

Probing Interactions in Reentrant Phase Behavior of Charged Colloids [†]

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Abstract: The charged nanoparticles in solution represent a model system, where the well-established colloidal theories such as Debye-Hückel (DH) theory and/or DLVO theory can be implemented to predict the nanoparticle phase behavior. Recently, reentrant phase transitions in a wide range of colloids (e.g., inorganic and organic nanoparticles, polymers, and biomolecules) have been observed, not consistent with these theories. The colloids in the reentrant phase behavior undergo a phase change and return to the original phase concerning a specific physiochemical parameter (e.g., ionic strength, the concentration of different additives, temperature, etc.). The nanoparticle-polymer/multivalent-ions systems, demonstrating such phase transition and the corresponding phase behavior in terms of interparticle interactions, have been probed by small-angle neutron scattering. It is shown how the tuning in interparticle interactions using external parameters leads to reentrant phase behavior [1-6].

Keywords: charged colloids; Debye-Hückel (DH) theory; phase transition and neutron scattering.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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