Supplemental Information

Polyelectrolyte Complex Scaffoldings for Photocrosslinked Hydrogels

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Figure S1. ¹H NMR spectra of PAGE₉₆-PEO₄₅₅-PAGE₉₆, sulfonate-functionalized PAGE₉₆-PEO₄₅₅-PAGE₉₆, and guanidinium-functionalized PAGE₉₆-PEO₄₅₅-PAGE₉₆.



Figure S2. ¹H NMR spectra of (A) Gelatin Methacryloyl (GelMA) and (B) Poly(ethylene glycol) diacrylate (PEGDA).



Figure S3. Representative amplitude sweeps showing *G*′ and *G*″ as a function of strain for PEC, PEC + precursors, and IPN hydrogels. (A) PEC hydrogels with $C_{bPE} = 10$ wt% and 40 wt%. (B) PEC + PEGDA and PEC/PEGDA IPN hydrogels with $C_{bPE} = 10$ wt% and $C_{PC} = 5$ wt%. (C) PEC + 4-arm PEGPA and PEC/4-arm PEGPA IPN hydrogels with $C_{bPE} = 10$ wt% and $C_{PC} = 5$ wt%. (D) PEC+AAm and PEC/AAm IPN hydrogels with $C_{bPE} = 10$ wt% and $C_{PC} = 5$ wt%. (E) PEC+GeIMA and PEC/GeIMA IPN hydrogels with $C_{bPE} = 10$ wt% and $C_{PC} = 5$ wt%.



Figure S4. Photos showing injectability of polyelectrolyte complex (PEC) hydrogel and its interim resistance against dissolution upon shaking in water.



Figure S5. Photos showing injectability and interim insolubility of PEC+PEGDA hydrogel in water.



Figure S6. Photos showing injectability and interim insolubility of PEC+4-arm PEGA hydrogel in an aqueous environment.



Figure S7. Photos showing injectability and interim insolubility of PEC+AAm hydrogel in an aqueous environment.



Figure S8. Photos showing injectability and interim insolubility of PEC+GelMA hydrogel in an aqueous environment.



Figure S9. Photos showing swift dilution of PEGDA precursor upon injection in water.



Figure S10. Photos showing swift dilution of 4-arm PEGA precursor upon injection in water.



Figure S11. Photos showing swift dilution of AAm precursor upon injection in water.



Figure S12. Photos showing swift dilution of GelMA precursor upon injection in water.



Figure S13. Storage moduli (*G*') and loss moduli (*G*'') of PEC (grey circles), PEC + precursor (blue circles), IPN (red circles), and covalent hydrogels (black squares) measured at ω = 1.12 rad/s and γ = 0.8%, *C*_{bPE} varying from 10 wt% to 40 wt% and a constant *C*_{PC} = 5 wt%. (A-D) PEGDA, 4-arm PEGA, AAm, and GelMA-based hydrogels. Open and close symbols represent storage moduli *G*'' and loss moduli *G*'', respectively.



Figure S14. Storage moduli (*G*') and loss moduli (*G*'') as a function of ω , measured at $\gamma = 0.8\%$, for PEC (grey symbols), PEC+precursor (blue symbols), and IPN (red symbols) hydrogels. In the figures (I) to (IV) in each row, C_{bPE} varies from 10 wt% to 40 wt% with a constant $C_{PC} = 5$ wt%. (A) PEGDA-based hydrogels. (B) 4-arm PEGA based hydrogels. (C) AAm-based hydrogels. (D) GelMA-based hydrogels. The open and close symbols represent the storage and loss moduli, respectively.



Figure S15. Storage moduli (*G*') and loss moduli (*G*'') of covalent (black squares), PEC+precursor and PEC/covalent IPN hydrogels (comprising 30 wt% tbPEs, blue and red circles), measured at $\omega = 1.12$ rad/s and $\gamma = 0.8\%$, as a function of precursor concentration. The shear moduli of the corresponding 30 wt% PEC hydrogels are also shown with grey circles. (A) PEGDA-based hydrogels, (B) 4-arm PEGA-based hydrogels, (C) AAm-based hydrogels, and (D) GelMA-based hydrogels.



Figure S16. *G*' and *G*'' of PEC (C_{bPE} = 30 wt%, grey symbols) and PEC+precursor (C_{bPE} = 30 wt% and varying C_{PC} , blue symbols) hydrogels as a function of ω with γ = 0.8%. (A) PEC + PEGDA hydrogels. (B) PEC + 4-arm PEGA hydrogels. (C) PEC + AAm hydrogels. (D) PEC + GelMA hydrogels.



Figure S17. *G*' and *G*'' of covalent hydrogels (varying C_{PC}) as a function of ω with $\gamma = 0.8\%$. (A) PEGDA hydrogels. (B) 4-arm PEGA hydrogels. (C) AAm hydrogels. (D) GelMA hydrogels.



Figure S18. *G*' and *G*'' of PEC (C_{bPE} = 30 wt%, grey symbols) and PEC/covalent (C_{bPE} = 30 wt% and varying C_{PC} , red symbols) hydrogels as a function of ω with γ = 0.8%. (A) PEC/PEGDA IPN hydrogels. (B) PEC/4-arm PEGA IPN hydrogels. (C) PEC/AAm IPN hydrogels. (D) PEC/GelMA IPN hydrogels.



Figure S19. Stress versus strain curves for covalent and IPN hydrogels. (A) PEGDA hydrogels with $C_{PC} = 15$ wt%, (B) PEC/PEGDA IPN hydrogels with $C_{PC} = 15$ wt% and $C_{bPE} = 30$ wt%, (C) 4-arm PEGA hydrogels with $C_{PC} = 15$ wt%, (D) PEC/4-arm PEGA IPN hydrogels with $C_{PC} = 15$ wt% and $C_{bPE} = 30$ wt%.



Figure S20. Stress versus strain curves for covalent and IPN hydrogels. (A) AAm hydrogels with $C_{PC} = 15$ wt%, (B) PEC/AAm IPN hydrogels with $C_{PC} = 15$ wt% and $C_{bPE} = 30$ wt%. (C) GeIMA hydrogels with $C_{PC} = 15$ wt%. (D) PEC/GeIMA IPN hydrogels with $C_{PC} = 15$ wt% and $C_{bPE} = 30$ wt%.

	bPE + 5 wt% Precursor					
AAm	8	8	8	8		
GelMA	8	8				
4-arm PEGA	8	8	8	☆		
PEGDA	8	8	8			
PEC	0	0	0	0		
	10	20	30	40		
	Polyelectrolyte Conc., C _{bPE} [wt%]					

Figure S21. Microstructural map for PEC+precursor and IPN hydrogels with a constant $C_{PC} = 5$ wt% and varying C_{bPE} . Circles represent disordered spheres, and triangles represent lamellae.



Figure S22. One-dimensional SAXS scattering I(q) as a function of q for the PEC (grey), PEC + precursors (blue), and IPN (red) hydrogels with varying bPE concentration. All PEC+precursor and IPN hydrogels contain 5 wt% precursor content. (A) PEGDA-based hydrogels, (B) 4-arm PEGA-based hydrogels, (C) AAm-based hydrogels, (D) GelMA-based hydrogels. The SAXS scattering curves were shifted vertically for clarity. The details of Bragg peak positions are summarized in Table S1-S6.



Figure S23. Attributes of the PEC domains (size and interdomain distance), as ascertained from the SAXS spectra, in the PEC (grey), PEC + precursors (blue), and IPN (red) hydrogels with varying bPE concentration. All PEC+precursor and IPN hydrogels contain 5 wt% precursor content. (A) PEGDA-based hydrogels, (B) 4-arm PEGA-based hydrogels, (C) AAm-based hydrogels, (D) GelMA-based hydrogels.



Figure S24. One-dimensional SAXS scattering I(q) as a function of q for the PEC (grey), PEC + precursors (blue), and IPN (red) hydrogels with varying precursor concentration. Hydrogels contain 10 wt% tbPE content. (A) PEGDA-based hydrogels, (B) 4-arm PEGA-based hydrogels, (C) AAm-based hydrogels, (D) GelMA-based hydrogels. The SAXS scattering curves were shifted vertically for clarity. The details of Bragg peak positions are summarized in Table S1-S6.

Figure S25. One-dimensional SAXS scattering I(q) as a function of q for the PEC (grey), PEC + precursors (blue), and IPN (red) hydrogels with varying precursor concentration. Hydrogels contain 30 wt% tbPE content. (A) PEGDA-based hydrogels, (B) 4-arm PEGA-based hydrogels, (C) AAm-based hydrogels, (D) GelMA-based hydrogels. The SAXS scattering curves were shifted vertically for clarity. The details of Bragg peak positions are summarized in Table S1-S6.

Figure S26. Attributes of the PEC domains (size and interdomain distance), as ascertained from the SAXS spectra, in the PEC (grey), PEC + precursors (blue), and IPN (red) hydrogels with varying precursor concentration. Hydrogels contain 10 wt% tbPE content. (A) PEGDA-based hydrogels, (B) 4-arm PEGA-based hydrogels, (C) AAm-based hydrogels, (D) GelMA-based hydrogels.

Figure S27. Attributes of the PEC domains (size and interdomain distance), as ascertained from the SAXS spectra, in for the PEC (grey), PEC + precursors (blue), and IPN (red) hydrogels with varying precursor concentration. Hydrogels contain 30 wt% tbPE content. (A) PEGDA-based hydrogels, (B) 4-arm PEGA-based hydrogels, (C) AAm-based hydrogels, (D) GelMA-based hydrogels. The SAXS scattering curves were shifted vertically for clarity.

Figure S28. Photos of covalent and IPN hydrogels showing differences in optical density upon addition of tbPEs. All covalent hydrogels contained C_{PC} = 15 wt%. IPN hydrogels contained a constant C_{PC} = 15 wt% and varying C_{bPE} = 10 wt% or 30 wt%. (A) PEGDA-based hydrogels, (B) 4- arm PEGA-based hydrogels, (C) AAm-based hydrogels, (D) GelMA-based hydrogels.

Table S1. Bragg peak positions and microstructural details for PEC+4-arm PEGA hydrogels and PEC/4-arm PEGA IPN hydrogels with C_{bPE} = 30 wt%.

Hydrogel Description	q [Å-1]	$\frac{q}{q^*}$	Expected $\frac{q}{q^*}$	Microstructure	
PEC+4-arm PEGA hydrogels with	0.0459	2.04	2		
$C_{bPE} = 30 \text{ wt\%}$ and $C_{PC} = 10 \text{ wt\%}, q^* =$	0.0689	3.06	3	LAM	
0.0225 Å ⁻¹	0.0903	4.01	4		
PEC/4-arm PEGA IPN hydrogels	0.0459	2.04	2		
with $C_{bPE} = 30$ wt% and $C_{PC} = 10$	0.0689	3.06	3	LAM	
wt%, q*= 0.0225 Å-1	0.0903	4.01	4		
DEC 4 arres DECA hardroople with	0.0415	2.04	2		
PEC+4-arm $PEGA$ hydrogels with	0.0622	3.06	3		
$C_{bPE} = 50$ wt /o and $C_{PC} = 15$ wt /o, $q = 0.0204$ Å-1	0.0816	4.01	4		
0.0204 A	0.102	5.01	5		
DEC/4 arm DECDA IDN by dragala	0.0415	2.04	2	LAM	
PEC/4-arm $PEGPA$ IPN hydrogets	0.0602	2.96	3		
with $C_{bPE} = -50$ wt/o and $C_{PC} = -15$	0.0816	4.01	4		
W1/0, q = 0.0204 A	0.102	5.01	5		
		-			
	0.0401	1.97	2		
PEC+4-arm PEGA hydrogels with	0.0602	2.96	3		
$C_{bPE} = 30 \text{ wt\%}$ and $C_{4PA} = 20 \text{ wt\%}$,	0.0816	4.01	4	LAM	
$q^* = 0.0204 \text{ Å}^{-1}$	0.102	5.01	5		
	0.122	5.99	6		
	0.0401	1.97	2		
PEC/4-arm PEGPA IPN hydrogels	0.0602	2.96	3		
with $C_{bPE} = 30$ wt% and $C_{PC} = 20$	0.0816	4.01	4	LAM	
wt%, q*= 0.0204 Å ⁻¹	0.102	5.01	5		
	0.124	6.09	6		

Table S2. Bragg peak positions and microstructural details for PEC+PEGDA hydrogels and PEC/PEGDA IPN hydrogels with C_{bPE} = 30 wt%.

Hydrogel Description	q [Å-1]	$\frac{q}{q^*}$	Expected $\frac{q}{q^*}$	Microstructure	
PEC+PEGDA hydrogels with C _{bPE}	0.0401	2.04	2		
= 30 wt% and C_{PC} = 10wt%, q^* =	0.0582	2.96	3	LAM	
0.0197 Å ⁻¹	0.0789	4.01	4		
		-			
PEC/PEGDA IPN hydrogels with	0.0429	2.04	2		
$C_{bPE} = 30 \text{ wt\%}$ and $C_{PC} = 10 \text{ wt\%}$,	0.0622	2.96	3	LAM	
$q^* = 0.0211 \text{ Å}^{-1}$	0.0844	4.01	4		
PEC+PEGDA hydrogels with C_{bPE}	0.0401	2.04	2		
= 30 wt% and C_{PC} = 15wt%, q^* =	0.0602	3.06	3	LAM	
0.0197 Å-1	0.0789	4.01	4		
PEC/PEGDA IPN hydrogels with	0.0429	1.97	2		
$C_{bPE} = 30 \text{ wt\%}$ and $C_{PC} = 15 \text{ wt\%}$,	0.0644	2.96	3	LAM	
$q^* = 0.0218 \text{ Å}^{-1}$	0.0873	4.01	4	-	
PEC+PEGDA hydrogels with C_{bPE}	0.0444	1.97	2		
= 30 wt% and C_{PC} = 20 wt%, q^* = 0.0225 Å ⁻¹	0.0666	2.96	3	LAM	
PEC/PEGDA IPN hydrogels with $C_{hPE} = 30$ wt% and $C_{nc} = 20$ wt%.	0.0415	2.04	2	LAM	
$q^* = 0.0204 \text{ Å}^{-1}$	0.0622	3.06	3		

Table S3. Bragg peak positions and microstructural details for PEC+AAm hydrogels and PEC/AAm IPN hydrogels with C_{bPE} = 30 wt%.

Hydrogel Description	q [Å-1]	$\frac{q}{q^*}$	Expected $\frac{q}{q^*}$	Microstructure	Comments
PEC+AAm hydrogels with	0.0343	1.78	1.73		
$C_{bPE} = 30 \text{ wt\%} \text{ and } C_{PC} = 10 \text{ wt\%}, q^* = 0.0193 \text{ Å}^{-1}$	0.0508	2.63	2.65	НСР	
		1	1	1	1
PEC/AAm IPN hydrogels with $C_{122} = 30 \text{ wt}^{\circ}$ and C_{222}	0.0397	2.06	2	IAM	Missing peak
$= 10 \text{ wt\%}, q^* = 0.0193 \text{ Å}^{-1}$	0.0788	4.09	4		at 3q*
PEC+AAm hydrogels with	0.0343	1.78	1.73		
$C_{bPE} = 30 \text{ wt\%} \text{ and } C_{PC} = 15 \text{ wt\%}, q^* = 0.0193 \text{ Å}^{-1}$	0.0522	2.71	2.65	НСР	
PEC/AAm IPN hydrogels with $C_{bPE} = 30$ wt% and C_{PC}	0.0397	2.06	2	LAM	
	0.0578	3.00	3		
= 15 wt%, q^* = 0.0193 Å ⁻¹	0.0788	4.09	4		
			·		
PEC+AAm hydrogels with	0.0343	1.78	1.73		
$C_{bPE} = 30$ wt% and $C_{PC} = 20$ wt%, $q^* = 0.0193$ Å ⁻¹	0.0508	2.63	2.65	HCP	
	1	1		I	I
PEC/AAm IPN hydrogels with C_{hPE} = 30 wt% and C_{PC}	0.0397	1.97	2	LAM	Missing peak
$= 15 \text{ wt\%}, q^* = 0.0201 \text{ Å}^{-1}$	0.0805	4.00	4		at 3q*

Table S4. Bragg peak positions and microstructural details for PEC+GelMA hydrogels and PEC/GelMA IPN hydrogels with C_{bPE} = 30 wt%.

Hydrogel Description	q [Å-1]	$\frac{q}{q^*}$	Expected $\frac{q}{q^*}$	Microstructure
PEC+GelMA hydrogels with C _{bPE}	0.0401	2.04	2	
= 30 wt% and C_{PC} = 5 wt%, q^* =	0.0602	3.06	3	LAM
0.0197 Å ⁻¹	0.0789	4.01	4	
	-		1	1
PEC/GelMA IPN hydrogels with	0.0415	1.97	2	
$C_{bPE} = 30 \text{ wt\%}$ and $C_{PC} = 5 \text{ wt\%}$,	0.0602	2.86	3	LAM
$q^* = 0.0211 \text{ Å}^{-1}$	0.0816	3.87	4	
PEC+GelMA hydrogels with C_{bPE}	0.0387	1.97	2	
= 30 wt% and C_{PC} = 10 wt%, q^* =	0.0582	2.96	3	LAM
0.0197 Å ⁻¹	0.0789	4.01	4	
	-		-	-
PEC/GelMA IPN hydrogels with	0.0401	1.97	2	
$C_{bPE} = 30 \text{ wt\%}$ and $C_{PC} = 10 \text{ wt\%}$,	0.0582	2.86	3	LAM
$q^* = 0.0204 \text{ Å}^{-1}$	0.0789	3.87	4	
PEC+GelMA hydrogels with C _{bPE}	0.0401	2.04	2	
= 30 wt% and C_{PC} = 15 wt%, q^* =	0.0602	3.06	3	LAM
0.0197 Å ⁻¹	0.0789	4.01	4	
	1	1	1	1
PEC/GelMA IPN hydrogels with	0.0401	1.97	2	-
$C_{bPE} = 30 \text{ wt\%}$ and $C_{PC} = 15 \text{ wt\%}$,	0.0602	2.96	3	LAM
$q^* = 0.0204 \text{ Å}^{-1}$	0.0816	4.01	4	
PEC+GelMA hydrogels with C_{bPE}	0.0429	1.97	2	
= 30 wt% and C_{PC} = 20 wt%, q^* =	0.0644	2.96	3	LAM
0.0204 Å ⁻¹	0.0844	4.01	4	
PEC/GelMA IPN hydrogels with	0.0429	2.04	2	
$C_{bPE} = 30 \text{ wt\%}$ and $C_{PC} = 20 \text{ wt\%}$,	0.0644	3.06	3	LAM
$q^* = 0.0211 \text{ Å}^{-1}$	0.0844	4.01	4	

Table S5. Bragg peak positions and microstructural details for PEC+4-arm PEGA hydrogels and PEC/4-arm PEGA hydrogels with C_{bPE} = 10 wt% and 40 wt%.

Hydrogel Description	q [Å-1]	$\frac{q}{q^*}$	Expected $\frac{q}{q^*}$	Microstructure	Comments
PEC+4-arm PEGA hydrogels	0.0397	2.06	2		Missing
with $C_{bPE} = 10$ wt% and $C_{PC} = 15$ wt%, $q^* = 0.0193$ Å ⁻¹	0.0788	4.09	4	LAM	peak at 3q*
	r	1	1		
PEC/4-arm PEGA IPN hydrogels	0.0397	2.06	2		Missing
with $C_{bPE} = 10$ wt% and $C_{PC} = 15$ wt%, $q^* = 0.0193$ Å ⁻¹	0.0788	4.09	4	LAM	peak at 3 <i>q</i> *
PEC+4-arm PEGA hydrogels	0.0374	2.03	2		
with $C_{bPE} = 10$ wt% and $C_{PC} = 20$	0.0564	3.06	3	LAM	
wt%, q*= 0.0184 Å-1	0.0737	4	4		
PEC/4-arm PEGA IPN hydrogels	0.0383	2.08	2	T 4 3 4	Missing
with $C_{bPE} = 10$ wt% and $C_{PC} = 20$ wt%, $q^* = 0.0184$ Å ⁻¹	0.0754	4.09	4	LAM	peak at 3q*
PEC+4-arm PEGA hydrogels	0.0401	1.97	2		
with $C_{bPE} = 40$ wt% and $C_{PC} = 5$	0.0602	2.96	3	LAM	
wt%, q*= 0.0204 Å-1	0.0789	3.87	4		
PEC/4-arm PEGA IPN hydrogels	0.0401	1.97	2		
with $C_{bPE} = 40$ wt% and $C_{PC} = 5$	0.0602	2.96	3	LAM	
wt%, q*= 0.0204 Å ⁻¹	0.0816	4.01	4		

Table S6. Bragg peak positions and microstructural details for PEC+PEGDA hydrogels and PEC/PEGDA IPN hydrogels with $C_{bPE} = 10$ wt% and 40 wt%.

Hydrogel Description	q [Å-1]	$\frac{q}{q^*}$	Expected $\frac{q}{q^*}$	Microstructure			
PEC+PEGDA hydrogels with C _{bPE}	0.0383	1.99	2				
= 10 wt% and C_{PC} = 20wt%, q^* =	0.0564	2.93	3	LAM			
0.0193 Å ⁻¹	0.0771	4.00	4				
PEC/PEGDA IPN hydrogels with	0.0383	1.99	2				
$C_{bPE} = 10 \text{ wt\%}$ and $C_{PC} = 20 \text{ wt\%}$,	0.0578	3	3	LAM			
$q^* = 0.0193 \text{ Å}^{-1}$	0.0771	4	4				
DECIDECDA hardroople with C	0.0415	2.03	2	LAM			
$PEC+PEGDA hydrogels with C_{bPE}$	0.0602	2.96	3				
-40 wt/s and $C_{PC} - 5wt/s, q - 0.0204$ Å-1	0.0816	4.01	4				
0.0204 A	0.1020	5.01	5				
DEC/DECDA IDNI hardragala with	0.0429	2.03	2				
PEC/PEGDA IPN hydrogels with $C = 40 \text{ with}^{\circ}$ and $C = 5 \text{ with}^{\circ}$ σ^*	0.0622	2.94	3	ΤΑΝΛ			
$C_{bPE} = 40 \text{ wt /o and } C_{PC} = 5 \text{ wt /o}, q = 0.0211 \text{ Å}^{-1}$	0.0844	4.00	4				
0.0211 A	0.1060	5.02	5				

Movie SM1. Video showing injectability of PEC hydrogels and their interim resistance against dilution and material loss in water.

Movie SM2. Video showing injectability of PEC+PEGDA hydrogels and their interim resistance against dilution and material loss in water.

Movie SM3. Video showing injectability of PEC+4-arm PEGA hydrogels and their interim resistance against dilution and material loss in water.

Movie SM4. Video showing injectability of PEC+AAm hydrogels and their interim resistance against dilution and material loss in water.

Movie SM5. Video showing injectability of PEC+GelMA hydrogels and their interim resistance against dilution and material loss in water.

Movie SM6. Video demonstrating immediate dilution of PEGDA precursors in water.

Movie SM7. Video demonstrating immediate dilution of 4-arm PEGA precursors in water.

Movie SM8. Video demonstrating immediate dilution of AAm precursors in water.

Movie SM9. Video demonstrating immediate dilution of GelMA precursors in water.