

Summary

1. Compression of a weak polyelectrolyte and hydrophobic gel initiates first order phase transition, which happens at certain p_{tr} and separates two states of a gel
2. The transition happens due to an interplay between electrostatic and hydrophobic interactions
3. The transition separates two states:
 - swollen and significantly charged gel
 - collapsed and almost fully discharged gel
4. The value of transition pressure depends on c_s and χ (and pH-pK)
5. Employing the phase transition helps to significantly decrease the pressure used in desalination cycle and to limit it within 0 and 1 bar

Prokacheva, V. M., Rud, O. V., Uhlík, F., Borisov, O. V. (2021). Phase transition in hydrophobic weak polyelectrolyte gel utilized for water desalination. **Desalination**, 511, 115092. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.desal.2021.115092>