

Exact solution of some friendly directed walker problems

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AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL
Centre of Excellence for Mathematics
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Workshop on Random Polymers, EURANDOM



DIRECTED WALKS

- Exact solutions of single and multiple directed walk models
- Recurrence and functional equation
- Rational, algebraic, Differentially-finite and non D-finite solutions
- Multiple walks: Bethe Ansatz & Lindström-Gessel-Viennot
- LGV Lemma: multiple walks = determinant of single walks
- LGV problems result in generating functions that are D-finite

SOLVING FUNCTIONAL EQUATIONS

- Functional equation for an expanded generating function
- Uses an extra **catalytic** variable
- Answer is a 'boundary' value
- Fix catalytic variable \rightarrow 'bulk' term disappears (Kernel method)
- Obstinate kernel method: multiple values of catalytic variable
- See Bousquet-Mélou *Math. and Comp. Sci* 2 (2002)), Bousquet-Mélou, Mishna *Contemp. Math.* **520** (2010)
- Solutions are not always D-finite

POLYMER ADSORPTION

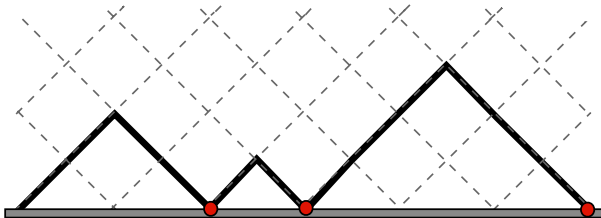
The physical motivation is the adsorption phase transition

- Second order phase transition with jump in specific heat
- Crossover exponent $\phi = 1/2$ for directed walks and SAW
- Order parameter is density of visits to surface by the polymer

ADSORPTION: ONE DIRECTED WALK

Exact solution and analysis of single and multiple directed walk models exist

- Single Dyck path in a half space
- Energy $-\varepsilon_a$ for each time (number m_a) it visits the surface
- Boltzmann weight $a = e^{\varepsilon_a/k_B T}$



ADSORPTION: ONE DIRECTED WALK

A complete solution exists and the generating function is algebraic

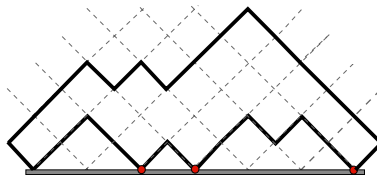
Consider the density of visits

$$\mathcal{A} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\langle m_a \rangle}{n}$$

There exists a phase transition at a temperature T_a given by $a = 2$:

- For $T > T_a$ the walk moves away entropically and $\mathcal{A} = 0$
- For $T < T_a$ the walk is adsorbed onto the surface and $\mathcal{A} > 0$

VESICLE ADSORPTION



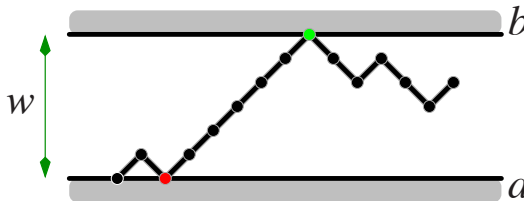
- Exact solution of two directed walks joined making a simple “vesicle” (Brak, Essam, Owczarek , *J. Stat. Phys.* **93**, 155 (1998))
- Vesicles with interactions for visits of the *bottom* walk to height 0 and height 1 (Lonsdale, Brak, Essam, Owczarek, Rechnitzer, *J. Phys. A.: Math. and Theor.* **42** 1, (2009).)

Single second order transition — similar to the single walk adsorption transition

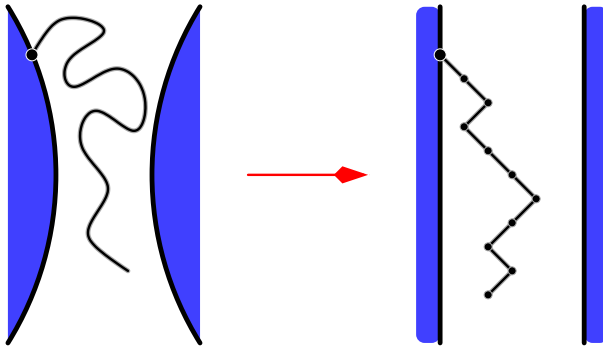
MORE MOTIVATION: POLYMERS IN A SLIT

Paths in a slit

- A directed path of length n in a slit of width w .
- Boltzmann weights a and b for interactions with lines (walls).
- Brak, Owczarek, Rechnitzer and Whittington *J. Phys. A*, **38** (2005) 4309–4325
- Subsequent works on undirected SAW

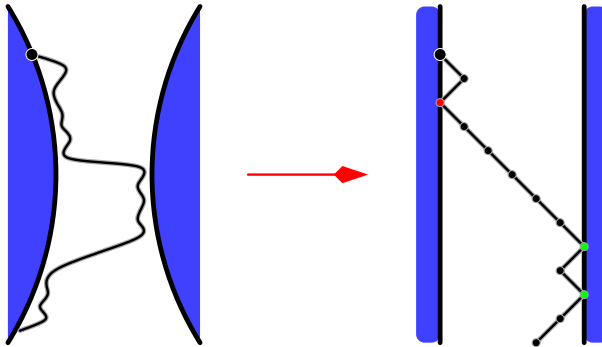


WHAT IS STERIC STABILISATION?



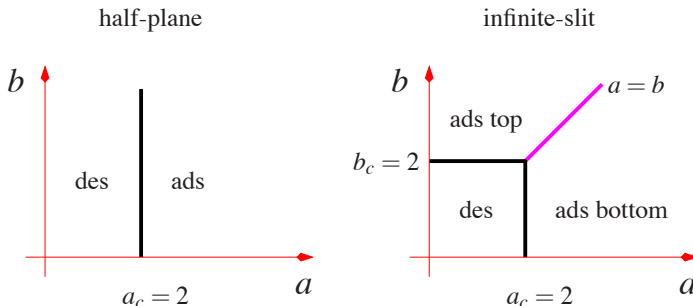
- Entropic repulsion between the colloidal particles.

WHAT IS SENSITISED FLOCCULATION?



- Polymer adsorbs and pulls the particles together.

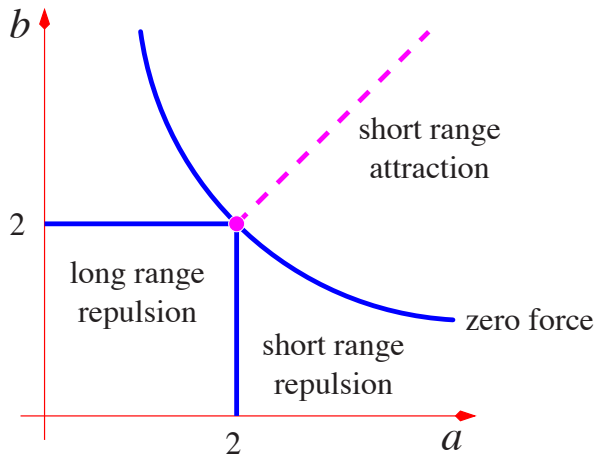
THE PHASE DIAGRAM POLYMERS IN A SLIT



Phase diagram depends on order of limits

- Black = 2^{nd} order and pink = 1^{st} order.
- Left-hand diagram: $w \rightarrow \infty$ and then $n \rightarrow \infty$.
- Right-hand diagram: $n \rightarrow \infty$ and then $w \rightarrow \infty$.
- The order of n and w limits really does matter!

MORE MOTIVATION: POLYMERS IN A SLIT



RING POLYMERS IN A SLIT

- Our motivation is a recent Monte Carlo study of ring polymers in a slit
- Here **both** sides of the polygon interact with the surfaces of the slit
Alvarez, Janse van Rensburg, Soteros and Whittington *J. Phys. A.: Math. and Theor.* **41**, 185004 (2008)
- Novel zero force curve

(Our Model)

*Directed vesicle where **both** walks can interact with a single surface*

MODEL

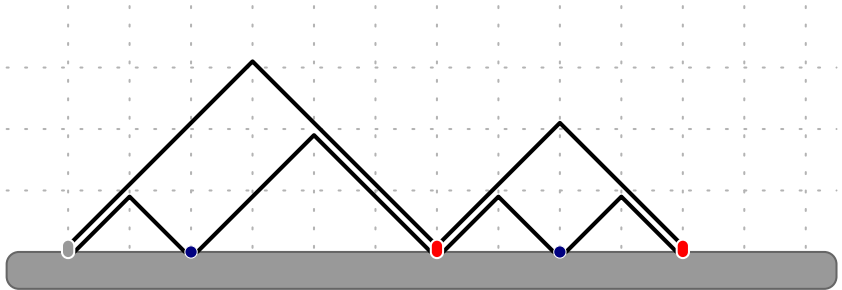


Figure: Two directed walks with single and “double” visits to the the surface.

- energy $-\varepsilon_a$ for visits of the bottom walk only (single visits) to the wall,
- energy $-\varepsilon_d$ when both walks visit a site on the wall (double visits)

MODEL

- number of *single visits* to the wall will be denoted m_a ,
- number of *double visits* will be denoted m_d .

The partition function:

$$Z_n(a, d) = \sum_{\hat{\varphi} \ni |\hat{\varphi}|=n} e^{(m_a(\hat{\varphi}) \cdot \varepsilon_a + m_d(\hat{\varphi}) \cdot \varepsilon_d) / k_B T}$$

where $a = e^{\varepsilon_a / k_B T}$ and $d = e^{\varepsilon_d / k_B T}$.

The thermodynamic reduced free energy:

$$\kappa(a, d) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^{-1} \log (Z_n(a, d)) .$$

GENERATING FUNCTION

To find the free energy we will instead solve for the generating function

$$G(a, d; z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} Z_n(a, d) z^n.$$

The radius of convergence of the generating function $z_c(a, d)$ is directly related to the free energy via

$$\kappa(a, d) = \log(z_c(a, d)^{-1}).$$

Two order parameters:

$$\mathcal{A}(a, d) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\langle m_a \rangle}{n} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{D}(a, d) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\langle m_d \rangle}{n},$$

FUNCTIONAL EQUATION

We consider walks φ in the larger set, where each walk can end at any possible height.

The expanded generating function

$$F(r, s; z) \equiv F(r, s) = \sum_{\varphi \in \Omega} z^{|\varphi|} r^{\lfloor \varphi \rfloor} s^{\lceil \varphi \rceil / 2} a^{m_a(\varphi)} d^{m_d(\varphi)},$$

where

- z is conjugate to the length $|\varphi|$ of the walk,
- r is conjugate to the distance $\lfloor \varphi \rfloor$ of the bottom walk from the wall and
- s is conjugate to *half* the distance $\lceil \varphi \rceil$ between the final vertices of the two walks.

and we recover $G(a, d; z) = F(0, 0)$.

FUNCTIONAL EQUATION

Consider adding steps onto the ends of the two walks

This gives the following functional equation

$$\begin{aligned}
 F(r, s) = & 1 + z \left(r + \frac{1}{r} + \frac{s}{r} + \frac{r}{s} \right) \cdot F(r, s) \\
 & - z \left(\frac{1}{r} + \frac{s}{r} \right) \cdot [r^0]F(r, s) - z \frac{r}{s} \cdot [s^0]F(r, s) \\
 & + z(a-1)(1+s) \cdot [r^1]F(r, s) + z(d-a) \cdot [r^1 s^0]F(r, s).
 \end{aligned}$$

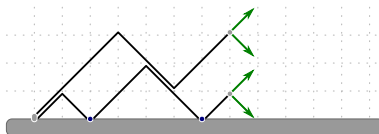


Figure: Adding steps to the walks when the walks are away from the wall.

THE KERNEL

Rewrite equation as “Bulk = Boundary”

$$K(r, s) \cdot F(r, s) = \frac{1}{d} + \left(1 - \frac{1}{a} - \frac{zs}{r} - \frac{z}{r}\right) \cdot F(0, s) - \frac{zr}{s} \cdot F(r, 0) + \left(\frac{1}{a} - \frac{1}{d}\right) \cdot F(0, 0)$$

where the *kernel* K is

$$K(r, s) = \left[1 - z \left(r + \frac{1}{r} + \frac{s}{r} + \frac{r}{s}\right)\right].$$

*Recall, we want $F(0, 0)$ so we try to find values that **kill** the kernel*

SYMMETRIES OF THE KERNEL

The kernel is symmetric under the following two transformations:

$$(r, s) \mapsto \left(r, \frac{r^2}{s}\right), \quad (r, s) \mapsto \left(\frac{s}{r}, s\right)$$

Transformations generate a family of 8 symmetries ('group of the walk')

$$(r, s), \left(r, \frac{r^2}{s}\right), \left(\frac{s}{r}, \frac{s}{r^2}\right), \left(\frac{r}{s}, \frac{1}{s}\right), \left(\frac{1}{r}, \frac{1}{s}\right), \left(\frac{1}{r}, \frac{s}{r^2}\right), \left(\frac{r}{s}, \frac{r^2}{s}\right), \text{ and } \left(\frac{s}{r}, s\right)$$

We make use of 4 of these which only involve positive powers of r .

This gives us four equations.

MAGIC COMBINATION

Following Bousquet-Mélou when $a = 1$ we form the simple alternating sum

$$\text{Eqn 1} - \text{Eqn 2} + \text{Eqn 3} - \text{Eqn 4}.$$

- When $a \neq 1$ one needs to generalise that approach
- Multiply by rational functions,

The form of the Left-hand side of the final equation being

$$a^2 r K(r, s) \left(s F(r, s) - \frac{r^2}{s} F\left(r, \frac{r^2}{s}\right) + \frac{L r^2}{s^2} F\left(\frac{r}{s}, \frac{r^2}{s}\right) - \frac{L}{s^2} F\left(\frac{r}{s}, \frac{1}{s}\right) \right)$$

where

$$L = \frac{zas - ars + rs + zar^2}{zas - ar + r + zar^2}.$$

EXTRACTING THE SOLUTION $a = 1$

$K(r, s) \cdot (\text{linear combination of } F) =$

$$\frac{r(s-1)(s^2+s+1-r^2)}{s^2} (1 + (d-1)F(0,0)) \\ - zd(1+s)sF(0,s) + \frac{zd(1+s)}{s^2} F\left(0, \frac{1}{s}\right).$$

- The kernel has two roots
- choose the one which gives a positive term power series expansion in z
- with Laurent polynomial coefficients in s :

$$\hat{r}(s; z) \equiv \hat{r} = \frac{s \left(1 - \sqrt{1 - 4 \frac{(1+s)^2 z^2}{s}} \right)}{2(1+s)z} = \sum_{n \geq 0} C_n \frac{(1+s)^{2n+1} z^{2n+1}}{s^n},$$

where $C_n = \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n}$ is a Catalan number.

EXTRACTING THE SOLUTION $a = 1$

- Make the substitution $r \mapsto \hat{r}$
- rewrite to remove z : $z = (\hat{r} + 1/\hat{r} + \hat{r}/s + s/\hat{r})^{-1}$.

Setting $r \mapsto \hat{r}$ gives

$$0 = ds^4 F(0, s) - ds F\left(0, \frac{1}{s}\right) - (s-1)(s^2 + s + 1 - \hat{r}^2)(s + \hat{r}^2) (1 + (d-1)F(0, 0))$$

Note coefficients of $F(0, s)$ and $F(0, 1/s)$ are independent of \hat{r} .

If we divide by equation by s — then $F(0, 0)$ is the constant term in s .

SOLUTION FOR $a = 1$

Now extract the coefficient of s^1 :

$$0 = - \left(1 + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{12(2n+1)}{(n+2)^2(n+3)} C_n^2 z^{2n+2} \right) \cdot (1 + (d-1)F(0,0)) - d \cdot F(0,0).$$

Solving the above when $d = 1$ gives

$$G(1, 1; z) = 1 + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{12(2n+1)}{(n+2)^2(n+3)} C_n^2 z^{2n+2},$$

and hence for general d we have

$$F(0, 0) = G(1, d; z) = \frac{G(1, 1; z)}{d + (1-d)G(1, 1; z)}.$$

$$a = d$$

Need to extract coefficients term by term in a to give

$$\begin{aligned} [a^k z^{2n}]F(0, 0) &= \sum_{k'=0}^k \frac{k'(k'+1)(2+4n-k'n-2k')}{(k'-1-n)(n+1)^2(-2n+k')(n+2)} \binom{2n-k'}{n} \binom{2n}{n} \\ &= \frac{k(k+1)(k+2)}{(2n-k)(n+1)^2(n+2)} \binom{2n-k}{n} \binom{2n}{n} \end{aligned}$$

which gives us

$$G(a, a) = \sum_{n \geq 0} z^{2n} \sum_{k=0}^n a^k \frac{k(k+1)(k+2)}{(n+1)^2(n+2)(2n-k)} \binom{2n}{n} \binom{2n-k}{n}.$$

Agrees with Brak *et al.* (1998) that used LGV

One can now consider $d \neq a$:

$$G(a, d; z) = \frac{aG(a, a; z)}{d + (a-d)G(a, a; z)}.$$

COMBINATORIAL STRUCTURE

- Combinatorial structure the underlying the functional equation.
- Breaking up our configurations into pieces between double visits gives

$$G(a, d; z) = \frac{1}{1 - dP(a; z)}$$

where $P(a; z)$ is the generating function of so-called primitive factors.

- Rearranging this expression gives

$$P(a; z) = \frac{G(a, d; z) - 1}{dG(a, d; z)} = \frac{G(a, a; z) - 1}{aG(a, a; z)}.$$

- This allows us to calculate $P(a; z)$ from a known expression for $G(a, a; z)$

PHASES

The phases determined by dominant singularity of the generating function

The singularities of $G(a, d; z)$ are

- *those of $P(a; z)$ which are related to those of $G(a, a; z)$ and*
- *the simple pole at $1 - dP(a; z) = 0$.*

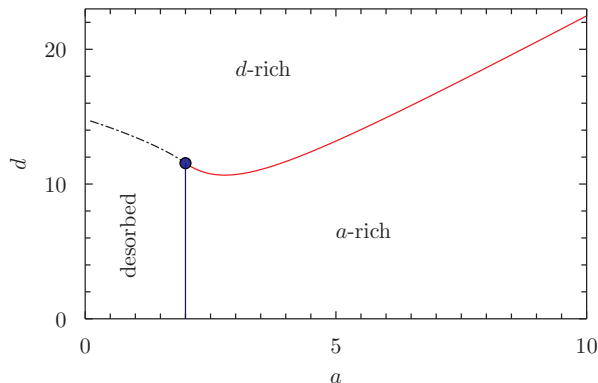
There are two singularities of $G(a, a; z)$ giving rise to two phases:

- A **desorbed** phase: $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{D} = 0$
- The bottom walk is adsorbed (an **a-rich** phase): $\mathcal{A} > 0$ with $\mathcal{D} = 0$

The simple pole in $1 - dP(a; z) = 0$ gives rise to the third phase

- Both walks are adsorbed and this is a **d-rich** phase: $\mathcal{D} > 0$, and $\mathcal{A} > 0$

PHASE DIAGRAM



The first-order transition is marked with a dashed line, while the two second-order transitions are marked with solid lines. The three boundaries meet at the point $(a, d) = (a^*, d^*) = (2, 11.55 \dots)$.

PHASE TRANSITIONS

- The **Desorbed** to **a -rich** transition is
 - the standard second order adsorption transition
 - on the line $a = 2$ for $d < d^*$
- On the other hand the **Desorbed** to **d -rich** transition is **first order**
- While the **a -rich** to **d -rich** transition is also second order.

The other two phase boundaries are solutions to equations involving $G(a, a)$

The point where the three phase boundaries meet can be computed as

$$(a^*, d^*) = \left(2, \frac{16(8 - 3\pi)}{64 - 21\pi} \right)$$

Note that d^* is not algebraic.

NATURE OF THE SOLUTION

Desorbed to d -rich transition occurs at a value of $d_c(a)$ for $a < 2$.

We found

$$d_c(1) = \frac{8(512 - 165\pi)}{4096 - 1305\pi}$$

which is not algebraic.

- *If generating function were D-finite then $d_c(1)$ must be algebraic*
- *Hence generating function is not D-finite*
- *though it is calculated in terms of one.*

FIXED ENERGY RATIO MODEL FAMILY

Family of models parameterised by $-\infty < r < \infty$ where

$$\varepsilon_d = r\varepsilon_a$$

and so

$$d = a^r$$

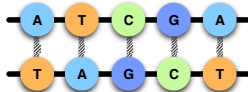
- $r = 2$ model has *two* phase transitions as temperature changed .
- At very low temperatures the model is in a d -rich phase
- while at high temperatures the model is in the desorbed state.
- At intermediate temperatures the system is in an a -rich phase.
- Both transitions are second-order with jumps in specific heat.

CONCLUSIONS FOR DOUBLE INTERACTION MODEL

- Vesicle above a surface — both sides of the vesicle can interact
- Exact solution of generating function
- Obstinate kernel method with a minor generalisation
- Solution is not D-finite — LGV lemma does not apply directly
- There are two low temperature phases
- Line of first order transition and usual second order adsorption.
- Owczarek, Rechnitzer, and Wong, *J. Phys. A*, 45 425002, (2012)

DNA

- DNA is a polymer consisting of four repeating nucleic bases A,C,G,T.
- Two strands entwined with a helix structure
- **Denaturation**: At high T , strands pulled apart



Work with Rami Tabbara

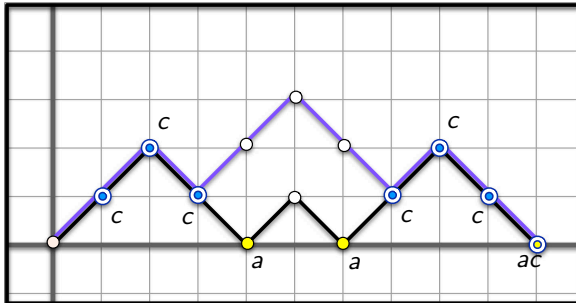
(Our model — Adsorption and Unzipping)

- *double DNA strand in a solvent*
- *near attractive surface*
- *assume aligned base sequence*
- *Use (∞) - friendly directed walks again*

UNZIPPING ADSORPTION MODEL

Let T be the system temperature, k_B the Boltzmann constant.

- **surface visit step:** $a \equiv e^{\varepsilon_a/k_B T}$
- **shared site contact:** $c \equiv e^{\varepsilon_c/k_B T}$
- trivial walk consisting of zero steps has weight 1.



An allowed configuration of length 10. The overall weight is $a^3 c^7$

GENERATING FUNCTION

- **Partition function:** $Z_n(a, c) = \sum_{\hat{\varphi} \ni |\hat{\varphi}|=n} a^{m_a(\hat{\varphi})} c^{m_c(\hat{\varphi})}$
- **Generating function:** $G(a, c) \equiv G(a, c; z) = \sum_{n \geq 1} Z_n(a, c) z^n$
- **Reduced free energy:**

$$\kappa(a, c) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^{-1} \log Z_n(a, c) = \log z_s(a, c)$$

where $z_s(a, c)$ is dominant singularity of G w.r.t. z

Two order parameters:

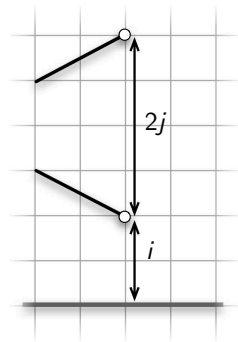
$$\mathcal{A}(a, c) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\langle m_a \rangle}{n} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{C}(a, c) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\langle m_c \rangle}{n},$$

GENERALISED GENERATING FUNCTION

We consider walks φ in the larger set, where each walk can end at any possible height.

- To find $G(a, c)$, consider larger class of configs.
- **Generalised generating function:**

$$\begin{aligned}
 F(r, s) &\equiv F(r, s, a, c; z) \\
 &= \sum_{\varphi \in \Omega} a^{m_a(\varphi)} c^{m_c(\varphi)} r^i s^j z^n
 \end{aligned}$$



FUNCTIONAL EQUATION

As before:

$$K(r, s)F(r, s) = \frac{1}{ac} + \left(C(c) - \frac{zr}{s}\right)F(r, 0) \\ + \left[A(a) - \frac{z}{r}(s+1)\right]F(0, s) - A(a)C(c)F(0, 0)$$

where

$$A(a) = \frac{a-1}{a}, \quad C(c) = \frac{c-1}{c}$$

and the same kernel $K(r, s)$ is

$$K(r, s) \equiv K(r, s; z) = \left(1 - z \left[r + \frac{s}{r} + \frac{r}{s} + \frac{1}{r}\right]\right).$$

MAGIC DECOMPOSITION OF $G(a, c)$

We can re-write $G(a, c)$ in terms of $G(a, 1)$ and $G(1, c)$:

$$G(a, c) = \frac{1}{(a-1)(c-1)} + \frac{p_1(a, c, z)}{p_2(a, c, z) + p_3(a, c, z)G(a, 1) + p_4(a, c, z)G(1, c)}$$

SOLUTION FOR $G(a, 1)$

Exact solution for $G(a, 1)$ is known from first part of talk!

Specifically:

$$G(a, 1) = \sum_{n \geq 0} z^{2n} \sum_{k=0}^n a^k \frac{k(k+1)(k+2)}{(2n-k)(n+1)^2(n+2)} \binom{2n-k}{n} \binom{2n}{n}.$$

SOLUTION FOR $G(1, c)$

No known previous solution for $G(1, c)$

- **We have:** $G(1, c) = [r^1]\text{mess}(r, a, c; z) \equiv [r^1]H(r; z)$
- Traditionally, get series rep. for H . Sometimes an art — see first part of this talk!
- Alternative — find differential equation satisfied by generating function
- Difficult to solve, but DE just as useful for analysis!
- Use Zeilberger-Gosper algorithm: **Maple**: DETools package, Zeilberger hyperexp. implementation
- Result: DE for $G(1, c)$ is order 6 with poly. coeff of $\deg_z = 12$

SINGULARITIES OF $G(a, 1)$ & $G(1, c)$

- Recall, free energy $\kappa(a, c) = \log z_s(a, c)$
- For $G(a, 1)$, prev. known:

$$z_s(a, 1) = \begin{cases} z_b \equiv 1/4, & a \leq 2 \\ z_a \equiv \frac{\sqrt{a-1}}{2a}, & a > 2 \end{cases}$$

- For $G(1, c)$, we use the DE (roots of leading poly. coeff.):

$$z_s(1, c) = \begin{cases} z_b \equiv 1/4, & c \leq 4/3 \\ z_c \equiv \frac{1-c+\sqrt{c^2-c}}{c}, & c > 4/3 \end{cases}$$

ORDER PARAMETERS AND PHASES

Recall lim. avg. **surface** and **shared site** contacts resp.

$$\mathcal{A}(a, c) = \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\langle m_a \rangle}{L} = a \frac{\partial \kappa}{\partial a},$$

$$\mathcal{C}(a, c) = \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\langle m_c \rangle}{L} = c \frac{\partial \kappa}{\partial c}$$

Four Phases:

- **Desorbed:** $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{C} = 0$
- **Adsorbed:** (a-rich) $\mathcal{A} > 0, \mathcal{C} = 0$
- **Zippered:** (c-rich) $\mathcal{A} = 0, \mathcal{C} > 0$
- **Zippered & Adsorbed:** (ac-rich) $\mathcal{A} > 0, \mathcal{C} > 0$

TRANSITIONS OF $G(a, 1)$ & $G(1, c)$

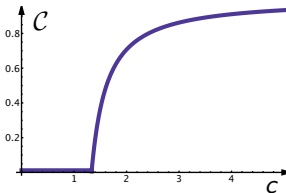
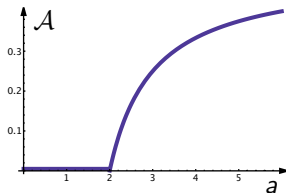
- For $G(a, 1)$:

$$\mathcal{A}(a, 1) = \begin{cases} 0, & a \leq 2 \\ \frac{a-2}{2(a-1)}, & a > 2 \end{cases}$$

- For $G(1, c)$:

$$\mathcal{C}(1, c) = \begin{cases} 0, & c \leq 4/3 \\ \frac{c-2+\sqrt{c(c-1)}}{2(c-1)}, & c > 4/3 \end{cases}$$

- **Second-order** adsorption and zipping phase trans. resp.



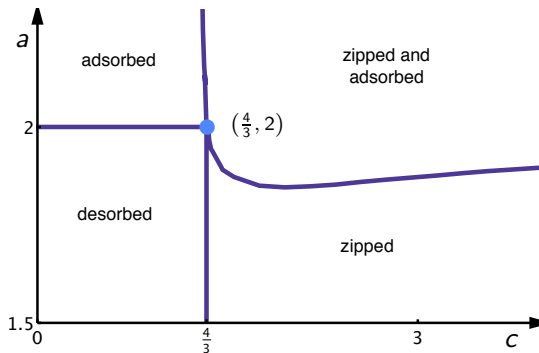
ANALYSING $G(a, c)$

Recall

$$G(a, c) \sim \frac{p_1(a, c, z)}{p_2(a, c, z) + p_3(a, c, z)G(a, 1) + p_4(a, c, z)G(1, c)}$$

- \Rightarrow **Singularities:** Look at $G(a, 1)$, $G(1, c)$ and root of above denom.
- Can find location of pole precisely

PHASE DIAGRAM



Low-temp argument

- $c \rightarrow \infty$, crit. $a = 2$
- $a \rightarrow \infty$, crit. $c = \sqrt{5} - 1$

CONCLUSION

- Simple model of DNA as two friendly walks near a boundary
- Used **obstinate kernel method** to produce two sets refined fn. eqns
- Combined these eqn to relate $G(a, c)$ to both $G(a, 1)$ and $G(1, c)$
- Used **Zeilberger-Gosper** algorithm to find lin. DE for $G(1, c)$
- Started analysis of phase diagram

FUTURE WORKS

- Finish analysis of (a, c) - model
- Combine single, double surface and unzipping interactions
- Also in progress is work in a slit
- Extend these to various interactions

