characteristic ratio (in polymers)
The ratio of the mean-square end-to-end distance, $\langle r^2 \rangle_0$, of a linear polymer chain in a theta state to $N \cdot L^2$, where N is the number of rigid sections in the main chain, each of length L; if all of the rigid sections are not of equal length, the mean-square value of L is used, i.e.

$$L^2 = \sum_i \overline{L_i^2} \; / N$$

In simple single-strand chains, the bonds are taken as the rigid sections. The recommended symbol is: C_N (C_∞ when $N \rightarrow \infty$).
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