

# Table of Contents

|          |   |            |
|----------|---|------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Introduction.....</b>  | <b>1</b>   |
|          | 1.1 Motivation.....   | 1          |
|          | 1.2 Task description .....  | 5          |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Fundamentals .....</b>   | <b>7</b>   |
|          | 2.1 Phase transitions and critical phenomena .....                                    | 7          |
|          | 2.1.1 Phase transitions .....   | 7          |
|          | 2.1.2 Critical phenomena.....   | 9          |
|          | 2.1.3 The Ornstein-Zernike theory .....   | 13         |
|          | 2.2 Phase behavior of multicomponent systems .....                                    | 17         |
|          | 2.2.1 Binary systems.....   | 17         |
|          | 2.2.2 Ternary systems .....   | 18         |
|          | 2.2.3 The tricritical point (TCP) .....   | 22         |
|          | 2.3 Microemulsions.....   | 25         |
|          | 2.3.1 Phase behavior.....   | 25         |
|          | 2.3.2 Microstructure .....  | 32         |
|          | 2.3.3 CO <sub>2</sub> microemulsions.....   | 40         |
|          | 2.4 Scattering techniques .....   | 43         |
|          | 2.4.1 Introduction .....  | 43         |
|          | 2.4.2 Scattering experiments .....  | 47         |
|          | 2.4.3 Scattering theorems and models.....   | 51         |
| <b>3</b> | <b>From Simple Solutions to Structured Microemulsions .....</b>                       | <b>58</b>  |
|          | 3.1 Before the tricritical point (TCP): simple solutions.....                         | 61         |
|          | 3.1.1 Search for a symmetric miscibility gap.....                                     | 61         |
|          | 3.1.2 Microstructure dominated by critical fluctuations (SANS).....                   | 68         |
|          | 3.1.3 Critical phenomena.....   | 77         |
|          | 3.1.4 Microstructure at molecular length scale (SWAXS).....                           | 84         |
|          | 3.1.5 Search for the tricritical point (TCP).....                                     | 88         |
|          | 3.2 Formation of an amphiphilic film: towards classical microemulsions .....          | 93         |
|          | 3.2.1 Phase behavior.....   | 93         |
|          | 3.2.2 Microstructure .....  | 96         |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Efficiency Boosting Effect in Microemulsions with Novel Diblock Polymers .....</b> | <b>104</b> |
|          | 4.1 Nonionic aliphatic polycarbonate diblock polymers as efficiency boosters.....     | 106        |
|          | 4.1.1 Introduction .....  | 106        |
|          | 4.1.2 Phase behavior.....   | 107        |
|          | 4.1.3 Microstructure .....  | 112        |

|          |  |            |
|----------|--|------------|
| 4.2      | Nonionic siloxane functionalized polycarbonate diblock polymers as efficiency boosters ..... | 118        |
| 4.2.1    | Introduction .....   | 118        |
| 4.2.2    | Phase behavior.....  | 119        |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Industrial Applications of Microemulsions .....</b>                                       | <b>123</b> |
| 5.1      | Polyol-rich CO <sub>2</sub> microemulsions applied to the PU foam production .....           | 125        |
| 5.1.1    | Polyurethane .....   | 126        |
| 5.1.2    | Phase behavior.....  | 127        |
| 5.1.3    | Microstructure .....   | 139        |
| 5.2      | Salager equation for prediction of balanced microemulsions applied to EOR.....               | 145        |
| 5.2.1    | Introduction .....   | 146        |
| 5.2.2    | Phase behavior.....  | 149        |
| 5.2.3    | Determination of coefficients .....  | 158        |
| 5.2.4    | Microstructure .....   | 164        |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Summary .....</b>   | <b>169</b> |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Appendix.....</b>   | <b>175</b> |
| 7.1      | Abbreviations and symbols.....   | 175        |
| 7.2      | Chemicals .....  | 181        |
| 7.3      | Experimental methods .....   | 183        |
| 7.3.1    | Phase behavior measurement.....  | 183        |
| 7.3.2    | Ring tensiometry.....  | 186        |
| 7.3.3    | Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) .....   | 186        |
| 7.3.4    | Small-angle neutron scattering (SANS) .....  | 187        |
| 7.3.5    | Small/wide-angle X-ray scattering (SWAXS).....   | 188        |
| 7.3.6    | Static light scattering (SLS).....   | 189        |
| 7.3.7    | Electrical conductivity .....  | 190        |
| 7.4      | Additional tables and figures .....  | 191        |
| 7.4.1    | Analysis of the alcohol mixture distribution <i>via</i> NMR.....                             | 191        |
| 7.4.2    | Scattering behavior investigated <i>via</i> SLS .....  | 192        |
| 7.4.3    | Another proof of bulk-contrast SANS data dominated by OZ scattering.....                     | 193        |
| 7.4.4    | Further analysis of the SWAXS data.....  | 195        |
| 7.4.5    | Phase diagrams of SANS samples in chapter 5.2 .....  | 199        |
|          | <b>Bibliography .....</b>  | <b>201</b> |