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## Degradation of PLA during long-term storage

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The degradation of PLA proceeds through hydrolysis of the ester linkages in the polymer backbone. This leads to a significant reduction of molecular weight and thus to a deterioration of mechanical properties. However, up to now there are no studies of PLA-hydrolysis performed under practical conditions and long-term storage. In this work, the influence of molecular weight, granule size, crystallinity, air humidity and temperature on the hydrolytic degradation of PLA was investigated. Two