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Book review

Block Copolymers. Synthetic Strategies, Physical Properties, and Applications
By Nikos Hadjichristidis, Stergios Pispas, George A. Floudas, Wiley-Interscience, 419 pages

Since their introduction in the 1950s, block copolymers have found a rapidly accelerating role in academic and industrial research. A number of ingenious synthetic methods have led to a remarkable diversity of polymeric structures with an intriguing variety of physical properties and applications.

Various individual aspects of block copolymers have previously been discussed in several books and review articles. The present volume pulls these topics together into a convenient comprehensive treatment of synthesis, characterization methods, physical properties, and applications of these macromolecules. The authors have made substantial research contributions in the field. Nikos Hadjichristidis and Stergios Pispas are Professor and Research Associate, respectively, in the Department of Chemistry of the University of Athens. George Floudas is an Associate Professor of Physics at the University of Ioannina.

The book is intended to serve as an advanced introductory text for scientists who plan to work in the field of block copolymers. Each of its 21 chapters provides the material for a thorough working knowledge of its subject and concludes with an extensive list of literature references.

Throughout this volume the material is clearly presented. An exhaustive collection of figures and tables helps clarify the more complex aspects of the subject. Readers might experience some slight inconvenience with the more than 100 abbreviations employed, presumably for economy of space. However, a comprehensive alphabetical list of abbreviations and symbols, sandwiched between the preface and the first chapter, acts as a ready reference.

This volume will be an essential source of information for anyone about to work in the fertile field of block copolymers and, very likely, also for those already embroiled in the area.

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