

## Nuclear spin-lattice relaxation dispersion and segment diffusion in entangled polymers. Renormalized Rouse formalism

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### Abstract

A formalism for polymer melts was derived linking the spin-lattice relaxation time  $T_1$ , the correlation function of chain tangent vectors and the mean-square segment displacement with memory functions. Potential normal-mode number dependences are included. In the limit of infinitely fast decaying memory functions the theory reproduces known expressions characteristic for Rouse dynamics. Interchain excluded-volume forces were taken into account in the frame of the renormalized Rouse approach [K. S. Schweizer, J. Chem. Phys. 91, 5802 (1989)]. The power law limits predicted on this basis are  $T_1 \propto \omega^{-1/2}$ ,  $T_1 \propto \omega^{-1/4}$ , and  $T_1 \propto \omega^{-1/5}$  for the  $T_1$  dispersion in a sequence of regimes from high to low frequencies. The mean-square segment displacement obeys  $\langle r^2 \rangle \propto t^{1/4}$ ,  $\langle r^2 \rangle \propto t^{3/8}$ , and  $\langle r^2 \rangle \propto t^{2/5}$  in a sequence of limits for increasing times. The spin-lattice relaxation dispersion of different polymers was studied mainly by the aid of the field-cycling NMR technique. The covered proton frequency range is less than 103 Hz to more than 108 Hz. The frequency dependence can be described by a series of power laws arising from chain dynamics. Two of these, namely  $T_1 \propto \omega^{-0.5}$  and  $T_1 \propto \omega^{-0.25}$  tending to appear at high and low frequencies, respectively, can be perfectly explained on the basis of the derived renormalized Rouse limits. The third power law,  $T_1 \propto \omega^{-0.44}$ , which was observed only at rather low frequencies, has no theoretical counterpart in the frame of the renormalized Rouse theory. Some hints that farther reaching polymer theories such as the mode-mode coupling approach [K. S. Schweizer, J. Chem. Phys. 91, 5822 (1989)] can help to understand this finding are discussed. © 1994 American Institute of Physics.

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