**Cover:** The present volume is based on a recent symposium held at Moscow State University in June 2006 and presents new insight on the dense state of both flexible and stiff homopolymers and copolymers in poor solvent conditions, discusses various order-disorder phenomena and addresses also the dynamical response of polymer networks and melts.

The picture on the cover is taken from the article by V. V. Vasilevskaya et al. and shows snapshots of some characteristic conformations of stiff-chain amphiphilic macromolecules in a poor solvent.



