Abstract Submitted for the MAR06 Meeting of The American Physical Society

Monte Carlo simulations of polymer translocation through a nanopore¹ TAPIO ALA-NISSILA, KAIFU LUO, ILKKA HUOPANIEMI, Laboratory of Physics, Helsinki University of Technology, P.O. Box 1100, FIN-02015 HUT, Espoo, Finland, SEE-CHEN YING, Department of Physics, Box 1843, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912-1843, U.S.A., HELSINKI UNIVERSITY OF TECH-NOLOGY TEAM, BROWN UNIVERSITY COLLABORATION — We investigate the problem of polymer translocation through a nanopore using the fluctuating bond model with single-segment Monte Carlo moves. For non-driven case we study the escape time τ_e required for a polymer, which is initially placed in the middle of the pore, to completely exit the pore on either end. We find $\tau_e \sim N^{1+2\nu}$, where N is the chain length and ν is the Flory exponent. We also examine the interplay between the pore length L and the radius of gyration R_q . For driven case we find a crossover scaling for the translocation time τ with N from $\tau \sim N^{2\nu}$ for relatively short polymers to $\tau \sim N^{1+\nu}$ for longer chains. This crossover is due to the change of the translocation velocity v from $v \sim N^{-\nu}$ for relatively short chains to $v \sim N^{-1}$ for long polymers. The reason is that a high density of segments near the exit of the pore for long polymer slows down the translocation process due to slow relaxation of the chain.

¹This work has been supported in part by a Center of Excellence grant from the Academy of Finland.

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Date submitted: 29 Nov 2005

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