



Polymer Science at the Center for Integrated Nanotechnologies (CINT)

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ACS Fall Meeting

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of
Science



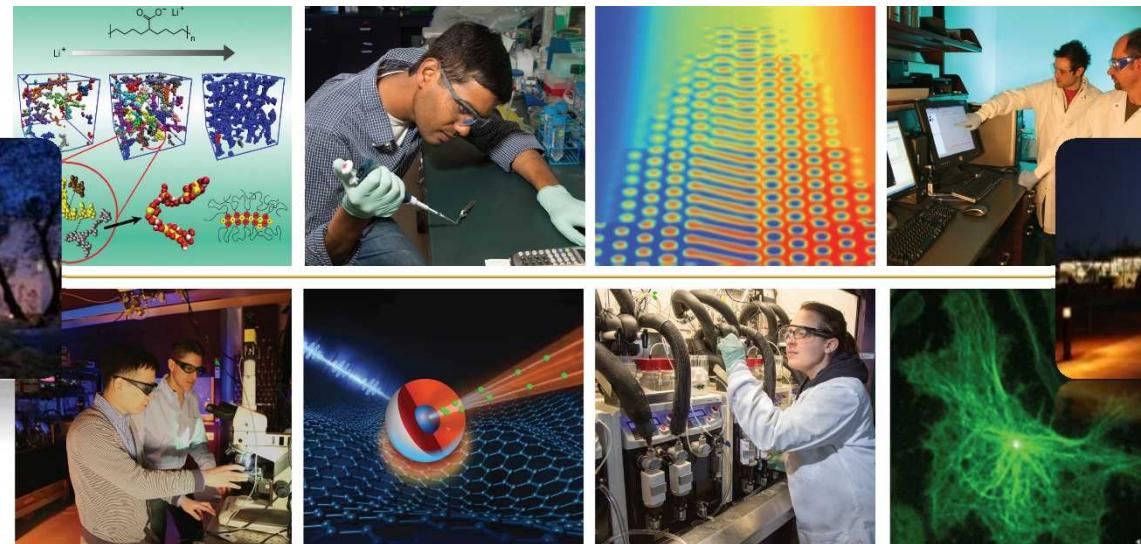
Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-mission laboratory managed and operated by National Technology and Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC., a wholly owned subsidiary of Honeywell International, Inc., for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-NA-0003525.



A Nanoscale Science Research Center (NSRC) focused on advancing the understanding of *nanostructure integration*

The User Community:

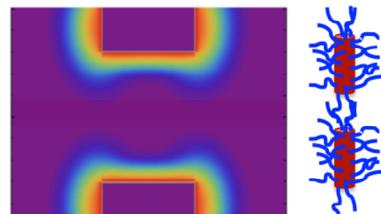
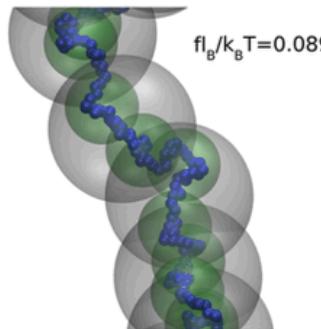
- Access to capabilities from two world-renowned National laboratories, Los Alamos and Sandia
- Free access for the research community via a proposal process!



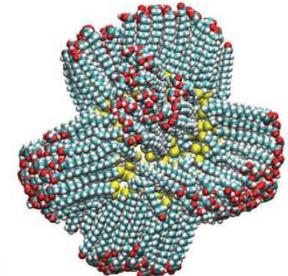
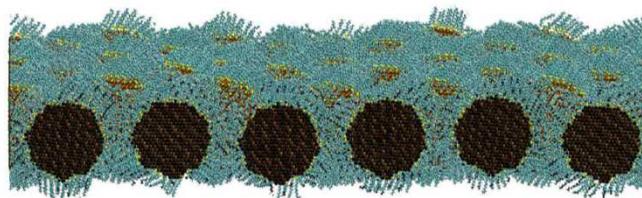
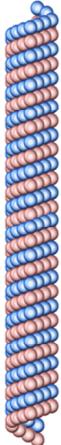
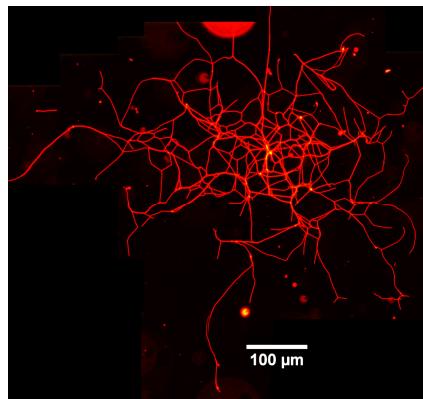
<http://cint.lanl.gov> | @CenterIntegratedNanotechnologies | #CINT

Polymer Science at CINT

we develop strategies to enable hierarchical assembly of nanoconstituents to harness their collective/emergent behaviors



- Polymer Melts and Networks
- Responsive Polymer Interfaces
- Polymer Nanocomposites
- Coated Nanoparticle Assembly
- Polymer Brushes
- Ionic and Charged Polymers
- Polymersomes
- Biopolymers



CINT Scientists with Polymer Research

theory/modeling



Gary Grest



Mark Stevens

experiment



George Bachand



Millie Firestone



Amalie Frischknecht



Dale Huber



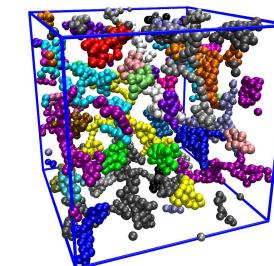
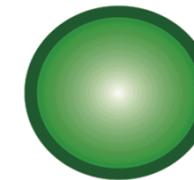
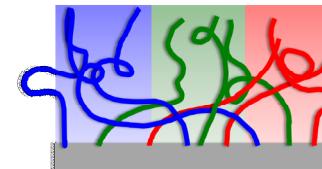
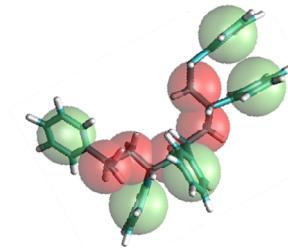
Jen Martinez



Wally Paxton

Highlights

- coarse-graining polymer simulations
- mixed polymer brushes
- robust polymersomes
- acid and ion-containing polymers

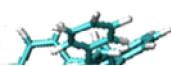


Computational Challenges in Polymers

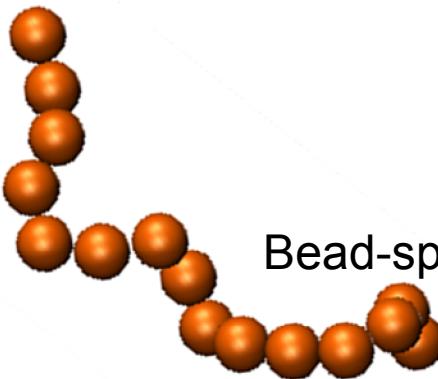
- Longest relaxation time $\tau \sim N^3$
- Chains are Gaussian coils – $R \sim N^{1/2}$
 - Number of chains must increase as $R^3 \sim N^{3/2}$ so polymer chains do not see themselves through periodic boundary conditions
- Double chain length – cpu required increases by at least a factor of $2^{4.5} \sim 23$
 - 1 month simulation becomes 2 years

Coarse-Graining of Polymers

- To reach larger length/time scales, new coarse graining methods are an active area of research

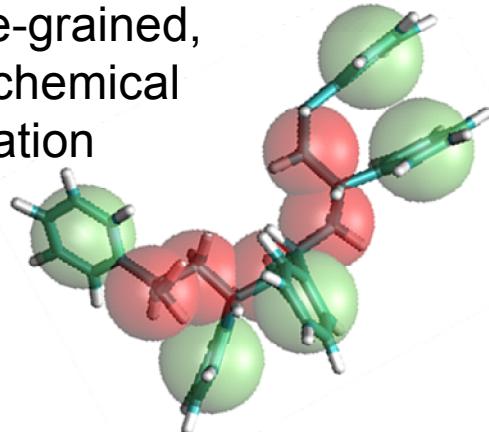
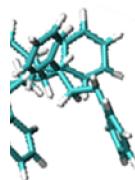


All-atom



Bead-spring

Coarse-grained,
retain chemical
information



- Reduced number of degrees of freedom, simpler interaction potentials, reducing the overall computational effort
- Larger time steps (10-20x)
- Reduced effective bead friction due to lower energy barriers and/or a smoother energy landscape
- Back-mapping to fully atomistic model

Degree of Coarse Graining Polyethylene



$C_{96}H_{194}$ chain with increasing degree of coarse graining

- Largest lengths scales of polymer dynamics are controlled by entanglements
- Shortest time and length scales required to resolve dynamic properties not obvious

- Probe the degree of coarse graining (CGing) required to simultaneously retain significant atomistic detail and access large length and time scales

Coarse-Graining Methodology

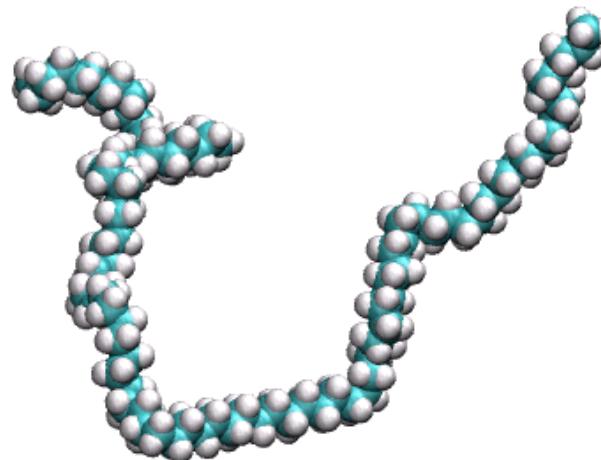
All-atom Melt MD
simulation – LAMMPS*

Define Beads

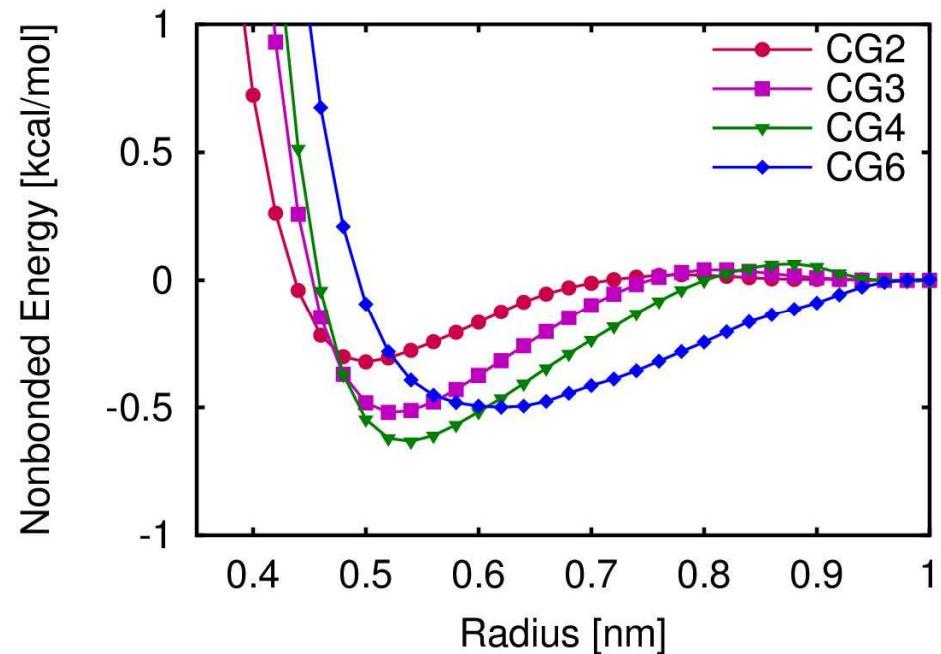
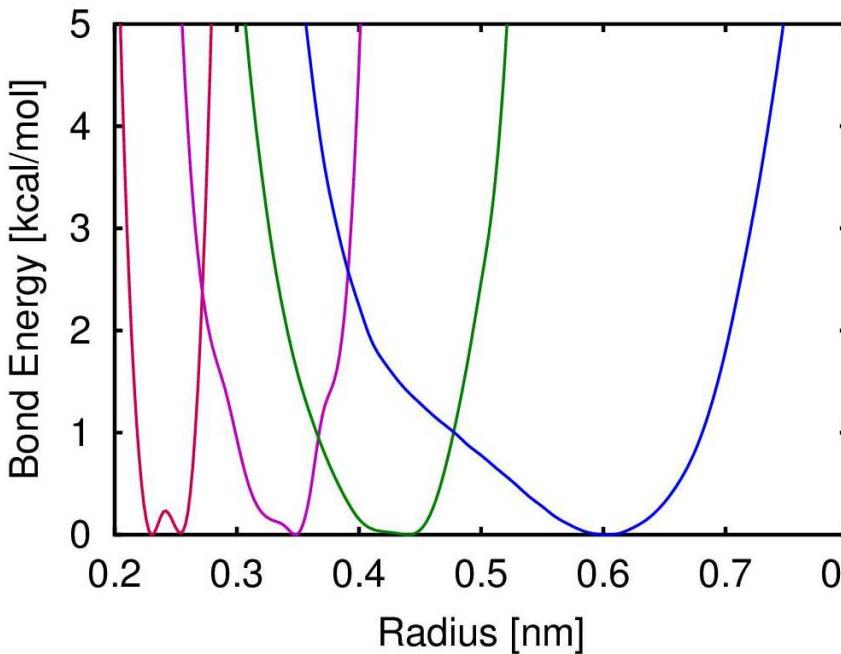
Bonded Interactions by
Boltzmann Inversion

Nonbonded Interactions by
Iterative Boltzmann
Inversion (IBI)

Validation

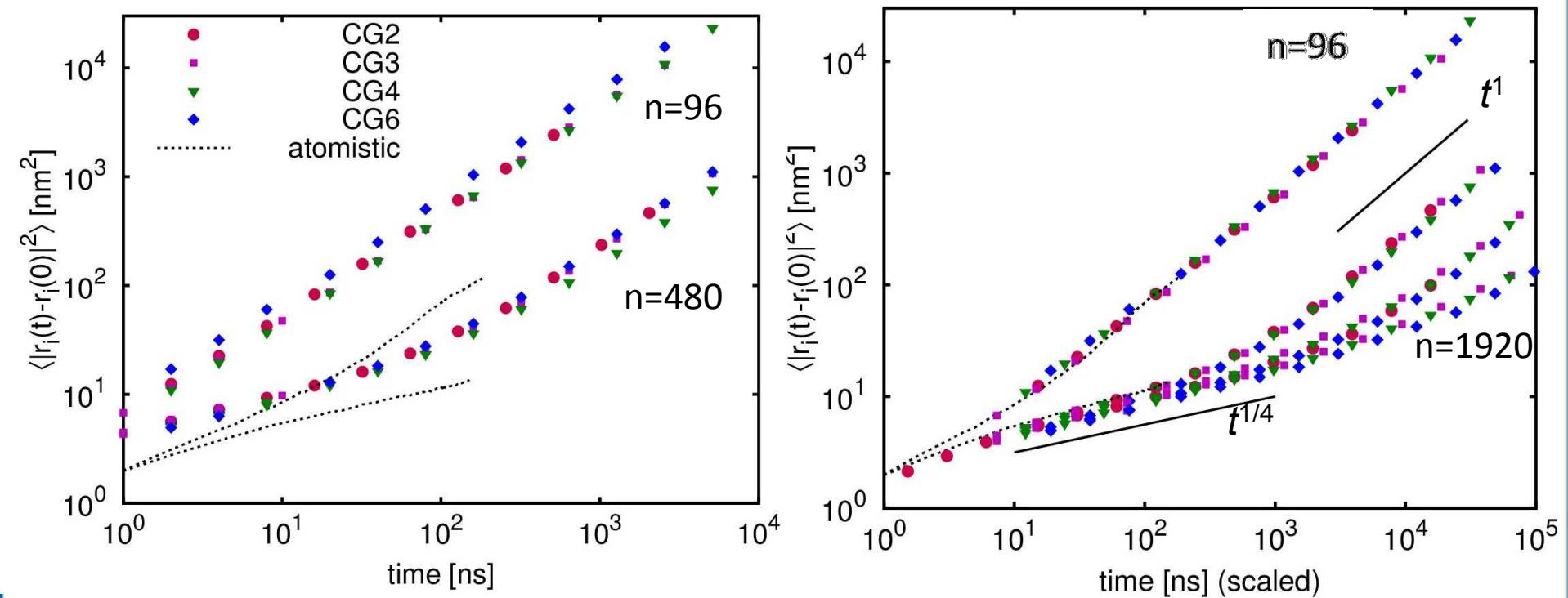


Coarse-Grained Potentials



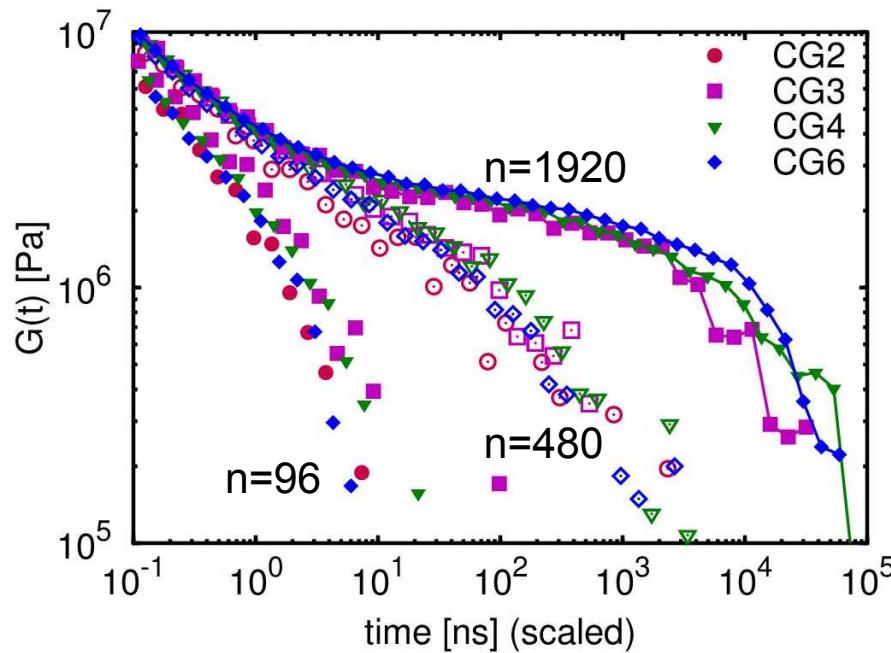
- Average bond length increases, bond distribution broadens as level of CGing increases
- Non-bonded potential softens as level of CGing increases
- Time step increases from 1 fs to 10 -20 fs for $\lambda \geq 3$
- Surprisingly for $\lambda = 6$, chain can cut through each other
 - extra non-crossing constraint

Chain Mobility



- Dynamics of Coarse Grained models 6-12 times faster
- Consistent scaling factor for $n = 96 - 1920$

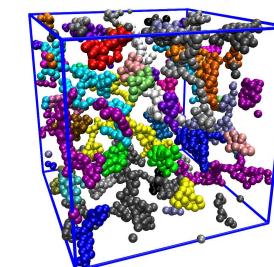
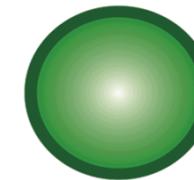
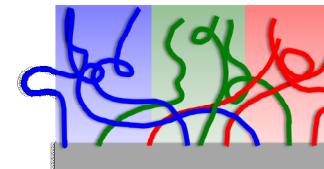
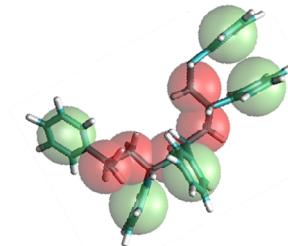
Stress Relaxation



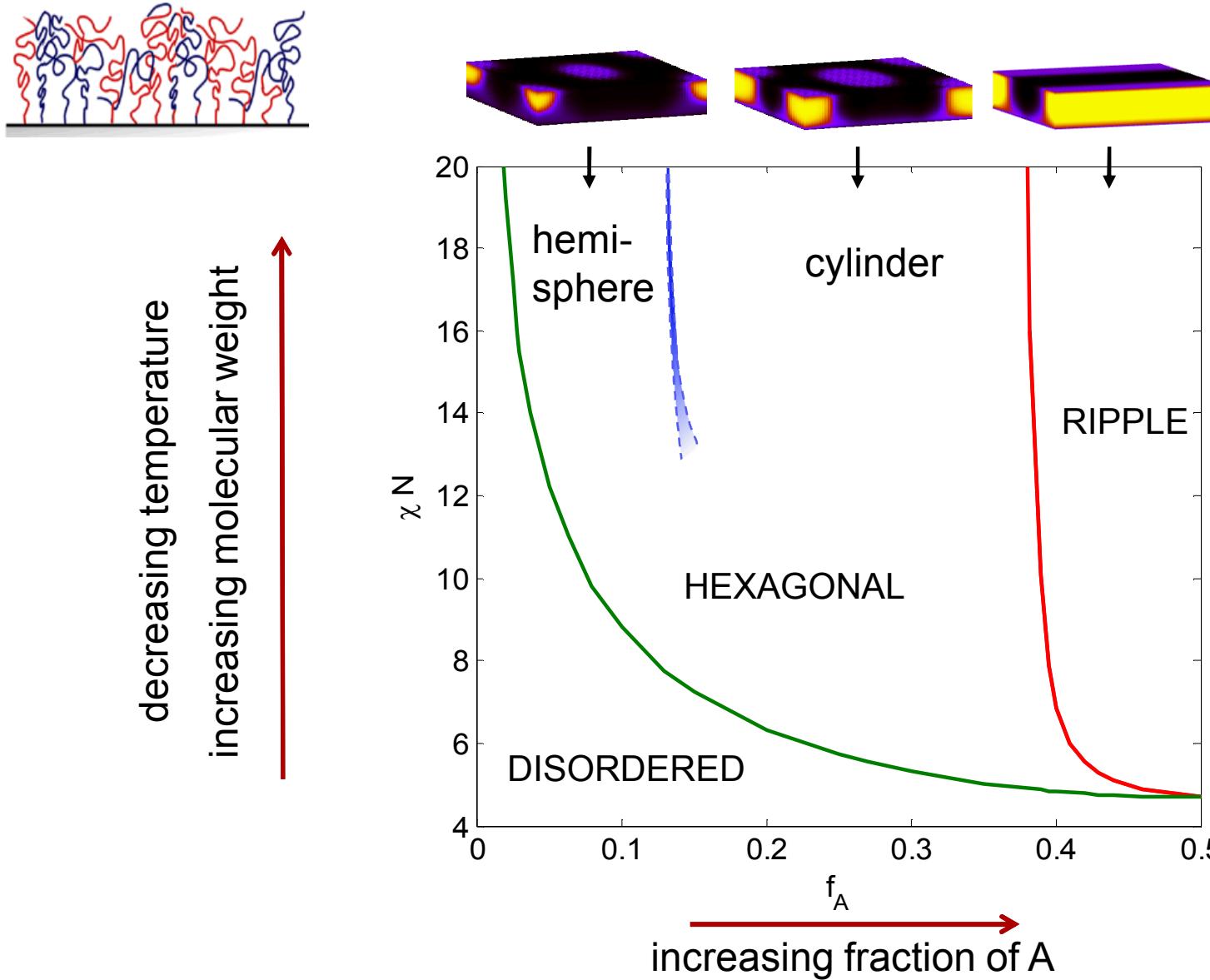
- Longer, more entangled chains form progressively more distinct plateau region
- Plateau modulus in good agreement with experiment
- Time and length scales not accessible by atomistic models

Highlights

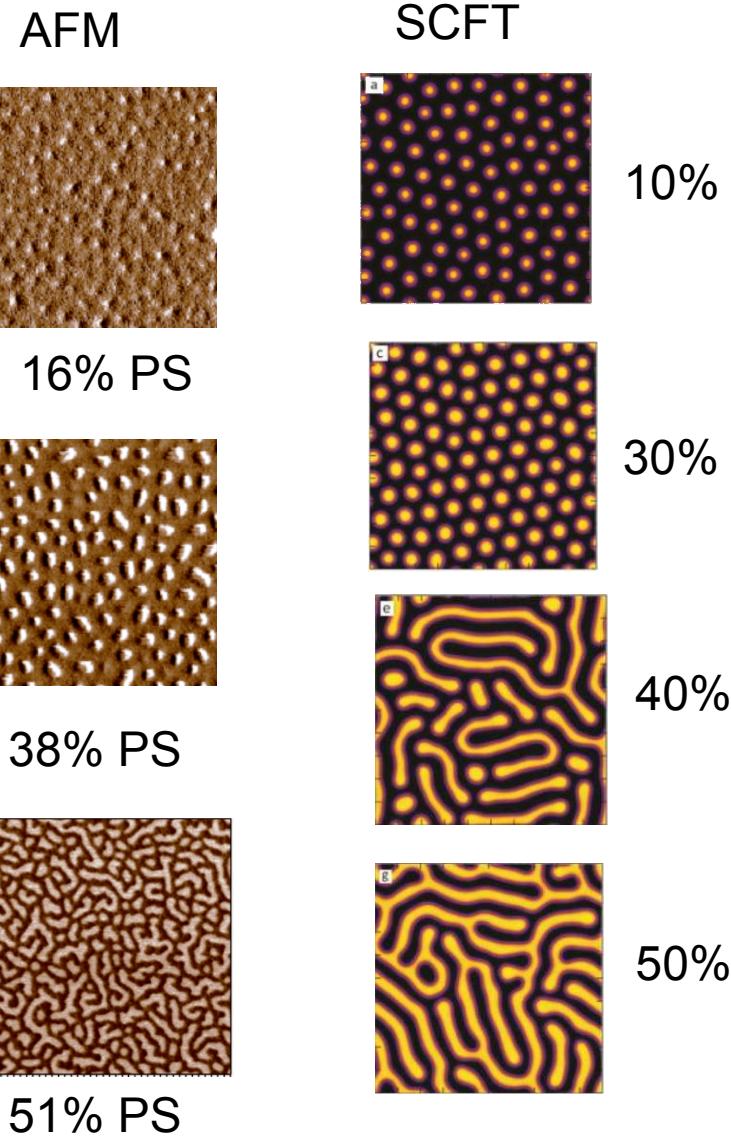
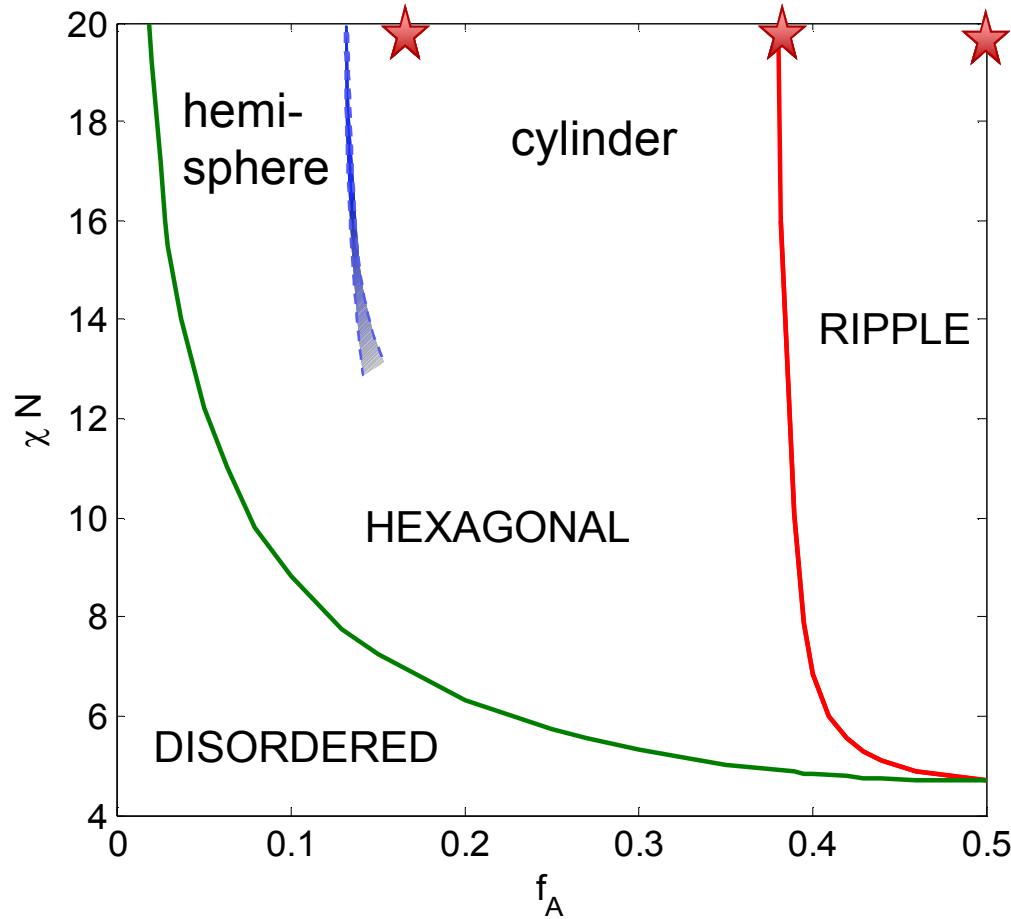
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- mixed polymer brushes
- robust polymersomes
- acid and ion-containing polymers



Mixed Polymer Brushes

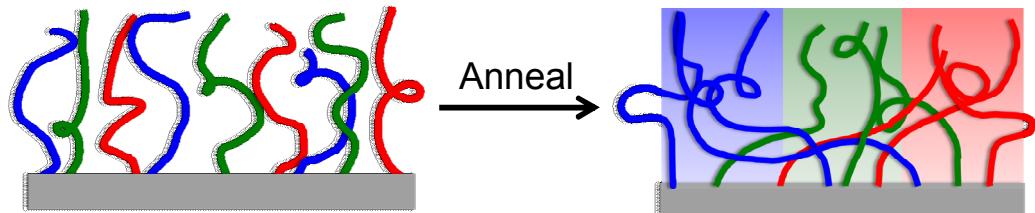


Mixed Polymer Brushes



Ternary Polymer Brushes

- ternary polymer brush
- PMMA, PS, and P4VP
- Strongly segregating system
 - $\chi N_{PS-PMMA} \approx 18$
 - $\chi N_{PMMA-P4VP} \approx 65$
 - $\chi N_{PS-P4VP} \approx 320$

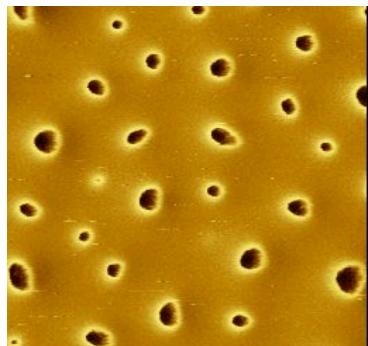


M_n : 56 – 130 kDa

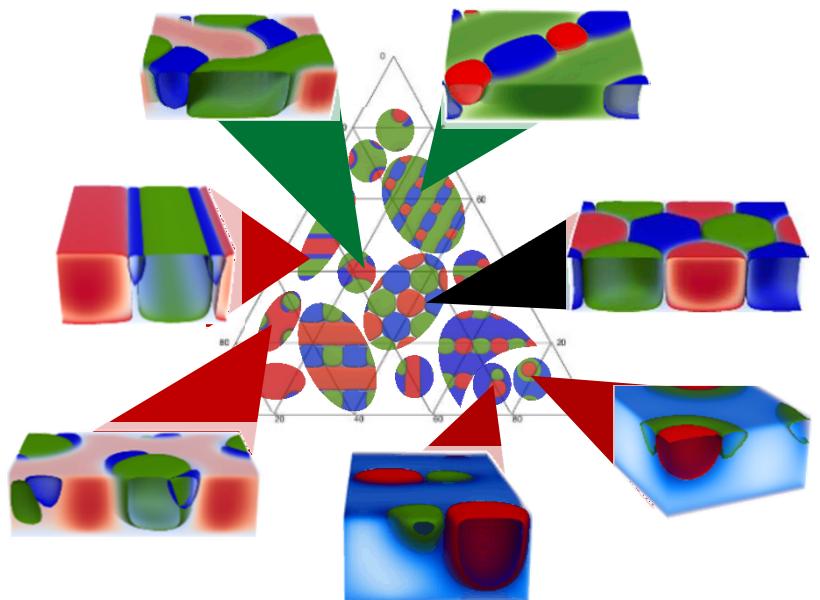
brush thicknesses: $2.6 – 6 R_g$

grafting density: 0.14 – 0.44 chains/nm²

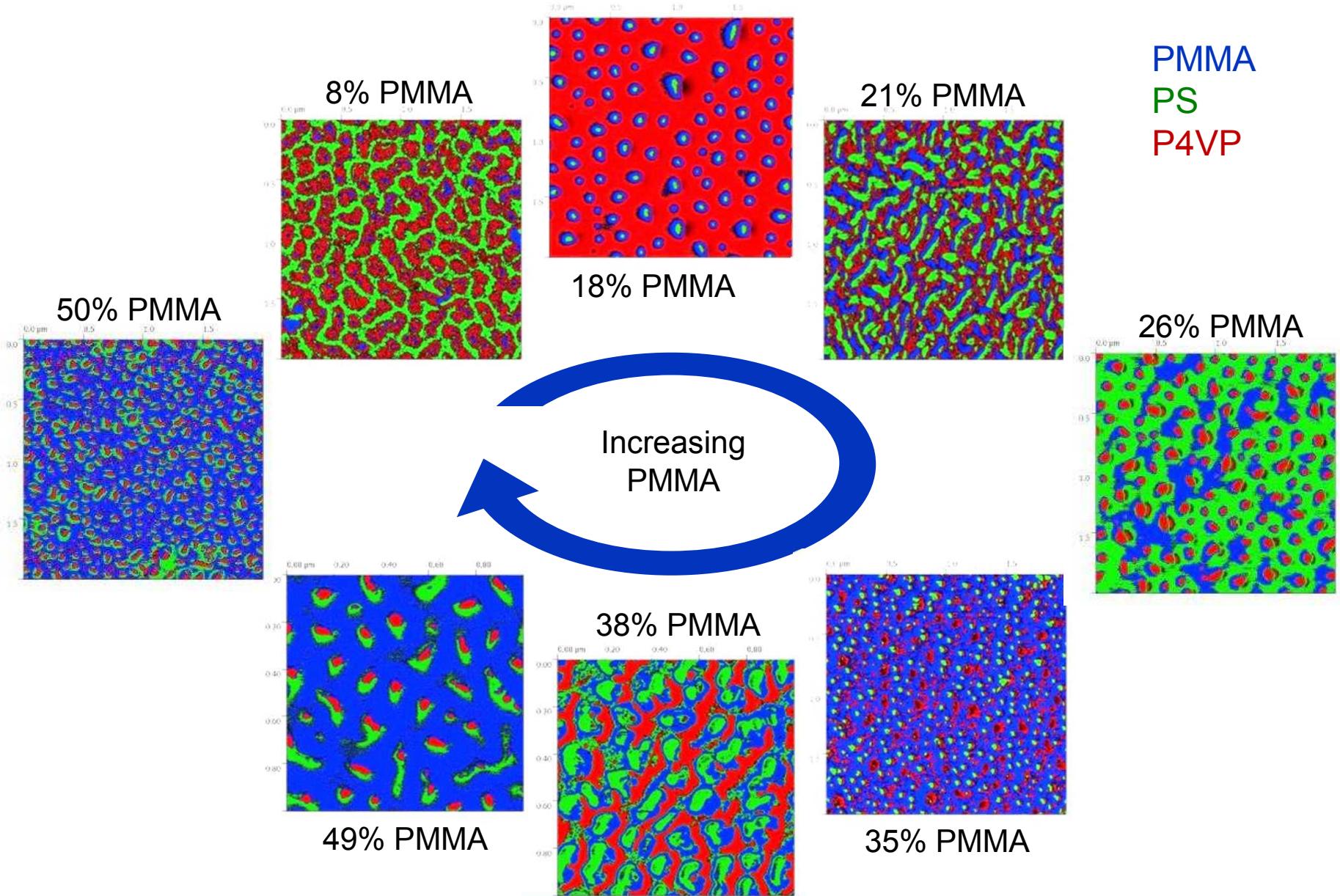
AFM phase contrast



phases predicted by SCFT



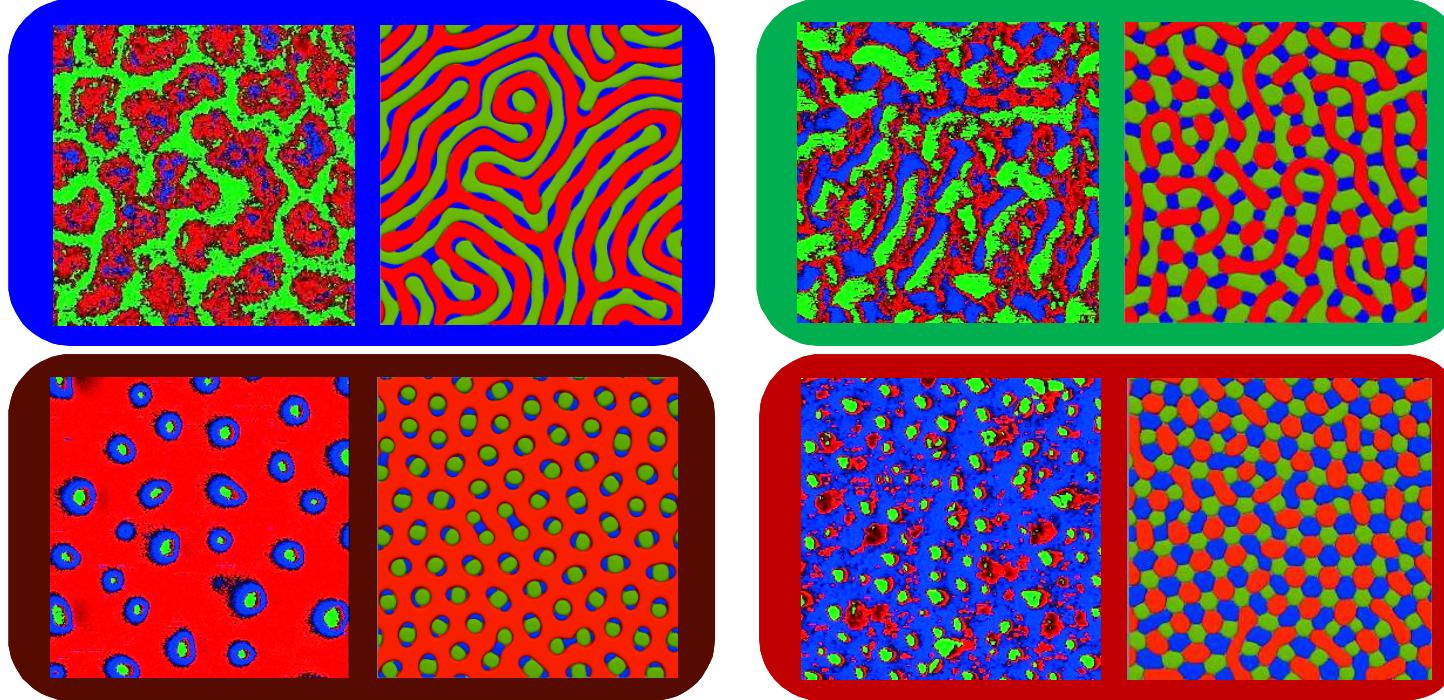
Experimental Phase Behavior



Self-Assembly: Mixed Polymer Brushes

experimental images $1 \times 1 \mu\text{m}$

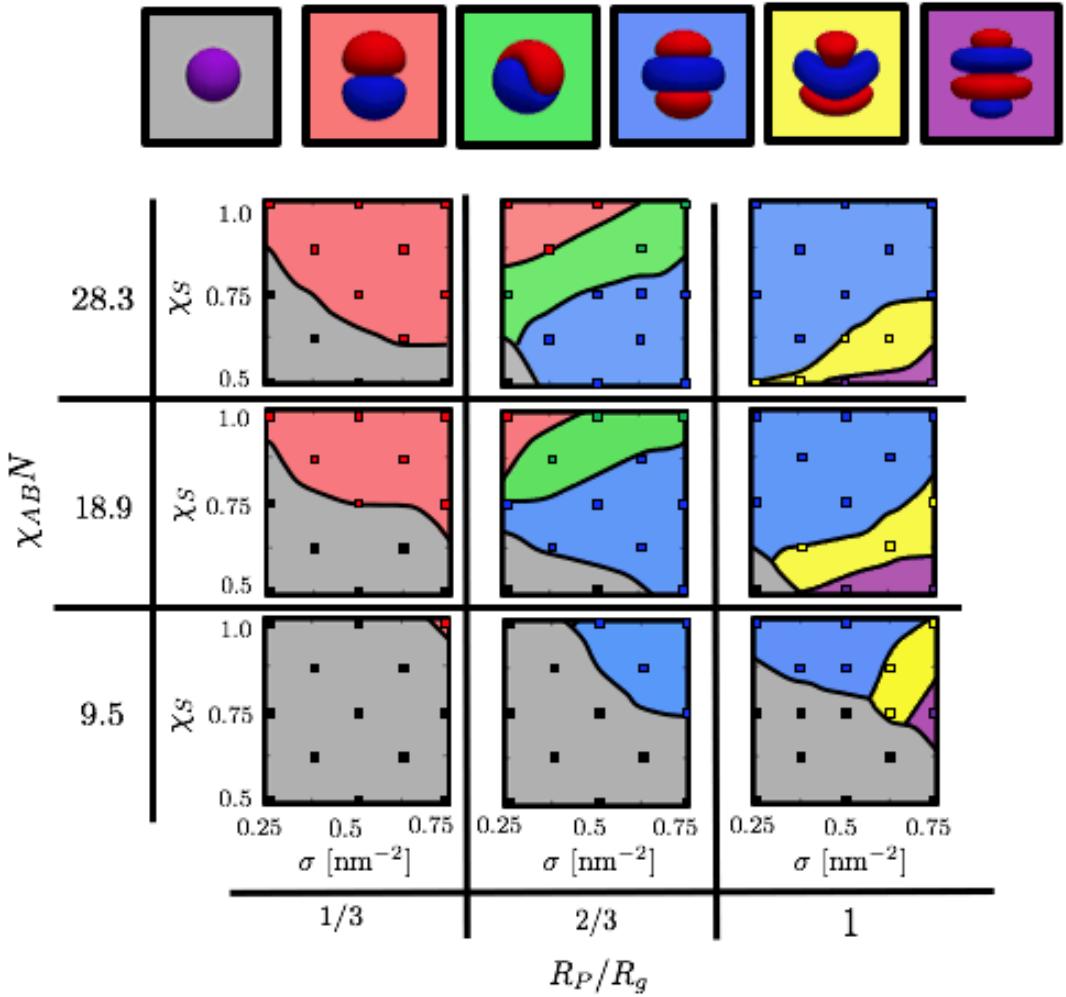
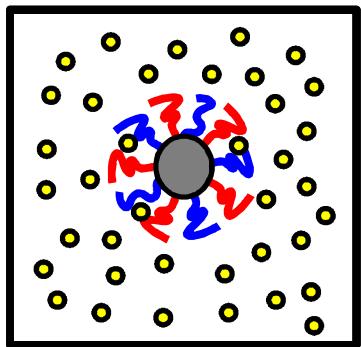
simulation images $50 \times 50 R_g$



- strong lateral phase separation in mixed brushes
- qualitative agreement between theory and experiments

Mixed brushes on nanoparticles

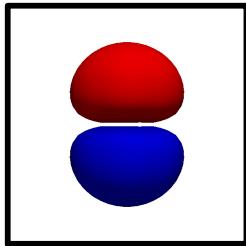
- A, B homopolymers on nanoparticle in solvent
- mean field theory (SCFT): phase diagram



Fluctuations de-stabilize complex phases

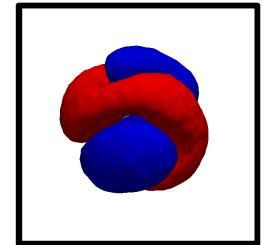
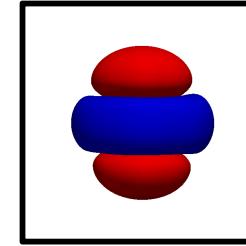
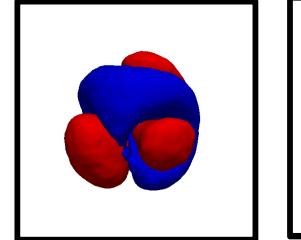
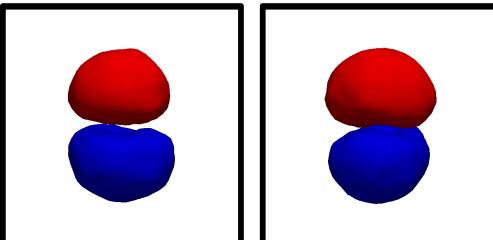
$$R_P = (1/3)R_g$$

mean field theory
(SCFT)



$$R_P = R_g$$

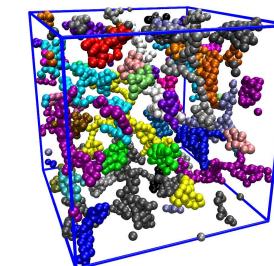
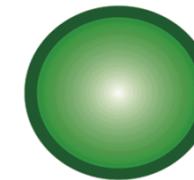
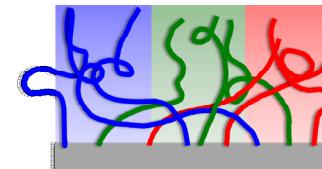
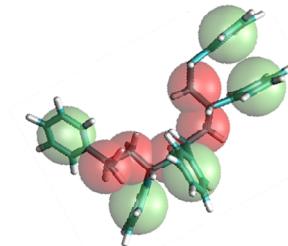
fluctuating field
theory



Thermal fluctuations **de-stabilize** the formation of **complex phases**

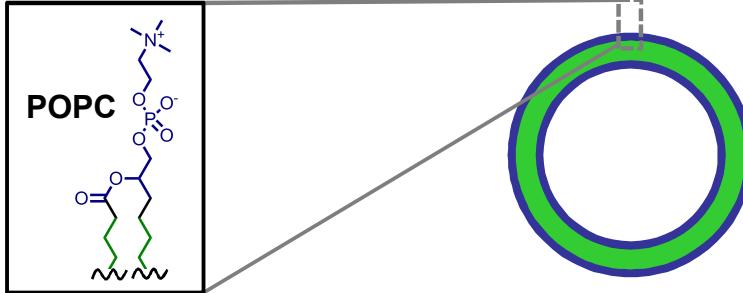
Highlights

- coarse-graining polymer simulations
- mixed polymer brushes
- robust polymersomes
- acid and ion-containing polymers



Mimicking Biological Membranes

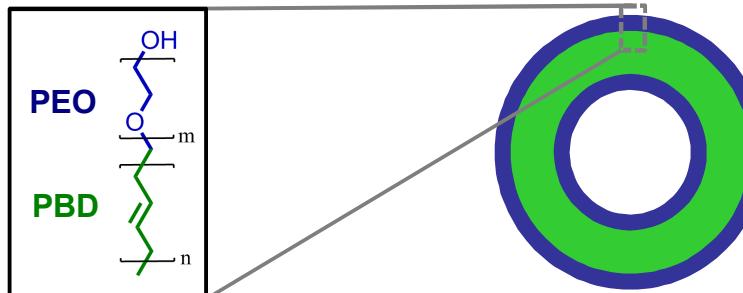
Liposomes



2 Major Challenges:

Limited Chemical and Mechanical Stability
 Limited Modification Chemistries

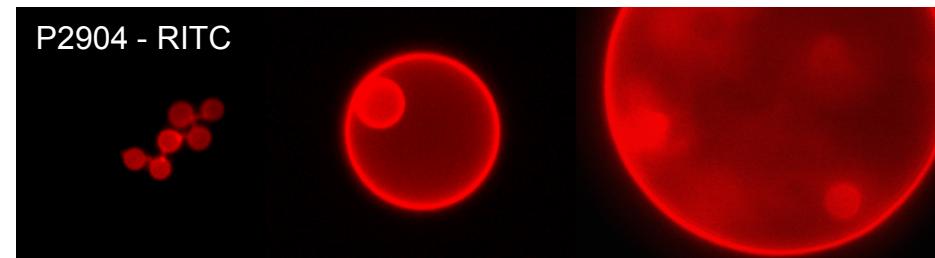
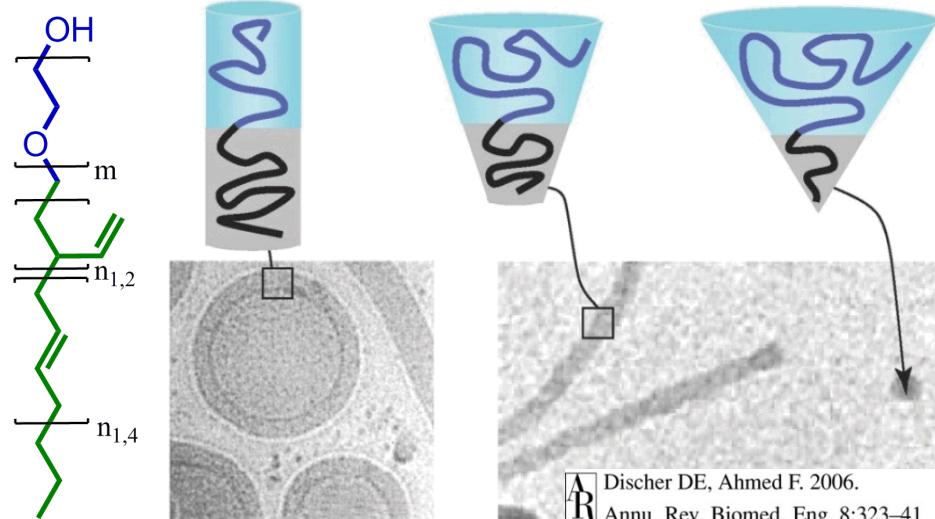
Polymersomes



Polymersomes Can Help

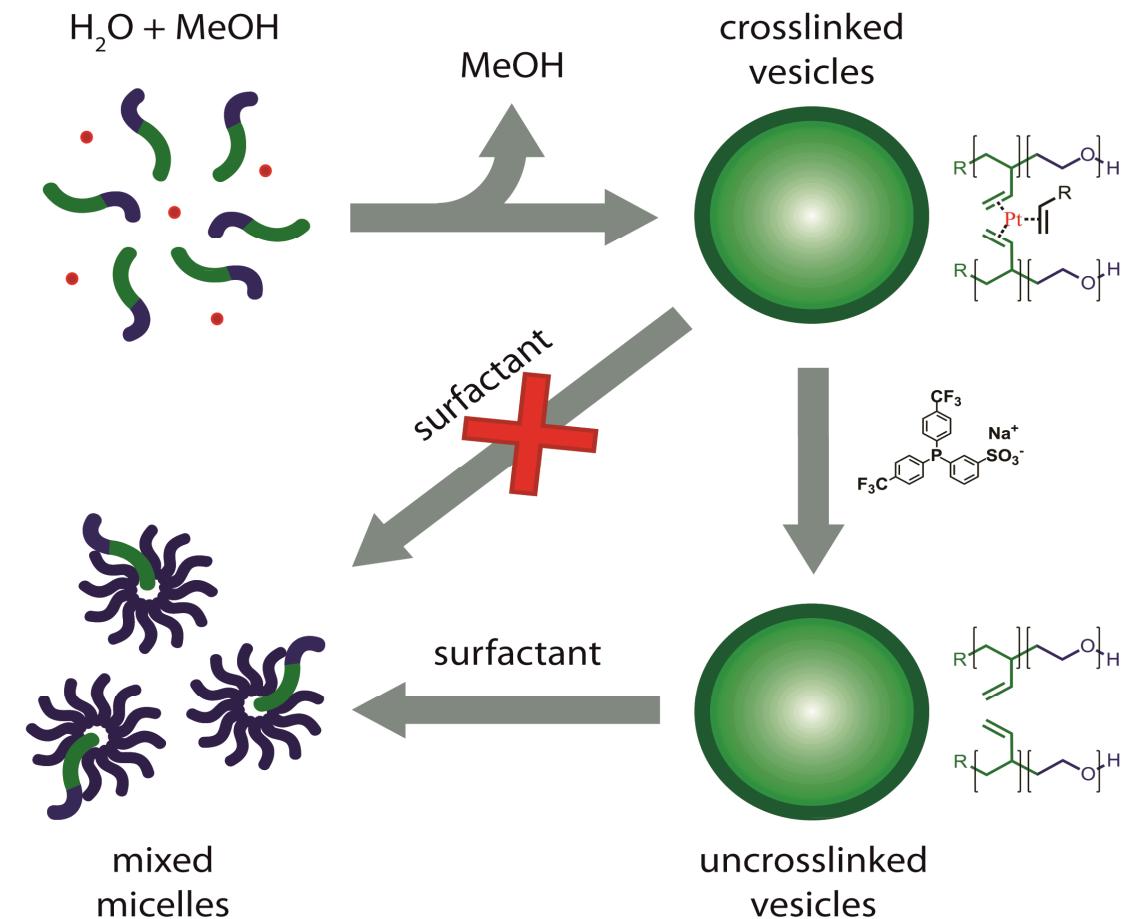
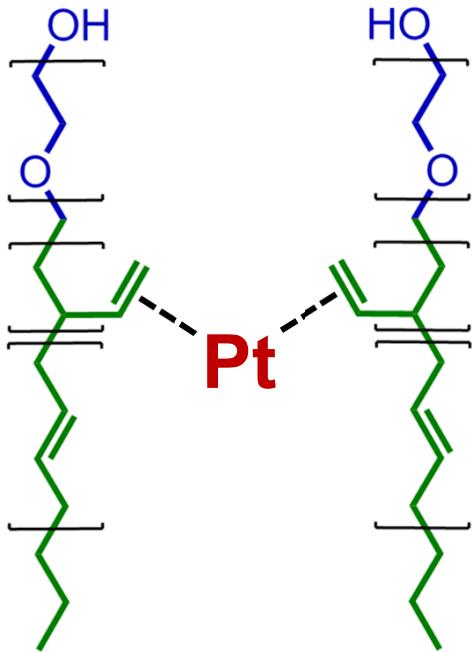
Enhanced Chemical and Mechanical Stability
 Unlimited Modification Chemistries

Can we incorporate or mimic **properties** and **functions** of biological cells to create robust advanced materials?





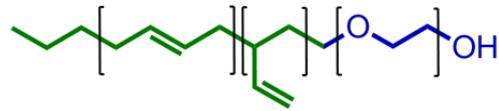
Capable Crosslinks: Polymersomes Reinforced with Catalytically Active Metal-Ligand Bonds



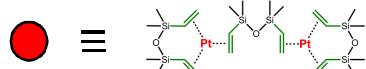
Henderson, I. M., Quintana, H. A., Martinez, J. A., & Paxton, W. F. (2015). *Chemistry of Materials*, 27(13), 4808–4813.



Forming Cross-linked Vesicles with Pt and PEO-PBd



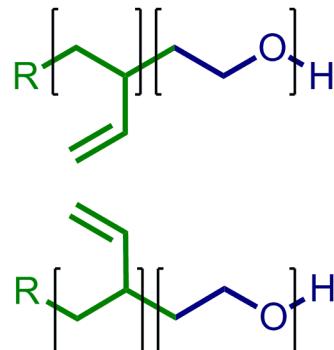
EO₂₁ – Bd₃₂ (1,2 addition)



Karstedt's catalyst

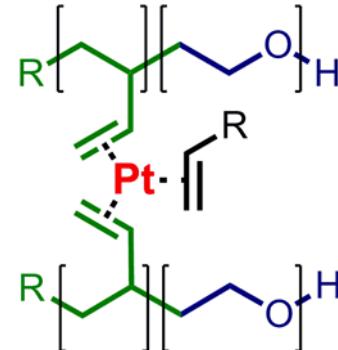
60-100 nm vesicles

catalytically active



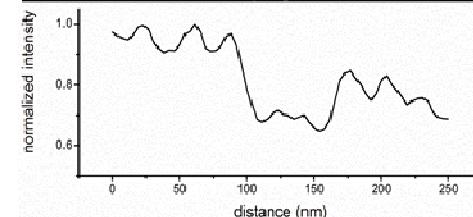
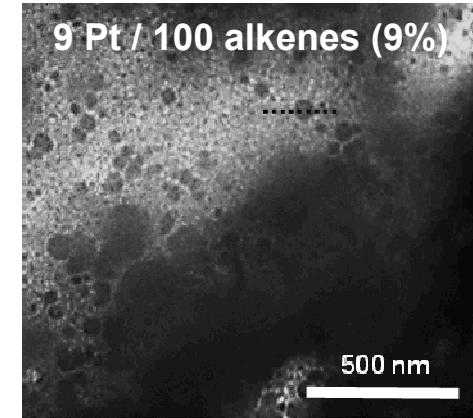
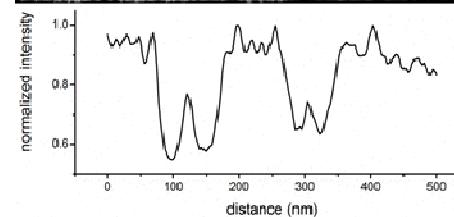
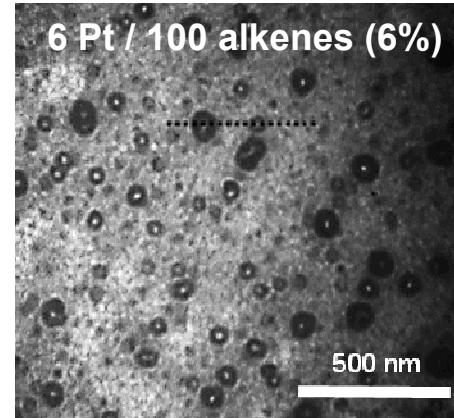
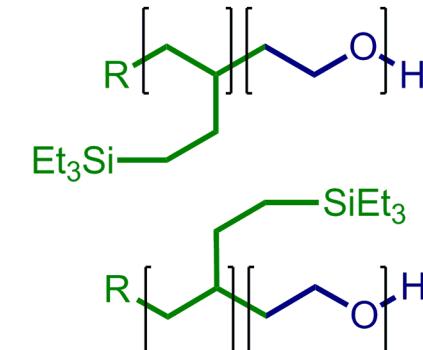
Pt

(Karstedt's catalyst)



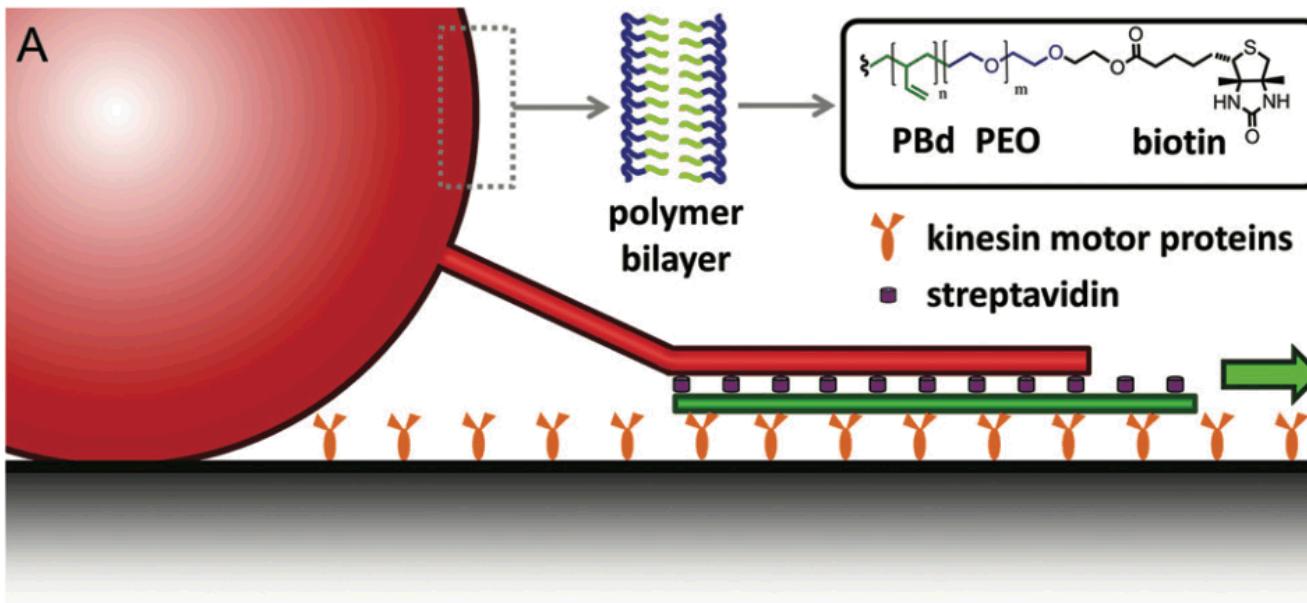
Et₃SiH

(Karstedt's catalyst)



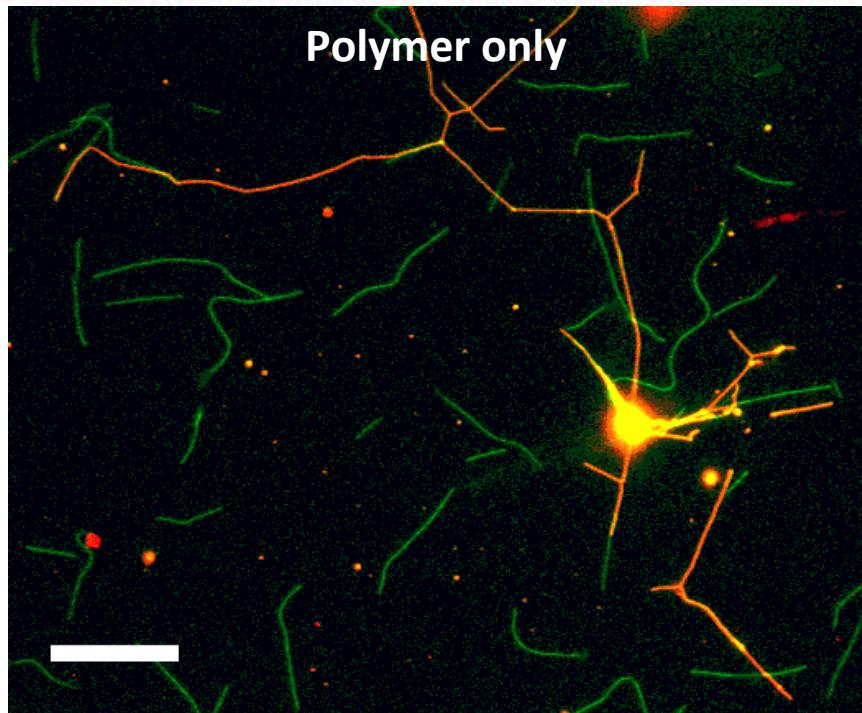
Pulling Nanotubes from Polymersomes

Can the collective force from kinesin motors extract nanotubes from polymersomes?

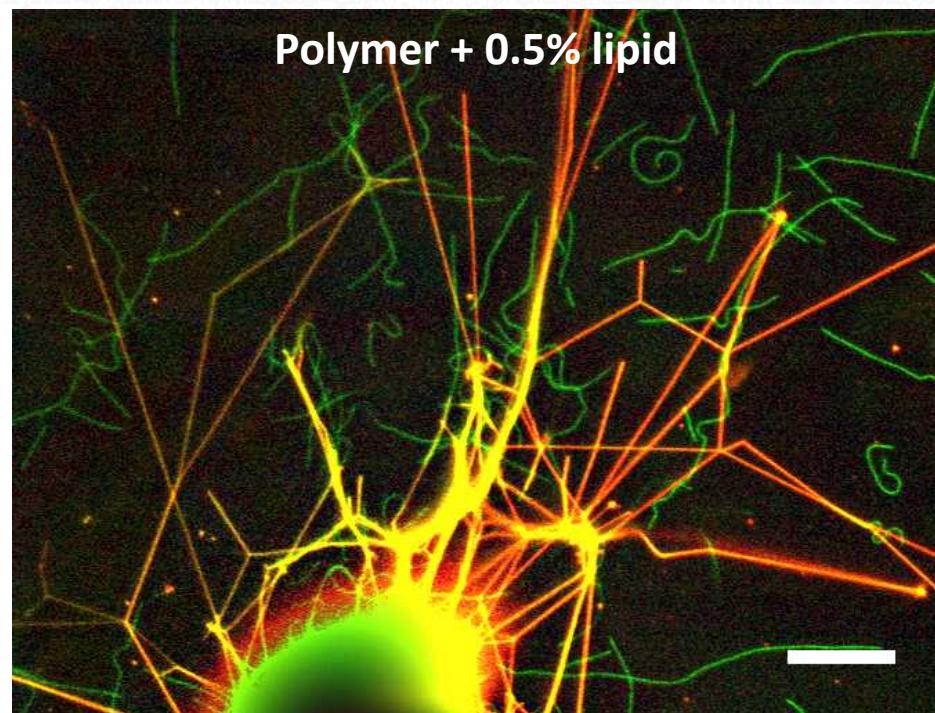


Assembly of Polymer Nanotube Networks

Yes: Addition of lipid enhances the formation of large extended networks from polymersomes.



PBD-PEO diblock copolymer

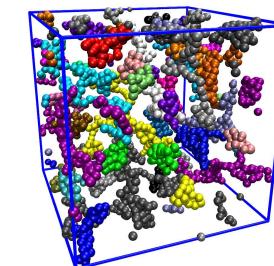
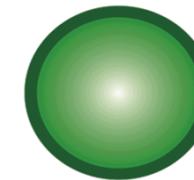
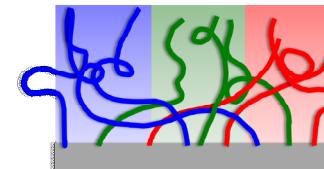
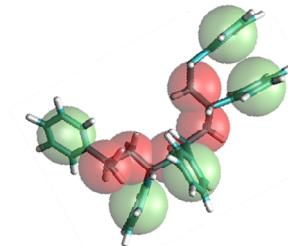


PBD-PEO + Texas Red-DHPE

MTs, even as large as ~90 μm , extracting polymer nanotubes display decreased velocity (large opposing force)

Highlights

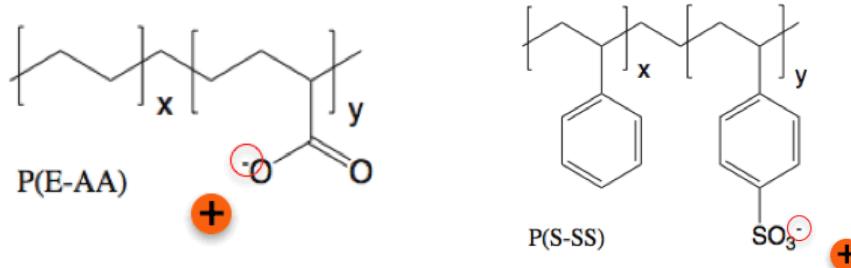
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Ion-Containing Polymers

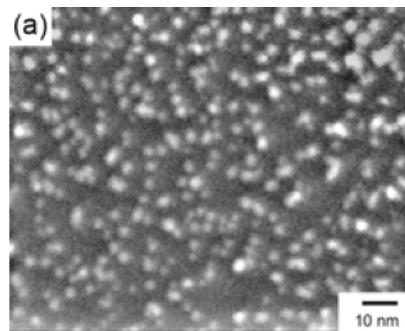
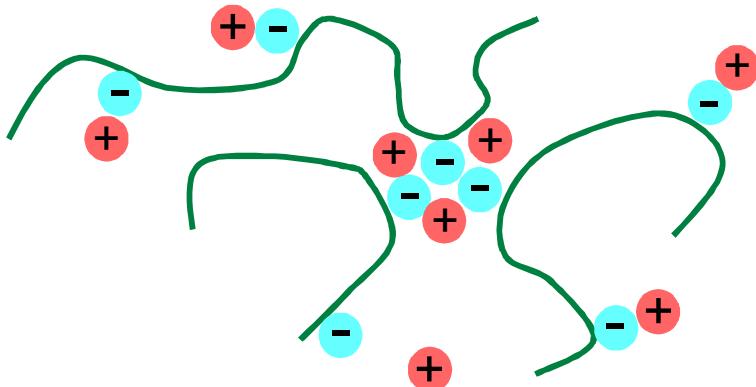
polymers with covalently-bonded ionic groups

ionomers



melts! (no solvent)

nanoscale phase separation

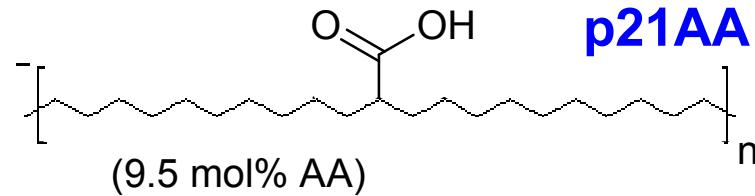
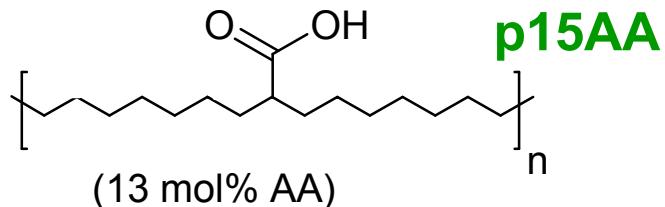
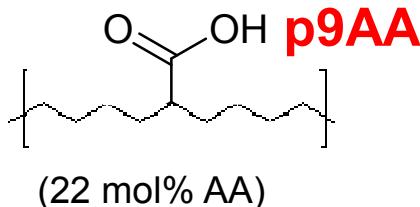


STEM showing
aggregates

PEpAA_{9.5}-Zn56

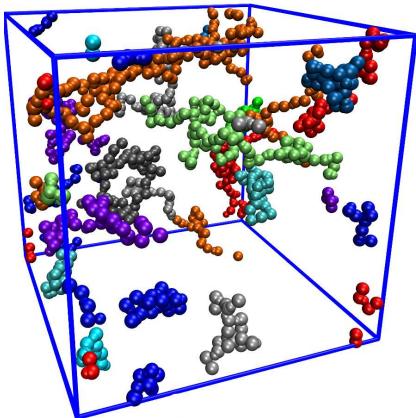
Seitz et al., *J Am Chem Soc* 132, 8165 (2010)

Model Materials: Precise Ionomers

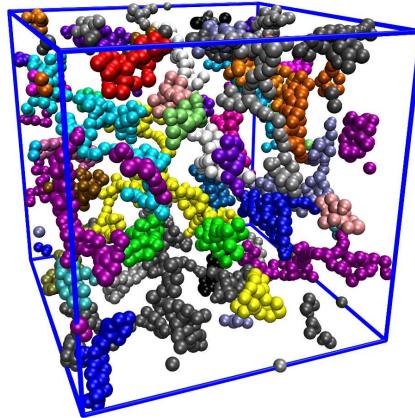


MD simulations show ionic aggregates

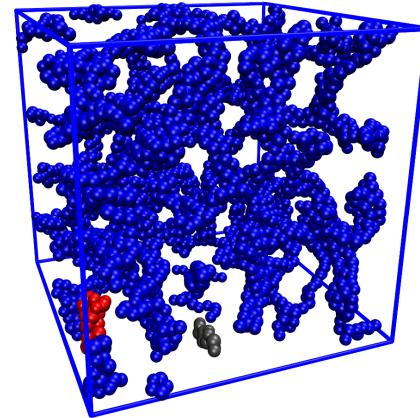
p9AA-10%Li



p9AA-43%Li



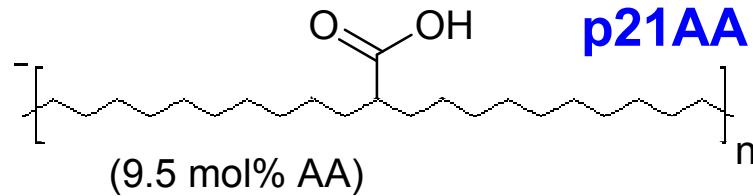
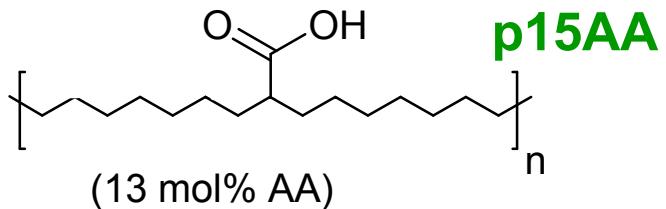
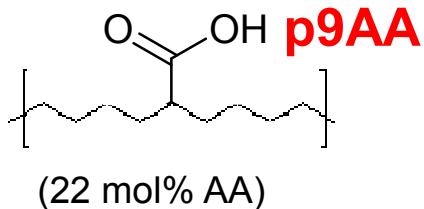
p9AA-100%Li



coloring by cluster

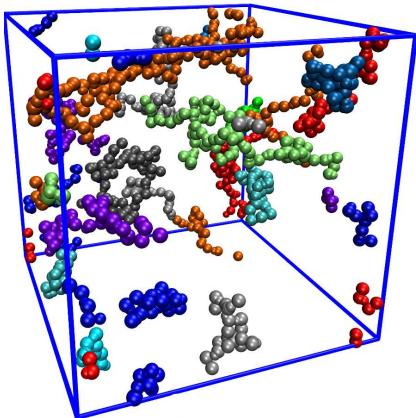
Bolintineanu, D. S., Stevens, M. J., & Frischknecht, A. L. (2013). *Macromolecules*, 46(13), 5381–5392.

Model Materials: Precise Ionomers

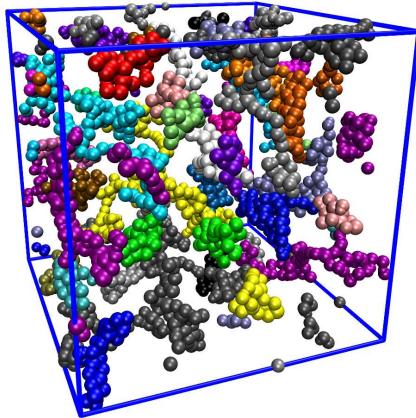


MD simulations show ionic aggregates

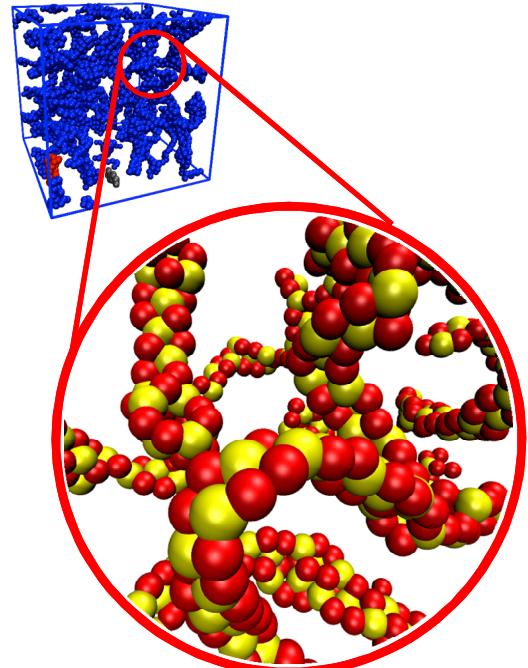
p9AA-10%Li



p9AA-43%Li



p9AA-100%Li

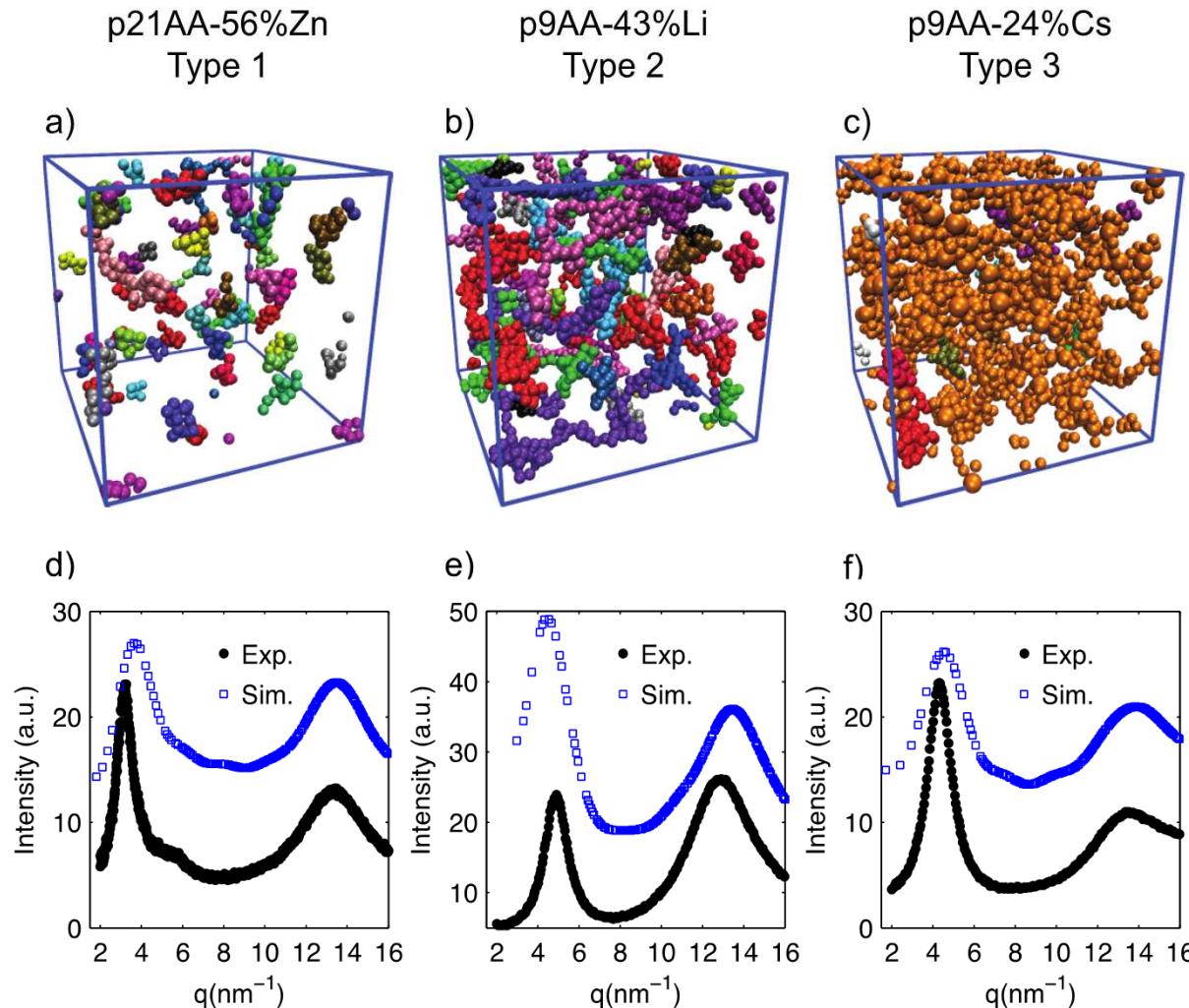


coloring by cluster

Bolintineanu, D. S., Stevens, M. J., & Frischknecht, A. L. (2013). *Macromolecules*, 46(13), 5381–5392.

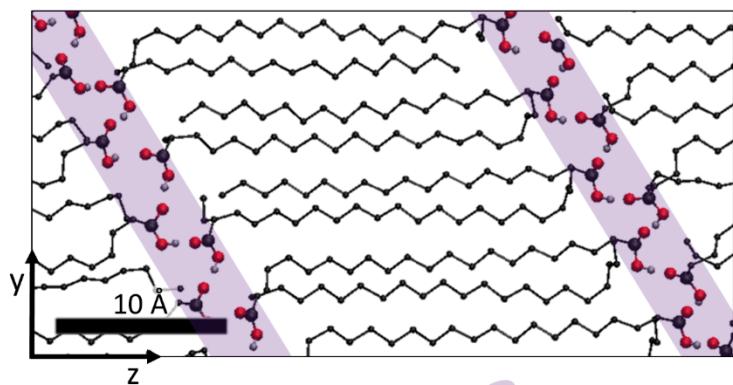
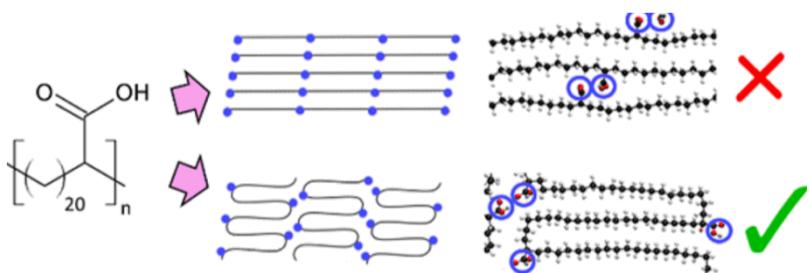
X-ray scattering compared to MD simulations

need simulations or imaging!

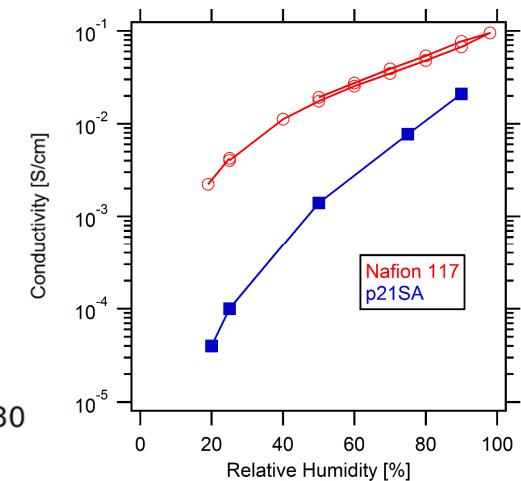
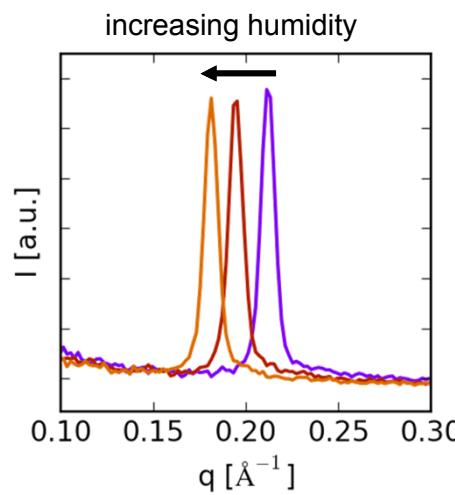
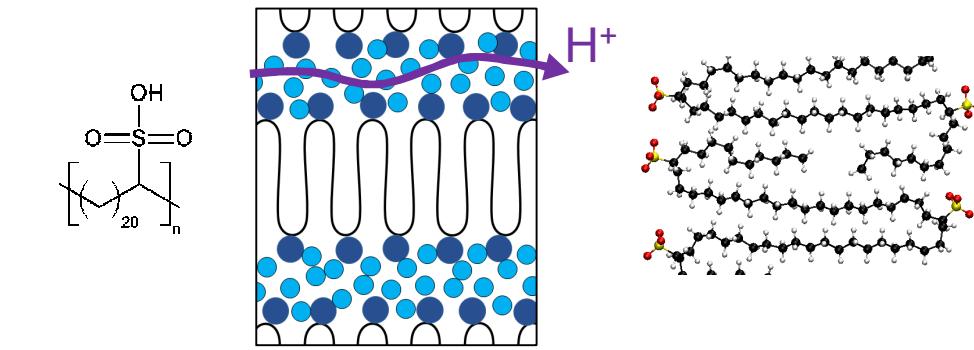


Semi-crystalline precise polymers

p21AA forms acid layers in crystals



p21SA: Highly ordered, tunable, conductive

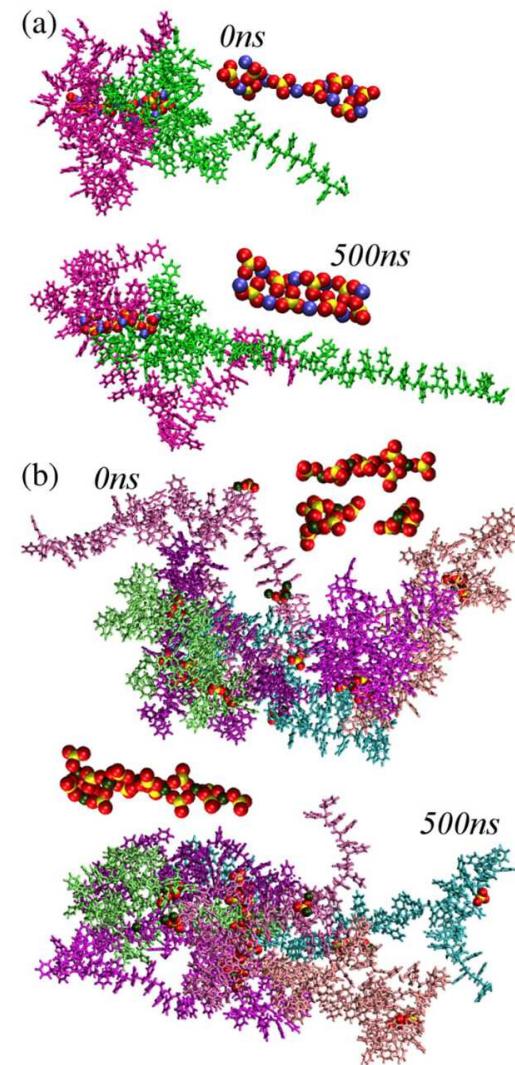
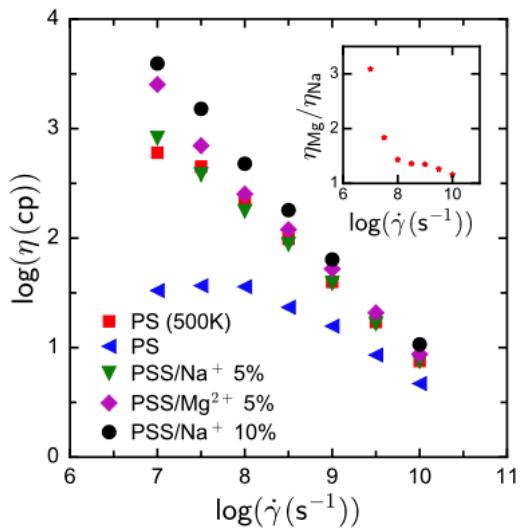
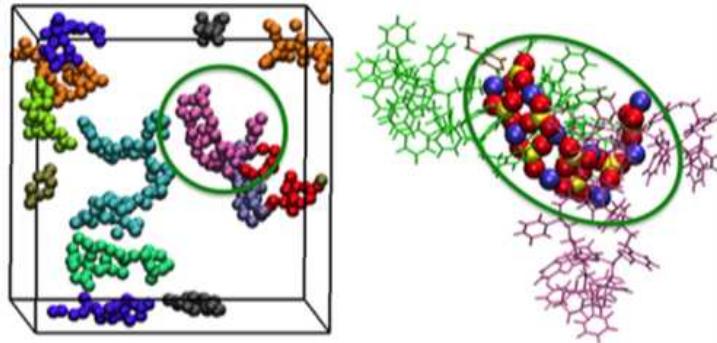


E. B. Trigg, M. J. Stevens, and K. I. Winey, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2017

Trigg et al, in preparation

Morphology and dynamics in PSS

polystyrene sulfonate (PSS) with Na^+ or Mg^{2+}

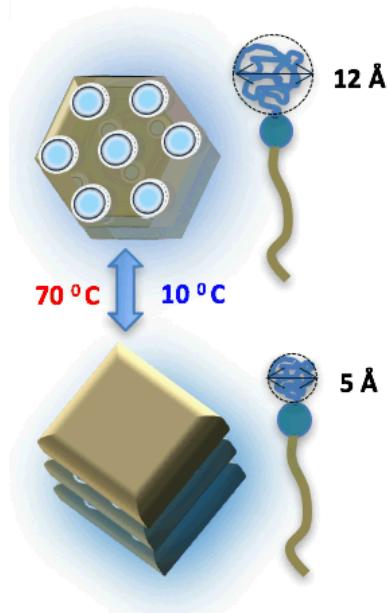
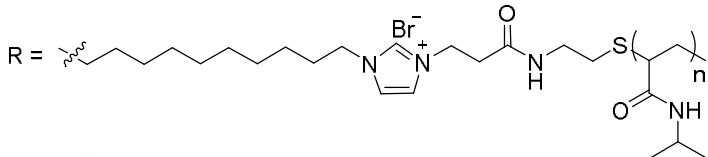


Agrawal, A., Perahia, D., & Grest, G. S. (2016), *Physical Review Letters*, 116(15), 158001.

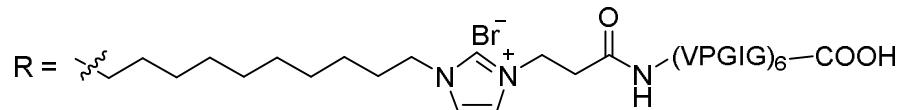
Agrawal, A., Perahia, D., & Grest, G. S. (2015), *Physical Review E*, 92(2), 022601.

Novel polymers and assemblies

ionic liquid-PNIPAM conjugate



ionic liquid-elastin-like peptide conjugates



- Elastin-like polymers (VPGIG) prepared via genetically-encoded synthesis
 - precise control over sequence, chain length, architectures, dispersity
- Conjugated onto an IL for self-assembly and network polymer fabrication

Network polymer reversibly converts from 2D hexagonal to 1D lamellar in response to modest temperature modulation

PAPER ID: 2750438

Development of a new class of hybrid, hierarchical polymers that exhibit stimuli responsive properties (final paper number: PMSE 368)

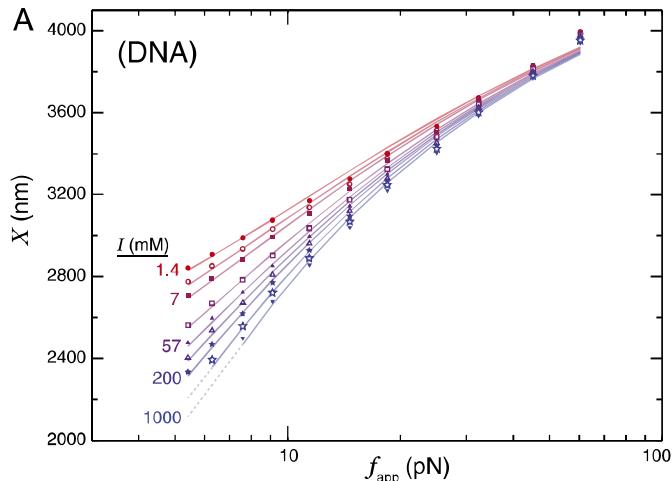
DIVISION: Division of Polymeric Materials Science and Engineering

SESSION: Joint PMSE/POLY Poster Session

SESSION TIME: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

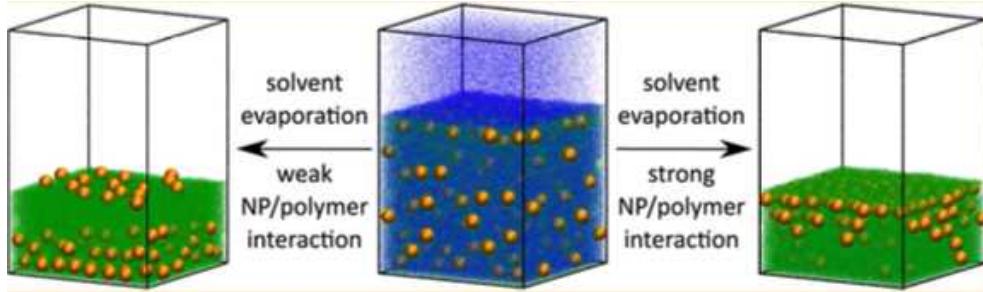
Biopolymers

force extension of DNA



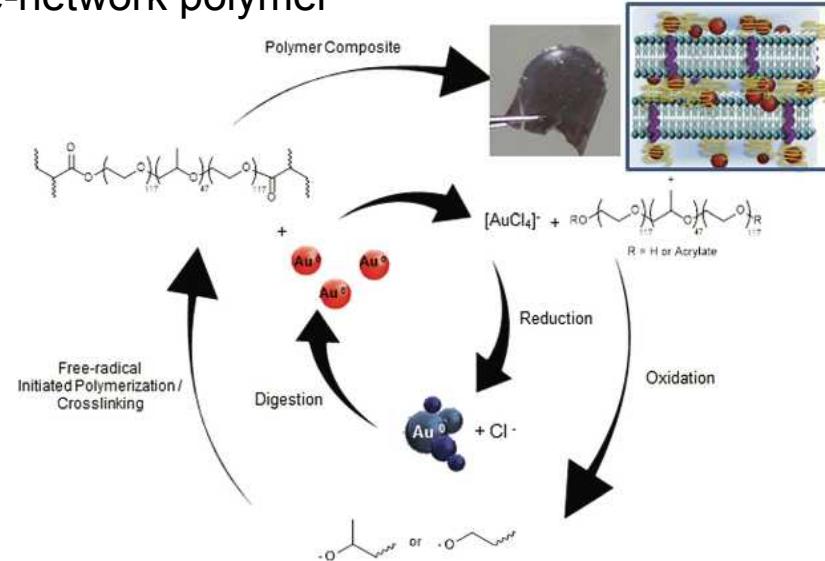
D.R. Jacobson, D.B. McIntosh, M.J. Stevens, M. Rubinstein and O.A. Saleh, *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci.*, 2017, 114, 5095.

Nanocomposites



Cheng, S., & Grest, G. S. (2016). *ACS Macro Letters*, 5(6), 694–698.

cascade synthesis of gold nanoparticle-network polymer composite



Ringstrand, B. S. et al, (2016). *Nanoscale*, 8, 2601–2612

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BES Core program



Center for Integrated
Nanotechnologies



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of
Science



Capabilities/Expertise at CINT

theory and modeling

- MD simulation (LAMMPS)
- classical density functional theory (Tramonto)
- polymer field theory

experiment

- synthesis
 - surface-initiated polymerization
 - microfluidics for controlled NP synthesis
- polymer characterization
- TEM