



Supplementary Material

# Analysis of the Heterogeneities of First and Second Order of Cellulose Derivatives: A Complex Challenge

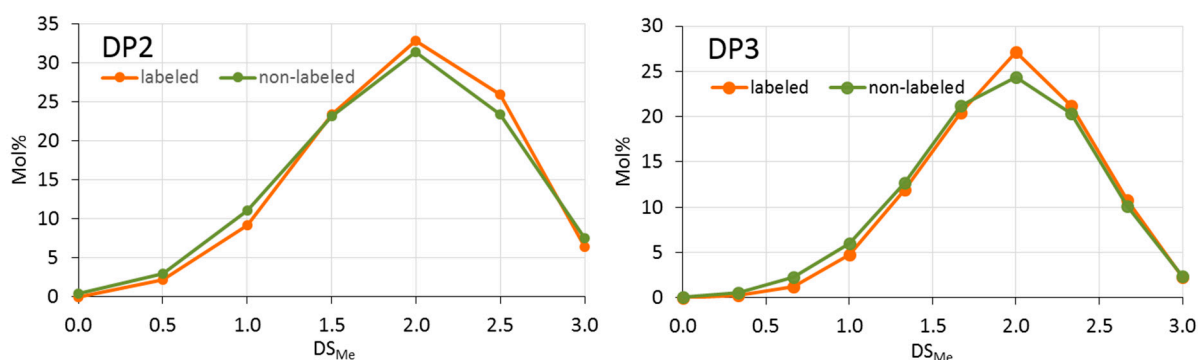
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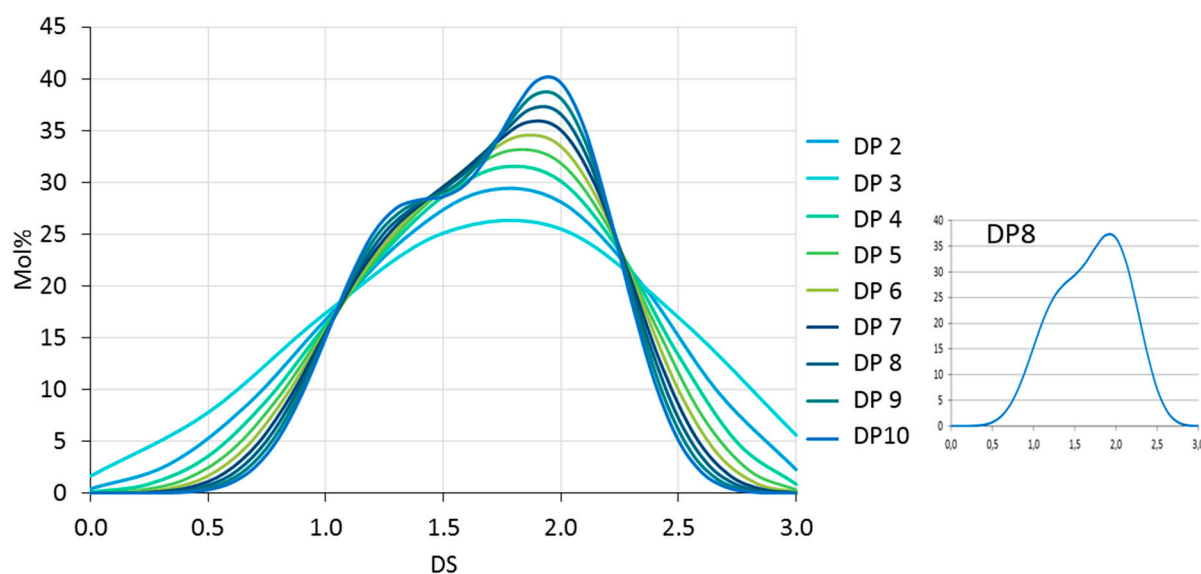
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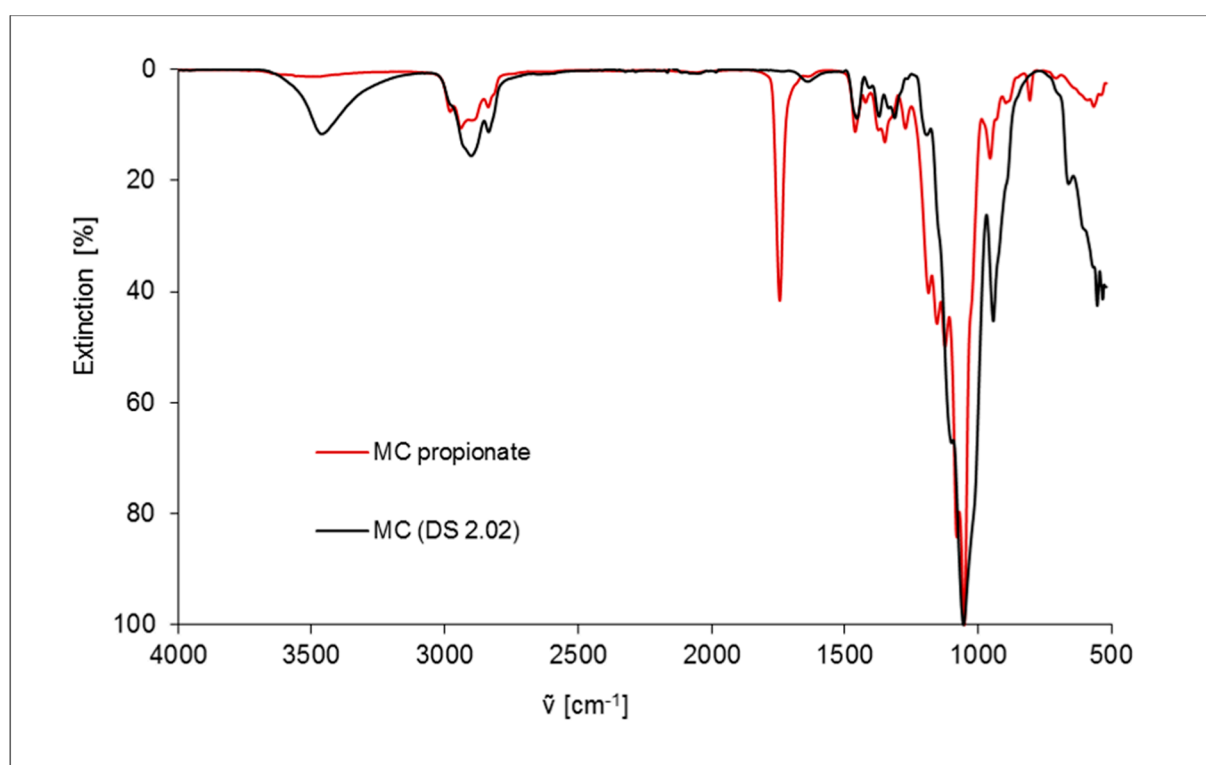
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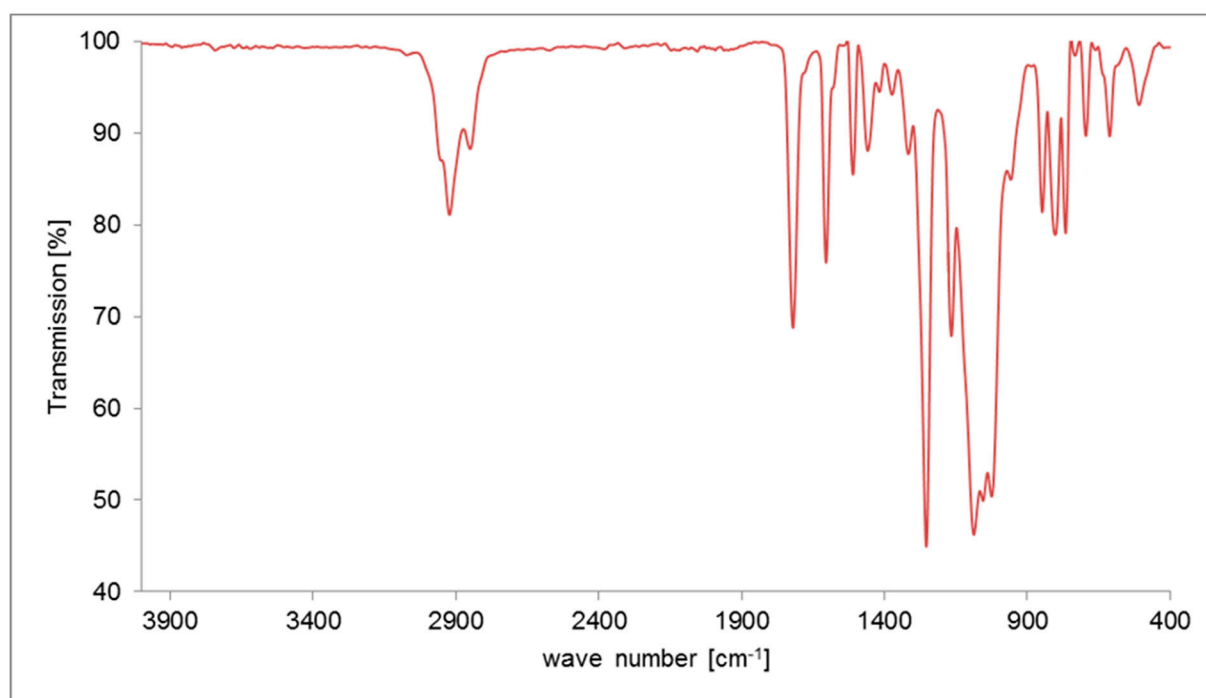
**Figure S1.** Methyl profiles obtained during method development to obtain about one labeled COS/MC molecule, separated from all other COS, derived from the same and different MC chains; MC, DS 1.96; Sample preparation: (1) perdeuteromethylation → MDC; (2) ultrasonic treatment; (3) labeling with *m*ABA; (4) partial hydrolysis; (5) SPE-separation of labeled and unlabeled COS; (6) LC-ESI-IT-MS, neg. mode. Labeled COS: orange; unlabeled COS: green. Because of the overall low concentration of the labeled COS fraction, the constituents being present in lowest amounts have been slightly discriminated in the LC-MS run due to insufficient number of data points due to partial separation of the constituents according to their number of CD<sub>3</sub> and CH<sub>3</sub>. Therefore, the two methyl distribution profiles (labeled, originating from different cellulose chains, and unlabeled, derived from the same and different chains) are even more similar than shown here.



**Figure S2.** Methyl distribution profile calculated for a 2:3 blend of two MCs, DS 1.29 and DS 1.96, from their molar portions  $c_i$  of un-, mono-, di- and trisubstituted AGU. The saddle point between the two MCs becomes visible at DP8, shown separately.



**Figure S3.** ATR-IR spectrum of MC (DS<sub>Me</sub> 2.02) and the precipitated MC propionate; for comparison, extinction is normalized to the C-O vibration at about 1050 cm<sup>-1</sup>.



**Figure S4.** ATR-IR spectrum of MC 4-methoxybenzoate, prepared with 4-methoxybenzoyl chloride in pyridine.  $DS_{Me}$  1.92.

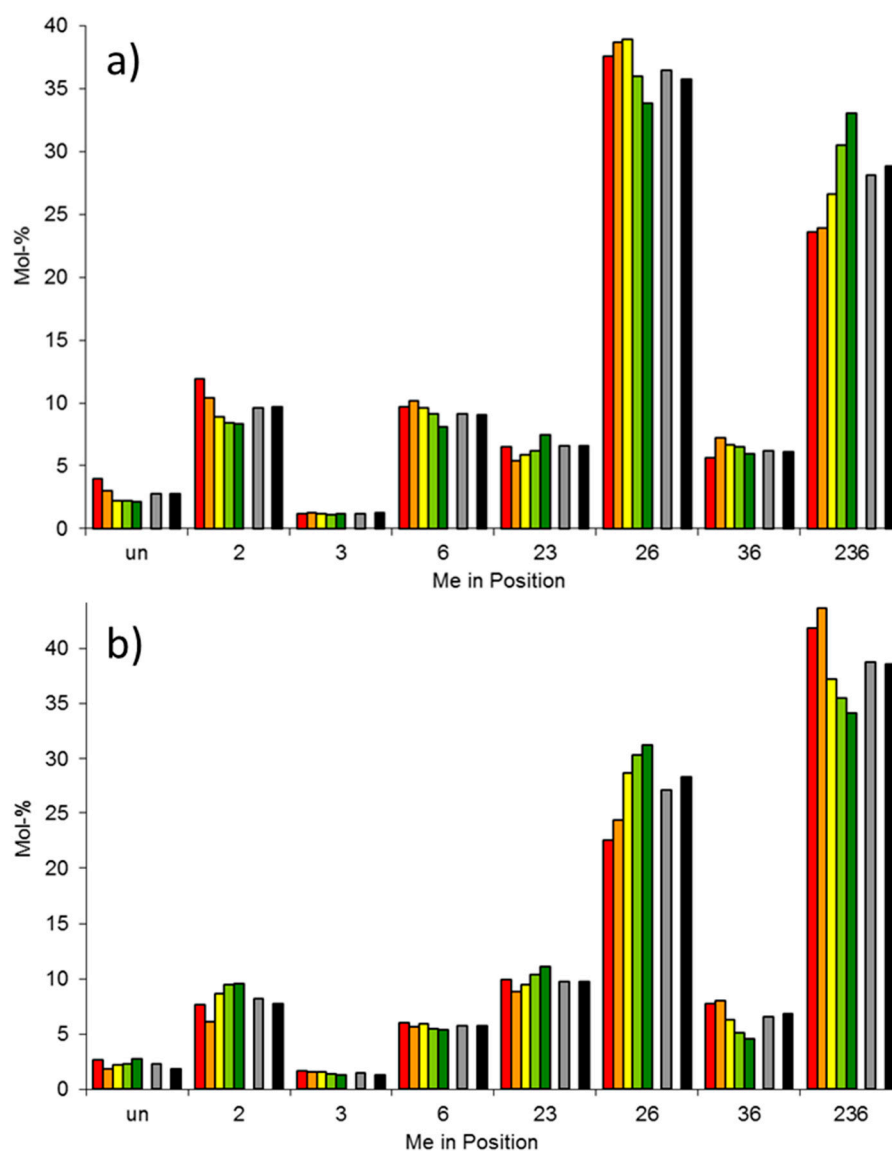
**Table S1.** Yields and molar portions of monosaccharide constituents of fractions obtained by stepwise Soxhlet extraction of MC,  $DS$  1.98, %Me = 66.0%, with THF (F1) and MeOH (2) and of the residual MC as determined by GLC of the corresponding alditol acetates. % Me = % of OH of a constituent which are methylated. .

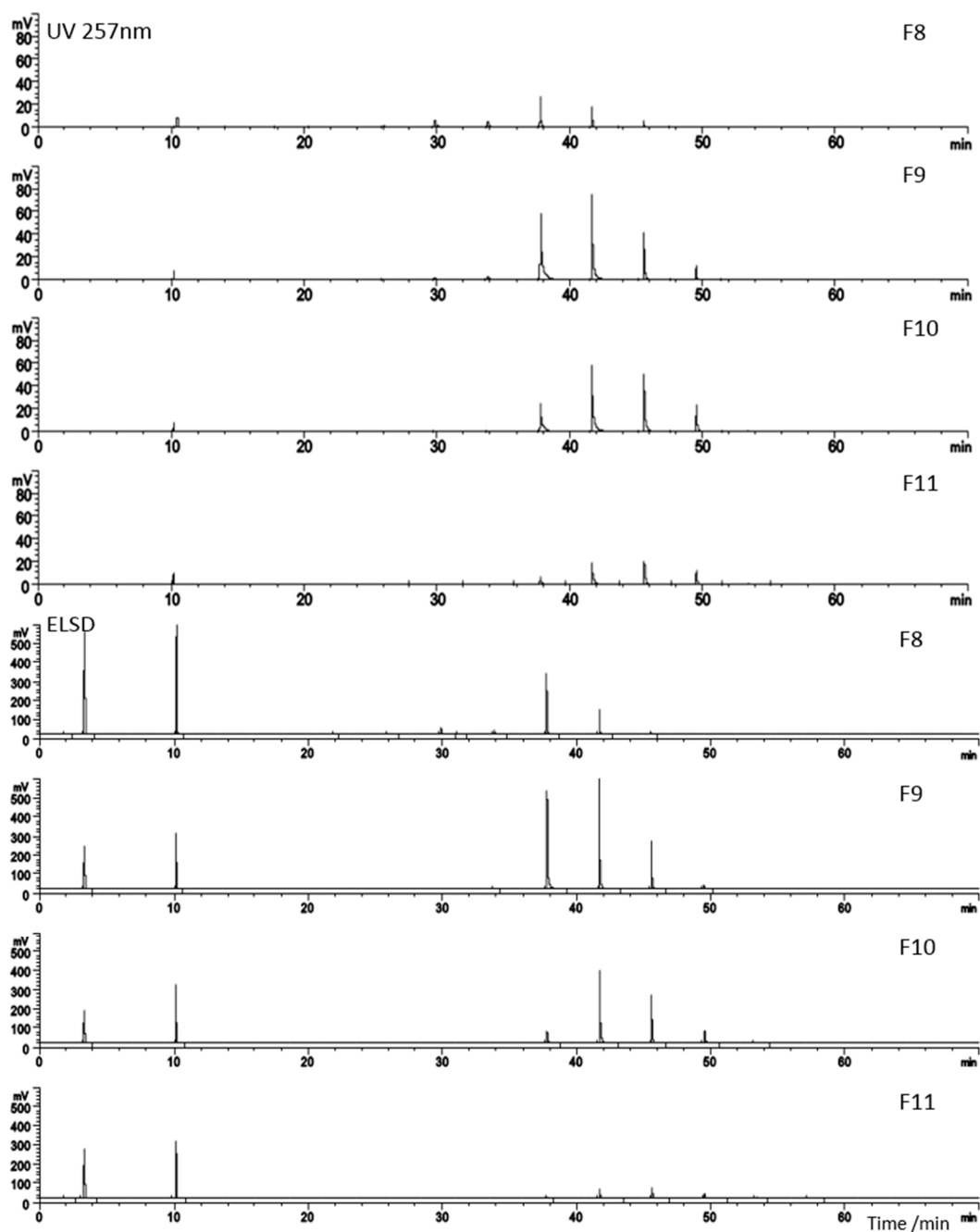
Scale: 2 g			F1 (THF)		F2 (MeOH)		Residue		weighted av-
Constituent	Mol%	% Me	Mol%	% Me	Mol%	% Me	Mol%	% Me	erage % Me
Glucose	90.4	76.1	80.1	71.9	99.1	65.1			
Mannose	3.9	86.7	3.4	74.2	0.2	88.3			
Xylose	5.7	81.6	16.5	74.7	0.7	96.9			
weighted average		76.8		72.4		65.4			65.9
Scale: 0.2 g			F1 (THF)		F2 (MeOH)		Residue		
Constituent	Mol%	% Me	Mol%	% Me	Mol%	% Me	Mol%	% Me	
Glucose	89.8	75.0	88.6	72.1	99.7	65.1			
Mannose	1.8	77.8	2.6	80.2	0.1				
Xylose	8.4	94.7	8.9	84.9	0.2				
weighted average		76.7		73.4		65.0			65.7

**Table S2.** Fractionation of MC propionate and MC methoxybenzoate ( $DS_{Me}$  2.02) by SPE on silica (Me propionate) and RP<sub>18</sub> cartridge (MC-MeOBz), respectively. Eluents, volume ratio, fractions yields and total recovery.

MC-Propionate Sample Weight 13.9 mg				MC-Methoxybenzoate Sample Weight 20.0 mg		
	Eluent	Yield / mg	%	Elutionsmittel	Yield / mg	%
F1	EtOAc/Toluol (5/5)	3.7	26.4	ACN/H <sub>2</sub> O (5/5)	2.2*	10.9*
F2	EtOAc/Toluol (7.5/2.5)	1.6	11.5	ACN/H <sub>2</sub> O (7.5/2.5)	3.4	17.1
F3	EtOAc/Toluol (9/1)	2.1	14.9	ACN/H <sub>2</sub> O (9/1)	6.7	33.3
F4	EtOAc	1.7	11.9	ACN	4.5	22.4
F5	acetone	4.5	32.2	acetone	1.2	5.8
total		13.4	96.9		17.9	89.6

\*technical losses

**Figure S5.** Methyl pattern in the glucosyl units of the MC fractions given in Table S2 ( $DS_{Me}$  2.02). From left (red) to right (green): F1-F5 according to Table S2; gray: weighted average of all fractions; black: non fractionated MC ester. a) MC-propionate. b) MC-methoxybenzoate. In case of methoxybenzoates, ester cleavage during polysaccharide hydrolysis was not complete. Therefore, the lower O-methylated AGU (i.e. the higher esterified) were discriminated. Nonetheless, the relative change from fractions to fraction is visible.



**Figure S6.** Analytical HPLC-runs of the semi-preparative fractions F8-F11 of Figure 9, body text (11%, 19%, 27%, 21% of the MC-MeOBz, w%) of MC-MeOBz ( $DS_{Me}$  1.91) with stepwise adsorption/desorption; Polaris 5 Si-A  $250 \times 4,6$  mm, DCM/2-PrOH, 1 mL/min, 2 min. hold for each, adsorption and desorption step;  $c \approx 0.5$  mg/mL; injection volume: 30  $\mu$ L, detection: (a) UV 257 nm; (b), ELSD.