

onal groups which allows to describe the reaction kinetics, the units distribution in the chain and the composition inhomogeneity of the products as the functions of the individual rate constants k_0 , k_1 and k_2 (these constants characterize the reactivity of unreacted units which have 0, 1 and 2 reacted neighbors, respectively). On the basis of this theory it is possible to establish the essential peculiarities of the mechanism of polymer-analogous reactions: if the kinetics, the units distribution and the composition inhomogeneity are described by the same set of constants k_0 , k_1 and k_2 , the neighboring units are proved to have the determining effect on the reactivity of the macromolecule under the conditions studied. Various methods of determination of the rate constants are discussed. The possibilities of determination of the rate constants with the help of polymeric models and of the assessment of the role of the effect of neighboring units in these reactions are considered, as illustrated by chlorination of polyethylene, hydrolysis of poly(methyl methacrylate) and quaternization of polyvinylpyridine. The most recent data on the investigation of the configuration effects in polymer-analogous reactions are also considered.
