

Consider the hydrogel that has the smallest molecular weight (review the [Module 11 Lecture](#)). Use its material parameters from Lecture 11 and draw the graphs of $G'(\omega)$ and $G''(\omega)$ for $0 < \omega < 1\text{kHz}$.

From lecture 11, slide 5, the parameters obtained by fitting the Maxwell-Weichert Model to the results of the stress relaxation experiment for the four Alginate Hydrogels are the following:

Alginate Type:	280 kDa	70 kDa	35 kDa	35 kDa – 5k PEG
τ_1 (s)	510	125	81	39
E1 (norm.)	0.25	0.46	0.5	0.58
τ_2	11111	1734	900	637
E2	0.75	0.54	0.5	0.42

The 35 kDa hydrogel is the smaller molecular weight hydrogel and the model parameters are:

- $\tau_1 = 81$
- $E_1 = 0.5$
- $\tau_2 = 900$
- $E_2 = 0.5$

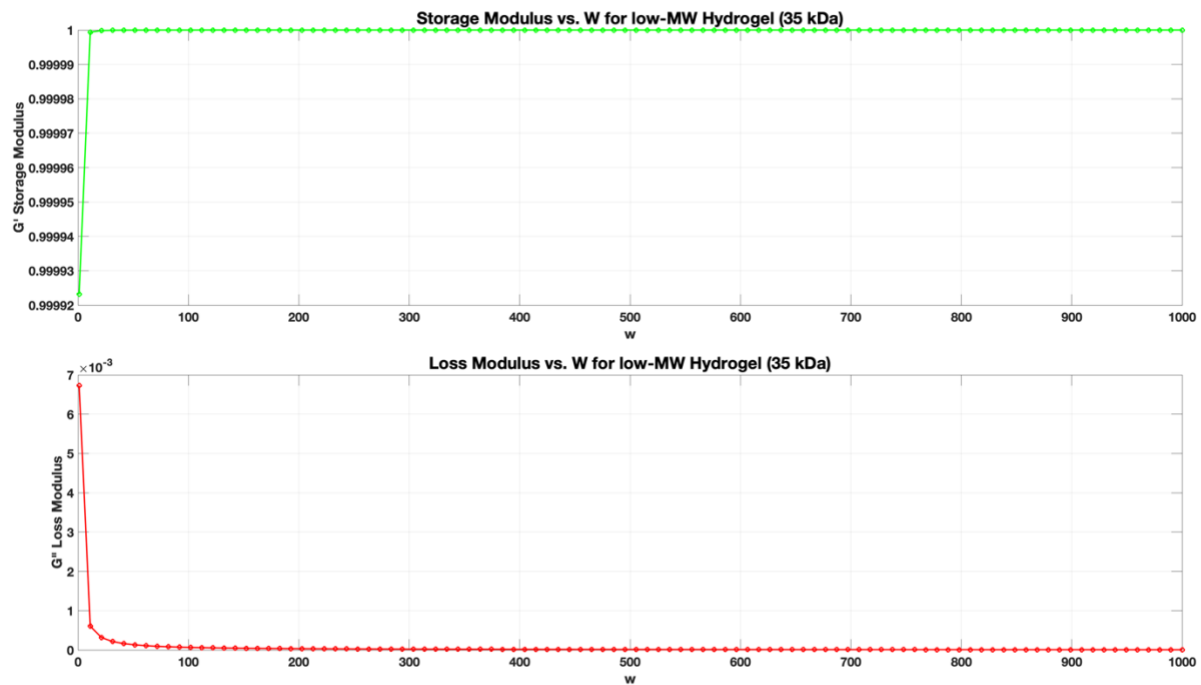
Slide 4, lecture 11, gives the equations of the components of the harmonic modulus G :

$$G = G' + i G''$$

Where

- $G' = E_1 * (\tau_1^2 \omega^2 / (1 + \tau_1^2 \omega^2)) + E_2 * (\tau_2^2 \omega^2 / (1 + \tau_2^2 \omega^2))$
- $G'' = E_1 * (\tau_1 \omega / (1 + \tau_1^2 \omega^2)) + E_2 * (\tau_2 \omega / (1 + \tau_2^2 \omega^2))$

Using these equations for $0 < \omega < 1\text{kHz}$, we obtain the following plot:



- G' , storage modulus, increases slowly to reach a plateau at 1, indicating that the hydrogel preserves energy well and the elastic component is constant across the low-frequency range.
- G'' , loss modulus, decreases rapidly, from 0.07 to almost 0, indicating the viscous component dissipates quickly as frequency increases.

As low-frequency G' and G'' are close, the hydrogel shows more viscous behavior and as frequency increases, G' dominates thus the hydrogel behaves more elastically (stress relaxation is slower).