

## **The Empty Space in Liquids and its Role in Hosting Small Polymers**

Here we present insights into the nature of structural heterogeneities in liquid water by characterizing the empty space in the hydrogen bond network. Using molecular dynamics simulations and a battery of data analysis tools, we show that density fluctuations create regions of empty space characterized by a diverse morphology - from spherical to dendritic voids. The environment of the voids allows us for the identification of both low- and high-density water in terms of long-range, collective fluctuations of the water network. We also demonstrate that dendritic voids have shapes that are similar to those of small polymers

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