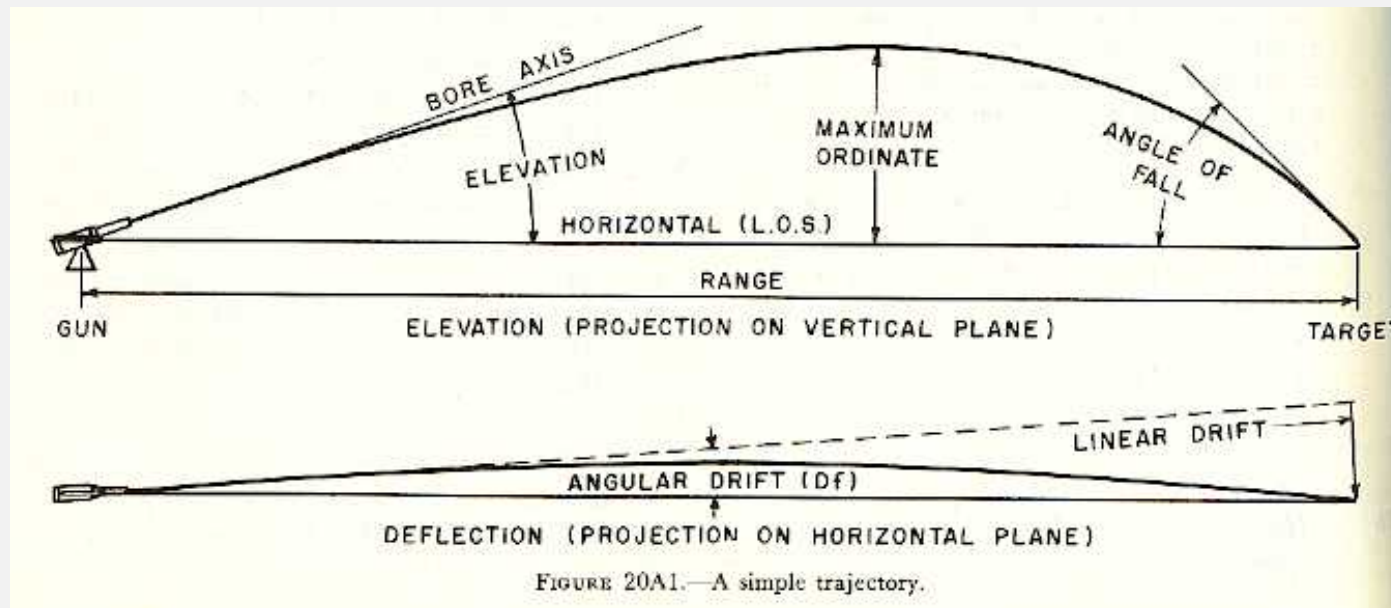
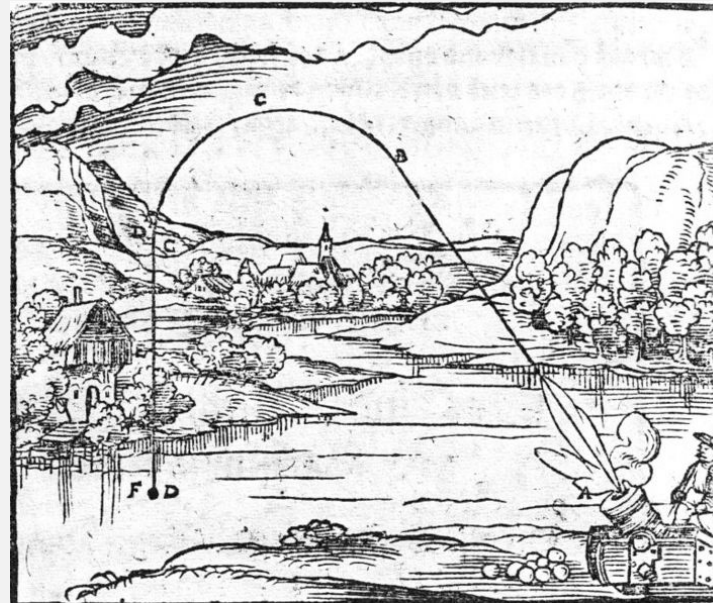


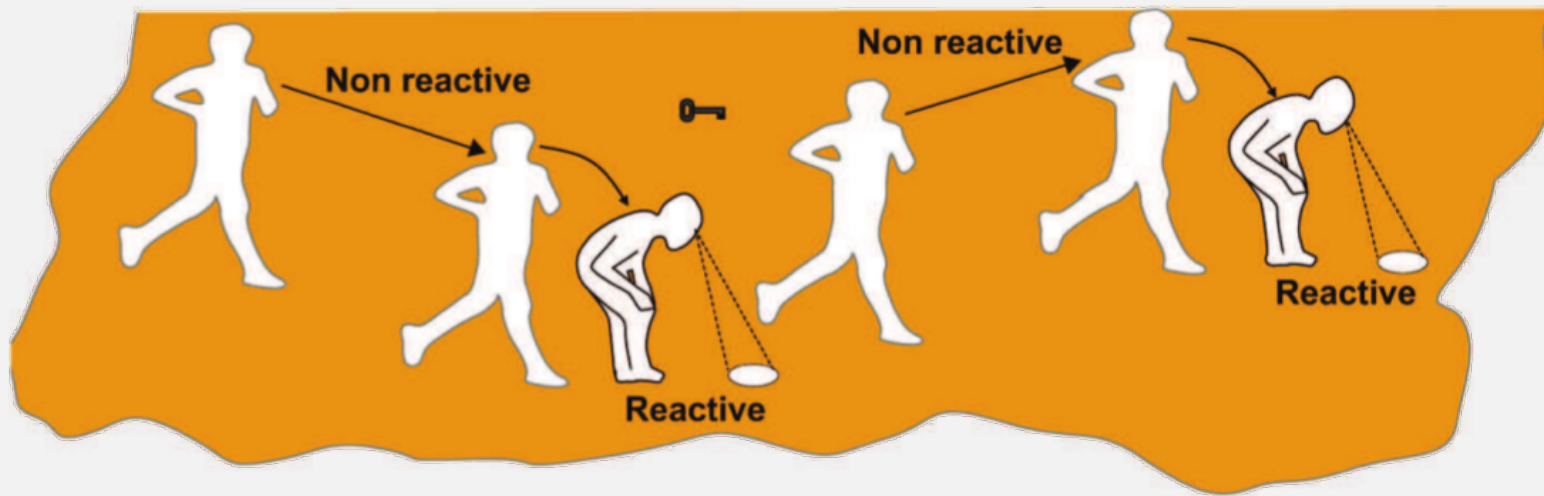
From facilitated diffusion to Lévy flights

— Lanzhou, 5th August 2018 —

Hitting a visible target: an old science



Random strategy for hidden target: intermittent search



& now it's time for something completely different



Luria-Delbrück experiment (1943)

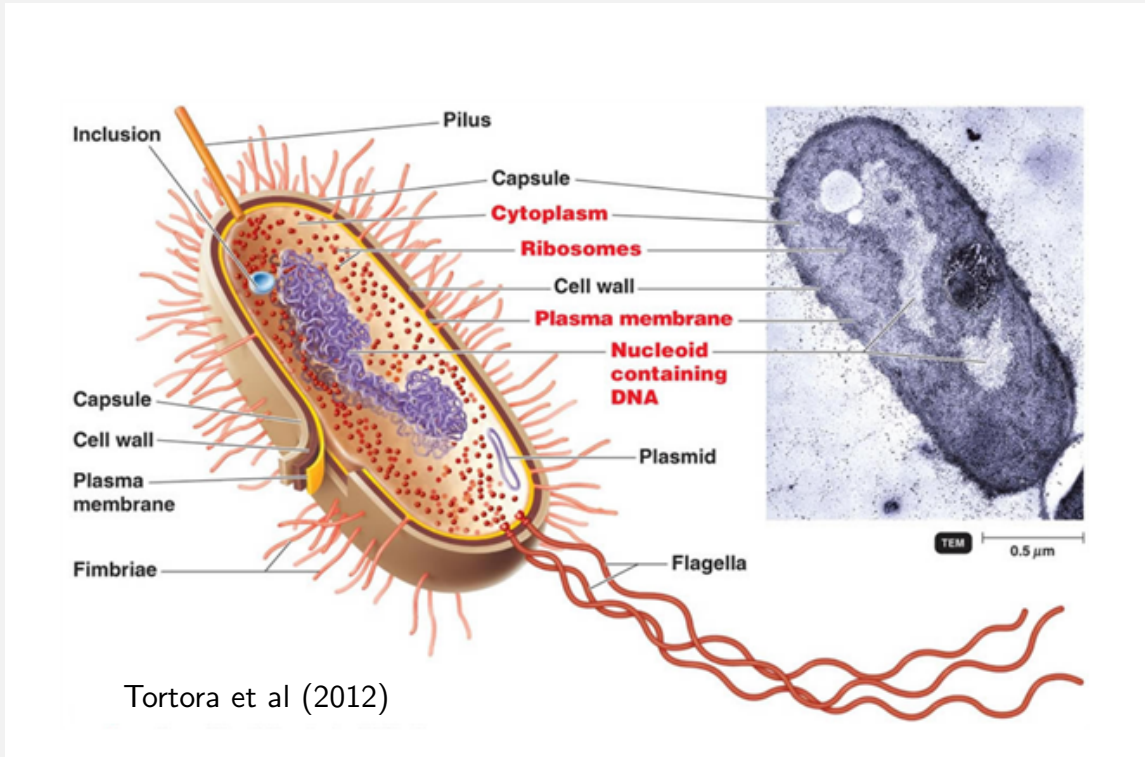


Max Delbrück and Salvador Luria (Nobel Prize, 1969)

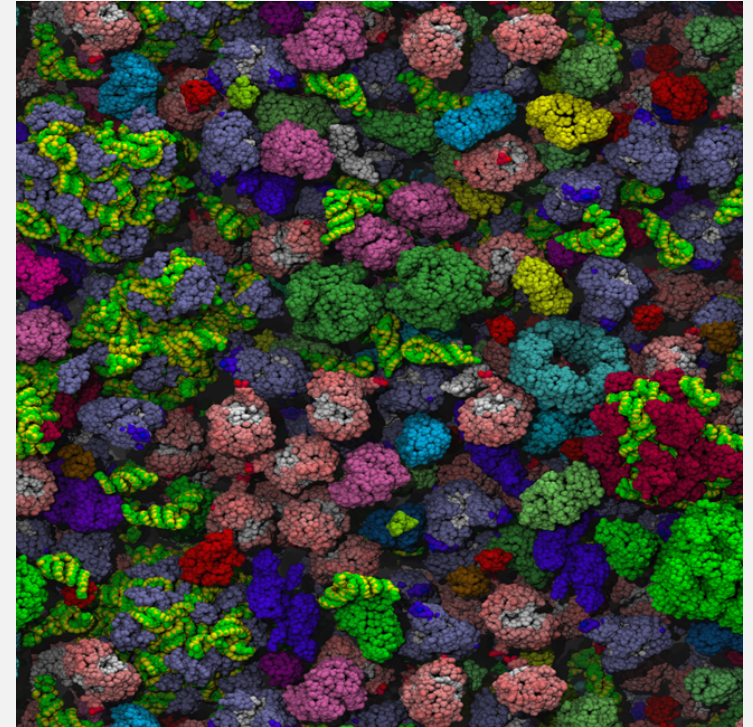
SE Luria & M Delbrück, Genetics (1943)

The Luria-Delbrück experiment or Fluctuation Test demonstrates that in bacteria mutations against a specific viral infection arise *randomly over time*, and are not induced by exposure to the virus itself. Those bacteria with the appropriately mutated genes will survive and proliferate the resistance.

Main protagonist: bacteria cells such as E.coli



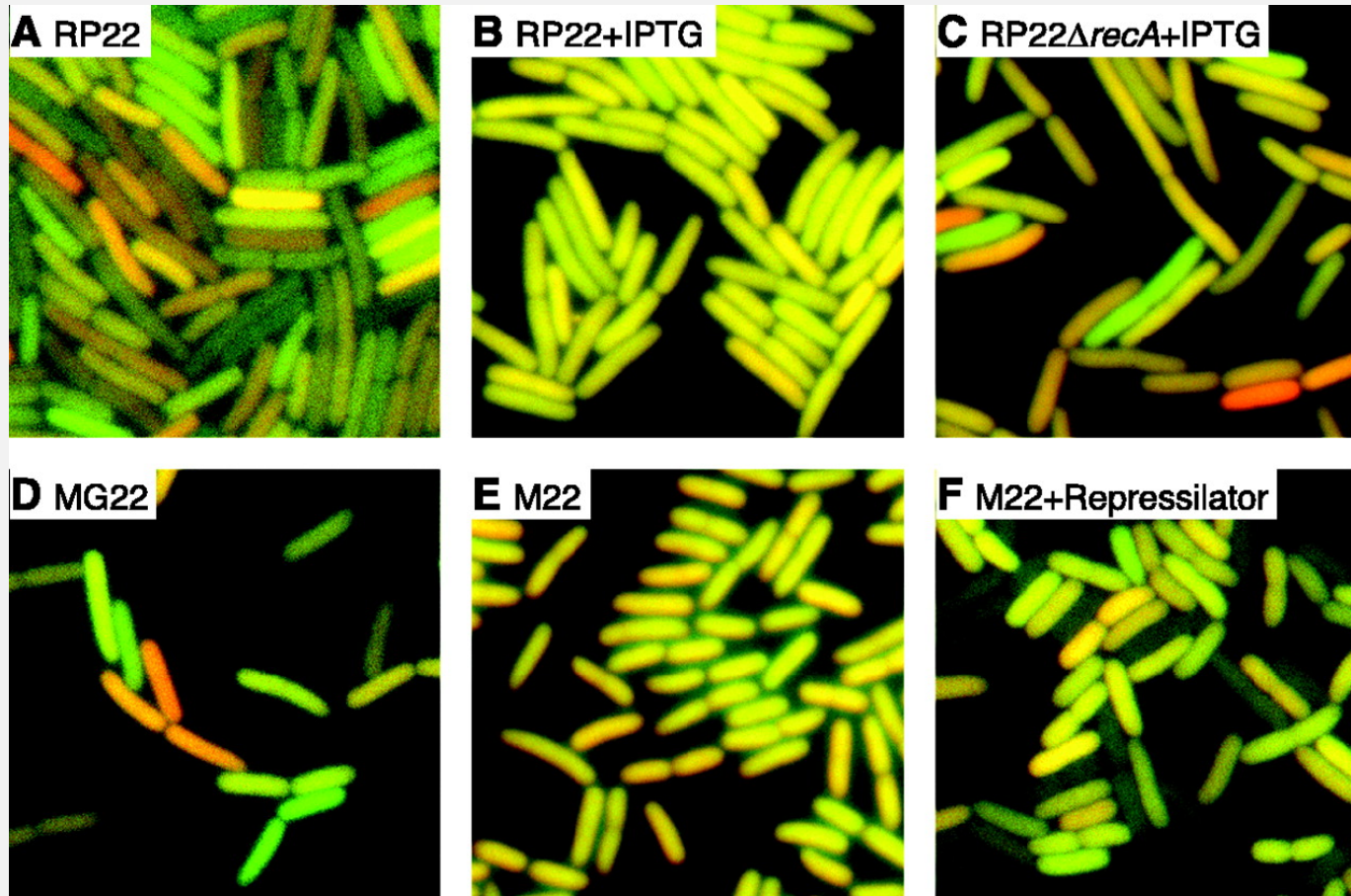
McGuffee & Elcock, PLoS Comp Biol (2010)



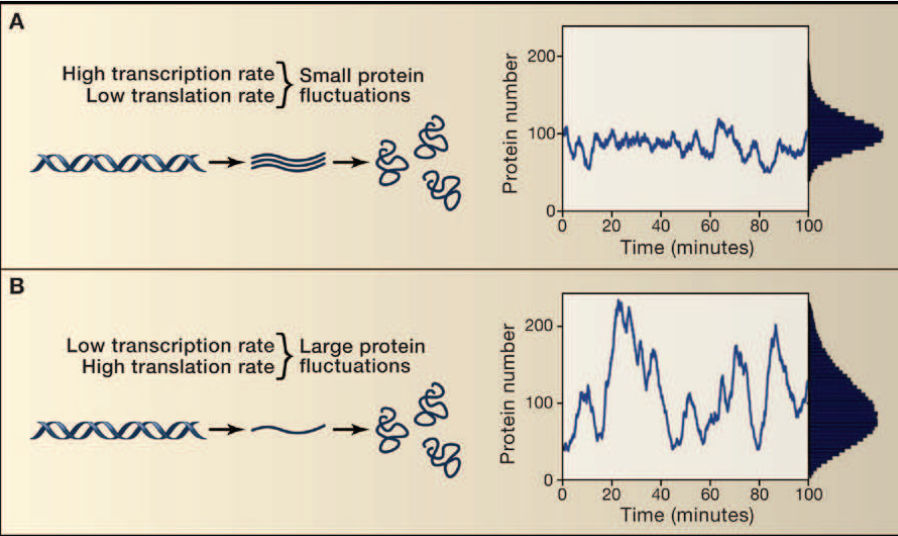
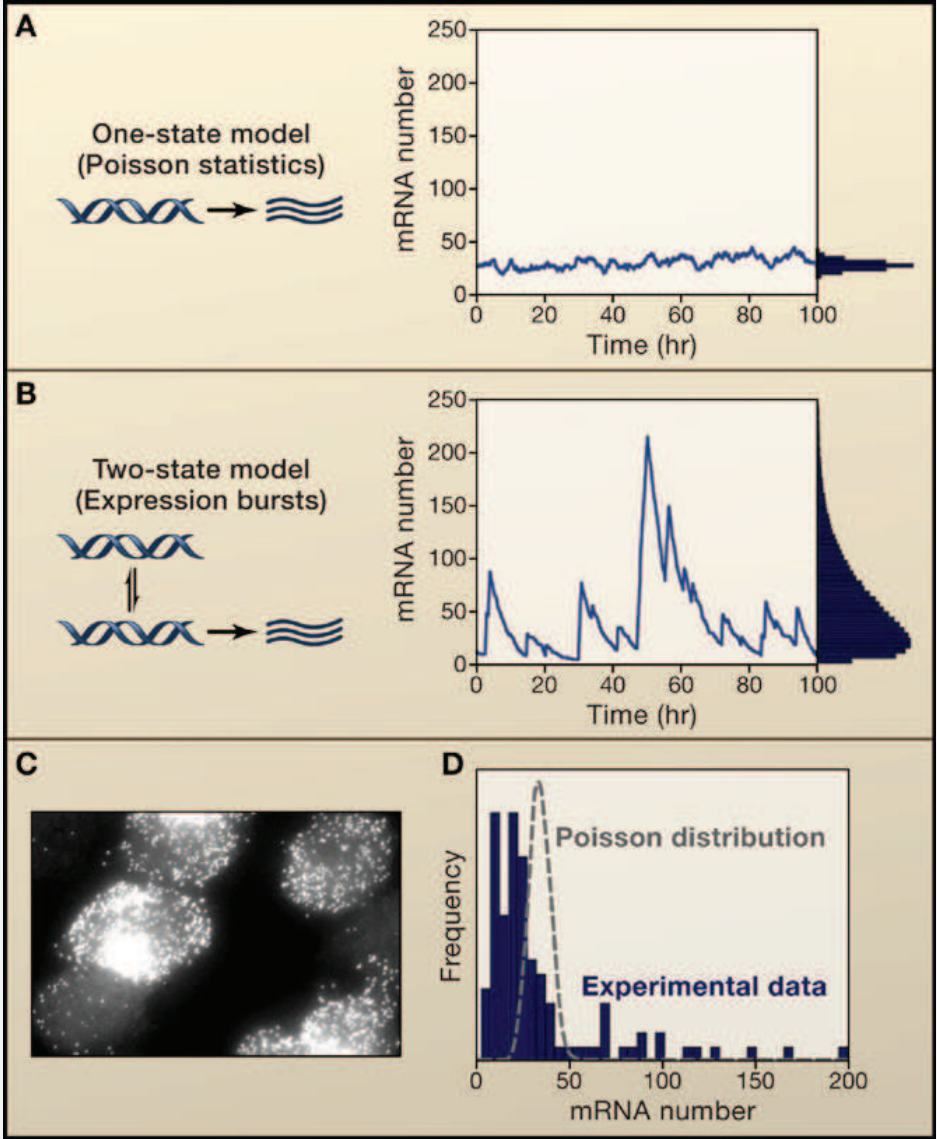
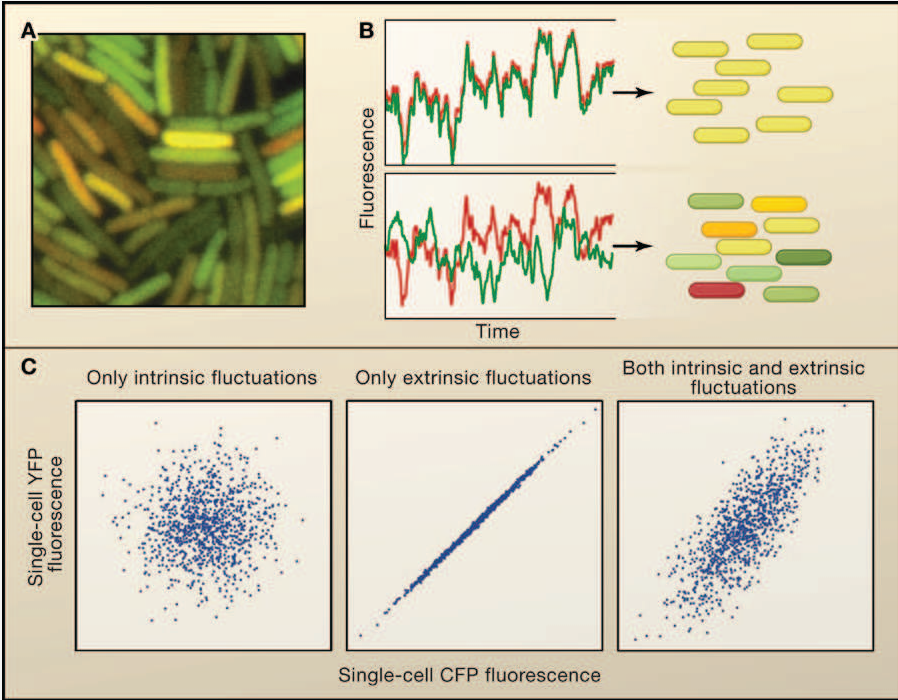
(\exists also cells with fully delocalised chromatin)

Gene regulation is intrinsically stochastic

Phenotypic difference in a single cell line:

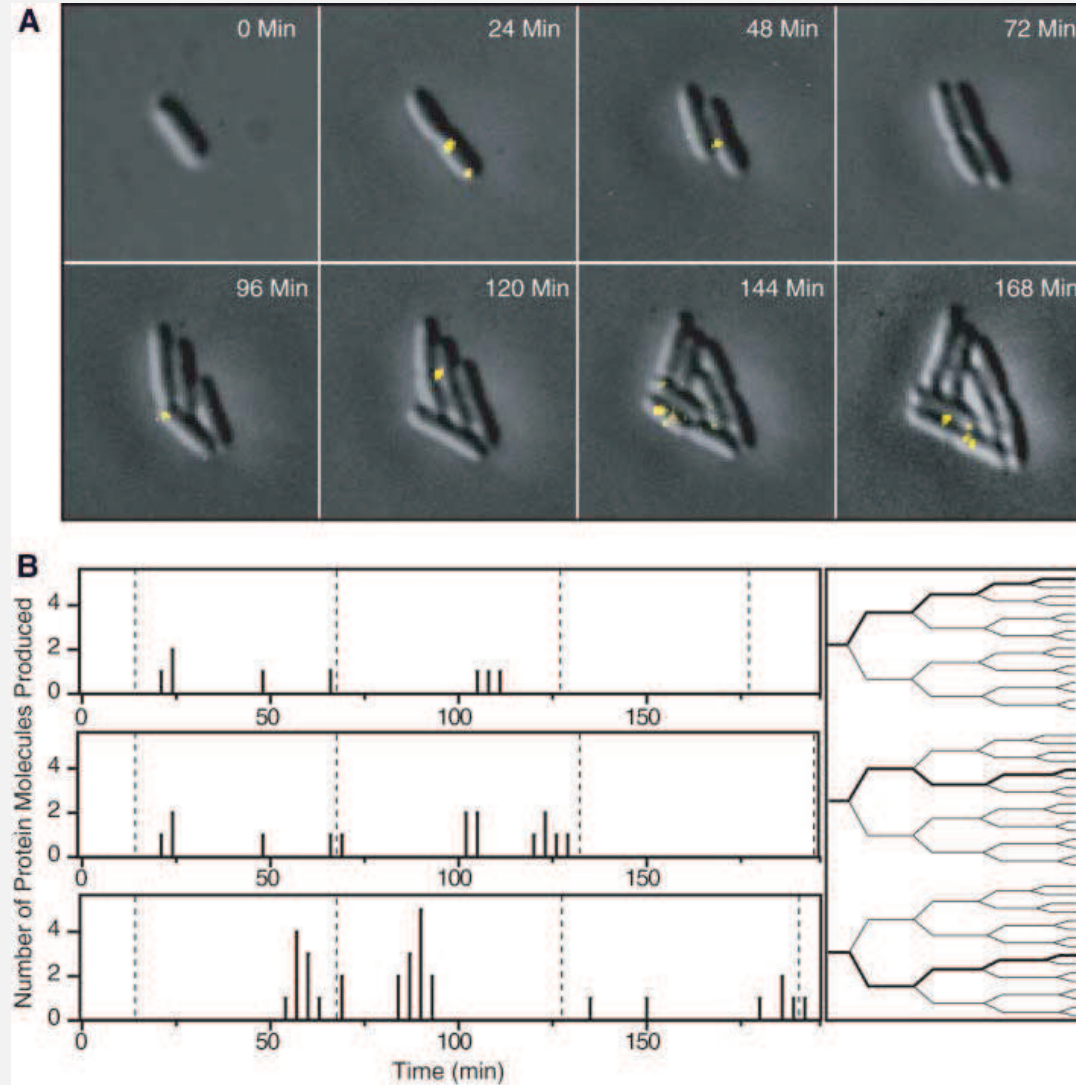


Sources of cellular noisiness: chemical vs physical



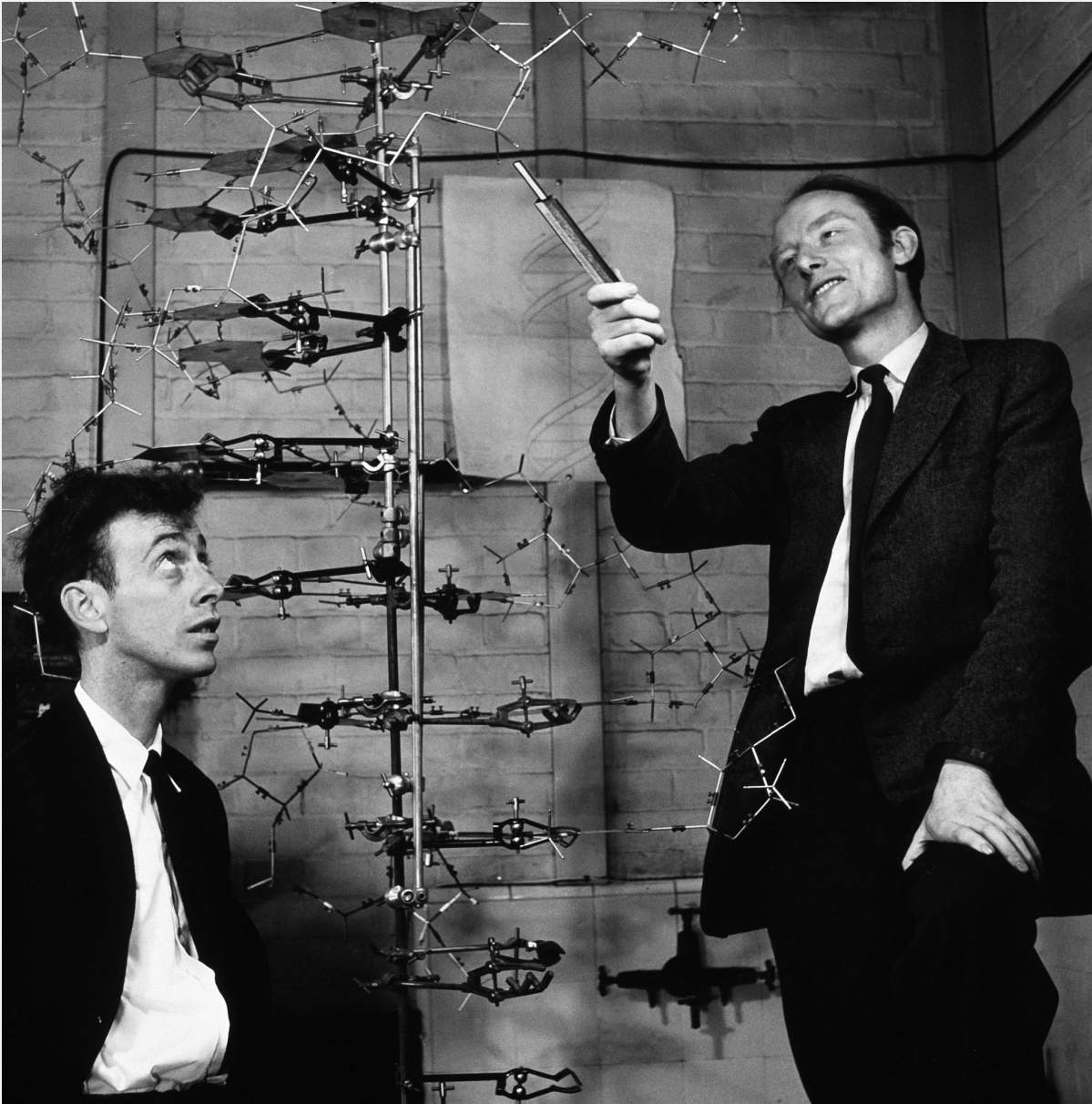
Plus noise due to spatial spreading of TFs!

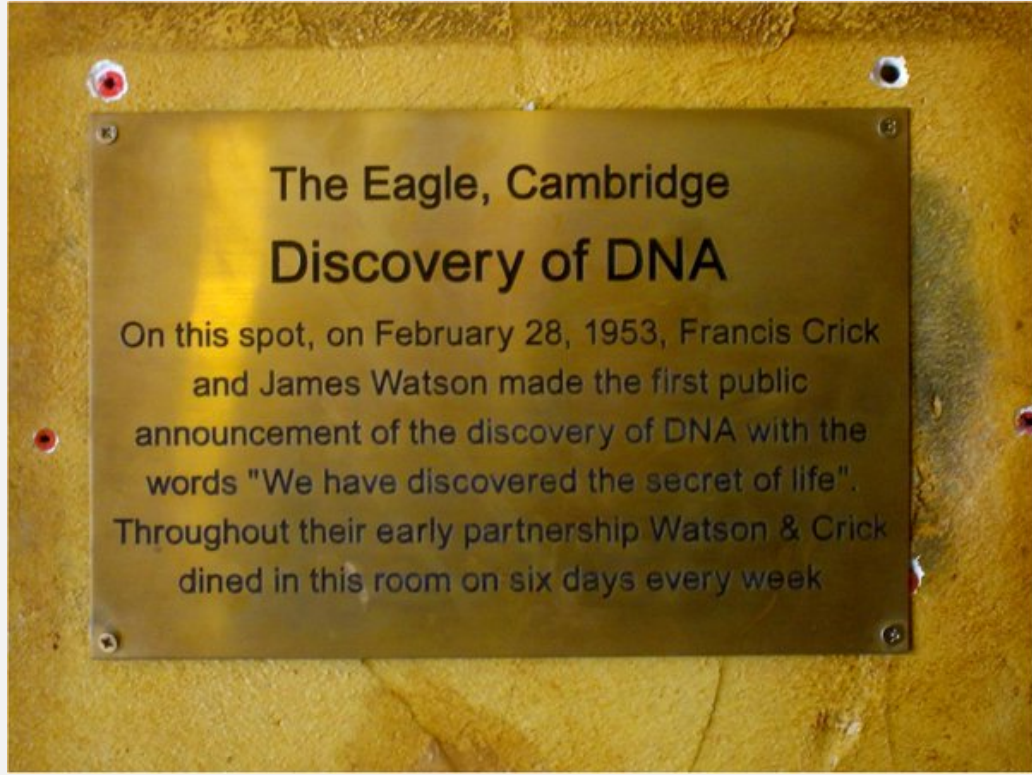
Gene expression one molecule at a time



synthesised proteins (bursty) along three cell lineages, dashed lines marking cell divisions

Genetic information is stored on DNA





Central Dogma of Molecular Biology

by
FRANCIS CRICK
 MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology,
 Hills Road,
 Cambridge CB2 2QH

The central dogma of molecular biology deals with the detailed residue-by-residue transfer of sequential information. It states that such information cannot be transferred from protein to either protein or nucleic acid.

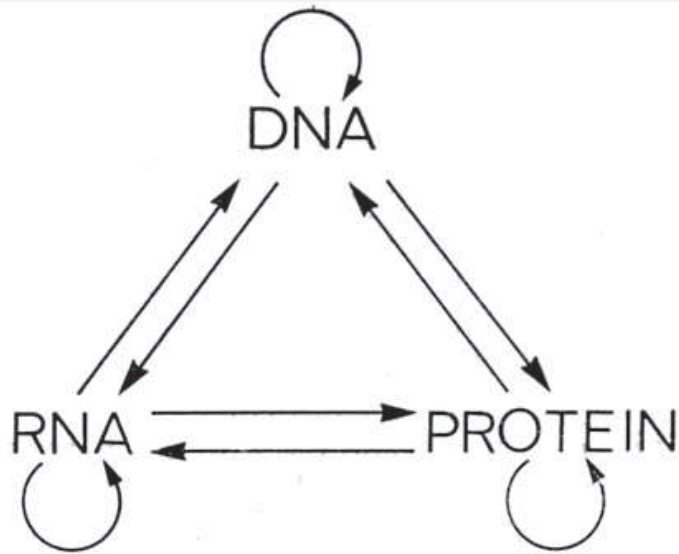


Fig. 1. The arrows show all the possible simple transfers between the three families of polymers. They represent the directional flow of detailed sequence information.

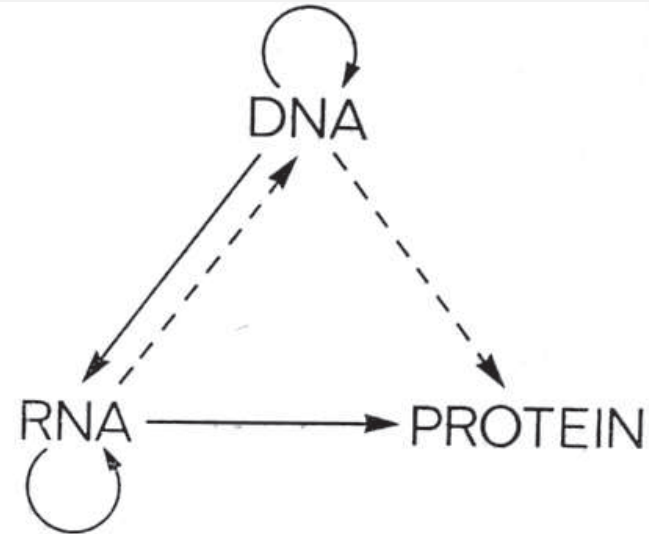
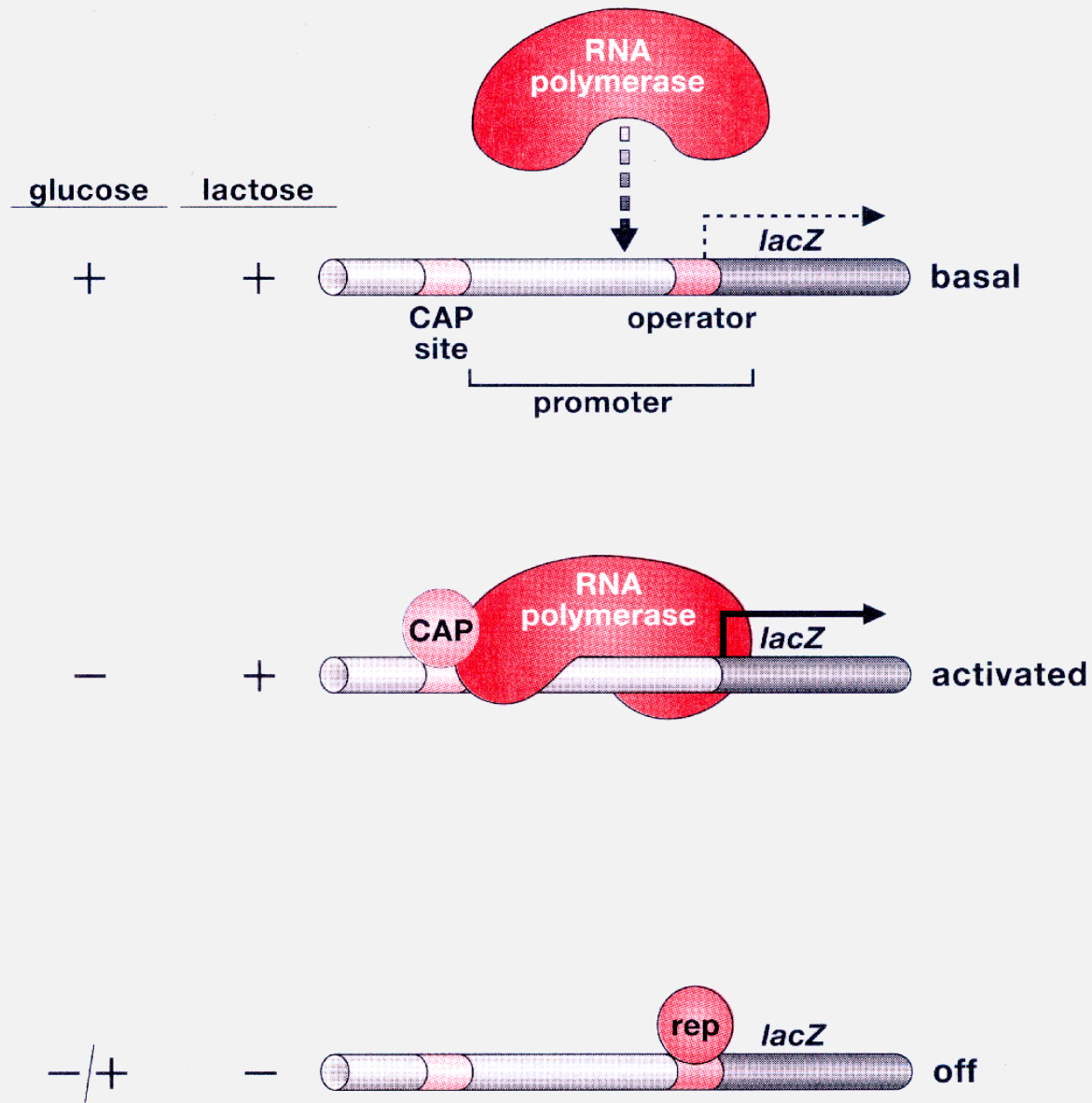


Fig. 2. The arrows show the situation as it seemed in 1958. Solid arrows represent probable transfers, dotted arrows possible transfers. The absent arrows (compare Fig. 1) represent the impossible transfers postulated by the central dogma. They are the three possible arrows starting from protein.

Gene regulation by transcription factors: Lac repressor



Smoluchowski search picture

Search rate for a particle with diffusivity D_{3d} to find an immobile target of radius a (assuming immediate binding):

$$k_{\text{on}}^S = 4\pi D_{3d} a$$

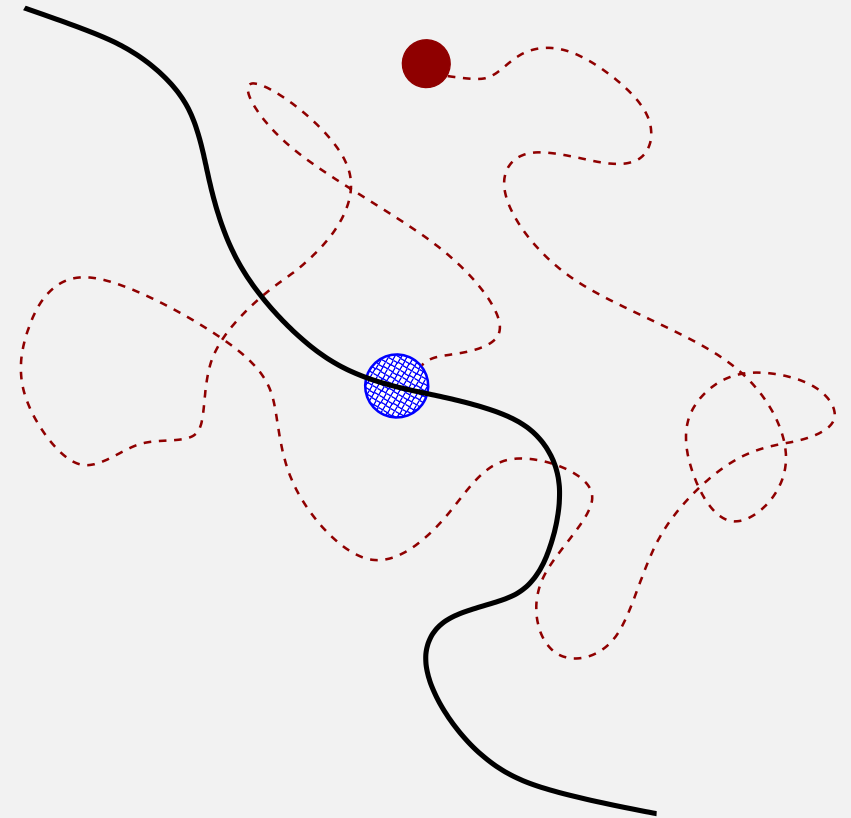
Protein-DNA interaction: $a \approx \{\text{few bp}\} \approx 1\text{nm}$
 $D_{3d} \approx 10\mu\text{m}^2/\text{sec}$ (typically $\varnothing_{\text{TF}} \approx 5\text{nm}$):

$$k_{\text{on}}^S \approx \frac{10^8}{(\text{mol/l}) \times \text{sec}}$$

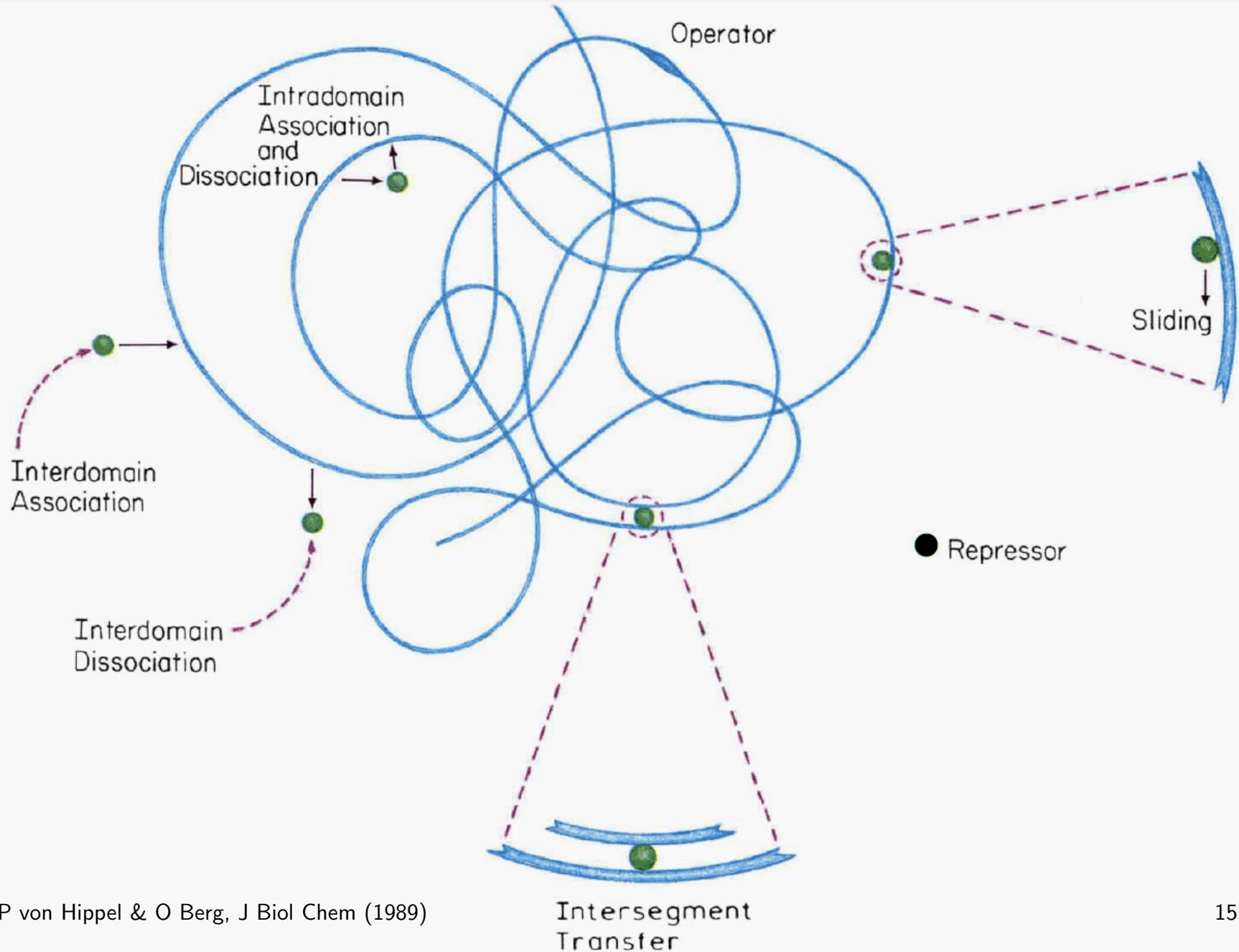
Lac repressor [AD Riggs, S Bourgeois, M Cohn, J Mol Biol 53, 401 (1970)]:

$$k_{\text{on}} \approx \frac{10^{10}}{(\text{mol/l}) \times \text{sec}}$$

→ Facilitated diffusion picture



Facilitated diffusion: the Berg-von Hippel model



Non-specific binding energy based on *in vivo* data



Lac repressor, nonspecific binding

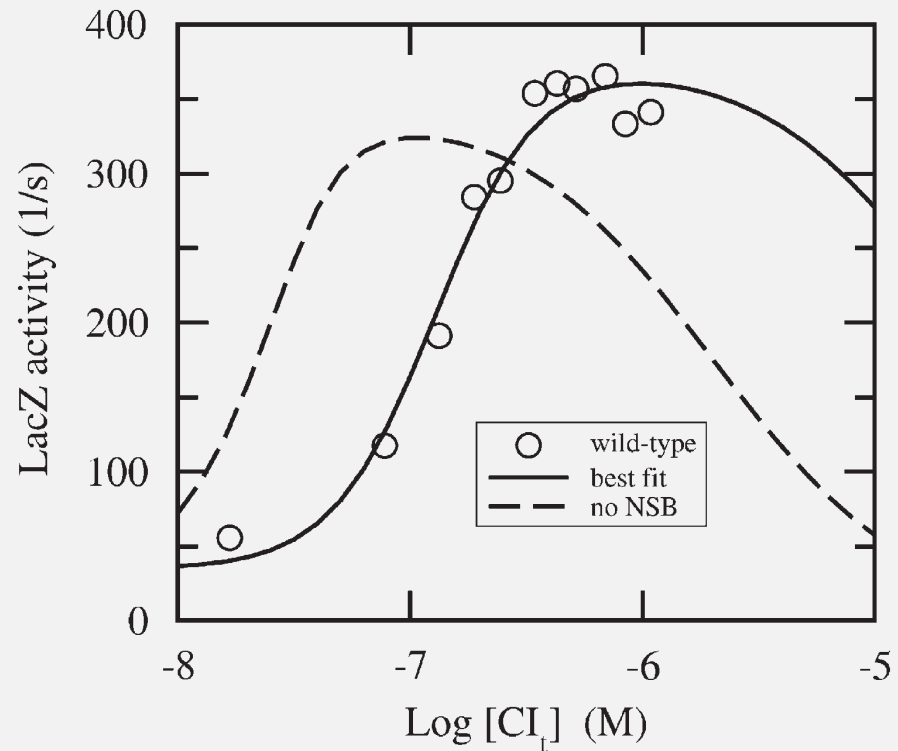


Lac repressor, specific binding

$$[X] = [X_{\text{free}}] + [X_{\text{@OP}}] + [X_{\text{NSB}}]$$

$$\Delta G_{\text{NSB}}(\text{CI}) = -4.1 \pm 0.9 \text{ kcal/mol,}$$

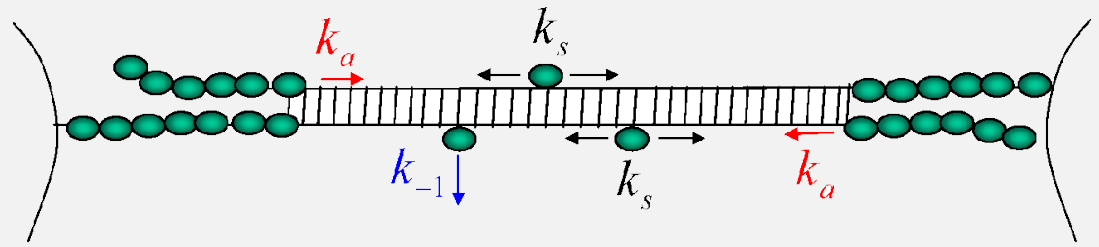
$$\Delta G_{\text{NSB}}(\text{Cro}) = -4.2 \pm 0.8 \text{ kcal/mol}$$



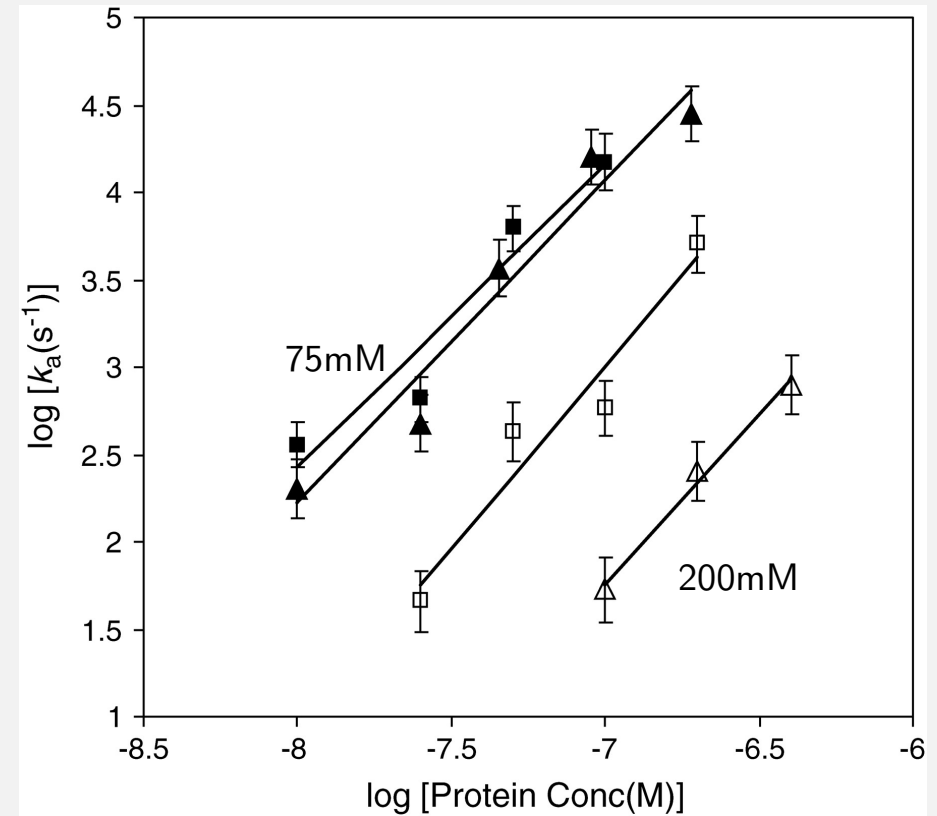
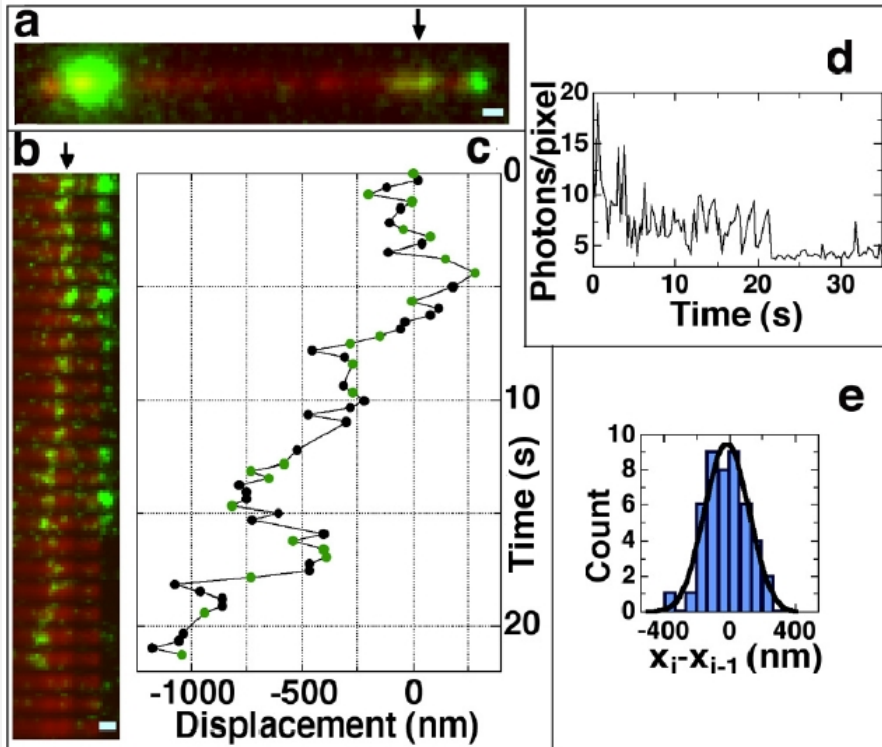
Proof of 1D search mode

McGhee & von Hippel isotherm

$$f = \frac{N\lambda}{L} \simeq K_{ns}\lambda C, \quad f \ll 1$$



$$k_a \simeq \begin{cases} C, & \text{1D/3D Berg \& von Hippel} \\ C^2, & \text{Pure 1D search} \end{cases}$$



$$\Delta = 1.74 \pm 0.35, 1.85 \pm 0.24, 2.08 \pm 0.39, 1.95 \pm 0.17$$

Calculating facilitated diffusion (our version): manifestation of intermittency

$$\frac{\partial n(x, t)}{\partial t} = \left(D_{1d} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} - k_{\text{off}} \right) n(x, t) - j(t) \delta(x) + G(x, t) + k_{\text{off}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx' \int_0^t dt' W_{\text{bulk}}(x - x', t - t')$$

n : line density of TFs

x : chemical co-ordinate along DNA

k_{off} : unbinding rate of non-specifically bound TFs

D_{1d} : 1D diffusion constant ($\sim 10^{-2} D_{3d}$)

$j(t)$: flux into target (δ sink @ $x = 0$)

G : virgin flux of previously unbound TFs

W_{bulk} : 3D diffusion propagator

Long chain, fast dynamics: Lévy flights

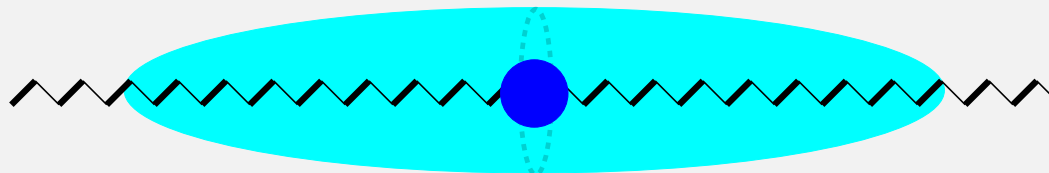
The antenna effect

Target search rate for cylindrical DNA model:

$$k_{\text{on}} \sim 4\pi D_{3d} \ell_{\text{sl}}^{\text{eff}} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{\ln(\ell_{\text{sl}}^{\text{eff}} / r_{\text{int}})}}$$

Sliding length:

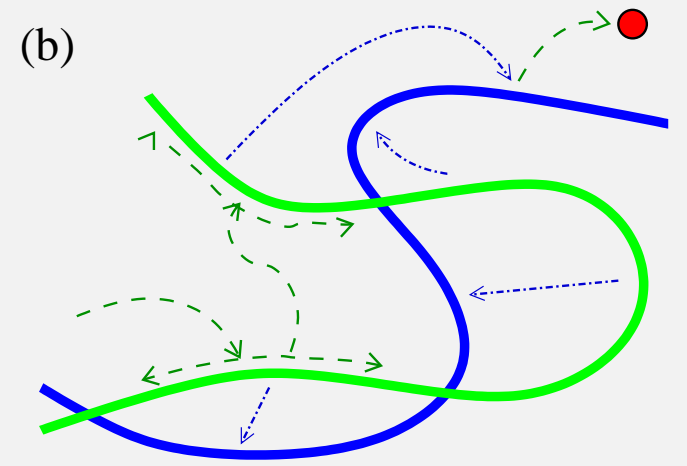
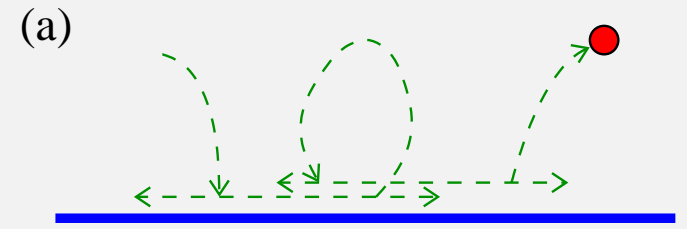
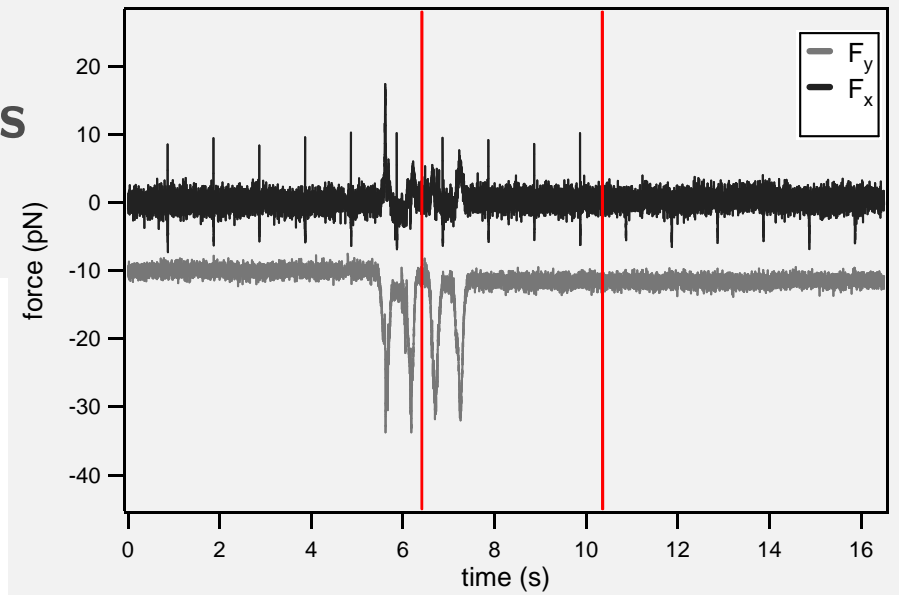
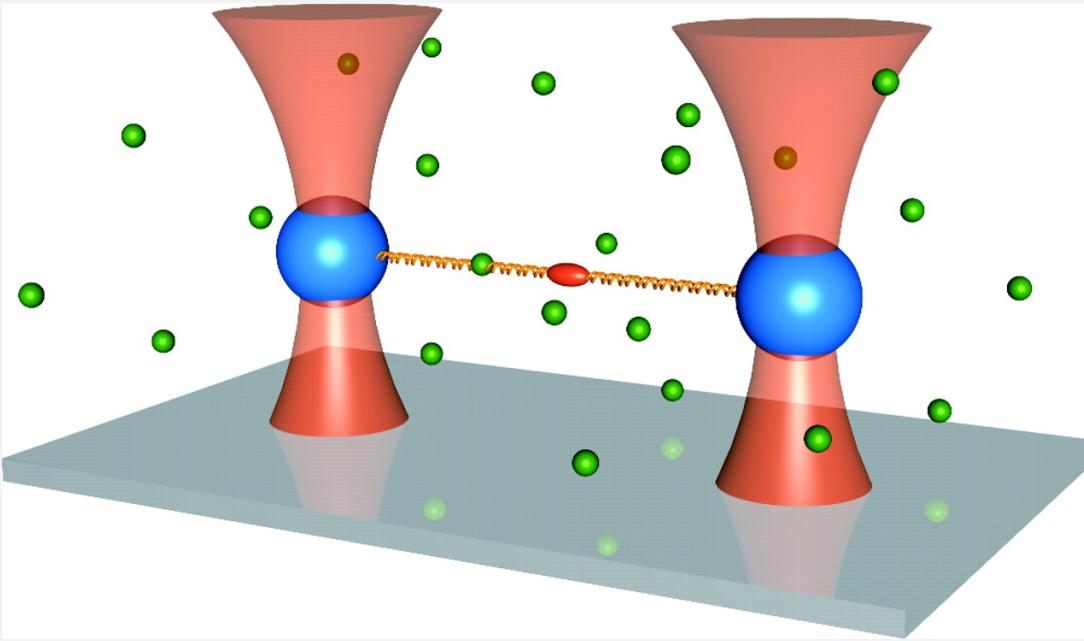
$$\ell_{\text{sl}} = \sqrt{\frac{D_{1d}}{k_{\text{off}}}}$$



Effective sliding length:

$$\ell_{\text{sl}}^{\text{eff}} = \sqrt{\frac{k_{\text{on}}}{2\pi D_{3d}}} \times \ell_{\text{sl}} \quad \text{microhop correction: } \sqrt{\frac{k_{\text{on}}}{2\pi D_{3d}}}$$

The rôle of DNA conformations

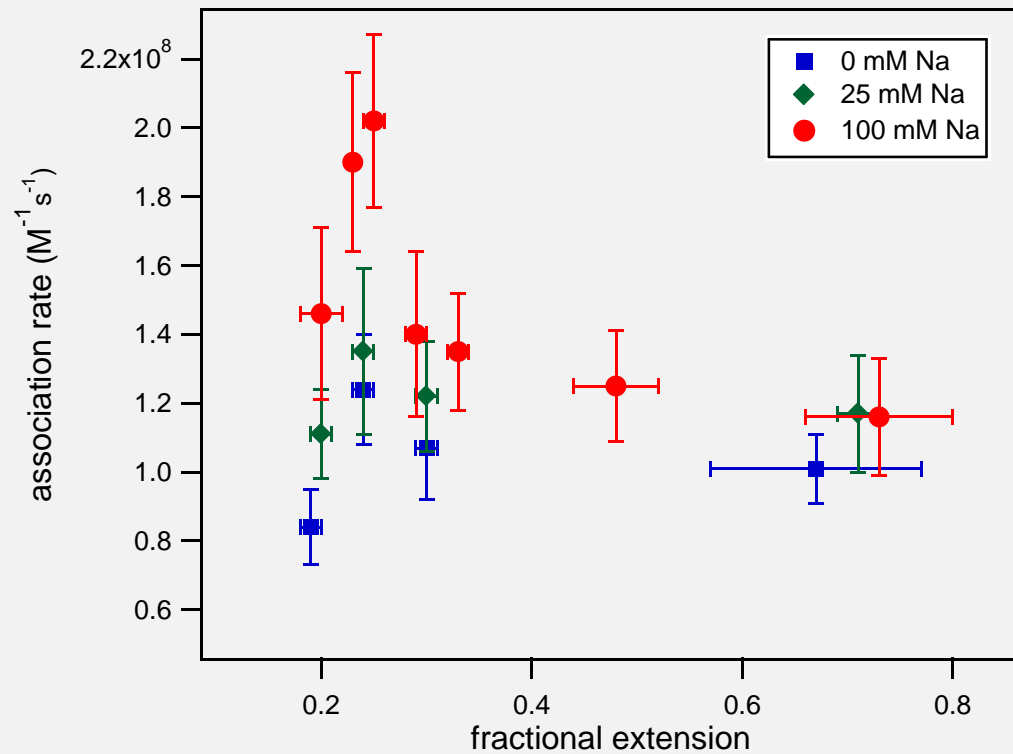
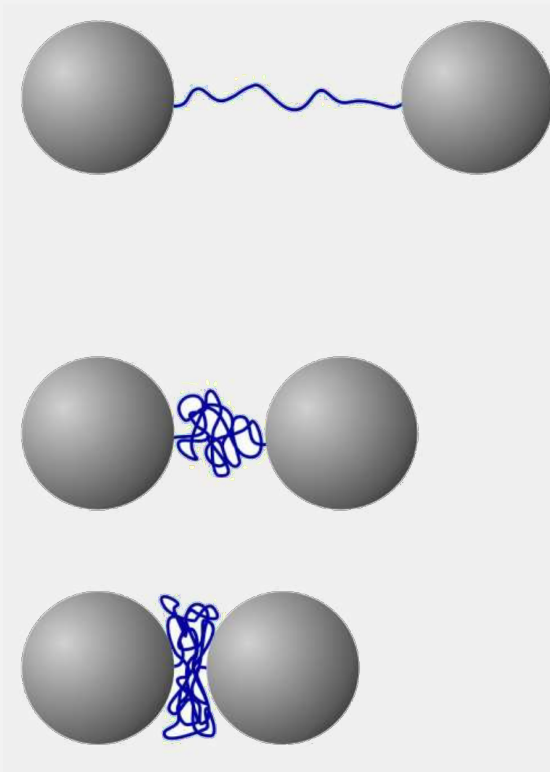


pCco5 plasmid DNA: $6538\text{bp} \approx 2.2\mu\text{m} \approx 45\ell_p$
 [comp λ DNA 48.5kbp]

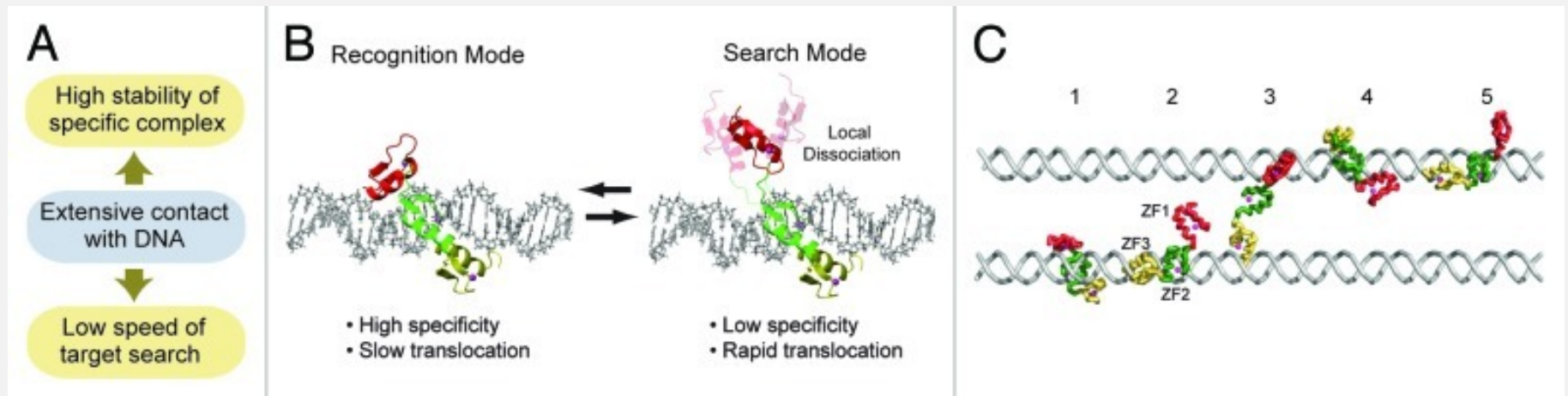
More compact DNA conformations speed up the search

[NaCl]	$k_{\text{on}}^{\text{straight}}$ [Ms]	$l_{\text{sl}}^{\text{eff}}$ [bp]	$1/\sqrt{l_{\text{DNA}}}$ [bp]	l_p [bp]	R_{theory}	R_{measured}
0 mM	0.8×10^8	195	518	188	1.18	1.3 ± 0.2
25 mM	1.0×10^8	250	485	175	1.23	1.1 ± 0.2
100 mM	1.0×10^8	250	150	159	1.67	1.7 ± 0.3
150 mM	0.9×10^9	15.5	120	153	1.15	1.3 ± 0.4

$R = k_{\text{on}}^{\text{max}} / k_{\text{on}}^{\text{straight}}$: enhancement ratio of attachment rates @ max and straight configuration)



Speed-stability paradox in TF search along DNA

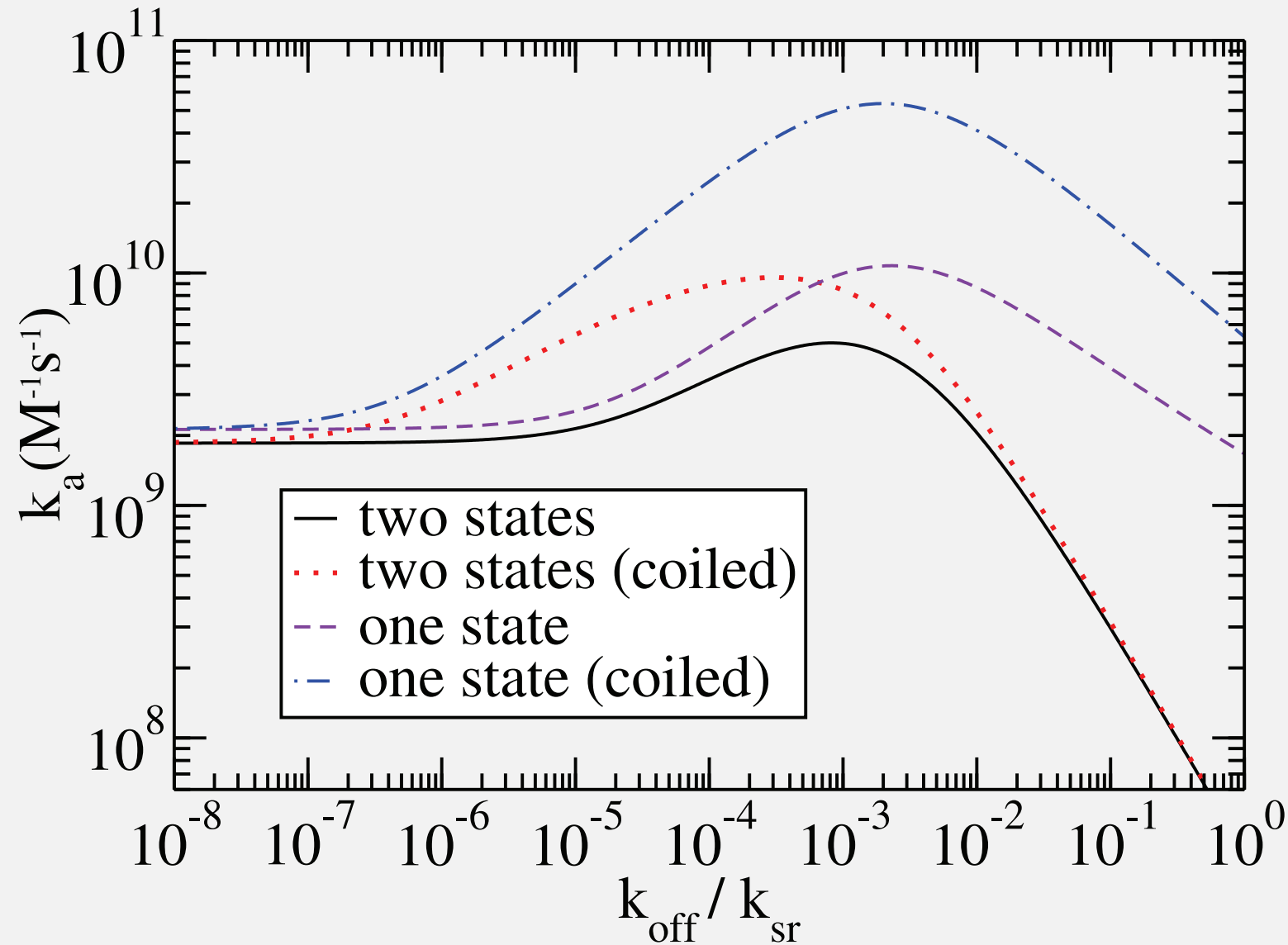


From simulations:

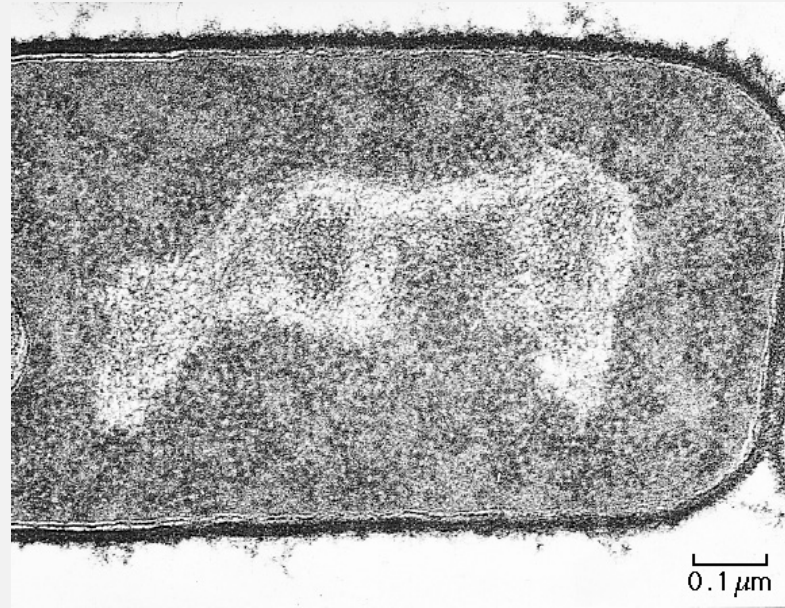
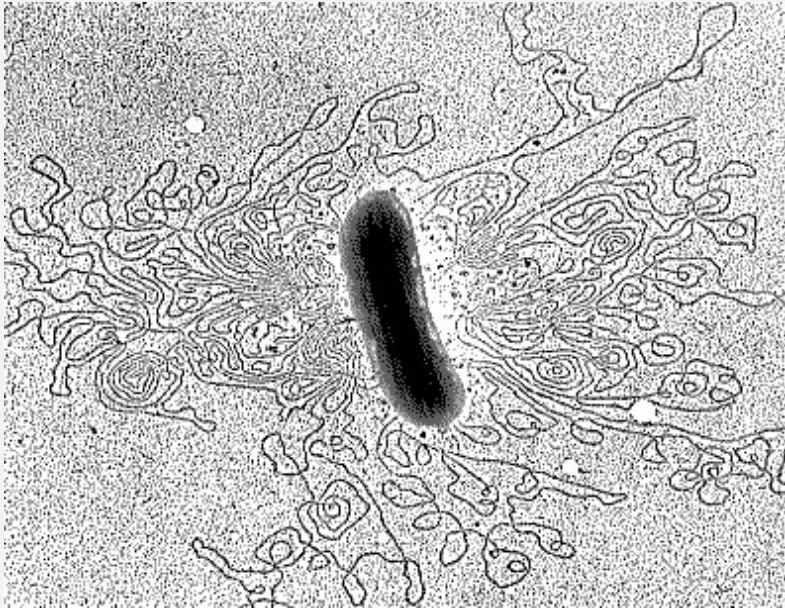
B: Search & recognition modes for a zinc finger protein

C: Intersegmental transfer of the protein

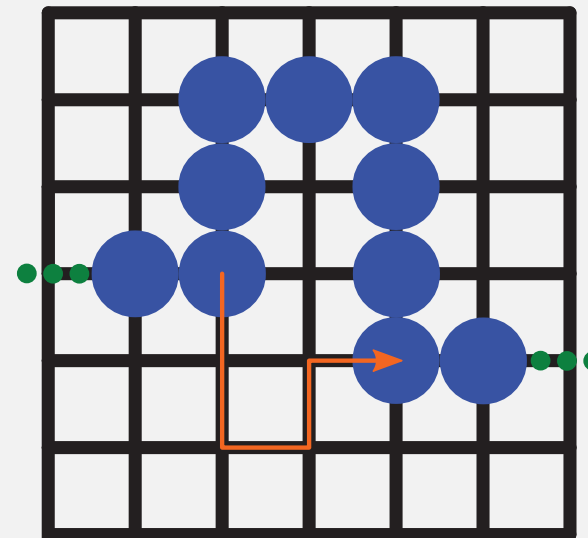
Facilitated diffusion: rate with search & recognition states



In vivo bacterial gene regulation: E.coli

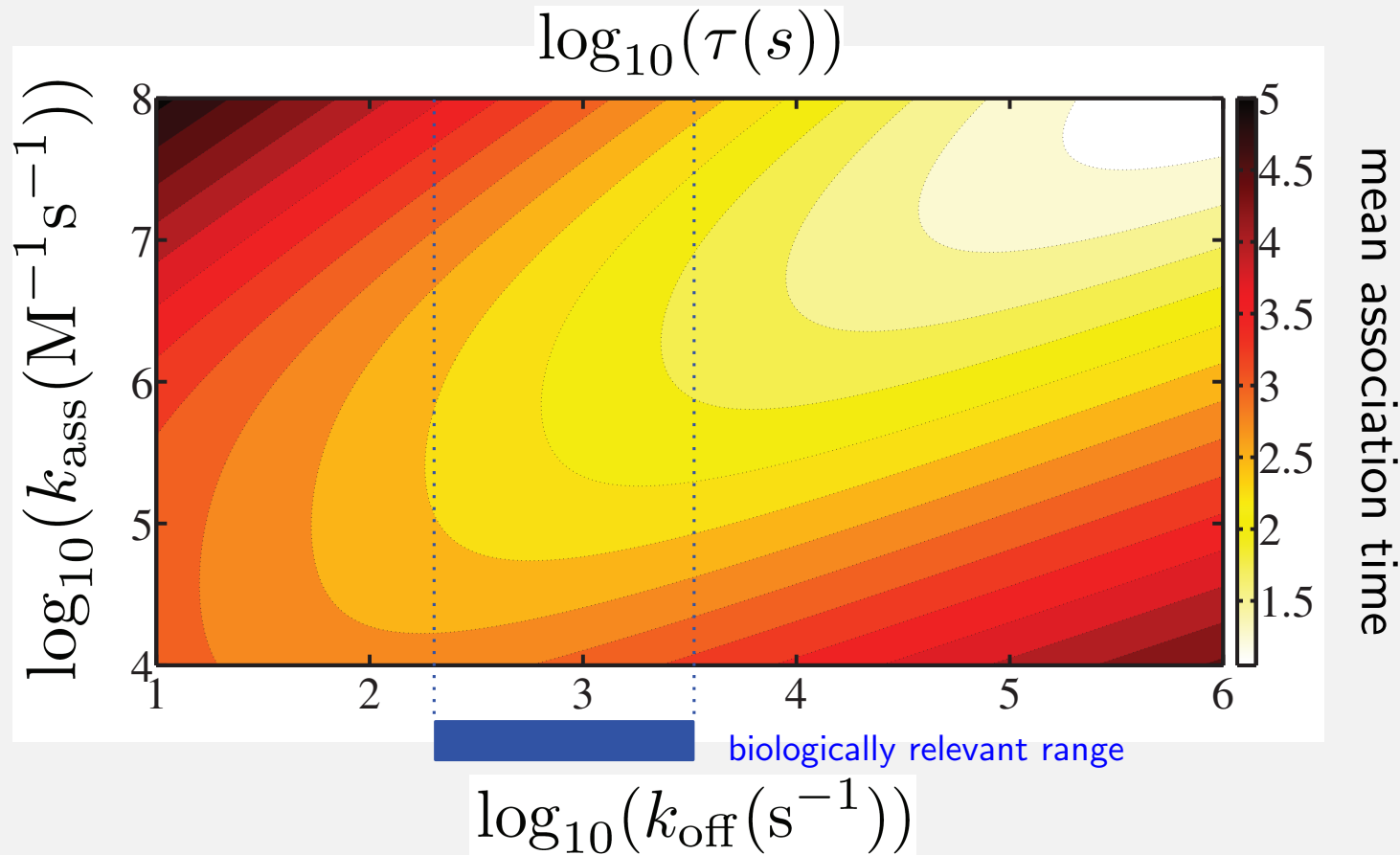


Chromosome is approx an SAW
[M Buenemann & P Lenz, PLoS ONE (2010)]



M Bauer & RM, PLoS ONE (2013)

In vivo gene regulation consistent with facilitated diffusion



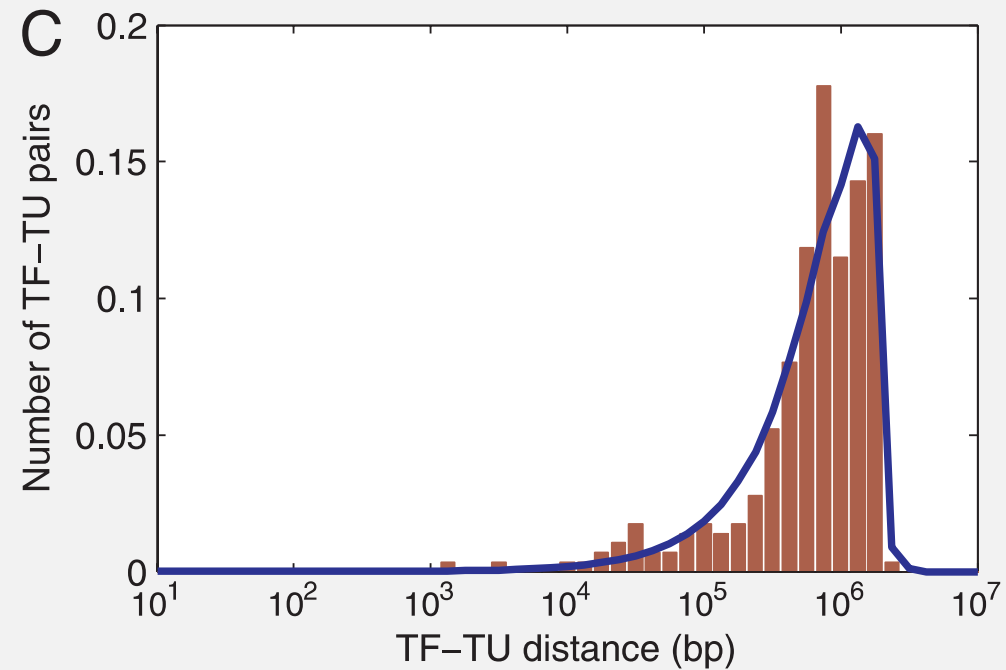
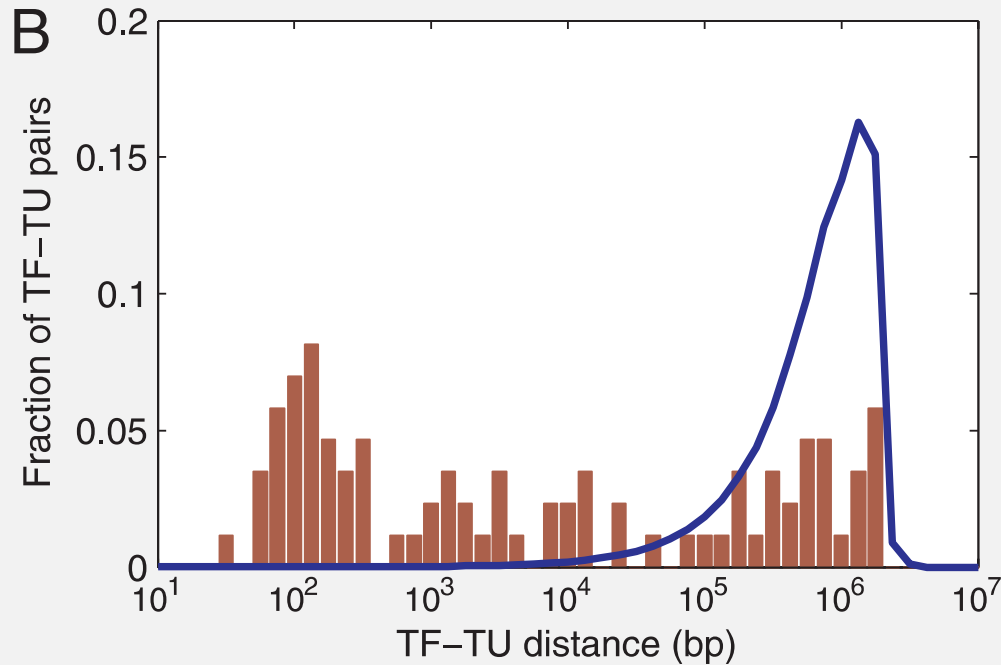
@ optimum the target association time is $\tau \approx 311\text{sec}$ (no fit parameter)

single molecule experiment: $\tau_{\text{exp}} = 354\text{sec}$ [Elf et al, Science (2007)]

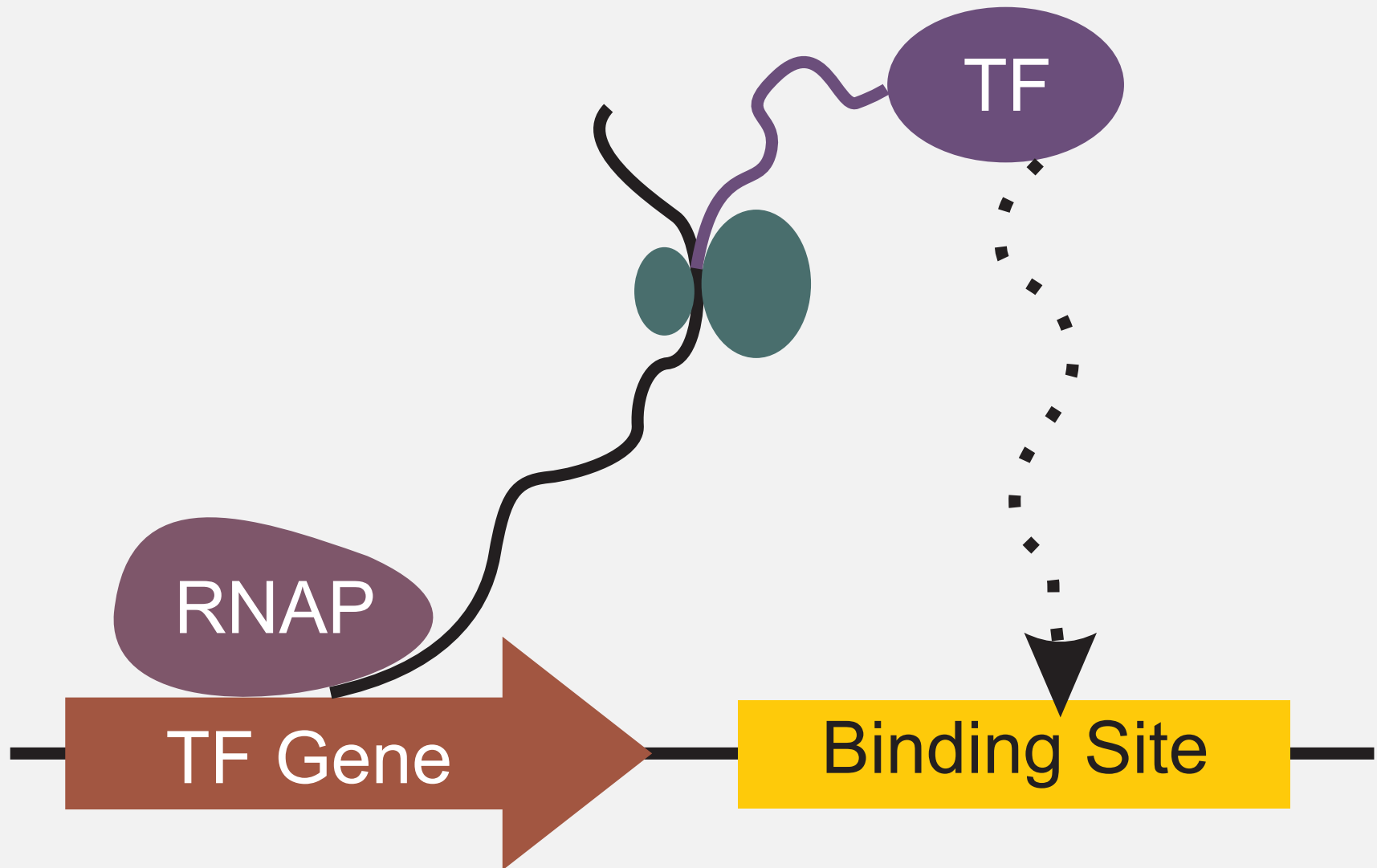
TF regulation effects gene proximity

Does distance between genes interacting via TFs matter?

Gene-gene distance distribution for local TFs (regulate < 4 operons, left) and global (regulate ≥ 4 operons, right). Blue line: random location of genes



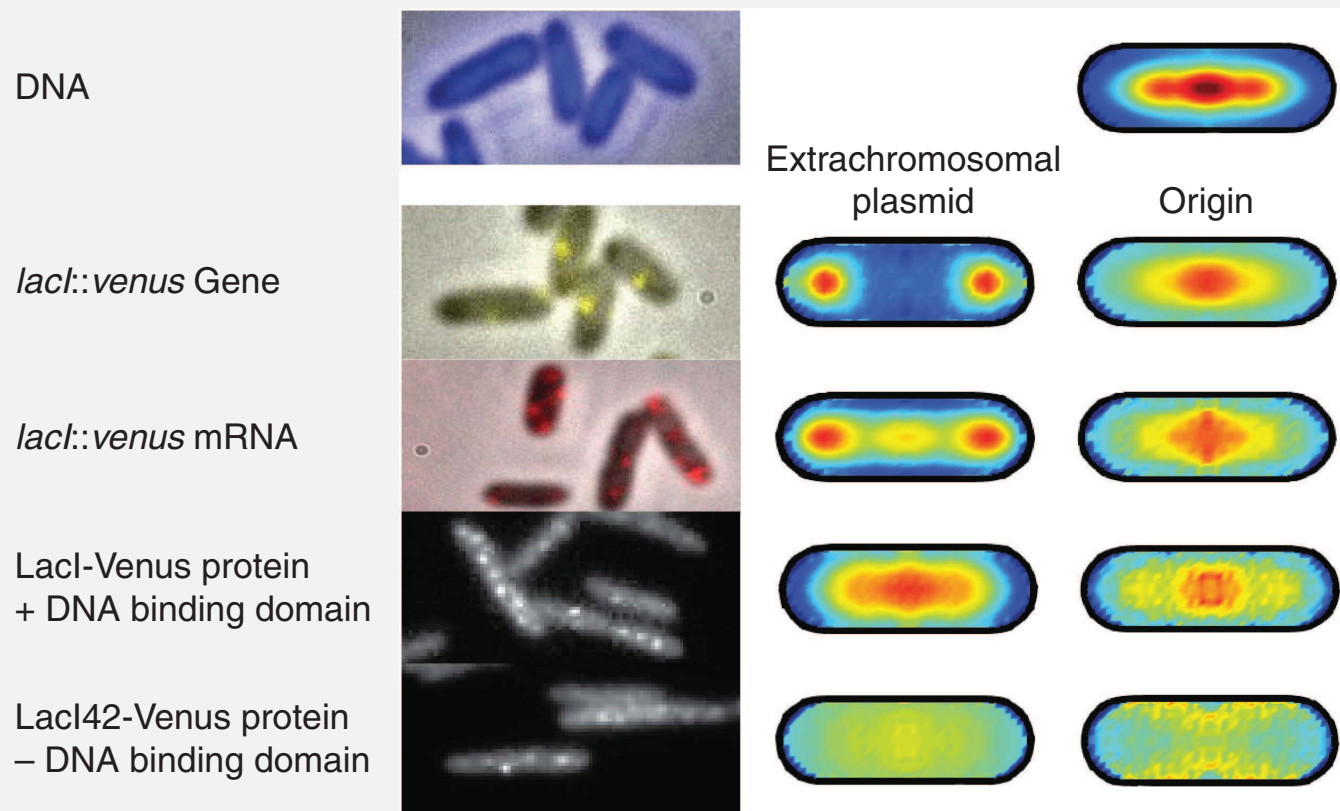
Rapid search hypothesis



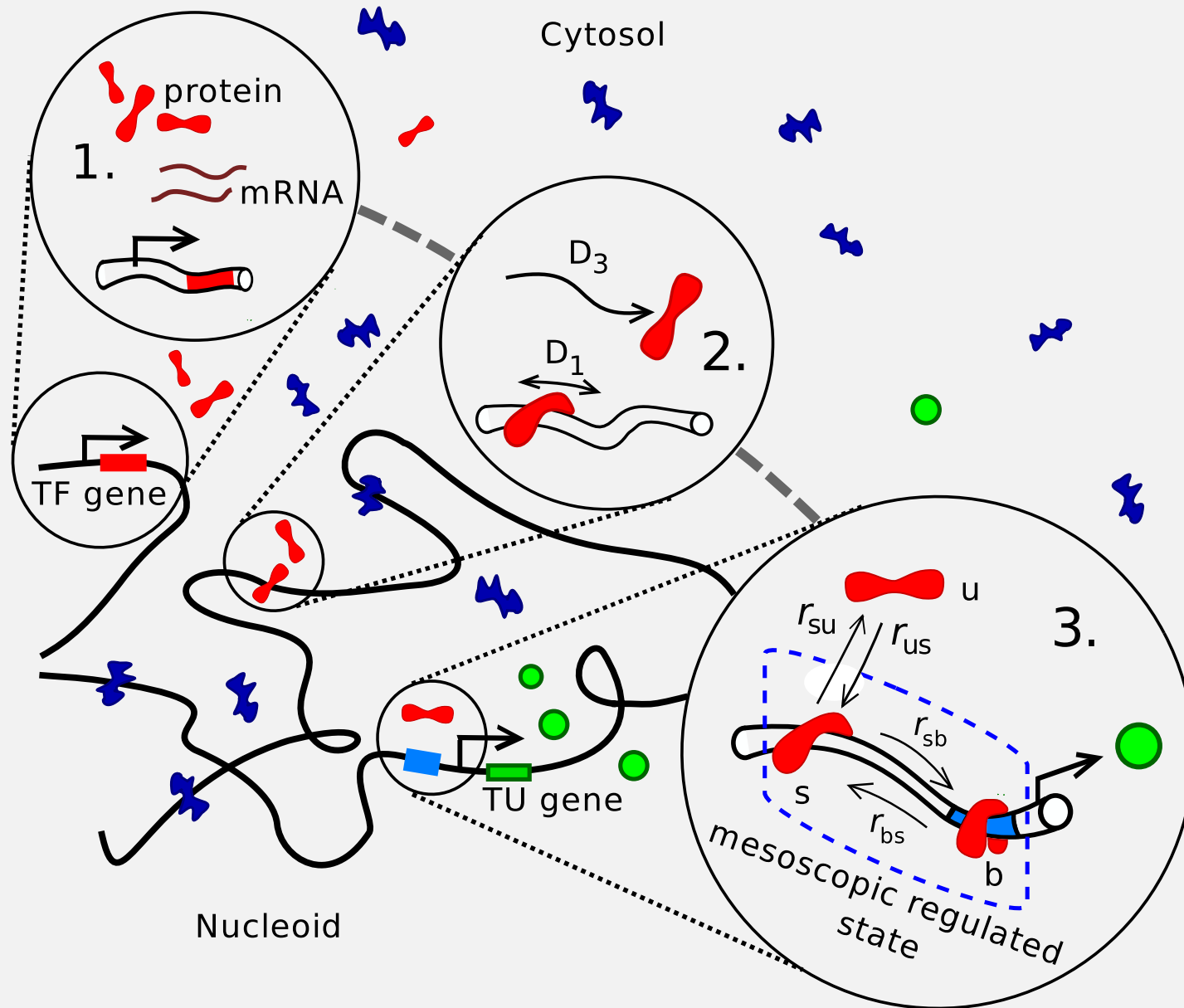
Spatial aspects: do gene locations matter?

Képès: TF targets are typically located next to or at regular distances from the TF gene
→ TF gene-target pairs close in 3D

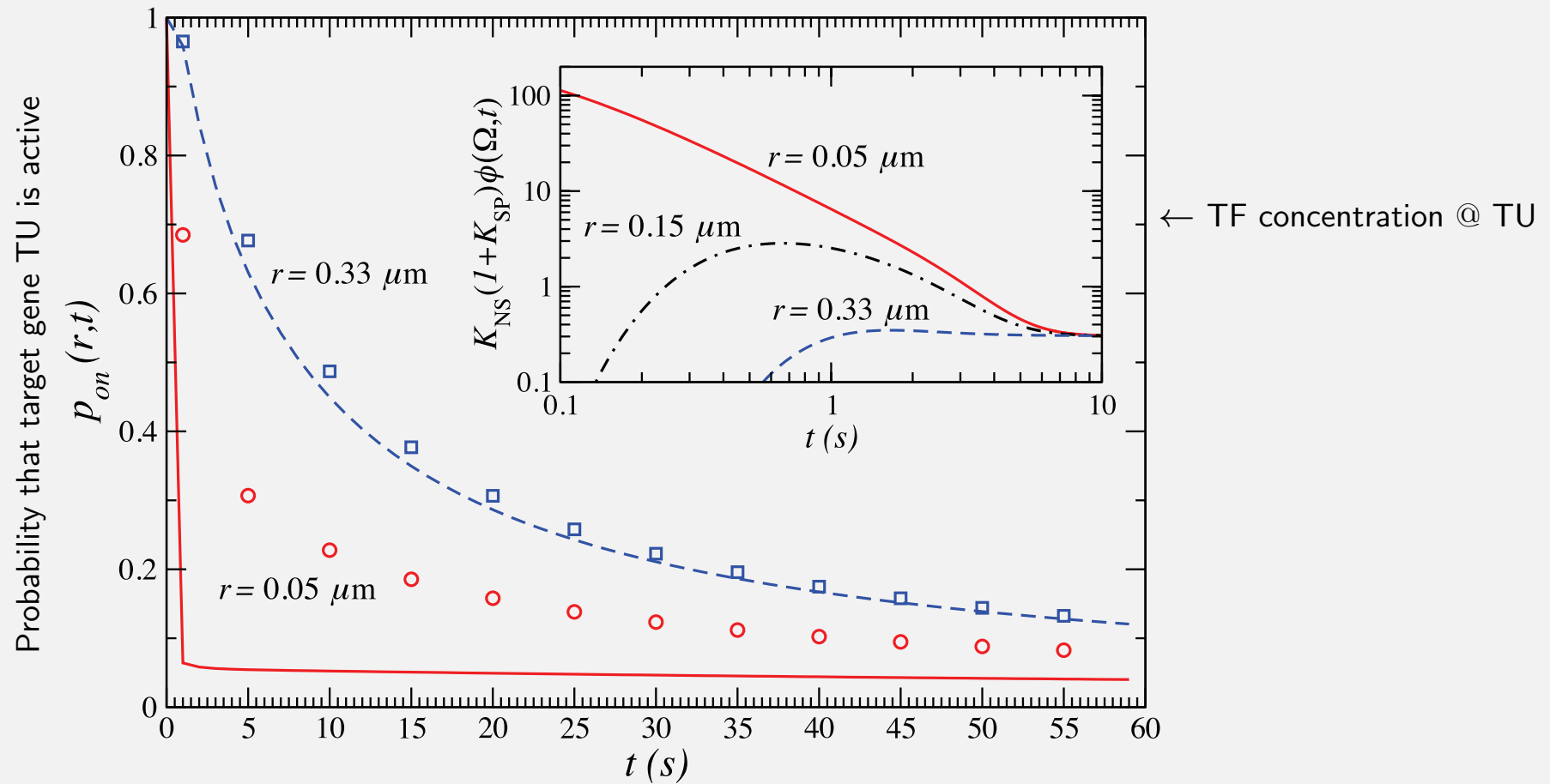
Kuhlman & Cox: • localisation of TF near TF gene • TF distribution highly heterogeneous
• TF gene influences distribution



Transient intracellular signalling is diffusion controlled



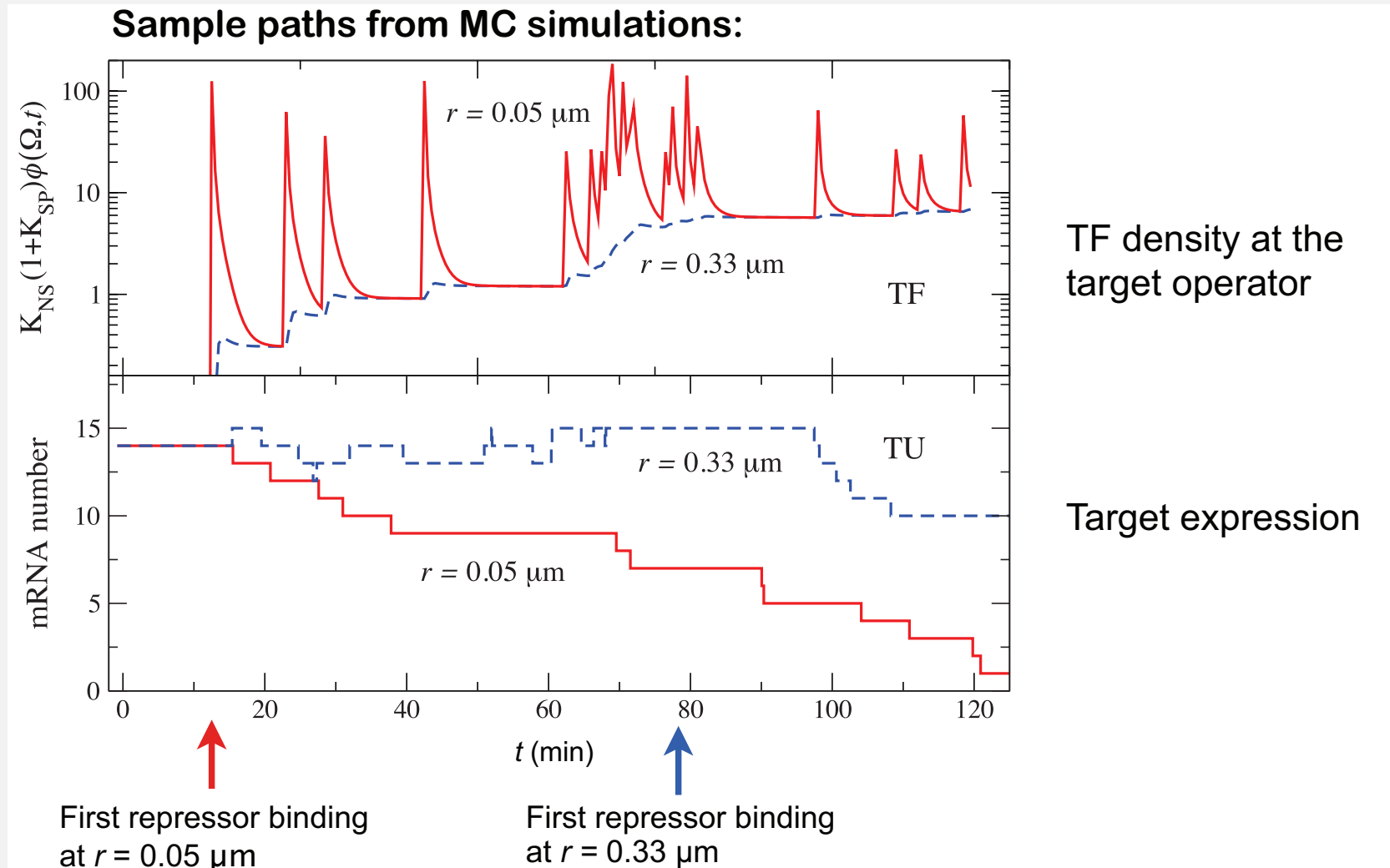
Result 1: transient response to repression



Mean field approximation (full & dashed lines):

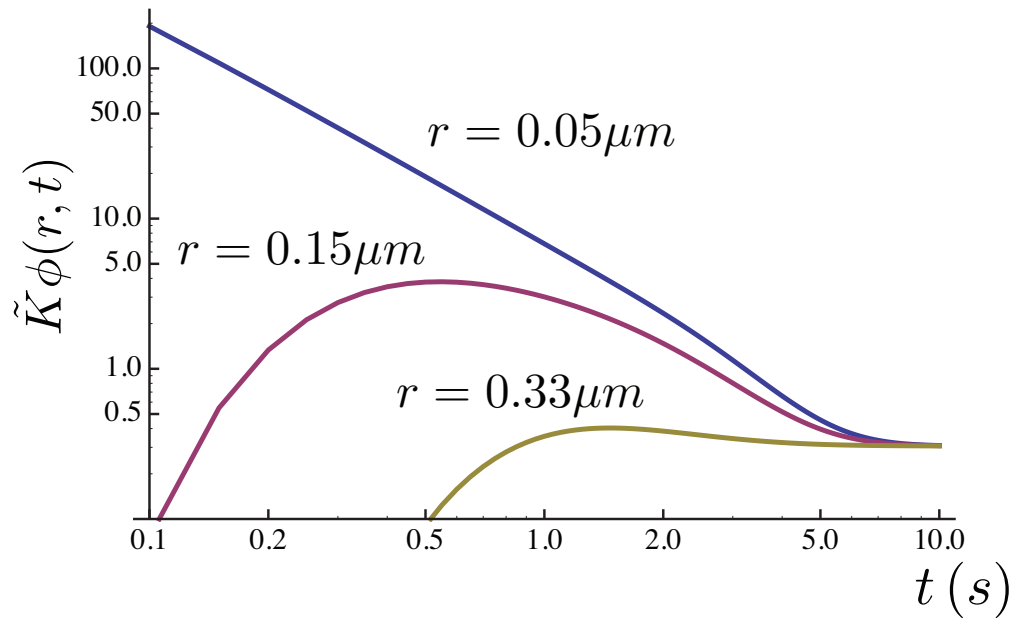
$$p_{on}(r, t) = \left\langle \frac{1 + K_{NS}\rho_{TF}(r, t)}{1 + \tilde{K}\rho_{TF}(r, t)} \right\rangle \approx \frac{1 + K_{NS}\langle\rho_{TF}(r, t)\rangle}{1 + \tilde{K}\langle\rho_{TF}(r, t)\rangle}$$

Result 2: time dependence of gene response

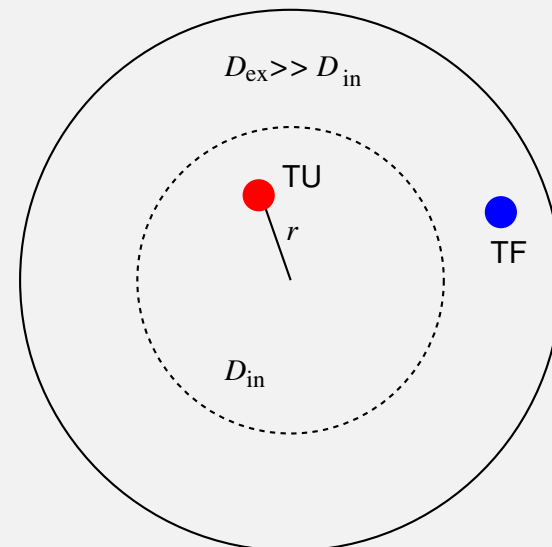
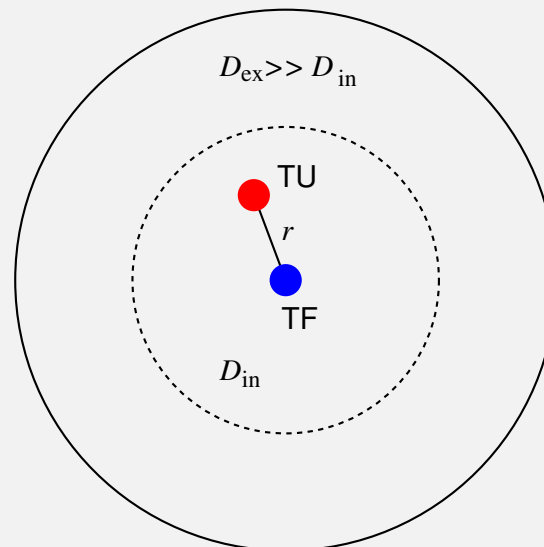
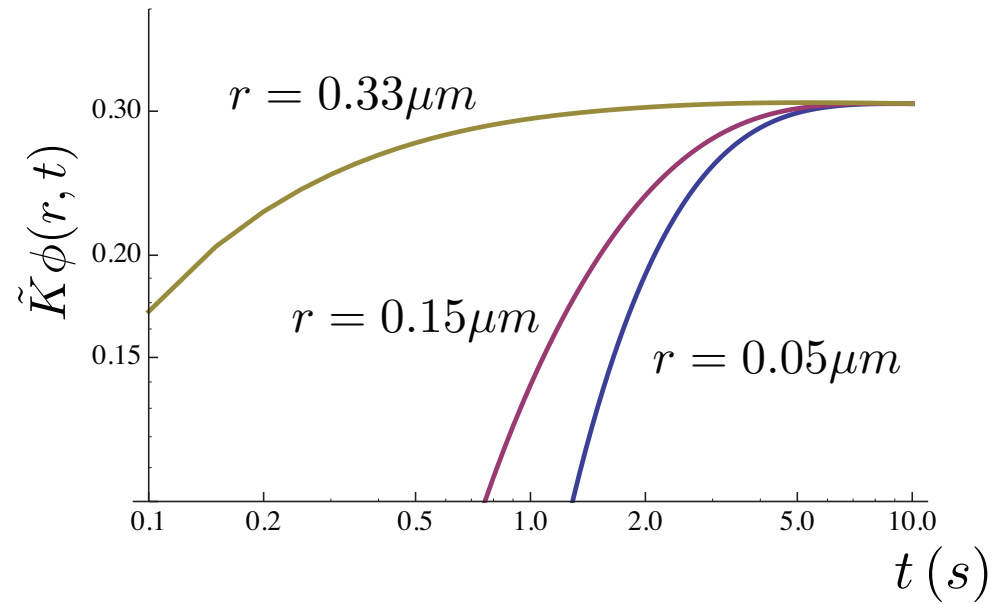


Result 3: gene location matters

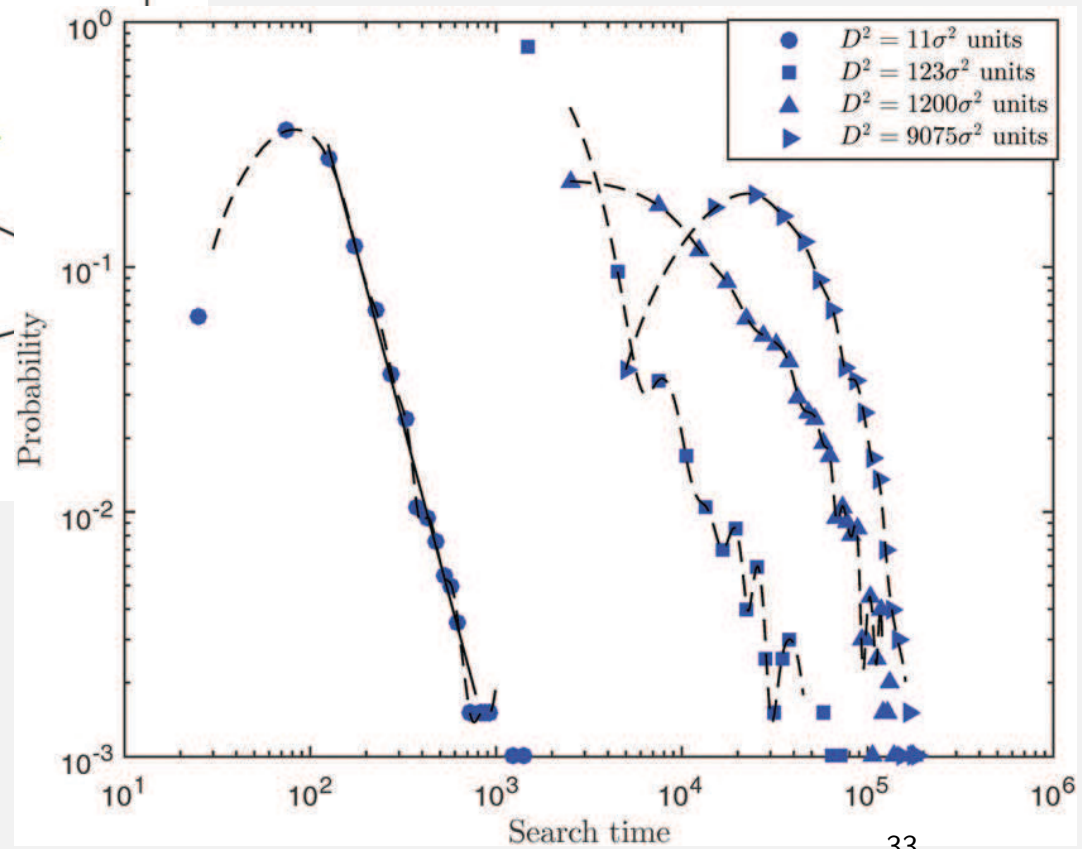
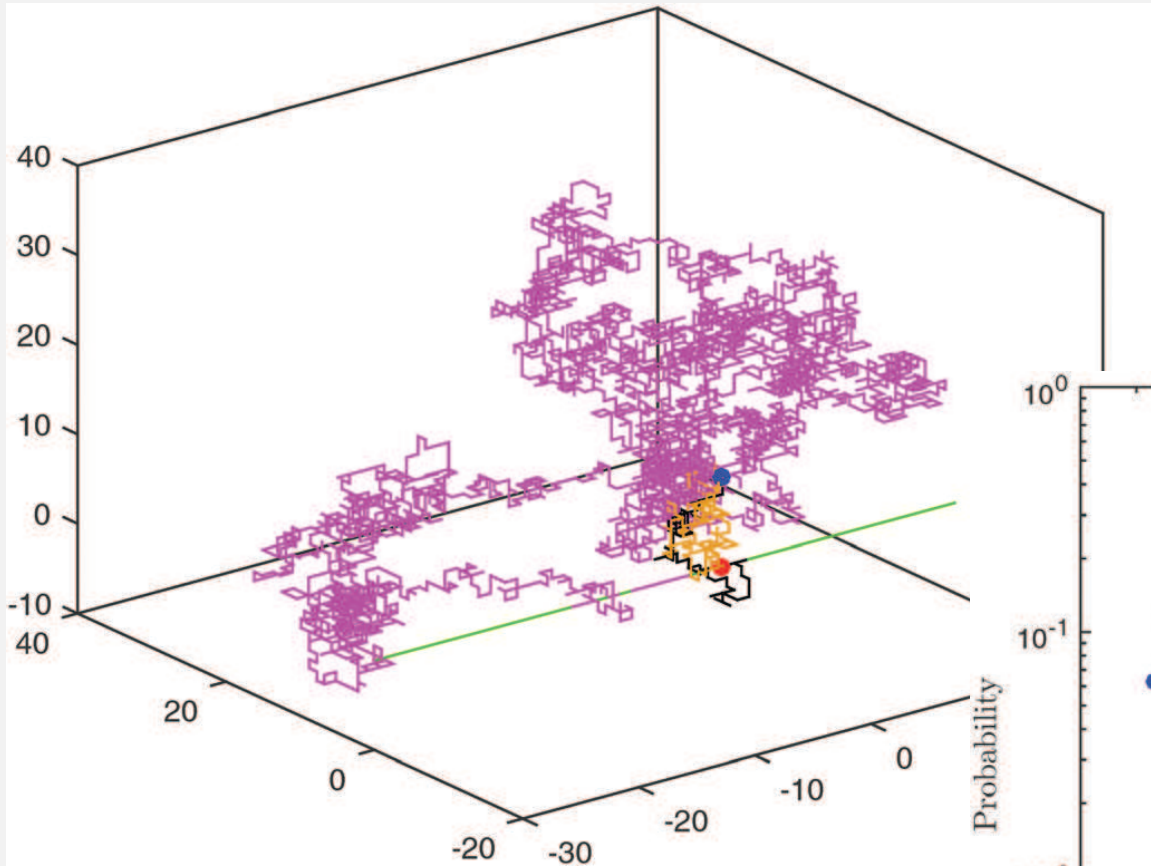
TF gene within the nucleoid



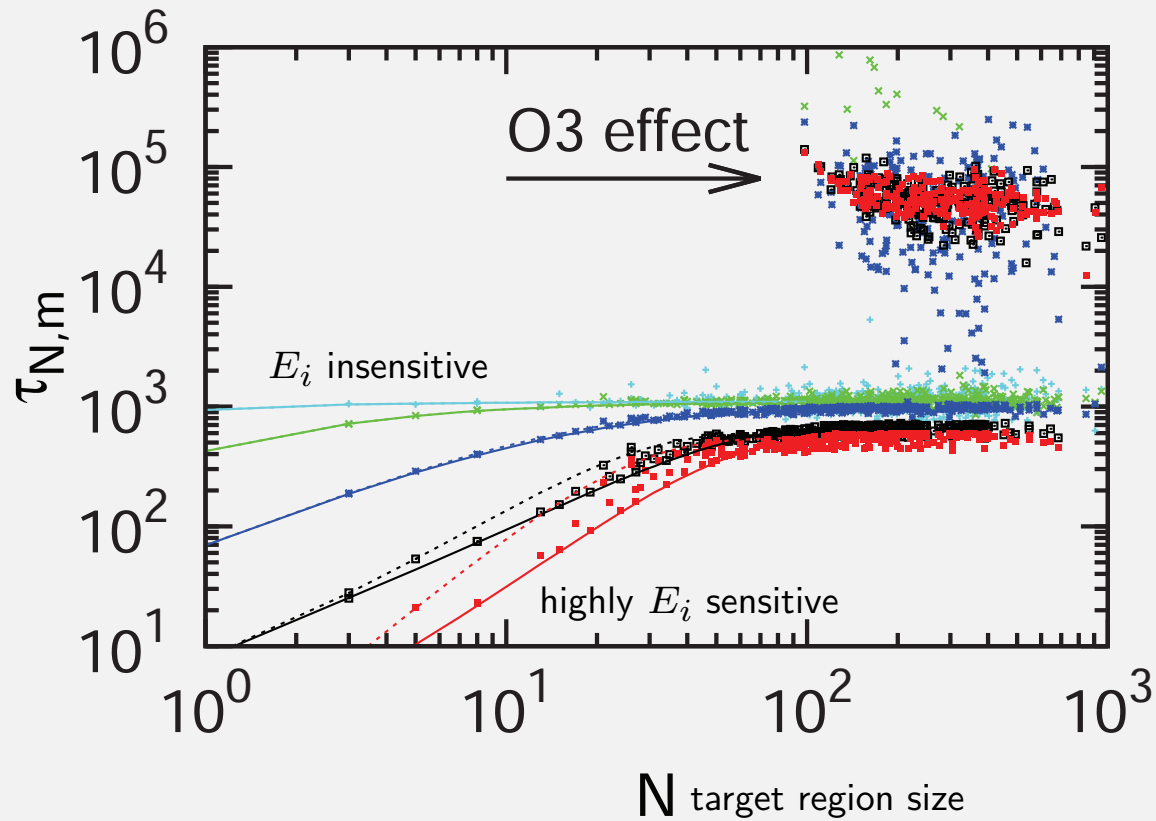
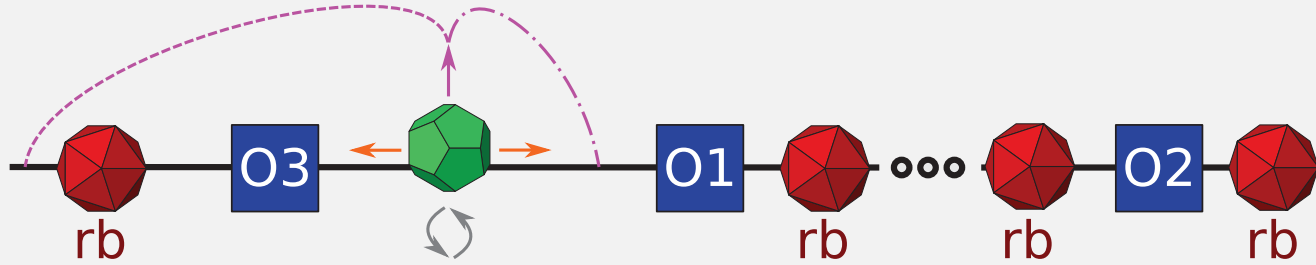
TF gene on a plasmid



Numerical analysis confirms relevance of proximity effect



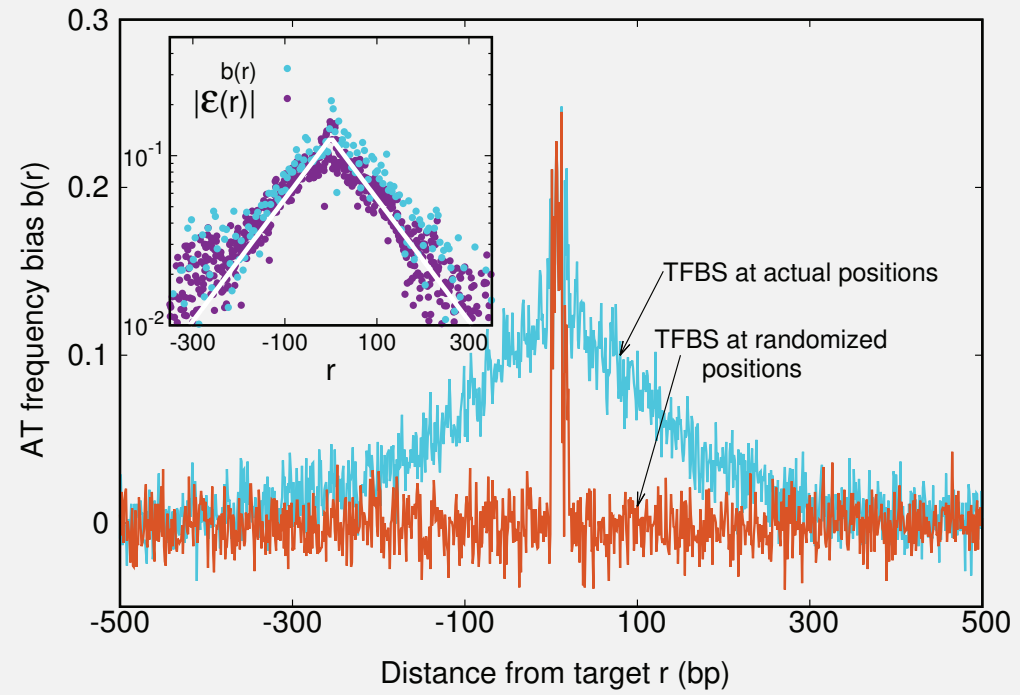
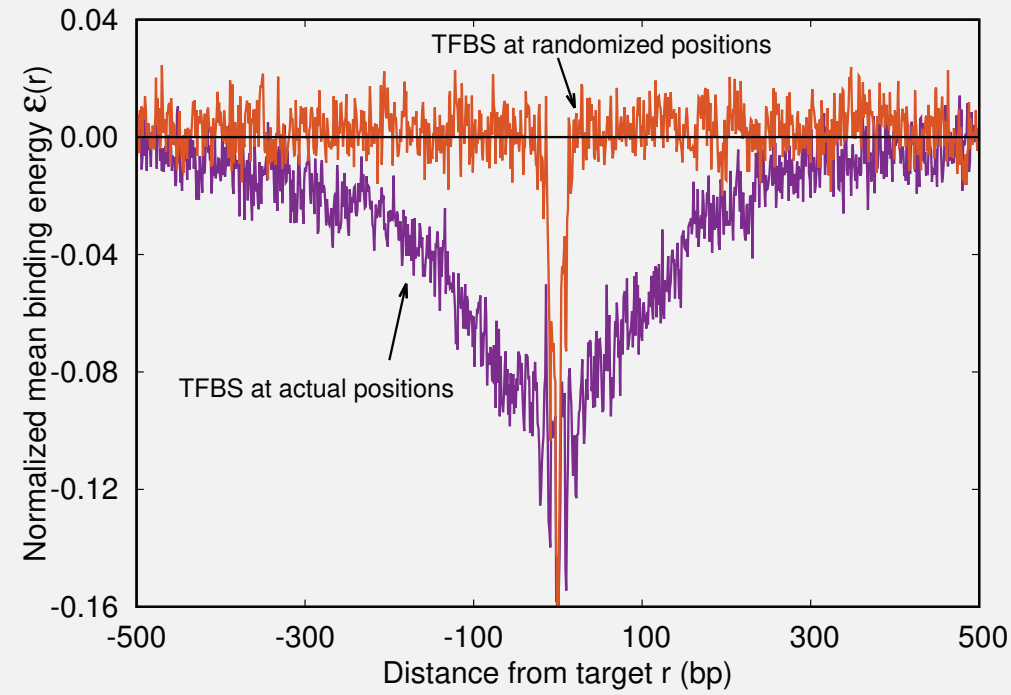
Sequence (binding energy) effects on target search time



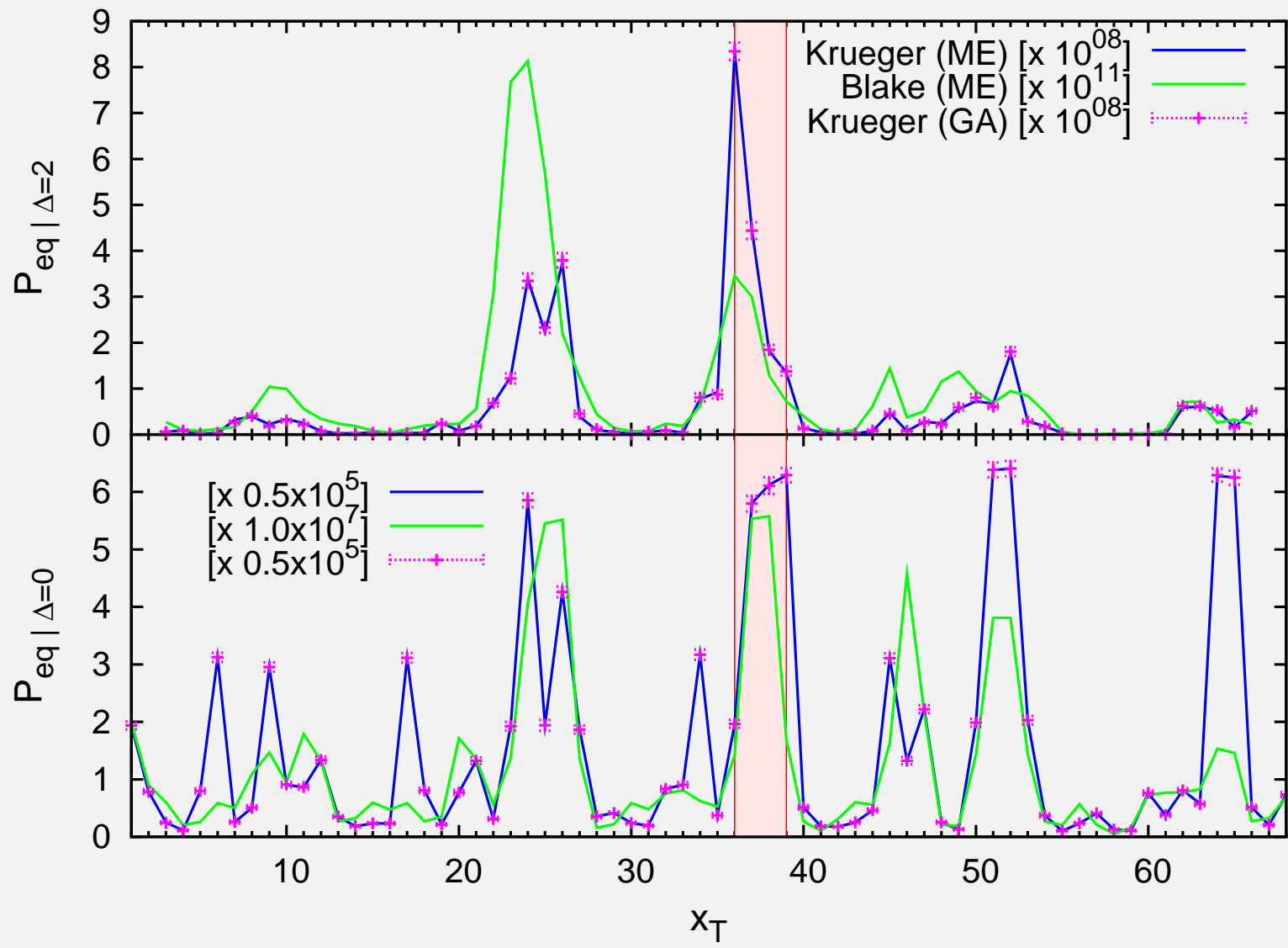
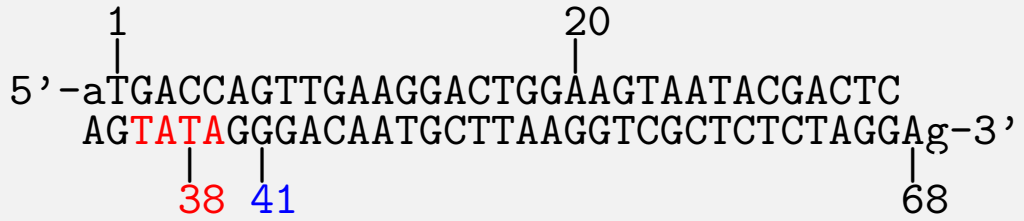
full line: centred target

dashed line: target @ boundary

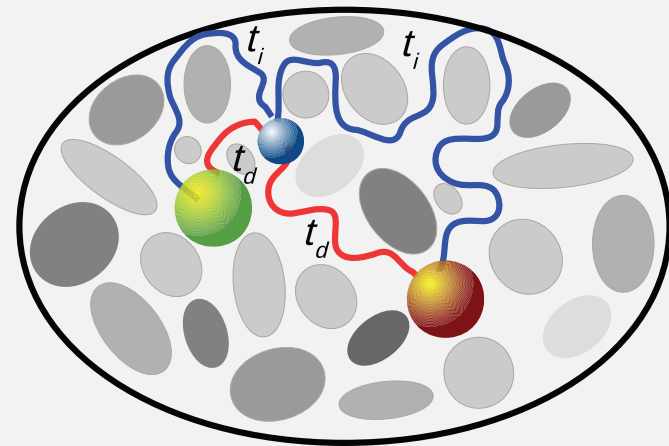
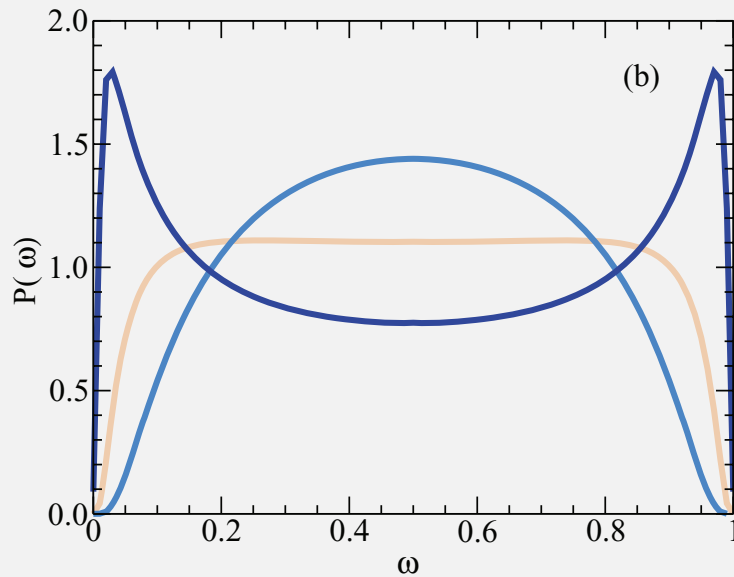
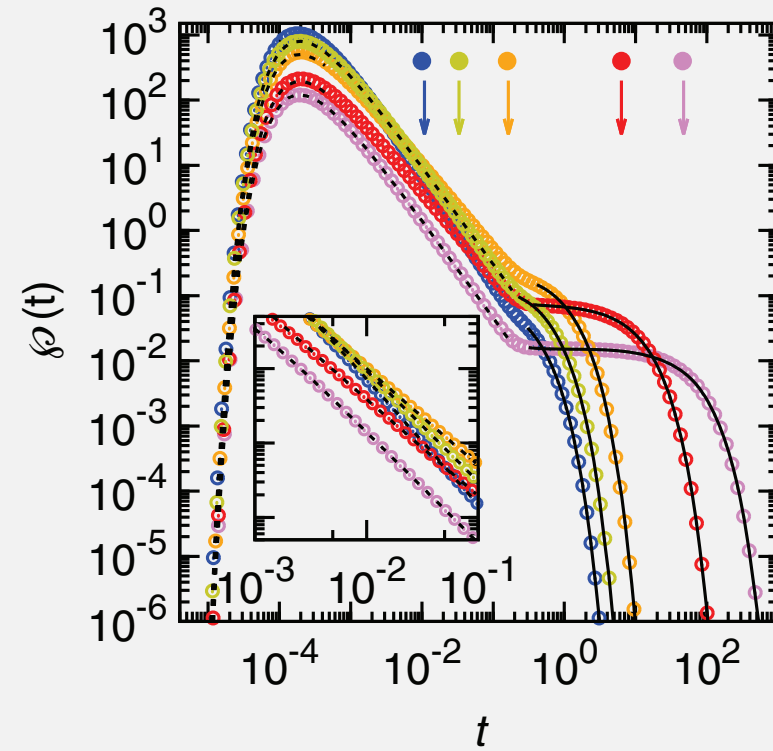
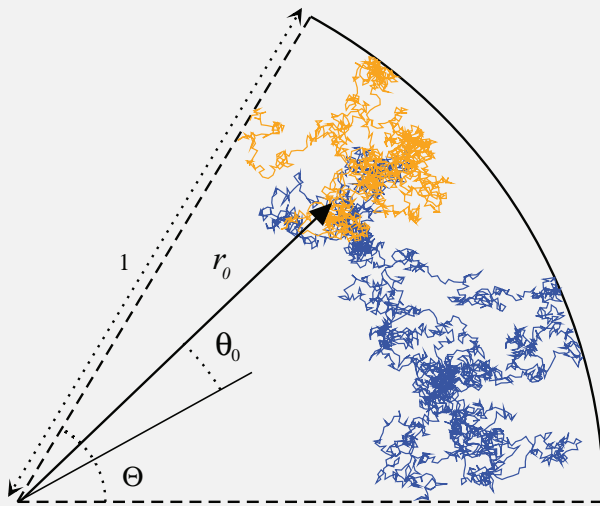
Energetic funnel facilitated diffusion



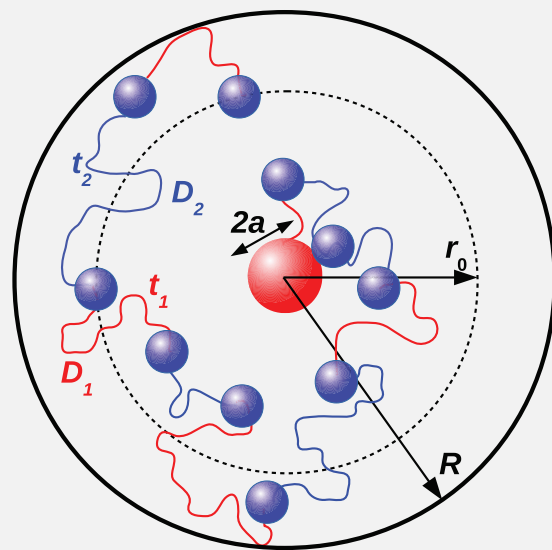
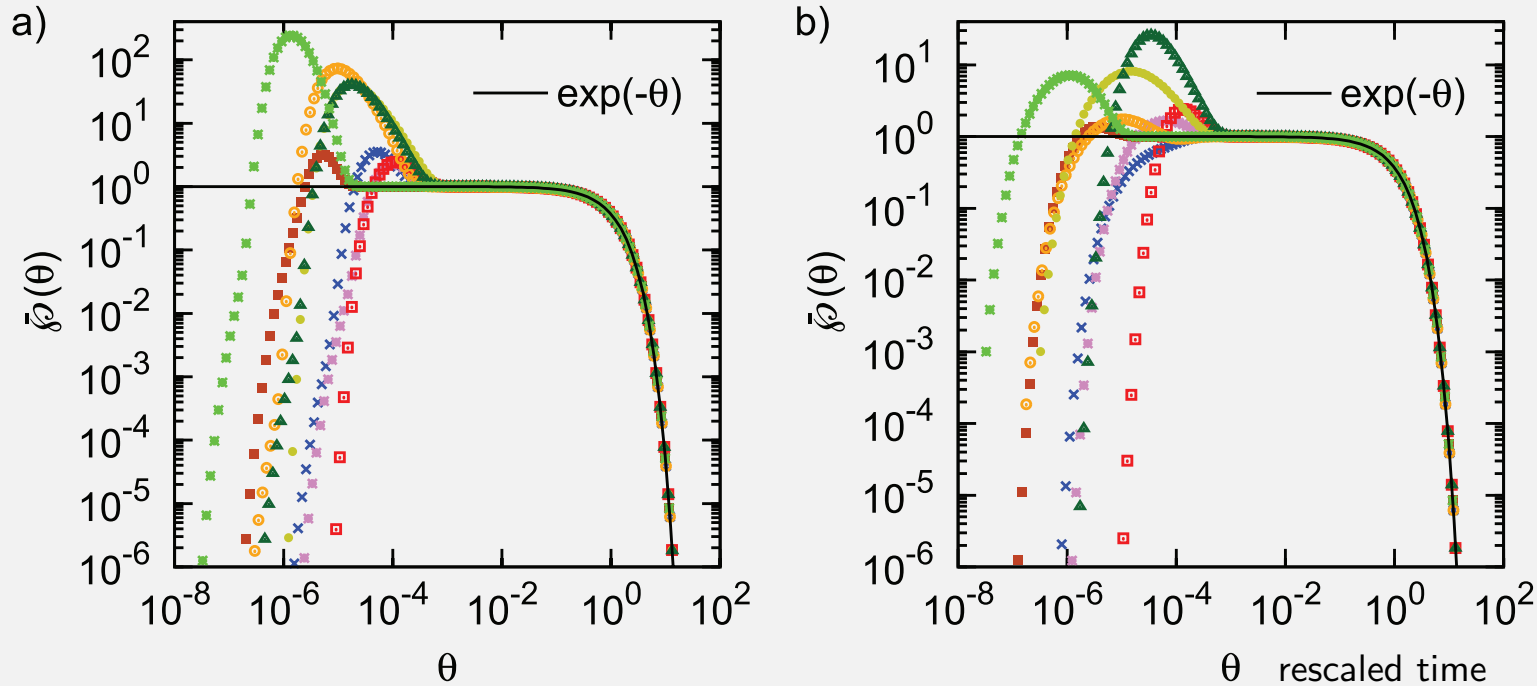
Bubble opening probability



First-past-the-post: few-encounter limit & geometry control

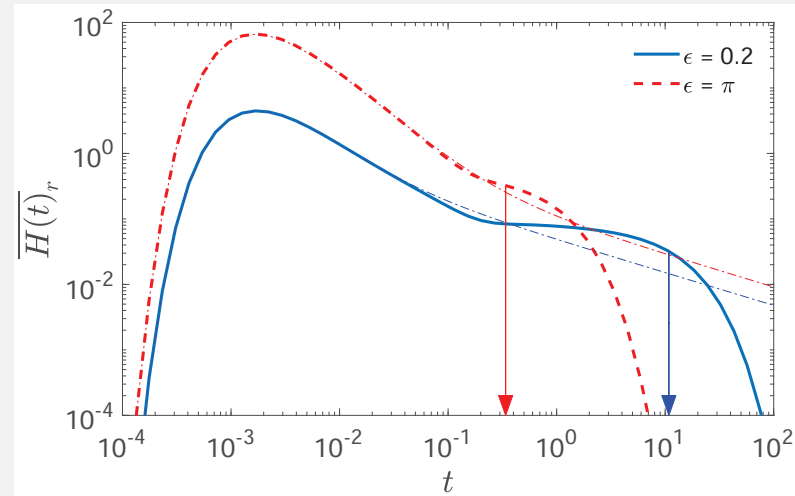
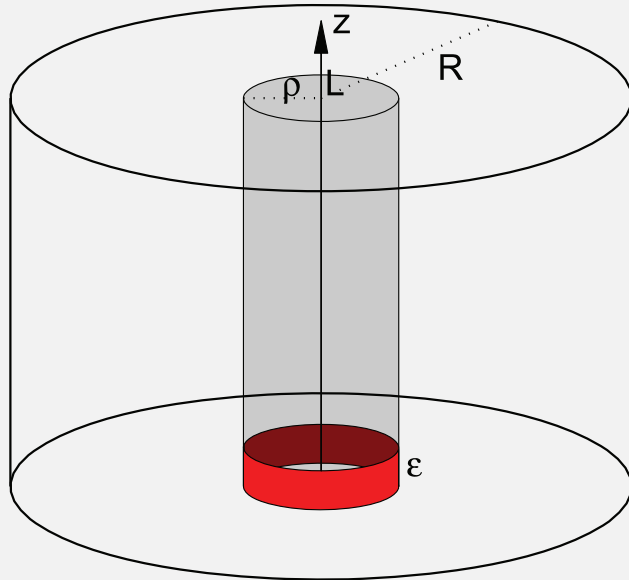


First-past-the-post for 2-channel diffusion

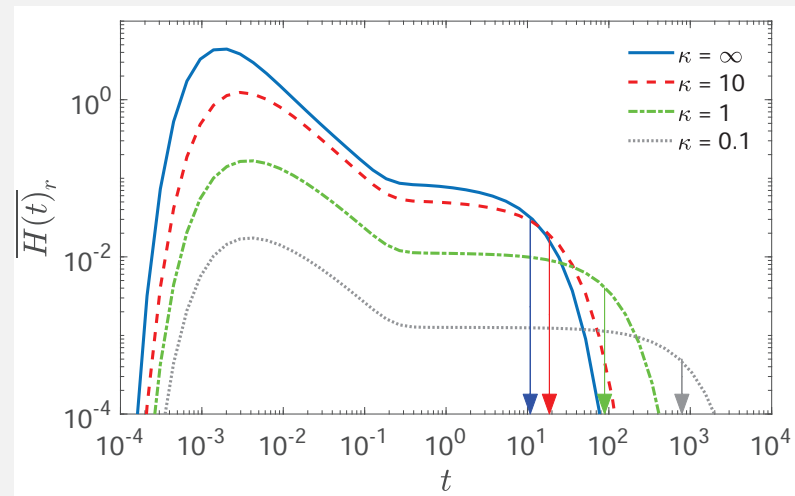


Search mode /w D_1
 & recognition mode /w D_2

Few-encounter effect in cylindrical domain /w finite reactivity

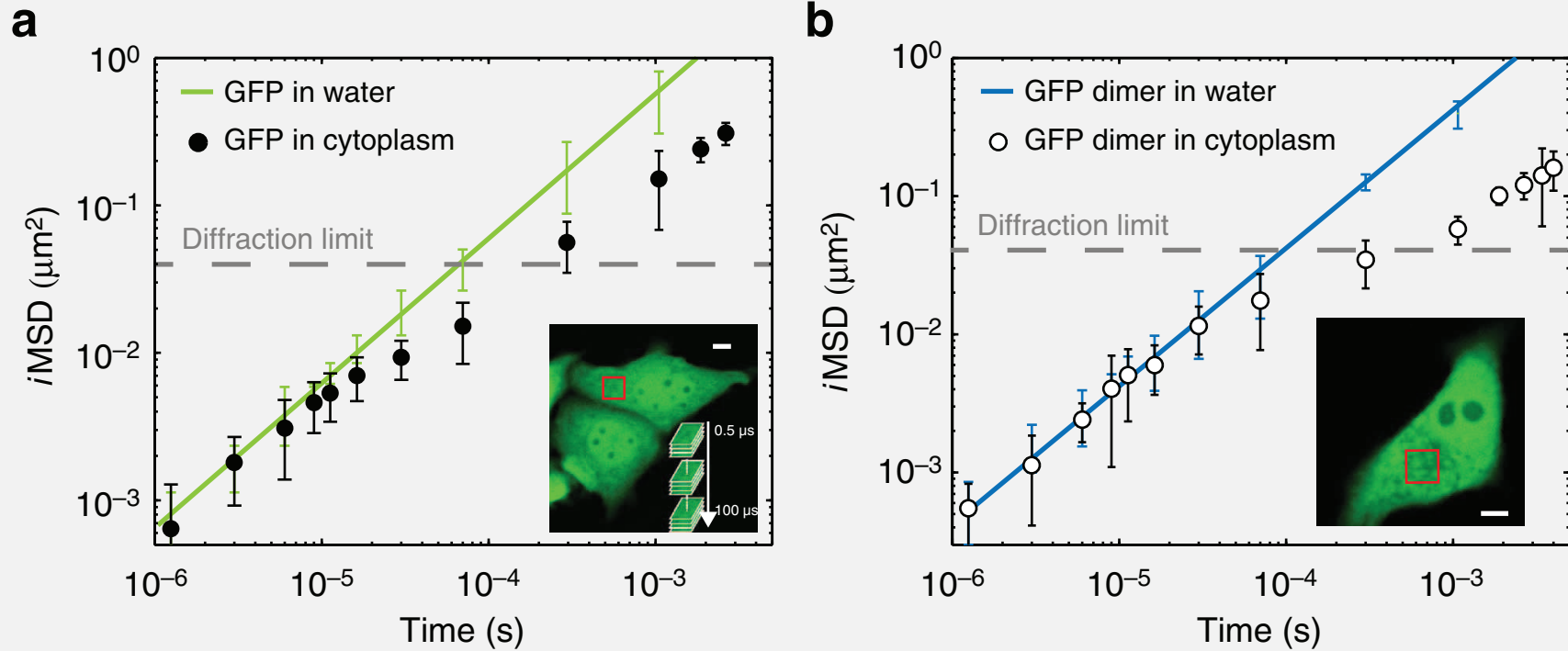


perfect reactivity $\kappa = \infty$



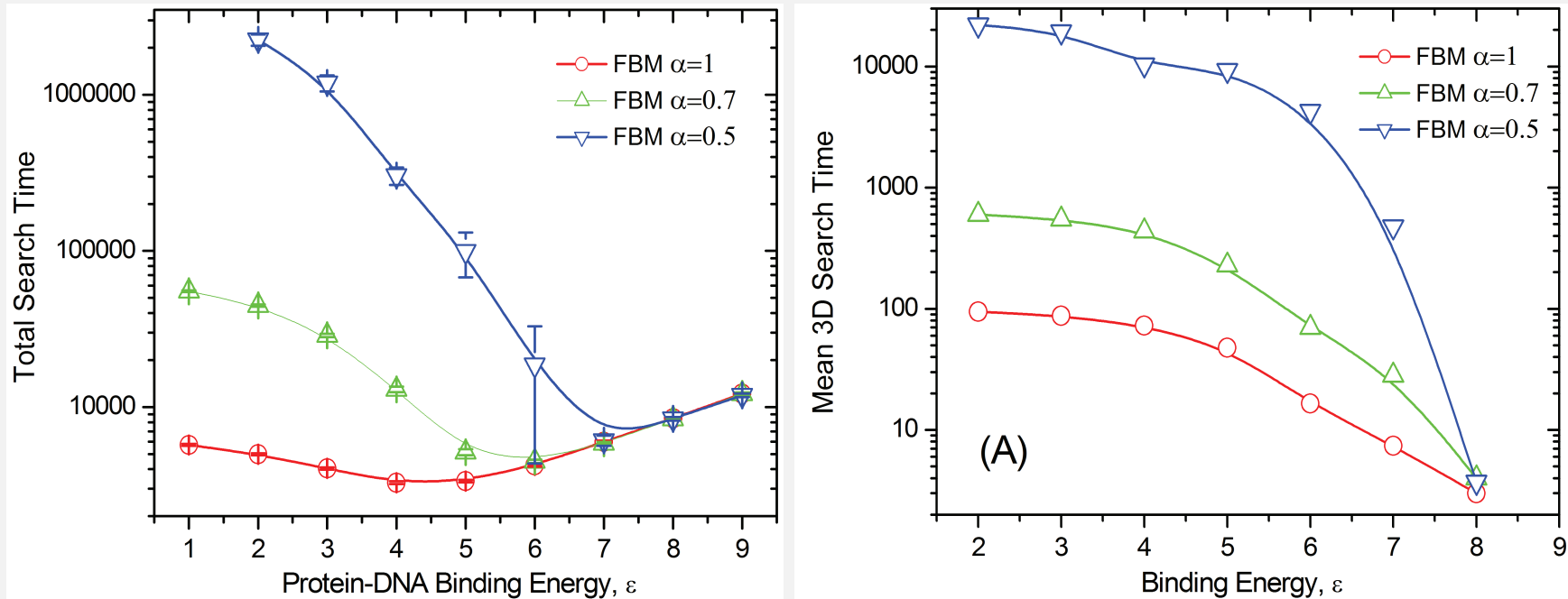
target size $\varepsilon = 0.2$

Anomalous diffusion of GFP in cell cytoplasm & nucleus



$\langle \mathbf{r}^2(t) \rangle \simeq K_\alpha t^\alpha$: Subdiffusion when $0 < \alpha < 1$

Anomalous facilitated diffusion



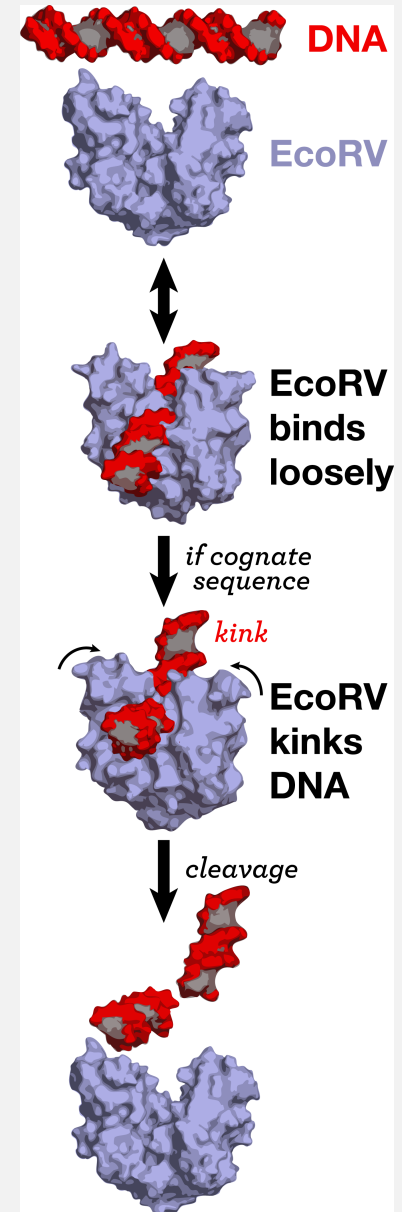
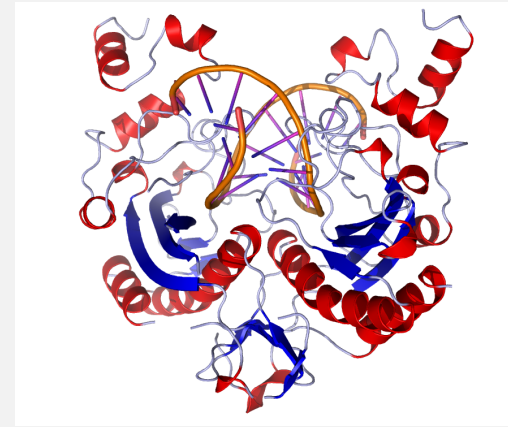
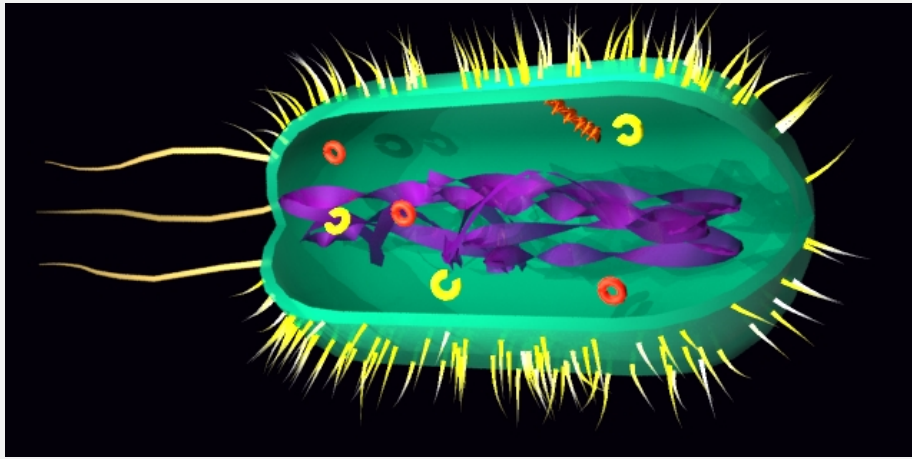
Many unknowns in the modelling:

Physical mechanism of anomalous diffusion & cutoff time of anomalous motion?

Effects of crowders with different sizes: see eg Shin et al, Soft Matter (2015) influencing immediate rebinding?

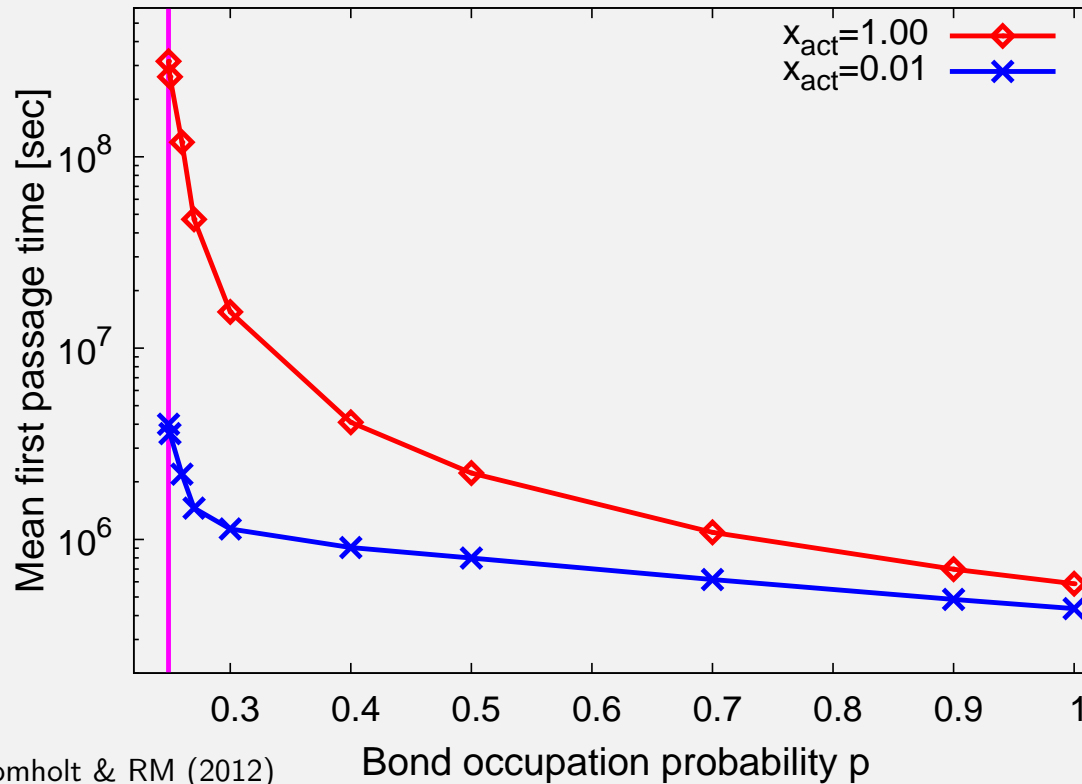
DNA conformations & dynamics due to crowding & active motion: Shin et al, NJP (2015), NJP (2016)

Subdiffusion does not compromise cellular fitness

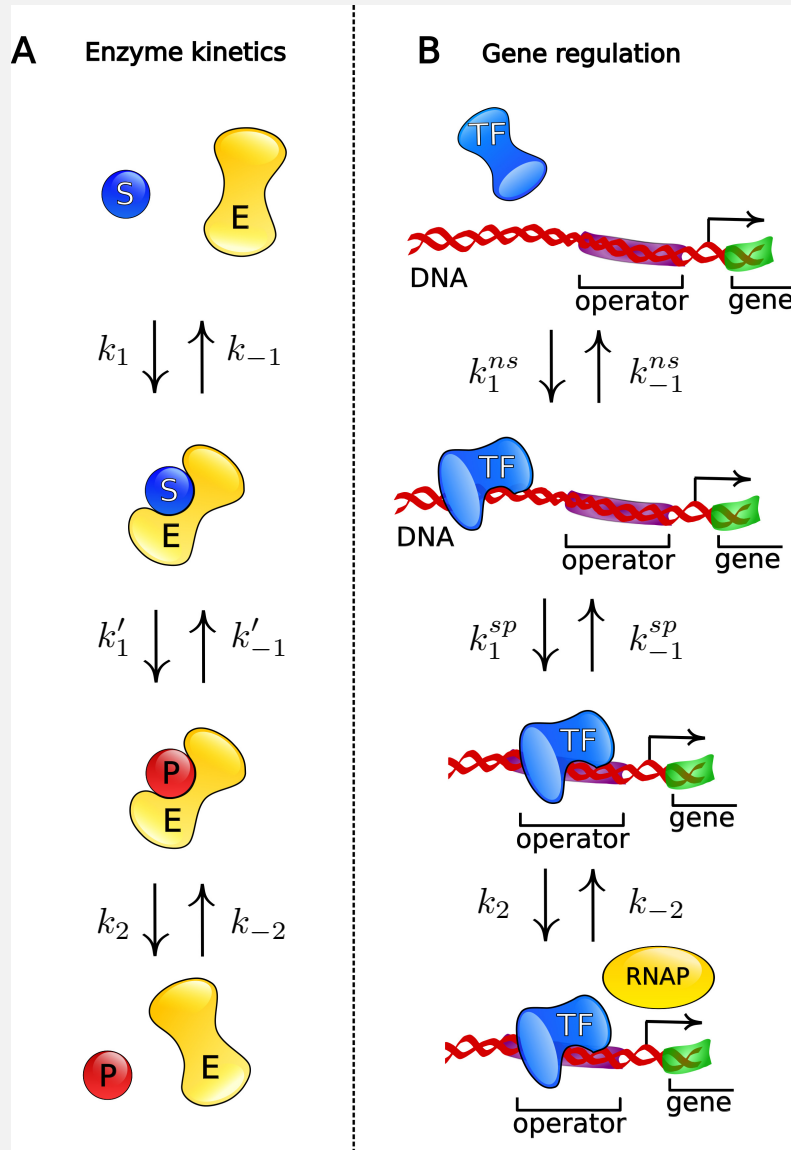


Restriction enzyme
EcoRV
Binding mode:
1% active
99% inactive

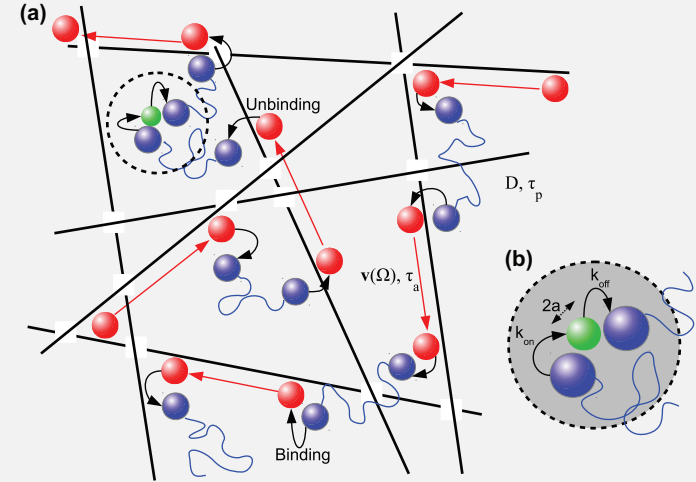
Mutant enzyme
Binding mode:
100% active



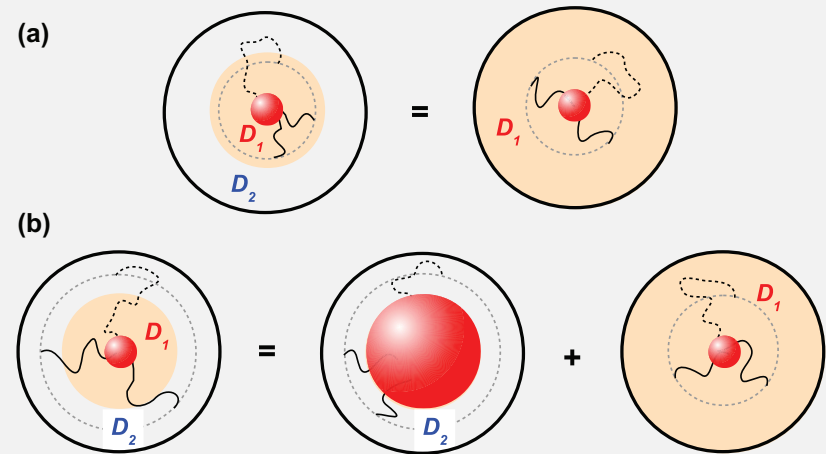
Low-# Michaelis-Menten



Active sensing limit

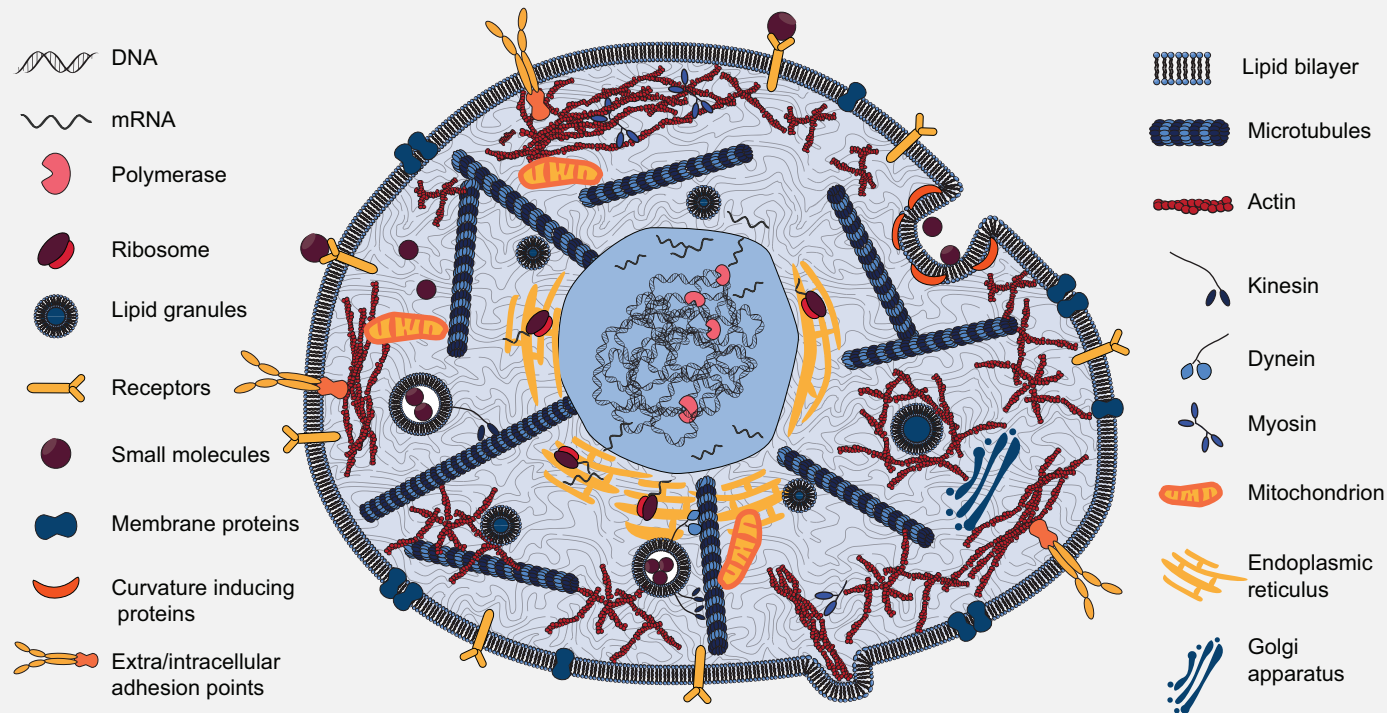


Heterogeneous FPT



New time scale in FP PDF!

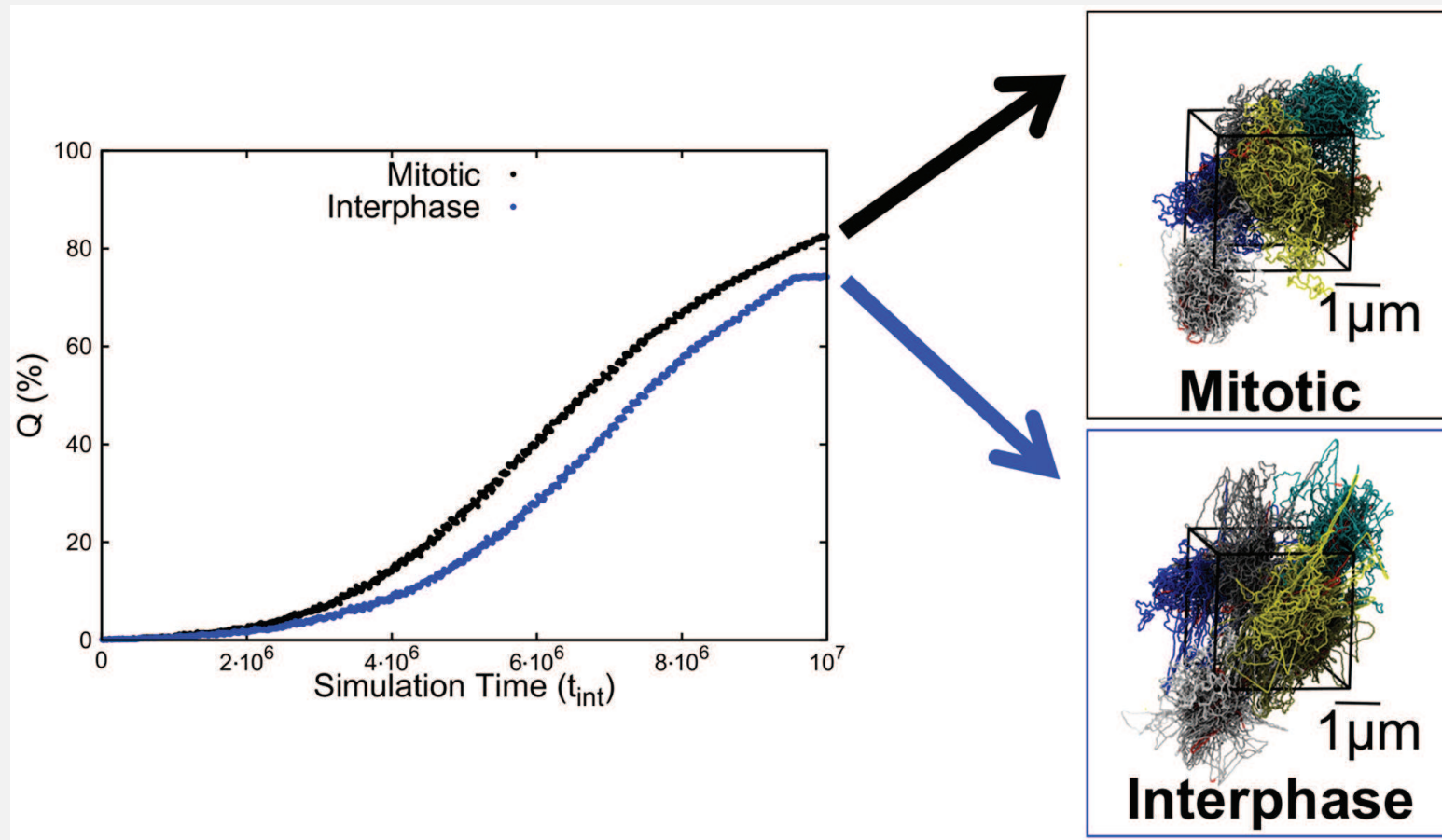
Gene regulation in eukaryotic cells



Exchange versus nucleic membrane, chromosomal dynamics & packaging

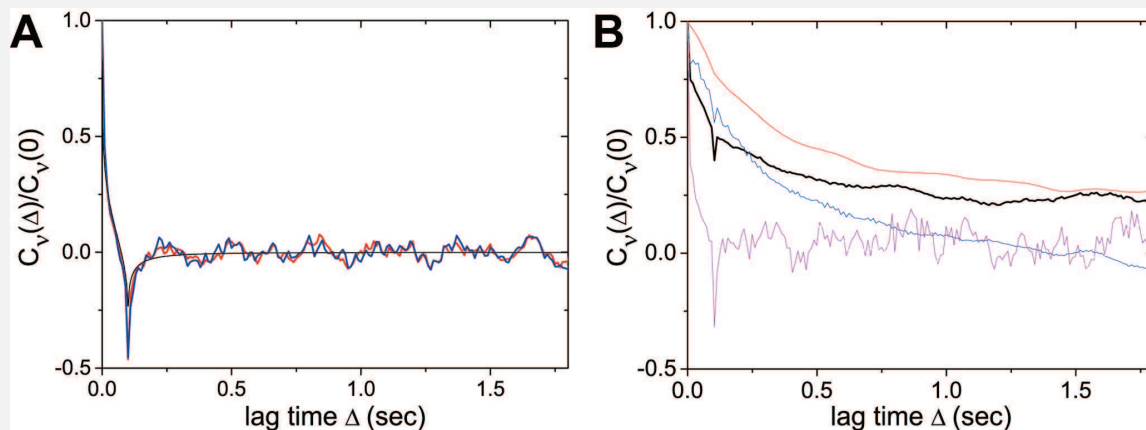
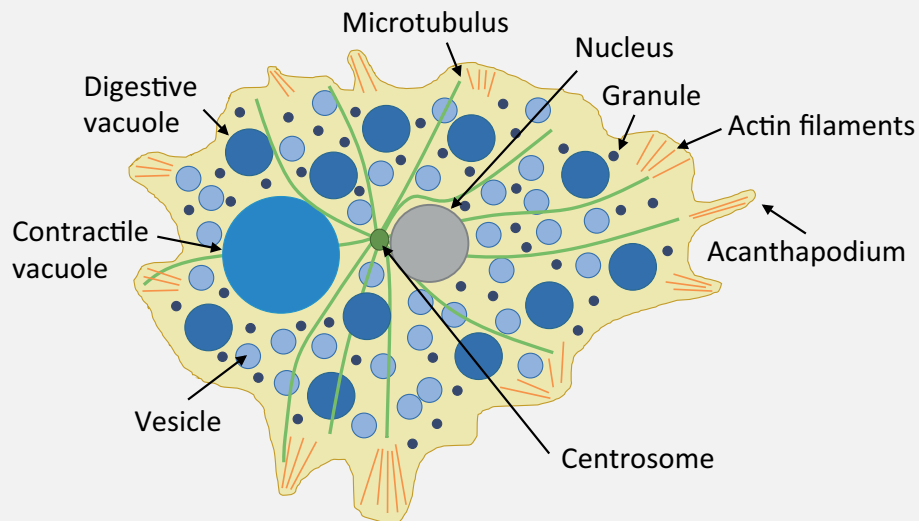
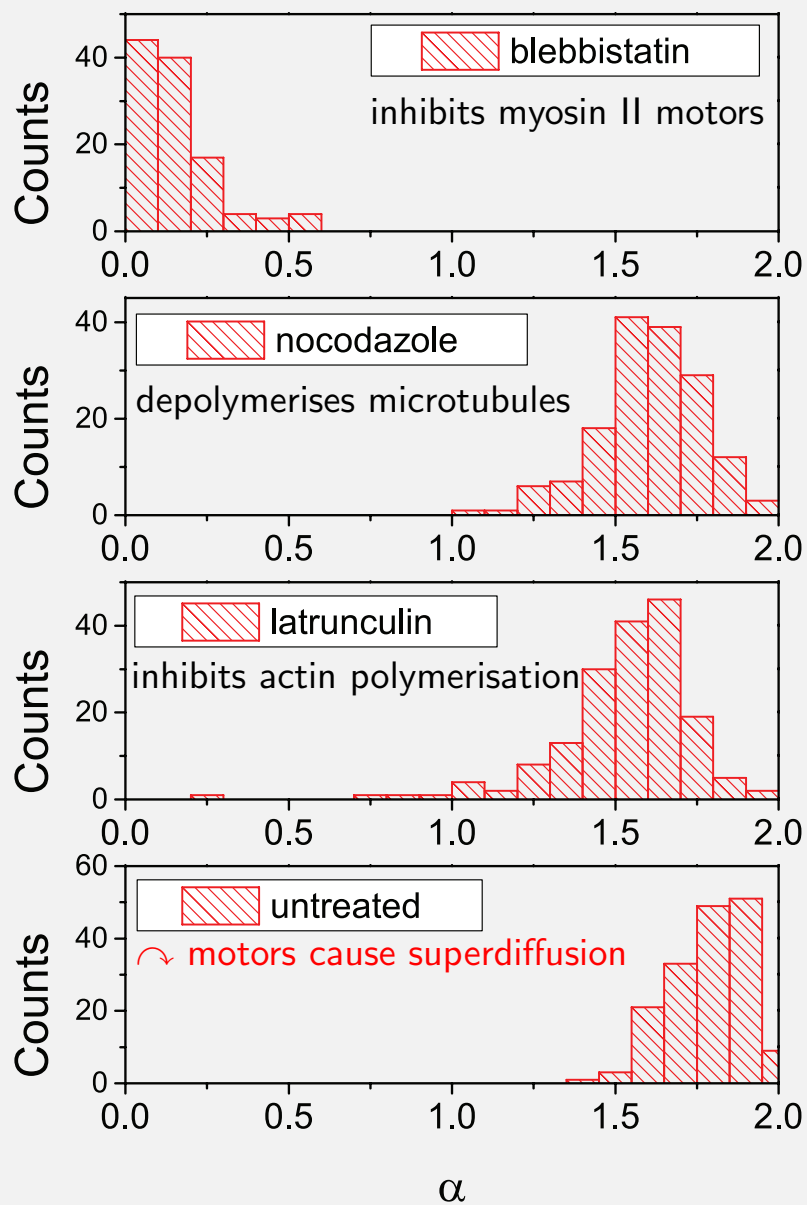
Active motion: motor transport, drag, or swirling (cytoplasmic streaming), see, e.g., Seisenberger et al, Science (2001) or Reverey et al, Sci Rep (2015)

Colocalisation still exists in the nucleus



Increase of percentage Q of coregulated pairs of genes in chromosome 19 which colocalise during the MD protocol. Red (???) highlighted regions designate chromosome regions involved in the coregulatory network

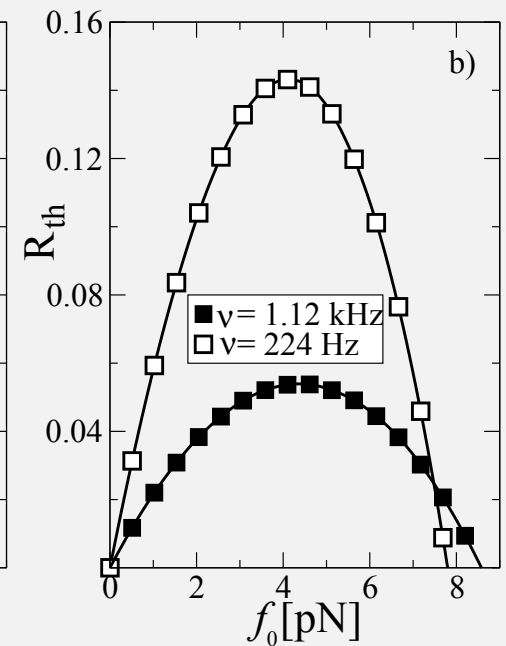
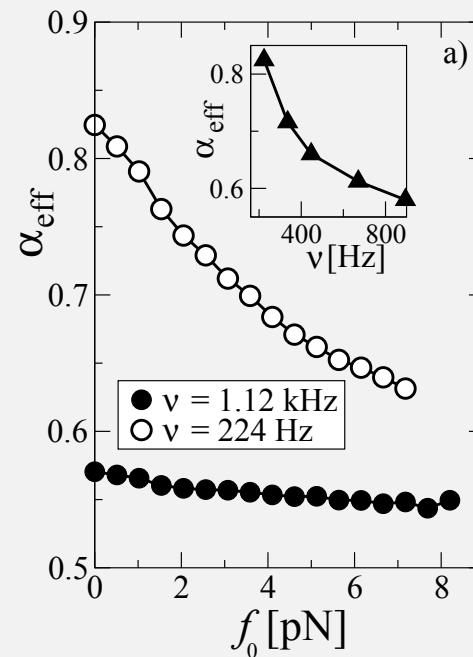
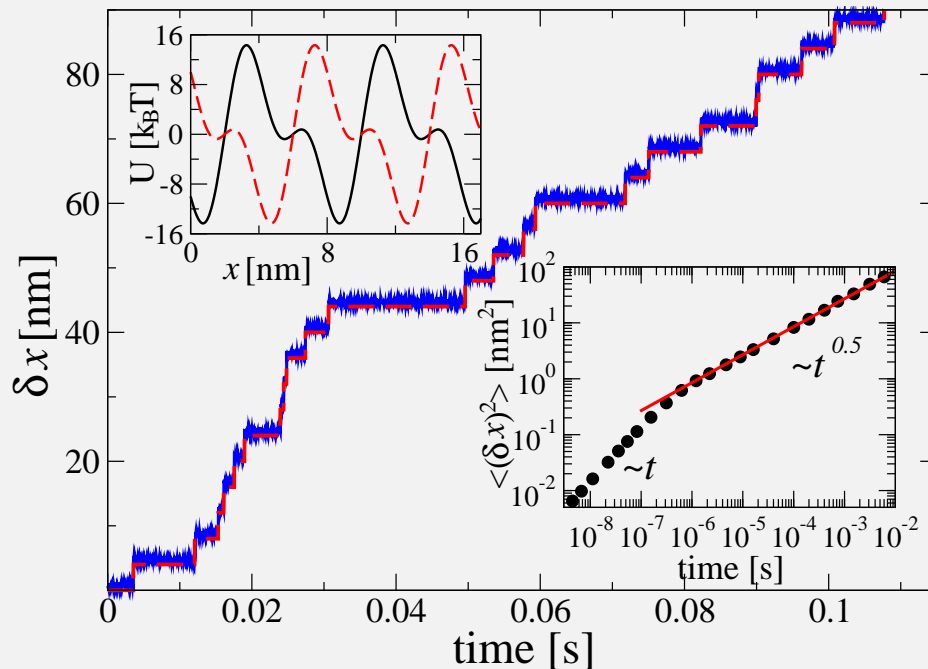
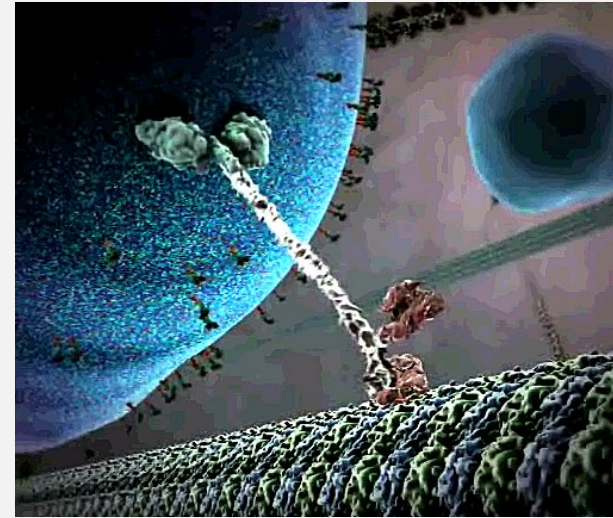
Superdiffusion in living *Acanthamoeba castellani*



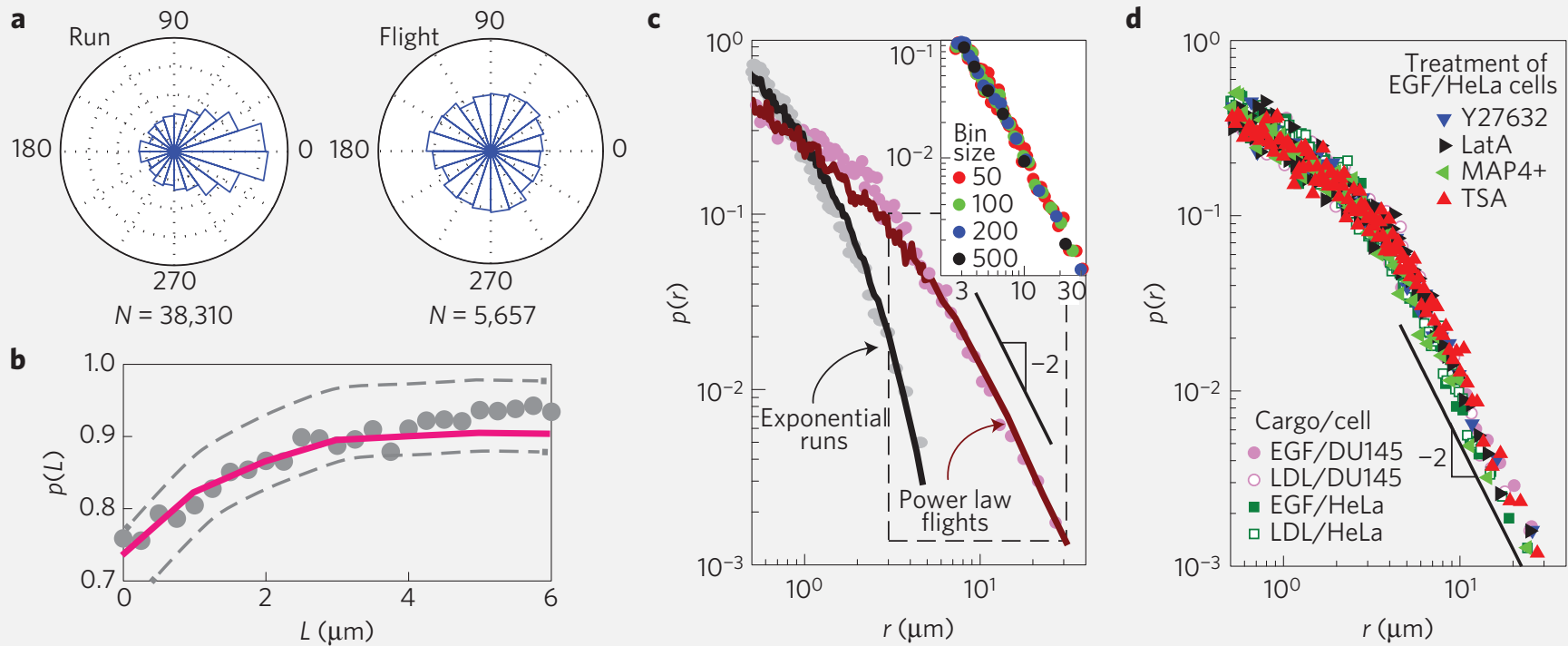
Molecular motor dynamics

A large cargo subdiffuses freely & causes anomalous transport by the motor in the viscoelastic, crowded liquid of cells:

$$\langle x(t) \rangle \simeq t^\alpha \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \langle \Delta x^2(t) \rangle \simeq t^{2\alpha}$$

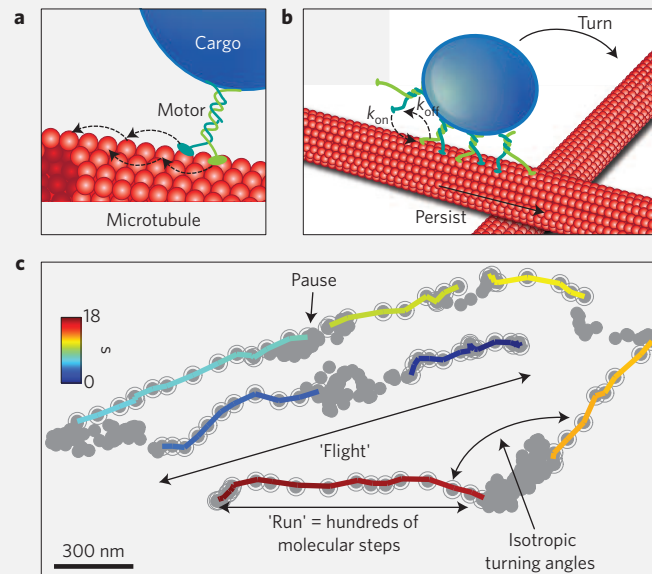


Lévy walks of molecular motors in living cells



Run: motor motion on microtubule for $1/k_{\text{off}}$

Flight: consecutive runs persisting in direction



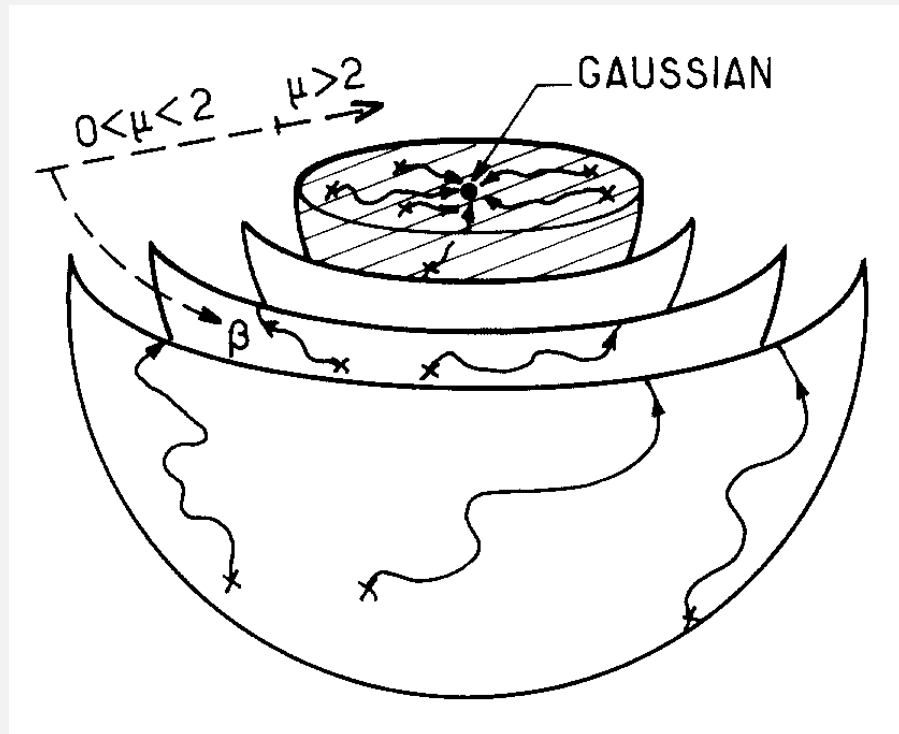
K Chen, B Wang & S Granick, Nat Mat (2015)

Lévy foraging: on the watchout for sparse targets



Rôle of the Central Limit Theorem (de Moivre, 1733)

$$F(X) \simeq \frac{1}{|X|^\mu}$$



JP Bouchaud & A Georges, Phys Rep (1991)

If the distribution of the sum $Y_n = \sum_{i=1}^n X_n$ of i.i.d. random variables X_n converges to some distribution P for $n \rightarrow \infty$, P is stable. If the variance of Y_n is finite, P is Gaussian (Gnedenko-Kolmogorov GCLT).

$$f_{\alpha,\beta}(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \operatorname{Re} \int_0^\infty \exp\left(-ixz - z^\alpha \exp\left\{i\frac{\pi\beta}{2}\right\}\right) dz \iff f_{\alpha,\beta}(x) \simeq \frac{1}{|x|^{1+\alpha}} \quad (0 < \alpha < 2)$$

Examples: Gauß distribution ($\alpha = 2$), Cauchy/Lorentz distribution ($\alpha = 1$)

The Lévy flight model

Ingredients: Poisson waiting time and Lévy jump length distribution:

$$\psi(t) = \tau^{-1} \exp(-t/\tau) \quad \lambda(x) = L_\alpha(x, \sigma) \sim \sigma^\alpha / |x|^{1+\alpha}$$

Fractional diffusion equation:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} P(x, t) = K^\alpha \frac{\partial^\alpha}{\partial |x|^\alpha} P(x, t) \quad \therefore \quad K^\alpha = \frac{\sigma^\alpha}{\tau}$$

Fractional derivative:

$$\frac{\partial^\alpha}{\partial |x|^\alpha} P(x, t) \equiv \kappa^{-1} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{P(x', t)}{|x - x'|^{\alpha-1}} \quad \therefore \quad \kappa \equiv 2\Gamma(2 - \alpha) \left| \cos \frac{\pi\alpha}{2} \right|$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \mathcal{F} \{ \partial^\alpha P(x, t) / \partial |x|^\alpha \} = -|k|^\alpha P(k, t)$$

Solution in Fourier space:

$$P(k, t) = \exp(-K^\alpha |k|^\alpha t) \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad P(x, t) \simeq \frac{K^\alpha t}{|x|^{1+\alpha}}$$

Lévy foraging hypothesis: to avoid oversampling

Shlesinger & Klafter (1986): Lévy flights as efficient search mechanism

Lévy foraging hypothesis: *Superdiffusive motion governed by fat-tailed propagators optimise encounter rates under specific (but common) circumstances: hence some species must have evolved mechanisms that exploit these properties [. . .].*

Lévy flight (Mandelbrot): $\psi(t) = \tau^{-1} \exp(-t/\tau) \wedge$

$$\lambda(x) \simeq |x|^{-1-\alpha}, \quad 0 < \alpha < 2 \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \langle x^2(t) \rangle \rightarrow \infty$$

Lévy walk (Shlesinger, Klafter & Wong, JSP, 1982): spatiotemporal coupling

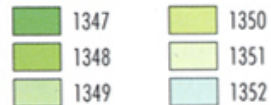
$$\psi(x, t) = \lambda(x)\delta(x - |v|t) \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \langle x^2(t) \rangle \simeq t^{3-\alpha}$$




2 THE SPREAD OF THE BLACK DEATH IN EUROPE


Approximate extent of area reached by


Black Death in:



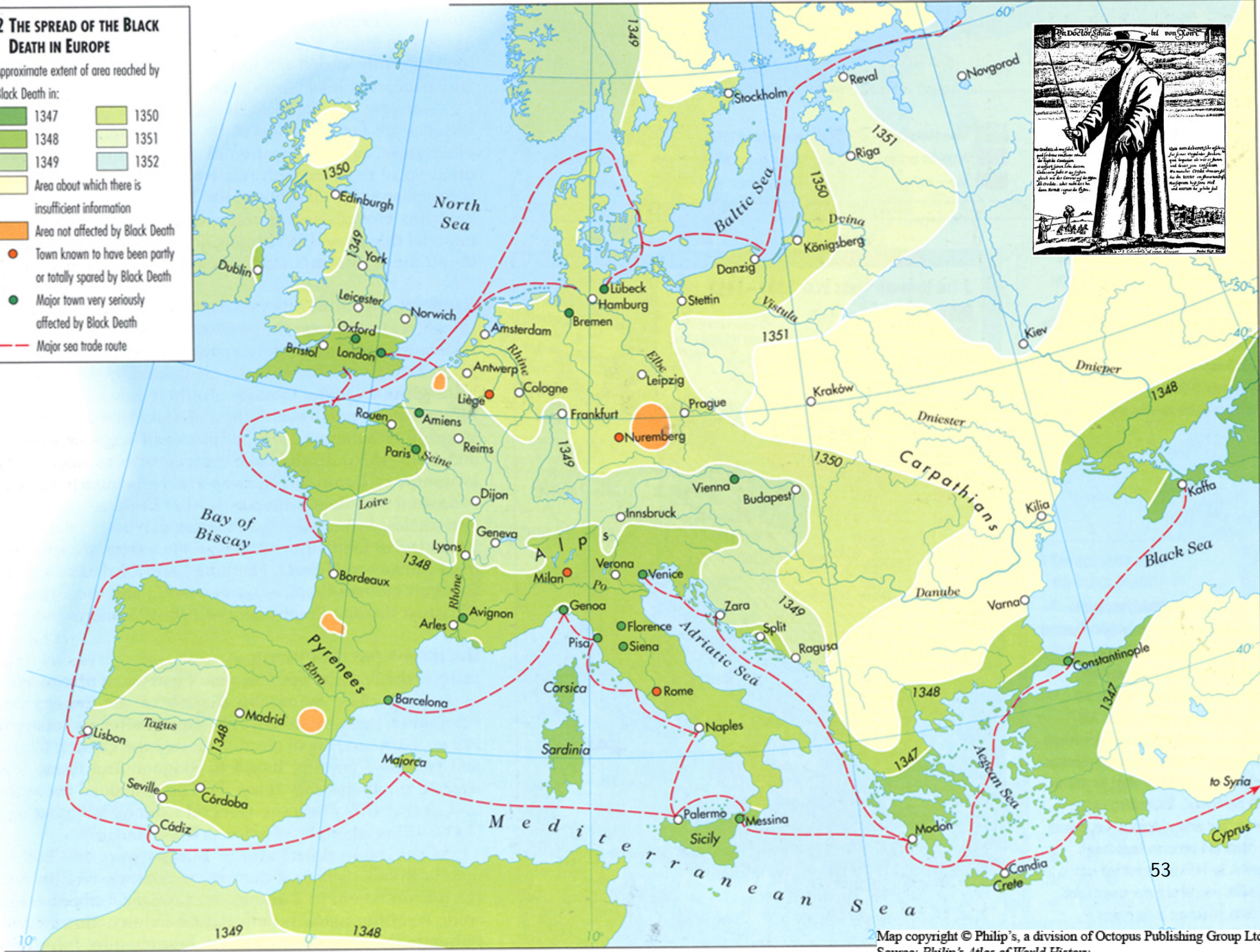
 Area about which there is insufficient information

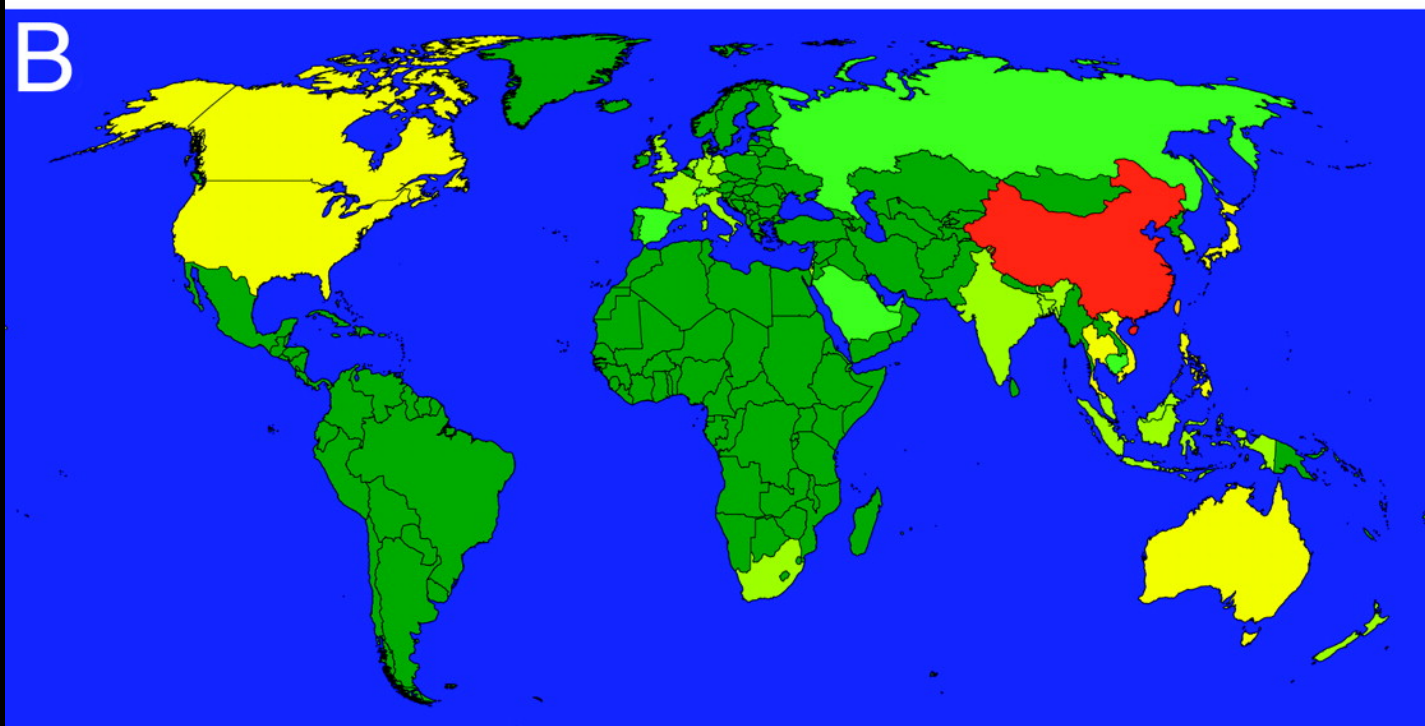
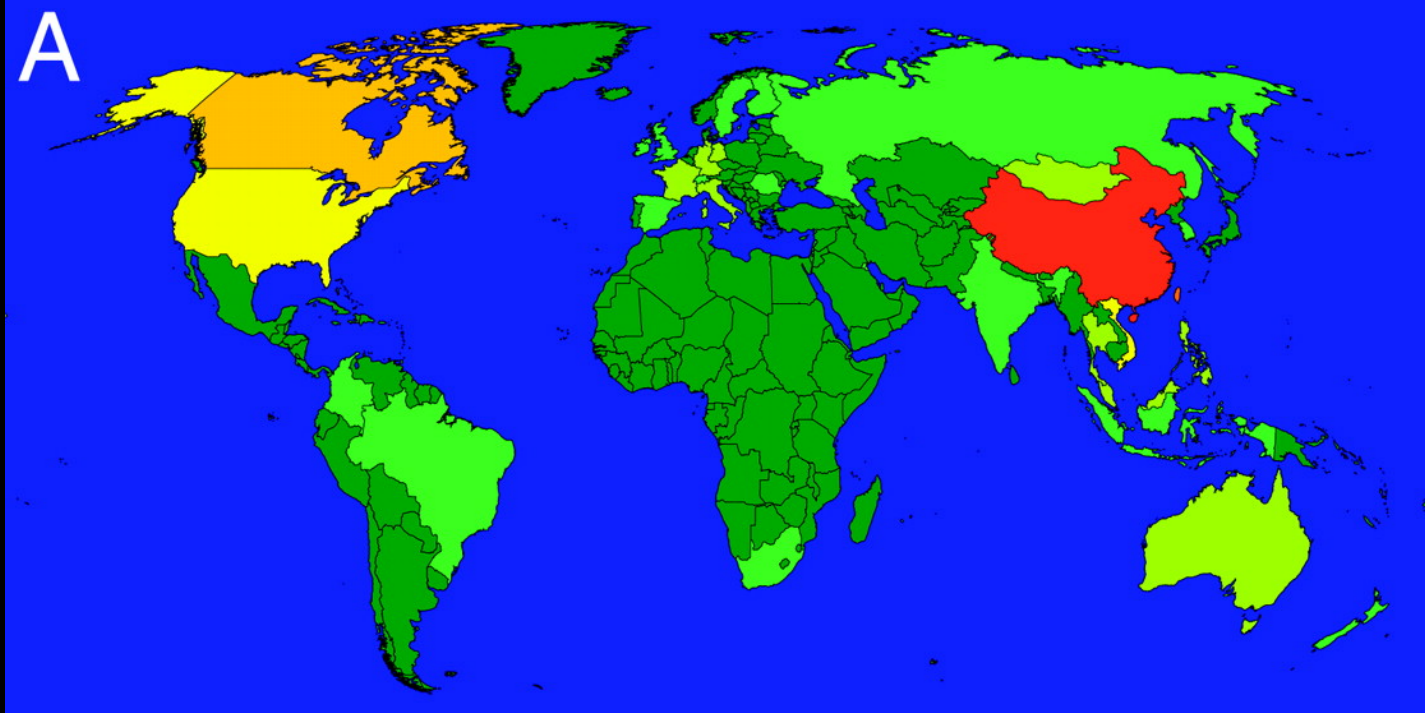
 Area not affected by Black Death

 Town known to have been partly or totally spared by Black Death

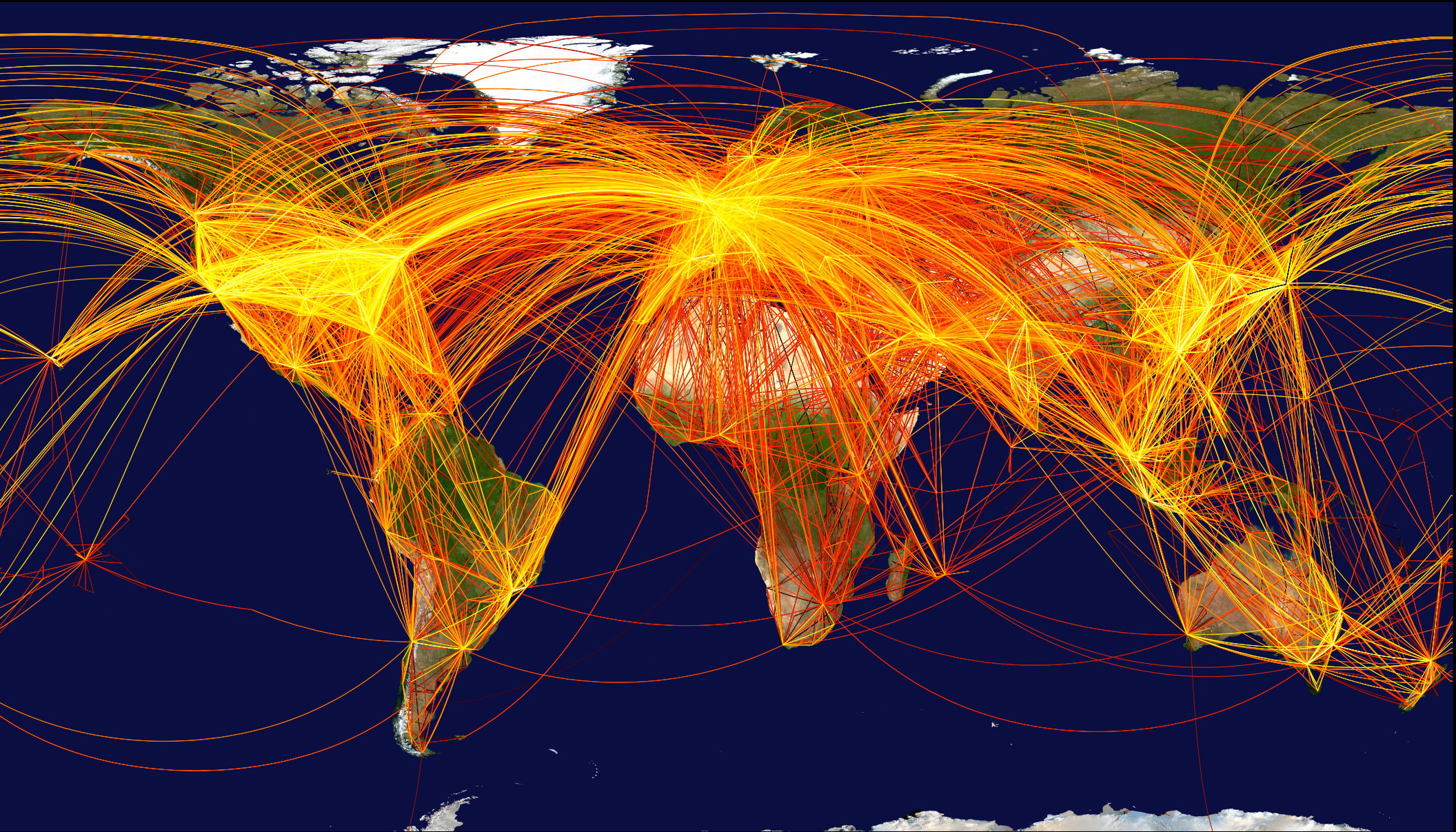
 Major town very seriously affected by Black Death

 Major sea trade route





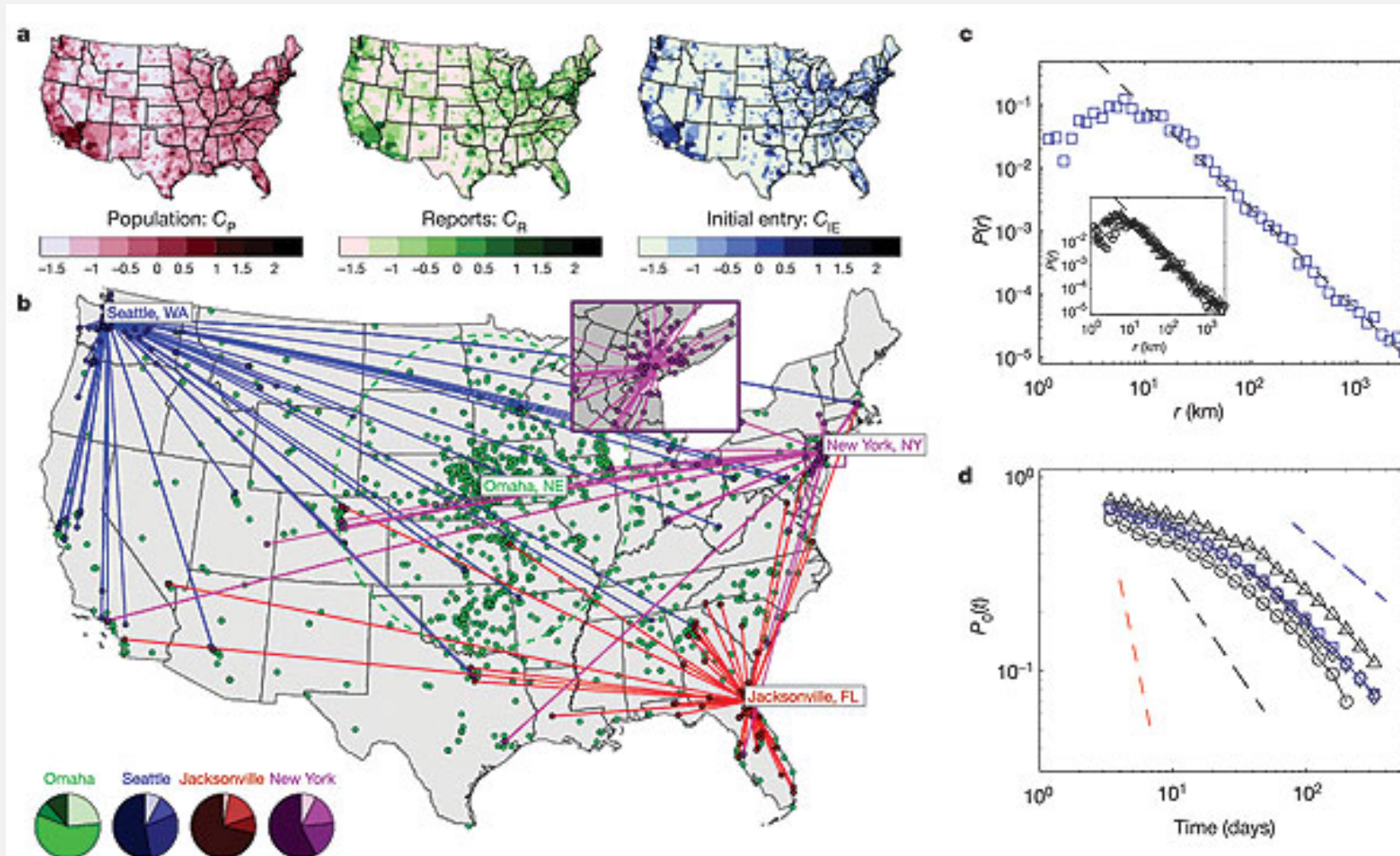
Non-locality due to long-distance travel



Courtesy, D Brockmann

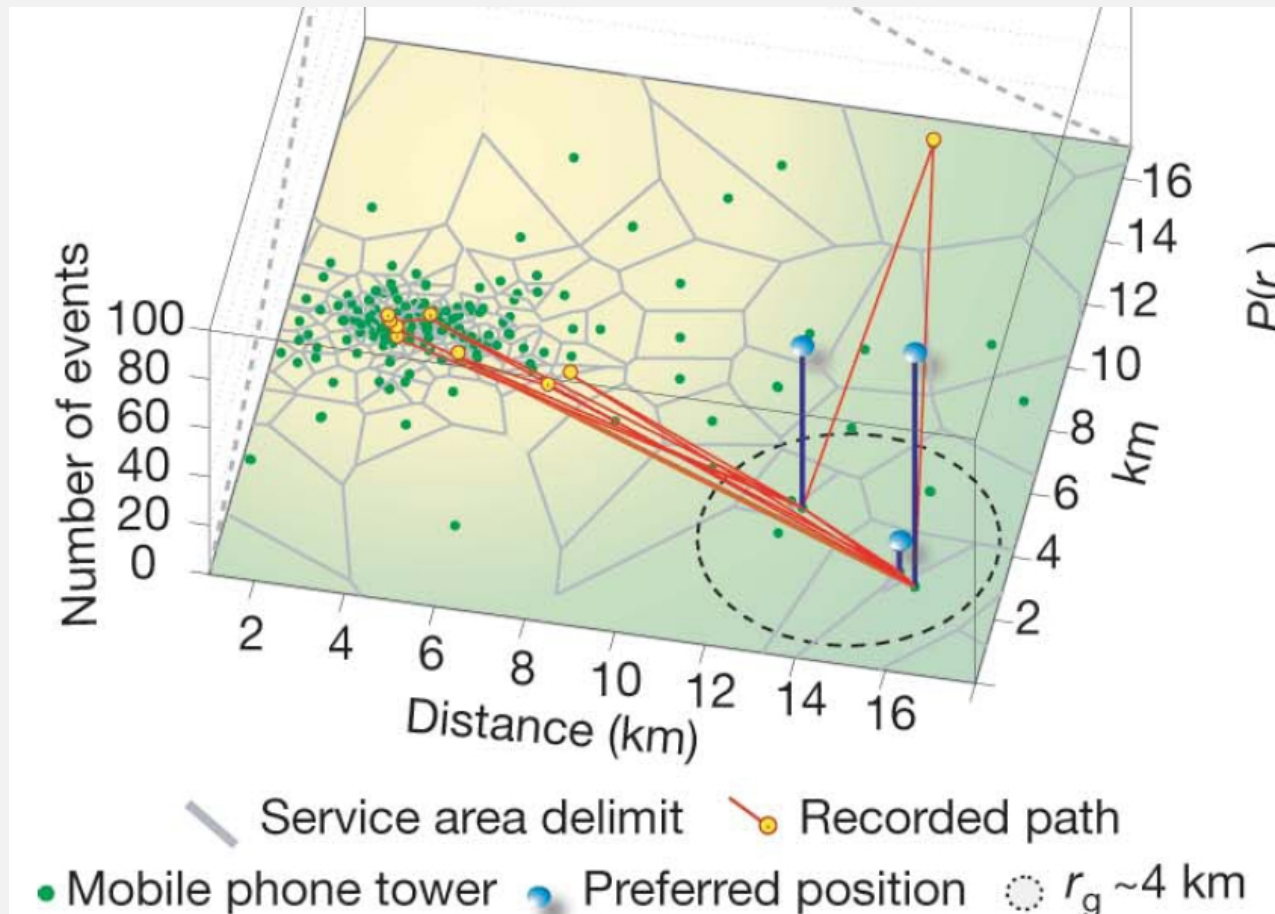


Human movement behaviour: money sticks

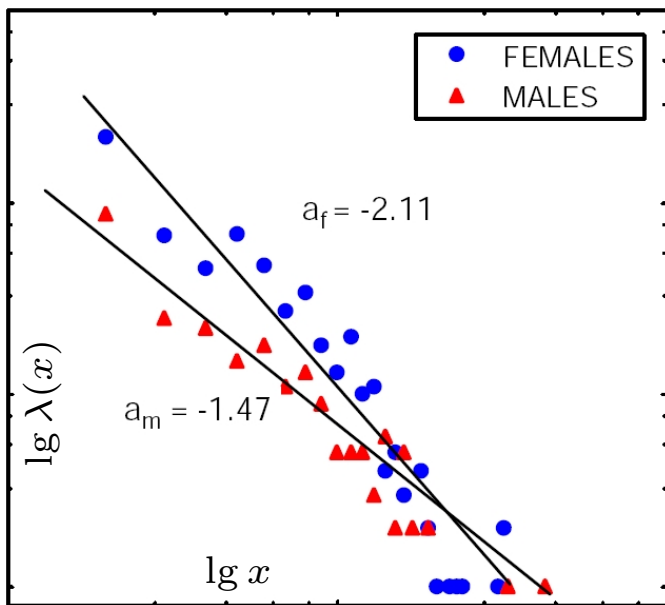
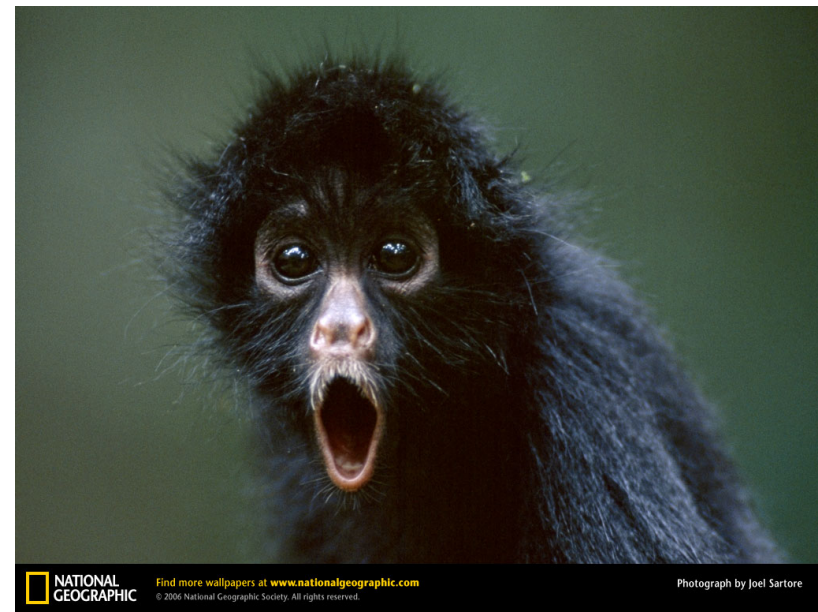
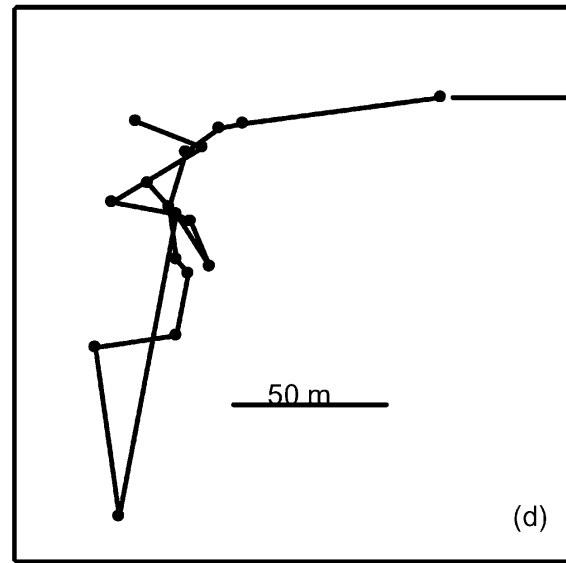
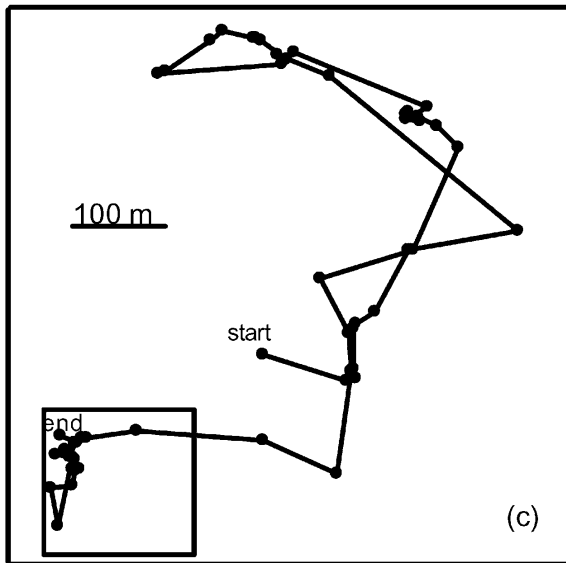


D Brockmann, L Hufnagl, T Geisel, Nature 439, 462 (2006)

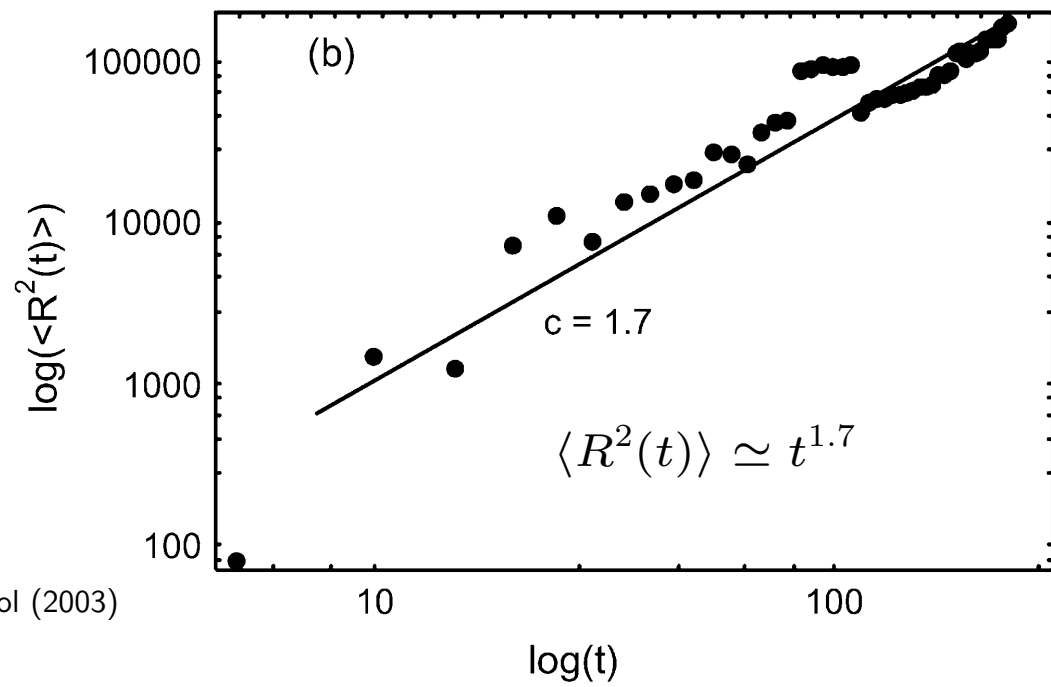
Single human motion patterns: mobile phone tracking



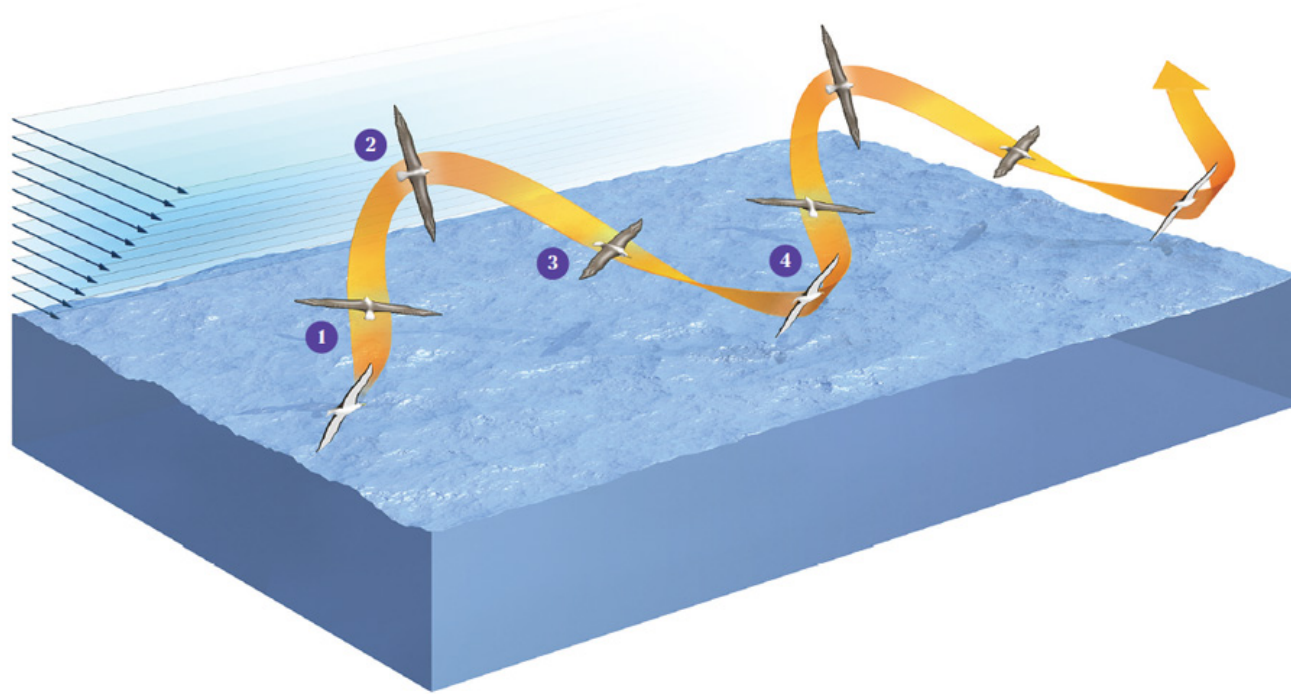
The jumps of the spider monkeys



Ramos-Fernandez et al, Behav Ecol Sociobiol (2003)



The good old albatross story: some do it



Dynamic soaring (unflapping flight)

Shear wind field >30 km/h:

[1] bird climbs into wind

[2] turns to leeward

[3] descends

[4] again turns into wind

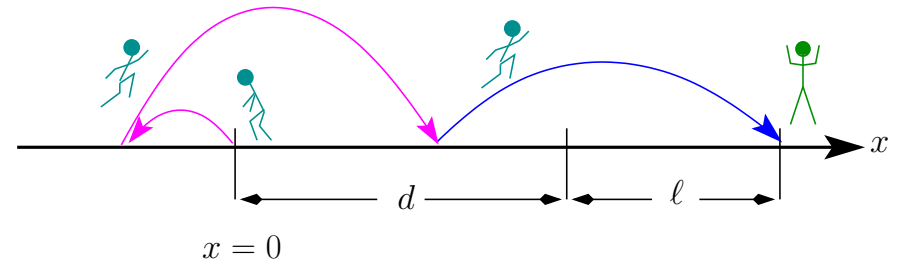
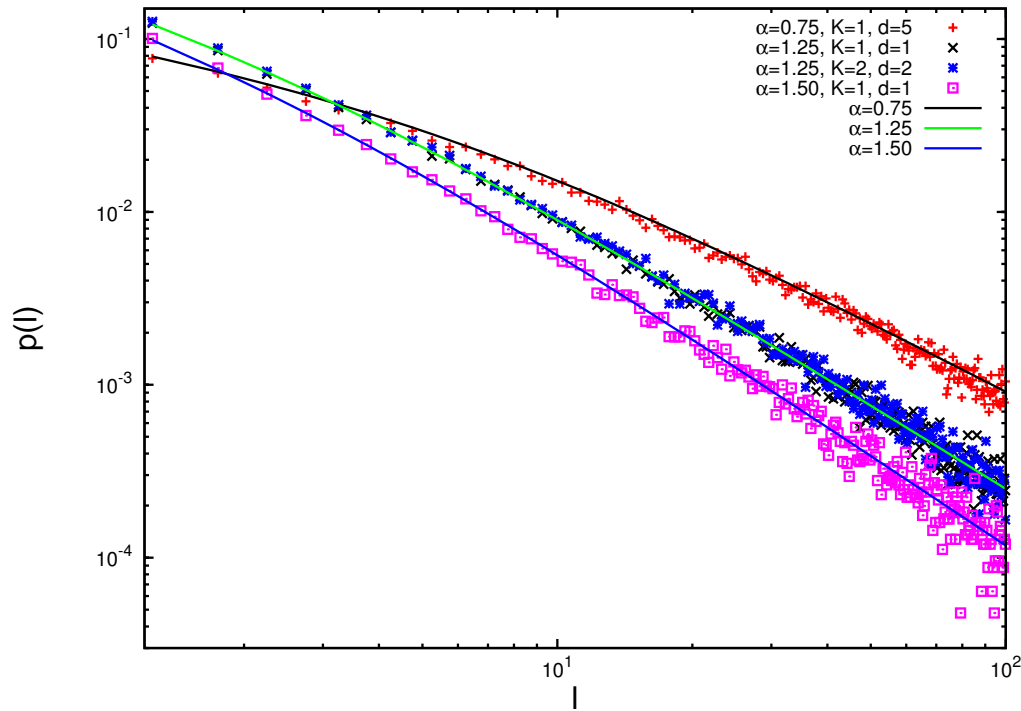
Viswanathan et al, Nature (1996, 1999): Lévy flight of albatross

Edwards et al, Nature (2007): flawed data analysis

Humphries et al, PNAS (2012): single birds indeed Lévy fly



Overshooting the target: leapovers



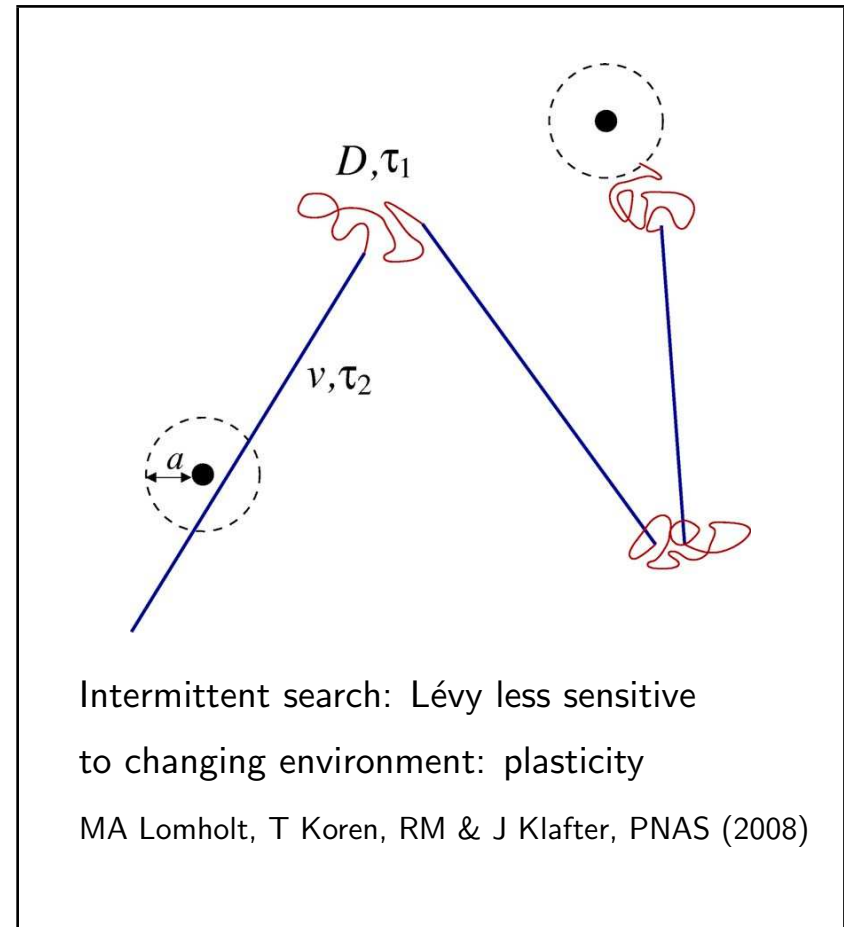
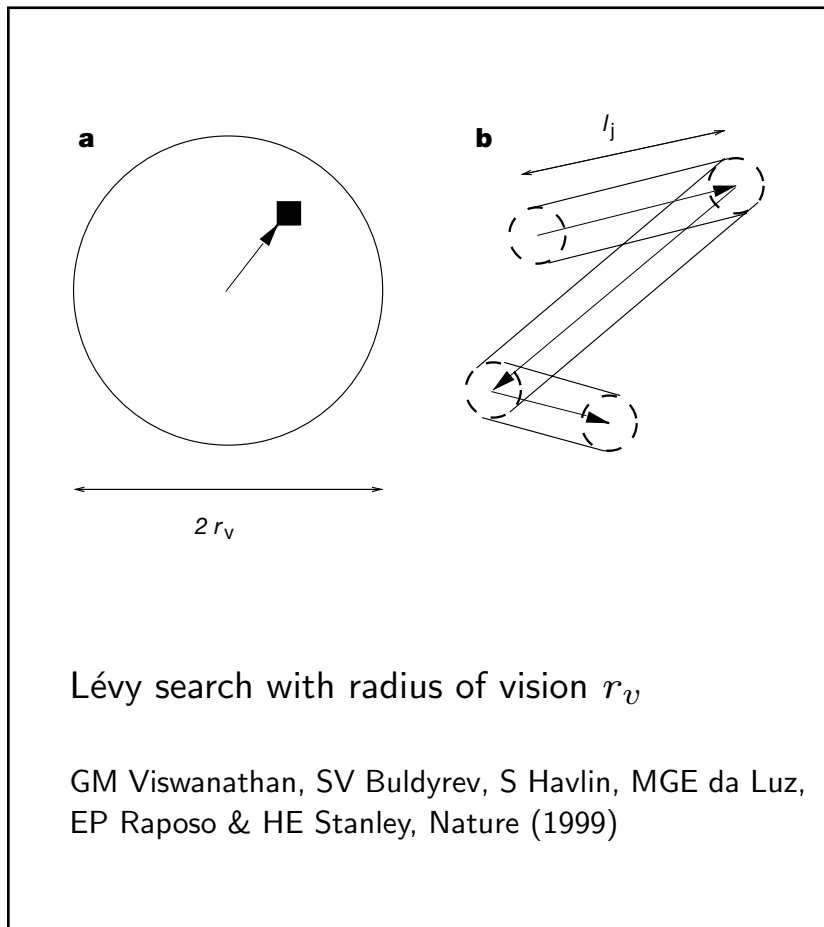
$$\lambda(x) \simeq |x|^{-\alpha-1}$$

$$\wp_{\text{fa}}(\tau) \simeq x_0^{\alpha-1} \times t^{1/\alpha-1}$$

$$\wp_{\text{fp}}(\tau) \sim \frac{d^{\alpha/2}}{\alpha \sqrt{\pi K^{(\alpha)}} \Gamma(\alpha/2)} \tau^{-3/2} \quad \text{First passage: Sparre Andersen universality}$$

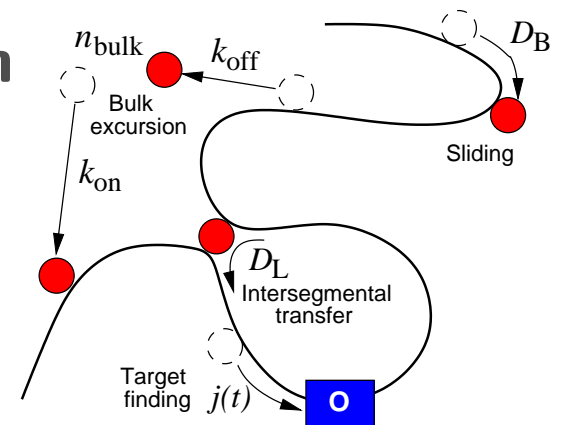
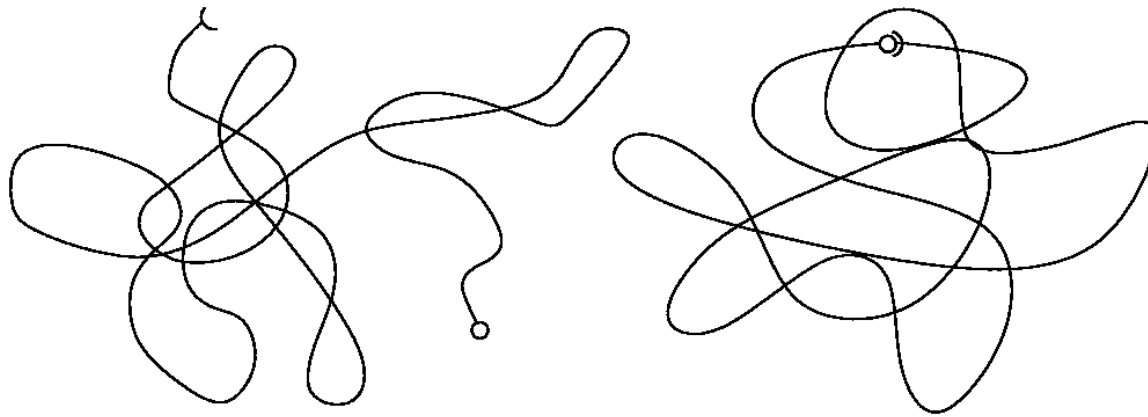
$$\wp_l(l) = \frac{\sin(\pi\alpha/2)}{\pi} \frac{d^{\alpha/2}}{l^{\alpha/2}(d+l)} \rightsquigarrow \langle l \rangle \rightarrow \infty \quad \forall \alpha \quad \text{Leapover length}$$

Getting around the leapover problem



Both models: Cauchy distribution $\lambda(x) \sim |x|^{-2}$ optimises search for rare targets

Naturally intermittent: facilitated diffusion

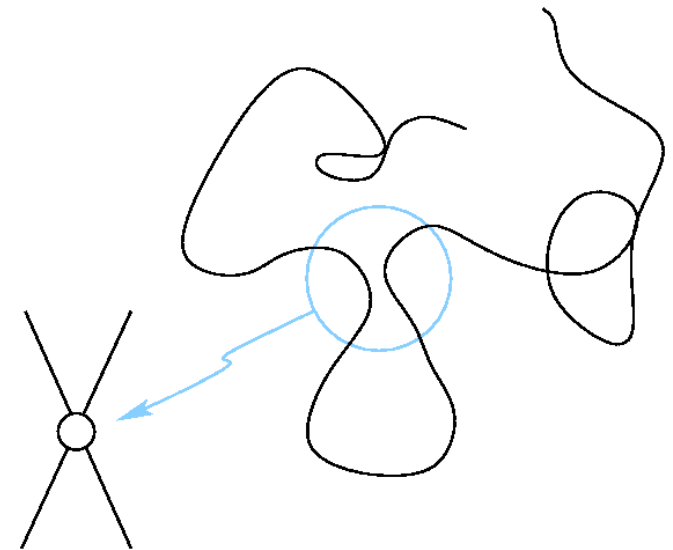


Cyclization is returning random walk ($t \div \ell$):

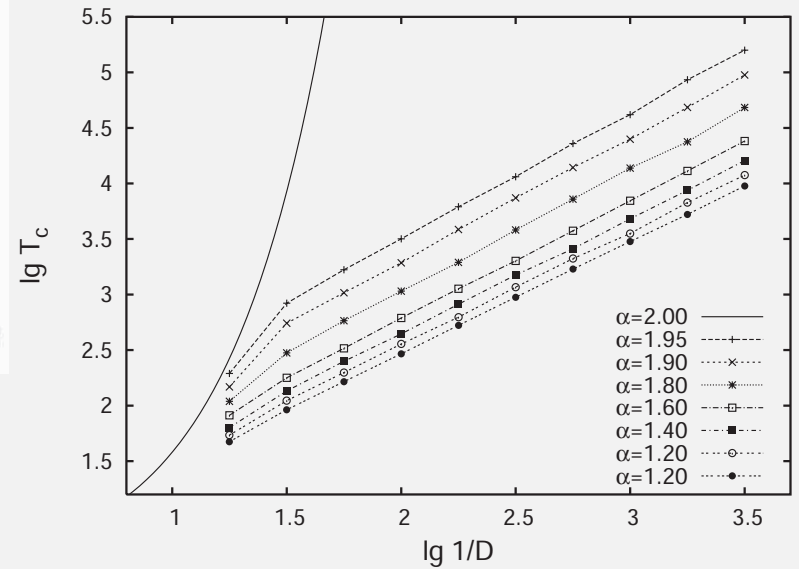
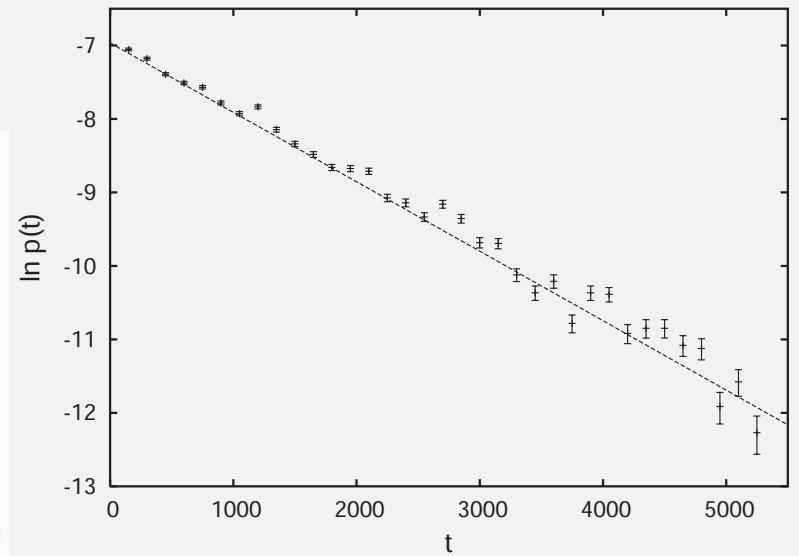
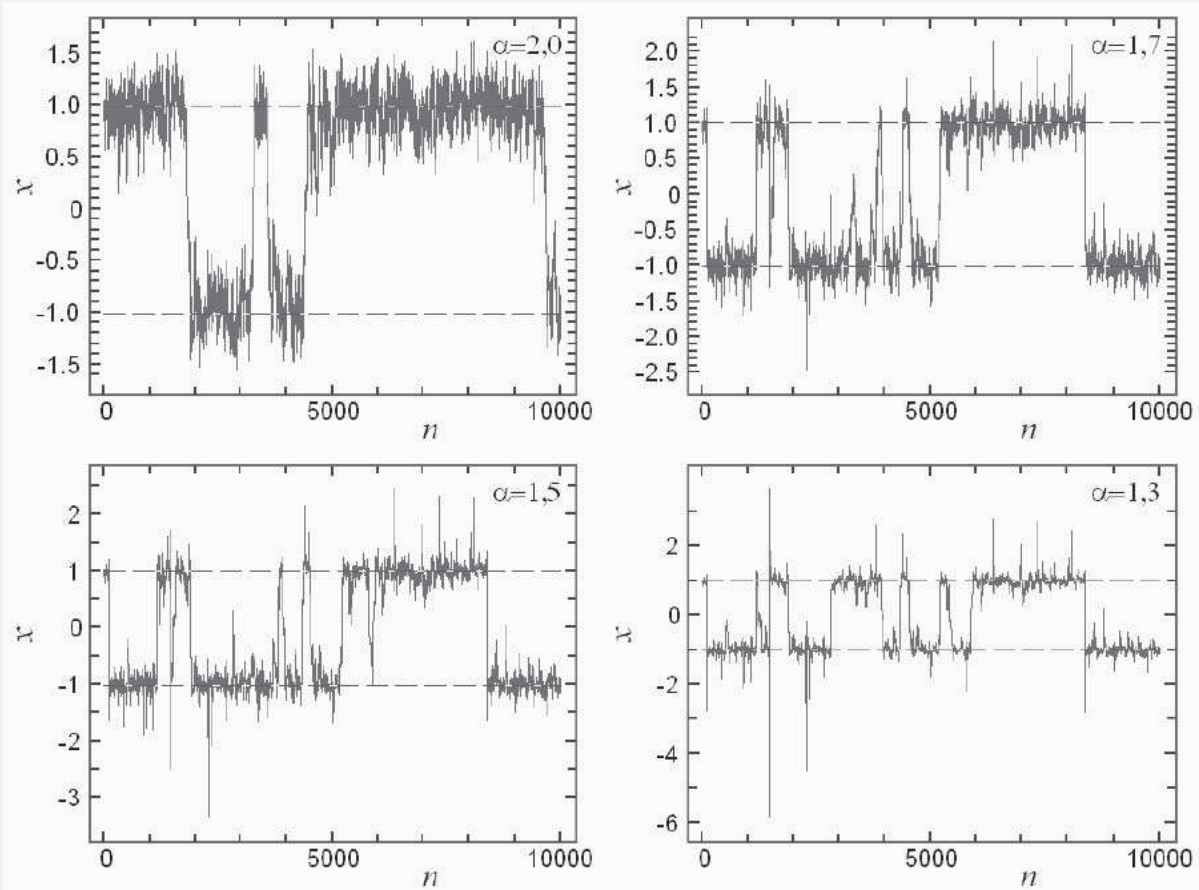
$$p(\ell) \sim \begin{cases} \ell^{-d/2} & \text{phantom chain} \\ \ell^{-d\nu - (\gamma - 1)} & \text{SAW, } \nu \approx \frac{3}{5}, \gamma \approx \frac{7}{6} \end{cases}$$

Probability for contact is more restrictive:

$$p(\ell) \sim \ell^{-d\nu + \sigma_4} \sim \ell^{-1 - 1.2} \sim \langle \ell^2 \rangle \rightarrow \infty$$



Barrier crossing of Lévy flights

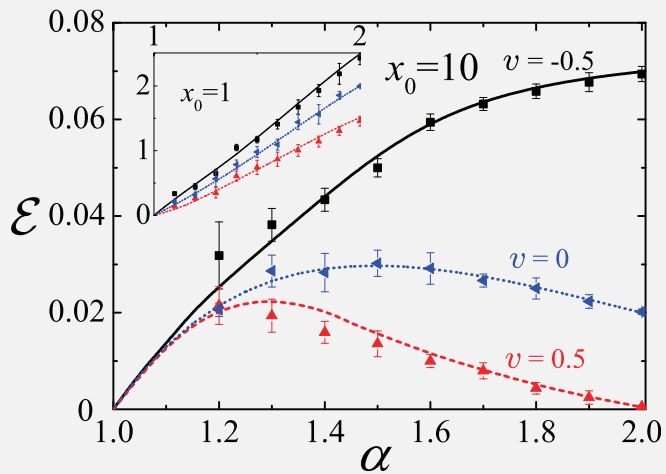
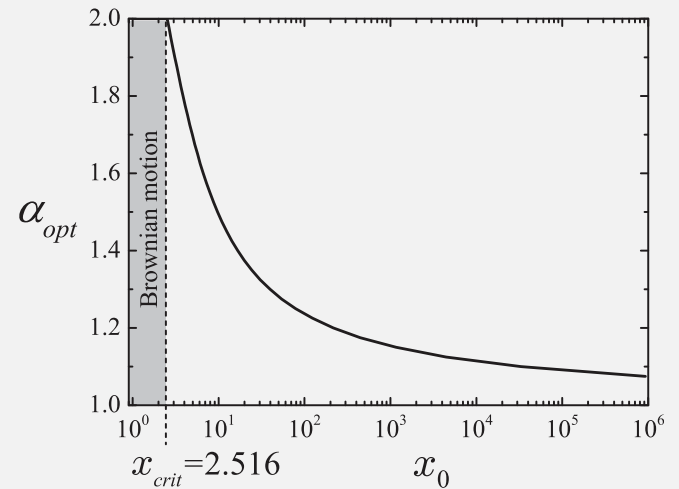


Lévy flights do not always optimise random search

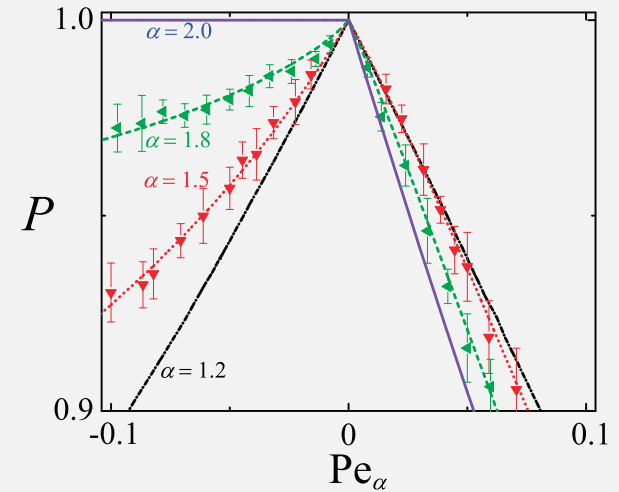
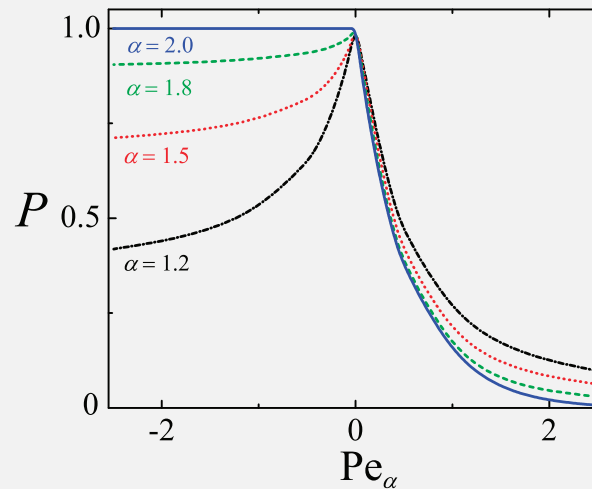
$$\frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^\alpha P(x, t)}{\partial |x|^\alpha} - v \frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial x} - \wp_{\text{fa}}(t) \delta(x), \quad 1 < \alpha < 2$$

Search efficiency

$$\mathcal{E} = \left\langle \frac{1}{t} \right\rangle = \int_0^\infty \wp(s) ds$$

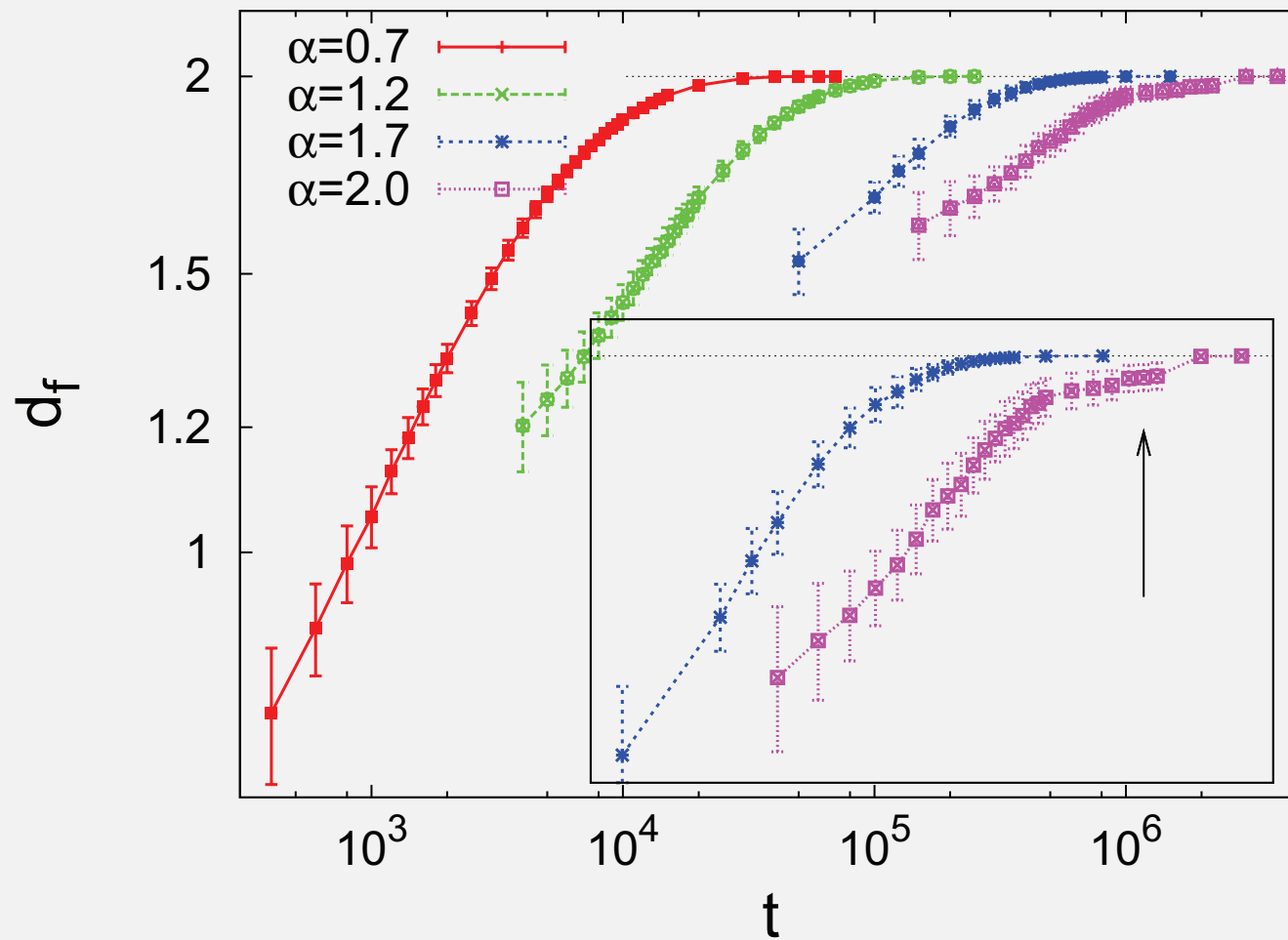


Search reliability $P = 1 - \mathcal{I}(\infty)$



Area coverage of Lévy flights

LFs with jump length distribution $\lambda(x) \simeq \sigma^\mu / |x|^{1+\mu}$



Ultraweak ergodicity breaking of Lévy walks & flights

$$\langle x^2(t) \rangle \sim \frac{2(\alpha - 1)}{(3 - \alpha)(2 - \alpha)} t^{3-\alpha} \sim (\alpha - 1) \overline{\delta^2(t)}, \quad 1 < \alpha < 2$$

Time averaged MSD

$$\overline{\delta^2(\Delta)} = \frac{1}{T - \Delta} \int_0^{T-\Delta} (x(t + \Delta) - x(t))^2 dt$$

$$\overline{\delta^2(\Delta)} \sim 2 \left(\frac{(1 + \Delta)^{3-\alpha} - 1}{(3 - \alpha)(2 - \alpha)} - \frac{\Delta}{2 - \alpha} \right) + \left(\frac{\alpha - 1}{3} \left[\frac{\Delta}{T} \right]^3 - \alpha \left[\frac{\Delta}{T} \right]^2 \right) T^{3-\alpha}$$

Linear response for constant external force f ($0 < \alpha < 2$):

$$\langle x(t) \rangle \sim \beta f \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} t^2, & 0 < \alpha < 1 \\ \frac{1}{2-\alpha} t^{3-\alpha}, & 1 < \alpha < 2 \end{cases} \quad \langle x(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \beta f \langle x^2(t) \rangle$$



Abb. 140. Erlegter Albatros mit 2,80 Meter Spannweite.
In der Mitte Kapitänlt. Siburg und Oberlt. Löwisch.

Journal of Physics A's new Biological Modelling section

Journal of Physics A
Mathematical and Theoretical

Biological Modelling

For anything interesting too mathematical for Biophys J, Phys Biol, or J Theoret Biol, or not general enough for PRL or NJP ...

Suggestions for topical reviews & special issues are welcome



I Gene expression based on stochastic binding of TFs; facilitated diffusion model verified in vitro for certain TFs. Speed-stability paradox

II Facilitated diffusion model also applies to in vivo gene regulation

III Distance matters: conformation of DNA in facilitated diffusion & gene-gene distance for TF-TU regulation—support for rapid search hypothesis

III (Transient) anomalous diffusion of TFs in vivo

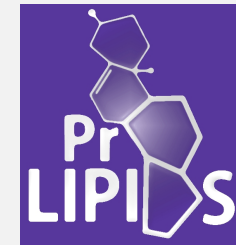
III Anomalous diffusion models: RM & al, PCCP (2014)

Anomalous diffusion in membranes: RM & al, BBA Biomembranes (2016)

Single molecule manipulation & tracking: C Nørregaard et al, Chem Rev (2017)

Acknowledgements

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Aleksi Chechkin (KIPT Kharkov & U Padova)
Henning Krüsemann, Yousof Mardoukhi, Igor Goychuk (U Potsdam)
Christine Selhuber (U Kiel), Kirstine Berg-Sørensen (DTU)
Lene Oddershede (NBI Københavns U)



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