Dynamical slowdown of polymers in laminar and random flow

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Single-polymer dynamics in flow



Smith, Babcock & Chu Science (1999)



DNA

maximum extension $L \approx 22 - 1300 \,\mu m$

equilibrium extension $R_0 \approx 1.8 - 15 \,\mu m$

Coil-stretch transition – extensional flow



Perkins, Smith & Chu Science (1997)

Smith, Babcock & Chu, Science (1999)

Weissenberg number

 $Wi = \gamma \tau$

Conformation hysteresis – *extensional flow*

Schroeder et al., Science (2003)

Escherichia Coli DNA ($L = 1300 \ \mu m$)



Coil-stretch transition – random flow



Groisman & Steinberg, Nature (2000)



Gerashchenko et al. *Europhys. Lett.* (2005)

Experimental measure of the relaxation time





Perkins et al., Science (1994)

 $R(t) \approx R_{\rm in} \exp(-t/\tau) + R_0$

Rouse model



Dumbbell model

Dumbbell model

$$d\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{R} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v}(t) dt - \frac{f(R)}{2\tau v(R)} \mathbf{R} dt + \sqrt{\frac{R_0^2}{\tau v(R)}} d\mathbf{W}(t)$$

$$\sqrt{2\zeta KT} \mathbf{w}_1 - k \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{R})$$

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$$\sqrt{2\zeta KT} \mathbf{w}_1 - \zeta [\dot{\mathbf{x}}_1 - \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x}_1, t)]$$

$$f(R) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{1 - R^2/L^2} & (\text{FENE}) \\ \frac{2}{3} - \frac{L}{6R} + \frac{L}{6R(1 - R/L)^2} & (\text{WLC}) \end{cases}$$

Dumbbell model

 $\boldsymbol{v}(x,y,z)=\gamma(x,-y,0)$



 $R \approx R_x$



 $\boldsymbol{v}(x,y,z)=\gamma(x,-y,0)$

Fokker–Planck equation for P(r, t') $(t' = t/\tau, r = R/L)$

 $\partial_{t'} P = \mathcal{L}_{FP} P \qquad \mathcal{L}_{FP} \cdot = -\partial_r (D_1(r) \cdot) + \partial_r D_2(r) \partial_r \cdot$ $D_1 = Wir - f(r)r/[2\nu(r)] \qquad D_2(r) = [2b\nu(r)]^{-1} \qquad b = L^2/R_0^2 \qquad Wi = \gamma\tau$

 $v(x, y, z) = \gamma(x, -y, 0)$



Fokker–Planck equation for P(r, t')

$$(t' = t/\tau, r = R/L)$$

 $\partial_{t'}P = \mathscr{L}_{\mathrm{FP}}P \qquad \mathscr{L}_{\mathrm{FP}} \cdot = -\partial_r(D_1(r) \cdot) + \partial_r D_2(r)\partial_r \cdot$ $D_1 = Wir - f(r)r/[2v(r)]$ $D_2(r) = [2bv(r)]^{-1}$ $b = L^2/R_0^2$ $Wi = \gamma \tau$

Stationary distribution

 $P_{\rm st}(r) = Ne^{-E(r)/KT}$ $E(r) = -KT \int^r D_1(\rho)/D_2(\rho) \, d\rho$

 $v(x, y, z) = \gamma(x, -y, 0)$



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Stationary distribution

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Relaxation time

$$P(r, t') = P_{st}(r) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n p_n(r) e^{-\sigma_n t'} \qquad (\sigma_n < \sigma_{n+1})$$

 $t_{\rm rel} \equiv \tau / \sigma_1$

Extensional flow – *relaxation time*



Extensional flow – *conformation hysteresis*

Schroeder et al., Science (2003)

Escherichia Coli DNA ($L = 1300 \mu m$)



Extensional flow – conformation hysteresis



Schroeder, Shaqfeh & Chu, Macromolecules (2004)



Hsieh & Larson, J. Rheol. (2005)

Smooth random flow

3D Batchelor-Kraichnan flow

$$\langle \partial_j v_i(t) \partial_k v_l(s) \rangle = \lambda C_{ijkl} \delta(t-s)$$

Fokker-Planck equation

$$\partial_{t'}P = -\partial_r(D_1(r)P) + \partial_r D_2(r)\partial_r P$$

$$D_{1}(r) = \frac{2}{3}Wir - f(r)r/[2\nu(r)] + [b\nu(r)r]^{-1} \qquad D_{2}(r) = [2b\nu(r)]^{-1} + \frac{1}{3}Wir^{2}$$
$$Wi = \lambda\tau \qquad b = L^{2}/R_{0}^{2}$$

Relaxation time

$$P(r,t') = P_{\rm st}(r) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n p_n(r) e^{-\sigma_n t'}$$

Random flow – *relaxation time*



PEO (▲, *b* = 1666)

PAM (■, *b* = 3953,)

E. Coli DNA (\triangle , b = 9250)

Random flow – *stationary pdf*



polyacrylamide (PAM), $b = L^2/R_0^2 = 3953$, $\zeta_s/\zeta_c = 6.87$

Random flow – *BD* simulations

Brun–Koch–Lion flow (Phys. Fluids, 1997)

$$\langle \partial_j v_i(t) \partial_k v_l(0) \rangle = S_{ijkl} \exp\left(-\frac{|t|}{T_S}\right) + R_{ijkl} \exp\left(-\frac{|t|}{T_R}\right)$$



 $T_S = 2.3 \tau_{\eta}, T_R = 7.2 \tau_{\eta}$

$$t_{\rm rel}^{-1} = -\lim_{t \to \infty} \ln[\langle r^2(t) \rangle - \langle r^2 \rangle_{\rm st}]$$

Conclusions

- τ is not the relevant time scale for coil–stretch processes
- no hysteresis in smooth random flows
- the conformation-dependent drag is a basic ingredient of continuum models of polymer solutions

FENE-P model



Dubief et al., J. Fluid Mech. (2004)

$$C_{ij} \equiv \overline{R_i R_j}$$
$$\partial_t C + v \cdot \nabla C = C \cdot \nabla v + (\nabla v)^{\mathrm{T}} \cdot C - \frac{1}{\tau} [\hat{f}(\mathrm{Tr} C)C - I]$$