Effect of Flory-Huggins Interaction Parameter on Aspect Ratio of Block Copolymer Particle

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Systematic modulation of shape-anisotropy of block copolymer (BCP) particles into spheroids (prolate and oblate) have received great attention. Herein, we investigate the effect of Flory-Huggins interaction parameter (χ) on aspect ratio (AR) by introducing four different series of BCPs with varying χ values. In this study, polystyrene-b-polybutadiene (PS-b-PB), polystyrene-b-polydimethylsiloxane (PS-b-PDMS), polystyrene-b-poly4-vinylpyridine (PS-b-P4VP), and polydimethylsiloxane-b-poly-4-vinylpyridine (PDMS-b-P4VP) with similar degree of polymerization (N) were prepared for accurate comparison. Lamellae-forming BCPs with higher χ assembled into ellipsoidal particles with more elongation. Similarly, cylinder-forming BCPs with higher χ assembled into flatter convex lens-like particles. There is a difference in the tendency of AR depending on the shape of BCP particles, and it is supported by a theoretical model.