"A Look at Polynomial Equations Arising from Molecular Chains"

by Dhyan Aranha

We will see how to derive polynomial equations that model the twist angles of chains of atoms. Protein backbones and many drug molecules are special cases of such chains. We then examine the complexity of the polyhedral homotopy algorithm when applied to such systems, via an implementation of Verschelde. We also discuss some of the pros and cons of polyhedral homotopy.