

Novel Single Screw Extrusion Methodology of PLCL Copolymer

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Additional Notes:

1. Must request permission to use any cited figures
 - 1.1. Should we avoid figures in motivation because of the required permission?

Abstract Section.

1 Introduction

1.1 Motivation

PLCL (poly(l-lactide-co- ϵ -caprolactone)) is a copolymer of poly(lactide acid) (PLA) and poly(ϵ -caprolactone) (PCL). These polymers are commonly used implantable materials for their biodegradability, non-toxic degradation products, and biocompatibility. Polyester-based polymers have increasingly been researched for use in biomedical applications [1, 2, 3, 4].

This research focused on extruding using a tabletop extruder. This methodology makes PLCL synthesis more accessible for small-scale labs. Additionally, it allows for fine-tuning of material composition which can directly impact degradation timeline, material properties, and performance characteristics such as 3D printability.

1.1.1 Increasing Accessibility

Most existing methods for synthesizing PLCL require large, expensive equipment or specialized chemistry equipment and expertise (see Section 1.2).

This methodology uses a tabletop extruder, such as a 3Devo Filament Maker One, which requires relatively low overhead, raw material, and prior expertise to operate [5]. By decreasing these requirements, this methodology is accessible for laboratories with limited funding and space.

1.1.2 Fine-Tuning Material Composition

Adjusting the material composition of PLCL, the percent composition of PLA and PCL co-polymers, can affect the degradation timeline, material properties, and performance characteristics of the output material.

Degradation timeline:

Very little of my research revolved around degradation, but I can add more to this if you'd prefer.

The synthesis method as well as co-polymer material composition of PLCL affects the material's degradation timeline. By adjusting the breakdown of PLA and PCL in the blend, the time needed to fully biodegrade within the body can be altered [1, 6].

Material properties:

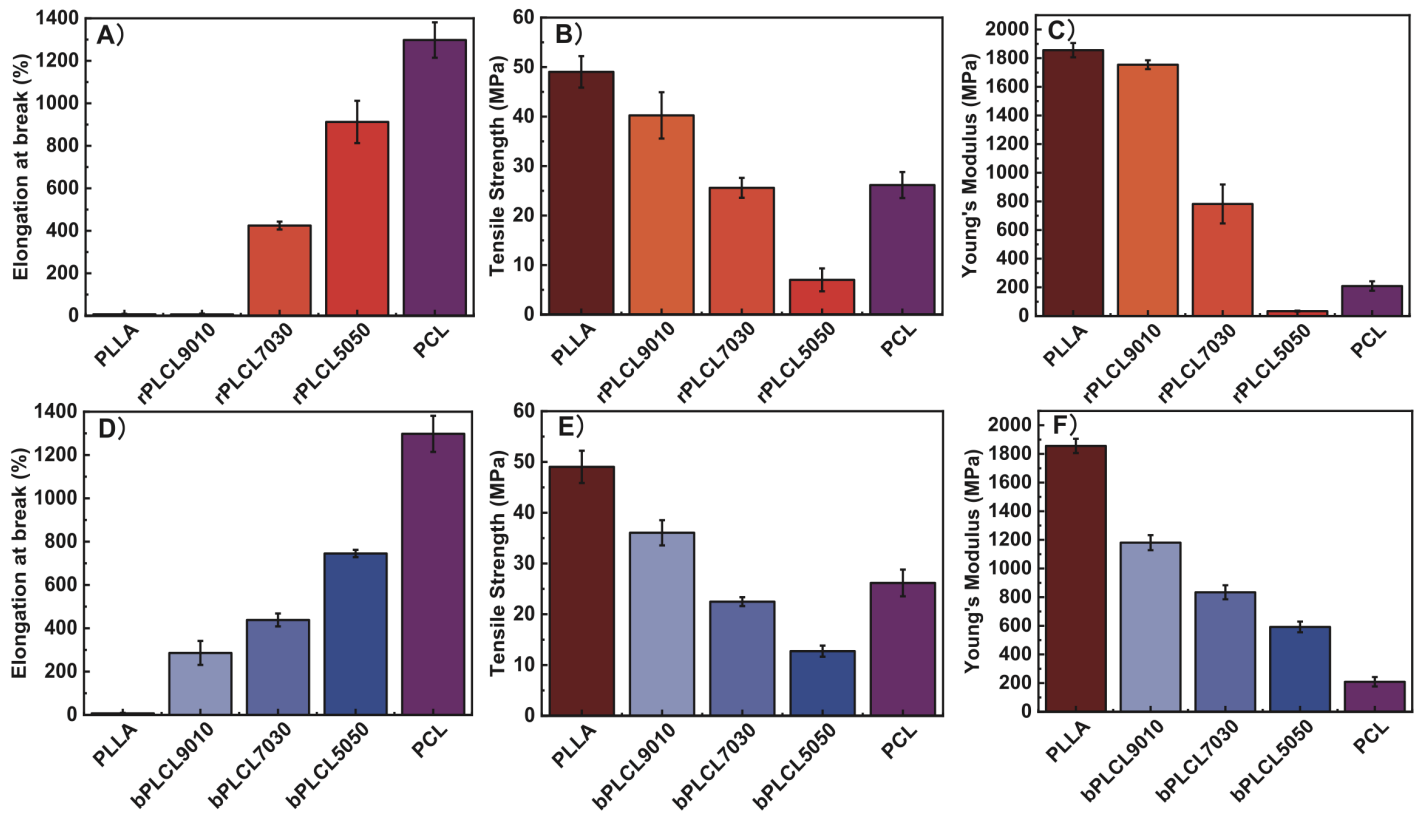


Figure 1: Changes in mechanical properties as PLA/PCL ratios are adjusted. (A,D) Elongation at break, (B,E) Tensile Strength, (C,F) Young's Modulus. Reproduced with permission.^[1] Copyright Year, Publisher.

The material composition of PLCL has been found to directly impact material properties such as tensile strength and elastic modulus [1, 3].

PLA exhibits high strength but uncontrollable biodegradability and excessive brittleness. PCL, alternatively, is a softer material that exhibits low strength but high toughness. When combined to create PLCL, PCL incorporation can counteract the brittleness of PLA but decreases overall strength [3, 1]. Research has been conducted to evaluate the changes in properties based on various PLA/PCL ratios. These studies conclude that elongation at break generally increases with a higher percentage of PCL, and tensile strength and Young's modulus decrease with an increase in PCL [2, 1, 7]. Some of these results are shown below in Figure 1.

Additionally, elastic behavior was only exhibited when PCL composition was high enough such as at least 30% as illustrated in Figure 2 [7].

Performance characteristics:

Were there other "performance characteristics" besides 3D printability?

Performance characteristics such as 3D printability of the PLCL output are also affected by material composition. One study compared the printability of 70/30 and 65/35 PLA/PCL. Through various calibration testing, it was found that 70/30 PLA/PCL was the most printable PLCL copolymer [7]. Figure 3 helps illustrate these differences in printability.

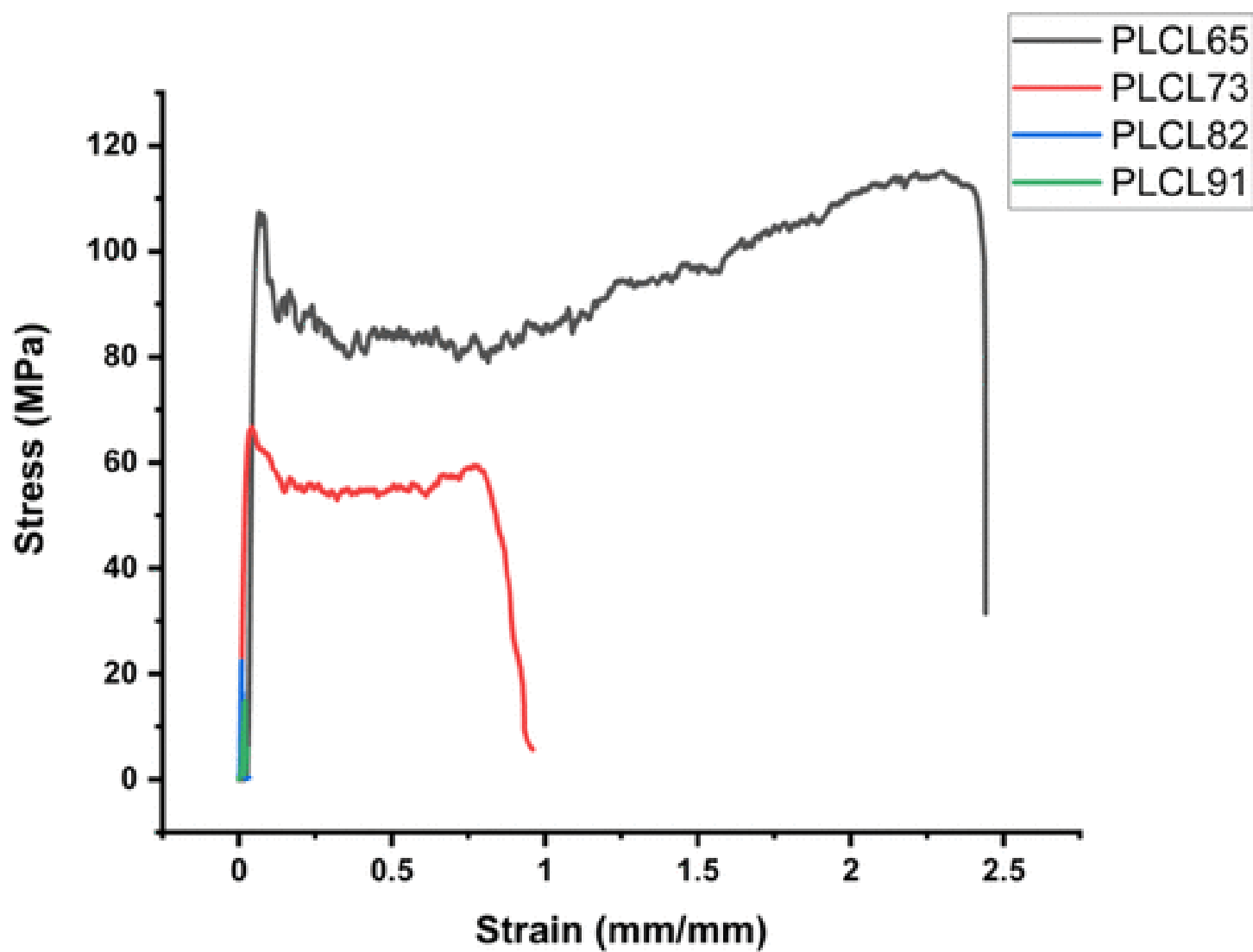


Figure 2: Changes in elastic behavior with increased PCL percentage. Reproduced with permission.^[7] Copyright Year, Publisher.

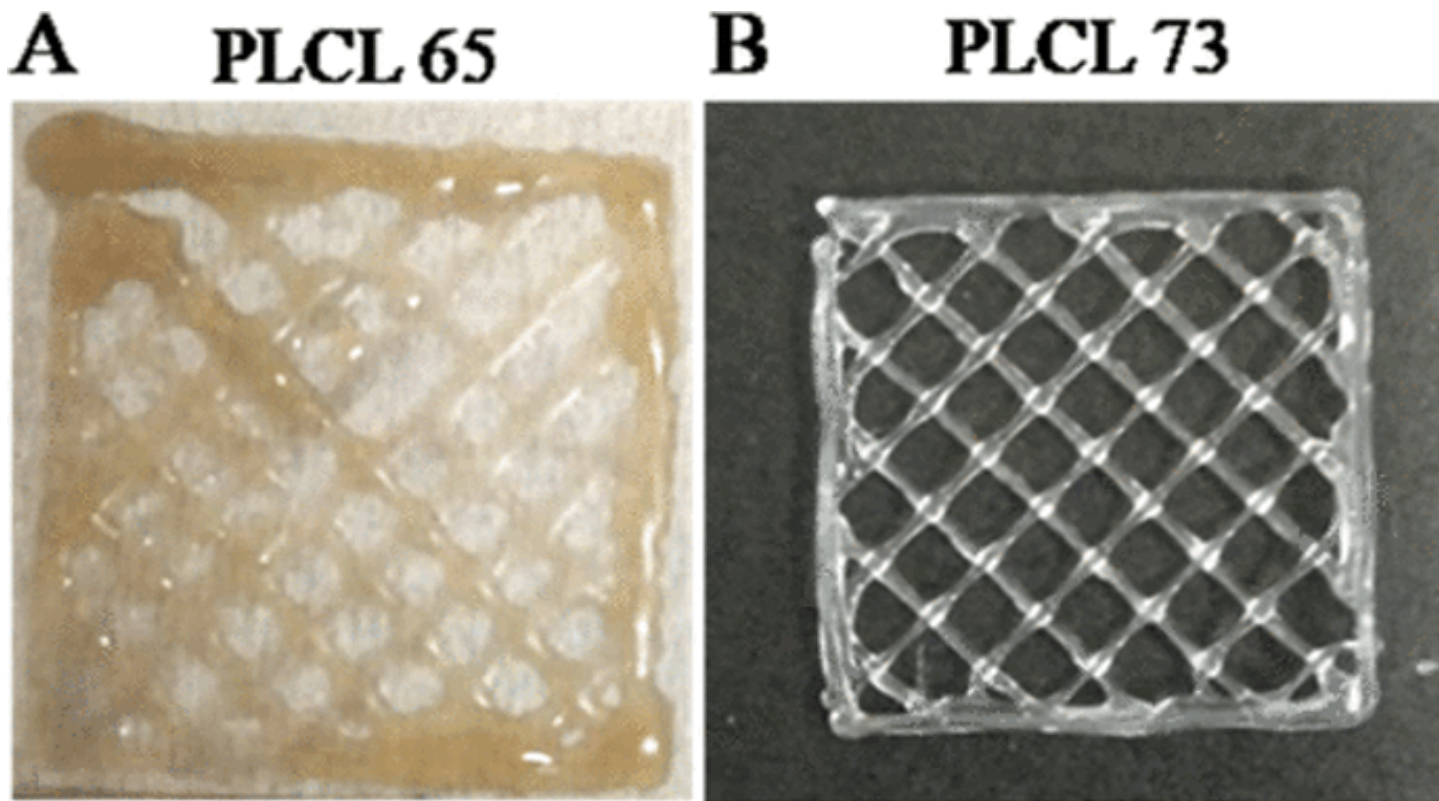


Figure 3: Evaluating printability of 65/35 (left) and 70/30 (right) PLCL through a grid test. Reproduced with permission.^[7] Copyright Year, Publisher.

1.2 Existing Methods

1.3 Knowledge Gap

2 First Section

2.1 First Subsection

2.1.1 First Sub Subsection

First lowest-level subsection:

3 Conclusion

4 Experimental Section

First part of experimental section:

Second part of experimental section:

Supporting Information

Supporting Information is available from the Wiley Online Library or from the author.

Acknowledgements

Please insert your acknowledgements here

Table 1: Table 1 caption

Description 1	Description 2	Description 3
Row 1, Col 1	Row 1, Col 2	Row 1, Col 3
Row 2, Col 1	Row 2, Col 2	Row 2, Col 3

References

- [1] C. Luo, S. Liu, W. Luo, J. Wang, H. He, C. Chen, L. Xiao, C. Liu, Y. Li, Fabrication of PLCL block polymer with tunable structure and properties for biomedical application, **2023**.
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- [5] 3devo filament makers, URL <https://www.3devo.com/filament-makers>.
- [6] N. K. Kalita, S. M. Bhasney, C. Mudenur, A. Kalamdhad, V. Katiyar, *Chemosphere (Oxford)* **2020**, 247 125875.
- [7] R. V. G, J. Wilson, L. V. Thomas, P. D. Nair, *ACS omega* **2022**, 7, 8 7002, -70/30 PLCL is the best mixture level for printability.

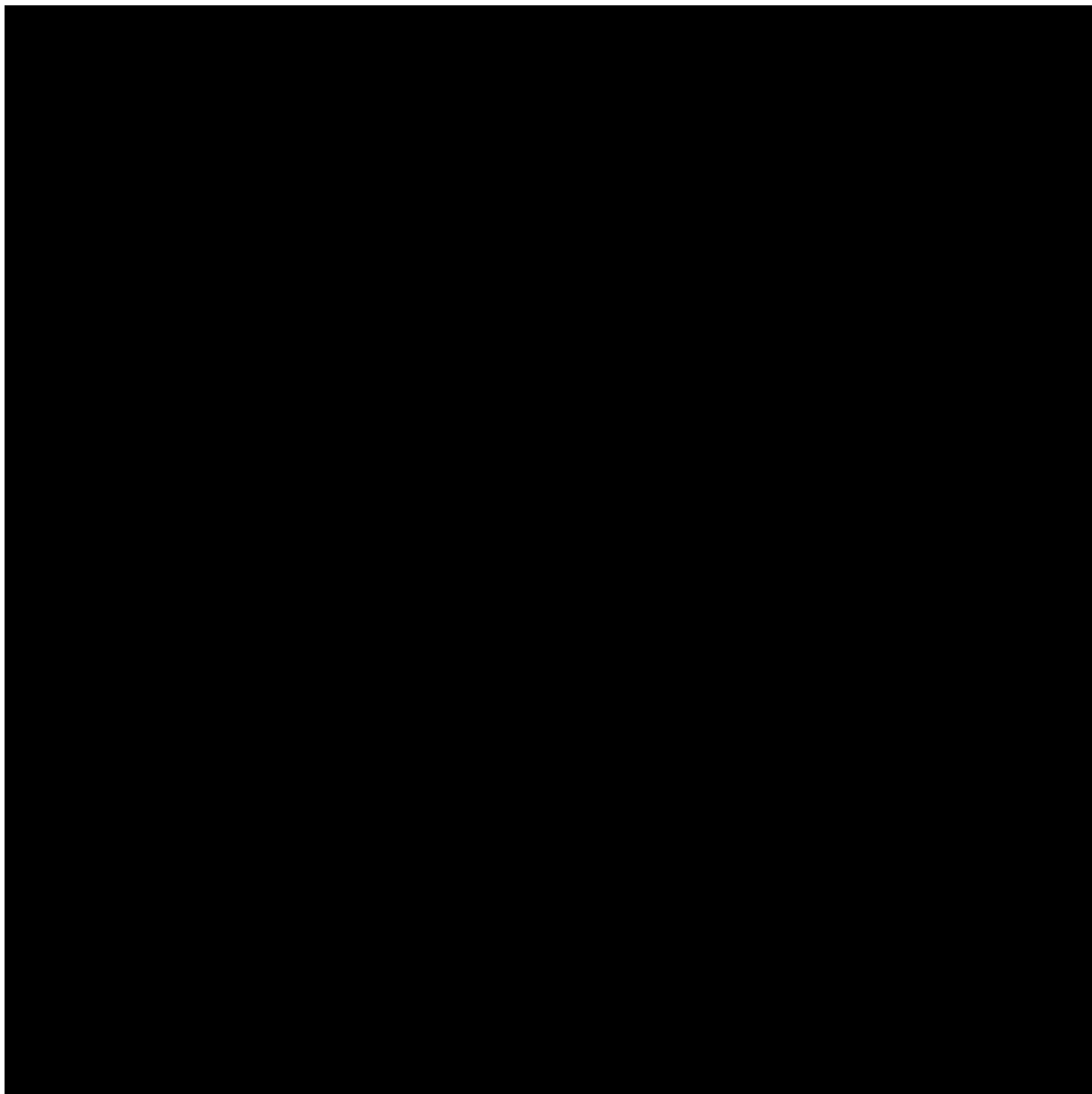


Figure 4: Figure 1 caption goes here. Reproduced with permission.^[Ref.] Copyright Year, Publisher.

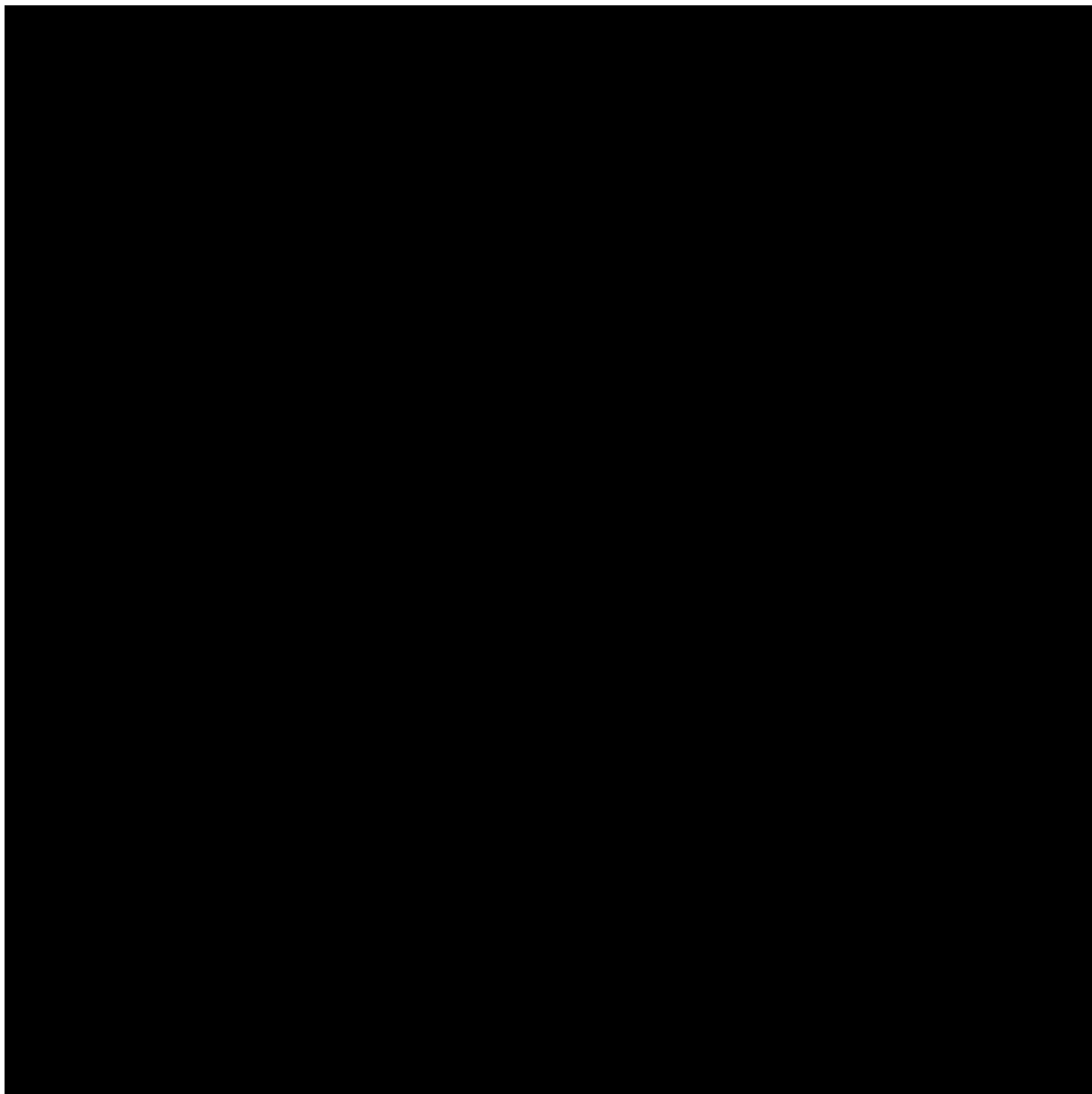


Figure 5: Figure 2 caption goes here. Reproduced with permission.^[Ref.] Copyright Year, Publisher.

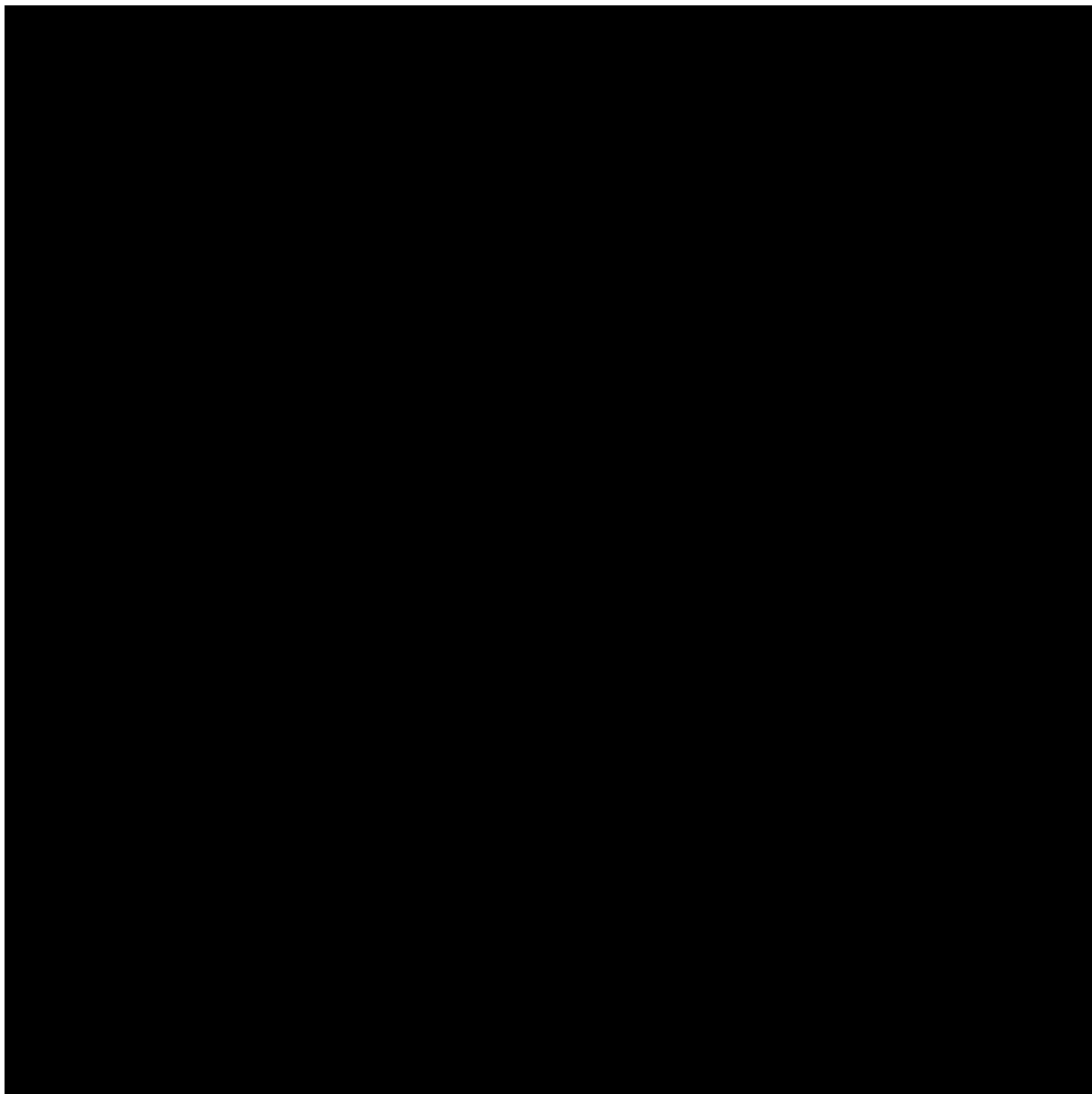
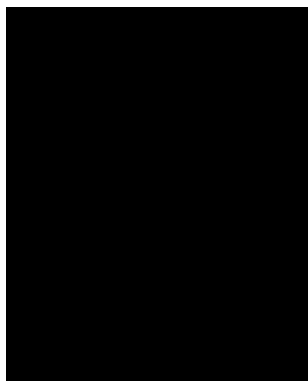
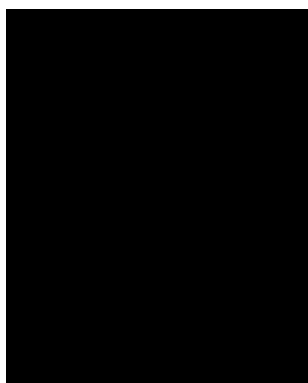


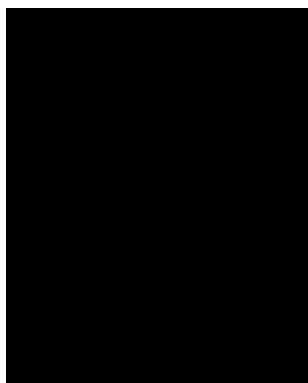
Figure 6: Figure 3 caption goes here. Reproduced with permission.^[Ref.] Copyright Year, Publisher.



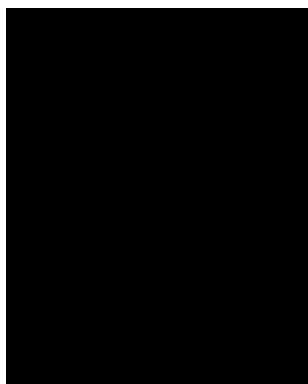
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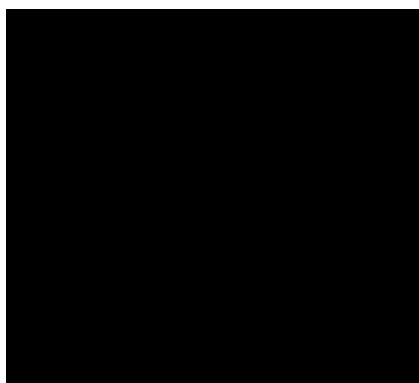
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Table of Contents

ToC Entry