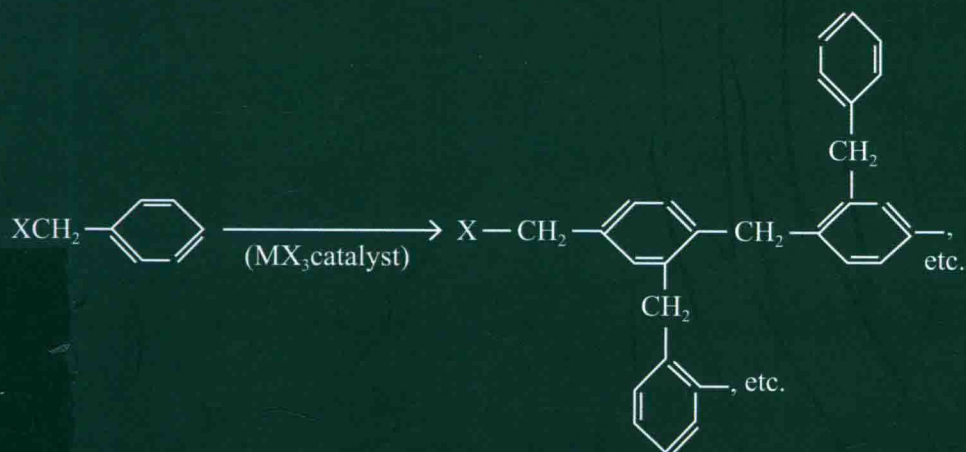


Principles of Polymer Chemistry

高分子化学原理

Paul J. Flory



PRINCIPLES OF
POLYMER CHEMISTRY

By Paul J. Flory

Cornell University Press

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THE GEORGE FISHER BAKER
NON-RESIDENT LECTURESHIP IN CHEMISTRY
AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

PRINCIPLES OF POLYMER CHEMISTRY

BY PAUL J. FLORY

Preface

IT WAS the author's privilege to hold the George Fisher Baker Non-resident Lectureship in Chemistry at Cornell University during the spring of 1948. This book had its inception at that time. The uncompleted manuscript was laid aside shortly thereafter, and the work was not resumed until 1951. During the intervening years much new material became available from the ever-increasing literature, and major revision of manuscript and outlines consequently was necessary. The momentum of extensive investigations on the kinetics of addition polymerization, undertaken in various laboratories at the close of the war, carried this phase of the subject to an advanced stage of development. The material on dilute polymer solutions, appearing in the later chapters, had to be completely recast and expanded in the face of recent theories and experiments. The book consequently goes considerably beyond the Baker lectures both in scope and in the inclusion of new developments.

The field of polymer science has grown very large indeed, and it would scarcely be possible in a single volume to do justice to all the excellent researches in various branches of the subject. Even with a less ambitious objective, selection of material to be included is difficult and an element of arbitrariness is unavoidable. The author has been guided in his choice of material by a primary concern with principles. Out of the vast research effort carried on by many investigators over the past twenty years, and especially during the last decade, certain reasonably well-defined generalizations have emerged. It was felt that the time had come when these should be brought together in a book. In accordance with this objective, experimental results have been introduced primarily for illustrative purposes and to develop the basis for these principles. Descriptions of the properties of specific polymers and extensive cataloging of accumulated data, except as they may serve the foregoing objective, lie outside the intended scope

of this project. Some of the more important experimental methods are summarized, but there has been no attempt to offer detailed descriptions of apparatus or procedures.

Even in the selection of that which may be regarded as having achieved the status of a principle, the author admittedly exercised arbitrary judgment, and to a degree that may evoke censure. In particular, he may be criticized for myopic preoccupation with his own work. While granting that the allegation may be well founded, he would nevertheless call attention to the desirability of a unified point of view in a book of this sort, and he could scarcely have hoped to maintain a proper perspective from the outlook of someone else. However this may be, it is undeniably true that some important subject matter has been omitted. The subject of mechanical properties has been slighted, dynamic behavior having been omitted altogether. Originally a chapter on these topics was contemplated, but before Chapter XIV was completed the book had considerably exceeded its projected size and the author's patience. He therefore sought a measure of comfort in the dubiously tenable position that the subject of dynamic properties, being in the process of rapid growth on the one hand while deficient in theoretical interpretations on the other, should perhaps be postponed for some other volume, or possibly for a revision of this one—preferably by another author.

There are two introductory chapters. The first presents an interpretation of early developments which proved rewarding to the author, though it may seem an unnecessary embellishment to some readers. The second chapter, written primarily for the newcomer, is intended to set forth essential definitions and elementary concepts. The next three chapters deal with polymerization and copolymerization reaction mechanisms and kinetics. Chapters VI through IX cover the broad field of polymer constitution, including structure, molecular weight determination, and molecular distribution. The final five chapters treat molecular configuration and associated properties of polymers and their solutions. Familiarity with the material ordinarily included in courses in organic chemistry, physical chemistry, physics, and calculus are prerequisites, and some knowledge of thermodynamics and statistical mechanics is assumed in the later chapters. Explanation of standard topics belonging to these fields has not, in general, been attempted; the consultation of textbooks by the reader to the extent required seemed a preferable solution. No previous knowledge of polymers has been assumed, and the various chapters are addressed primarily to the beginner. At the same time it is hoped that some of the subject matter may prove useful to the experienced investigator as

well. Certain derivations, possibly of less interest to the general reader, have been included in Appendixes to a number of the chapters. In addition to the usual indexes, a glossary of the more widely used symbols has been included.

The author takes pleasure in acknowledging the generous assistance of many of his colleagues. He is especially indebted to Prof. P. Debye, who tendered the invitation to the Baker Lectureship; to Drs. T. G. Fox, Jr., L. Mandelkern, W. R. Krigbaum, and A. R. Shultz, whose expertly conducted investigations while officially collaborators of the author are repeatedly referred to in this book; to Prof. R. M. Fuoss for many valuable criticisms of the manuscript and to Prof. H. A. Scheraga and Dr. L. Mandelkern for reading and criticizing portions of the manuscript; to Dr. Helen Bedon, Mr. T. E. Dumitru, and Mr. A. T. McIntyre for proofreading and assistance with the indexing.

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P. J. F.

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September 3, 1953

Contents

Preface	v
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CHAPTER I

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION 3

1. Early Investigations on Naturally Occurring Polymers	4
2. Early Encounters with Condensation Polymers	12
3. Vinyl Polymers	20
4. Rise of the Macromolecular Hypothesis	21
References.	25

CHAPTER II

TYPES OF POLYMERIC SUBSTANCES: DEFINITIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

1. Primary Definitions	29
2. Classification of Polymers	37
3. Condensation Polymers and Condensation Polymerization	40
4. Addition Polymers from Unsaturated Monomers	51
5. Polymerization of Cyclic Compounds	57
6. Anomalous Condensation Polymerizations	61
7. Inorganic Polymers	63
8. Concluding Remarks on the Structure and Properties of High Polymers	65
References.	66

CHAPTER III

MOLECULAR SIZE AND CHEMICAL REACTIVITY; PRINCIPLES OF CONDENSATION POLYMERIZATION 69

1. Chemical Reactivity in Homologous Series of Monomeric Com- pounds	70
---	----

2. Theory of the Reactivity of Large Molecules	75
3. Kinetics of Condensation Polymerization	79
4. Kinetics of Degradation of Condensation Polymers	83
4a. Hydrolysis of Cellulose and Cellulose Derivatives	83
4b. Hydrolysis of Polyamides	85
4c. Alcoholysis of Polyesters	86
4d. Interchange Reactions in Condensation Polymers	87
5. Molecular Weights of Linear Condensation Polymers	91
6. Ring Formation <i>vs.</i> Chain Polymerization	95
7. Summary and Conclusions: The Principle of Equal Reactivity of All Functional Groups	102
References	104

CHAPTER IV

POLYMERIZATION OF UNSATURATED MONOMERS
BY FREE RADICAL MECHANISMS

106

1. The Conversion of Monomer to Polymer	110
1a. Kinetic Scheme for Polymerization in the Presence of an Initiator	110
1b. Dependence of Initial Rates on the Concentrations of Initiator and Monomer	115
1c. Initiator Efficiencies	117
1d. Evaluation of Parameters	122
1e. The Course of the Conversion of Monomer to Polymer; Autoacceleration	124
1f. Kinetics of Thermal Polymerization	129
2. Chain Lengths	132
2a. Kinetic Chain Length and Degree of Polymerization	132
2b. Kinetics of Chain Transfer	136
2c. Chain Transfer in Undiluted Monomer; Evaluation of Parameters	138
2d. Chain Transfer with Solvents	141
2e. Dependence of the Degree of Polymerization on Temperature	145
2f. Regulators	146
3. Absolute Values of the Rate Constants for Individual Steps	148
3a. Methods for Determining the Mean Lifetime of an Active Center	149
3b. Experimental Results	155
4. Inhibition and Retardation of Polymerization	161
4a. Reaction Mechanisms	162
4b. Kinetics of Inhibition and Retardation	169
4c. Allylic Polymerization; Autoinhibition	172
References	174

CHAPTER V

COPOLYMERIZATION, EMULSION POLYMERIZATION
AND IONIC POLYMERIZATION

1. The Composition of Addition Copolymers	178
1a. Kinetics of Chain Propagation in Copolymerization	178
1b. Evaluation of Monomer Reactivity Ratios	185
1c. Monomer Reactivity in Relation to Structure	189
1d. Radical Reactivity in Relation to Structure.	194
1e. Alternating Effects	195
2. The Rate of Addition Copolymerization	199
3. Emulsion Polymerization	203
3a. Qualitative Theory	204
3b. Quantitative Theory	208
3c. The Number of Particles	212
3d. Concluding Remarks on Heterophase Polymerization	214
4. Ionic Polymerization.	217
4a. Cationic Polymerization	217
4b. Anionic Polymerization.	224
4c. Ionic Copolymerization.	226
References.	228

CHAPTER VI

THE STRUCTURE OF VINYL POLYMERS

1. Arrangement of Units in Polymers Derived from Monovinyl Monomers	231
2. Structure and Arrangement of Units in Polymers from Dienes.	238
2a. Diene Polymers Formed by Free Radical Mechanisms.	238
2b. Diene Polymers Formed by Ionic Mechanisms	245
3. Steric Hindrance in Polymer Chains	246
3a. Interactions between Substituents of Successive Units.	246
3b. Steric Interaction and the Heat of Polymerization	249
4. Nonlinearity in the Macro-Structure of Vinyl Polymers	256
4a. Branching in Vinyl Polymers	256
4b. Cross-Linking in Diene Polymers	260
5. Summary	262
References.	263

CHAPTER VII

DETERMINATION OF MOLECULAR WEIGHTS 266

1. Osmotic Methods.	269
1a. Theory	269
1b. The Number Average Molecular Weight.	273

1c. Experimental Methods	275
1d. Treatment of Data	279
2. Determination of Molecular Weights and Polymer Dimensions by Light Scattering	283
2a. Experimental Methods	284
2b. Theory for Particles Small Compared with the Wavelength of the Light	287
2c. The Weight Average Molecular Weight	291
2d. Light Scattering by Polymer Particles with Dimensions Ap- proaching the Wavelength of the Light	293
2e. Dependence of Scattering on Concentration.	297
2f. Treatment of Data	299
3. Determination of Molecular Weights with the Ultracentrifuge.	303
3a. Molecular Weights from the Sedimentation and Diffusion Constants	304
3b. Sedimentation Equilibrium	307
4. Intrinsic Viscosities in Relation to Molecular Weights of High Polymers	308
4a. Evaluation of the Intrinsic Viscosity	309
4b. Intrinsic Viscosity-Molecular Weight Relationship	310
4c. The Viscosity Average Molecular Weight and the Influence of Molecular Heterogeneity.	311
References	314

CHAPTER VIII

MOLECULAR WEIGHT DISTRIBUTIONS IN
LINEAR POLYMERS

	317
1. Condensation Polymers	318
1a. Linear Chain Molecules; the Most Probable Distribution	318
1b. Experimental Confirmation of the Most Probable Size Dis- tribution.	323
1c. Average Molecular Weights for the Most Probable Dis- tribution	325
1d. Cyclic Condensation Polymers	326
1e. Multichain Condensation Polymers	331
2. Addition Polymers	334
2a. Vinyl Polymers	334
2b. Polymers Formed by Monomer Addition without Termina- tion	336
3. Polymer Fractionation	339
References.	346

CHAPTER IX

MOLECULAR WEIGHT DISTRIBUTIONS IN NONLINEAR POLYMERS AND THE THEORY OF GELATION		347
1. Critical Conditions for the Formation of Infinite Networks		348
1a. Polyfunctional Condensation Polymerization		348
1b. Experimentally Observed Gel Points in Polyfunctional Con- densations.		354
1c. Cross-Linking of Polymer Chains		356
1d. General Conditions for the Formation of Infinite Networks		360
2. Molecular Distributions in Polyfunctional Condensations		361
2a. Special Case of Random Branching without Network For- mation.		361
2b. Molecular Size Distribution Obtained by Condensing A—R—B _{f-1} Monomers		365
2c. The Distribution in Ordinary Polyfunctional Condensations		370
2d. Post-Gelation Relationships		374
3. Molecular Distributions in Cross-Linked Systems		378
3a. Molecular Size Distributions		378
3b. The Partitioning of Components between Sol and Gel		379
4. Branching and Cross-Linking in Vinyl Addition Polymers		384
4a. Branching by Chain Transfer		384
4b. Cross-Linking in the Polymerization of Dienes		386
4c. Copolymerization of Divinyl with Monovinyl Monomers		391
5. Summary		392
Appendix A. Derivation of the Molecular Distribution for the Ran- dom Condensation of Bifunctional with Polyfunctional Monomers		393
Appendix B. The Complexity Distribution		395
References.		398

CHAPTER X

CONFIGURATION OF POLYMER CHAINS		399
1. Statistical Distribution of End-to-End Dimensions		402
1a. The Freely Jointed Chain in One Dimension		402
1b. The Freely Jointed Chain in Three Dimensions.		404
1c. The Distribution at High Extensions.		409
1d. Influence of Bond Angle Restrictions.		410
2. Calculation of Average Dimensions for Various Polymer Chain Structures.		414
2a. The Freely Rotating Polymethylene Chain		414
2b. Hindered Polymer Chains		415

2c. The Silicone Chain	420
2d. Cellulosic Chains	421
2e. Natural Rubber and Gutta-Percha	421
2f. Nonlinear Polymer Molecules	422
3. Configuration of Polymer Molecules in Dilute Solution	423
3a. Long-Range Intramolecular Interactions.	423
3b. The Unperturbed Polymer Chain	425
Appendix A. Derivation of the Gaussian Distribution for a Random Chain in One Dimension	426
Appendix B. Exact Treatment for the Freely Jointed Chain (or Equivalent Chain)	427
Appendix C. The Mean-Square Distance of a Chain Element from the Center of Mass	428
References.	431

CHAPTER XI

RUBBER ELASTICITY

	432
1. Thermodynamics of Rubber Elasticity	434
1a. Historical Background	434
1b. Thermodynamic Relationships	440
1c. The Results of Stress-Temperature Measurements	444
1d. The Ideal Rubber	450
1e. Natural Rubber at High Elongations.	451
2. The Structure of Vulcanized Rubber	454
2a. Vulcanization Processes	454
2b. Quantitative Characterization of Network Structures	458
3. The Statistical Theory of Rubber Elasticity	464
4. Experimental Stress-Strain Behavior of Vulcanized Rubbers at Moderate Elongations	470
4a. The Stress-Strain Curve	471
4b. The Force of Retraction in Relation to Network Structure	475
4c. Effects of Fillers in Rubber Vulcanizates	480
5. The Stress-Strain Curve at High Elongations	482
5a. Crystallinity and Tensile Strength	482
5b. Experimental Results on the Relationship between Tensile Strength and Network Structure	483
5c. Tensile Strength in Noncrystallizing Rubbers	488
Appendix A. The Force-Temperature Coefficient at Constant Elongation	489
Appendix B. Deformation of a Swollen Network.	492
References.	493

CHAPTER XII

STATISTICAL THERMODYNAMICS OF
POLYMER SOLUTIONS

	495
1. General Thermodynamic Relations for Polymer Solutions	497
1a. The Entropy of Mixing according to Liquid Lattice Theory	497
1b. Approximations and Limitations of the Lattice Treatment	503
1c. An Alternate Derivation	505
1d. The Heat and Free Energy of Mixing	507
1e. Partial Molar Quantities	511
1f. Experimental Results	514
2. Dilute Polymer Solutions	519
2a. Thermodynamic Interaction within a Region of Uniform Average Segment Concentration	520
2b. The Excluded Volume	523
2c. Thermodynamic Relations for Dilute Polymer Solutions	530
2d. Application to Experimental Data	534
Appendix. Integration of the Interaction Free Energy for a Pair of Molecules	539
References	539

CHAPTER XIII

PHASE EQUILIBRIA IN POLYMER SYSTEMS

1. Phase Equilibria in Liquid Systems	541
1a. Theory of Binary Systems	542
1b. Experimental Results on Binary Systems	546
1c. Ternary Systems Consisting of a Single Polymer Com- ponent in a Binary Solvent Mixture	548
1d. Ternary Systems Consisting of Two Polymeric Com- ponents in a Single Solvent.	554
1e. Theory of Polymer Fractionation	559
2. Phase Equilibria in Semicrystalline Systems	563
2a. The Nature of the Crystalline State in Polymers	563
2b. Theory of the Melting Point Depression	568
2c. Experimental Results	571
3. Swelling of Network Structures.	576
3a. Theory of Swelling	577
3b. Experimental Results on the Swelling of Nonionic Network Systems	581
3c. Swelling of Ionic Networks	584
Appendix A. Calculation of the Binodial in the Phase Diagram for the Two-Component System Comprising a Solvent and a Single Polymer Species	590
Appendix B. Donnan-Type Equilibria in Polyelectrolyte Gels	590
References.	593

CHAPTER XIV

CONFIGURATIONAL AND FRICTIONAL PROPERTIES OF
THE POLYMER MOLECULE IN DILUTE SOLUTION 595

1. Intramolecular Interactions and the Average Molecular Extension	596
2. Frictional Properties of the Polymer Molecule in Solution	602
2a. The Free-draining Molecule	602
2b. The Equivalent Sphere Model.	605
2c. Real Polymer Chains with Large Frictional Interactions	606
3. Treatment of Experimental Results: Intrinsic Viscosities of Non-ionic Polymers	611
3a. The Intrinsic Viscosity of the Theta Point and the Evaluation of K	612
3b. The Universal Parameter Φ ; Unperturbed Dimensions of Linear Polymers	616
3c. The Molecular Expansion Factor α and the General Dependence of Intrinsic Viscosity on Molecular Weight	620
3d. Intrinsic Viscosity-Temperature Relations and Thermodynamic Parameters.	622
4. Treatment of Experimental Results: Frictional Coefficients	626
5. Linear Polyelectrolytes	629
5a. General Characteristics.	629
5b. Intrinsic Viscosities of Polyelectrolytes	633
References.	657
GLOSSARY OF PRINCIPAL SYMBOLS	640
AUTHOR INDEX	653
SUBJECT INDEX	663

PRINCIPLES OF POLYMER CHEMISTRY

