

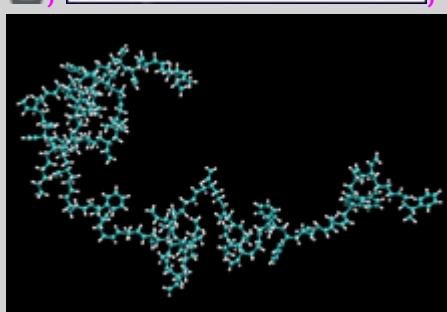
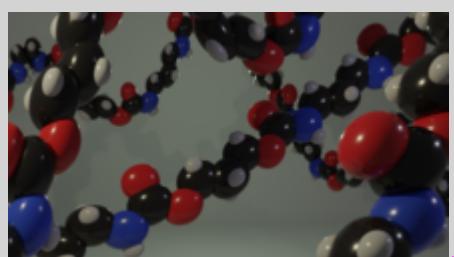
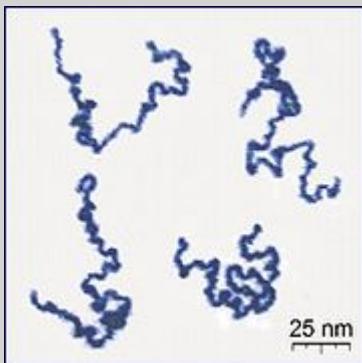
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Goodyear patents the vulcanisation of rubber (1844)

Ménard synthesises collodion by dissolving nitrocellulose in ether/alcohol (1848)

Parkes patents the first thermoplastic (Parkesine) made by adding plasticiser to nitrocellulose (1856)

1840

1860

1880

Schönbein synthesises nitrocellulose (nitrated cellulose) (1846)

Klatte patents production of poly(vinyl chloride) using sunlight (1913)

Staudinger publishes his seminal paper "Über Polymerisation" (1920)

Semon patents plasticised poly(vinyl chloride) (1926)

Johns patents urea-formaldehyde resins (1918)

Leo Baekeland produces the thermoset plastic Bakelite (phenol-formaldehyde resin) (1907)

Gibson and Fawcett discover the high-pressure polymerisation of ethene (1933)

Carothers reports the synthesis of nylon 6,6 and polystyrene is produced commercially on a large scale (1935)

Schlack discovers poly(ϵ -caprolactam) (1938)

Plunkett discovers polytetrafluoroethylene (1938)

First commercial production of polyethene (1939)

First patent for emulsion polymerisation, of isoprene (1909)

Brandenburger obtains cellophane from viscose and glycerin (1908)

First fibres based on polyacrylonitrile are described by Rein (1938)

Natta reports the first isotactic polymerisation of propene (1954)

Wichterle reports first polymer hydrogel biomaterials (1960)

1940

1960

Spandex fibres patented by IG Farben (1952)

Ziegler discovers transition metal catalysts for low pressure olefin polymerisation (1953)

Kwolek discovers Kevlar poly(p-phenylene terephthalamide), marketed by DuPont

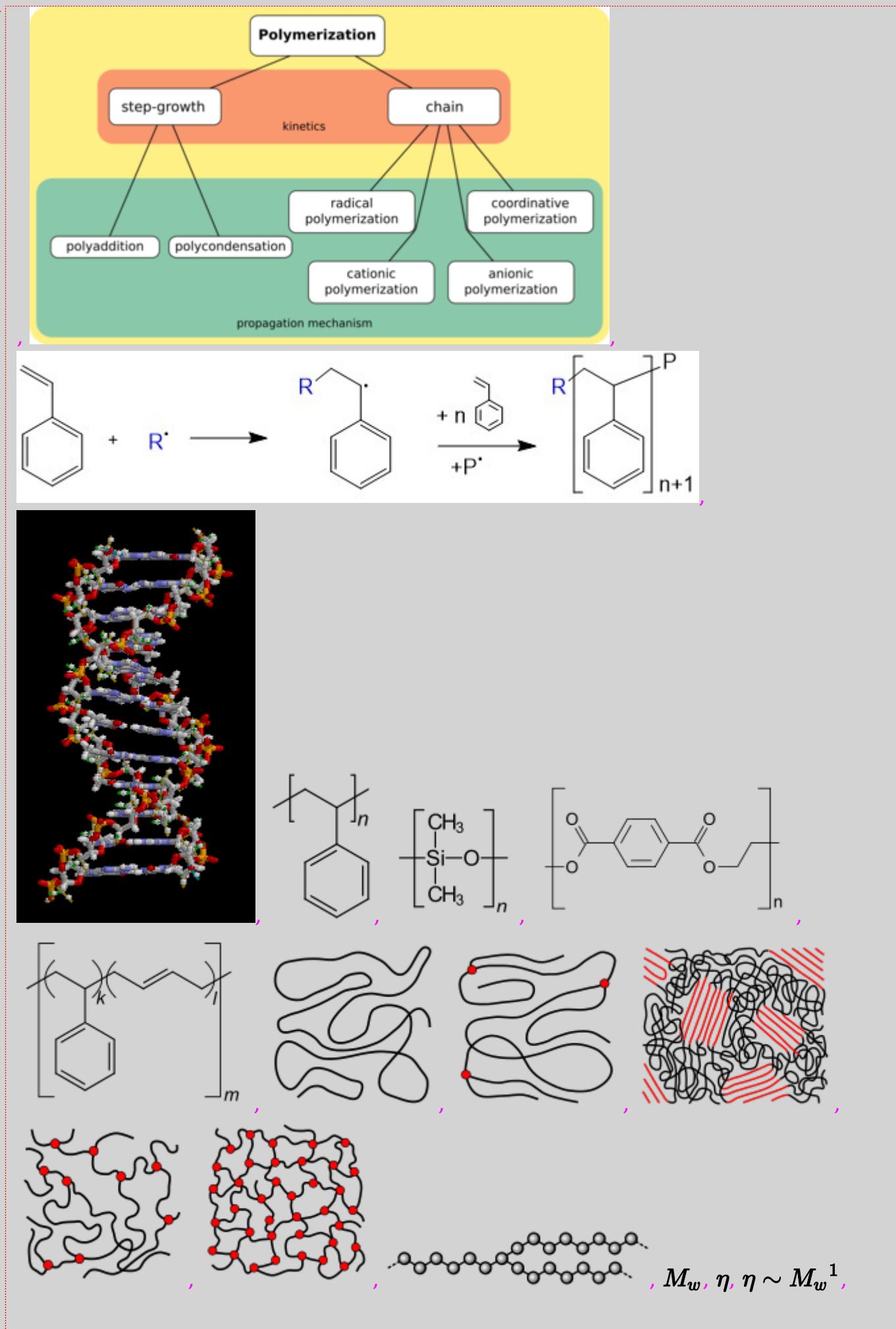
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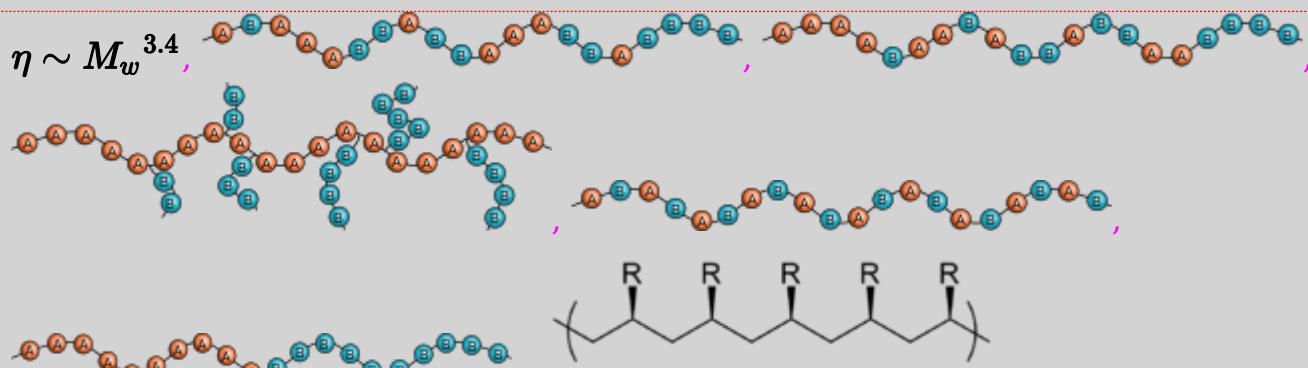
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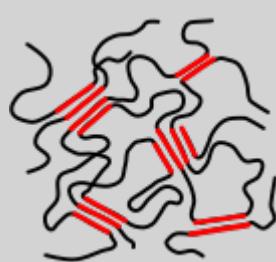
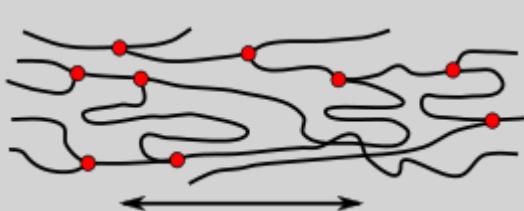
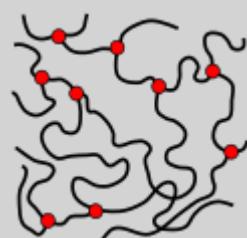
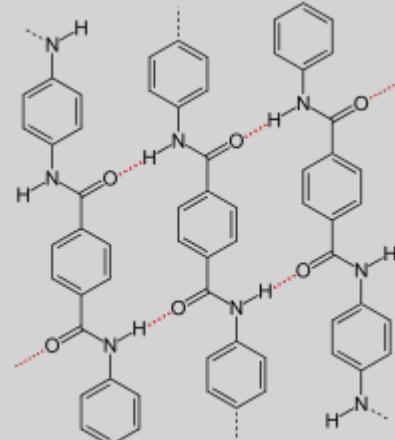
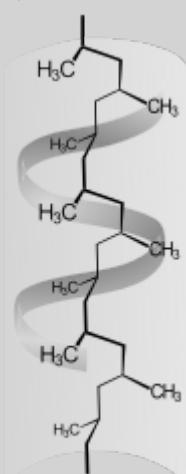
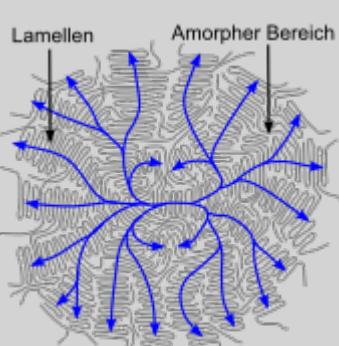
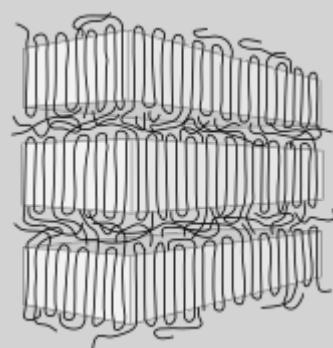
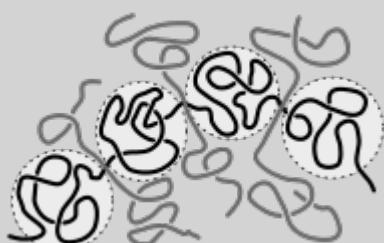
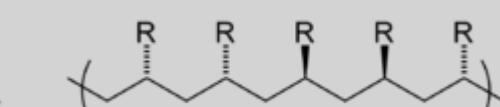
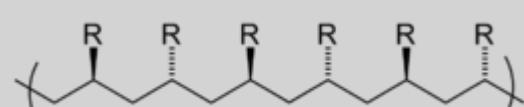
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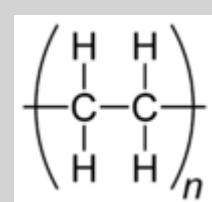
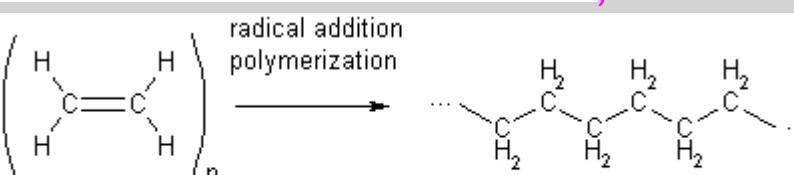
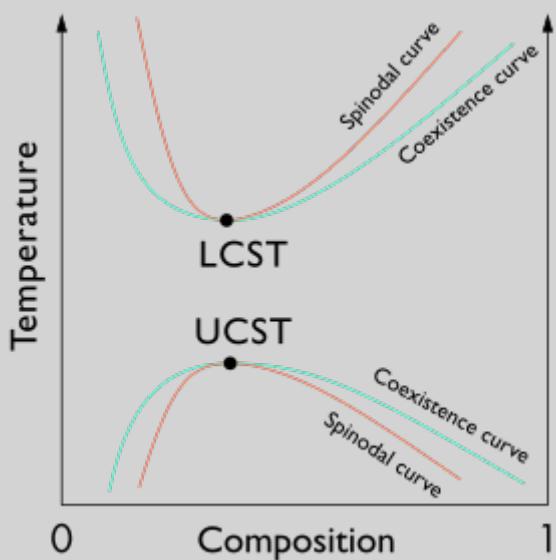
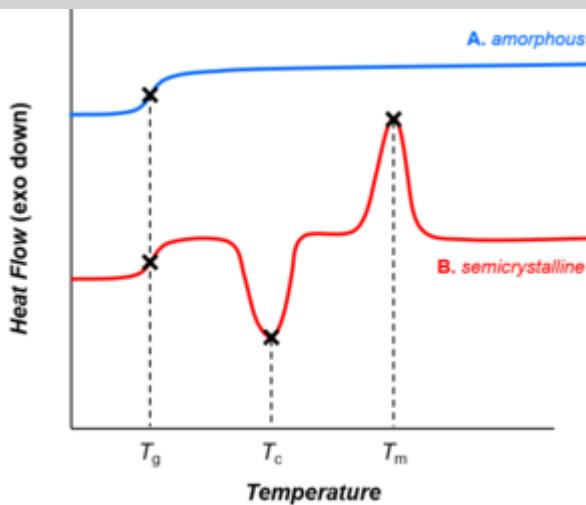
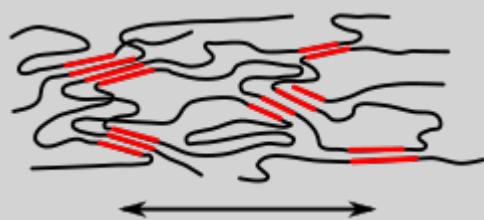


Fig 1: The polymerisation of ethene into poly(ethene)

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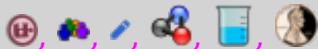
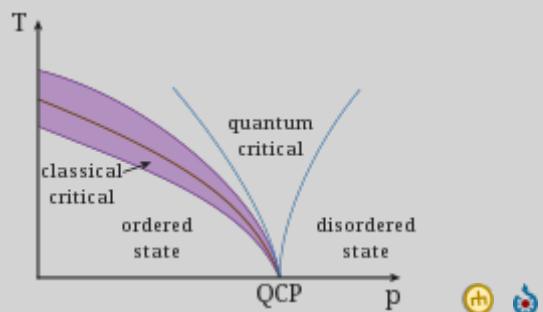
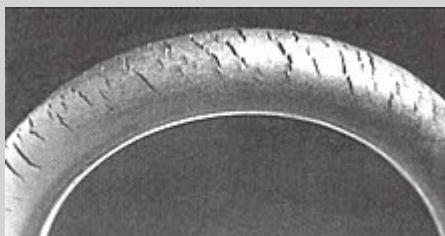
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