

Preface

The idea of producing a book on the application of supercritical carbon dioxide in polymer processes was born on a fine November evening in Barcelona during the meeting of the European Working Party on Polymer Reaction Engineering in 2002. As the idea still seemed reasonable the next morning, we decided to put words into action, and two years later the book was complete. From the outset, we were determined to give the manuscript a chemical engineering focus because of the increasing number of supercritical polymer processes on the verge of industrial application.

Our aim has been to present a state-of-the-art overview of polymer processes in high-pressure carbon dioxide using a multidisciplinary and synergetic approach that starts from fundamentals, goes through polymerization processes, and ends with post-processing. The contributors to this book are internationally recognized experts from different fields of CO₂-based polymer processes from Europe and the United States. We would like to express our gratitude to all the authors for the high quality of every contribution, and we are convinced that this compilation will become a reference book in the field.

Editing a book has resulted in strong links between Eindhoven and Lausanne, enabling us to adopt the good habits of both countries. In particular, the happy evenings spent with Francine, Jos, Morgane, and Quentin were a real pleasure, not only due to the presence of “tarte à la crème”, “stroopwafels”, “crème brûlée”, and too many chocolates, but also by the sealing of a strong friendship. This home support and understanding, also when we were traveling, certainly facilitated the editing process by introducing fun and fresh air into a hard job.

Furthermore, many thanks are due to our collaborators in the Process Development Group in Eindhoven and the Polymer Reaction Engineering Group in Lausanne for their creativeness and enthusiasm in the field of polymer science in supercritical carbon dioxide. Finally, we would like to thank Karin Sora and her team from Wiley-VCH for their great help in producing this book.

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