

# Polymer Conformation Determination by NMR Spectroscopy: Comparative Diffusion Ordered <sup>1</sup>H-NMR Spectroscopy of Poly(2-Ethyl-2-Oxazoline)s and Poly(Ethylene Glycol) in D<sub>2</sub>O

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## Electronic Supplementary Information

### Supplementary Tables

Table S1: Molecular weight characterisation of the PEG used in this study. ND = not determined (insufficient signal in the MALS for resolution from baseline).

| Nominal<br>kDa | SEC-RI (vs PMMA) |                |      |                | SEC-MALS       |                |             |                | Corrected SEC-RI |                |             |                |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
|                | M <sub>n</sub>   | M <sub>w</sub> | Đ    | M <sub>p</sub> | M <sub>n</sub> | M <sub>w</sub> | Đ           | M <sub>p</sub> | M <sub>n</sub>   | M <sub>w</sub> | Đ           | M <sub>p</sub> |
| 2              | 2.4              | 3.2            | 1.30 | 2.1            | ND             | ND             | ND          | ND             | <b>1.4</b>       | <b>1.8</b>     | <b>1.30</b> | <b>1.2</b>     |
| 5              | 7.5              | 10.1           | 1.35 | 7.0            | ND             | ND             | ND          | ND             | <b>4.2</b>       | <b>5.7</b>     | <b>1.35</b> | <b>4.0</b>     |
| 10             | 16.3             | 19.3           | 1.19 | 14.5           | ND             | ND             | ND          | ND             | <b>9.2</b>       | <b>10.9</b>    | <b>1.19</b> | <b>8.2</b>     |
| 20             | 32.5             | 34.9           | 1.07 | 33.4           | <b>21.4</b>    | <b>22.5</b>    | <b>1.05</b> | <b>19.2</b>    | 18.4             | 19.7           | 1.07        | 18.9           |
| 40             | 77.9             | 104.8          | 1.34 | 68.9           | <b>48.2</b>    | <b>58.0</b>    | <b>1.20</b> | <b>38.3</b>    | 44.0             | 59.2           | 1.34        | 38.9           |

Table S2: Comparison of peak characteristics determined by (a) SEC-MALS and (b) from the positive projection (Fig 4, right) being processed via a log-log relationship derived from the M<sub>p</sub> of the P(EtOx).

| Nominal<br>MW | SEC-MALS <sup>a</sup> |                |                |      | DOSY <sup>b</sup> |                |                |      |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|------|
|               | M <sub>n</sub>        | M <sub>w</sub> | M <sub>p</sub> | Đ    | M <sub>n</sub>    | M <sub>w</sub> | M <sub>p</sub> | Đ    |
| 10 kDa        | 10.5                  | 11             | 10.7           | 1.05 | 9.5               | 9.6            | 9.3            | 1.01 |
| 20 kDa        | 18                    | 18.8           | 18.7           | 1.04 | 18                | 18.5           | 17.6           | 1.03 |
| 30 kDa        | 29.1                  | 30.3           | 30             | 1.04 | 34.6              | 34.7           | 34.4           | 1    |
| 40 kDa        | 41.4                  | 43.4           | 43             | 1.05 | 45.9              | 48.2           | 45.5           | 1.05 |
| 50 kDa        | 54.3                  | 57.6           | 57.9           | 1.06 | ND                | ND             | ND             | ND   |
| 60 kDa        | 56.2                  | 62.5           | 66             | 1.11 | 68.8              | 77.9           | 66.4           | 1.13 |
| 100 kDa       | 95.2                  | 107.6          | 108.7          | 1.13 | 123.8             | 125.1          | 124            | 1.01 |
| 200 kDa       | 183.2                 | 216.5          | 215.9          | 1.18 | 216.2             | 249.9          | 208.5          | 1.16 |
| 300 kDa       | 287.4                 | 330.5          | 366.1          | 1.15 | 318.4             | 332.4          | 319.5          | 1.04 |

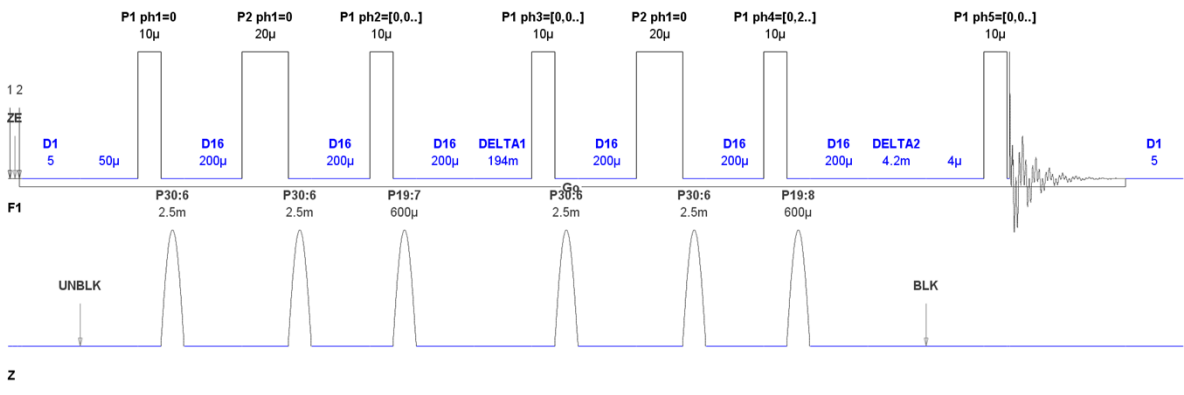
**Table S3: The constants and exponents for diffusion coefficient (eq. 1a), intrinsic viscosity (eq. 1b) and hydrodynamic radius (eq. 1c) of P(EtOx) at different temperatures.**

| Temp (K) | Diffusion (eq. 1a) |       | IV (eq. 1b)    |       | R <sub>H</sub> (eq. 1c) |       |
|----------|--------------------|-------|----------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
|          | c                  | -b    | K <sub>η</sub> | α     | K <sub>H</sub>          | ν     |
| 278      | 9.25E-09           | 0.598 | 1.03E-08       | 0.792 | 1.18E-02                | 0.597 |
| 283      | 9.36E-09           | 0.594 | 1.21E-08       | 0.807 | 1.24E-02                | 0.603 |
| 288      | 1.19E-08           | 0.599 | 1.57E-08       | 0.782 | 1.36E-02                | 0.594 |
| 293      | 1.20E-08           | 0.581 | 2.28E-08       | 0.733 | 1.54E-02                | 0.578 |
| 298      | 1.38E-08           | 0.557 | 1.97E-08       | 0.734 | 1.46E-02                | 0.578 |
| 303      | 1.57E-08           | 0.560 | 2.26E-08       | 0.677 | 1.53E-02                | 0.559 |

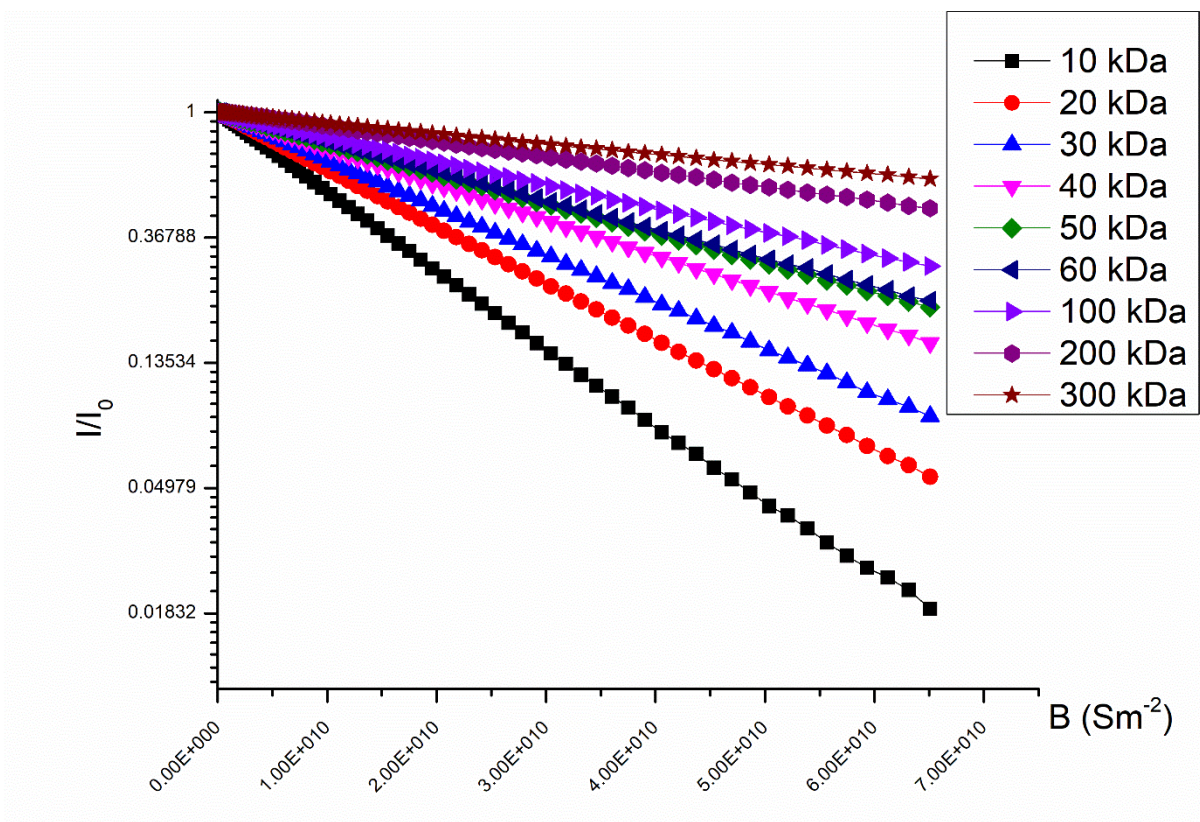
**Table S4: The constants and exponents for diffusion coefficient (eq. 1a), intrinsic viscosity (eq. 1b) and hydrodynamic radius (eq. 1c) of PEG at different temperatures. The highest M<sub>w</sub> (59.2 kDa) was excluded as off-trend at 283 K, apparently due to helix formation.**

| Temp (K) | Diffusion (eq. 1a) |       | IV (eq. 1b) |        | RH (eq. 1c)    |        |
|----------|--------------------|-------|-------------|--------|----------------|--------|
|          | c                  | -b    | K           | α      | K <sub>H</sub> | ν      |
| 283      | 4.95E-09           | 0.537 | 1.10E-07    | 0.5992 | 2.59E-02       | 0.5331 |
| 288      | 5.01E-09           | 0.513 | 1.65E-07    | 0.5437 | 2.97E-02       | 0.5146 |
| 293      | 6.10E-09           | 0.516 | 1.71E-07    | 0.5388 | 3.01E-02       | 0.5113 |
| 298      | 5.69E-09           | 0.489 | 3.03E-07    | 0.4633 | 3.63E-02       | 0.4978 |
| 303      | 6.57E-09           | 0.488 | 3.42E-07    | 0.4513 | 3.79E-02       | 0.4818 |

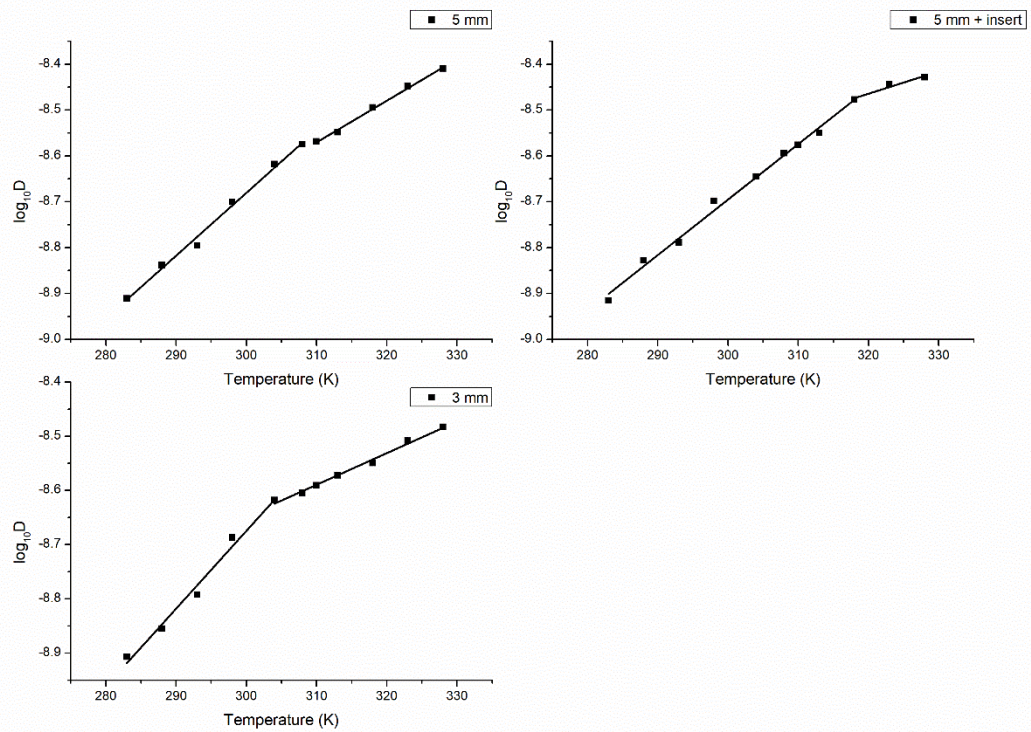
### Supplementary Figures



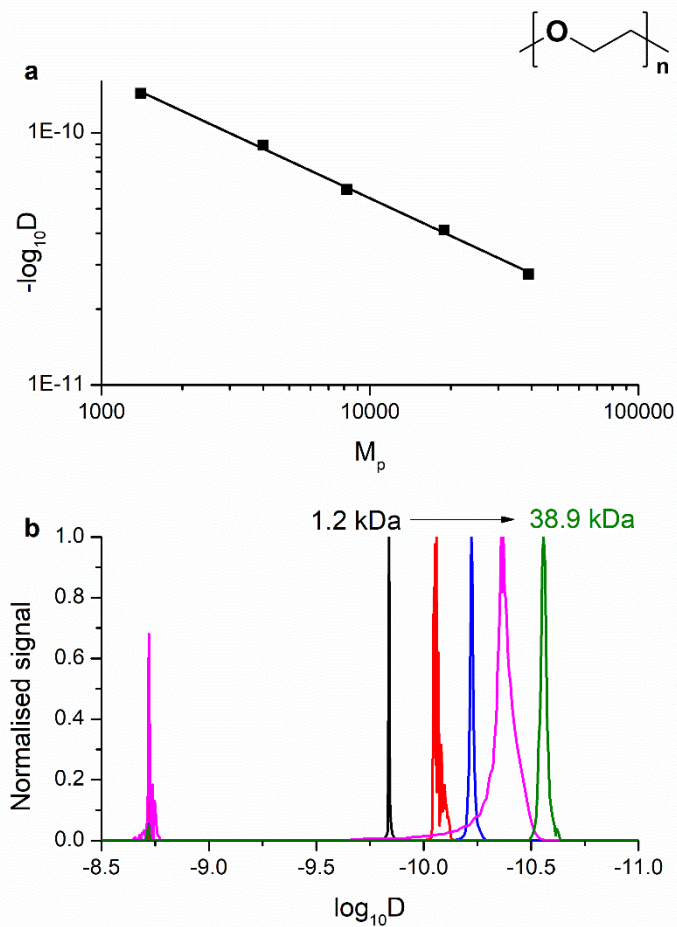
Supplementary Figure S1: The pulse sequence (ledbpg2s) used in this work.



Supplementary Figure S2: Stejskal-Tanner plot for all P(EtOx) at 298 K. The slope is the diffusion coefficient.  $M_w$  are nominal.

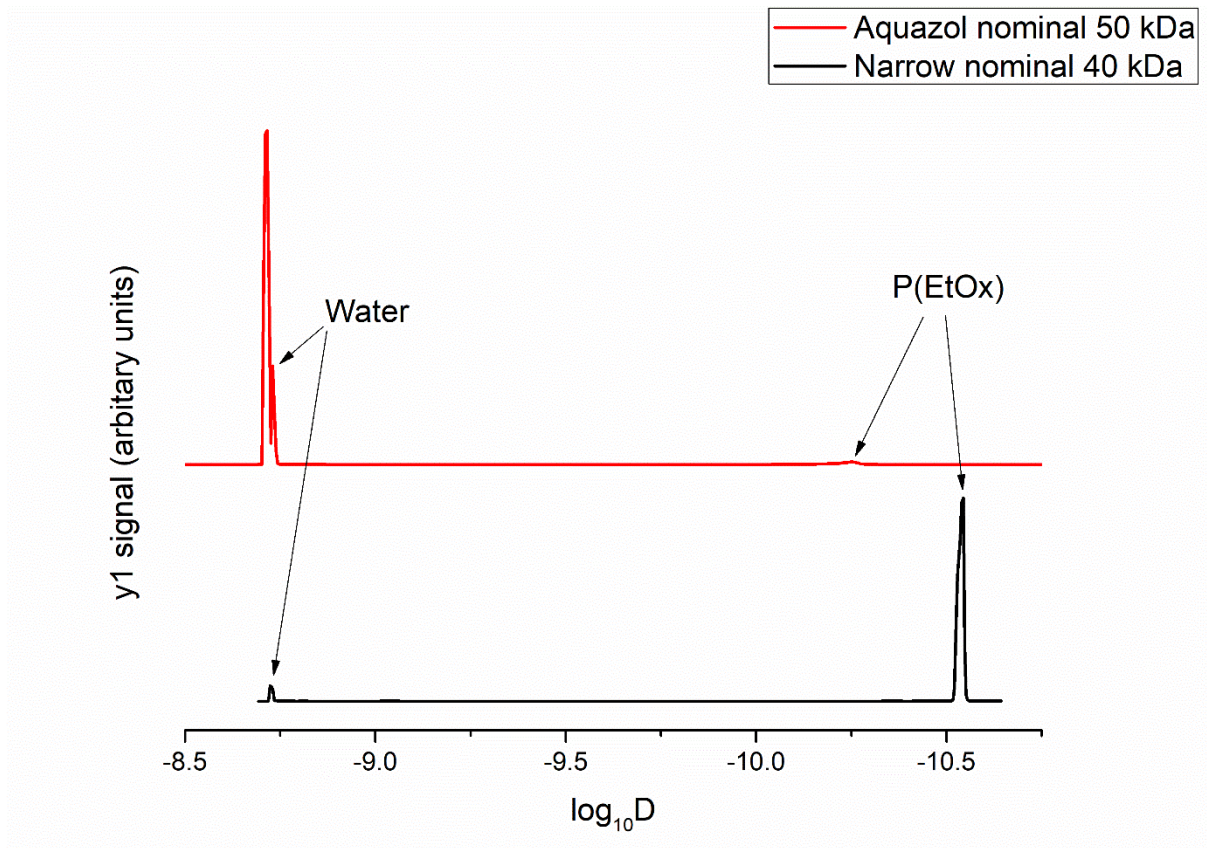


**Supplementary Figure S3: Effect of tube size and type on the self-diffusion coefficient of water at varying temperatures. In all cases an inflexion point was observed, which was interpreted as the onset of convection currents.**

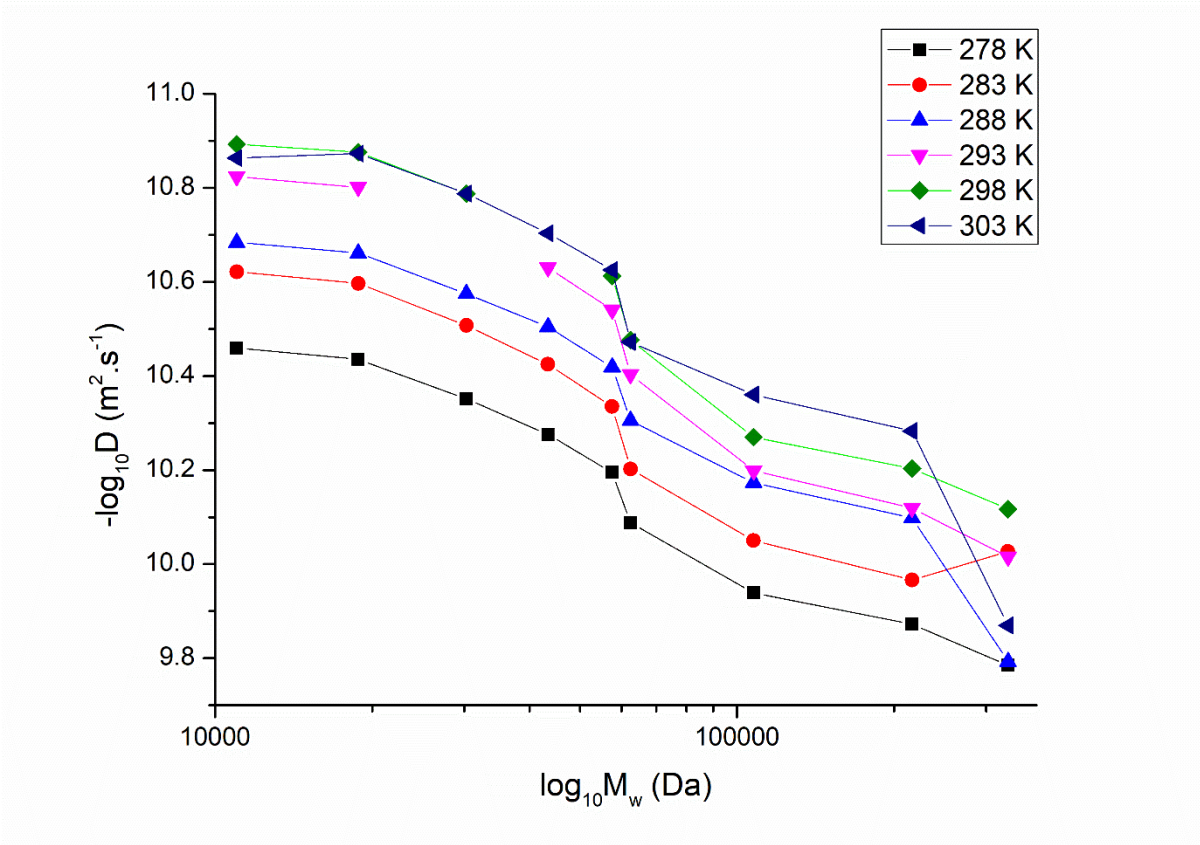


Supplementary Figure S4: Equivalent figure to fig. 4 for PEG at 25 °C. (a) Relationship of  $D$  with  $M_p$  (adj.  $r^2 = 0.9978$ , intercept =  $-8.2789$ , slope =  $0.4952$ ). (b) The positive projection along the  $x_1$  axis of DOSY for PEG of  $M_p$  1.2 kDa to 38.9 kDa. High resolution DOSY was not performed with PEG, as the dispersity was not a primary concern.

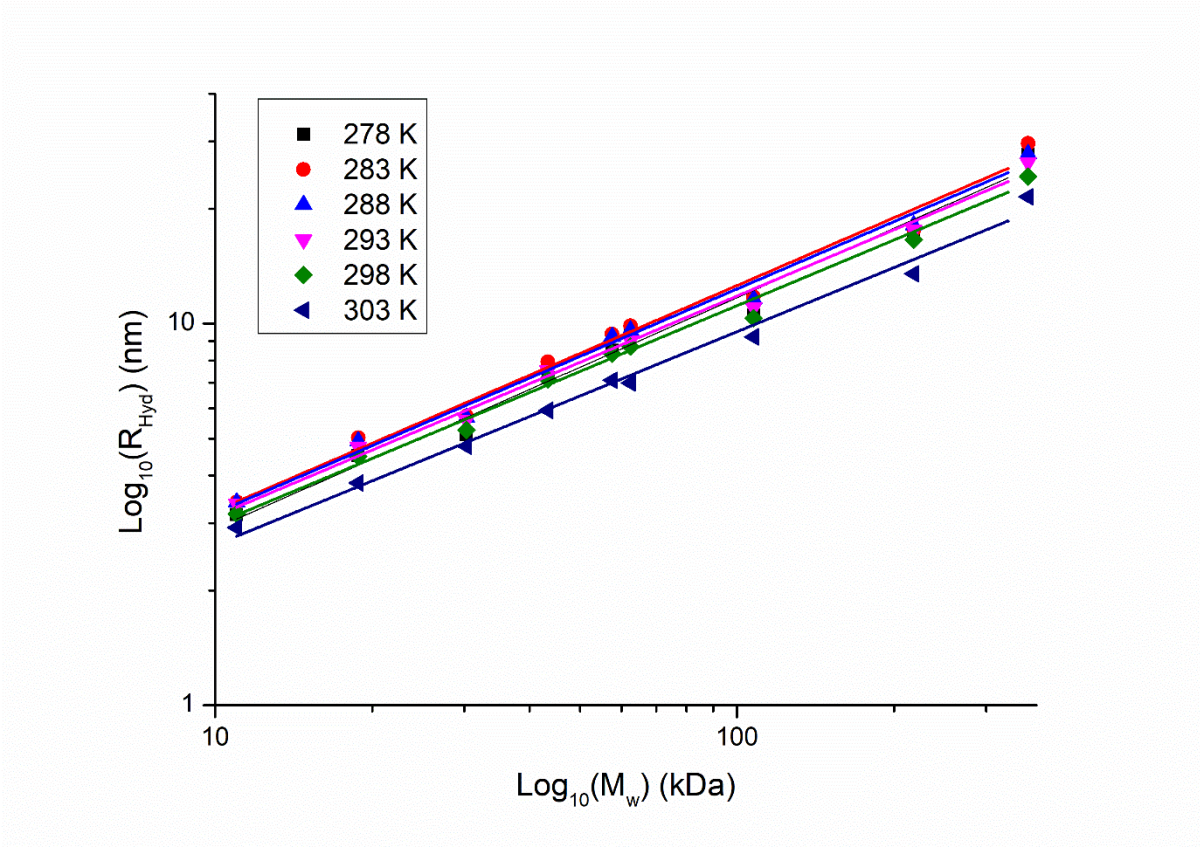




Supplementary Figure S5: Comparison of the weak and broad Aquazol 50 signal in the y1 (diffusion) dimension and a narrow dispersity P(EtOx) of nominally 40 kDa.

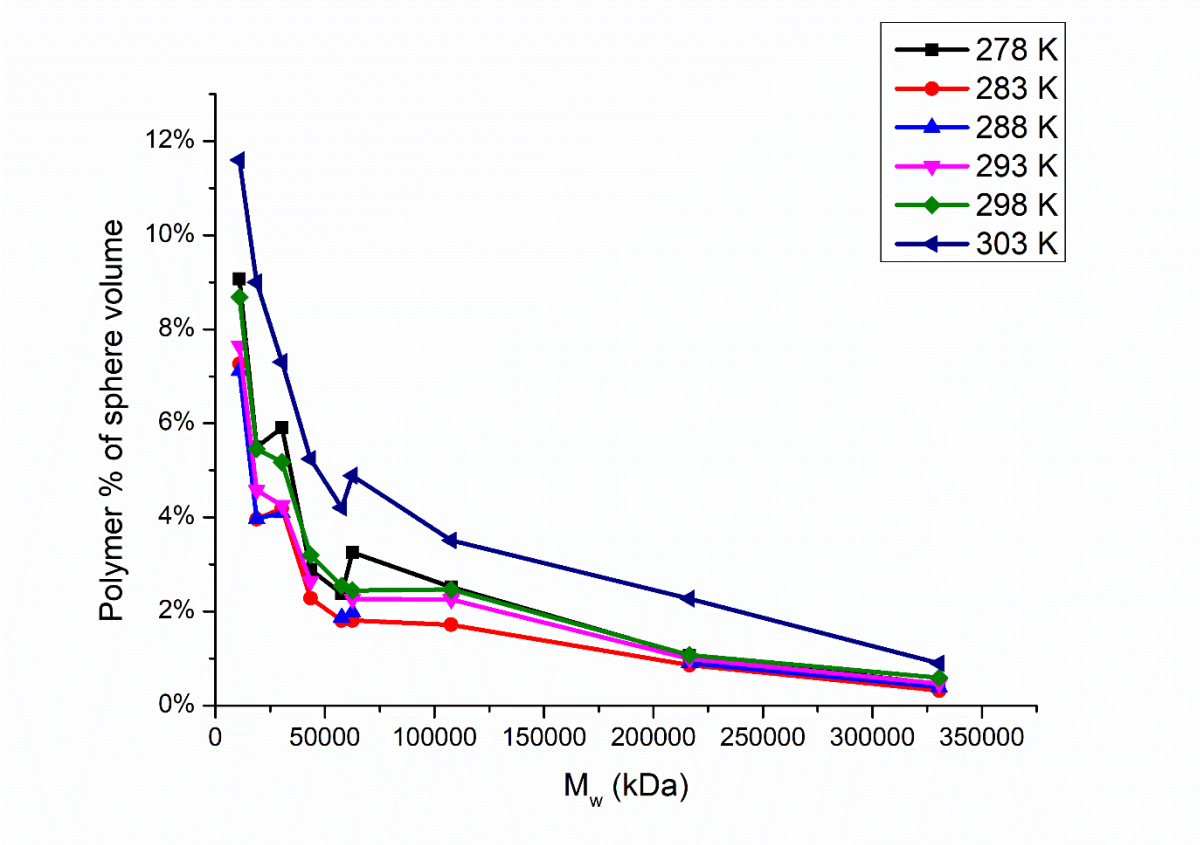


Supplementary Figure S6:  $-\log_{10} D$  plotted against  $M_w$  for varying temperatures. A linear fit is not reasonable.

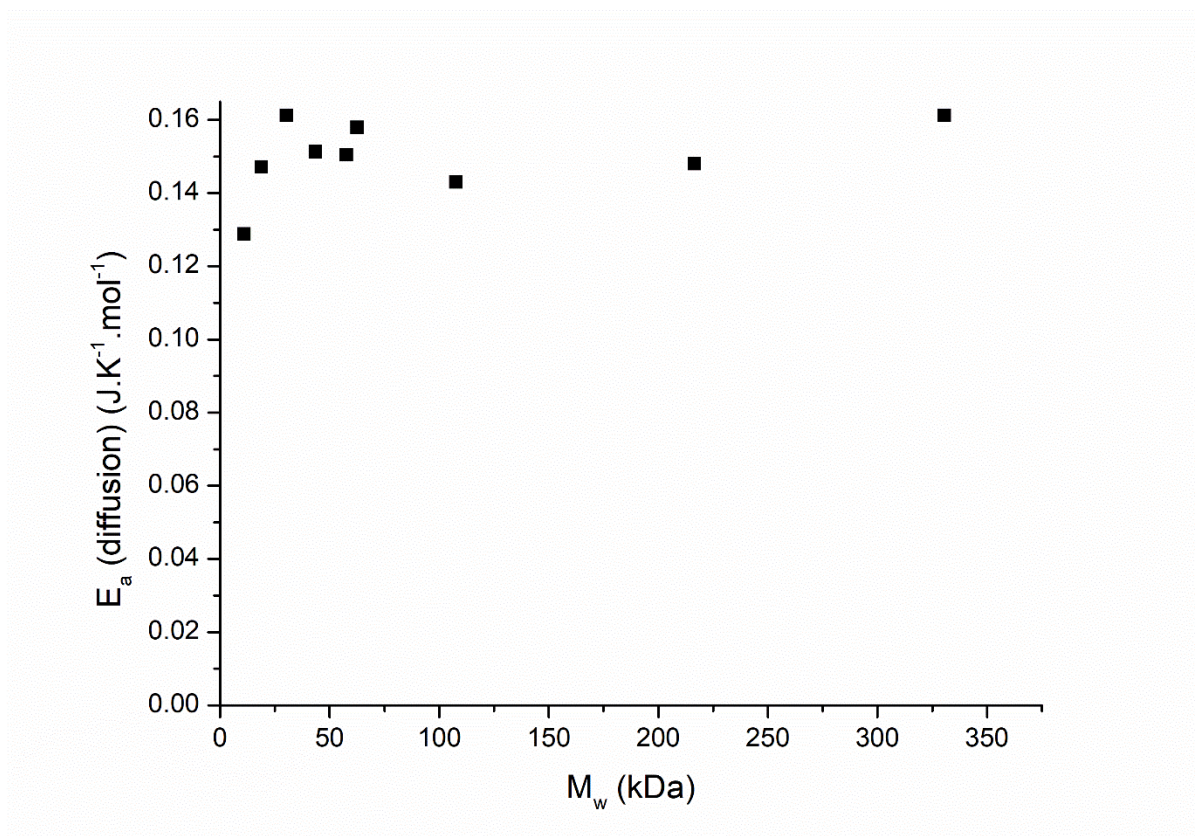


Supplementary Figure S7: Relationship of  $\log(M_w)$  of a series of P(EtOx) to their hydrodynamic radius

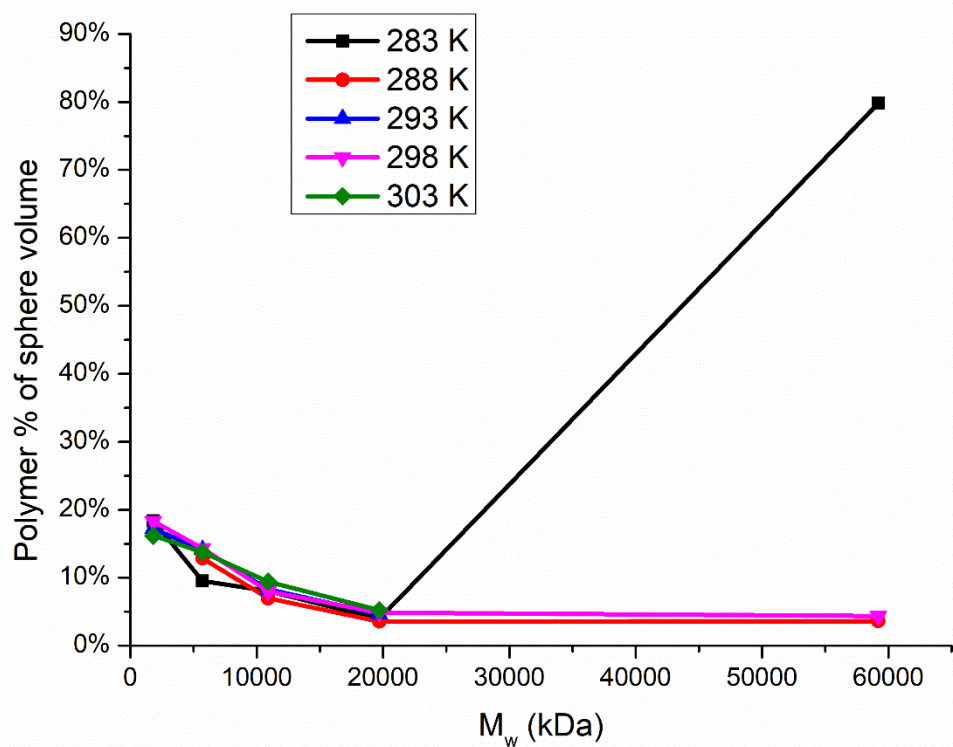




Supplementary Figure S8: Assuming a spherical volume, the volume of the sphere that is P(EtOx), with the remainder being water.



Supplementary Figure S9: Activation energy of diffusion determined by the Arrhenius equation plotted against  $M_w$ .



Supplementary Figure S10: Assuming a spherical volume, the volume of the sphere that is PEG with the remainder being water. The  $M_w = 59.2$  kDa PEG behaved anomalously at 283 K, which is attributed to helix formation.