

Well-Defined Complex Macromolecular Architectures by Anionic Polymerization High Vacuum Techniques: Synthesis, Properties and Applications

Nikos Hadjichristidis, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Physical Sciences and Engineering Division, KAUST Catalysis Center, Polymer Synthesis Laboratory, Saudi Arabia

Abstract

Anionic polymerization high vacuum techniques have proven to be a very powerful tool for the synthesis of well-defined macromolecules with complex architectures. Until now, however only a relatively limited number of such structures with two or three different components (star block, miktoarm star, graft, branched, cyclic, hyperbranched) have been created, the potential of anionic polymerization is unlimited. Imagination, nature, and other scientific disciplines (i.e., polymer physics, materials science, and molecular biology) will lead polymer scientists to novel structures, with the ultimate goal of designing and synthesizing polymeric materials with predetermined properties. A short review of the structure/property relationships and applications of selected polymers will be presented.

Selected References

- N. Hadjichristidis, M. Pitsikalis, S. Pispas, H. Iatrou "Polymers with complex architecture by living anionic polymerization", Chem. Rev., **101**, 3747 (2001)*
- N. Hadjichristidis, S. Pispas, G. Floudas "Block copolymers. Synthetic strategies, physical properties and applications", J. Wiley & Sons (2003)*
- N. Hadjichristidis, H. Iatrou, M. Pitsikalis, S. Pispas, A. Avgeropoulos "Linear and non-linear multiblock terpolymers. Synthesis, self-assembly in selective solvents and in Bulk", Progr. Polym. Sci., **30**, 725 (2005)*
- K.Orfanou, E. Iatrou, D.Lohse , N. Hadjichristidis "Synthesis of well-defined second (G-2) and third (G-3) generation dendritic polybutadienes", Macromolecules, **39**, 4361 (2006)*
- E. Ruymbeke, K. Orfanou, M. Kapnistos, H. Iatrou, M. Pitsikalis, Hadjichristidis, D. Lohse, D.Vlassopoulos "Entangled dendritic polymers and beyond: rheology of symmetric Cayley-tree polymers and macromolecular self-assemblies", Macromolecules, **40**, 5941(2007)*
- S. Christodoulou, P. Driva, H. Iatrou, N.Hadjichristidis "Synthesis and micellization behavior of JanusH-shaped A₂BC₂ terpolymers", Macromolecules, **41**, 2607 (2008)*
- A. Karatzas, H. Iatrou, N. Hadjichristidis "Complex Macromolecular Chimeras", Biomacromolecules, **9**, 2072 (2008)*
- N. Hadjichristidis, H. Iatrou, M. Pitsikalis, G. Sakellaris "Synthesis of well-defined polypeptide-based materials via the ring-opening polymerization of alpha-amino acid NCAs", Chem. Rev., **109**, 5528 (2009)*
- S. Junnila, N. Houbenov, S. Hanski, H. Iatrou, A. Hirao, N. Hadjichristidis, O. Ikkala "Hierarchical smectic self-assembly of an ABC miktoarm star terpolymer with a helical polypeptide Arm", Macromolecules, **43**, 9071 (2010)*
- N. Hadjichristidis, A. Hirao, Y. Tezuka, F. Du Prez "Complex Macromolecular Architectures. Synthesis, Characterization and Self-Assembly", Wiley & Sons, 2011*
- T.Ljubic, K. Reboli, D. Pahovnik, N. Hadjichristidis, M. Zigon, E. Zagar "Utility of chromatographic and spectroscopic techniques for detailed characterization of poly(styrene-*b*-isoprene) miktoarm star copolymers with complex architecture", Macromolecules, **45**, 7574 (2012)*
- H. Zhang, N. Alkayal, Y. Gnanou, N. Hadjichristidis "Anionic polymerization and polyhomologation: an ideal combination to synthesize polyethylene-based block copolymers", ChemComm., **49**, 8952 (2013)*