50 years of D11



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Understanding dipeptide-based hydrogels

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Small angle scattering is a really useful technique to understand the self-assembly of a range of N-functionalised dipeptides. These form micellar structures at high pH and gels at low pH. Gels with different properties can be formed by controlling the micellar species present prior to gelation, for example by changing the counter-ion, by the addition of salts or by a heat-cool cycle. To understand all of this, we have used small angle neutron scattering, for example using contrast matching approaches to understand the molecular packing and rheo-SANS to follow the gelation process with time.

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