

Introduction In Gaussian random walks statistics, the mean-square end-to-end distance R for a polymer chain, as well as mean-square distance between two not very closely located internal links obey general dependence [1]: $n \gg 1$ (1) where a is the mean length of the chain link according to Kuhn [2]; n is the chain length or the length of a given chain section, expressed by the number of links in it. Self-avoiding random walks statistics (SARWS) determines the conformational radius $R_{N,f}$ of the undeformed Flory coil as the most probable end-to-end distance of the polymer chain [3,4]: (2) Here N is the total chain length, d is the Euclidian space dimension. According to (2), Flory coil is a fractal, i. e. an object, possessing the property of the scale invariance in dimensionality space. At derivation [3] of (2), however, the distribution of the internal polymer chain links in its conformational space remains unknown, therefore, it can not be indicated in advance that the distances between the terminal and internal chain links or between the internal ones obey the same dependence (2) at the value of N as the length of the selected section of a polymer chain. Study of the problem of internal polymer chain links' distribution is based mainly on the analysis [5,6] of the scale distribution function $P_{ij}(r)$ of distance r between two links with ordinal numbers i and j : (3) Function is usually written in the form of power or exponential dependence on the only variable x : $f(x) \sim x^\theta$ at $x \ll 1$, $f(x) \sim \exp\{-x^\delta\}$ at $x \gg 1$. (4) Studying the correlations between two arbitrary points i and j of a polymer chain, Des Cloizeaux [7] suggested dividing the scale function $P_{ij}(r)$ into three classes, that describe the distribution of distances between two terminal points of a polymer chain ($P(0)_{ij}(r)$ with exponents θ_0 and δ_0 at $i = 1, j = N$), between the initial and internal points ($P(1)_{ij}(r)$ with exponents θ_1 and δ_1 at $i = 1, 1 < j < N$) and between two internal points ($P(2)_{ij}(r)$ with exponents θ_2 and δ_2 at $1 < i < j < N$), respectively. Using the method of the second order ϵ -expansion within the range $x \ll 1$ for the space $d = 3$, Des Cloizeaux [7] has obtained in particular: $\theta_0 = 0,273$, $\theta_1 = 0,459$, $\theta_2 = 0,71$. To evaluate the exponents θ_i and δ_i some other methods were used as well. Let us present some of the obtained results: [8] $\theta_0 = 0,27$; [8,9,10] $\theta_1 = 0,55, 0,61, 0,70$; [8,9] $\theta_2 = 0,9, 0,67$; [8,11] $\delta_0 = 2,44, 2,5$; [8] $\delta_1 = 2,6$; [8] $\delta_2 = 2,48$. In spite of the spread in exponent values, they unambiguously indicate (especially when comparing the values of θ_0 , θ_1 and θ_2), that distribution function $P_{ij}(r)$, retaining their scale universality, quantitatively significantly depends on whether we consider the distance between terminal points, a terminal and internal one or between two internal points of a polymer chain. Whereas the proposed methods of analysis establish this fact, they however do not reveal the reason of the above-mentioned difference. Reference to strengthening the effects of the volume interaction between the internal links of a polymer chain can not be absolutized, since these effects can not be taken into account at computer simulation of self-avoiding random walks, but the results of the calculations according to them give the same estimations of exponents θ_i and δ_i as the analytic methods that take into account the volume interaction. The shortcoming of the proposed approaches is also the fact that the scale distribution function $P_{ij}(r)$ is

approximate and does not enclose the most significant region of parameter x changing between $x \approx 1$ and $x \gg 1$, where $P_{ij}(r)$ takes on maximal values. Finally, it should be noted that the role of the length of the second section of a polymer chain (at evaluating θ_1 and δ_1 the length of the second section is extrapolated to ∞) or the lengths of its two sections (at evaluating θ_2 and δ_2) is outside of the analysis. Hence, the suggested approaches do not allow to solve the problem of the internal links distribution for a polymer chain completely. In the present work we propose its analytic solution in terms of SARW strict statistics, i. e. without taking into account of the so-called volume interaction. Initial statements Preliminary let us briefly introduce the main statements of SARW statistics, that are necessary for the subsequent analysis[3,4]. The Gaussian random walks in N steps are described by the density of the Bernoulli distribution: , (5) where n is a number of the random walk steps in i -direction of d -dimensional lattice space with the step length a , which is equal to the statistical length of Kuhn link; s is the number of effective steps in i -direction: $s = s_+ - s_-$, where s_+ , s_- are numbers of positive and negative steps in i -direction. Numbers of n steps are limited by the following correlation: . (6) The condition of self-avoidance of a random walk trajectory on d -dimensional lattice demands the step not to fall twice into the same cell. From the point of view of chain link distribution over cells it means that every cell can not contain more than one chain link. Chain links are inseparable. They can not be torn off one from another and placed to cells in random order. Consequently, the numbering of chain links corresponding to wandering steps is their significant distinction. That is why the quantity of different variants of N distinctive chain links placement in Z identical cells under the condition that one cell can not contain more than one chain link is equal to $Z!/(Z-N)!$ Considering the identity of cells, a priori probability that the given cell will be filled is equal to $1/Z$, and that it will not be filled is $(1-1/Z)$. Respectively, the probability $w(z)$ that N given cells will be filled and $Z - N$ cells will be empty, considering both the above mentioned condition of placement of N distinctive links in Z identical cells and the quantity of its realization variants will be determined by the following expression . (7) Probability density of the fact that random walk trajectory is at the same time SARW statistics trajectory and at given Z , N , n_i will get the last step in one of the two equiprobable cells, which coordinates are set by vectors $s = (s_i)$, differentiated only by the signs of their components s_i , is equal to . (8) Let us find the asymptotic limit (8) assuming $Z \gg 1$, $N \gg 1$, $n_i \gg 1$ under the condition $s_i \ll n_i$, $N \ll Z$. Using the approximated Stirling formula $\ln x! \approx x \ln x - x + \ln(2\pi)^{1/2}$ for all $x \gg 1$ and expansion $\ln(1-1/Z) \approx -1/Z$, $\ln(1-N/Z) \approx -N/Z$, $\ln(1 \pm s_i/n_i) \approx \pm s_i/n_i - (s_i/n_i)^2/2$, and assuming also $N(N-1) \ll Z^2$ we will obtain[3,4]: . (9) Transition to the metric space can be realized by introduction of the displacement variable . (10) and also the parameter – the standard deviation of Gaussian part of distribution (9): . (11) Then , (12) (13) and for the metric space expression (9) becomes: . (14) Here is the volume of conformational ellipsoid with the semi-axes of x_i , to the surface of which the states of the chain end belong. A maximum of at the set

values of α and N corresponds to the most probable, i. e. equilibrium state of the polymer chain. From the condition of $\partial \chi / \partial x = 0$ at $x = x$ we find semiaxes x of the equilibrium conformational ellipsoid [3]: . (15) In the absence of external forces, all directions of random walks of the chain end are equiprobable, that allows to write: , (16) . (17) The substitution of (17) into (15) makes the semiaxes of the equilibrium conformational ellipsoid identical and equal to the undeformed Flory coil radius: . Let us underline two important circumstances. First, SARW statistics leads to the same result, i. e. to formula (2), that Flory method, which takes into account the effect (repulsion) of the volume interaction between monomer links in the self-consistent field theory. However, as it was explained by De Gennes[6], accuracy of formula (2) in Flory method is provided by excellent cancellation of two mistakes: top-heavy value of repulsion energy as a result of neglecting of correlations and also top-heavy value of elastic energy, written for ideal polymer chain, that is in Gaussian statistics. Additionally, one must note, that formula (2) is only a special case of formula (15), which represents conformation of polymer chain in the form of ellipsoid with semiaxes $x_{i0} \neq R_f$, allowing to consider this conformation as deformed state of Flory coil. Second, obtained expression (14) for density of distribution of the end links of polymer chain is not only more detailed but also more general than scale dependencies (4) at θ_0 and δ_0 , which are approximately correct only at the limits $x_i / R_i \rightarrow 1$ and $x_i / R_f \gg 1$. Free energy F_N of the equilibrium conformation is determined by the expression at (18) From here for undeformed Flory coil we have: . (19) For the deformed one – , (20) where λ is the repetition factor of Flory coil's volume deformation: , (21) where λ_i is a repetition factor of linear deformation, . (22) At any deformations the conformational volume diminishes, therefore in general case [3]. Sarw statistics for the internal links of a chain The internal n –link (1 Z needs to be introduced. Then the probability density of the random walk trajectory's self-avoiding for the polymer chain with fixed position of the internal link can be described by the Bernoulli distribution in the same form (7), but with a new value of cells number: . (23) The Gaussian random walks in n and $N-n$ steps of the first and second chain sections can be described thereby by the Bernoulli distribution (5), but here in expressions for the distribution density (n, s) for the first chain section and ($N-n, s$) for the second one, respectively, the following conditions of normalization must be implemented: , (24) (25) and in place of the factor $(1/2)^N$ factors $(1/2)^n$ and $(1/2)^{N-n}$ respectively should be used. As applies to the whole polymer chain, the distribution densities $\omega(n)$ and $\omega(N-n)$ of the SARW statistics trajectories for the first and second chain sections can be determined by the following expressions: , (26) . (27) In an asymptotic limit the expressions (26) and (27) can be written: , (28) . (29) The lengths of every section fractions of the total chain length are introduced here as: , . (30) Defining the variables of the metric displacement of α and β in the form (10) and standard deviations σ_α and σ_β of the Gaussian part of distribution (28) and (29) in the form (11), instead of (28) and (29) we obtain: , (31) . (32) Owing to the normalization (24) and (25) we have: , . (33) The values V_1 and V_2 are the volumes of the

conformational ellipsoids with the semiaxes x and y of the first and second sections of the polymer chain, respectively. Hence, as laid down earlier (13), it is possible to write:

(34) Entering the volume fractions of the proper conformational ellipsoids, (35) we obtain:

(36) (37) These expressions are sought densities of distribution of internal links of the chain from its ends. Parameter β will be determined later. The most probable states of the polymer chain sections meet the conditions $=0$ at x , $/=0$ at $y=y$. Using them and assuming that values and $1-$ do not depend on specific realizations of x and y , i. e. these are functions of n and $N-n$ only, we find,

(38) (39) In the absence of external forces, all directions of random walks are equiprobable, therefore according to (31) it is possible to write:

(40) (41) Using (40) and (41) in (38) and (39), we will obtain expressions for the equilibrium conformational radii of both polymer chain sections:

(42) (43) The conformational volumes here are equal to, therefore expression (35) may be rewritten in the form (44) From (42) – (44) it follows: , (45)

Excepting from (42) and (43), we get finally , (46) (47) Eqns. (46) and (47) together determine the most probable, that is the equilibrium distances of the internal link from the polymer chain ends. As one can see, although between R and R a simple correlation is observed, each of these values depends by complicated way not only on its own section length but also on the length of another one. Formulas (46) and (47) are correct at [2], including at $d = 1$. For one-dimensional space from (46) and (47) follows physically expected result , . Structure of the polymer chain conformational space From eqns. (46) and (47) follows that and , and signs of equality are achieved only on the chain ends, i. e. at and , respectively. This gives evidence to heterogeneity of the polymer chain conformational volume. In addition, because of interconnection between and , both chain sections are not fractals. Let us comment both circumstances, confronting the values and from (46) and (47) with those values of and , which these chain sections would have, if they were free and submitted to fractal correlation of the type (2): , (48) (49) From comparison of (46) – (49) it follows: , (50) (51) Dependencies (50), (51) are illustrated on Figure 2 for the option of $d = 3$. Fig. 2 - Ratios and calculated on the eqns. (50) and (51) depending on a and $1-a$ As one can see, only in the area >0.5 and correspondingly $1->0.5$, ratios and , though are more than 1, but insignificantly. It allows to consider of these chain sections as the fractals objects with a small error and to describe them by fractal dependences (48) and (49). However, for short chain sections, i. e. at 0,5 or $1-0,5$ ratios and become less than 1 and sharply diminish towards the chain ends, which indicates the compression of the conformational volume space nearby the ends of a chain. Yet even more evidently heterogeneity of the structure of polymer chain's conformational volume becomes apparent at the analysis of volume density , i. e. the numbers of links in the unit of conformational volume for given chain section. Let us be limited to considering only the first chain section n in length, for which . (52) Using (46), we get , (53) where is an average links' density in conformational volume of the whole polymer chain. The correlation between local and average density of the chain links is illustrated on Figure

3 at $d = 3$. Evidently, ratio in the range of 0.2 at sharply increases, and for example at ≈ 0.01 achieves the value of 10 order. As the dependence of the ratio is similar, but asymmetric, it can be concluded that the conformational volumes near the chain ends are strongly compressed, so that the density of links in them considerably exceeds the average one over the conformational volume of the whole chain. With some caution one can suppose that the conformational volumes near the chain ends have a globular structure. Fig. 3 - Ratio between local density of polymer chain link ρ_n and average one ρ_N depending on a calculated on (53) To support this point, we propose also considerations based on experimental research of dymethacrylates postpolymerization kinetics, i. e. dark, after turning off UV irradiation, process of polymerization[4]. It was found, that the chain termination is linear, and its kinetics submits to the law of stretched Kohlrausch exponent: . (54) Here g and $0 < 1$ are constants; t is characteristic time of linear chain termination. A theoretical derivation[12] was based on the idea, that linear chain termination is the act of «self-burial» of macroradical's active center and manifests itself as the act of chain propagation, leading into a trap. Taking into account the fractal properties of polymer chain and assuming that a set of traps in its conformational volume is a fractal as well, we obtain the expression similar to (54): , (55) where τ is characteristic time of chain propagation act, and m and n are monomer and traps concentrations in the macroradical's conformational volume, respectively. According to the derivation of expression (55) , (56) where d_1 and d_2 are fractal dimensions of the conformational volume of macroradical and a set of traps in it. From experimental data the value of d_1 , so we can accept $d_1 \approx 3$. Then for the dimension of the traps set fractal the expression (57) follows from (56): , (57) which not only satisfactorily coincides with experimental value of d_2 at $d = 3$, but also presents physically justified value of d_2 at $d = 3$. Correlation (57) shows that $d_2 \approx 3$. Therefore, in the reaction zone of growing macroradical, there are both «strange» traps formed by polymer chains, external for given macroradical, with fractal dimension close to d and «own» ones with fractal dimension of polymer chain d . This derivation in[12] is based only on kinetic researches of dymethacrylates postpolyme-rization, but, apparently, it coordinates well with the results of present work, according to which «own» traps for a growing macroradical are caused by high density of links in the conformational volumes near the polymer chain ends, that can screen or even block up macroradical active center. Free energy of conformation of polymer chain sections Let us determine free energies F_n and F_{N-n} of the conformation of polymer chain sections, separated by fixing of internal n -link, on type (18) by expressions: at $x_i = x_{i0}$, (58) at $y_j = y_{j0}$. (59) For the equilibrium state in the absence of external forces, i. e. at all x_i and y_j , using (36), (37), (45)–(47) in (58) and (59), we get , (60) . (61) From here it follows: . (62) Hence, $F_n = F_{N-n}$. It is related to the fact that two chain sections are thermodynamic subsystems, which interact with each other. Thus, fixing the position of a polymer chain internal link increases its negative entropy and positive free energy of conformation due to diminishment of the polymer chain conformational volume. Therefore the sum of free energies of the chain sections

conformation must be compared not to Φ , representing free energy of undeformed Flory coil conformation with the volume of V , whereas for free energy of conformation of the Flory coil deformed to the volume, determined by the expression (20). As the multiple (repetition factor) of the volume deformation here is equal to (63) we have identically . (64) It is now possible to accomplish the reverse transition and write the expression , (65) which was not obvious in the beginning. The most probable distance between two internal links of a polymer chain If two internal links of a chain are selected according to the condition $1 \leq k \leq n \leq N$, the polymer chain is divided into three sections with the lengths of k , $n-k$ and $N-n$, to which the fractions of the total chain length α_1 , α_2 and α_3 correspond. Let us suggest that are numbers of sections with quantities of links k , $n-k$ and $N-n$, to which fractions $\alpha_1 = k / N$, $\alpha_2 = (n-k) / N$ and $\alpha_3 = (N-n) / N$ from general number N of links in a chain are corresponded. Extending the above-mentioned procedure of analysis of two chain sections to three sections, we get the general expression for the distribution density of the end of the given section regarding to its beginning: $\rho_j = \frac{1}{V_j} \exp\left(-\frac{r_{ji}^2}{2\sigma_{ji}^2}\right)$. (66) Here β_j is a fraction of conformational volume of the given section in the sum of conformational volumes of all sections; x_{ji} , are semiaxes of conformational ellipsoid j with center in the beginning of the given section. The surfaces of this section involve the states of its end. The square deviations σ_{ji}^2 of Gaussian part of distribution (66) obey the normalization conditions of the form: $\sum_j \beta_j = 1$. (67) At equiprobability of walks in all directions of d -dimensional space we have: $\sigma_{ji}^2 = \frac{2}{d} R_j^2$. (68) In this case the most probable distance between the beginning and the end of the chain in the given section will be equal to: R_j , (69) and for β_j the following expression will be correct: $\beta_j = \frac{1}{N} \exp\left(-\frac{R_j^2}{2\sigma_{ji}^2}\right)$. (70) According to (69) the value of R_j depends not only on the length of the given chain section but also on where this section has been chosen. Thus, we can note again that selected three sections of polymer chain are not independent, but are interactive subsystems. Therefore, total free energy of conformation of the chain three sections exceeds free energy of conformation of undeformed Flory coil. But the following equality holds identically: $\Phi = \Phi_1 + \Phi_2 + \Phi_3$, (71) where the multiplicity of Flory coil's volume deformation at the division of the chain into three sections is determined by the expression: $\Omega = \Omega_1 \Omega_2 \Omega_3$. (72) Conclusions Fixation of the position of polymer chain internal links separates its conformational volume into interacting subsystems. Their total conformational volume is smaller, and free energy is larger than the conformational volume and free energy of Flory coil, respectively. From expressions, which determine the probable distance between the polymer chain's internal link and its ends, as well as between any internal links, it follows that the structure of the polymer chain conformational volume is heterogeneous: the largest density of the number of links is observed near the chain ends. This can result in blockage of the macroradical's active centre and appear as a linear chain termination.