

Supporting Information

Engineering Block Co-polymer Anion Exchange Membrane Domains for Highly Efficient Electrode-Decoupled Redox Flow batteries

Zhongyang Wang^{a,12}, Shrihari Sankarasubramanian^{a,1}, Jason Willey^b, Hongbo Feng^c, Hui Xu^b,
Vijay Ramani^{a,z}

^a Center for Solar Energy and Energy Storage and Department of Energy, Environmental and
Chemical Engineering, Washington University in St. Louis, One Brookings Dr., St. Louis, MO
63130, USA

^b Giner Inc., Newton, MA 02466, USA

^c Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering, The University of Chicago, 5640 South Ellis
Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637, USA

^z Corresponding Author's email: ramani@wustl.edu

¹ These authors contributed equally.

² Present address: Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering, The University of Chicago, 5640
South Ellis Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637, USA

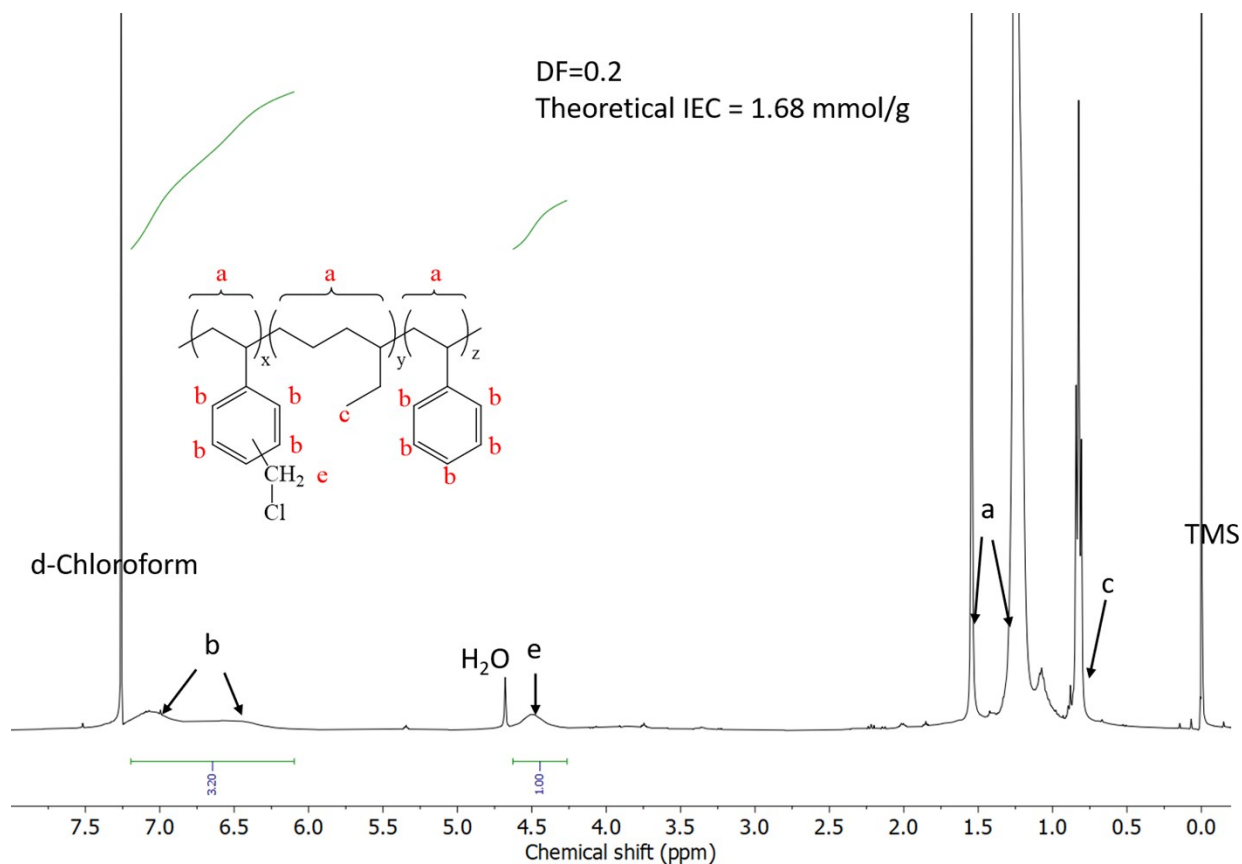


Figure S1. ^1H NMR spectrum of CMSEBS30. Peaks a and c correspond to the protons on aliphatic backbone. Peaks b correspond to the protons the aromatic ring. The new peak e demonstrated that the chloromethylation reaction occurred in the SEBS. The DF value for CMSEBS30 was calculated by using the following equation:

$$\frac{\frac{\text{Area}(e)}{2}}{\text{Area}(b) + \frac{\text{Area}(e)}{2}} \times 0.3$$

$$\frac{\quad}{5}$$

The ^1H NMR experiment was performed in chloroform-d with TMS, which was used as an internal standard for calibrating the chemical shift of ^1H .

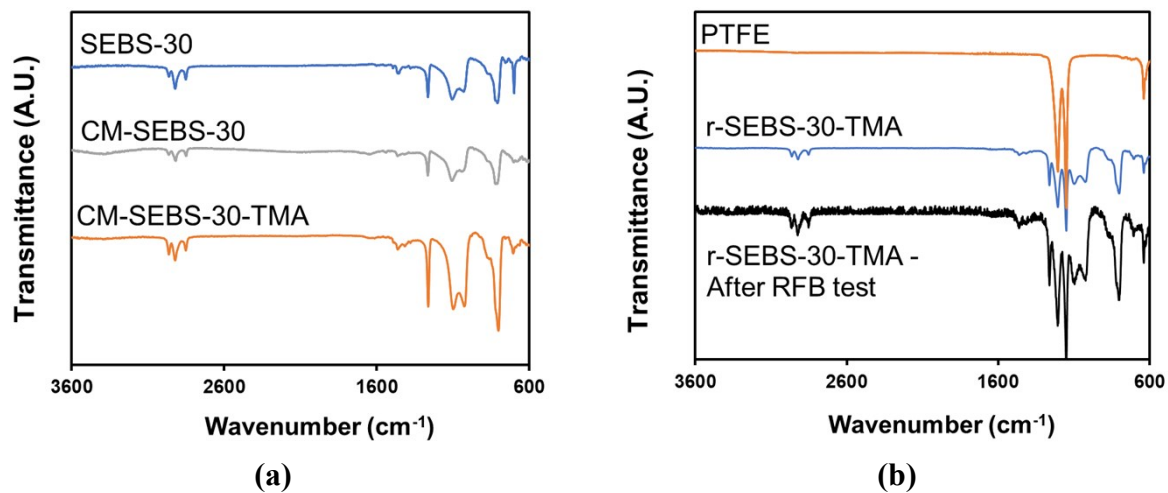


Figure S2. FTIR spectra of **(a)** SEBS polymer backbone, SEBS following chloromethylation reactions, CM-SEBS-TMA ionomer; **(b)** PTFE reinforcement, r-SEBS-TMA and the same ionomeric membrane separator after the RFB test.

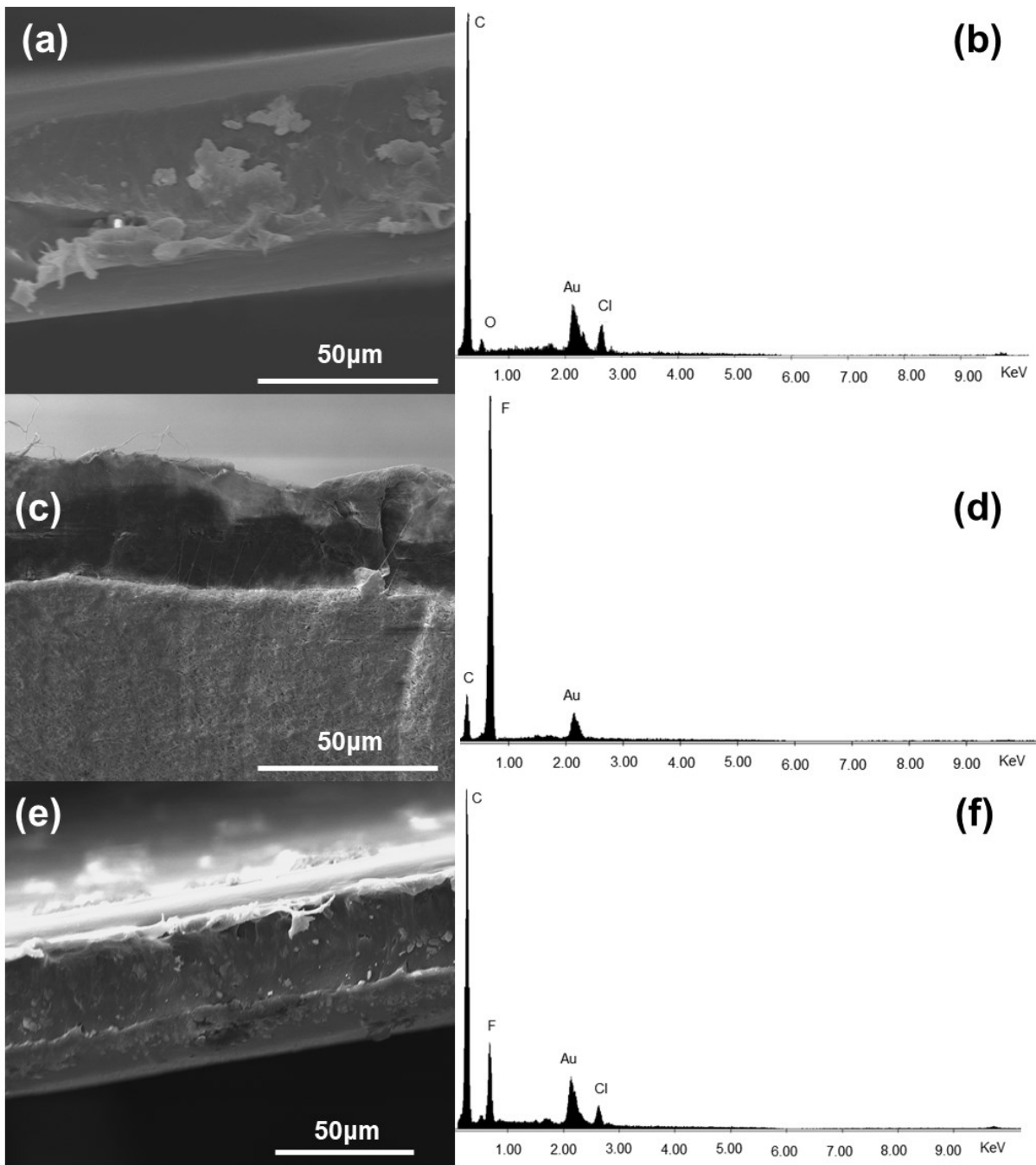


Figure S3. (a) cross-sectional SEM image of SEBS-TMA AEM, (b) spot EDAX spectra of SEBS-TMA AEM, (c) cross-sectional SEM image of ePTFE reinforcement, (d) spot EDAX spectra of ePTFE reinforcement, (e) cross-sectional SEM image of r-SEBS-TMA AEM, (f) spot EDAX spectra of r-SEBS-TMA AEM.

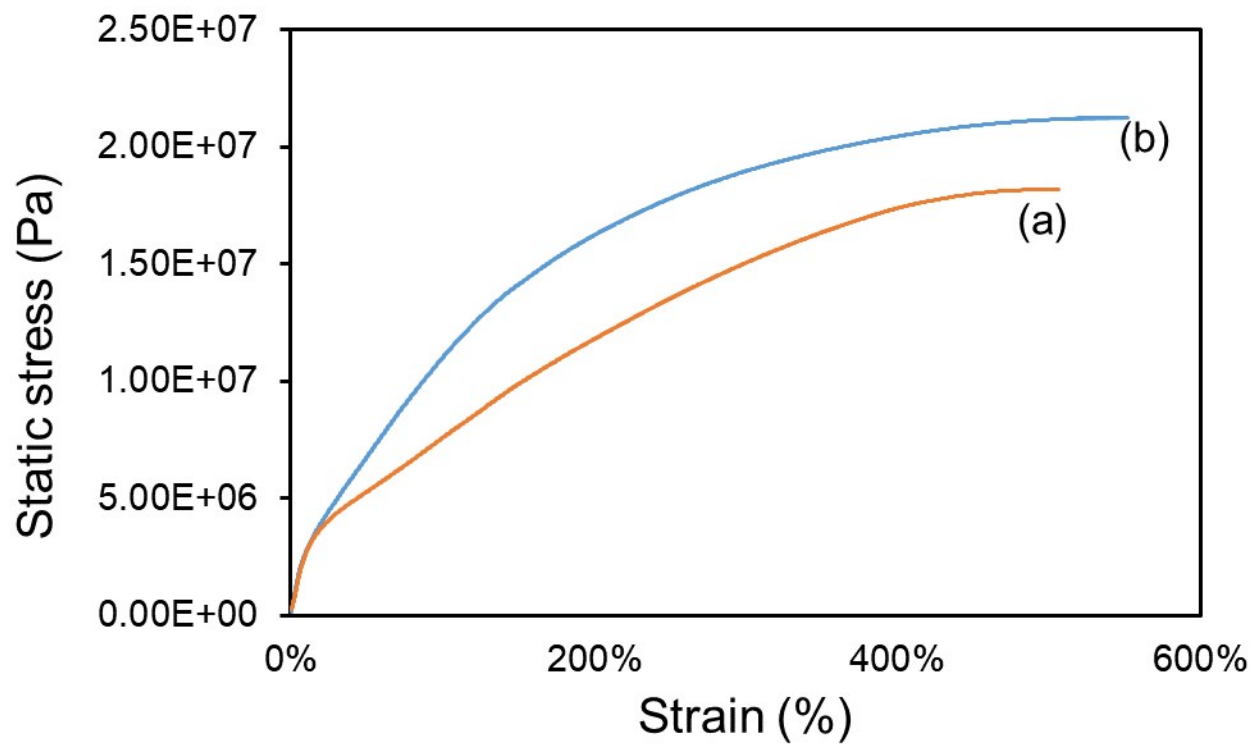


Figure S4. Stress-strain curve of (a) r-SEBS-TMA and (b) r-SEBS (before TMA functionalization).

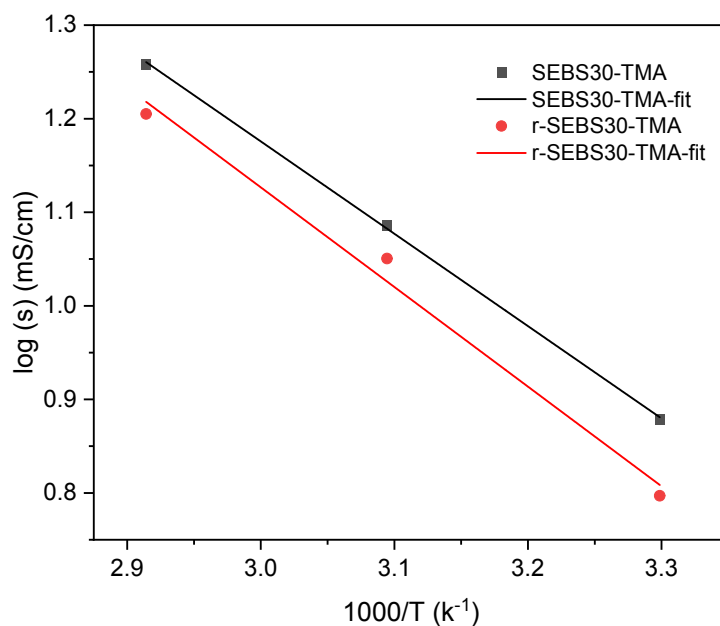


Figure S5. Arrhenius plot of $\ln \sigma$ vs. inverse temperature for SEBS-based AEMs.

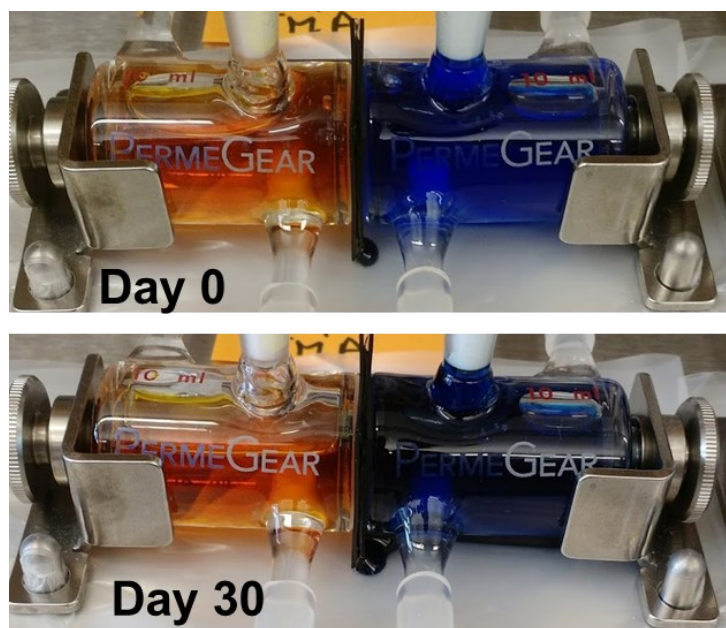


Figure S6. *Ex-situ*, temperature-controlled membrane cross-over experiments. The cerium electrolyte is on the left-hand chamber and vanadium electrolyte is on the right.

Table S1. Physical properties of ePTFE reinforcement

Property	
Thickness (μm)	25.4 ± 3
Gurley air flow (1inch^2 at 4.88inch water) (s)	25 ± 2
IPA bubble point ($47\text{mm } \phi$ sample) (KPa)	345 ± 28
Ultimate tensile stress (MPa)	17 ± 3
Elongation at break (%)	339 ± 42
Modulus (MPa)	14 ± 1.4
Ultimate tensile stress (after acid soak) (MPa)	15 ± 3
Elongation at break (after acid soak) (%)	260 ± 50
Modulus (after acid soak) (MPa)	13.6 ± 4
Thermal degradation onset ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	500 ± 10
Swelling ratio (%)	No appreciable swelling
Water uptake (%)	No appreciable water uptake after blotting out the film adsorption