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excluded volume of a macromolecule

in polymers

The volume from which a macromolecule in a dilute solution of a macromolecule effectively excludes all other macromolecules. The excluded volume of a macromolecule depends on the Gibbs and Helmholtz energies of mixing of solvent and polymer, i.e. on the thermodynamic quality of the solvent, and is not a measure of the geometrical volume of that macromolecule.

Source:
Purple Book, p. 58

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