

Intriguing shrinkage behaviour of gels formed by poly-N-isopropyl acrylamide particles

I. Bischofberger and V. Trappe

*Department of Physics, University of Fribourg, Switzerland
irmgard.bischofberger@unifr.ch*

Abstract

We investigate the phase separated states of aqueous solutions of poly-N-isopropyl acrylamide (PNiPAM) particles. At large enough concentrations we observe the formation of space spanning networks (gels) that exhibit an intriguing shrinkage behaviour that depends on temperature, but is independent on concentration. In this contribution we will discuss possible scenarios accounting for this peculiar behaviour.