Electrostatic fluctuations in polyelectrolytes - a numerical approach

Frédéric POITEVIN $^{1,2}$, Henri ORLAND $^2$
$^1$ Unité de Dynamique Structurale des Macromolécules, Institut Pasteur de Paris, CNRS, France
$^2$ Institut de Physique Théorique, CEA, CNRS, France

The treatment of electrostatic interactions in polyelectrolytes beyond the mean-field level of approximation will be briefly reviewed. We will present our recent work on the computation of electrostatic fluctuations, using a method that essentially allows their exact treatment, through the numerical integration of a stochastic differential equation within a density functional framework. Preliminary results on a simple system made of two like-charge ions immersed in various types of salts will be discussed.