



Sandia
National
Laboratories

A perspective on statistical physics in constitutive modeling



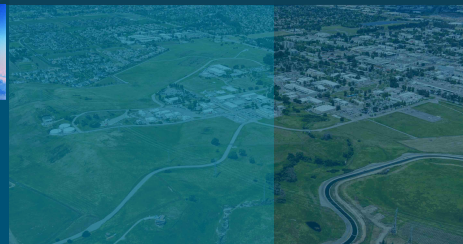
APS March Meeting 2024 – Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

Presented by:

Michael R. Buche^{1,*} 

¹Sandia National Laboratories

*mrbuch@sandia.gov



Sandia National Laboratories is a multimission laboratory managed and operated by National Technology and Engineering Solutions of Sandia LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Honeywell International Inc. for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-NA0003525.

SAND NO. 2024-01747C



Constitutive models are required to complete the governing equations for a material.

- Continuum mechanics and thermodynamics provide severely limited guidance.
- Statistical physics allows quantities to be derived from molecular constitution.

Background – statistical physics in constitutive modeling.

- Approach – some mathematical details from a high level.
- Example – polymer constitutive model using statistical thermodynamics.

Perspective – focus on polymers, some general conclusions.

- Successes – what has been working?
- Failures – what has not?
- Thoughts – what now?

Provide the molecular physics.

- Sufficient detail for desired behavior.
- Enough simplicity to remain tractable.
- Usually statistical thermodynamics [1].

$$H(p, q) = \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{p_j^2}{2m_j} + U(q)$$

$$Q(N, V, T) = \frac{1}{N!} \int dp \int dq e^{-H(p, q)/kT}$$

$$A(N, V, T) = -kT \ln Q(N, V, T)$$

Prescribe a macroscopic connection.

- Affine or non-affine deformation [2, 3].
- Representative volume elements [4].
- Sometimes not necessary (gases).

Phase 2

?



Apply continuum mechanics and thermodynamics.

- Frame invariance and the second law [5].
- Obtain the constitutive model.

$$\sigma : \mathbf{L} \geq \dot{a} + s\dot{T}$$

$$\sigma = \frac{1}{J} \frac{\partial a}{\partial \mathbf{F}} \cdot \mathbf{F}^T$$

Provide the molecular physics.

- Single-chain model (*uFJC*) [6, 7].
- Evolving probability distribution of chains.
- Liouville equation, transition state theory.

Prescribe a macroscopic connection.

- Affine deformation ($\dot{\gamma} = \mathbf{L} \cdot \gamma$).
- Exactly solve governing PDE.
- Simplifications (irreversible, transient).

Apply continuum mechanics and thermodynamics.

- Automatic solution and stability guarantees.
- See Buche and Silberstein (2021) for details [8].

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma(\eta) &\sim \mathcal{L}(\eta) + \Delta\lambda(\eta) \\ \frac{\partial \mathcal{P}(\gamma, t)}{\partial t} &= -k'(\gamma) \mathcal{P}(\gamma, t) + (\text{rev}) \\ &\quad - \frac{\partial}{\partial \gamma} \cdot [\dot{\gamma}(\gamma, t) \mathcal{P}(\gamma, t)]\end{aligned}$$

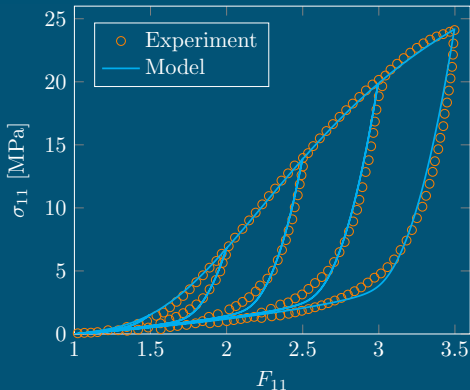
$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{P}(\gamma, t) &= \int_{-\infty}^t \mathcal{P}^{\text{eq}} [{}_{(t)}\mathbf{F}(\tau) \cdot \gamma] \rho(\tau) d\Xi \\ \Xi(\gamma, t, \tau) &= \exp \left\{ - \int_{\tau}^t k [{}_{(t)}\mathbf{F}(s) \cdot \gamma] ds \right\}\end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\sigma + p\mathbf{1}}{N_b n k T} = \iiint \mathcal{P}(\gamma, t) \eta(\gamma) \left(\frac{\gamma \gamma}{\gamma} \right) d^3 \gamma$$



Triple network elastomer, sacrificial cross-links [9].

- Model predictions of mechanics [8].
 - Mostly predicts loading path.
 - Nearly without any fitting [8].
 - Captures damage and dissipation.
 - Irreversible bond breaking.
 - Across model flavors [3, 10].
- Mechanoluminescence (not shown).
 - Decent qualitative prediction [8].

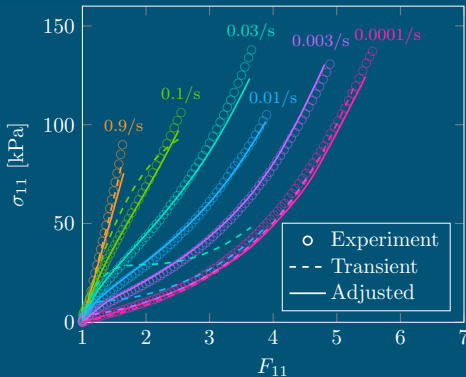


Summary:

This modeling approach tends to accurately predict rate-independent elasticity and damage.

Dual (permanent and transient) cross-link gel [11].

- Qualitative rate dependence.
 - Perhaps one rate, not more [8, 12].
- Quantitative rate dependence.
 - With e^{-kt} ? In your dreams!
 - Thanks, transition state theory [8].
 - Transient $\neq$ equilibrium, right?
 - Invalid separation of timescales.
 - Phenomenological better [13].

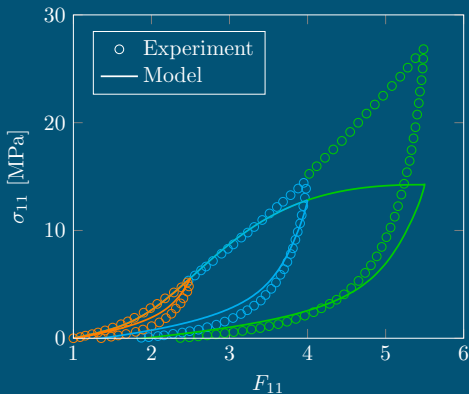


Summary:

Kinetics from transition state theory and similar theories are unpredictable and possibly invalid.

Metal-coordination cross-linked hydrogel [14].

- Substantial "viscoplastic" dissipation.
 - Bonds reforming stress-free [8, 15].
- Insufficient "viscoelastic" dissipation.
 - Support either loading or dissipation.
 - Pathology of break/reform kinetics.
 - No interchain interactions.
 - Intractable molecular model.
 - Phenomenological predominant [14].

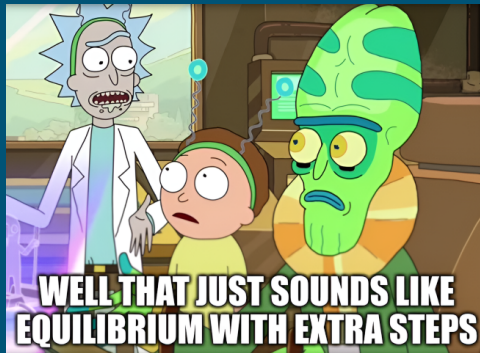


Summary:

Viscosity from the statistical thermodynamics of tractable molecular models is not sufficient.

Transition-state-like non-equilibrium theories:

- Phase space regions in local equilibrium.
 - Relaxation rate $\gg$ reaction rate.
 - "This separation of time scales is generally hard to justify..." [16]
 - Equilibrium principles, extra steps.
- Always produces some flavor of e^{-kt} .
 - Rarely seems to be predictive [8], phenomenological often better.



Summary:

Something drastically different than transition state theory is needed to improve model results.



Provide the molecular physics.

- Partition phase space without assumptions.
- Nonequilibrium evolution via Liouville [1, 8].
- Advance without transition state theory?

Prescribe a macroscopic connection.

- Could $\dot{\gamma}$ incorporate viscous effects?
- Is Gibbs' postulate even valid here [1, 8]?
- Are interchain interactions simply vital?

Apply continuum mechanics and thermodynamics.

- Compatible with nonequilibrium statistics?
- Emergent intrinsic material timescales [17]?

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \mathcal{P}}{\partial t} &= \mathcal{R}'' - \mathcal{R}' - \frac{\partial}{\partial \gamma} \cdot (\dot{\gamma} \mathcal{P}) \\ \mathcal{R}' &= \left\langle \frac{p}{m} \Theta(p) \delta(q^\ddagger - q) \delta^3(\gamma' - \gamma) \right\rangle \\ \dot{\gamma} &= \left\langle \dot{\gamma}' \Theta(q^\ddagger - q) \delta^3(\gamma' - \gamma) \right\rangle\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}a(t) &= n_A(t) \mu_A(t) + n_B(t) \mu_B(t) - nkT \\ \mu_A(t) &= \iiint \frac{\mathcal{P}_A(\gamma, t)}{\mathcal{P}_A^{\text{tot}}(t)} \mu_A^*(\gamma, t) d^3\gamma \\ \mu_A^*(\gamma, t) &= \psi_A^*(\gamma) + kT \ln N_A(t)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\pi(t) &= a(t) + \underset{0 \leq s \leq t}{\mathfrak{F}} \left\{ \mathbf{F}(s), T(s), \dots \right\} \\ \Delta t_{\text{mat}} &= \int_0^t \frac{ds}{f(s)}, \quad f(s) = f(\mathbf{F}, T)\end{aligned}$$



Developing continuum constitutive models remains a sort of black art.

- Tradeoff between physics and practicality when providing the molecular model.
- Large deal of freedom and uncertainty when prescribing the macroscopic connection.

Recent constitutive models for polymers have not been entirely successful.

- Rate-independent elasticity and damage are predicted quite nicely.
- Rate-dependence and viscous dissipation can be predicted poorly.

In general, equilibrium principles limit the resulting constitutive model.

- Need to get away from kinetics that resemble transition state theory.
- Techniques from nonequilibrium statistical mechanics may be applicable.
 - They are certainly required for materials considered to be glassy.



- [1] D. A. McQuarrie, *Statistical Mechanics*, (University Science Books, Mill Valley, CA, 2000).
- [2] M. R. Buche and M. N. Silberstein, *Phys. Rev. E* **102**, 012501 (2020).
- [3] J. P. Mulderrig, B. Li, and N. Bouklas, *Mech. of Mater.* **160**, 103857 (2021).
- [4] M. Grasinger, *J. Mech. Phys. Solids* **175**, 105289 (2023).
- [5] S. Paolucci, *Continuum Mechanics and Thermodynamics of Matter*, (Cambridge University Press, New York, NY, 2016).
- [6] M. R. Buche, M. N. Silberstein, and S. J. Grutzik, *Phys. Rev. E* **106**, 024502 (2022).
- [7] J. P. Mulderrig, B. L. Talamini, and N. Bouklas, *J. Mech. Phys. Solids* **174**, 105244 (2023).
- [8] M. R. Buche and M. N. Silberstein, *J. Mech. Phys. Solids* **156**, 104593 (2021).
- [9] E. Ducrot, Y. Chen, M. Bulters, R. P. Sijbesma, and C. Creton, *Science* **344**, 186 (2014).
- [10] F. J. Vernerey, R. Brighenti, R. Long, and T. Shen, *Macromolecules* **51**, 6609 (2018).
- [11] K. Mayumi, A. Marcellan, G. Ducouret, C. Creton, and T. Narita, *ACS Macro Lett.* **2**, 1065 (2013).
- [12] F. J. Vernerey, *J. Mech. Phys. Solids* **115**, 230 (2018).
- [13] R. Long, K. Mayumi, C. Creton, T. Narita, and C.-Y. Hui, *Macromolecules* **47**, 7243 (2014).
- [14] J. Lin, S. Y. Zheng, R. Xiao, J. Yin, Z. L. Wu, Q. Zheng, and J. Qian, *J. Mech. Phys. Solids* **139**, 103935 (2020).
- [15] S. C. Lamont, J. Mulderrig, N. Bouklas, and F. J. Vernerey, *Macromolecules* **54**, 10801 (2021).
- [16] R. Zwanzig, *Nonequilibrium Statistical Mechanics*, (Oxford University Press, New York, NY, 2001).
- [17] K. N. Cundiff, M. R. Buche, B. L. Talamini, S. J. Grutzik, J. M. Kropka, and K. N. Long, *Sandia National Laboratories* **14317** (2023).