

CONTENTS

<b>1. General Aspects of Polymer Degradation</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Polymer Life Phases and Degradation	2
1.2 Factors and Stresses Causing Degradation	3
1.3 Factors Affecting Polymer Stability	4
1.4 Types of Polymer Degradation	8
References	9
<b>2. Methods of Studying Polymer Degradation</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1 Methods for Testing the Weathering of Polymers Outdoor	11
Outdoor Methods	11
Laboratory Methods of Weathering	13
2.2 Iso-and Anisothermal Methods of Weathering	13
2.3 Methods of Investigating Thermo-and Photooxidative Degradation	21
2.4 Product Analysis Methods	35
2.5 Extrapolation and Prediction of Service Life	40
References	42
<b>3. Depolymerization</b>	<b>43</b>
3.1 Chemical and Thermodynamic Aspects of Depolymerization	43
3.2 Kinetics of Depolymerization	50
3.3 Ceiling Temperature	54
References	57
<b>4. Random Chain Scission and Cross-linking</b>	<b>58</b>
4.1 General Features	58
4.2 Kinetic Treatment of Chain Scission	60
4.3 Probability Treatment of Chain Scission	62
4.4 Random Cross-linking; Simultaneous Chain Scission and Cross-linking	68
References	71
<b>5. Degradation Without Chain Scission</b>	<b>73</b>
5.1 General Remarks	74
5.2 Thermal Degradation of PVC	77
Primary Processes	78
Secondary Processes	85
5.3 Thermo-oxidative Degradation of PVC	96
5.4 Degradation of PVC under Dynamic Conditions	102
References	105

<b>6. Oxidative Degradation</b>	<b>107</b>
6.1 General Remarks	108
6.2 Effect of Polymer Properties on Oxidation	114
6.3 Kinetics of Polyolefin Thermal Oxidation	116
6.4 Some Differences in the Oxidation of Polyethylene and Polypropylene	131
References	135
<b>7. Photodegradation</b>	<b>137</b>
7.1 Photophysical Processes	137
7.2 Photochemical Processes	141
7.3 Photooxidation	143
7.4 Sensitized Photodegradation	147
References	150
<b>8. Biodegradation</b>	<b>152</b>
8.1 Methods of Testing Biodegradation	153
8.2 Biodegradability of Polymers	154
8.3 Biodegradation of Commonly Used Additives	155
8.4 Biodegradable Polymers	155
References	156
<b>9. Mechanical Degradation</b>	<b>157</b>
9.1 Methods of Investigation	157
9.2 Molecular Mechanisms and Theories	163
9.3 Factors Affecting Mechanical Degradation	168
References	171
<b>10. Stabilization of Polymers</b>	<b>173</b>
10.1 General Requirements	174
11.2 Antioxidants	175
Chain Breaking Antioxidants	175
Preventive Antioxidants	182
10.3 Photostabilization	185
Light Screens	186
Ultraviolet Absorbers	187
Quenchers	188
10.4 Heat Stabilization of PVC	193
Calcium/Zinc Stabilizers	194
Barium/Cadmium Stabilizers	196
Lead Stabilizers	197
Organotin Compounds	198

10.5 Other Applications	199
Stabilization Against Burning – Flame Retardants	199
Antiozonants	200
Stabilization Against Biodegradation	200
References	201
Index	203