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**SAMUEL JOHNSON**, Simon Fraser University

*The exponential growth of restricted lattice paths*

Restricted lattice paths are effective statistical mechanical models of physical and chemical phenomena. The exponential growth factor of the number of lattice paths of size  $n$  corresponds to the entropy in the statistical mechanical system. We give a systematic method for proving factors for families of models sharing a common submodel with known exponential growth. This is joint work with Marni Mishna.