

Large Deviations in Renewal Models of Statistical Mechanics

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Cramér's theorem provides a large deviation principle for the empirical mean of independent and identically distributed random variables. In this talk I establish a generalization of Cramér's theorem for renewal-reward processes associated with a constrained renewal process where one of the renewals occurs at a predetermined time. With a different interpretation of the time coordinate, this constrained renewal process includes important models of statistical mechanics such as the pinning model of polymers, the Poland-Scheraga model of DNA denaturation, the Wako-Saitô-Muñoz-Eaton model of protein folding, and the Tokar-Dreyssé model of strained epitaxy.

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