

# Supplementary material

## The Effect of pH on the Viscoelastic Response of Alginate-Montmorillonite Nanocomposite Hydrogels

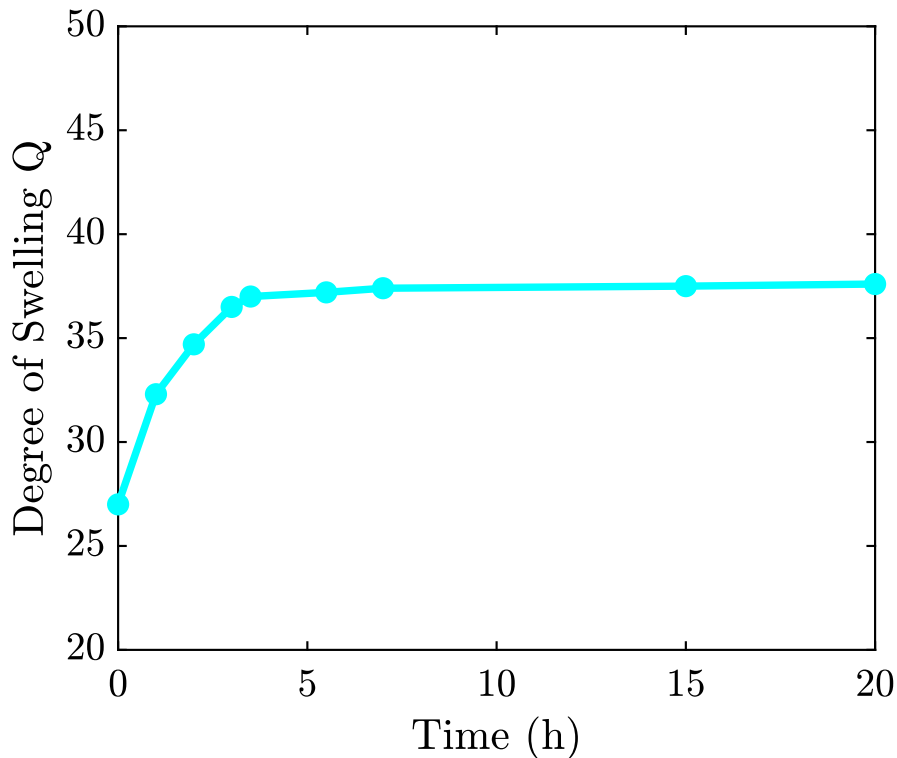
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To assess the characteristic time for equilibration of samples before mechanical tests, swelling tests were performed on as-prepared hydrogels immersed into aqueous solution with pH = 7. Experimental data are depicted in Figure S1, where the degree of swelling  $Q$  is plotted versus the immersion time  $t$ . This figure shows that 2 days of immersion into water is sufficient to reach the equilibrium.



**Figure S1.** Degree of swelling  $Q$  versus time  $t$  for alginate hydrogels in aqueous solutions with pH = 7.