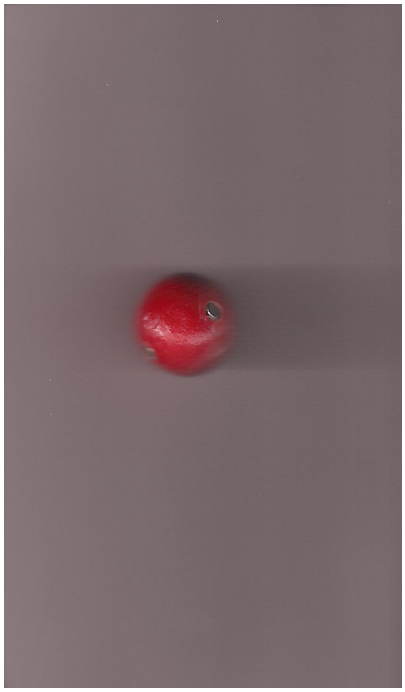
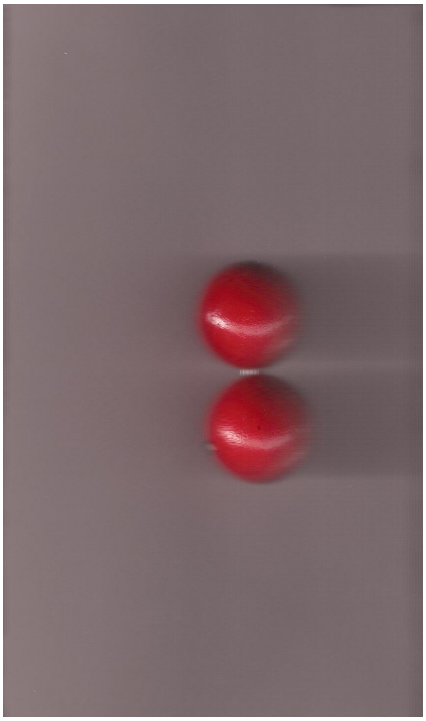
A monomer is the smallest subunit of a polymer. Mono is the chemical term for one.



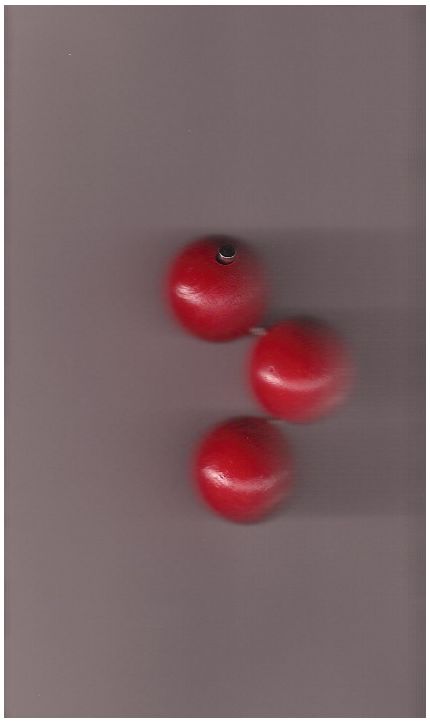
monomer

A dimer consists of two connected monomers. Di is the chemical term for two.



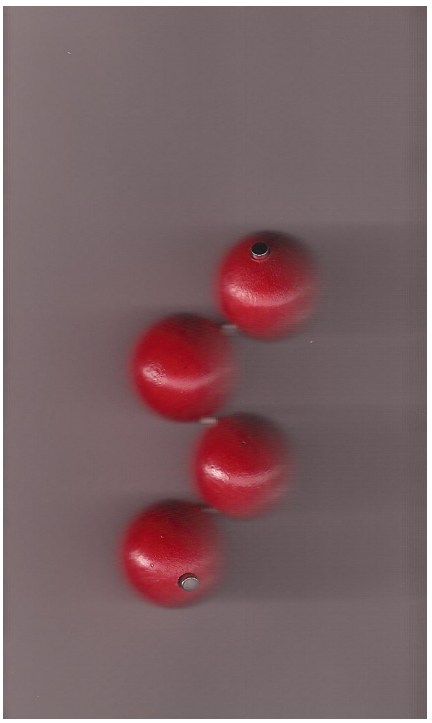
dimer

A trimer consists of three connected monomers. Tri is the chemical term for three.



trimer

A tetramer consists of four connected monomers. Tetra is the chemical term for four.

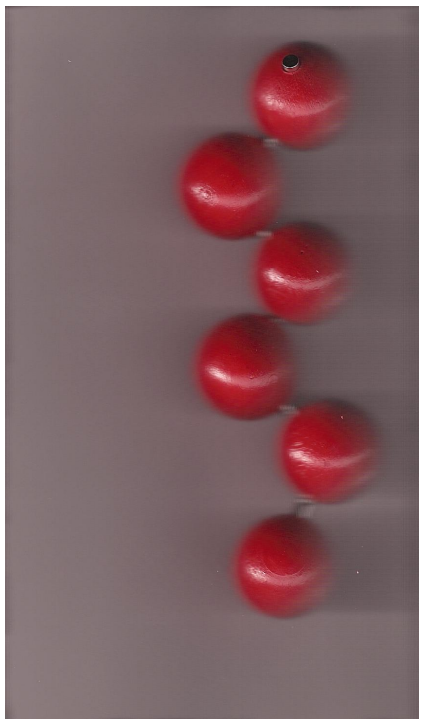


tetramer

A pentamer consists of five connected monomers. Penta is the chemical term for five.

pentamer

A hexamer consists of six connected monomers. Hexa is the chemical term for six.

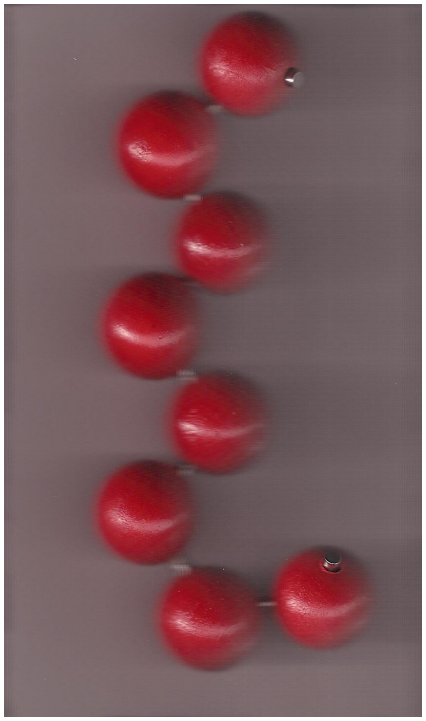


hexamer

A heptamer consists of seven connected monomers. Hepta is the chemical term for seven.

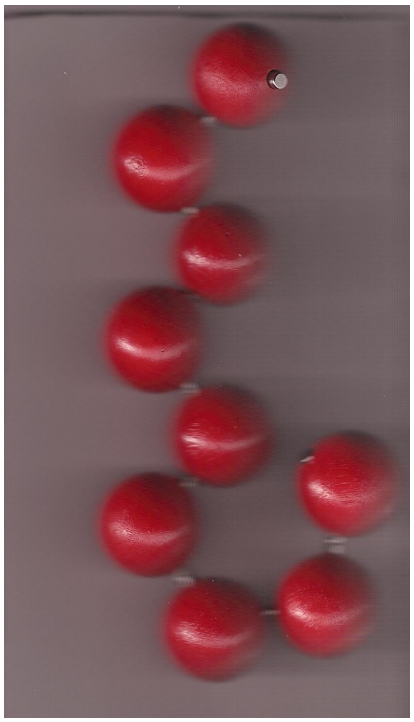
heptamer

An octomer consists of eight connected monomers. Octo is the chemical term for eight.



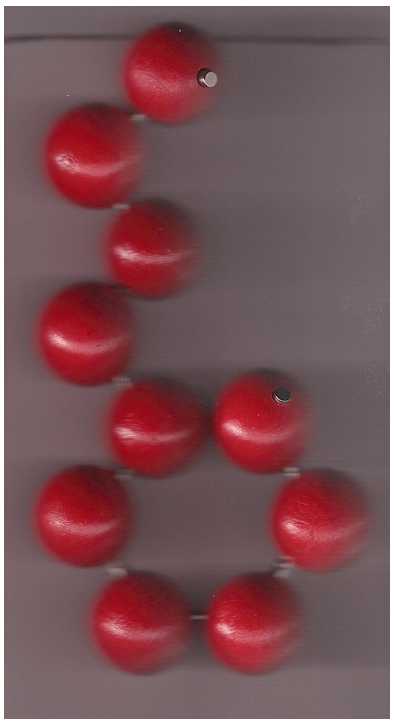
octomer

A nonomer consists of nine connected monomers. Nono is the chemical term for nine.



nonomer

A decamer consists of ten connected monomers. Deca is the chemical term for ten.

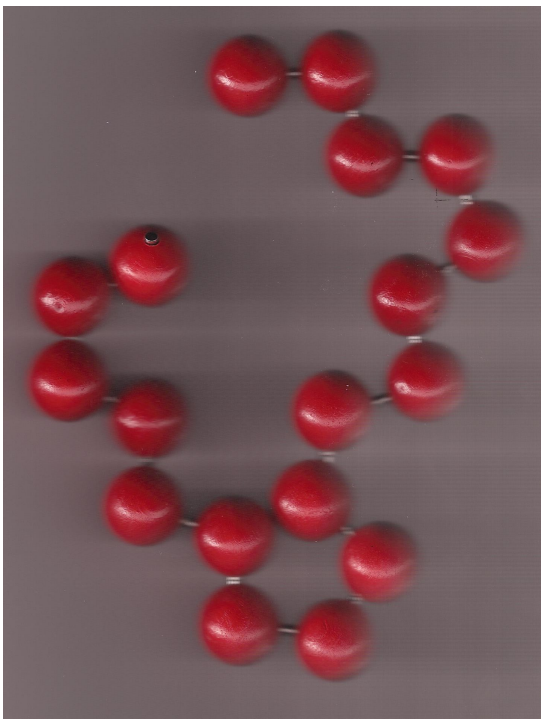


decamer

An oligomer consists of more than ten connected monomers. Oligo is the chemical term for a more than ten.

oligomer

A polymer consists of more than twenty connected monomers. Poly is the chemical term for a large number.

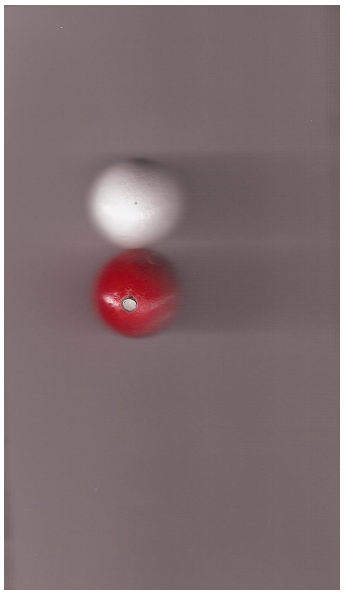


polymer

A catalyst is a chemical that helps to link together monomers.

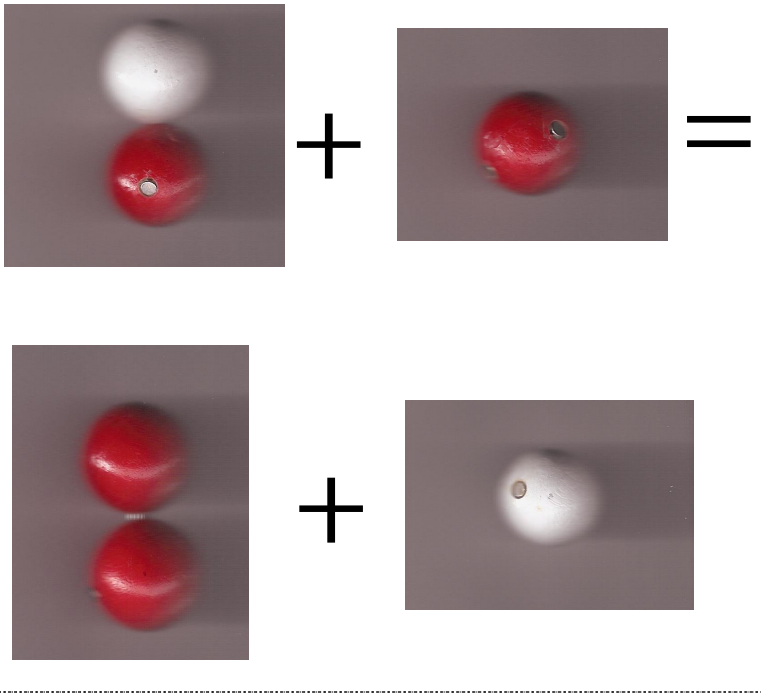
catalyst

Initiation is the first step to forming a polymer. The catalyst attaches to the monomer.



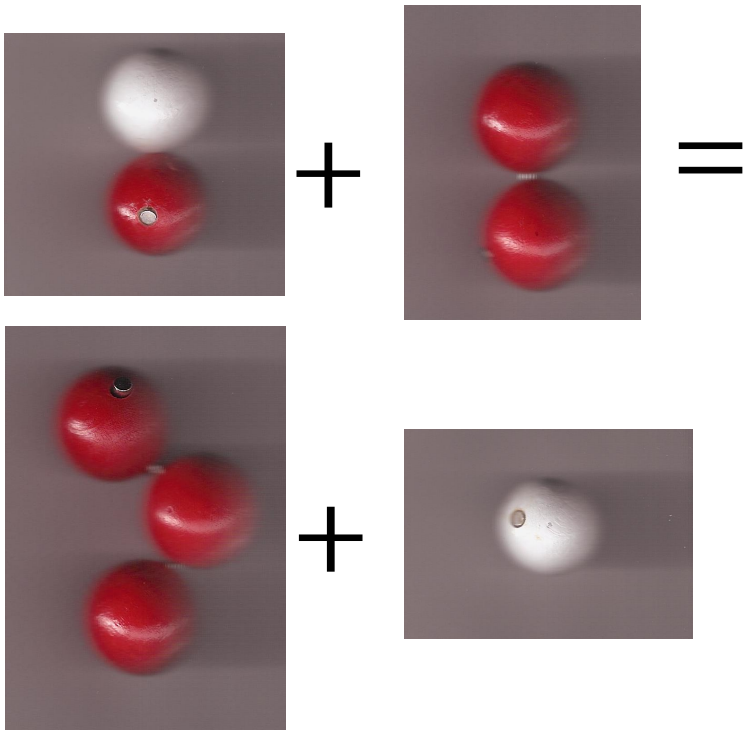
initiation

Elongation is the second step in polymer formation. Catalyst-monomer attaches to a second monomer. This forms a dimer and releases the catalyst to find another monomer.



elongation

Elongation2 is the third step in polymer formation. Catalyst-monomer attaches to a dimer. This forms a trimer and releases the catalyst to find another monomer.



elongation2

How Polymers are Made

by
George W. Dombi
6/9/2017