

## Projects: Polymers as 2-dimensional random walks

2.1 a) Write a program that generates a two-dimensional random walk with single steps along x or y. The simplest way to do this is by generating a number randomly taken out of the sequence (0,1,2,3) by multiplying `random.rnd()` by 4 and rounding the result down to an integer using `int()`. Then you can increase x by one for 0, decrease x by one for 1, and the same for y with 2 and 3. Plot random walks for 10, 100 and 1000 steps.

2.1 b) Instead of `rnd.random()` use the simple random generator  $r_n = (ar_{n-1} + c) \% m$  which generates random number in the range 0 to  $m-1$ . In Python you can use `int(4*r/m)` to convert  $r$  to an integer between 0 and 3. How does the walk look like for  $r_0=1$ ,  $a=3$ ,  $c=4$ ,  $m=128$ ? Also try  $m=129$  and  $m=130$  and some other values for all four parameters.

2.1 c) Switch back to `rnd.random()`. Generate many random walks for a few, not all 1000, values of the step count in the range from 1 to 1000 and determine the root mean square end-to-end distance  $\sqrt{\langle R^2 \rangle}$  for each step count. How does the end-to-end distance depend on  $N$ ? Also plot the standard error estimate.

## Projects: Polymers (continued)

2.1 d) A real polymer can not cross itself, i.e. different atoms can not occupy the same space. Generate self-avoiding random walks by storing all previously visited sites of the same walk and terminate and discard the walk when a previously visited is revisited. How does the fraction of succesful walks depend on  $N$ ? What is the maximum value of  $N$  that you can reasonably consider? You can improve the algorithm somewhat by only generating moves in three directions, not back in the direction where you just came from. How does that improve the succes?

2.1 e) Compute the mean squared end-to-end distances for the self-avoiding random walk for the range of  $N$  that you can cover. What is the difference with the normal random walk (suggestion: use log-log scale)?

## Projects: traffic model

2.2 a) Implement the cellular automaton traffic model with periodic boundary conditions. Note that you need to follow the exact order of steps given for the automaton. Run it for parameters  $v_{\max} = 2$  and  $p = 0.5$ . (Plotting suggestions: plot the road on the x-axis, time on the y-axis and dots for the cars; for a movie plot symbols running along the edge of a circle (don't use radians for the simulation though)) Allow the system to equilibrate before recording the flow rate. Run with different car densities (number of cars / road length). Plot the flow rate versus the density. This plot is called the fundamental diagram. Explain its qualitative shape. At what density do traffic jams begin to occur?

2.2 b) Now we will estimate the statistical accuracy. Take a road length of 50, use 25 cars,  $v_{\max} = 2$  and  $p = 0.5$ . Run multiple simulations, for each collect the flow rate averaged over 100 time steps. Compute the standard error estimate of the flow rate. How many simulations do you need to get a standard error of 0.001? How long does the equilibration need to be to get accurate results? Does the equilibration time depend on how you choose the initial conditions?

## Projects: traffic model (continued)

2.2 c) When do the results, i.e. the fundamental diagram, become independent of the size of the system (at constant density)? Or conversely, when shortening the road length with constant density, when do the results start to deviate from those of long road lengths? Be aware that longer roads need longer equilibration times.

2.2 d) Now we will also look at fuel consumption. We assume that the fuel consumption of a car is  $1 + v + 0.2 v^3$ , where the constant 1 is for the inefficiency/stationary running of a petrol engine or the heating of an electric car, the linear term for the rolling resistance and the cubic term for the air resistance. Run simulations for a car density of 0.4 with  $p = 0.25$  for  $v_{\max} = 1, \dots, 5$ . Plot, as a function of  $v_{\max}$ , the flow rate and the average fuel consumption summed over all cars divided by the flow rate. Can you explain the results?