

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.

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