

Summary for the reptation theory

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1. Parameters

Length scales

b : Average distance between consecutive beads

d : Diameter of tube

$\sqrt{Nb^2}$: End-to-end length of chain

$L = \frac{Nb^2}{d}$: Contour length of tube

Diffusion constants

$D_b = \frac{k_B T}{\zeta}$: Bead

$D_R = \frac{k_B T}{(N+1)\zeta}$: Center of mass of chain (Rouse model)

Time scales

$\tau_b = \frac{\zeta b^2}{k_B T}$: The diffusion time of beads

$\tau_e = \frac{\pi d^4 \zeta}{12 k_B T b^2}$: The entanglement time defined as $\phi_n(\tau_e) = d^2$

$\tau_R = \tau_{p=1} = \frac{b^2 \zeta (N+1)^2}{3\pi^2 k_B T} = \frac{b^2 \zeta}{3\pi^2 k_B T} N^2$: The Rouse relaxation time

$\tau_d = \frac{L^2}{\pi^2 D_R} = \frac{1}{\pi^2} \left(\frac{Nb^2}{d} \right)^2 \frac{(N+1)\zeta}{k_B T} = \frac{b^4 \zeta}{\pi^2 d^2 k_B T} N^3$:

The reptation time / Disentanglement time

Other parameters

$Z = \frac{L}{d} = \frac{Nb^2}{d^2}$: Number of steps in a primitive chain / Entanglement number

2. Beads (segments) motions

1) $t < \tau_e$ -> Rouse in 3D

$$\phi_n(t) = \left(\frac{12 k_B T b^2}{\pi \zeta} \right)^{1/2} t^{1/2} \quad (1)$$

2) $\tau_e < t < \tau_R$ -> Rouse in tube constraint

$$\phi_n(t) = d \left(\frac{4k_B T b^2}{3\pi\zeta} \right)^{1/4} t^{1/4} \quad (2)$$

3) $\tau_R < t < \tau_d$ -> free diffusion in tube constraint

$$\phi_n(t) = d \left(\frac{2k_B T b^2}{(N+1)\zeta} \right)^{1/2} t^{1/2} \quad (3)$$

4) $\tau_d < t$ -> free diffusion in 3D

$$\phi_n(t) = 6Dt = \frac{2d^2 k_B T}{b^2 \zeta} \frac{1}{N^2} t \quad (4)$$

3. Stress relaxation function

1) $t < \tau_e$ -> Rouse

$$G(t) \approx \frac{ck_B T}{\sqrt{24\pi}} \sqrt{\frac{\tau_b}{t}} \quad (5)$$

2) $t > \tau_e$ -> reptation

The reptation theory predicts the stress relaxation function of the form

$$G(t) = G_N^0 \frac{8}{\pi^2} \sum_{p=1,3,5,\dots}^{\infty} \frac{1}{p^2} \exp\left[-\frac{p^2}{\tau_d} t\right] \quad (6)$$

$$G_N^0 \approx G_R(t = \tau_e) = \frac{ck_B T}{\sqrt{24\pi}} \sqrt{\frac{\tau_b}{\tau_e}} = \frac{ck_B T}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{b^2}{d^2} \quad (7)$$

The shear viscosity is thus calculated as

$$\begin{aligned} \eta &= \int_0^{\infty} G(t) dt = \int_0^{\infty} dt G_N^0 \frac{8}{\pi^2} \sum_{p=1,3,5,\dots}^{\infty} \frac{1}{p^2} \exp\left[-\frac{p^2}{\tau_d} t\right] \\ &= G_N^0 \frac{8}{\pi^2} \sum_{p=1,3,5,\dots}^{\infty} \frac{1}{p^2} \int_0^{\infty} dt \exp\left[-\frac{p^2}{\tau_d} t\right] \\ &= G_N^0 \frac{8}{\pi^2} \tau_d \sum_{p=1,3,5,\dots}^{\infty} \frac{1}{p^4} = G_N^0 \frac{8}{\pi^2} \tau_d \frac{\pi^4}{96} = \frac{\pi^2}{12} G_N^0 \tau_d \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

$$\propto N^3$$