

## Supporting Information

(Dated: May 29, 2020)

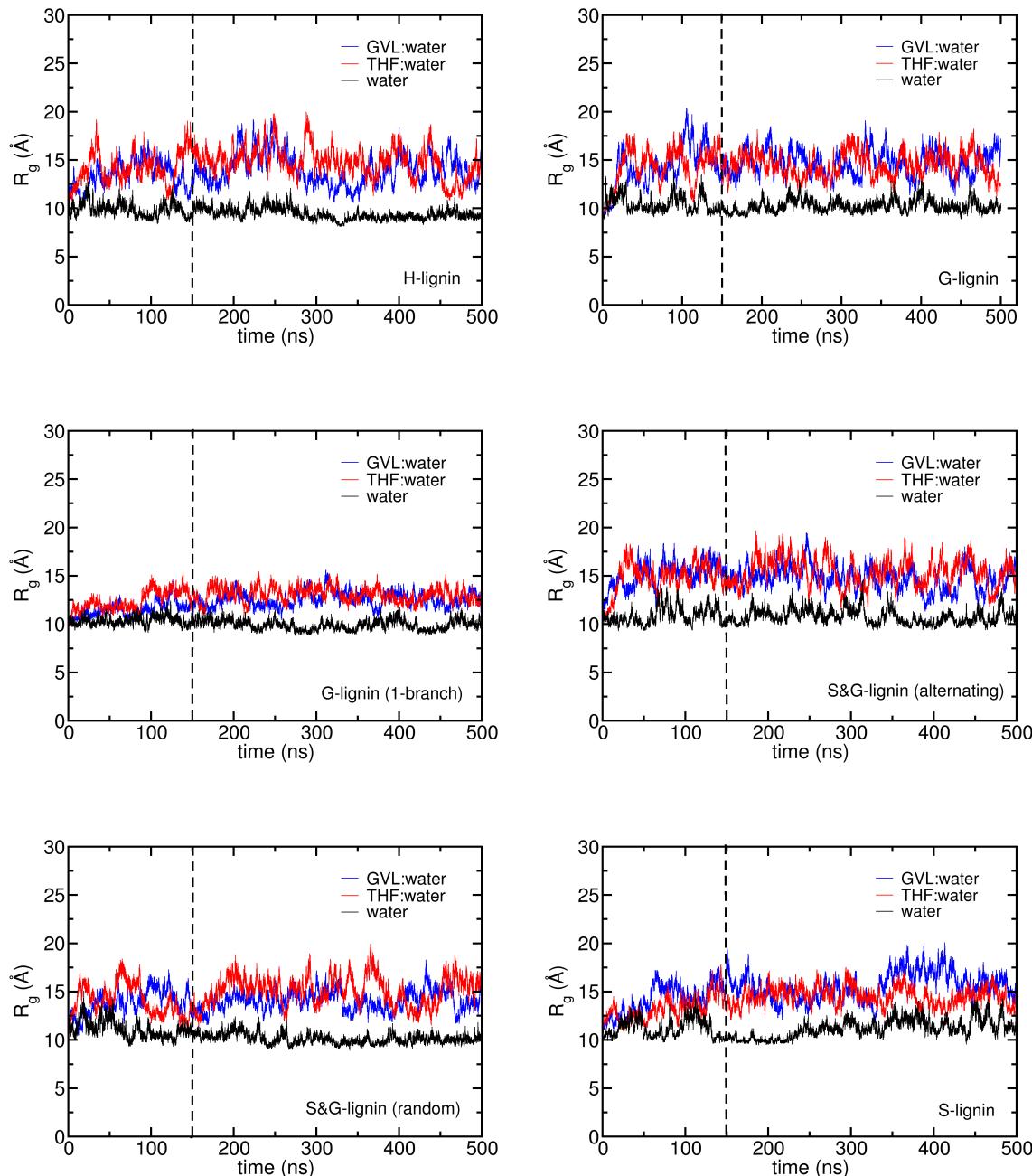


FIG. S-1: The radius of gyration of lignin for each lignin model vs. time. Data is averaged over three different runs. After these graphs, we decided to use the trajectories between 150–500 ns.

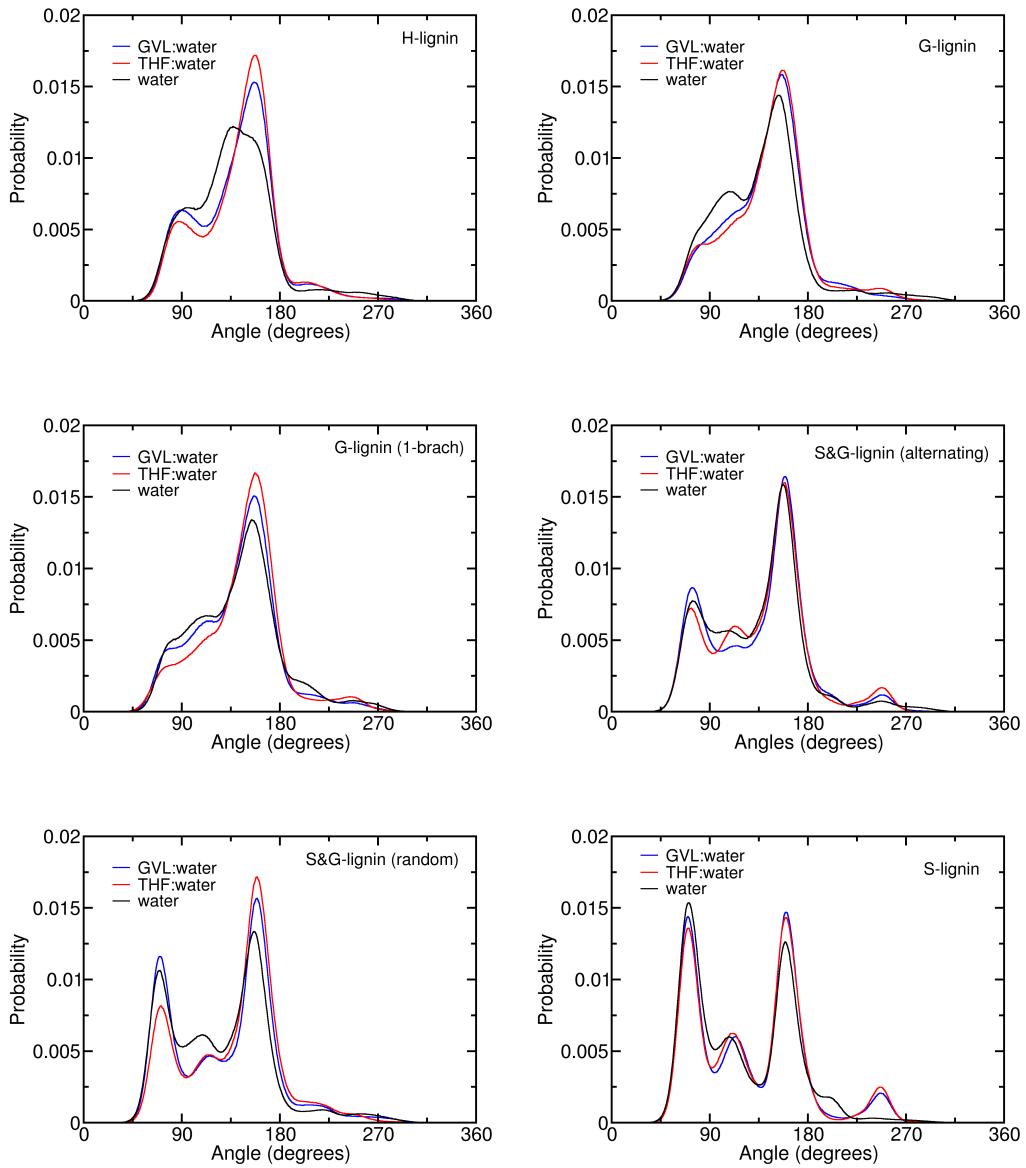
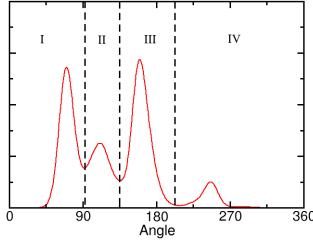


FIG. S-2: The distribution of the  $\theta = C_\alpha - C_\beta - O_4 - C_4$  dihedral angles in the  $\beta - O - 4$  linkages

TABLE S-1: The populations of Gaussian peaks in the distribution of dihedral angles in Fig. S-2.



|                             |                  | <i>I.region</i>     | <i>II.region</i>    | <i>III.region</i>    | <i>IV.region</i>     |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| H-lignin                    | <i>water</i>     | $-0 < \theta < 110$ |                     | $110 < \theta < 195$ | $195 < \theta < 360$ |
|                             | <i>THF:water</i> | 0.248               |                     | 0.695                | 0.057                |
|                             | <i>GVL:water</i> | 0.201               |                     | 0.747                | 0.052                |
| G-lignin                    | <i>water</i>     | $0 < \theta < 90$   | $90 < \theta < 130$ | $130 < \theta < 195$ | $195 < \theta < 360$ |
|                             | <i>THF:water</i> | 0.123               | 0.291               | 0.528                | 0.058                |
|                             | <i>GVL:water</i> | 0.098               | 0.215               | 0.626                | 0.061                |
| G-lignin<br>(1-brach)       | <i>water</i>     | $0 < \theta < 90$   | $90 < \theta < 120$ | $120 < \theta < 195$ | $195 < \theta < 360$ |
|                             | <i>THF:water</i> | 0.121               | 0.189               | 0.607                | 0.083                |
|                             | <i>GVL:water</i> | 0.094               | 0.137               | 0.705                | 0.064                |
| S/G-lignin<br>(alternating) | <i>water</i>     | $0 < \theta < 95$   | $95 < \theta < 125$ | $125 < \theta < 195$ | $195 < \theta < 360$ |
|                             | <i>THF:water</i> | 0.238               | 0.163               | 0.544                | 0.055                |
|                             | <i>GVL:water</i> | 0.211               | 0.16                | 0.564                | 0.065                |
| S/G-lignin<br>(random)      | <i>water</i>     | $0 < \theta < 95$   | $95 < \theta < 130$ | $130 < \theta < 195$ | $195 < \theta < 360$ |
|                             | <i>THF:water</i> | 0.305               | 0.196               | 0.438                | 0.061                |
|                             | <i>GVL:water</i> | 0.222               | 0.149               | 0.559                | 0.07                 |
| S-lignin                    | <i>water</i>     | $0 < \theta < 95$   | $95 < \theta < 135$ | $135 < \theta < 200$ | $200 < \theta < 360$ |
|                             | <i>THF:water</i> | 0.41                | 0.184               | 0.367                | 0.039                |
|                             | <i>GVL:water</i> | 0.34                | 0.19                | 0.4                  | 0.07                 |
|                             |                  | 0.36                | 0.18                | 0.398                | 0.062                |

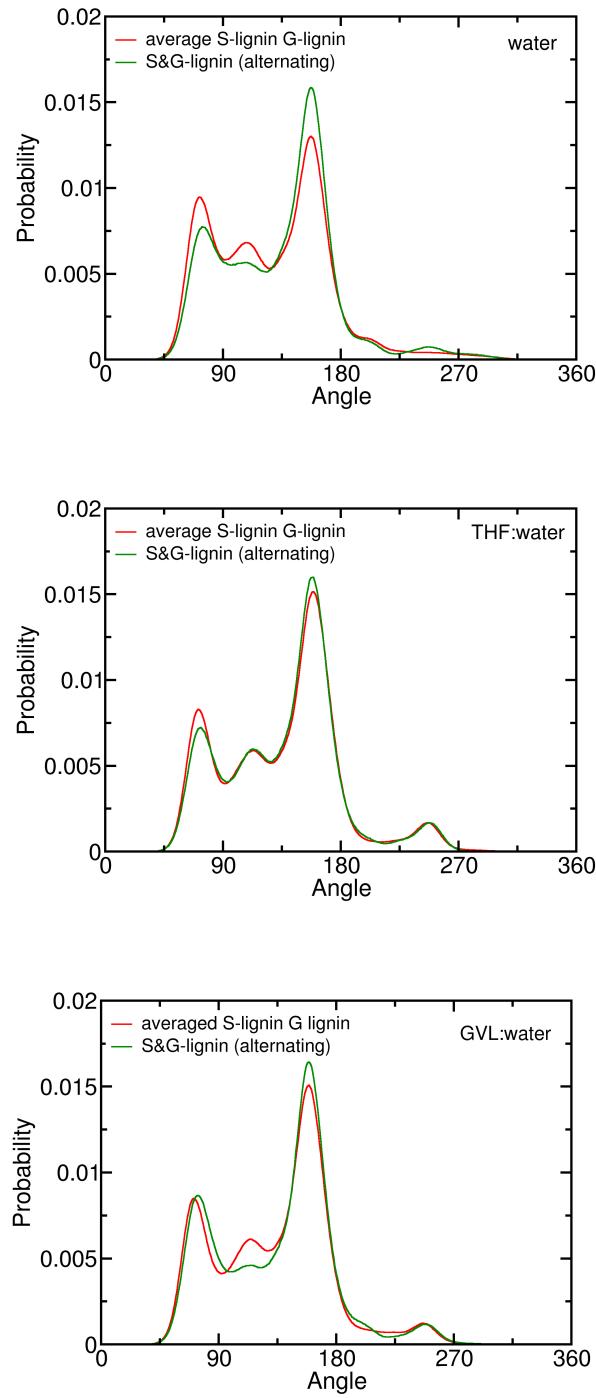


FIG. S-3: The averaged probability of dihedral angles, only  $\beta$ -O-4 linkages, of S and G lignins is compared with the probability of dihedral angles of S&G-lignin (alternating).

TABLE S-2: Fitting parameters obtained from the fits of Eq.(3) to the distribution of the end-to-end distance (see Fig.4)

|          |                  | <i>L</i> | <i>ν</i> | <i>K</i> |
|----------|------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| H-lignin | <i>THF:water</i> | 0.88     | 0.61     | 1.07     |
|          | <i>GVL:water</i> | 0.95     | 0.564    | 1.12     |
| G-lignin | <i>THF:water</i> | 0.96     | 0.61     | 1.08     |
|          | <i>GVL:water</i> | 0.91     | 0.6      | 1.09     |
| S-lignin | <i>THF:water</i> | 0.85     | 0.61     | 1.03     |
|          | <i>GVL:water</i> | 0.86     | 0.64     | 1.04     |

TABLE S-3: Fitting parameters obtained from the fits of  $P(R) = A \times (4\pi R^2) \times (\frac{3}{2\pi \langle R \rangle^2})^{3/2} \times \exp(-\frac{3R^2}{2\langle R \rangle^2})$  to the distribution of the end-to-end distance (see Fig.4)

|          |                  | <i>A</i> (Å) | $\langle R \rangle$ (Å) |
|----------|------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| H-lignin | <i>THF:water</i> | 10.75        | 39.84                   |
|          | <i>GVL:water</i> | 10.55        | 36.24                   |
| G-lignin | <i>THF:water</i> | 10.78        | 37.17                   |
|          | <i>GVL:water</i> | 10.96        | 39.71                   |
| S-lignin | <i>THF:water</i> | 10.87        | 40.49                   |
|          | <i>GVL:water</i> | 11.26        | 43.57                   |

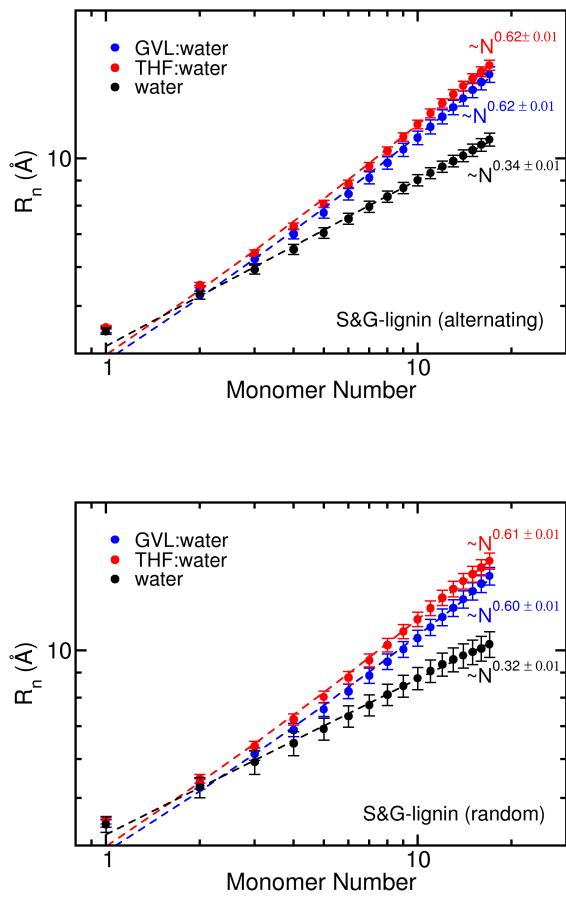


FIG. S-4: The radius of gyration of lignin vs. monomer number.

TABLE S-4: Fitting parameters obtained from the fits of Eq.(4) to the radius of gyration vs. monomer number (see Figs.5 and S-4)

|                             |                  | <i>A</i> | <i>ν</i>        | <i>B</i> |
|-----------------------------|------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| H-lignin                    | <i>water</i>     | 4.329    | $0.28 \pm 0.01$ |          |
|                             | <i>THF:water</i> | 2.155    | $0.61 \pm 0.01$ | 2.404    |
|                             | <i>GVL:water</i> | 2.175    | $0.59 \pm 0.01$ | 2.37     |
| G-lignin                    | <i>water</i>     | 4.18     | $0.32 \pm 0.01$ |          |
|                             | <i>THF:water</i> | 2.218    | $0.60 \pm 0.01$ | 2.35     |
|                             | <i>GVL:water</i> | 2.108    | $0.61 \pm 0.01$ | 2.407    |
| S-lignin                    | <i>water</i>     | 4.21     | $0.35 \pm 0.01$ |          |
|                             | <i>THF:water</i> | 2.151    | $0.60 \pm 0.01$ | 2.422    |
|                             | <i>GVL:water</i> | 2.019    | $0.65 \pm 0.01$ | 2.441    |
| S&G-lignin<br>(alternating) | <i>water</i>     | 4.145    | $0.34 \pm 0.01$ |          |
|                             | <i>THF:water</i> | 2.192    | $0.62 \pm 0.01$ | 2.286    |
|                             | <i>GVL:water</i> | 2.079    | $0.62 \pm 0.01$ | 2.456    |
| S&G-lignin<br>(random)      | <i>water</i>     | 4.219    | $0.32 \pm 0.01$ |          |
|                             | <i>THF:water</i> | 2.209    | $0.61 \pm 0.01$ | 2.254    |
|                             | <i>GVL:water</i> | 2.084    | $0.60 \pm 0.01$ | 2.474    |

TABLE S-5: Interaction energies between lignin and the solvent (in kcal/mol) averaged over all the trajectories,

|                  | <b>THF</b>     | <b>GVL</b>     |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| lignin-cosolvent | $-1036 \pm 8$  | $-1047 \pm 18$ |
| lignin-water     | $-1514 \pm 43$ | $-1590 \pm 28$ |
| Total            | $-2550 \pm 51$ | $-2637 \pm 46$ |

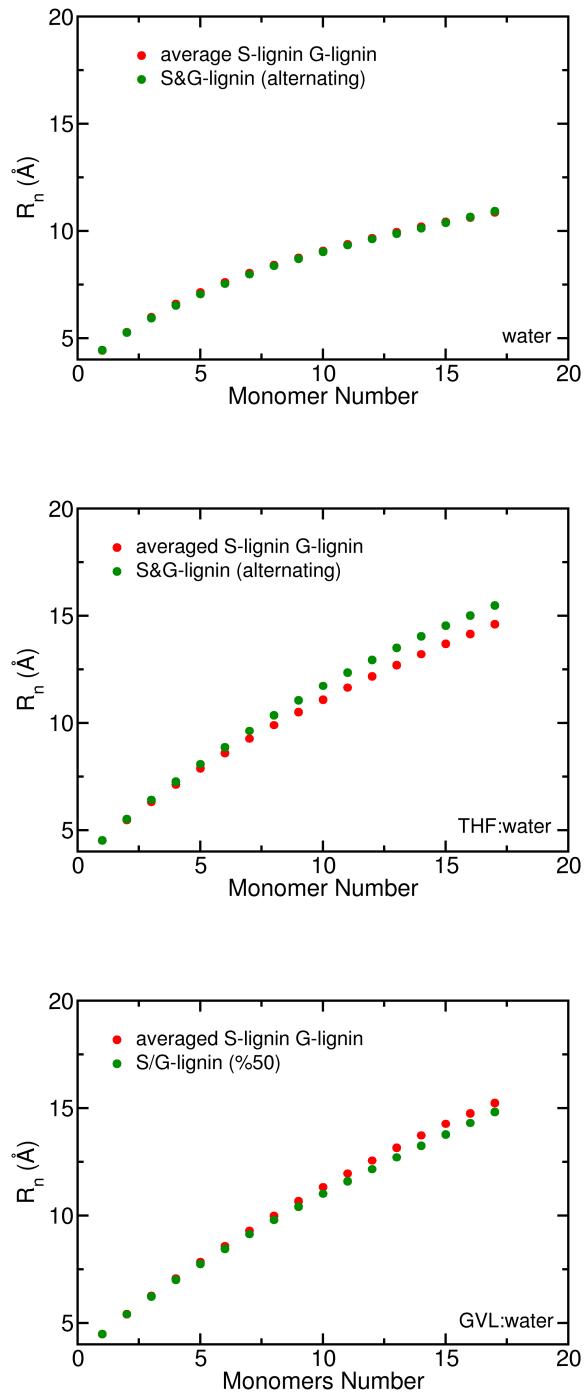


FIG. S-5: The averaged radius of gyration value of S and G lignins vs. monomer number is compared with the radius of gyration of S/G-lignin (alternating).

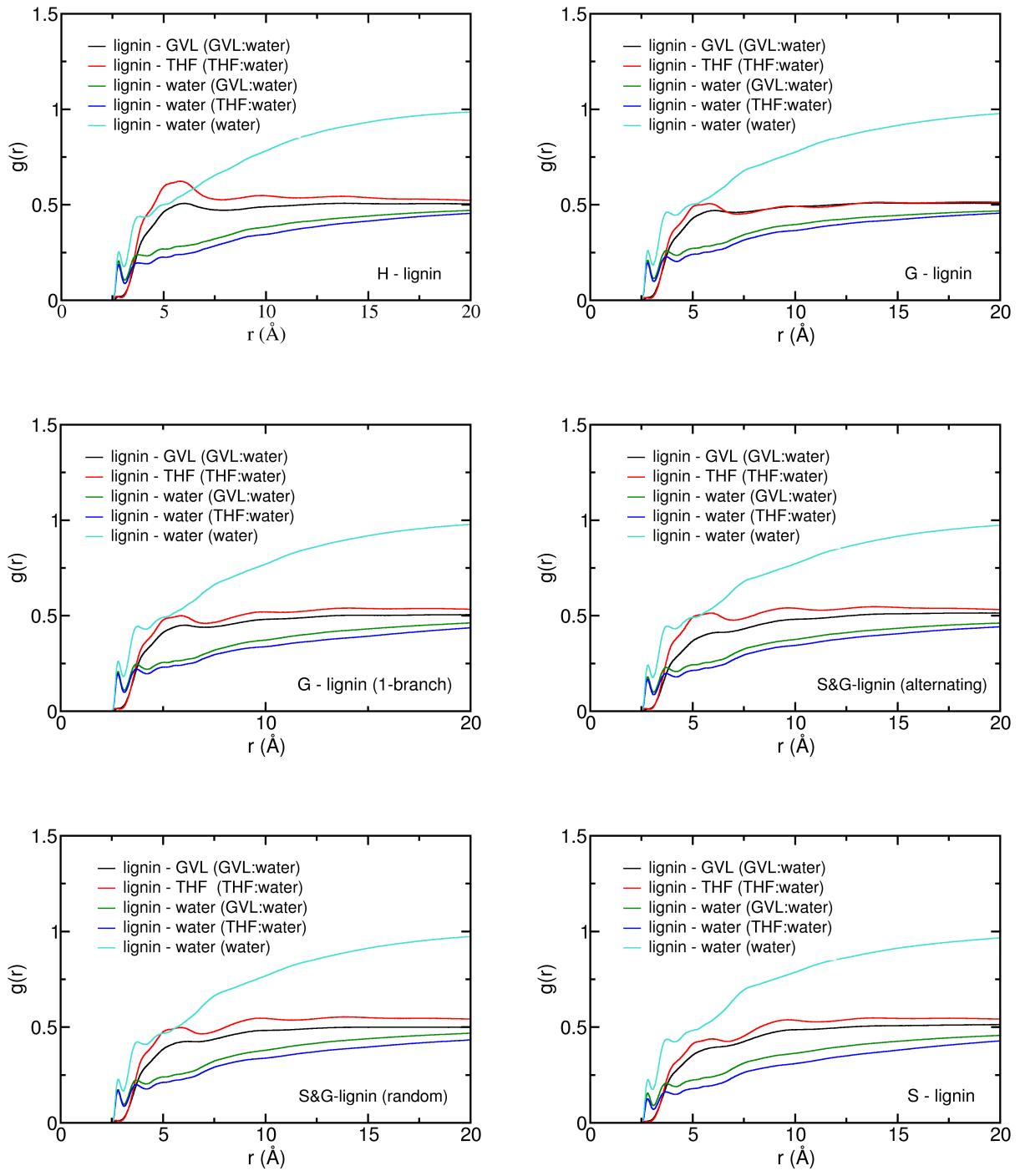


FIG. S-6: The radial distribution of the distance between lignin and water, and between lignin and co-solvents (THF and GVL).

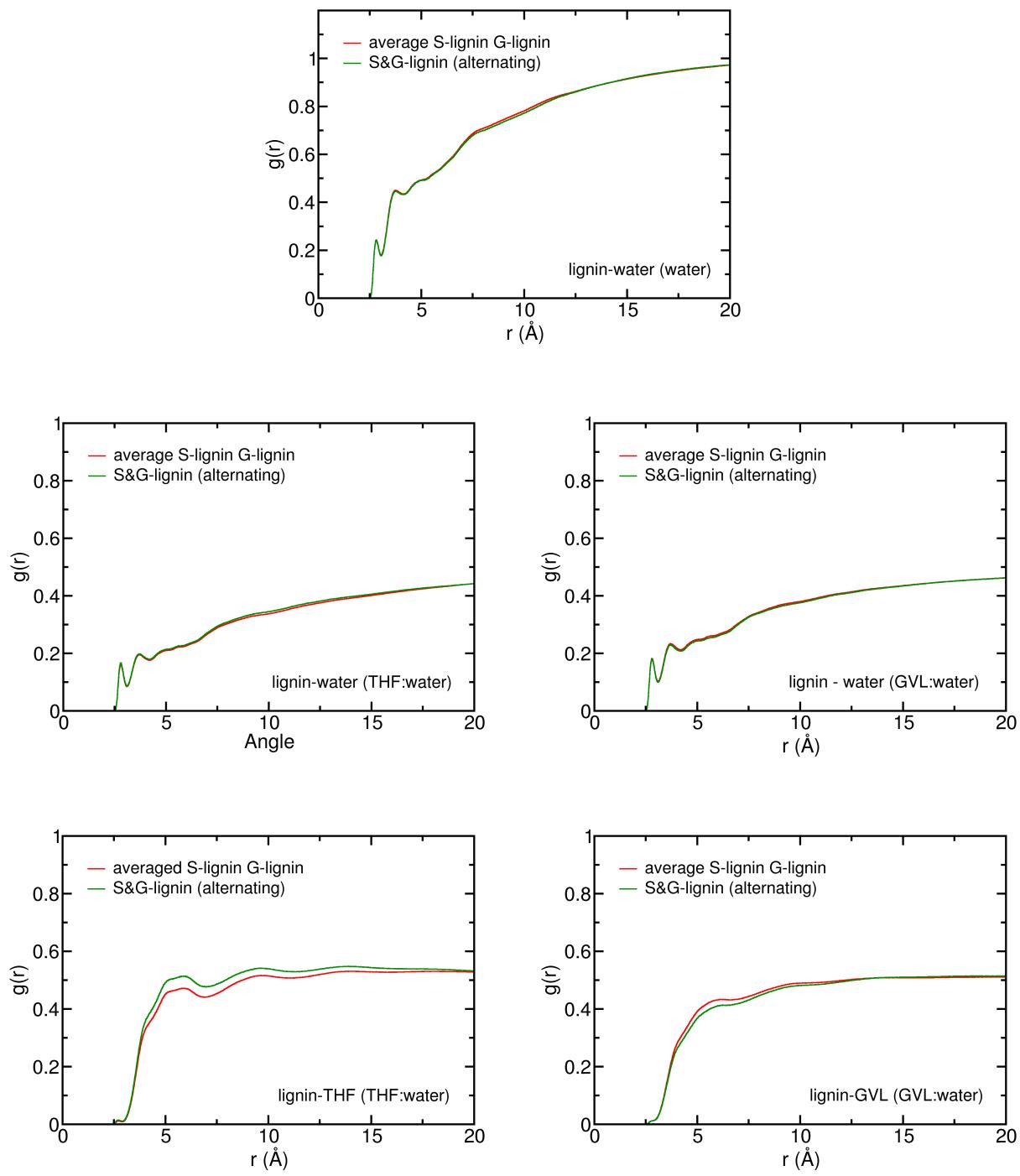


FIG. S-7: The averaged radial distribution function of G- and S-lignin compared to the radial distribution function of S/G-lignin (alternating).

TABLE S-6: H-units with  $\beta - O - 4$  linkages

| ID | monomers | bond  | linkages    |
|----|----------|-------|-------------|
| 1  | H        |       |             |
| 2  | H        | 1-2   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 3  | H        | 2-3   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 4  | H        | 3-4   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 5  | H        | 4-5   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 6  | H        | 5-6   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 7  | H        | 6-7   | $\beta O4R$ |
| 8  | H        | 7-8   | $\beta O4R$ |
| 9  | H        | 8-9   | $\beta O4R$ |
| 10 | H        | 9-10  | $\beta O4R$ |
| 11 | H        | 10-11 | $\beta O4R$ |
| 12 | H        | 11-12 | $\beta O4L$ |
| 13 | H        | 12-13 | $\beta O4R$ |
| 14 | H        | 13-14 | $\beta O4L$ |
| 15 | H        | 14-15 | $\beta O4R$ |
| 16 | H        | 15-16 | $\beta O4L$ |
| 17 | H        | 16-17 | $\beta O4R$ |
| 18 | H        | 17-18 | $\beta O4L$ |

TABLE S-7: G-units with  $\beta - O - 4$  linkages (linear)

| ID | monomers | bond  | linkages    |
|----|----------|-------|-------------|
| 1  | G        |       |             |
| 2  | G        | 1-2   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 3  | G        | 2-3   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 4  | G        | 3-4   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 5  | G        | 4-5   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 6  | G        | 5-6   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 7  | G        | 6-7   | $\beta O4R$ |
| 8  | G        | 7-8   | $\beta O4R$ |
| 9  | G        | 8-9   | $\beta O4R$ |
| 10 | G        | 9-10  | $\beta O4R$ |
| 11 | G        | 10-11 | $\beta O4R$ |
| 12 | G        | 11-12 | $\beta O4L$ |
| 13 | G        | 12-13 | $\beta O4L$ |
| 14 | G        | 13-14 | $\beta O4L$ |
| 15 | G        | 14-15 | $\beta O4L$ |
| 16 | G        | 15-16 | $\beta O4R$ |
| 17 | G        | 16-17 | $\beta O4R$ |
| 18 | G        | 17-18 | $\beta O4R$ |

TABLE S-8: G-units with 16  $\beta - O - 4$  and 1 5 – 5 linkages (one branch)

| ID | monomers | bond  | linkages    |
|----|----------|-------|-------------|
| 1  | G        |       |             |
| 2  | G        | 1-2   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 3  | G        | 2-3   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 4  | G        | 3-4   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 5  | G        | 4-5   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 6  | G        | 5-6   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 7  | G        | 6-7   | $\beta O4R$ |
| 8  | G        | 7-8   | 5-5         |
| 9  | G        | 8-9   | $\beta O4R$ |
| 10 | G        | 9-10  | $\beta O4R$ |
| 11 | G        | 10-11 | $\beta O4R$ |
| 12 | G        | 11-12 | $\beta O4R$ |
| 13 | G        | 7-13  | $\beta O4L$ |
| 14 | G        | 13-14 | $\beta O4L$ |
| 15 | G        | 14-15 | $\beta O4L$ |
| 16 | G        | 15-16 | $\beta O4R$ |
| 17 | G        | 16-17 | $\beta O4R$ |
| 18 | G        | 17-18 | $\beta O4R$ |

TABLE S-9: 50% S and 50% G with  $\beta - O - 4$  linkages (alternating)

| ID | monomers | bond  | linkages    |
|----|----------|-------|-------------|
| 1  | G        |       |             |
| 2  | S        | 1-2   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 3  | G        | 2-3   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 4  | S        | 3-4   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 5  | G        | 4-5   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 6  | S        | 5-6   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 7  | G        | 6-7   | $\beta O4R$ |
| 8  | S        | 7-8   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 9  | G        | 8-9   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 10 | S        | 9-10  | $\beta O4R$ |
| 11 | G        | 10-11 | $\beta O4R$ |
| 12 | S        | 11-12 | $\beta O4R$ |
| 13 | G        | 12-13 | $\beta O4R$ |
| 14 | S        | 13-14 | $\beta O4R$ |
| 15 | G        | 14-15 | $\beta O4R$ |
| 16 | S        | 15-16 | $\beta O4L$ |
| 17 | G        | 16-17 | $\beta O4R$ |
| 18 | S        | 17-18 | $\beta O4R$ |

TABLE S-10: 50% S and 50% G with 15  $\beta - O - 4$  (88%) and 2  $\beta - 5$  (12%) linkages (random)

| ID | monomers | bond  | linkages    |
|----|----------|-------|-------------|
| 1  | G        |       |             |
| 2  | G        | 1-2   | $\beta$ O4L |
| 3  | G        | 2-3   | $\beta$ O4L |
| 4  | S        | 3-4   | $\beta$ O4L |
| 5  | S        | 4-5   | $\beta$ O4L |
| 6  | S        | 5-6   | $\beta$ O4L |
| 7  | S        | 6-7   | $\beta$ O4R |
| 8  | G        | 7-8   | $\beta$ 5R  |
| 9  | G        | 8-9   | $\beta$ O4R |
| 10 | S        | 9-10  | $\beta$ O4R |
| 11 | S        | 10-11 | $\beta$ O4R |
| 12 | G        | 11-12 | $\beta$ 5L  |
| 13 | G        | 12-13 | $\beta$ O4L |
| 14 | S        | 13-14 | $\beta$ O4L |
| 15 | G        | 14-15 | $\beta$ O4L |
| 16 | S        | 15-16 | $\beta$ O4R |
| 17 | G        | 16-17 | $\beta$ O4R |
| 18 | S        | 17-18 | $\beta$ O4R |

TABLE S-11: S-units with  $\beta - O - 4$  linkages

| ID | monomers | bond  | linkages    |
|----|----------|-------|-------------|
| 1  | S        |       |             |
| 2  | S        | 1-2   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 3  | S        | 2-3   | $\beta O4R$ |
| 4  | S        | 3-4   | $\beta O4R$ |
| 5  | S        | 4-5   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 6  | S        | 5-6   | $\beta O4L$ |
| 7  | S        | 6-7   | $\beta O4R$ |
| 8  | S        | 7-8   | $\beta O4R$ |
| 9  | S        | 8-9   | $\beta O4R$ |
| 10 | S        | 9-10  | $\beta O4R$ |
| 11 | S        | 10-11 | $\beta O4L$ |
| 12 | S        | 11-12 | $\beta O4L$ |
| 13 | S        | 12-13 | $\beta O4R$ |
| 14 | S        | 13-14 | $\beta O4L$ |
| 15 | S        | 14-15 | $\beta O4R$ |
| 16 | S        | 15-16 | $\beta O4L$ |
| 17 | S        | 16-17 | $\beta O4L$ |
| 18 | S        | 17-18 | $\beta O4L$ |