**Rheological evaluation of polymer anisotropy using a novel technique**

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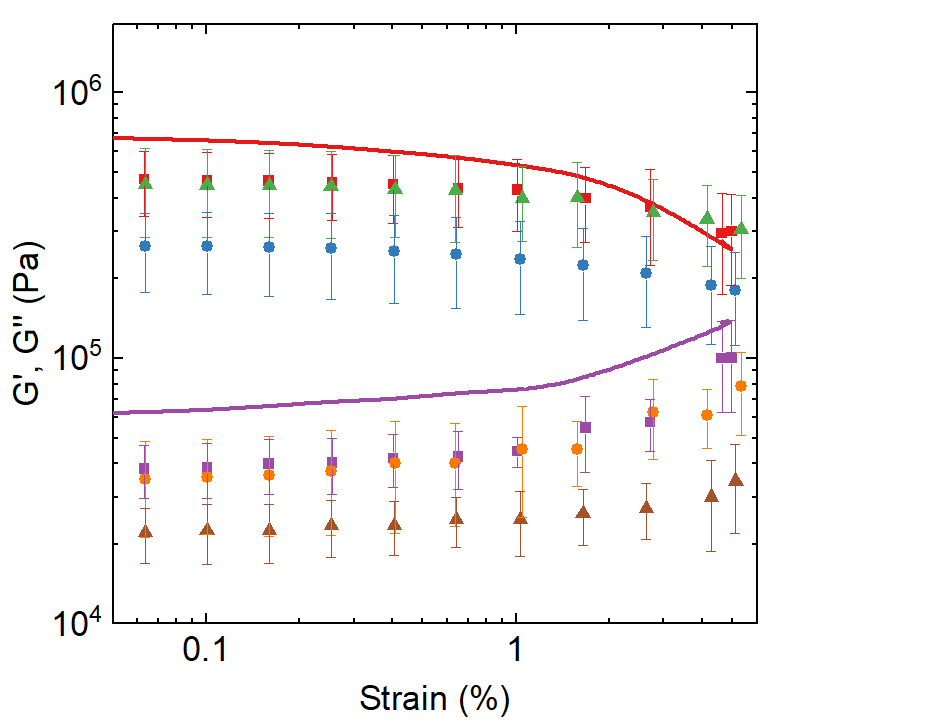
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In this study, we explore a novel technique that require fewer material and allows for rheological characterization of anisotropic polymer films in a simpler way than conventional forms [1]. Results of oscillatory shear rheometry, using parallel plates of 25 mm and disk-shaped samples, are compared using a new approach of different geometric arrays (hexagonal, pentagonal, and double triangular) of square-cut samples. As reference isotropic polymer films were used and then anisotropic films were characterized measuring the dynamic modules in two perpendicular directions of the sample with the best configuration achieved. Samples of block copolymers (SBS) were analyzed: isotropic films prepared using solution casting and anisotropic films obtained by roll-casting [2]. The storage modulus (G') and loss modulus (G'') were obtained in a rotational rheometer AR-G2 of TA Instruments in two perpendicular directions through the samples. The anisotropy of the samples was confirmed through tensile test using a universal test machine Instron 3369. Results indicate that an hexagonal array provides the most adequate values, closely resembling those obtained from the conventional disk method with some dependency in the samples thickness [3]. The anisotropy of the films was accused by their storage modulus (G’). Additionally, a correlation between G’ and Young modulus (E) was found. This novel method offers an alternative for characterizing the anisotropy of polymeric films.



Disk

Hex.

Pent

Dtri

Figure 1. Storage(G') and loss (G'') modulus of samples as a function of strain. Geometry of disks and geometric arrangements studied. Symbols: (▬) G’. Disk, (■) G’.Hex., (●) G’. Dtri., (▲) G’. Pent., (▬) G’’. Disc, (■) G’.Hex., (●) G’. Dtri., (▲) G’. Pent.

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