Phase Transition Behavior of Asymmetric Polystyrene-b-Poly(2-vinylpyridine) in Thin Film Geometry: A Stable Hexagonally Modulated Layer Structure

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In present study, the phase transition of an asymmetric polystyrene–b-poly (2-vinylpyridine) (PS-b-P2VP) films in the presence of the strong interfacial interactions were investigated by grazing incidence small–Angle x-ray scattering (GISAXS) and transmission electron microscopy (TEM). The order–to–order transition (OOT) and order–to–disorder transition (ODT) in film geometry were influenced by the strong favorable interactions between the P2VP block and substrate, resulting in the thickness–dependent phase diagram. The phase stability of a hexagonally modulated layer (HML) structure was identified in film geometry, and in the films below $10L_o$, it was extended over the entire temperature range even above the ODT temperature of the bulk.