

## Series Enumeration Study of the Rod-to-Coil Transition of Linear Polymer Chains

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The scaling of the number, the mean-squared end-to-end distance, and the mean displacement in the direction of the first step, for semiflexible chains on the square, triangular and simple cubic lattices are investigated by enumerating self-avoiding walks classified according to the number of turns. Simple scaling forms are found to describe adequately all the available data. Estimates of the scaling functions are obtained and compared with the Gaussian results, when available. Self-avoidance effects are suppressed but do not vanish identically in  $d=3$ , contrary to recent theoretical expectations.

### 1. Introduction

The rod-to-coil transition of linear polymer chains has attracted attention recently [1–5], due to unexpected scaling properties. The traditional description of chain persistency within solvable Gaussian-type models [6–8] focuses on the concept of the persistence length  $\lambda$ . The linear dimension, say  $D$ , of a chain scales with  $N$ , the number of monomers in the chain, as

$$D/(Na) \simeq M(Na/\lambda), \quad (1.1)$$

with  $M(x) \rightarrow 1$  for  $x \rightarrow 0$ , and  $M(x) \sim x^{\nu-1}$  for  $x \gg 1$ , and where it is assumed that all the lengths involved are much larger than a typical microscopic length scale,  $a$ . The chain dimensions can be measured by the even moments of the end-to-end distance vector,  $\mathbf{R}$ ,

$$D_k \propto \langle \mathbf{R}^{2k} \rangle^{1/(2k)}, \quad (1.2)$$

where  $\langle \rangle$  denote configurational average for fixed  $N$ . Recently, some surprising features of the scaling

law (1.1) have been found. For Gaussian models, the scaling functions  $M_k$ , corresponding to  $D_k$ , are not universal but depend on the microscopic details of the model [9, 10] (e.g., the lattice structure). Lattice model results for  $M_k$  also differ with the scaling found in the continuous “worm-like chain” theory [8, 6]. This absence of the scaling limit in the field-theoretical sense (lattice spacing going to zero) needs further investigation and understanding.

For lattice self-avoiding walk (SAW) models, a strong suppression of the self-avoidance effects as the persistence length of the chain increases was discovered both numerically and by analytic perturbative arguments [1, 3–5]. Nakanishi [4] proposed Flory-type arguments suggesting complete suppression of self-avoidance for  $d > 2$ , i.e., the scaling functions  $M_k$  should assume Gaussian values, according to his theory. It is, however, not clear if the Flory argument is valid for all  $d > 2$ , or only in the  $d \rightarrow \infty$  limit. Perturbative analyses of the type invoked in [3] suggest that the second possibility is more probable. Another interesting feature that can be easily

seen by applying the techniques of [3] is that the SAW scaling functions are lattice dependent. This property is, in fact, quite common to various dimensional crossover models and suggests, as in the Gaussian case, that no all-encompassing field-theoretical continuum description exists for the rod-to-coil transition.

In this work, we consider SAW of  $N$  steps on the square (SQ), triangular (TR) and simple cubic (SC) lattices. For each *turn* of a walk ( $90^\circ$  for SQ and SC; both  $60^\circ$  and  $120^\circ$  turns for the TR), a weight  $w$  is assigned. In this lattice model the elongated rod-like configurations dominate when  $wN$  is small [1–3], while coiled states are dominant for  $N \gg 1/w$ . Thus the persistence length  $\lambda$  is proportional to  $1/w$ .

By standard methods [11], we enumerated SAWs classified by the number of turns,  $0 \leq T \leq N-1$ , for  $N \leq 22$  on the SQ, and  $N \leq 16$  on the TR and SC lattices, and calculated  $c(N, T)$ , the number of walks, as well as  $\langle R^2(N, T) \rangle$ , the average squared end-to-end distance. In the enumeration, the *first step* of the walk is chosen along the  $+X$  axis, so that the number of such walks,

$$C(N, T) \equiv c(N, T)/q, \quad (1.3)$$

and the sum of their squared end-to-end distances,

$$Q(N, T) \equiv c(N, T) \langle R^2(N, T) \rangle / q, \quad (1.4)$$

where  $q$  is the lattice coordination number, are listed in Tables 1–3. For the SQ and SC lattices, we also calculated the linear moment  $\langle X(N, T) \rangle$ , which measures the average coordinate along the direction ( $+X$ ) of the first step. This quantity was studied for flexible SAWs (i.e.,  $w = 1$ ) in [12]. (See also [13] for a related property of Gaussian random walks.) The data for this moment are listed as

$$S(N, T) \equiv C(N, T) \langle X(N, T) \rangle, \quad (1.5)$$

in Tables 1 and 3.

In the following sections we examine the scaling properties of the weighted averages (generating functions),

$$C_N(w) = \sum_{T=0}^{N-1} C(N, T) w^T, \quad (1.6)$$

$$R_N^2(w) = \left[ \sum_{T=0}^{N-1} Q(N, T) w^T \right] / C_N(w), \quad (1.7)$$

$$X_N(w) = \left[ \sum_{T=0}^{N-1} S(N, T) w^T \right] / C_N(w). \quad (1.8)$$

**Table 1.** Square lattice enumeration data for  $N = 1, \dots, 22$ . The first step is along the  $+X$  axis. The quantities  $C$ ,  $Q$  and  $S$  are defined in Sect. 1

$N$	$T$	$C(N, T)$	$Q(N, T)$	$S(N, T)$
1	0	1	1	1
2	0	1	4	2
2	1	2	4	2
3	0	1	9	3
3	1	4	20	6
3	2	4	12	4
4	0	1	16	4
4	1	6	56	12
4	2	12	72	16
4	3	6	32	8
5	0	1	25	5
5	1	8	120	20
5	2	24	240	40
5	3	28	220	38
5	4	10	74	14
6	0	1	36	6
6	1	10	220	30
6	2	40	600	80
6	3	70	844	114
6	4	58	592	84
6	5	16	160	24
7	0	1	49	7
7	1	12	364	42
7	2	60	1260	140
7	3	144	2400	264
7	4	184	2584	292
7	5	116	1460	170
7	6	26	330	40
8	0	1	64	8
8	1	14	560	56
8	2	84	2352	224
8	3	252	5664	528
8	4	440	8264	780
8	5	428	7176	688
8	6	218	3384	336
8	7	42	656	68
9	0	1	81	9
9	1	16	816	72
9	2	112	4032	336
9	3	408	11752	948
9	4	900	21684	1752
9	5	1200	25520	2068
9	6	954	18514	1532
9	7	408	7480	636
9	8	68	1268	112
10	0	1	100	10
10	1	18	1140	90
10	2	144	6480	480
10	3	612	22184	1580
10	4	1636	49560	3508
10	5	2760	73792	5200
10	6	3008	72608	5176
10	7	2000	45136	3276
10	8	736	15928	1192
10	9	110	2396	186
11	0	1	121	11
11	1	20	1540	110
11	2	180	9900	660
11	3	880	38944	2480
11	4	2760	102216	6428
11	5	5656	184296	11456

Table 1 (continued)

$N$	$T$	$C(N, T)$	$Q(N, T)$	$S(N, T)$
11	6	7834	229 554	14336
11	7	7136	193 632	12188
11	8	4100	105 156	6760
11	9	1328	32912	2168
11	10	178	4450	304
12	0	1	144	12
12	1	22	2024	132
12	2	220	14 520	880
12	3	1210	64 544	3720
12	4	4360	194 712	11028
12	5	10492	412 544	22988
12	6	17656	622 608	34660
12	7	20448	665 136	37116
12	8	16094	490 296	27708
12	9	8106	236 096	13596
12	10	2342	66 344	3928
12	11	282	8 144	500
13	0	1	169	13
13	1	24	2 600	156
13	2	264	20 592	1144
13	3	1 620	102 084	5370
13	4	6 590	348 078	17918
13	5	18 252	847 772	42742
13	6	36 164	1 504 196	75432
13	7	50 904	1 947 704	97332
13	8	51 026	1 819 042	91 590
13	9	35 156	1 189 268	60 502
13	10	15 806	514 086	26 712
13	11	4 116	131 012	6 966
13	12	452	14 716	808
14	0	1	196	14
14	1	26	3 276	182
14	2	312	28 392	1 456
14	3	2 106	155 316	7 518
14	4	9 550	590 744	27 888
14	5	29 876	1 626 496	74 960
14	6	68 132	3 318 832	151 588
14	7	112 972	5 054 104	229 200
14	8	137 698	5 723 712	260 204
14	9	120 790	4 742 588	216 914
14	10	74 266	2 783 536	129 056
14	11	30 034	1 090 812	51 566
14	12	7 124	254 184	12 316
14	13	724	26 312	1 312
15	0	1	225	15
15	1	28	4 060	210
15	2	364	38 220	1 820
15	3	2 688	228 704	10 248
15	4	13 440	960 064	41 832
15	5	46 932	2 949 012	125 050
15	6	121 106	6 804 810	285 104
15	7	231 268	11 920 884	494 026
15	8	332 472	15 883 336	657 580
15	9	354 584	15 963 064	661 480
15	10	277 706	11 876 394	496 840
15	11	153 528	6 319 304	267 544
15	12	56 568	2 263 816	97 840
15	13	12 304	485 776	21 444
15	14	1 160	46 632	2 120
16	0	1	256	16
16	1	30	4 960	240
16	2	420	50 400	2 240
16	3	3 360	327 488	13 664

Table 1 (continued)

$N$	$T$	$C(N, T)$	$Q(N, T)$	$S(N, T)$
16	4	18 368	1 504 048	60 872
16	5	70 748	5 099 648	200 388
16	6	203 784	13 132 352	508 568
16	7	440 488	26 023 160	994 216
16	8	729 496	39 900 528	1 517 920
16	9	917 760	47 193 760	1 791 604
16	10	874 158	42 599 624	1 625 056
16	11	615 382	28 736 416	1 105 604
16	12	309 874	13 976 856	545 356
16	13	104 586	4 609 208	183 296
16	14	21 036	916 296	37 264
16	15	1 842	81 984	3 432
17	0	1	289	17
17	1	32	5 984	272
17	2	480	65 280	2 720
17	3	4 144	457 744	17 864
17	4	24 584	2 283 176	86 240
17	5	103 632	8 470 480	309 924
17	6	329 666	24 084 258	866 544
17	7	795 876	53 274 052	1 886 010
17	8	1 493 382	92 426 230	3 250 082
17	9	2 164 776	125 834 632	4 400 668
17	10	2 433 582	133 709 806	4 685 292
17	11	2 083 468	109 450 524	3 849 982
17	12	1 336 186	67 494 874	2 399 986
17	13	615 912	30 217 656	1 088 244
17	14	192 136	9 229 040	339 044
17	15	35 876	1 708 644	64 030
17	16	2 936	143 112	5 512
18	0	1	324	18
18	1	34	7 140	306
18	2	544	83 232	3 264
18	3	5 032	626 448	22 968
18	4	32 200	3 372 432	119 448
18	5	147 340	13 589 752	465 420
18	6	512 974	42 290 016	1 421 544
18	7	1 368 070	103 308 836	3 410 206
18	8	2 867 640	200 126 536	6 546 824
18	9	4 710 626	308 375 172	10 010 594
18	10	6 103 342	377 271 120	12 233 772
18	11	6 167 174	363 612 964	11 806 054
18	12	4 810 672	272 135 272	8 893 908
18	13	2 823 332	154 477 240	5 099 468
18	14	1 202 452	64 043 944	2 144 380
18	15	347 864	18 209 664	621 184
18	16	60 698	3 153 944	109 800
18	17	4 688	248 288	8 864
19	0	1	361	19
19	1	36	8 436	342
19	2	612	104 652	3 876
19	3	6 048	841 536	29 088
19	4	41 520	4 863 408	162 120
19	5	205 092	21 154 100	680 654
19	6	775 808	71 518 440	2 254 776
19	7	2 265 524	191 249 636	5 909 630
19	8	5 249 822	409 255 470	12 509 202
19	9	9 636 192	704 293 344	21 311 400
19	10	14 155 602	975 442 730	29 421 464
19	11	16 487 416	1 082 638 040	32 594 284
19	12	15 183 378	954 184 306	28 845 550
19	13	10 837 688	657 423 400	19 989 628
19	14	5 876 904	345 579 696	10 630 576
19	15	2 320 512	133 362 752	4 156 412

Table 1 (continued)

$N$	$T$	$C(N, T)$	$Q(N, T)$	$S(N, T)$
19	16	626972	35462756	1126480
19	17	102548	5769364	186702
19	18	7480	428432	14228
20	0	1	400	20
20	1	38	9880	380
20	2	684	129960	4560
20	3	7182	1111968	36360
20	4	52656	6866640	216216
20	5	279096	32066360	973228
20	6	1139686	117043592	3475620
20	7	3616786	340097800	9883356
20	8	9178452	796859664	22867936
20	9	18627866	1515157720	42972340
20	10	30583370	2344164944	66129060
20	11	40391102	2945976728	82791820
20	12	42883506	2990562344	84148308
20	13	36135764	2426753288	68531488
20	14	23832792	1548434440	44066956
20	15	11977978	757628928	21798876
20	16	4415902	273396672	7977556
20	17	1117420	68262960	2028028
20	18	172166	10468664	316972
20	19	11844	735632	22852
21	0	1	441	21
21	1	40	11480	420
21	2	760	159600	5320
21	3	8460	1447788	44910
21	4	65970	9514002	283806
21	5	373668	47477812	1363230
21	6	1638510	186088838	5220828
21	7	5615504	583873680	16006712
21	8	15495528	1486827352	40194176
21	9	34449452	3096001260	82570418
21	10	62564324	5293443980	140193996
21	11	92362700	7432590604	195667754
21	12	111225932	8544765668	224806708
21	13	108061712	7987431984	210290464
21	14	84148106	6003133602	158947440
21	15	51435656	3565513608	95078148
21	16	24134822	1631236798	44026566
21	17	8328628	552640068	15112454
21	18	1984284	130030524	3621432
21	19	288624	18857632	534512
21	20	18826	1257362	36518
22	0	1	484	22
22	1	42	13244	462
22	2	840	194040	6160
22	3	9870	1860188	54890
22	4	81570	12961344	367356
22	5	491484	68836672	1875776
22	6	2303060	288366656	7669060
22	7	8477132	971713144	25221712
22	8	25265132	2672423576	68312032
22	9	61084844	6049014552	152341408
22	10	121544920	11328446376	282867444
22	11	198508008	17581450512	435711532
22	12	267259406	22586589608	558257520
22	13	294527078	23914296468	590479014
22	14	264465928	20706942968	512798860
22	15	190850728	14487600280	360672992
22	16	108912908	8046030680	202019896
22	17	47822468	3455724056	87767868
22	18	15532710	1103071008	28405024
22	19	3490738	245357772	6429458
22	20	481298	33745592	900020
22	21	29956	2140520	58408

Table 2. Tringular lattice enumeration data for  $N$  upto 16. The first step is along the  $+X$  axis. The quantities  $C$  and  $Q$  are defined in Sect. 1

$N$	$T$	$C(N, T)$	$Q(N, T)$
1	0	1	1
2	0	1	4
2	1	4	8
3	0	1	9
3	1	8	40
3	2	14	48
4	0	1	16
4	1	12	112
4	2	44	284
4	3	46	242
5	0	1	25
5	1	16	240
5	2	90	942
5	3	196	1672
5	4	152	1098
6	0	1	36
6	1	20	440
6	2	150	2352
6	3	512	6414
6	4	818	8710
6	5	490	4672
7	0	1	49
7	1	24	728
7	2	226	4936
7	3	1048	18256
7	4	2568	38034
7	5	3208	41880
7	6	1572	18938
8	0	1	64
8	1	28	1120
8	2	318	9210
8	3	1852	43122
8	4	6204	121746
8	5	11822	205012
8	6	12086	189700
8	7	5044	74108
9	0	1	81
9	1	32	1632
9	2	424	15786
9	3	2996	89540
9	4	12644	319866
9	5	32860	729084
9	6	51312	1029546
9	7	44300	820976
9	8	16120	282228
10	0	1	100
10	1	36	2280
10	2	546	25368
10	3	4522	169132
10	4	23142	731900
10	5	76000	2109760
10	6	161154	4027990
10	7	212832	4894472
10	8	159252	3427744
10	9	51376	1051902
11	0	1	121
11	1	40	3080
11	2	684	38754
11	3	6496	297080
11	4	39012	1511156
11	5	155296	5275688
11	6	416958	12732026
11	7	746080	20896820
11	8	853202	22273844
11	9	563796	13902800

**Table 2** (continued)

$N$	$T$	$C(N, T)$	$Q(N, T)$
11	10	163258	3852488
12	0	1	144
12	1	44	4048
12	2	836	56838
12	3	8964	492604
12	4	61896	2881288
12	5	289538	11823650
12	6	941954	34552680
12	7	2134130	71649192
12	8	3303244	103070166
12	9	3330248	97815462
12	10	1970536	55057782
12	11	517810	13906386
13	0	1	169
13	1	48	5200
13	2	1004	80606
13	3	12000	779440
13	4	93518	5154996
13	5	503112	24326372
13	6	1924718	83558692
13	7	5284624	209764712
13	8	10349588	381054600
13	9	14110336	487711640
13	10	12721712	417022380
13	11	6816104	213715532
13	12	1639016	49589048
14	0	1	196
14	1	52	6552
14	2	1188	111138
14	3	15636	1186316
14	4	135954	8755178
14	5	826602	46721926
14	6	3637446	184560186
14	7	11745974	544540872
14	8	27878746	1197265506
14	9	48061714	1934185646
14	10	58542252	2229060042
14	11	47737532	1734009442
14	12	23368942	815563862
14	13	5179836	174996560
15	0	1	225
15	1	56	8120
15	2	1386	149610
15	3	19952	1747424
15	4	191302	14237932
15	5	1297752	84796124
15	6	6458860	378832102
15	7	23996104	1285421496
15	8	66983216	3321317840
15	9	139912028	6492431668
15	10	215378466	9440100104
15	11	237067876	9892087284
15	12	176455672	7057537302
15	13	79514824	3066998128
15	14	16350102	612021142
16	0	1	256
16	1	60	9920
16	2	1600	197290
16	3	24986	2502902
16	4	262038	22318006
16	5	1962078	146767128
16	6	10897650	731859970
16	7	45803820	2808705528
16	8	147120662	8345793114
16	9	361397702	19169457220
16	10	673819246	33717096634
16	11	936817752	44558843562

**Table 2** (continued)

$N$	$T$	$C(N, T)$	$Q(N, T)$
16	12	940523714	42801542806
16	13	643899436	28197869358
16	14	268812158	11387593994
16	15	51545484	2123713276

**Table 3.** Simple Cubic lattice enumeration data for  $N$  upto 16. The first step is along the  $+X$  axis. The quantities  $C$ ,  $Q$  and  $S$  are defined in Sect. 1

$N$	$T$	$C(N, T)$	$Q(N, T)$	$S(N, T)$
1	0	1	1	1
2	0	1	4	2
2	1	4	4	4
3	0	1	9	3
3	1	8	20	12
3	2	16	24	16
4	0	1	16	4
4	1	12	56	24
4	2	48	144	64
4	3	60	112	64
5	0	1	25	5
5	1	16	120	40
5	2	96	480	160
5	3	248	780	316
5	4	228	524	244
6	0	1	36	6
6	1	20	220	60
6	2	160	1200	320
6	3	620	3004	948
6	4	1188	4216	1472
6	5	832	2336	928
7	0	1	49	7
7	1	24	364	84
7	2	240	2520	560
7	3	1248	8560	2208
7	4	3600	18480	5160
7	5	5384	21172	6564
7	6	3068	10088	3432
8	0	1	64	8
8	1	28	560	112
8	2	336	4704	896
8	3	2184	20224	4416
8	4	8464	59216	13784
8	5	19192	103976	26480
8	6	23236	102824	28384
8	7	11220	42888	12720
9	0	1	81	9
9	1	32	816	144
9	2	448	8064	1344
9	3	3504	41992	7944
9	4	17000	155576	31040
9	5	51968	369776	79800
9	6	96548	560624	129448
9	7	98288	482384	119088
9	8	41192	178568	46768
10	0	1	100	10
10	1	36	1140	180
10	2	576	12960	1920
10	3	5256	79304	13240
10	4	30696	355840	62136
10	5	117808	1069088	200272
10	6	295440	2194960	436208
10	7	462480	2892808	610400
10	8	405928	2207688	492112
10	9	150092	735276	172180

Table 3 (continued)

$N$	$T$	$C(N, T)$	$Q(N, T)$	$S(N, T)$
11	0	1	121	11
11	1	40	1540	220
11	2	720	19800	2640
11	3	7520	139264	20800
11	4	51280	734288	113976
11	5	237200	2670184	441712
11	6	749852	6931608	1207760
11	7	1589568	12363760	2272648
11	8	2147464	14443536	2789416
11	9	1656992	9884584	1999784
11	10	548388	2985968	629728
12	0	1	144	12
12	1	44	2024	264
12	2	880	29040	3520
12	3	10340	230864	31200
12	4	80720	1399216	195496
12	5	436632	5976800	885384
12	6	1665256	18784528	2915248
12	7	4455808	42359344	6900936
12	8	8158532	66979848	11412400
12	9	9680372	70112424	12468656
12	10	6657580	43479928	8046936
12	11	1994292	12024824	2305504
13	0	1	169	13
13	1	48	2600	312
13	2	1056	41184	4576
13	3	13800	365204	45060
13	4	121260	2501924	317796
13	5	751352	12281692	1646940
13	6	3357504	45352848	6342504
13	7	10859984	123816200	18097784
13	8	25143524	247547924	37686364
13	9	40471112	350596196	55505708
13	10	42793156	332309384	54581608
13	11	26551480	188274228	32000044
13	12	7264808	47964296	8405872
14	0	1	196	14
14	1	52	3276	364
14	2	1248	56784	5824
14	3	17940	555716	63084
14	4	175340	4246872	494536
14	5	1224040	23561376	2886304
14	6	6269928	100010808	12730344
14	7	23782680	320822992	42535064
14	8	66616268	776738056	106900816
14	9	135660836	1390934628	198473212
14	10	194557140	1783500048	263309896
14	11	185383188	1543474124	235322892
14	12	104752528	804719096	126408496
14	13	26377424	190068688	30666536
15	0	1	225	15
15	1	56	4060	420
15	2	1456	76440	7280
15	3	22848	818384	86016
15	4	245728	6902784	742000
15	5	1908712	42716308	4815892
15	6	11027436	204963592	23935704
15	7	48006920	755844404	91656948
15	8	157891240	2150709816	269928928
15	9	389425904	4664081504	605215784
15	10	707139188	7561391008	1012548920
15	11	914022384	8849181992	1220950688
15	12	792478184	7042302328	999368384

Table 3 (continued)

$N$	$T$	$C(N, T)$	$Q(N, T)$	$S(N, T)$
15	13	411128432	3399129488	495148920
15	14	95892520	747961688	111564104
16	0	1	256	16
16	1	60	4960	480
16	2	1680	100800	8960
16	3	28560	1171968	114688
16	4	335328	10814944	1079568
16	5	2868024	73861952	7713256
16	6	18446224	395388288	42656592
16	7	90629056	1648405336	184202848
16	8	342311880	5393257584	622230240
16	9	991906320	13747970776	1636114976
16	10	2182299212	26994678456	3308107088
16	11	3571702332	39941612344	5033348448
16	12	4199050708	42974149944	5560551376
16	13	3338798836	31643370160	4197695704
16	14	1600887728	14215872264	1930121152
16	15	347713380	2928164872	406045096

2. Scaling of the Number of Walks

In this section we consider the scaling properties of the generating function  $C_N(w)$  defined by (1.6) with (1.3). For large  $N$  and  $w^{-1}$ , such that the product  $wN$  is finite, we expect [1–4]

$$C_N(w) \cong F(x), \tag{2.1}$$

where

$$x \equiv (q-2)wN. \tag{2.2}$$

The scaling function  $F(x)$  is lattice and model dependent. The factor  $(q-2)$  is introduced to facilitate presentation of the results for a Gaussian model of non-self-avoiding walks with no immediate returns [1, 2]. Then [3]

$$C_N(w) \equiv [1 + (q-2)w]^{N-1} \cong F^G(x) \equiv e^x, \tag{2.3}$$

for any regular lattice. The scaling combination used in [1] is identical to  $x$  in terms of the leading behavior. Differences are of higher order and manifest themselves only in corrections to scaling.

For SAW models, we have

$$F(x) = 1 + x + f_2 x^2 + f_3 x^3 + \dots \quad (x \ll 1), \tag{2.4}$$

$$F(x) \simeq A x^{\gamma-1} e^{\sigma x} \quad (x \gg 1). \tag{2.5}$$

The constants  $A, \sigma, f_2, f_3, \dots$  are lattice dependent;  $\gamma$  is an isotropic SAW critical exponent. Corrections to scaling for  $C_N(w)$  take the forms [1–4]

$$C_N(w) - F(x) \cong \sum_{k>0} \frac{1}{N^k} F^{(k)}(x). \tag{2.6}$$

For the SQ and SC lattices, even-odd oscillations are anticipated [3],

$$C_N(w) - F(x) \cong \sum_{k>0} \frac{1}{N^k} [F^{(k)}(x) + (-1)^k \tilde{F}^{(k)}(x)]. \quad (2.7)$$

Since we are working with  $N \lesssim O(20)$ , cancellation of at least the  $O(N^{-1})$  correction term is needed to obtain accurate estimates of the leading scaling behavior. Thus, we form approximants

$$F_N(x) \equiv [NC_N(w) - (N-k)C_{N-k}(w)]/k, \quad (2.8)$$

where we set  $k=1$ , except for the SQ lattice for which  $k=2$  was used. Indeed, the choice  $k=2$  cancels the oscillatory  $O(N^{-1})$  correction which is apparently appreciable in the SQ data. The SC lattice results also show some fluctuations but to order  $N \leq 16$  they are not very regular, and the use of  $k=2$  does not improve the consistency of the results. We tried two more elaborations: shifting  $N \rightarrow N-1, N-2, \dots$  in the RHS of (2.8), and use of more complicated linear combinations of  $C_N(w)$  to attempt cancellation of  $O(1/N^2)$  contribution in (2.6). However, the results did not seem to improve compared with a simpler form (2.8). Figures 1, 2 and 3 show the range of the approximants  $F_N(x)$  for  $0 \leq x \leq 10$ , for the SQ, TR and SC lattices, respectively ( $k=2, 1$  and  $1$ ). We plotted  $L_N(x) \equiv \ln F_N(x)$  for the four largest  $N$  values available ( $N=22, 21, 20, 19$  and  $N=16, 15, 14, 13$ , for the SQ and the TR or SC, respectively). The Gaussian answer  $L^G \equiv \ln F^G(x) \equiv x$  is also shown. Note that the four largest- $N$  curves are very close, and we reproduce only the range covered by these four sets of data. The available data provide rather stable estimates of the scaling functions  $F(x)$ , for at least  $x \lesssim 6$ .

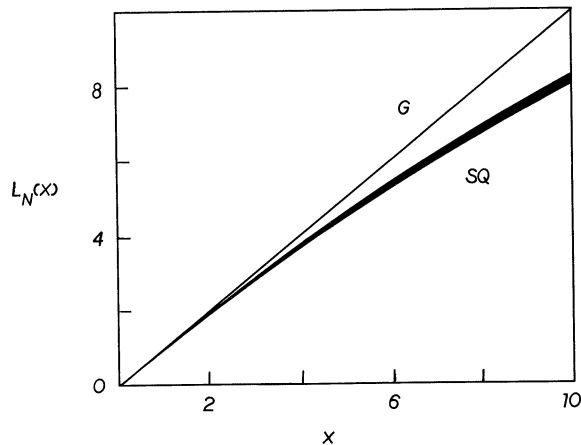


Fig. 1. Estimation of the scaling function for the number of walks, on the SQ lattice. The Gaussian result is also shown. (See Sect. 2 for details)

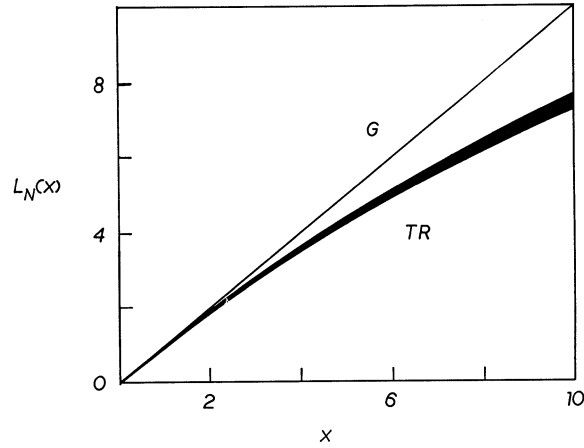


Fig. 2. TR-lattice scaling function for the number of walks. (See Sect. 2 for details)

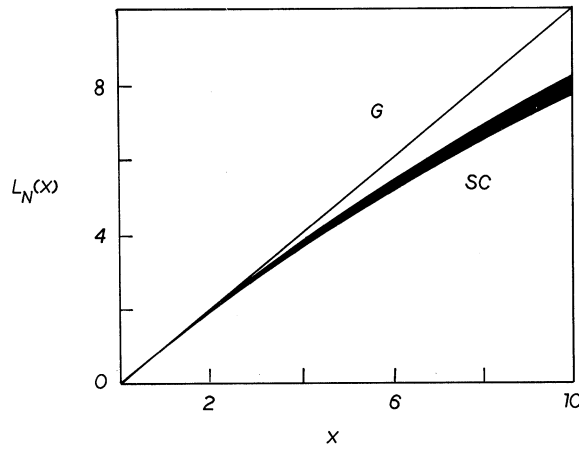


Fig. 3. SC-lattice scaling function for the number of walks. (See Sect. 2 for details)

In Fig. 4 we plot the difference

$$L(x) - x = \ln [F(x)/F^G(x)], \quad (2.9)$$

where for  $F(x)$  we use  $F_{22}^{\text{SQ}}, F_{16}^{\text{TR}}$  and  $F_{16}^{\text{SC}}$ . All three SAW scaling functions are close to the Gaussian one, even for  $x \sim 2$ . Note, however, that the SC deviation is comparable with the  $d=2$  lattice deviations, contrary to the prediction of [4]. Another interesting feature of Figs. 1–4 is a difference between  $F^{\text{SQ}}$  and  $F^{\text{TR}}$ : evidently there is no universality in the normal critical phenomena sense. (The difference cannot be repaired by rescaling  $x \rightarrow \text{const} \cdot x$ .)

For small  $x$ , the scaling functions, Figs. 1–3, were obtained with high accuracy. The reason for this is very simple: one can easily verify that all the corrections to scaling in this problem, i.e.,  $F^{(j)}$  in (2.6), etc. actually *vanish* as  $x \rightarrow 0$ ; indeed, for the fully extended “rods” the scaling expressions coincide with the full

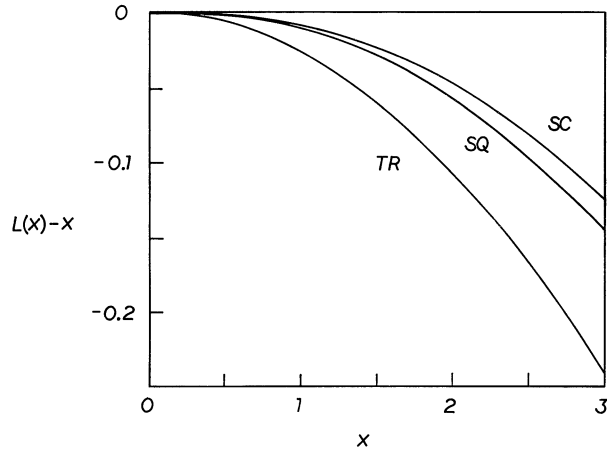


Fig. 4. Deviation of the SAW scaling functions for the number of walks from their Gaussian values

answers. In the opposite limit of large  $x$ , the form (2.5) does not adequately fit the ranges of Figs. 1–3. (We tried the fit for  $6 \lesssim x \lesssim 10$ . Accurate data for larger  $x$  values are needed to see the asymptotic behavior.)

### 3. Scaling of the End-to-End Distance Moments

Let us first consider the scaling of the quantity  $R_N^2(w)$  defined via (1.7). It was studied in [1, 2] by Monte Carlo (MC) techniques. The appropriate scaling relation takes the form

$$R_N^2(w)/N^2 \cong G(x), \quad (3.1)$$

where

$$G(x \rightarrow 0) = 1, \quad (3.2)$$

$$G(x \rightarrow \infty) \simeq Bx^{2(1-\nu)}. \quad (3.3)$$

Here  $\nu$  is the universal correlation length exponent of isotropic SAWs, while  $G(x)$  and the constant  $B$  are lattice (model) dependent. Following [1, 2], we study the function

$$H(x) = x^{2(1-\nu)} G(x) \quad (3.4)$$

which approaches a constant ( $B$ ) as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ . We form the approximants

$$H_N(x) \equiv x^{2(1-\nu)} [R_N^2(w)/N - R_{N-k}^2(w)/(N-k)]/k, \quad (3.5)$$

similar to (2.8). The values of  $\nu$  are required as an input. We used the exact value [14] for  $d=2$ , and the central numerical estimate [15] for  $d=3$ ,

$$\nu(d=2) = 3/4, \quad (3.6)$$

$$\nu(d=3) \cong 0.5875. \quad (3.7)$$

The Gaussian scaling function [1, 6], for the squared end-to-end distance generating function of lattice random walks with no *immediate* returns,

$$G^G(x) = 2(e^{-x} + x - 1)/x^2, \quad (3.8)$$

is to be compared with  $G(x)$  of (3.1). Since we use  $H(x)$  instead, we define

$$\tilde{H}^G(x) \equiv x^{2(1-\nu)} G^G(x), \quad (3.9)$$

with the SAW exponent  $\nu$ . Thus  $\tilde{H}^G$  is *not* the appropriate scaling function  $H$  for the Gaussian case. (Note  $\nu^G = 1/2$ .)

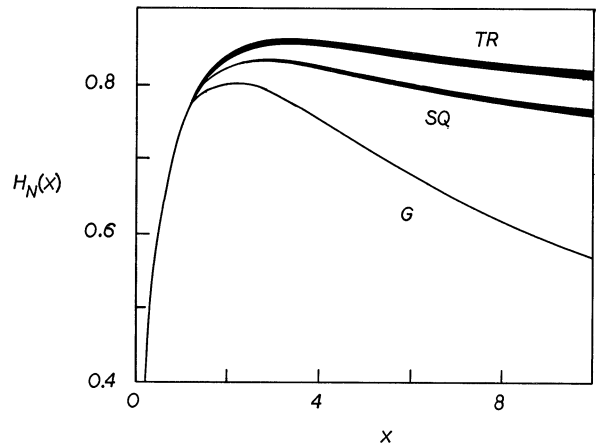


Fig. 5. Mean-squared end-to-end distance scaling functions for the SQ and TR lattices, as well as the Gaussian answer. (See Sect. 3)

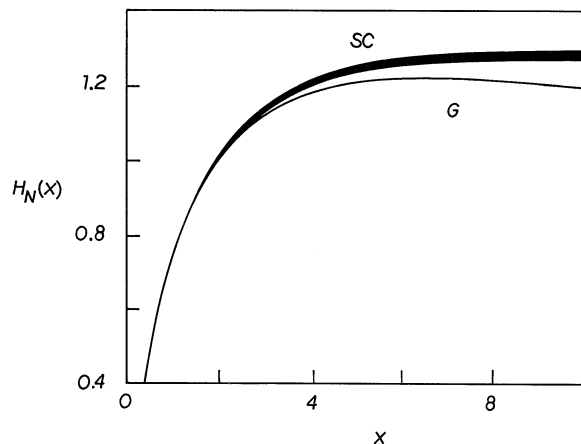


Fig. 6. SC-lattice scaling, for the mean-squared end-to-end distance



Figure 5 shows approximants  $H_N(x)$  for the SQ ( $N=22, 21, 20, 19; k=2$ ) and the TR ( $N=16, 15, 14, 13; k=1$ ) lattices, as well as  $\tilde{H}^G(x)$ . Figure 6 displays the SC lattice results ( $N=16, 15, 14, 13; k=1$ ) and  $\tilde{H}^G(x)$ . Only the spreads of the curves for different  $N$  for  $H_N(x)$  are indicated. The data for  $H(x)$  are well-converged and represent  $H^{\text{SQ}}$  and  $H^{\text{TR}}$  accurately up to at least  $x \sim 8$ . The SC data are more disperse and seem convergent up to about  $x \sim 5$ . The SC scaling function is indeed very close to the Gaussian one as observed in MC studies (1). Our results are consistent with the MC values to the extent that comparison is possible. The  $x \leq 10$  data have not yet reached the asymptotically constant behavior.

We turn now to the linear moment  $X_N(w)$  defined by (1.8). If this quantity scales, then

$$X_N(w) \cong NY(x), \quad (3.10)$$

with

$$Y(0) = 1. \quad (3.11)$$

The large- $x$  behavior is more interesting since for the appropriate unbiased SAW moment,  $X_N(1)$ , the asymptotic  $N$  dependence is not fully understood. According to [12],

$$X_N(1) \sim N^\omega \quad (d=2), \quad (3.12)$$

with a very small  $\omega$  ( $\sim 0.06$ ). Preliminary evidence indicates also [12] that

$$X_N(1) \sim \text{const} \quad \text{as } N \rightarrow \infty \quad (d=3). \quad (3.13)$$

Due to small value of the exponent  $\omega$  estimate, logarithmic behavior of  $X_N^{(d=2)}(1)$  has not been excluded. In fact, the behavior of  $X_N(1)$  for Gaussian walks [13] are  $\ln N$  and  $\text{const}$ , for  $d=2$  and 3, respectively. (The appropriate model in that case must exclude revisits of the origin, in addition to having the first step fixed along the  $+X$  axis.) Thus, a good guess for  $Y(x \rightarrow \infty)$ , at the present time is

$$Y(x) \sim x^{-1} \quad (d=3), \quad (3.14)$$

$$Y(x) \sim x^{\omega-1} \quad \text{or } x^{-1} \ln x \quad (d=2). \quad (3.15)$$

According to these relations, the product  $xY(x)$  is an interesting quantity to be considered.

We use the approximants

$$xY_N(x) \equiv [X_N(w) - X_{N-k}(w)]/k. \quad (3.16)$$

The spread of the four, having largest- $N$ , is indicated in Fig. 7, for the SQ and the SC lattices. The linear moments indeed scale as conjectured in (3.10). The trend in Fig. 7 is consistent with  $xY^{\text{SC}} \rightarrow \text{const}$  for

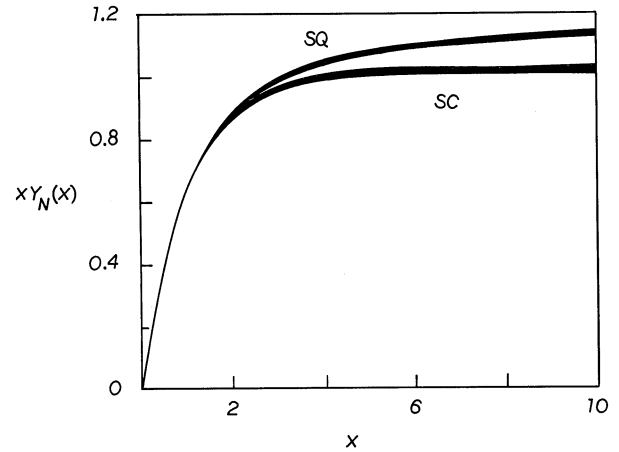


Fig. 7. Scaling function estimates for the first moment of the end displacement for the SQ and SC lattices

large  $x$ . The SQ data show an upward trend but consistency with (3.15) cannot be claimed since several decades in  $x$  would be needed for a quality fit.

#### 4. Summary

Our results indicate that the rod-to-coil transition can be described by scaling laws and is governed by the combination  $wN$ . The prediction of [4] that the  $d=3$  scaling functions take on Gaussian values was not confirmed with the available data, i.e., for  $N < O(20)$ . All the scaling functions calculated are, however, rather close to the Gaussian results (when available) for  $x \equiv (q-2)wN \lesssim 3$ , at least. This suppression of self-avoidance effects was found in other studies [1–4] as well.

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