Mechanics of filled rubbers from a molecular point of view

Varol, H.S.

Citation for published version (APA):
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, it would not have been possible to write this thesis without the help of many people – secret heroes – around me, to only some of whom it is possible to express my gratitude here. Thus, as the opening words of my acknowledgement, I would sincerely like to apologize to those who I cannot write my gratefulness here.

Above all, I would like to thank Mischa for giving me the opportunity to be a part of his lovely department and for always being supportive and patient with me. Honestly, I will always admire you and try to understand how you can manage to provide us such a nice working environment. After Mischa, I owe very special thanks to my project leader Sapun. I want to thank him for teaching me how to be a stronger man and a good scientist. I am very happy and proud of being your first PhD student. While working together, I believe we learned a lot from each other. Herein, I need to address my appreciations to the entire AK-Bonn group particularly to Ellen Backus, Alejandra Sánchez, Tobias Weidner, Hao Lu, Johannes Hunger, Marc-Jan Van Zadel, Florian Gericke, Walter Scholdei and of course the lovely Laurie Gangloff. Along with these names, I want to mention also the non-AK-Bonn people, Ingo Lieberwirth, Gunnar Glasser, Andreas Hanewald, Katrin Kirchhoff and Uwe Rietzler, who never refused to provide me friendly and extremely helpful technical and scientific support when needed. Without the help of above sorted names, no scientific achievements in this thesis would be possible.

I want to send my special appreciation to the members of the “rubber project” specifically to Marius, Janaina, Babak, Fanlong, Alessio and of course Daniel Bonn as the founder/leader of the project. Dear Daniel, “Stop, stop! We’re all confused now” sentence of you which I heard almost in every talk of mine given in front of you, taught me how to stand strong under the rain of challenging critics about my scientific findings. Thanks for being honest!

By remembering all the members in its history, I must say: “CARS ROCKS!” As a member of CARS, I learned a lot while working in this group, for instance, merciless critiques from Frederik taught me how to better defend my ideas. Xiao Ling’s excellent imitation of mine truly helped me to reflect better upon myself. Great
Acknowledgements
efforts by Mischa Schwendy to explain the basics of biology along with “dance” lessons for Lucia and I, will always inspire me in the future. To my dear super thiol-tolerant friend Sabine: it was nice to work, collaborate and in particular, sing with you. Last but certainly not least, Will and his endless effort for teaching me Igor coding, Nils and our pleasurable unplugged heavy metal sessions with Fistook, Christian Malm and his fantastic contribution to my thesis, Miriam, Yujen, Gustav, Schrudi and others. I will seriously miss ‘CARS the Great’.

A very special thanks must be addressed to my lovely ‘Mediterranean-Indian flavored lunch, party, coffee, Saturday market, talking – BS – group’. First of all, Vasilis and Natalia, holding and supporting each other in sad days, happy days, party days, Funzelfahrt days will always be remembered with a smile. Extra line for Vasilis, your picture while holding a rabbit and dealing with Greek bureaucracy will be the cover of my next book, I promise. Noemí, you will always be in my PhD memories as the walking post-doc-carrot spreading love and peace around. Amala, I believe the decibel level of our laughter after each of our BS talks/imitations cannot be beaten by anyone else. For instance ‘Salt Bae’ must stay here as one of remembrance. Mike, the glorious and fearless lord of the cakes and a great friend – your smartly designed ‘X bring cake polls’ will guide me a lot in my professional career! Melike, she is probably one of the best listeners in the world and of course ‘the other Turk’ in the group. By a few words, I have no idea how to describe your giant heart, Catarina Nardi Tironi. Of course, this list can go further with the names of many lovely people around me during my PhD years like, David and Elena, Andrea (greatest double bass player, half of Fistook), Cesare (“como se diceee Cesarin Urbinoo”), Alice, Hassan, Grazia Gonella, Uliana, Philipp, Selen, Filiz, Maria Kokkinopoulou, Francesco, Erika, Matthias, Johannes Franz, Prerna, Dimitra, Simon A. Bretschneider, Malte, Peng, Ilias, Claudia, Leonie Driessen and all the players (fighters) of the best football team ever “golden girls / 2016”.

Very special thank must go to Sergio Mauri. Uncle Gigino, are you aware what have you done to me? You have introduced me to the most important person in my life and then you married us! You ‘patiently’ educated me how to drink wine and
Acknowledgements

eat good food (sometimes a bit too much) and so on. Thanks! Another special
gratitude must be addressed to the lovely Giacomo and Valeria. I feel very lucky for
knowing you guys. Every glass of wine, cold beer in Istanbul afternoon and many
more will be lifelong remembered by Lucia and I. We truly believe this friendship
will last forever.

To my beautiful aunt, Armağan and my uncle-in-law Emin: I am still trying to
understand how you can be so generous!? Both of you particularly helped me a lot
in making this country my home. For every success and happiness that I have in my
life, I cannot forget your big role.

To my lovely sister, Bilge who has a beautiful and a pure lovely heart! My
father, Fikret, the man always standing strong and stiff like a mountain and for me
he is the definition of “Dad”. My mom, Sema, a huge piece of love combined with a
strong patience and who is the backbone of my family. I want to send my deepest
gratitude to three of you by the words of Nazım Hikmet who is probably a beautiful
common thing between the four of us,

“yok öyle umutları yitirip karanlıkta savrulmak.
unutma; aynı gökyüzü altında, bir direniştir yaşamak.”

Lucia! It is so hard to play with the words and letters to describe how I feel now.
How can I frighten the characters and punish the words by trying to risk them to
describe my love for you? They are not enough to portray my excitement and
happiness about living a life beside you and “the beautiful new member of our life”
in our warm casettina as a family. But, again my best friend, Nazım is next to me
and helping me with his words for describing my love to you,

“Hoş geldin kadınım benim hoş geldin
ayağını basdın odama kırk yıllık beton, çayır çimen şimdi
güldün, güller açıldı penceremin demirlerinde
ağladın, avuçlarına döküldü inciler
gönlüm gibi zengin hürriyet gibi aydınlik oldu odam...”