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Polyelectrolytes and Interpolyelectrolyte Complexes

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Message from the Guest Editor

Polyelectrolytes compose an important class of watersoluble polymers whose high functionality comes from the many ionic groups they bear. Natural polyelectrolytes like nucleic acids and proteins, as well as their assemblies, play a vital role in biological systems. Synthetically produced polyelectrolytes, which are nowadays very diverse in their composition, structure, and topology due to substantial progress in controlled polymerization techniques, are in because of their many applications—as demand flocculants, binders, coatings, rheology modifiers, etc. Even more functional and advanced macromolecular structures can be obtained when oppositely charged polyelectrolytes. either synthetic or natural, interact with each other. The products of this interaction, which is mainly electrostatic in nature, are referred to as interpolyelectrolyte complexes, complex coacervates, or polyion complexes in the literature. Combining properties of their polymeric components, they at the same time possess features which them unique self-organizing and macromolecular assemblies and already find (or hold promise for) application in many important fields.













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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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