



SAND2017-9018C

# Polymer Science at the Center for Integrated Nanotechnologies (CINT)

Amalie L. Frischknecht

ACS Fall Meeting

August 20, 2017



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Science



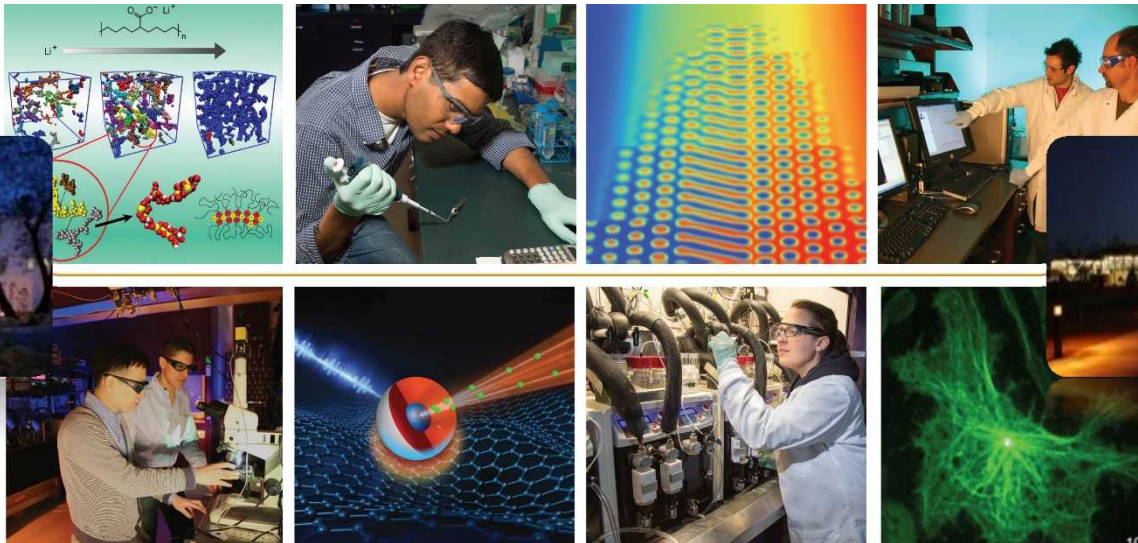
Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-mission laboratory managed and operated by National Technology and Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC., a wholly owned subsidiary of Honeywell International, Inc., for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-NA-0003525.



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

## The User Community:

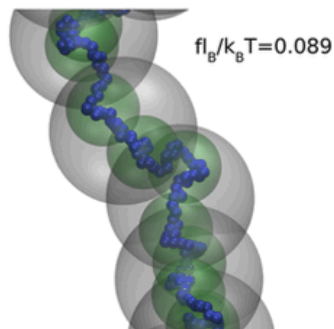
- Access to capabilities from two world-renowned National laboratories, Los Alamos and Sandia
- **Free** access for the research community via a proposal process!



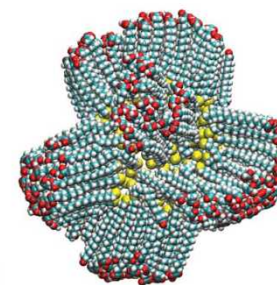
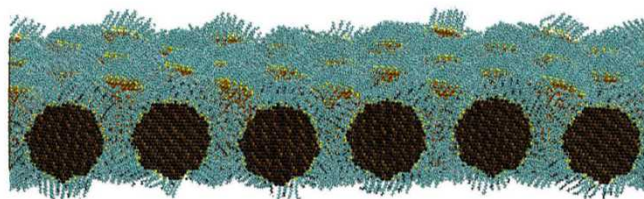
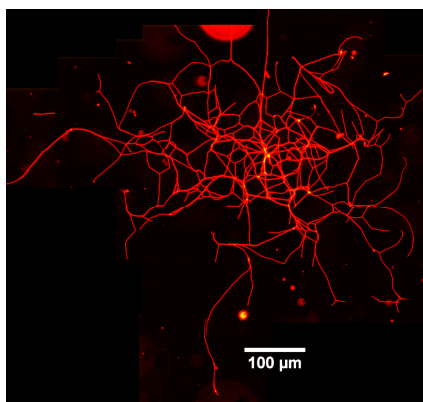
<http://cint.lanl.gov> | @CenterIntegratedNanotechnologies | #CINT

# 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

experiment



Gary Grest



Mark Stevens



Amalie Frischknecht



George Bachand



Millie Firestone



Dale Huber



Jen Martinez

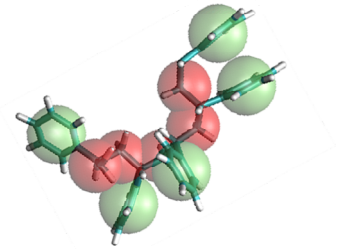


Wally Paxton

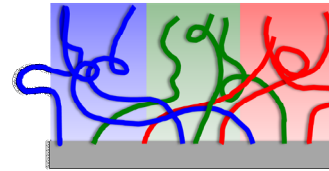


# Highlights

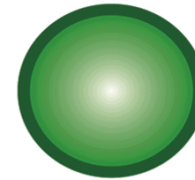
- coarse-graining polymer simulations



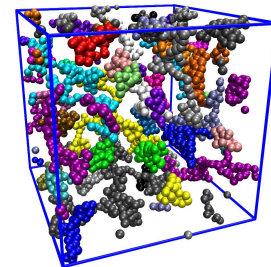
- mixed polymer brushes



- robust polymersomes



- acid and ion-containing polymers



# Computational Challenges in Polymers

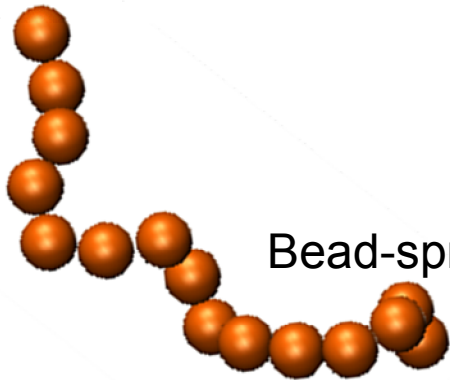
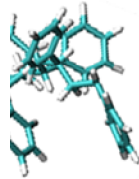
- Longest relaxation time  $\tau \sim N^3$
- Chains are Gaussian coils –  $R \sim N^{1/2}$ 
  - Number of chains must increase as  $R^3 \sim N^{3/2}$  so polymer chains do not see themselves through periodic boundary conditions
- Double chain length – cpu required increases by at least a factor of  $2^{4.5}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

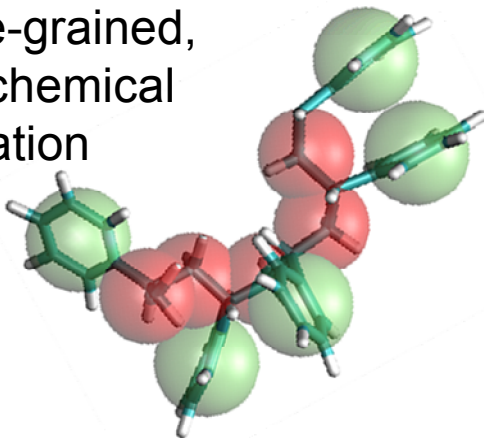


All-atom



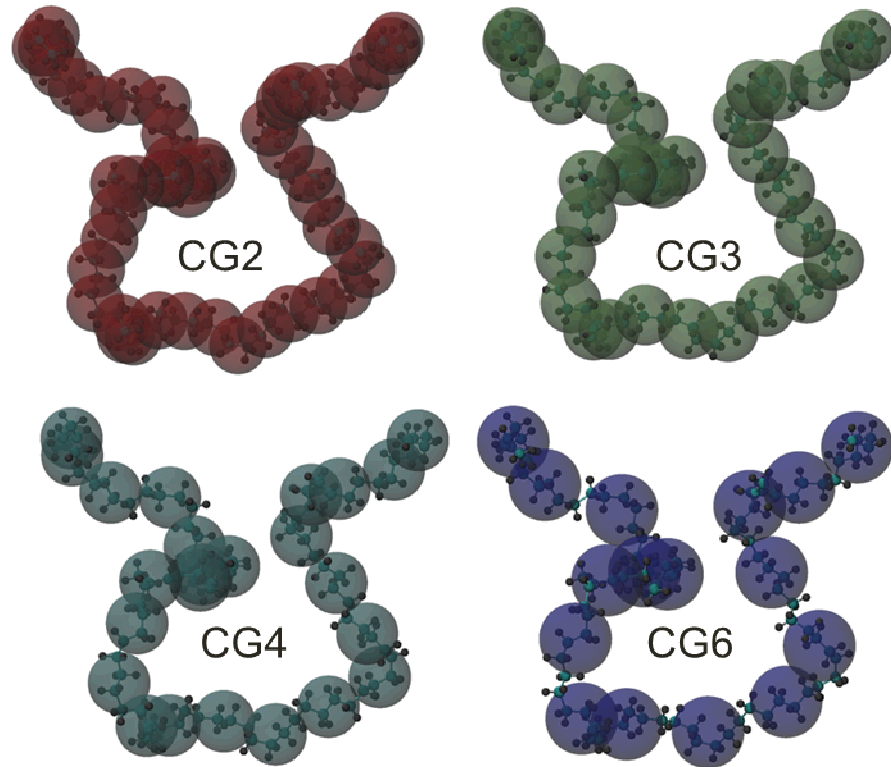
Bead-spring

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

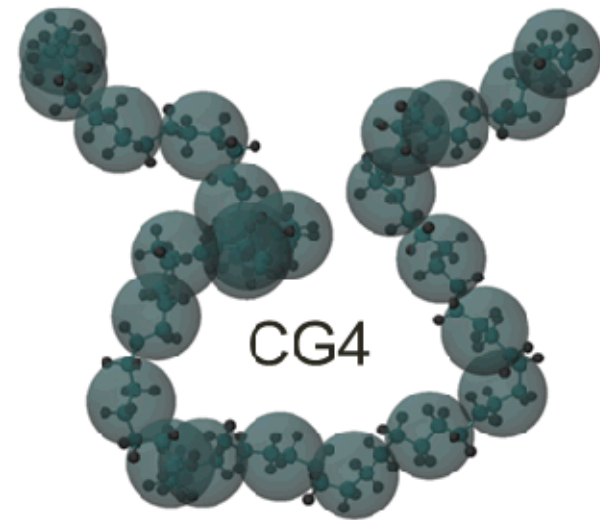
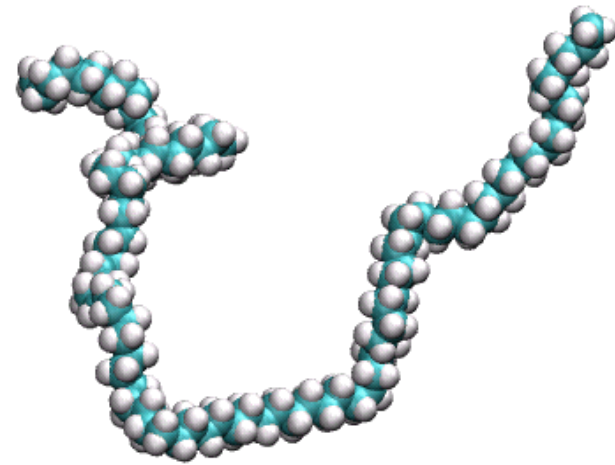
All-atom Melt MD  
simulation – LAMMPS\*

Define Beads

Bonded Interactions by  
Boltzmann Inversion

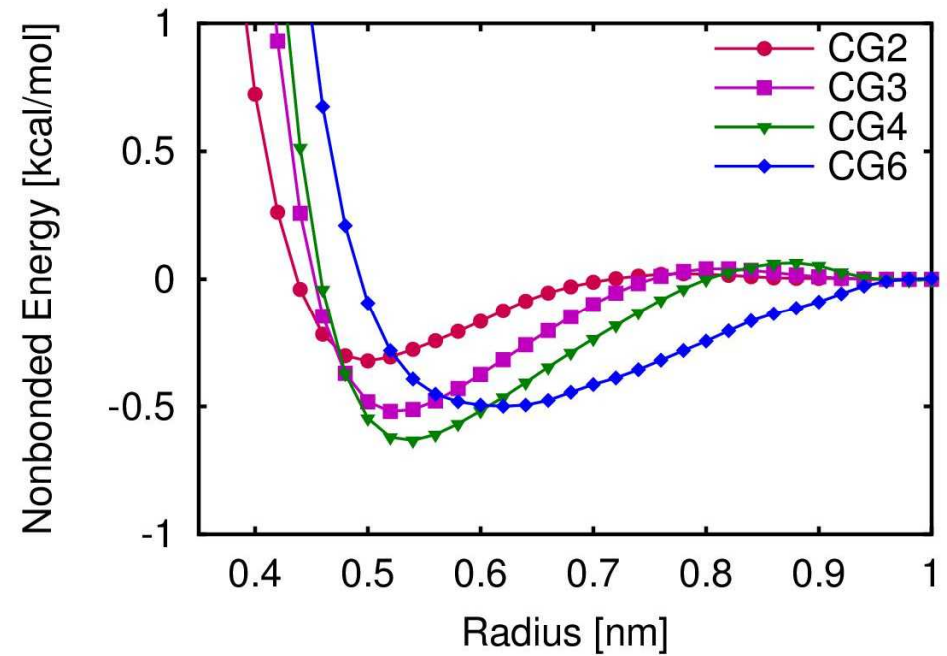
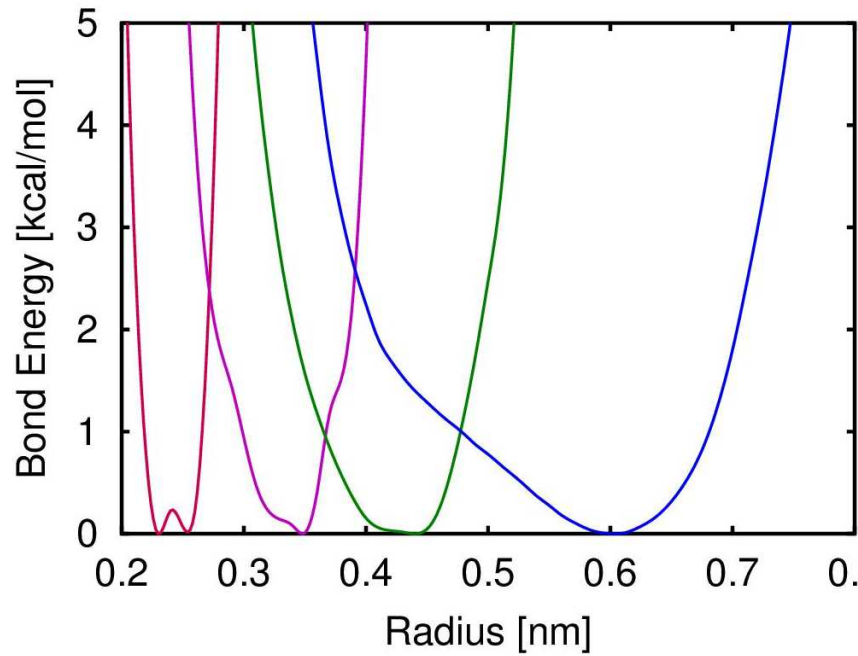
Nonbonded Interactions by  
**Iterative Boltzmann  
Inversion (IBI)**

Validation



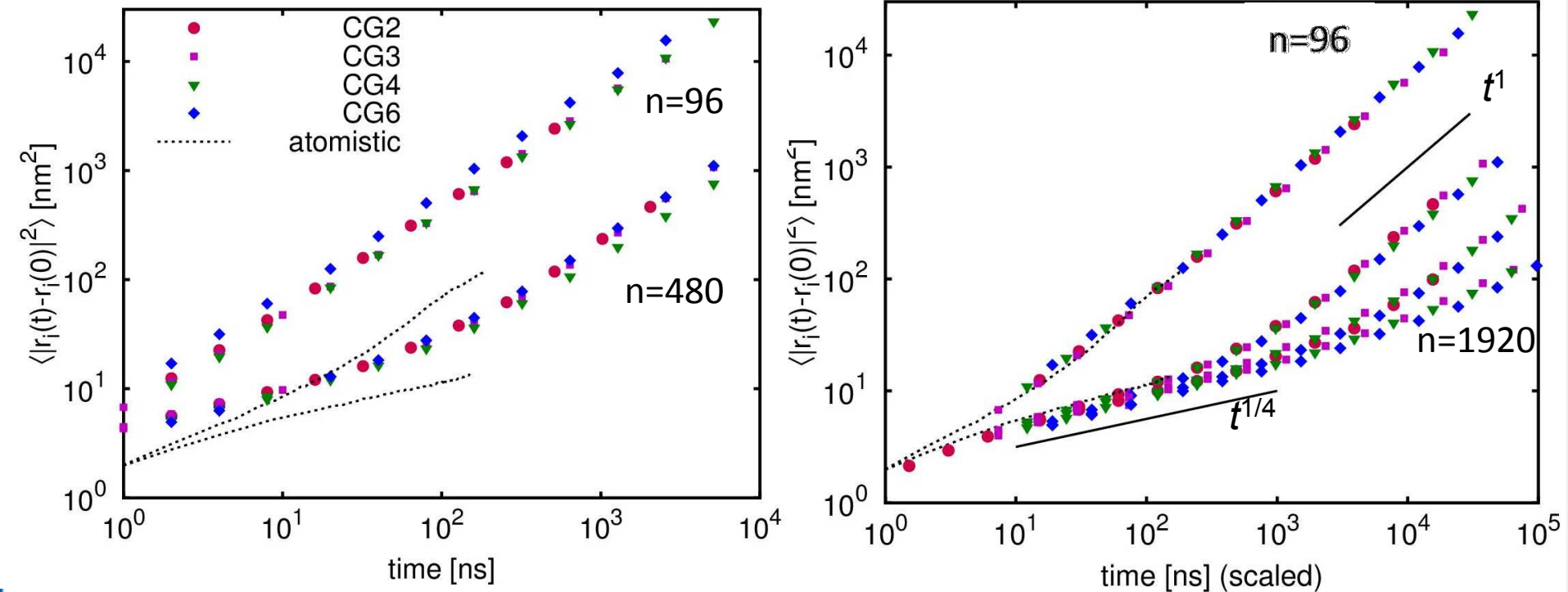
\*<http://lammps.sandia.gov/>

# Coarse-Grained Potentials



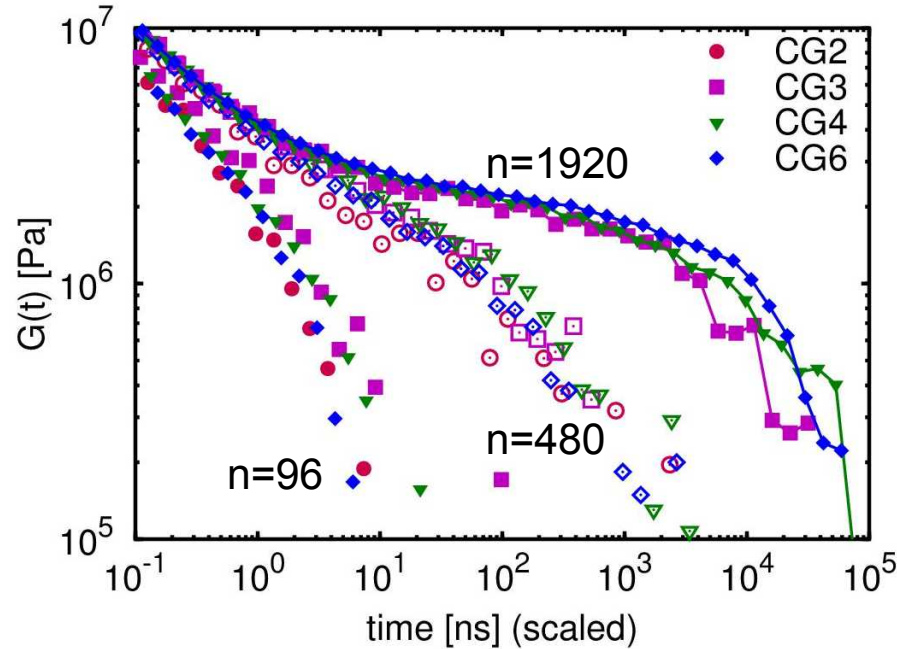
- Average bond length increases, bond distribution broadens as level of CGing increases
- Non-bonded potential softens as level of CGing increases
- Time step increases from 1 fs to 10 -20 fs for  $\lambda \geq 3$
- Surprisingly for  $\lambda = 6$ , chain can cut through each other
  - extra non-crossing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

# Chain Mobility



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

# Stress Relaxation

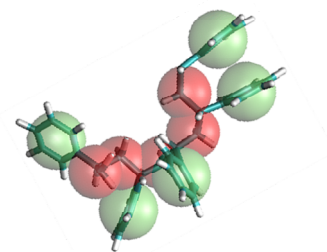


- Longer, more entangled chains form progressively more distinct plateau region
- Plateau modulus in good agreement with experiment
- Time and length scales not accessible by atomistic models

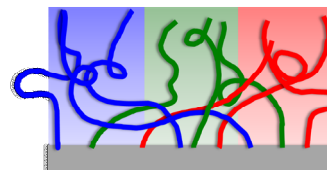


# Highlights

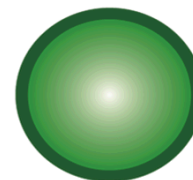
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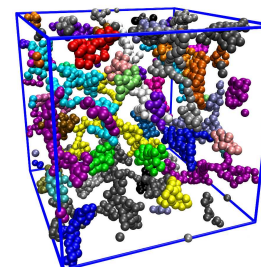
- mixed polymer brushes



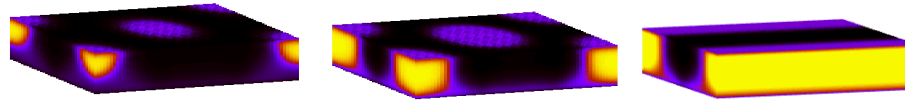
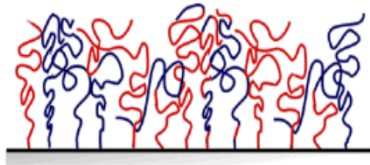
- robust polymersomes



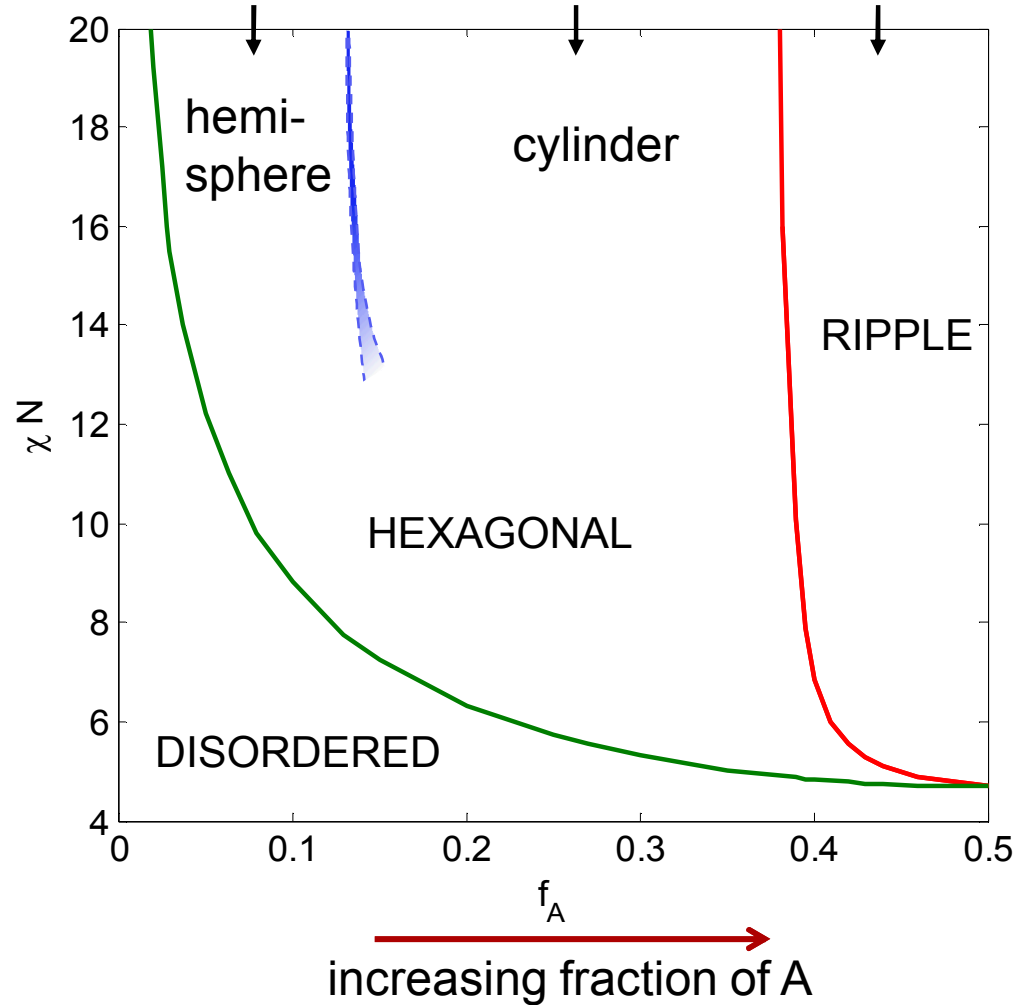
- acid and ion-containing polymers



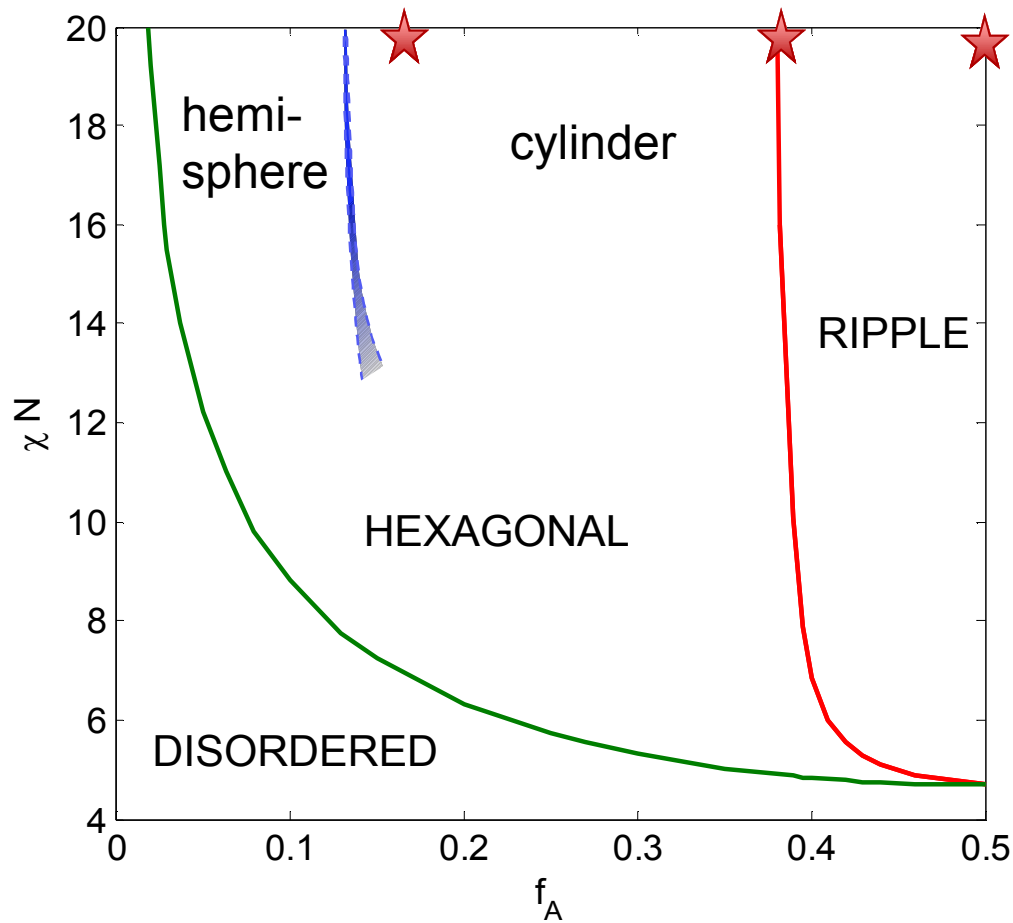
# Mixed Polymer Brushes



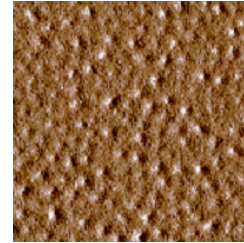
decreasing temperature  
increasing molecular weight



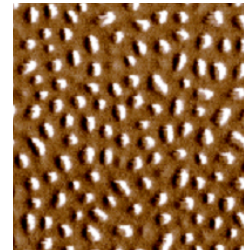
# Mixed Polymer Brushes



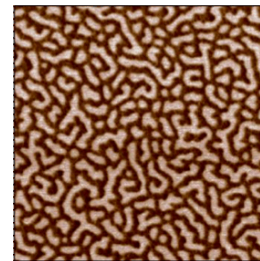
AFM



16% PS

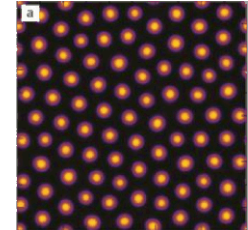


38% PS

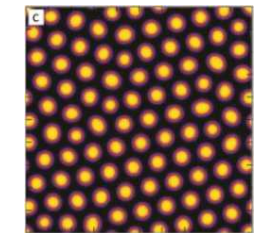


51% PS

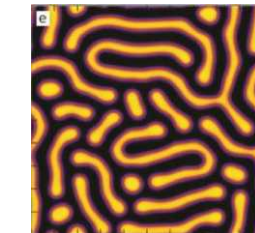
SCFT



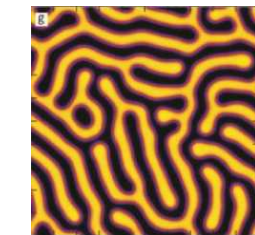
10%



30%



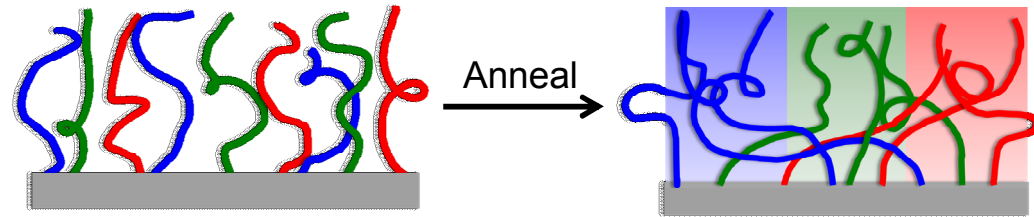
40%



50%

# Ternary Polymer Brushes

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

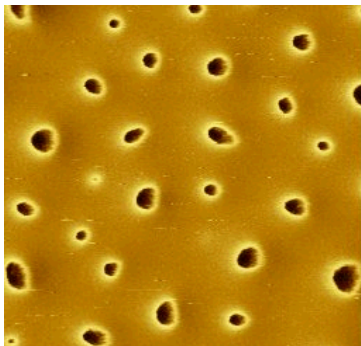


$M_n$ : 56 – 130 kDa

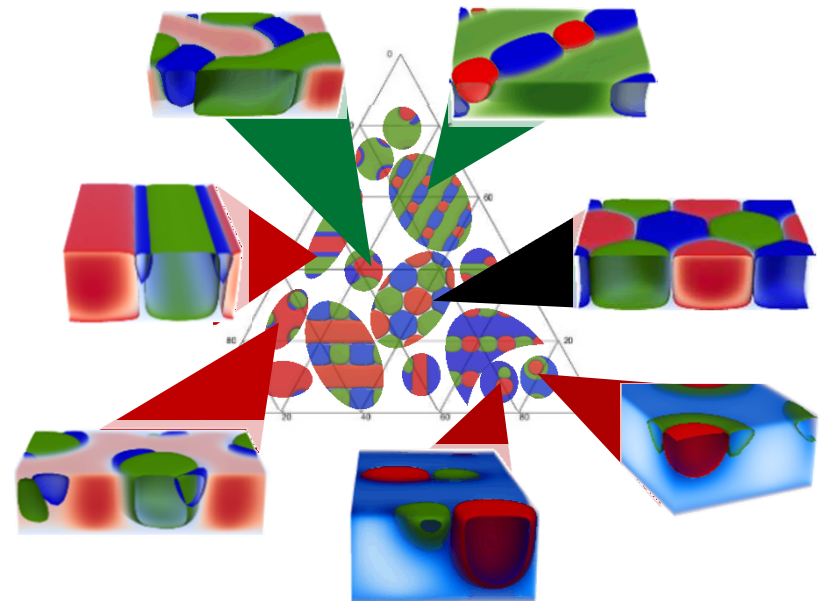
brush thicknesses: 2.6 – 6  $R_g$

grafting density: 0.14 – 0.44 chains/nm<sup>2</sup>

AFM phase contrast

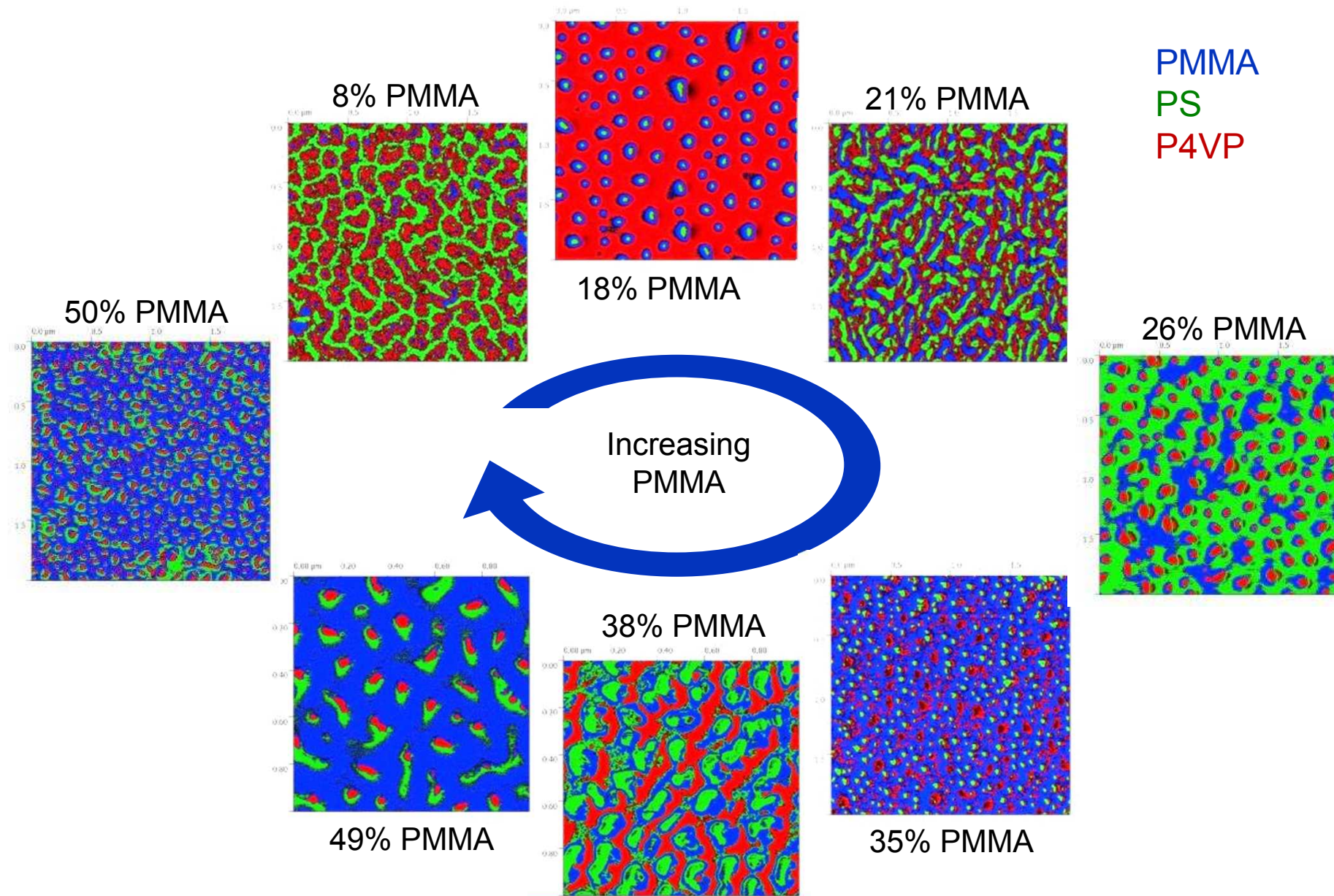


phases predicted by SCFT





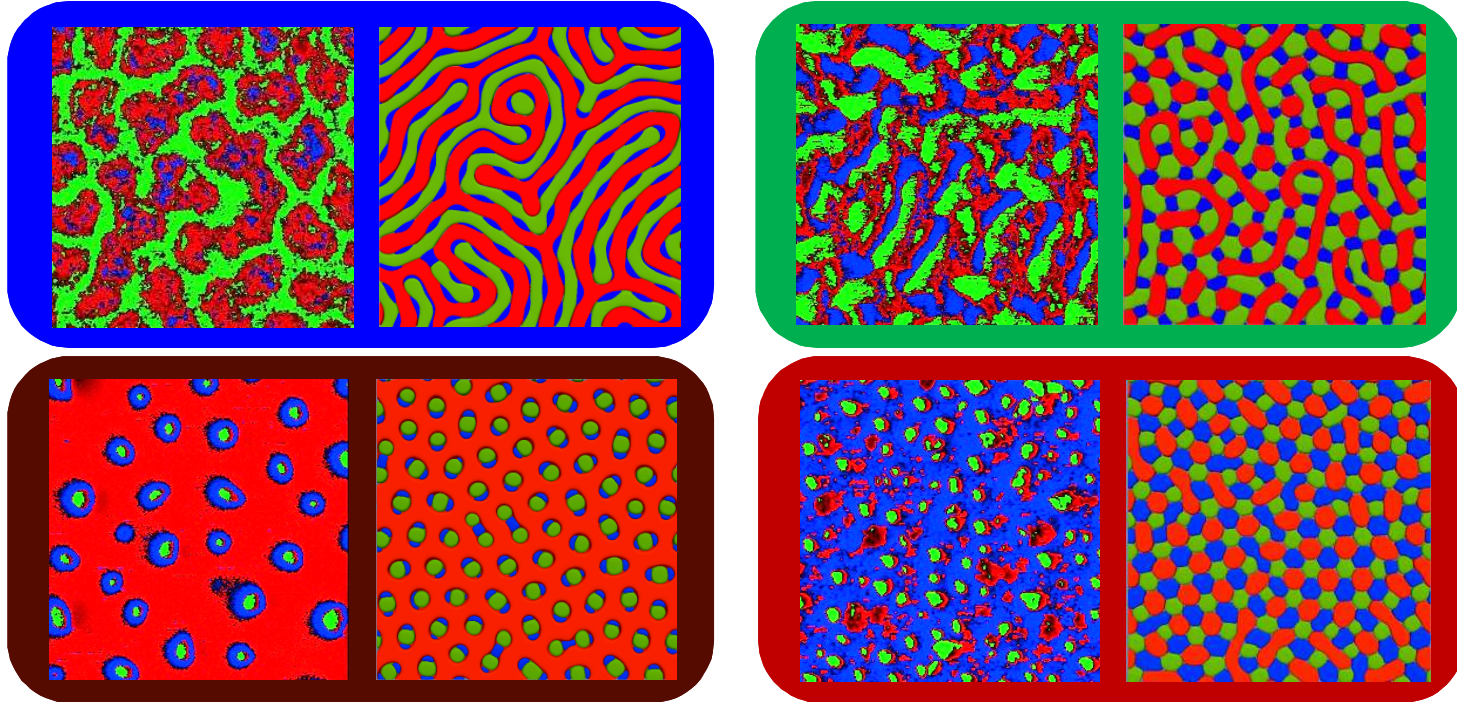
# Experimental Phase Behavior



# Self-Assembly: Mixed Polymer Brushes

experimental images 1x1  $\mu\text{m}$

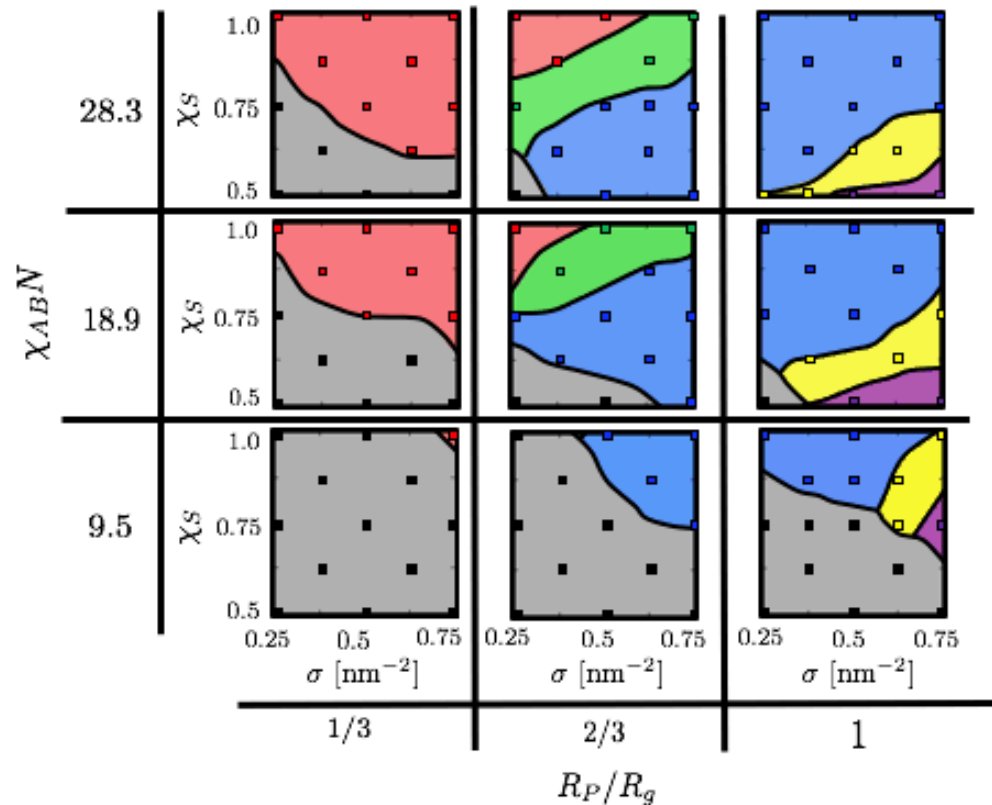
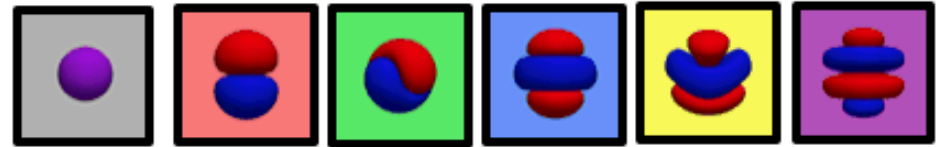
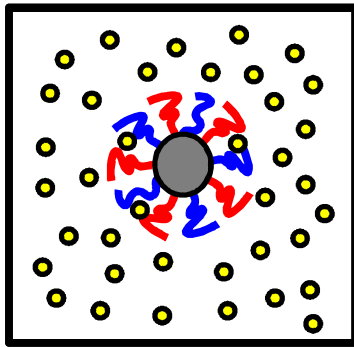
simulation images 50x50  $R_g$



- 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

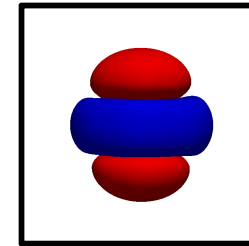
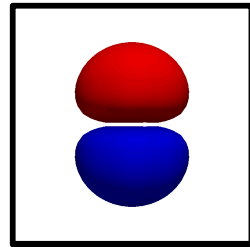


# Fluctuations de-stabilize complex phases

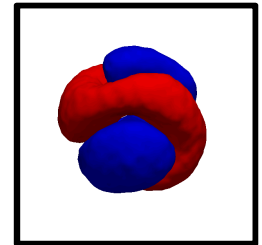
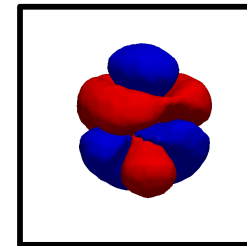
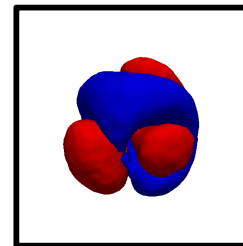
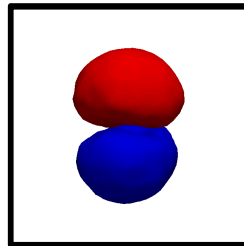
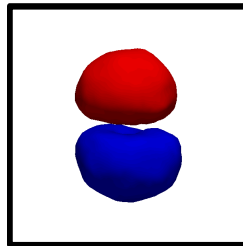
$$R_P = (1/3)R_g$$

$$R_P = R_g$$

mean field theory  
(SCFT)



fluctuating field  
theory

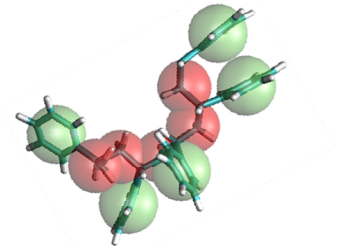


Thermal fluctuations **de-stabilize** the formation of **complex phases**

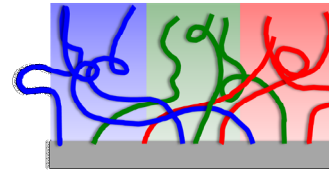


# Highlights

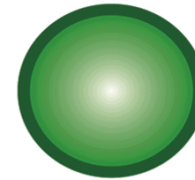
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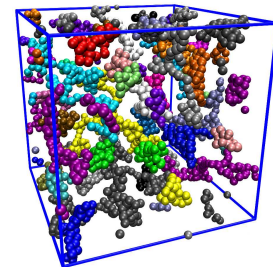
- mixed polymer brushes



- robust polymersomes



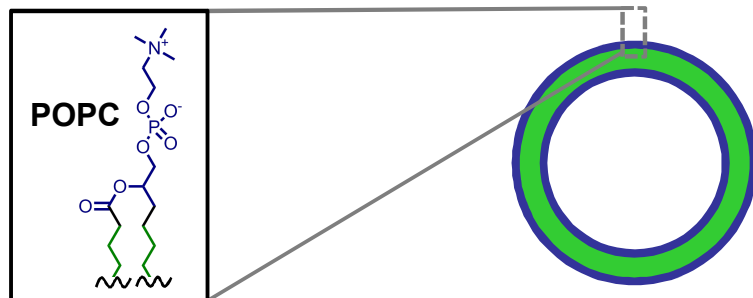
- acid and ion-containing polymers





# Mimicking Biological Membranes

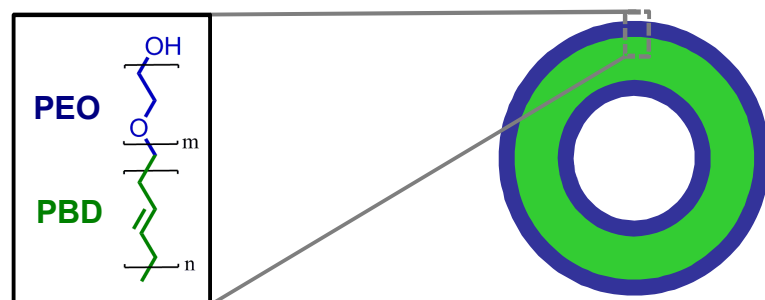
## Liposomes



### 2 Major Challenges:

Limited Chemical and Mechanical Stability  
Limited Modification Chemistries

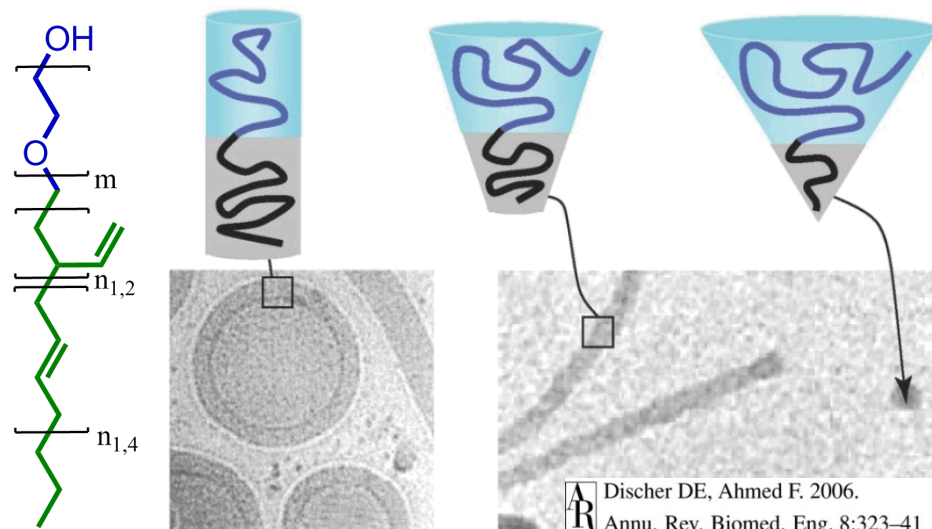
## Polymersomes



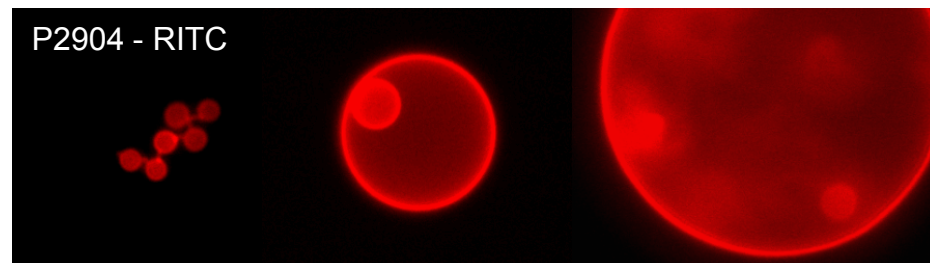
### Polymersomes Can Help

Enhanced Chemical and Mechanical Stability  
Unlimited Modification Chemistries

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



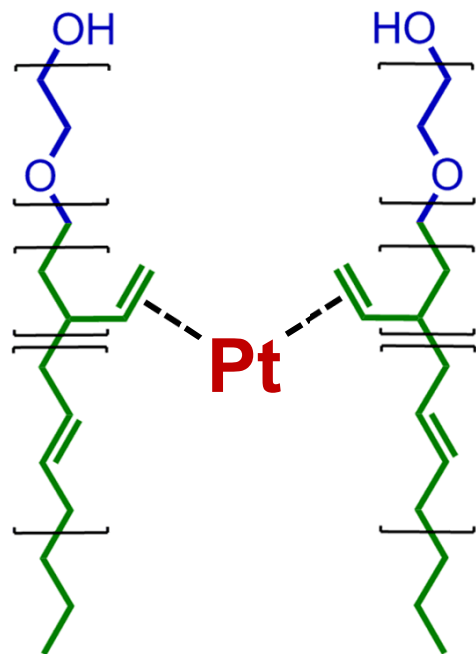
P2904 - RITC



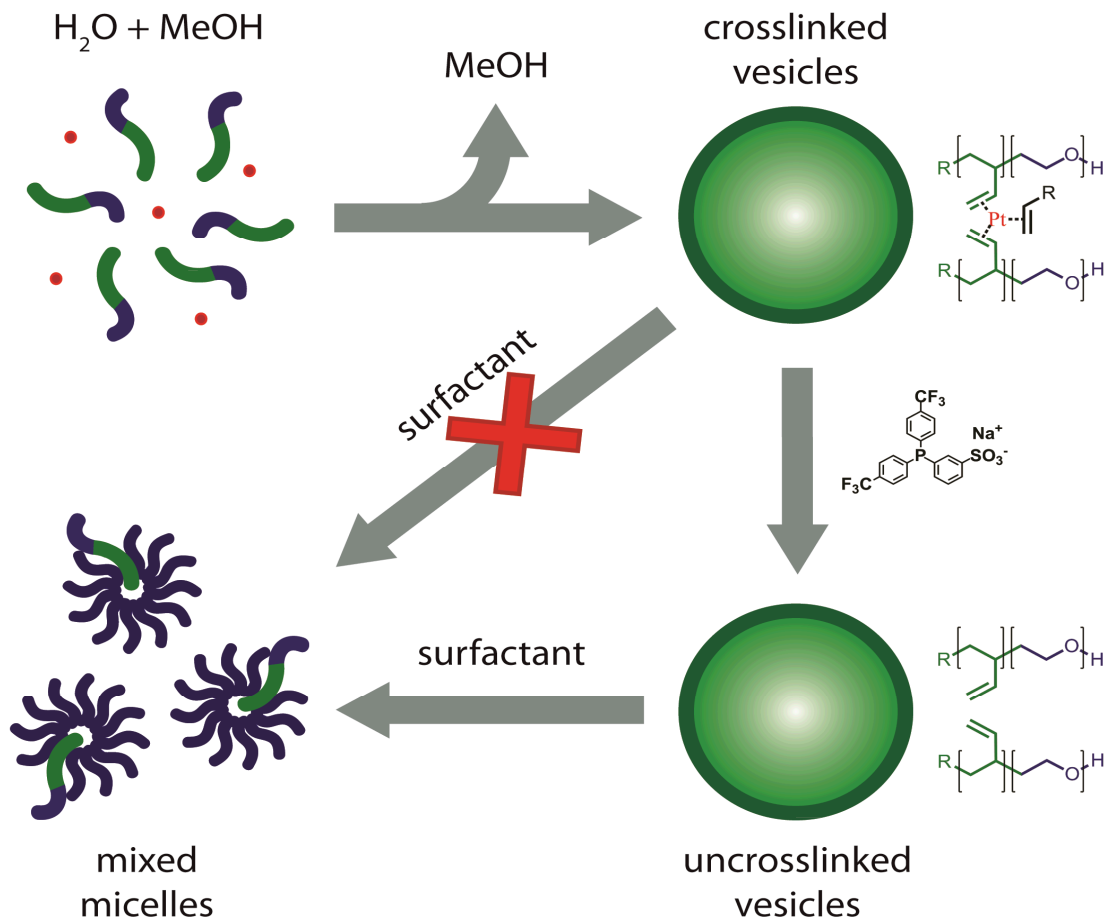




# Capable Crosslinks: Polymersomes Reinforced with Catalytically Active Metal-Ligand Bonds



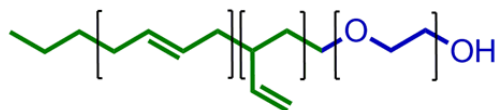
Exploit organometallic interactions to create membranes that are both **robust** and **dynamic**.



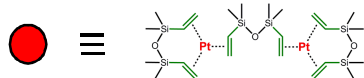
Henderson, I. M., Quintana, H. A., Martinez, J. A., & Paxton, W. F. (2015). *Chemistry of Materials*, 27(13), 4808–4813.



# Forming Cross-linked Vesicles with Pt and PEO-PBd



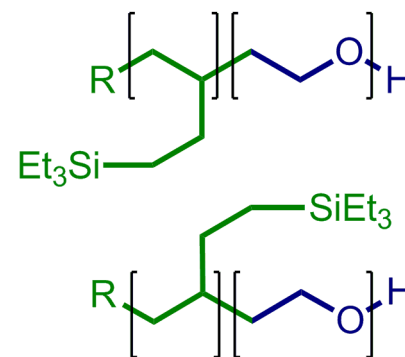
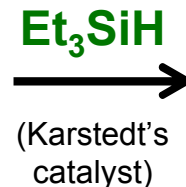
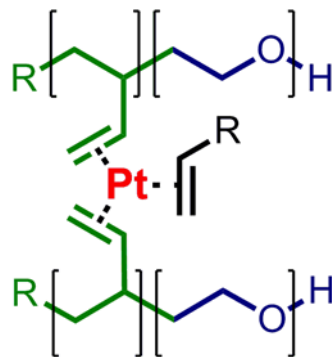
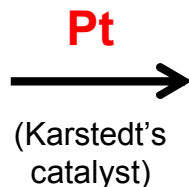
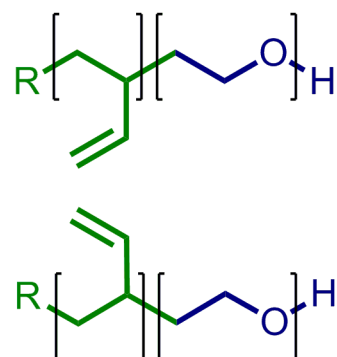
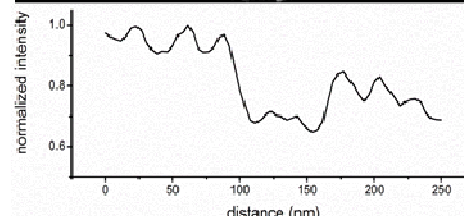
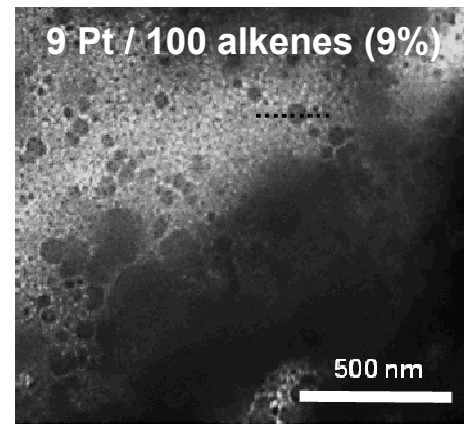
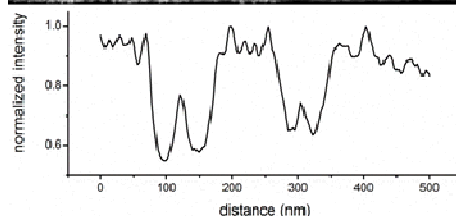
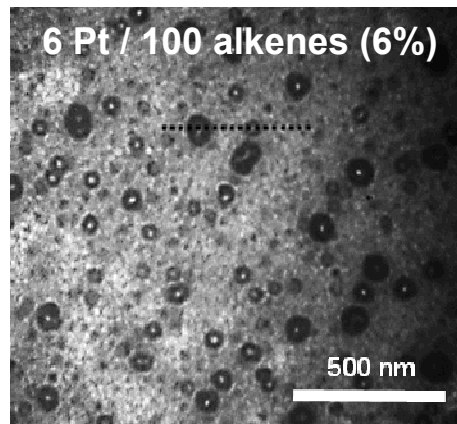
EO<sub>21</sub> – Bd<sub>32</sub> (1,2 addition)



Karstedt's catalyst

**60-100 nm vesicles**

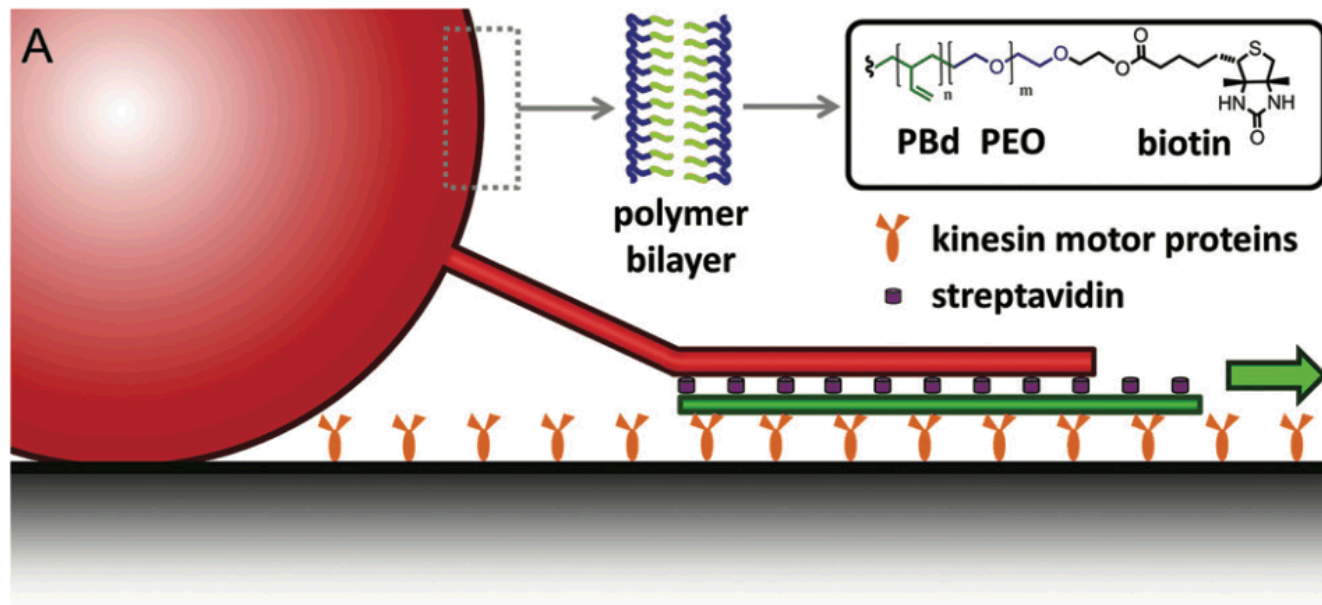
**catalytically active**





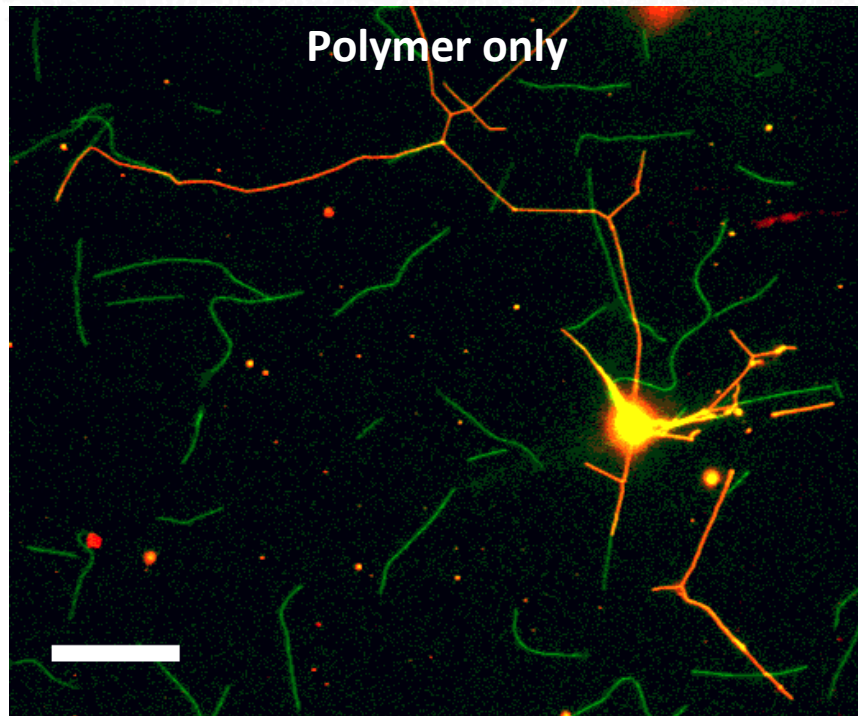
# Pulling Nanotubes from Polymersomes

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

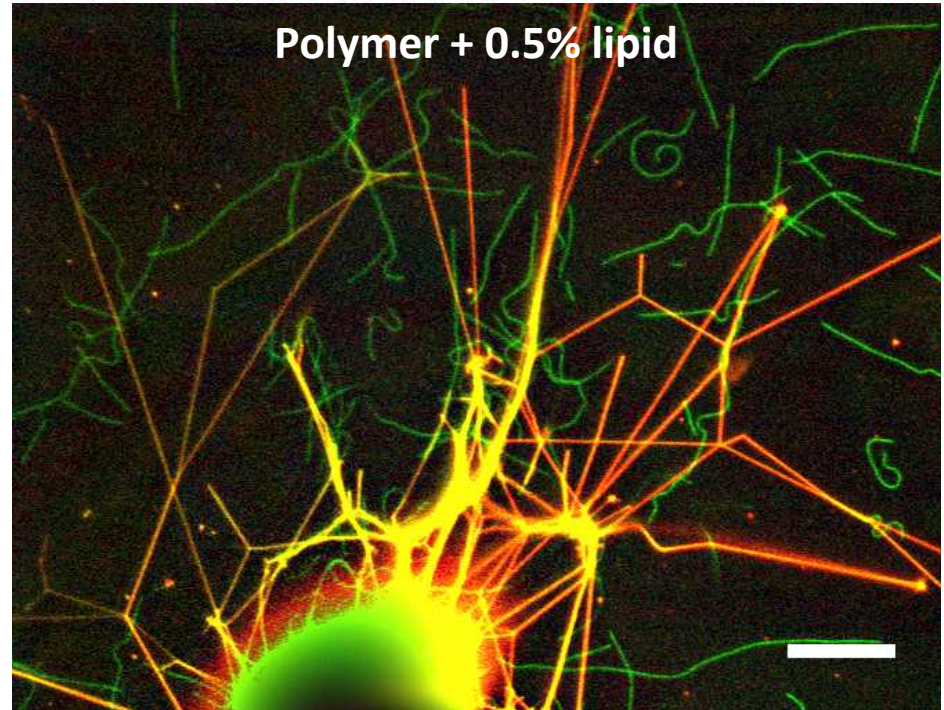


# Assembly of Polymer Nanotube Networks

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



**PBD-PEO diblock copolymer**

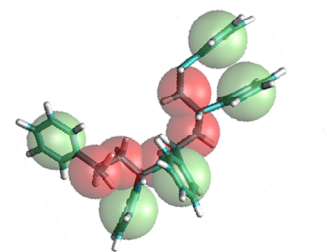


**PBD-PEO + Texas Red-DHPE**

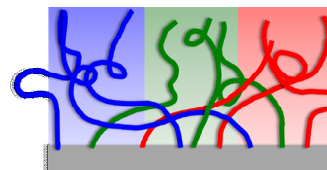
MTs, even as large as  $\sim 90 \mu\text{m}$ , extracting polymer nanotubes display decreased velocity (large opposing force)

# Highlights

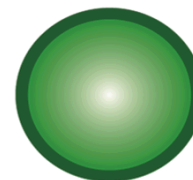
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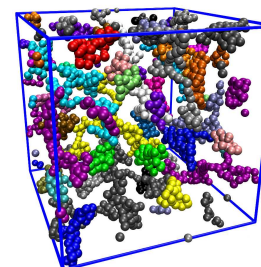
- mixed polymer brushes



- robust polymersomes



- acid and ion-containing polymers

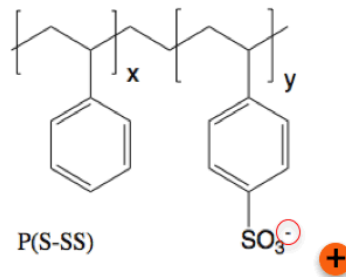
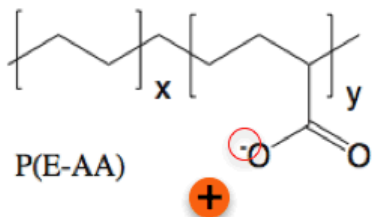




# Ion-Containing Polymers

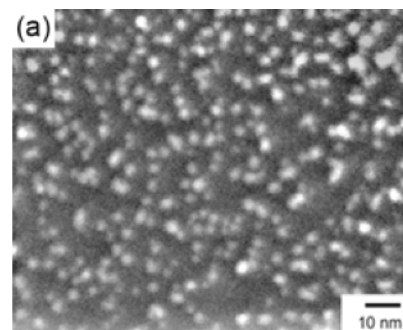
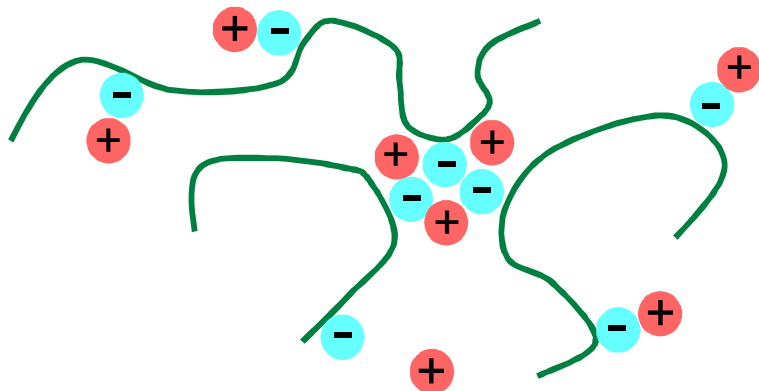
polymers with covalently-bonded ionic groups

ionomers



melts! (no solvent)

nanoscale phase separation

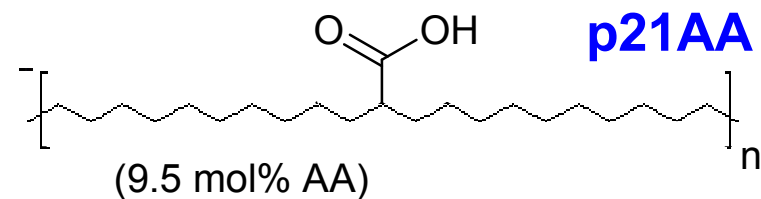
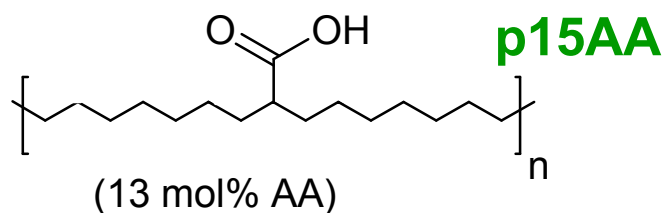
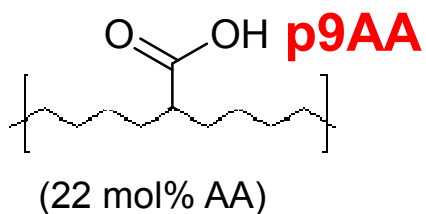


STEM showing  
aggregates

PEpAA<sub>9.5</sub>-Zn56

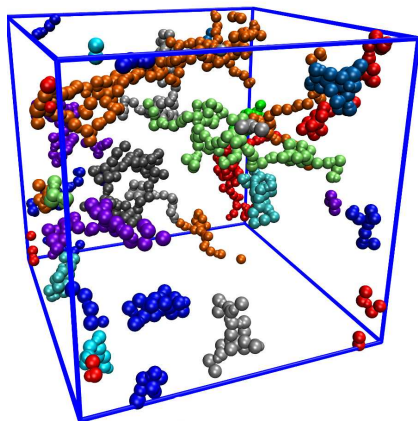
Seitz et al., *J Am Chem Soc* 132, 8165 (2010)

# Model Materials: Precise Ionomers

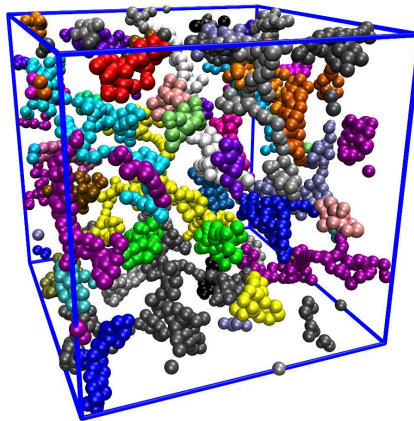


MD simulations show ionic aggregates

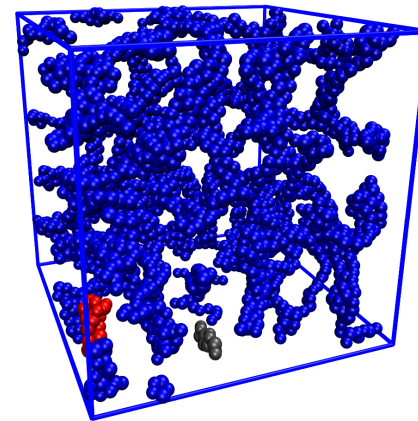
p9AA-10%Li



p9AA-43%Li



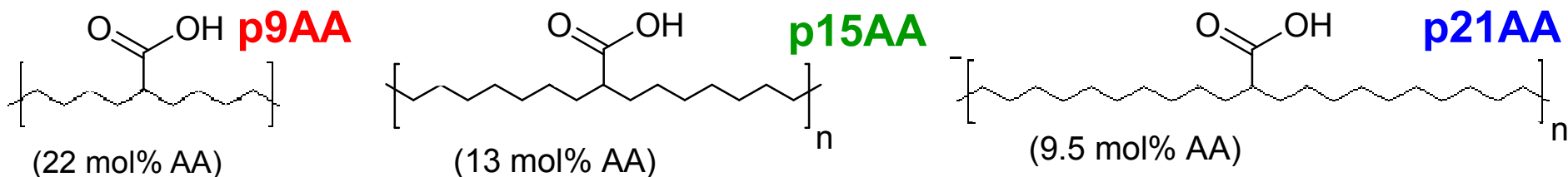
p9AA-100%Li



coloring by cluster

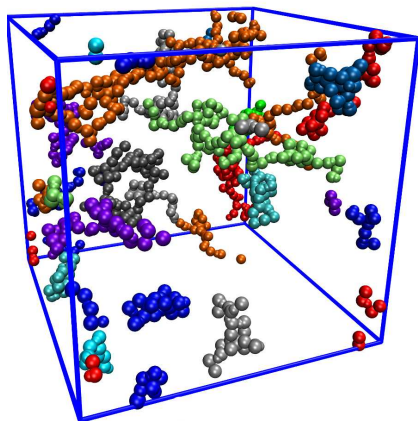
Bolintineanu, D. S., Stevens, M. J., & Frischknecht, A. L. (2013). *Macromolecules*, 46(13), 5381–5392.

# Model Materials: Precise Ionomers

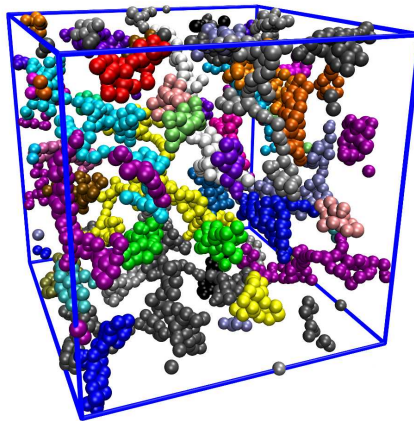


MD simulations show ionic aggregates

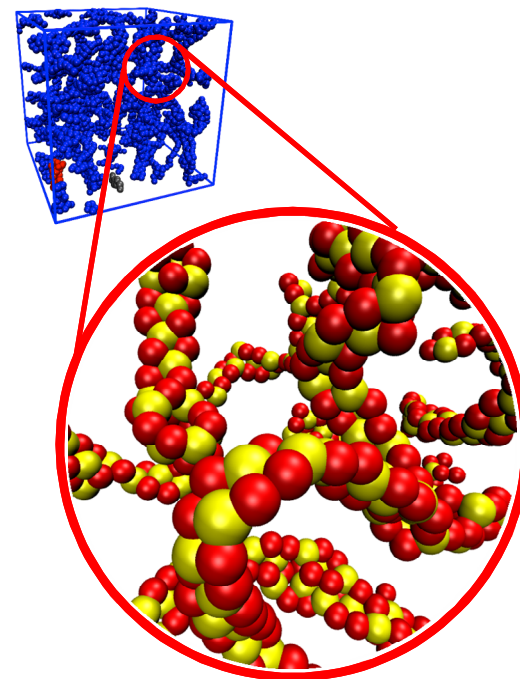
p9AA-10%Li



p9AA-43%Li



p9AA-100%Li

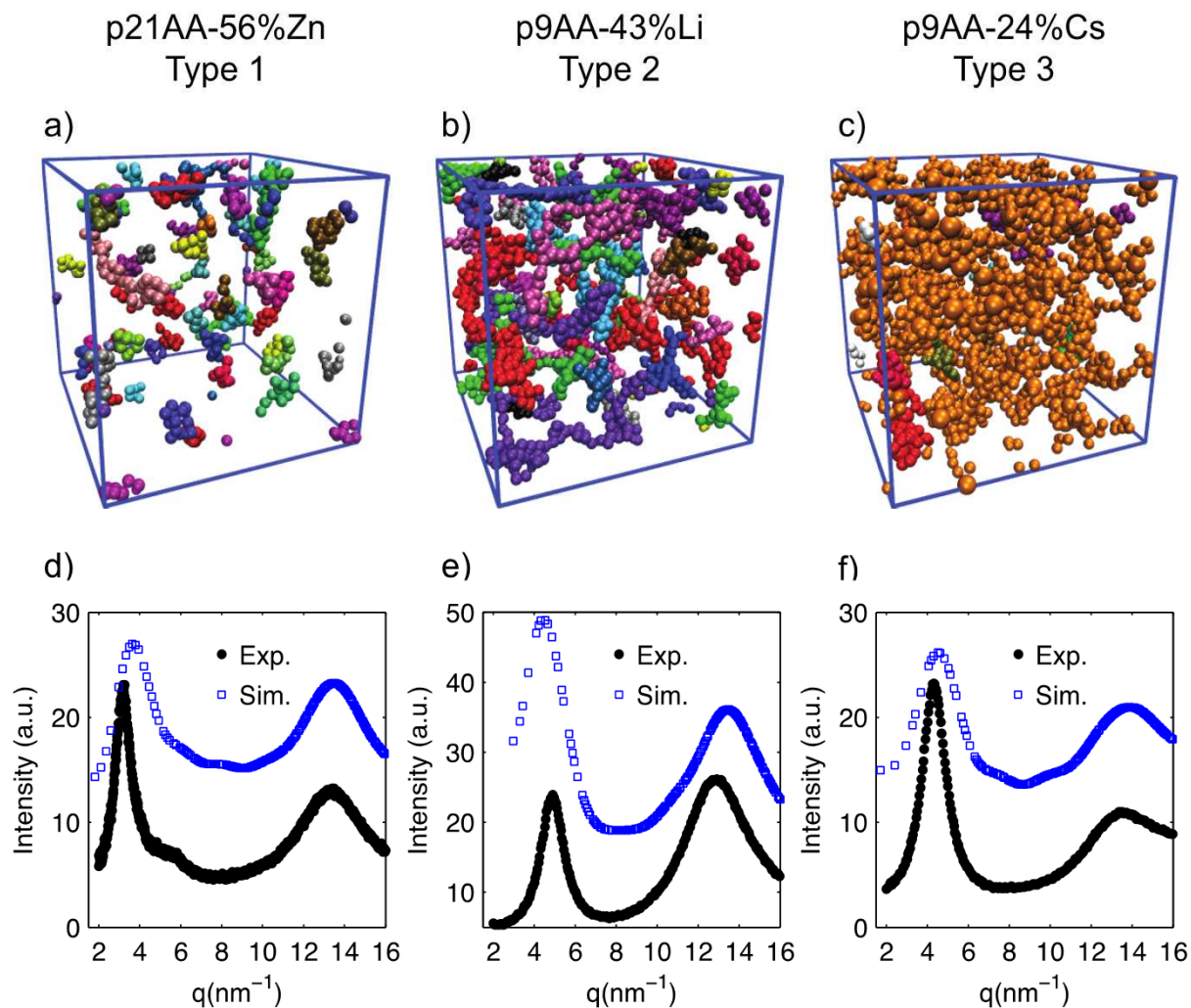


coloring by cluster

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

# X-ray scattering compared to MD simulations

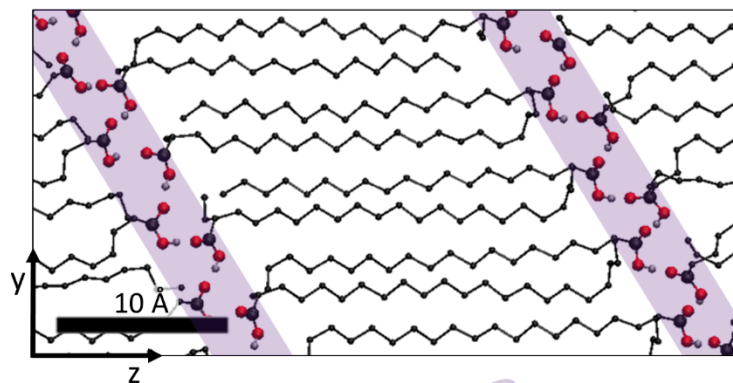
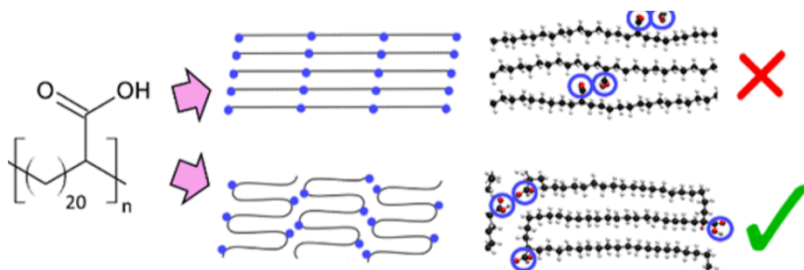
need simulations or imaging!



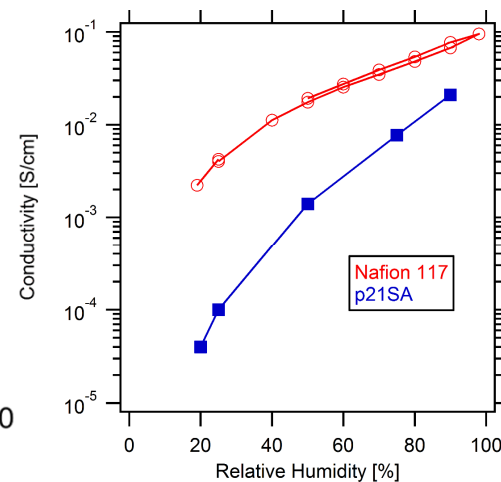
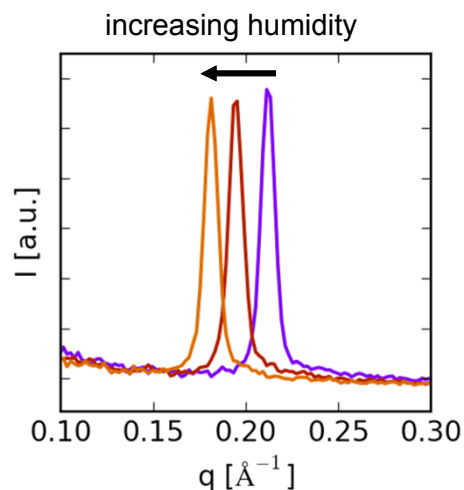
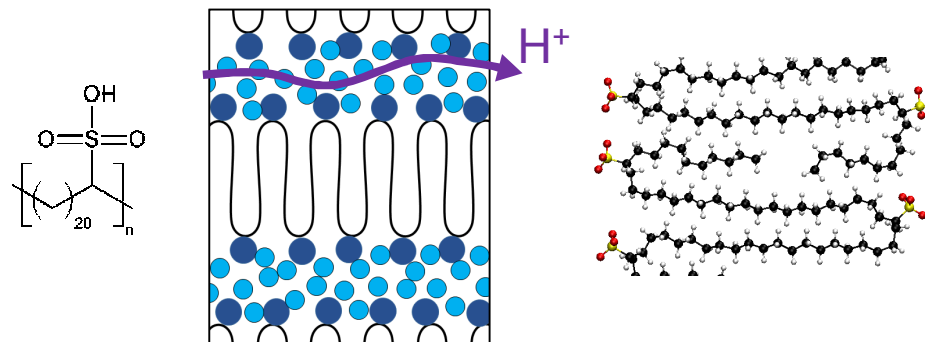
Buitrago, C. F. *et al. Macromolecules* **48**, 1210–1220 (2015).

# Semi-crystalline precise polymers

p21AA forms acid layers in crystals



p21SA: Highly ordered, tunable, conductive



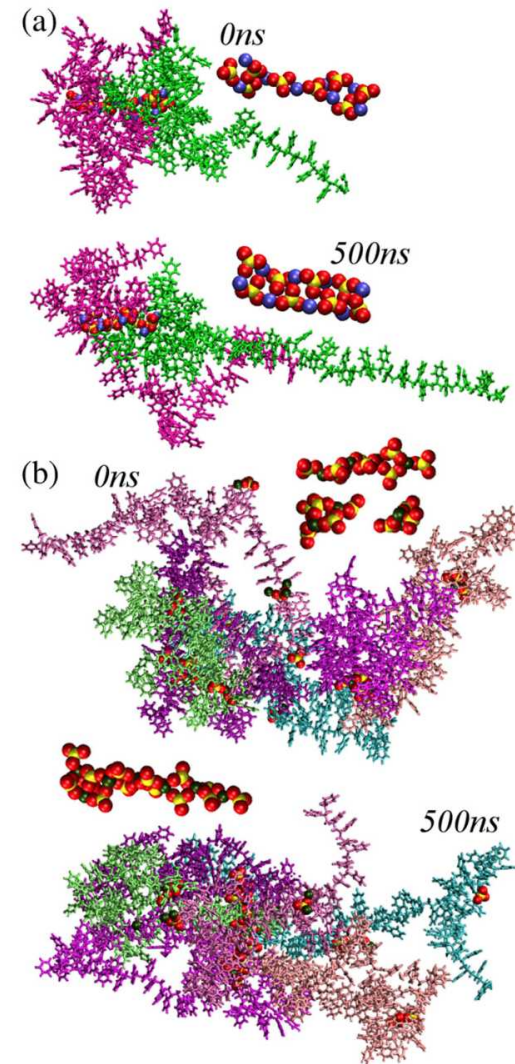
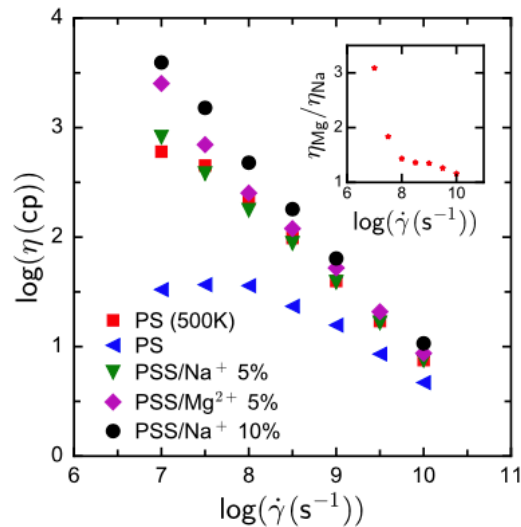
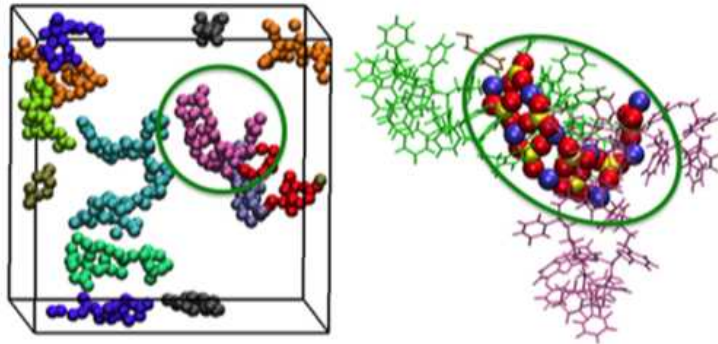
E. B. Trigg, M. J. Stevens, and K. I. Winey, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **2017**

Trigg et al, in preparation



# Morphology and dynamics in PSS

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

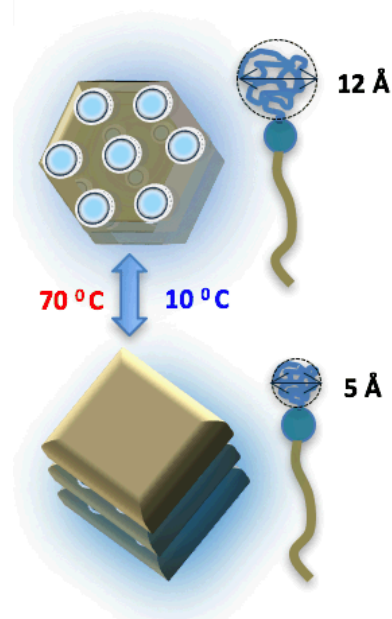
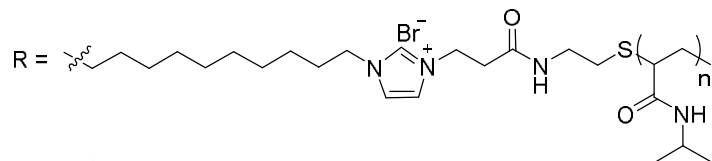


Agrawal, A., Perahia, D., & Grest, G. S. (2016), *Physical Review Letters*, 116(15), 158001.

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

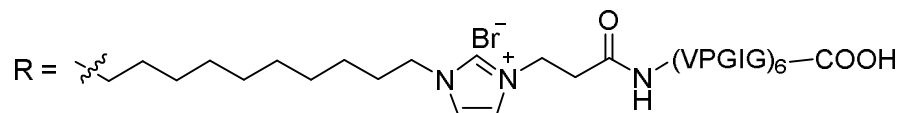
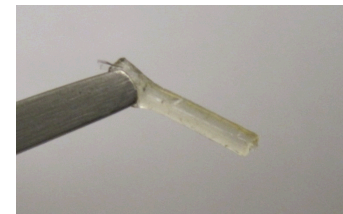
## Novel polymers and assemblies

ionic liquid-PNIPAM conjugate



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

# 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

PAPER ID: 2750438

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

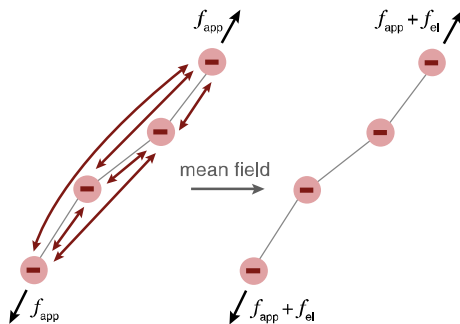
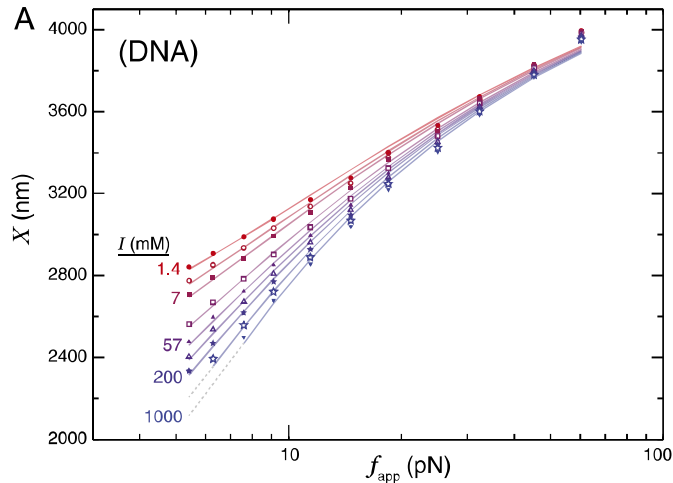
DIVISION: Division of Polymeric Materials Science and Engineering

SESSION: Joint PMSE/POLY Poster Session

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

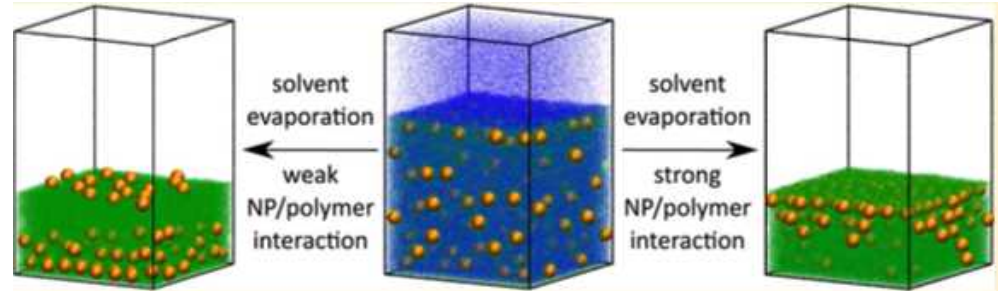
# Biopolymers

## force extension of DNA



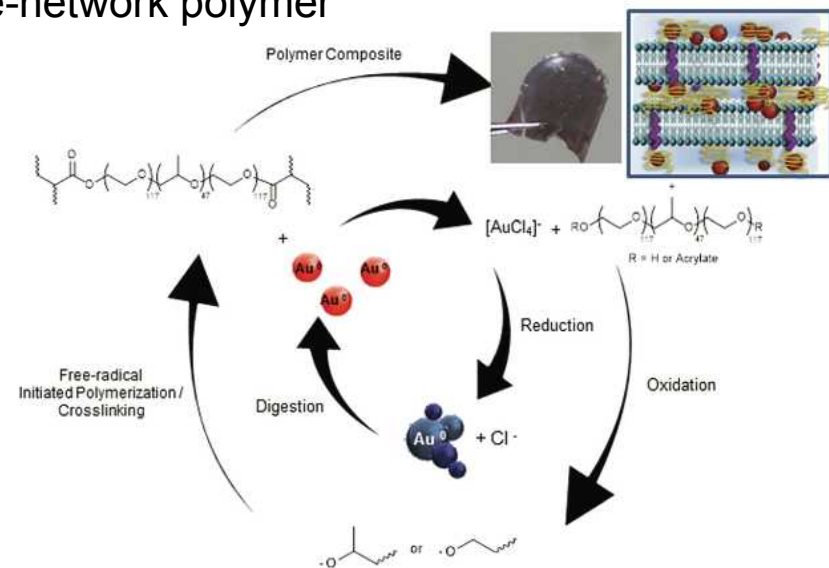
D.R. Jacobson, D.B. McIntosh, M.J. Stevens, M. Rubinstein and O.A. Saleh, *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci.*, **2017**, *114*, 5095.

# 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

# Acknowledgments

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Brandon Peters  
Andrew Price  
Hope Quintana  
Michael Salerno  
Chet Simocko

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Omar Saleh, UCSB  
Karen Winey, U Penn

## BES Core program



## Center for Integrated Nanotechnologies

# 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