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Conformational origin of the molecular weight dependence of the characteristic ratio of the dipole moment in poly(A-B)

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Abstract

By poly(A-B) we denote a chain with repeating sequence -A-B-, such as polyoxymethylene. Here A and B stand for a single atom, e.g., -O-, or a group of atoms, e.g., $-CH_2$ -. All *n* bond vectors are of the same length, *l*, as are all bond dipole moment vectors, *m*. The manner in which the characteristic ratio of the dipole moment, $D_n \equiv \langle \mu^2 \rangle_0 / nm^2$ approaches its asymptotic limit is related quantitatively to the behavior of subchains of various sizes in poly(A-B). Illustrative numerical calculations with rotational isomeric state (RIS) models for several polymers are consistent with the predictions. The approach of D_n to its asymptotic limit is sensitive to longer subchains than is the approach of the characteristic ratio of the end-to-end distance, $C_n \equiv \langle r^2 \rangle_0 / nl^2$, to its asymptotic limit, due to the differences in the connectivity of the bond vectors (head-to-tail) and the bond dipole moment vectors (head-to-head, tail-to-tail). \bigcirc 2005 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Keywords: Poly(A-B); Dipole moment vector; Asymptotic limit

1. Introduction

The mean square dipole moment, $\langle \mu^2 \rangle$, is one of the fundamental conformation-dependent physical properties of a polar macromolecule [1–4]. The RIS model is especially useful for rationalizing $\langle \mu^2 \rangle$ because this property, in contrast to the mean square end-to-end distance, $\langle r^2 \rangle$, is insensitive to the excluded volume effect in long polar polymers for which the average projection of the dipole moment vector onto the end-to-end vector, $\langle \mu \cdot \mathbf{r} \rangle_0$, is zero in the unperturbed chain [5–8]. Nearly four decades of literature contain numerous joint experimental and RIS studies of $\langle \mu^2 \rangle_0$ for chain molecules [9–40] or RIS studies that make comparisons with experimental results published elsewhere [41–61]. Theoretical evaluations of $\langle \mu^2 \rangle_0$ have also been employed to understand the behavior of chains for which experimental results were not available [62–73].

The chain vectors \mathbf{r} and $\boldsymbol{\mu}$ can be treated as a sum of vectors associated with individual bonds in the chain. The vectors are the bond vector, \mathbf{l} , and the bond dipole moment vector, \mathbf{m} . The *n* bond vectors are connected in a head-to-

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tail fashion in a linear chain. In general, some of the bonds in the chain may have a null bond dipole moment vector, as is the CH₂–CH₂ bond in polyoxyethylene, and bonds that are not in the main chain may make important contributions to $\langle \mu^2 \rangle$, as in the poly(vinyl alkyl ether)s. However, for chains of the type poly(A-B), composed of two different types of atoms that alternate in their appearance in the chain, and in the absence of polar side chains, as in polyoxymethylene (POM), the same relationship connects the \mathbf{l}_i and \mathbf{r} , and the \mathbf{m}_i and μ .

$$\mathbf{r} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathbf{l}_i \tag{1}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\mu} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathbf{m}_{i} \tag{2}$$

Every bond in the main chain has a non-zero \mathbf{l}_i and a non-zero \mathbf{m}_i , and all *n* of the \mathbf{l}_i are of the same length, as are all *n* of the \mathbf{m}_i . The only important difference is that the \mathbf{l}_i are connected head-to-tail, and the \mathbf{m}_i are connected head-to-head, tail-to-tail. Such chains typically have characteristic ratios for the end-to-end distance, C_n , that are larger than one.

$$C_n \equiv \frac{\langle r^2 \rangle_0}{nl^2} \tag{3}$$

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However, the corresponding characteristic ratio for the dipole moment, D_n , is usually less than one.

$$D_n \equiv \frac{\langle \mu^2 \rangle_0}{nm^2} \tag{4}$$

Our concern here is with the manner in which D_n for poly(A-B) makes the final approach to its asymptotic limit, as represented quantitatively by the initial slope of D_n vs. 1/n. A model-independent analytical expression for this initial slope is obtained by a method that parallels the recent treatment of the analogous property of C_n , namely the initial slope of C_n vs. 1/n [74]. RIS calculations are performed to illustrate how the short-range interactions in the chain affect the value of $[dD_n/d(1/n)]_{1/n=0}$. Some of the results are not surprising. Thus we find that $[dD_n/d(1/n)]_{1/n=0}$ is usually positive, in contrast with $[dC_n/d(1/n)]_{1/n=0}$, which is usually negative. The difference in sign is expected if $C_{\infty} > 1$ but $D_{\infty} < 1$. However, $C_{\infty} > 1$ does not guarantee that $[dC_n/d(1/2)]$ n]_{1/n=0} will always be negative, as documented by the case of syndiotactic poly(methyl methacrylate) [74]. A more surprising conclusion from the present work is that the value of $[dD_n/d(1/n)]_{1/n=0}$ can be more sensitive to the behavior of longer subchains than is the value of $[dC_n/d(1/n)]_{1/n=0}$, even when the absolute value of $[dD_n/d(1/n)]_{1/n=0}$ is two orders of magnitude smaller than the absolute value of $[dC_n/$ $d(1/n)]_{1/n=0}$. This surprising conclusion follows from numerical calculations for POM and arise from the difference in the connectivity of the bond vectors, **I**, and the bond dipole moment vectors, **m**.

2. Mathematical formulation

An analytical expression for $[dD_n/d(1/n)]_{1/n=0}$ for poly(A-B) can be obtained from Eqs. (2) and (4), along with the assumption that the flexible homopolymer has an even number of bonds, so that its two ends are indistinguishable. The approach is perfectly analogous to the one employed recently in the investigation of $[dC_n/d(1/n)]_{1/n=0}$ [74]. Since all of the bond dipole moment vectors are of the same length, $\langle \mu^2 \rangle$ and D_n are given by Eqs. (5) and (6), respectively.

$$\langle \mu^2 \rangle = nm^2 + 2\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^n \langle \mathbf{m}_i \cdot \mathbf{m}_j \rangle$$
(5)

$$D_n = 1 + \left(\frac{2}{nm^2}\right) \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^n \langle \mathbf{m}_i \cdot \mathbf{m}_j \rangle_0 \tag{6}$$

Eq. (6) can also be written using a unit vector \mathbf{v}_i that is parallel with \mathbf{m}_i , $\mathbf{v}_i \equiv \mathbf{m}_i/m_i$.

$$D_n = 1 + \left(\frac{2}{n}\right) \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^n \langle \mathbf{v}_i \cdot \mathbf{v}_j \rangle_0 \tag{7}$$

The analogous expression for C_n uses the unit vector, \mathbf{u}_i , that

is parallel with \mathbf{l}_i , $\mathbf{u}_i \equiv \mathbf{l}_i / l_i$ [74]:

$$C_n = 1 + \left(\frac{2}{n}\right) \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^n \langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_j \rangle_0 \tag{8}$$

To facilitate the comparison of these two properties of the chain, Eq. (7) can be written in terms of the \mathbf{u}_i by incorporating the difference in the connectivity of the \mathbf{v}_i and the \mathbf{u}_i .

$$\mathbf{v}_i = (-1)^i \mathbf{u}_i \tag{9}$$

$$D_n = 1 + \left(\frac{2}{n}\right) \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^n (-1)^{j-i} \langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_j \rangle_0 \tag{10}$$

Taking *n* to be large enough so that it lies within the limiting region were D_n becomes linear in 1/n, the initial slope of D_n vs. 1/n can be written in terms of D_n and D_{2n} [74].

$$\left[\frac{\mathrm{d}D_n}{\mathrm{d}(1/n)}\right]_{1/n=0} = \lim_{n \to \infty} [-2n(D_{2n} - D_n)] \tag{11}$$

An instructive expression for this initial slope can be obtained by separating the double sum in Eq. (10) into three parts, defined in perfect analogy to the similar separation in the recent treatment of C_n [74].

$$T_{1,2n} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=n+1}^{2n} (-1)^{j-i} \langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_j \rangle_0$$
(12a)

$$T_{2,2n} = \sum_{i=n+1}^{2n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^{2n} (-1)^{j-i} \langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_j \rangle_0$$
(12b)

$$T_{3,2n} = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^{n} (-1)^{j-i} \langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_j \rangle_0$$
(12c)

The desired expression can be written in terms of these three double sums [74].

$$\left[\frac{\mathrm{d}D_n}{\mathrm{d}(1/n)}\right]_{1/n=0} = \lim_{n \to \infty} \left[-2(T_{1,2n} + T_{2,2n} - T_{3,2n})\right] \tag{13}$$

Since we consider only homopolymers with an even number of bonds, the ends of the chain are indistinguishable, and therefore $T_{2,2n} = T_{3,2n}$.

$$\left[\frac{\mathrm{d}D_n}{\mathrm{d}(1/n)}\right]_{1/n=0} = -2T_{1,\infty} \tag{14}$$

Since $\langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_j \rangle_0$ for a flexible chain must approach zero as j-i increases without limit, the double sum required for $T_{1,\infty}$ can be accurately evaluated by considering only those values of $\langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_j \rangle_0$ for which the number of individual terms is j-i [74]. This fact allows the rewriting of the double sum as a single sum over $k \equiv j-i$.

$$\left[\frac{\mathrm{d}D_n}{\mathrm{d}(1/n)}\right]_{1/n=0} = -2\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k(-1)^k \langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_{i+k} \rangle_0 \tag{15}$$

In Eq. (15), it is understood that bond *i* is sufficiently far removed from either end of the chain so that end effects do not influence the sum. The corresponding expression for C_n does not contain the factor of $(-1)^k$ [74].

$$\left[\frac{\mathrm{d}C_n}{\mathrm{d}(1/n)}\right]_{1/n=0} = -2\sum_{k=1}^{\infty}k\langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_{i+k} \rangle_0 \tag{16}$$

In the next section, the influence of the factor of $(-1)^k$ is illustrated by using RIS models for several chains to calculate the $\langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_{i+k} \rangle_0$ as well as C_n and D_n .

3. Illustrative numerical calculations

The numerical calculations use the geometry and shortrange interactions reported in previously published RIS models for polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) [41], polydimethylsilylenemethylene (PDMSM) [46], and POM [49]. The customary generator matrices were used to calculate $\langle r^2 \rangle_0$ and $\langle \mu^2 \rangle_0$ as a function of *n* [75], and the derivatives specified by the left-hand sides of Eqs. (15) and (16) were obtained from the initial slope of the appropriate characteristic ratio vs. 1/n. The values of $\langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_{i+k} \rangle_0$ were calculated as the 1,1 element of the unperturbed average of the serial product of transformation matrices, $\langle \mathbf{T}_i \mathbf{T}_{i+1} \dots \mathbf{T}_{i+k-1} \rangle_0$ [74]. The results reported here are the averages over the two possible choices of the directionality of bond i, A-B and B-A. The behavior of $\langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_{i+k} \rangle_0$ and $k \langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_{i+k} \rangle_0$ for PDMS was reported previously [74], as was the numerical result for $[dC_n/d(1/n)]_{1/n=0}$ [76].

Figs. 1–3 show $\langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_{i+k} \rangle_0$, $k \langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_{i+k} \rangle_0$, and $k(-1)^k \langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_{i+k} \rangle_0$, respectively, for POM, using a temperature of 298 K. The $\langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_{i+k} \rangle_0$ exhibit an oscillation superimposed on a monotonic decay. The tendency for the formation of short *gauche* helices in unperturbed POM produces the

oscillations and the negative value of $\langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_{i+2} \rangle_0$. The underlying monotonic decay arises because \mathbf{u}_i for any flexible chain must become completely decorrelated from \mathbf{u}_{i+k} in the limit as $k \to \infty$. The value of $\langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_{i+k} \rangle_0$ falls below 0.01 when k > 42.

Multiplication of each term in Fig. 1 by *k* produces the results shown in Fig. 2. The signature of the *gauche* helices is still apparent, but the decay to zero is shifted to larger values of *k*. The value of $k\langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_{i+k} \rangle_0$ does not fall below 0.01 until k > 91. The sum on the right-hand side of Eq. (16), obtained as the area under the curve in Fig. 2, is equal to 51. The value of the right-hand side of this equation, obtained by direct calculation of C_n as a function of *n*, is -102. Therefore, the manner in which C_n specified by a RIS model approaches its asymptotic limit is accurately described by Eq. (16), as expected [74].

Fig. 3 shows the result when the factor $(-1)^k$ is included in each term in the sum. The first three terms are negative and the remaining terms alternate in sign. This alternation causes the area under the curve in Fig. 3 to be drastically smaller than the area under the curve in Fig. 2. The absolute value of $[dD_n/d(1/n)]_{1/n=0}$, from Eq. (15), is more than two orders of magnitude smaller than the value of $[dC_n/d(1/n)]_{1/n=0}$ from Eq. (16). It is also of the opposite sign. C_n approaches its asymptotic limit from below, but D_n approaches its limit from above.

The validity of Eqs. (15) and (16) can be illustrated by plotting the terms on the left-hand side, as obtained by direct calculation of C_n and D_n , vs. the terms on the right-hand side, as obtained from $\langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_{i+k} \rangle_0$. This plot is shown in Fig. 4 for data obtained from previously published RIS models for POM [49], PDMSM [46], and PDMS [41]. The solid straight line has a slope of 1 and passes through the origin. Since the points from the RIS calculations fall very close to this straight line, Eqs. (15) and (16) accurately capture the behavior of these unperturbed chains.



Fig. 1. The values of $\langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_{i+k} \rangle_0$ for POM, using the RIS model of Abe and Mark [28].



Fig. 2. The values of $k\langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_{i+k} \rangle_0$ for POM, using the RIS model of Abe and Mark [28].

It is of interest to compare the sizes of the subchains that contribute significantly to the values of $[dC_n/d(1/n)]_{1/n=0}$ and $[dD_n/d(1/n)]_{1/n=0}$. That comparison is made in Fig. 5, using the data for POM that is reported in Figs. 2 and 3. The vertical axis is the cumulative contribution of subchains up through the specified value of *k* to the pertinent summations, i.e., it is either

Cum_C

$$\equiv \left(-2\sum_{\kappa=1}^{\infty}\kappa\langle \mathbf{u}_{i}\cdot\mathbf{u}_{i+\kappa}\rangle_{0}\right)^{-1}\left(-2\sum_{\kappa=1}^{k}\kappa\langle \mathbf{u}_{i}\cdot\mathbf{u}_{i+\kappa}\rangle_{0}\right) \quad (17)$$

or

$$\operatorname{Cum}_{D} \equiv \left(-2\sum_{\kappa=1}^{\infty}\kappa(-1)^{\kappa}\langle \mathbf{u}_{i}\cdot\mathbf{u}_{i+\kappa}\rangle_{0}\right)^{-1} \times \left(-2\sum_{\kappa=1}^{k}\kappa(-1)^{\kappa}\langle \mathbf{u}_{i}\cdot\mathbf{u}_{i+\kappa}\rangle_{0}\right)$$
(18)

By definition, Cum_C and Cum_D have an asymptotic limit of 1 as $k \to \infty$. The former ratio, which is pertinent to $[dC_n/d(1/n)]_{1/n=0}$, approaches the limit monotonically from below, and is within 99% of the limit when k > 71. The latter ratio, which is pertinent to $[dD_n/d(1/n)]_{1/n=0}$, has a slower convergence and oscillates about 1. It is not reliably within 99% of the asymptotic limit until *k* reaches 100. Although $[dD_n/d(1/n)]_{1/n=0}$ is two orders of magnitude smaller in



Fig. 3. The values of $k(-1)^{k} \langle \mathbf{u}_{i} \cdot \mathbf{u}_{i+k} \rangle_{0}$ for POM, using the RIS model of Abe and Mark [28].



Fig. 4. Values of $[dC_n/d(1/n)]_{1/n=0}$ and $[dD_n/d(1/n)]_{1/n=0}$ obtained by direct calculation of C_n and D_n , vs. the values of $-2\Sigma k \langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_{i+k} \rangle_0$ and $-2\Sigma k \langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_{i+k} \rangle_0$ for PDMS [46], and PDMS [41]. The straight line has a slope of one and passes through the origin. The results for $[dC_n/d(1/n)]_{1/n=0}$ and $-2\Sigma k \langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_{i+k} \rangle_0$ for PDMS are from Ref. [74]. Filled and open symbols denote $[dC_n/d(1/n)]_{1/n=0}$ and $[dD_n/d(1/n)]_{1/n=0}$, respectively. Results for POM, PDMSM, and PDMS are plotted using \blacktriangle , \blacklozenge , and \blacksquare , respectively.

absolute value than $[dC_n/d(1/n)]_{1/n=0}$, it is sensitive to longer subchains, due to the oscillations imposed by the head-to-head, tail-to-tail connection of the bond dipole moment vectors.

bond dipole moment vectors cause the approach of D_n to its limit to be sensitive to longer subchains than is the approach of C_n to its limit.

4. Conclusion

The manner in which the characteristic ratio of the dipole moment for poly(A-B) approaches its asymptotic limit is accurately given by the sum of the terms $k(-1)^k \langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \mathbf{u}_{i+k} \rangle_0$, where \mathbf{u}_i is a unit vector along bond *i*. The oscillations produced by the head-to-head, tail-to-tail connectivity of the

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Fig. 5. Convergence of the sums on the right-hand side of Eq. (15) (monotonically increasing curve) and Eq. (16) (oscillating curve) to their limits for POM, as measured by the Cum_C and Cum_D defined in Eqs. (17) and (18), respectively. Both sets of data are normalized so that the asymptotic limits are 1.

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