

VOLTA: from CO₂ to plastics with negative C-footprint

Julia Krasovic, Annelie Jongerius, Mariana Paredinha Araujo, Gert-Jan Gruter

Motivation

Avantium is working on various alternative feedstock options for producing **future plastics**. Next to glucose (for FDCA/PEF), also CO₂ can be used as carbon source for making plastics. **Not** all products from CO₂ require large energy investment. We focus on **monomers that will be winning** when starting from CO₂. Winning = lowest cost and superior performance. When we use **CO₂ from the air** or **bio- CO₂** (from fermentation, biomass electricity or waste incineration) and when using renewable energy, products with a negative carbon footprint can be obtained.

Defined	• CO ₂ is well defined vs biomass feed stock
Agnostic	• Multiple sources are possible- Biogenic and DAC are preferred for the long term
Competitive	• No competition with food/land use/deforestation
Clean	• Electrons as a reagent; very high selectivity
Flexible	• Technology allows "peak-shaving"
Valuable	• One of the few technologies to turn CO ₂ into valuable products with the potential to enable carbon negative materials
De-risked	• Scaling out electrochemical cell stacks dramatically reduces the risk of scale-up
Potential	• Ability to address large markets (proteins, ethanol, chemicals, polymers and fuels)

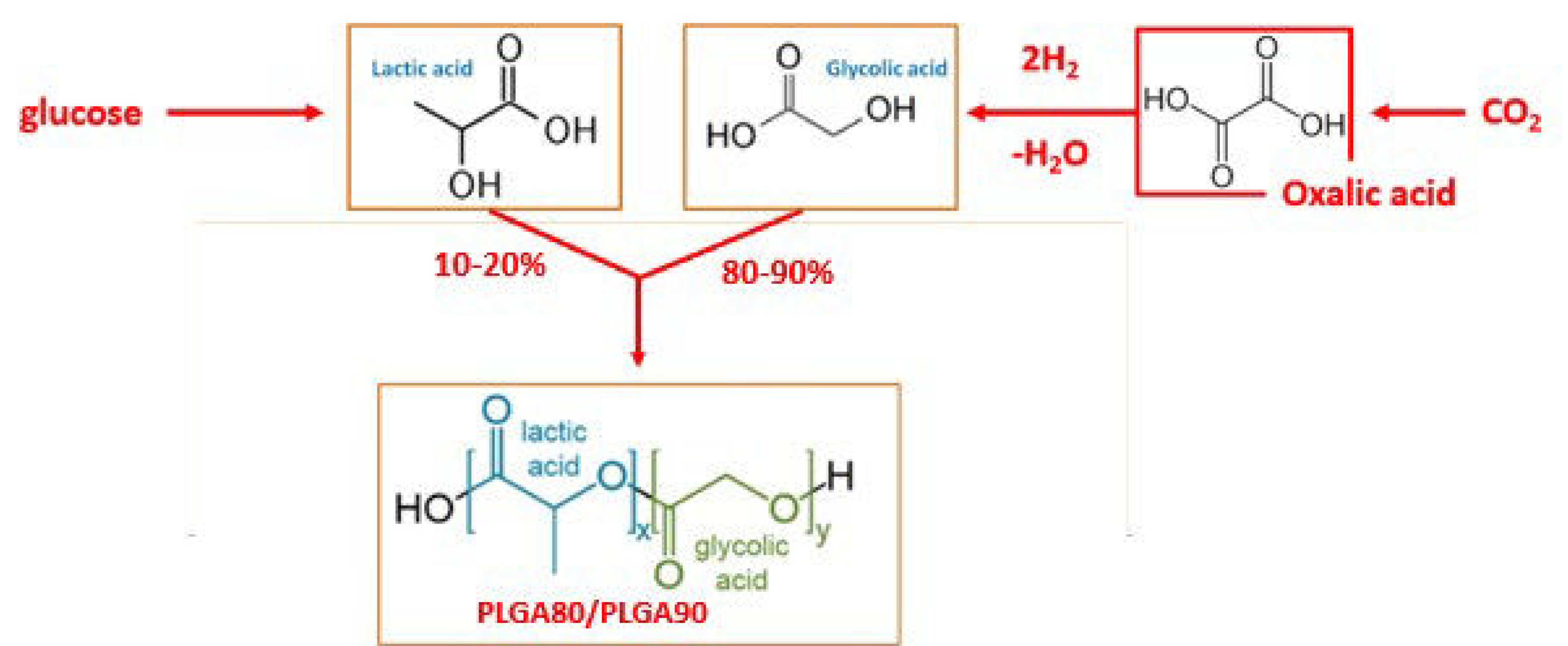
Aims

Produce High performance polymers/plastics from CO₂ as carbon source. PLGA is strong, has fantastic gas-barrier, is closed-loop recyclable, is home compostable and marine degradable.

Approach

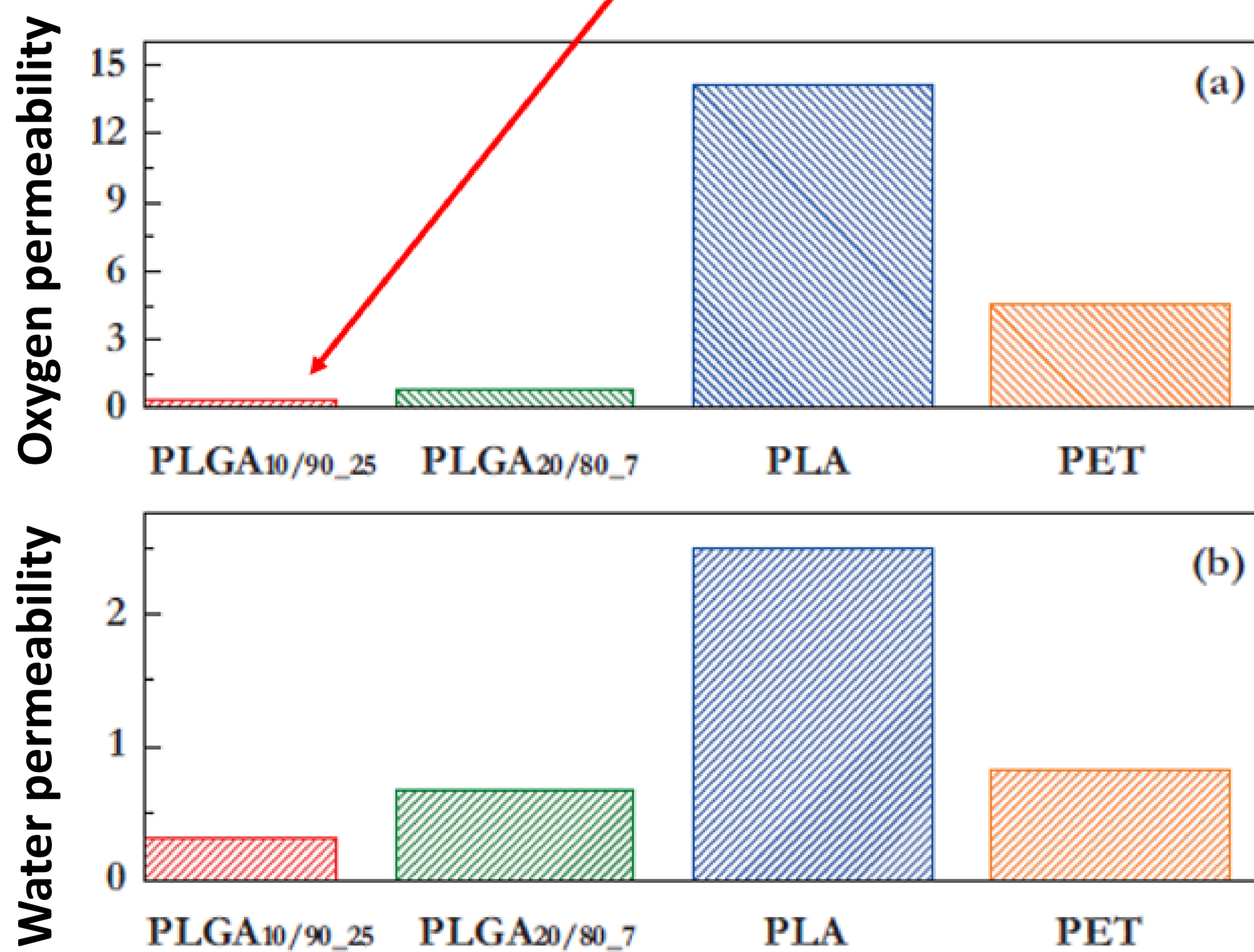
Three business cases:

1. 2 CO₂ → HOOC-COOH (oxalic acid); ~4 MWh electricity/ton
2. HOOC-COOH (oxalic acid) + 2H₂ → HOOC-CH₂OH (glycolic acid)
3. Glycolic acid → polyglycolic acid (PLGA)

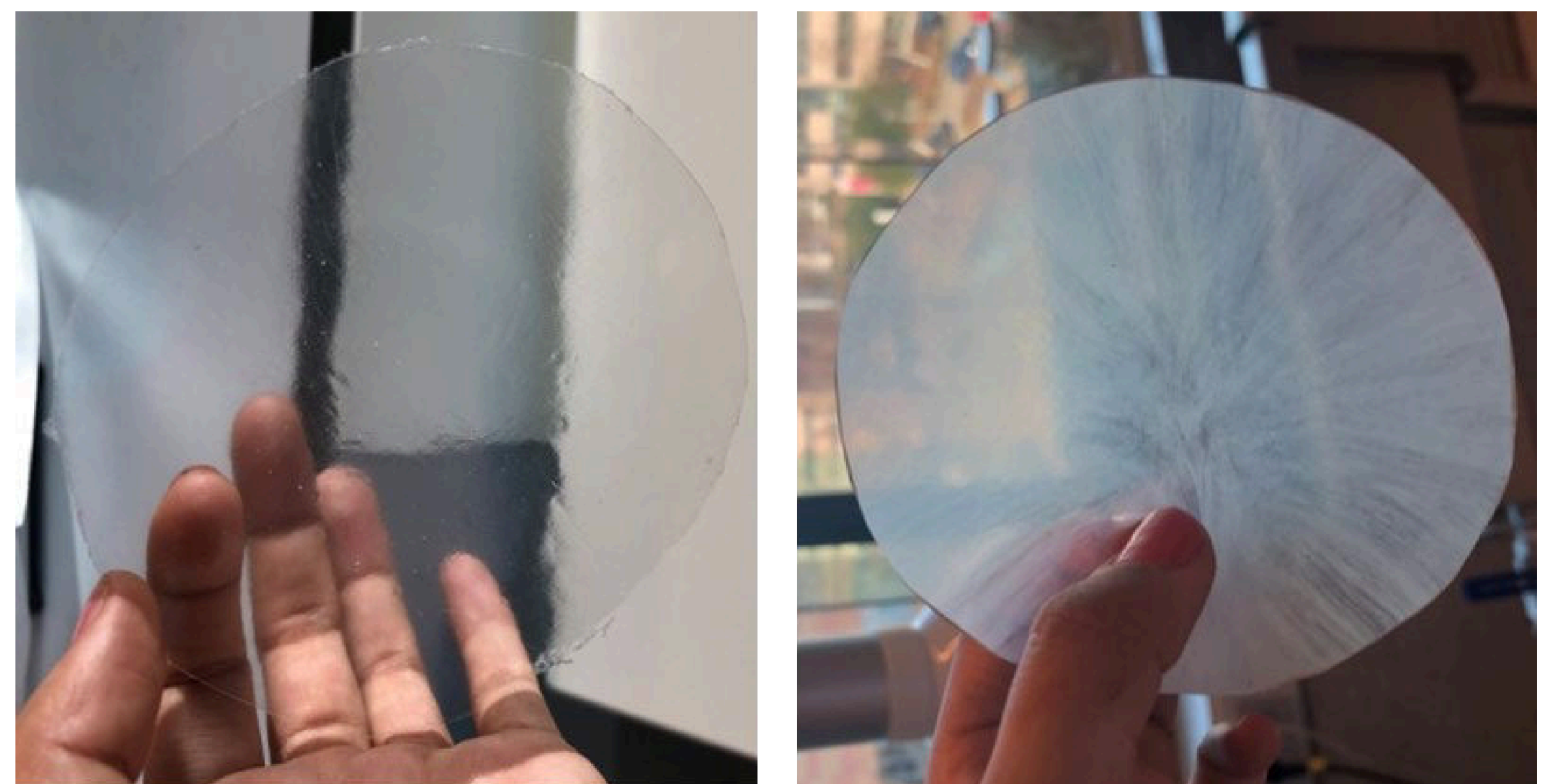


Oxygen barrier PLGA 10/90

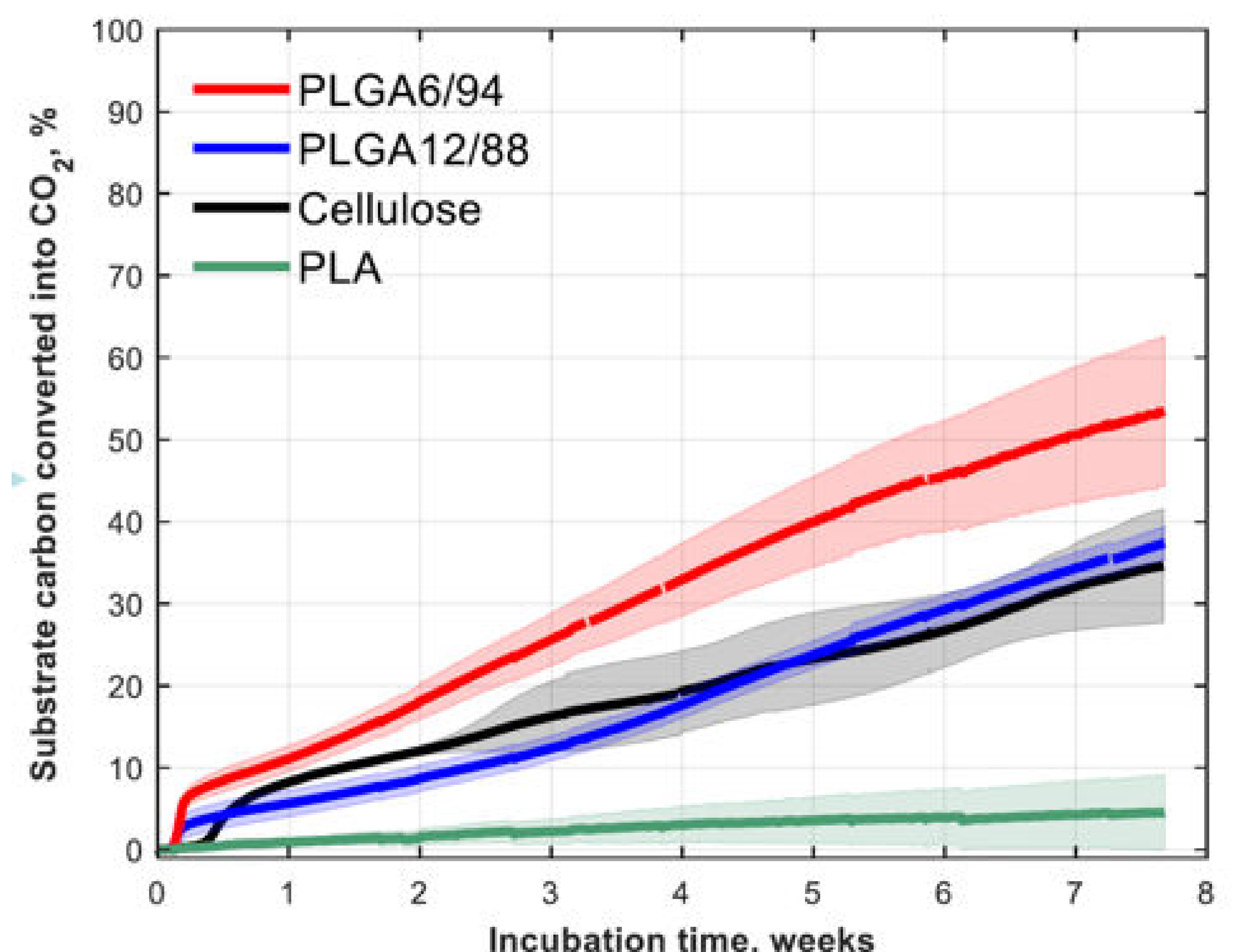
- 150x better than PLA
- 50x better than PET;
- 5x better than PEF



Oxygen (a) and water (b) permeability for 2 PLGA's Measured at 30°C and 70% RH. (g.mm/m².day.bar)



PLGA biodegradation:



Value Proposition

- CO₂-based → potentially carbon negative footprint
- Good mechanical properties (semi-crystalline)
- Excellent barrier
- Closed-loop recyclable
- Home compostable; marine degradable

