Supporting Information

Self-Programmed Enzyme Phase Separation and Multiphase Coacervate Droplet Organization

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1. Supplementary Note 1 : charge rationalization.

Turbidity measurements at varying DEAE-dextran and GOx concentrations (pH 7.4), or at varying pH (fixed DEAE-dextran and GOx concentrations), showed a maximum for a specific ratio (Fig. 1b) or pH (Fig. 1c), respectively, corresponding to optimal coacervation conditions. We sought to determine the ratio of positive vs. negative charges for these conditions by combining charge titration and calculation studies.

Charge titration of DEAE-dextran.

We started by titrating DEAE-dextran to estimate the amount of positive charges on the polymer at each pH (Supplementary Fig. S1a,b, Supplementary Table S1 and Methods). This titration study allowed us to determine:

- the apparent pKa for the strong (pKa₁ = 8.8) and weak (pKa₂ = 5.4) tertiary amines on DEAEdextran. These values were directly obtained from the titration curve at the half-equivalence point of each amine (as indicated on Supplementary Fig. S1b).
- the fraction of each monomer: $i = 0.16 \pm 0$ (strong amine monomer); $j = 0.69 \pm 0.01$ (neutral glucose monomer); $k = 0.15 \pm 0.01$ (weak amine/quaternary ammonium monomer). These values were obtained from the molar amount of each amine, which was determined from their respective equivalence points (Supplementary Fig. S1b and Supplementary Table S1), together with the molar amount of the neutral glucose monomer. The latter was determined from the known total mass of titrated DEAE-dextran, m_{total} , and the molar amount of each amine using the relationship:

$$n_{glucose} = n_{total} - n_{strong} - n_{weak} = \frac{(m_{total} - n_{strong} \cdot M_{strong} - n_{weak} \cdot M_{weak})}{M_{glucose}}$$
(Eq. S1)

where "glucose", "strong" and "weak" denote the neutral glucose monomer, the strong amine monomer, and the weak amine/ammonium monomer, respectively; *n* refers to the molar amount; and *M* is the molecular weight ($M_{strong} = 245 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$, $M_{glucose} = 160 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$; $M_{weak} = 345 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$ according to the chemical structure of DEAE-dextran).

- the average monomer molecular weight of DEAE-dextran: $M_{monomer} = 202.4 \pm 2.4 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$, based on the fraction of each monomer determined above and their respective molecular weights;
- last, the net charge of a single DEAE-dextran as a function of pH (Supplementary Table S2). For this, we first determined the fraction of ionized nitrogen atoms, *f*₊, as a function of pH from the titration curve by using the relationship:

$$f_{+} = 100. \frac{n_{ammonium} + n_{HCl}}{n_{strong} + n_{weak} + n_{ammonium}}$$
(Eq. S2)

where $n_{ammonium}$ refers to the total molar amount of weak amine/ammonium monomers, n_{strong} and n_{weak} are the molar amount of strong and weak amine monomer, respectively, and n_{HCl} is the total molar amount of HCl added after each HCl addition (which depends on the pH). By using the average number of monomers on a chain of DEAE-dextran ($N_{DEAE-dextran monomers} \approx$ 2,470, given that $M_{DEAE-dextran} \approx$ 500,000 g mol⁻¹ and $M_{monomer} =$ 202.4 g mol⁻¹), and the fraction of strong amine (*i*) and weak amine/ammonium monomer (*k*), we then calculated the pHdependent net charge of a single DEAE-dextran chain:

$$net charge = f_{+} \cdot N_{DEAE-dextran\ monomers} \cdot (i+2k)$$
(Eq. S3)

Charge calculations for GOx.

The net charge of GOx was computed online using the pdb entry 1cf3 (corresponding to glucose oxidase Aspergillus with the propKa tool^{1,2} at different from Niger) pН (http://server.poissonboltzmann.org/pdb2pqr). Results of the propKa analysis gave the list of ionisable residues on the protein, together with their apparent pKa (determined by taking into account their local environment), and their fraction of solvent accessible surface area, f_{SASA}. This list is given in Supplementary Table S3.

To calculate the net charge of GOx, we arbitrarily chose not to consider residues with a solvent accessible surface area below 20% (Supplementary Table S3). Since GOx forms a dimer in solution, we

also removed residues located in the contact area between the two GOx subunits in the dimer (Supplementary Table S3). For this purpose, we first aligned two GOx monomers (pdb entry: *1cf3*) onto the two subunits of a GOx dimer (pdb entry: *1gpe*) using the "align" tool on PyMol, then visually investigated on PyMol which of the ionisable residues where located in the contact area between the two GOx subunits.

We then calculated the pH-dependent charge of all remaining ionisable residues with the Henderson-Hasselbalch relationship using their respective pKa. Summing the charges of all residues gave the net charge of GOx as a function of pH (Supplementary Table S2). This analysis also gave an isoelectric point for GOx of 5.02.

Determination of the pH for charge neutralization and comparison to the experimental pH of optimal coacervation.

We finally calculated the product of the net charge on a single polymer or protein molecule, z_i (where *i* stands for DEAE-dextran or GOx) by the concentration of DEAE-dextran chains, $c_{DEAE-dextran}$, or GOx molecules, c_{GOx} , respectively, for a given concentration of each component, as shown on Supplementary Fig. S1c and reported in Supplementary Table S2 for $c_{GOx} = 0.25$ mg mL⁻¹ and $c_{DEAE-dextran} = 0.04$ mg mL⁻¹.

By summing these two products, $\sum_i z_i \cdot c_i = z_{GOX} \cdot c_{GOX} + z_{DEAE-dextran} \cdot c_{DEAE-dextran}$, we were able to determine the pH required for charge neutralization, $\sum_i z_i \cdot c_i = 0$ (Supplementary Fig. S1e,h). This pH was then compared to the optimal coacervation pH obtained by turbidity measurements at varying DEAE-dextran/GOX ratio (Supplementary Fig. S1f,i). These two pH values (experimental and theoretical) agree very well (Supplementary Fig. S1g,j).

2. Supplementary Figures



Supplementary Fig. S1. Charge titration and calculation studies. **a**, Chemical structure of DEAE-dextran, showing three types of monomers with respective fractions *i* (strong amine monomer), *j* (neutral glucose monomer) and *k* (weak amine/ammonium monomer). **b**, pH titration of DEAE-dextran (3.6 mg mL⁻¹) in the presence of an excess of sodium hydroxide with a 0.1 M HCl solution (black dots), and associated derivative (blue line), which was used to identify the three equivalence points. The first equivalence point corresponds to the neutralization of the excess sodium hydroxide added, while the

following two equivalence points correspond to the titration of the strong and weak amines, respectively. The apparent pKa of both amines is determined at half of their respective equivalence points. c, Product of the net charge of a single polymer or protein molecule, z_i , by its concentration, c_i , (see Supplementary Note 1 for details) for 0.04 mg mL⁻¹ DEAE-dextran (blue) and 0.25 mg mL⁻¹ GOx (red). The protein isoelectric point (pl) can be determined at z_{GOx} , $c_{GOx} = 0$. d, Images showing the electrostatic surface potential of a single GOx dimer at varying pH (scale bar: $\pm 3k_BT/e$). The potential was calculated using the online Adaptive Poisson-Boltzmann Solver software^{3,4} on a GOx monomeric unit (pdb entry: 1cf3), and visualized on a GOx dimer using PyMol (see Supplementary Note 1 for details). Two different views (side view, top; front view, bottom) of the same dimer are shown. e,h, Sum of the product of the net charge of GOx, z_{GOx} , by its concentration, c_{GOx} , and the net charge of DEAE-dextran, *z*_{DEAE-dextran}, by its concentration, *c*_{DEAE-dextran} (see Supplementary Note 1 for details), at 0.04 mg mL⁻¹ DEAE-dextran and varying GOx concentrations (e), and at 0.25 mg mL⁻¹ GOx and varying DEAE-dextran concentrations (h). The pH of charge neutralization between GOx and DEAE-dextran can be determined from these plots ($\sum_i z_i$, $c_i = 0$, dotted arrows). **f**,**i**, Plot of the absorbance at 700 nm of mixtures of GOx and DEAE-dextran as a function of the pH at 0.04 mg mL⁻¹ DEAE-dextran and varying GOx concentrations (f), and at 0.25 mg mL⁻¹ GOx and varying DEAE-dextran concentrations (i). The optimal pH of complex coacervation can be determined from these plots (maximum turbidity, dotted arrows) g,j, Comparison of the theoretical pH of GOx/DEAE-dextran charge neutralization and the optimal coacervation pH at fixed DEAE-dextran concentration (0.04 mg mL⁻¹) and varying GOx concentration (g), or fixed GOx concentration (0.25 mg mL⁻¹) and varying DEAE-dextran concentration (j).



Supplementary Fig. S2. Fusion of GOx/DEAE-dextran coacervate droplets. **a**, Optical microscopy images showing coalescence of two GOx/DEAE-dextran droplets and relaxation to a single spherical micro-droplet over a few seconds. Scale bars, 5 μ m. **b**, Plot of the aspect ratio (ratio of major axis, *L*, over minor axis, *l*, as shown in **a**, *t* = 0) of the droplets undergoing coalescence shown in **a** as a function of time. The red curve is a fit to a mono-exponential decay. **c**, Plot of the characteristic time of exponential decay, τ , as a function of the final radius of the droplet after fusion, R. The red linear fit has a slope of 0.56 ± 0.03 s μ m⁻¹ corresponding to the inverse capillary velocity, η/γ .



Supplementary Fig. S3. Partitioning of GOx. Absorbance associated to GOx in the bulk coacervate phase (black line) and supernatant (blue line). From these plots, we estimated that the mass fraction of GOx in the bulk coacervate phase represents ~ 80% of the total mass of GOx added.



Supplementary Fig. S4. Effect of salt on coacervation. Plot of the absorbance at 700 nm of a mixture of GOx (0.25 mg mL⁻¹) and DEAE-dextran (0.04 mg mL⁻¹), or a mixture of ATP (10 mM) and pLL (10 mM), prepared in phosphate buffer (2.5 mM, pH 7.4) at increasing added sodium chloride, showing the gradual dissolution of coacervate droplets as the ionic strength increases. The lines are a guide to the eye.



Supplementary Fig. S5. Localization of GOx and DEAE-dextran. Bright-field (left) and confocal fluorescence microscopy images of GOx/DEAE-dextran coacervate micro-droplets doped with RITC-GOx (centre, red fluorescence) and FITC-DEAE-dextran (right, green fluorescent). False colouring to magenta and cyan was used, respectively. Scale bar, 20 µm.



Supplementary Fig. S6. Kinetics turbidity and pH measurements. **a**-**c**, Time-dependent evolution of the turbidity (black dots) and pH values (blue dots) in mixtures of GOx (0.25 mg mL⁻¹) and DEAE-dextran (0.04 mg mL⁻¹) prepared at pH ~ 10.2 in the absence of glucose (**a**), and after addition of 0.6 mM (**b**) or 1.4 mM (**c**) glucose (final concentration).



Supplementary Fig. S7. Time dependent droplet growth. Plot of the time-dependent growth of 8 individual coacervate microdroplets (reported as the projected surface area) from a mixture of GOx (0.40 mg mL⁻¹) and DEAE-dextran (0.064 mg mL⁻¹) prepared at pH ~ 10.2 and supplied with 0.6 mM glucose. Droplet growth occurred by both fusion (corresponding to the jumps in area) and gradual material uptake (progressive area growth) from the dilute continuous phase with an average growth rate of 0.059 ± 0.01 μ m² min⁻¹.



Supplementary Fig. S8. Time-dependent evolution of the absorbance at 700 nm of a solution of GOx (0.25 mg.mL⁻¹) and DEAE-dextran (0.04 mg.mL⁻¹) produced at pH 10.2 after the single-step addition of varying final glucose concentrations, as indicated. The colored area represents error as the standard deviation of three independent repeats.



Supplementary Fig. S9. Kinetics of GOx-induced pH decrease. **a**, Time-dependent evolution of the pH of a solution of GOx (0.25 mg.mL⁻¹) and DEAE-dextran (0.04 mg.mL⁻¹) produced at pH > 10 after the single-step addition of varying final glucose concentrations, as indicated. The colored area represents the pH domain of coacervate existence (8.5 < pH < 6.5). $\tau_{1/2}^{pH}$ denotes the time required for the pH to drop from 8.5 to 6.5. **b**, Evolution of $\tau_{1/2}^{pH}$ as defined in **a** as a function of the glucose concentration, in the absence (blue triangle) or presence (dark red circles) of DEAE-dextran. The red line represents a mono-exponential fit of the data with DEAE-dextran. The characteristic glucose concentration of this fit is [glucose]_{pH} = 0.49 mM, which is comparable to the value obtained from the mono-exponential fit of the data of coacervates' lifetime as a function of the glucose concentration confirms that the mono-exponential decay of coacervates' lifetime as a function of the glucose concentration correlates to the kinetics of GOx-mediated pH decrease. The kinetics of GOx-mediated pH decrease is similar in the absence of DEAE-dextran (blue triangles).



Supplementary Fig. S10. Liquid-like behaviour of multiphase droplets. **a**,**b**, Optical microscopy snapshots of engulfment of an ATP/pLL coacervate droplet (red arrow) by a multiphase droplet (**a**), and fusion and relaxation of two ATP/pLL coacervates (blue arrows) embedded within a GOx/DEAE-dextran droplet (**b**).



Supplementary Fig. S11. Localization of fluorescently-labelled pLL in multiphase droplets. Optical (a) and confocal fluorescence (b) microscopy images of multiphase ATP/pLL-in-GOx/DEAE-dextran coacervate micro-droplets doped with FITC-pLL (b, green fluorescence) in phosphate buffer (2.5 mM, pH 7.4). False coloring to cyan was used. **c** shows an overlay of bright-field and fluorescence imaging, confirming that FITC-pLL selectively localizes in the inner phase of multiphase droplets. Scale bars, 20 μm



Supplementary Fig. S12. a, Optical (top) and confocal fluorescence (bottom) microscopy images of ATP/pLL/GOx/DEAE-dextran solutions doped with RITC-GOx (bottom, red fluorescence) at pH 5.5, in phosphate buffer (2.5 mM, pH 7.4), and at pH 9.5, respectively, showing the presence of ATP/pLL single phase droplets at pH 5.5 and pH 9.5 and multiphase ATP/pLL-in-GOx/DEAE-dextran droplets at pH 7.4. Accumulation of RITC-GOx at the droplets interface is observed at pH 9.5. False coloring to magenta was used. Scale bars, 20 μm. **b**, Optical (top) and confocal fluorescence (bottom) microscopy images of ATP/pLL solutions prepared in the presence of GOx doped with RITC-GOx (bottom, red fluorescence) but in the absence of DEAE-dextran at pH 5.5, in phosphate buffer (2.5 mM, pH 7.4), and at pH 9.5, respectively, showing the sequestration of RITC-GOx in single-phase ATP/pLL droplets regardless of the pH but no multiphase organization. False coloring to magenta was used. Scale bars, 20 μm.

3. <u>Supplementary Tables.</u>

Supplementary Table S1. Results from the titration of DEAE-dextran (at a concentration of 3.6 mg mL⁻¹, corresponding to ~ 17.9 mM total monomer concentration, and an average polymer chain concentration of ~ 7.2 μ M). The titration was done in triplicate and average values and standard deviations reported.

	Strong amine	Weak amine/ammonium	Glucose	Total DEAE-dextran		
	monomer	monomer	monomer	monomers		
<i>n</i> (mmol)	2.8 ± 0.08	2.7 ± 0.2	12.4 ± 0.4	17.9		
Fraction (%)	16 ± 0.4	15 ± 1	69 ± 2	100		

Supplementary Table S2. Fraction of ionized nitrogen atoms, f_+ , on DEAE dextran, and average net charge of a single DEAE-dextran polymer chain and a single GOx monomer as a function of the pH. An example of product of net charge by concentration, $z_i \cdot c_i$, is also given for a GOx concentration of 0.25 mg mL⁻¹ and a DEAE-dextran concentration of 0.04 mg mL⁻¹. In this case, the pH for charge neutralization is comprised between 7 and 8 (bold values). Blue and red shading correspond to positive and negative net charge, respectively.

<u>лЦ —</u>	DEAE-de	xtran chain	GOx monomer	ZDEAE-dextran. CDEAE-dextran	Z _{GOx} . C _{GOx}
рп	f+ (%)	Net charge	Net charge	(µmol L⁻¹)	(µmol L⁻¹)
0	100	+1120	+43	+90	+134
1	100	+1120	+43	+90	+133
2	100	+1120	+41	+90	+130
3	100	+1120	+35	+90	+110
4	100	+1120	+19	+90	+59
5	91.0	+1020	-0.6	+82	-2
6	76.4	+850	-12	+69	-37
7	67.6	+760	-17	+61	-52
8	60.2	+670	-19	+54	-58
9	47.5	+530	-20	+43	-63
10	35.5	+400	-27	+32	-83
11	33.1	+370	-40	+30	-124
12	33.1	+370	-51	+30	-160
13	33.1	+370	-61	+30	-191
14	33.1	+370	-66	+30	-206

Supplementary Table S3. List of the ionizable residues of GOx (pdb entry: *1cf3*) with their apparent pKa and fraction of solvent accessible surface area, f_{SASA} . Grey shading: residues that are buried more than 80% ($f_{SASA} < 20\%$). Blue shading: residues located in the contact area between two GOx subunits in a GOx dimer. These residues were not taken into account for the pH-dependent charge calculation of GOx.

Resi	due	рКа	f _{sasa} (%)	-	Resi	due	рКа	f _{sasa} (%)	_	Resi	due	рКа	f _{sasa} (%)
ASP	11	3.27	100	-	GLU	363	4.52	100	-	TYR	483	10.35	96
ASP	14	4.23	100		GLU	367	4.62	100		TYR	496	10.63	71
ASP	21	3.95	65		GLU	374	5.89	100		TYR	506	11.83	56
ASP	57	3.72	95		GLU	378	4.23	100		TYR	509	10.23	100
ASP	64	3.06	75		GLU	379	4 13	95		TYR	515	11 12	22
ASP	70	4 07	100		GLU	397	4 95	89		TYR	539	12 35	51
	77	3.09	48		GLU	412	9 1 1	0		TYR	565	14 33	0
	120	1 24	73		GUU	/58	/ 35	76		TVR	579	10.78	98
	120	4.01	100		GLU	197	1 28	55		110	12	10.70	100
	177	1 50	200		GLU	505	4.58	100			116	10.45	22
	100	2.24	100		GLU	505	4.73	100			152	11.2	100
	101	2.04	100		GLU	527	4.04	100			192	10.4	100
	101	3.94 4 02	100			502	4.01 2.25	100			201	10.4	79
ASP	192	4.05	200		UIC	70	3.23	2001			201	9.0 10.20	70 90
ASP	203	3.09	28			115	3.2	3			202	10.38	80
ASP	208	3.87	52			115	4.85	37			252	10.2	59 100
ASP	222	3.3	93		HIS	158	3.96	9		LYS	2/3	10.49	100
ASP	227	5.54	0		HIS	165	7.11	19		LYS	282	10.57	100
ASP	315	4	100		HIS	1/2	6.67	64		LYS	306	10.71	100
ASP	319	3.73	80		HIS	210	6.6	39		LYS	364	10.54	100
ASP	328	5.82	0		HIS	220	6.07	50		LYS	372	10.54	100
ASP	360	3.89	100		HIS	272	6.21	100		LYS	441	10.53	100
ASP	401	3.31	84		HIS	277	5.85	92		LYS	526	10.35	100
ASP	416	5.43	8		HIS	283	5.63	70		LYS	570	9.4	50
ASP	424	3.2	2		HIS	366	5.78	70		ARG	18	12.36	100
ASP	427	9.29	0		HIS	387	5.01	42		ARG	37	12.76	50
ASP	440	3.1	100		HIS	406	6.21	79		ARG	58	13.56	98
ASP	442	3.83	89		HIS	437	4.06	15		ARG	95	13.19	78
ASP	451	5.16	34		HIS	446	4.93	29		ARG	113	12.38	0
ASP	460	6.56	0		HIS	447	6.28	100		ARG	145	12.31	100
ASP	492	3.91	100		HIS	510	6.28	74		ARG	147	11.11	47
ASP	497	3.51	100		HIS	516	3.43	0		ARG	176	10.61	6
ASP	499	2.61	100		HIS	559	2.21	0		ARG	196	11.65	62
ASP	533	3.24	39		CYS	164	99.99	100		ARG	225	9.77	0
ASP	548	4.96	0		CYS	206	99.99	100		ARG	230	12.96	52
ASP	573	3.84	63		CYS	521	13.49	0		ARG	239	11.65	71
ASP	578	3.14	71		TYR	22	13.25	39		ARG	263	12.01	71
GLU	5	4.95	100		TYR	54	11.82	56		ARG	335	12.19	70
GLU	40	4.67	62		TYR	68	12.45	1		ARG	337	12.32	100
GLU	50	8.62	0		TYR	80	14.86	0		ARG	383	11.67	51
GLU	55	5.09	52		TYR	139	12.5	67		ARG	400	12.19	93
GLU	63	5.04	86		TYR	159	10.44	100		ARG	433	12.09	0
GLU	81	4.15	100		TYR	182	12.66	49		ARG	472	13.03	60
GLU	84	4.71	100		TYR	237	10.22	100		ARG	512	14.7	2
GLU	123	3.34	100		TYR	249	11.6	33		ARG	537	13.16	65
GLU	129	4.67	100		TYR	280	10	100		ARG	545	14.18	19
GLU	144	2.85	10		TYR	300	12.83	26		N+	3	7.77	100
GLU	194	4.51	100		TYR	361	10.35	99	_				
GLU	221	4.5	100		TYR	396	12.67	0					
GLU	231	4.56	9		TYR	399	11.55	0					
GLU	268	4.72	58	-	TYR	410	17.03	0					
GLU	284	4.73	17		TYR	435	11.36	54					
GLU	299	8.58	2		TYR	444	14.59	30					
GLU	310	4.51	100		TYR	450	13.91	0					
GLU	356	4.38	32		TYR	454	18.37	0					

4. Supplementary Movies.

Supplementary Movie 1. Optical microscopy video of a solution of GOx (0.40 mg.mL⁻¹) and DEAEdextran (0.064 mg.mL⁻¹) prepared at pH 10.2 after addition of 0.5 mM glucose, showing the gradual nucleation, growth and stabilisation of coacervate micro-droplets. Partial wetting of the droplets is observed towards the end of the movie (loss of spherical shape). Movie is shown at ×100 real-time speed at 10 frames per seconds. Total time in real time was ~ 45 minutes. Scale bar, 10 µm.

Supplementary Movie 2. Optical microscopy video of a solution of GOx (0.40 mg.mL⁻¹) and DEAEdextran (0.064 mg.mL⁻¹) prepared at pH 10.2 after addition of 25 mM glucose, showing the gradual nucleation, growth, then decay and dissolution of coacervate micro-droplets. Movie is shown at ×100 real-time speed at 10 frames per seconds. Total time in real time was ~ 45 minutes. Scale bar, 10 μ m.

Supplementary Movie 3. Optical microscopy movie of a solution of GOx (2.2 mg.mL⁻¹), DEAE-dextran (0.35 mg.mL⁻¹), ATP (10 mM) and pLL (10 mM) prepared at pH 10.2 after addition of 25 mM glucose. Initially, single-phase ATP/pLL coacervate droplets are present, then an outer GOx/DEAE-dextran liquid phase gradually forms and grows around them to produce stable multiphase coacervate droplets. Movie is shown at ×100 real-time speed at 10 frames per seconds. Total time in real-time speed was ~ 57 minutes. Scale bar, 20 μ m.

Supplementary Movie 4. Optical microscopy movie of a solution of (2.2 mg.mL⁻¹), DEAE-dextran (0.35 mg.mL⁻¹), ATP (10 mM) and pLL (10 mM) prepared at pH 10.2 after addition of 100 mM glucose. Initially, single-phase ATP/pLL coacervate droplets are present, then an outer GOx/DEAE-dextran liquid phase gradually forms, grows around them, and eventually dissolves to produce transient multi-phase coacervate droplets. Movie is shown at ×100 real-time speed at 10 frames per seconds. Total time in real-time speed was ~ 57 minutes. Scale bar, 20 μ m.

5. <u>Supplementary references</u>

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