

Solution 2
28/09/2017

An “Almost” Freely Jointed Chain

1.

$$\langle \vec{R}_{gyr}^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{(n+1)^2} \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=i}^n \langle (\vec{R}_i - \vec{R}_j)^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{(n+1)^2} \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=i}^n \langle \left(\sum_{k=i+1}^j \vec{r}_k \right)^2 \rangle$$

The last term $\langle \left(\sum_{k=i+1}^j \vec{r}_k \right)^2 \rangle$ corresponds to the average end-to-end distance $\langle R_{end}^2 \rangle$ of a freely jointed chain of size $j - i$:

$$\langle \left(\sum_{k=i+1}^j \vec{r}_k \right)^2 \rangle = (j - i) l^2$$

Therefore :

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \vec{R}_{gyr}^2 \rangle &= \frac{l^2}{(n+1)^2} \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=i}^n (j - i) \\ &\stackrel{j-i \rightarrow j}{=} \frac{l^2}{(n+1)^2} \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^{n-i} j \\ &= \frac{l^2}{(n+1)^2} \sum_{i=0}^n \frac{(n-i)(n-i+1)}{2}; \\ &\stackrel{n-i \rightarrow i}{=} \frac{l^2}{2 \cdot (n+1)^2} \sum_{i=0}^n i(i+1) \\ &= \frac{l^2}{6} \frac{n(n+2)}{n+1} \\ &\stackrel{n \gg 1}{\approx} \frac{l^2 \cdot n}{6} \end{aligned}$$

2.

First note that

$$\langle \vec{r}_{i-1} \cdot \vec{r}_i \rangle = \langle l^2 \cos(\theta_{i-1,i}) \rangle = l^2 \langle \cos(\theta_{i-1,i}) \rangle.$$

Imagine the plane perpendicular to the direction of \vec{r}_{i-1} . All positions of \vec{r}_i in the upper half space ($\theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$) are equally distributed so:

$$\langle \cos \theta \rangle_{\theta < \frac{\pi}{2}} = \frac{\int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin \theta d\theta \cos \theta}{\int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin \theta d\theta} = \frac{1}{2},$$

and similarly $\langle \cos \theta \rangle_{\theta > \frac{\pi}{2}} = -\frac{1}{2}$.

Finally,

$$\langle \cos \theta \rangle = \left(\frac{1}{2} + \epsilon \right) \langle \cos \theta \rangle_{\theta < \frac{\pi}{2}} + \left(\frac{1}{2} - \epsilon \right) \langle \cos \theta \rangle_{\theta > \frac{\pi}{2}} = \epsilon .$$

We now calculate

$$\langle \vec{r}_{i-1} \cdot \vec{r}_{i+1} \rangle = l^2 \langle \cos(\theta_{i-1,i+1}) \rangle .$$

We don't know directly the probability distribution for this, but we can imagine that the existing correlations $\langle \vec{r}_{i-1} \cdot \vec{r}_i \rangle \neq 0$ and $\langle \vec{r}_i \cdot \vec{r}_{i+1} \rangle \neq 0$ will result in a correlation between bonds two steps aside along the chain and in general between all pairs of bonds.

Let's consider bonds of unitary length or define $\vec{n}_i \equiv \frac{\vec{r}_i}{l}$, so $\langle \cos \theta_{i-1,i+1} \rangle = \langle \vec{n}_{i-1} \cdot \vec{n}_{i+1} \rangle$. Now decompose \vec{n}_{i+1} on the orthogonal basis formed by \vec{n}_i and two suitable vectors \vec{o}_1, \vec{o}_2 :

$$\vec{n}_{i+1} = \vec{n}_i (\vec{n}_i \cdot \vec{n}_{i+1}) + \vec{o}_1 (\vec{o}_1 \cdot \vec{n}_{i+1}) + \vec{o}_2 (\vec{o}_2 \cdot \vec{n}_{i+1}) .$$

By making use of such a basis, we can compute the desired correlation:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \vec{n}_{i-1} \cdot \vec{n}_{i+1} \rangle &= \langle (\vec{n}_{i-1} \cdot \vec{n}_i) (\vec{n}_i \cdot \vec{n}_{i+1}) \rangle + \langle (\vec{n}_{i-1} \cdot \vec{o}_1) (\vec{o}_1 \cdot \vec{n}_{i+1}) \rangle + \langle (\vec{n}_{i-1} \cdot \vec{o}_2) (\vec{o}_2 \cdot \vec{n}_{i+1}) \rangle \\ &= \langle (\vec{n}_{i-1} \cdot \vec{n}_i) \rangle \langle (\vec{n}_i \cdot \vec{n}_{i+1}) \rangle + 0 + 0 \\ &= \epsilon^2 . \end{aligned}$$

Two comments:

- the probabilities for distinct bond angles can be factorized because they are independent, so for example $\langle (\vec{n}_{i-1} \cdot \vec{o}_1) (\vec{o}_1 \cdot \vec{n}_{i+1}) \rangle = \langle (\vec{n}_{i-1} \cdot \vec{o}_1) \rangle \langle (\vec{o}_1 \cdot \vec{n}_{i+1}) \rangle$;
- *in the case in exam* the projections as e.g. $\vec{o}_1 \cdot \vec{n}_{i+1}$ on directions orthogonal to the previous bond have zero mean. Let's see it directly. Let Θ be the angle between \vec{o}_1 and \vec{n}_{i+1} , and Φ the torsion angle of \vec{n}_{i+1} around \vec{o}_1 . The *upper half space*, i.e. the one with probability p_+ , is now described by $\Phi \in [0, \pi]$ (instead of $\theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$ when considering \vec{n}_{i+1} and \vec{n}_i). So

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \vec{o}_1 \cdot \vec{n}_{i+1} \rangle &= \langle \cos \Theta \rangle \\ &= p_+ \int_0^\pi d\Phi \int_0^\pi \sin \Theta d\Theta \cos \Theta + p_- \int_\pi^{2\pi} d\Phi \int_0^\pi \sin \Theta d\Theta \cos \Theta \\ &= p_+ \pi \cdot 0 + p_- \pi \cdot 0 \\ &= 0 . \end{aligned}$$

The former result can be generalized by iterating the argument we just used. As a result, there is a net "propagation" of a correlation of magnitude ϵ along the backbone, so that we obtain

$$\langle \vec{r}_i \cdot \vec{r}_j \rangle = l^2 \epsilon^{|i-j|} .$$

As an example consider the case $j = i + 3$, so that $\langle n_i \cdot n_j \rangle = \langle n_i \cdot n_{i+3} \rangle$. We write recursively:

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{n}_{i+3} &= \vec{n}_{i+2} (\vec{n}_{i+2} \cdot \vec{n}_{i+3}) + \text{terms whose average is zero} \\ \vec{n}_{i+2} &= \vec{n}_{i+1} (\vec{n}_{i+1} \cdot \vec{n}_{i+2}) + \text{terms whose average is zero} \\ \vec{n}_{i+1} &= \vec{n}_i (\vec{n}_i \cdot \vec{n}_{i+1}) + \text{terms whose average is zero.} \end{aligned}$$

Finally:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle n_i \cdot n_{i+3} \rangle &= \langle n_i \cdot n_{i+2} (\vec{n}_{i+2} \cdot \vec{n}_{i+3}) \rangle \\ &= \langle n_i \cdot n_{i+1} (\vec{n}_{i+1} \cdot \vec{n}_{i+2}) (\vec{n}_{i+2} \cdot \vec{n}_{i+3}) \rangle \\ &= \langle n_i \cdot n_i (\vec{n}_i \cdot \vec{n}_{i+1}) (\vec{n}_{i+1} \cdot \vec{n}_{i+2}) (\vec{n}_{i+2} \cdot \vec{n}_{i+3}) \rangle \\ &= \langle \vec{n}_i \cdot \vec{n}_{i+1} \rangle \langle \vec{n}_{i+1} \cdot \vec{n}_{i+2} \rangle \langle \vec{n}_{i+2} \cdot \vec{n}_{i+3} \rangle \\ &= \epsilon^3 \end{aligned}$$

3.

Mean-square end-to-end distance:

$$\begin{aligned}\langle R_{end}^2 \rangle &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \langle \vec{r}_i \cdot \vec{r}_j \rangle \\ &= l^2 \sum_{i=1}^n \left[\sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \epsilon^{i-j} + 1 + \sum_{j=i+1}^n \epsilon^{j-i} \right] \\ &= l^2 \sum_{i=1}^n \left[\frac{\epsilon - \epsilon^i}{1 - \epsilon} + 1 + \frac{\epsilon - \epsilon^{n-i+1}}{1 - \epsilon} \right] \\ &= l^2 \sum_{i=1}^n \left[1 + 2 \frac{\epsilon}{1 - \epsilon} - \frac{\epsilon^i}{1 - \epsilon} - \frac{\epsilon^{n-i+1}}{1 - \epsilon} \right] \\ &= l^2 n \left(1 + 2 \frac{\epsilon}{1 - \epsilon} \right) - l^2 2 \frac{\epsilon - \epsilon^{n+1}}{(1 - \epsilon)^2} \\ &\approx l^2 n \frac{1 + \epsilon}{1 - \epsilon},\end{aligned}$$

where the last approximation neglects terms of order 1 (not proportional to n).

Note that this is a result similar to the *freely rotating chain* with $\cos \theta = \epsilon$, with a restriction: $\epsilon < \frac{1}{2}$ which corresponds to $\theta > 60^\circ$.

Mean-square Radius of gyration

NOTE: \vec{R}_i is the vector position of the $n + 1$ monomers ($i = 0 \dots n$), while \vec{r}_i is the bond vector linking monomer $i - 1$ with monomer i (i.e. $\vec{r}_i = \vec{R}_i - \vec{R}_{i-1}$).

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle R_{gyr}^2 \rangle &= \frac{1}{(n+1)^2} \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=i}^n \langle (\vec{R}_i - \vec{R}_j)^2 \rangle \\
&= \frac{1}{(n+1)^2} \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=i+1}^n \left\langle \left(\sum_{k=1}^{j-i} \vec{r}_{i+k} \right)^2 \right\rangle \\
&= \frac{1}{(n+1)^2} \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=i+1}^n \left((j-i)l^2 + 2((j-i)-1)\langle \vec{r}_i \vec{r}_{i+1} \rangle + \dots + 2\langle \vec{r}_i \vec{r}_j \rangle \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{(n+1)^2} \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{m=1}^{n-i} l^2 \left[m + 2 \sum_{k=1}^{m-1} (m-k)\epsilon^k \right] \\
&= \frac{l^2}{(n+1)^2} \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{m=1}^{n-i} \left[m + 2 \left(m\epsilon \frac{1-\epsilon^{m-1}}{1-\epsilon} - \epsilon \frac{d}{d\epsilon} \frac{\epsilon - \epsilon^m}{1-\epsilon} \right) \right] \\
&= \frac{l^2}{(n+1)^2} \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{m=1}^{n-i} \left[m + 2 \left(m\epsilon \frac{1-\epsilon^{m-1}}{1-\epsilon} - \epsilon \left(\frac{1-m\epsilon^{m-1}}{1-\epsilon} + \frac{\epsilon - \epsilon^m}{(1-\epsilon)^2} \right) \right) \right] \\
&= \frac{l^2}{(n+1)^2} \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{m=1}^{n-i} \left[m + 2 \frac{\epsilon}{1-\epsilon} \left(m - 1 - \frac{\epsilon}{1-\epsilon} + \frac{\epsilon^m}{1-\epsilon} \right) \right] \\
&= \frac{l^2}{(n+1)^2} \frac{n(n+1)(n+2)}{6} \left(1 + 2 \frac{\epsilon}{1-\epsilon} \right) \\
&\quad + \frac{l^2}{(n+1)^2} \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{m=1}^{n-i} 2 \frac{\epsilon}{1-\epsilon} \left(-1 - \frac{\epsilon}{1-\epsilon} + \frac{\epsilon^m}{1-\epsilon} \right) \\
&= \frac{l^2}{6} \frac{n(n+2)}{n+1} \left(\frac{1+\epsilon}{1-\epsilon} \right) + o(1) \\
&\approx \frac{1}{6} l^2 n \frac{1+\epsilon}{1-\epsilon}.
\end{aligned}$$

Have you noticed that $(\vec{R}_i - \vec{R}_j)$ is the end-to-end distance of a polymer with $|j - i + 1|$ monomers? This suggests an alternative way of computing $\langle R_{gyr}^2 \rangle$:

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle R_{gyr}^2 \rangle &= \frac{1}{(n+1)^2} \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=i}^n \left[l^2(j-i) \left(\frac{1+\epsilon}{1-\epsilon} \right) - 2l^2 \frac{\epsilon - \epsilon^{j-i+1}}{(1-\epsilon)^2} \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{(n+1)^2} \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=i}^n \left[l^2(j-i) \left(\frac{1+\epsilon}{1-\epsilon} \right) \right] + o(1) \\
&= \frac{1}{(n+1)^2} l^2 \left(\frac{1+\epsilon}{1-\epsilon} \right) \sum_{i=0}^n \frac{(n-i)(n-i+1)}{2} + o(1) \\
&= \frac{1}{(n+1)^2} l^2 \left(\frac{1+\epsilon}{1-\epsilon} \right) \frac{n(n+1)(n+2)}{6} + o(1) \\
&\approx \frac{1}{6} l^2 n \frac{1+\epsilon}{1-\epsilon}.
\end{aligned}$$

Bonus: proof of identity (1)

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{(n+1)^2} \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^n (\vec{R}_i - \vec{R}_j)^2 &= \frac{1}{(n+1)^2} \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^n [(\vec{R}_i - \vec{R}_{cm}) - (\vec{R}_j - \vec{R}_{cm})]^2 \\
&= \frac{1}{(n+1)^2} \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^n [(\vec{R}_i - \vec{R}_{cm})^2 - 2(\vec{R}_i - \vec{R}_{cm})(\vec{R}_j - \vec{R}_{cm}) + (\vec{R}_j - \vec{R}_{cm})^2] \\
&= \frac{2}{n+1} \sum_{i=0}^n (\vec{R}_i - \vec{R}_{cm})^2 - \frac{2}{(n+1)^2} \sum_{i=0}^n (\vec{R}_i - \vec{R}_{cm}) \sum_{j=0}^n (\vec{R}_j - \vec{R}_{cm}) \\
&= \frac{2}{n+1} \sum_{i=0}^n (\vec{R}_i - \vec{R}_{cm})^2
\end{aligned}$$

The final result can be obtained by noticing that

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{i=0}^n (\vec{R}_i - \vec{R}_{cm})^2 &= \frac{1}{2(n+1)^2} \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^n (\vec{R}_i - \vec{R}_j)^2 \\
&= \frac{1}{(n+1)^2} \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=i}^n (\vec{R}_i - \vec{R}_j)^2 \\
&= \frac{1}{(n+1)^2} \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=i+1}^n (\vec{R}_i - \vec{R}_j)^2.
\end{aligned}$$

The last equality is justified by the fact that if $i = j$ then $(\vec{R}_i - \vec{R}_j)^2 = 0$.