



RPK- B Polymer physics 2022



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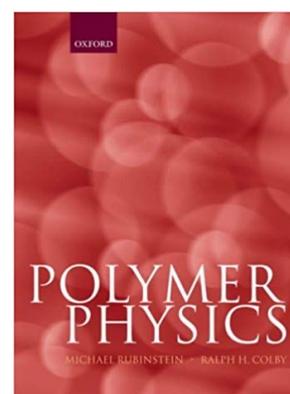
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PROGRAMME RPK-B 2022 POLYMER PHYSICS



30 September 2022	Polymer Physics – Introduction Prof.dr.ir. Jasper van der Gucht (WUR) Dr. Wouter G. Ellenbroek (TU/e)
07 October JB	Polymer Physics – Introduction Prof.dr.ir. Jasper van der Gucht (WUR) Dr. Wouter G. Ellenbroek (TU/e)
14 October JB	Polymers at Interfaces Prof.dr.ir. Frans Leemakers (WUR)
	Polymer Depletion Interactions Prof.dr. Remco Tuinier (TU/e)
21 October	Supramolecular Polymers Prof.dr.ir. Jasper van der Gucht (WUR)
	Self-healing Polymers Dr. Santiago J. Garcia Espallargas (TUD)
28 October	Liquid Crystalline Polymers Prof.dr. Steven J. Picken (TUD)
	Polymer Networks Dr. Eduardo Mendes (TUD)
04 November	Polyelectrolytes Prof.dr. Christian Holm (University of Stuttgart - Germany)
11 November	Polymer Dynamics Prof.dr. Daniel Read (University of Leeds - UK)
18 November	Polymer Characterization Prof.dr.ir. Ilya Voets (TU/e)
25 November	Block Copolymers Dr. Giuseppe Portale (RuG)
02 December	Glass Transition in Polymers Dr. Alexey Lyulin (TU/e)
16 December	Exam RPK-B (open book) 13:00 – 16:00 hrs NH Hotel Utrecht
27 January 2023	Re-sit exam RPK-B (open book) 13:00 – 16:00 hrs NH Hotel Utrecht



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Exam

- Relevant sections from Rubinstein & Colby (detailed study guide will follow)
- Slides plus additional materials
- Exam consists of 12-13 questions, 5 of which need to be answered
- More detailed information will follow!

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A brief history of polymer physics

Macromolecular hypothesis (1920)



Herman Staudinger
Nobel Prize Chemistry 1953

Experimental support (1920-1930)



Wallace Carothers
Synthesis of well-defined polymers



Herman Mark
X-ray diffraction of polymers

Foundations of polymer physics (1930-1960)



Paul Flory
Nobel Prize
Chemistry 1974

- Polymer sizes (Kuhn)
- Chain statistics (Flory)
- Thermodynamics (Flory-Huggins)
- Gelation (Flory-Stockmayer)
- Rubber elasticity (Kuhn, James, Guth)
- Dynamics (Rouse, Zimm)

Modern polymer physics (1960-1980)



Pierre-Gilles de Gennes
Nobel Prize Physics 1991

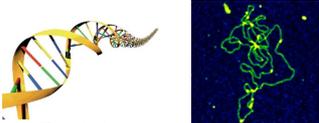
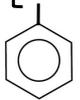
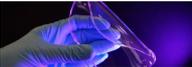
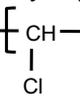
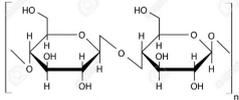
- Scaling approach for polymer solutions (de Gennes, des Cloizeaux)
- Tube model, reptation (Edwards, de Gennes, Doi)

Current polymer physics

- Block copolymers
- Associating polymers
- Crystallization
- Glass transition
- Liquid-crystalline polymers
- Charged polymers
- Conducting polymers
- Biological polymers
- Ultra-tough polymers
- Self-healing polymers
- Supramolecular polymers
- Polymer-covered surfaces
-

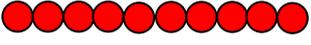
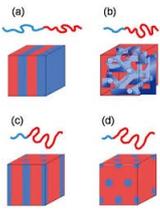
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Types of polymers

<p>Polyethylene</p> $\left[\text{CH}_2 - \text{CH}_2 \right]$ 	<p>Polyethylene oxide</p> $\left[\text{O} - \text{CH}_2 - \text{CH}_2 \right]$ 	<p>Nucleic acids (DNA / RNA)</p> 
<p>Polystyrene</p> $\left[\text{CH} - \text{CH}_2 \right]$  	<p>Polydimethylsiloxane</p> $\text{HO} - \text{Si} \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{CH}_3 \\ \\ \text{O} \\ \\ \text{CH}_3 \end{array} \right)_n - \text{Si} \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{CH}_3 \\ \\ \text{O} \\ \\ \text{CH}_3 \end{array} \right)_n - \text{Si} \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{CH}_3 \\ \\ \text{O} \\ \\ \text{CH}_3 \end{array} \right)_n - \text{OH}$ 	<p>Proteins</p> 
<p>Polyvinylchloride</p> $\left[\text{CH} - \text{CH}_2 \right]$  	<p>Polyacrylate</p> $\left[\text{O} = \text{C} - \text{O}^- \text{Na}^+ \right]$ 	<p>Polysaccharides</p>   <p style="text-align: center;">Cellulose</p>

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Types of polymers

Homopolymer		
Polyelectrolyte		$\left[\text{O} = \text{C} - \text{O}^- \text{Na}^+ \right]$ <p style="text-align: right;">Christian Holm, 4/11</p>
Random copolymer		 <p style="text-align: right;">Giuseppe Portale, 25/11</p>
Block copolymer		
Alternating copolymer		

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Polymer architecture

Eduardo Mendes, 28/10
Van der Gucht 21/10

Smectic A

Smectic C

Nematic

Liquid crystalline polymers
Picken 28/10

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Polymer properties depend on:

- Chemical composition of the chain
- Degree of polymerization/ molar mass:
- Flexibility of the chain
- Architecture
- Homo/copolymer

$$M = nM_{mon}$$

Polymer physics: describe properties in terms of length, bending stiffness, interactions

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Introductory lectures: day 1 and 2



Chapters 1-5 Rubinstein & Colby

- Week 1:
 - Polymer conformations; simple chain models
 - Radius of gyration, end-point distribution
 - Single chain elasticity
 - Excluded volume
 - Collapse and swelling
 - Scaling concepts
- Week 2:
 - Polymer solutions and mixtures: Flory Huggins theory
 - Chi parameter
 - Osmotic pressure, phase separation
 - Overlap concentration
 - Semidilute solutions, melts
 - Scaling concepts

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Energy scales

Thermal energy: $kT \approx 4.1 \cdot 10^{-21} \text{J}$ or 2.5 kJ/mol

Covalent bond: $\sim 350 \text{ kJ/mol}$ or $140 kT$

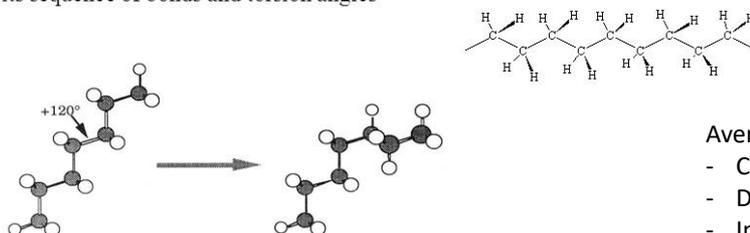
Bending energy: $\sim kT$

Non-covalent interactions: $\ll kT$ to $\gg kT$

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Conformation of polymers

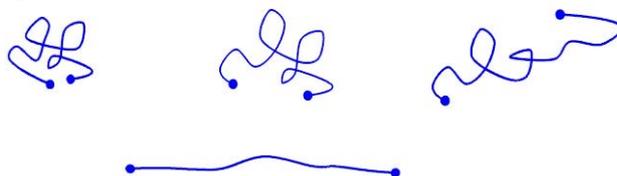
Conformation = stereostructure of the molecule defined by its sequence of bonds and torsion angles



Average conformation depends on:

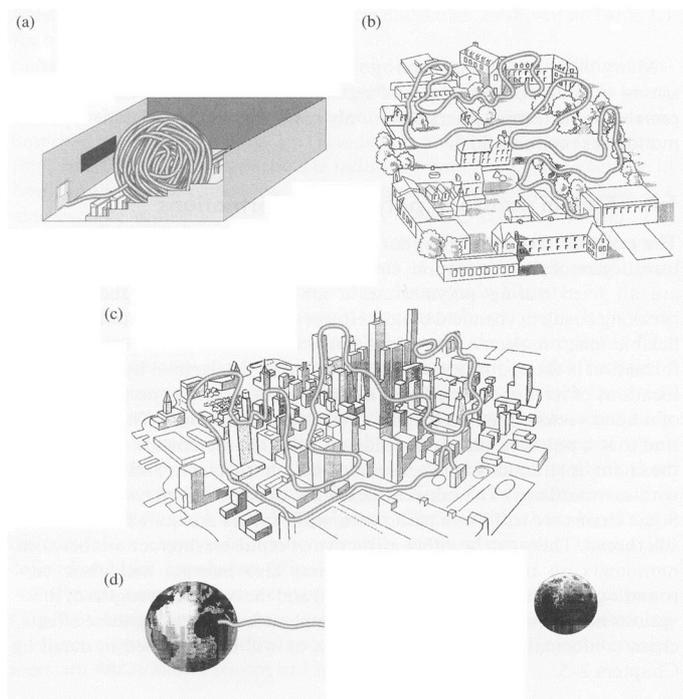
- Chain flexibility
- Degree of polymerization
- Interactions between monomers
- Interactions with surroundings

Examples of different random coil conformations



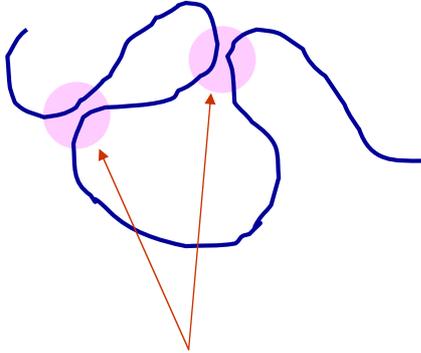
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Polymer of 10^{10} bonds,
with bond length 1 cm



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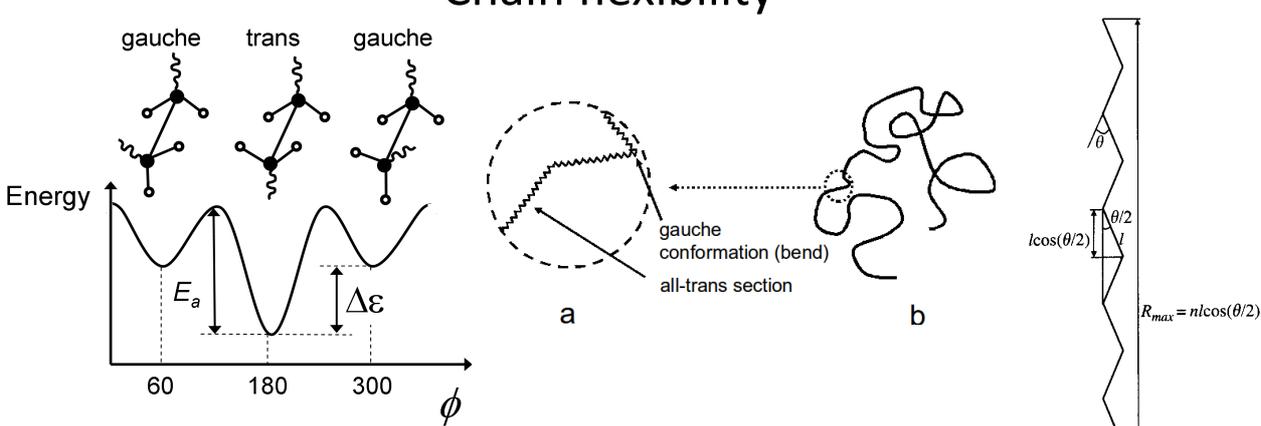
Ideal versus real chains



These interactions are ignored in the ideal chain model → Justified under **theta conditions** and in **polymer melts**

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Chain flexibility



$\Delta\epsilon$: determines relative probability of trans and gauche

E_a : determines dynamics of conformational changes

(Polyethylene: $\Delta\epsilon \approx 0.8 kT$)

$R_{max} = nl \cos(\theta/2)$

All-trans state

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Polymer models

- **Freely jointed chain**
- Freely rotating chain (**exercise**)
- **Wormlike chain**
- Hindered rotation model
- Rotational isomeric state model
- **Kuhn model**
- ..

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Characteristic ratios and Kuhn length of several polymers

Table 2.1 Characteristic ratios, Kuhn lengths, and molar masses of Kuhn monomers for common polymers

Polymer	Structure	C_∞	b (Å)	ρ (g cm ⁻³)	M_0 (g mol ⁻¹)
1,4-Polyisoprene (PI)	$-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CHCH}(\text{CH}_3)-)$	4.6	8.2	0.830	113
1,4-Polybutadiene (PB)	$-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CHCH}_2-)$	5.3	9.6	0.826	105
Polypropylene (PP)	$-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2(\text{CH}_3)-)$	5.9	11	0.791	180
Poly(ethylene oxide) (PEO)	$-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-)$	6.7	11	1.064	137
Poly(dimethyl siloxane) (PDMS)	$-(\text{OSi}(\text{CH}_3)_2-)$	6.8	13	0.895	381
Polyethylene (PE)	$-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-)$	7.4	14	0.784	150
Poly(methyl methacrylate) (PMMA)	$-(\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{COOCH}_3)-)$	9.0	17	1.13	655
Atactic polystyrene (PS)	$-(\text{CH}_2\text{CHC}_6\text{H}_5-)$	9.5	18	0.969	720

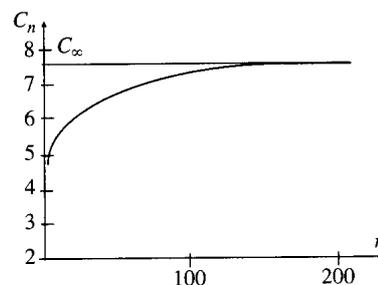
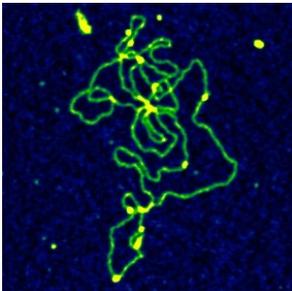


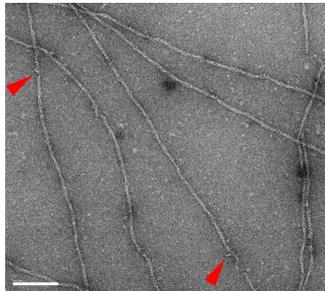
Fig. 2.4
Flory's characteristic ratio C_n saturates at C_∞ for long chains.

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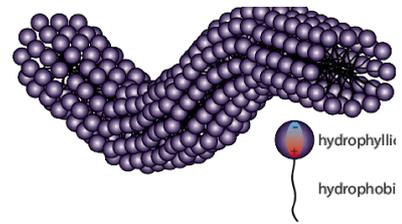
Wormlike chains



DNA



Protein filament



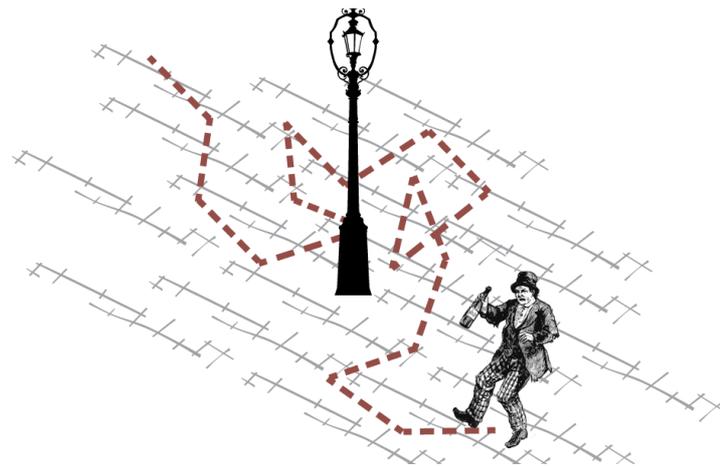
Wormlike micelle

Bottlebrush polymer



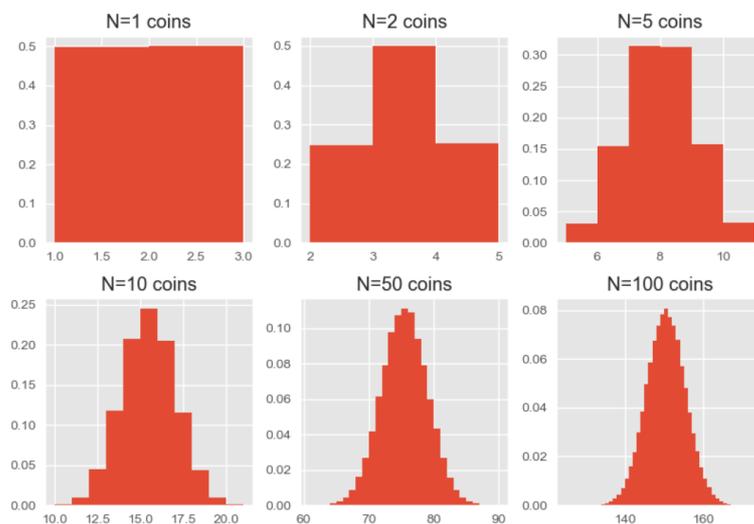
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Random walk



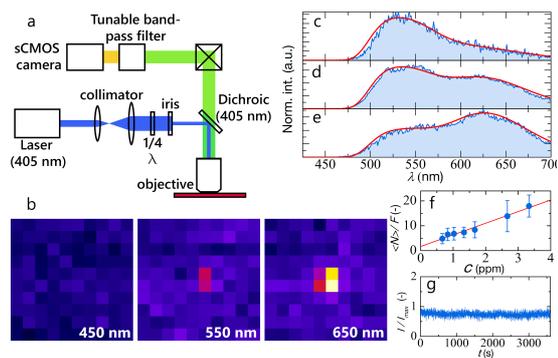
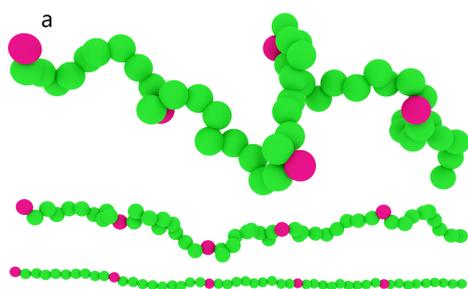
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Central limit theorem



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Polymer as force sensor



T. van de Laar, H. Schuurman, P. van der Scheer, J.M. van Doorn, J. van der Gucht, J. Sprakel, Chem, 4 (2018), 269.

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Polymer as force sensor

RESOURCE
 Voor iedereen van Wageningen University & Research

WETENSCHAP - 19 JANUARI 2018
WUR-onderzoekers meten kleinste kracht ooit
 Inkt: Tessa Louwerens

Onderzoekers van de leerstoelgroep Physical Chemistry and Soft Matter hebben een methode ontwikkeld om ultrakleine krachten te meten aan één enkel molecuul. Het is de kleinste kracht die ooit gemeten is. Wetenschappers kunnen met deze metingen inzicht krijgen in allerlei biologische processen, zoals de groei van planten. Ook kan de methode worden gebruikt bij het ontwikkelen van zelf-reparerend materiaal voor ruimteschepen.

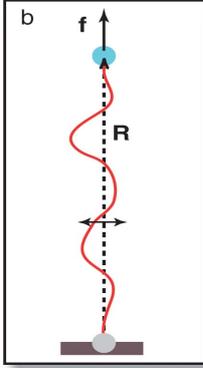
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Force-extension curve for DNA

Optical tweezer experiment

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Stretching a freely-jointed chain



$$U = -\vec{f} \cdot \vec{R} = -\vec{f} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^N \vec{b}_i$$

$$P(\{\vec{b}_i\}) \sim e^{-\beta U} = \prod_{i=1}^N e^{\beta \vec{f} \cdot \vec{b}_i} \quad \text{with } \beta = 1/kT$$

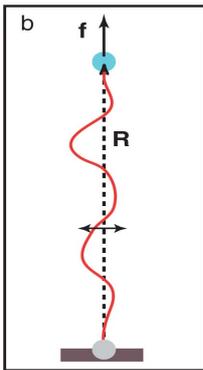
$$\langle \vec{b}_i \rangle = \frac{\int_{|\vec{b}|=b} \vec{b} e^{\beta \vec{f} \cdot \vec{b}} d\vec{b}}{\int_{|\vec{b}|=b} e^{\beta \vec{f} \cdot \vec{b}} d\vec{b}} \quad \text{integration over spherical shell with radius } b$$

$$= b \left[\coth(\gamma) - \frac{1}{\gamma} \right] \frac{\vec{f}}{f} \quad \text{with } \gamma = fb/kT$$

$$R = N \langle b_i \rangle = Nb \left[\coth(\gamma) - \frac{1}{\gamma} \right] \quad \coth x = \frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{e^x - e^{-x}}$$

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Stretching a freely-jointed chain

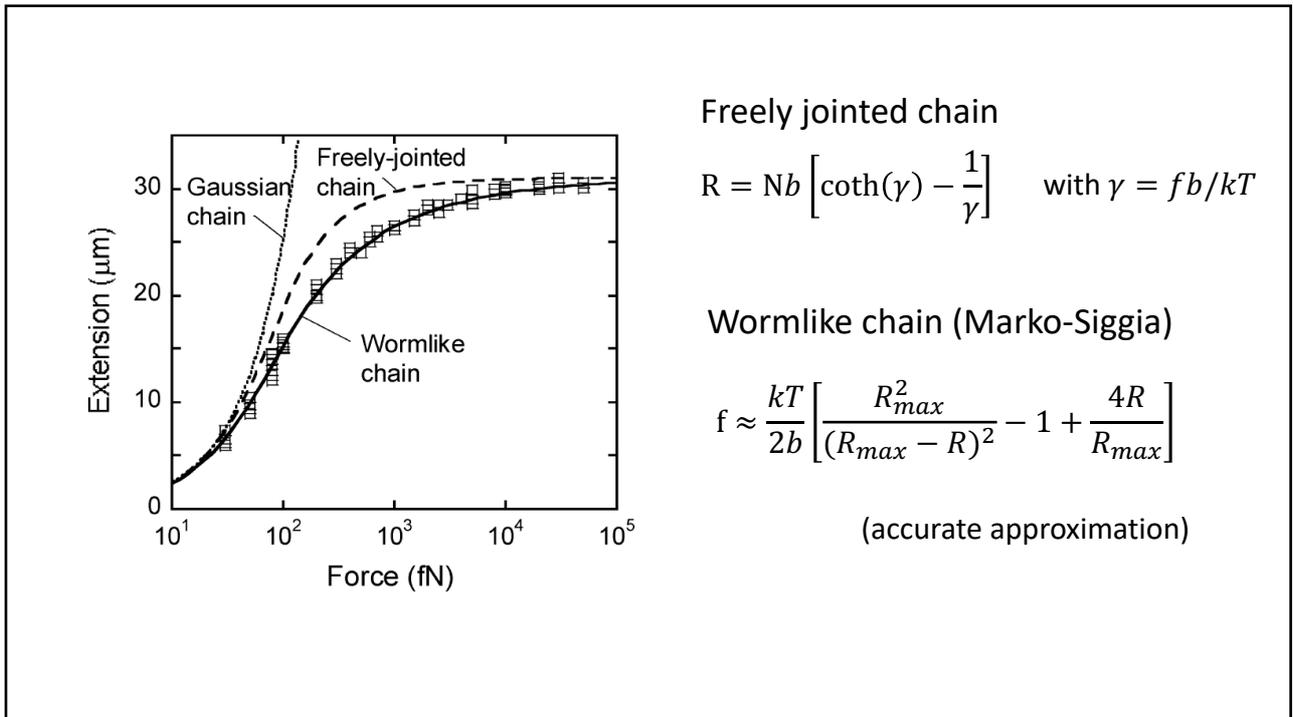


$$R = Nb \left[\coth(\gamma) - \frac{1}{\gamma} \right] \quad \text{with } \gamma = fb/kT$$

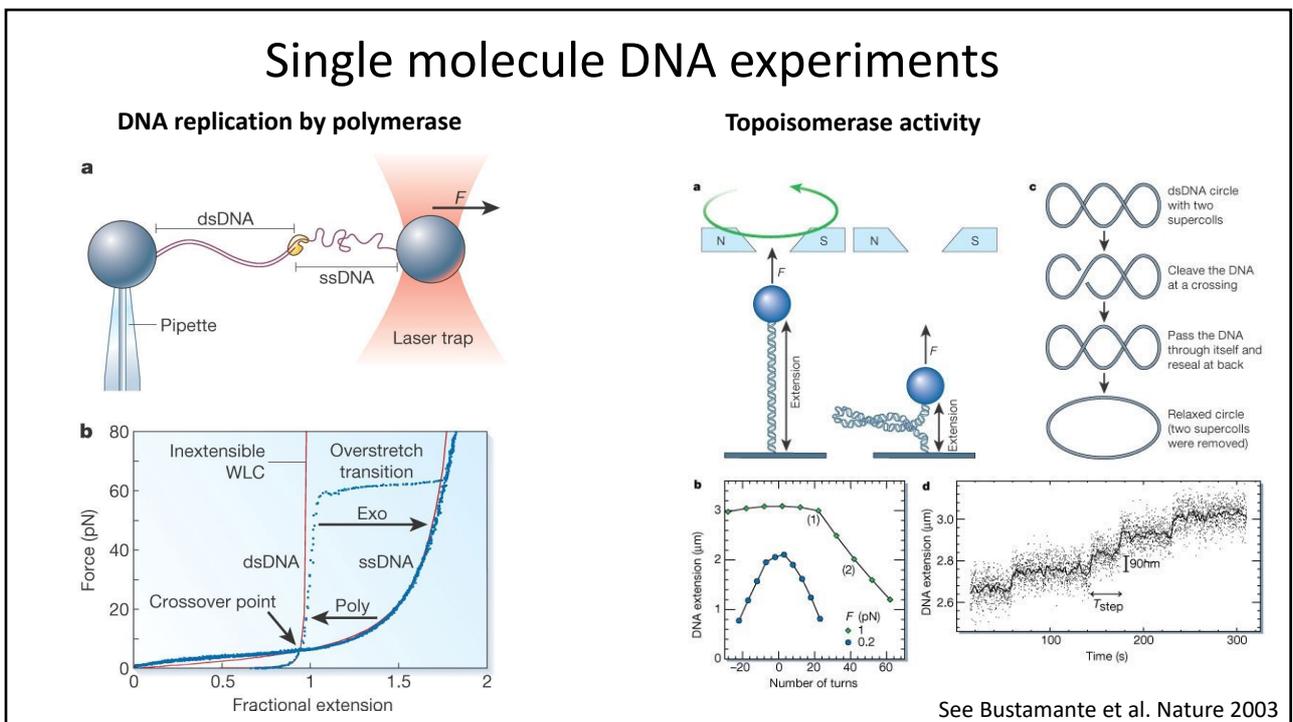
$$\gamma \ll 1: \quad R = Nb \frac{\gamma}{3} = \frac{Nb^2 f}{3kT}$$

$$\gamma \gg 1: \quad R = Nb \left[1 - \frac{1}{\gamma} \right] \quad \text{or} \quad f = \frac{kT}{b \left[1 - \frac{R}{R_{max}} \right]}$$

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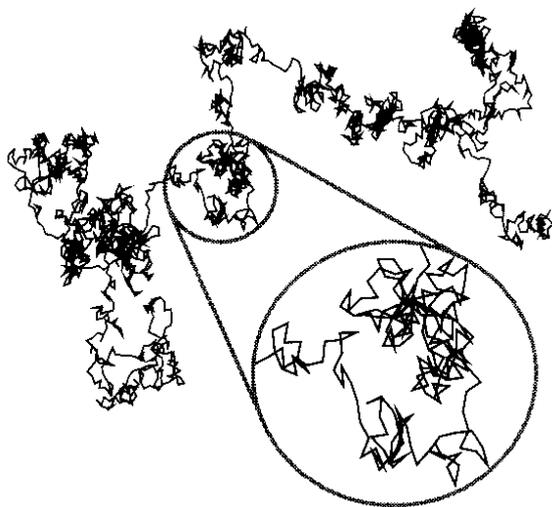


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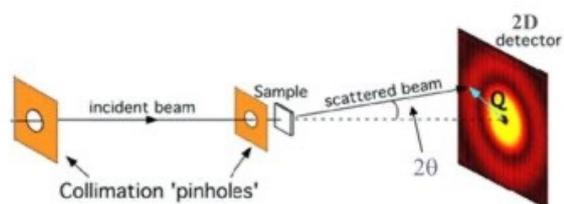
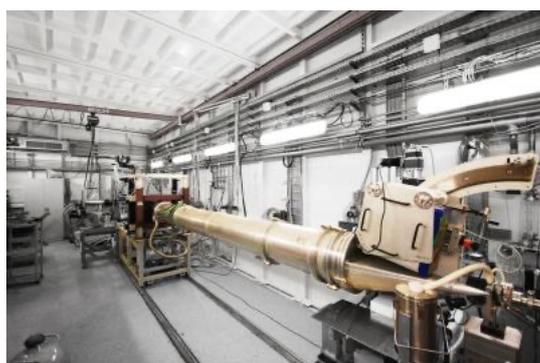
Structure of an ideal polymer chain



Structure can be measured with scattering (SAXS, SANS)

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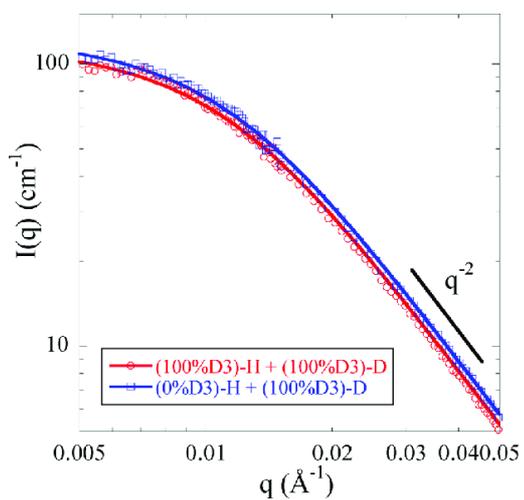
Xray-scattering



Lecture Ilja Voets

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Form factor single chains



Single chain form factor:

$$P(q) = \frac{2}{(qR_g)^4} \left[e^{-(qR_g)^2} - 1 + (qR_g)^2 \right]$$