Supporting Information to

Zero Valent Metal Catalyzed Removal of Thiocarbonylthio End Groups from RAFT-Made Polystyrene: Producing Controllable Bimodal Molecular Weight Distribution

Yang Wu, Junfei Zhao, Xiaofei Zhang, Jian Zhu, Wei Zhang, Zhengbiao Zhang* and

Xiulin Zhu*

Jiangsu Key Laboratory of Advanced Functional Polymer Design and Application, Department of Polymer Science and Engineering, College of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, Soochow University, Suzhou 215123, China.



Figure S1. Photographs before and after the treatment of PS catalyzed by Cu(0) powder (a) ¹H NMR spectra of resultant PS (b). Original PS: $[St]_0/[CPDB]_0/[AIBN]_0$ = 500/5/1, time = 117 h, conversion = 38.1 %, 60 °C, St = 15.0 mL, toluene = 5.0 mL; Treated conditions: $[PS]_0/[Cu(0)]_0/[PMDETA]_0 = 1/5/5$, PS = 0.2001 g, DMF = 1.0 mL, 25 °C, 24 h, 72 h, 128 h.





Figure S2. SEC traces (a) enlarged ¹H NMR signals of thiocarbonylthio groups (b) ¹H NMR spectra of original PS and resultant PS (c) and photographs (d) before and after the treatment of PS catalyzed by Cu(0) powder. Original PS: $[St]_0/[CPDB]_0/[AIBN]_0 = 500/5/1$, time = 71 h, conversion = 57.3 %, 60 °C, St = 5.0 mL, toluene = 2.0 mL; Treated conditions: $[PS]_0/[Cu(0)]_0/[PMDETA]_0 = 1/25/25$, PS = 0.2073 g, DMF = 1.8 mL, 25 °C, 13 h, 24 h, 48 h, 72 h, 120 h.



Figure S3. ¹H NMR spectra of original PS and resultant PS (a), photographs (b) and UV-Vis spectra of the PS (c) before and after the treatment of PS catalyzed by Cu(0) powder/TEMPO. Original PS: $[St]_0/[CPDB]_0/[AIBN]_0 = 500/5/1$, time = 117 h, conversion = 38.1 %, 60 °C, St = 15.0 mL, toluene = 5.0 mL; Treated conditions: $[PS]_0/[Cu(0)]_0/[PMDETA]_0/[TEMPO]_0 = 1/5/5/10$, PS = 0.2001 g, DMF = 1.0 mL, 25 °C, 24 h, 48 h, 72 h, 96 h, 122 h.



Figure S4. SEC traces (a) and enlarged ¹H NMR signals of thiocarbonylthio groups (b) before and after the treatment of PS catalyzed by Cu(0) powder/TEMPO. Original PS: $[St]_0/[CPDB]_0/[AIBN]_0 = 500/5/1$, time = 117 h, Conversion = 38.1 %, 60 °C, St = 15.0 mL, toluene = 5.0 mL; Treated conditions: $[PS]_0/[Cu(0)]_0/[PMDETA]_0/[TEMPO]_0 = 1/5/5/50$, PS = 0.2003 g, DMF = 1.0 mL, 60 °C, 12 h, 24 h, 72 h.



Figure S5. Matrix assisted laser desorption/ionization time of flight (MALDI-TOF) mass spectrometry of PS treated under different conditions.



Figure S6. ¹H NMR spectra of original PS and resultant PS (a) and photographs (b) before and after the treatment of PS catalyzed by Fe(0) powder. Original PS: $[St]_0/[CPDB]_0/[AIBN]_0 = 500/5/1$, time = 71 h, Conversion = 68.5 %, 60 °C, St = 10.0 mL, toluene = 4.0 mL; Treated conditions: $[PS]_0/[Fe(0) \text{ powder}]_0 = 1/5$, PS = 0.2001 g, DMF = 1.0 mL, 25 °C, 24 h, 73 h, 144 h.



Figure S7. ¹H NMR spectra of original PS and resultant PS (a) and photographs (b) before and after the treatment of PS catalyzed by Fe(0) powder/TEMPO. Original PS: $[St]_0/[CPDB]_0/[AIBN]_0 = 500/5/1$, time = 71 h, conversion = 68.5 %, 60 °C, St = 10.0 mL, toluene = 4.0 mL; Treated conditions: $[PS]_0/[Fe(0) \text{ powder}]_0/[TEMPO]_0 = 1/5/5$, PS = 0.2002 g, DMF = 1.0 mL, 25 °C, 24 h, 48 h, 72 h, 120 h, 144 h.

(c)



Figure S8. SEC traces (a) enlarged ¹H NMR signals of thiocarbonylthio groups (b) and photographs (c) before and after the treatment of PS catalyzed by Fe(0) powder/TEMPO. Original PS: $[St]_0/[CPDB]_0/[AIBN]_0 = 500/5/1$, time = 71 h, conversion = 68.5 %, 60 °C, St = 10.0 mL, toluene = 4.0 mL; Treated conditions: $[PS]_0/[Fe(0) \text{ powder}]_0/[TEMPO]_0 = 1/5/5$, PS = 0.2000 g, DMF = 1.0 mL, 60 °C, 12 h, 24 h, 72 h.