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- •Polymer Based Nanocomposites for Structural Applications
- •Polymer Based Nanocomposites for Thermal Applications
- •Polymer-Based Nanocomposites for Electrical Applications
- •Polymer-Based Nanocomposites for Magnetic Applications
- Polymer-Based Nanocomposites for Special Applications (thermoelectric, optical, photonic, ferroelectric, piezoelectric, and pyroelectric)
- •Ferroic Polymer-Based Nanocomposites

## **Polymer**

Polymer (from Greek  $\pi o\lambda \delta - \varsigma / po'li-s/much, many and \mu \epsilon po \varsigma / meros/part) is a large molecule (macromolecule) composed of repeating structural units typically connected by covalent chemical bonds.$ 







# **Most Important Scales in Polymers**





Angstrom =  $1\text{\AA} = 1/10,000,000,000 \text{ meter} = 10^{-10} \text{ m}$ Nanometer =  $10 \text{ nm} = 1/1,000,000,000 \text{ meter} = 10^{-9} \text{ m}$ 

Micrometer =  $1\mu m = 1/1,000,000$  meter =  $10^{-6}$  m

Millimeter =  $1 \text{ mm} = 1/1,000 \text{ meter} = 10^{-3} \text{ m}$ 

This figure shows the most important scales in polymers. The typical bond length of polymers is of the order of 0.1 nm. The persistence length defined as the average length of the macromolecular chain that behaves like a rigid unit (rod) is about 1 nm and The coil diameter of the polymer is frequently ranging between 10 and 100 nm.

# **Most Important Scales in Polymers**



# What is a Polymer ?

- •Each polymer molecule consists of linked basic units called monomers.
- •The number of monomers in a chain can be very large, from thousands to several millions.
- •The chains may be entangled like spaghetti (as above) or be ordered in crystalline formations.





•A Frisbee is a mixture of crystalline (ordered) and amorphous (disordered) polymer structures. This makes the material both strong and flexible

## What is a Polymer ?

- •Long polymeric chains: Size can be described by simple proportion ratios called scaling laws:
- When the number of monomers N is doubled, the size is increased by the scaling factor 2*v*.
- The exponent *v* is universal in the sense that it is the same for all polymer chains although it depends on the polymer concentration.
- The blob model is used to describe polymer solutions, crosslinked polymers (gels), polymer welds, interfaces, polymers at surfaces etc.
- v=1/2 for ideal random coil
  v=3/5 for self avoiding
  random coil
  v=1/3 for globules (chain collapse)
  like DNA



# What is a Polymer ?

- The snake-like (reptile-like) motion of an entangled polymer chain is explained by imaging that it is confined to a "tube" formed by adjacent chains.
- The **reptation time t**, the time needed for the chain to completely move out of the tube, can be obtained from simple scaling arguments.
- The reptation model leads to a smaller exponent (v= 3) than the measured one (v= 3.3) but it can nevertheless explain a number of phenomena and is very powerful in its simplicity.









## Semi-Crystalline Polymers

Semi-crystalline polymers have both crystalline and amorphous regions. Semicrystallinity is a desirable property for most plastics because they combine the strength of crystalline polymers with the flexibility of amorphous. Semicrystalline polymers can be tough with an ability to bend without breaking.



# Semi-Crystalline Polymers

Folded Chain Model of PE





Structural Nanomaterials

**Strong/Flexible/Light Films and Fabrics** 

**Conducting** Nanomaterials

Strong/Flexible/Light/Transparent Conducting Nnaomaterials
 Antistatic Coatings (Charging Effects)
 Electromagnetic/Radiation Shielding (Interference/Damage)

Magnetic Nanomaterials

ℜ Drug delivery

Add nanometer - sized nanoparticles to a polymeric matrix:

•1-dimensional nanofillers (platelets such as nanoclays)

•2-dimensional nanofillers (nanowires such as carbon nanotubes)

•3-dimensional nanoparticles (spherical or cubic nanoparticles such as perovskites, magnetite, barium ferrite)

- How to disperse the nanoparticles within the polymeric matrix?
- •Thermo-mechanical methods (extrusion)
- Melt processing
- Sonication in solution followed by solvent evaporation.
- Stirring/mixing components in solution followed by solvent evaporation.
- In situ polymerization

Polymer-Carbon Nanostructure Composites Carbon Nanotubes, Carbon Nanofibers, and Graphene have the tendency to agglomerate.

Difficult dispersion of carbon nanostructures in polymers

Solutions:

 Surface modification via chemical or physical functionalization
 Sonication

Most frequently used systems: •Polymer - carbon nanotubes/nanofibers •Polymer - nanoclay

#### **ASSUMPTIONS**

- A cube of polymer of side  $L_P$  and density  $\rho_P$
- A cube of filler of side  $L_F$  and density  $\rho_F$
- R A concentration  $C_F$  of the filler within the polymeric matrix.

$$m_P = \rho_P L_P^3$$

$$m_F = \rho_F L_F^3$$

$$C_F(\%) = \frac{m_F}{m_F + m_P} x100$$

$$C_{F}(\%) = \frac{\rho_{F}L_{F}^{3}}{\rho_{F}L_{F}^{3} + \rho_{P}L_{P}^{3}} x100$$

## $\rho_P C_F L_P^3 = \rho_F L_F^3 (100 - C_F)$

#### **ASSUMPTIONS**

- - Density of polymer and filler almost equal
  - Very low concentration regime: C<sub>F</sub>
  - A single cubic particle

$$\rho_{P}C_{F}L_{P}^{3} = \rho_{F}L_{F}^{3}(100 - C_{F})$$

$$\frac{L_F}{L_P} = \left[\frac{\rho_P C_F}{\rho_F (100 - C_F)}\right]^{1/3}$$

$$\frac{L_F}{L_P} = \left[\frac{\rho_P C_F}{\rho_F (100 - C_F)}\right]^{1/3}$$

$$L_F \approx L_P \left[ \frac{C_F}{(100 - C_F)} \right]^{1/3}$$

#### **ASSUMPTIONS**

\* Very low filler concentration
- C<sub>F</sub>=0.1 %
- POLYMER SIDE 1 m
- A single cube of filler with a side of 0.1 m

$$L_F \approx L_P \left[ \frac{C_F}{(100 - C_F)} \right]^{1/3}$$

$$L_F \approx L_P \left[\frac{0.1}{99.9}\right]^{1/3} \cong \frac{L_P}{10}$$

#### **ASSUMPTIONS**

$$m_F = N \rho_F x_F^3$$

$$C_{F} = \frac{N\rho_{F}x_{F}^{3}}{N\rho_{F}x_{F}^{3} + \rho_{P}L_{P}^{3}}x100$$

$$C_F \rho_P L_P^3 = N \rho_F x_F^3 (100 - C_F)$$

$$x_{F} = L_{P} \left[ \frac{C_{F} \rho_{P}}{N \rho_{F} (100 - C_{F})} \right]^{1/3}$$

#### **ASSUMPTIONS**

★ Filler consists of N identical cubes of side x<sub>F</sub>
★ Simplified model:

Density of polymer and filler almost equal.
C<sub>F</sub>=0.1 %

$$x_{F} = L_{P} \left[ \frac{C_{F} \rho_{P}}{N \rho_{F} (100 - C_{F})} \right]^{1/3}$$

$$x_F = L_P \left[ \frac{C_F}{N(100 - C_F)} \right]^{1/3}$$

$$x_F = L_P \left[\frac{.1}{99.9N}\right]^{1/3}$$

$$x_F = \frac{L_P}{10} \left[\frac{1}{N}\right]^{1/3}$$

#### **ASSUMPTIONS**



- POLYMER SIDE 1 m
- Filler side  $1mm \rightarrow N=10^6$
- Filler side 1 micron  $\rightarrow N=10^{15}$
- Filler side 1 nm  $\rightarrow N=10^{24}$



# The Polymer Composite Cube Interface thickness $\xi$

$$m_{I} = \rho_{P}[(x_{F} + \xi)^{3} - x_{F}^{3}] = 3\rho_{P}x_{F}\xi(x_{F} + \xi)$$

– Interface mass m<sub>I</sub>

$$m_I = 3\rho_P x_F^2 \xi$$

Assumption x>> ξ
 Mass fraction of the polymer in the interface

$$f_{I} = \frac{m_{I}}{m_{P}} = \frac{m_{I}m_{F}(m_{P} + m_{F})}{m_{P}m_{F}(m_{P} + m_{F})} = \frac{m_{I}C_{F}(m_{P} + m_{F})}{100m_{P}m_{F}}$$

# The Polymer Composite Cube Mass of the filler very small

$$f_I = \frac{m_I C_F (m_P + m_F)}{100 m_P m_F} \approx \frac{m_I C_F}{100 m_F}$$



Mass fraction of the polymer in the interface

 $f_I$ 

$$f_{I} \approx \frac{m_{I}C_{F}}{100m_{F}} = \frac{3\rho_{P}x_{F}^{2}\xi C_{F}}{100\rho_{F}x_{F}^{3}}$$
$$= \frac{3\rho_{P}\xi C_{F}}{100\rho_{F}}$$

Maxim value of f is 1. At f=1 is obtained

Density of filler and polymer almost equal

$$f_I = \frac{3\rho_P \xi C_F}{100\rho_F x_F} = 1$$

$$C_F = \frac{100}{3} \frac{\rho_F}{\rho_P} \frac{x_F}{\xi}$$

$$C_F = \frac{100}{3} \frac{x_F}{\xi}$$

For  $x_F = 1nm$  and  $C_F = 0.33$  % For  $x_F = 3nm$  and  $C_F = 1.00$  % For  $x_F = 30nm$  and  $C_F = 10$  % For  $x_F = 300$  nm and  $C_F = 100$  %



- **\*** Attractive Interactions
  - Specific volume decreases
  - Overall density increases
  - Packing density increases
  - Glass transition temperature shifted upwards
  - Degree of crystallization increased
- **\* Repulsve Interactions** 
  - Specific volume increases
  - Overall density decreases
  - Packing density decreases
  - Glass transition temperature shifted downwards
  - Degree of crystallization decreased

# **Polymer – Based Nanocomposites for Structural Applications**

Most frequently used systems: •Polymer - carbon nanotubes/nanofibers •Polymer - nanoclay

# **Polymer – Based Nanocomposites for Thermal Applications**



## **Thermal Degradation in Nitrogen: PP-CNF**



M. D. Chipara, K. Lozano, A. Hernandez, M. Chipara, TGA analysis of polypropylene-carbon nanofibers composites, Polymer Degradation and Stability, 93(4):871-876, 2008.

# **Thermal Degradation in Nitrogen: PP-CNF**



M. D. Chipara, K. Lozano, A. Hernandez, M. Chipara, TGA analysis of polypropylene-carbon nanofibers composites, Polymer Degradation and Stability, 93(4):871-876, 2008.



### **Crystallization Kinetics: PE-MWNTs**



A. R. Adhikari, K. Lozano, M. Chipara, Nonisothermal crystallization kinetics of polyethylene-/carbon nanofiber composites Submitted to e-polymer
# Carbon Nanotubes: Mechanical Strength Tensile Strength



# Modeling the Mechanical Properties



# Modeling the Mechanical Properties



Phys Rev Lett 2000, 84, 5552-5555

F = U -TS

$$f = \left[\frac{\partial F}{\partial l}\right]_{V,T} = \left[\frac{\partial U}{\partial l}\right]_{V,T} - T\left[\frac{\partial S}{\partial l}\right]_{V,T}$$

Polymer

(Rubber)

Carbon Nanotubes Internal Energy Change Entropy Change

# **Polymer-Carbon Nanotubes Composites**



# Nanotube/Polymer Interface



Phys Rev Lett 2000, 84, 5552-5555

# Mechanical Properties :HDPE- VGCNF



# **VGCNF** Orientation in HDPE- VGCNF



M. Chipara, K. Lozano, M. D. Chipara, On the assessment of the orientation of carbon nanofibers dispersed within polyethylene by electron spin resonance spectroscopy, Carbon, 45(13): 2698-2701, 2007.

# **SIS** – MWNT: Effect of MWNT on $T_G^{PI}$



\* Doping splits and shifts the  $T_G$  of the soft phase (isoprene)

#### **SIS – MWNT: SIS/MWNT Interactions**



\* Doping affects the  $T_G$  of the soft phase (isoprene)



\* Doping affects the  $T_G$  of the hard phase (styrene)

# Mechanical Properties :HDPE- VGCNF

•Montmorillonite is hydrophilic

Most polymers are organophilic and water immiscible

Difficult dispersion of nanoclays in polymers

Solutions: Surface modification. In situ polymerization. (exfoliation and intercalation)

#### **Microphase Separation**



Macroscopic phase separation is prevented by the covalent bond between the blocks.



Order-Disorder Transition



Creation of an interphase boundary region

Microphase separation takes place on the nanometer scale.

#### **Phase Diagram**



Diblock copolymer (polystyrene – polyisoprene)

f<sub>s</sub>

# Schematic of the future technology for ultra high magnetic data media, based on self-assembly capabilities

#### CONTROLLED DISPERSION OF MAGNETIC NANOPARTICLES INTO A SELF ORGANIZED BLOCK COPOLYMER

#### MAGNETIC NANOPARTICLES



Diblock copolymer (polystyrene – polyisoprene)

# **Polymer-Based Nanocomposites for Electrical Applications**



# **Magnetic Properties of Nanoparticles**



#### **Particle diameter**

#### **PPY-Fe** Nanocomposites



M. Chipara M, R. Skomski, D. J. Sellmyer, Electrodeposition and Magnetic Properties of Polypyrrole – Fe Nanocomposites, Materials Letters, 61 (11-12): 2412-2415, 2007.

### **BaFe-SBS:** Self-Healing Features



M. Chipara, D. Hui, J. Sankar, D. Leslie-Pelecky, A. Bender, L. Yue, R. Skomski, D. J. Sellmyer, On styrene–butadiene–styrene–barium ferrite nanocomposites, Composites B, 35, 3, 235-243, 2004.

N. Ali, M. Chipara, S. Balascuta, R. Skomski, D. J. Sellmyer, Magnetic Properties of Barium Ferrite Dispersed Within Polystyrene-Butadiene-Styrene Block Copolymers, JOURNAL OF NANOSCIENCE AND NANOTECHNOLOGY, 9, 6, 3678-3683 (2009)

### **Barium Ferrite SBS**



The temperature dependence of the coercive field and of the resonance linewidth are different in a cement and in a block copolymer

N. Ali, M. Chipara, S. Balascuta, R. Skomski, D. J. Sellmyer, Magnetic Properties of Barium Ferrite Dispersed Within Polystyrene-Butadiene-Styrene Block Copolymers, JOURNAL OF NANOSCIENCE AND NANOTECHNOLOGY, 9, 6, 3678-3683 (2009)

### **PANI-PE Composite for NIR Behavior**

**\*** Correlation of S, Electrical Conductivity, and Tensile Strength



### **Polymer- Based Nanocomposite Materials**

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Dr. R. Alexandrescu

Dr., S. V. Nistor Dr. I. Morjan Dr. S. Aldica

### **UHMWPE-SWNT: ESR Spectra**



**ESR** signals from catalyst and carbon nanotubes

#### **PC-CNF: ESR Spectra**



Thermo-oxidative degradation of polymer during sample

## **CNF: ESR Spectrum**

#### \* ESR Signal (orange) and simulated spectrum (light blue) of CNF



**\*** Reconvolution with single Dysonian and Lorentzian components

# **Barium ferrite – SBS Magnetic and Superparamagnetic Features**



N. Ali, M. Chipara, S. Balascuta, R. Skomski, D. J. Sellmyer, Magnetic Properties of Barium Ferrite Dispersed Within Polystyrene-Butadiene-Styrene Block Copolymers, JOURNAL OF NANOSCIENCE AND NANOTECHNOLOGY, 9, 6, 3678-3683 (2009)

# **Barium ferrite – SIS Morphology**

#### **\*** AFM Images of Polymer and Nanocomposite

SIS Block Copolymer Ba-Ferrite (10%) – SIS Composite





Potential magnetic storage assembly

# SIS - Titanium Doped Gamma Iron Oxides

#### TEM of titanium doped iron nanoparticles

Particle Size





Small Angle Electron Diffraction

# SIS - Ti doped Iron Oxides: HR-TEM $\gamma Fe_2O_3$ (5.2 Å) Ti- $\gamma Fe_2O_3$ (4.9 Å) X-Ray [ $\beta FeO(OH)$ ] (3.3 Å) Ti[ $\beta FeO(OH)$ ] (3.3 Å)



**\*** *HR-TEM confirms doping and crystalline iron oxide formation* 

J. Poly. Sci., B: Poly. Phys. 2005, 43, 3432-3437

### FMR of SIS – Ti Doped Iron Oxides

#### **\*** FMR Spectra at Various Temperatures



\* Dependence of  $H_R$  and  $H_{PP}$  on Temperature (Thermal Activation)



### Magnetism of SIS – Ti Doped Iron Oxides

#### \* Hysteresis Loops at Various Temperatures (Ferromagnetic)



### Magnetism of SIS – Ti Doped Iron Oxides

**※** 5 K Hysteresis Loop and dM/dH



Magnetic Field (Oe)

# **Temperature Dependence of Magnetization**

SIS-Ti Doped [FeO]



\* Magnetization behavior controlled by  $T_G^{PI}$ 

### **Oriented Nanoclusters: FMR FePt on PI**



Angular dependence of FMR reflects shape anisotropy

#### **Composite P3HT- Irradiated SWNT: Raman Data**



# Carbon Nanotubes





Chiral vector is defined on the hexagonal lattice as  $Ch = n\hat{a}_1 + m\hat{a}_2$ , where  $\hat{a}_1$  and  $\hat{a}_2$  are unit vectors, n and m are integers.

Modulus Tensile Strength		~1000 GPa (SWCNT) ~1200 GPa (MWCNT) ~ 100 GPa		Carbon Nanotubes		
Th erm al		2000 W/m/K				
Conductivity						
D en sity		1300 –1400 kg/cm <sup>3</sup>				
Length		up to microns				
		Material		Young modulus [MPa]	Density [kgm <sup>-3</sup> ]	Specific stiffness [MPam <sup>3</sup> kg <sup>-1</sup> ]
	Single wall nanotube		1	,000,000	1,500,000	0.67
43		340 Steel Q+T		207,000	7,800,000	0.026
	7075 Aluminium			6,900	2,800,000	0.0025
		C fiber (from PAN)		2,500	230,000	0.0109
	8	Spectra 1000 (UHMWPE)		172,000	970,000	0.177
		Kevlar 149		186,000	1,440,000	0.13
# **Carbon Nanotubes:** Mechanical Deformations



### **ESR Profile of Non-Annealed CNT**

Wide line: Ferromagnetic impurities

Narrow line: Paramagnetic impurities

Broad asymmetric line: Conduction electrons of nanotubes

### **ESR** on Carbon Nanotubes: Line Position

\* Spin-Orbit Coupling (Dependent Upon Fermi Level)

$$g = g_{th} + \frac{\lambda}{\Delta E}$$

\* Orientation of CNT with  $H_o$  (Anisotropy of g-Value)

$$g_{av} = \sqrt{(g_{\parallel}\cos\theta)^2 + (g_{\perp}\sin\theta)^2} \approx g_{\parallel} + (g_{\perp} - g_{\parallel})\sin^2\theta$$

### **ESR of Conducting Samples**

#### \* Distortion of ESR spectra due to skin effect



### Nanotube Spin Temperature Dependence

**\*** Double integral (S) of EPR Line is related to the spin susceptibility

\* S for the resonance line should be temperature independent (Pauli)

**\*** Curie dependence associated with paramagnetic impurities

$$S \propto \chi = \chi_{Pauli} + \chi_{Curie}(T) \equiv \beta^2 N(E_F) + g\beta^2 \frac{J(J+1)}{3K_B T}$$

where  $N(E_F)$  is the density of states at the Fermi level, J is the total angular momentum and  $K_B$  is the Boltzmann constant

*Appl. Phys.* **1998** A 67, 23–27

*Phys.* Rev. B **2000** A 62, 17115–17119

# **Epoxy-MWNT:** Temp Dependence of S

\* Temperature Dependence of S



**\*** Temperature dependence of S controlled by conducting electrons

# **ESR** on CNT: Temp Dependence of $H_{pp}$

\* The Temperature Dependence of the Linewidth,  $H_{PP}$ 

 $C_{1}T^{m} \quad C < C_{p} \quad \text{``Localized Electrons''}$  $H_{pp}(T) = H_{pp}^{0} + f(T) = C_{2}\sigma(T) \quad C \ge C_{p} \quad \text{``Delocalized Electrons''}$ 

where  $H_{PP}^{o}$ ,  $C_1$ , and  $C_2$  are constants;  $\sigma$  is the electrical conductivity and  $C_P$  is the percolation threshold for electrical conductivity

**Exponent Values of m (m=0, m=-1/2, and m=3) have been reported** 

*Phys. Rev. B* **1997**, *56*, 9275-9278

Chem. Phys. Lett. 1999, 299, 532-535

