

## Supporting Information for

# Decoding in-plane orientation of self-assembled structures in cellulose nanopapers hybridized with tailored polymeric nanoparticles

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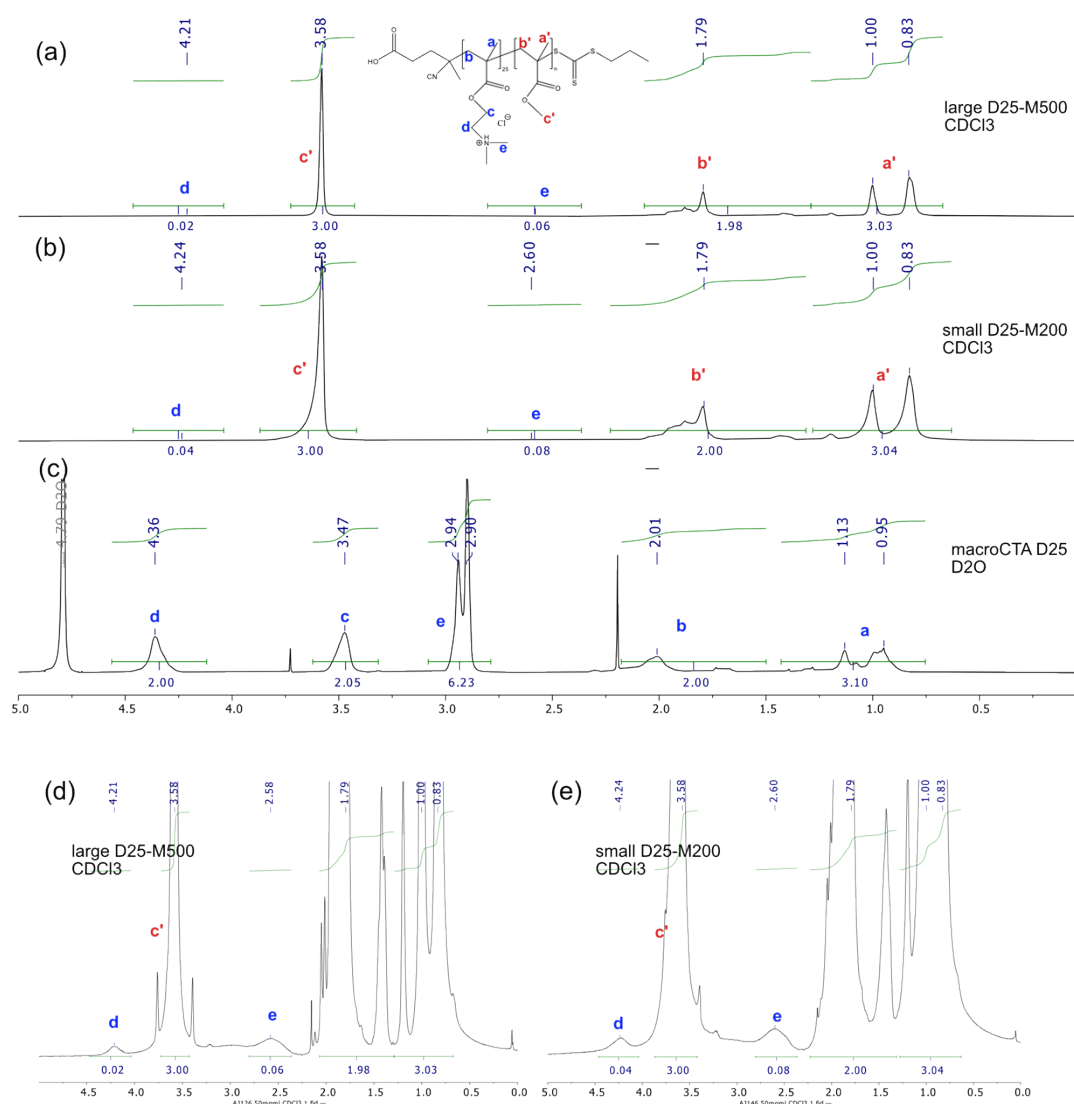
# Supporting Information

## 1. Cellulose nanofibrils (CNFs)

**Table S1.** Characterization of cellulose nanofibrils (CNFs). Surface charge characterized by polyelectrolyte titration, sizes by atomic force microscopy.

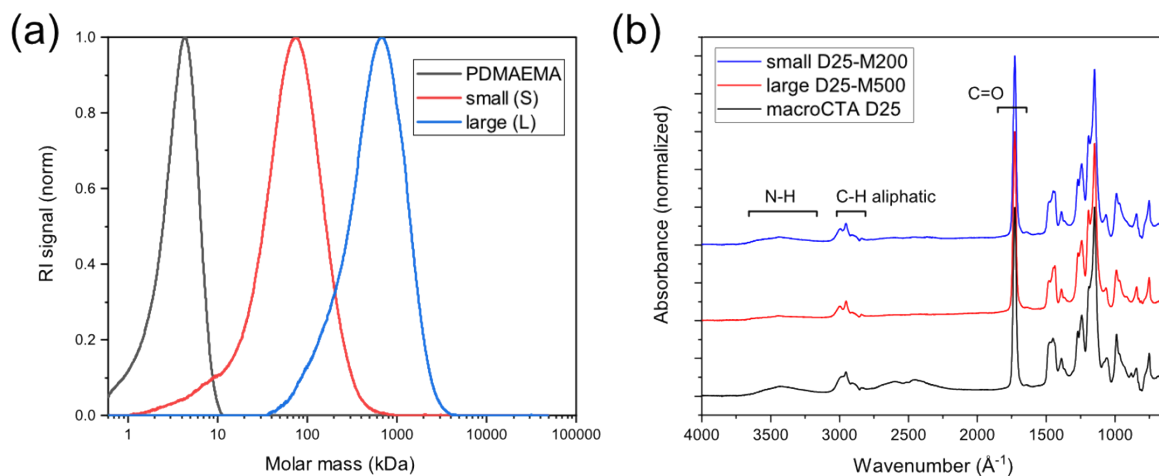
| Surface charge<br>( $\mu\text{mol/g}$ ) | Diameter AFM<br>(nm) | Length AFM<br>(nm) |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| $450 \pm 20$                            | $2.56 \pm 0.51$      | $491 \pm 254$      |

## 2. Polymeric nanoparticles by polymerization-induced self-assembly (PISA)

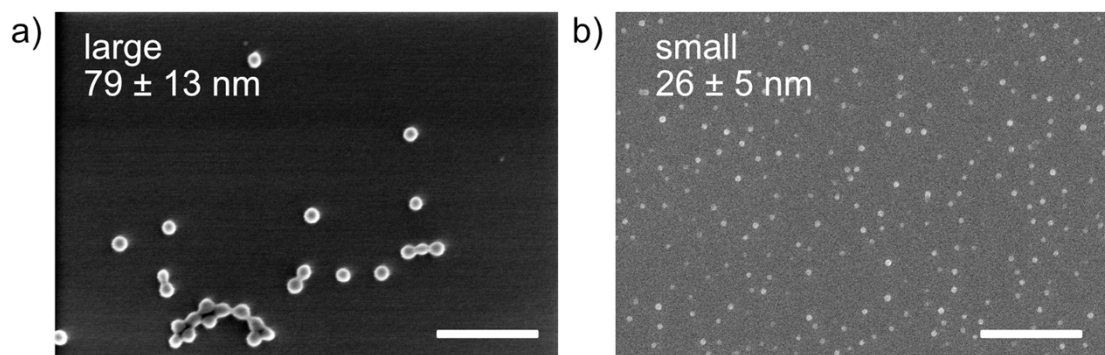


**Figure S1.**  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR of (a) PDMAEMA macro-initiator and (b,c) PISA nanoparticle block copolymers. In the block copolymer spectra, we can see the signal from the cationic PDMAEMA segment (d,e).

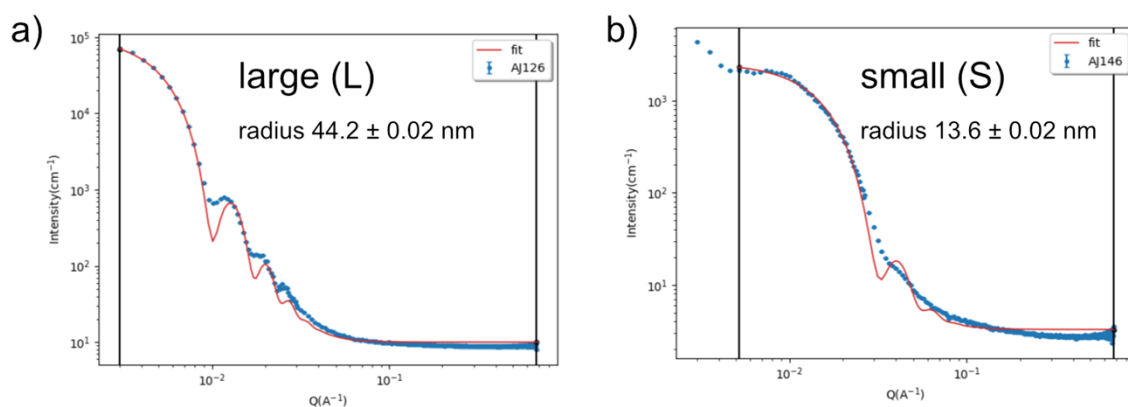
However, because of the amphiphilic nature of the block copolymer, perfect solubility is not achieved in any readily available deuterated solvent. Because of the poor solubility of the DMAEMA segment in deuterated chloroform, these  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR integrals underestimate the ratio between DMAEMA and MMA units.



**Figure S2.** Characterization of PDMAEMA macro-initiator and PISA nanoparticles after chain extension with MMA. Size exclusion chromatography (SEC) in (a) shows the growth of PDMAEMA by addition of hydrophobic monomer MMA, confirming livingness. FTIR (b) shows the tertiary amine group of PDMAEMA, aliphatic C-H stretch signals and sharp carbonyl (C=O) signal of the methacrylate. This confirms that no alkene, ie unreacted monomer, is present.



**Figure S3.** FE-SEM images of large (L) and small (S) polymeric nanoparticles, adsorbed to silicon wafer as substrate. Scale bar 500 nm.

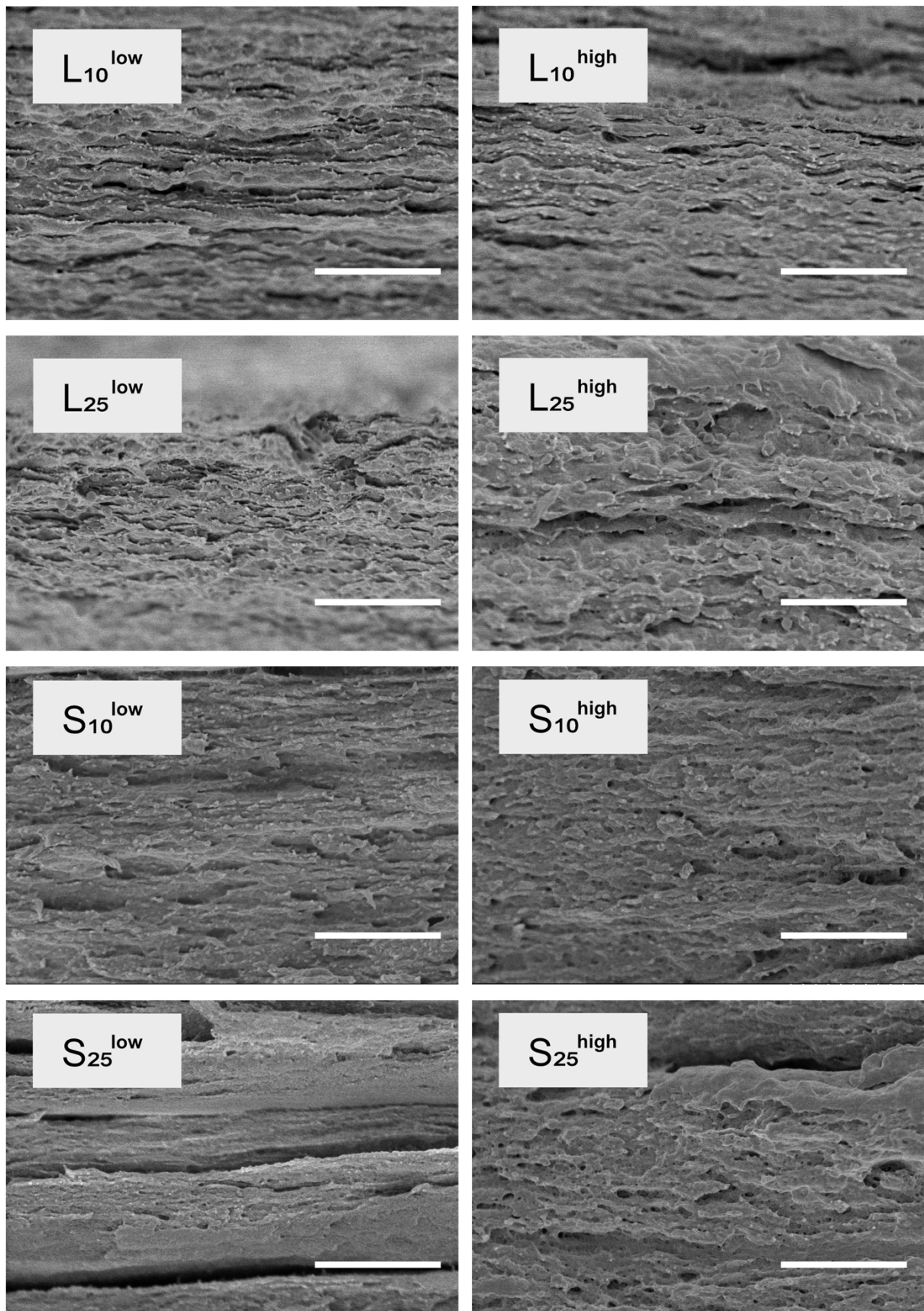


**Figure S4.** SAXS of polymeric nanoparticles in dispersion (1 wt%). The raw data (blue) is fit to a spherical model (red) using the software SASview.

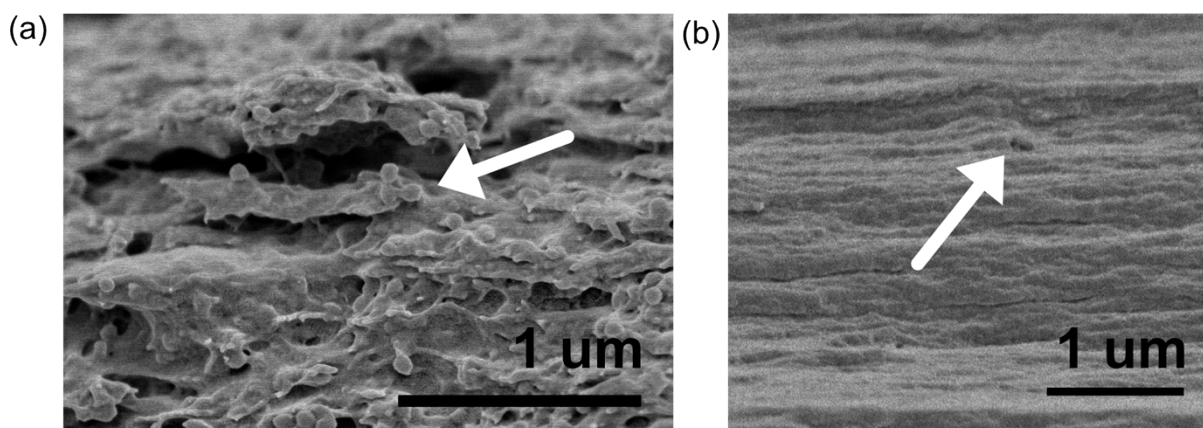
### 3. Hybrid materials

**Table S2.** List of all hybrid materials fabricated in this study.

| Sample name                      | Nanoparticle additive $np$ (wt %) | Total buffer (mM) | Residual CNF charge after interaction with nanoparticles ( $\mu\text{mol/g}$ ) | Molar ratio COOH:NH |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| CNF <sup>0</sup>                 | 0                                 | 0                 | -450                                                                           | 1:0                 |
| L <sub>10</sub> <sup>low</sup>   | 10                                | 0.4               | -358                                                                           | 1:0.12              |
| L <sub>25</sub> <sup>low</sup>   | 25                                | 1.1               | -220                                                                           | 1:0.35              |
| S <sub>10</sub> <sup>low</sup>   | 10                                | 0.4               | -358                                                                           | 1:0.23              |
| S <sub>25</sub> <sup>low</sup>   | 25                                | 1.1               | -220                                                                           | 1:0.70              |
| L <sub>0.5</sub> <sup>high</sup> | 0.5                               | 0.4               | -445                                                                           | 1:0.01              |
| L <sub>1</sub> <sup>high</sup>   | 1                                 | 0.9               | -441                                                                           | 1:0.01              |
| L <sub>5</sub> <sup>high</sup>   | 5                                 | 4.4               | -404                                                                           | 1:0.05              |
| L <sub>10</sub> <sup>high</sup>  | 10                                | 8.8               | -358                                                                           | 1:0.12              |
| L <sub>25</sub> <sup>high</sup>  | 25                                | 21.9              | -220                                                                           | 1:0.35              |
| S <sub>0.5</sub> <sup>high</sup> | 0.5                               | 0.4               | -443                                                                           | 1:0.01              |
| S <sub>1</sub> <sup>high</sup>   | 1                                 | 0.9               | -436                                                                           | 1:0.02              |
| S <sub>5</sub> <sup>high</sup>   | 5                                 | 4.4               | -380                                                                           | 1:0.11              |
| S <sub>10</sub> <sup>high</sup>  | 10                                | 8.8               | -310                                                                           | 1:0.23              |
| S <sub>25</sub> <sup>high</sup>  | 25                                | 21.9              | -100                                                                           | 1:0.70              |
| CNF <sup>high</sup>              | 0                                 | 21.9              | -450                                                                           | 1:0                 |
| CNF <sup>low</sup>               | 0                                 | 1.1               | -450                                                                           | 1:0                 |



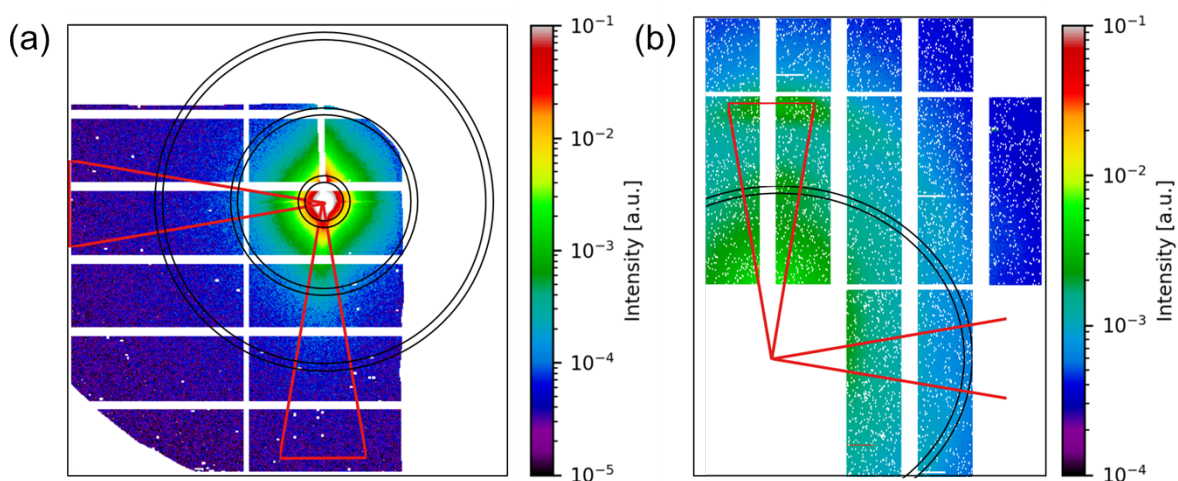
**Figure S5.** Comparison between high and low buffered materials in cryo-fractured surfaces. No consistent differences can be seen between low and high buffered samples in these cross-section images. Scale bar 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .



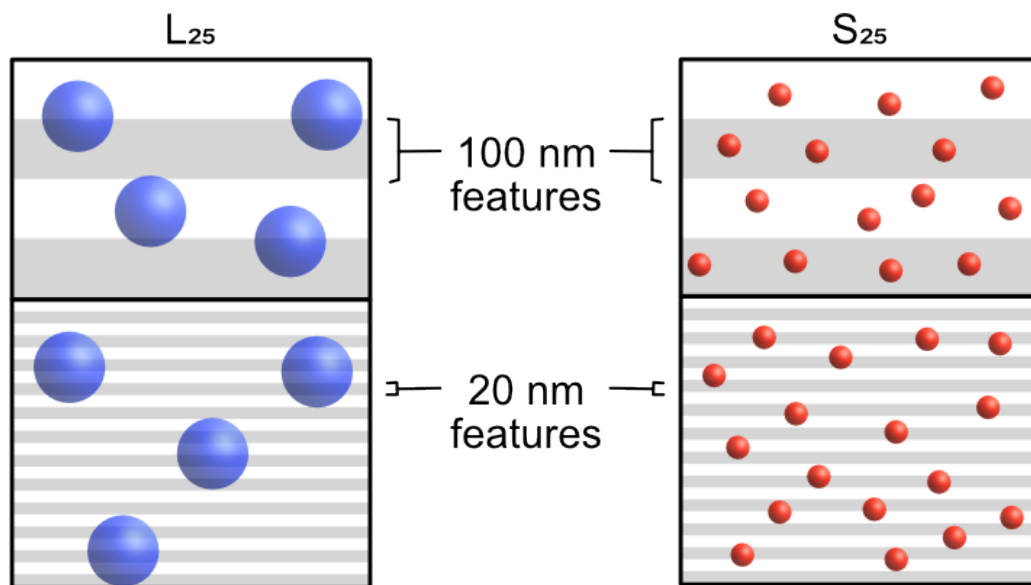
**Figure S6.** (a) Cryo-fractured cross-section imaged by FE-SEM of  $L_{25}^{\text{high}}$  showing that nanoparticles (white arrow) retain their spherical shape after hybridization into cellulose nanopapers. (b) Cryo-fractured cross-section of  $\text{CNF}^0$  showing a potential nanopore.

**Table S3.** Ranges for cuts from radial and azimuthal integrations

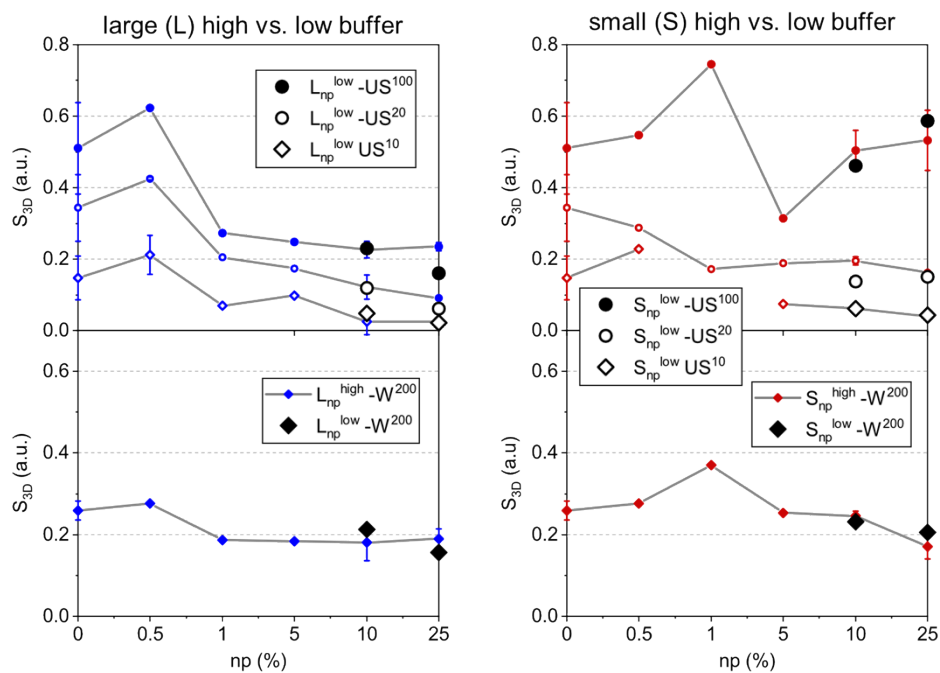
| Azimuthal integrations (around $\chi$ ) |       |                          |                | Radial integrations (q) |       |             |
|-----------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------|-------------|
|                                         |       | q value ( $\text{\AA}$ ) | d spacing (nm) |                         |       | Angle (deg) |
| US100                                   | start | 0.006                    | 104.7          | USAXS radial x          | start | 260         |
|                                         | end   | 0.008                    | 78.5           |                         | end   | 280         |
| US20                                    | start | 0.027                    | 23.3           | USAXS radial y          | start | 170         |
|                                         | end   | 0.029                    | 21.7           |                         | end   | 190         |
| US10                                    | start | 0.05                     | 12.6           | WAXS radial x           | start | 260         |
|                                         | end   | 0.052                    | 12.1           |                         | end   | 280         |
| W200                                    | start | 1.04                     | 0.60           | WAXS radial y           | start | 170         |
|                                         | end   | 1.09                     | 0.58           |                         | end   | 190         |



**Figure S7.** Representative USAXS (a) and WAXS (b) patterns to indicate cuts, these images from  $\text{CNF}^0$ . (a) USAXS pattern indicating 2 radial cuts (red) and 3 azimuthal cuts (black). (b) WAXS pattern indicating 2 radial cuts (red) and 1 azimuthal cut (black) at the  $[200]$  scattering plane.



**Figure S8.** Schematic showing large and small particles fitting into cellulosic features of different sizes. For example large particles disrupt structures on all size ranges probed, but small particles seem to fit inside the self-assembled cellulose structures found at around 100 nm.



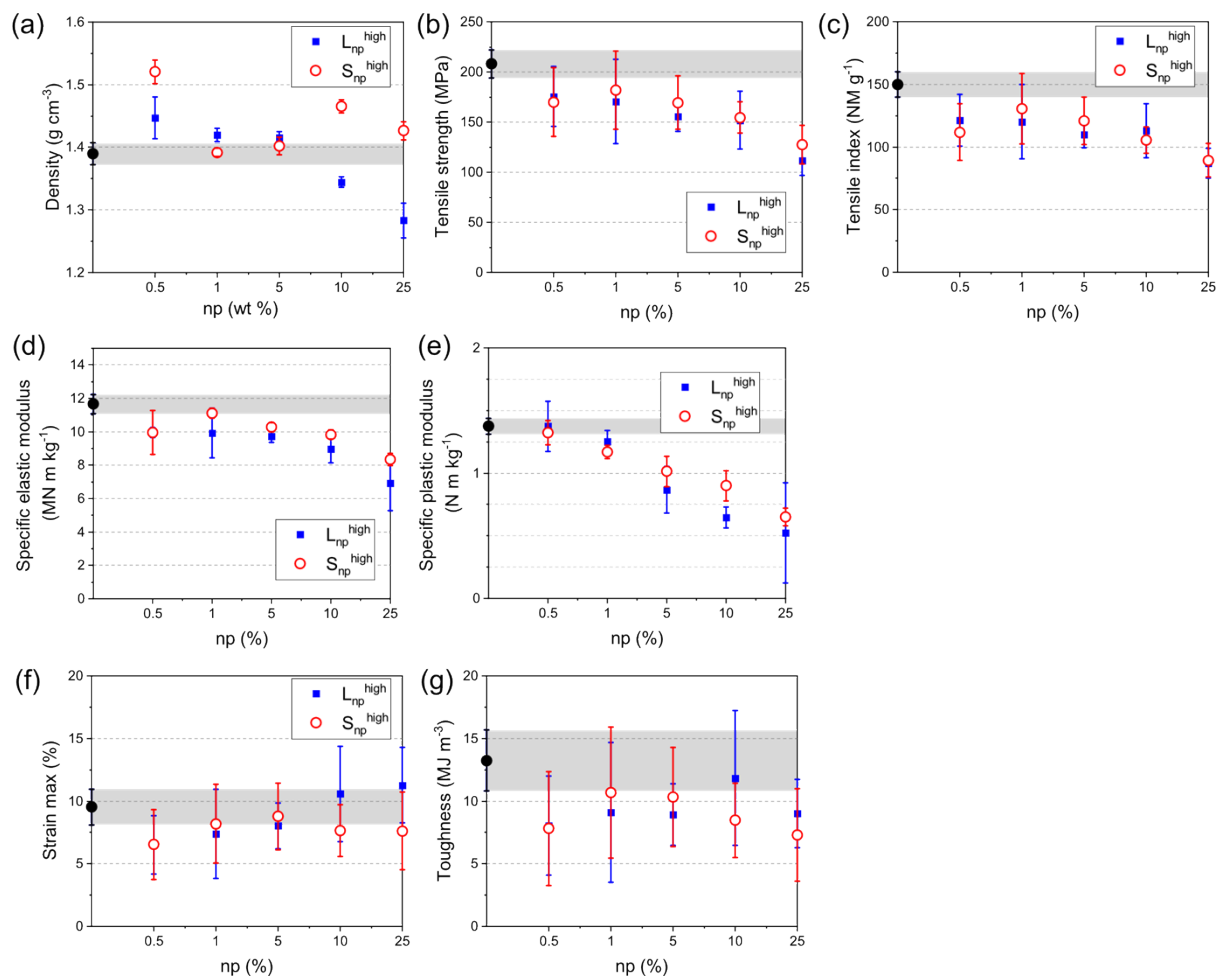
**Figure S9.** Alignment parameters for low buffered materials. No significant differences seen between high and low buffer samples in  $S_{3D}$ .

**Table S4.** Physical properties of hybrid nanopapers measured at 50 % relative humidity, 23 °C.

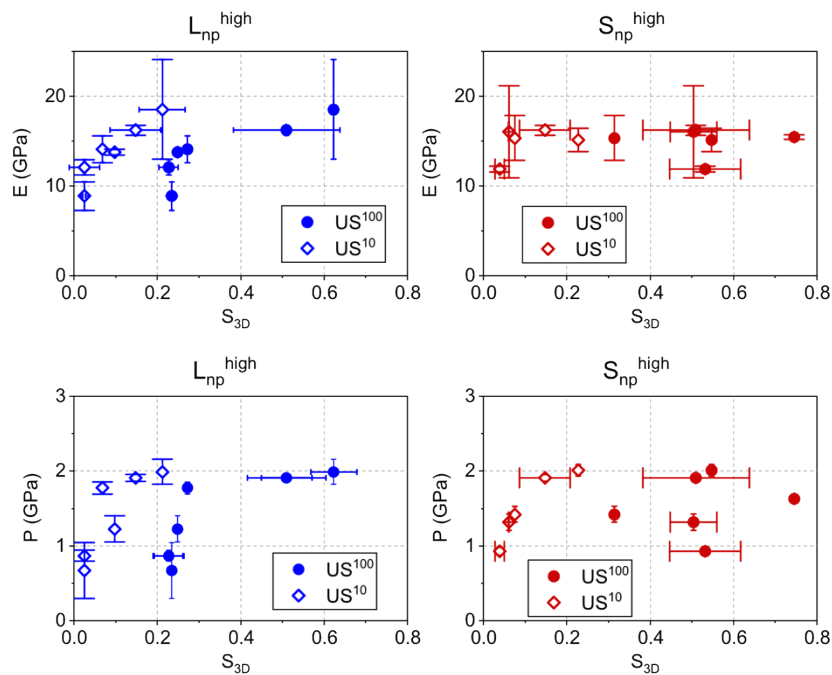
|                                  | Thickness |     | Density            |      |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----|--------------------|------|
|                                  | um        |     | g cm <sup>-3</sup> |      |
|                                  | mean      | sd  | mean               | sd   |
| CNF <sup>0</sup>                 | 49        | 0.5 | 1.39               | 0.02 |
| L <sub>0.5</sub> <sup>high</sup> | 49        | 0.6 | 1.45               | 0.03 |
| L <sub>1</sub> <sup>high</sup>   | 53        | 0.7 | 1.42               | 0.01 |
| L <sub>5</sub> <sup>high</sup>   | 56        | 0.9 | 1.42               | 0.01 |
| L <sub>10</sub> <sup>high</sup>  | 54        | 1.0 | 1.34               | 0.01 |
| L <sub>25</sub> <sup>high</sup>  | 55        | 0.6 | 1.28               | 0.03 |
| S <sub>0.5</sub> <sup>high</sup> | 48        | 0.9 | 1.52               | 0.02 |
| S <sub>1</sub> <sup>high</sup>   | 52        | 0.7 | 1.39               | 0.01 |
| S <sub>5</sub> <sup>high</sup>   | 57        | 1.1 | 1.40               | 0.01 |
| S <sub>10</sub> <sup>high</sup>  | 56        | 1.3 | 1.47               | 0.01 |
| S <sub>25</sub> <sup>high</sup>  | 67        | 0.6 | 1.43               | 0.01 |

**Table S5.** Tensile properties of hybrid nanopapers (50 % relative humidity, 23 °C).

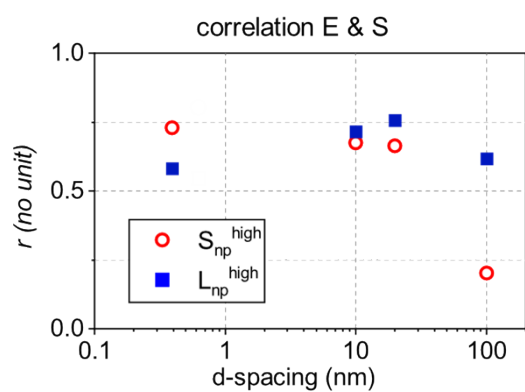
|                                  | E modulus |     | P modulus |      | Strain max |      | Stress max |    | Work of fracture  |     | Tensile index      |    |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----|-----------|------|------------|------|------------|----|-------------------|-----|--------------------|----|
|                                  | GPa       |     | GPa       |      | %          |      | MPa        |    | J m <sup>-3</sup> |     | Nm g <sup>-1</sup> |    |
|                                  | mean      | sd  | mean      | sd   | mean       | sd   | mean       | sd | mean              | sd  | mean               | sd |
| CNF <sup>0</sup>                 | 16.2      | 0.6 | 1.9       | 0.05 | 9.5        | 1.43 | 208        | 14 | 1325              | 245 | 150                | 10 |
| L <sub>0.5</sub> <sup>high</sup> | 15.1      | 1.3 | 2.0       | 0.08 | 6.5        | 2.78 | 170        | 34 | 782               | 455 | 121                | 21 |
| L <sub>1</sub> <sup>high</sup>   | 15.5      | 0.3 | 1.6       | 0.05 | 8.2        | 3.14 | 182        | 39 | 1068              | 524 | 120                | 30 |
| L <sub>5</sub> <sup>high</sup>   | 14.4      | 0.3 | 1.4       | 0.11 | 8.8        | 2.65 | 169        | 27 | 1033              | 395 | 110                | 11 |
| L <sub>10</sub> <sup>high</sup>  | 14.4      | 0.3 | 1.3       | 0.11 | 7.6        | 2.05 | 155        | 16 | 847               | 296 | 113                | 21 |
| L <sub>25</sub> <sup>high</sup>  | 11.9      | 0.3 | 0.9       | 0.05 | 7.6        | 3.11 | 127        | 19 | 730               | 367 | 87                 | 12 |
| S <sub>0.5</sub> <sup>high</sup> | 14.4      | 0.3 | 2.0       | 0.17 | 6.5        | 2.32 | 175        | 30 | 804               | 395 | 112                | 23 |
| S <sub>1</sub> <sup>high</sup>   | 14.1      | 1.5 | 1.8       | 0.08 | 7.4        | 3.58 | 171        | 42 | 910               | 559 | 131                | 28 |
| S <sub>5</sub> <sup>high</sup>   | 13.8      | 0.3 | 1.2       | 0.18 | 8.0        | 1.82 | 155        | 15 | 894               | 246 | 121                | 19 |
| S <sub>10</sub> <sup>high</sup>  | 12.1      | 0.8 | 0.9       | 0.07 | 10.6       | 3.81 | 152        | 29 | 1184              | 540 | 105                | 11 |
| S <sub>25</sub> <sup>high</sup>  | 8.9       | 1.6 | 0.7       | 0.37 | 11.3       | 3.01 | 112        | 15 | 902               | 272 | 89                 | 13 |



**Figure S10.** Tensile properties of hybrid nanopapers.



**Figure S11.** Correlations between alignment on different length scales, with elastic and plastic moduli.



**Figure S12.** Pearson's correlation coefficients calculated between orientation parameters (S) and elastic modulus (E) at different length scales.