

main chain (backbone)

of a polymer

That linear chain to which all other chains, long or short or both, may be regarded as being pendant.

Note:

Where two or more chains could equally be considered to be the main chain, that one is selected which leads to the simplest representation of the molecule.

Source:

PAC, 1996, 68, 2287 (*Glossary of basic terms in polymer science (IUPAC Recommendations 1996)*) on page 2294