

Dirk-Jan Voorn



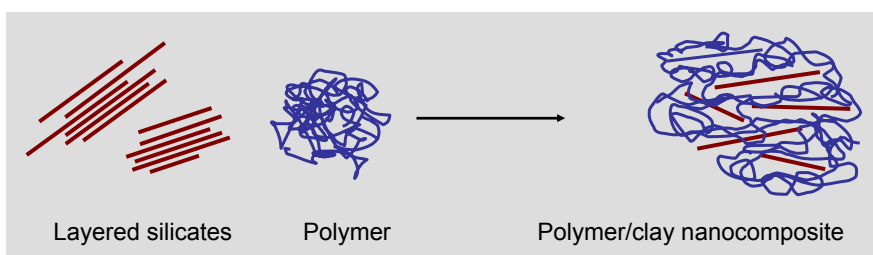
## Polymer-clay nanocomposite particles

Encapsulation of platelets by physical and chemical approaches

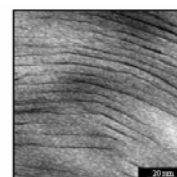
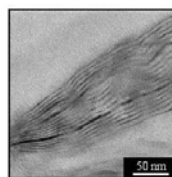
DPI annual meeting, 21 November 2007

## Why clay platelets as fillers?

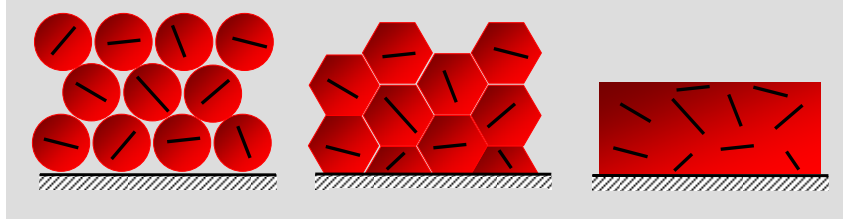
Classical polymer/clay nanocomposites



Improve mechanical, thermal,  
and barrier properties

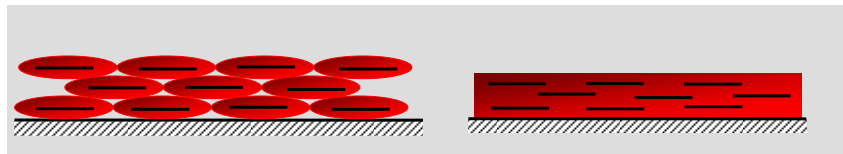


## Why clay platelets as fillers?



A requirement is coating transparency:

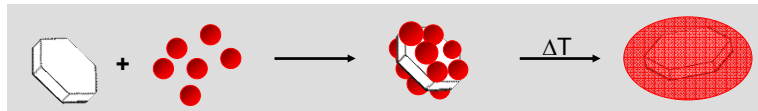
- Better platelet orientation
- Anisotropic hybrid particle formation



## Research approach

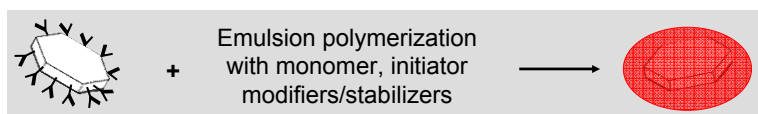
### Physical approach

Using exfoliated clay platelets and oppositely charged particles to heterocoagulate. Heat treatment of the polymer on the surface results in film formation and encapsulation.

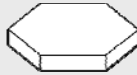
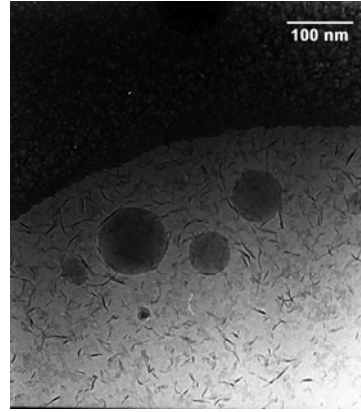
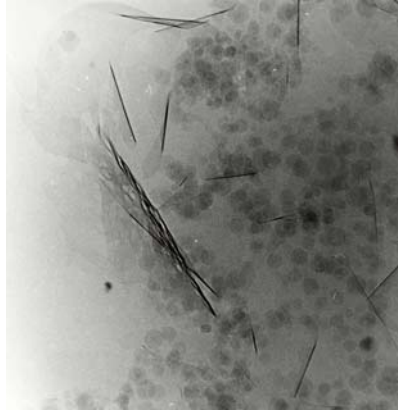


### Chemical approach

In-situ polymerization of native, physical, chemical or dual modified clay platelets in direct or inverse emulsion polymerization.



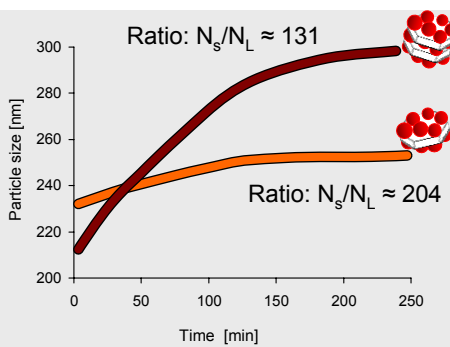
# Physical approach



The need for a model colloidal platelet: gibbsite  
10 nm thick, 100-200 nm wide

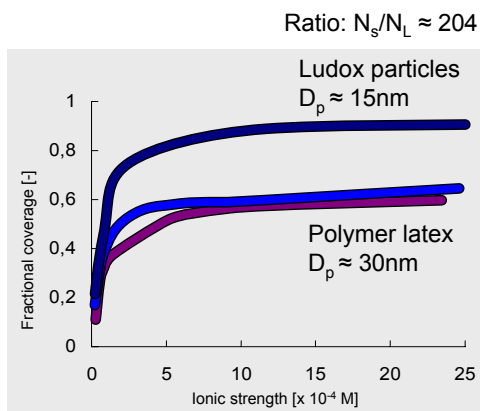
Voorn, Ming, van Herk. *Macromolecules*, 38(9), 3653-3662 2005  
Voorn Ming, van Herk et al. *Langmuir*, 21(15), 6950-6956 2005.

# Physical approach



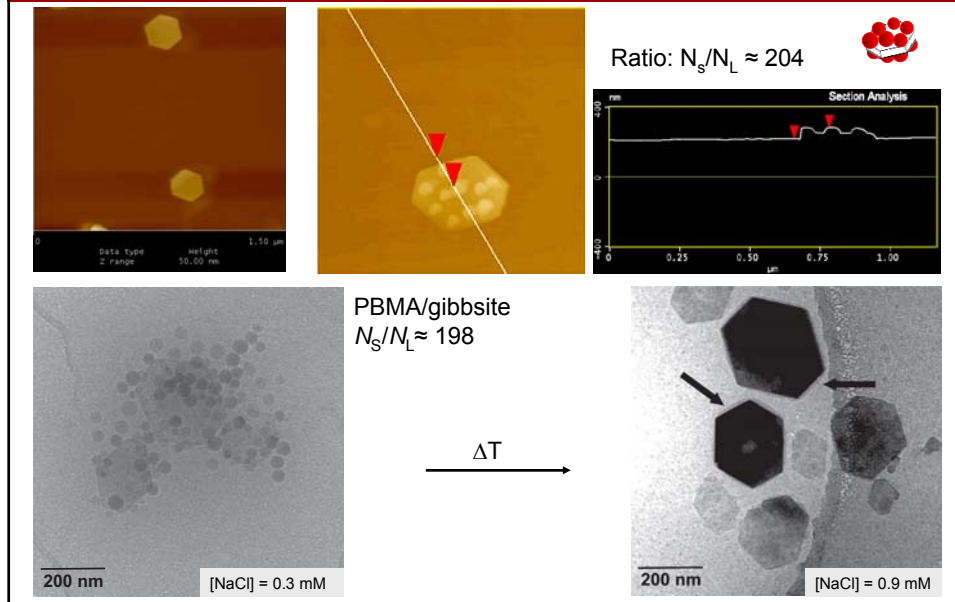
The effect of small particle size on the average fractional surface coverage of gibbsite platelets as a function of ionic strength

The effect of the ratio of small particle to large platelet



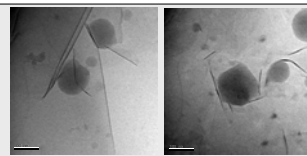
Voorn, Ming, van Herk et al. *Langmuir*, 21(15), 6950-6956 2005.  
Voorn, Ming, van Herk et al. *Colloids Surf. A*, 294(1-3), 236-246 2007.

# Physical approach characterization

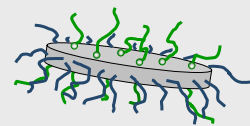


# The chemical approach

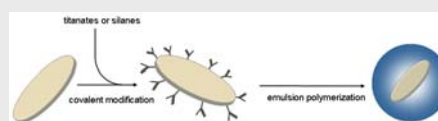
**Electrostatic face modification with cationic, hydrophilic monomers to increase the hydrophilicity and subsequent emulsion polymerization**



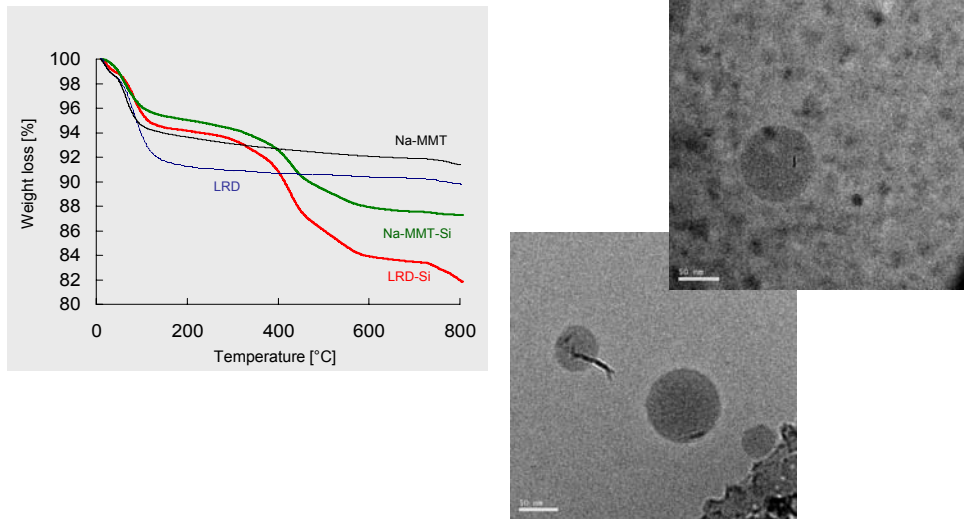
**Dual functionalization to increase the hydrophilicity and covalent anchoring to prevent polymerization center shift**



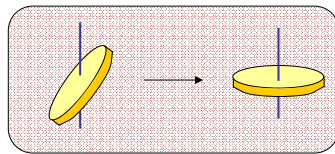
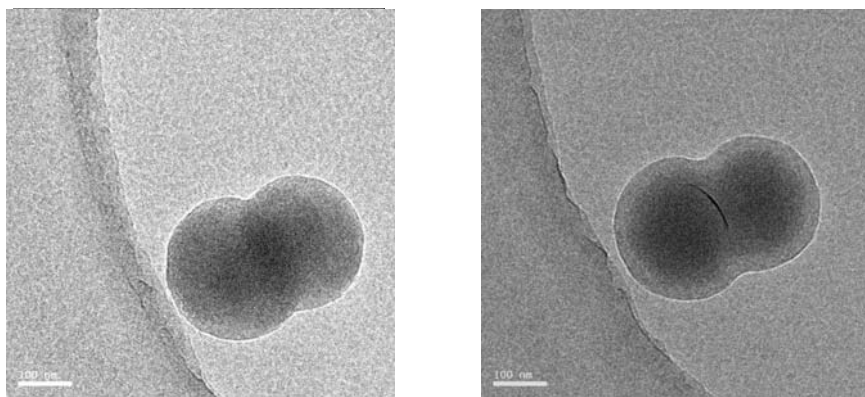
**Covalent edge modification and subsequent emulsion polymerization under controlled conditions**



# The chemical approach

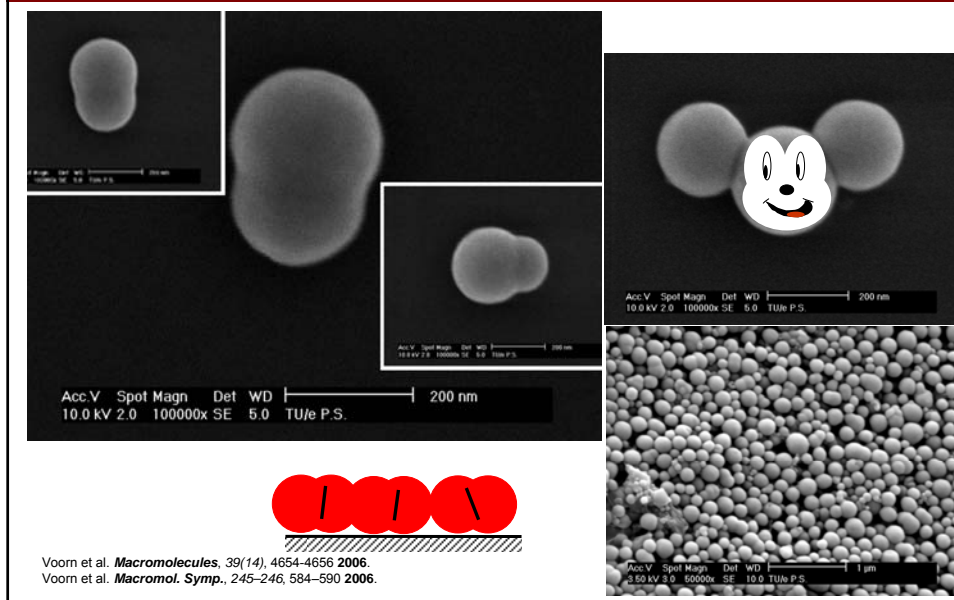


# The chemical approach



Cryo-TEM with stage tilt

## The chemical approach



## Conclusions

### Why we succeeded with the chemical approach?

- Encapsulation is possible with covalent side-group modification.
- Only cationic face modification is not sufficient to encapsulate clay platelets.
- Dual functionalization is also feasible for the encapsulation.
- Keeping in mind that working under starved-fed and below cmc are a prerequisite to avoid secondary nucleation.

### What have we achieved with the physical approach?

- Gibbsite as model platelets showed to be successful, although extension to clay did not appear to work.
- Interplay of mixing, size ratio and other experimental conditions is crucial for efficient, controlled heterocoagulation.
- Heat treatment of heterocoagulated structure led to the formation of single-platelet-encapsulated, anisotropic hybrid particles.

# Acknowledgements

## **Supervision**

Prof. Alex van Herk, Dr. Marshall (W.) Ming, Prof. Bert de With

## **Collaborators**

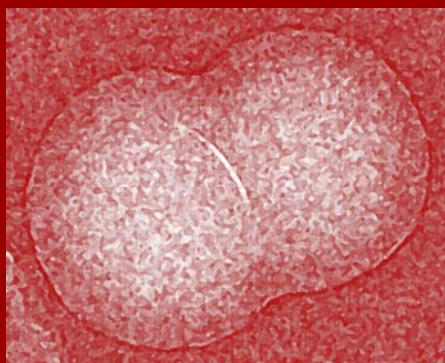
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For the first time, clay platelets inside latex particles have been encapsulated

D. J. Voon et al., *Macromolecules*, 2005 38(9) 3653-3662  
D. J. Voon et al., *Langmuir*, 2005 21(15) 6950-6956  
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D. J. Voon et al., *Macromol. Symp.*, 2006 245-246, 584-590  
D. J. Voon et al., *Colloids Surf. A*, 2007 294(1-3), 236-246  
D. J. Voon et al., *Polymer*, 2008 in preparation