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PAPER

Euler tours and unicycles in the rotor-router model

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Abstract.

A recurrent state of the rotor-routing process on a finite sink-free graph can be represented by a unicycle that is a connected spanning subgraph containing a unique directed cycle. We distinguish between short cycles of length 2 called 'dimers' and longer ones called 'contours'. Then the rotor-router walk performing an Euler tour on the graph generates a sequence of dimers and contours which exhibits both random and regular properties. Imposing initial conditions randomly chosen from the uniform distribution we calculate expected numbers of dimers and contours and correlation between them at two successive moments of time in the sequence. On the other hand, we prove that

the excess of the number of contours over dimers is an invariant depending on planarity of the subgraph but not on initial conditions. In addition, we analyze the mean-square displacement of the rotor-router walker in the recurrent state.

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