

# Random walks with memory and animal movement

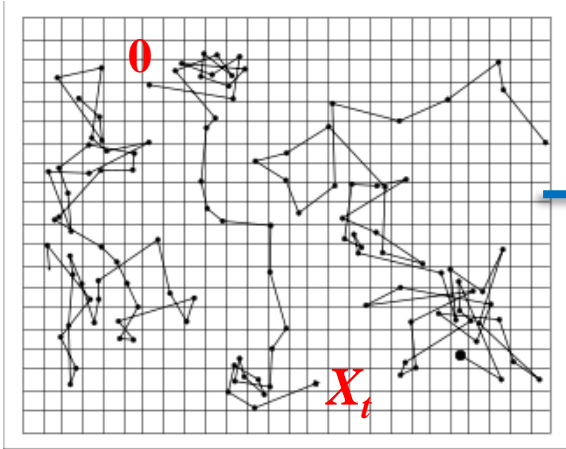


Denis Boyer

Instituto de Física  
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México D.F.

# Single particle tracking

Jean Perrin (1909)

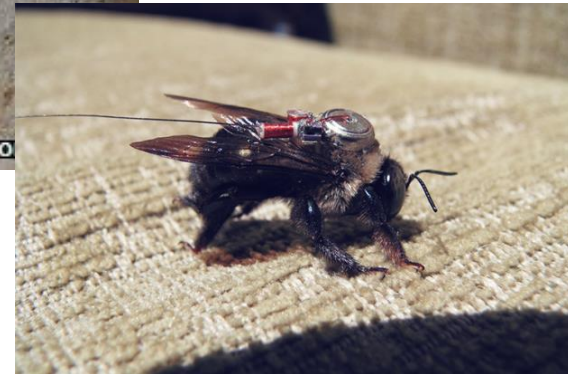


Brownian motion or “normal” diffusion, a basic transport mechanism in physics.

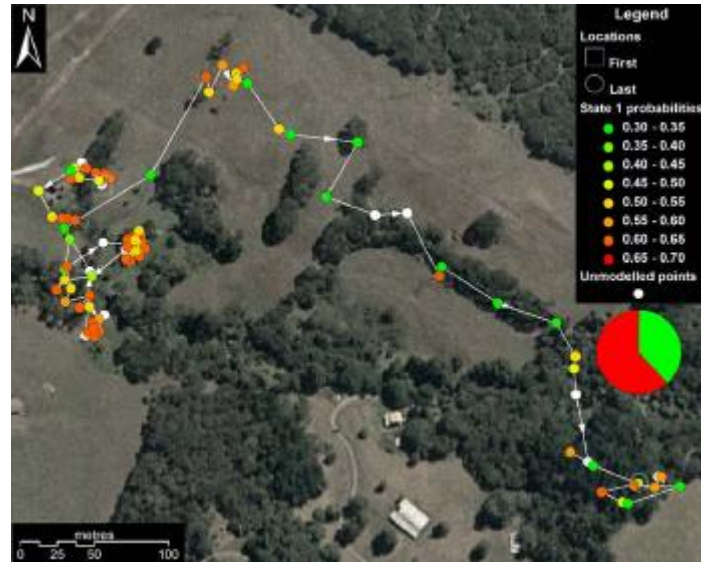
$$\langle X_t^2 \rangle = 2Dt$$

Gaussian distribution for  $X_t$ .

(CLT: sums of i.i.d. random variables.)

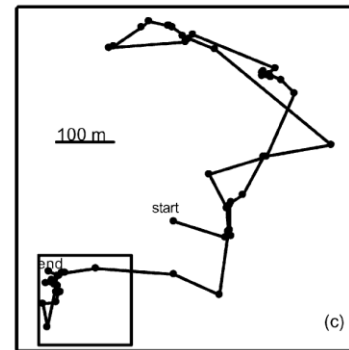


## Rodents



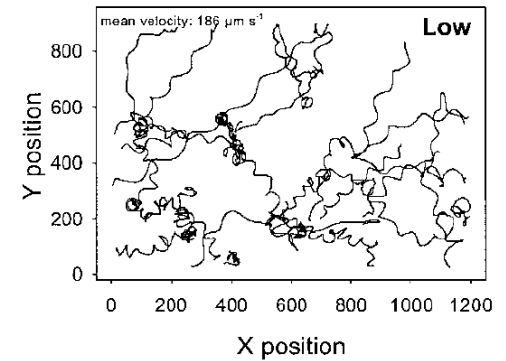
Postlethwaite & Dennis, Plos ONE, 2013

## Spider monkeys



Ramos-Fernández  
*et al.*, *BES* 2004

## Microzooplankton



Bartumeus *et al.*,  
*PNAS* 2003

- **(Correlated) random walks** Turchin, 1998; Codling *et al.* *JRS Interface* 2008...

- **Mixtures of random walks** Morales *et al.* *Ecology*, 2004.

- **Lévy walks, flights**  $p_{\text{step}}(l) \sim l^{-(1+\mu)}$  Viswanathan *et al.* *Nature*, 1999.

...

- **But : Real animals have cognitive capacities and make movement decisions based on experience (long range memory).**
- **For survival, animals must process and keep information on environmental features. In particular if the environment is not so unpredictable (e.g. , herbivores, frugivorous primates, and even seabirds).**
- **Modeling memory (spatial and temporal) in animal movement: requires to extend the RW formalism . Computational simulation models are very helpful.**
- **Few mathematical results are known on RW with memory.**

**REVIEW AND SYNTHESIS**

**Spatial memory and animal movement**

**Abstract**

Memory is critical to understanding animal movement but has proven challenging to study. Advances in animal tracking technology, theoretical movement models and cognitive sciences have facilitated research in each of these fields, but also created a need for synthetic examination of the linkages between memory and animal movement. Here, we draw together research from several disciplines to understand the relationship between animal memory and movement processes. First, we frame the problem in terms of the characteristics, costs and benefits of memory as outlined in psychology and neuroscience. Next, we provide an overview of the theories and conceptual frameworks that have emerged from behavioural ecology and animal cognition. Third, we turn to movement ecology and summarise recent, rapid developments in the types and quantities of available movement data, and in the statistical measures applicable to such data. Fourth, we discuss the advantages and interrelationships of diverse modelling approaches that have been used to explore the memory–movement interface. Finally, we outline key research challenges for the memory and movement communities, focusing on data needs and mathematical and computational challenges. We conclude with a roadmap for future work in this area, outlining axes along which focused research should yield rapid progress.

**Keywords**

Animal spatial cognition, attribute memory, cognitive maps, movement ecology, orientation tasks, return points, spatial memory, systematic searches.

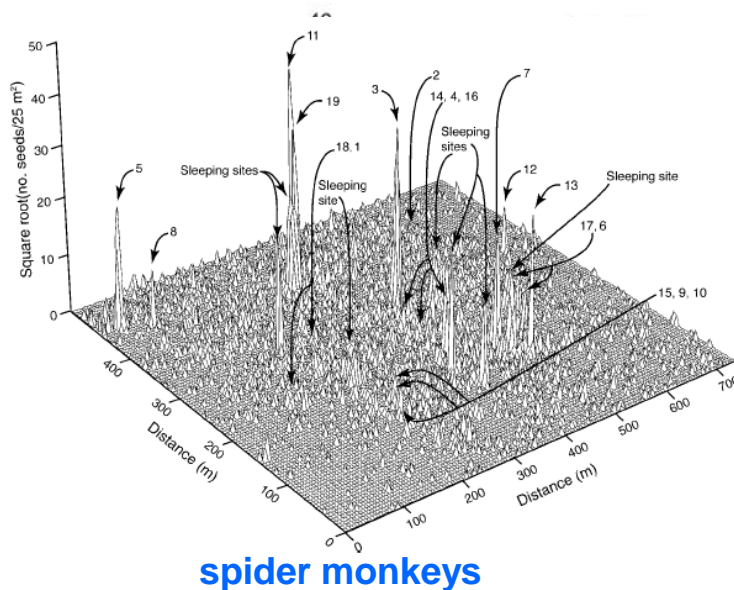
*Ecology Letters* (2013) 16: 1316–1329

William F. Fagan,<sup>1,\*†</sup> Mark A. Lewis,<sup>2,3†</sup> Marie Auger-Méthé,<sup>3</sup> Tal Avgar,<sup>4</sup> Simon Benhamou,<sup>5</sup> Greg Breed,<sup>3</sup> Lara LaDage,<sup>6</sup> Ulrike E. Schlägel,<sup>2</sup> Wen-wu Tang,<sup>7</sup> Yannis P. Papastamatiou,<sup>8</sup> James Forester<sup>9</sup> and Thomas Mueller<sup>1,10</sup>

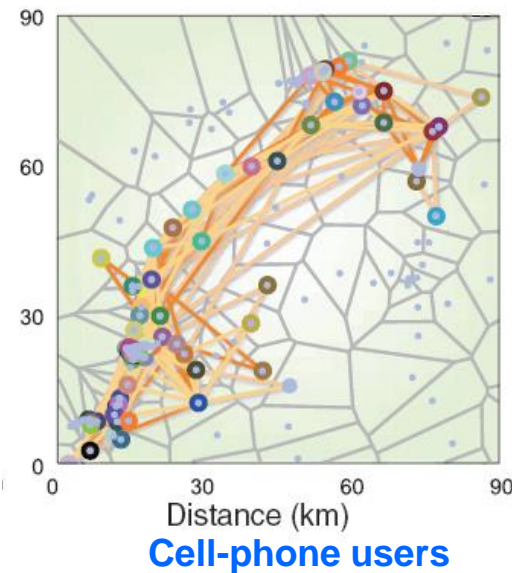
**Observations that are not compatible with standard RW-like models:**

- High recurrence.
- Home range; very slow diffusion.
- Non-uniform occupation of space: few “hotspots”, many sites visited only occasionally.
- Routines.

Russo *et al.* *Ecology*, 2006



Song *et al.* *Science* 2010



# Questions

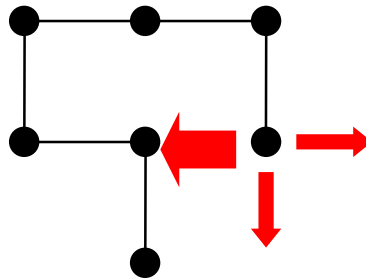
- **Can we infer memory use from movement data?**
- **Effects of long range recurrent memory on trajectories?  
Anomalous diffusion ?**
- **Properties of the memory used by animals (memory kernels)?**
- **For which environments is memory useful? (Spatial structure and dynamics.)**
- **Should memory decay over time? Is forgetting advantageous for adaptation?**

# Path dependent random walks and related processes:

- RW with repeated increments (Elephant W)

Schutz & Trimper, *PRE* 2004;  
Cressoni *et al.*, *PRL* 2007.

- Re-inforced RW :



Davis, *Probab. Theor. Rel.. Field.* 1990  
Othmer & Stevens, *SIAM J. Appl. Math.* 1997

- Bold or “scared” RW (1d)

Serva, *PRE* 2013.

- RW with re-locations to visited sites.

Gautestad & Mysterud, *Am. Nat.* 2005;  
*Ecol. Complex.* 2006.

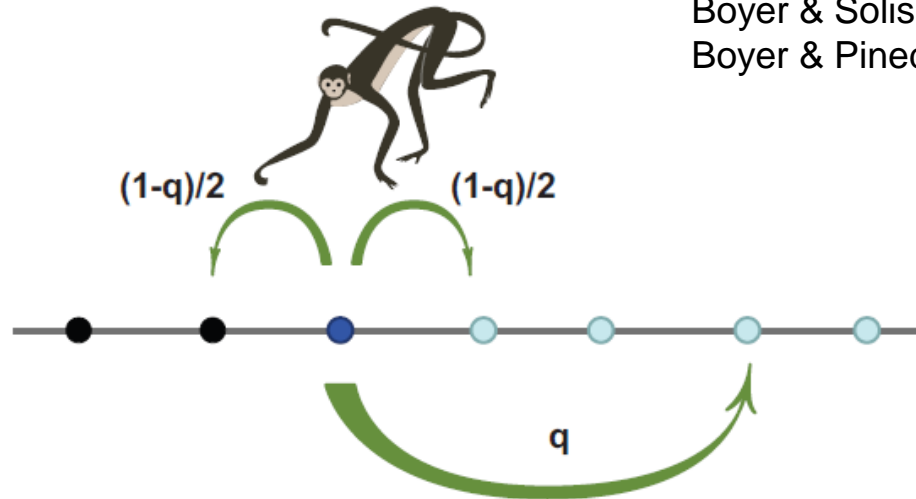


**(RW with stochastic resetting to the origin**

Evans & Majumdar , *PRL*, 2011 )

## A Toy Model

Boyer & Solis, *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 2014  
Boyer & Pineda, arXiv 2015.



A walker starts at the origin  $n=0$  at  $t = 0$ . Time and space are discrete.  
At each time-step:

- With probability  $1-q$  : take a random walk step to a nearest neighbor.
- With probability  $q$  : relocate directly to a site visited in the past, such that

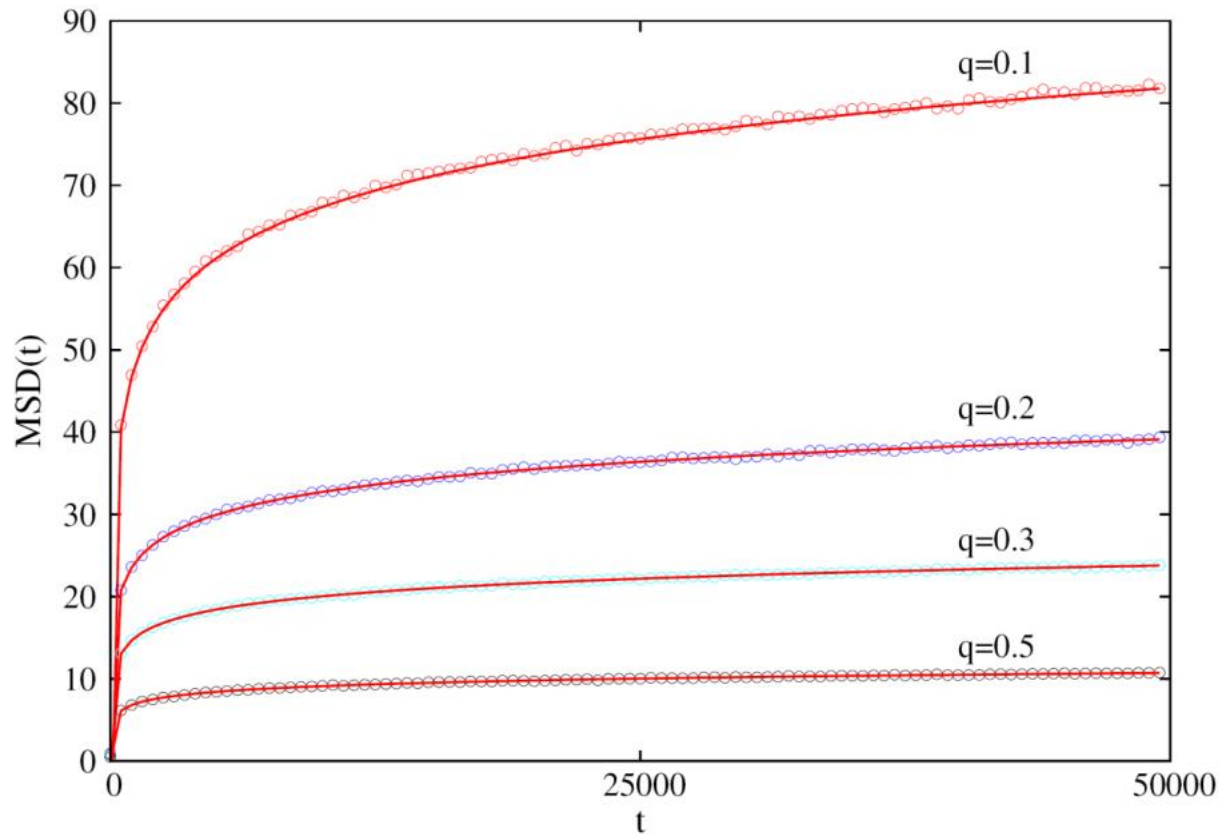
Probability of choosing sitio  $i \propto \#$  of visits received by  $i$  during  $[0,t]$



## Memory induces anomalous diffusion:

Mean squared displacement:

$$\langle X_t^2 \rangle \equiv \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} n^2 P(n, t)$$



## Master equation :

$$P(n, t + 1) = \frac{1 - q}{2} P(n - 1, t) + \frac{1 - q}{2} P(n + 1, t) + \frac{q}{t + 1} \sum_{t'=0}^t P(n, t')$$

$$\longrightarrow \langle X_{t+1}^2 \rangle = (1 - q) [1 + \langle X_t^2 \rangle] + \frac{q}{t + 1} \sum_{t'=0}^t \langle X_{t'}^2 \rangle$$

## Exact results:

$$\circ \langle X_t^2 \rangle = \frac{1 - q}{q} \sum_{k=1}^t \frac{1 - (1 - q)^k}{k}$$

$$\langle X_t^2 \rangle \simeq \frac{1 - q}{q} [\ln(qt) + \gamma], \quad t \gg 1 \quad \gamma = 0.5772\dots$$

$$\circ \text{Scaling law:} \quad P(n, t) \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{\langle X_t^2 \rangle}} g \left( \frac{n}{\sqrt{\langle X_t^2 \rangle}} \right)$$

**Gaussian**

**Generalization: jumps  
not necessarily  
to nearest neighbor sites**

$$P(n, t + 1) = (1 - q) \sum_{\ell=-\infty}^{\infty} p(\ell) P(n - \ell, t) + \frac{q}{t + 1} \sum_{t'=0}^t P(n, t')$$

o:  $\tilde{P}(k, t + 1) = (1 - q) \tilde{p}(k) \tilde{P}(k, t) + \frac{q}{t + 1} \sum_{t'=0}^t \tilde{P}(k, t') \quad \text{(Fourier)}$

$$q = 0$$

$$P(k, t) = \tilde{p}(k)^t = e^{\ln[\tilde{p}(k)]t}$$

**Central Limit Theorem**

$$q \neq 0$$

$$P(k, t) \simeq t^{-a(k)} = e^{-a(k) \ln t}$$

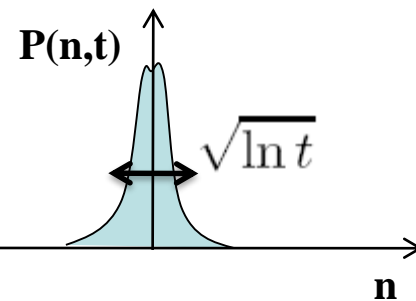
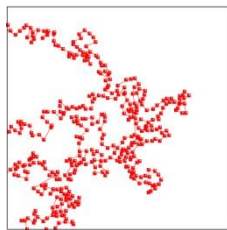
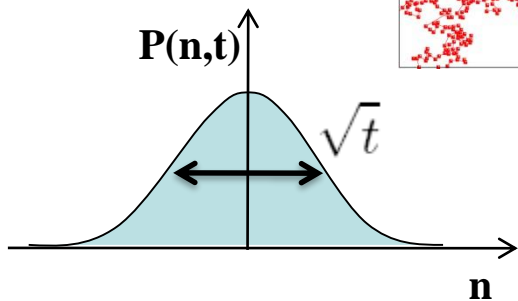
$$a(k) = (1 - q) \frac{1 - \tilde{p}(k)}{1 - (1 - q)\tilde{p}(k)}$$

# Markov

# No-Markov

**Gauss:**  $\langle l^2 \rangle < \infty$

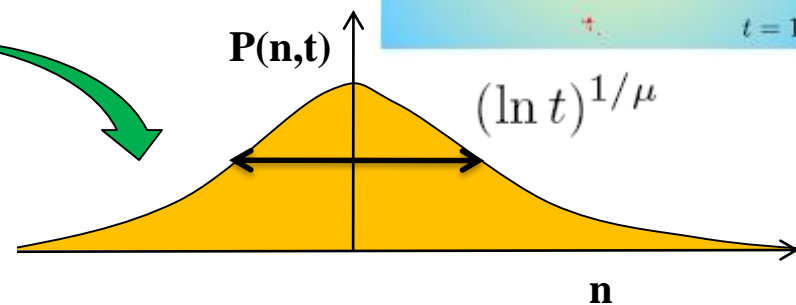
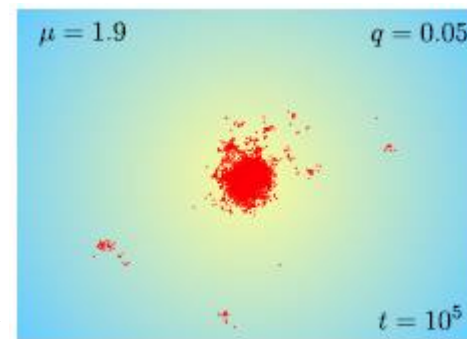
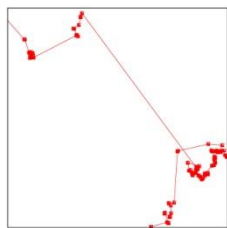
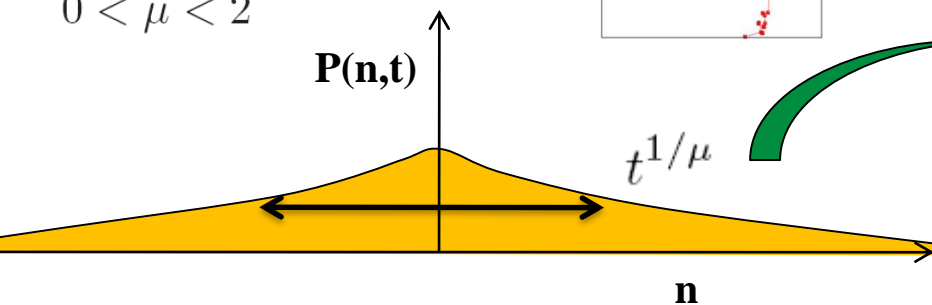
$$\tilde{p}(k) = 1 - ck^2 + \dots$$



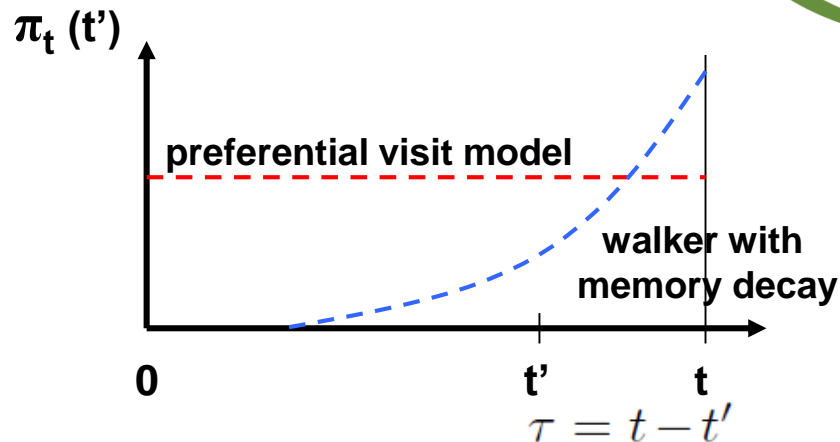
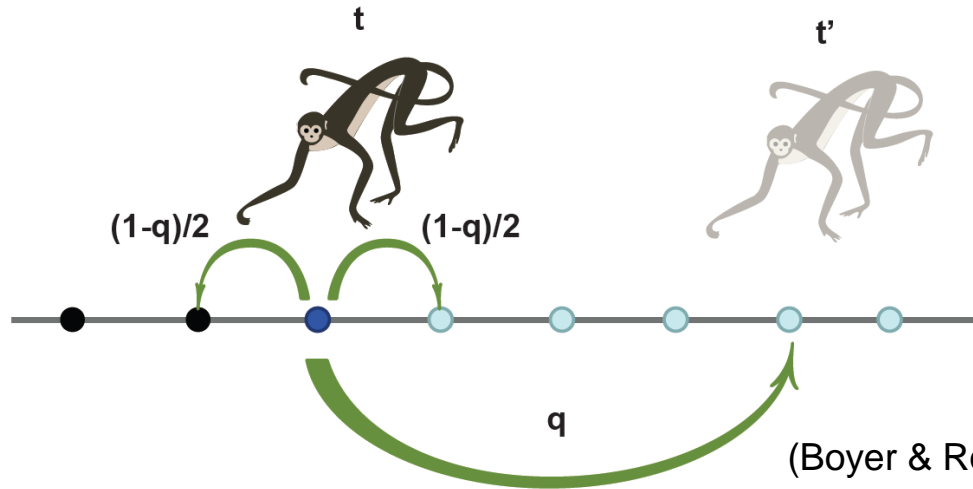
**Lévy:**  $\langle l^2 \rangle = \infty$

$$\tilde{p}(k) = 1 - c |k|^\mu + \dots$$

$$0 < \mu < 2$$



# Generalization to memory kernels with decay

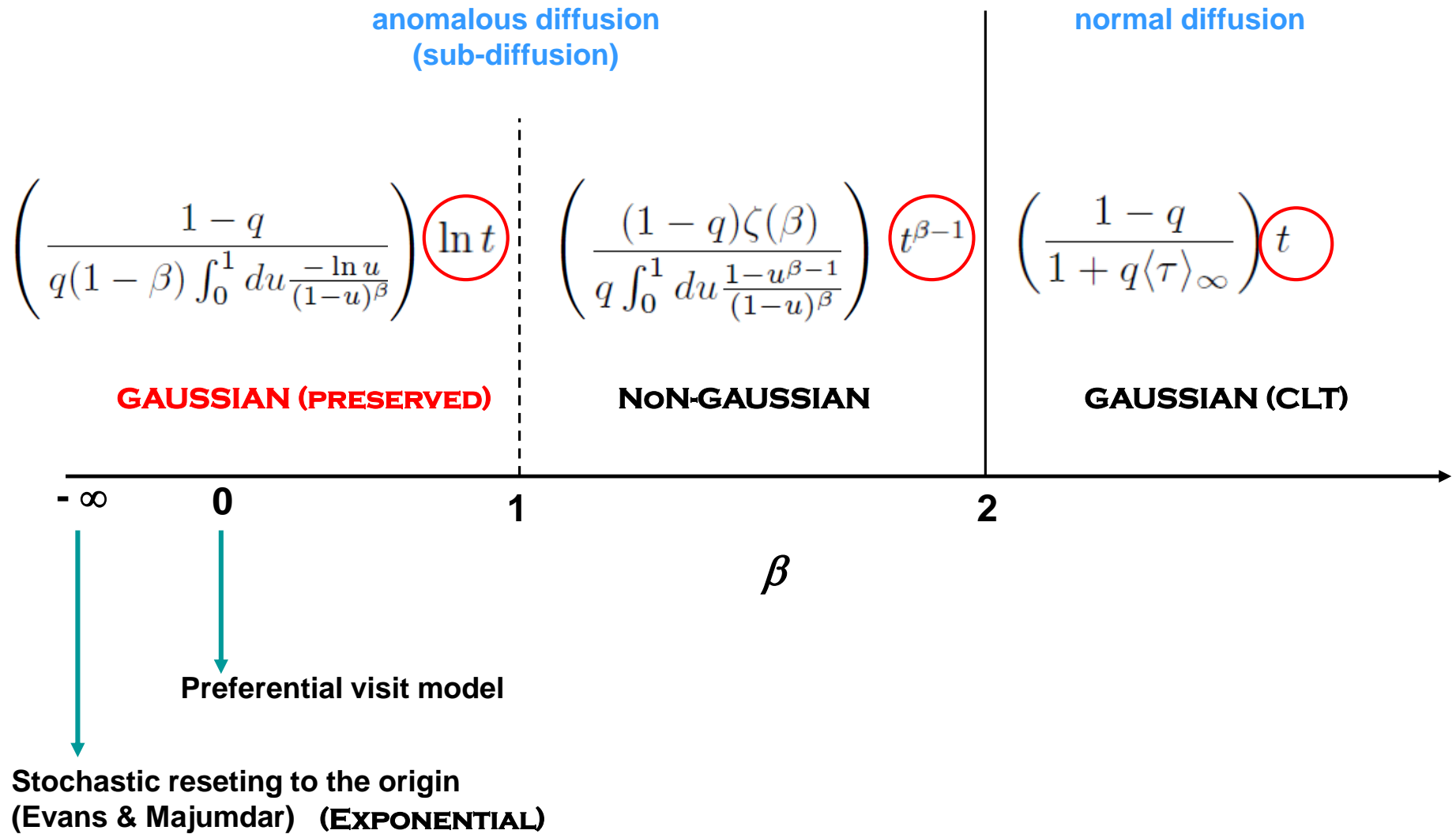


$$\pi_t(t') \propto F(t - t')$$

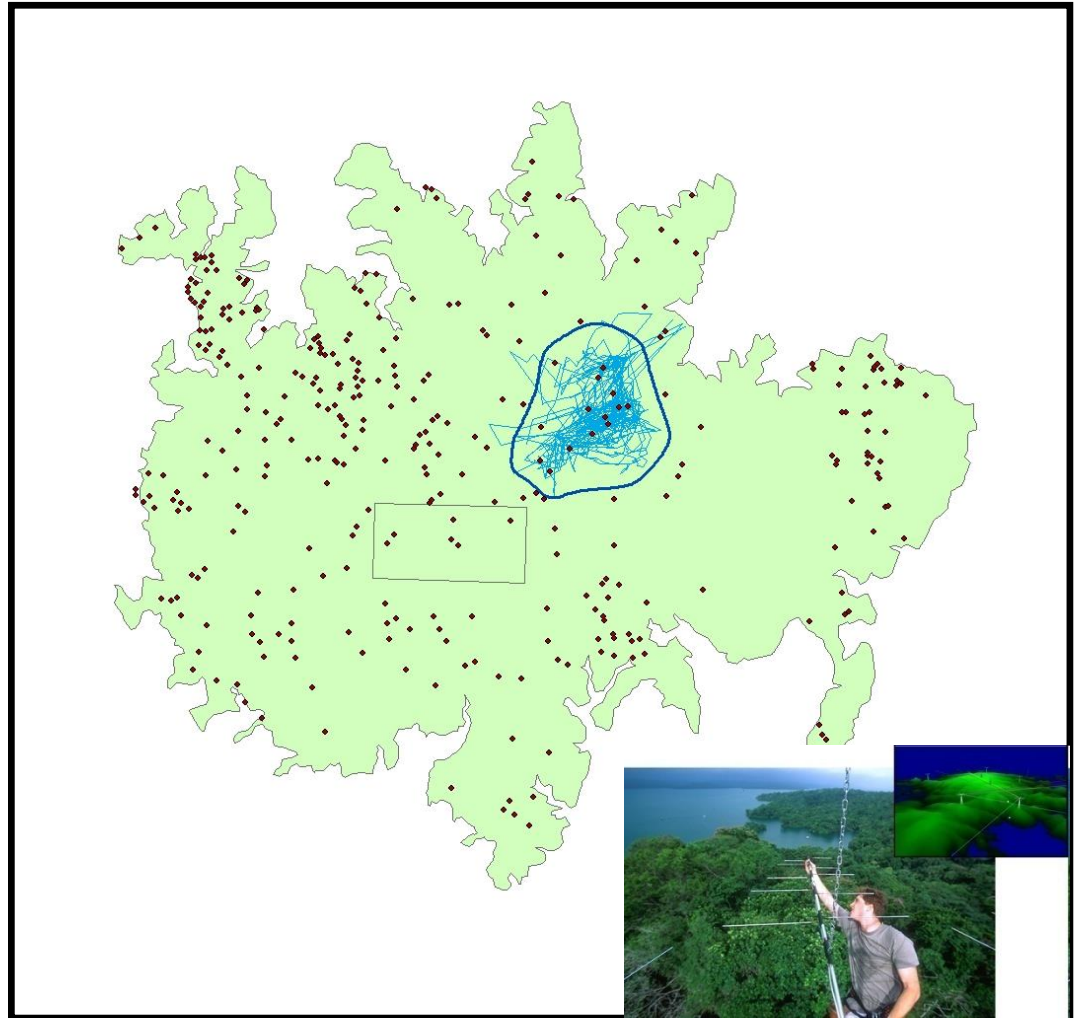
$$F(t - t') = (t - t' + 1)^{-\beta}, \quad 0 \leq t' \leq t$$

$$\tilde{P}(k, t + 1) = (1 - q)\tilde{p}(k)\tilde{P}(k, t) + q \sum_{t'=0}^t \pi_t(t')\tilde{P}(k, t')$$

# Behavior of the Mean Square Displacement



# Capuchin monkeys



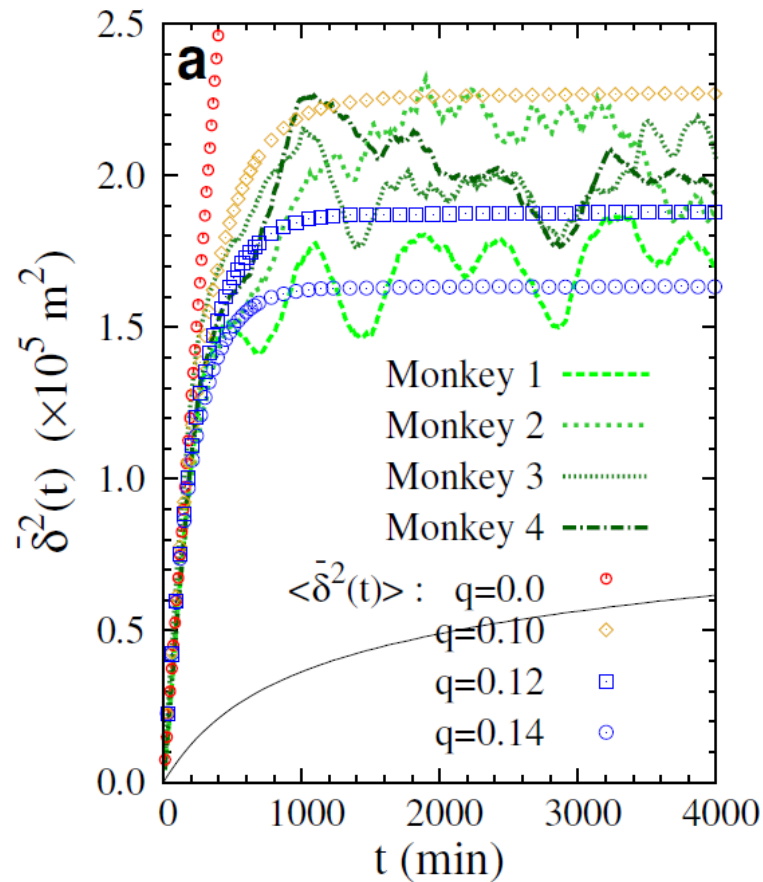
Barro Colorado Island, Panama,  
radio-frequency telemetry ,  
1 position every 10 min during 6 months,  
4 individuals.

Analysis: space discretization in  
50×50 m cells.

Crofoot *et al.* *PNAS*, 2008

Boyer, Crofoot, Walsh, *J. R. Soc. Interface*, 2011.

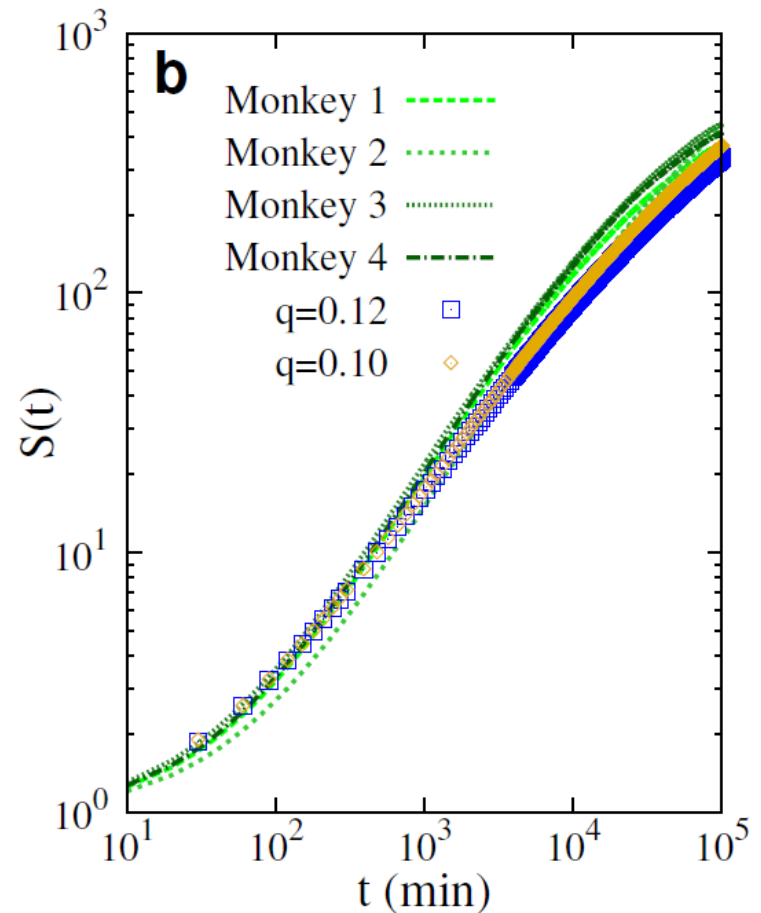
## Time-averaged mean square displacements



Cell size: 50m\*50m.  
Time step: 30 min.

$q \approx 0.12$  or  $q/\Delta t = 0.004 \text{ min}^{-1}$   
describes well capuchin monkey data.

## Number of distinct visited sites



(Boyer & Solis, *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 2014)

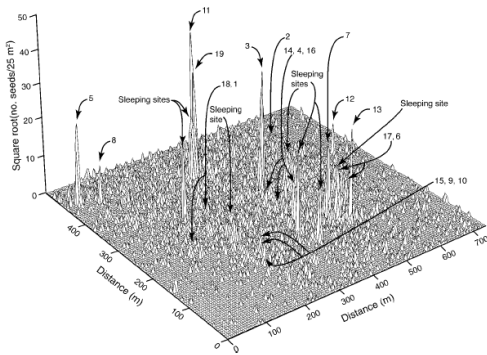
**Intermittente** use of memory, with drastic consequences on diffusion from time scales of 2-3 h.



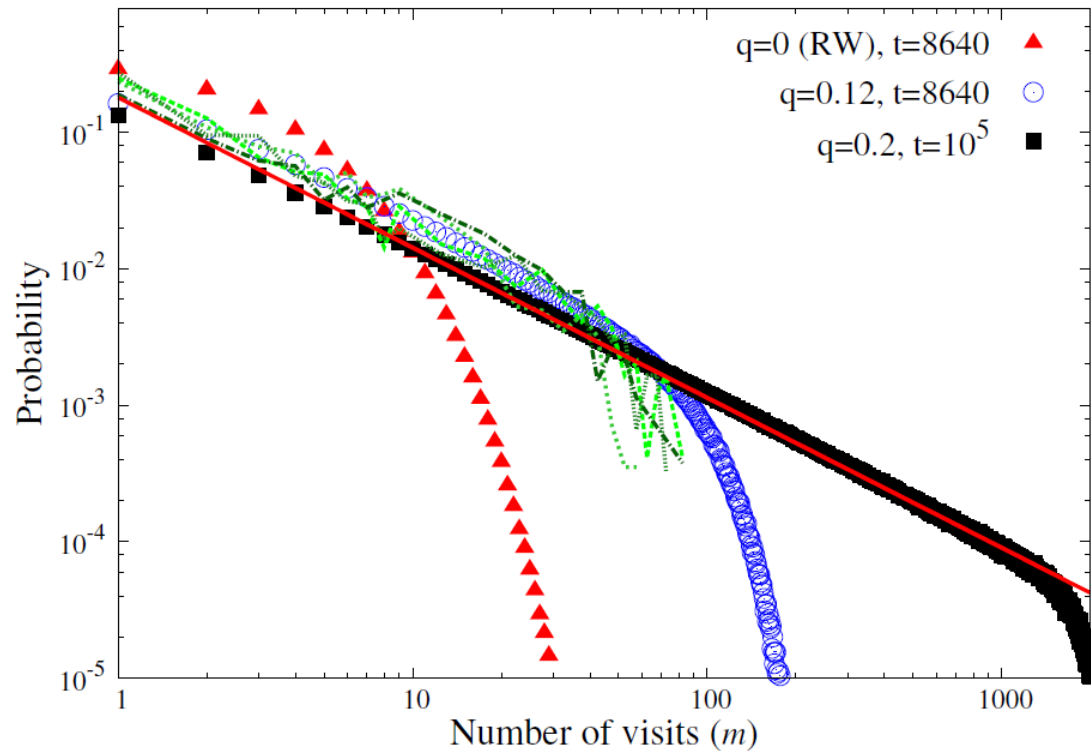
# Rich-get-richer principle and power-law distributions

Probability that a randomly chosen visited site has been visited exactly  $m$  times:

$$P^{(v)}(m) \approx C m^{-\beta}, \text{ independently of } q.$$

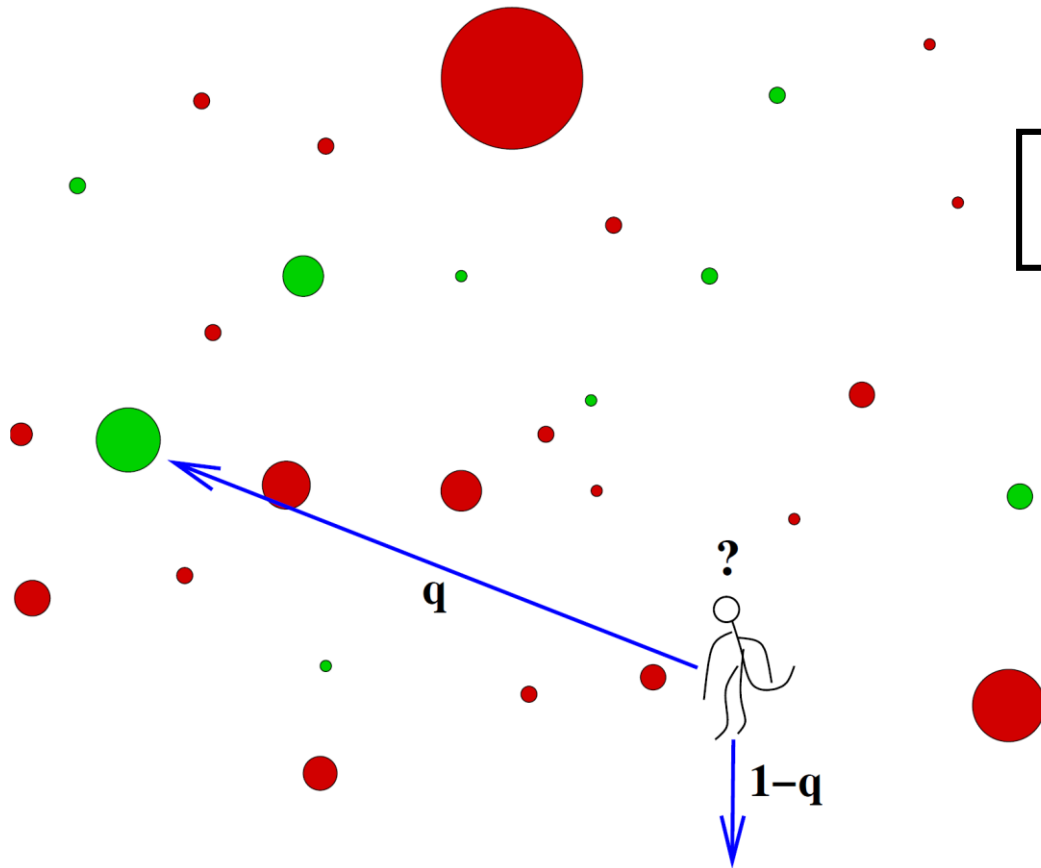


Russo *et al. Ecology*, 2006



# Beyond the toy model

chance + memory  
(random search) (exploitation)



**Standard modeling:**

Getz & Saltz, *PNAS*, 2008; Boyer & Walsh, *Phil. Trans. A*, 2010;  
Bonnell *et al.*, *Ecol. Model.*, 2010....

**Optimization problem: many possible movement choice at a given time.  
Evaluate payoff of each possibility. Choose the best.**

**Precise. Rational.**

**Requires a lot of computation.**

**Often assumes that animals have “perfect” mental maps.**

**A less standard approach:**

**No explicit mental map of resources.**

**Memorize some reasonable amount of information (not perfectly).**

**Little computation at each decision .**

**Still fairly good foraging efficiency ?**

**In the psychology literature:** (Dijksterhuis *et al.*, *Science* 2006)

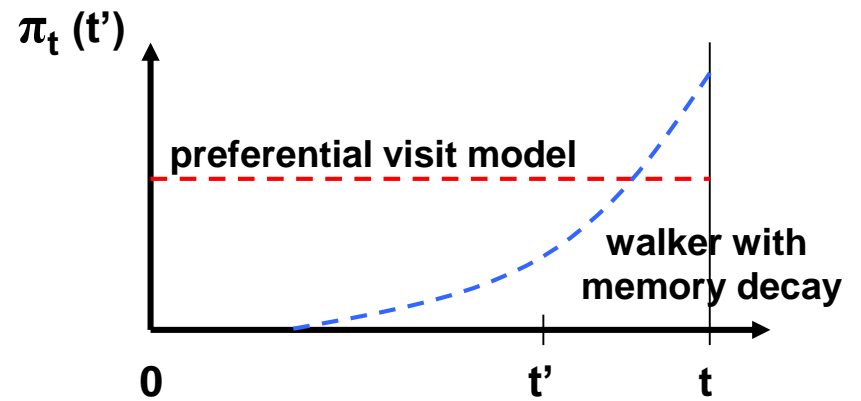
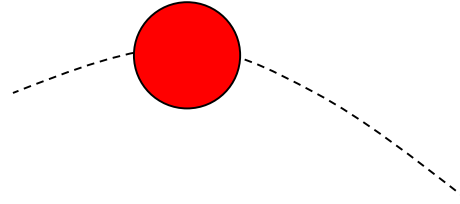
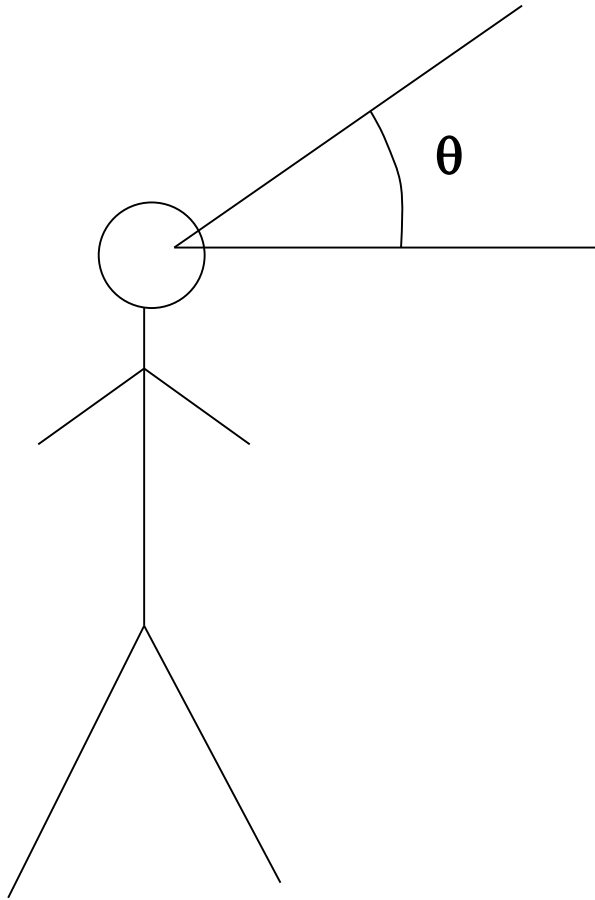
**In front of simple problems, conscious decisions are easy to take.**

**But for complex problems, people tend to take decisions with the “guts” rather than rational computing.**

**“Deliberation-without-attention” hypothesis (≠ conscious deliberation).**

# Heuristic models

(Guy Théraulaz)

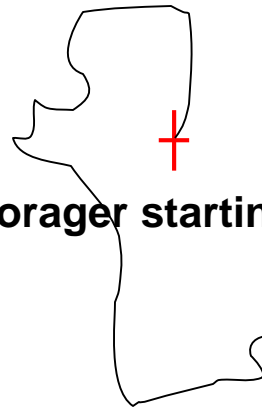


# Experiment #1:

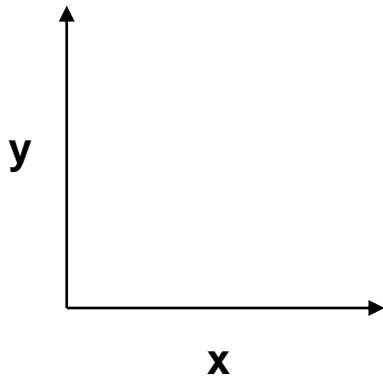
food patch



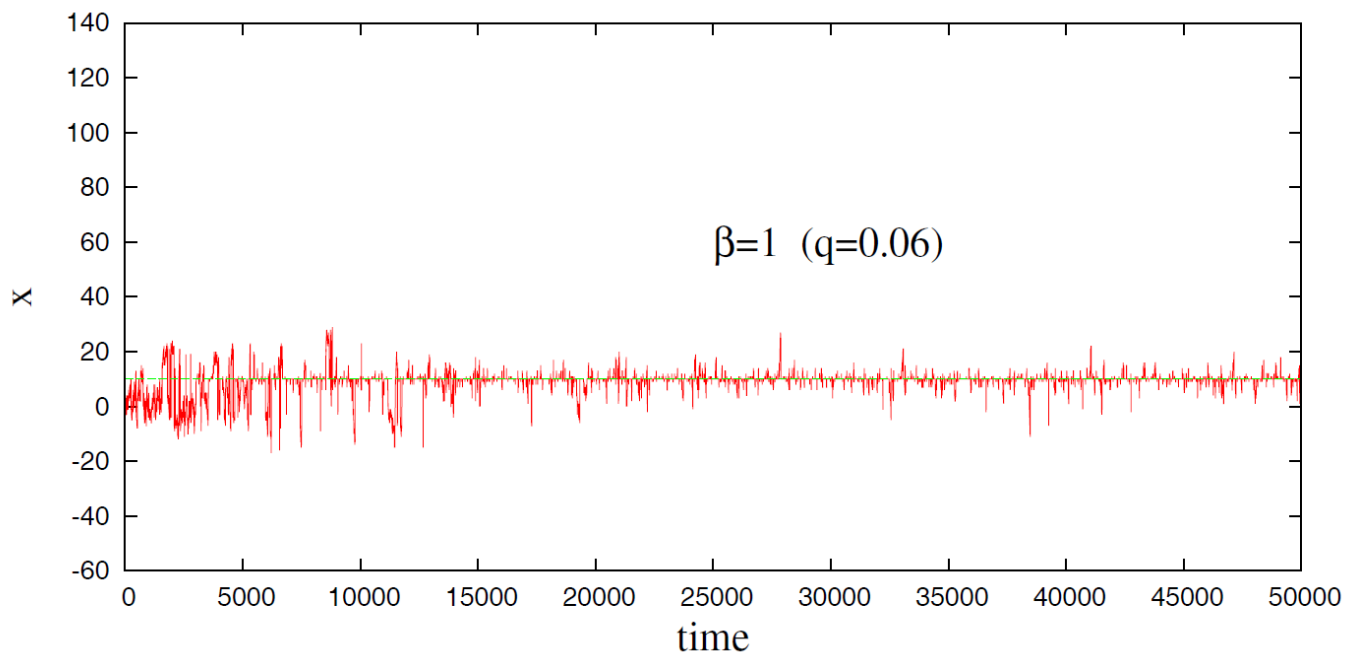
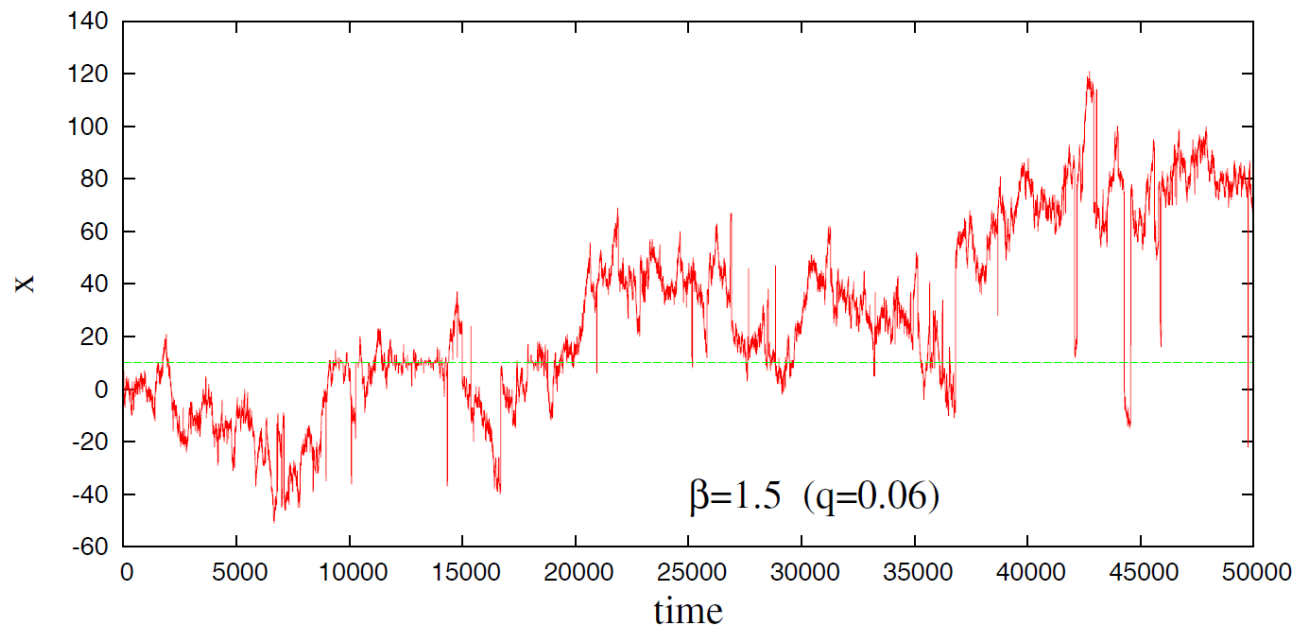
(forager stays  $k$  time units  
at food patch when visiting it)



forager starting position

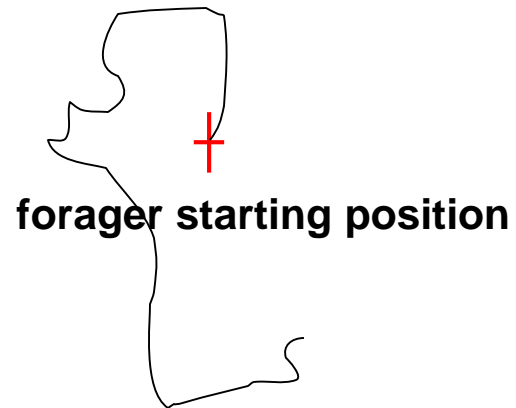


$k=50$



## Experiment #2:

food patch

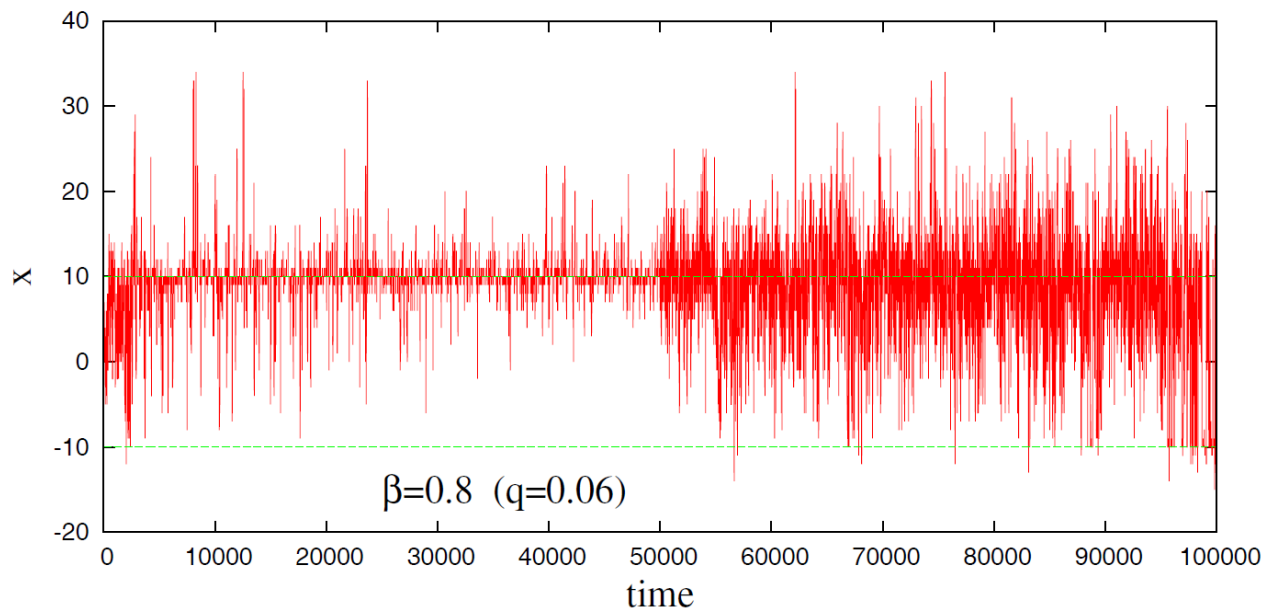
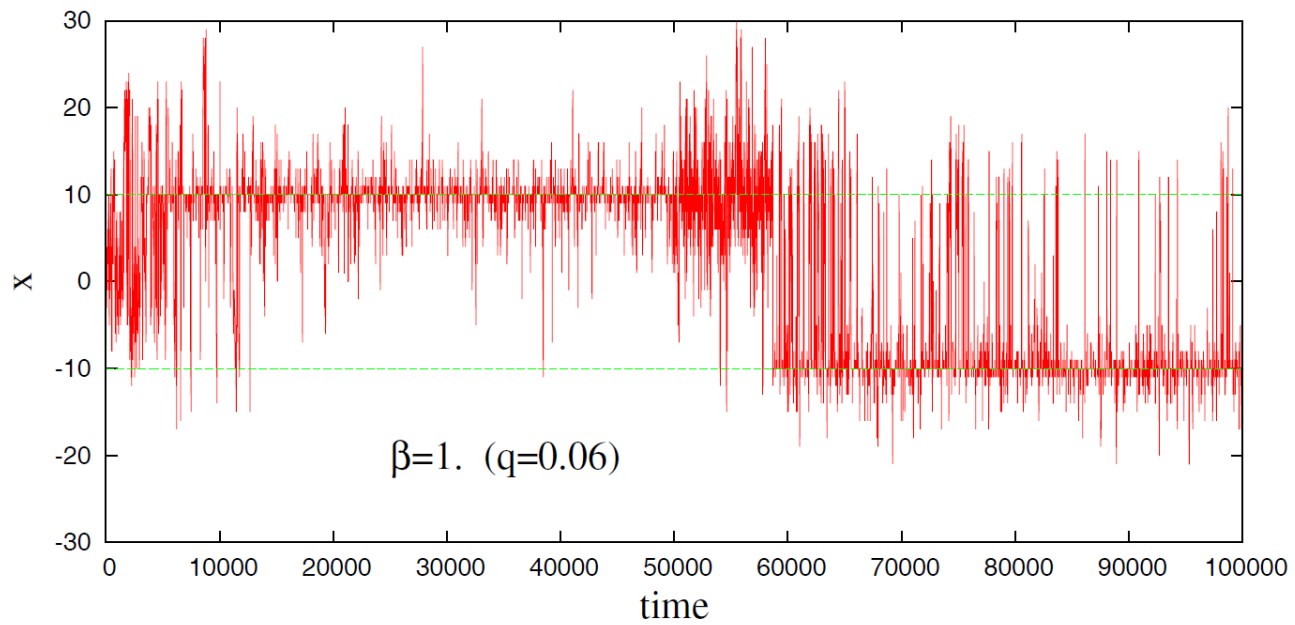


forager starting position

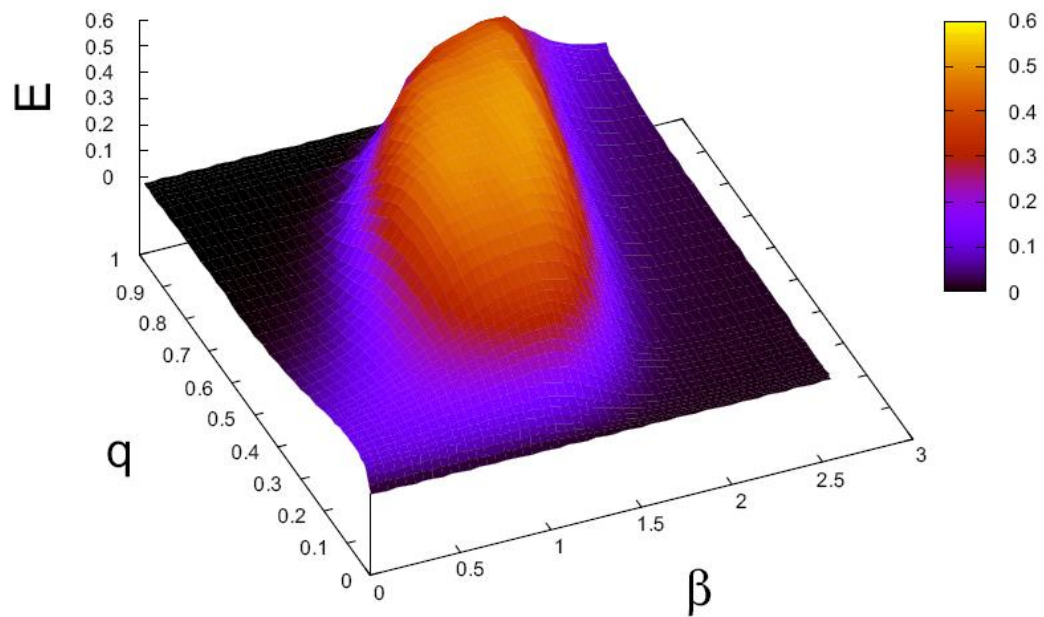
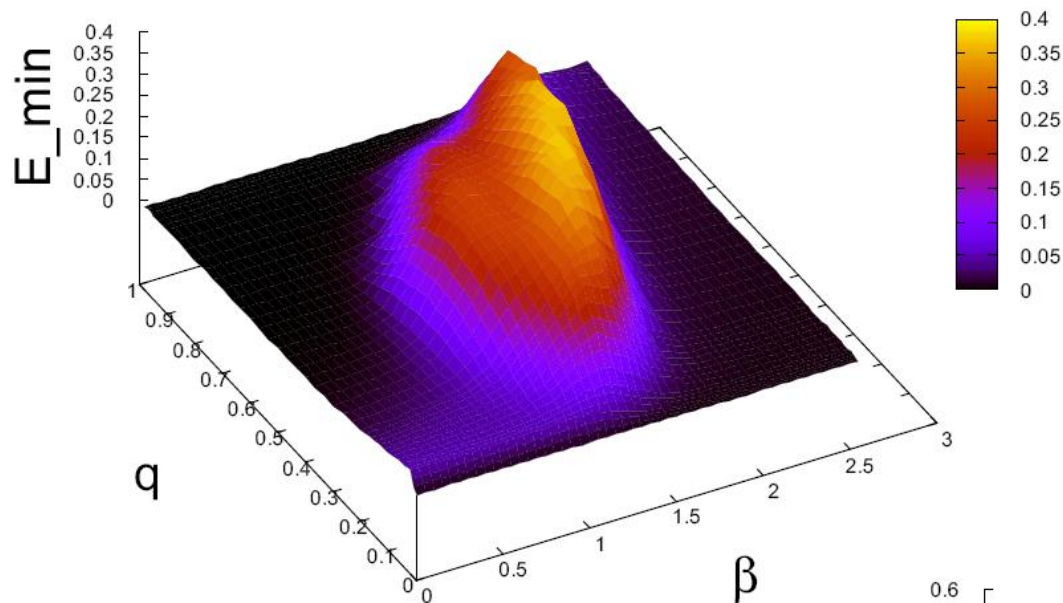


unproductive food patch  
(during the first T time steps)

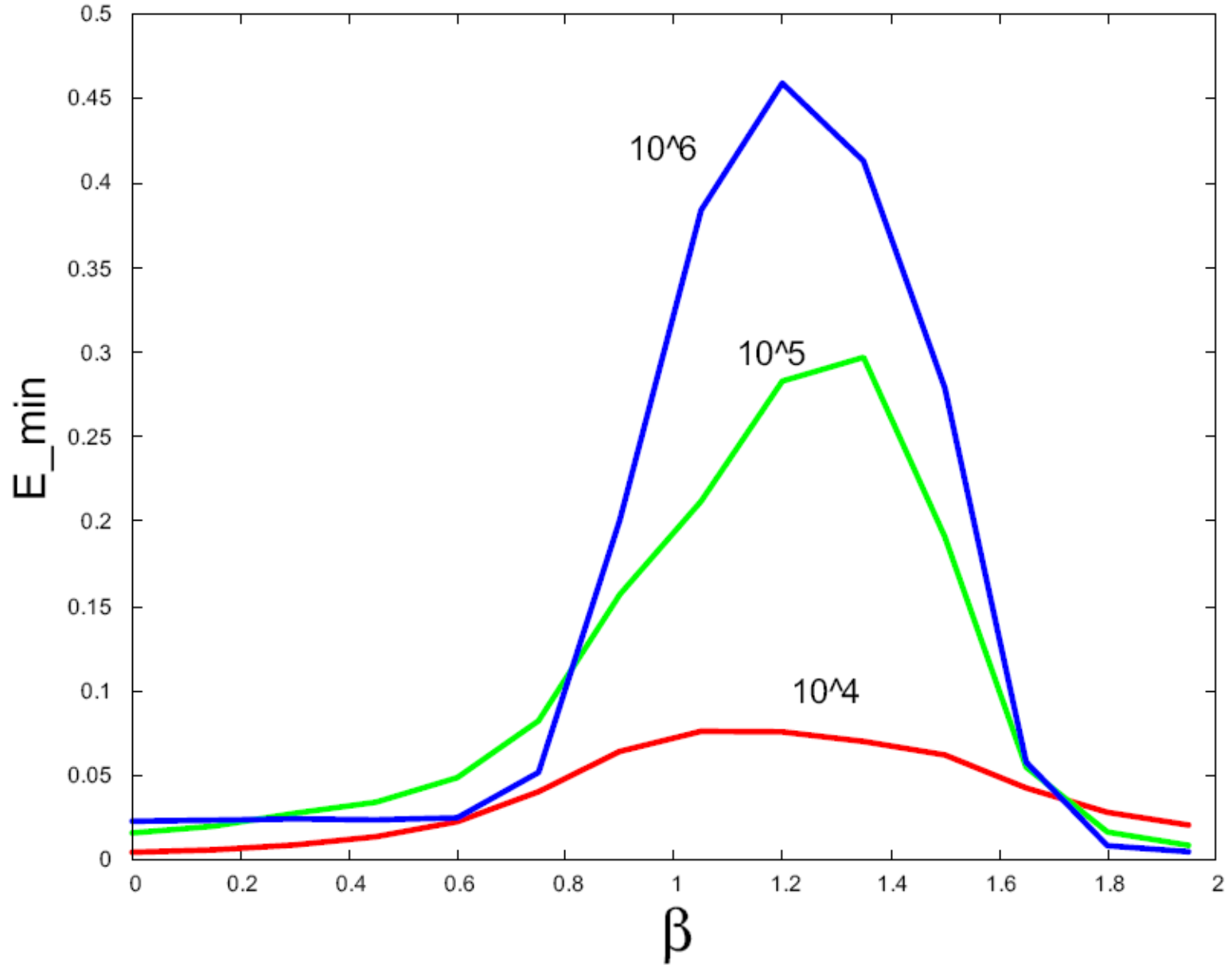




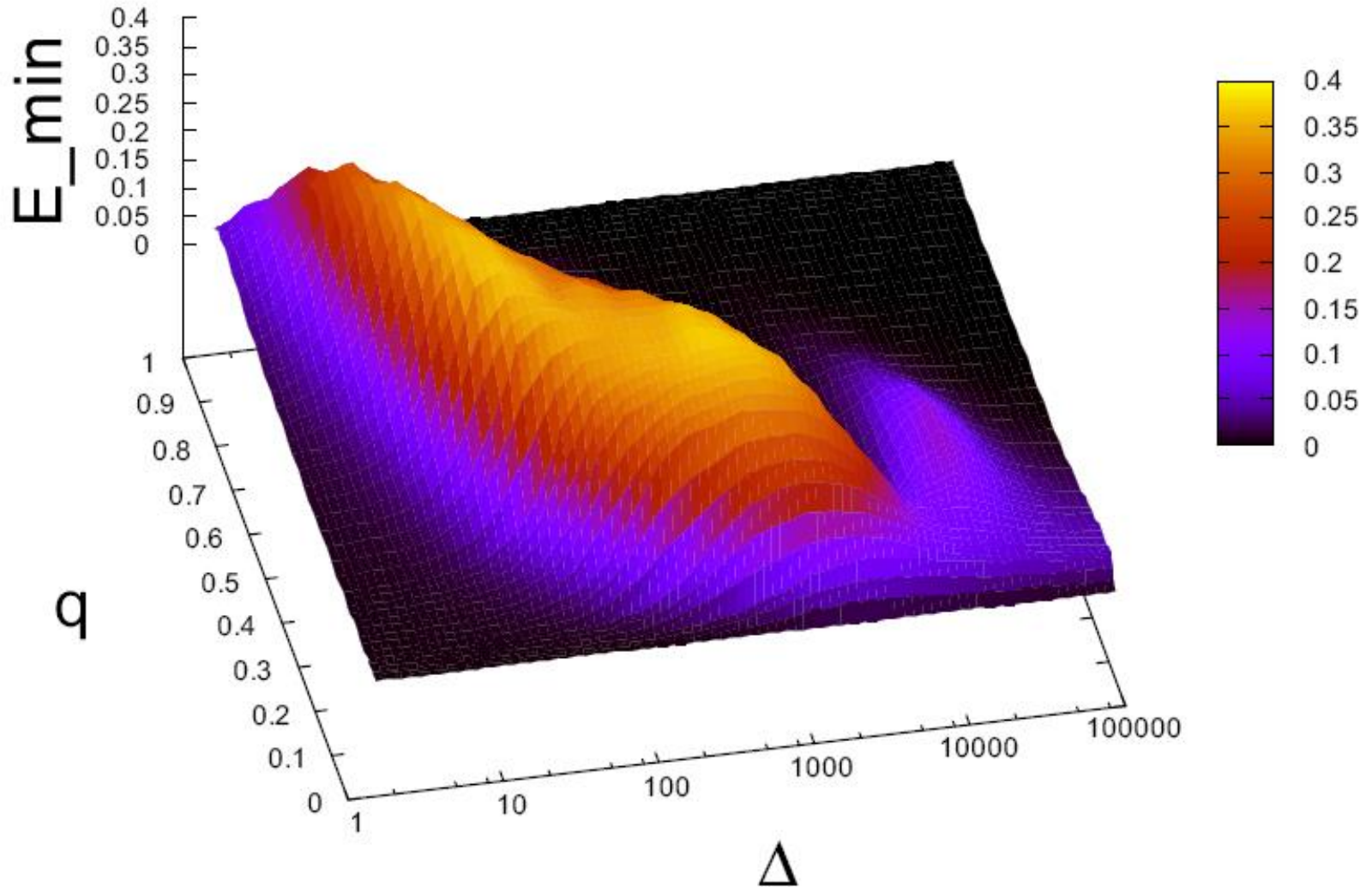
# Memory with power-law decay



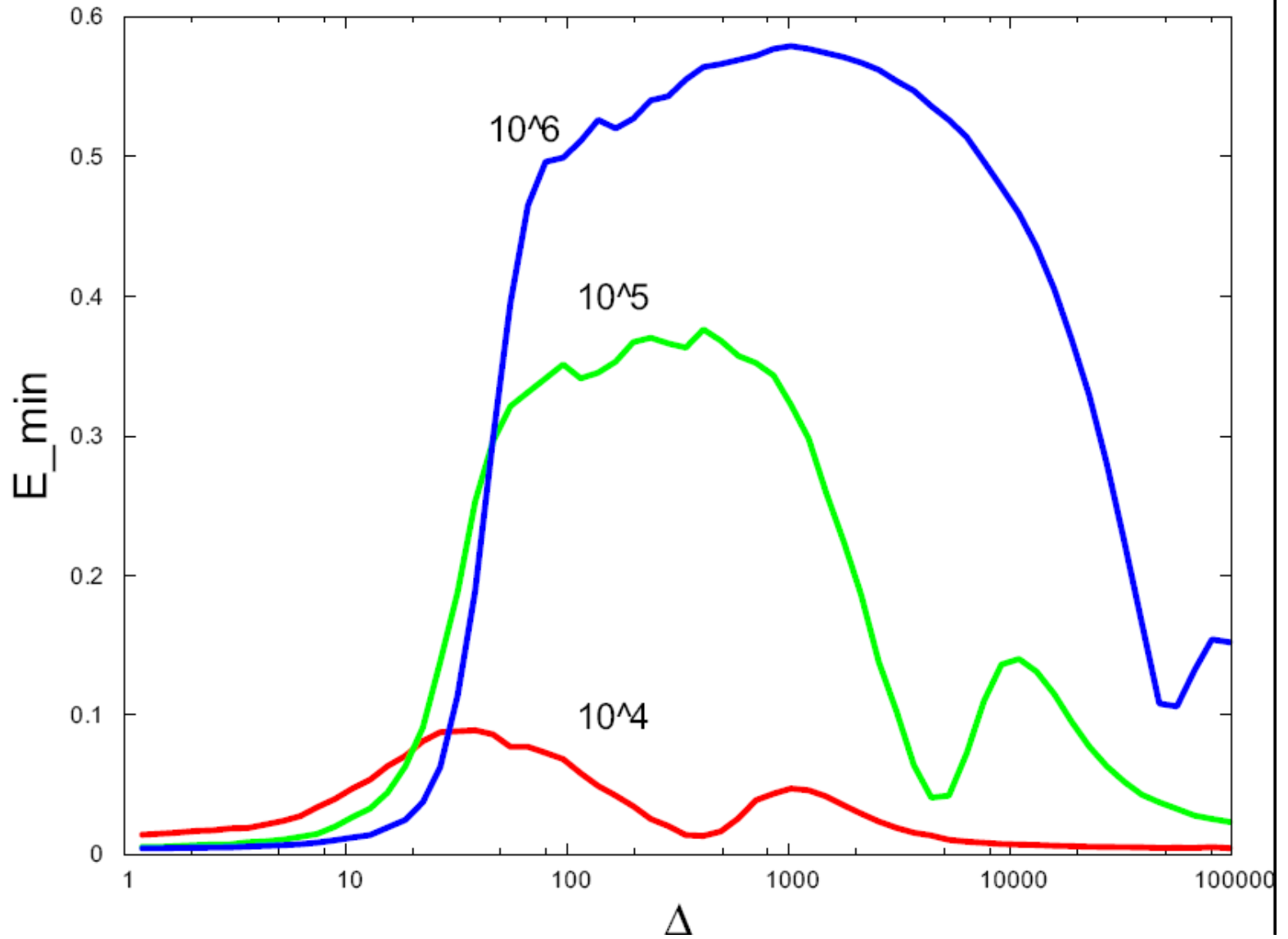
## Dependence on the duration of the food patch



# Memory with exponential decay

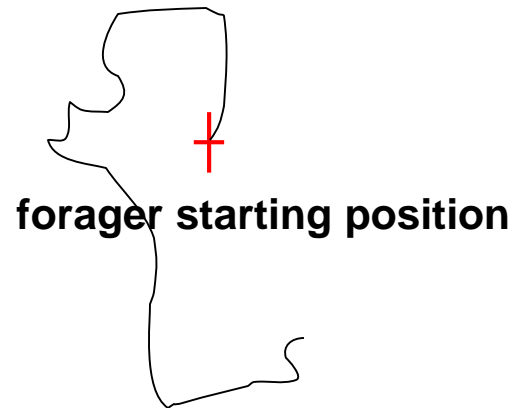


# Dependence on the duration of the food patch

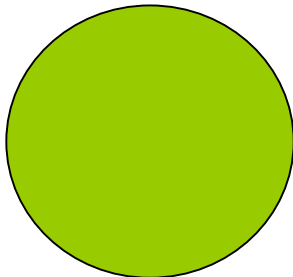


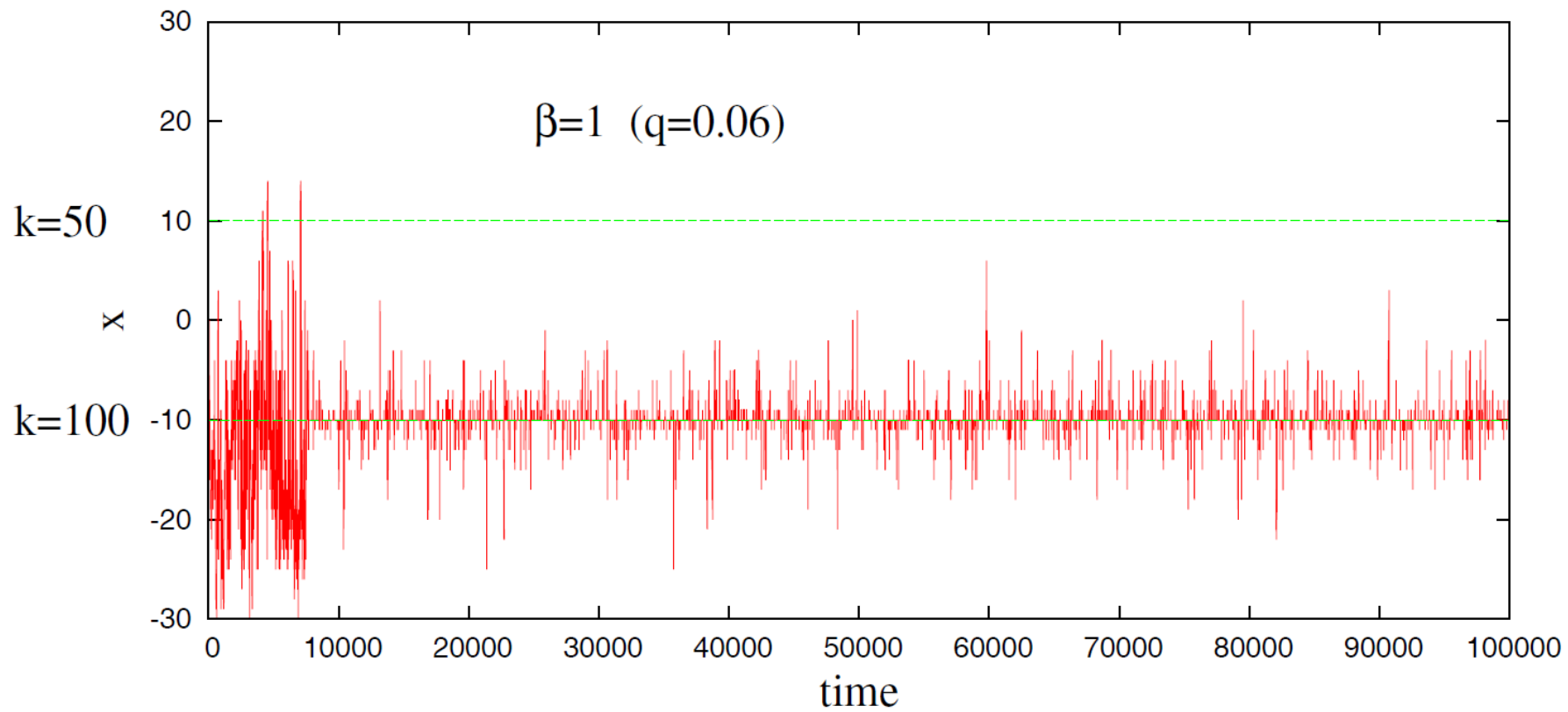
## Experiment #3:

food patch,  $k_1$



food patch,  $k_2 > k_1$





**Resource patch exploitation (repeated visits).**

**Resource patch selection (fruiting status/size).**

**Abandon unproductive resource patch.**

**Patrolling (“checking” state of formerly exploited patches).**

**Distance discounting.**

**Deal with a wide spectrum of patch temporal scales.**

**...**

**Validation with field data? Bayesian methods?**

(see Merkel, Fortin, Morales, *Eco. Lett.* 2014)



## Thanks to...

**Citlali Solis (UNAM)**

**Julio César Romo (UNAM)**

**Inti Pineda (UNAM)**

**Anuar Hernández (UNAM)**

**Luis Martínez (UNAM)**

**Peter Walsh (Cambridge)**

**Meg Crofoot (Princeton/UC Davis)**

**Gabriel Ramos-Fernández (IPN-Oaxaca)**



# Conclusions

- **Nuevos resultados sobre procesos estocásticos con memoria de largo alcance:**

**Extención del teorema límite central: Gaussianas más allá del movimiento browniano, distribuciones de Lévy más allá de los vuelos de Lévy.**

**Dinámica logarítmica.**

**Acuerdo con datos de campo.**

**A estudiar: Tiempos de primer paso; funciones de respuesta...**

**Aplicaciones a ambientes heterogéneos.**

**Métodos más sofisticados de análisis de trayectorias reales (infer. Bayesiana).**

- **¿Efectos de los comportamientos individuales en fenómenos colectivo o a grandes escalas?**

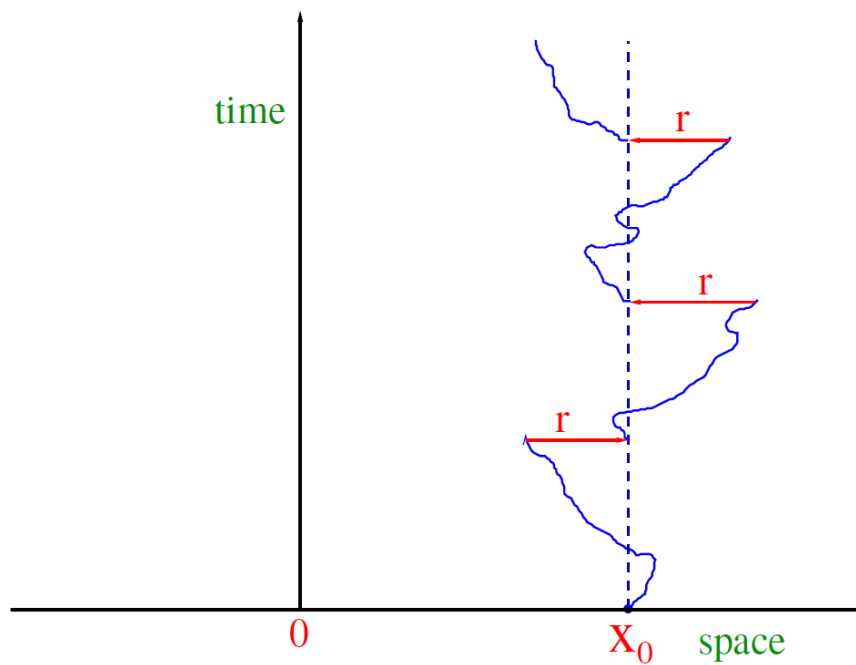
**Problemas de tráfico.**

**Propagación de enfermedades.**

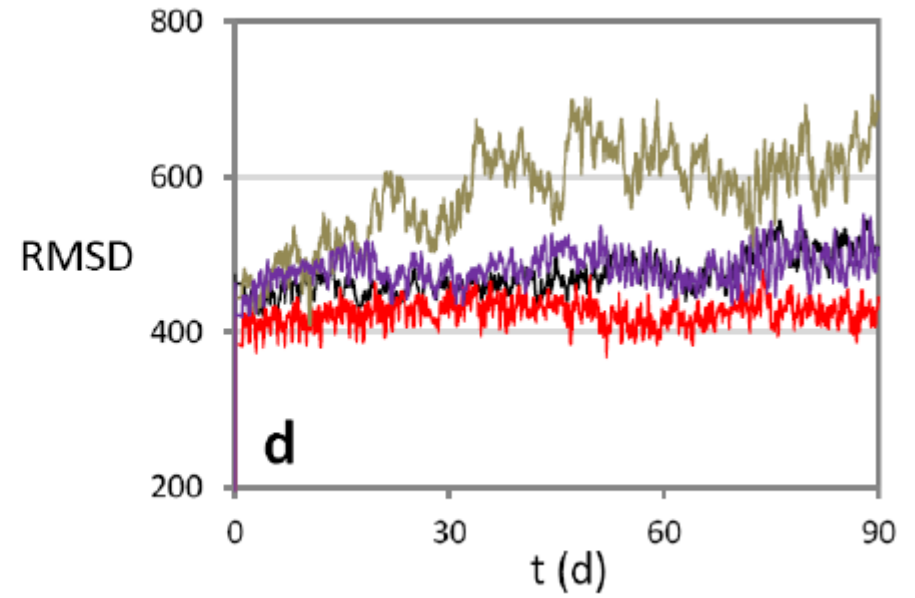
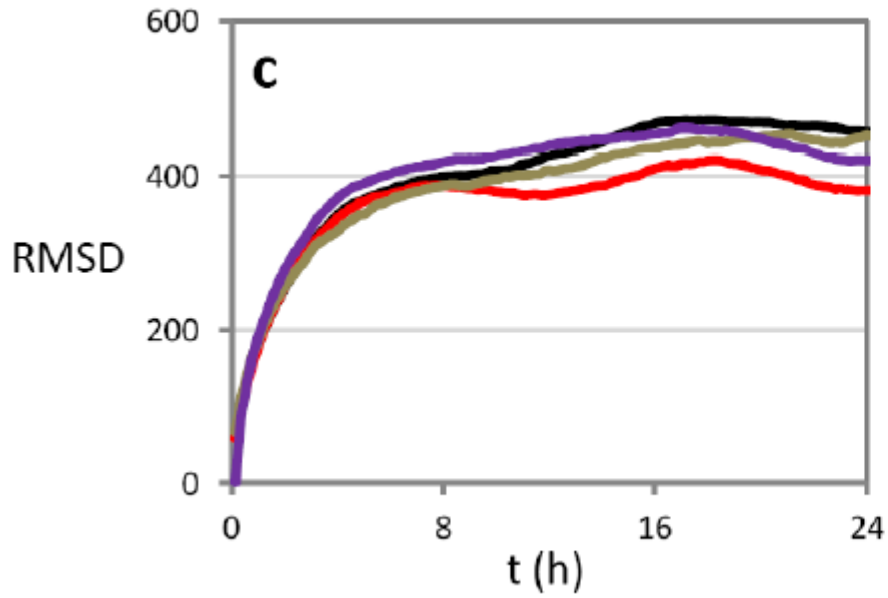
**Redes de contactos, interacción social.**

## Diffusion with Stochastic Resetting

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



## Difusión muy lenta por animales



Boyer, Crofoot, Walsh, *J. R. Soc. Interface*, 2011.

**Gaussians emerge here because:**

Random movement (diffusion) *marginally* overcomes recurrent memory (confinement).

[by marginal we mean that fluctuations grow slower than  $t^\alpha$ , as a log typically.]

**Consequence of Gaussianity: effective Fokker-Planck equation for  $P$ :**

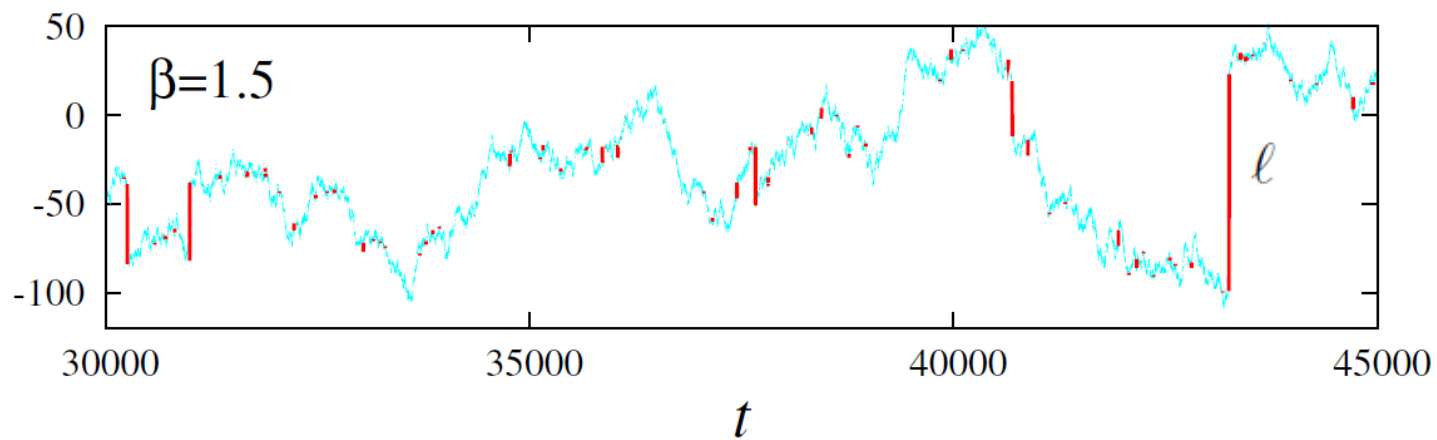
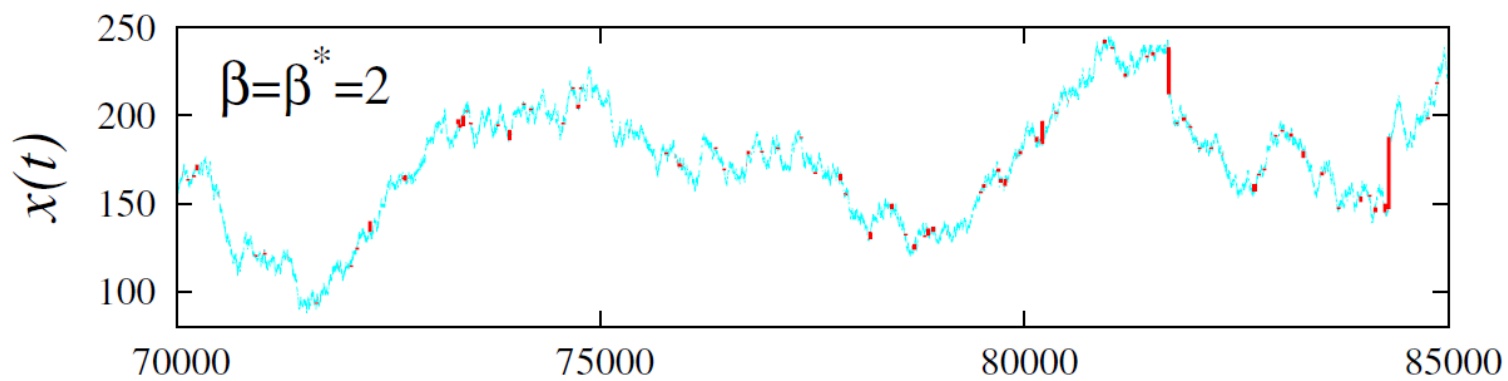
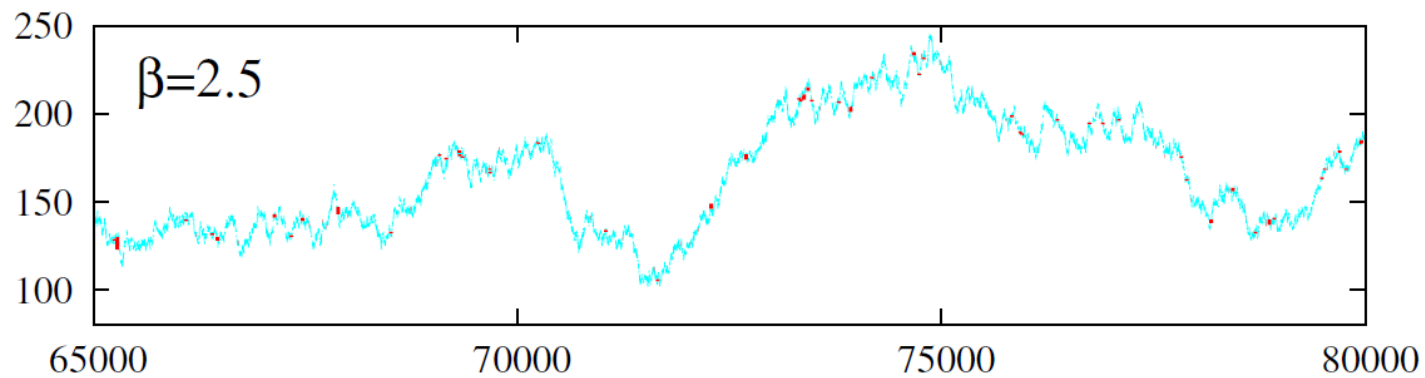
$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial t} \simeq \frac{1-q}{2qt} \frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial x^2}$$

**But**

**The Gaussian saling regime is extremely long to settle,  
not observable in simulations:**

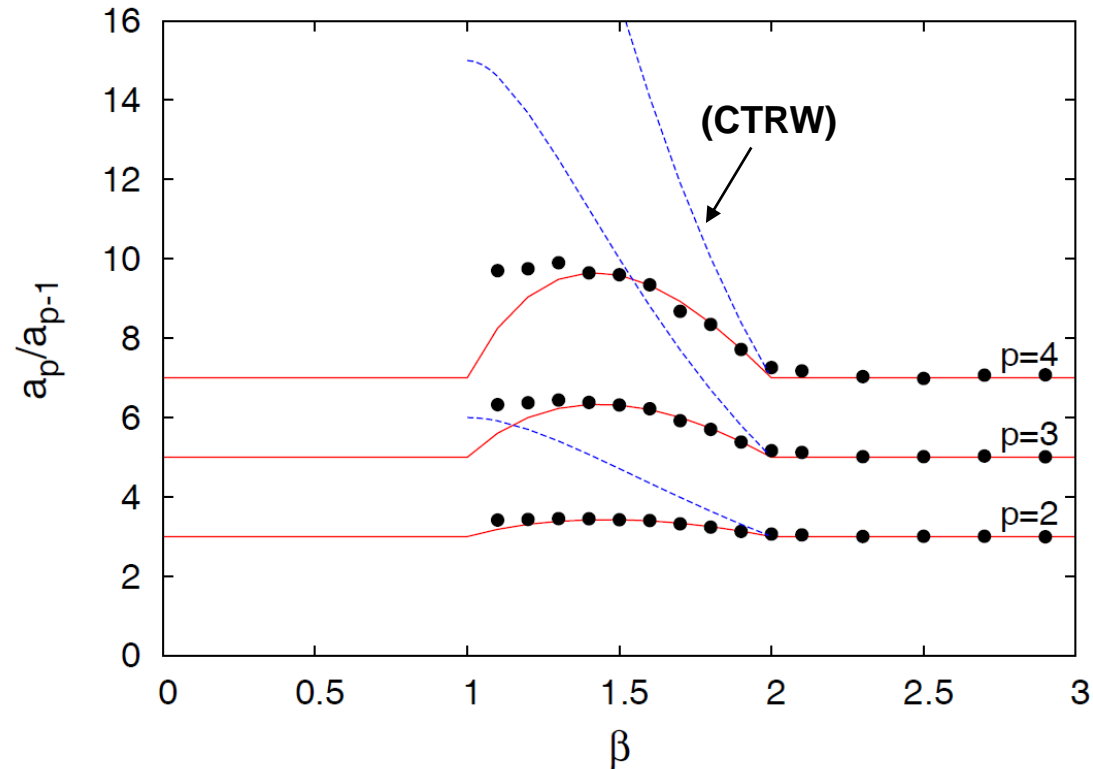
$$\frac{a_p}{a_{p-1}}(t) = (2p-1) \left( 1 + \frac{c_p}{\ln t} \right) + O((\ln t)^{-2})$$

**OK at  $t=10^{100}$  but not at  $10^9$ .**



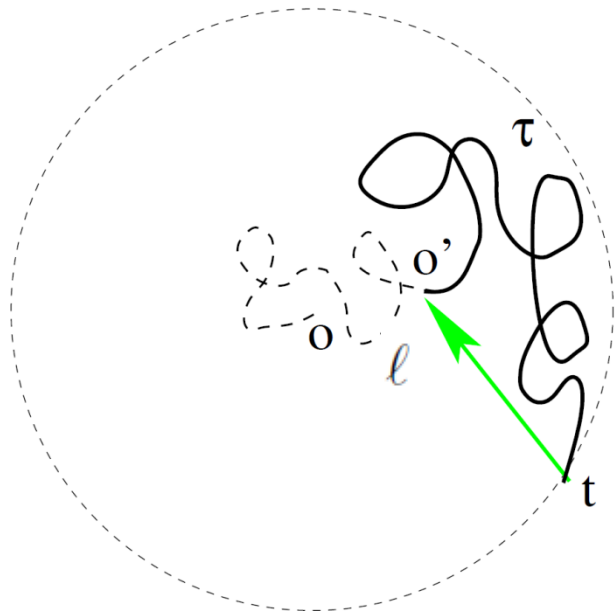
## Case $1 < \beta < 2$ :

$$\frac{a_p}{a_{p-1}} = (2p - 1) \frac{p \mathcal{I}_1(\beta)}{\mathcal{I}_p(\beta)} \quad \text{with} \quad \mathcal{I}_p(\beta) = \int_0^1 du \frac{1 - u^{p(\beta-1)}}{(1-u)^{-\beta}}$$



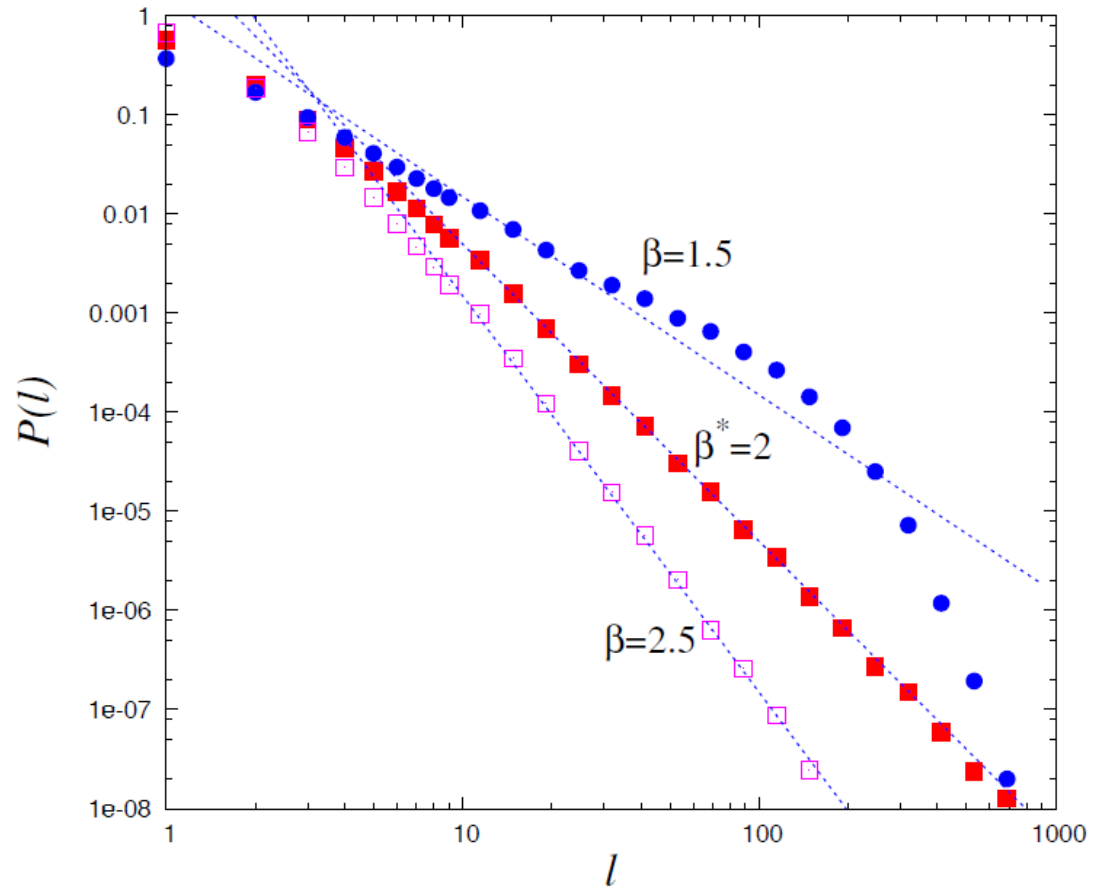
$$g(x) \propto e^{-b_\mu |x|^{\delta_\mu}}, \quad |x| \gg 1$$

Seems to be a new universality class, not related to a known subdiffusive process (e.g., Continuous Time RW).



$$l \sim [M_2(\tau)]^{1/2} \sim \tau^{1/2}$$

$$\Rightarrow P(l) \sim l^{-(2\beta-1)} \sim l^{-3}$$



Lévy-like step length distribution at  $\beta = 2$ .

“Lévy flights” at the onset of **sub**diffusion.