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Nanostructure in amorphous poly(n-alkylmethacrylate) melt from dynamic NMR and scattering HANS WOLFGANG SPIESS, Max-Planck-Institute of Polymer Research, Mainz

Nanostructures are important aspects of composite polymers, such as block copolymers. Advanced solid state NMR techniques recently revealed, however, that homopolymers can also exhibit pronounced nanostructures. There, they arise from orientational correlations between neighbouring chains or from an incompatibility of different groups within the repeat unit. The presence of such nanostructures has important consequences for the dynamic behaviour and the properties of these materials. As a specific example, the complex dynamics of poly(*n*-alkylmethacrylates) is studied by advanced ¹³C NMR spectroscopy. Extended backbone conformations involving about five, at most ten repeat units are identified as the molecular units involved in structural relaxation. Syndiotatic and isotactic sequences behave alike. The packing within the locally structured polymer melts is reminiscent of hairy rods with flexible sidegroups, yet much less defined. It also shows up in temperature dependent X-ray scattering.