogen atom abstraction. The alkyl radical reacts with a

monomer to perpetuate polymer chain growth with a propagation rate k_p , before being deactivated by halogen transfer with a rate constant k_{deact} back to the dormant alkyl halides. Radical-radical termination reactions occur very rarely due to the low concentration of reactive radicals at any one time.

The key to successful ATRP is fast initiation and quick reversible deactivation.¹¹¹ Also, a small k_p/k_{deact} will result in lower polydispersity (PDI), meaning well-controlled polymerization.¹²⁷ If the interconversion of active alkyl radicals and dormant alkyl halides is faster than propagation, polymer chains will grow statistically at the same rate.¹²⁶ For typical alkyl chlorides, due to the relatively strong carbon-chlorine bond (compared to bromides and iodides), the initiation rate is slow, resulting in uncontrolled polymerization by CuX-initiated ATRP.¹²⁷

1.7.3.2 Internal PVC Plasticization via ATRP

In 1998, Matyjaszewski *et al.*¹¹⁴ used a PVC random copolymer containing 1 mol% poly(vinyl chloroacetate) (PVCA) as a macroinitiator to form a series of graft copolymers, including PVC-*g*-poly(*n*-butyl acrylate) (PBA), an internally plasticized form of PVC (**Scheme 1.28**).



Scheme 1.28 Matyjaszewski's ATRP graft Polymerization using PVC-*co*-PVCA as a Macroinitiator¹¹⁴

The best performer had a T_g value of $-19\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, achieved with 65 mol% of PBA. The chlorines on the poly(vinyl chloroacetate) residues were considered to be the active chlorines initiating ATRP graft growth. Matyjaszewski stated that chlorines on the PVC backbone do not initiate ATRP because the secondary chloride-carbon bond is too strong to undergo dissociation.

Commercially, PVC is formed by uncontrolled, conventional free radical polymerization. This results in defect sites on the PVC backbone consisting of both allylic and tertiary chlorides (**Figure 1.12**).⁸ In 2001, Percec and Asgarzadeh¹¹⁵ applied copper catalyzed ATRP from these active sites in commercial PVC as initiators for graft polymerization (**Scheme 1.29**). There is at least one defect site in each PVC chain: allylic chlorides have been estimated to occur about 0.0-0.6/molecule;¹²⁸ and tertiary chlorides about 0.7-2.1/1000 monomer units.¹²⁹ They carried out a systematic study of Cu-catalyzed ATRP from the defects on PVC using a variety of vinylic monomers and Cu catalysts. The authors chose several small model compounds to study the efficiency of secondary chlorides, tertiary chlorides, and allylic chlorides as initiators (**Figure 1.13**). The results reveal a scale of initiator efficiencies from most to least reactive: allylic chlorides > tertiary chlorides >> secondary chlorides. Polymerization from the secondary chloride model compound does occur, but the initiation rate is about three orders of magnitude slower compared to allylic and tertiary chlorides. Based on these results, they concluded that ATRP grows grafts from defect sites on PVC rather than from the ubiquitous secondary chlorides. The T_g value of PVC-*g*-PBA was $-4\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ at 53 mol%. A monomodal distribution was seen using GPC, indicating no detectable free homopolymer.

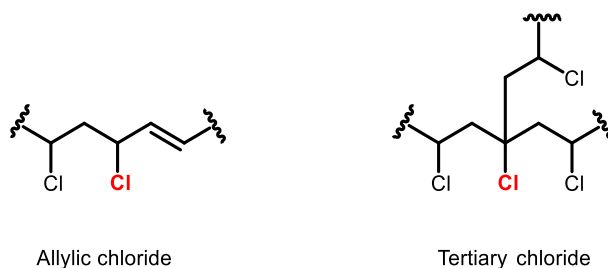
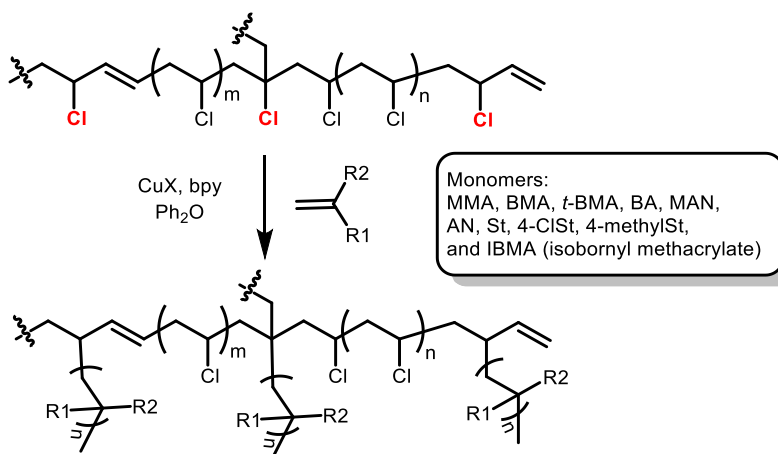


Figure 1.12 Structural defects of commercial PVC: allylic and tertiary chlorides⁸



Scheme 1.29 Grafting of Various Polymers to Defect Sites on PVC via Cu-Catalyzed ATRP¹¹⁵

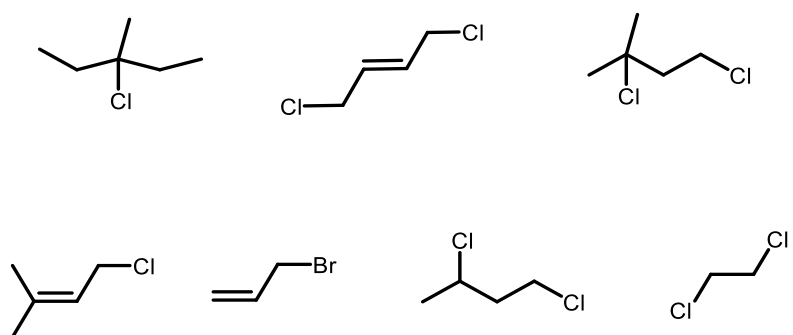
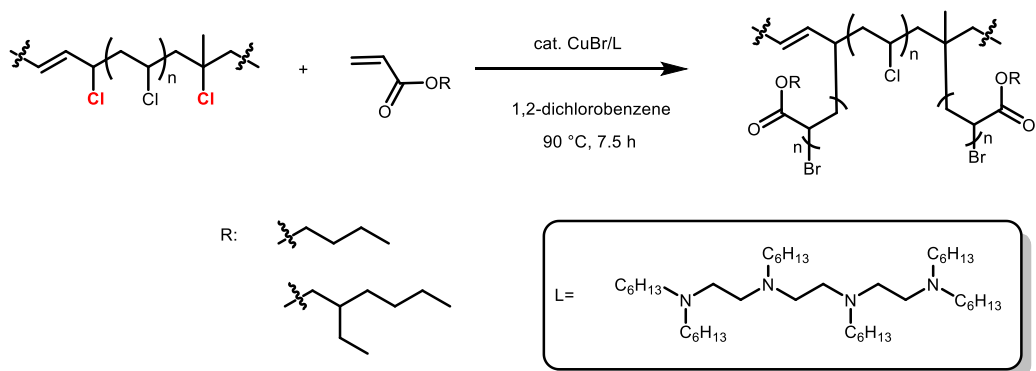


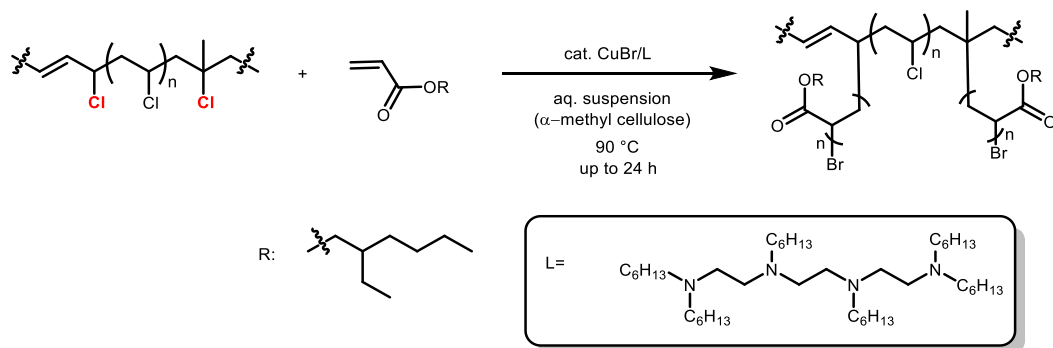
Figure 1.13 Model Compounds used in Percec's Study¹¹⁵

In 2003, Bicak and Ozlem¹³⁰ applied ATRP to graft PBA and poly(2-ethylhexyl acrylate) (P2EHA) from defect sites onto PVC (**Scheme 1.30**). The polymerizations were carried out in 1,2-dichlorobenzene. However, no T_g values were measured for these graft copolymers. The authors claimed that no homo-polymerization was observed, based on the following procedure. Following polymerization, the reaction mixture was precipitated in butanol because PBA is soluble in butanol and PVC is not. The butanol solution was then poured into MeOH. The authors stated that because there was no precipitate observed in methanol, no non-grafted PBA had formed. This is not very convincing because PBA is a viscous oil at room temperature, so one would not expect to see any precipitate to be formed in MeOH upon mixing with PBA

dissolved in dilute butanol solution. In 2006, *Bicak et al* carried out ATRP of 2-ethylhexyl acrylate (2EHA) from defects sites on PVC in an aqueous suspension using 0.25% α -methylcellulose as a suspension stabilizer (**Scheme 1.31**).¹¹⁸ Interestingly, these authors stated that there might be up to 4% of defect sites on PVC. A T_g value of 58 °C was obtained for one graft copolymer made of 2-ethylhexyl acrylate.

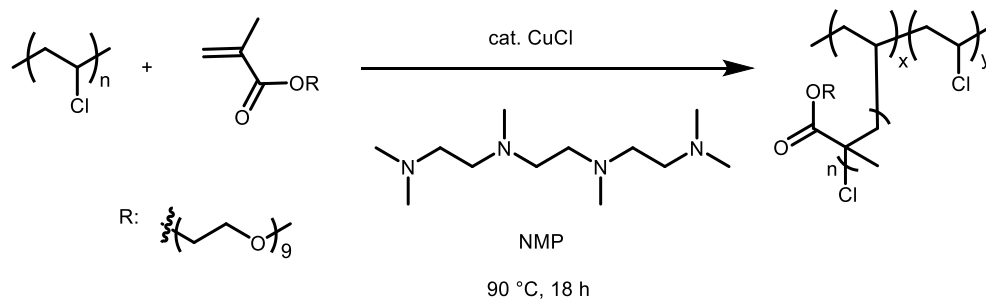


Scheme 1.30 Grafting of PBA and P2EHA from Defect Sites on PVC via ATRP¹³⁰



Scheme 1.31 Grafting of P2EHA from Defect Sites on PVC via ATRP in Aqueous Solution¹¹⁸

PVC-*g*-poly(oxyethylene methacrylate) (POEM) prepared by Hong in 2009, also using Cu catalyzed ATRP, gave material with two T_g values (-68 °C and 32 °C), which indicates micro-phase separation (**Scheme 1.32**).¹²⁰ All polymers discussed so far are homogeneous materials if not specified.

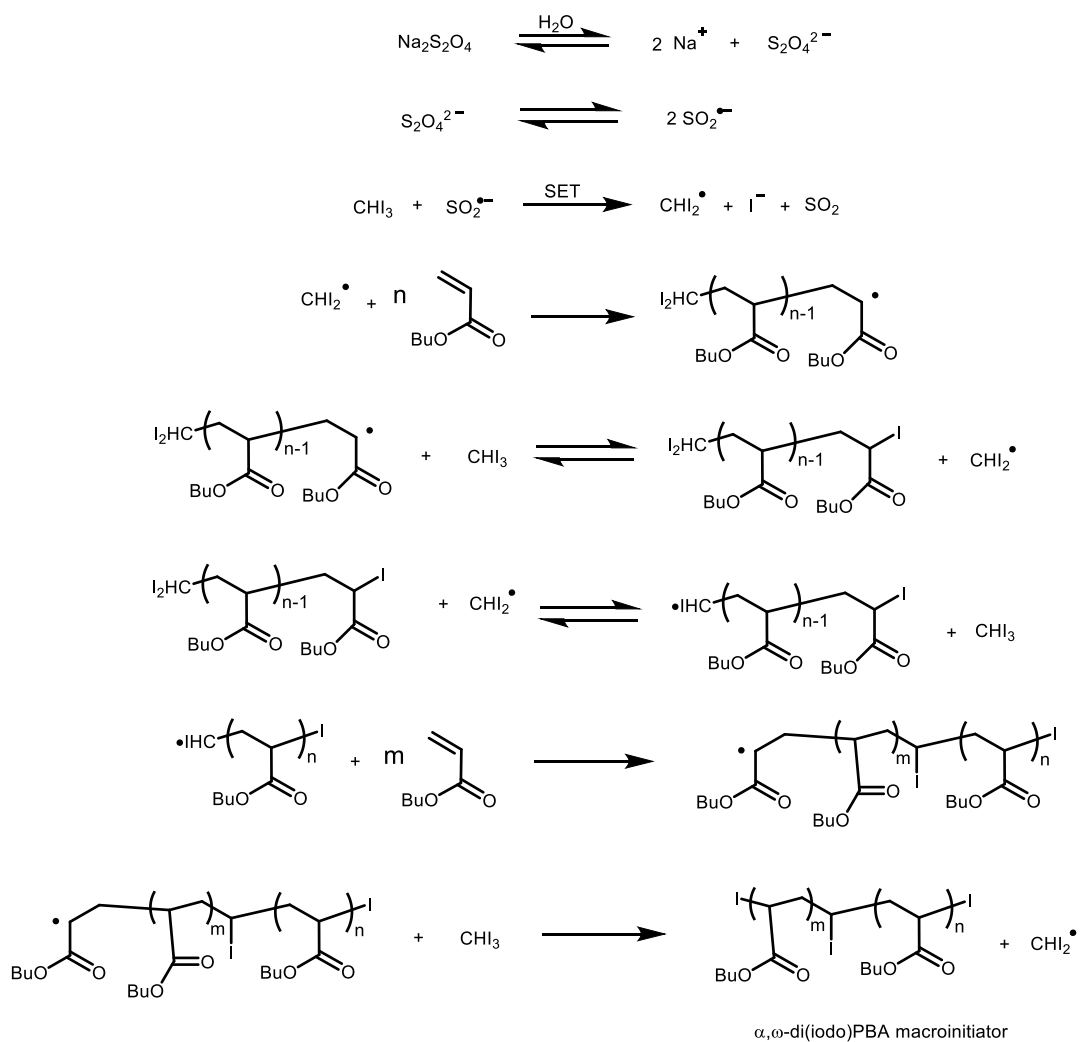


Scheme 1.32 Grafting of POEM from Defect Sites on PVC via ATRP¹²⁰

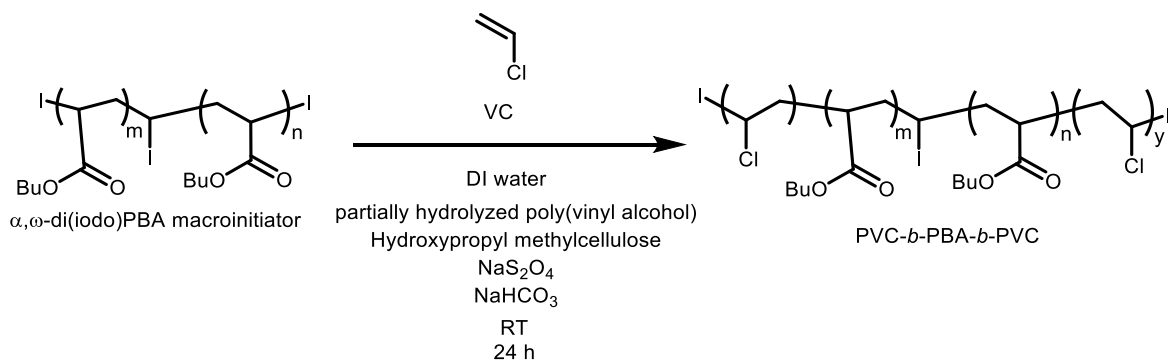
1.7.3.3 Internal Plasticization via Other Polymerization Methods

PVC-*b*-PBA-*b*-PVC was prepared by Coelho *et al.*^{131,132} in a two-step process utilizing single electron transfer – degenerative chain transfer living radical polymerization (SET-DTLRP). The first step makes the macroinitiator α,ω -di(iodo)poly(butyl acrylate) [α,ω -di(iodo)PBA]¹³³ using $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_4$ as an initiator via SET-DTLRP with iodoform and butyl acrylate (**Scheme 1.33**). In the second step, α,ω -di(iodo)PBA acts as a macroinitiator for vinyl chloride polymerization to form PVC-*b*-PBA-*b*-PVC via SET-DTLRP (**Scheme 1.34**). T_g values for these internally plasticized ABA triblock copolymers as low as -16 °C were obtained.¹³¹

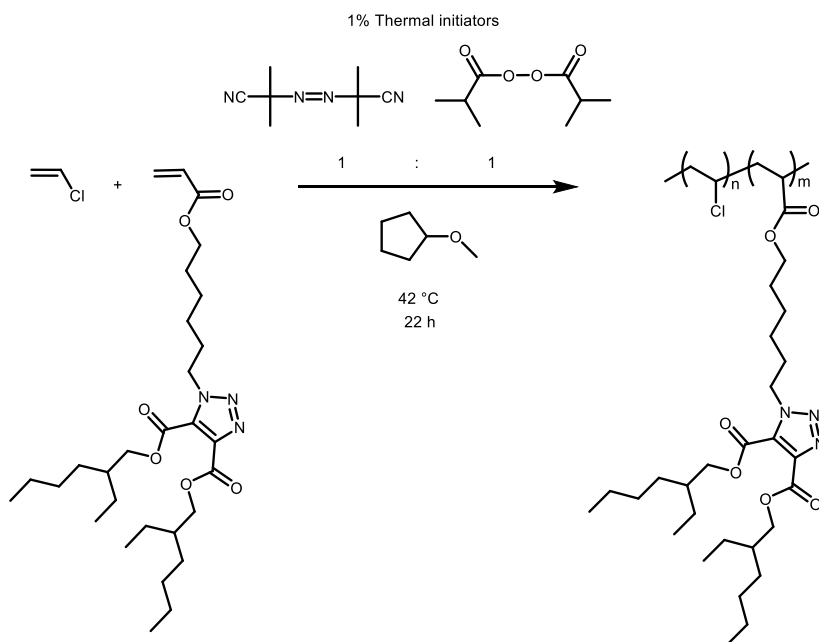
In 2020, Coelho and Braslau *et al.*¹³⁴ prepared copolymers of VC and an acrylate bearing the pendant phthalate mimic DEHT. Specifically, poly(vinyl chloride)-*co*-poly(4,5-bis(2-ethylhexyl)-1-[6-prop-2-enoyloxy] hexyl]-1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,5-dicarboxylate) (PVC-*co*-P(DEHT-HA)) was prepared using conventional free radical polymerization. Optimization of polymerization conditions was investigated by applying different solvents, reaction temperatures, monomer ratios, and initiators. The optimized condition is shown in **Scheme 1.35**. T_g values as low as -27 °C were achieved with 74 wt% of P(DEHT-HA). The single T_g value indicates that PVC and P(DEHT-HA) are miscible. The monomer DEHT-HA, which is a mimic of DEHP, was synthesized in four steps.



Scheme 1.33 Formation of Macroinitiator α, ω -di(iodo)PBA in SET-DTLRP¹³³

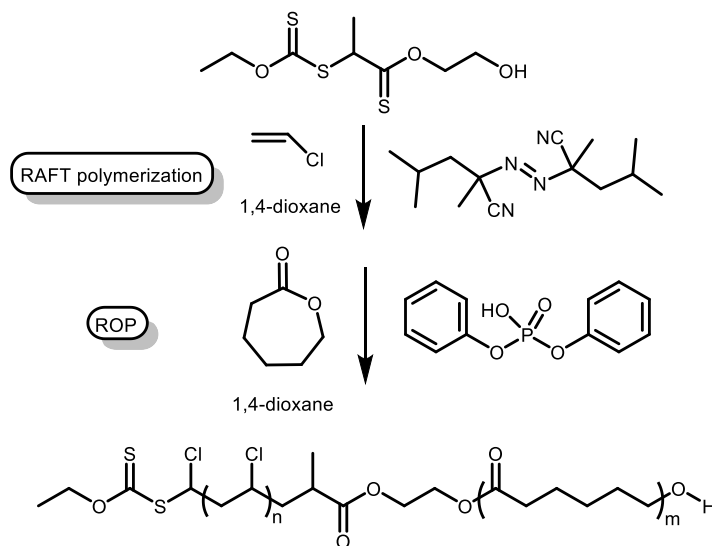


Scheme 1.34 Synthesis of internally plasticized PVC-*b*-PBA-*b*-PVC via SET-DTLRP¹³¹



Scheme 1.35 Synthesis of internally plasticized PVC-co-P(DEHT-HA)¹³⁴

Mood and Thang *et al.*¹³⁵ prepared an A-*b*-B block copolymer: PVC-*b*-PCL in a sequential polymerization process using reversible addition-fragmentation chain transfer polymerization (RAFT) followed by ring-opening polymerization (ROP) (**Scheme 1.36**). T_g values as low as -35 °C were achieved using 90 wt % of PCL.



Scheme 1.36 Preparation Internally Plasticized PVC-*b*-PCL via RAFT Followed by ROP¹³⁵

Although not technically an internal plasticizer, the Z.-M. Li¹³⁶ group synthesized flexible latex particles made of crosslinked, swollen PBA/PVC composites, and then grafted PBA through a multistage emulsion polymerization method. In stage one: PBA was synthesized by a seeded emulsion polymerization using a large amount of BA and small amount of 1,4-butylene glycol diacrylate (BDDA) as an insoluble crosslinker and K₂S₂O₈ as the initiator in water, to form a PBA crosslinked latex. In stage two: 3-(trimethoxysilyl) propyl methacrylate (MPS) was hydrolyzed to a diacrylate, triacrylate or tetraacrylate, a star-like crosslinker. MPS and allyl methacrylate (AMA) and vinyl chloride were used to grow a crosslinked PVC shell around the PBA particles to form a “PBA/PVC latex”. In stage three: the PBA/PVC latex was first soaked in BA to allow it to penetrate into the PBA/PVC colloidal particles. Unreacted AMA ends were the grafting sites. Emulsion polymerization at 75 °C was initiated by K₂S₂O₈, forming the final composite particles of PBA/PVC-*sg*-PBA. Small amounts of these compatibilized latex composites were then blended with commercial PVC and traditional phthalate DEHP. However, two T_g values were observed by DMA for all samples including the PVC/DEHP mix.

Moad and Thang¹³⁷ and co-workers have prepared a 3-armed star-[(PVC-*b*-PBA);(PBA)₂] by sequential RAFT polymerization. One of the uses is as a macroplasticizer when mixed with PVC. No migration of the star macroplasticizer was observed when blended with PVC, and extracted with *n*-hexane.

1.8 Conclusion

PVC is one of the most popular thermoplastics, with applications ranging from packing materials, medical devices, toys to construction pipes. Plasticizers are used to provide durability, elasticity, and flexibility in PVC. However, small molecule plasticizers leach out from the PVC matrix over time, resulting in significant health problems for humans, as well as in damage to the environment. Covalent attachment of plasticizers to PVC chains, “internal plasticization,” is one of the most effective ways to avoid migration of plasticizers from PVC. Several different internal plasticization strategies are explored in this thesis.

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2 Internal Plasticization of Poly(vinyl) Chloride using Glutamic Acid as a Branched Linker to Incorporate Four Plasticizers per Anchor Point

2.1 Background

Covalent attachment of plasticizers to PVC chains, internal plasticization, is an effective way to avoid migration of plasticizers from PVC. Previous work in the Braslau laboratory on preparing plasticizers covalently linked to PVC has utilized efficient metal-free Huisgen thermal azide-alkyne dipolar cycloadditions (TAAC).¹⁻³ Post-polymerization functionalization involving azide displacement of chlorine atoms on PVC via a facile S_N2 reaction occurs with no detectable competitive elimination. Reaction of the pendant azides with electron-poor alkynes under mild heat gives substituted triazoles. With the goal of increasing the number of internal plasticizing moieties per azide group, the use of electron-poor alkynes bearing branched linkers displaying multiple plasticizing species was explored (**Figure 2.1**). This work has been published: Li, L.; Tek, A. T.; Wojtecki, R. J.; Braslau, R. *J. Polym. Sci. Part A; Polym. Chem.* **2019**, *57*, 1821–1835.

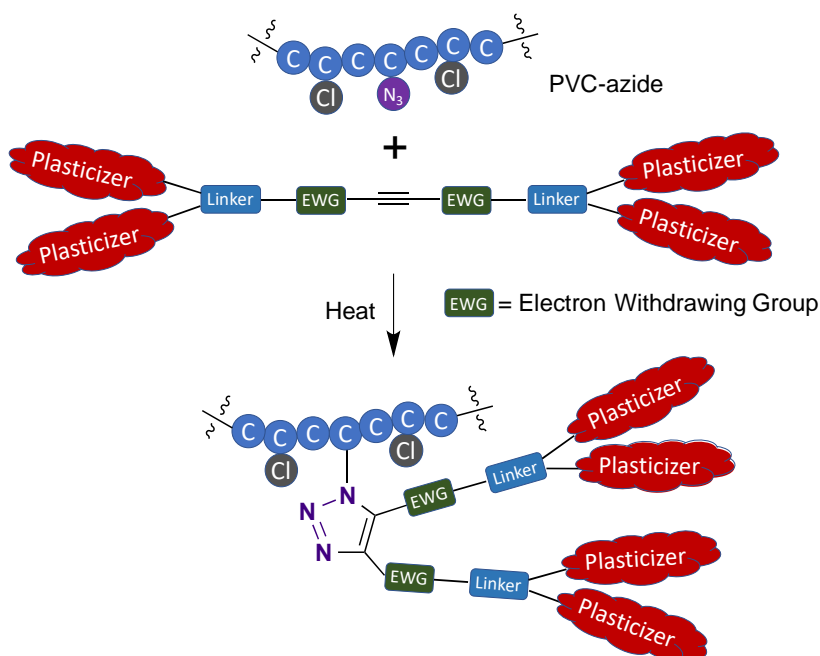
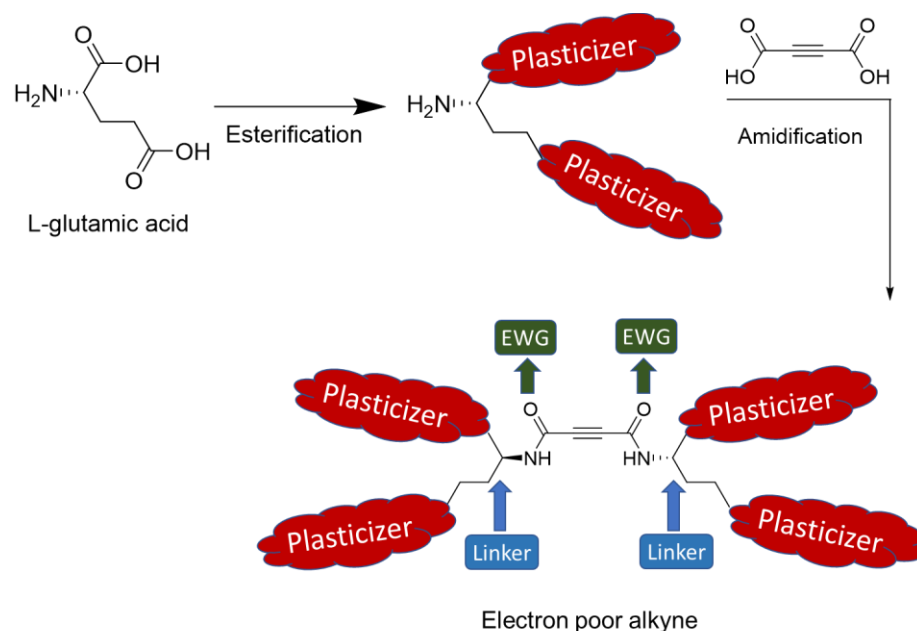


Figure 2.1 Overview: Cycloaddition of a Disubstituted Alkyne Bearing Branched Linkers Introduces Four Plasticizers Per Azide on PVC

Glutamic acid was selected as the branched linker, as it is inexpensive, and can be incorporated in only two synthetic steps (esterification and amidification) to form the requisite electron-poor alkyne (**Scheme 2.1**). The use of L-glutamic acid, as opposed to racemic material, was selected solely due to its natural abundance, and thus the low cost of the L-enantiomer.

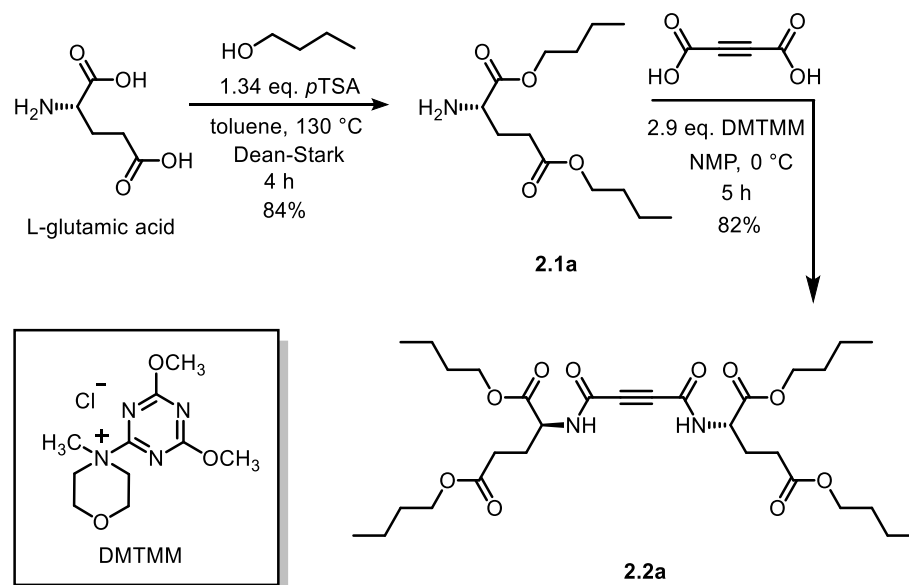


Scheme 2.1 Use of Glutamic Acid as a Branched Linker for Making an Electron-Poor Alkyne Bearing Four Plasticizing Species

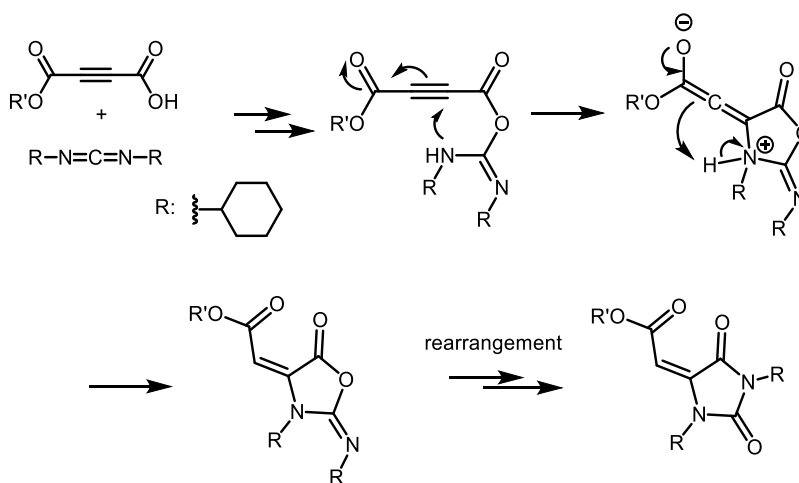
2.2 Synthesis of an Electron-Poor Alkyne Bearing Branched Linkers Displaying Four Plasticizing Species

The first example of an electron-poor alkyne, **2.2a**, bearing four *n*-butyl esters, was prepared in two steps (**Scheme 2.2**). Glutamate ester **2.1a** was synthesized by reaction of L-glutamic acid with *n*-butanol via Fischer esterification.⁴ Esterification and amidification of acetylenedicarboxylic acid can be particularly difficult, due to competing Michael addition, especially when employing traditional coupling agents. For example, use of the conventional coupling reagent dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC) results only in an undesired intramolecular Michael addition to form the 1,3,5-trisubstituted hydantoin (**Scheme 2.3**).^{5,6} Heyl and Fessner

developed the coupling reagent DMTMM (4-(4,6-dimethoxy-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl)-4-methylmorpholinium chloride), which allows direct amidification of acetylenedicarboxylic acid with amines.⁷ DMTMM in *N*-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP) as solvent provides the acetylenediamide **2.2a** with amine **2.1a** in 82% yield. The disadvantage of this route is that a full equivalent of DMTMM is needed for each amide bond formation.



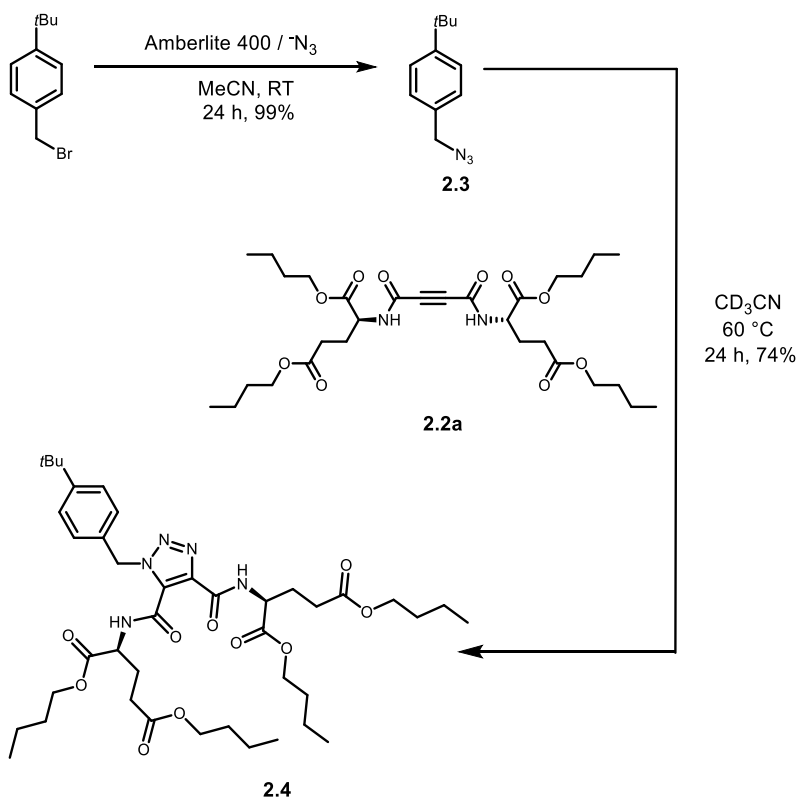
Scheme 2.2 Synthesis of Acetylenediamide Tetraester **2.2a** Based on Glutamic Acid as a Branched Linker.



Scheme 2.3 Undesired Intramolecular Michael Addition when Trying to activate the carboxylic acid with DCC

2.3 Model Reaction

A model reaction was carried out prior to applying the cycloaddition to azidized PVC. There were two reasons for conducting this small molecule model reaction: 1) test the thermal reactivity of the alkyne diamide **2.2a** with an organoazide for which the reaction could be monitored by NMR; 2) the structural information of the model triazole product could be determined by HRMS, IR, and NMR, which would help identify the structural information of functionalized PVC triazole samples with the same structure motif. Therefore, a small organoazide molecule, benzylic azide **2.3** was synthesized from 1-bromomethyl-4-*tert*-butylbenzene using Amberlite IRA-400 ion-exchange resin pre-charged with aqueous NaN_3 .⁸ Reaction of alkyne **2.2a** with the model azide **2.3** gave triazole **2.4** as a well-defined molecule following chromatographic purification in 74% yield (**Scheme 2.4**).



Scheme 2.4 Model Reaction: Cycloaddition of Small Molecule Azide with Acetylenediamide Tetraester **2.2a**

2.4 Characterization of Small Model 2.4

The structural information for compound **2.4** was confirmed by HRMS, IR, ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR, DEPT, and NOESY. IR was used to confirm the functional groups of triazole tetraester **2.4**. In the IR spectrum (**Figure 2.2**), the broad amide N-H stretch is found near 3350 cm^{-1} . The ester C=O stretch is seen at 1739 cm^{-1} for model triazole **2.4**. The amide C=O stretch and N-H bend are observed at 1678 cm^{-1} (C=O stretching, amide I band) and at 1552 cm^{-1} (NH bending, amide II band), respectively.

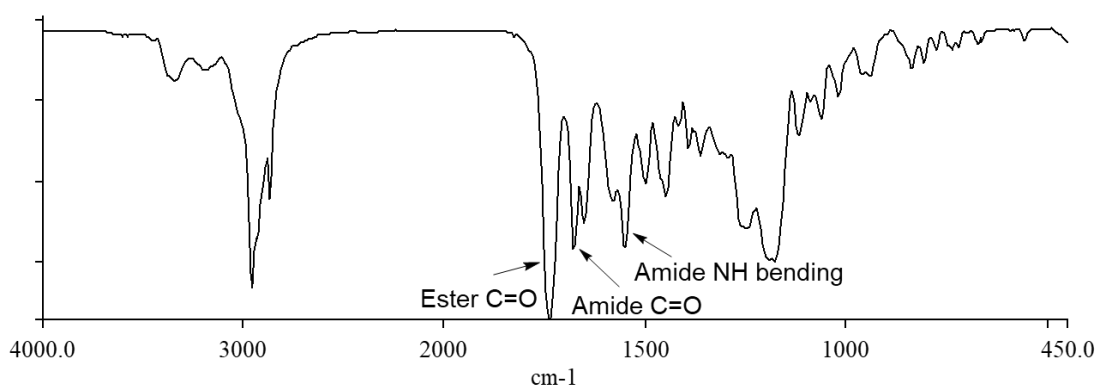


Figure 2.2 IR Spectrum of Small Model Molecule **2.4**

In the ^1H NMR spectrum, the proton peaks of compound **2.4** at δ 1.6, 1.4, and 0.9 ppm (labeled **g**, **h**, and **i** in **Figure 2.3**) come from the *n*-butyl chains of the diglutamate tetraester. Interestingly, the benzylic hydrogens for peak **a** is an AB quartet instead of a singlet, as the two methylene hydrogens are diastereotopic. The ^1H NMR spectrum also shows there are two types of amide proton peaks, appearing at δ 11.3 and 8.3 ppm. Conjugation of the carbonyl amides to the triazole aromatic group⁹ results in downfield shifts of the amide protons. The differences between the ^1H chemical shifts of the two amides likely arises from intramolecular H-bonding¹⁰ of the more downfield amide proton at δ 11.3 ppm. However, the positions of **j** and **k** can not be distinguished by 1D NOESY (Nuclear Overhauser Effect Spectroscopy) NMR (**Figure 2.4**). Irradiation of the methylene **a** at δ 6.1 ppm results in NOE enhancement of only

phenyl hydrogen **m** at δ 7.3 ppm. Note that the ortho and meta aryl hydrogens happen to both appear at δ 7.3 ppm.

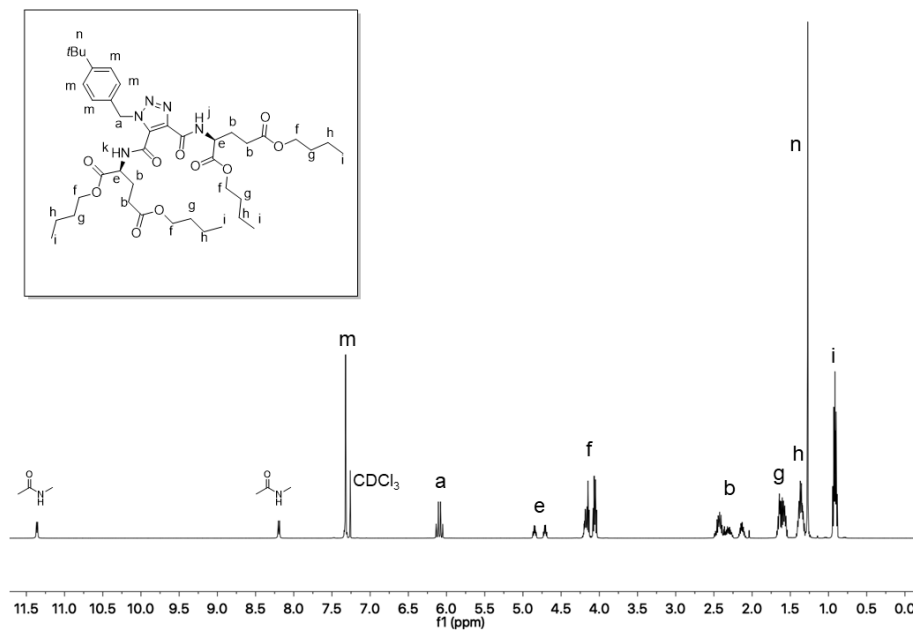


Figure 2.3 ^1H NMR of Small Model Molecule **2.4**. Note: Peak **a** is an AB Quartet.

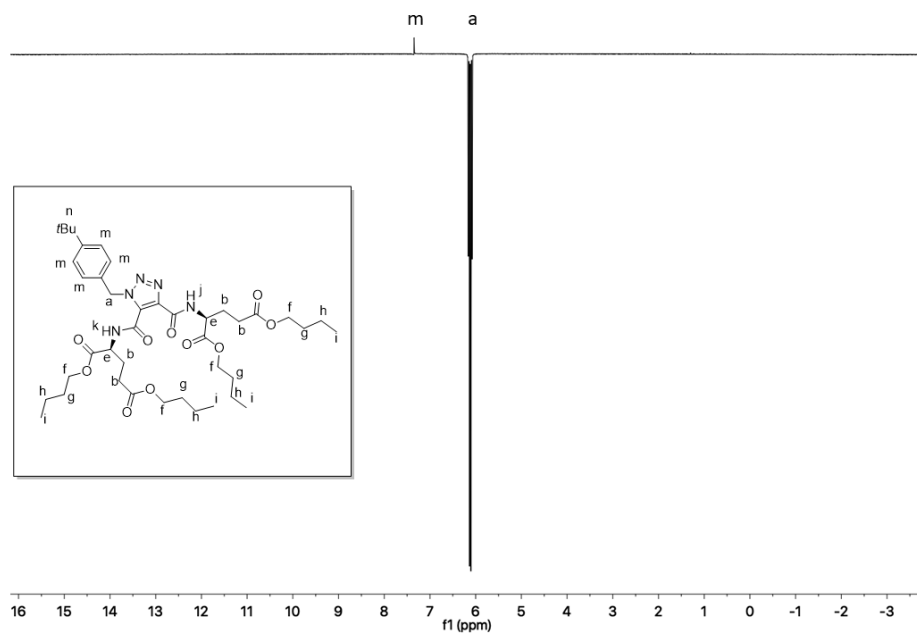
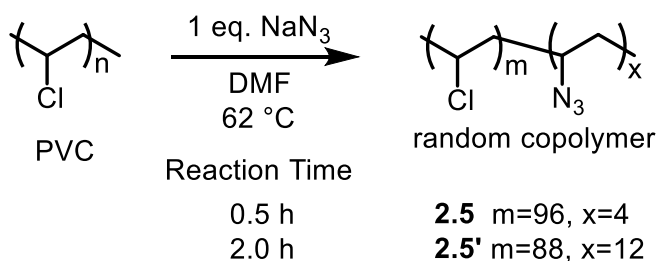


Figure 2.4 1D Selective NOESY Spectra of Small Model Molecule **2.4**

2.5 Determination of Percentage of Azidation on PVC

PVC-azides with 4.4% azidation **2.5** and 12.0% azidation **2.5'** were prepared using NaN₃ in an S_N2 displacement of chlorine atoms on PVC in DMF at 62 °C for 0.5 h and 2.0 h, respectively (**Scheme 2.5**).^{2,3} The percentage of azidation was calculated based on elemental analysis (**Table 2.1**) using the equation developed by Higa (**Equation 2.1 – 2.5**).¹¹



Scheme 2.5 Preparation of PVC-Azide **2.5** and **2.5'**

Table 2.1 Elemental Analysis of PVC-Azide **2.5** and **2.5'**

| Polymer | wt% of carbon | wt% of hydrogen | wt% of nitrogen |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2.5 | 39.23 | 5.12 | 3.02 |
| 2.5' | 38.69 | 5.22 | 8.17 |

Given the elemental analysis results, if there are 100 grams of PVC-azide **2.5**, the mass of nitrogen is 3.02 grams (3.02 wt% of nitrogen). The moles of nitrogen atoms are therefore 0.216 mol (**Equation 2.1**).

$$\text{The moles of nitrogen atoms} = \frac{\text{The mass of nitrogen}}{\text{Atomic weight of nitrogen}} = \frac{3.02 \text{ g}}{14.01 \text{ g/mol}} = 0.216 \text{ mols} \quad \text{Equation 2.1}$$

The moles of azide group are one third of that: 0.072 mol (**Equation 2.2**).

$$\text{The moles of azide group} = \frac{\text{The moles of nitrogen atoms}}{3} = \frac{0.216 \text{ mols}}{3} = 0.072 \text{ mols} \quad \text{Equation 2.2}$$

The mass of carbon is 39.23 grams (39.23 wt% of carbon) for 100 grams of PVC-azide **2.5**. The moles of carbon is 3.27 mols (**Equation 2.3**).

$$\text{The moles of carbon atom} = \frac{\text{The mass of carbon}}{\text{Atomic weight of carbon}} = \frac{39.23 \text{ g}}{12.01 \text{ g/mol}} = 3.27 \text{ mols} \quad \text{Equation 2.3}$$

The total moles of vinyl chloride and vinyl azide are 1.64 mols (**Equation 2.4**).

$$\begin{aligned} \text{The total moles of vinyl chloride and vinyl azide} &= \frac{\text{The moles of carbon atoms}}{2} \\ &= \frac{3.27 \text{ mols}}{2} = 1.64 \text{ mols} \quad \text{Equation 2.4} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the azidation percentage of PVC-azide **2.5** is 4.39% (**Equation 2.5**).

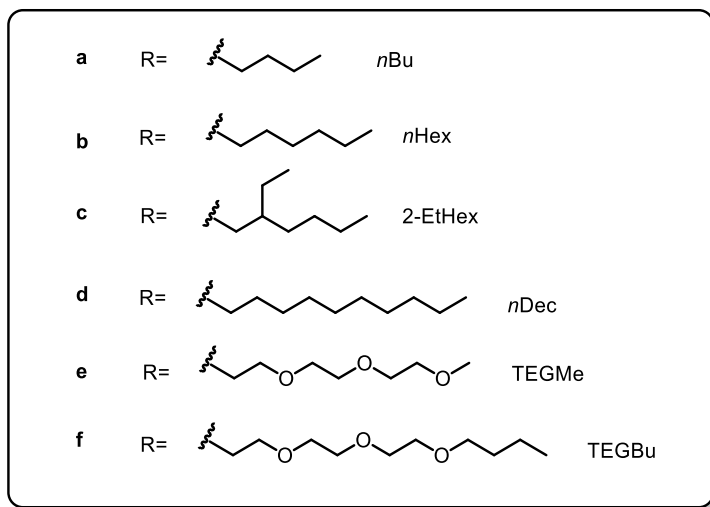
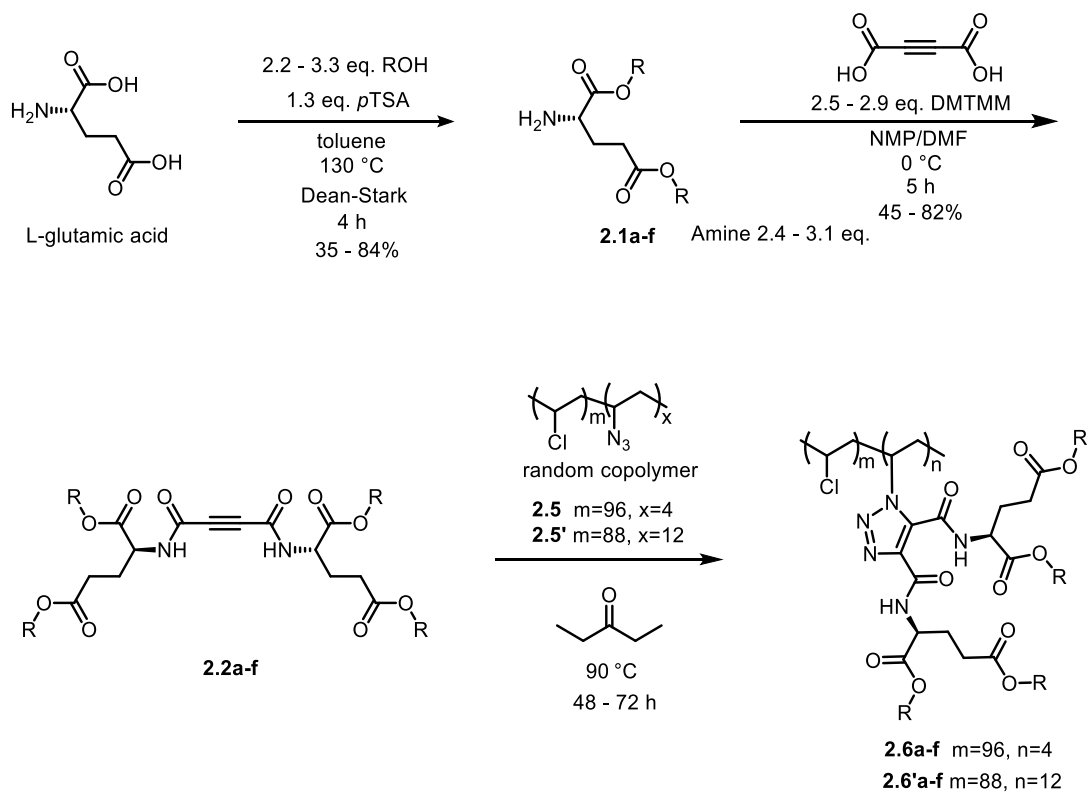
$$\begin{aligned} \text{The azidation percentage} &= \frac{\text{The moles of azide group}}{\text{The total moles of vinyl chloride and vinyl azide}} \times 100\% \\ &= \frac{0.072 \text{ mols}}{1.64 \text{ mols}} \times 100\% = 4.39\% \quad \text{Equation 2.5} \end{aligned}$$

The same calculation method was applied to polymer **2.5'** giving percentage of the of 12.04%.

2.6 Preparation of Tetraester Alkynes and Introduction to PVC via Thermal

Azide/Alkyne Cycloaddition

A series of glutamate ester diamide alkynes **2.2b-f** bearing a variety of terminal ester groups were synthesized (**Scheme 2.6**) using analogous reactions to that of **2.2a** (**Scheme 2.6**). Thermal azide-alkyne dipolar cycloaddition was then carried out to form the triazole attachments bearing tetraesters at 90 °C for 48 h or 72 h, to give PVC functionalized at 4% of the original chlorine sites (polymer **2.6a-f**), and at 12% (polymers **2.6'a-f**). The reaction time for cycloaddition of PVC-azide and diamide alkynes to go to completion is longer compared to diester alkynes due to the less electron-poor nature of the diamide alkynes compared to diester alkynes.^{3,12}



Scheme 2.6 Preparation of Tetraester Alkynes and Introduction onto PVC via Azide-Alkyne Cycloaddition.

2.7 Characterization of Functionalized PVC

IR spectroscopy was effective at evaluating triazole formation on the polymer by monitoring the disappearance of the distinct azide peak at 2114 cm^{-1} (**Figure 2.5a**).

Comparison of the IR spectra of diglutamate ester functionalized PVC **2.6'a** and small molecule triazole **2.4** (Figures 2.5b and 2.5c) revealed very similar peaks. For both the model compound **2.4** and the diglutamate ester triazole functionalized PVC **2.6'a**, the broad amide N-H stretch was found near 3350 cm^{-1} . Similarly, the ester C=O stretch was seen at 1737 cm^{-1} for functionalized PVC **2.6'a** and at 1739 cm^{-1} for model **2.4**. The amide C=O stretch and N-H bend were observed for both the internally plasticized PVC **2.6'a** and model **2.4** at 1677 and 1678 cm^{-1} (amide C=O stretching, amide I band) and at 1551 and 1552 cm^{-1} (amide NH bending, amide II band), respectively.

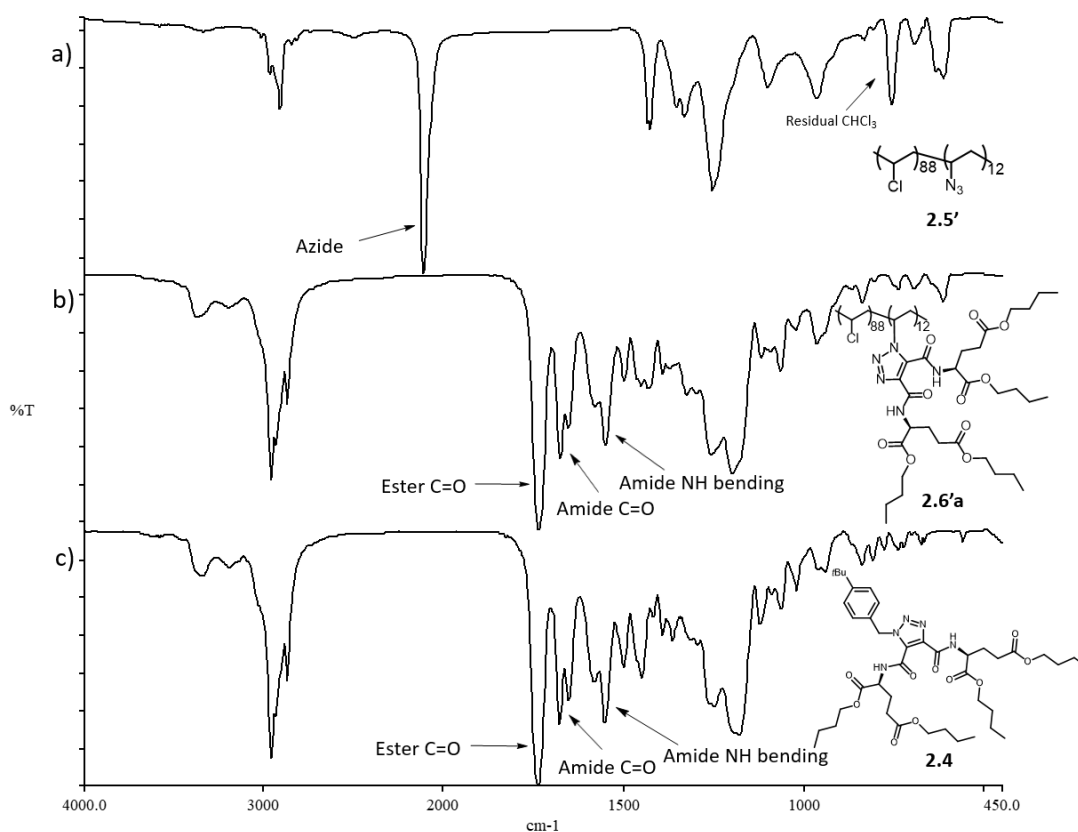


Figure 2.5 IR Spectra Comparing a) PVC-12%-azide **2.5'**, b) PVC-12%-*n*Bu **2.6'a**, and c) Model Triazole **2.4**

Internally plasticized 12% *n*Bu tetraester PVC **2.6'a** was further characterized by comparing the ^1H NMR spectrum of the polymer **2.6'a** to spectra of PVC-12%-azide **2.5'** and

model triazole **2.4** (Figure 2.6). Comparing the ^1H NMR spectra of PVC-12%-azide **2.5'** (Figure 2.6a) with that of polymer **2.6'a** (Figure 2.6b), it is clear that both feature protons from the PVC backbone: CH-Cl methine protons of the PVC backbone have a chemical shift of δ 4.7-4.2 ppm; $-\text{CH}_2-$ methylene protons from the PVC have a chemical shift of δ 2.5-1.6 ppm. Peaks from the tetraester triazole polymer **2.6'a** were correlated to model triazole **2.4**. For both, there are again two types of amide proton peaks, appearing at δ 11.3 and 8.3 ppm. Comparison of the ^{13}C NMR spectra PVC-12%- N_3 **2.5'**, PVC-12%-*n*Bu **2.6'a**, and model compound **2.4** (Figure 2.7) also supports the structure of **2.6'a**, which contains both PVC backbone carbons (**2.5'**) and *n*Bu tetraester (**2.4**).

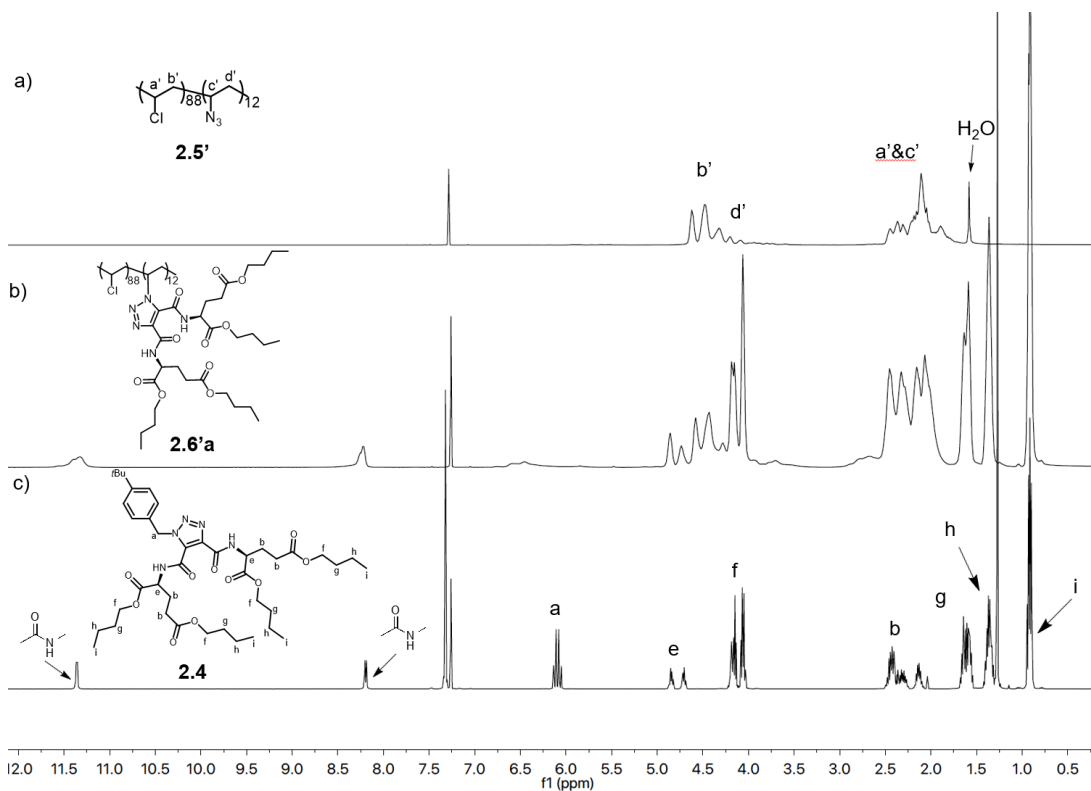


Figure 2.6 ^1H NMR Spectra (in CDCl_3) of a) PVC-12%- N_3 **2.5'**, b) PVC-12%-*n*Bu **2.6'a**, and c) Model Compound **2.4**

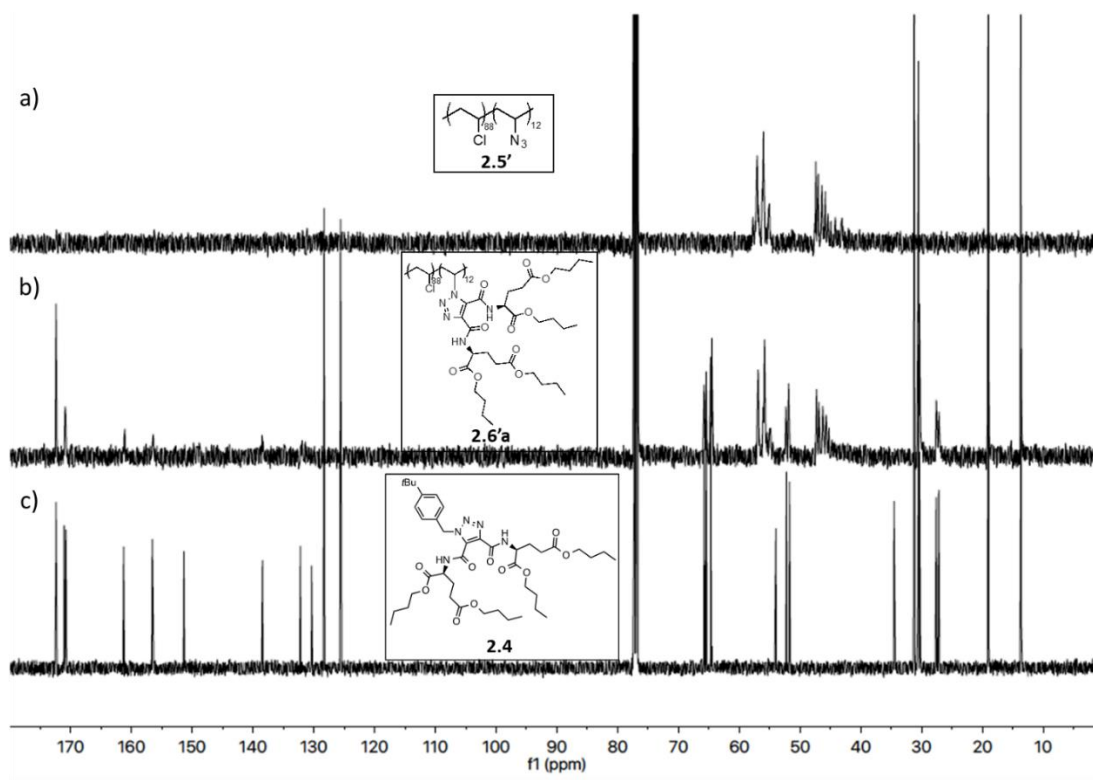


Figure 2.7 ^{13}C NMR Spectra (in CDCl_3) of a) PVC-12%- N_3 **2.5'**, b) PVC-12%-*n*Bu **2.6'a**, and c) model compound **2.4**

2.8 Glass transition temperature of functionalized PVC

The glass transition temperature (T_g) is the temperature at which a polymer undergoes a phase change from a glassy state to a rubbery state (**Figure 2.8**). The T_g value reflects the flexibility of a polymer; the lower the T_g , the more flexible the material. T_g values in this chapter were measured at IBM by Andy Tek with the collaboration of Dr. Rudy Wojtecki, using a differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) Q2000 with a heat-cool-heat protocol, and a scanning range of -90 to 200 $^\circ\text{C}$ at a heating rate of 10 $^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$. The T_g was collected during the second heating cycle because the first heating cycle was used to erase the thermal history of the polymer and remove residual solvents.

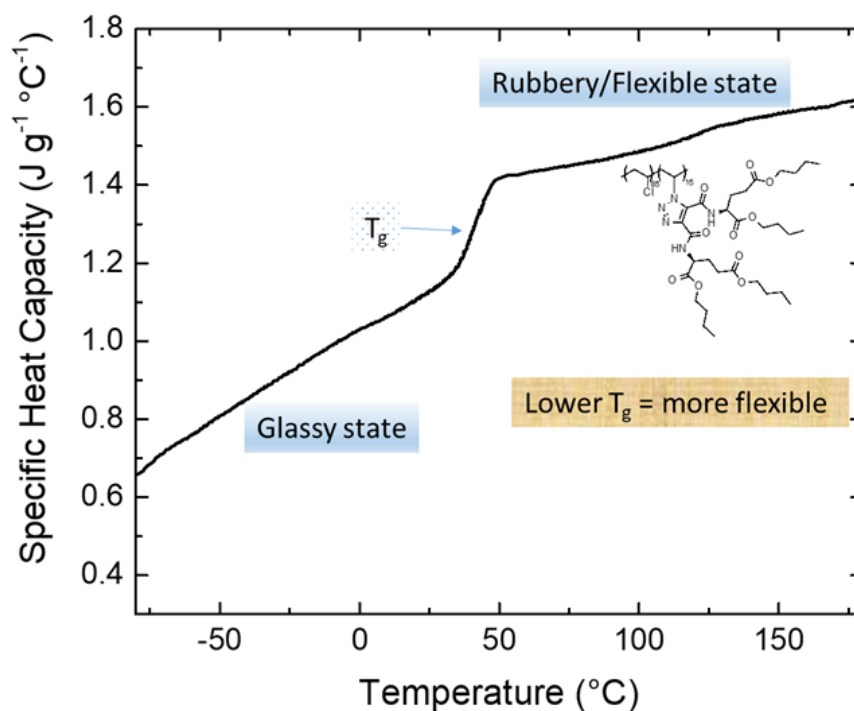


Figure 2.8 DSC (Second Heat Cycle) of Internally Plasticized PVC **2.6'a**

The DSC data of diglutamate tetraester functionalized PVC samples show specific heat capacities during the second heating cycle for both 4 and 12 mol % samples. The T_g value of unmodified PVC is 81 °C, showing PVC is in its glassy state at room temperature. For PVC bearing 4 mol % internal plasticizer, T_g values range from 62 °C to 39 °C (**Figure 2.9**). The highest T_g value (62 °C) was obtained for PVC-4%-*n*Bu **2.6a**. T_g values decrease with increasing ester *O*-alkyl chain length. The T_g value of PVC-4%-*n*Hex **2.6b** is 53 °C, and T_g value of PVC-4%-2-EtHex **2.6c** is 47 °C. Collected T_g values of the second heating cycle are given in **Table 2.2**.

For PVC bearing 12 mol % of internal plasticizer, the lowest T_g value obtained is -1 °C for the tetra(TEGBu) ester diglutamate triazole PVC-12%-TEGBu **2.6'f**, indicating excellent internal plasticization. The T_g values of the *O*-alkyl esters are all higher than those of the *O*-

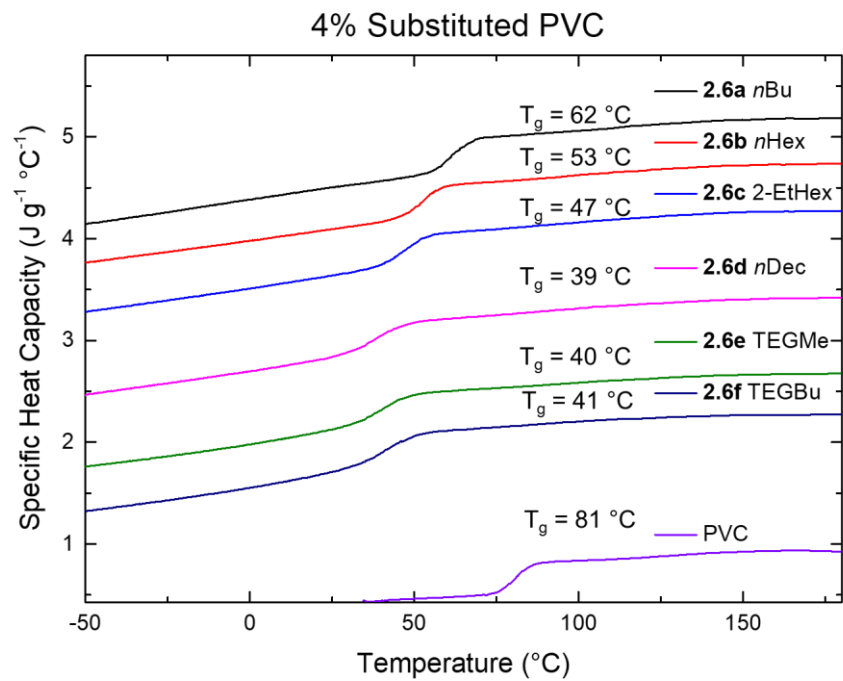


Figure 2.9 DSC (2nd Heat Cycle) of 4 mol% Internally Plasticized PVC

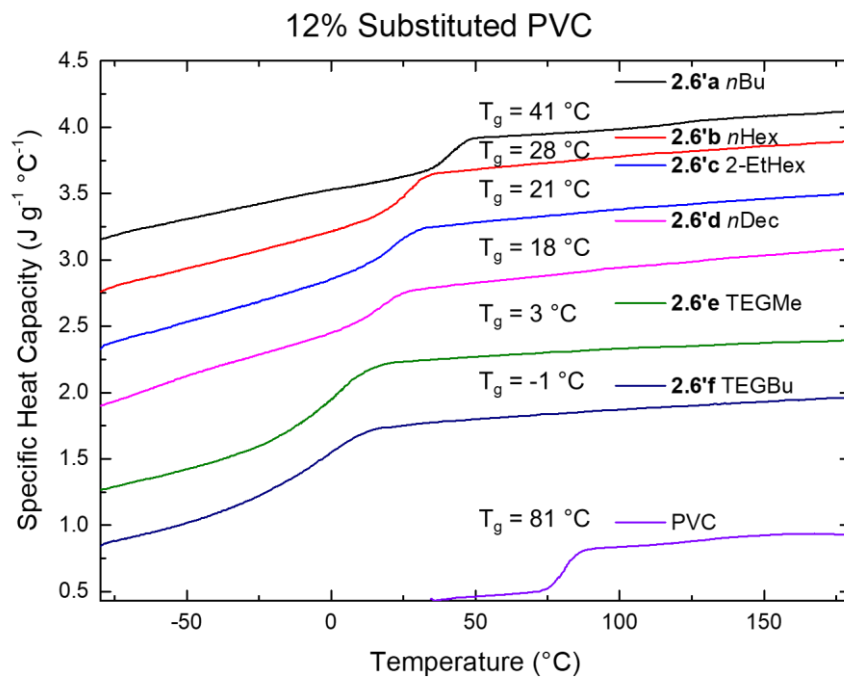


Figure 2.10 DSC (2nd Heat Cycle) for Samples of 12 mol% Internally Plasticized PVC

PEG esters, even though the alkyl *n*Dec ($T_g = 18\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$) and polyether TEGMe ($T_g = 3\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$) esters are the same length (**Figure 2.10**). Within the alkyl esters, longer alkyl ester chains result in lower T_g values than shorter chains. Adding an *n*-butyl group to the end of the PEG ester in place of the methyl group makes very little difference, giving only a slight depression of the T_g value at 12% substitution, and was indistinguishable at 4 mol%. Collected T_g values of the second heating cycle are given in Table 2.2.

Table 2.2 DSC T_g Values for PVC Bearing 4 mol % and 12 mol % Glutamic Ester-Derived Branched Internal Plasticizers

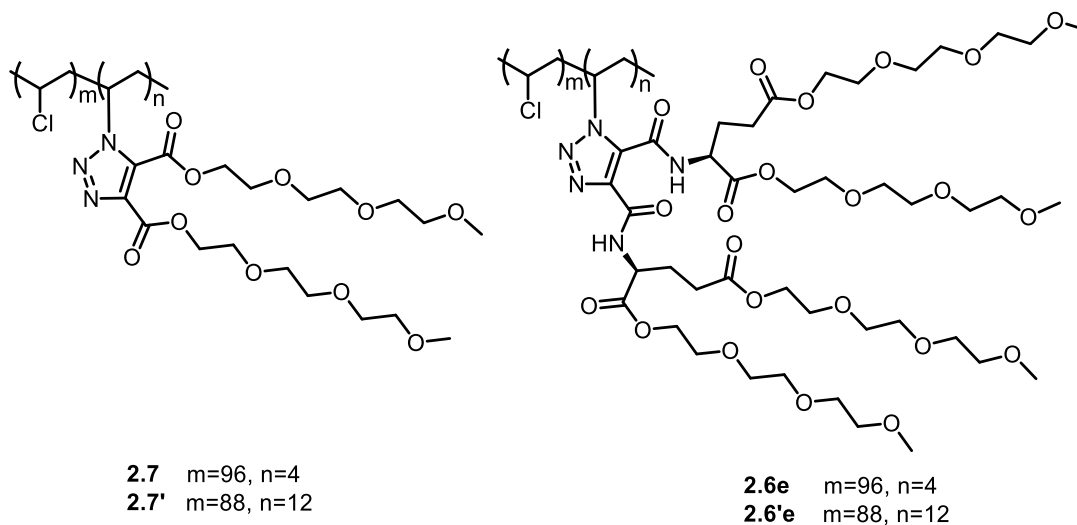
| Polymer | T_g ($^\circ\text{C}$) ^a | Polymer | T_g ($^\circ\text{C}$) ^a |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|
| PVC | 81 | | |
| 2.6a 4% <i>n</i> Bu | 62 | 2.6'a 12% <i>n</i> Bu | 41 |
| 2.6b 4% <i>n</i> Hex | 53 | 2.6'b 12% <i>n</i> Hex | 28 |
| 2.6c 4% 2EtHex | 47 | 2.6'c 12% 2EtHex | 21 |
| 2.6d 4% <i>n</i> Dec | 39 | 2.6'd 12% <i>n</i> Dec | 18 |
| 2.6e 4% TEGMe | 40 | 2.6'e 12% TEGMe | 3 |
| 2.6f 4% TEGBu | 41 | 2.6'f 12% TEGBu | -1 |

^a T_g is from the 2nd heating cycle

2.9 Plasticization Efficiency of Branched Internal Plasticizers Compared to Previous Internal Plasticizers Developed in Braslau Lab

To examine the effect of doubling the density of ester plasticizing moieties using this branched linker, a comparison with TEGMe diester internal plasticizers **2.7** and **2.7'** from the previous work of Higa in the Braslau lab³ is useful (**Figure 2.11**). For 4 mol % PVC samples, the T_g value of diester **2.7** = 61 $^\circ\text{C}$, whereas for the tetraester **2.6e** the T_g = 40 $^\circ\text{C}$. Even more pronounced, for the more densely substituted PVC sample **2.7'**, the diester plasticizer showed a T_g = 42 $^\circ\text{C}$ compared to the tetraester **2.6'e** at T_g = 3 $^\circ\text{C}$. Thus doubling the number of esters from two to four for each triazole linkage gives significantly enhanced plasticization. Thus the concept of multivalent attachment per azide linker does seem to enhance plasticization.

However, the diesters functionalized PVC samples **2.7** and **2.7'** were synthesized in three steps: one step less compared to the synthesis of the diglutamate tetraester functionalized PVC samples **2.6e** and **2.6'e** in this work.



| | | $T_g(^{\circ}\text{C})$ | $T_g(^{\circ}\text{C})$ |
|-----|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 4% | 2.7 | 61 | 2.6e 40 |
| 12% | 2.7' | 42 | 2.6'e 3 |

Figure 2.11 Comparison of Glass Transition Temperatures between Previous TEGMe Diesters and Branched TEGMe Tetraesters

2.10 Plasticization Efficiencies of Branched Internal Plasticizers

The weight percent of internal plasticizer was calculated using **Equation 2.6**.¹¹

$$\text{Weight percent plasticizer (\%)} = \frac{\text{Mass}_{\text{Triazole plasticizer}}}{\text{Mass}_{\text{Triazole plasticizer}} + \text{Mass}_{\text{Polymeric main chain}}} \times 100$$

Equation 2.6

Calculations of $\text{Mass}_{\text{Triazole plasticizer}}$ and $\text{Mass}_{\text{Polymeric main chain}}$ are based on **Figure 2.12**, using PVC-4%-*n*Bu **2.6a** as an example (note: the radical on each fragment is a formalism):

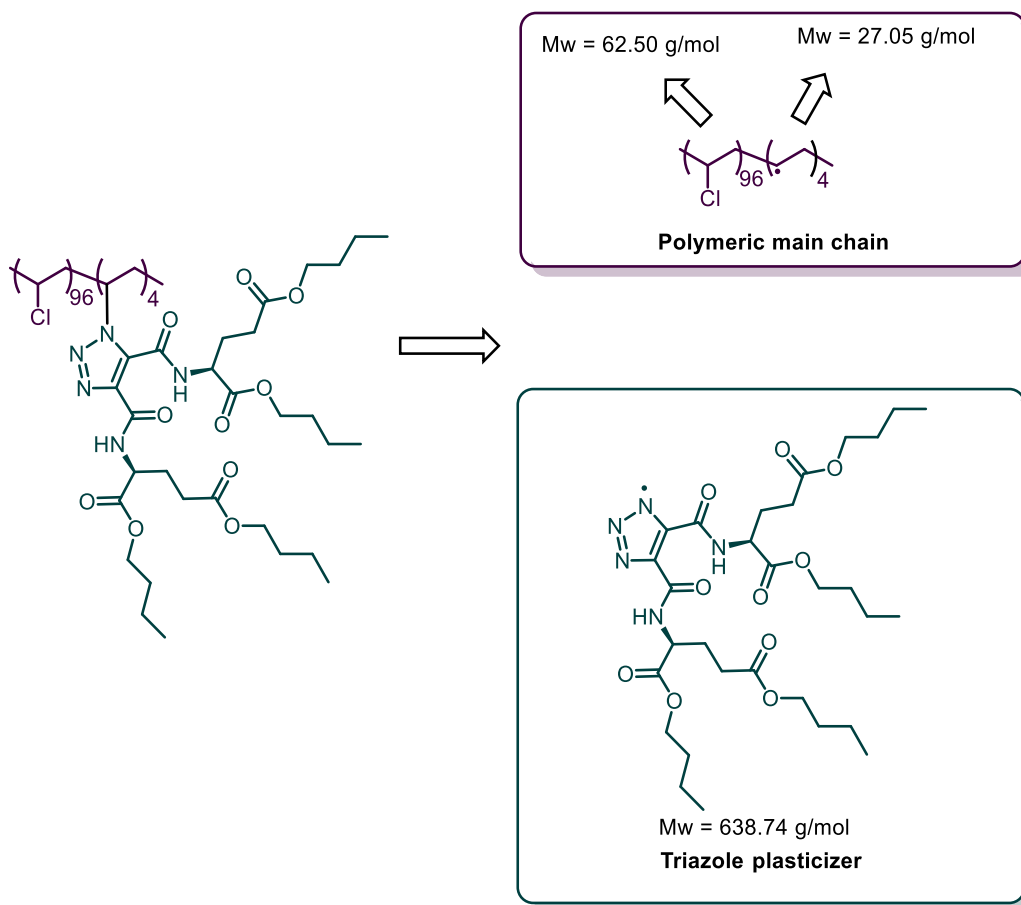


Figure 2.12 Molecular Weight of Polymeric Main Chain and Triazole Plasticizer

Therefore, the weight percent of internal plasticizer for PVC-4%-*n*Bu **2.6a** is 31.56%, as in **Equation 2.7**.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Weight percent plasticizer} &= \frac{638.74 \times 4.4}{638.74 \times 4.4 + 62.50 \times 95.6 + 27.05 \times 4.4} \times 100\% \\
 &= 31.6\%
 \end{aligned}$$

Equation 2.7

The weight percent plasticizer for each of the modified PVC polymers are summarized in **Table 2.3**, calculated using **Equation 2.7** and **Figure 2.12**.

Table 2.3 Weight Percent (wt%) of Internal Plasticizers

| R Group | Triazole plasticizer | 4.4 mol% | 12.0 mol% |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Mw (g/mol) | Functionalized PVC (wt%) | functionalized PVC (wt%) |
| <i>n</i> Bu | 638.74 | 31.6 | 56.9 |
| <i>n</i> Hex | 750.96 | 35.2 | 60.8 |
| 2-EtHex | 863.17 | 38.4 | 64.1 |
| <i>n</i> Dec | 975.39 | 41.3 | 66.9 |
| TEGMe | 999.05 | 41.9 | 67.4 |
| TEGBu | 1167.38 | 45.7 | 70.7 |

In order to evaluate the efficacy of plasticization, the T_g values of these branched internally plasticized PVC samples were compared to that of externally plasticized DEHP-PVC³ as a function of plasticizer content by weight percent (**Figure 2.13**). The trend shows that use

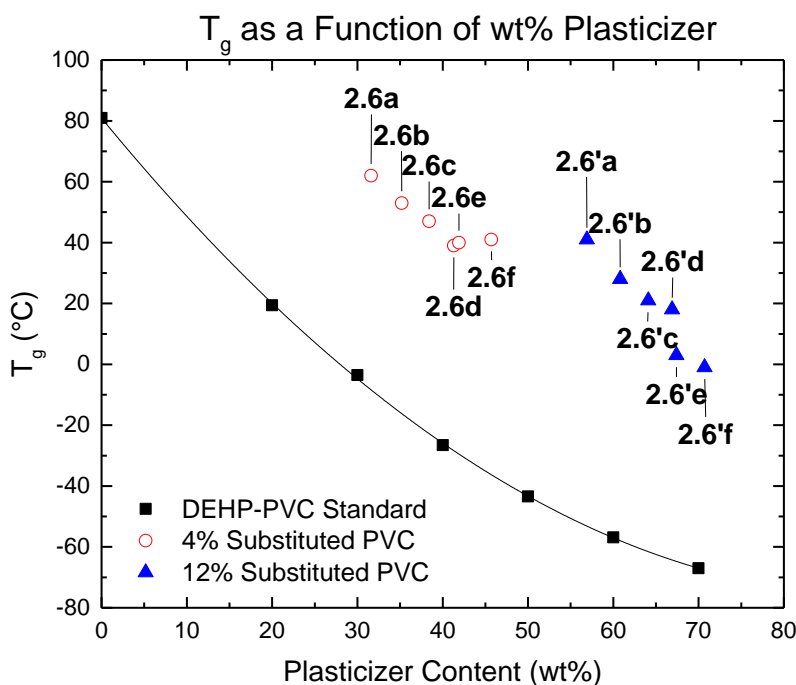


Figure 2.13 Plot of T_g versus Plasticizer Content of DEHP-PVC Standard (black square), 4% Substituted PVC **2.6a-2.6f** (Red Circles), and 12% Substituted PVC **2.6'a-2.6'f** (Blue Triangles)

of traditional DEHP plasticizer is more effective than these tetraester triazole internally plasticized samples. This makes sense if one considers the mechanism of plasticization. Large internal plasticizers reduce the rotation of the polymer backbone compared to unattached small molecule plasticizers. In terms of free volume theory, for the same weight percent of plasticizers, smaller molecule plasticizers introduce more free volume, leading to more flexible materials.¹³ Among these internally plasticized samples, the T_g values are correlated with the degree of PVC substitution; T_g values below 0 °C can be achieved by 12% TEGBu substituted PVC.

Plasticization efficiency ($E_{\Delta T_g}$) for each internal plasticizer was calculated based on the following equations (**Equation 2.8 – 2.12 and Equation 2.6**).^{3,14} **Equation 2.11** was developed by Higa based on his experiment data.³

$$E_{\Delta T_g} = \frac{\Delta T_{g,plasticizer}}{\Delta T_{g,DEHP}} \times 100\% \quad \text{Equation 2.8}$$

$$\Delta T_{g,plasticizer} = T_{g,unmodified PVC} - T_{g,modified PVC} \quad \text{Equation 2.9}$$

$$\Delta T_{g,DEHP} = T_{g,unmodified PVC} - T_{g,DEHP} \quad \text{Equation 2.10}$$

$$T_{g,DEHP} = 0.0186x^2 - 3.4124x + 80.898 \quad \text{Equation 2.11}$$

$$x (\%) = \text{weight percent plasticizer} \quad \text{Equation 2.12}$$

$$\text{Weight percent plasticizer} = \frac{Mass_{\text{Triazole plasticizer}}}{Mass_{\text{Triazole plasticizer}} + Mass_{\text{Polymeric main chain}}} \times 100\%$$

Equation 2.6

Plasticization efficiency increases with increasing plasticizer weight percent (**Figure 2.14**). There is also a subtle dependence of plasticization efficiency on the ester functional group: polyether esters lead to higher plasticization efficiencies than alkyl esters at a similar plasticizer weight percent (**2.6'd** = *n*Dec, 66.9 wt% of plasticizer, $T_g = 18$ °C; **2.6'e** = TEGMe, 67.4 wt% of plasticizer, $T_g = 3$ °C). Also, 4% TEGBu substituted PVC **2.6f** gives a higher plasticization

efficiency (34%) than 12% *n*Bu substituted PVC **2.6'a** (29%), thus the use of polyethers overrides the lower degree of substitution on PVC. Although DEHP-PVC is more effective as a plasticizer, the migratory issue makes the traditional phthalate approach less satisfactory considering the durability of the compromised PVC products following loss of plasticizer due to migration, and the health issues ensuing from phthalate contamination. However, the price of the coupling reagent DMTMM (\$80/100g) is a drawback of this method.

Plasticization Efficiency as a Function of wt% Plasticizer

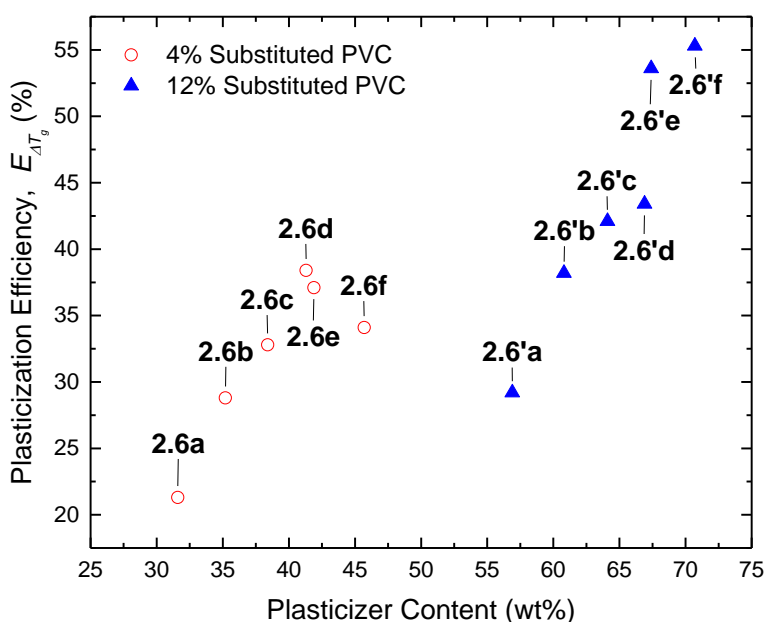


Figure 2.14 Plot of Plasticization Efficiency of 4% Substituted PVC **2.6a-2.6f** (Red Circles) and 12% Substituted PVC **2.6'a-2.6'f** (Blue Triangles)

2.11 Thermogravimetric analysis of functionalized PVC

Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) was performed in order to evaluate the thermal stability of these functionalized polymers (**Figure 2.15** and **2.16**). TGA in this chapter were measured at IBM by Andy Tek with the collaboration of Dr. Rudy Wojtecki. For the alkyl chain tetraester diglutamates, the sample weight stays relatively unchanged until an onset temperature is reached. For most of the polymers tested, the temperature at 5% weight loss is

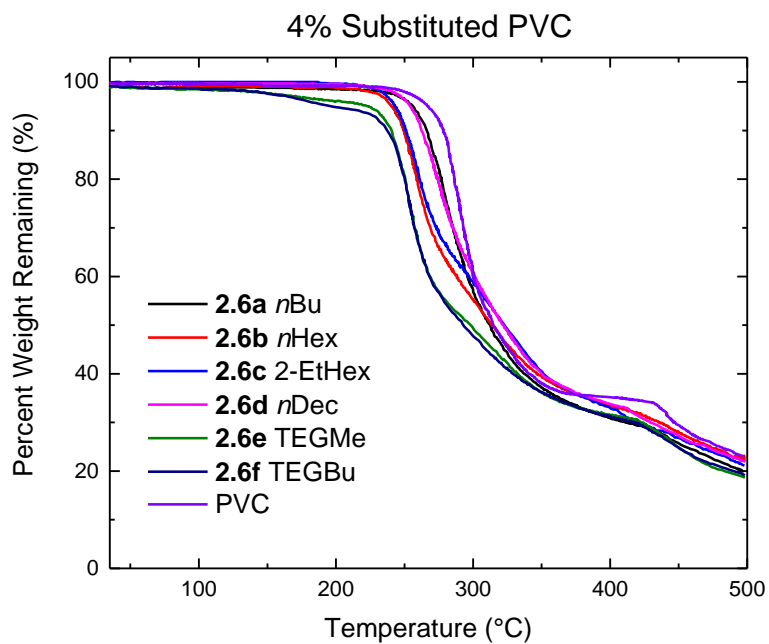


Figure 2.15 TGA data (open to air) illustrating percent weight remaining versus temperature for 4 mol% functionalized and unfunctionalized PVC

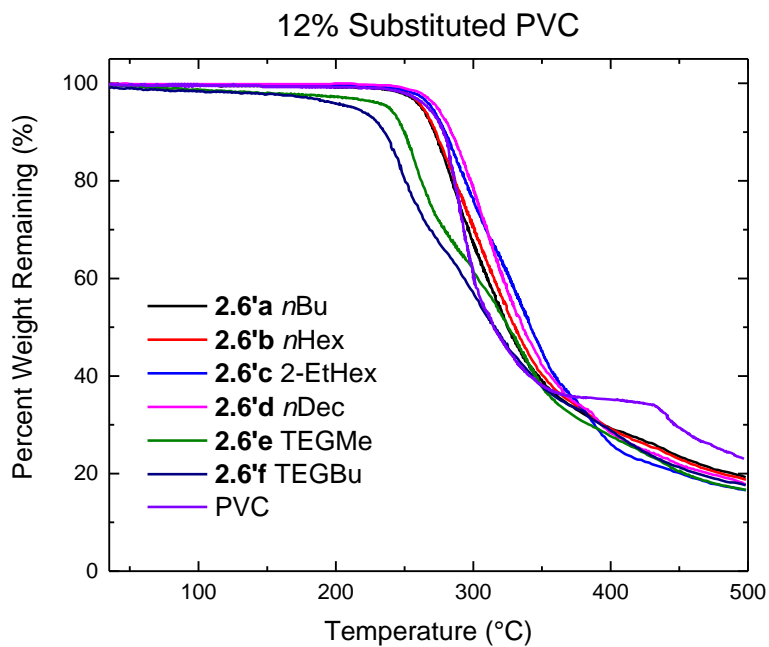


Figure 2.16 TGA data (open to air) illustrating percent weight remaining versus temperature for 12 mol% functionalized and unfunctionalized PVC

greater than 200 °C, and is directly correlated with the alkyl ester chain length (**Table 2.4**). Focusing on the 12 mol % polymers, a successive increase in temperature for 5% weight loss is observed from *n*Bu to *n*Hex to *n*Dec diglutamate functionalized PVC. The temperatures at 5% weight loss are higher for the 12 mol % substituted series compared to the 4 mol % polymers. Compared to pure PVC, the temperatures at 5% weight loss for the alkyl tetraester diglutamate functionalized PVC samples are similar, suggesting that this type of internal plasticizer is relatively stable, even under significant thermal stress. Examining the triethylene glycol ester diglutamate esters (TEGMe and TEGBu), the sample weights decrease at moderate temperatures, starting at approximately 150 °C. The observed temperatures of thermal decomposition for the triethylene glycol esters are consistent with previous reports of thermal degradation for typical poly(ethylene glycol).^{15–17} The slope of the initial decrease is small, followed by a sharper decline. This suggests that the polyethers initially undergo a slow decomposition process under thermal stress before undergoing rapid decomposition at higher temperatures. TGA data measured under nitrogen show higher onset temperatures in comparison with data measured under air; otherwise, no significant differences were observed.

Table 2.4 TGA temperatures at 5% weight loss

| Polymer | T ₅ (°C) ^a | Polymer | T ₅ (°C) ^a |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| PVC | 267 | | |
| 2.6a 4% <i>n</i> Bu | 256 | 2.6'a 12% <i>n</i> Bu | 262 |
| 2.6b 4% <i>n</i> Hex | 240 | 2.6'b 12% <i>n</i> Hex | 263 |
| 2.6c 4% 2EtHex | 243 | 2.6'c 12% 2EtHex | 270 |
| 2.6d 4% <i>n</i> Dec | 254 | 2.6'd 12% <i>n</i> Dec | 274 |
| 2.6e 4% TEGMe | 224 | 2.6'e 12% TEGMe | 239 |
| 2.6f 4% TEGBu | 197 | 2.6'f 12% TEGBu | 214 |

^a T₅ = temperature at 5% weight loss, TGA measured open to air

2.12 Conclusion

Internal plasticization of PVC bearing triazoles with branched glutamic acid linkers displaying four ester groups per triazole has been investigated. A facile 3-step synthesis involving Fischer esterification, DMTMM amide coupling, and thermal 3+2 azide-alkyne cycloaddition was employed. By varying the ester substituents and examining the effects on the glass transition temperatures, longer length substituents correlate with lower T_g values for both alkyl and polyether esters. Polyether esters are more effective at depressing the T_g values compared to alkyl esters. By TGA, the triethylene glycol esters degrade at lower temperatures than the alkyl esters. In summary, non-migratory plasticization was successfully achieved, with impressive T_g values and plasticizing efficiencies greater than 50% for tetra(polyether) esters at 12% substitution of the chlorine atoms on the PVC chain.

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3 Internal Plasticization of Poly(Vinyl Chloride) by Grafting Copolymers of Butyl Acrylate and 2-(2-Ethoxyethoxy)Ethyl Acrylate via Copper-Mediated Atom Transfer Radical Polymerization

3.1 Background

Many methods of chemically attaching plasticizers to PVC require three or more synthetic steps. The key attachments traditionally include sulfide linkages,¹⁻⁶ amine linkages,^{7,8} and triazole linkages.⁹⁻¹⁸ The lowest T_g (-42 °C) by internal plasticization previously achieved required three steps using 84 wt % of an attached plasticizer with a triazole linkage by Chad Higa in the Braslau group.¹⁷ Another strategy involves the formation of copolymers of vinyl chloride with other monomers. For example, Coelho and Braslau¹⁹ made random copolymers of vinyl chloride with an acrylate bearing a triazole phthalate mimic DEHT-HA using free radical polymerization. However, preparation of the monomer DEHT-HA required four synthetic steps. Feng, Moad and Thang²⁰ prepared highly plasticized PVC-*b*-PCL in two steps using reversible addition-fragmentation chain transfer polymerization followed by ring-opening polymerization.

Atom transfer radical polymerization (ATRP),²²⁻²⁴ a reversible-deactivation radical polymerization,²⁵ has been used to grow graft copolymers from defect sites off of PVC chains to achieve internally plasticized PVC in a single reaction.²⁶⁻³⁷ This type of graft copolymerization can be nucleated from defect sites on PVC, including both allylic and tertiary chlorides (**Figure 3.1**).³⁸ As mentioned in **Chapter 1**, estimates of allylic chlorides range from 0.05-0.72/1000 vinyl chloride units,^{39,40} and tertiary chlorides from 0.7-2.1/1000 vinyl chloride units.⁴¹ Although these estimates vary, there is usually at least one defect site in each PVC chain.²⁷ One pathway to the formation of allylic chlorides is head-to-head addition, followed by rearrangement during propagation (**Scheme 3.2**).⁴² Tertiary chlorides in PVC are generated by backbiting through a six member ring hydrogen abstraction transition state (**Scheme 3.3**).^{43,44}

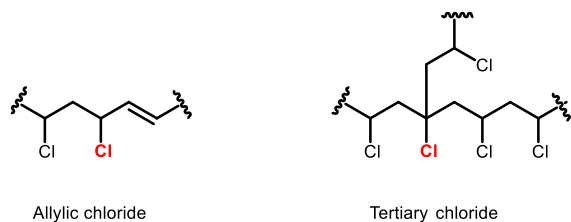
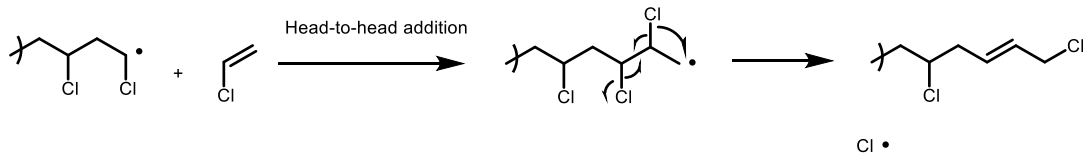
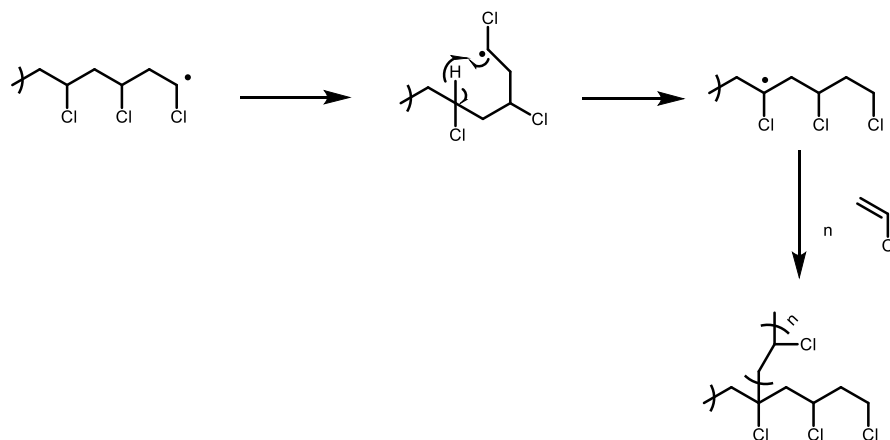


Figure 3.1 Structural Defects in Commercial PVC



Scheme 3.1 Formation of a Terminal Allylic Chloride Caused by Head-to-Head Addition, Followed by Radical Fragmentative Rearrangement



Scheme 3.2 Generation of Tertiary Chloride by Backbiting

Percec and Asgarzadeh²⁷ carried out a systematic study of Cu-catalyzed ATRP directly from defects sites on PVC, achieving functionalized PVC materials in a single step. The lowest T_g value obtained was $-4\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for PVC-*g*-PBA. Multiple researchers have demonstrated good compatibility between PVC and PBA segments in graft copolymers.^{26,27,30}

Polyethers have been utilized as highly effective internal plasticizers for PVC by a number of researchers^{5,6,17,18} including the work of Chad Higa¹⁷ in the Braslau group and my

own work discussed in **Chapter 2** and summarized in **Figure 3.2**.¹⁸ Polyether chains tend to be more effective compared to analogous materials with straight-chain or branched alkyl groups. In **chapter 2**, the T_g value of functionalized PVC **2.6'd** with *n*Dec is 18 °C which is significantly higher than the T_g value of 3 °C for **2.6'e** with TEGMe (**Figure 3.2**). However, PVC-*g*-poly(oxyethylene methacrylate) (POEM) prepared by Hong *et al.*³² using Cu-catalyzed ATRP resulted in a material with two T_g values (-68 °C and 32 °C), indicating micro-phase separation.

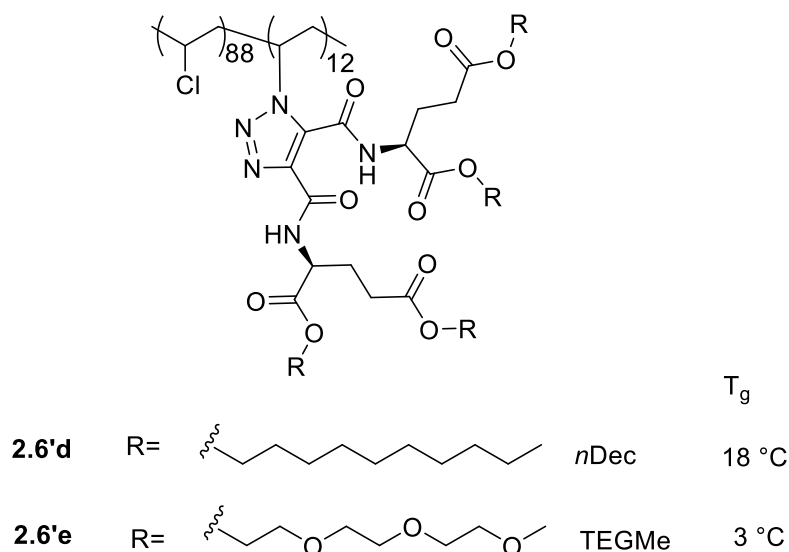
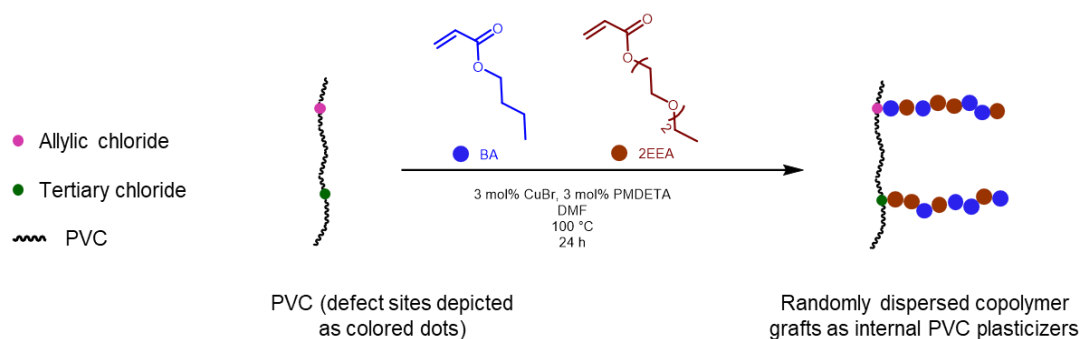


Figure 3.2 Structure and T_g Values of **2.6'd** and **2.6'e**

In this chapter, the compatibility of PBA combined with the plasticization efficiency of polyethers was investigated. Although Cu-ATRP is generally more effective with methacrylates than acrylates, the rigidity imposed on the graft chains by the quaternary carbons bearing the methacrylate methyl group makes polyacrylates better plasticizers than polymethacrylates. Thus, graft polymerization of different ratios of PBA-*co*-P(2-(2-ethoxyethoxy)ethyl acrylate) (PBA-*co*-P2EEA) were investigated to achieve effective plasticizing efficiency while avoiding microphase separation (**Scheme 3.3**). For this work, we collaborated with Dr. Yanika Schneider and Dr. Adrienne Hoeglund at EAG Laboratories. FTIR was measured by Yanika Schneider. DSC, TGA, and GPC were measured by Adrienne Hoeglund.



Scheme 3.3 General Scheme: Preparation of Graft PBA-*co*-P2EEA via ATRP

3.2 Synthesis of PVC-*g*-(PBA-*co*-P2EEA)

Commercially available PVC was purified before use through three cycles of dissolution in THF and precipitation in MeOH. PVC graft copolymers were prepared by ATRP initiated from defect sites using 3 mol% CuBr, 3 mol% PMDETA as the ligand, and DMF as the solvent. The initial reaction mixture was deoxygenated using the freeze-pump-thaw method, followed by heating at 100 °C for 24 h. Five different ratios of *n*-butyl acrylate (BA) and 2-(2-ethoxyethoxy)ethyl acrylate (2EEA) were investigated, ranging from homopolymer grafts of each monomer, to 3 : 1 to 1 : 1 to 1 : 3 ratios, resulting in a series of PVC-*g*-(PBA-*co*-P2EEA) variants (**Table 3.1**).

Table 3.1 Polymerization Conditions and Percent Conversions^a

| Entry | [PVC]/[BA]/[2EEA]/[CuBr]/[PMDETA] ^b | Initial molar ratio of [BA]/[2EEA] | %Conv _{NMR} ^c (2 g scale) | %Conv _{NMR} ^c (14 g scale) |
|-------|--|------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | 1 : 2.5 : 0 : 0.03 : 0.03 | BA only | 81% | 88% |
| 2 | 1 : 1.9 : 0.6 : 0.03 : 0.03 | 3 : 1 | 73% | 88% |
| 3 | 1 : 1.3 : 1.3 : 0.03 : 0.03 | 1 : 1 | 84% | 86% |
| 4 | 1 : 0.6 : 1.9 : 0.03 : 0.03 | 1 : 3 | 80% | 72% |
| 5 | 1 : 0 : 2.5 : 0.03 : 0.03 | 2EEA only | 80% | 80% |
| 6 | 0 : 1.3 : 1.3 : 0.03 : 0.03 ^d | 1 : 1 | 23% ^e | - |

^aAll polymerizations were conducted at 100 °C in DMF for 24 h; ^bRatios were calculated in mol; ^cConversion of total monomers; polymers were not completely soluble in the CDCl₃ NMR solvent; ^dControl without PVC; ^eSample was completely soluble in the CDCl₃ NMR solvent.

These ATRP graft polymerizations were initially conducted using 0.5 g of PVC, yielding around 2 g of the PVC graft copolymers. To test the consistency and reproducibility of this ATRP method, all ratios were scaled up starting with 3.0 g of PVC, yielding approximately 14 g of PVC graft copolymer.

The conversion of total monomers was calculated based on crude ^1H NMR spectra. The NMR of PVC-*g*-(50%PBA-*co*-50%P2EEA) is used as an example to demonstrate how percent conversion of total monomer was calculated (**Figure 3.3**). Proton **a** of BA and **a'** of 2EEA both appear at 5.8 ppm, the integration of which was set to 1. Protons **b** of BA and **b'** of PBA appear at 0.9 ppm and integrate to 9.21. Protons **c** of 2EEA and **c'** of P2EEA were seen at 1.2 ppm integrate to 9.36. The percent conversion was calculated using **Equation 3.1**. Based on NMR, the percent conversion ranges from 72%-87%. As the samples were not completely soluble in the CDCl_3 solvent, it is likely that the percent conversion obtained by NMR is not accurate.

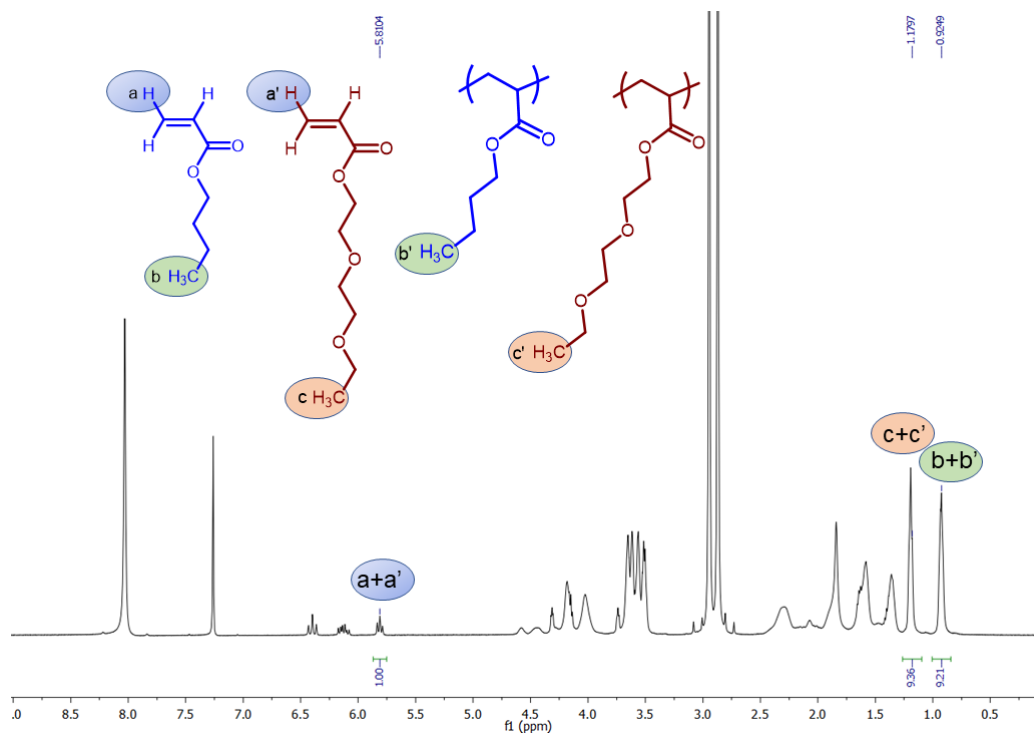


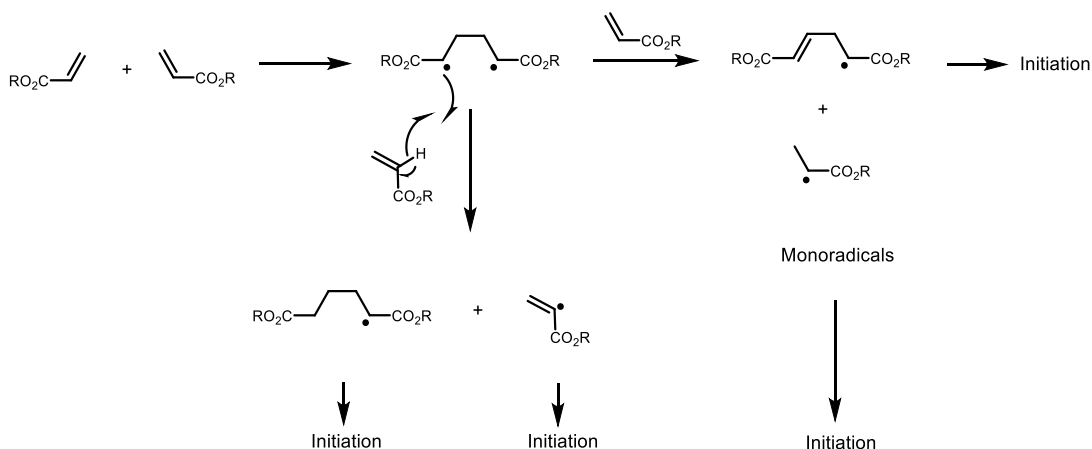
Figure 3.3 Crude NMR of PVC-*g*-(50%PBA-*co*-50%P2EEA) (2 g Scale)

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Conv. \%}_{\text{total monomers}} &= \frac{\text{Intergration}_{\text{all CH}_3} - \text{Intergration}_{\text{CH}_3 \text{ of monomers}}}{\text{Intergration}_{\text{all CH}_3}} \times 100\% \\
&= \frac{(\text{Intergration}_{c+c'} + \text{Intergration}_{b+b'}) - \text{Intergration}_{a+a'} \times 3}{\text{Intergration}_{c+c'} + \text{Intergration}_{b+b'}} \times 100\% \\
&= \frac{9.36 + 9.21 - 1.00 \times 3}{9.36 + 9.21} \times 100\% = 84\%
\end{aligned}$$

Equation 3.1 Calculation of Percent Conversion of Total Monomer of PVC-*g*-(50%PBA-co-50%P2EEA)

3.3 Spontaneous Thermal Homopolymerization of Acrylates

Defect sites (allylic chloride and tertiary chloride) on PVC were assumed at first to be the only initiating species for ATRP. However, a control experiment without PVC resulted in 23% of polymer (**Table 3.1**, Entry 6). This is likely from self-initiation of BA or 2EEA at 100 °C.^{45,46} One mechanism for spontaneous thermal homopolymerization of acrylates was postulated by Soroush (**Scheme 3.4**),^{45,47} in which two monomers form a diradical species upon heating. These radical species then react with monomer in two ways to form monoradical species, which then initiate polymerization. The percent conversion and molecular weight of the polymer varies with the solvent used. The control reaction in the absence of PVC indicates that there is likely some unattached polymer contaminating the PVC-*g*-PBA, PVC-*g*-(PBA-co-P2EEA), and PVC-*g*-P2EEA samples. However, this does not diminish the overall usefulness of this approach towards nonmigratory plasticization of PVC.



Scheme 3.4 Mechanism for Radical Auto-Initiation of Acrylates as Postulated by Soroush⁴⁵

3.4 Characterization of PVC Copolymers

Characterization by Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR), and ^1H Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectroscopies, and Gel Permeation Chromatography (GPC) of the functionalized PVC graft copolymers provided important structural information. All five modified polymers show a distinctive ester carbonyl peak around 1740 cm^{-1} in the FTIR (**Figure 3.4**), confirming the incorporation of acrylates into these modified PVC samples.

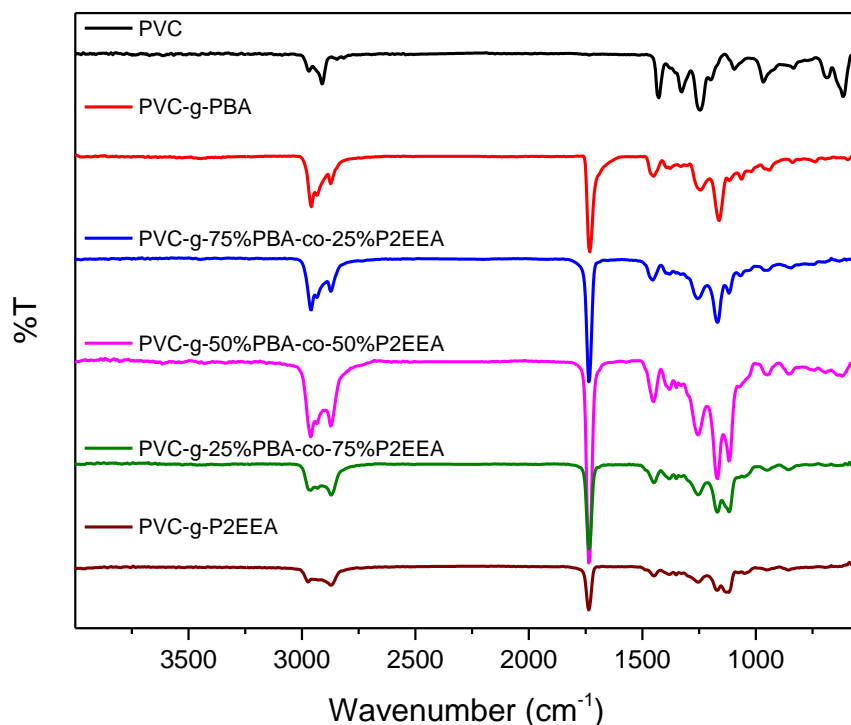


Figure 3.4 FTIR of PVC-*g*-PBA, PVC-*g*-(PBA-*co*-P2EEA), and PVC-*g*-P2EEA Graft Polymers

In the ^1H NMR spectrum (**Figure 3.5**), the CH-Cl methine protons **a** of PVC appear at 4.6-4.2 ppm, the $-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-\text{C}=\text{O}$ methylene protons **c'** of PBA are seen at 4.0 ppm. The $-\text{CH}_3$ methyl protons **f'** are seen at 0.93 ppm. The NMR data clearly demonstrate the presence of PVC and PBA in the graft copolymers.

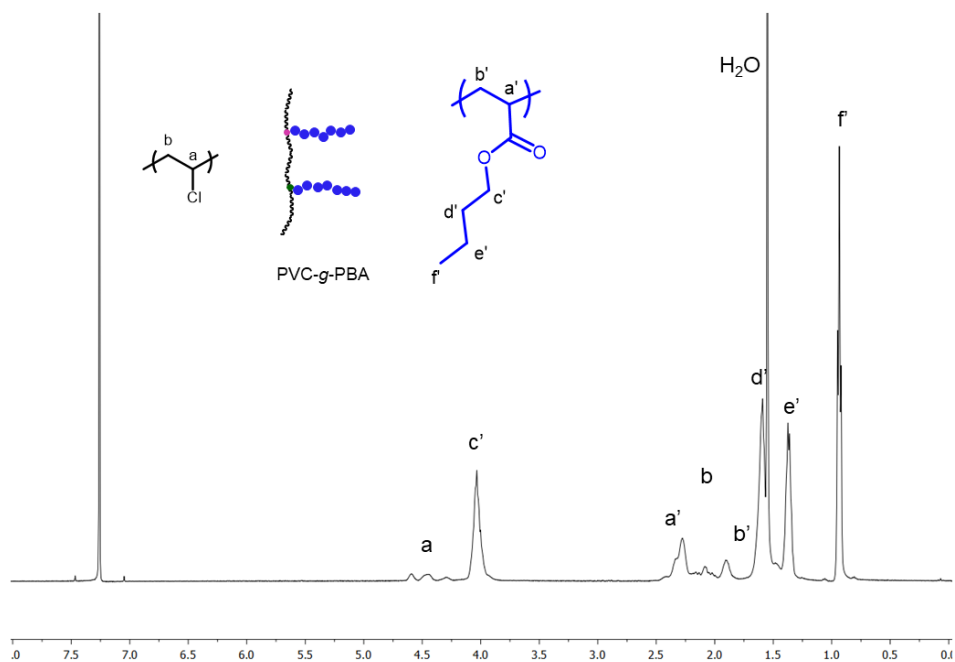


Figure 3.5 ^1H NMR Spectrum of PVC-g-PBA

The ^1H NMR spectrum of PVC-g-P2EEA is shown in **Figure 3.6**. The $-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-\text{C}=\text{O}$ methylene protons of P2EEA have a chemical shift of 4.2 ppm. The $-\text{CH}_3$ methyl protons are

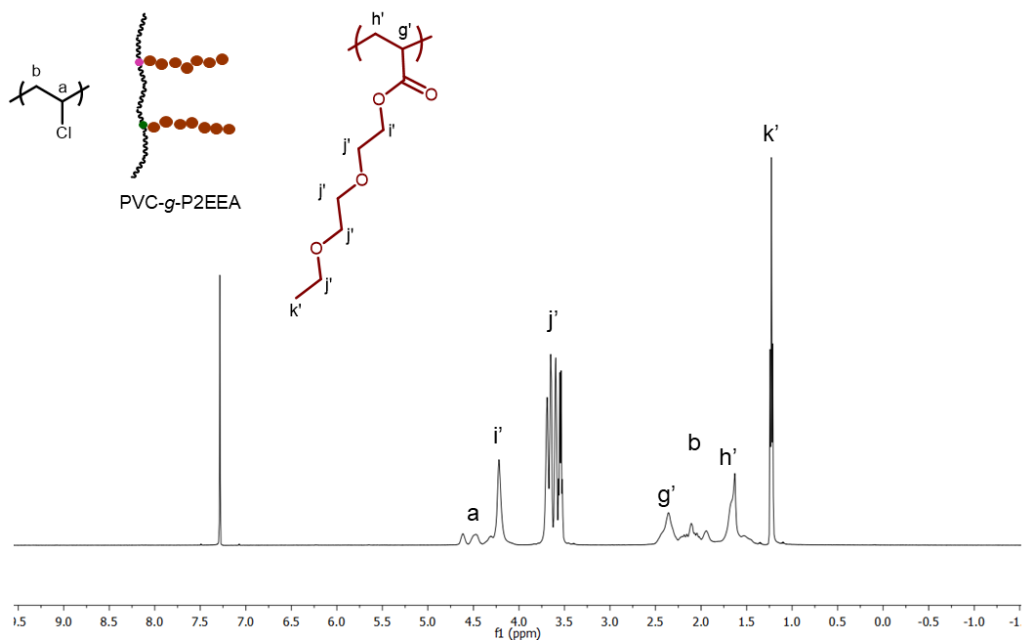


Figure 3.6 ^1H NMR Spectrum of PVC-g-P2EEA

seen at 1.20 ppm. The presence of both PVC and P2EEA in the graft copolymers is clearly supported by this ^1H NMR spectrum. The ^1H NMR spectra of all five polymers (made on a 2 g scale) are shown in **Figure 3.7**.

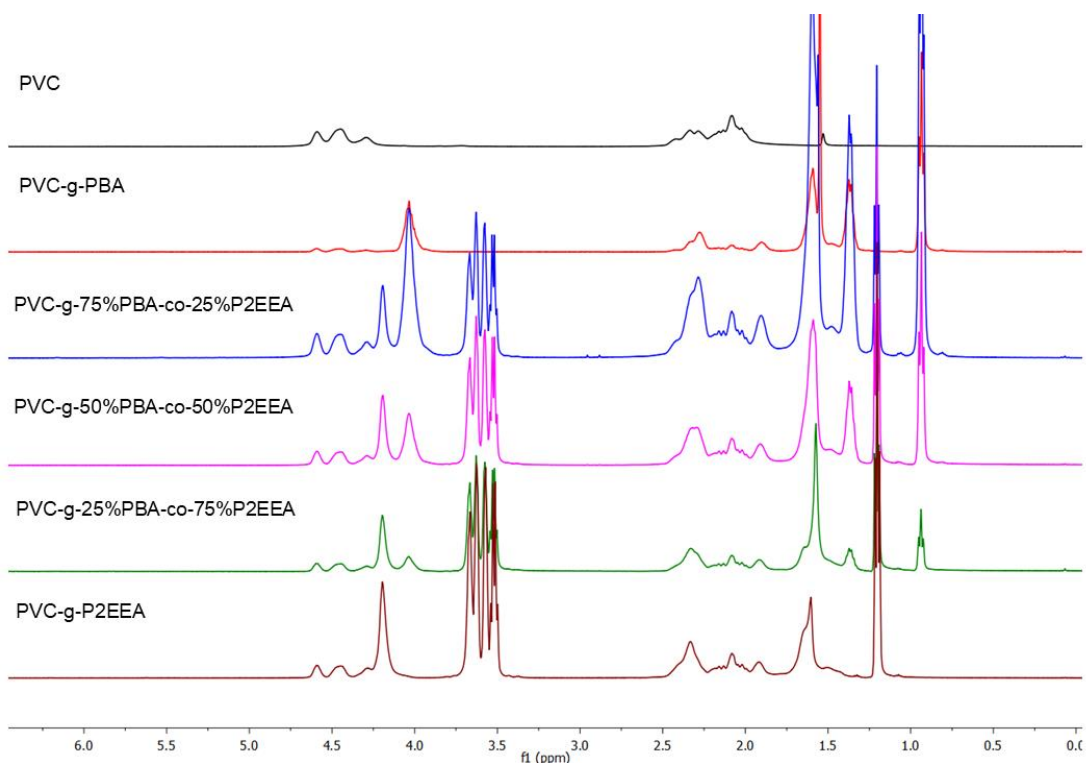


Figure 3.7 ^1H NMR Spectra of PVC-g-PBA, PVC-g-(PBA-co-P2EEA), PVC-g-P2EEA

3.5 Composition and Relative Size of the New Grafts

Information on the composition and relative size of the new grafts as determined by ^1H NMR is summarized in **Table 3.2**. The integration of the CH-Cl methine protons (**Figure 3.8**, proton **a**) of PVC, of the $-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-\text{C}=\text{O}$ methylene protons (**Figure 3.8**, proton **b**) of PBA, and of the $-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-\text{C}=\text{O}$ methylene protons (**Figure 3.8**, proton **b'**) of P2EEA were used to determine the ratio of PVC to total polyacrylate in the functionalized polymers (**Equation 3.2**).

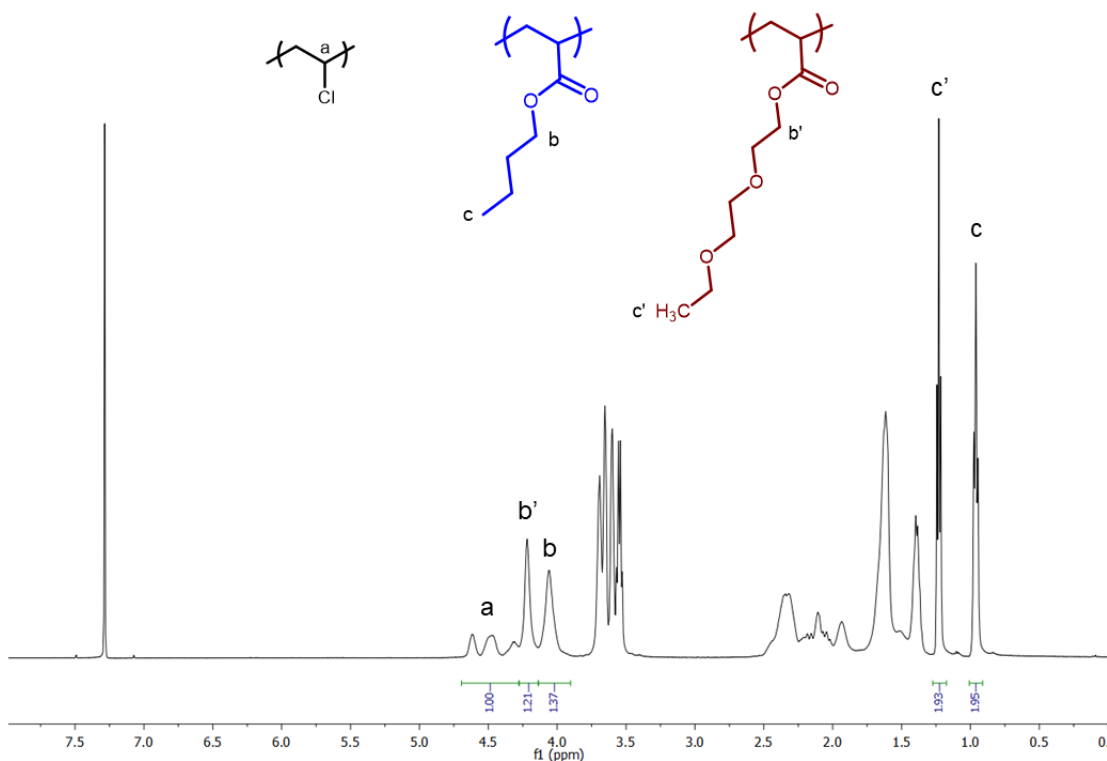


Figure 3.8 ^1H NMR Spectrum of PVC-*g*-(50%PBA-*co*-50%P2EEA) as an Example

PVC : Polyacrylate

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \text{Intergration}_{\text{CH-Cl methine,PVC}} : \frac{\text{Intergration}_{\text{-CH}_2\text{-O-C=O methylene, PBA+P2EEA}}}{2} \\
 &= \text{Intergration}_a : \frac{\text{Intergration}_{b+b'}}{2}
 \end{aligned}$$

Equation 3.2

The ratio of PBA to P2EEA was calculated (**Equation 3.3**) based on the integration of the methyl protons of PBA at 0.9 ppm (**Figure 3.8**, proton **c**) and the methyl protons of P2EEA at 1.2 ppm (**Figure 3.8**, proton **c'**). The ratios of incorporated acrylate monomers were very close to the initial monomer ratios, indicating the two monomers have similar addition rates in ATRP.

$$\begin{aligned}
 PBA : P2EEA &= \text{Integration}_{-CH_3, PBA} : \text{Integration}_{-CH_3, P2EEA} \\
 &= \text{Integration}_c : \text{Integration}_{c'} \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{Equation 3.3}
 \end{aligned}$$

Interestingly, the relative length of the polyacrylate graft (a combination of PBA and polyether) decreases with increasing amounts of 2EEA monomer, from PBA : PVC = 1.6 : 1.0 (for 100% BA) to P2EEA : PVC = 1.0 : 1.0 (for 100% 2EEA). This may be an artifact of the work-up procedure, in which MeOH was used to precipitate the polymer, preferentially dissolving the P2EEA-rich copolymers. The PVC graft copolymer samples were not completely soluble in the CDCl₃ solvent, thus it is likely that the ratios obtained by integration are not accurate.

Table 3.2 Composition of Graft Copolymers based on ¹H NMR Analysis

| Monomer Ratio used BA : 2EEA | Polymer P(BA) : P(2EEA) ^a (2 g and 14 g scale) | Graft (PBA+P2EEA) : PVC ^a (2 g scale) | Graft (PBA+P2EEA) : PVC ^a (14 g scale) |
|------------------------------|---|--|---|
| BA only | PBA only | 1.6 : 1.0 | 1.4 : 1.0 |
| 75% : 25% | 3.0 : 1.0 | 1.4 : 1.0 | 1.3 : 1.0 |
| 50% : 50% | 1.0 : 1.0 | 1.3 : 1.0 | 1.0 : 1.0 |
| 25% : 75% | 1.0 : 2.9 | 1.1 : 1.0 | 1.2 : 1.0 |
| 2EEA only | P2EEA only | 1.0 : 1.0 | 0.8 : 1.0 |

^a By ¹H NMR integration; samples were not completely soluble in the CDCl₃ NMR solvent. The dissolved sample was assumed to represent the same composition as the bulk sample.

The weight percent of total plasticizer was calculated by gravimetry (**Equation 3.4**). There was 73 – 80% plasticizer for all samples (**Table 3.3**). The very similar results on both 2 g and 14 g scales demonstrates the reproducibility and easy scale-up of this simple ATRP modification of PVC. When scaled up to 14 g, the results were even better than the initial 2 g batch, indicating that this one step self-plasticization method can be industrially relevant.

$$\text{Weight percent plasticizer} = \frac{\text{Weight}_{\text{resulting PVC copolymer}} - \text{Weight}_{\text{initial PVC}}}{\text{Weight}_{\text{resulting PVC copolymer}}} \times 100\%$$

Equation 3.4

Table 3.3 Weight Percent Plasticizer

| Samples | Wt% plasticizer (grav.) (2 g scale) | Wt% plasticizer (grav.) (14 g scale) |
|--|--|---|
| PVC- <i>g</i> -PBA | 80% | 80% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -75%PBA- <i>co</i> -25%P2EEA | 75% | 79% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -50%PBA- <i>co</i> -50%P2EEA | 75% | 77% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -25%PBA- <i>co</i> -75%P2EEA | 73% | 78% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -P2EEA | 73% | 78% |

3.6 Glass Transition Temperatures of PVC Graft Copolymers

The glass transition temperatures (T_g) of the internally plasticized PVC samples were probed by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC). The DSC data show only a single T_g value for each sample, indicating no phase separation (**Table 3.4** and **Figure 3.9**). For both 2 g and 14 g scale samples, the T_g decreased with increasing amounts of P2EEA. All functionalized polymers physically displayed great flexibility at room temperature, and exhibited T_g values lower than 0 °C. The lowest T_g value achieved was for PVC-*g*-P2EEA (2 g scale) and PVC-*g*-25%PBA-*co*-75%P2EEA (14 g scale). The PVC-*g*-PBA samples displayed slightly higher T_g values of -30.0 °C (2 g scale) and -25.3 °C (14 g scale). Comparing the samples prepared on the 2 g and 14 g scale, the T_g values are very close, consistently showing a decrease in the T_g value with increasing P2EEA content, attesting to the efficiency of the polyether functionality as a PVC plasticizer.^{5,6,17,18}

Table 3.4 T_g data for Grafted PVC Copolymers

| Samples | T_g (°C) (2 g scale) | T_g (°C) (14 g scale) |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| PVC | 83.6 | - |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -PBA | -30.0 | -25.3 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -75%PBA- <i>co</i> -25%P2EEA | -41.4 | -38.4 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -50%PBA- <i>co</i> -50%P2EEA | -47.9 | -44.7 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -25%PBA- <i>co</i> -75%P2EEA | -48.5 | -49.6 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -P2EEA | -50.3 | -48.9 |

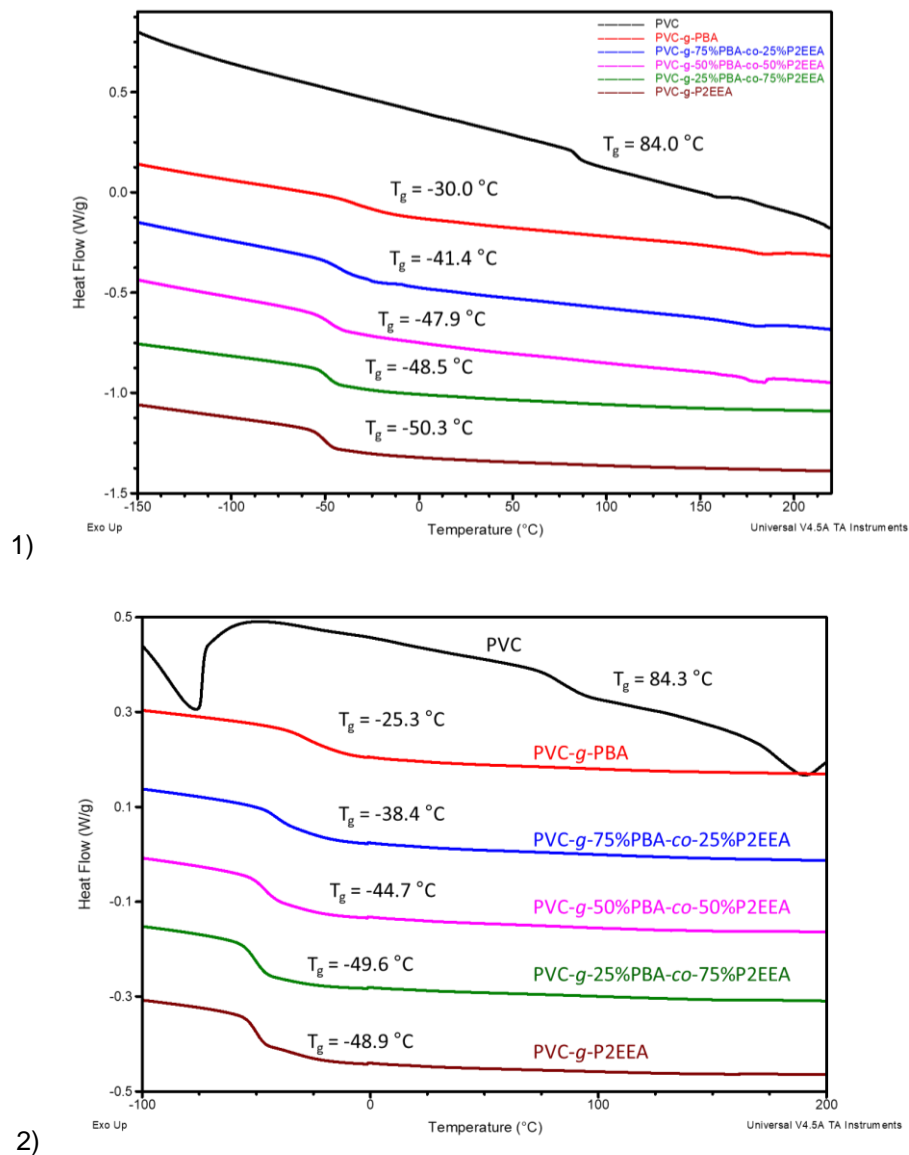
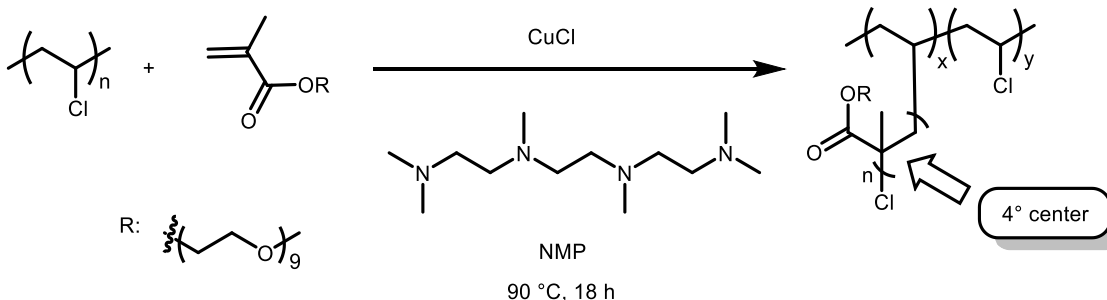


Figure 3.9 DSC (2nd heat cycle) of Grafted PVC Polymers: 1) 2 g Scale and 2) 14 g Scale

There are several conclusions from the T_g data: 1) there is no microphase separation appears in these PVC graft copolymers, as only a single T_g value is observed; 2) T_g values for all PVC graft polymers are lower than $-25\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, indicating great flexibility; 3) T_g values are very similar for both reaction scales, showing that the ATRP process is easy to scale up, which bodes well for industrial applications; 4) the flexibility (T_g value) of the polymer can be tuned by altering the ratio of BA and 2EEA; 5) P2EEA (the polyether chain) is more efficient as a

plasticizer compared to PBA (polyalkyl chain). In particular, comparison of PVC-*g*-25%PBA-*co*-75%P2EEA with PVC-*g*-PBA shows that addition of 25% P2EEA leads to a significant decrease of T_g from $-25\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ to $-38\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. Further increasing the amount of P2EEA successively lowers the T_g values decrease. PVC-*g*-25%PBA-*co*-75%P2EEA and PVC-*g*-P2EEA have very similar T_g values. Considering that monomer 2EEA is more expensive (2EEA: $\$0.20/\text{g}$; BA: $\$0.04/\text{g}$), BA : 2EEA = 3 : 1 yielding PVC-*g*-75%PBA-*co*-25%P2EEA is an attractive ratio when taking both price and plasticizing efficiency into account.

In comparing Hong's³² work, which showed two T_g values for PVC-*g*-POEM (**Scheme 1.32**), there are several differences to this new ATRP work. Both the monomer and the reaction conditions are different. The observed phase separation observed by Hong may be due to the use of a methacrylate monomer (poly(oxyethylene methacrylate)): the methacrylate installs a quaternary center every two carbons of the graft, making a big difference in the flexibility of the pendant graft chains.



Scheme 1.32 Hong's Covalent Attachment of POEM to PVC via ATRP³²

3.7 Plasticization Efficiencies of Polyacrylates Grafts

Plasticization efficiencies were calculated based on **Equation 2.8 - 2.12 (Chapter 2)**. The weight percent plasticizer of the graft copolymers was based on gravimetry (**Table 3.3**). **Equation 2.11** using the conventional phthalate plasticizer DEHP was developed in the thesis of Chad Higa in the Braslau group based on his experimental results.⁴⁸ The plasticization efficiencies for all grafts are higher than 70% (**Table 3.5**). The highest plasticization efficiency

is shown by the P2EEA graft homopolymer (2 g scale). The lowest plasticization efficiency is for the PBA graft homopolymer. The efficiency increases with increasing percentage of P2EEA, which is consistent with the conclusion that the polyether functionality is more efficient than alkyl chains as a PVC plasticizer.^{5,6,17,18} In conclusion, the plasticization efficiencies are very high (71 – 87%). Even though the graft plasticizers are not as good as DEHP in terms of plasticization efficiencies, there is no migration of plasticizers from the PVC matrix using this graft copolymer strategy.

$$E_{\Delta T_g} = \frac{\Delta T_{g,plasticizer}}{\Delta T_{g,DEHP}} \times 100\% \quad \text{Equation 2.8}$$

$$\Delta T_{g,plasticizer} = T_{g,unmodified PVC} - T_{g,modified PVC} \quad \text{Equation 2.9}$$

$$\Delta T_{g,DEHP} = T_{g,unmodified PVC} - T_{g,DEHP} \quad \text{Equation 2.10}$$

$$T_{g,DEHP} = 0.0186x^2 - 3.4124x + 80.898 \quad \text{Equation 2.11}$$

$$x (\%) = \text{weight percent plasticizer} \quad \text{Equation 2.12}$$

Table 3.5 Plasticization Efficiency of Polyacrylates Grafts

| | $\Delta T_{g,plasticizer}$ (2 g) | $\Delta T_{g,DEHP}$ (2 g) | $E_{\Delta T_g}$ (2 g) | $\Delta T_{g,plasticizer}$ (14 g) | $\Delta T_{g,DEHP}$ (14 g) | $E_{\Delta T_g}$ (14 g) |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| PVC- <i>g</i> -PBA | 114 | 156.7 | 73% | 109.6 | 157.4 | 70% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -75%PBA- co-25%P2EEA | 125.4 | 154.0 | 81% | 122.7 | 156.9 | 78% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -50%PBA- co-50%P2EEA | 131.9 | 154.0 | 86% | 129.0 | 155.9 | 83% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -25%PBA- co-75%P2EEA | 132.5 | 152.7 | 87% | 133.9 | 156.4 | 86% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -P2EEA | 134.3 | 152.7 | 88% | 133.2 | 156.4 | 85% |

3.8 Thermal Stability of PVC and Its Copolymers

Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) and Derivative Thermogravimetry (DTG) were measured to examine the thermal stabilities of PVC and these new PVC graft copolymers.

3.8.1 Thermal Stability of PVC

PVC has a two-stage degradation below 500 °C (**Figure 3.10**).⁴⁹ The first stage occurs at ~200 °C due to dehydrochlorination, with the formation of HCl and benzene as major byproducts. The second stage starts at ~360 °C, resulting in the formation of other aromatics.^{50,51}

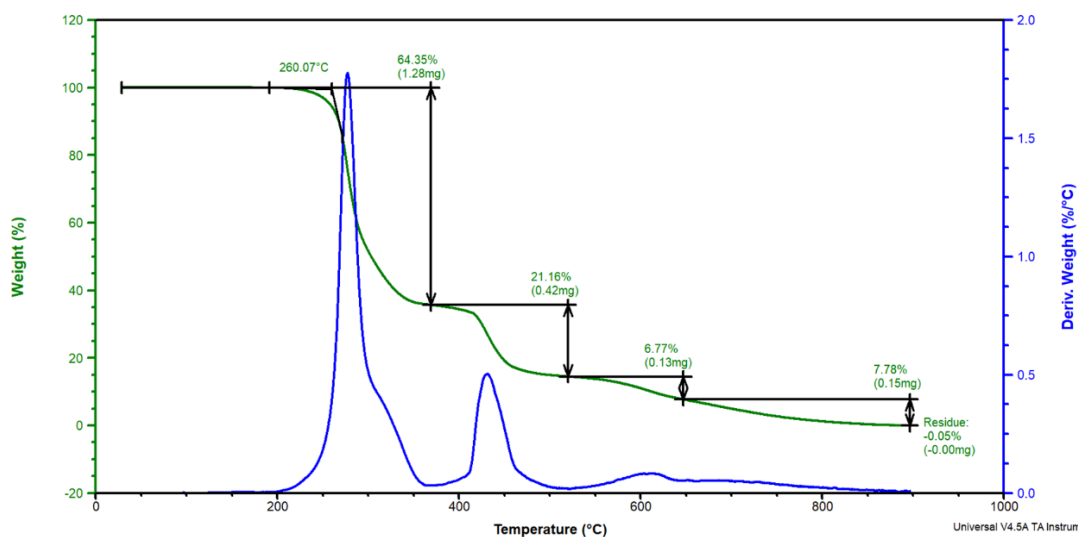


Figure 3.10 TGA (Green) and DTG (Blue) Curves of PVC

The reactive tertiary and allylic chlorine atoms at defect sites are expected to be the most reactive to dehydrochlorination. As mentioned before, allylic chlorides range from 0.05-0.72/1000 vinyl chloride units,^{39,40} and tertiary chlorides from 0.7-2.1/1000 vinyl chloride units.⁴¹ Rate constants for dehydrochlorination of tertiary chlorine, allylic chlorine, and secondary chlorine have been calculated to be 1.75×10^{-3} , 1.17×10^{-3} , and $5.00 \times 10^{-7} \text{ s}^{-1}$, respectively.⁵² The relative rate constants for dehydrochlorination for different types of chlorines are as follows: tertiary chlorine > allylic chlorine >> secondary chlorine. There is a higher amount of tertiary chlorides, which contributes to their function as the most important initiation sites.^{40,51,53} A mathematical model was established by Hjertberg and Sörvik (**Equation 3.5**).^{52,54}

$$V_{HCl} = 0.0105 \times Cl_{tertiary} + 0.0067 \times Cl_{allylic} + 0.0030 \quad \text{Equation 3.5}$$

V_{HCl} : initial rate constant of PVC degradation in % moles per minute

$Cl_{tertiary}$: the concentration of tertiary chlorine in mol per 1000 VC unit

$Cl_{allylic}$: the concentration of allylic chlorine in mol per 1000 VC unit

A four-center mechanism for HCl elimination was postulated by Bacaloglu *et al.* based on a series of small molecule models (**Figure 3.11**).^{52,55,56} Formation of the new alkene further accelerates the speed of subsequent dehydrochlorination. The rate constants of dehydrochlorination for different types of chlorines in PVC are shown in **Table 3.6**.⁵⁷

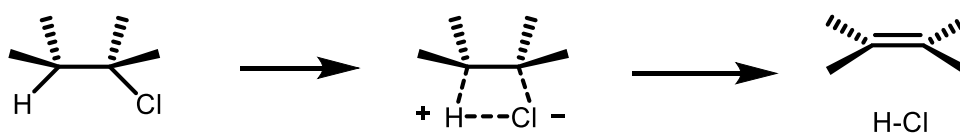


Figure 3.11 Fisch's Four-Center Mechanism of HCl Elimination⁵⁶

Table 3.6. Rate Constants of Dehydrochlorination for Different Types Chlorines in PVC⁵⁷

| Types of chlorines | Rate constant, s ⁻¹ |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ~CHCl-CH ₂ ~ | 7.4 × 10 ⁻⁸ , ^a |
| | 2.1 × 10 ⁻⁷ , ^b |
| ~CH=CH-CHCl-CH ₂ ~ | 4.0 × 10 ⁻⁴ |
| ~CH=CH-CH=CH-CHCl-CH ₂ ~ | 1.1 × 10 ⁻¹ |

^aTurcsányi⁵⁸. ^bTroitskaya⁵⁹

HCl catalyzes the dehydrochlorination of unsaturated PVC; one possible mechanism has been postulated by Wypych⁵⁰ (**Figure 3.12**). Overall, labile chlorines initiate a chain reaction of dehydrochlorination of PVC, leading to thermal degradation.

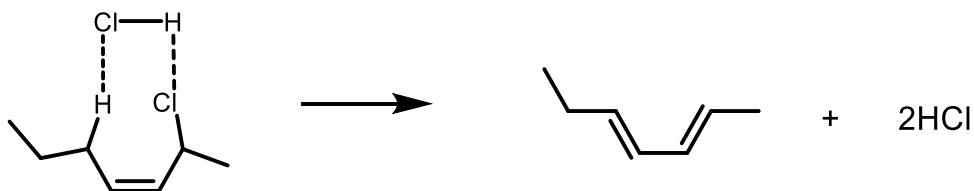
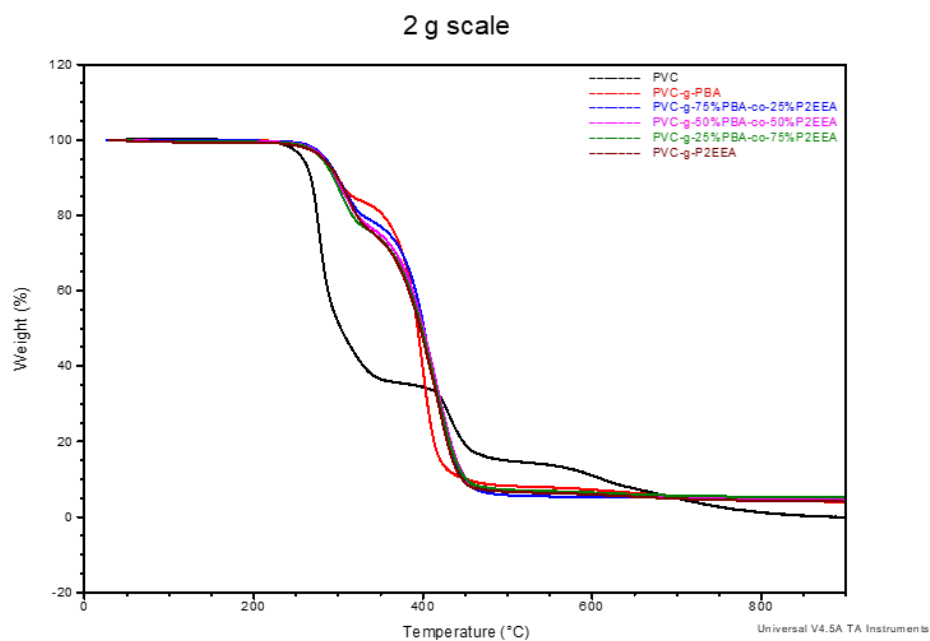


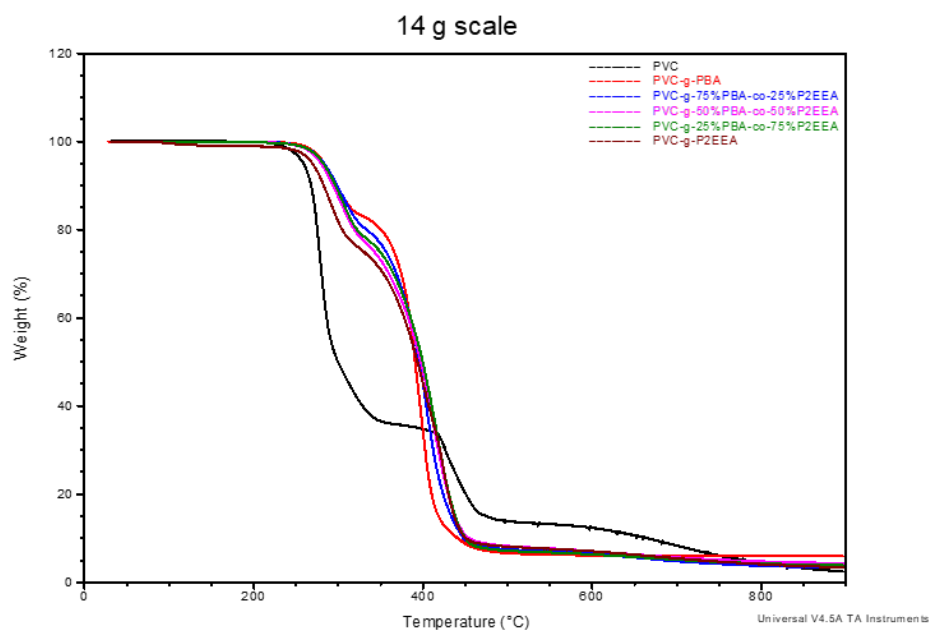
Figure 3.12 Possible Mechanism for HCl Catalyzed Dehydrochlorination⁵⁰

3.8.2 Thermal Stabilities of PVC Graft Copolymers

The TGA and DTG curves of PVC graft copolymers are shown in **Figure 3.13** and **Figure 3.14**, respectively. The data are summarized in **Table 3.7** for 2 g and 14 g scales. The PVC graft copolymers have higher onset temperatures and higher temperatures at 5% weight loss compared to unmodified PVC. The onset temperatures for PVC graft copolymers are ~270 °C, which are about 10 °C higher than unmodified PVC is (~260 °C). The temperatures at 5% weight loss for PVC graft copolymers are ~280 °C, which are 20 °C higher than unmodified PVC. The reason can be explained by the thermal degradation mechanism of PVC. Since the reactive tertiary and allylic chlorine atoms at defect sites are expected to initiate dehydrochlorination, replacement of these chlorines with carbon grafts by ATRP results in enhanced thermal stability. Polyvinyl acrylates such as PBA degrade in a one-stage process starting at ~300 °C,⁶⁰ forming carbon dioxide, alkenes, and butyl alcohol. The grafted PVC copolymers predominantly display two main stages during the decomposition process (**Figure 3.13**). The first stage occurs from ~270 °C to ~320 °C, with a weight loss ranging from 16% to 24%. This is likely caused by dehydrochlorination of PVC. At ~320 °C, the degradation is dominated by the polyacrylate portion. The differences in the TGA curves between the PVC graft copolymers are very small. PVC-g-PBA has a slightly steeper slope for the second stage compared to other copolymers. There is no significant dependence of the TGA and DTG data on the scale of polymerization (**Table 3.7**), which is consistent with the conclusion that the ATRP reaction conditions are easily scalable. In summary, all of the graft polymers were more thermally stable materials compared to unmodified PVC, and the thermal stabilities of these novel internally plasticized materials remain consistent when the polymerizations are scaled up.

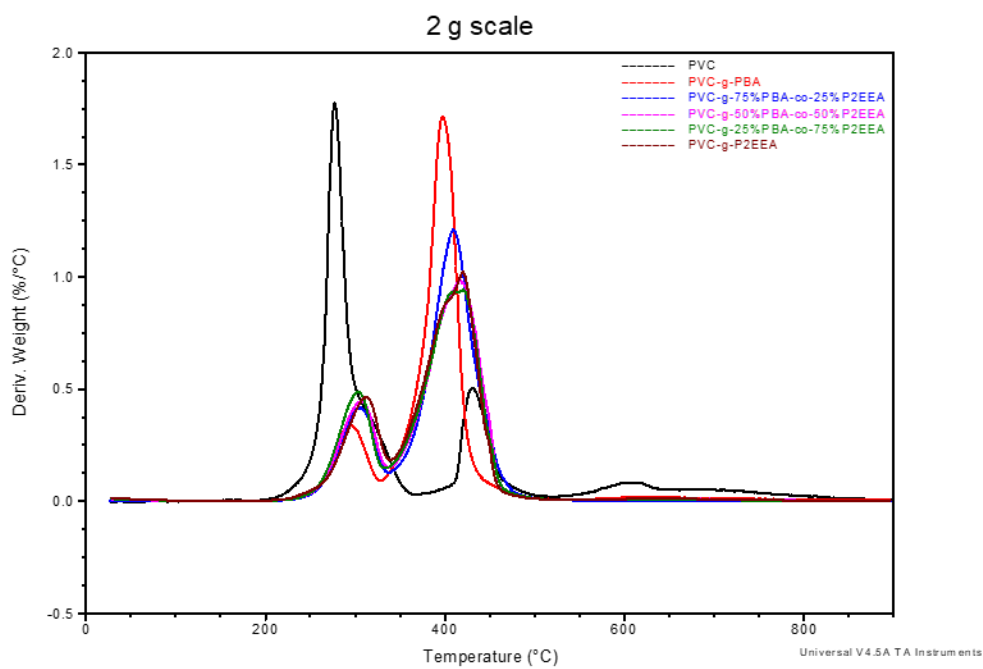


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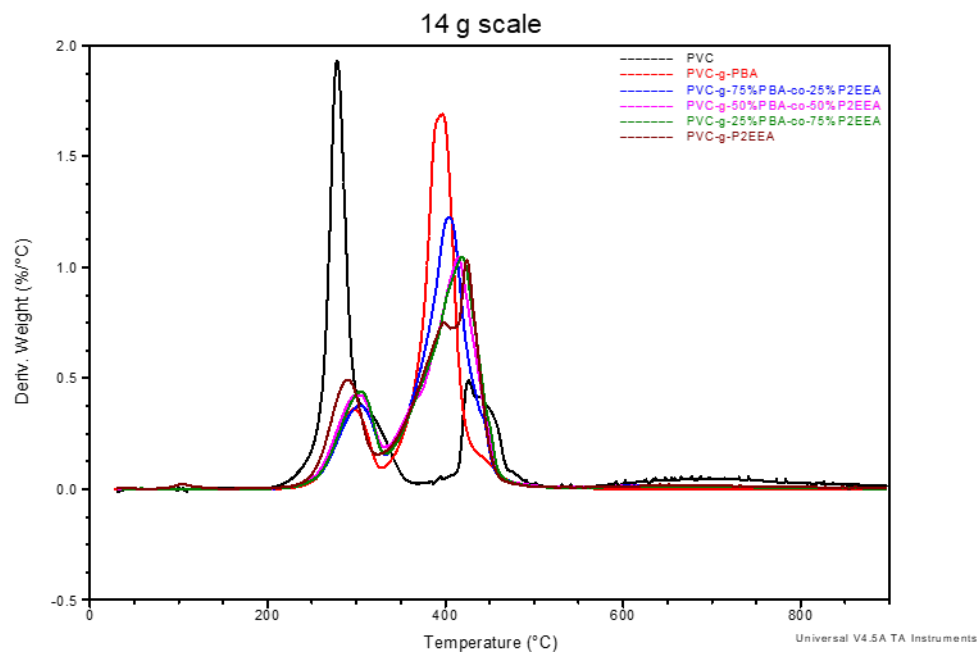


2)

Figure 3.13 TGA Curves of Samples Made on: 1) 2 g Scale and 2) 14 g Scale



1)



2)

Figure 3.14 DTG curves of Samples Made on: 1) 2 g Scale and 2) 14 g Scale

Table 3.7 TGA Data for PVC Graft Copolymers Prepared on the 2 g Scale (Yellow) and 14 g Scale (Blue)

| Compounds | Temp.at 5% weight loss (°C) | Onset temp. (°C) | Residue (%) at 900 °C | Mass loss | | | | T _{d,1} (°C) | T _{d,2} (°C) | T _{d,3} (°C) |
|------------------------------|---|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | | first stage(%) | second stage(%) | third stage(%) | fourth stage(%) | | | |
| PVC | 258.2 | 260.1 | -0.1 | 64.4 | 21.2 | 6.8 | 7.8 | 277.2 | - | 431.1 |
| PVC | 258.7 | 261.4 | 2.5 | 54.5 | 9.7 | 22.3 | 11.0 | 278.2 | - | 426.6 |
| PVC-g-PBA | 282.5 | 269.1 | 4.0 | 16.2 | 75.9 | 4.0 | - | 293.2 | 397.4 | - |
| PVC-g-PBA | 283.4 | 271.0 | 6.0 | 16.9 | 71.8 | 5.3 | - | 297.3 | 397.1 | - |
| PVC-g-75%PBA-co- 25%P2EEA | 285.1 | 273.2 | 5.2 | 21.2 | 73.6 | - | - | 305.3 | 409.4 | - |
| PVC-g-75%PBA-co- 25%P2EEA | 283.3 | 269.4 | 3.4 | 20.0 | 72.8 | 3.8 | - | 303.4 | 404.1 | - |
| PVC-g-50%PBA-co- 50%P2EEA | 283.1 | 273.6 | 4.6 | 23.1 | 72.3 | - | - | 305.9 | 416.1 | - |
| PVC-g-50%PBA-co- 50%P2EEA | 279.6 | 269.6 | 4.4 | 23.0 | 69.3 | 3.4 | - | 303.0 | 414.1 | - |
| PVC-g-25%PBA-co- 75%P2EEA | 280.6 | 273.2 | 5.2 | 23.6 | 71.2 | - | - | 303.6 | 420.4 | - |
| PVC-g-25%PBA-co- 75%P2EEA | 282.3 | 272.7 | 3.9 | 21.9 | 71.4 | 2.9 | - | 304.9 | 418.9 | - |
| PVC-g-P2EEA | 282.9 | 274.3 | 4.1 | 24.3 | 69.4 | - | 2.2 | 312.1 | 420.0 | - |
| PVC-g-P2EEA | 269.4 | 265.0 | 3.5 | 23.2 | 37.2 | 30.8 | 4.4 | 290.1 | 398.8 | 424.4 |

3.9 GPC Results of PVC Graft Copolymers

Gel Permeation Chromatography (GPC) is a type of size exclusion chromatography (SEC) which separates polymers by their effective volume. GPC was used to analyze polymer molecular weight distributions. In GPC, polymer molecules elute from the column based on approximate size. Larger molecules come out first. To determine the unknown polymer molecular weight, a calibration curve is applied using molecular weight standards; linear polystyrene standards were used. M_p (peak molecular weight), M_n (number-average molecular weight, **Equation 3.6**), M_w (weight-average molecular weight, **Equation 3.7**), M_z (Z-average molecular weight, **Equation 3.8**) and PD (polydispersity, **Equation 3.9**) were determined by GPC for all PVC graft copolymers. For synthetic polymers: $M_n < M_w < M_z$.

$$M_n = \frac{\sum N_i M_i}{\sum N_i} \quad \text{Equation 3.6}$$

$$M_w = \frac{\sum N_i M_i^2}{\sum N_i M_i} \quad \text{Equation 3.7}$$

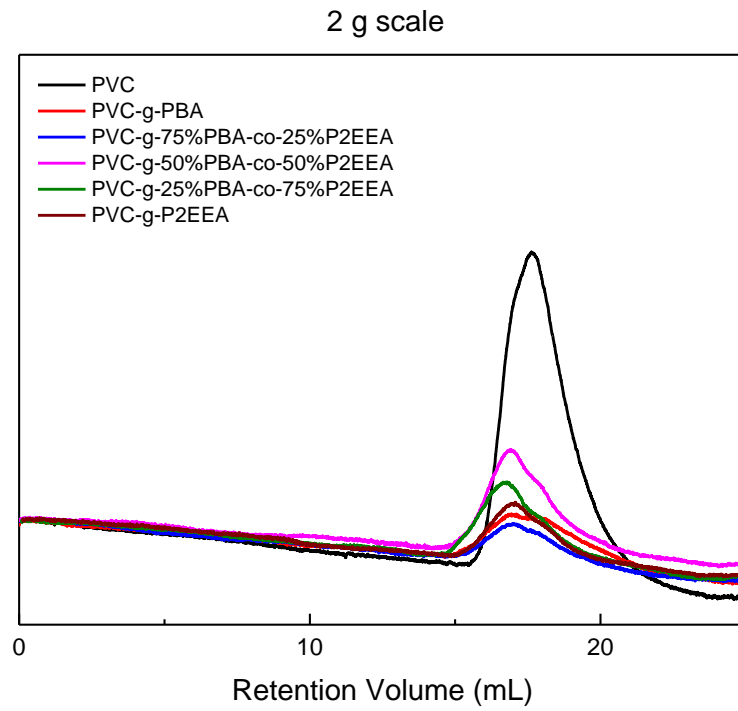
$$M_z = \frac{\sum N_i M_i^3}{\sum N_i M_i} \quad \text{Equation 3.8}$$

M_i : the molecular weight of a chain

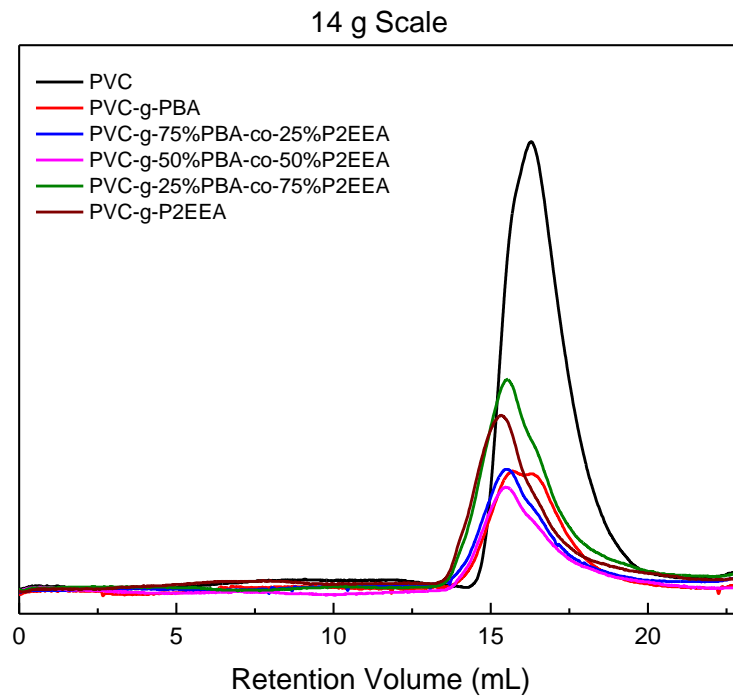
N_i : the number of chains of that molecular weight

$$PD = \frac{M_w}{M_n} \quad \text{Equation 3.9}$$

The GPC traces of the PVC graft copolymers are shown in **Figure 3.15**. Compared to unmodified PVC, the retention times of all of the PVC graft copolymers are slightly decreased, reflecting their higher weights and volumes. The peak sizes of the PVC graft copolymers are significantly less than those of unmodified PVC. This may be due to the poor solubilities of the PVC graft copolymers in THF, indicative of possible crosslinking during the 24 h polymerization. These graft copolymers were also poorly soluble in common solvents including DMF and NMP.



1)



2)

Figure 3.15 GPC Traces of PVC Graft Copolymers: 1) 2 g Scale and 2) 14 g Scale

Interestingly, PVC-*g*-PBA shows a bimodal distribution. Some of these polymers show a shoulder corresponding to unmodified PVC, indicating that some unreacted PVC homopolymer remains.

The values of M_p , M_w , and M_z of the functionalized PVC samples are significantly larger compared to unmodified PVC (**Table 3.8**). The values of M_n for some of the 14 g scale graft copolymers with larger than 50% P2EEA are smaller than the apparent M_n values for unmodified PVC. This is likely due to: 1) the poor solubility of the larger molecular weight, possibly crosslinked polymers, leaving only the smaller members in solution; 2) the inaccuracy of using linear polystyrene as molecular weight standards for these polymer brushes. The graft copolymers are dense, structurally complex species that take up volume in a manner far different from a linear polymer chain.

Table 3.8 GPC of PVC and the Resulting Graft Copolymers on the 2 g Scale (Yellow) and 14 g Scale (Blue)

| Samples | M_p | M_n | M_w | M_z | PD |
|--|---------|--------|---------|---------|-----|
| PVC | 74,292 | 38,818 | 79,916 | 130,585 | 2.1 |
| PVC | 68,869 | 36,411 | 73,053 | 114,440 | 2.0 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -PBA | 127,483 | 39,700 | 113,565 | 284,191 | 2.9 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -PBA | 112,543 | 34,034 | 108,192 | 244,293 | 3.2 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -75%PBA- <i>co</i> -25%P2EEA | 128,227 | 46,457 | 126,394 | 247,734 | 2.7 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -75%PBA- <i>co</i> -25%P2EEA | 137,340 | 44,642 | 140,454 | 286,532 | 3.2 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -50%PBA- <i>co</i> -50%P2EEA | 145,078 | 46,010 | 145,214 | 296,674 | 3.2 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -50%PBA- <i>co</i> -50%P2EEA | 140,688 | 30,775 | 132,957 | 277,584 | 4.3 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -25%PBA- <i>co</i> -75%P2EEA | 173,590 | 47,486 | 187,444 | 419,274 | 3.9 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -25%PBA- <i>co</i> -75%P2EEA | 135,636 | 29,958 | 136,902 | 289,786 | 4.6 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -P2EEA | 140,902 | 49,093 | 148,200 | 300,457 | 3.0 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -P2EEA | 163,642 | 34,337 | 165,613 | 342,201 | 4.8 |

3.10 Concerns with Using Copper

A big concern with using Cu-mediated ATRP is the residual copper in the resulting polymer. For example, on the 14 g scale, approximately 200 mg of CuBr was used. Although the graft co-polymer samples were washed with methanol several times to remove both catalyst

and ligand, some polymers still had a faint green color, indicating residual copper. This contamination limits the applications of these polymers in medical devices and food packaging. Efforts aimed at reducing the amount of copper, for example following Matyjaszewski's work²⁴ with activated ligands, are ongoing in our lab.

3.11 Conclusion

A series of PVC-*g*-(PBA-*co*-P2EEA) polymers were prepared by ATRP in a single step, resulting in materials with T_g values as low as -50 °C. Several conclusions can be drawn from this systematic study. Most importantly, all of these internally plasticized PVC graft copolymers were homogeneous (non-phase separated) materials, as reflected by single T_g temperatures. Grafts made of pendent polyethers are more efficient plasticizers compared to pendant poly(*n*-butyl) esters, although mixtures of the two monomers can be used to tune the T_g value. This is the first time that polyether grafts have been attached to PVC via ATRP to achieve very low T_g values without phase separation. In addition to highly effective internal plasticization, these graft copolymers display enhanced thermal stability, as the ATRP process removes the particularly labile tertiary and allylic chlorine atoms at the defect sites. The graft polymerization was carried out initially on 0.5 g of PVC, forming about 2 g of derivatized PVC. This was easily scaled up to form 14 g of plasticized PVC: the properties of the resulting materials on both scales are very similar. This bodes well for the scalability of this process, which can be envisioned to be applicable on an industrial level. Overall, the internal plasticization of PVC has been successfully demonstrated using operationally simple ATRP to give flexible, homogeneous graft copolymers.

3.12 References

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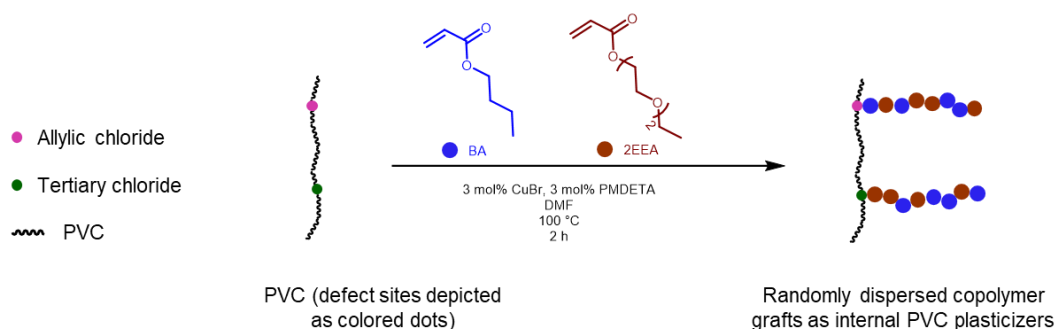
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4 Optimization of Copper-Mediated ATRP for Internal Plasticization

4.1 Background

In **Chapter 3**, internally plasticized PVC graft copolymers were prepared in a single step via Cu-mediated ATRP initiated from defect sites on the PVC. However, a control experiment without PVC revealed 23% conversion, indicating the existence of some non-grafted polymer in the sample. Some of the graft copolymers obtained were not soluble or had poor solubility in common solvents including THF, DMF, and NMP. This low solubility might be caused by crosslinking during polymerization, due to the long reaction duration. Three aims in this chapter are: 1) decrease the competitive self-initiated non-grafted polymerization; 2) develop graft copolymers with high solubility in common solvents; 3) lower the monomer : VC unit ratio needed to achieve flexible polymers, with tunable flexibility that can be tailored to specific applications. Therefore, the ATRP reaction time was shortened from 24 h to 2 h (**Scheme 4.1**) in order to lower competing unattached polymer growth and possible crosslinking. Subsequently, variations in monomer to PVC stoichiometries were explored to optimize the ratios needed for achieving flexible PVC graft copolymers.



Scheme 4.1 General Reaction Scheme for 2 h ATRP

4.2 Preparation of PVC-g-(PBA-co-P2EEA) with a Two Hour Reaction Time

To determine an upper limit on background competitive non-grafted polymerization, control reactions were conducted without PVC for each monomer: *n*-butyl acrylate (BA) and 2-

(2-ethoxyethoxy)ethyl acrylate (2EEA) (**Table 4.1, Entries 1 and 2**). The reaction conditions were the same as in **Chapter 3**: 3 mol% of CuBr was used as catalyst, 3 mol% of PMDETA was used as ligand, and DMF was used as the solvent. The only difference was that the reaction time was shortened to 2 h from 24 h. Percent conversion of monomer was calculated based on ^1H NMR spectra of the reaction crude mixtures (**Figure 4.1** and **Figure 4.2**), using the equation in **Chapter 3 (Equation 3.1)**. The percent conversions for nongrafted homopolymer were 10% for BA and 6% for 2EEA (**Table 4.1**), significantly lower than the 23% obtained when the reaction ran for 24 h.

Table 4.1 Control Experiments without PVC: Polymerization Conditions and Percent Conversion^a

| Entry | [PVC]/[BA]/[2EEA]/[CuBr]/[PMDETA] ^b | Initial molar ratio of [BA]/[2EEA] | %Conv. _{NMR} |
|-------|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 0 : 2.5 : 0 : 0.03 : 0.03 | BA only | 10% |
| 2 | 0 : 0 : 2.5 : 0.03 : 0.03 | 2EEA only | 6% |

^aAll polymerizations were conducted at 100 °C in DMF for 2 h; ^bRatios were calculated in mol.

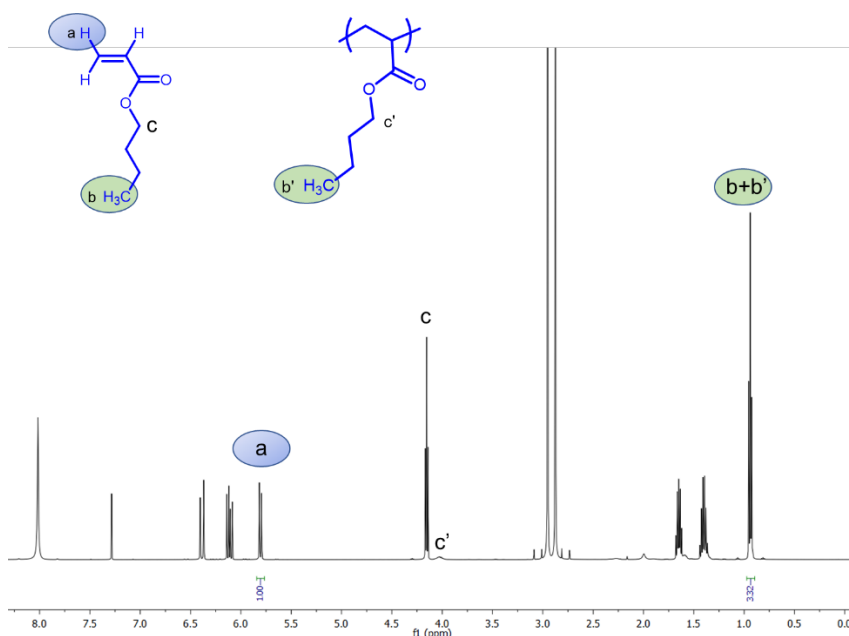


Figure 4.1 Crude ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) of Control Experiment with BA Only for 2 h

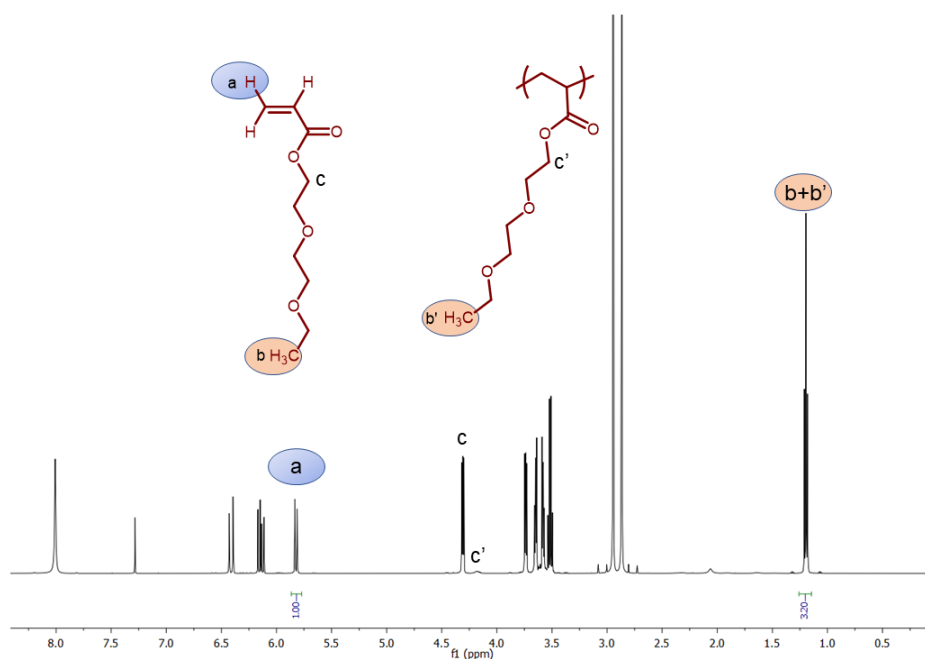


Figure 4.2 Crude ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) of Control Experiment with 2EEA Only for 2 h

Because the percent conversion of self-initiated polymerization¹ was low for both BA and 2EEA using a reaction time of 2 h, a series of graft copolymers were prepared under these same reaction conditions (**Table 4.2**). Five different monomer ratios (BA to 2EEA) were used in analogy to the graft polymerizations described in **Chapter 3**. The percent conversions ranged from 56% to 78% (**Table 4.2, Entry 1 - 5**).

Table 4.2 Graft Polymerizations after 2 Hours: Percent Conversion^a

| Entry | [PVC]/[BA]/[2EEA]/[CuBr]/[PMDTA] ^b | Initial molar ratio of [BA]/[2EEA] | %Conv. _{NMR} ^c |
|-------|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1 : 2.5 : 0 : 0.03 : 0.03 | BA only | 78% |
| 2 | 1 : 1.9 : 0.6 : 0.03 : 0.03 | 3 : 1 | 61% |
| 3 | 1 : 1.3 : 1.3 : 0.03 : 0.03 | 1 : 1 | 60% |
| 4 | 1 : 0.6 : 1.9 : 0.03 : 0.03 | 1 : 3 | 56% |
| 5 | 1 : 0 : 2.5 : 0.03 : 0.03 | 2EEA only | 60% |

^aAll polymerizations were conducted at 100 °C in DMF for 2 h; ^bRatios were calculated in mol; ^cConversion of total monomers; all product polymers were completely soluble in the CDCl_3 NMR solvent

For comparison, the percent conversions for these ATRP grafting reactions conducted for 2 h and 24 h are shown in **Table 4.3**. The percent conversion using only BA after 2 h was 78% (**Table 4.2, Entry 1**): the highest among these 2 hours polymerizations. Surprisingly, the percent conversion for the corresponding 24 h reaction was 81%, which is not significantly different. The percent conversions for all other grafts polymerizations with added 2EEA were around 60%, which are 12 - 24% lower than the same reactions carried out for 24 h. As the samples obtained by 24 h reactions were not completely soluble in the CDCl₃ solvent, it is likely that the percent conversions calculated for the 24 h reactions by ¹H NMR are inaccurate. Overall, the 2 h ATRP graft polymerizations, which is more energy-efficient, were able to achieve high percent conversions, and the graft copolymers have better solubilities than those carried out for 24 h, indicating less crosslinking.

Table 4.3 Comparison of Percent Conversions for 2 h and 24 h Graft Polymerizations

| Sample | %Conv. _{NMR, 2 h} ^a | %Conv. _{NMR, 24 h} ^b |
|--|---|--|
| PVC- <i>g</i> -PBA | 78% | 81% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -75%PBA- <i>co</i> -25%P2EEA | 61% | 73% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -50%PBA- <i>co</i> -50%P2EEA | 60% | 84% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -25%PBA- <i>co</i> -75%P2EEA | 56% | 80% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -P2EEA | 60% | 80% |

^aConversion of total monomers; polymers were completely soluble in the CDCl₃ NMR solvent;

^bConversion of total monomers made with 0.5 g PVC; not all of the sample was soluble in the CDCl₃ NMR solvent

4.3 Composition and Relative Size of the PVC-*g*-(PBA-*co*-P2EEA) Grafts Copolymers Made Using a Two Hour Reaction Time

¹H NMR was used to characterize the PVC grafts prepared under the 2 h duration (**Table 4.4**). The calculation method is the same as shown in Chapter 3. Two main trends were found to be consistent with the results in **Chapter 3**: 1) the PBA : P2EEA ratio in the grafts were very close to the initial BA : 2EEA monomer ratio; and 2) PVC-*g*-PBA gave the highest

polyacrylate graft length (PBA : PVC = 1.4 : 1.0). Other graft copolymers showed about the same polyacrylate lengths. This is consistent with the percent conversions shown in **Table 4.2**.

Table 4.4 Composition of Graft Copolymers Formed after 2 Hours Based on ¹H NMR Integration

| Samples | Initial molar ratio of [BA]/[2EEA] | Polymer PBA/P2EEA | Polymer (PBA + P2EEA)/PVC |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| PVC- <i>g</i> -PBA | BA only | PBA only | 1.4 : 1.0 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -75%PBA- <i>co</i> -25%P2EEA | 3 : 1 | 3.0 : 1.0 | 1.0 : 1.0 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -50%PBA- <i>co</i> -50%P2EEA | 1 : 1 | 1.0 : 1.0 | 0.9 : 1.0 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -25%PBA- <i>co</i> -75%P2EEA | 1 : 3 | 1.0 : 2.8 | 0.9 : 1.0 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -P2EEA | 2EEA only | P2EEA only | 0.9 : 1.0 |

PVC graft copolymers made by ATRP over 2 h had lower weight percent (wt%) grafts compared to polymers made by ATRP running for 24 h (**Table 4.5**), which is consistent with the higher percent conversions seen for these one day reactions (**Table 4.3**). Interestingly, for PVC copolymers with more than 50% P2EEA, the difference in plasticizer weight fraction for 2 and 24 h ATRP reactions (5 – 8%) was not as significant as the difference between percent conversion (20 – 24%). This might be caused by a difference in the selective loss of polyether-rich material during the workup procedure. For the 24 h samples, multiple methanol washes were performed, and the PVC graft copolymers were stirred overnight in methanol. Conversely, 2 h reaction samples were washed in methanol one time and then soaked in a different batch of methanol overnight without stirring. Homopolymer P2EEA is soluble in methanol, so performing multiple washes and stirring contributes to inadvertent enhanced removal of homopolymer P2EEA and P2EEA-rich PVC graft copolymers. A simplified work-up procedure was adopted, as stirring physically breaks the polymer sample into small pieces, making isolation by decantation challenging. Contamination by a small portion of non-grafted

plasticizing polymer in the 2 h samples may contribute in a positive or negative manner to the T_g and other mechanical properties. The polymer samples made over 24 h remained in larger pieces after stirring, possibly because they exhibit a degree of crosslinking.

Table 4.5 Wt% Plasticizer for 2 h and 24 h Polymerizations

| Samples | Wt% Plasticizer _{grav.} 2 h | Wt% plasticizer _{grav.} 24 h |
|--|---|--|
| PVC- <i>g</i> -PBA | 75% | 80% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -75%PBA- <i>co</i> -25%P2EEA | 68% | 75% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -50%PBA- <i>co</i> -50%P2EEA | 68% | 75% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -25%PBA- <i>co</i> -75%P2EEA | 68% | 73% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -P2EEA | 70% | 73% |

4.4 Preparation of PVC Graft Copolymers with Varying Monomer : VC Unit Ratios

All PVC graft copolymers discussed to this point were synthesized with a total acrylate monomer to PVC (VC unit) molar ratio of 2.5 : 1.0, resulting in PVC with a wt% of grafted plasticizer above 68%. These polymers were clearly flexible upon being handled in the lab. To test the effect of lowering the wt% of plasticizer on flexibility, the ratio of monomer to PVC was reduced. The purpose of lowering the ratio of monomer to PVC was three-fold: 1) to explore how little the grafts can be while still attaining plasticity, 2) to examine the flexibility of graft copolymers with different wt% plasticizer, and 3) to compare the plasticization efficiencies of PBA versus P2EEA.

Three BA : VC unit ratios (0.5 : 1.0, 1.0 : 1.0, and 2.5 : 1.0) were used to make a series of PVC-*g*-PBA copolymers (**Table 4.6**). The percent conversion ranged from 59% to 78%, increasing with larger BA to VC unit ratios, reflecting the higher available monomer during the polymerization.

Table 4.6 Polymerization Conversions for Making PVC-*g*-PBA Copolymers as a Function of BA to VC Unit Ratio^a

| Entry | Initial molar ratio BA : VC unit | %Conv. _{NMR} |
|-------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 0.5 : 1.0 | 59% |
| 2 | 1.0 : 1.0 | 67% |
| 3 | 2.5 : 1.0 | 78% |

^aAll polymerizations were conducted at 100 °C in DMF for 2 h with [PVC]/[CuBr]/[PMDETA] = 1/0.03/0.03

Likewise the same three 2EEA : VC unit ratios were investigated for making PVC-*g*-P2EEA copolymers (**Table 4.7**). The percent conversions were lower: 40 – 60%, with the highest for 2EEA : VC unit = 2.5 : 1.0. In all cases, comparing PVC-*g*-PBA and PVC-*g*-P2EEA at the same monomer ratio, the butyl acrylate grafts were 7% - 19% longer. In conclusion, conversions were lower with the polyether monomer for the same monomer : VC unit ratio.

Table 4.7 Polymerization Conversions for Making PVC-*g*-P2EEA Copolymers as a Function of 2EEA to VC Unit Ratio^a

| Entry | Initial molar ratio 2EEA : VC unit | %Conv. _{NMR} |
|-------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 0.5 : 1.0 | 40% |
| 2 | 1.0 : 1.0 | 59% |
| 3 | 2.5 : 1.0 | 60% |

^aAll polymerizations were conducted at 100 °C in DMF for 2 h with [PVC]/[CuBr]/[PMDETA] = 1/0.03/0.03

4.5 Relative Size of the New Grafts for PVC-*g*-PBA Copolymers and PVC-*g*-P2EEA Copolymers

The relative size of the new grafts for PVC-*g*-PBA copolymers (**Table 4.8**) was calculated based on ¹H NMR (**Equation 4.1**). Using PVC-*g*-PBA-0.5 as an example, the integration of PBA -CH₂-O-C=O- (**Figure 4.3**, proton **c**) is 0.52. the integration of PVC -CH-Cl- methylene (proton **a**) is 1. The molar ratio of PBA / PVC was 0.26 (**Equation 4.2**).

$$\text{Molar ratio}_{\frac{PBA}{PVC}}^{NMR} = \frac{\text{Intergration}_{-CH_2-O-C=O \text{ methylene, PBA}}}{2 \times \text{Intergration}_{CH-Cl \text{ methine, PVC}}}$$

Equation 4.1

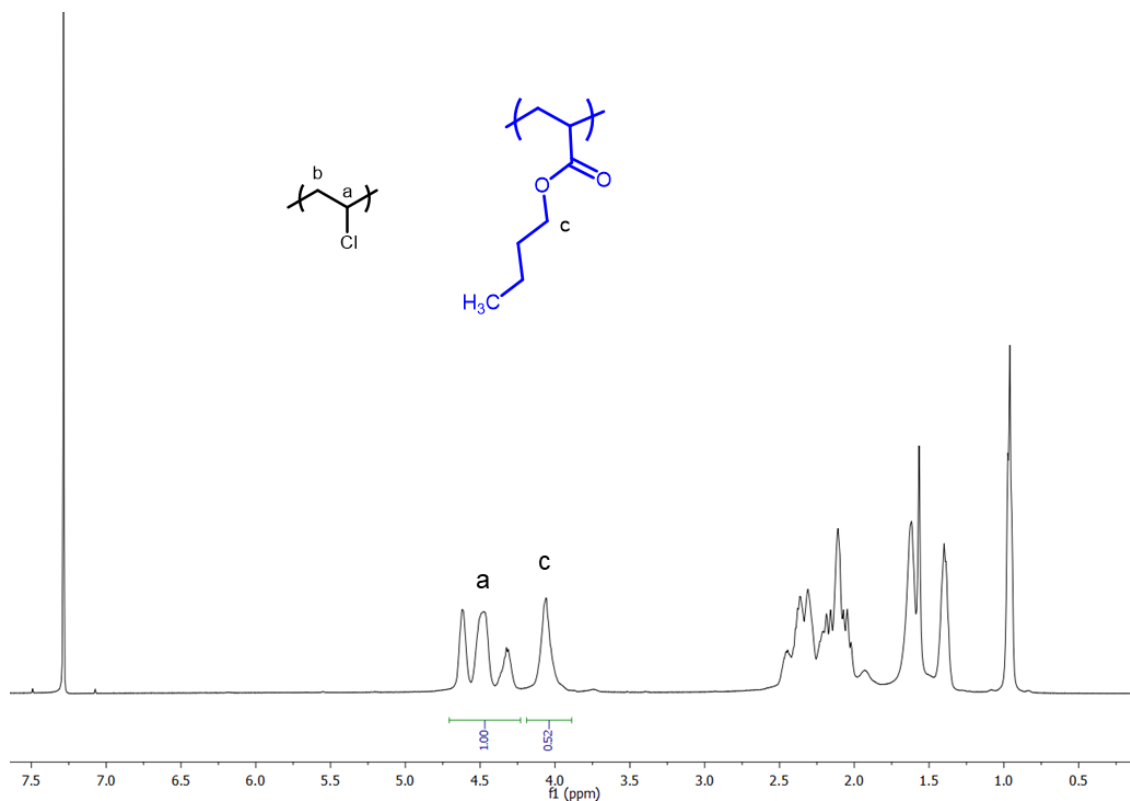


Figure 4.3 ^1H NMR of PVC-g-PBA-0.5

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Molar ratio}_{\frac{PBA}{PVC}}^{NMR} &= \frac{\text{Intergration}_{-CH_2-O-C=O \text{ methylene, PBA}}}{2 \times \text{Intergration}_{CH-Cl \text{ methine, PVC}}} \\ &= \frac{\text{Integration of proton } c}{2 \times \text{Integration of proton } a} = \frac{0.52}{2} = 0.26 \end{aligned}$$

Equation 4.2

For PVC-g-PBA copolymers, the grafted PBA to PVC ratio increased with the increase of BA ratio (**Table 4.8**). As expected, the PBA : PVC ratio increases almost linearly with the initial [BA] : [VC unit] monomer ratios.

Table 4.8 Composition of PVC-g-PBA copolymers

| Sample ^a | Initial molar ratio BA : VC | Polymer molar ratio PBA : PVC |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| PVC-g-PBA-0.5 | 0.5 : 1.0 | 0.3 : 1.0 |
| PVC-g-PBA-1.0 | 1.0 : 1.0 | 0.6 : 1.0 |
| PVC-g-PBA-2.5 | 2.5 : 1.0 | 1.4 : 1.0 |

^a0.5, 1.0 and 2.5 in the sample name indicates the monomer ratio to VC unit

Similarly, for PVC-g-P2EEA copolymers, the molar ratio of P2EEA to PVC was calculated using **Equation 4.3**. The grafted P2EEA to PVC ratio also increased with higher amount of 2EEA monomer (**Table 4.9**). As expected, the P2EEA : PVC ratio increases linearly with the initial monomer [2EEA] : [VC unit] ratios, this trend is reflected in the PVC-g-PBA copolymers. Comparison of PVC-g-PBA and PVC-g-P2EEA copolymers at the same monomer : VC unit ratio, the length of PBA graft is longer than the length of P2EEA graft. This is consistent with the higher percent conversion of PBA discussed in **Section 4.4**.

$$\text{Molar ratio}_{\frac{P2EEA}{PVC-NMR}} = \frac{\text{Integration}_{CH_2-O-C=O \text{ methylene, P2EEA}}}{2 \times \text{Integration}_{CH-Cl \text{ methine, PVC}}}$$

Equation 4.3**Table 4.9** Composition of PVC-g-P2EEA copolymers

| Sample ^a | Initial molar ratio 2EEA : VC unit | Polymer molar ratio P2EEA : PVC |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| PVC-g-P2EEA-0.5 | 0.5 : 1.0 | 0.2 : 1.0 |
| PVC-g-P2EEA-1.0 | 1.0 : 1.0 | 0.4 : 1.0 |
| PVC-g-P2EEA-2.5 | 2.5 : 1.0 | 0.9 : 1.0 |

^a0.5, 1.0 and 2.5 in the sample name indicates the monomer ratio to VC unit

4.6 Wt% Plasticizer for PVC-g-PBA Copolymers and PVC-g-P2EEA Copolymers

Wt% plasticizer was calculated in two ways: gravimetry (**Chapter 3, Equation 3.4**) and ¹H NMR (**Equation 4.4**).

$$Wt\% \text{ plasticizer}_{NMR} = \frac{Weight_{Polyacrylate}}{Weight_{PVC} + Weight_{Polyacrylate}} \times 100\%$$

$$= \frac{Molecular\ weight_{BA} \times molar\ ratio_{\frac{Polyacrylate}{PVC},NMR}}{Molecular\ weight_{VC} + Molecular\ weight_{BA} \times molar\ ratio_{\frac{Polyacrylate}{PVC},NMR}} \times 100\%$$

Equation 4.4

For the ¹H NMR method, using PVC-*g*-PBA-0.5 as an example, the molar ratio of PBA / PVC was 0.26 (**Figure 4.3, Equation 4.2**). The molecular weight of BA is 128.17 g/mol. The wt% plasticizer for PVC-*g*-PBA-0.5 is shown in **Equation 4.5**.

$$Wt\% \text{ plasticizer}_{NMR} = \frac{128.17 \times 0.26}{62.50 + 128.17 \times 0.26} \times 100\% = 34.8\%$$

Equation 4.5

Wt% of plasticizer for PVC-*g*-PBA copolymers are shown in **Table 4.10**. Interestingly, for PVC-*g*-PBA-1.0 and PVC-*g*-PBA-2.5, the wt% plasticizer calculated by ¹H NMR and gravimetry were very close. However, for PVC-*g*-PBA-0.5, the wt% plasticizer calculated by ¹H NMR and gravimetry are not as closely matched.

Table 4.10 Wt% of Plasticizer for PVC-*g*-PBA Copolymers

| Sample ^a | wt% Plasticizer _{grav.} | wt% Plasticizer _{NMR} |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| PVC- <i>g</i> -PBA-0.5 | 27% | 35% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -PBA-1.0 | 50% | 53% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -PBA-2.5 | 74% | 75% |

^a0.5, 1.0 and 2.5 in the sample name indicates the monomer ratio to VC unit

For PVC-*g*-P2EEA copolymers, the difference between the wt% of plasticizer calculated by ¹H NMR and gravimetry decreases with increasing 2EEA ratio (**Table 4.11**). For the PVC-*g*-P2EEA-2.5 sample, the wt% plasticizer calculated by ¹H NMR and gravimetry are almost identical. Surprisingly, the wt% of plasticizer of PVC-*g*-PBA and PVC-*g*-P2EEA are very similar at the same initial monomer ratios in all cases. Overall, with three monomer : VC unit

ratios, one can obtain polymers with plasticizer wt% around 30%, 50%, and 70%. The FTIR spectra for all nine samples discussed in this chapter are as expected are reported in the Experimental Section and included in the Supporting Information.

Table 4.11 Wt% Plasticizer of PVC-*g*-P2EEA Copolymers

| Sample ^a | wt% Plasticizer _{grav.} | wt% Plasticizer _{NMR} |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| PVC- <i>g</i> -P2EEA-0.5 | 24% | 38% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -P2EEA-1.0 | 48% | 55% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -P2EEA-2.5 | 70% | 72% |

^a0.5, 1.0, and 2.5 in the sample name indicates the monomer ratio to VC unit

4.7 Glass Transition Temperatures of PVC Copolymers made with Monomer to VC Unit Molar Ratio of 2.5 to 1.0 Using a Two Hour Reaction Time

The glass transition temperatures (T_g) of PVC graft copolymers were measured using differential scanning calorimetry (DSC). The second heating cycle of PVC copolymers made with monomer to VC unit molar ratio of 2.5 : 1.0 are shown in **Figure 4.4**. Only a single T_g was observed for all graft copolymers, indicating that there is no microphase separation. Compared to the T_g value of PVC ($T_g = 84.3$ °C), the graft copolymers have significantly lower T_g values. The highest T_g value achieved was for PVC-*g*-PBA ($T_g = -25.5$ °C). The lowest T_g value obtained was for PVC-*g*-25%PBA-*co*-75%P2EEA ($T_g = -53.5$ °C). This is consistent with the observation that P2EEA has a higher plasticization efficiency compared to PBA. The slightly lower T_g value of PVC-*g*-25%PBA-*co*-75%P2EEA (wt% plasticizer_{grav.} = 68%) compared to PVC-*g*-P2EEA (wt% plasticizer_{grav.} = 70%) might be an artifact of the workup procedure, which preferentially dissolves and washes away P2EEA-rich copolymers.

Comparing PVC copolymers made with 2 h and 24 h reaction times, the T_g values of PVC copolymers made over 2 h are for the most part slightly higher than those made over 24 h at the same PBA to P2EEA ratio (**Table 4.12**). This is consistent with the wt% plasticizer of 24 h reactions being slightly higher than for the corresponding 2h reactions. The only exception

was for PVC-*g*-25%PBA-*co*-75%P2EEA, for which the 2 h reaction resulted in a lower T_g value than for the 24 h reaction.

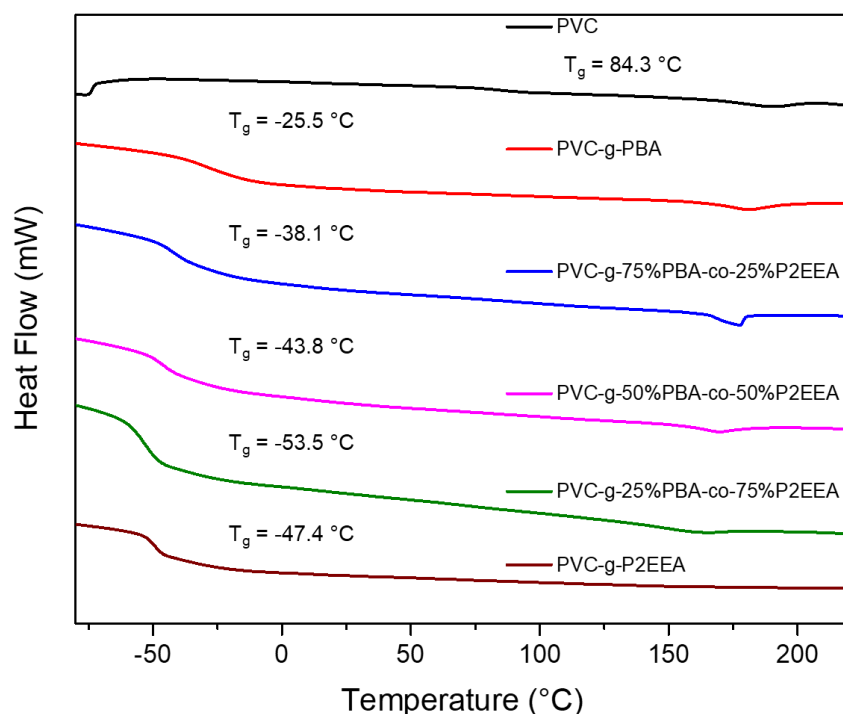


Figure 4.4 DSC (2nd heat cycle) of Grafted PVC Polymers made using 2 h Reaction Time (Monomer : VC Unit Ratio 2.5 to 1.0)

Table 4.12 T_g values of PVC Graft Copolymer made with 2 h and 24 h Reaction Times

| Samples | T_g (°C) 2 h | Wt% Plasticizer _{grav.} 2 h | T_g (°C) 24 h | Wt% ^a Plasticizer _{grav.} 24 h |
|--|-------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| PVC- <i>g</i> -PBA | -25.5 | 75% | -34.5 | 80% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -75%PBA- <i>co</i> -25%P2EEA | -38.1 | 68% | -43.2 | 73% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -50%PBA- <i>co</i> -50%P2EEA | -43.8 | 68% | -47.4 | 73% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -25%PBA- <i>co</i> -75%P2EEA | -53.5 | 68% | -48.2 | 75% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -P2EEA | -47.4 | 70% | -50.0 | 75% |

^aBoth 2 h and 24 h reaction used 500 mg of PVC

4.8 Glass Transition Temperatures of PVC-g-PBA Copolymers

The T_g values of PVC-g-PBA copolymers synthesized with different BA to PVC monomer molar ratios are shown in **Figure 4.5**. The T_g transition was very wide for PVC-g-PBA-0.5, no distinct T_g value was detected in the second heating cycle. Comparison of PVC-g-PBA-1.0 ($T_g = -14.2\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$) and PVC-g-PBA-2.5 ($T_g = -25.5\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$) show that T_g values decrease with increasing length of the graft polymer chain. Single T_g values were observed for PVC-g-PBA-1.0 and PVC-g-PBA-2.5, indicating no microphase separation.

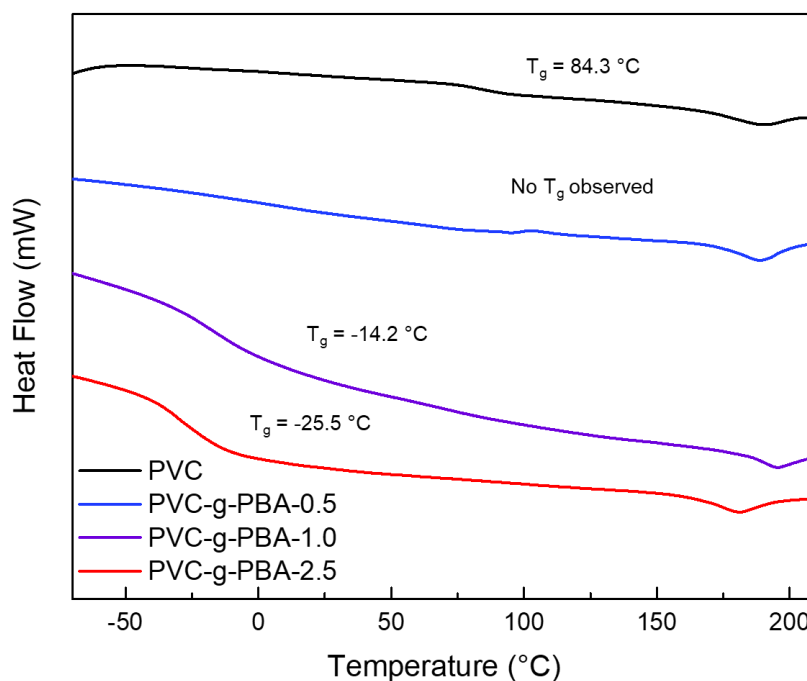


Figure 4.5 DSC (2nd heating cycle) of PVC-g-PBA Graft Copolymers

The purpose of this section is to explore how short the grafts can be while still attaining plasticity and to examine the flexibility, of graft copolymers with different wt% plasticizer (**Table 4.13**). Even though no T_g value was identified for PVC-g-PBA-0.5 with 27% plasticizer by DSC, this polymer sample was *not* flexible at room temperature upon handling the sample. PVC-g-

PBA-1.0 with 50% plasticizer had a T_g value below 0 °C, indicating good flexibility of the copolymer and it did feel flexible. In conclusion, flexible PVC-*g*-PBA material could be achieved with a monomer to VC unit molar ratio of 1.0 : 1.0, which is a much more efficient than the original ratio of 2.5 : 1.0.

Table 4.13 T_g Values of PVC-*g*-PBA Copolymers

| Sample | T_g (°C) | wt% Plasticizer _{grav.} |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| PVC | 84.3 | 0 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -PBA-0.5 | - ^a | 27% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -PBA-1.0 | -14.2 | 50% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -PBA-2.5 | -25.5 | 74% |

^aNo T_g value observed in the second heating cycle

4.9 Glass Transition Temperatures of PVC-*g*-P2EEA Copolymers

The T_g values of PVC-*g*-P2EEA copolymers made with different 2EEA to VC unit molar ratios are shown in **Figure 4.6**. Again, the T_g values decrease with increasingly long grafts. No phase separation was indicated by the single T_g value for each polymer.

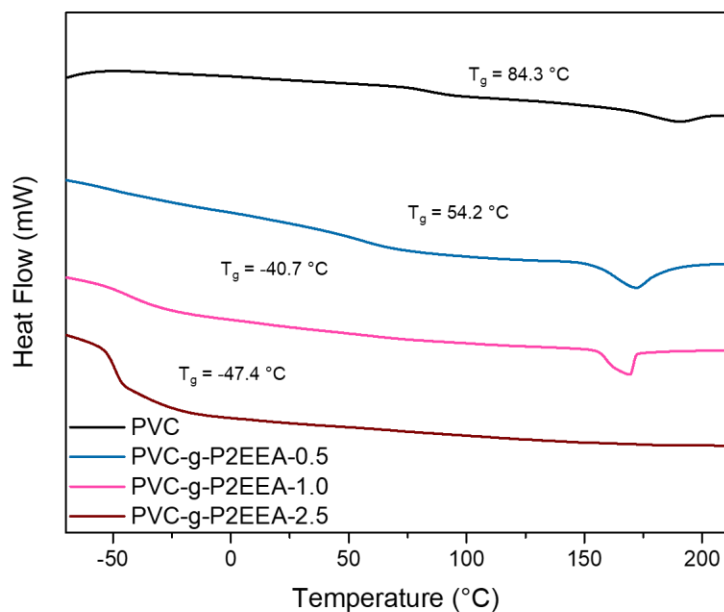


Figure 4.6 DSC (2nd heating cycle) of PVC-*g*-PBA Copolymers

For PVC-*g*-P2EEA graft copolymers, the lowest T_g achieved (-47 °C) was for PVC-*g*-P2EEA-2.5 with 70% plasticizer (**Table 4.14**). For PVC-*g*-P2EEA-0.5 with 24% plasticizer, a T_g value of 54.2 °C was determined, indicating that the material is rigid at room temperature. Surprisingly, for PVC-*g*-P2EEA-1.0, a T_g value of -40.7 °C was achieved with only 48% plasticizer. This illustrates that the most efficient monomer to VC unit molar ratio among these three examples is 1.0 : 1.0, similar to the results for the PVC-*g*-PBA copolymers. Comparison of PBA and P2EEA (**Table 4.13** and **Table 4.14**) at similar wt% plasticizer shows that PVC-*g*-P2EEA graft copolymers have significant lower T_g values than the PVC-*g*-PBA graft copolymers.

Table 4.14 T_g Values of PVC-*g*-PBA Graft Copolymers

| Sample | T_g (°C) | wt% Plasticizer _{grav.} |
|--------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| PVC | 84.3 | 0 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -P2EEA-0.5 | 54.2 | 24% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -P2EEA-1.0 | -40.7 | 48% |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -P2EEA-2.5 | -47.4 | 70% |

4.10 Thermal Stability of PVC Graft Copolymers made with a Monomer : VC Unit Ratio 2.5 to 1.0

Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA, **Figure 4.7**) and Derivative Thermogravimetry (DTG, **Figure 4.8**) of PVC graft copolymers were measured to examine their thermal stabilities. As shown in **Figure 4.7**, PVC and PVC grafted copolymers all have a three-stage degradation. The third stage (4 – 6% weight loss) for PVC grafted copolymers are not obvious compared to the first two stages. TGA data are summarized in **Table 4.15**. The onset temperatures of PVC grafted copolymers are higher than unmodified PVC because unstable defect sites are replaced with carbon grafts.² This is consistent with previous results in **Chapter 3**. Overall, PVC grafted copolymers were more thermally stable compared to unmodified PVC. The thermal stabilities of PBA and P2EEA grafts were similar. In the second degradation stage, the PBA

rich copolymers, PVC-*g*-PBA and PVC-*g*-75%PBA-*co*-25%P2EEA, had a slightly steeper slope compared to other P2EEA rich graft copolymers.

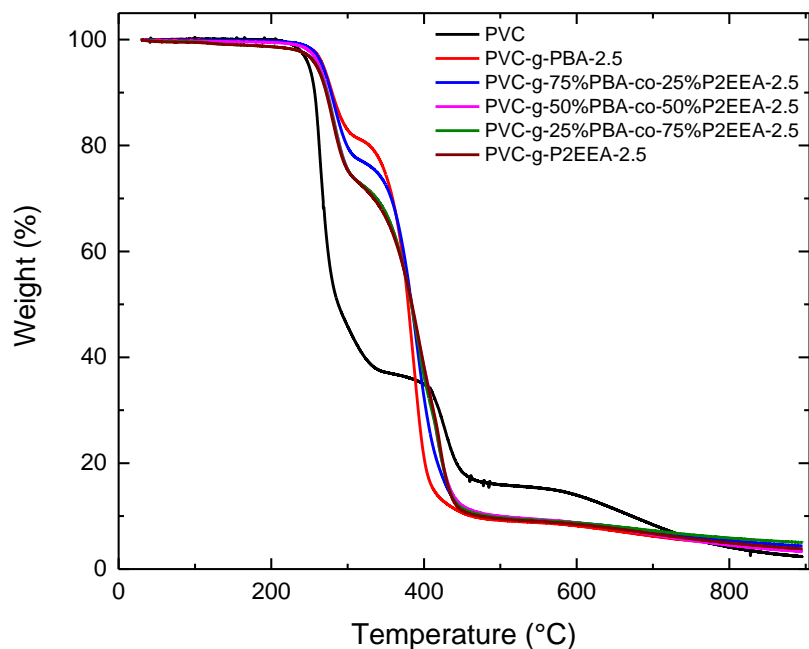


Figure 4.7 TGA Curves of Samples made with 2 h Reaction Time

Table 4.15 TGA Data for PVC Graft Copolymers made with a 2 h Reaction Time^a

| Sample | Onset temp. (°C) | Residue (%) at 900 °C | Mass loss first stage(%) | Mass loss second stage(%) | Mass loss third stage(%) |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| PVC | 253.4 | 2.4 | 63.1 | 21.1 | 13.4 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -PBA | 260.2 | 3.7 | 18.7 | 72.4 | 5.2 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -75%PBA- <i>co</i> -25%P2EEA | 260.0 | 4.4 | 22.9 | 73.6 | 4.8 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -50%PBA- <i>co</i> -50%P2EEA | 258.1 | 3.3 | 27.3 | 63.3 | 6.1 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -25%PBA- <i>co</i> -75%P2EEA | 259.5 | 5.0 | 26.2 | 63.6 | 4.2 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -P2EEA | 257.6 | 3.8 | 26.3 | 63.7 | 5.2 |

^aMonomer : VC unit = 2.5 : 1.0

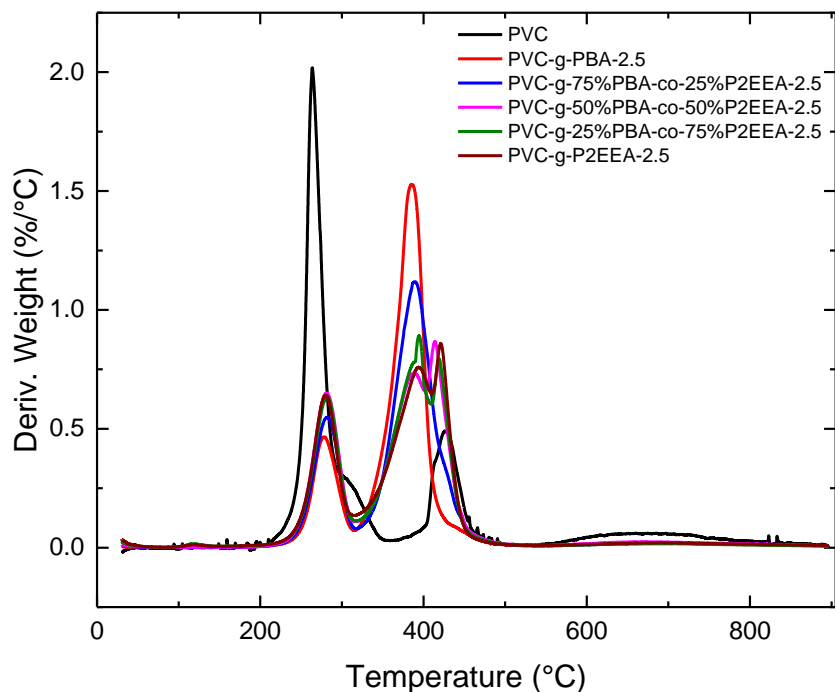


Figure 4.8 DTG Curves of Samples made with 2 h Reaction Time

4.11 Thermal Stabilities of PVC-g-PBA Copolymers and PVC-g-P2EEA Copolymers

PVC-g-PBA copolymers made with different monomer : VC unit ratios have a three-stage degradation (**Figure 4.9** and **Table 4.16**). For PVC-g-PBA copolymers, as shown in **Figure 4.9**, the thermal stabilities increase with increasing amount of BA monomer. Onset temperatures of PVC-g-PBA copolymers also have the same trend (**Table 4.16**). The slightly higher onset temperature for higher wt% PBA might be caused by increased replacement of defect sites with stable carbon grafts.

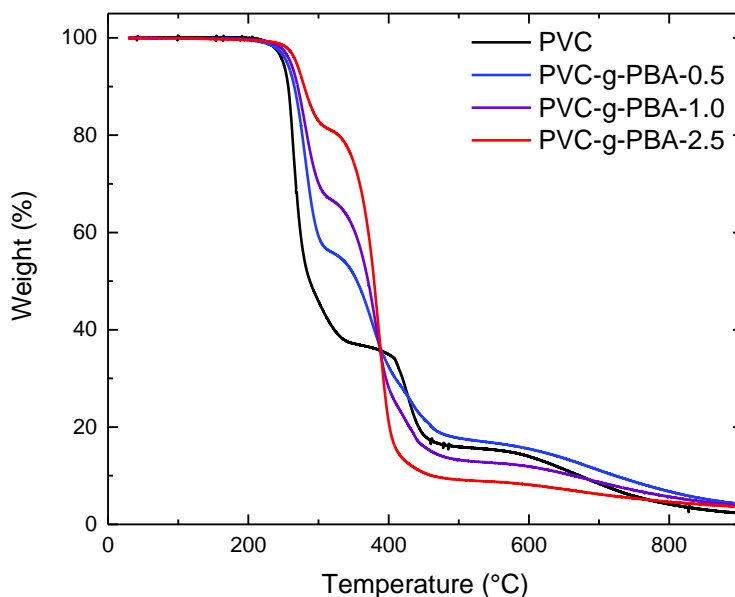


Figure 4.9 TGA Curves of PVC-g-PBA Copolymers

Table 4.16 TGA Data for PVC-g-PBA Copolymers

| Compounds | Onset temp. (°C) | Residue (%) at 900 °C | Mass loss first stage(%) | Mass loss second stage(%) | Mass loss third stage(%) |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| PVC | 253.4 | 2.4 | 63.1 | 21.1 | 13.4 |
| PVC-g-PBA-0.5 | 257.2 | 4.3 | 44.1 | 38.8 | 12.8 |
| PVC-g-PBA-1.0 | 258.7 | 3.9 | 33.3 | 54.0 | 8.8 |
| PVC-g-PBA-2.5 | 260.2 | 3.7 | 18.7 | 72.4 | 5.2 |

For the PVC-g-P2EEA copolymers, both PVC-g-P2EEA-0.5 and PVC-g-P2EEA-2.5 exhibited a three-stage degradation; PVC-g-P2EEA-1.0 exhibited a two-stage degradation (**Figure 4.10** and **Table 4.17**). For PVC-g-P2EEA copolymers, as shown in **Figure 4.10**, the thermal stabilities increase with increasing amount of P2EEA. Onset temperatures of PVC-g-2EEA copolymers are higher than unmodified PVC (**Table 4.17**). PVC-g-P2EEA-1.0 showed a very small amount of weight loss at around 40 °C. The cause of residual solvent is excluded

as no distinguishable solvent peaks was observed in ^1H NMR. In conclusion, the thermal stabilities of PVC-g-2EEA copolymers are higher than unmodified PVC.

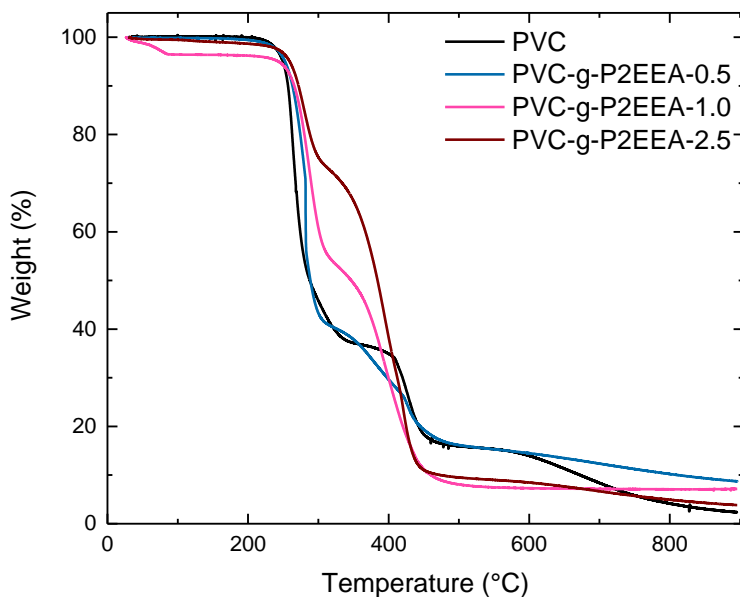


Figure 4.10 TGA Curves of PVC-g-P2EEA Copolymers

Table 4.17 TGA Data for PVC-g-P2EEA Copolymers

| Compounds | Onset temp. (°C) | Residue (%) at 900 °C | Mass loss first stage(%) | Mass loss second stage(%) | Mass loss third stage(%) |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| PVC | 253.4 | 2.4 | 63.1 | 21.1 | 13.4 |
| PVC-g-P2EEA-0.5 | 259.7 | 8.7 | 59.7 | 25.1 | 6.5 |
| PVC-g-P2EEA-0.5 | 264.3 | 7.1 | 43.7 | 45.5 | - |
| PVC-g-P2EEA-2.5 | 257.6 | 3.8 | 26.3 | 63.7 | 5.2 |

4.12 GPC Results of PVC Graft Copolymers

The GPC traces of the PVC graft copolymers (monomer : VC = 2.5 : 1.0) are shown in **Figure 4.11**. Compared to unmodified PVC, the retention times of all of the PVC graft copolymers are shorter, reflecting their higher weights and effective volumes. This data indicates that the grafting polymerization was successful. The GPC peak sizes of the PVC graft

copolymers are similar to those of unmodified PVC, unlike the copolymers made in **Chapter 3**. This supports the absence of significant crosslinking for the 2 h polymerizations. Most of these new polymers have a unimodal distribution. Interestingly, PVC-*g*-PBA shows a trimodal distribution, indicating that some unreacted PVC homopolymer remains. As expected, the values of M_p , M_n , M_w , and M_z of the functionalized PVC samples are significantly larger compared to unmodified PVC (**Table 4.18**).

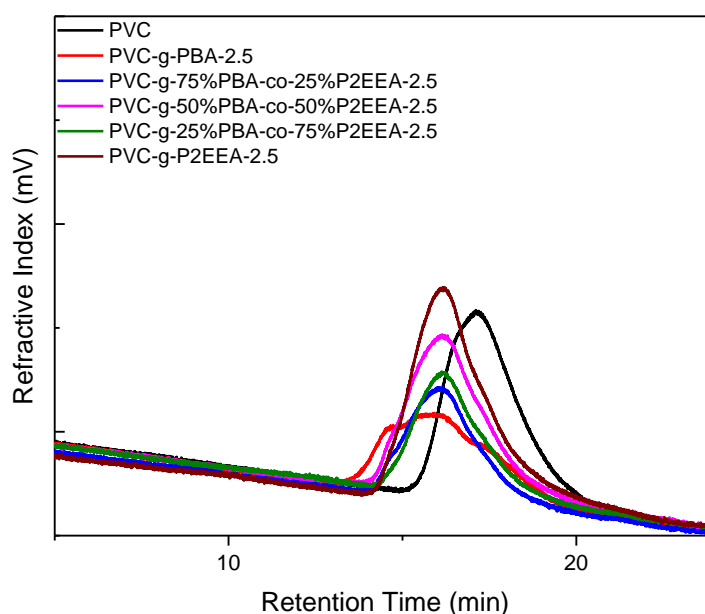


Figure 4.11 GPC Traces of PVC Graft Copolymers (2 h reaction time)

Table 4.18 GPC of Graft Copolymers made with 2 h Reaction^a

| Samples | M_p | M_n | M_w | M_z | PD |
|--|---------|--------|---------|---------|-----|
| PVC | 72,209 | 39,494 | 77,531 | 123,662 | 2.0 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -PBA | 178,143 | 68,853 | 291,758 | 723,500 | 4.2 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -75%PBA- <i>co</i> -25%P2EEA | 172,361 | 88,757 | 213,125 | 381,652 | 2.4 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -50%PBA- <i>co</i> -50%P2EEA | 165,018 | 55,367 | 196,889 | 383,581 | 3.6 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -25%PBA- <i>co</i> -75%P2EEA | 163,883 | 65,257 | 173,870 | 302,799 | 2.7 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -P2EEA | 163,191 | 48,719 | 174,183 | 331,414 | 3.6 |

^aMonomer to VC unit ratio = 2.5 : 1.0

The GPC traces of the PVC-*g*-PBA and PVC-*g*-P2EEA graft copolymers with different monomer to polymer ratios are shown in **Figure 4.12** and **Figure 4.13**, respectively. Compared to unmodified PVC, the retention times of all of the PVC graft copolymers are again shorter, reflecting their higher molecular weights and volumes. For the PBA grafts, bimodal and trimodal

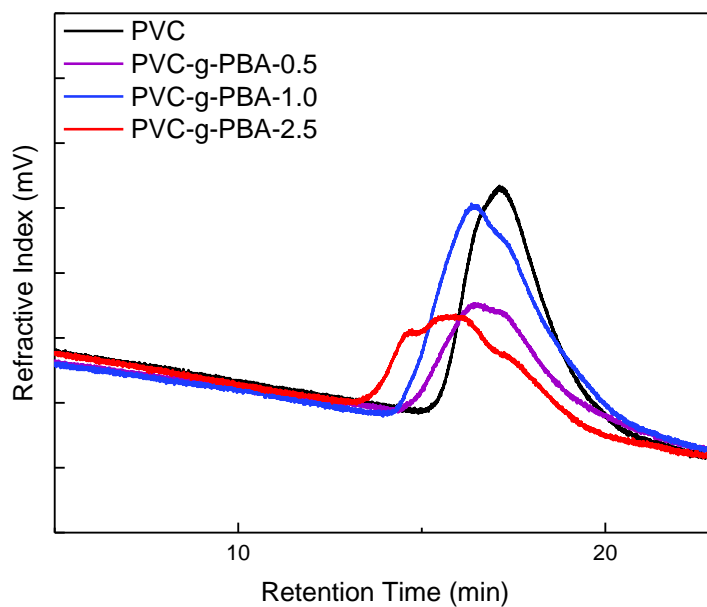


Figure 4.12 GPC Traces of PVC-*g*-PBA Copolymers

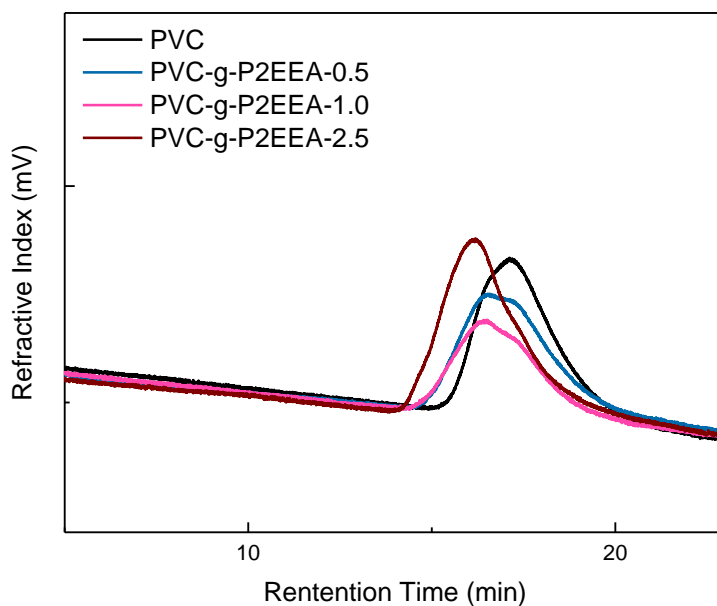


Figure 4.13 GPC Traces of PVC-*g*-PBA Copolymers

distribution are observed, indicating that some unreacted PVC homopolymer remains. For the P2EEA grafts PVC-*g*-P2EEA-0.5 and PVC-*g*-P2EEA-1.0, bimodal distributions are observed, implying that these polymer samples contain some unmodified PVC. For PVC-*g*-P2EEA-2.5, a unimodal distribution is observed, indicating little if any unreacted PVC remains. The values of M_p , M_w , and M_z of the functionalized PVC samples are significantly larger compared to unmodified PVC (**Table 4.19**). Furthermore, the polydispersity (PD) of the grafted polymers is observed to be significantly larger than that of unmodified PVC. This is consistent with the expectation that each PVC molecule may have a different number of defect sites for initiation of ATRP. Because there could be a large distribution of defect site density on the PVC chains, some PVC may have significantly more grafts than others, leading to a large variation in molecular weights and therefore polydispersity.

Table 4.19 GPC of PVC-*g*-PBA Copolymers and PVC-*g*-P2EEA Copolymers

| Samples | M_p | M_n | M_w | M_z | PD |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-----|
| PVC | 72,209 | 39,494 | 77,531 | 123,662 | 2.0 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -PBA-0.5 | 118,435 | 28,197 | 109,128 | 231,422 | 3.9 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -PBA-1.0 | 129,037 | 20,909 | 121,602 | 274,063 | 5.8 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -PBA-2.5 | 178,143 | 68,853 | 291,758 | 723,500 | 4.2 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -P2EEA-0.5 | 113,112 | 20,709 | 100,167 | 206,475 | 4.8 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -P2EEA-1.0 | 127,333 | 34,117 | 122,968 | 240,034 | 3.6 |
| PVC- <i>g</i> -P2EEA-2.5 | 163,191 | 48,719 | 174,183 | 331,414 | 3.6 |

4.13 Conclusion

In this chapter, nine different internally plasticized PVC graft copolymers were prepared by ATRP with 2 h reaction times. Different wt% plasticizer (24% - 75%) with a very wide range of T_g values (-54 °C to +54 °C) were achieved. The most flexible graft copolymer is PVC-*g*-25%PBA-*co*-75%P2EEA made with a molar ratio of acrylate monomer : VC unit = 2.5 : 1.0. The least flexible copolymers are PVC-*g*-PBA-0.5 and PVC-*g*-P2EEA-0.5. Graft copolymers with 50 wt% plasticizer or more have T_g values below 0 °C, indicating that effective ratios of acrylate monomer : VC unit are 1.0 : 1.0 or higher. The lower T_g values of polyether

compared to PBA graft copolymers further confirm the higher plasticization efficiency of the polyether compared to alkyl ester grafts. Observation of a single T_g value for all graft copolymers except the PVC-g-PBA-0.5 (which showed no distinct T_g) indicates complete miscibility of both PBA and P2EEA grafts with PVC. GPC reveals larger effective volumes for these graft polymers compared to the unmodified PVC. These PVC graft copolymers are more thermally stable compared to unmodified PVC, with thermal stability increasing with increasing amounts of wt% plasticizer.

4.14 Future Work

The work in this chapter shows very exciting results, in that a wide variation in flexible PVC samples can be prepared using ATRP graft polymerization, varying from materials that are rigid at room temperature to those with T_g values significantly below 0°C. Because the grafts initiate from defect sites on PVC, the resulting polymers exhibit improved thermal stabilities compared to PVC. Thus, PVC flexibility and thermal stability can be simultaneously achieved with internal plasticization, while avoiding plasticizer loss over time. There are a couple of drawbacks: 1) the freeze-pump-thaw method used to remove oxygen prior to the ATRP polymerization would be challenging on scale-up; 2) residual copper remains in the flexible PVC. **Table 4.20** lists some challenges to be addressed in the future. Most of these focus on making the internal plasticization process even more industrially relevant, and making the chemistry more environmentally friendly. The use of internally plasticized PVC might even allow PVC products to be recycled in the future.

Table 4.20 Possible Future Directions

| | Future Work | Note/Reason |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Apply activators regenerated by electron transfer (ARGET) ATRP | Lower residual catalyst to below the ppm level |
| 2 | Screen environmentally friendly catalysts (ex. Fe based catalysts) | Develop greener process |
| 3 | Screen environmentally friendly solvents | Develop greener process |
| 4 | Screen more efficient ligands | Decrease the amount of non-graft homopolymer |
| 5 | Lower reaction temperatures | Decrease the amount of non-graft Homopolymer, greener process |
| 6 | Utilize PVC without pre-treatment | Simplify potential industrial applications |

4.15 Closing Remarks

Internal plasticization was accomplished by several approaches, starting with using thermal azide-alkyne cycloaddition to append branched plasticizers to the PVC chain. T_g values below room temperature were achieved in four synthetic steps from commercial PVC. Glutamic acid was used as a branched linker for plasticization moieties, which resulted in tetraester functionalized PVC. Although a highly branched internal plasticizer was developed, the lowest T_g value achieved using this method was only -1°C with short PEG functionalized tetraesters. Furthermore, thermal instability was observed in the materials, presumably associated with the key triazole attached to the PVC chain.

ATRP polymerization was then successfully used to make PVC graft copolymers in one step from PVC. No vigorous conditions or hazardous azide precursors are needed for this method, making it amenable to industrial scale-up. A systematic study of polyether ester vs *n*-butyl ester functionalities was performed, confirming that polyethers exhibit higher plasticization efficiency. By creating a series of polymers with different plasticizer to PVC ratios, graft copolymers with a wide range of T_g values can be obtained. It appears that a 1.0 : 1.0 ratio of

acrylate graft monomers to vinyl chloride monomers is a good compromise between plasticizing efficiency and the cost and amount of added acrylate monomer contributing to graft length. These polymers are more thermally stable than PVC because the grafted segments were initiated from PVC defects, which play a role in the early stages of thermal degradation of PVC. Internally plasticized PVC materials are much better than materials using external plasticizers, as small molecules plasticizers can migrate out of the PVC matrix, resulting in deterioration of the properties of the PVC material over time, with concomitant environmental contamination, and health issues upon human exposure. Thus, these internally plasticized PVC materials are better than currently used externally plasticized PVC composites in terms of impacts on human health, product longevity, and caring for our environment.

4.16 References

- (1) Srinivasan, S.; Kalfas, G.; Petkovska, V. I.; Bruni, C.; Grady, M. C.; Soroush, M. Experimental Study of the Spontaneous Thermal Homopolymerization of Methyl and N-Butyl Acrylate. *J. Appl. Polym. Sci.* **2010**, *118* (4), 1898–1909. <https://doi.org/10.1002/app.32313>.
- (2) Wypych, G. 4 - Principles of Thermal Degradation. In *PVC Degradation and Stabilization (Third Edition)*; Wypych, G., Ed.; ChemTec Publishing: Boston, 2015; pp 79–165. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-1-895198-85-0.50006-6>.

5 Experimental Section

5.1 Experimental Section for Chapter 2

5.1.1 Materials

PVC ($M_w = 43,000$, $M_n = 22,000$) was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. 3-Pentanone ($\geq 99\%$), tri(ethylene glycol) monomethyl ether (95%), and silica gel (Grade 60, 230–400 mesh particle size, 40–63 μm particle size) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. L-glutamic acid ($\geq 99\%$) was purchased from Alfa Aesar. *n*-Butanol Heysham, England (HPLC grade), toluene (HPLC grade), tetrahydrofuran (HPLC grade), acetonitrile (Optima™, LC/MS grade), dimethylformamide (DMF) (sequencing grade), *N*-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP) ($>99.8\%$), dichloromethane (DCM) (stabilized HPLC grade, submicron filtered), methanol, hexanes, ethyl acetate, and tetrahydrofuran (HPLC grade, submicron filtered, uninhibited) were purchased from Fisher Scientific. *n*-Hexanol ($>98\%$), *n*-decanol (97%), 2-ethyl-1-hexanol ($>99.5\%$), and tri(ethylene glycol) monobutyl ether ($>97\%$) were supplied by Tokyo Chemical Industries (TCI). *p*-Toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (*p*TSA)(99%, extra pure), sodium azide (99%, extra pure), and acetylenedicarboxylic acid (98%) were purchased from Acros Organics. 4-(4,6-Dimethoxy-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl)-4-methylmorpholinium chloride (DMTMM) (tech) was purchased from Oakwood Chemical. CDCl_3 (D 99.8%) was supplied by Cambridge Isotope Laboratories.

5.1.2 Measurements

Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) was recorded with a Perkin-Elmer Spectrum One Spectrometer. Liquid samples were measured neat. Solid samples (except for polymers) were measured using the KBr pellet method. Polymers were measured by forming a thin film on a sodium chloride plate. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded with a Bruker Avance III HD 4 channel 500 MHz Oxford Magnet NMR Spectrometer with Automation or a Varian Unity Plus 500 MHz Oxford Magnet NMR Spectrometer at ambient temperature in CDCl_3 as solvent. The signal of residual CHCl_3 was used as an internal standard

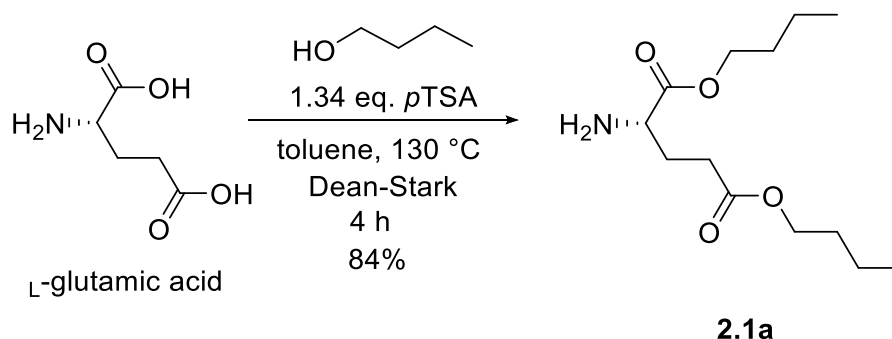
(^1H NMR, δ 7.26 ppm; ^{13}C NMR, δ 77.16 ppm). High-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) was recorded with a Thermo Scientific LTQ Orbitrap Velos Pro HRMS using acetonitrile (CH_3CN) with 0.1% formic acid as solvent. Elemental analysis was performed by either MHW Laboratories or NuMega Resonance Labs. Glass-transition temperatures (T_g s) of polymers were measured using a TA Instruments differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) Q2000 with a heat-cool-heat protocol, and a scanning range of -90 to 200 $^\circ\text{C}$ at a heating rate of 10 $^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$. Derivative thermogravimetry (DTG) and thermal gravimetric analyses (TGA) were performed using a TA Instruments TGA Q500. TGA was performed within a scanning range of 30 – 500 $^\circ\text{C}$ at a heating rate of 10 $^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$ in air or nitrogen, as specified.

5.1.3 Experimental Method

Preparation of 2-Aminopentanedioate (2.1a-f)

These esterifications were carried out following a modified procedure by Ijiro et al.¹

Preparation of 1,5-Bisbutyl (2S)-2-Aminopentanedioate (2.1a)



To a 100 mL round-bottom flask was added L-glutamic acid (1.372 g, 9.325 mmol), 1-butanol (2.80 mL, 30.6 mmol), *p*TSA (2.377 g, 12.50 mmol), and toluene (40 mL). The solution was refluxed with a Dean-Stark apparatus for 4 h. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue neutralized using sat. NaHCO_3 (50 mL). The aqueous solution was extracted with EtOAc (50 mL). The organic layer was washed with sat.

NaHCO₃ (50 mL), brine (50 mL × 2), and then dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ (5/95) to give **2.1a** as a pale yellow liquid (2.041 g, 84.41%).

*R*_f: 0.48 (SiO₂, MeOH/CH₂Cl₂, 5/95).

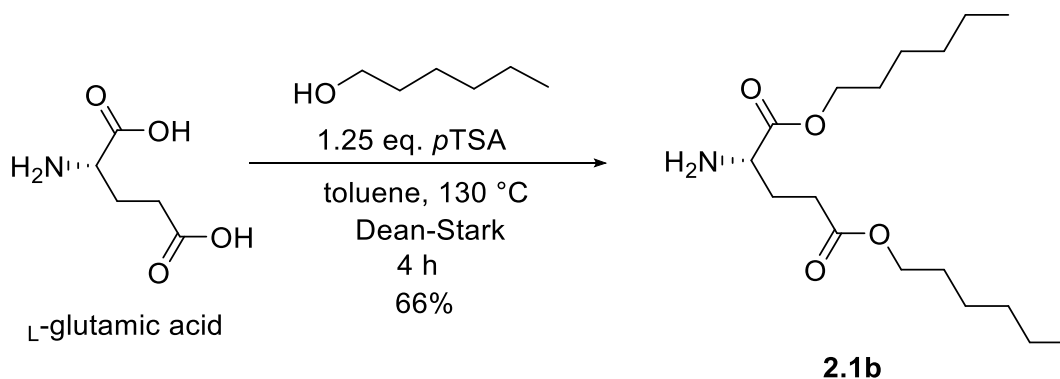
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 4.13 (td, *J* = 6.7, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 4.08 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 3.54–3.46 (m, 1H), 2.46 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.15–2.03 (m, 1H), 1.85 (dq, *J* = 15.1, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 1.78–1.56 (m, 6H), 1.44–1.32 (m, 4H), 0.94 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 175.78 (C=O), 173.35 (C=O), 65.06 (O–CH₂), 64.54 (O–CH₂), 53.97 (NH₂–CH), 30.82 (CH₂), 30.79 (CH₂), 30.78 (CH₂), 29.95 (CH₂), 19.27 (CH₂), 19.25 (CH₂), 13.84 (CH₃), 13.82 (CH₃).

IR (NaCl, neat, cm⁻¹): 3387 (w, amine N–H), 3322 (w, amine N–H), 2961 (s, alkane C–H), 2936 (s, alkane C–H), 2875 (m, alkane C–H), 1735 (s, ester C=O), 1607 (w, amine N–H bending), 1183 (s, ester C–O).

HRMS (*m/z*): calcd for C₁₃H₂₆NO₄, 260.1856; found, 260.1836 [M + H]⁺.

Preparation of 1,5-Bis(hexyl 2S)-2-Aminopentanedioate (2.1b)



To a 100 mL round-bottom flask was added L-glutamic acid (1.472 g, 10.00 mmol), 1-hexanol (2.248 g, 22.00 mmol), *p*TSA (2.378 g, 12.50 mmol), and toluene (40 mL). The solution was refluxed with a Dean–Stark apparatus for 4 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and then the residue was neutralized using sat. NaHCO₃ (50 mL). The aqueous solution was extracted with EtOAc (50 mL). The organic layer was washed with sat. NaHCO₃ (50 mL), brine (50 mL × 2), and then dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ (3/97) to give **2.1b** as a pale yellow liquid (2.077 g, 65.84%).

*R*_f: 0.33 (SiO₂, MeOH/CH₂Cl₂, 3/97).

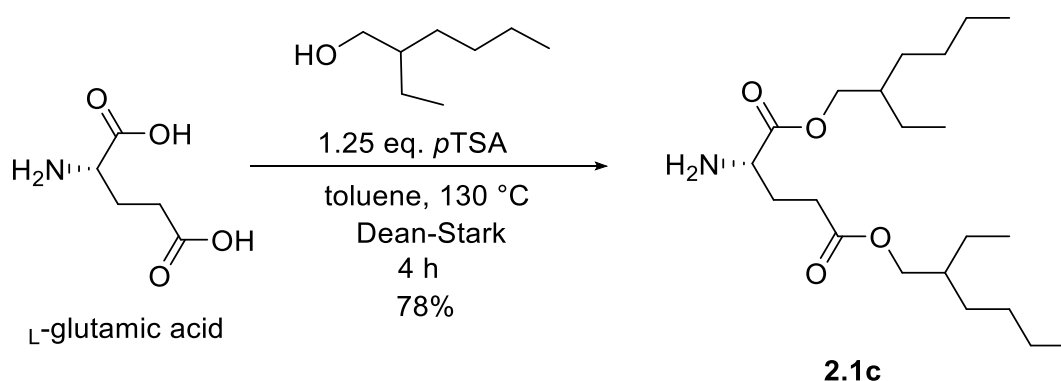
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 4.12 (td, *J* = 6.8, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 4.07 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.49 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.09 (dtd, *J* = 13.1, 7.7, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 1.86 (dq, *J* = 15.0, 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.71–1.55 (m, 4H), 1.41–1.23 (m, 12H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 6H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 175.78 (C=O), 173.35 (C=O), 65.36 (O–CH₂), 64.84 (O–CH₂), 53.97 (NH₂–CH), 31.57 (CH₂), 31.54 (CH₂), 30.83 (CH₂), 29.94 (CH₂), 28.72 (CH₂), 28.70 (CH₂), 25.72 (CH₂), 25.68 (CH₂), 22.67 (CH₂), 22.65 (CH₂), 14.13 (CH₃), 14.12 (CH₃).

IR (NaCl, neat, cm⁻¹): 3388 (w, amine N–H), 3324 (w, amine N–H), 2957 (s, alkane C–H), 2932 (s, alkane C–H), 2860 (m, alkane C–H), 1736 (s, ester C=O), 1607 (w, amine N–H bending), 1180 (s, ester C–O).

HRMS (*m/z*): calcd for C₁₇H₃₄NO₄, 316.2482; found, 316.2466 [M + H]⁺.

Preparation of 1,5-Bis(2-Ethylhexyl) (2S)-2-Aminopentanedioate (2.1c)



To a 100 mL round-bottom flask was added L -glutamic acid (1.471 g, 10.00 mmol), 2-ethyl-1-hexanol (2.866 g, 22.01 mmol), *p*TSA (2.377 g, 12.50 mmol), and toluene (40 mL). The solution was refluxed with a Dean–Stark apparatus for 4 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and then the residue was neutralized using sat. NaHCO₃ (50 mL). The aqueous solution was extracted with EtOAc (50 mL). The organic layer was washed with sat. NaHCO₃ (50 mL), brine (50 mL × 2), and then dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo* . The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ (3:97) to give **2.1c** as a pale yellow liquid (2.899 g, 78.02%).

*R*_f: 0.35 (SiO₂, MeOH/CH₂Cl₂, 3/97).

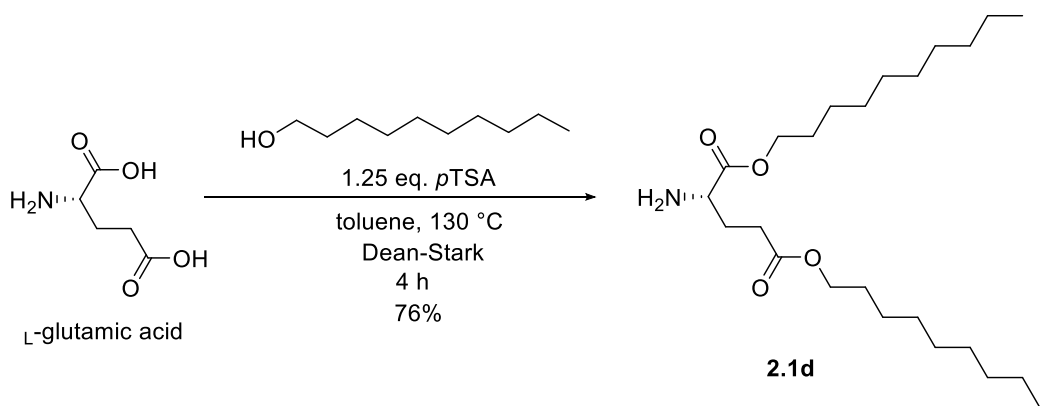
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 4.11–4.02 (m, 2H), 4.02–3.95 (m, 2H), 3.52 (s, 1H), 2.48 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.16–2.04 (m, 1H), 2.04–1.68 (m, 3H), 1.66–1.51 (m, 2H), 1.41–1.33 (m, 4H), 1.33–1.20 (m, 12H), 1.04–0.74 (m, 12H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 175.87 (C=O), 173.43 (C=O), 67.57 (O–CH₂), 67.09 (O–CH₂), 54.02 (NH₂–CH), 38.93 (CH), 38.89 (CH), 30.87 (CH₂), 30.54 (CH₂), 30.48 (CH₂), 29.94 (CH₂), 29.07 (CH₂), 29.05 (CH₂), 23.93 (CH₂), 23.90 (CH₂), 23.11 (CH₂), 23.09 (CH₂), 14.18 (CH₃ × 2), 11.12 (CH₃), 11.09 (CH₃).

IR (NaCl, neat, cm^{-1}): 3389 (w, amine N—H), 3324 (w, amine N—H), 2959 (s, alkane C—H), 2931 (s, alkane C—H), 2874 (s, alkane C—H), 2861 (s, alkane C—H), 1736 (s, ester C=O), 1607 (w, amine N—H bending), 1180 (s, ester C—O).

HRMS (m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{42}\text{NO}_4$: 372.3108; found, 372.3094 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$.

Preparation of 1,5-Bis(Decyl) (2S)-2-Aminopentanedioate (**2.1d**)



To a 100 mL round-bottom flask was added L-glutamic acid (1.472 g, 10.01 mmol), 1-n-decanol (4.28 mL, 22.4 mmol), pTSA (2.378 g, 12.50 mmol), and toluene (40 mL). The solution was refluxed with a Dean–Stark apparatus for 4 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and then the residue was neutralized using sat. NaHCO_3 (50 mL). The aqueous solution was extracted with EtOAc (50 mL). The organic layer was washed with sat. NaHCO_3 (50 mL), brine (50 mL \times 2), and then dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated *in vacuo* and then the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using $\text{MeOH}/\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ (3/97) to give **2.1d** as a pale yellow liquid (3.268 g, 76.33%).

R_f : 0.43 (SiO_2 , $\text{MeOH}/\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$, 3/97).

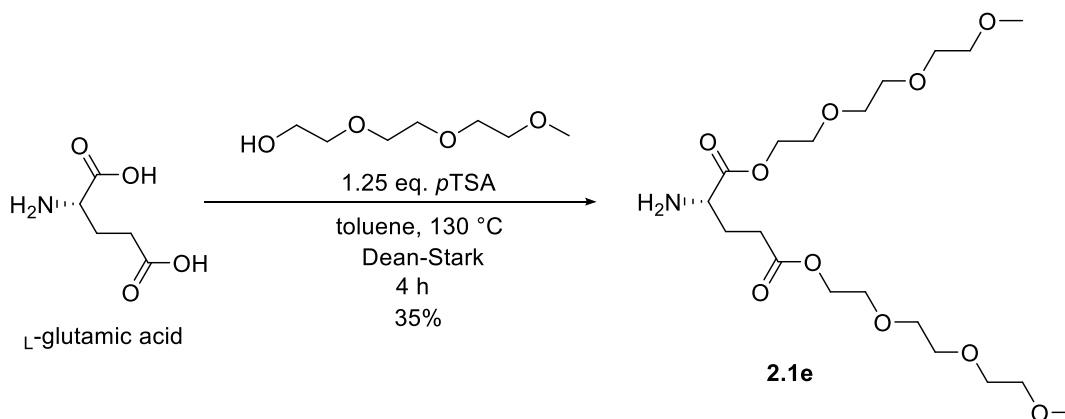
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , δ , ppm): 4.11 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 4.07 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 3.47 (dd, $J = 8.3, 5.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.46 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.14–2.03 (m, 1H), 1.90–1.79 (m, 1H), 1.70–1.55 (m, 6H), 1.41–1.16 (m, 28H), 0.88 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 6H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3 , δ , ppm): 175.81 (C=O), 173.35 (C=O), 65.36 (CH_2), 64.84 (CH_2), 53.98 ($\text{NH}_2\text{—CH}$), 32.03 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 30.83 (CH_2), 29.96 (CH_2), 29.67 (CH_2), 29.65 (CH_2), 29.44 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 29.40 (CH_2), 29.37 (CH_2), 28.77 (CH_2), 28.75 (CH_2), 26.06 (CH_2), 26.02 (CH_2), 22.82 ($\text{CH}_2 \times 2$), 14.24 ($\text{CH}_3 \times 2$).

IR (NaCl, neat, cm^{-1}): 3389 (w, amine N—H), 3324.5 (w, amine N—H), 2954.9 (s, alkane C—H), 2925.7 (s, alkane C—H), 2855.4 (s, alkane C—H), 1736.1 (s, ester C=O), 1607.4 (w, amine N-H bending), 1179.5 (s, ester C—O).

HRMS (m/z): calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{50}\text{NO}_4$, 428.3734; found, 428.3714 [$\text{M} + \text{H}$] $^+$.

Preparation of 1,5-Bis({2-[2-(2-Methoxyethoxy)Ethoxy]Ethyl}) (2S)-2-Aminopentanedioate (2.1e)



To a 100 mL round-bottom flask was added L-glutamic acid (1.472 g, 10.01 mmol), triethyleneglycol methyl ether (4.538 g, 27.64 mmol), *p*TSA (2.378 g, 12.50 mmol), and toluene (40 mL). The solution was refluxed with a Dean–Stark apparatus for 4 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and then the residue was neutralized using sat. NaHCO_3 (50 mL). The aqueous solution was extracted with DCM (50 mL). The organic layer was washed with sat. NaHCO_3 (50 mL), brine (50 mL \times 2), and then dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated *in*

vacuo. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ (5/95) to give **2.1e** as a yellow liquid (1.535 g, 34.90%).

R_f: 0.30 (SiO₂, MeOH/CH₂Cl₂, 5/95).

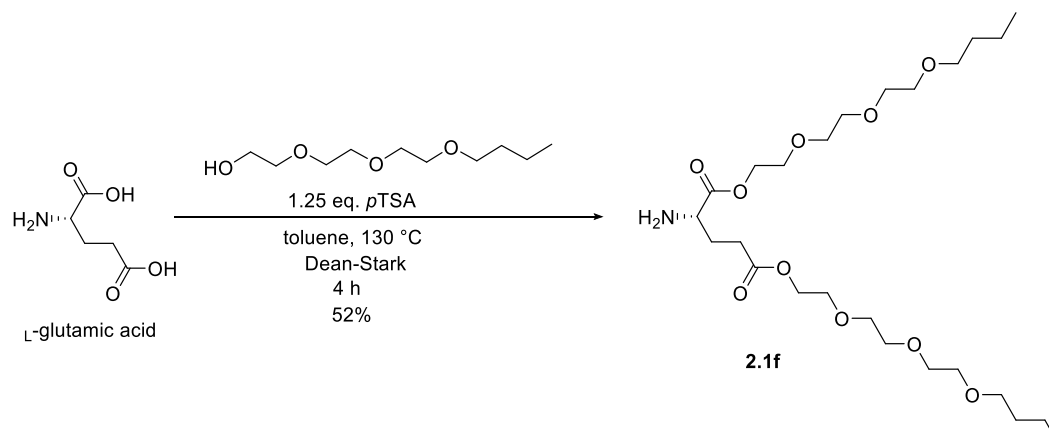
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 4.28 (t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 2H), 4.23 (t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 2H), 3.76–3.68 (m, 4H), 3.68–3.59 (m, 12H), 3.58–3.53 (m, 4H), 3.51 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.38 (s, 6H), 2.51 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.10 (dtd, *J* = 13.1, 7.4, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 1.93–1.81 (m, 1H), 1.68 (s, 2H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 175.66 (C=O), 173.21 (C=O), 72.08 (CH₂ × 2), 70.76 (CH₂ × 2), 70.74 (CH₂), 70.72 (CH₂ × 2), 69.24 (CH₂), 69.14 (CH₂), 64.15 (CH₂), 64.13 (CH₂), 63.75 (CH₂), 59.18 (CH₃ × 2), 53.90 (NH₂–CH), 30.68 (CH₂), 29.70 (CH₂).

IR (NaCl, neat, cm⁻¹): 3382 (w, amine N–H), 3315 (w, amine N–H), 2877 (s, alkane C–H), 1733 (s, ester C=O), 1607 (w, amine N–H bending), 1183 (s, ester C–O), 1112 (s, ether C–O).

HRMS (*m/z*): calcd for C₁₉H₃₈NO₁₀, 440.2490; found, 440.2479 [M + H]⁺.

Preparation of 1,5-Bis({2-[2-(2-Butoxyethoxy)Ethoxy]Ethyl})Ethoxy)Ethyl) (2S)-2-Aminopentanedioate (**2.1f**)



To a 100 mL round-bottom flask was added L-glutamic acid (1.471 g, 9.998 mmol), triethyleneglycol butyl ether (4.553 g, 22.07 mmol), *p*TSA (2.378 g, 12.50 mmol), and toluene (40 mL). The solution was refluxed with a Dean–Stark apparatus for 4 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and then the residue was neutralized using sat. NaHCO₃ (50 mL). The aqueous solution was extracted with DCM (50 mL). The organic layer was washed with sat. NaHCO₃ (50 mL), brine (50 mL × 2), and then dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ (4/96) to give **2.1f** as a pale yellow liquid (2.721 g, 51.97%).

*R*_f: 0.47 (SiO₂, MeOH/CH₂Cl₂, 4/96).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 4.27 (t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 2H), 4.23 (t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 2H), 3.74–3.67 (m, 4H), 3.67–3.61 (m, 12H), 3.60–3.54 (m, 4H), 3.50 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 3.45 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 4H), 2.50 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.15–2.03 (m, 1H), 1.91–1.80 (m, 1H), 1.64 (s, 2H), 1.60–1.51 (m, 4H), 1.41–1.29 (m, 4H), 0.91 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 6H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 175.64 (C=O), 173.20 (C=O), 71.33 (CH₂ × 2), 70.81 (CH₂), 70.74 (CH₂), 70.72 (CH₂), 70.19 (CH₂), 69.22 (CH₂), 69.12 (CH₂), 64.13 (CH₂), 63.75 (CH₂), 53.88 (NH₂–CH), 31.83 (CH₂ × 2), 30.66 (CH₂), 29.68 (CH₂), 19.40 (CH₂ × 2), 14.04 (CH₃ × 2).

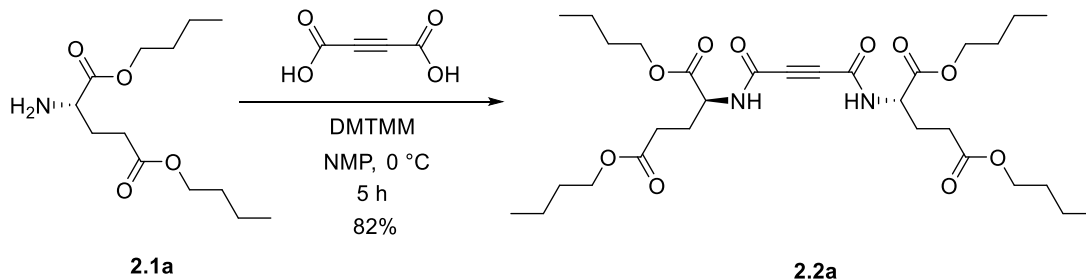
IR (NaCl, neat, cm⁻¹): 3384 (w, amine N–H), 3318 (w, amine N–H), 2957 (s, alkane C–H), 2933 (s, alkane C–H), 2870 (s, alkane C–H), 1736 (s, ester C=O), 1607 (w, amine N–H bending), 1180 (s, ester C–O), 1115 (s, ether C–O).

HRMS (*m/z*): calcd for C₂₅H₅₀NO₁₀, 524.3429; found, 524.3406 [M + H]⁺.

Preparation of **2.2a-f**

These amidations were carried out following the general procedure by Heyl and Fessner.²

Preparation of 1,5-dibutyl (2S)-2-(3-(((2S)-1,5-dibutoxy-1,5-dioxopentan-2-yl)carbamoyl)prop-2-ynamido)pentanedioate (2.2a)



To a solution of acetylenedicarboxylic acid (286.2 mg, 2.509 mmol) in NMP (5 mL) at 0 °C was added a solution dropwise of amine **2.1a** (1.553 g, 5.988 mmol) in NMP (2.5 mL). After 10 min, DMTMM (2.006 g, 7.249 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 5 h. The mixture was partitioned between ethyl acetate (50 mL) and water (50 mL). The organic layer was washed with brine (50 mL), sat. NaHCO_3 (50 mL), 1 M HCl (50 mL), and brine (50 mL \times 2). The organic layer was dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was dissolved in a minimum amount of refluxing THF, cooled to room temperature, and then stored at -20 °C overnight. The byproduct (6-dimethoxy-1,3,5-triazin-2(1H)-one) was crystallized from the THF solution and removed by filtration. The solution was concentrated *in vacuo* and further purified by column chromatography (SiO_2 , hexanes/ethyl acetate, 7/3). The product was obtained as an amorphous white solid (1.220 g, 2.045 mmol, 81.51%).

R_f : 0.25 (SiO_2 , hexanes/ethyl acetate, 7/3).

Melting point: 62–63 °C.

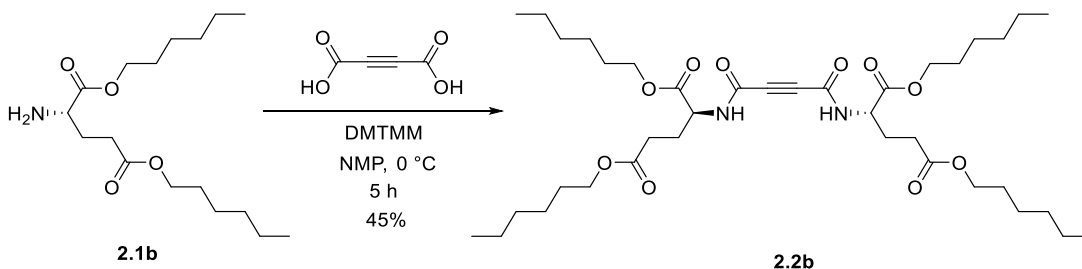
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , δ , ppm): 7.10 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.68 (td, J = 7.9, 5.0 Hz, 2H), 4.17 (td, J = 6.7, 2.8 Hz, 4H), 4.09 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 4H), 2.48–2.33 (m, 4H), 2.29–2.20 (m, 2H), 2.04 (dtd, J = 14.3, 8.1, 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.69–1.57 (m, 8H), 1.44–1.33 (m, 8H), 0.94 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 6H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 6H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3 , δ , ppm): 172.71 (C=O), 171.01 (C=O), 151.13 (C=O), 76.84 (C-alkyne), 66.12 (CH_2), 64.94 (CH_2), 52.28 (CH), 30.74 (CH_2), 30.62 (CH_2), 30.25 (CH_2), 27.35 (CH_2), 19.25 (CH_2), 19.16 (CH_2), 13.83 (CH_3), 13.78 (CH_3).

IR (KBr pellet, cm^{-1}): 3279 (s, amine N—H), 2960 (s, alkane C—H), 2934 (s, alkane C—H), 2874 (s, alkane C—H), 1744 (s, ester C=O), 1728 (s, ester C=O), 1650 (s, amide C=O), 1538 (s, amide N—H bending), 1176 (s, ester C—O).

HRMS (m/z): Calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{49}\text{N}_2\text{O}_{10}$, 597.3382; found, 597.3384 [$\text{M} + \text{H}$] $^+$.

Preparation of 1,5-Bis(hexyl 2S)-2-(3-[[1,5-Bis(hexyloxy)-1,5-Dioxopentan-2-yl] Carbamoyl] Prop-2-Ynamido)Pentanedioate (2.2b)



To a solution of acetylenedicarboxylic acid (1.134 g, 9.942 mmol) in NMP (20 mL) at 0 °C was added a solution dropwise of amine **2.1b** (9.677 g, 30.68 mmol) in NMP (10 mL). After 10 min, DMTMM (7.783 g, 28.13 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 5 h. The mixture was partitioned between ethyl acetate (150 mL) and water (150 mL). The organic layer was washed with brine (200 mL), sat. NaHCO_3 (200 mL), 1 M HCl (200 mL), and brine (200 mL \times 2). Then the organic layer was dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was dissolved in a minimum amount of refluxing THF, cooled to room temperature, and then stored at -20 °C overnight. The byproduct (6-dimethoxy-1,3,5-triazin-2(1H)-one) was crystallized from the THF solution and removed by filtration. The solution was concentrated *in*

vacuo and further purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, hexanes/ethyl acetate, 75/25).

The product was obtained as an amorphous white solid (3.160 g, 4.457 mmol, 44.83%).

*R*_f: 0.43 (SiO₂, hexanes/ethyl acetate, 75/25).

Melting point: 60–62 °C.

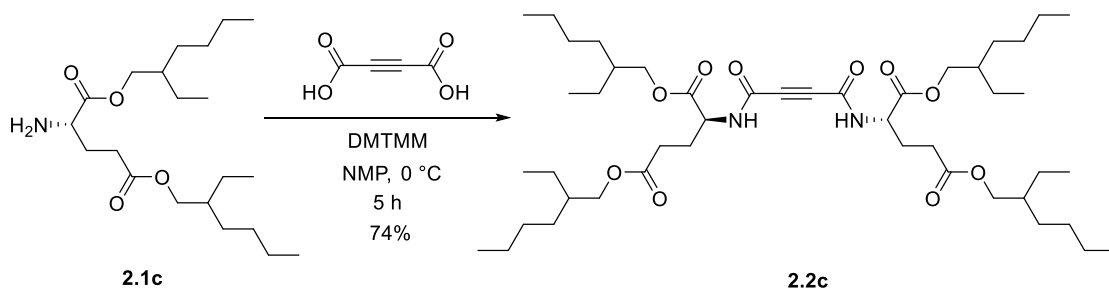
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 6.80 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 4.66 (td, *J* = 7.6, 5.0 Hz, 2H), 4.17 (td, *J* = 6.8, 3.7 Hz, 4H), 4.08 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 2.50–2.30 (m, 4H), 2.29–2.19 (m, 2H), 2.05 (dp, *J* = 14.4, 7.3, 6.7 Hz, 2H), 1.71–1.57 (m, 8H), 1.41–1.22 (m, 24H), 0.97–0.81 (m, 12H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 172.67 (C=O), 171.03 (C=O), 151.14 (C=O), 76.85 (C-alkyne), 66.41 (O–CH₂), 65.23 (O–CH₂), 52.26 (NH₂–CH), 31.56 (CH₂), 31.47 (CH₂), 30.24 (CH₂), 28.66 (CH₂), 28.55 (CH₂), 27.35 (CH₂), 25.69 (CH₂), 25.57 (CH₂), 22.66 (CH₂), 22.63 (CH₂), 14.13 (CH₃), 14.10 (CH₃).

IR (KBr pellet, cm⁻¹): 3269 (s, amine N–H), 2958 (s, alkane C–H), 2932 (s, alkane C–H), 2860 (s, alkane C–H), 1739 (s, ester C=O), 1646 (s, amide C=O), 1540 (s, amide N–H bending), 1190 (s, ester C–O).

HRMS (*m/z*): Calcd for C₃₈H₆₅N₂O₁₀, 709.4634; found, 709.4628 [M + H]⁺.

Preparation of 1,5-Bis(2-Ethylhexyl) (2*S*)-2-(3-(((2*S*)-1,5-Bis[(2-Ethylhexyl)Oxy]-1,5-Dioxopentan-2-yl]Carbamoyl)Prop-2-Ynamido)Pentanedioate (2.2c)



To a solution of acetylenedicarboxylic acid (286.6 mg, 2.513 mmol) in NMP (5 mL) at 0 °C was added a solution dropwise of amine **2.1c** (2.538 g, 6.831 mmol) in NMP (2.5 mL). After 10 min, DMTMM (2.005 g, 7.246 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 5 h. The mixture was partitioned between ethyl acetate (50 mL) and water (50 mL). The organic layer was washed with brine (50 mL), sat. NaHCO₃ (50 mL), 1 M HCl (50 mL), and brine (50 mL × 2). Then the organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was dissolved in a minimum amount of refluxing THF, cooled to room temperature, and then stored at -20 °C overnight. The byproduct (6-dimethoxy-1,3,5-triazin-2(1H)-one) was crystallized from the THF solution and removed by filtration. The solution was concentrated *in vacuo* and further purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, hexanes/ethyl acetate, 80/20). The product was obtained as an amorphous white solid (1.528 g, 1.861 mmol, 74.05%).

R_f: 0.37 (SiO₂, hexanes/ethyl acetate, 80/20).

Melting point: 49–53 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 6.84 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 4.68 (td, *J* = 7.6, 4.9 Hz, 2H), 4.15–4.05 (m, 4H), 4.05–3.96 (m, 4H), 2.49–2.31 (m, 4H), 2.29–2.21 (m, 2H), 2.09–2.01 (m, 2H), 1.66–1.55 (m, 4H), 1.43–1.18 (m, 32H), 1.04–0.74 (m, 24H).

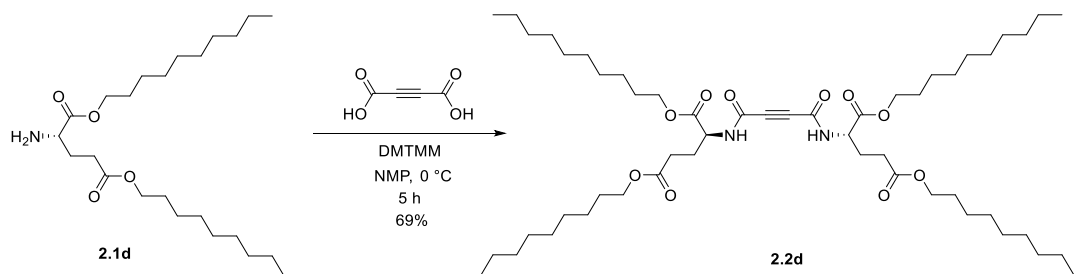
¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 172.72 (C=O), 171.10 (C=O), 151.09 (C=O), 76.81 (C-alkyne), 68.61 (O–CH₂), 68.58 (O–CH₂), 67.48 (O–CH₂), 52.28 (NH₂–CH), 38.83 (CH), 38.79 (CH), 30.47 (CH₂), 30.41 (CH₂), 30.37 (CH₂), 30.24 (CH₂), 29.05 (CH₂), 29.00 (CH₂), 28.98 (CH₂), 27.41 (CH₂), 23.86 (CH₂), 23.81 (CH₂), 23.79 (CH₂), 23.09 (CH₂), 23.06 (CH₂), 23.05 (CH₂), 14.18 (CH₃), 14.15 (CH₃), 11.09 (CH₃), 11.05 (CH₃), 11.02 (CH₃).

IR (KBr pellet, cm⁻¹): 3291 (s, amine N–H), 2959 (s, alkane C–H), 2931 (s, alkane C–H), 2874 (s, alkane C–H), 2860 (s, alkane C–H), 1742 (s, ester C=O), 1731 (s, ester C=O),

1651 (s, amide C=O), 1641 (s, amide C=O), 1533 (s, amide N—H bending), 1179 (s, ester C—O).

HRMS (m/z): Calcd for $C_{46}H_{81}N_2O_{10}$, 821.5886; found, 821.5890 $[M + H]^+$.

Preparation of 1,5-Bis(Decyl) (2S)-2-(3-[[[(2S)-1,5-Bis(Decyloxy)-1,5-Dioxopentan-2-yl] Carbamoyl] Prop-2-Ynamido)Pentanedioate (2.2d)



To a solution of acetylenedicarboxylic acid (1.378 g, 12.08 mmol) in NMP (24 mL) at 0 °C was added a solution dropwise of amine **2.1d** (12.74 g, 29.79 mmol) in NMP (12 mL). After 10 min, DMTMM (9.300 g, 33.61 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 5 h. The mixture was partitioned between ethyl acetate (200 mL) and water (200 mL). The organic layer was washed with brine (200 mL), sat. NaHCO_3 (200 mL), 1 M HCl (200 mL), and brine (200 mL \times 2). The organic layer was then dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was dissolved in a minimum amount of refluxing THF, cooled to room temperature, and then stored at -20 °C overnight. The byproduct (6-dimethoxy-1,3,5-triazin-2(1H)-one) was crystallized from the THF solution and removed by filtration. The solution was concentrated *in vacuo* and further purified by column chromatography (SiO_2 , hexanes/ethyl acetate, 80/20). The product was obtained as an amorphous white solid (7.818 g, 8.376 mmol, 69.34%).

R_f : 0.40 (SiO_2 , hexanes/ethyl acetate, 80/20).

Melting point: 50–51 °C.

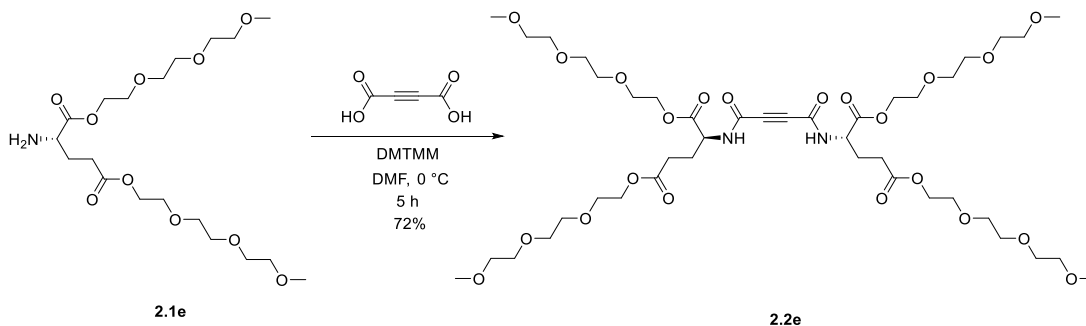
^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , δ , ppm): 6.79 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 4.66 (td, $J = 7.6, 5.1$ Hz, 2H), 4.21–4.11 (m, 4H), 4.08 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 4H), 2.49–2.30 (m, 4H), 2.24 (dq, $J = 13.5, 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.04 (dq, $J = 14.5, 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.71–1.57 (m, 8H), 1.39–1.18 (m, 58H), 0.88 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 12H).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3 , δ , ppm): 172.67 (C=O), 171.02 (C=O), 151.13 (C=O), 76.80 (C-alkyne), 66.42 (O—CH₂), 65.24 (O—CH₂), 52.26 (NH₂—CH), 32.02 (CH₂ × 2), 30.23 (CH₂), 29.68 (CH₂), 29.67 (CH₂ × 2), 29.63 (CH₂), 29.44 (CH₂ × 2), 29.40 (CH₂), 29.34 (CH₂), 28.71 (CH₂), 28.60 (CH₂), 27.36 (CH₂), 26.03 (CH₂), 25.91 (CH₂), 22.81 (CH₂ × 2), 14.24 (CH₃ × 2).

IR (KBr pellet, cm^{-1}): 3307 (s, amine N—H), 2955 (s, alkane C—H), 2922 (s, alkane C—H), 2854 (s, alkane C—H), 1746 (s, ester C=O), 1733 (s, ester C=O), 1648 (s, amide C=O), 1643 (s, amide C=O), 1528 (s, amide N—H bending), 1199 (s, ester C—O).

HRMS (m/z): Calcd for $\text{C}_{54}\text{H}_{97}\text{N}_2\text{O}_{10}$, 933.7138; found, 933.7143 [$\text{M} + \text{H}$]⁺.

Preparation of 1,5-Bis({2-[2-(2-Methoxyethoxy)Ethoxy]Ethyl}) (2S)-2-(3-{{(2S)-1,5-Bis({2-[2-(2-Methoxyethoxy)Ethoxy]Ethoxy})-1,5-Dioxopentan-2-yl]Carbamoyl}Prop-2-Ynamido)Pentanedioate (2.2e)



To a solution of acetylenedicarboxylic acid (0.8424 g, 7.386 mmol) in DMF (15 mL) at 0 °C was added a solution dropwise of amine **2.1e** (9.055 g, 20.60 mmol) in DMF (7.5 mL).

After 10 min, DMTMM (5.180 g, 18.72 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 5 h. The mixture was filtered. The filtrate was partitioned between DCM (150 mL) and water (150 mL). The organic layer was washed with brine (150 mL), sat. NaHCO₃ (150 mL), 1 M HCl (150 mL), and brine (150 mL × 2). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, CH₂CH₂/MeOH, 95/5). The product was obtained as a clear oil (5.104 g, 5.333 mmol, 72.20%).

*R*_f: 0.38 (SiO₂, CH₂CH₂/MeOH, 95/5).

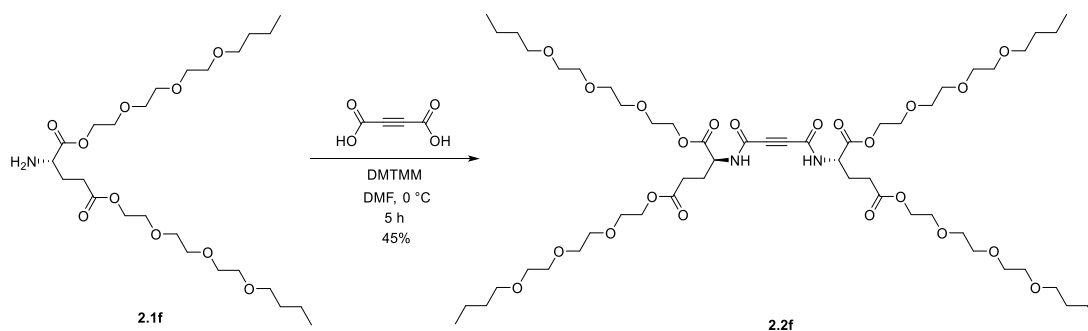
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 4.67 (td, *J* = 8.1, 5.1 Hz, 2H), 4.31 (dt, *J* = 10.9, 6.1 Hz, 4H), 4.28–4.18 (m, 4H), 3.70 (t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 8H), 3.67 (s, 7H), 3.66–3.61 (m, 17H), 3.58–3.52 (m, 8H), 3.37 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 12H), 2.53–2.36 (m, 4H), 2.24 (dtd, *J* = 14.6, 7.4, 5.1 Hz, 2H), 2.06 (dq, *J* = 14.8, 7.6 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 172.54 (C=O), 170.64 (C=O), 151.25 (C=O), 76.78 (C-alkyne), 72.07 (CH₂), 72.03 (CH₂), 70.80 (CH₂), 70.71 (CH₂ × 2), 70.65 (CH₂), 70.63 (CH₂), 69.06 (CH₂), 68.86 (CH₂), 64.85 (CH₂), 64.00 (CH₂), 59.11 (CH₃ × 2), 52.22 (NH₂—CH), 30.38 (CH₂), 27.10 (CH₂).

IR (NaCl, neat, cm⁻¹): 3260 (s, amine N—H), 2878 (s, alkane C—H), 1736 (s, ester C=O), 1665 (s, amide C=O), 1535 (s, amide N—H bending), 1199 (s, ester C—O), 1104 (s, ether C—O).

HRMS (*m/z*): Calcd for C₄₂H₇₃N₂O₂₂, 957.4649; found, 957.4652 [M + H]⁺.

Preparation of 1,5-Bis({2-[2-(2-Butoxyethoxy) Ethoxy]Ethyl}) (2S)-2-(3-[(2S)-1,5-Bis({2-[2-(2-Butoxyethoxy)Ethoxy]Ethoxy))-1,5-Dioxopentan-2-yl]Carbamoyl}Prop-2-Ynamido)Pentanedioate (2.2f)



To a solution of acetylenedicarboxylic acid (0.7922 g, 6.945 mmol) in DMF (15 mL) at 0 °C was added a solution dropwise of amine **2.1f** (12.47 g, 23.81 mmol) in DMF (7.5 mL). After 10 min, DMTMM (5.430 g, 19.62 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 5 h. The mixture was filtered. The filtrate was partitioned between DCM (150 mL) and water (150 mL). The organic layer was washed with brine (150 mL), sat. NaHCO₃ (150 mL), 1 M HCl (150 mL), and brine (150 mL × 2). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, CH₂CH₂/MeOH, 96/4). The product was obtained as a clear oil (3.520 g, 3.128 mmol, 45.04%).

R_f : 0.28 (SiO₂, CH₂CH₂/MeOH, 96/4).

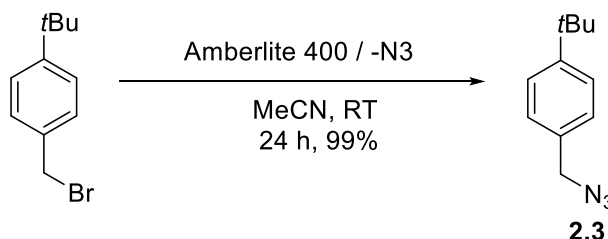
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 7.38 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.68 (td, J = 7.9, 5.1 Hz, 2H), 4.37–4.29 (m, 4H), 4.29–4.18 (m, 4H), 3.75–3.69 (m, 8H), 3.67 (s, 7H), 3.66–3.61 (m, 17H), 3.61–3.55 (m, 8H), 3.46 (td, J = 6.7, 2.9 Hz, 8H), 2.55–2.36 (m, 4H), 2.25 (dtd, J = 14.7, 7.3, 5.2 Hz, 2H), 2.07 (dq, J = 14.7, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.61–1.51 (m, 8H), 1.41–1.30 (m, 8H), 0.91 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 12H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 172.55 (C=O), 170.65 (C=O), 151.16 (C=O), 76.77 (C-alkyne), 71.35 (CH₂), 71.34 (CH₂), 70.81 (CH₂ × 2), 70.78 (CH₂ × 2), 70.74 (CH₂ × 2), 70.20 (CH₂), 70.17 (CH₂), 69.08 (CH₂), 68.87 (CH₂), 64.91 (CH₂), 64.04 (CH₂), 52.27 (NH₂–CH), 31.83 (CH₂ × 2), 30.34 (CH₂), 27.13 (CH₂), 19.41 (CH₂ × 2), 14.07 (CH₃ × 2).

IR (NaCl, neat, cm^{-1}): 3270 (m, amine N—H), 2975 (s, alkane C—H), 2933 (s, alkane C—H), 2871 (s, alkane C—H), 1740 (s, ester C=O), 1668 (s, amide C=O), 1534 (m, amide N—H bending), 1198 (s, ester C—O), 1119 (s, ether C—O).

HRMS (m/z): Calcd for $\text{C}_{54}\text{H}_{97}\text{N}_2\text{O}_{22}$, 1125.6527; found, 1125.6523 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$.

Preparation of 1-Azidomethyl-4-Tert-Butylbenzene (2.3)



Caution

Sodium azide and organic azide can be toxic and explosive. Guidelines for safe organic azides should follow $(N_c + N_o)/N_N \geq 3$ and $N_c > N_N$ (N = number of atoms).³ *t*-Butylbenzylic azide and PVC-azide (4.4% and 12.0%) were found safe to manipulate in the laboratory. Special care is still needed when handling organic azides.

Preparation of Amberlite-N₃

To a 250 mL beaker was added 40.00 g Amberlite IPA-400 and a solution of 15.00 g NaN_3 in 80 mL water.⁴ The mixture was left to stir for 1 h. The mixture was filtered and washed with water (100 mL \times 2). The charged Amberlite-N₃ was then charged a second time with a new solution of 15 g NaN_3 in 80 mL water for 1 h. After the second charge, Amberlite-N₃ was filtered and washed with water (100 mL \times 3), followed by methanol (100 mL), ether (50 mL \times 2), and then dried under vacuum for 20 mins.

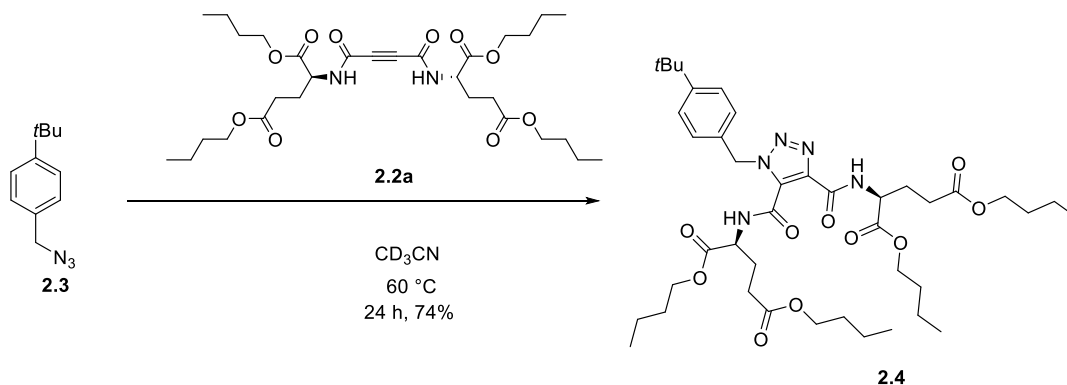
To a 100 mL round bottom flask was added 1-bromomethyl-4-*tert*-butylbenzene (1.650 g, 7.264 mmol), acetonitrile (30 mL), and Amberlite-N₃ (12.83 g). The reaction was

stirred at room temperature for 18 h. The reaction went to completion as monitored by TLC. The reaction mixture was filtered, then dried over MgSO₄, filtered again and concentrated. The product was obtained as a clear oil (1.356 g, 7.165 mmol, 98.64%).

*R*_f: 0.57 (SiO₂, hexanes/ethyl acetate, 95/5).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): δ 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 4.31 (s, 2H), 1.33 (s, 9H).

Preparation of 1,5-Dibutyl (2S)-2-({1-[(4-Tert-Butylphenyl)Methyl]-4-[(2S)-1,5-Dibutoxy-1,5-Dioxopentan-2-yl]Carbamoyl}-1H-1,2,3-Triazol-5-Yl)Formamido)Pentanedioate (2.4)



To a solution of benzylic azide **2.3** (94.3 mg, 0.498 mmol) in 2 mL acetonitrile-*d*₆ was added alkyne **2.2a** (282.4 mg, 0.4733 mmol). The reaction was heated to 60 °C for 22 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and further purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, hexanes/ethyl acetate, 8/2). The product was obtained as a clear oil (290.2 mg, 0.3692 mmol, 74.14%).

*R*_f: 0.41 (SiO₂, hexanes/ethyl acetate, 8/2).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 11.36 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (s, 4H), 6.12(AB, *J* = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 6.07 (AB, *J* = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (td, *J* = 8.0, 5.0 Hz,

1H), 4.71 (td, J = 7.6, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.24–4.10 (m, 4H), 4.10–3.99 (m, 4H), 2.53–2.23 (m, 6H), 2.20–2.07 (m, 2H), 1.69–1.55 (m, 9H), 1.44–1.31 (m, 8H), 1.27 (s, 9H), 0.99–0.84 (m, 12H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 172.53 (C=O), 172.51 (C=O), 171.19 (C=O), 170.90 (C=O), 161.41 (C=O), 156.69 (C=O), 151.49 (triazole ring C=C), 138.57 (triazole ring C=C), 132.33 (benzene ring C), 130.48 (benzene ring C), 128.42 (benzene ring CH), 125.73 (benzene ring CH), 65.89 (CH₂), 65.53 (CH₂), 64.81 (CH₂), 64.64 (CH₂), 54.12 (CH₂), 52.37 (CH), 51.89 (CH), 34.68 (C), 31.37 (CH₃ × 3), 30.77 (CH₂), 30.71 (CH₂), 30.65 (CH₂), 30.64 (CH₂), 30.48 (CH₂), 30.37 (CH₂), 27.74 (CH₂), 27.33 (CH₂), 19.24 (CH₂), 19.22 (CH₂), 19.16 (CH₂ × 2), 13.83 (CH₃), 13.80 (CH₃), 13.78 (CH₃), 13.76 (CH₃).

IR (neat): 3346 (w, amide N–H), 2961 (s, alkane C–H), 2936 (s, alkane C–H), 2874 (m, alkane C–H), 1739 (s, ester C=O), 1678 (s, amide C=O), 1654 (m, amide C=O), 1582 (m, amide N–H bending), 1552 (s, amide N–H bending), 1180 (s, ester C–O).

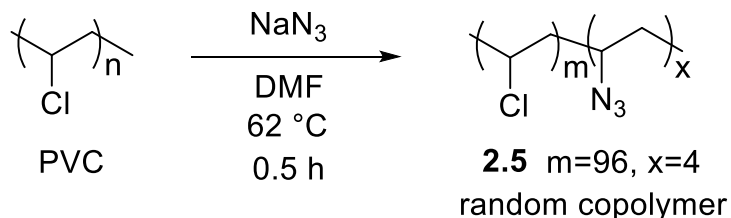
HRMS (*m/z*): Calcd for C₄₁H₆₄N₅O₁₀, 786.4648; found, 786.4618 [M + H]⁺.

Preparation of PVC-azide

Purification of PVC

PVC (25.00 g, 400 mmol) was dissolved in THF (250 mL).⁵⁻⁷ The solution was precipitated in MeOH (1 L). The precipitates were filtered, dissolved in THF, precipitated in MeOH another two times. The precipitate was then dried over house vacuum for 3 days.

Preparation of 4.4 mol % PVC-N₃ (2.5)

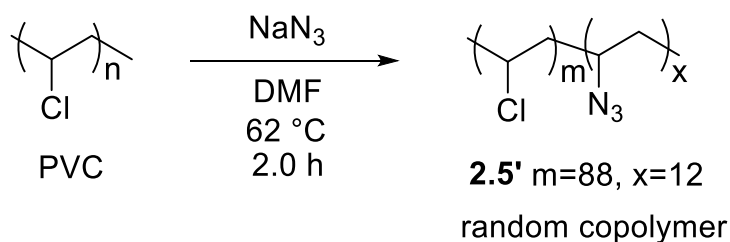


To a solution of purified PVC (12.03 g, 19.24 mmol) in DMF (120 mL) was slowly added sodium azide (11.95 g, 18.38 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 62 °C for 30 min. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was filtered to remove insoluble salt. The filtrate was precipitated in 1.2 L of MeOH. The mixture was stirred with a stir bar for 10 min. The precipitates were filtered and dried under vacuum to remove the majority of MeOH. The precipitated was then dissolved in 120 mL of THF and precipitated in 600 mL of MeOH/water (3/1). Precipitates were filtered, washed with MeOH, and then dissolved in 120 mL of THF. The solution was then precipitated in MeOH (900 mL). Precipitates were filtered and dried under vacuum for 3 days. The 4.4 mol % PVC-N₃ was obtained as a white solid (8.153 g).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): δ 4.77–4.54 (br, s), 4.54–4.37 (br, s), 4.37–4.23 (br, s), 4.22–4.13 (br, s), 4.13–4.01 (br, s), 2.53–2.23 (br, m), 2.23–1.92 (br, m), 1.92–1.72 (br, m).

Elemental analysis: C, 39.23; H, 5.12; N, 3.02.

Preparation of 12.0 mol % PVC-N₃ (2.5')



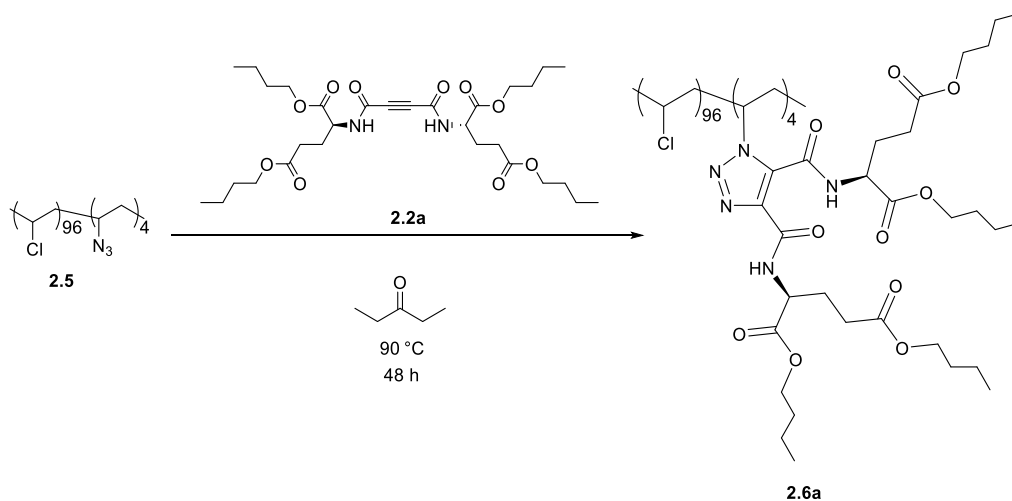
To a solution of PVC (20.00 g, 32.00 mmol) in DMF (200 mL) was slowly added sodium azide (20.00 g, 30.76 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred to 62 °C for 2 h. The workup procedure was the same as for the 4.4 mol % PVC sample above. The 12.0 mol % PVC-N₃ was obtained as a white solid (12.61 g).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , δ , ppm): δ 4.68–4.53 (br, s), 4.53–4.38 (br, s), 4.38–4.22 (br, s), 4.22–4.12 (br,s), 4.12–4.01 (br,s), 2.52–2.23 (br, m), 2.23–1.95 (br, m), 1.95–1.65 (br, m).

Elemental analysis: C, 38.69; H, 5.22; N, 8.17.

Preparation of Internally Plasticized PVC

Preparation of PVC-4.4%-nBu (2.6a)



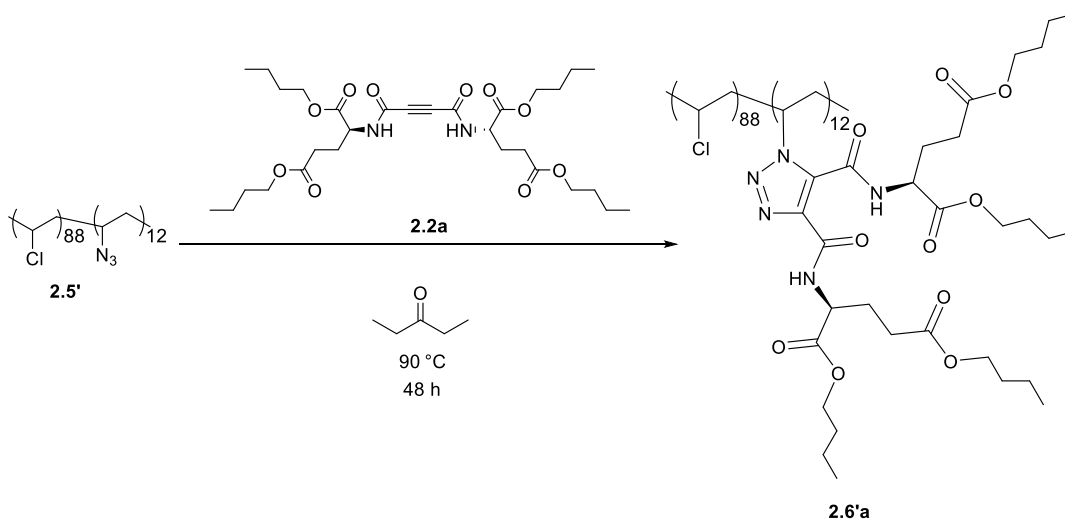
To a 50 mL round bottom flask was added PVC-4.4%-N₃ **2.5** (805.2 mg, 12.88 mmol), alkyne **2.2a** (384.3 mg, 0.6440 mmol), and 3-pentanone (8 mL).⁶ The reaction mixture was heated to 90 °C for 48 h. The resulting polymer was purified via precipitation in 100 mL of MeOH three times. The polymer was filtered and dried to give a white solid (750.0 mg).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , δ , ppm): δ 11.66–11.23 (br, m), 8.42–8.16 (br, m), 6.77–6.34 (br, m), 4.95–4.82 (br, s), 4.82–4.67 (br, s), 4.67–4.54 (br, m), 4.54–4.39 (br, m), 4.36–4.24 (br, m), 4.24–4.13 (br, m), 4.13–4.01 (br, m), 3.90–3.62 (br, m), 2.99–2.57 (br, m), 2.57–2.23 (br, m), 2.23–1.73 (br, m), 1.73–1.45 (br, m), 1.45–1.15 (br, m), 1.00–0.74 (br, m).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3 , δ , ppm): 172.52 (C=O), 171.03 (C=O), 170.91 (C=O), 161.20 (C=O), 156.55 (C=O), 132.17 (triazole $-\text{C}=\text{C}-$), 65.93 ($-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$), 65.59 ($-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$), 64.84 ($-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$), 64.64 ($-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$), 57.11–55.02 (PVC $-\text{CH}-\text{Cl}-$ and PVC $-\text{CH}-\text{triazole}$), 52.43 ($-\text{NH}-\text{CH}-$), 52.01 ($-\text{NH}-\text{CH}-$), 47.40–44.94 (family of CH_2 PVC peaks), 30.75 (CH_2), 30.71(CH_2), 30.65 (CH_2), 30.62 (CH_2), 30.49 (CH_2), 30.40 (CH_2), 27.69 (CH_2), 27.31 (CH_2), 19.24 (CH_2), 19.17 (CH_2), 13.87 (CH_3), 13.84 (CH_3), 13.78 (CH_3).

IR (NaCl, thin film, cm^{-1}): 3384 (w, amide N–H), 2962 (s, alkane C–H), 2934 (s, alkane C–H), 2873 (m, alkane C–H), 1736 (s, ester C=O), 1677 (s, amide C=O), 1655 (m, amide C=O), 1579 (m, amide N–H bending), 1552 (m, amide N–H bending), 1255 (s, ester C–O), 1199 (s, ester C–O), 615 (m, C–Cl).

Preparation of PVC-12.0%-nBu (2.6'a)



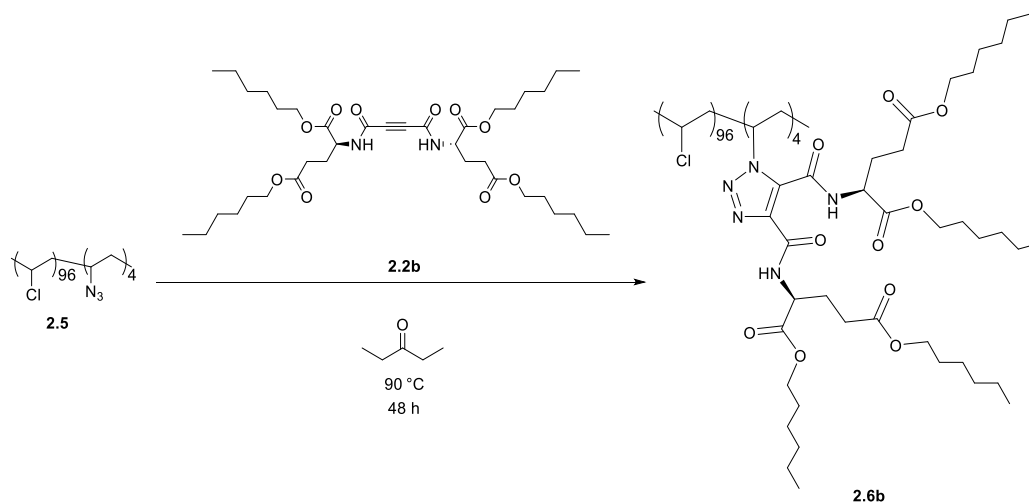
To a 15 mL round bottom flask was added PVC-12.0%-N₃ **2.5'** (217.5 mg, 3.480 mmol), alkyne **2.2a** (780.1 mg, 1.307 mmol), and 3-pentanone (3.5 mL). The reaction mixture was heated to 90 °C for 48 h. The resulting polymer was purified via precipitation in 40 mL of MeOH three times. The polymer was filtered and dried to give a pale yellow solid (297.4 mg).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , δ , ppm): 11.69–11.07 (br, m), 8.59–8.10 (br, m), 6.73–6.11 (br, m), 4.94–4.80 (br, s), 4.80–4.66 (br, s), 4.66–4.52 (br, m), 4.52–4.33 (br, m), 4.33–4.24 (br, s), 4.24–4.09 (br, m), 4.09–3.98 (br, m), 3.89–3.50 (br, m), 3.08–2.58 (br, m), 2.57–2.22 (br, m), 2.22–1.81 (br, m), 1.73–1.50 (br, m), 1.49–1.09 (br, m), 1.04–0.70 (br, m).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3 , δ , ppm): 172.52 (C=O), 170.98 (C=O), 161.19 (C=O), 156.52 (C=O), 138.62 (triazole –C=C–), 132.03 (triazole –C=C–), 65.91 (–CH₂–O–), 65.57 (–CH₂–O–), 64.82 (–CH₂–O–), 64.62 (–CH₂–O–), 57.04–54.95 (PVC –CH–Cl– and PVC –CH–triazole), 52.43 (–NH–CH–), 52.01 (–NH–CH–), 47.40–45.37 (family of CH₂ PVC peaks), 30.75 (CH₂), 30.71 (CH₂), 30.64 (CH₂), 30.62 (CH₂), 30.47 (CH₂), 30.39 (CH₂), 27.69 (CH₂), 27.29 (CH₂), 19.23 (CH₂), 19.16 (CH₂), 13.86 (CH₂), 13.82 (CH₃), 13.77 (CH₃).

IR (NaCl, thin film, cm^{-1}): 3378 (w, amide N–H), 2961 (s, alkane C–H), 2935 (s, alkane C–H), 2874 (m, alkane C–H), 1737 (s, ester C=O), 1677 (s, amide C=O), 1655 (m, amide C=O), 1579 (m, amide N–H bending), 1551 (s, amide N–H bending), 1259 (s, ester C–O), 1199 (s, ester C–O), 616 (w, C–Cl).

Preparation of PVC-4.4%-nHex (2.6b)



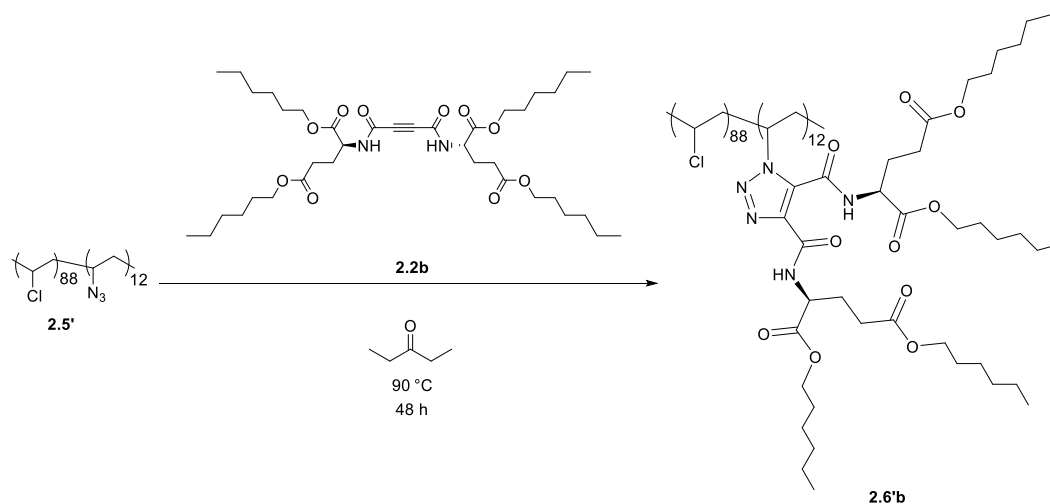
To a 25 mL round bottom flask was added PVC-4.4%-N₃ **2.5** (1.001 g, 16.02 mmol), alkyne **2.2b** (1.155 g, 1.629 mmol), and 3-pentanone (8 mL). The reaction mixture was heated to 90 °C for 48 h. The resulting polymer was purified via precipitation in 100 mL of MeOH three times. The polymer was filtered and dried to give a pale yellow solid (902.3 mg).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 11.65–11.19 (br, m), 8.53–8.15 (br, m), 6.77–6.25 (br, m), 4.93–4.81 (br, m), 4.81–4.66 (br, s), 4.66–4.52 (br, m), 4.52–4.37 (br, m), 4.37–4.22 (br, m), 4.22–4.10 (br, m), 4.10–4.00 (br, m), 3.90–3.60 (br, m), 3.05–2.59 (br, m), 2.59–2.22 (br, m), 2.22–1.78 (br, m), 1.74–1.52 (br, m), 1.46–1.15 (br, m), 1.03–0.71 (br, m).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 172.51 (C=O), 171.03 (C=O), 161.18 (C=O), 156.54 (C=O), 138.69 (triazole –C=C–), 132.18 (triazole –C=C–), 66.24 (–CH₂–O–), 65.89 (–CH₂–O–), 65.14 (–CH₂–O–), 64.95 (–CH₂–O–), 57.12–55.02 (PVC –CH–Cl– and PVC –CH–triazole), 52.44 (–NH–CH–), 51.99 (–NH–CH–), 47.41–44.94 (family of CH₂ PVC peaks), 31.54 (CH₂), 31.49 (CH₂), 31.46 (CH₂), 30.49 (CH₂), 30.38 (CH₂), 28.68 (CH₂), 28.65 (CH₂), 28.57 (CH₂), 27.74 (CH₂), 27.34 (CH₂), 25.68 (CH₂), 25.58 (CH₂), 22.66 (CH₂), 22.62 (CH₂), 14.15 (CH₃).

IR (NaCl, thin film, cm⁻¹): 3383 (w, amide N–H), 2957 (s, alkane C–H), 2931 (s, alkane C–H), 2859 (m, alkane C–H), 1736 (s, ester C=O), 1677 (m, amide C=O), 1654 (m, amide C=O), 1578 (m, amide N–H bending), 1551 (m, amide N–H bending), 1255 (s, ester C–O), 1196 (s, ester C–O), 615 (w, C–Cl).

Preparation of PVC-12.0%-nHex (2.6'b)



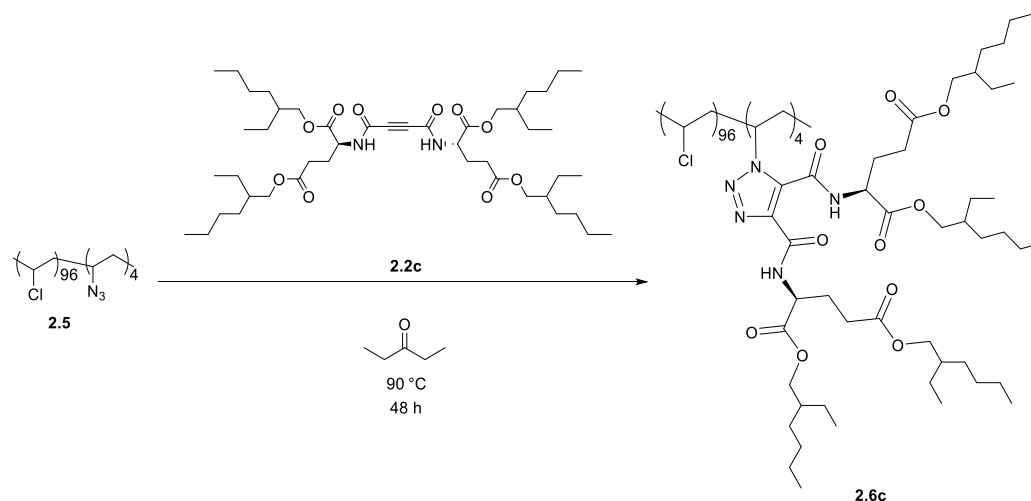
To a 25 mL round bottom flask was added PVC-12.0%-N₃ **2.5'** (399.1 mg, 6.386 mmol), alkyne **2.2b** (1.701 g, 2.399 mmol), and 3-pentanone (6.4 mL). The reaction mixture was heated to 90 °C for 48 h. The resulting polymer was purified via precipitation in 40 mL of MeOH three times. The polymer was filtered and dried to give a pale yellow solid (824.2 mg).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 11.64–11.03 (br, m), 8.56–8.09 (br, m), 6.71–6.10 (br, m), 4.98–4.80 (br, m), 4.80–4.65 (br, m), 4.65–4.51 (br, m), 4.51–4.33 (br, m), 4.33–4.22 (br, m), 4.22–4.09 (br, m), 4.09–3.98 (br, m), 3.87–3.41 (br, m), 3.07–2.58 (br, m), 2.56–2.22 (br, m), 2.22–1.81 (br, m), 1.74–1.50 (br, m), 1.45–1.10 (br, m), 1.03–0.71 (br, m).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 172.50 (C=O), 170.99 (C=O), 161.21 (C=O), 156.54 (C=O), 138.51 (triazole –C=C–), 132.14 (triazole –C=C–), 66.21 (–CH₂–O–), 65.86 (–CH₂–O–), 65.25 (–CH₂–O–), 65.12 (–CH₂–O–), 64.92 (–CH₂–O–), 57.07–55.00 (PVC –CH–Cl– and PVC –CH–triazole), 52.42 (–NH–CH–), 51.97 (–NH–CH–), 47.41–45.38 (family of CH₂ PVC peaks), 31.54 (CH₂), 31.52 (CH₂), 31.47 (CH₂), 31.44 (CH₂), 30.47 (CH₂), 30.36 (CH₂), 28.66 (CH₂), 28.63 (CH₂), 28.55 (CH₂), 27.72 (CH₂), 27.30 (CH₂), 25.66 (CH₂), 25.56 (CH₂), 22.63 (CH₂), 22.60 (CH₂), 14.12 (CH₃), 14.10 (CH₃).

IR (NaCl, thin film, cm^{-1}): 3378 (w, amide N—H), 2957 (s, alkane C—H), 2931 (s, alkane C—H), 2859 (m, alkane C—H), 1737 (s, ester C=O), 1676 (s, amide C=O), 1655 (s, amide C=O), 1579 (s, amide N—H bending), 1551 (s, amide N—H bending), 1255 (s, ester C—O), 1195 (s, ester C—O), 615 (w, C—Cl).

Preparation of PVC-4.4%-2EtHex (2.6c)



To a 15 mL round bottom flask was added PVC-4.4%-N₃ **2.5** (615.0 mg, 9.840 mmol), alkyne **2.2c** (1.037 g, 1.263 mmol), and 3-pentanone (10 mL). The reaction mixture was heated to 90 °C for 48 h. The resulting polymer was purified via precipitation in 100 mL of MeOH/hexanes (70/30) three times. The polymer was filtered and dried to give a pale yellow solid (786.9 mg).

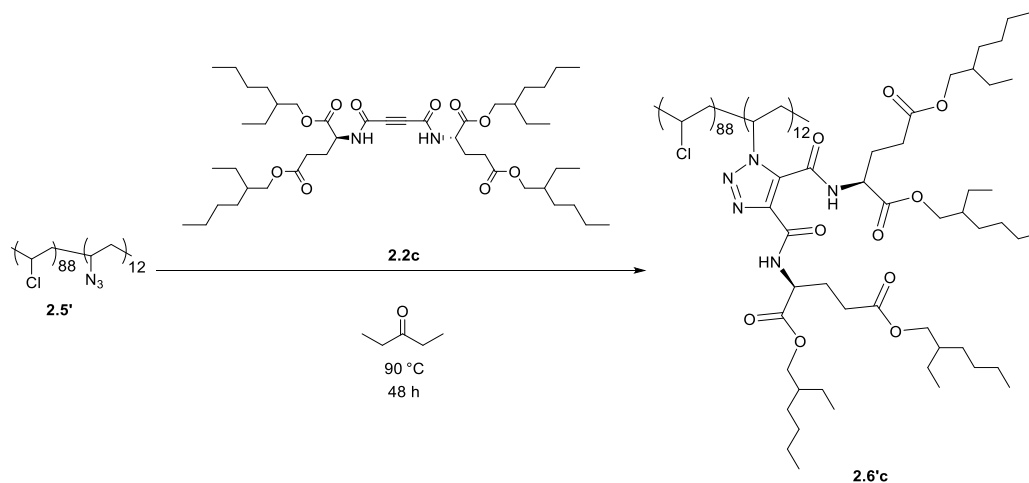
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, δ , ppm): 11.65–11.15 (br, m), 8.38–8.14 (br, m), 6.72–6.16 (br, m), 4.93–4.83 (br, m), 4.83–4.67 (br, s), 4.67–4.53 (br, m), 4.53–4.37 (br, m), 4.37–4.16 (br, m), 4.16–4.04 (br, m), 4.04–3.89 (br, m), 3.89–3.49 (br, m), 3.00–2.59 (br, m), 2.59–2.23 (br, m), 2.23–1.73 (br, m), 1.73–1.45 (br, m), 1.45–1.07 (br, m), 1.07–0.69 (br, m).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃, δ , ppm): 172.53 (C=O), 171.10 (C=O), 170.96 (C=O), 161.13 (C=O), 156.58 (C=O), 138.60 (triazole —C=C—), 132.16 (triazole —C=C—), 68.39

(-CH₂-O-), 68.02 (-CH₂-O-), 67.40 (-CH₂-O-), 67.19 (-CH₂-O-), 57.11-55.02 (PVC -CH-Cl- and PVC -CH-triazole), 52.46 (-NH-CH-), 52.01 (-NH-CH-), 47.41-44.94 (family of CH₂ PVC peaks), 38.80 (CH), 38.75 (CH), 30.54 (CH₂), 30.45 (CH₂), 30.41 (CH₂), 30.36 (CH₂), 29.03 (CH₂), 28.99 (CH₂), 27.75 (CH₂), 27.42 (CH₂), 23.86 (CH₂), 23.84 (CH₂), 23.81 (CH₂), 23.09 (CH₂), 23.08 (CH₂), 23.05 (CH₂), 23.04 (CH₂), 14.21 (CH₃), 14.19 (CH₃), 11.11 (CH₃), 11.09 (CH₃), 11.07 (CH₃).

IR (neat): 3382 (w, amide N-H), 2960 (s, alkane C-H), 2930 (s, alkane C-H), 2873 (m, alkane C-H), 2861 (s, alkane C-H), 1736 (s, ester C=O), 1677 (s, amide C=O), 1655 (m, amide C=O), 1578 (m, amide N-H bending), 1551 (m, amide N-H bending), 1256 (s, ester C-O), 1199 (s, ester C-O), 615 (w, C-Cl).

Preparation of PVC-12.0%-2EtHex (2.6'c)



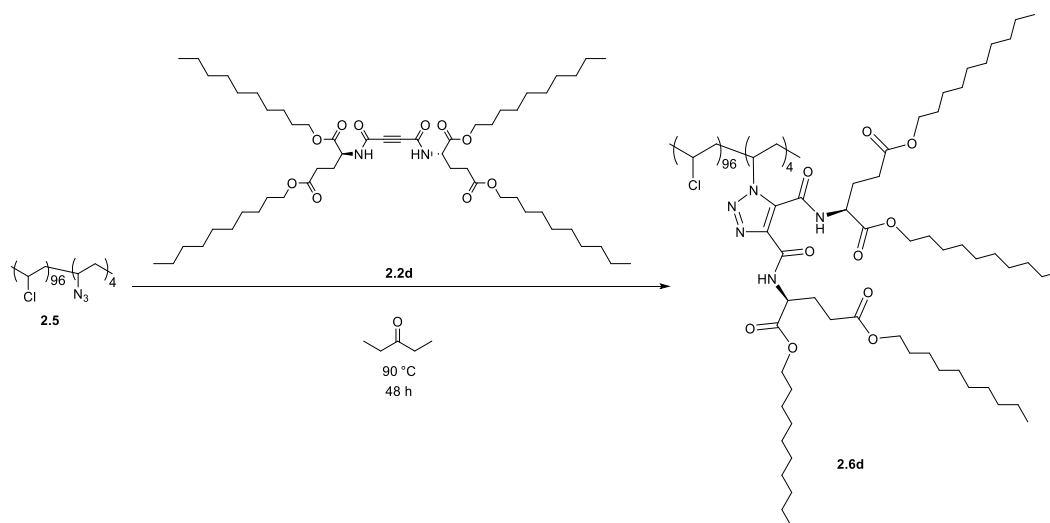
To a 15 mL round bottom flask was added PVC-12.0%-N₃ (**2.5'**) (198.3 mg, 3.173 mmol), alkyne **2.2c** (987.2 mg, 1.202 mmol), and 3-pentanone (3.2 mL). The reaction mixture was heated to 90 °C for 48 h. The resulting polymer was purified via precipitation in 100 mL of MeOH/hexanes (70/30) three times. The polymer was filtered and dried to give a pale yellow solid (115.8 mg).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , δ , ppm): 11.69–11.16 (br, m), 8.54–8.11 (br, m), 6.75–6.08 (br, m), 4.98–4.83 (br, m), 4.83–4.68 (br, s), 4.68–4.52 (br, m), 4.52–4.33 (br, m), 4.33–4.19 (br, m), 4.19–4.04 (br, m), 4.04–3.86 (br, m), 3.86–3.44 (br, m), 3.00–2.60 (br, m), 2.60–2.23 (br, m), 2.23–1.77 (br, m), 1.71–1.46 (br, m), 1.46–1.07 (br, m), 1.06–0.66 (br, m).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3 , δ , ppm): 172.53 (C=O), 170.98 (C=O), 161.18 (C=O), 156.57 (C=O), 138.68 (triazole –C=C–), 132.19 (triazole –C=C–), 68.37 (–CH₂–O–), 68.01 (–CH₂–O–), 67.38 (–CH₂–O–), 67.17 (–CH₂–O–), 57.05–55.00 (PVC –CH–Cl– and PVC –CH–triazole), 52.45 (–NH–CH–), 52.00 (–NH–CH–), 47.42–45.42 (family of CH₂ PVC peaks), 38.80 (CH), 30.45 (CH₂), 30.41 (CH₂), 29.02 (CH₂), 28.99 (CH₂), 27.75 (CH₂), 27.40 (CH₂), 23.86 (CH₂), 23.84 (CH₂), 23.07 (CH₂), 23.05 (CH₂), 14.18 (CH₃), 11.08 (CH₃), 11.05 (CH₃).

IR (neat): 3379 (w, amide N–H), 2960 (s, alkane C–H), 2931 (s, alkane C–H), 2873 (m, alkane C–H), 2861 (s, alkane C–H), 1737 (s, ester C=O), 1677 (s, amide C=O), 1655 (s, amide C=O), 1579 (s, amide N–H bending), 1551 (s, amide N–H bending), 1259 (s, ester C–O), 1198 (s, ester C–O), 616 (w, C–Cl).

Preparation of PVC-4.4%-nDec (2.6d)



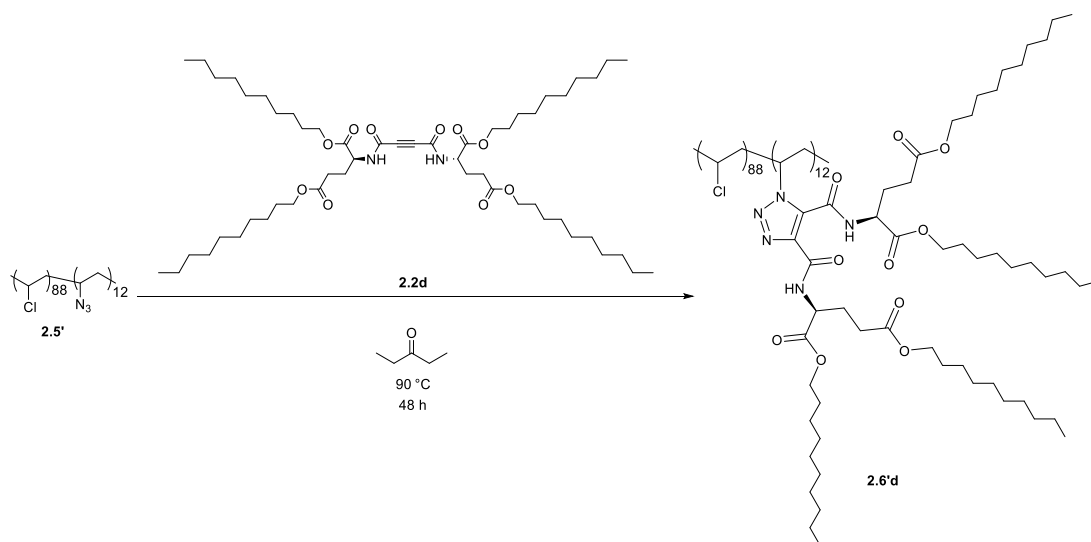
To a 50 mL round bottom flask was added PVC-4.4%-N₃ **2.5** (1.024 g, 16.38 mmol), alkyne **2.2d** (1.912 g, 2.048 mmol), and 3-pentanone (8 mL). The reaction mixture was heated to 90 °C for 48 h. The resulting polymer was purified via precipitation in 100 mL of MeOH/hexanes (70/30) three times. The polymer was filtered and dried to give a pale yellow solid (1.207 g).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 11.54–11.21 (br, m), 8.42–8.14 (br, m), 6.70–6.25 (br, m), 4.95–4.81 (br, m), 4.81–4.67 (br, m), 4.67–4.53 (br, m), 4.53–4.37 (br, m), 4.37–4.22 (br, m), 4.22–4.10 (br, m), 4.10–3.89 (br, m), 3.89–3.43 (br, m), 3.17–2.60 (br, m), 2.60–2.23 (br, m), 2.23–1.80 (br, m), 1.80–1.48 (br, m), 1.48–1.06 (br, m), 1.04–0.71 (br, m).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 172.48 (C=O), 171.03 (C=O), 170.91 (C=O), 161.13 (C=O), 156.54 (C=O), 138.51 (triazole –C=C–), 132.13 (triazole –C=C–), 66.23 (–CH₂–O–), 65.88 (–CH₂–O–), 65.12 (–CH₂–O–), 64.93 (–CH₂–O–), 57.11–55.01 (PVC –CH–Cl– and PVC –CH–triazole), 52.41 (–NH–CH–), 51.96 (–NH–CH–), 47.38–44.93 (family of CH₂ PVC peaks), 31.99 (CH₂), 30.46 (CH₂), 30.35 (CH₂), 29.67 (CH₂), 29.65 (CH₂), 29.63 (CH₂), 29.59 (CH₂), 29.41 (CH₂), 29.37 (CH₂), 29.34 (CH₂), 29.30 (CH₂), 28.72 (CH₂), 28.68 (CH₂), 28.60 (CH₂), 27.73 (CH₂), 27.31 (CH₂), 26.00 (CH₂), 25.90 (CH₂), 22.79 (CH₂), 14.25 (CH₃).

IR (neat): 3381 (w, amide N–H), 2954 (s, alkane C–H), 2926 (s, alkane C–H), 2855 (m, alkane C–H), 1737 (s, ester C=O), 1677 (m, amide C=O), 1657 (m, amide C=O), 1580 (m, amide N–H bending), 1551 (m, amide N–H bending), 1255 (s, ester C–O), 1199 (s, ester C–O), 616 (w, C–Cl).

Preparation of PVC-12.0%-nDec (2.6'd)



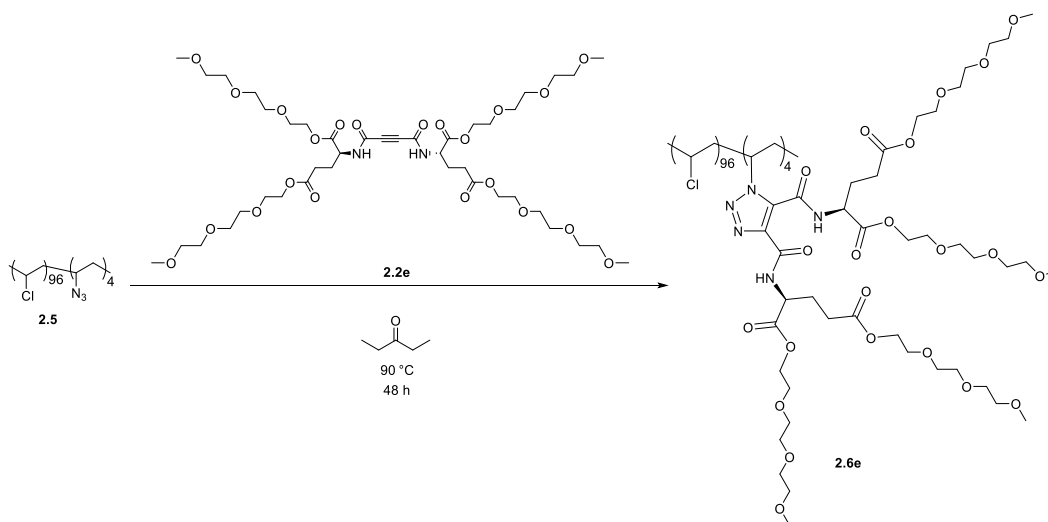
To a 50 mL round bottom flask was added PVC-12.0%-N₃ (**2.5'**) (919.1 mg, 14.71 mmol), alkyne **2.2d** (5.100 g, 5.464 mmol), and 3-pentanone (14.7 mL). The reaction mixture was heated to 90 °C for 48 h. The resulting polymer was purified via precipitation in 100 mL of MeOH/hexanes (70/30) three times. The polymer was filtered and dried to give a pale yellow solid (1.489 g).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 11.63–11.05 (br, m), 8.57–8.06 (br, m), 6.83–6.07 (br, m), 4.97–4.80 (br, s), 4.80–4.66 (br, s), 4.66–4.52 (br, s), 4.52–4.33 (br, m), 4.33–4.23 (br, s), 4.23–4.08 (br, m), 4.08–3.86 (br, s), 3.86–3.34 (br, m), 3.16–2.59 (br, m), 2.59–2.21 (br, m), 2.21–1.83 (br, m), 1.81–1.50 (br, m), 1.50–1.03 (br, m), 1.03–0.60 (br, m).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 172.48 (C=O), 170.97 (C=O), 161.15 (C=O), 156.55 (C=O), 138.57 (triazole –C=C–), 132.03 (triazole –C=C–), 66.21 (–CH₂–O–), 65.87 (–CH₂–O–), 65.12 (–CH₂–O–), 64.93 (–CH₂–O–), 57.02–54.99 (PVC –CH–Cl– and PVC –CH–triazole), 52.42 (–NH–CH–), 51.96 (–NH–CH–), 47.42–45.41 (Family of CH₂ PVC peaks), 32.01 (CH₂), 30.46 (CH₂), 30.35 (CH₂), 29.67 (CH₂), 29.65 (CH₂), 29.61 (CH₂), 29.42 (CH₂), 29.38 (CH₂), 29.35 (CH₂), 29.31 (CH₂), 28.73 (CH₂), 28.70 (CH₂), 28.62 (CH₂), 27.75 (CH₂), 27.32 (CH₂), 26.01 (CH₂), 25.92 (CH₂), 22.80 (CH₂), 14.24 (CH₃).

IR (neat): 3379 (w, amide N—H), 2955 (s, alkane C—H), 2926 (s, alkane C—H), 2855 (m, alkane C—H), 1739 (s, ester C=O), 1676 (s, amide C=O), 1655 (m, amide C=O), 1579 (m, amide N—H bending), 1551 (s, amide N—H bending), 1259 (s, ester C—O), 1198 (s, ester C—O), 616 (w, C—Cl).

Preparation of PVC-4.4%-TEGMe (2.6e)



To a 50 mL round bottom flask was added PVC-4.4%-N₃ (**2.5**) (1.064 g, 17.02 mmol), alkyne **2.2e** (2.036 g, 2.127 mmol), and 3-pentanone (17 mL). The reaction mixture was heated to 90 °C for 48 h. The resulting polymer was purified via precipitation in 100 mL of MeOH four times. The polymer was filtered and dried to give a pale yellow solid (1.159 g).

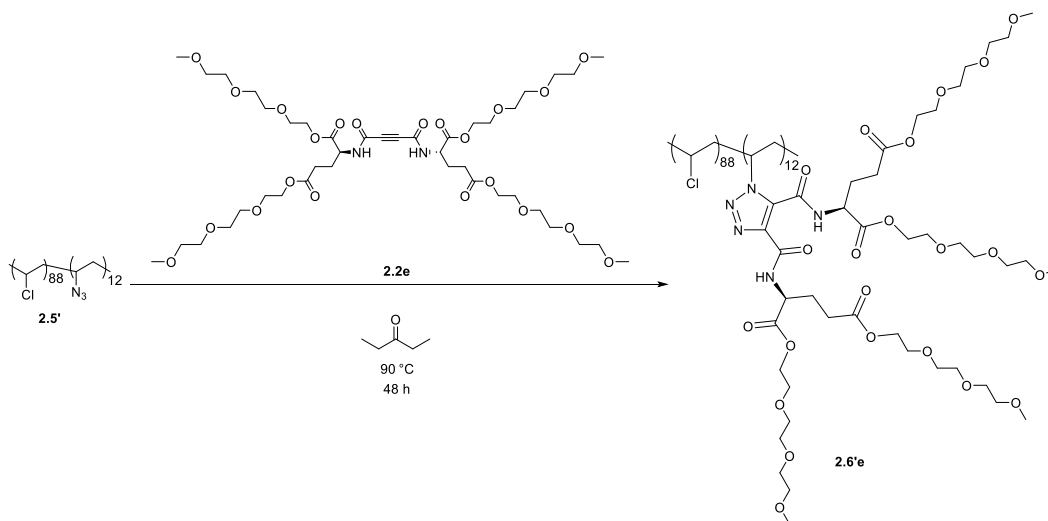
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 11.71–11.14 (br, m), 8.44–8.19 (br, m), 6.70–6.29 (br, m), 4.98–4.82 (br, s), 4.82–4.67 (br, s), 4.67–4.52 (br, m), 4.52–4.37 (br, m), 4.37–4.09 (br, m), 3.85–3.58 (br, m), 3.58–3.45 (br, m), 3.36 (s), 2.95–2.61 (br, m), 2.61–2.46 (br, m), 2.46–2.22 (br, m), 2.22–1.68 (br, m).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 172.47 (C=O), 172.37 (C=O), 170.95 (C=O), 170.77 (C=O), 162.32 (C=O), 161.19 (C=O), 156.53 (C=O), 138.63 (triazole —C=C—), 132.02

(triazole -C=C-), 72.54 ($\text{-CH}_2\text{-O-}$), 72.00 ($\text{-CH}_2\text{-O-}$), 71.95 ($\text{-CH}_2\text{-O-}$), 70.70 ($\text{-CH}_2\text{-O-}$), 70.67 ($\text{-CH}_2\text{-O-}$), 70.63 ($\text{-CH}_2\text{-O-}$), 69.13 ($\text{-CH}_2\text{-O-}$), 69.09 ($\text{-CH}_2\text{-O-}$), 68.87 ($\text{-CH}_2\text{-O-}$), 64.88 ($\text{-CH}_2\text{-O-}$), 64.60 ($\text{-CH}_2\text{-O-}$), 63.97 ($\text{-CH}_2\text{-O-}$), 63.80 ($\text{-CH}_2\text{-O-}$), 61.81 ($\text{-CH}_2\text{-O-}$), 59.11 (CH_3), 57.10–55.00 (PVC -CH-Cl- and PVC -CH-triazole), 52.31 (-NH-CH-), 51.92 (-NH-CH-), 47.36–44.90 (family of CH_2 PVC peaks), 30.17 (CH_2), 27.35 (CH_2), 27.06 (CH_2).

IR (neat): 3380 (w, amide N–H), 2911 (s, alkane C–H), 2877 (s, alkane C–H), 1739 (s, ester C=O), 1676 (s, amide C=O), 1653 (m, amide C=O), 1579 (m, amide N–H bending), 1552 (s, amide N–H bending), 1254 (s, ester C–O), 1199 (s, ester C–O), 1105 (s, ether C–O), 615 (w, C–Cl).

Preparation of PVC-12.0%-TEGMe (2.6'e)



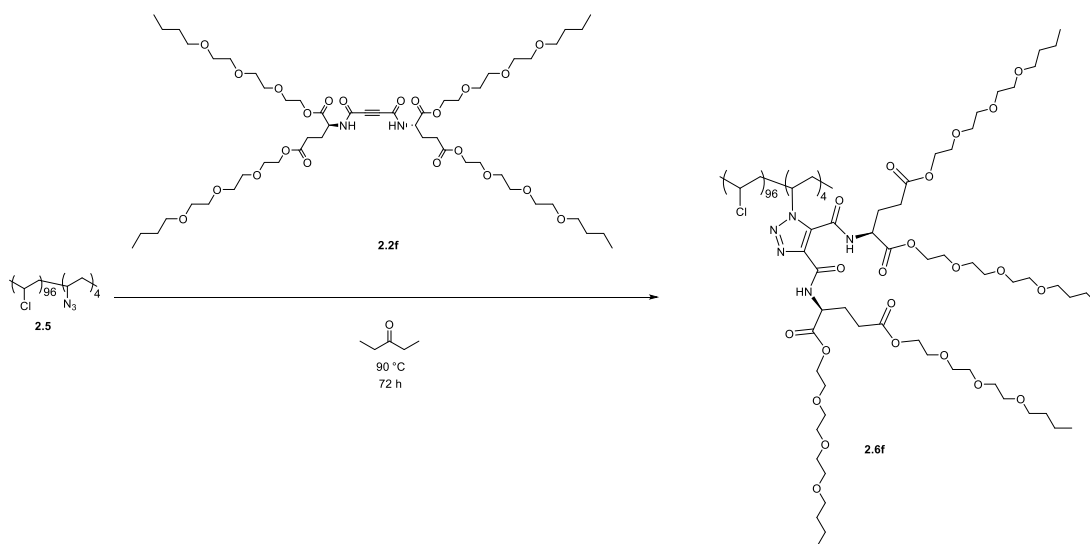
To a 25 mL round bottom flask was added PVC-12.0%-N₃ **2.5'** (285.1 mg, 4.562 mmol), alkyne **2.2e** (1.642 g, 1.716 mmol), and 3-pentanone (4.6 mL). The reaction mixture was heated to 90 °C for 48 h. The resulting polymer was purified via precipitation in 40 ml of MeOH four times. The polymer was filtered and dried to give a pale yellow solid (550.8 mg).

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , δ , ppm): 11.71–11.13 (br, s), 8.59–8.20 (br, s), 6.70–6.13 (br, m), 5.02–4.81 (br, s), 4.81–4.67 (br, s), 4.67–4.51 (br, m), 4.51–4.09 (br, m), 3.92–3.55 (br, m), 3.57–3.43 (br, m), 3.42–3.27 (br, s), 2.95–2.42 (br, m), 2.44–1.70 (br, m).

^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3 , δ , ppm): 172.49 (C=O), 170.96 (C=O), 161.37 (C=O), 156.54 (C=O), 132.10 (triazole $-\text{C}=\text{C}-$), 72.58 ($-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$), 72.04 ($-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$), 70.70 ($-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$), 70.66 ($-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$), 69.12 ($-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$), 68.88 ($-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$), 64.89 ($-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$), 64.62 ($-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$), 63.99 ($-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$), 63.82 ($-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$), 61.86 ($-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$), 59.14 (CH_3), 57.10–56.00 (PVC $-\text{CH}-\text{Cl}-$ and PVC $-\text{CH}-\text{triazole}$), 51.93 ($-\text{NH}-\text{CH}-$), 47.39–45.81 (family of CH_2 PVC peaks), 30.18 (CH_2), 27.10 (CH_2).

IR (neat): 3334 (m, amide N–H), 2881 (s, alkane C–H), 1736 (s, ester C=O), 1676 (s, amide C=O), 1542 (m, amide N–H bending), 1254 (s, ester C–O), 1199 (s, ester C–O), 1108 (s, ether C–O), 612 (w, C–Cl).

Preparation of PVC-4.4%-TEGBu (2.6f)



To a 50 mL round bottom flask was added PVC-4.4%-N₃ (**2.5**) (1.008 g, 16.13 mmol), alkyne **2.2f** (2.270 g, 2.017 mmol), and 3-pentanone (15 mL). The reaction mixture was heated

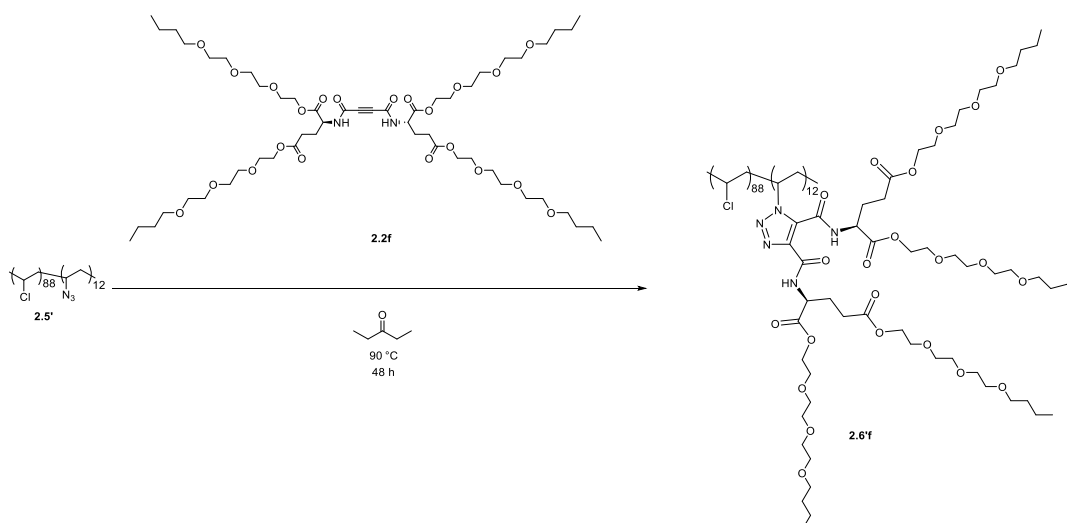
to 90 °C for 72 h. The resulting polymer was purified via precipitation in 100 mL of MeOH four times. The polymer was filtered and dried to give a pale yellow solid (974.5 mg).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 11.53–11.04 (br, s), 8.44–8.19 (br, s), 6.68–6.62 (br, m), 4.99–4.82 (br, s), 4.82–4.68 (br, s), 4.66–4.52 (br, m), 4.52–4.36 (br, m), 4.38–4.06 (br, m), 3.87–3.65 (br, m), 3.66–3.59 (br, m), 3.60–3.52 (br, m), 3.44 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz), 2.97–2.62 (br, m), 2.62–2.47 (br, m), 2.48–2.22 (br, m), 2.22–1.81 (br, m), 1.61–1.48 (br, m), 1.44–1.29 (br, m), 0.90 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 172.49 (C=O), 170.94 (C=O), 161.57 (C=O), 156.55 (C=O), 138.67 (triazole –C=C–), 71.30 (–CH₂–O–), 70.78 (–CH₂–O–), 70.71 (–CH₂–O–), 70.66 (–CH₂–O–), 70.16 (–CH₂–O–), 69.13 (–CH₂–O–), 68.90 (–CH₂–O–), 64.92 (–CH₂–O–), 64.62 (–CH₂–O–), 64.01 (–CH₂–O–), 63.84 (–CH₂–O–), 57.11–55.01 (PVC –CH–Cl– and PVC –CH–triazole), 52.35 (–NH–CH–), 51.94 (–NH–CH–), 47.38–44.93 (family of CH₂ PVC peaks), 31.82 (CH₂), 30.18 (CH₂), 27.02 (CH₂), 19.39 (CH₂), 14.07 (CH₃).

IR (neat): 3326 (m, amide N–H), 2958 (s, alkane C–H), 2934 (s, alkane C–H), 2872 (s, alkane C–H), 1739 (s, ester C=O), 1672 (s, amide C=O), 1536 (s, amide N–H bending), 1254 (s, ester C–O), 1195 (s, ester C–O), 1119 (s, ether C–O), 615 (w, C–Cl).

Preparation of PVC-12.0%-TEGBu (2.6'f)



To a 25 mL round bottom flask was added PVC-12.0%-N₃ (**2.5'**) (294.0 mg, 4.704 mmol), alkyne **2.2f** (2.008 g, 1.784 mmol), and 3-pentanone (4.7 mL). The reaction mixture was heated to 90 °C for 48 h. The resulting polymer was purified via precipitation in 40 mL of MeOH four times. The polymer was filtered and dried to give a pale yellow solid (513.2 mg).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 11.52–11.09 (br, s), 8.58–8.16 (br, s), 6.51 (br, m), 5.03–4.82 (br, s), 4.82–4.68 (br, s), 4.68–4.53 (br, m), 4.53–4.05 (br, m), 3.86–3.51 (br, s), 3.45 (s), 2.95–2.61 (br, m), 2.61–2.42 (br, m), 2.42–2.24 (br, m), 2.24–1.77 (br, m), 1.72–1.46 (br, m), 1.46–1.23 (br, m), 1.09–0.72 (br, m).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃, δ, ppm): 172.46 (C=O), 170.93 (C=O), 170.76 (C=O), 161.33 (C=O), 161.13 (C=O), 156.60 (C=O), 139.68 (Triazole –C=C–), 138.62 (triazole –C=C–), 77.41 (–CH₂–O–), 77.16 (–CH₂–O–), 76.91 (–CH₂–O–), 71.28 (–CH₂–O–), 70.77 (–CH₂–O–), 70.72 (–CH₂–O–), 70.70 (–CH₂–O–), 70.66 (–CH₂–O–), 70.15 (–CH₂–O–), 69.11 (–CH₂–O–), 68.88 (–CH₂–O–), 64.89 (–CH₂–O–), 64.60 (–CH₂–O–), 63.81 (–CH₂–O–), 61.72 (–CH₂–O–), 57.08–54.98 (PVC –CH–Cl– and PVC –CH–triazole), 52.31

(—NH—CH—), 51.91 (—NH—CH—), 47.37–44.92 (family of CH₂ PVC peaks), 31.81 (CH₂), 30.17 (CH₂), 27.41 (CH₂), 27.06 (CH₂), 19.38 (CH₂), 14.05 (CH₃).

IR (neat): 3380 (m, amide N—H), 2957 (s, alkane C—H), 2933 (s, alkane C—H), 2871 (s, alkane C—H), 1739 (s, ester C=O), 1677 (s, amide C=O), 1653 (m, amide C=O), 1579 (m, amide N—H bending), 1552 (s, amide N—H bending), 1254 (s, ester C—O), 1195 (s, ester C—O), 1116 (s, ether C—O), 614 (w, C—Cl).

5.2 Experimental Section for Chapter 3 and Chapter 4

5.2.1 Materials

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) (M_w = 43,000, M_n = 22,000) was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and was purified before use by the following method:⁵⁻⁷ PVC (40.05 g, 640.8 mmol) was dissolved in 200 mL of THF. The polymer was precipitated by addition to 1 L of MeOH. The precipitate was filtered, dissolved in 230 mL of THF, and precipitated again in 1 L of MeOH. The precipitate was filtered, dissolved in 230 mL of THF, and finally precipitated in 2 L of MeOH. The precipitate was filtered and dried under vacuum. Copper bromide (CuBr) was purchased from Oakwood Chemical and was purified by the following method:⁸ 7.08 g of CuBr was suspended in 20 mL of glacial acetic acid, and stirred under nitrogen at room temperature overnight. The solid was filtered using a Büchner funnel, washed with 200 mL of absolute ethanol, followed by 100 mL of anhydrous diethyl ether. The solid CuBr was then dried under vacuum, and stored under N₂ at -20 °C. *n*-Butyl acrylate (BA) (>99%) was purchased from Acros Organics. BA used in Chapter 3 was purified to remove the inhibitor by distillation under reduced vacuum. BA used in Chapter 4 was purified to remove inhibitor by passing it neat through basic Al₂O₃. 2-2-(2-ethoxyethoxy)ethyl acrylate (2EEA) was purchased from TCI America and was purified to remove inhibitor by passing it neat through basic aluminum oxide. *N, N, N', N'', N'''*-pentamethyldiethylenetriamine (PMDETA) (99%) was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and was purified before use by distillation under reduced vacuum. DMF (extra dry,

99.8%) was purchased from Acros Organics, acetic acid (99.7%) and methanol (99.8%), tetrahydrofuran (99.9%) were purchased from Fisher Chemical. Activated basic aluminum oxide was purchased from Oakwood Chemical.

5.2.2 Measurements:

Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded with a Bruker AVANCE III HD 4 channel 500 MHz Oxford Magnet NMR Spectrometer with Automation at ambient temperature in CDCl_3 as solvent. The signal of residual CHCl_3 was used as an internal standard (^1H NMR, δ 7.26 ppm). Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) was recorded with a Thermo-Nicolet 6700 Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectrometer equipped with a Continuum microscope in transmission mode. A small portion of each sample was transferred to an infrared transmitting substrate. The analytical spot size was approximately 100 microns x 100 microns. OMNIC 8.0 software was used to perform data analysis. Glass transition temperatures of polymers were measured using TA Instruments DSC Q2000 with a heat-cool-heat protocol. DSC was equilibrated at 180 °C. First heat cycle: a scanning range of -180 to 240 °C at a heating rate of 10 °C min^{-1} . First cool cycle: 240 °C to -175 °C at 5 °C min^{-1} . Second heat cycle: -175 °C to 240 °C at 10 °C min^{-1} . Derivative thermogravimetry (DTG) and thermal gravimetric analyses (TGA) were performed with TA Instrument TGA Q500. TGA was performed within a scanning range of ambient to 900 °C at a heating rate of 10 °C min^{-1} with nitrogen purge. GPC was recorded with a Malvern Viscotek TDA 305 Triple Detector. Sample was dissolved in THF with concentration 1 mg/mL. The column set used was PLgel 50A. The flow rate was 1 mL/min. Injection volume was 100 μL .

5.2.3 Preparation of PVC Graft Copolymers for Chapter 3

Preparation of PVC-g-PBA (2 g scale)

To a 10 mL Schlenk flask was added PVC (500.0 mg, 8.000 mmol) and 3 mL of DMF. The mixture was stirred and warmed slightly to fully dissolve the PVC. BA (2.87 mL, 20.0 mmol)

was added to the solution. To a 2 mL vial was added CuBr (34.40 mg, 0.2398 mmol) and 0.75 mL of DMF to form a suspension. The CuBr suspension was transferred to the PVC solution by pipet. Residual CuBr was washed into the PVC solution using an additional 0.25 mL of DMF. PMDETA (50 μ L, 0.24 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was degassed via four cycles of freeze-pump-thaw, and then heated to 100 °C while stirring under nitrogen. After 24 h, an aliquot was taken to analyze the crude reaction by ^1H NMR using CDCl_3 as solvent (%conv._{NMR} = 81%). The resulting polymer was precipitated by addition to 200 mL of MeOH, followed by stirring for 20 min. Then MeOH was decanted. The polymer was stirred overnight in an additional 200 mL of MeOH. The solution phase was decanted, the polymer was washed with stirring with two additional portions of MeOH (200 mL \times 2). The polymer was filtered and dried under vacuum to yield 2.4810 g (wt% plasticizer_{grav.} = 80%) of a pale green, pliable polymer.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.644.54 (br s), 4.53–4.37 (br m), 4.37–4.23 (br s), 4.17–3.85 (br s), 2.50–2.21 (br m), 2.20–1.98 (br m), 1.97–1.80 (br m), 1.75–1.56 (br m), 1.51–1.44 (br m), 1.43–1.29 (br m), 0.93 (t, J = 7.3 Hz). Based by ^1H NMR integration: PBA : PVC = 1.6 : 1.0.

FT-IR: 2960 (s, alkane C–H), 2935 (s, alkane C–H), 2873 (s, alkane C–H), 1733 (s, ester C=O), 1163 (s, ester C–O).

Preparation of PVC-g-75%PBA-co-25%P2EEA (2 g scale)

To a 10 mL Schlenk flask was added PVC (500.0 mg, 8.000 mmol) and 3 mL of DMF. The mixture was stirred and warmed slightly to fully dissolve the PVC. BA (2.15 mL, 15.0 mmol) and 2EEA (0.93 mL, 5.0 mmol) were added to the solution. To a 2 mL vial was added CuBr (34.32 mg, 0.2392 mmol) and 0.75 mL of DMF to form a suspension. The CuBr suspension was transferred to the PVC solution by pipet. Residual CuBr was washed into the PVC solution using an additional 0.25 mL of DMF. PMDETA (50 μ L, 0.24 mmol) was added, and the reaction

mixture was degassed via four cycles of freeze-pump-thaw, and then heated to 100 °C while stirring under nitrogen. After 24 h, an aliquot was taken to analyze the crude reaction by ^1H NMR using CDCl_3 as solvent (%conv._{NMR} = 73%). The resulting polymer was precipitated by addition to 200 mL of MeOH, followed by stirring for 20 min. Then MeOH was decanted. The polymer was stirred in an additional 200 mL of MeOH overnight. The solution phase was decanted. The polymer was washed with stirring with two additional portions of MeOH (200 mL \times 2). The polymer was filtered and dried under vacuum to yield 2.0065 g (wt% plasticizer_{grav.} = 75%) of a pale yellow, pliable polymer.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.71–4.53 (br m), 4.53–4.37 (br m), 4.37–4.25 (br m), 4.25–4.12 (br s), 4.12–3.85 (br s), 3.75–3.65 (br m), 3.65–3.60 (br m), 3.57 (br m), 3.52 (q, J = 7.0 Hz), 2.53–2.22 (br m), 2.22–1.97 (br m), 1.97–1.80 (br s), 1.80–1.57 (br m), 1.43–1.29 (br m), 1.21 (t, J = 7.0 Hz), 0.93 (t, J = 7.4 Hz). Based by ^1H NMR integration: (PBA + P2EEA) : PVC = 1.4 : 1.0; PBA : P2EEA = 3.0 : 1.0.

FT-IR: 2960 (s, alkane C–H), 2873 (s, alkane C–H), 1736 (s, ester C=O), 1169 (s, ester C–O). 1116 (s, ether C–O)

Preparation of PVC-g-50%PBA-co-50%P2EEA (2 g scale)

To a 10 mL Schlenk flask was added PVC (500.0 mg, 8.000 mmol) and DMF (3 mL). The mixture was stirred and warmed slightly to fully dissolve the PVC. BA (1.43 mL, 9.97 mmol) and 2EEA (1.85 mL, 9.99 mmol) were added to the solution. To a 2 mL vial was added CuBr (34.22 mg, 0.2386 mmol) and 0.75 mL of DMF to form a suspension. The CuBr suspension was transferred to the PVC solution by pipet. Residual CuBr was washed into the PVC solution using an additional 0.25 mL of DMF. PMDETA (50 μL , 0.24 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was degassed via four cycles of freeze-pump-thaw, and then heated to 100 °C while stirring under nitrogen. After 24 h, an aliquot was taken to analyze the crude reaction by ^1H NMR using CDCl_3 as solvent (%conv._{NMR} = 84%). The resulting polymer was precipitated by

addition to 200 mL of MeOH, followed by stirring for 20 min. Then MeOH was decanted. The polymer was stirred in an additional 200 mL of MeOH overnight. The solution phase was decanted. The polymer was washed with stirring with two additional portions of MeOH (200 mL \times 2). The polymer was filtered and dried under vacuum to yield 1.9994 g (wt% plasticizer_{grav.} = 75%) of a pale yellow, pliable polymer.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.66–4.53 (br m), 4.53–4.38 (br m), 4.38–4.25 (br m), 4.25–4.11 (br s), 4.11–3.89 (br m), 3.73–3.65 (br m), 3.65–3.60 (br m), 3.60–3.55 (br m), 3.52 (q, J = 7.0 Hz), 2.51–2.22 (br m), 2.22–1.97 (br m), 1.97–1.80 (br m), 1.76–1.52 (br m), 1.51–1.43 (br m), 1.43–1.28 (br m), 1.20 (t, J = 7.0 Hz), 0.94 (t, J = 7.3 Hz). Based by ¹H NMR integration: (PBA + P2EEA) : PVC = 1.3 : 1.0; PBA : P2EEA = 1.0 : 1.0.

FT-IR: 2962 (s, alkane C–H), 2873 (s, alkane C–H), 1735 (s, ester C=O), 1170 (s, ester C–O). 1116 (s, ether C–O)

Preparation of PVC-*g*-25%PBA-*co*-75%P2EEA (2 g scale)

To a 10 mL Schlenk flask was added PVC (500.0 mg, 8.000 mmol) and DMF (3 mL). The mixture was stirred and warmed slightly to fully dissolve the PVC. BA (0.72 mL, 5.02 mmol) and 2EEA (2.78 mL, 15.0 mmol) were added to the solution. To a 2 mL vial was added CuBr (34.38 mg, 0.2397 mmol) and 0.75 mL of DMF to form a suspension. The CuBr suspension was transferred to the PVC solution by pipet. Residual CuBr was washed into the PVC solution using an additional 0.25 mL of DMF. PMDETA (50 μ L, 0.24 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was degassed via four cycles of freeze-pump-thaw, and then heated to 100 °C while stirring under nitrogen. After 24 h, an aliquot was taken to analyze the crude reaction by ¹H NMR using CDCl₃ as solvent (%conv._{NMR} = 80%). The resulting polymer was precipitated by addition to 200 mL of MeOH, followed by stirring for 20 min. The majority of MeOH was decanted. The polymer was stirred in an additional 200 mL of MeOH overnight. The solution phase was decanted. The polymer was washed with stirring with two additional portions of

MeOH (200 mL × 2). The polymer was filtered and dried under vacuum to yield 1.8376 g (wt% plasticizer_{grav.} = 73%) of a pale yellow, pliable polymer.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.65–4.53 (br m), 4.53–4.38 (br m), 4.38–4.26 (br m), 4.26–4.10 (br s), 4.10–3.91 (br m), 3.74–3.65 (br m), 3.65–3.60 (br m), 3.60–3.55 (br m), 3.52 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 2.52–2.23 (br m), 2.23–1.97 (br m), 1.97–1.82 (br s), 1.73–1.45 (br m), 1.42–1.30 (br m), 1.20 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 0.94 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz). Based by ¹H NMR integration: (PBA + P2EEA) : PVC = 1.1 : 1.0; PBA : P2EEA = 1.0 : 2.9.

FT-IR: 2962 (s, alkane C–H), 2873 (s, alkane C–H), 1736 (s, ester C=O), 1169 (s, ester C–O). 1116 (s, ether C–O)

Preparation of PVC-g-P2EEA (2 g scale)

To a 10 mL Schlenk flask was added PVC (500.7 mg, 8.011 mmol) and DMF (3 mL). The mixture was stirred and warmed slightly to fully dissolve the PVC. 2EEA (3.70 mL, 20.0 mmol) were added to the solution. To a 2 mL vial was added CuBr (34.37 mg, 0.2396 mmol) and 0.75 mL of DMF to form a suspension. The CuBr suspension was transferred to the PVC solution by pipet. Residual CuBr was washed into the PVC solution using an additional 0.25 mL of DMF. PMDETA (50 μL, 0.24 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was degassed via four cycles of freeze-pump-thaw, and then heated to 100 °C while stirring under nitrogen. After 24 h, an aliquot was taken to analyze the crude reaction by ¹H NMR using CDCl₃ as solvent (%conv._{NMR} = 80%). The resulting polymer was precipitated by addition to 200 mL of MeOH, followed by stirring for 20 min. The majority of MeOH was decanted. The polymer was stirred in an additional 200 mL of MeOH overnight. The solution phase was decanted. The polymer was washed with stirring with two additional portions of MeOH (200 mL × 2). The polymer was filtered and dried under vacuum to yield 1.8646 g (wt% plasticizer_{grav.} = 73%) of a pale green, pliable polymer.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.64–4.53 (br m), 4.53–4.38 (br m), 4.38–4.26 (br m), 4.26–4.02 (br s), 3.74–3.64 (br m), 3.64–3.60 (br m), 3.60–3.55 (br m), 3.52 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz), 2.51–2.23 (br m), 2.23–1.97 (br m), 1.97–1.83 (br m), 1.73–1.56 (br m), 1.55–1.39 (br m), 1.20 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz). Based by ^1H NMR integration: P2EEA : PVC = 1.0 : 1.0.

FT-IR: 2973 (s, alkane C–H), 2872 (s, alkane C–H), 1736 (s, ester C=O), 1171 (s, ester C–O). 1120 (s, ether C–O)

Control experiment without PVC

To a 10 mL Schlenk flask was added a suspension of CuBr (34.56 mg, 0.2409 mmol) and 4 mL of DMF. PMDETA (50 μL , 0.24 mmol), BA (1.43 mL, 9.97 mmol), and 2EEA (1.85 mL, 9.99 mmol) were added to the suspension. The reaction mixture was degassed via four cycles of freeze-pump-thaw, and then heated to 100 $^\circ\text{C}$ while stirring under nitrogen for 24 h. An aliquot was taken to analyze the crude reaction by ^1H NMR using CDCl_3 as solvent (%conv._{NMR} = 23%).

Preparation of PVC-g-PBA (14 g scale)

To a 50 mL Schlenk flask was added PVC (3.00 g, 48.0 mmol) and DMF (18 mL). The mixture was stirred and warmed slightly to fully dissolve the PVC. BA (17.2 mL, 120 mmol) was added to the solution. To a 20 mL vial was added CuBr (206.50 mg, 1.4395 mmol) and 6 mL of DMF was used to transfer CuBr to the PVC solution by pipet. PMDETA (0.30 mL, 1.43 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was degassed via four cycles of freeze-pump-thaw, and then heated to 100 $^\circ\text{C}$ while stirring under nitrogen. After 24 h, an aliquot was taken to analyze the crude reaction by ^1H NMR using CDCl_3 as solvent (%conv._{NMR} = 87%). The resulting polymer was diluted in 20 mL of THF and precipitated by addition to 400 mL of MeOH. The polymer was washed with stirring with two additional portions of MeOH (400 mL \times 2) and gently stirred in MeOH overnight. Then MeOH was decanted. The polymer was dissolved in 30 mL of THF and then stirred in 400 mL of MeOH overnight. The polymer was washed with stirring with

two additional portions of MeOH (400 mL \times 2). The polymer was filtered and dried under vacuum to yield 14.98 g (wt% plasticizer_{grav.} = 80%) of a pale green, pliable polymer.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.65–4.54 (br m), 4.54–4.38 (br m), 4.38–4.23 (br m), 4.15–3.85 (br m), 2.50–2.22 (br m), 2.22–1.97 (br m), 1.97–1.79 (br m), 1.77–1.56 (br m), 1.51–1.43 (br m), 1.43–1.29 (br m), 0.94 (t, J = 7.3 Hz). Based by ¹H NMR integration: PBA : PVC = 1.4 : 1.0.

Preparation of PVC-g-75%PBA-co-25%P2EEA (14 g scale)

To a 50 mL Schlenk flask was added PVC (3.00 g, 48.0 mmol) and DMF (18 mL). The mixture was stirred and warmed slightly to fully dissolve the PVC. BA (12.9 mL, 90.0 mmol) and 2EEA (5.56 mL, 30.0 mmol) were added to the solution. To a 20 mL vial was added CuBr (206.36 mg, 1.4386 mmol) and 6 mL of DMF was used to transfer CuBr to the PVC solution by pipet. PMDETA (0.30 mL, 1.43 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was degassed via four cycles of freeze-pump-thaw, and then heated to 100 °C while stirring under nitrogen. After 24 h, an aliquot was taken to analyze the crude reaction by ¹H NMR using CDCl₃ as solvent (%conv._{NMR} = 88%). The resulting polymer was diluted in 20 mL of THF and precipitated by addition to 400 mL of MeOH. The polymer was washed with stirring with two additional portions of MeOH (400 mL \times 2) and gently stirred in MeOH overnight. The polymer was then washed with stirring with additional portion of 400 mL of MeOH. The polymer was filtered and dried under vacuum to yield 13.99 g (wt% plasticizer_{grav.} = 79%) of a pale yellow, pliable polymer.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.69–4.54 (br s), 4.54–4.38 (br m), 4.38–4.25 (br m), 4.25–4.12 (br s), 4.12–3.87 (br m), 3.74–3.65 (br m), 3.65–3.60 (br m), 3.60–3.55 (br m), 3.52 (q, J = 7.0 Hz), 2.54–2.22 (br m), 2.22–1.97 (br m), 1.97–1.79 (br m), 1.72–1.56 (br m), 1.52–1.43 (br m), 1.43–1.29 (br m), 1.21 (t, J = 7.0 Hz), 0.94 (t, J = 7.4 Hz). Based by ¹H NMR integration: (PBA + P2EEA) : PVC = 1.3 : 1.0; PBA : P2EEA = 3.0 : 1.0.

Preparation of PVC-g-50%PBA-co-50%P2EEA (14 g scale)

To a 50 mL Schlenk flask was added PVC (3.00 g, 48.0 mmol) and DMF (18 mL). The mixture was stirred and warmed slightly to fully dissolve the PVC. BA (8.60 mL, 60.0 mmol) and 2EEA (11.12 mL, 60.03 mmol) were added to the solution. To a 20 mL vial was added CuBr (206.18 mg, 1.4373 mmol) and 6 mL of DMF was used to transfer CuBr to the PVC solution by pipet. PMDETA (0.30 mL, 1.43 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was degassed via four cycles of freeze-pump-thaw, and then heated to 100 °C while stirring under nitrogen. After 24 h, an aliquot was taken to analyze the crude reaction by ¹H NMR using CDCl₃ as solvent (%conv._{NMR} = 86%). The resulting polymer was diluted in 20 mL of THF and precipitated by addition to 400 mL of MeOH. The polymer was washed with stirring with two additional portions of MeOH (400 mL × 2) and gently stirred in MeOH overnight. The polymer was then washed with stirring with additional portion of 400 mL). The polymer was filtered and dried under vacuum of MeOH to yield 13.14 g (wt% plasticizer_{grav.} = 77%) of a pale yellow, pliable polymer.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.68–4.54 (br s), 4.54–4.38 (br s), 4.38–4.25 (br m), 4.25–4.12 (br s), 4.12–3.90 (br s), 3.72–3.65 (br m), 3.65–3.60 (br m), 3.60–3.55 (br m), 3.52 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 2.50–2.23 (br m), 2.23–1.98 (br m), 1.98–1.82 (br m), 1.72–1.57 (br m), 1.51–1.44 (br m), 1.44–1.29 (br m), 1.21 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 0.94 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz). Based by ¹H NMR integration: (PBA + P2EEA) : PVC = 1.0 : 1.0; PBA : P2EEA = 1.0 : 1.0.

Preparation of PVC-g-25%PBA-co-75%P2EEA (14 g scale)

To a 50 mL Schlenk flask was added PVC (3.00 g, 48.0 mmol) and DMF (18 mL). The mixture was stirred and warmed slightly to fully dissolve the PVC. BA acrylate (4.30 mL, 30.0 mmol) and 2EEA (16.67 mL, 89.98 mmol) were added to the solution. To a 20 mL vial was added CuBr (206.22 mg, 1.4376 mmol) and 6 mL of DMF was used to transfer CuBr to the PVC solution by pipet. PMDETA (0.30 mL, 1.43 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was degassed via four cycles of freeze-pump-thaw, and then heated to 100 °C while stirring under nitrogen. After 24 h, an aliquot was taken to analyze the crude reaction by ¹H NMR using

CDCl₃ as solvent (%conv._{NMR} = 72%). The resulting polymer was diluted in 20 mL of THF and precipitated by addition to 400 mL of MeOH. The polymer was washed with stirring with two additional portions of MeOH (400 mL × 2) and gently stirred in MeOH overnight. The polymer was then washed with stirring with additional portion of 400 mL of MeOH. The polymer was filtered and dried under vacuum to yield 13.66 g (wt% plasticizer_{grav.} = 78%) of a pale yellow, pliable polymer.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.59 (br s), 4.54–4.38 (br s), 4.38–4.26 (br m), 4.26–4.11 (br s), 4.04 (br s), 3.73–3.65 (br m), 3.63 (br s), 3.57 (br m), 3.52 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 2.53–2.23 (br m), 2.23–1.98 (br m), 1.98–1.81 (br s), 1.75–1.59 (br m), 1.55–1.43 (br m), 1.37 (br m), 1.20 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 0.94 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz). Based by ¹H NMR integration: (PBA + P2EEA) : PVC = 1.0 : 2.9; PBA : P2EEA = 1.2 : 1.0.

Preparation of PVC-g-P2EEA (14 g scale)

To a 50 mL Schlenk flask was added PVC (3.00 g, 48.0 mmol) and DMF (18 mL). The mixture was stirred and warmed slightly to fully dissolve the PVC. 2EEA (22.23 mL, 120.0 mmol) was added to the solution. To a 20 mL vial was added CuBr (206.89 mg, 1.4422 mmol) and 6 mL of DMF was used to transfer CuBr to the PVC solution by pipet. PMDETA (0.30 mL, 1.43 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was degassed via four cycles of freeze-pump-thaw, and then heated to 100 °C while stirring under nitrogen. After 24 h, an aliquot was taken to analyze the crude reaction by ¹H NMR using CDCl₃ as solvent (%conv._{NMR} = 78%). The resulting polymer was diluted in 20 mL of THF and precipitated by addition to 400 mL of MeOH. The polymer was washed with stirring with two additional portions of MeOH (400 mL × 2) and gently stirred in MeOH overnight. The polymer was then washed with stirring with additional portion of 400 mL of MeOH. The polymer was filtered and dried under vacuum to yield 13.34 g (wt% plasticizer_{grav.} = 78%) of a pale yellow, pliable polymer.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.64–4.54 (br s), 4.54–4.38 (br s), 4.38–4.26 (br m), 4.26–4.02 (br s), 3.73–3.65 (br m), 3.65–3.60 (br m), 3.60–3.55 (br m), 3.52 (q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 2.51–2.23 (br s), 2.23–1.98 (br m), 1.98–1.84 (br s), 1.77–1.60 (br s), 1.50–1.38 (br m), 1.20 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz). Based by ^1H NMR integration: P2EEA : PVC = 0.8 : 1.0.

5.2.4 Preparation of PVC Graft Copolymers for Chapter 4

Control Experiment: Polymerization without PVC as macroinitiator (PBA, 2 h)

To a 10 mL Schlenk flask was added DMF (3 mL) and BA (2.87 mL, 20.0 mmol). To a 2 mL vial was added CuBr (34.43 mg, 0.2400 mmol) and 0.75 mL of DMF to form a suspension. The CuBr suspension was transferred to the PVC solution by pipet. Residual CuBr was washed into the PVC solution using 0.25 mL of DMF. PMDETA (50 μL , 0.24 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was degassed via four cycles of freeze-pump-thaw, and then heated to 100 $^\circ\text{C}$ and stirred under nitrogen. After 2 h, an aliquot was taken to analyze the crude reaction by ^1H NMR using CDCl_3 as solvent (%conv._{NMR} = 10%).

Control Experiment: Polymerization without PVC as macroinitiator (P2EEA, 2 h)

To a 10 mL Schlenk flask was added DMF (3 mL) and 2EEA (3.70 mL, 20.0 mmol). To a 2 mL vial was added CuBr (34.34 mg, 0.2394 mmol) and 0.75 mL of DMF to form a suspension. The CuBr suspension was transferred to the PVC solution by pipet. Residual CuBr was washed into the PVC solution using 0.25 mL of DMF. PMDETA (50 μL , 0.24 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was degassed via four cycles of freeze-pump-thaw, and then heated to 100 $^\circ\text{C}$ and stirred under nitrogen. After 2 h, an aliquot was taken to analyze the crude reaction by ^1H NMR using CDCl_3 as solvent (%conv._{NMR} = 6%).

Preparation of PVC-g-PBA-2.5 (2 h)

To a 10 mL Schlenk flask was added PVC (500.6 mg, 8.010 mmol) and DMF (3 mL). The mixture was stirred and slightly warmed to fully dissolve the PVC in the DMF. BA (2.87 mL, 20.0 mmol) was added to the solution. To a 2 mL vial was added CuBr (34.43 mg, 0.2400 mmol)

and 0.75 mL of DMF to form a suspension. The CuBr suspension was transferred to the PVC solution by pipet. Residual CuBr was washed into the PVC solution using 0.25 mL of DMF. PMDETA (50 μ L, 0.24 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was degassed via four cycles of freeze-pump-thaw, and then heated to 100 °C and stirred under nitrogen. After 2 h, an aliquot was taken to analyze the crude reaction by ^1H NMR using CDCl_3 as solvent (%conv._{NMR} = 78%). The resulting polymer was diluted in 1 mL of THF and precipitated by addition to 200 mL of MeOH, followed by stirring for 20 min. Then MeOH was decanted. The polymer was gently stirred in an additional 100 mL of MeOH overnight. The solution phase was decanted. The product was rinsed with 100 mL of MeOH. The solution phase was decanted. The product was dried under vacuum to yield 1.9721 g (wt% plasticizer_{grav.} = 75%) of a pale green, pliable polymer.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.65–4.54 (br m), 4.54–4.38 (br m), 4.38–4.22 (br m), 4.16–3.86 (br m), 2.49–2.22 (br m), 2.22–1.97 (br m), 1.97–1.80 (br m), 1.70–1.57 (br m), 1.51–1.43 (br m), 1.43–1.29 (br m), 0.93 (t, J = 7.4 Hz). Based by ^1H NMR integration: PBA : PVC = 1.4 : 1.0; wt% plasticizer_{NMR} = 78%.

FTIR: 2962 (m, alkane C–H), 2935 (m, alkane C–H), 2873 (m, alkane C–H), 1736 (s, ester C=O), 1165 (s, ester C–O).

Preparation of PVC-g-75%PBA-co-25%P2EEA-2.5 (2 h)

To a 10 mL Schlenk flask was added PVC (498.2 mg, 7.971 mmol) and 3 mL of DMF. The mixture was stirred and slightly warmed to fully dissolve the PVC in the DMF. BA (2.15 mL, 15.0 mmol) and 2EEA (0.93 mL, 5.0 mmol) were added to the solution. To a 2 mL vial was added CuBr (34.37 mg, 0.2396 mmol) and 0.75 mL of DMF to form a suspension. The CuBr suspension was transferred to the PVC solution by pipet. Residual CuBr was washed into the PVC solution using 0.25 mL of DMF. PMDETA (50 μ L, 0.24 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was degassed via four cycles of freeze-pump-thaw, and then heated to 100 °C and

stirred under nitrogen. After 2 h, an aliquot was taken to analyze the crude reaction by ^1H NMR using CDCl_3 as solvent ($\% \text{conv.}_{\text{NMR}} = 61\%$). The resulting polymer was precipitated by addition to 200 mL of MeOH, followed by stirring for 30 min. Then MeOH was decanted. The polymer was soaked in an additional 100 mL of MeOH overnight without stirring. The solution phase was decanted. The product was rinsed with 100 mL of MeOH. The solution phase was decanted. The polymer was dried under vacuum to yield 1.5463 g ($\text{wt}\% \text{plasticizer}_{\text{grav.}} = 68\%$) of a pale green, pliable polymer.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.66–4.54 (br s), 4.54–4.38 (br m), 4.38–4.24 (br m), 4.24–4.12 (br s), 4.12–3.89 (br m), 3.72–3.65 (br m), 3.65–3.60 (br m), 3.60–3.55 (br m), 3.52 (q, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 2.55–2.22 (br m), 2.22–1.97 (br m), 1.97–1.81 (br m), 1.70–1.57 (br m), 1.52–1.44 (br m), 1.43–1.29 (br m), 1.21 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 0.94 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz). Based by ^1H NMR integration: (PBA + P2EEA) : PVC = 1.0 : 1.0; PBA : P2EEA = 3.0 : 1.0; $\text{wt}\% \text{plasticizer}_{\text{NMR}} = 61\%$.

FTIR: 2958 (m, alkane C–H), 2935 (m, alkane C–H), 2873 (m, alkane C–H), 1732 (s, ester C=O), 1165 (s, ester C–O), 1115 (m, ether C–O).

Preparation of PVC-g-50%PBA-co-50%P2EEA-2.5 (2 h)

To a 10 mL Schlenk flask was added PVC (500.7 mg, 8.011 mmol) and DMF (3 mL). The mixture was stirred and slightly warmed to fully dissolve the PVC in DMF. BA (1.43 mL, 9.97 mmol) and 2EEA (1.85 mL, 9.99 mmol) were added to the solution. To a 2 mL vial was added CuBr (34.22 mg, 0.2386 mmol) and 0.75 mL of DMF to form a suspension. The CuBr suspension was transferred to the PVC solution by pipet. Residual CuBr was washed into the PVC solution using 0.25 mL of DMF. PMDETA (50 μL , 0.24 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was degassed via four cycles of freeze-pump-thaw, and then heated to 100 $^\circ\text{C}$ and stirred under nitrogen. After 2 h, an aliquot was taken to analyze the crude reaction by ^1H NMR using CDCl_3 as solvent ($\% \text{conv.}_{\text{NMR}} = 60\%$). The resulting polymer was precipitated by addition

to 200 mL of MeOH, followed by stirring for 30 min. Then MeOH was decanted. The polymer was left in an additional 100 mL of MeOH overnight without stirring. The solution phase was decanted. The polymer was dried under mild house vacuum. The polymer (still containing residual solvent) was washed with an additional 5 mL of MeOH, and the solvent decanted. The product was thoroughly dried under vacuum to yield 1.5567 g (wt% plasticizer_{grav.} = 68%) of a pale green, pliable polymer.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.65–4.54 (br m), 4.54–4.38 (br m), 4.38–4.25 (br m), 4.25–4.12 (br m), 4.12–3.93 (br m), 3.72–3.65 (br m), 3.65–3.60 (br m), 3.60–3.55 (br m), 3.52 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 2.49–2.23 (br m), 2.23–1.97 (br m), 1.97–1.81 (br m), 1.74–1.57 (br m), 1.51–1.43 (br m), 1.43–1.29 (br m), 1.21 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 0.94 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz). Based by ¹H NMR integration: (PBA + P2EEA) : PVC = 0.9 : 1.0; PBA : P2EEA = 1.0 : 1.0; wt% plasticizer_{NMR} = 60%.

FTIR: 2974 (m, alkane C–H), 2931 (m, alkane C–H), 2873 (m, alkane C–H), 1736 (s, ester C=O), 1169 (s, ester C–O), 1119 (m, ether C–O).

Preparation of PVC-g-25%PBA-co-75%P2EEA-2.5 (2 h)

To a 10 mL Schlenk flask was added PVC (500.6 mg, 8.010 mmol) and DMF (3 mL). The mixture was stirred and slightly warmed to fully dissolve the PVC in DMF. BA (0.72 mL, 5.02 mmol) and 2EEA (2.78 mL, 15.0 mmol) were added to the solution. To a 2 mL vial was added CuBr (34.43 mg, 0.2400 mmol) and 0.75 mL of DMF to form a suspension. The CuBr suspension was transferred to the PVC solution by pipet. Residual CuBr was washed into the PVC solution using 0.25 mL of DMF. PMDETA (50 μL, 0.24 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was degassed via four cycles of freeze-pump-thaw, and then heated to 100 °C and stirred under nitrogen. After 2 h, an aliquot was taken to analyze the crude reaction by ¹H NMR using CDCl₃ as solvent (%conv._{NMR} = 56%). The resulting polymer was precipitated by addition to 200 mL of MeOH, followed by stirring for 30 min. Then majority of MeOH was decanted. An

additional 50 mL of MeOH was added, and the polymer was allowed to sit overnight without stirring. The solution phase was decanted. The polymer was washed with an additional 50 mL of MeOH. The solution phase was decanted. The Polymer was dried under house vacuum. The polymer still containing residual solvent was washed with 10 mL of MeOH. The product was thoroughly dried under vacuum to yield 1.5532 g (wt% plasticizer_{grav.} = 68%) of a pale green, pliable polymer.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.65–4.54 (br m), 4.54–4.39 (br m), 4.39–4.25 (br m), 4.25–4.12 (br s), 4.12–3.91 (br m), 3.72–3.65 (br m), 3.65–3.60 (br m), 3.60–3.55 (br m), 3.52 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 2.52–2.23 (br m), 2.23–1.97 (br m), 1.97–1.83 (br m), 1.75–1.55 (br m), 1.52–1.42 (br m), 1.42–1.28 (br m), 1.20 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 0.94 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz). Based by ¹H NMR integration: (PBA + P2EEA) : PVC = 0.9 : 1.0; PBA : P2EEA = 1.0 : 2.8; wt% plasticizer_{NMR} = 56%.

FTIR: 2962 (m, alkane C–H), 2931 (m, alkane C–H), 2873 (m, alkane C–H), 1736 (s, ester C=O), 1169 (s, ester C–O), 1119 (m, ether C–O).

Preparation of PVC-g-P2EEA-2.5 (2 h)

To a 10 mL Schlenk flask was added PVC (500.7 mg, 8.011 mmol) and DMF (3 mL). The mixture was stirred and slightly warmed to fully dissolve the PVC in DMF. 2EEA (3.70 mL, 20.0 mmol) was added to the solution. To a 2 mL vial was added CuBr (34.37 mg, 0.2396 mmol) and 0.75 mL of DMF to form a suspension. The CuBr suspension was transferred to the PVC solution by pipet. Residual CuBr was washed into the PVC solution using 0.25 mL of DMF. PMDETA (50 μL, 0.24 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was degassed via four cycles of freeze-pump-thaw, and then heated to 100 °C and stirred under nitrogen. After 2 h, an aliquot was taken to analyze the crude reaction by ¹H NMR using CDCl₃ as solvent (%conv._{NMR} = 60%). The resulting polymer was precipitated by addition to 200 mL of MeOH, followed by stirring for 30 min. The majority of MeOH was decanted. An additional 100 mL of

MeOH was added, and the polymer was allowed to sit overnight without stirring. The majority of the solution phase was decanted. The polymer was dried under house vacuum. The polymer (still containing residual solvent) was washed with 20 mL of MeOH, and then the solvent was decanted. The product was dried under vacuum to yield 1.6420 g (wt% Plasticizer_{grav.} = 70%) of a pale green, pliable polymer.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.64–4.54 (br m), 4.54–4.38 (br m), 4.38–4.25 (br m), 4.25–4.05 (br m), 3.73–3.65 (br m), 3.65–3.60 (br m), 3.60–3.55 (br m), 3.52 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 2.49–2.23 (br m), 2.23–1.97 (br m), 1.97–1.81 (br m), 1.73–1.62 (br m), 1.54–1.39 (br m), 1.20 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz). Based by ¹H NMR integration: P2EEA : PVC = 0.9 : 1.0; wt% plasticizer_{NMR} = 60%.

FTIR: 2958 (m, alkane C–H), 2931 (m, alkane C–H), 2873 (m, alkane C–H), 1736 (s, ester C=O), 1169 (s, ester C–O), 1115 (m, ether C–O).

Preparation of PVC-g-PBA-0.5 (2 h)

To a 10 mL Schlenk flask was added PVC (500.2 mg, 8.003 mmol) and DMF (3 mL). The mixture was stirred and slightly warmed to fully dissolve the PVC in DMF. BA (0.57 mL, 3.98 mmol) was added to the solution. To a 2 mL vial was added CuBr (34.32 mg, 0.2392 mmol) and 0.75 mL of DMF to form a suspension. The CuBr suspension was transferred to the PVC solution by pipet. Residual CuBr was washed into the PVC solution using 0.25 mL of DMF. PMDETA (50 μL, 0.24 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was degassed via four cycles of freeze-pump-thaw, and then heated to 100 °C and stirred under nitrogen. After 2 h, an aliquot was taken to analyze the crude reaction by ¹H NMR using CDCl₃ as solvent (%conv._{NMR} = 59%). The resulting polymer was precipitated by addition to 200 mL of MeOH and left in MeOH overnight. The MeOH was decanted. The polymer was washed with 100 mL of MeOH. The solution phase was decanted. The product was dried under vacuum to yield 681.4 mg (wt% plasticizer_{grav.} = 27%) of a pale green polymer.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.67–4.54 (br m), 4.54–4.38 (br m), 4.38–4.22 (br m), 4.14–3.89 (br m), 2.51–2.40 (br m), 2.40–2.23 (br m), 2.23–1.97 (br m), 1.97–1.77 (br m), 1.70–1.49 (br m), 1.44–1.30 (br m), 0.94 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz). Based by ^1H NMR integration: PBA : PVC = 0.3 : 1.0; wt% plasticizer_{NMR} = 35%

FTIR: 2958 (m, alkane C–H), 2931 (m, alkane C–H), 2873 (m, alkane C–H), 1732 (s, ester C=O), 1169 (s, ester C–O)

Preparation of PVC-*g*-PBA-1.0 (2 h)

To a 10 mL Schlenk flask was added PVC (501.0 mg, 8.016 mmol) and DMF (3 mL). The mixture was stirred and slightly warmed to fully dissolve the PVC in DMF. BA (1.15 mL, 8.02 mmol) was added to the solution. To a 2 mL vial was added CuBr (34.45 mg, 0.2402 mmol) and 0.75 mL of DMF to form a suspension. The CuBr suspension was transferred to the PVC solution by pipet. Residual CuBr was washed into the PVC solution using 0.25 mL of DMF. PMDETA (50 μL , 0.24 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was degassed via four cycles of freeze-pump-thaw, and then heated to 100 °C and stirred under nitrogen. After 2 h, an aliquot was taken to analyze the crude reaction by ^1H NMR using CDCl_3 as solvent (%conv._{NMR} = 67%). The resulting polymer was precipitated by addition to 200 mL of MeOH, followed by stirring for 30 min. The MeOH was decanted. The polymer was allowed to sit in another 100 mL of MeOH without stirring overnight. The solution phase was decanted. The product was rinsed with 100 mL of MeOH. The solution phase was decanted. The polymer was thoroughly dried under vacuum to yield 1.0109 g (wt% plasticizer_{grav.} = 50%) of a pale green, pliable polymer.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.66–4.54 (br m), 4.54–4.38 (br m), 4.38–4.23 (br m), 4.13–3.89 (br m), 2.51–2.23 (br m), 2.23–1.97 (br m), 1.97–1.79 (br m), 1.72–1.56 (br m), 1.51–1.44 (br m), 1.44–1.30 (br m), 0.93 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz). Based by ^1H NMR integration: PBA : PVC = 0.6 : 1.0; wt% plasticizer_{NMR} = 53%.

FTIR: 2958 (m, alkane C—H), 2935 (m, alkane C—H), 2873 (m, alkane C—H), 1728 (s, ester C=O), 1157 (s, ester C—O).

Preparation of PVC-*g*-P2EEA-0.5 (2 h)

To a 10 mL Schlenk flask was added PVC (500.8 mg, 8.013 mmol) and DMF (3 mL). The mixture was stirred and slightly warmed to fully dissolve the PVC in DMF. 2EEA (0.74 mL, 20.0 mmol) was added to the solution. To a 2 mL vial was added CuBr (34.48 mg, 0.2396 mmol) and 0.75 mL of DMF to form a suspension. The CuBr suspension was transferred to the PVC solution by pipet. Residual CuBr was washed into the PVC solution using 0.25 mL of DMF. PMDETA (50 μ L, 0.24 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was degassed via four cycles of freeze-pump-thaw, and then heated to 100 °C and stirred under nitrogen. After 2 h, an aliquot was taken to analyze the crude reaction by ^1H NMR using CDCl_3 as solvent (%conv._{NMR} = 40%). The resulting polymer was precipitated by addition to 200 mL of MeOH, followed by stirring for 20 min. Then MeOH was decanted. The polymer was allowed to sit in another 100 mL of MeOH without stirring overnight. The solution phase was decanted. The product was rinsed with 100 mL of MeOH. The solution phase was decanted. The polymer was dried under vacuum to yield 657.7 mg (wt% plasticizer_{grav.} = 24%) of a pale green polymer.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.67–4.54 (br m), 4.54–4.38 (br m), 4.38–4.25 (br m), 4.25–4.06 (br s), 3.73–3.65 (br m), 3.65–3.60 (br m), 3.60–3.55 (br m), 3.52 (q, J = 7.0 Hz), 2.51–2.23 (br m), 2.23–1.96 (br m), 1.96–1.87 (br s), 1.74–1.61 (br m), 1.20 (t, J = 7.0 Hz). Based by ^1H NMR integration: P2EEA : PVC = 0.2 : 1.0; wt% plasticizer_{NMR} = 38%.

FTIR: 2974 (m, alkane C—H), 2908 (m, alkane C—H), 2866 (m, alkane C—H), 1732 (s, ester C=O), 1169 (m, ester C—O) 1111 (s, ether C—O).

Preparation of PVC-*g*-P2EEA-1.0 (2 h)

To a 10 mL Schlenk flask was added PVC (500.8 mg, 8.013 mmol) and DMF (3 mL). The mixture was stirred and slightly warmed to fully dissolve the PVC in DMF. 2EEA (0.74 mL,

20.0 mmol) was added to the solution. To a 2 mL vial was added CuBr (34.45 mg, 0.2402 mmol) and 0.75 mL of DMF to form a suspension. The CuBr suspension was transferred to the PVC solution by pipet. Residual CuBr was washed into the PVC solution using 0.25 mL of DMF. PMDETA (50 μ L, 0.24 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was degassed via four cycles of freeze-pump-thaw, and then heated to 100 °C and stirred under nitrogen. After 2 h, an aliquot was taken to analyze the crude reaction by ^1H NMR using CDCl_3 as solvent (%conv._{NMR} = 59%). The resulting polymer was precipitated by addition to 200 mL of MeOH, followed by stirring for 30 min. The MeOH was decanted. The polymer was allowed to sit in another 100 mL of MeOH without stirring. The solution phase was decanted. The product was rinsed with 100 mL of MeOH. The solution phase was decanted. The polymer was dried under vacuum to yield 954.2 mg (wt% plasticizer_{grav.} = 48%) of a pale yellow, pliable polymer.

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 4.66–4.54 (br m), 4.54–4.38 (br m), 4.38–4.25 (br m), 4.25–4.03 (br m), 3.74–3.65 (br m), 3.65–3.60 (br m), 3.60–3.55 (br m), 3.52 (q, J = 7.1 Hz), 2.52–2.23 (br m), 2.23–1.97 (br m), 1.97–1.82 (br m), 1.75–1.61 (br m), 1.51–1.40 (br m), 1.20 (t, J = 7.0 Hz). Based by ^1H NMR integration: P2EEA : PVC = 0.4 : 1.0; wt% plasticizer_{NMR} = 55%

FTIR: 2974 (m, alkane C–H), 2870 (m, alkane C–H), 1736 (s, alkane C–H), 1169 (m, ester C–O) 1115 (s, ether C–O)

5.3 References

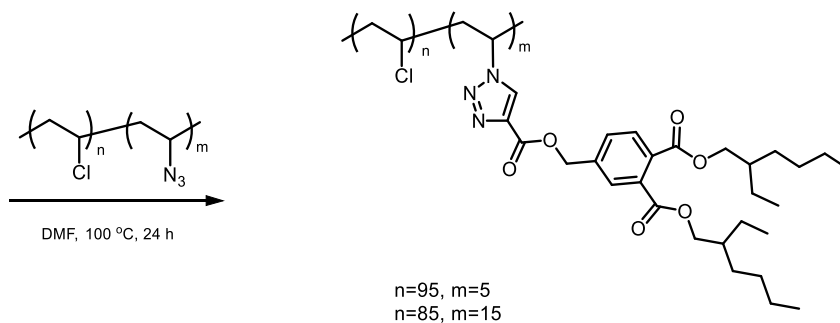
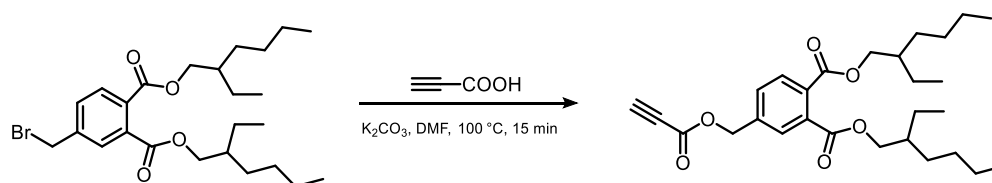
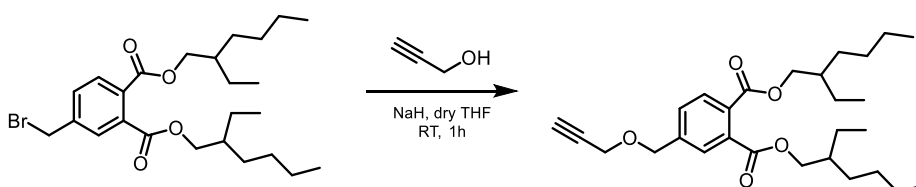
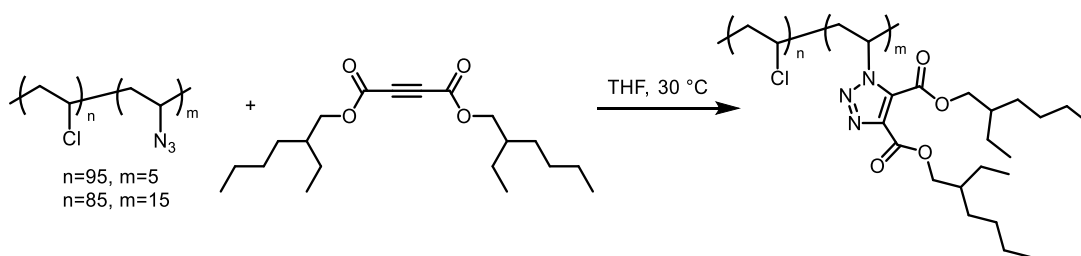
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Addendum: Contribution to Other Published Works

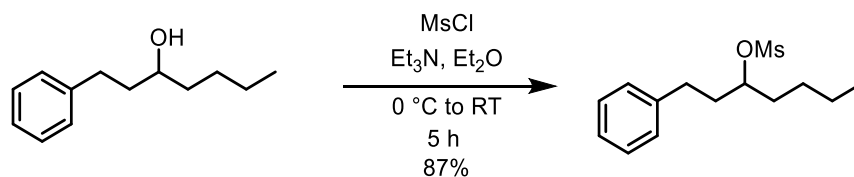
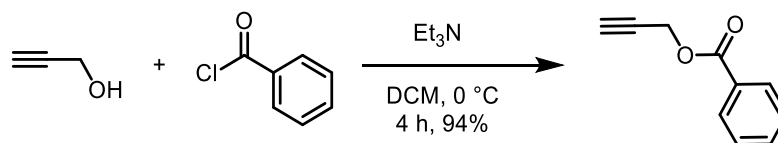
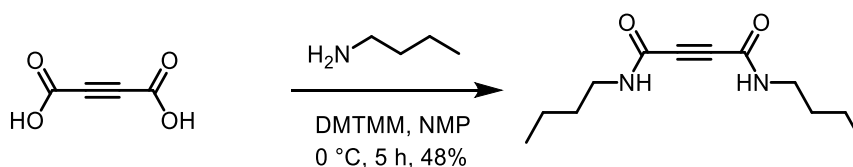
Contributions to other projects from the Braslau lab in which I am a co-author, but are not included in the thesis are described as follows.

1. Earla, A.; Li, L.; Costanzo, P.; Braslau, R. *Polymer* **2017**, *109*, 1–12. Phthalate Plasticizers Covalently Linked to PVC via Copper-Free or Copper Catalyzed Azide-Alkyne Cycloadditions.

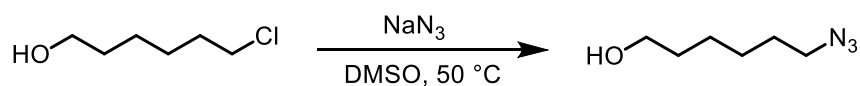
I synthesized two alkynes bearing phthalates or phthalate mimics, and attached them to azidized PVC:

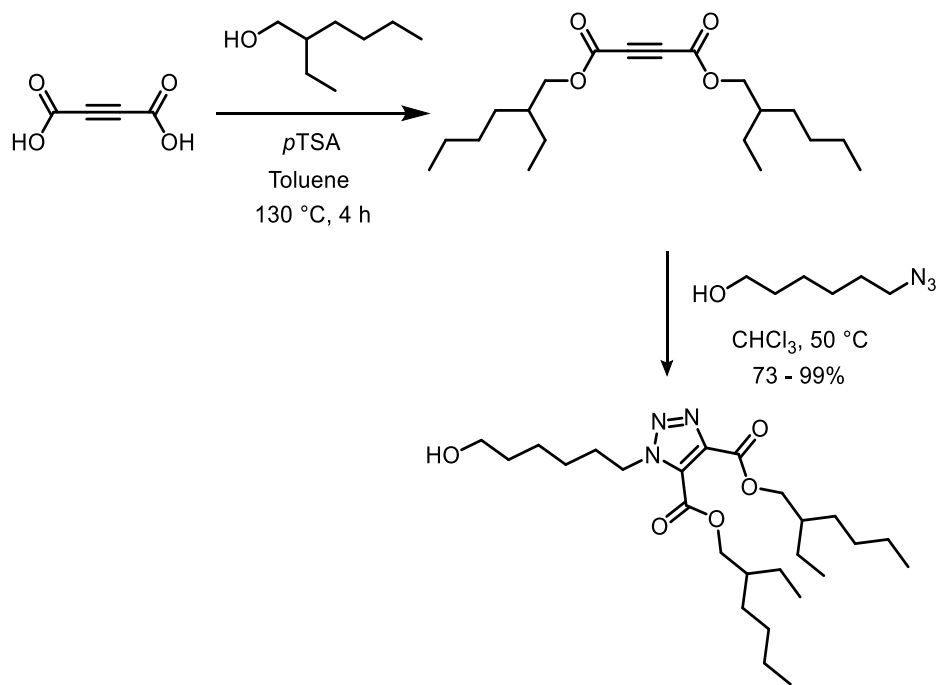


2. Skelly, P. W.; Sae-Jew, J.; Kitos Vasconcelos, A. P.; Tasnim, J.; Li, L.; Raskatov, J. A.; Braslau, R. *J. Org. Chem.* **2019**, *84* (21), 13615–13623. Relative Rates of Metal-Free Azide–Alkyne Cycloadditions: Tunability over 3 Orders of Magnitude. I synthesized two alkynes for Huisgen thermal cycloaddition, which were then utilized by others to determine the relative rates of various alkynes in reacting with a model azide.



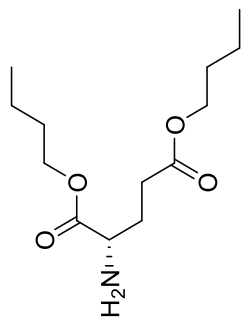
3. Rezende, T. C.; Abreu, C. M. R.; Fonseca, A. C.; Higa, C. M.; Li, L.; Serra, A. C.; Braslau, R.; Coelho, J. F. J. *Polymer* **2020**, *196*, 122473. Efficient Internal Plasticization of Poly(Vinyl Chloride) via Free Radical Copolymerization of Vinyl Chloride with an Acrylate Bearing a Triazole Phthalate Mimic. I synthesized an azide which I then converted to a triazole phthalate mimic, bearing a primary alcohol. This alcohol was sent to our collaborators in Portugal, where it was appended to an acrylate monomer, and then co-polymerized with vinyl chloride.



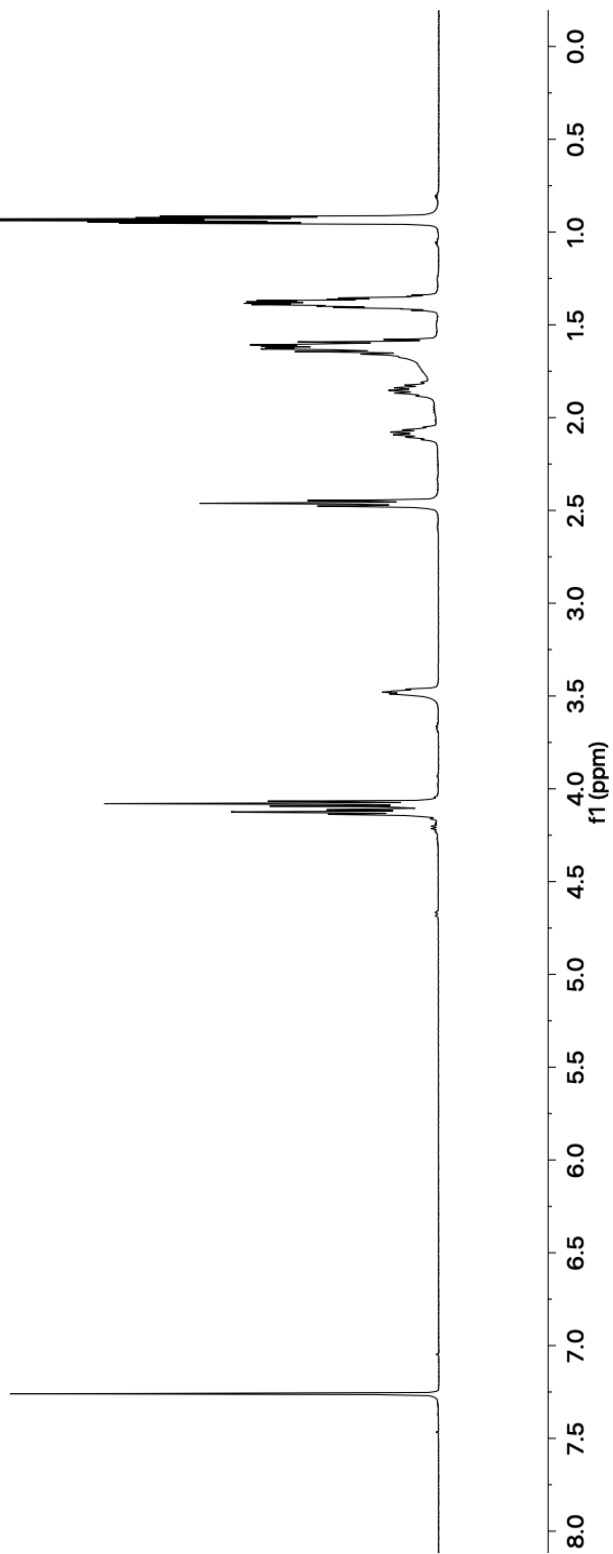


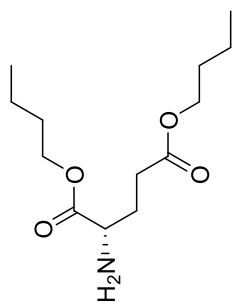
Appendix

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|---|-----|
| Supporting information for Chapter 2 | 197 |
| Supporting information for Chapter 3 | 339 |
| Supporting information for Chapter 4 | 414 |

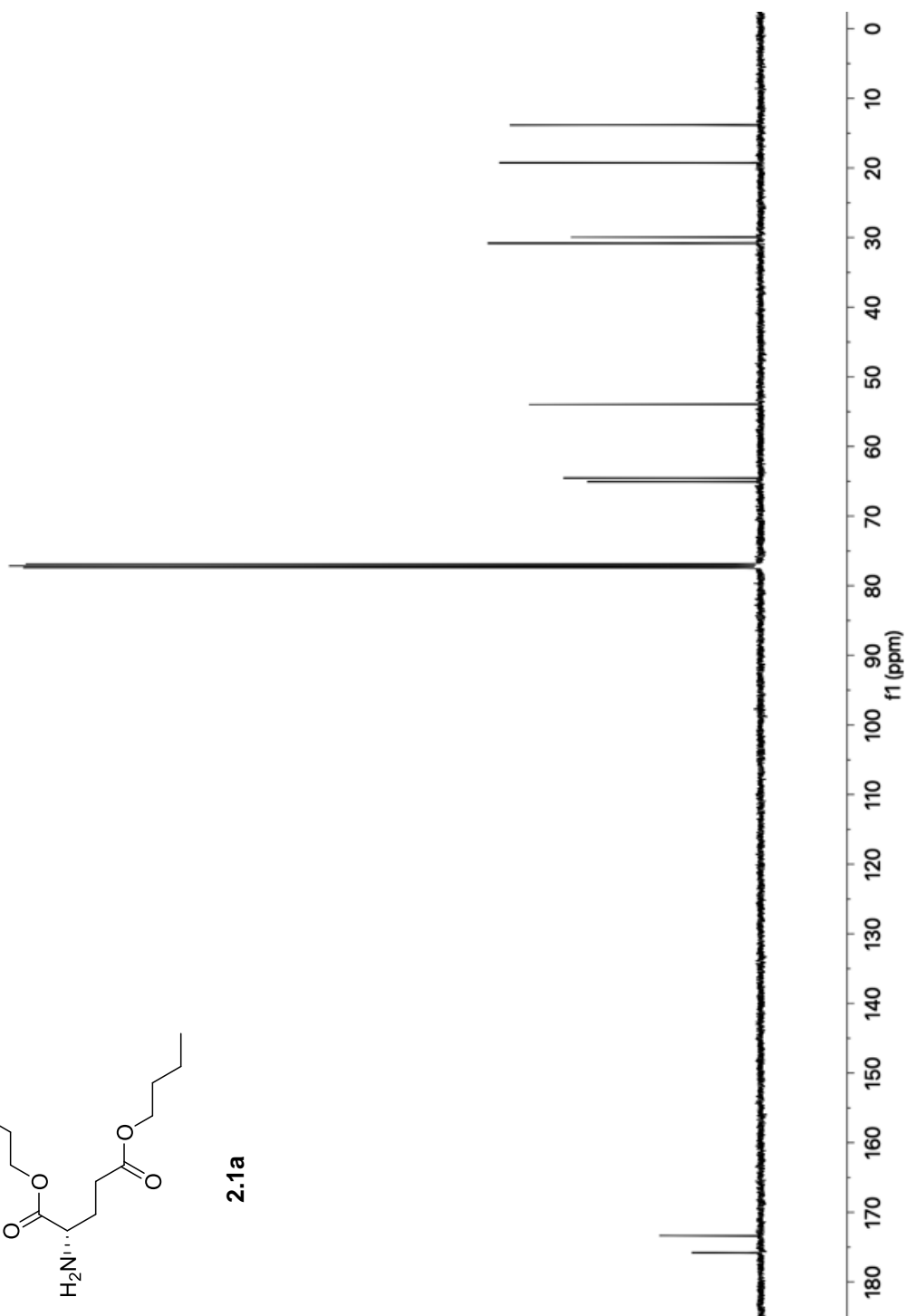


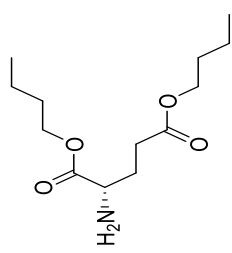
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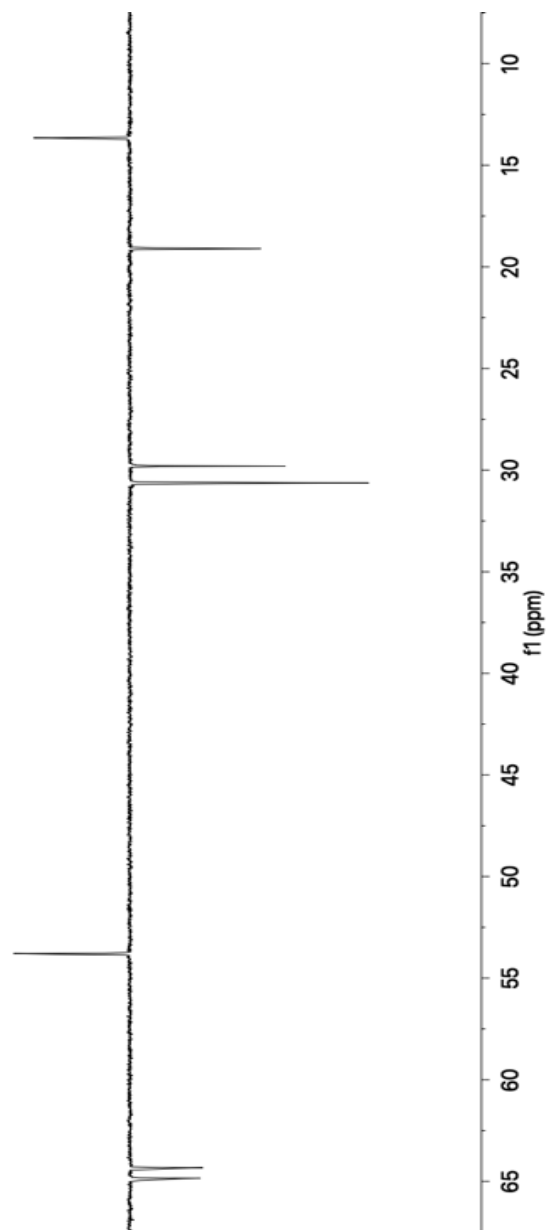


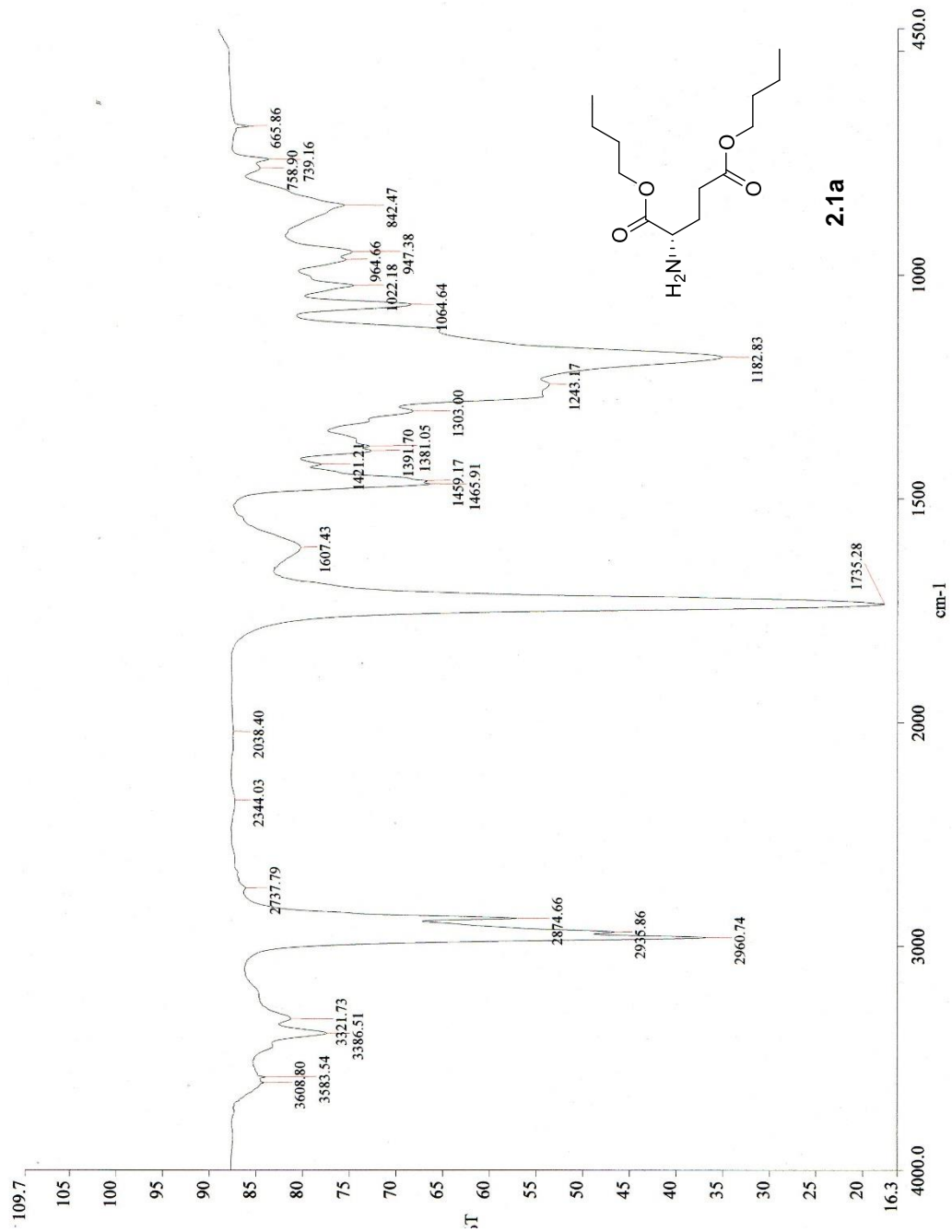
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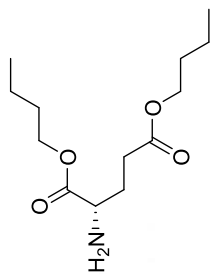
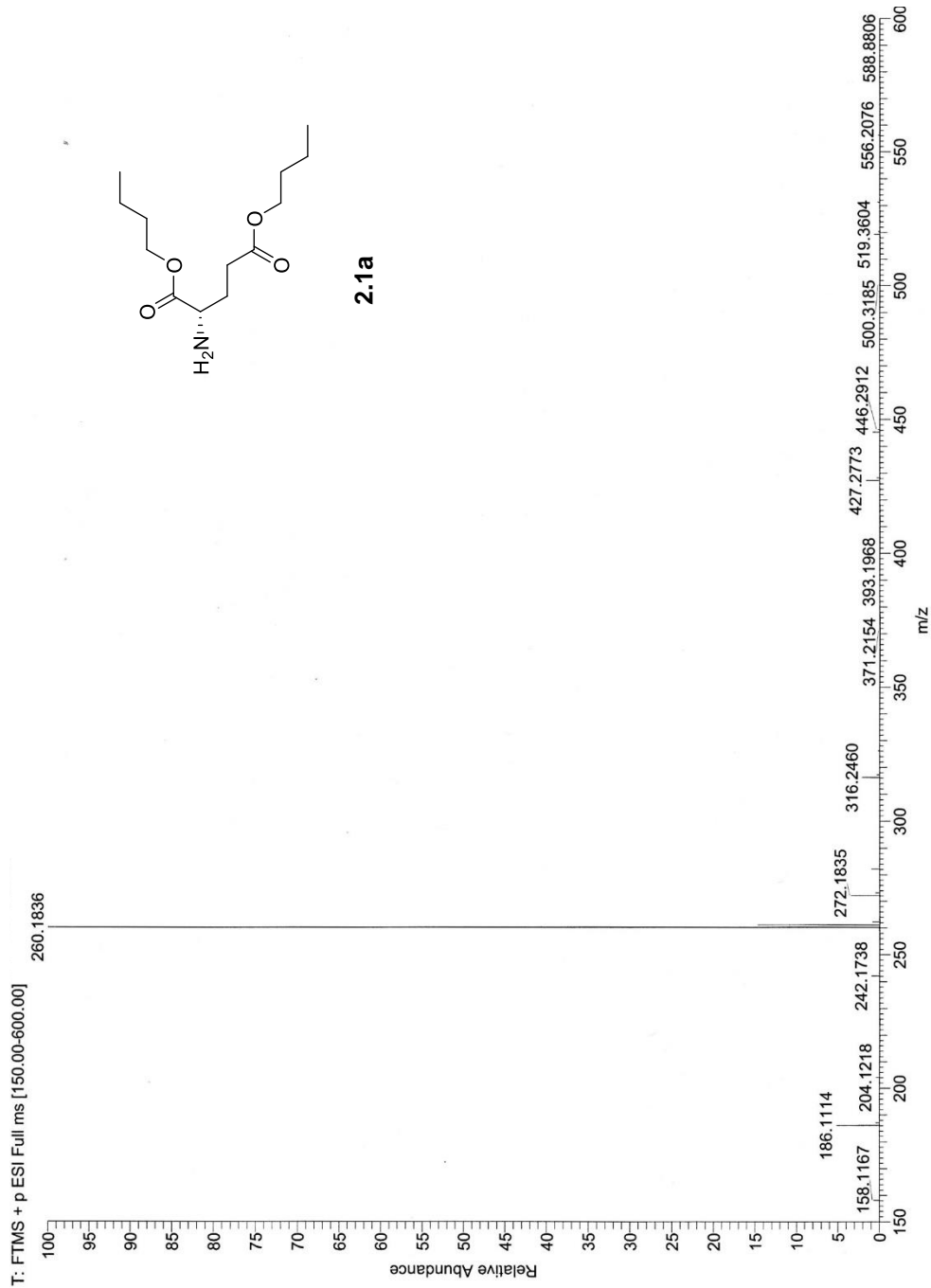




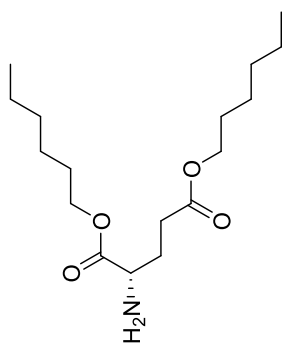
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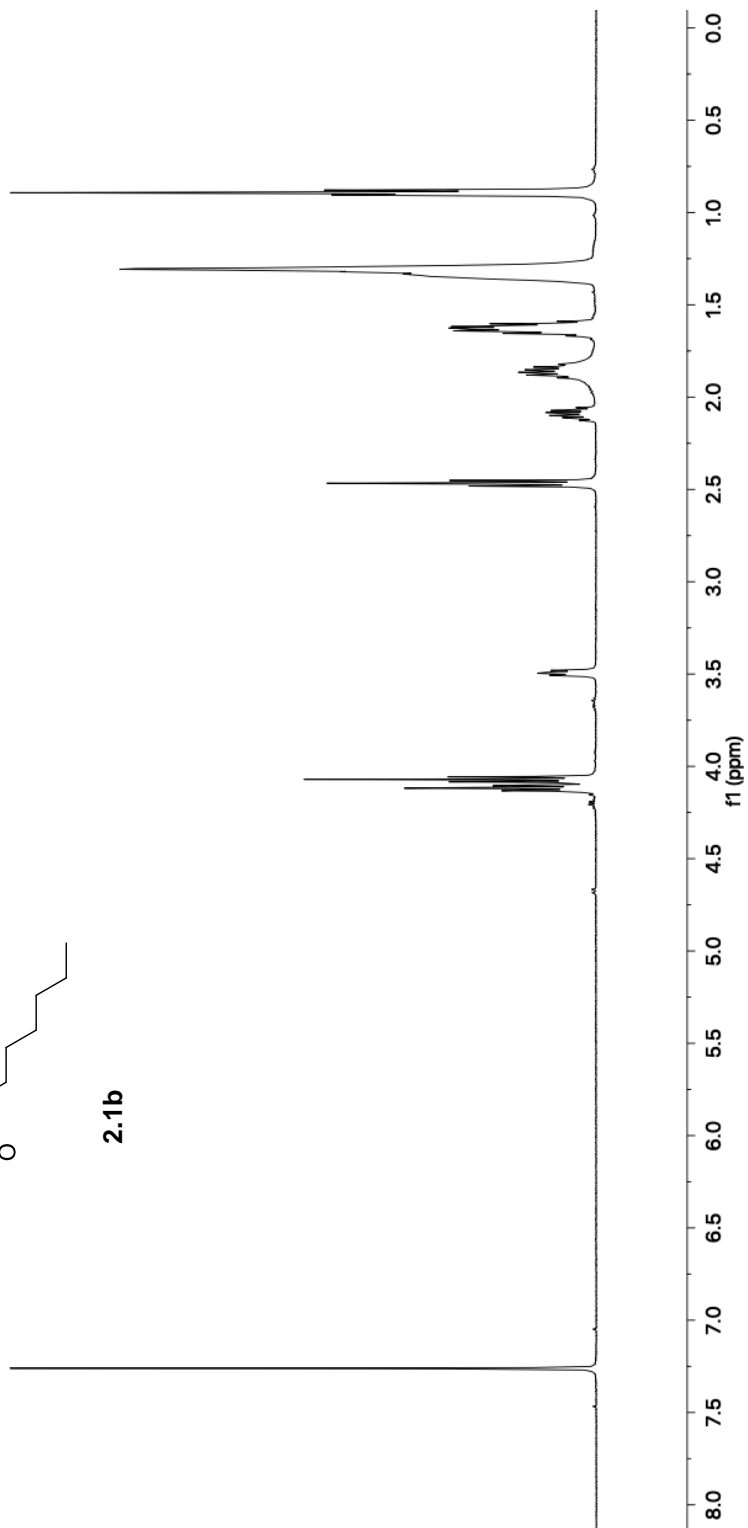


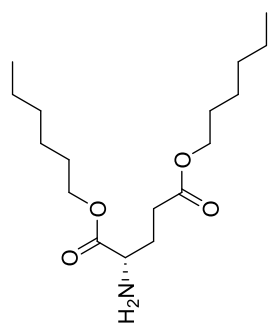


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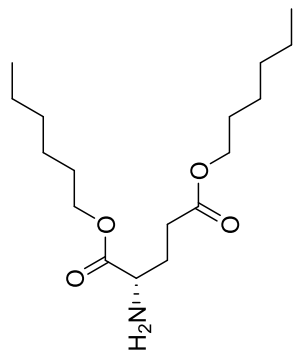
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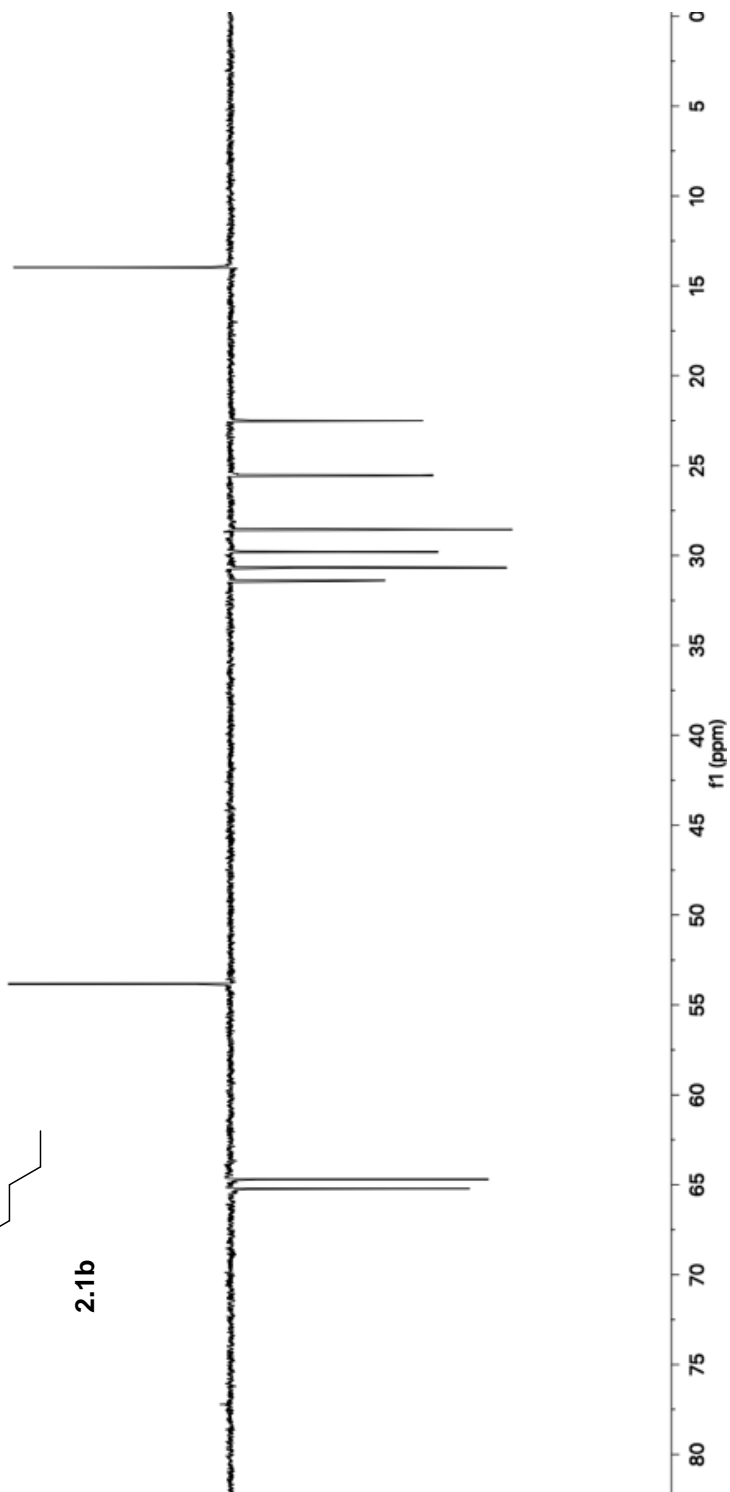


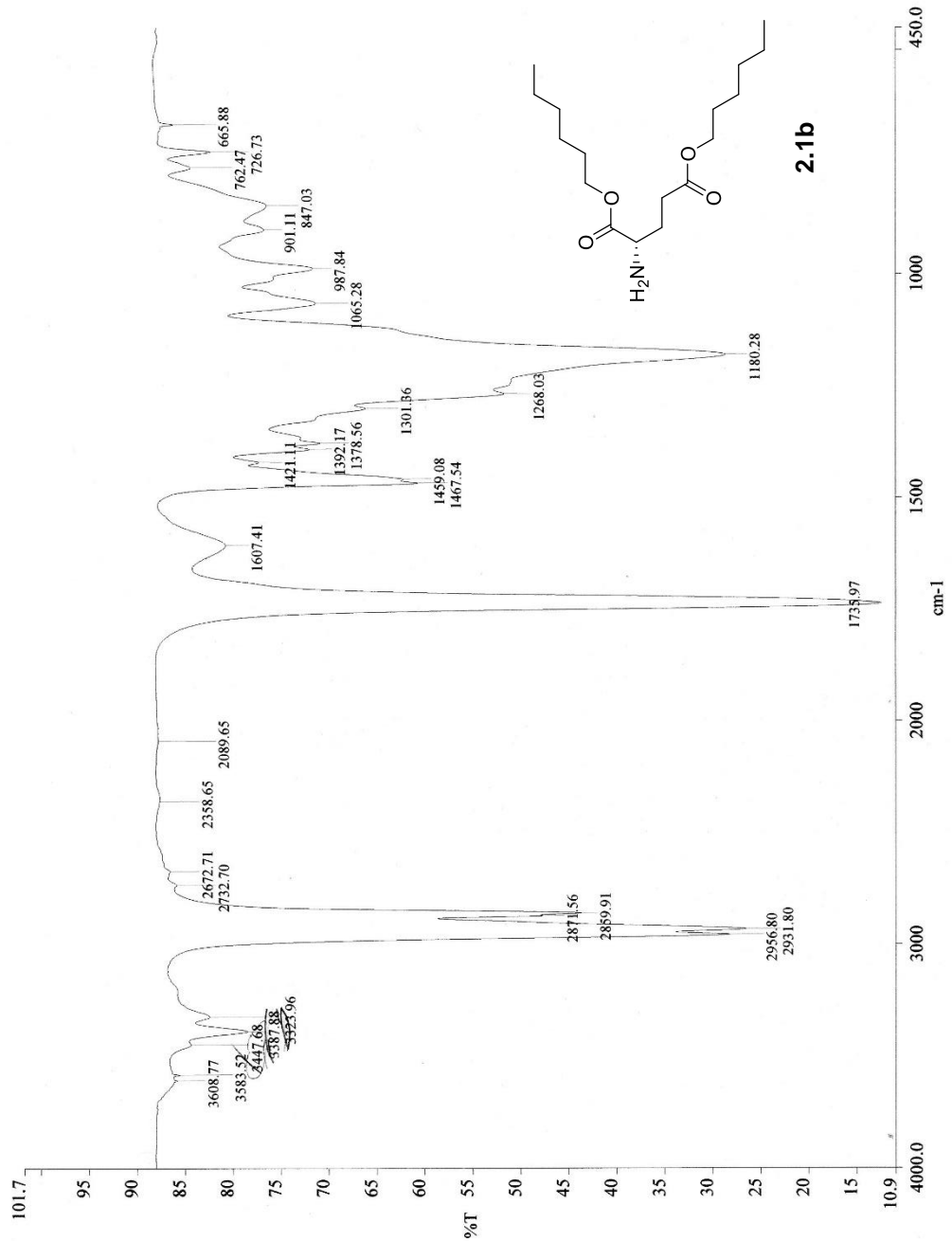
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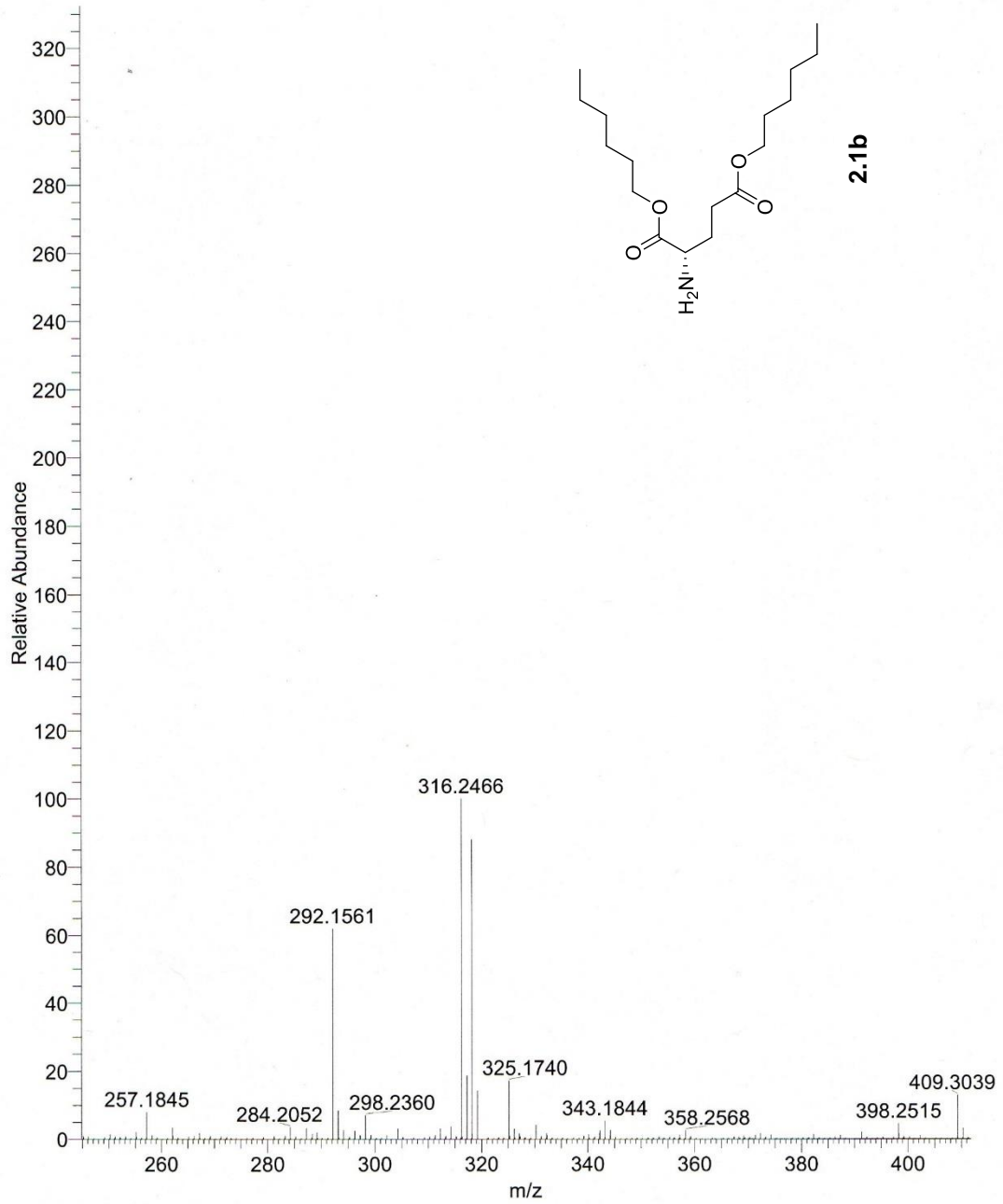


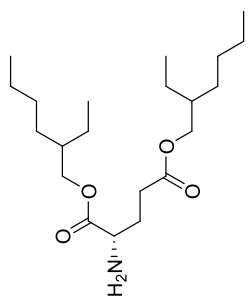
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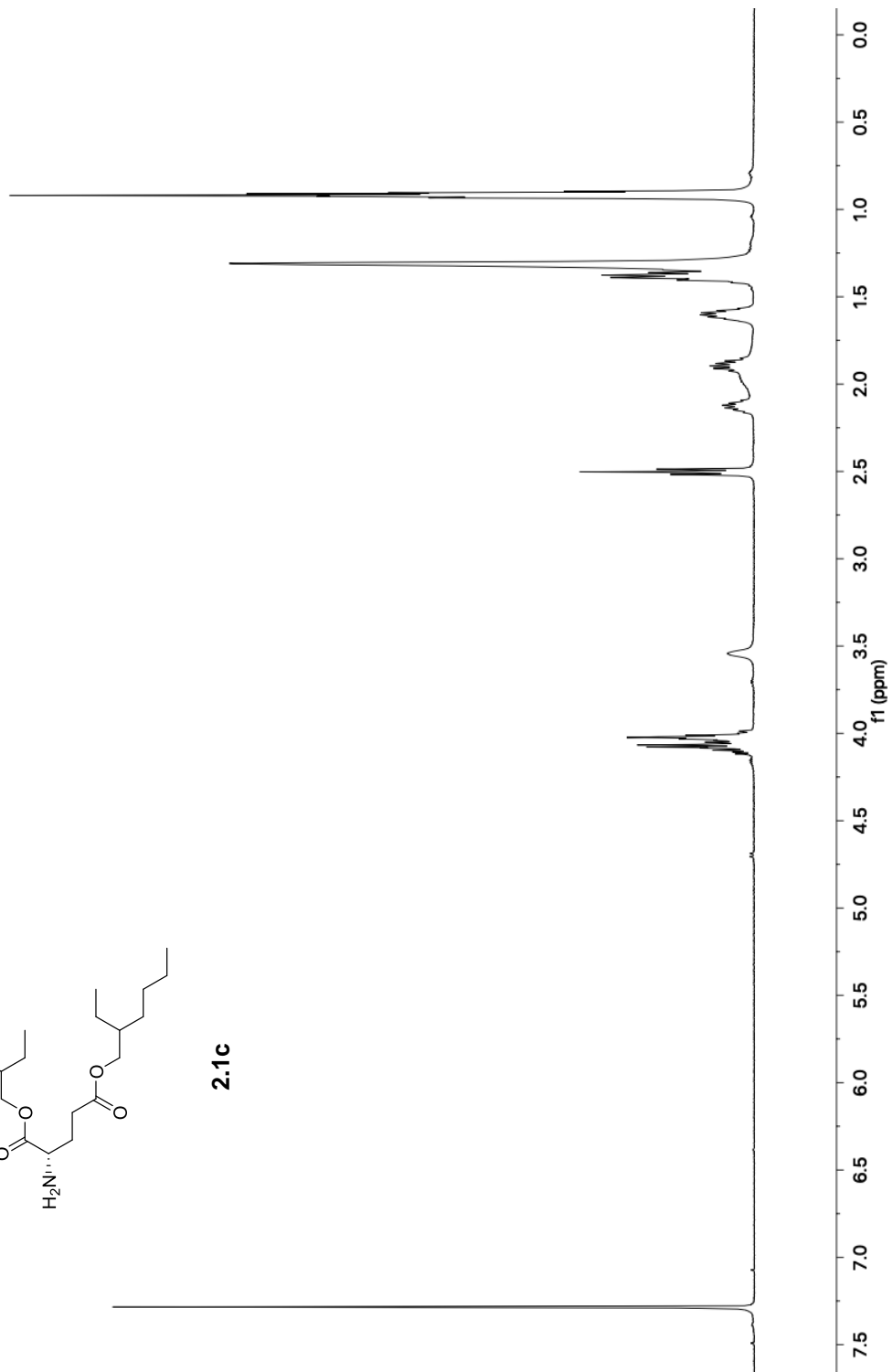


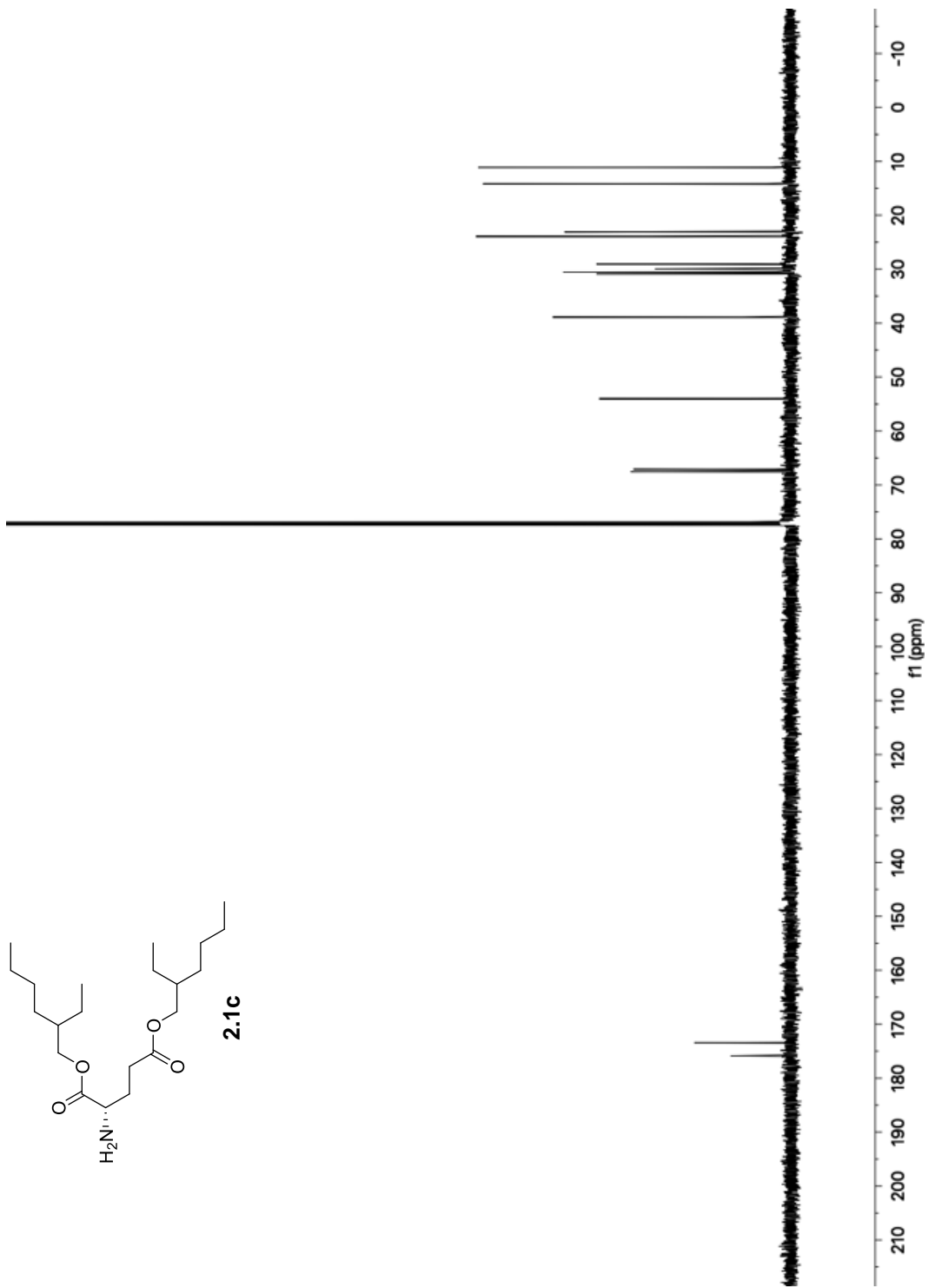
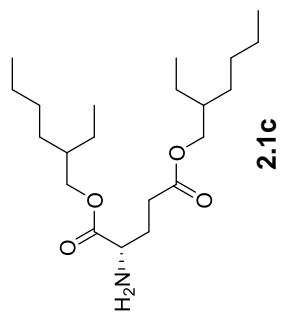
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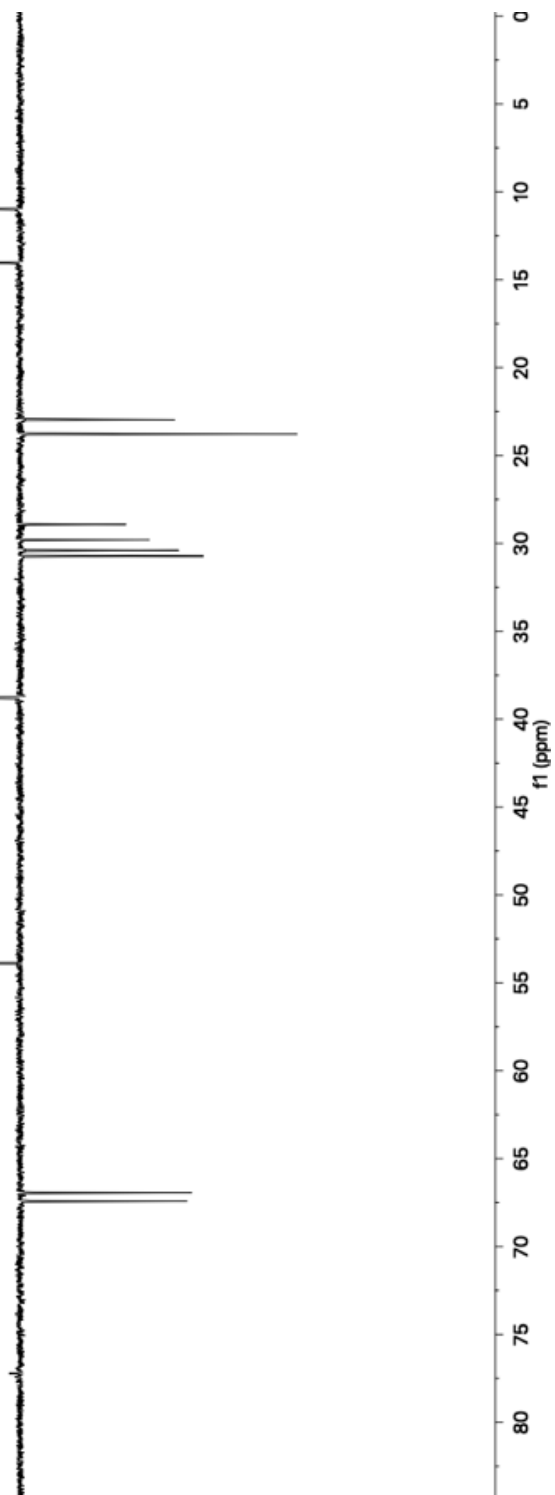
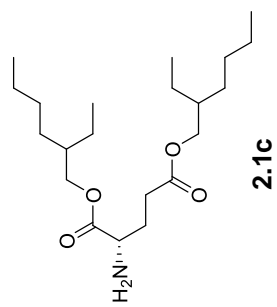


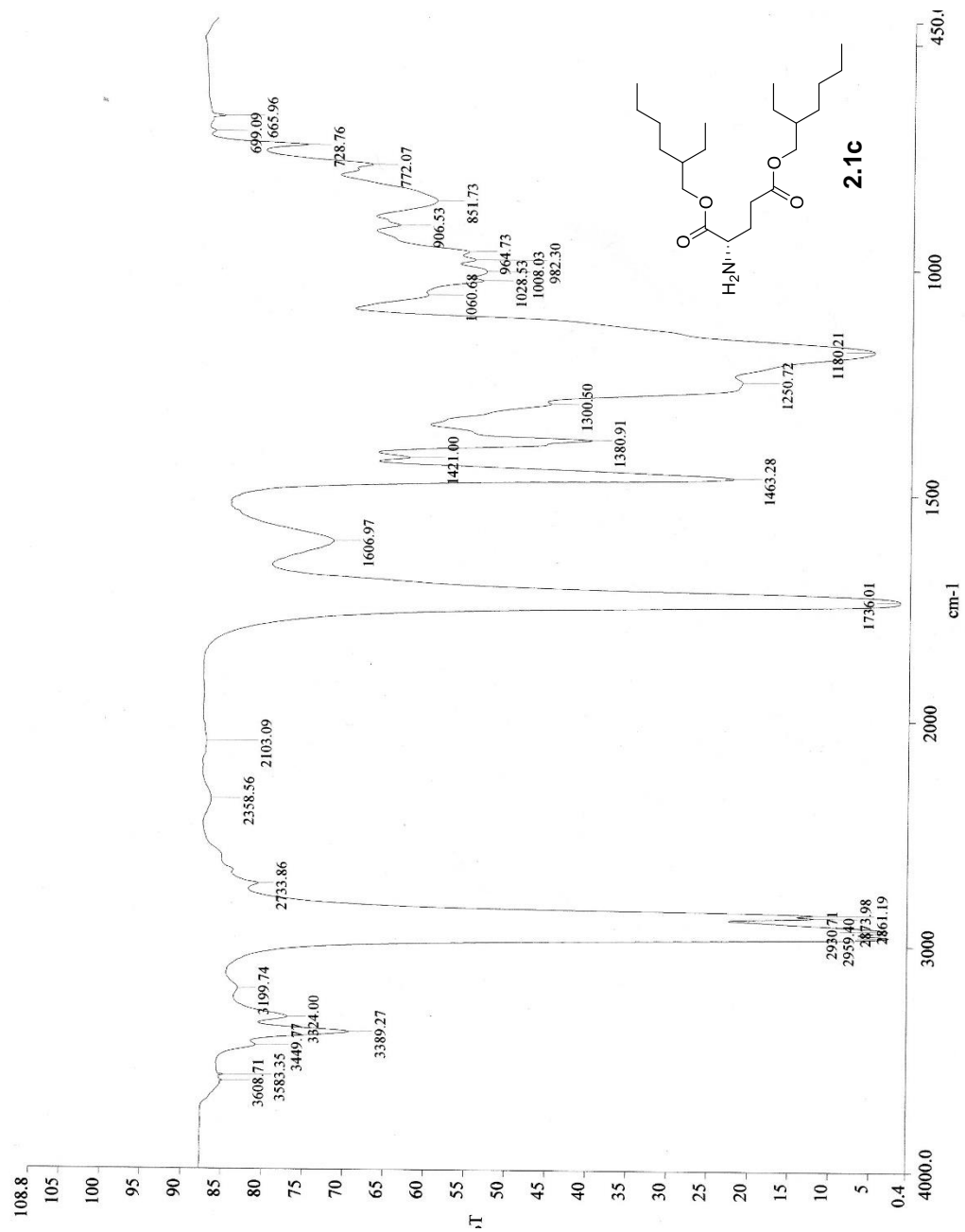


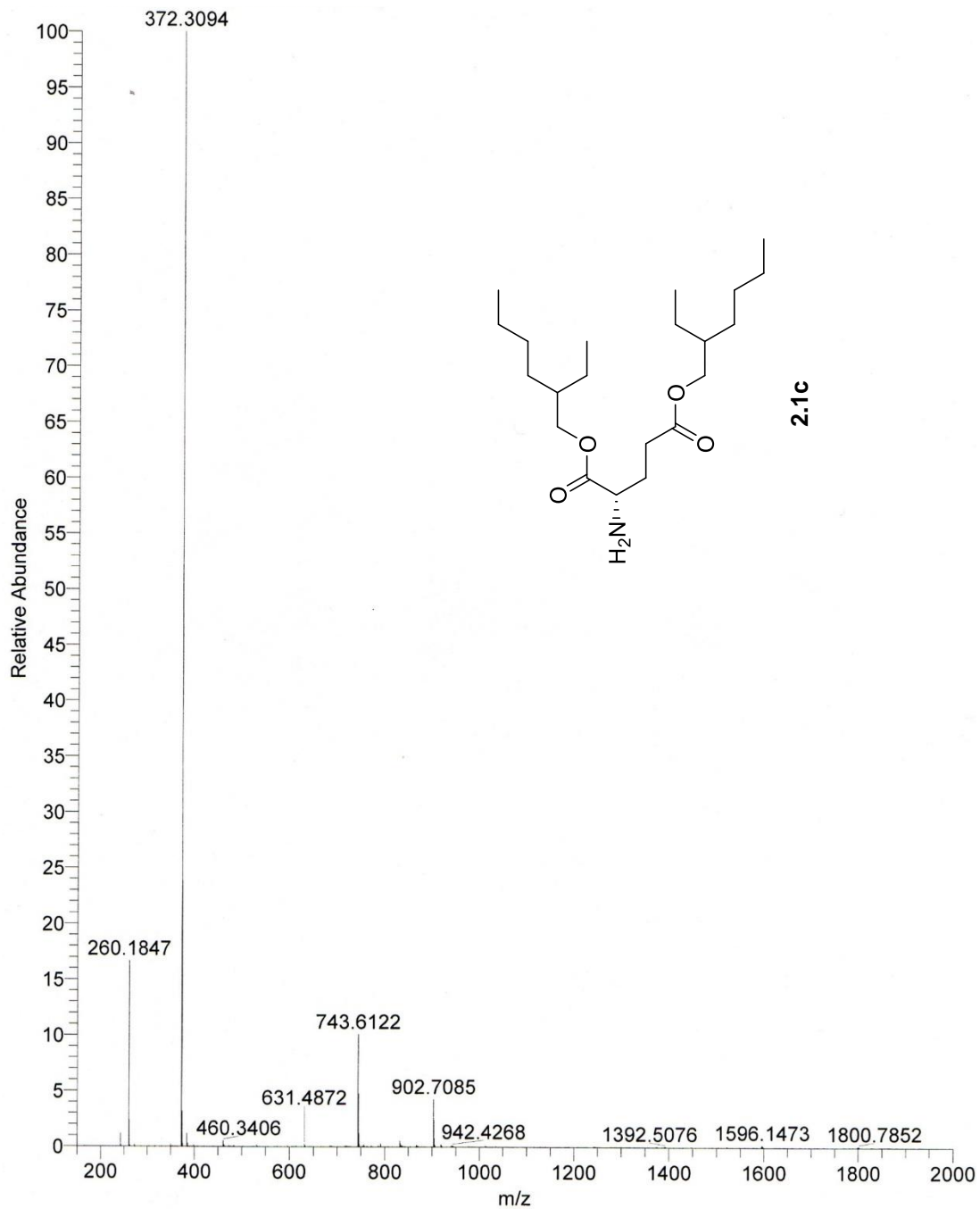
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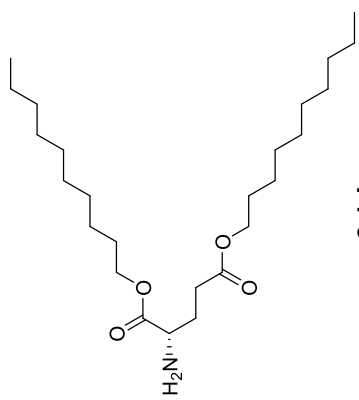




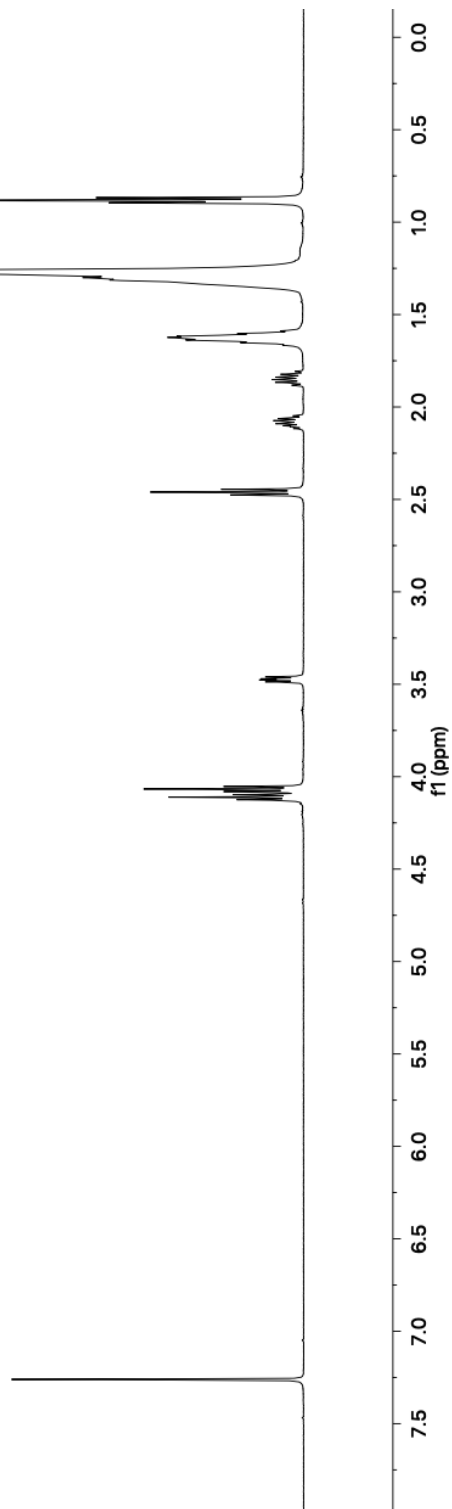


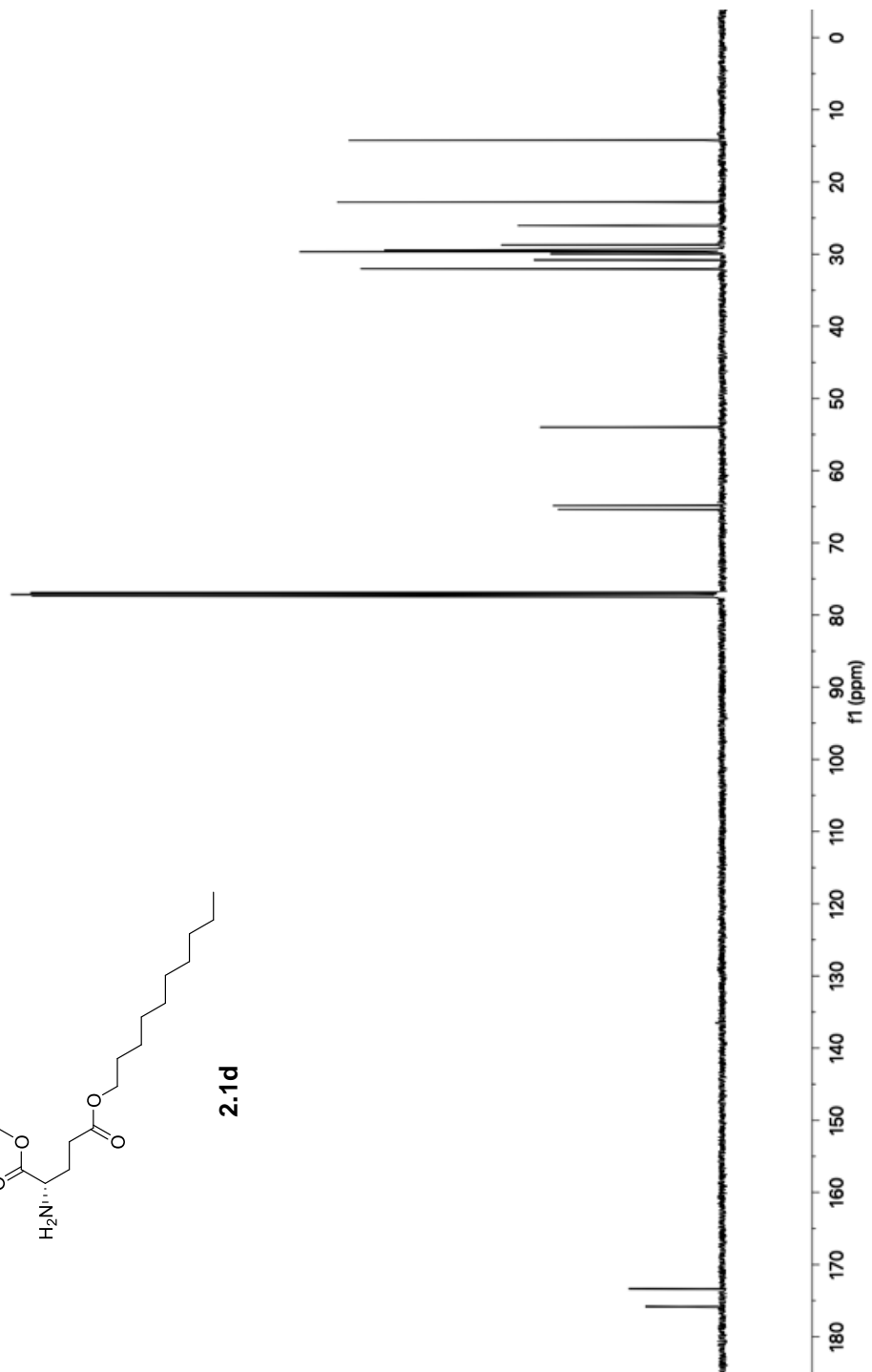
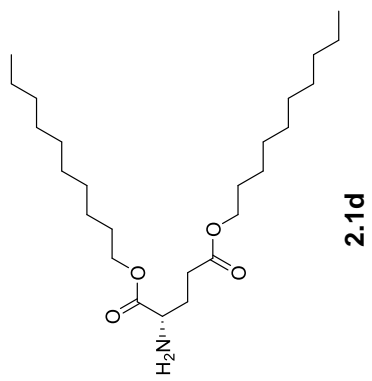


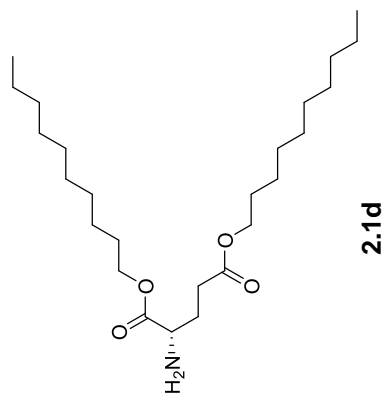




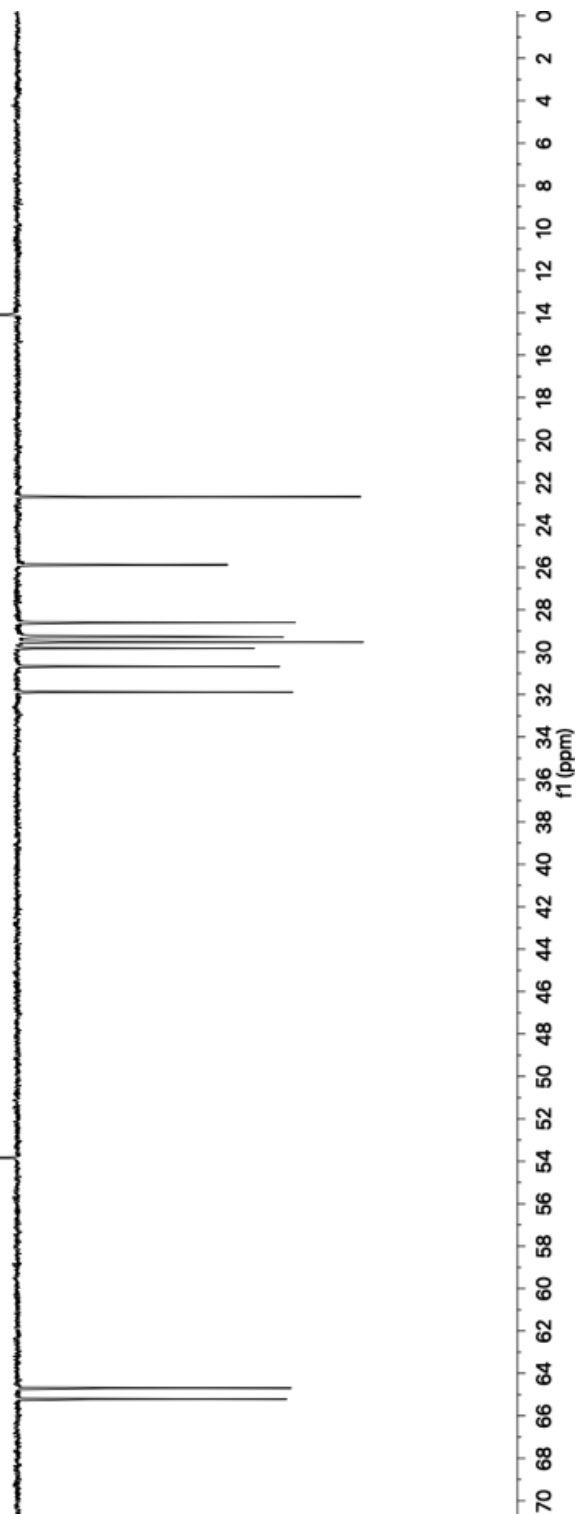
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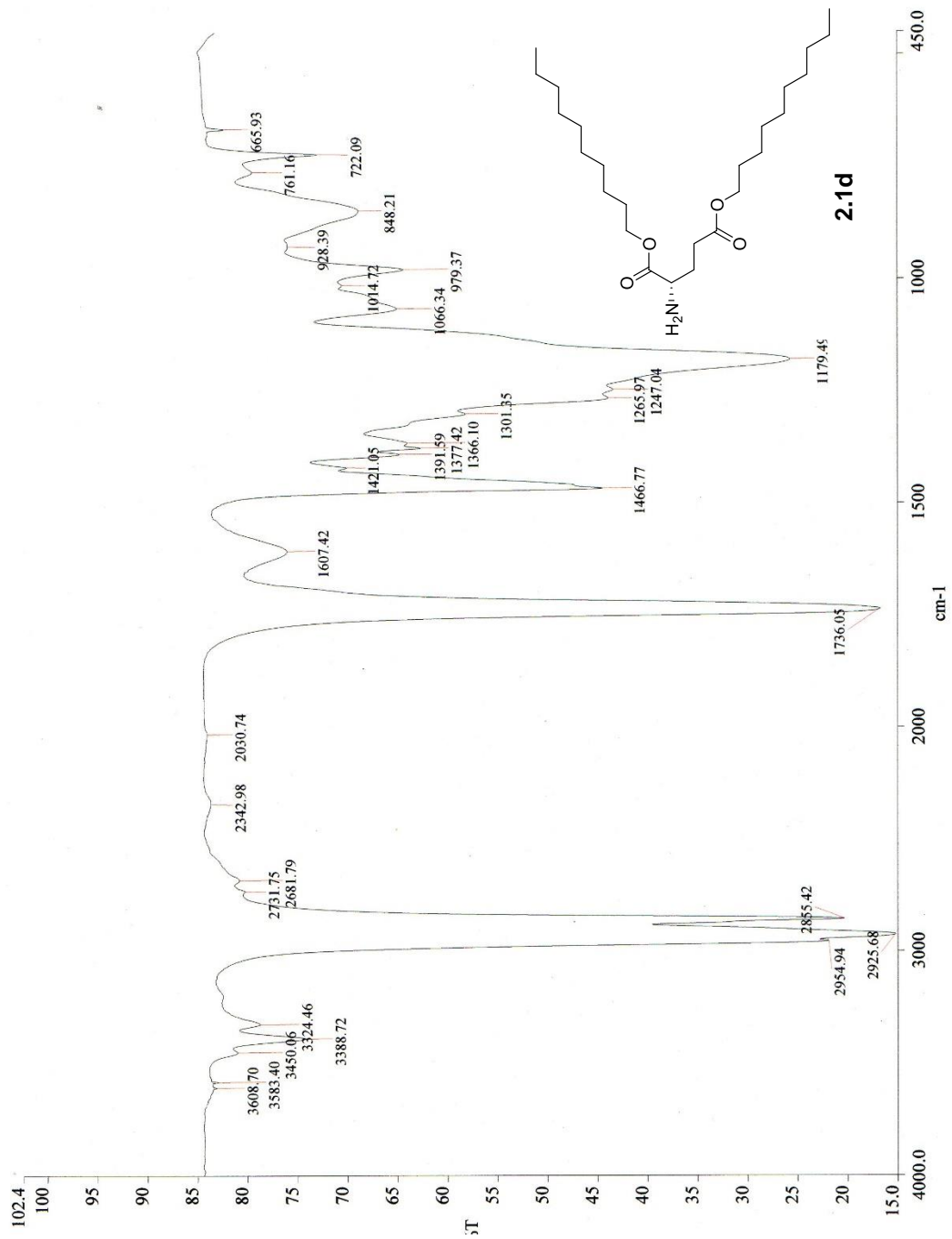


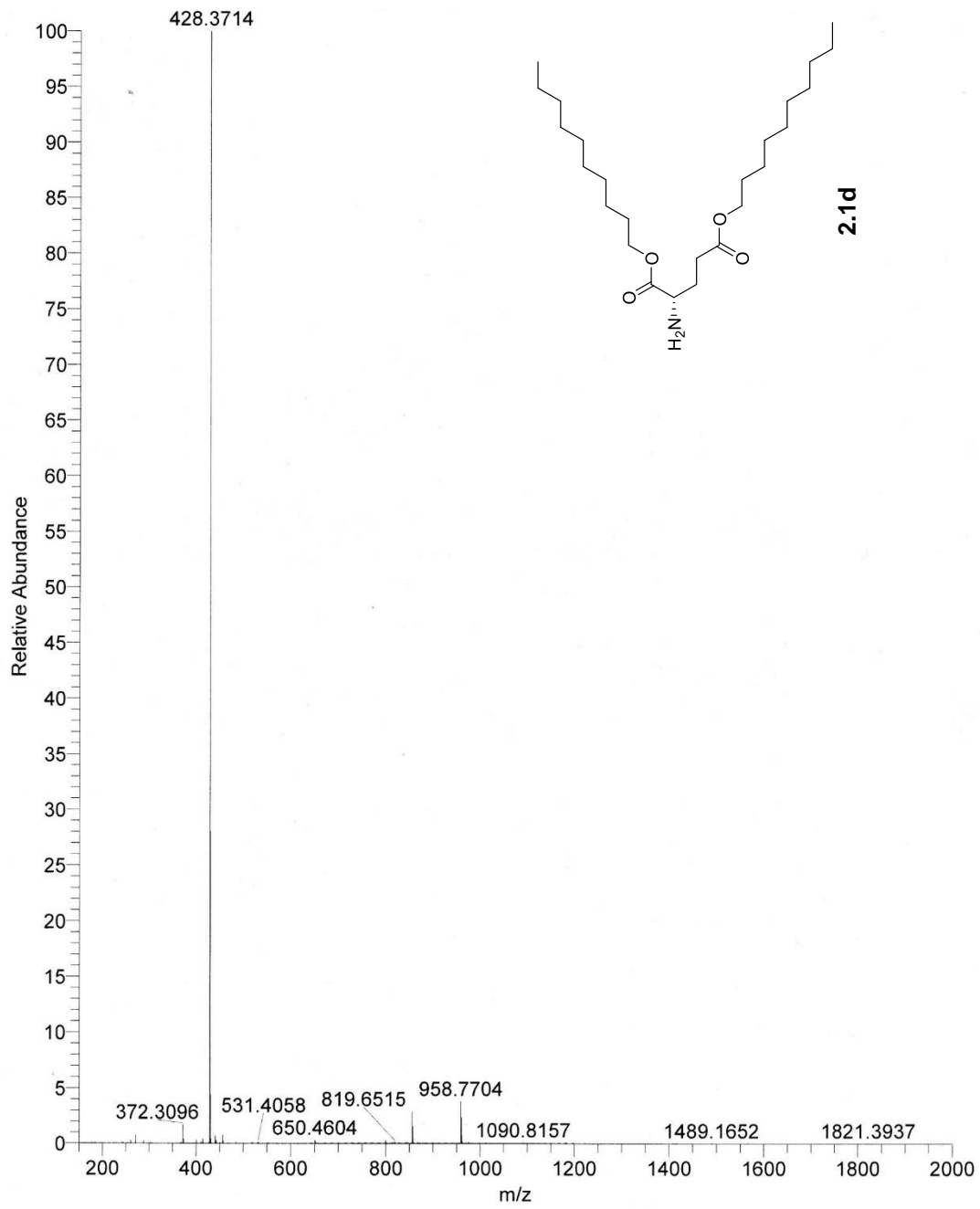


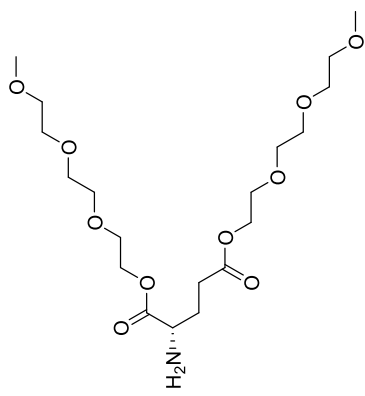


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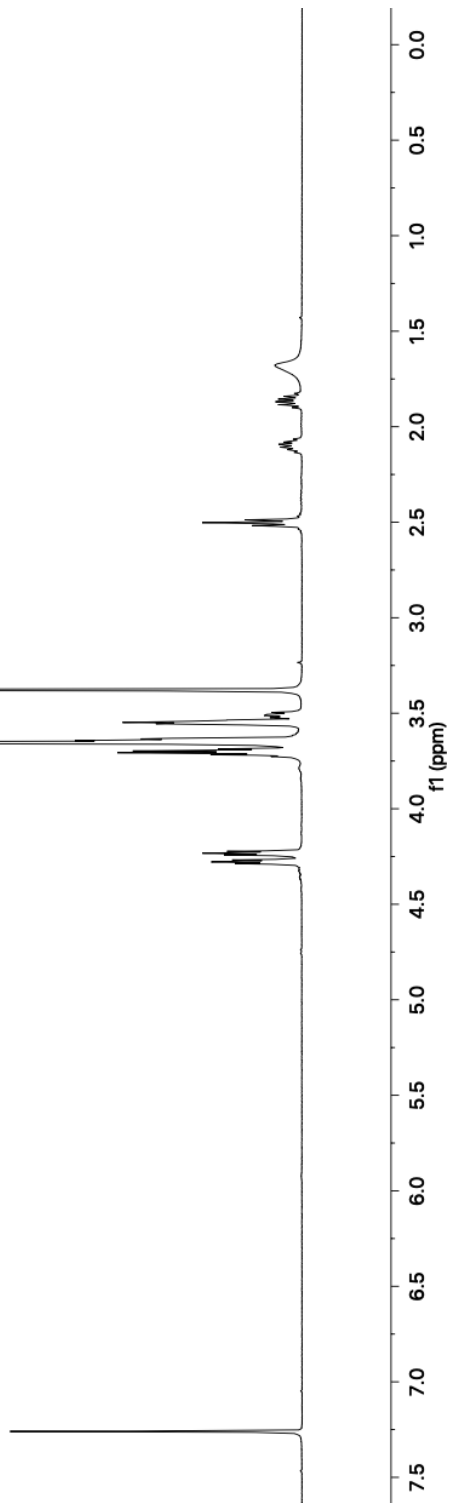


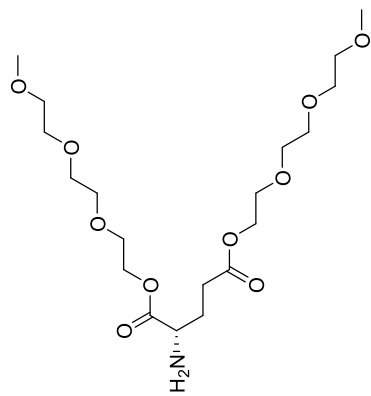




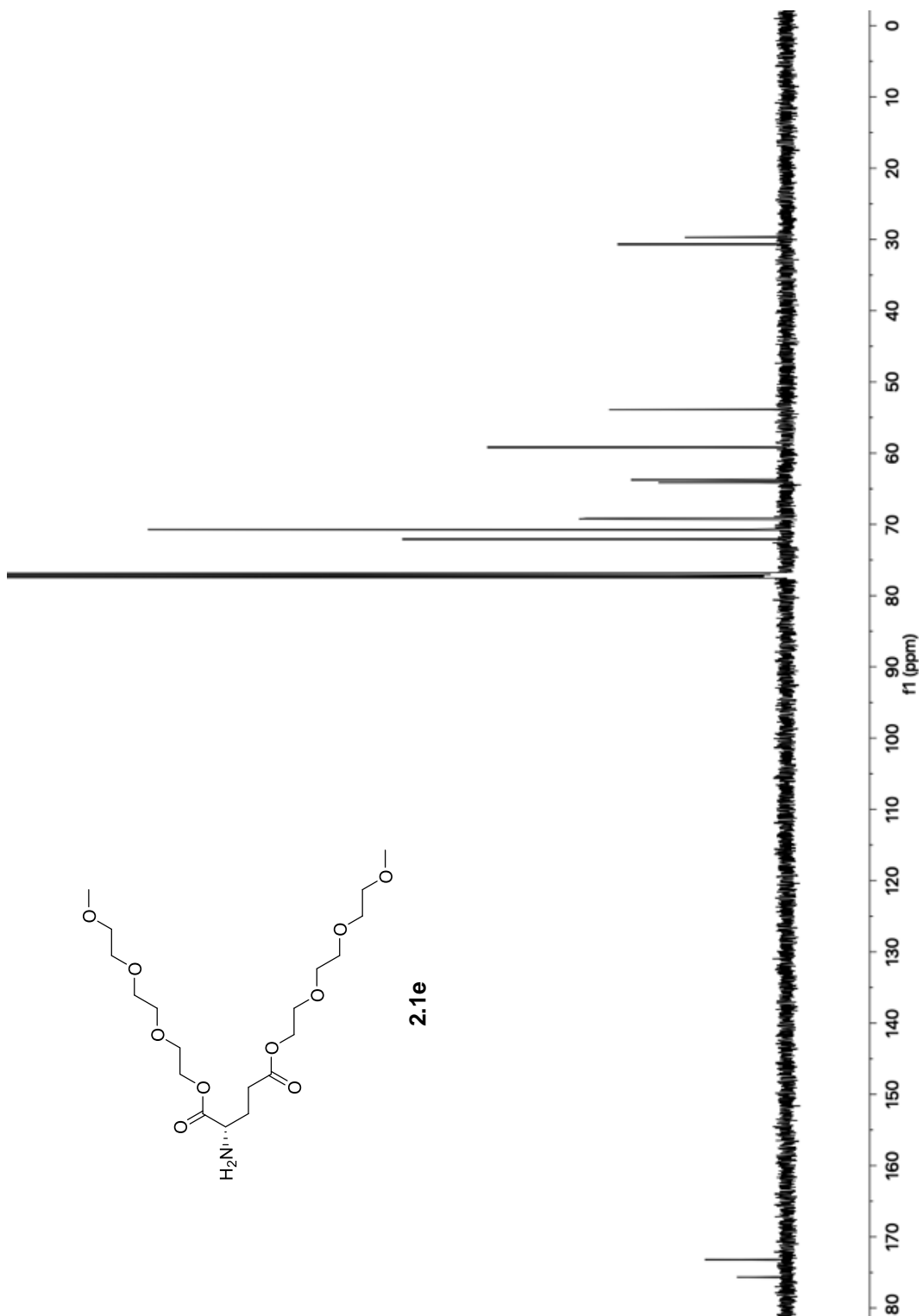


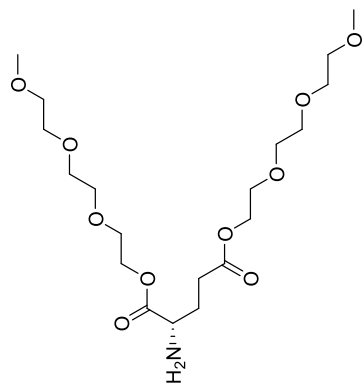
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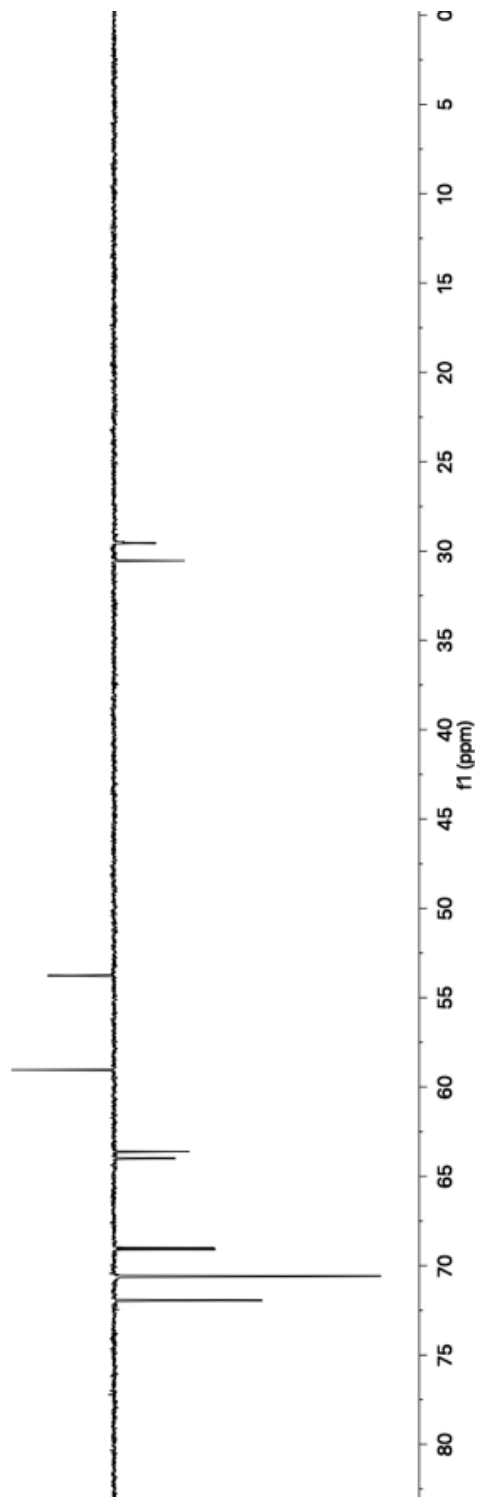


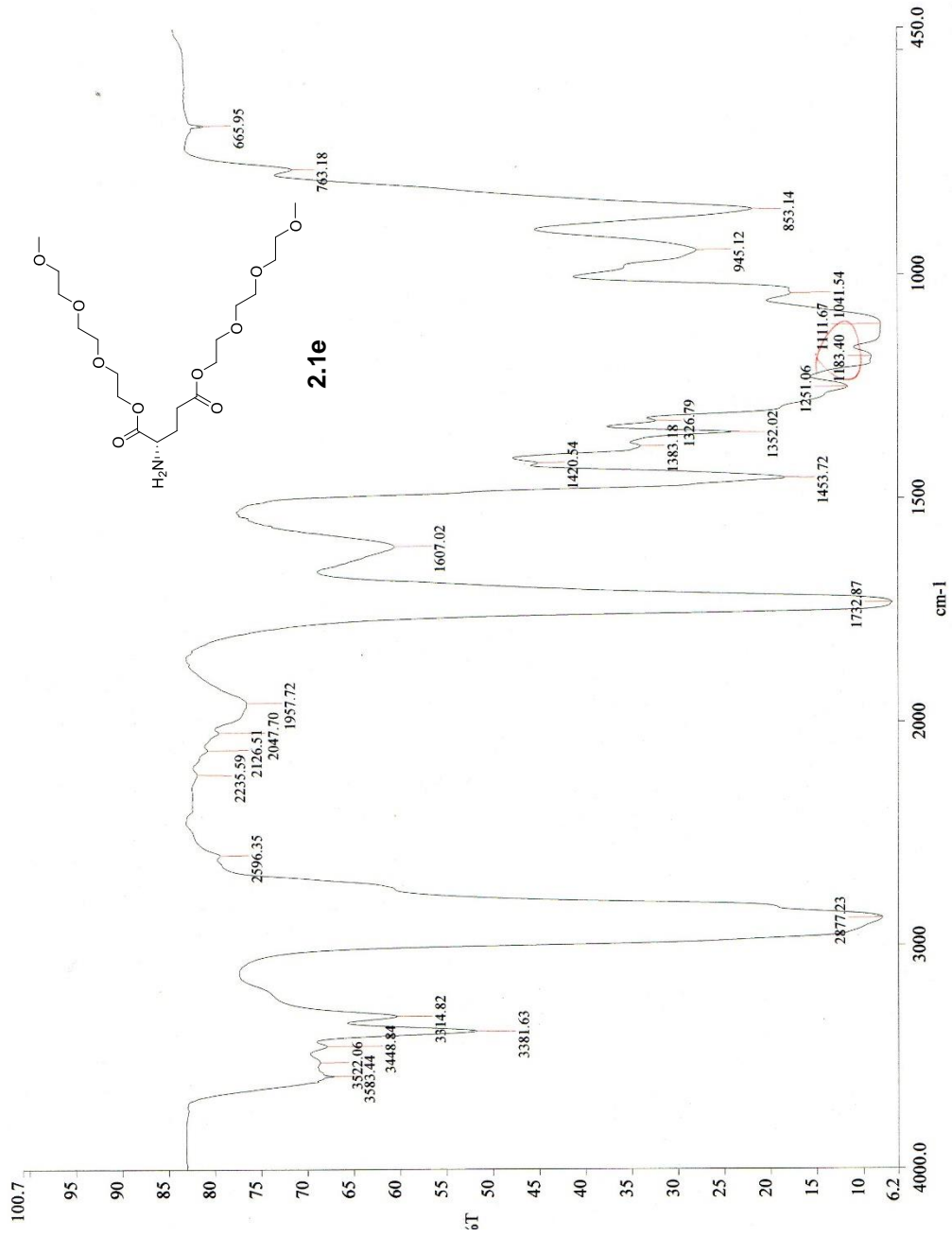
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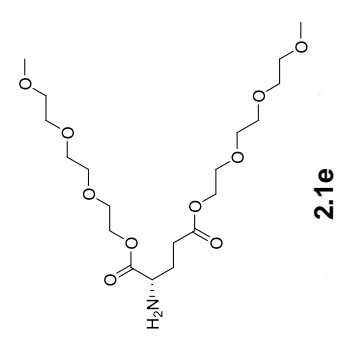
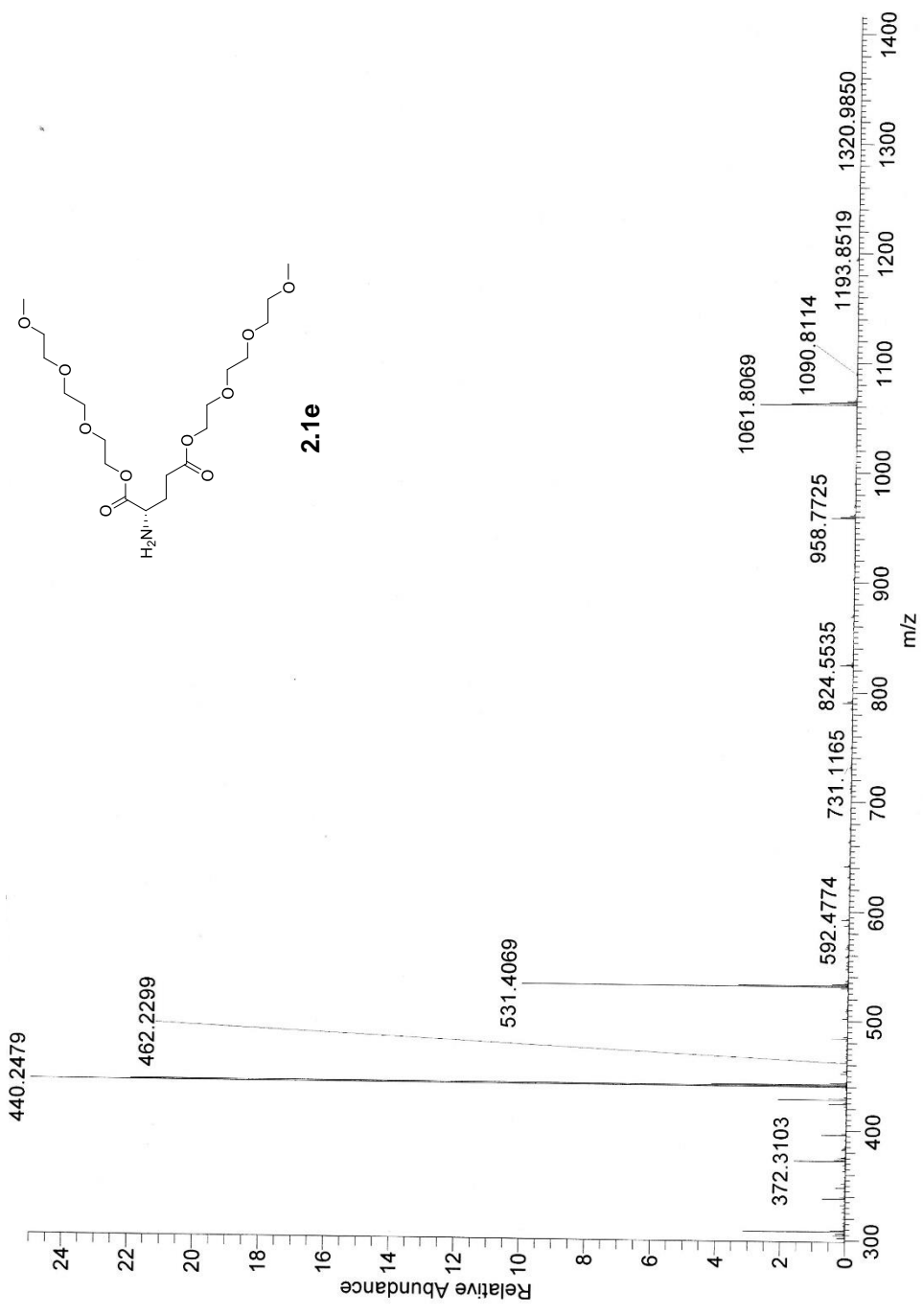




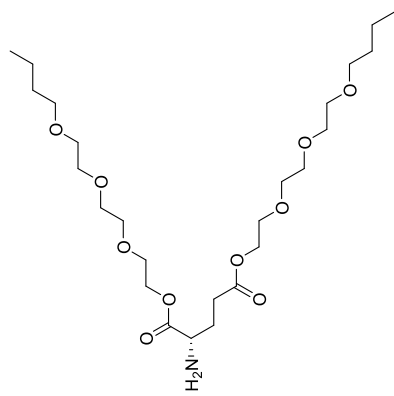
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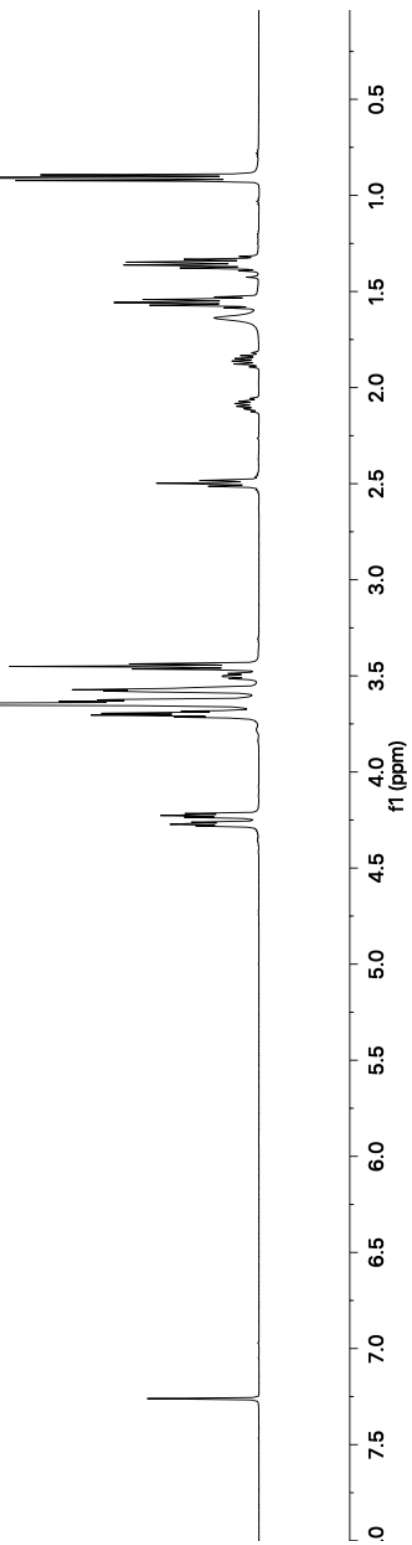


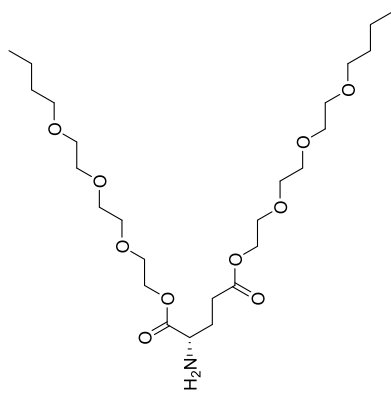


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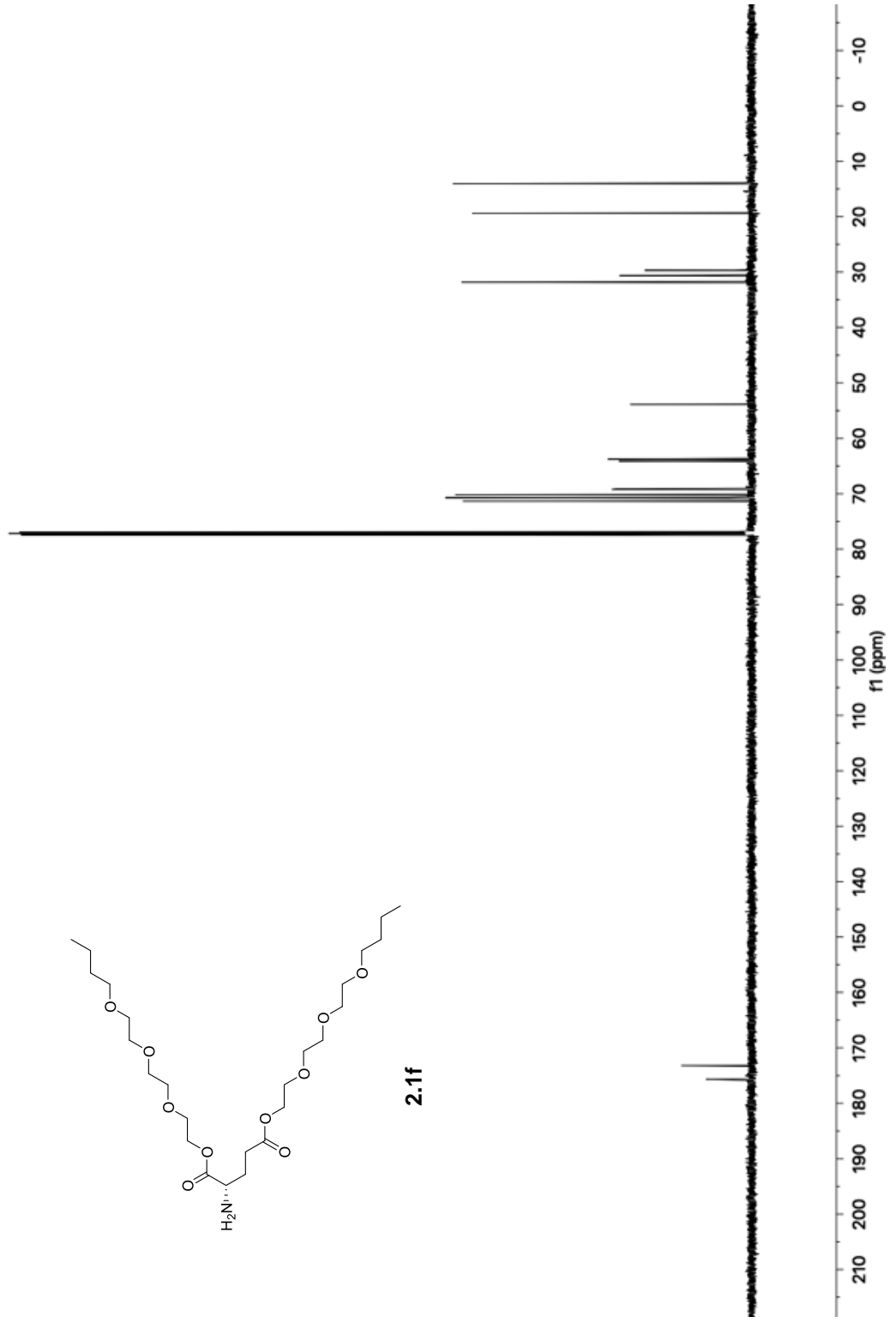


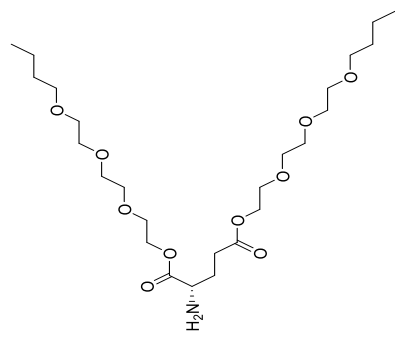
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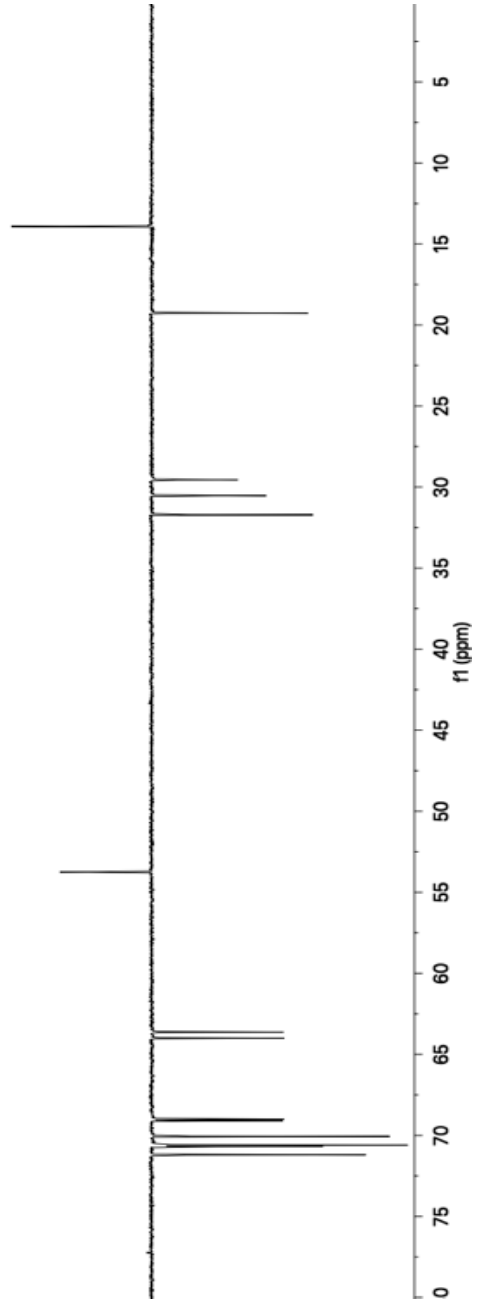


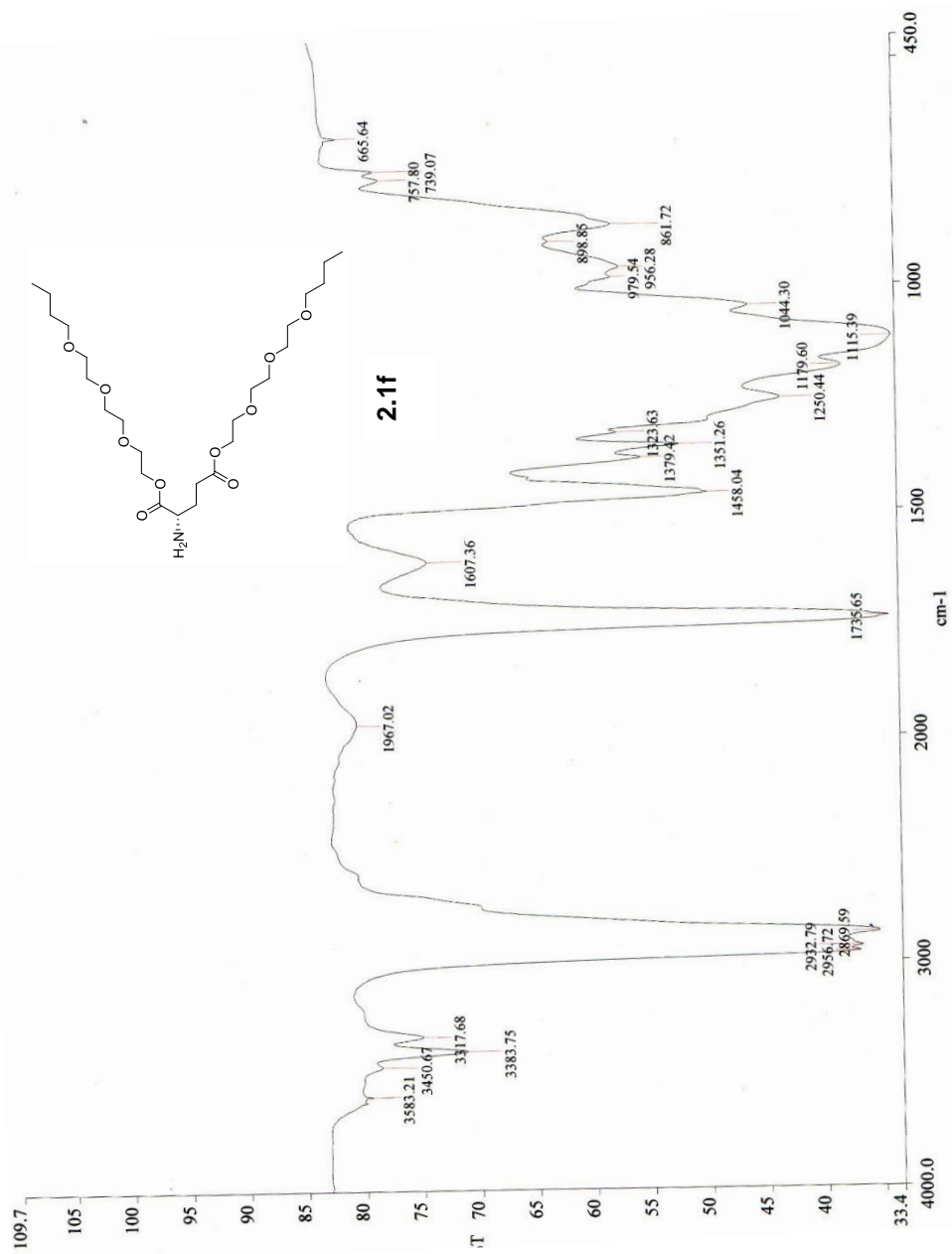
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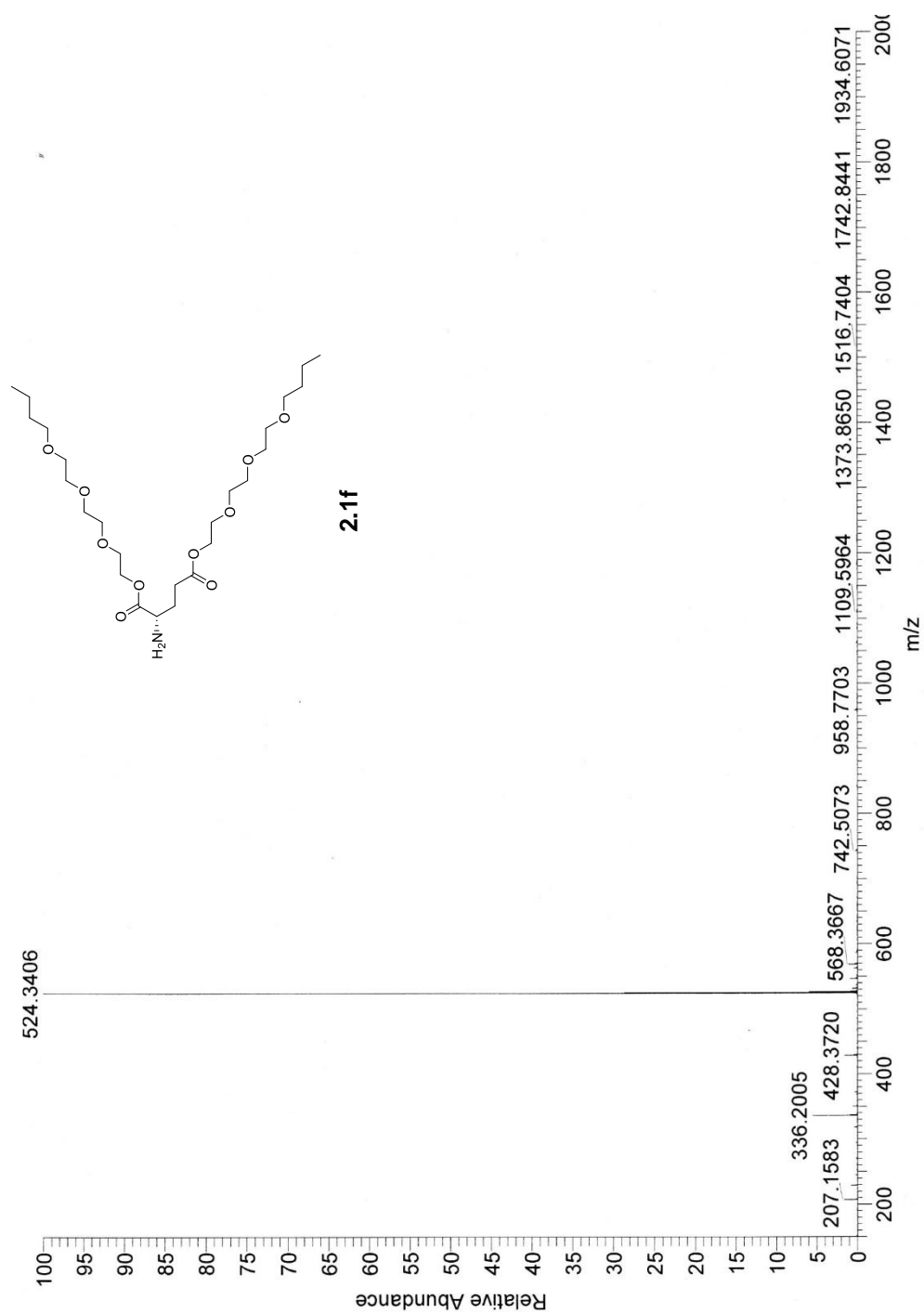


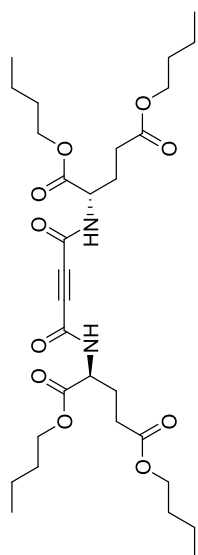


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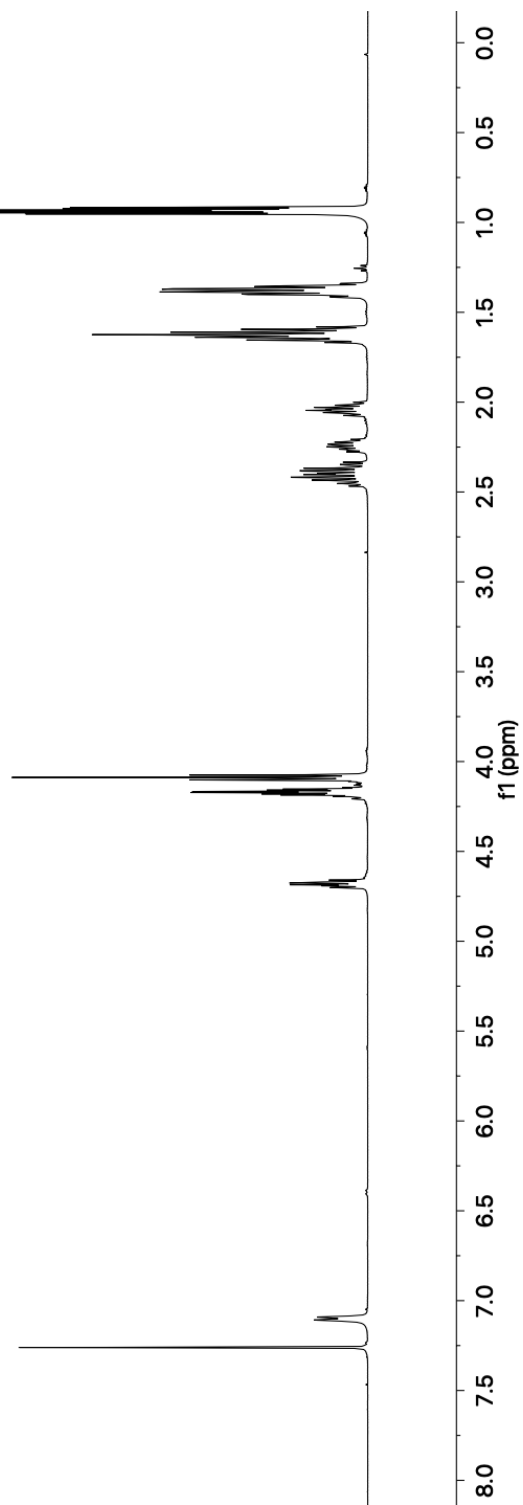


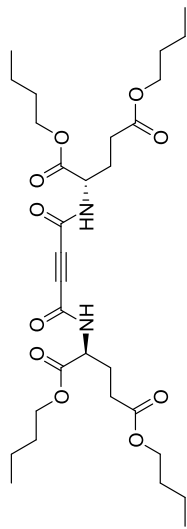




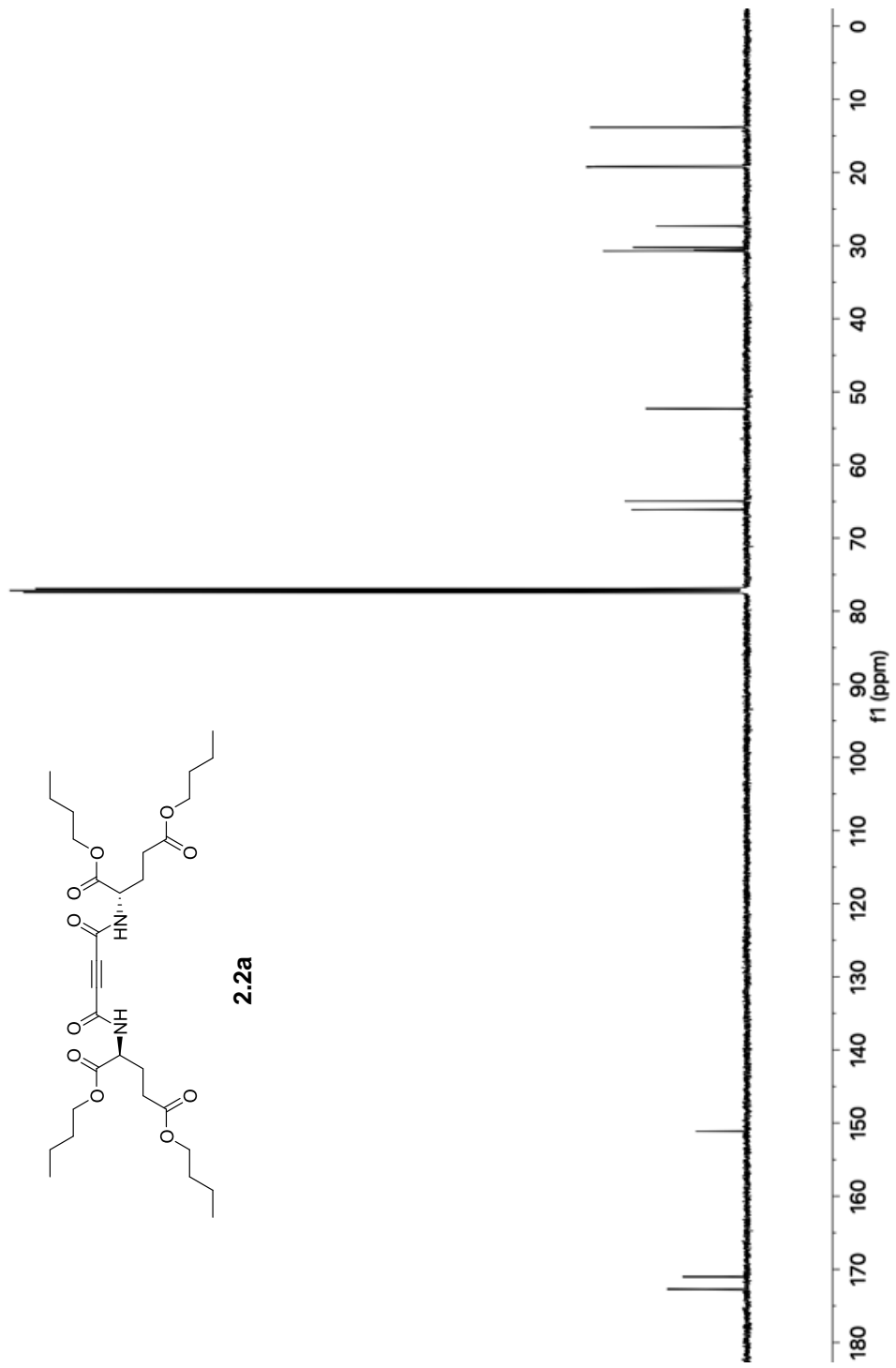


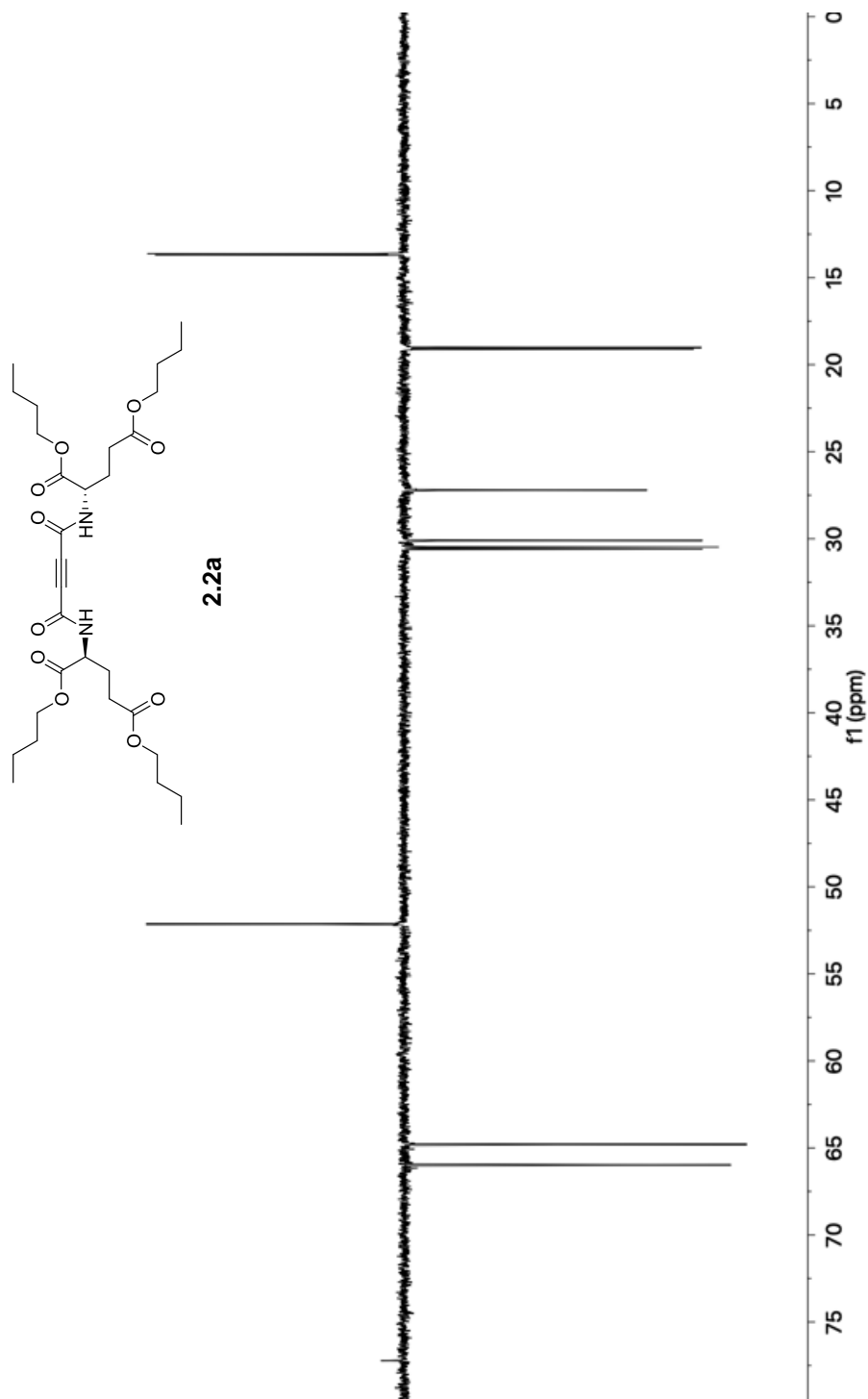
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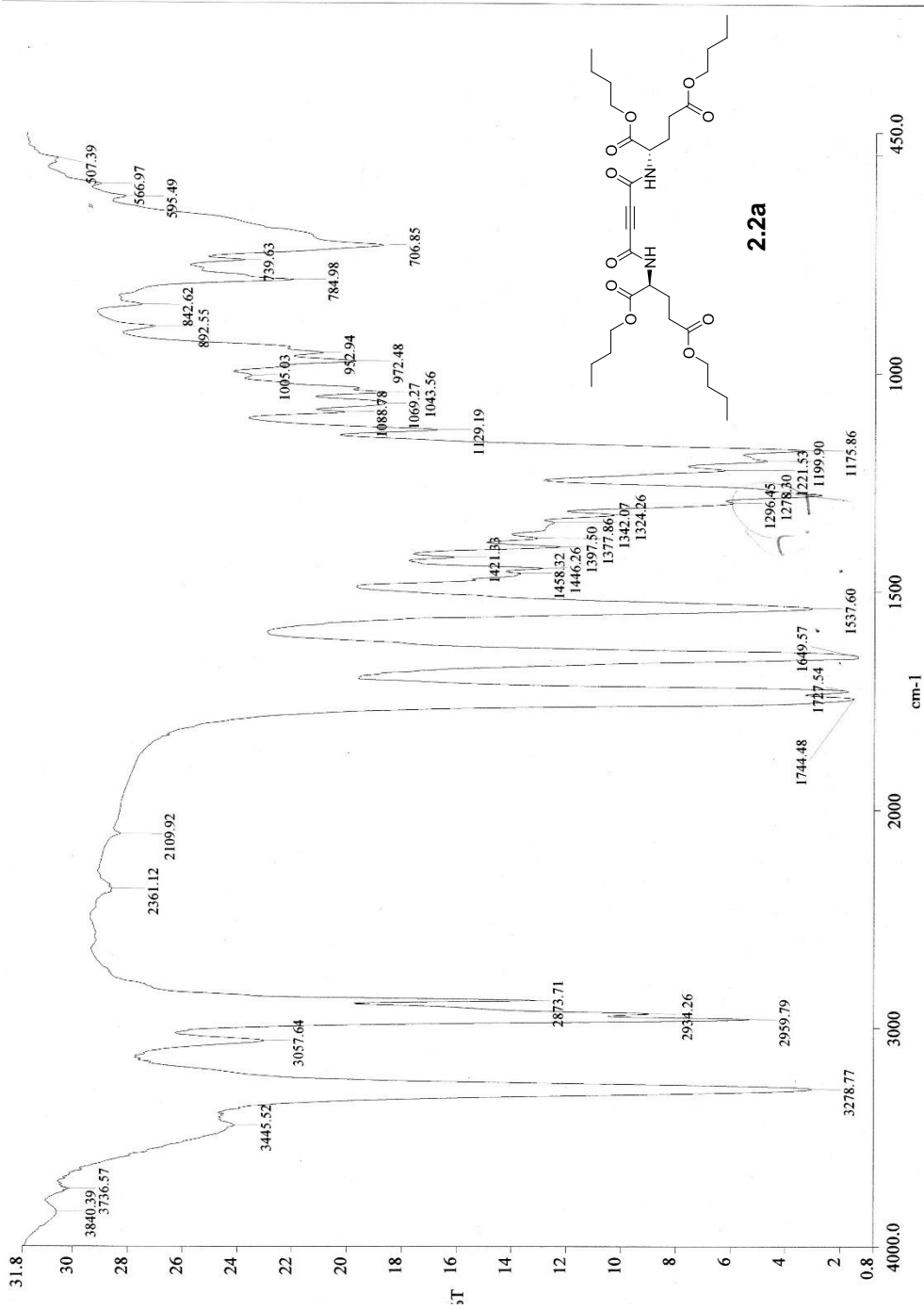


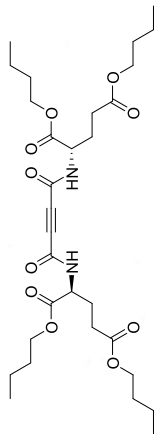


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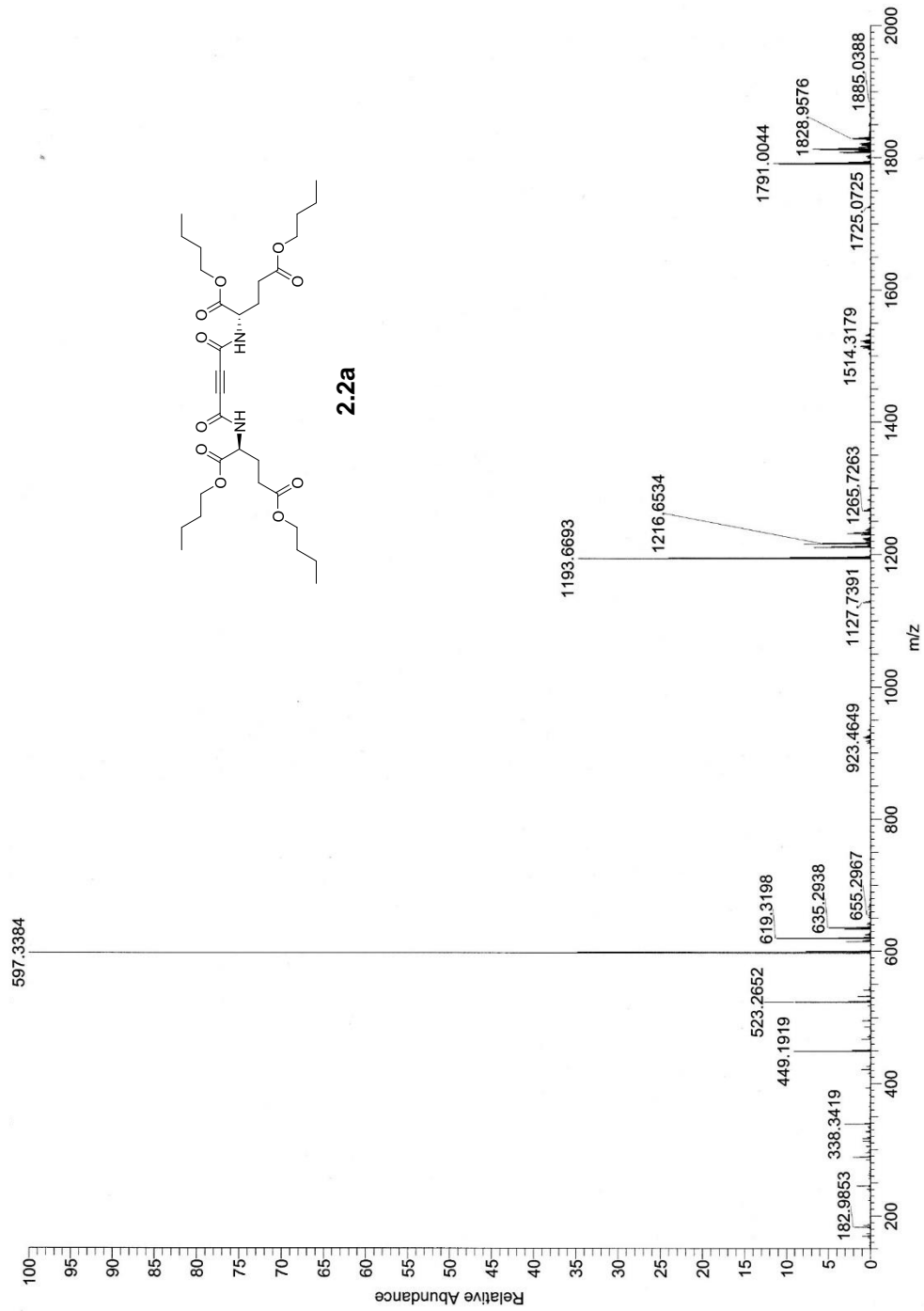


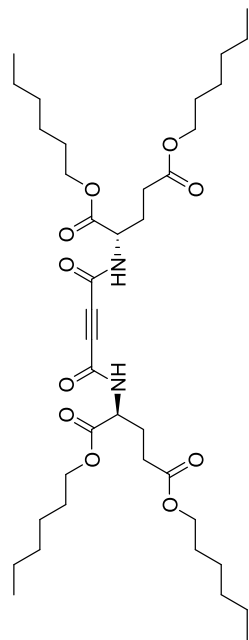




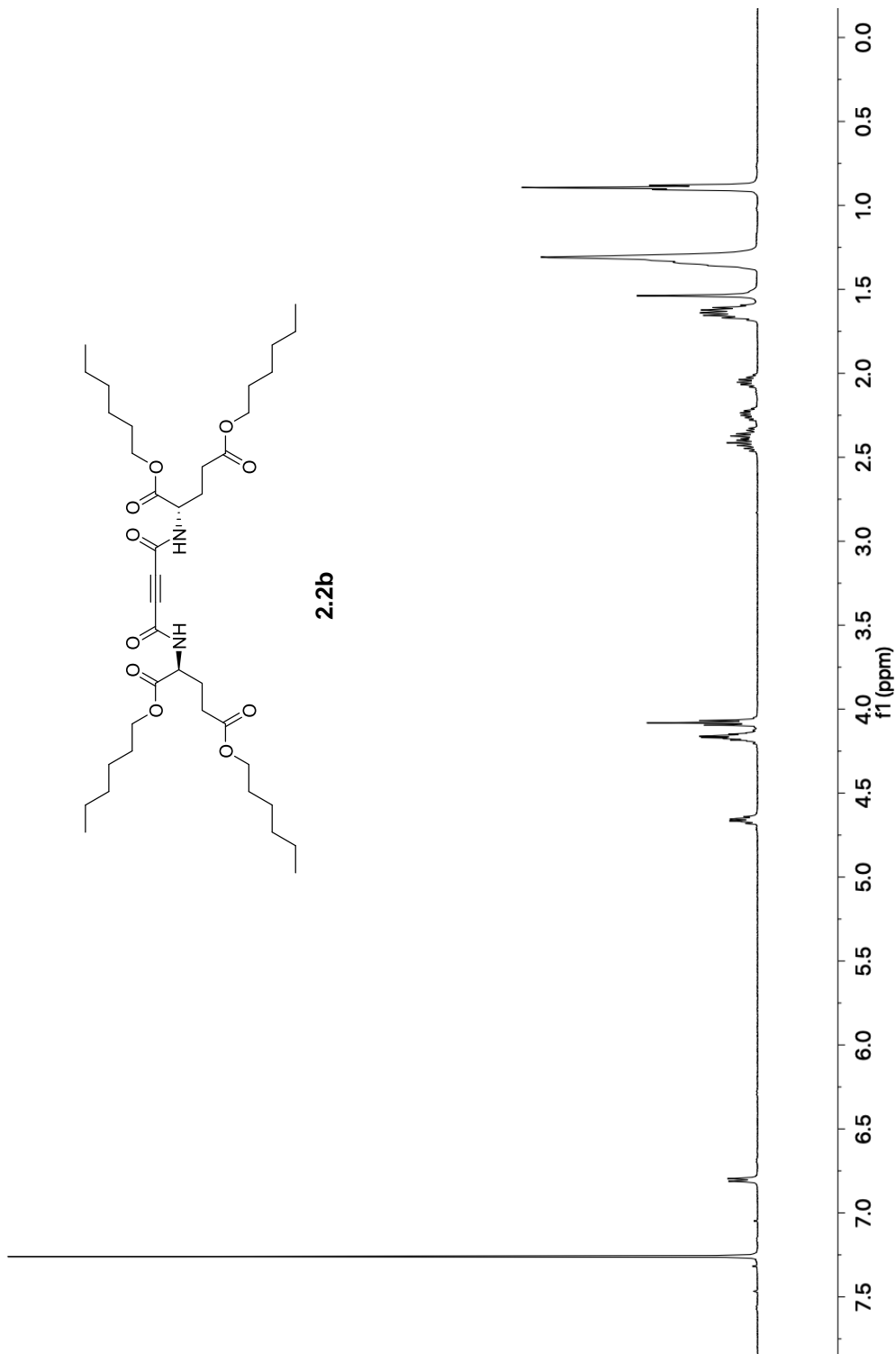


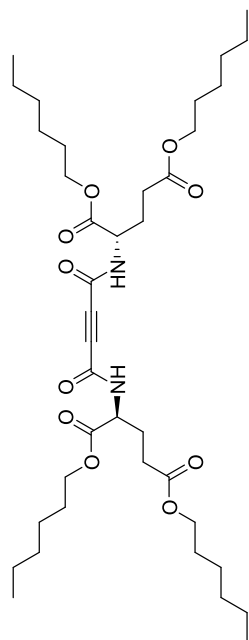
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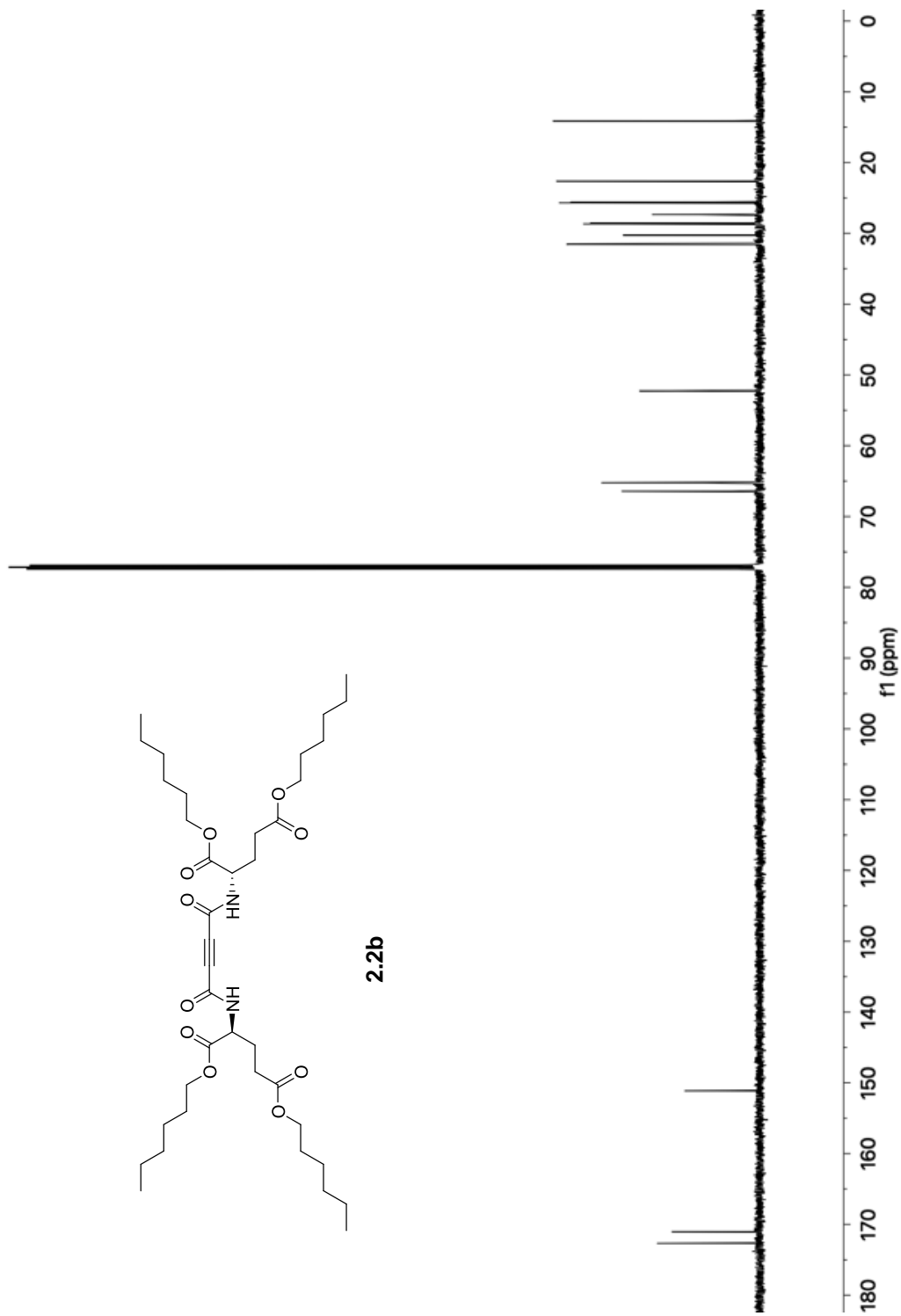


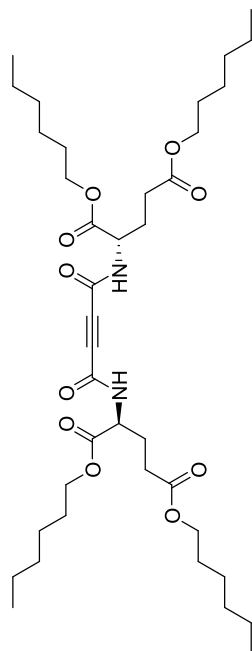
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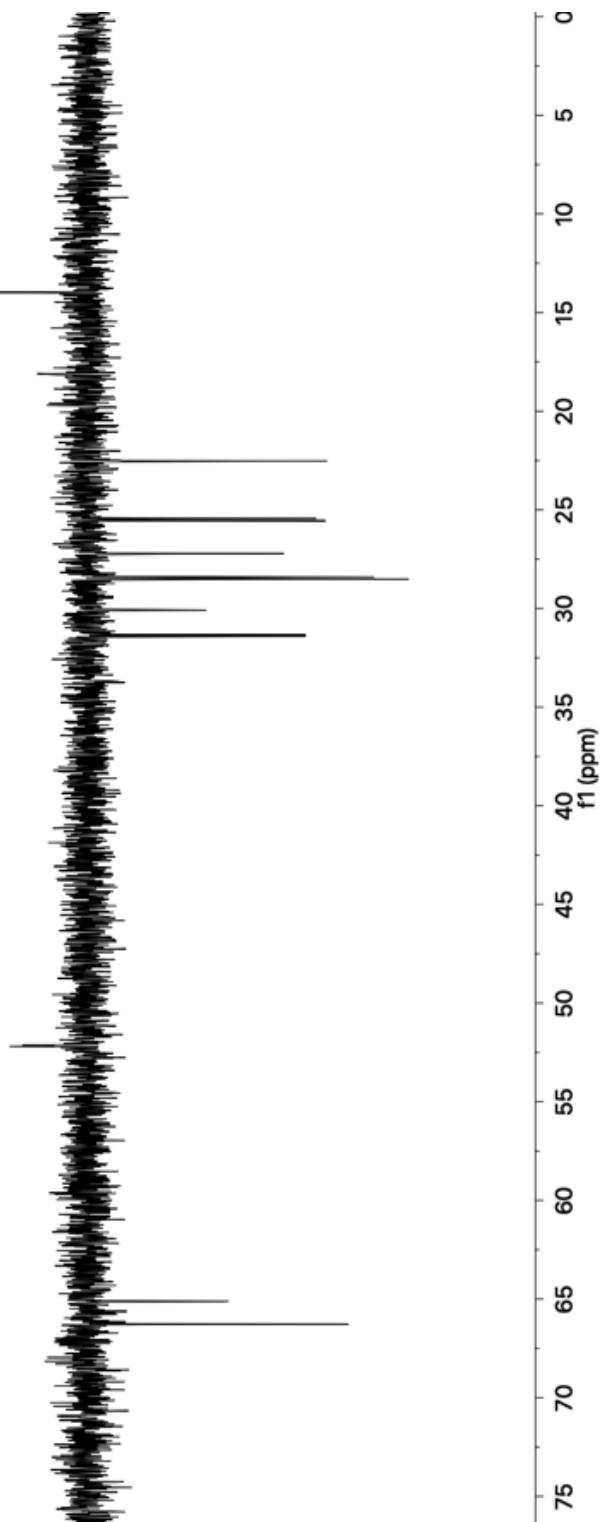


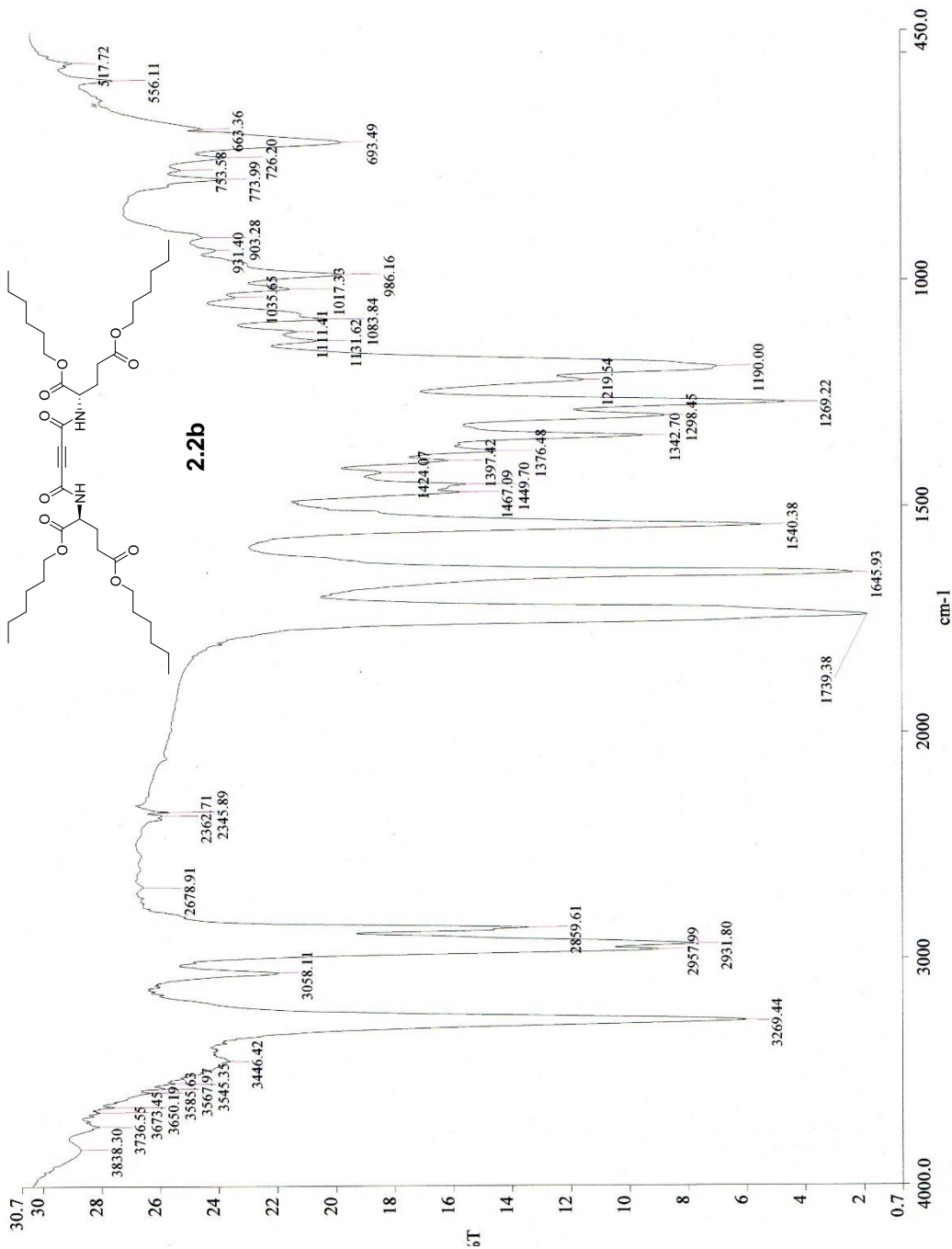
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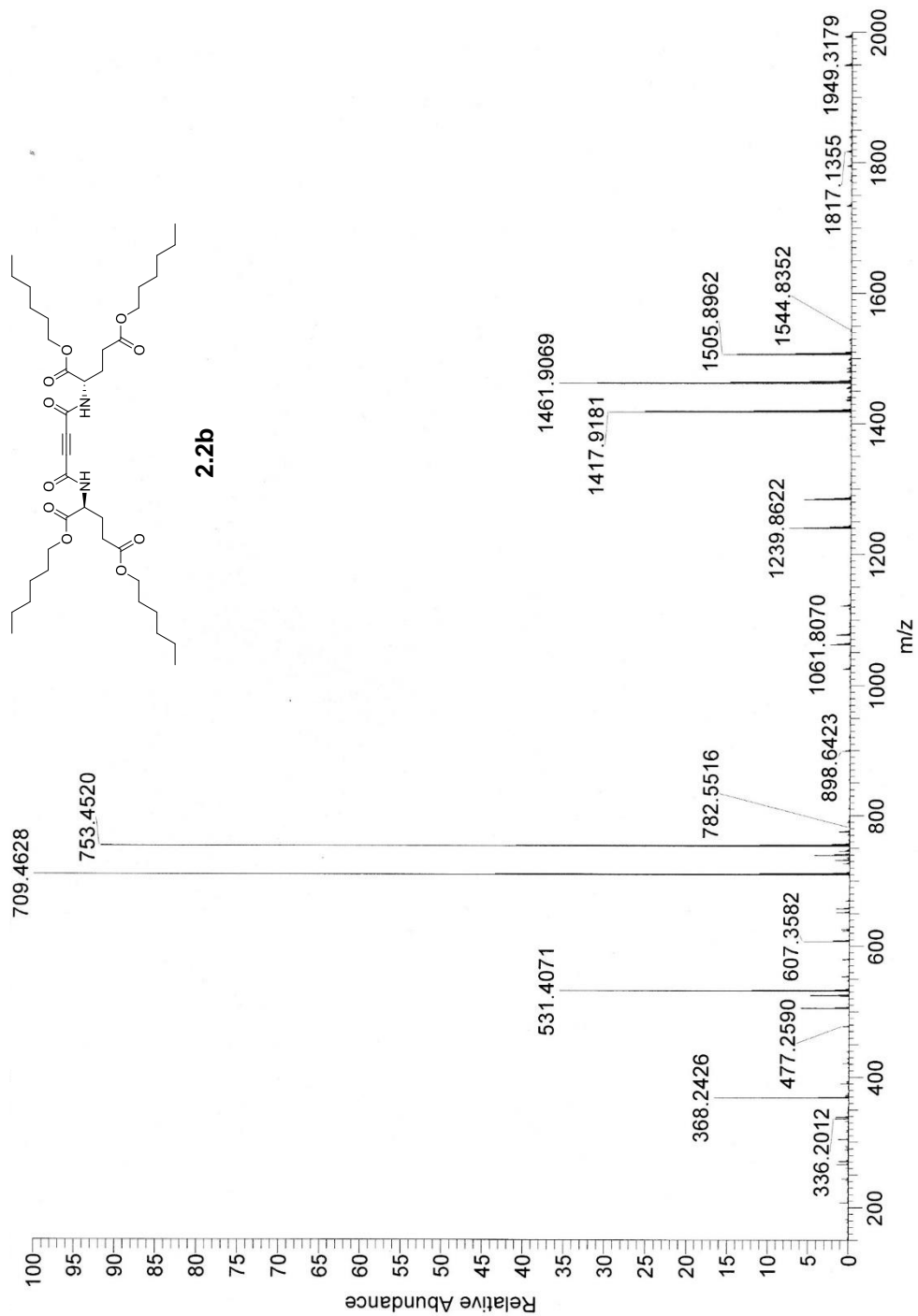


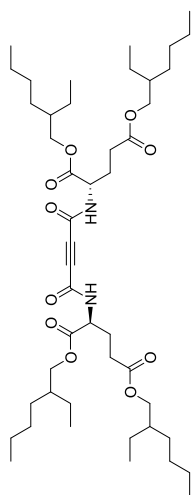


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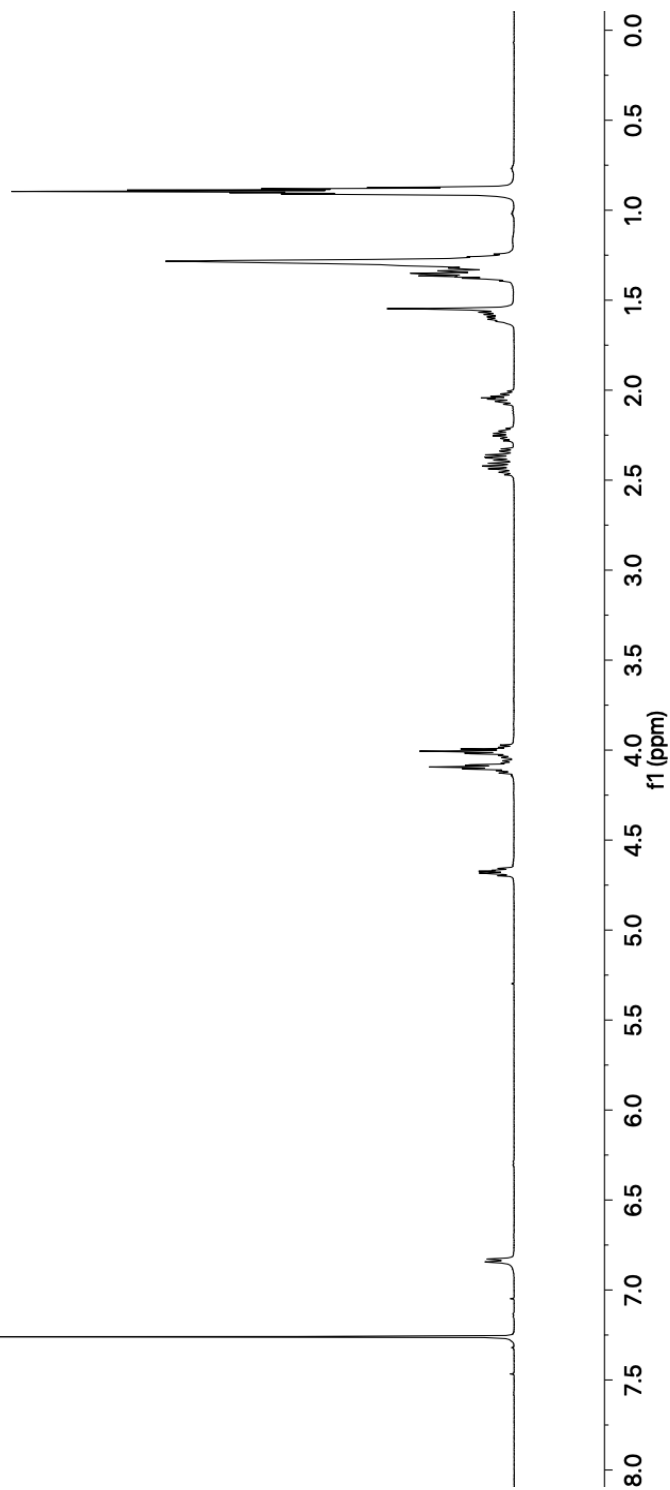


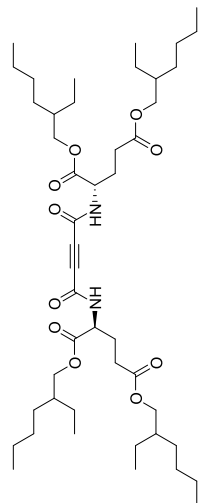




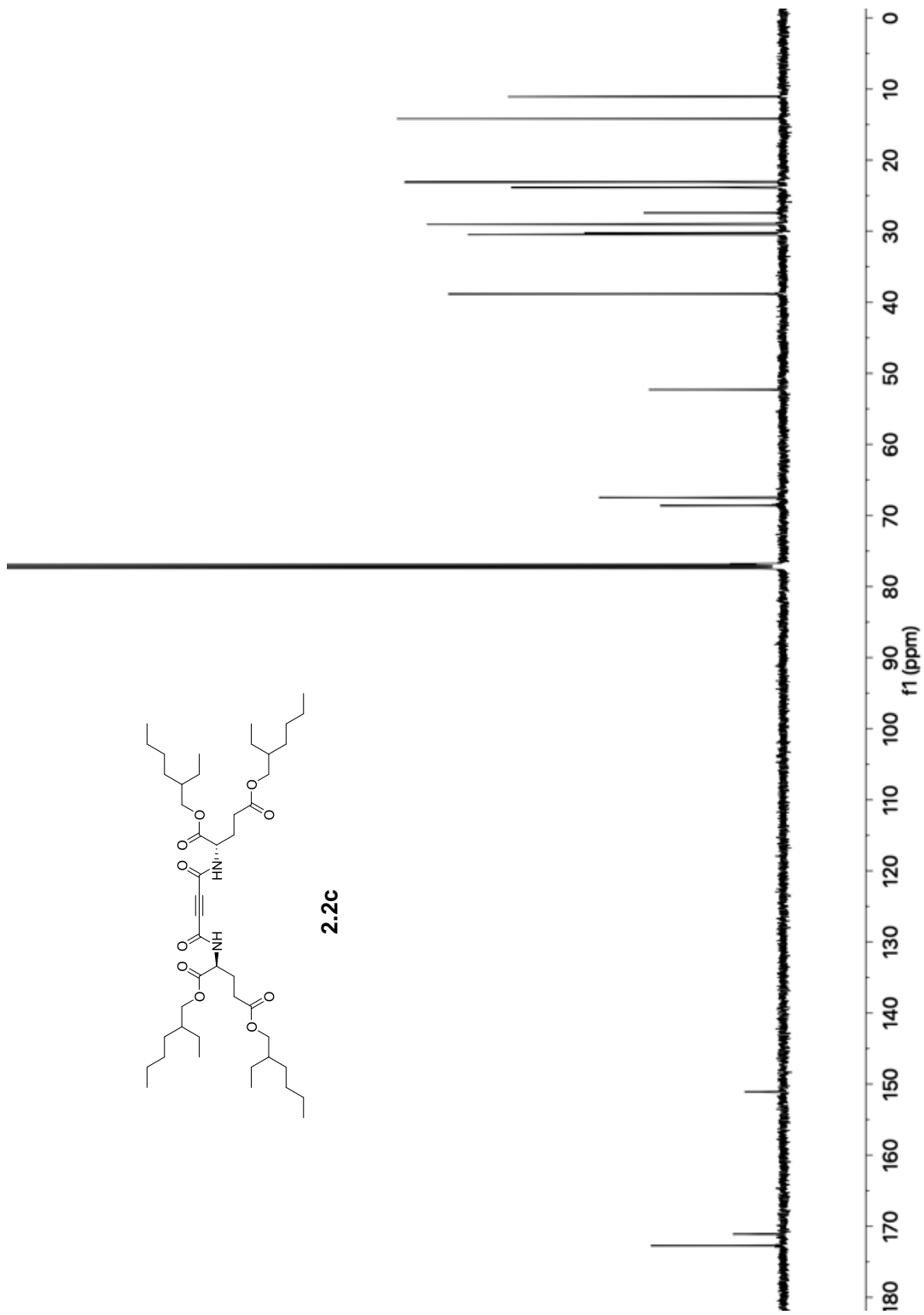


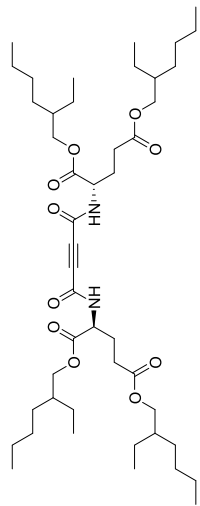
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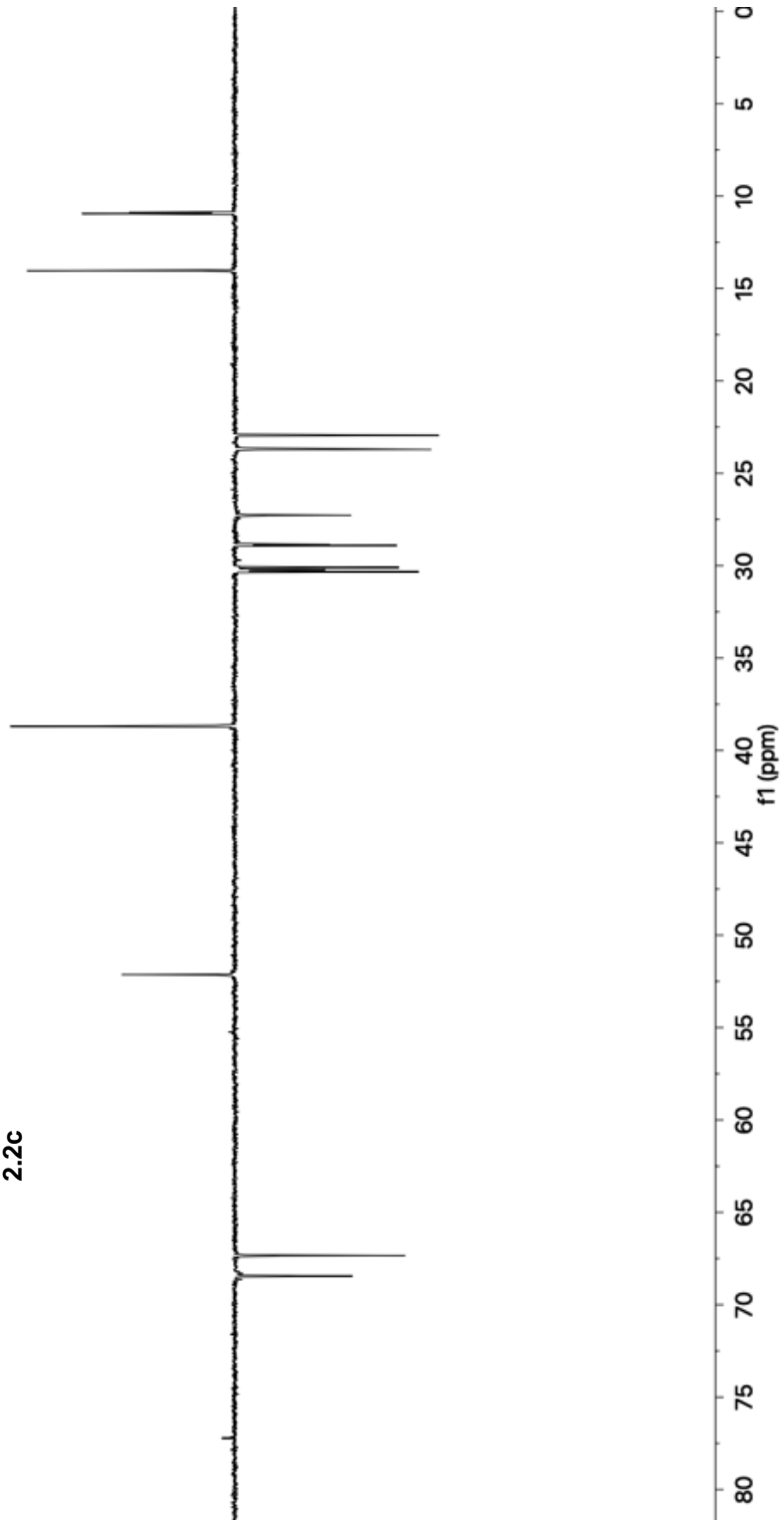


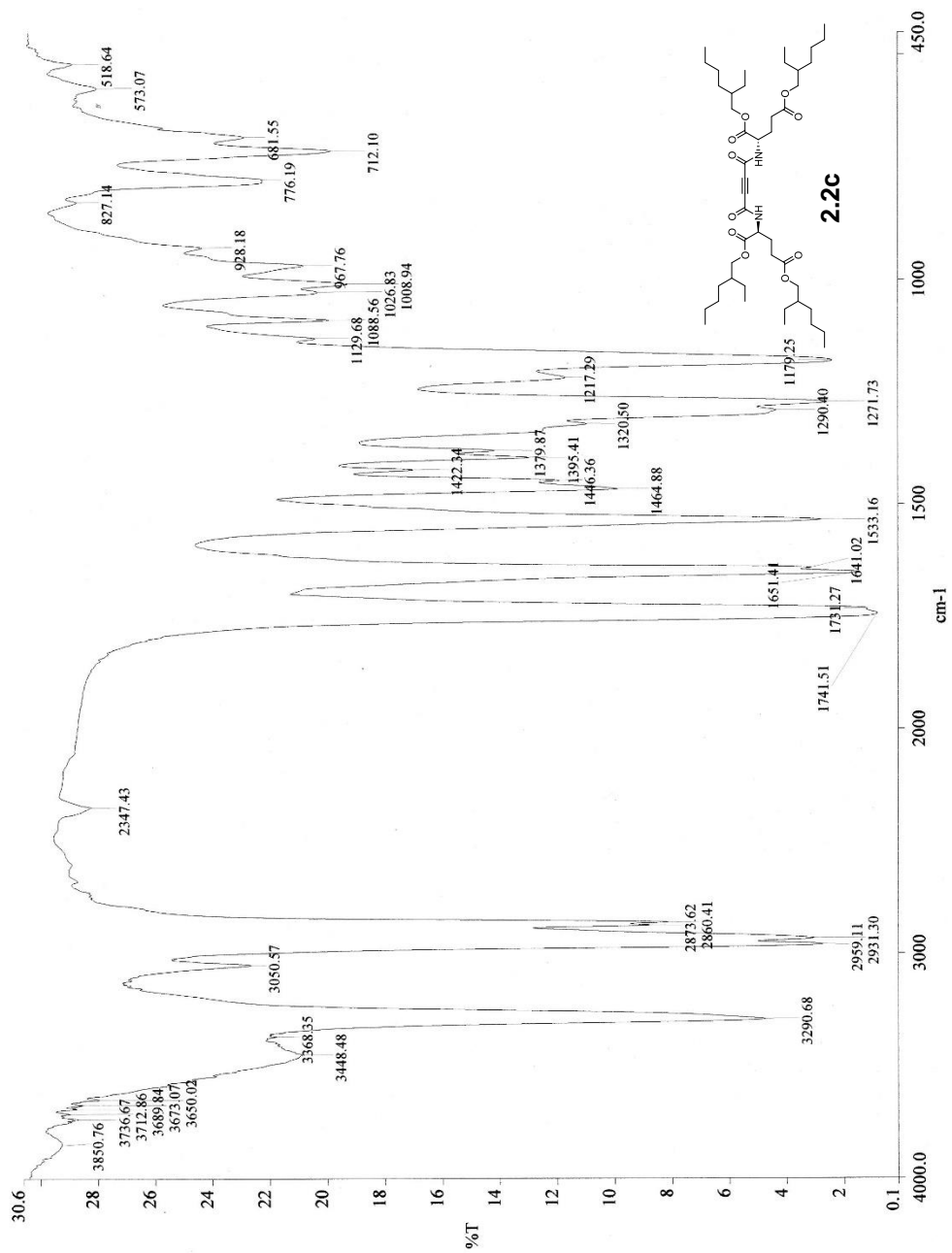
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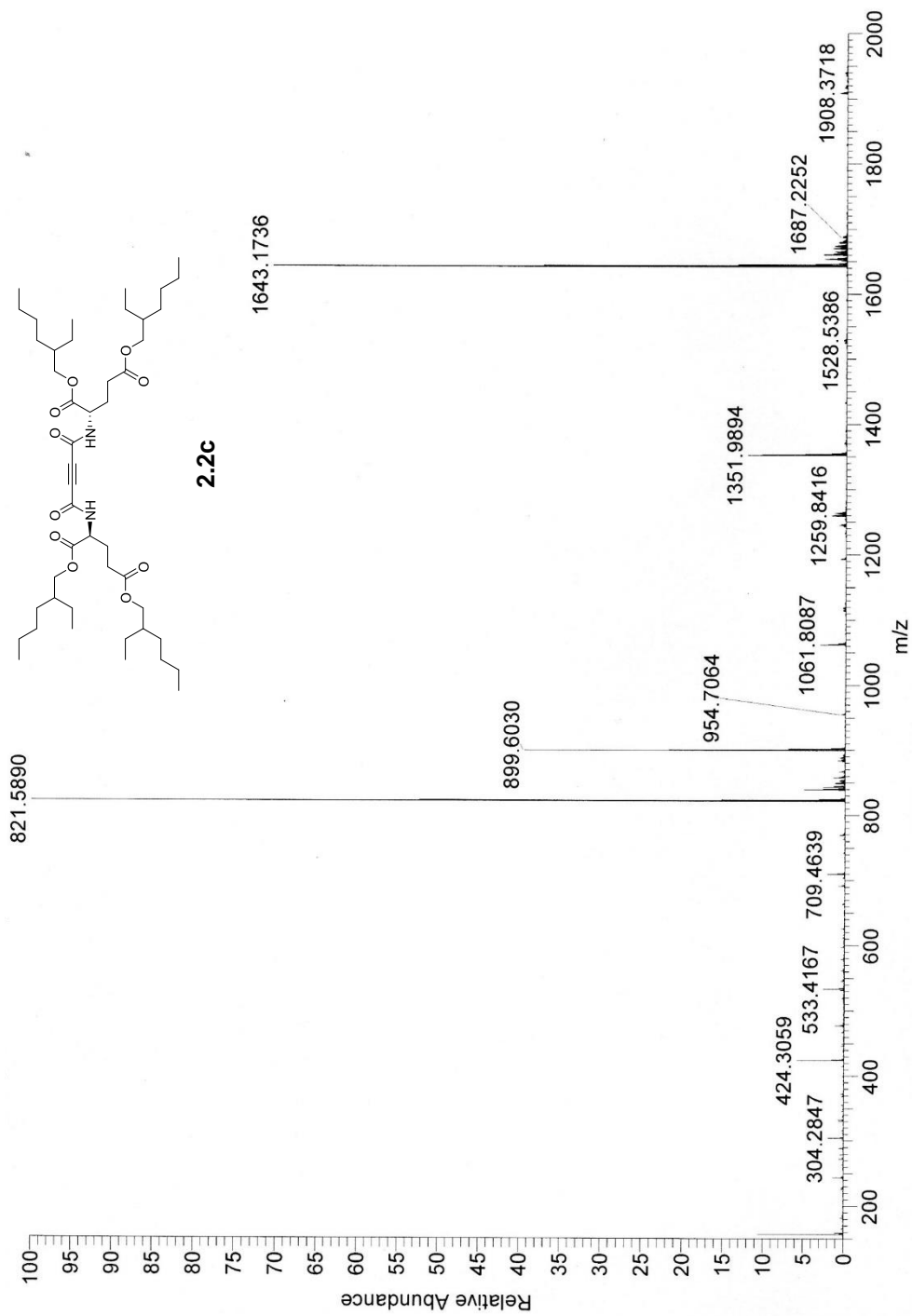


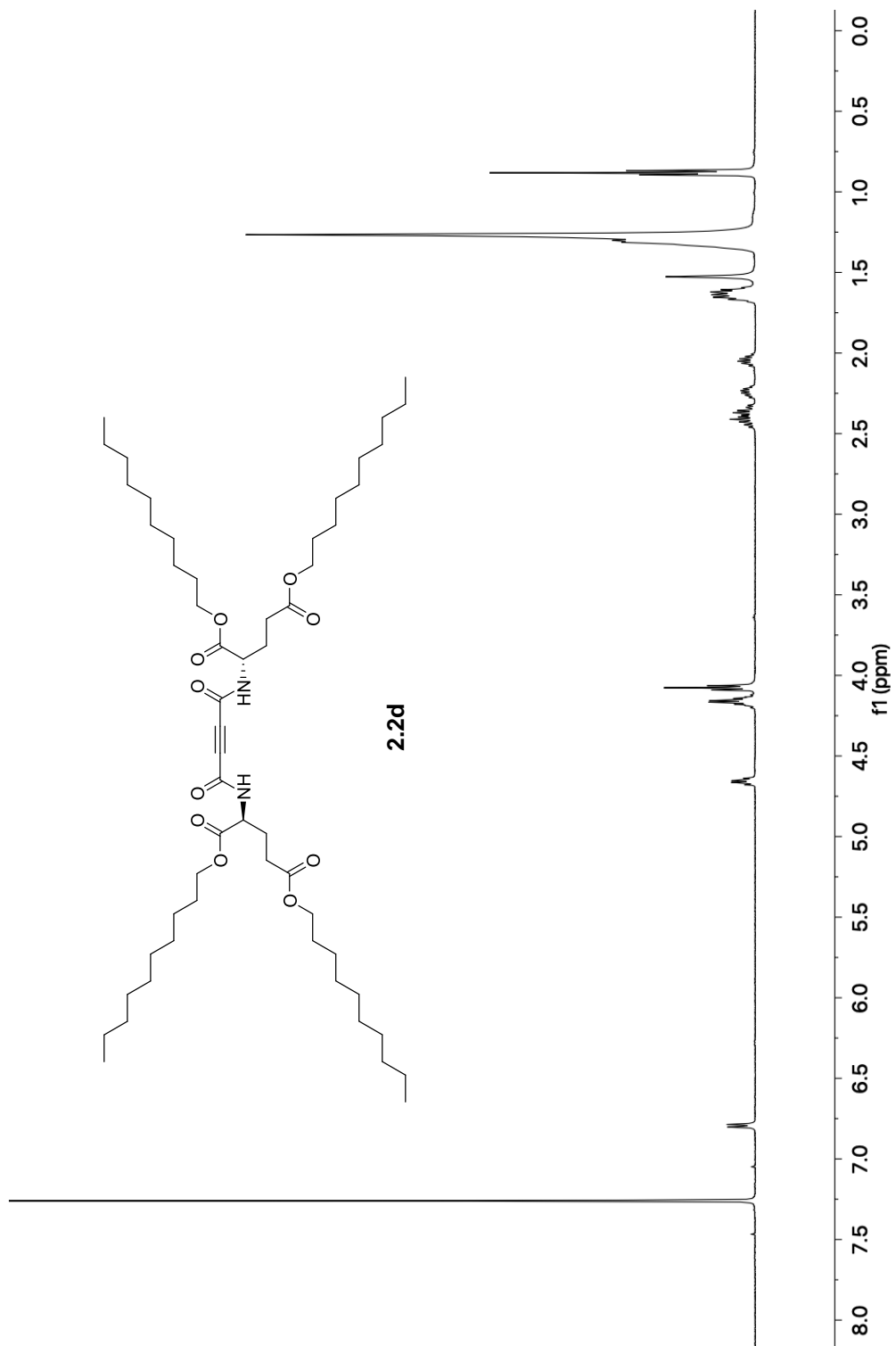


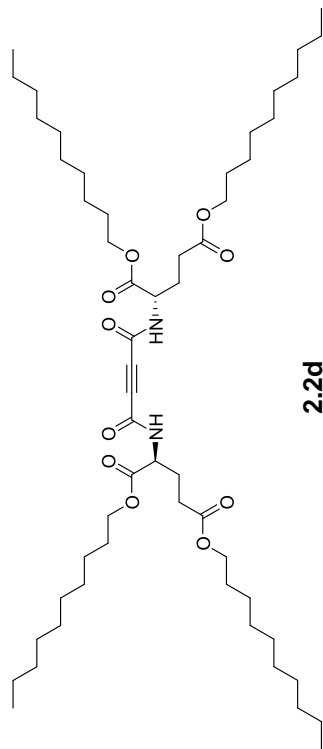
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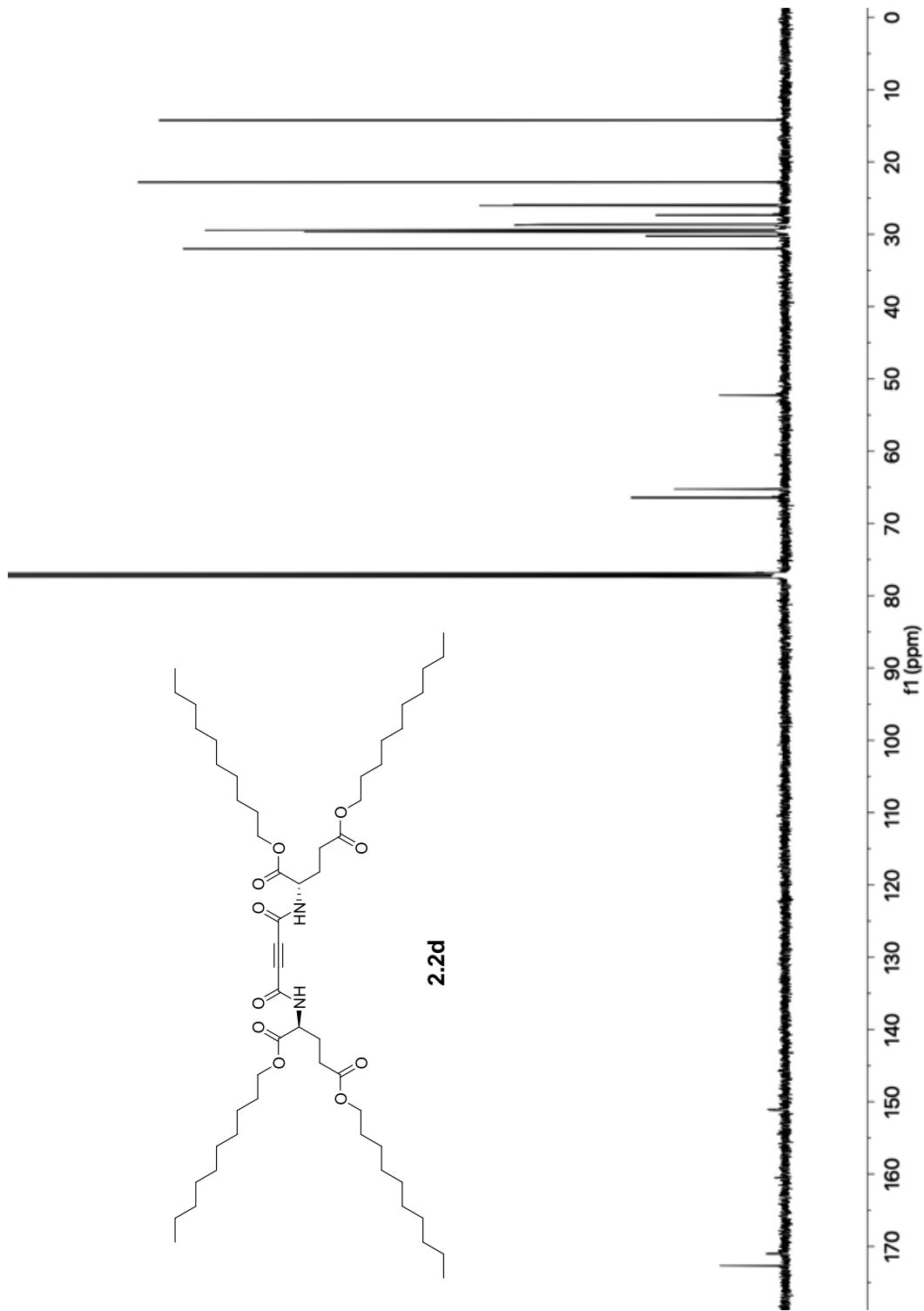


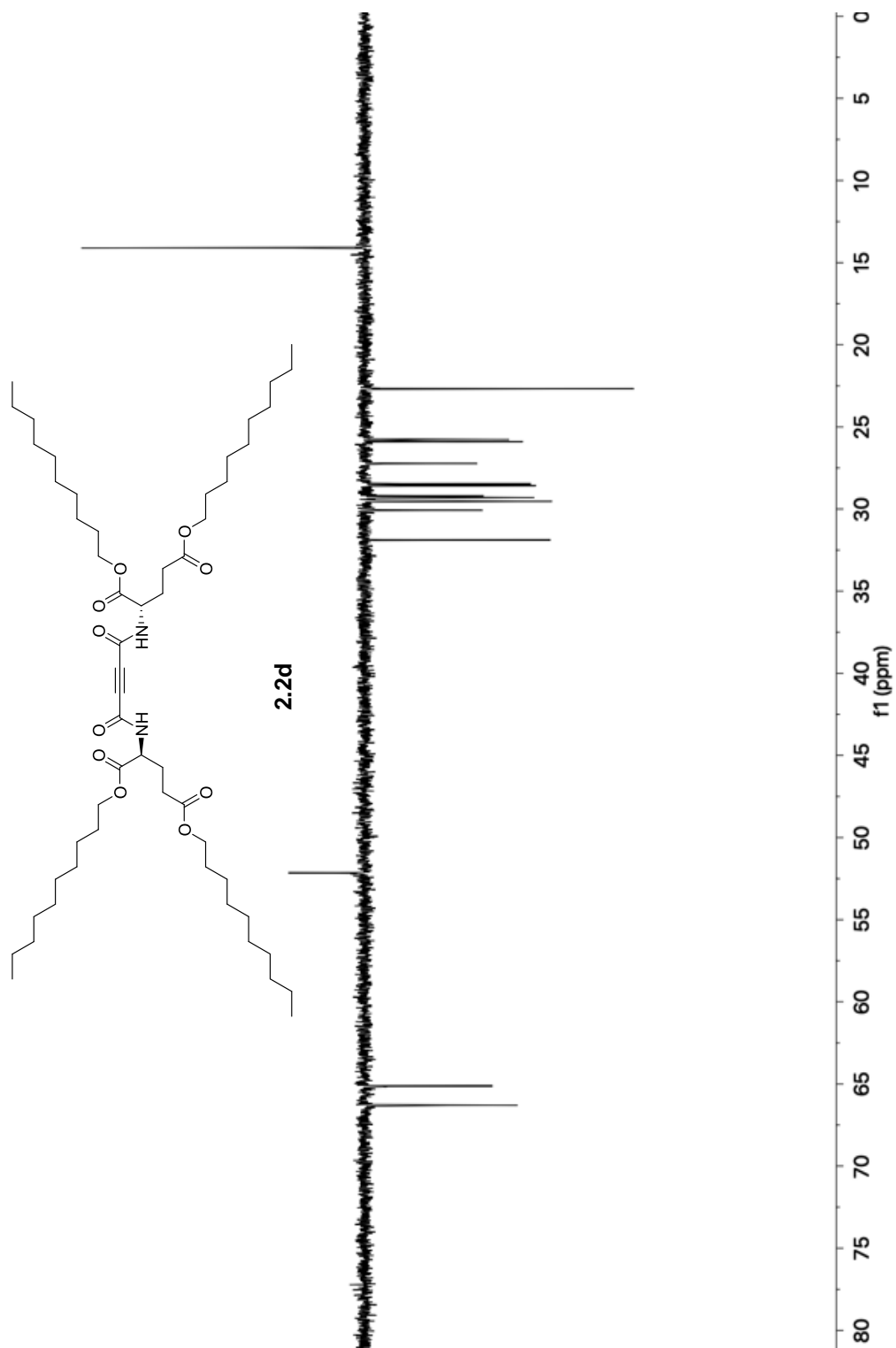


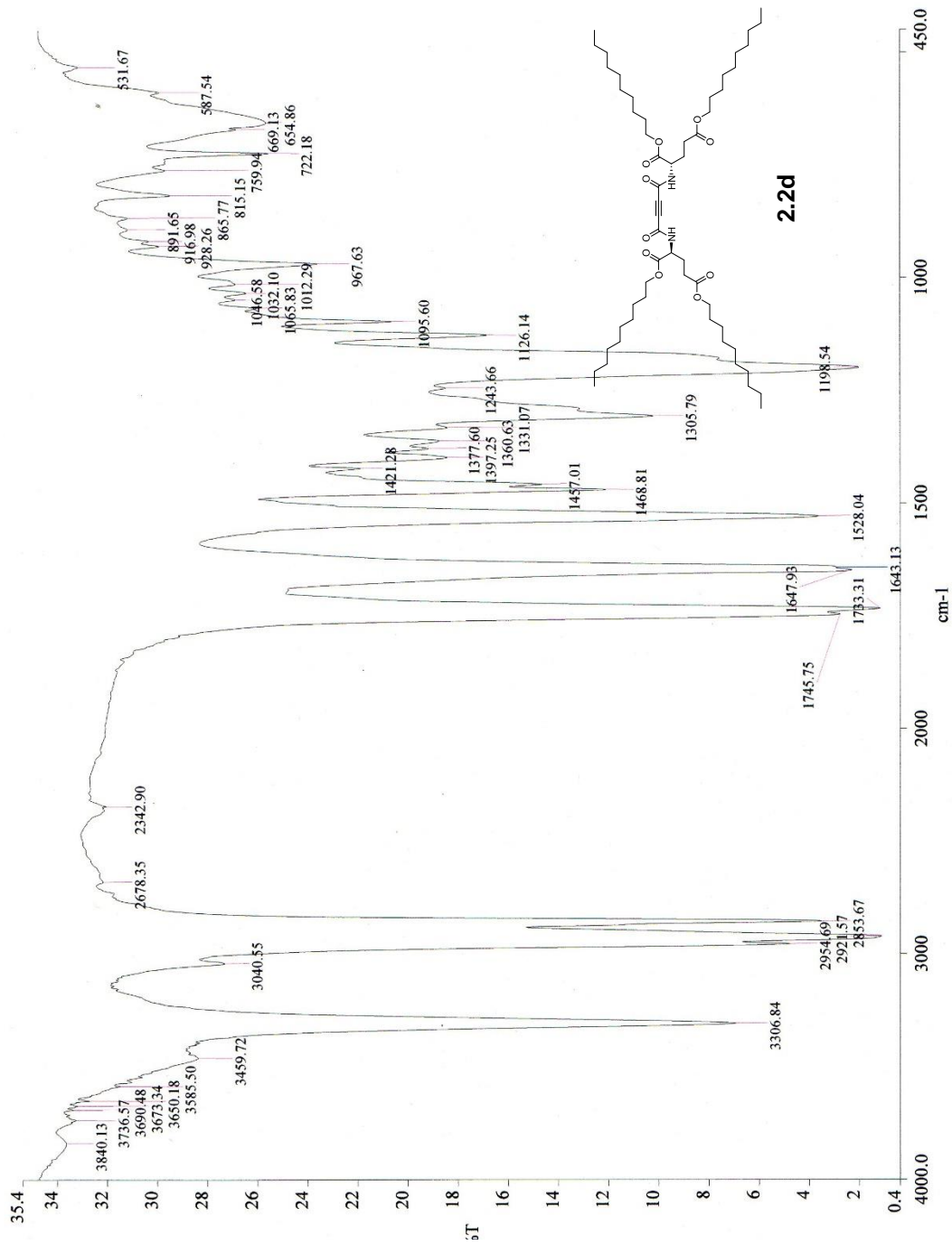


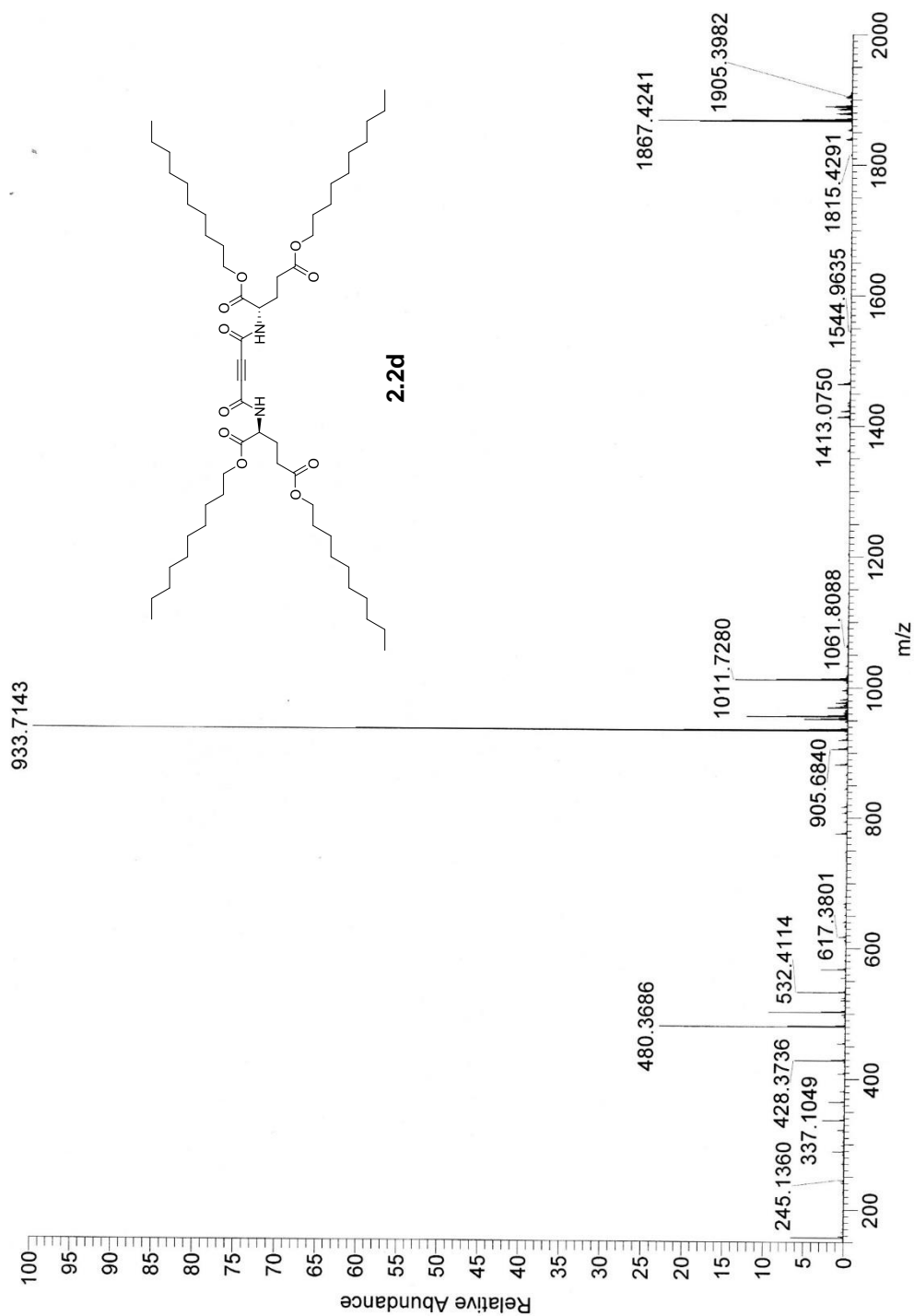


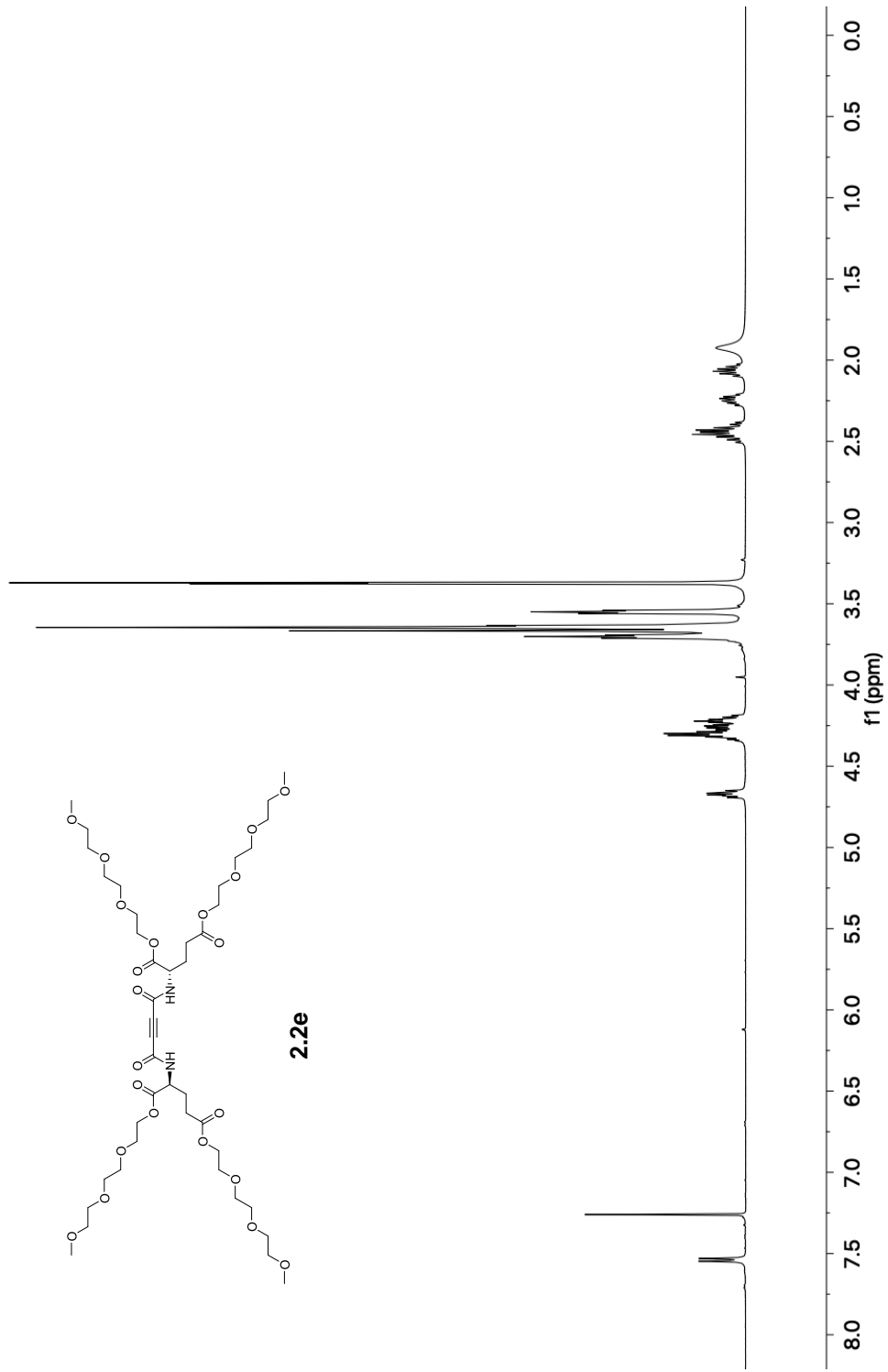
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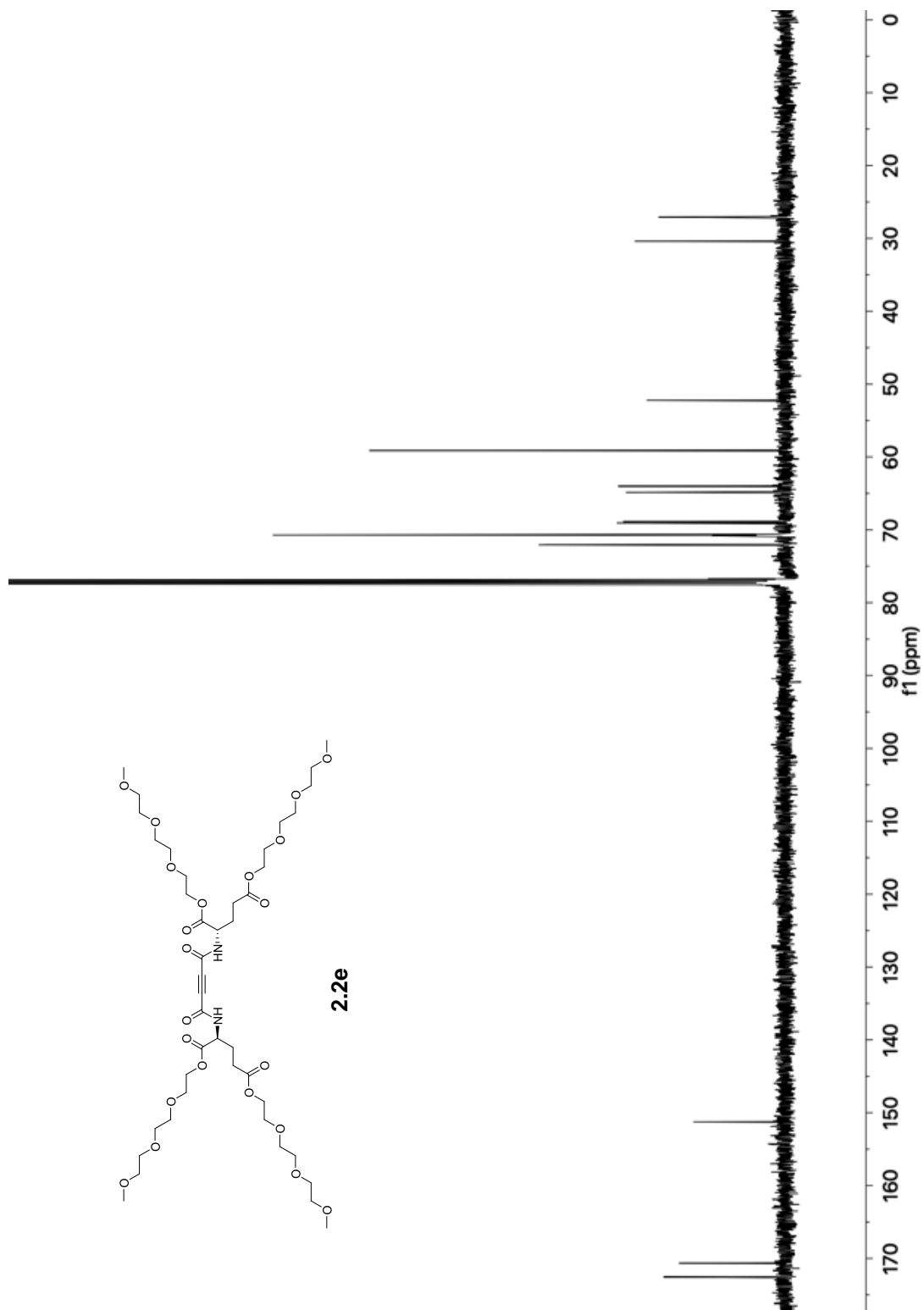
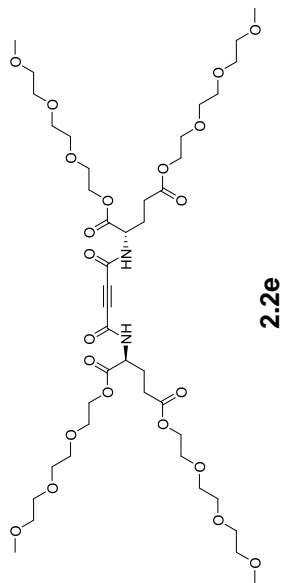


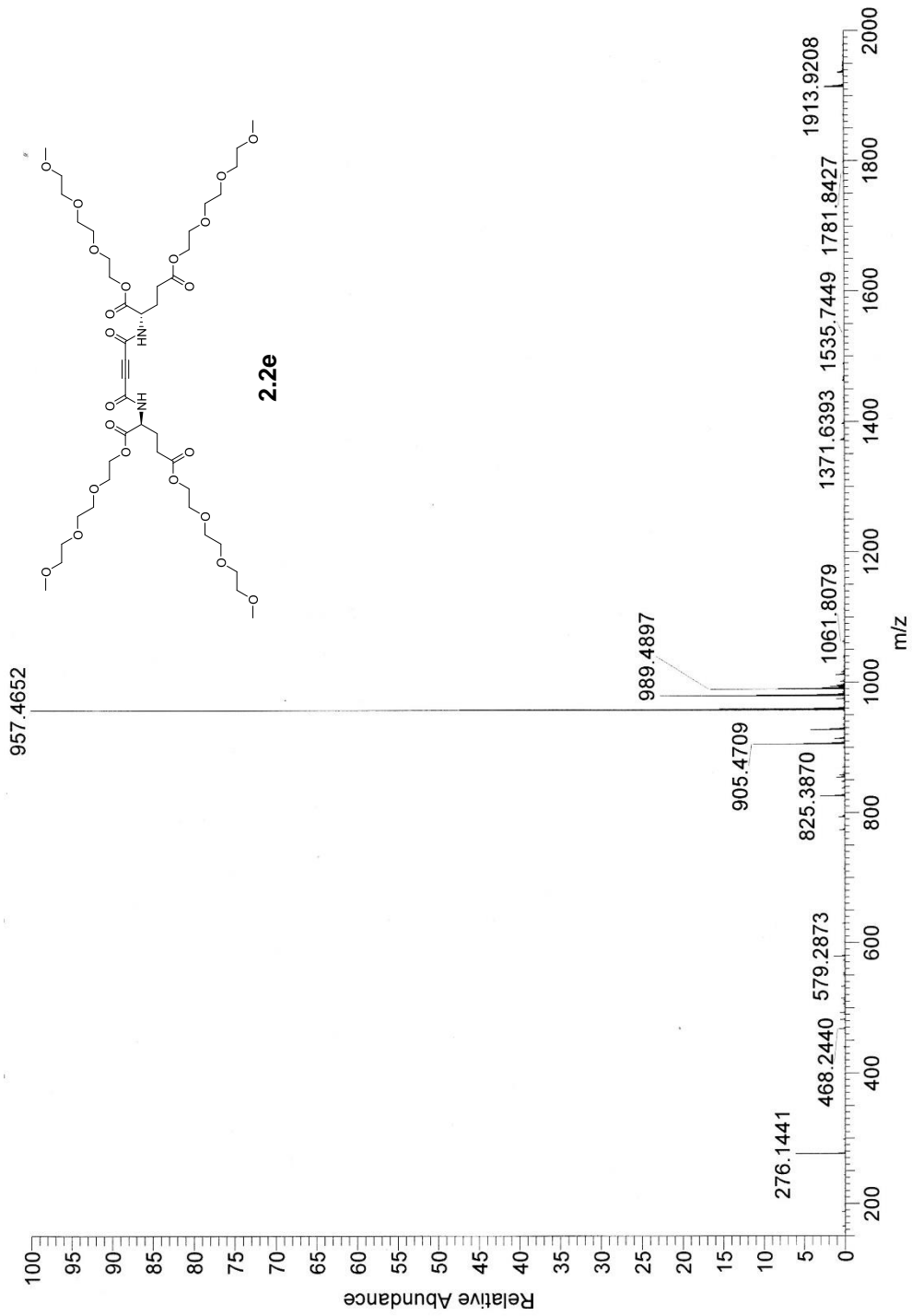


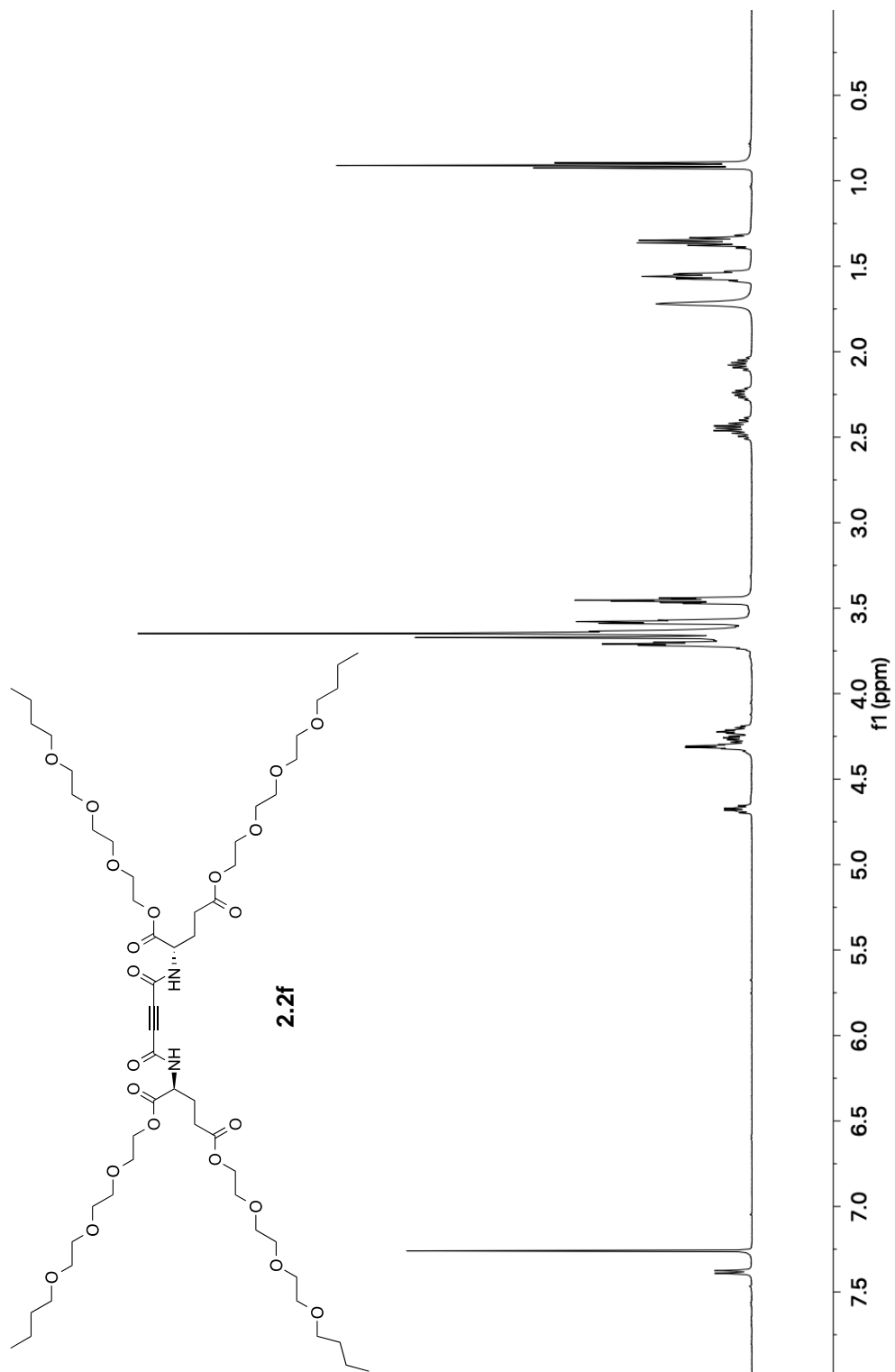


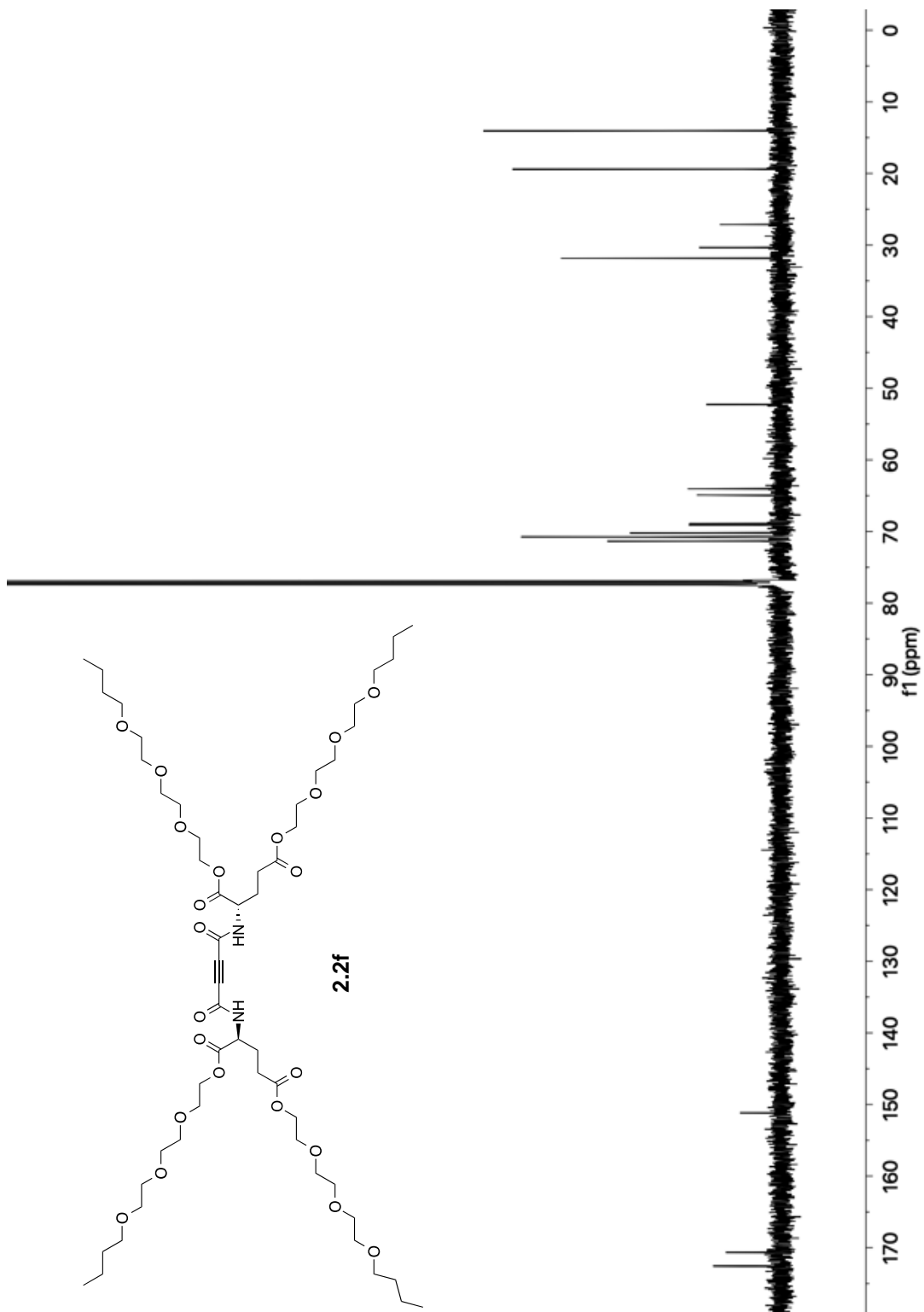


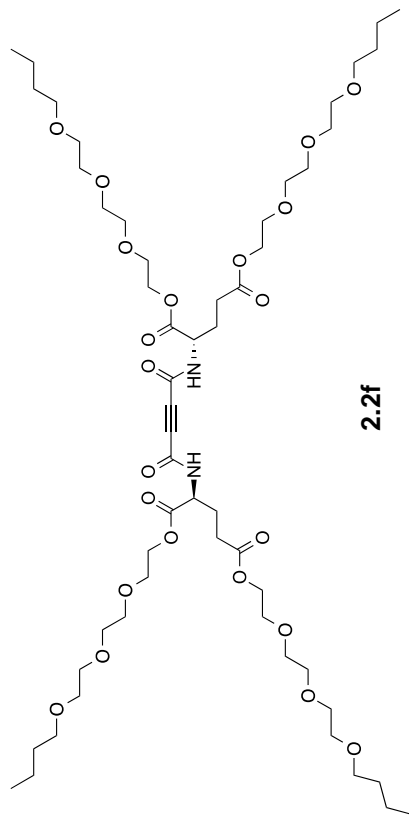




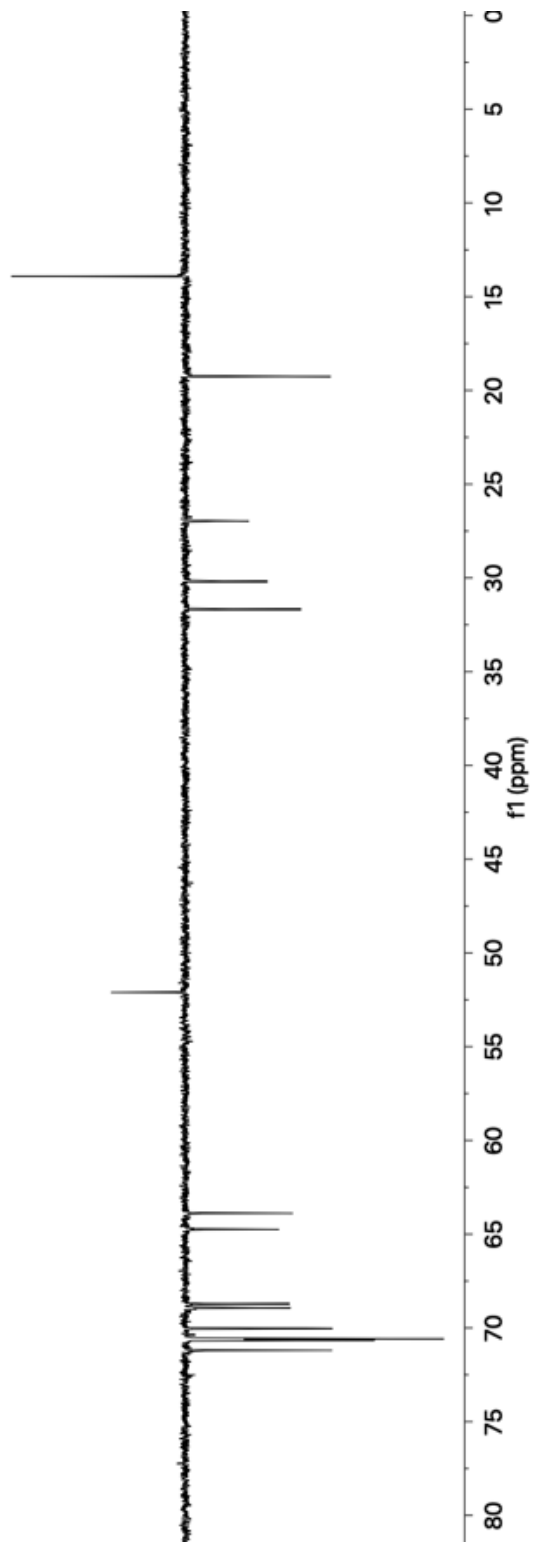


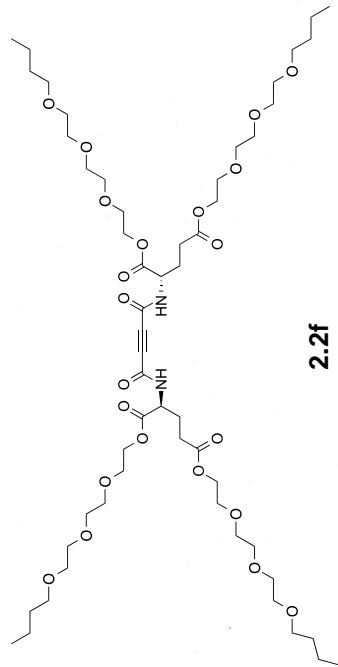
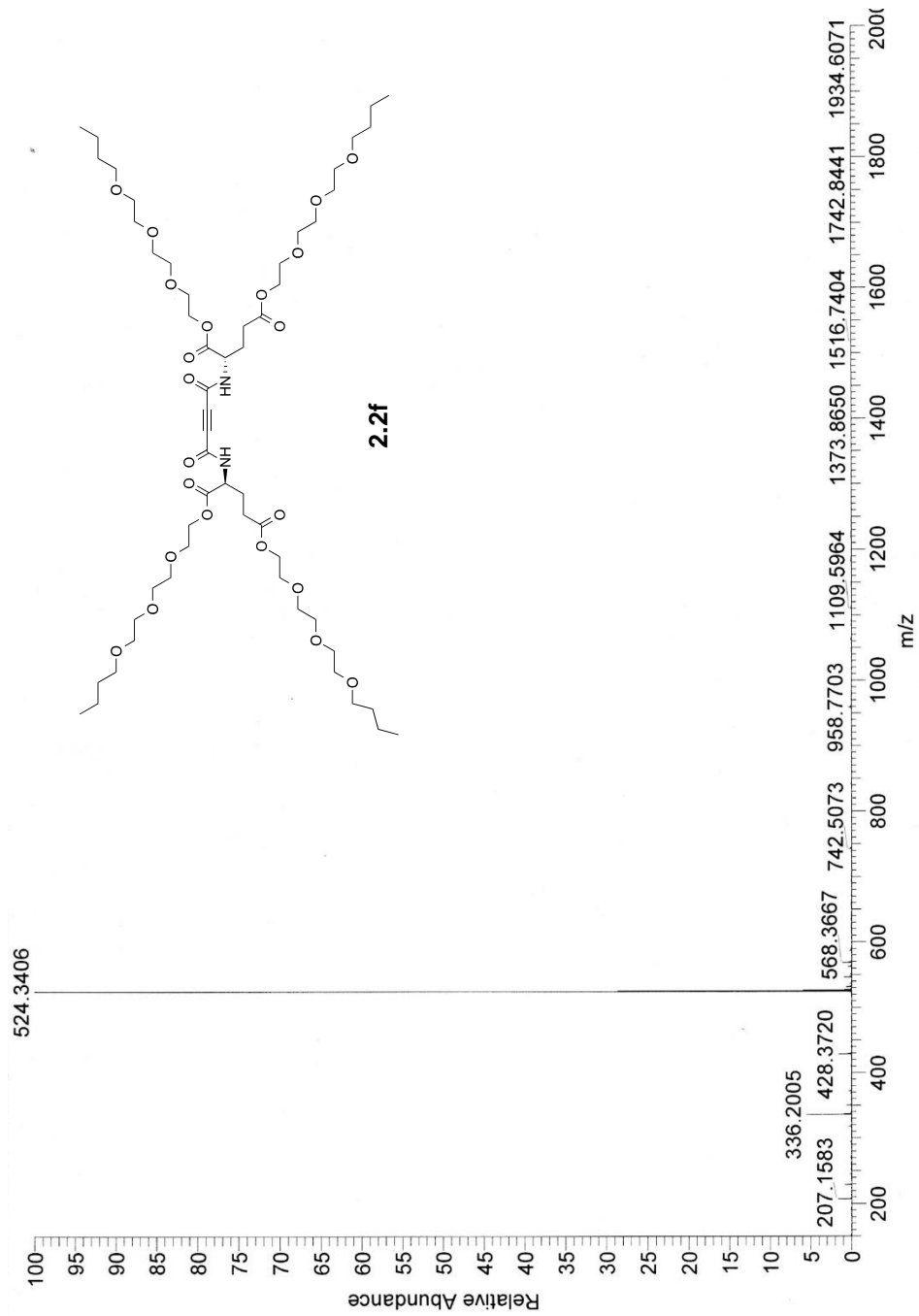




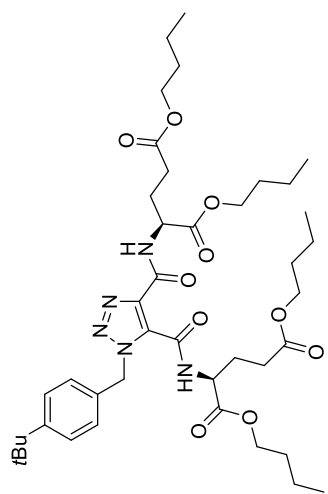


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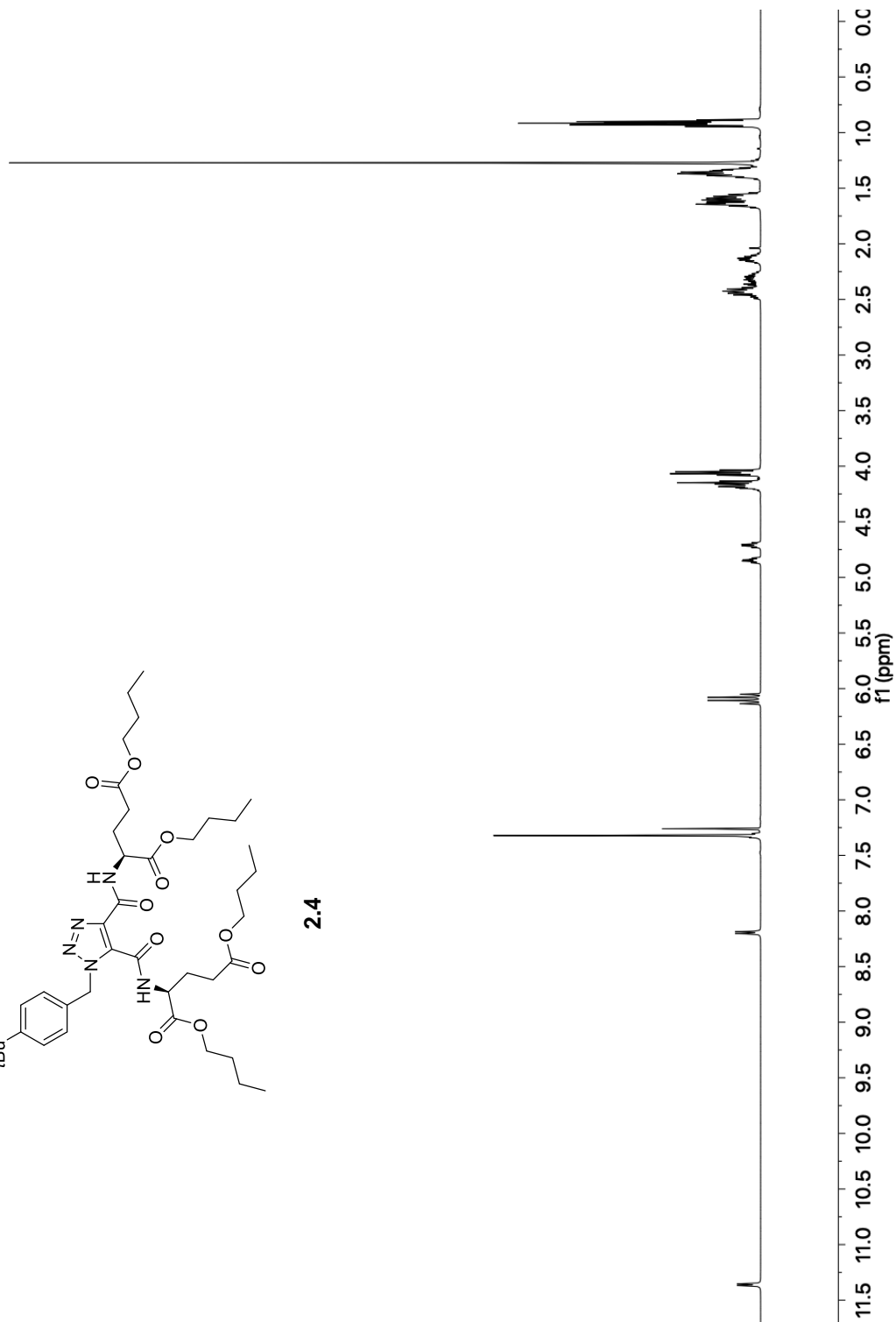


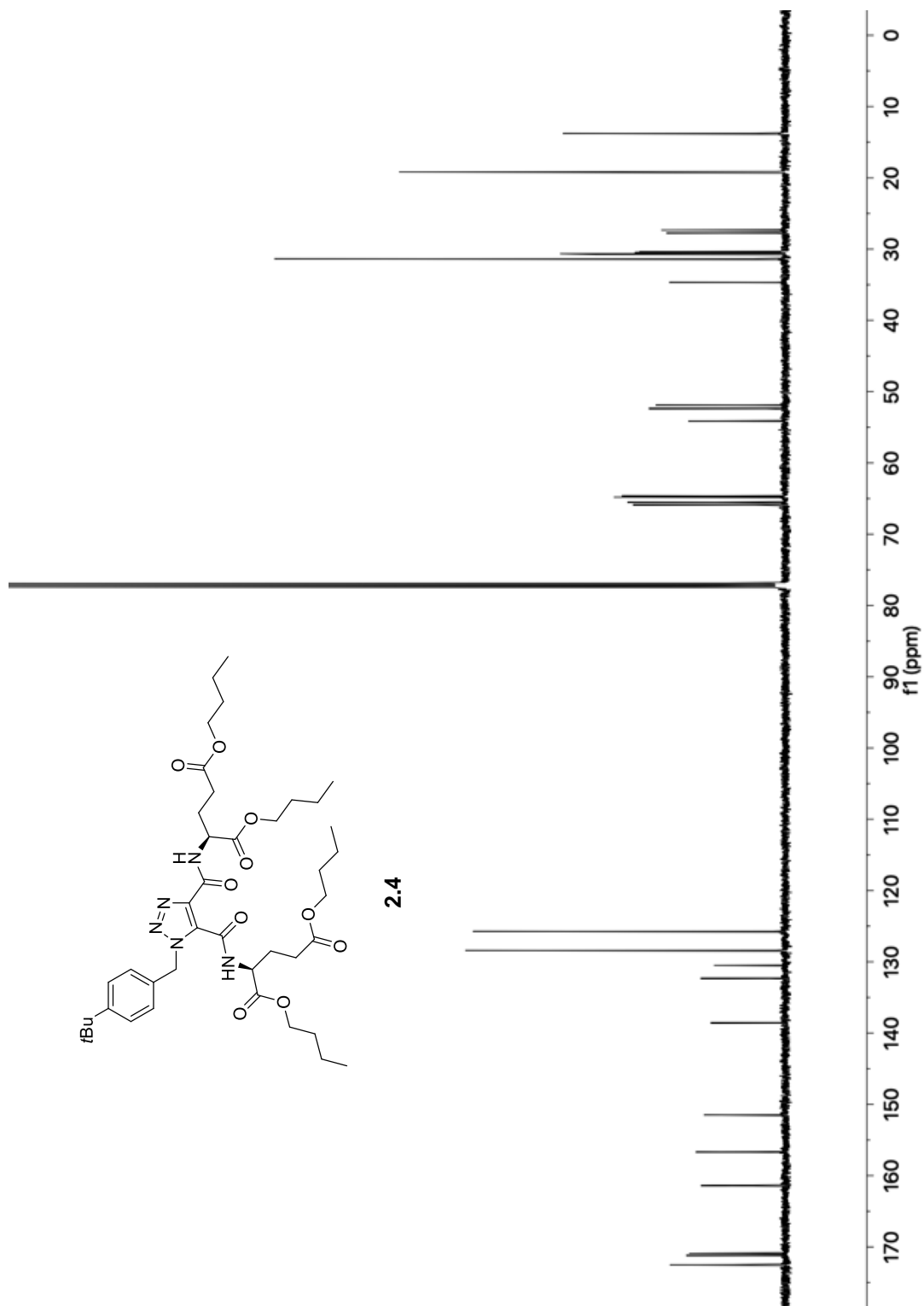


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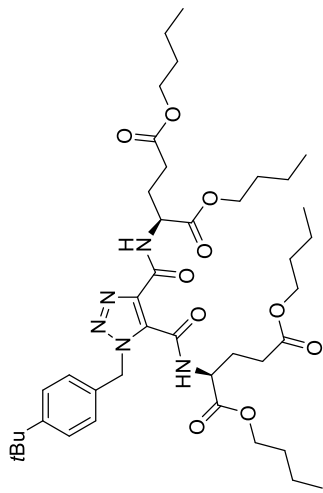


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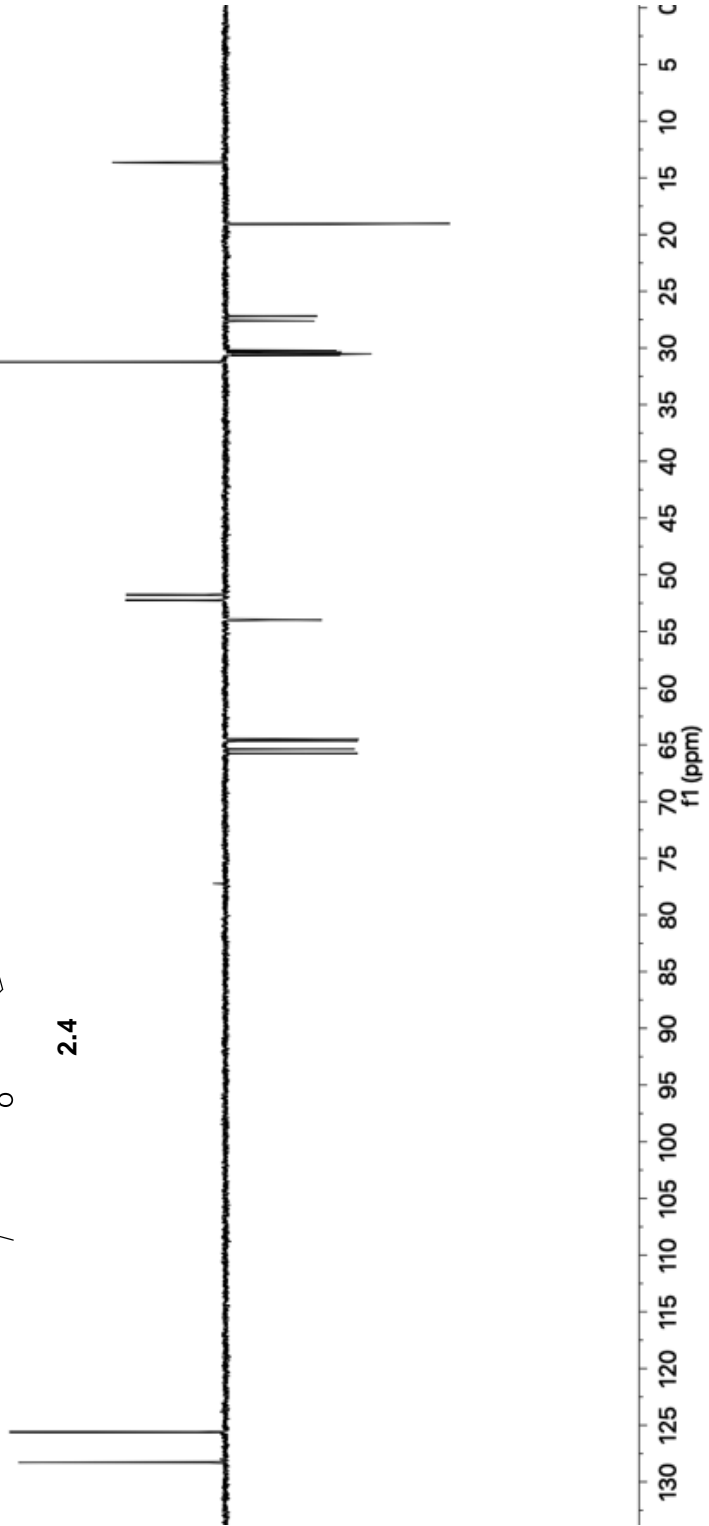


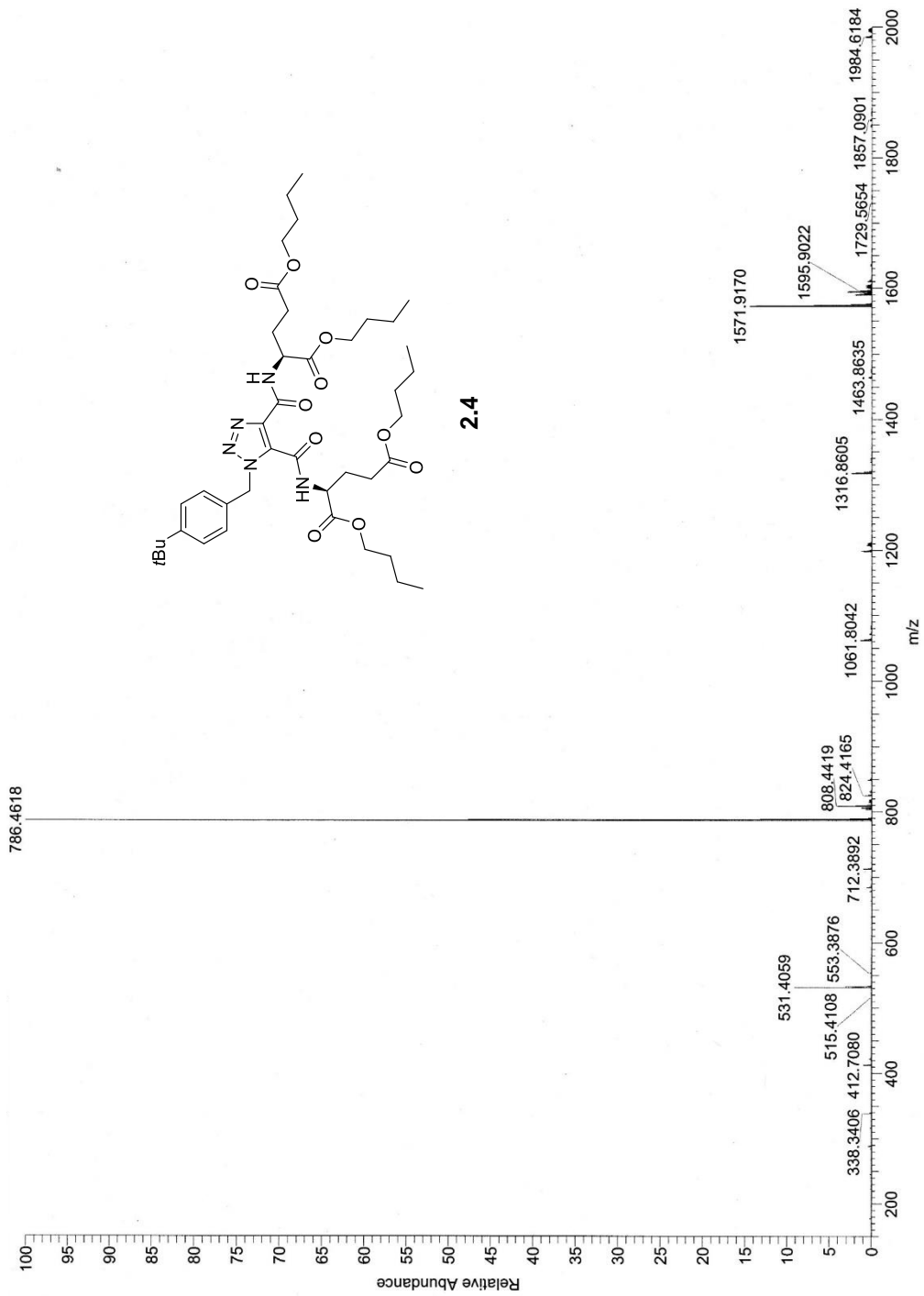


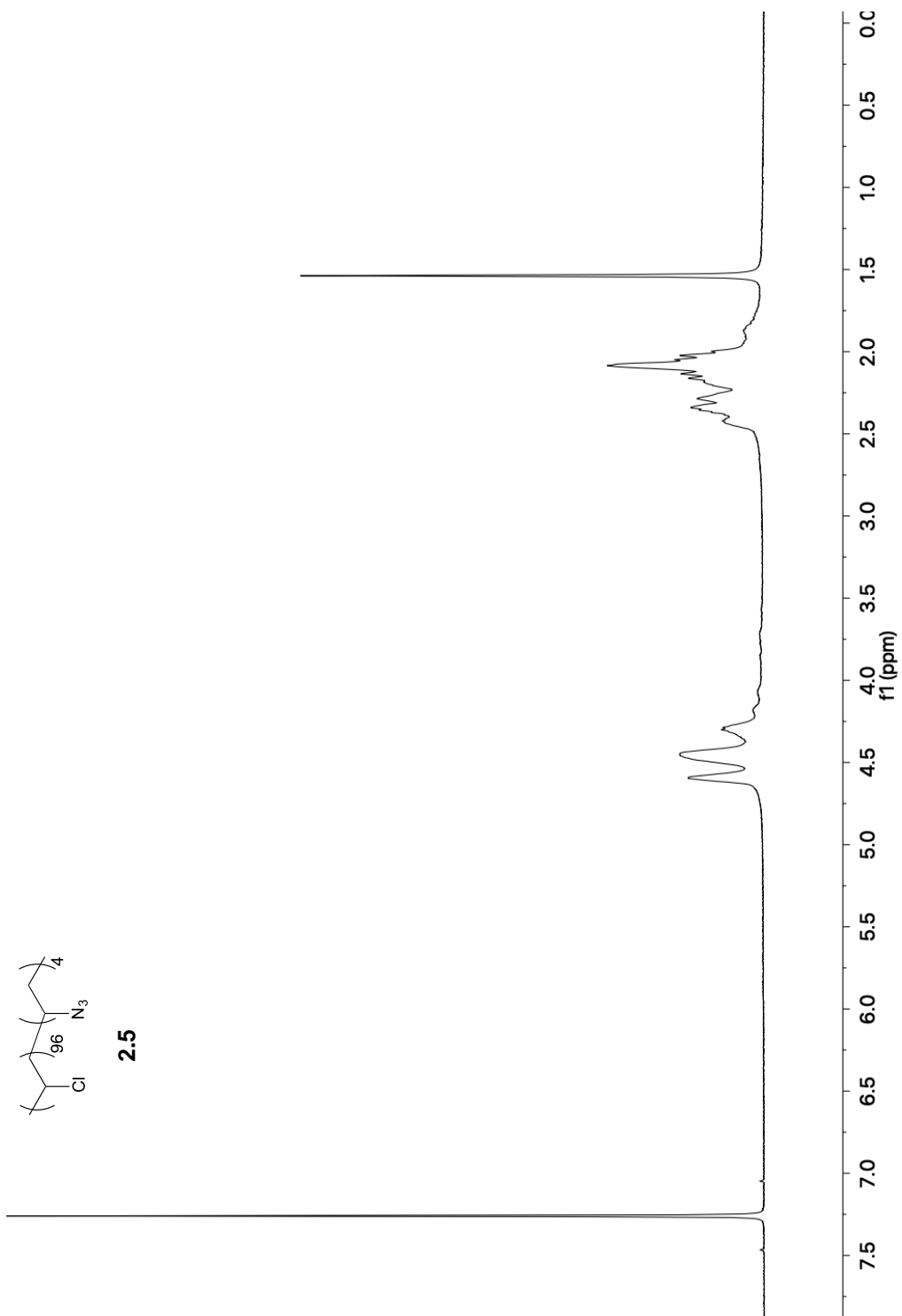
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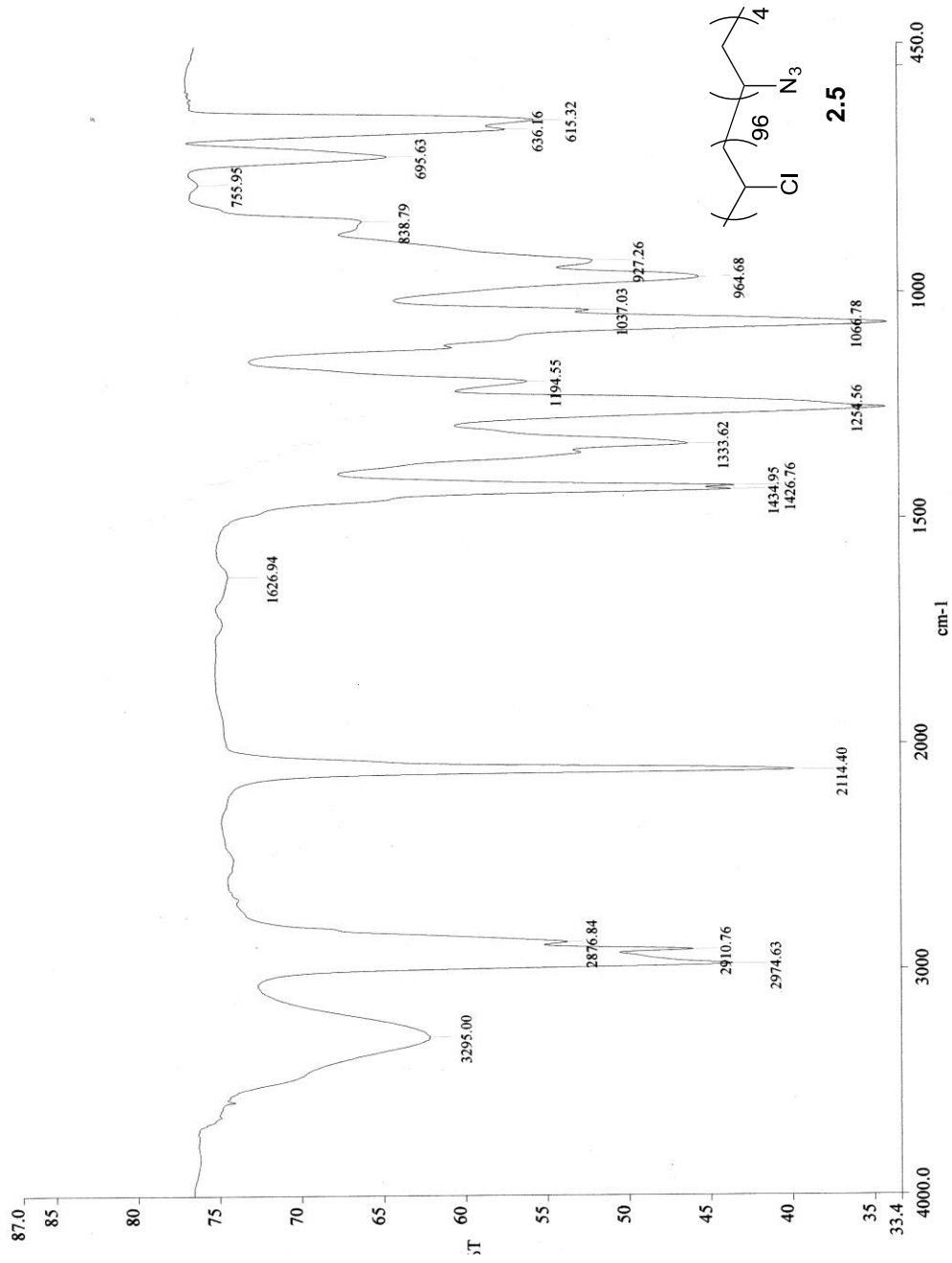


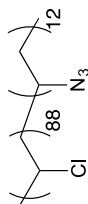
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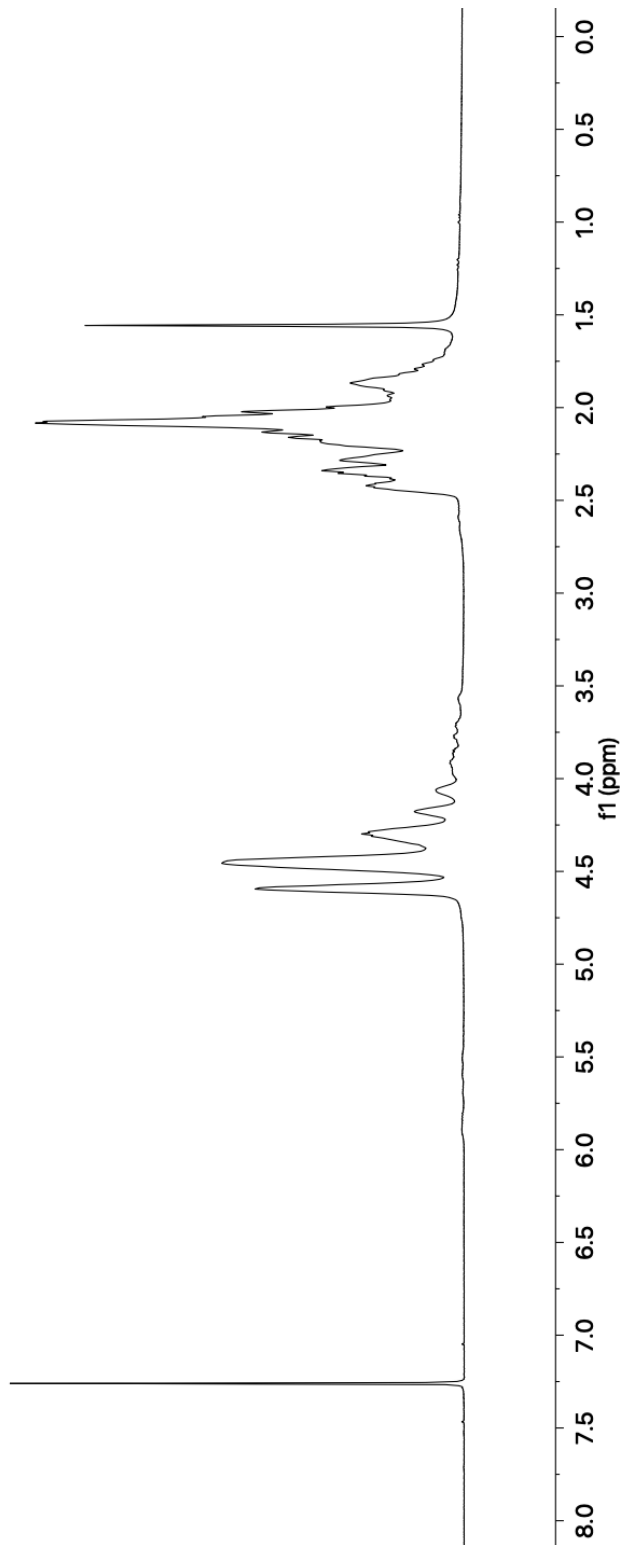


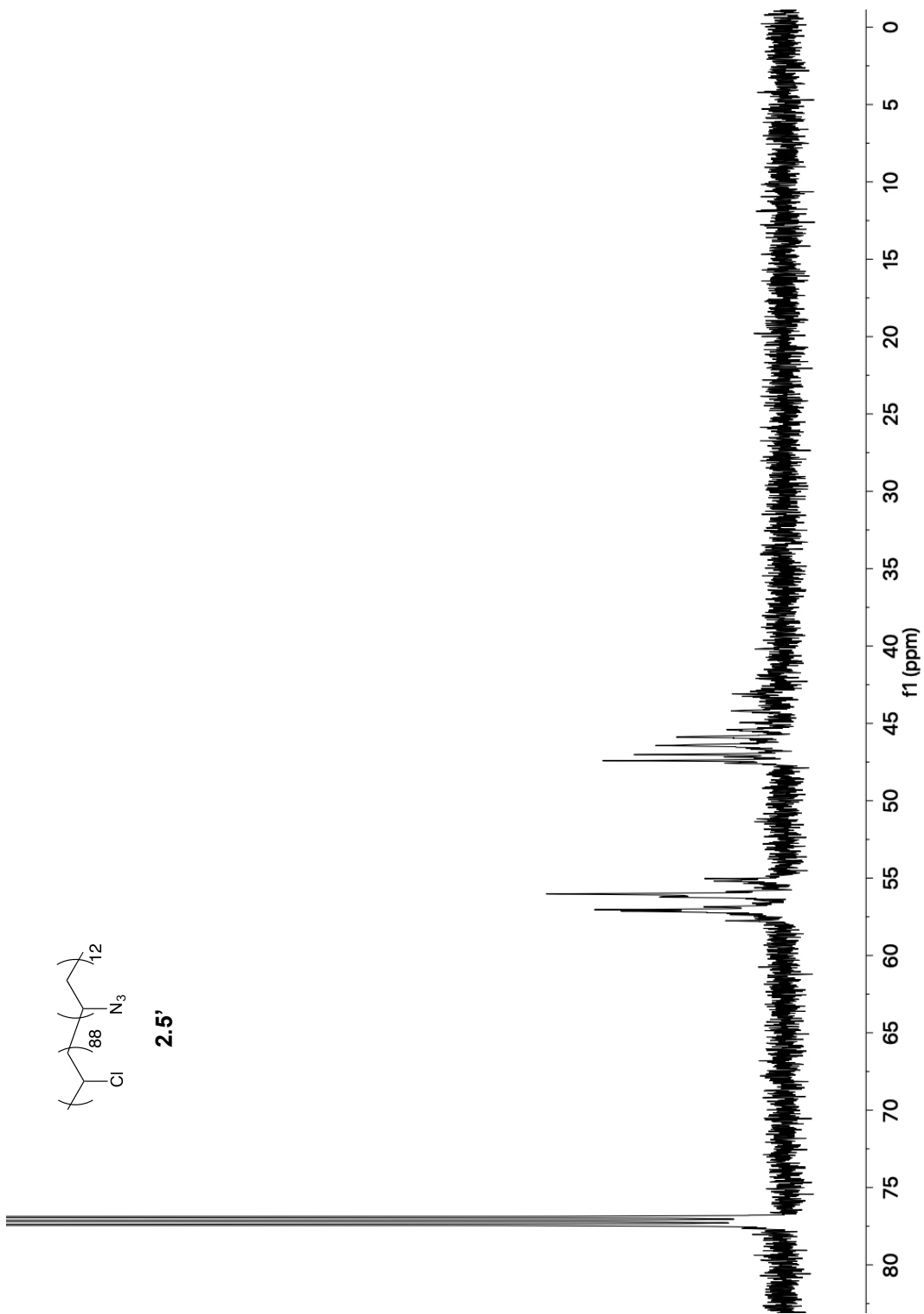


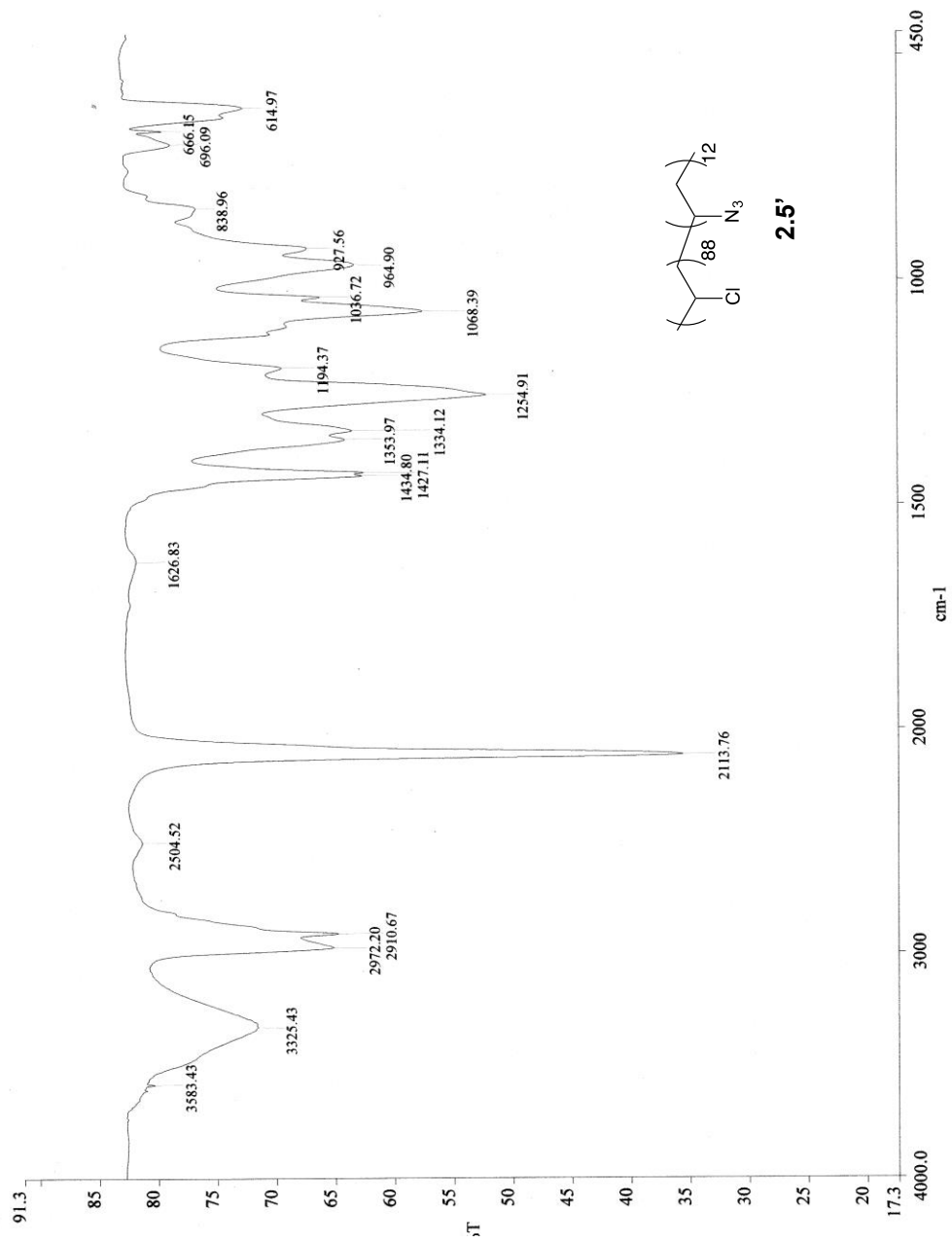


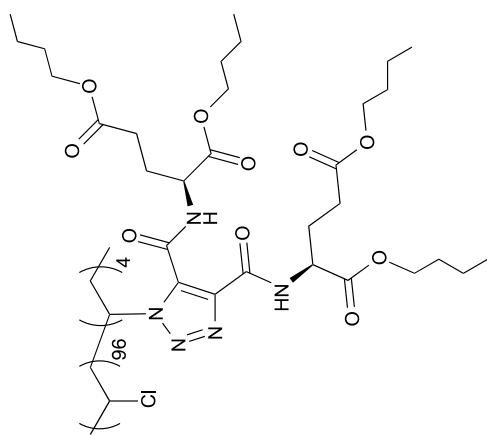


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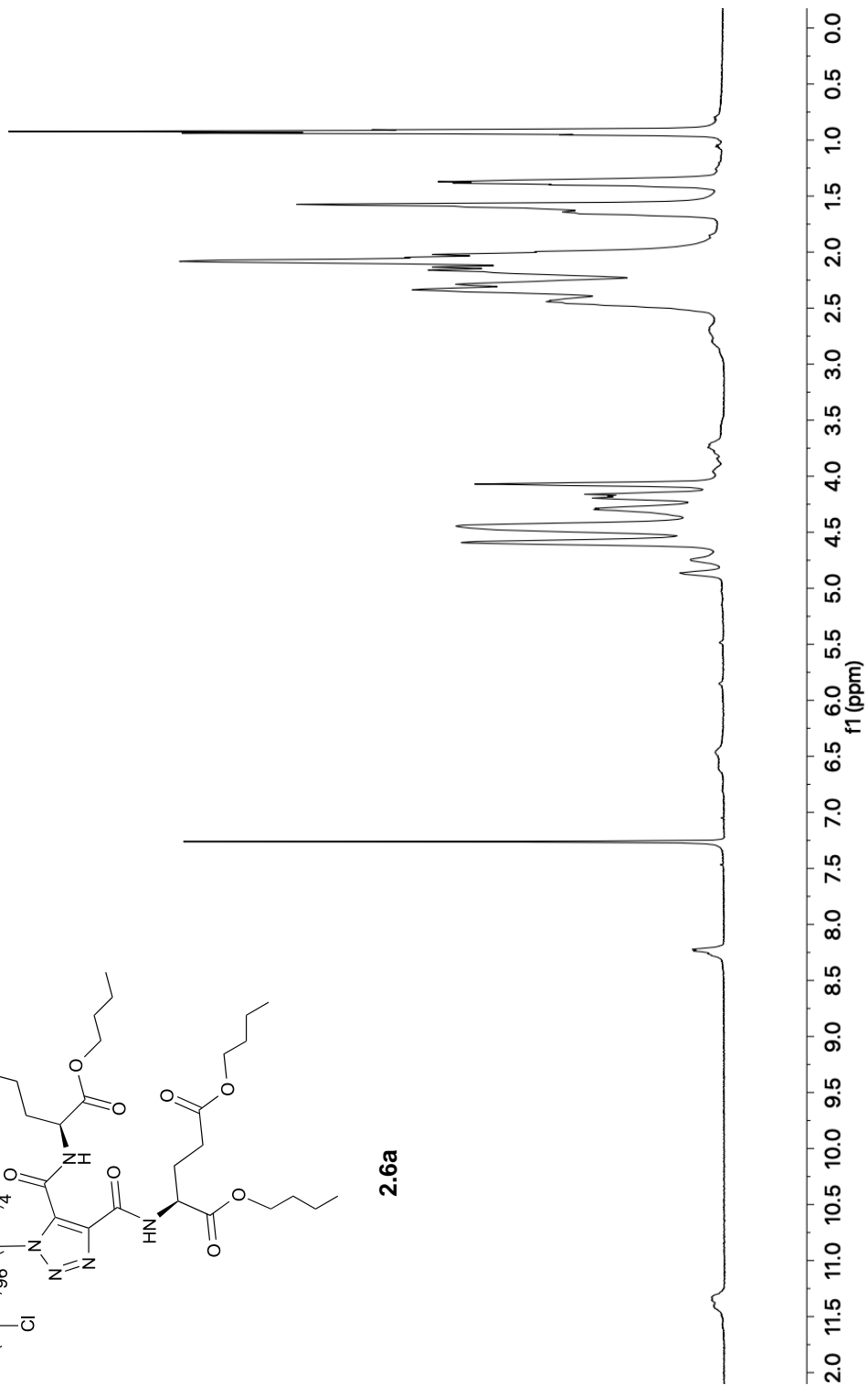


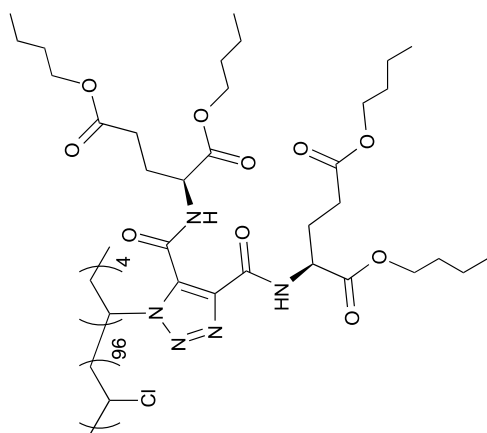




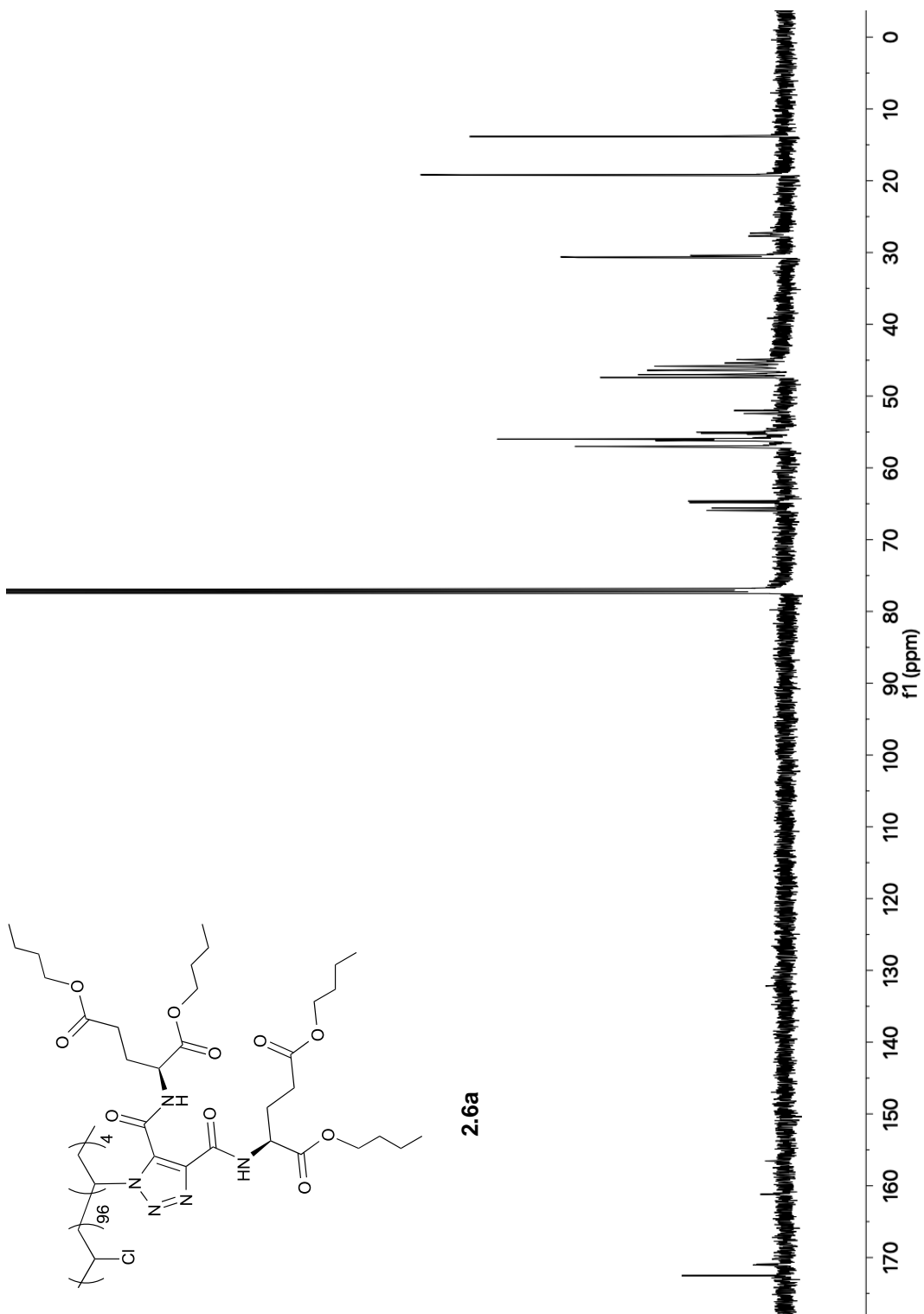


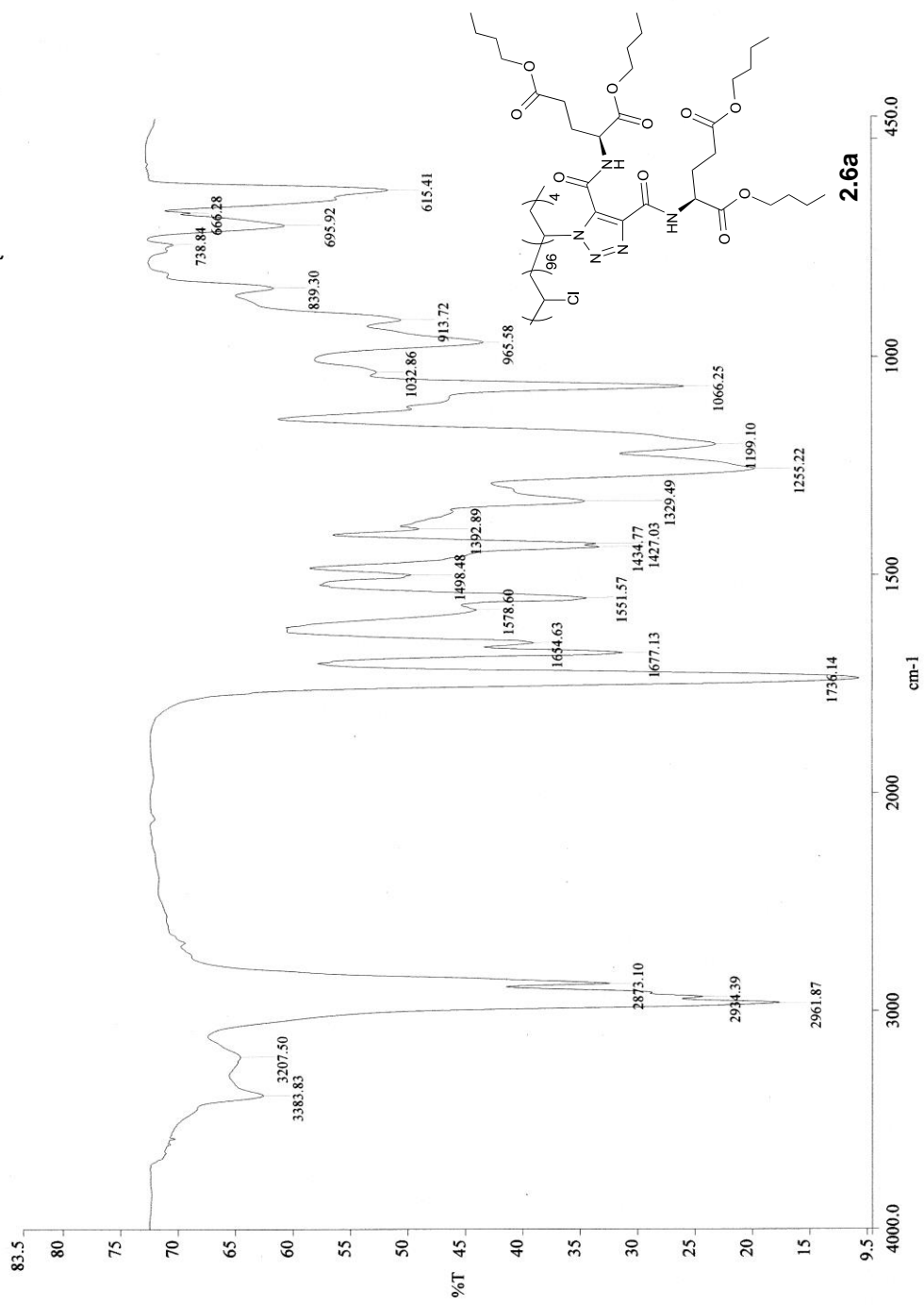
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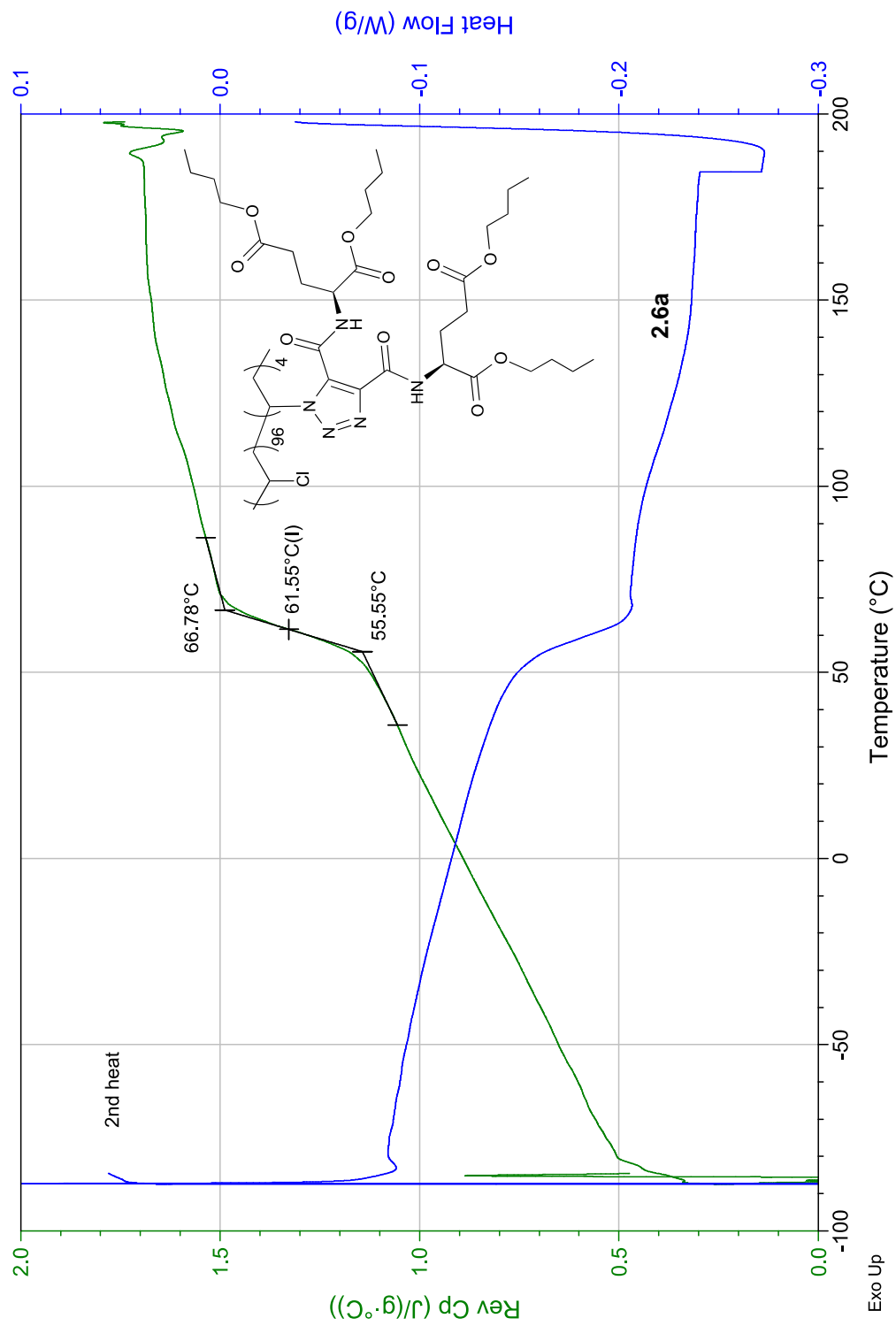


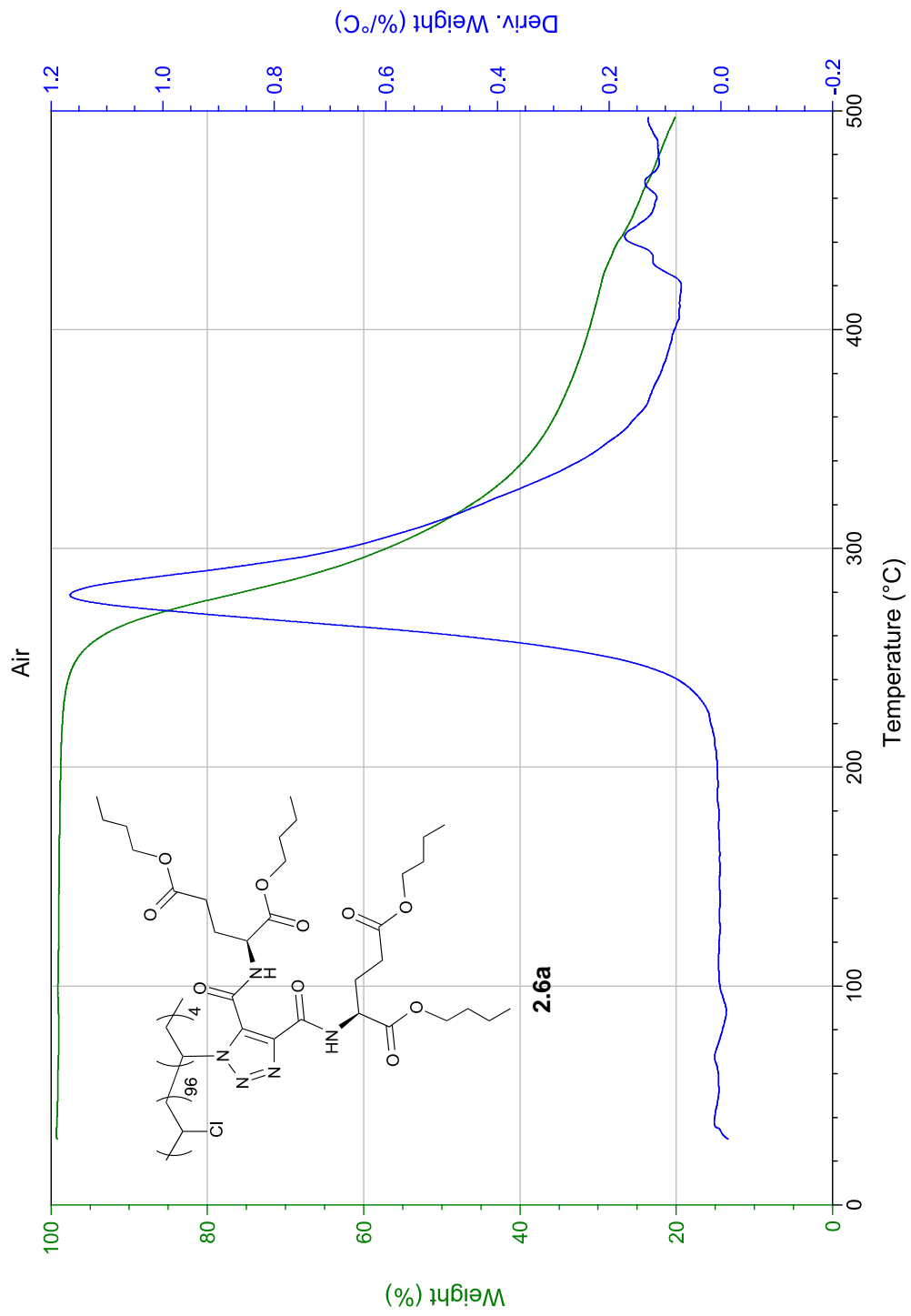


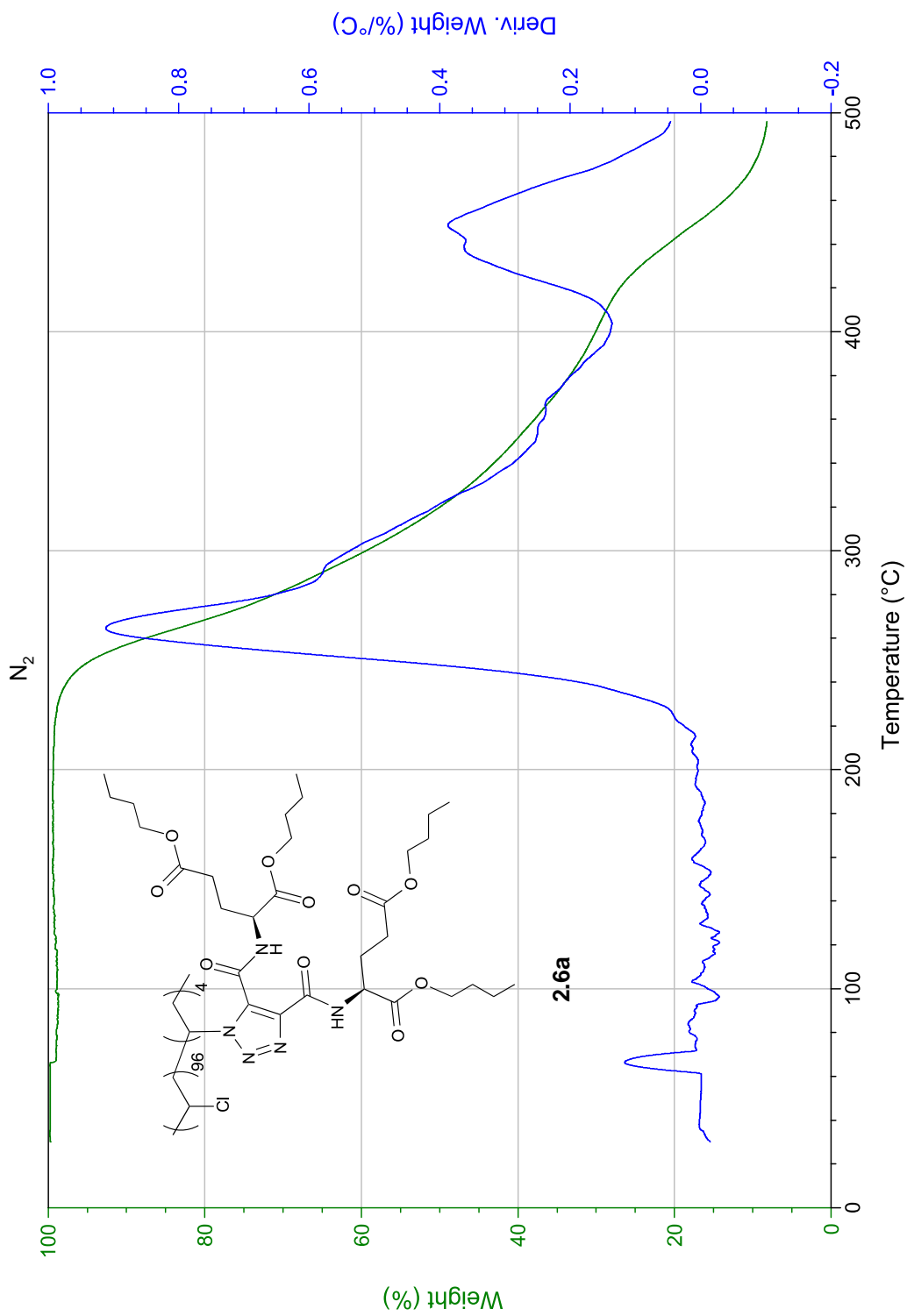
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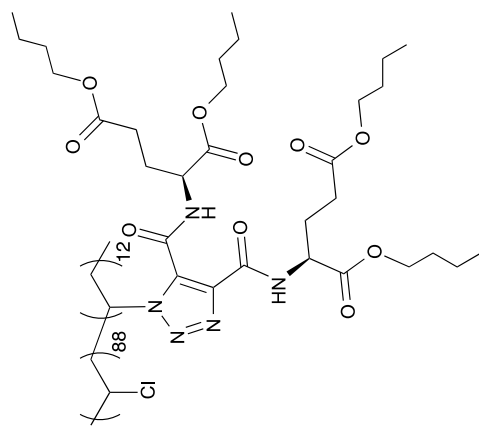




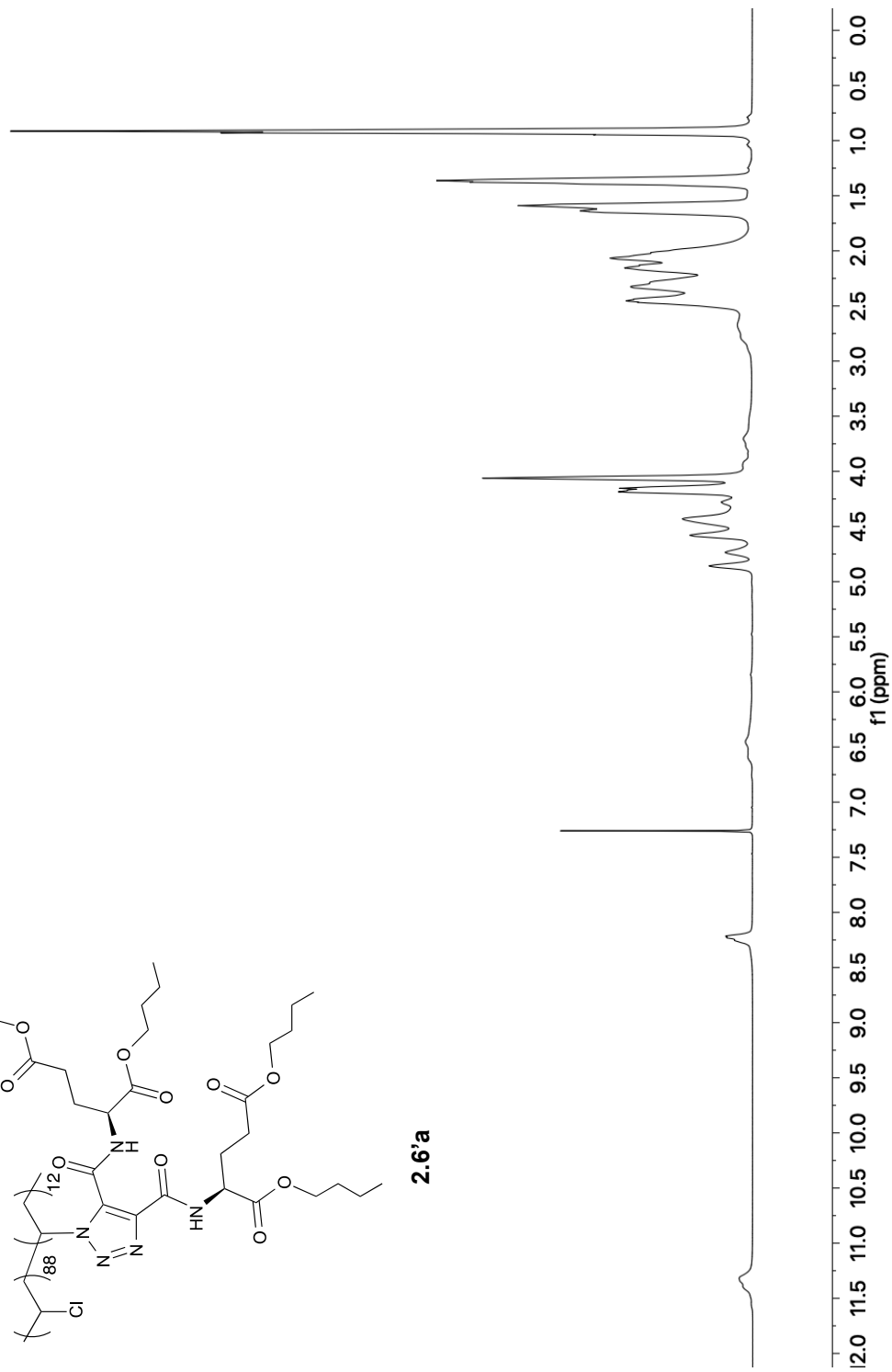


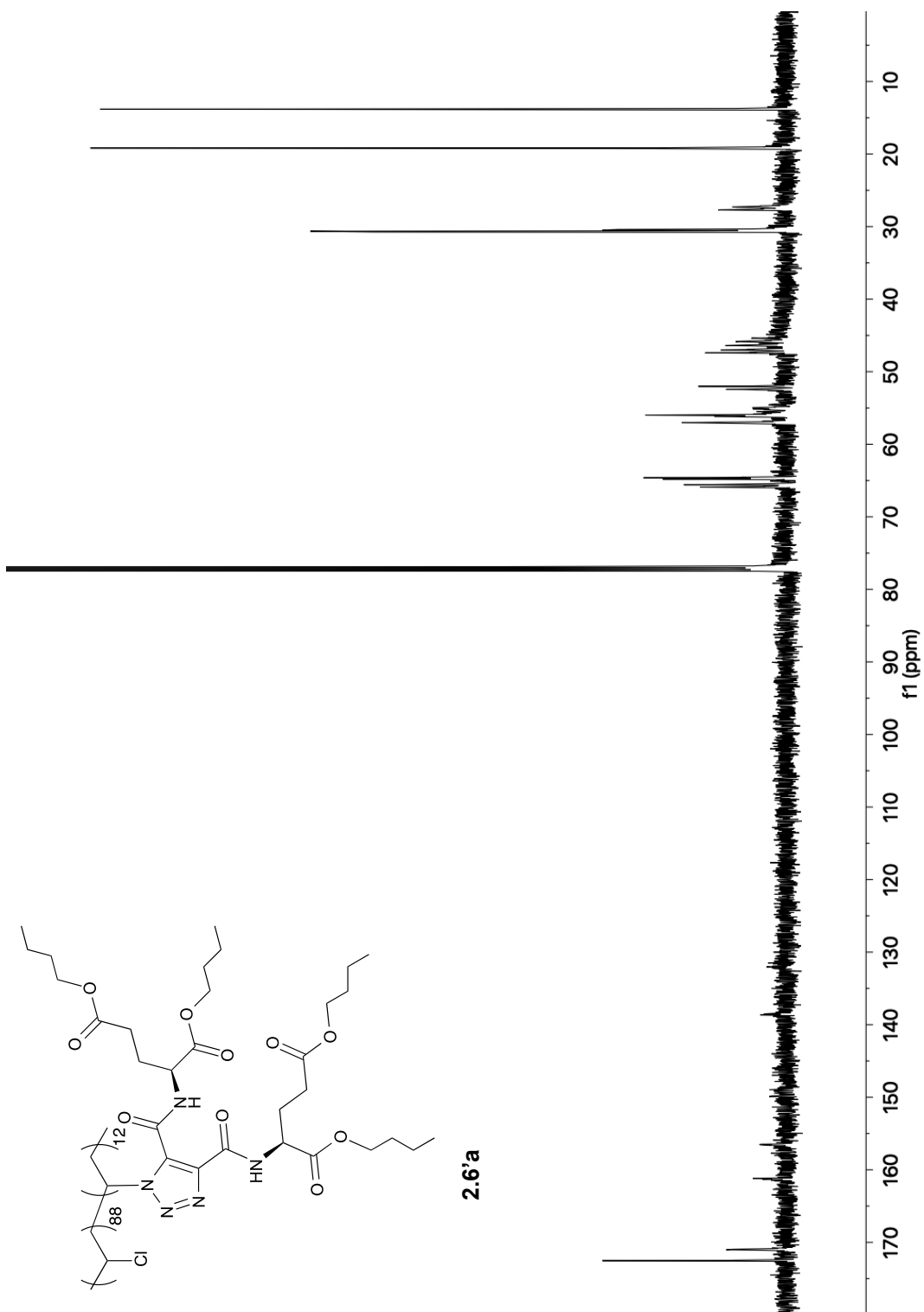


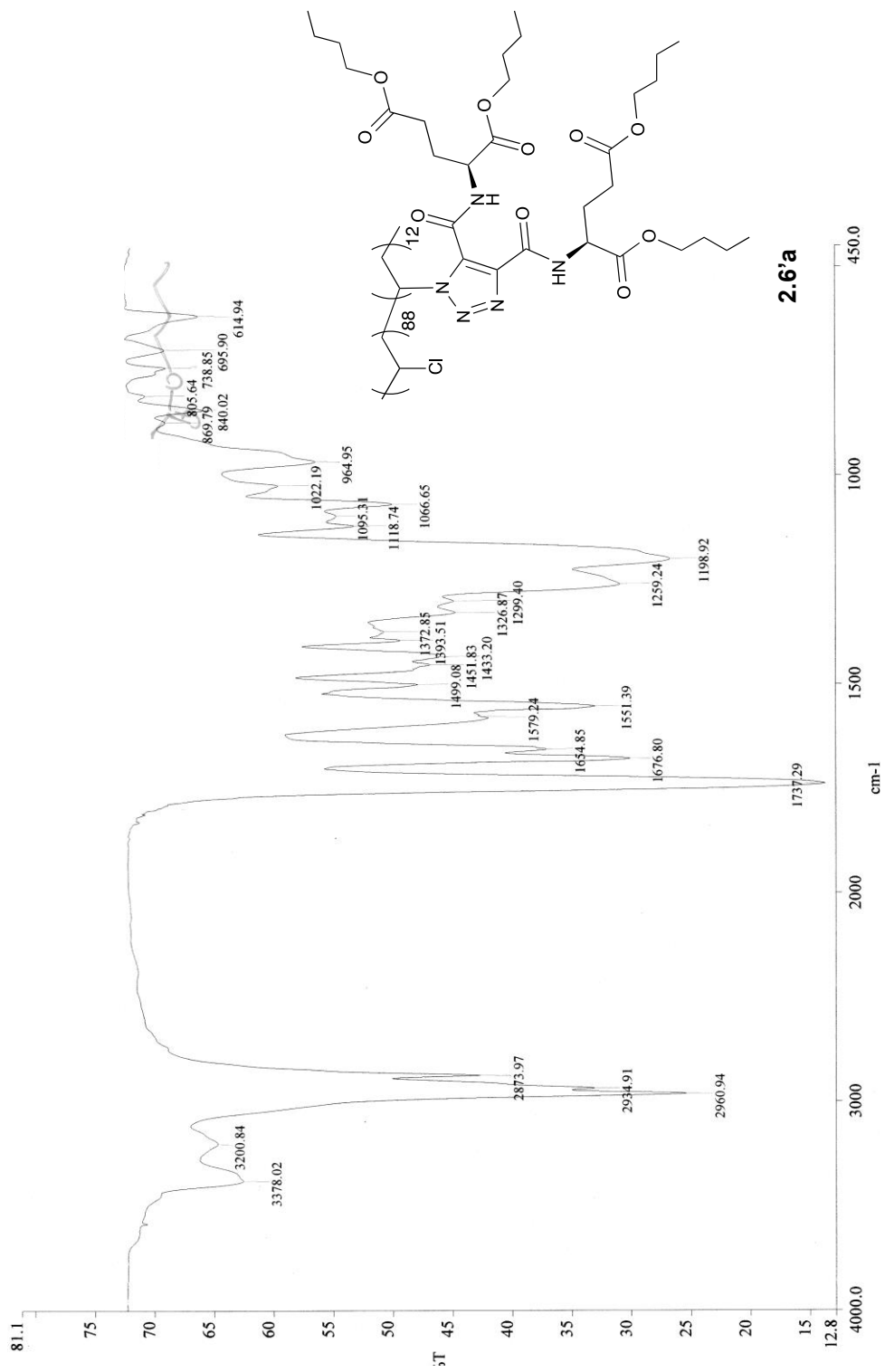


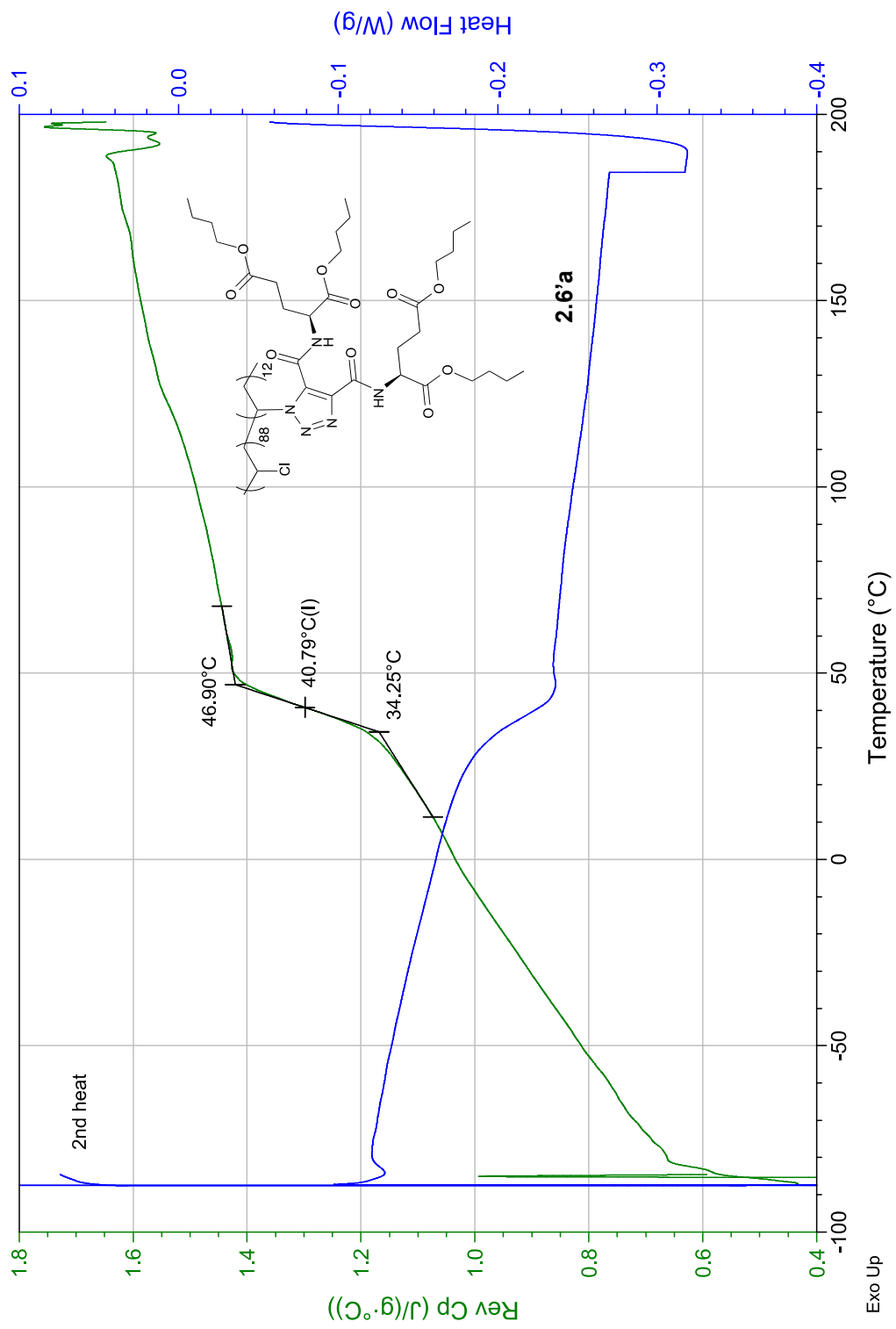


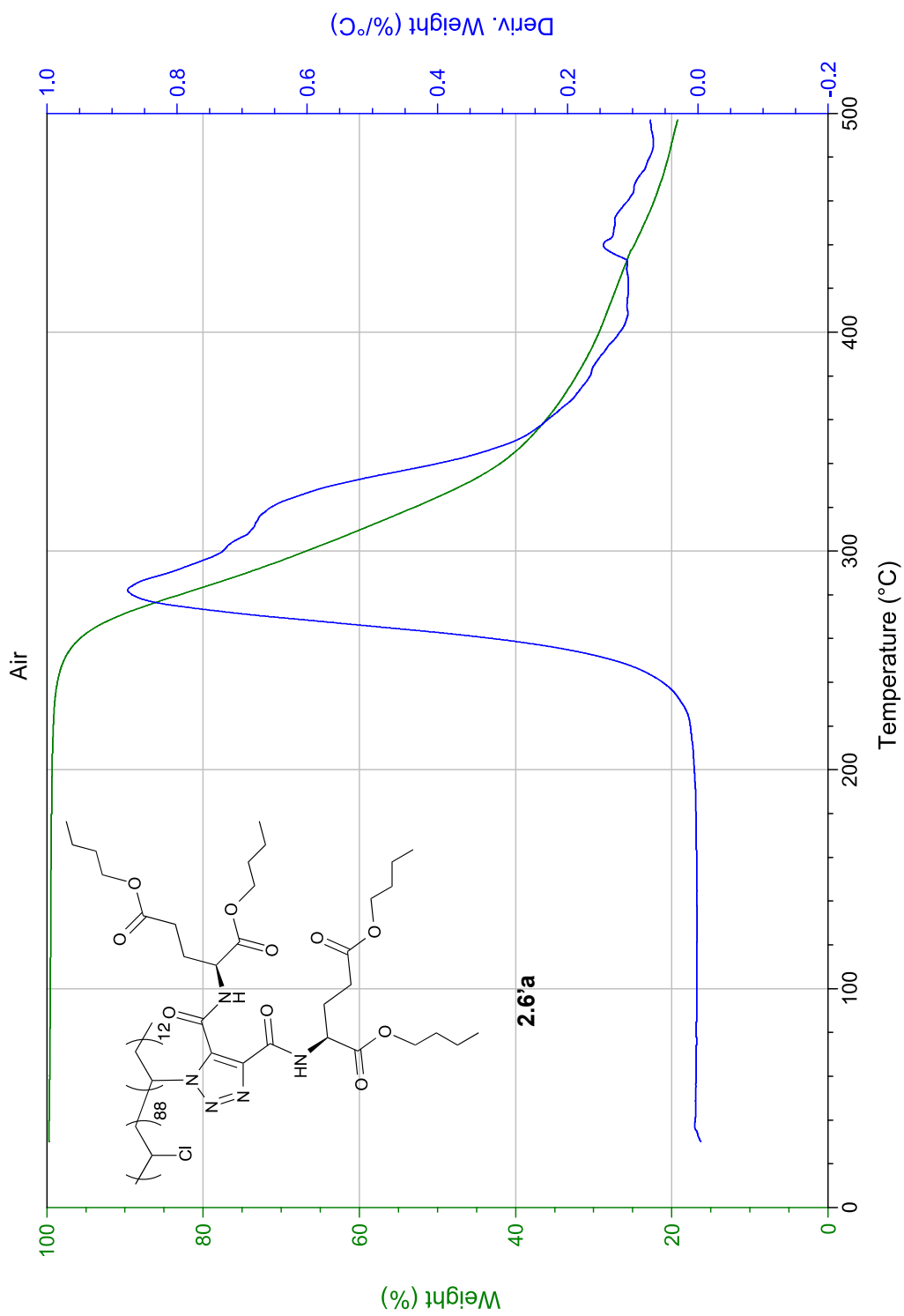
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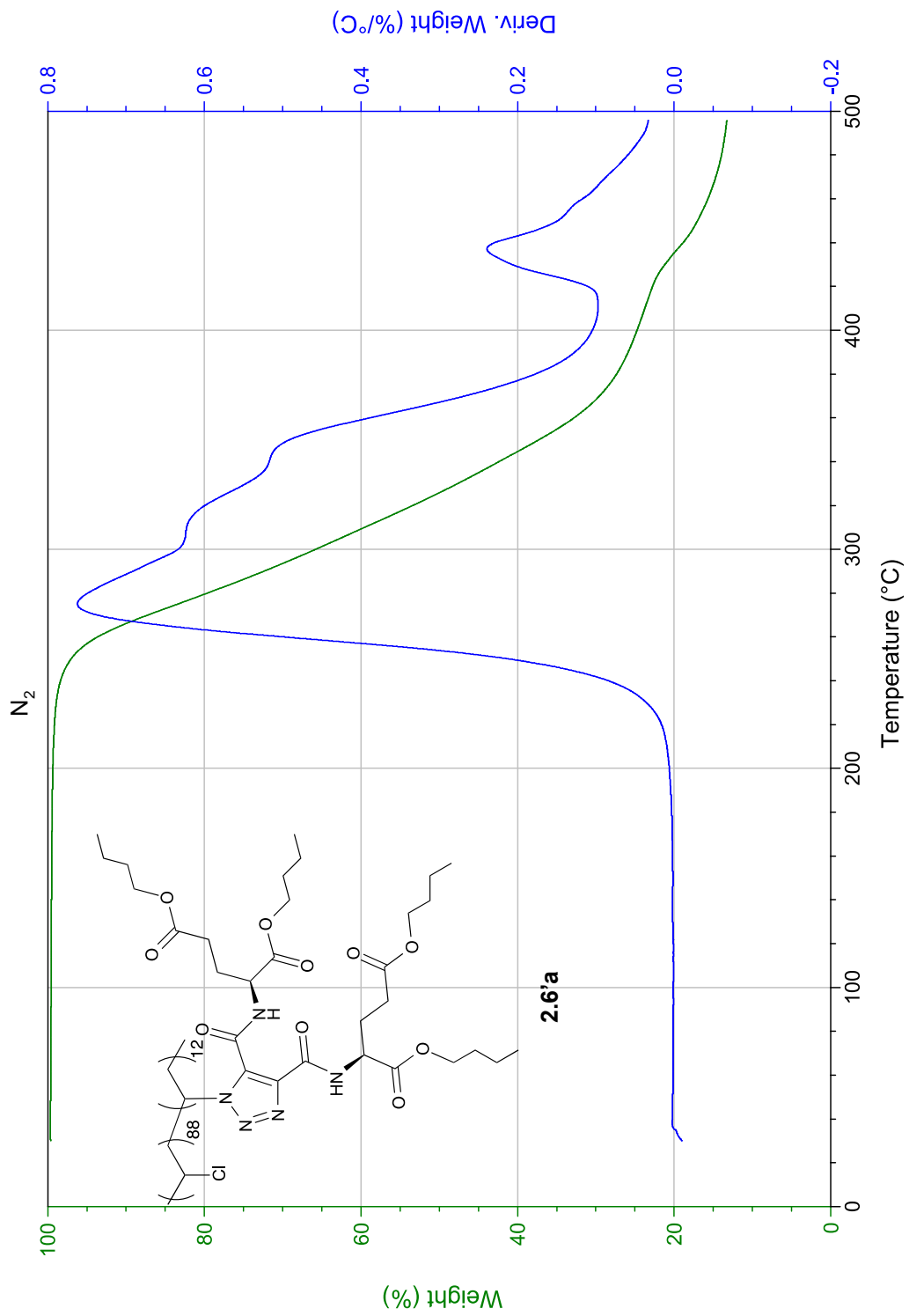


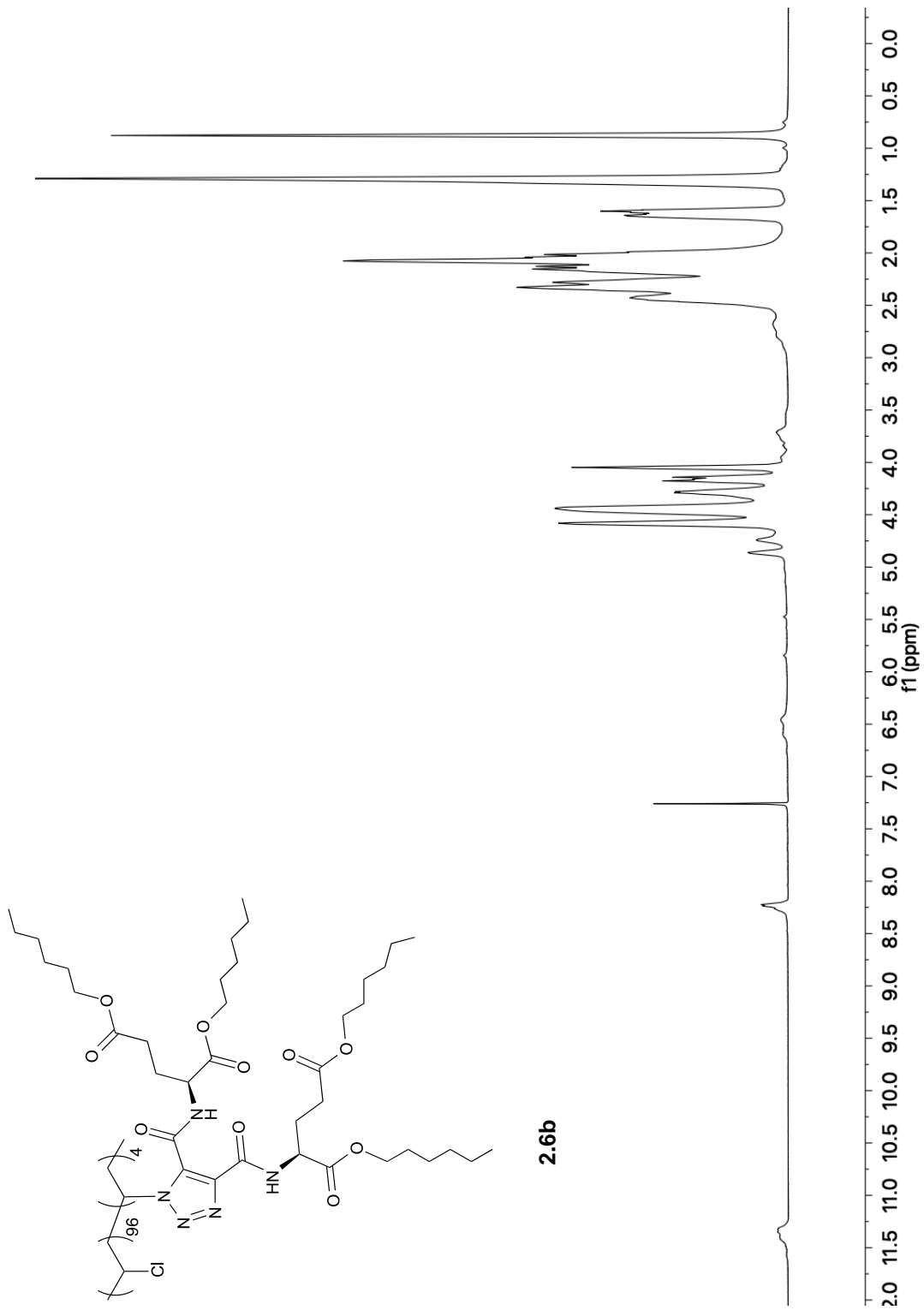


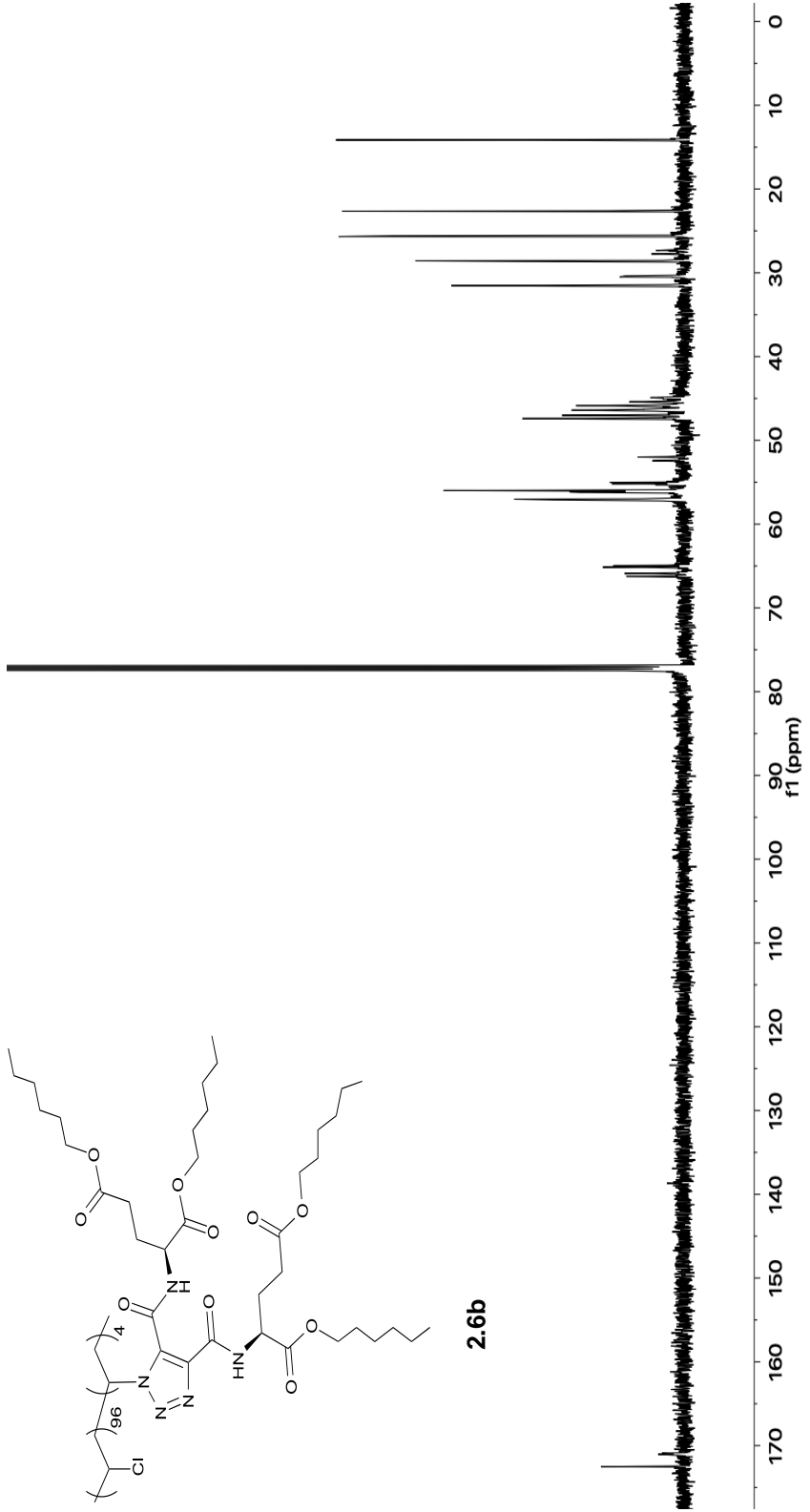


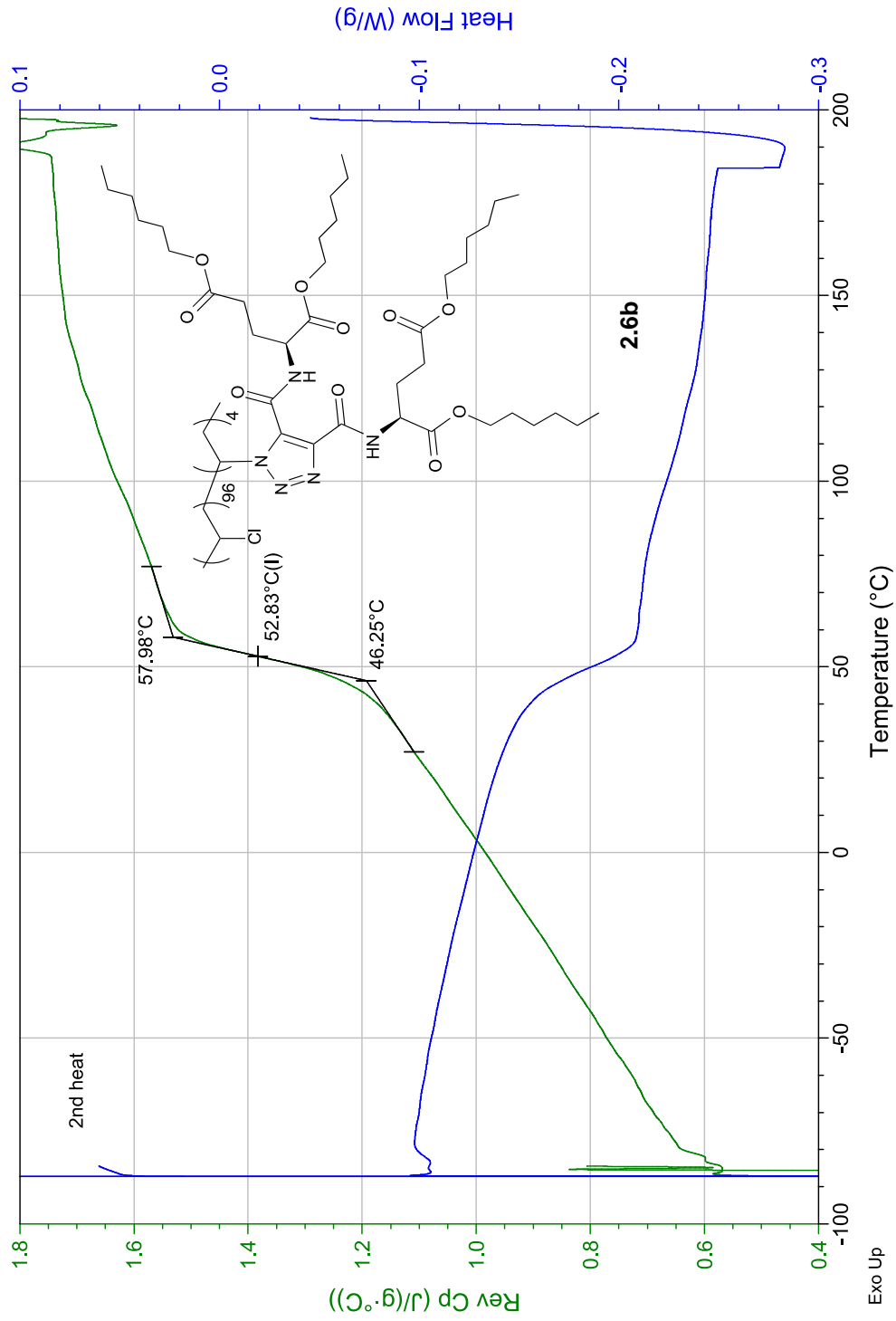


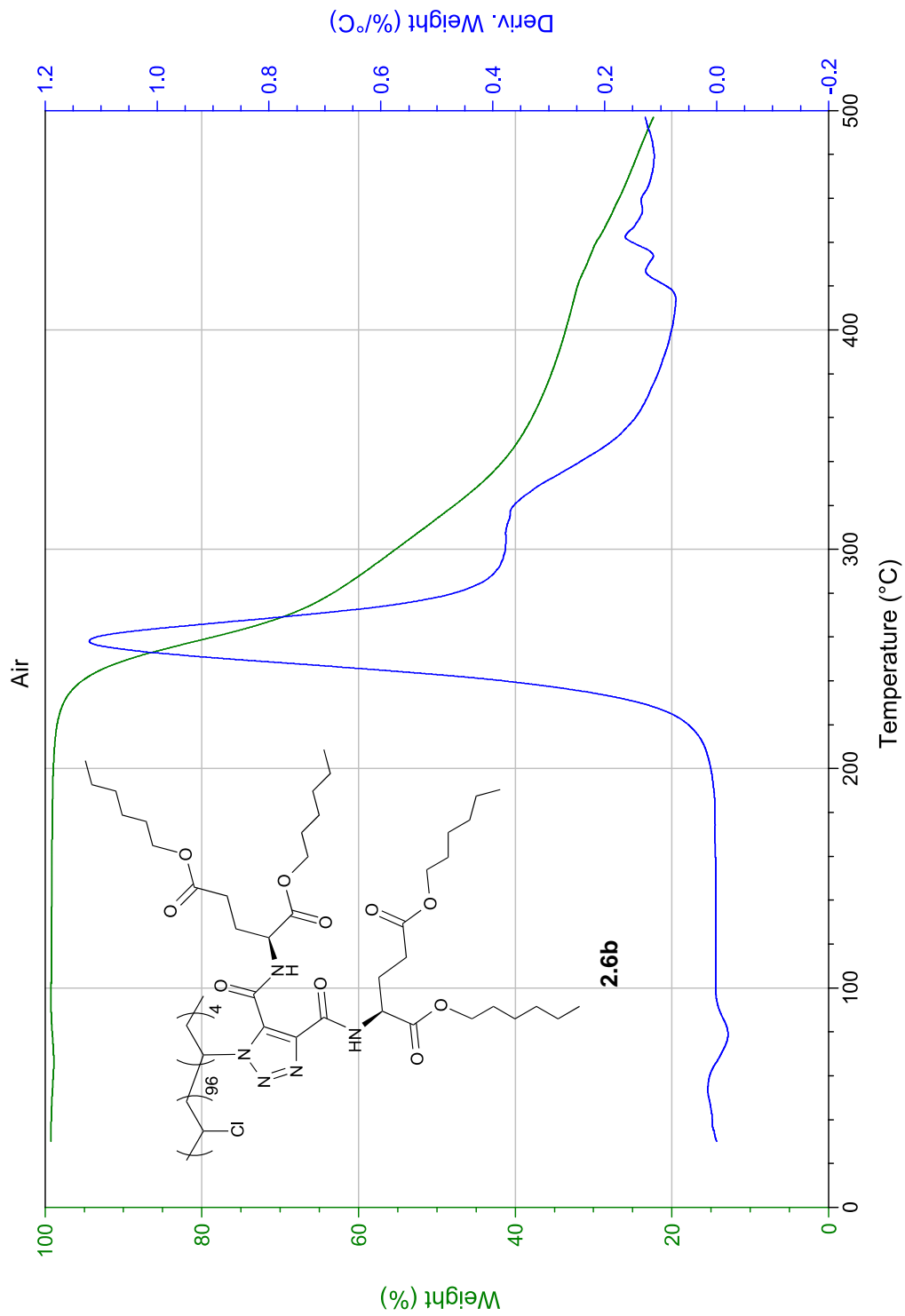


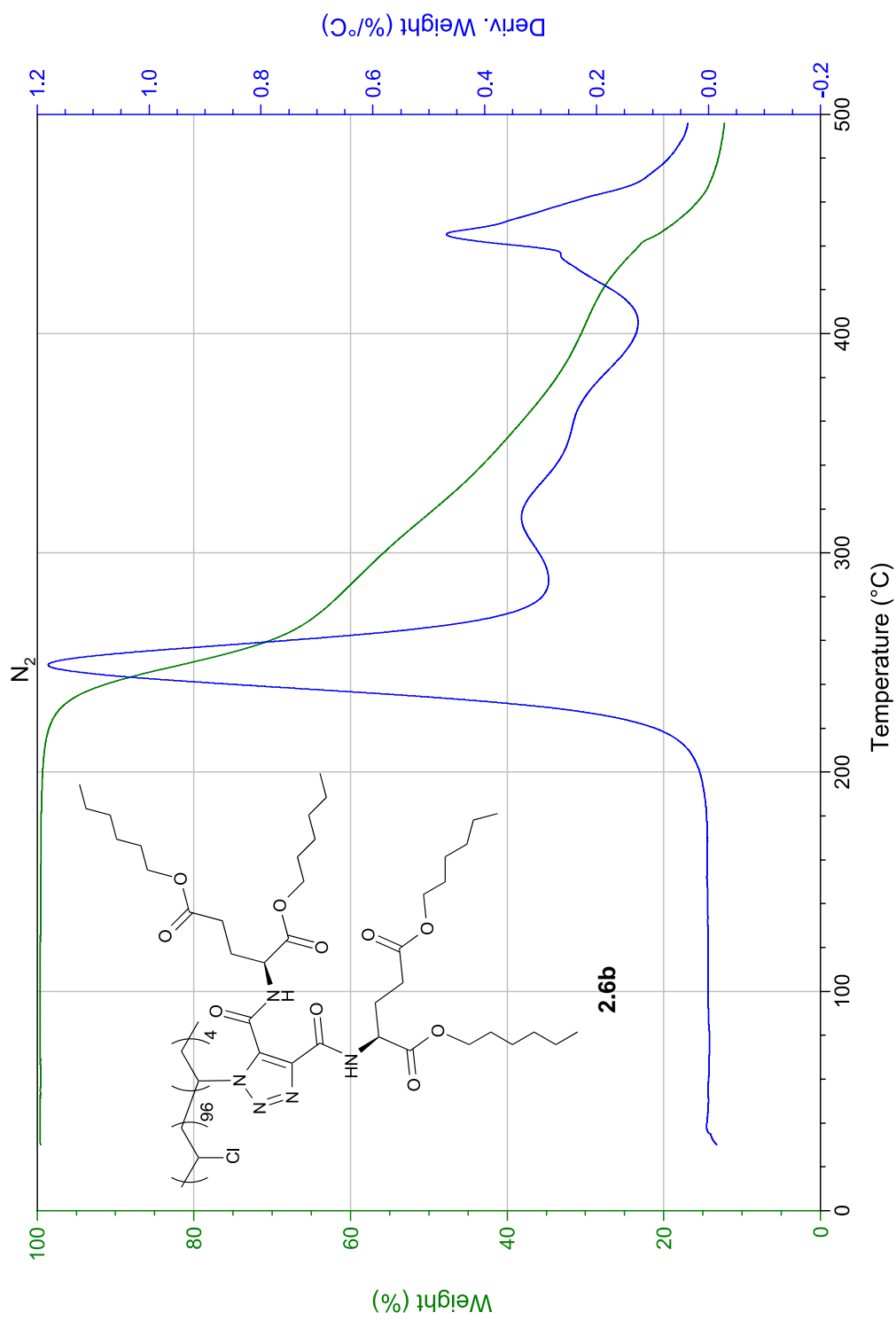


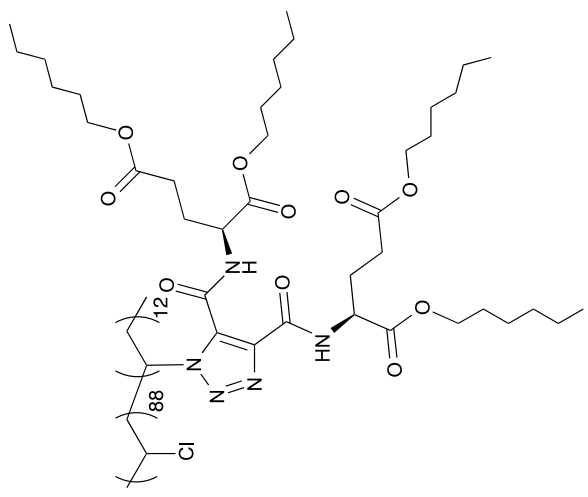




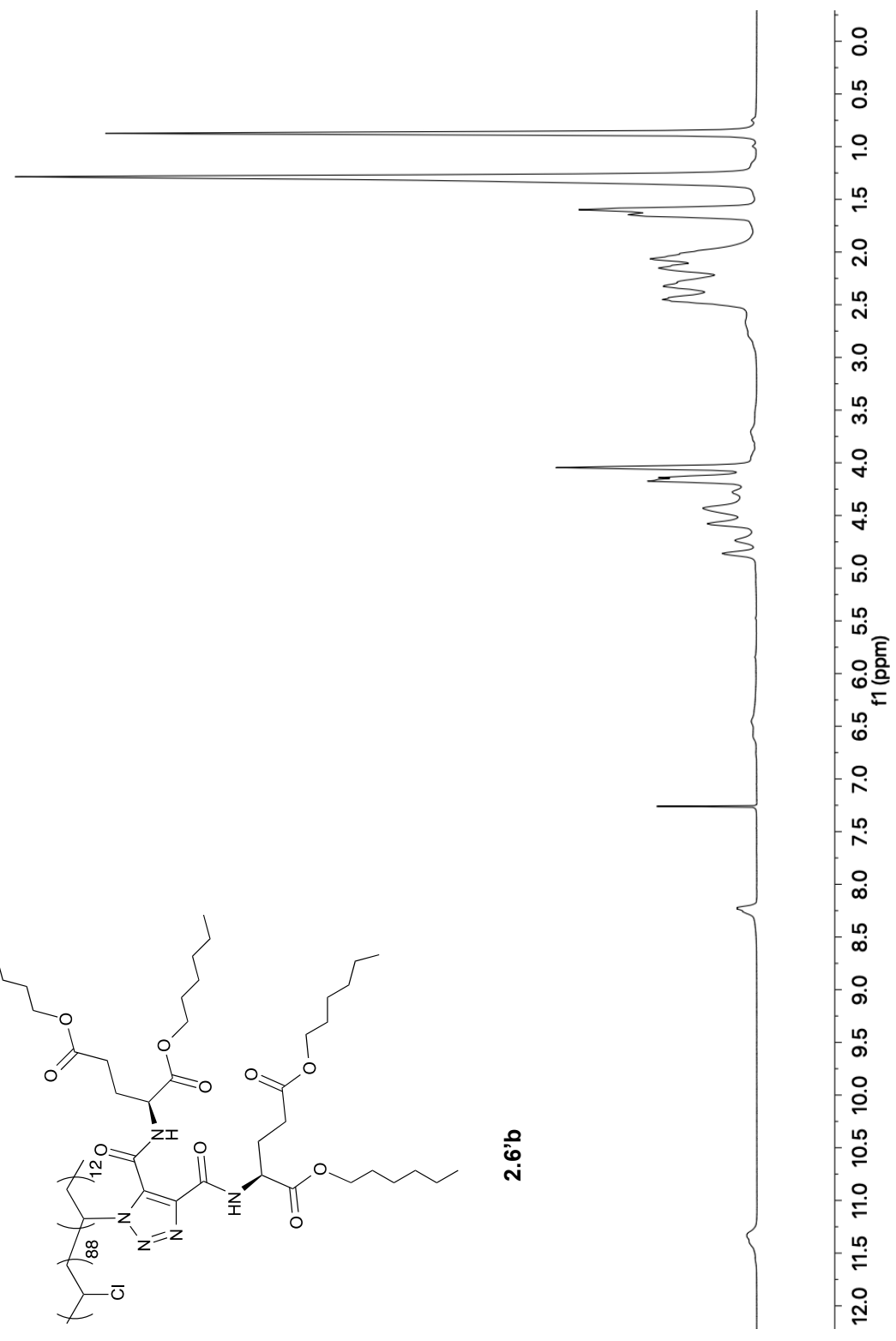


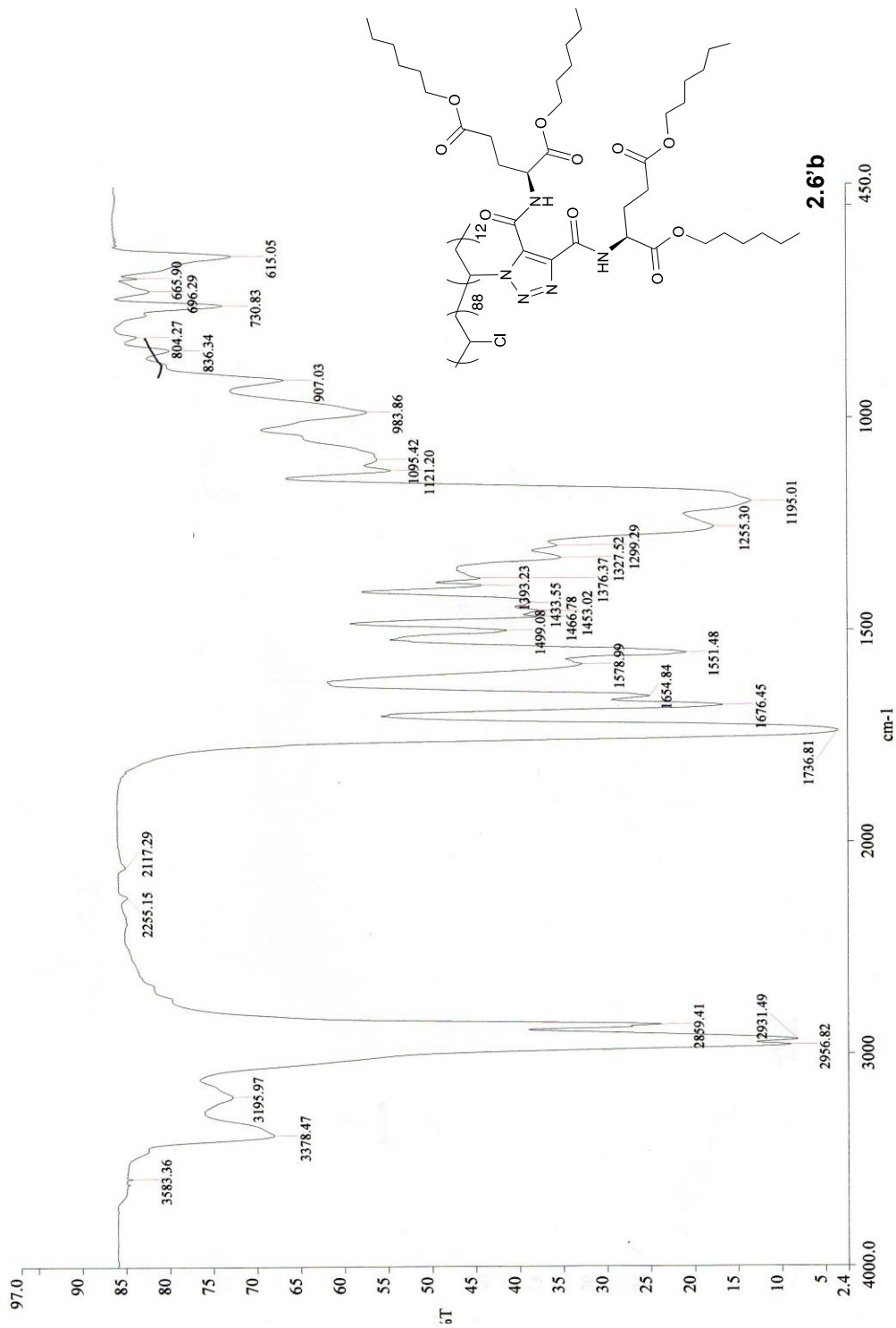


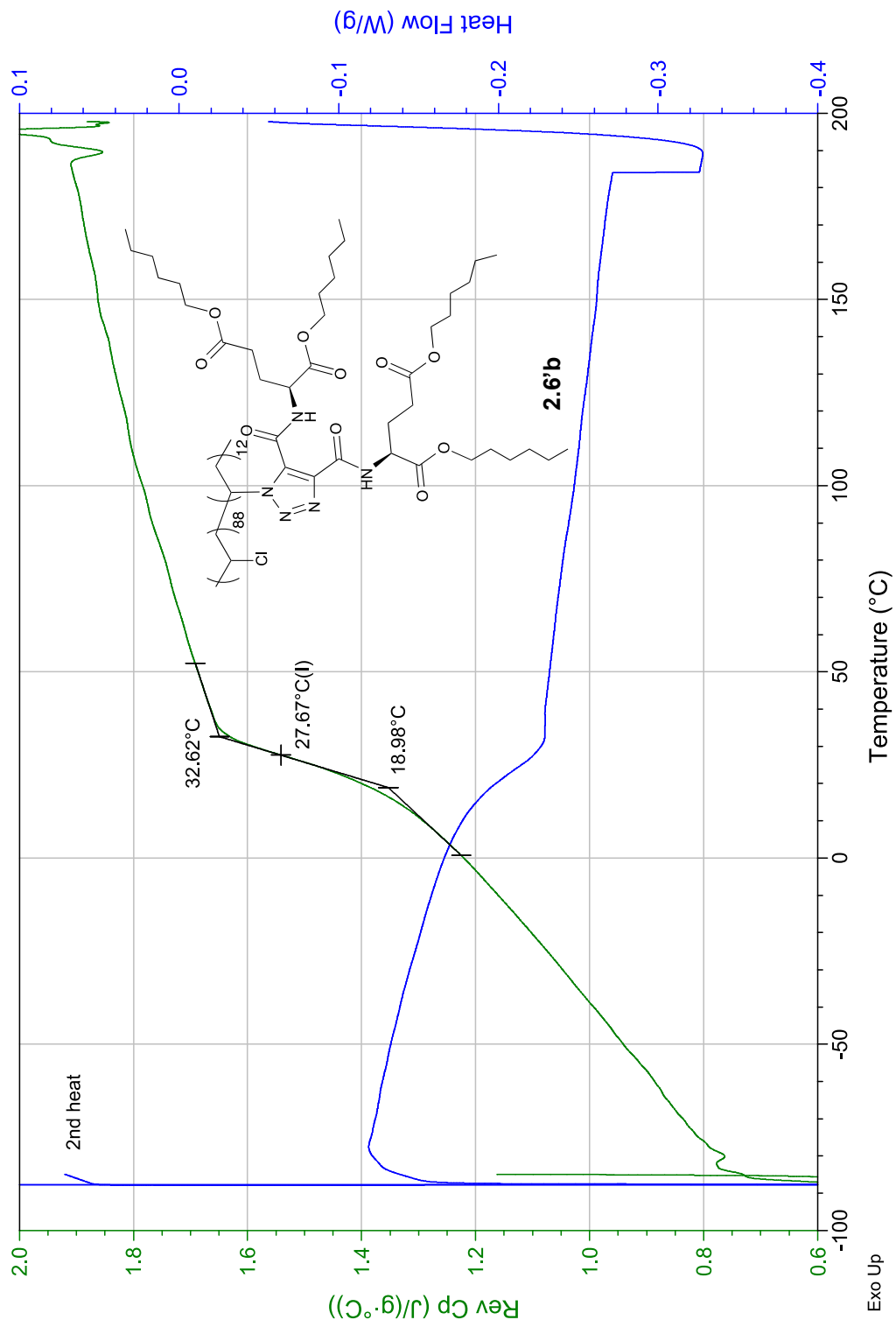


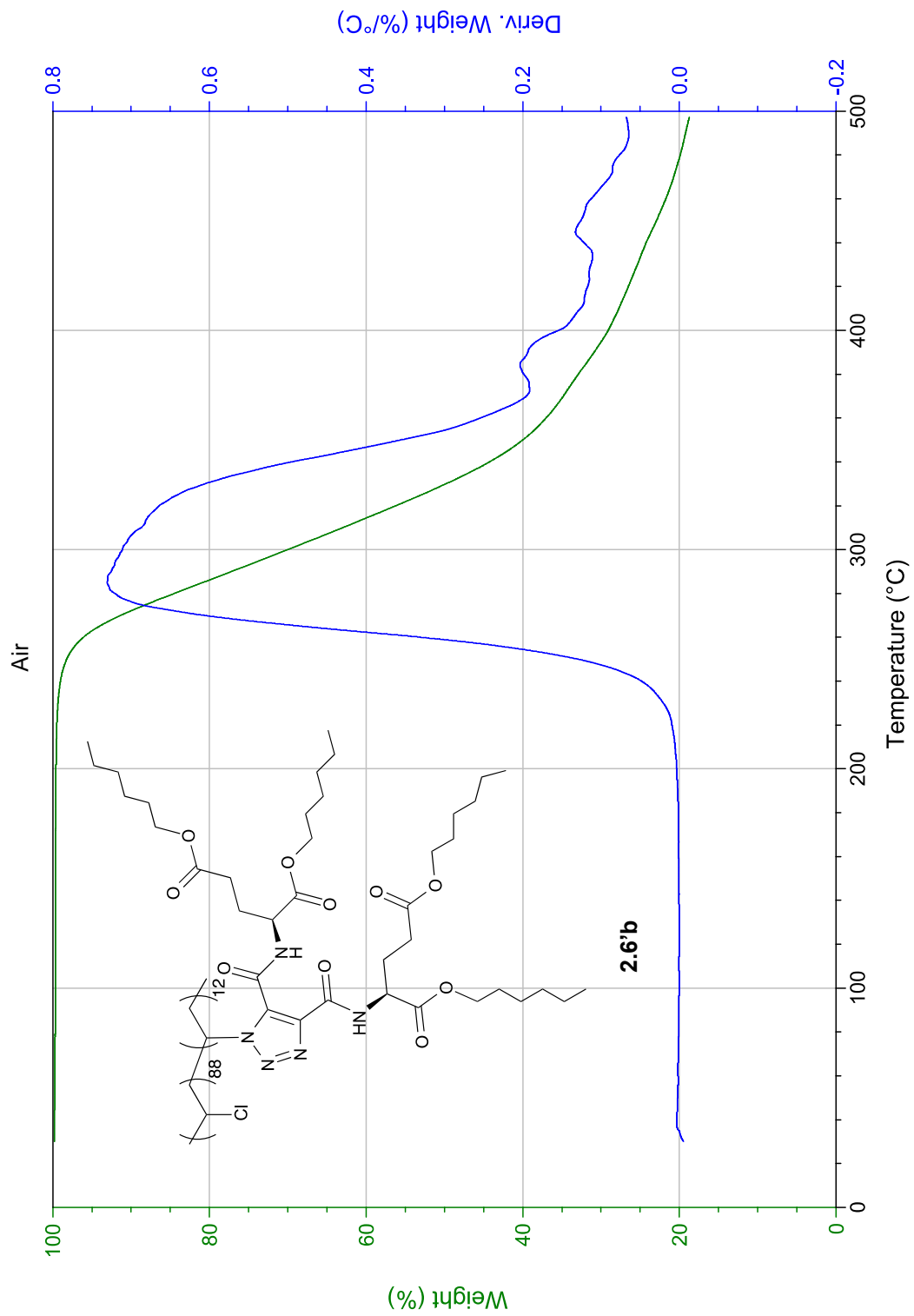


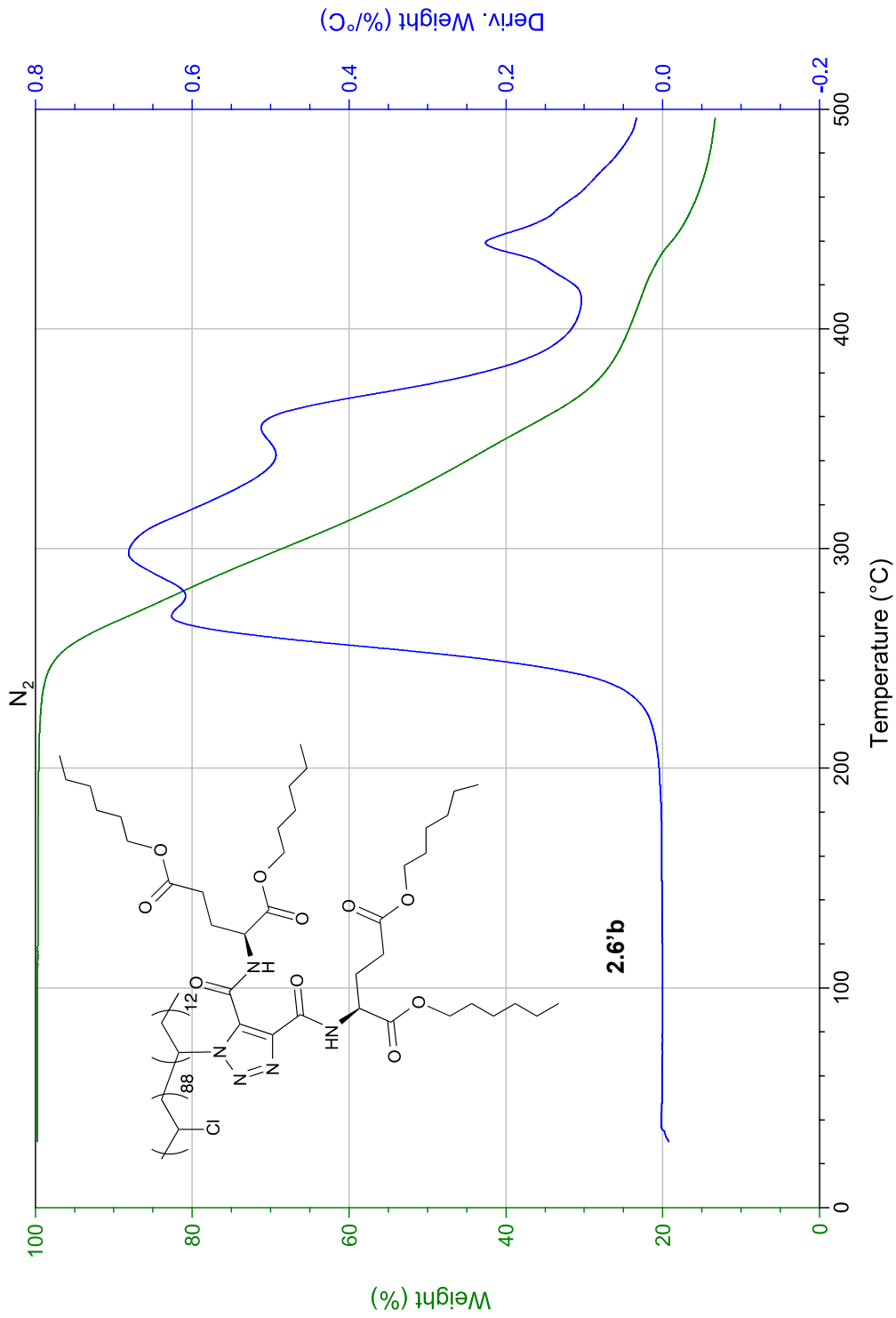
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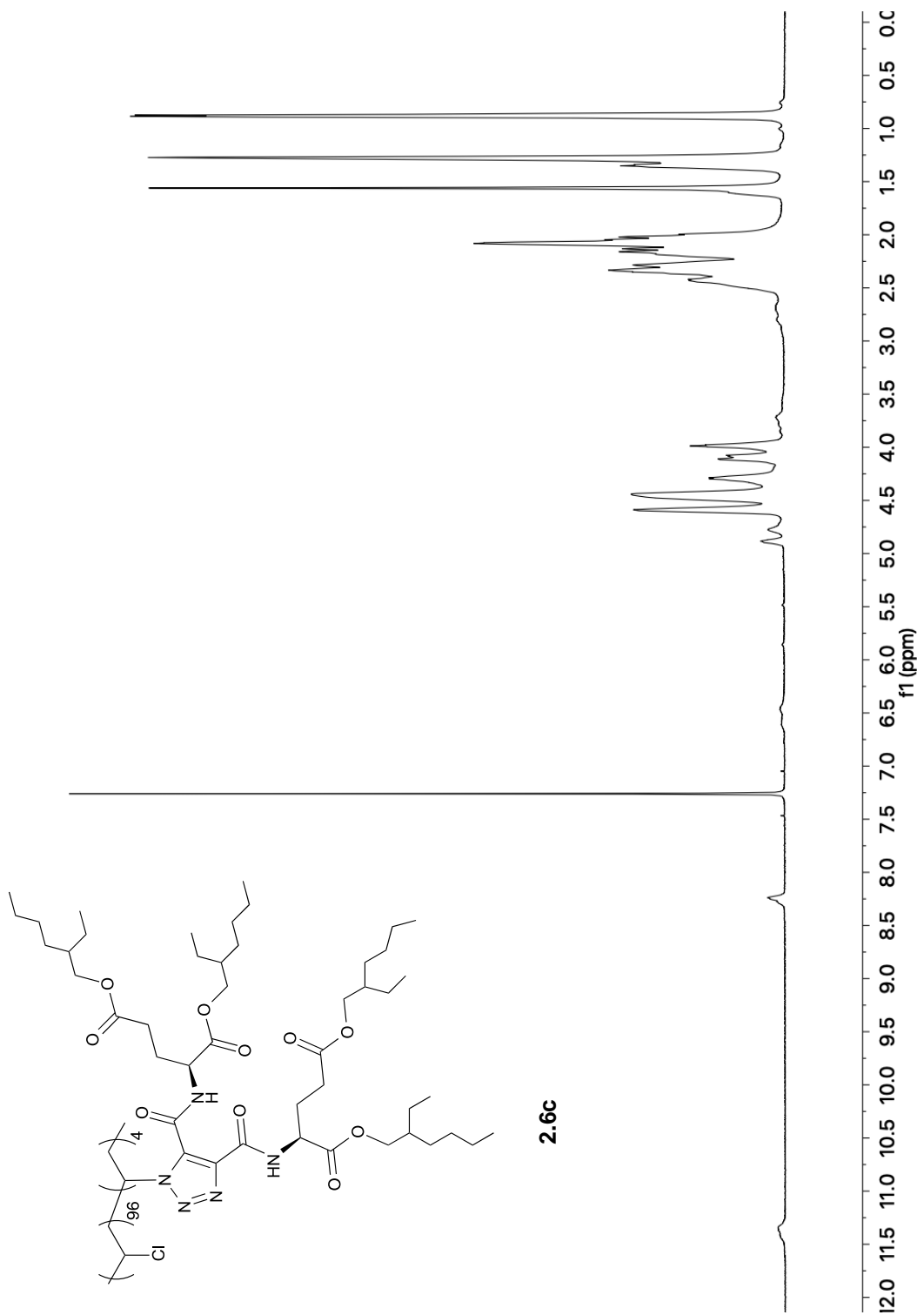


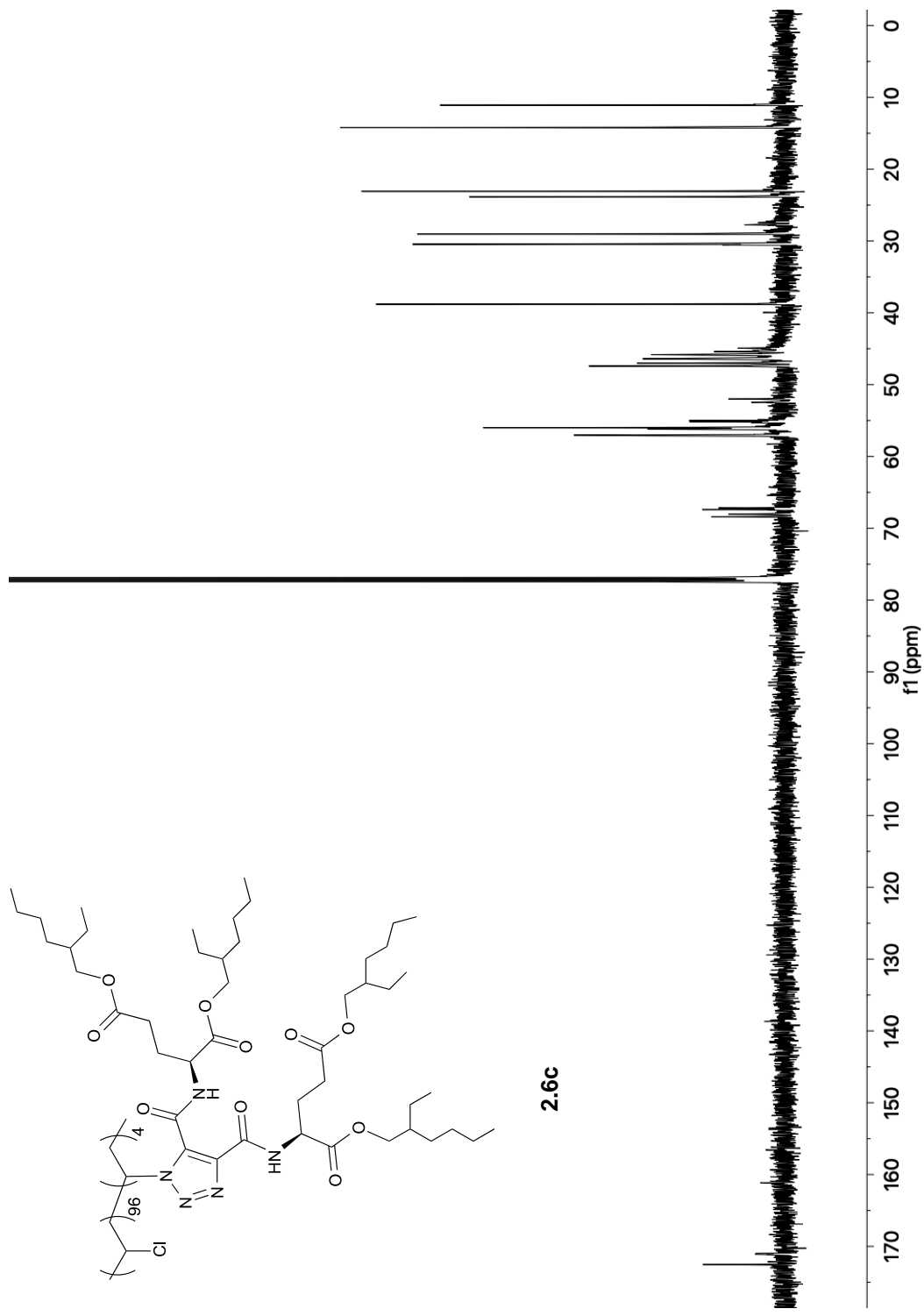


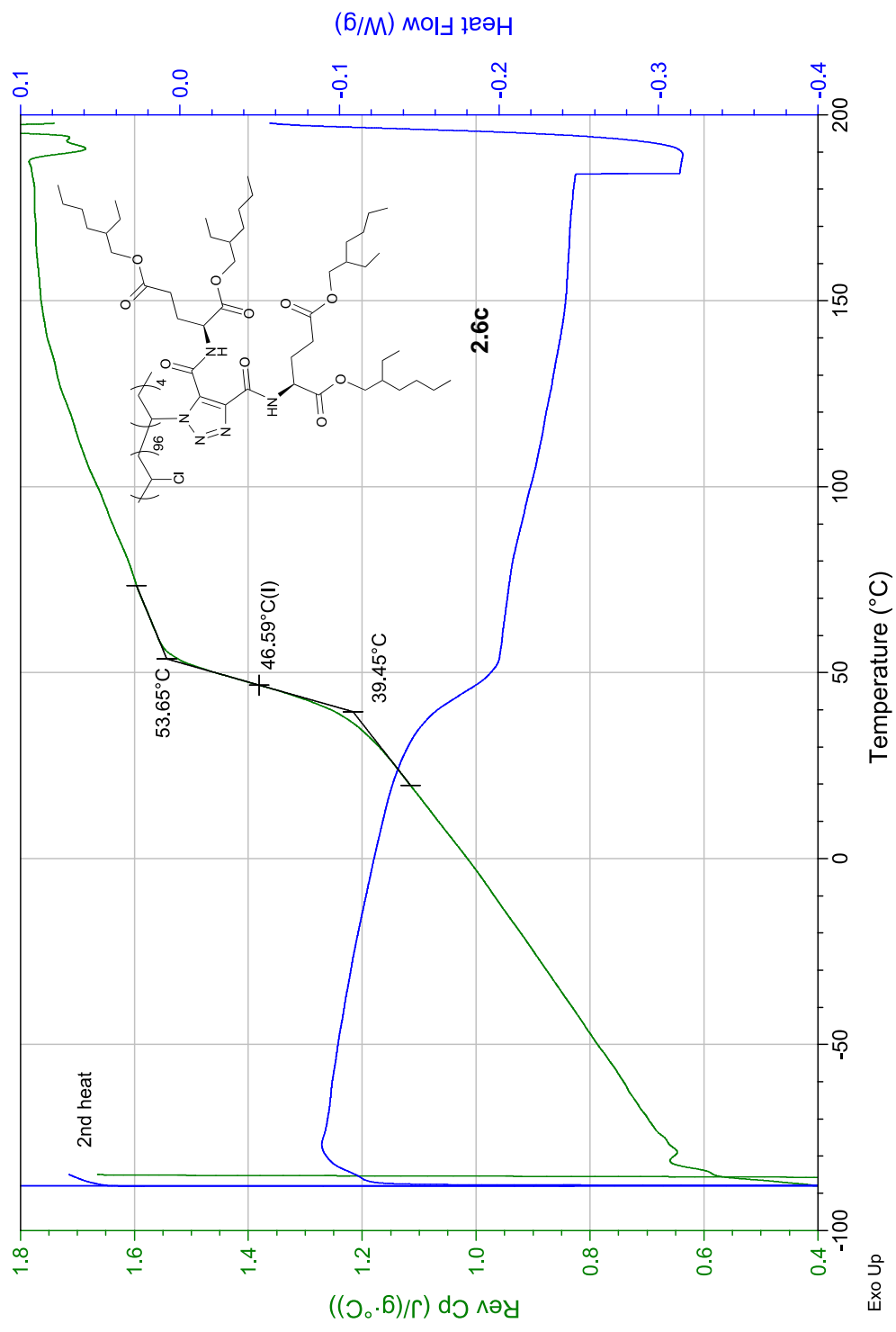


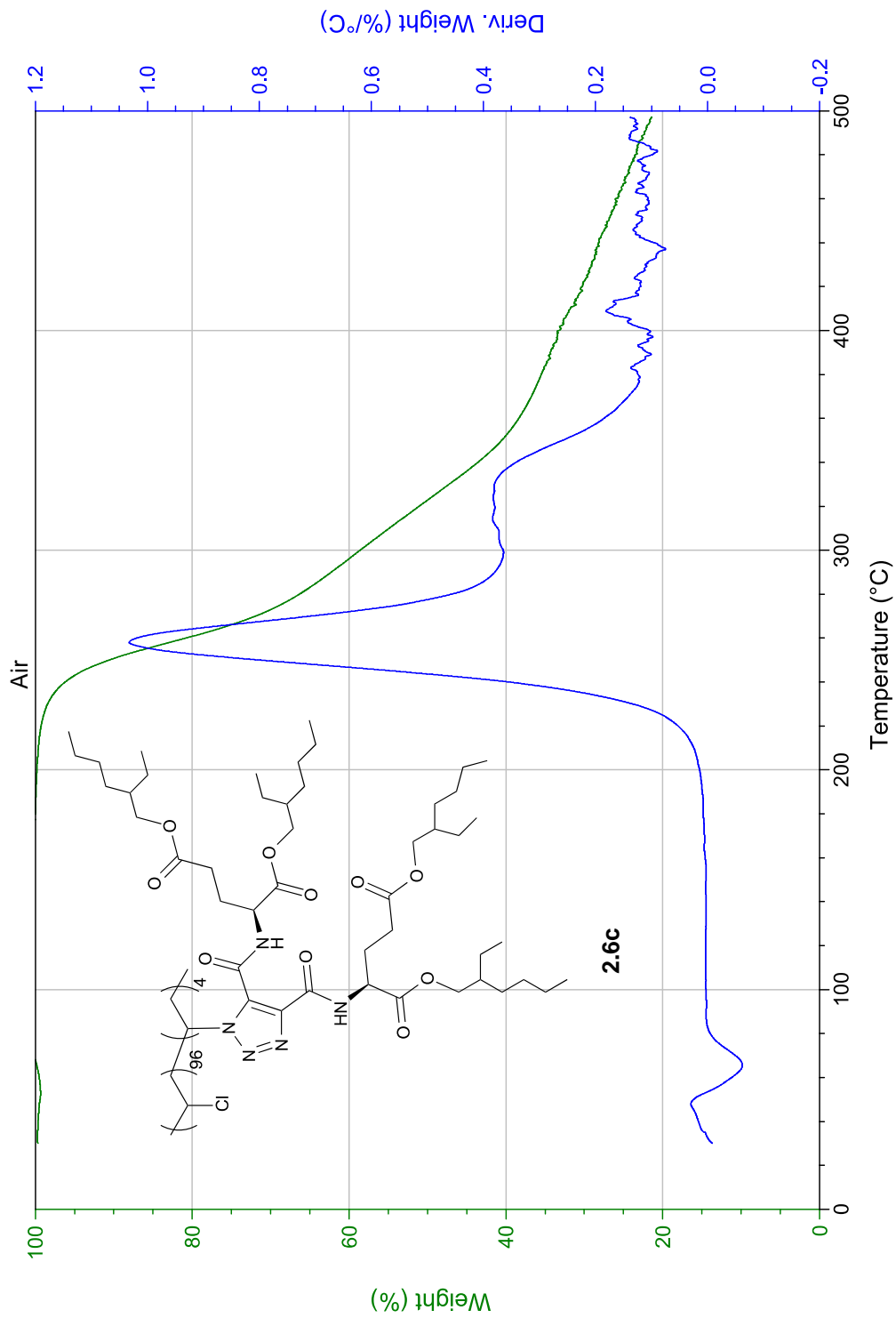


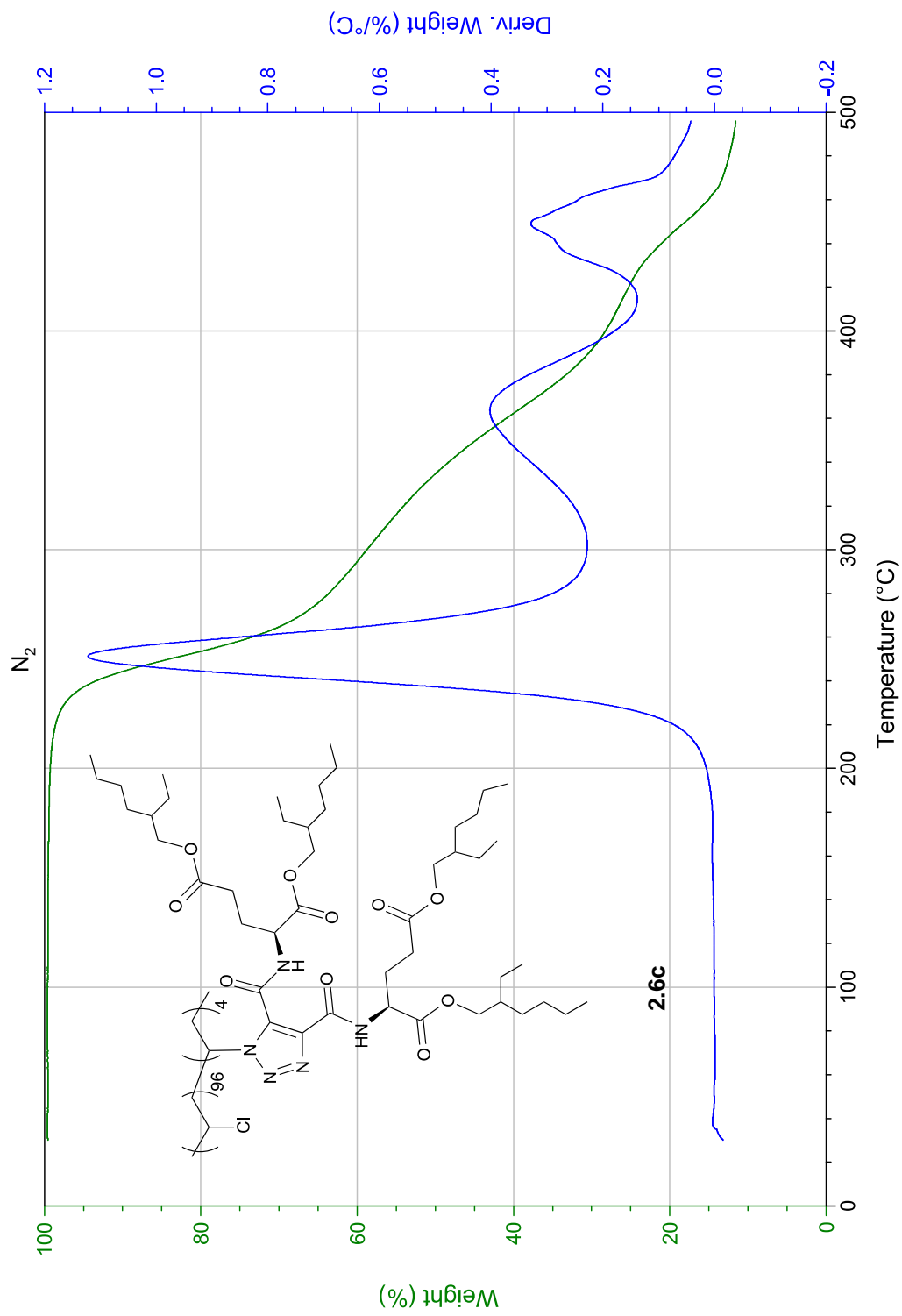


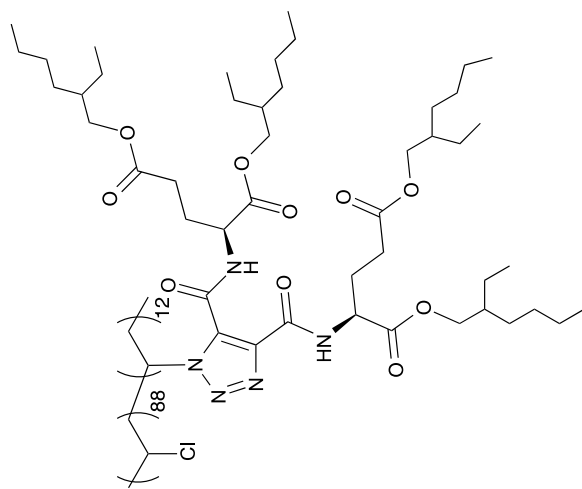




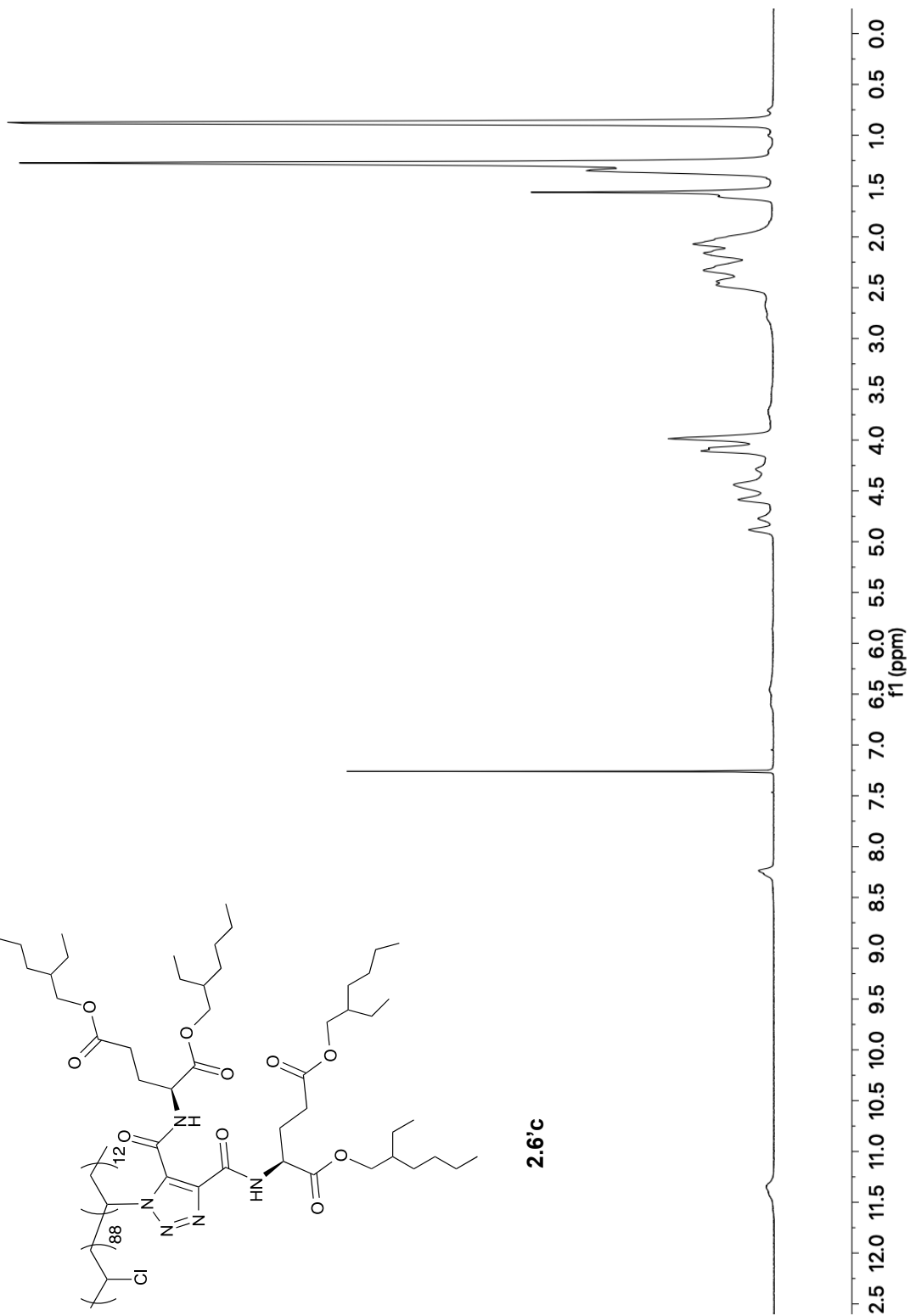


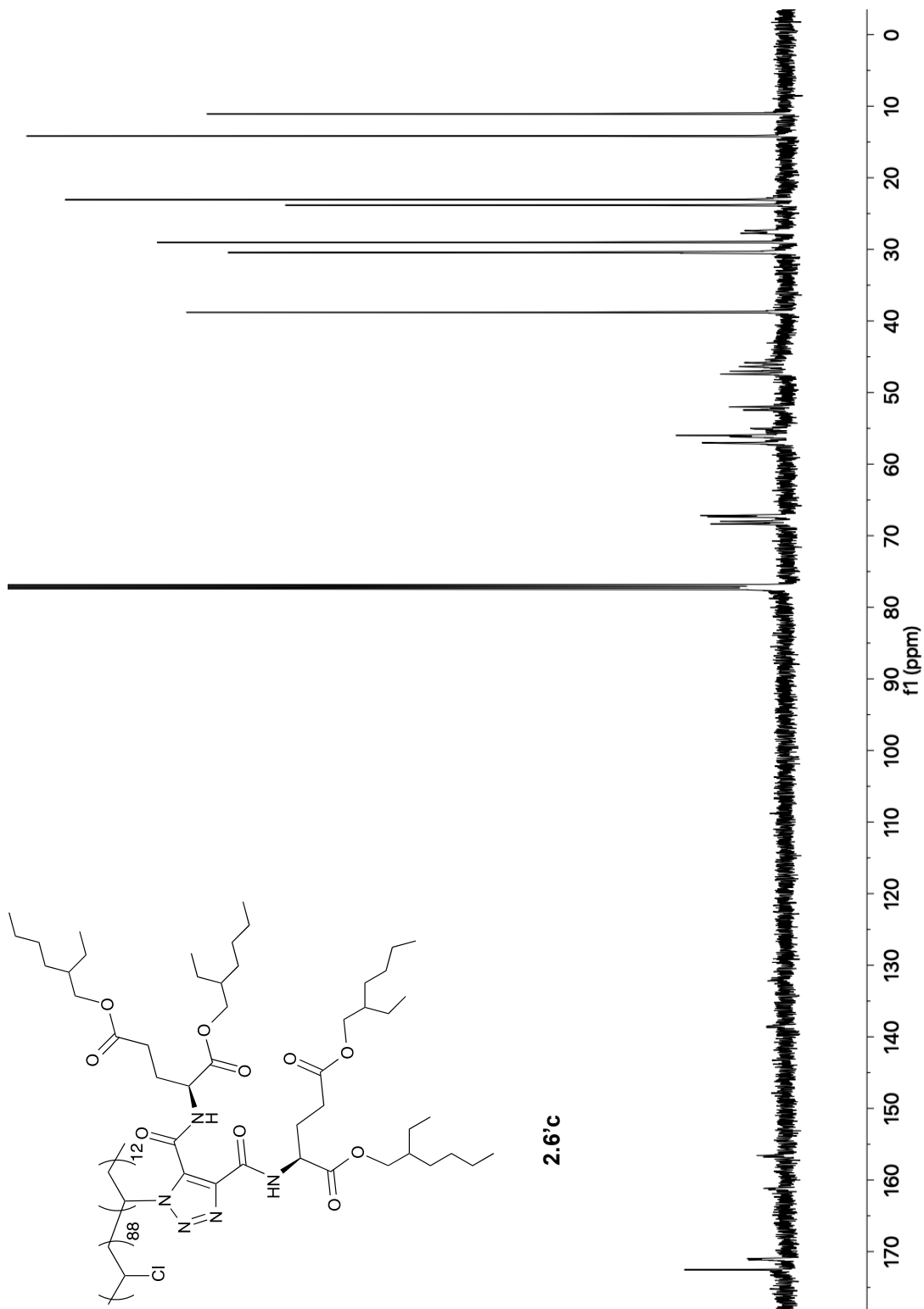




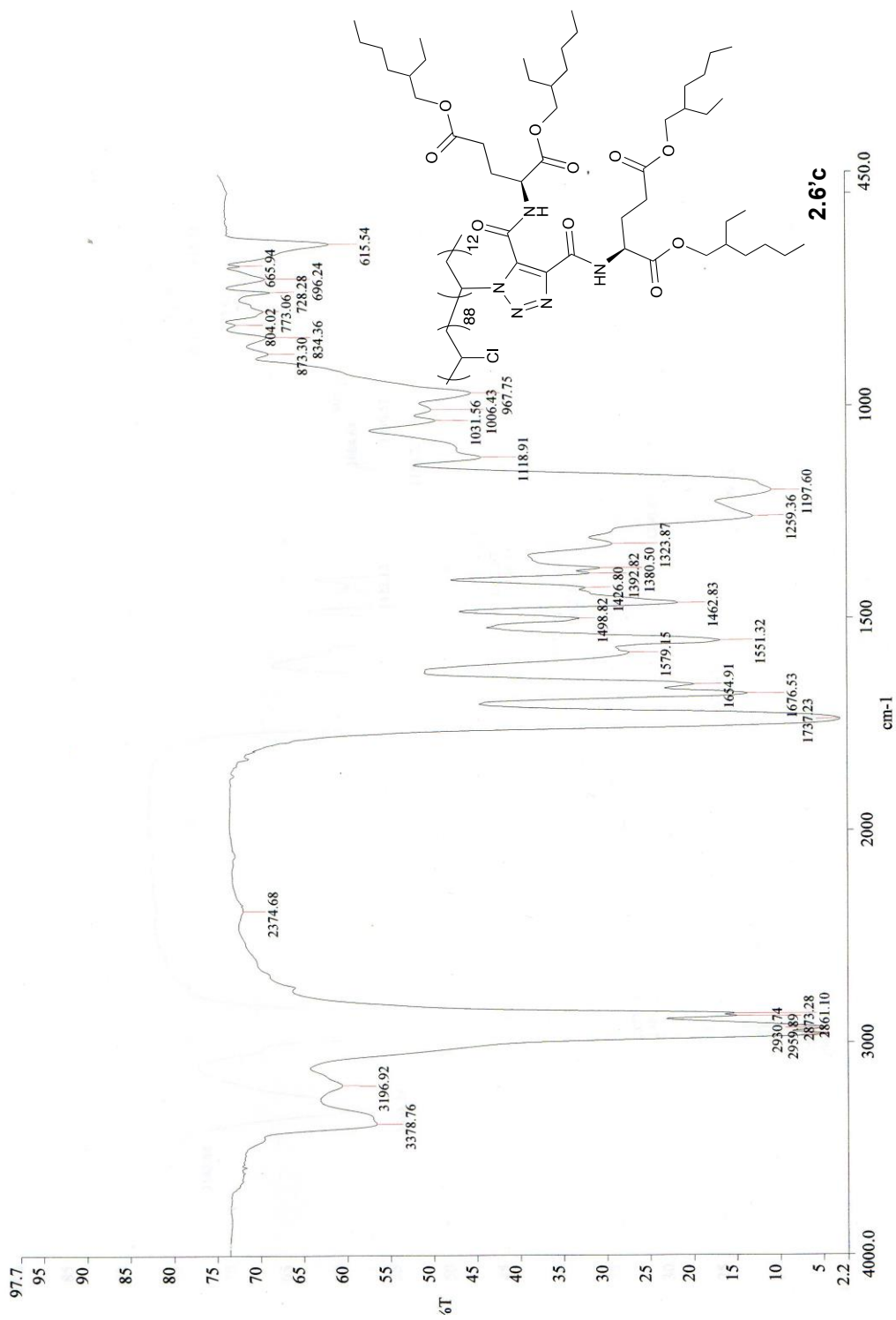


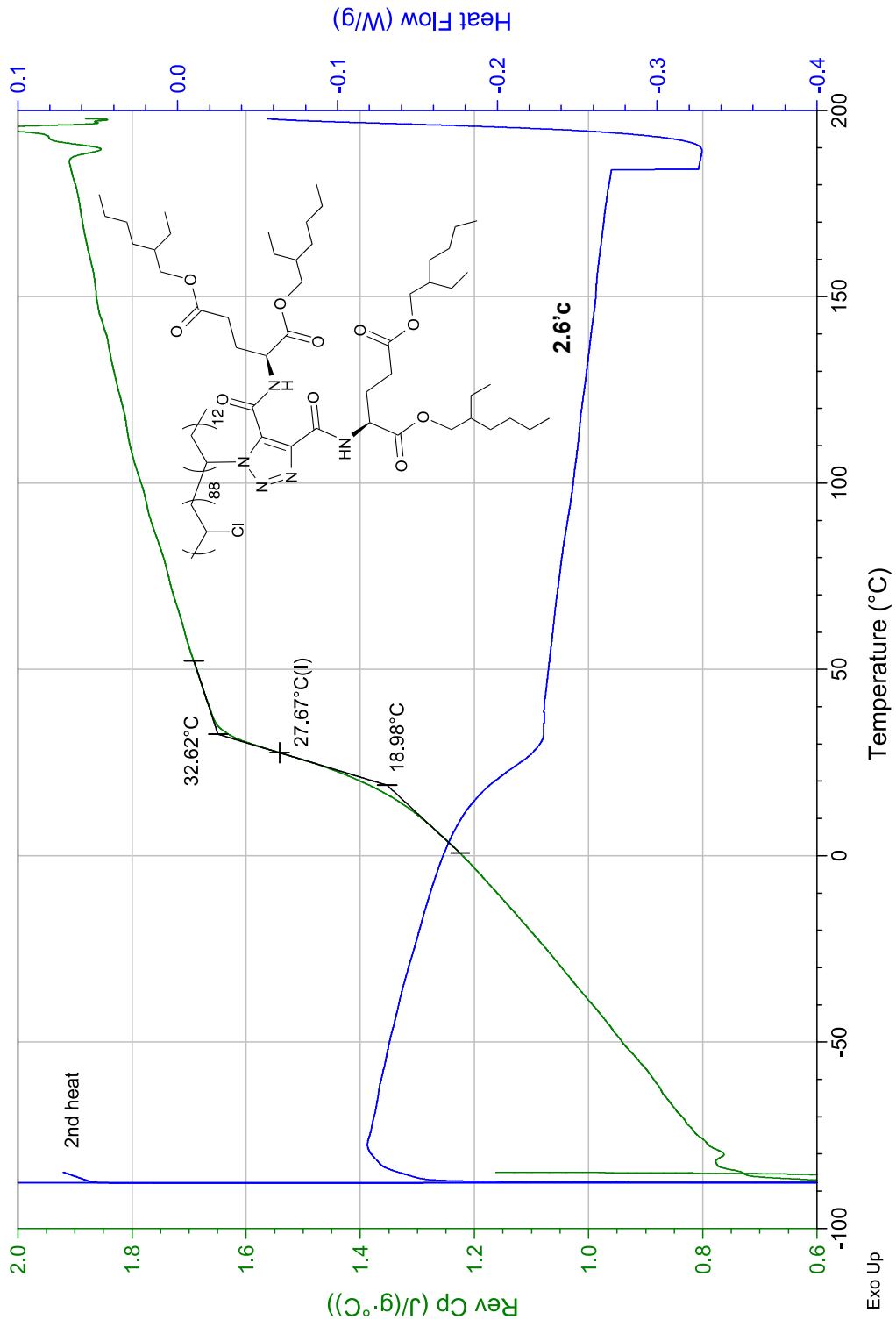
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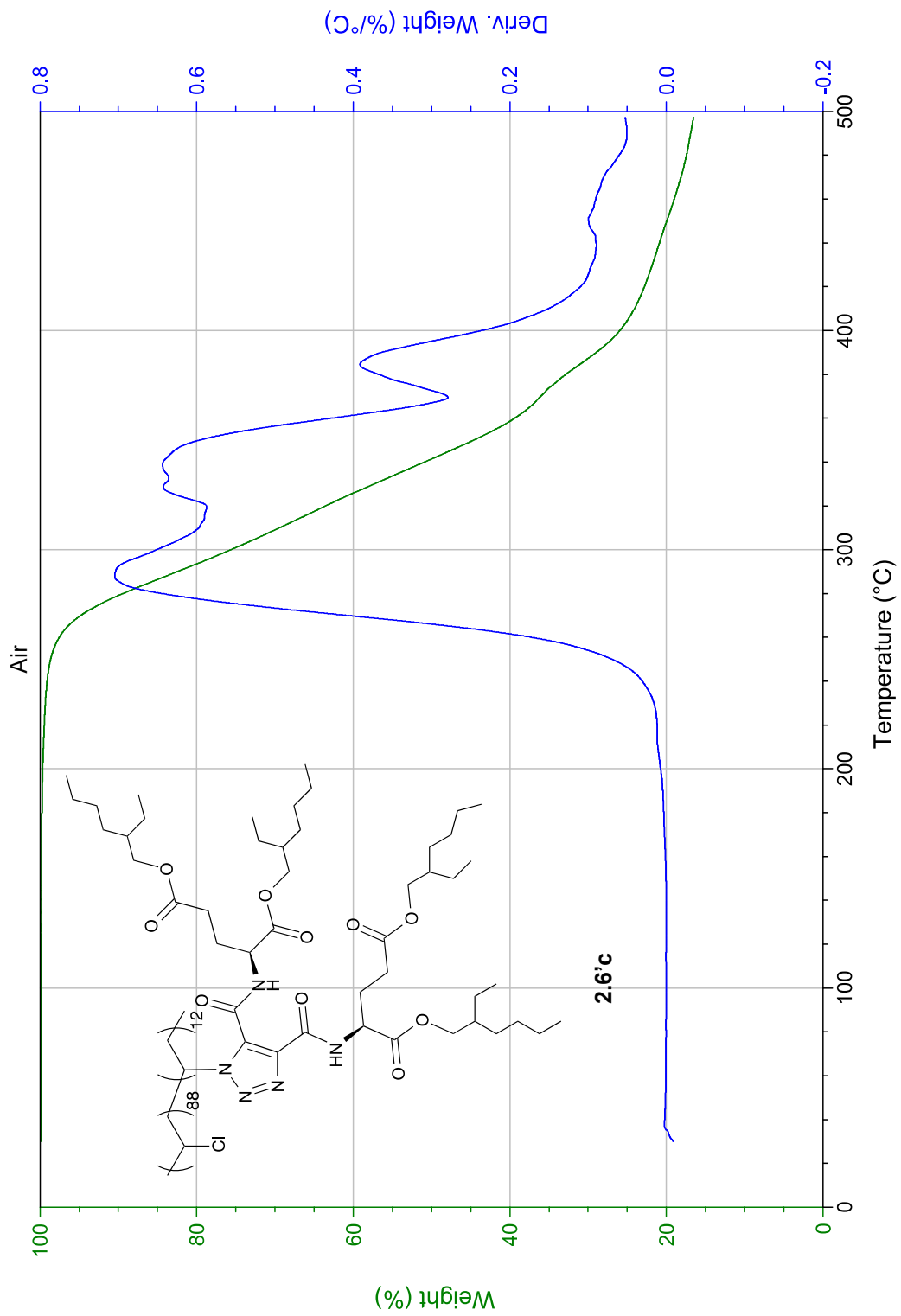


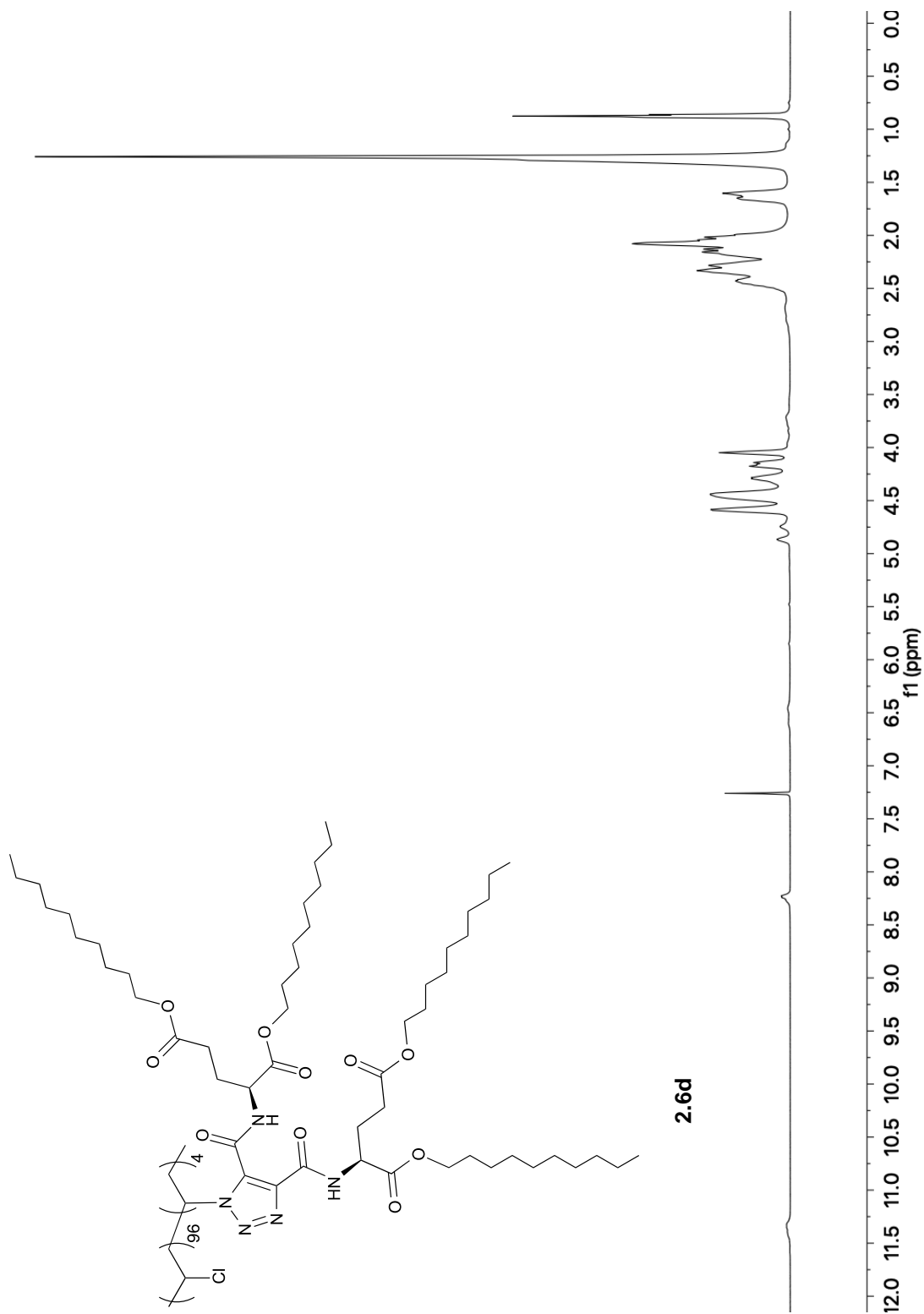


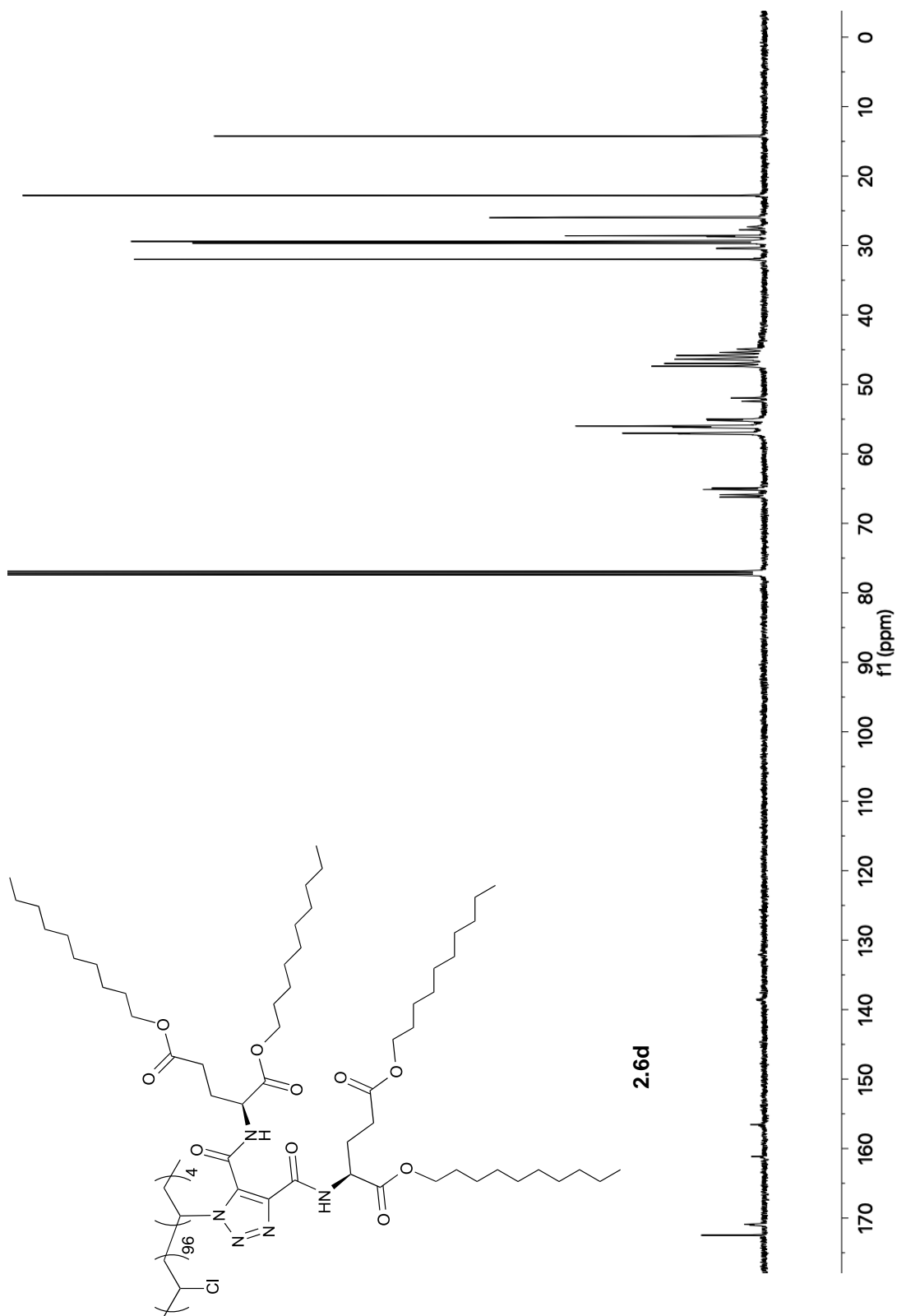
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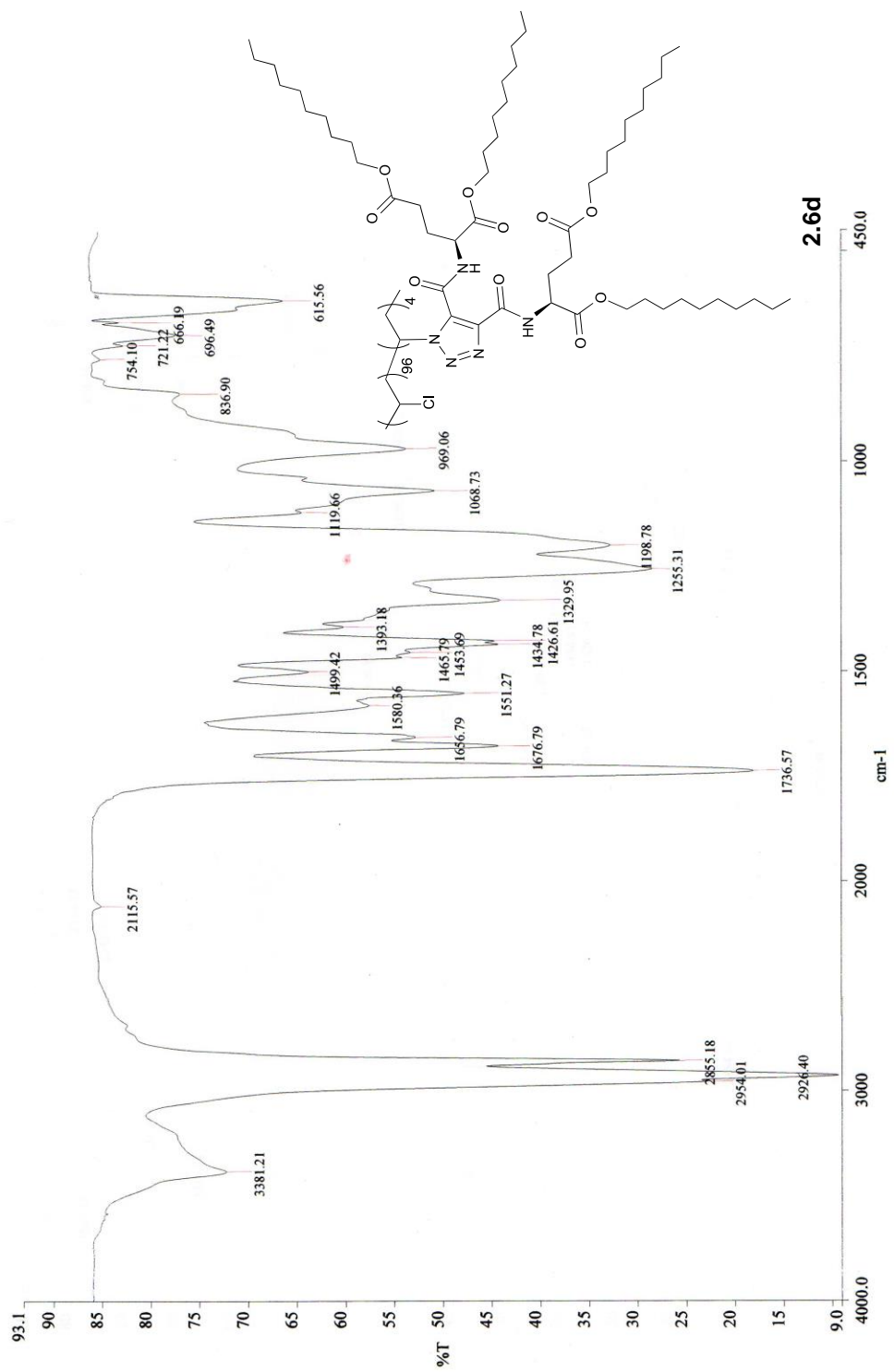


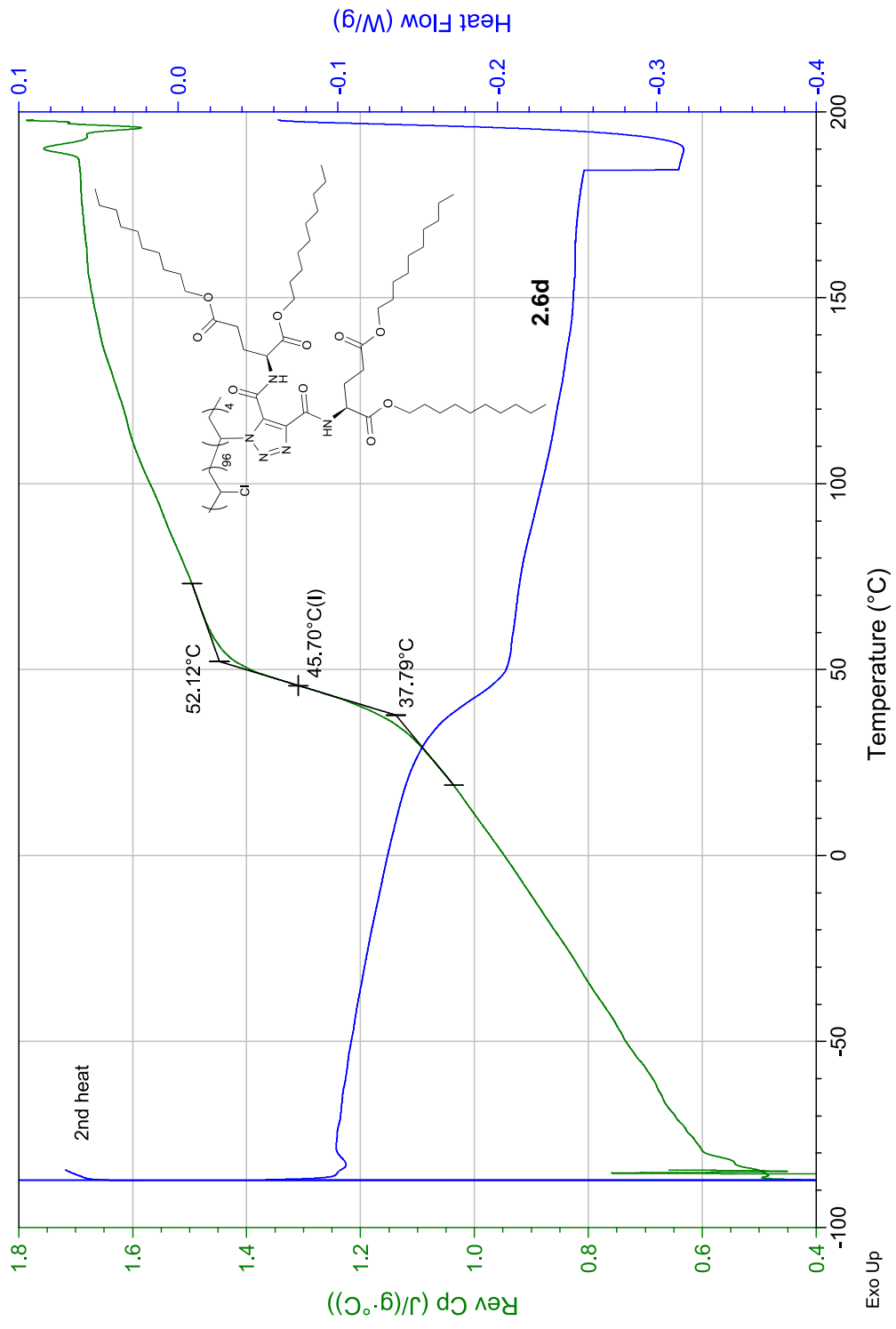


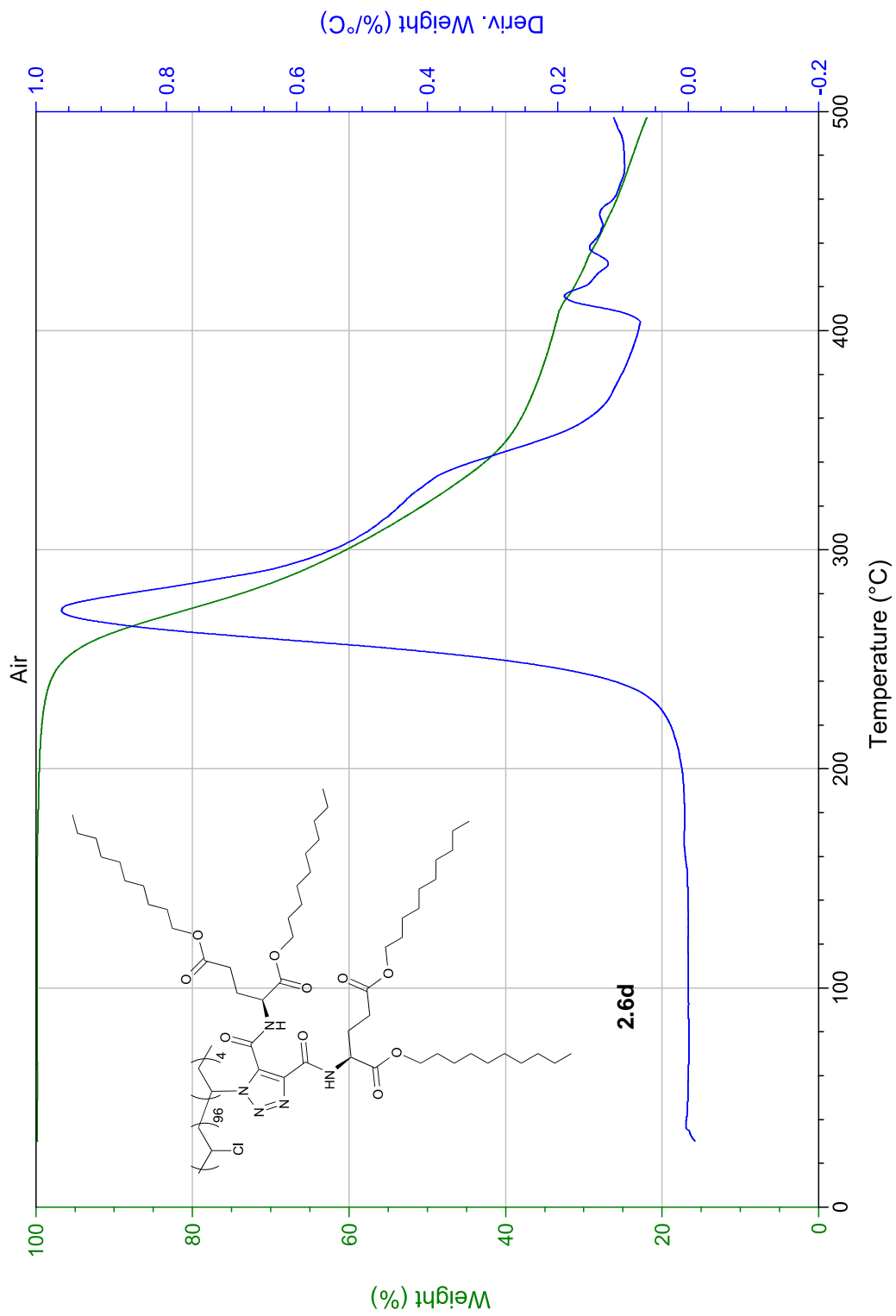


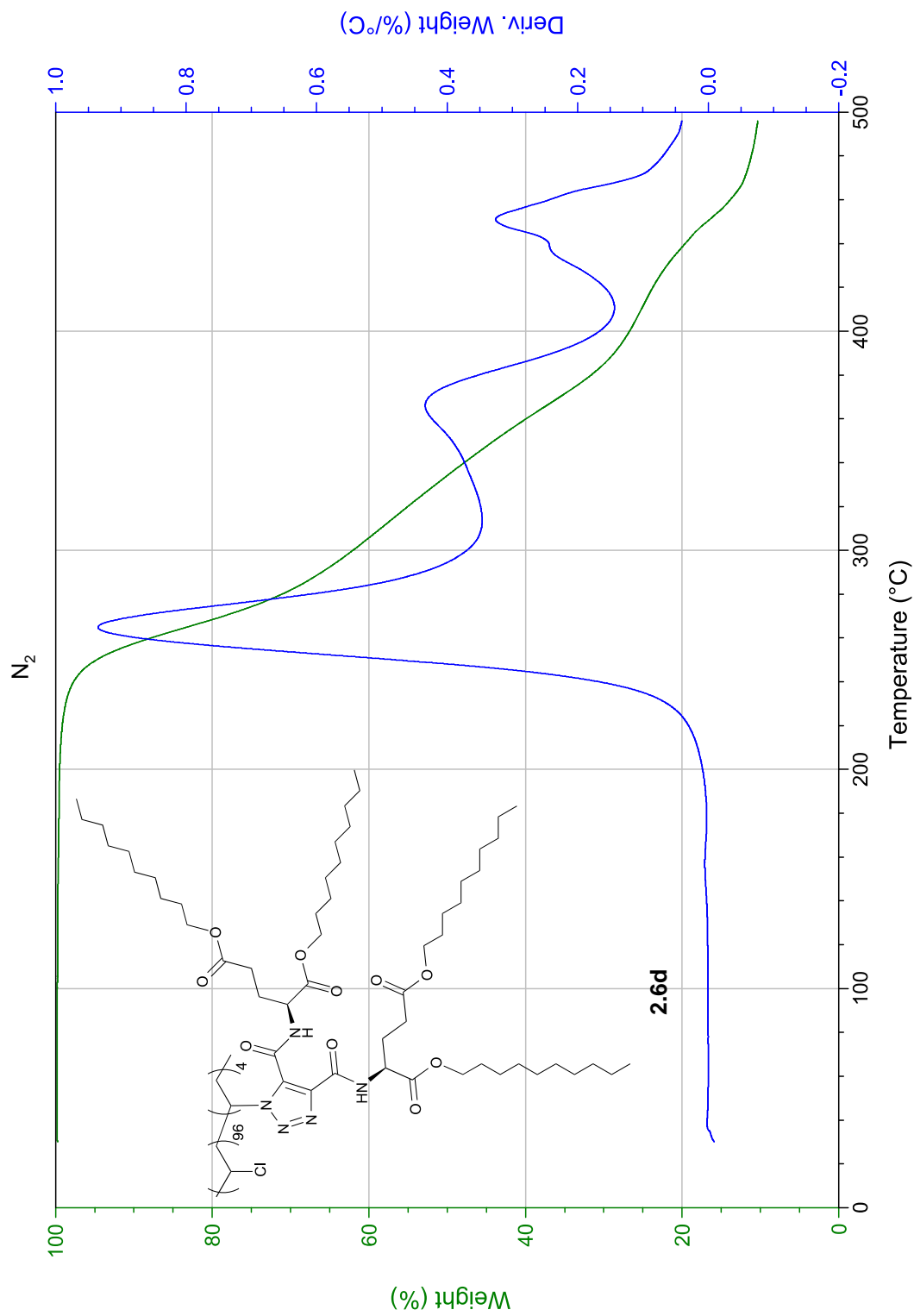


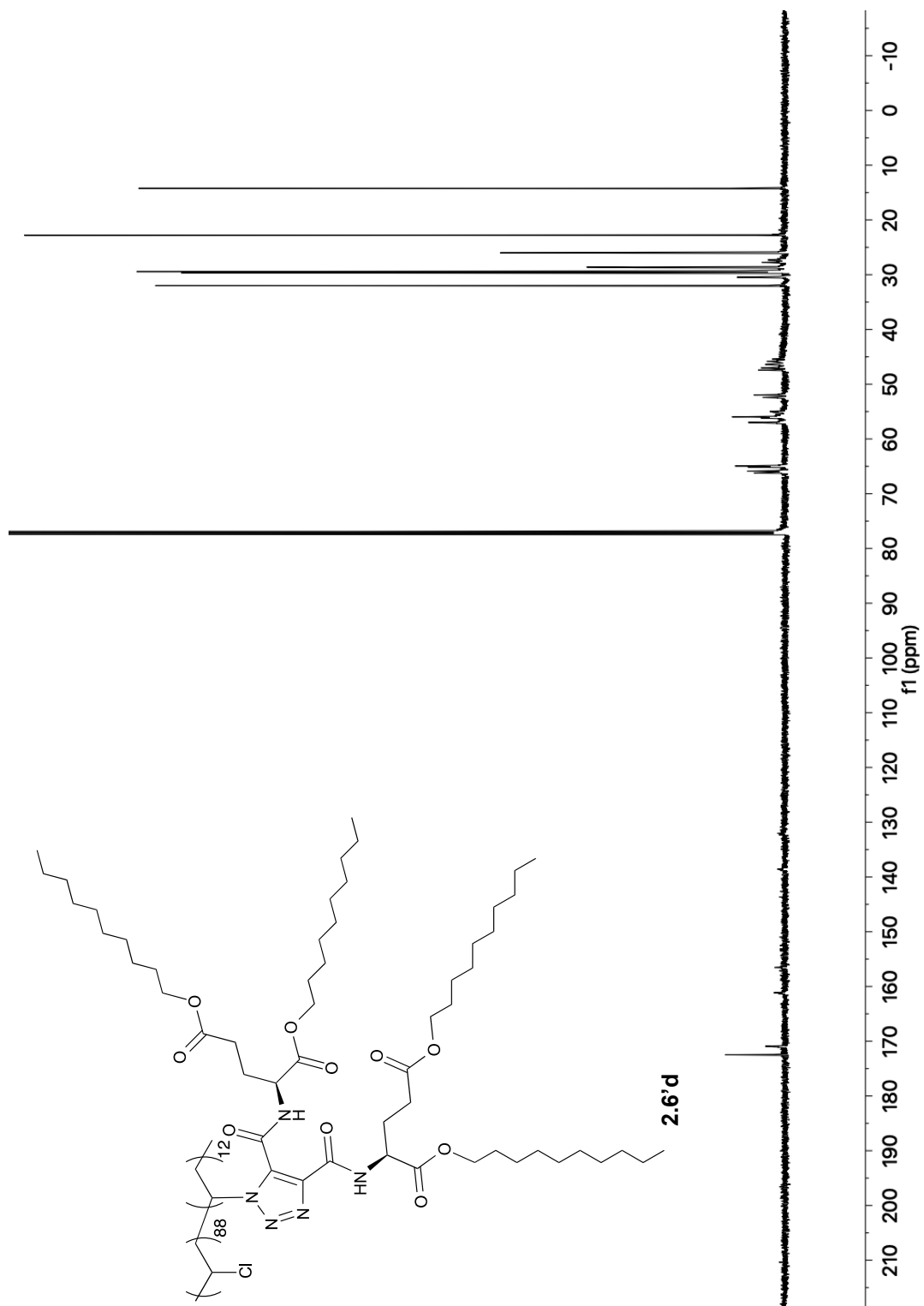


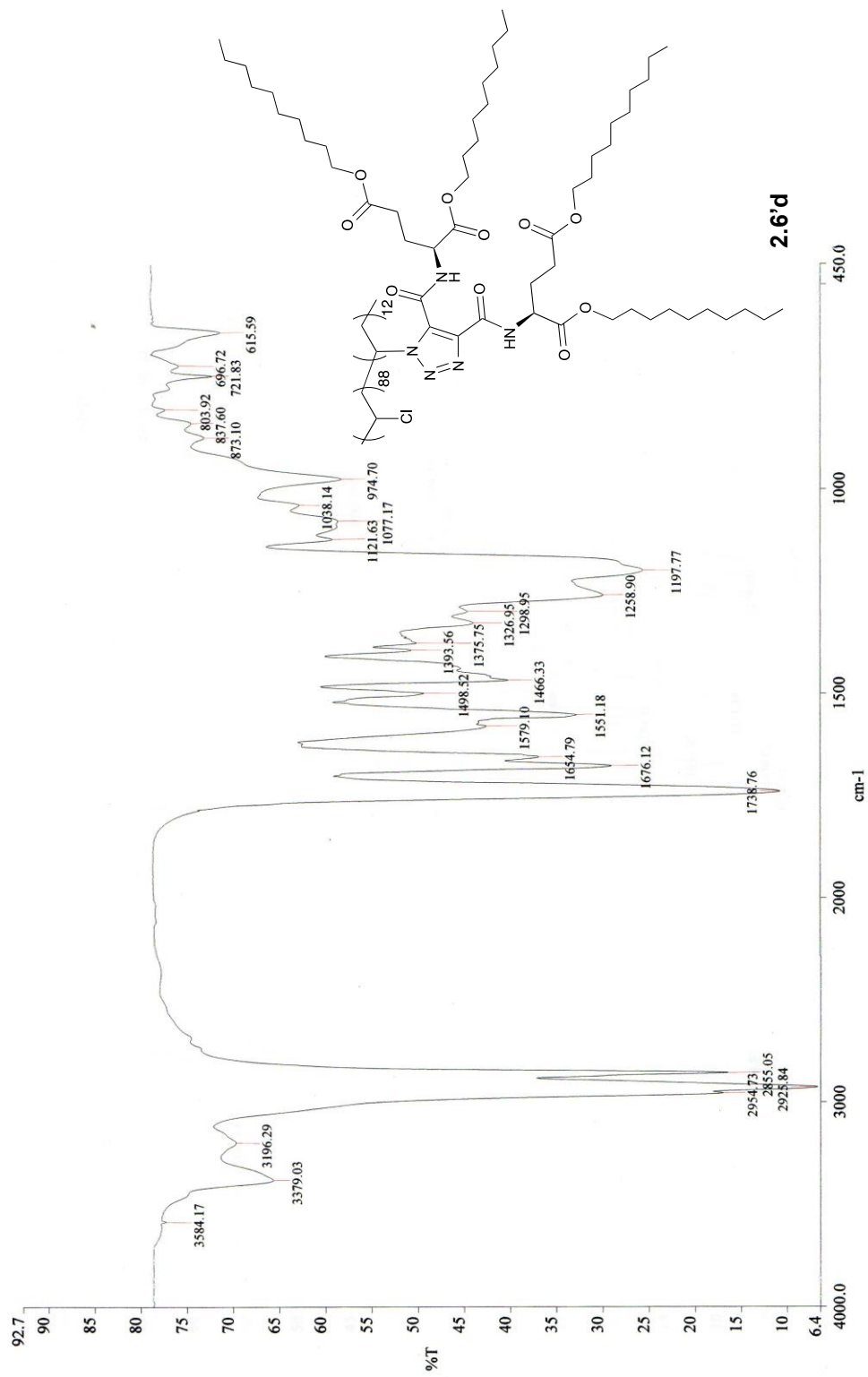


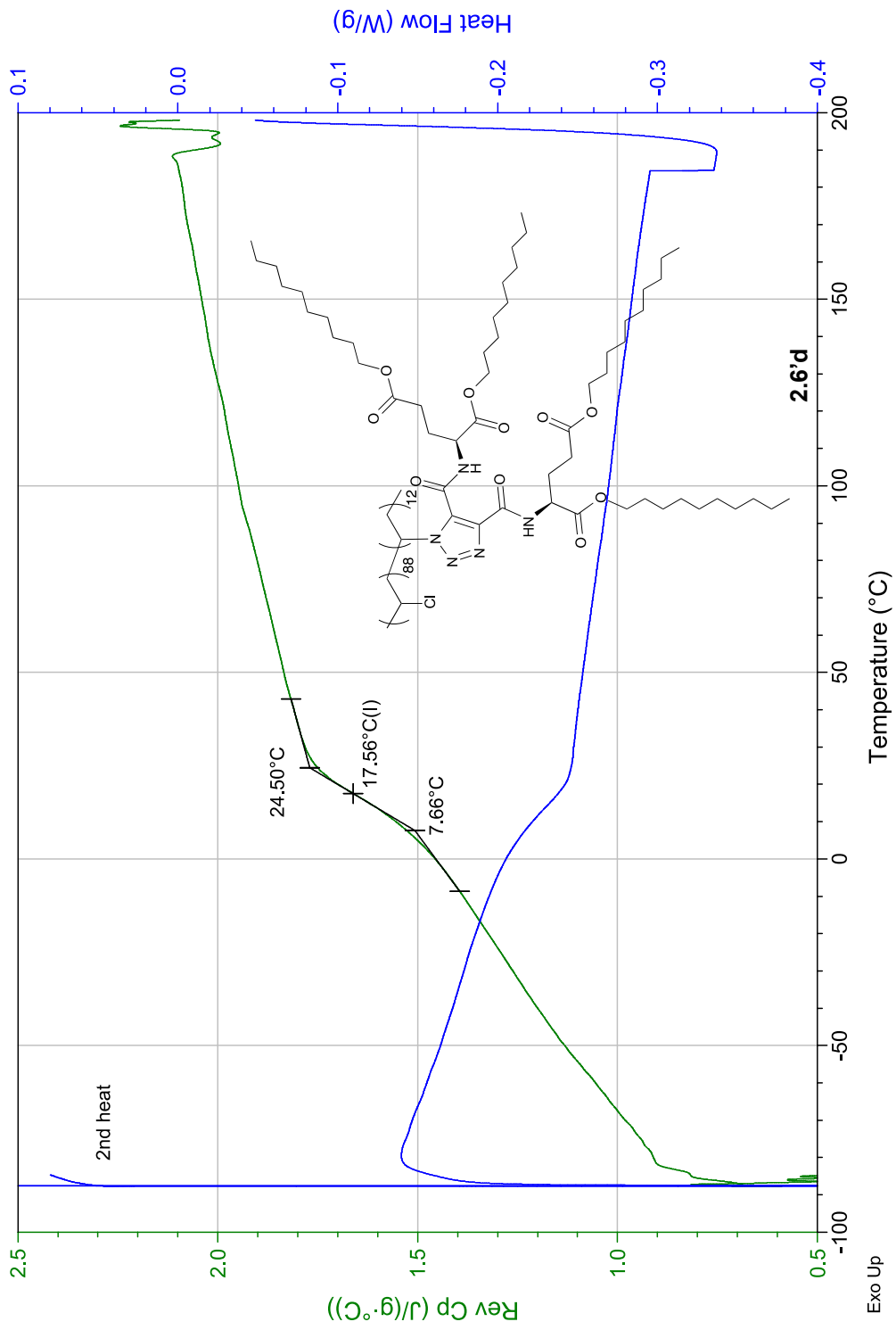


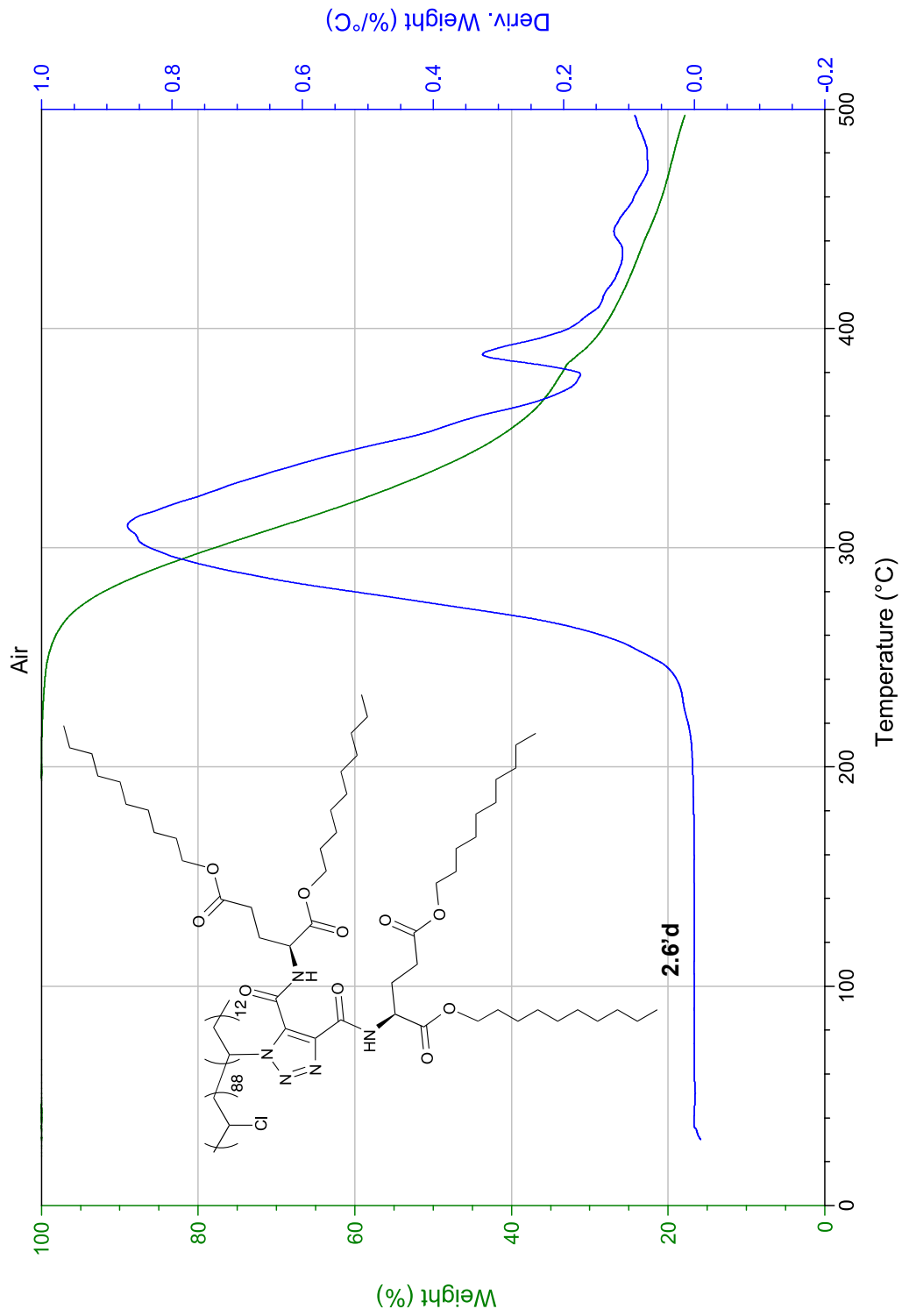


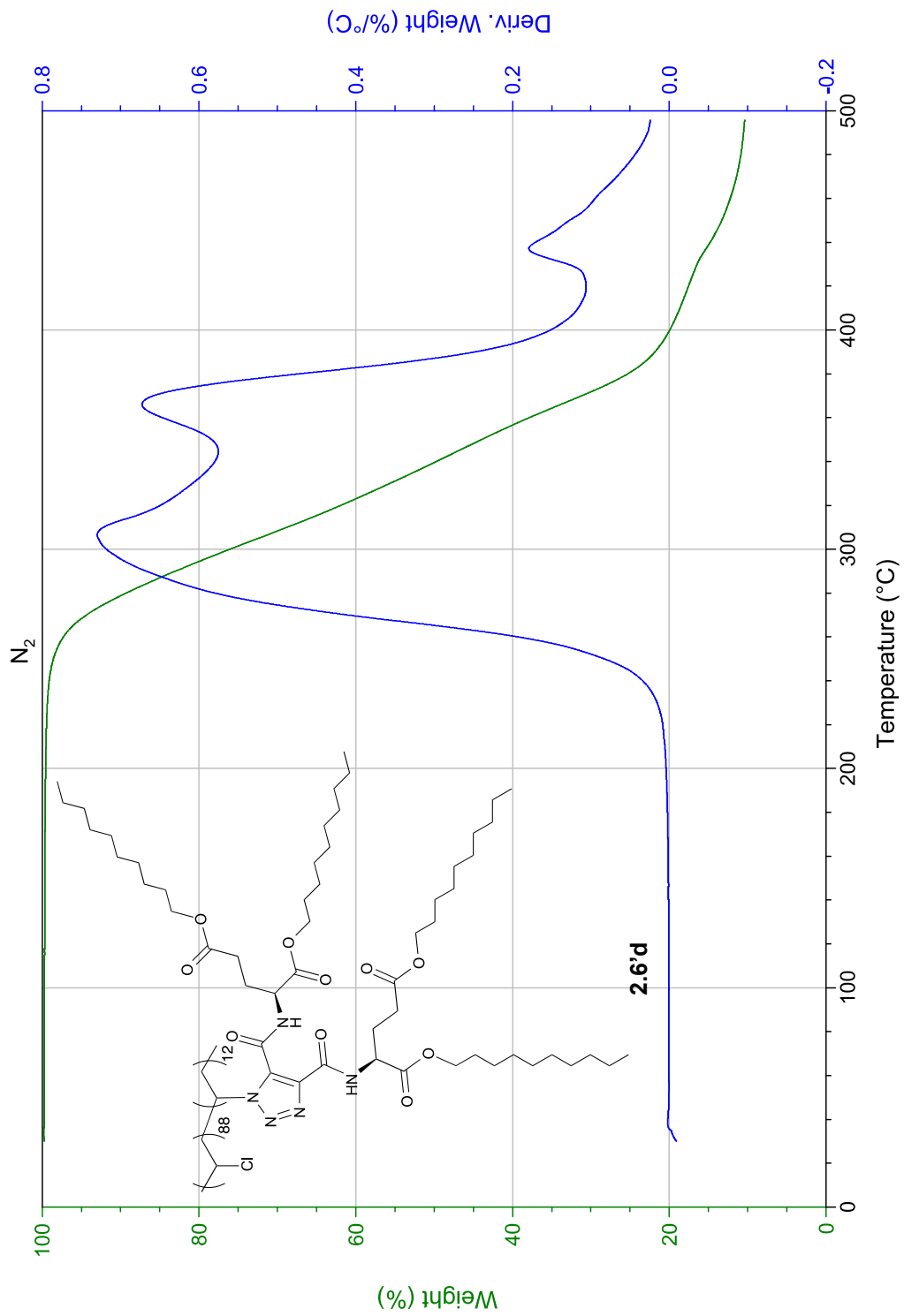


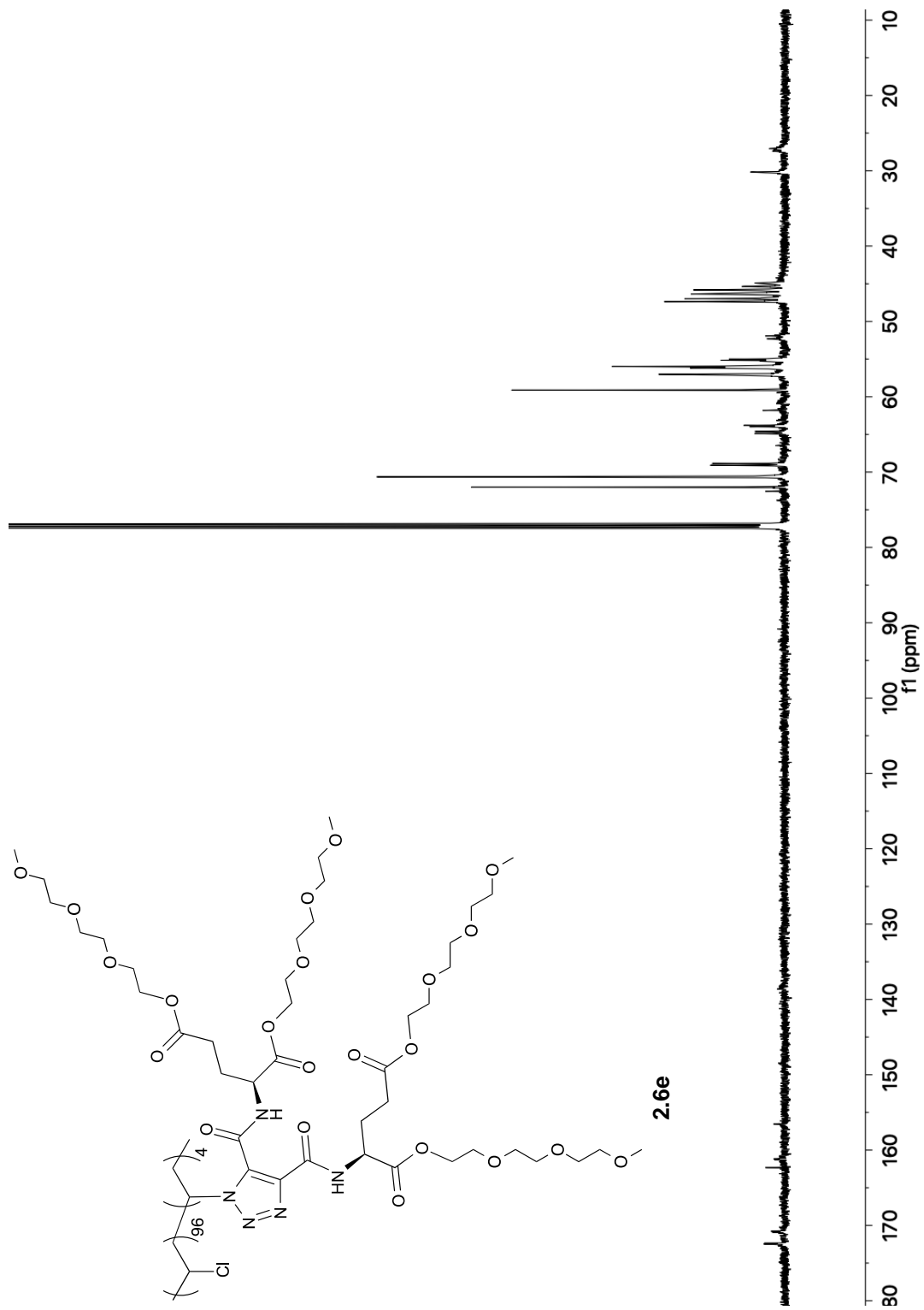


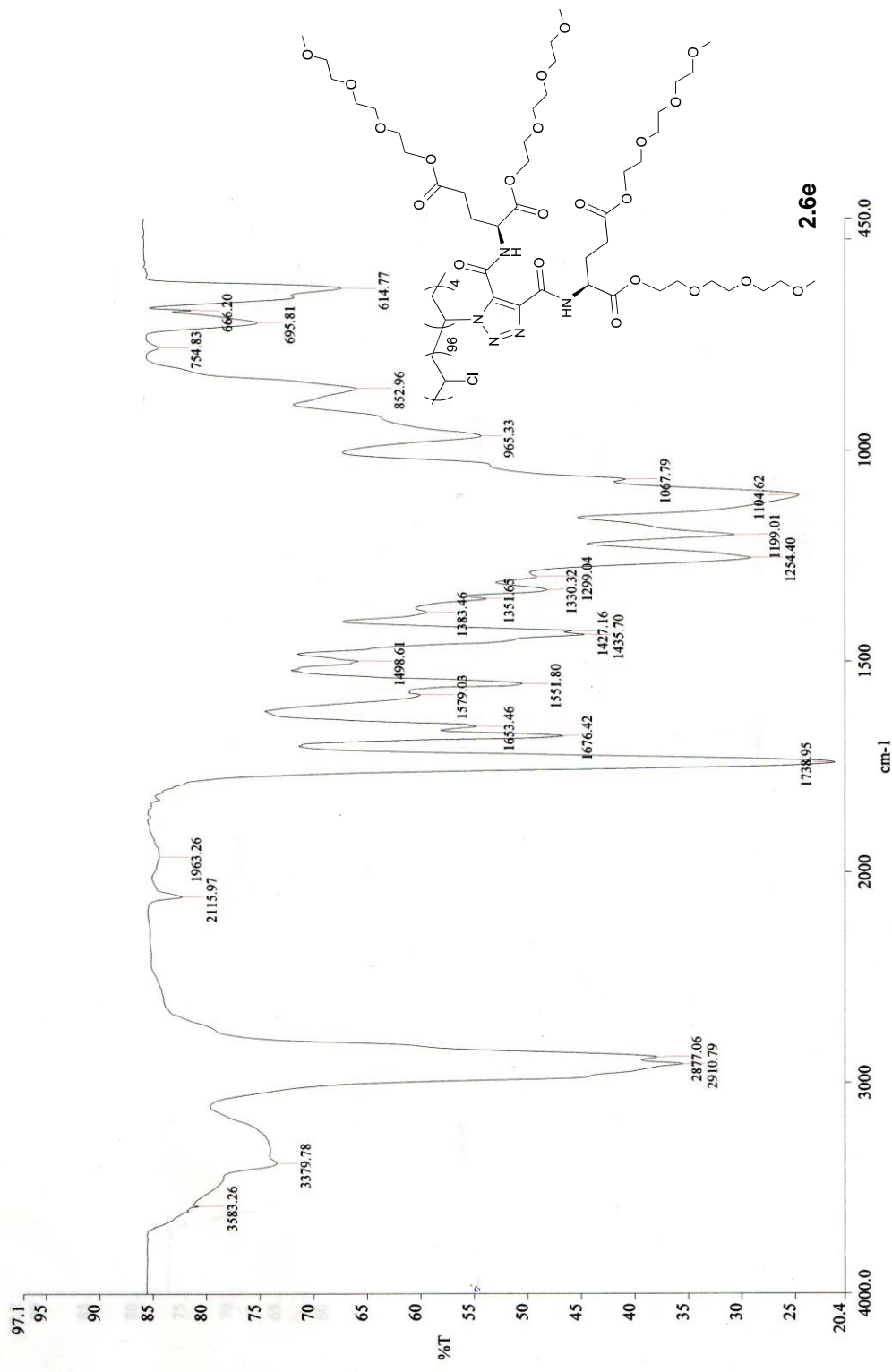


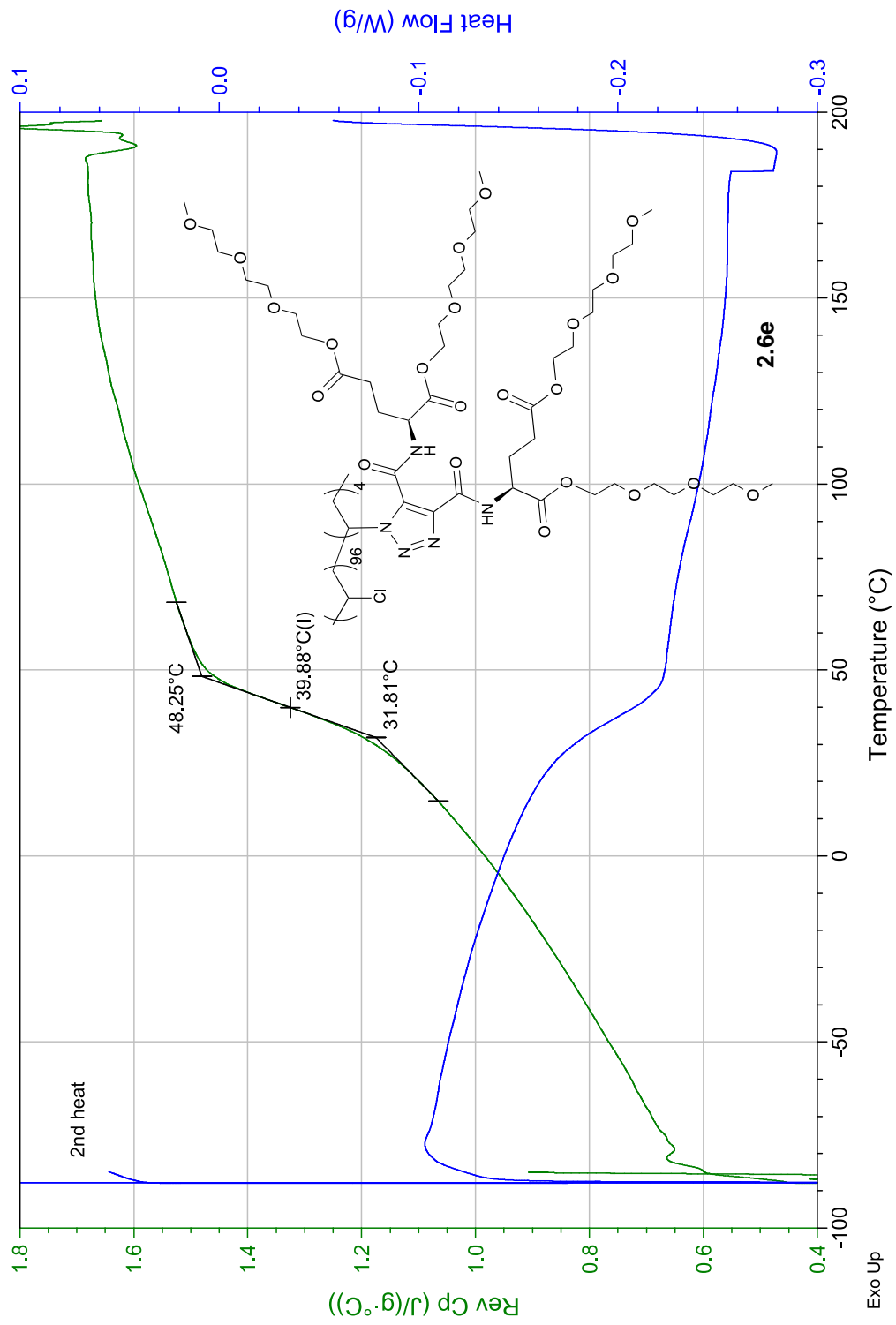


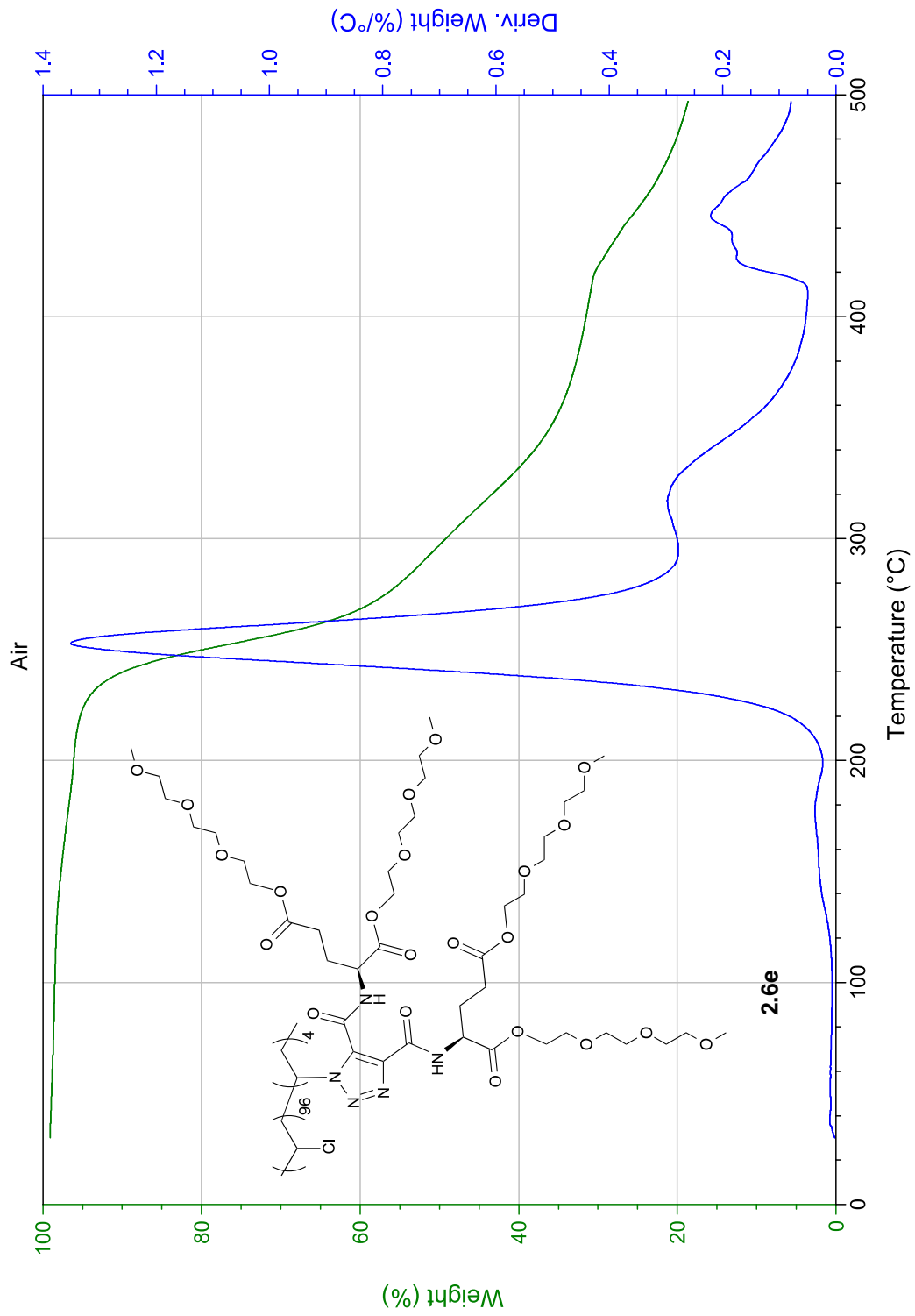


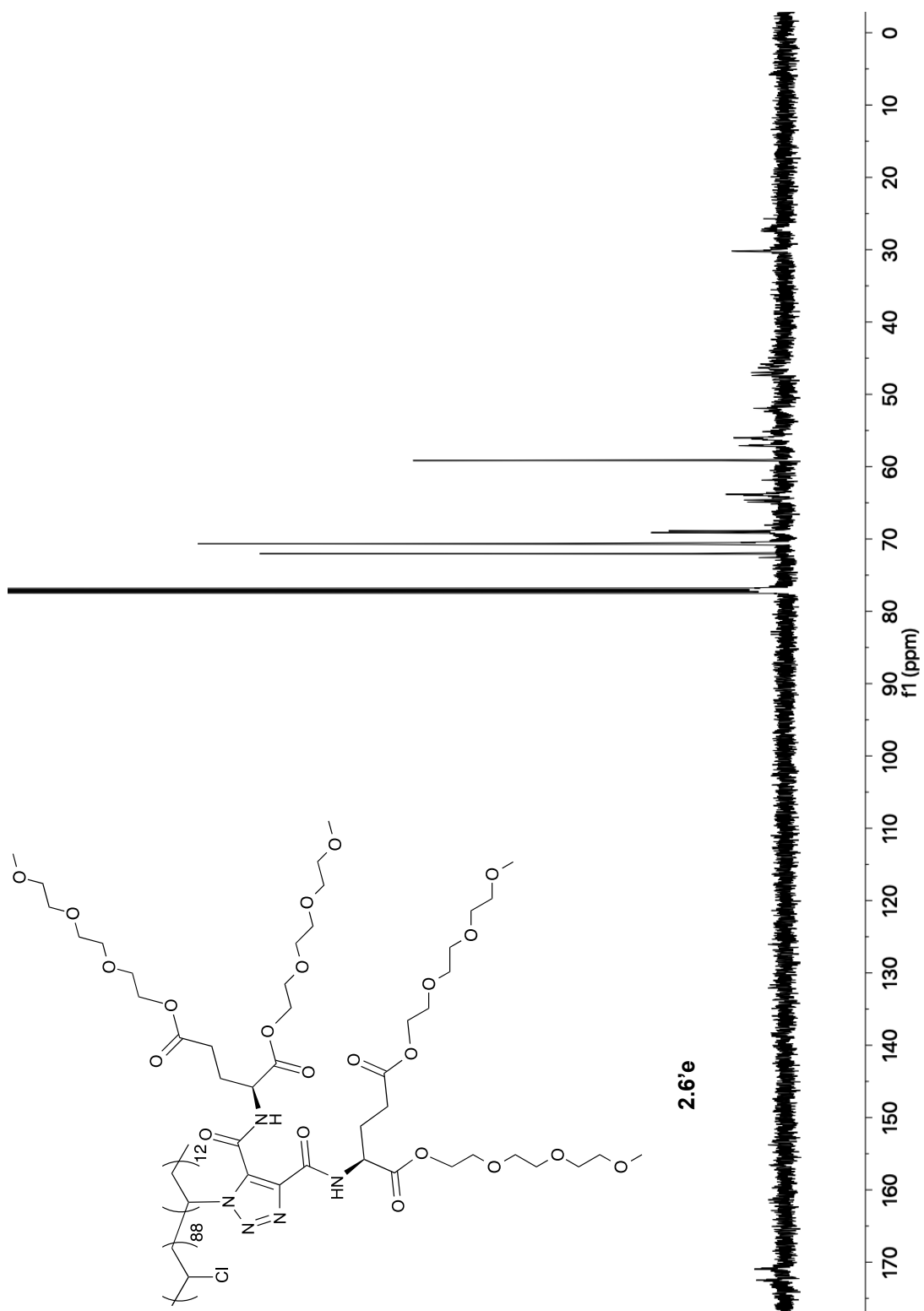


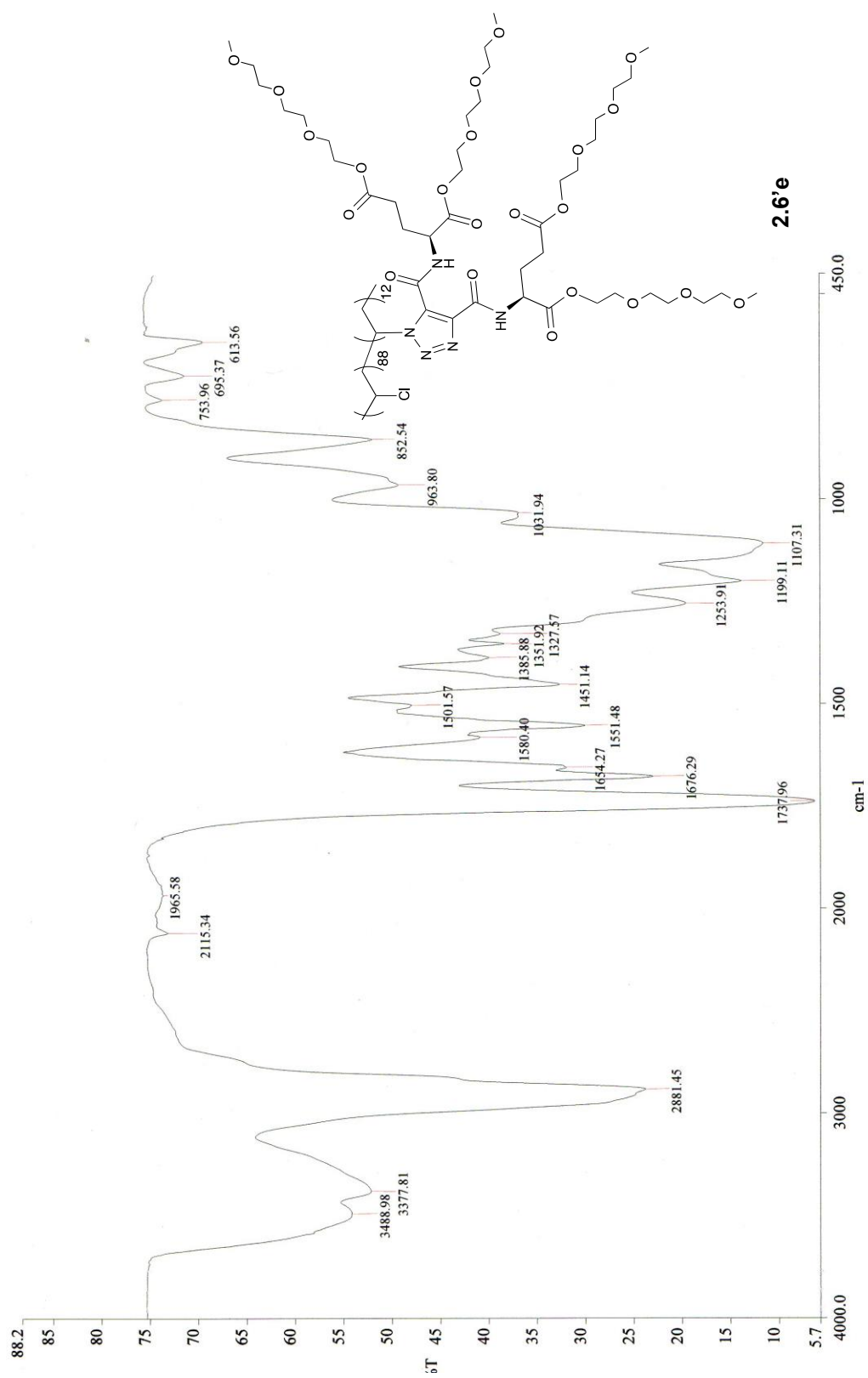


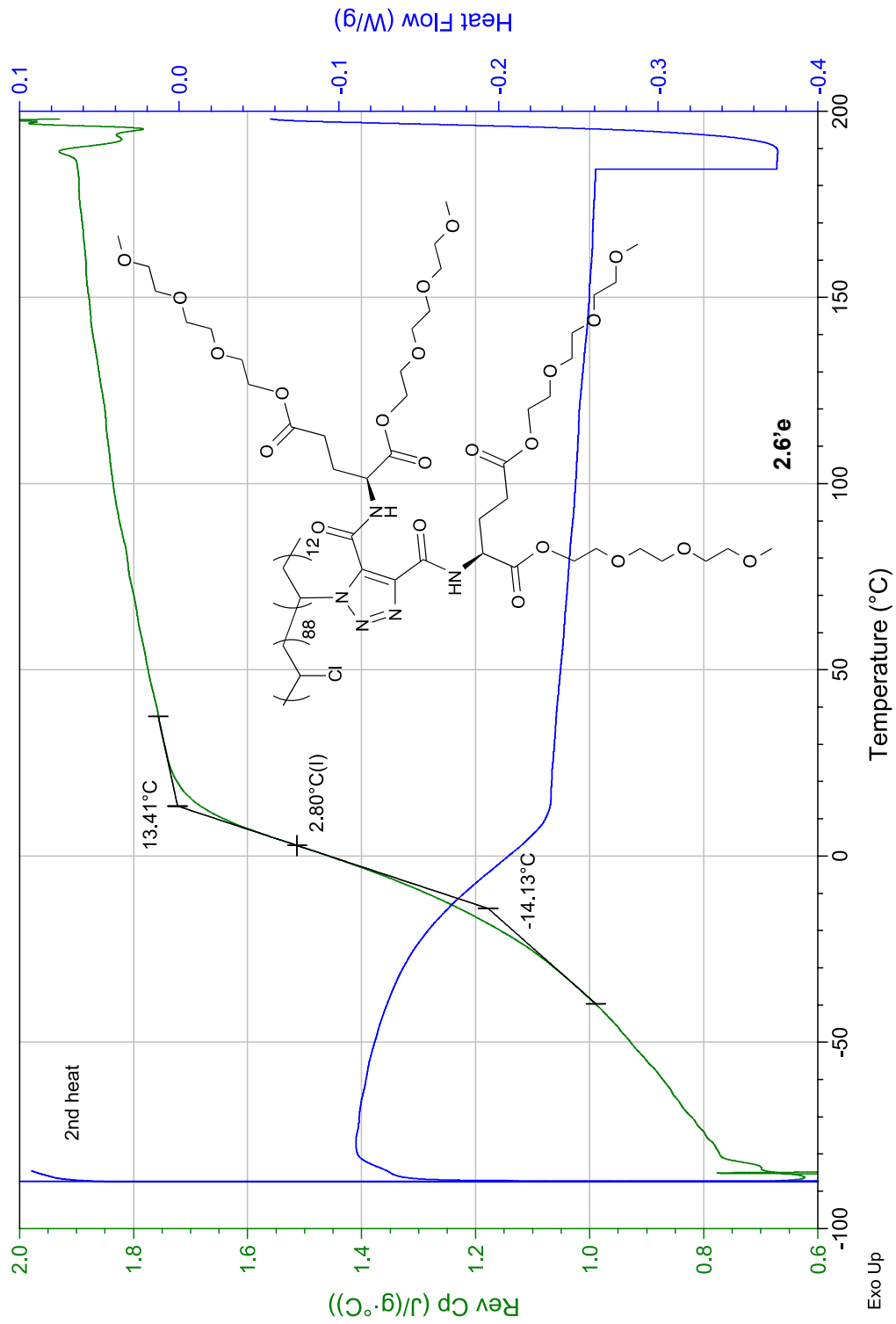


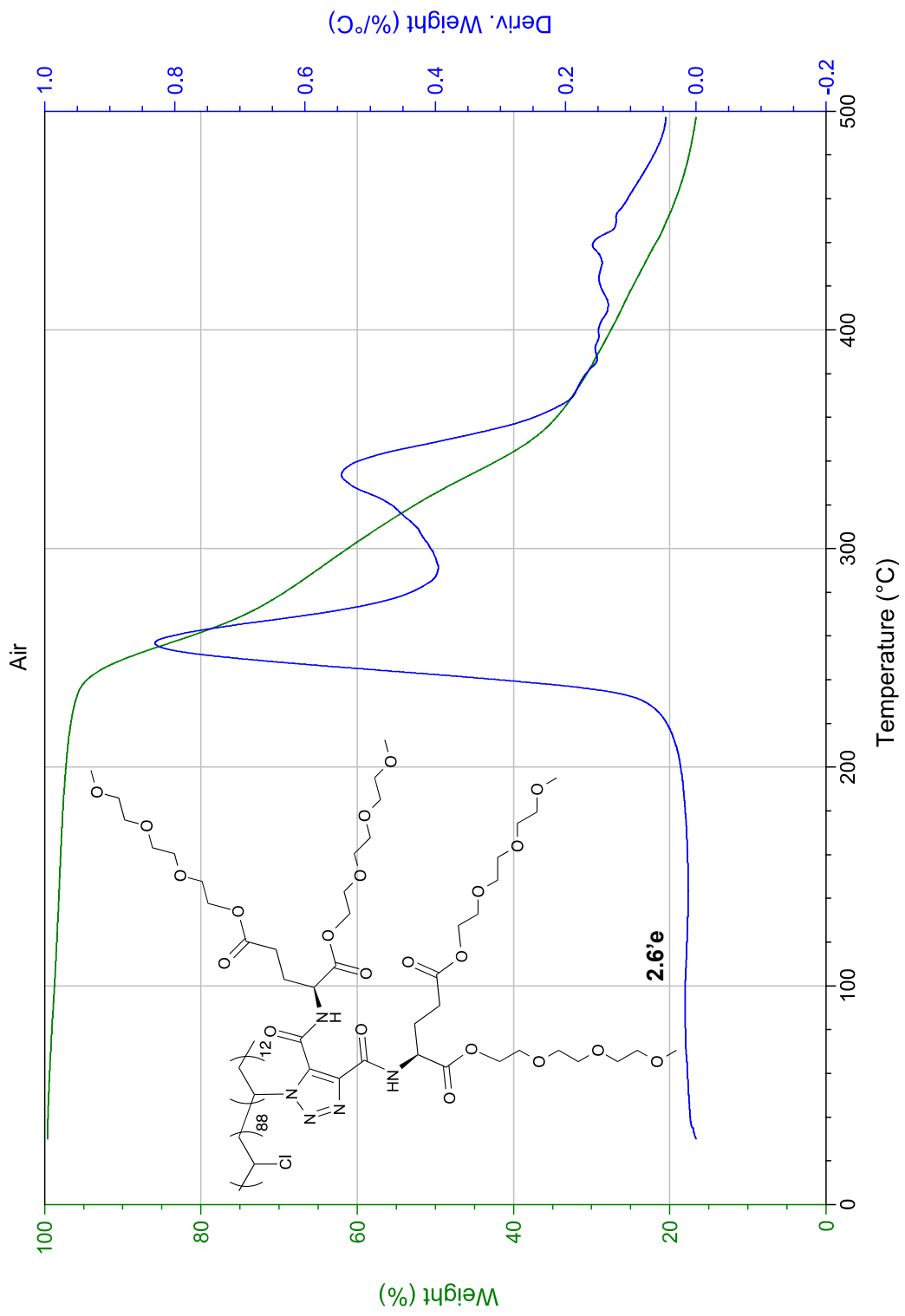


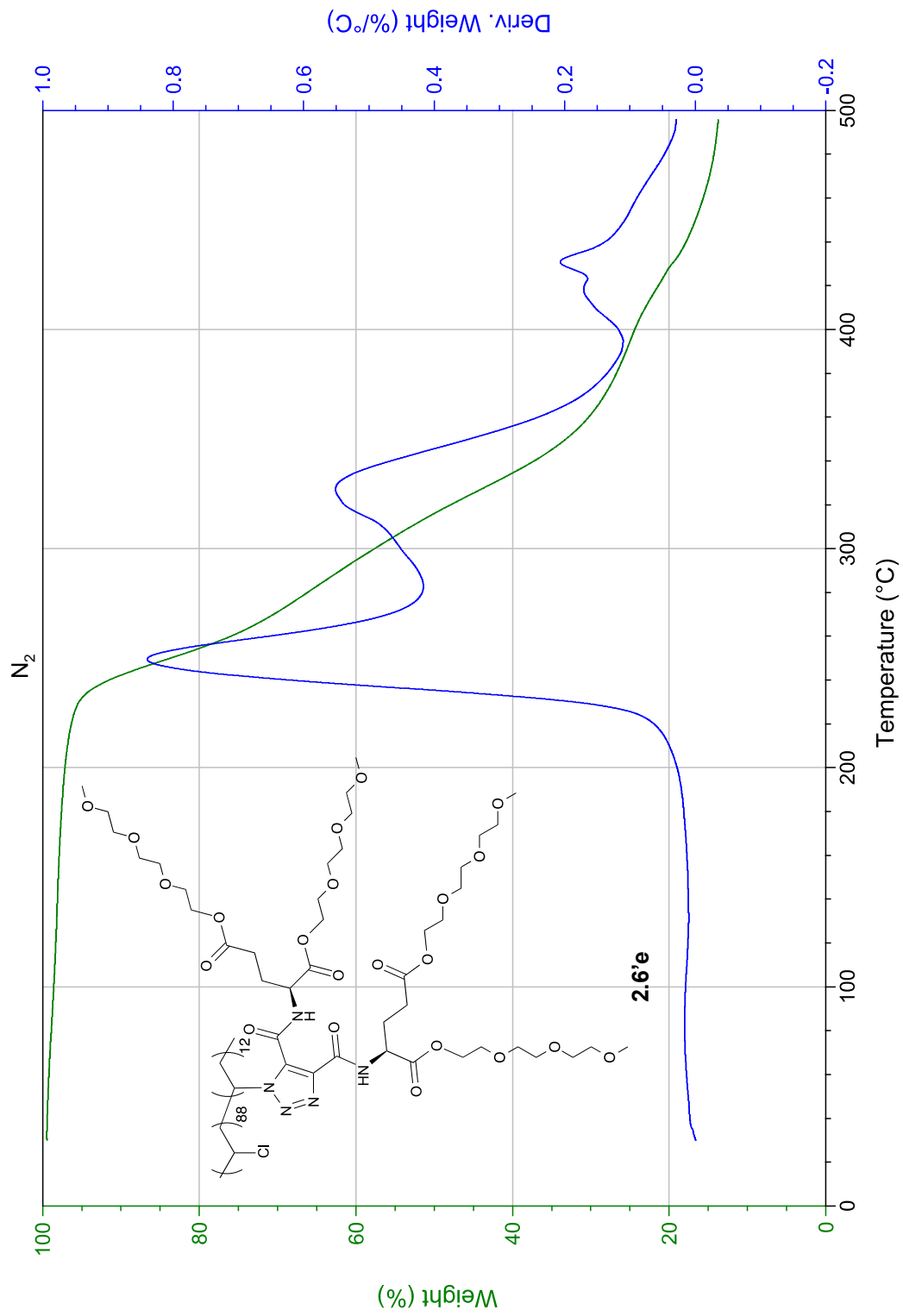


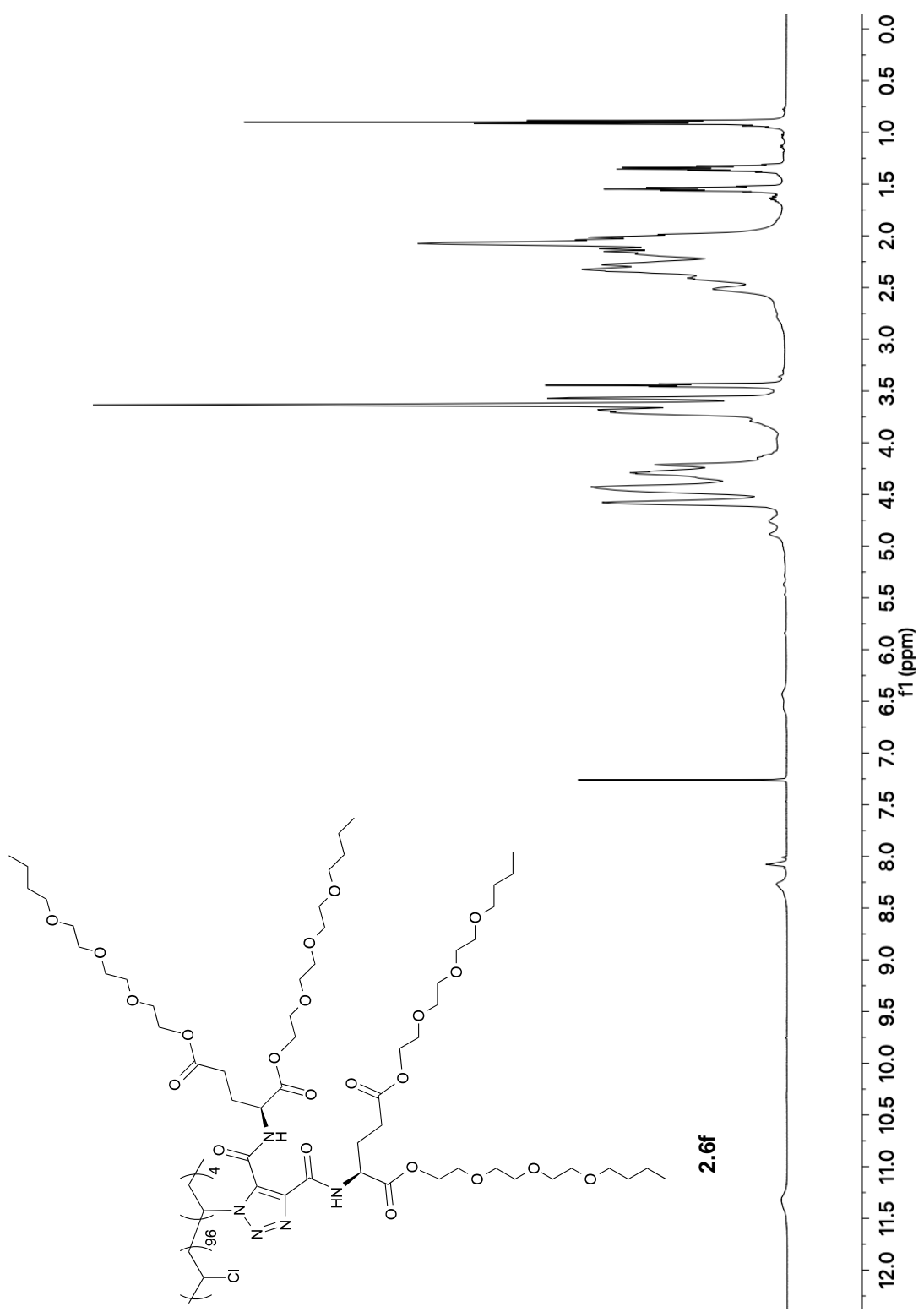


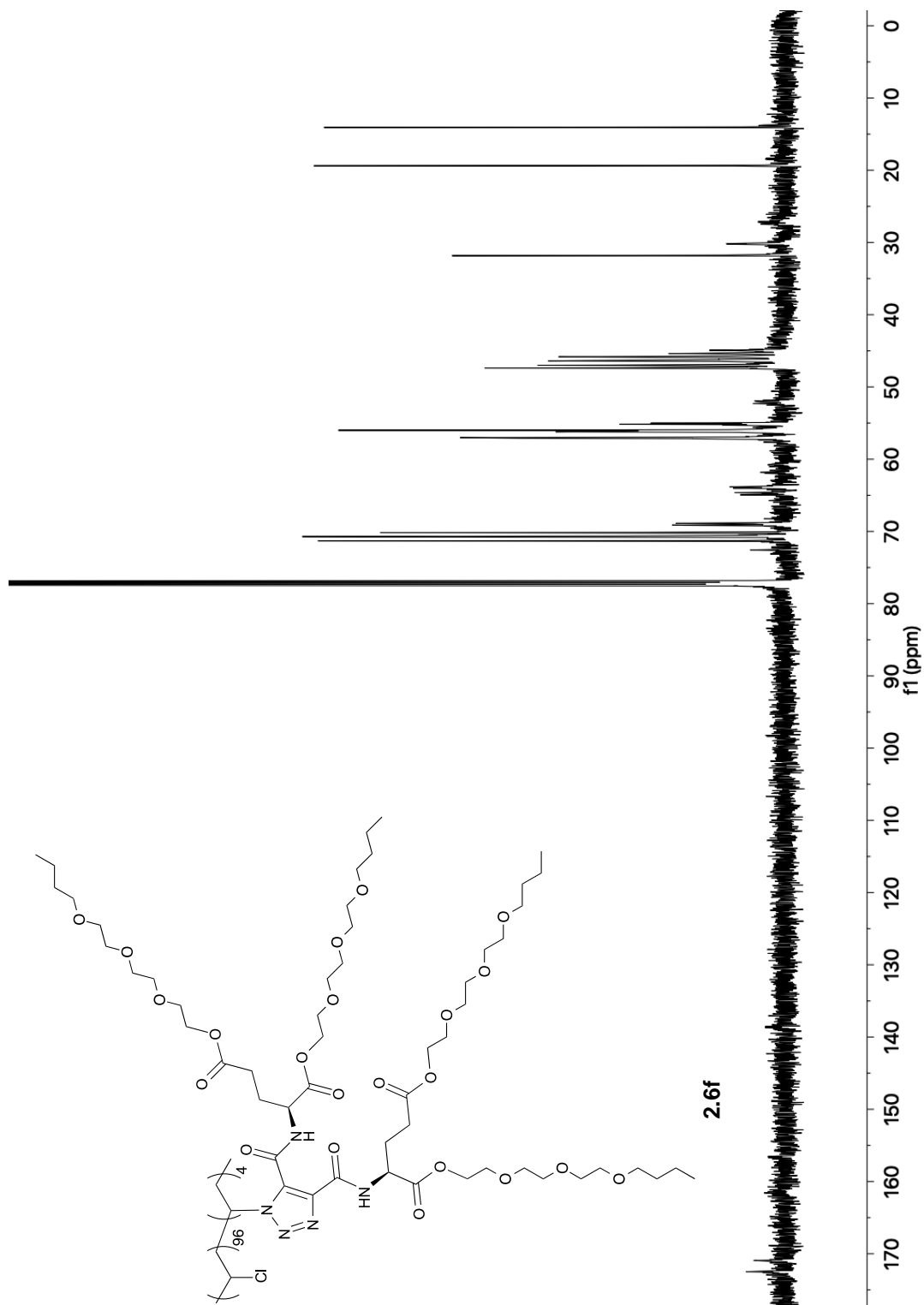


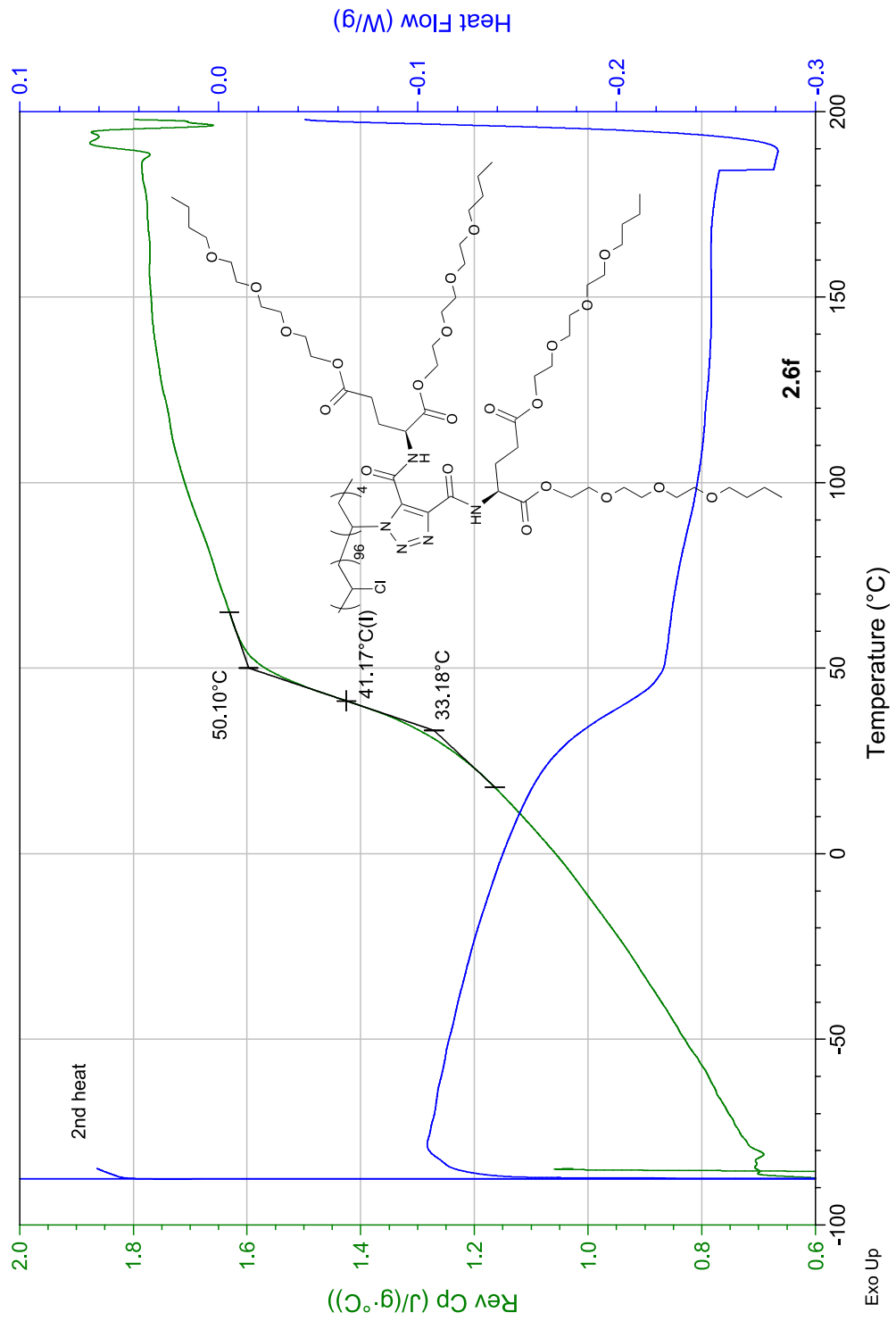


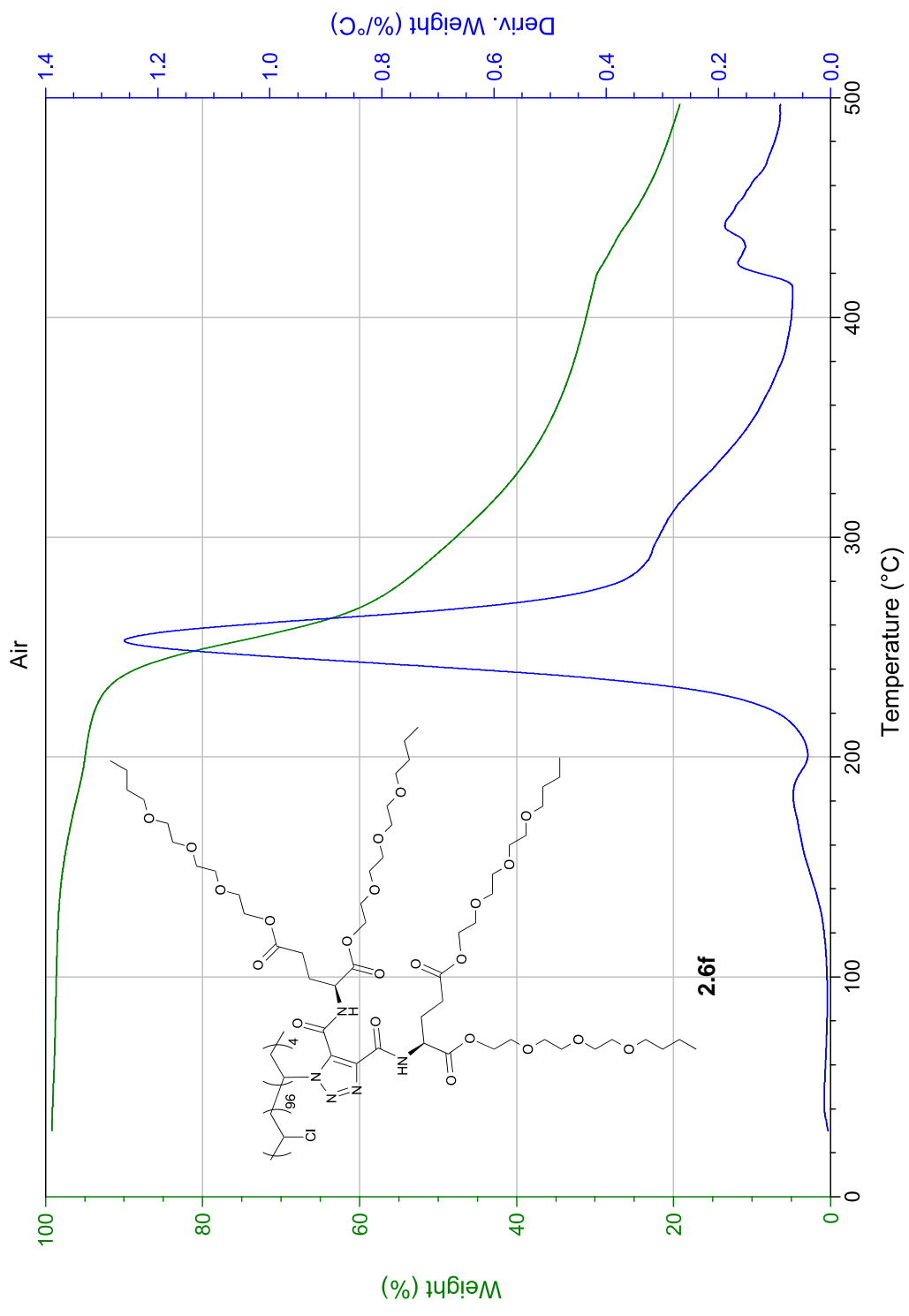


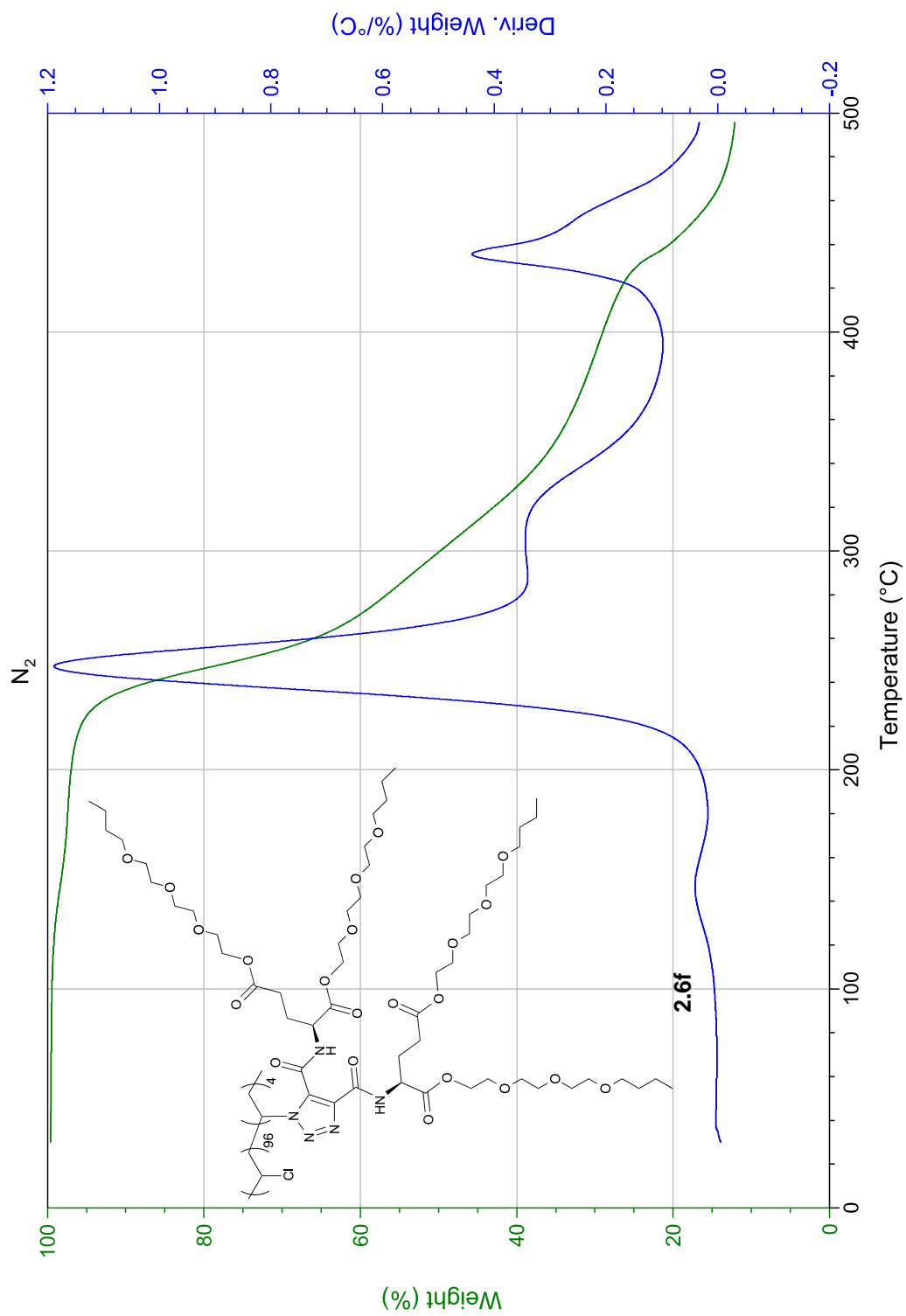


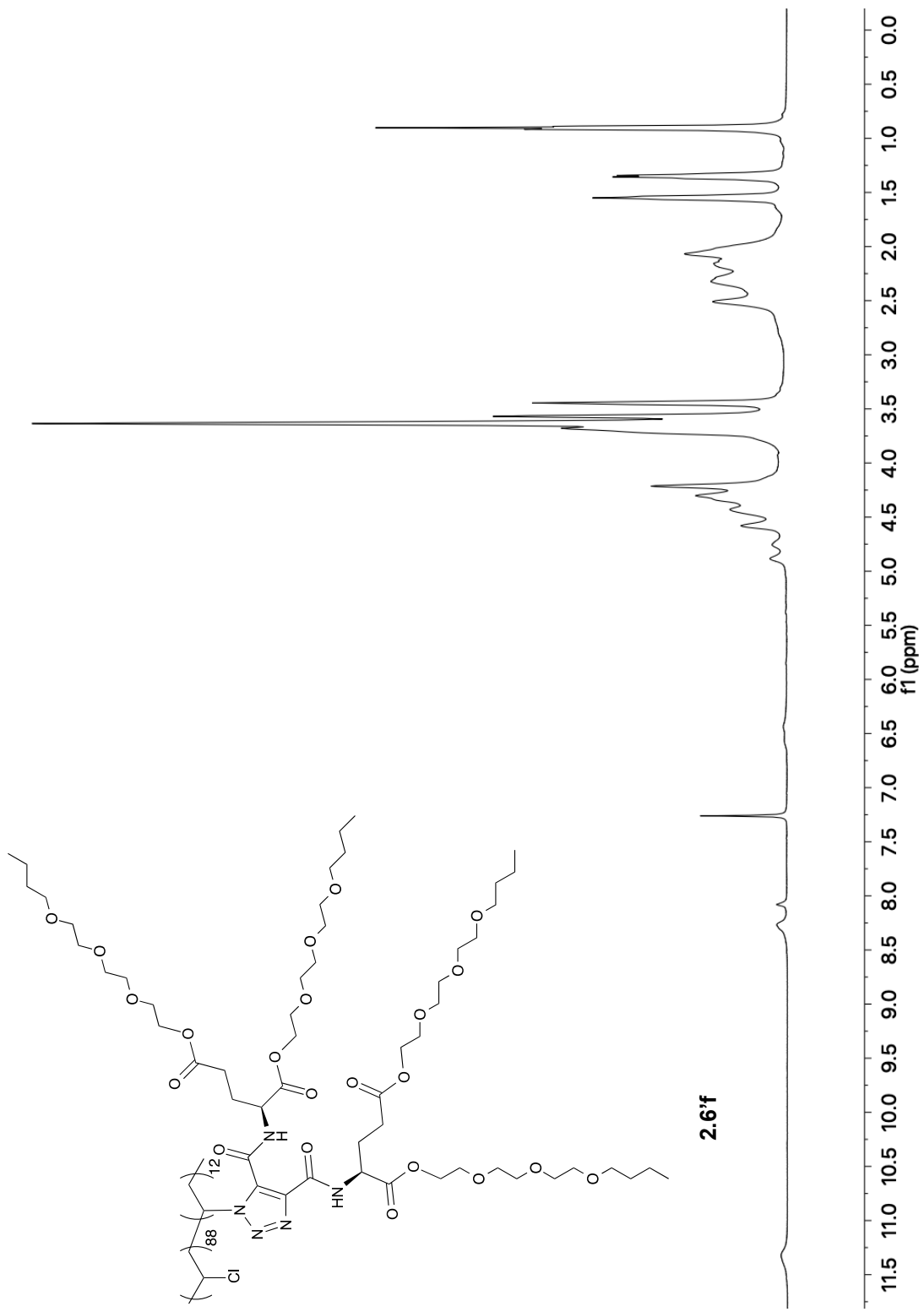


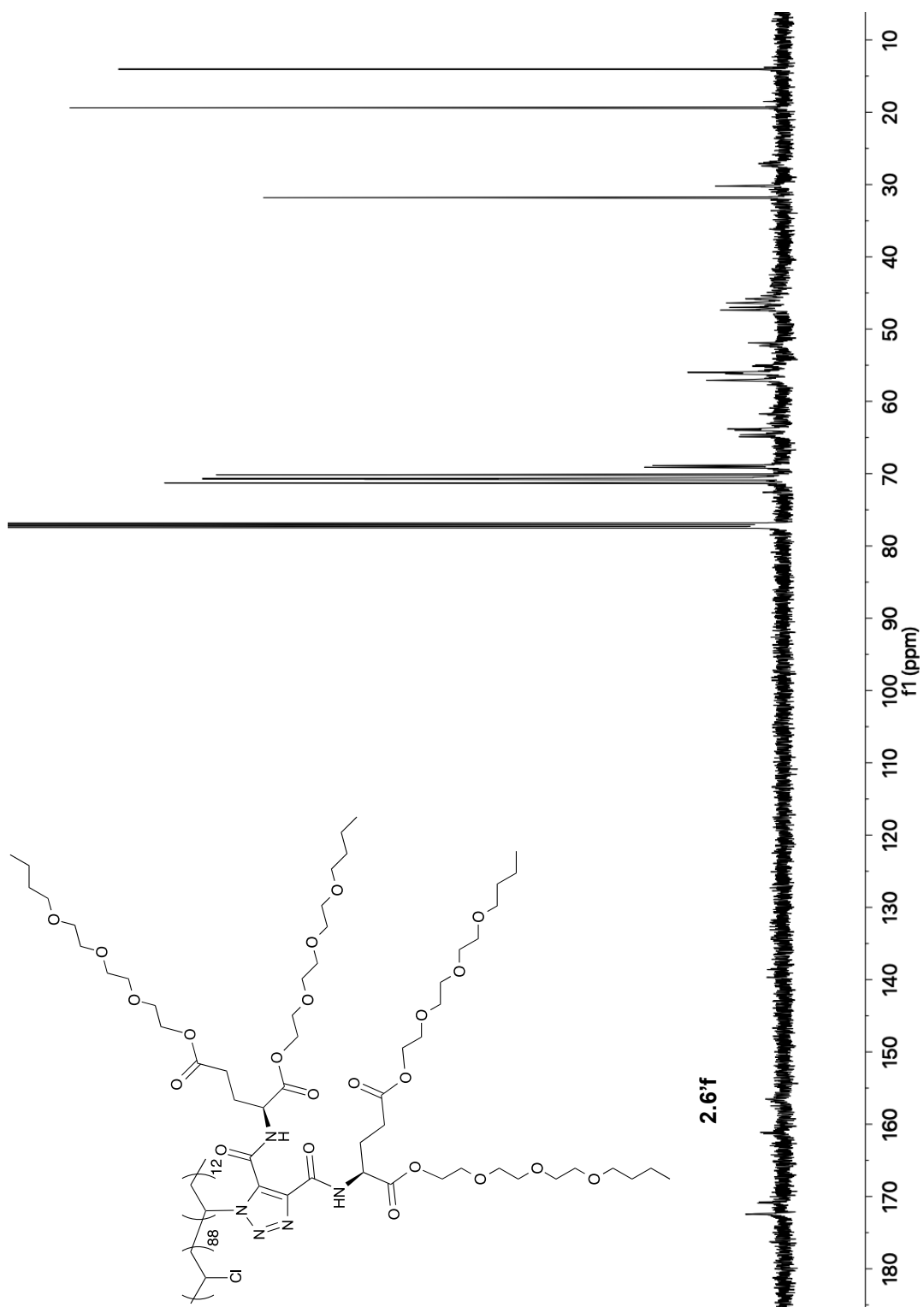


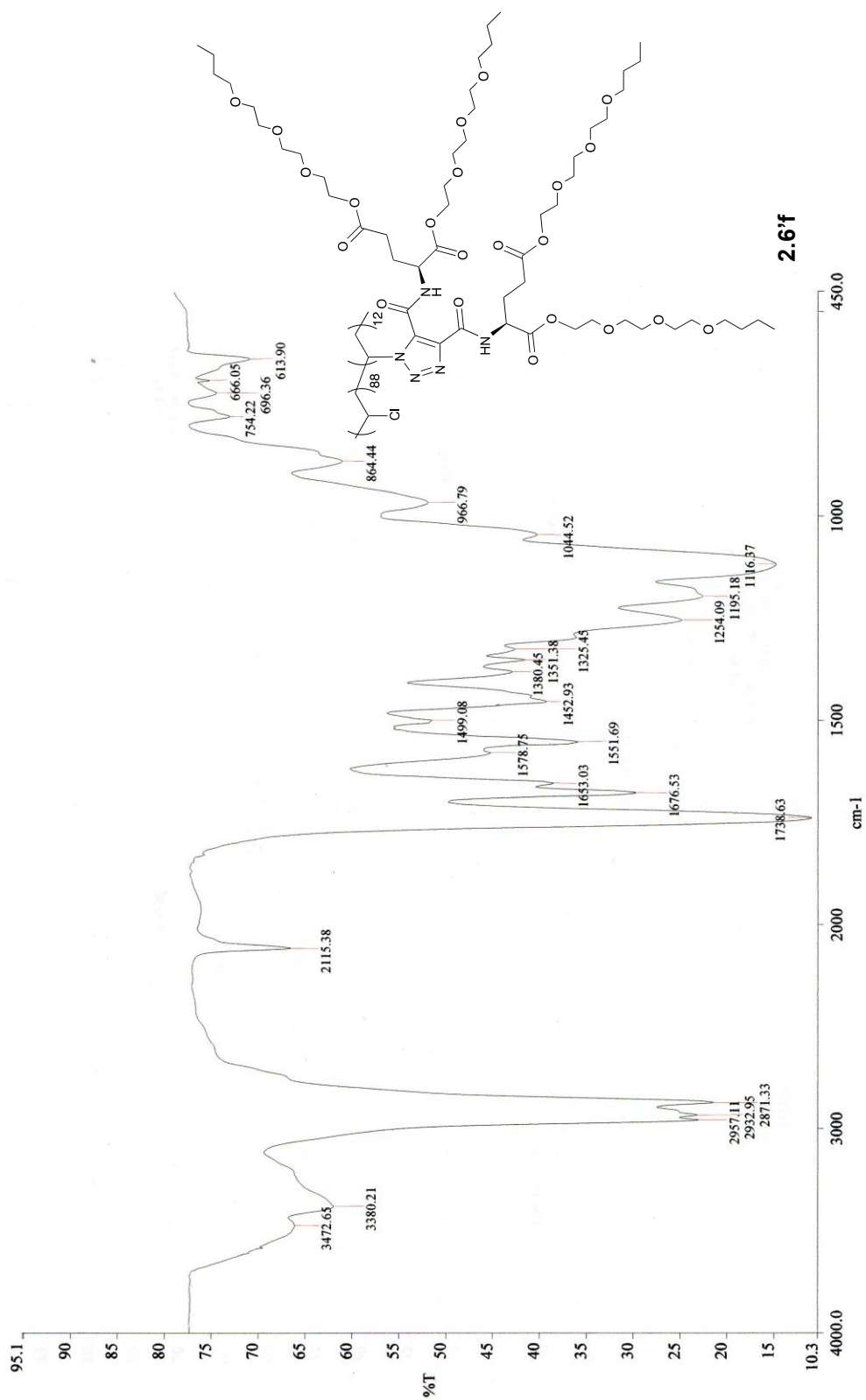


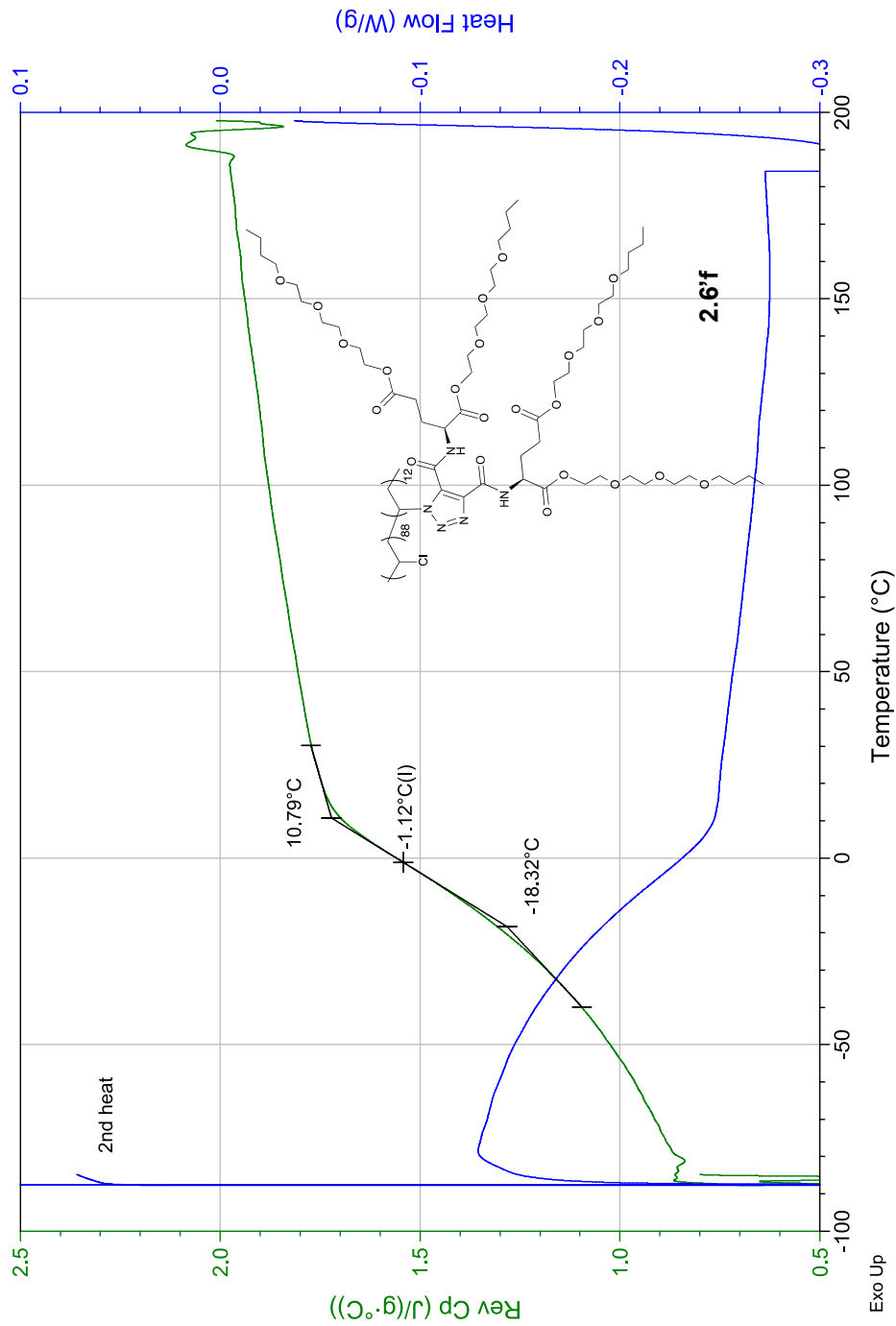


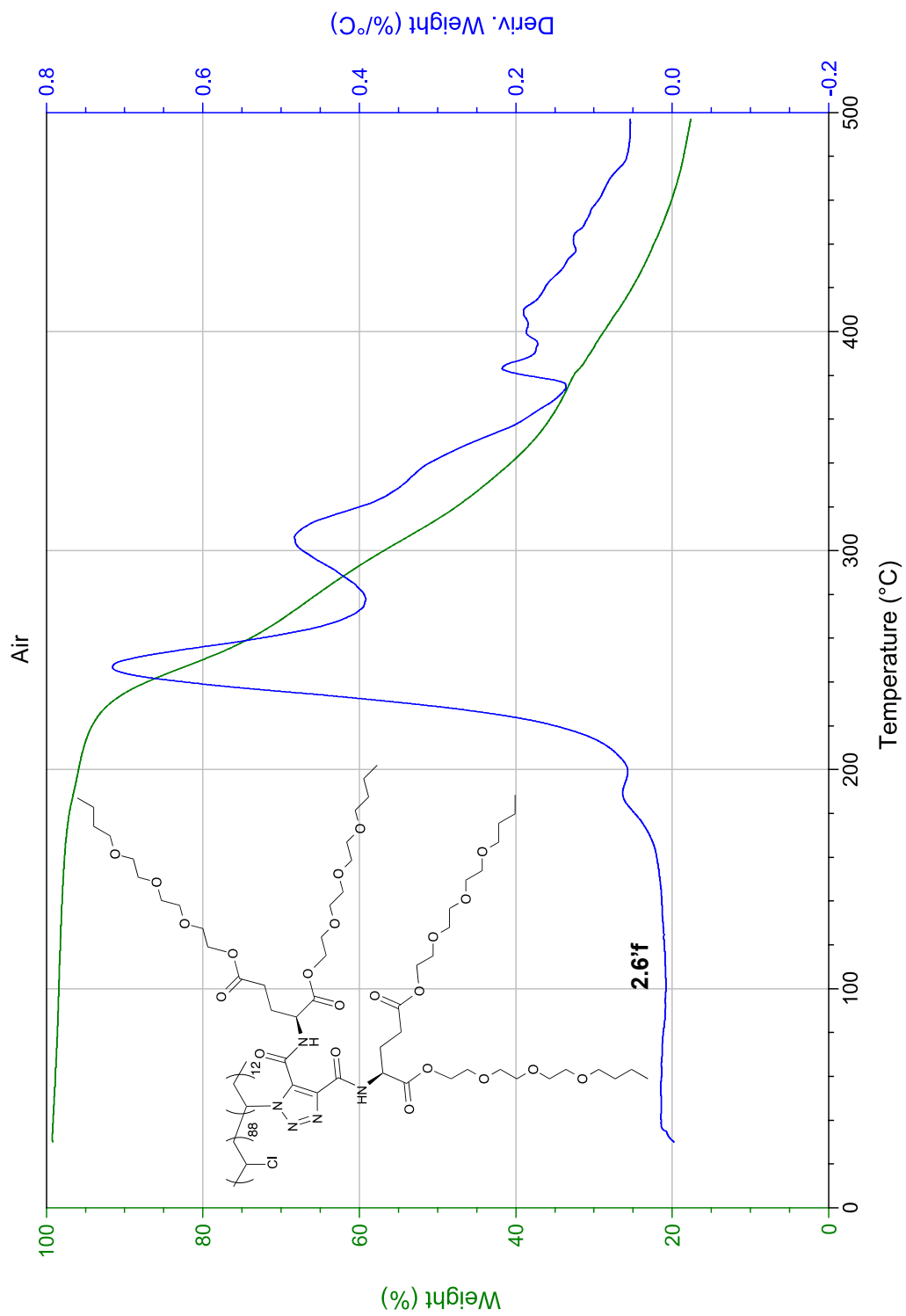


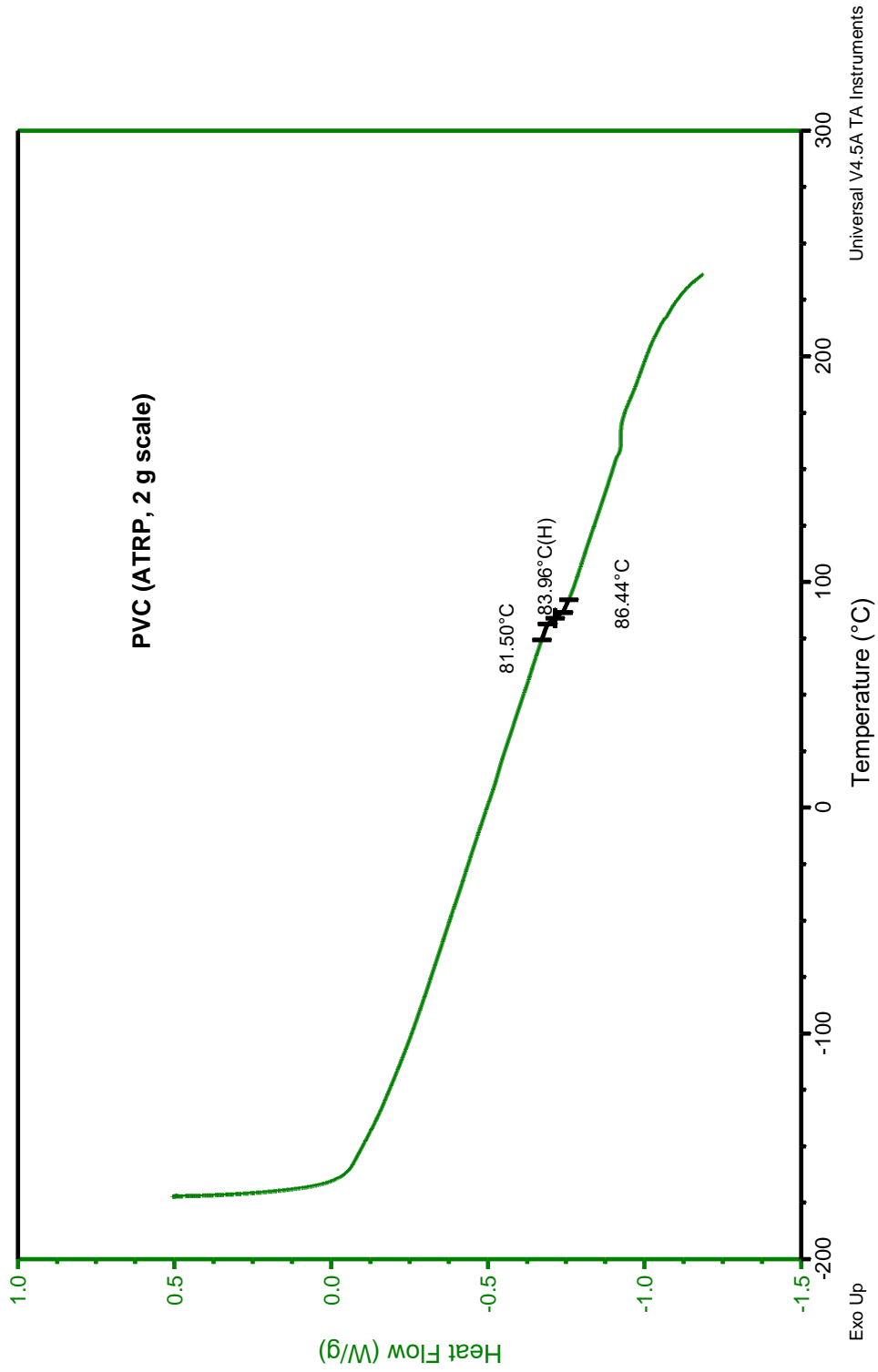


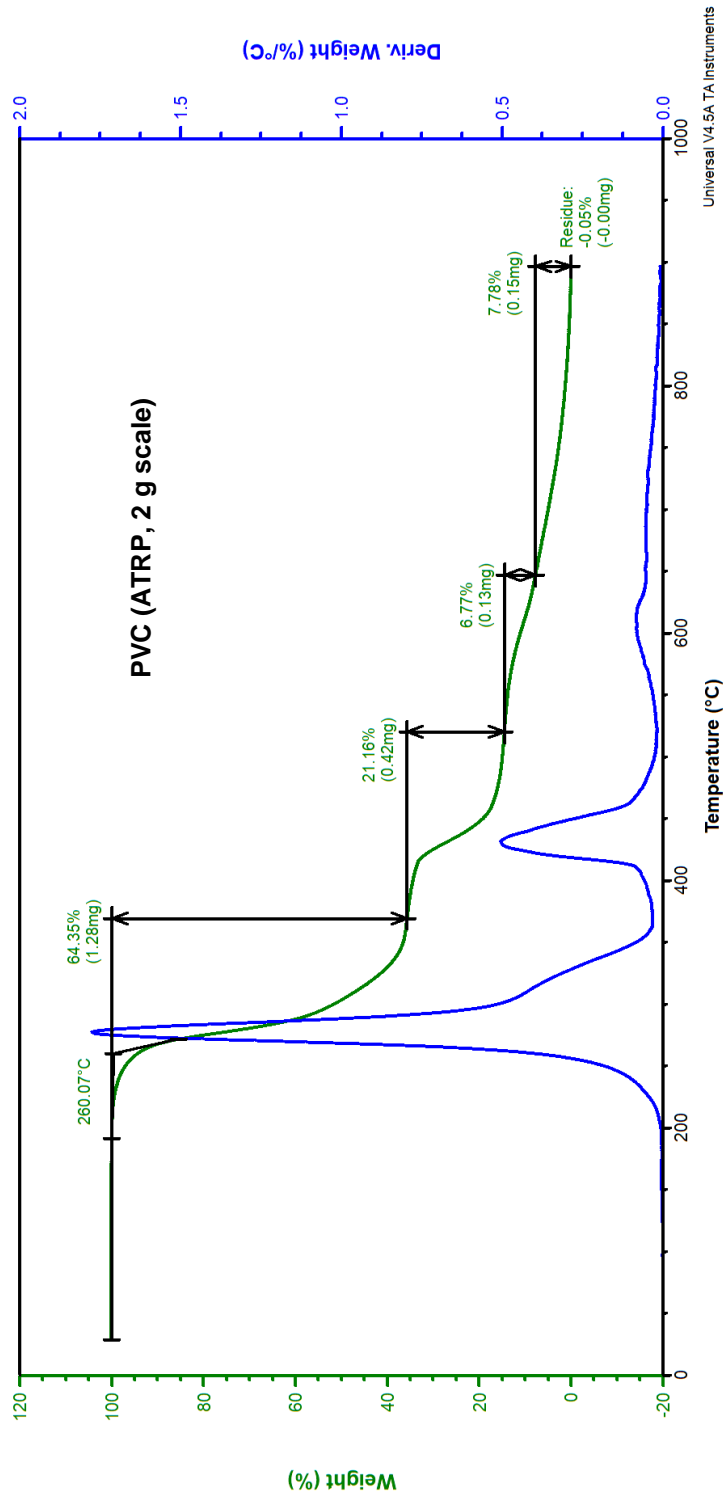


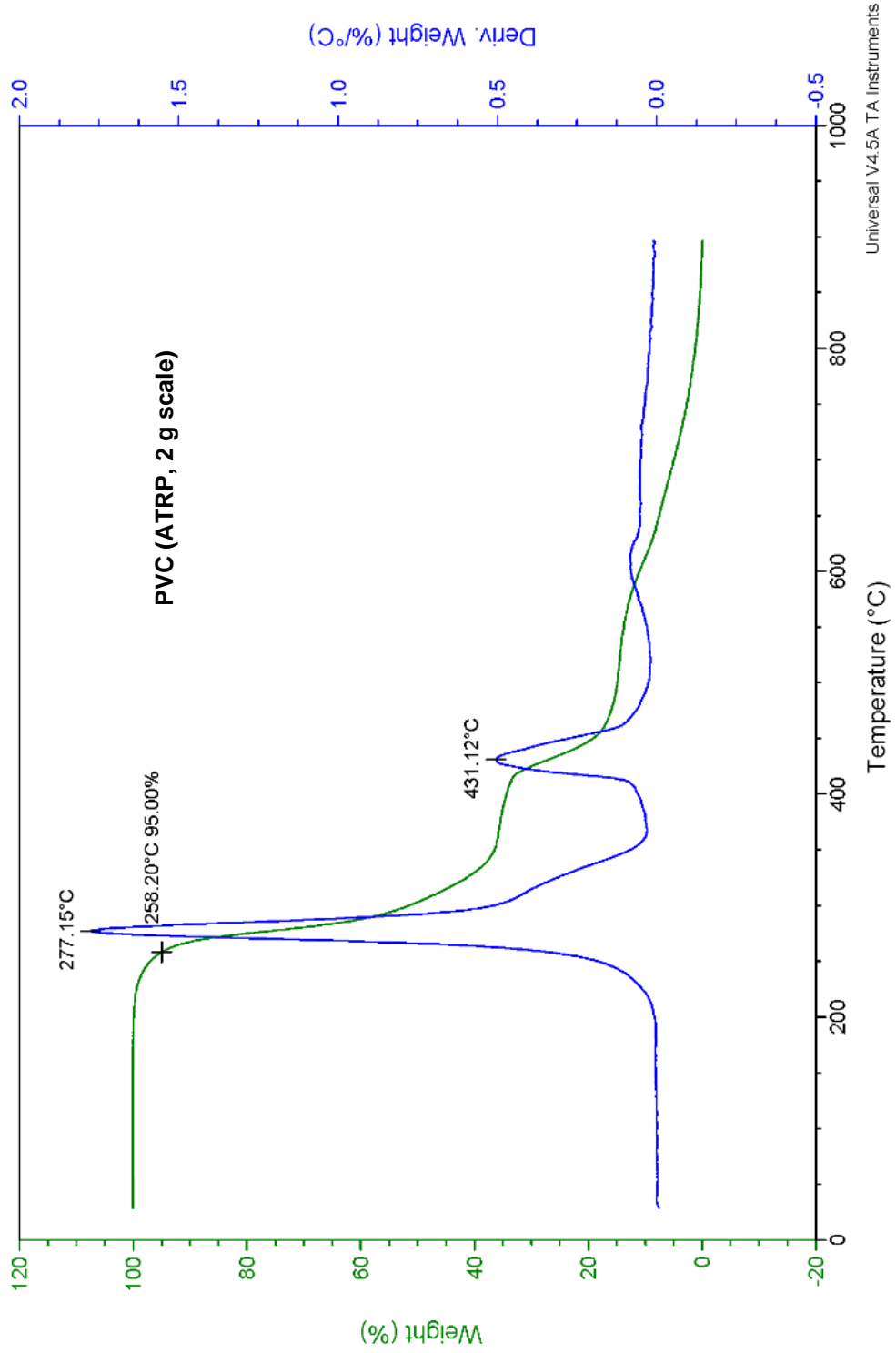




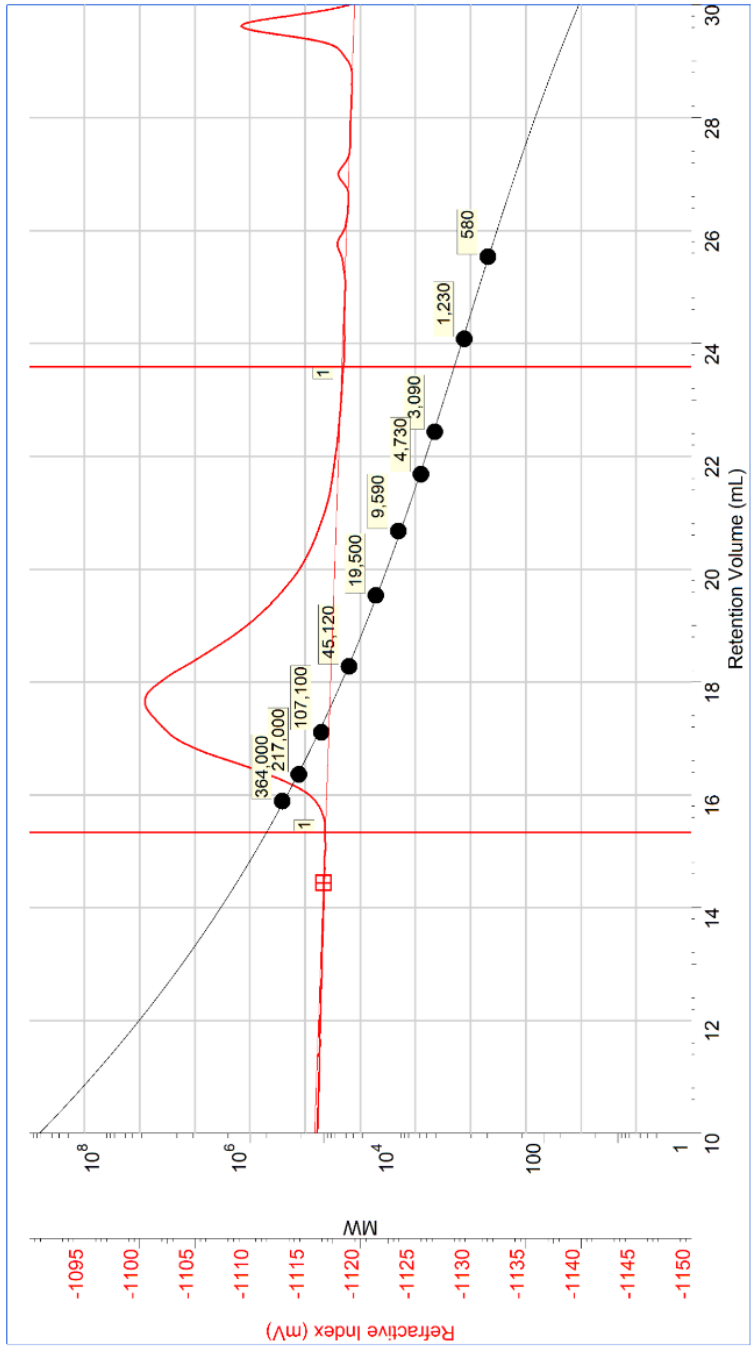






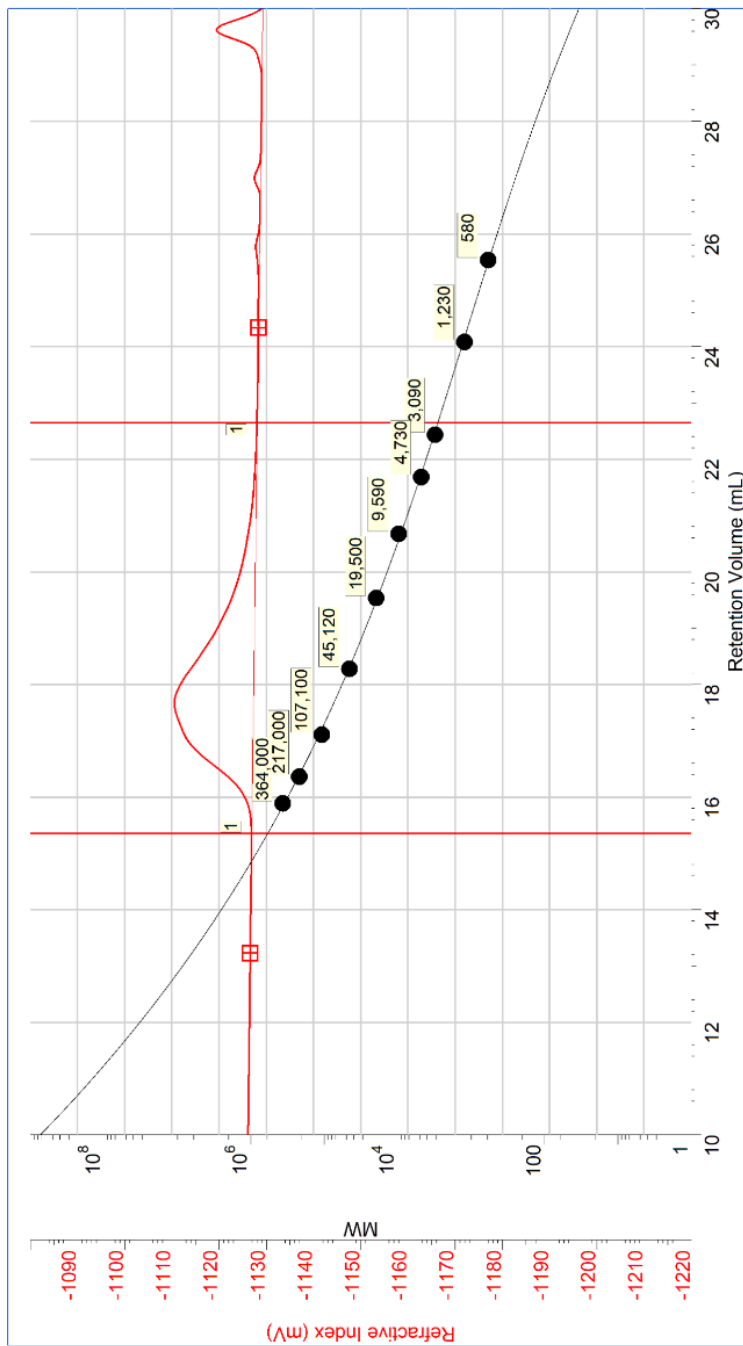


PVC (ATRP, 2 g scale)



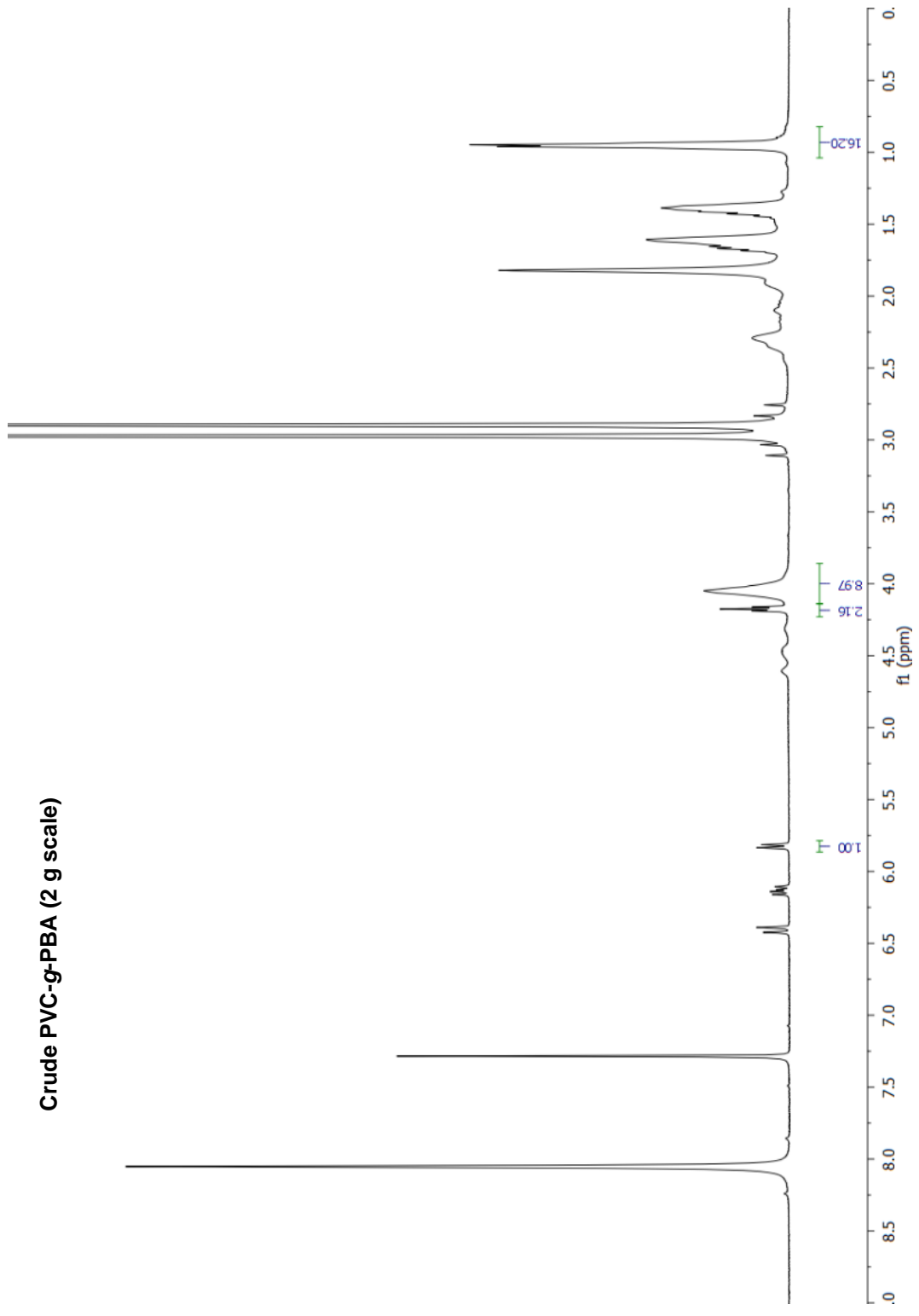
| Peak | Ret Time | Mp | Mn | Mw | Mz | Mw/Mn | RI Area |
|------|----------|--------|--------|--------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 17.647 | 74,652 | 39,315 | 80,177 | 130,744 | 2.039 | 43.32 |

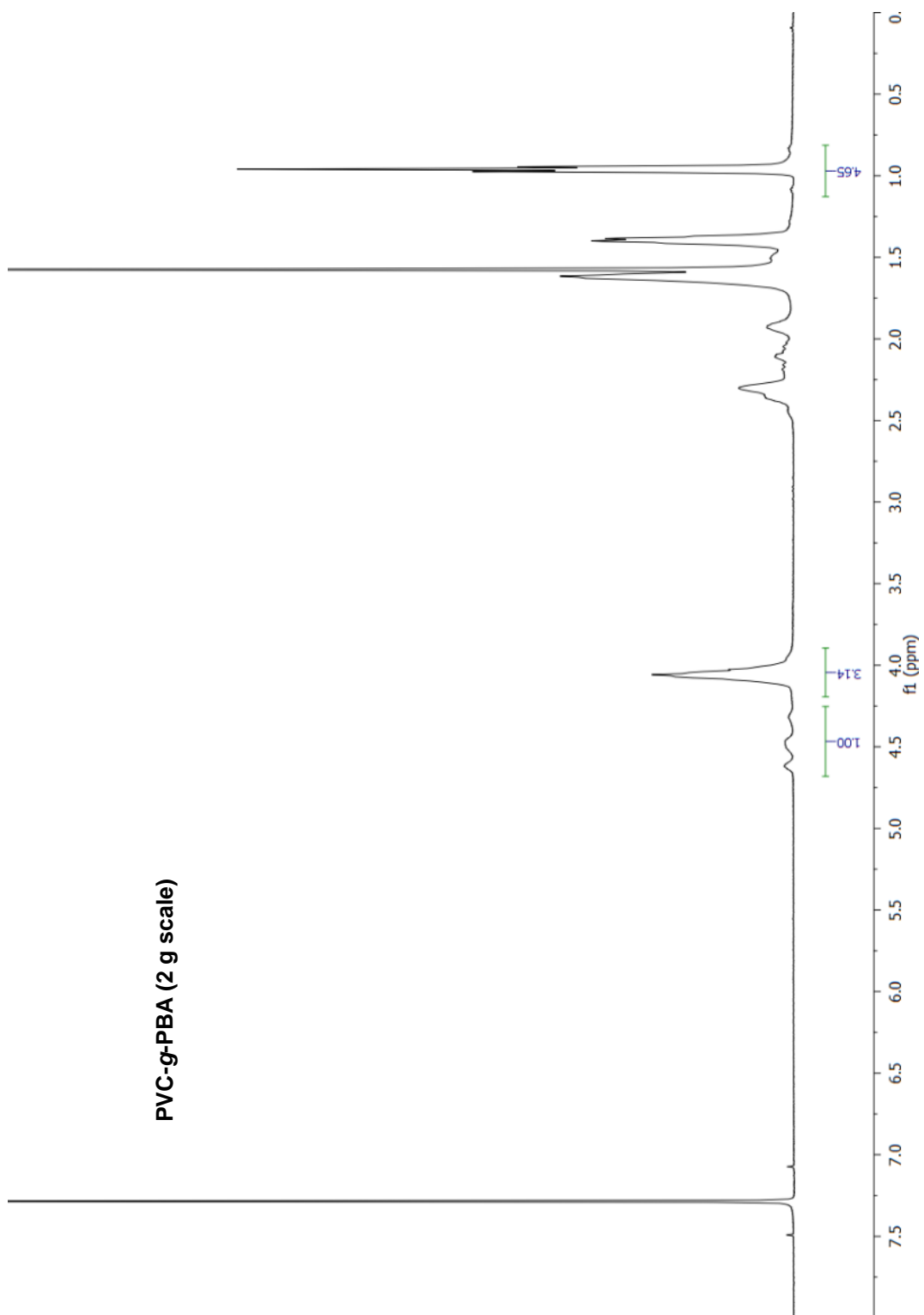
PVC (ATRP, 2 g scale)

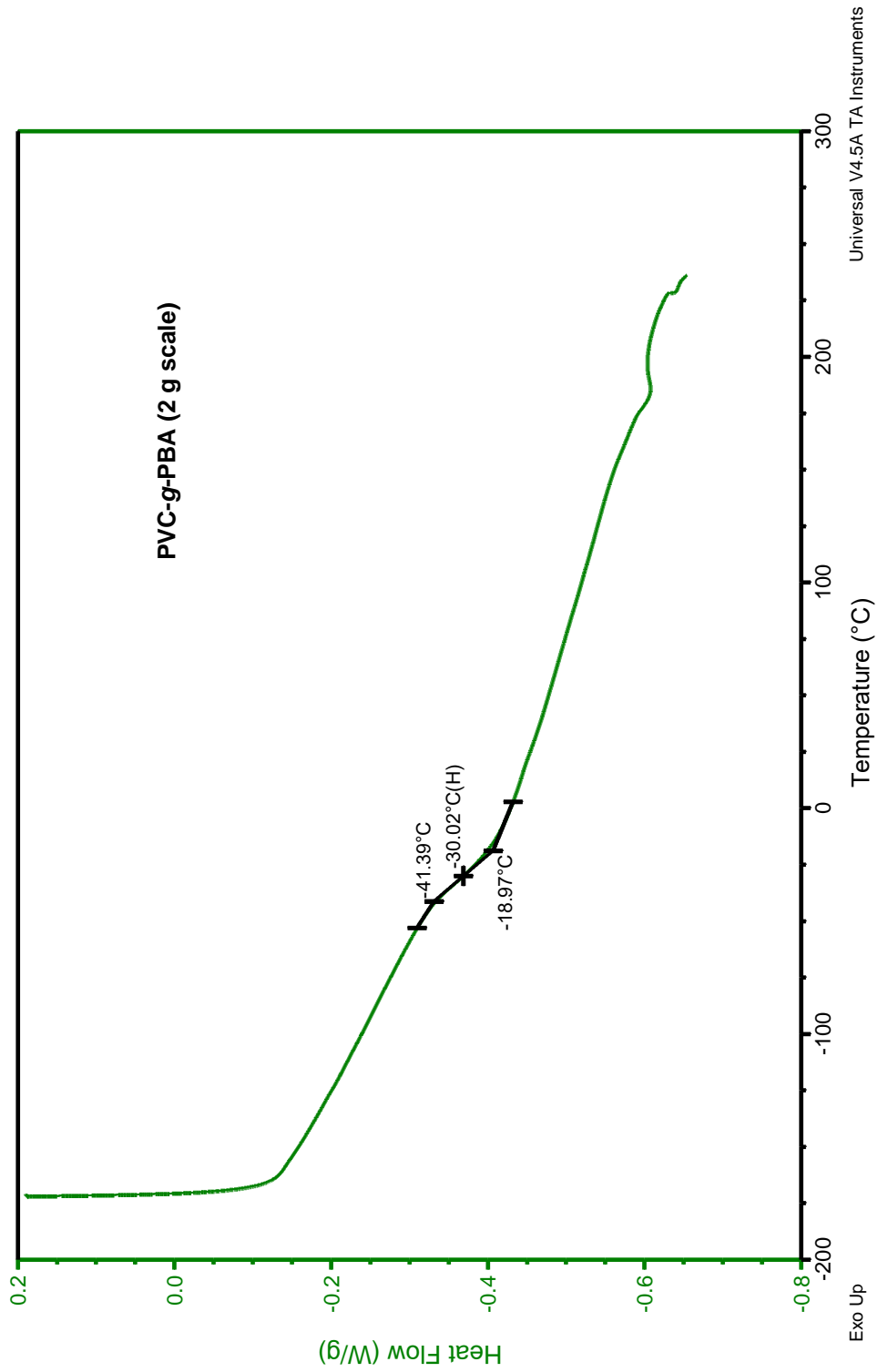


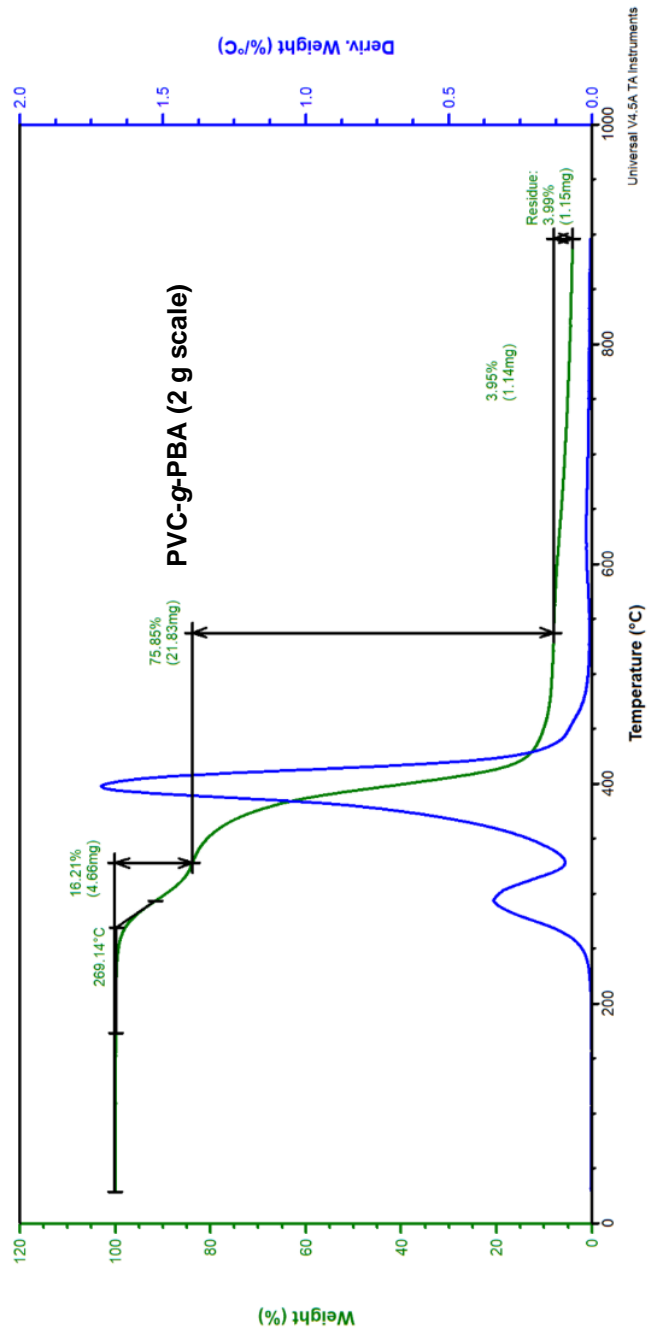
| Peak | Ret Time | Mp | Mn | Mw | Mz | Mw/Mn | RI Area |
|------|----------|--------|--------|--------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 17.660 | 73,931 | 38,321 | 79,654 | 130,426 | 2.079 | 43.48 |

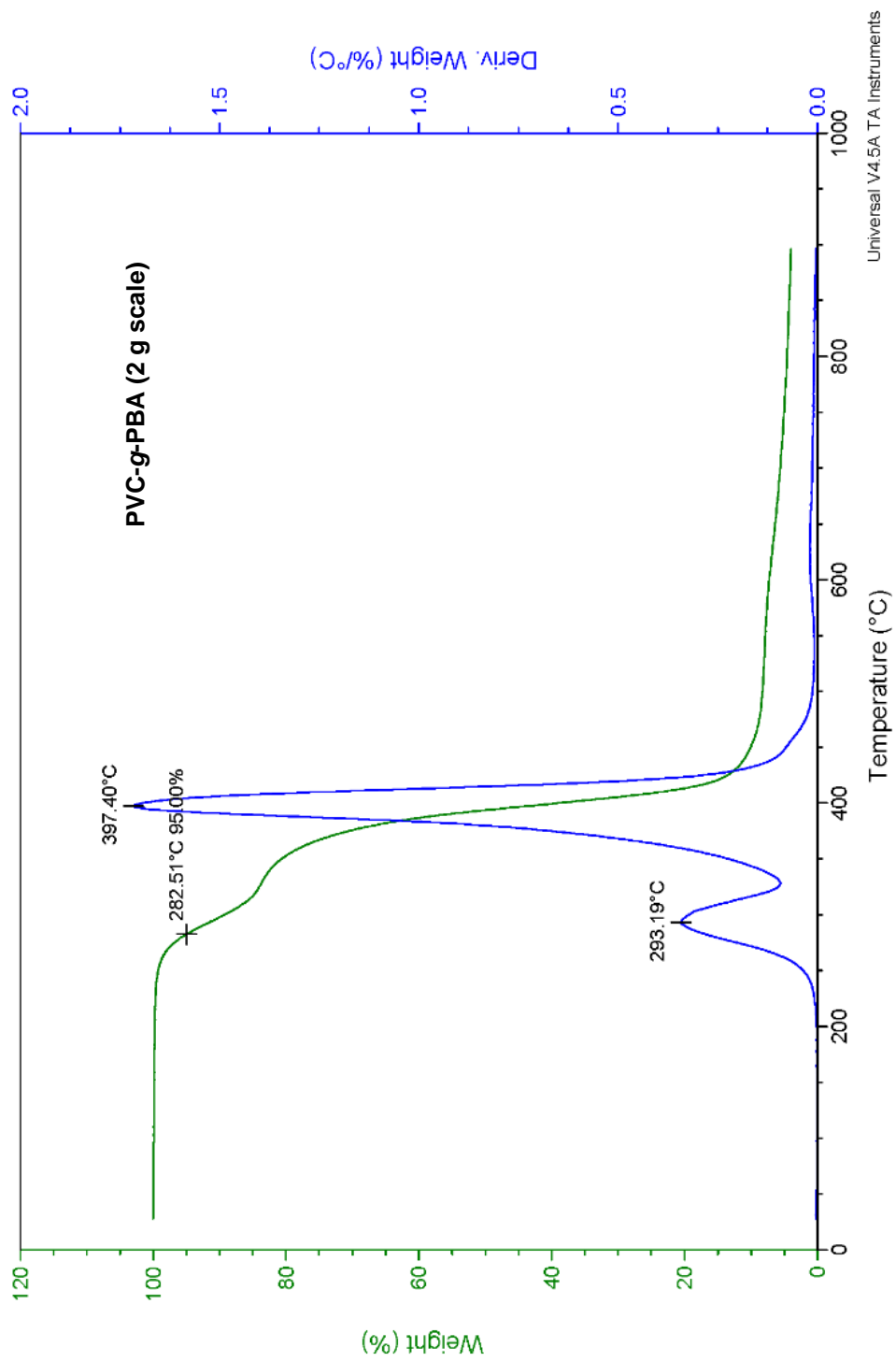
Crude PVC-g-PBA (2 g scale)



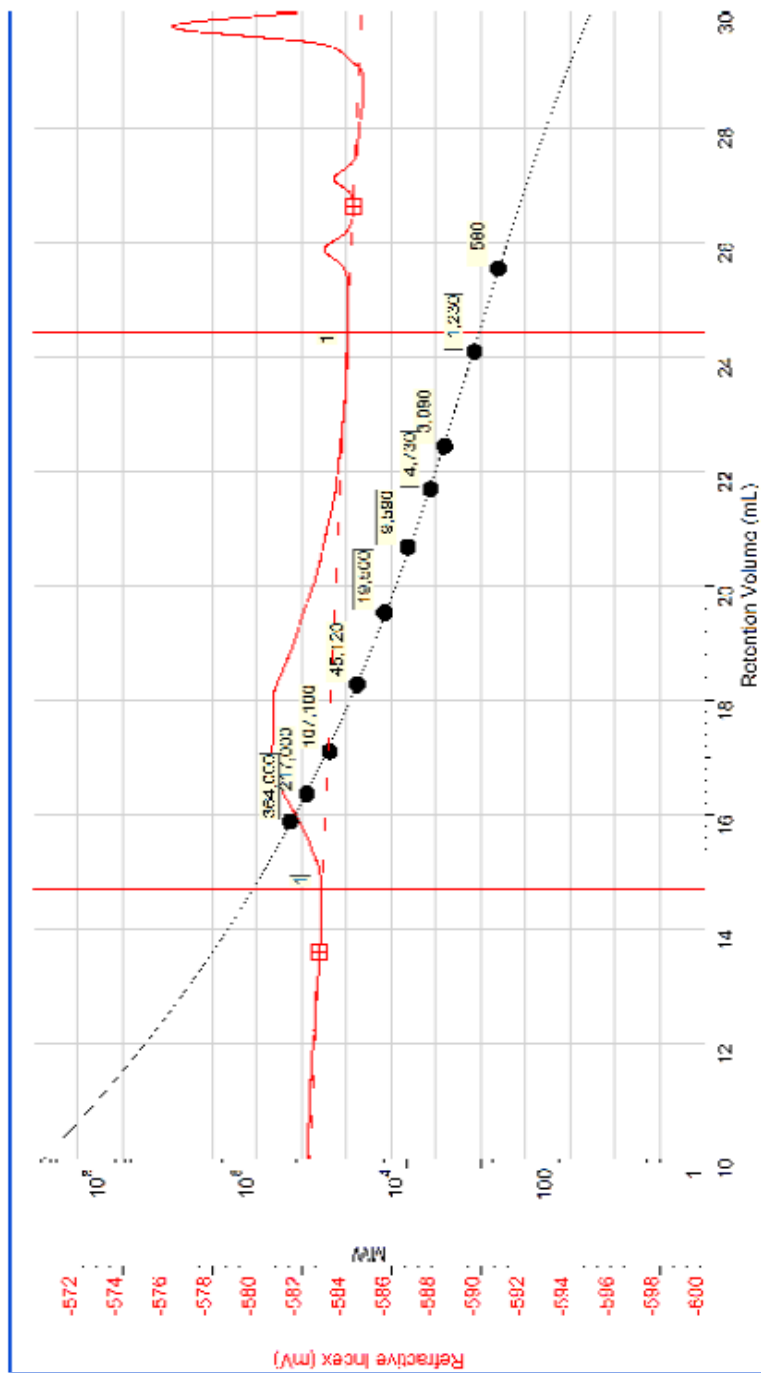






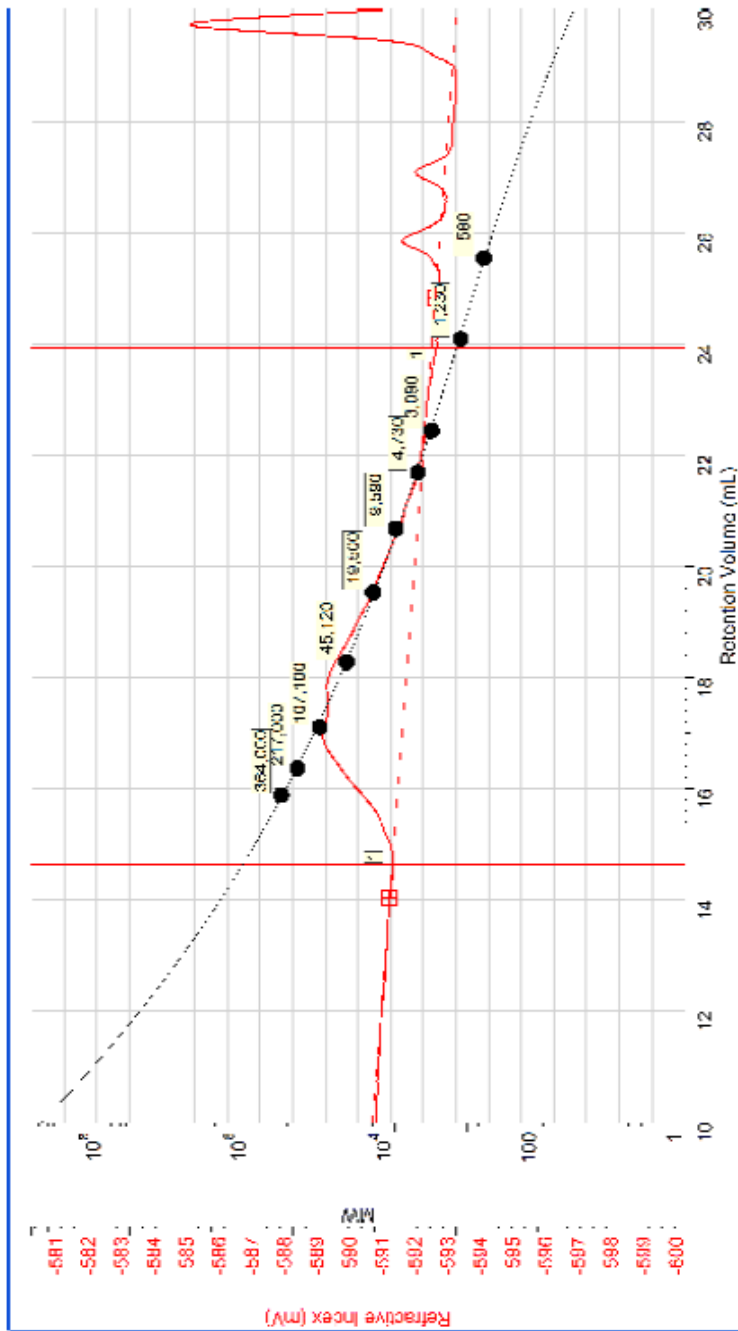


PVC-g-PBA (2 g scale)

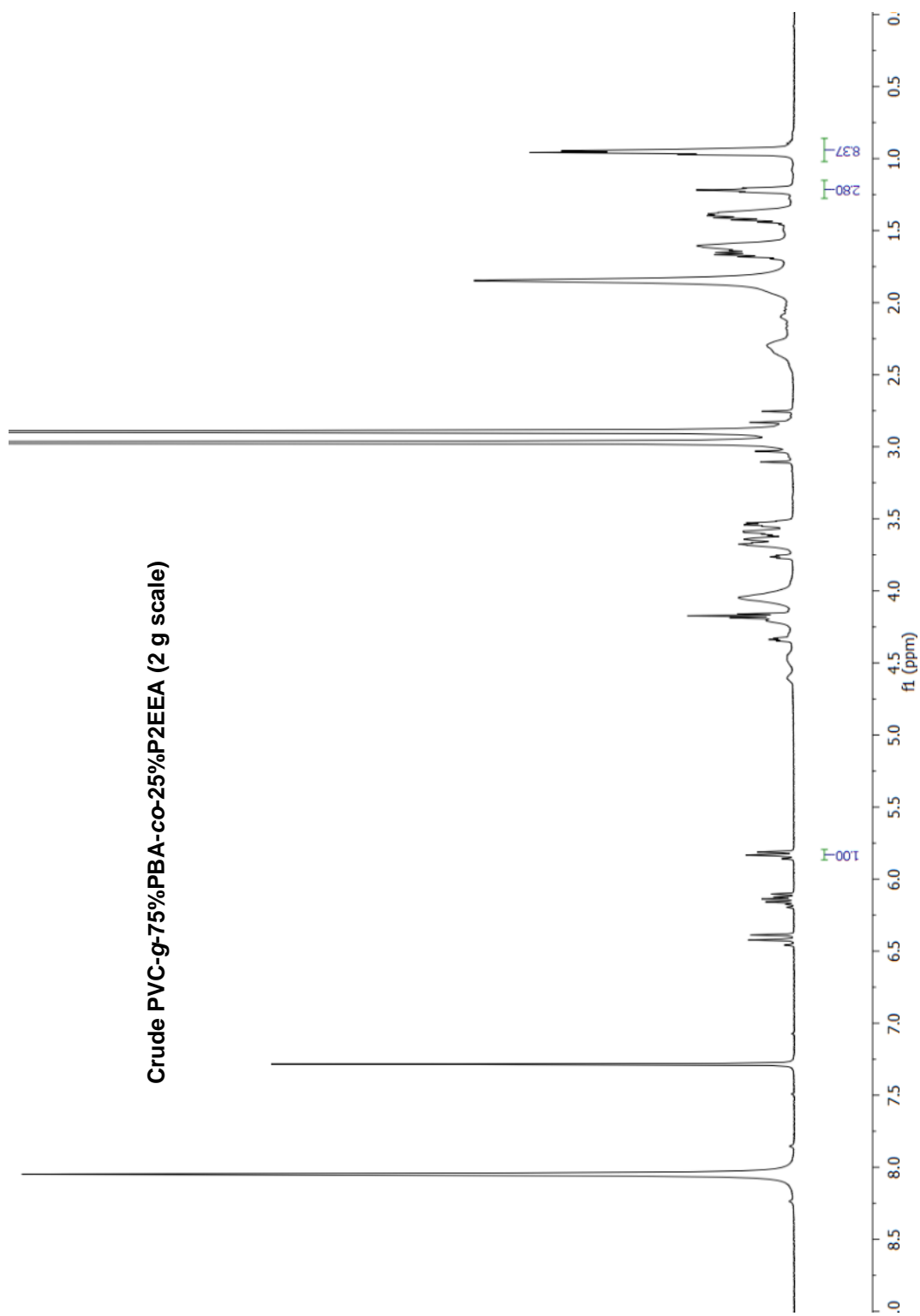


| Peak | Ret Time | Mp | Mn | Mw | Mz | Mw/Mn | RI Area |
|------|----------|--------|--------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 17.993 | 56,972 | 36,580 | 112,274 | 280,121 | 3.069 | 9.94 |

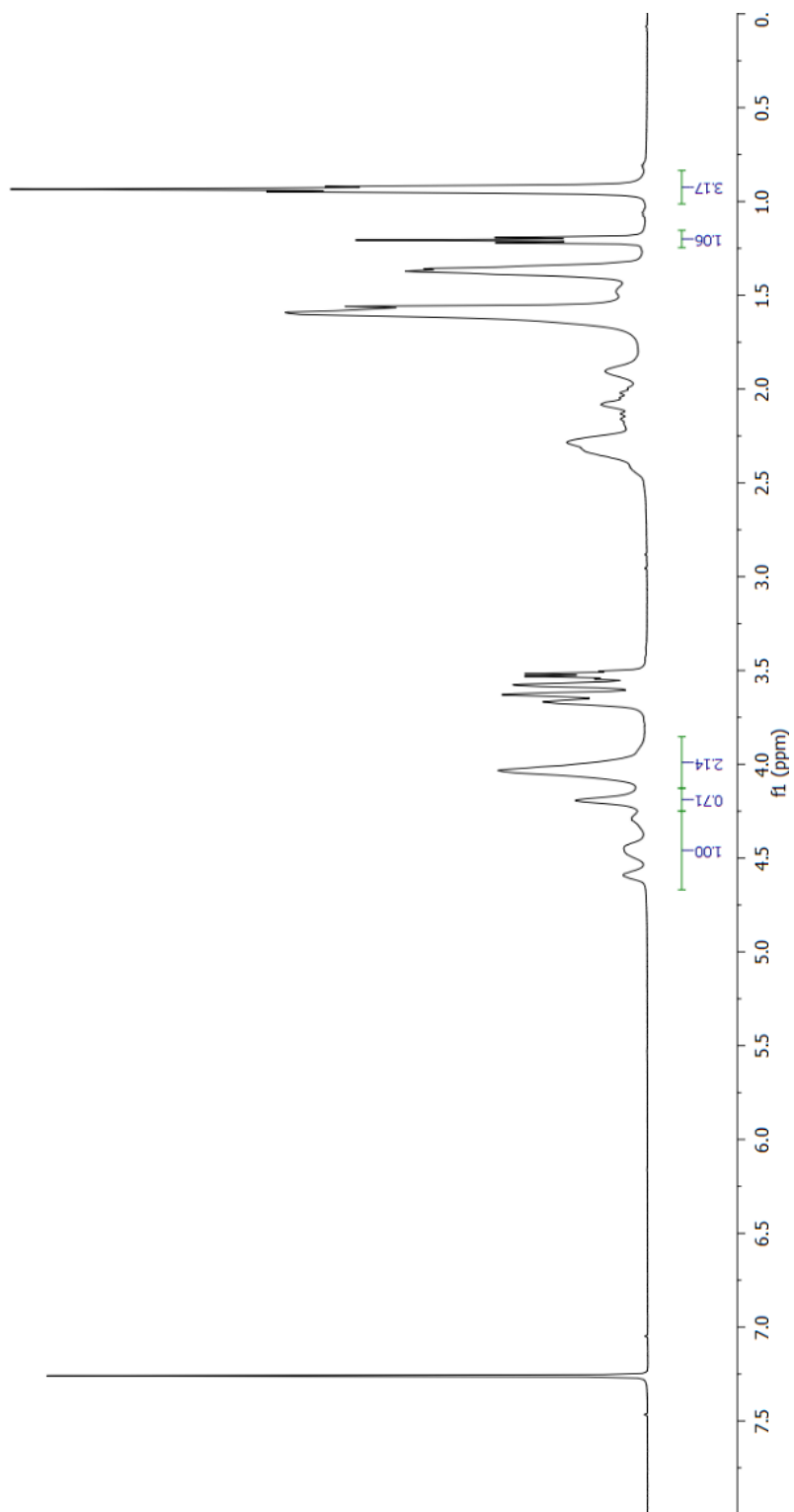
PVC-g-PBA (2 g scale)

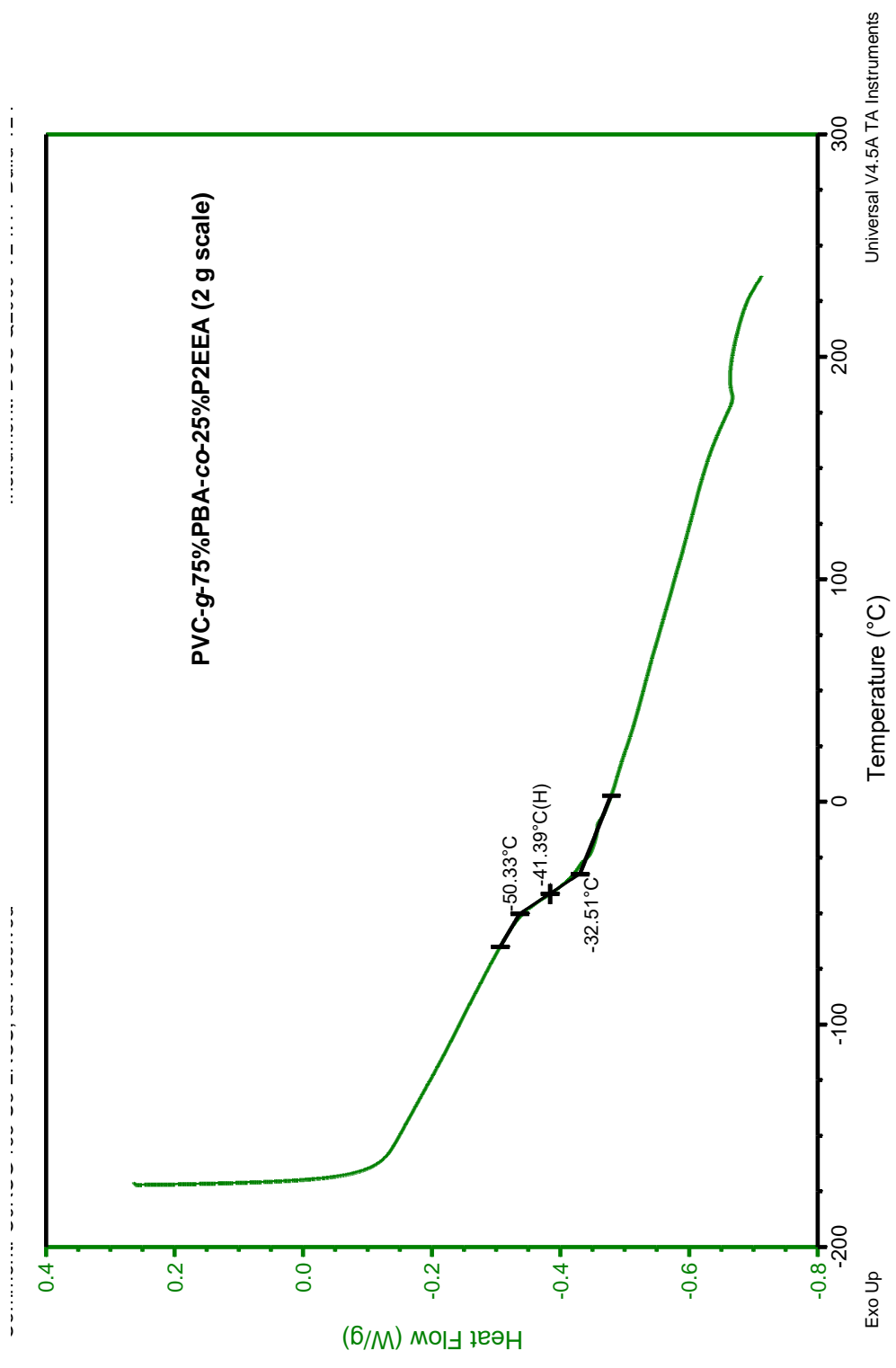


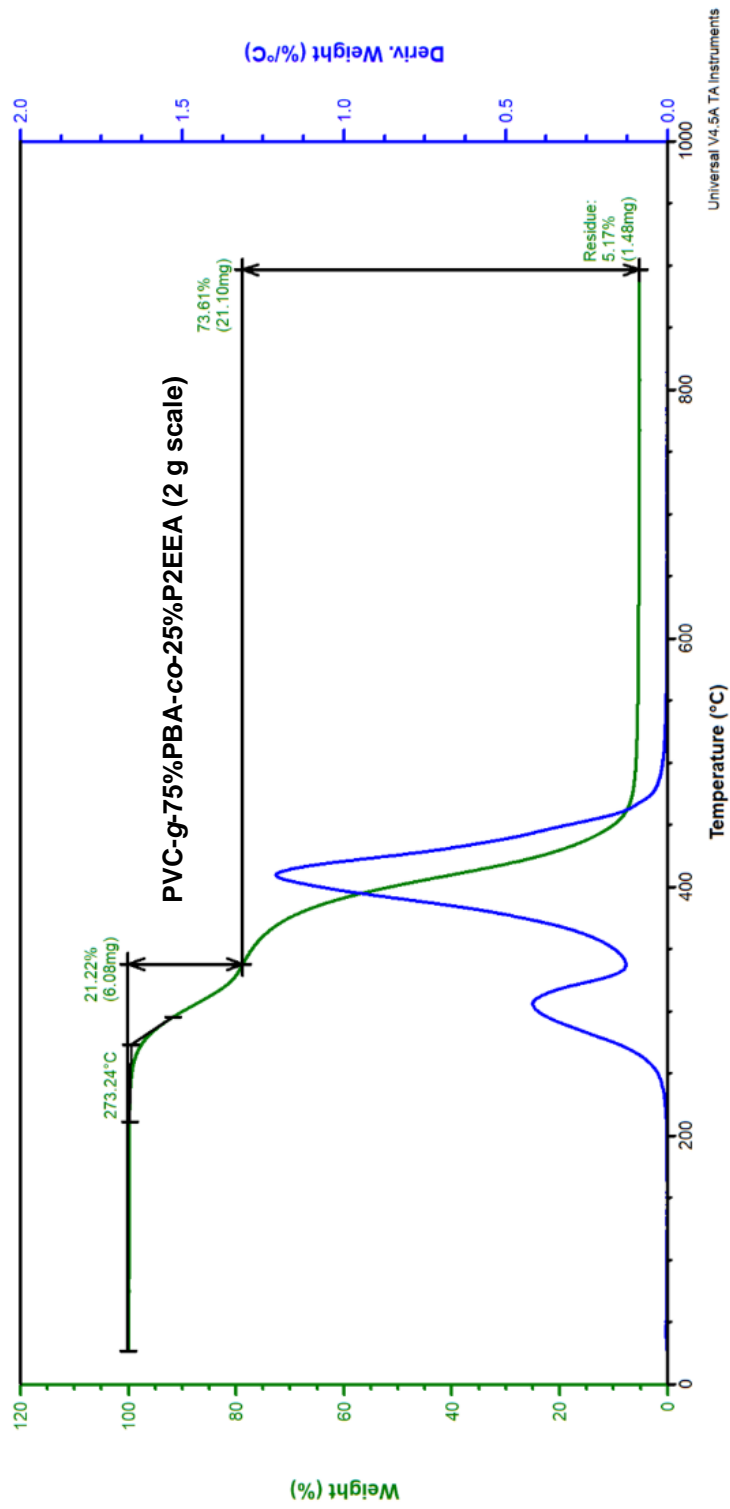
| Peak | Ret Time | Mp | Mn | Mw | Mz | Mw/Mn | RI/Area |
|------|----------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 16.997 | 127,483 | 39,700 | 113,565 | 284,191 | 2.861 | 9.09 |

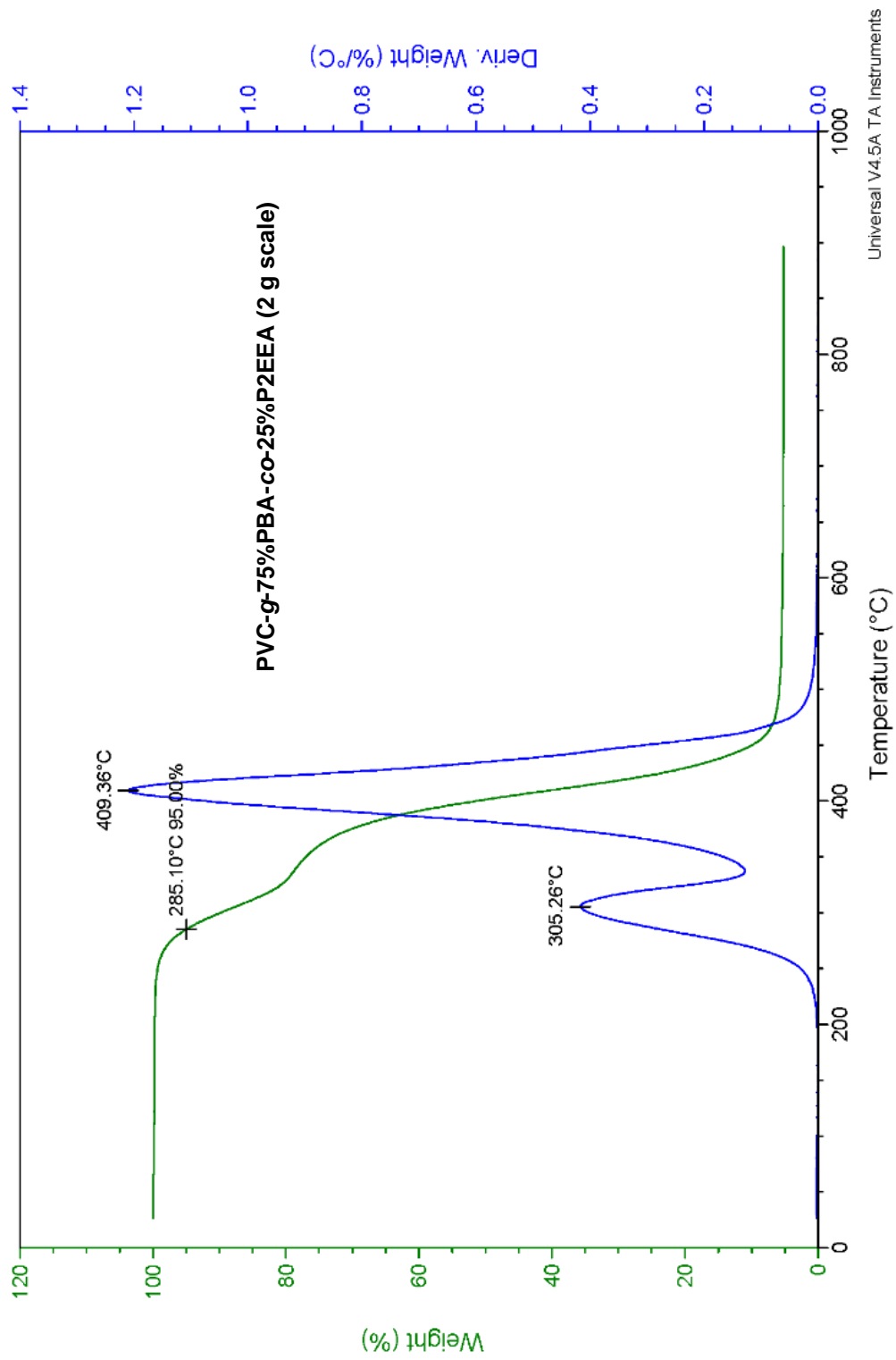


PVC-g-75%PBA-co-25%P2EEA (2 g scale)



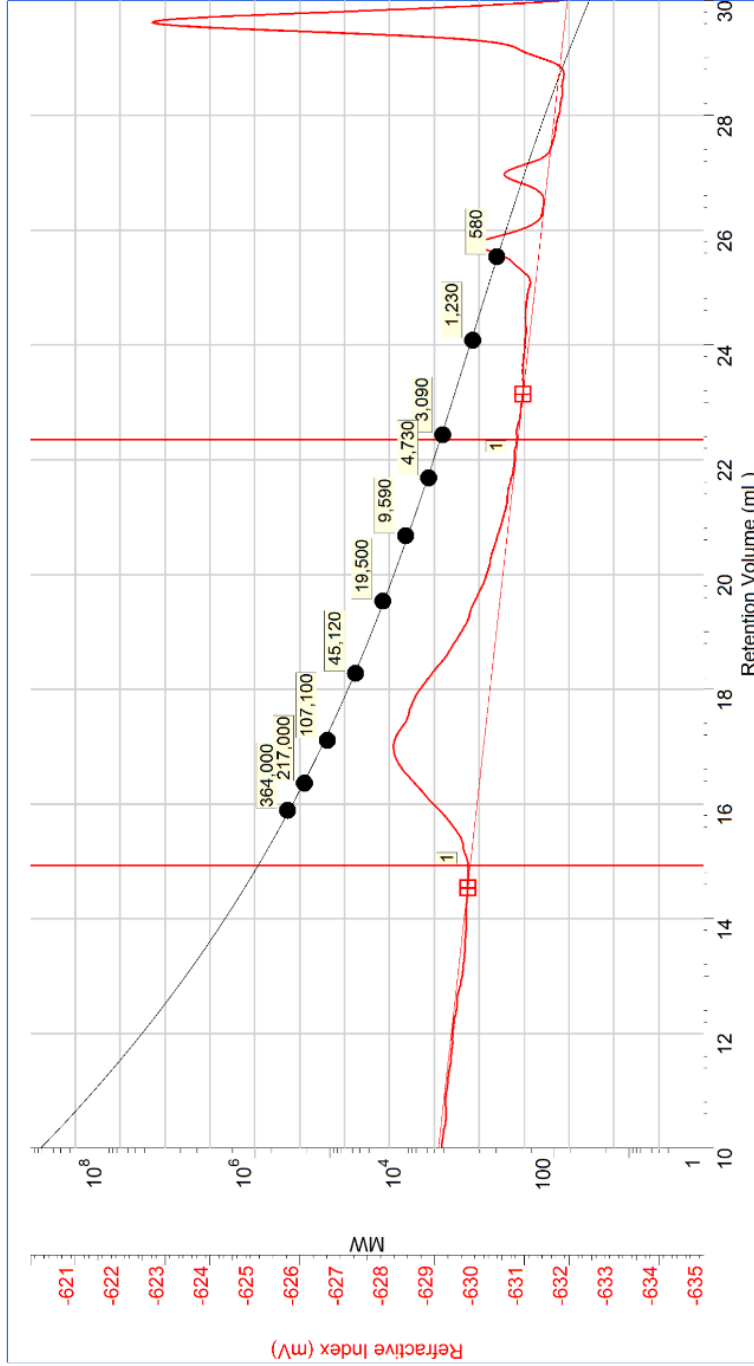






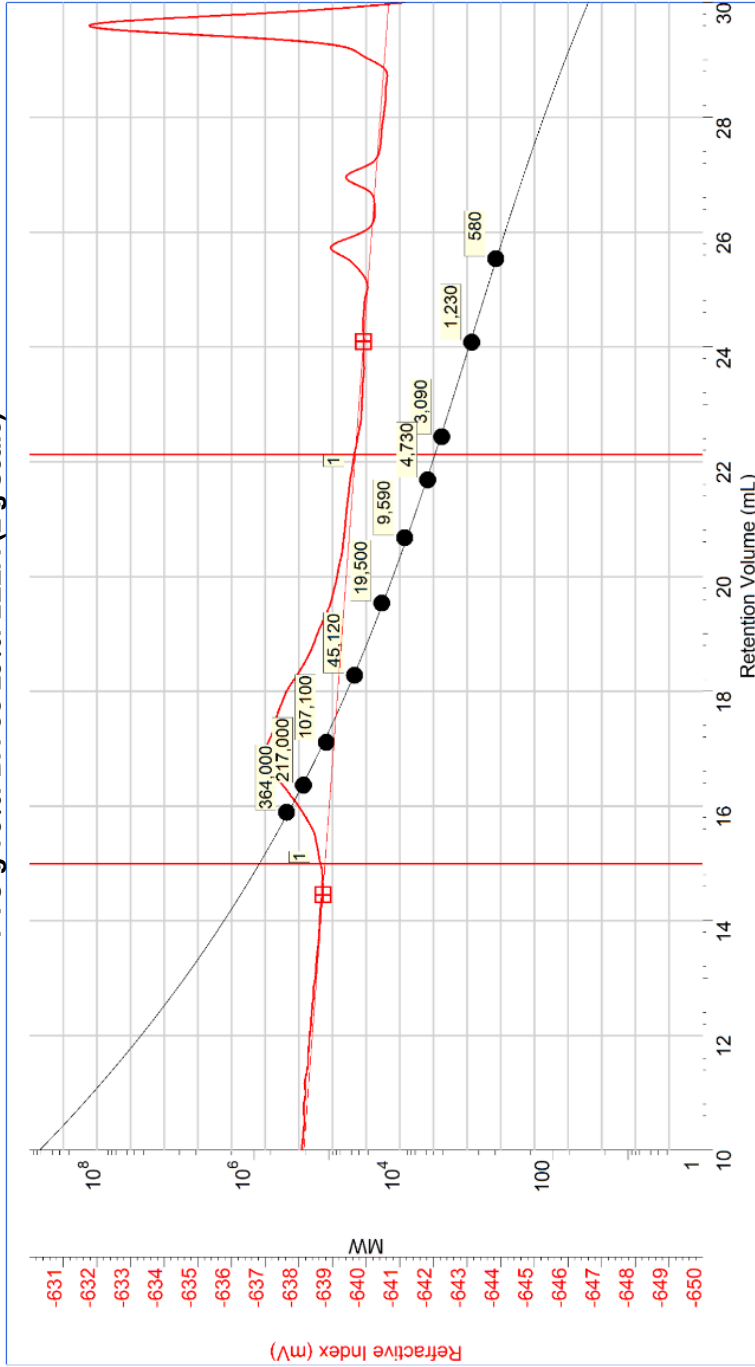
Universal V4.5A TA Instruments

PVC-g-75%PBA-co-25%P2EEA (2 g scale)



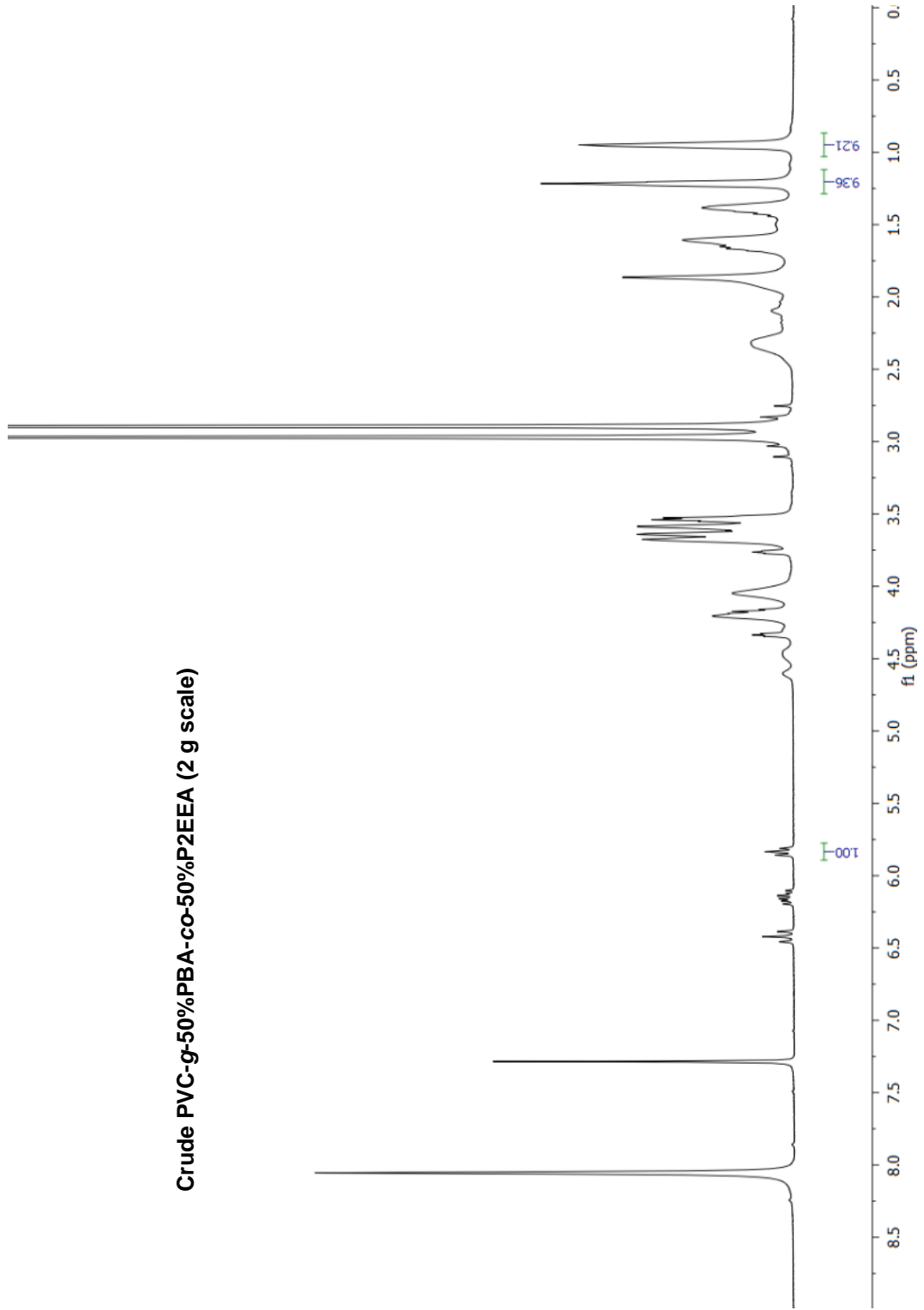
| Peak | Ret Time | Mp | Mn | Mw | Mz | Mw/Mn | RI Area |
|------|----------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 17.003 | 126,773 | 45,936 | 125,179 | 248,350 | 2.725 | 5.87 |

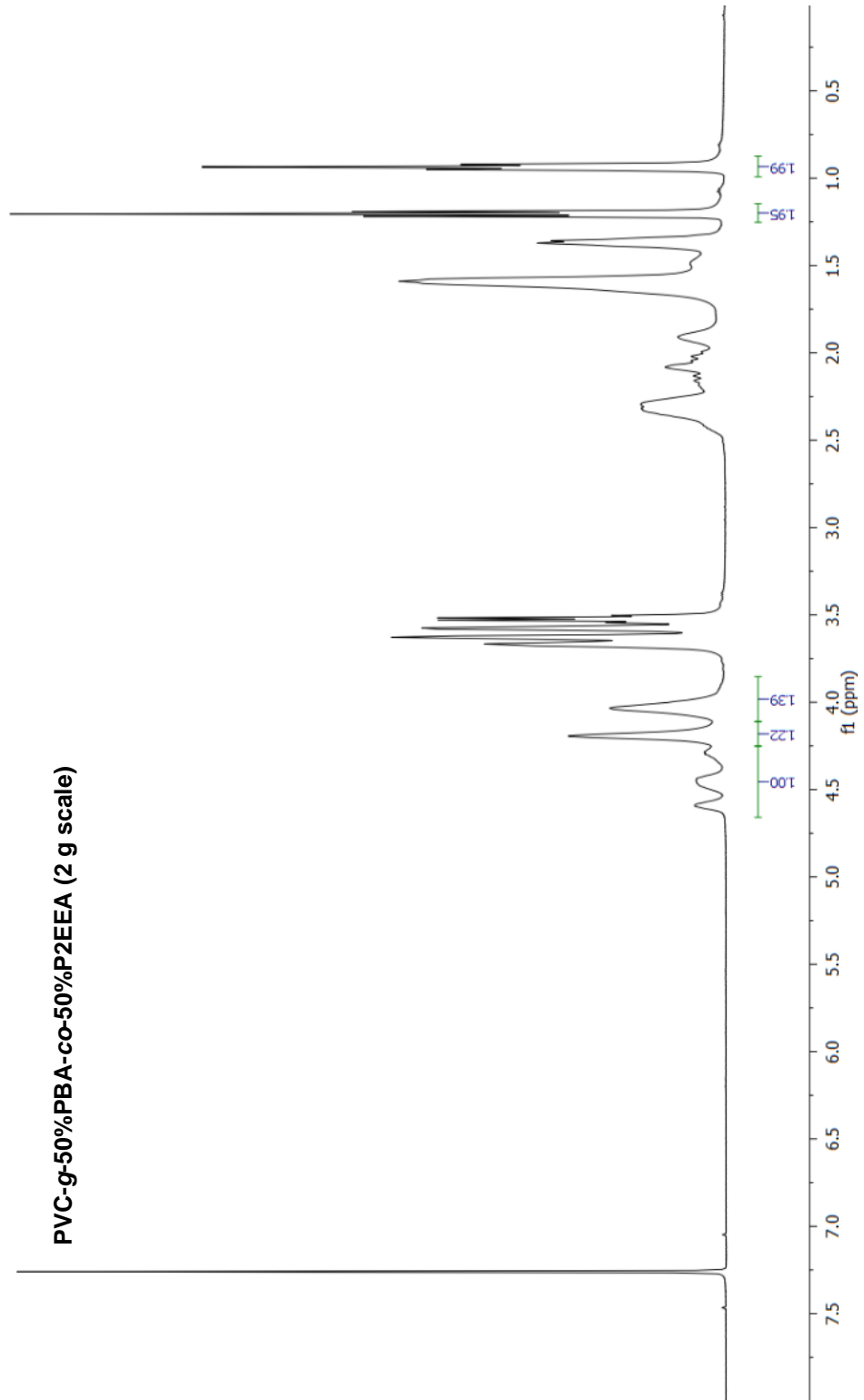
PVC-g-75%PBA-co-25%P2EEA (2 g scale)

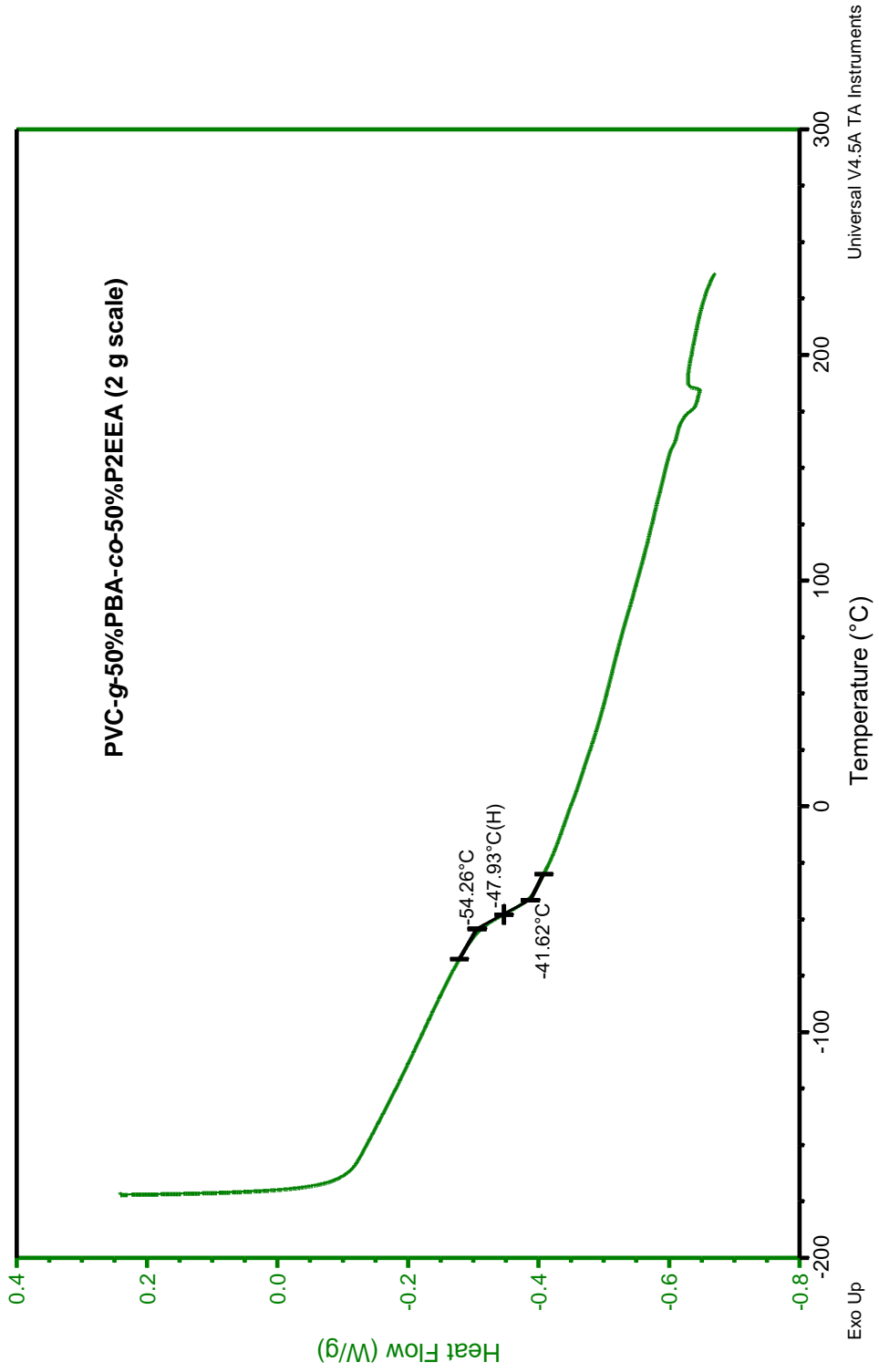


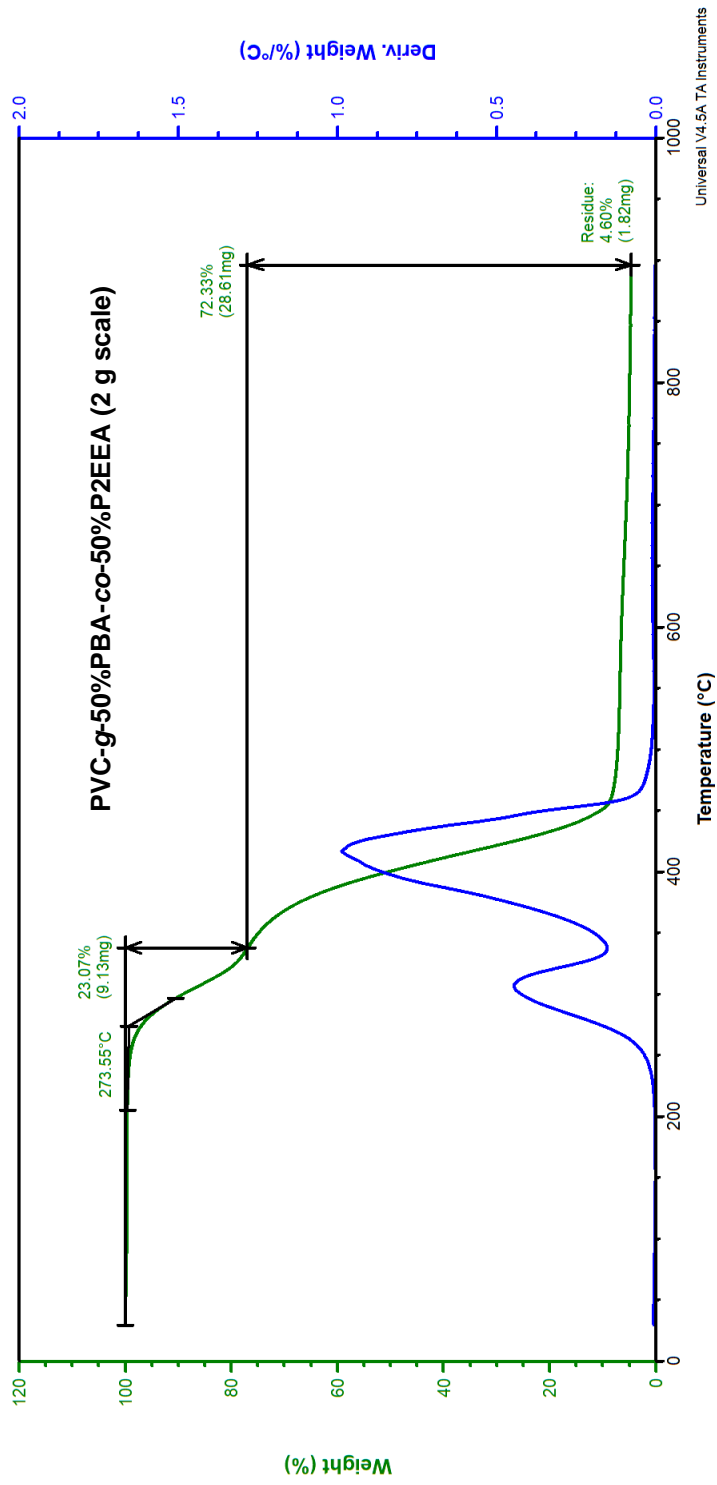
| Peak | Ret Time | Mp | Mn | Mw | Mz | Mw/Mn | RI Area |
|------|----------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 16.977 | 129,680 | 46,978 | 127,608 | 247,117 | 2.716 | 5.63 |

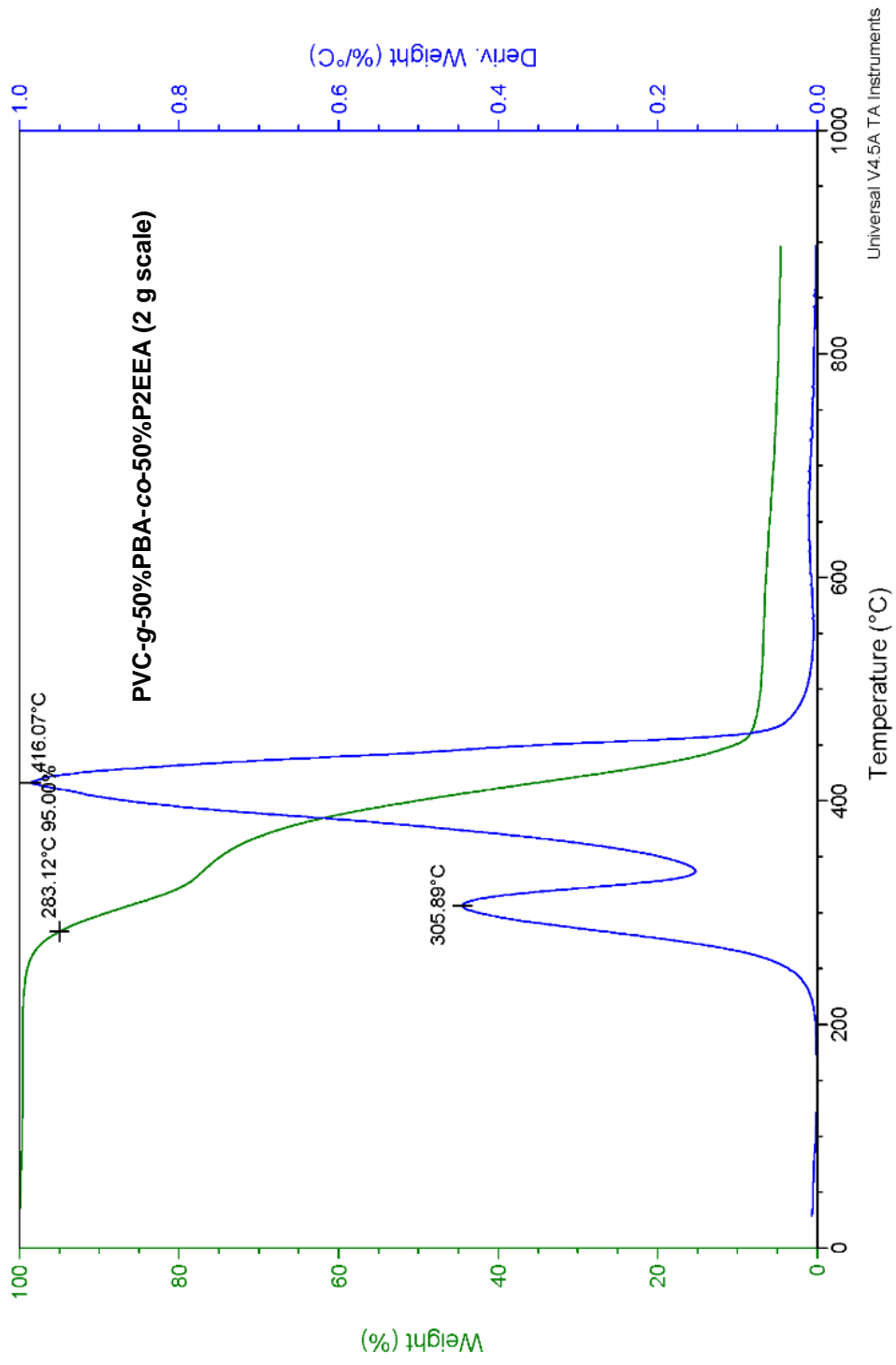
Crude PVC-g-50%PBA-co-50%P2EEA (2 g scale)



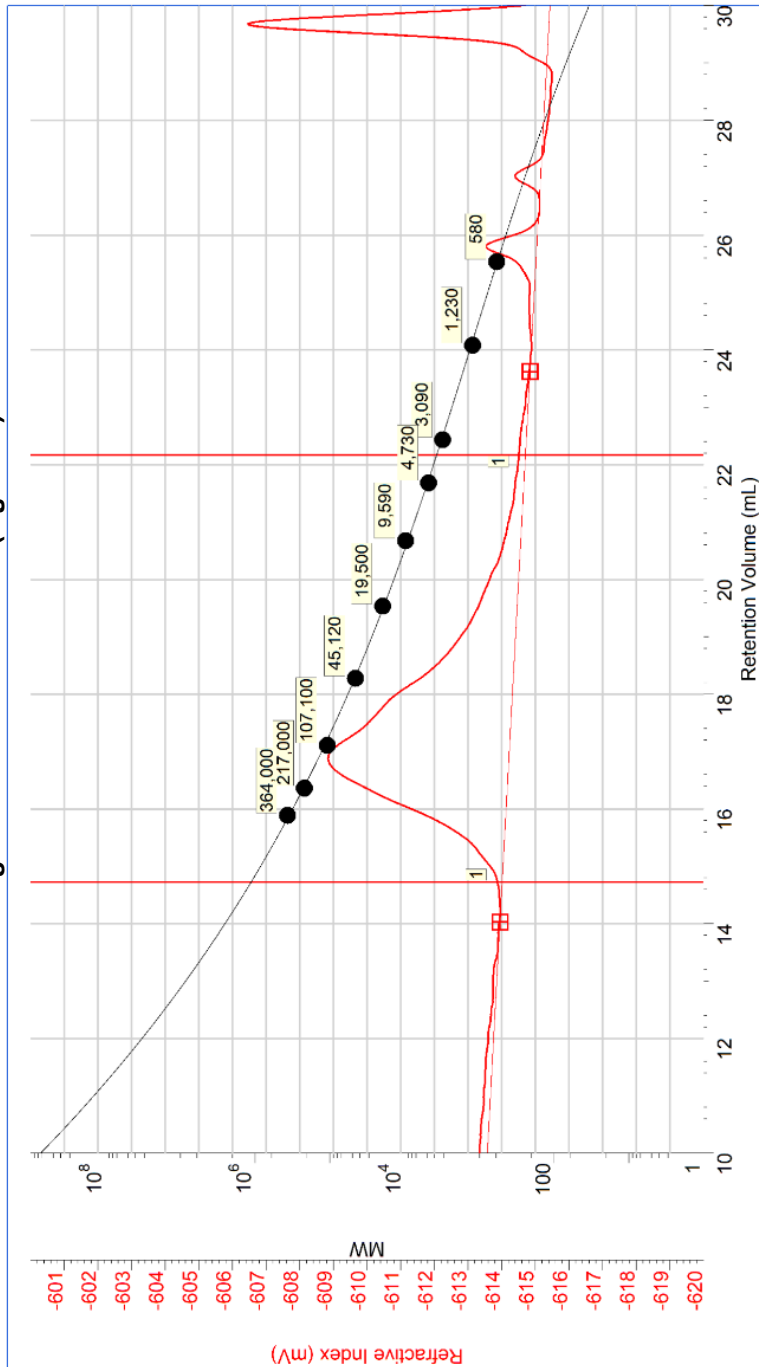






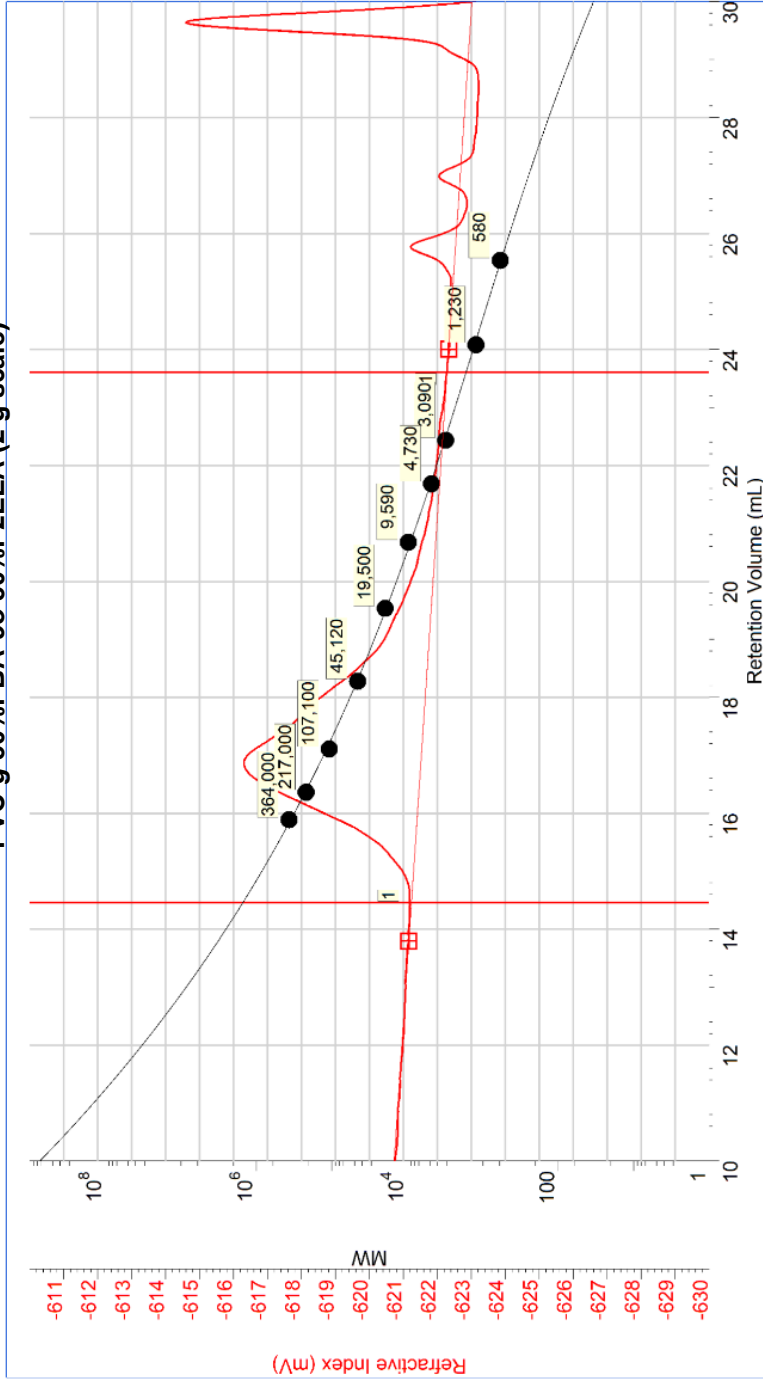


PVC-g-50%PBA-co-50%P2EEA (2 g scale)



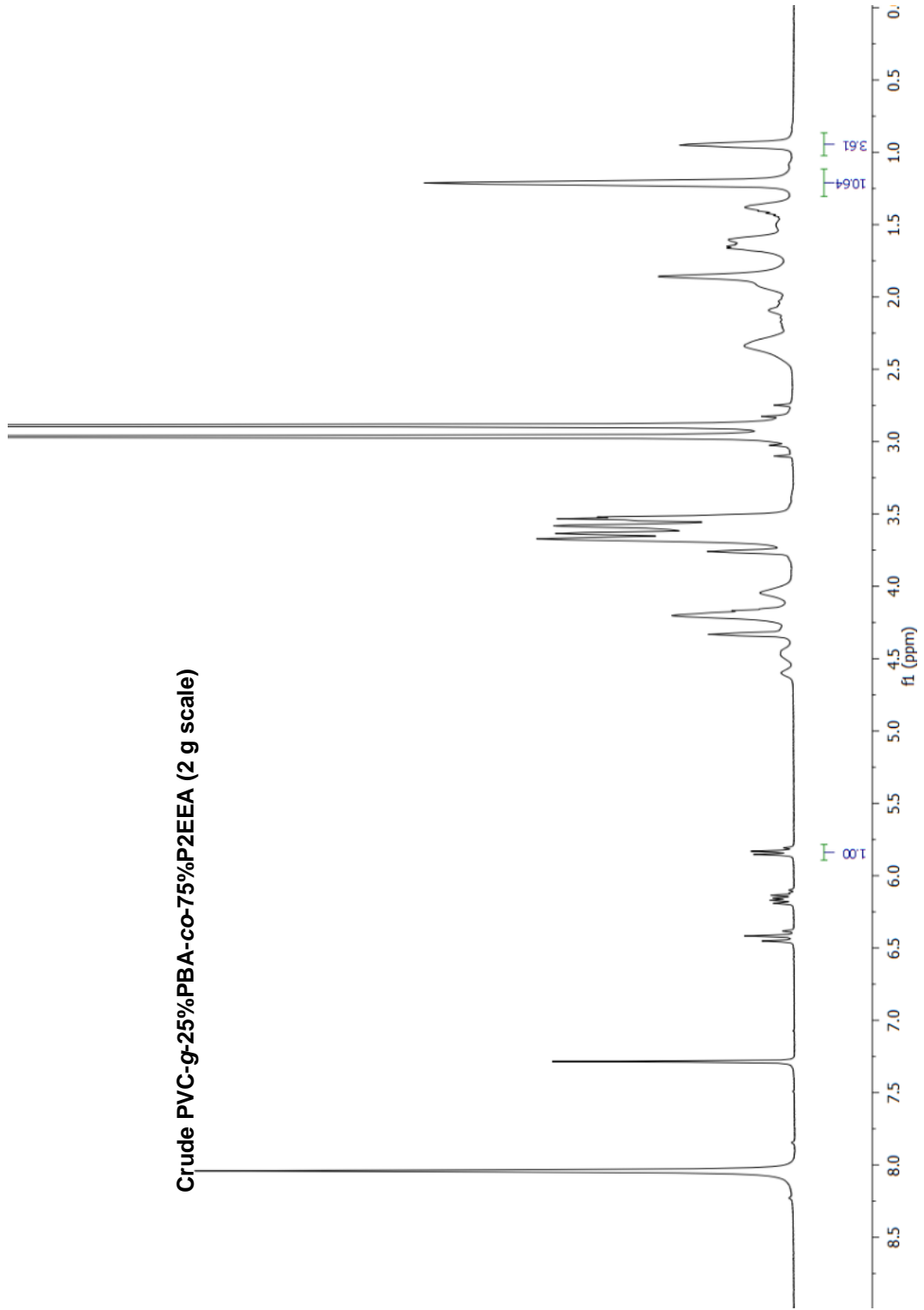
| Peak | Ret Time | Mp | Mn | Mw | Mz | Mw/Mn | RI Area |
|------|----------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 16.880 | 140,864 | 46,537 | 141,136 | 283,867 | 3.033 | 14.73 |

PVC-g-50%PBA-co-50%P2EEA (2 g scale)

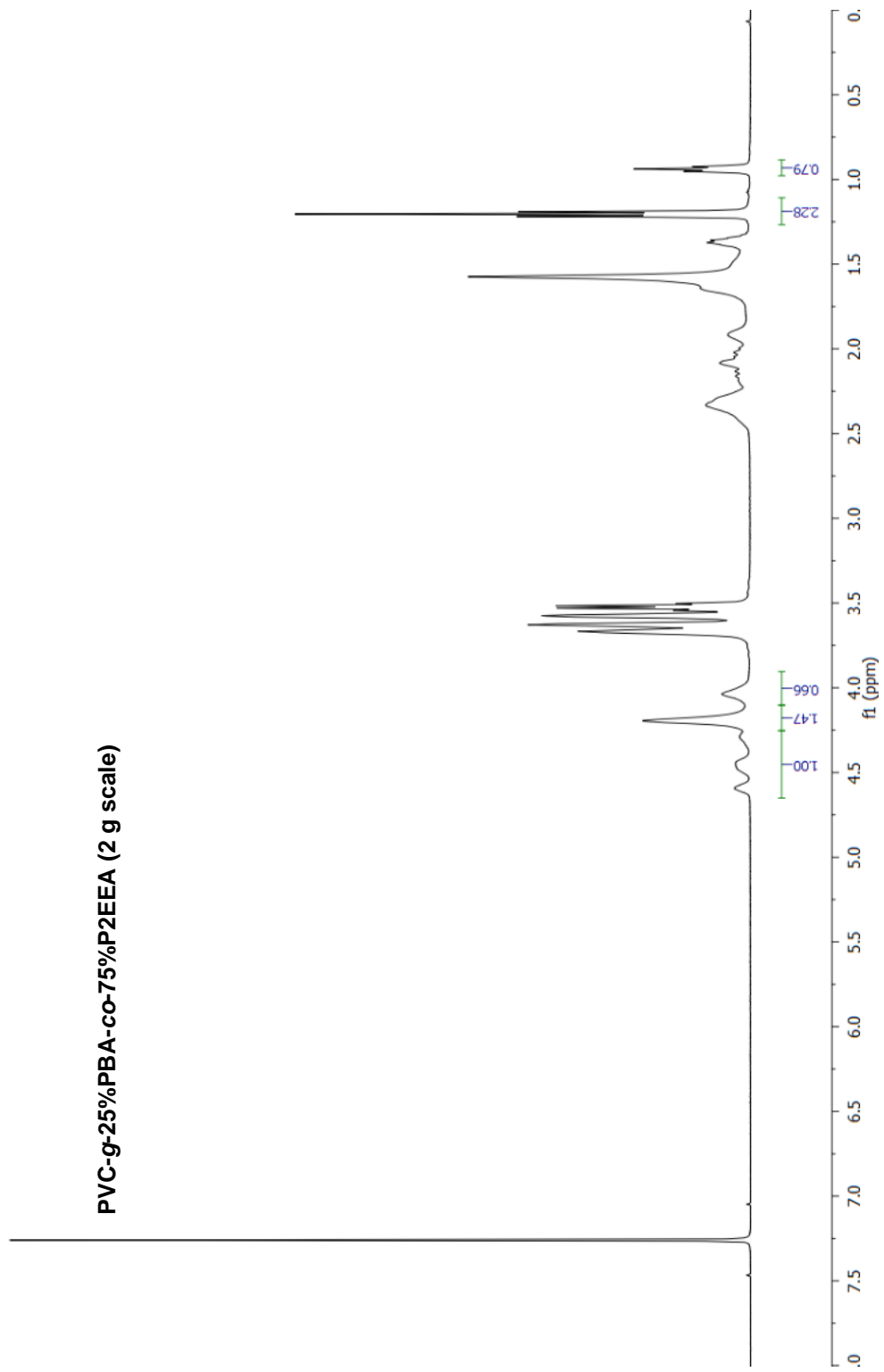


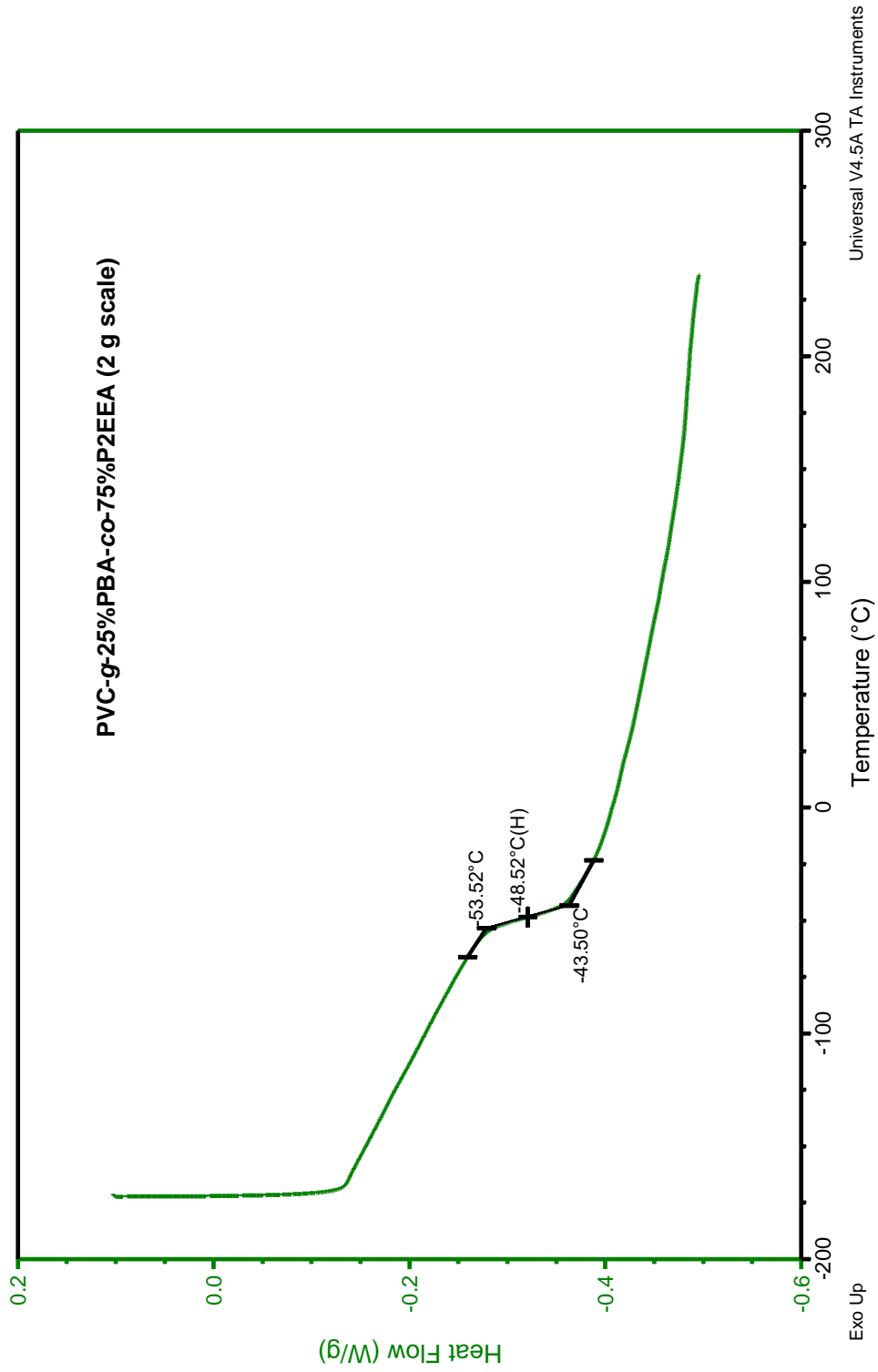
| Peak | Ret Time | Mp | Mn | Mw | Mz | Mw/Mn | RI Area |
|------|----------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 16.857 | 143,711 | 45,482 | 149,291 | 309,480 | 3.282 | 13.65 |

Crude PVC-g-25%PBA-co-75%P2EEA (2 g scale)

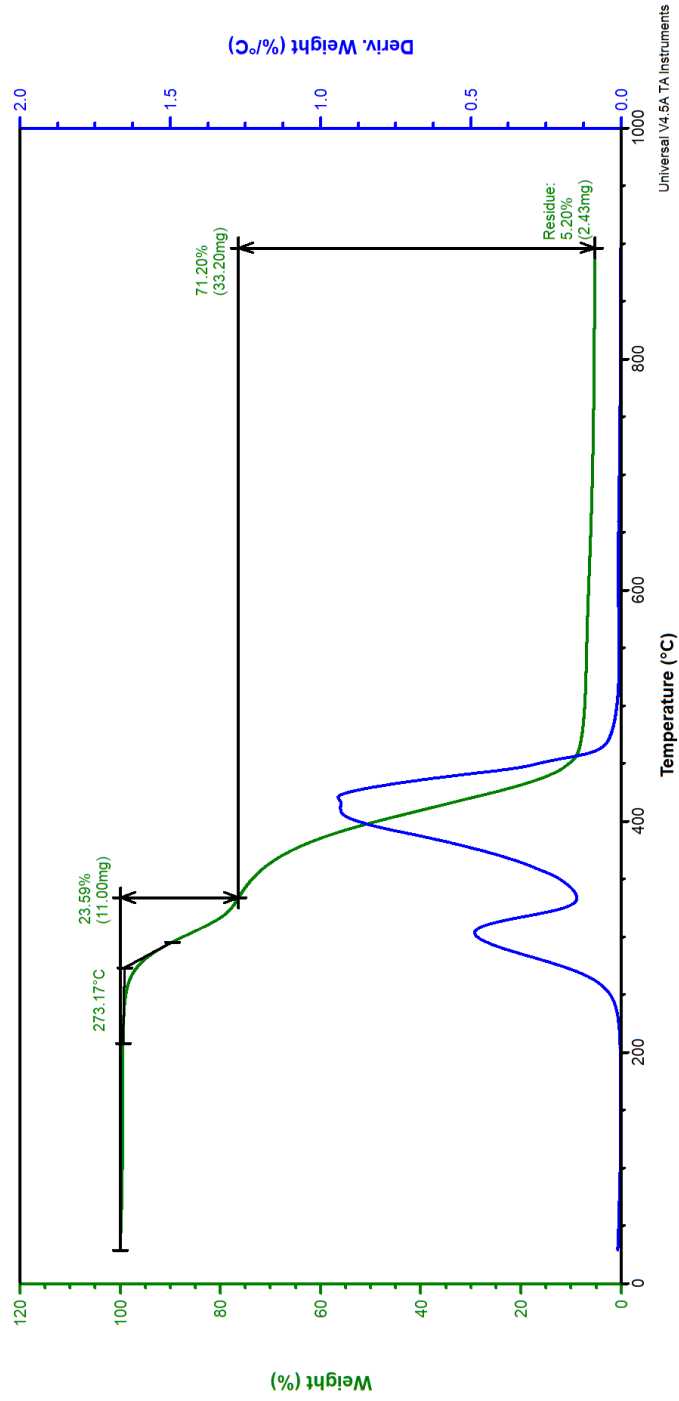


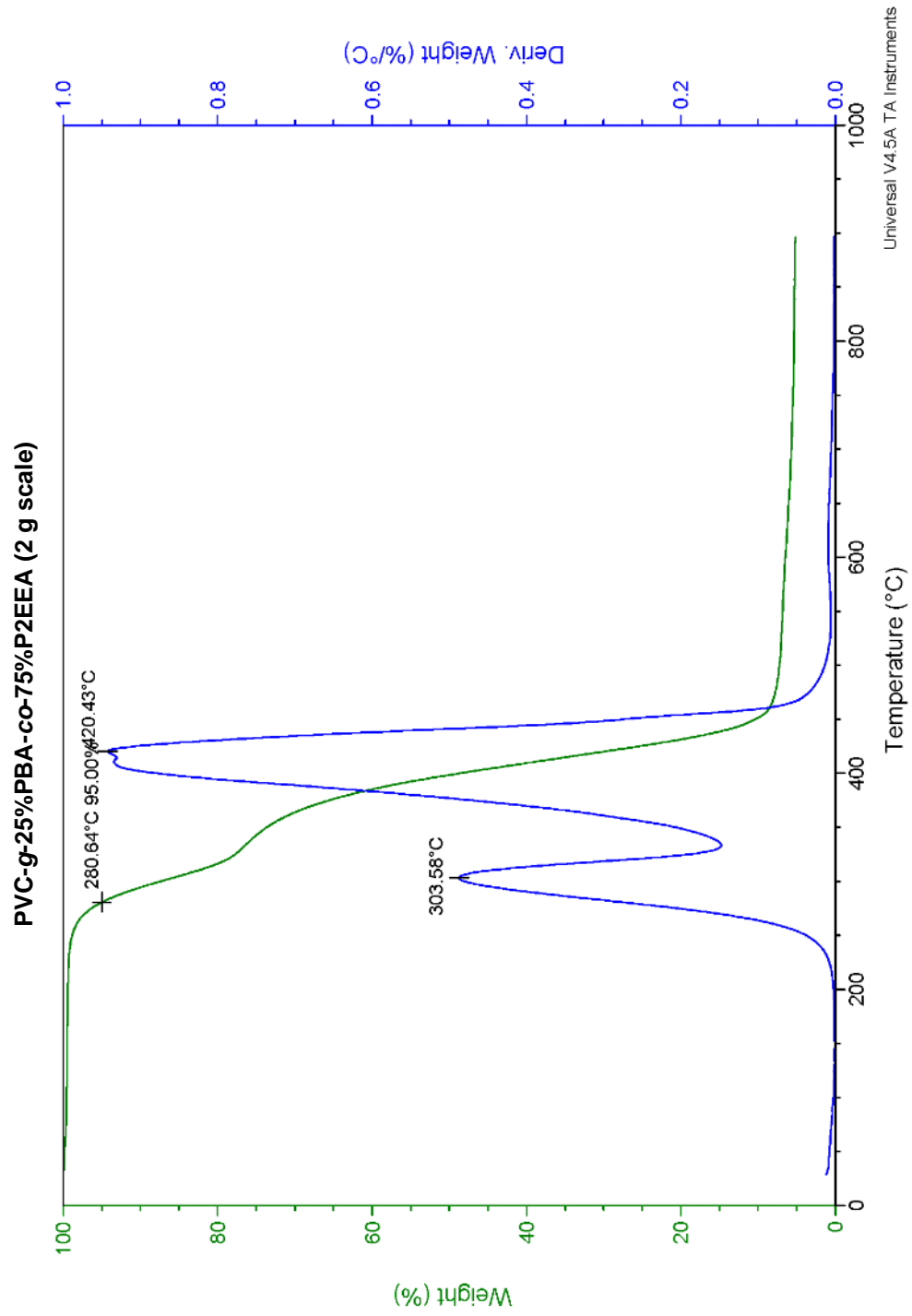
PVC-g-25%PBA-co-75%P2EEA (2 g scale)



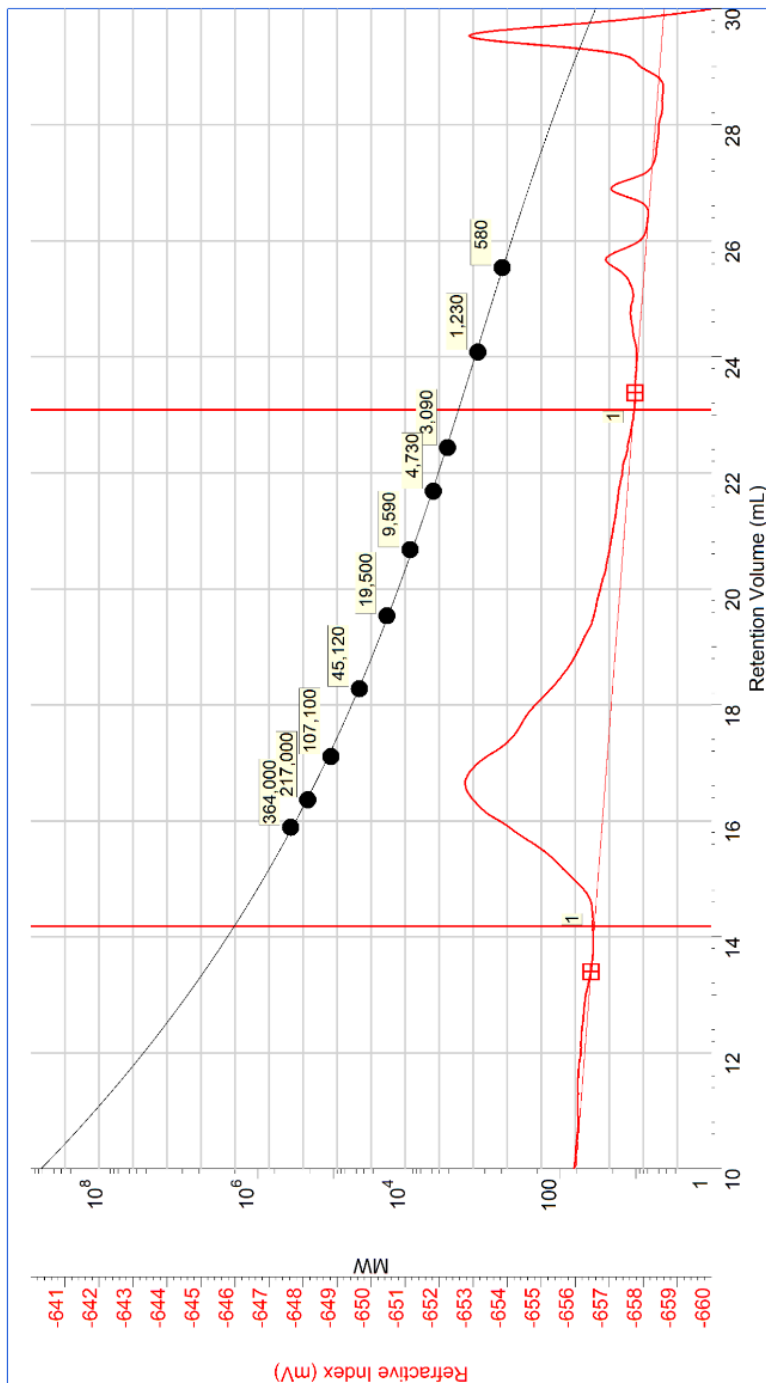


PVC-g-25%PBA-co-75%P2EEA (2 g scale)



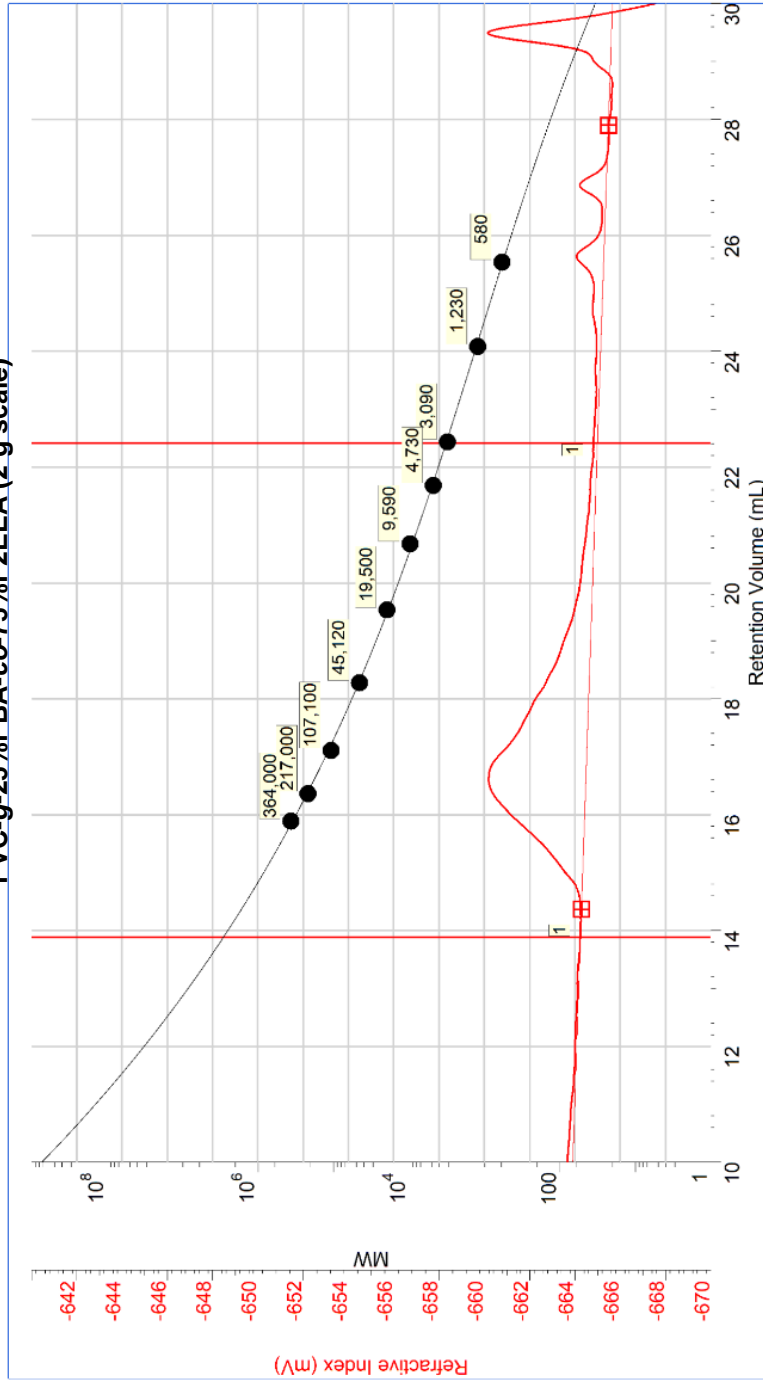


PVC-g-25%PBA-co-75%P2EEA (2 g scale)

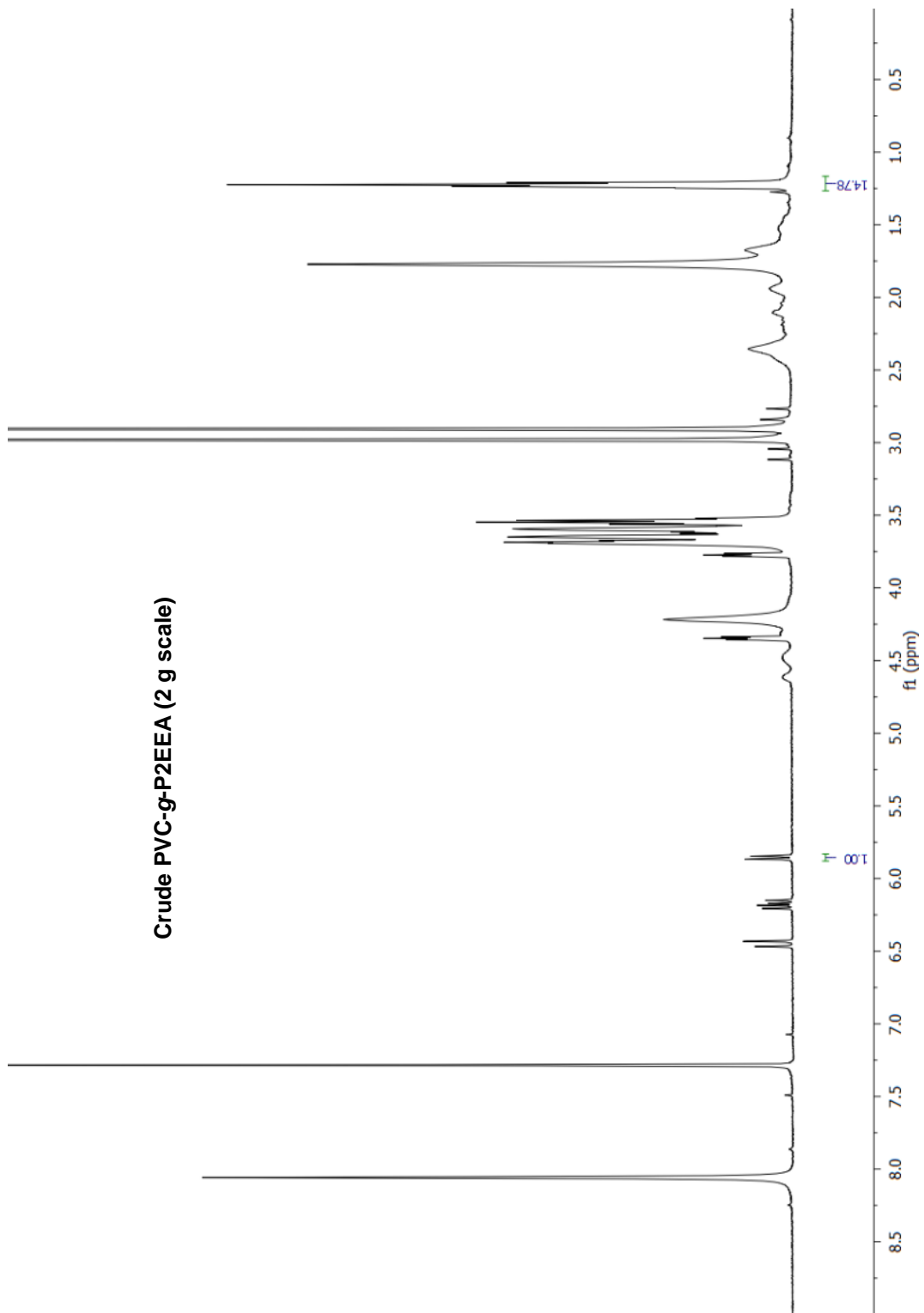


| Peak | Ret Time | Mp | Mn | Mw | Mz | Mw/Mn | RI Area |
|------|----------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 16.647 | 172,407 | 46,521 | 187,320 | 417,640 | 4.027 | 11.80 |

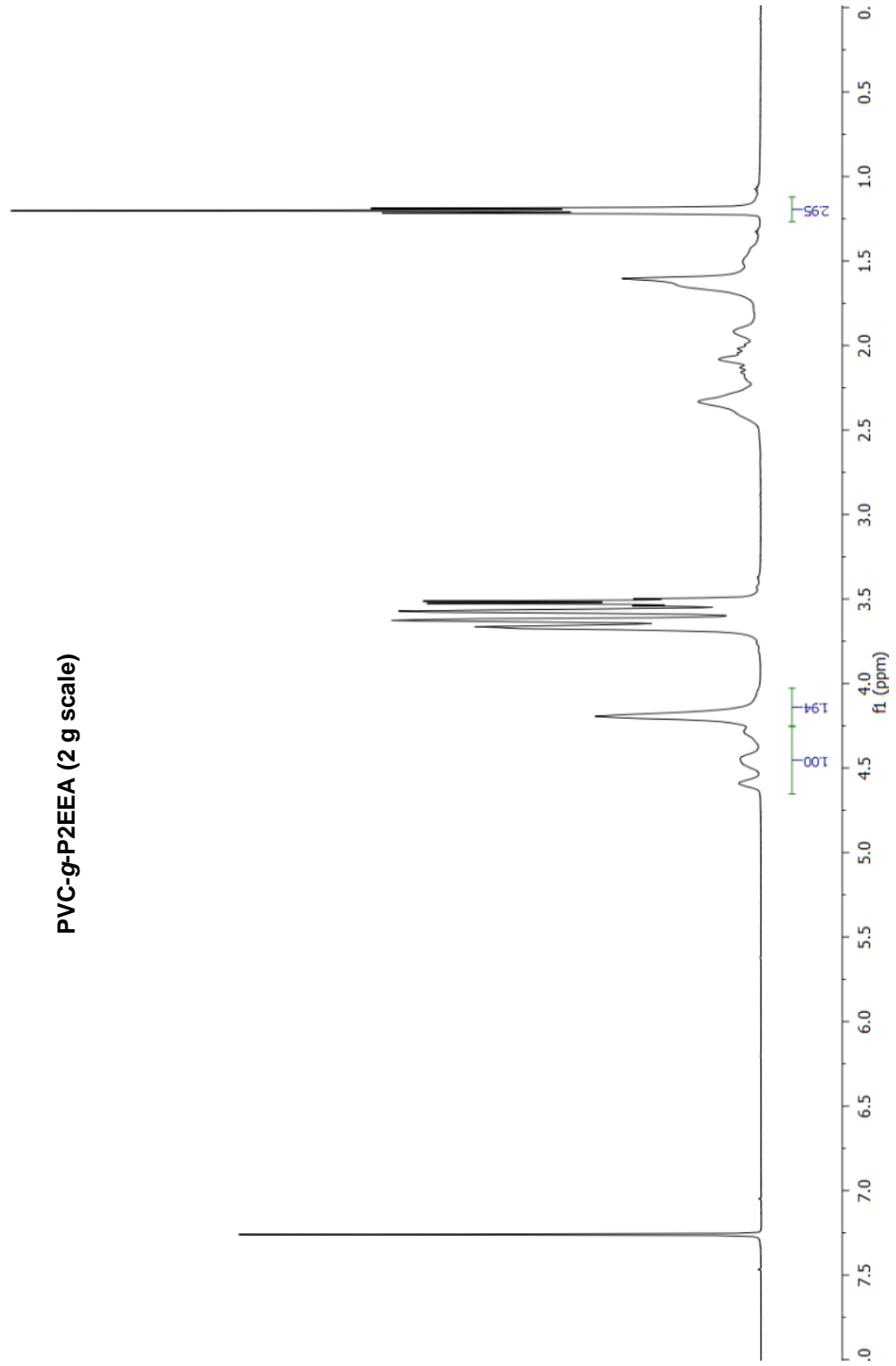
PVC-g-25%PBA-co-75%P2EEA (2 g scale)

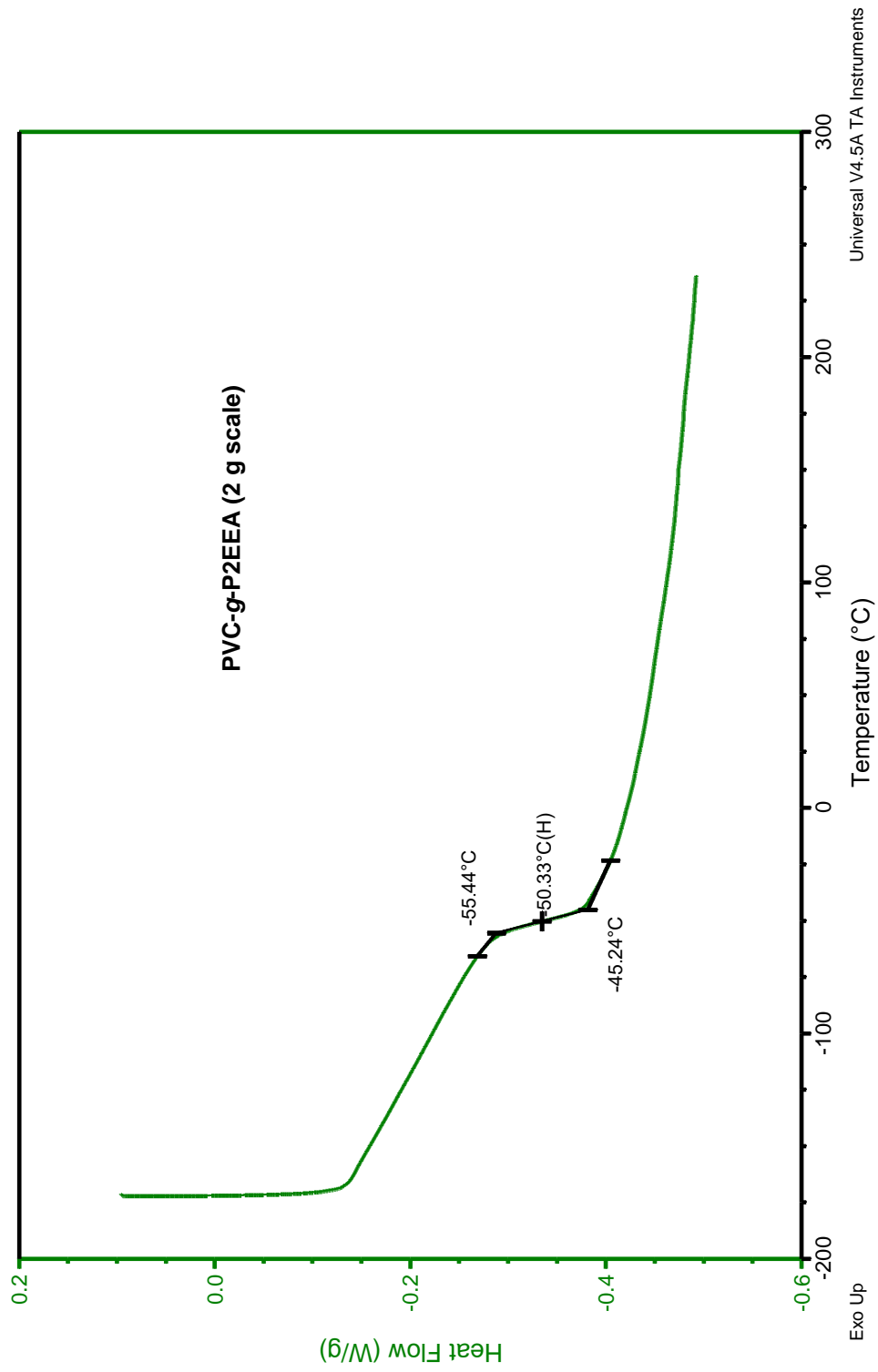


| Peak | Ret Time | Mp | Mn | Mw | Mz | Mw/Mn | RI Area |
|------|----------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 16.633 | 174,772 | 48,451 | 187,568 | 420,907 | 3.871 | 12.42 |

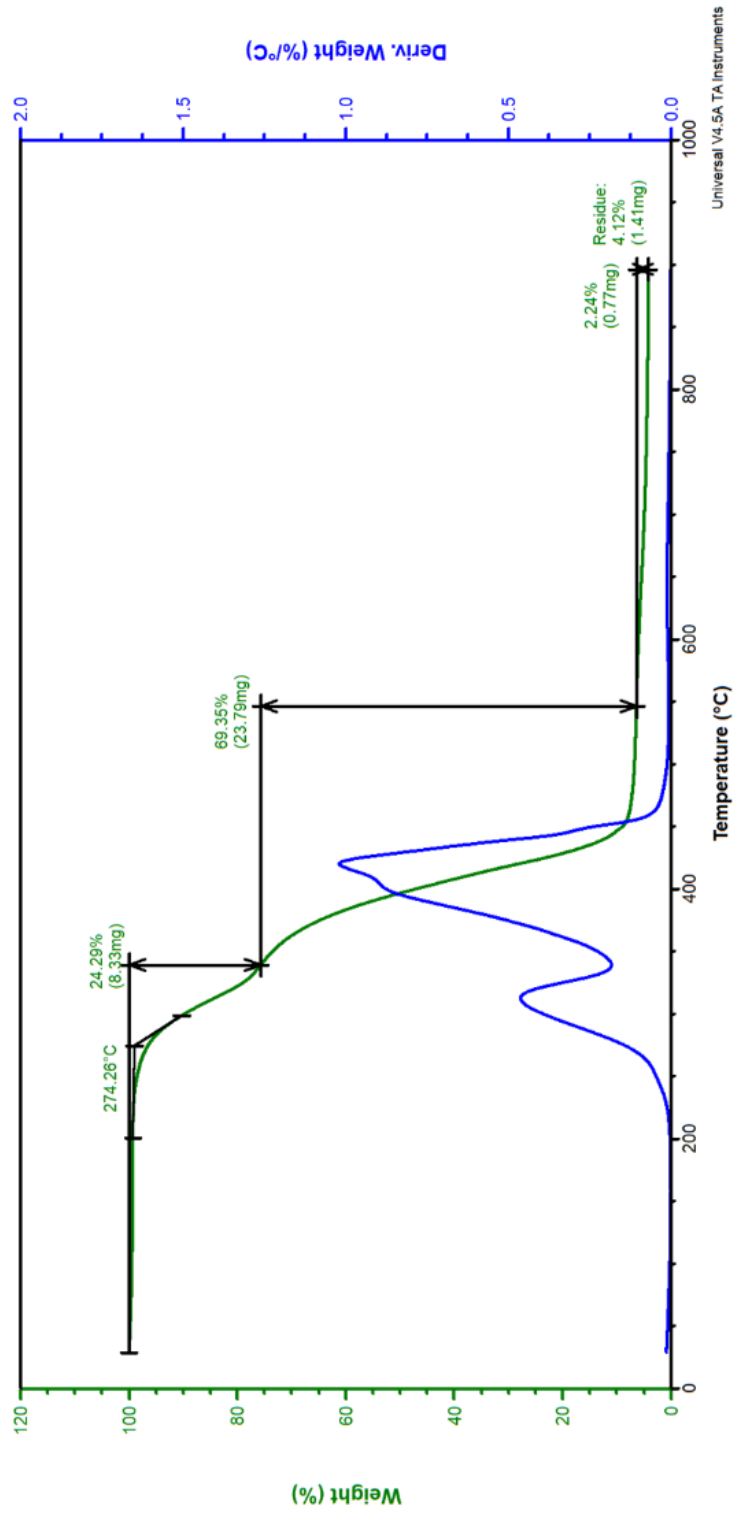


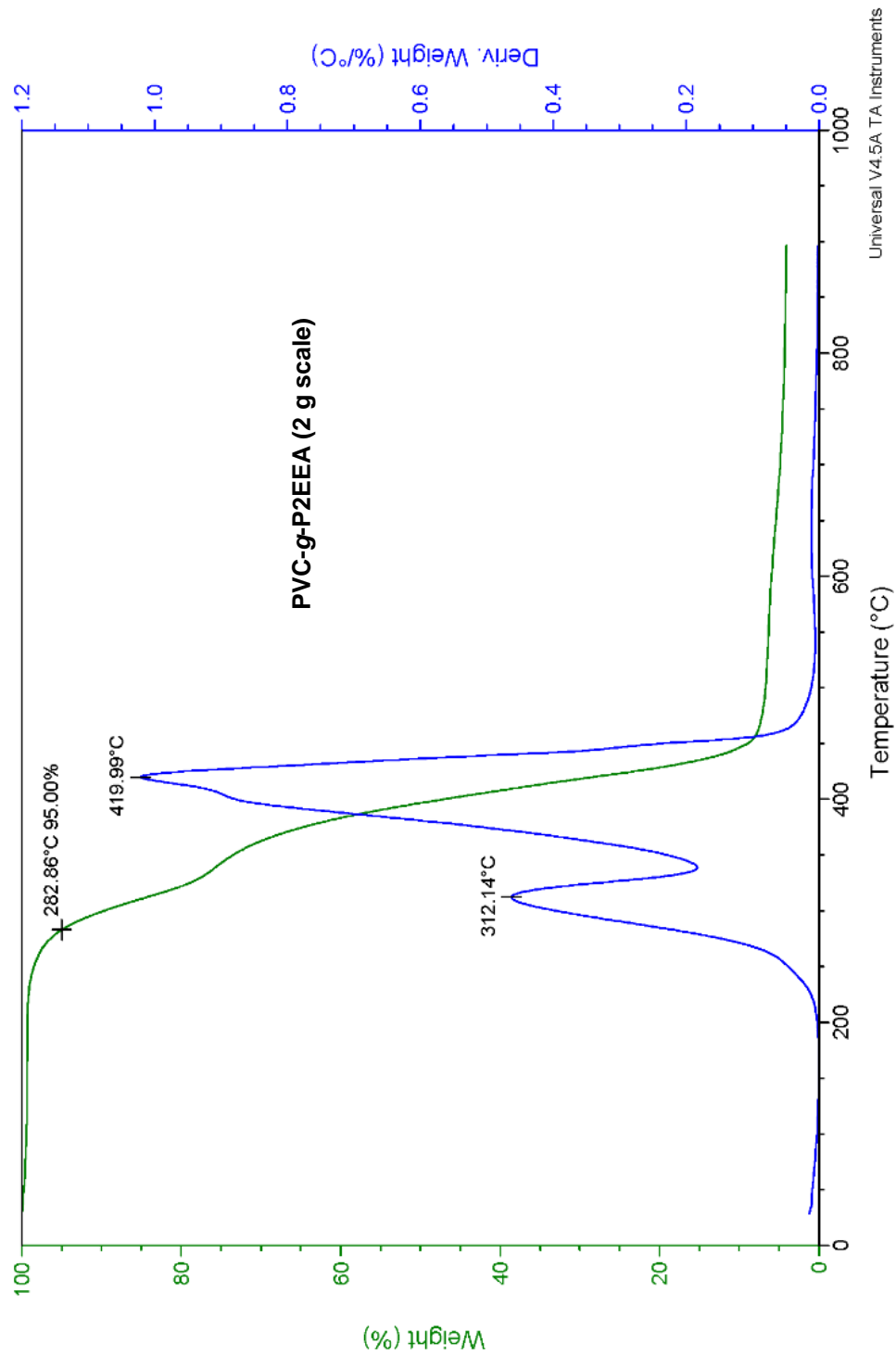
PVC-g-P2EEA (2 g scale)



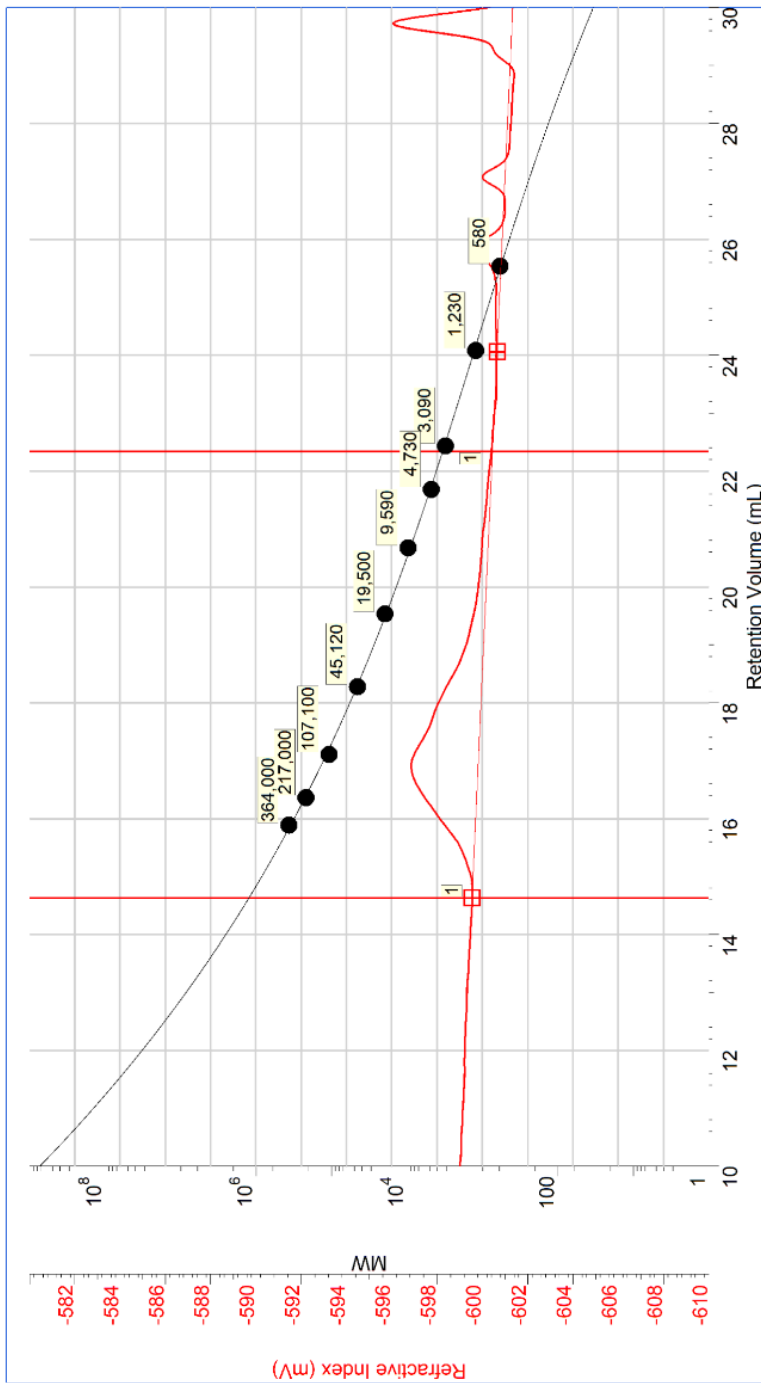


PVC-g-P2EEA (2 g scale)



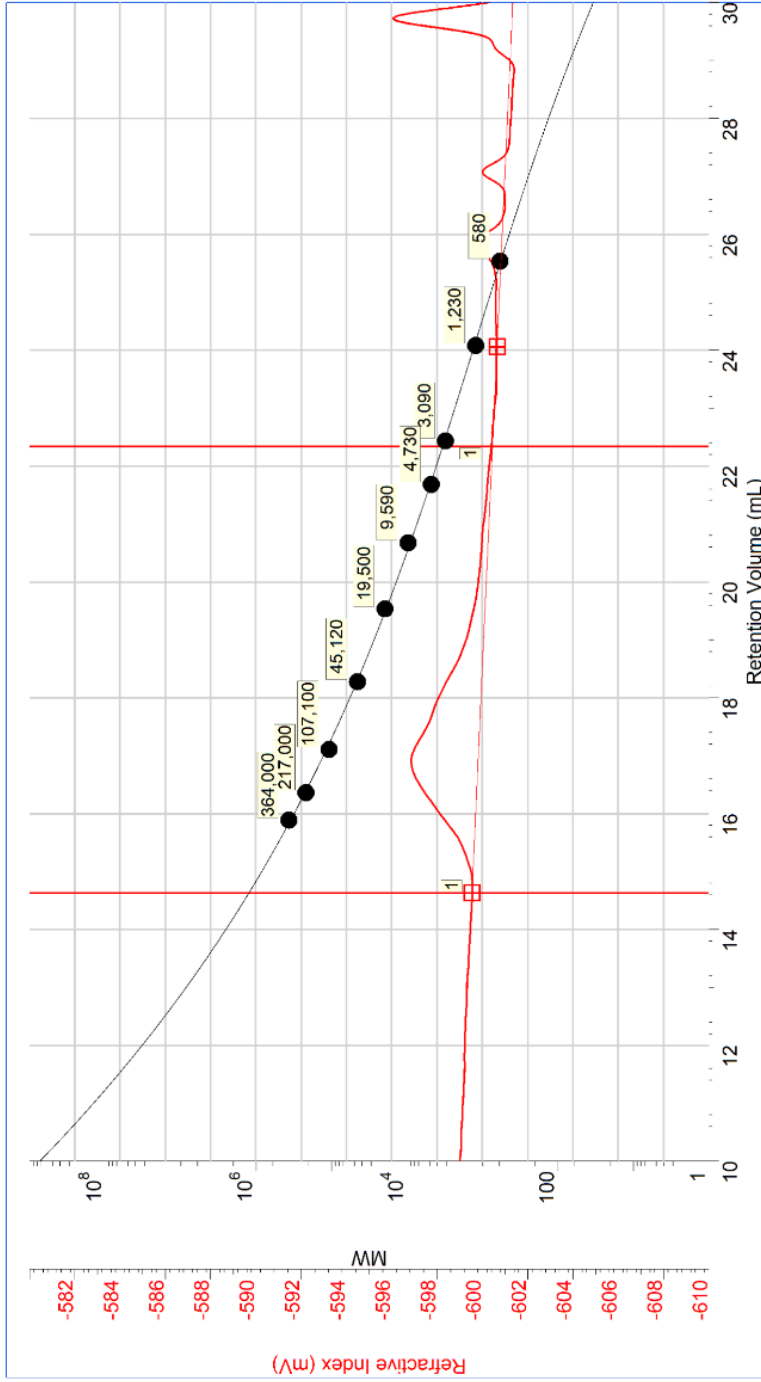


PVC-g-P2EEA (2 g scale)



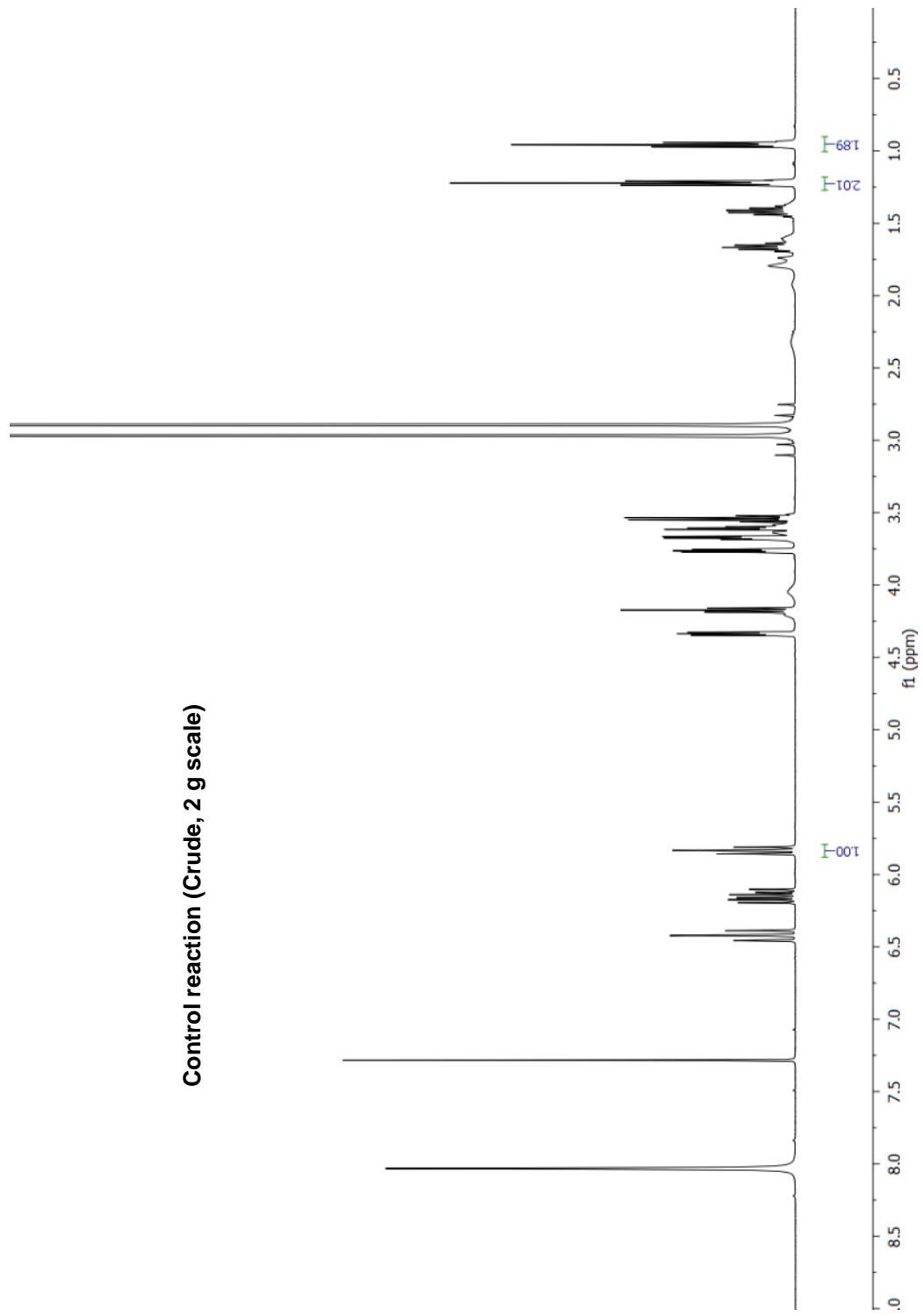
| Peak | Ret Time | Mp | Mn | Mw | Mz | Mw/Mn | RI Area |
|------|----------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 16.907 | 137,679 | 47,072 | 142,932 | 285,085 | 3.036 | 7.86 |

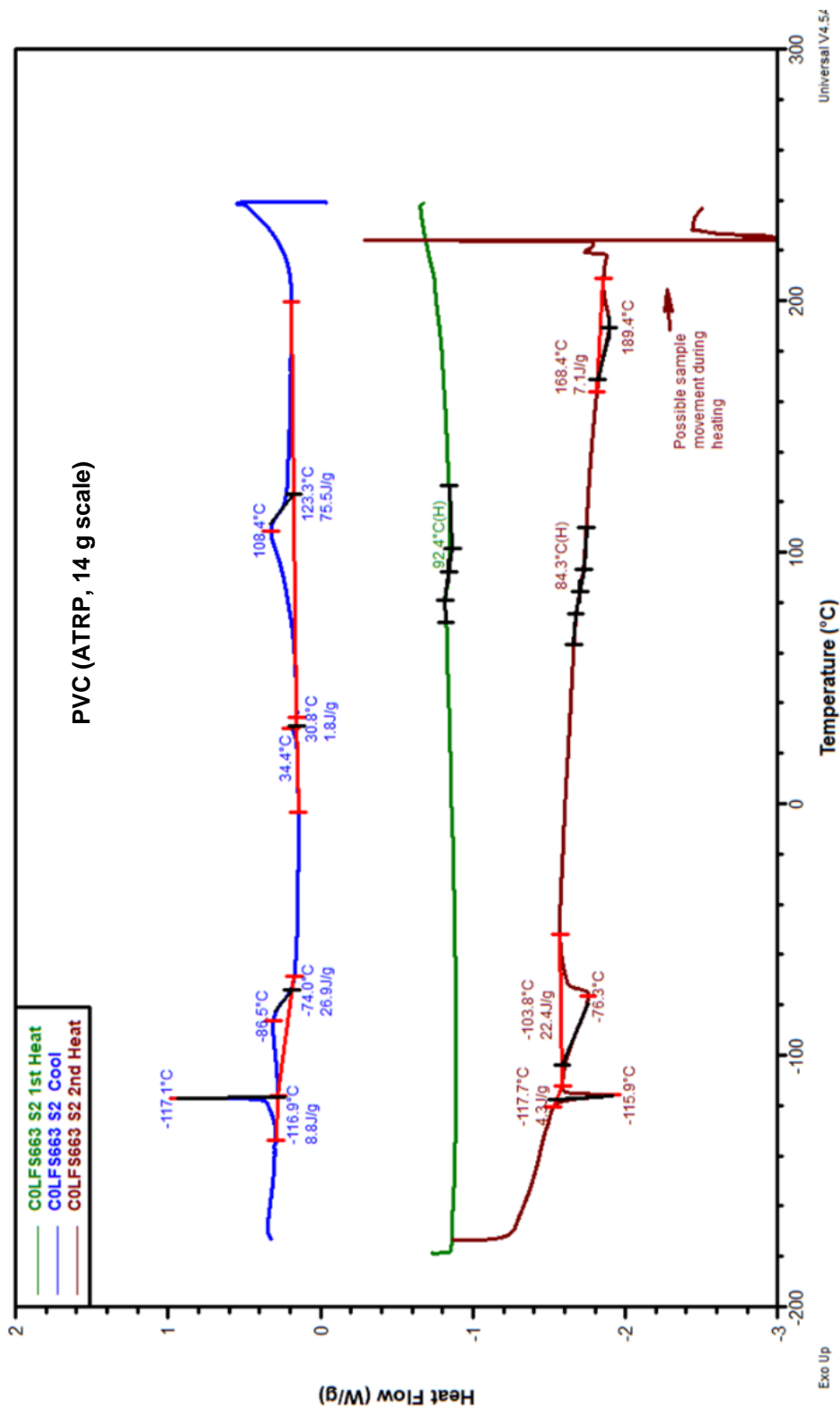
PVC-g-P2EEA (2 g scale)

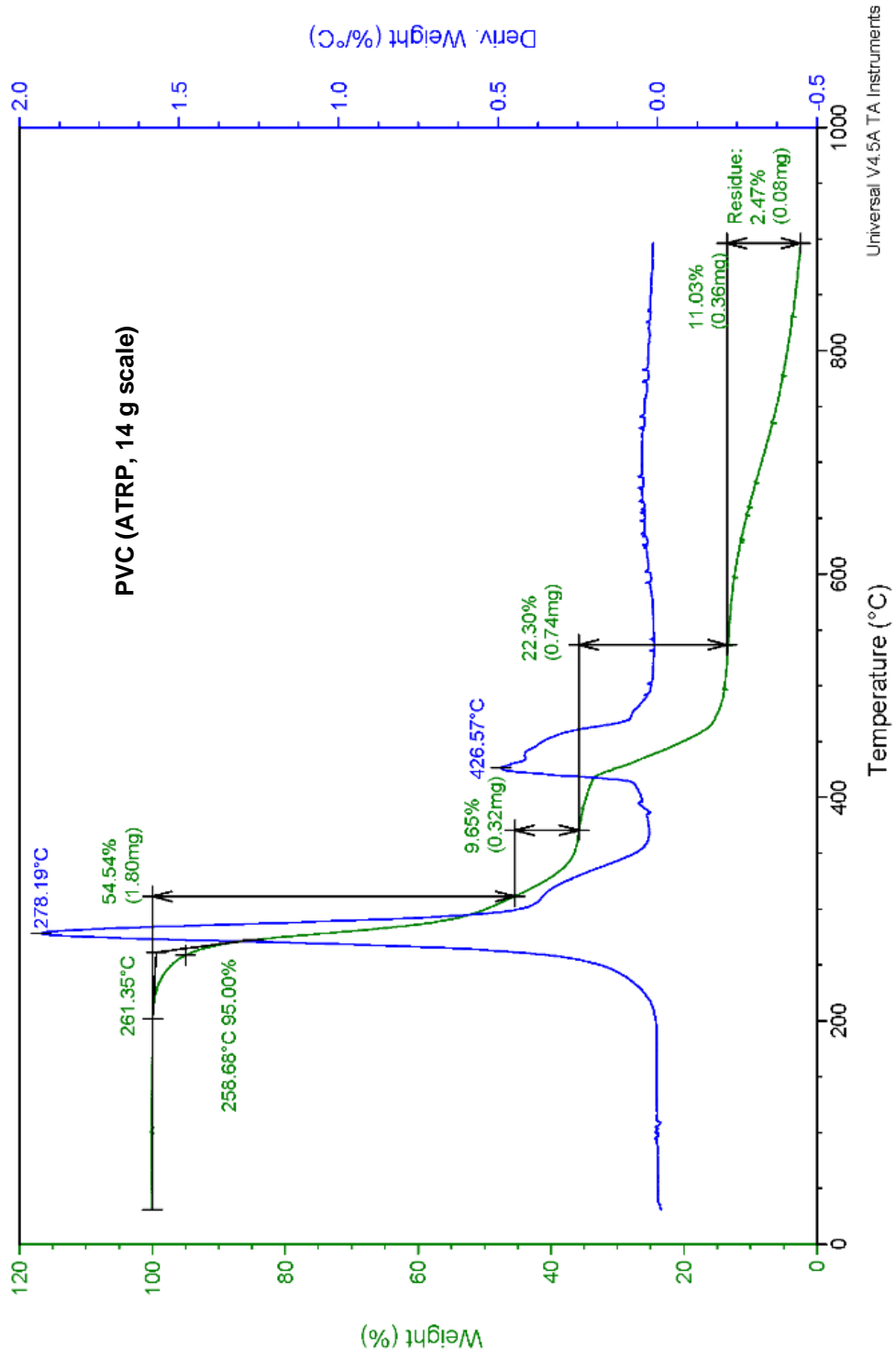


| Peak | Ret Time | Mp | Mn | Mw | Mz | Mw/Mn | RI Area |
|------|----------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 16.907 | 137,679 | 47,072 | 142,932 | 285,085 | 3.036 | 7.86 |

Control reaction (Crude, 2 g scale)

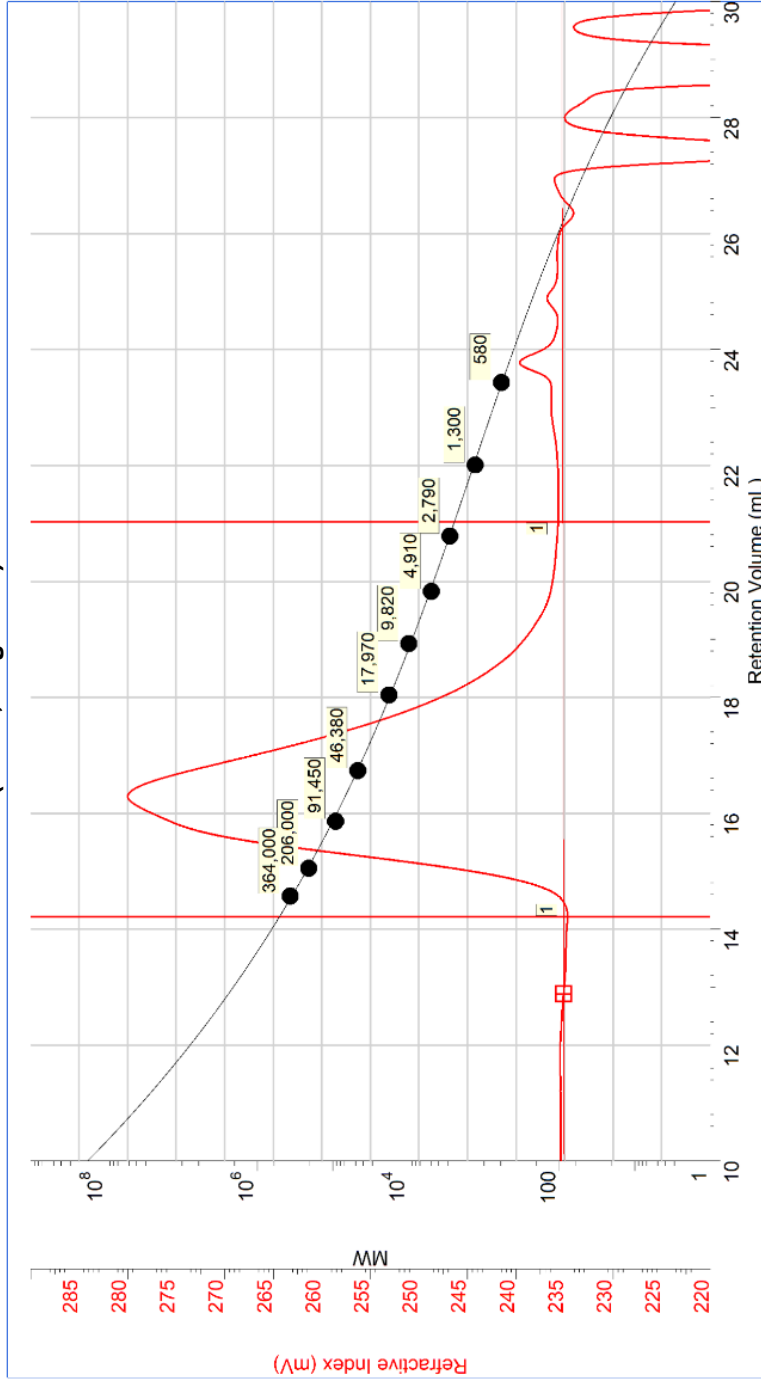






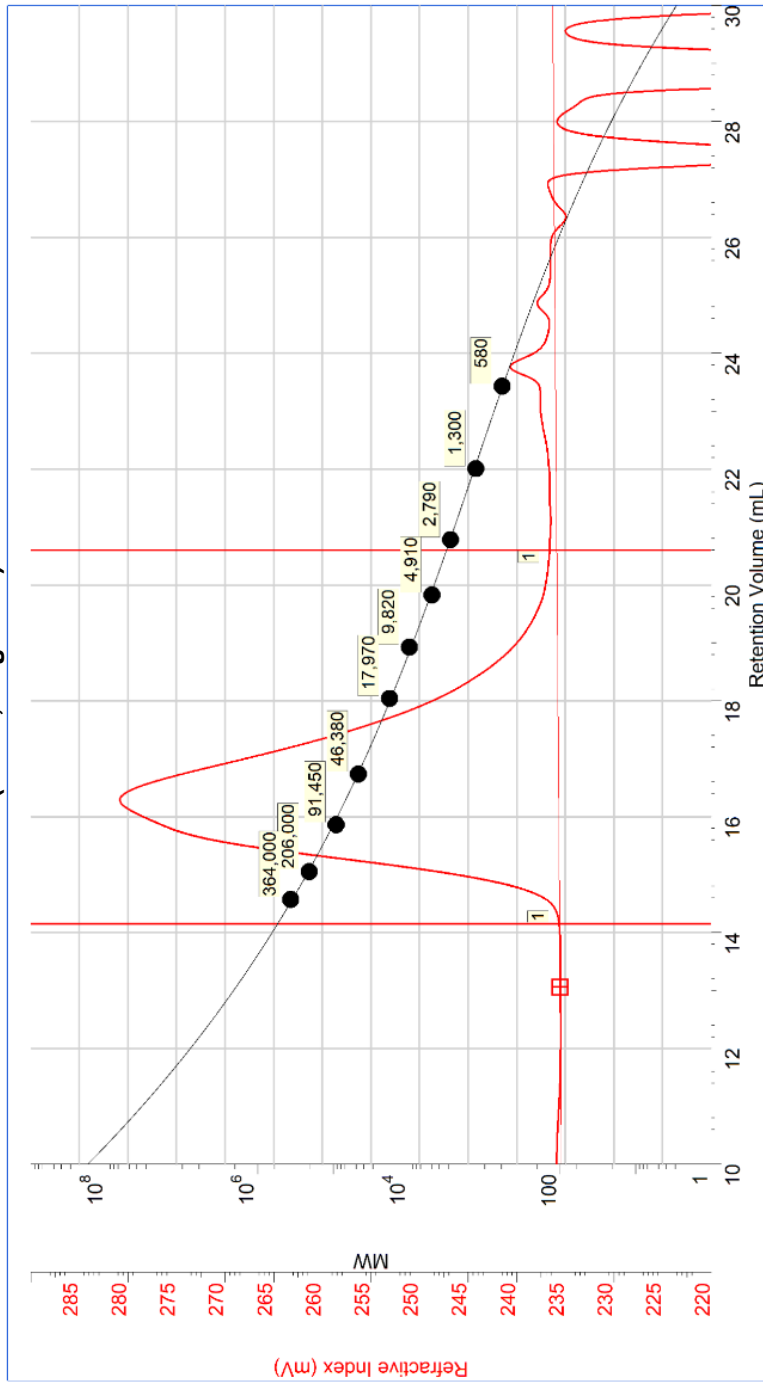
Universal V4.5A TA Instruments

PVC (ATRP, 14 g scale)

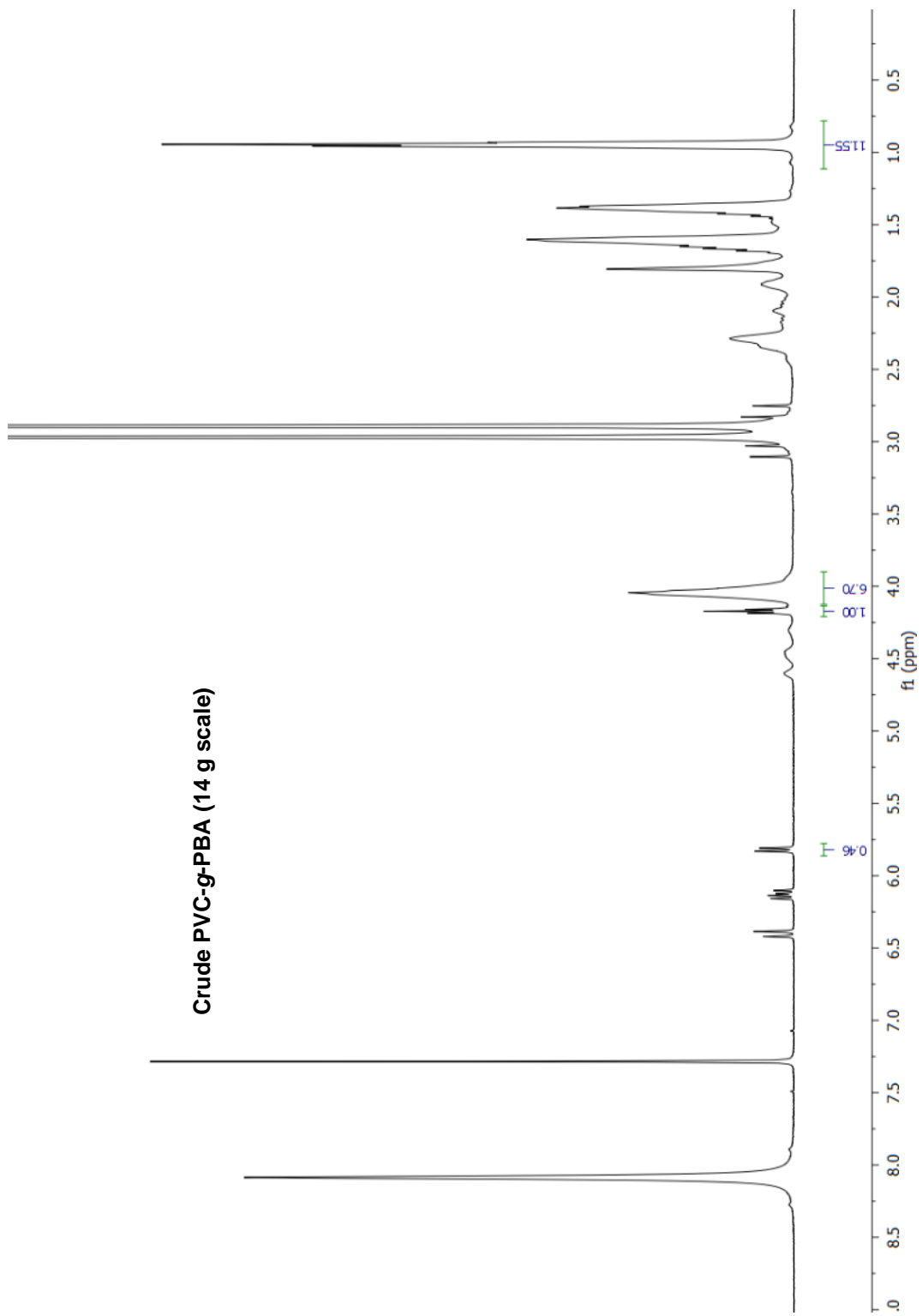


| Peak | Ret Time | Mp | Mn | Mw | Mz | Mw/Mn | RI Area |
|------|----------|--------|--------|--------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 16.280 | 68,699 | 36,029 | 72,192 | 111,606 | 2.004 | 103.85 |

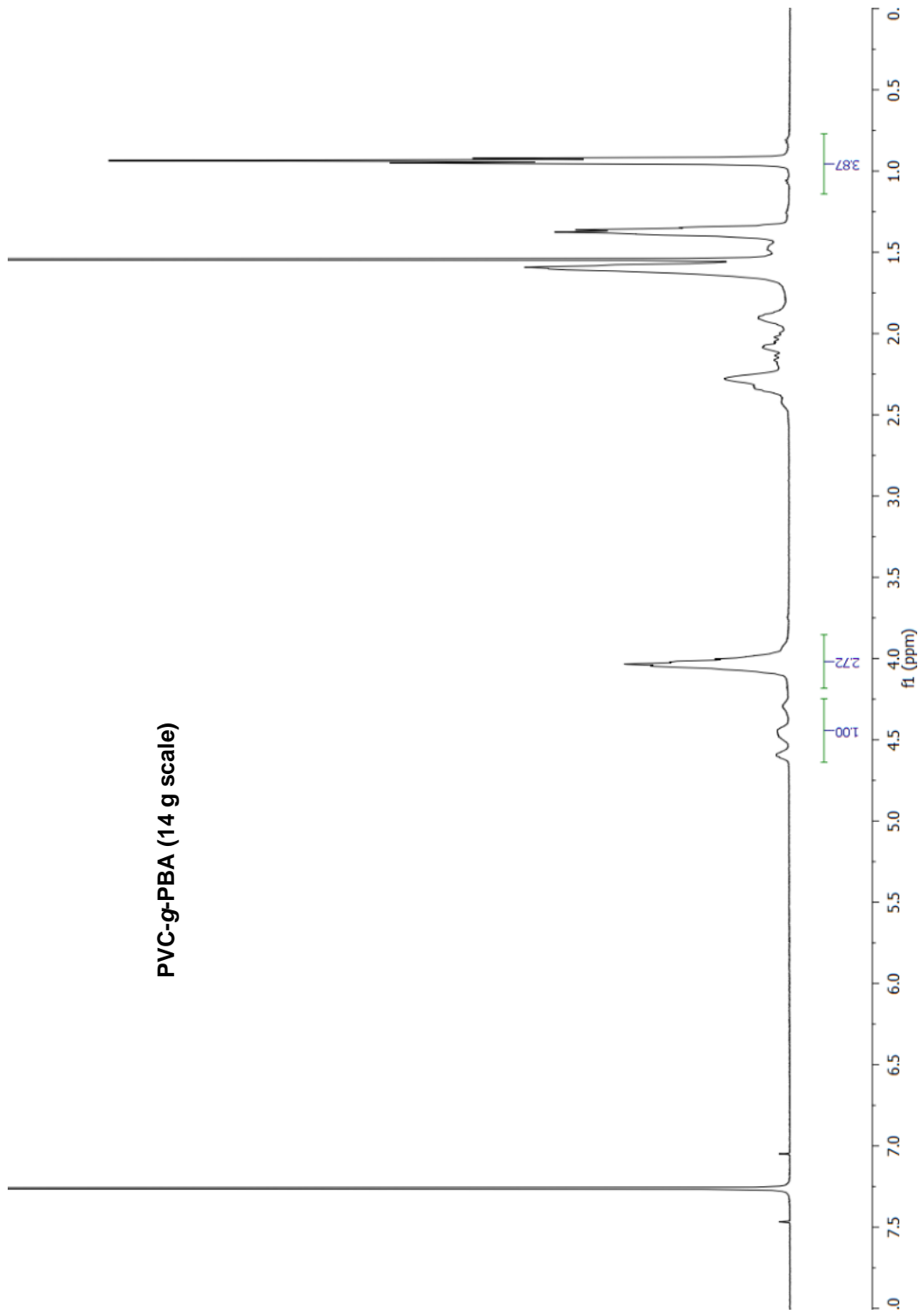
PVC (ATRP, 14 g scale)

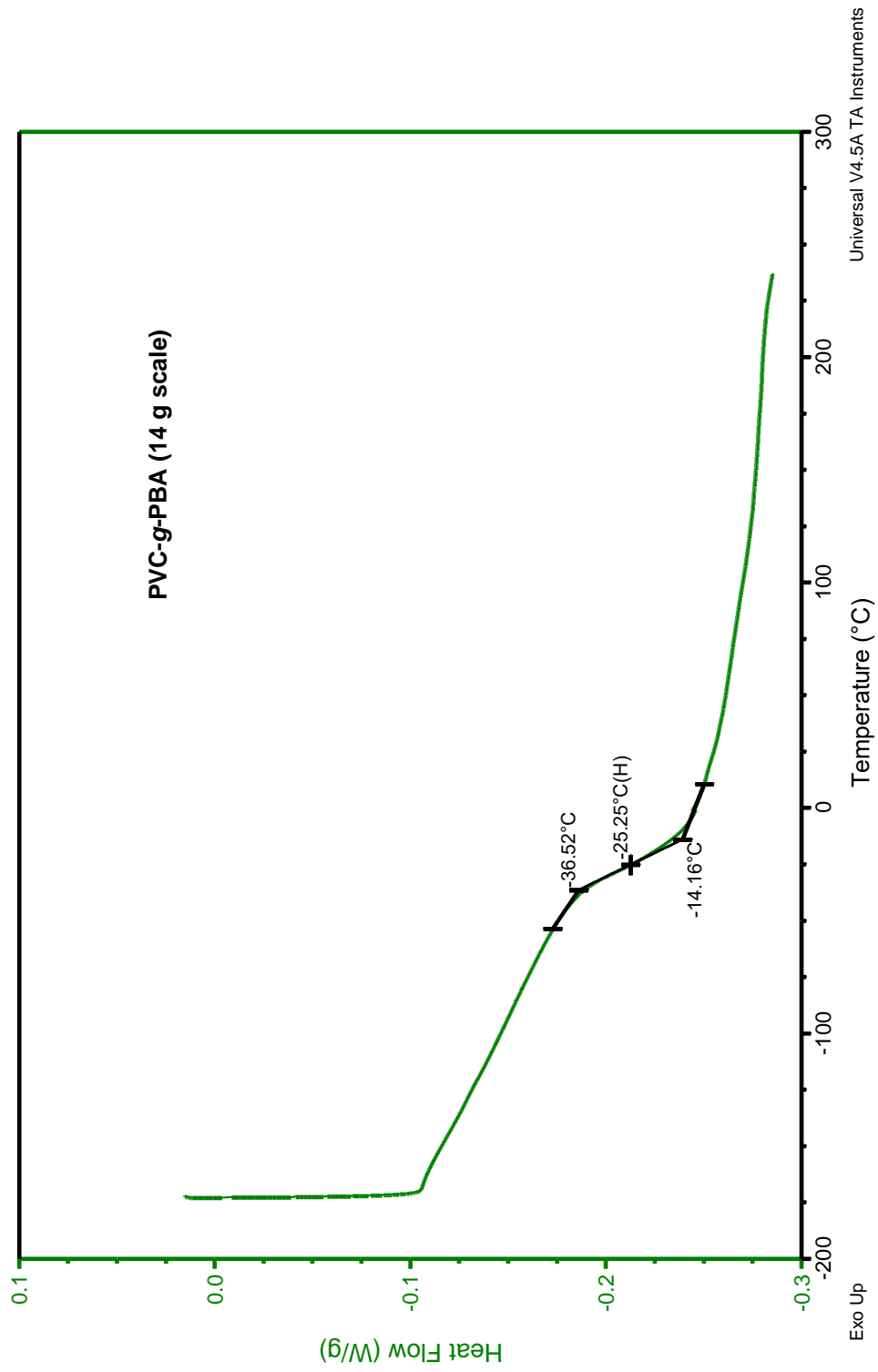


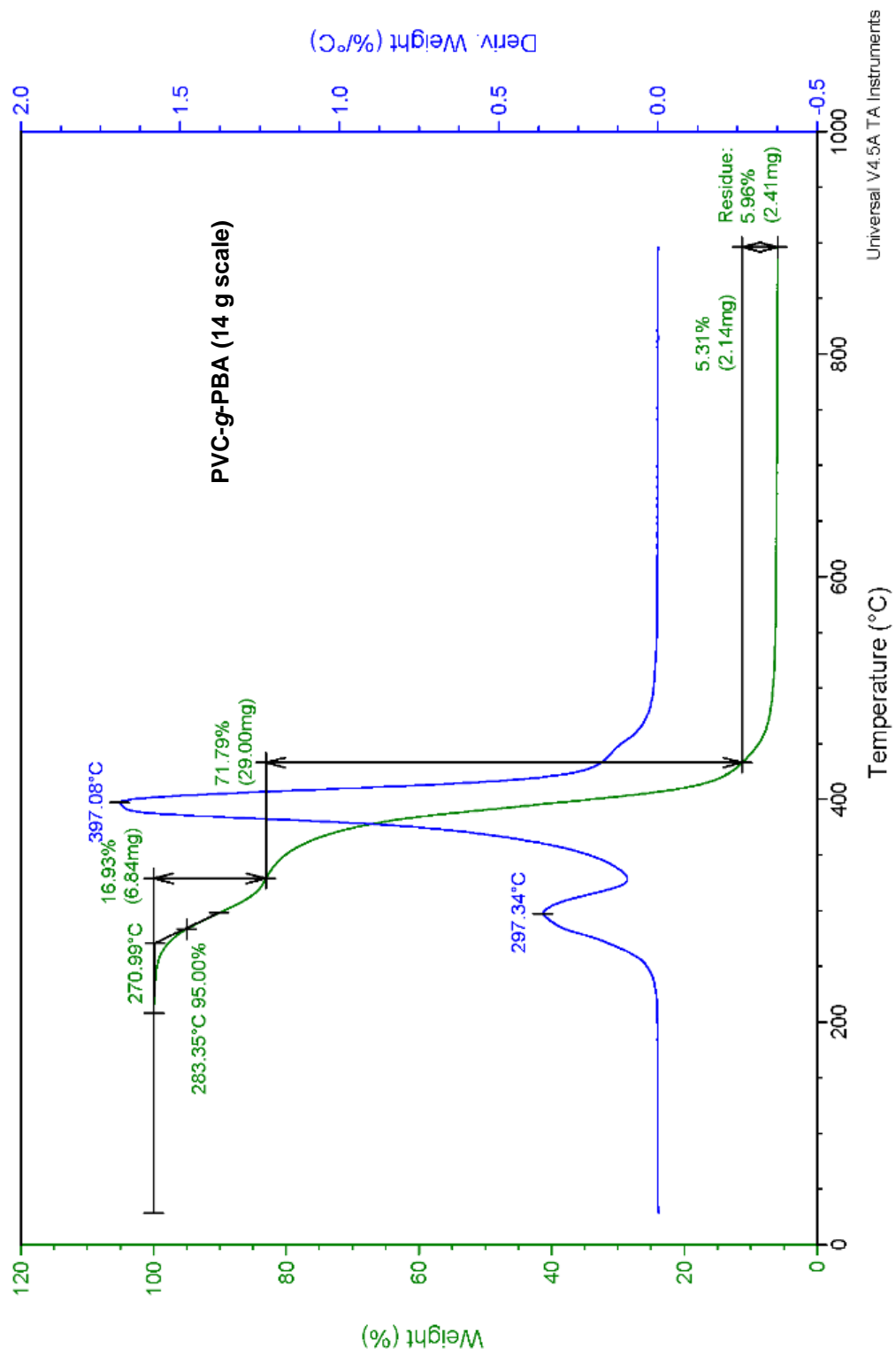
| Peak | Ret Time | Mp | Mn | Mw | Mz | Mw/Mn | RI Area |
|------|----------|--------|--------|--------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 16.273 | 69,039 | 36,793 | 73,914 | 117,273 | 2.009 | 106.17 |



PVC-g-PBA (14 g scale)

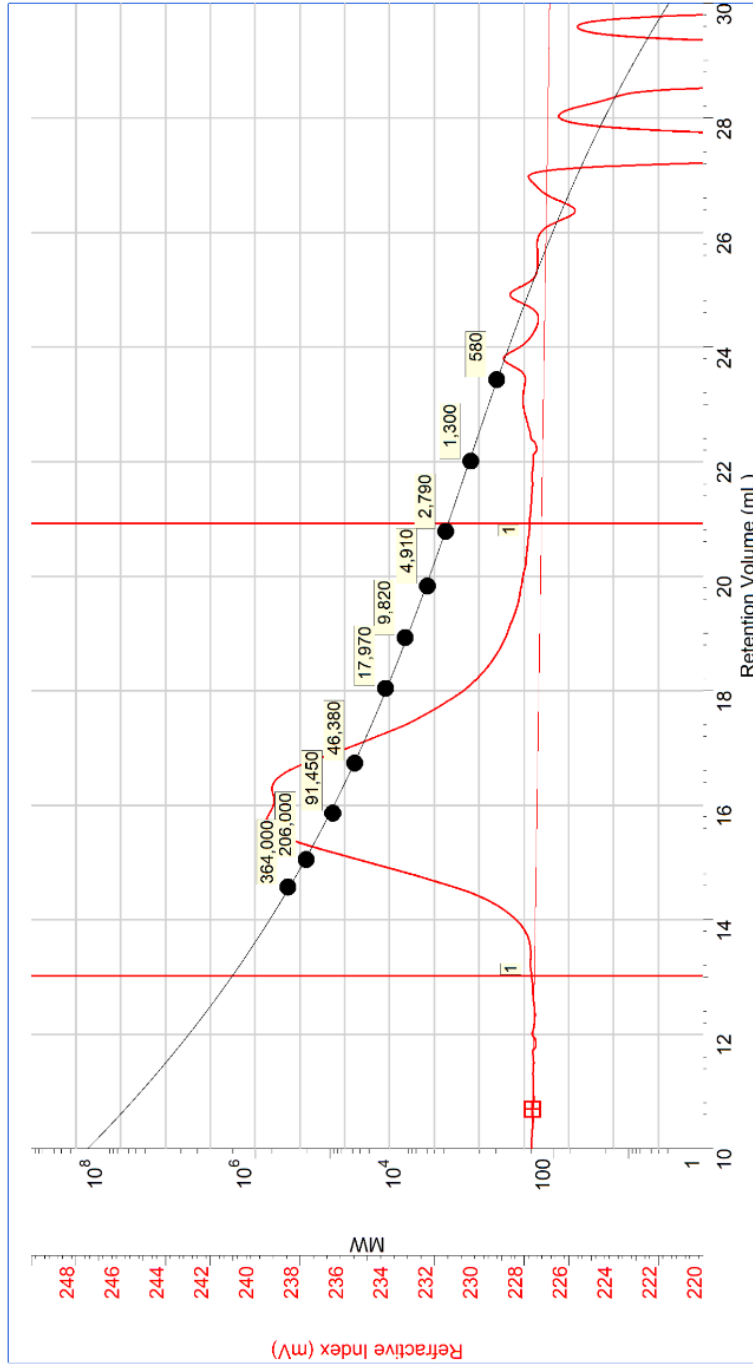






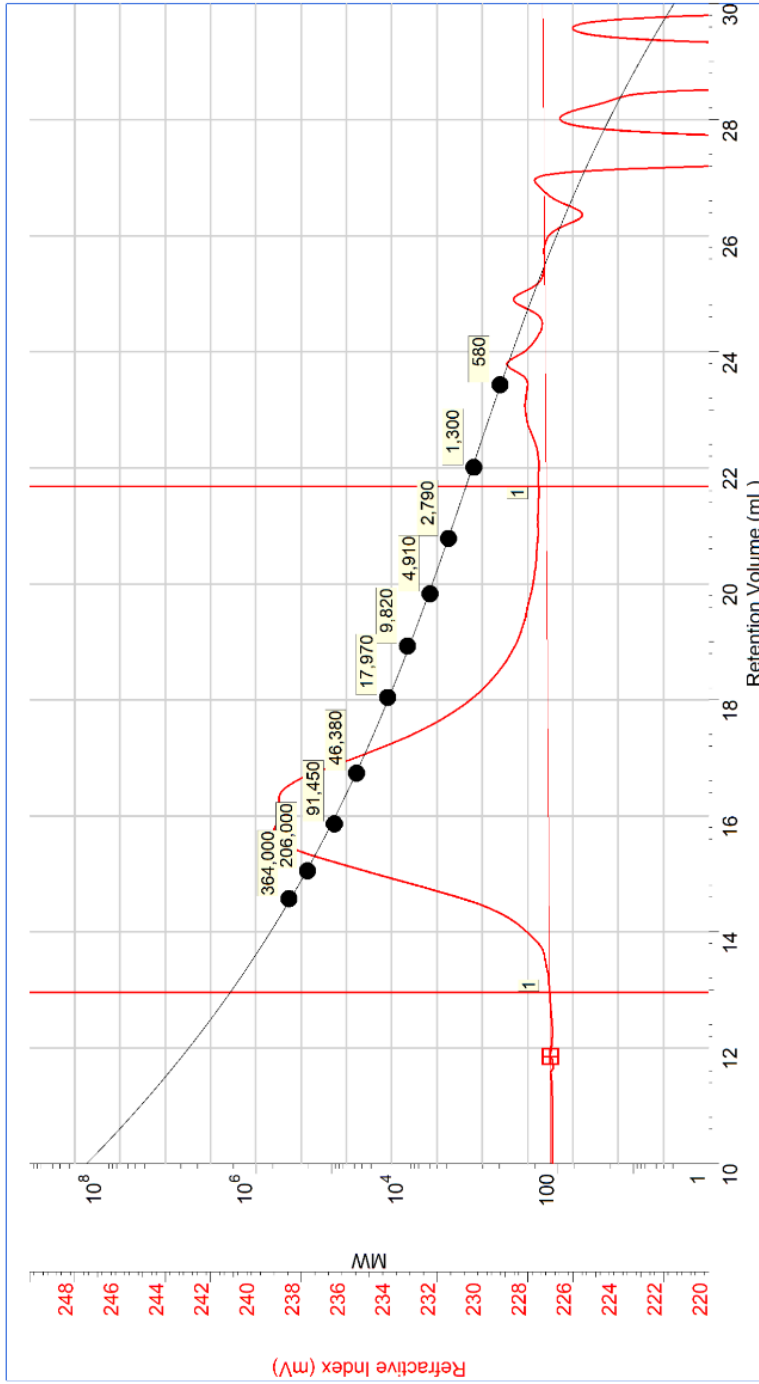
Universal V4.5A TA Instruments

PVC-g-PBA (14 g scale)



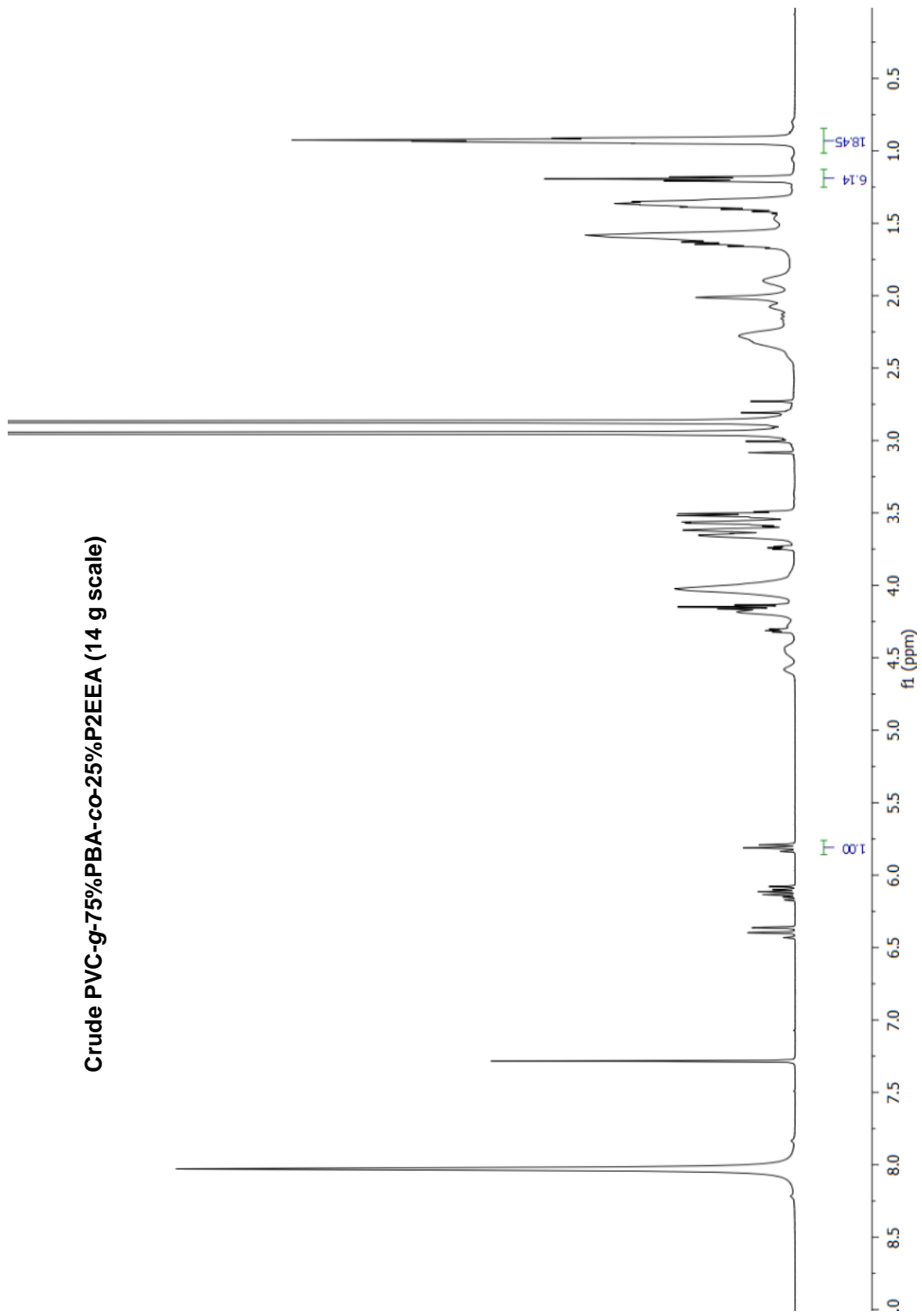
| Peak | Ret Time | Mp | Mn | Mw | Mz | Mw/Mn | RI Area |
|------|----------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 15.723 | 112,551 | 35,015 | 107,422 | 242,947 | 3.068 | 35.11 |

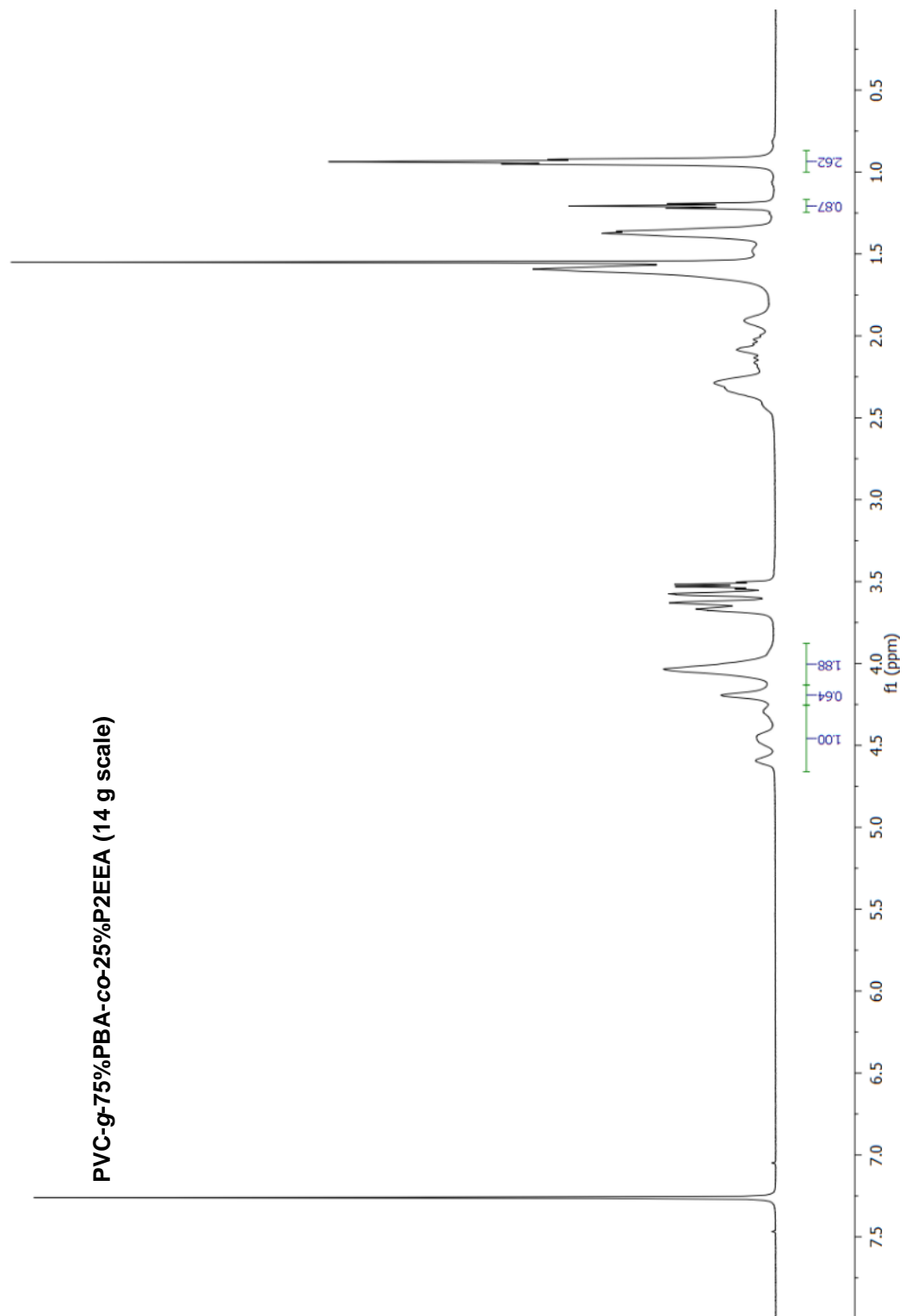
PVC-g-PBA (14 g scale)

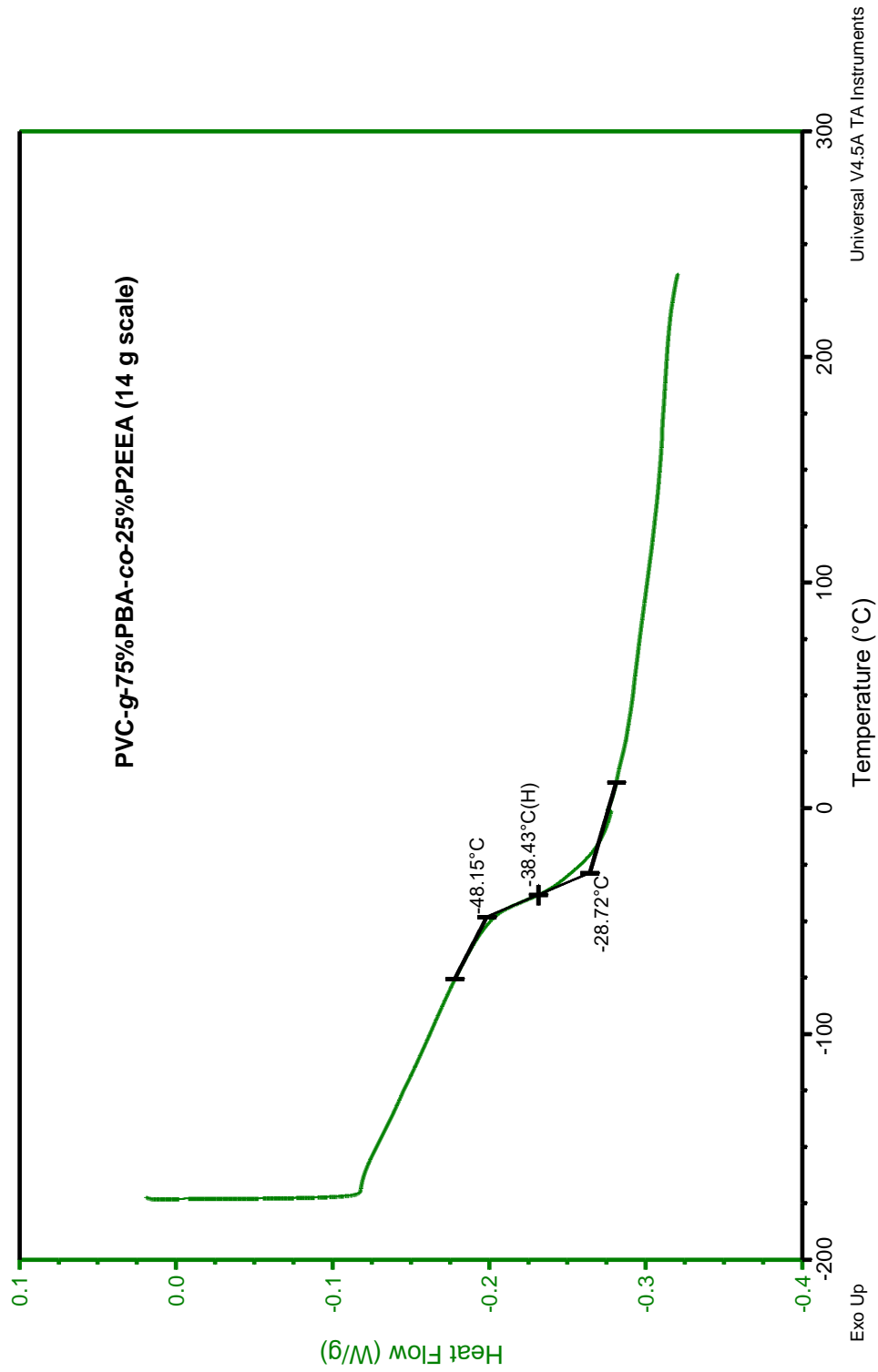


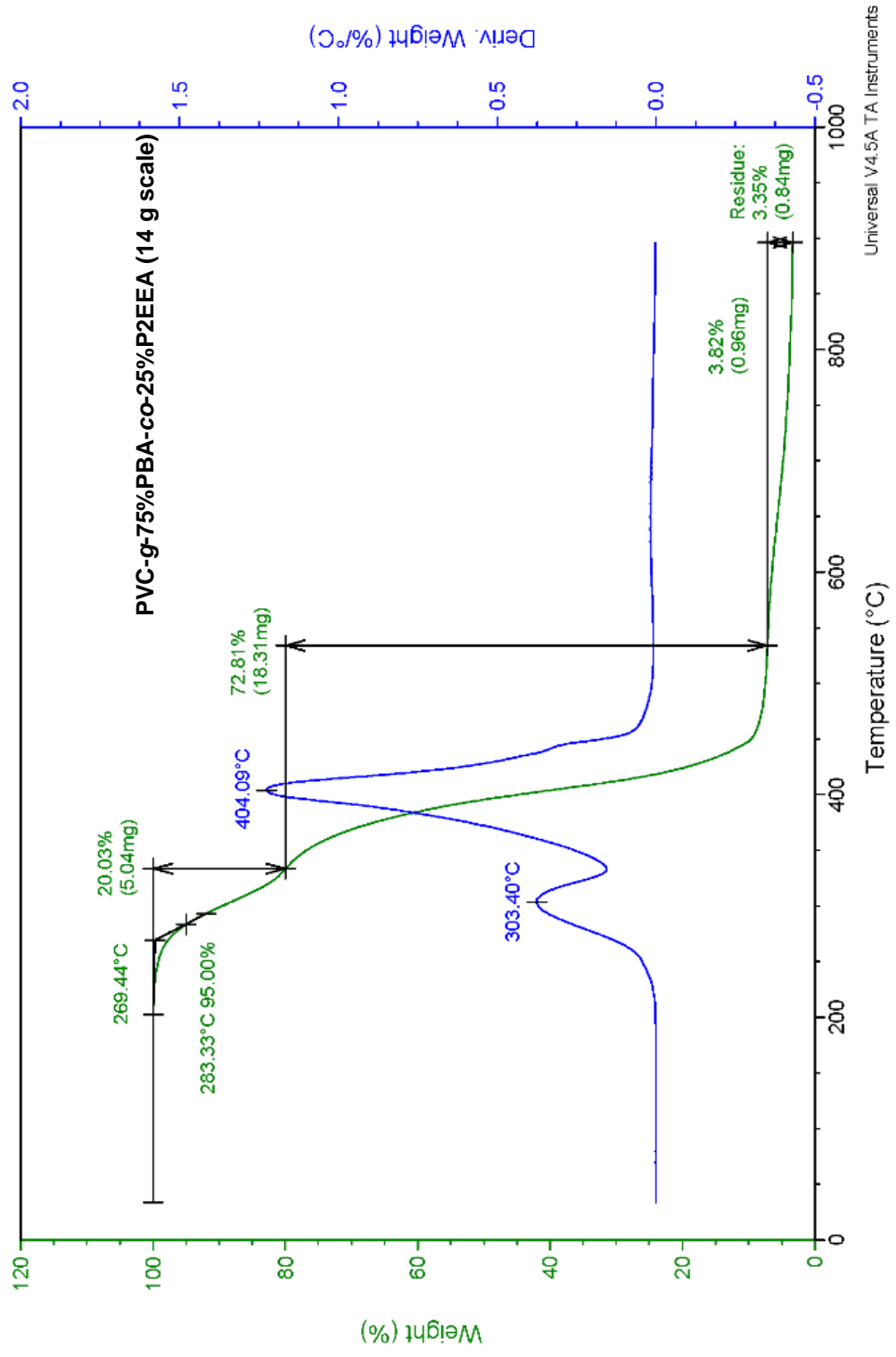
| Peak | Ret Time | Mp | Mn | Mw | Mz | Mw/Mn | RI Area |
|------|----------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 15.723 | 112,534 | 33,052 | 108,961 | 245,638 | 3.297 | 35.41 |

Crude PVC-g-75%PBA-co-25%P2EEA (14 g scale)



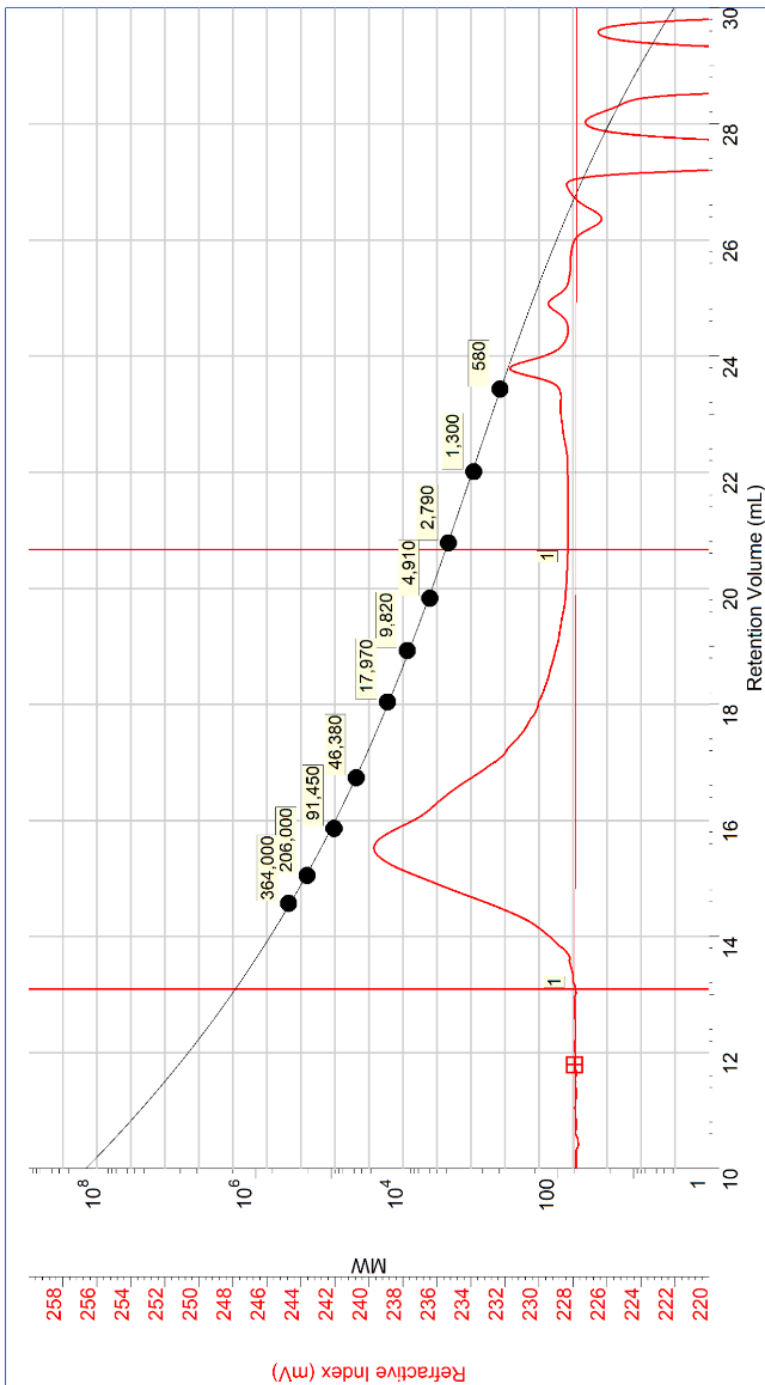






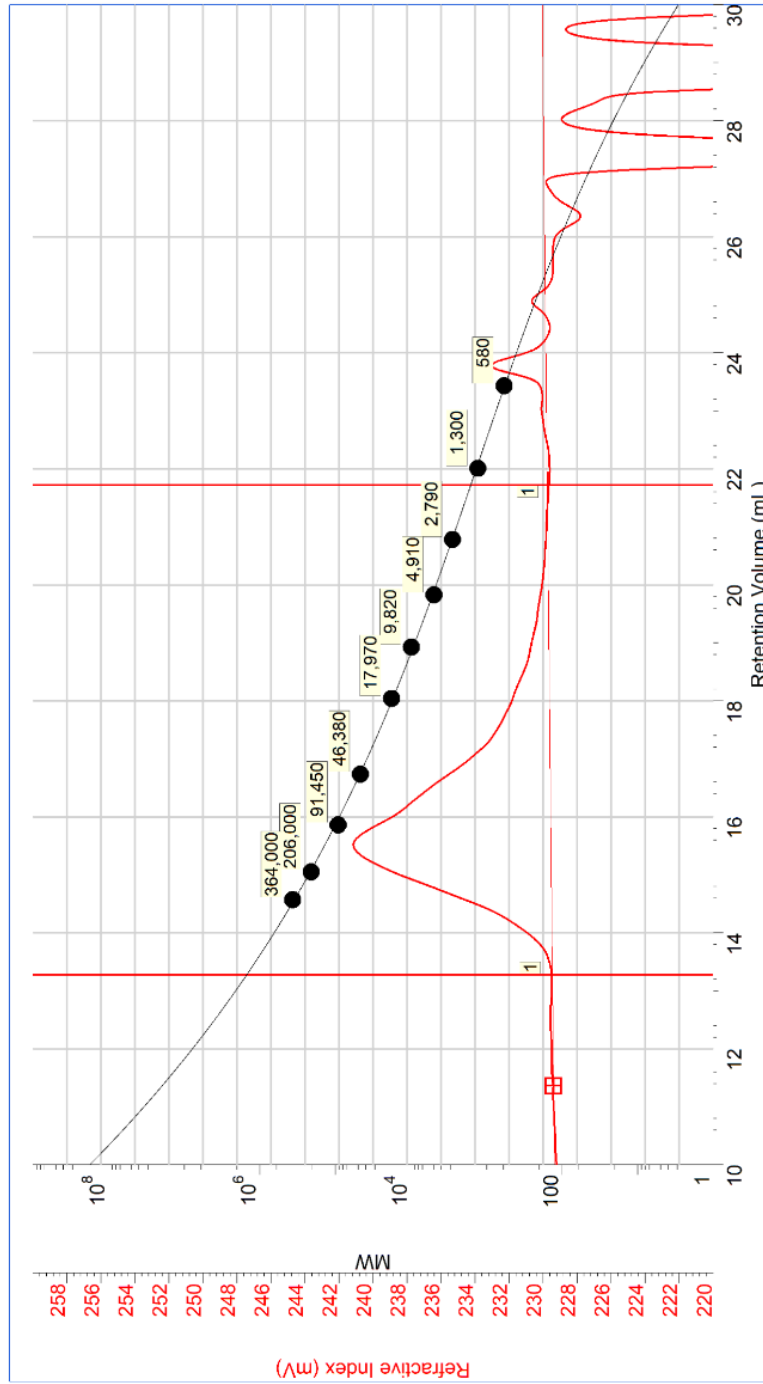
Universal V4.5A TA Instruments

PVC-g-75%PBA-co-25%P2EEA (14 g scale)



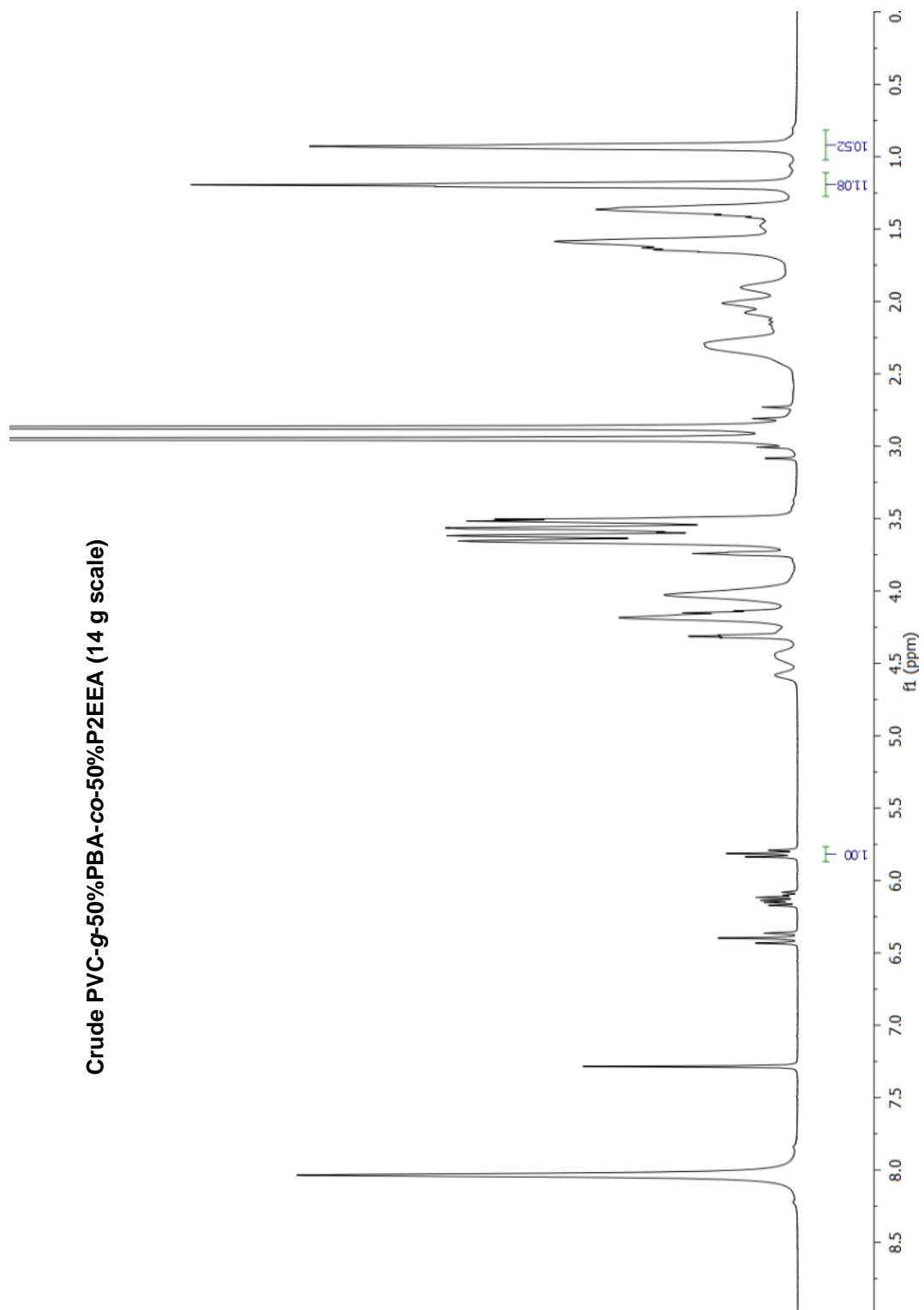
| Peak | Ret Time | Mp | Mn | Mw | Mz | Mw/Mn | RI Area |
|------|----------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 15.510 | 136,923 | 42,773 | 140,460 | 293,907 | 3.284 | 29.28 |

PVC-g-75%PBA-co-25%P2EEA (14 g scale)

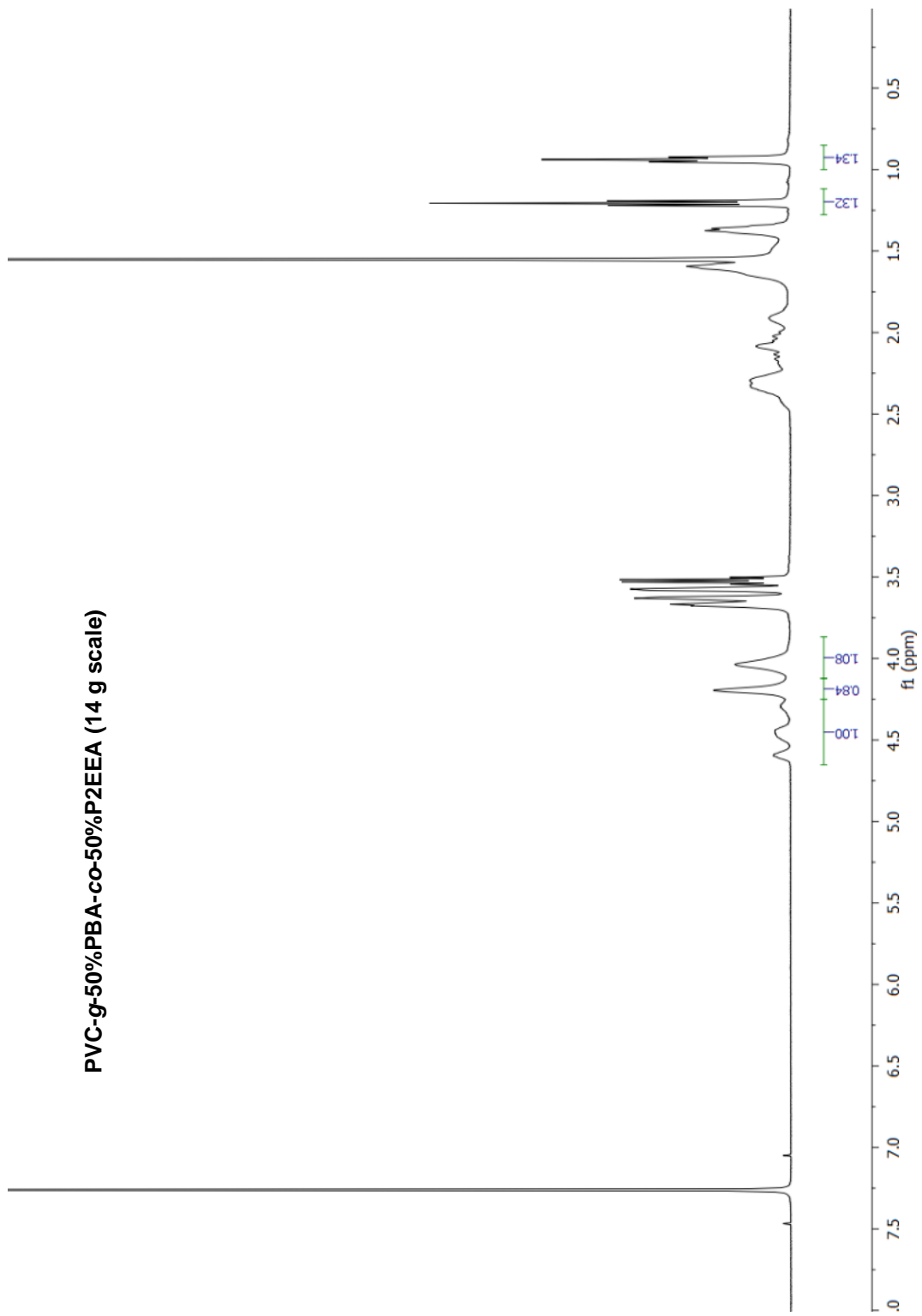


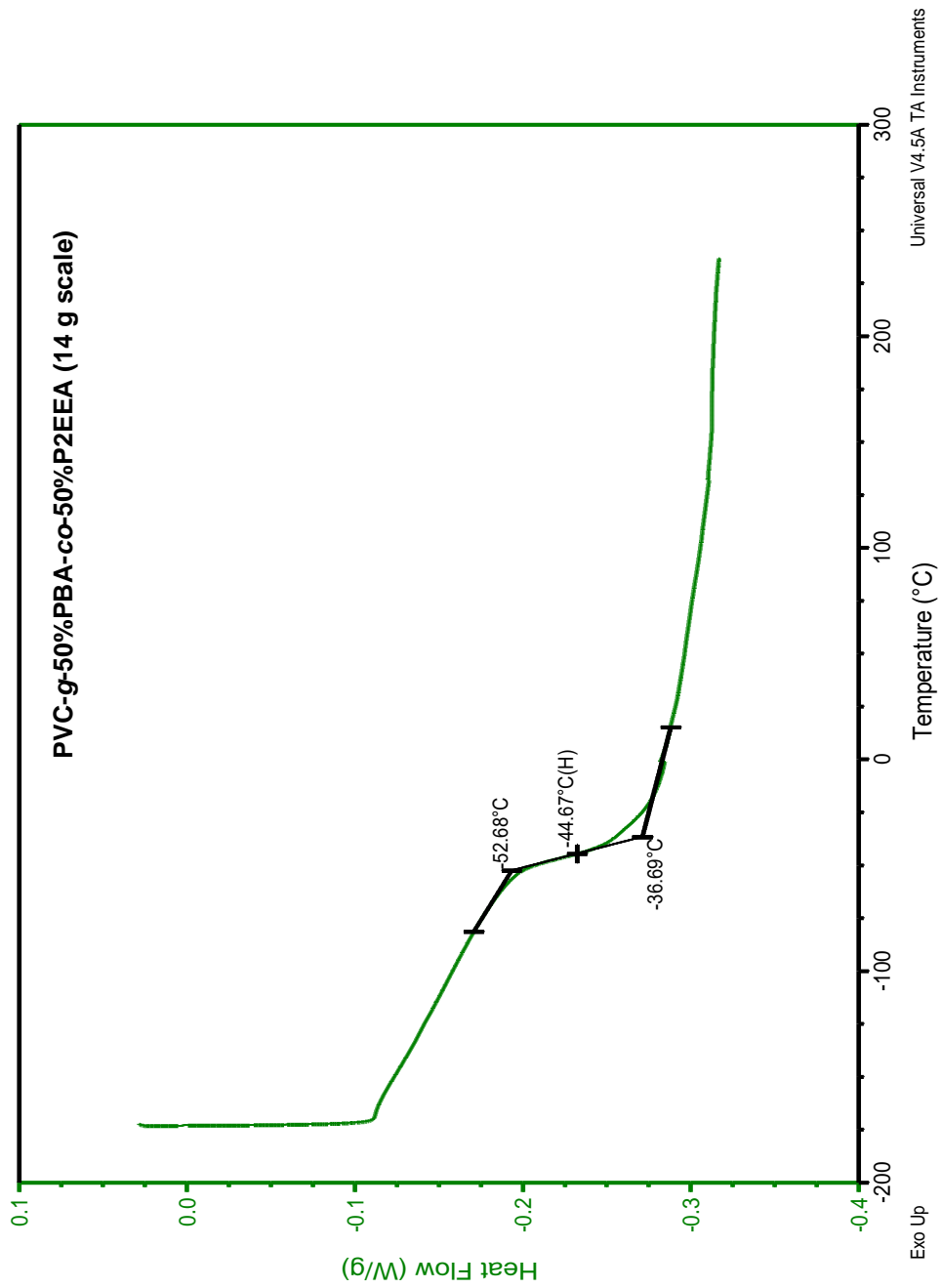
| Peak | Ret Time | Mp | Mn | Mw | Mz | Mw/Mn | RI Area |
|------|----------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 15.503 | 137,756 | 46,511 | 140,448 | 279,156 | 3.020 | 28.46 |

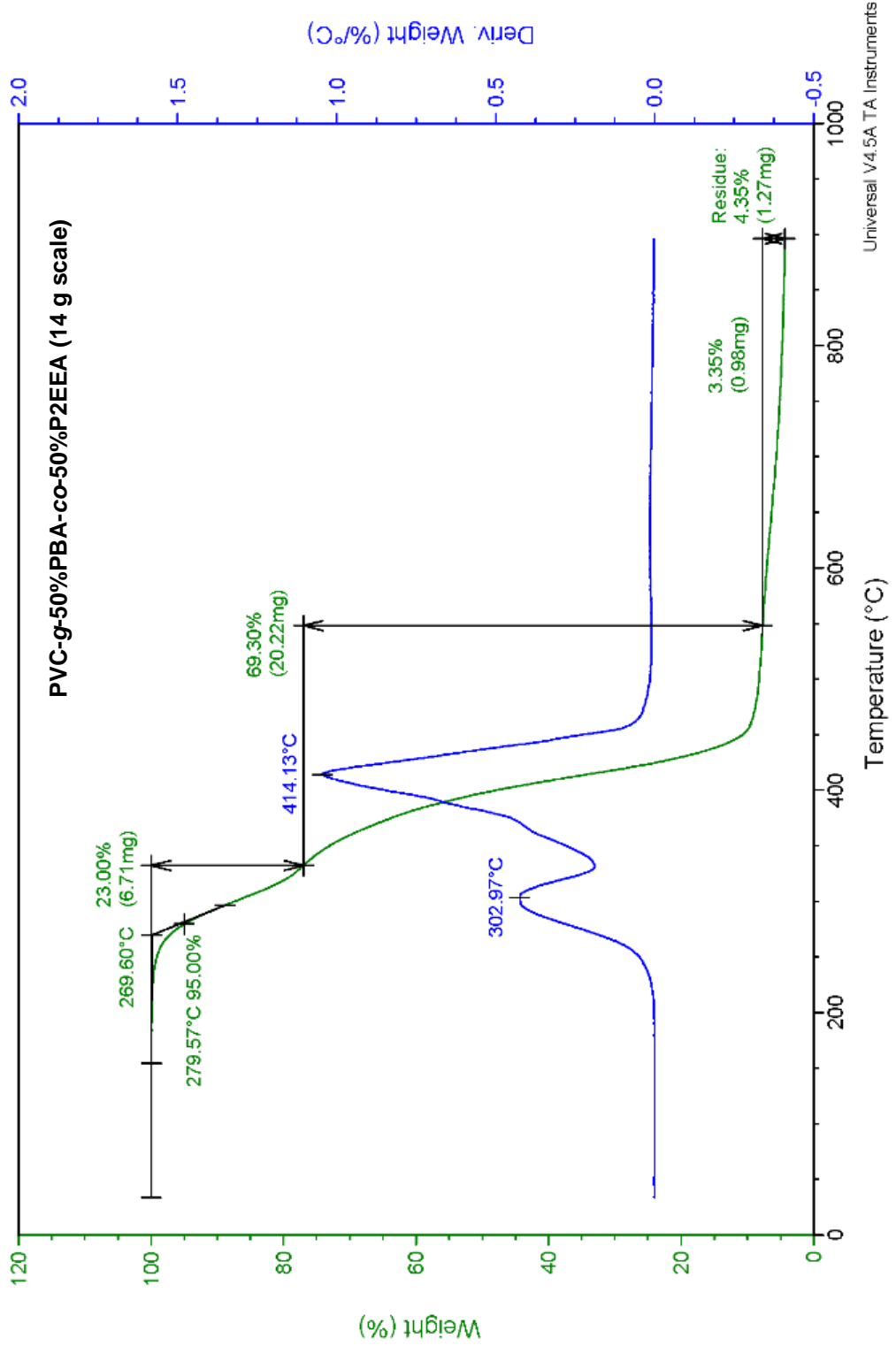
Crude PVC-g-50%PBA-co-50%P2EEA (14 g scale)



PVC-g-50%PBA-co-50%P2EEEA (14 g scale)

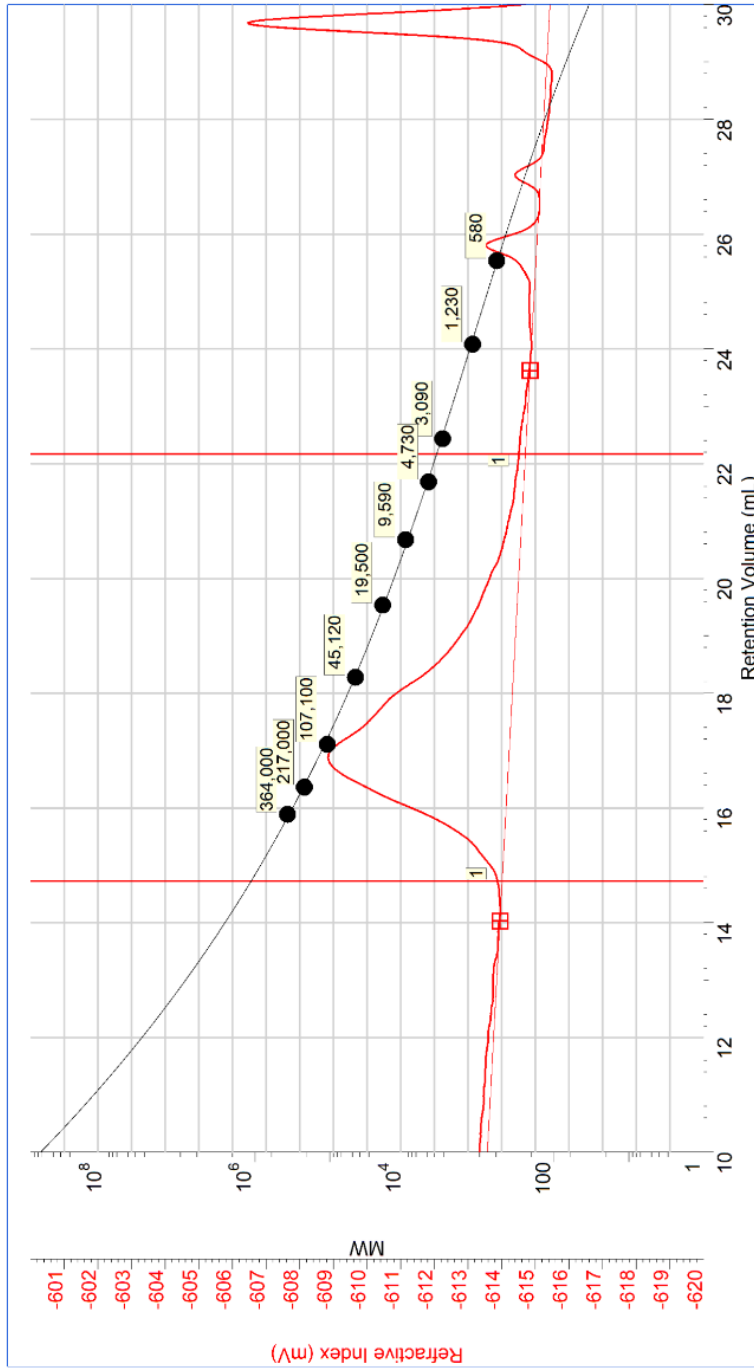






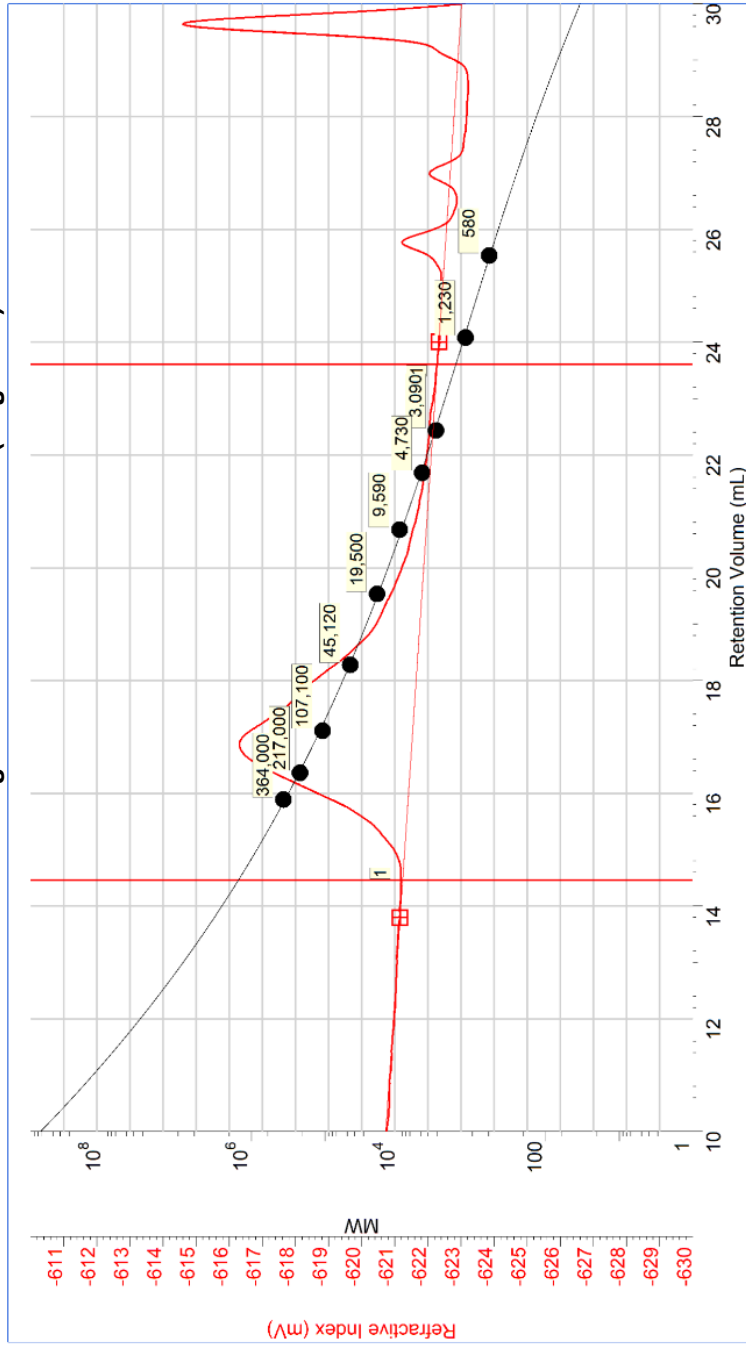
Universal V4.5A TA Instruments

PVC-g-50%PBA-co-50%P2EEA (14 g scale)

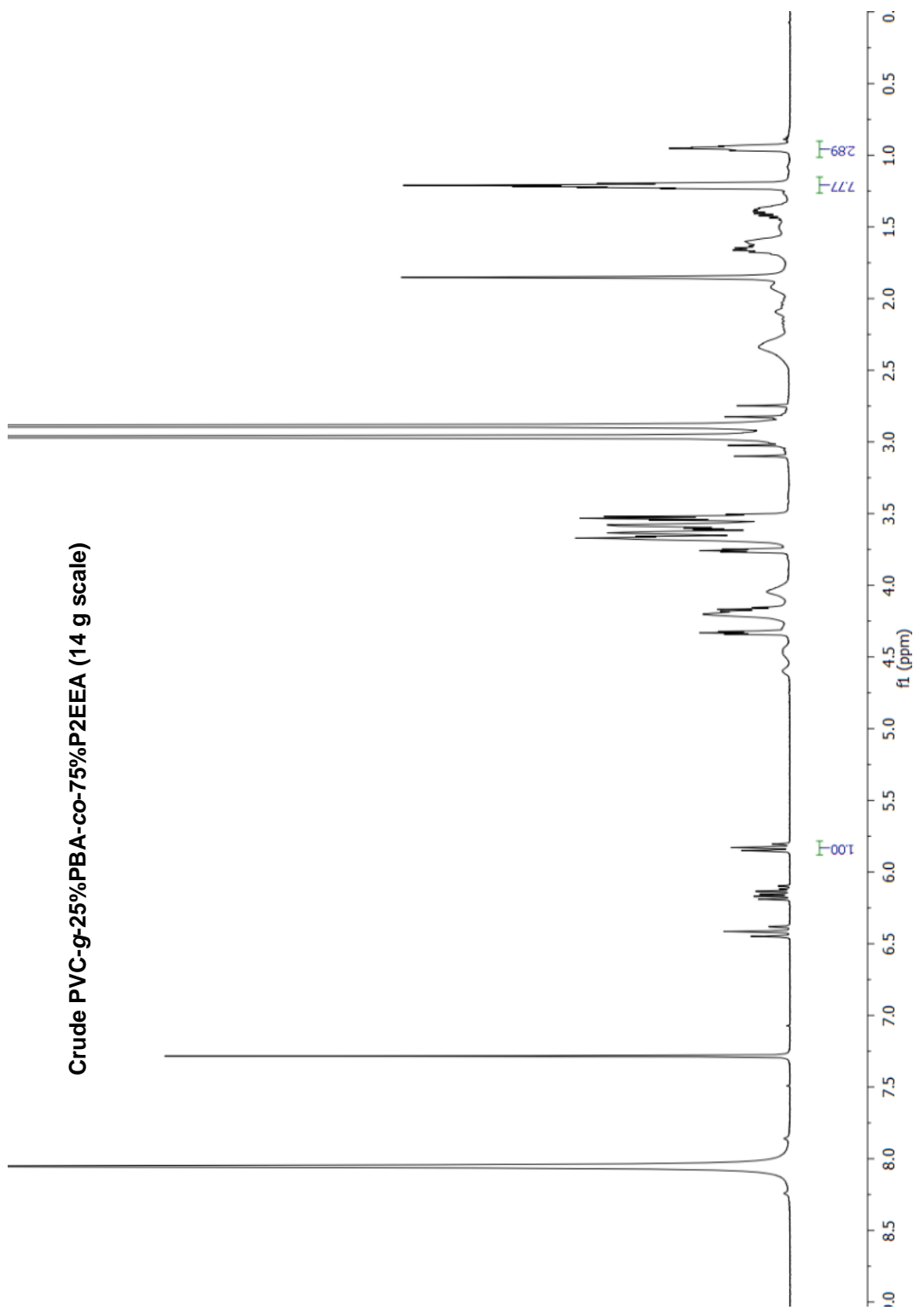


| Peak | Ret Time | Mp | Mn | Mw | Mz | Mw/Mn | RI Area |
|------|----------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 16.880 | 140,864 | 46,537 | 141,136 | 283,867 | 3.033 | 14.73 |

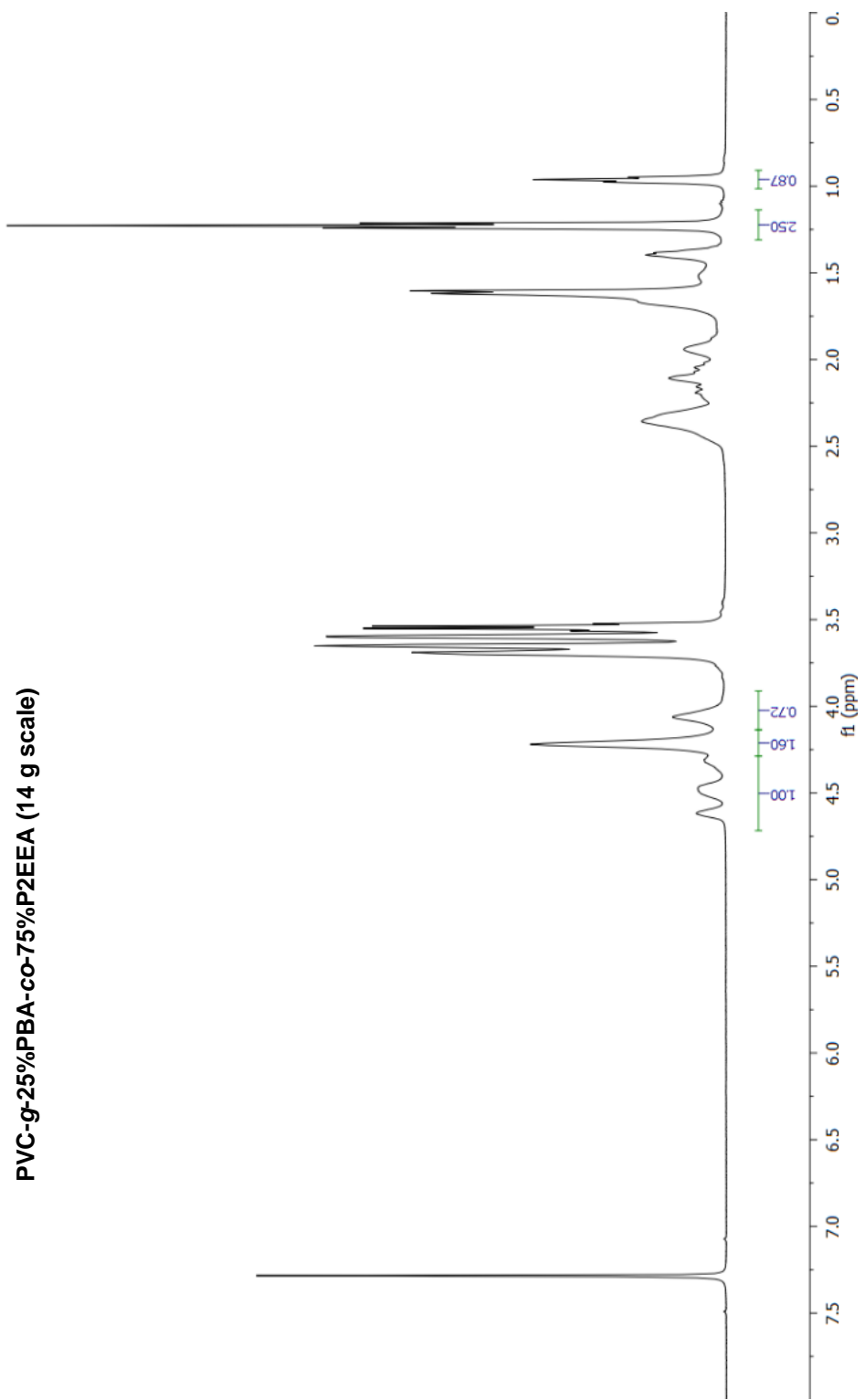
PVC-g-50%PBA-co-50%P2EEA (14 g scale)

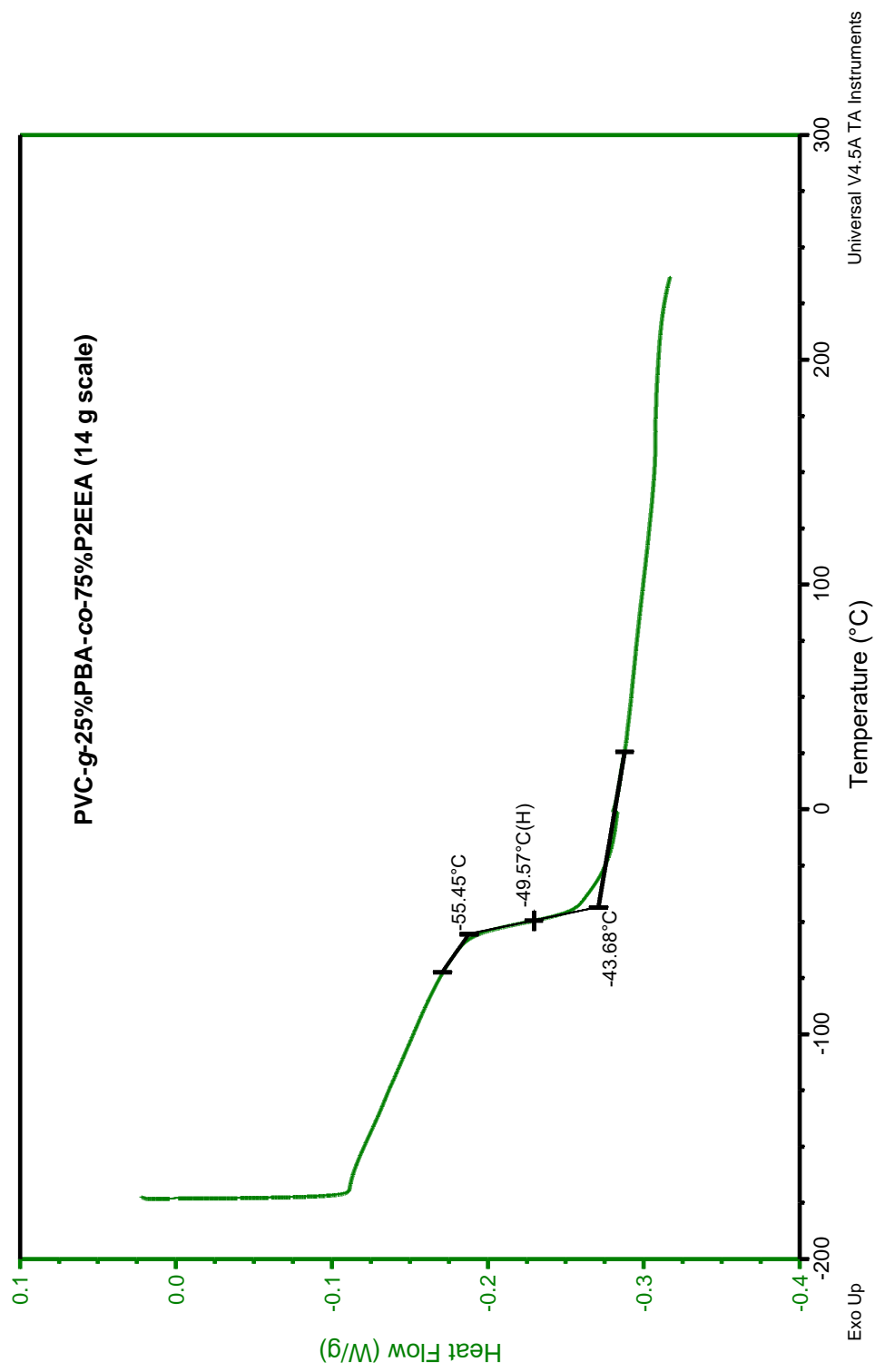


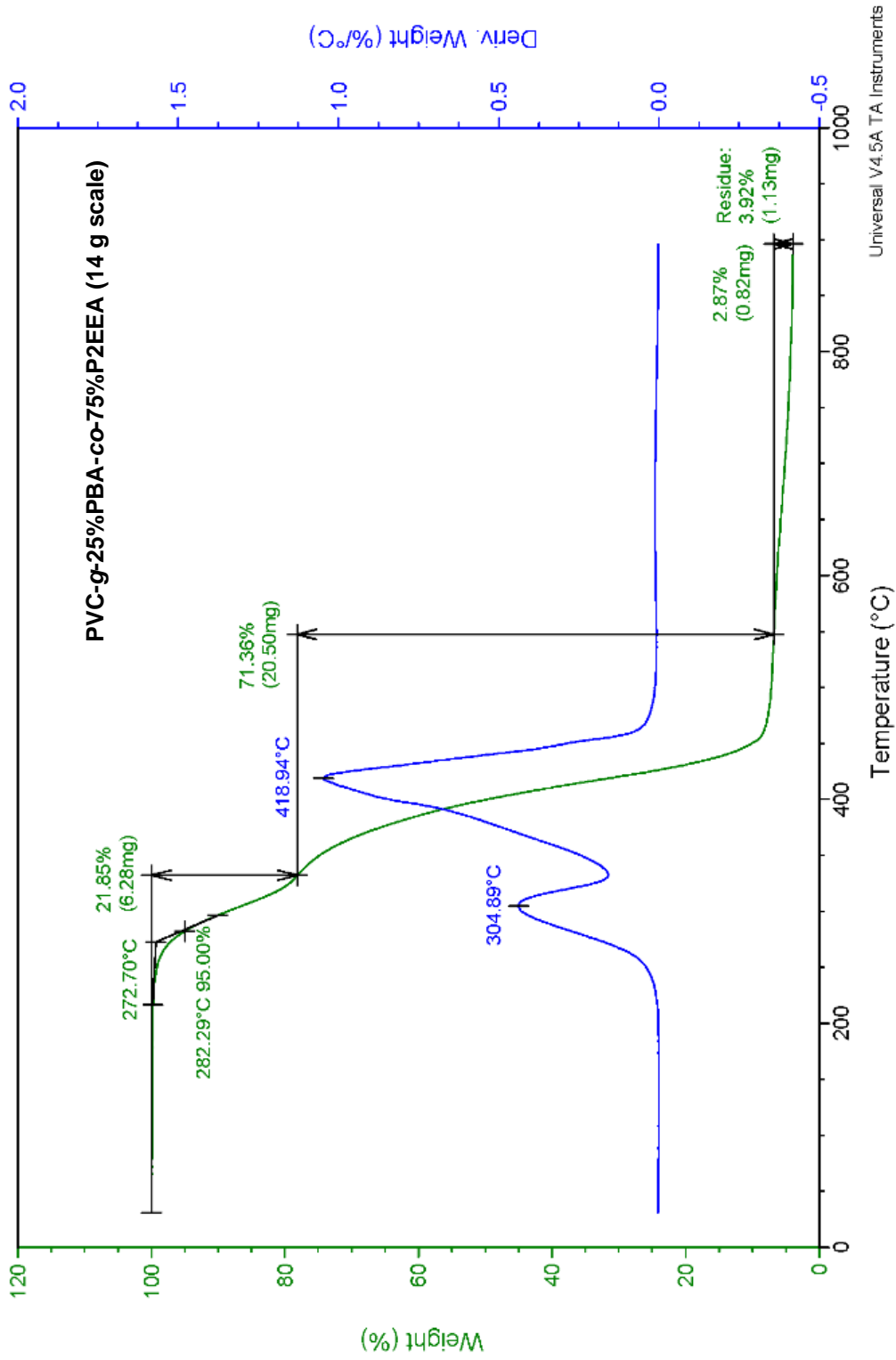
| Peak | Ret Time | Mp | Mn | Mw | Mz | Mw/Mn | RI Area |
|------|----------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 16.857 | 143,711 | 45,482 | 149,291 | 309,480 | 3.282 | 13.65 |



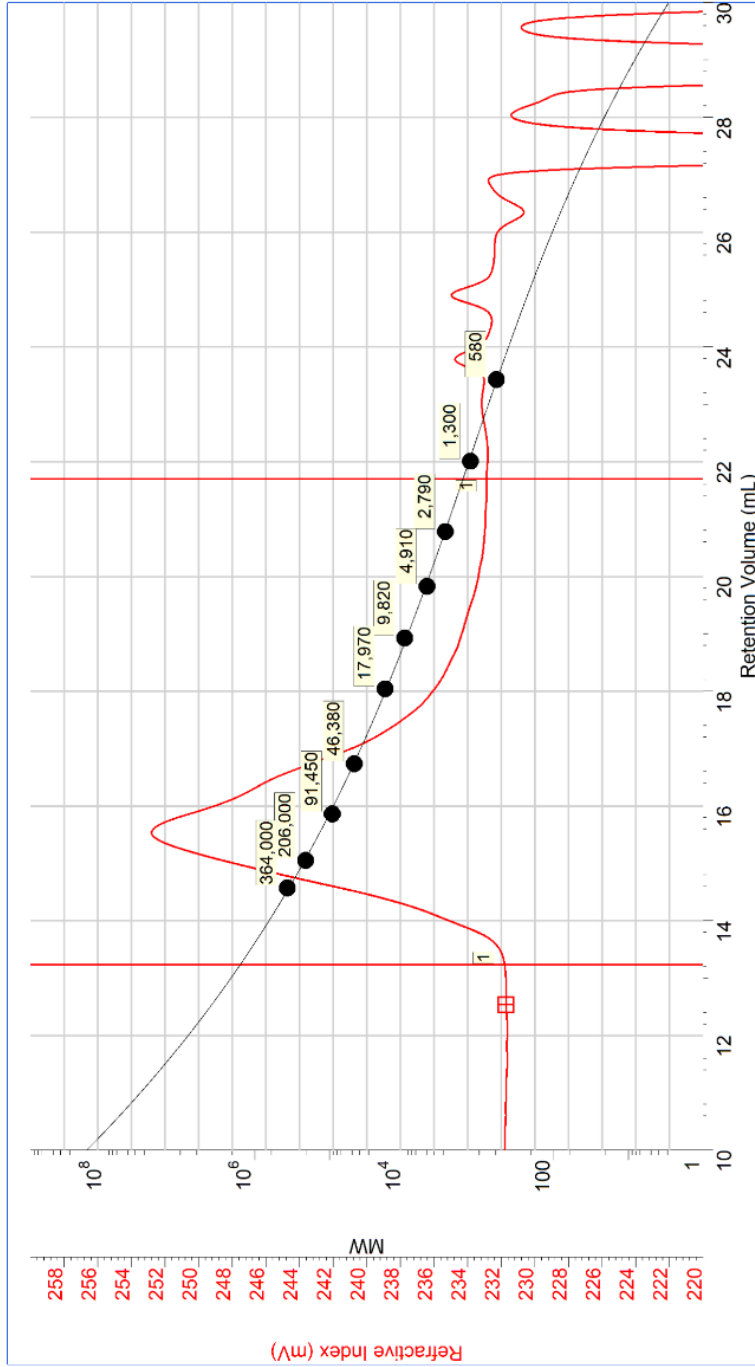
PVC-g-25%PBA-co-75%P2EEA (14 g scale)





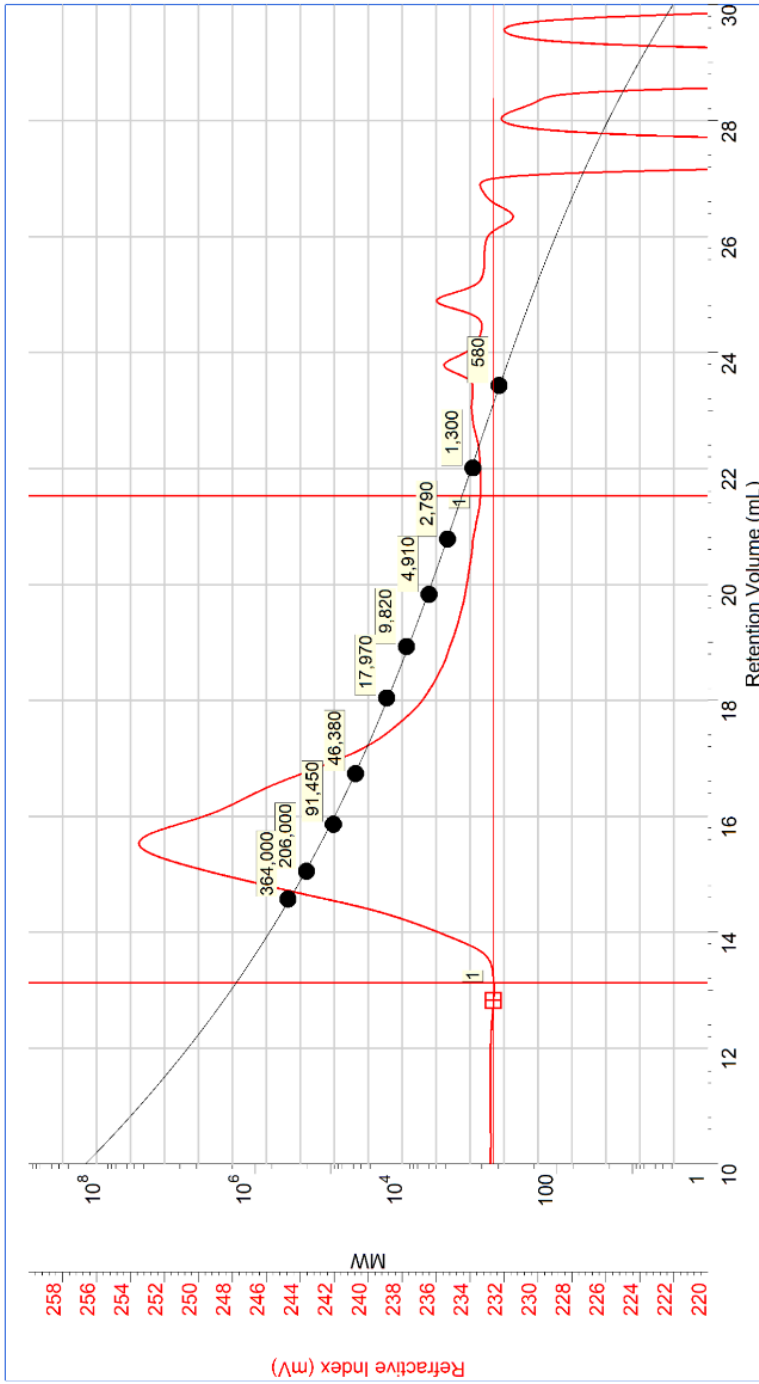


PVC-g-25%PBA-co-75%P2EEA (14 g scale)



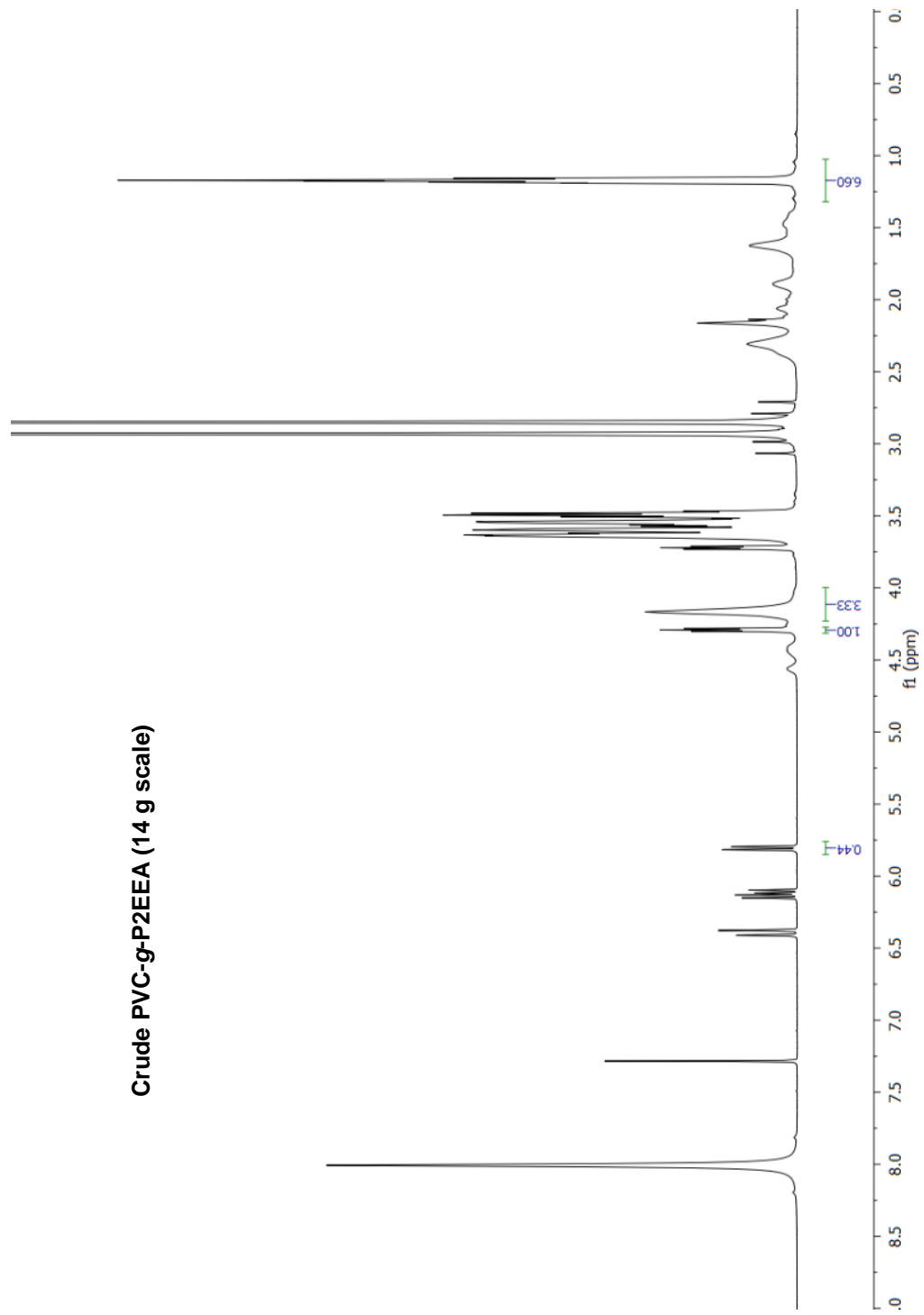
| Peak | Ret Time | Mp | Mn | Mw | Mz | Mw/Mn | RI Area |
|------|----------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 15.523 | 135,516 | 29,149 | 137,002 | 292,854 | 4.700 | 56.13 |

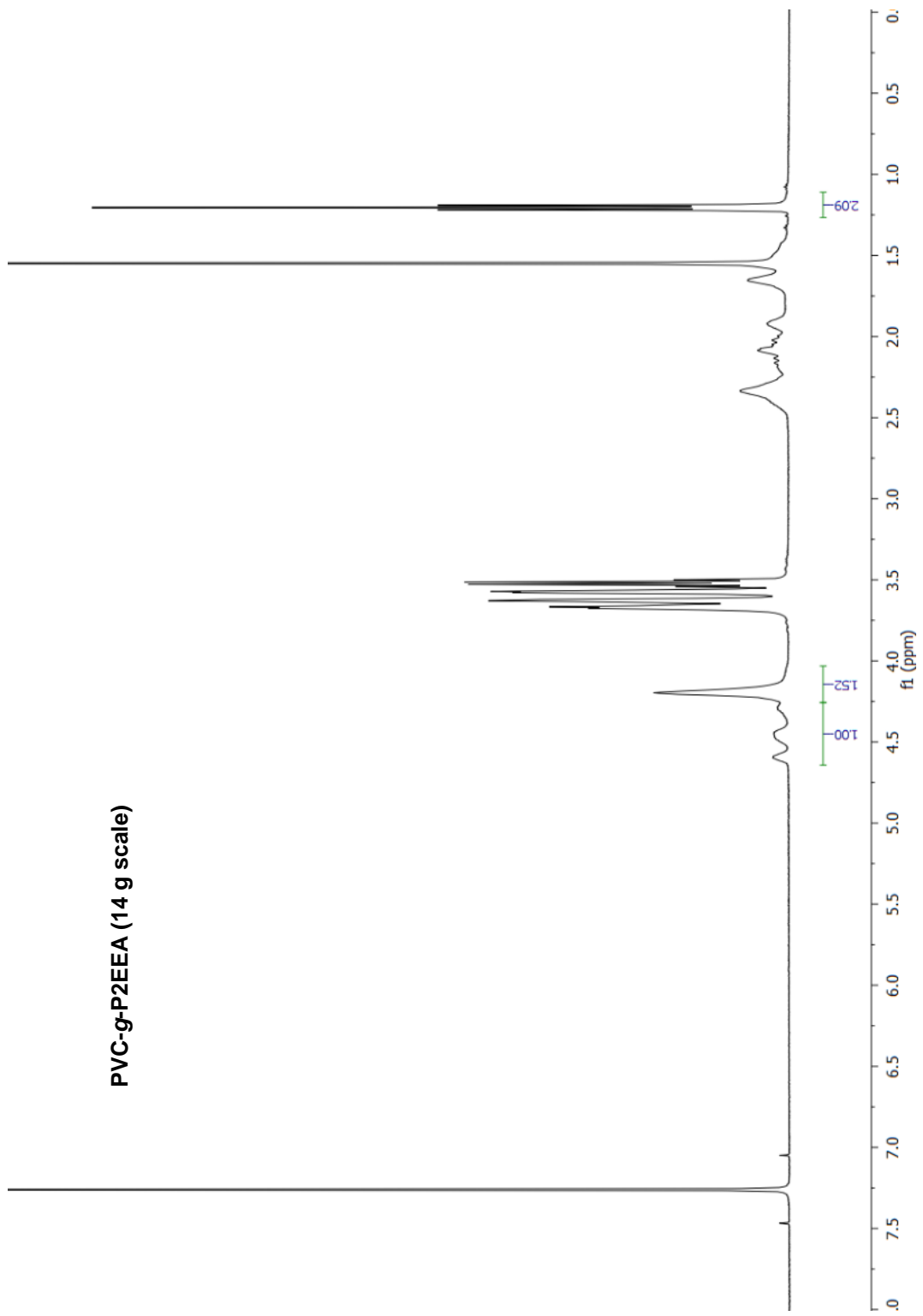
PVC-g-25%PBA-co-75%P2EEA (14 g scale)

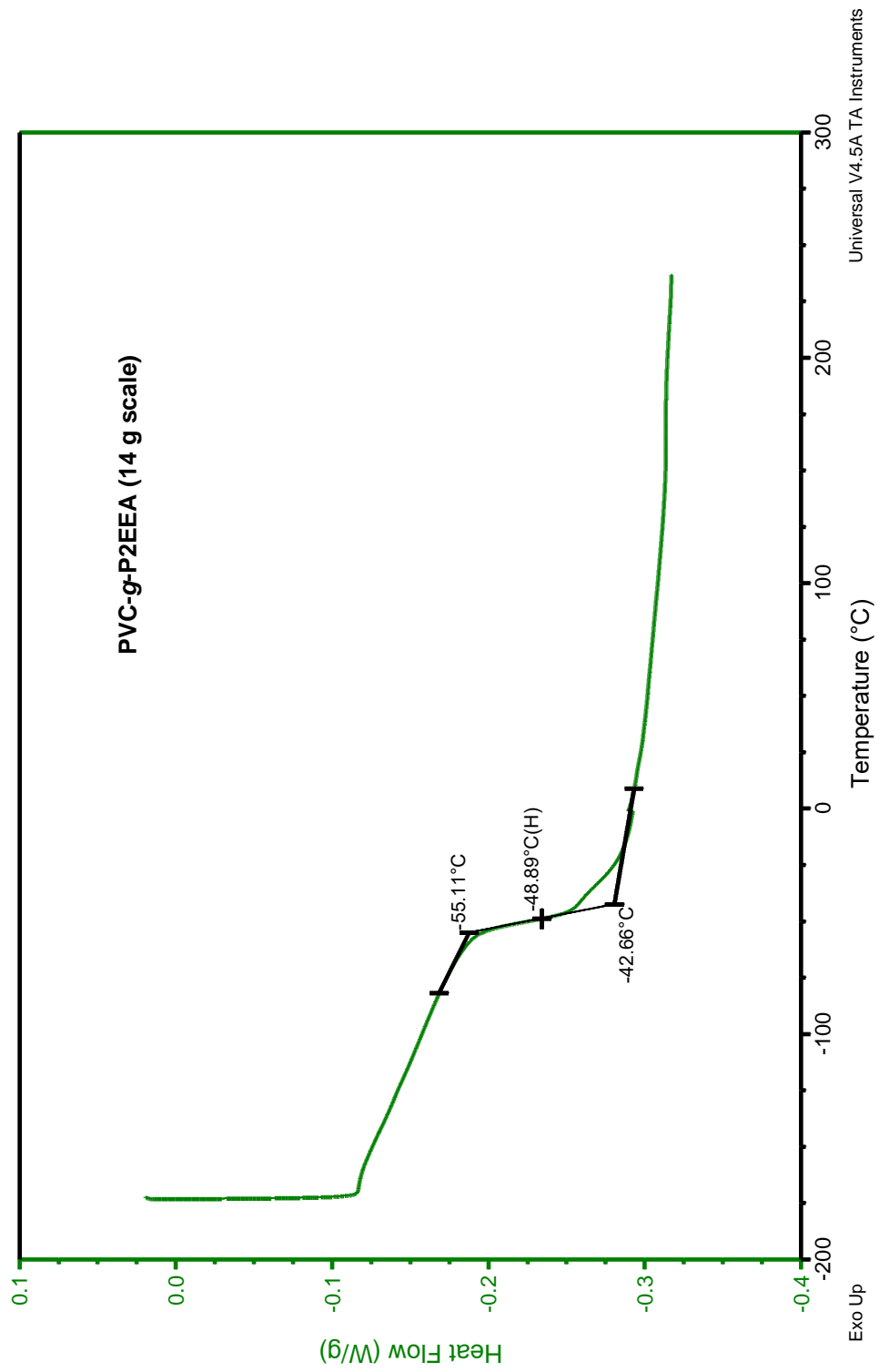


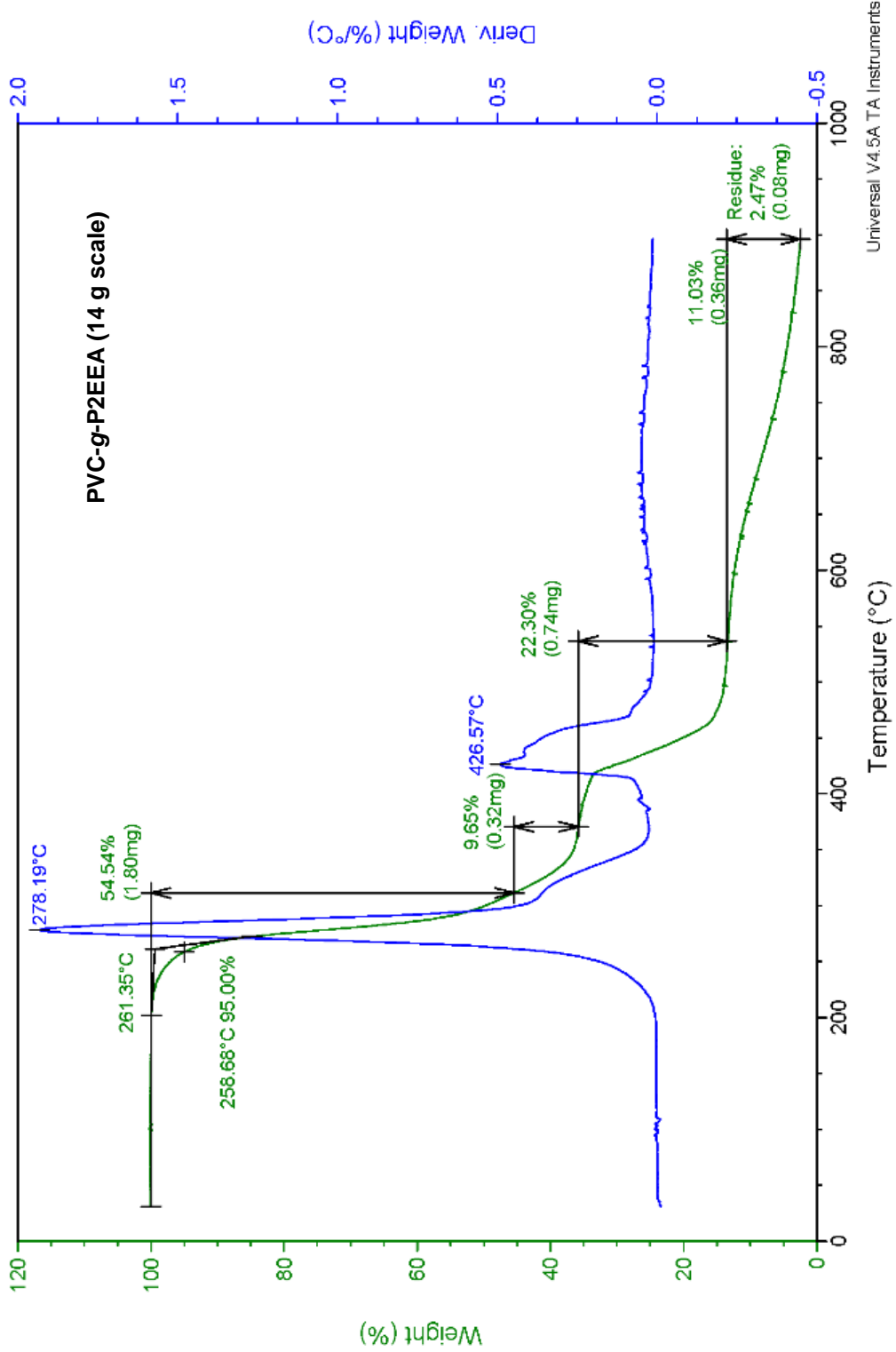
| Peak | Ret Time | Mp | Mn | Mw | Mz | Mw/Mn | RI Area |
|------|----------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 15.520 | 135,756 | 30,766 | 136,801 | 286,717 | 4.446 | 55.36 |

Crude PVC-g-P2EEA (14 g scale)



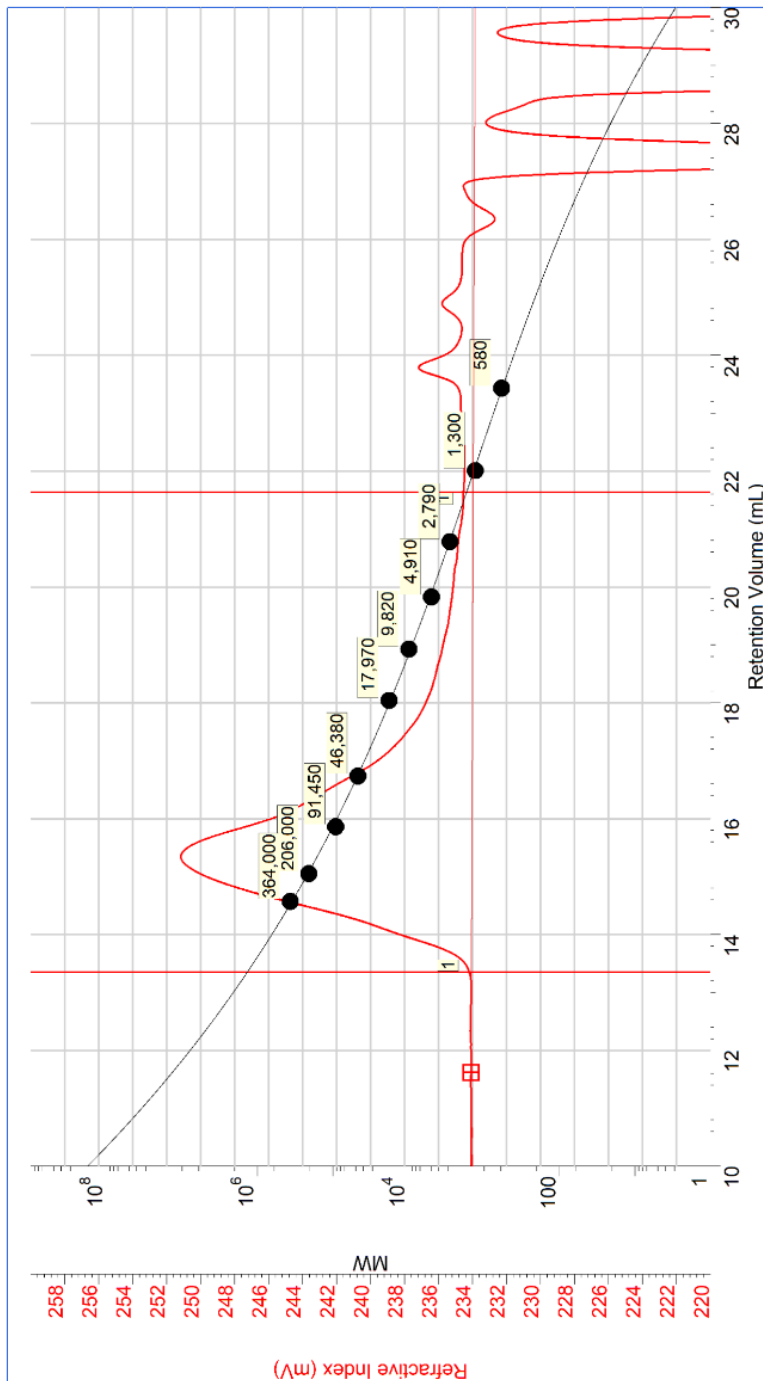






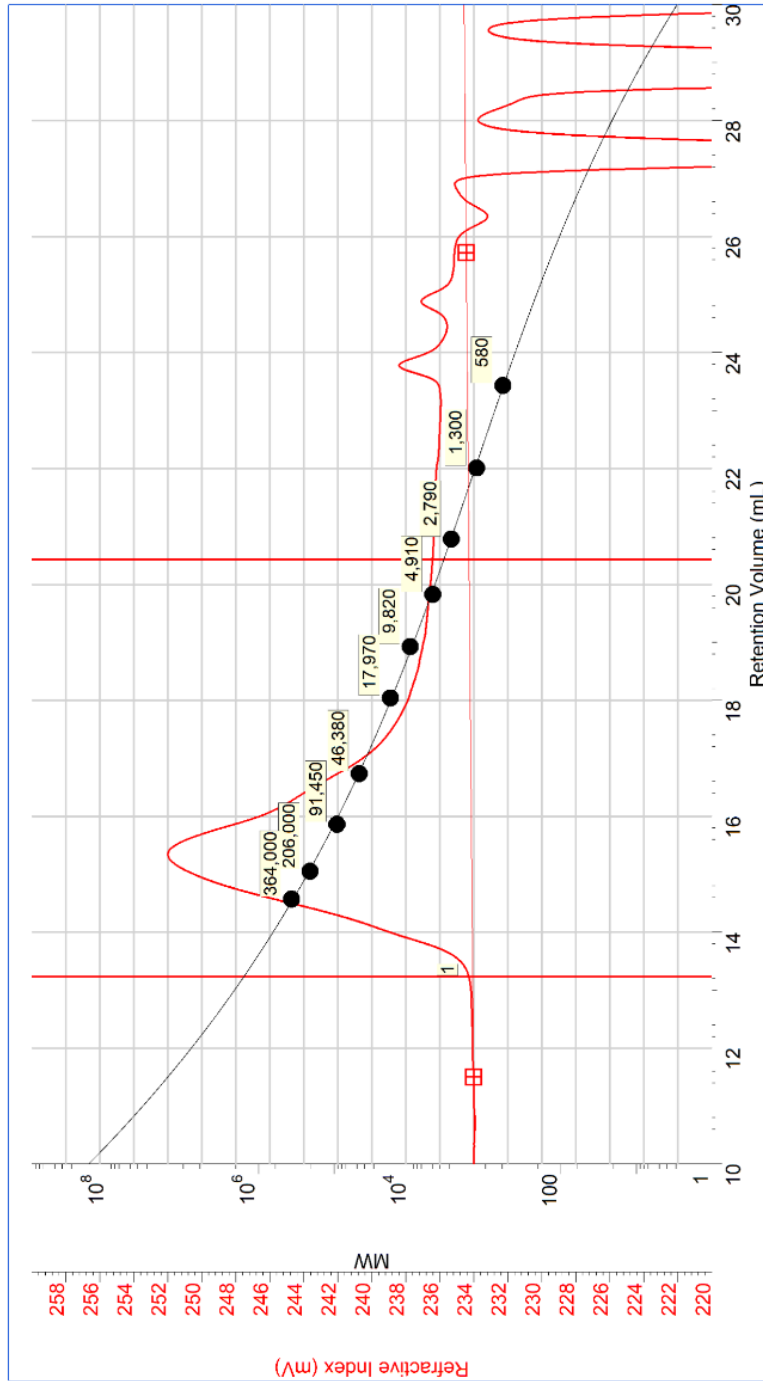
Universal V4.5A TA Instruments

PVC-g-P2EEA (14 g scale)



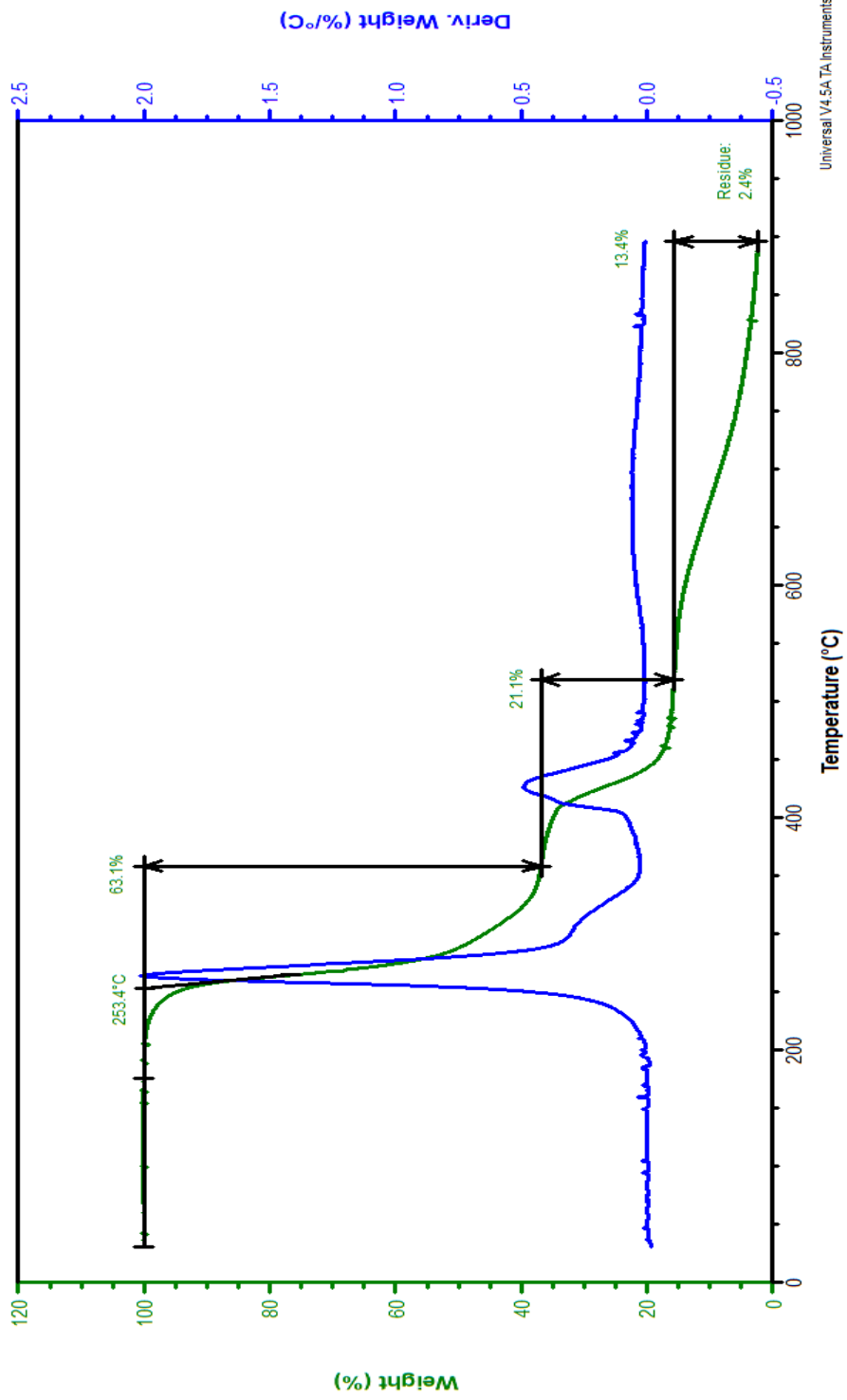
| Peak | Ret Time | Mp | Mn | Mw | Mz | Mw/Mn | RI Area |
|------|----------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 15.333 | 161,735 | 33,257 | 165,677 | 329,111 | 4.982 | 44.00 |

PVC-g-P2EEA (14 g scale)

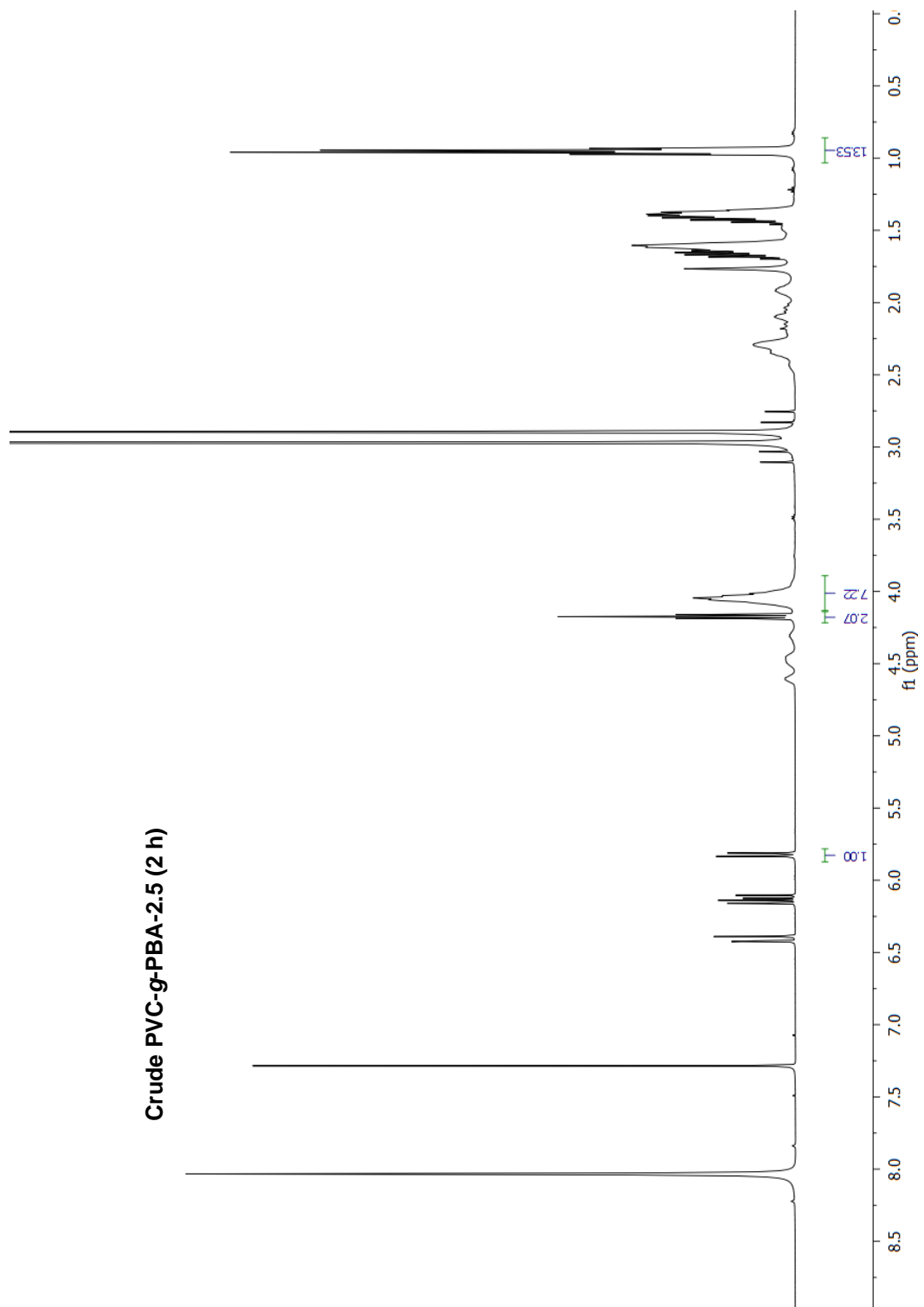


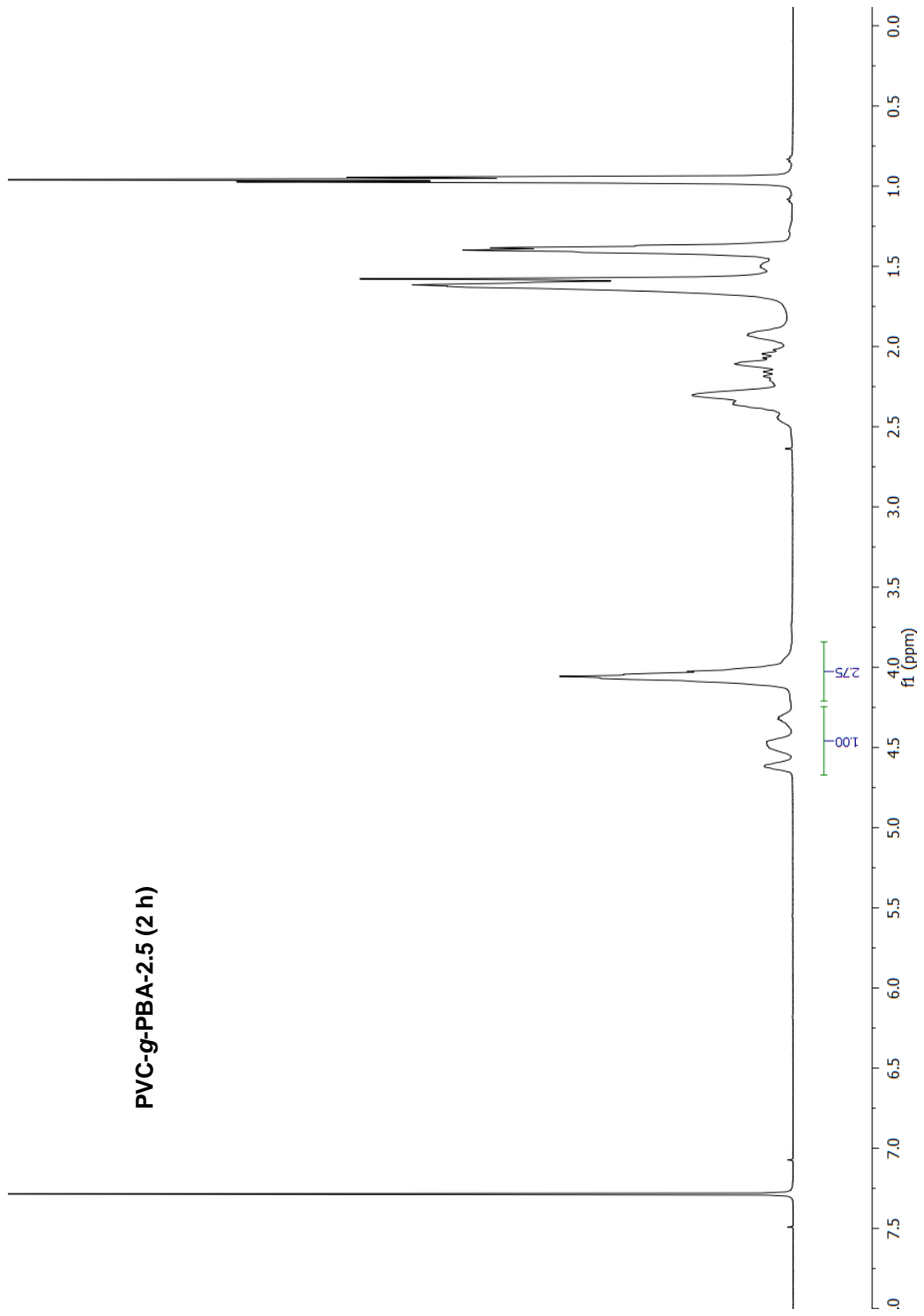
| Peak | Ret Time | Mp | Mn | Mw | Mz | Mw/Mn | RI Area |
|------|----------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 15.327 | 163,161 | 35,416 | 165,548 | 355,290 | 4.674 | 48.96 |

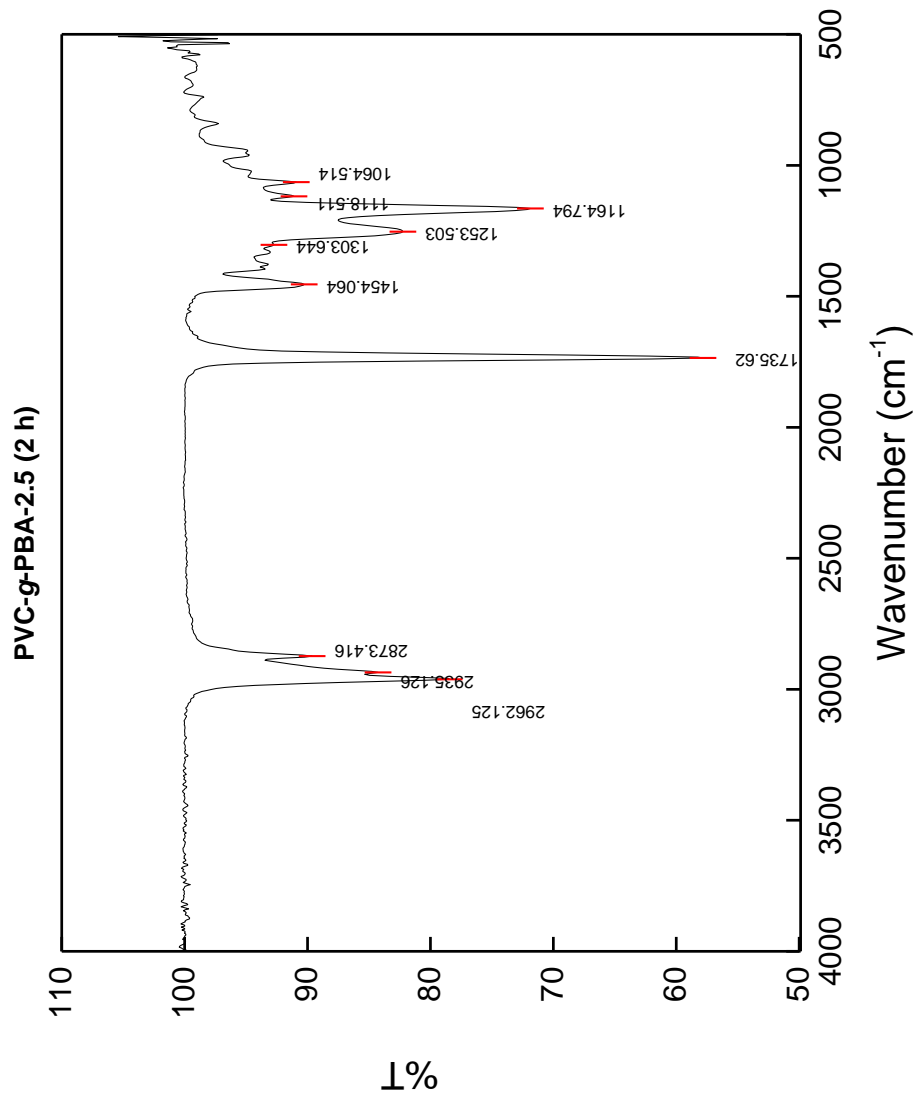
PVC



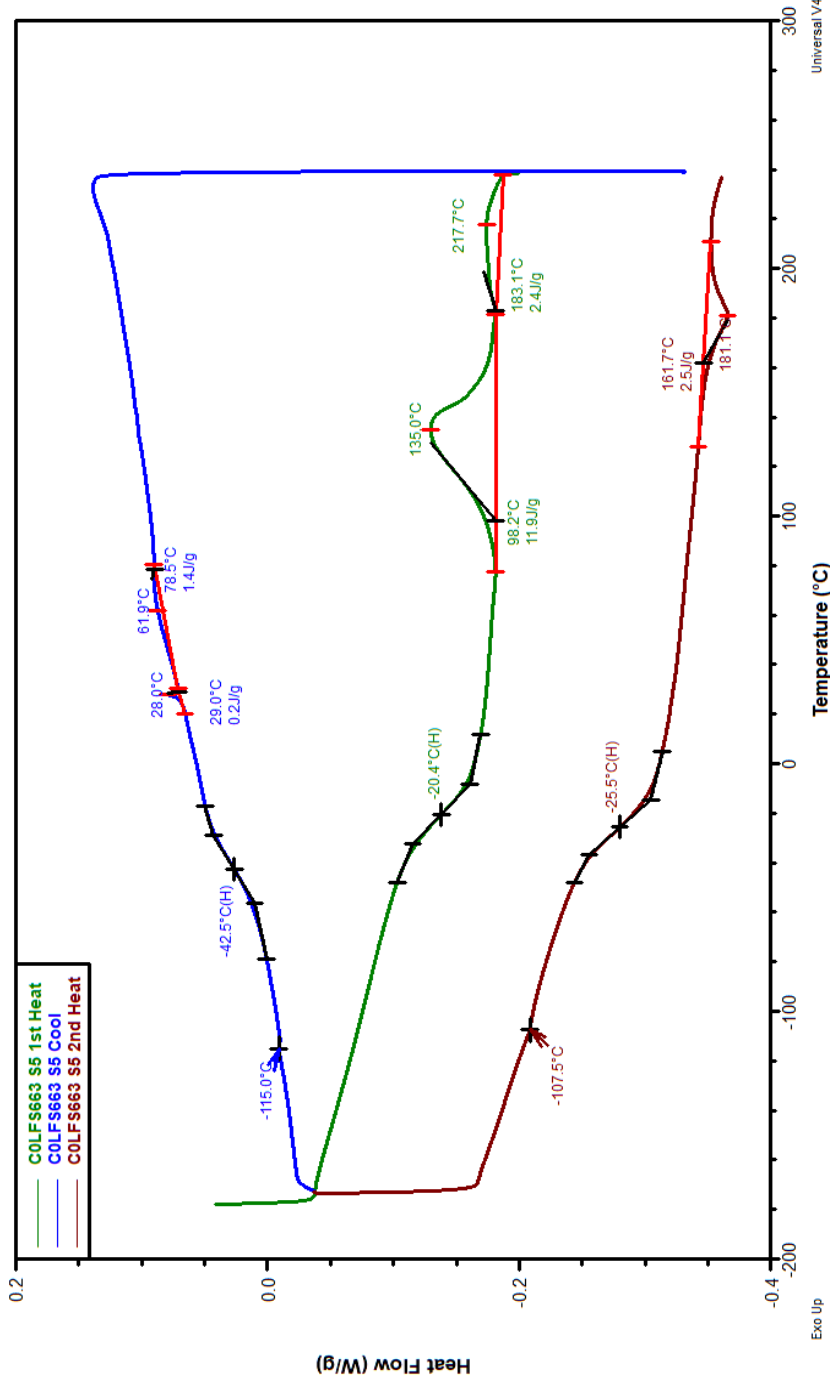
Crude PVC-g-PBA-2.5 (2 h)



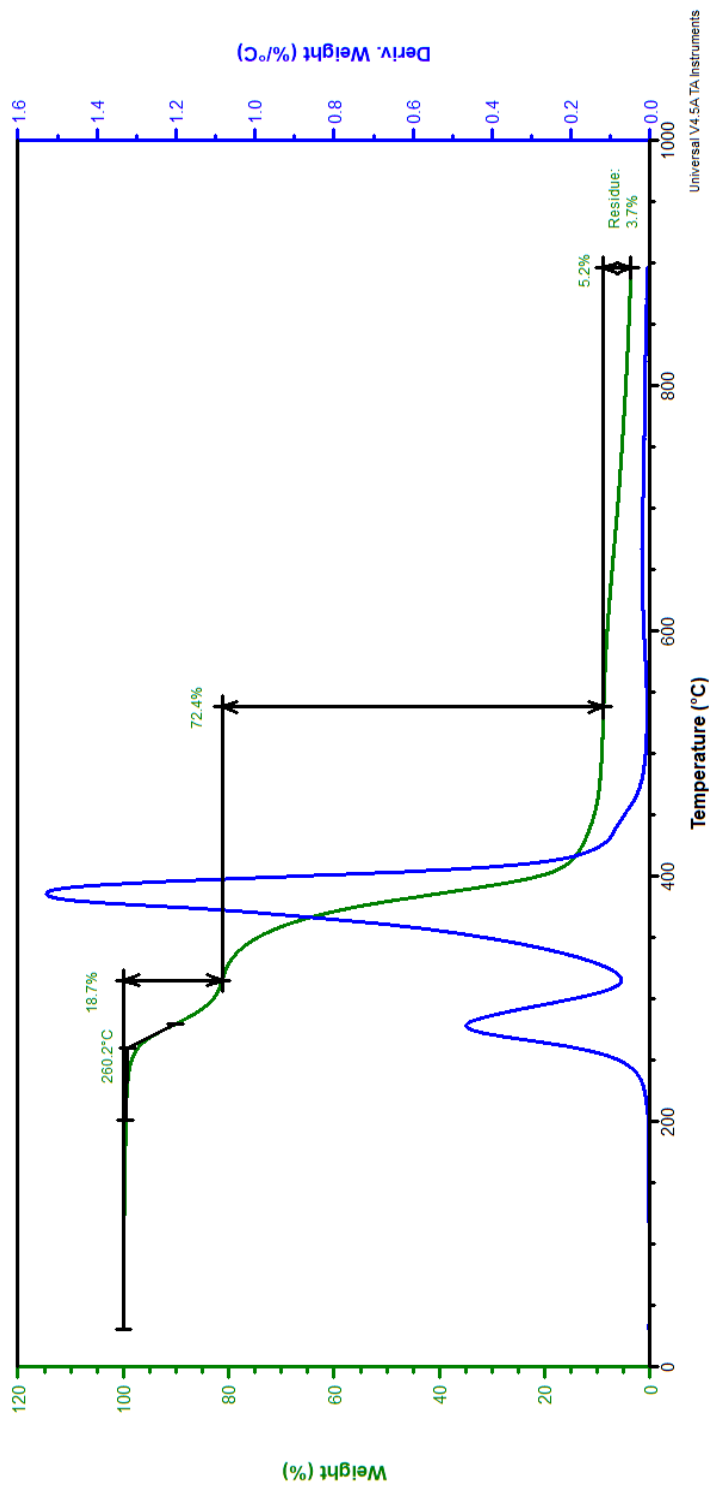




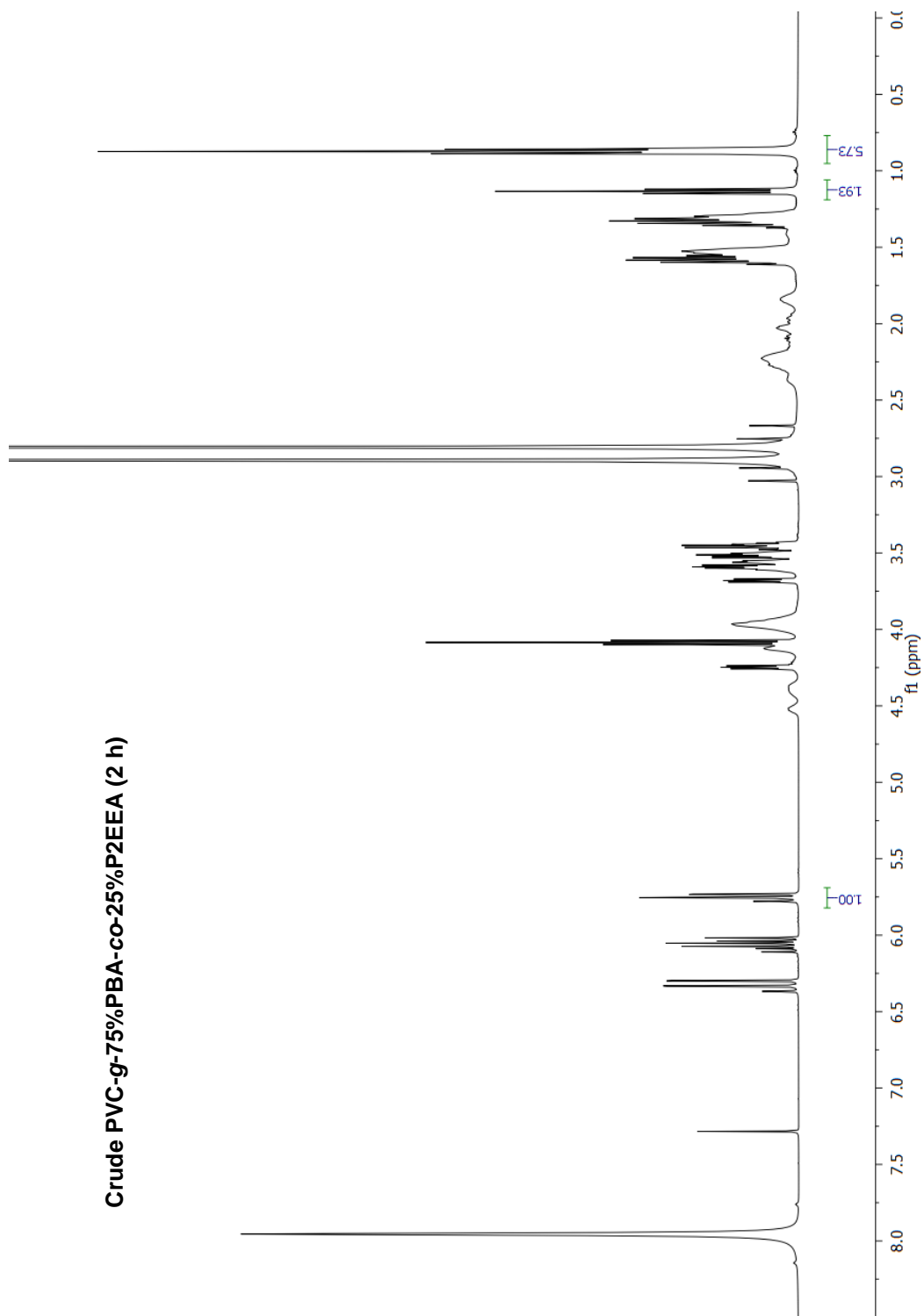
PVC-g-PBA-2.5 (2 h)



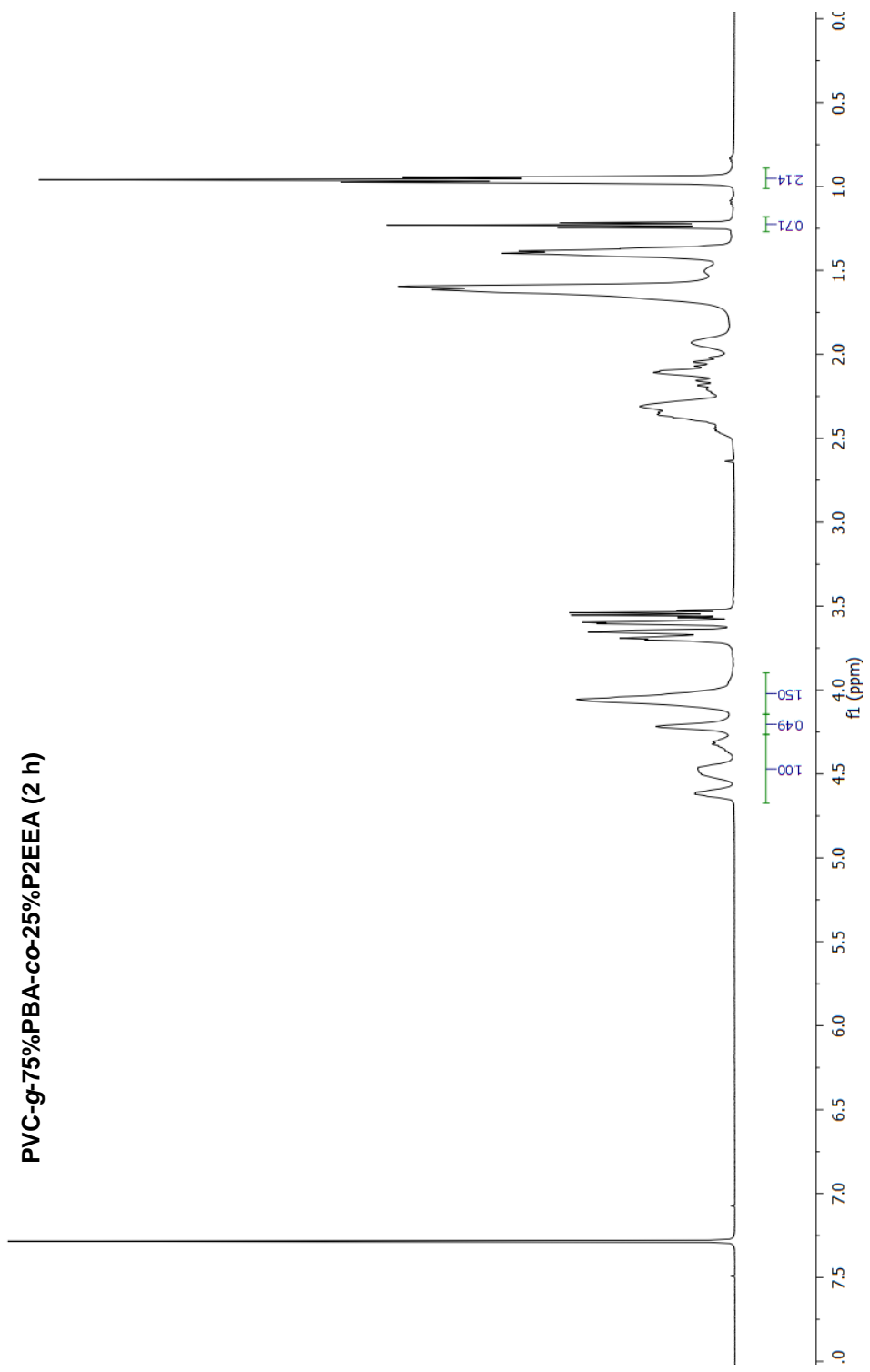
PVC-g-PBA-2.5 (2 h)

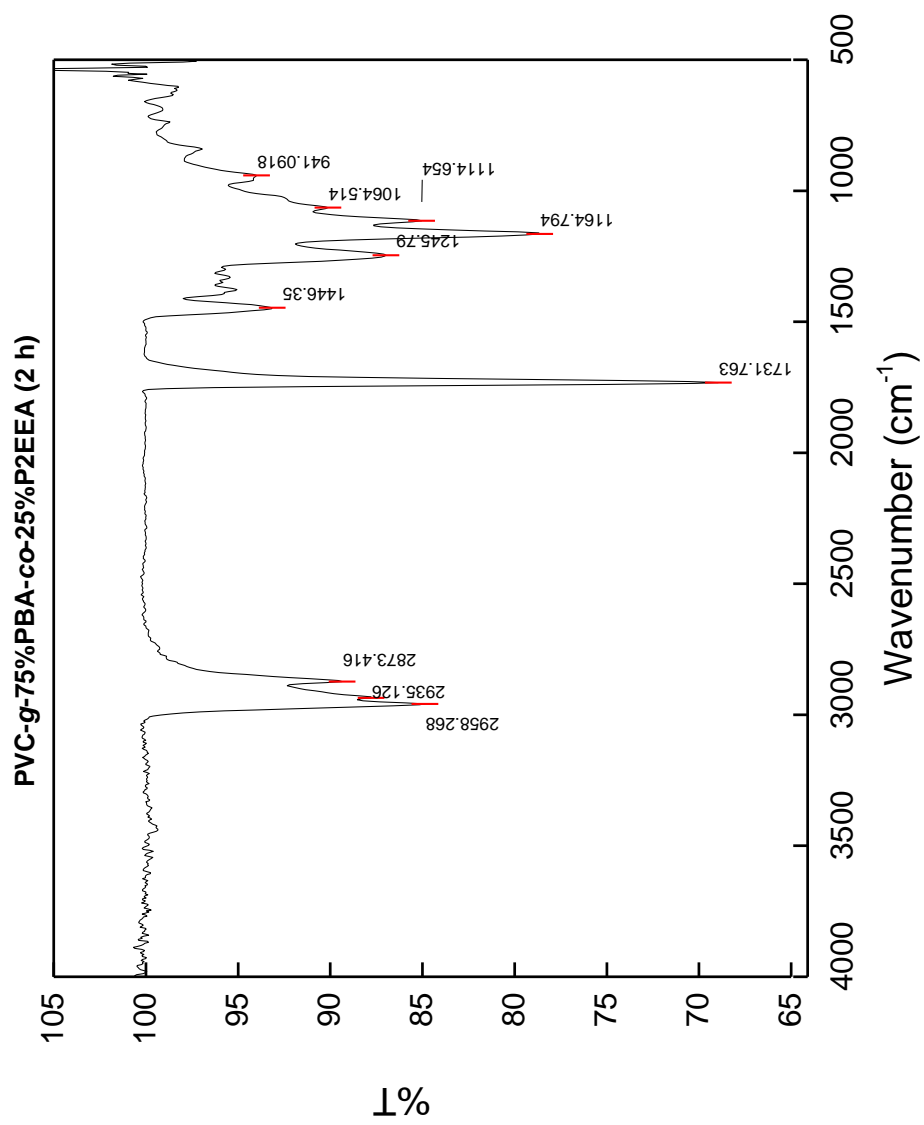


Crude PVC-g-75%PBA-co-25%P2EEA (2 h)

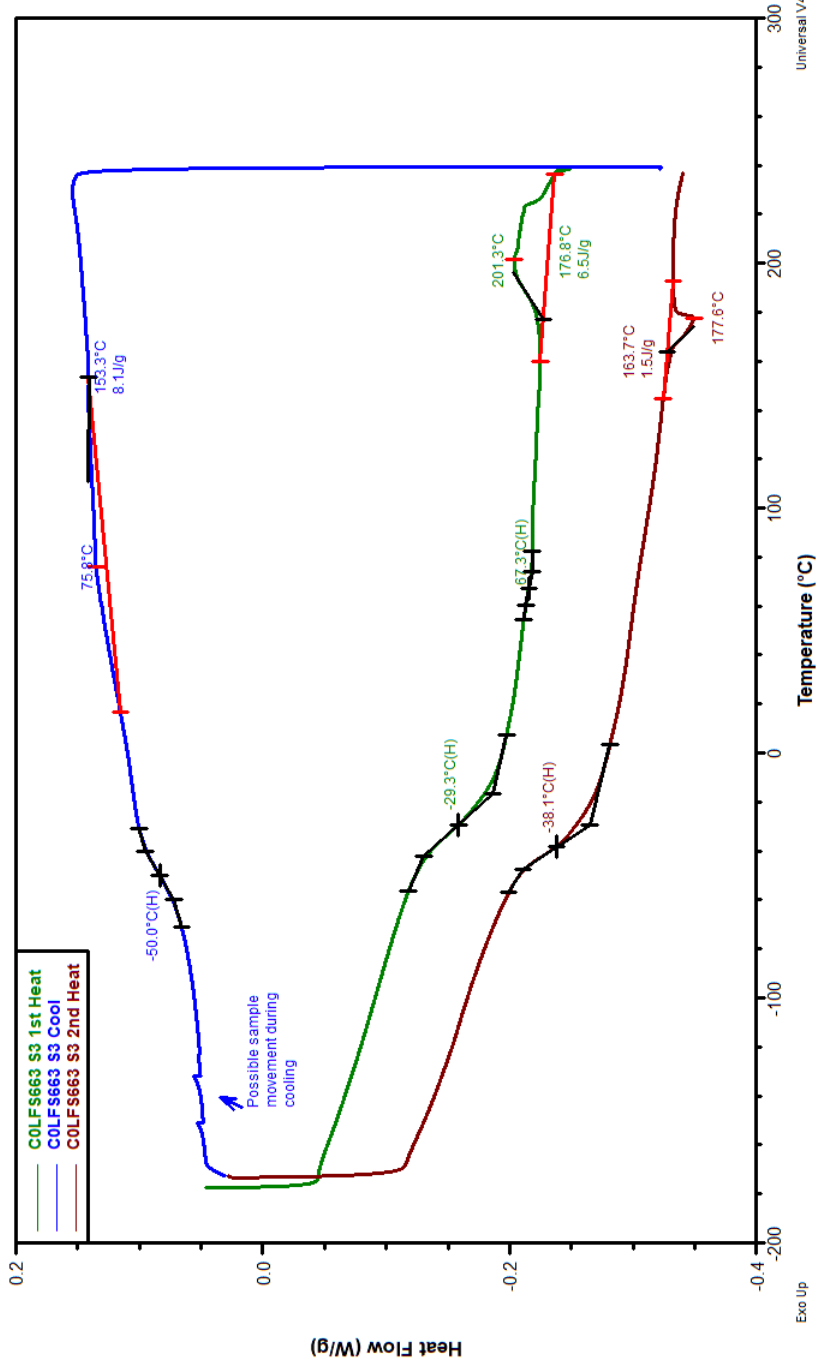


PVC-g-75%PBA-co-25%P2EEA (2 h)

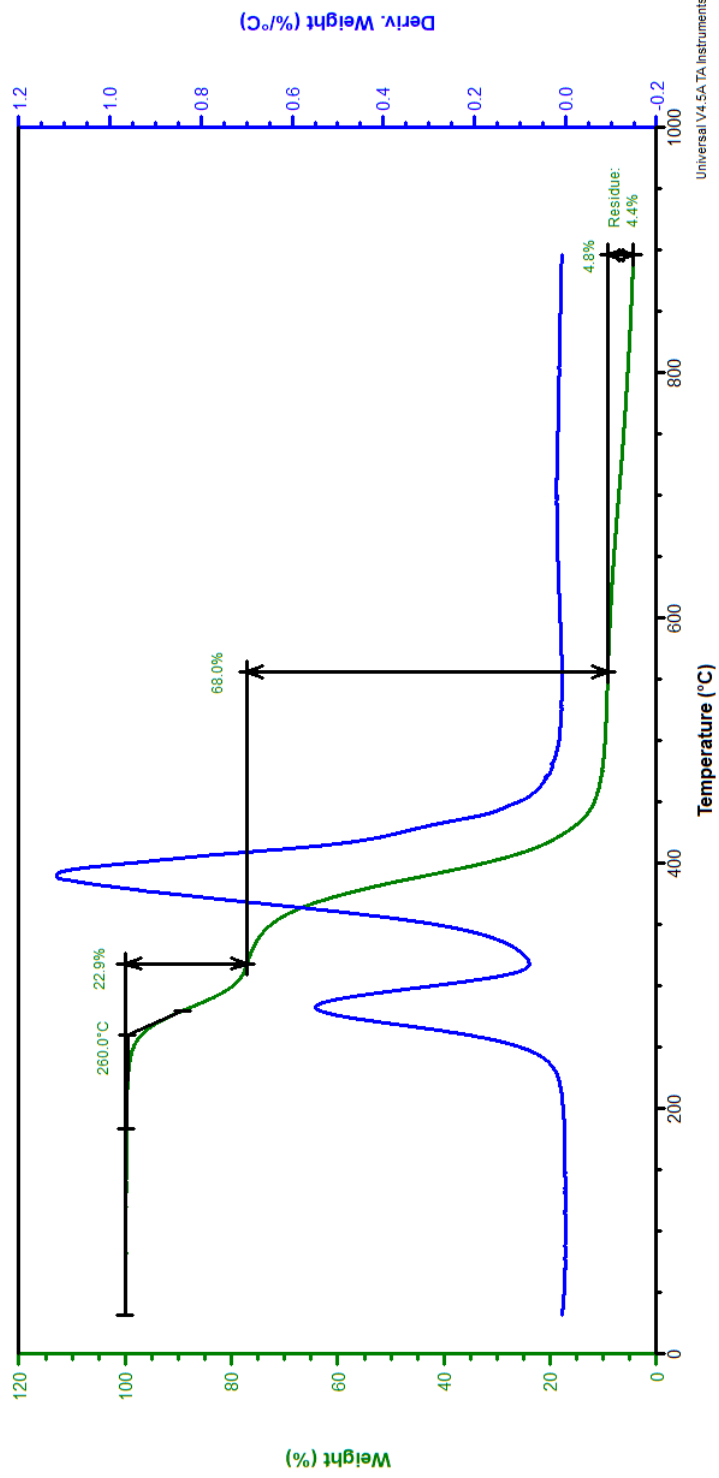




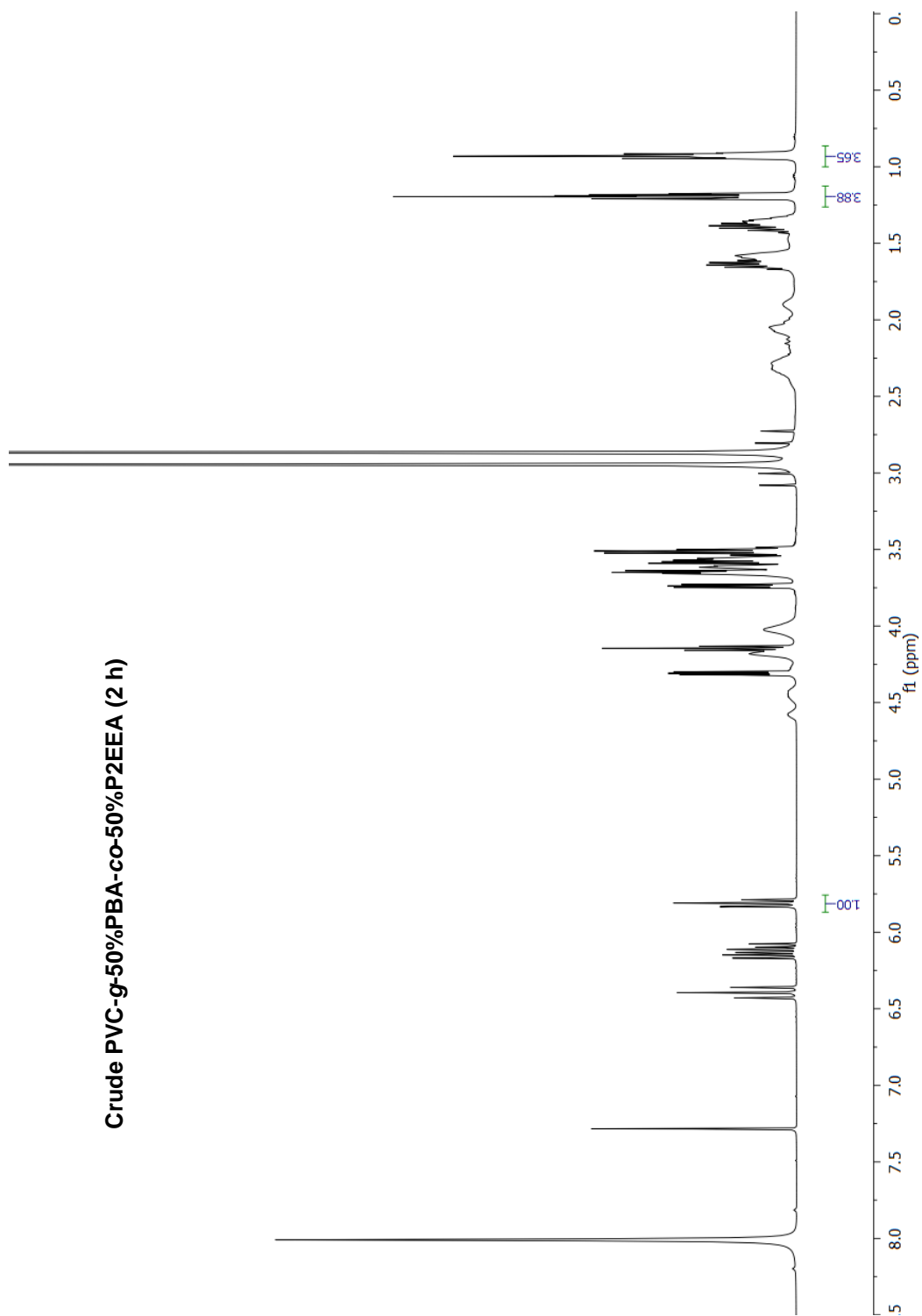
PVC-g-75%PBA-co-25%P2EEA (2 h)



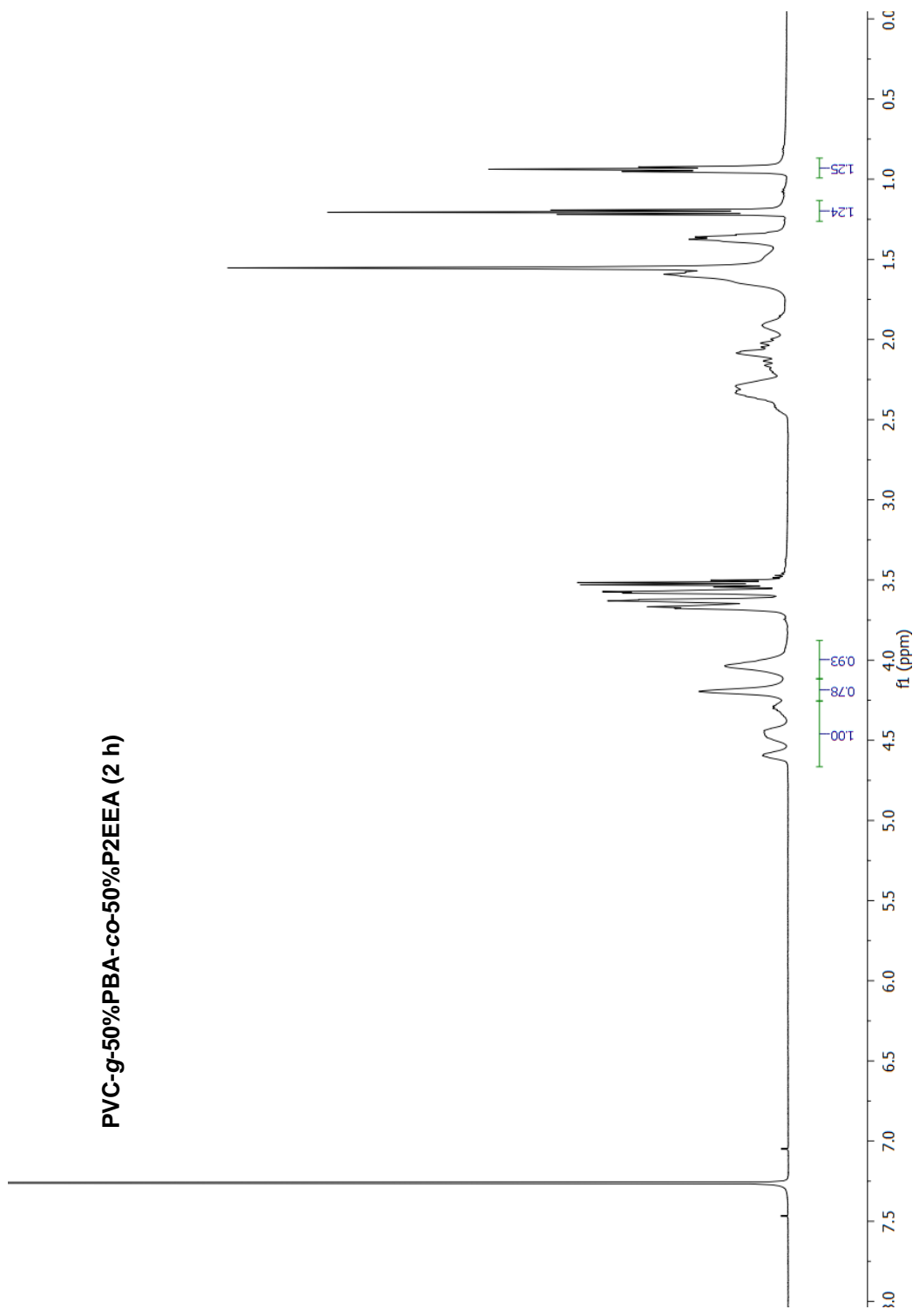
PVC-g-75%PBA-co-25%P2EEA (2 h)

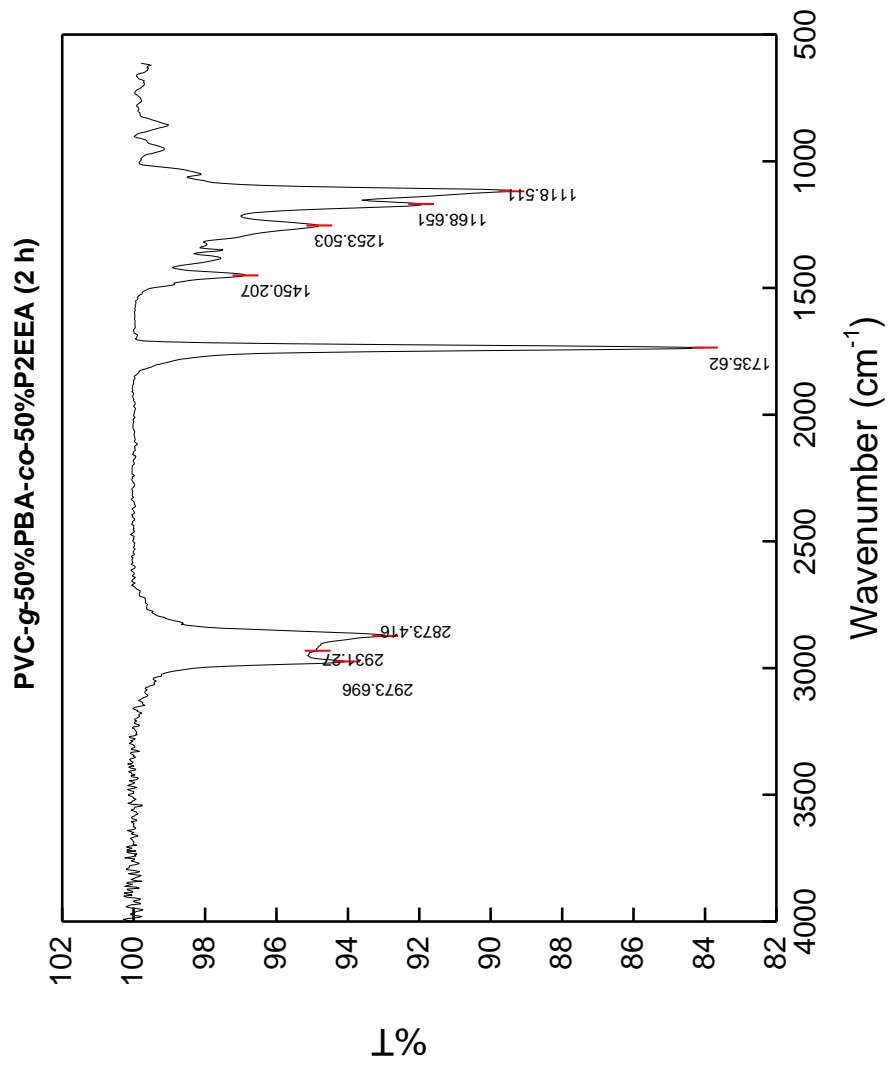


Crude PVC-g-50%PBA-co-50%P2EEEA (2 h)

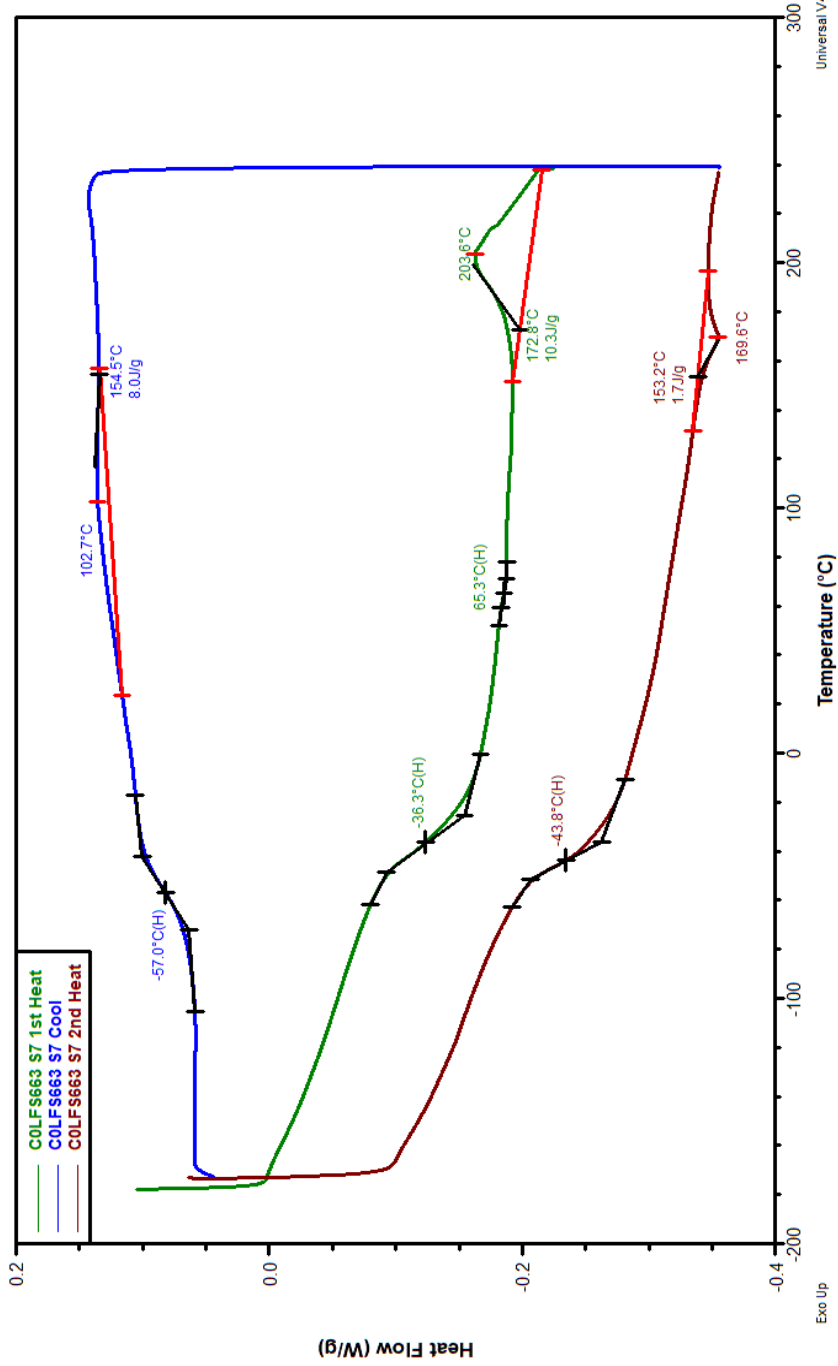


PVC-g-50%PBA-co-50%P2EEA (2 h)

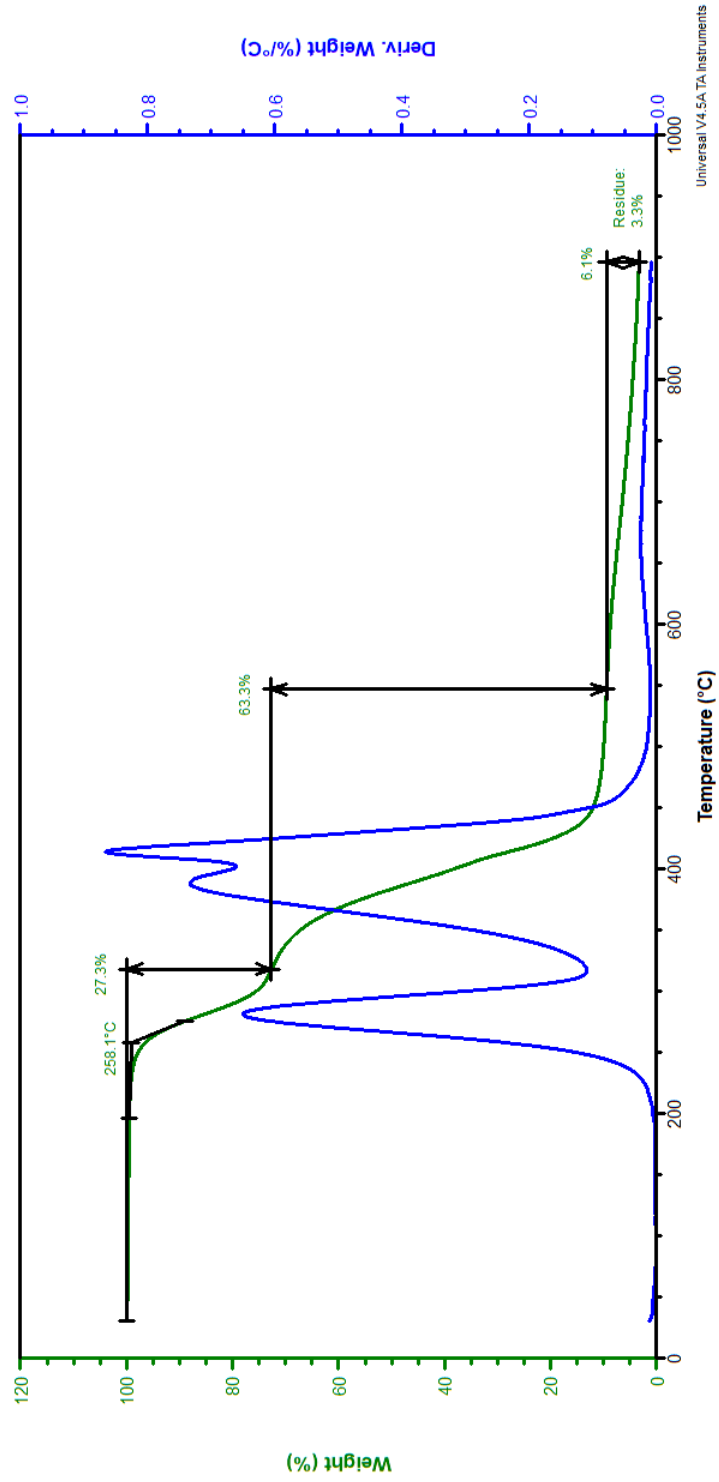




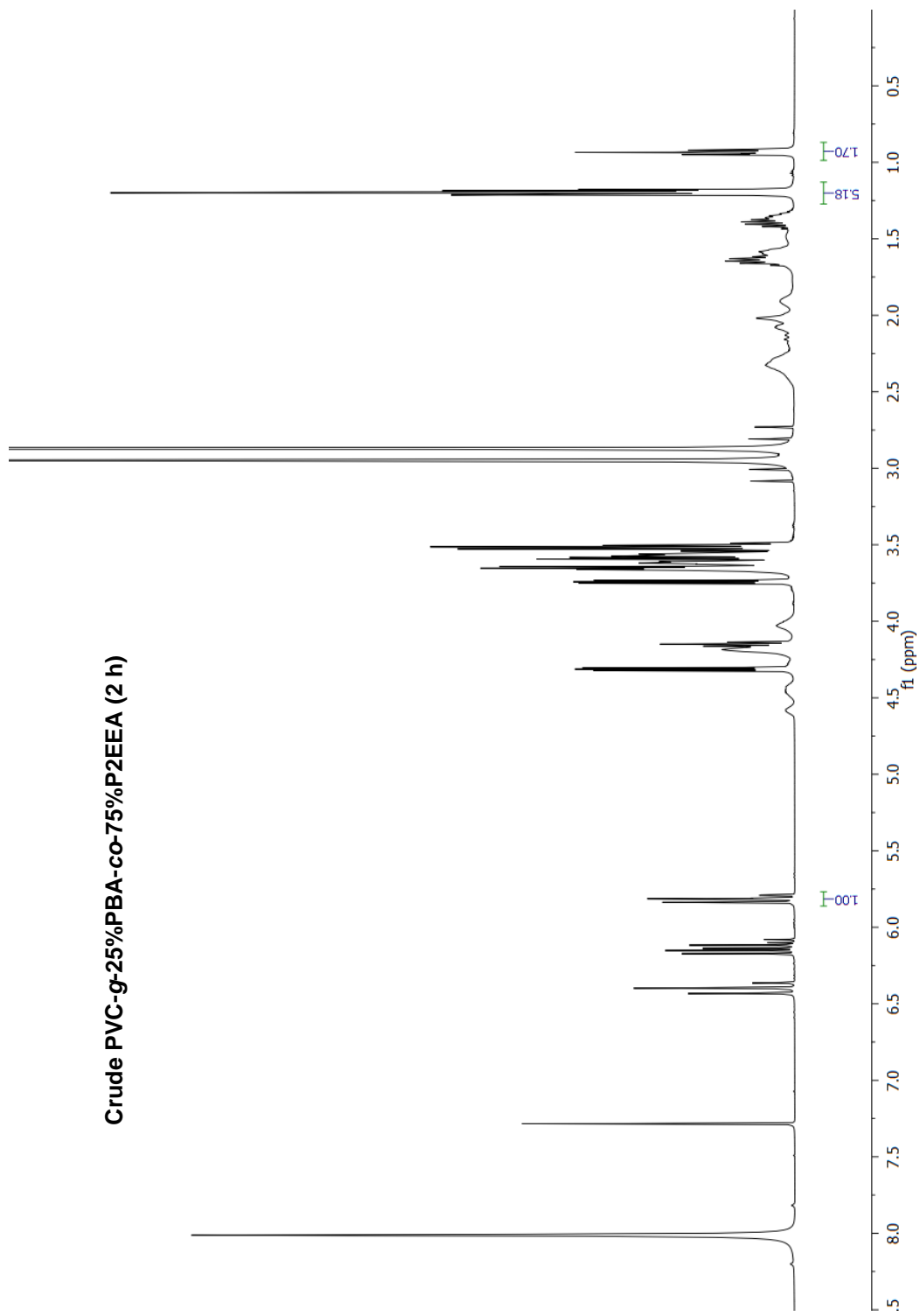
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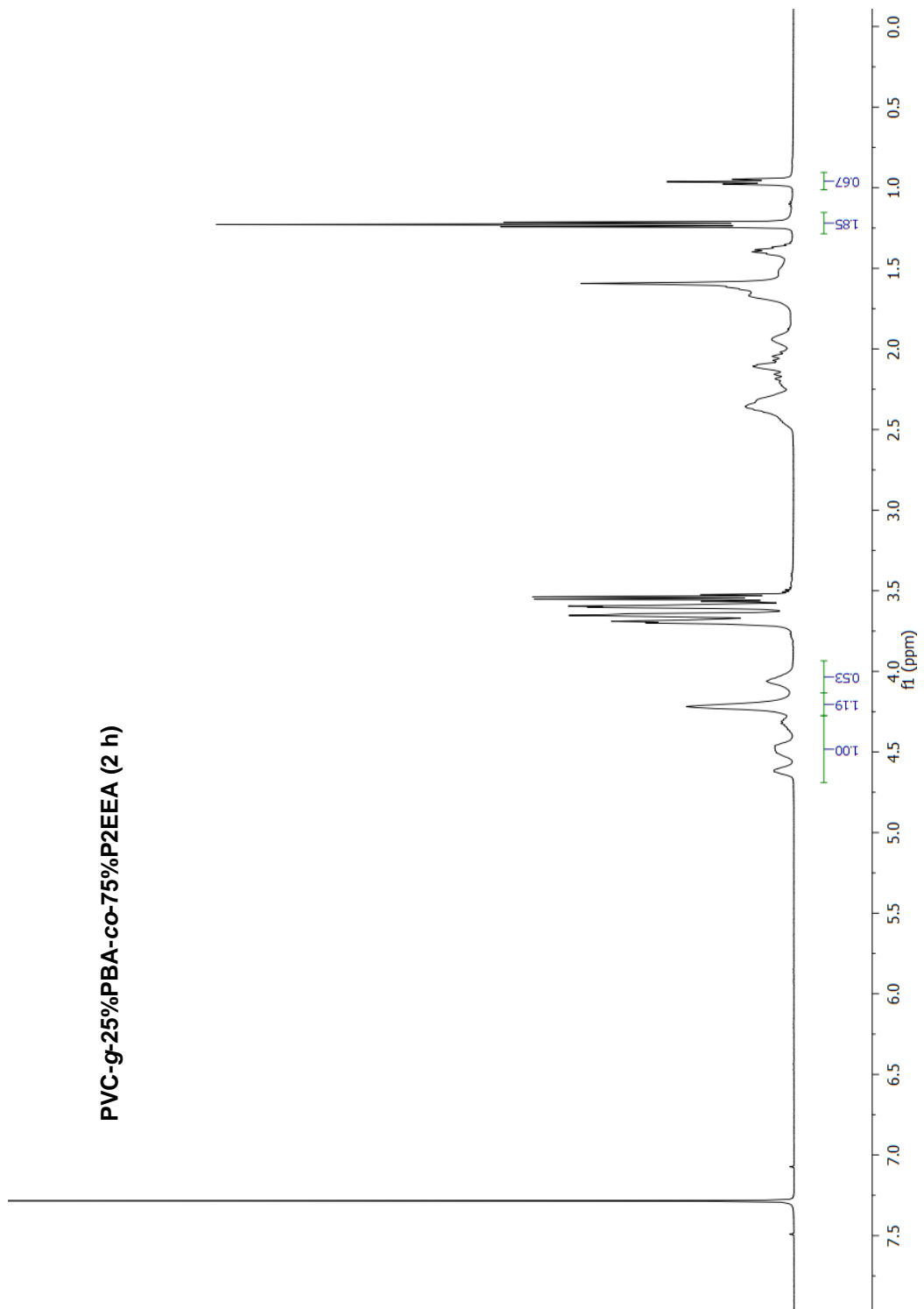
PVC-g-50%PBA-co-50%P2EEA (2 h)

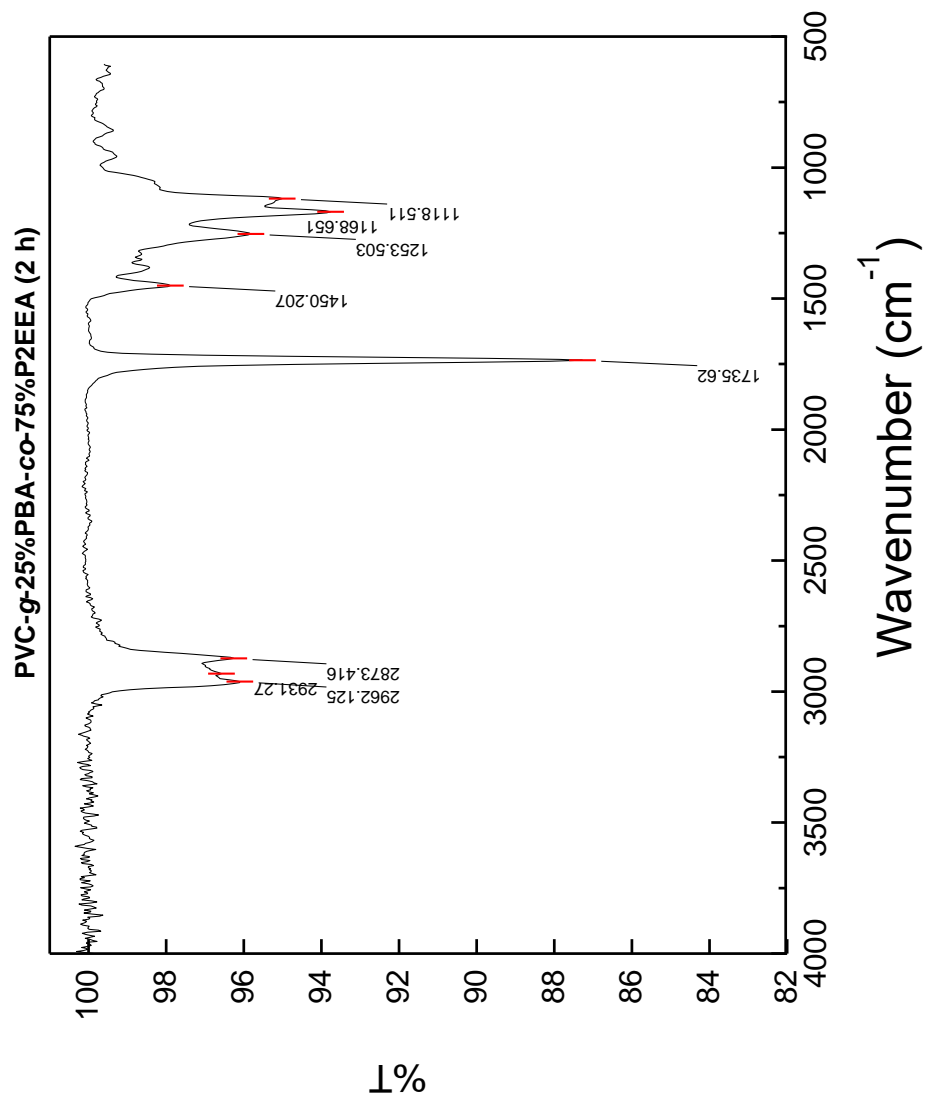


Crude PVC-g-25%PBA-co-75%P2EEEA (2 h)

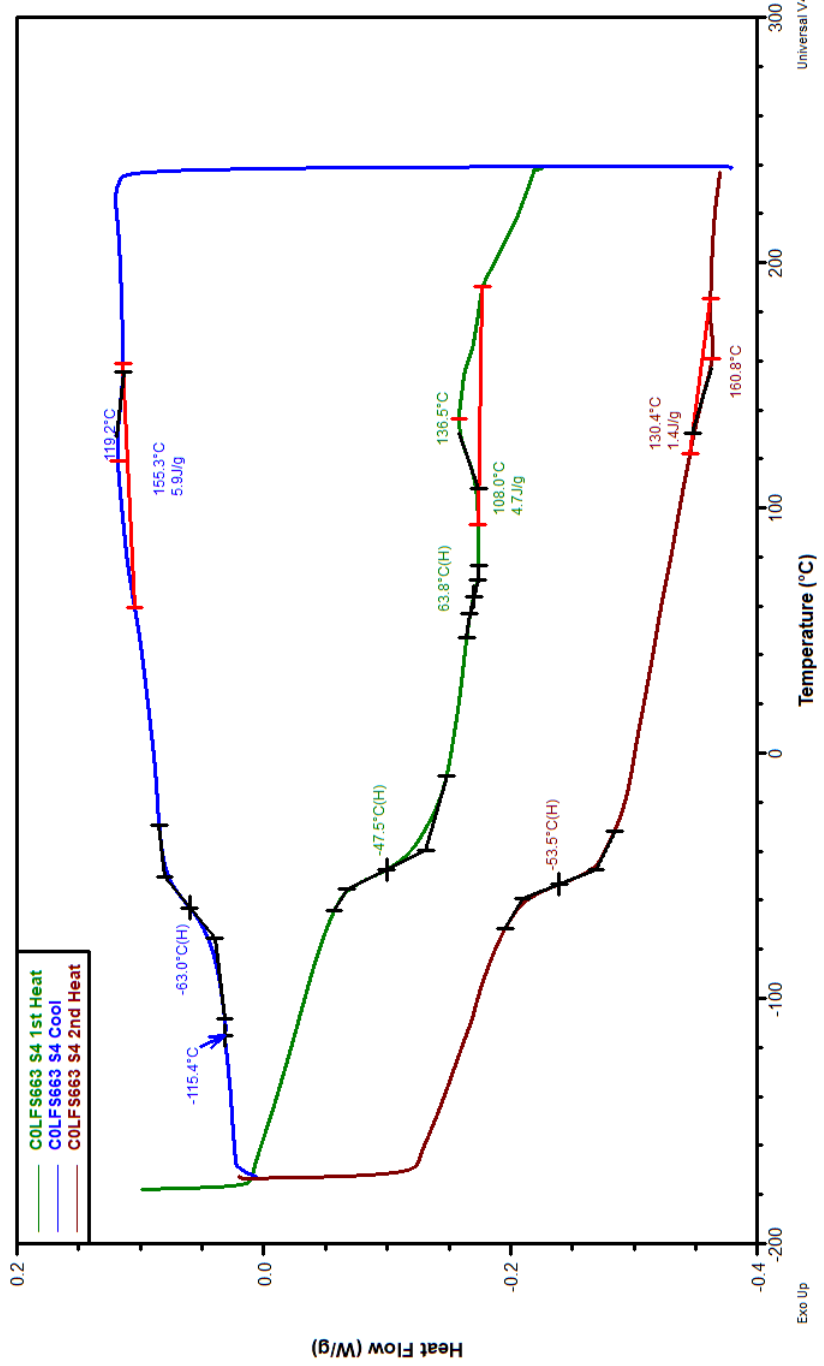


PVC-g-25%PBA-co-75%P2EEA (2 h)

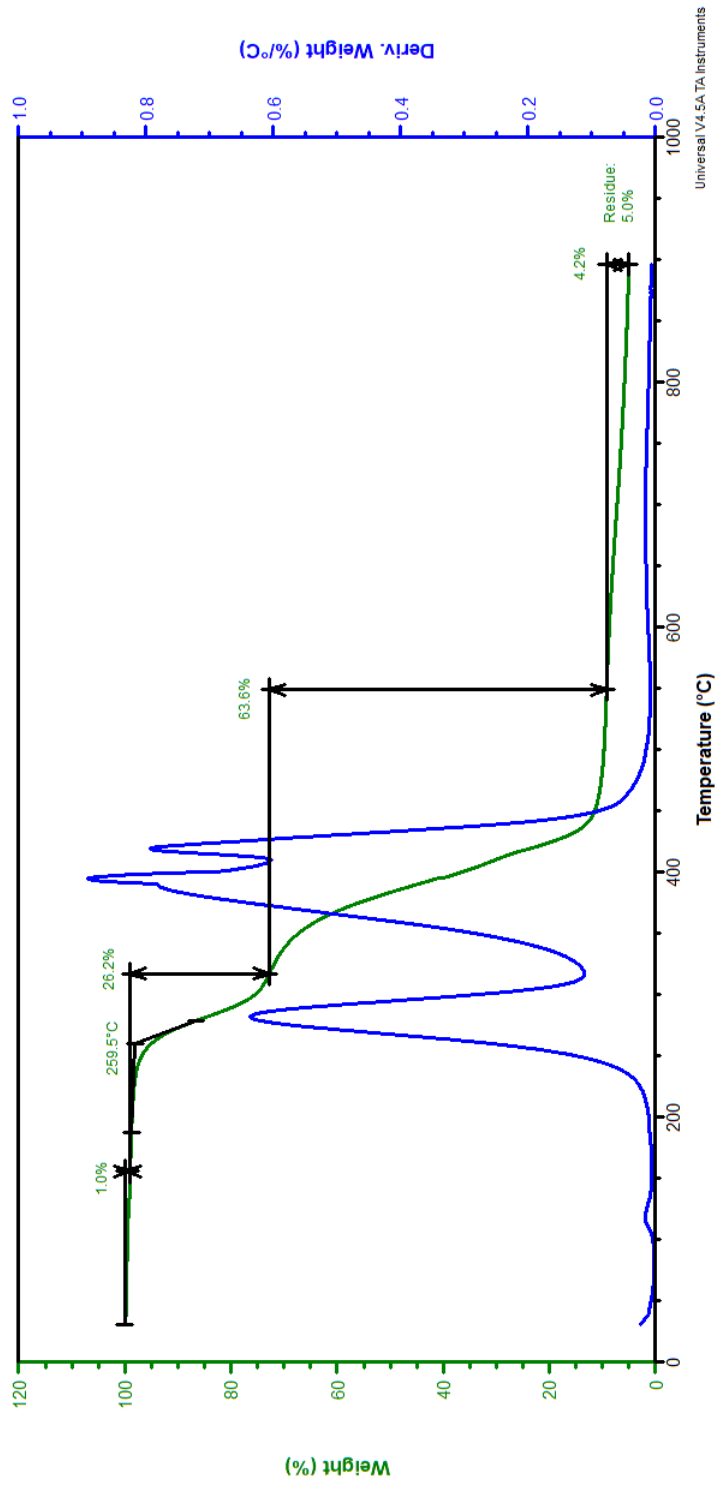




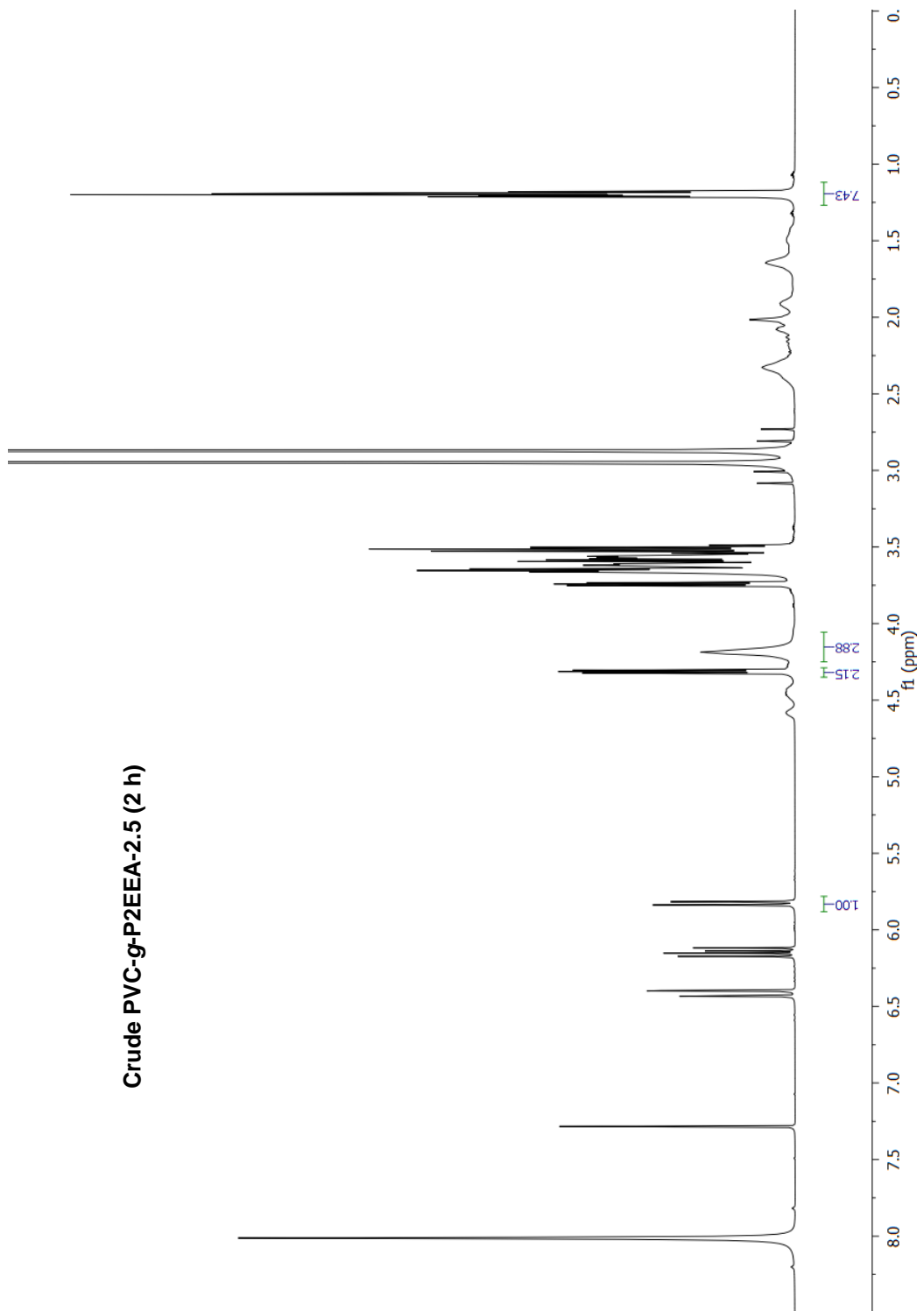
PVC-g-25%PBA-co-75%P2EEA (2 h)



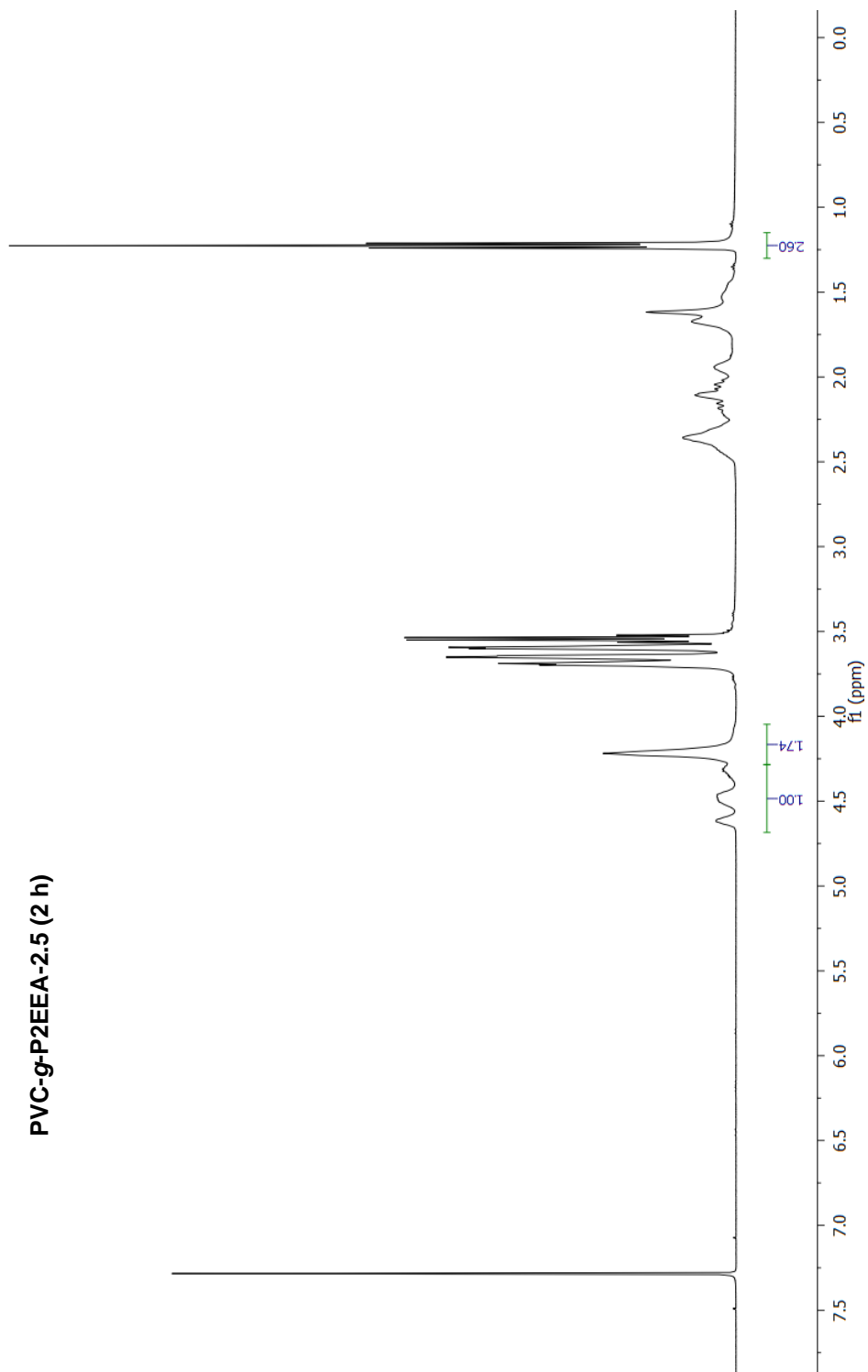
PVC-g-25%PBA-co-75%P2EEA (2 h)

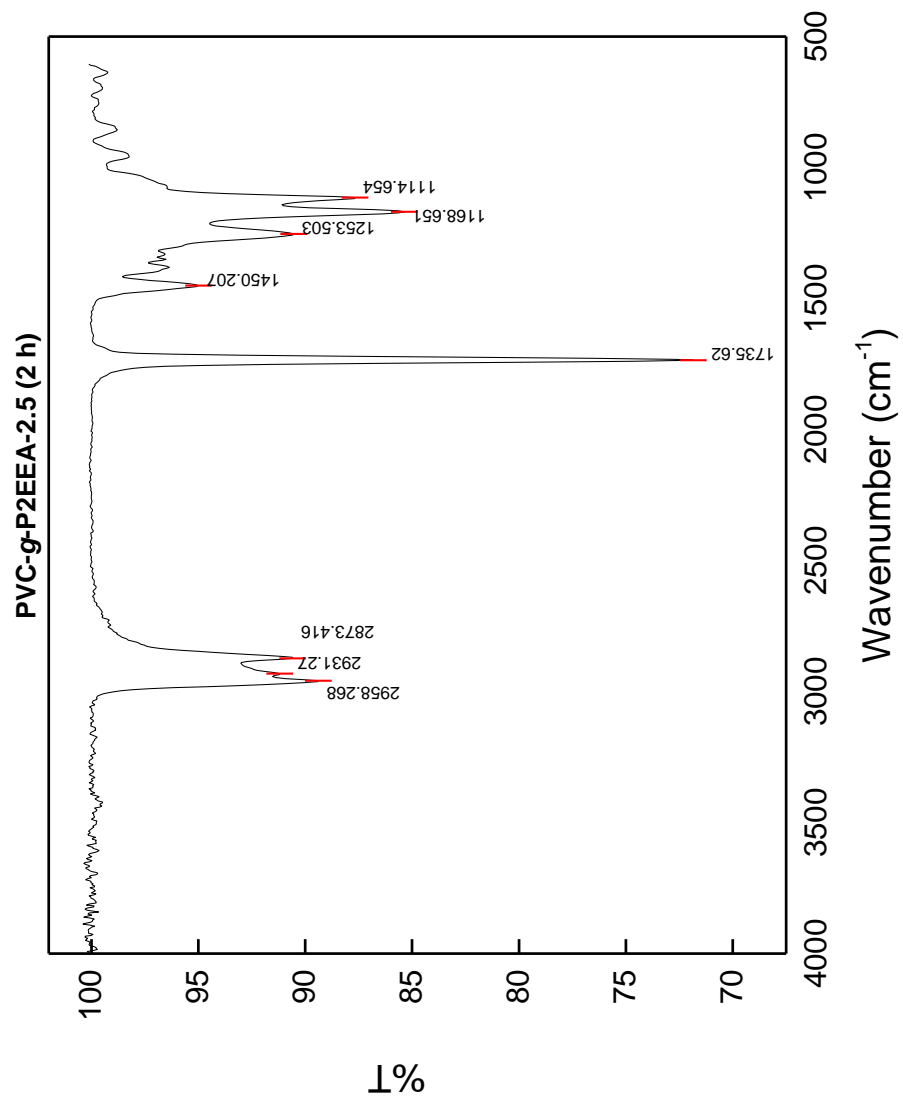


Crude PVC-g-P2EEA-2.5 (2 h)

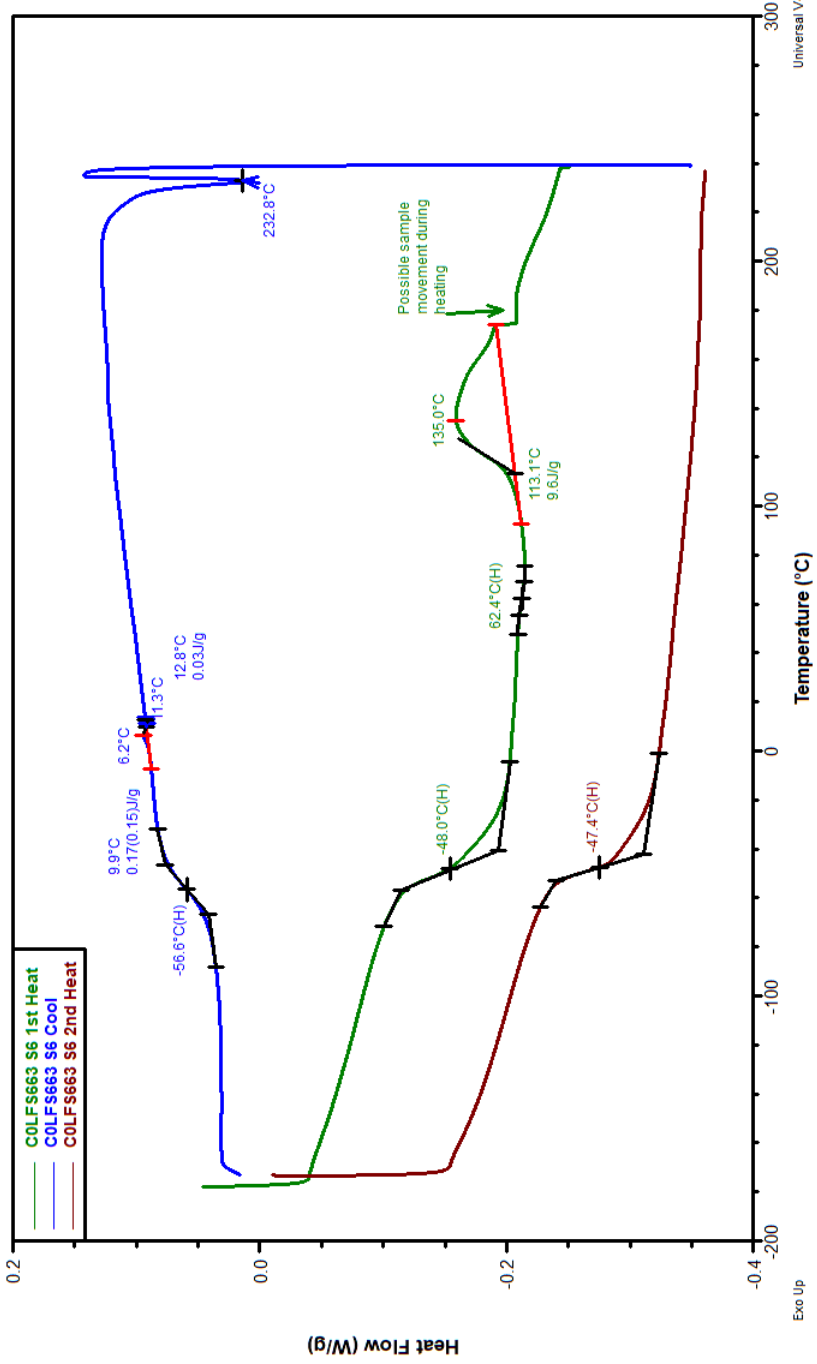


PVC-g-P2EEA-2.5 (2 h)

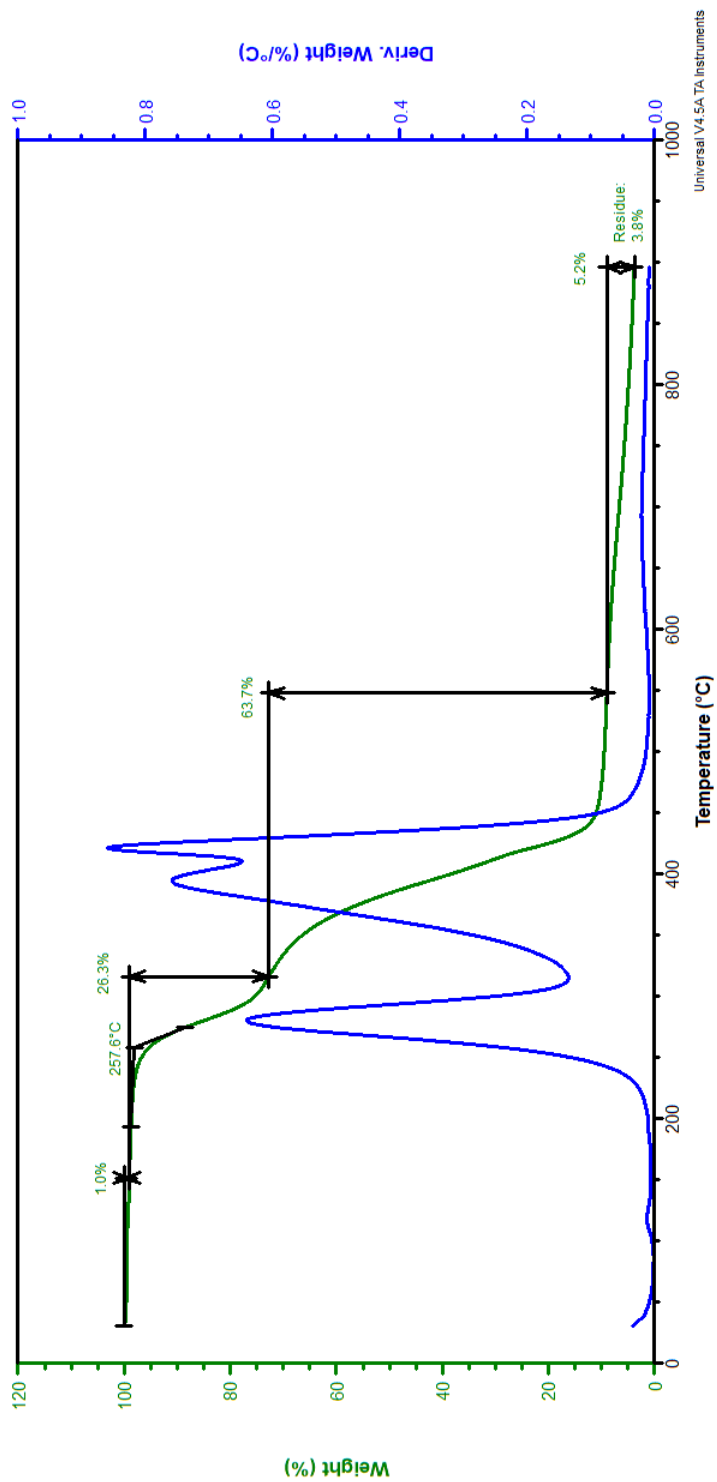


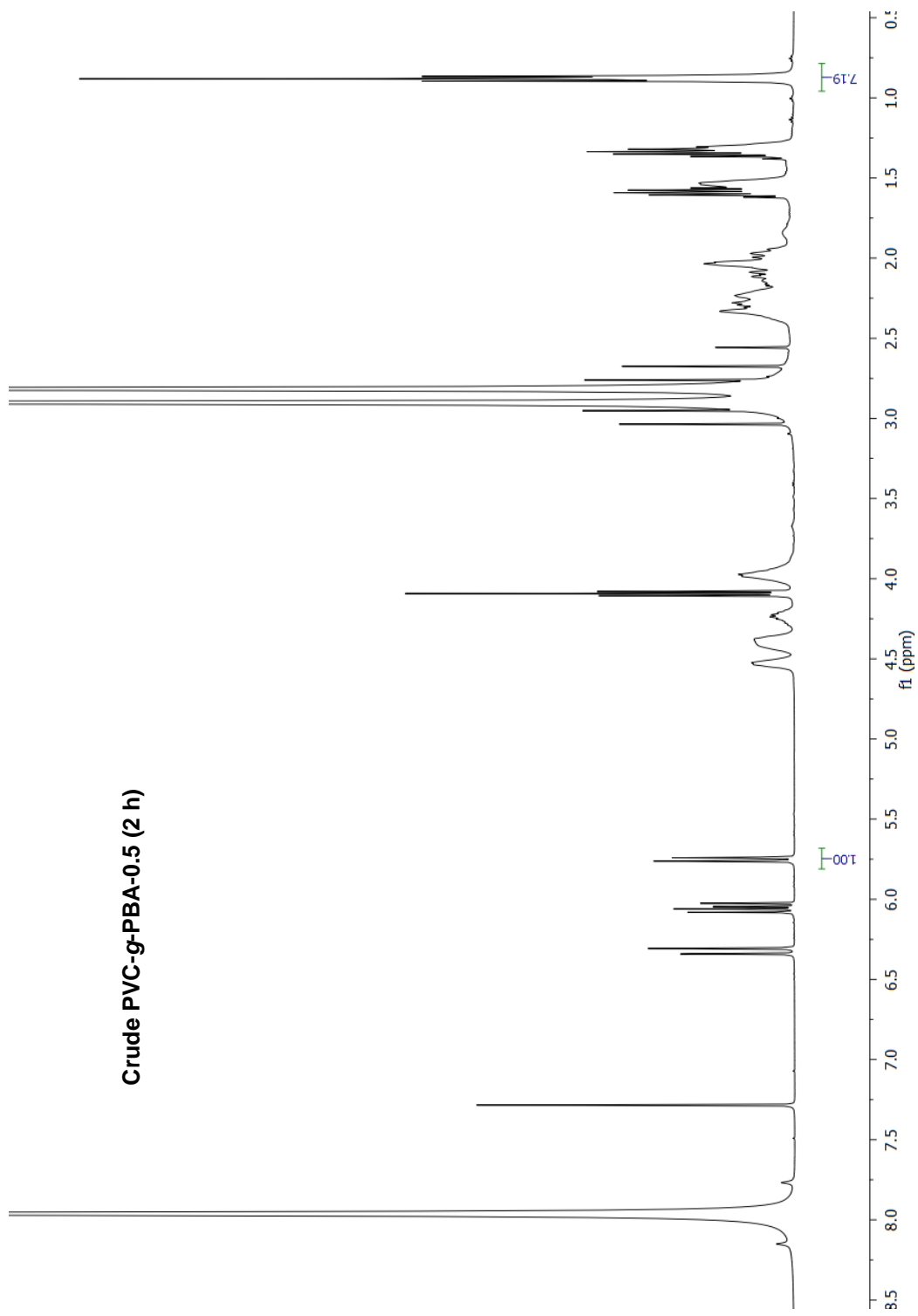


PVC-g-P2EEEA-2.5 (2 h)

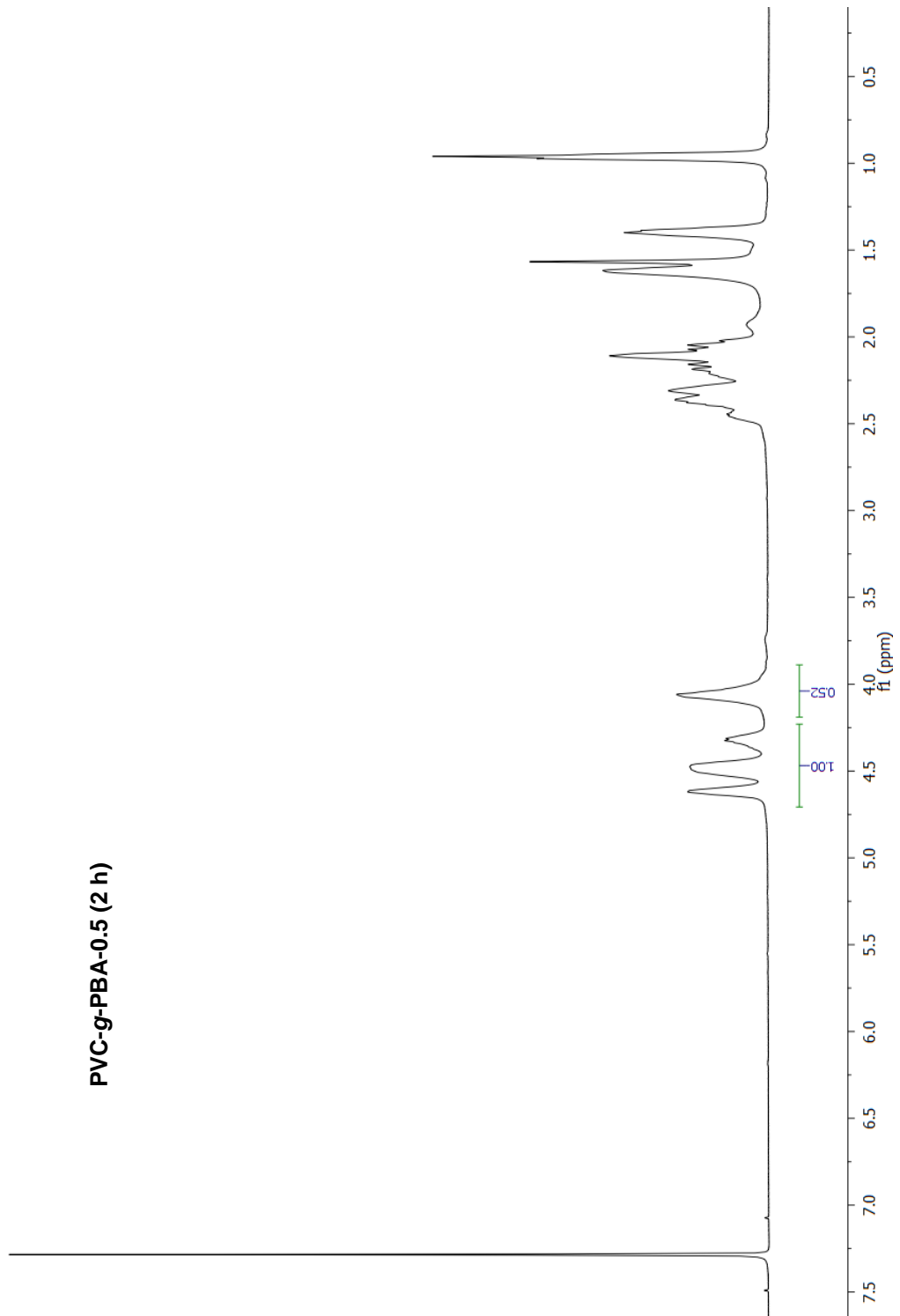


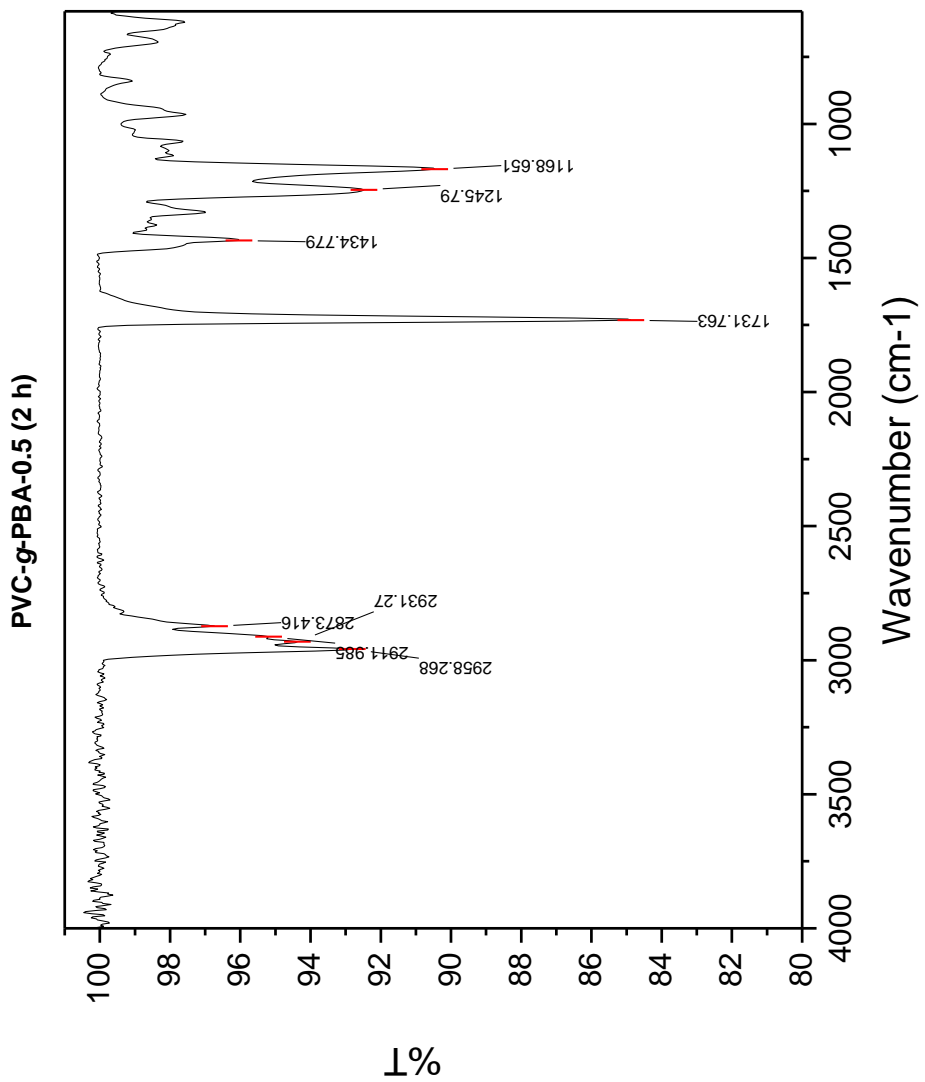
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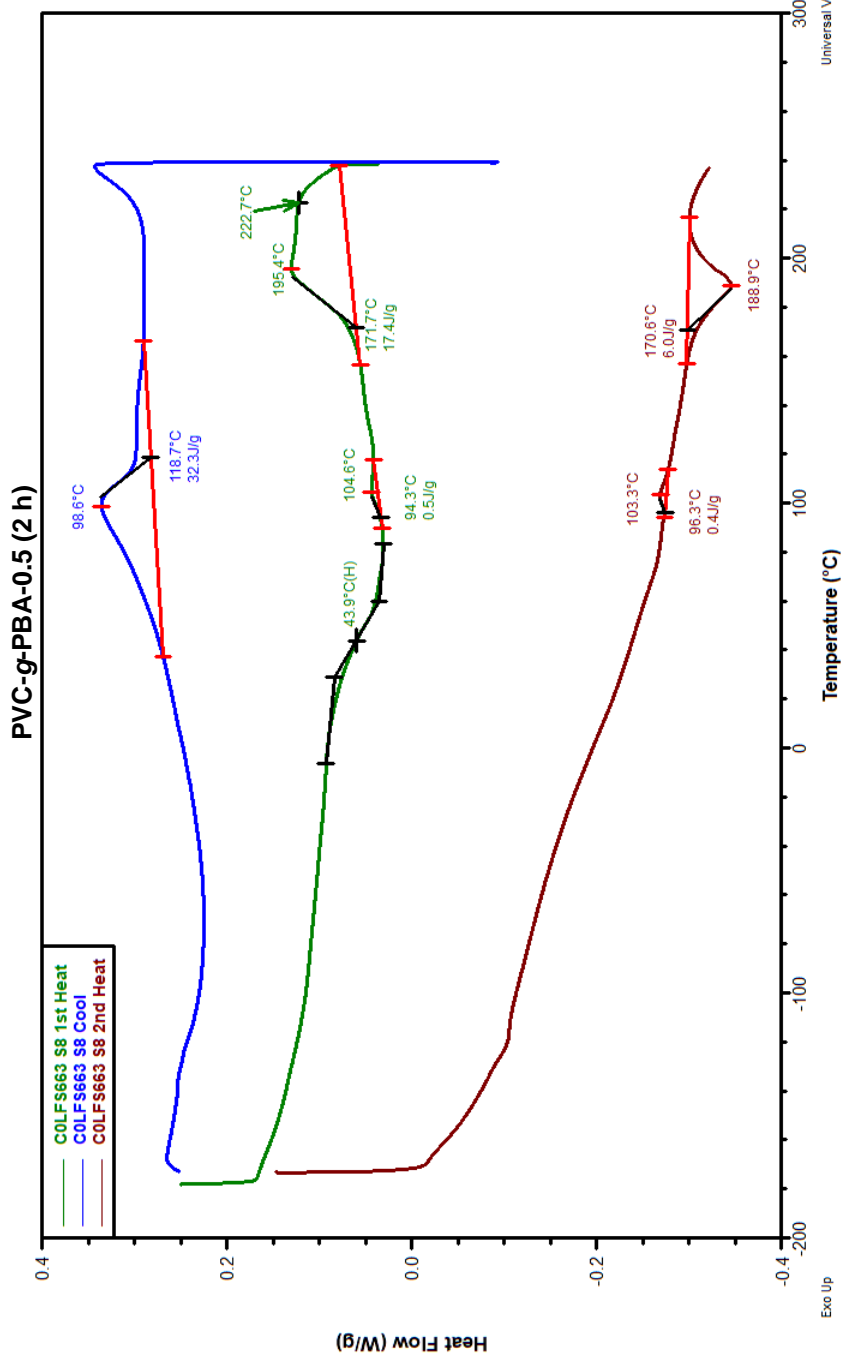




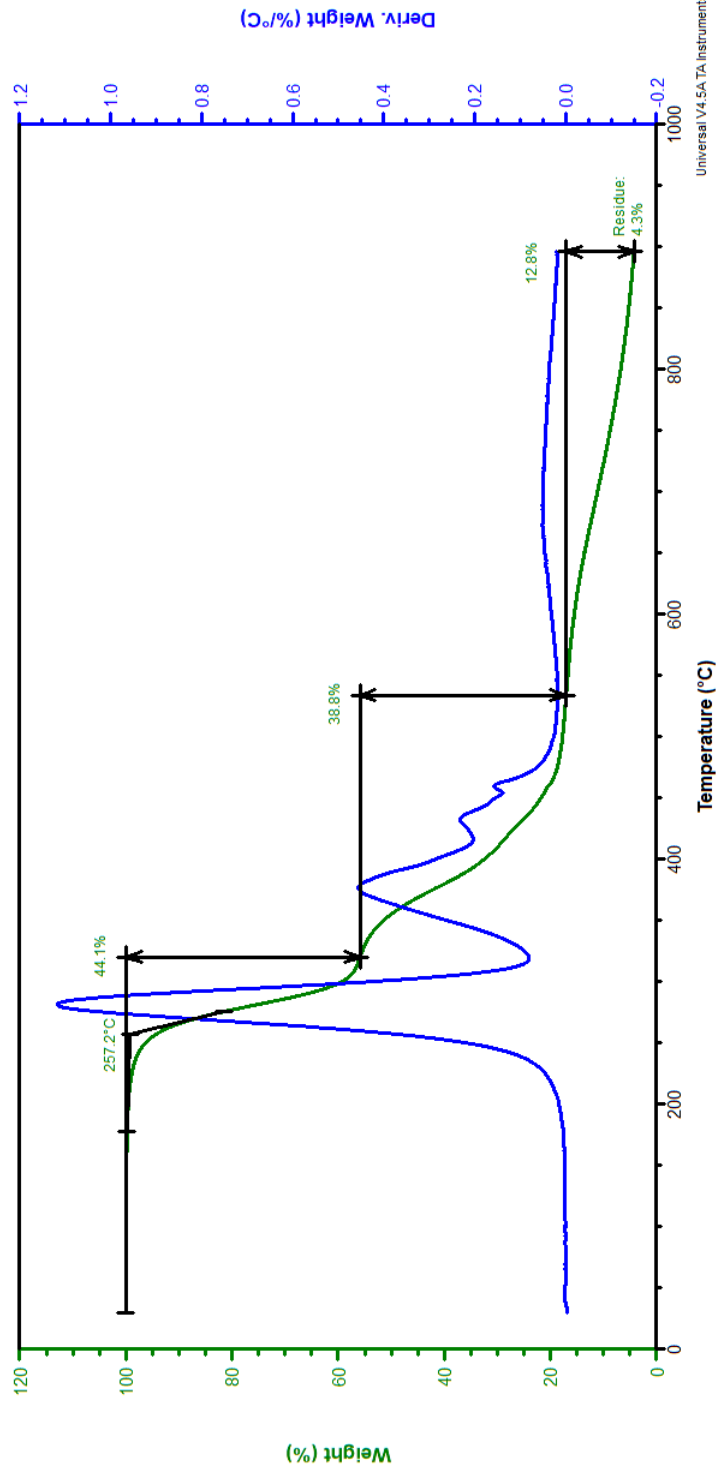
PVC-g-PBA-0.5 (2 h)

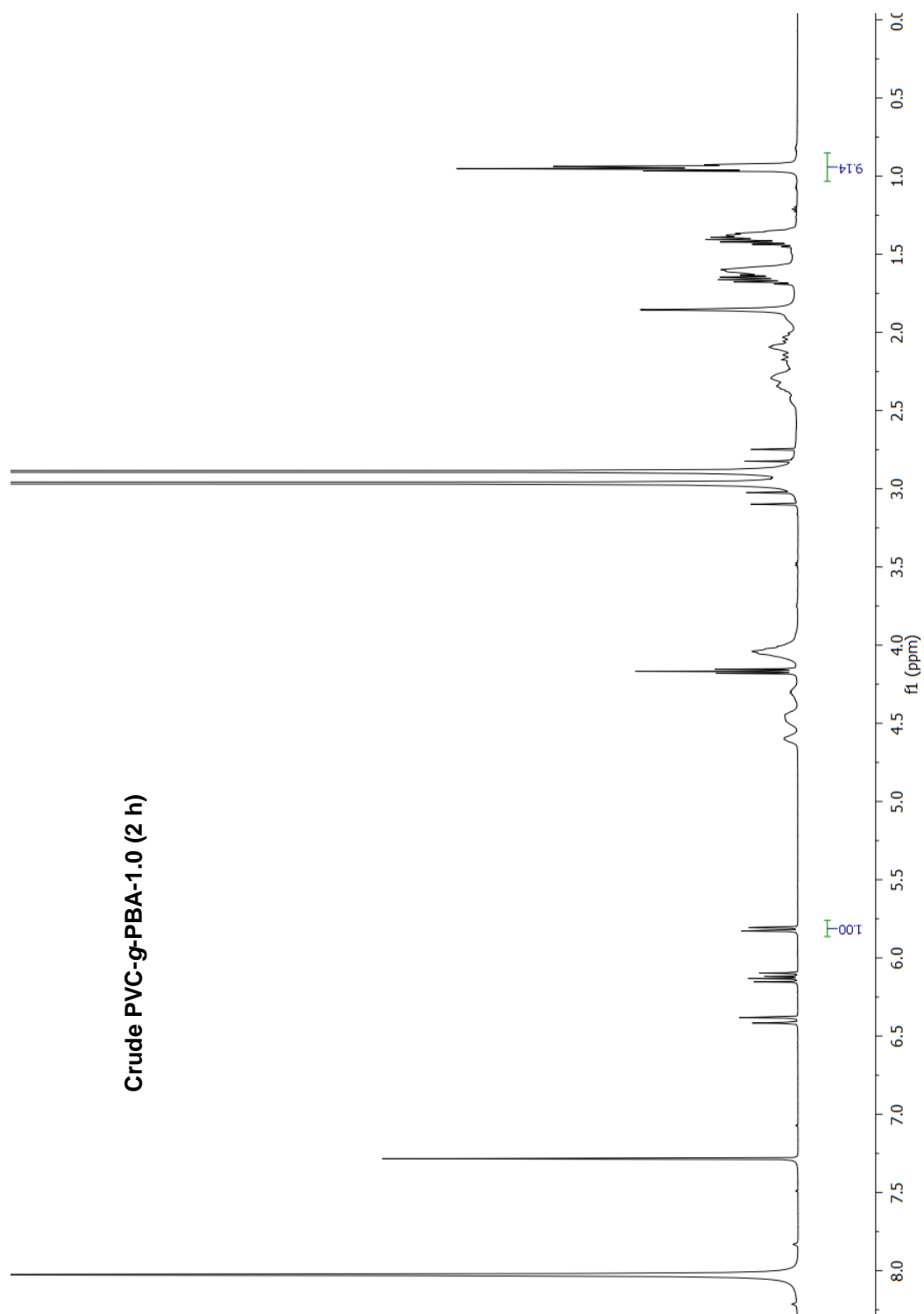




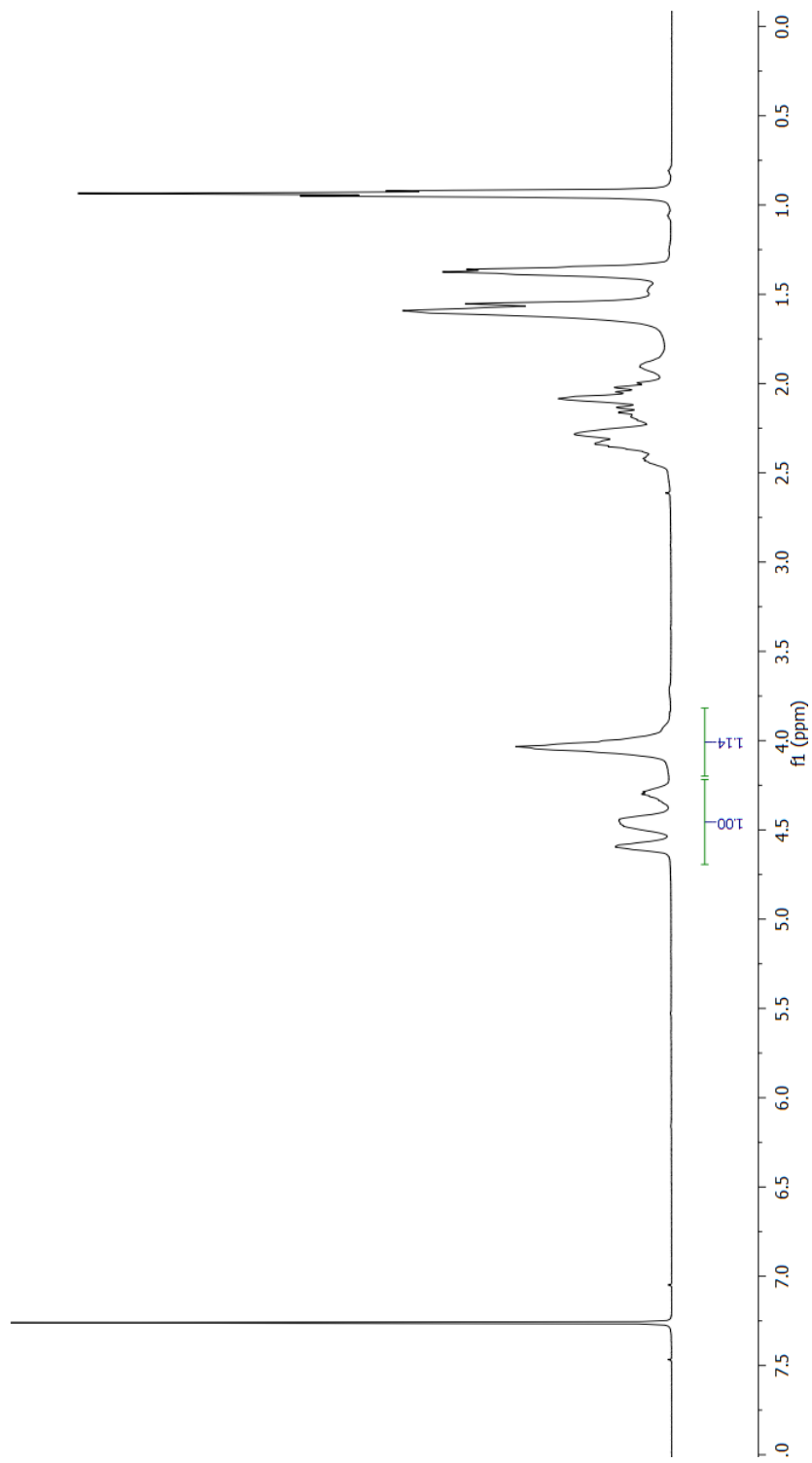


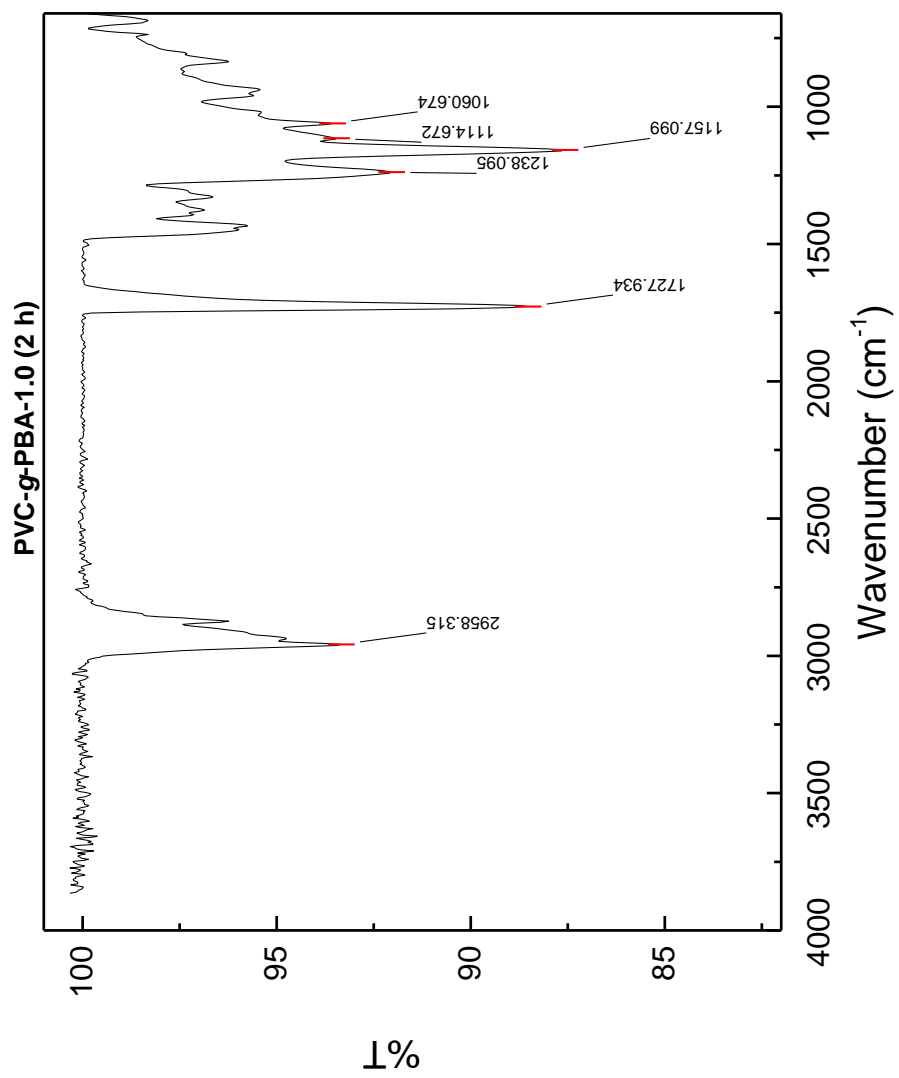
PVC-g-PBA-0.5 (2 h)

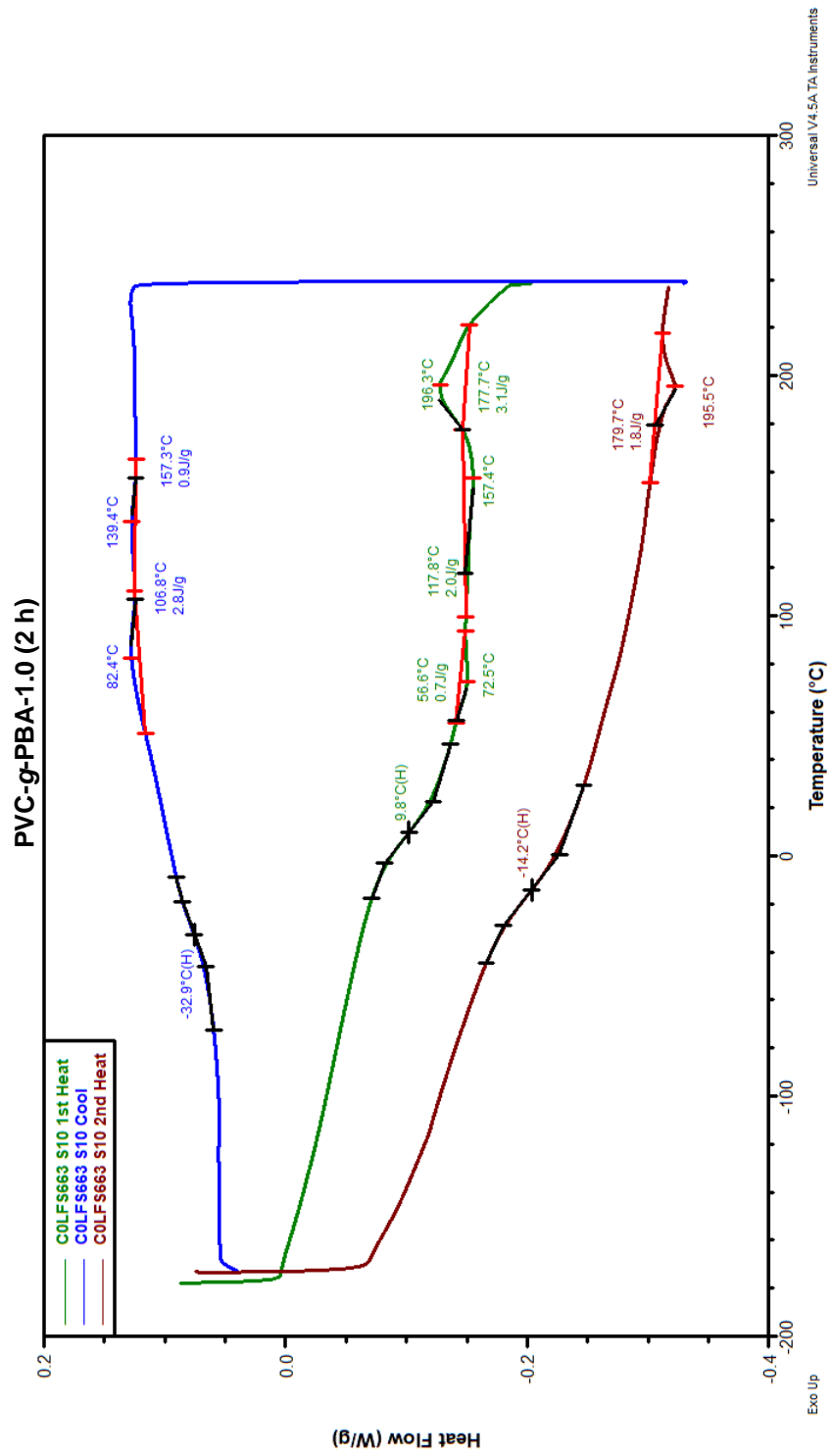




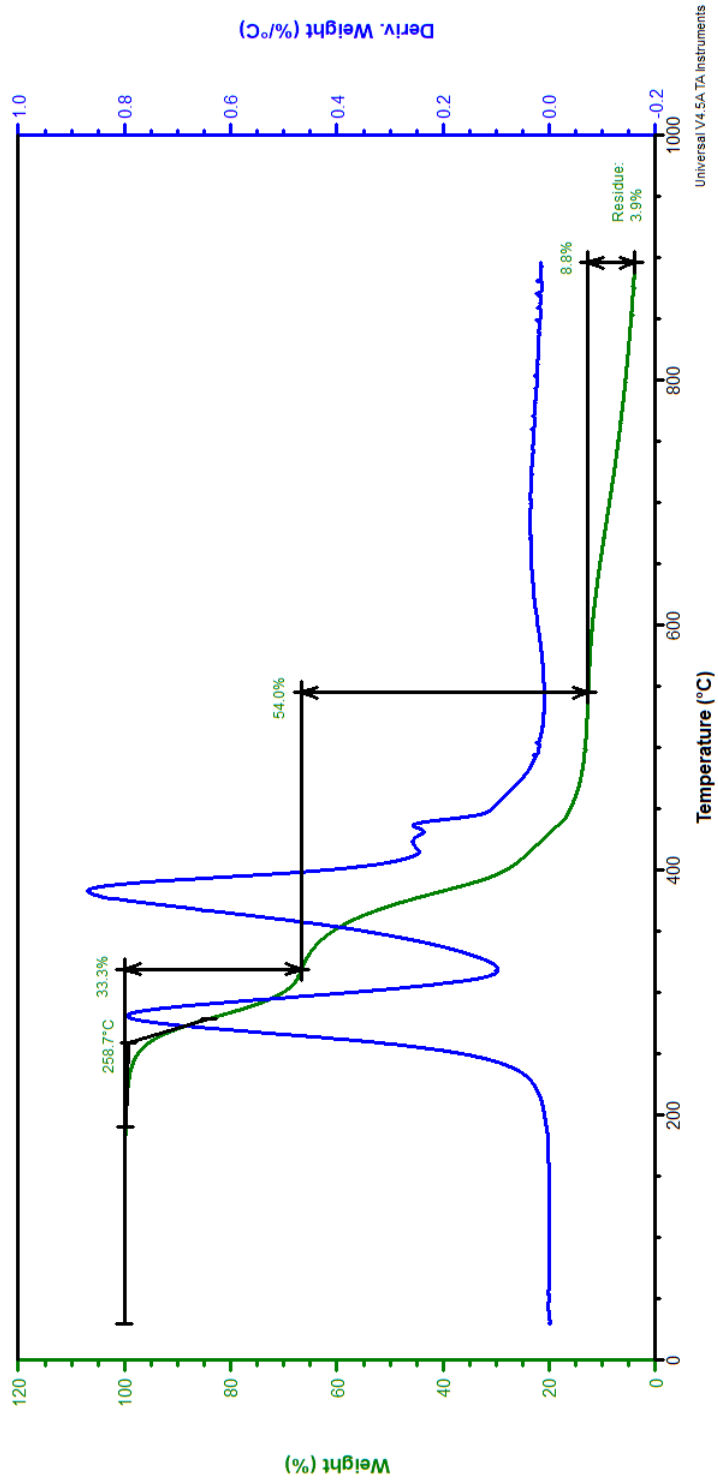
PVC-g-PBA-1.0 (2 h)

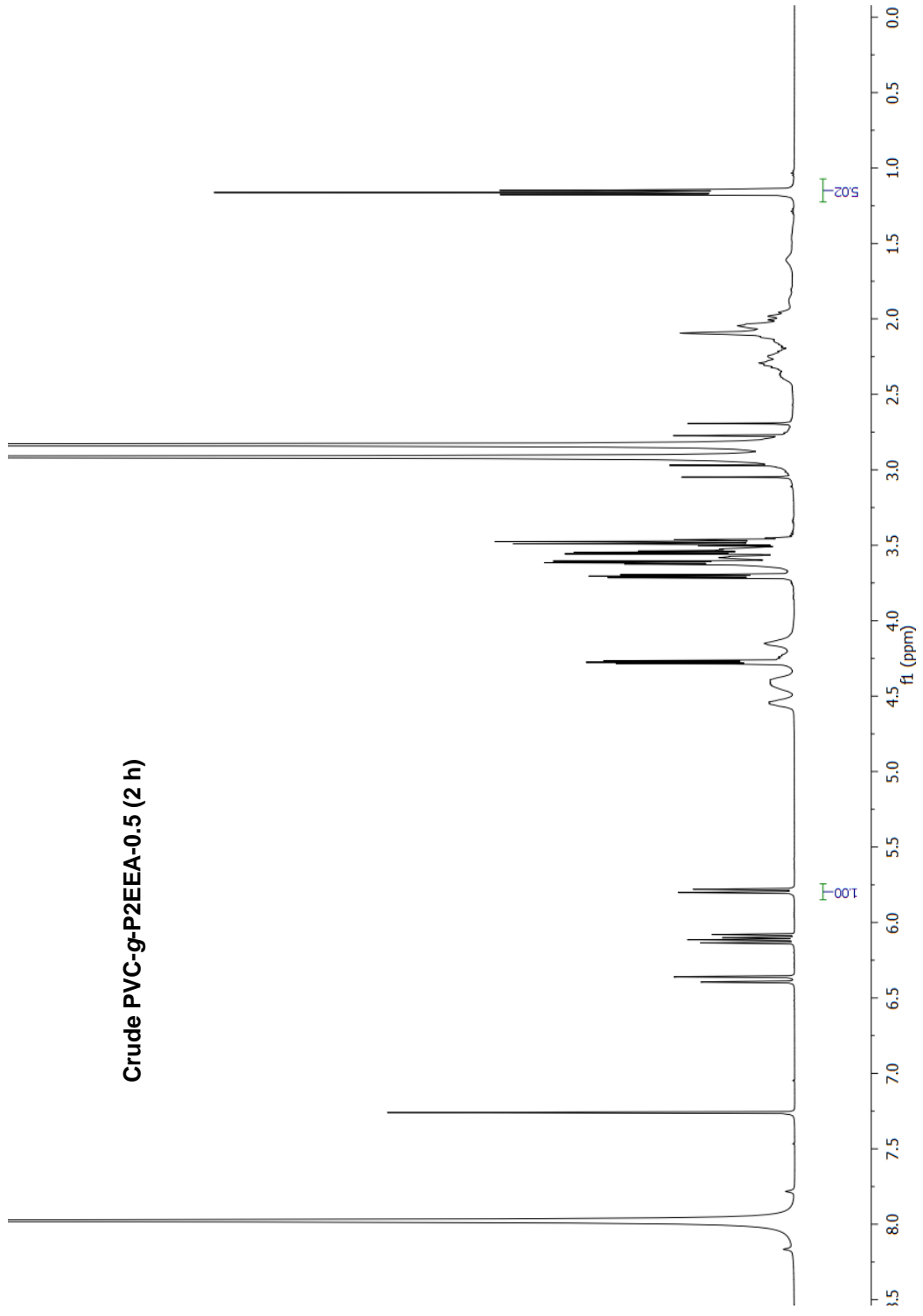




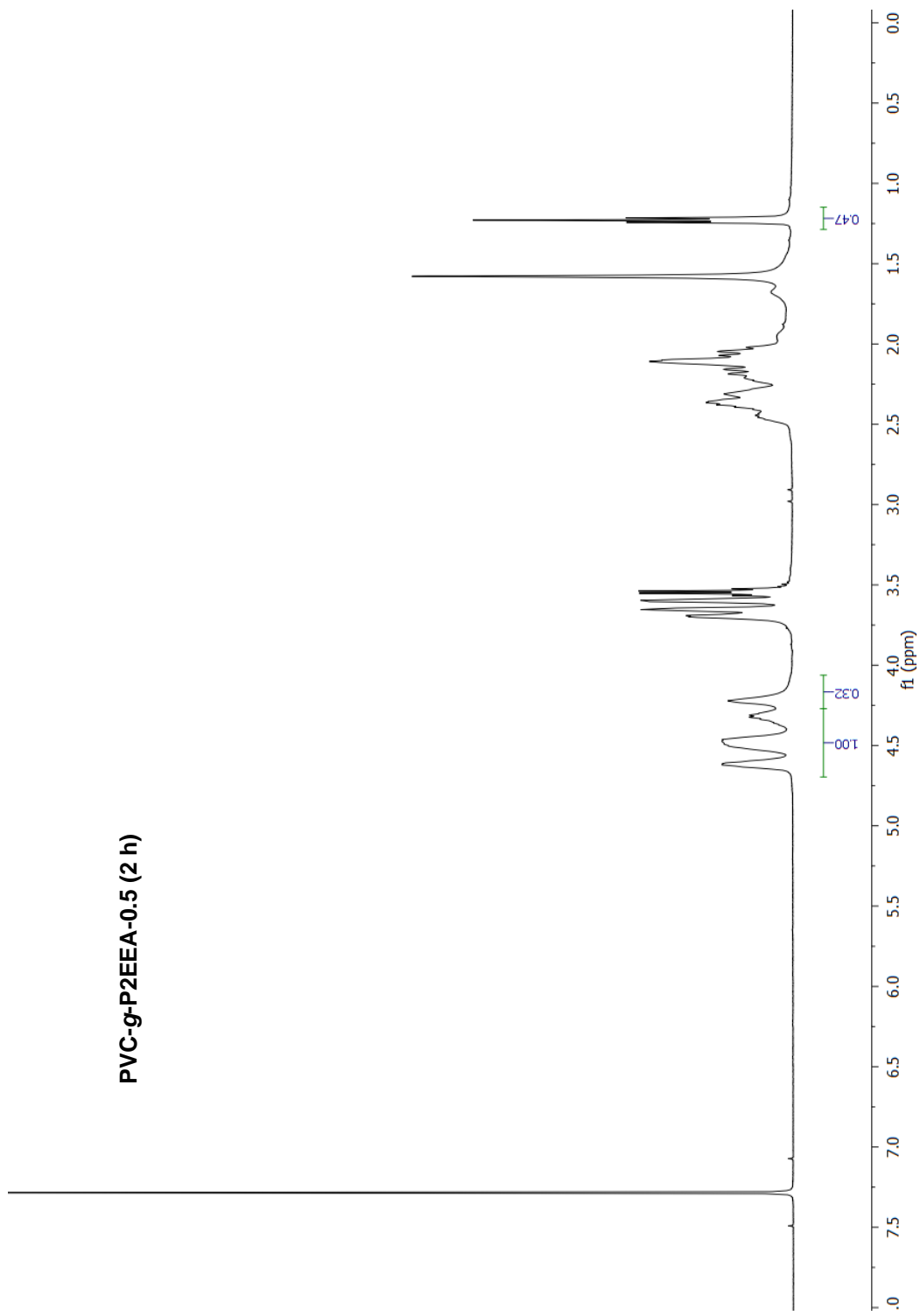


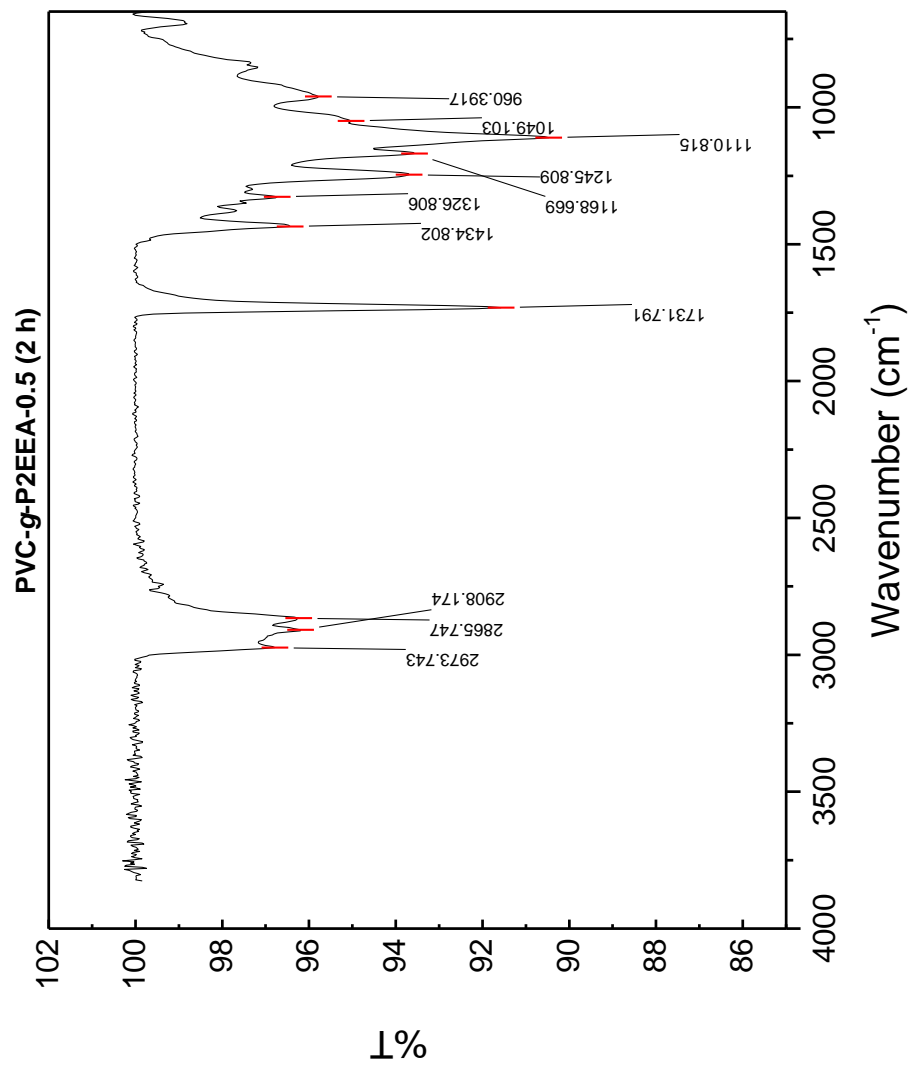
PVC-g-PBA-1.0 (2 h)



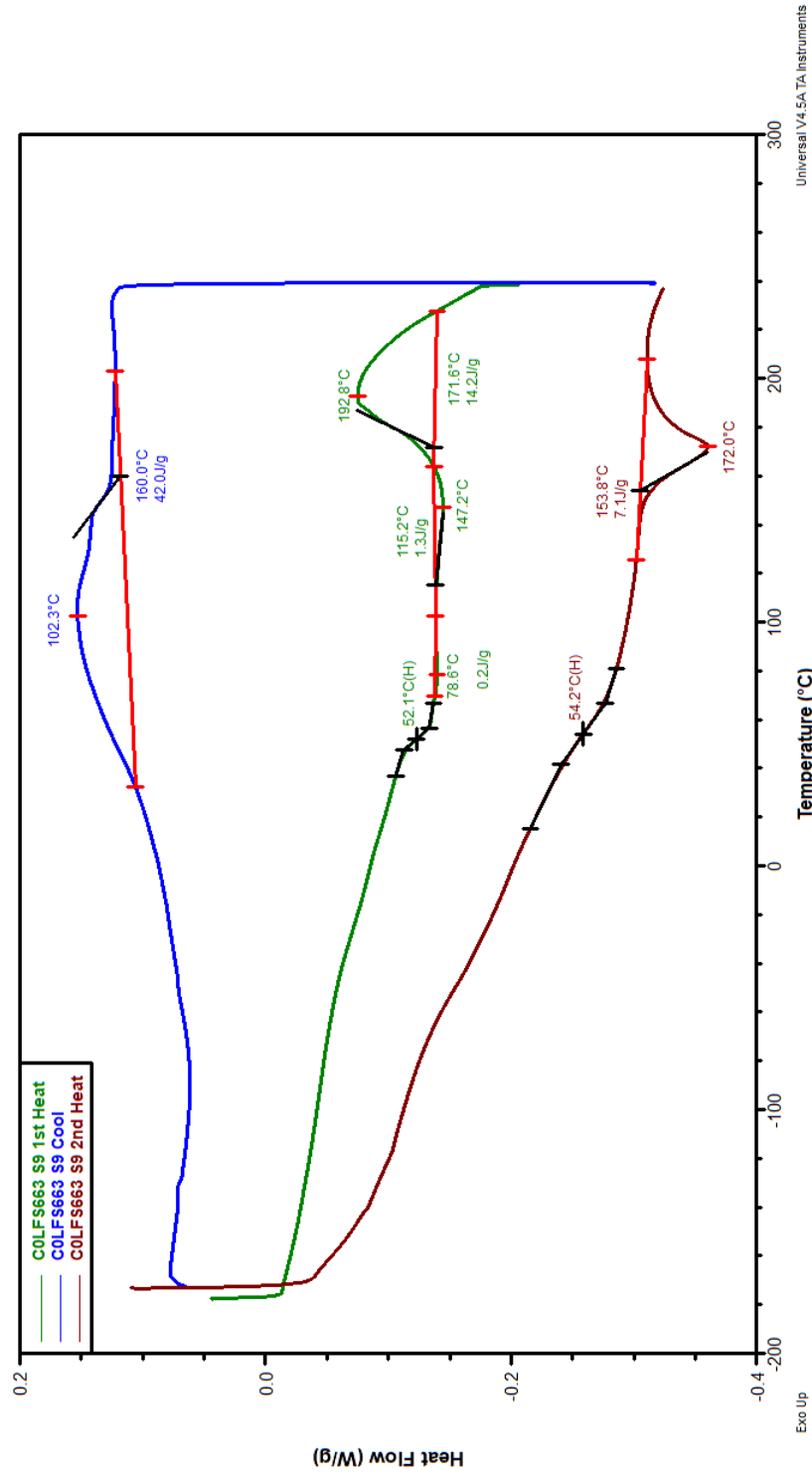


PVC-g-P2EEA-0.5 (2 h)

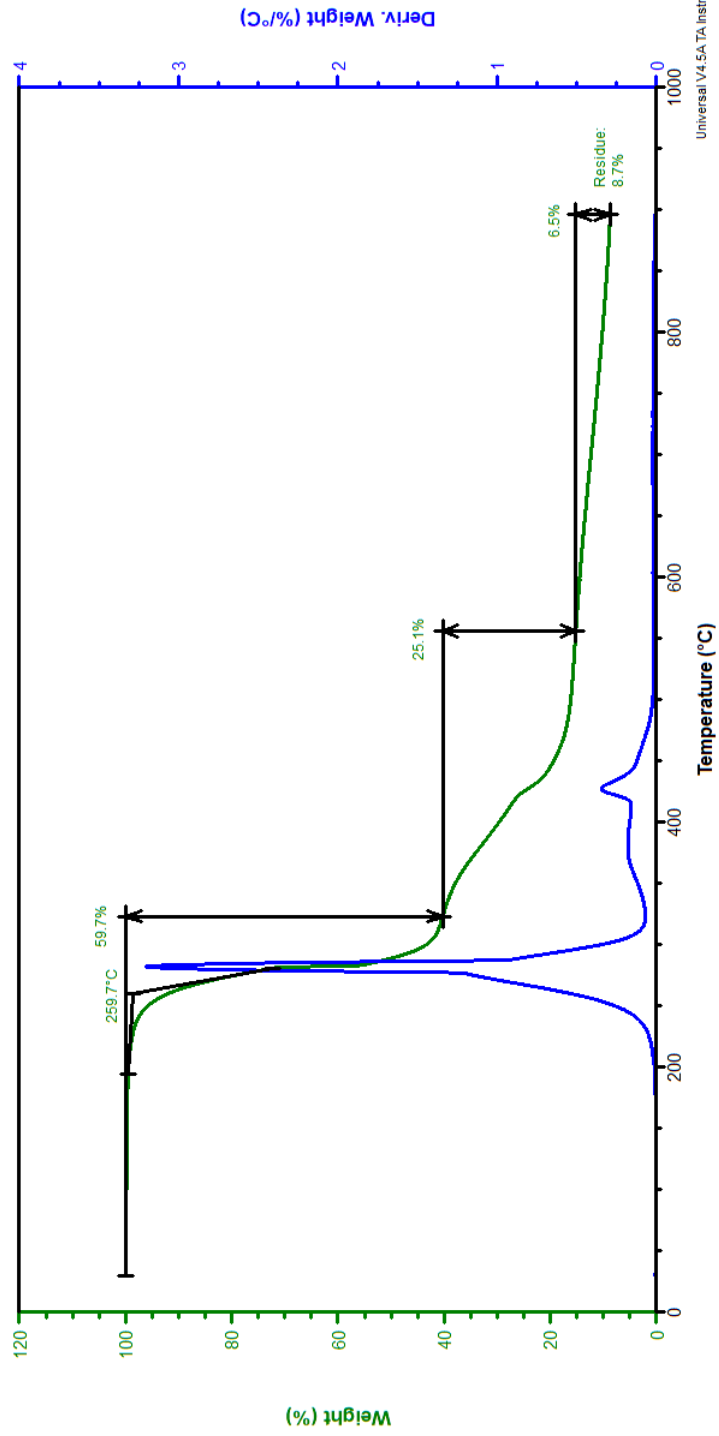


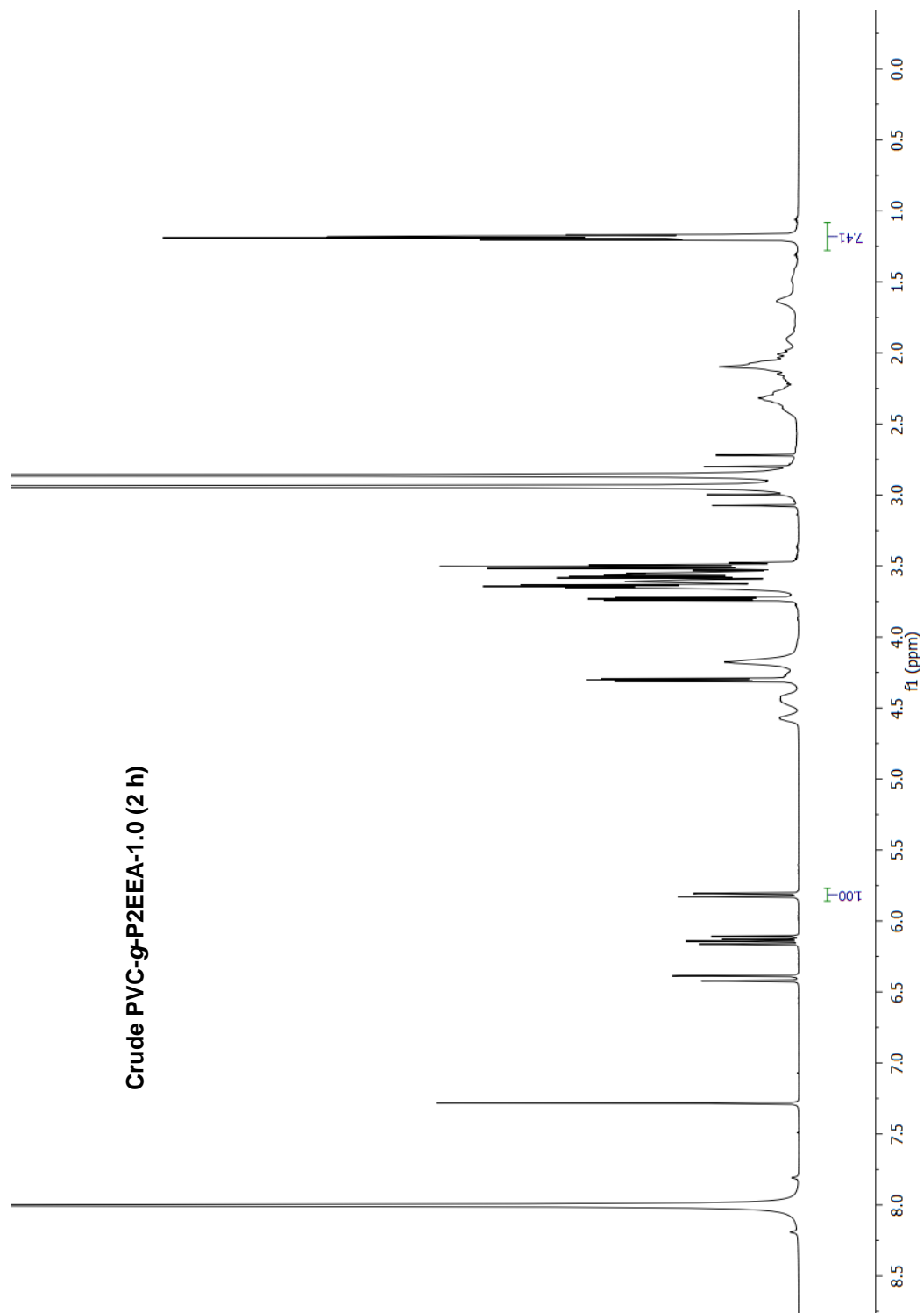


PVC-g-P2EEA-0.5 (2 h)

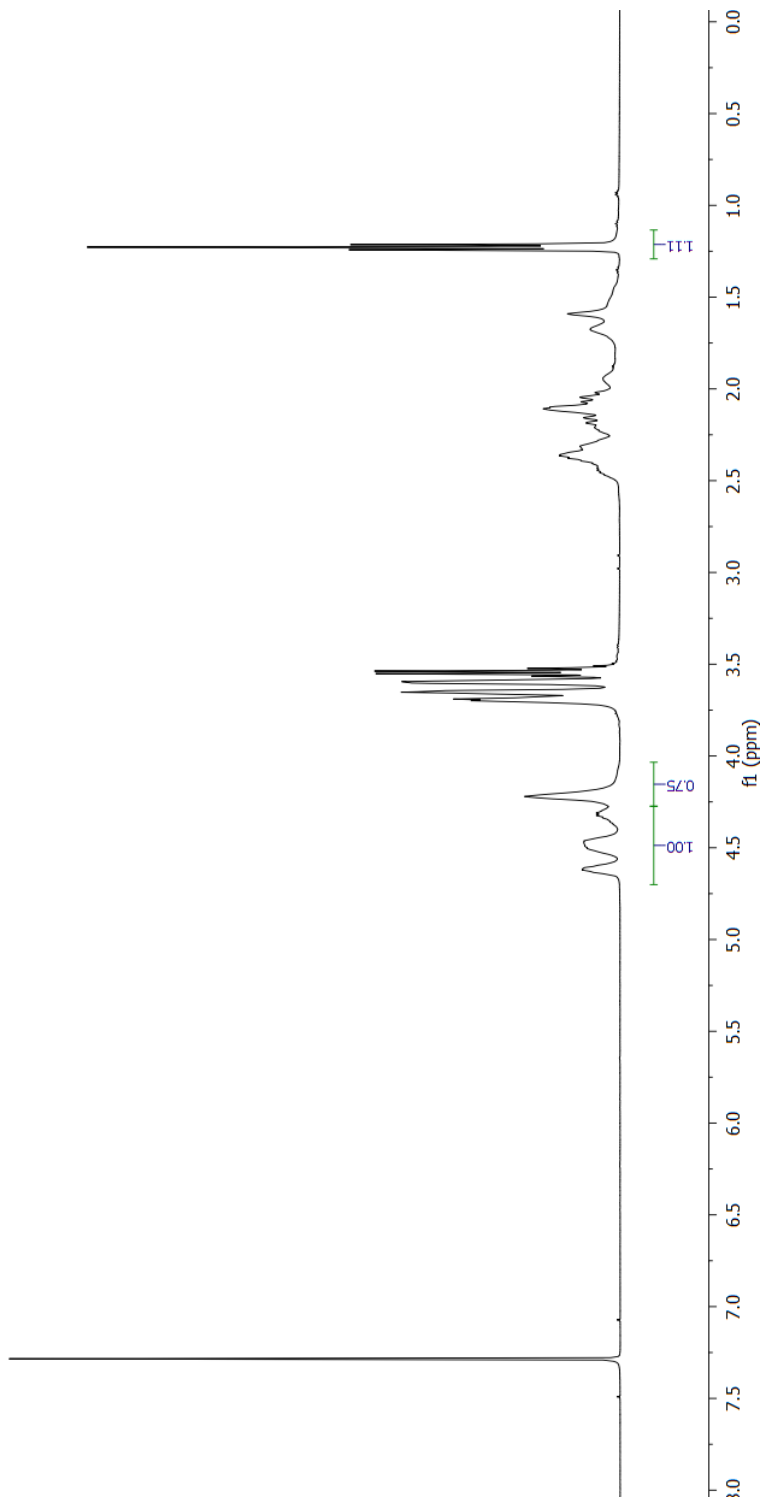


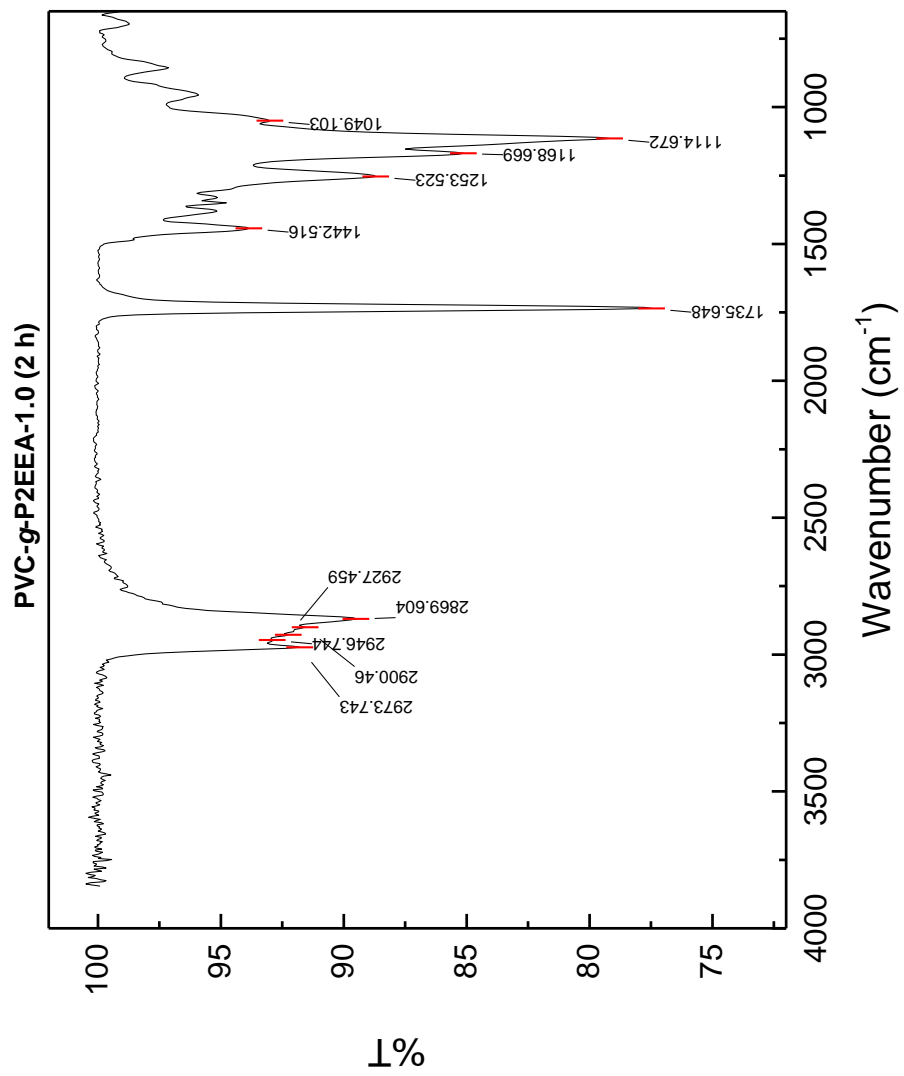
PVC-g-P2EEA-0.5 (2 h)



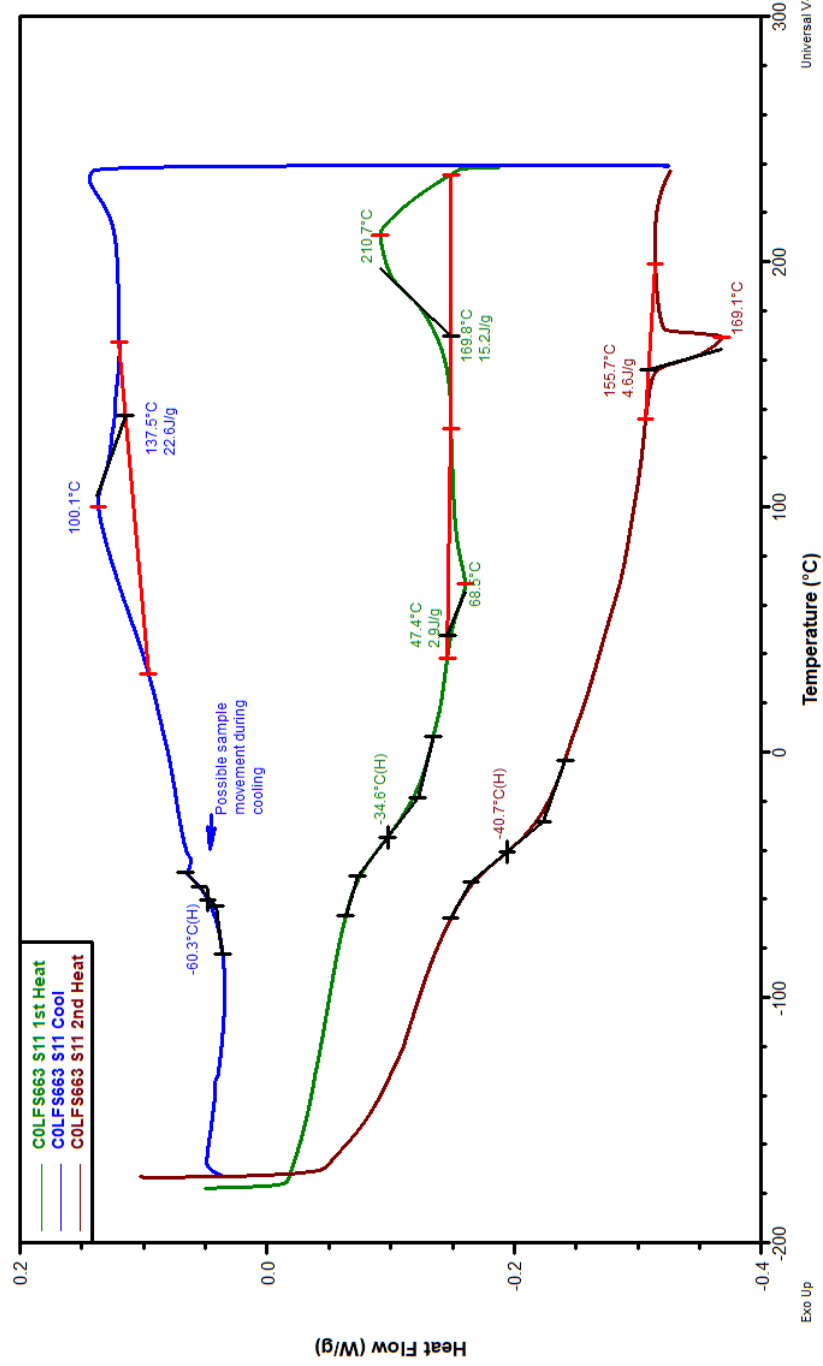


PVC-g-P2EEA-1.0 (2 h)



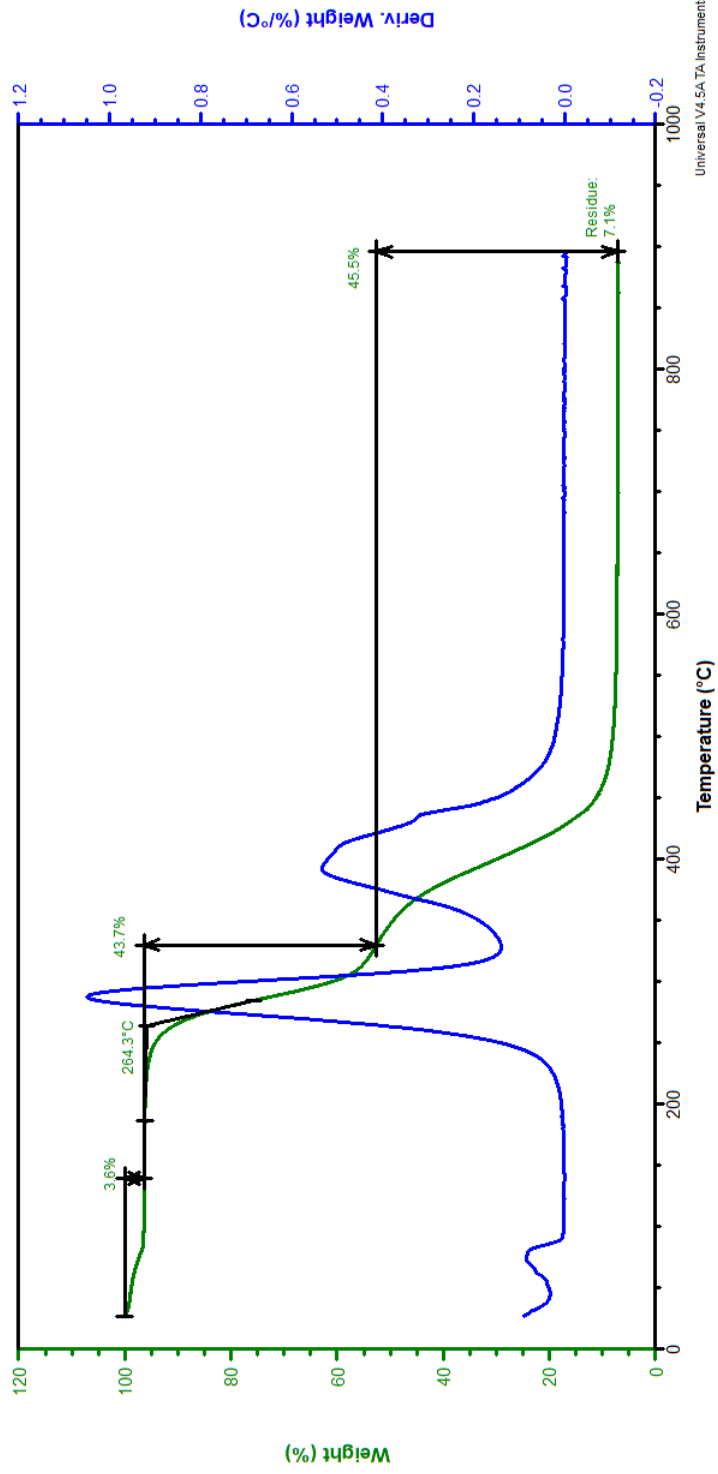


PVC-g-P2EEEA-1.0 (2 h)



Universal V4.5A TTA Instruments

PVC-g-P2EEEA-1.0 (2 h)



Universal V4.5A TA Instruments

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