

# Error correction through catastrophes

Arvind Murugan

*Physics and the James Franck Institute*

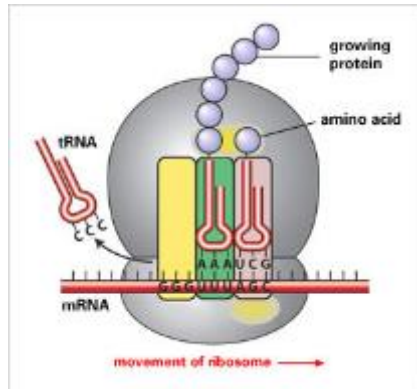
*University of Chicago*



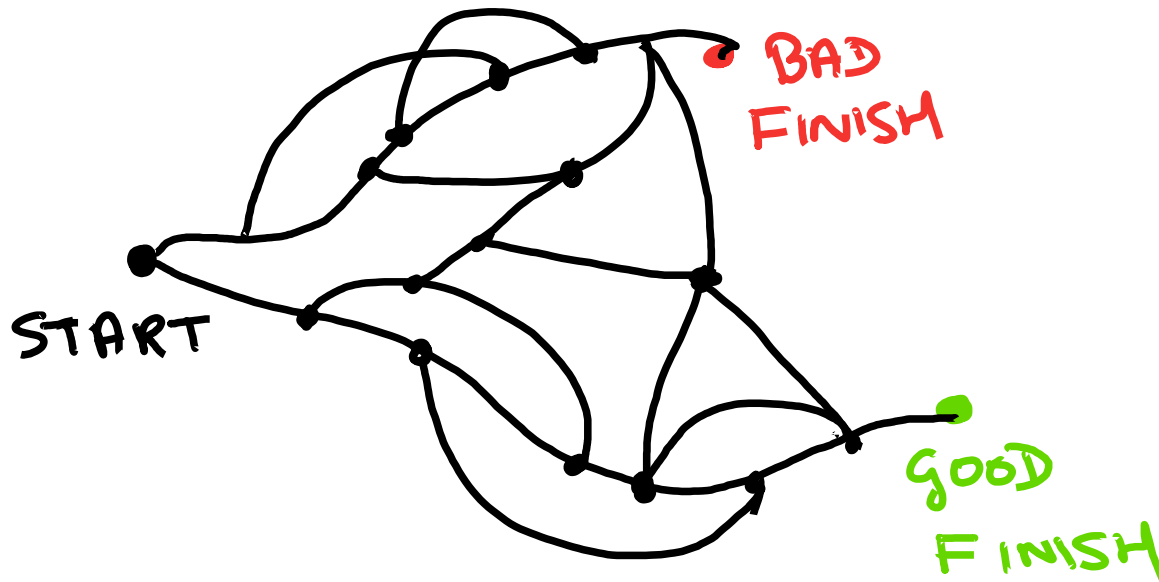
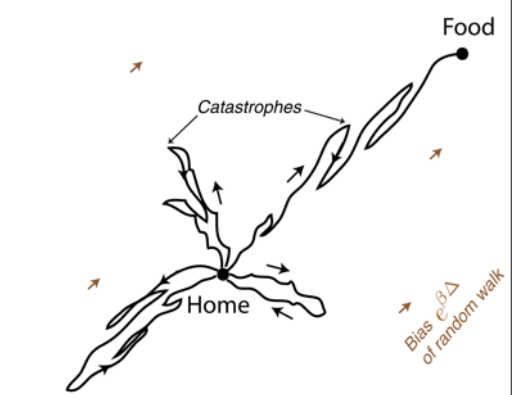
THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CHICAGO



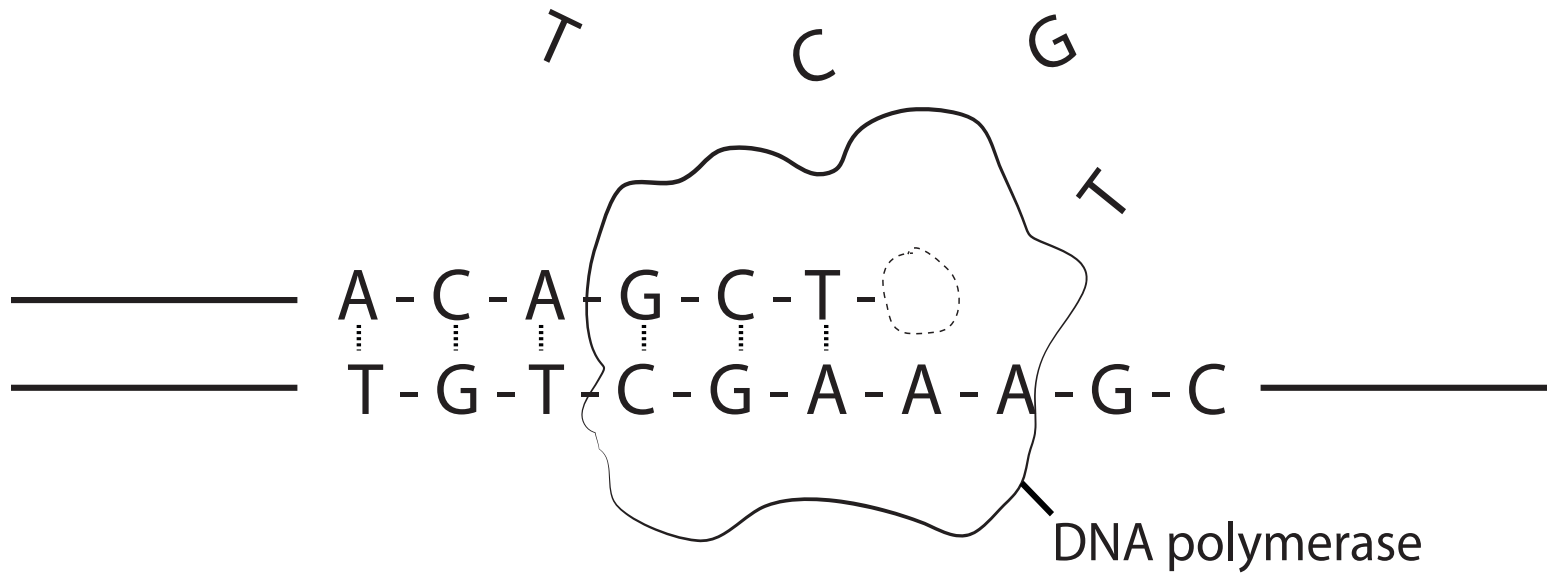
# Kinetic Proofreading



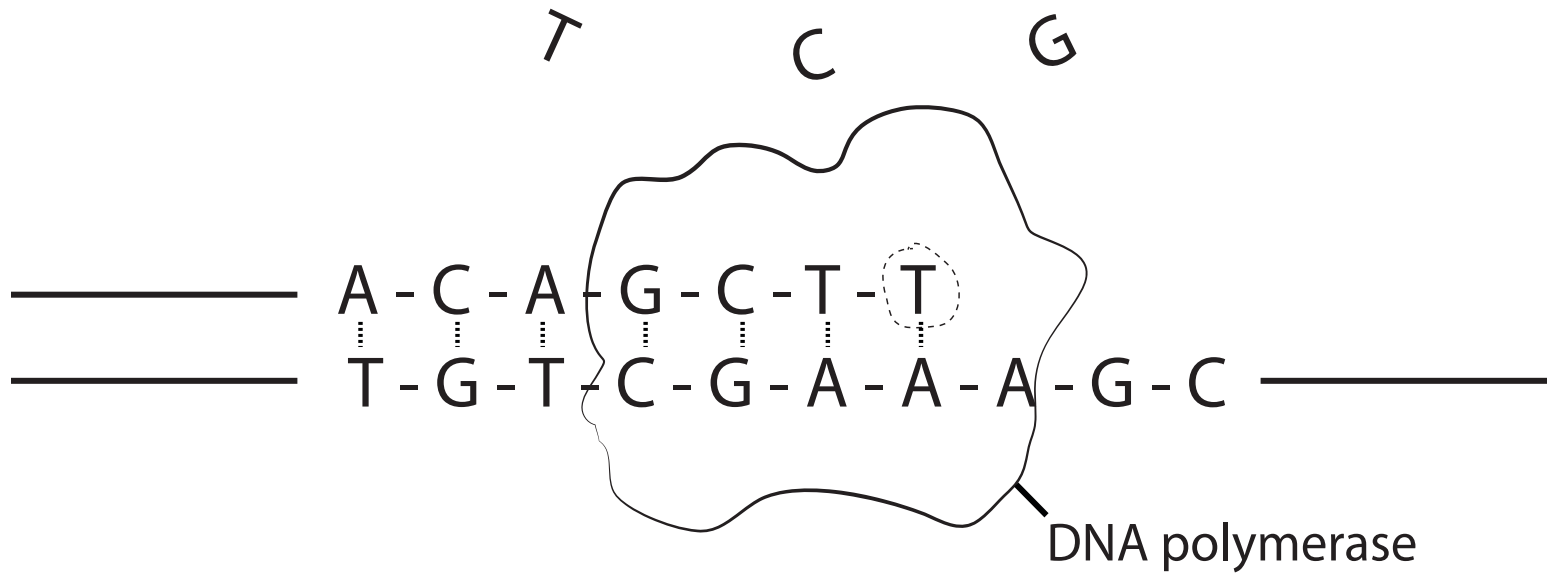
# Stochastic algorithms Search strategies



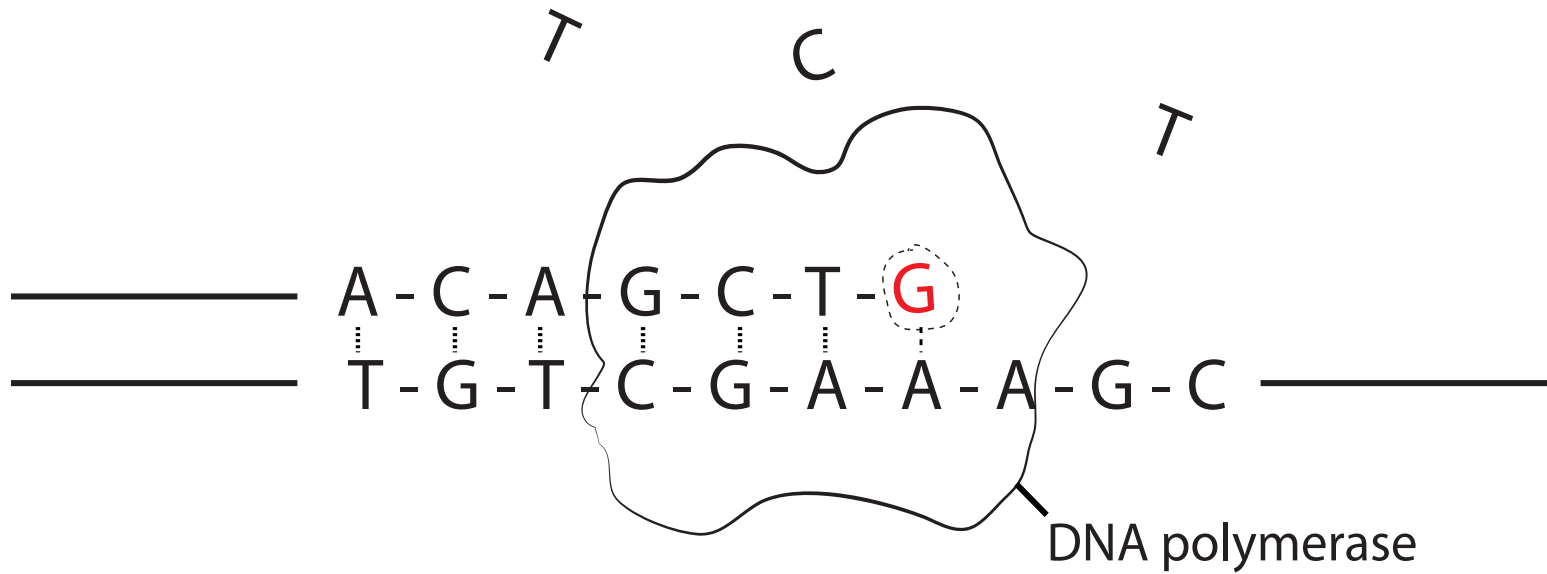
# Errors in enzymatic reactions



# Errors in enzymatic reactions

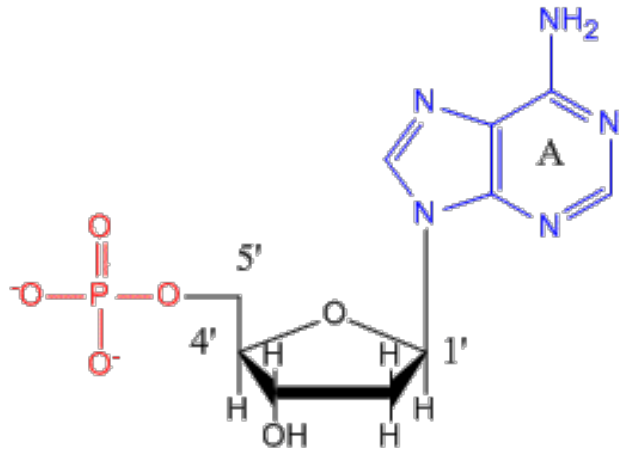


# Errors in enzymatic reactions

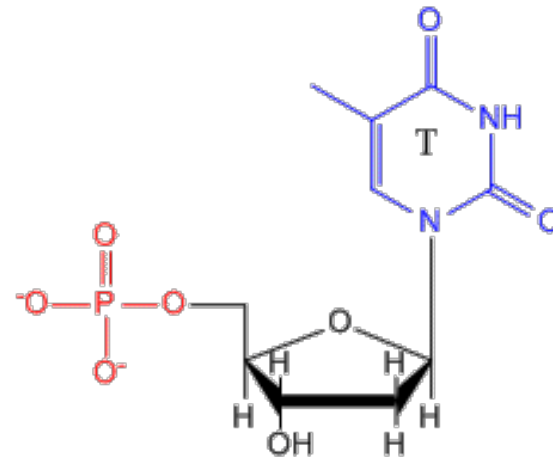


$$E(A \equiv G) - E(A \equiv T) = \Delta$$

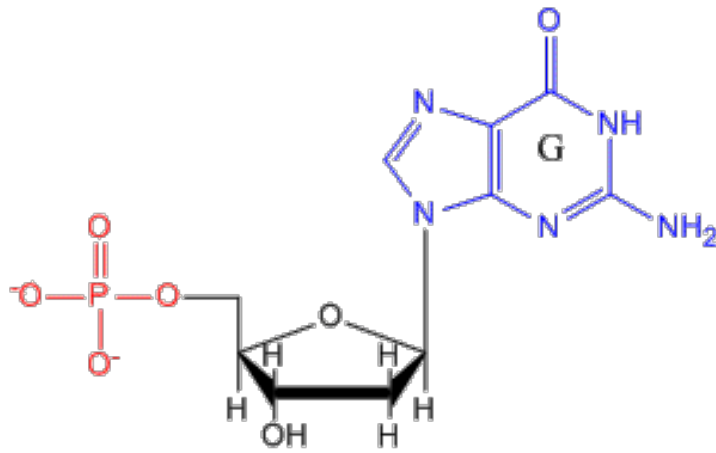
# Errors in enzymatic reactions



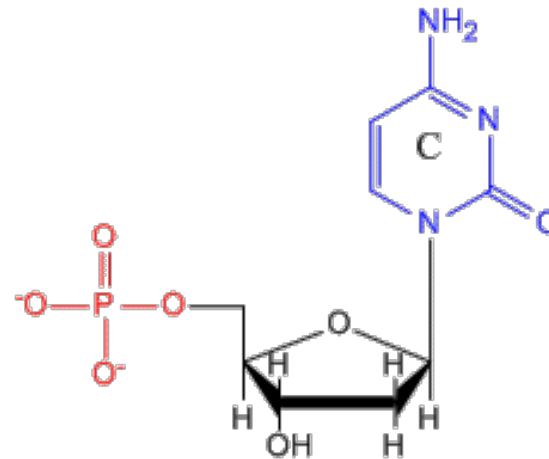
deoxyadenosine 5'-phosphate



deoxythymidine 5'-phosphate

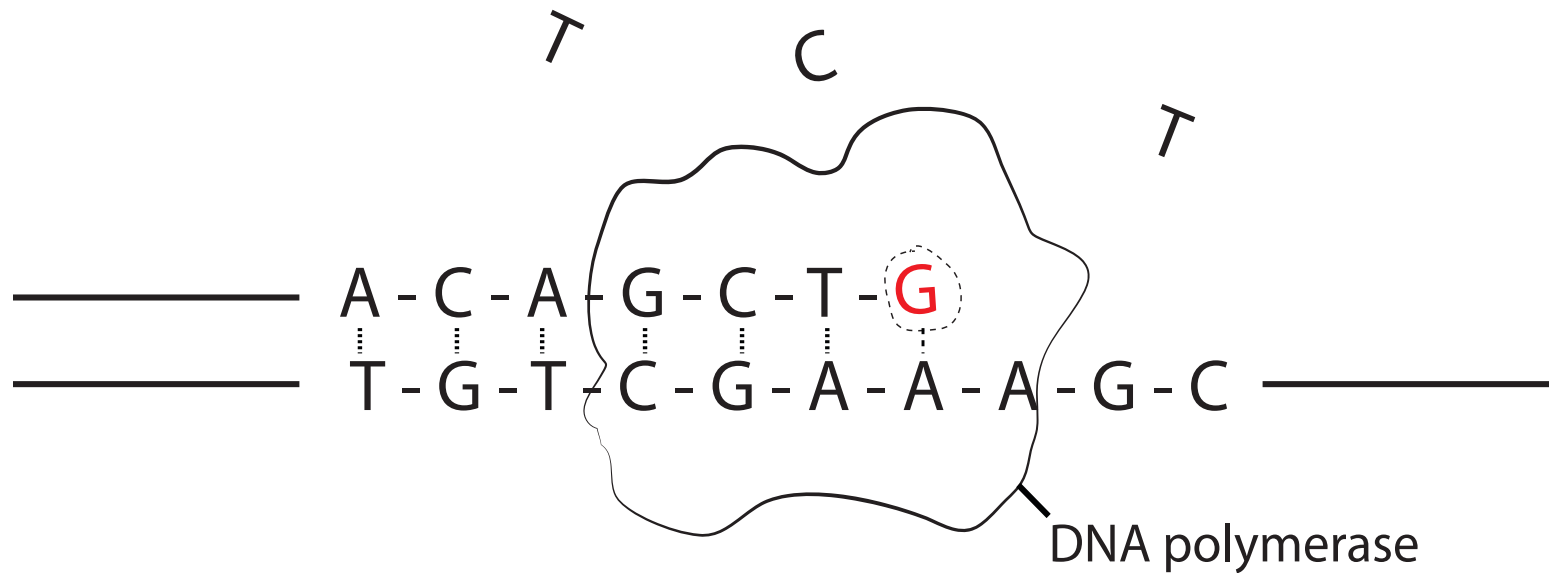


deoxyguanosine 5'-phosphate



deoxycytosine 5'-phosphate

# Errors in enzymatic reactions



$$E(A \equiv G) - E(A \equiv T) = \Delta$$

Expected error rate  $\eta \sim e^{-\frac{\Delta}{kT}} \sim 10^{-4}$

Actual error rate  $\eta \sim 10^{-8}$

# Errors in enzymatic reactions

- Protein synthesis
- tRNA charging
- T-cell receptors
- ....

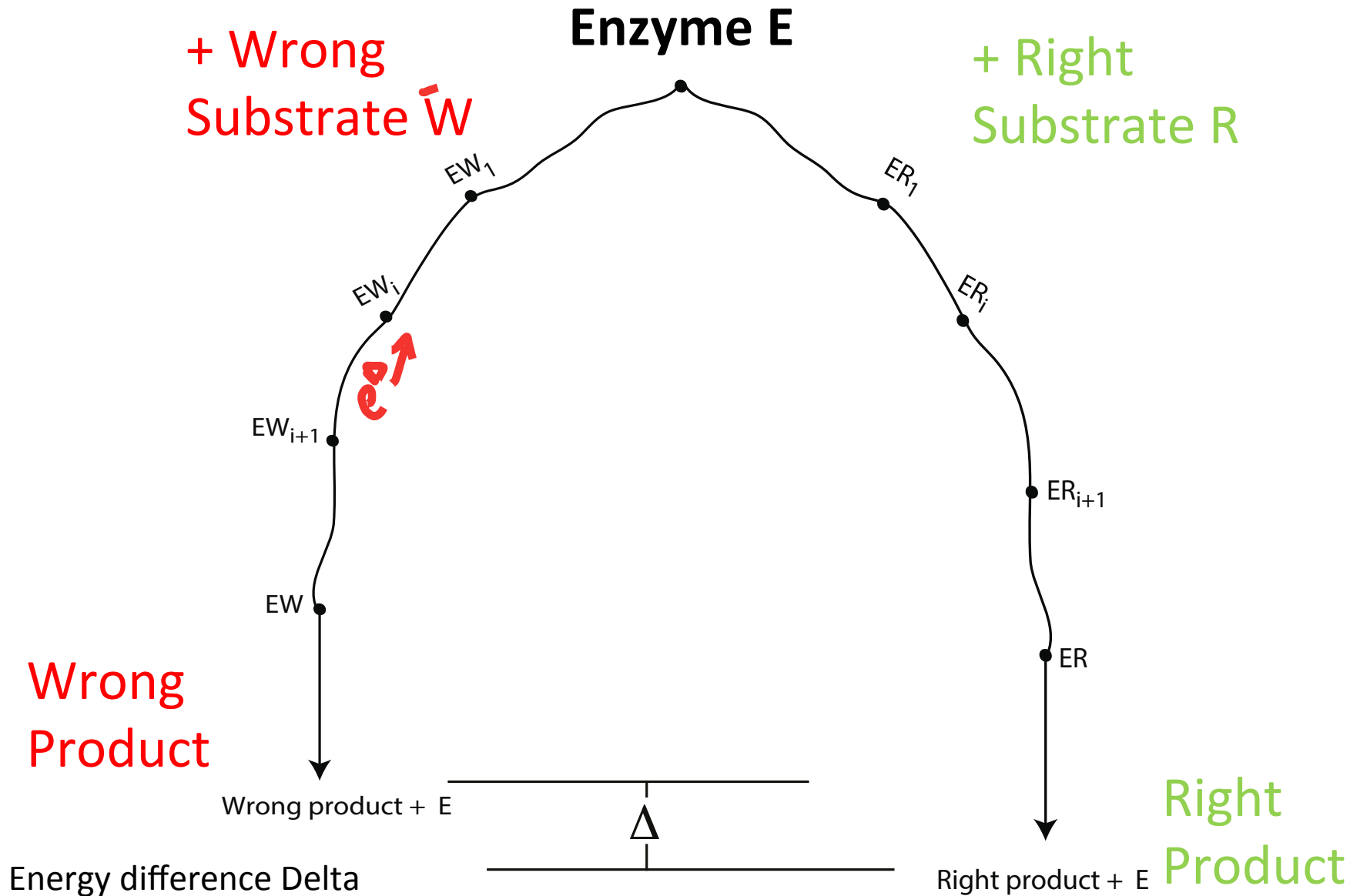
How do you reduce effective error rate below  $e^{-\frac{\Delta}{kT}}$   
(Fixed  $\Delta$ )



# Kinetic Proofreading

John Hopfield (1974)

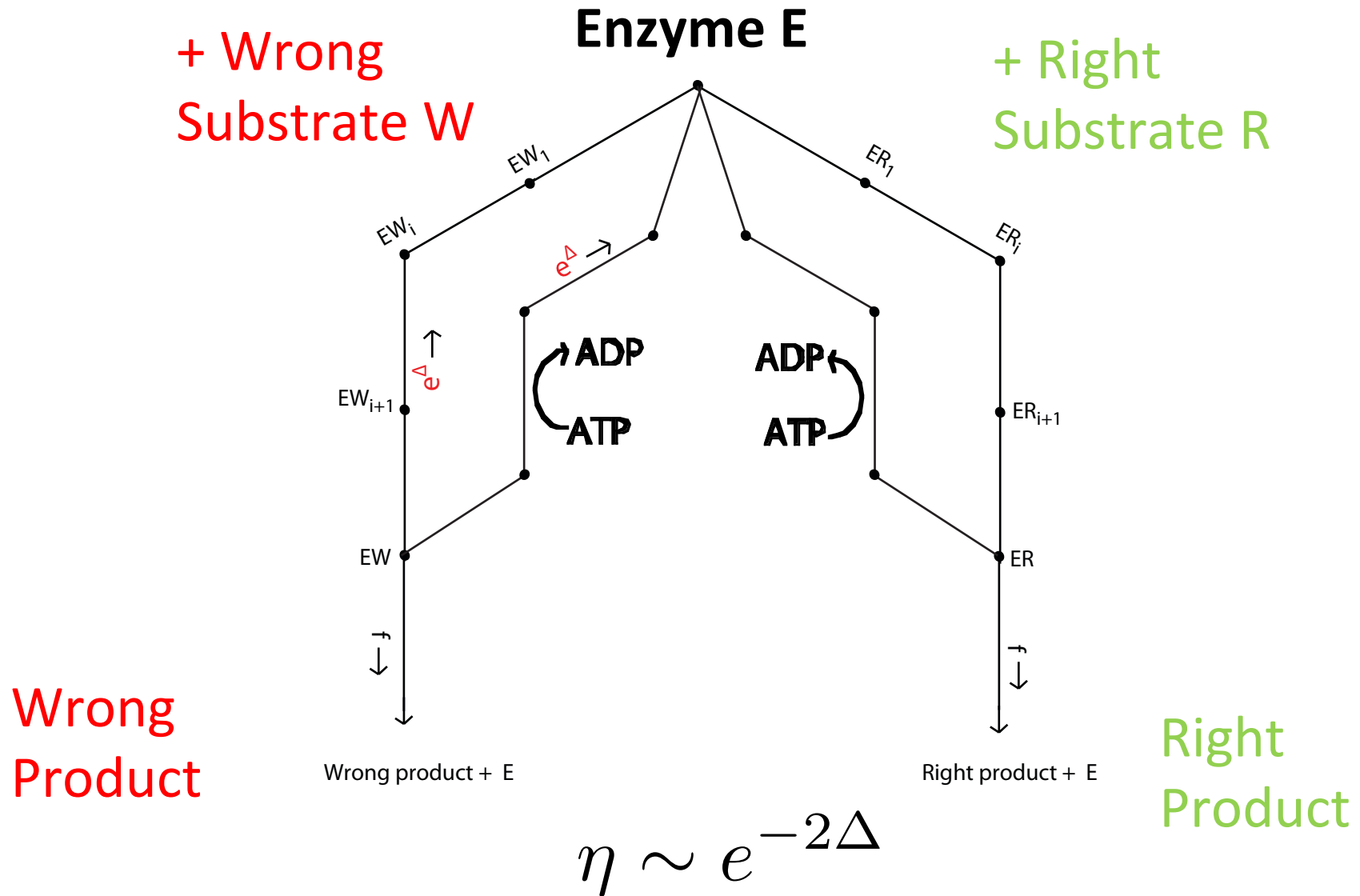
Jacques Ninio (1975)



# Kinetic Proofreading

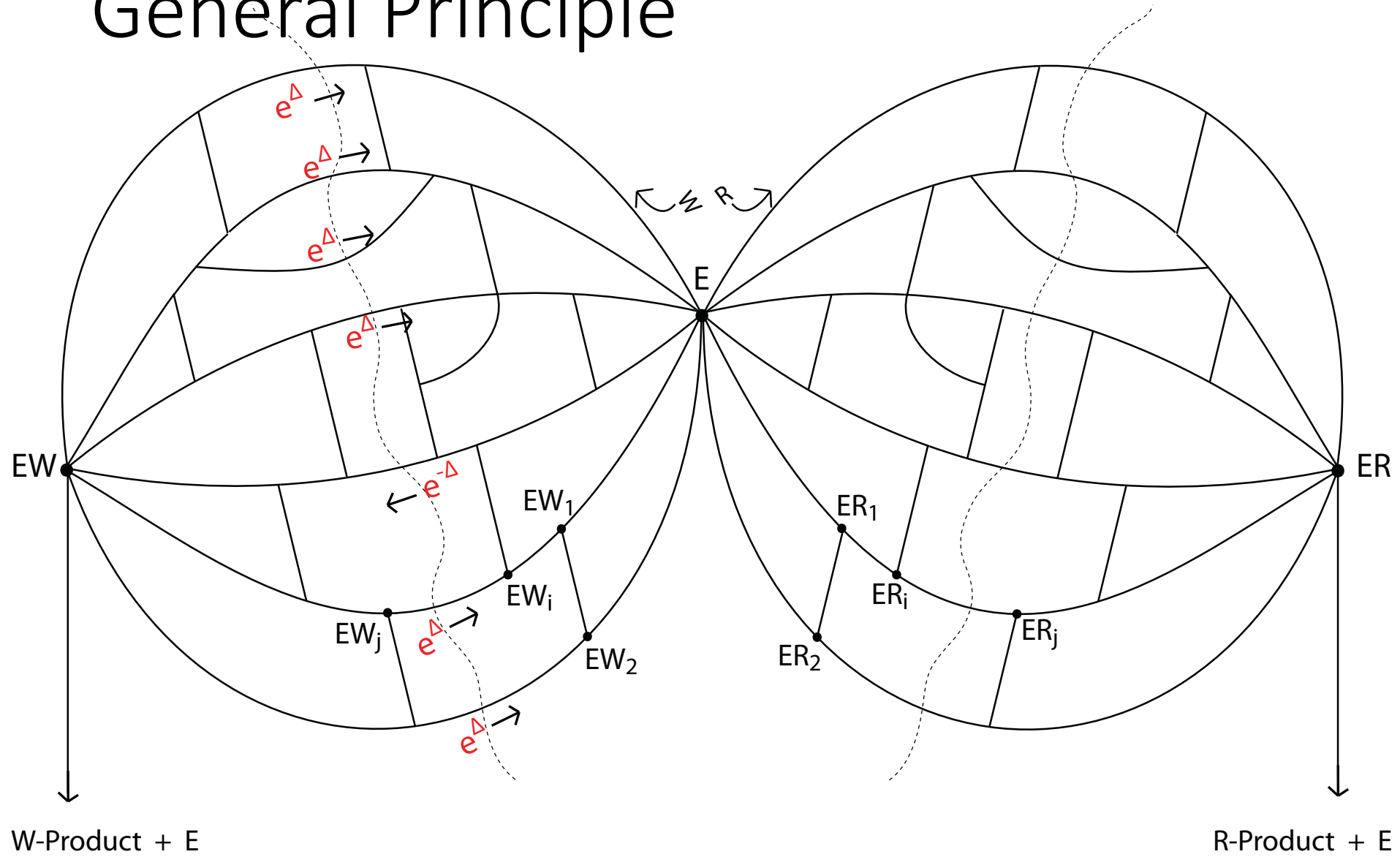
John Hopfield (1974)

Jacques Ninio (1975)

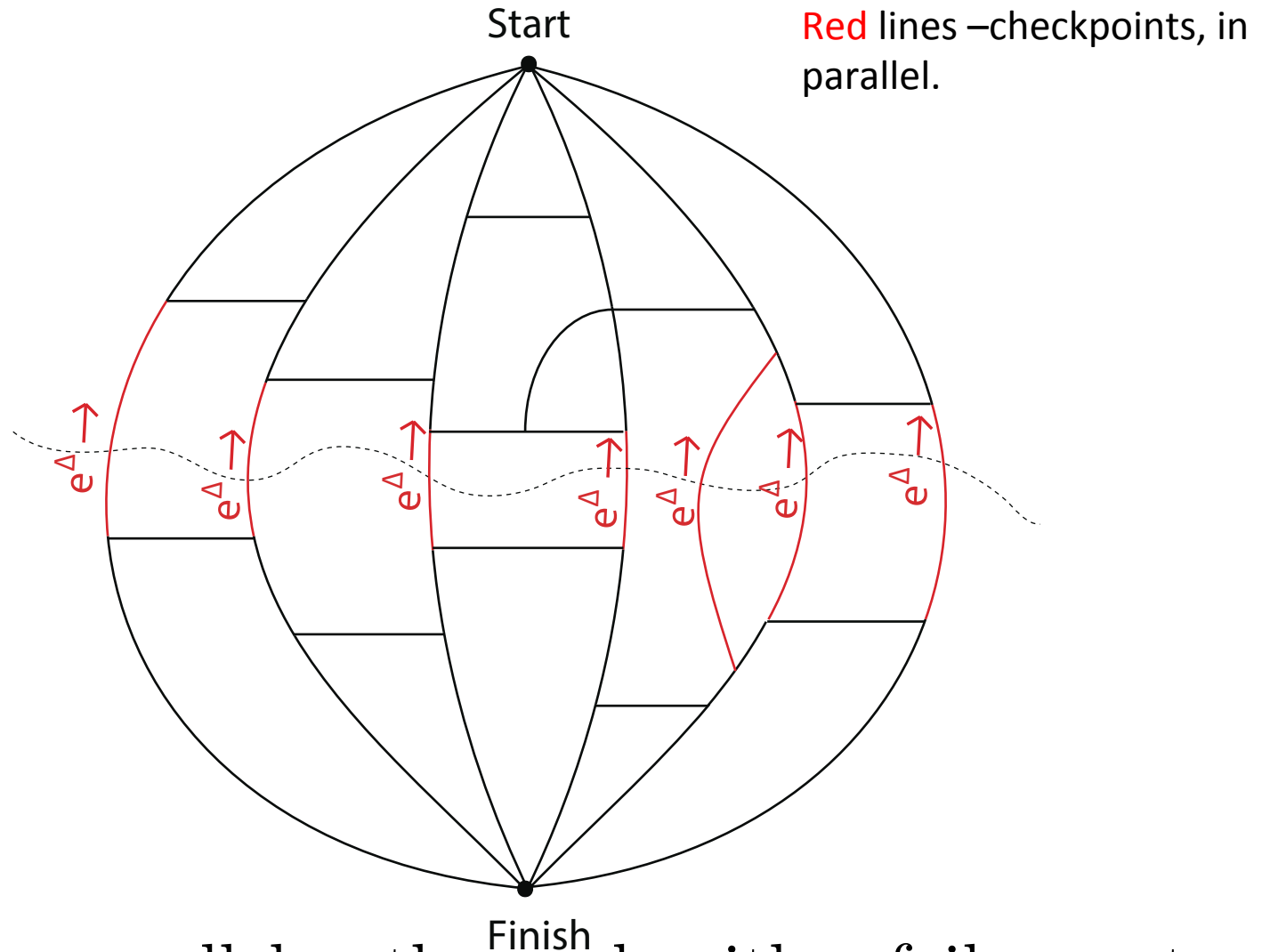




# General Principle



# General network

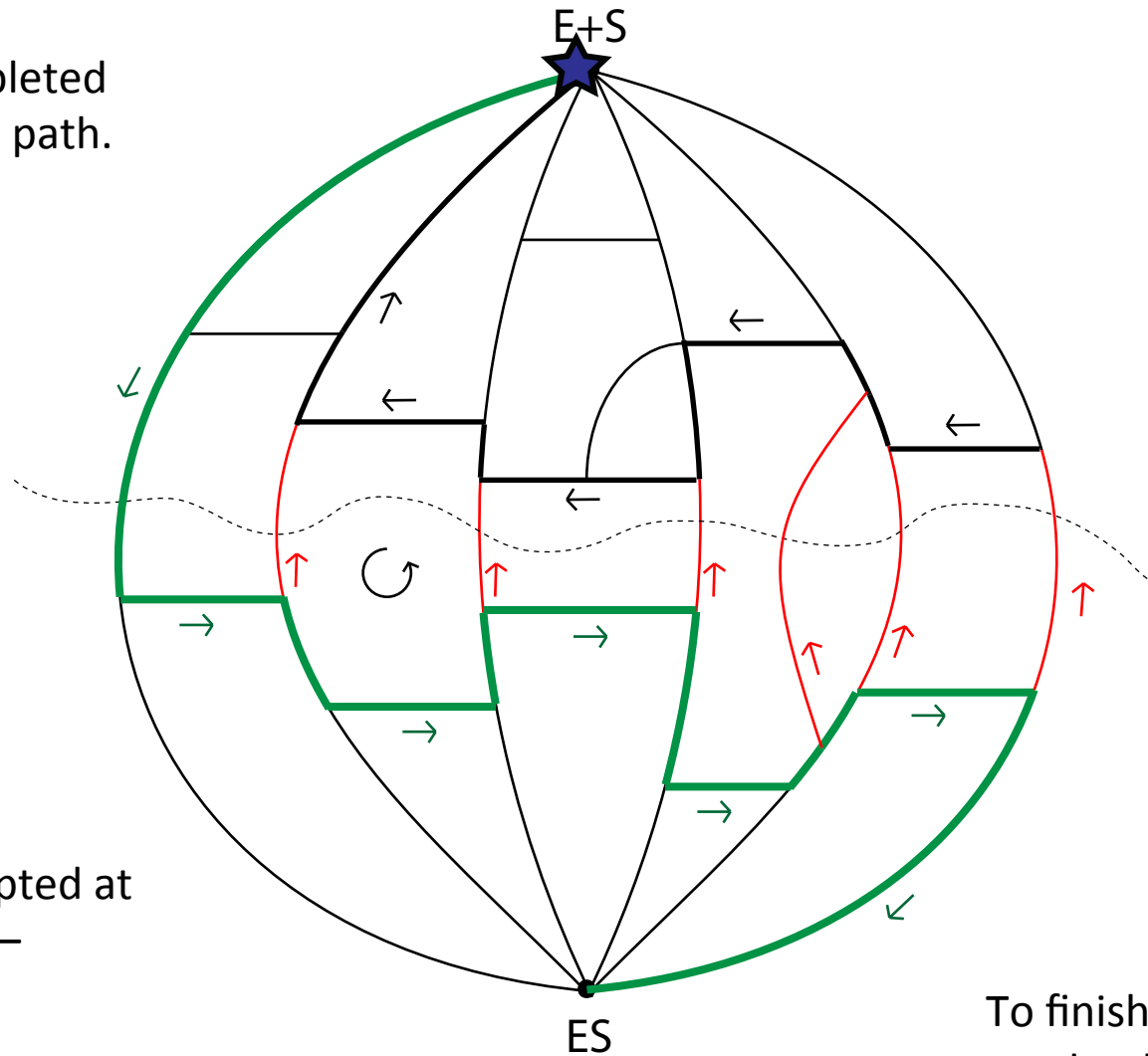


Can  $n$  parallel paths, each with a failure rate

$$\eta \sim e^{-\Delta} \text{ be combined to give } \eta \sim e^{-n\Delta}$$

# Error correcting kinetic limit

Reaction is completed only along **green** path.

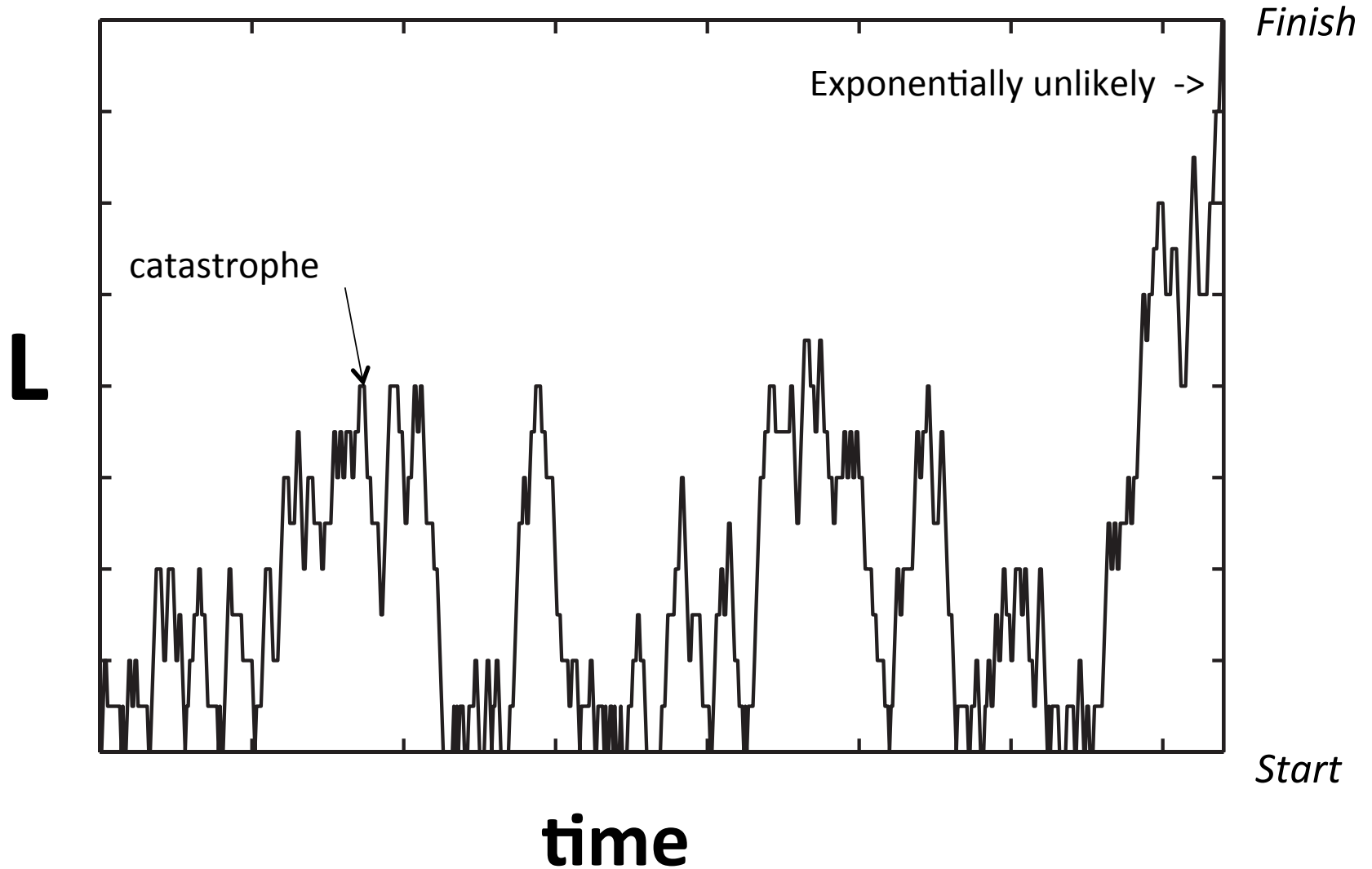


Reaction interrupted at **red** checkpoints – ‘catastrophe’

To finish:  
must get past *all* **red**  
checkpoints.  
Exponentially unlikely.

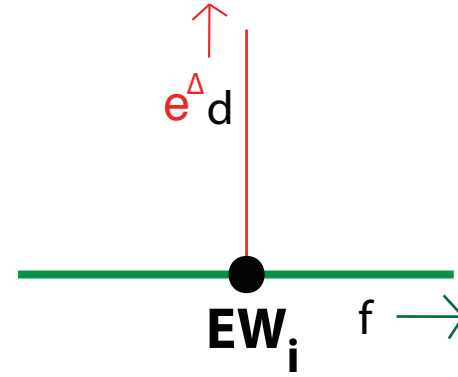
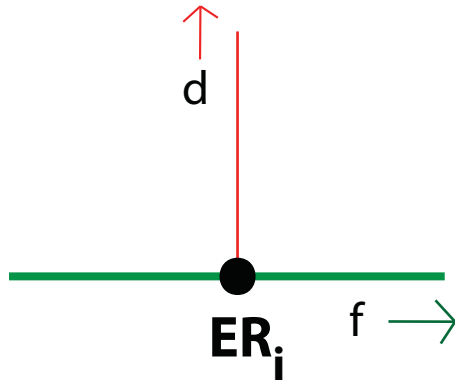
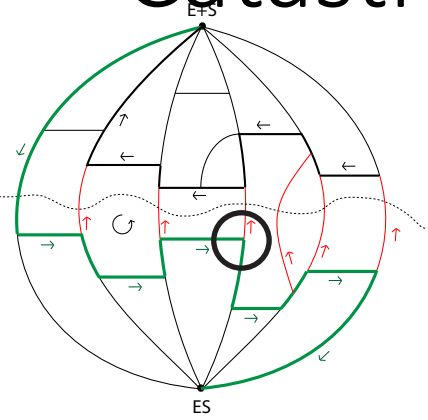


# Reaction coordinate & progress





# Catastrophes at checkpoints



Forward

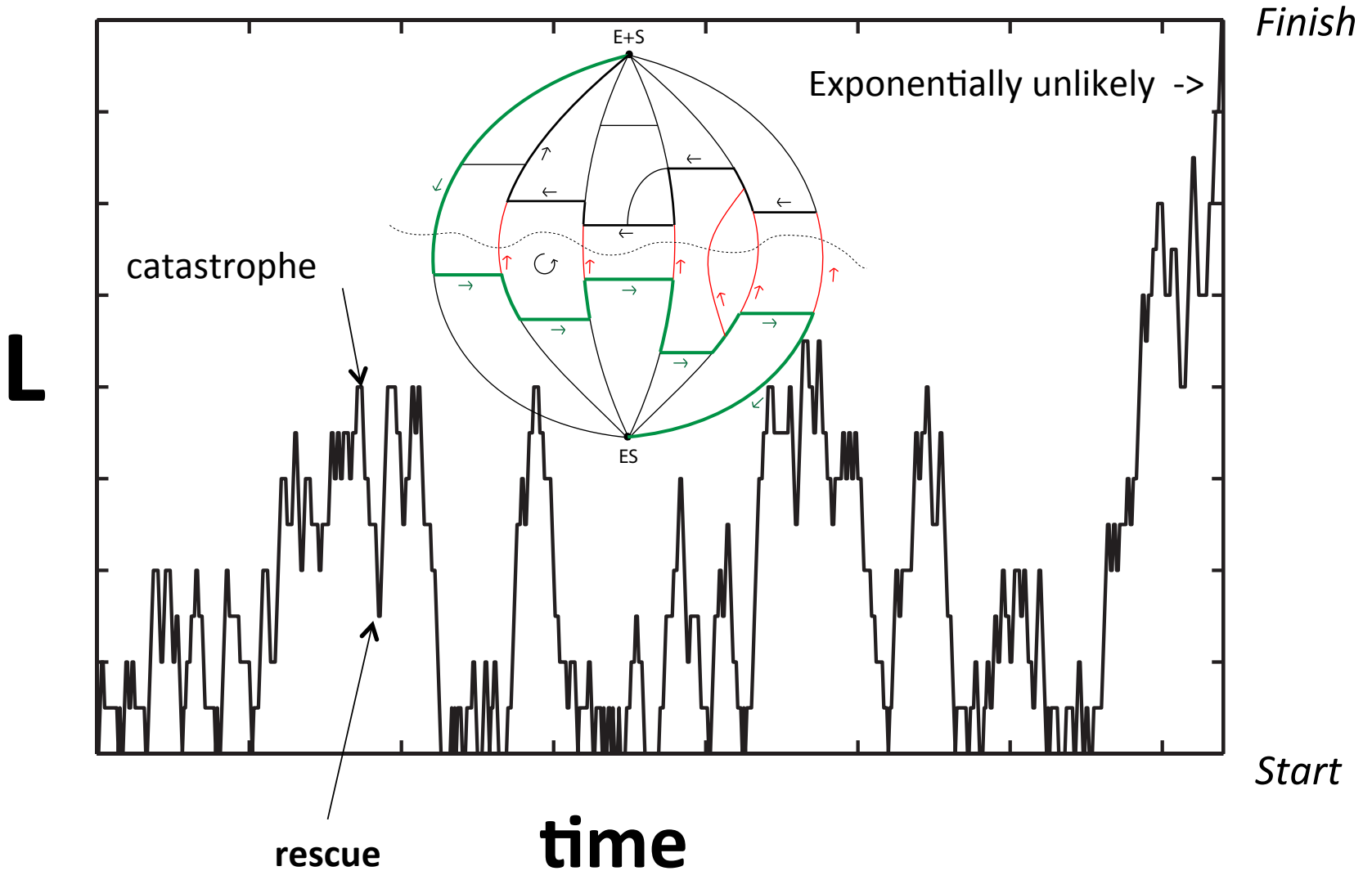
$$p_{forw.}^R = \frac{f}{d + f} > p_{forw.}^W = \frac{f}{e^{\Delta} d + f}$$

Need  $f \ll d, e^{\Delta} d$

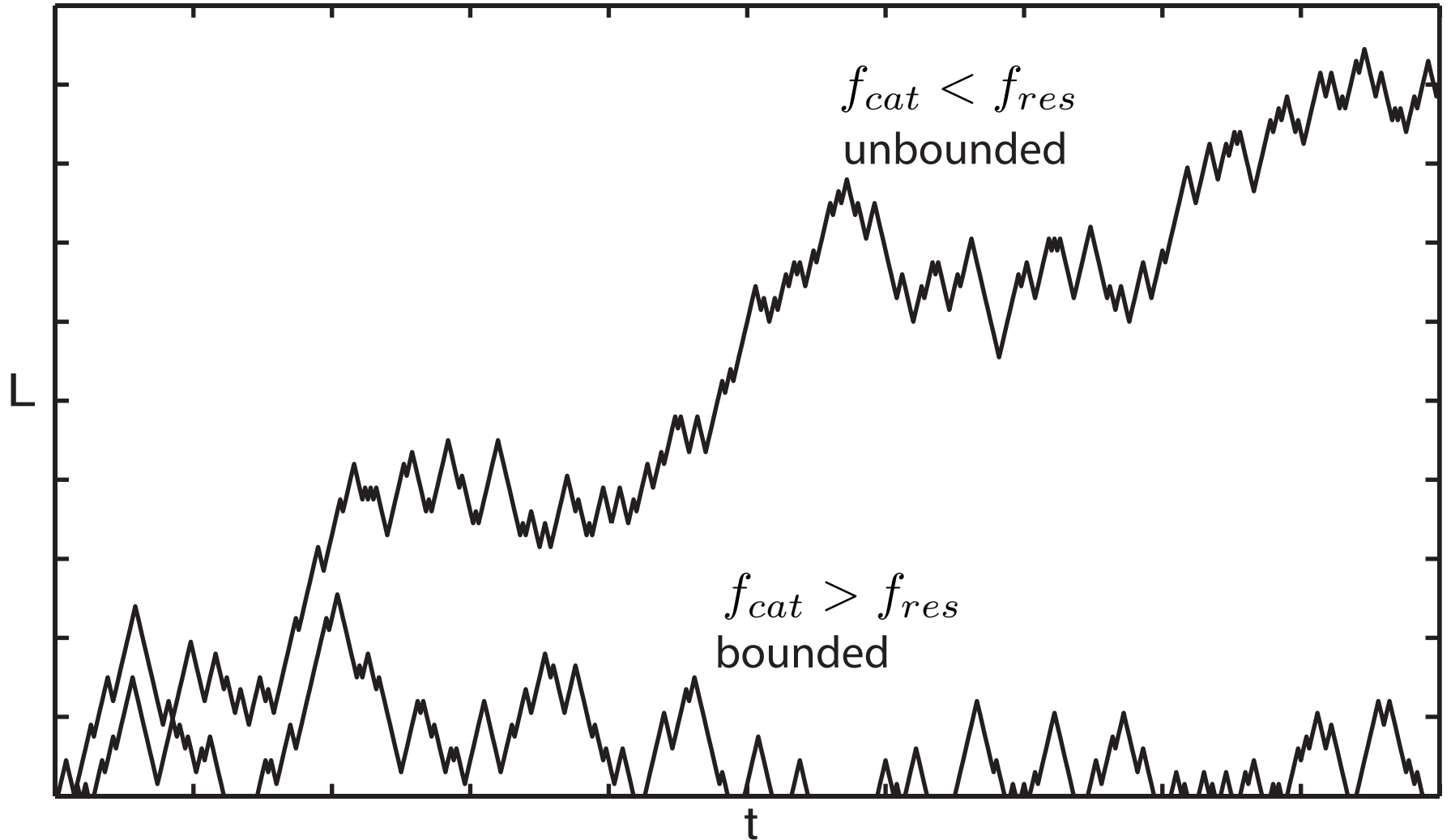
$$\eta \sim \left( \frac{p_{forw.}^W}{p_{forw.}^R} \right)^n \rightarrow e^{-n\Delta}$$

**Low error rate but very slow completion rate**

# Catastrophes and rescues



# Catastrophes and rescues

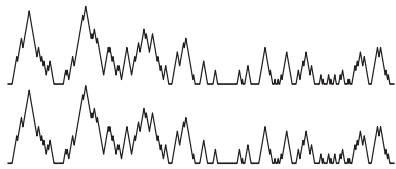


# Reaction coordinate & progress

$$p_{res.} \ll p_{cat.}^R < p_{cat.}^W$$

$$p_{cat.}^R < p_{res.} < p_{cat.}^W$$

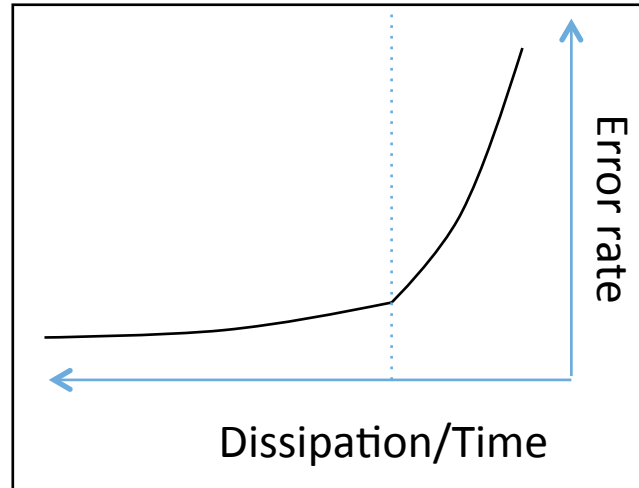
$$p_{cat.}^R < p_{cat.}^W < p_{res.}$$



$$\eta \sim e^{-n\Delta},$$

$$T \sim \Lambda^n$$

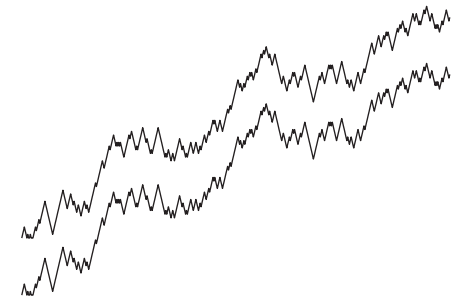
Lowest error,  
Highest time



$$\eta \sim e^{-n\Delta'},$$

$$T \sim n\kappa$$

Low error,  
Low time

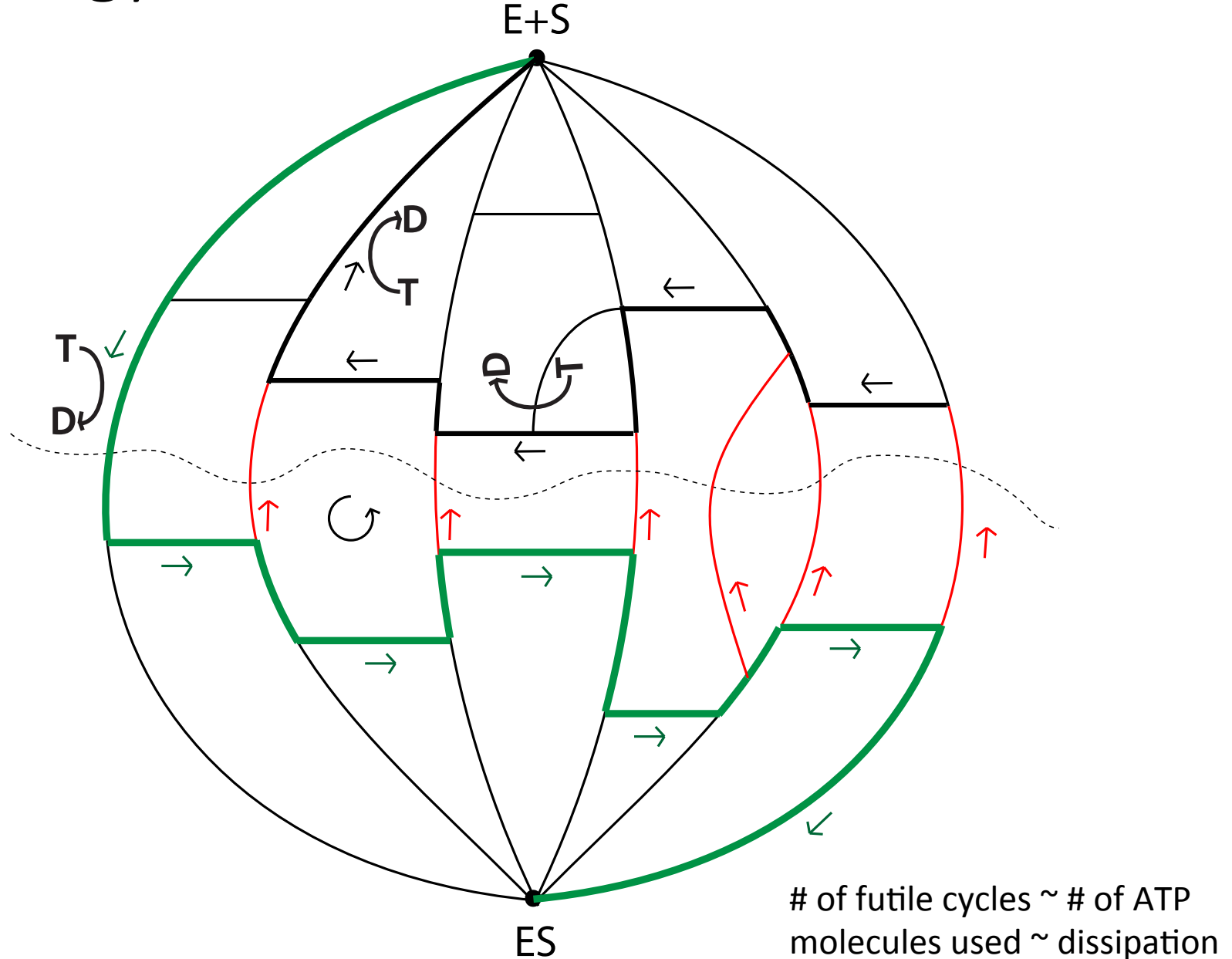


$$\eta \sim e^{-\Delta},$$

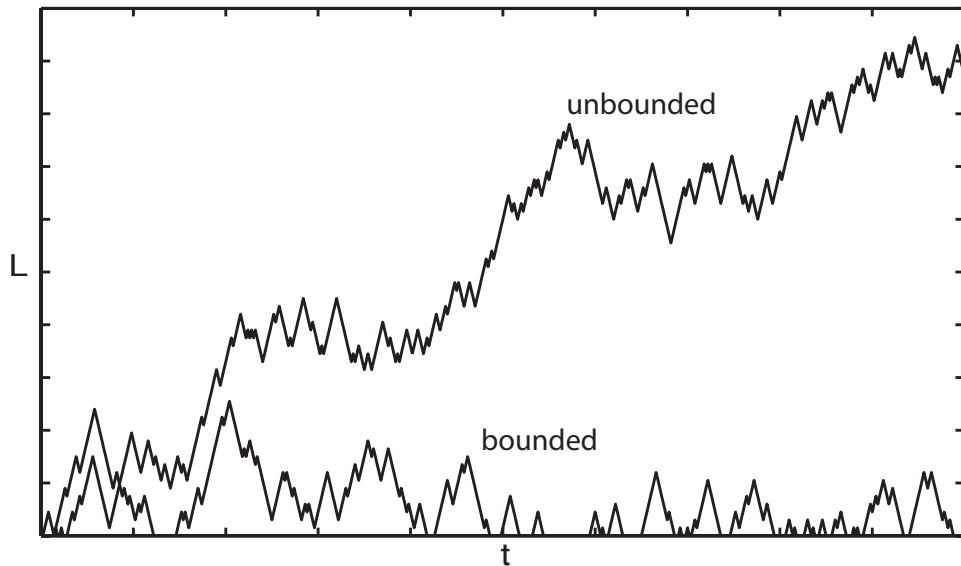
$$T \sim n\gamma$$

High error,  
Low time

# Energy vs Error Rate tradeoff

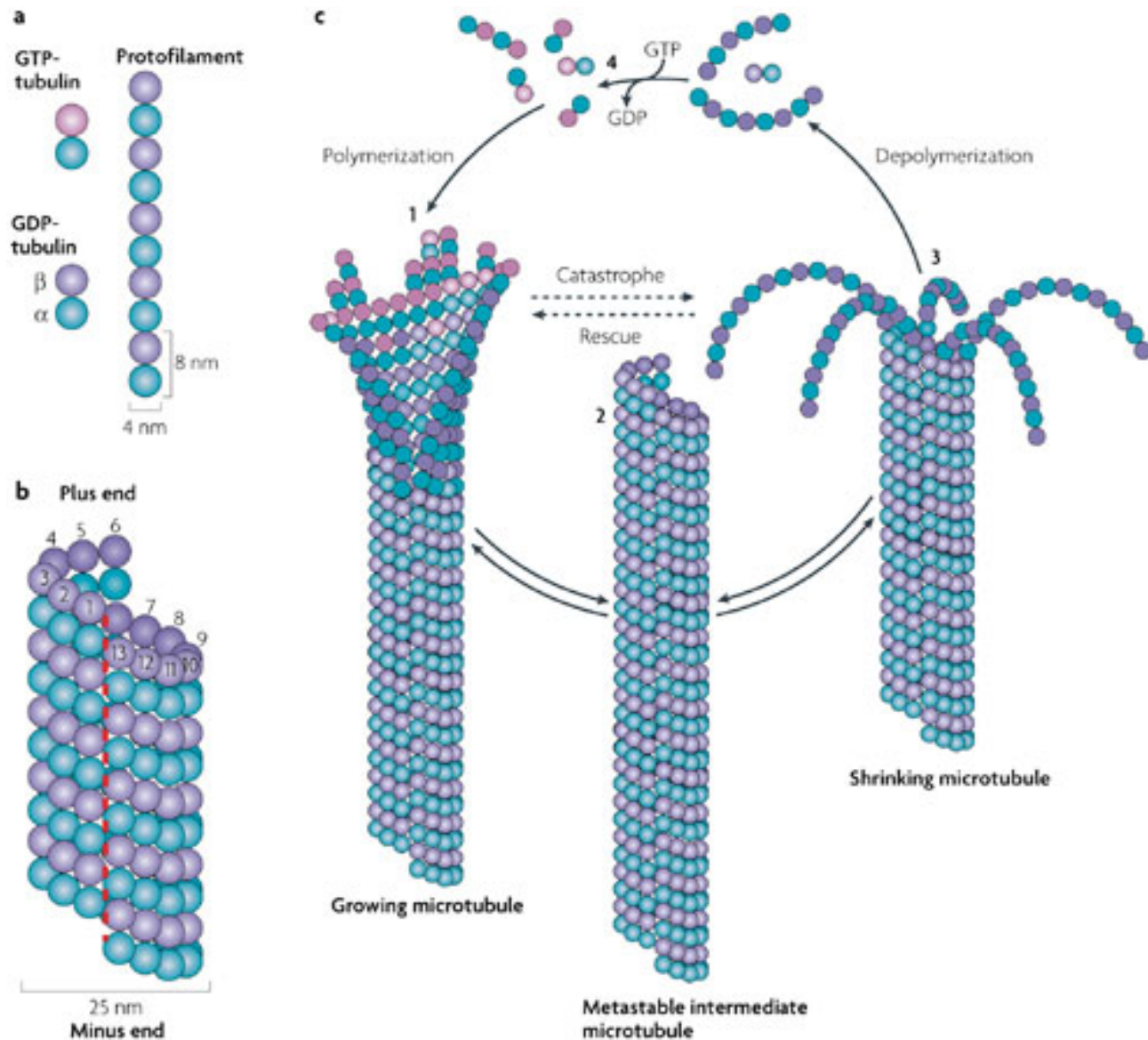


# Dynamic instability of microtubules

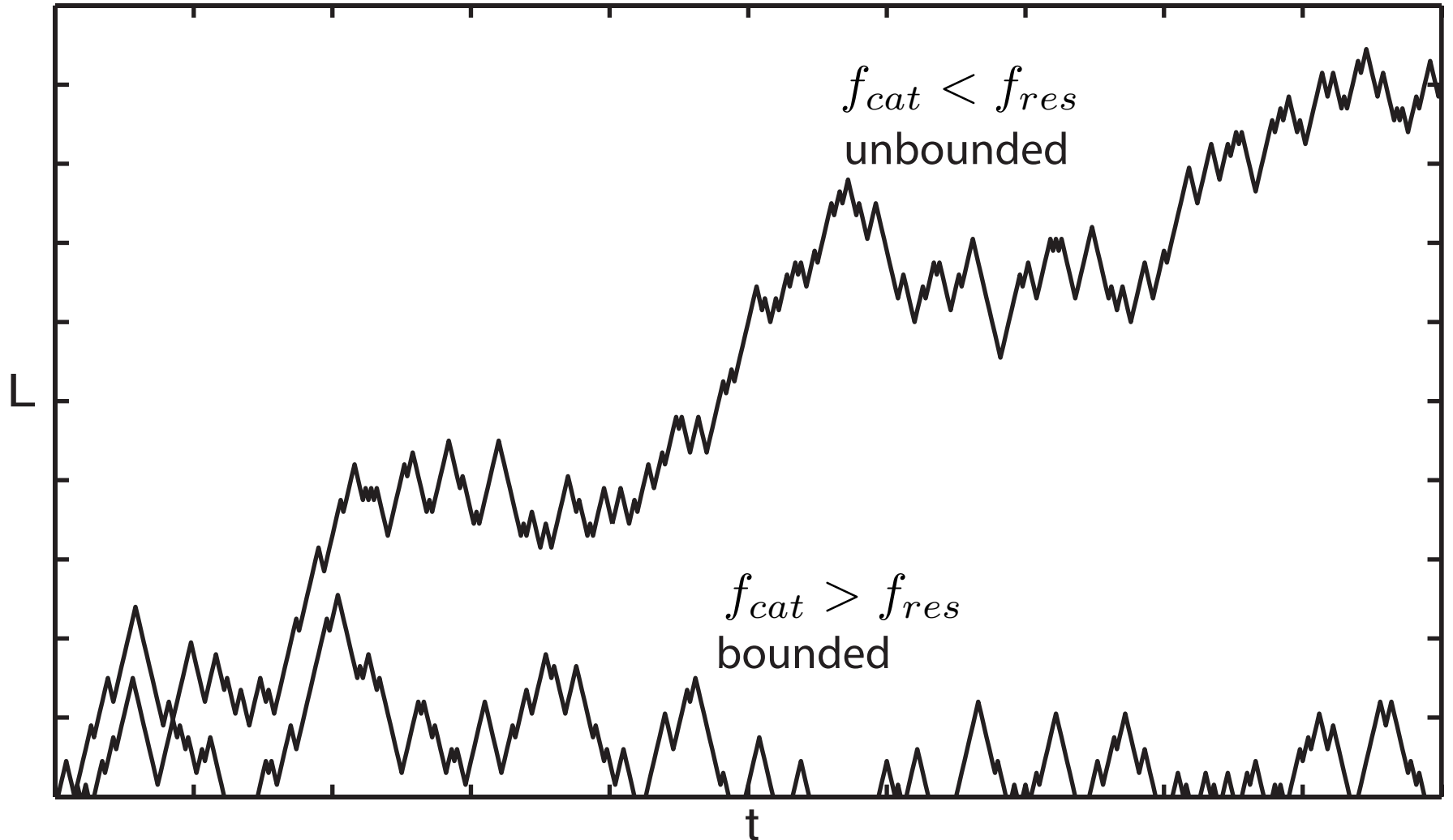


Tim Mitchison (HMS)

# Non-equilibrium growth of microtubules

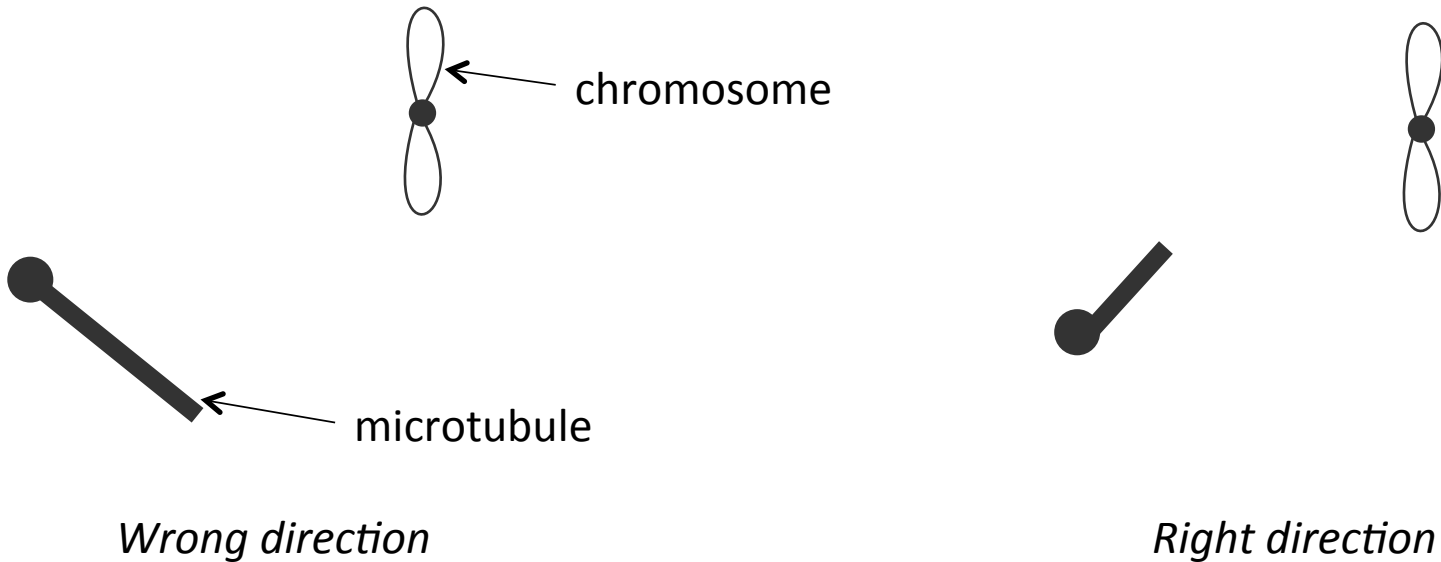


# Microtubule growth regimes

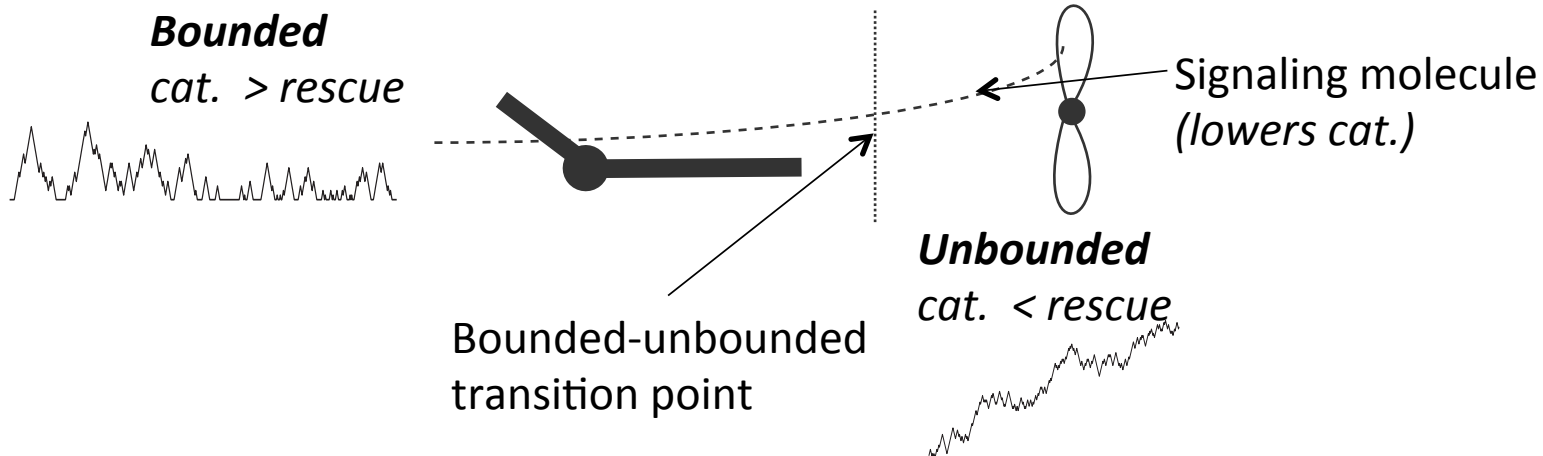




# Microtubule growth as a search strategy



*Proposal: Set  $\langle \text{catastrophe rate} \rangle \sim \langle \text{rescue rate} \rangle$*



# Microtubules and foraging

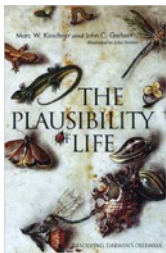
Foraging ants



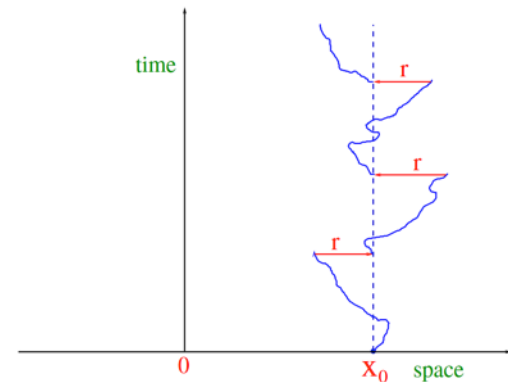
Microtubules



When should you return home and try again?



Kirschner/Gerhart



## Diffusion with Stochastic Resetting

Martin R. Evans<sup>1,2</sup> and Satya N. Majumdar<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Physics and Astronomy, University of Edinburgh, Mayfield Road, Edinburgh EH8 9JX, UK

<sup>2</sup>Univ. Paris-Sud, CNRS, LPTMS, UMR 8626, Orsay F-01405, France

(Received 14 February 2011; published 18 April 2011)

# Algorithms that get stuck

Algorithmica (1996) 16: 543–547

---

Algorithmica

© 1996 Springer-Verlag New York Inc.

---

## A Method for Obtaining Randomized Algorithms with Small Tail Probabilities

H. Alt,<sup>1</sup> L. Guibas,<sup>2</sup> K. Mehlhorn,<sup>3</sup> R. Karp,<sup>4</sup> and A. Wigderson<sup>5</sup>

**Abstract.** We study strategies for converting randomized algorithms of the Las Vegas type into randomized algorithms with small tail probabilities.

Information Processing Letters 47 (1993) 173–180  
Elsevier

27 September 1993

## Optimal speedup of Las Vegas algorithms \*

Michael Luby \*\*

*International Computer Science Institute, 1947 Center Street, Berkeley, CA 94704, USA and University of California, Berkeley CA, USA*

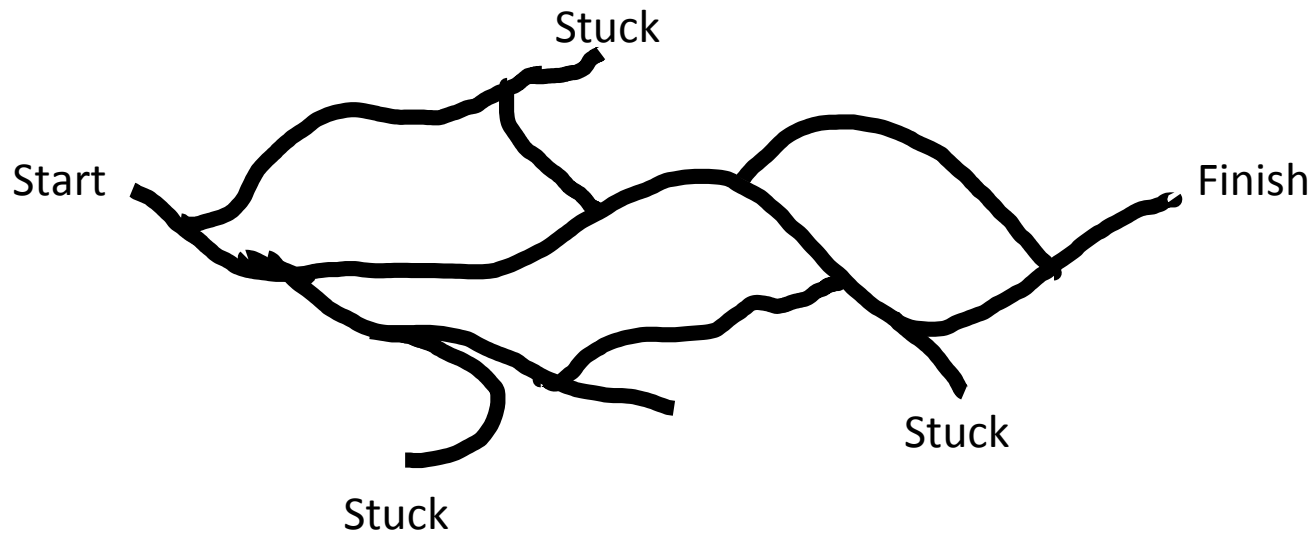
Alistair Sinclair †

*International Computer Science Institute, 1947 Center Street, Berkeley, CA 94704, USA and University of Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom*

David Zuckerman ††

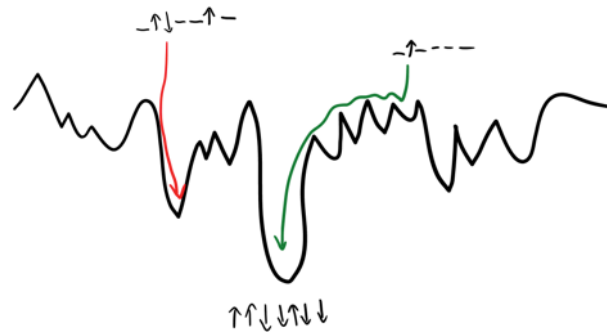
*MIT Laboratory for Computer Science, 545 Technology Square, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA*

# Algorithms that get stuck

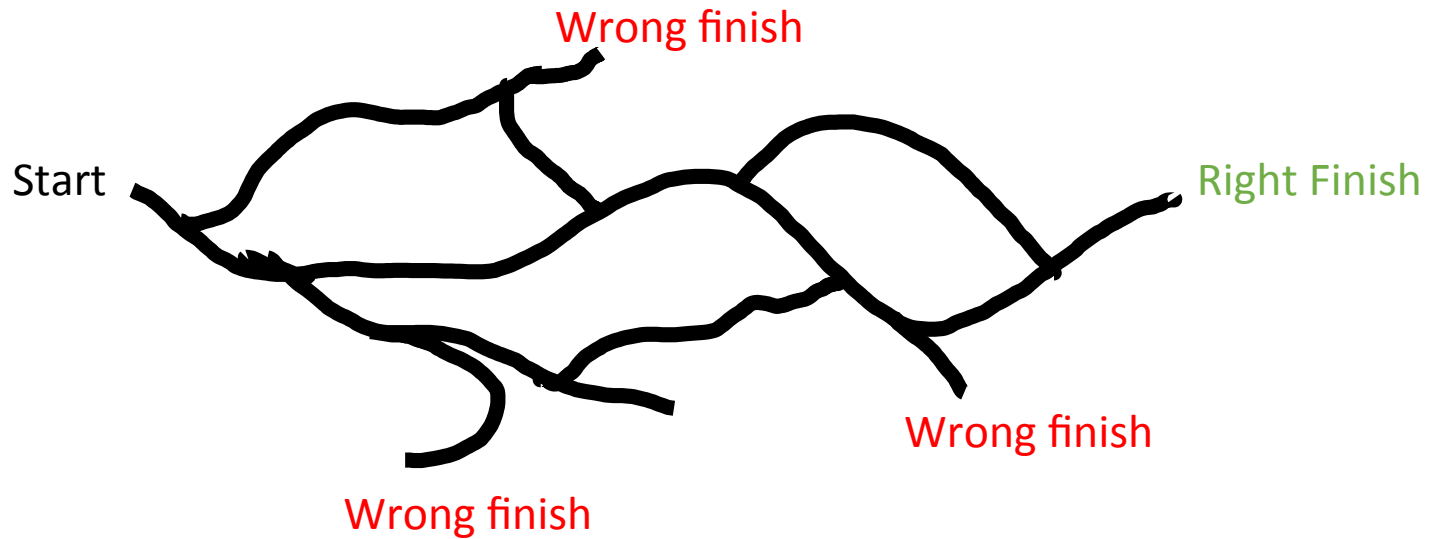


Restarts cut tail of first passage time distribution

Example:  
Simulated annealing  
on a glassy landscape

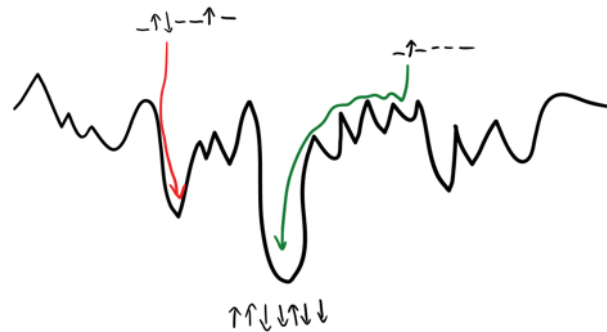


# Duality: Errors vs (first passage) Time



Restarts cut tail of first passage time distribution

Example:  
Simulated annealing  
on a glassy landscape

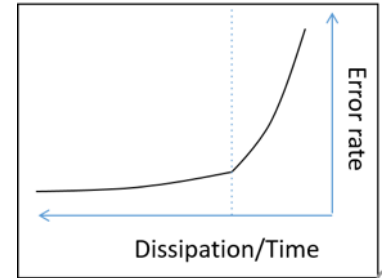


# Summary

Proofreading = Dynamic instability in chemical space  
(*catastrophes and rescues*)



Happy medium in error-energy tradeoff



Happy medium in returns home (search, stochastic algorithms..)

