



Ion-specific effects in polyelectrolyte solutions: chain-chain interactions, chain rigidity and dynamics. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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1. Synthesis of ionenes

The synthesis builds upon the original synthetic routes of Rembaum and Noguchi [1–3]. In general, Br-ionenes are synthesized from the corresponding equimolar amounts of *N,N,N',N'*-tetramethyl-1,*x*-alkane and 1,*y*-dibromoalkane (Aldrich) by a polyaddition reaction in dimethylformamide (methanol in the case of 6,12- and 12,12-ionene) at room temperature and under argon atmosphere for a duration of 7 days.

Preparation of dimethylamine (DMA) aqueous solution. Dimethylamine hydrochloride (86.0 g, 1.05 mol) was transferred in to a two-necked, 500mL round-bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer. One neck was connected to a dropping funnel containing NaOH aqueous solution at 23 M (50 mL, 1.15 mol) and the other one to the tube immersed in ice-cold water (18 mL). NaOH solution was added dropwise to dimethylamine hydrochloride (DMA.HCl) while stirring at 10 °C. The mixture was warmed to its initial boiling point (55 °C)

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and then slowly further on up to 90 °C. Vapours of DMA were condensed/dissolved while passing through the ice-cold water. The procedure yielded an aqueous solution (57%, 51.7 g, 0.63 mol) of DMA.

Synthesis of N,N,N',N'-tetramethyl-1,12-dodecanediamine. 1,12-Dibromododecane (8.35 g, 25 mmol) was dissolved in tetrahydrofuran (70 mL) into a 250 mL round-bottom flask. The solution was cooled to -78 °C and an aqueous solution of DMA (57%, 39.5 g, 0.5 mol) was added. After being stirred for 30 min at the same temperature, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 24h. Volatile components were removed under reduced pressure, and the resulting white residue was dissolved in 2 M NaOH aqueous solution (200 mL). Thereafter the liquid phase was extracted with diethyl ether several times. The combined organic layers were collected and concentrated to obtain a yellow oil. The crude product was purified via vacuum distillation (100 °C and 1 mbar) from CaH₂ to provide a clear colourless liquid product (4.5 g, 90% yield).

Synthesis of 12,12-Ionene Bromide. N,N,N',N'-tetramethyl-1,12-dodecanediamine (4.5 g, 22.5 mmol) was added to a solution of 1,12-Dibromododecane (5.77 g, 22.5 mmol) in methanol (55 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 days at 45 °C. The solution was then concentrated and the residue was precipitated with diethylether. After the decantation, the supernatant was eliminated. The solid was dissolved in water and washed with diethylether. After elimination of water by freeze-drying, the 12,12-ionene was obtained as white solid (12,49 g, 95%).

Synthesis of 6,6-, and 3,3-Ionene Bromides. These ionenes were prepared as described for 12,12-ionene bromide, with the appropriate dibromoalkanes and diaminoalkanes [4–7]. In the case of 3,3-ionene bromide, small amounts of water were repeatedly added into the reaction mixture, when it became white and very viscous, to ensure the solubility of all components.

2. Viscosity measurements on ionene solutions

Figure 1 features viscosity measurements for 6,9-Br and 6,9-F ionenes. Changes in slope occur at the same concentrations, which confirms the information from SANS that the two systems are in the same concentration regimes at 0.4M and 2M. Similar type data is obtained for 3,3-ionenes and 12,12-ionenes (data not shown).

3. Additional SANS measurements on 6,9- and 12,12-ionenes

Figure 2 shows the SANS intensity for ionene chains with mixed counterion clouds at moderate (6,9-ionenes) and low (12,12-ionene) chain charge densities.

4. Decoupling of coherent and incoherent intensity in NSE via polarisation analysis

Figure 3 shows the decoupling of scattered intensity into its coherent and incoherent contributions, as obtained by polarisation analysis in NSE.

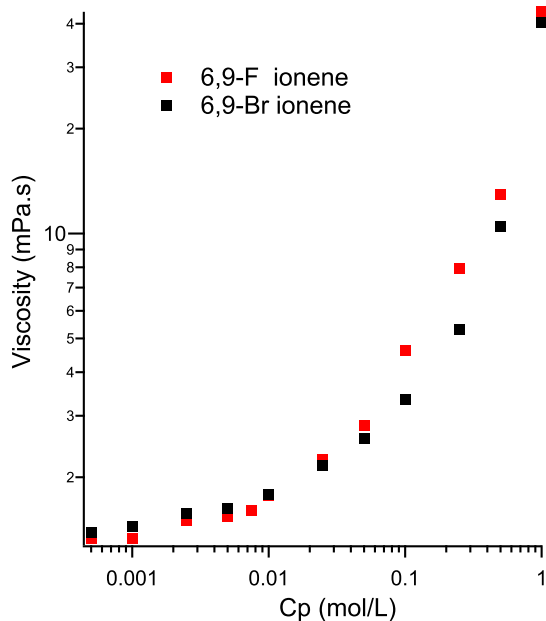


Figure 1. Viscosity measurements for aqueous solutions of 6,9-Br and 6,9-F ionenes.

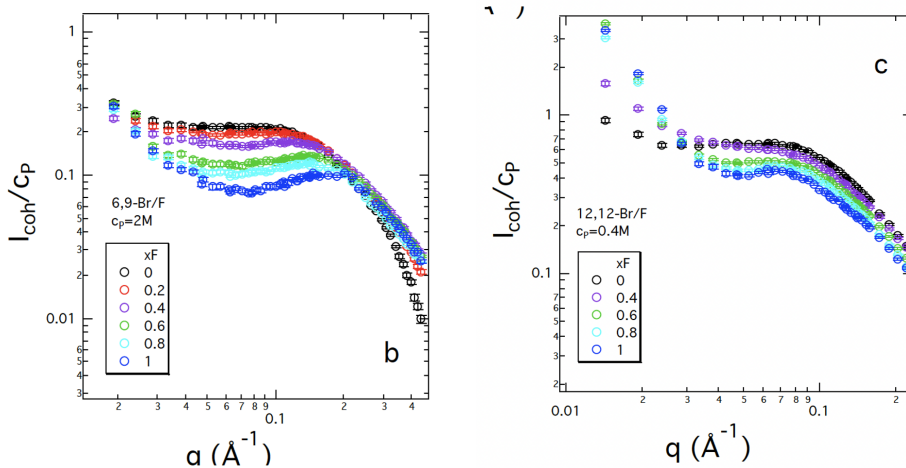


Figure 2. Coherent neutron scattering intensity normalised by ionene monomer concentration (I_{coh}/c_p), in arbitrary units, versus scattering wave-vector (q) for room temperature aqueous solutions (in D_2O) of 6,9- and 12,12-ionenes with mixed Br-F counterion clouds. The fraction of F^- counterions (xF) is shown in the legend. All systems are at 2M monomer concentration.

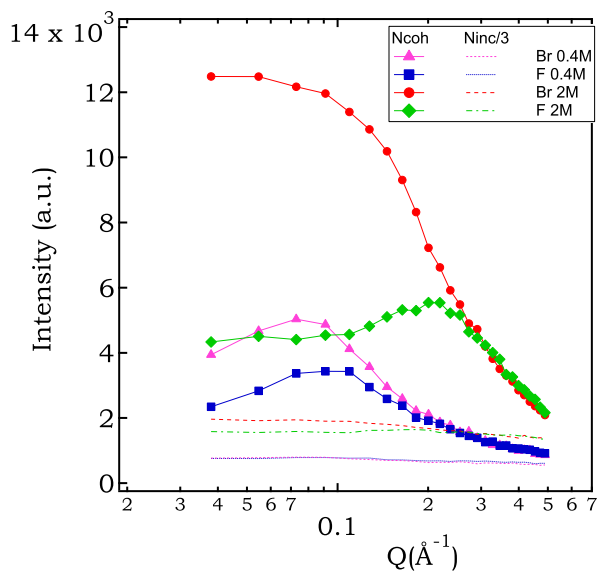


Figure 3. Scattered intensity as a function of the wave-vector Q , decoupled into the coherent (Ncoh) and incoherent (Ninc) contributions. The latter is presented with an intensity pre-factor of 1/3, to reflect its effective contribution in the dynamic signal measured by the neutron spin echo technique. Four samples are considered: ionene chains with F and Br counterions, each at a low and a high monomer concentration, 0.4M and 2M respectively.

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