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Large-scale diffusion of entangled polymers along nanochannels KAY SAALWACHTER, FRANK LANGE, Martin-Luther-U. Halle-Wittenberg, Germany, MARTIN STEINHART, U. Osnabruck, Germany, PATRICK JUDEIN-STEIN, Lab. Leon Brillouin, CNRS-CEA Saclay, France — Confinement-induced changes in polymer mobility are still under active discussion. For weakly interacting poly(butadiene) chains in 100 μ m long, 20 and 60 nm wide channels in anodic Al2O3 [1], we here report on the study of the large-scale pore-averaged self diffusion on a μm scale by 1H pulsed-gradient NMR. We find weak indications of an acceleration due to surface-induced disentanglement [2]. Unlike previous reports on polymer diffusion into particle nanocomposites of similar confinement scale [3], or start-up diffusivities out of even thinner films [4,5], we find an MW and temperature independent reduction of diffusivity that is solely determined by the confinement size. We rationalize this trend by a simple volume-average model, which suggests a 20-fold surface-enhanced monomeric friction on the scale of the packing length, which can be compared to a factor of 300 that our model predicts for comparable thin-film data of poly(styrene) on silica [4].

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