Research Team

Soft condensed mater and the physics of macromolecular systems

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Team members

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Research Direction

The team is oriented on the experimental and theoretical study of the so called soft condensed mater media, such as complex fluids, first of all the suspensions of macromolecules and various types of nanoparticles.

The Importance and Benefits of Research

The main aim is the study of phenomena, which contradict to existing models in the physics of condensed mater. The team tries to explain various anomalous observations in suspensions – disordered systems of micro- and nanoparticles, such as the Brownian tracers, synthetic and biological macromolecules. Unusual displays of these systems are experimentally investigated mainly by the rheometry methods, and theoretically described using the methods of statistical physics. The goal is to contribute to the creation of adequate phenomenological and microscopic models, and thus to a better understanding of the studied complex systems.

Solving Current problems

At present, the team is oriented to the study of physical systems with nonmarkovian dynamics, first of all the polymeric liquids. The description of such systems comes from the theory of the Brownian motion with memory. Efficient methods have been developed to solve generalized Langevin equations for stochastic dynamics of particles. The thermal noise driving the particles has been characterized and its influence on the tiny forces acting at micro- and nanoscales has been determined. An attention is given to the dynamics of long polymer chains and to the memory effects of the hydrodynamic and visco-elastic character on macroscopic properties of the macromolecular solutions. Among important outputs a generalization of the so called bead-spring models can be mentioned. A new description of the behaviour of polymer coils at short times has been proposed and the existence of long-

time tails in the correlation functions of the coils was predicted. The calculations of the internal viscosity of polymer solutions are in a good agreement with experiments conducted in collaboration with IEP SAS in Košice.

Current Projects

Anomalous Brownian motion, grant VEGA No. 1/0370/12 Anomalous properties of suspensions of nanoparticles and polymers, grant VEGA 1/0348/15

Cooperation with Academic Institutions and Industry

Institute of Experimental Physics, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Košice, Slovakia; Faculty of Science, P. J. Šafárik University in Košice, Slovakia; Laboratory of Radiation Biology, Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russian Federation

Selected Publication

TÓTHOVÁ, Jana - LISÝ, Vladimír: Unusual Brownian motion. In: Statistical Mechanics and Random Walks: Principles, Processes and Applications. - New York: Nova Science Publishers, 2012 P. 39-63. - ISBN 978-1-61470-966-4

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