

Optimal search: micro & macro scales

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— MPIPKS, Dresden, 9th September 2015 —



Lévy foraging: on the watchout for sparse targets



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

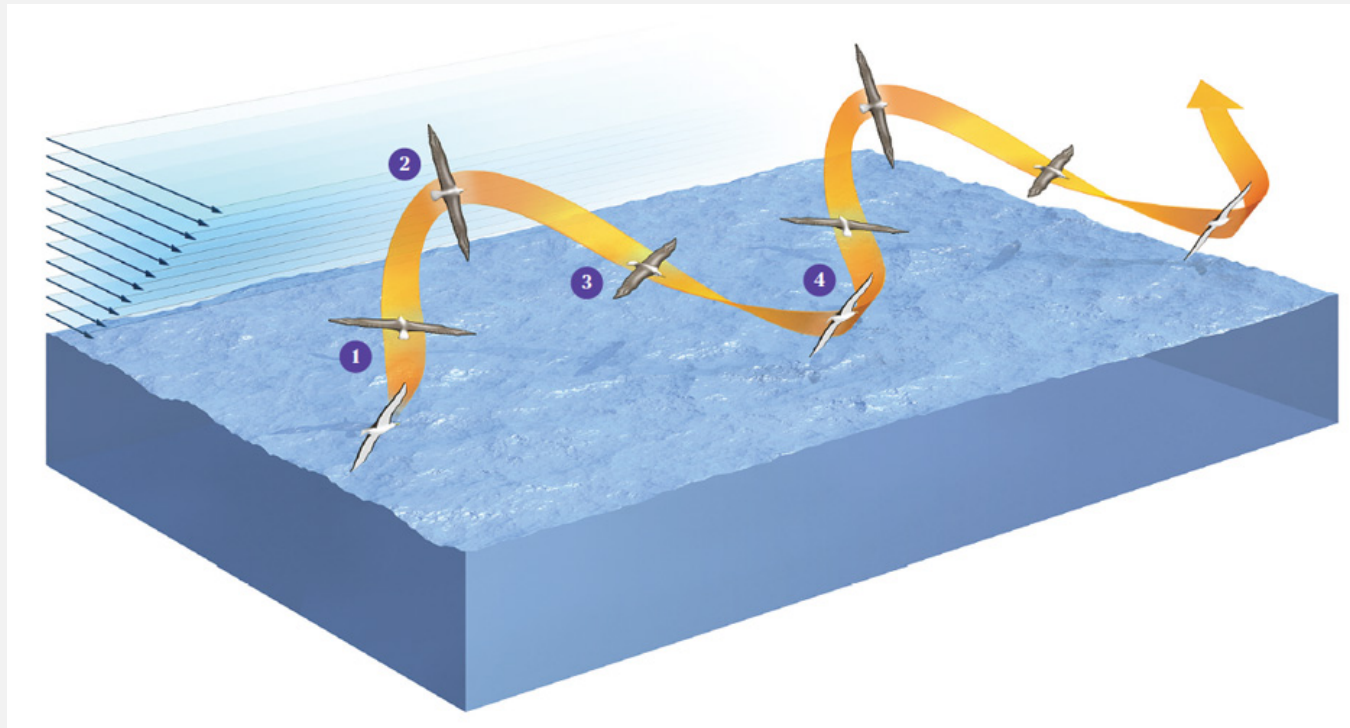
$$\lambda(x) \simeq |x|^{-1-\alpha}, \quad 0 < \alpha < 2 \quad \leadsto \quad \langle x^2(t) \rangle \rightarrow \infty$$

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

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



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

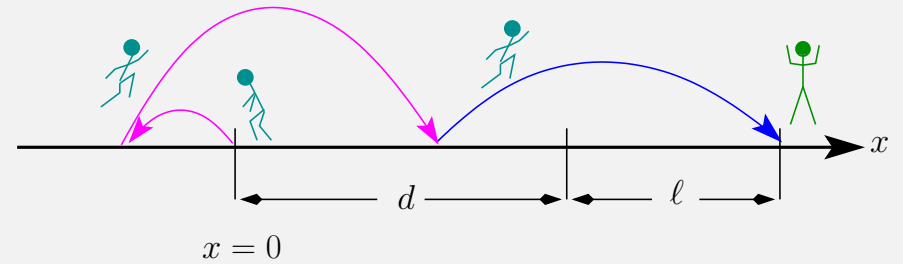
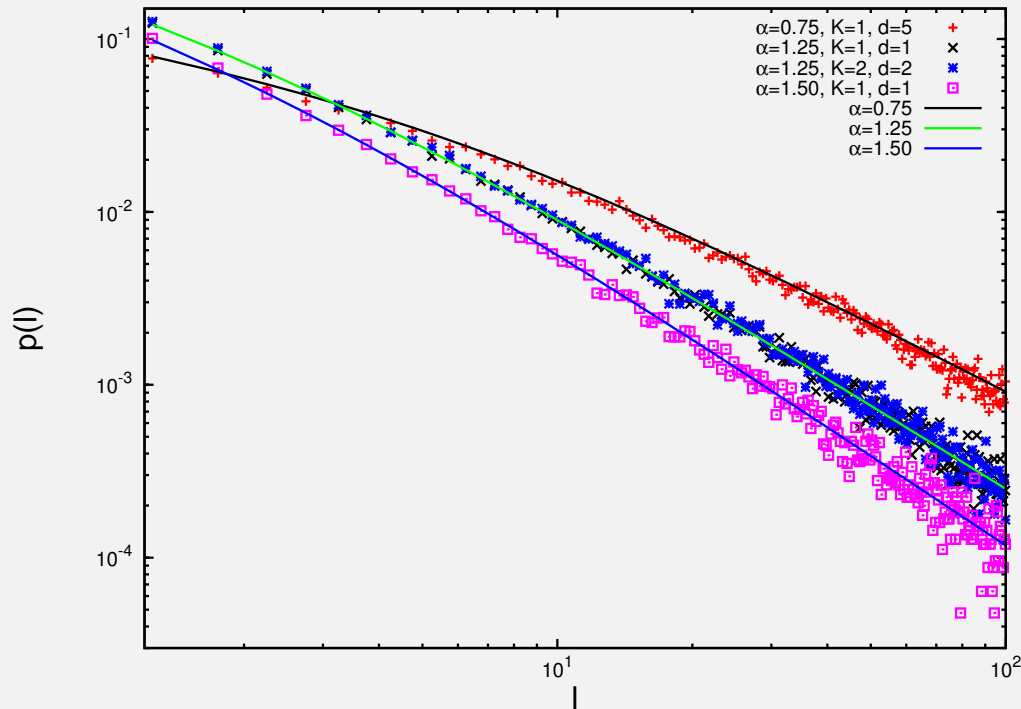
Viswanathan et al, Nature (1996, 1999): Lévy flight of albatross

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

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



Overshooting the target: leapovers



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

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

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

Intermittent Lévy search process

Regularly spaced targets with density $1/L$ & periodic boundary conditions:

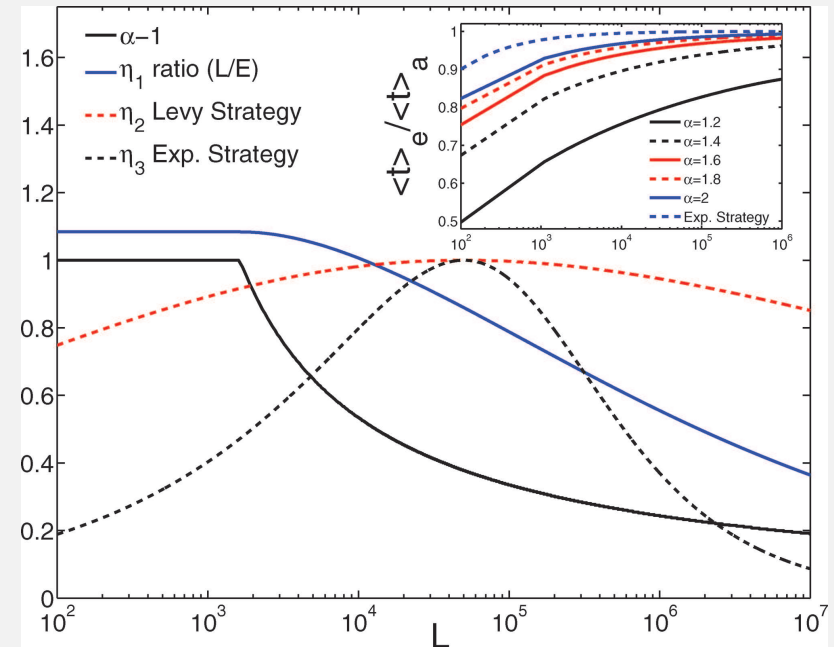
$$\frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{\tau_1} \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} dx' \int_0^\infty dt' W(x-x', t-t') P(x', t') - \frac{1}{\tau_1} P(x, t) + D \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} - \wp_{fa} \delta(x)$$

Transport kernel:

$$W(x, t) = \frac{\psi(t)}{2} \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(|x + nL| - vt)$$

$$\psi(t) = 2v\lambda(vt)$$

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



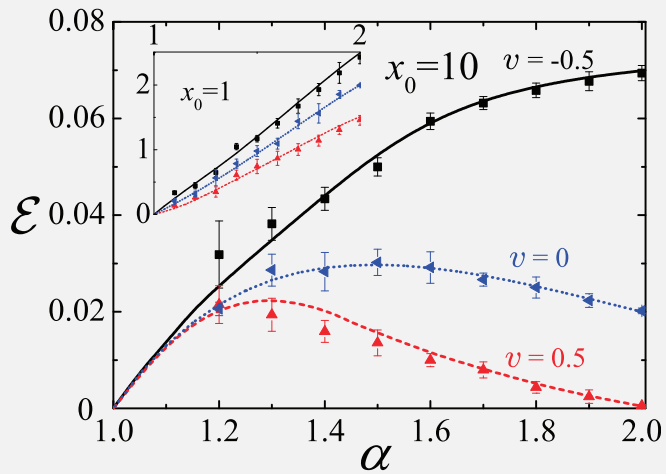
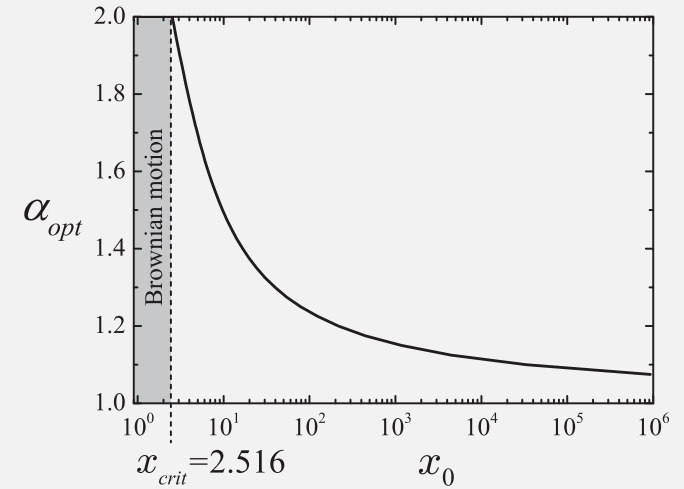
LFs stay close-to-optimal even for changing conditions \Rightarrow *Plasticity of Lévy processes*

Lévy flights do not always optimize random search

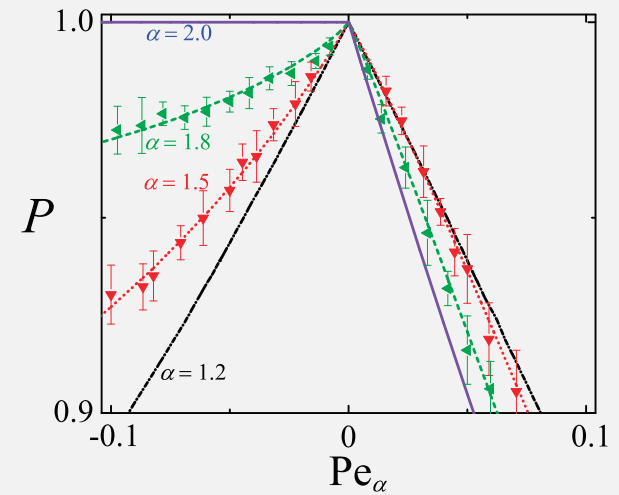
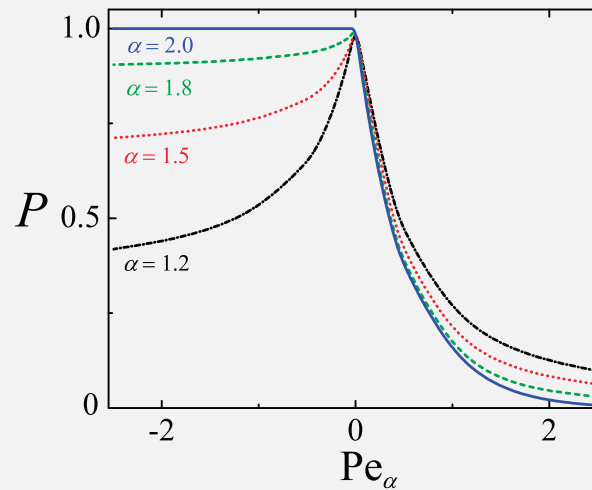
$$\frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^\alpha P(x, t)}{\partial |x|^\alpha} - v \frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial x} - \wp_{\text{fa}}(t) \delta(x), \quad 1 < \alpha < 2$$

Search efficiency

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



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



Ultraweak ergodicity breaking of Lévy walks

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

Time averaged MSD

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

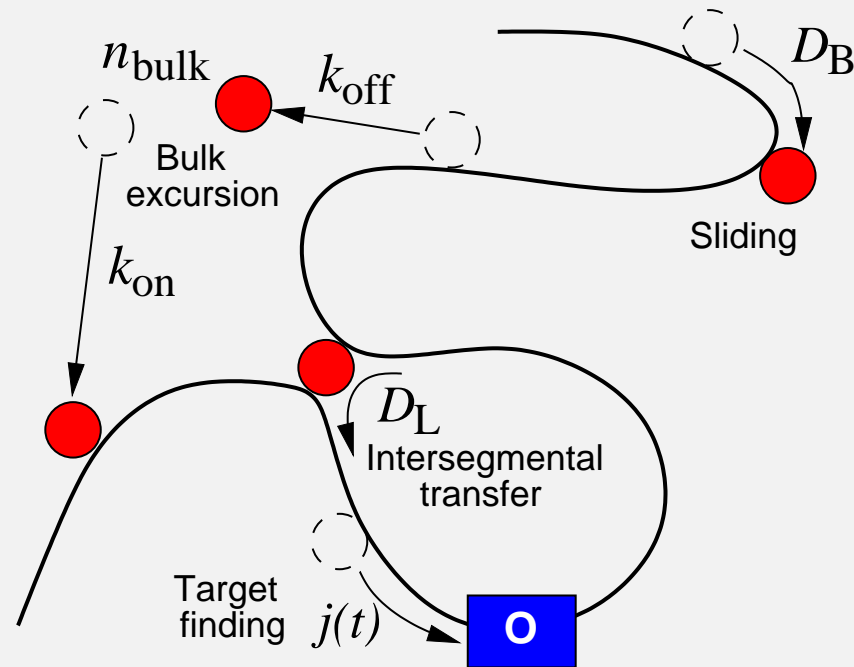
$$\overline{\delta^2(\Delta)} \sim 2 \left(\frac{(1 + \Delta)^{3-\alpha} - 1}{(3 - \alpha)(2 - \alpha)} - \frac{\Delta}{2 - \alpha} \right) + \left(\frac{\alpha - 1}{3} \left[\frac{\Delta}{T} \right]^3 - \alpha \left[\frac{\Delta}{T} \right]^2 \right) T^{3-\alpha}$$

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

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

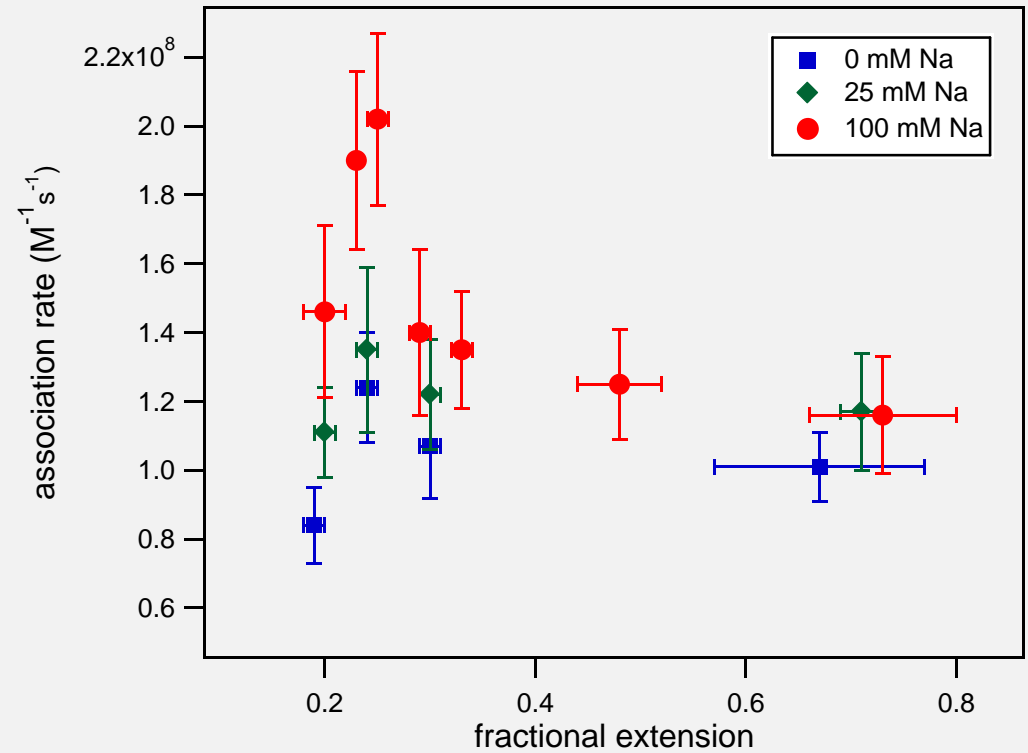
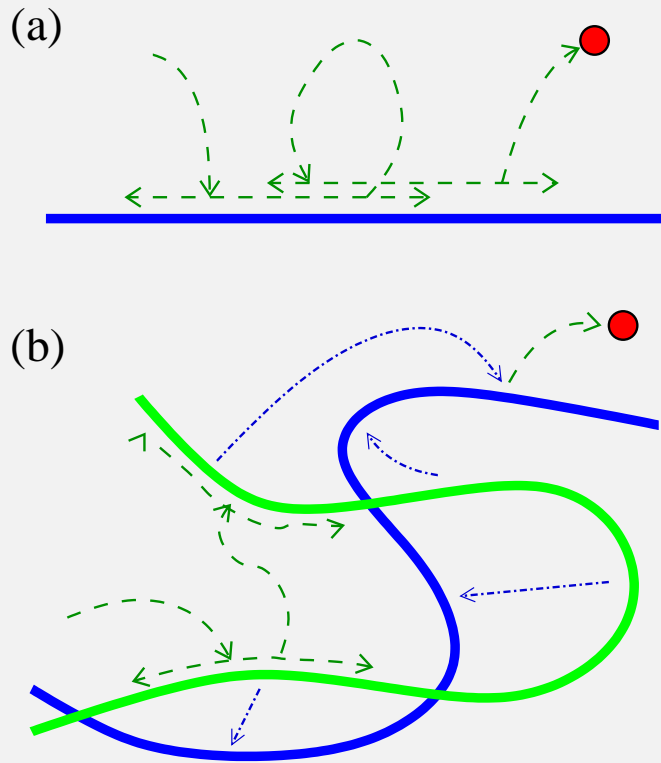
Optimal target search of proteins for binding site on DNA

Lévy flight comp /w $\lambda(x) \simeq |x|^{-1-\alpha} \therefore \alpha = 1.2$ (3D SAW) $\wedge \alpha = 0.5$ (3D RW)

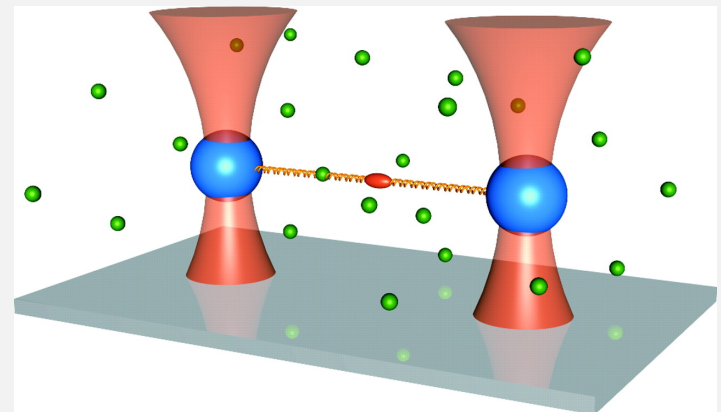


Lévy stable jump lengths at varying salt conditions: bulk not necessary

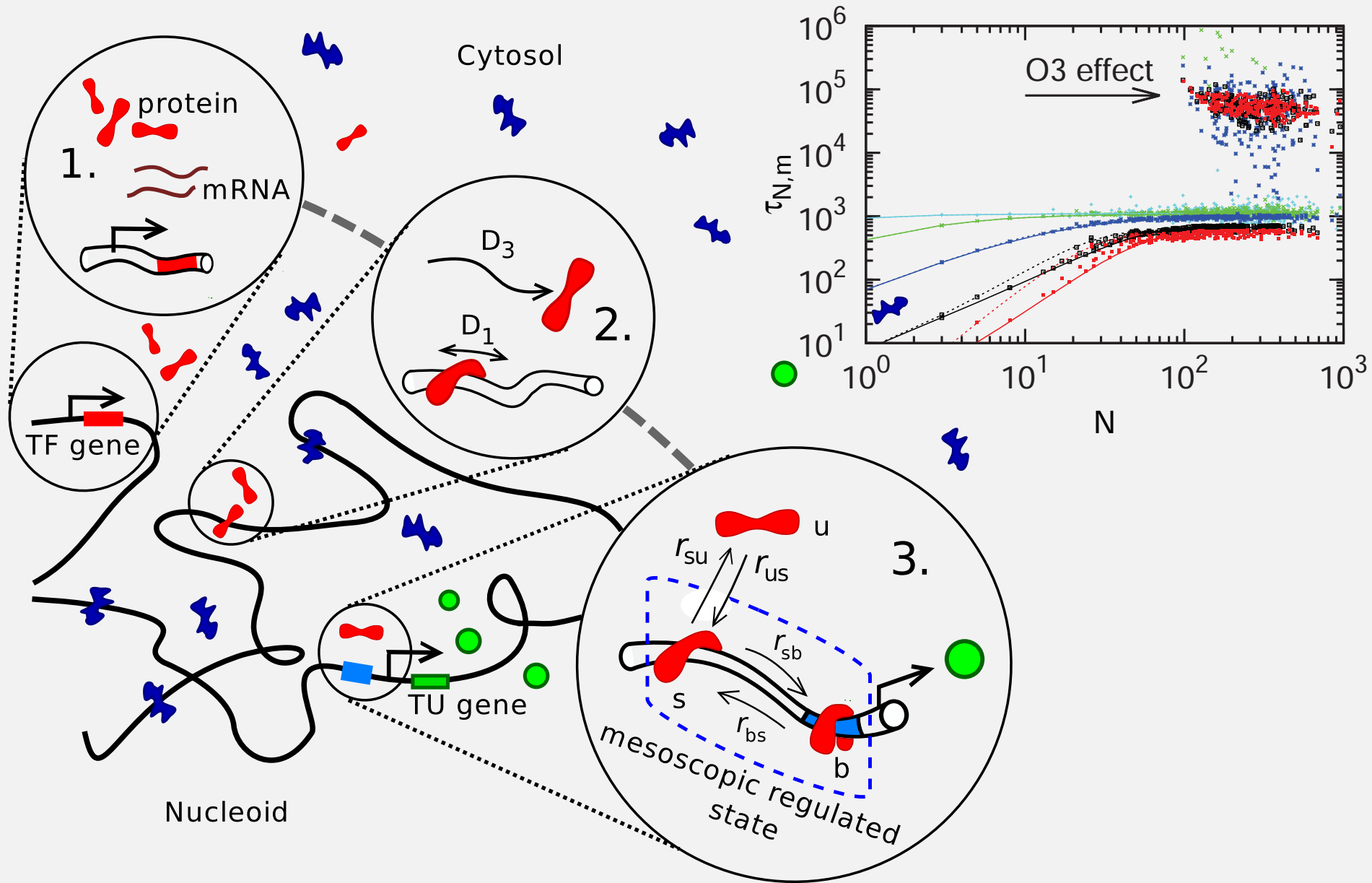
Probing how DNA conformation optimises search



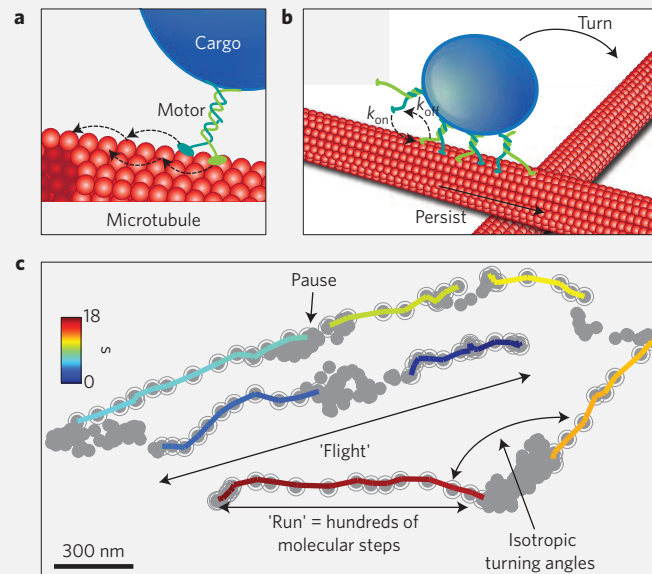
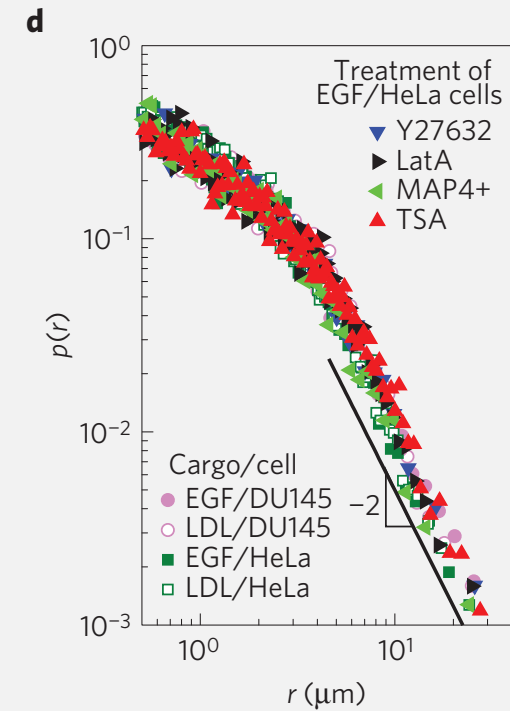
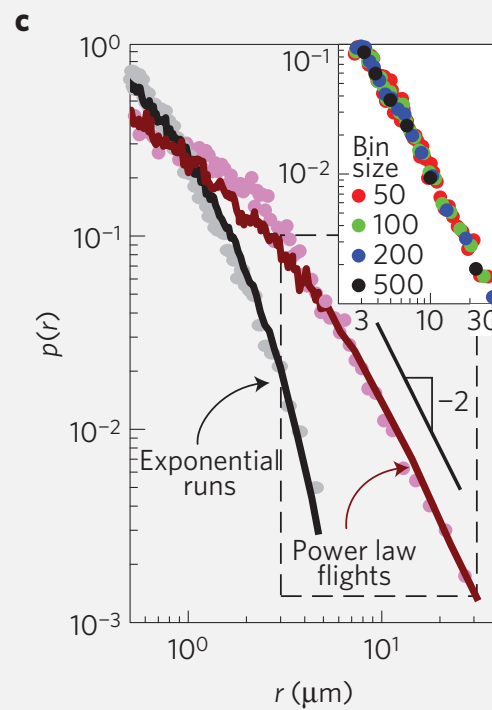
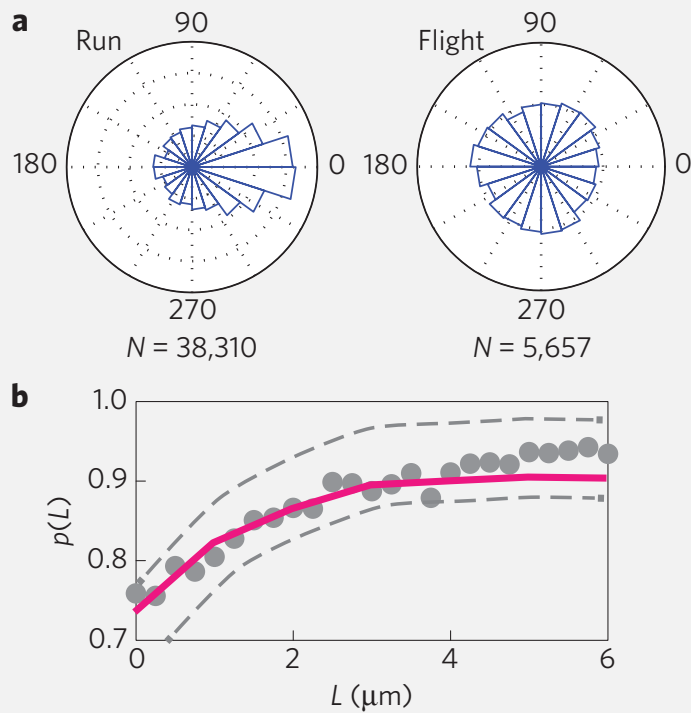
pCco5 plasmid DNA: $6538\text{bp} \approx 2.2\mu\text{m} \approx 45\ell_p$
 [comp λ DNA 48.5kbp]



Intra/intercellular signalling is diffusion controlled



Lévy walks of molecular motors in living cells

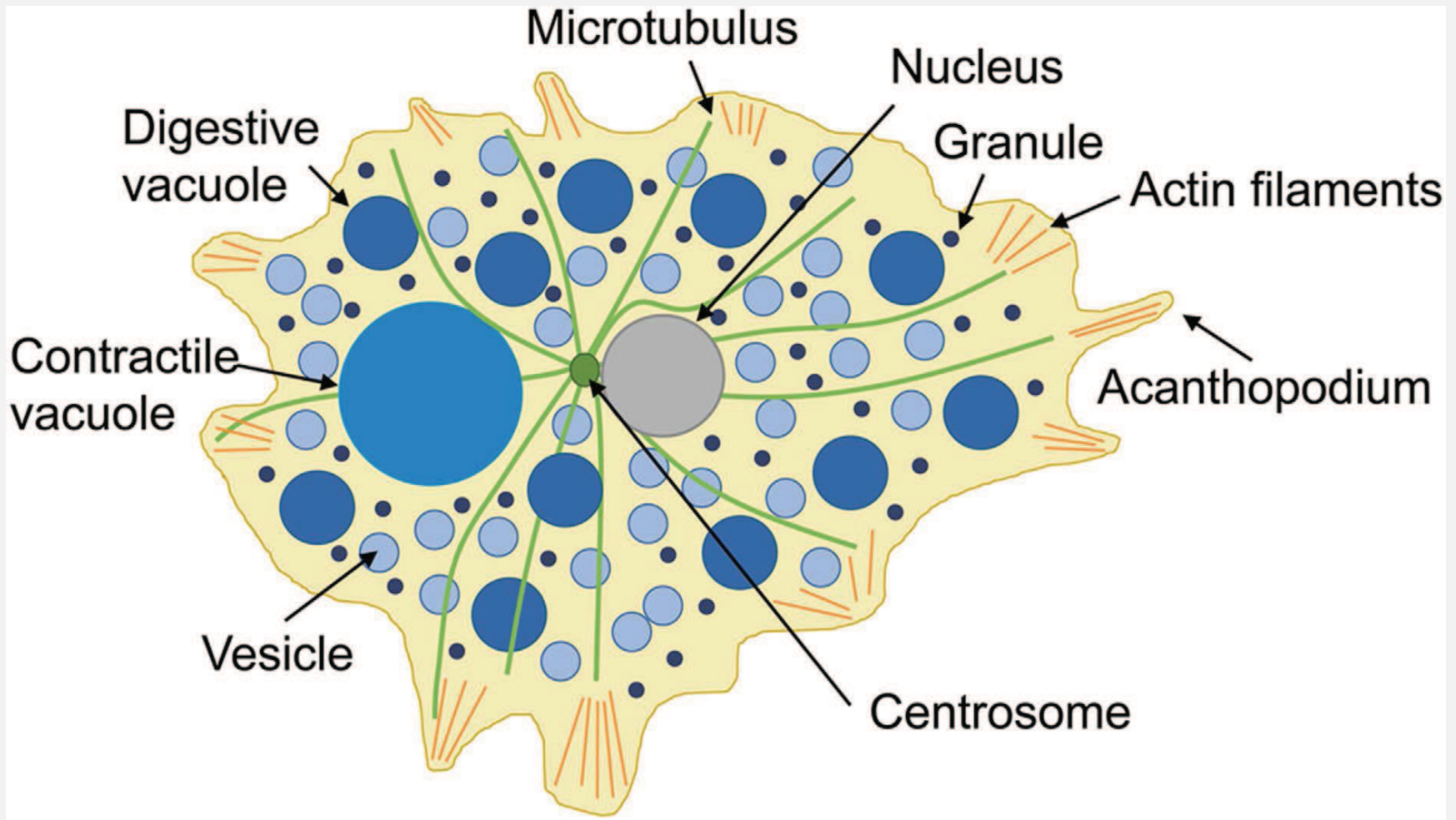


Run: motor motion on microtubule for $1/k_{\text{off}}$

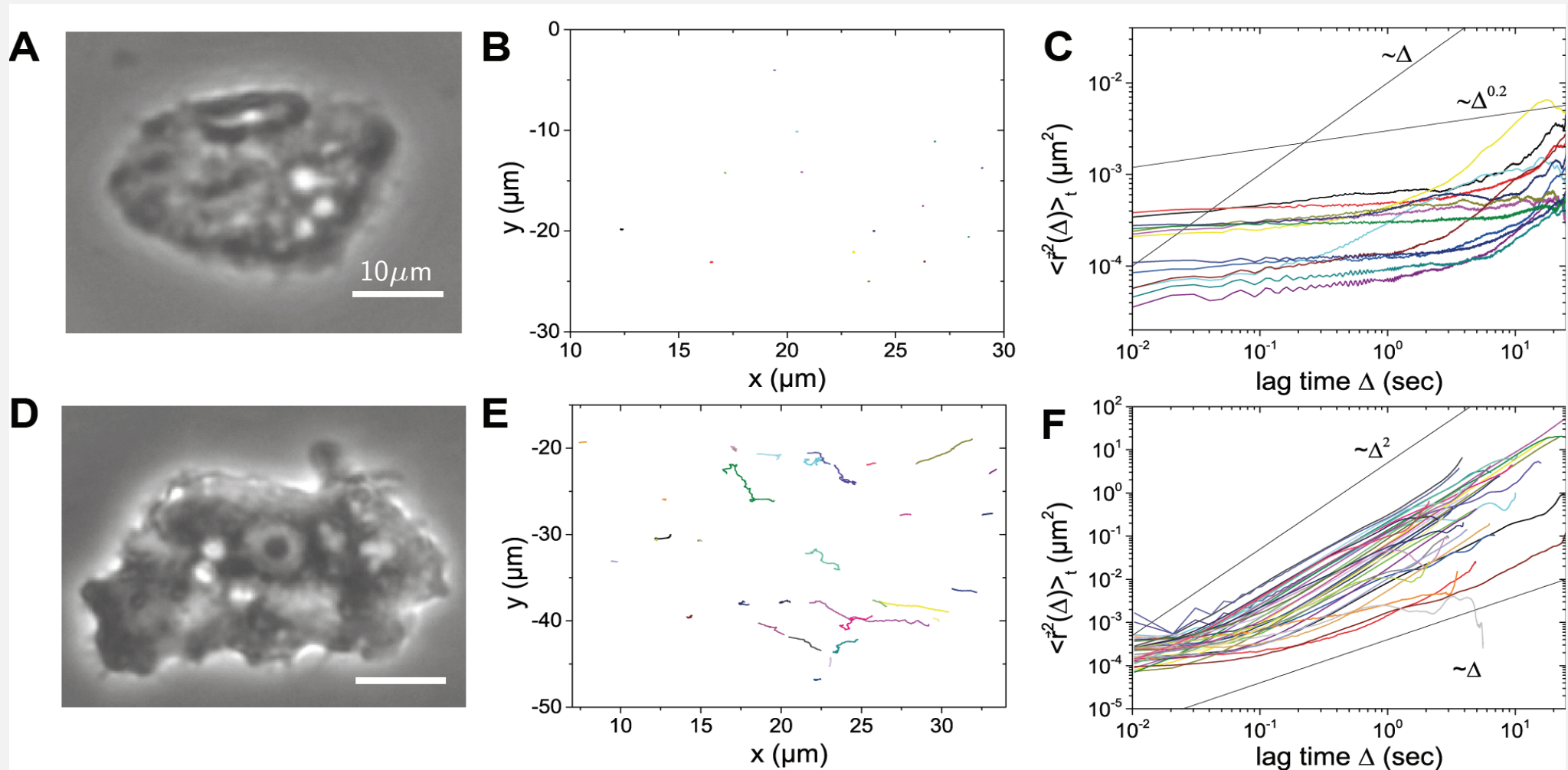
Flight: consecutive runs persisting in direction

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

Superdiffusion in supercrowded castellani: mixing

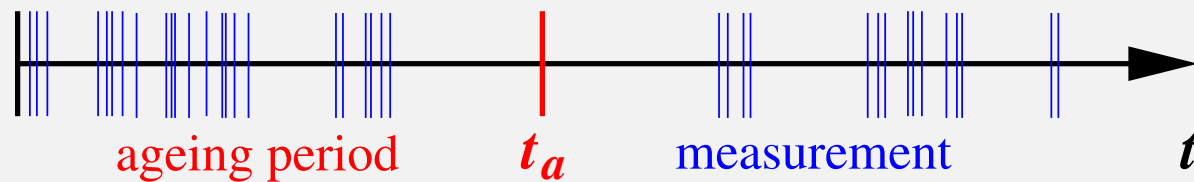


Superdiffusion in living *Acanthamoeba castellani*



Blebbistatin treated cells: A-C right after treatment; D-F 1 h after treatment

Ageing effects in single trajectory time averages: $\psi(\tau) \simeq \tau^{-1-\alpha}$

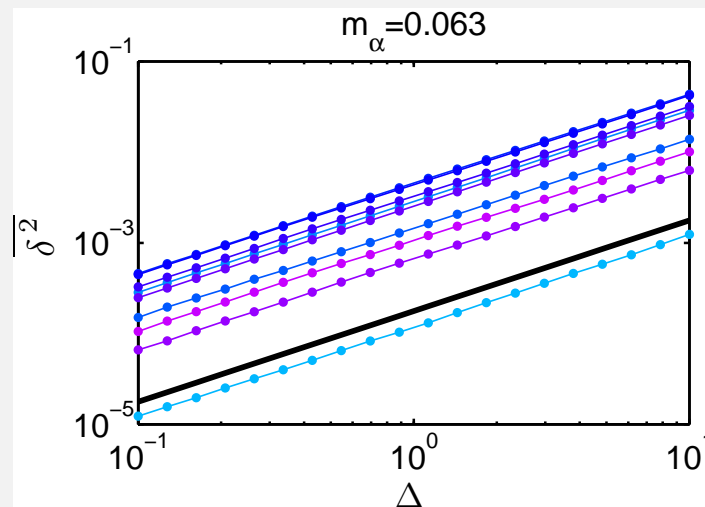
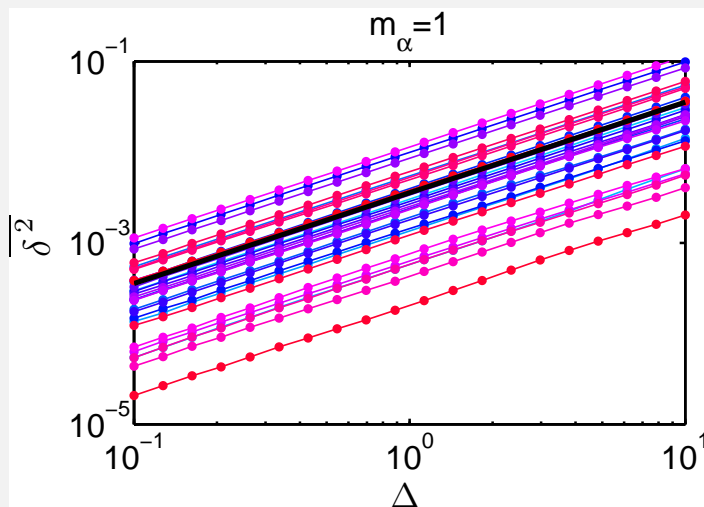


Ageing mean squared displacement ($\Lambda(z) = (1 + z)^\alpha - z^\alpha$)

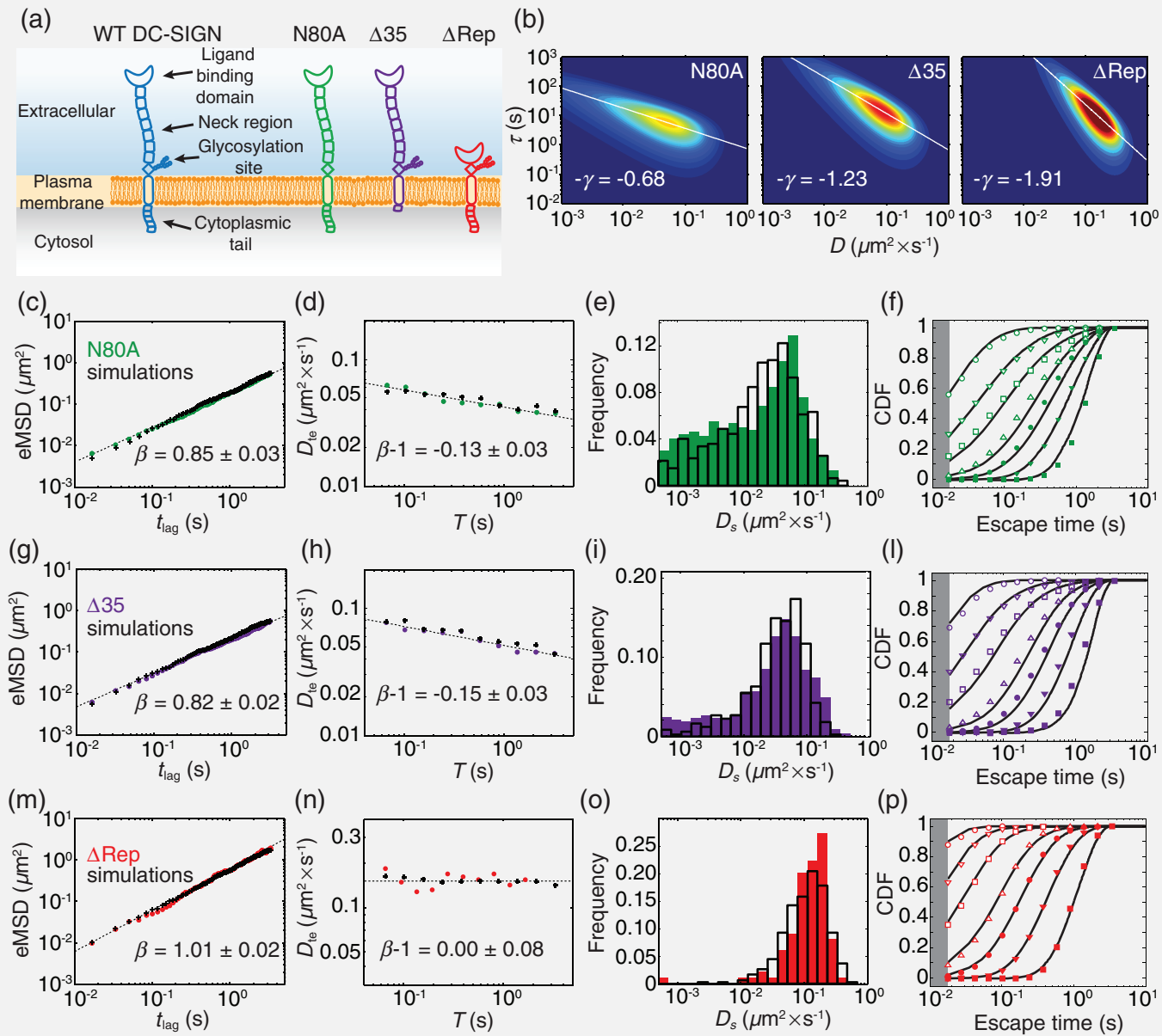
$$\langle \overline{\delta^2(\Delta)} \rangle_a = \frac{\Lambda_\alpha(t_a/T) g(\Delta)}{\Gamma(1 + \alpha) T^{1-\alpha}} \Leftrightarrow \langle x^2(t) \rangle_a \simeq \begin{cases} t^\alpha, & t_a \ll t \\ t_a^{\alpha-1} t, & t_a \gg t \end{cases}$$

Probability to make at least one step during $[t_a, t_a + T]$: *population splitting*

$$m_\alpha(T/t_a) \simeq (T/t_a)^{1-\alpha}, \quad T \ll t_a$$

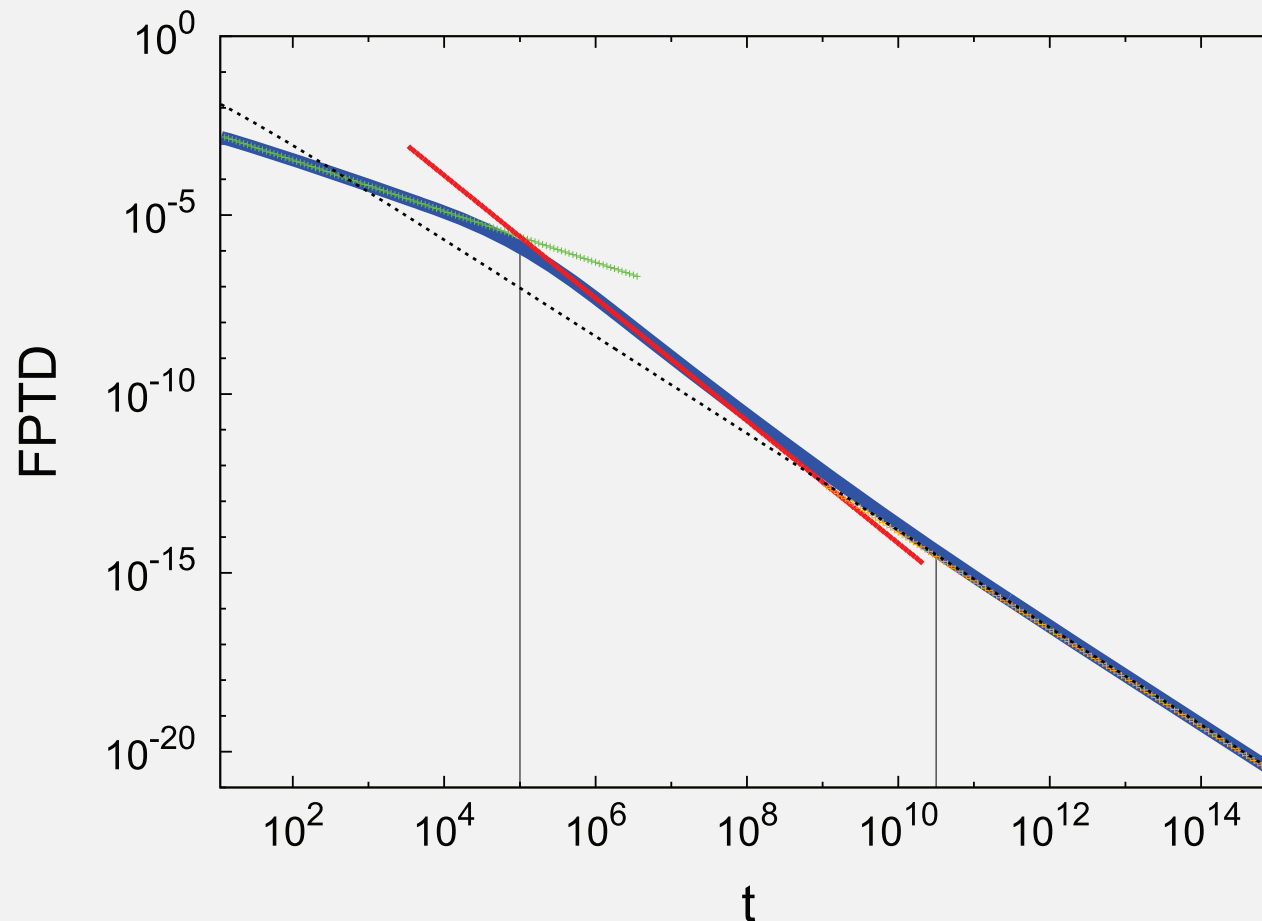


Ageing in the motion of membrane embedded proteins

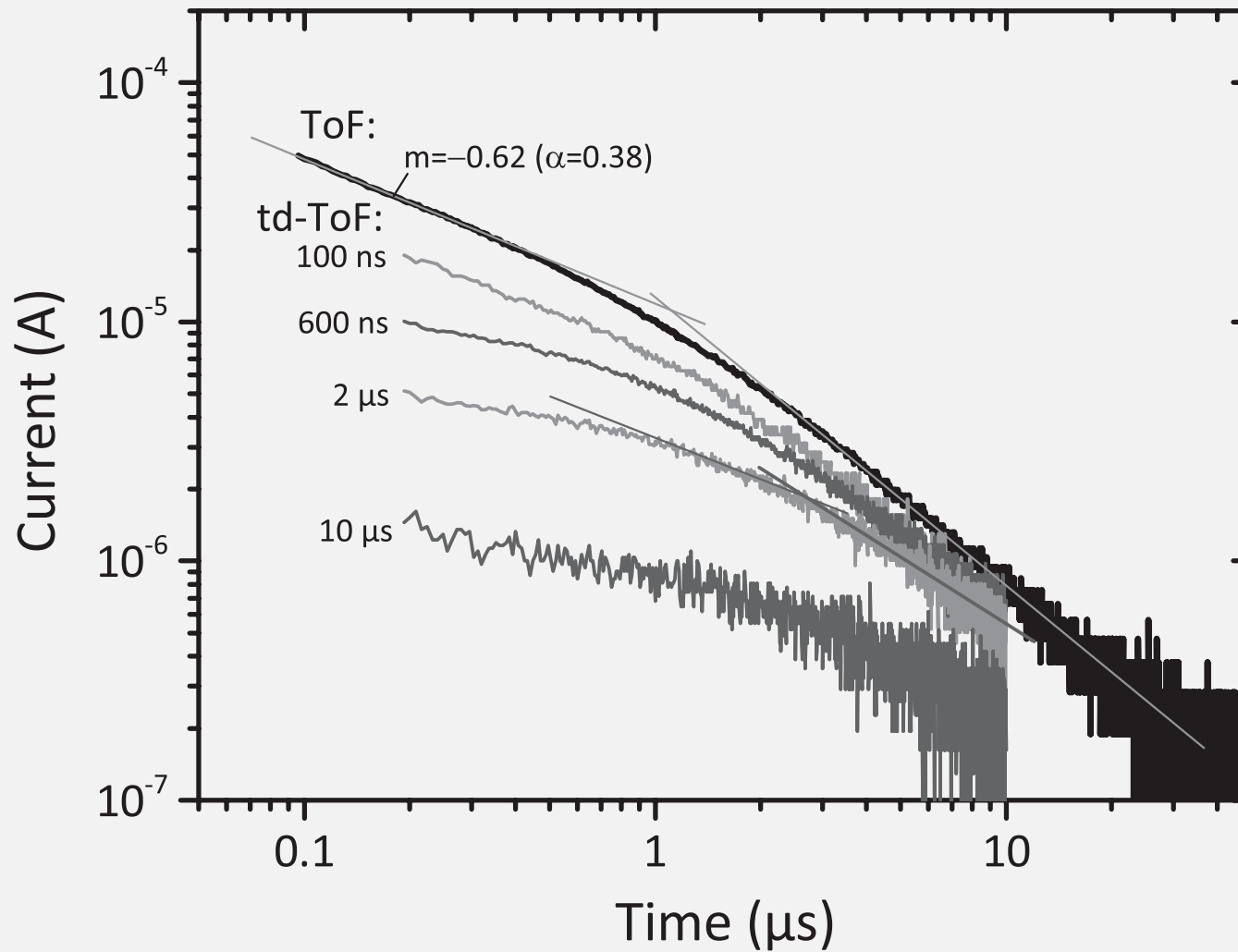


Ageing induces crossovers in the first passage dynamics

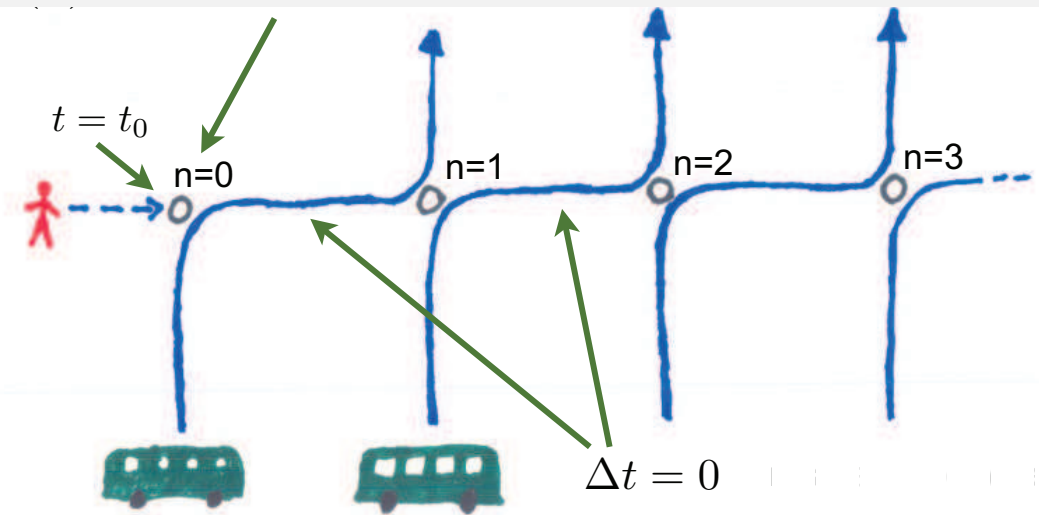
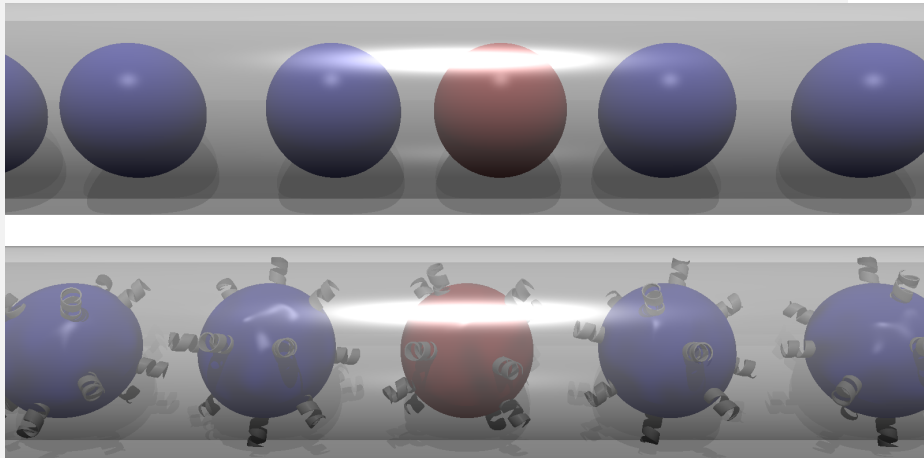
$$\wp_a(t_a, t) \simeq \begin{cases} t_a^{\alpha-1} t^{-\alpha}, & t_a \gg t \\ t_a^\alpha t^{-1-\alpha}, & t_a \ll t \ll t_a^2 \\ x_0 K_\alpha^{-1/2} t^{-1-\alpha/2}, & t_a^2 \ll t \end{cases}$$



Ageing charge carrier motion in polymeric semiconductors



Ultraslow dynamics in ageing many-particle systems



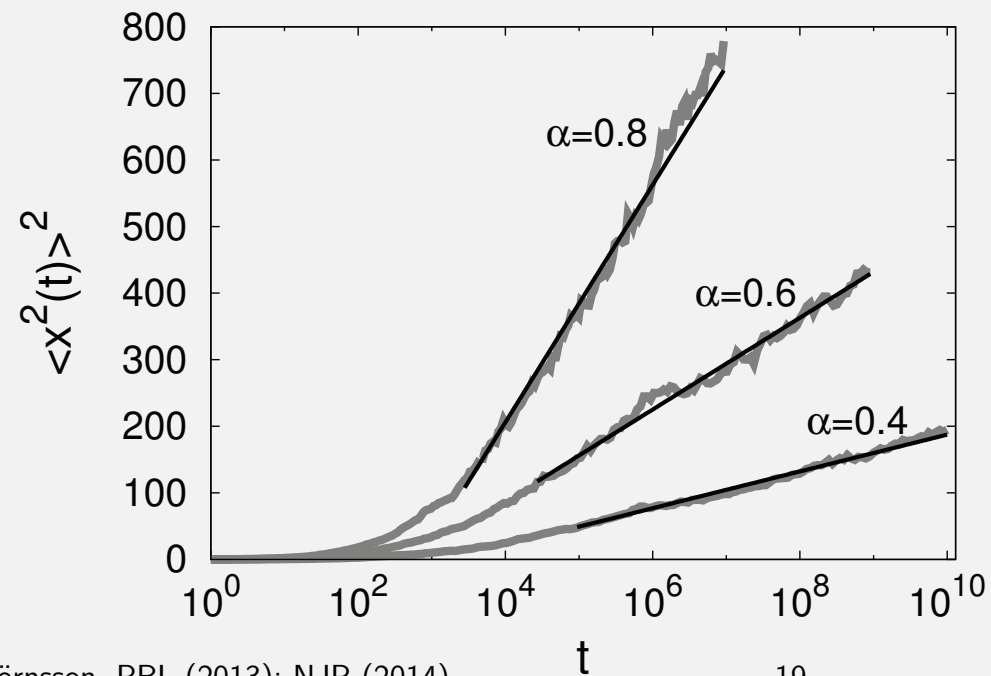
Brownian particles: Harris' law $\langle x^2(t) \rangle \simeq t^{1/2}$

Functionalised particles moving /w $\psi(t) \simeq t^{-1-\alpha}$

↪ scaling argument: $n \rightarrow \log t$:

$$\langle x^2(t) \rangle \simeq \log^{1/2} \left(\frac{t}{t_0} \right)$$

WEB: $\overline{\delta^2(\Delta)} \simeq (\Delta/T) \log^{1/2} T$



Ageing effects in other processes

Transient ageing in fractional Brownian and Langevin equation motion: J Kursawe, JHP Schulz & RM, PRE (2013)

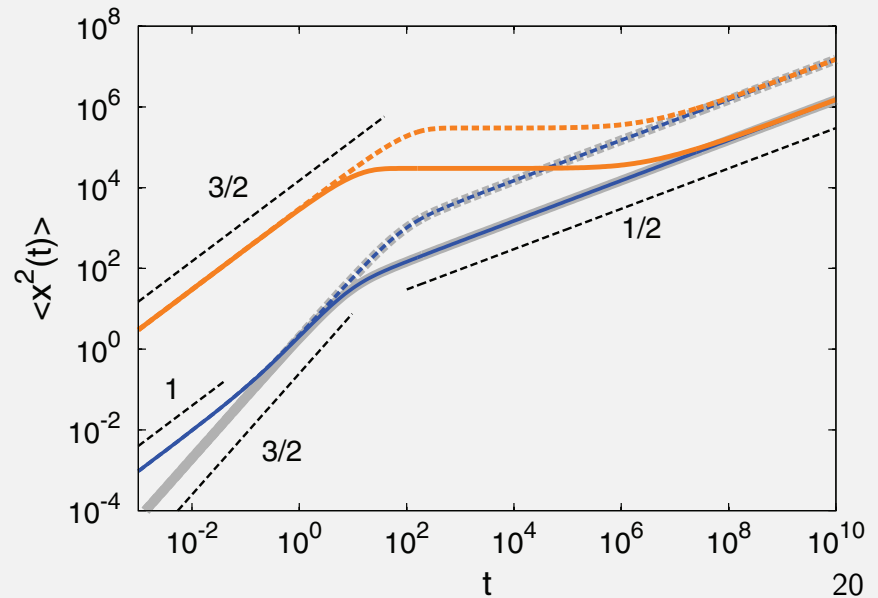
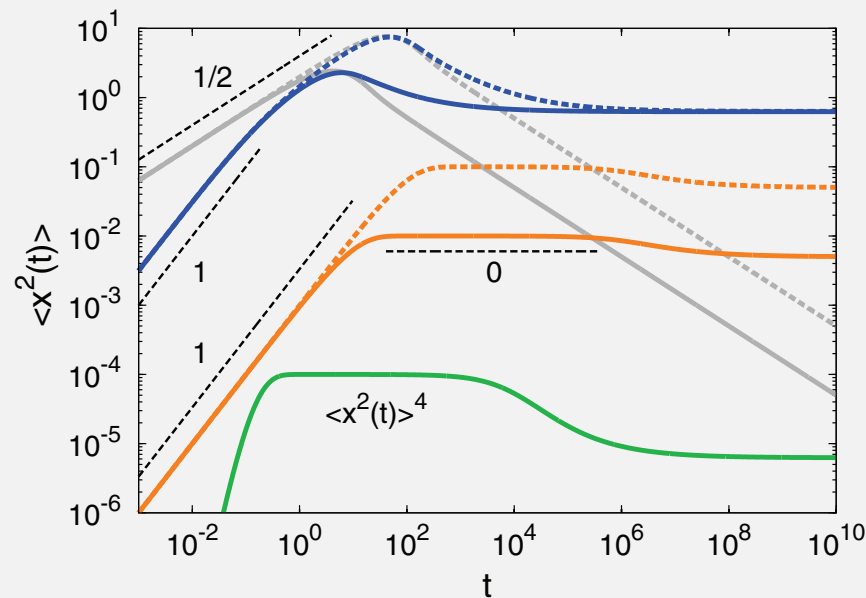
Ageing in heterogeneous diffusion processes: AG Cherstvy, AV Chechkin & RM, JPA (2014)

Ageing in generalised diffusion processes: AG Cherstvy & RM, JSTAT (2014)

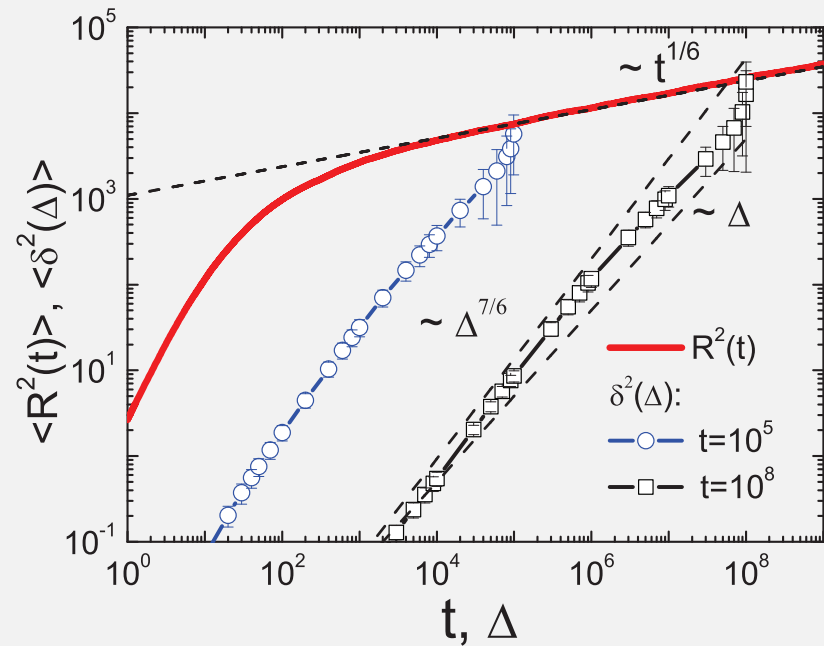
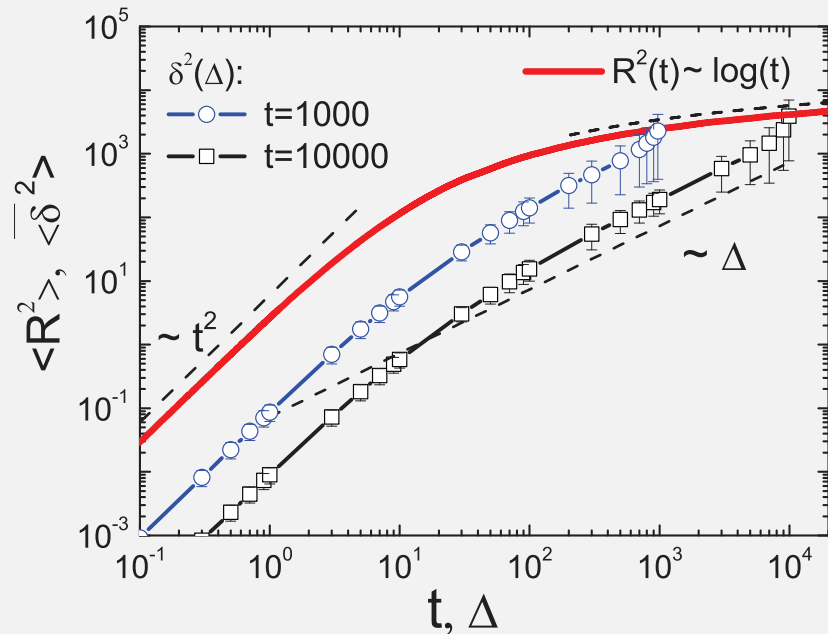
Ageing Scaled Brownian Motion: H Safdari, AV Chechkin, G Jafari & RM, PRE (2015)

General result: same ageing depression Λ_α as CTRW

Strong ageing: TAMSD converges to EAMSD



WEB in granular gas & SBM as mean field theory



Haff's law: $\mathcal{I}(t) = \mathcal{I}_0 / (1 + t/\tau_0)^2$

$$\langle r^2(t) \rangle \sim 6D_0\tau_0 \log(1 + t/\tau_0)$$

$$\langle \overline{\delta^2(\Delta)} \rangle \sim 6D_0\tau_0\Delta/T$$

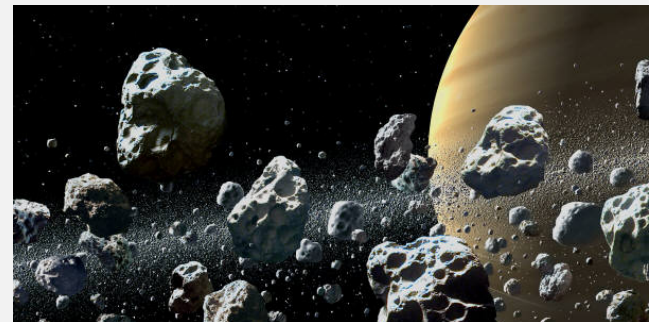




Abb. 140. Erlegter Albatros mit 2,80 Meter Spannweite.
In der Mitte Kapitänlt. Siburg und Oberlt. Löwisch.

Σ ummary

- I Lévy processes are observed within experimental resolution on both macro & micro scales
- II For sparse targets different formulations are optimal for Cauchy flights ($\alpha = 1$)
- III Scale-free processes work well even for non-optimal conditions
- IIII In presence of external bias (wind, water current) LFs perform significantly worse than Brownian search (overshooting phenomenon)
- IIII Ageing occurs in anomalous diffusion systems & gives rise to modified system response

Acknowledgements

Vincent Tejedor, **Jae-Hyung Jeon** (TUM/Paris 6, TUT, KIAS)

Johannes Schulz (TUM, Bar-Ilan U), Irwin Zaid (U Oxford)

Aljaz Godec, Max Bauer, Andrey Cherstvy (U Potsdam)

Michael Lomholt (Syddansk U Odense), Tobias Ambjörnsson (Lunds U)

Marcin Magdziarz (TU Wroclaw), Vladimir Palyulin (U Potsdam)

Hector Martinez-Seara Monne, Otto Pulkkinen (TUT)

Eli Barkai, Stas Burov, Yuval Garini (Bar-Ilan U)

Olivier Bénichou, Raphael Voituriez (Paris 6)

Aleksei Chechkin (KIPT Kharkov & U Potsdam)

Yossi Klafter (Tel Aviv U)

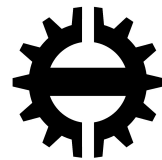
Igor Goychuk (U Potsdam)

Christine Selhuber (U Kiel), Kirstine Berg-Sørensen (DTU)

Lene Oddershede (NBI Københavns U)



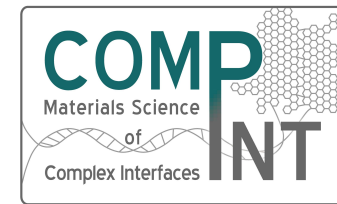
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