**polyelectrolyte**

**Synonyms:** polymer electrolyte, polymeric electrolyte

Polymer composed of macromolecules in which a substantial portion of the constitutional units contains ionic or ionizable groups, or both.

Notes:
1. The terms polyelectrolyte, polymer electrolyte, and polymeric electrolyte should not be confused with the term solid polymer electrolyte.
2. Polyelectrolytes can be either synthetic or natural. Nucleic acids, proteins, teichoic acids, some polypeptides, and some polysaccharides are examples of natural polyelectrolytes.

**Source:**
PAC, 2006, 78, 2067 (*Terminology of polymers containing ionizable or ionic groups and of polymers containing ions (IUPAC Recommendations 2006)) on page 2072