

Unconventional collective behaviour of DNA-made nanoparticles

Francesco Sciortino

<http://glass.phys.uniroma1.it/sciortino/>



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Outline:

Why do we like DNA: bridging in-silico and in-charta intuitions into real experimental realizations

The limited-valence case. Equilibrium gels and q^0

The competing-interaction case “gelling on heating”

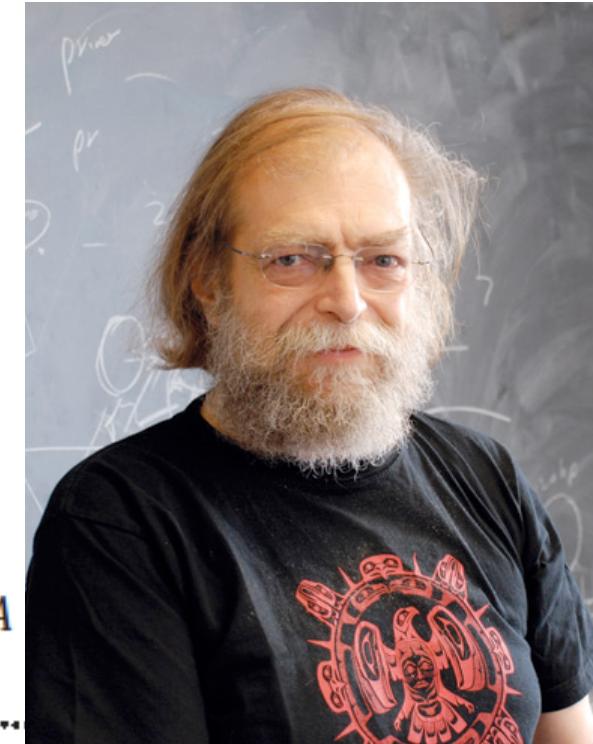
Vitrimers with DNA

DNA particles for LL transition ?

DNA in a material world

Nadrian C. Seeman

*Department of Chemistry, New York University, New York 10003, USA
(e-mail: ned.seeman@nyu.edu)*



The specific bonding of DNA base pairs provides the chemical foundation for genetics. This powerful molecular recognition system can be used in nanotechnology to direct the assembly of highly structured materials with specific nanoscale features, as well as in DNA computation to process complex information. The exploitation of DNA for material purposes presents a new chapter in the history of the molecule.



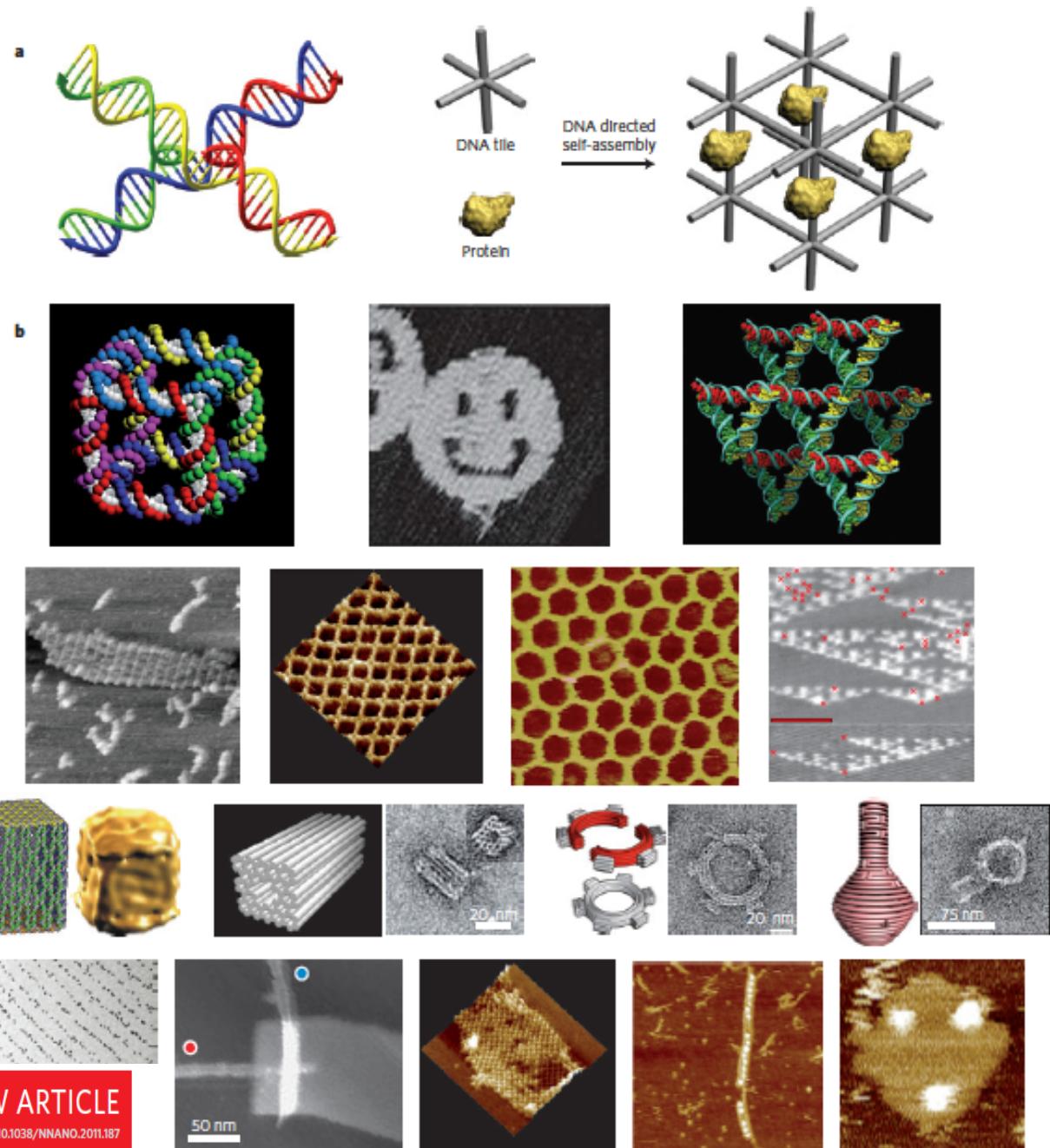
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COLLDENSE
COLLOIDS with
DESIGNED RESPONSE

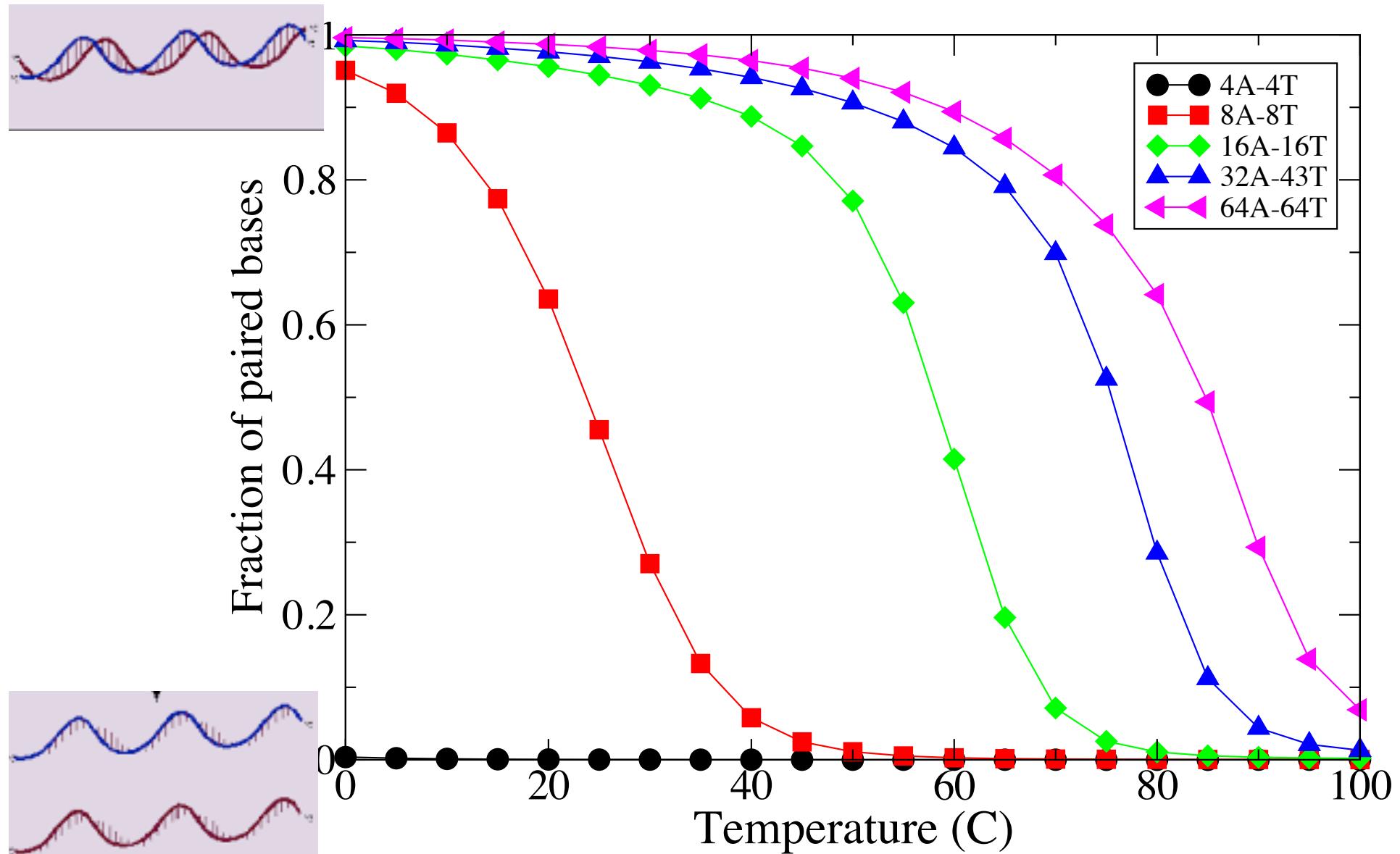
Challenges and opportunities for structural DNA nanotechnology

Andre V. Pinheiro¹, Dongran Han^{1,2}, William M. Shih^{3,4,5*} and Hao Yan^{1,2*}

NATURE NANOTECHNOLOGY DOI: 10.1038/NNANO.2011.187



What do we need to know 1 : single (high T) and double (low T) strands



What do we need to know 2: palindromes

**saippuakivikauppias
detartrated**

essayasse

ressasser



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What do we need to know 2: palindromes

saippuakivikauppias

detrartrated

ACCAVALLAVACCA

essayasse
ressasser

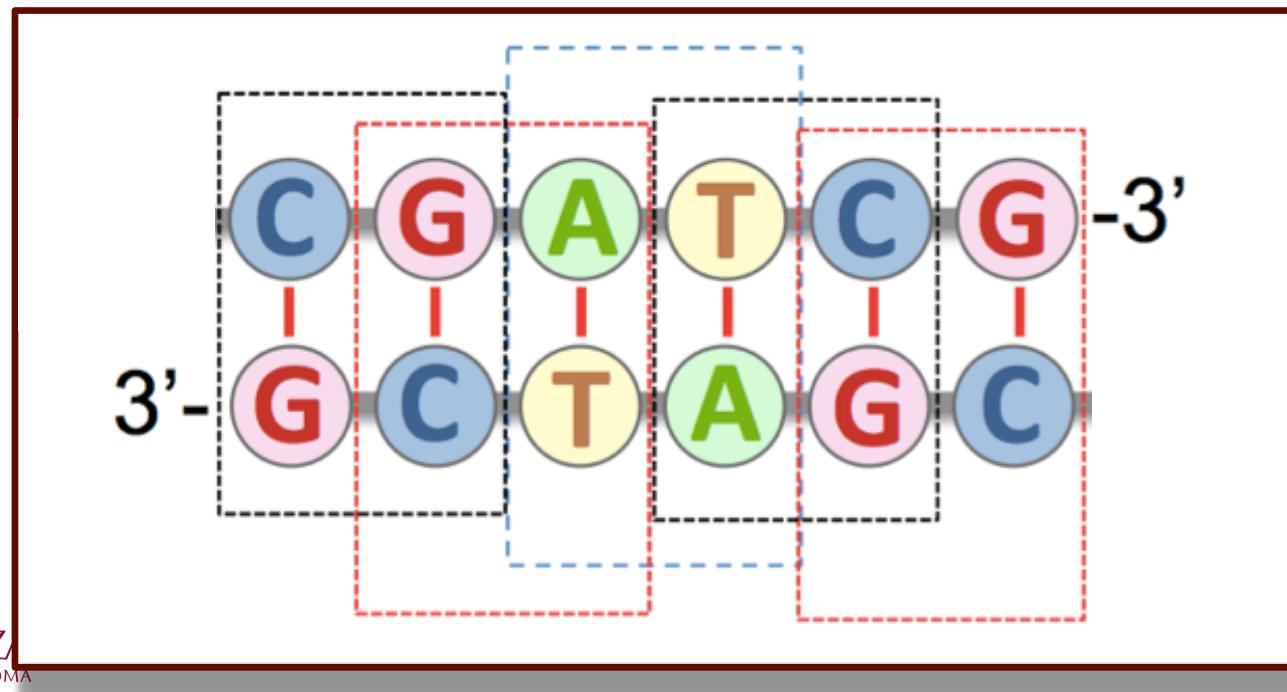


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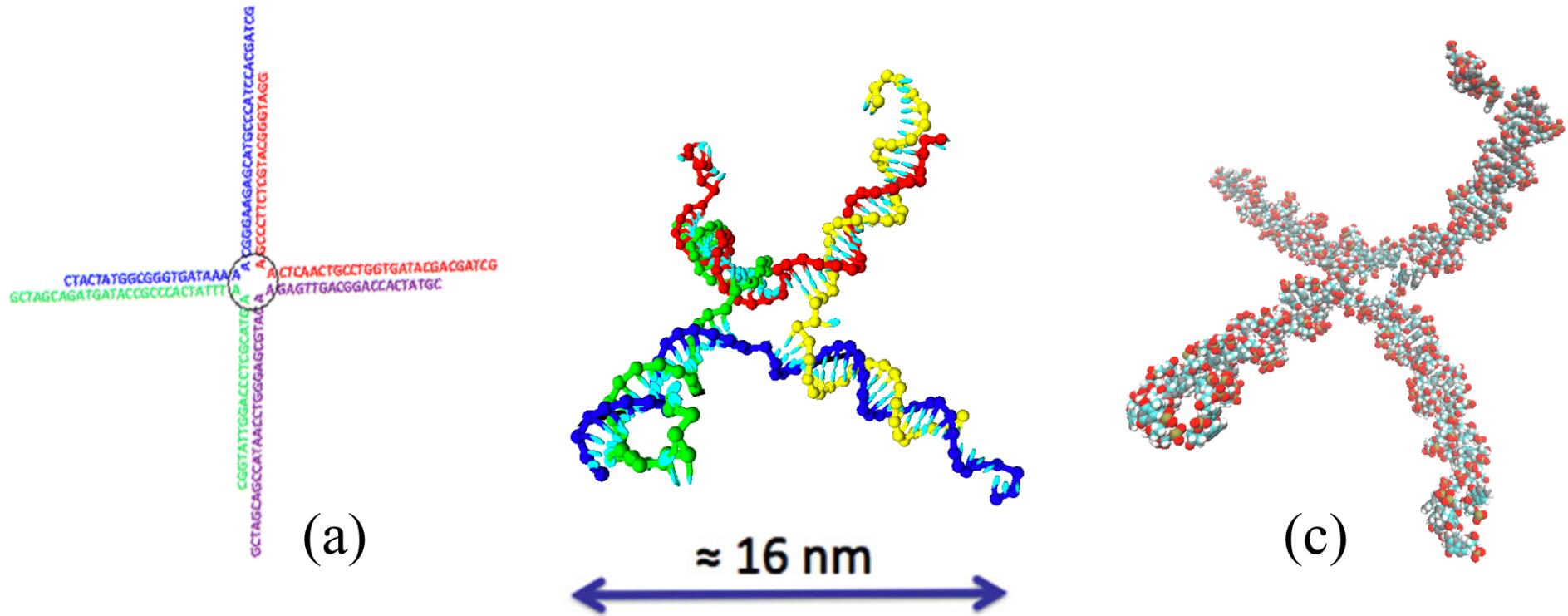
COLLDENSE
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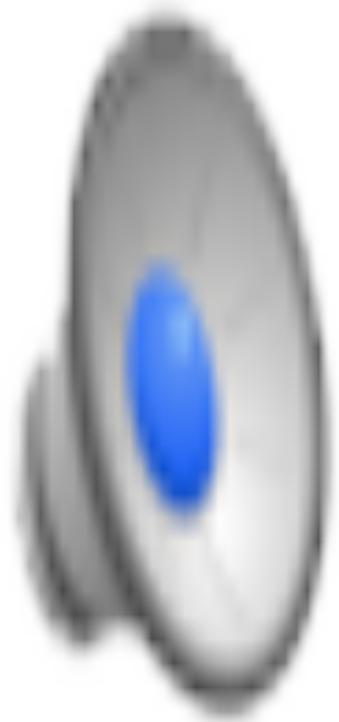
What do we need to know 2: self-complementary sequences can bind among themselves

ACCAVALLAVACCA
ACCAVALLAVACCA



Our hero: The DNA nanostar

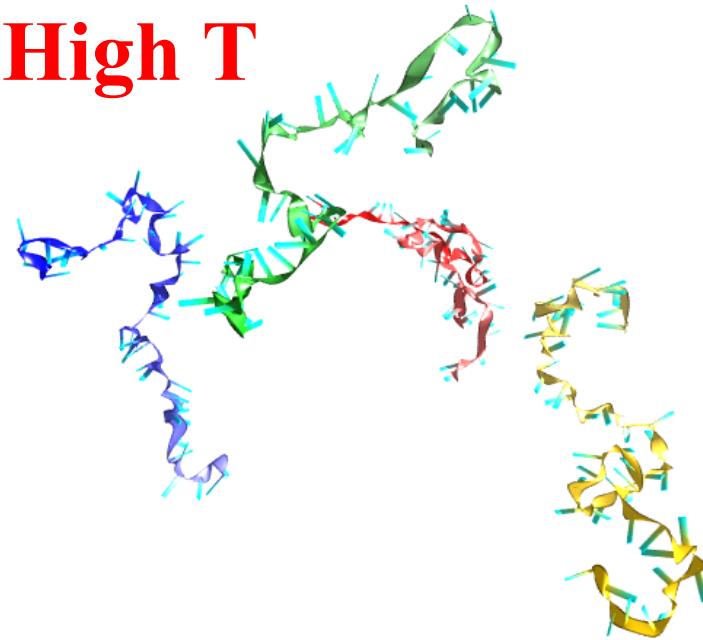




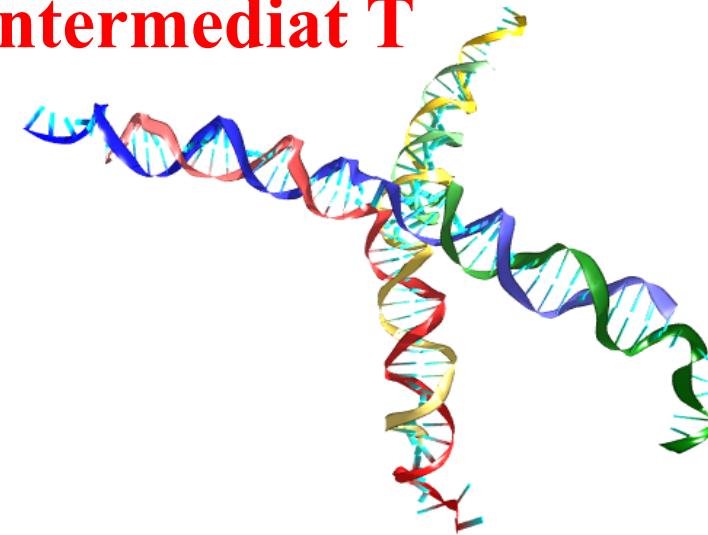
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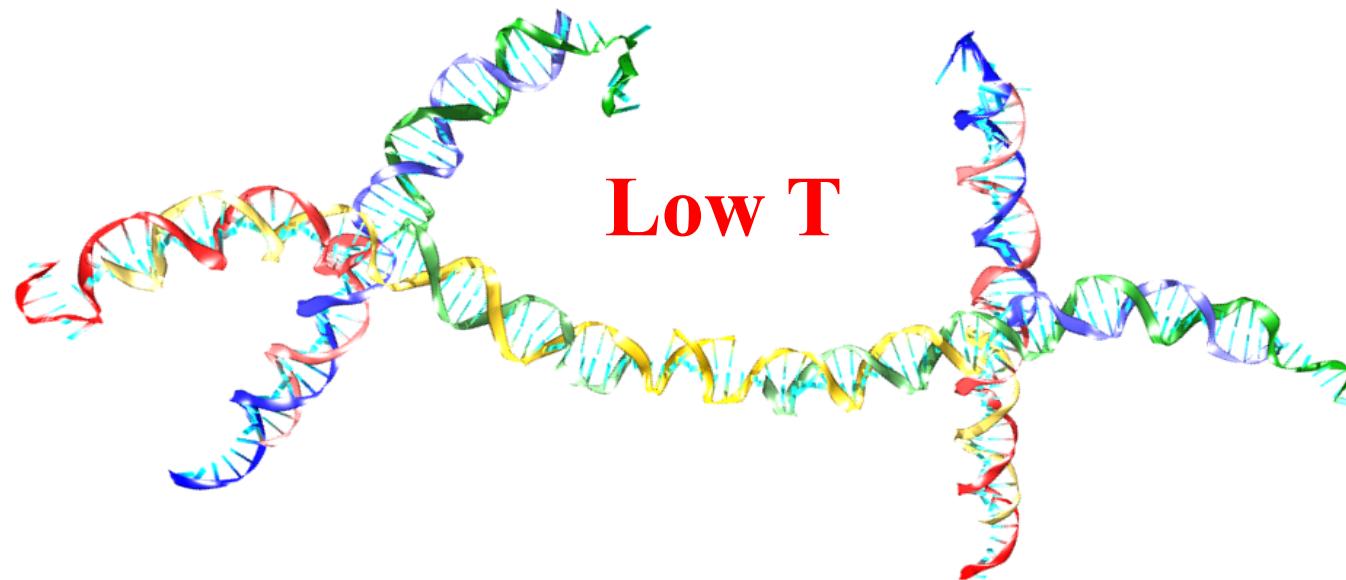
High T



Intermediat T



Low T

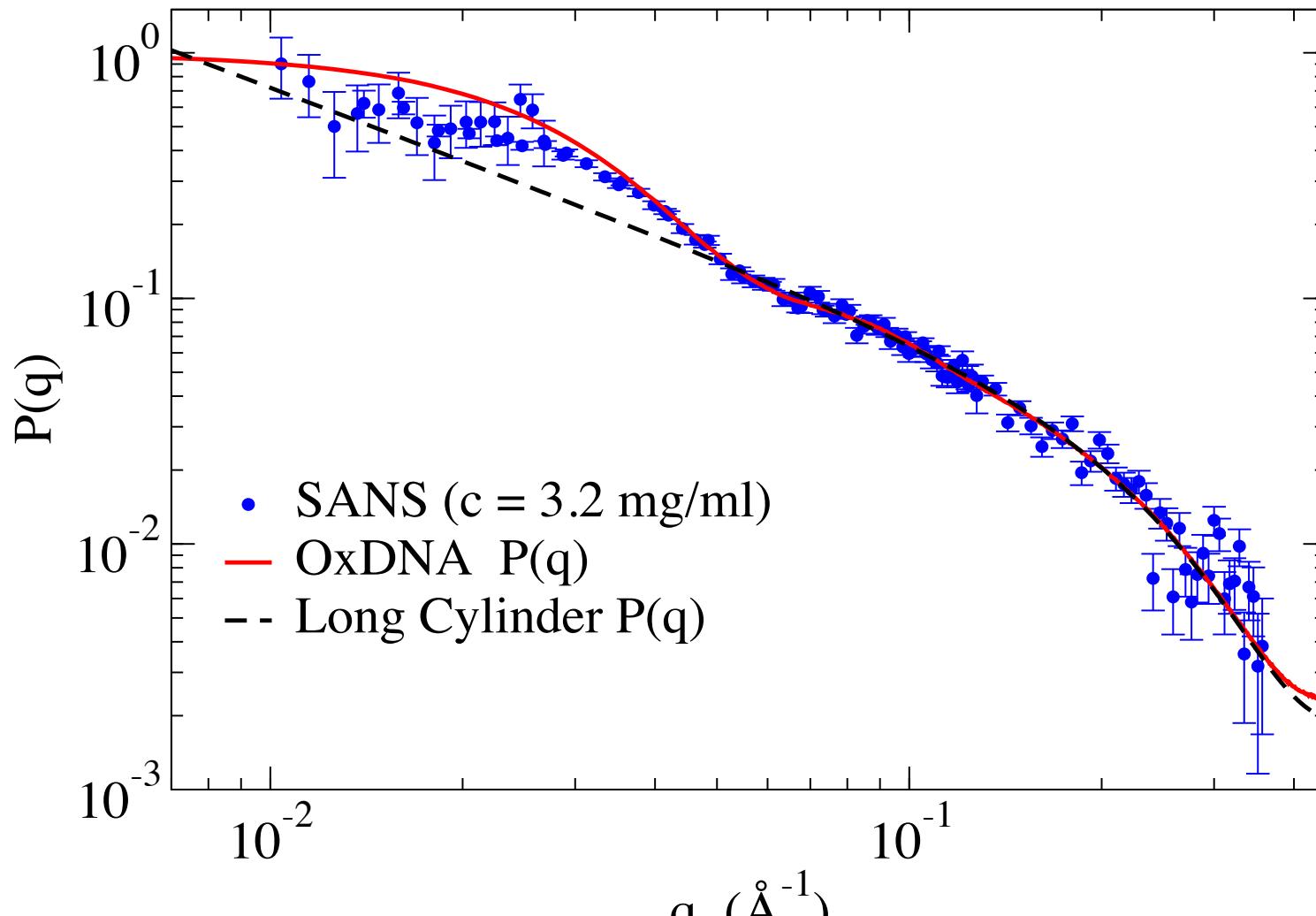


OxDNA



JSE
DS with
SPONSE

Test Simulation-Experiments and Test of NS formation



THE JOURNAL OF CHEMICAL PHYSICS 145, 084910 (2016)

Small-angle neutron scattering and molecular dynamics structural study of gelling DNA nanostars

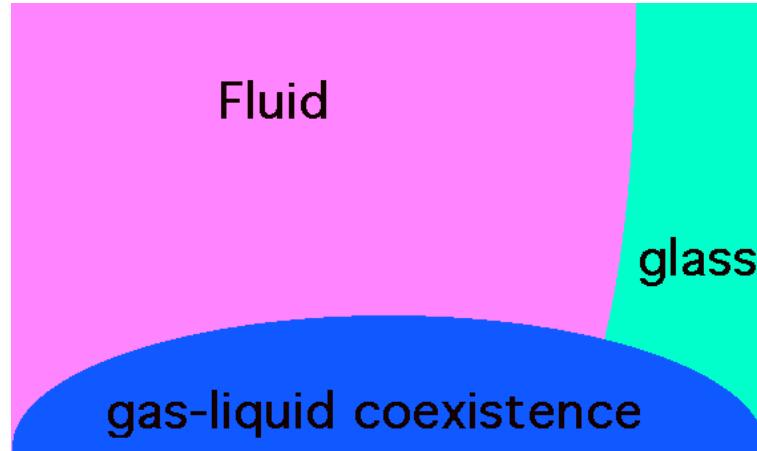
J. Fernandez-Castanon,¹ F. Bomboi,¹ L. Rovigatti,^{2,3} M. Zanatta,^{4,5} A. Paciaroni,⁴
L. Comez,^{4,6} L. Porcar,⁷ C. J. Jafta,⁸ G. C. Fadda,⁹ T. Bellini,¹⁰ and F. Sciortino^{1,5,a)}



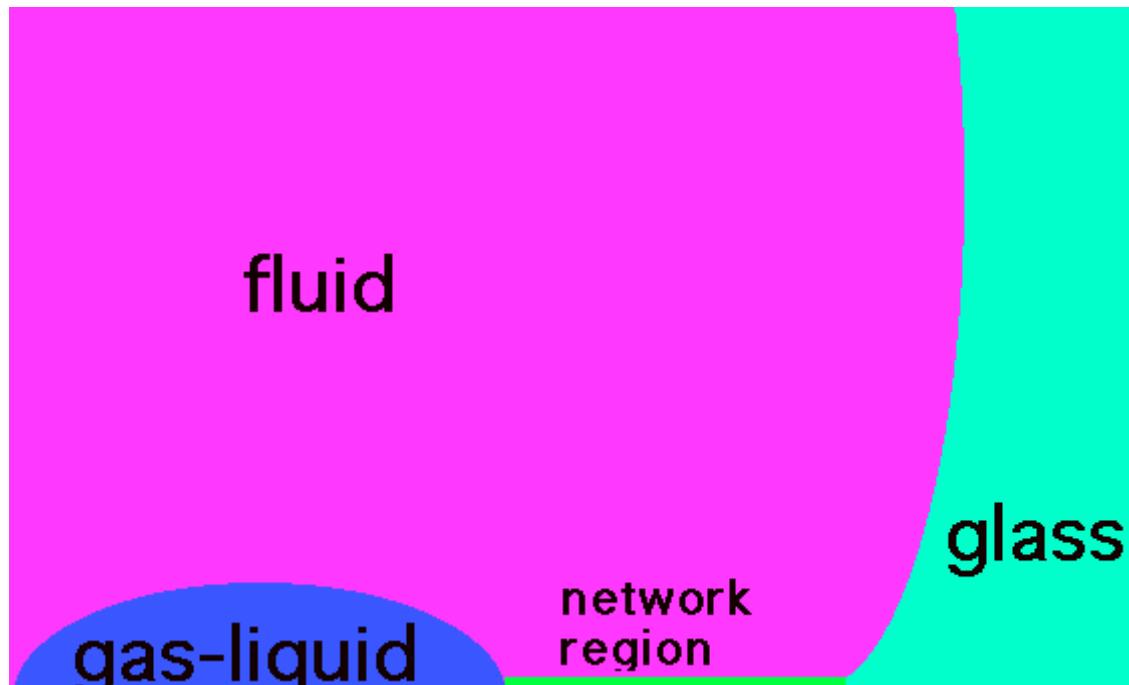
Bridging *in-silico* and *in-charta* intuitions into real experimental realizations

Equilibrium gels:

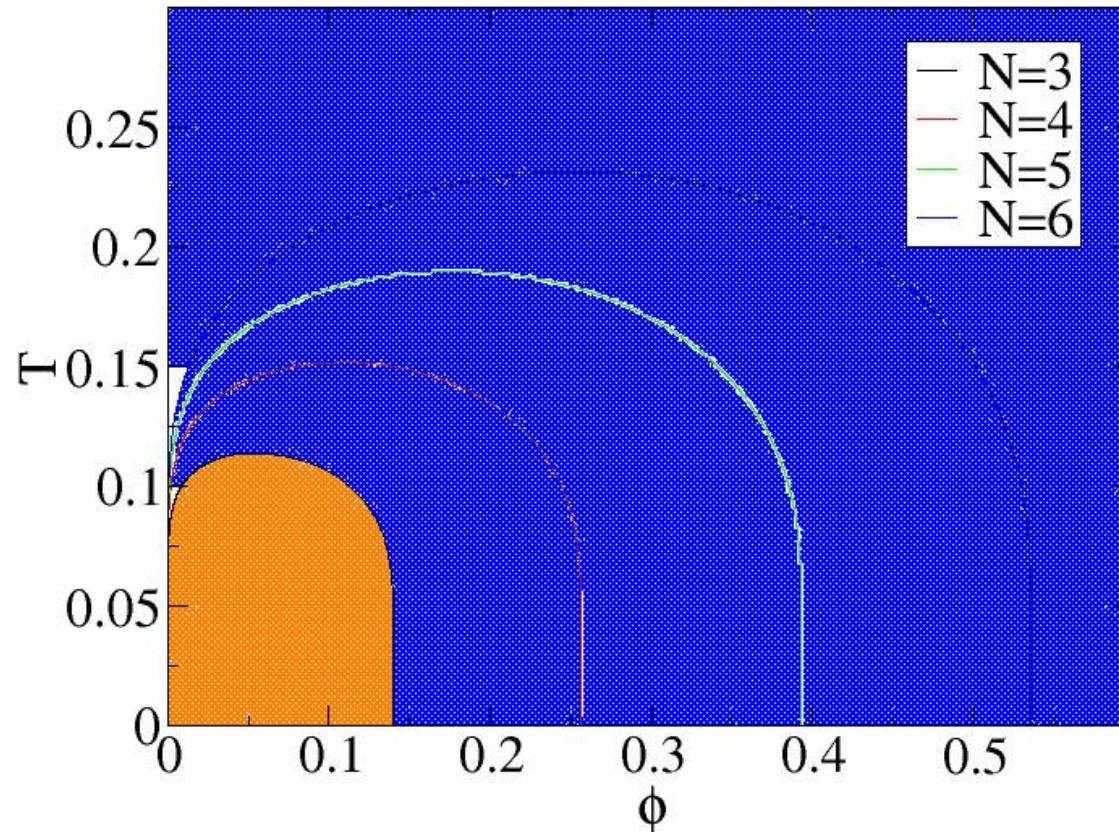
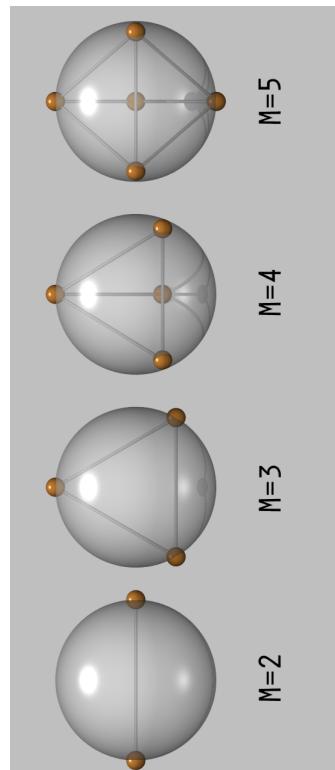
Evolution of the phase diagram



reducing ↓ “valence”



How does the valence affect the phase diagram?



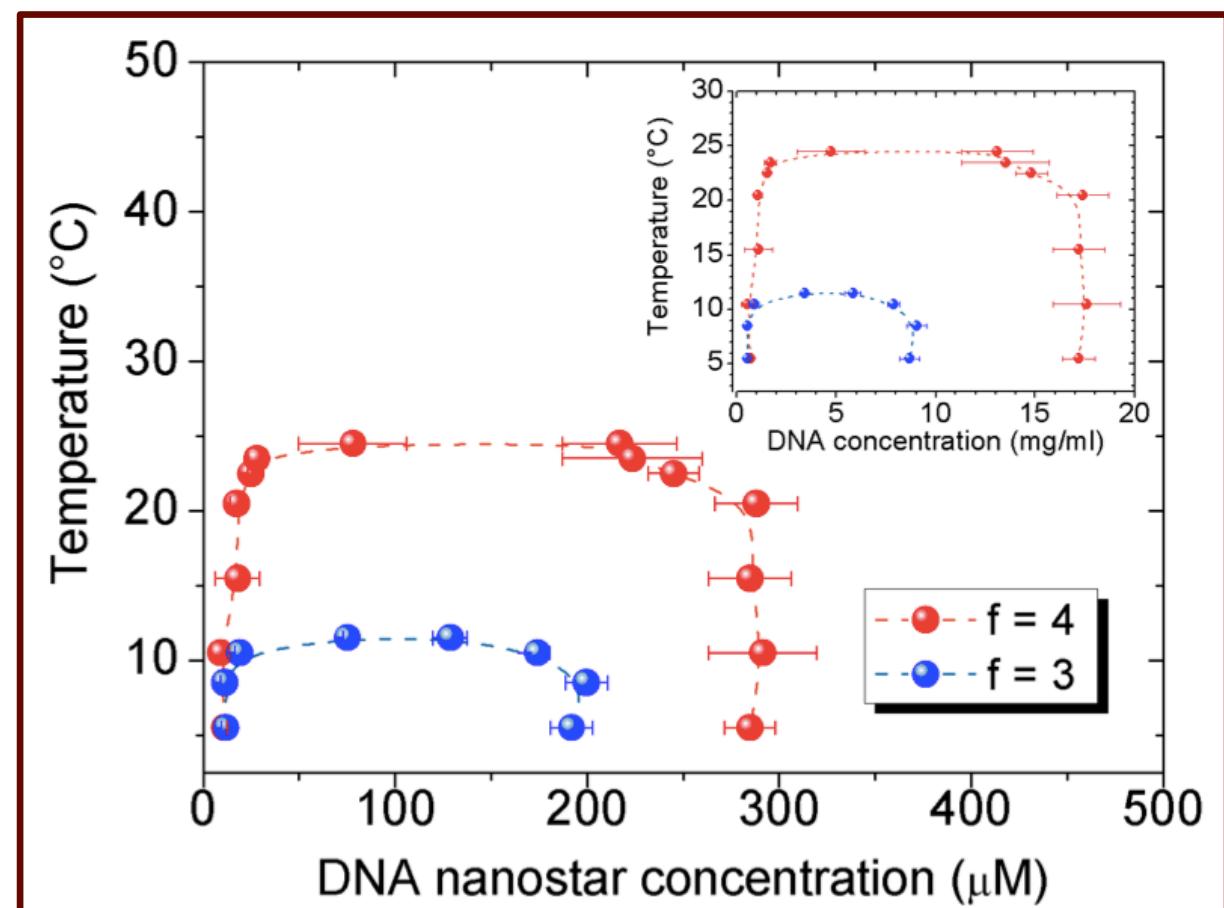
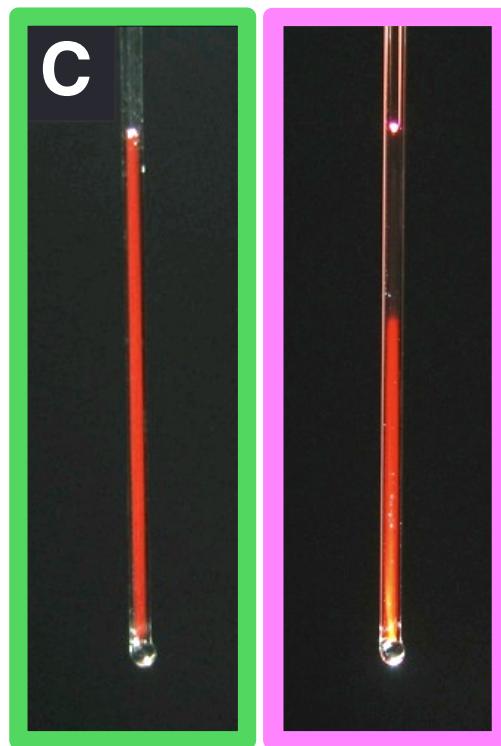
Phase behavior of DNA hydrogels

Phase behavior and critical activated dynamics of limited-valence DNA nanostars

Silvia Biffi^a, Roberto Cerbino^a, Francesca Bomboi^{b,c}, Elvezia Maria Paraboschi^a, Rosanna Asselta^a, Francesco Sciortino^{b,1}, and Tommaso Bellini^{a,1}

^aDepartment of Medical Biotechnology and Translational Medicine, Università degli Studi di Milano, I-20133 Milan, Italy; ^bDepartment of Physics, Sapienza, Università di Roma, I-00185 Rome, Italy; and ^cDepartment of Physics, Università degli Studi Roma Tre-Consortio Nazionale Interuniversitario per le Scienze Fisiche della Materia, I-00146 Rome, Italy

Edited by T. C. Lubensky, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, and approved August 6, 2013 (received for review March 14, 2013)



Dynamics of the DNA gel: Photon Correlation Spectroscopy

A truly equilibrium gel !

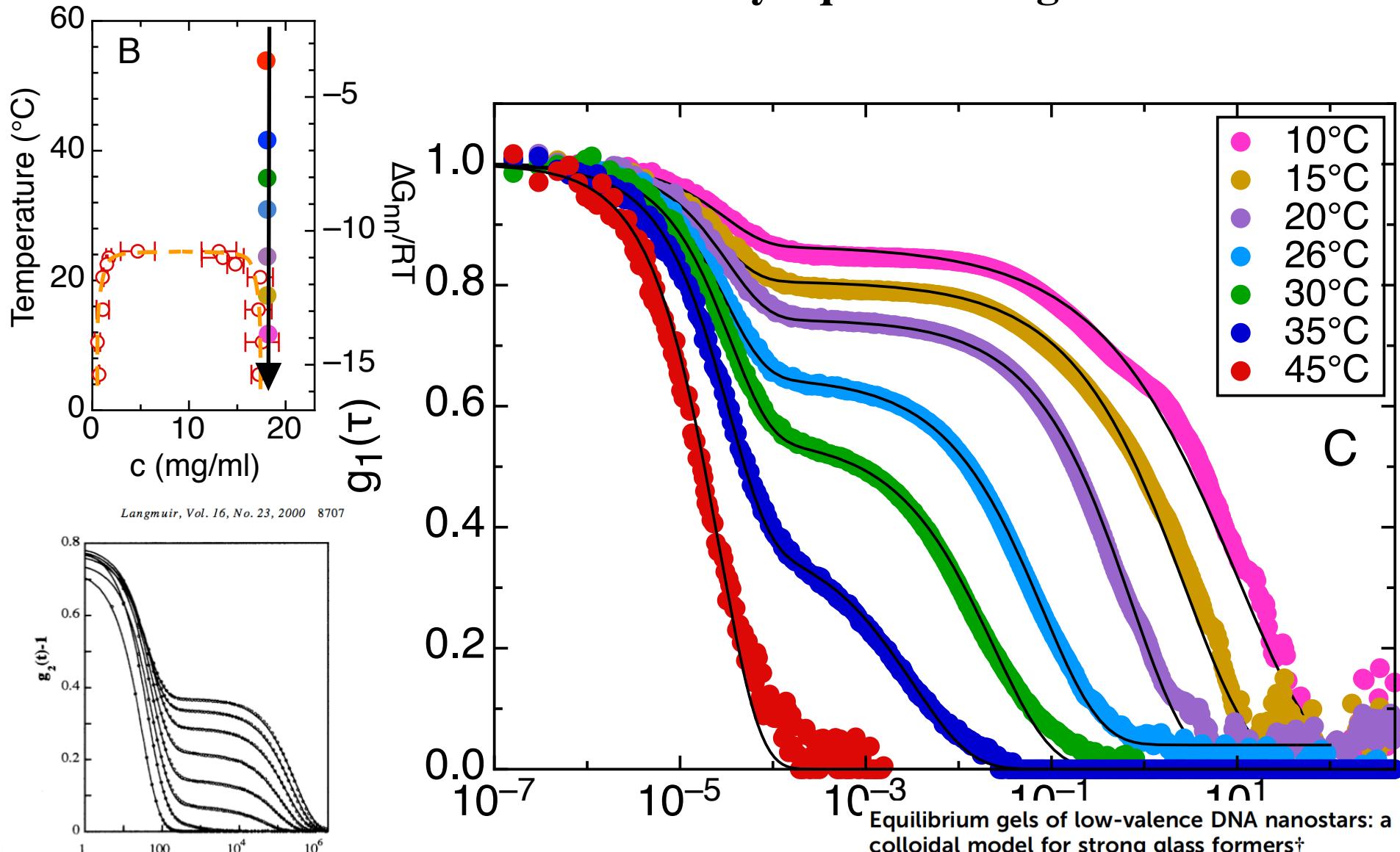


Figure 11. Normalized intensity autocorrelation curves measured at $\theta = 90^\circ$ ($q = 2.3 \times 10^{-3} \text{ \AA}^{-1}$) for samples with $\Phi = 12.4\%$ and $r = 0, 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18$, and 21 for the curves

Silvia Biffi,^{a,b} Roberto Cerbino,^a Giovanni Nava,^a Francesca Bomboi,^b Francesco Sciorino^{bc} and Tommaso Bellini^{*a}



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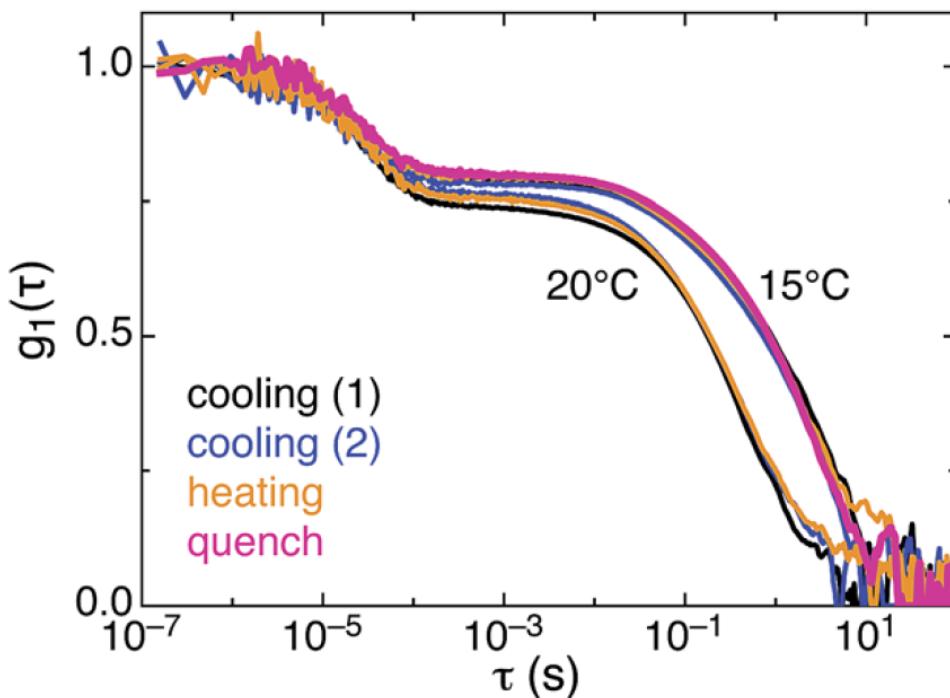


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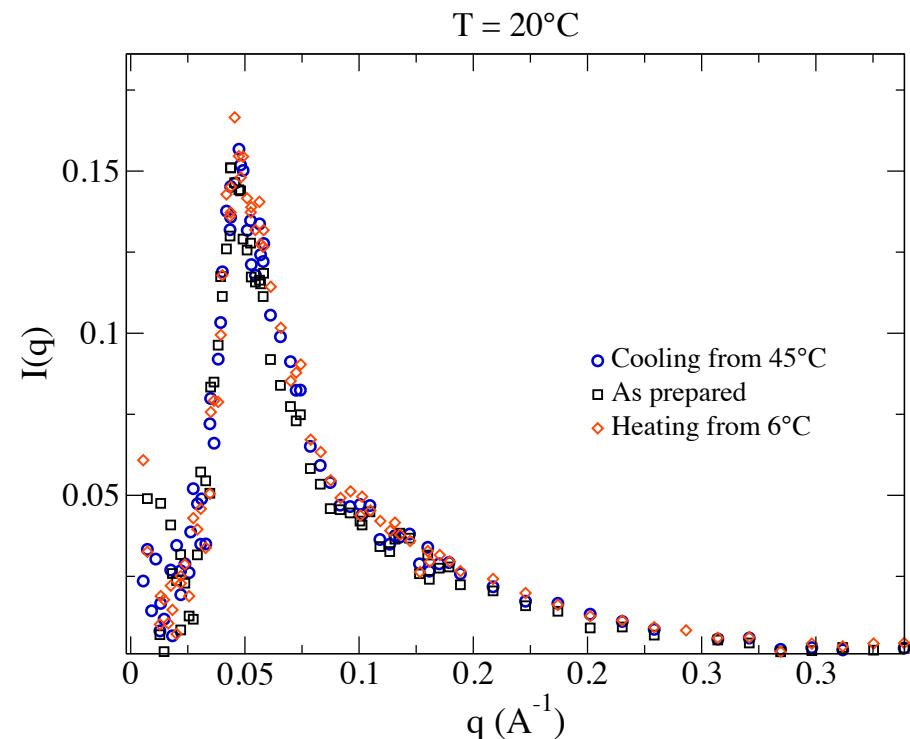


Gel reversibility

Light Scattering



Neutrons



Equilibrium gels of low-valence DNA nanostars: a colloidal model for strong glass formers†

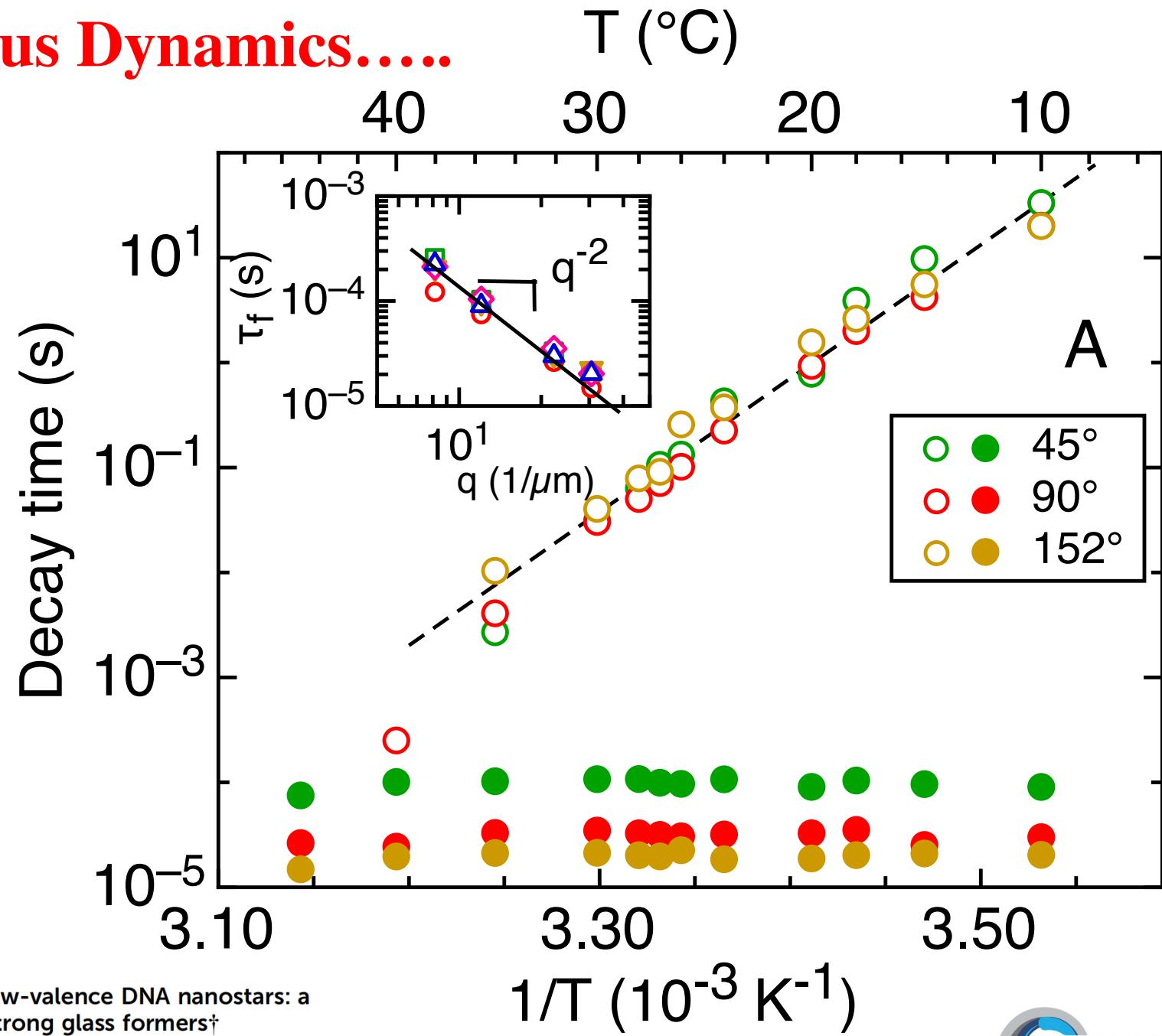
Silvia Biffi,^{a,b} Roberto Cerbino,^a Giovanni Nava,^a Francesca Bomboi,^b Francesco Sciortino^{bc} and Tommaso Bellini^{*a}

THE JOURNAL OF CHEMICAL PHYSICS 145, 084910 (2016)

Small-angle neutron scattering and molecular dynamics structural study of gelling DNA nanostars

J. Fernandez-Castanon,¹ F. Bomboi,¹ L. Rovigatti,^{2,3} M. Zanatta,^{4,5} A. Paciaroni,⁴ L. Comez,^{4,6} L. Porcar,⁷ C. J. Jafta,⁸ G. C. Fadda,⁹ T. Bellini,¹⁰ and F. Sciortino^{1,5,a)}

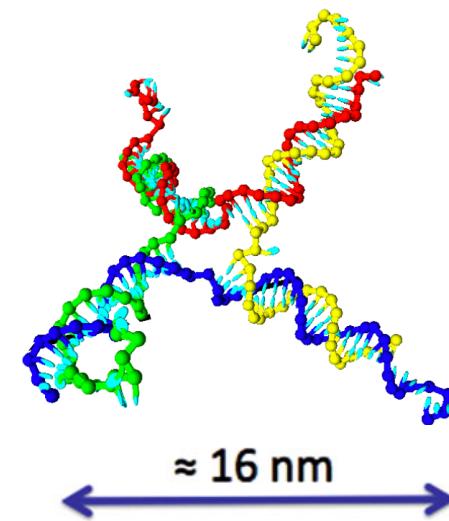
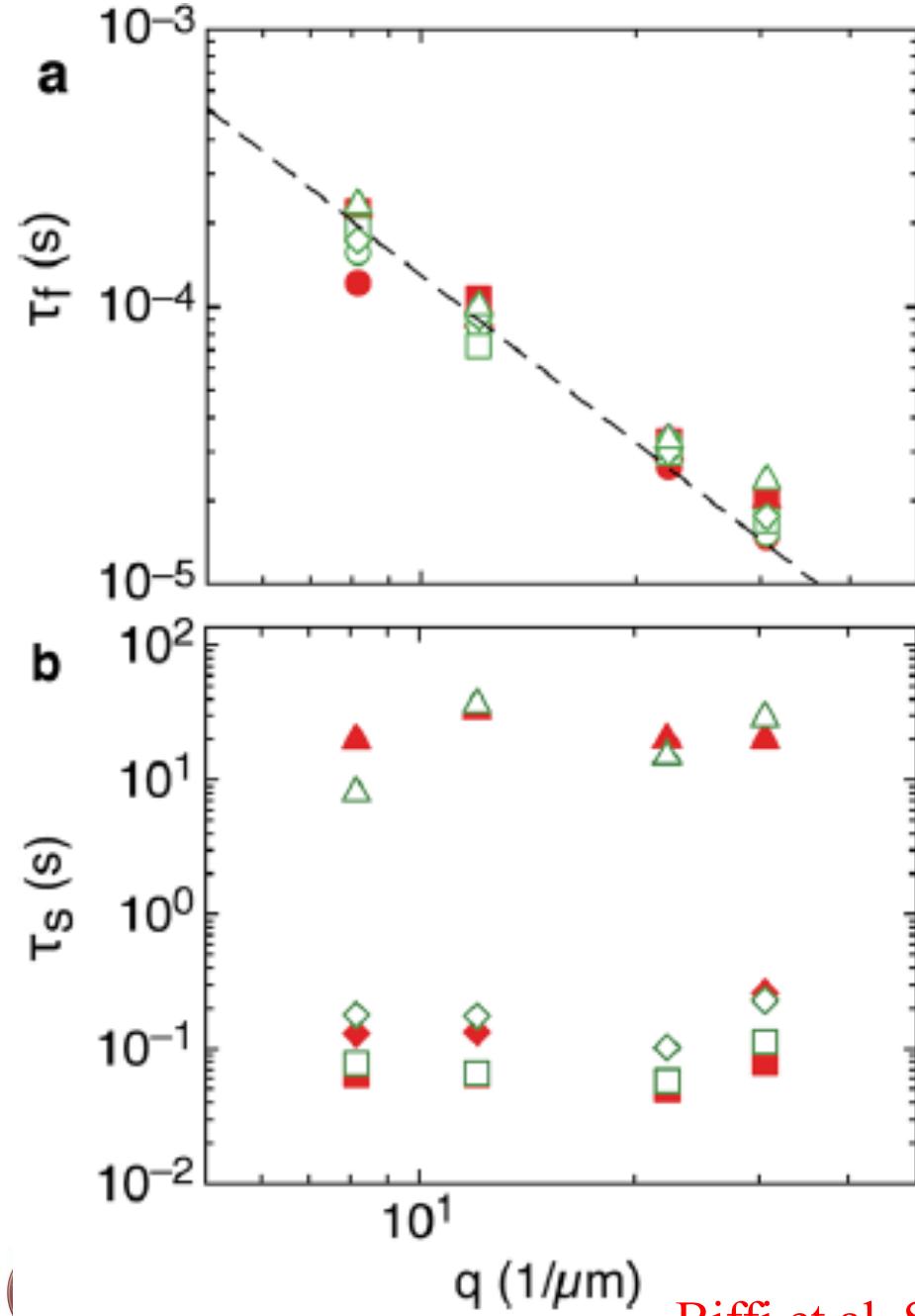
Arrhenius Dynamics.....



Equilibrium gels of low-valence DNA nanostars: a colloidal model for strong glass formers†

Silvia Biffi,^{a,b} Roberto Cerbino,^a Giovanni Nava,^a Francesca Bomboi,^b Francesco Sciortino^{bc} and Tommaso Bellini^{*a}

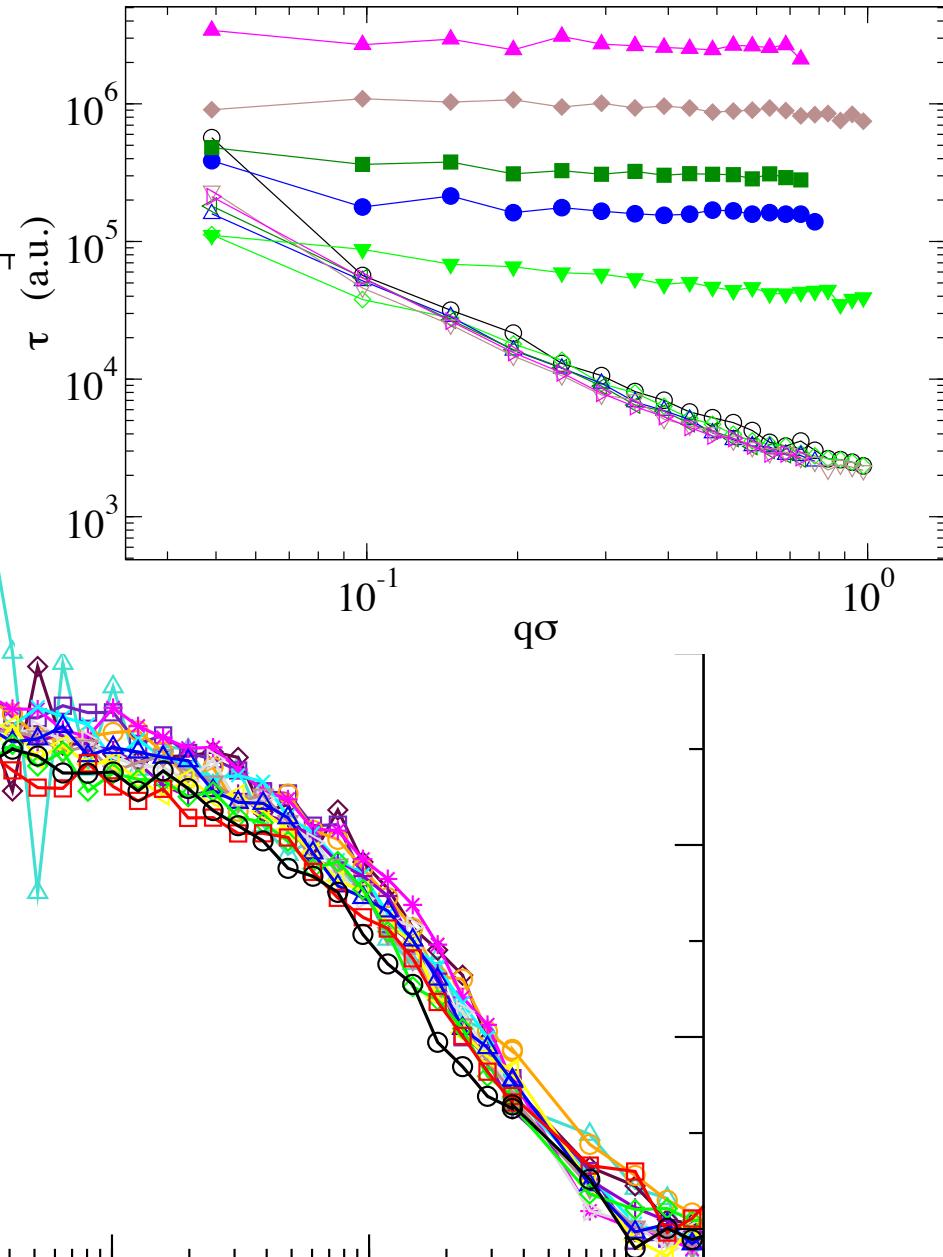
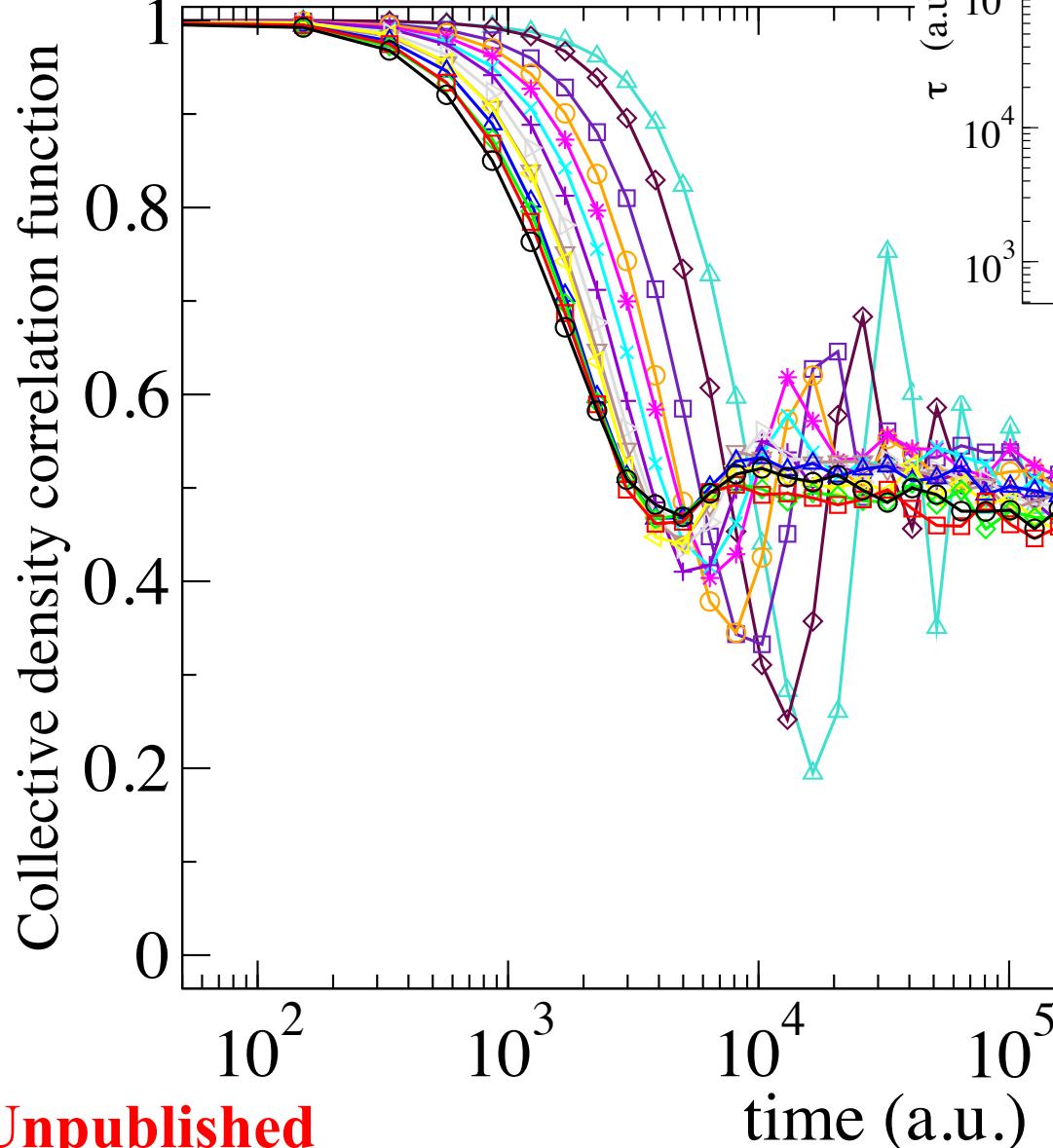
An unexpected feature: a q^0 mode



$200 < \lambda < 750 \text{ nm}$

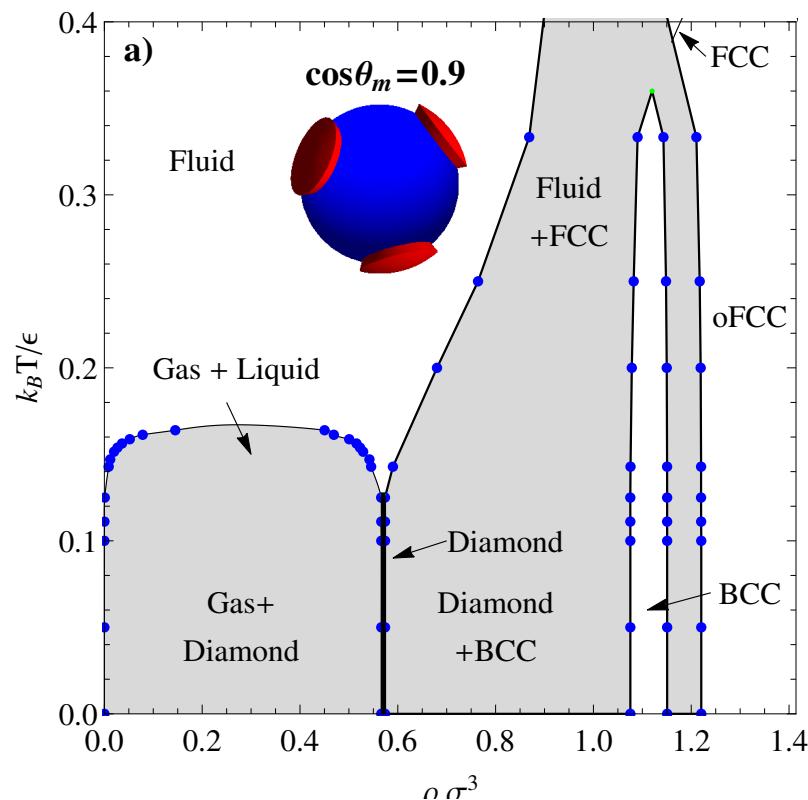
$12 < \lambda < 50 \text{ NS size}$

Can we reproduce it on the
computer ?
From exp to MD simulations



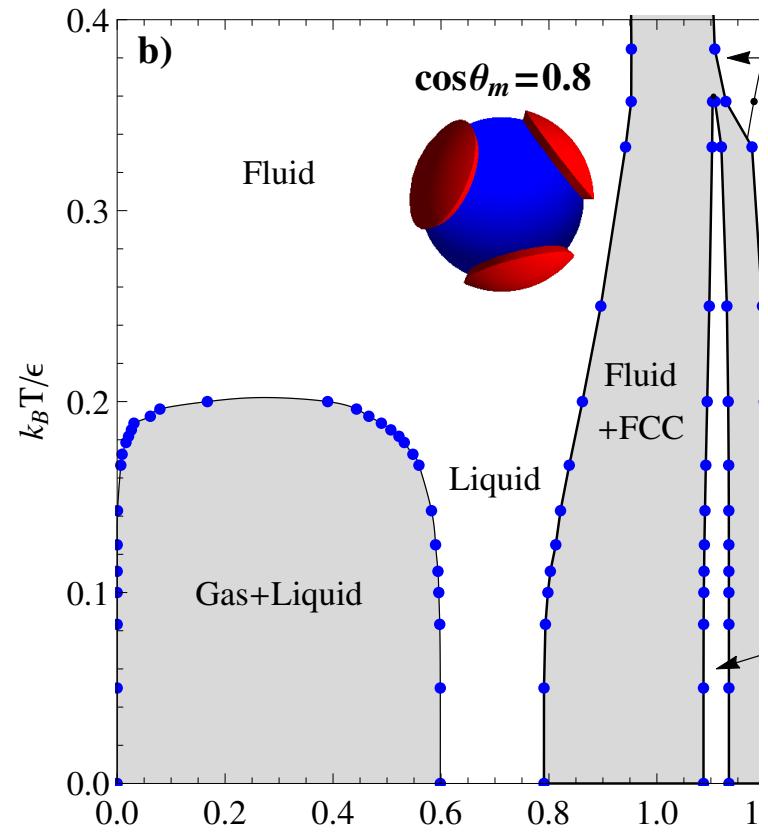
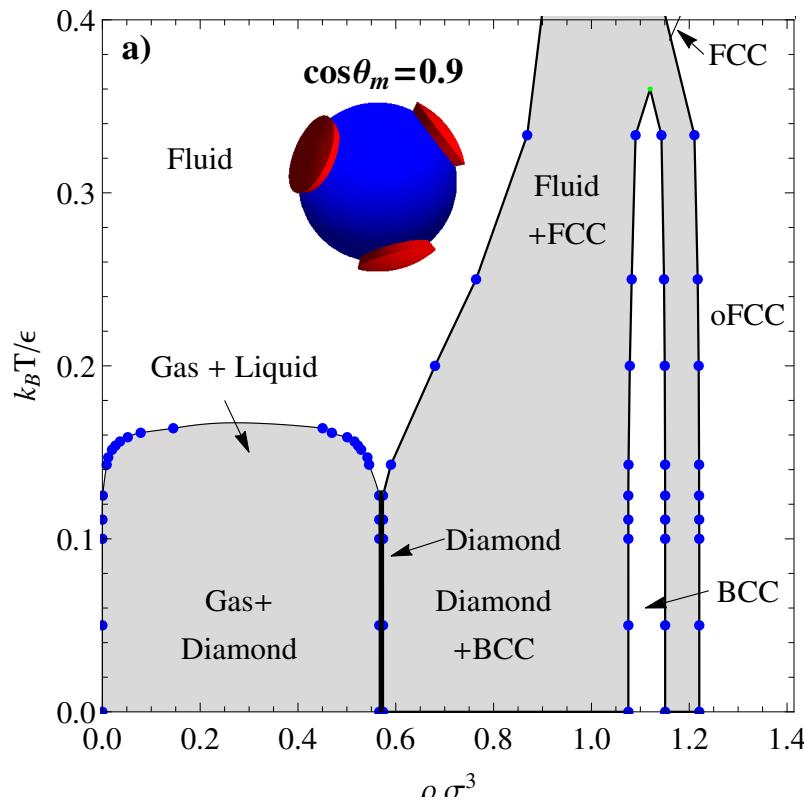
Liquids more stable than crystals in particles with limited valence and flexible bonds

Frank Smallenburg* and Francesco Sciortino

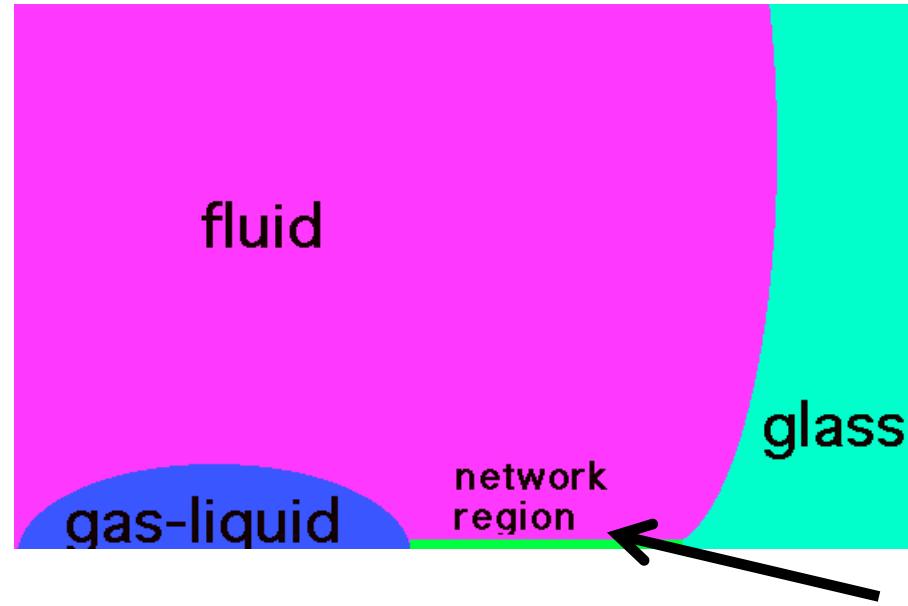


Liquids more stable than crystals in particles with limited valence and flexible bonds

Frank Smallenburg* and Francesco Sciortino



Key elements for liquid stability at T=0 K: (ultrastable liquids !)



Thermodynamically stable !

- Large flexibility of the angular interactions: (wide variety of networks, increasing S_{conf})
- Low valence. Small density of the coexisting liquid phase

Gels of DNA Nanostars Never Crystallize

Lorenzo Rovigatti,^{†,*} Frank Smallenburg,[†] Flavio Romano,[‡] and Francesco Sciortino[†]

[†]Dipartimento di Fisica, Sapienza Università di Roma, Piazzale A. Moro 2, 00185 Roma, Italy and [‡]Physical & Theoretical Chemistry Laboratory, Department of Chemistry, University of Oxford, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3QZ, United Kingdom

ACS Nano, 8, 3567-3574, 2014



Bridging *in-silico* and *in-charta* intuitions into real experimental realizations

Gelling by heating:



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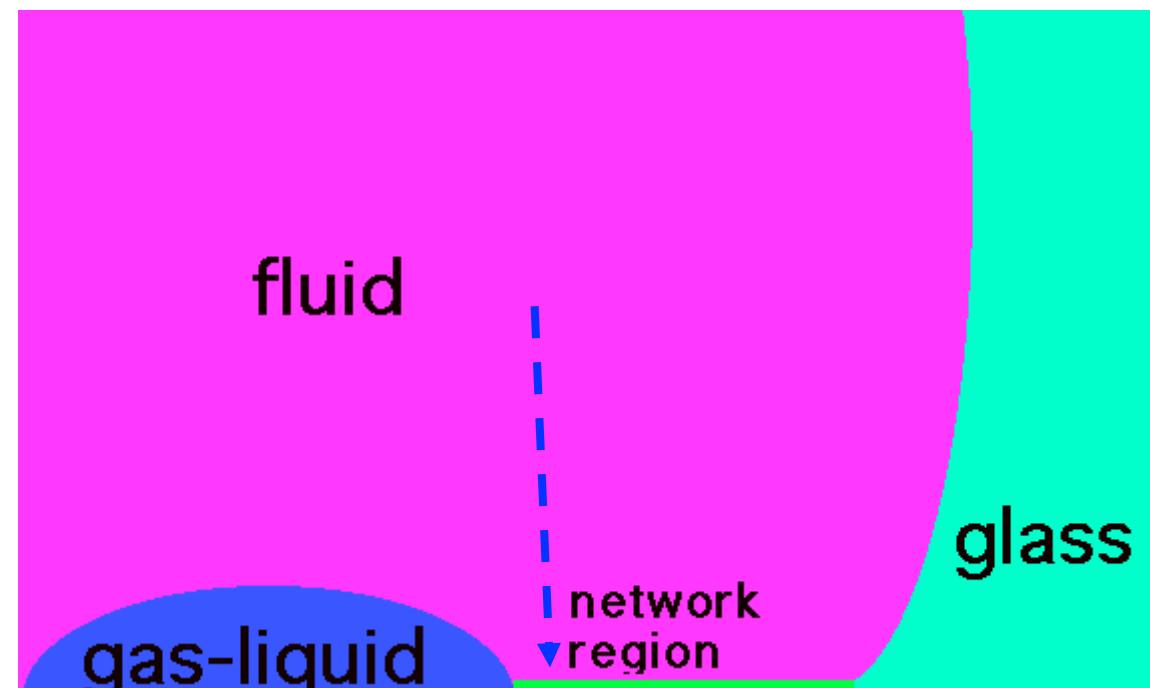
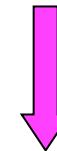
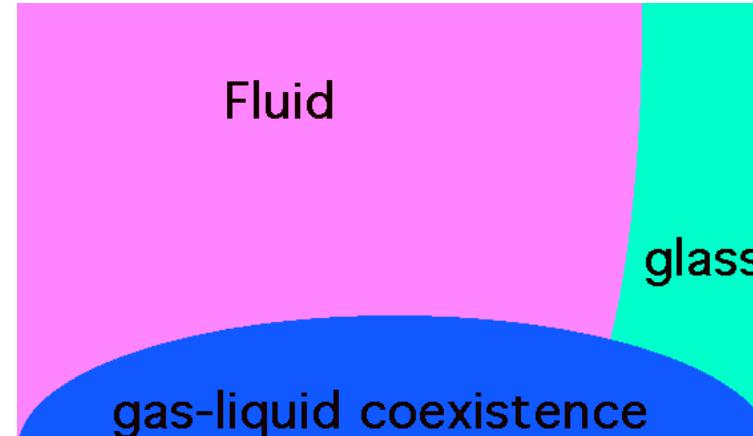
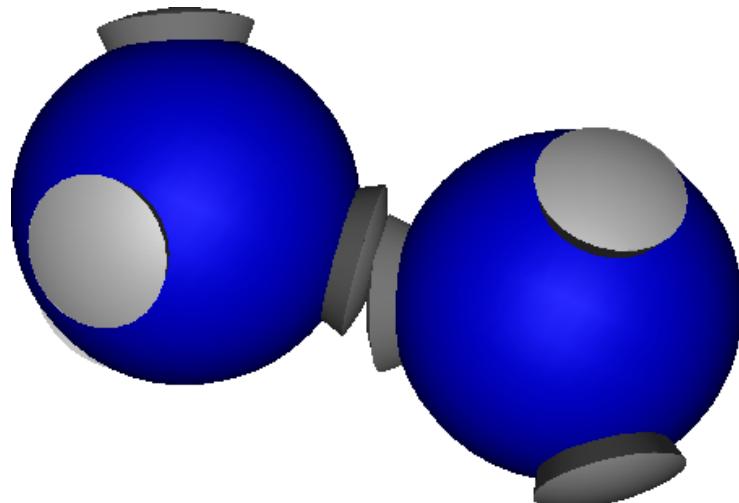
a patchy-particle gel that forms both on cooling AND on heating (*a topic close to the Chairman's heart*)



Gelling by Heating

Sández Roldán-Vargas¹, Frank Smallenburg¹, Walter Kob² & Francesco Sciortino¹

How do we form an equilibrium gel ?



How do we break a gel ?

Competitive interactions



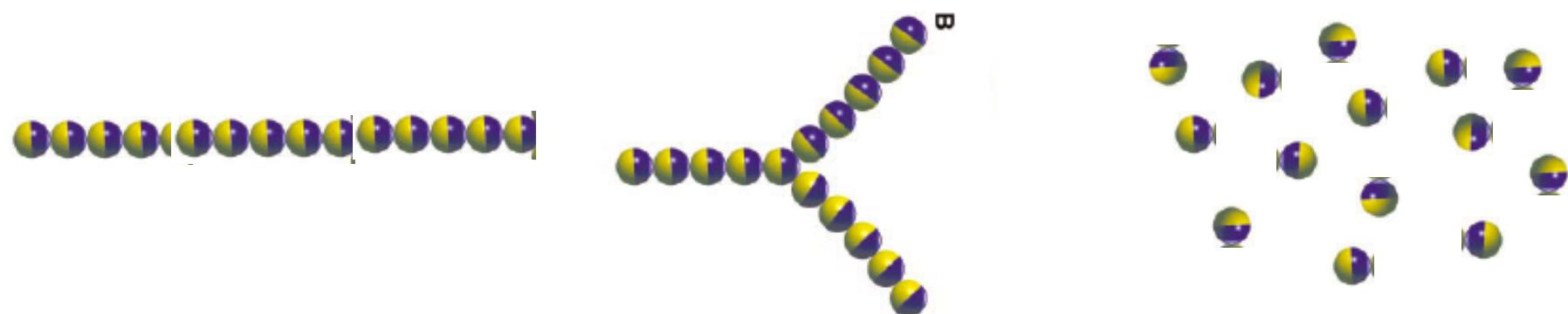
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How do we break a gel ?

Competitive interactions

the emergence of a structure controlled by energy (stable at low T) which competes with a structure stabilized by entropy at intermediate T.



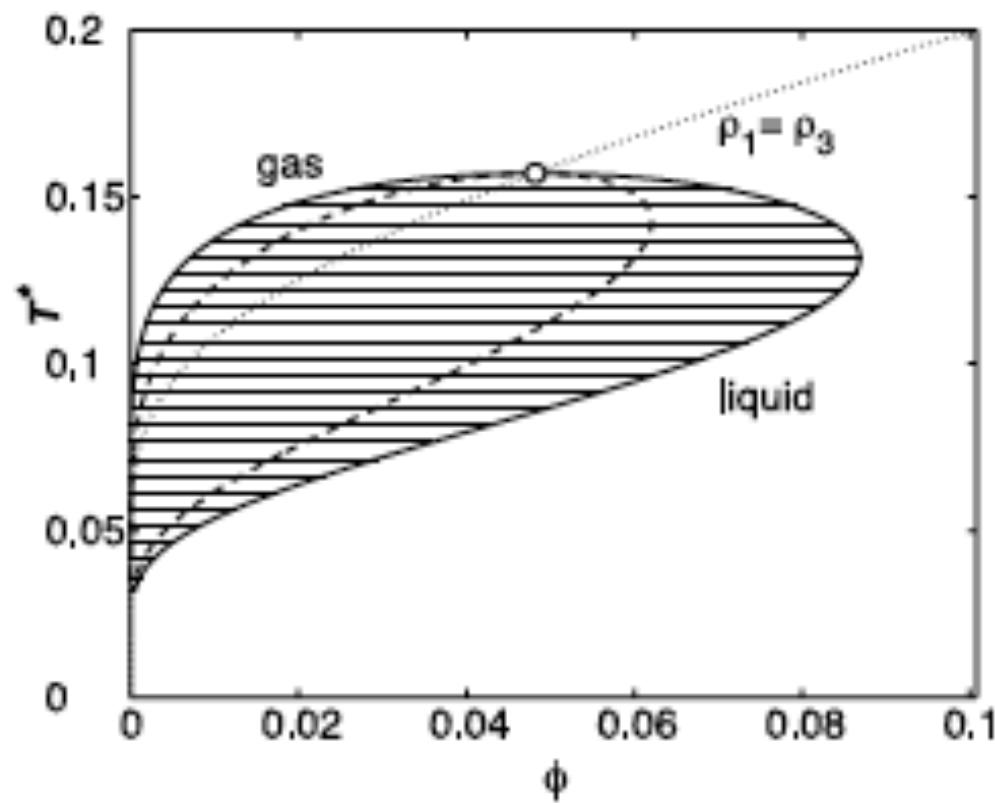
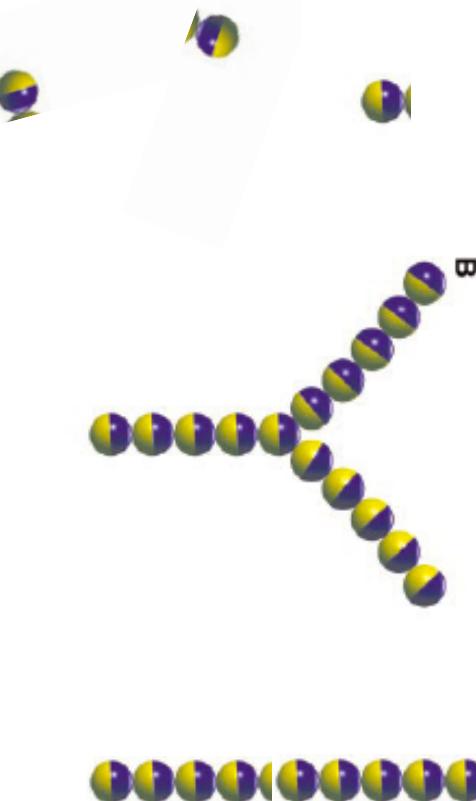


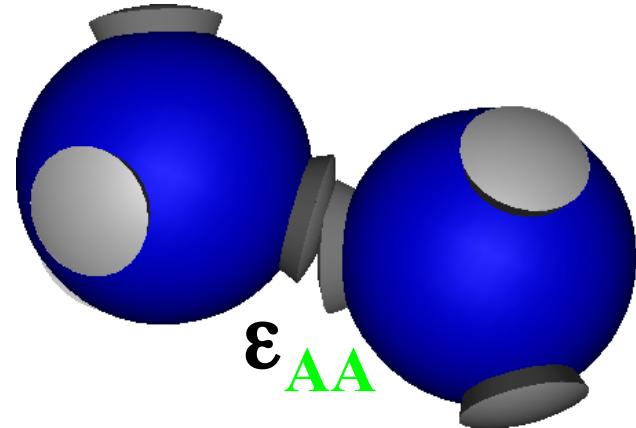
Fig. 2. The phase diagram of the dipolar network calculated for defect energies of $\varepsilon_1 = 0.67$ and $\varepsilon_3 = 0.12$. At the critical point (circle), the coexistence curve (thick solid line), the phase stability boundary (dashed line), and the connectivity transition (dotted line) meet. The lines denote the coexistence of the end-rich “gas” with the junction-rich “liquid.” At low temperatures, the coexistence region narrows to very low densities.



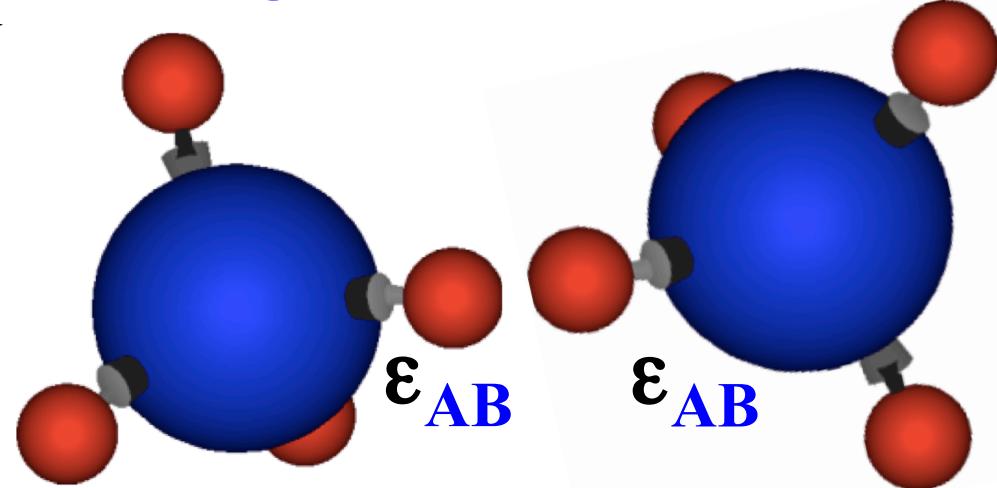
**Thusty-Safran,
Science (2000)**

How do we break a gel ?

Add a competitor blocking the AA bonds !



Network



Blocked particle

$$2 \epsilon_{AB} < \epsilon_{AA}$$

THE JOURNAL OF CHEMICAL PHYSICS 127, 114706 (2007)

Temperature dependence of the colloidal agglomeration inhibition:
Computer simulation study

Mariana Barcenas

Programa de Ingeniería Molecular, Instituto Mexicano del Petróleo,
Eje Central 152, 07730 México DF, Mexico

Janna Douda

UPITA-IPN, 07340 México DF, Mexico

Yurko Duda^{a)}

Programa de Ingeniería Molecular, Instituto Mexicano del Petróleo,
Eje Central 152, 07730 México DF, Mexico

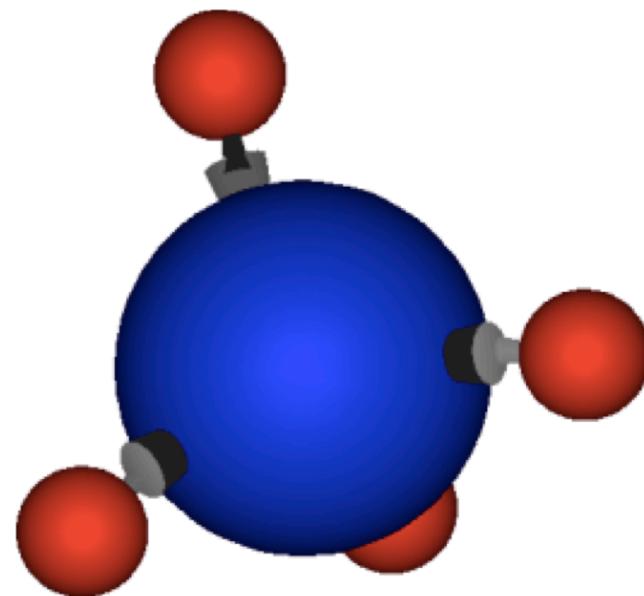
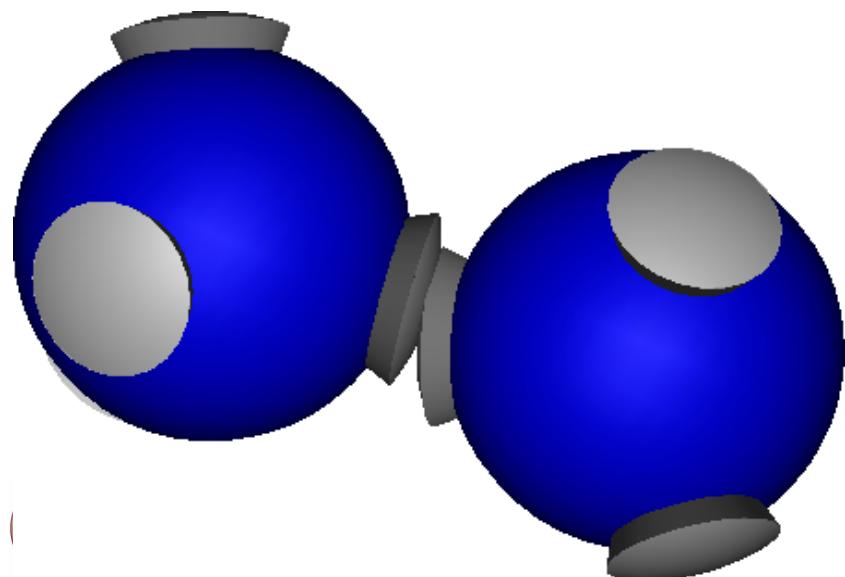
Gelling by Heating

Sándalo Roldán-Varaas¹, Frank Smallenburg¹, Walter Kob² & Francesco Sciortino¹

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS | 3 : 2451 | DOI: 10.1038/srep02451

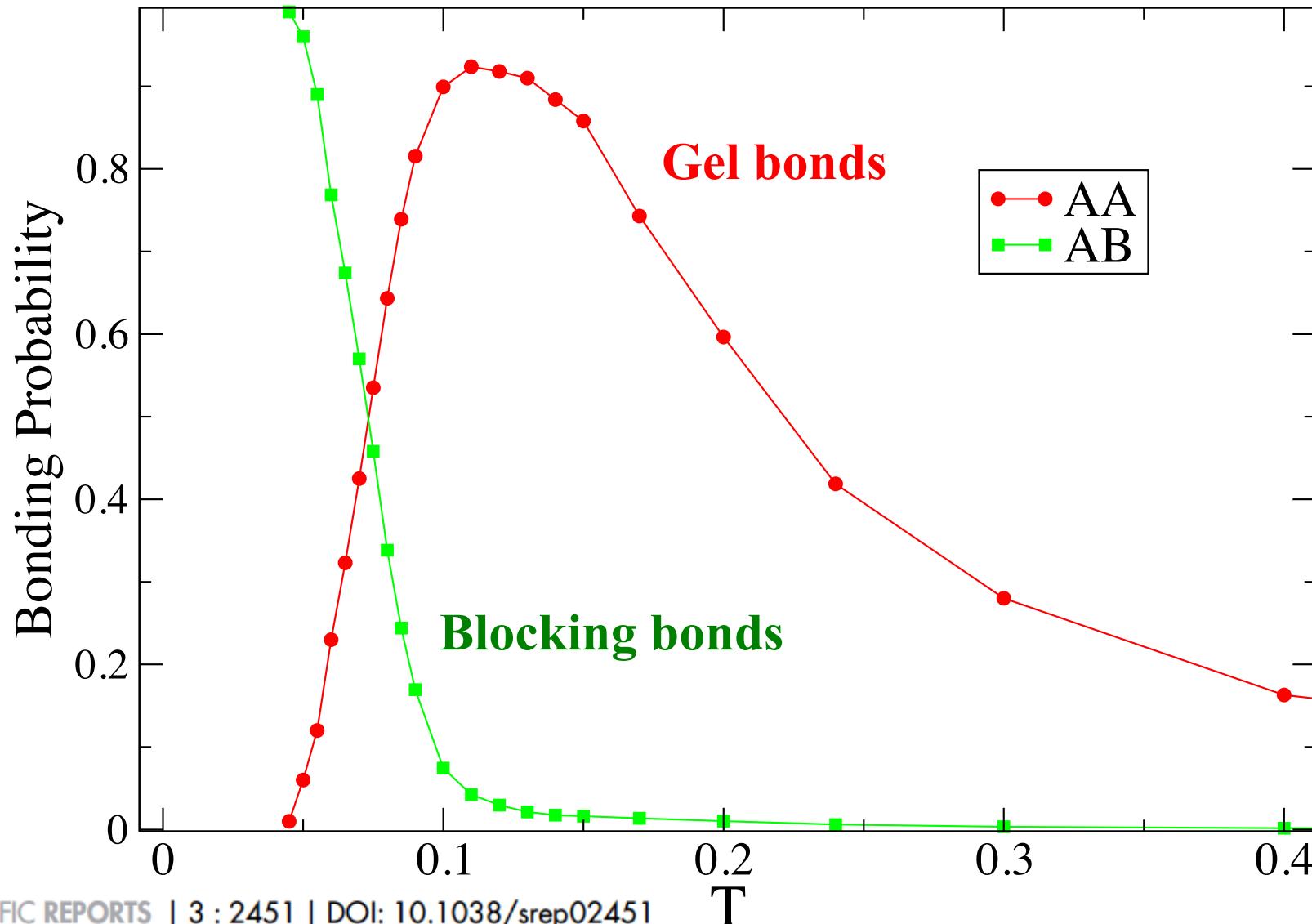
How to stabilize the network: Bonding entropy !

Bonding volume AA >> Bonding volume AB

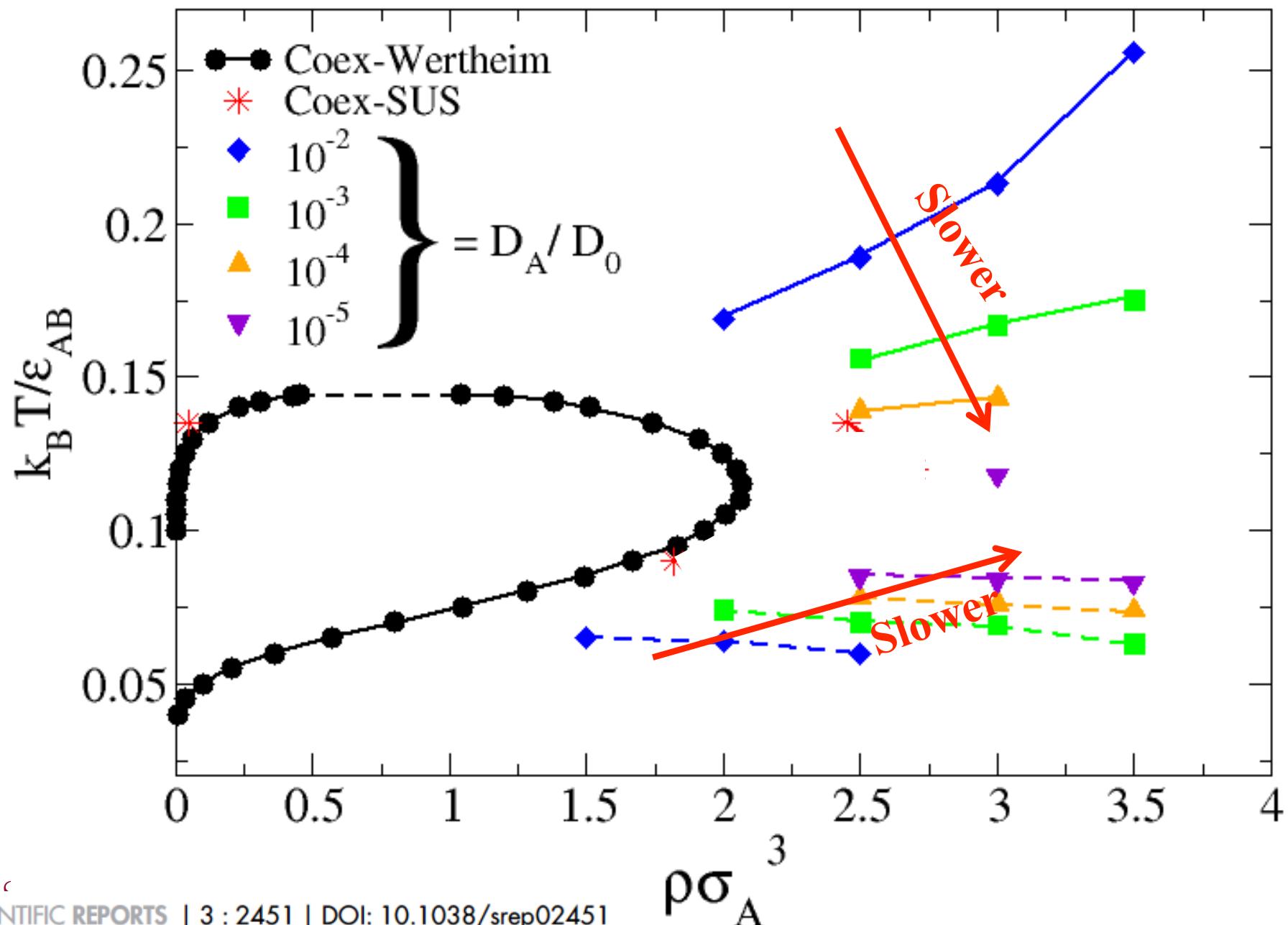


Forming and melting the gel

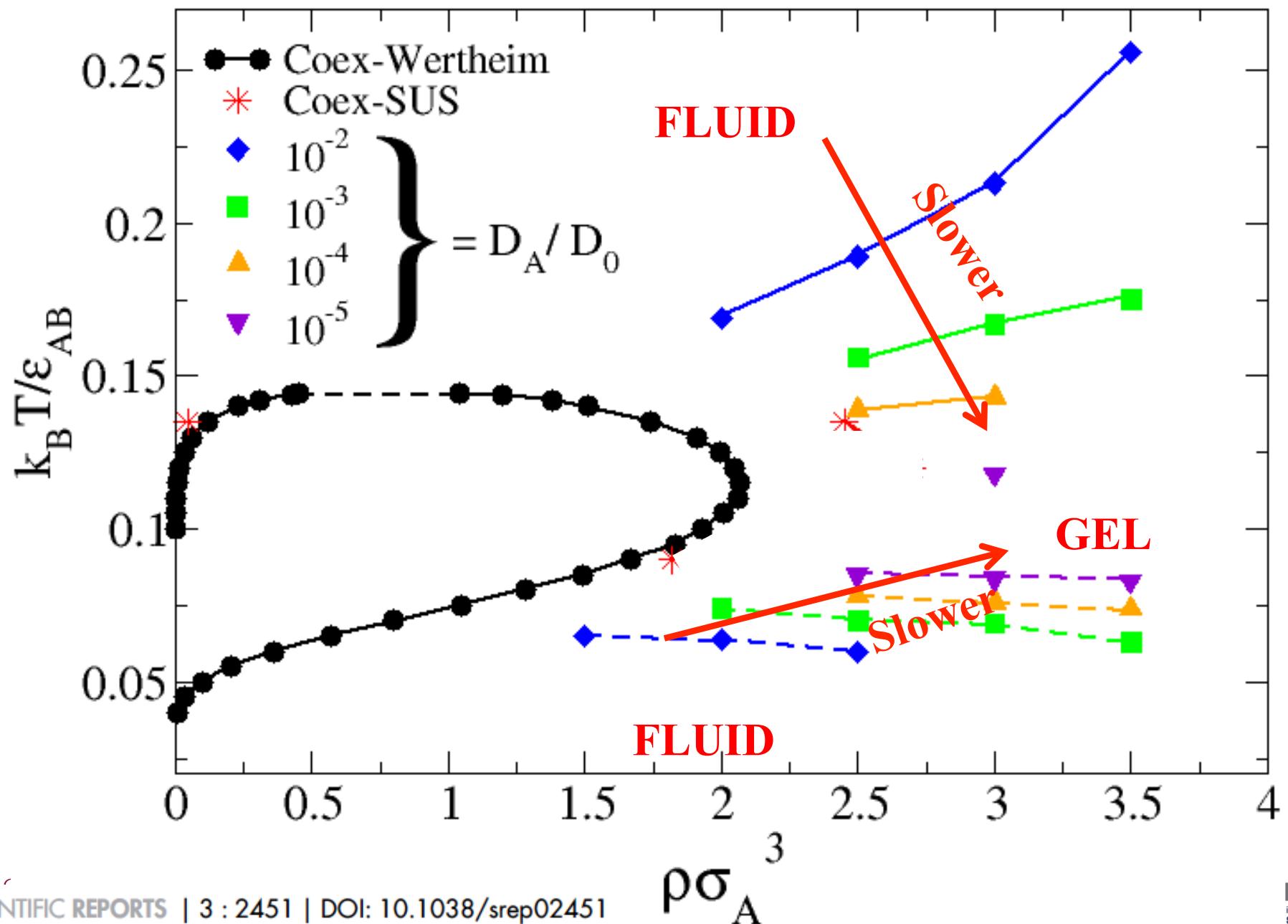
Wertheim theory



Simulations (stoichiometric)



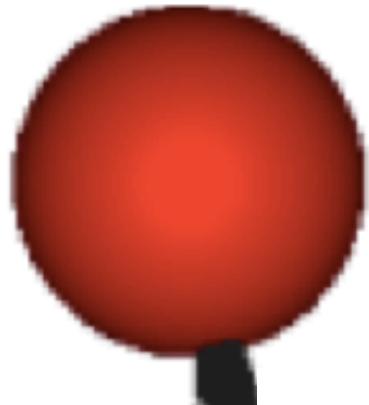
Simulations (stoichiometric)



**Can we design a system that does it in
the laboratory ?**

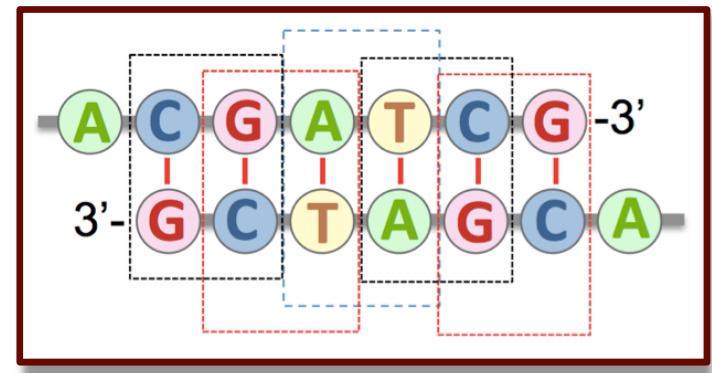
**With DNA particles:
Control on the valence
Bulk quantities
Reasonable T intervals**

The competitor..... (B particle)



(“palindromic”)

Two serious problems to solve:



- 1) How to avoid BB pairing ?
- 2) How to increase the entropy cost of bonding ?

The proposed solution:

AA bonding



NANOSTAR-ARM-3'(TGA)GCGTACGC(AAT)-5'

3'-ATTGCG-5'

3'-CGCTCA-5'

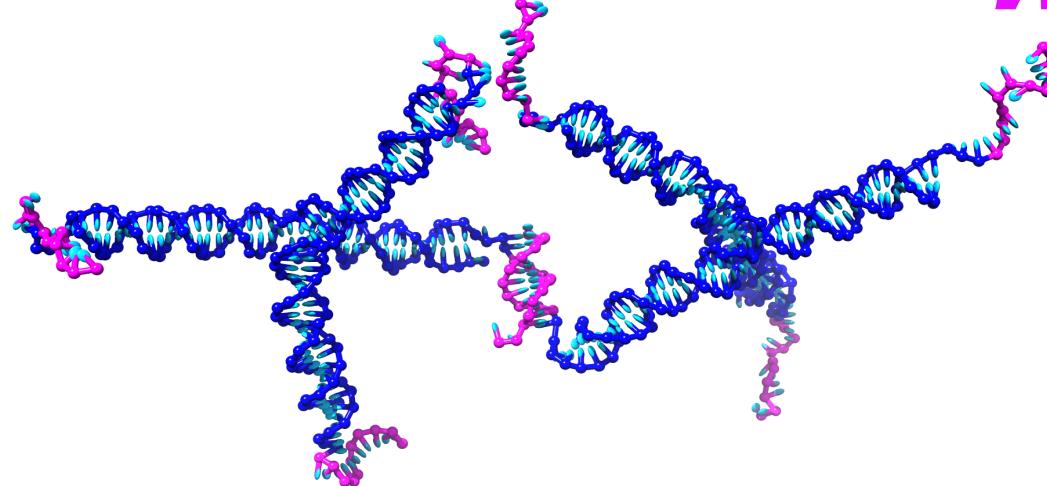
B- particle (competitor)



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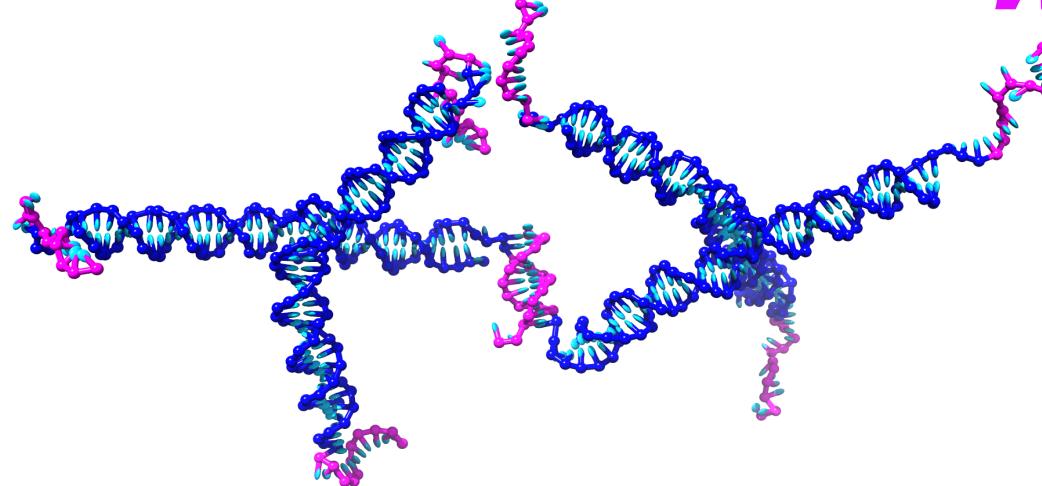
COLLDENSE
COLLOIDS with
DESIGNED RESPONSE

AA-bonding: 8 bases paired



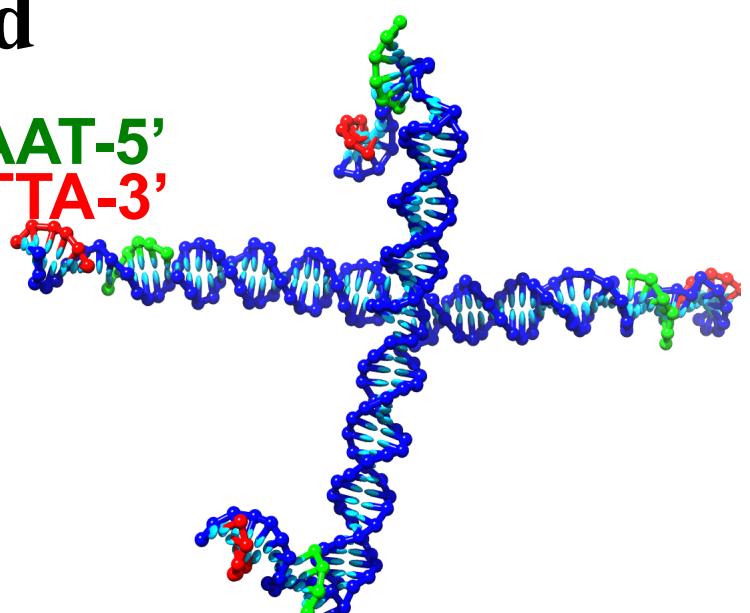
AA-bonding: 8 bases paired

STAR-ARM-3'-(TGA)GCGTACGC(AAT)-5'
'-5-(TGA)GCGTACGC(AAT)-5'

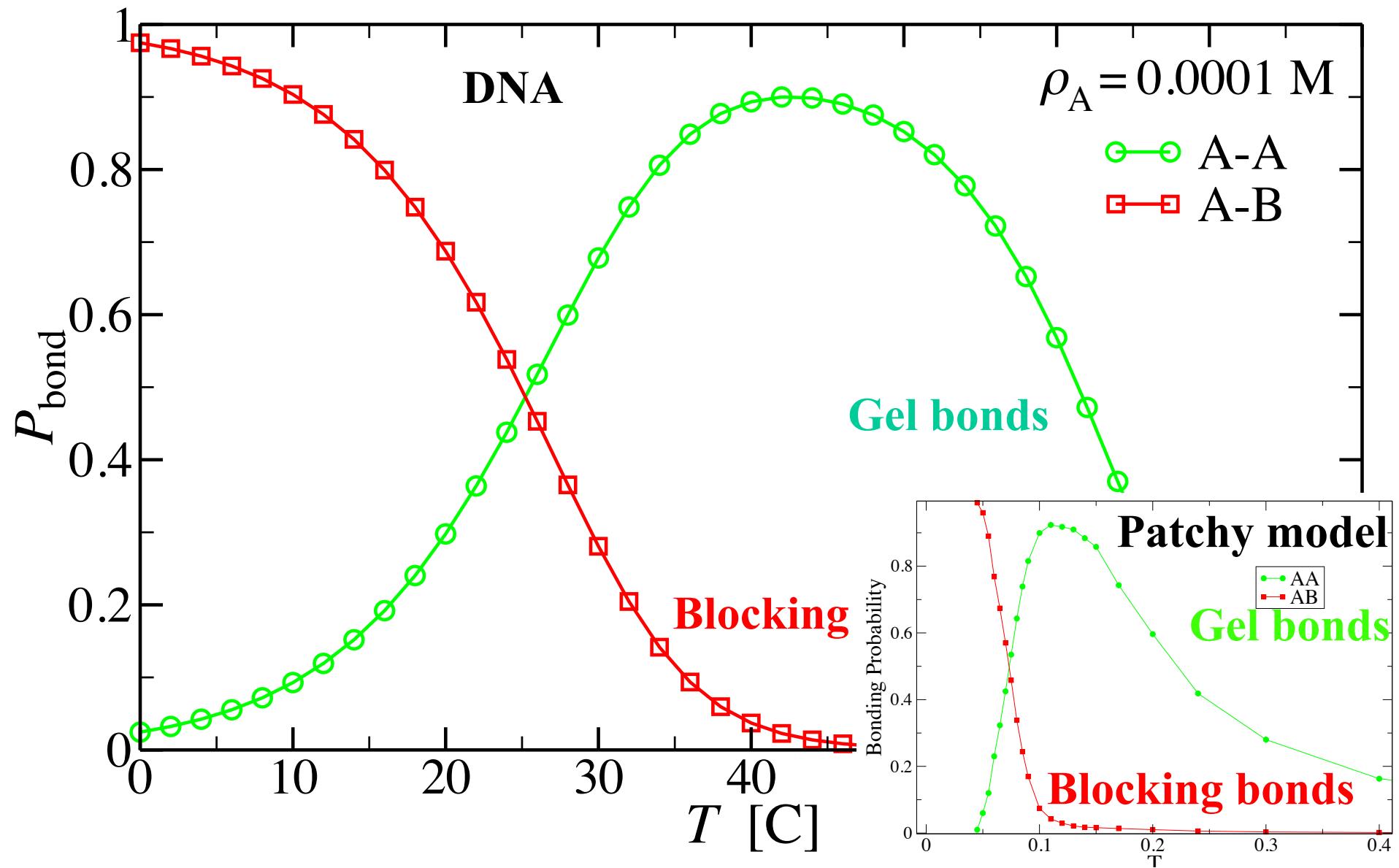


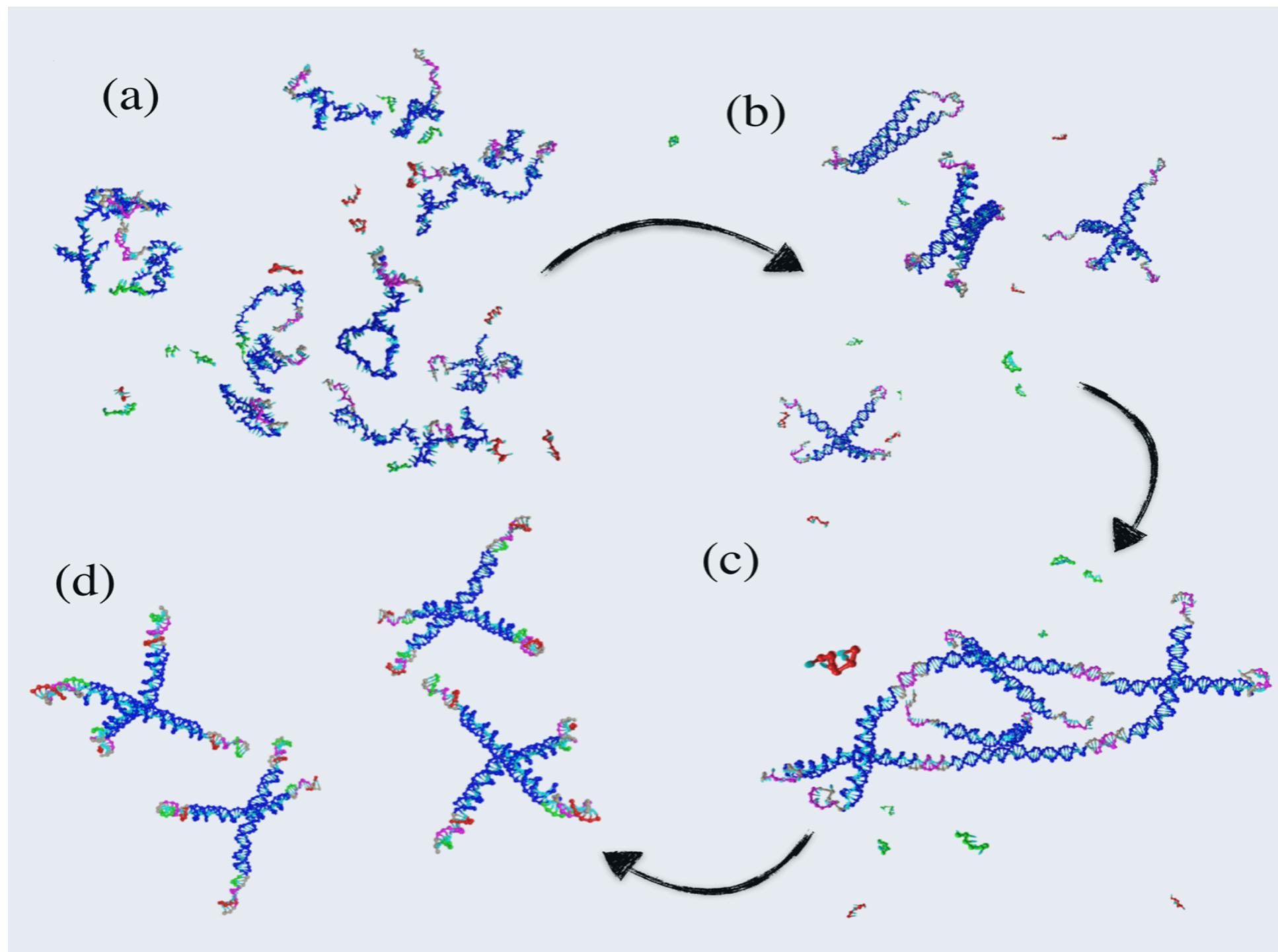
AB-bonding: 12 bases paired

STAR-ARM-3'-TGAGCGTACGCAAT-5'
5'-ACTCGC-3'
5'-GCGTTA-3'

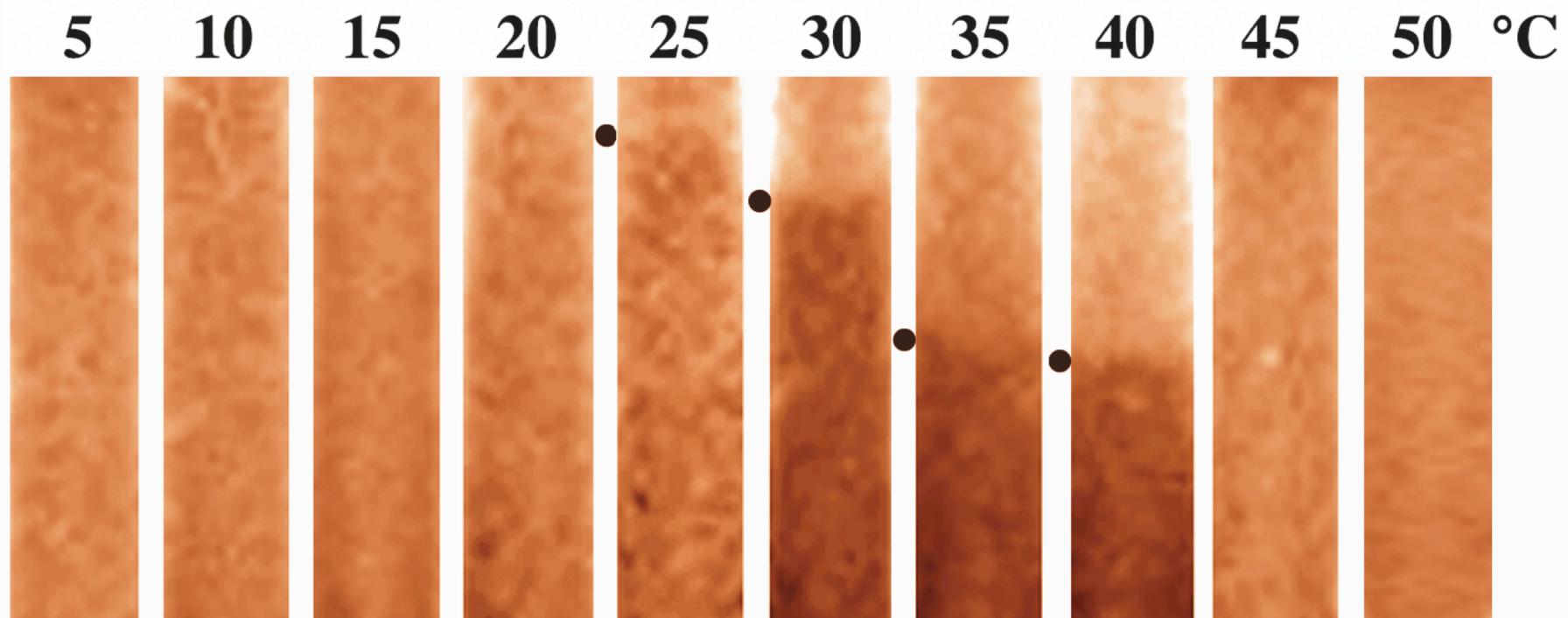


Nupack Evaluations: www.nupack.org



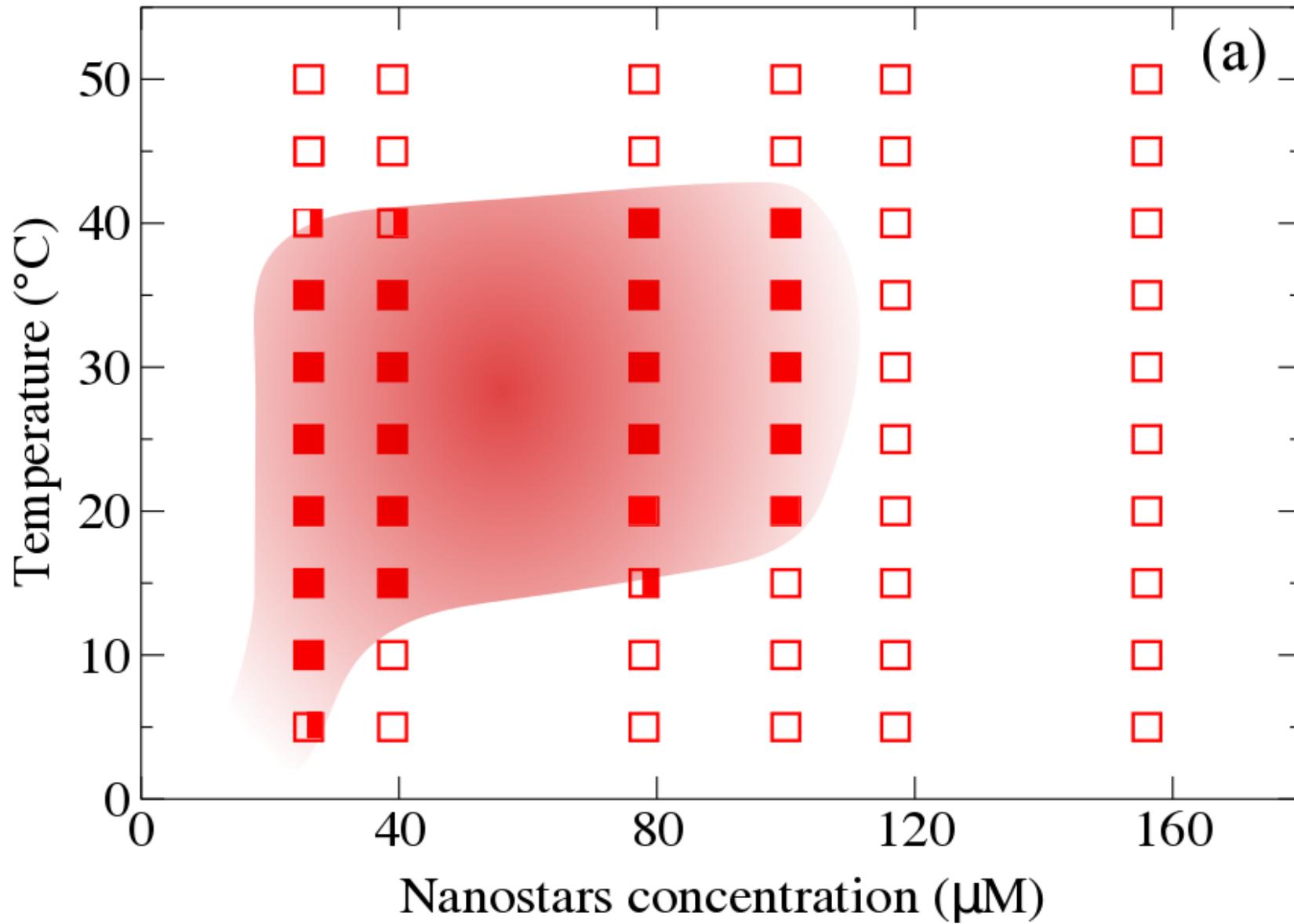


Now... experiments: The phase diagram

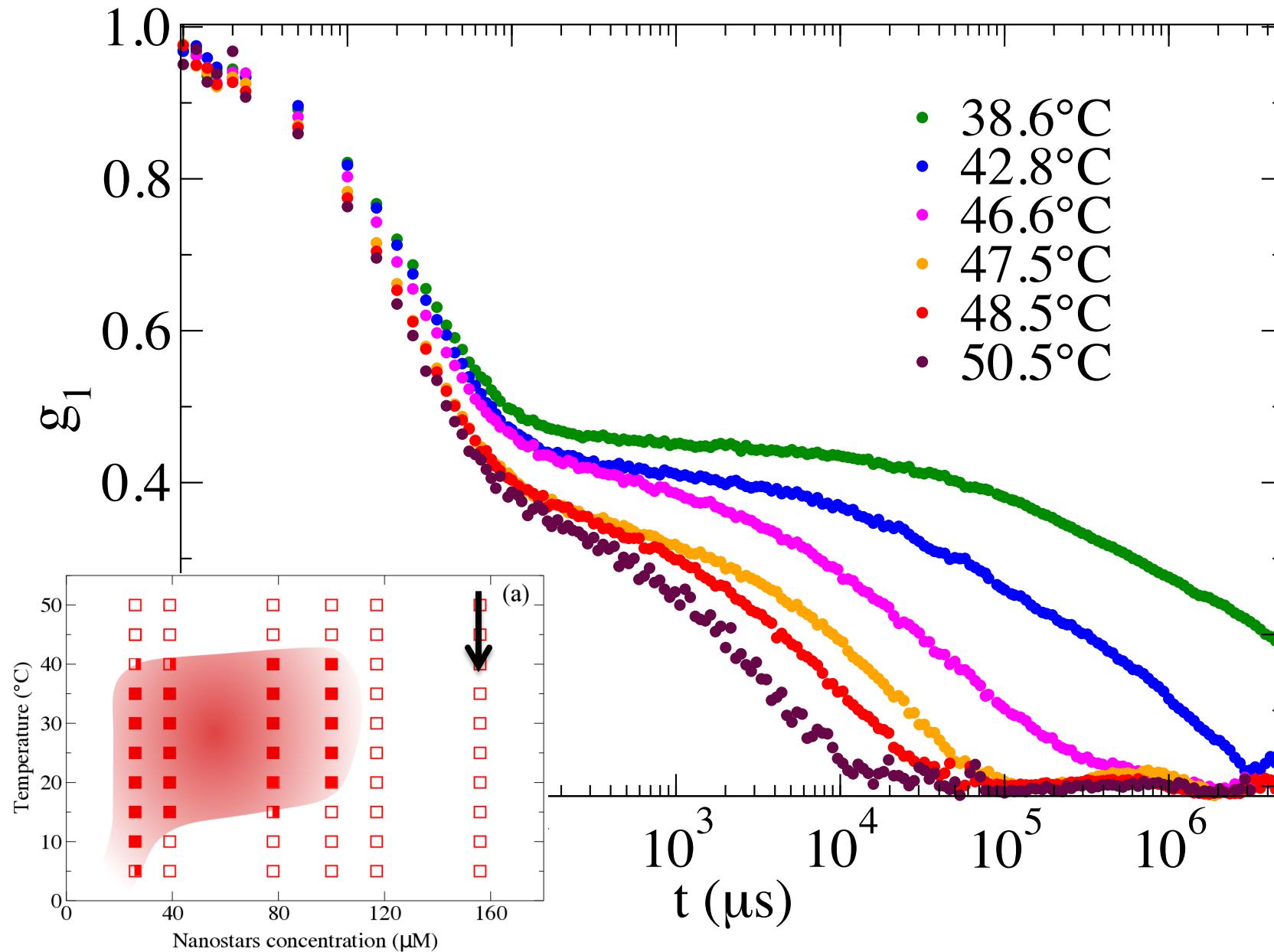


(ethidium bromide)

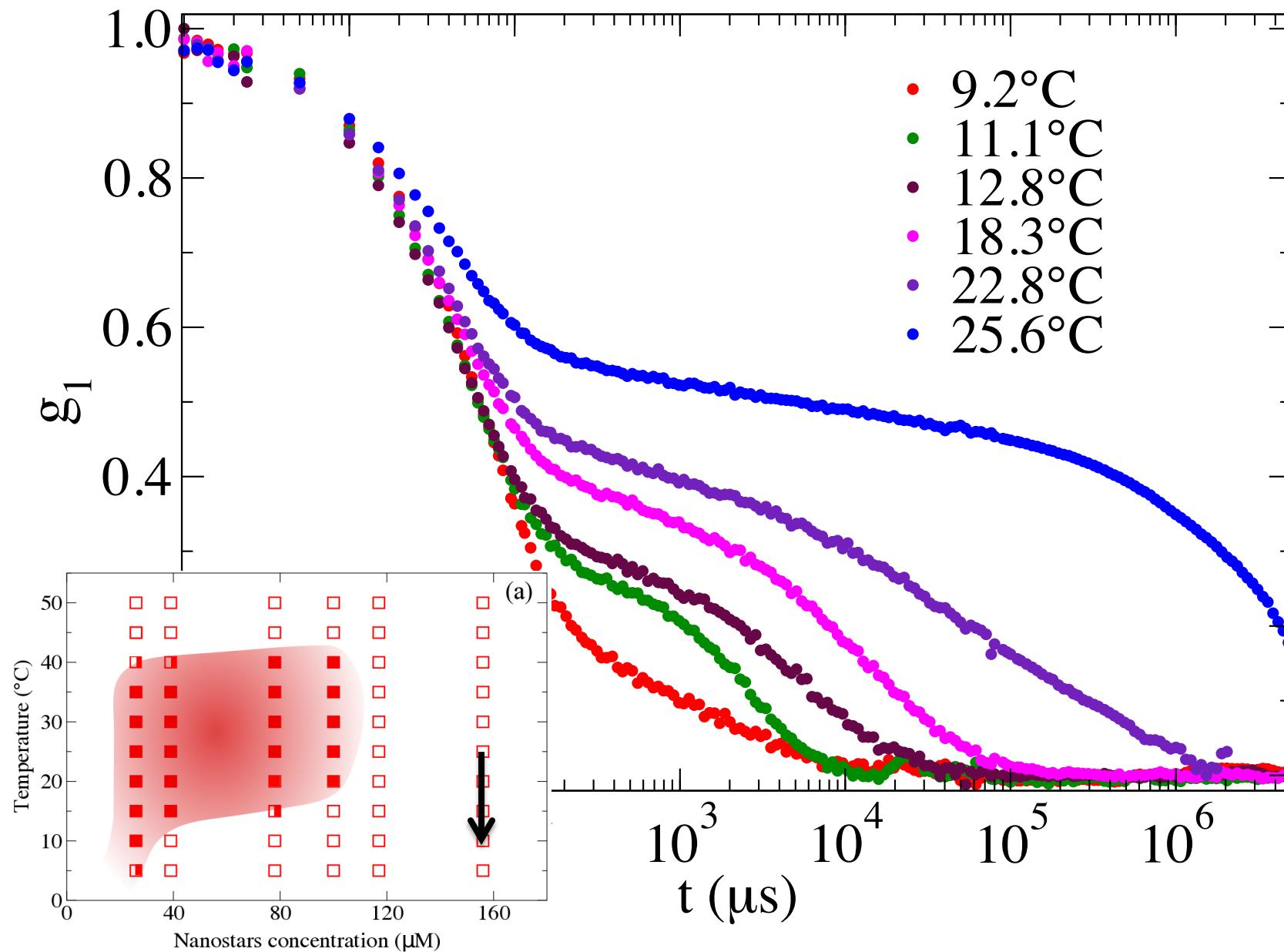
The phase diagram:



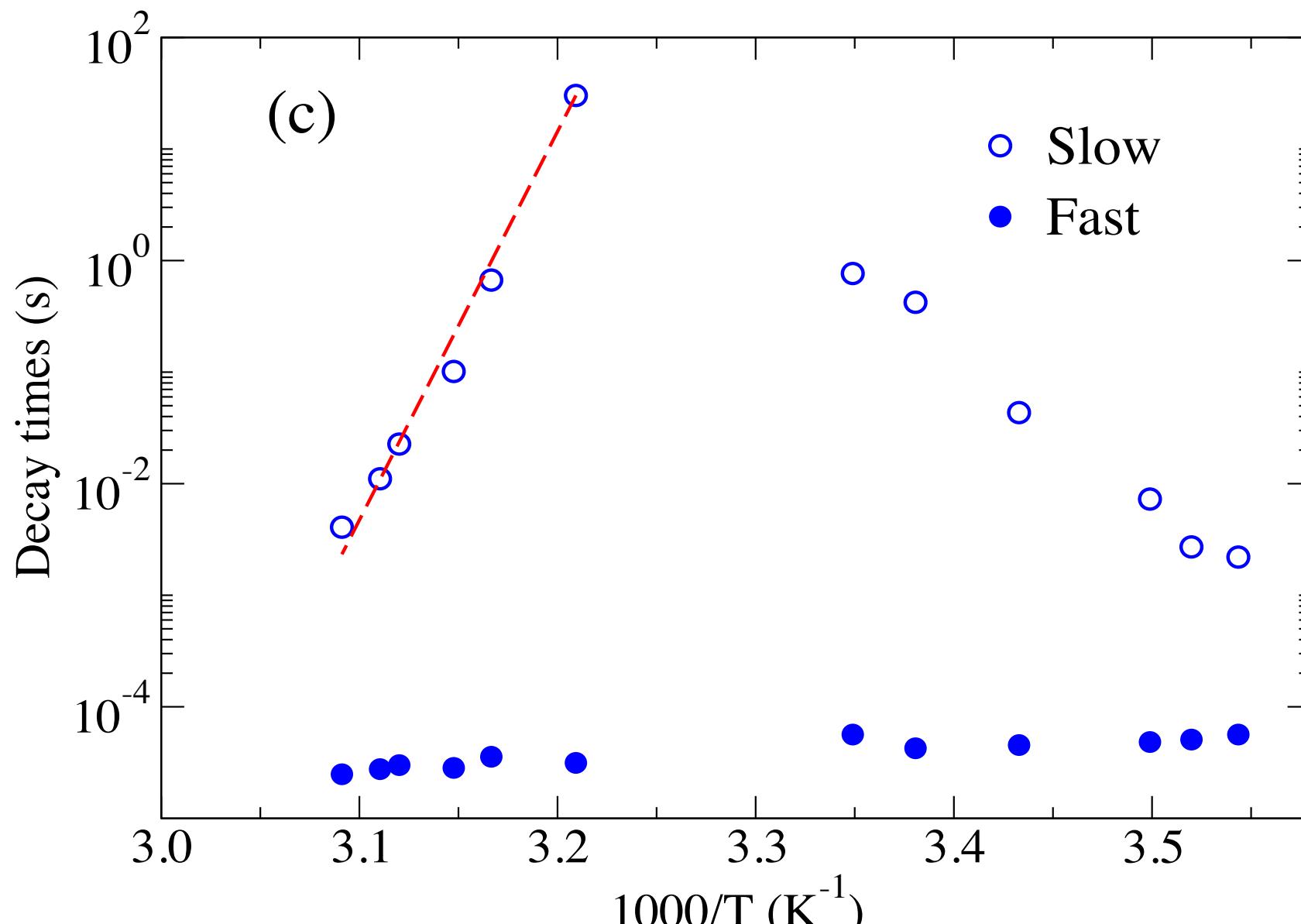
The T-region where the gel forms



The T-region where the gel breaks



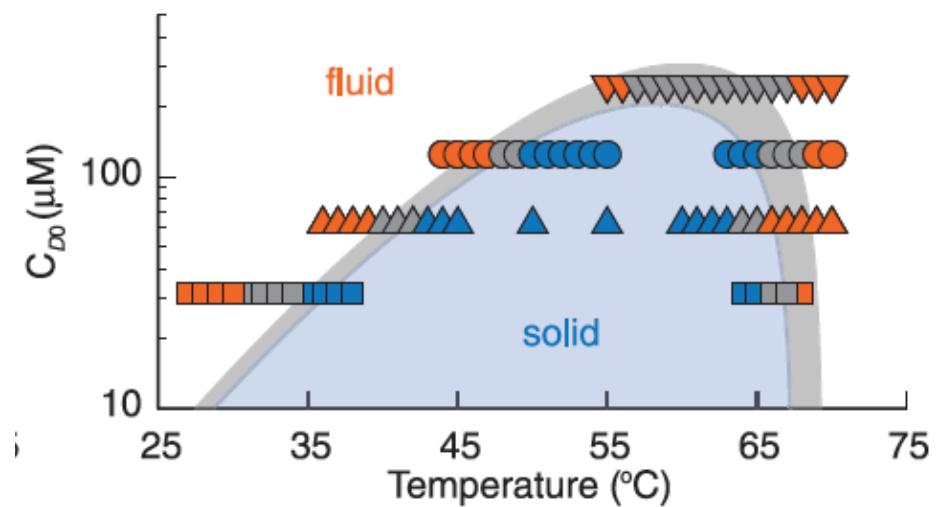
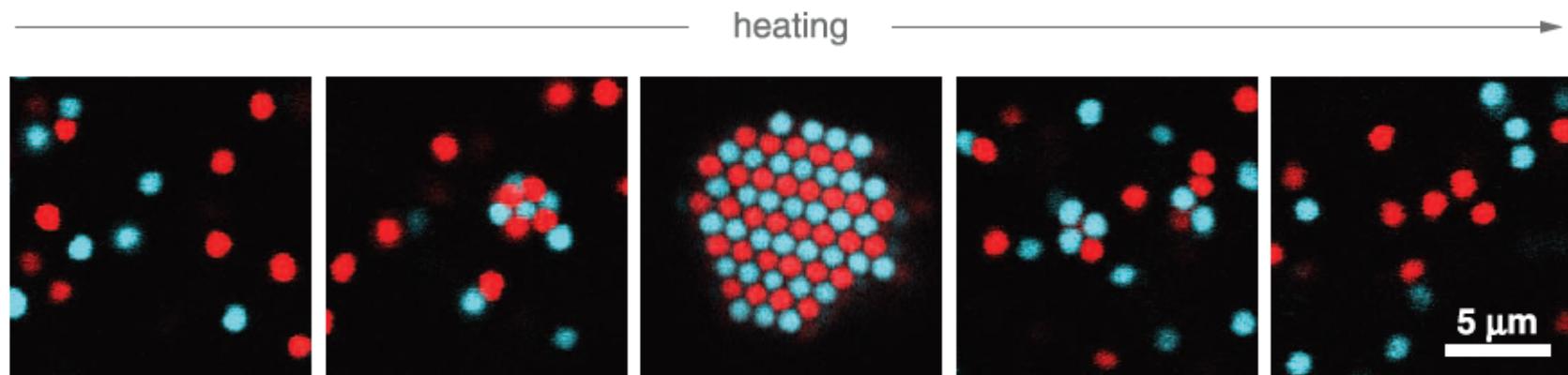
The characteristic time



Bomboi et al, Nat Comm. in press

Programming colloidal phase transitions with DNA strand displacement

W. Benjamin Rogers and Vinothan N. Manoharan
Science 347, 639 (2015);
DOI: 10.1126/science.1259762



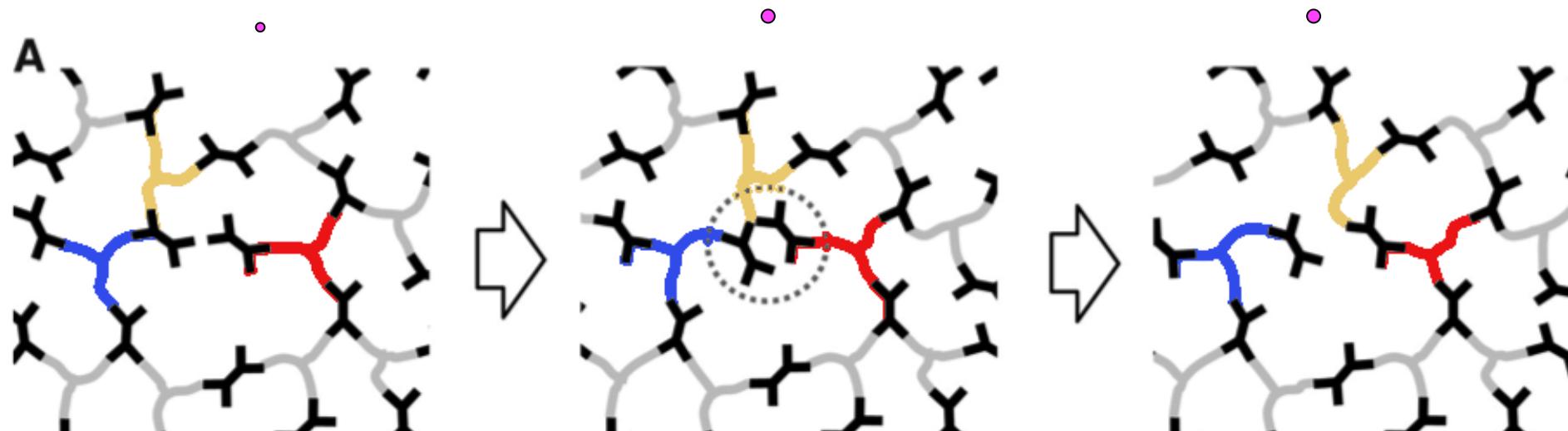
Bridging *in-silico* and *in-charta* intuitions into real experimental realizations

Vitrimers:

Science 334, 965 (2011);
DOI: 10.1126/science.1212648

Silica-Like Malleable Materials from Permanent Organic Networks

Damien Montarnal, Mathieu Capelot, François Tournilhac, Ludwik Leibler*



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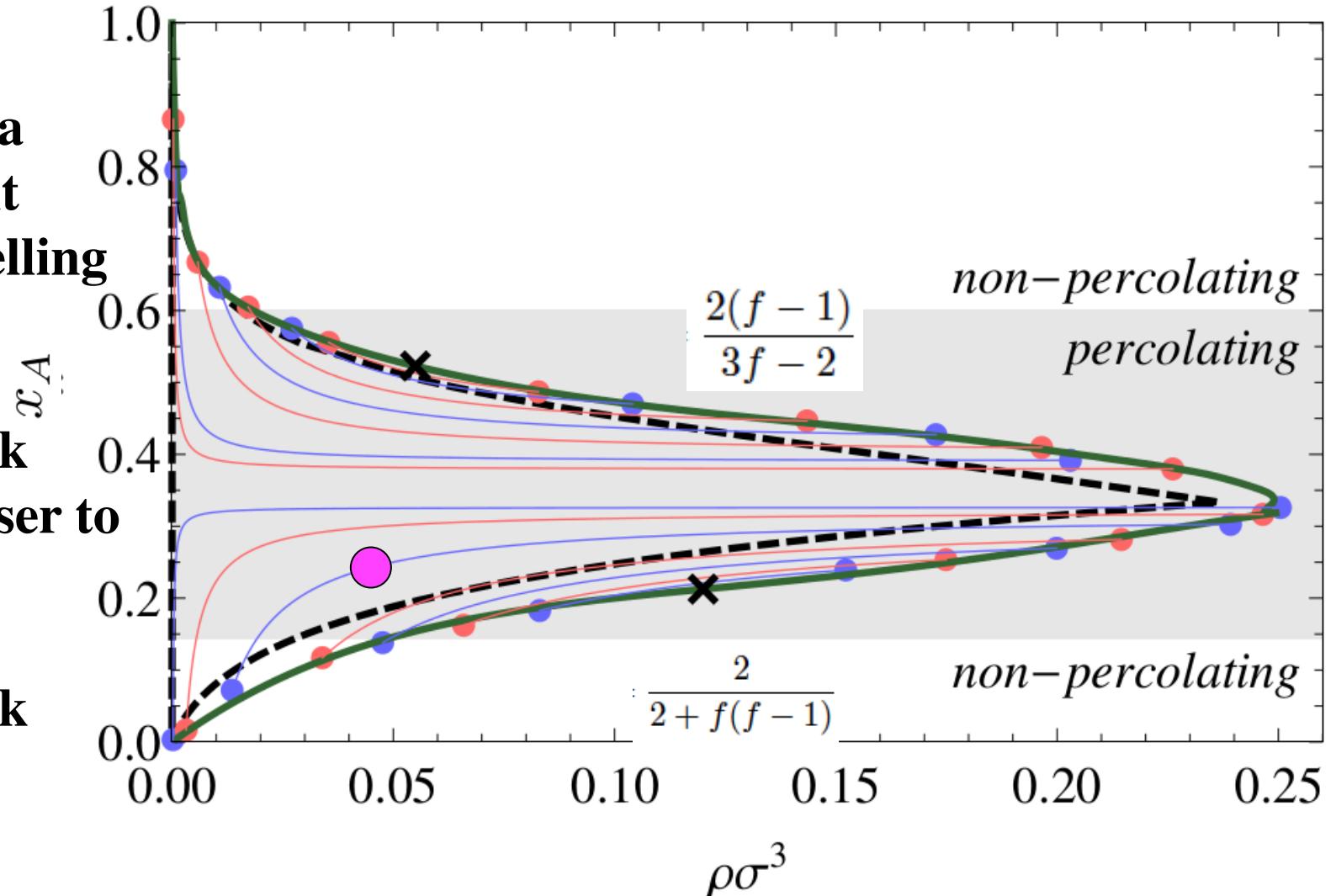
COLLDENSE
COLLOIDS with
DESIGNED RESPONSE

T=0 K Equilibrium phase diagram (Entropy Only!)

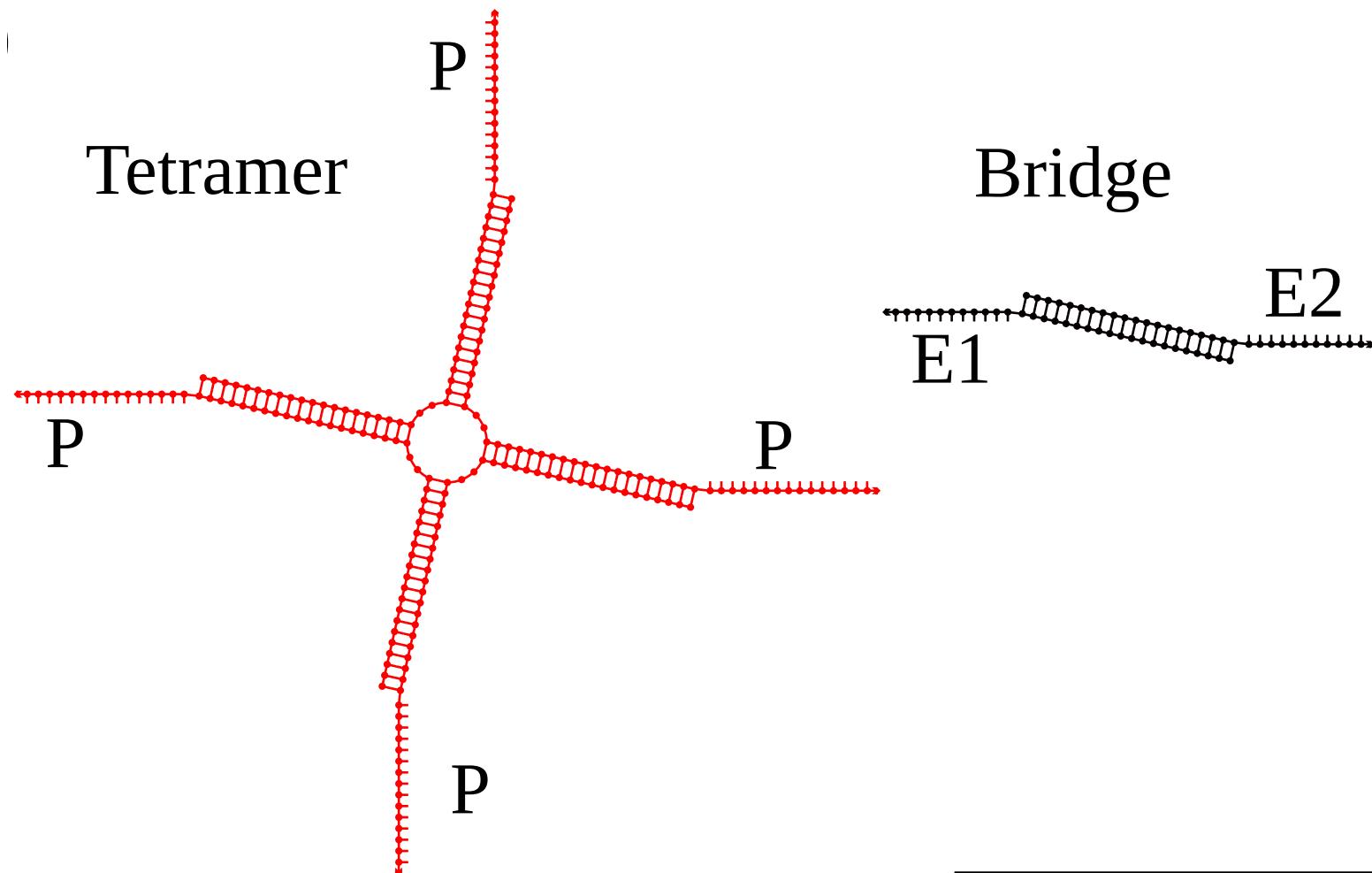
Placing a
vitrimer
network in a
good solvent
leads to swelling

The network
phase is closer to
the ideal x

The network
never fully
dissolves



An all DNA vitrimer !



114, 078104 (2015)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

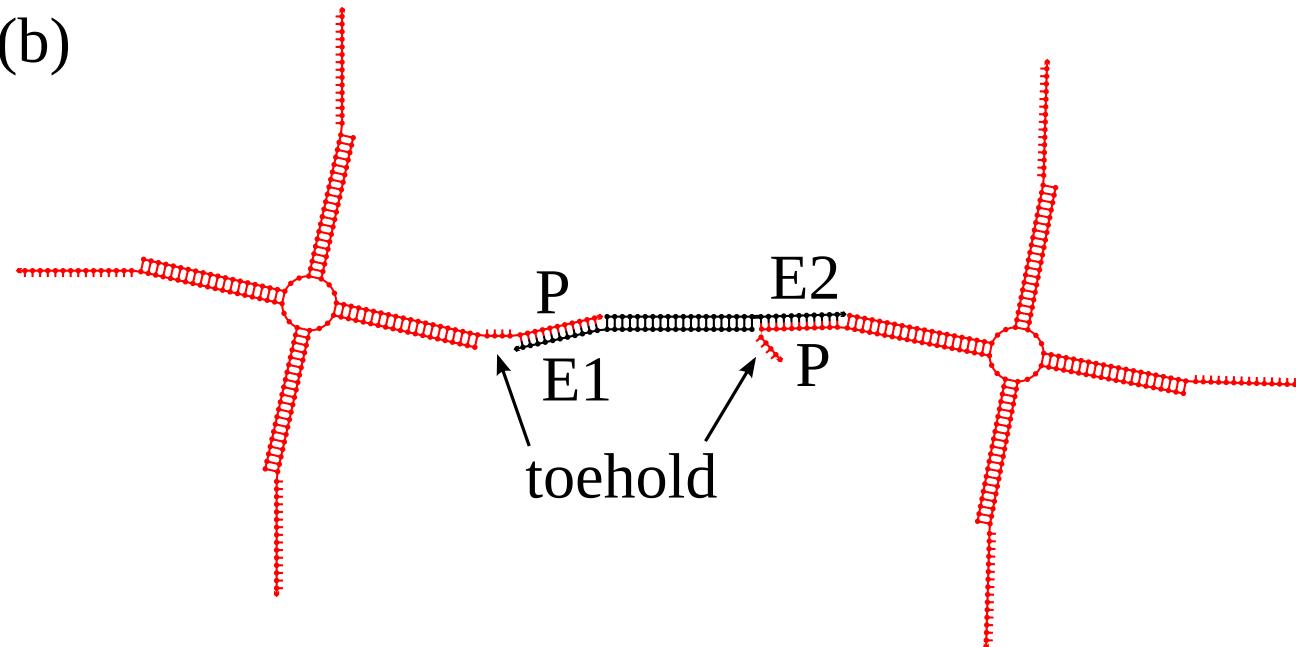
Switching Bonds in a DNA Gel: An All-DNA Vitrimer

Flavio Romano¹ and Francesco Sciortino²

<i>E1</i>	5'-GGTT CGACACG -3'
<i>P</i>	3'-CCAA GCTGTGCTCAC -5'
<i>E2</i>	5'- CGACACGAGTG -3'

An all DNA vitrimer !

(b)



Toehold mediated strand displacement

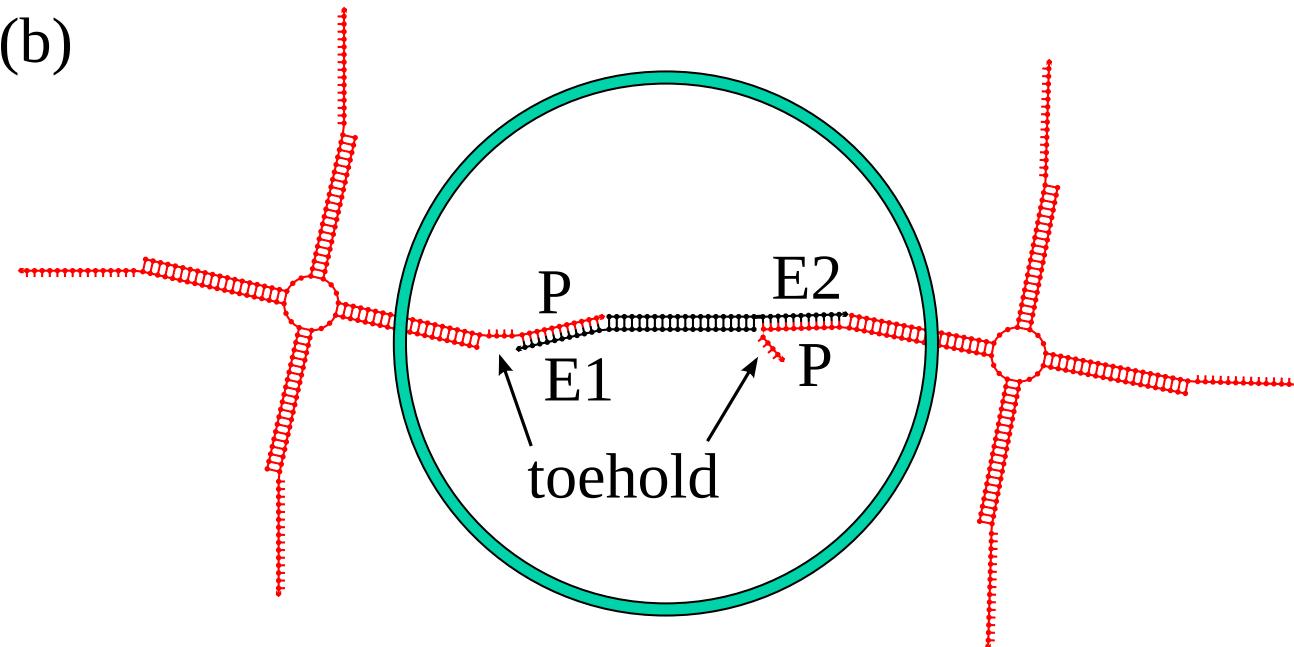


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An all DNA vitrimer !

(b)



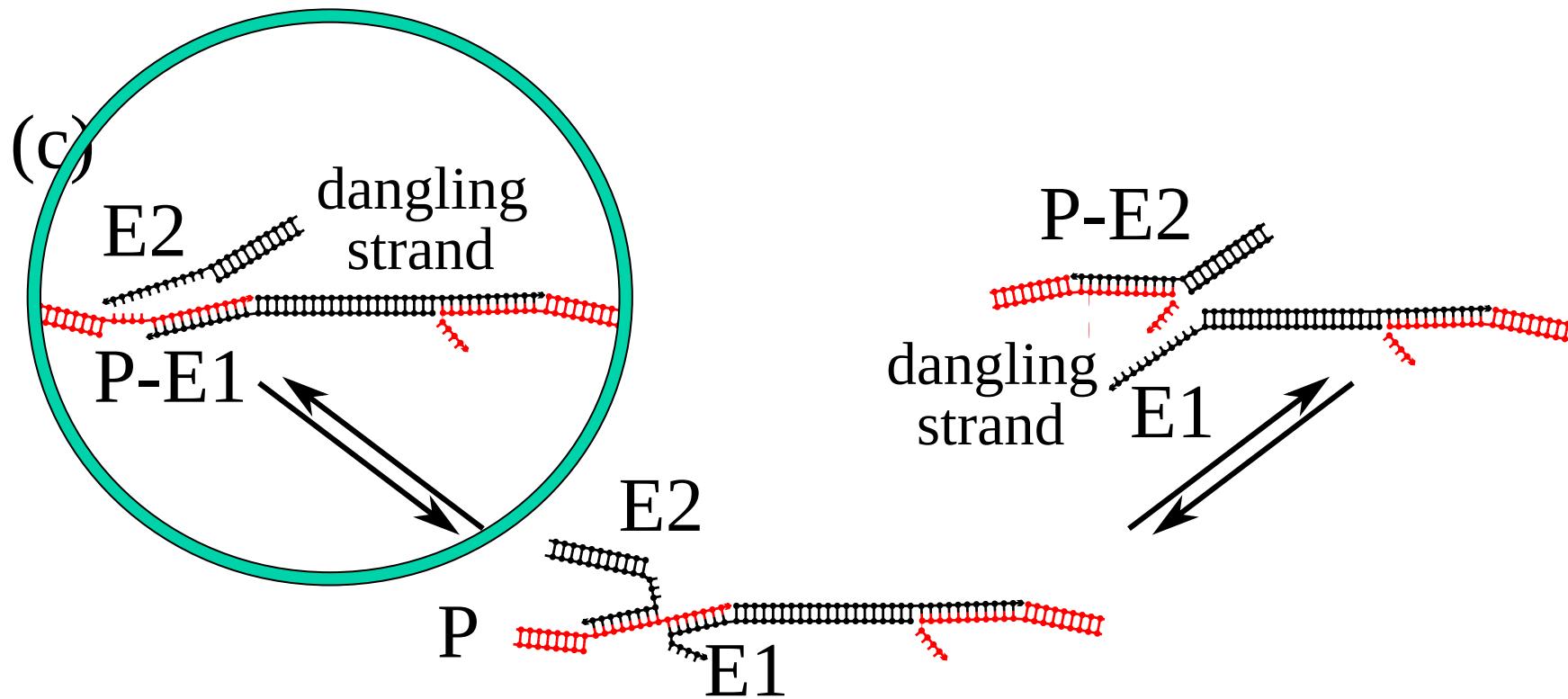
Toehold mediated strand displacement



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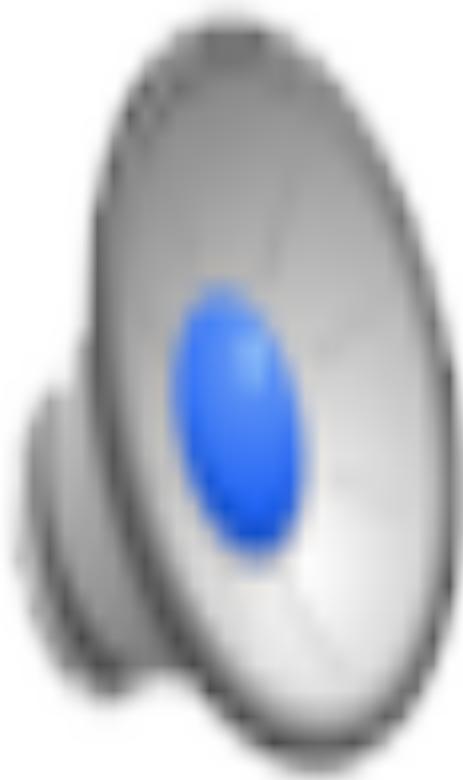


An all DNA vitrimer !



$E1$	5'-GGTT CGACACG -3'
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Conclusions

Beside their nanotech applications
DNA-made particles can be exploited to
bring *in-silico* and *in-charta* intuitions into
real experimental realizations.

We have seen applications to:

Equilibrium gels

Ultrastable liquids

Unconventional dynamics

Re-entrant gel

Vitrimers (undergoing)



Who did the work
Lorenzo Rovigatti, Simon Ramirez - DNA simulations

**Walter Kob, Sandalo Roldan, Frank Smallenburg - Gel
on heating (in silico)**

**Tommaso Bellini, Roberto Cerbino, Silvia Biffi, Francesca
Bomboi, Javier Castanon, Patrizia Filetici, Manuela
Leo, Federico Bordi – Gel on heating (experiments)**

Flavio Romano - Gel on heating and vitrimers (design)



COLLDENSE
ANIMATION WITH
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Animation by L. Rovigatti



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