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The Packing Length In effect,  $p$  can be likened to the molecular diameter of the repeat unit in a polymer chain. A mental picture of the meaning of  $p$  can be gained in the following way. The packing length, as noted, is defined as

$$p = \frac{M}{\langle R^2 \rangle_0 \rho N_a}$$

Equation (1A) can also be expressed in terms of Flory's characteristic ratio as

The average volume of a chain per bond is given as

Thus, the packing length can be expressed as

The parameter  $V$ , where  $h$  represents the diameter of a cylinder of length  $l$  swept out by the chain repeat unit.

Thus,

where the product  $Cl$  is the Kuhn step length  $l$ . One can thus think of a chain as being made up of freely jointed rods of length  $l = C$  and diameter  $h$ . The packing length is thus proportional to the ratio of the cross-sectional area to the length of each rod. Hence, the smaller  $h$  is with respect to the skinnier the chain and the smaller  $p$  and  $V$