1 Introduction

A linear polymer, or macromolecule, is a long molecule formed by monomers joined in a sequence by covalent bonds. The structural properties of macromolecule depends on the system state. In good solvent, there is excluded volume effect and polymer is in denaturated, or unfolded, regime. Globular, or collapsed, phase corresponds to polymer immersed in poor solvent. In the critical point, the phase space is divided into two regions corresponding to open and globular states of polymer [1].

Coarse-grained models of macromolecules are widely used for macromolecular modeling. In these models, polymers are represented using subunits which are formed by groups of atoms instead of individual atoms (see Chap.1 in Ref.[2]). Such models neglect chemical details. As coarse-grained models decrease the number of degrees of freedom, it is convenient approach to simulate systems to obtain statistical properties.

The simplest model of polymer is classical homopolymer model which is represented by interacting (also known as collapsing) self-avoiding walk (SAW). This is well-studied model, including cases for different lattices (see Ref.[1, 3]). Self-avoiding walks allows to include excluded volume effects for polymers in good solvent. Van der Waals type attraction is modeled via including the nearest neighbor monomer attraction. Critical phenomena take place in the infinite systems in second order phase transition which is defined as a singularity of free-energy function (see Chap.3 in Ref [4]).

In homopolymer model, all monomers are the same. The polymers with different types of subunits are called heteropolymers. The simplest heteropolymer model is Hydrophobic-polar (HP) model of protein [5]. It assumes that the sequence of monomers types are fixed. This model was introduced to approximate the folding process of protein and mostly used for development algorithms to find minimum energy states (for example, [6, 7]). This model also was used to explore conformations space of proteins [8]. We studied the case of dynamical HP model where sequence of monomers and geometry structure are not fixed [9]. Computational results do not contradict the assumption that dynamical HP model and an interacting homopolymer have the similar behavior in phase transition point and they are in the same universality class.

To represent the ferromagnetic properties of material, the Ising model was introduced. The 2D square-lattice Ising model is the simplest example of system which undergoes a phase transition between ordered states. To study magnetic polymers, Garel et.al introduced the Ising model on self-avoiding walks [10] and studied it for 2D and 3D lattices [10, 11]. After, this model was studied more [12, 13]. Computational results show that the system has second-order transition in 2D case and first-order transition on 3D lattice.

In this work, we continue to study magnetic polymer. We study XY model on SAWs for 2D lattice. Classical XY model on 2D square lattice has a topological order, which was proposed theoretically and named Kosterlitz-Thouless (KT) phase transition [14]. After, classical 2D was studied numerically using Monte-Carlo methods [15, 16].

2 Models

2.1 XY model on self-avoiding walks (SAWs)

A molecular conformation of the length N is represented by a self-avoiding walk (SAW) on a regular lattice with $N-1$ edges and N nodes. Each ith node represents a spin-like variable s_i which is associated with angle $\theta_i \in [-\pi;\pi]$. The Hamiltonian for sequence of spins s and conformation u is defined as the sum over all non-repeating neighbor pairs $\langle i,j\rangle$ in conformation:

$$H(u,s) = -J\sum_{\langle i,j\rangle} cos(\theta_i - \theta_j) - h\sum_i cos(\theta_i) \tag{2.1}$$

In case of the free boundary conditions, the partition function for the chain of the length N has the following form:

$$Z(J) = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} d\theta_1 d\theta_2 \dots d\theta_N e^{J(cos\theta_1 - \theta_2)} e^{J(cos\theta_2 - \theta_3)} e^{J(cos\theta_{N-1} - \theta_N)} \tag{2.2}$$

The mean magnetization is defined as a vector:

$$\langle m\rangle = \frac{1}{N}\langle (\sum_{i=1}^{N} cos\theta_i, \sum_{i=1}^{N} sin\theta_i)\rangle \tag{2.3}$$

The second moment of magnetization is a square of the norm:

$$\langle m^2\rangle = \frac{1}{N^2}\langle (\sum_{i=1}^{N} cos\theta_i)^2 + (\sum_{i=1}^{N} sin\theta_i)^2\rangle \tag{2.4}$$

From measurements of the average magnetization per spin $\langle m\rangle(J)$, we can obtain the value of the magnetic cumulant (Binder parameters) of fourth order [17], which is helpful to study magnetic phase transition:

$$U_4(J) = 1 - \frac{\langle m^4\rangle}{3\langle m^2\rangle^2} \tag{2.5}$$

2.1.1 Case without interaction (J=0)

In case $J = 0$ (high-temperature regime), all states have equal probabilities:

$$Z(0) = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (\frac{1}{2\pi})^N d\theta_1 d\theta_2 \dots d\theta_N \tag{2.6}$$

To calculate the exact value of $\langle m^2\rangle(J=0)$ we use following results:

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{1}{2\pi} sin^2\theta d\theta = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{1}{2\pi} cos^2\theta d\theta = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{1}{2\pi} sin\theta d\theta = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{1}{2\pi} cos\theta d\theta = 0$$

After some calculation, only integration results for N times $sin^2\theta_i$ and N times $cos^2\theta_i$ survive:

$$\langle m^2\rangle(J=0) = \frac{1}{N^2}\int_{-\pi}^{\pi}(\frac{1}{2\pi})^N\left((\sum_{i=1}^{N}cos\theta_i)^2+(\sum_{i=1}^{N}sin\theta_i)^2\right)d\theta_1 d\theta_2\ldots d\theta_N = \frac{1}{N^2}(\frac{1}{2}N+\frac{1}{2}N) = \frac{1}{N} \tag{2.7}$$

Next, to calculate $\langle m^4\rangle(J=0)$ we use following facts:

$$\langle m^4\rangle(J=0) = \frac{1}{N^4}\int_{-\pi}^{\pi}(\frac{1}{2\pi})^N\left((\sum_{i=1}^{N}cos\theta_i)^2+(\sum_{i=1}^{N}sin\theta_i)^2\right)^2 d\theta_1 d\theta_2\ldots d\theta_N$$

$$\left((\sum_{i=1}^{N}cos\theta_i)^2+(\sum_{i=1}^{N}sin\theta_i)^2\right)^2 = (\sum_{i=1}^{N}cos\theta_i)^4+(\sum_{i=1}^{N}sin\theta_i)^4+2(\sum_{i=1}^{N}cos\theta_i)^2(\sum_{i=1}^{N}sin\theta_i)^2$$

$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi}\frac{1}{2\pi}sin^4\theta d\theta = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi}\frac{1}{2\pi}cos^4\theta d\theta = \frac{3}{8}$ (We have N times $sin^4\theta_i$-term and N times $cos^4\theta_i$-term what results in $2\times\frac{3}{8}\times N$).

$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi}\frac{1}{2\pi}\int_{-\pi}^{\pi}\frac{1}{2\pi}sin^2\theta_i sin^2\theta_j d\theta_i d\theta_j = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi}\frac{1}{2\pi}\int_{-\pi}^{\pi}\frac{1}{2\pi}cos^2\theta_i cos^2\theta_j d\theta_i d\theta_j = \frac{1}{4}$ (We have $6N(N-1)\frac{1}{2}$ times sin-term and $6N(N-1)\frac{1}{2}$ times cos-term what results in $6\times\frac{1}{4}\times N(N-1)$).

$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi}\frac{1}{2\pi}sin^2\theta cos^2\theta d\theta = \frac{1}{8}$ (We have this term $2N$ times what results in $2\times\frac{1}{8}\times N$).

$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi}\frac{1}{2\pi}\int_{-\pi}^{\pi}\frac{1}{2\pi}cos^2\theta_i sin^2\theta_j d\theta_i d\theta_j = \frac{1}{4}$ (We have $2N(N-1)\frac{1}{2}$ times what results in $2\times\frac{1}{4}\times N(N-1)$).

All other terms with odd power of sin of cos function equals zero after integration over period.

$$\langle m^4\rangle(J=0) = \frac{1}{N^4}\left(2\times\frac{3}{8}\times N+6\times\frac{1}{4}\times N(N-1)+2\times\frac{1}{8}\times N+2\times\frac{1}{4}\times N(N-1)\right) = \frac{2N-1}{N^3}$$

$$U_4(J=0) = 1-\frac{\frac{2N-1}{N^3}}{3\frac{1}{N^2}} = 1-\frac{2N-1}{3N} = \frac{1}{3}+\frac{1}{3N} \tag{2.8}$$

2.2 Structural properties

To study structural phase transition, we use the mean square end-to-end distance (radius) of self-avoiding-walks which is defined as the sum over all configurations:

$$\langle R_N^2\rangle = \frac{1}{Z_N}\sum_{|u|=N}|u|^2 e^{-E_u}, \tag{2.9}$$

where $|u|$ is the Euclidean distance between the endpoints of conformation u, and Z_N is partition function in the canonical assemble (2.2). As $N\to\infty$, the mean radius of SAWs is believed to scale as

$$\langle R_N^2\rangle \sim N^{2\nu}. \tag{2.10}$$

Here ν is the critical exponent. In two dimensions, the exact value for non-interacting SAWs ($J = 0$)[18]

$$\nu = \frac{3}{4}. \tag{2.11}$$

The case of non-interacting SAWs is equivalent to case $J = 0$ for XY model on polymers or Ising model on polymers [13]. Consider collapsing self-avoiding walks, or classical homopolymer model (see chapter 9 in Ref.[1]. For thermodynamic limit $N \to \infty$, ν is believed to have the form of a step function of interaction energy J. For finite systems, this effect is rounded [3]. At low $J < J_\theta$, the system is equivalent to SAW without interaction. At the theta-point, ν_θ is obtained via Coulomb-gas approximations [19]:

$$\nu_\theta = \frac{4}{7}. \tag{2.12}$$

For the globular regime ($J > J_\theta$) in 2D case:

$$\nu = \frac{1}{2}. \tag{2.13}$$

3 Methods

3.1 Monte-Carlo methods

In this work, we construct Markov Chain Monte Carlo method for fixed-length chain consisting of three types of updates. We refer to them as Snake-like step, Reconnection and Wolff Cluster update. In each iteration, the algorithm chooses the update according to probabilities. We define these probabilities as P_{local},$P_{reconnect}$ and P_{Wolff} respectively. The sum of probabilities is always equal to one: $P_{local} + P_{reconnect} + P_{Wolff} = 1$.

4 Results

4.1 XY model on SAWs, 2D

To perform MC simulations for short chains from $N = 100$ to $N = 1000$, we run at least 2.1×10^9 MC steps using two types of updates: snake-like and reconnect. We choose following update probabilities: $P_{local} = 0.8$, $P_{reconnect} = 0.2$.

For longer chains $N > 1000$ we additionally use cluster update. For $N = 4900$, we run at least 8×10^{10} MC steps. Here we use these values for update probabilities: $P_{local} = 0.8$, $P_{reconnect} = 0.199$, $P_{Wolff} = 0.001$.

4.1.1 Tests for validation simulations

To test our Monte-Carlo (M) simulation, we compare results obtained using MC and Sampling + Exact Enumeration (EE). This method is not reliable, but it helps to make approximate checks. For short chains ($N = 5, N = 8$), we generate all set of self-avoiding walks by EE and sample spin configurations by uniform distribution $U(-\pi, \pi)$. As this is resource-consuming procedure, we sample spin configurations only 600 times (so, 600 sequences of spins applied to each conformation) and repeat this 10 times. Figure 4.1 shows obtained results. For $J = 0$, the second moment of magnetization are close to exact values (2.7) and the mean energy starts at $\langle e \rangle = 0$.

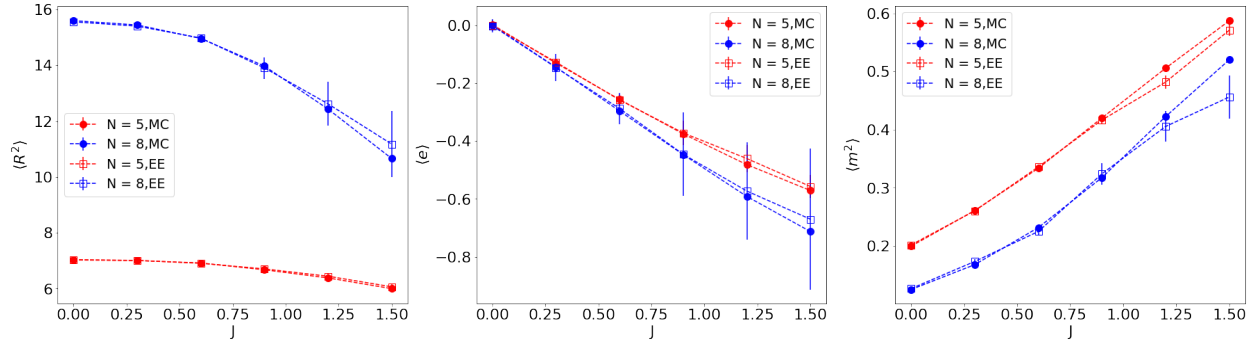

Figure 4.1: $h = 0$. Mean Radius (2.9), mean energy (2.1) and second moment of magnetization (2.4).

4.1.2 Thermodynamic properties

First, we measure the mean square magnetization (2.4) and the mean energy (2.1) for short chains (up to $N = 1000$) in the large range of the interaction energy J and for long chains (up to $N = 4900$) in the narrow range where the system are expected to undergo the phase transition.

Figure 4.2 (left column) shows computational results for the mean energy (2.1) as a function of J. At the top plot for short chains, the mean energy starts at $\langle e \rangle = 0$ as expected for unfolded disordered SAWs. As $N \to \infty$, the value of the mean energy decreases and goes to the asymptotic value $\langle e \rangle = -2J$ for compact ordered walk.

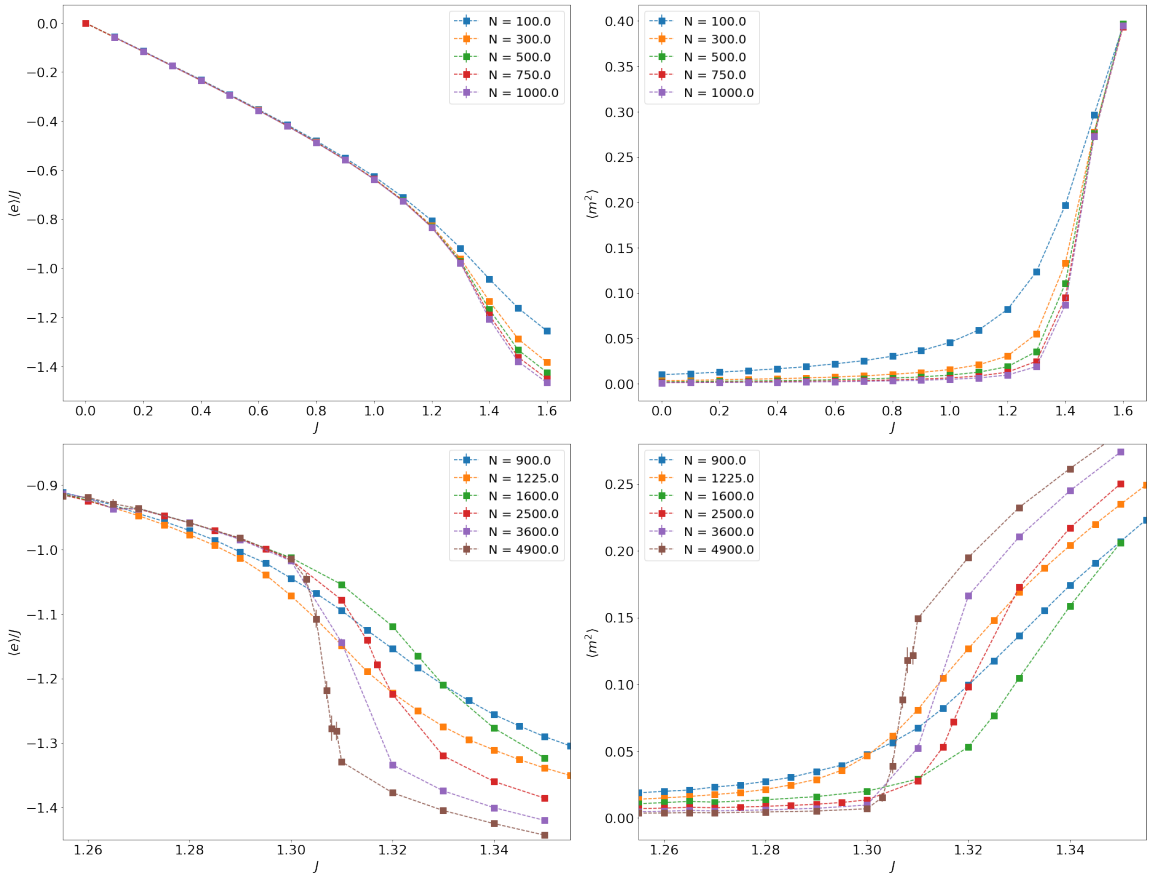

Figure 4.2: $h = 0$. Mean energy (2.1) and second moment of magnetization (2.4).

Figure 4.2 (right column) illustrates obtained numerical results for the second moment of magnetization (2.4). At $J = 0$, results are consisted with the exact solution (2.7) and $\langle m^2 \rangle \to 0$ as $N \to \infty$. As J increases, the square of magnetization grows up. One can suppose an ordering behavior for large J.

From both energy and the second magnetization moment, we can clearly see the finite size effect. The longer chains has jumps in the function for lower J in comparison to shorter ones.

4.1.3 Structural properties

Next, we estimate critical exponent ν (2.10) from the asymptotic power law for the mean square end-to-end distance of SAWs. We use following ansatz [20]:

$$\log(R_N^2 + k_1) = 2\nu \log(N + k_2) + b. \tag{4.1}$$

Here $k_1 = k_2 = 1$ are phenomenological parameters.

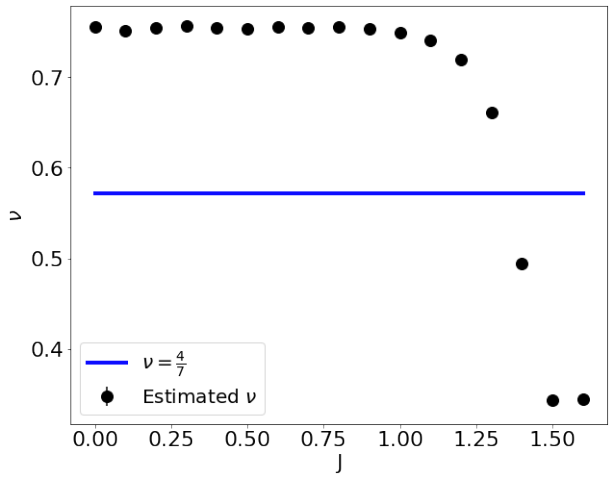

Figure 4.3: $h = 0$. Estimations with errorbars of critical exponent ν .

For the start, we perform curve-fitting for short chains on the large range of values J. Figure 4.3 illustrates obtained results of exponent estimation. In $J = 0$, the critical exponent ν equals $\nu = \frac{3}{4}$ which is consisted with the value of non-interacting SAWs (2.11). The value $\nu = \frac{4}{7}$, which is the exact value for interacting SAWs (2.12), appears at the region $1.25 < J < 1.4$. In previous section we showed that the energy and second magnetization moment functions of J have jumps approximately at the same region.

We can assume that XY model on SAWs also has value $\nu = 4/7$ (2.12) at the point of structural phase transition. We use this value to obtain collapsing plots in Figure 4.4 in following subsection 4.1.4.

4.1.4 Transition

To focus on studying phase transition, we calculate two characteristics. The first one is the mean square end-to-end distance scaled using the factor $\nu = \frac{4}{7}$ in (2.10). The second one is Binder cumulant of magnetization (2.5). Figure 4.4 presents obtained calculations.

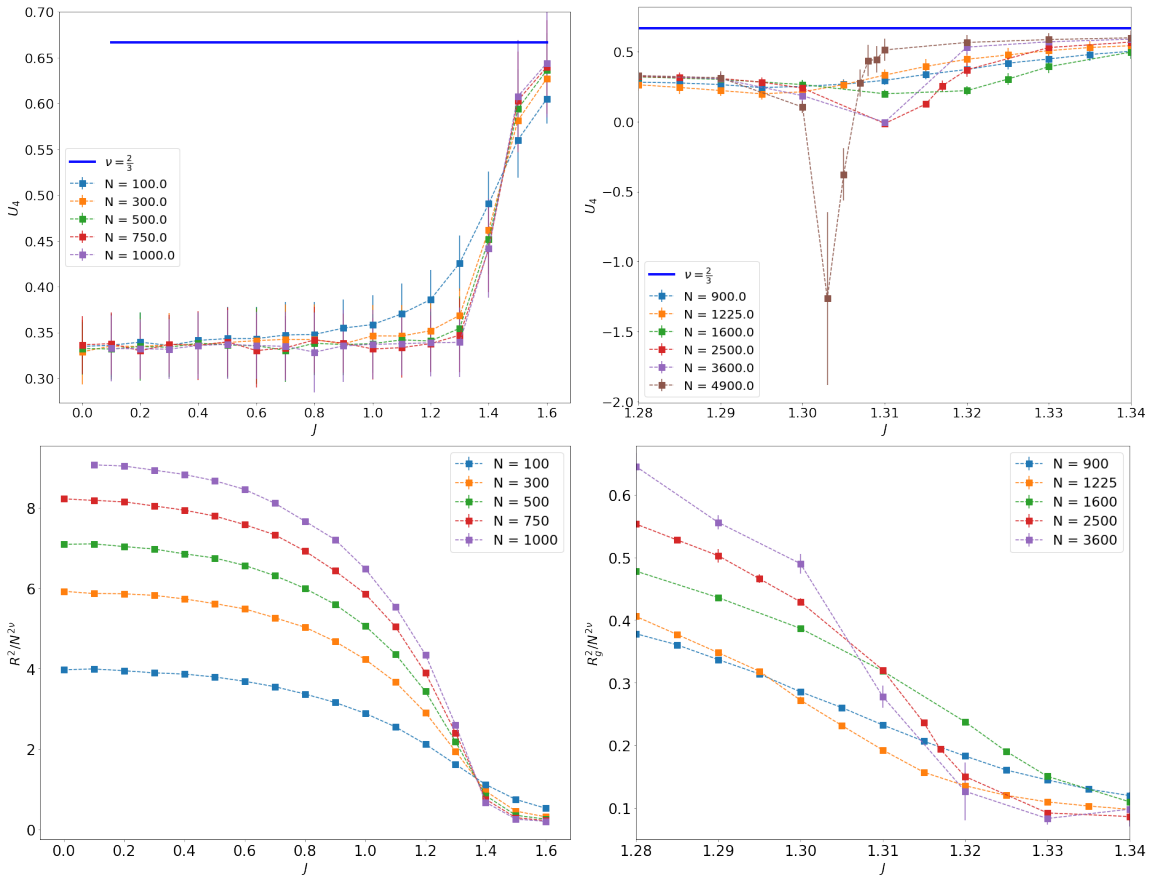

Figure 4.4: $h = 0$. Binder cumulants (2.5) and mean radius (2.9).

The Binder parameter could be used to determine the universality class [21]. At phase transition, the Binder ratio has a divergent feature at the step if the system has the first order transition. Figure 4.4 (top) shows that Binder curves diverge for 2D XY model on SAWs. We can see that in the large systems at the transition region the critical value U_4 is smaller as N larger. Here, we assume that the model undergoes the first order transition and study it further using distribution in Section 4.1.5. The errorbars for curve $N = 4900$ are huge, however, we can narrow the region where the phase transition point is located: $J_{cr} \in [1.29; 1.32]$.

In the bottom of Figure 4.4 we can see that scaled curves of mean radius cross approximately at the same point. The right plot also shows us the finite size effect. To make estimation of the critical point, we make following procedure with paired crossings:

Describe later

Histograms for pairs from Figure 4.5 shows us how the size of systems affect our estimation.

line

Estimated value from the zero point: $J_\theta \approx 1.3(0)$.

4.1.5 Distribution of $\langle cos\theta \rangle$ and $\langle e \rangle$

To study the phase transition order, we look to distributions of energy and magnetization.

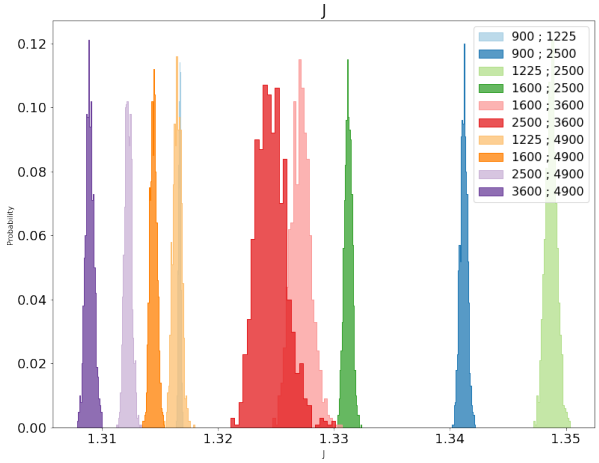

Figure 4.5: $h = 0$. Histograms of estimated J_θ for paired regressions.

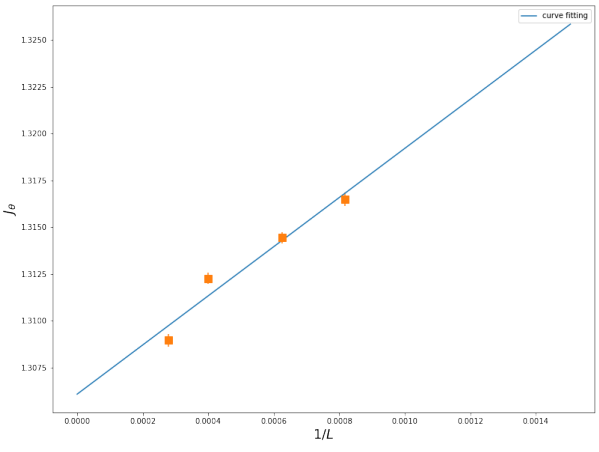

Figure 4.6: $h = 0$. Pairs with $N = 4900$.

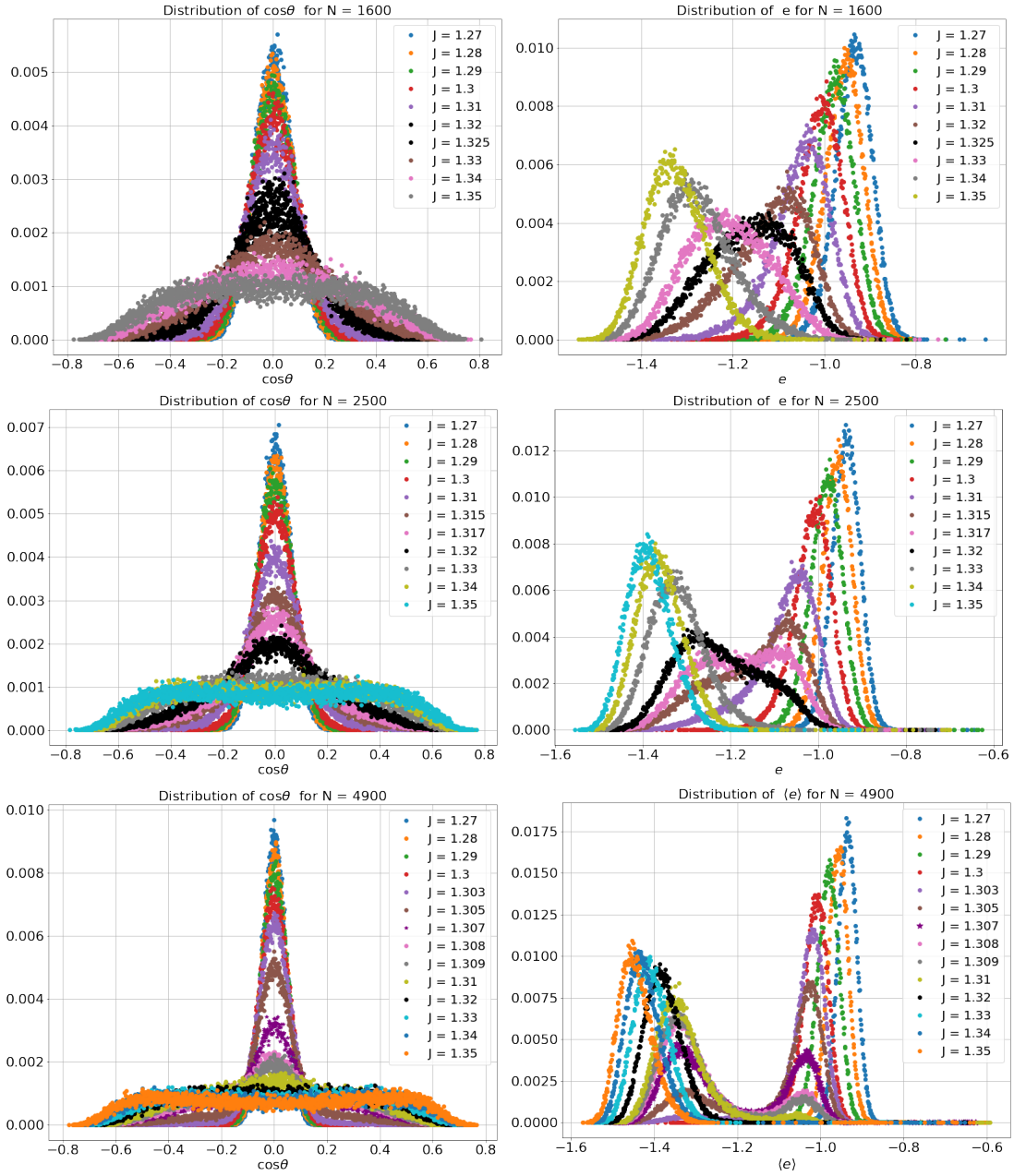
Distribution of cosθ for N = 1600
Distribution of e for N = 1600
Distribution of cosθ for N = 2500
Distribution of e for N = 2500
Distribution of cosθ for N = 4900
Distribution of ⟨e⟩ for N = 4900
cosθ
e
⟨e⟩

Figure 4.7: $h = 0$.

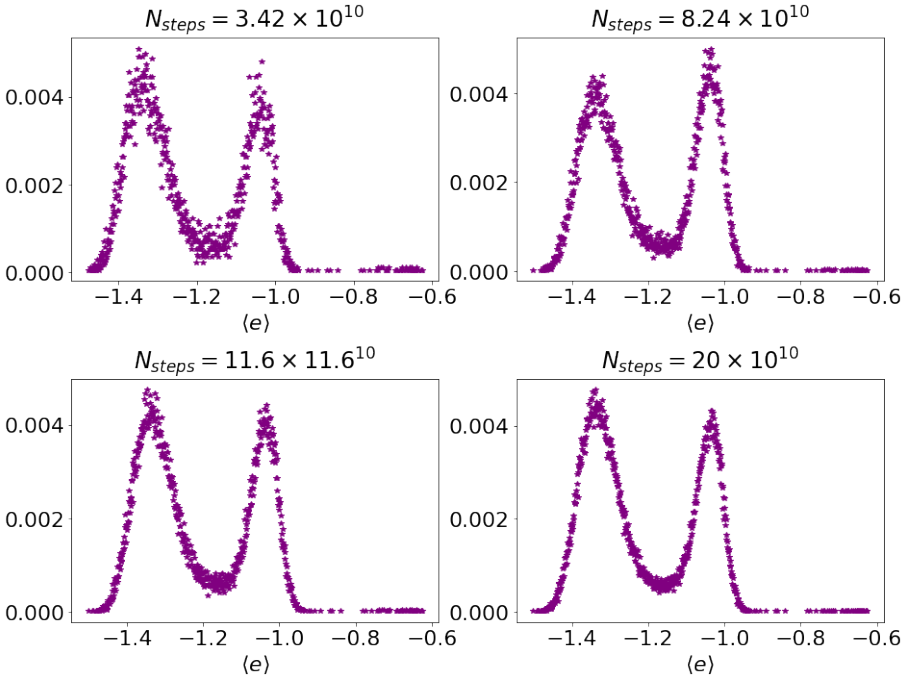

Figure 4.8: $h = 0$.

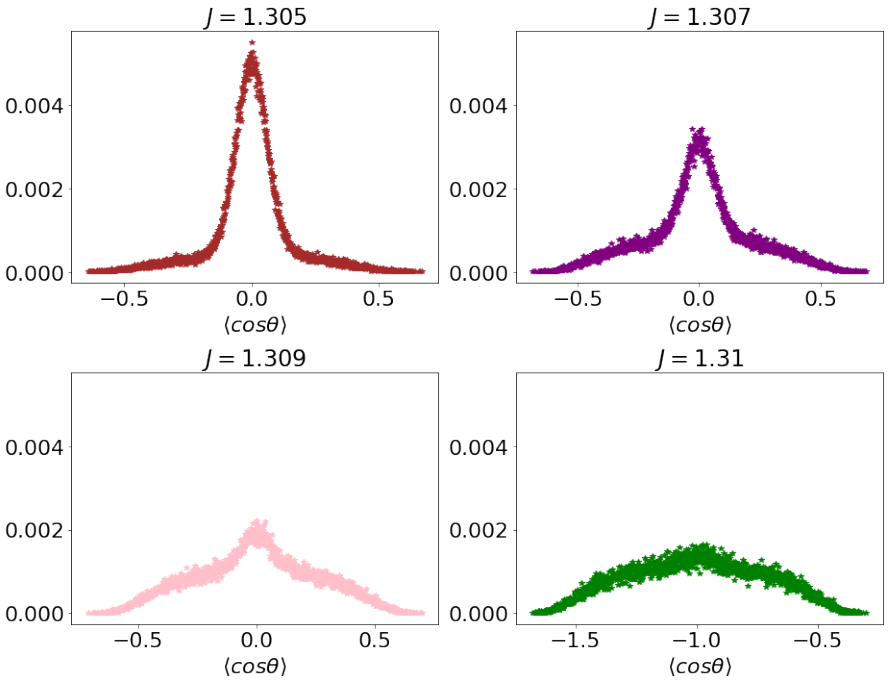

Figure 4.9: $h = 0$.

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