

Branched Polymers II

While books have been written on many topics of Polymer Science, no comprehensive treatise on long-chain branching has ever been composed. This series of reviews in Volume 142 and 143 of *Advances in Polymer Science* tries to fill this gap by highlighting active areas of research on branched polymers. Long-chain branching is a phenomenon observed in synthetic polymers and in some natural polysaccharides. It has long been recognized as a major molecular parameter of macromolecules. Its presence was first surmised by H. Staudinger and G. V. Schulz (Ber. 68, 2320, 1935). Interestingly, their method of identification by means of the abnormal relation between intrinsic viscosity and molecular weight has survived to this day. Indeed, the most sophisticated method for analysis of long-chain branching uses size exclusion fractionation with the simultaneous recording of mass, molecular weight and intrinsic viscosity of the fractions.

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