

CONTENTS

PREFACE

vii

CHAPTER 1 BIOPOLYMERS

1

1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	Primary structures	4
1.2.1	Nucleic acid primary structure	4
1.2.2	Protein primary structure	6
1.2.3	Polysaccharide primary structures	9
1.3	Secondary structures	11
1.3.1	Secondary structures of nucleic acids	11
1.3.2	Secondary structures of proteins	14
1.3.3	Secondary structures of polysaccharides	17
1.4	Tertiary structure and stabilizing interactions	17
1.5	Questions	20

CHAPTER 2 POLYMER CONFORMATION

23

2.1	The ideal chain	23
2.2	The Kuhn chain	26
2.3	The worm-like chain	27
2.4	Excluded volume interactions	32
2.5	Confinement in a tube; introduction to scaling	34
2.6	Deflection in a narrow tube	36
2.7	Stars and radial brushes	38
2.8	Chains under traction	39
2.8.1	An ideal chain under small tension	40
2.8.2	Worm-like chain	40
2.8.3	Swollen chain	42
2.9	From the dilute to the semi-dilute regime	45
2.10	Chain statistics in the semi-dilute regime	49
2.11	Questions	51

CHAPTER 3	POLYELECTROLYTES	55
3.1	Counterion condensation	55
3.2	The electrostatic potential	61
3.3	Non-linear Poisson-Boltzmann theory	66
3.3.1	Polyelectrolytes in excess salt	66
3.3.2	Charge distribution in the cell model	69
3.4	The electrostatic persistence length	76
3.5	Electrostatic excluded volume	80
3.6	Flexible chains and electrostatic blobs	87
3.7	Spherical polyelectrolyte brushes	89
3.7.1	Spherical polyelectrolyte brush without salt	90
3.7.2	Salted spherical polyelectrolyte brush	94
3.8	Polyelectrolytes in the semi-dilute regime	99
3.8.1	Salt-free polyelectrolytes; a hierarchy of blobs	99
3.8.2	Salted polyelectrolytes	101
3.9	Questions	103
CHAPTER 4	POLYMER DYNAMICS	105
4.1	Single chain dynamics	105
4.2	Pulling a chain into a hole	111
4.3	Dynamics of non-entangled chains in the semi-dilute regime	114
4.4	Entangled polymer dynamics; reptation	117
4.5	Dynamic scaling of polyelectrolytes	121
4.5.1	Polyelectrolytes without salt	121
4.5.2	Salted polyelectrolytes	124
4.5.3	Comparison with experimental results	126
4.6	Gel electrophoresis	131
4.7	Questions	134
CHAPTER 5	HIGHER ORDER STRUCTURES AND THEIR TRANSITIONS	137
5.1	Supercoiled DNA	137
5.1.1	Topology	138
5.1.2	Molecular free energy	142
5.1.3	Long-range structure and branching	151
5.2	Alternate secondary DNA structures	155
5.2.1	B-Z transition	155
5.2.2	Cruciforms	159
5.3	Helix-coil transition	161
5.4	Protein folding	167
5.5	Questions	171

CHAPTER 6	MESOSCOPIC STRUCTURES	175
6.1	Lyotropic liquid crystals	175
6.1.1	Virial theory	177
6.1.2	Liquid crystalline orientation order	182
6.1.3	Isotropic-anisotropic phase coexistence	185
6.2	Hexagonal packing of DNA	190
6.2.1	Undulation enhanced electrostatic interaction	192
6.2.1	Melting of the hexagonal phase	196
6.2.2	DNA equation of state	198
6.3	Bacteriophage DNA packaging	201
6.4	Crowding and entropy driven interactions (depletion)	208
6.4.1	Entropic colloidal interactions in solutions of macromolecules	210
6.4.2	Phase separation of small particles in a polymer solution	215
6.5	Questions	220
APPENDIX A:	POISSON-BOLTZMANN THEORY FOR A MONOVALENT SALT	223
APPENDIX B:	SUMMARY OF SCALING LAWS	227
APPENDIX C:	LIST OF IMPORTANT SYMBOLS	229
RECOMMENDED READING		233
REFERENCES		235
INDEX		243