Supplemental information

Preparation of actuating fibres of oriented main-chain liquid crystalline elastomers by a wetspinning process

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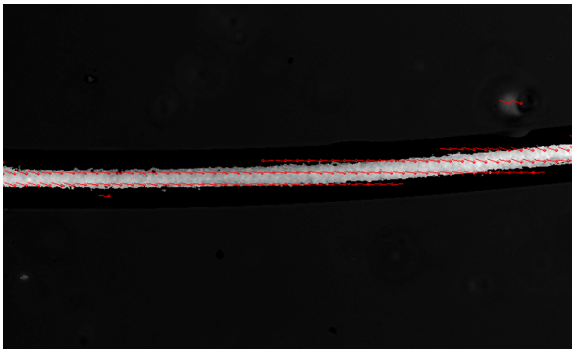

S1 shows an image of a fibre prepared by the wetspinning process under a polarizing microscope equipped with a universal compensator (Abrio Imaging System 1.2). Using an imaging software, the director field lines (indicated in red) were calculated from the optical retardance. They are aligned uniformly parallel to the fibre axis.

S2 is an mpeg-4 video file demonstrating the swelling and deswelling process of an LCE fibre in a polarizing microscope. For this, a droplet of chloroform was added to the sample at 0:12. The structure quickly swells, indicated by a loss in birefringence. When the chloroform has evaporated (1:40) the fibre deswells and regains birefringence.