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## Soft X-ray analysis of microgels and polymer-based microcontainers in aqueous environment

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Polymer-based microgel and core-shell particles are versatile containers for the transport of drugs, theranostic gases or catalytically active molecules. They are in many cases biodegradable and fully compatible to *in-vivo* applications. During recent years we have investigated a broad range of such hybrid materials ranging from gas filled microballoons and thermoresponsible microgel networks to magnetoresponsive particles with embedded iron nanoparticles and core-shell systems filled with theranostic gases or catalytically active fluids (e.g., ionic liquids). Soft X-ray microscopy is an excellent tool to study those systems *in-situ* in aqueous matrix with high-resolution and chemical sensitivity. We have analyzed shell thicknesses, swelling behaviors and temperature response to contribute better understanding on release mechanisms and have developed procedures to derive high-resolution 3D representations of the particles from 2D transmission X-ray micrographs. The project is funded by the BMBF (05K16WED).

**Primary authors:** SPÄTH, Andreas (Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Lehrstuhl für Physikalische Chemie II and ICMM, Erlangen, Germany); TZVETKOV, George (University of Sofia, Department of Inorganic Chemistry, Sofia, Bulgaria); PARADOSSI, Gaio (Universita di Roma Tor Vergata, Dipartimento di Scienze e Tecnologie Chimiche, Rome, Italy); FINK, Rainer H. (Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Lehrstuhl für Physikalische Chemie II and ICMM, Erlangen, Germany)

**Presenter:** FINK, Rainer H. (Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Lehrstuhl für Physikalische Chemie II and ICMM, Erlangen, Germany)

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