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Title: Conference on Means, Methods and Results in Polymeric Systems II

Event Type: Conference-Workshop

Location:

Fields Institute in Toronto

Dates:

June 12-14, 2017

Topic:

On the days June 12-14, 2017, researchers met at the Fields Institute in Toronto in part to celebrate the 75th birthday of Dr. Stuart Whittington, a theoretical chemist and emeritus professor at the University of Toronto. The meeting was arranged as a conference "Means, Methods and Results in the Statistical Mechanics of Polymeric Systems II", and it is the second installment of a conference by the same name, held in June 2012 in the Chemistry Department at the University of Toronto.

Methodology:

The conference was arranged by an organizing committee including CE Soteris, EJ Janse van Rensburg, A Rechnitzer, T Prellberg, E Orlandini and J. Schofield, all former post-doctoral fellows, collaborators or colleagues of Dr. Whittington. Funding for the conference was generously granted by the Fields Institute, PIMS, the Perimeter Institute, the Department of Chemistry at the University of Toronto and IOP Publishing. Also during the conference, on behalf of IOP, the organizers presented Dr. Whittington with a certificate "On the 50th anniversary of Journal of Physics A: Mathematical and Theoretical presented to: Professor Stuart Whittington in recognition of being one of the most highly published authors in the journal". Scholars from all over the world were invited, and eventually a total of 40 participants registered, of whom 30 submitted abstracts and gave talks at the conference.

The contributions were broadly focused on the statistical mechanics of polymeric systems. This is a broad field, and the meeting was timely in that talks covered recent results related to standard models in this field including: exact solutions and improved exact enumeration techniques for self-avoiding walk models, improved high-dimensional scaling results, improved Monte Carlo sampling techniques, improved approaches for studying polymers in confined geometries and improved approaches and models for studying knotting and linking in polymeric systems. The presented results were also timely in the context of recent significant experimental results for polymeric systems that include enzyme action on DNA, single molecule AFM experiments, and phase transitions in complex co-polymer systems.

Scientific Highlights:

Several groups of researchers either came ahead of the conference or stayed a few days longer to collaborate. This included Soteris who engaged in further discussions with Janse van Rensburg, Rechnitzer, Micheletti, Shimokawa and Beaton. Rechnitzer worked with Owczarek,

Prellberg and Beaton on questions related to the effect of symmetry breaking boundary conditions.

Organizers:

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Speakers:

Mahshid Atapour, Capilano University
Marco Baiesi, Università di Padova
Nick Beaton, University of Melbourne
Hue Sun Chan, University of Toronto
Harrison Chapman, University of Georgia
Nathan Clisby, University of Melbourne
Tetsuo Deguchi, Ochanomizu University
Mark Dennis, University of Bristol
Bertrand Duplantier, IPHT, Saclay
Claus Ernst, Western Kentucky University
Gokhan Yildirim, York University
Gary Iliev, University of Georgia
Ray Kapral, University of Toronto
Cristian Micheletti, SISSA, Trieste
Aleks Owczarek, University of Melbourne
Eleni Panagiotou, UC Santa Barbara
Nicolas PÉtréolis, Université de Nantes
Rob Scharein, Hypnagogic Software
Koya Shimokawa, Saitama University
Jon Simon, University of Iowa
Attilio Stella, Università di Padova
De Witt Sumners, Florida State University
Michael Szafron, University of Saskatchewan
John Valleau, University of Toronto
Stuart Whittington, University of Toronto
Uta Ziegler, Western Kentucky University

Links:

<http://www.fields.utoronto.ca/activities/16-17/polymeric>
