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Directed walk models of a long chain polymer in a strip with attractive walls

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Abstract

Directed paths on regular lattices are idealised geometric models of polymers. Despite their apparent simplicity, they give rise to interesting combinatorial problems and display rich behaviour. In this talk I will discuss a directed walk model of polymer-colloid interactions. The generating functions for this model (and a number of generalisations of it) can be computed exactly. From these, we are able to extract information about the behaviour of the model in the long-polymer limit and demonstrate that the model exhibits several different thermodynamic phases.