

# SANS Studies of Polymers and Colloids: Past Highlights and Future Directions

**George D. Wignall**

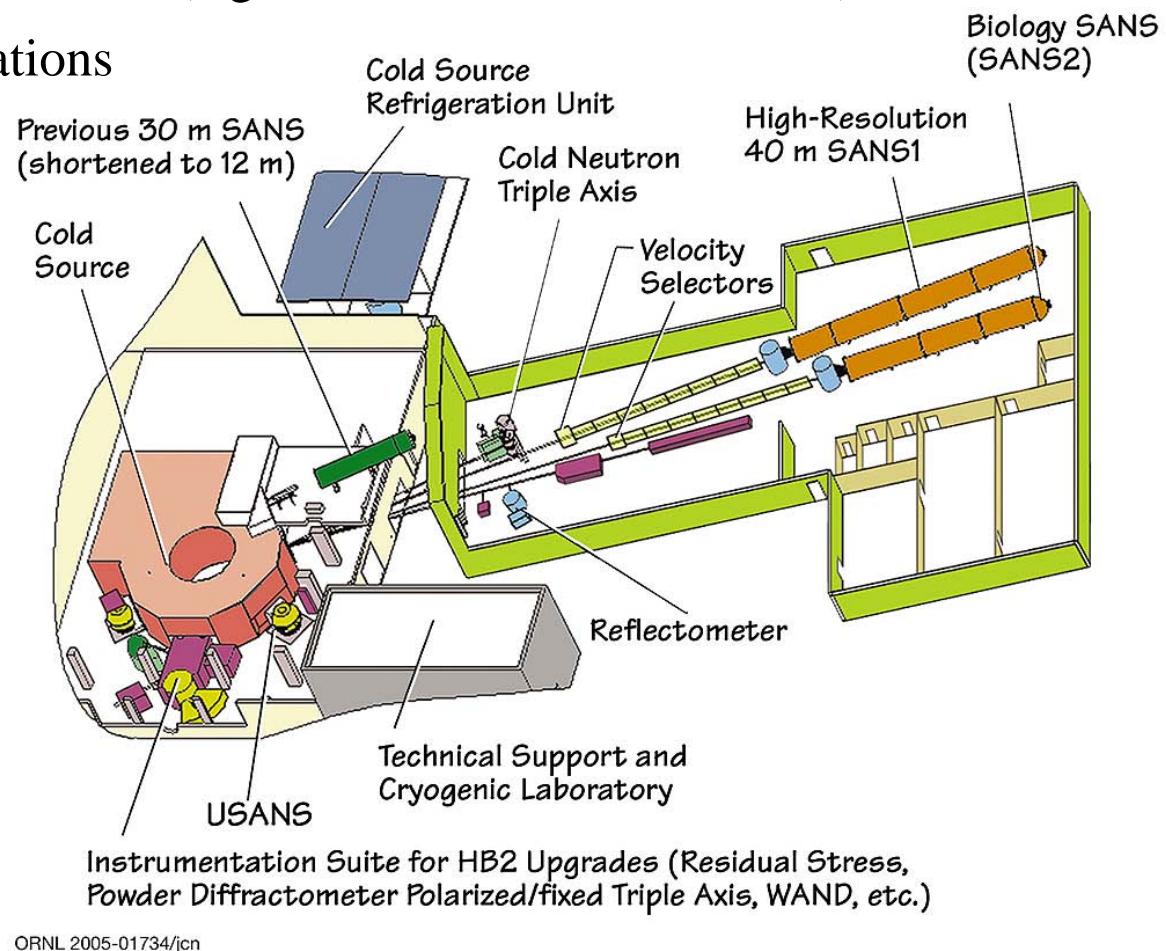
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Condensed matter Sciences Division  
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Oak Ridge TN 37831-6393*

SNS/HFIR User Meeting, October 11-13, 2005

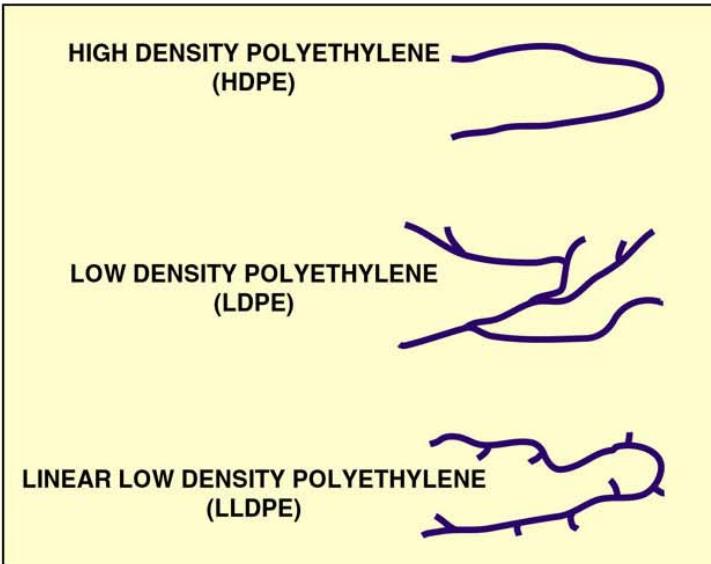
\*Supported by the U.S. DOE under Contract DE-AC05-96OR22464 with UT-Battelle LLC

# Why So Much Time and Money for Small Angle Neutron Scattering?

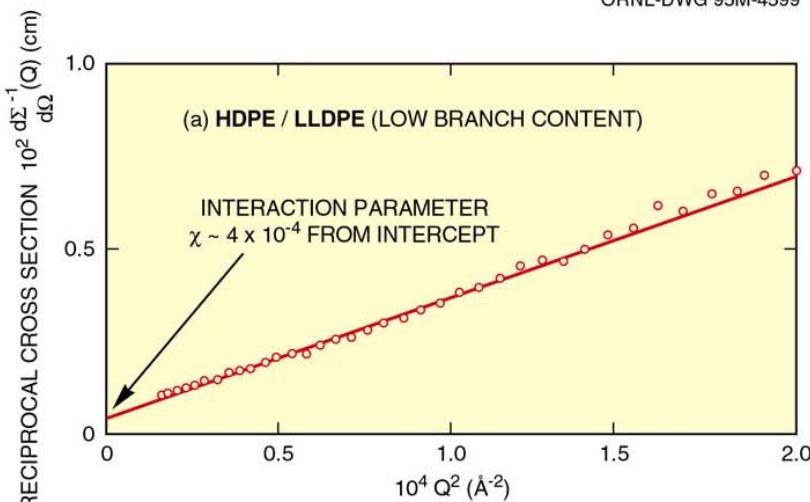
- Structures on length scales 5 – 2000Å
- Colloidal aggregates in solution (e.g., micelles, microemulsions)\*
- Polymer chain configurations
- Polymer blend (alloy) thermodynamics\*
- High-temperature superconductivity
- Structure of bone
- Voids in metals
- Composite materials and “filled” polymers\*
- Biological structures
- Supercritical fluids\*
- Block co-polymers\*



# Melt Compatibility of Polymer Blends

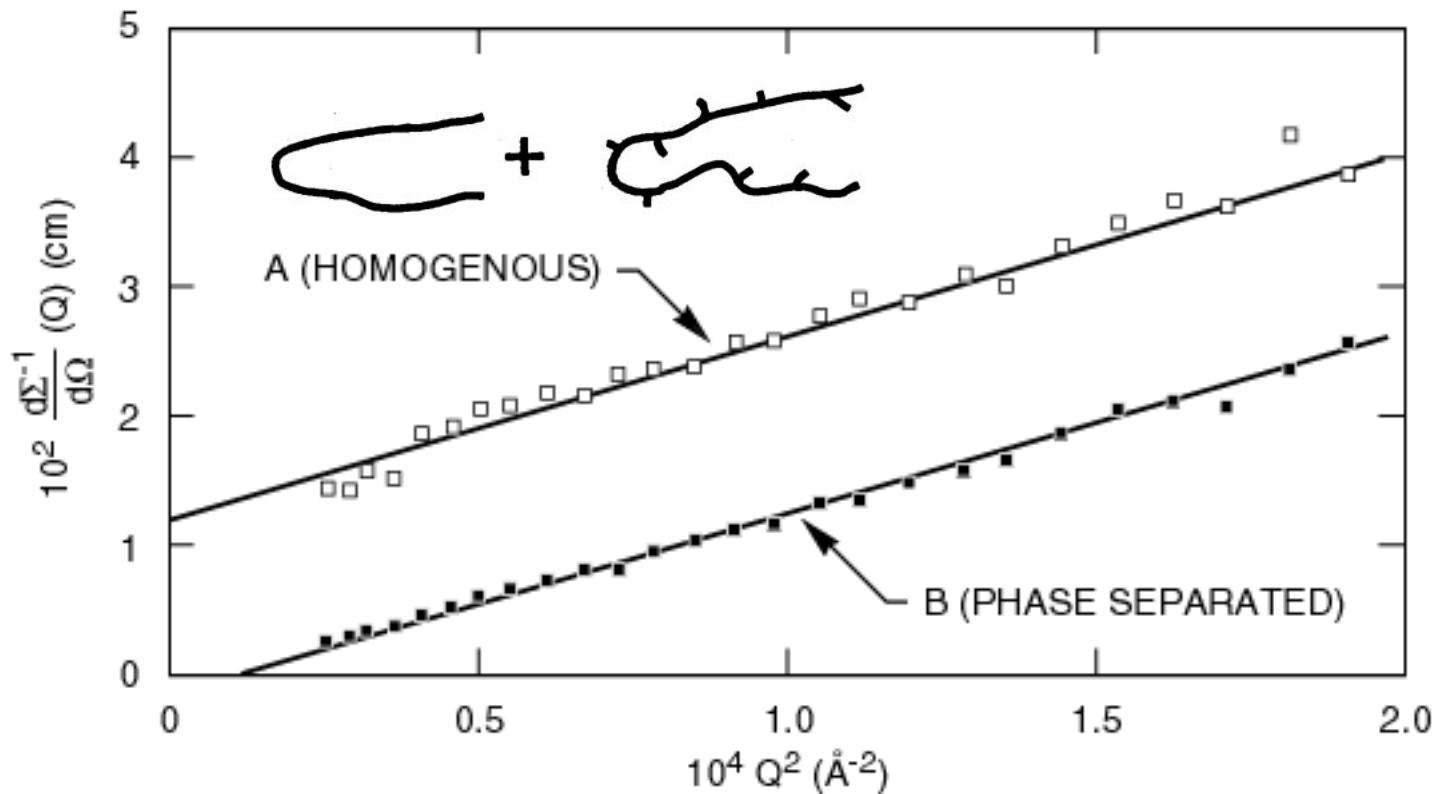


ORNL-DWG 95M-4599



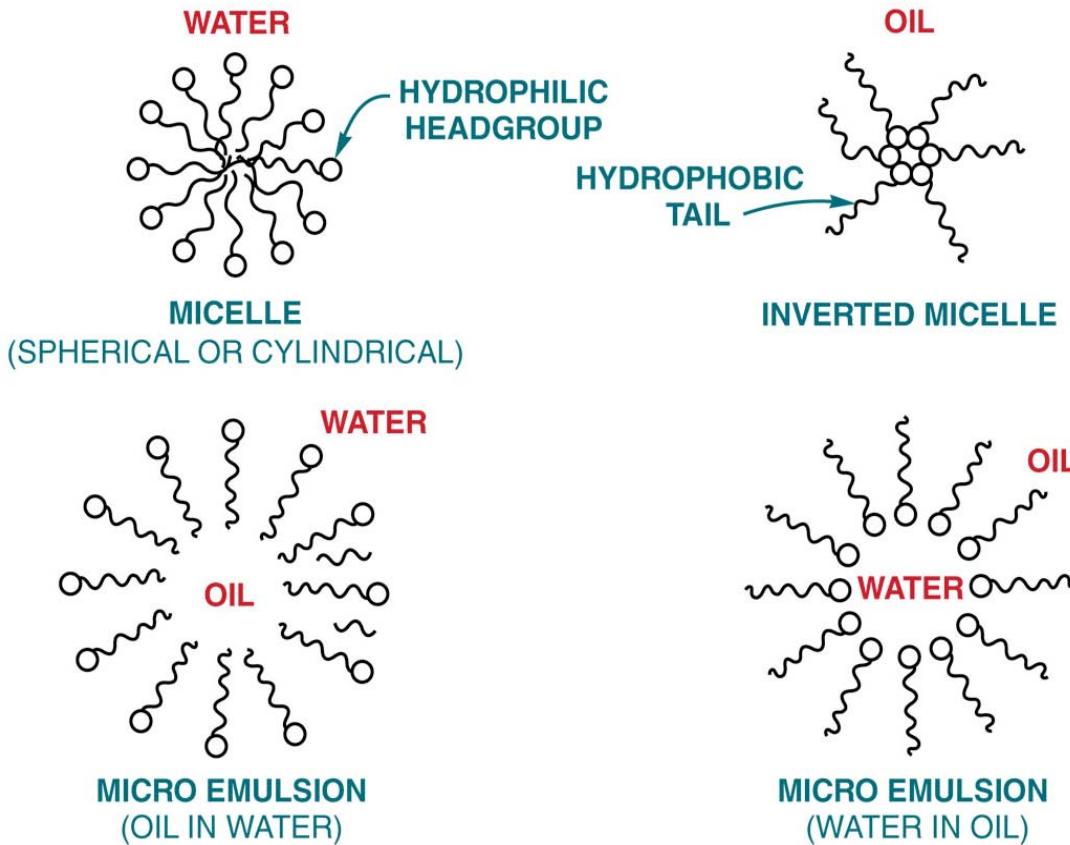
Schematic Representation of Different Types of Polyethylenes

- Blends (alloys) of linear and branched polyolefins (saturated hydrocarbon polymers such as polyethylene) have achieved widespread commercial applications ( $\sim 10^{11}$  lbs./yr.) despite the fact that there has been disagreement on the state of mixing in the molten and solid states.
- SANS is an ideal technique to probe thermodynamic interactions in blends and indicates that mixtures of high density (HD) and low density (LD) polyethylenes are compatible in the liquid state. Mixtures of HD and linear low density polyethylenes (LLDPE) are homogenous in the melt when the branch content is low, but the phases separate when the branch content is high.



O-Z PLOTS FOR 50/50 BLENDS OF MODEL POLYETHYLENES (MW  $\sim 10^5$ )  
AS A FUNCTION OF THE BRANCHING DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COMPONENTS  
(A) 2.5 BRANCHES/100 CARBON ATOMS  
(B) 7.4 BRANCHES/100 CARBON ATOMS

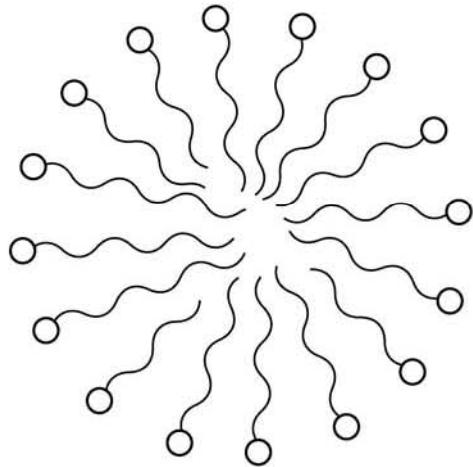
# Schematic Representation of Oil-in-Water or Water-in-Oil Colloidal Aggregates



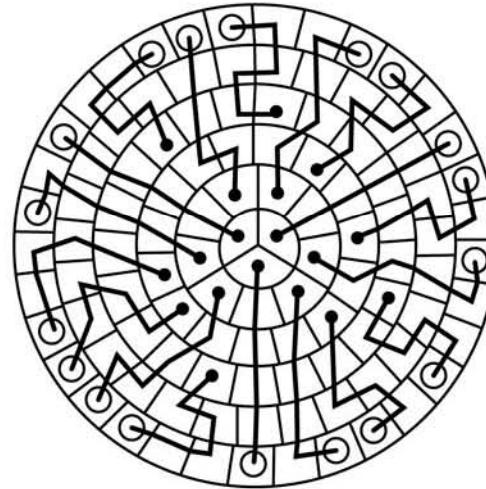
## Applications

- Detergents, lubricants, emulsions, oil spills, and enhanced oil recovery
- Solubilizing and decontaminating toxic materials
- Microencapsulation of drugs in pharmaceuticals

# Does Water Penetrate into the Hydrocarbon Core of a Micelle?



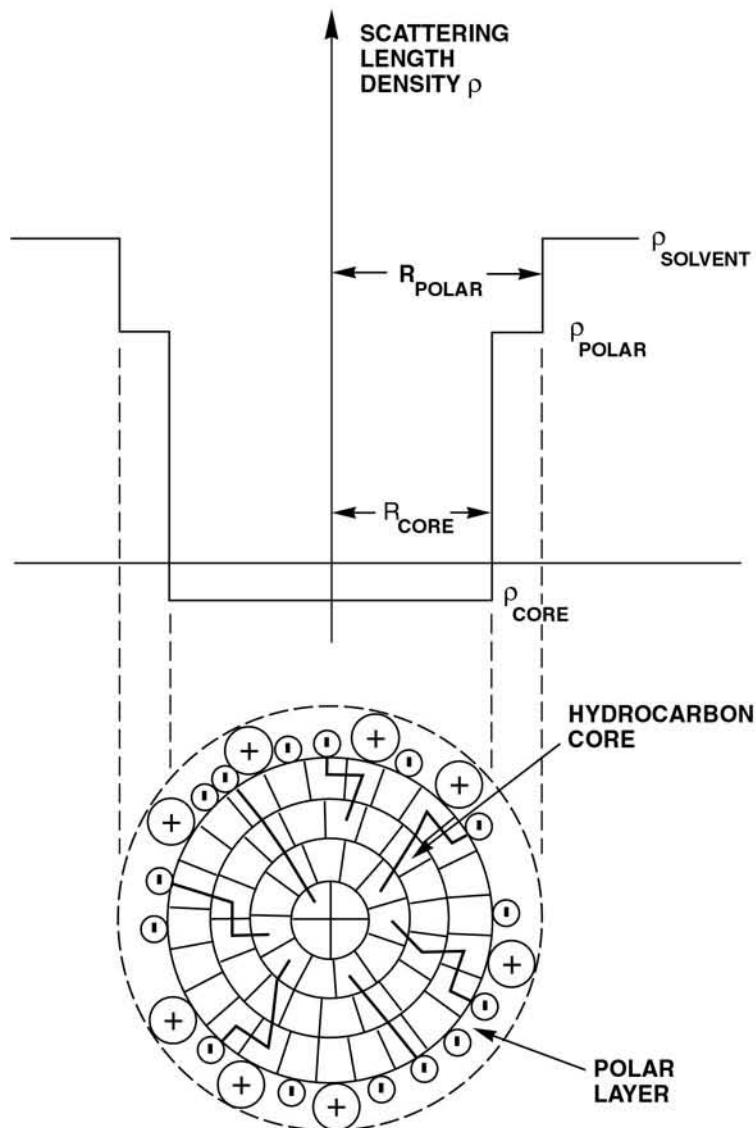
RADIAL CHAIN  
MICELLE

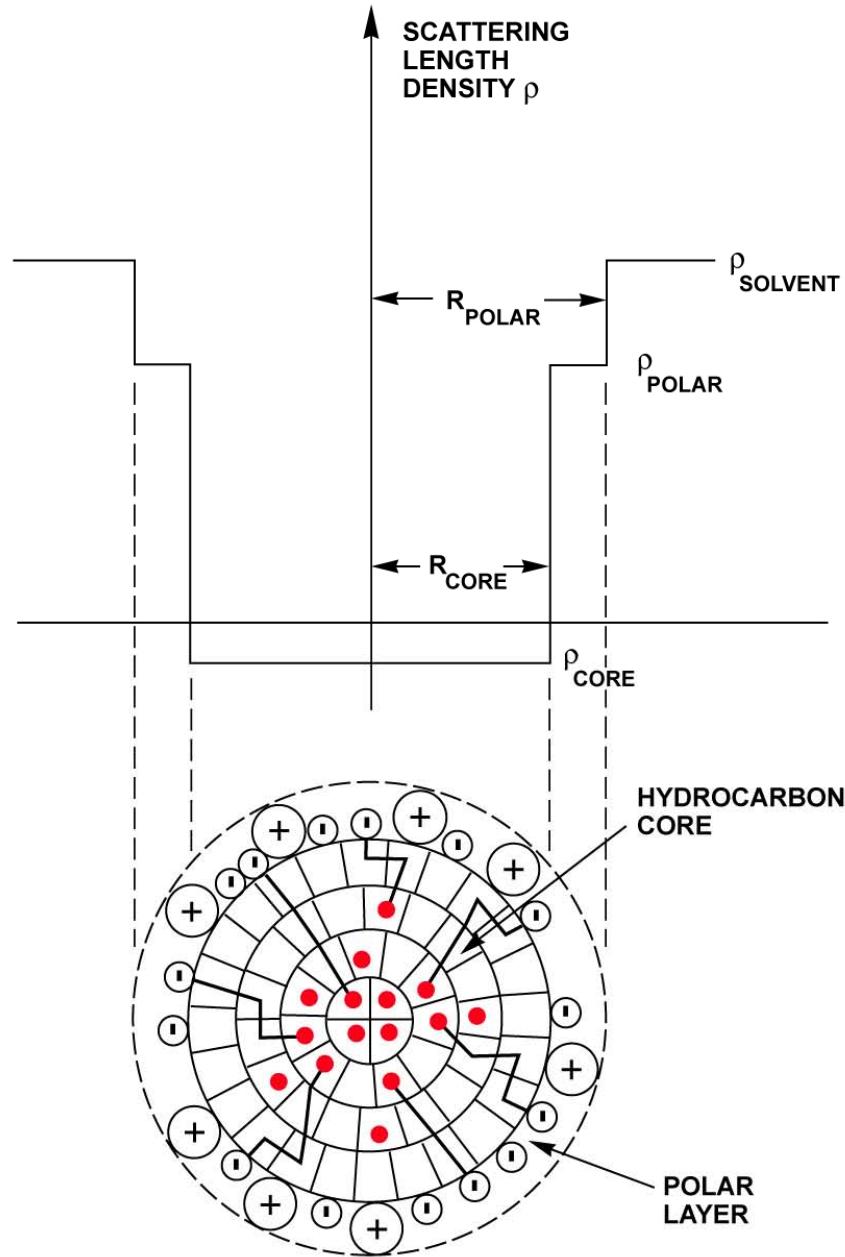


INTERPHASE LATTICE MODEL  
(DILL AND FLORY)

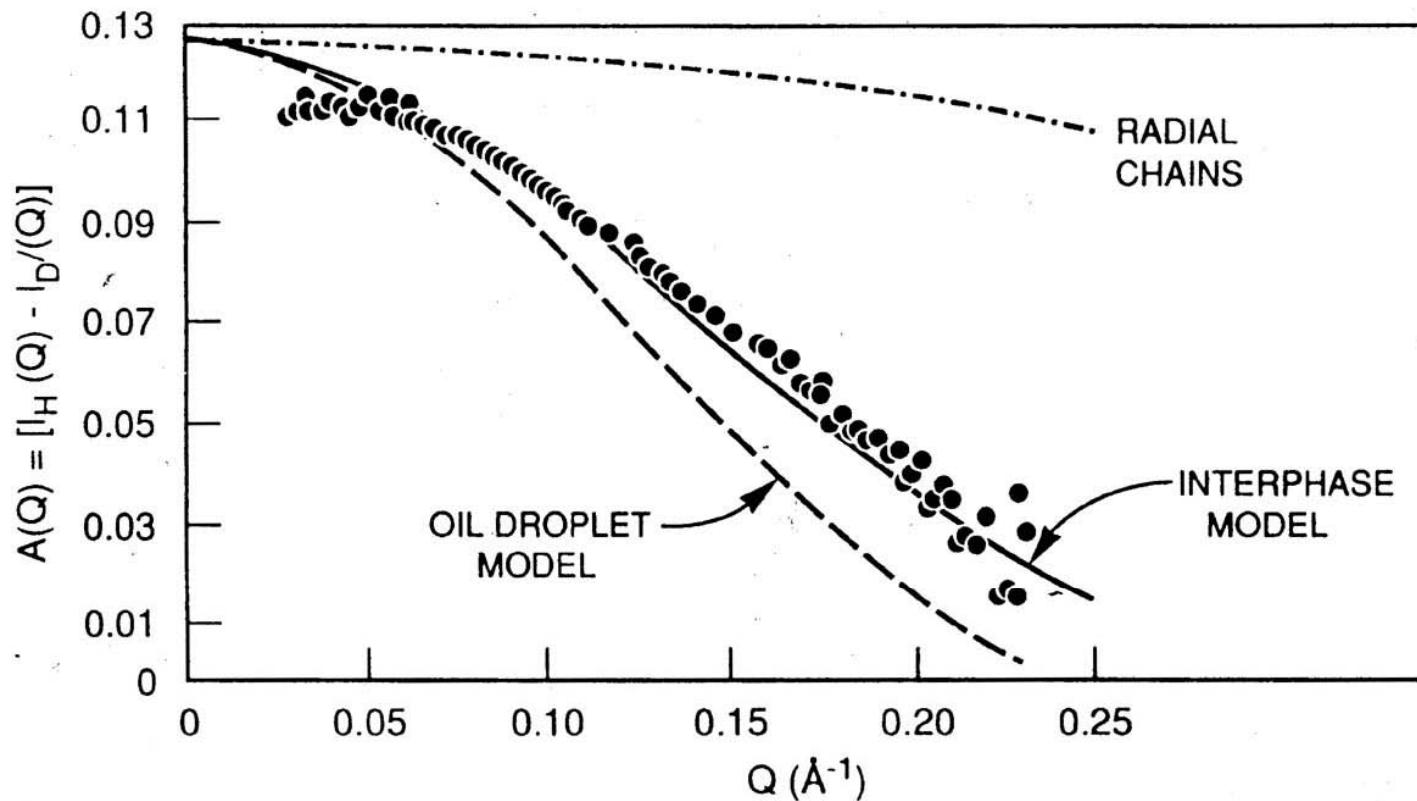
ORNL-DWG 89M-17196

- NMR indicates contact between hydrocarbon segments and H<sub>2</sub>O
- The chain end-groups are concentrated in the center, or spread out over the whole volume for the two proposed structures





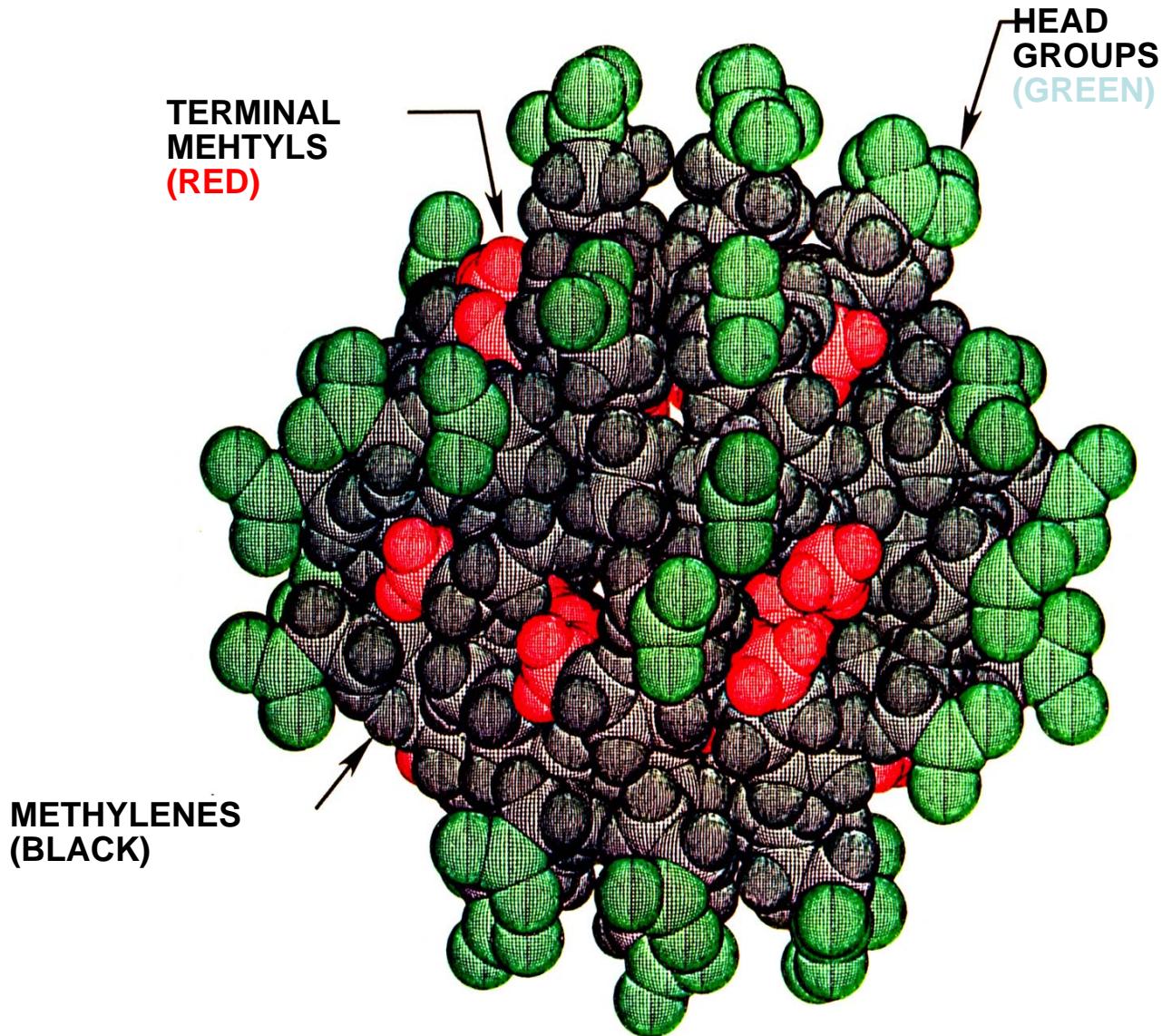
**Label End Groups to Observe Distribution of Terminal Methyls**



**Difference amplitude between LDS with protonated and deuterated end groups for various models of micelle structure assuming no water penetration of core.**

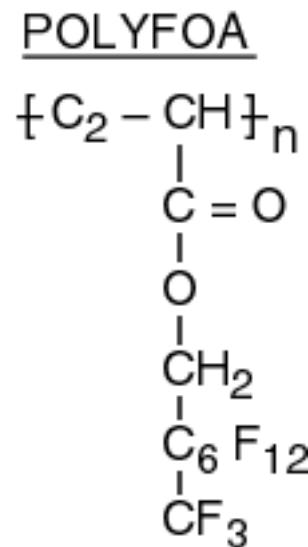
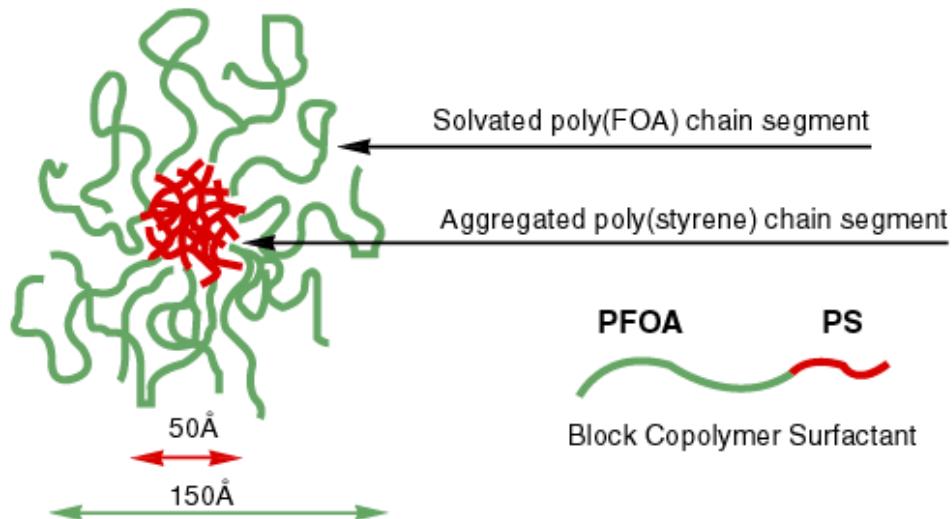
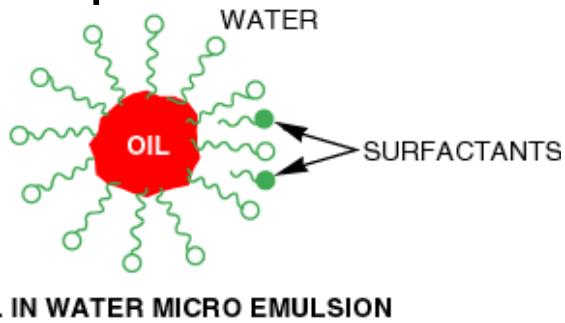
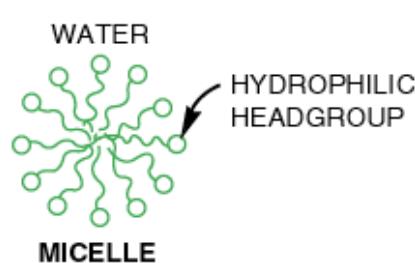
Chen, Koehler *J. Phys. Chem.*, (1983); Dill, Flory, *Nature*, (1984)

# Outside Surface



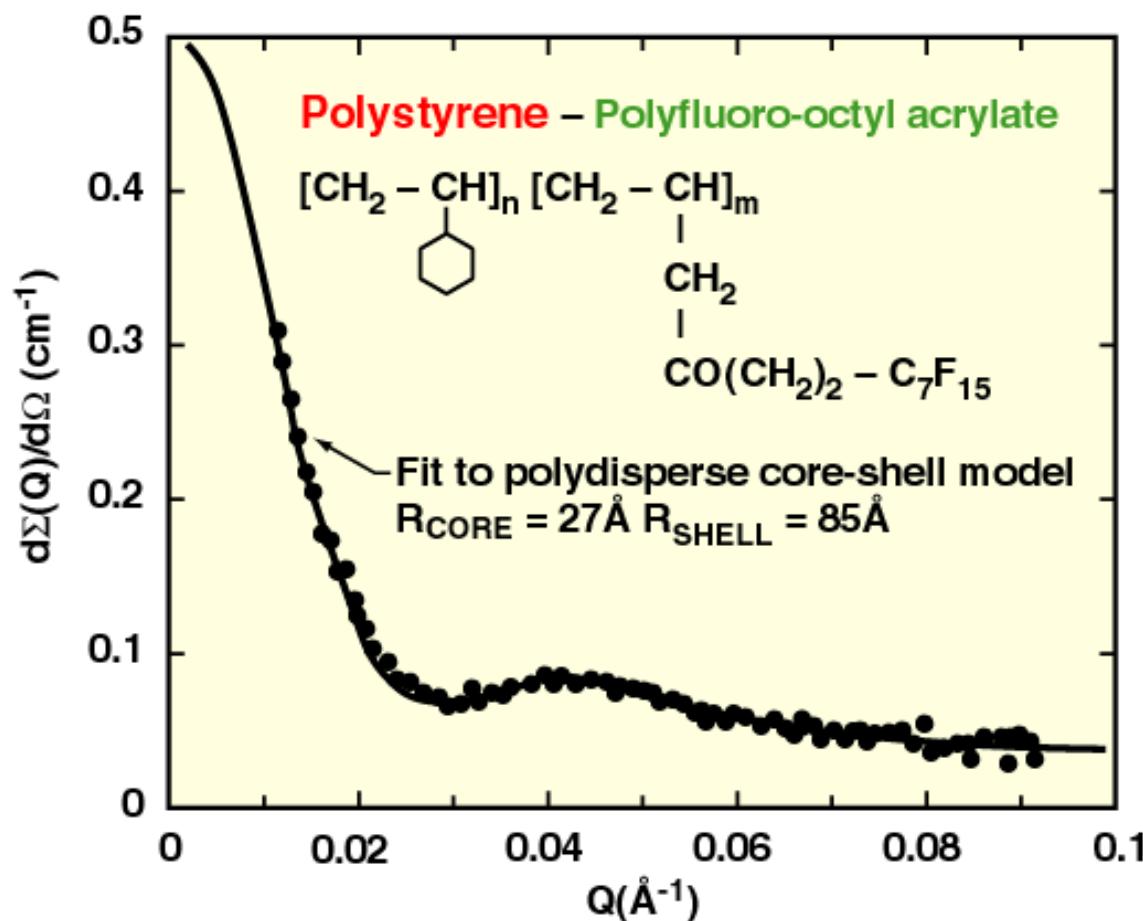
Configuration of 38 Chain Decanoate Micelle [Dill et al. *Nature* **309**, 42 (1984)]

# Schematic Representation of Colloidal Aggregates in Water and Supercritical Carbon Dioxide

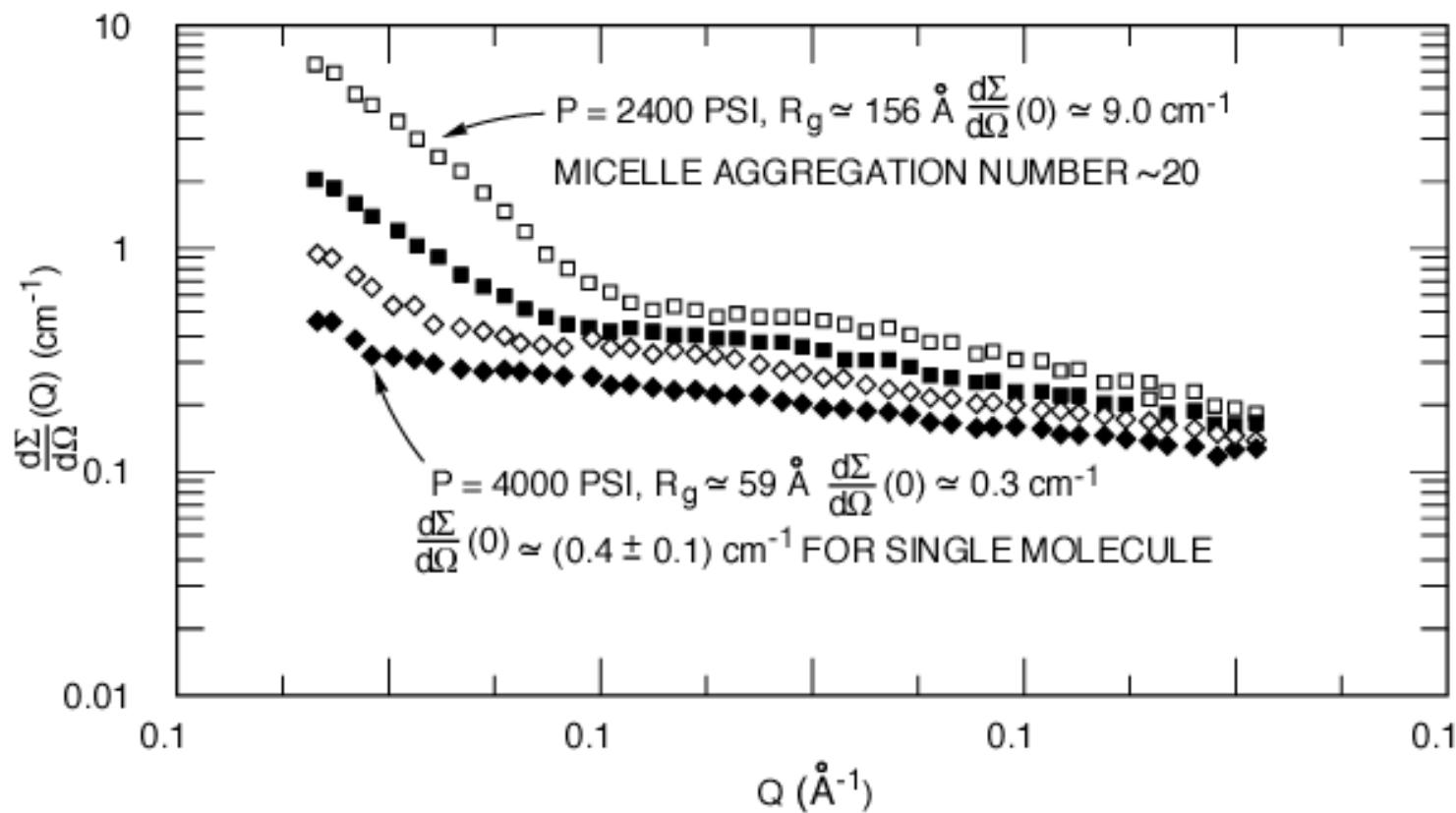


MODEL OF POLY(FOA-*b*-STYRENE) MICELLE IN SUPERCRITICAL CO<sub>2</sub>

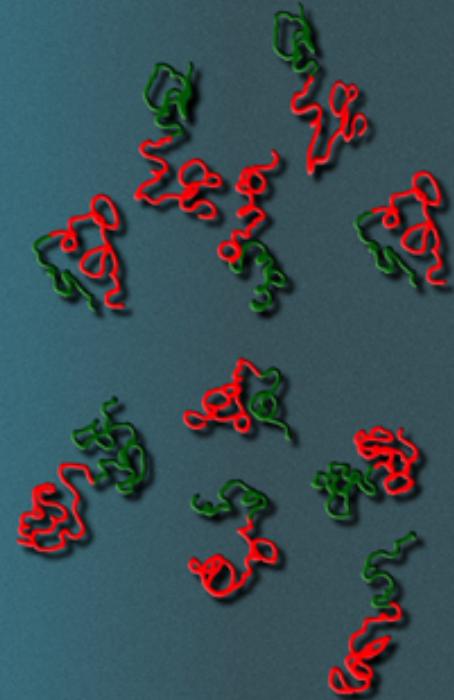
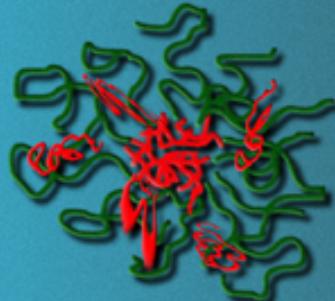
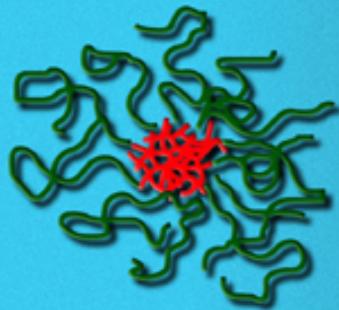
# SANS Characterization of Block Copolymer Micelle in Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub>



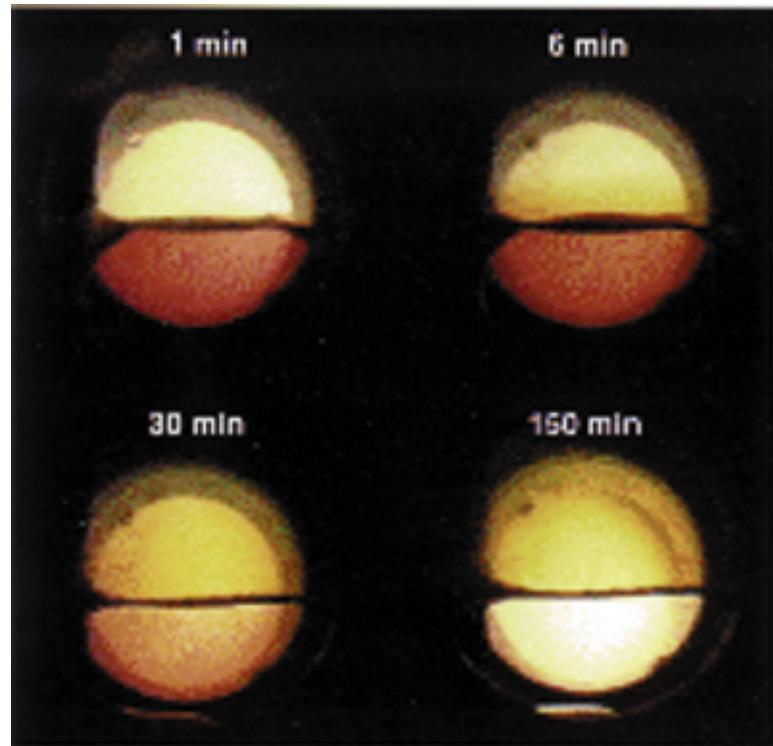
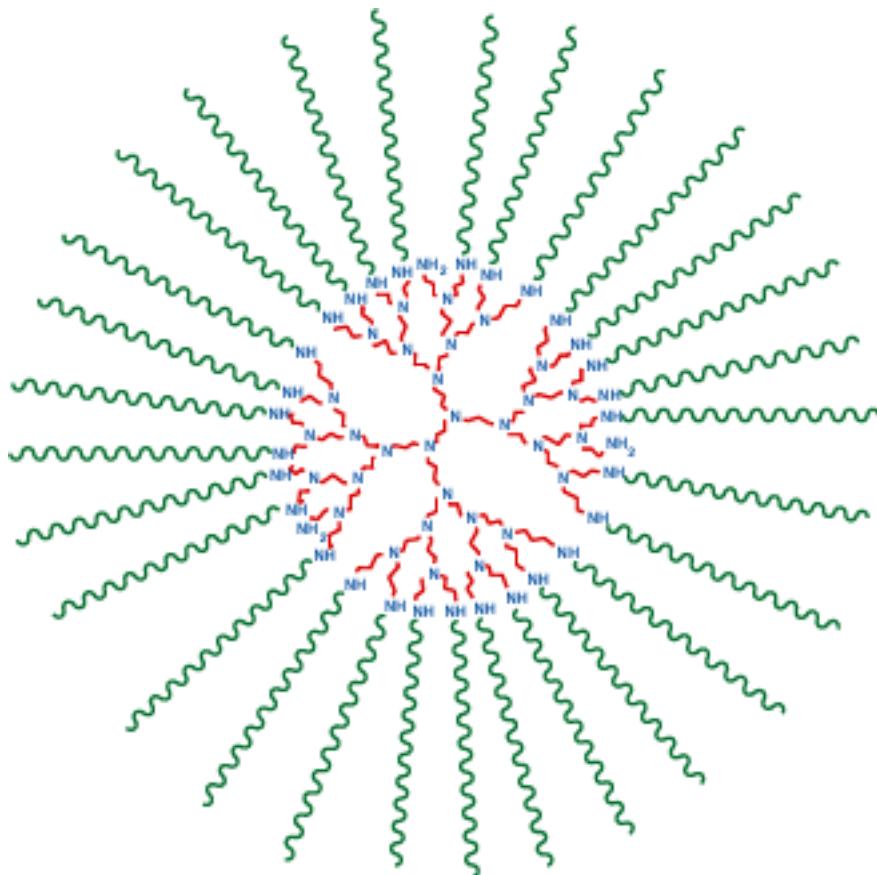
McClain et al., Science, **274**, 2049 (1996)



$\frac{d\Sigma}{d\Omega}(Q)$  FOR 6% (W/V) POLYVINYL ACETATE-*b*-PFOA BLOCK COPOLYMERS IN CO<sub>2</sub>.  
AT HIGH PRESSURES, THE SCATTERING ARISES FROM SINGLE MOLECULES;  
AS THE PRESSURE IS LOWERED, MICELLES FORM BELOW A CRITICAL CO<sub>2</sub> DENSITY.



***Increasing CO<sub>2</sub> Density***

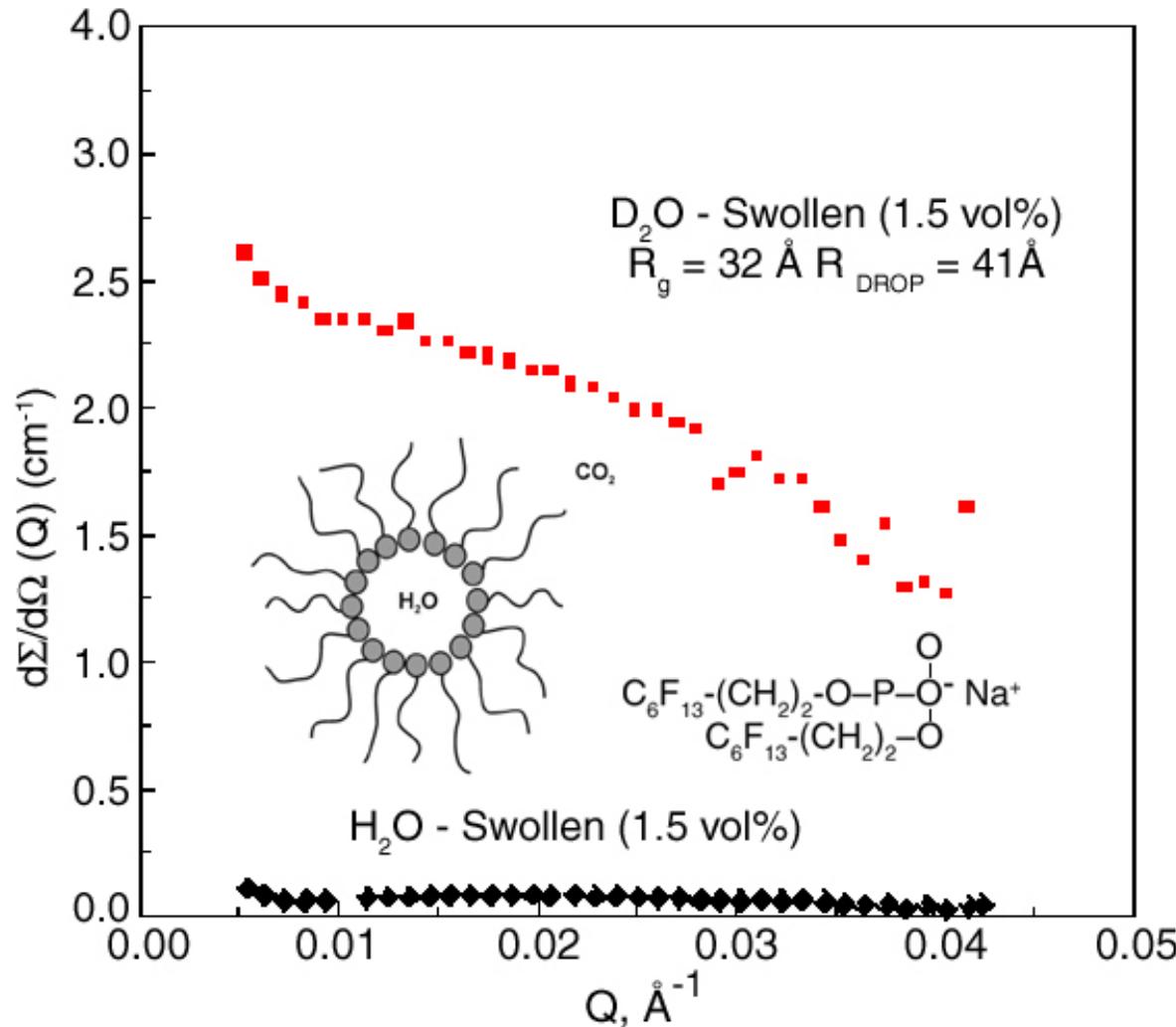


A fourth generation dendrimer with CO<sub>2</sub>-soluble (fluorinated) chains forms unimolecular micelles and extracts a CO<sub>2</sub>-insoluble (orange) dye from the aqueous phase (below) to the CO<sub>2</sub> phase (above), thus demonstrating its potential in cleanup applications

Nature, 389, 368 (1997)

# $d\Sigma/d\Omega$ for 7.5 wt. % Phosphate Ester Surfactants Swollen with $H_2O$ & $D_2O$

[Keiper et al., *JACS*, 124 1834 (2002); *Langmuir*, 20, 1065 (2004);  
 Xu et al., *J. Chem. Phys.*, 109, 10261 (2005)]



# WATER NANODROPLETS IN CO<sub>2</sub>-MICROEMULSIONS FORMED BY SELF-ASSEMBLED GRAFT COPOLYMERS AND SURFACTANTS

- Possible Applications:

- extraction of hydrophilic substances [proteins, heavy metals] into CO<sub>2</sub>
- heterogeneous reactions
- dry cleaning [commercialized]

- Examples:

- polyethylene oxide-PFOA graft copolymers

[Fulton (PNWL), McClain (UNC), Triolo (Palermo)]      ~ 0.3      vol% H<sub>2</sub>O

- Ammonium carboxylate perfluoroethers

[Johnston (UTEX), Heitz and Bright (SUNY)]      ~ 0.4      vol% H<sub>2</sub>O

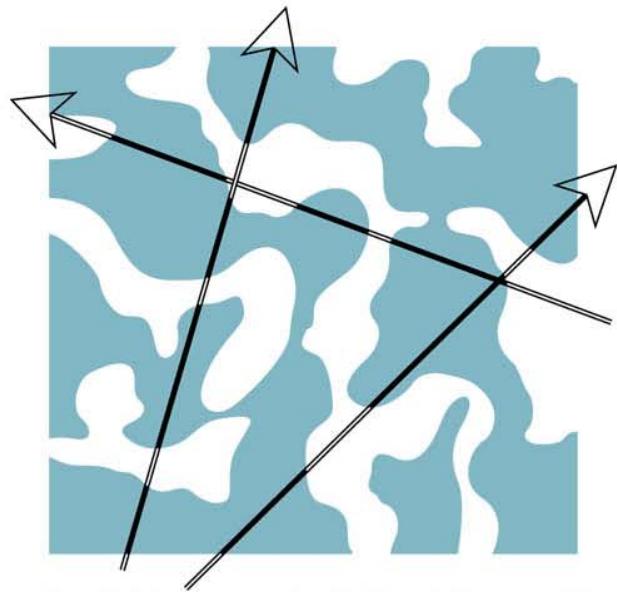
- phosphate esters [Keiper, DeSimone (UNC)]

~ 5      vol% H<sub>2</sub>O

- perfluoroethers [Lee, Johnston (UTEX)]

5 – 10      vol% H<sub>2</sub>O

# Debye Bueche Model for Two-Phase System, Each with Random Shape, Uniform Electron or Scattering Length Density and Sharp Boundaries



**Physical Concept of the Mean Chord  
or Inhomogeneity Length**

**Mean Chord Intercepts:**

$$L_1 = \frac{a}{\phi}$$

$$L_2 = \frac{a}{(1-\phi)}$$

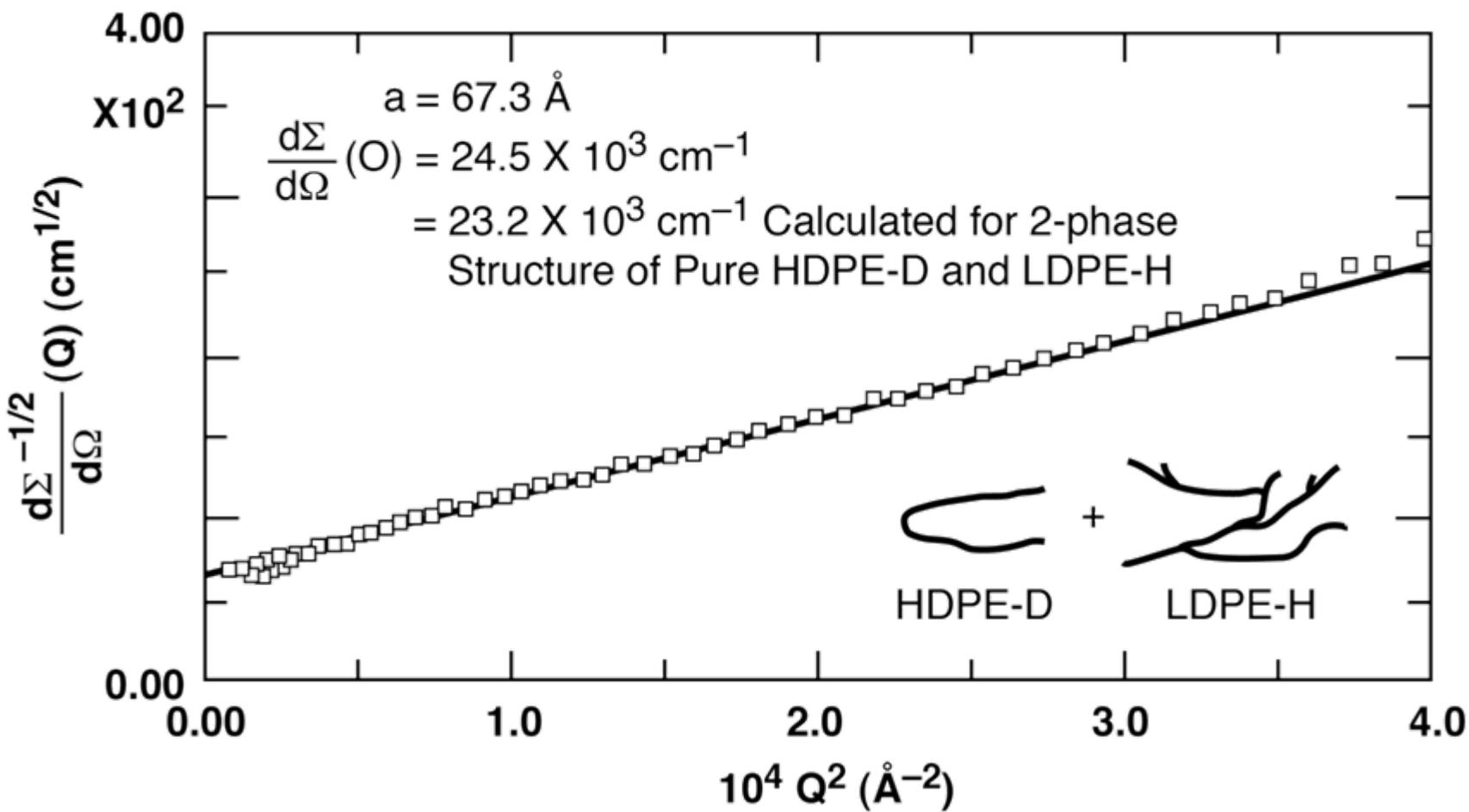
The fluctuations in scattering power at two points A and B, distance  $r$  apart, can be characterized by  $\gamma(r) <\eta^2>_{AV} = <\eta_A \eta_B>_{AV}$ . For random two phase system:  $\gamma(r) = e^{-r/a}$

$$\frac{d\Sigma}{d\Omega}(Q) = \frac{A}{[1 + Q^2 a^2]^2}$$

J. Appl.Cryst., 28, 679 (1957)

ORNL-DWG 92M-9485

Debye-Bueche Plot for Phase Separated Blend of  
Deuterated High Density and Protonated Low Density  
Polyethylenes Slow Cooled from the Melt at 0.75°C/min  
R. G. Alamo et al., *Macromolecules*, 27, 411 (1994)

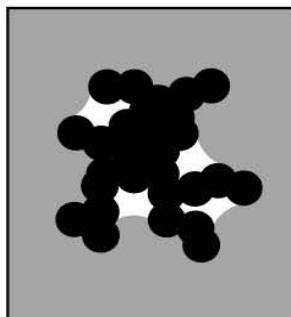


# Contrast Factors for SAXS and SANS in Carbon Black Filled Polyethylenes

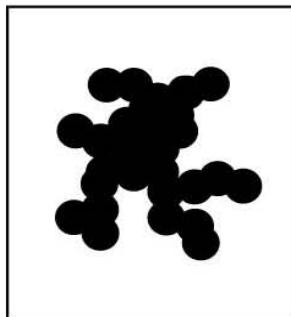
	Electron Density ( $10^{23} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ) (SAXS)	Scattering Length Density ( $10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ ) (SANS)
Carbon Black	5.8	6.4
Void	0	0
Polyethylene-H	3.5	-0.36
Polyethylene-D	3.5	8.8

ORNL 97-3941/arb

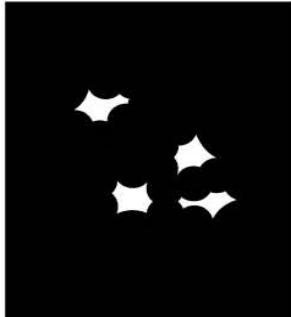
# **Contrast Options for SAXS and SANS Studies of Carbon-Polyethylene Composite Materials**



**SAXS contains contributions  
from all three phases**



**SANS from carbon in H-PE gives  
structure of carbon alone**

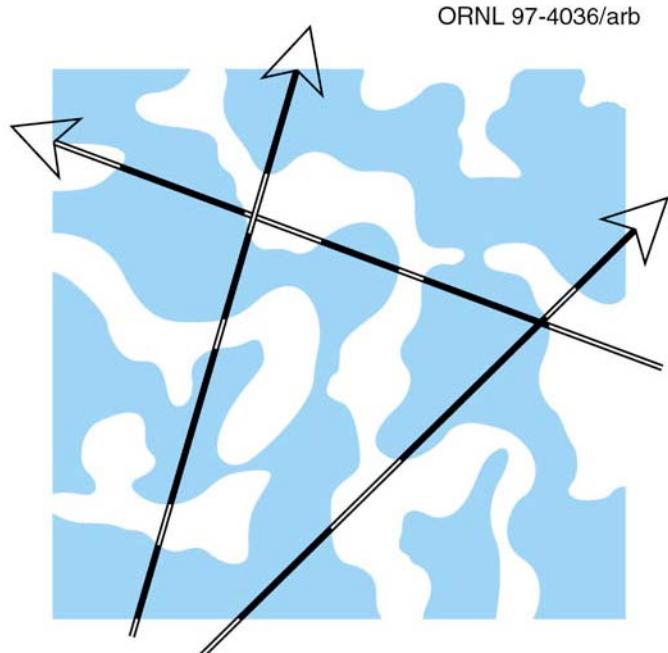


**SANS from carbon in D-PE gives  
structure of voids alone**

ORNL 97-3942/arb

# Volume Fraction of Voids and Mean Chords of Carbon and Polyethylene Phases

Temperature	Volume of Fraction of Voids	Mean Chords (Å)	
		Carbon	Polyethylene
25°C (solid)	2.1%	580	770
150°C (melt)	0.2%	570	850



Use methodology of W. L. Wu  
[*Polymer*, 23, 1907 (1982)] to estimate volume fraction of third phase (voids)

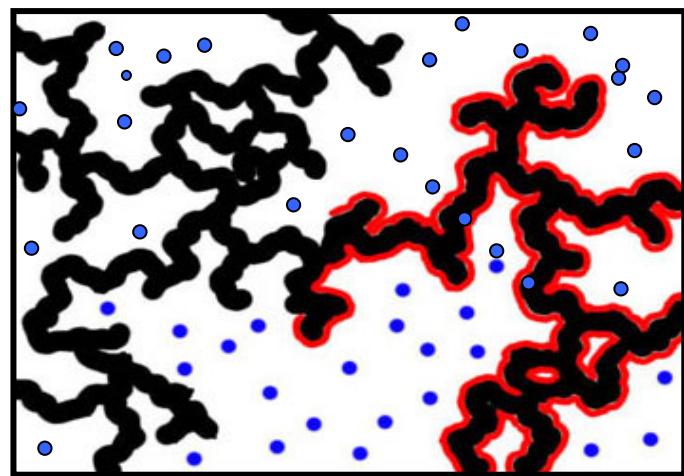
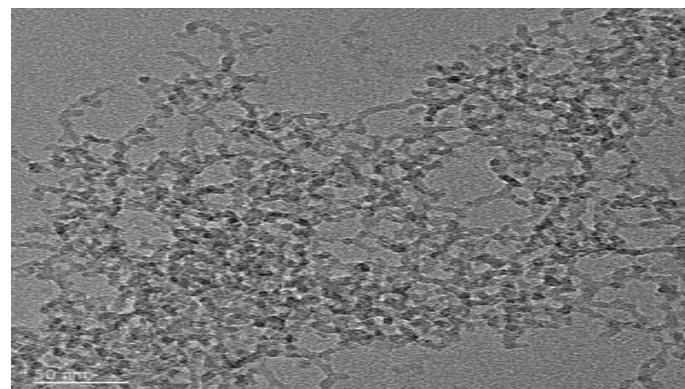
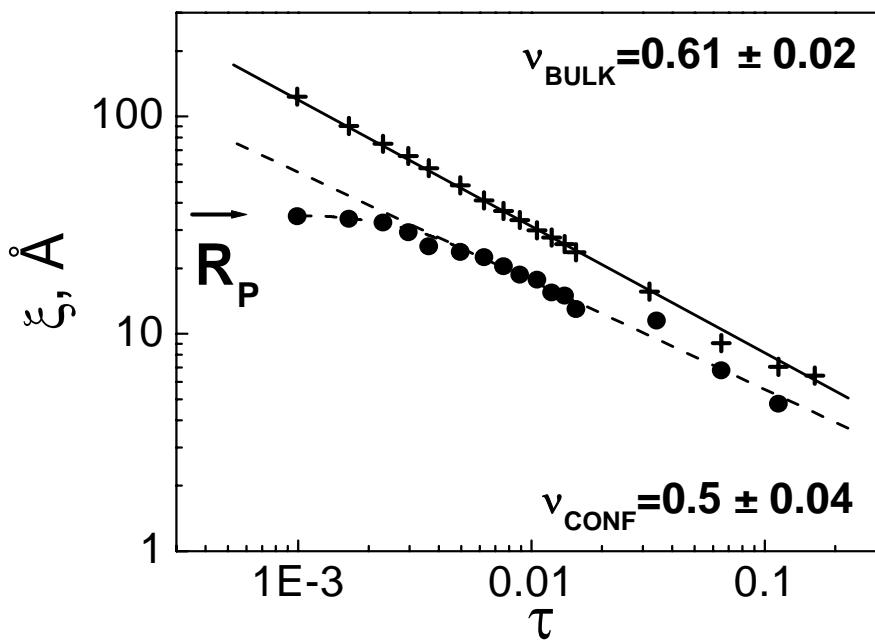
*Macromolecules*, 30, 2120 (1997)

Physical Concept of the Mean Chord Length

# POROUS SYSTEM WITH QUENCHED CORRELATED DISORDER: AEROGELS

(see talk by Y. B. Melnichenko; Thursday am)

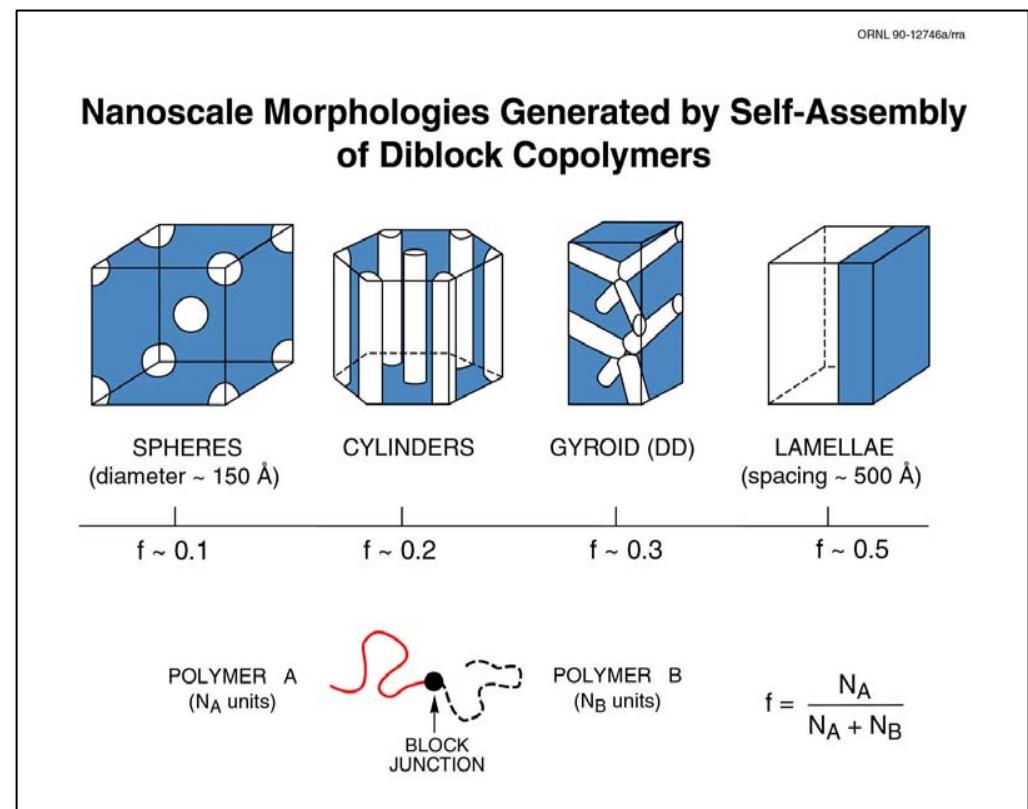
BASE-CATALYZED AEROGELS ARE DILUTE NETWORKS OF RANDOMLY INTERCONNECTED  $\text{SiO}_2$  STRANDS, WITH  $\rho_{\text{SiO}_2} \sim 0.1 \text{ g/cc}$ , PORE VOLUME  $\sim 96\%$  AND DIAMETER  $60\text{-}70 \text{ \AA}$



In  $\text{CO}_2$ -saturated aerogels, the correlation length of the density fluctuations ( $\zeta$ ) saturates at the pore radius ( $R_p$ ). SANS reveals the existence of a compressed adsorbed phase with density  $> 1 \text{ g/cc}$  and the methodology of Wu (1982) may again be used to give the volume fraction (submitted to *J. Chem Phys.*)

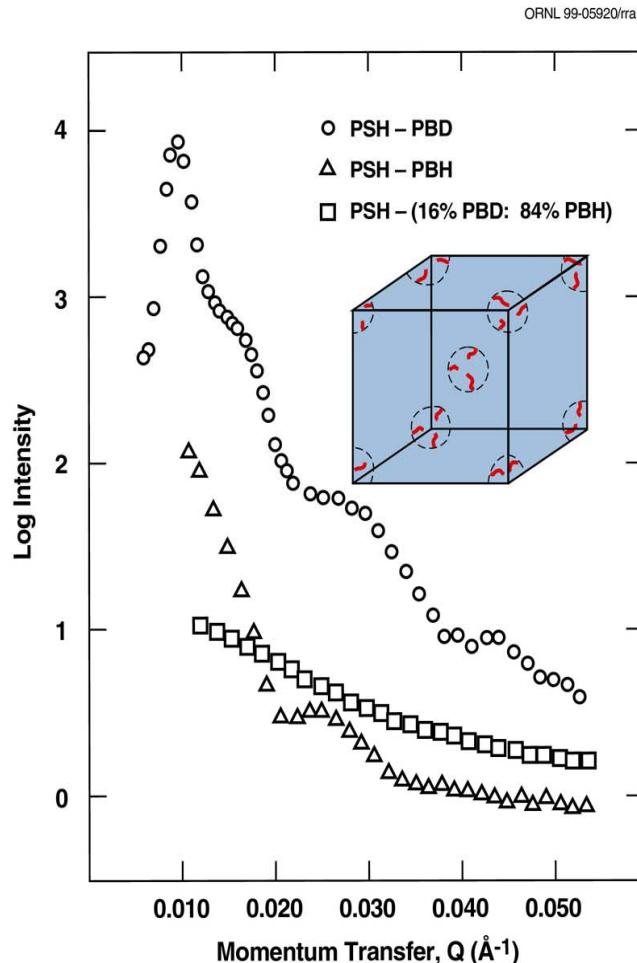
# Diblock Copolymers

- two polymer segments, covalently joined
- self-assemble on nm length scales
- three parameters govern self-assembly
  - total polymer length  $N$
  - interaction parameter  $\chi$
  - relative block length  $f$
- phase separate ( $N\chi \sim 10$ )
- four stable morphologies
  - short/long: *spheres in matrix*
  - ~ 20%: *cylinders*
  - ~ 33%: *gyroid*
  - equal lengths: *lamellae*



# Contrast Variation via Isotopic Substitution

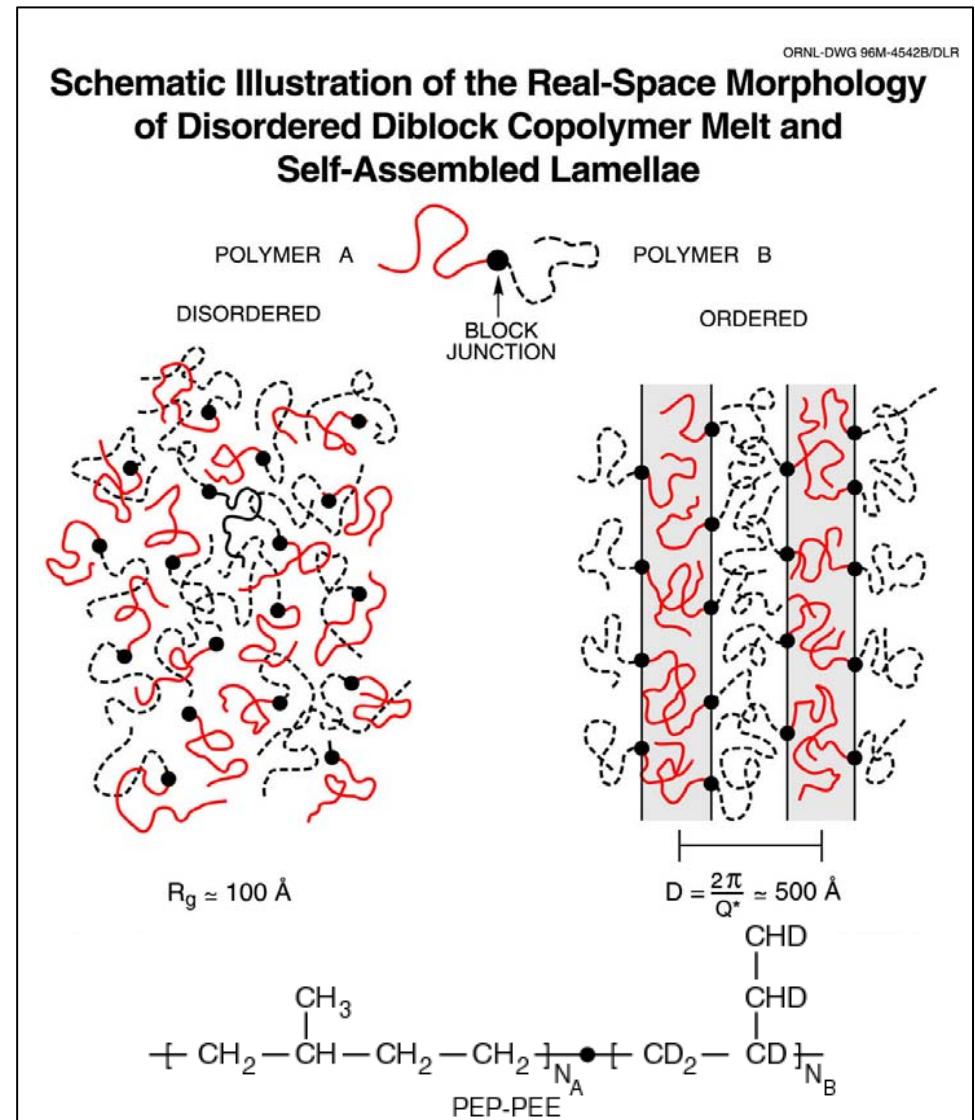
- The neutron refractive index or scattering length density (SLD) difference between protonated polystyrene (PSH) and polybutadiene is larger when the latter is deuterated
- Thus the intensity scattered by PSH-PBD is much higher (30x) than from PSH-PBH
- Both SANS patterns reflect the block-copolymer morphology of spheres (radius ~ 10 nm) on a Bragg lattice (spacing ~ 60nm)
- Blending 84% PBH and 16% PBD matches the SLD of the PS matrix and thus "washes out" the sphere scattering [Polymer, 24, 519 (1983)]



SANS FROM POLYSTYRENE-POLYBUTADIENE (PS-PB) DI-BLOCK COPOLYMERS.  
A BLEND OF PS-PBH AND PS-PBD MATCHES THE NEUTRON REFRACTIVE INDEX  
OF THE MATRIX AND "WASHES OUT" THE SPHERE SCATTERING

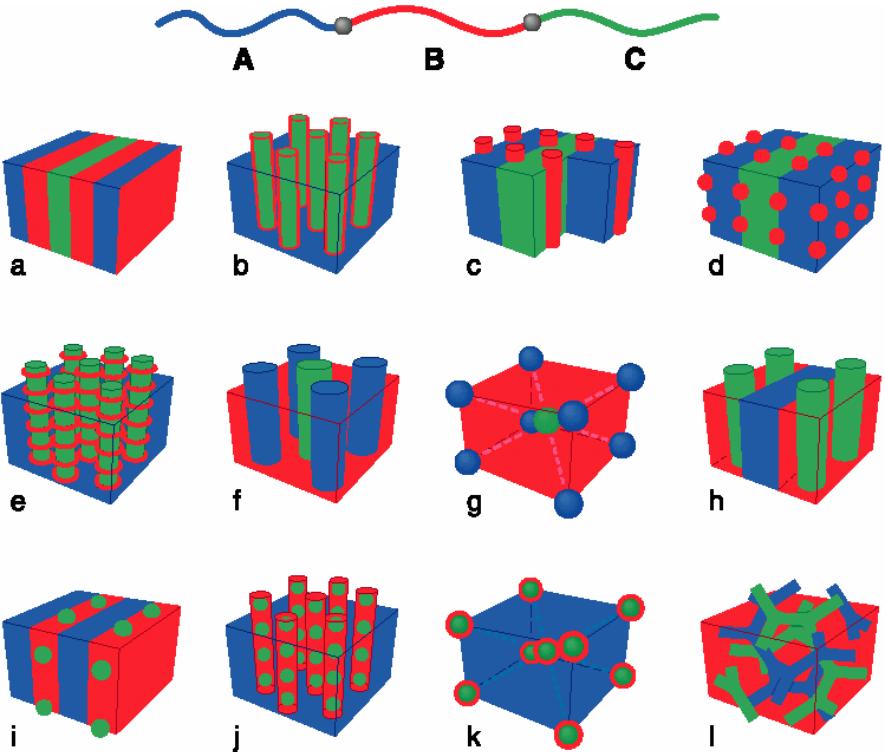
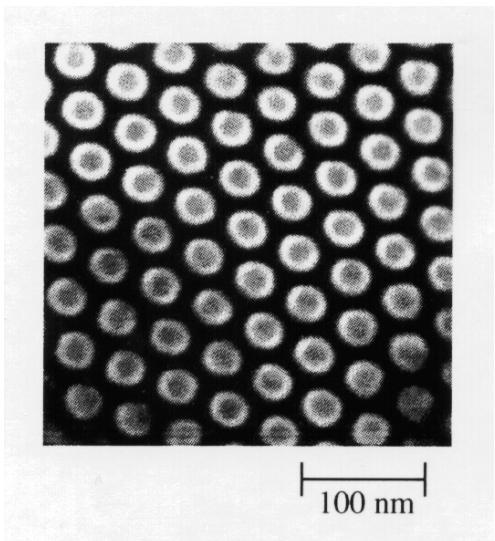
# Morphology from SANS

- In the ordered state, the polymer molecules are stretched, due to total reflection at the domain interface
- In the disordered state they may be expected to have unperturbed (random) configurations
- SANS reveals a transition between Gaussian coils and stretched coils in the disordered state
- The dimensions are probed by SANS via the peak in the scattering curve [Almdal et al., Phys. Rev. Lett., 65, 1112 (1990)].



# Unique Characteristics of Triblocks

- 280+ morphologies - greatly enhanced parameter space
- tailor properties of each phase with polymer block
- selection precise control of feature size with block lengths (1-100 nm)



Some morphologies for linear ABC triblock copolymers. A combination of block sequence, composition and molecular weights provides enormous parameter space for new morphologies.

# Shear Alignment of Cylindrical Morphology

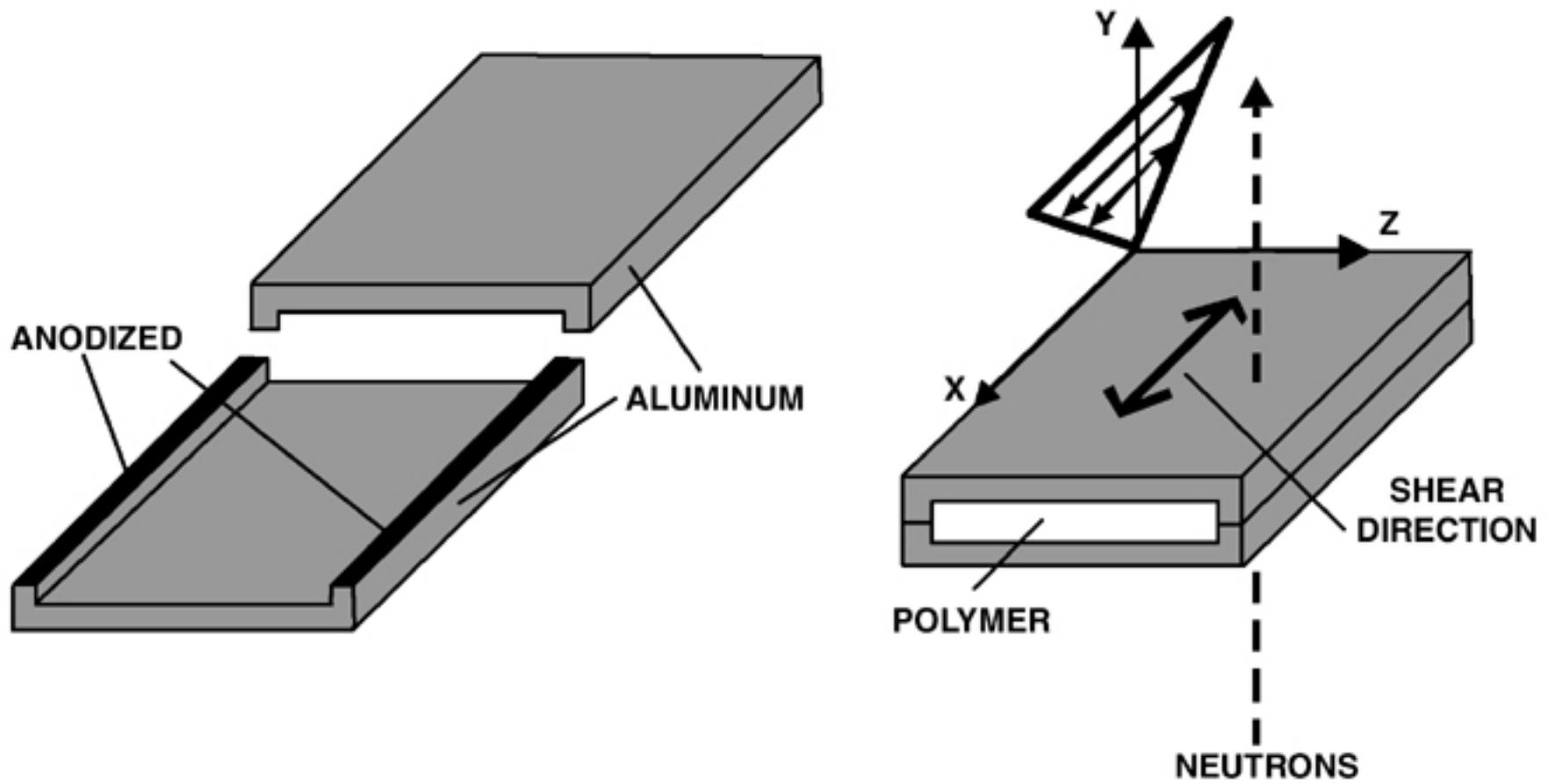
- Shear orientation of quenched SIS results in macroscopically anisotropic stiffness
- SIS: poly(styrene-*b*-isoprene-*b*-styrene), “Kraton”
- processing is important

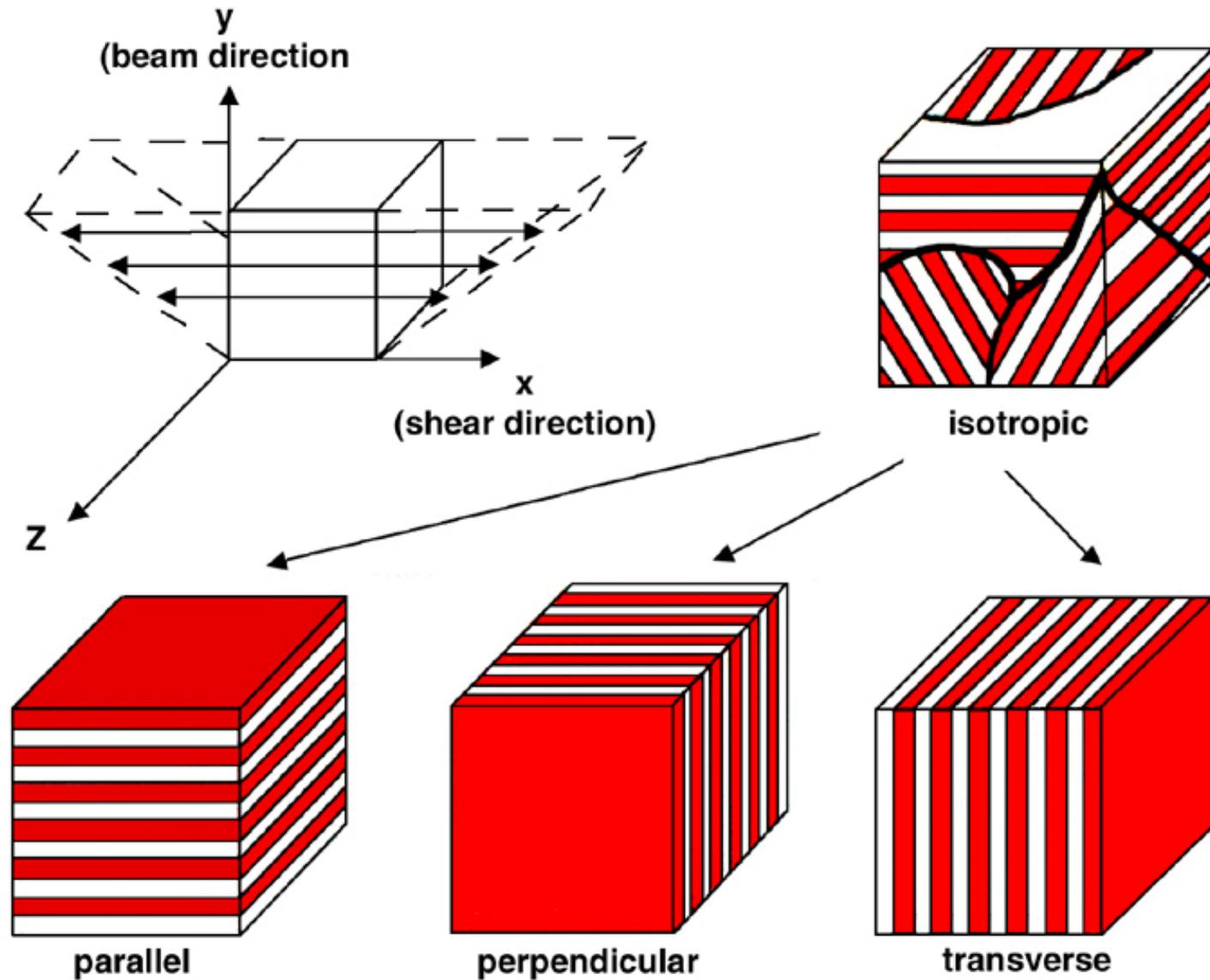


Cylinders **parallel** to fingers

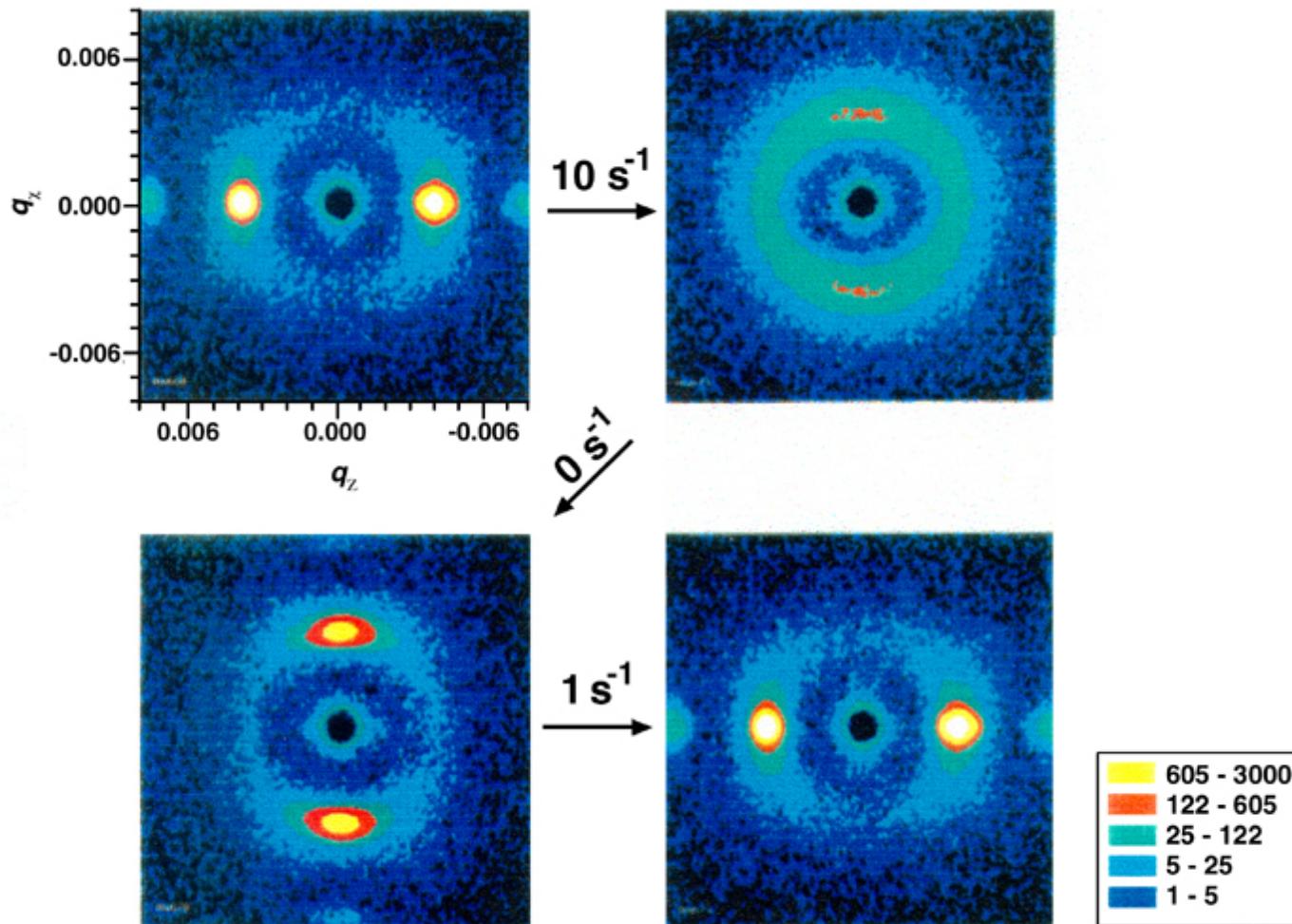


Cylinders **normal** to fingers

*In-situ* SANS Shear Cell

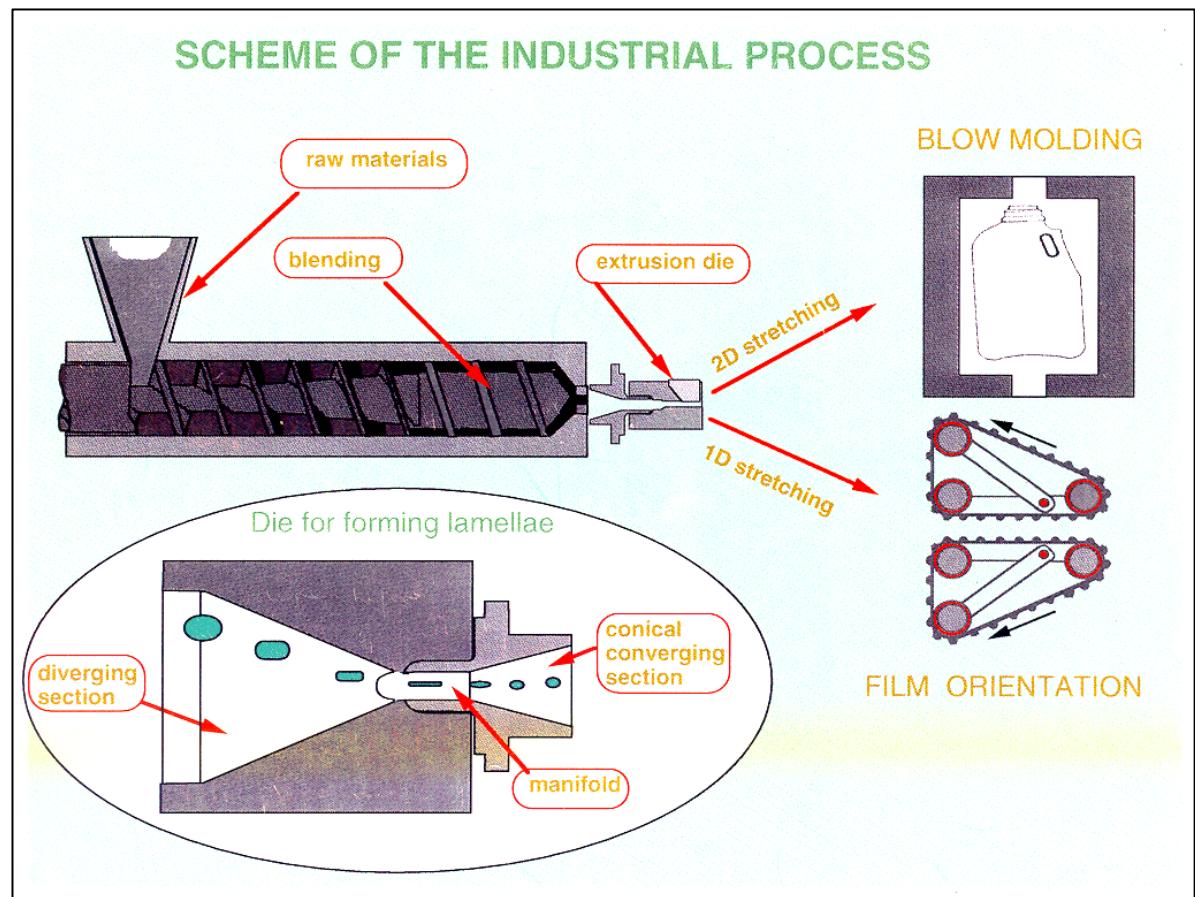


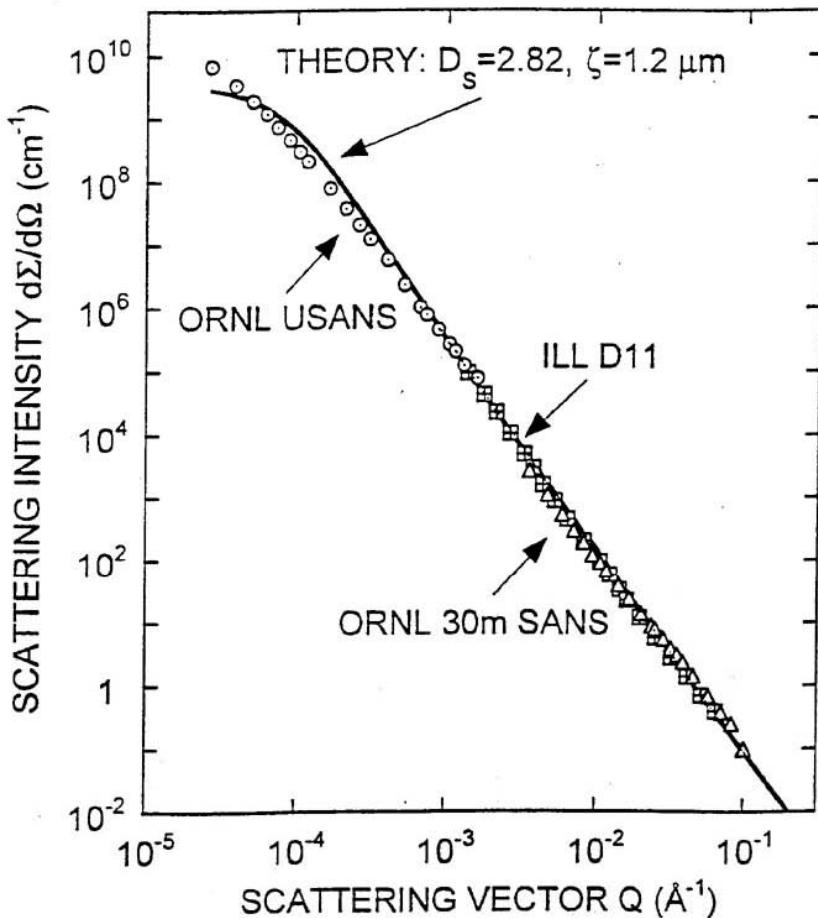
# Shear quench + shear, $T = 183^\circ\text{C}$



# An Extruder on a SANS Machine

- processing effects properties
- place extruder in SANS beam
- study evolution of morphology as a function of position and time under industrially relevant conditions



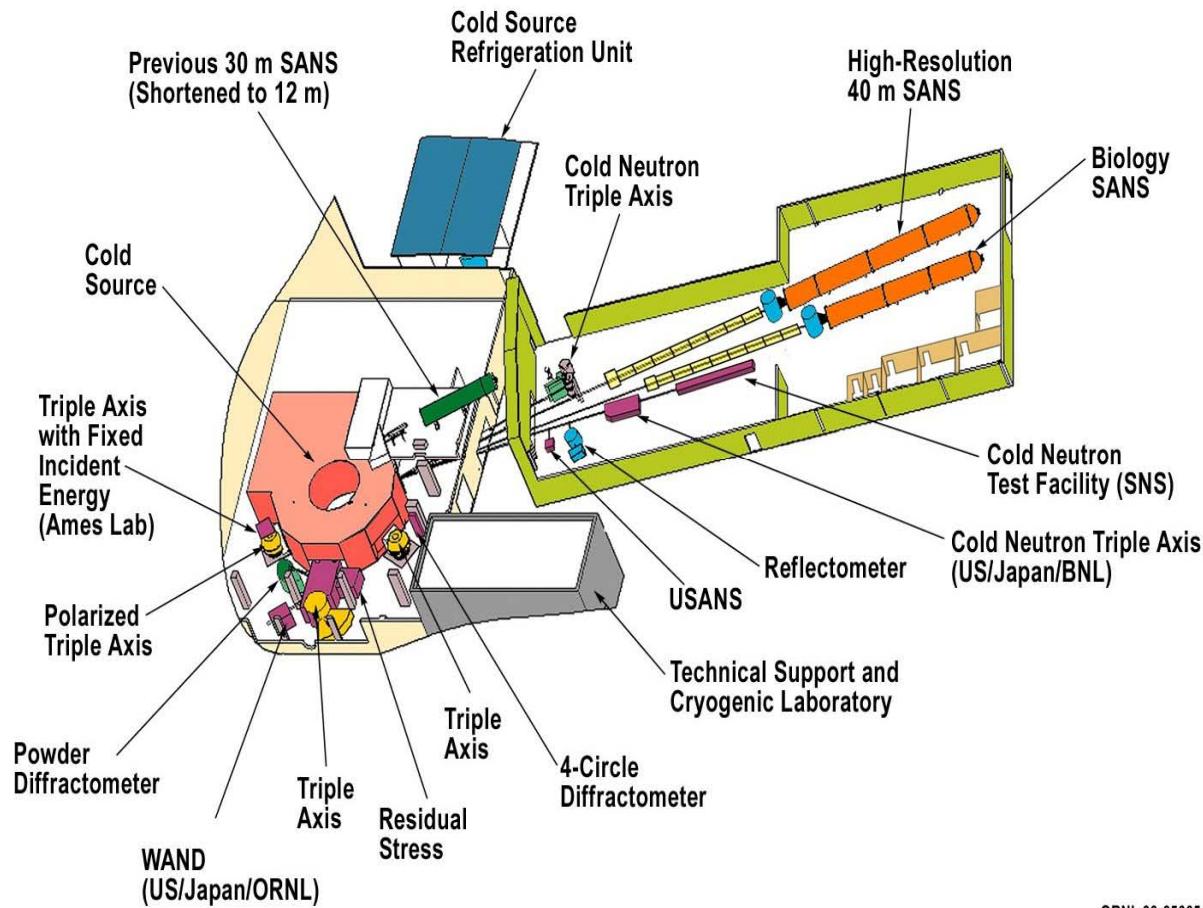


OVERLAP OF ORNL/ILL DATA FROM SEDIMENTARY ROCK  
SHOWING THAT THE PORE-ROCK INTERFACE IS A SURFACE  
FRACTAL ( $D_s = 2.82$ ) OVER TEN ORDERS OF MAGNITUDE IN  $d\Sigma/d\Omega$   
[RADLINSKI ET AL., PHYS. REV. LETT., 82, 3078 (1999)]

# New Small Angle Scattering Instruments

[see talks by Lynn (HFIR-SANS), Zhao (SNS-SANS), Agamalian (USANS)]

- The High Flux Isotope Reactor is one of two worldwide with a core flux exceeding  $10^{15} \text{ n sec}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}$
- The SANS facilities on the HB4 cold source will have fluxes similar to the ILL
- They will also have larger ( $100 \times 100 \text{ cm}^2$ ) area detectors, thus allowing measurements over a wider solid angle range
- The CG4 reflectometer will measure down to  $R \sim 10^{-8}$
- A focusing monochromator on CG4 would provide a flux  $\sim 10^5 \text{ n}/(\text{cm}^2 \text{ sec})$  for a USANS to extend the resolution to  $Q_{\min} \sim 10^{-5} \text{ \AA}^{-1}$ , at a cost  $\sim 300 \text{ k\$}$ . Such upgrades will permit new classes of experiments to be performed.



# ORNL Small Angle Neutron Scattering: Future Directions

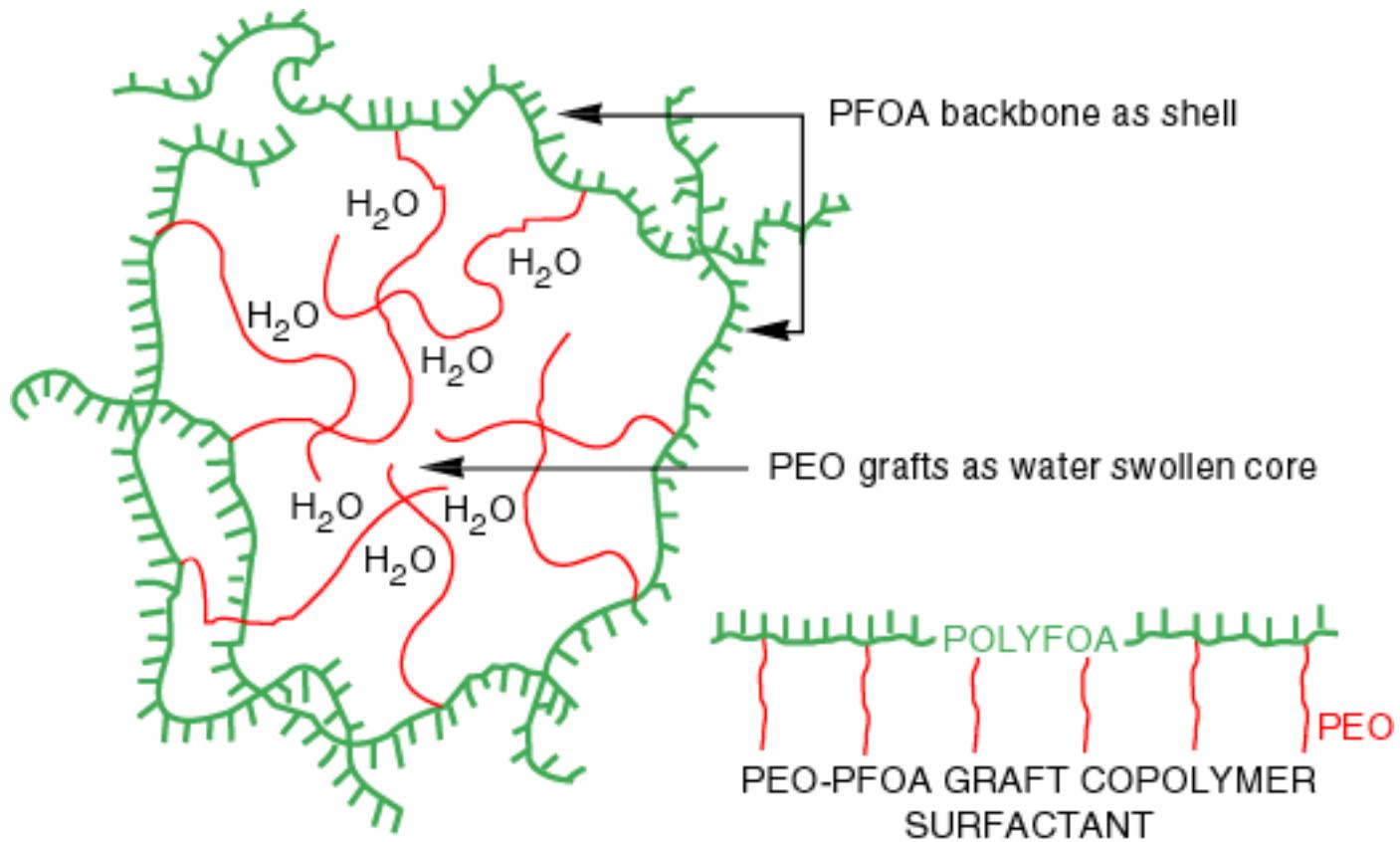
***Flux increases, larger detectors and extended Q-range should make it possible to:***

- Explore new directions in soft materials such as *in-situ* processing using a neutron beam to follow structure evolution in industrially relevant equipment (e.g., extruders)
- Study weakly scattering biological materials (cross sections  $10^{-1}$ - $10^{-3}$  cm $^{-1}$ )
- Use much smaller samples (1mg vs. 100mg)
  - Pharmaceuticals and developmental polymers available only in small amounts
  - Biological materials, which are often difficult to prepare in bulk
  - Small ( $\sim 1\text{mm}^3$ ) crystals of high-T<sub>c</sub> superconductors for flux line lattice melting
- Undertake kinetic studies (e.g., phase separation in polymer blends or metallic alloys)
- Use polarized neutrons to explore magnetic materials, spin-glasses, etc.
- Quantify inelastic effects in SANS (currently assumed to be an elastic process)
- Study complicated polydisperse hierarchical structures extended over 4 orders of magnitude in length scale ( $1\text{ nm} < D < 10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ ) by combining SANS & USANS
- ???

# Back-up Slides

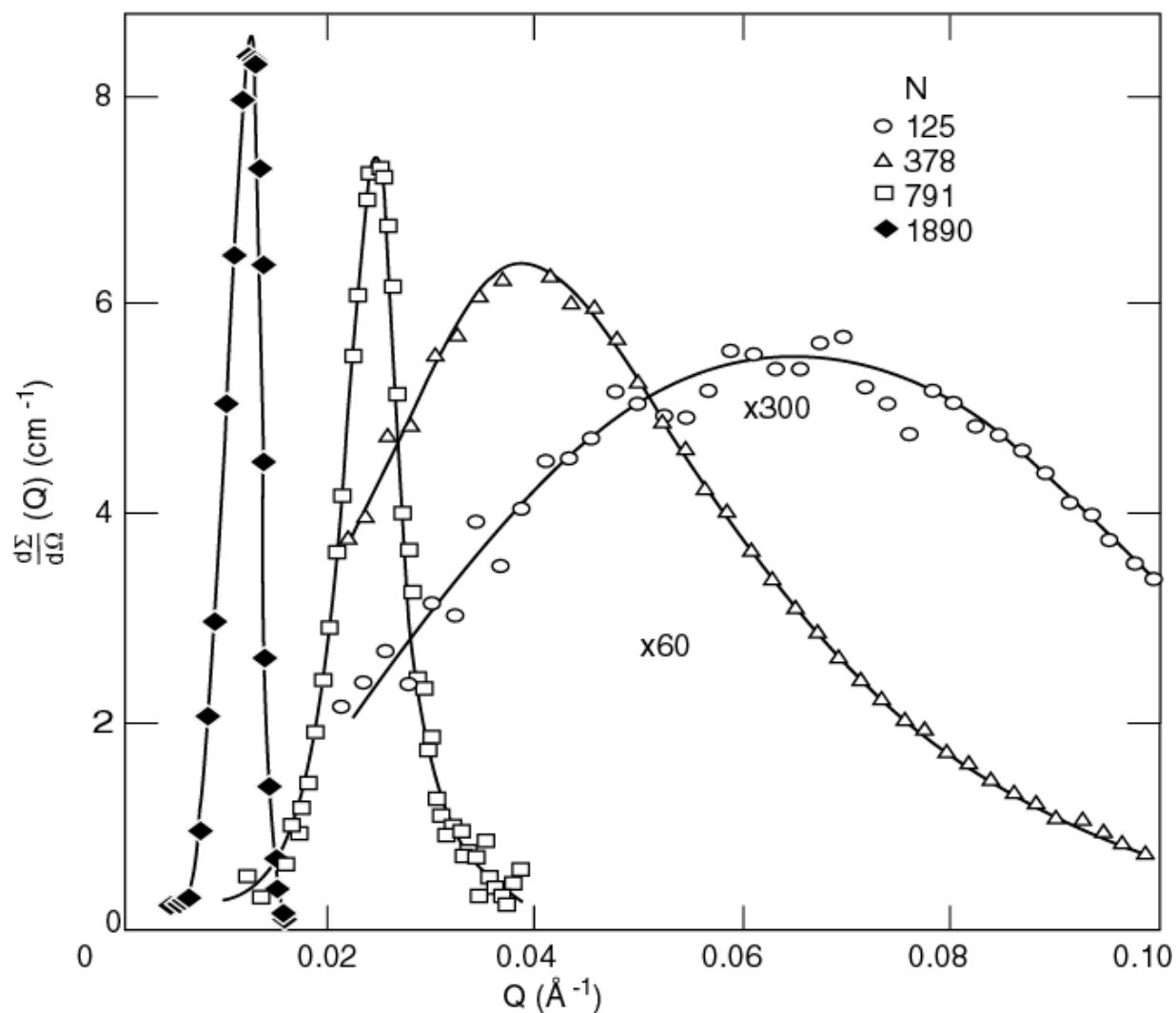
# Schematic Representation of Reverse Micelle Formed by Self-Assembly of Polyethylene Oxide-PFOA Graft Copolymer in CO<sub>2</sub>

[Fulton et al., Langmuir, 11 4241 (1995)]

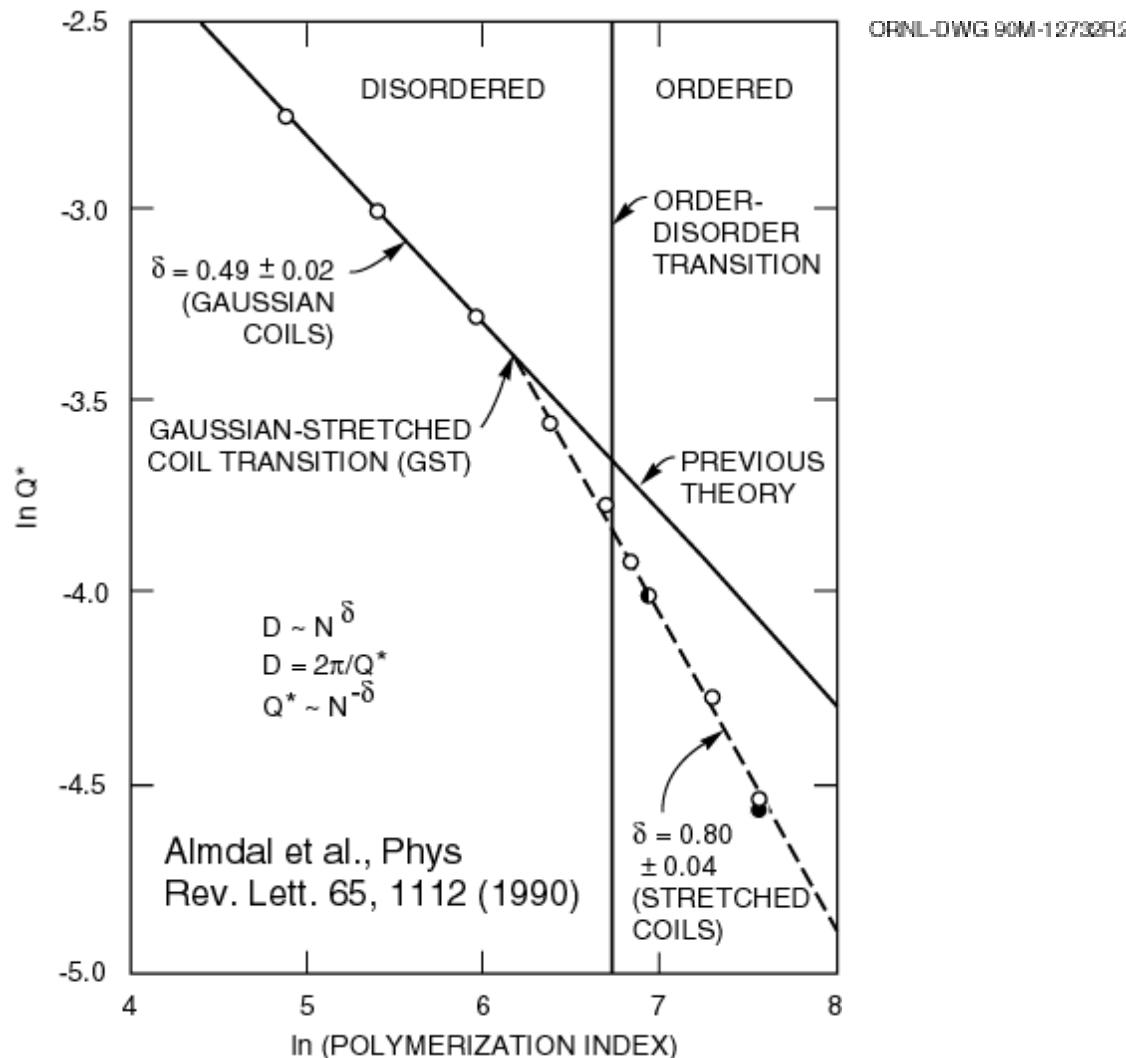


# Differential Scattering Cross Section for PEP-PEE Block Copolymers as a Function of the Degree of Polymerization, N

ORNL-DWG 90M-1274C

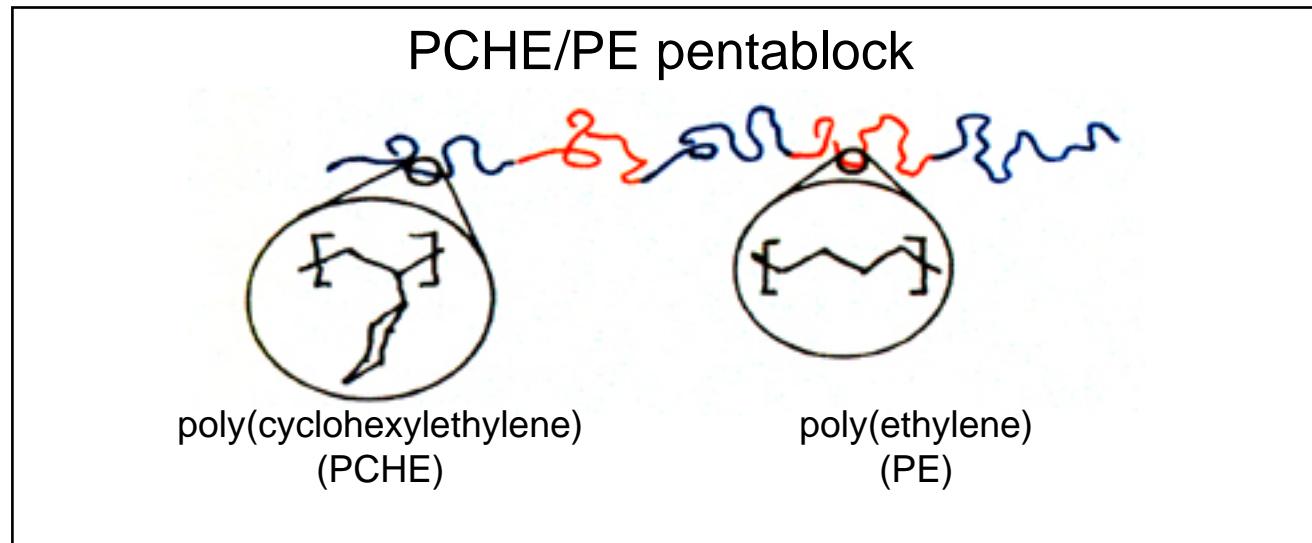
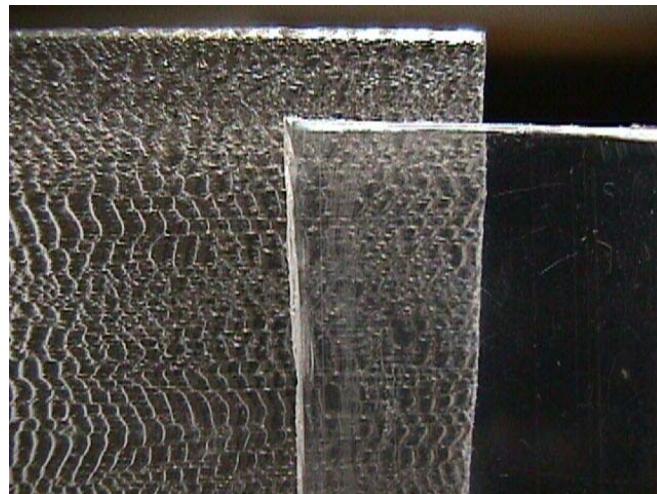


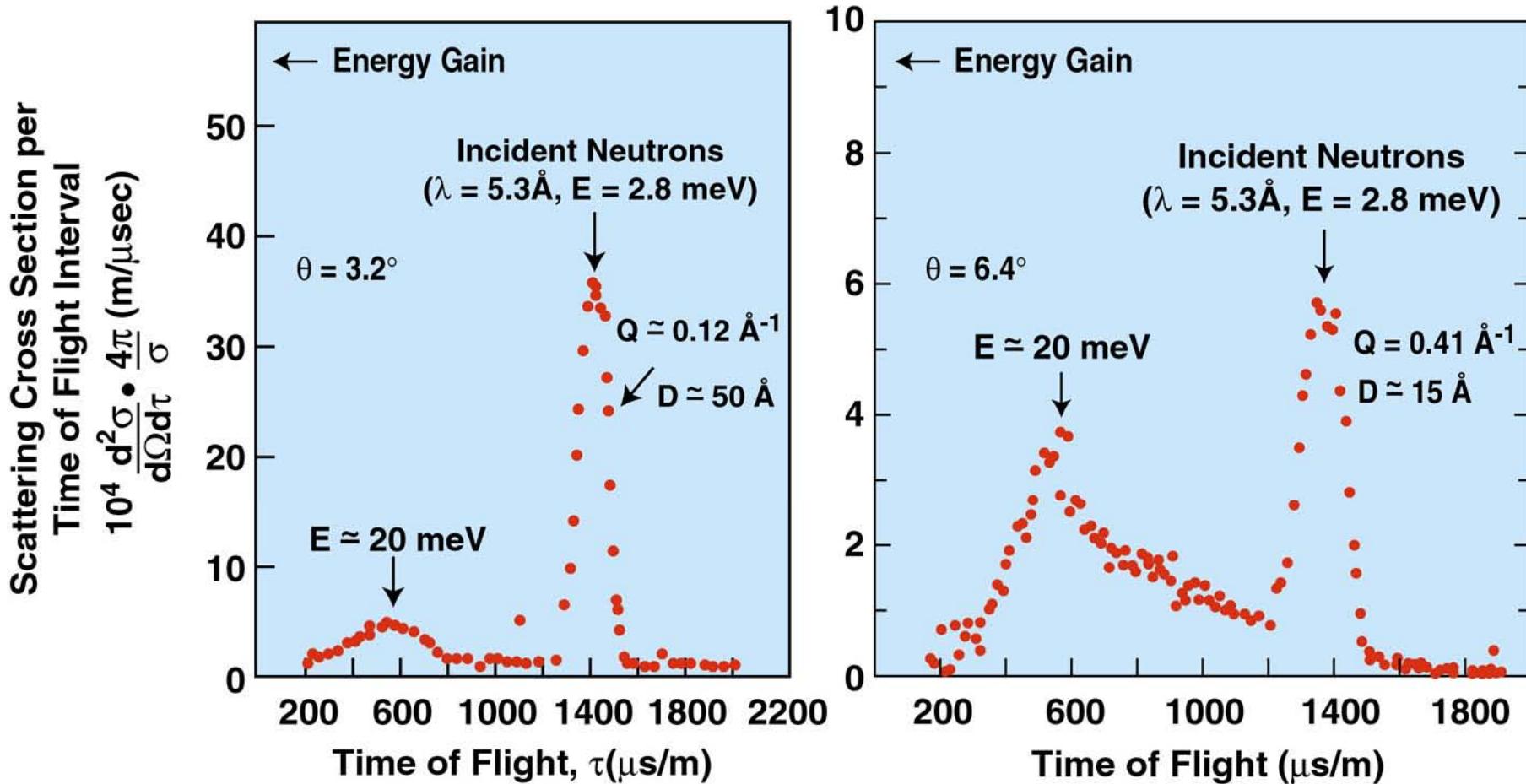
# Gaussian-Stretched Coil Transition for PEP-PEE Block Copolymers as a Function of Polymerization Index



# Processing Effects Morphology

- poly(cyclohexylethylene-*b*-ethylene) pentablock co-polymer extruded sheets
- two different molecular architectures result in two lamellar orientations

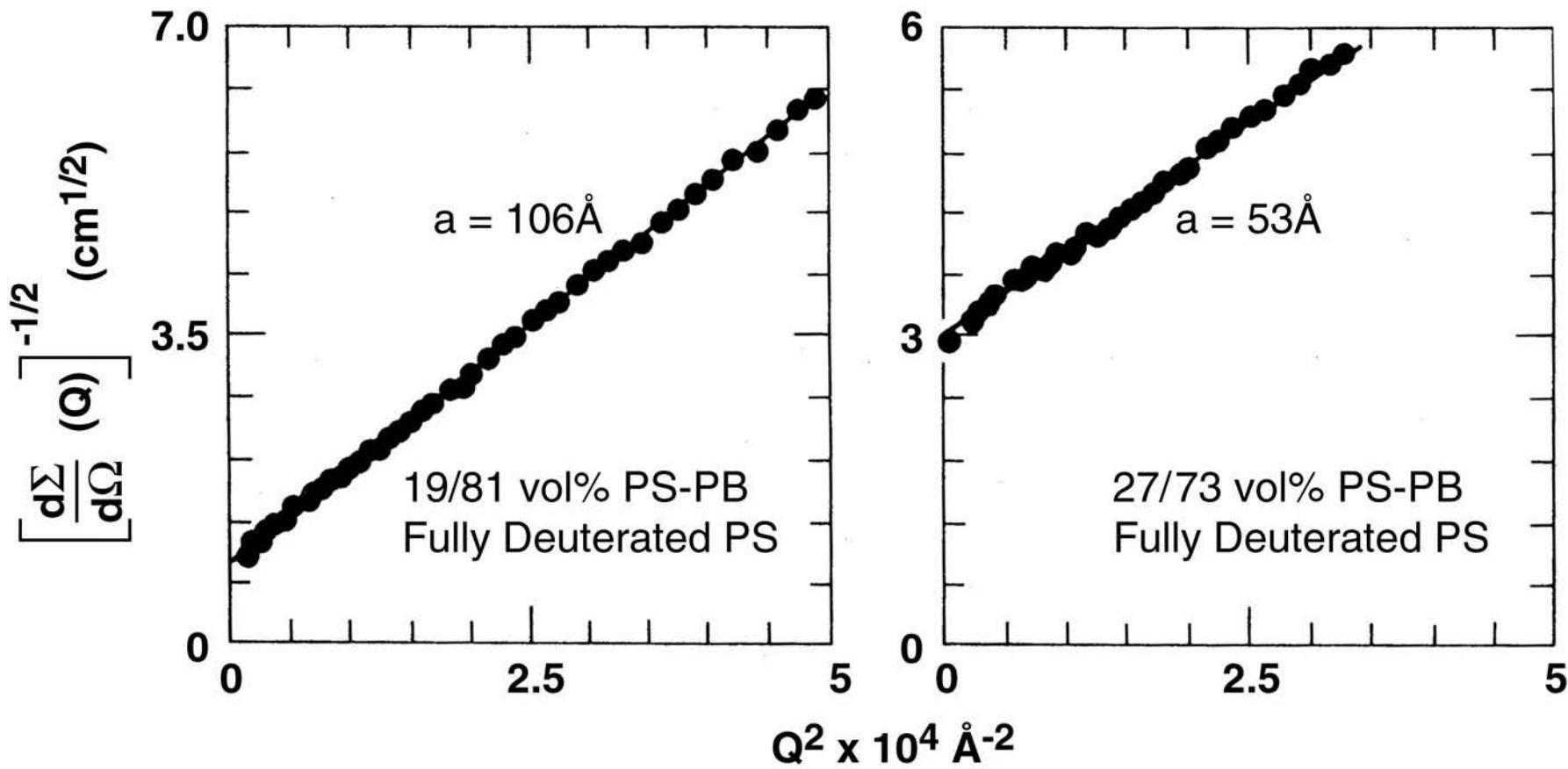




**INELASTIC SPECTRUM FROM Bi-Zn SOLUTIONS (646°C)  
 NEAR THE PHASE BOUNDARY FOR DE-MIXING**  
 [J. Phys. C. 1, 1088 (1968)]

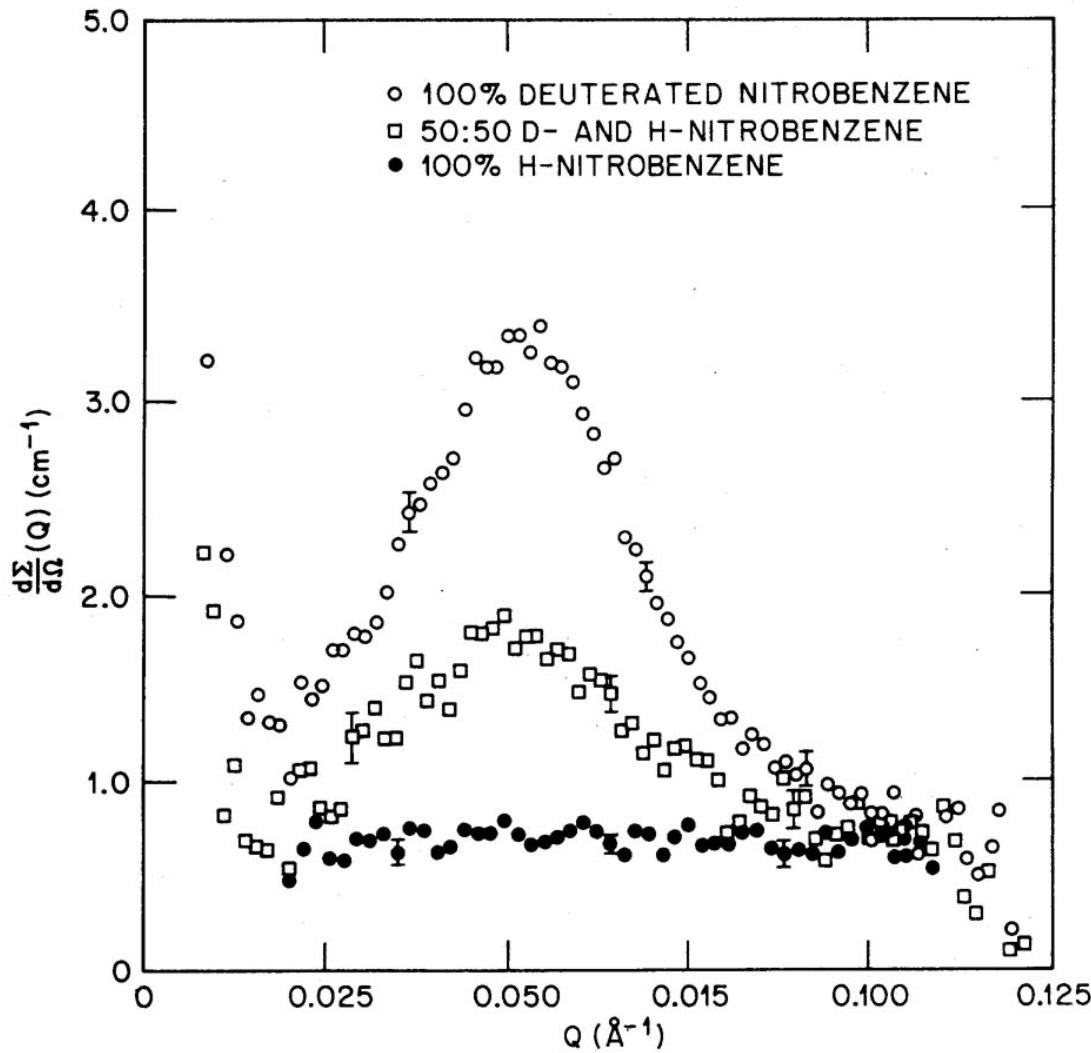
$$\left[ \frac{d\Sigma}{d\Omega} (Q) \right]^{-1/2}$$

## VS Q<sup>2</sup> FOR TWO PHASE-SEPARATED BLENDS OF POLYSTYRENE (PS) AND POLYBUTADIENE (PB)



ORNL-DWG 84-16324/rra

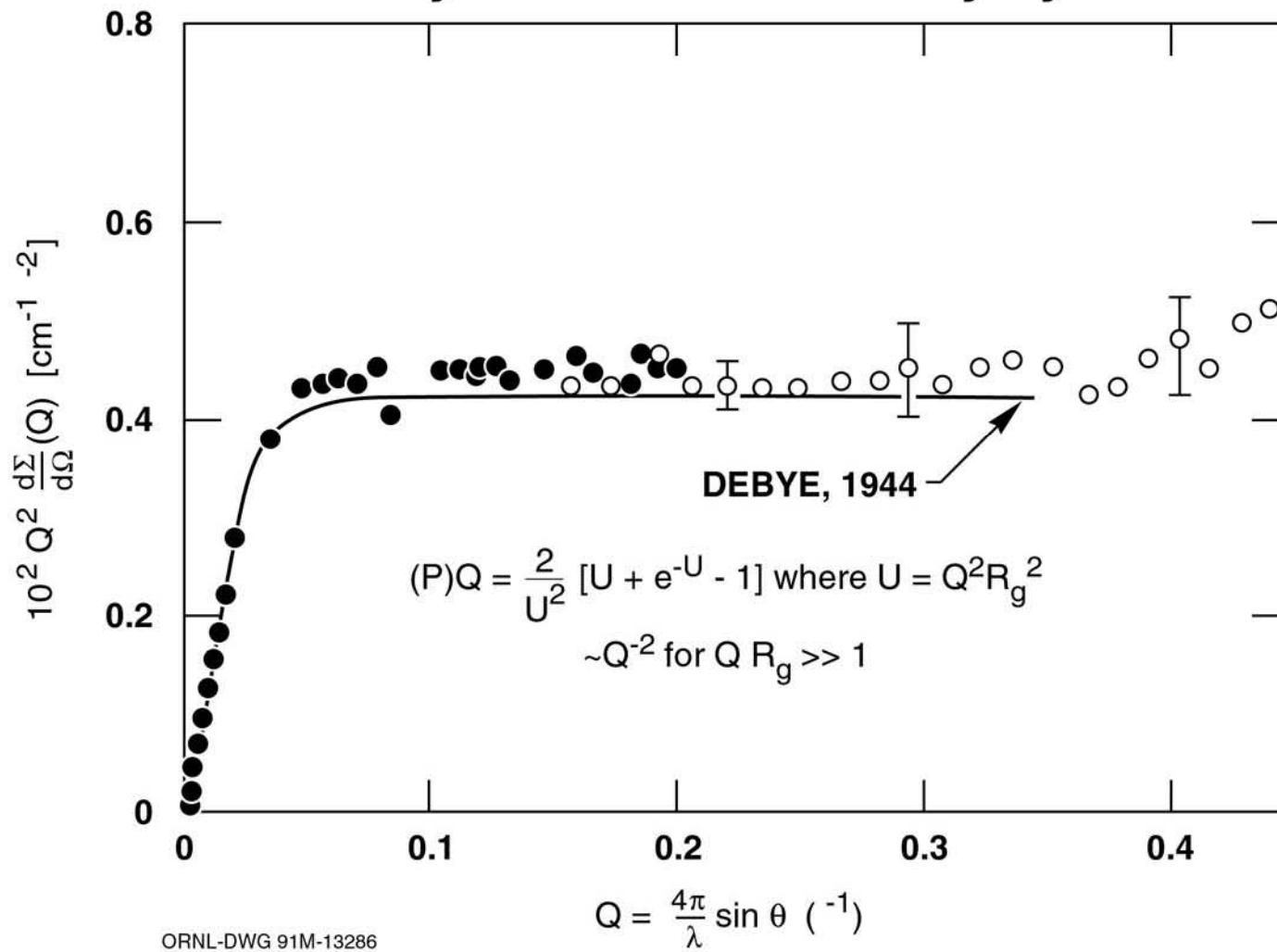
$\frac{d\Sigma}{d\Omega}(Q)$  vs Q FOR POLYVINYL CHLORIDE PLASTICISED  
WITH 33 wt. % NITROBENZENE



# COMPARISON OF MICELLE DIMENSIONS AND AGGREGATION NUMBER ( $N_{AGG}$ ) BY SAXS AND SANS

REFERENCE		RADIATION	$R_{CORE}$ (Å)	$R_{SHELL}$ (Å)	$N_{AGG}$
THIS WORK	UNSWOLLEN	SANS	25	39	3
	D <sub>2</sub> O-SWOLLEN	SANS	86	130	83
	H <sub>2</sub> O-SWOLLEN	SANS	86	126	83
FULTON <i>et al.</i> LANGMUIR, 1995	H <sub>2</sub> O-SWOLLEN	SAXS	105	125	120

# Kratky Plot for Atactic Polystyrene



# Add Gaussian Term to Describe Long Range Fluctuations

$$\gamma(r) = f \exp(-r/a_1) + (1-f) \exp(-r^2/a_2^2)$$

$$\frac{d\Sigma}{d\Omega}(Q) = \frac{A_1}{(1+Q^2a_1^2)^2} + A_2 \exp\left(\frac{-Q^2/a_2^2}{4}\right)$$

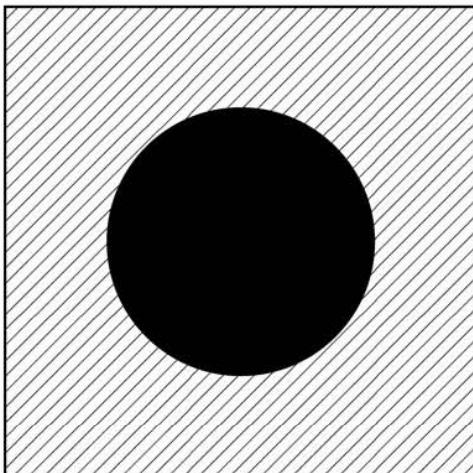
$$A_1 = 8\pi a_1^3 f \phi (1-\phi) (\rho_1 - \rho_2)^2$$

$$A_2 = \pi a^{3/2} a_2^3 (1-f)\phi (1-\phi) (\rho_1 - \rho_2)^2$$

These parameters may be used to calculate surface areas, correlation volume, Porod lengths, etc.

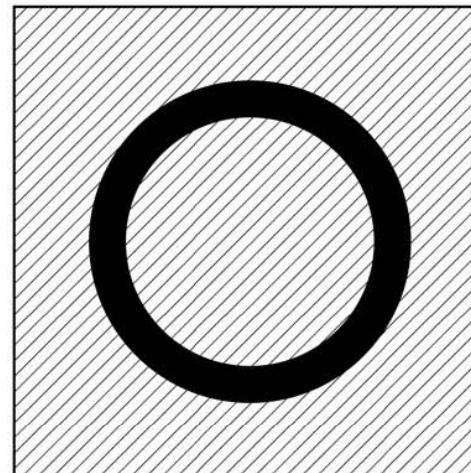
ORNL-WSM 14844/rra

# SANS Studies of Polymer Latex Particles in H<sub>2</sub>O/D<sub>2</sub>O Mixtures



SANS FROM H-LATEXES IN D<sub>2</sub>O  
GIVES THE CORE MORPHOLOGY  
VIA THE THEORETICAL SPHERE  
SCATTERING (BESSEL) FUNCTION

$$P(Q) = \frac{9}{(QR)^6} [\sin QR - QR \cos QR]$$

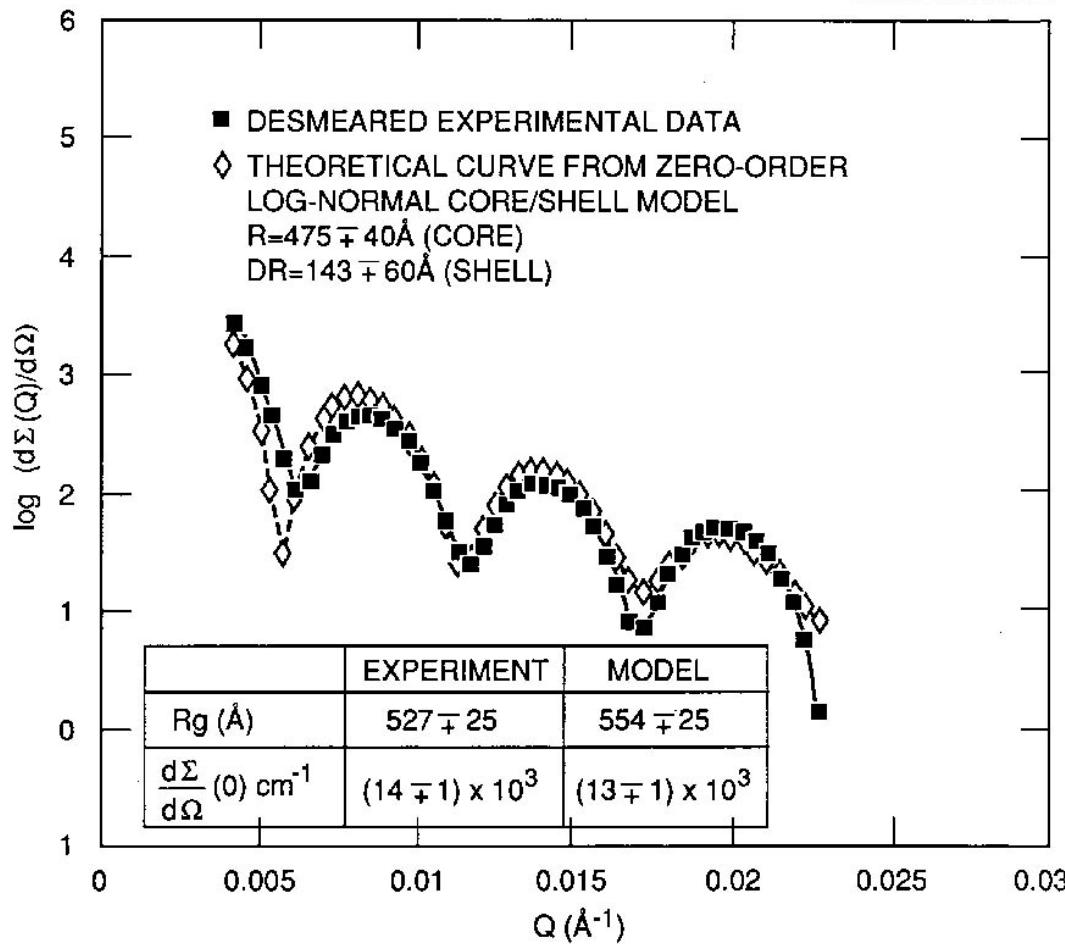


SANS FROM H-LATEXES POLYMERIZED  
WITH A D-SECOND MONOMER AND  
EXAMINED IN A D<sub>2</sub>O/H<sub>2</sub>O MIXTURE  
CHOSEN TO MATCH THE CORE SLD  
SHOWS HOLLOW SHELL SCATTERING  
FUNCTION

$$P(Q) = \frac{9}{QR^6 (I-L^3)^2} [\sin QR - QR \cos QR  
- \sin QRL - QRL \cos QRL]^2$$

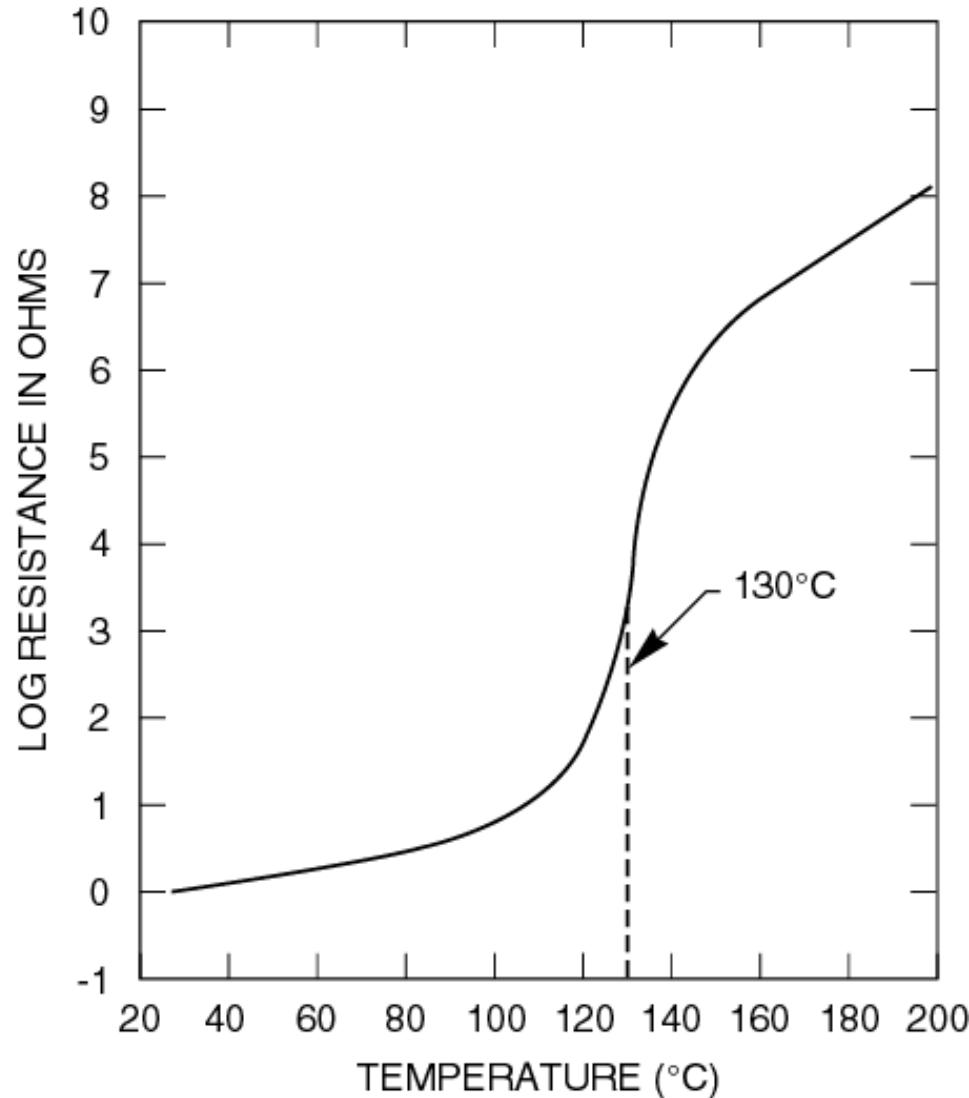
$$L = \frac{R_1}{R} = \frac{\text{INNER RADIUS}}{\text{OUTER RADIUS}}$$

ORNL-DWG 90M-12748R



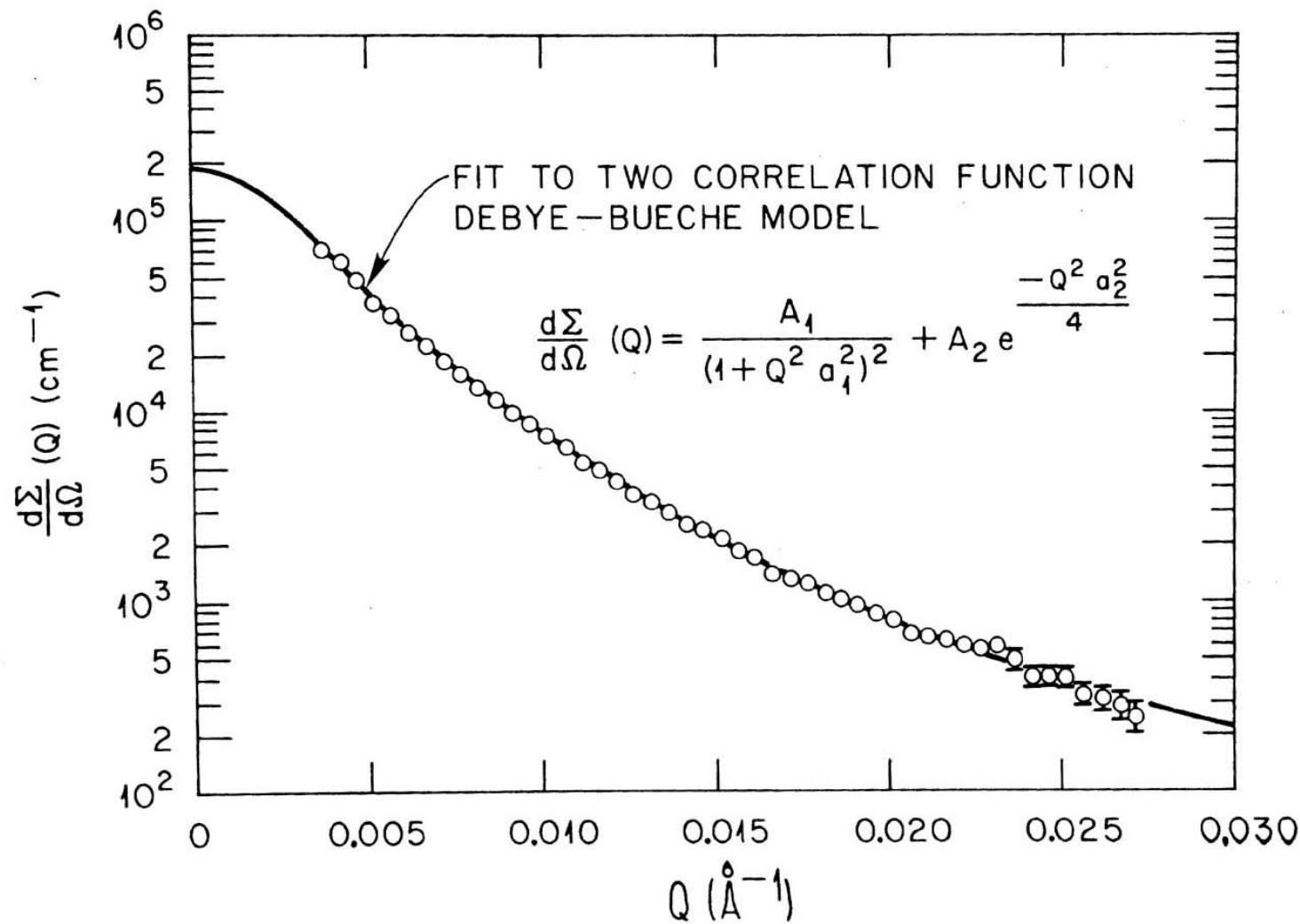
**Comparison of experimental Sans data and theoretical scattering function for PS-PMMA-H core latex with PMMA-D3 shell. Core contrast matched in 25:75 % solution of D<sub>2</sub>O/H<sub>2</sub>O.**

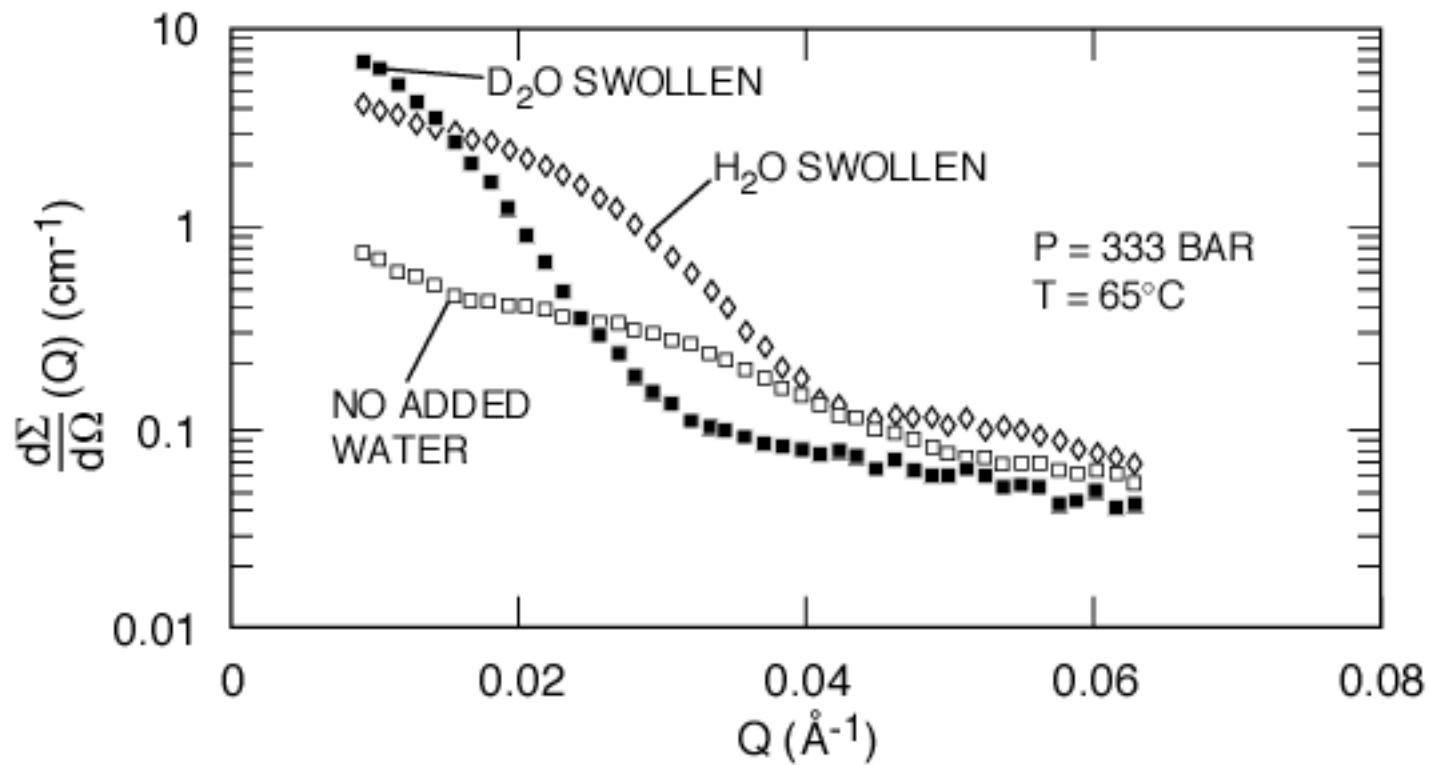
M.P Wai et al. Polymer 28, 919, 1987



RESISTANCE AS FUNCTION OF TEMPERATURE FOR CARBON – POLYETHYLENE  
COMPOSITE MATERIALS (IEE TRANSACTIONS CHMT4, 372, 1981)

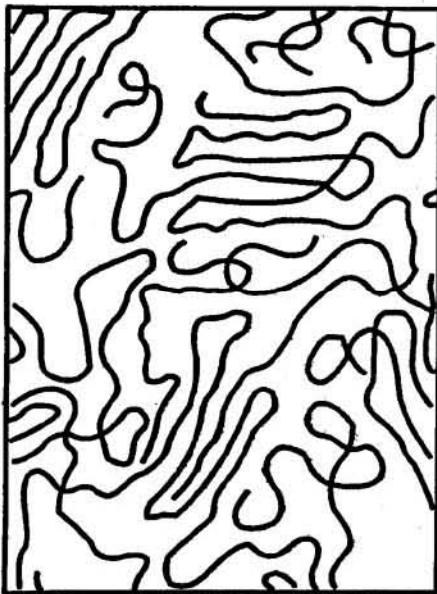
COHERENT SANS CROSS SECTION FROM 34.8  
VOL % CARBON BLACK IN POLYETHYLENE



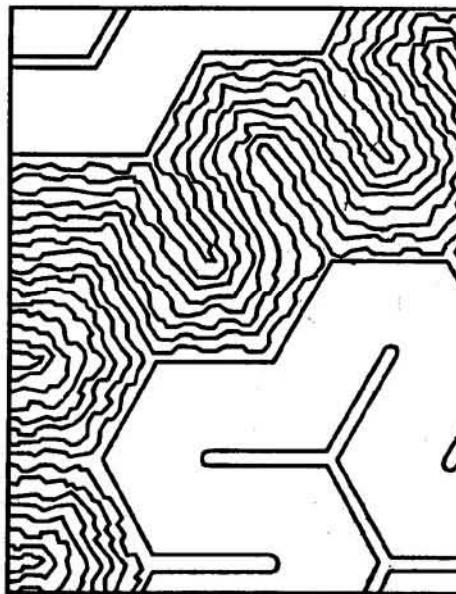


**$\frac{d\Sigma}{d\Omega}(Q)$  FOR PFOA-g-PEO GRAFT COPOLYMER IN CO<sub>2</sub>  
BEFORE AND AFTER SWELLING WITH H<sub>2</sub>O  
AND D<sub>2</sub>O**

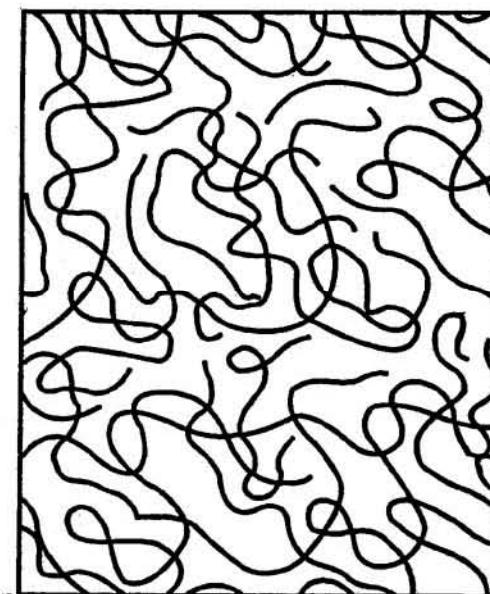
# SCHEMATIC REPRESENTATION OF VARIOUS MODELS FOR POLYMER CHAIN CONFORMATION IN AMORPHOUS POLYMERS



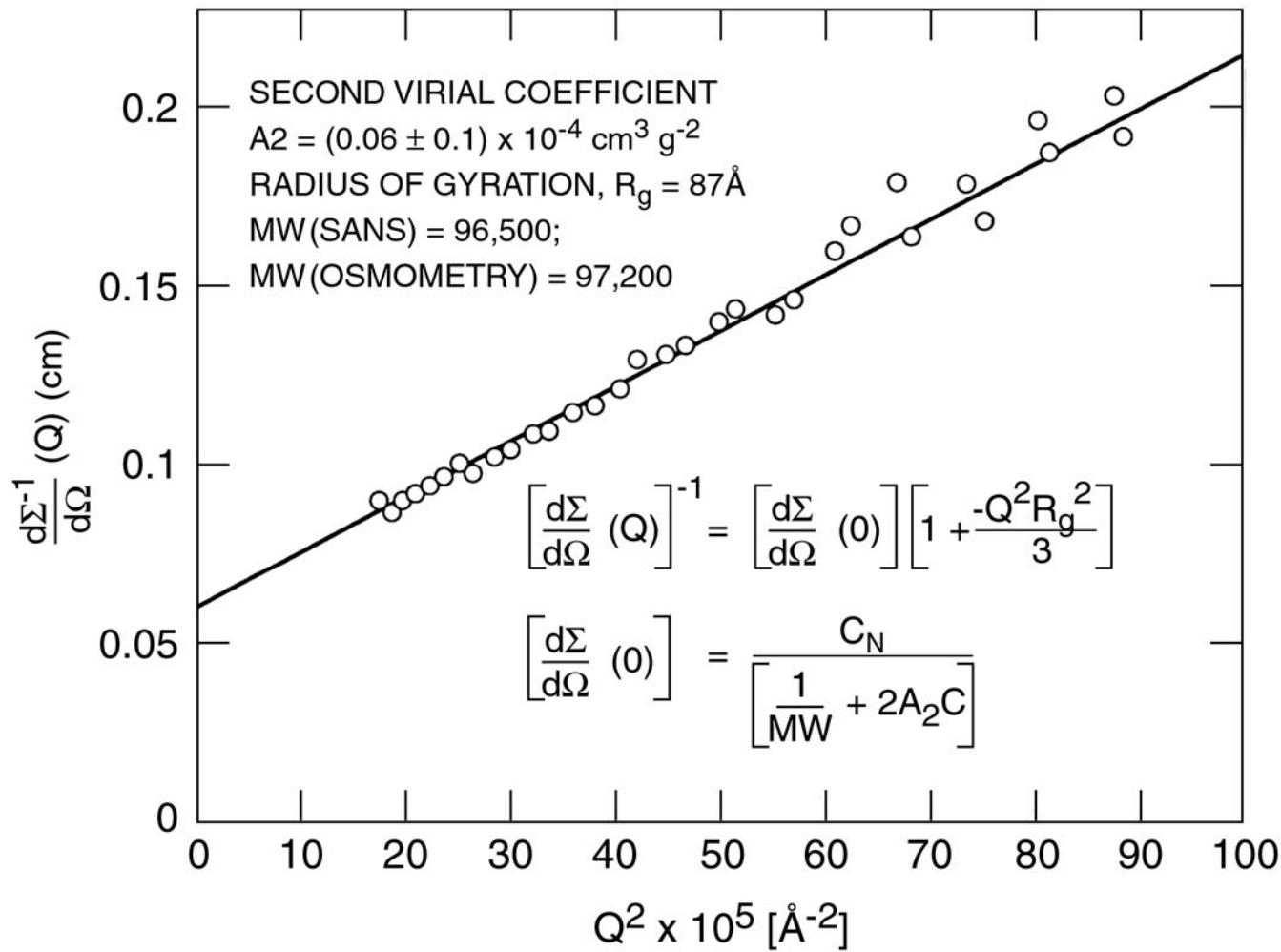
FOLD-CHAIN  
FRINGED-MICELLAR  
GRAIN MODEL  
(YEH, 1972)



MEANDER MODEL  
(PECHOLD, 1968)  
CHAINS HAVE  
QUASI-PARALLEL  
PACKING



RANDOM COIL MODEL (FLORY, 1951)  
CHAIN HAS SAME CONFIGURATION AS IN  
THETA SOLVENT ( $A_2 = 0$ );  $R_g/M_w^{0.5} = 0.27\text{\AA}$   
FOR PS IN CYCLOHEXANE ( $T = 38^\circ\text{C}$ )  
AND IN CONDENSED STATE!

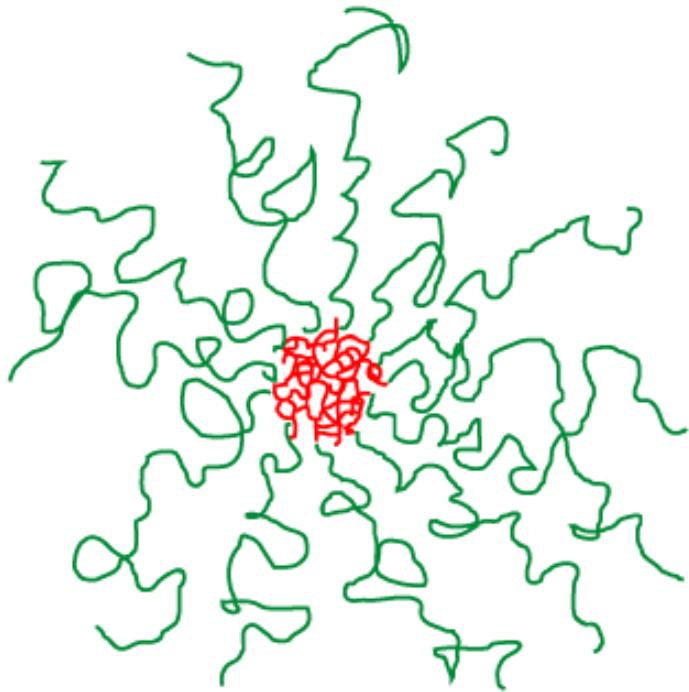


$\frac{d\Sigma}{d\Omega}(Q)$  VS  $Q^2$  FOR SAMPLE CONTAINING 5 wt % LABELED  
PSD MOLECULES IN POLYSTYRENE (PSH)

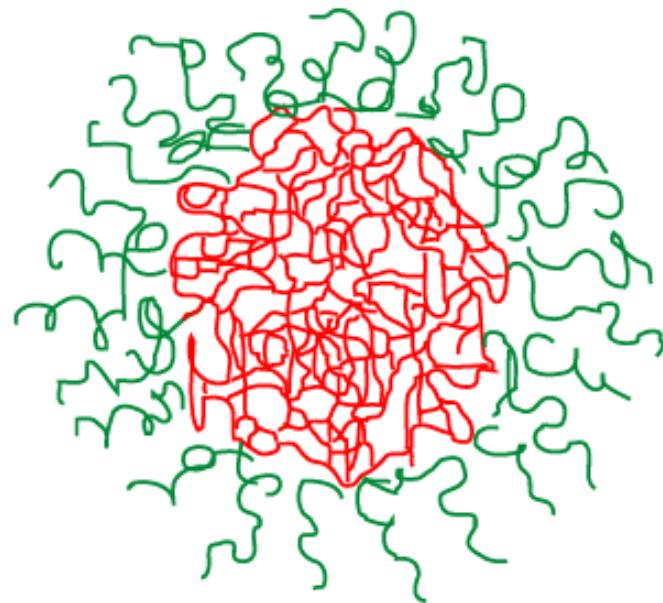
# Molecular Dimensions in Bulk Amorphous Polymers

Polymer	State	$R_g/M_w^{1/2}$ ( gm <sup>-1/2</sup> )	
		Bulk	$\theta$ Solvent
Polystyrene	Glass	0.275	0.275
Polystyrene	Melt	0.280	0.275
Polyethylene	Melt	0.46	0.45
Polyvinyl chloride	Glass	0.40	0.37
Poly-butylene	Glass	0.31	0.30
Polymethyl-Methacrylate	Glass (Atactic) (Syndio) (Isotactic)	0.275 0.289 0.297	0.275 0.243 0.28
Polyethylene-Terephthalate	Glass Melt	0.385 0.35	0.39-0.42 0.34-0.42
Polybutadiene	Melt	0.35	0.34-0.42
Polyethylene Oxide	Melt	0.35	0.34

Gaussian (Random) Coils,  $R_g \sim M_w^{1/2} \sim N^{1/2}$  (N = Number of units on chain)



(a) "HAIRY" MICELLE



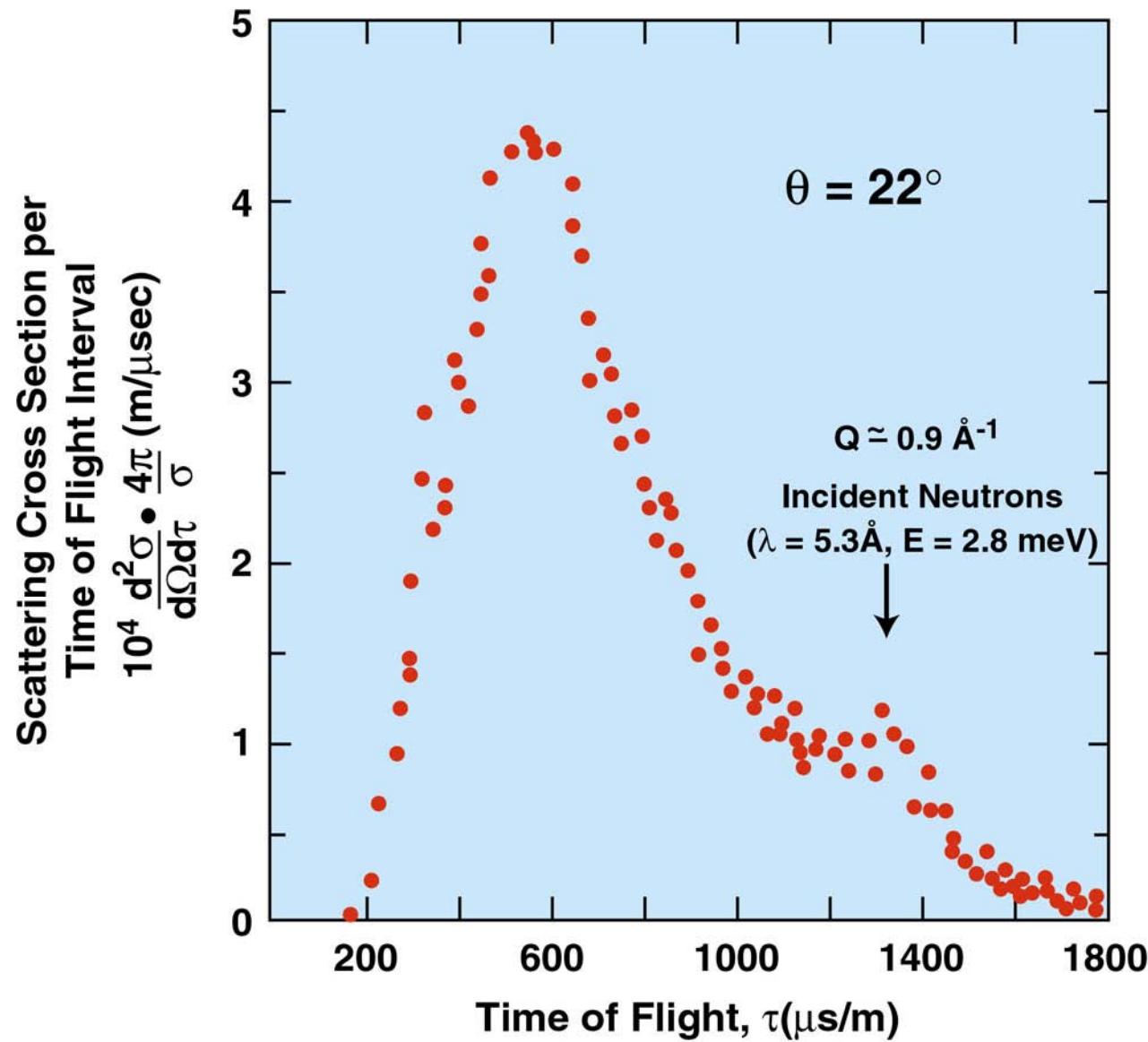
(b) "CREWCUT" MICELLE

POSSIBLE STRUCTURES OF BLOCK COPOLYMER MICELLES  
[HALPERIN *et al.*, Advances in Polymer Science, 100 31 (1992)]

THE AGGREGATION NUMBER IS INDEPENDENT OF THE CORONA BLOCK LENGTH FOR BOTH LIMITING STRUCTURES

# AGGREGATION NUMBER ( $N_{agg}$ ) FOR PS-PFOA BLOCK COPOLYMER MICELLES AS A FUNCTION OF THE CORONA BLOCK LENGTH

Surfactant	$N_{agg}$	$R_{core}$ (Å)	$R_{total}$ (Å)	$N_{CO_2}$	$Z_{core}$
3.7 <sup>k</sup> -b-16.6 <sup>k</sup>	7	27	85	40	10
3.7 <sup>k</sup> -b-27.5 <sup>k</sup>	11	30	80	10	8
3.7 <sup>k</sup> -b-40.0 <sup>k</sup>	7	27	89	16	8
3.7 <sup>k</sup> -b-61.2 <sup>k</sup>	6	26	100	17	8



INELASTIC SPECTRUM FROM Bi-Zn SOLUTION (646°C)  
AT HIGHER-Q [ $Q_{\text{elastic}} \approx 0.9 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$ ]

# SCF Polymerization Cell Mounted Directly in SANS Beam is Virtually Transparent to Neutrons

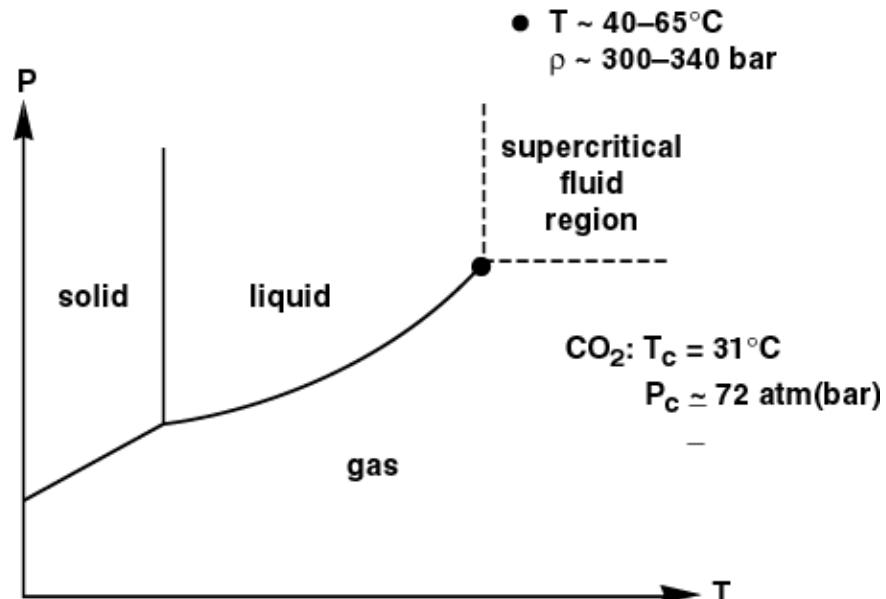


# Supercritical Fluids in Colloidal Science

## Schematic Phase Diagram

Advantages of CO<sub>2</sub>:

- nontoxic
- nonflammable
- environmentally benign
- tunable solvent



Phase	Density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	Diffusion coeff. (cm <sup>2</sup> /s)	Viscosity (g/cm/s)
gas(STP)	$10^{-3}$	$10^{-1}$	$10^{-4}$
SCF	0.3–0.8	$10^{-3}\text{--}10^{-4}$	$10^{-4}\text{--}10^{-3}$
liquid	1	<10 <sup>-5</sup>	10 <sup>-2</sup>