

# Tube Picture of Polymers

T. Neuhaus

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NIC

# Introduction.

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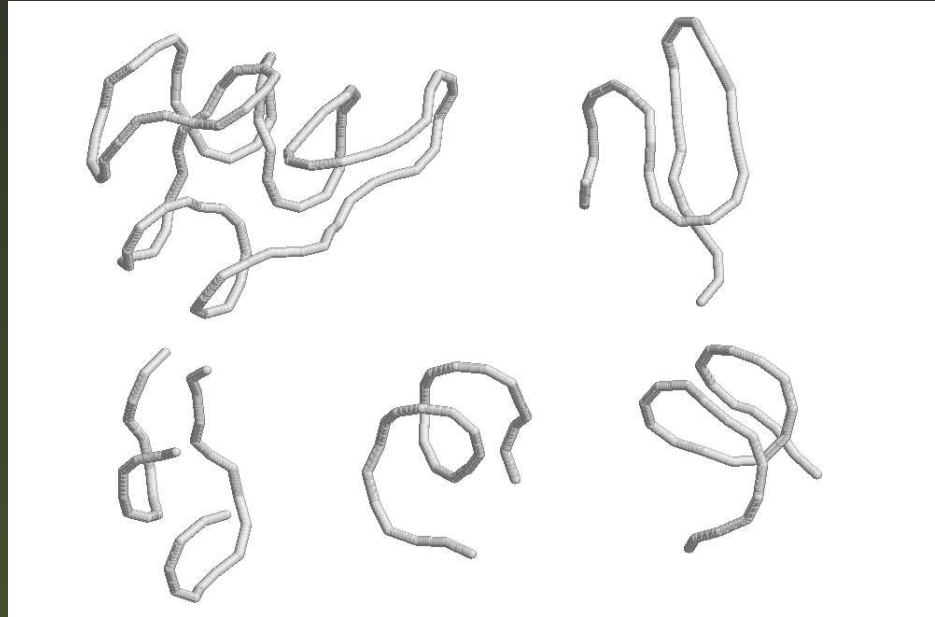
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- tube model
  - 3d tube with volume exclusion and thickness  $D$
  - attractive homopolymer interaction, distance scale  $R_{int}$
  - volume exclusion and attraction compete in a compact configuration
  - , whose degree of compactness is tunable by :  $D/R_{int}$

J.R.Banavar, A.Flammini, D.Marenduzzo, A.Maritan and A.Trovato,  
J.Phys.:Cond.Matt.**15**:1787(2003)

# Introduction..

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from Neuhaus, Zimmermann, Hansmann, "Ring Polymer Simulations with Global Radius of Curvature", 2006, submitted to PRE.

# Contents.

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- global radius of curvature (grc)

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- conclusion

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# Global Radius.

- any 3 nondegenerate points  $\vec{x}, \vec{y}, \vec{z}$  define a unique circle through these points with a radius of curvature:  $R_{rc}$
- which can be calculated easily

$$R_{rc}(\vec{x}, \vec{y}, \vec{z}) = \frac{|\vec{x} - \vec{y}| \quad |\vec{x} - \vec{z}| \quad |\vec{y} - \vec{z}|}{4A_{Triangle}(\vec{x}, \vec{y}, \vec{z})}$$

$$A_{Triangle}(\vec{x}, \vec{y}, \vec{z}) = \sqrt{s(s-a)(s-b)(s-c)}$$

$$s = \frac{a+b+c}{2}$$

$$a = |\vec{x} - \vec{y}| \quad ; \quad b = |\vec{x} - \vec{z}| \quad ; \quad c = |\vec{y} - \vec{z}|$$

# Global Radius..

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- we will consider  $3d$  chains with length  $L$

$$L = Na$$

$$a = 1$$

$$conf = [\vec{x}_0, \dots, \vec{x}_N]$$

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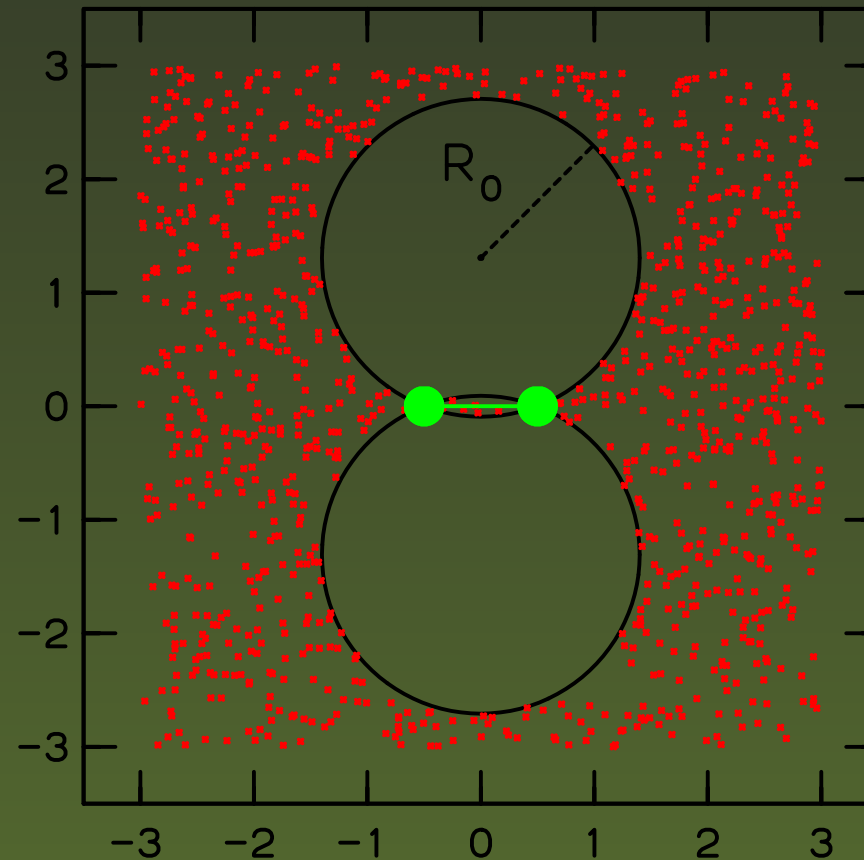
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- providing a regularization of thick polymers with thickness  $D \approx 2R_{grc}$

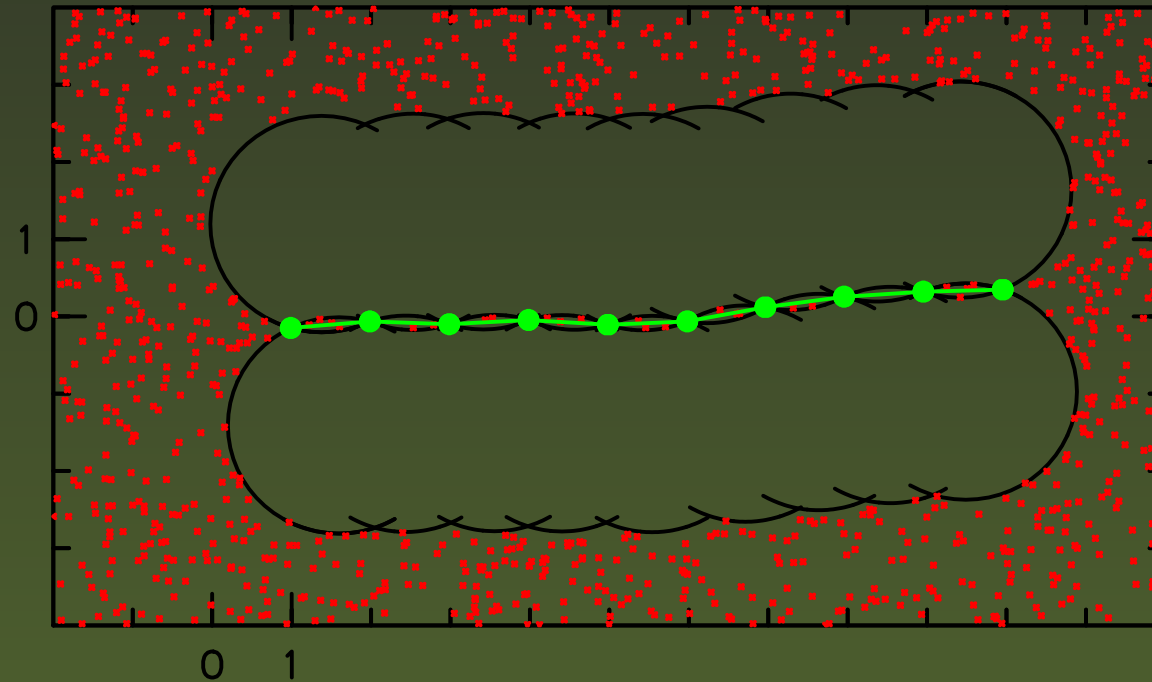
# Global radius...

- solution to  $R_{grc} > 1.4$  for a 3 body problem



# Global radius....

- solutions to  $R_{grc} > 1.4$  for a L+2 body problem



# Global Radius.....

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- partition function of thick polymers

$$\sum_{conf} \rightarrow \sum_{conf} \delta(2R_{grc} - D)$$

$$\sum_{conf} \rightarrow \sum_{conf} \Theta(2R_{grc} - D)$$

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- a discretized tube on a discrete chain ( $a = 1$ )  $\rightarrow$  the tube picture breaks down at  $R_{grc} = 0.5$  or  $D = 1$

however continuous tubes on discrete chains are feasible

# Global Radius.....

■ grc in mathematics:

given ring of length  $L$ , thickness  $D$  with knot  $K$

find

$$\max D(\text{ring}) \mid L, K \text{ fixed} \quad \text{for all rings}$$

e.g. circle

$$D = \frac{1}{\pi} L (K = \text{trivial})$$

defines the shape of ideal knots with

$$R_{lrc} \geq R_{grc} \quad \text{for non-trivial knots}$$

O.Gonzalez and H.Maddocks, PNAS **96**:4769 (1999)

that is : "dense packing" of tubes with a constraint

constraint could also be : confinement

and : dense packing of tubes differs from dense packing of spheres

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- $N = 2, 1, 0$  ; correlation length divergence  $\nu = .67, .63, \nu_{SAW} = 0.5877(6)$   
[Li,Madras,Sokal,1995],  $0.5874(2)$  [Prellberg,2001],  $0.58765(20)$  [Grassberger,2004] and  $0.58758(7)$  [Nickels,1997].

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$$\sqrt{\langle R_{rms2}^2 \rangle} \propto L^{\nu_{SAW}}$$

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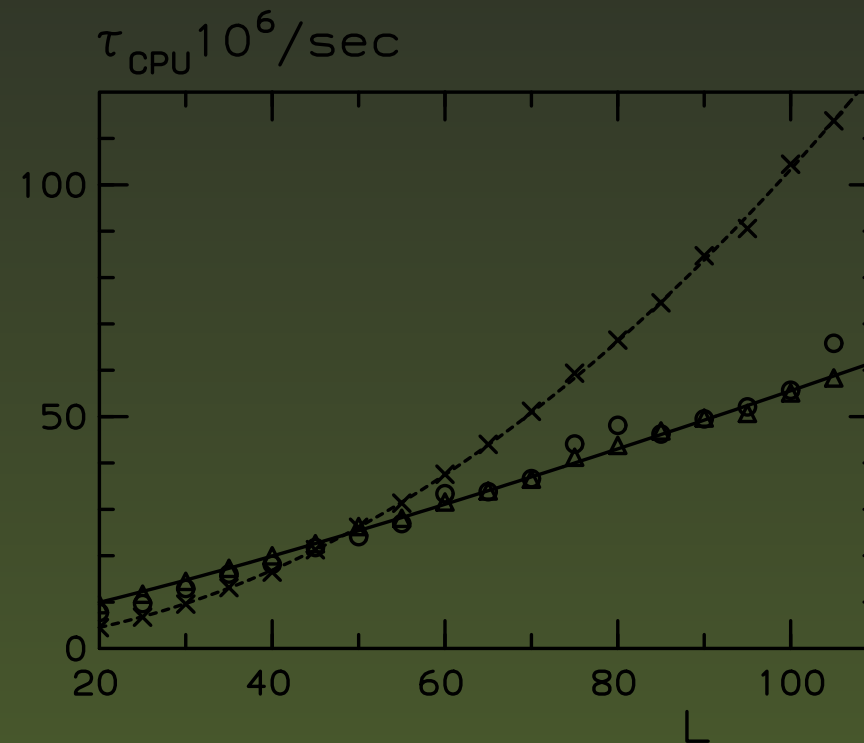
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- generalized pivot update a la Sokal on the ring

# off lattice SAW..



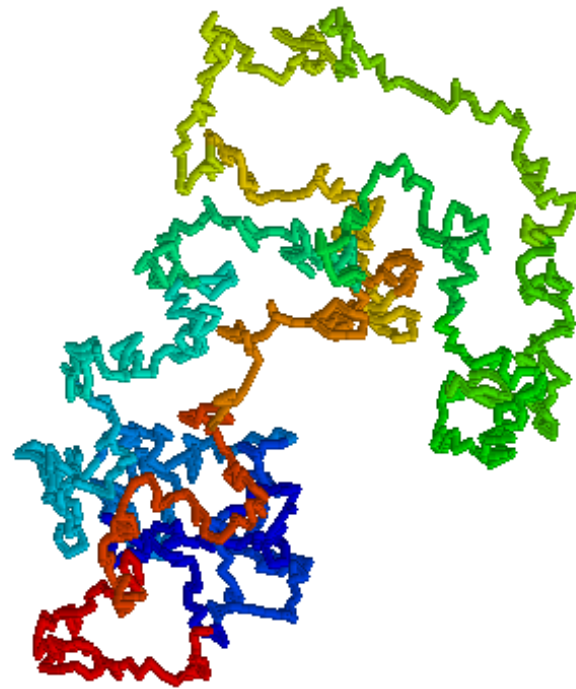
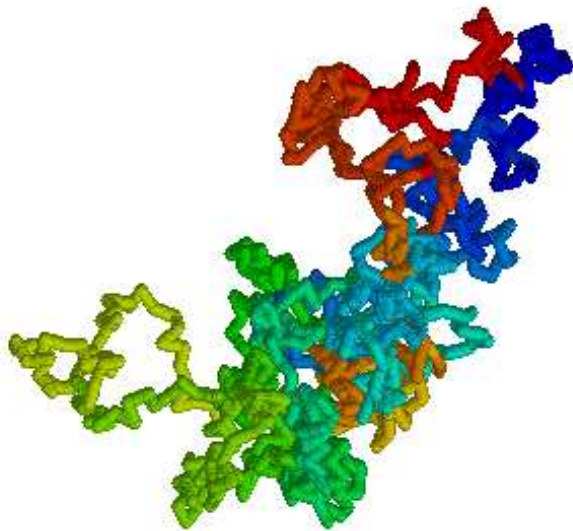
crosses : calculation of LJ potential

circles : grc calculation via PROJ

triangles : grc calculation via CELL LIST METHOD

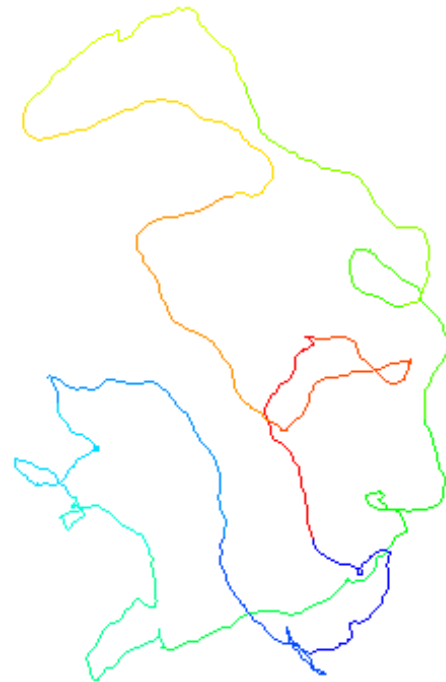
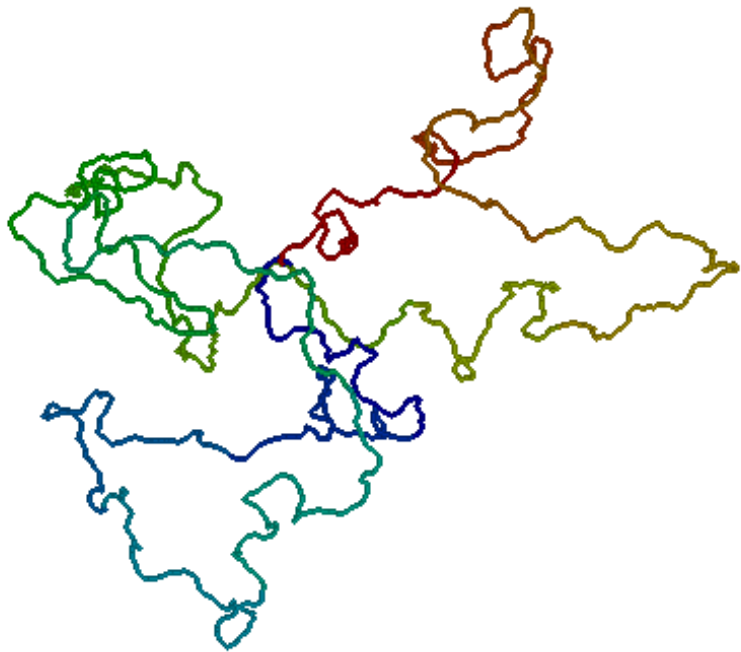
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$D = 0.5$  and  $D = 1$  at  $L = 1000$



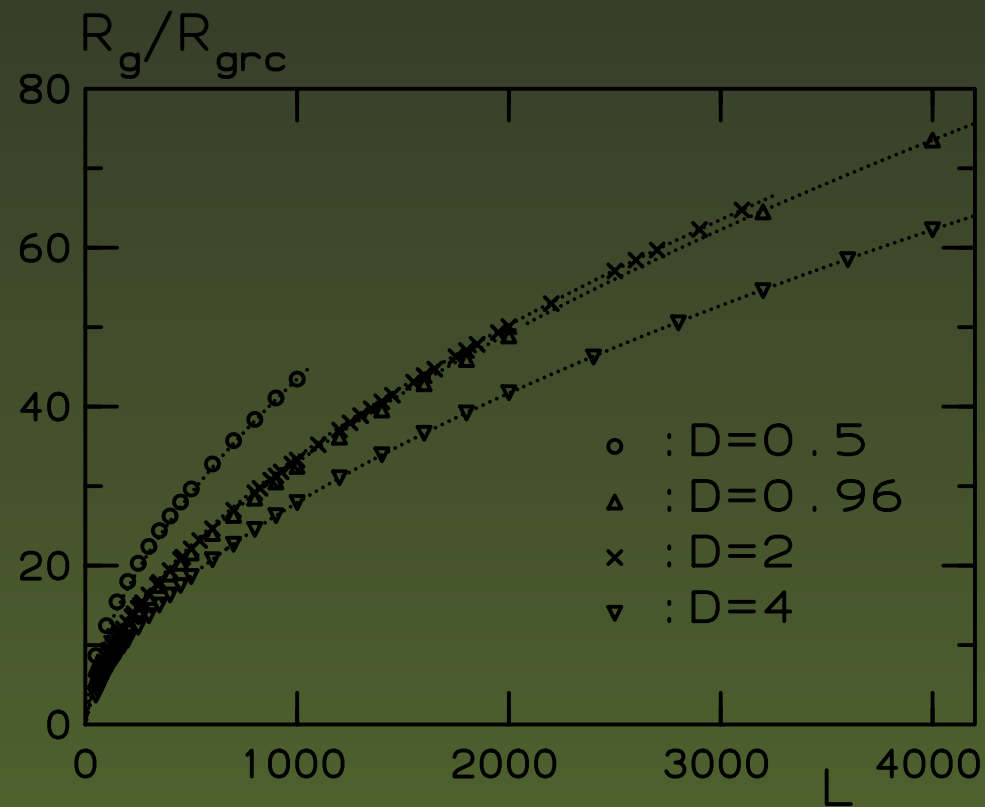
# off lattice SAW....

$D = 2$  and  $D = 4$  at  $L = 1000$



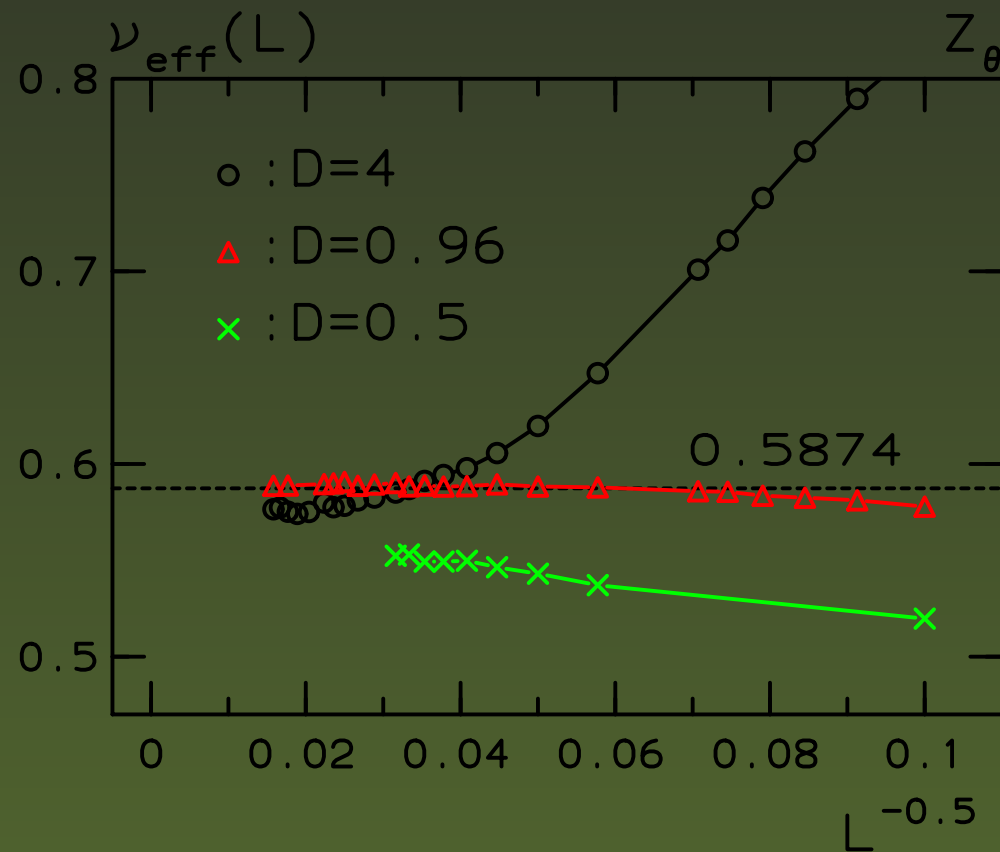
# off lattice SAW....

Radius of Gyration data



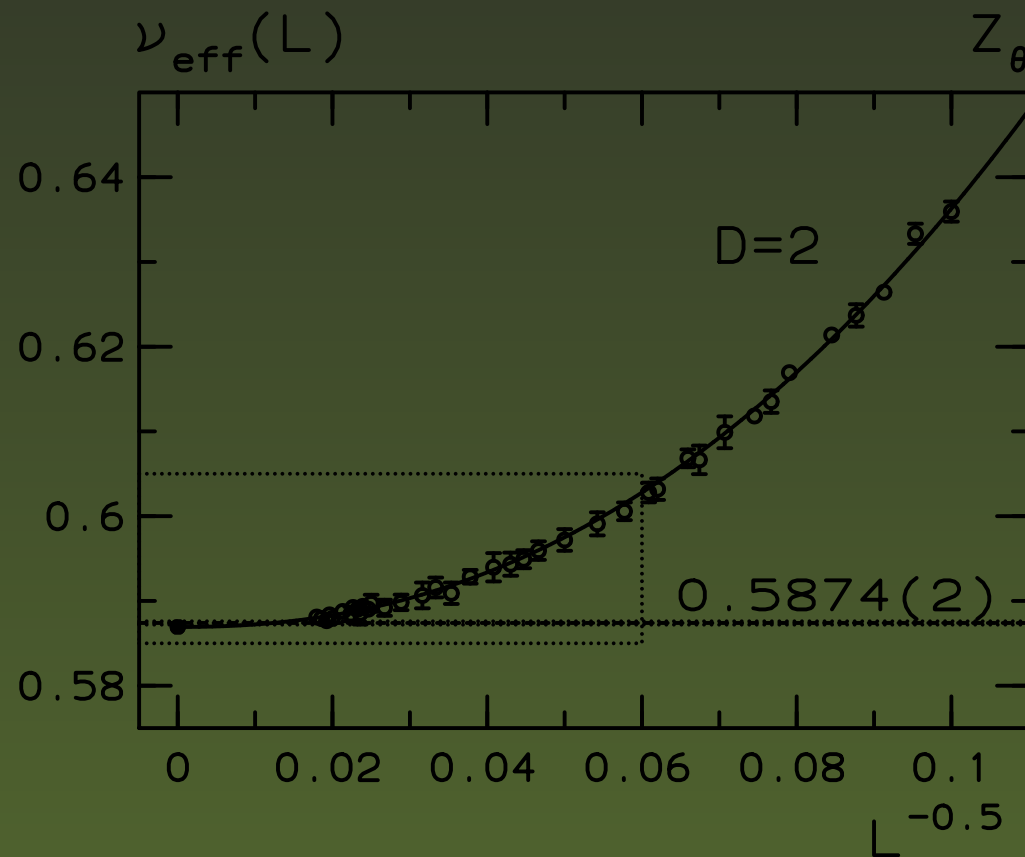
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effective exponent  $\nu_{SAW}$  data



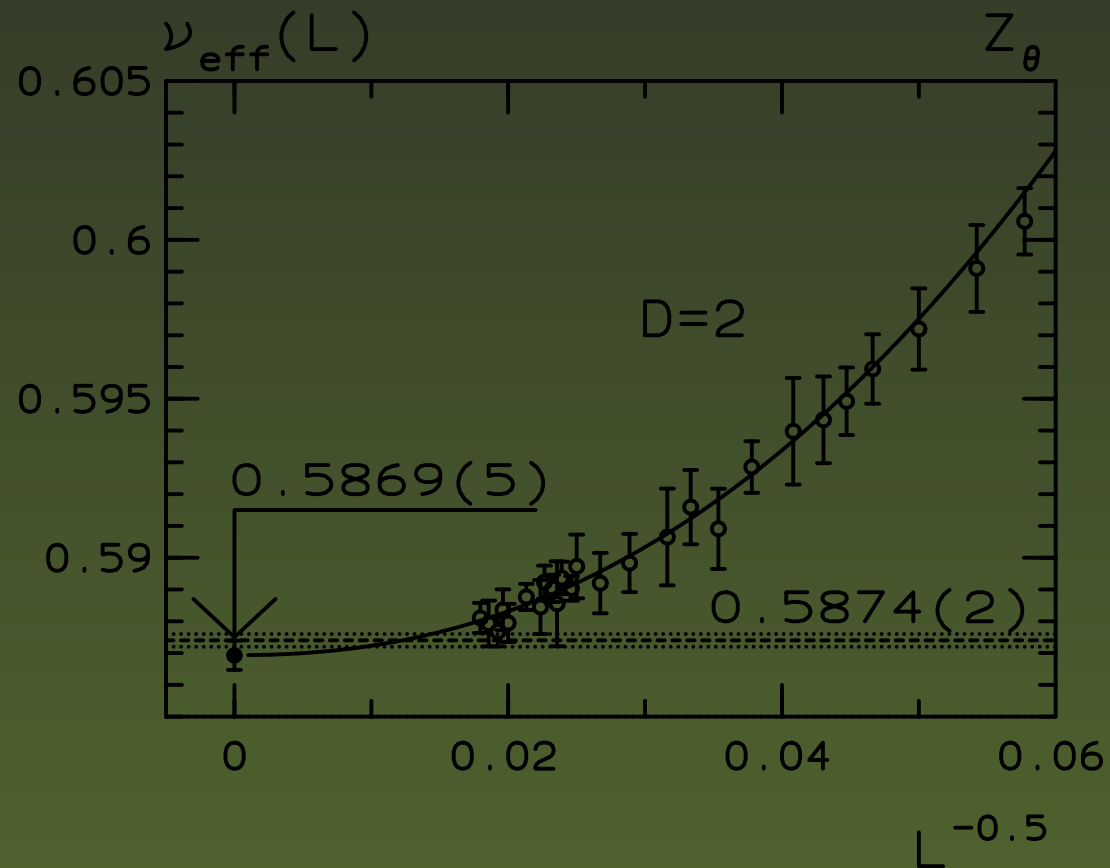
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the fit at  $D = 2$

$$\nu_{SAW,eff}(L) = 0.5869(05) + \left[ \frac{8.2(9)}{L^{1.11(3)}} \right]$$

at  $\chi^2_{d.o.f} = 0.72$  yields

$$\nu_{SAW} = 0.5869(5)$$

the scaling correction :  $\text{const}/L^\Delta$

has an exponent  $\Delta \approx 1$

which is off from the FT value  $\Delta_{FT} \approx 0.5$  [magic point ?]

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$$H_{pot} = \sum_{i=0, \dots, N; j=0, \dots, N; i < j} V_{int}(r_{ij})$$

$$V_{int}(r_{ij}) = 4 \left( \left( \frac{1.6}{2^{1/6} r_{ij}} \right)^{12} - \left( \frac{1.6}{2^{1/6} r_{ij}} \right)^6 \right)$$

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$$D \geq 1.6$$

$$R_{grc} \geq 0.8$$

hopefully the discretized tube does not matter too much

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- calculate ground state configurations numerically, which always are nearby the true ground state

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## the finding

there are no phases for finite length chains

the “phase diagram” is made from the following pure, as opposed to mixed, conformations

1):  $0.8 < R_{grc} < 1.2 - 1.3$ : 1-dim, **helix**

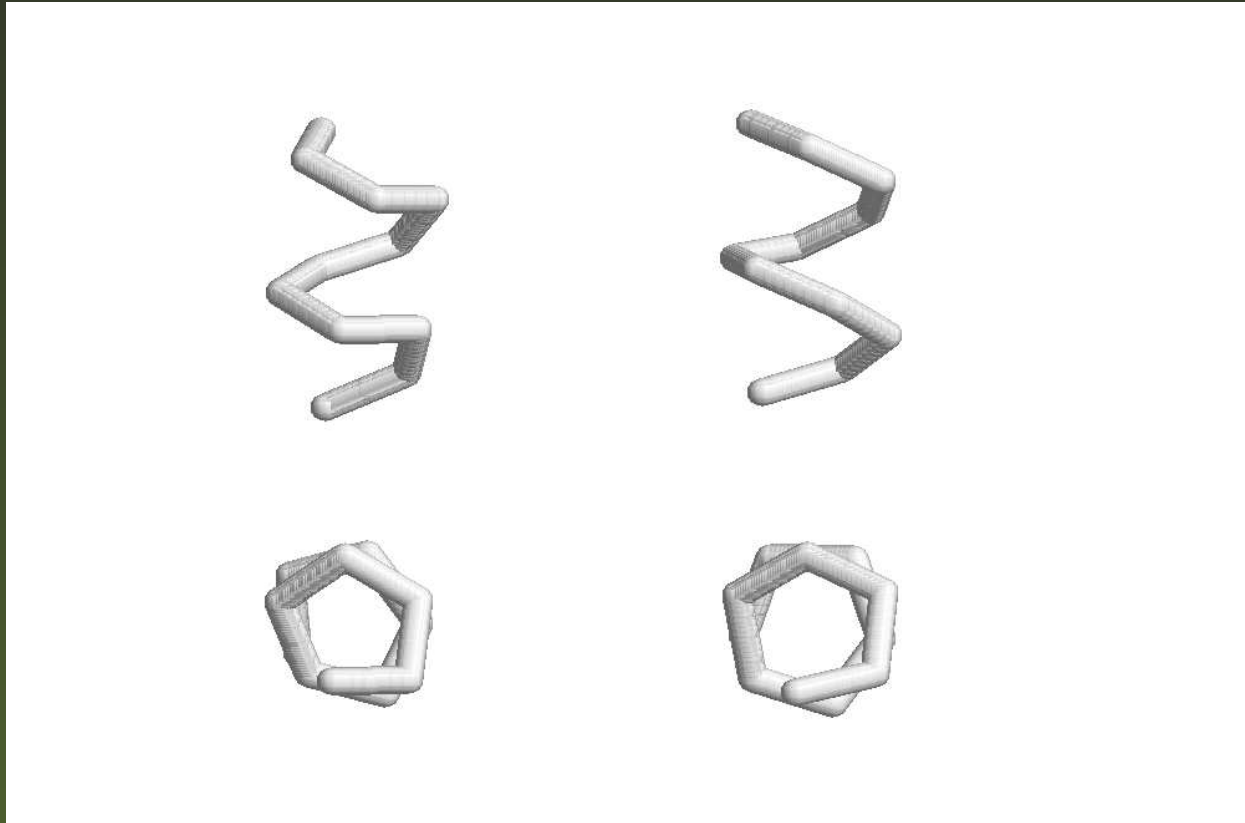
2):  $1.2 - 1.3 < R_{grc} < L/2\pi$ : 3-dim, ring-polymer, **twisted circle**

3):  $R_{grc} = L/2\pi$ : 2-dim, ring polymer, **circle**

4):  $R_{grc} > L/2\pi$ : **open ended polymer**

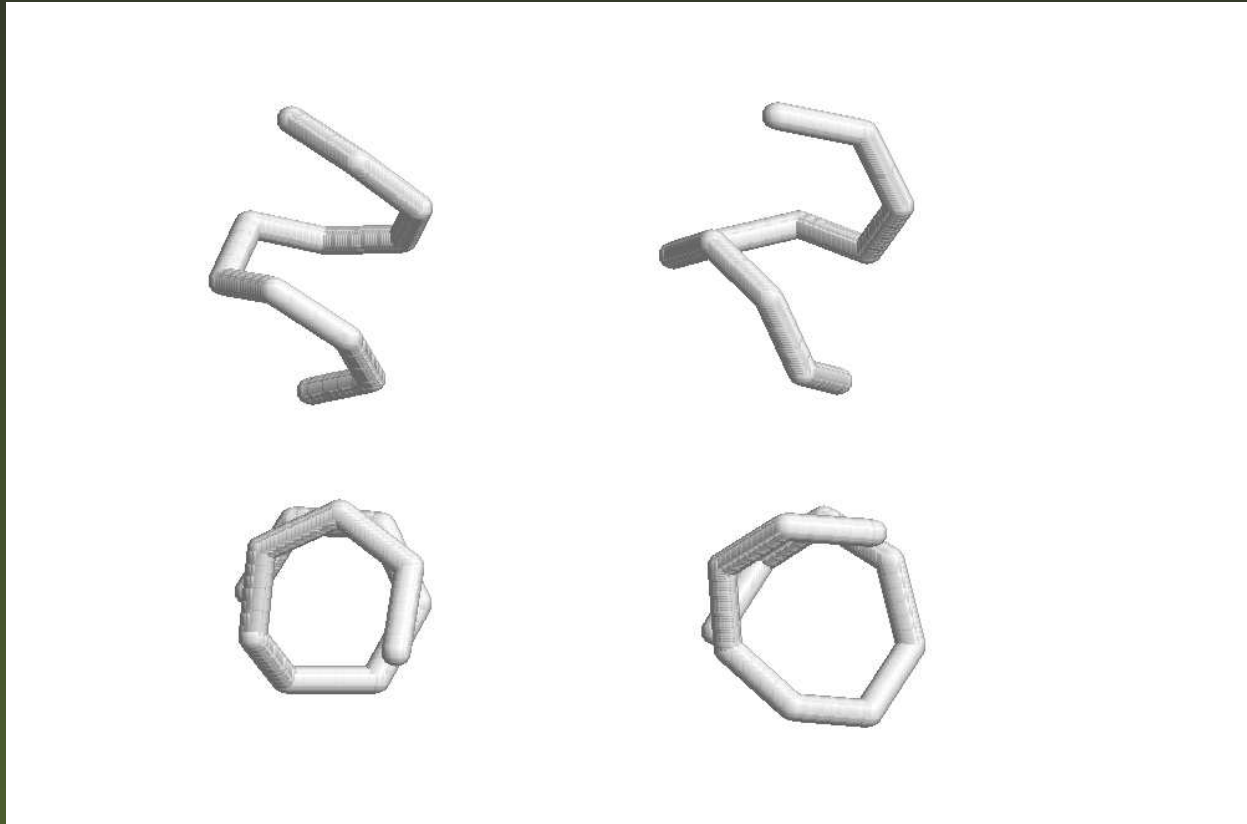
# $L = 10$ chain conformations.

■  $R_{grc} = 0.82$  and  $R_{grc} = 0.9$  : helix , helix



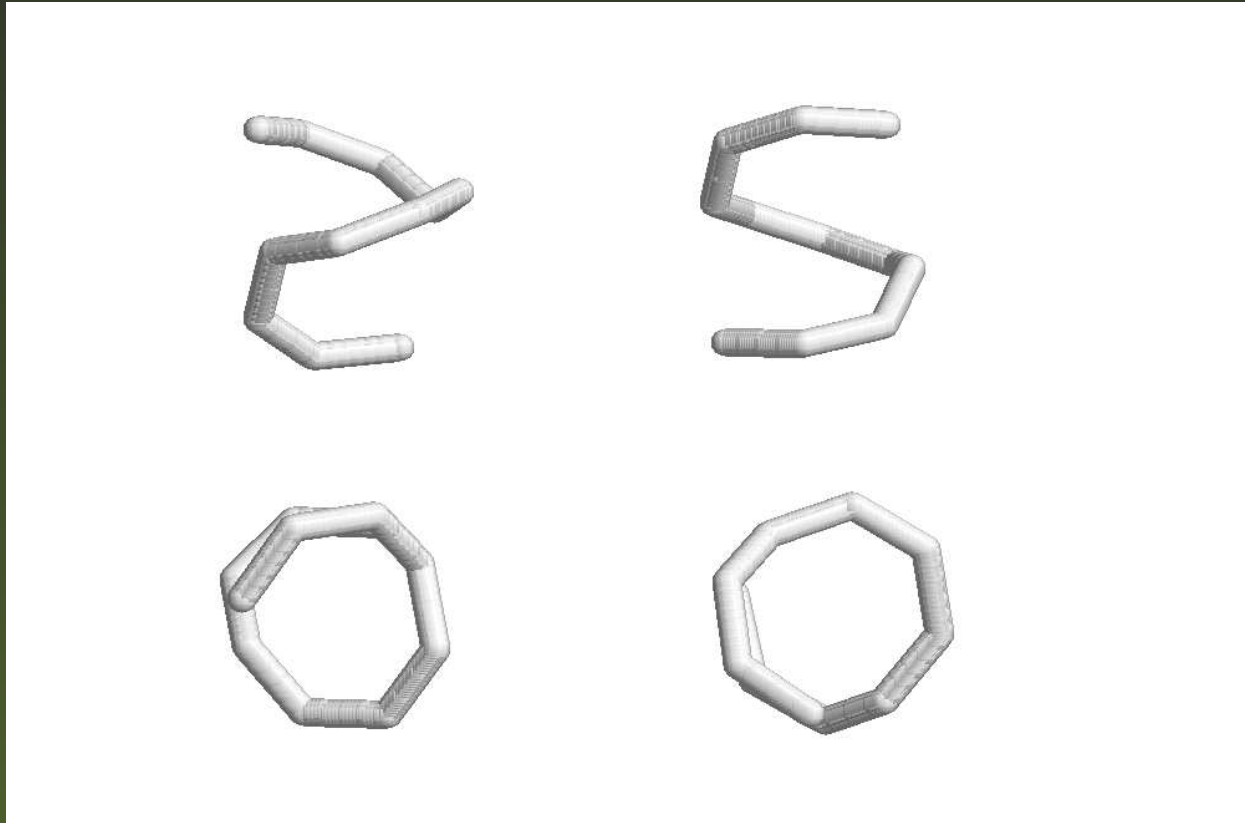
# $L = 10$ chain conformations..

■  $R_{grc} = 1.0$  and  $R_{grc} = 1.1$  : helix , helix



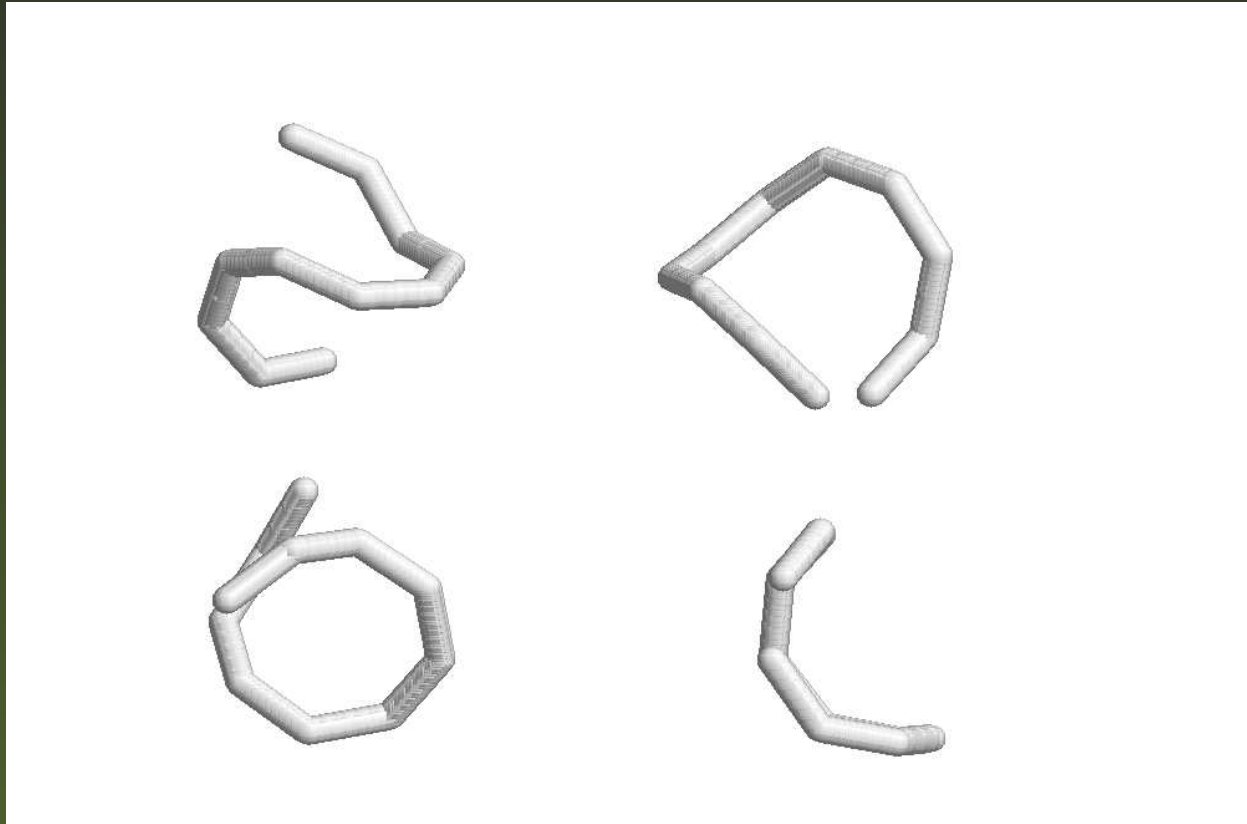
# $L = 10$ chain conformations...

■  $R_{grc} = 1.15$  and  $R_{grc} = 1.2$  : helix , helix



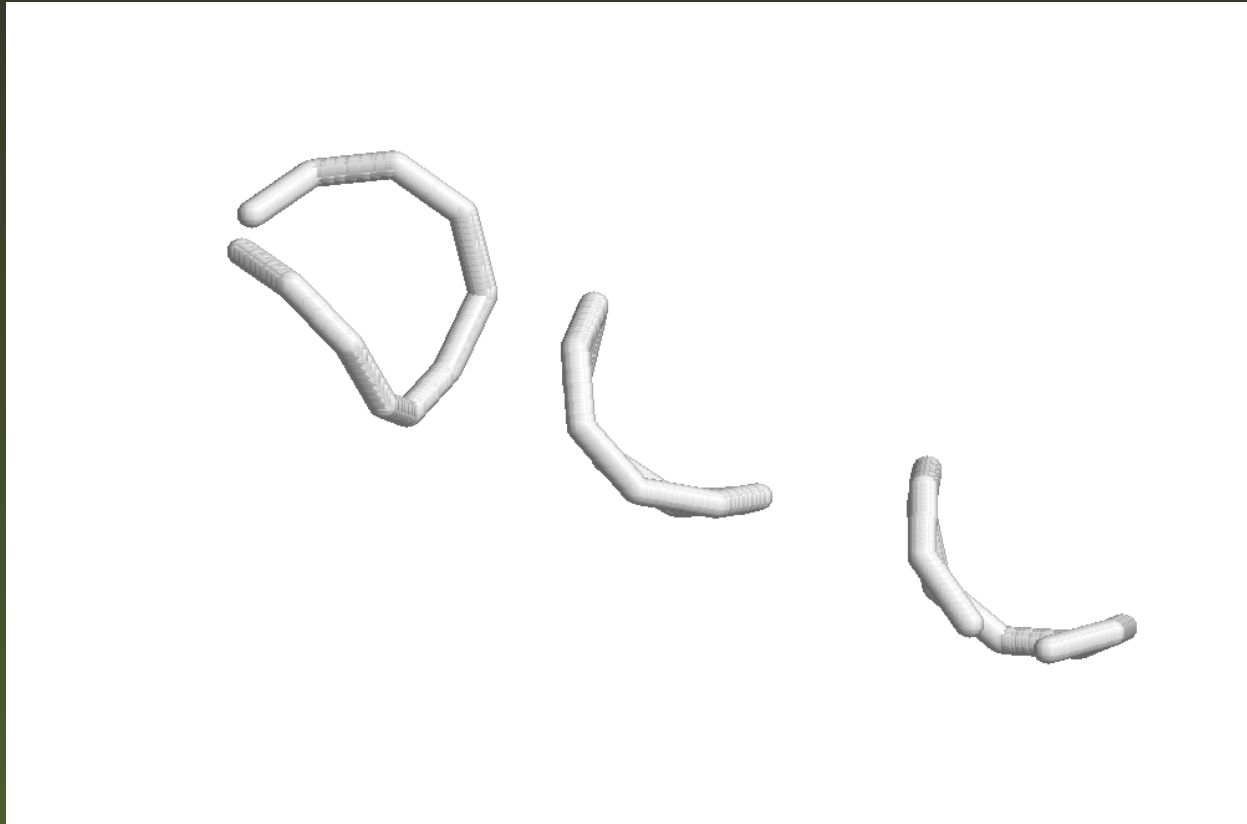
# $L = 10$ chain conformations....

■  $R_{grc} = 1.25$  and  $R_{grc} = 1.3$  : helix , twisted circle



# $L = 10$ chain conformations....

■  $R_{grc} = 1.4$  : twisted circle



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- the helix

$$x = R_{cyl} \sin(\phi) \quad y = R_{cyl} \cos(\phi) \quad z = p \frac{\phi}{2\pi}$$

$p$  : pitch

free parameters  $p/R_{cyl}$ ,  $D/R_{cyl}$

the pitch of a helix is bounded from below by the thickness

and is saturated for the **ideal helix**, A.Maritan et. al., Letters to Nature, Vol 406,(2000) 288.

$$p/R_{cyl} \approx 2.516 \quad D/2R_{cyl} \approx 1.160$$

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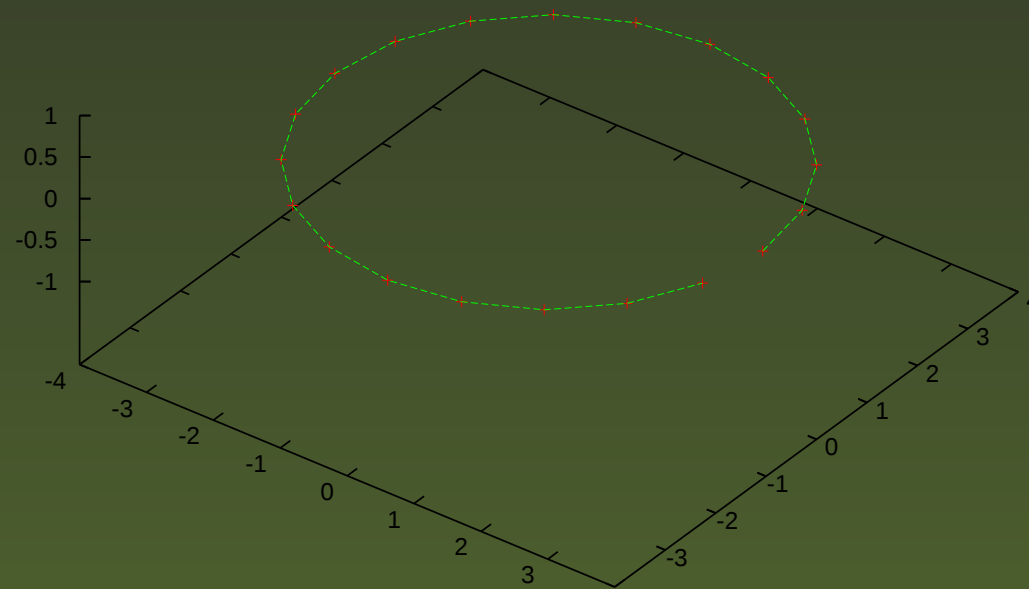
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- twisted circles in: Koch and Engelhardt, “Closed Space Curves of Constant Curvature Consisting of Arcs of Circular Helices”, Journal for Geometry and Graphics, Vol 2, (1998), No 1, 17-31.  
“windschiefe Kreise”

# classical solution I: the circle

■ planar circle

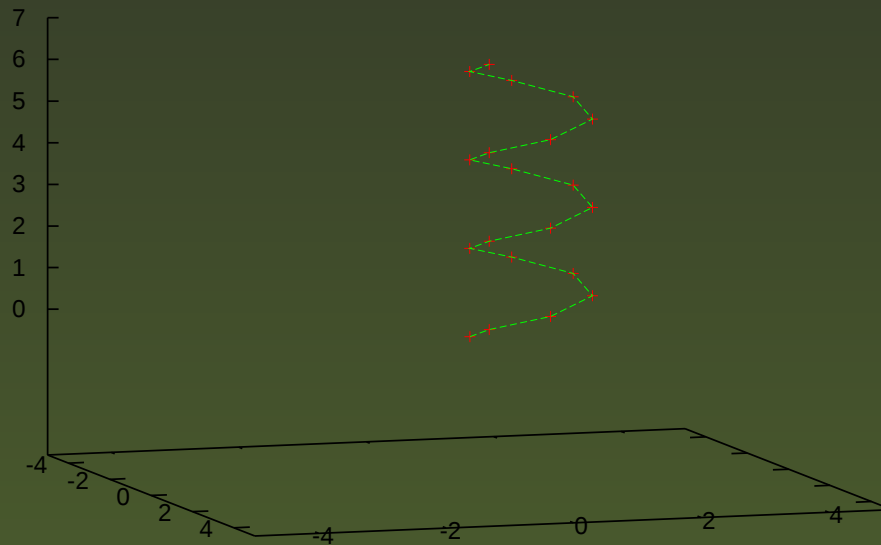
'E:\02006\_thick\_polymer\classical\_configurations\02006\_c2\_curve\_one\_ring\generate\_configurations\00019.gsc0' +  
'00019.gsc0' -----



# classical solution II: the ideal helix

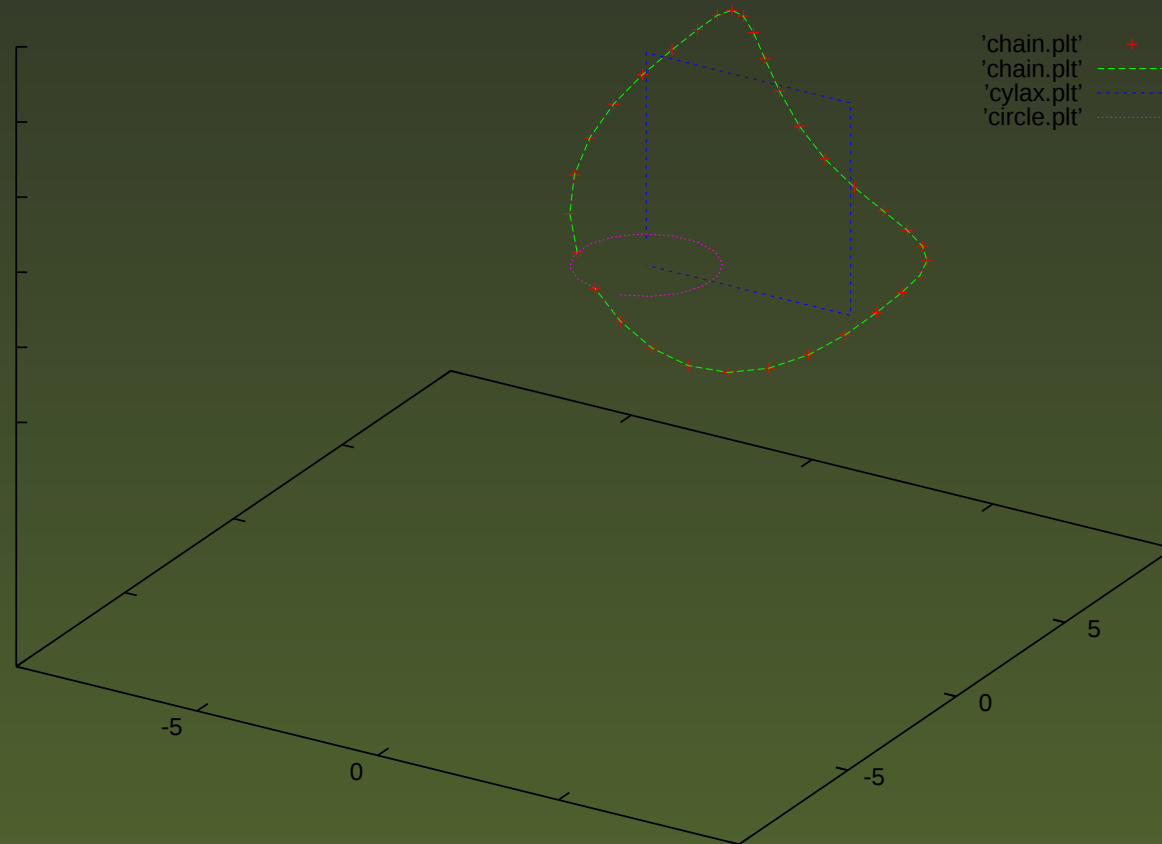
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'E:\02006\_thick\_polymer\classical\_configurations\02006\_helix\generate\_configurations\00019.gsc0' +  
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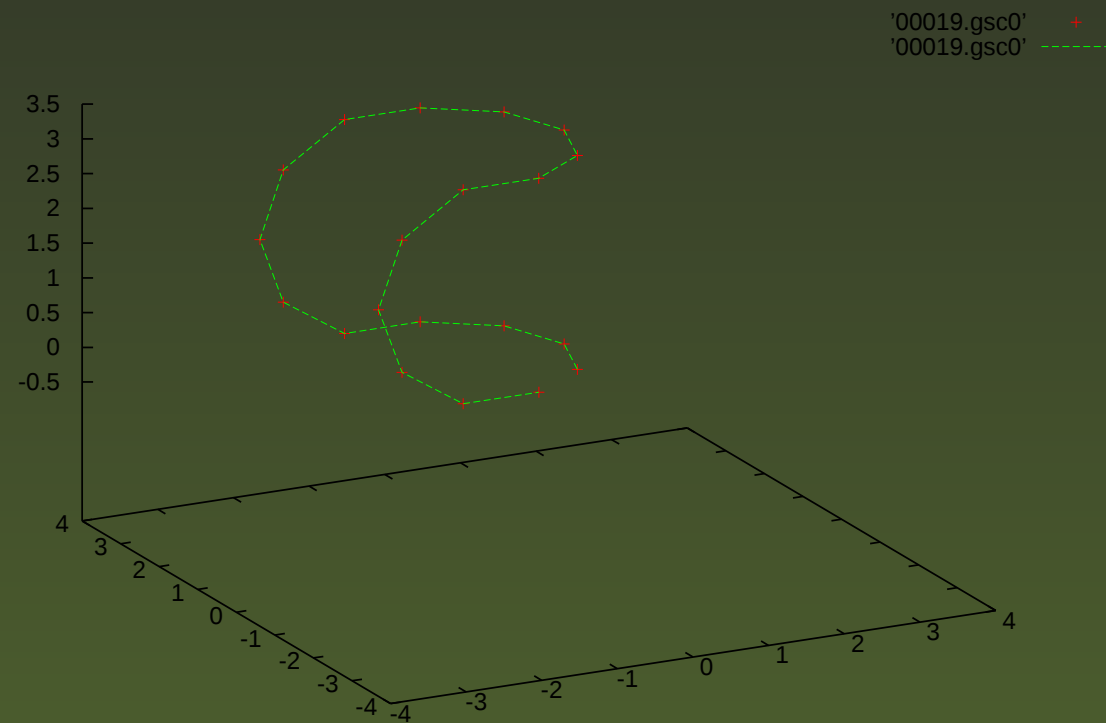
# III: ring of four helix segments

■ ring of four helix segments



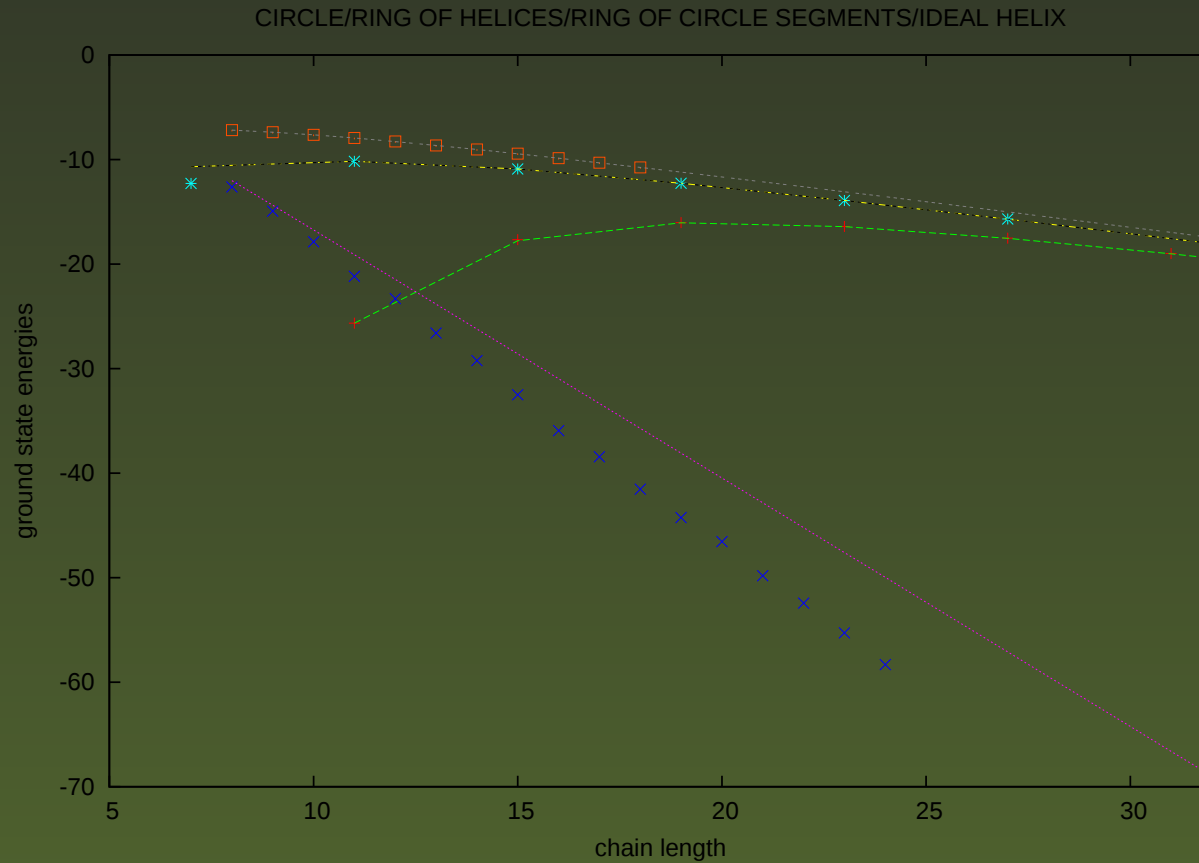
# IV: ring of four circle segments

■ ring of four circle segments



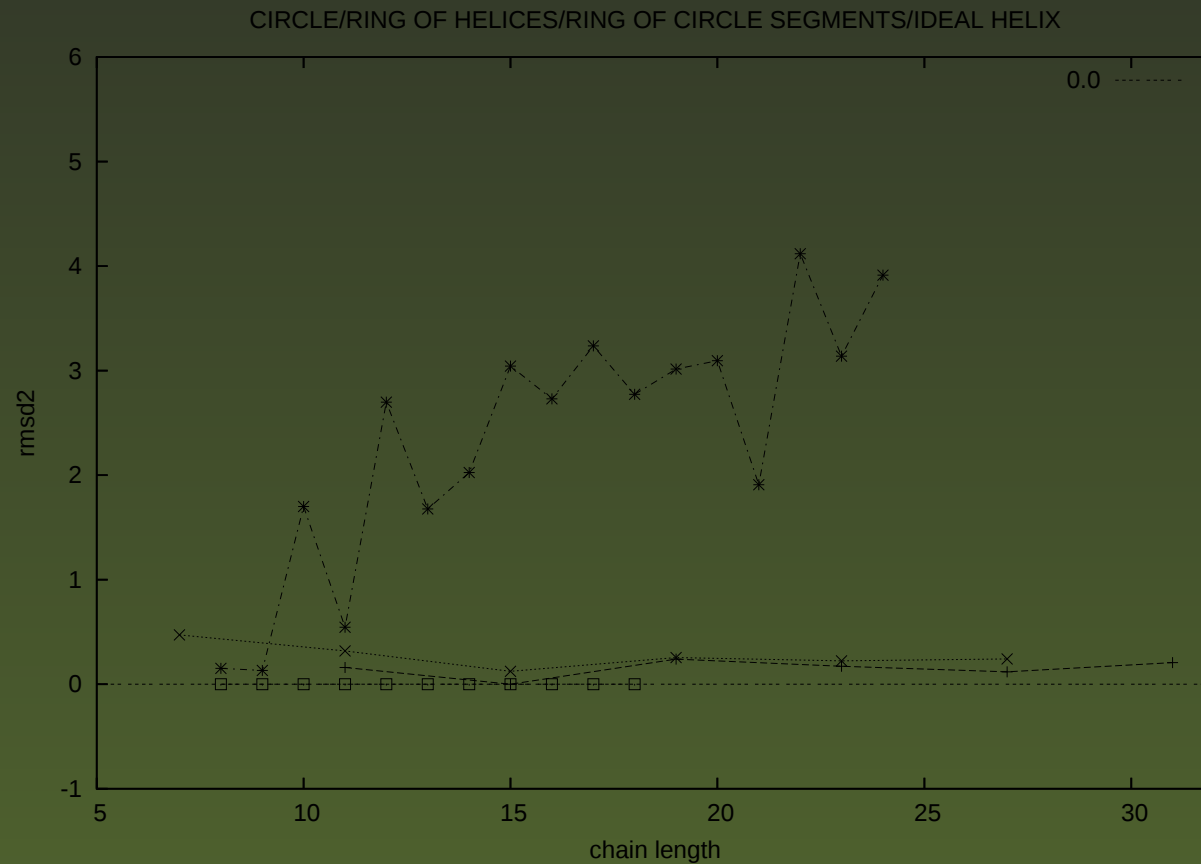
# gs energies classical vs. data

- perfect match for the rings ; ideal helix at L=8,9



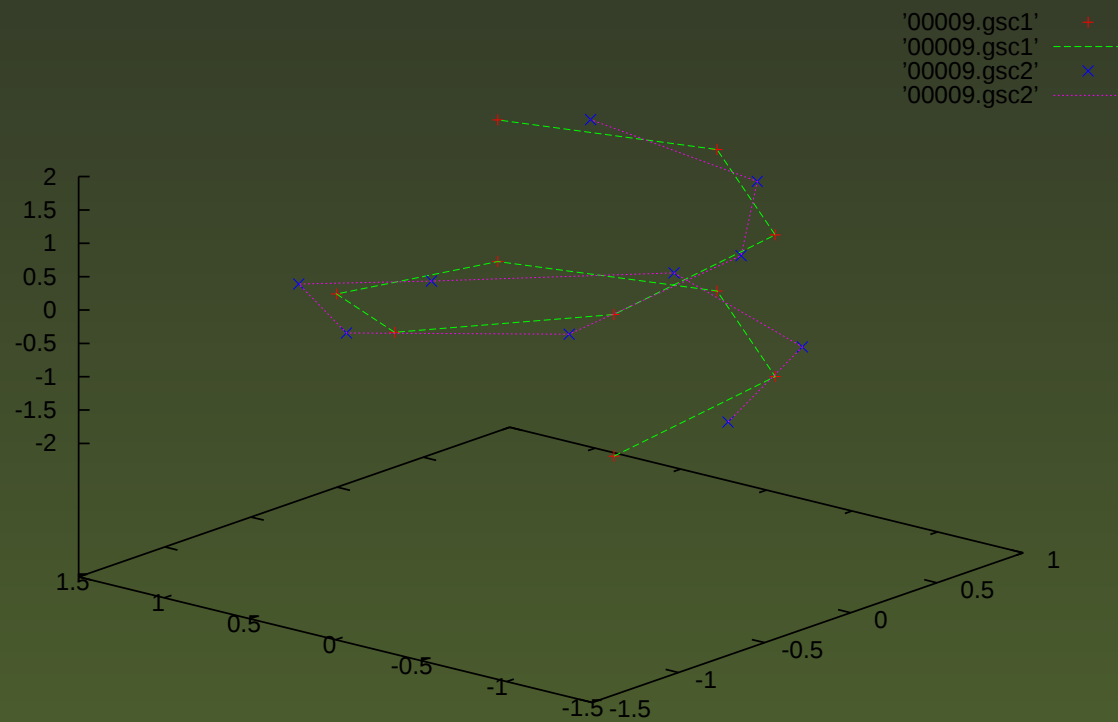
# RMSD2 classical vs. data

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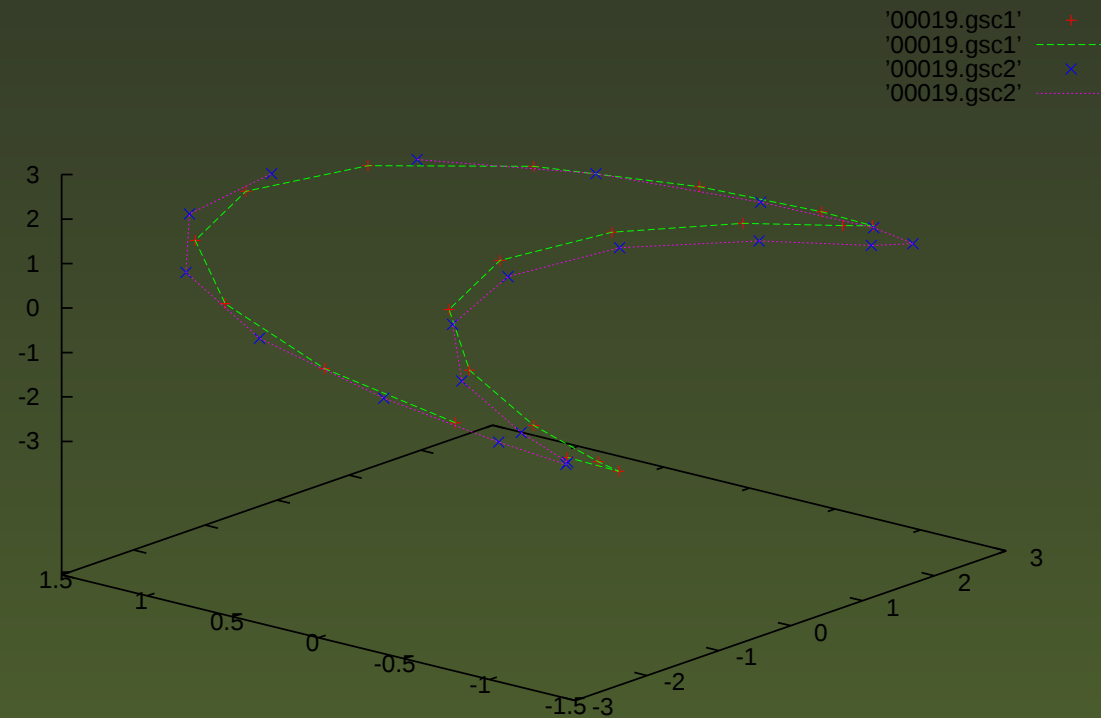
# numerical : the ideal helix

■ ideal helix



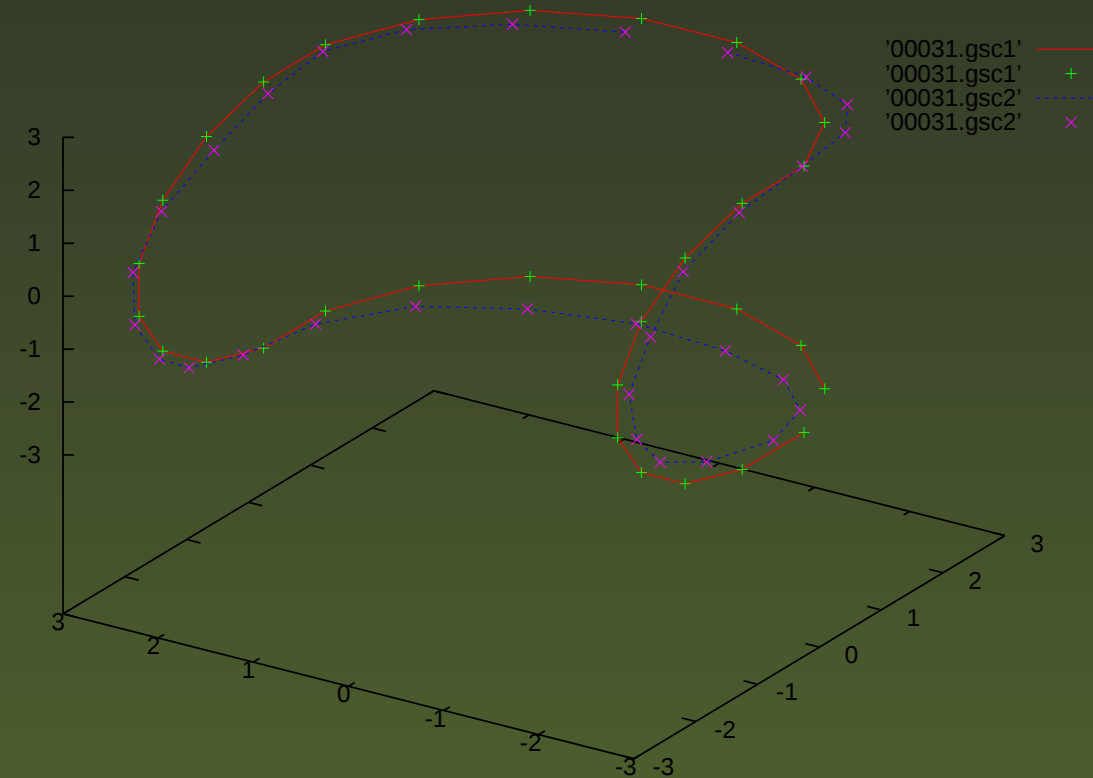
# numerical : ring of four helix segments

■ ring of four helix segments



# numerical : ring of four circle segments

■ ring of four circle segments



# Conclusion.

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- global radius of curvature: thick polymer computer simulations are feasible

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    - 1) classify the shapes [configurations/conformations]
    - 2) compare them with ideal shapes - how big is the difference ?
    - 3) are these shapes universal ?
- possible obstacle, the tube was discretized, but one can do better

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- are proteins effectively : modulated homopolymer mixed phases of tubes ?  
modulation : specific interactions in a background of constant homopolymer attraction