

# Universal laws and architecture 1:

Theoretical foundations for complex networks relevant to biology, medicine, and neuroscience?

John Doyle

John G Braun Professor

Control and Dynamical Systems, EE, BE

Caltech

Thanks

# Lectures

- 1) Concrete motivation
- 2-3) Universal laws and architectures\*
- 4) A teensy bit of math

\*have you ever heard of anything more pretentious?

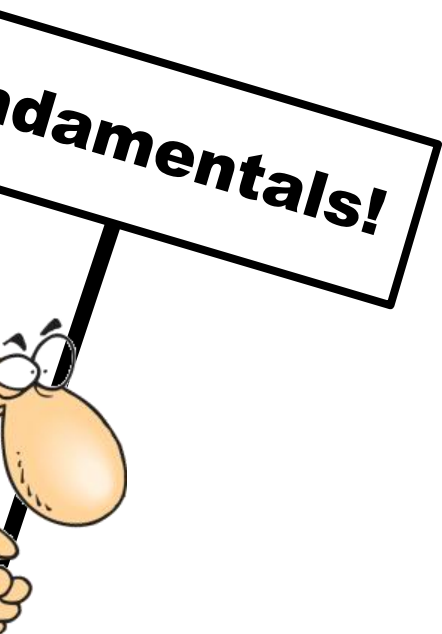
# Seriously?

- 1) Irresponsible speculation  
(Feedback from audience)
- 2-3) Slightly less speculative?
- 4) A teensy bit of math?

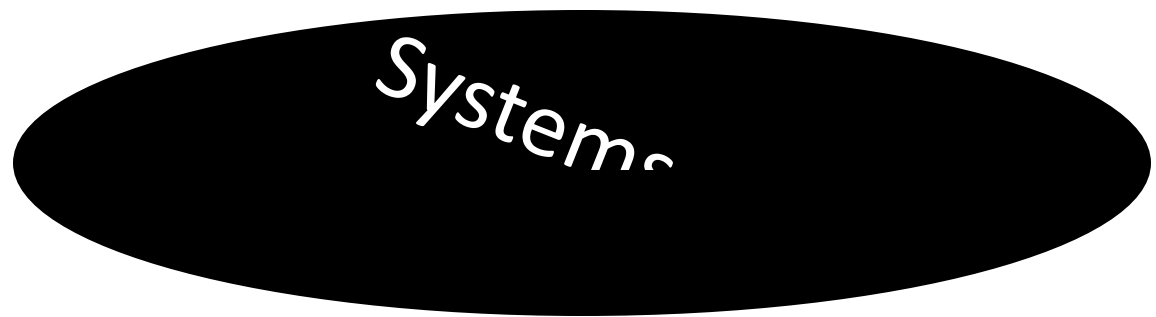
- Sophisticated components
- Poor integration
- Limited theoretical framework

# Lectures

- 1) Concrete motivation
- 2-3) Universal laws and architectures
- 4) A teensy bit of math



A rant

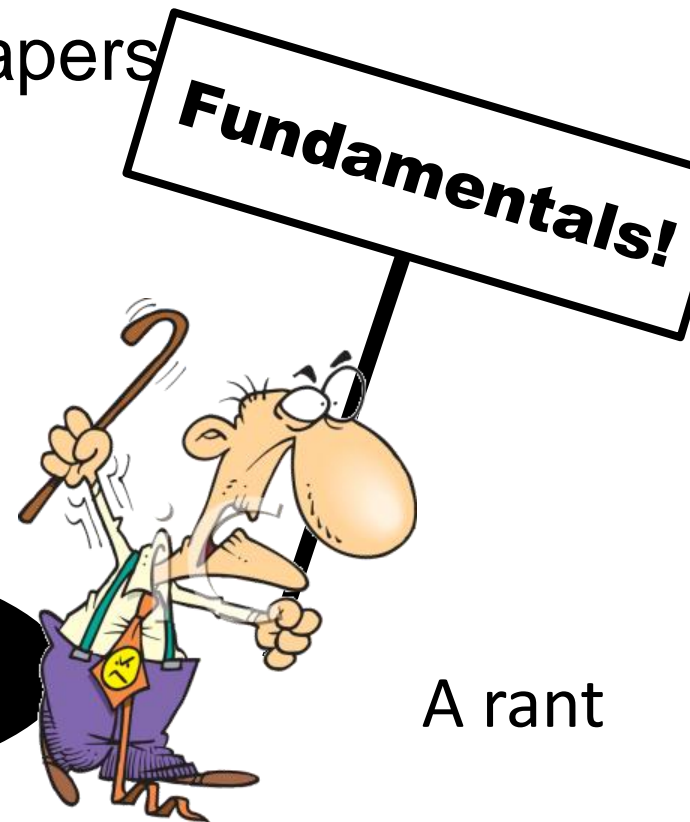


# “Universal laws and architectures?”

- Theoretical foundations for complex systems
- Universal “conservation laws” (constraints)
- Universal architectures (constraints that deconstrain)
- Mention recent papers\*
- Focus on broader context not in papers
- Lots of case studies for motivation

\*try to get you  
to read them?

Systems



A rant

This paper aims to bridge progress in **neuroscience** involving sophisticated quantitative analysis of behavior, including the use of **robust control**, with other relevant conceptual and theoretical frameworks from **systems engineering, systems biology, and mathematics**.

Very accessible  
No math

# Architecture, constraints, and behavior

John C. Doyle<sup>a,1</sup> and Marie Csete<sup>b,1</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Control and Dynamical Systems, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91125; and <sup>b</sup>Department of Anesthesiology, University of California, San Diego, CA 92103

Edited by Donald W. Pfaff, The Rockefeller University, New York, NY, and approved June 10, 2011 (received for review March 3, 2011)

This paper aims to bridge progress in neuroscience involving sophisticated quantitative analysis of behavior, including the use of robust control, with other relevant conceptual and theoretical frameworks from systems engineering, systems biology, and mathematics. Familiar and accessible case studies are used to illustrate concepts of robustness, organization, and architecture (modularity and protocols) that are central to understanding complex networks. These essential organizational features are hidden during normal function of a system but are fundamental for understanding the nature, design, and function of complex biologic and technologic systems.

evolved for sensorimotor control and retain much of that evolved architecture, then the apparent distinctions between perceptual, cognitive, and motor processes may be another form of illusion (9), reinforcing the claim that robust control and adaptive feedback (7, 11) rather than more conventional serial signal processing might be more useful in interpreting neurophysiology data (9). This view also seems broadly consistent with the arguments from grounded cognition that modal simulations, bodily states, and situated action underlie not only motor control but cognition in general (12), including language (13). Furthermore, the myriad constraints involved in the evolution of circuit

Doyle and Csete, *Proc Nat Acad Sci USA*, JULY 25 2011



# Human complexity

Robust

Fragile

# Human complexity

## Robust

- ☺ Metabolism
- ☺ Regeneration & repair
- ☺ Healing wound /infect

## Fragile

- ☹ Obesity, diabetes
- ☹ Cancer
- ☹ AutoImmune/Inflame

**Start with physiology**

Lots of triage

# Benefits

## Robust

- ☺ Metabolism
  - ☺ Regeneration & repair
  - ☺ Healing wound /infect
- 
- ☺ Efficient
  - ☺ Mobility
  - ☺ Survive uncertain food supply
  - ☺ Recover from moderate trauma and infection

# Mechanism?

## Robust

- ☺ Metabolism
- ☺ Regeneration & repair
- ☺ Healing wound /infect
- ☹ Fat accumulation
- ☹ Insulin resistance
- ☹ Proliferation
- ☹ Inflammation

## Fragile

- ☹ Obesity, diabetes
- ☹ Cancer
- ☹ AutoImmune/Inflame
- ☹ Fat accumulation
- ☹ Insulin resistance
- ☹ Proliferation
- ☹ Inflammation

# What's the difference?

## Robust

- 😊 Metabolism
- 😊 Regeneration & repair
- 😊 Healing wound /infect

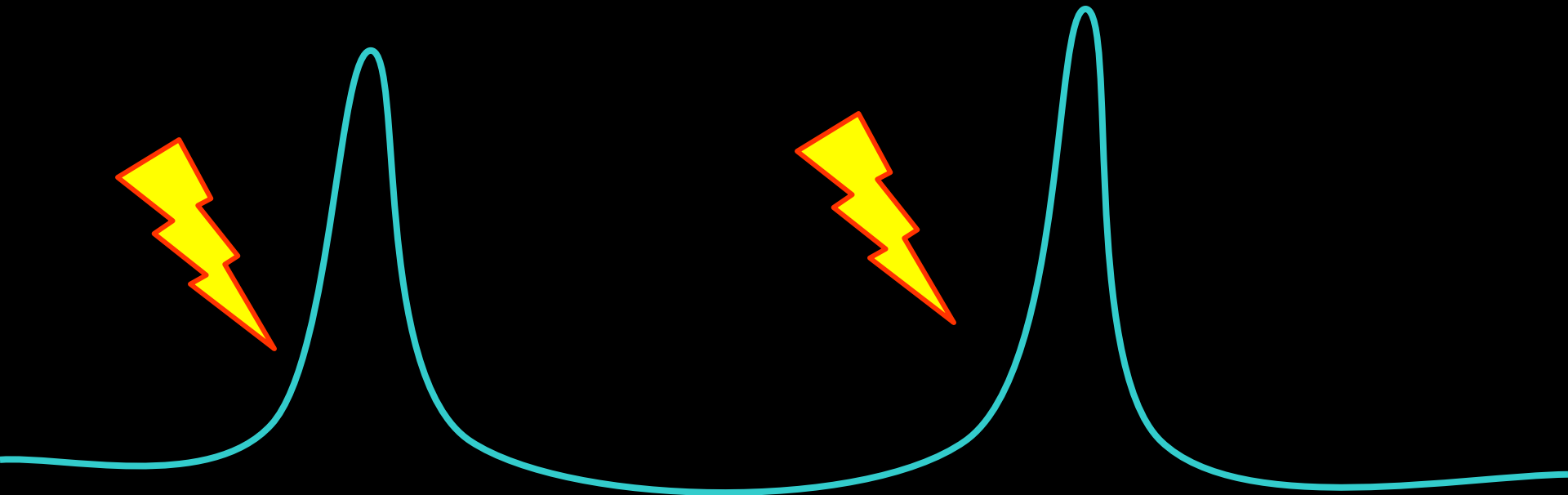
## Fragile

- 😞 Obesity, diabetes
- 😞 Cancer
- 😞 AutoImmune/Inflame

- 😞 Fat accumulation
- 😞 Insulin resistance
- 😞 Proliferation
- 😞 Inflammation

Controlled  
Dynamic

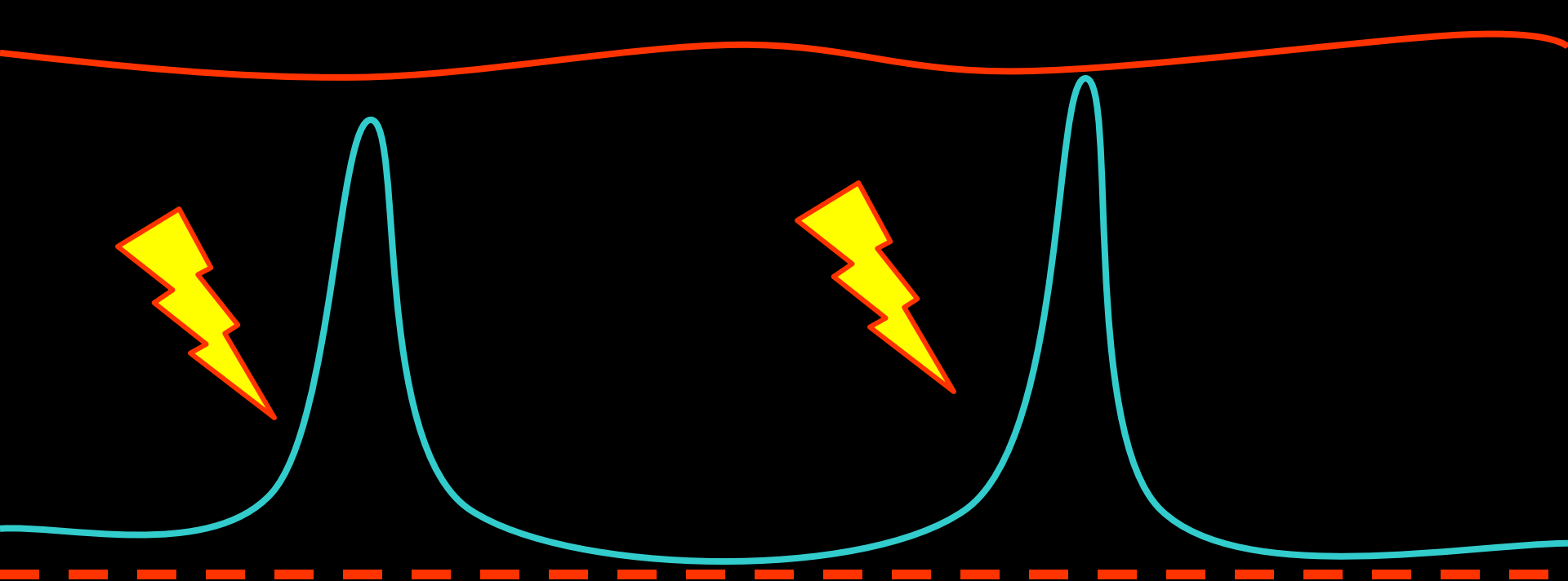
Uncontrolled  
Chronic



- ☹ Fat accumulation
- ☹ Insulin resistance
- ☹ Proliferation
- ☹ Inflammation

Controlled  
Dynamic

Low mean  
High variability



Death

- ☹ Fat accumulation
- ☹ Insulin resistance
- ☹ Proliferation
- ☹ Inflammation

Controlled  
Dynamic

Low mean  
High variability

Uncontrolled  
Chronic

High mean  
Low variability

# Restoring robustness?

## Robust

- 😊 Metabolism
- 😊 Regeneration & repair
- 😊 Healing wound /infect
- ☹ Fat accumulation
- ☹ Insulin resistance
- ☹ Proliferation
- ☹ Inflammation

Controlled  
Dynamic

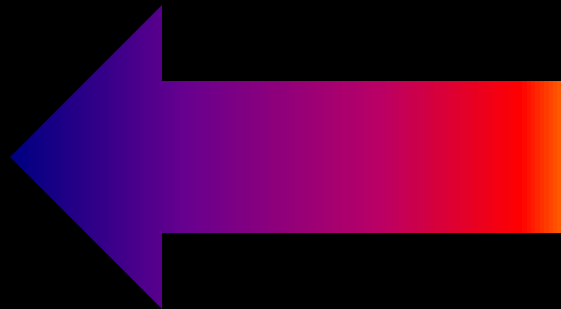
Low mean  
High variability

## Fragile

- ☹ Obesity, diabetes
- ☹ Cancer
- ☹ AutoImmune/Inflame
- ☹ Fat accumulation
- ☹ Insulin resistance
- ☹ Proliferation
- ☹ Inflammation

Uncontrolled  
Chronic

High mean  
Low variability





# Human complexity

## Robust

- 😊 Metabolism
- 😊 Regeneration & repair
- 😊 Immune/inflammation
- 😊 Microbe symbionts
- 😊 Neuro-endocrine
- 📄 Complex societies
- 📄 Advanced technologies
- 📄 Risk “management”

## Yet Fragile

- 😞 Obesity, diabetes
- 😞 Cancer
- 😞 AutoImmune/Inflame
- 😞 Parasites, infection
- 😞 Addiction, psychosis,...
- 💀 Epidemics, war,...
- 💣 Disasters, global &!%\$#
- 💣 Obfuscate, amplify,...

Accident or necessity?

# Robust

☺ Metabolism

☺ Regenerati

☺ Healing wo

# Fragile

☹ Obesity, diabetes

☹ Fat accumulation

☹ Insulin resistance

☹ Proliferation

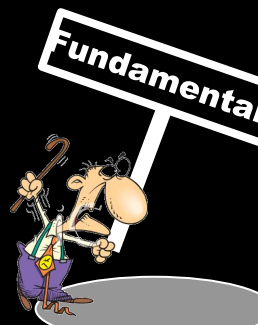
☹ Inflammation

une/Inflame

- Fragility ← Hijacking, side effects, unintended...
- Of mechanisms evolved for robustness
- Complexity ← control, robust/fragile tradeoffs
- Math: robust/fragile constraints (“conservation laws”)

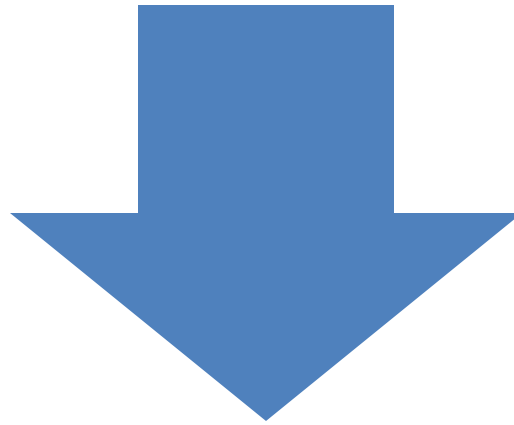
## Both

## Accident or necessity?

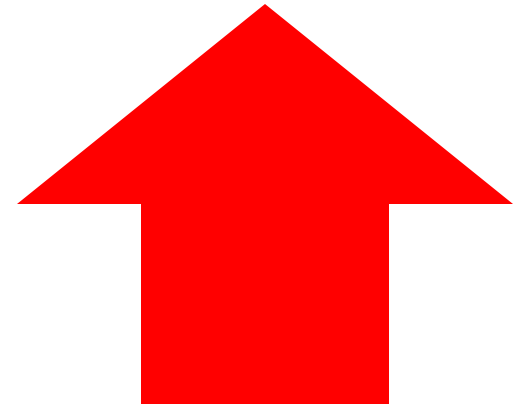


fragile

robust



**Some features  
robust to some  
perturbations**

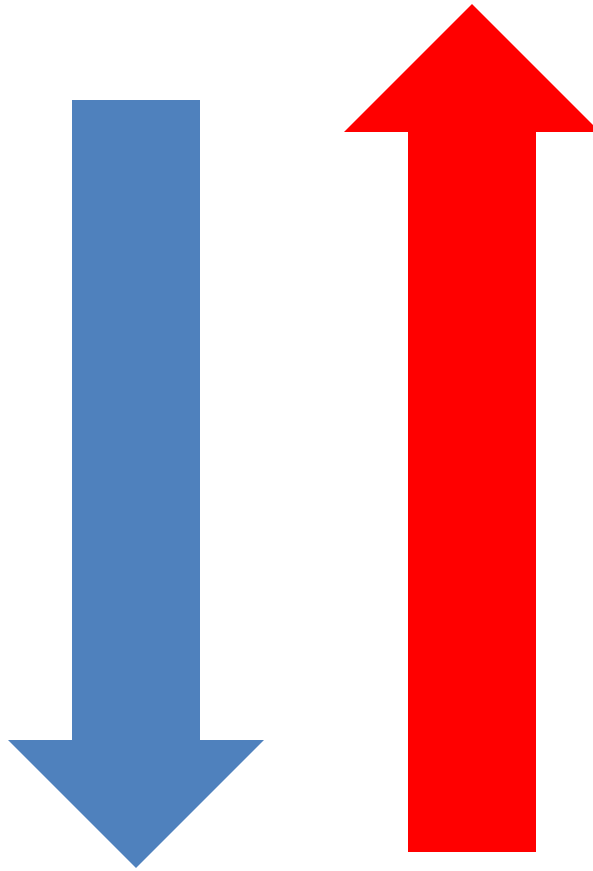


**Other features or  
other  
perturbations**

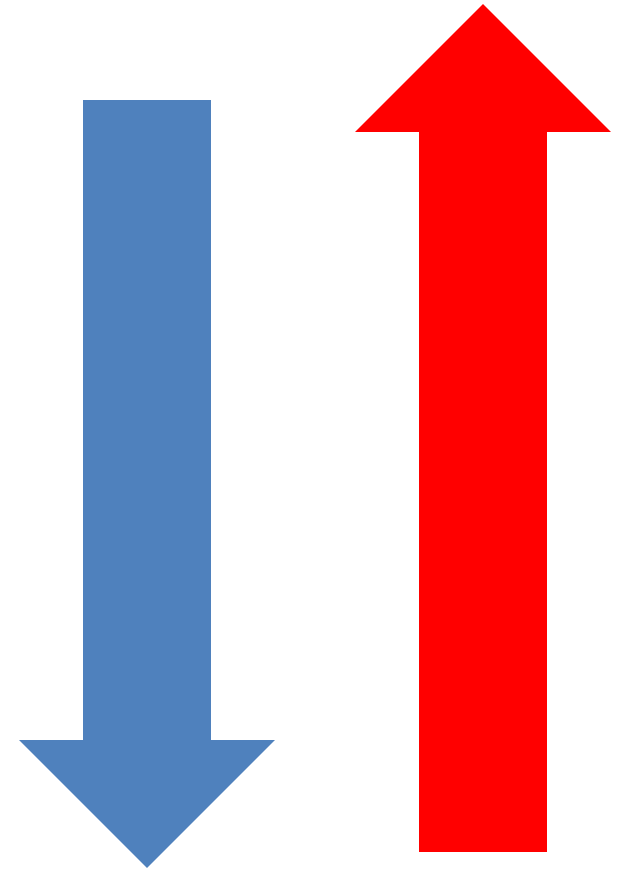
# Increased complexity?

fragile

robust



**Some features  
robust to some  
perturbations**



**Other features or  
other  
perturbations**

Robust

Modular

Simple

Plastic

Evolvable

*and*

~~**xor**~~

Fragile

Distributed

Complex

Frozen

Frozen

*tradeoffs*

weak  
fragile  
slow



## Human evolution



hands  
feet  
skeleton  
muscle  
skin  
gut  
long helpless childhood

All very  
different.

strong  
robust  
fast

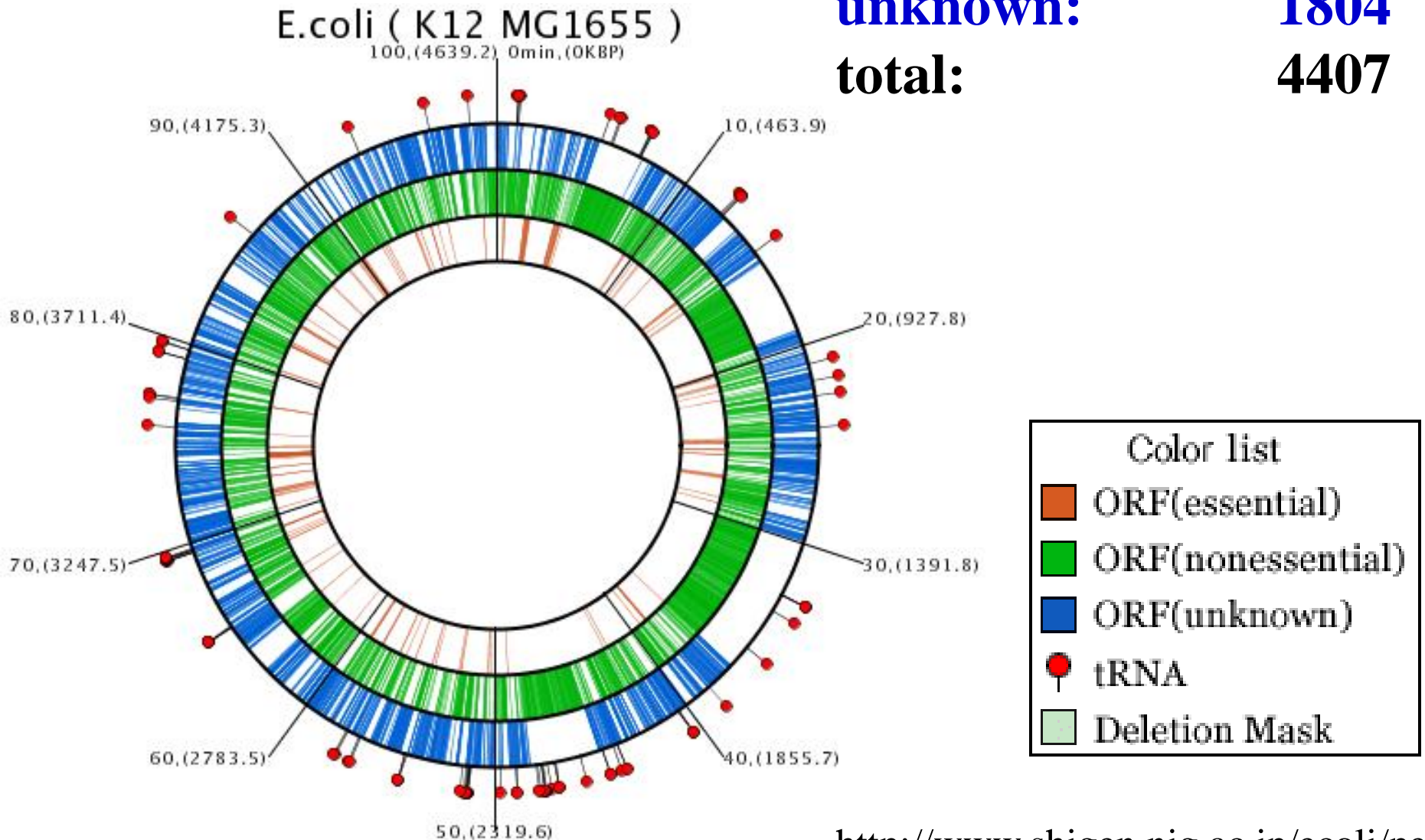


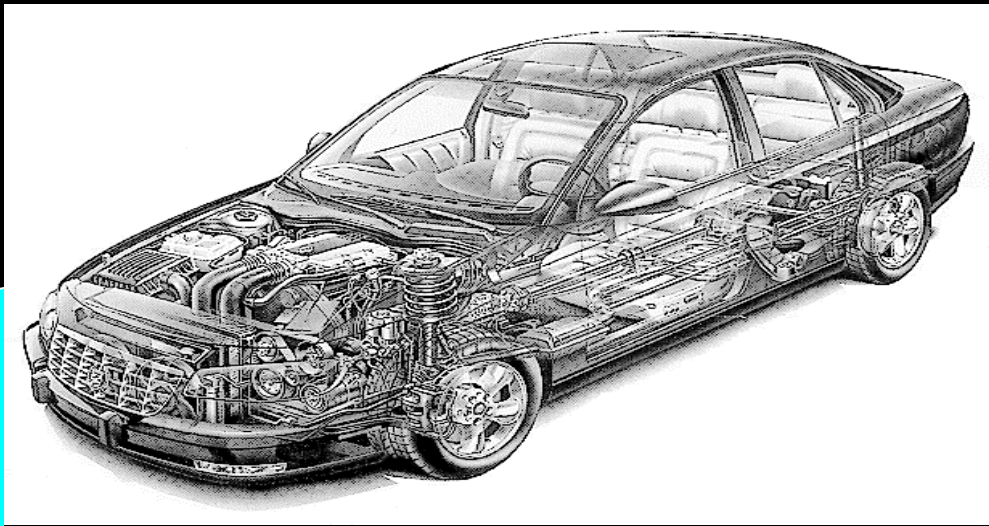
Apes

How is this  
progress?

# Gene networks?

**essential:** 230  
**nonessential:** 2373  
**unknown:** 1804  
**total:** 4407





Steering

Brakes

Anti-skid

Wipers

Mirrors

Cruise control

GPS

Radio

Traction control

Shifting

Headlights

Electronic ignition

Temperature control

Seats

Electronic fuel injection

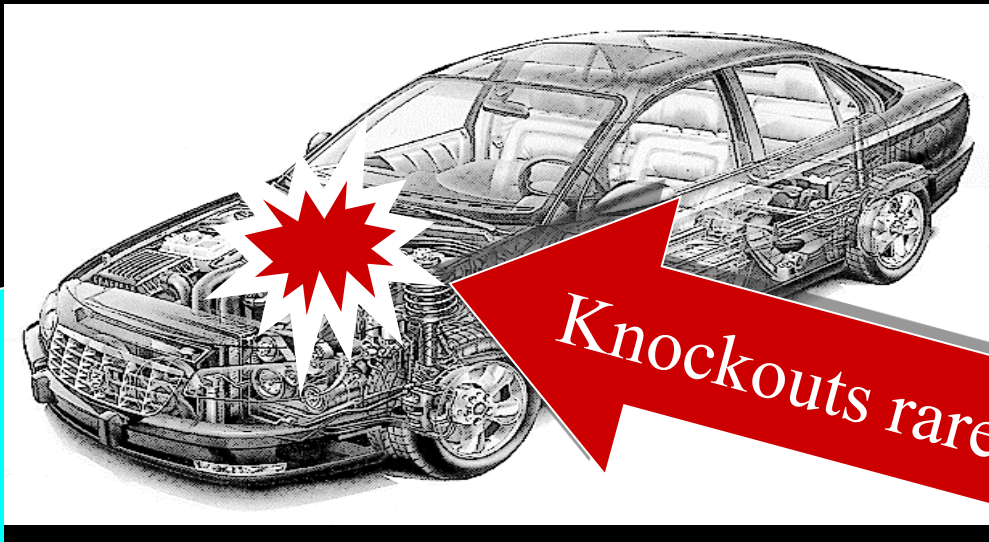
Seatbelts

Bumpers Fenders

Suspension (control) Airbags







*Knockouts rarely lethal*

Steering  
Brakes

Anti-skid

Wipers Mirrors

Cruise control

GPS Radio

Traction c

Knockouts often lose robustness,  
not minimal functionality

Electronic ignition

Temperature control

Seats

Electronic fuel injection

Seatbelts

Bumpers Fenders

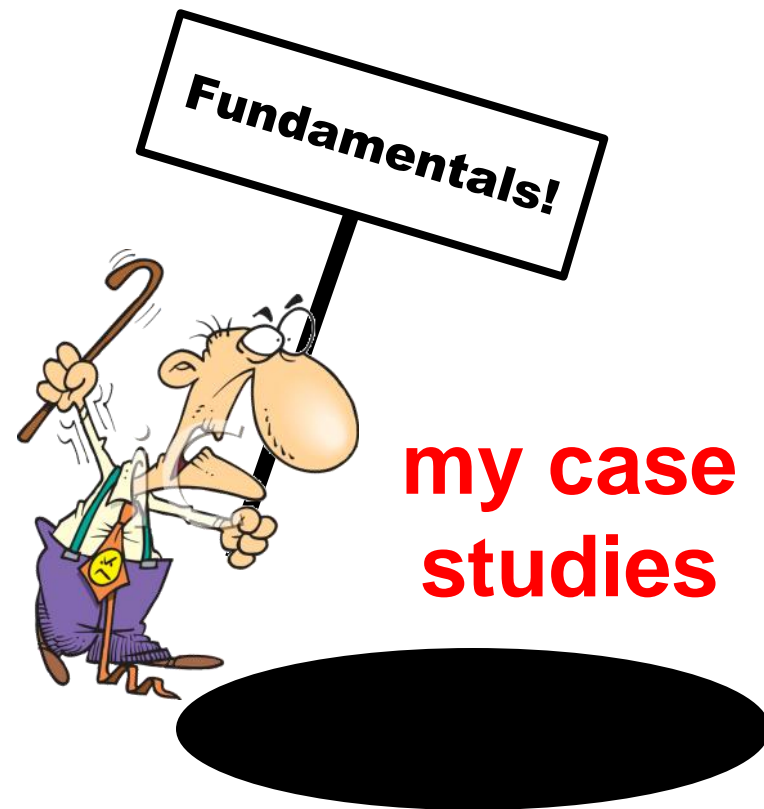
Suspension (control) Airbags

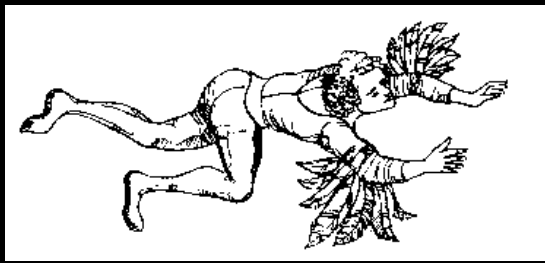


- Lots from cell biology
  - glycolytic oscillations for hard limits
  - bacterial layering for architecture
- Networking and “clean slate” architectures
  - wireless end systems
  - info or content centric application layer
  - integrate routing, control, scheduling, coding, caching
  - control of cyber-physical
  - PC, OS, VLSI, antennas, etc (IT components)

**my case  
studies**

- Cell biology
- Networking & “clean slate” architectures
- Neuroscience
- Medical physiology
- Smartgrid, cyber-phys
- Wildfire ecology
- Earthquakes
- Lots of aerospace
- Physics:
  - turbulence,
  - stat mech (QM?)
- “Toy”:
  - Lego,
  - clothing,
  - buildings, ...





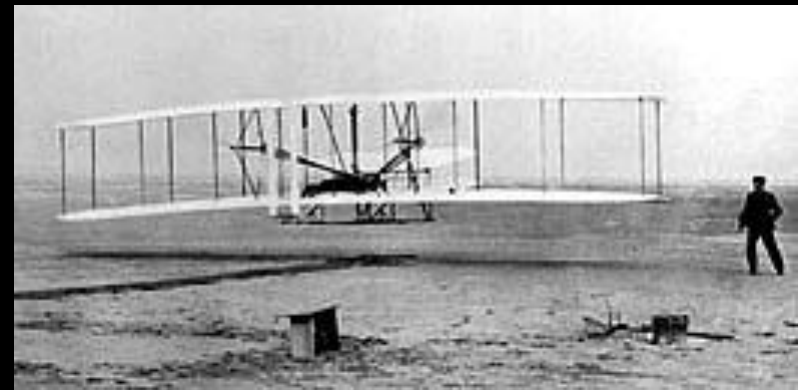
# The dangers of naïve biomimetics



Feathers  
and  
flapping?



Or lift, drag, propulsion,  
and ***control***?



# Getting it (W)right, 1901

- “We know how to construct airplanes...” (lift and drag)
- “... also know how to build engines.” (propulsion)
- “When... balance and steer[ing]... has been worked out, the age of flying will have arrived, for all other difficulties are of minor importance.” (control)



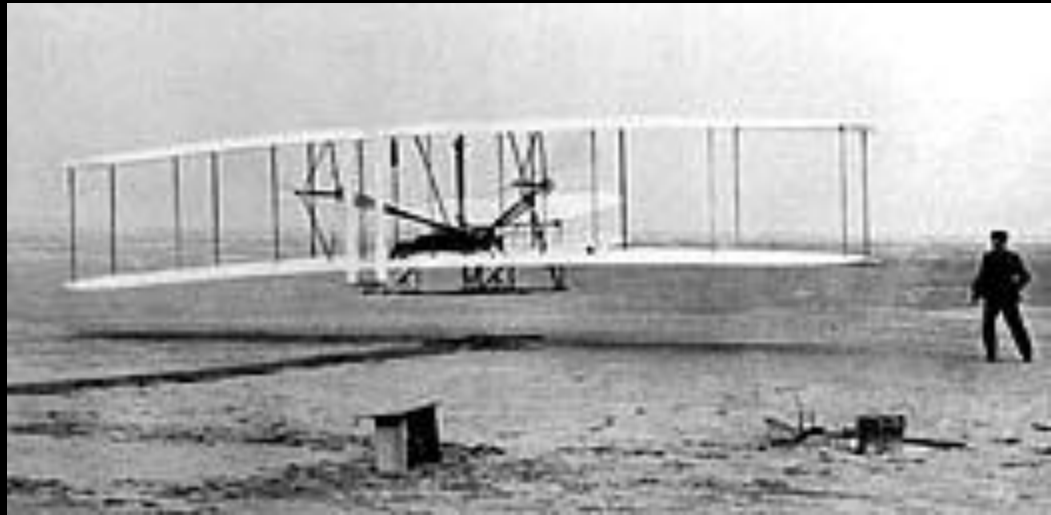
**Wilbur Wright on Control, 1901**  
(First powered flight, 1903)



# Universals?

~~Feathers  
and  
flapping?~~

Lift, drag, propulsion,  
and ***control?***

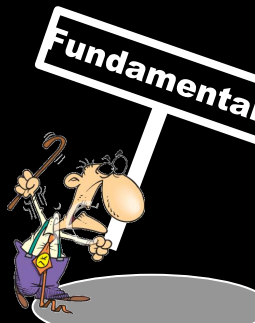


# Universals?

- Complexity  $\leftarrow$  control, robust/fragile tradeoffs
- Fragility  $\leftarrow$  Hijacking, side effects, unintended...
- Of mechanisms evolved for robustness
- Math: robust/fragile constraints (“conservation laws”)

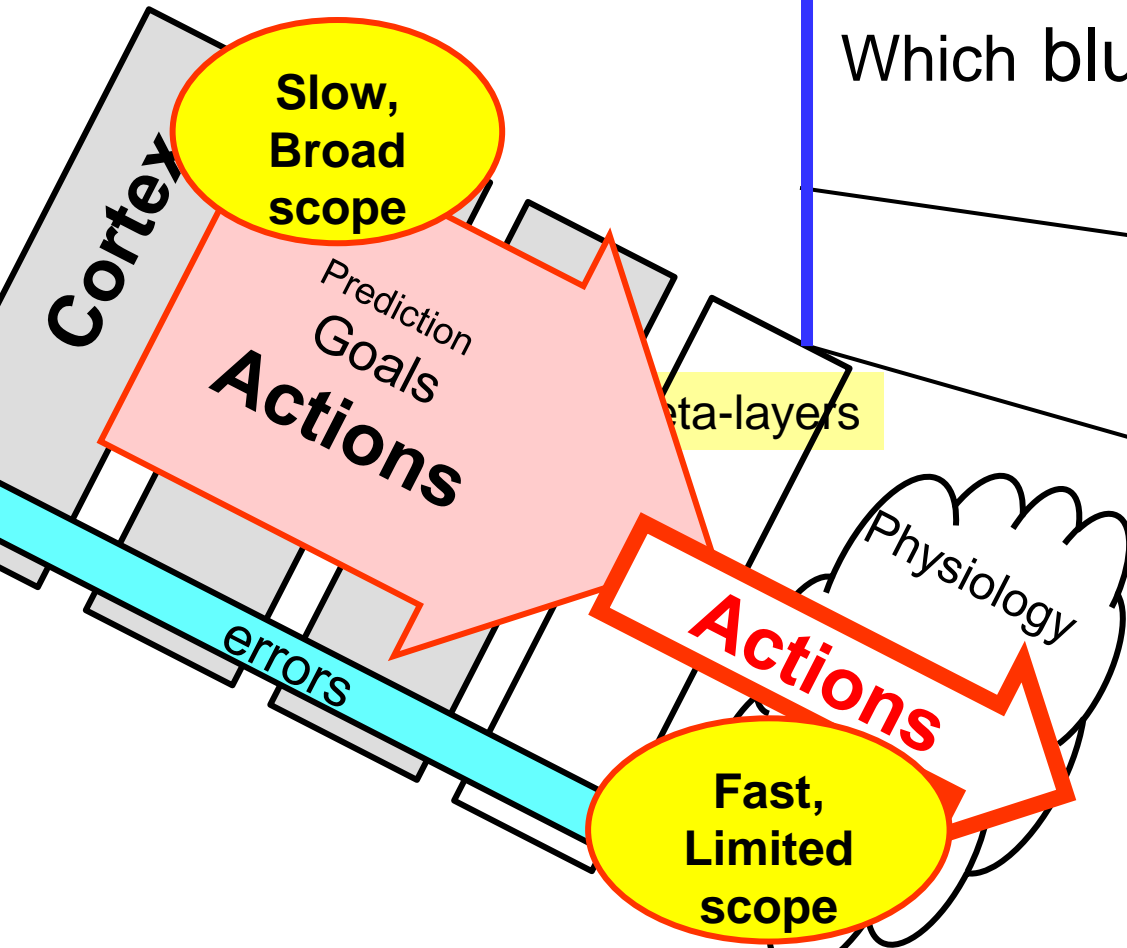
**Both**

Accident or necessity?



“Seeing is dreaming?”

“Seeing is believing?”

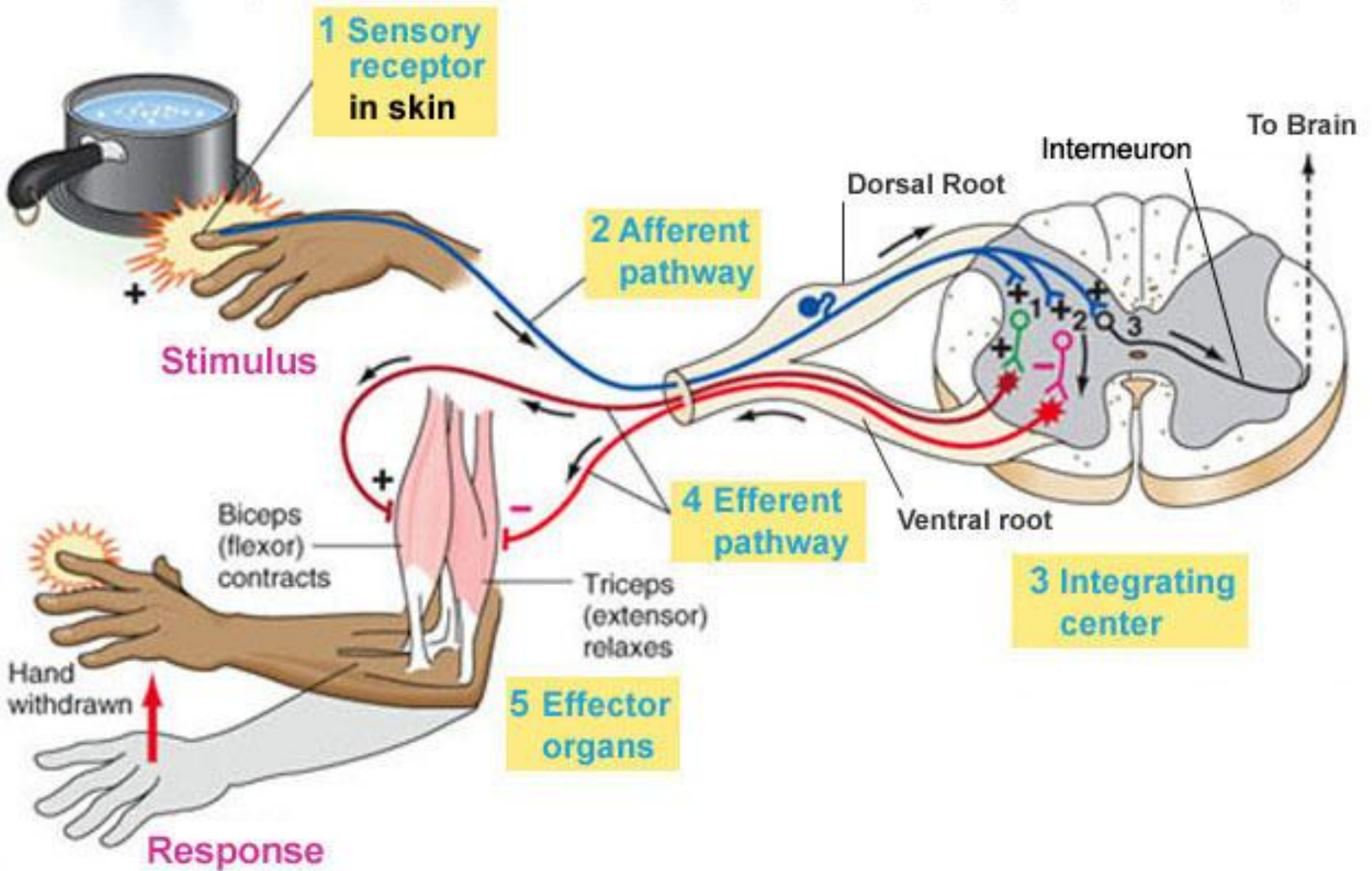


Which blue line is longer?

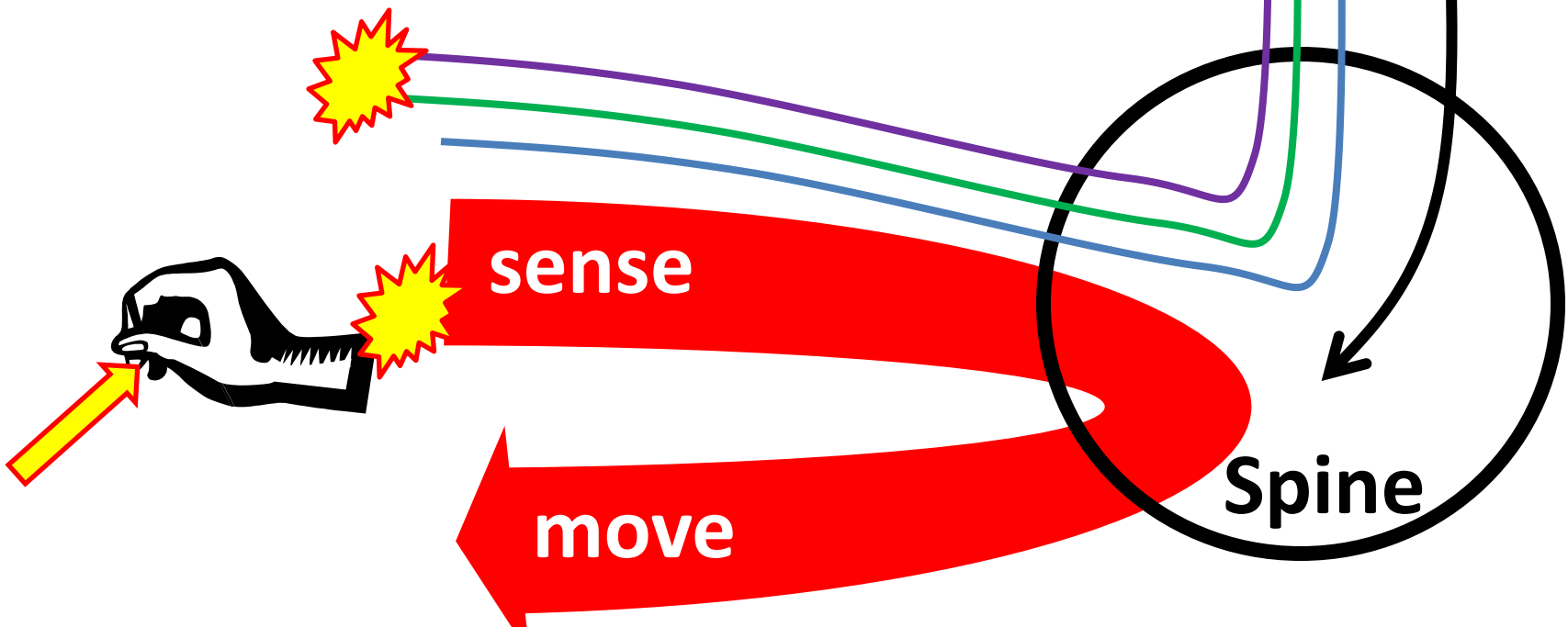


Peripheral  
nervous  
system

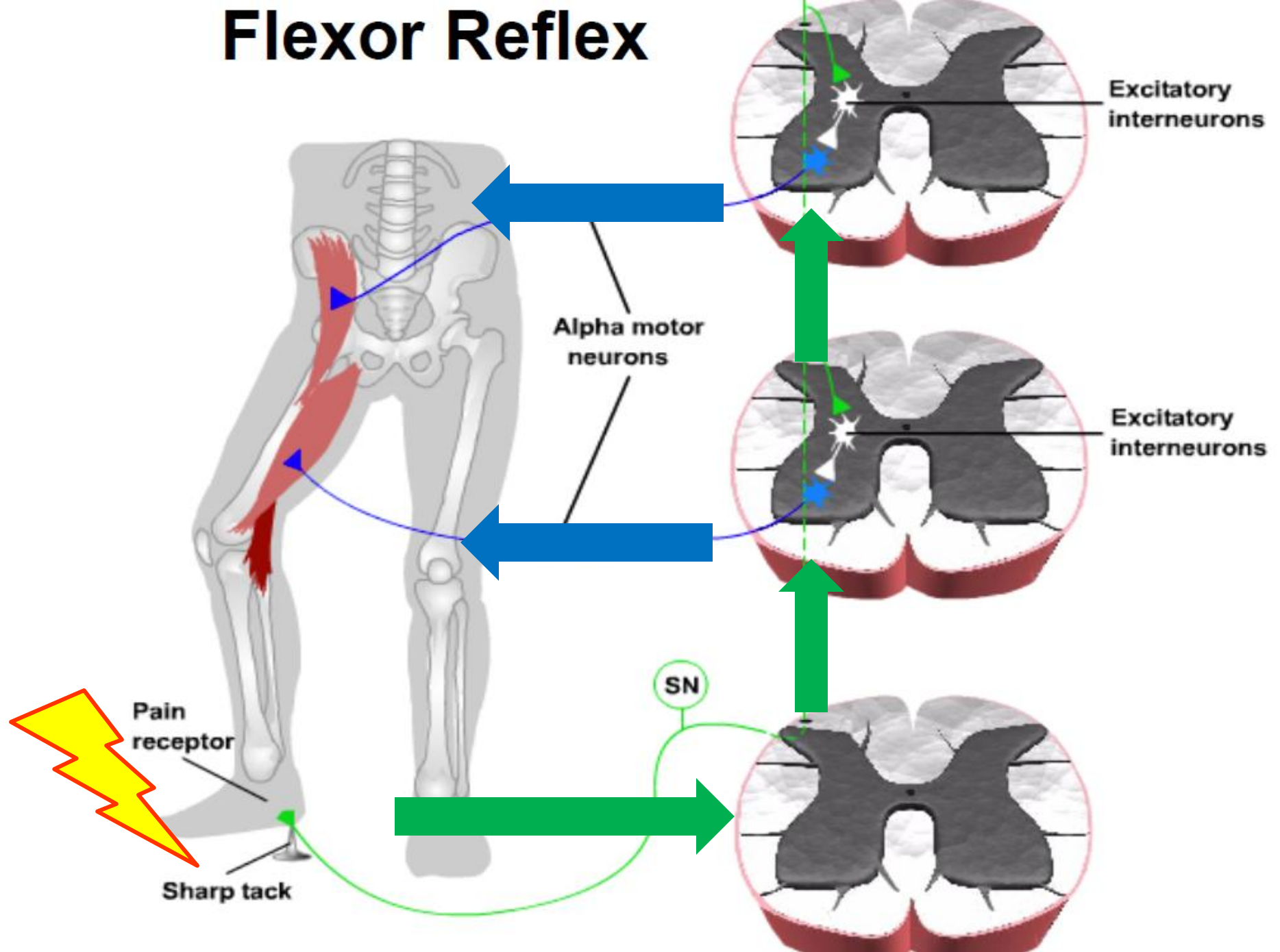
Central  
nervous  
system

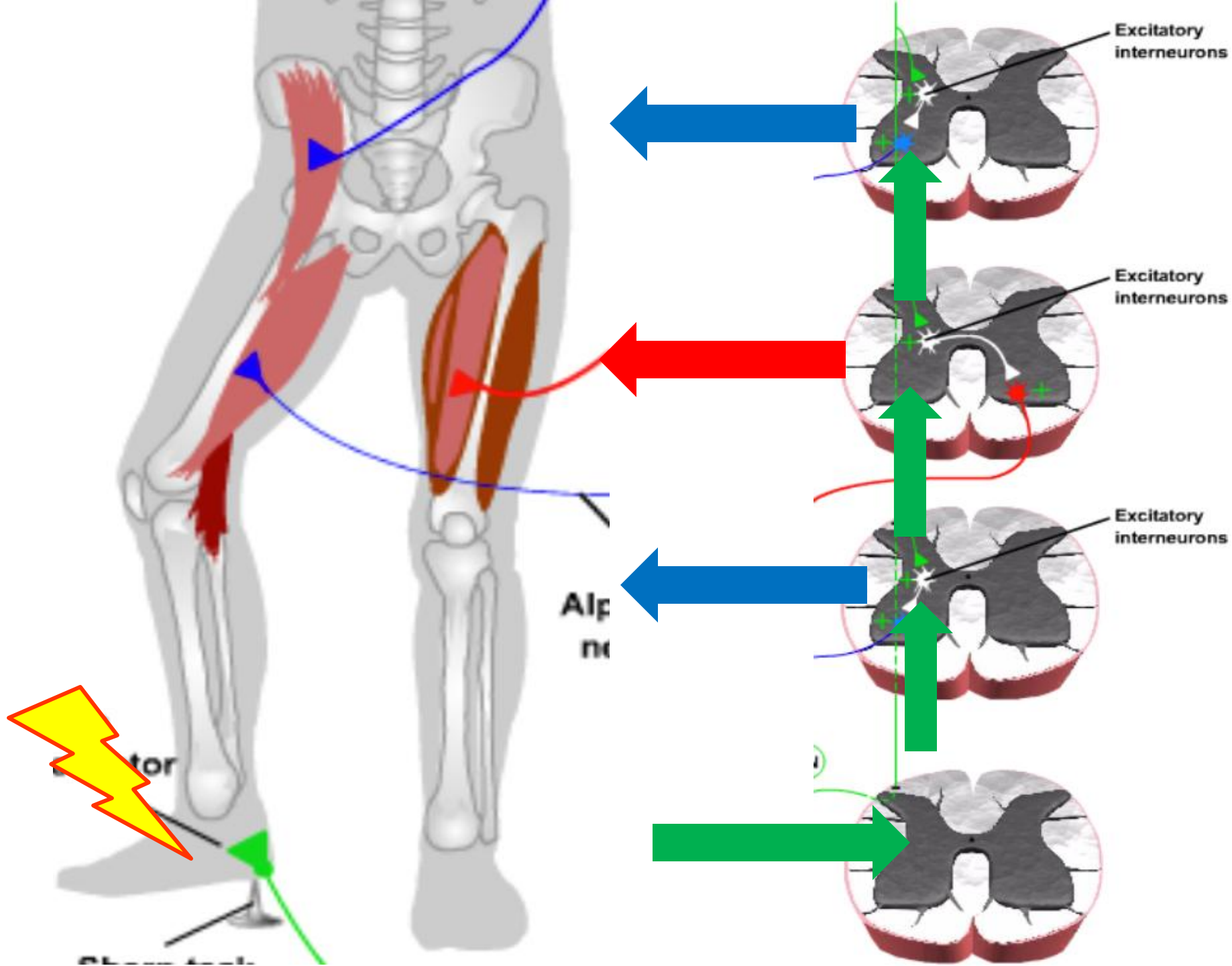


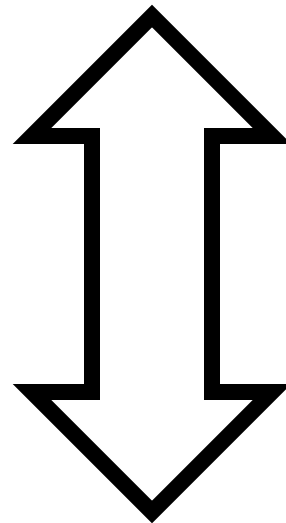
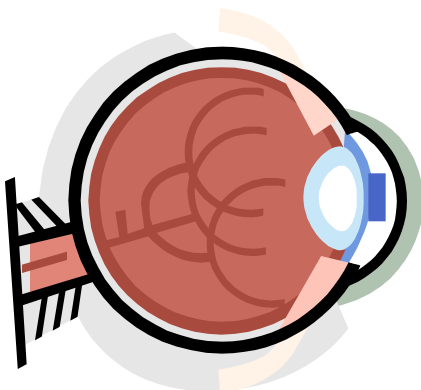
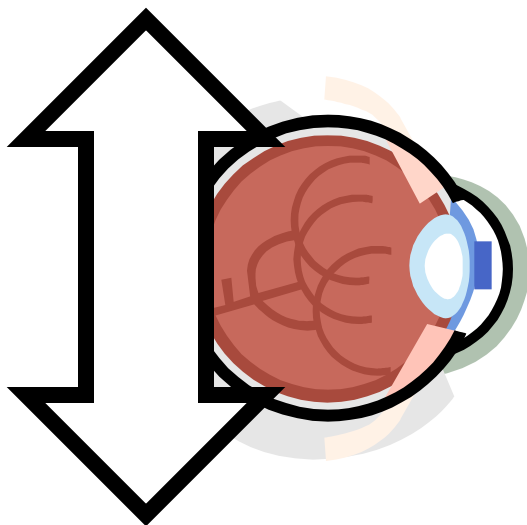
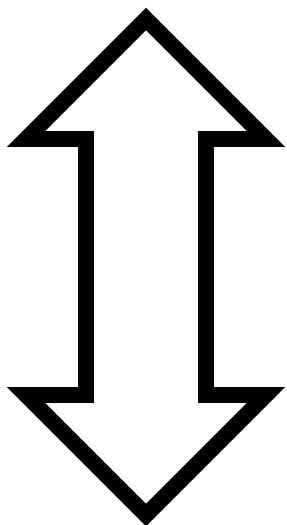
**delay=death**



# Flexor Reflex









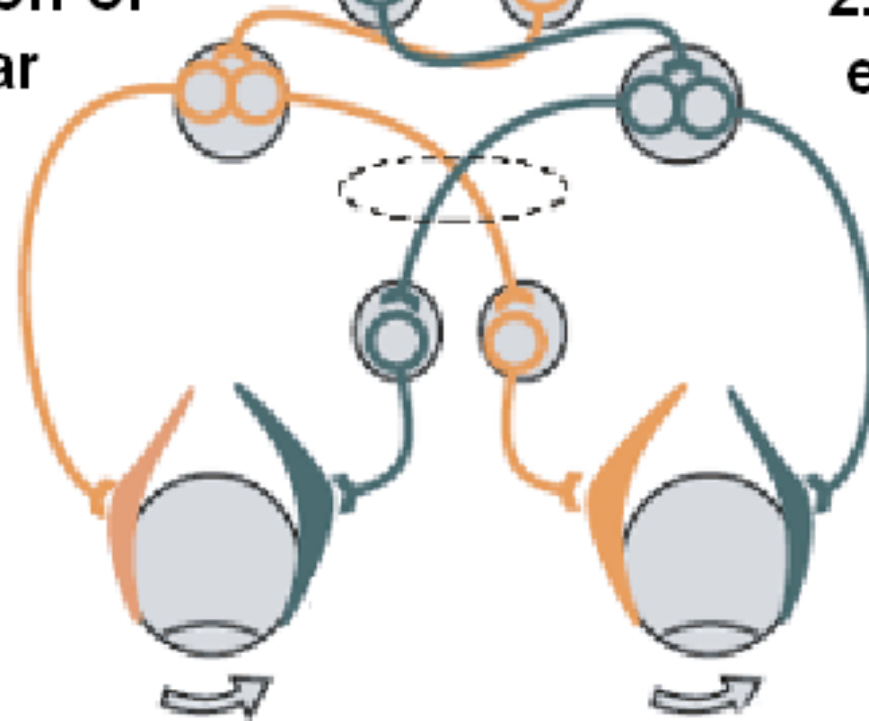
# Vestibulo-ocular reflex

1. Detection of rotation

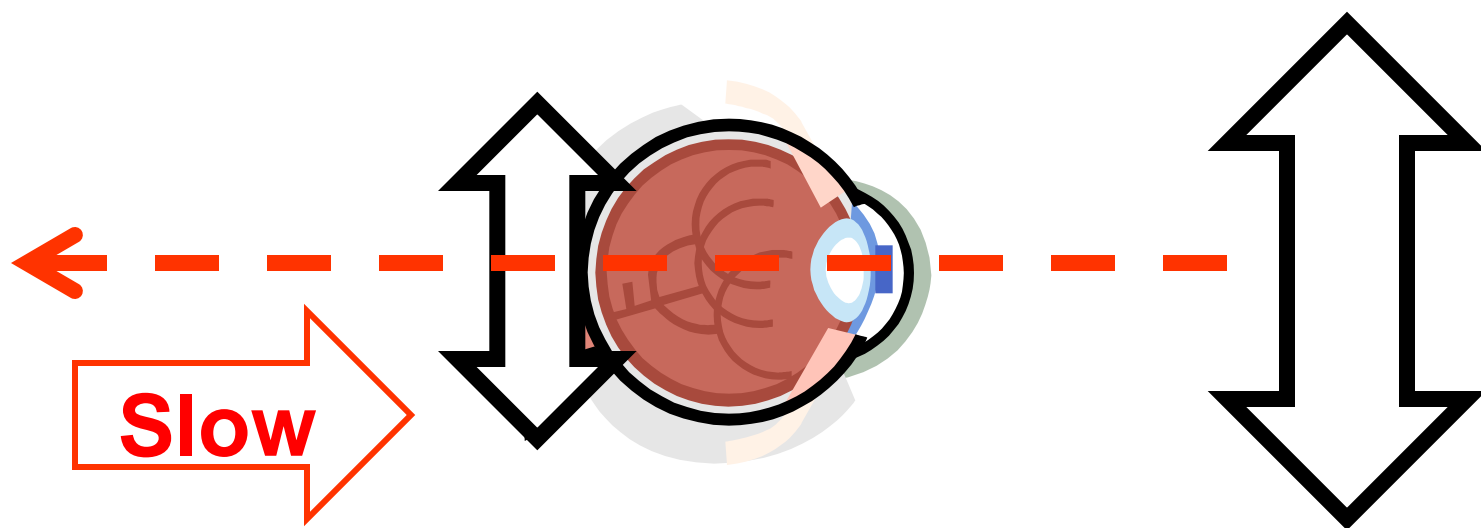
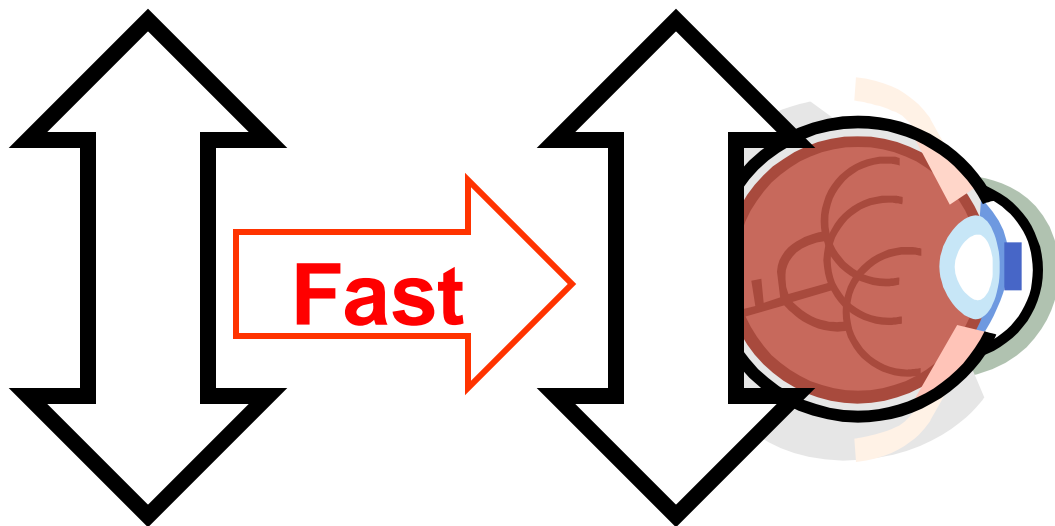


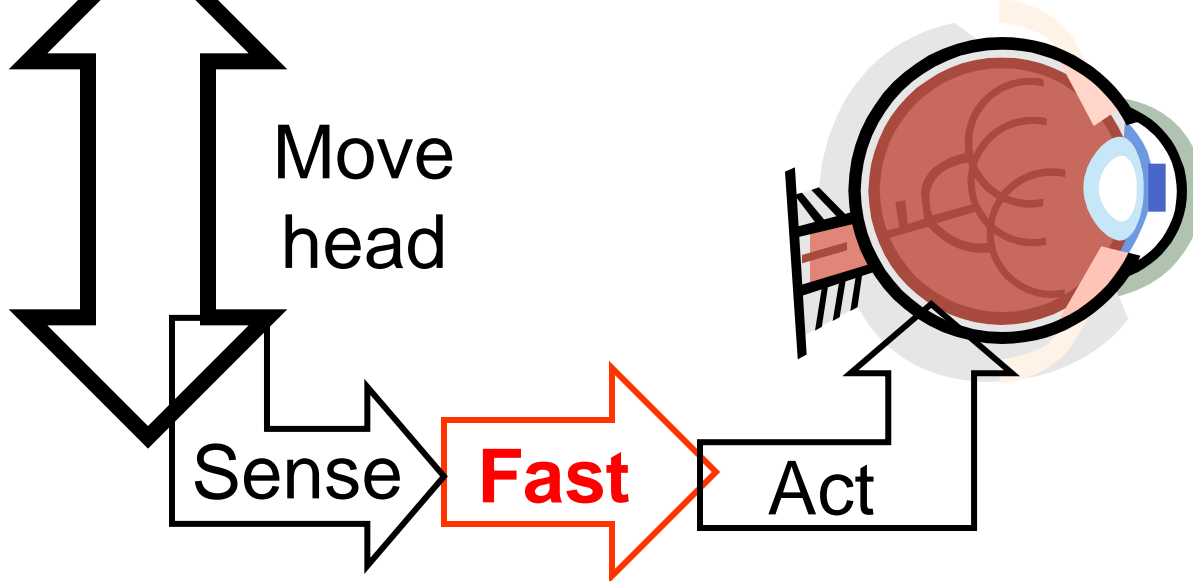
2. Inhibition of extraocular muscles on one side.

2. Excitation of extraocular muscles on the other side

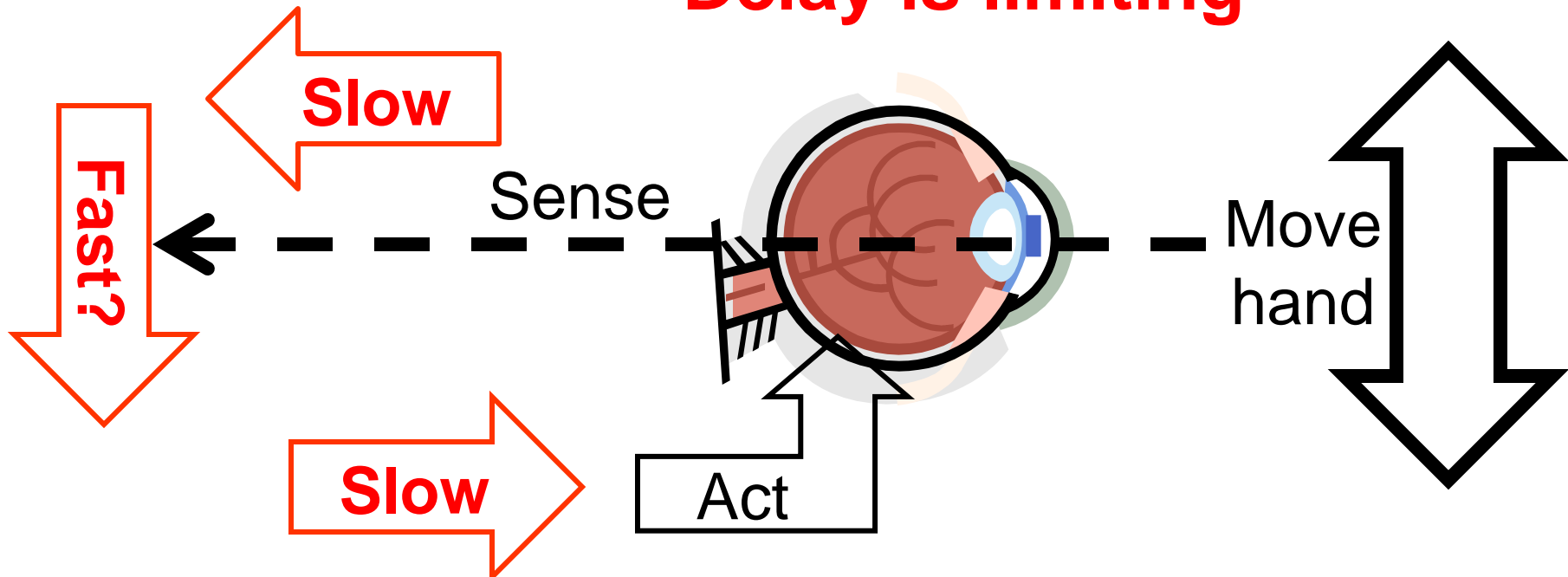


3. Compensating eye movement





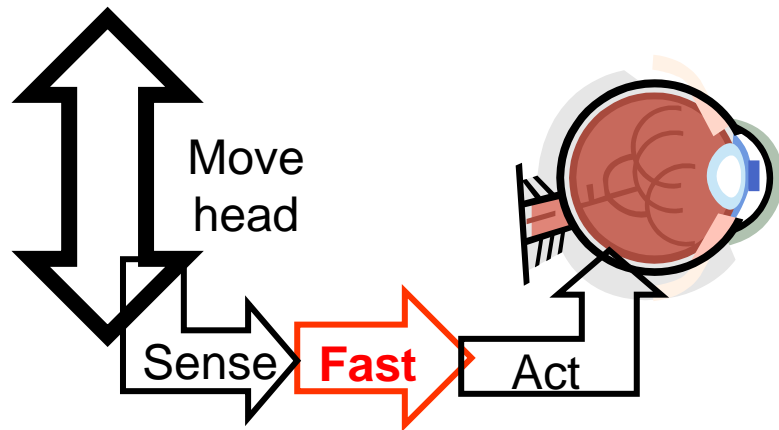
**Same actuators**  
**Delay is limiting**



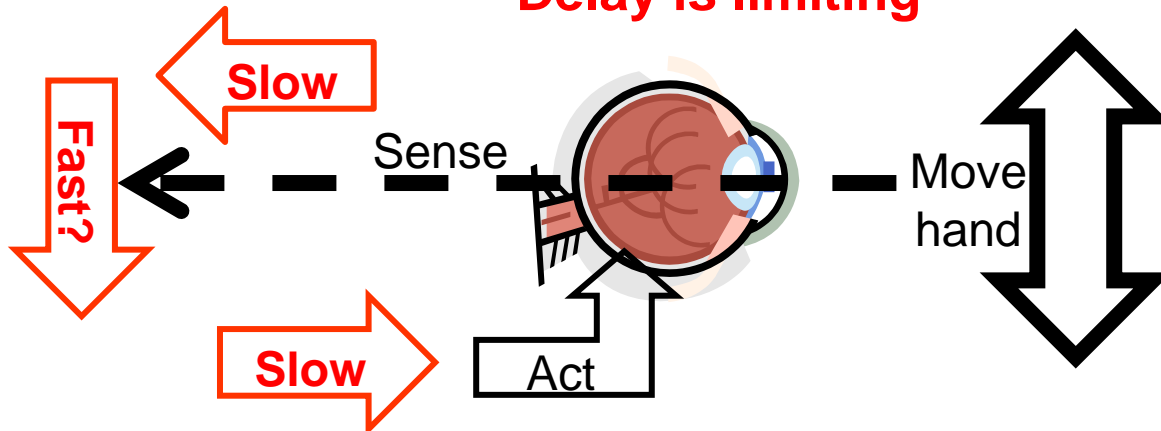


Versus standing on one leg

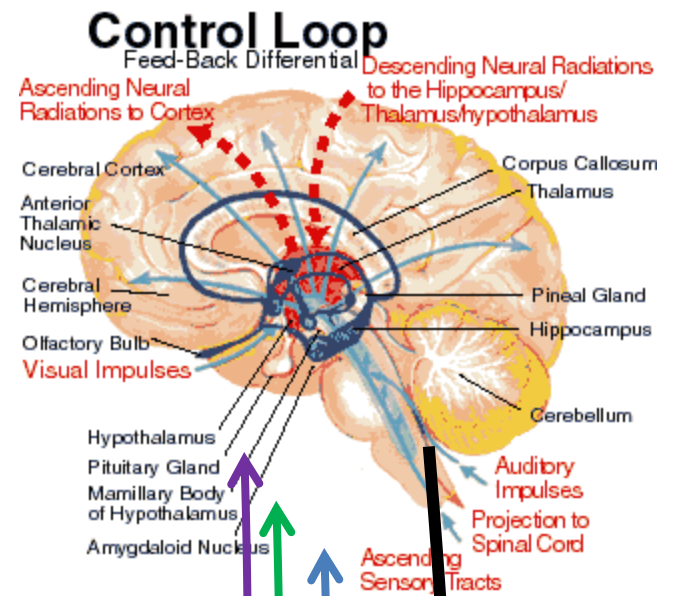
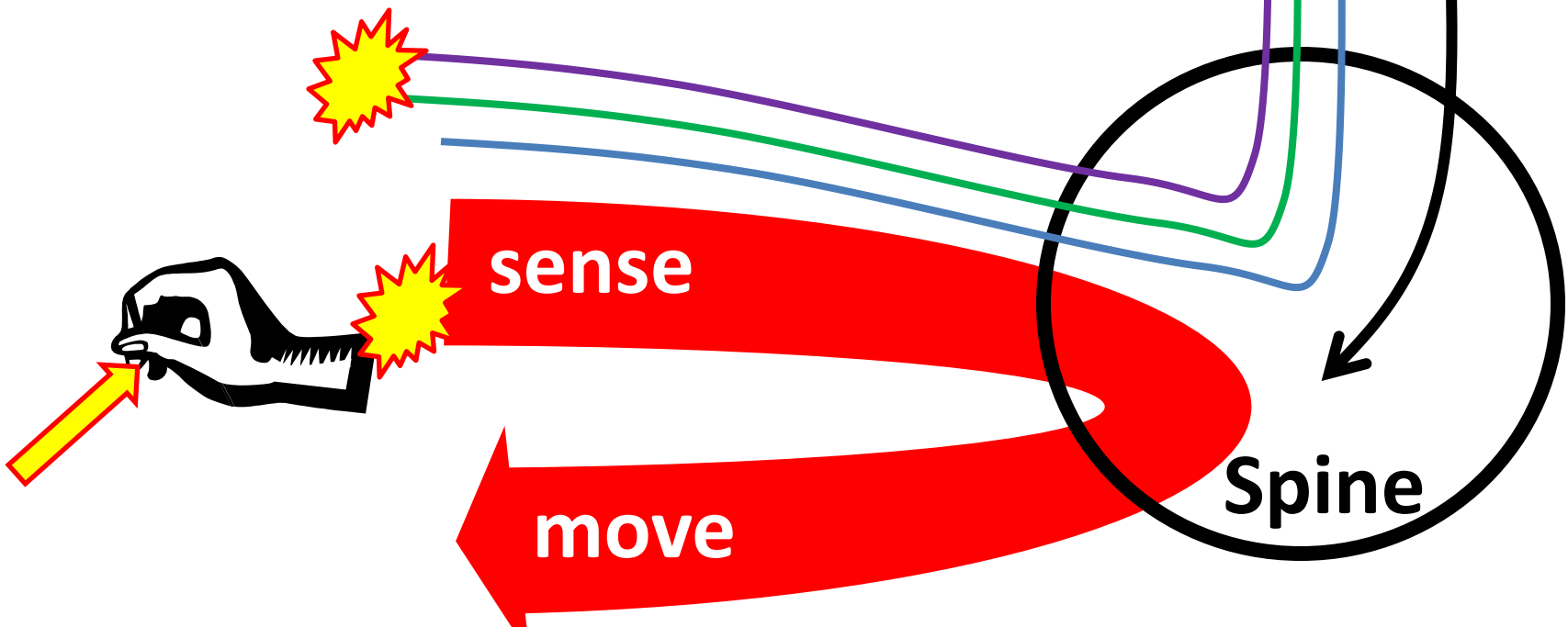
- Eyes open vs closed
- Contrast
  - young surfers
  - old football players



**Same actuators**  
**Delay is limiting**



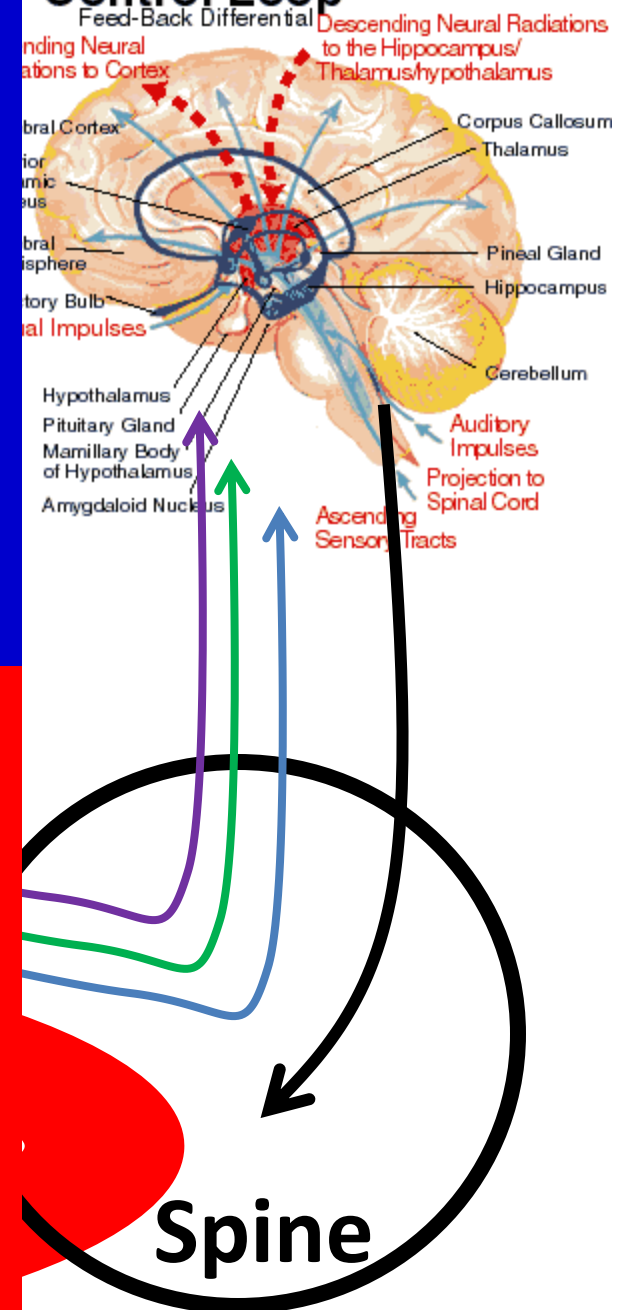
**delay=death**



Reflect

Reflex

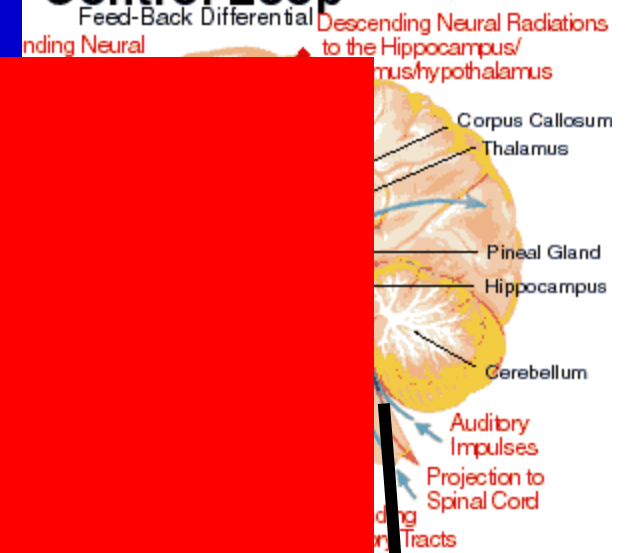
## Control Loop



Reflect

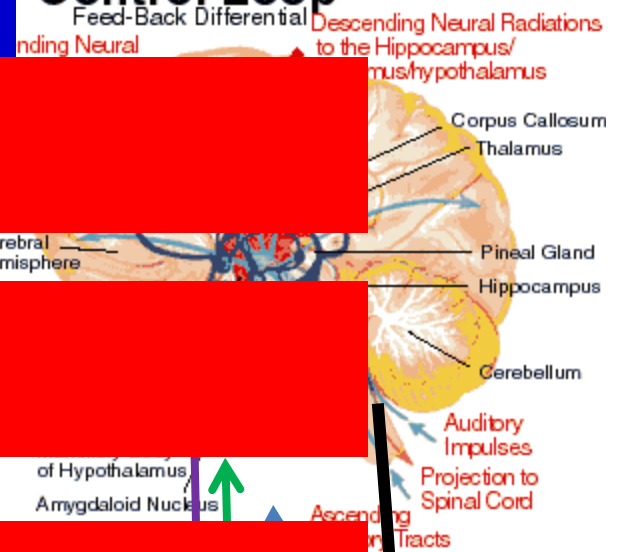
Reflex

## Control Loop



Reflect

Control Loop



Layered

Reflex

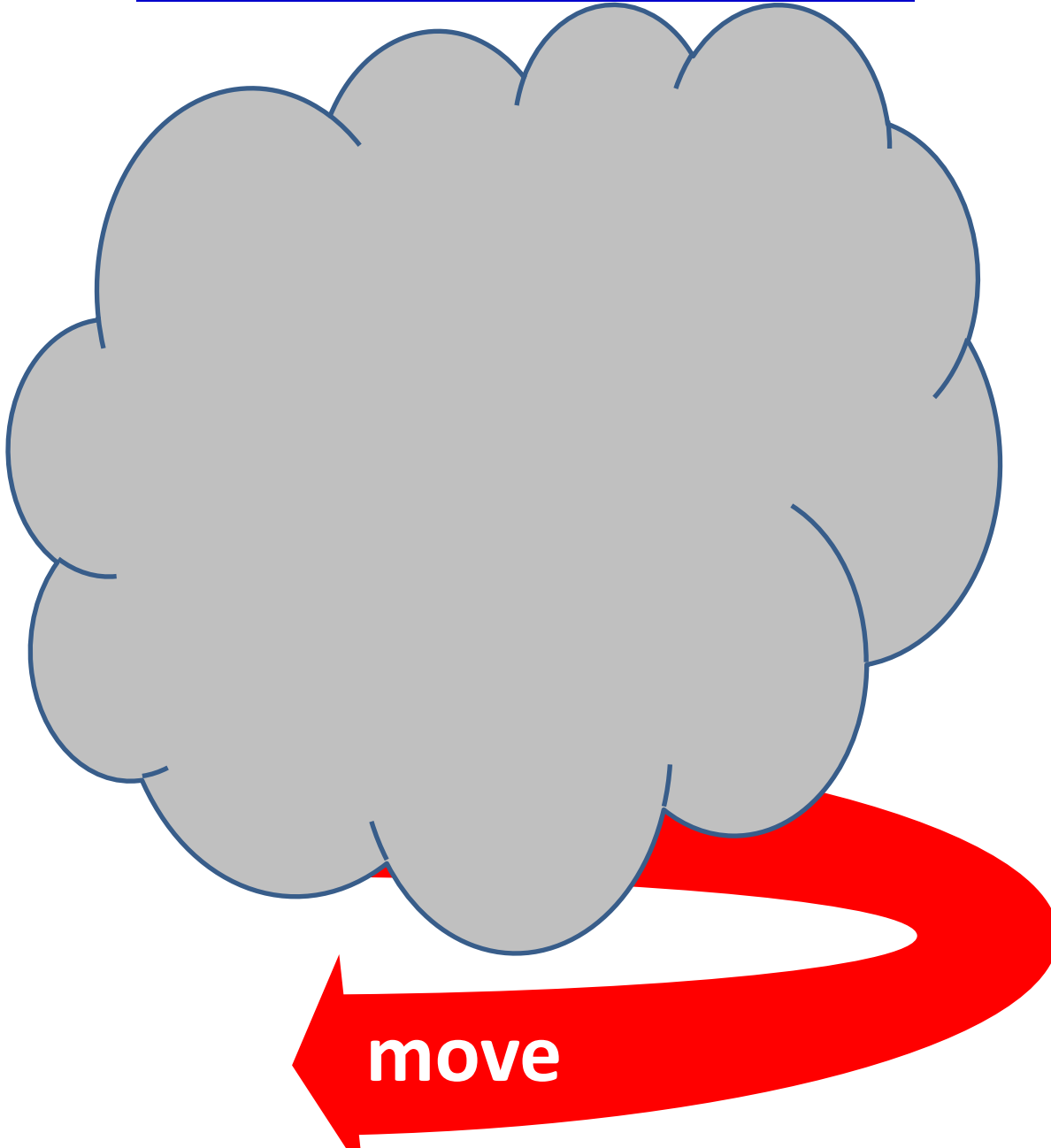
sense

move

Spine

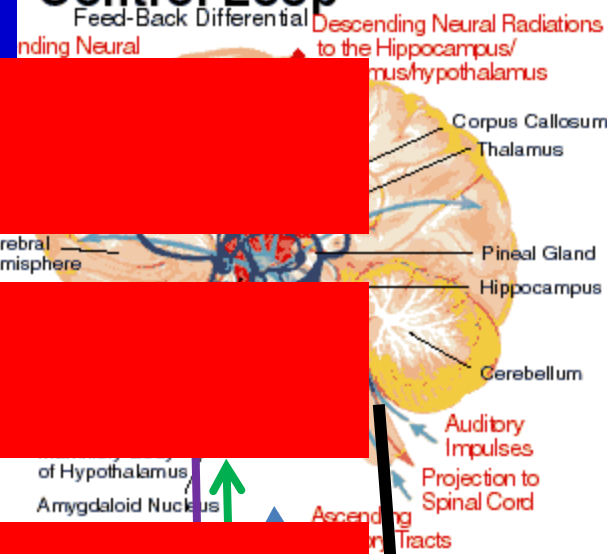


**Reflect**



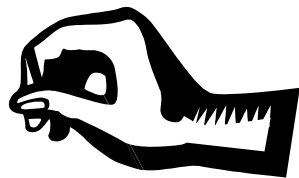
Reflect

Control Loop



Layered

Reflex

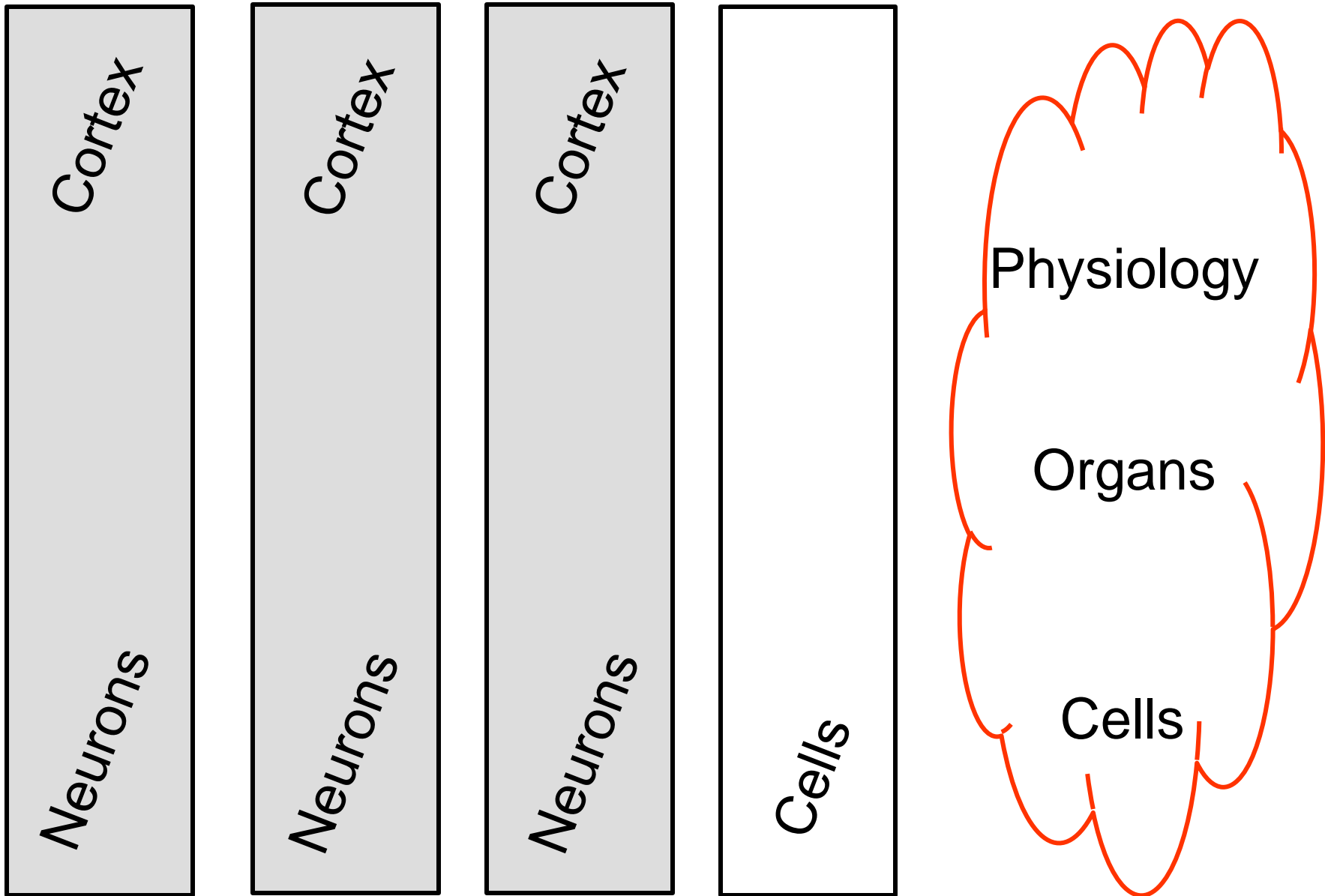


sense

move

Spine

# Layered architectures (cartoon)





## Reflect


# Control Loop

# Prediction Goals Actions

# Actions

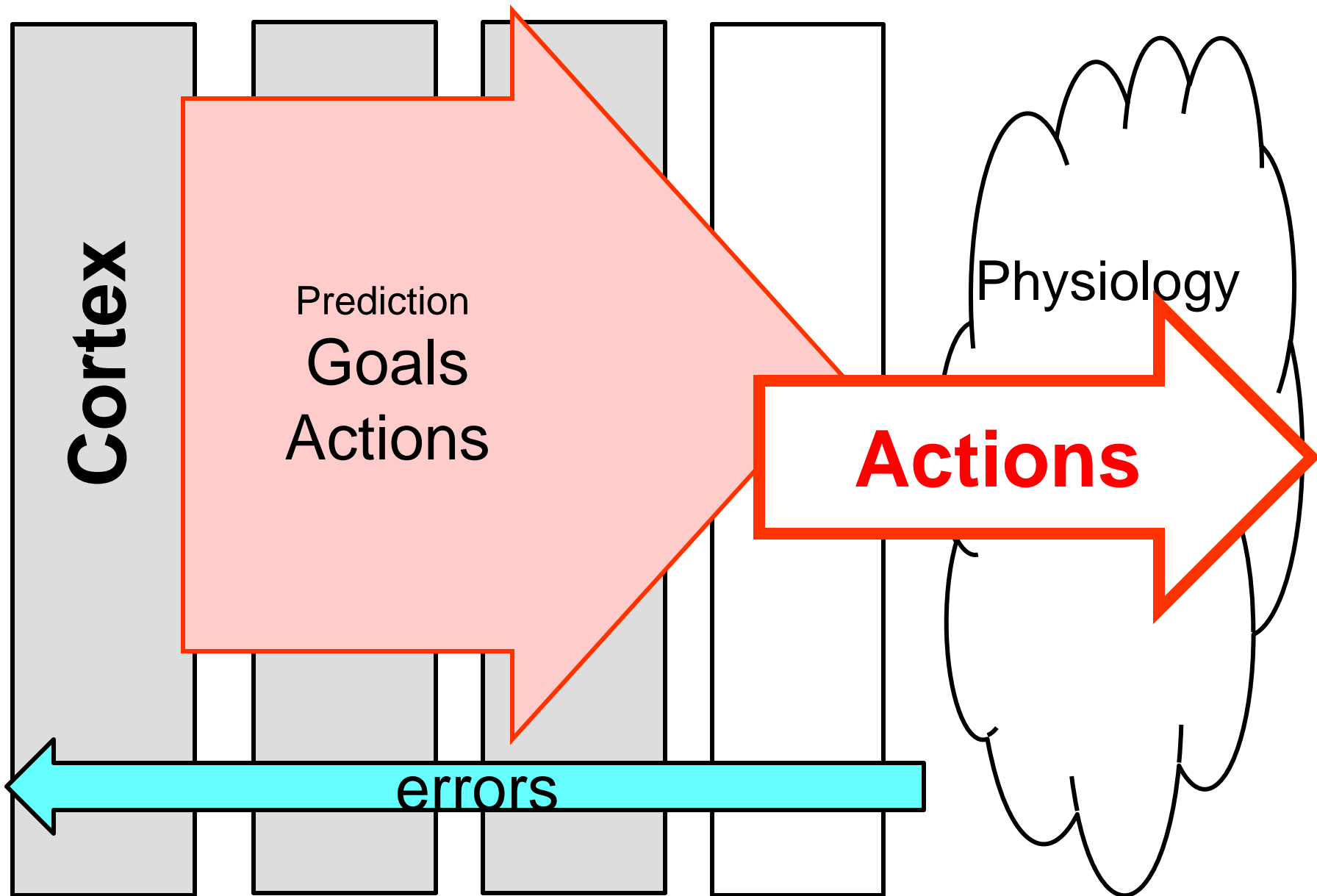
# Spine

# errors

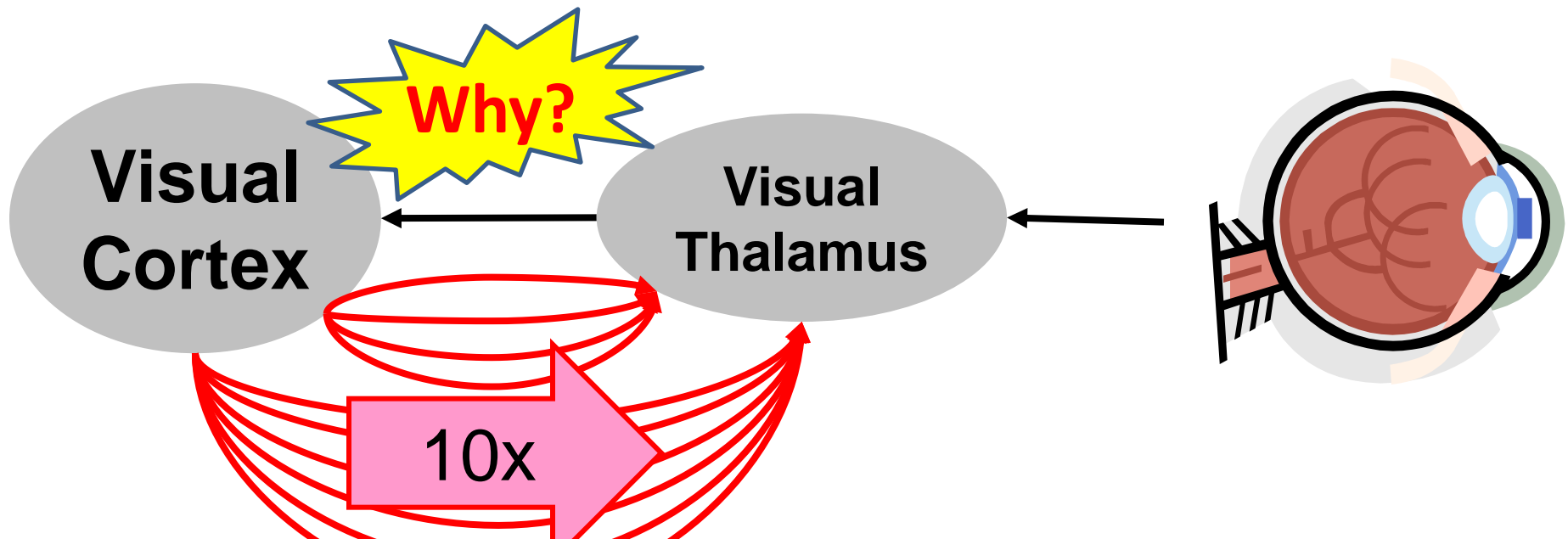


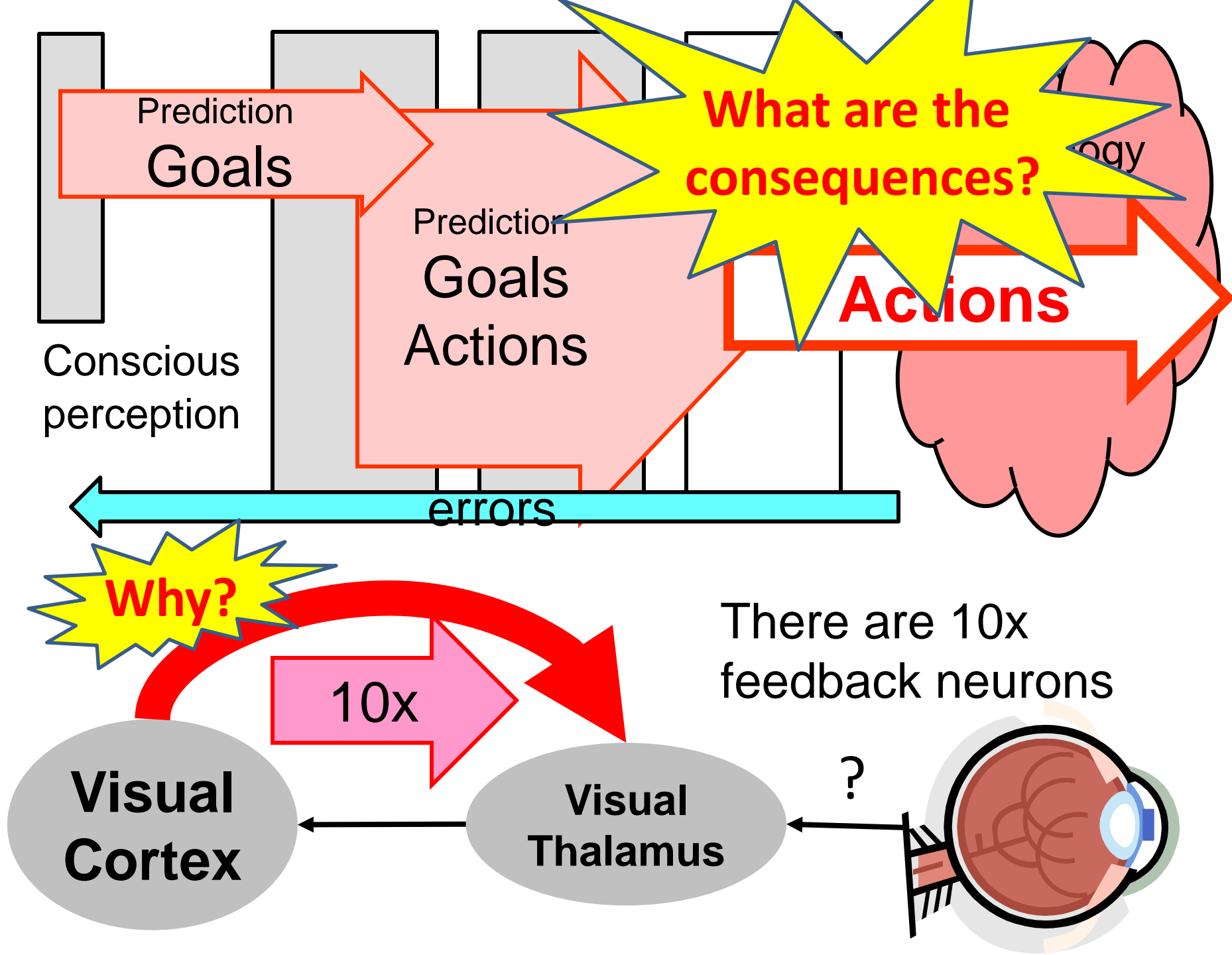
errors

# Meta-layers cartoon

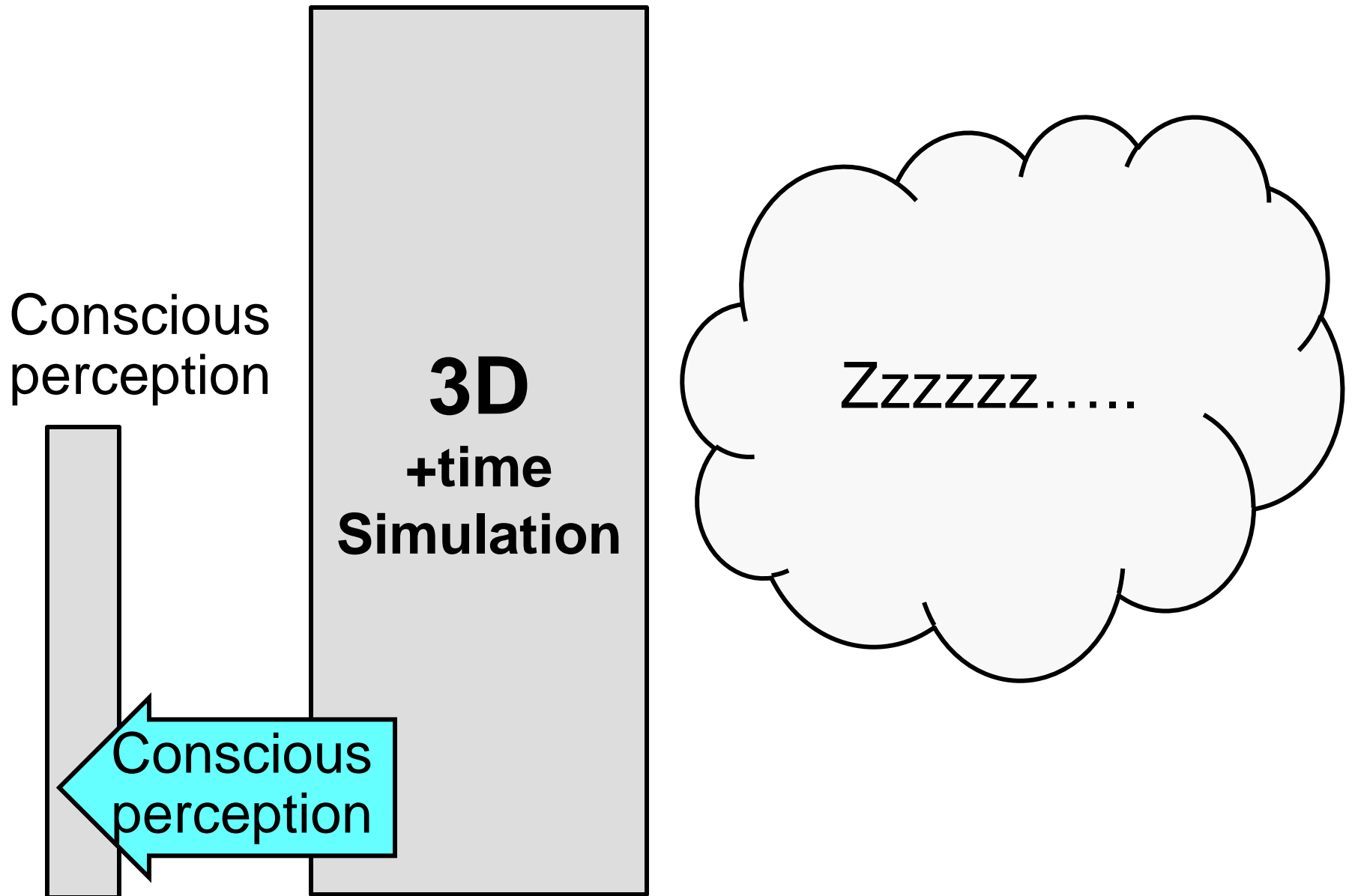


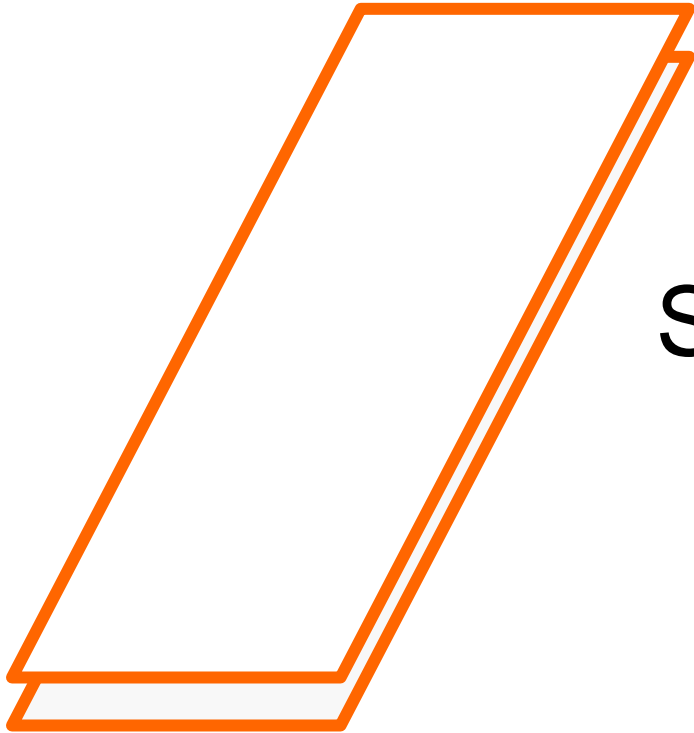
There are 10x  
feedback neurons





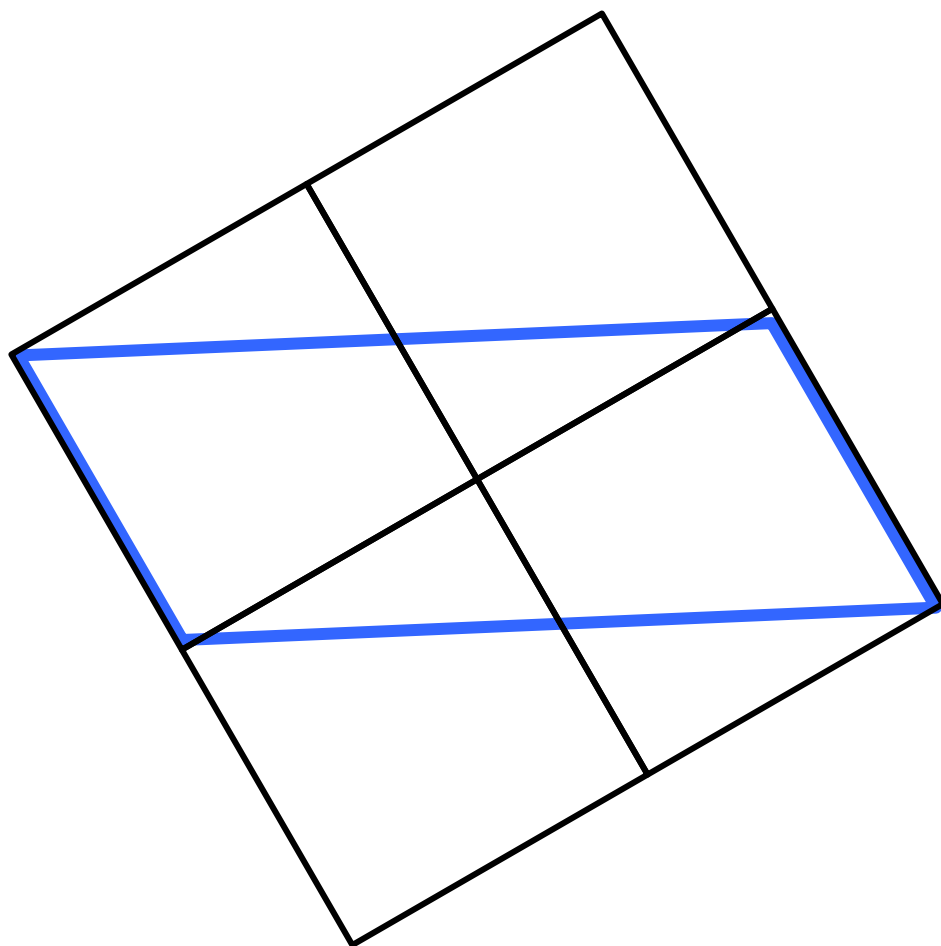
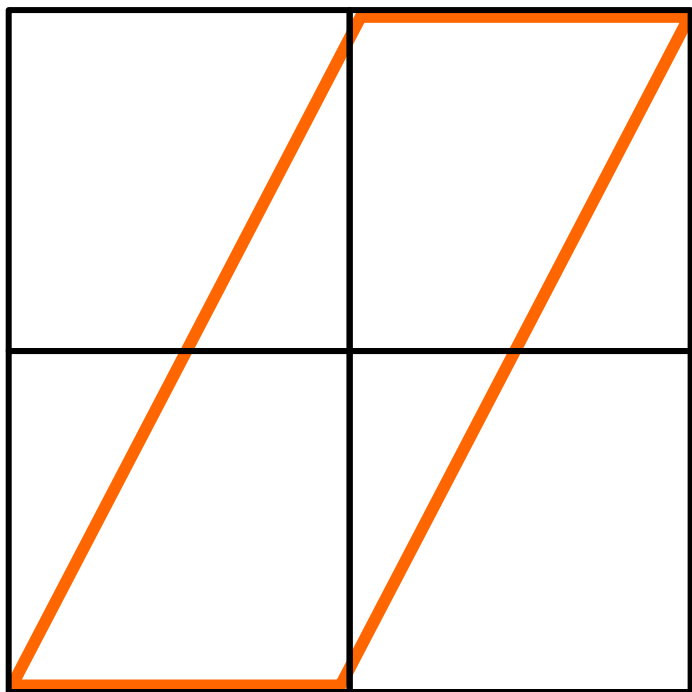
# Seeing is *dreaming*

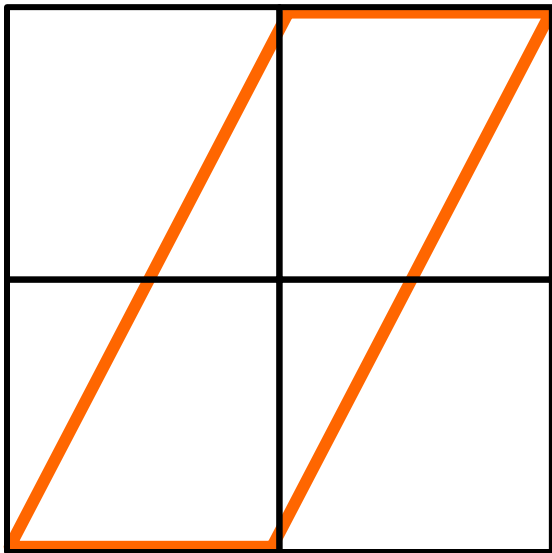




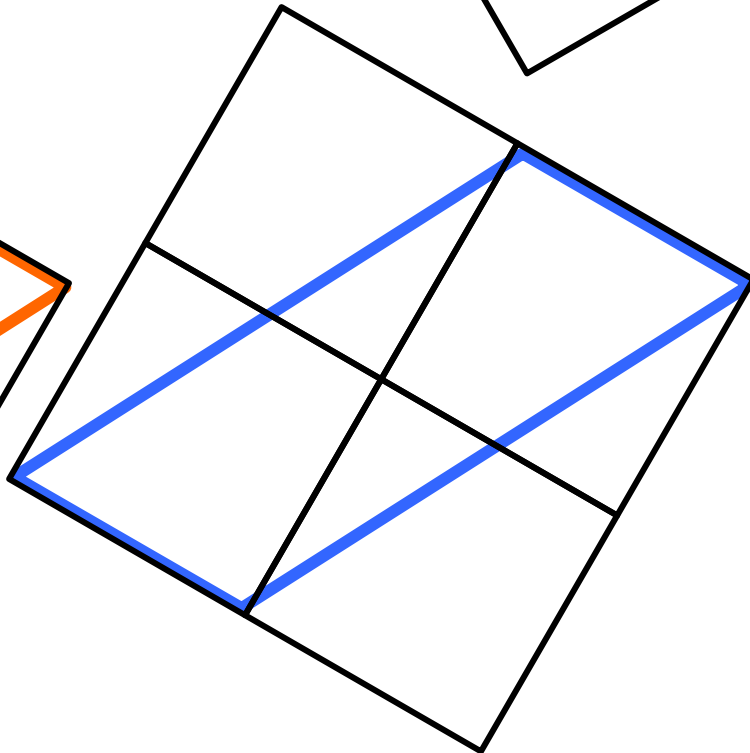
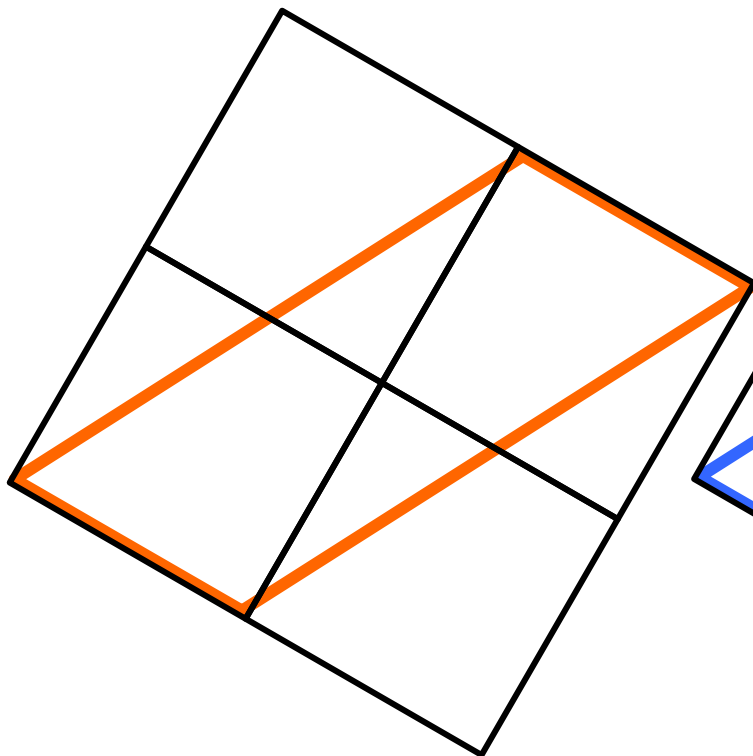
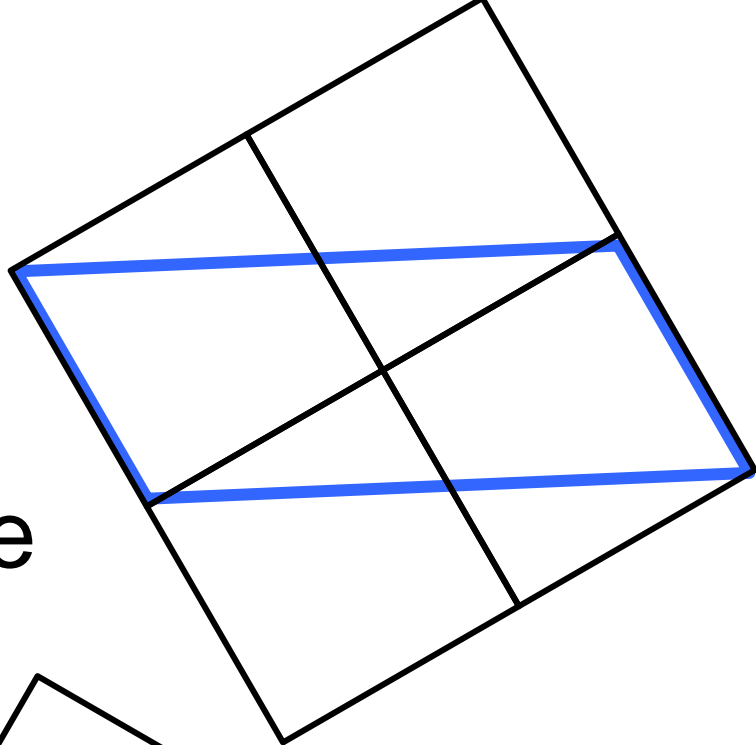
Same size?



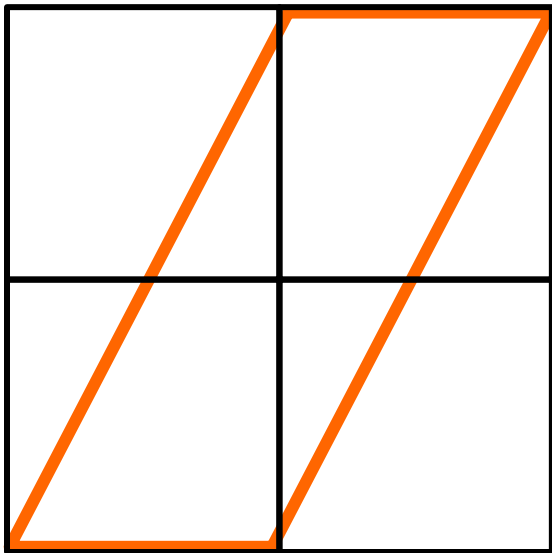




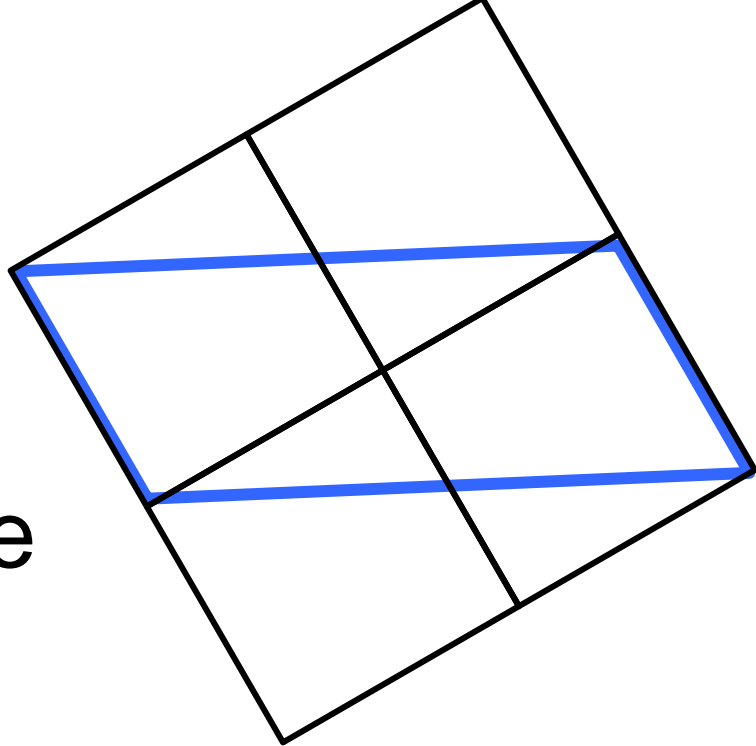
Same size







Same size



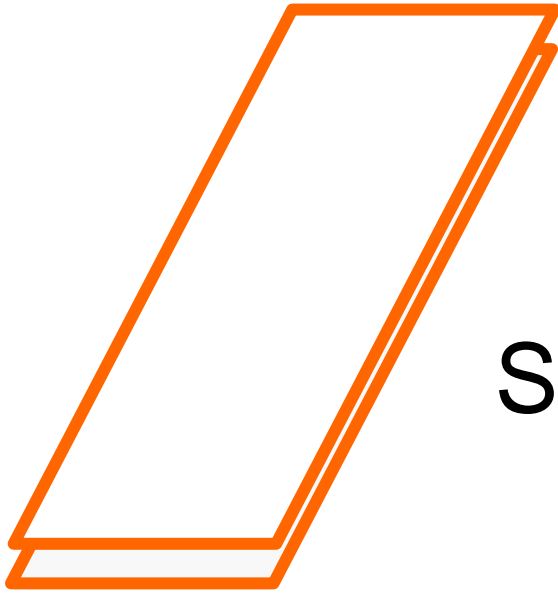


Same size



Toggle between this slide and  
the ones before and after

Even when you “know” they are  
the same, they appear different



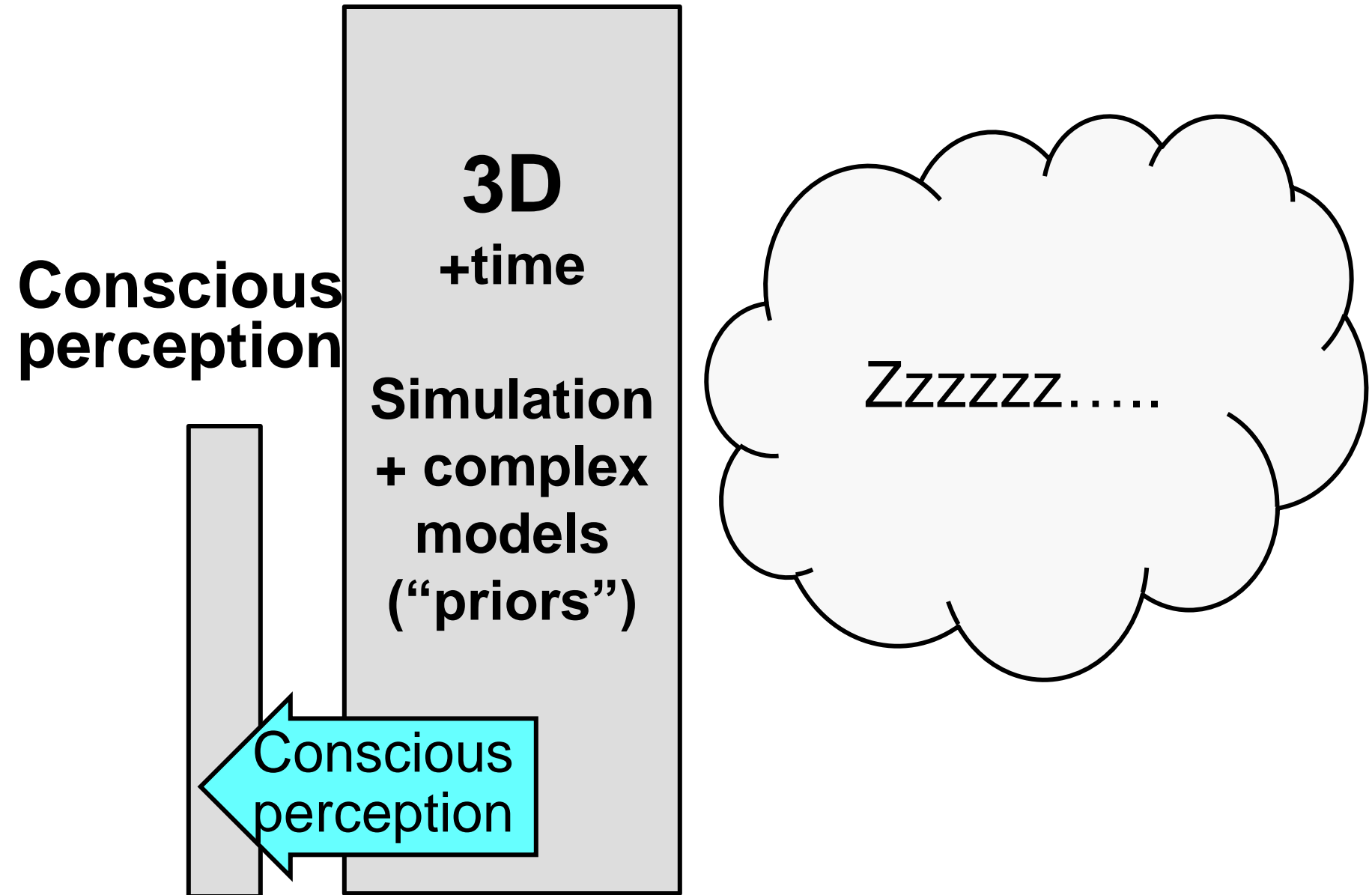
Same size?



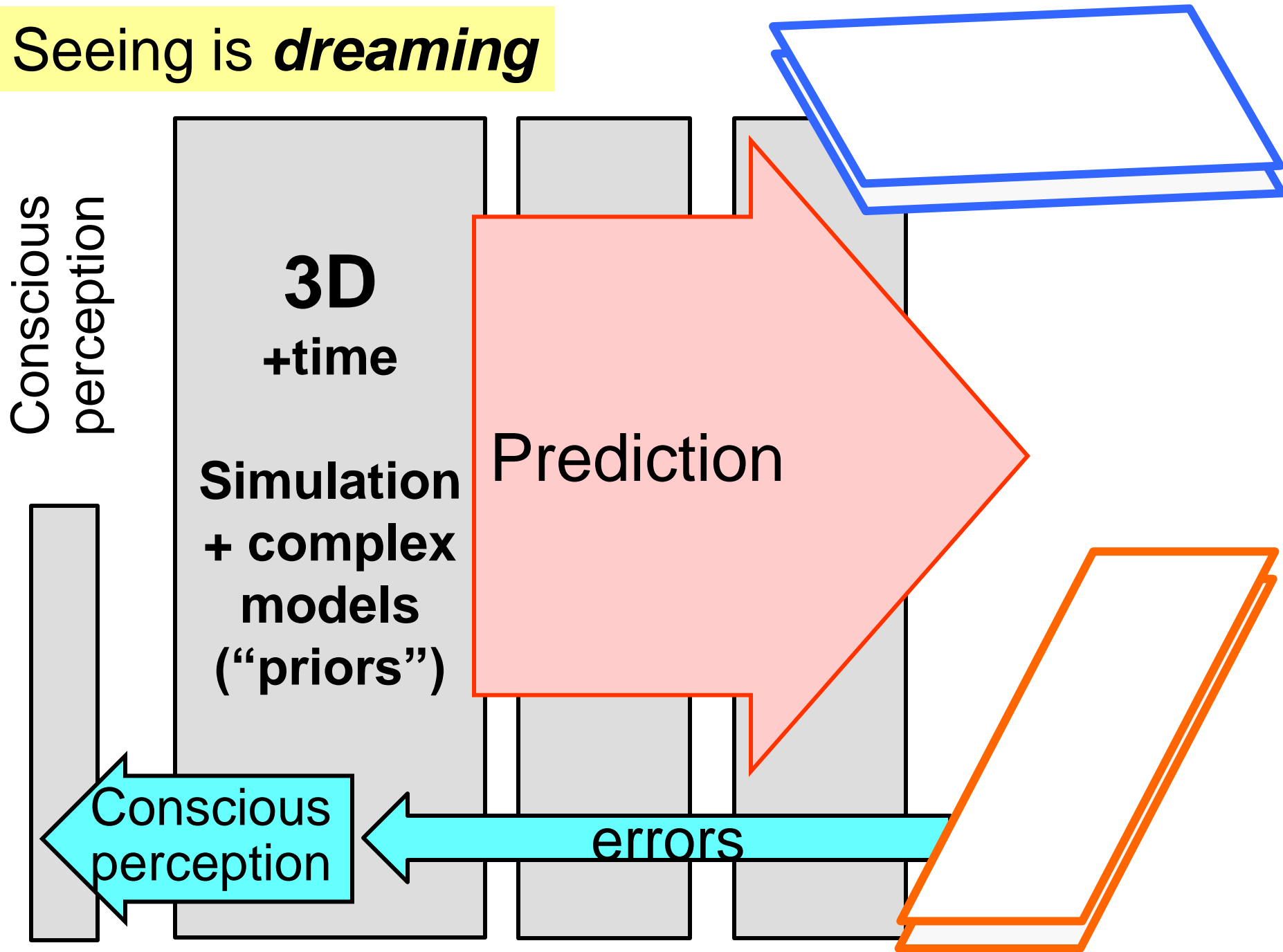
Vision: evolved for complex  
simulation and control, not  
2d static pictures

Even when you “know” they are  
the same, they appear different

# Seeing is *dreaming*



# Seeing is *dreaming*



Seeing is dreaming

Seeing is *believing*

Conscious  
perception

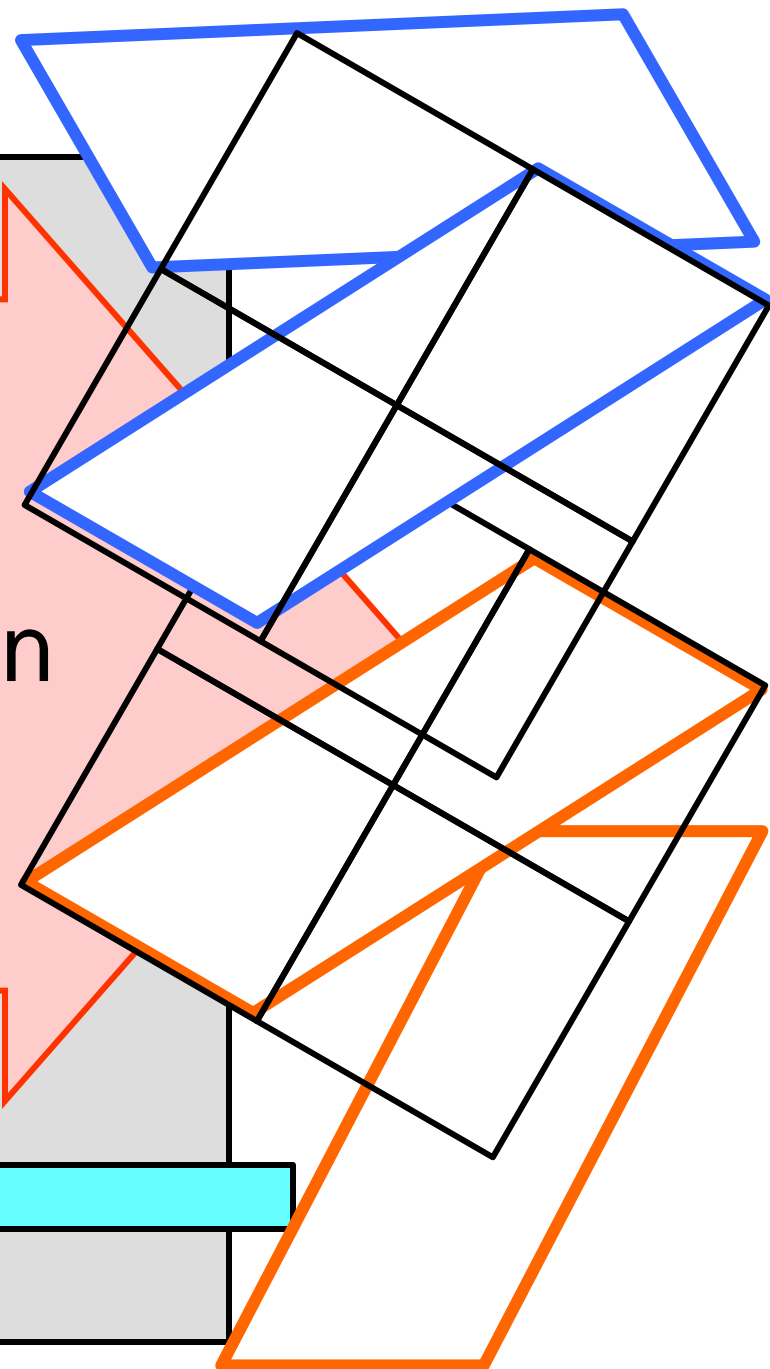
**3D  
+time**

**Simulation  
+ complex  
models  
("priors")**

Prediction

Conscious  
perception

errors



Seeing is dreaming

Seeing is *believing*

Conscious  
perception

**3D  
+time**

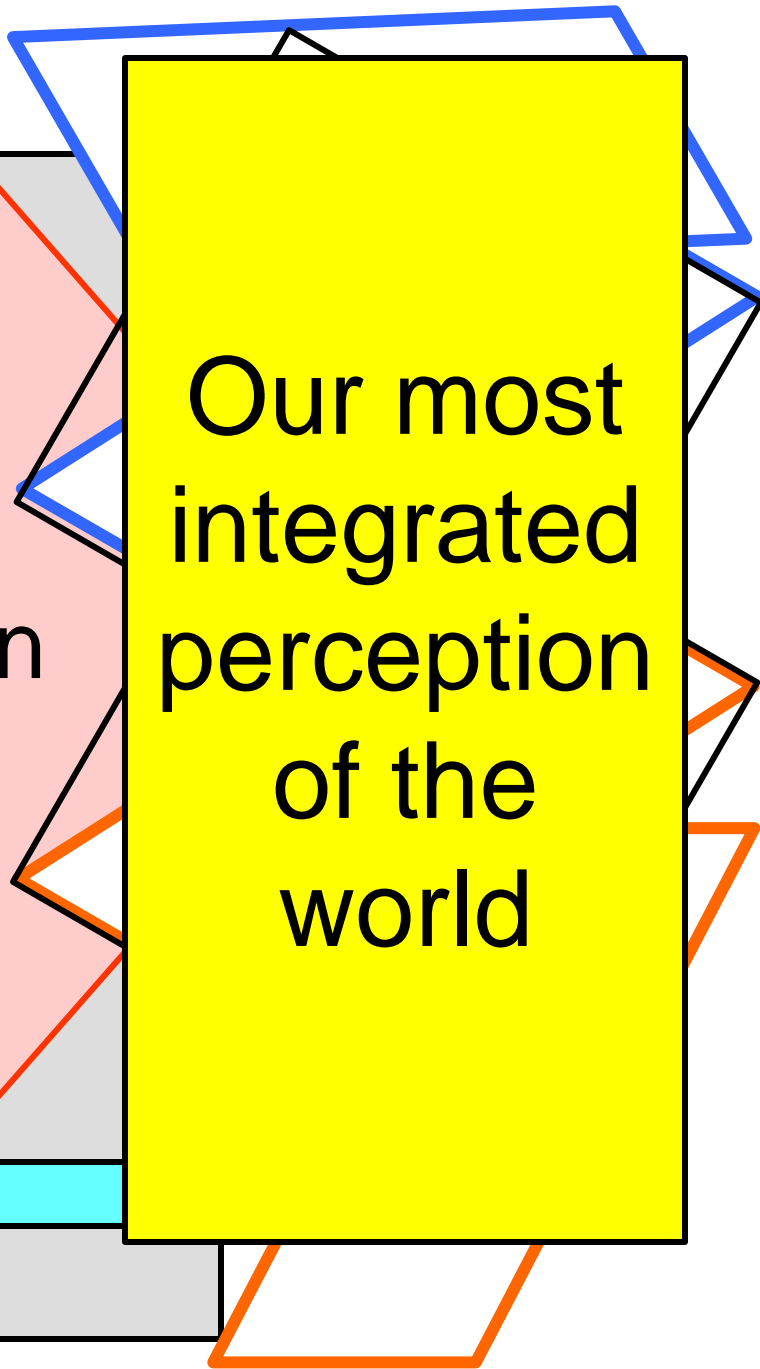
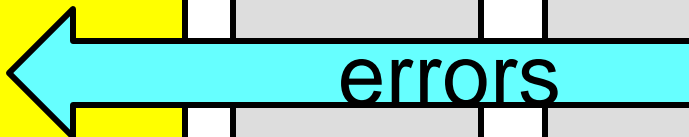
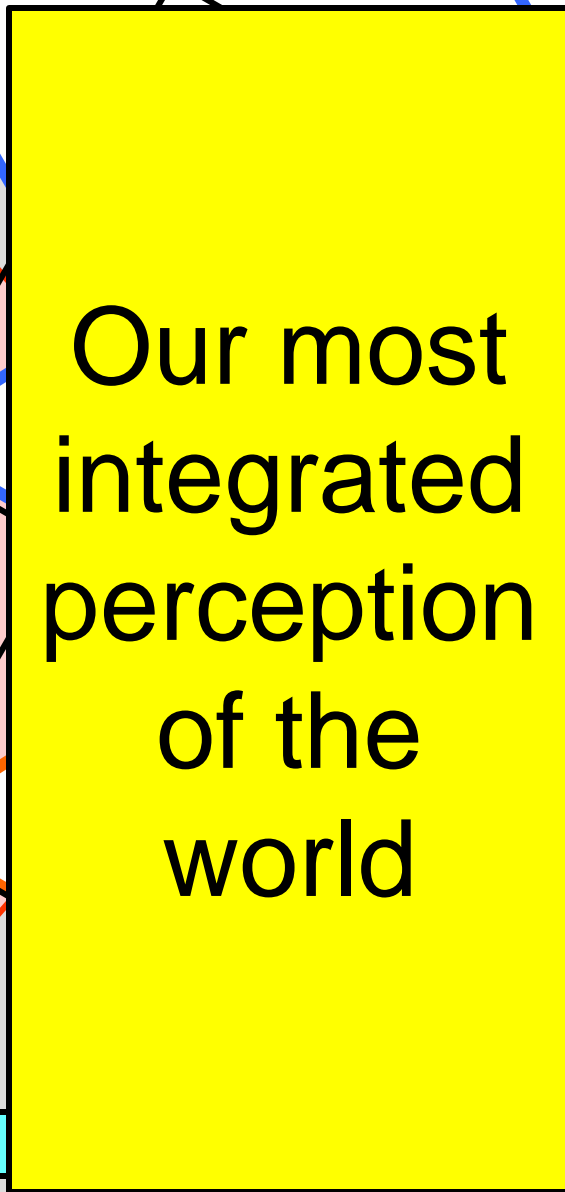
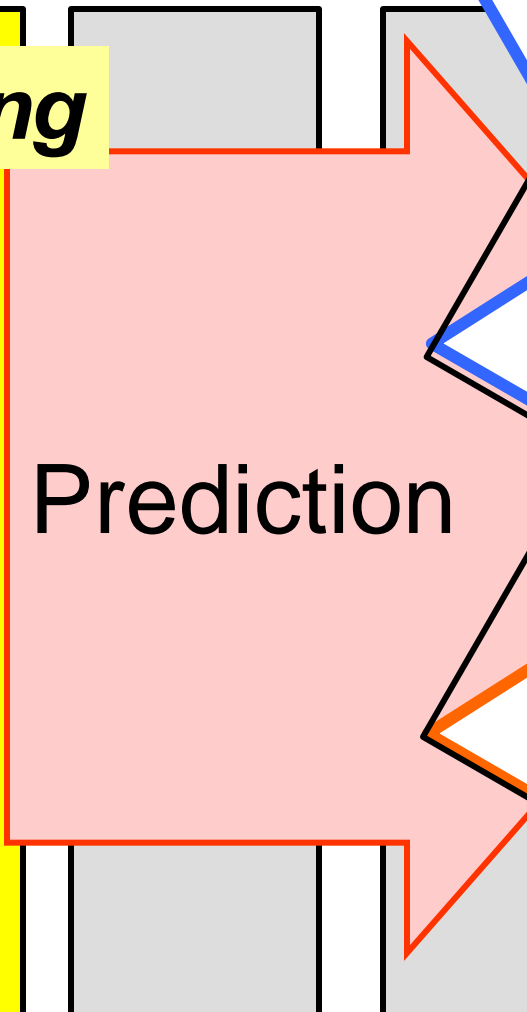
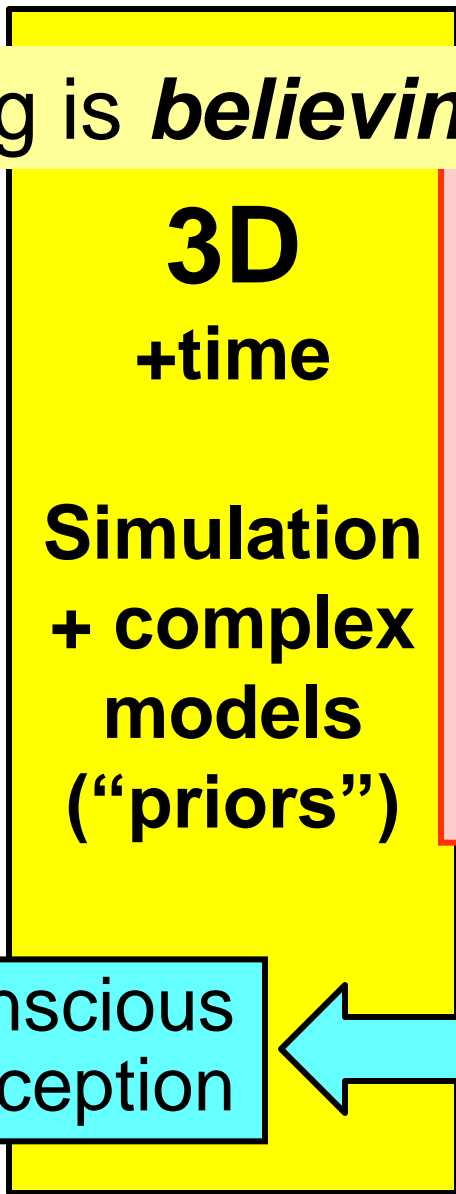
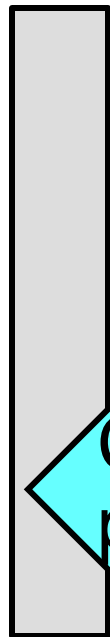
**Simulation  
+ complex  
models  
("priors")**

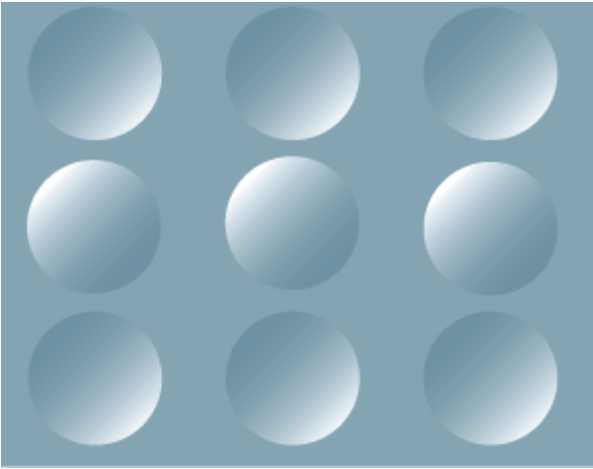
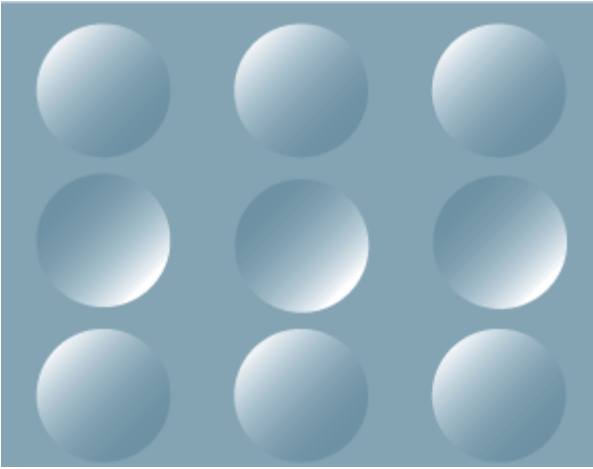
Prediction

Our most  
integrated  
perception  
of the  
world

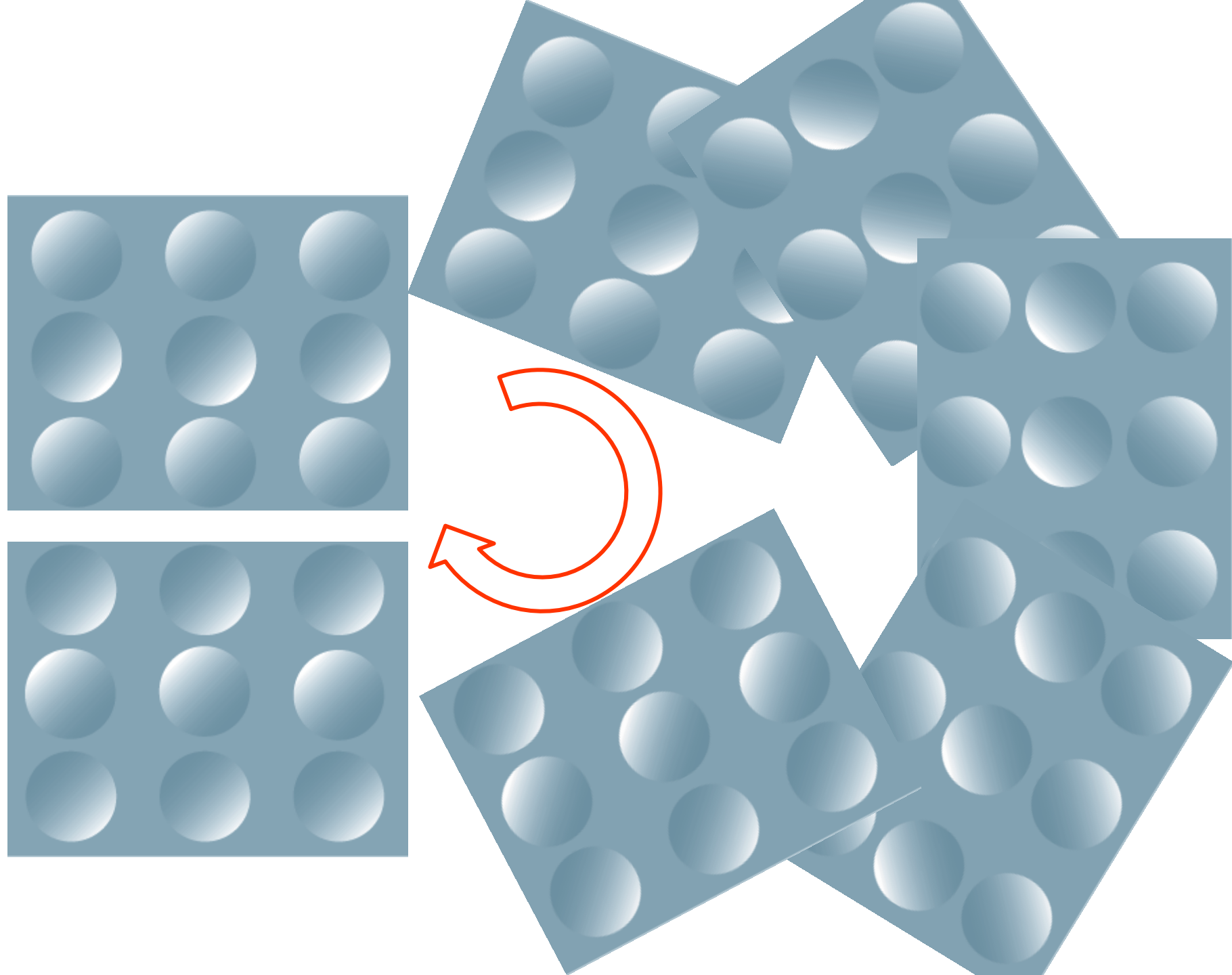
Conscious  
perception

errors

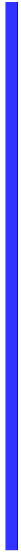




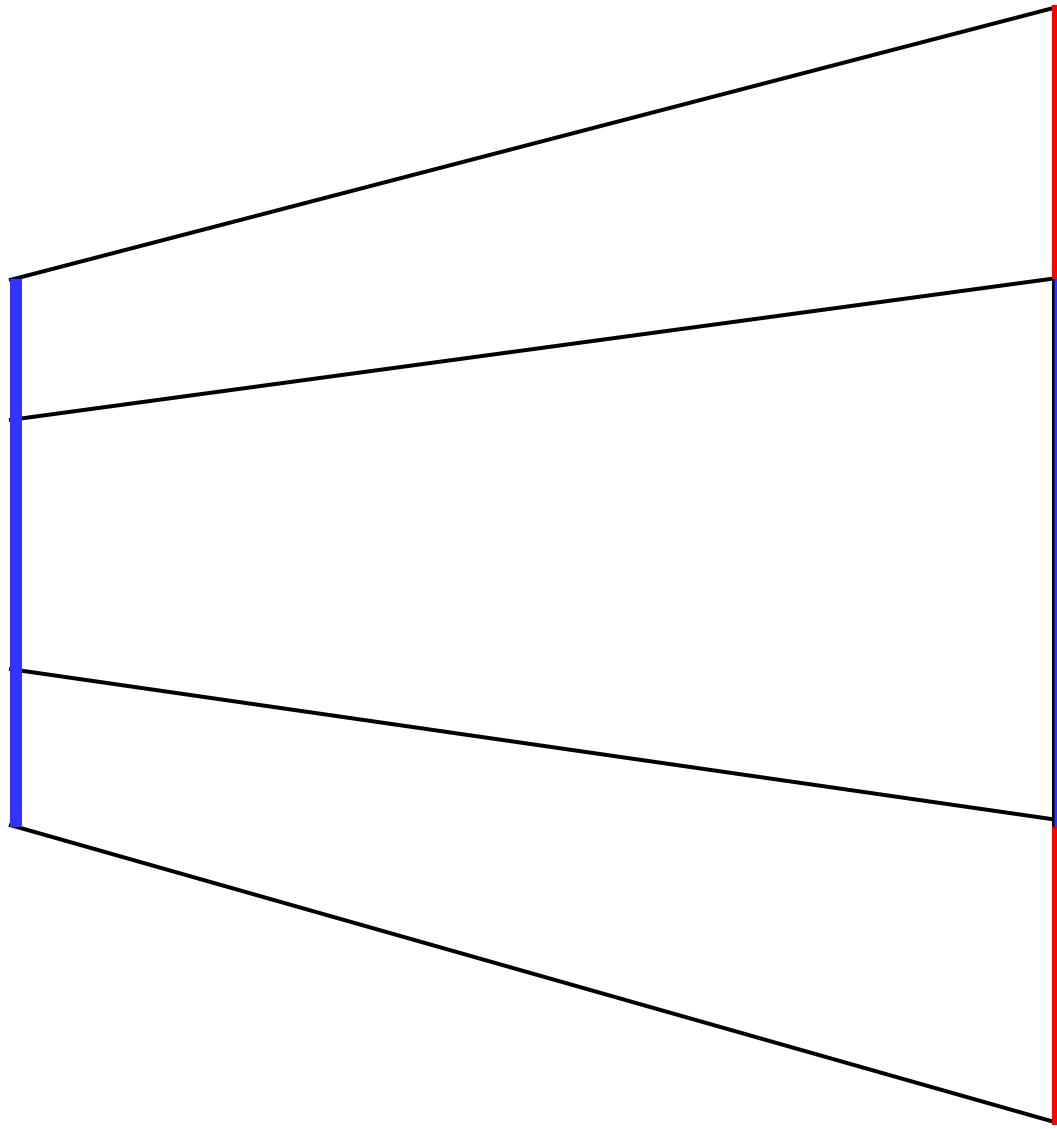




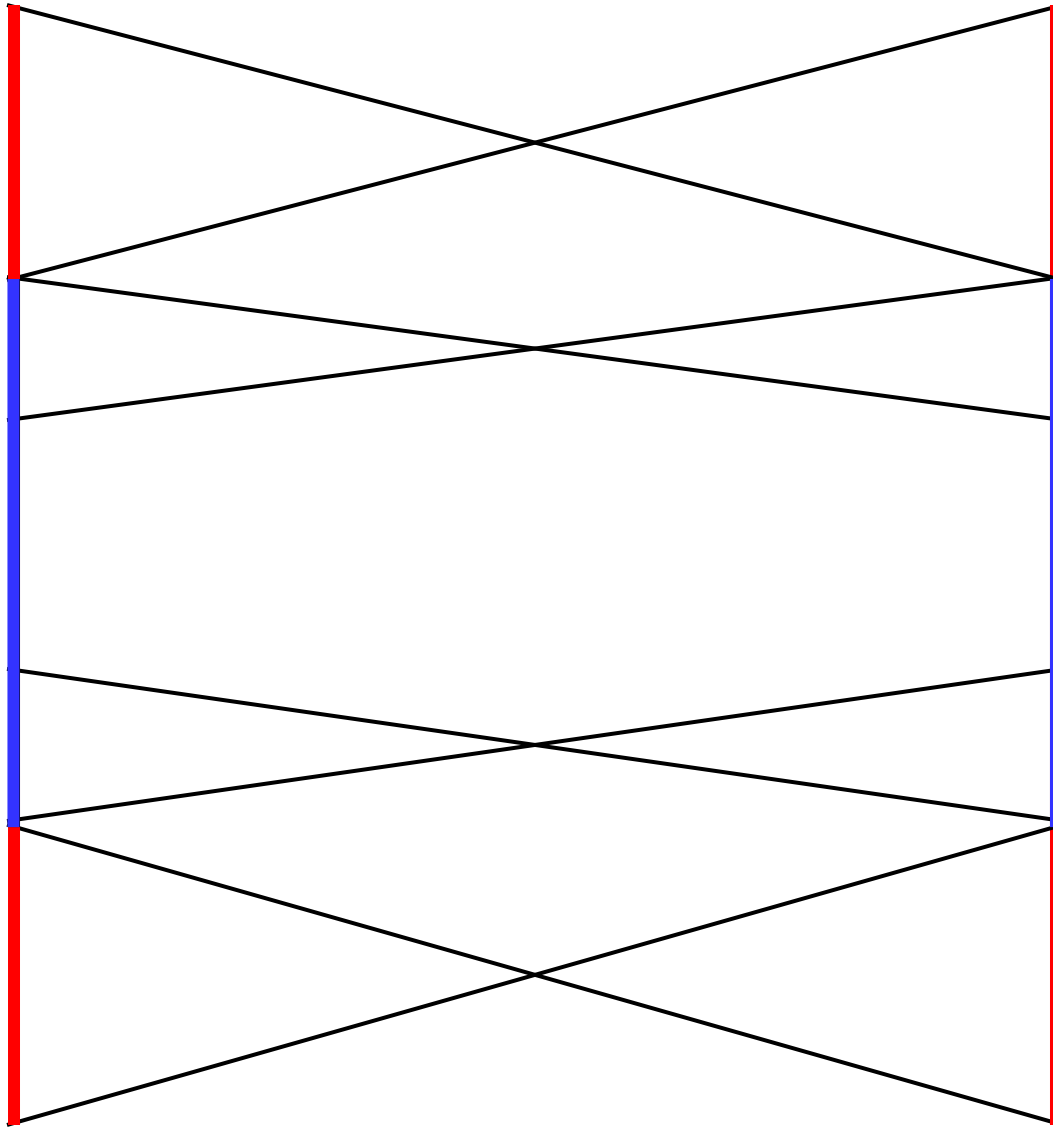
Which blue line is longer?



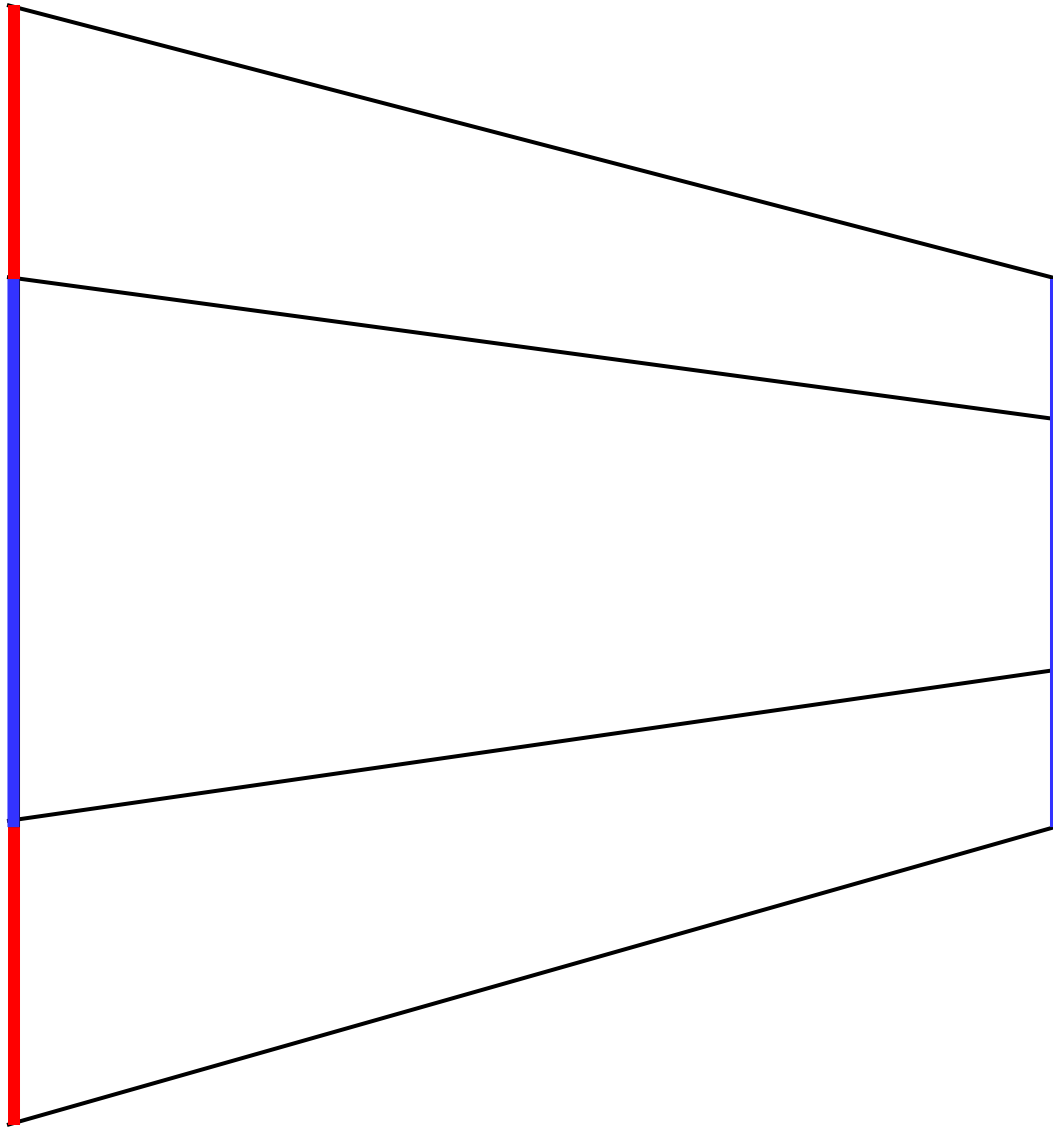
Which blue line is longer?



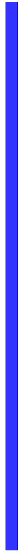
Which blue line is longer?



Which blue line is longer?



Which blue line is longer?



Which blue line is longer?



# Which blue line is longer?



Standard social psychology experiment.

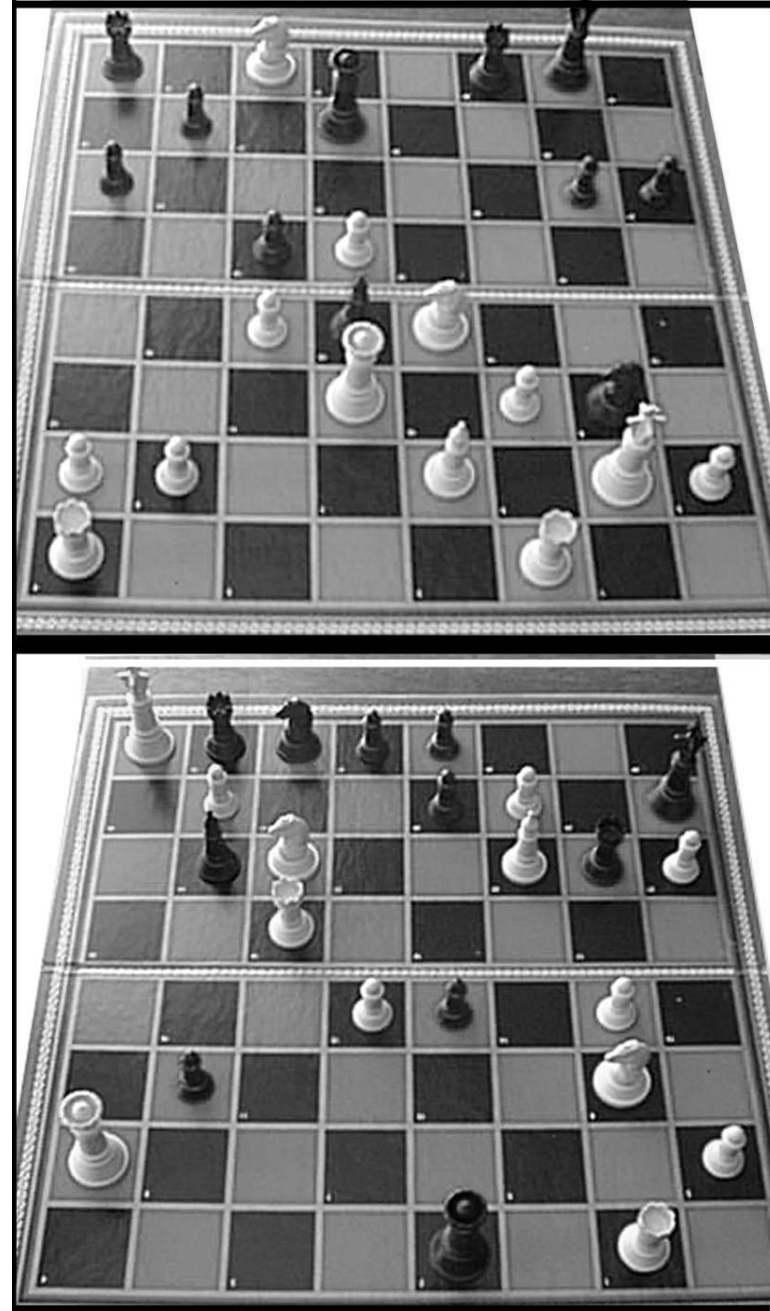




# Chess experts

- can reconstruct entire chessboard with  $< \sim 5s$  inspection
- can recognize  $1e5$  distinct patterns
- can play multiple games blindfolded and simultaneous
- are no better on random boards

(Simon and Gilmartin, de Groot)



# Specialized Face Learning Is Associated with Individual Recognition in Paper Wasps



Michael J. Sheehan\* and Elizabeth A. Tibbetts

We demonstrate that the evolution of facial recognition in wasps is associated with specialized face-learning abilities. *Polistes fuscatus* can differentiate among normal wasp face images more rapidly and accurately than nonface images or manipulated faces. A close relative lacking facial recognition, *Polistes metricus*, however, lacks specialized face learning. Similar specializations for face learning are found in primates and other mammals, although *P. fuscatus* represents an independent evolution of specialization. Convergence toward face specialization in distant taxa as well as divergence among closely related taxa with different recognition behavior suggests that specialized cognition is surprisingly labile and may be adaptively shaped by species-specific selective pressures such as face recognition.

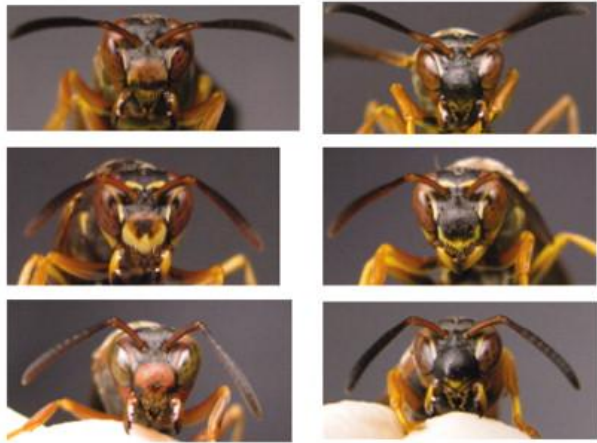
When needed, even wasps can do it.

- *Polistes fuscatus* can differentiate among normal wasp face images more rapidly and accurately than nonface images or manipulated faces.
- *Polistes metricus* is a close relative lacking facial recognition and specialized face learning.
- Similar specializations for face learning are found in primates and other mammals, although *P. fuscatus* represents an independent evolution of specialization.
- Convergence toward face specialization in distant taxa as well as divergence among closely related taxa with different recognition behavior suggests that specialized cognition is surprisingly labile and may be adaptively shaped by species-specific selective pressures such as face recognition.

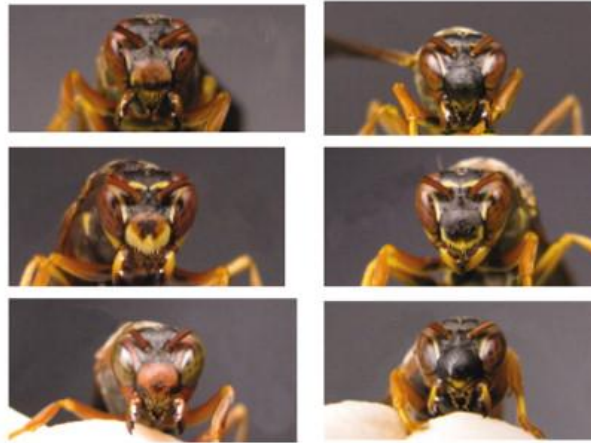


Fig. 1 Images used for training wasps.

***P. fuscatus* faces**



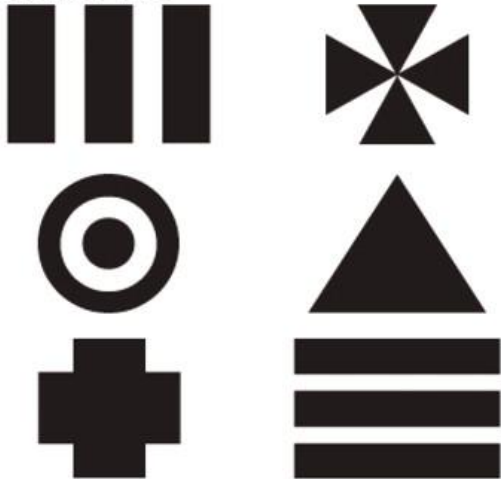
**Antenna-less faces**



**Rearranged faces**



**Patterns**

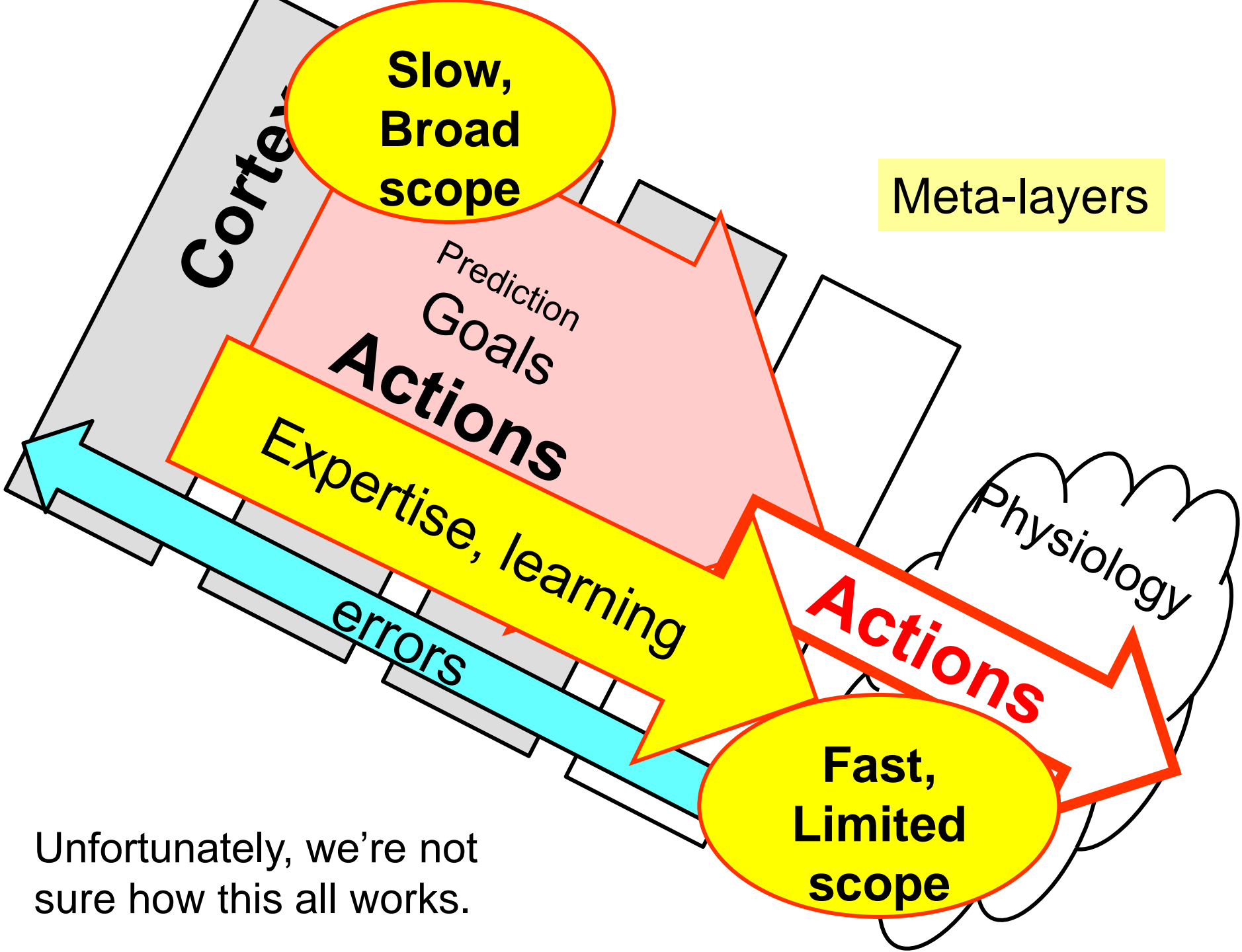


**Caterpillars**



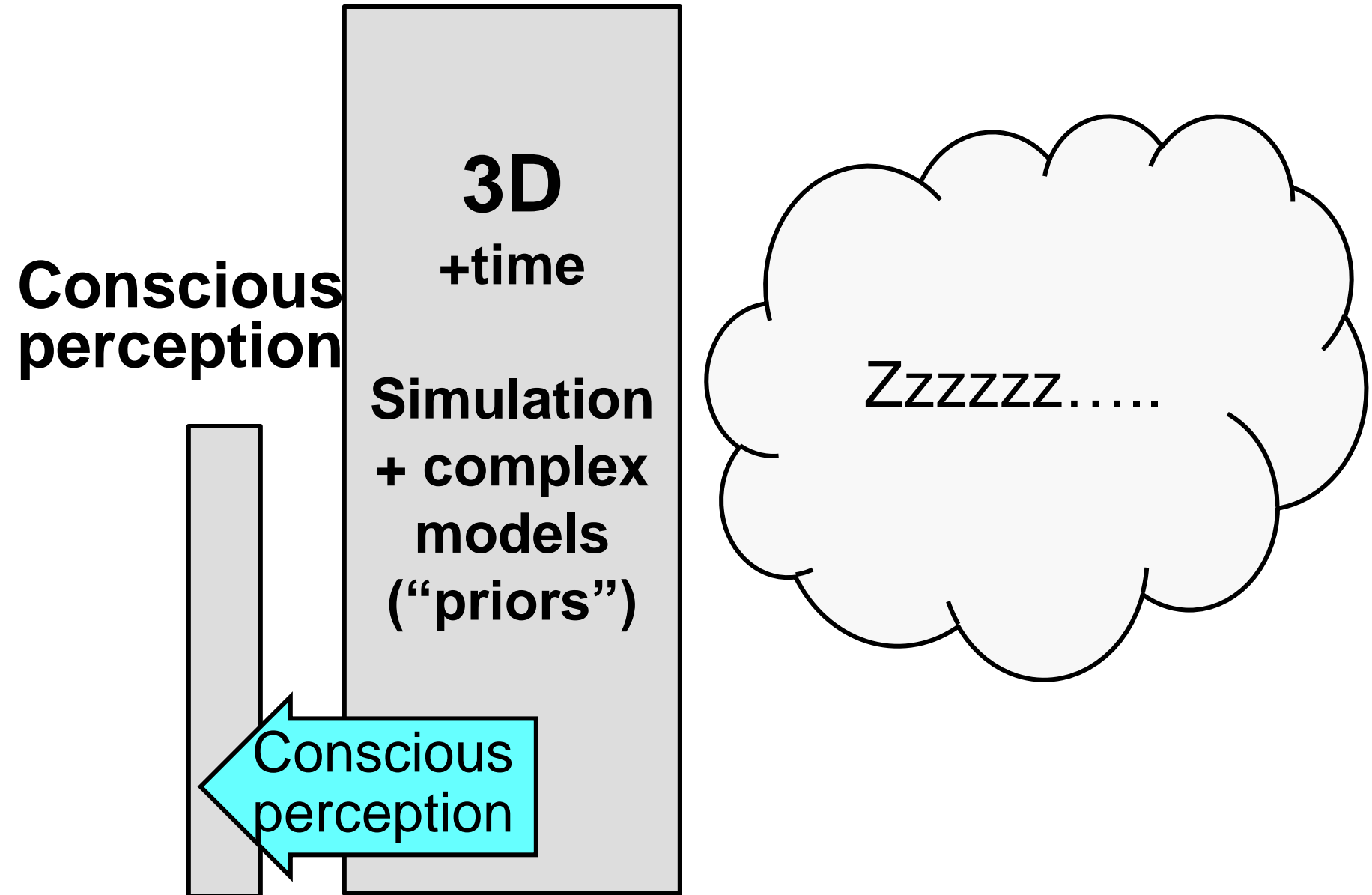
***P. metricus* faces**





Unfortunately, we're not sure how this all works.

# Seeing is *dreaming*



Seeing is dreaming

Seeing is *believing*

Conscious  
perception

**3D  
+time**

**Simulation  
+ complex  
models  
("priors")**

Prediction

Our most  
integrated  
perception  
of the world

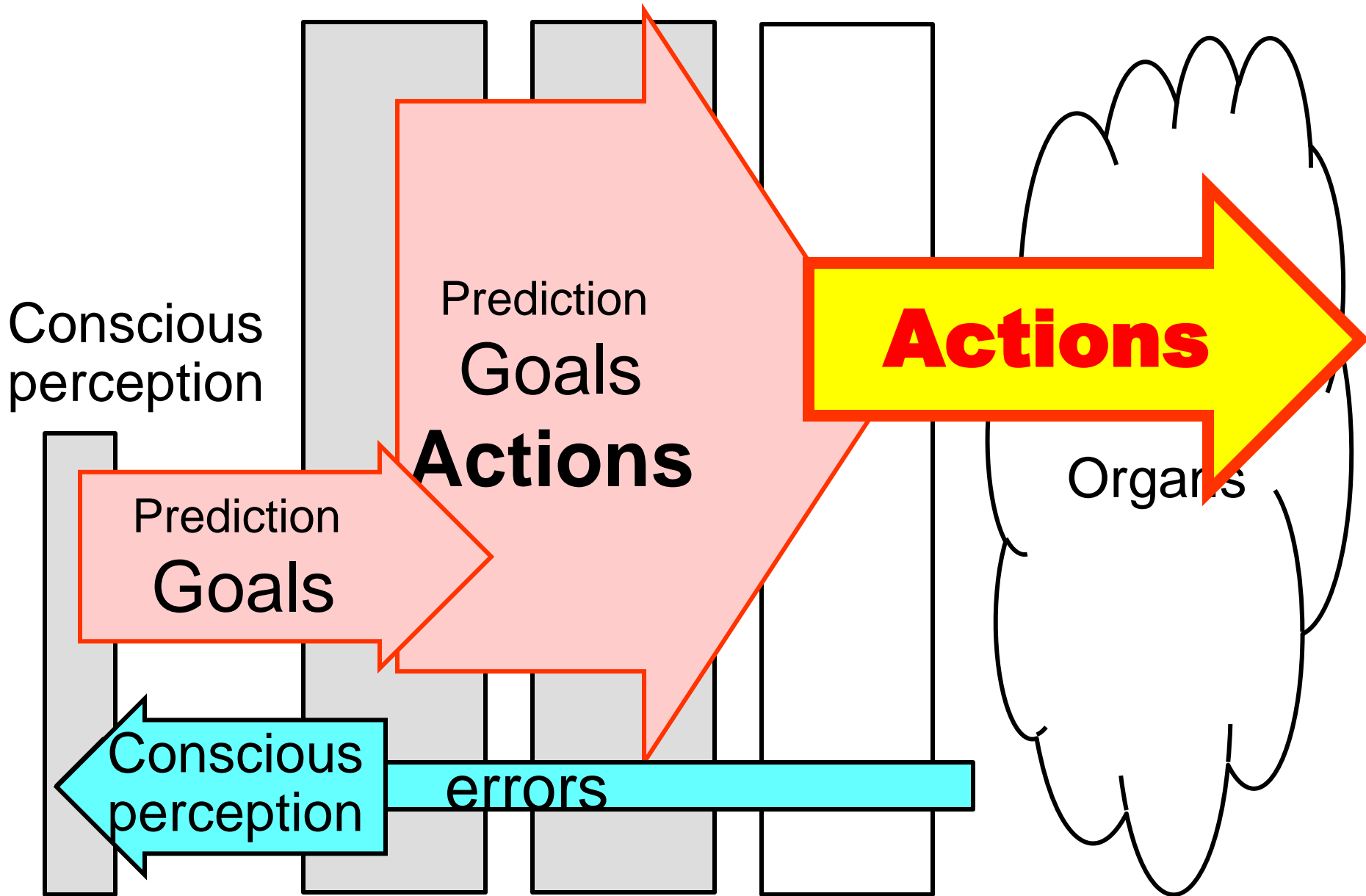
Conscious  
perception

errors

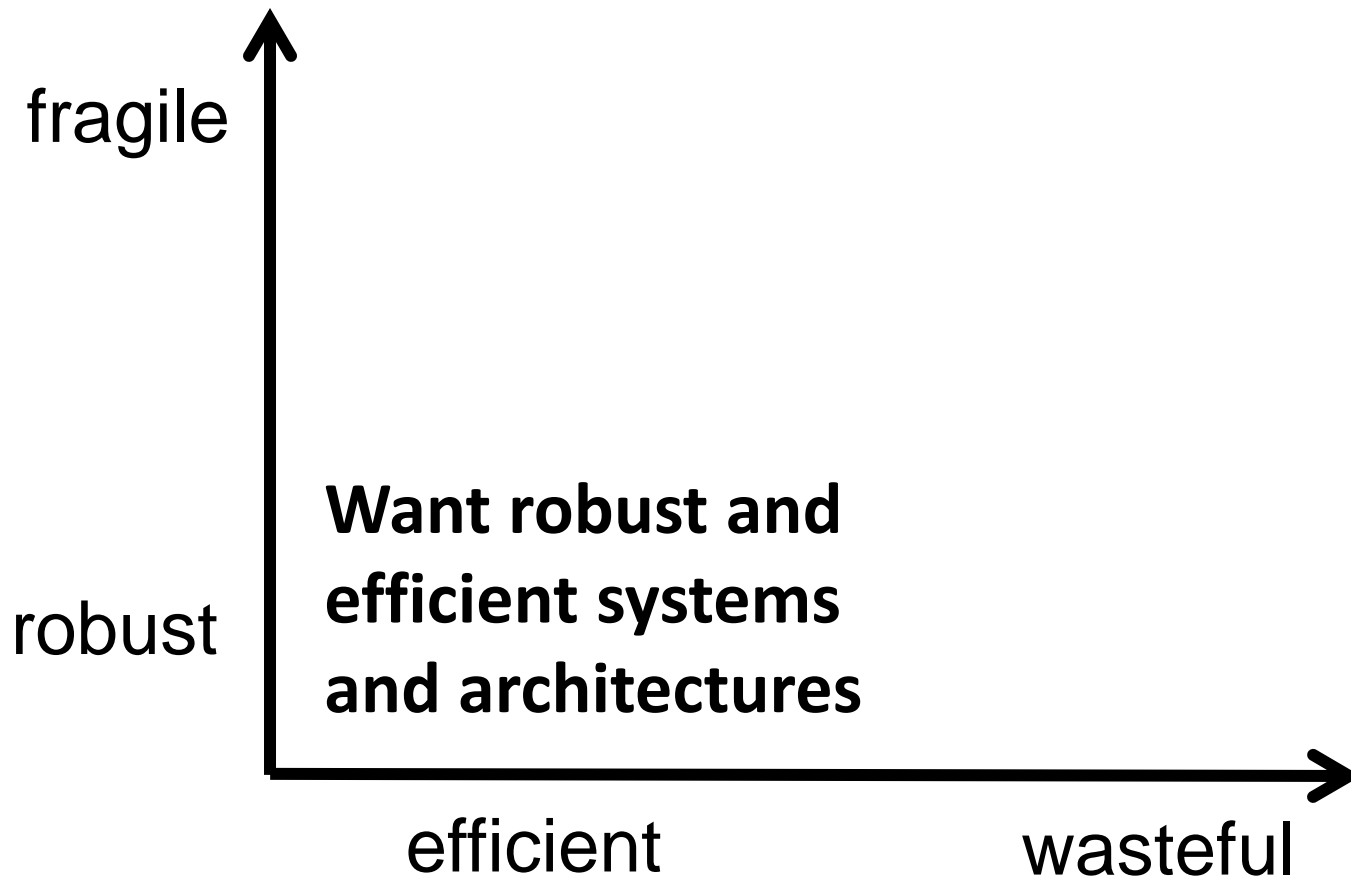




But ultimately, only actions matter.



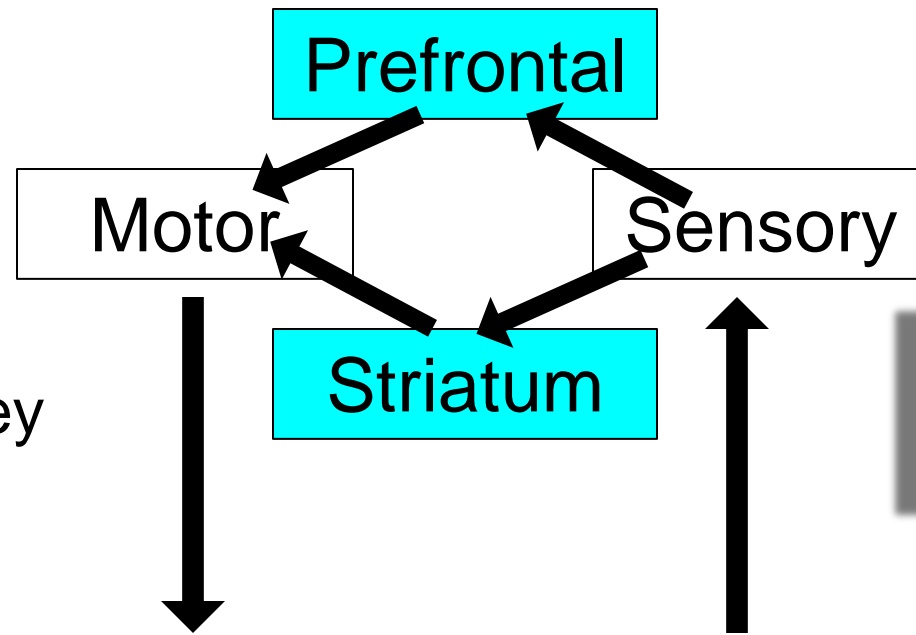
# Want to understand the space of systems/architectures



# Where we are going

- Human's have huge capacity for flexibility, to learn and adapt
- High skill is highly automated but less flexible
- Mammalian NS seems highly organized to reduce delays in motor control
- Tradeoff between flexibility and delay
- Building on Turing and recent results in control theory to understand the speed/flexibility tradeoff and the mind/brain architecture

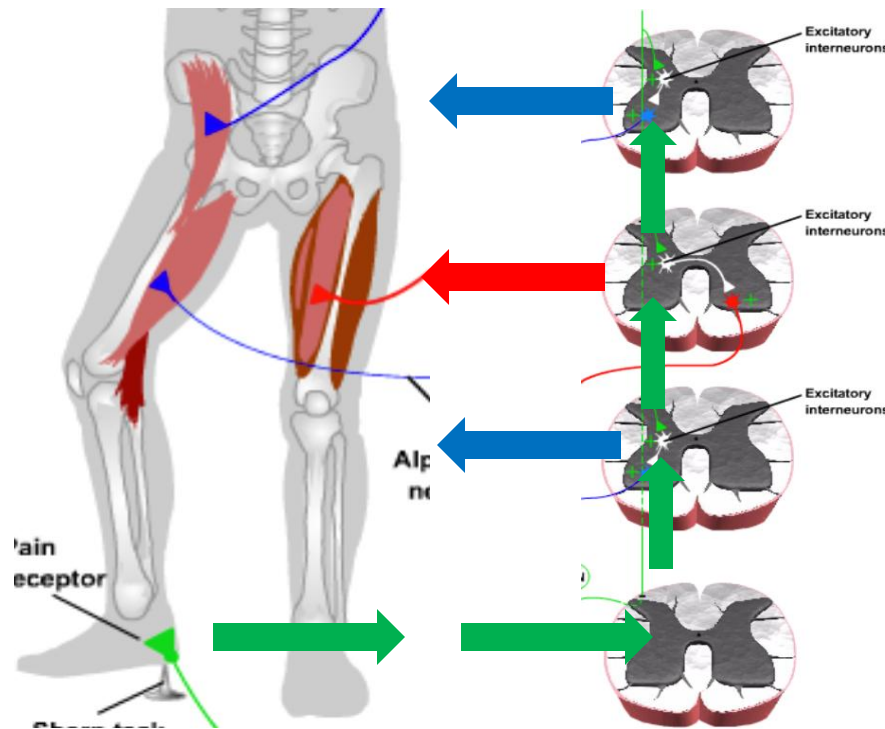
# Learning



Ashby & Crossley

**Slow  
Flexible**

- **Acquire**
- Translate/  
integrate
- Automate



Thanks to  
Bassett & Grafton

**Fast  
Inflexible**

## Prefrontal

A diagram showing two yellow rectangular boxes labeled "Motor" and "Sensory". A large black double-headed arrow connects the two boxes, indicating a bidirectional relationship or interaction between the motor and sensory components.

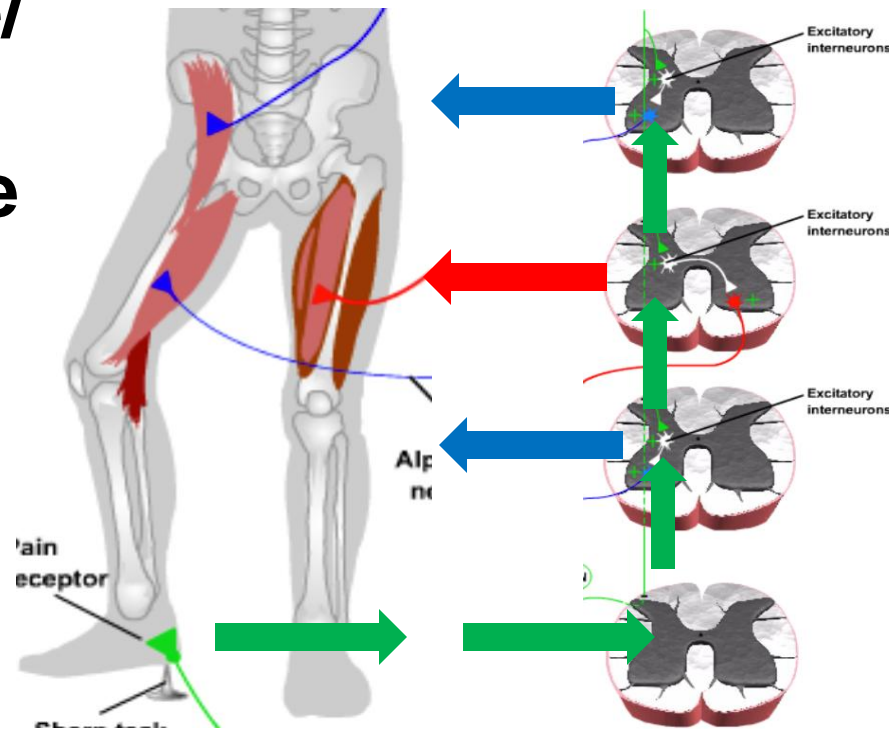
A diagram showing two yellow rectangular boxes labeled "Motor" and "Sensory". A large black double-headed arrow connects the two boxes, indicating a bidirectional relationship or interaction between the motor and sensory components.

Striatum

**Slow  
Flexible**

# Ashby & Crossley

- Acquire
- **Translate/  
integrate**
- **Automate**



Build on Turing to show what is *necessary* to make this work.

**Horizontal  
Meme  
Transfer**

**Fast  
Inflexible**

Prefrontal

Motor

Sensory

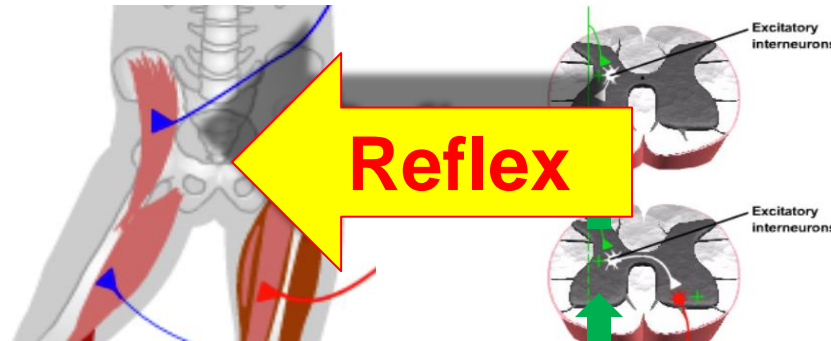
**Learning**

Striatum

**Slow  
Flexible**

- Acquire
- Translate/  
integrate
- Automate

**Reflex**

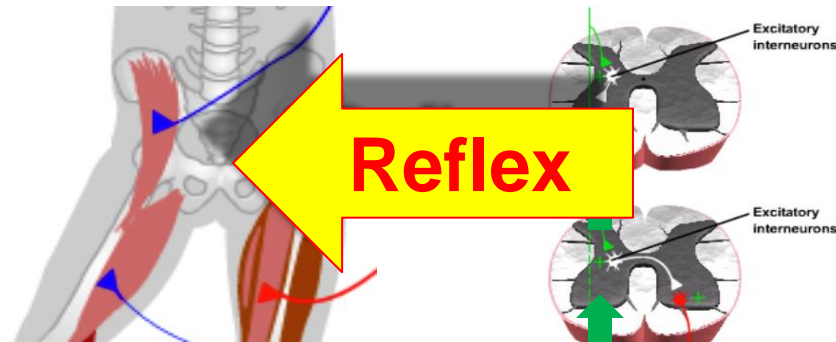


Wolpert, Grafton, etc

*robust*

Brain as ~~optimal~~ controller

- Acquire
- Translate/  
integrate
- **Automate**



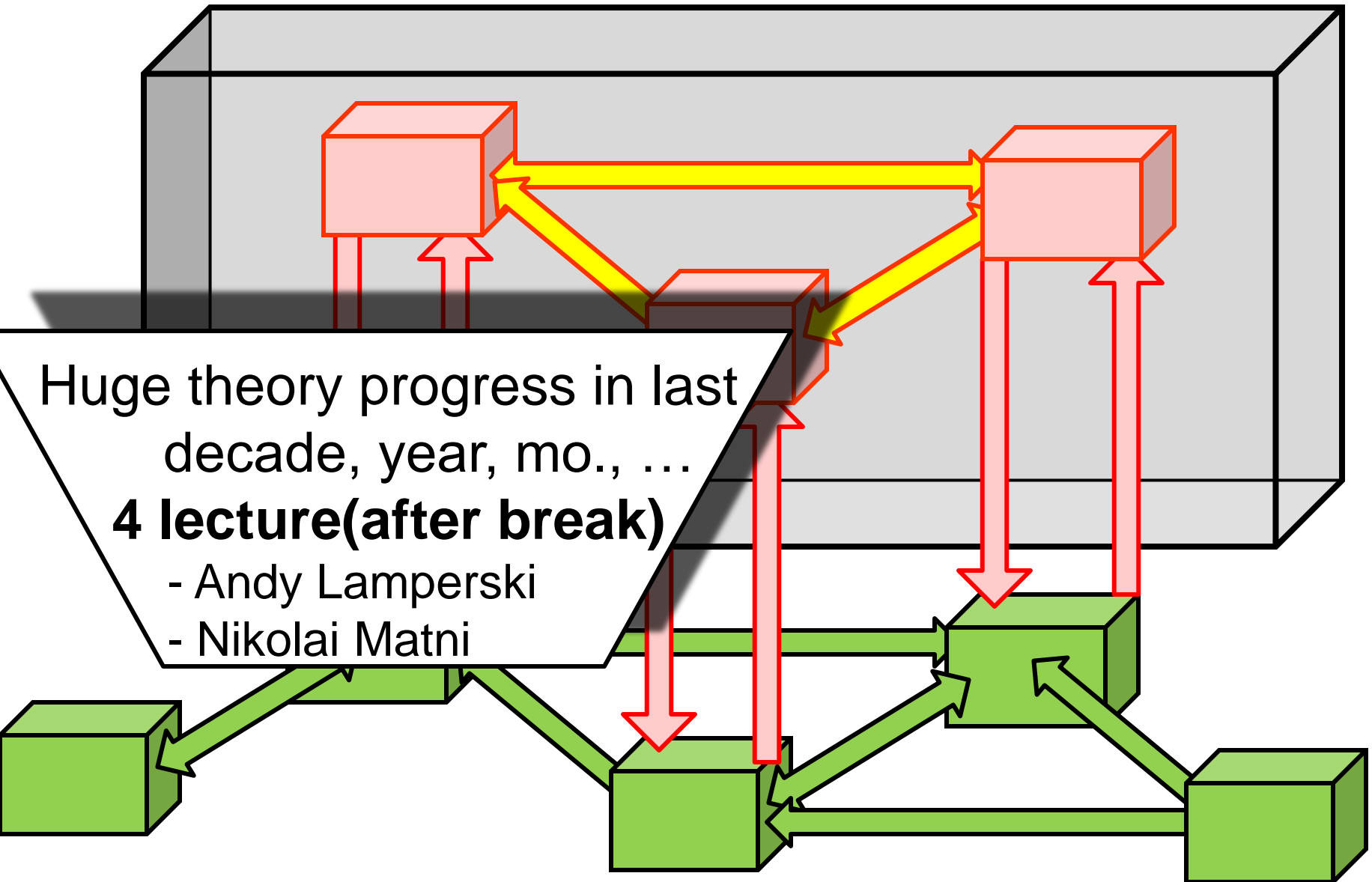
# What I'm not going to talk about

- Connections between robustness and risk sensitivity
- Asymmetry between false positives and negatives
- Risk aversion and risk seeking
- Uncertainty is more in models than in probabilities
- Life is not like a casino

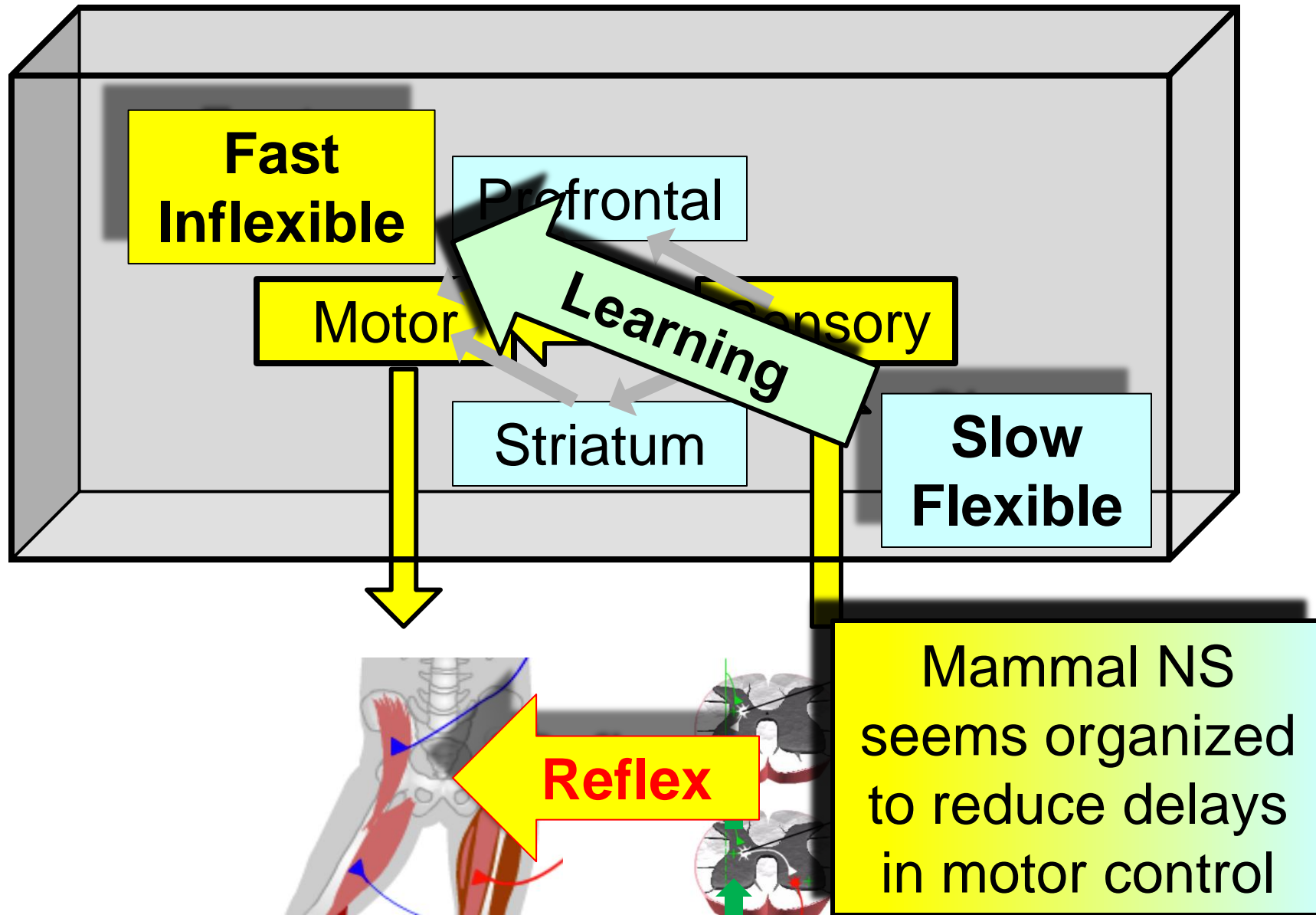
All very important but triaged because of time



Going beyond black box: control is decentralized with internal delays.



Going beyond black box: control is decentralized with internal delays.



# Requirements on systems and architectures

accessible  
accountable  
accurate  
adaptable  
administrable  
affordable  
auditable  
autonomy  
available  
credible  
process  
capable  
compatible  
composable  
configurable  
correctness  
customizable  
debugable  
degradable  
determinable  
demonstrable

dependable  
deployable  
discoverable  
distributable  
durable  
effective  
efficient  
evolvable  
extensible  
failure  
transparent  
fault-tolerant  
fidelity  
flexible  
inspectable  
installable  
Integrity  
interchangeable  
interoperable  
learnable  
maintainable

manageable  
mobile  
modifiable  
modular  
nomadic  
operable  
orthogonality  
portable  
precision  
predictable  
producible  
provable  
recoverable  
relevant  
reliable  
repeatable  
reproducible  
resilient  
responsive  
reusable  
robust

safety  
scalable  
seamless  
self-sustainable  
serviceable  
supportable  
securable  
simplicity  
stable  
standards  
compliant  
survivable  
**sustainable**  
tailorable  
testable  
timely  
traceable  
ubiquitous  
understandable  
upgradable  
usable

# Simplified, minimal requirements

accessible  
accountable  
accurate  
adaptable  
administrable  
affordable  
auditable  
autonomy  
available  
credible  
process  
capable  
compatible  
composable  
configurable  
correctness  
customizable  
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degradable  
determinable  
demonstrable

dependable  
deployable  
discoverable  
distributable  
durable  
effective  
**efficient**  
evolvable  
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fault-tolerant  
fidelity  
flexible  
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learnable  
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manageable  
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nomadic  
operable  
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portable  
precision  
predictable  
producible  
provable  
recoverable  
relevant  
reliable  
repeatable  
reproducible  
resilient  
responsive  
reusable  
**robust**

safety  
scalable  
seamless  
self-sustainable  
serviceable  
supportable  
securable  
**simple**  
stable  
standards  
compliant  
survivable  
**sustainable**  
tailorable  
testable  
timely  
traceable  
ubiquitous  
understandable  
upgradable  
usable

# Requirements on systems and architectures

accessible  
accountable  
accurate  
adaptable  
administrable  
affordable  
auditable  
autonomy  
available  
credible  
process  
capable  
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composable  
configurable  
correctness  
customizable  
debugable  
degradable  
determinable  
demonstrable

dependable  
deployable  
discoverable  
distributable  
durable  
effective  
**efficient**  
evolvable  
extensible  
failure  
transparent  
fault-tolerant  
fidelity  
flexible  
inspectable  
installable  
Integrity  
interchangeable  
interoperable  
learnable  
maintainable

manageable  
mobile  
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precision  
predictable  
producible  
provable  
recoverable  
relevant  
reliable  
repeatable  
reproducible  
resilient  
responsive  
reusable  
**robust**

safety  
scalable  
seamless  
self-sustainable  
serviceable  
supportable  
securable  
**simple**  
stable  
standards  
compliant  
survivable  
**sustainable**  
tailorable  
testable  
timely  
traceable  
ubiquitous  
understandable  
upgradable  
usable

# Requirements on systems and architectures

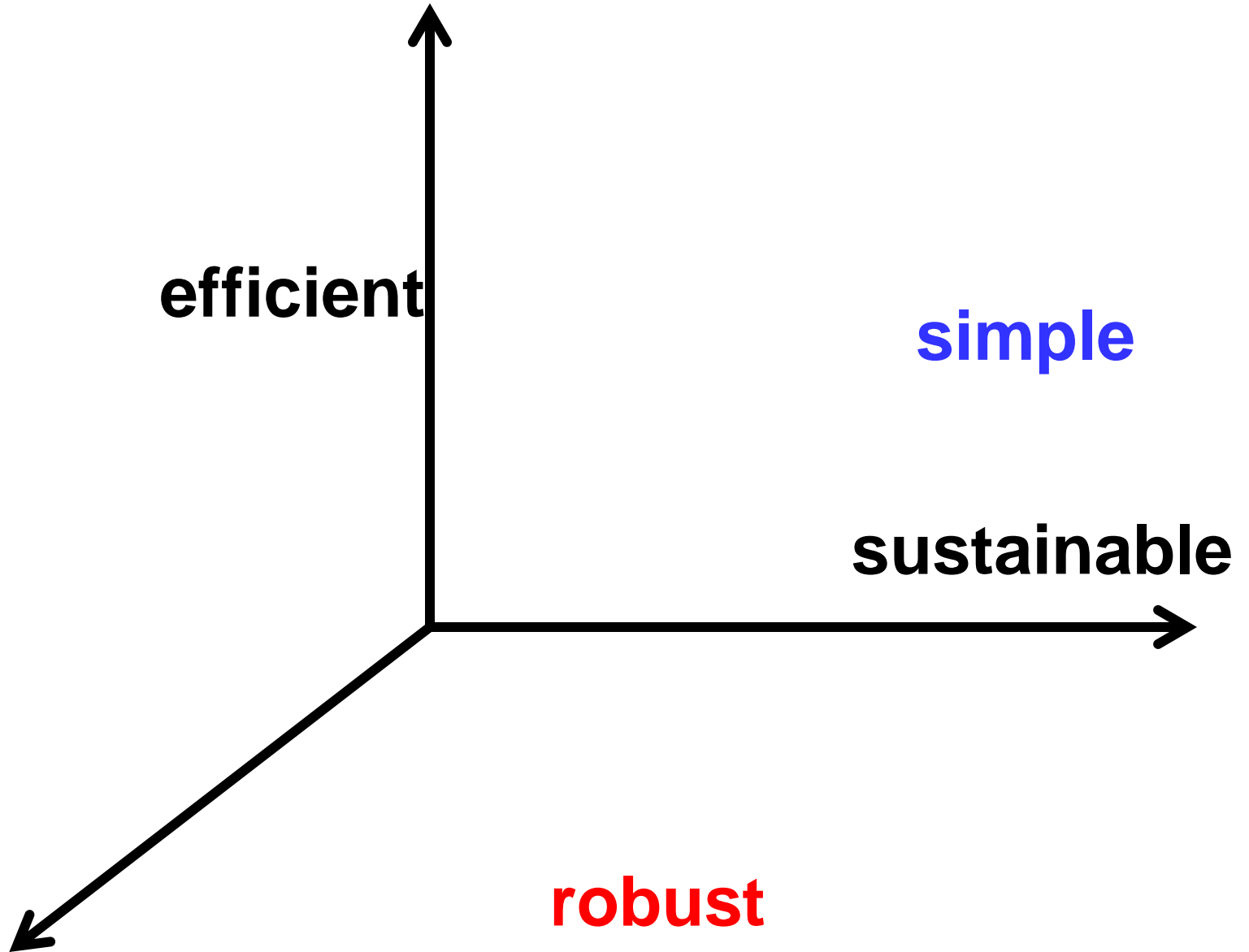
**efficient**

**simple**

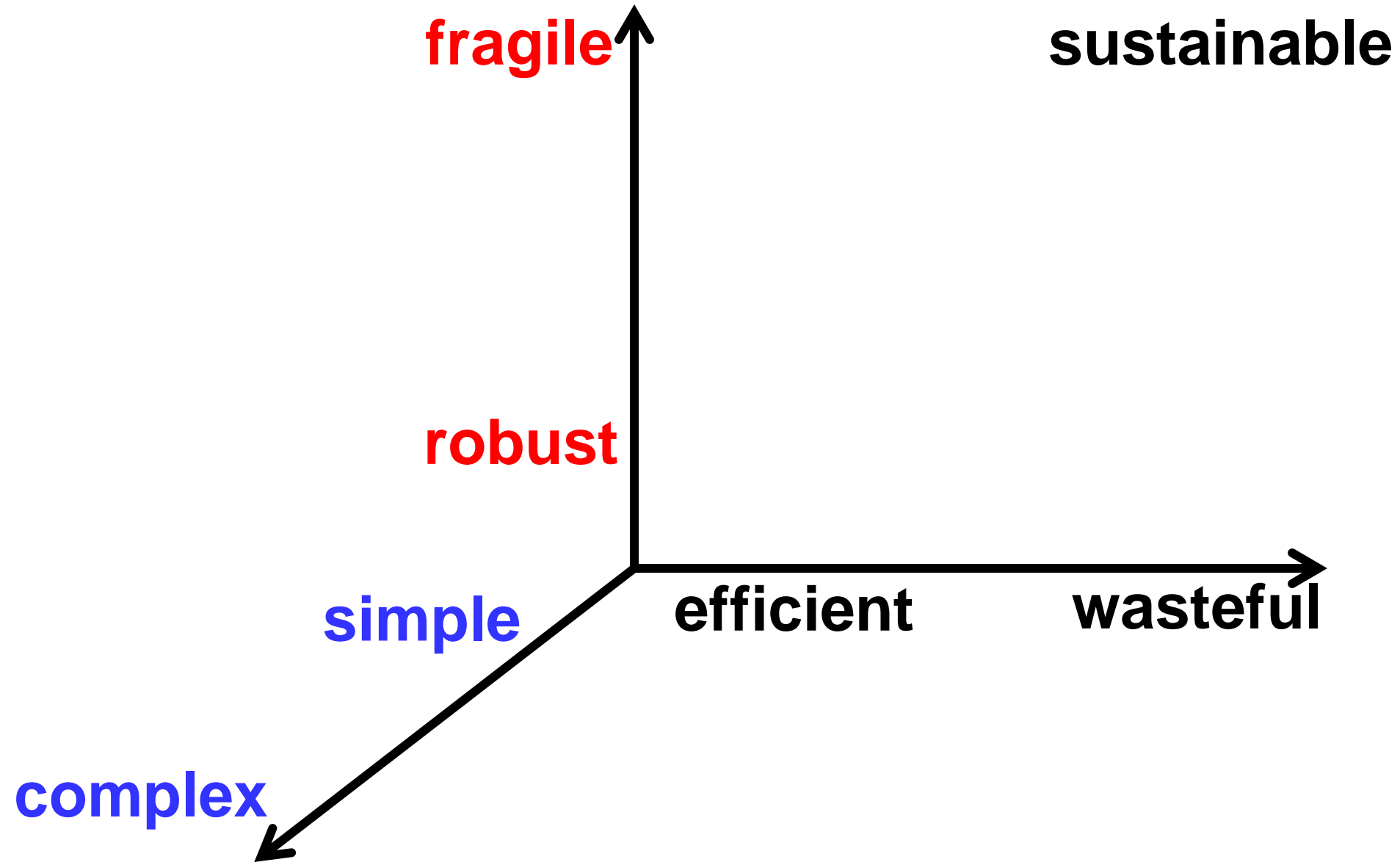
**sustainable**

**robust**

# Requirements on systems and architectures



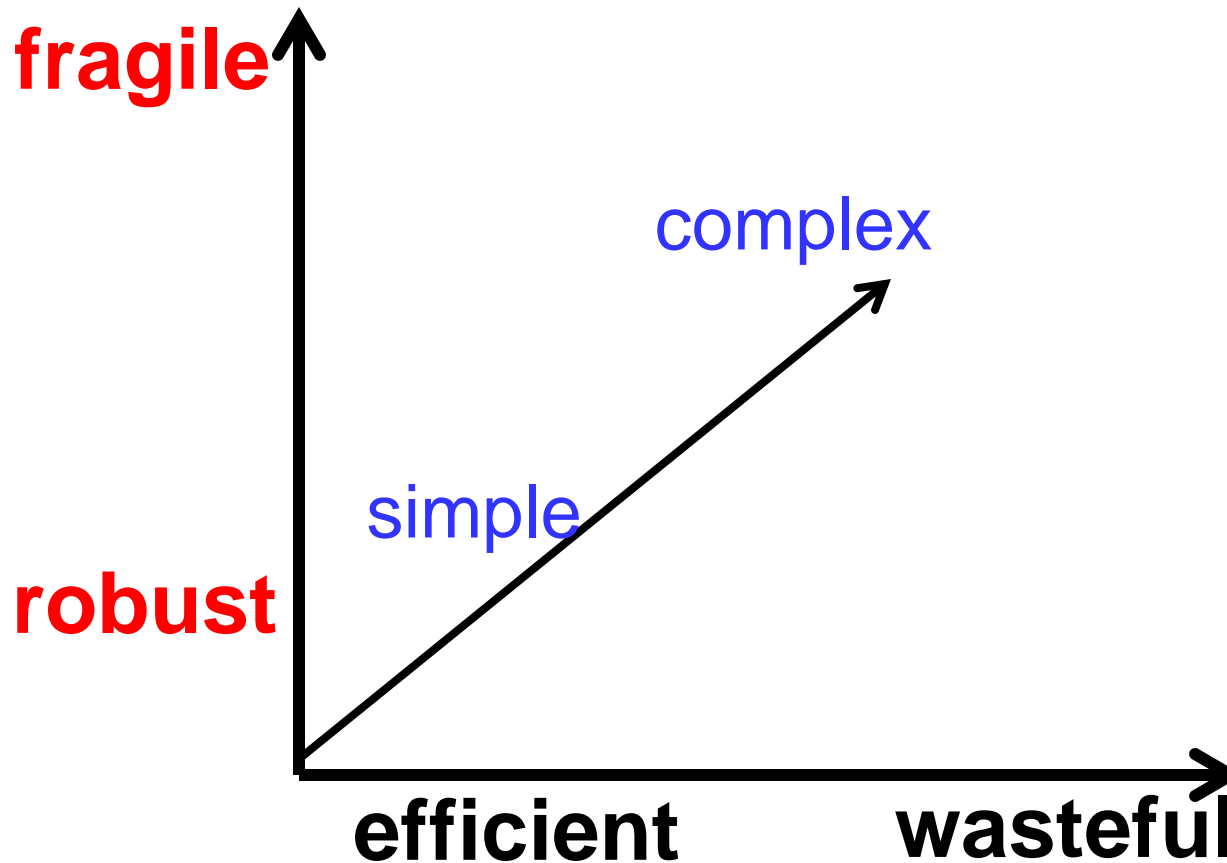
# Requirements on systems and architectures



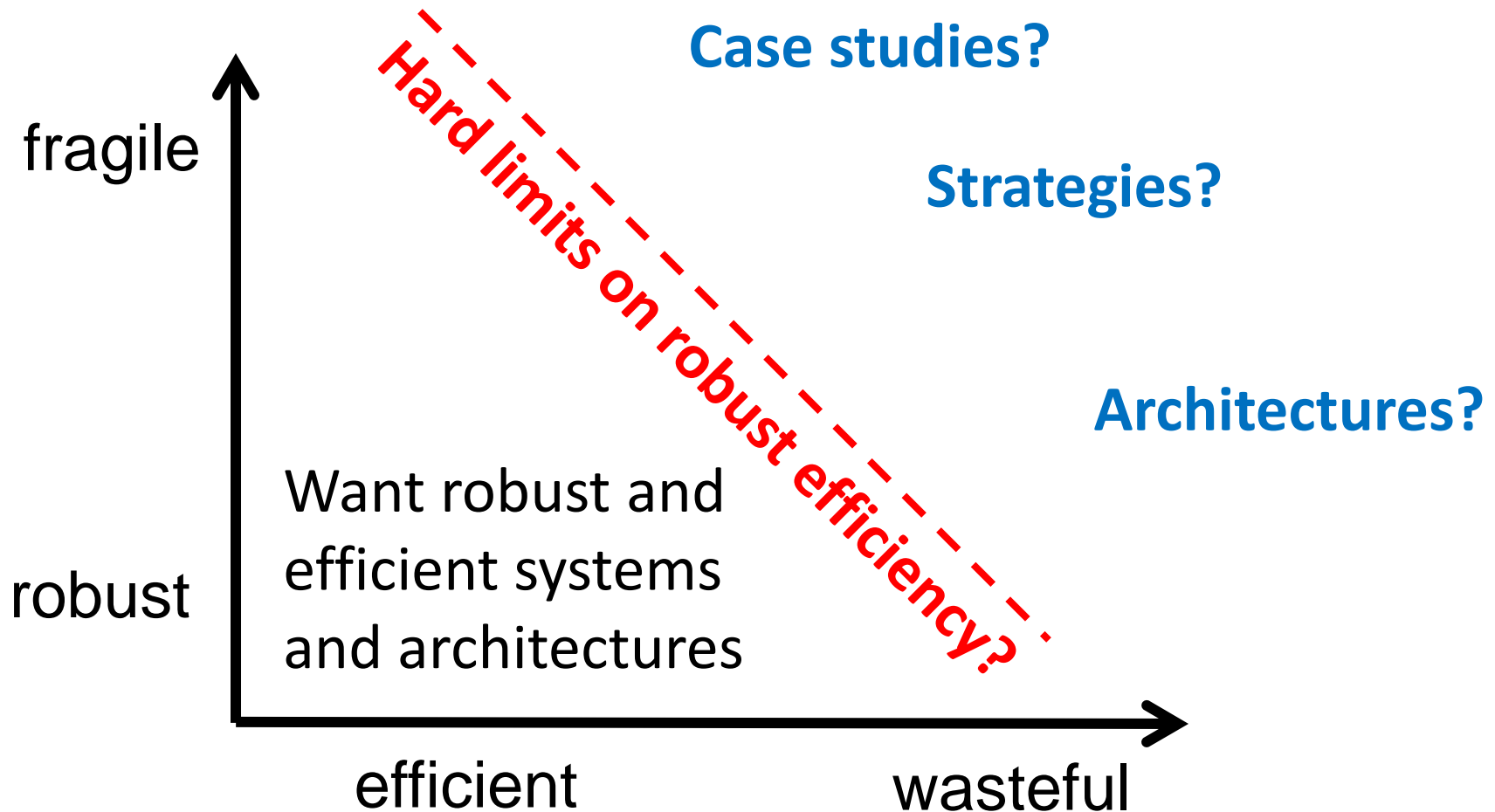


# Requirements on systems and architectures

sustainable



# Want to understand the space of systems/architectures



# WHAT WE GET

Unlock  
**\$5**  
trillion  
in savings

Support a  
**158%**  
bigger  
economy

Use  
**0**  
energy from oil,  
coal, and nuclear

## SOURCES

RMI analysis detailed in *Reinventing Fire*  
(Chelsea Green Publishing)  
available at [rmi.org](http://rmi.org)

**Learn more at [rmi.org](http://rmi.org)**

© 2011 Rocky Mountain Institute®



Amory B. Lovins,  
*Reinventing Fire*



# Fire in the Earth System

I'm interested  
in fire...

David M. J. S. Bowman,<sup>1\*</sup> Jennifer K. Balch,<sup>2,3,4\*</sup>† Paulo Artaxo,<sup>5</sup> William J. Bond,<sup>6</sup>  
Jean M. Carlson,<sup>7</sup> Mark A. Cochrane,<sup>8</sup> Carla M. D'Antonio,<sup>9</sup> Ruth S. DeFries,<sup>10</sup> John C. Doyle,<sup>11</sup>  
Sandy P. Harrison,<sup>12</sup> Fay H. Johnston,<sup>13</sup> Jon E. Keeley,<sup>14,15</sup> Meg A. Krawchuk,<sup>16</sup>  
Christian A. Kull,<sup>17</sup> J. Brad Marston,<sup>18</sup> Max A. Moritz,<sup>16</sup> I. Colin Prentice,<sup>19</sup> Christopher I. Roos,<sup>20</sup>  
Andrew C. Scott,<sup>21</sup> Thomas W. Swetnam,<sup>22</sup> Guido R. van der Werf,<sup>23</sup> Stephen J. Pyne<sup>24</sup>

Fire is a worldwide phenomenon that appears in the geological record soon after the appearance of terrestrial plants. Fire influences global ecosystem patterns and processes, including vegetation distribution and structure, the carbon cycle, and climate. Although humans and fire have always coexisted, our capacity to manage fire remains imperfect and may become more difficult in the future as climate change alters fire regimes. This risk is difficult to assess, however, because fires are still poorly represented in global models. Here, we discuss some of the most important issues involved in developing a better understanding of the role of fire in the Earth system.

Very accessible  
No math



# Wildfires, complexity, and highly optimized tolerance

Max A. Moritz\*, Marco E. Morais†, Lora A. Summerell‡, J. M. Carlson§¶, and John Doyle||

\*Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720; Departments of †Geography and ‡Physics, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106; ‡Department of Earth Sciences, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407; and ||Department of Control and Dynamical Systems, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91125

Communicated by James S. Langer, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA, October 19, 2005 (received for review July 26, 2004)

Recent, large fires in the western United States have rekindled debates about fire management and the role of natural fire regimes in the resilience of terrestrial ecosystems. This real-world experience parallels debates involving abstract models of forest fires, a central metaphor in complex systems theory. Both real and modeled fire-prone landscapes exhibit roughly power law statistics in fire size versus frequency. Here, we examine historical fire catalogs and a detailed fire simulation model; both are in agreement with a highly optimized tolerance model. Highly optimized tolerance suggests robustness tradeoffs underlie resilience in different fire-prone ecosystems. Understanding these mechanisms may provide new insights into the structure of ecological systems and be key in evaluating fire management strategies and sensitivities to climate change.

Highly optimized tolerance (HOT) is a conceptual framework for examining organization and structure in complex systems (18). Theoretically, HOT builds on models and mathematics from physics and engineering, and identifies robustness tradeoffs as a principle underlying mechanism for complexity and power law statistics. HOT has been discussed in the context of a variety of technological and natural systems, including wildfires (18, 22). A quantitative prediction for the distribution of fire sizes has come from an extremely simple analytical HOT model, referred to as the PLR (probability–loss–resource) model (22). As a precursor to results presented later in this article, Fig. 2 demonstrates the PLR prediction and truncated power law statistics (23) for several fire history catalogs. This plot represents the rank data as rank or cumulative frequency of fires  $P(I)$  greater than

Accessible ecology  
UG math

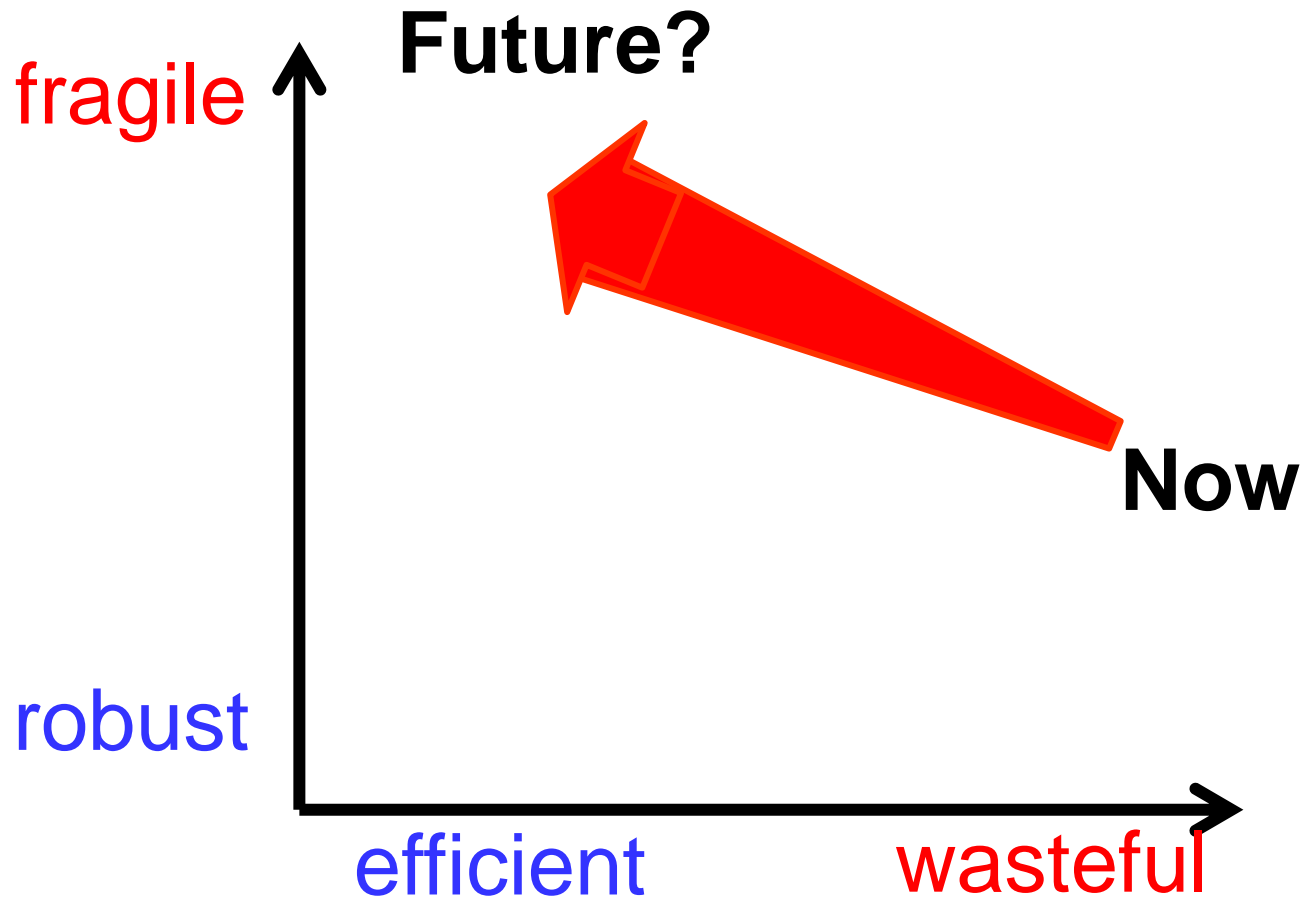
# Wildfire ecosystem as ideal example

- Cycles on years to decades timescale
- Regime shifts: grass vs shrub vs tree
- Fire= keystone “specie”
  - Metabolism: consumes vegetation
  - Doesn’t (co-)evolve
  - Simplifies co-evolution spirals and metabolisms
- 4 ecosystems globally with convergent evo
  - So Cal, Australia, S Africa, E Mediterranean
  - Similar vegetation mix
  - Invasive species



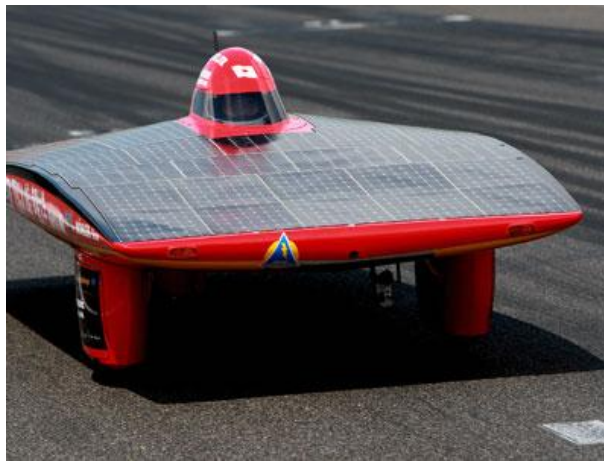
**“Physics”**

# Future evolution of the “smart” grid?





# Current Technology?



fragile

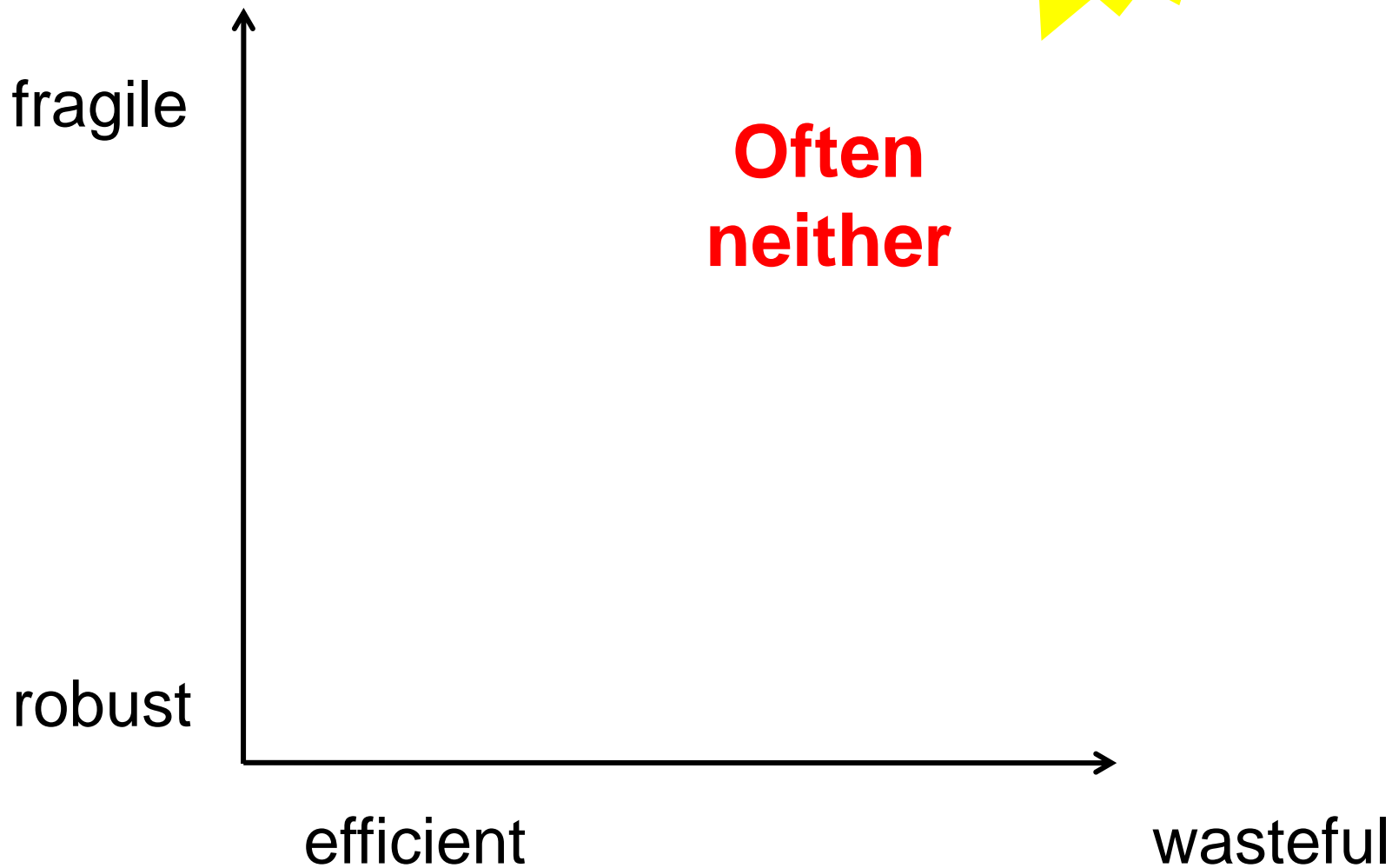
**At best we  
get one**

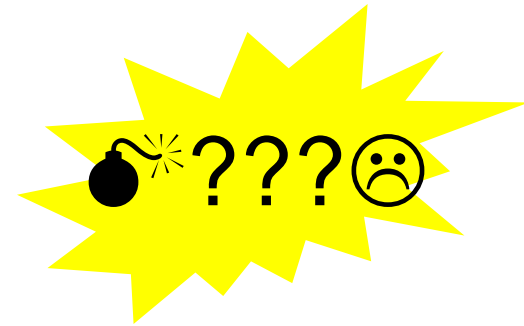
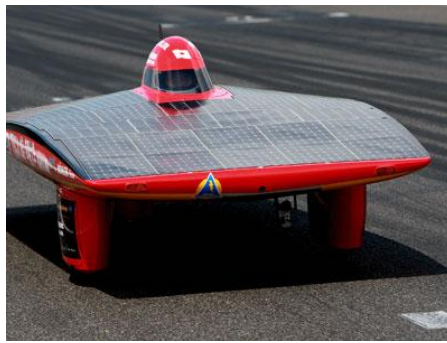
robust



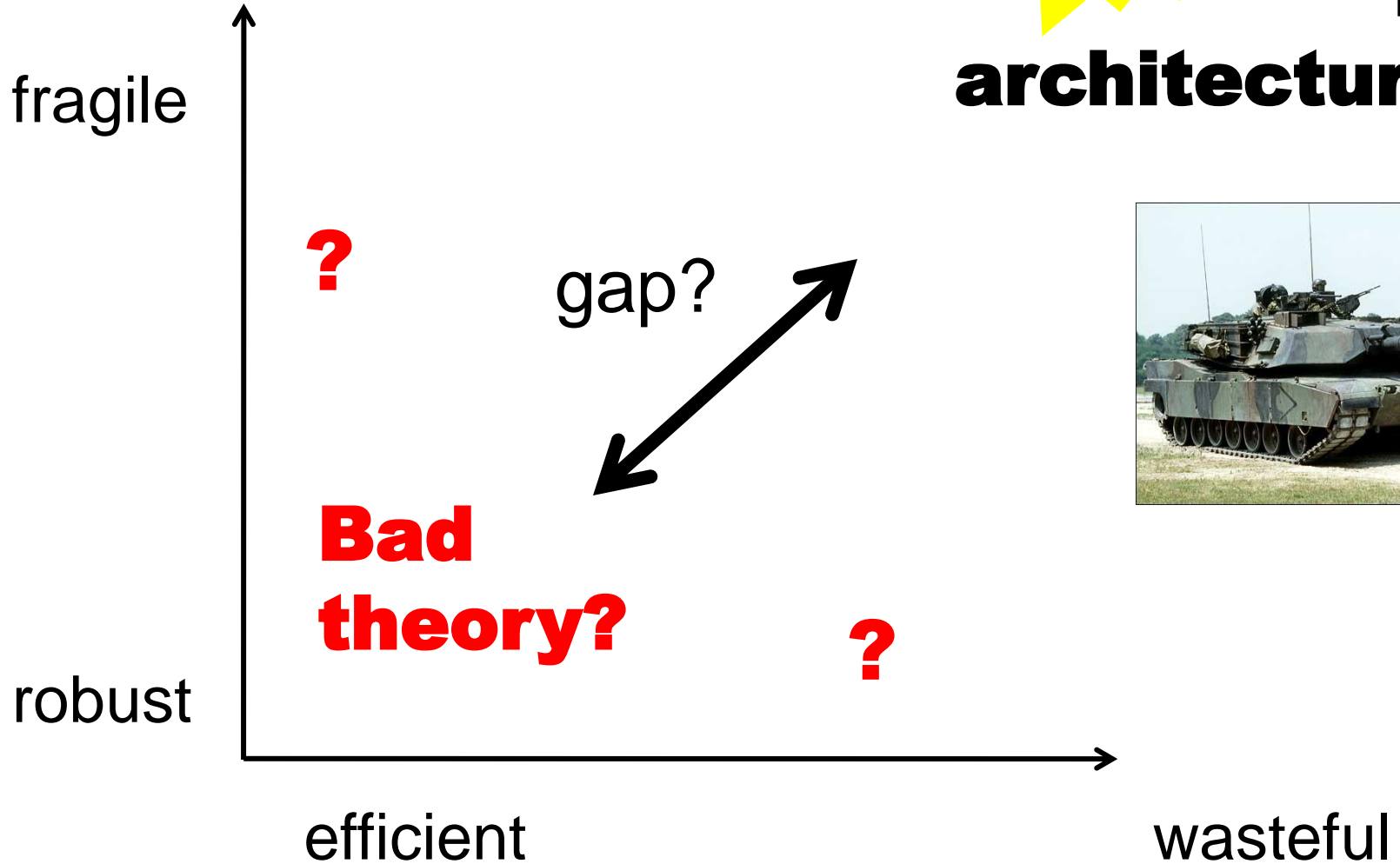
efficient

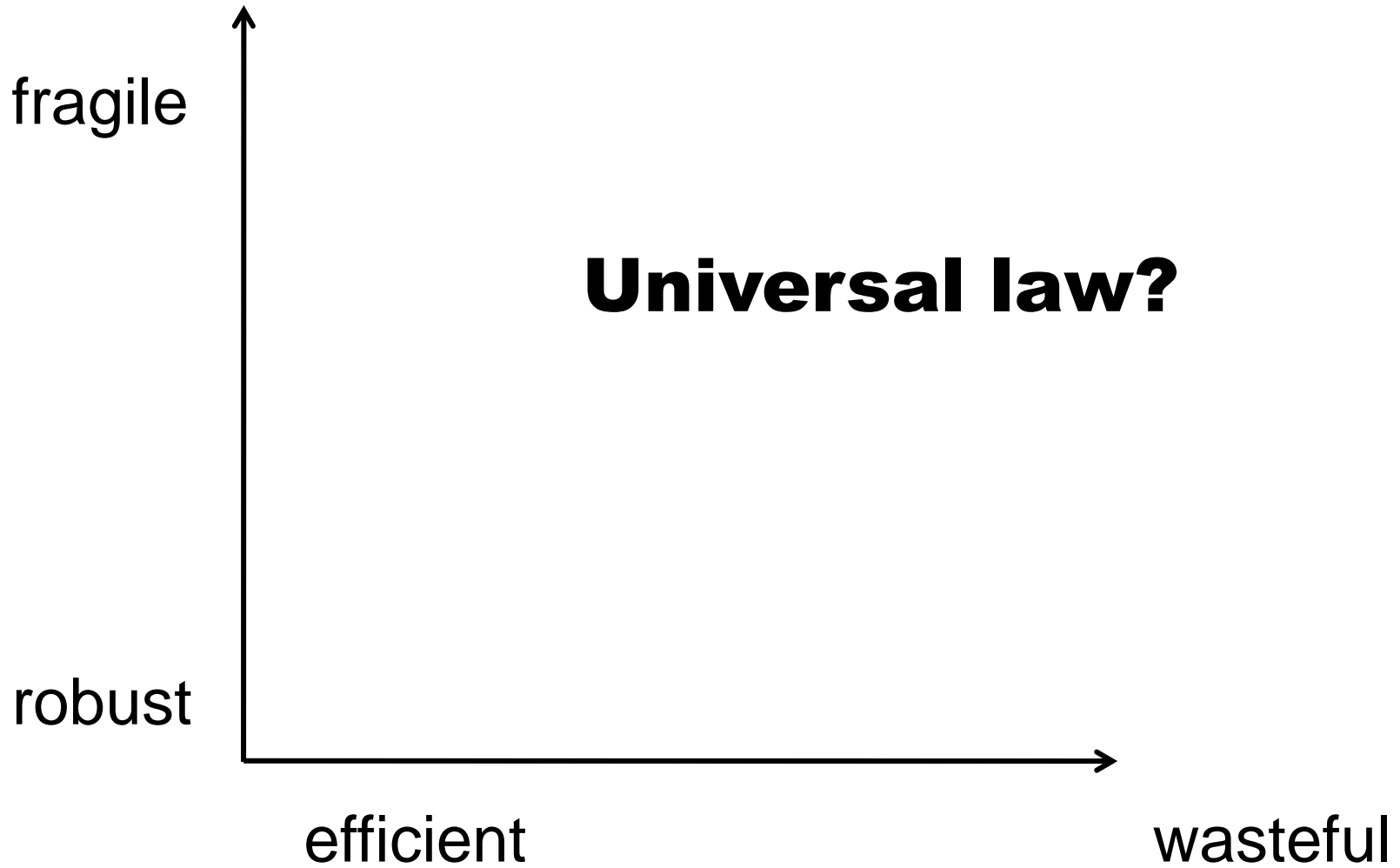
wasteful



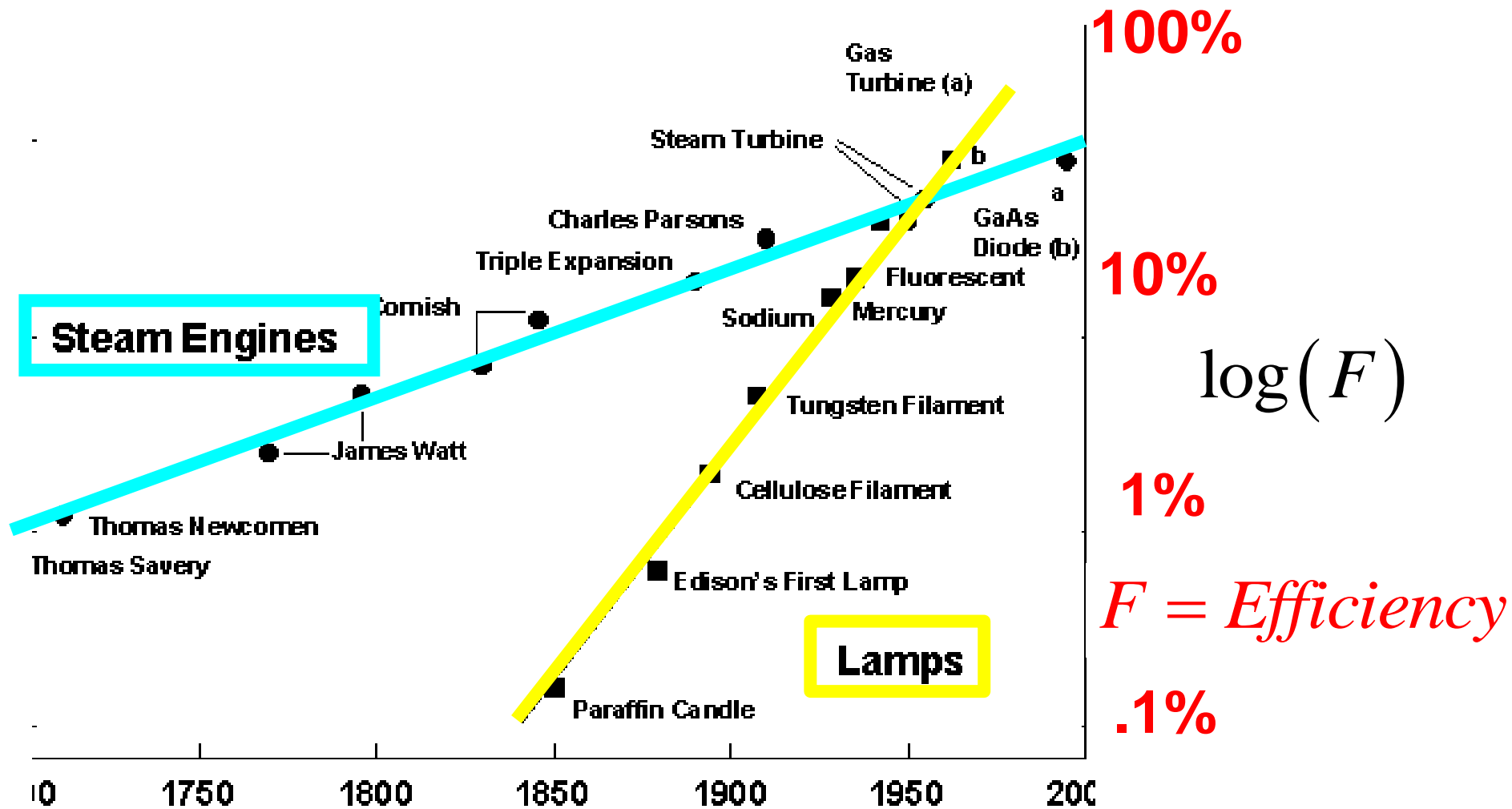


**Bad  
architectures?**



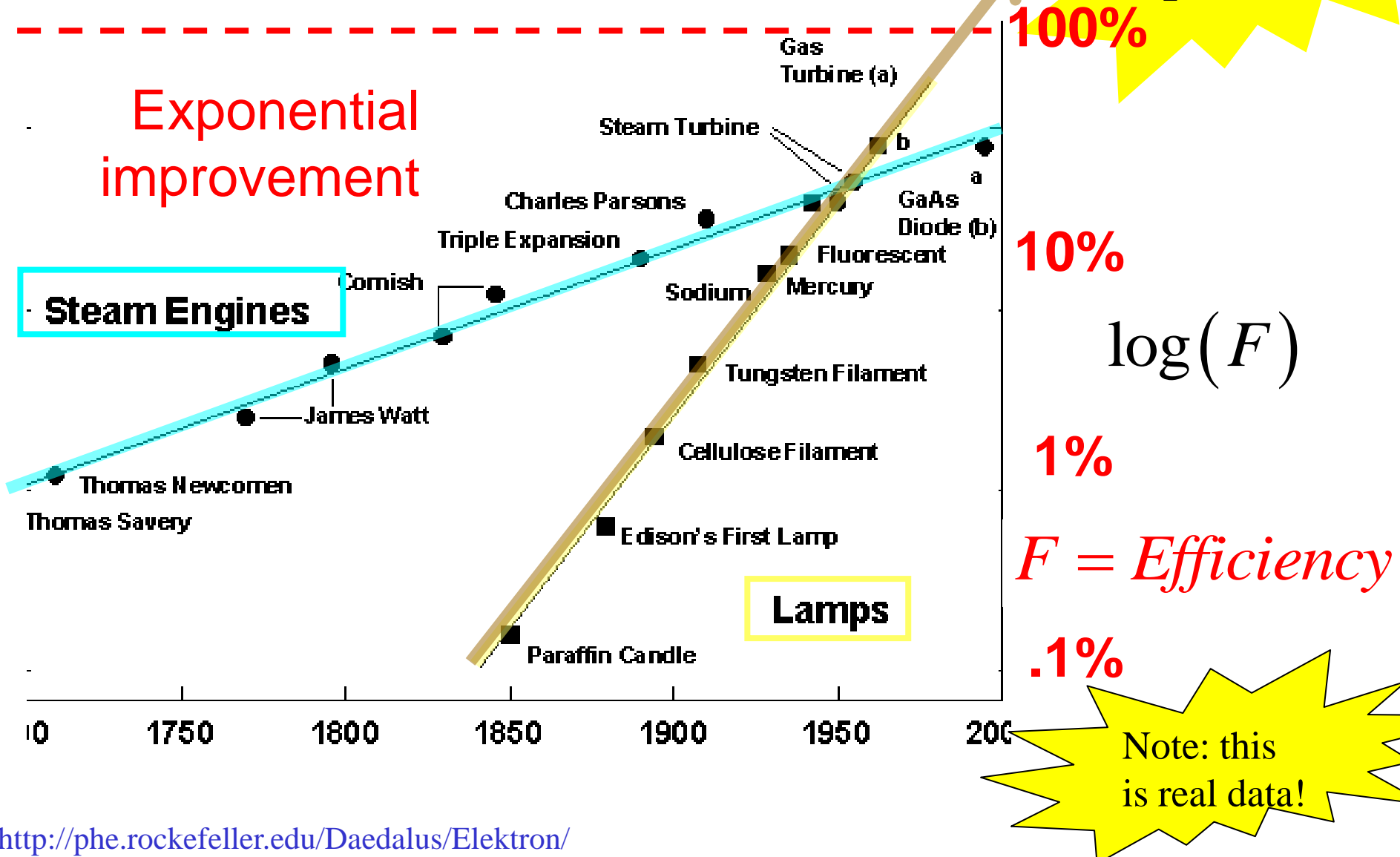


# Exponential improvement in efficiency $F$



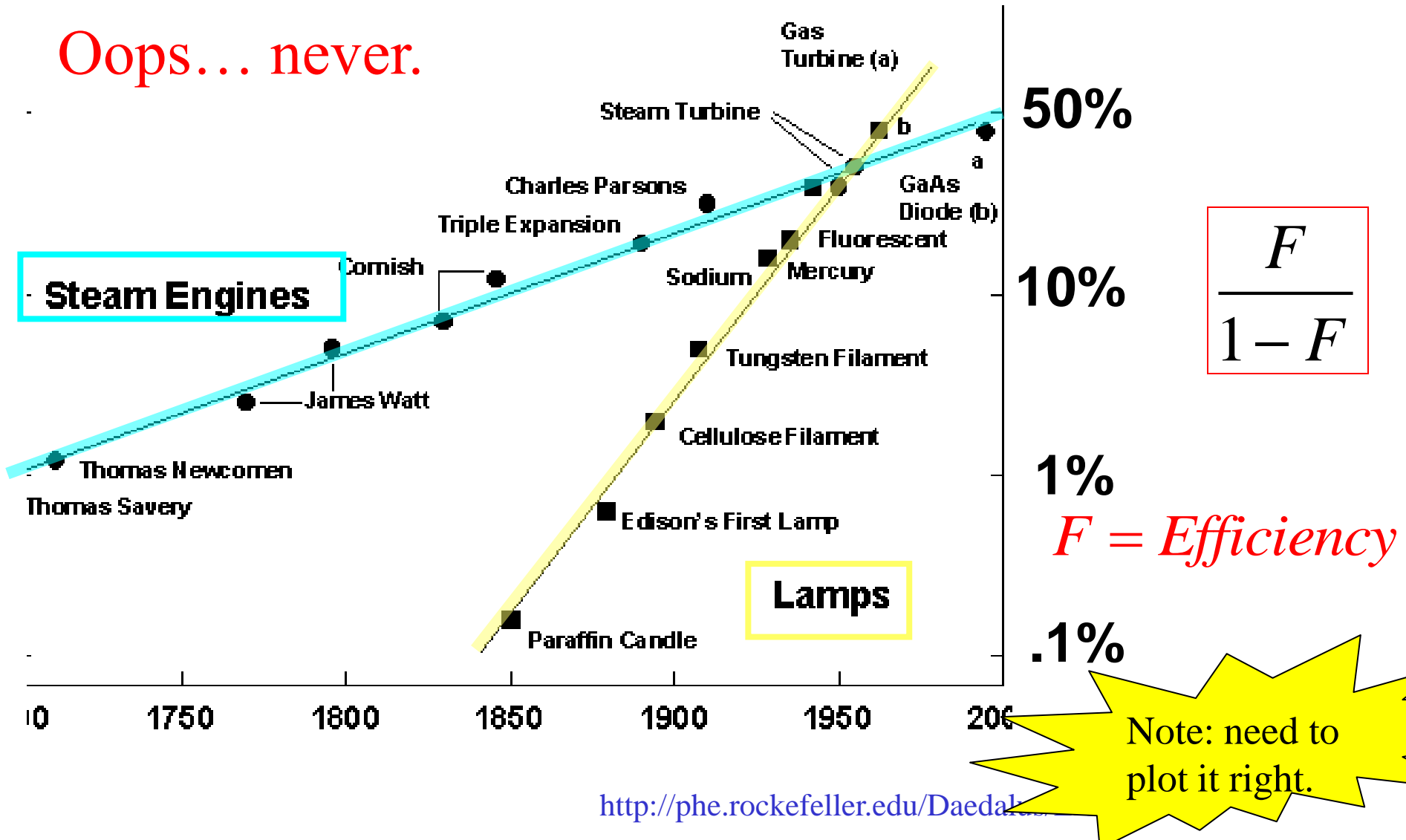
# When will lamps be 200% efficient?

Solving all energy problems?

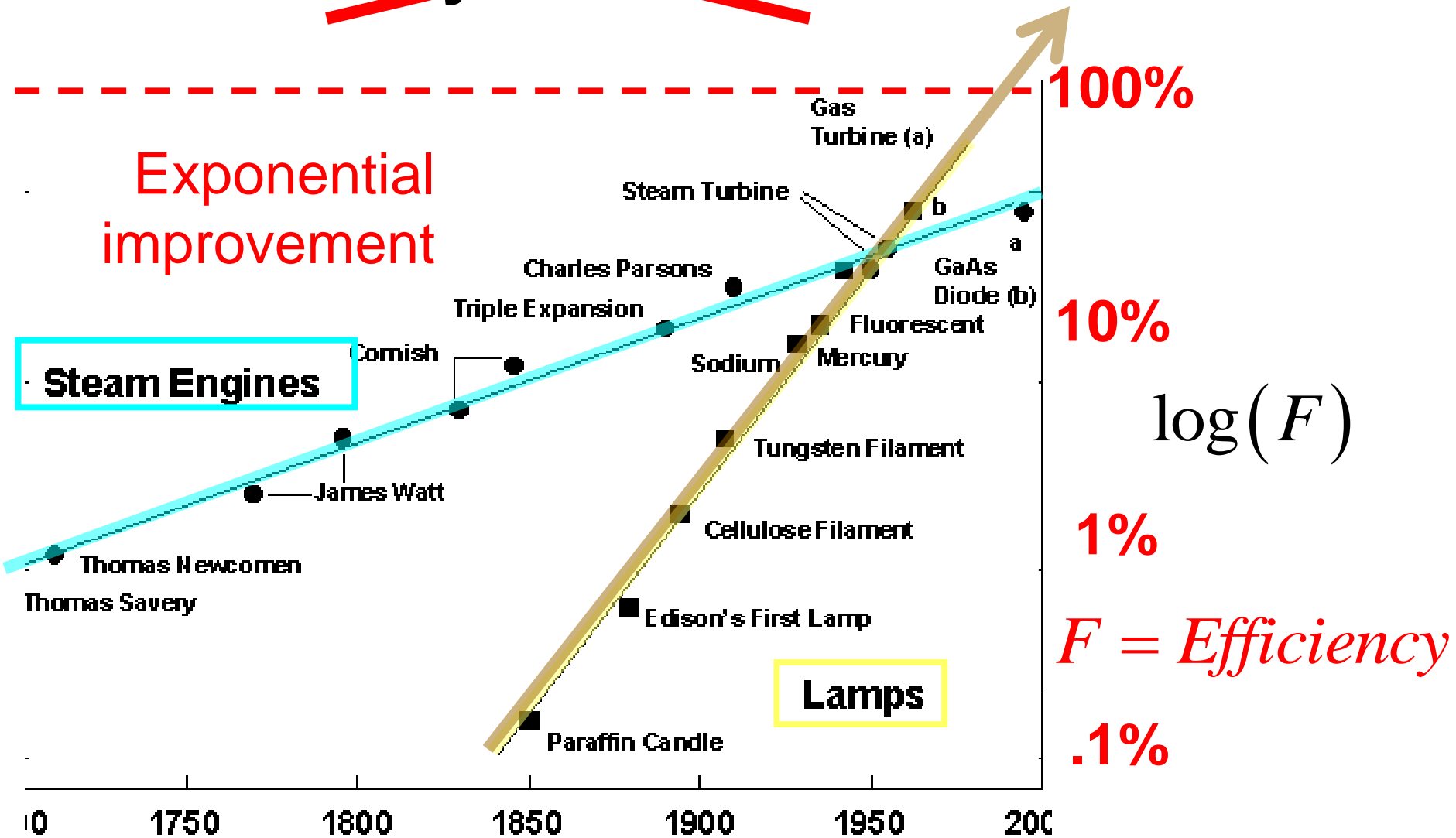


# When will lamps be 200% efficient?

Oops... never.



# ~~Doyle's law?~~





# Universal law

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ 100%

10%

1%

*$F = \text{Efficiency}$*

.1%

**Universal law?**



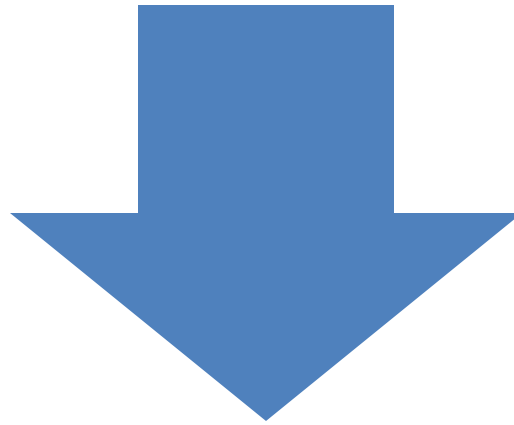
efficient

wasteful

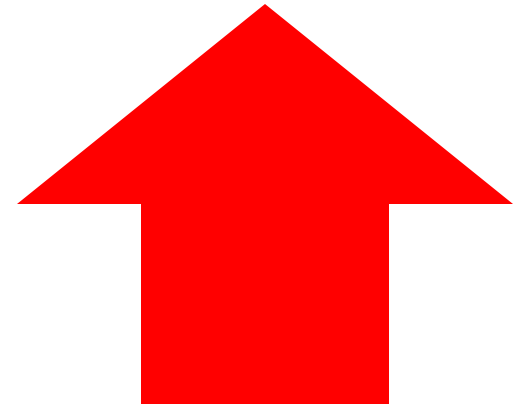
**100%**

fragile

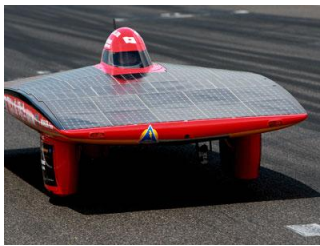
robust



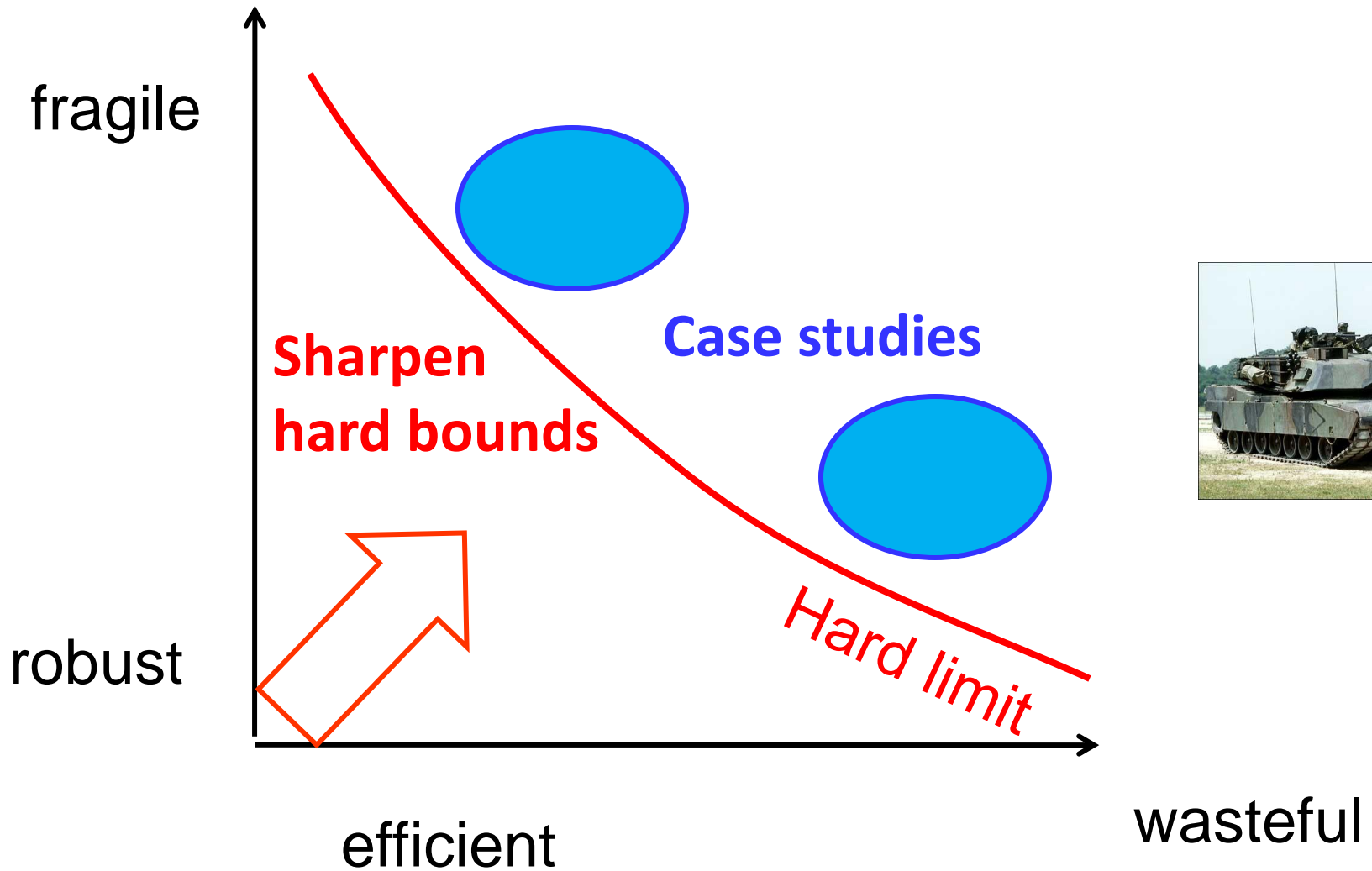
**Some features  
robust to some  
perturbations**



**Other features or  
other  
perturbations**



# laws and architectures?



**Control, OR**

Kalman

**Comms**

Bode

Pontryagin

Shannon

Nash

**Theory?**

Deep, but fragmented,  
incoherent, incomplete

Von  
Neumann

Carnot

Turing

Boltzmann

Godel

Heisenberg

**Compute**

Einstein

**Physics**

Control

Comms

Bode

Shannon

fragile?

slow?

?

wasteful?

- Each theory  $\approx$  one dimension
- Tradeoffs **across** dimensions
- Assume architectures a priori
- Progress is encouraging, but...
- Stovepipes are an obstacle...

Carnot

Turing

Boltzmann

Godel

Heisenberg

Compute

Einstein

Physics

- Turing 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2012
- Turing
  - machine (math, CS)
  - test (AI, neuroscience)
  - pattern (biology)
- Arguably greatest\*
  - all time math/engineering combination
  - WW2 hero
  - “invented” software

**Turing (1912-1954)**

**Compute**

\*Also world-class runner.

# Key papers/results

- Theory (1936): Turing machine (TM), computability, (un)decidability, universal machine (UTM)
- Practical design (early 1940s): code-breaking, including the design of code-breaking machines
- Practical design (late 1940s): general purpose digital computers and software, layered architecture
- Theory (1950): Turing test for machine intelligence
- Theory (1952): Reaction diffusion model of morphogenesis, plus practical use of digital computers to simulate biochemical reactions



# Cyberphysical theories

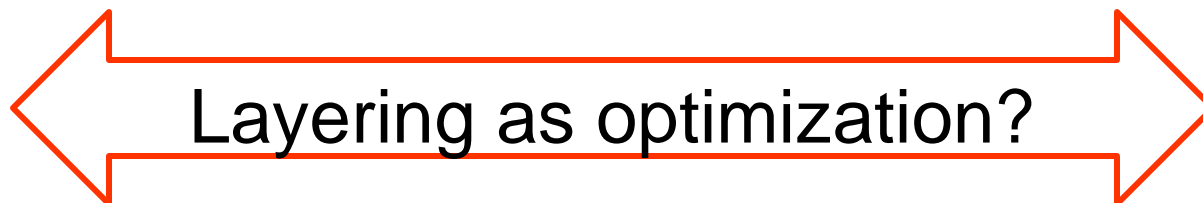
## Cyber (digital)

- Turing computation (time)
- Shannon compression (space)
- Content centric nets (time, space, location)

## Physical (analog)

- Bode (latency)
- Shannon (channels)
- Networked control (AndyL)
- Redo StatMech and efficiency

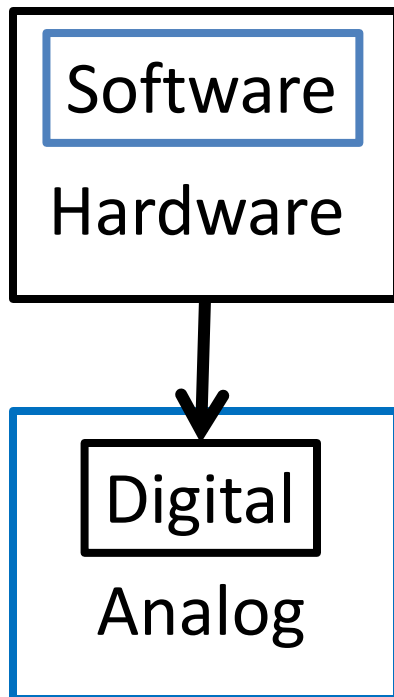
Lots of challenges not yet addressed  
(e.g. Smartgrid, biology, neuro,...)



Turing as  
“new”  
starting  
point?

## Essentials:

0. Model
1. Universal laws
2. Universal architecture
3. Practical implementation



## Turing's 3 step research:

0. Virtual (TM) machines
1. hard limits, (un)decidability using standard model (TM)
2. Universal architecture achieving hard limits (UTM)
3. Practical implementation in digital electronics (biology?)

Control

Comms

Bode

Shannon

fragile?

slow?

wasteful?

?

- Each theory  $\approx$  one dimension
- Tradeoffs **across** dimensions
- Assume architectures a priori
- Progress is encouraging, but...
- Stovepipes are an obstacle...

Carnot

Turing

Boltzmann

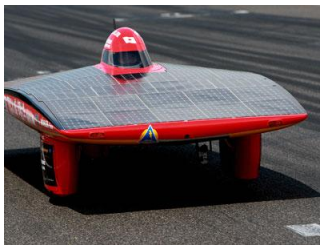
Godel

Heisenberg

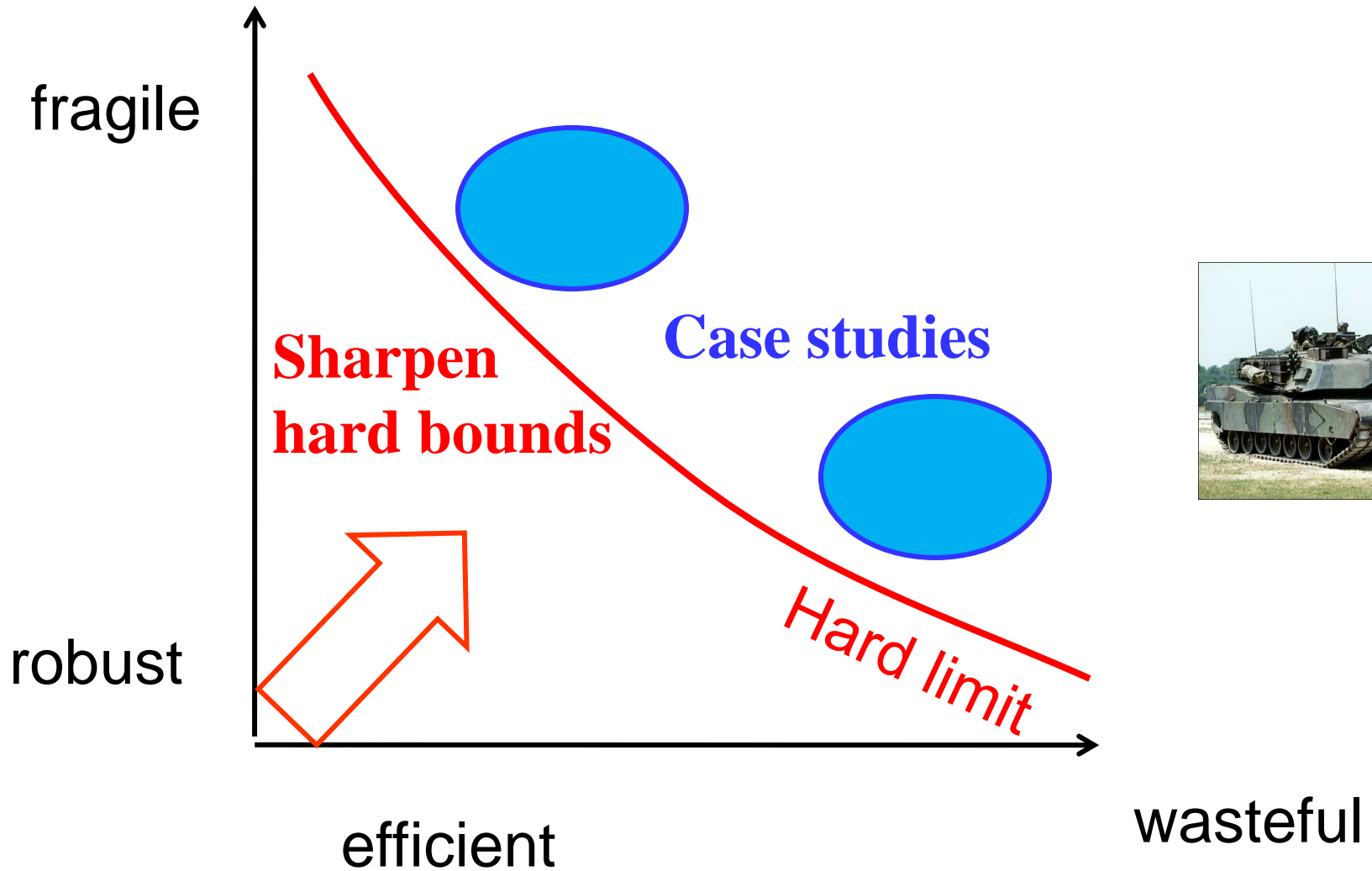
Compute

Einstein

Physics



# laws and architectures?



# Reverse Engineering of Biological Complexity

Marie E. Csete<sup>1</sup> and John C. Doyle<sup>2\*</sup>

Advanced technologies and biology have extremely different physical implementations, but they are far more alike in systems-level organization than is widely appreciated. Convergent evolution in both domains produces modular architectures that are composed of elaborate hierarchies of protocols and layers of feedback regulation, are driven by demand for robustness to uncertain environments, and use often imprecise components. This complexity may be largely hidden in idealized laboratory settings and in normal operation, becoming conspicuous only when contributing to rare cascading failures. These puzzling and paradoxical features are neither accidental nor artificial, but derive from a deep and necessary interplay between complexity and robustness, modularity, feedback, and fragility. This review describes insights from engineering theory and practice that can shed some light on biological complexity.

ty in components or the

Biologists and biophysicists are building complex networks often inspired by a biological network's structure (15). They find that "perturbations to homeostatic regulation are often tolerated in networks (16, 17), despite the fact that organisms" that can seem to be robust (18–20). Some even conclude that organisms and their resulting networks are robust in engineering (20, 21). However, it is in the nature of their robustness that biology and advanced

**Csete and Doyle**



UG biochem, math,  
control theory

# Glycolytic Oscillations and Limits on Robust Efficiency

Fiona A. Chandra,<sup>1\*</sup> Gentian Buzi,<sup>2</sup> John C. Doyle<sup>2</sup>

Both engineering and evolution are constrained by trade-offs between efficiency and robustness, but theory that formalizes this fact is limited. For a simple two-state model of glycolysis, we explicitly derive analytic equations for hard trade-offs between robustness and efficiency with oscillations as an inevitable side effect. The model describes how the trade-offs arise from individual parameters, including the interplay of feedback control with autocatalysis of network products necessary to power and catalyze intermediate reactions. We then use control theory to prove that the essential features of these hard trade-off “laws” are universal and fundamental, in that they depend minimally on the details of this system and generalize to the robust efficiency of any autocatalytic network. The theory also suggests worst-case conditions that are consistent with initial experiments.

un-  
fo-  
w-  
the cell's use of ATP. In glycolysis, two ATP molecules are consumed upstream and four are produced downstream, which normalizes to  $q = 1$  (each  $y$  molecule produces two downstream) with kinetic exponent  $a = 1$ . To highlight essential trade-offs with the simplest possible analysis, we normalize the concentration such that the unperturbed ( $\delta = 0$ ) steady states are  $\bar{y} = 1$  and  $\bar{x} = 1/k$  [the system can have one additional steady state, which is unstable when  $(1, 1/k)$  is stable]. [See the supporting online material (SOM) part I]. The basal rate of the PFK reaction and the consumption rate have been normalized to 1 (the 2 in the numerator and feedback coefficients of the reactions come from these normalizations). Our results hold for more general systems as discussed below and in SOM, but the analysis

Chandra, Buzi, and Doyle

Most important paper so far.



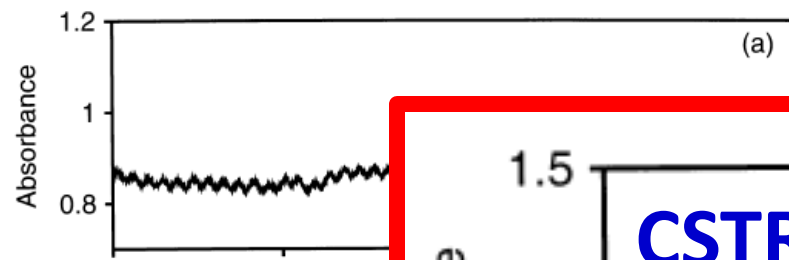
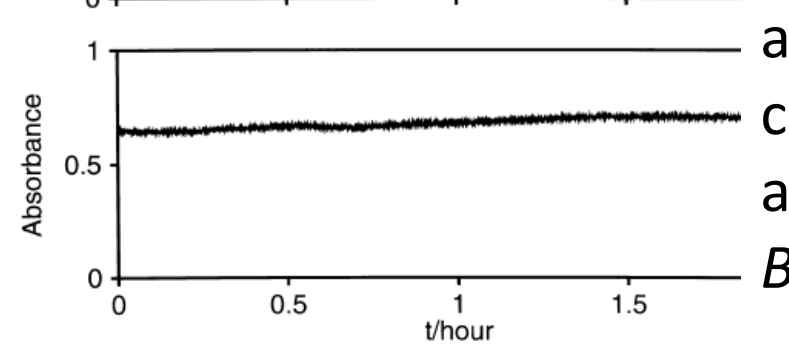
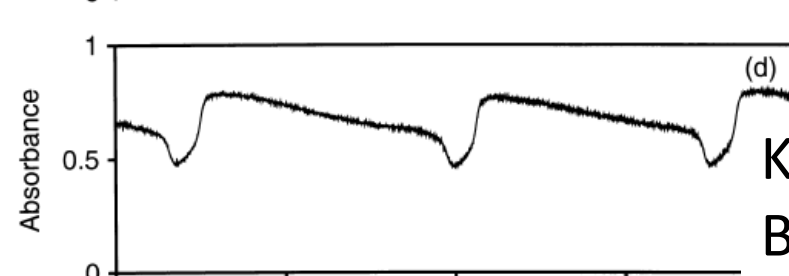
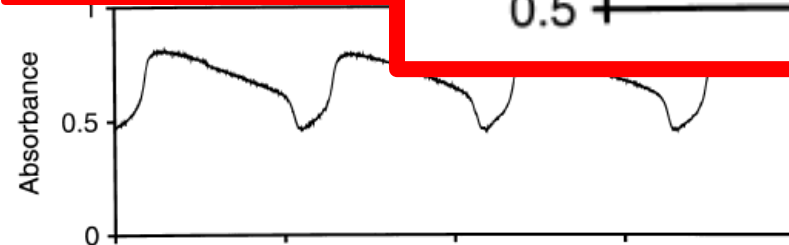
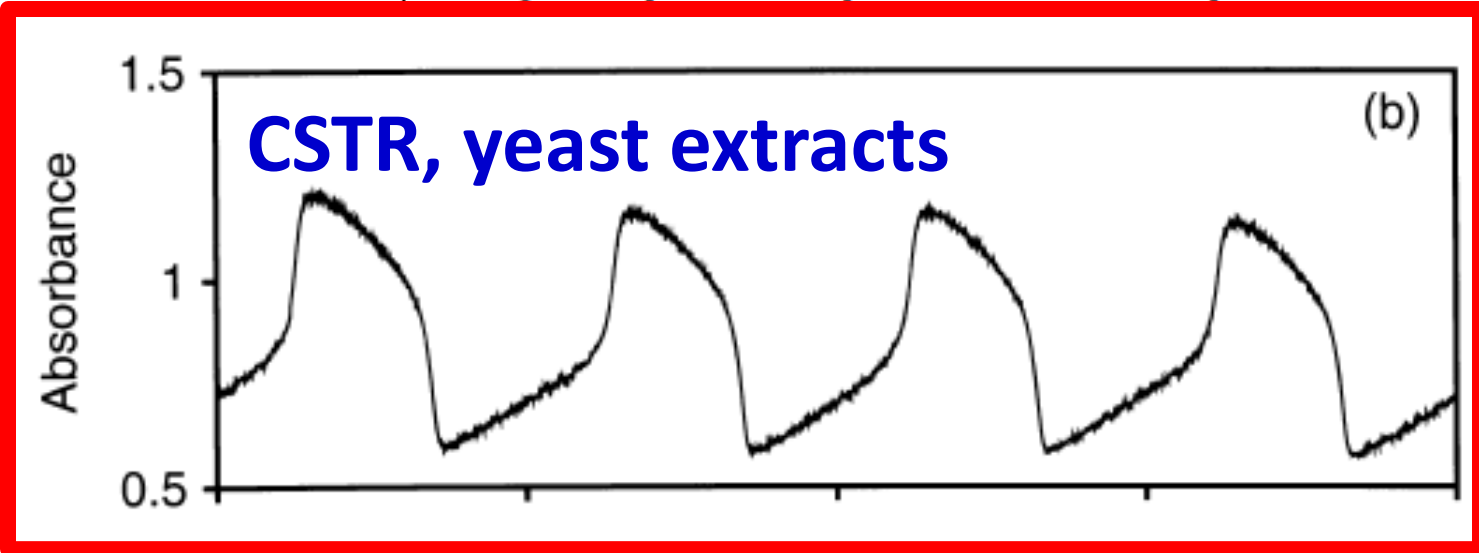
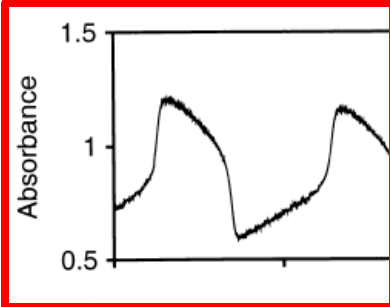


Fig. 2. Dependence of pattern on flow rate. Experimental time

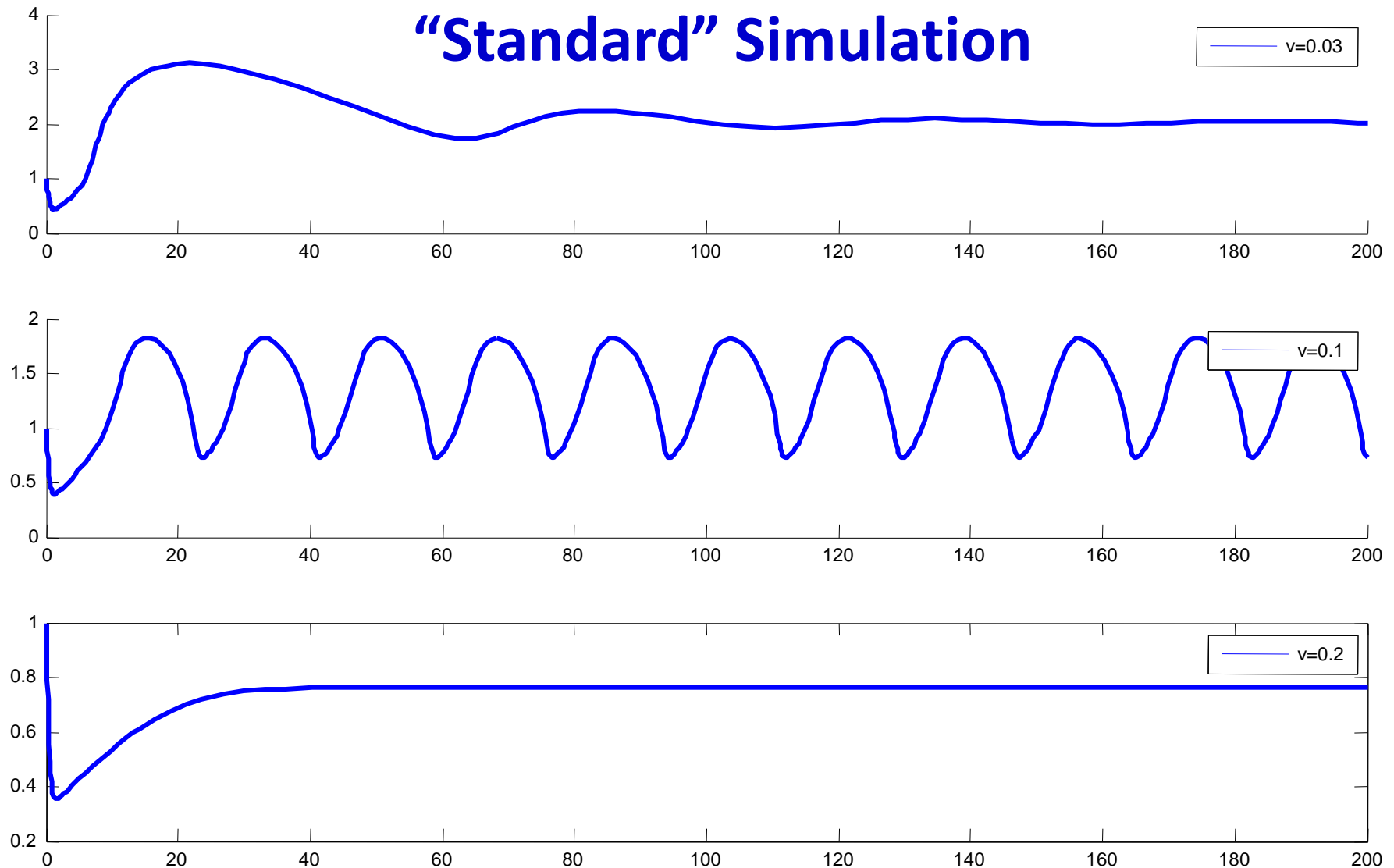


tion becomes longer (b–d), and at the highest flow rate (e), the state is stationary.

Experiments

K Nielsen, PG Sorensen, F Hynne, H-G Busse. **Sustained oscillations in glycolysis:** an experimental and theoretical study of chaotic and complex periodic behavior and of quenching of simple oscillations. *Biophys Chem* 72:49-62 (1998).

# “Standard” Simulation



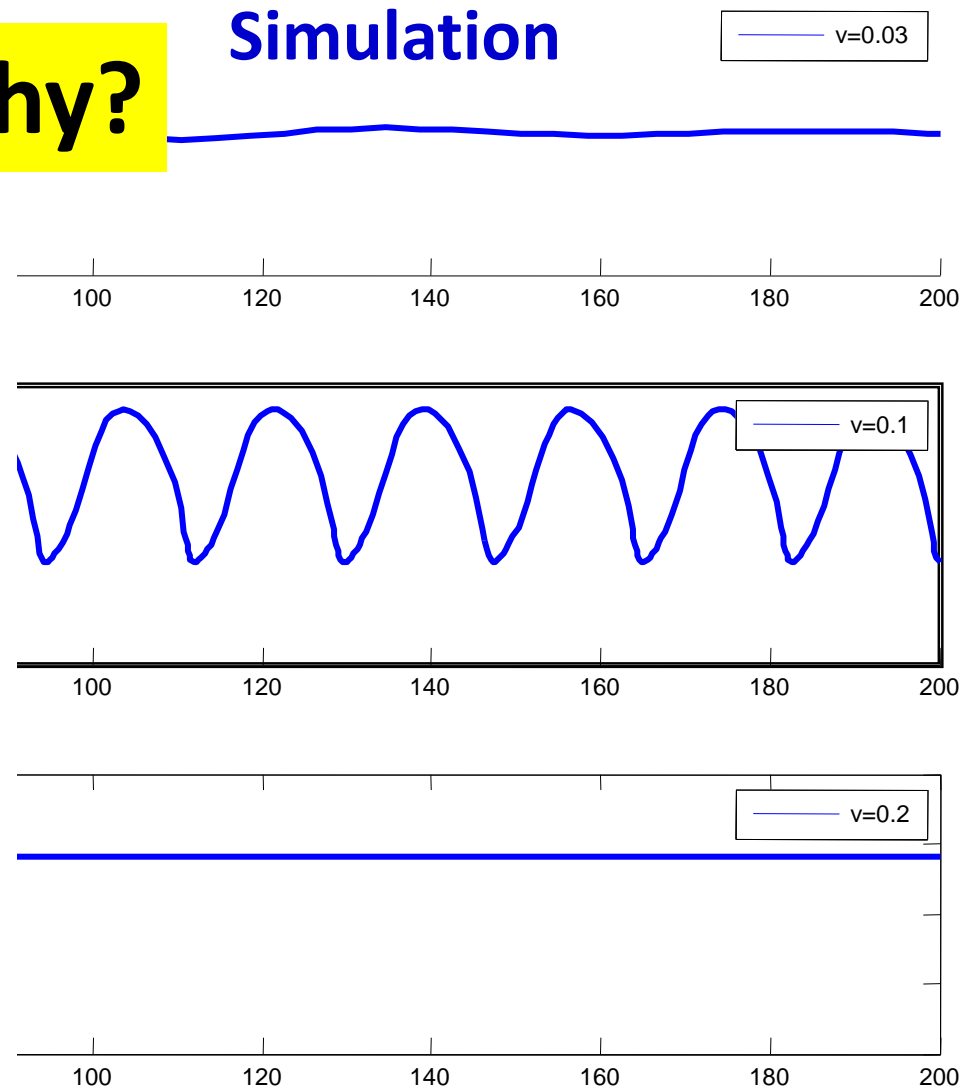
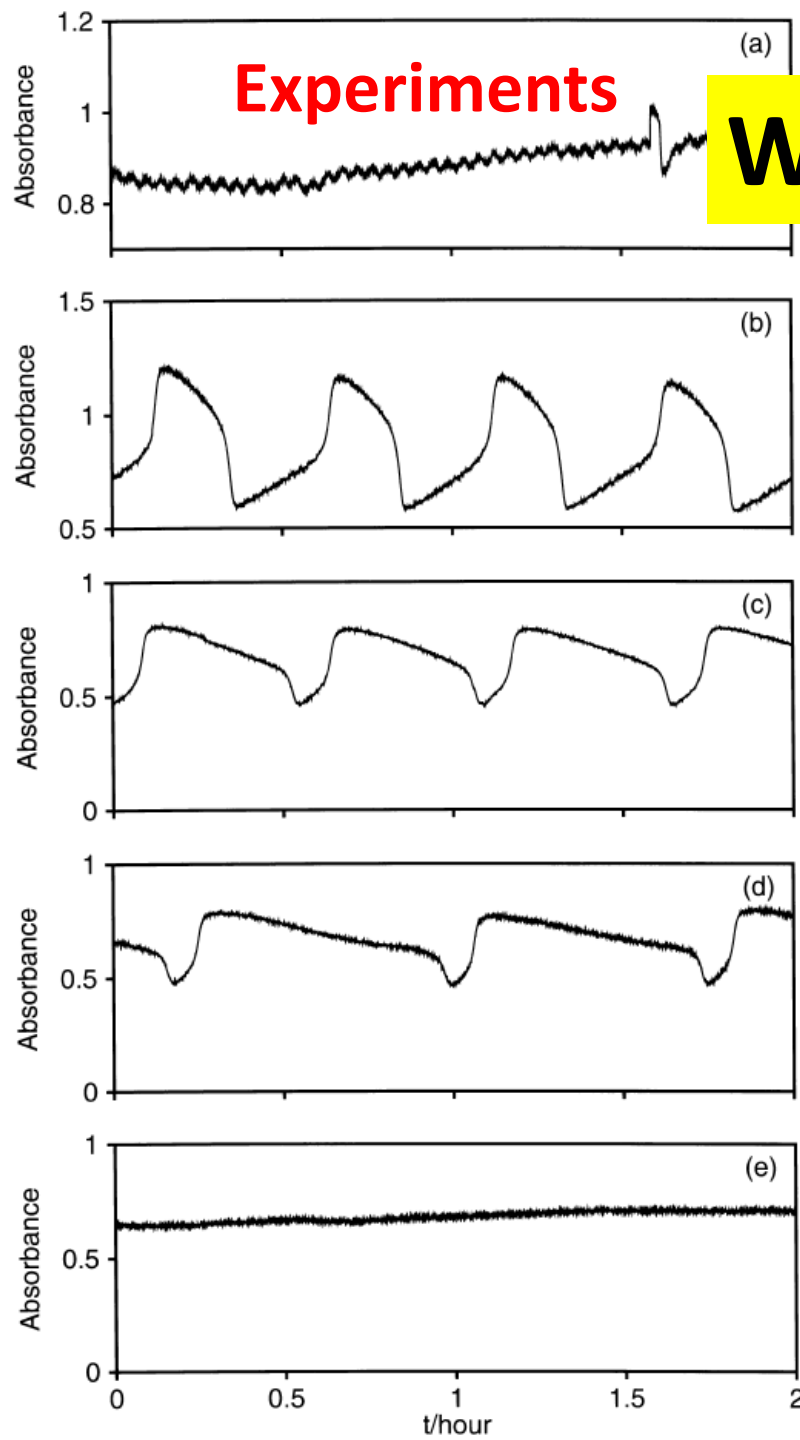
**Figure S4.** Simulation of two state model (S7.1) qualitatively recapitulates experimental observation from CSTR studies [5] and [12]. As the flow of material in/out of the system is increased, the system enters a limit cycle and then stabilizes again. For this simulation, we take  $q=a=Vm=1$ ,  $k=0.2$ ,  $g=1$ ,  $u=0.01$ ,  $h=2.5$ .



Experiments

Why?

Simulation



Model (S7.1) qualitatively recapitulates studies [5] and [12]. As the flow of material in the system enters a limit cycle and then we take  $q=a=Vm=1$ ,  $k=0.2$ ,  $g=1$ ,  $u=0.01$ ,  $h=2.5$ .

# Why?

Levels of explanation:

1. Possible

2. Plausible

3. Actual

Science

4. Mechanistic

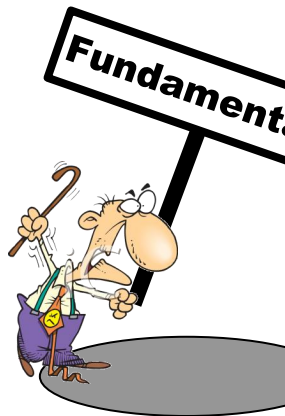
5. Necessary

Engineering

Medicine

# Glycolytic “circuit” and oscillations

- Most studied, persistent mystery in cell dynamics
- End of an old story (why oscillations)
  - side effect of hard robustness/efficiency tradeoffs
  - no purpose per se
  - just needed a theorem
- Beginning of a new one
  - robustness/efficiency tradeoffs
  - complexity and architecture
  - need more theorems and applications



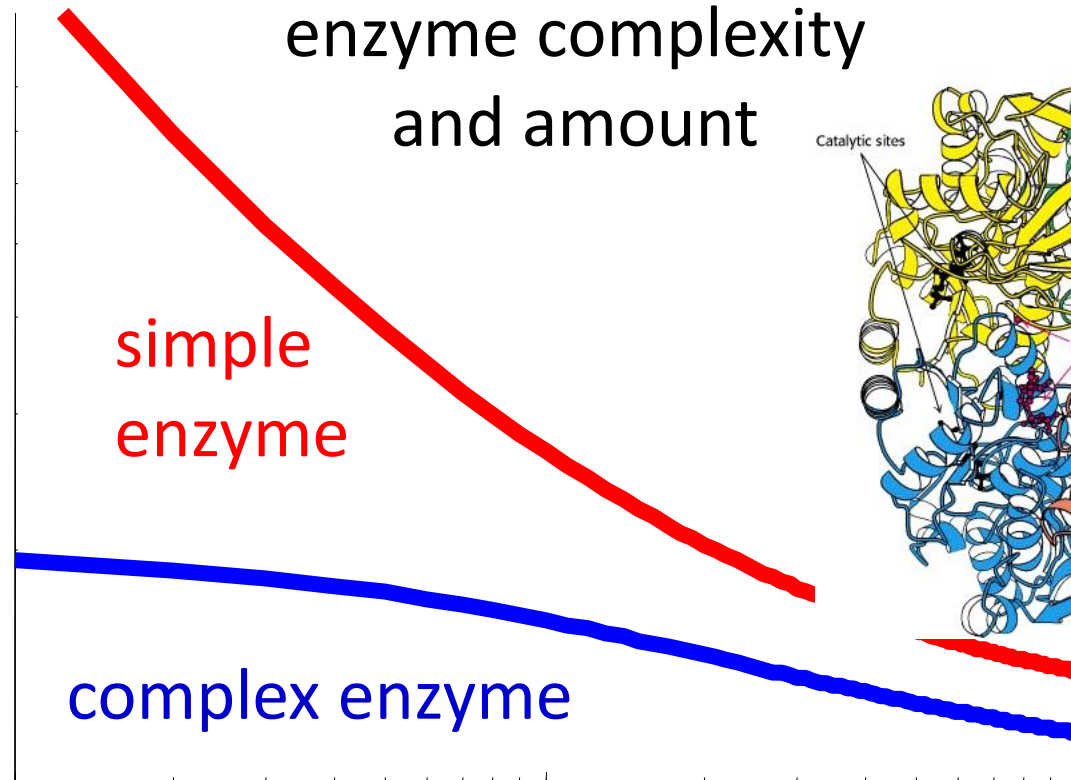
**Theorem!**

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\infty} \ln |S(j\omega)| \left( \frac{z}{z^2 + \omega^2} \right) d\omega \geq \ln \left| \frac{z + p}{z - p} \right|$$

$z$  and  $p$  functions of  
enzyme complexity  
and amount

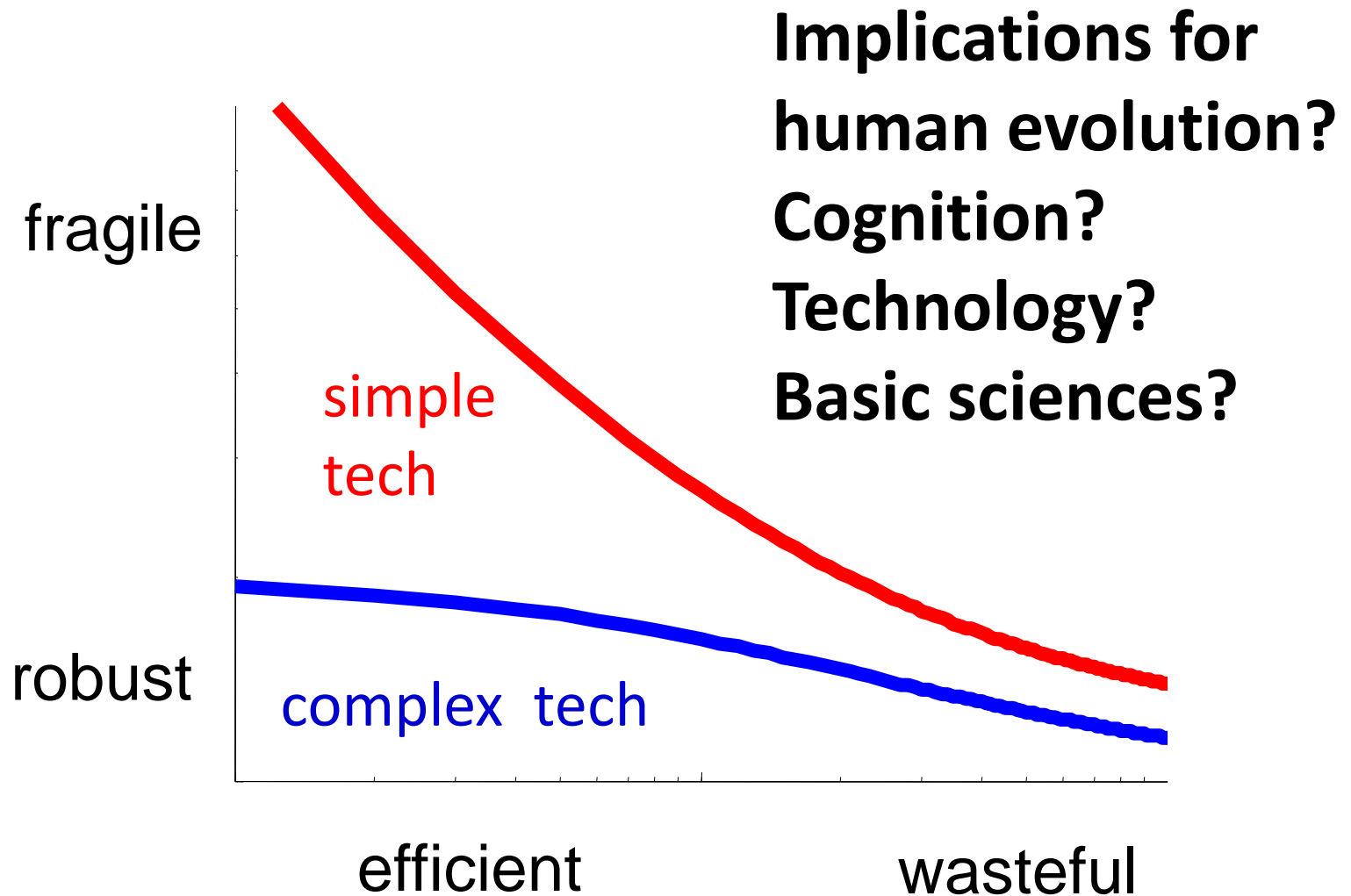
Fragility

$$\ln \left| \frac{z + p}{z - p} \right|$$



Enzyme amount

# How general is this picture?



# Evolution and architecture

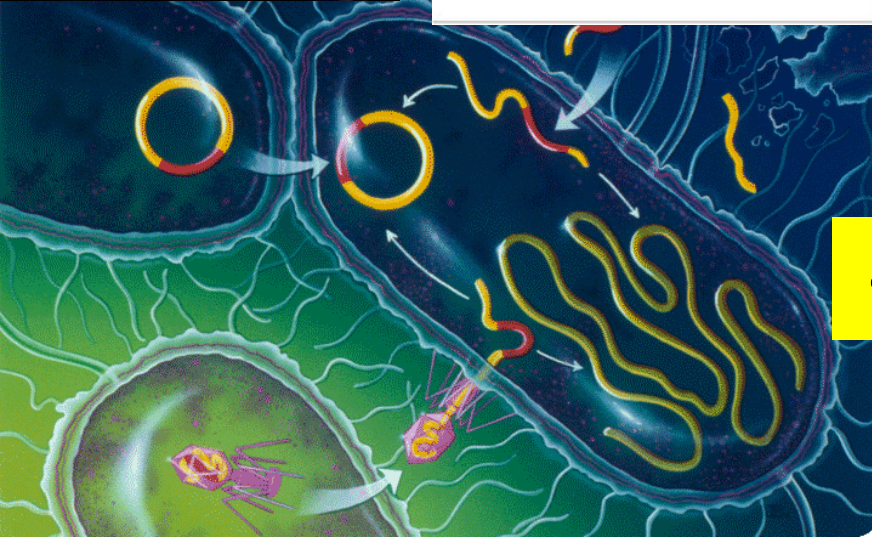
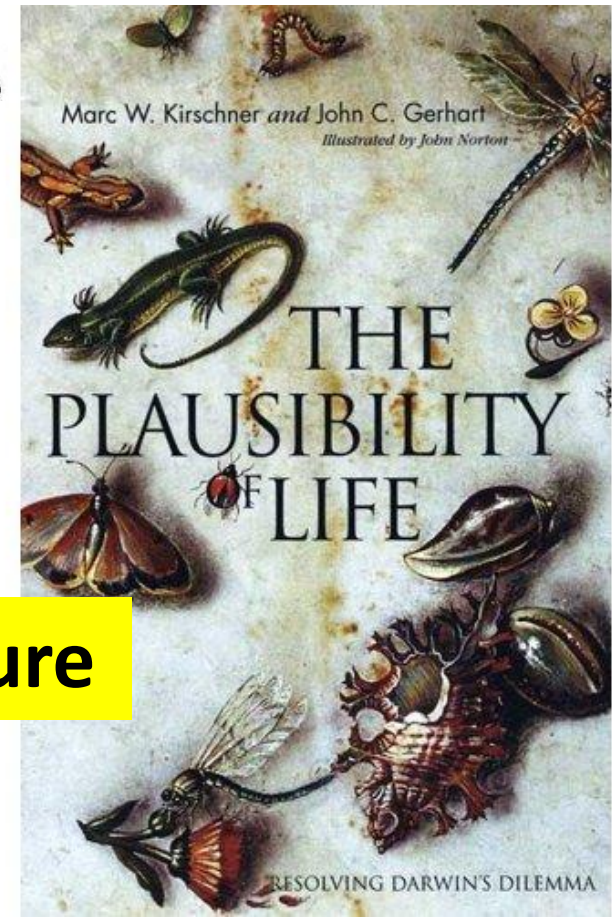
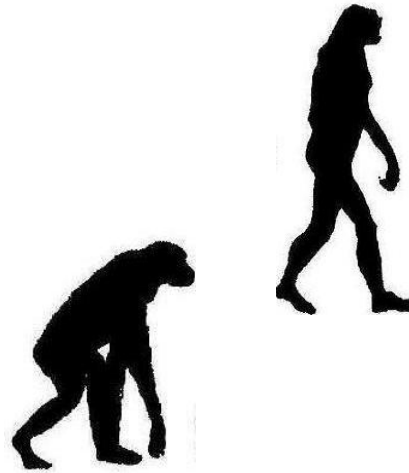
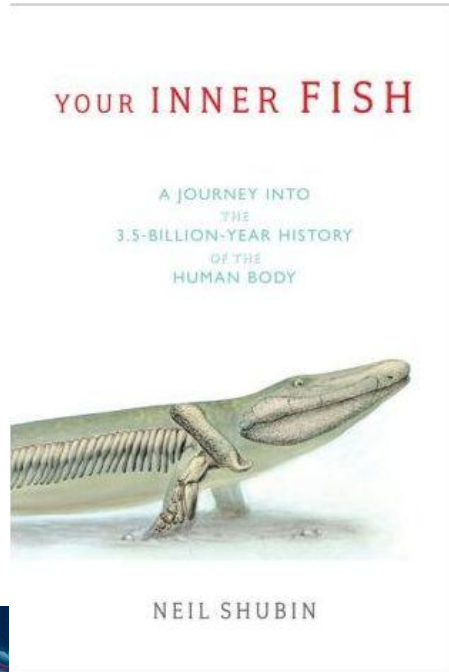
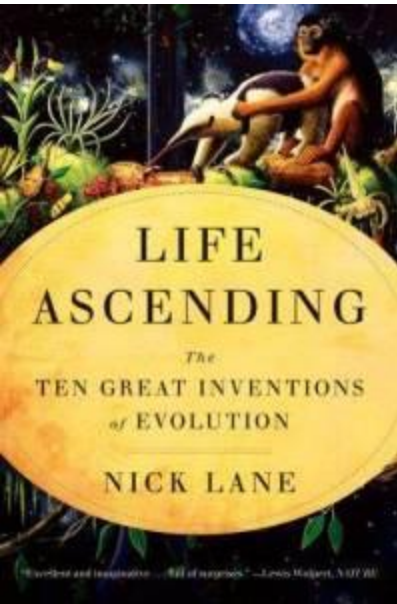
Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution

Theodosius Dobzhansky  
(see also de Chardin)

Nothing in evolution makes sense except in the light of biology

?????

natural selection + genetic drift  
+ mutation + gene flow



**++ architecture**

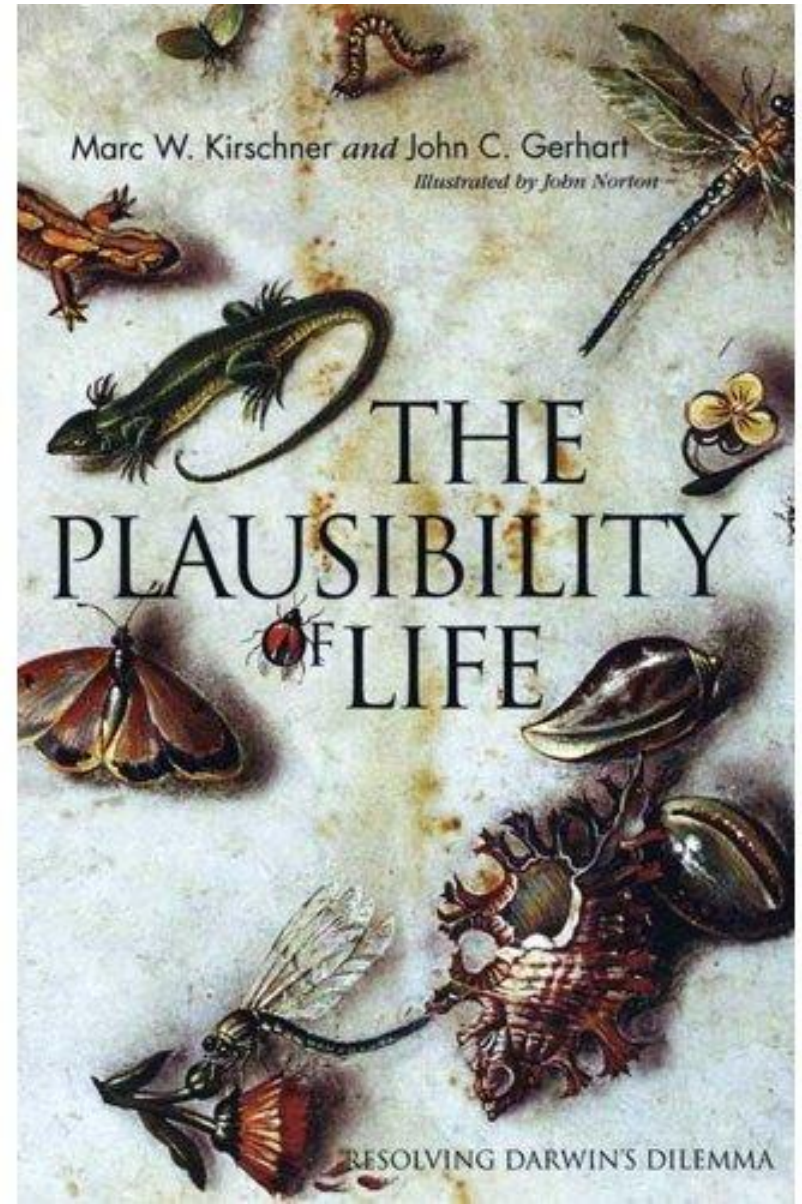


# Gerhart and Kirschner

## Facilitated variation

Architecture =  
Constraints that deconstrain

- Weak linkage
- Exploratory mechanisms
- Compartmentalization

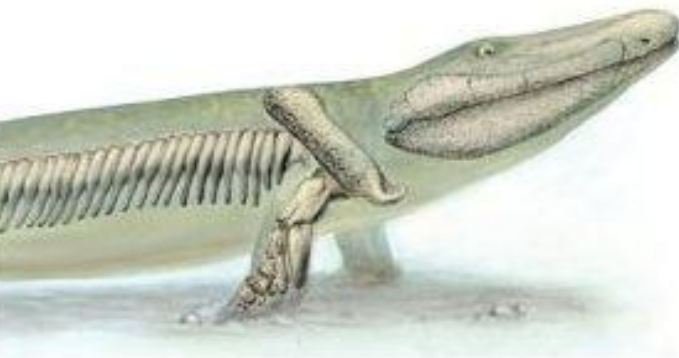




Unfortunately, not  
intelligent design

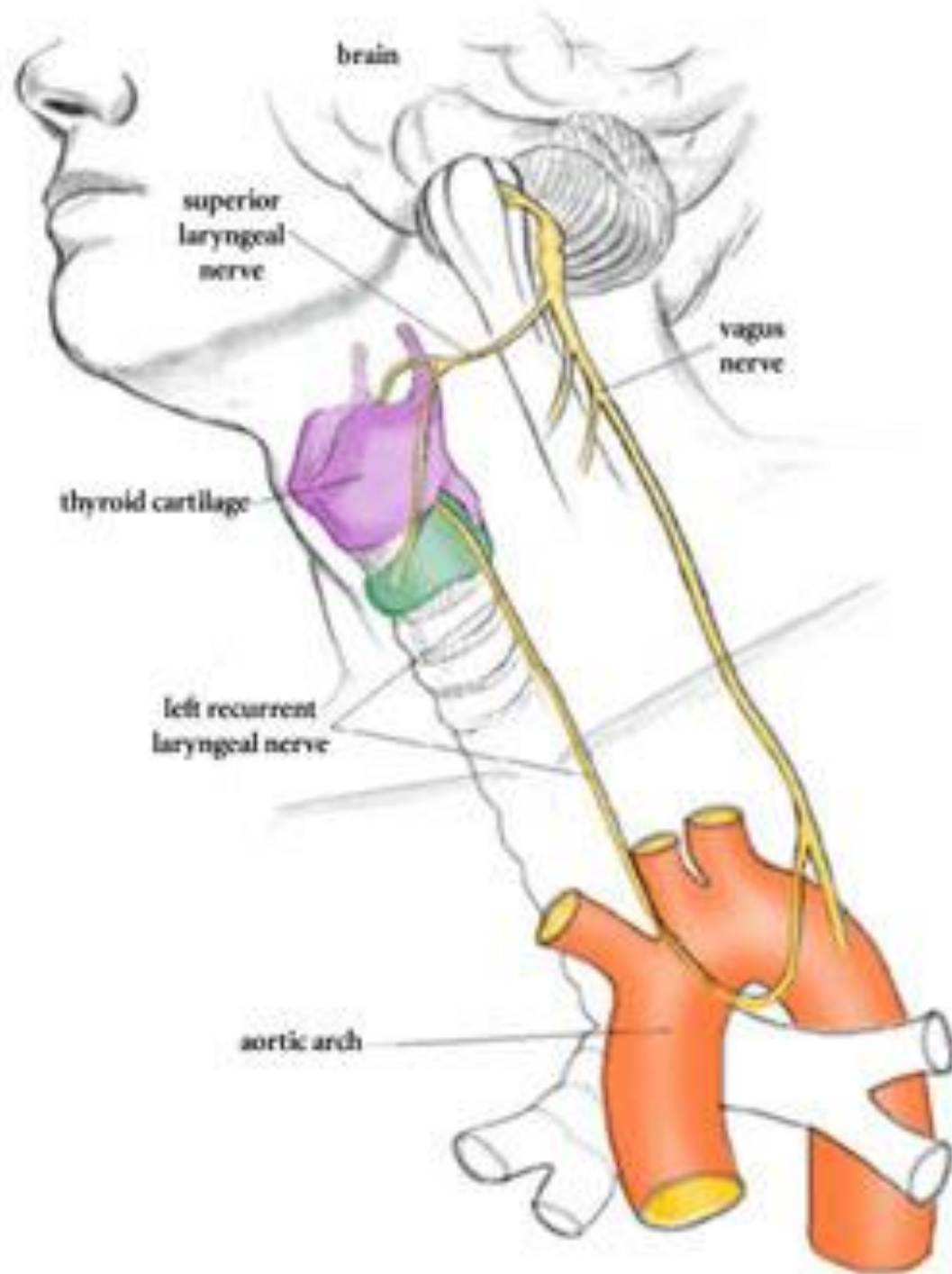
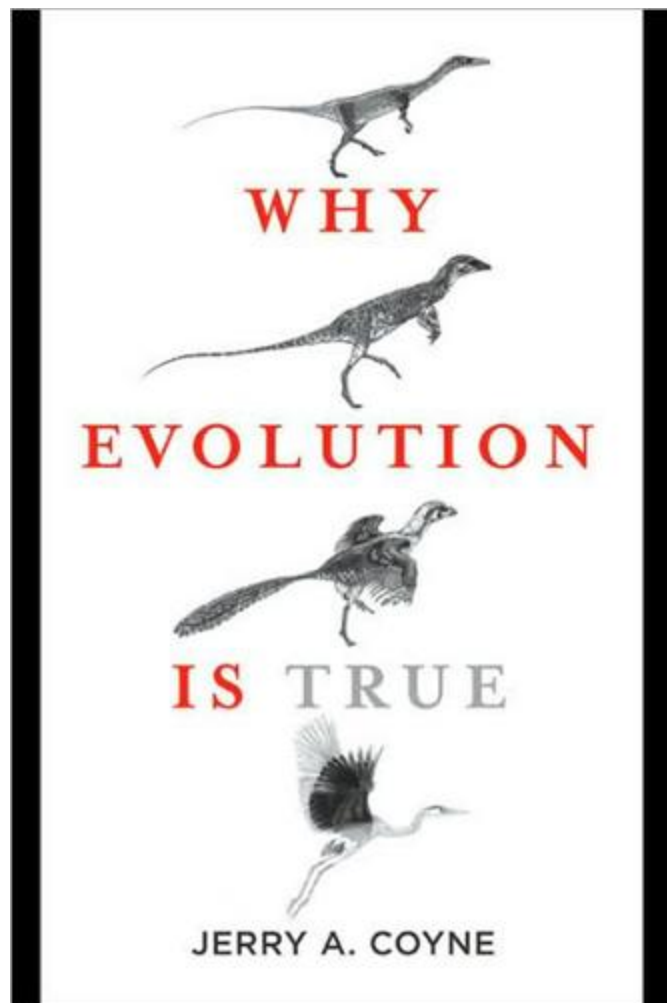
## YOUR INNER FISH

A JOURNEY INTO  
THE  
3.5-BILLION-YEAR HISTORY  
OF THE  
HUMAN BODY

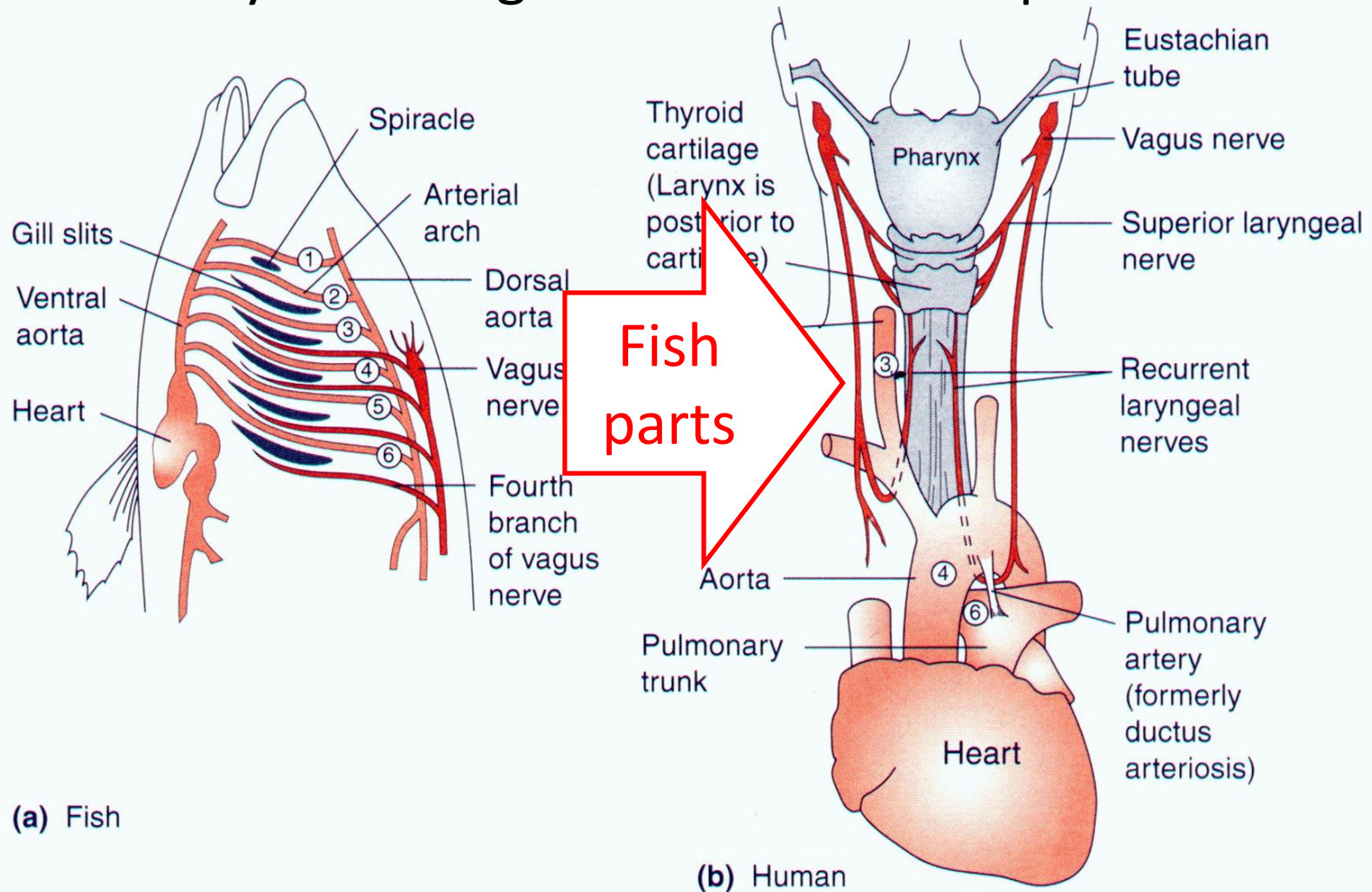


NEIL SHUBIN





# Why? Building humans from fish parts.

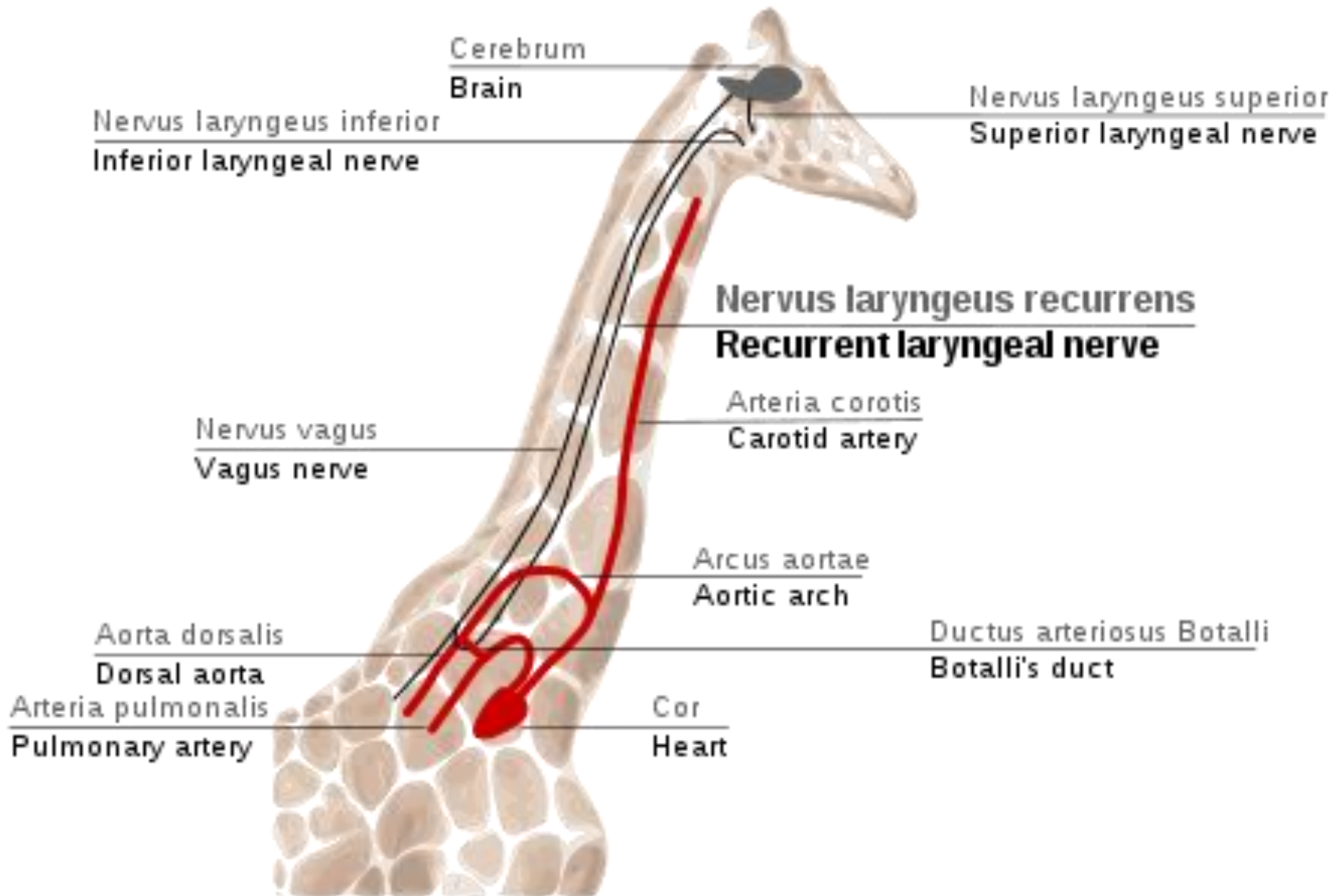


(a) Fish

(b) Human

**FIGURE 3-11** Schematic diagram showing the relationship between the vagus cranial nerve and the arterial arches in fish (a) and human (b). Only the third, fourth, and part of the sixth arterial arches remain in placental mammals, the sixth acting only during fetal development to carry blood to the placenta. The fourth vagal nerve in mammals (the recurrent laryngeal nerve) loops around the sixth arterial arch just as it did in the original fishlike ancestor, but must now travel a greater distance since the remnant of the sixth arch is in the thorax.

It could be worse.





weak  
fragile  
slow



## Human evolution



hands  
feet  
skeleton  
muscle  
skin  
gut  
long helpless childhood

All very  
different.

strong  
robust  
fast



Apes

How is this  
progress?

# Homo Erectus?



weak  
fragile

hands  
feet  
skeleton  
muscle  
skin  
gut

Roughly  
modern

Very  
fragile

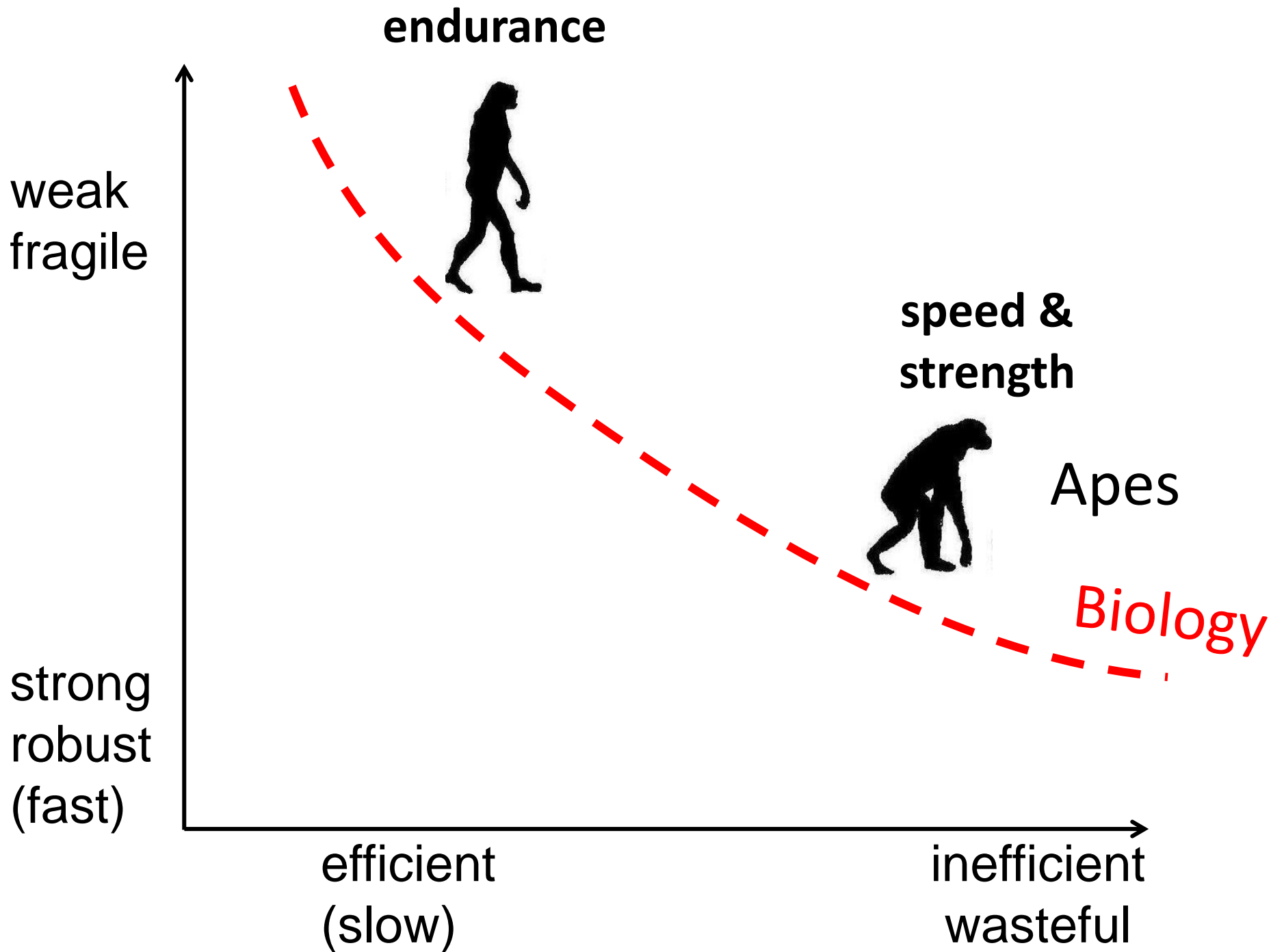
This much seems pretty  
consistent among experts  
regarding circa 1.5-2Mya

strong  
robust

So how did H. Erectus  
survive and expand globally?

efficient  
(slow)

inefficient  
wasteful



weak  
fragile  
(slow)

**Human  
evolution**

hands  
feet  
skeleton  
muscle  
skin  
gut

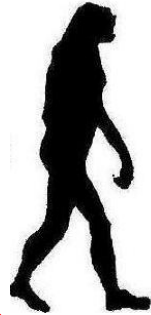
Apes

*Biology*

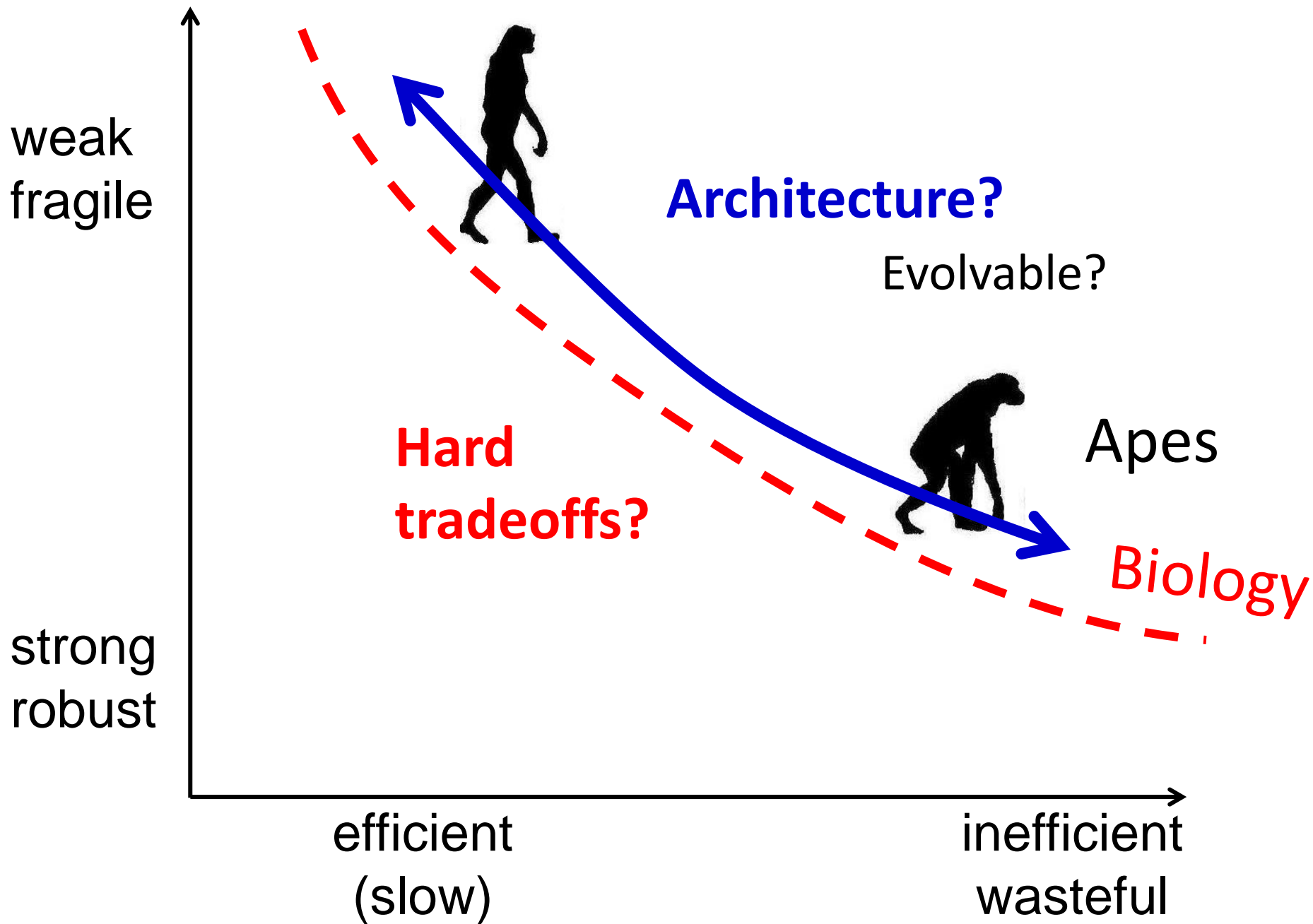
strong  
robust  
(fast)

efficient  
(slow)

inefficient  
wasteful







endurance

weak  
fragile

**+**  
**sticks**  
**stones**  
**fire**  
**teams**



From weak prey  
to invincible  
predator?



strong  
robust

efficient  
(slow)

**Speculation? There is only  
evidence for crude stone tools.  
But sticks, fire, teams might  
not leave a record?**

weak  
fragile



Speculation? With only  
evidence for crude stone tools.  
But sticks and fire might not  
leave a record?

+  
sticks  
stones  
fire  
teams



From weak prey to  
invincible predator

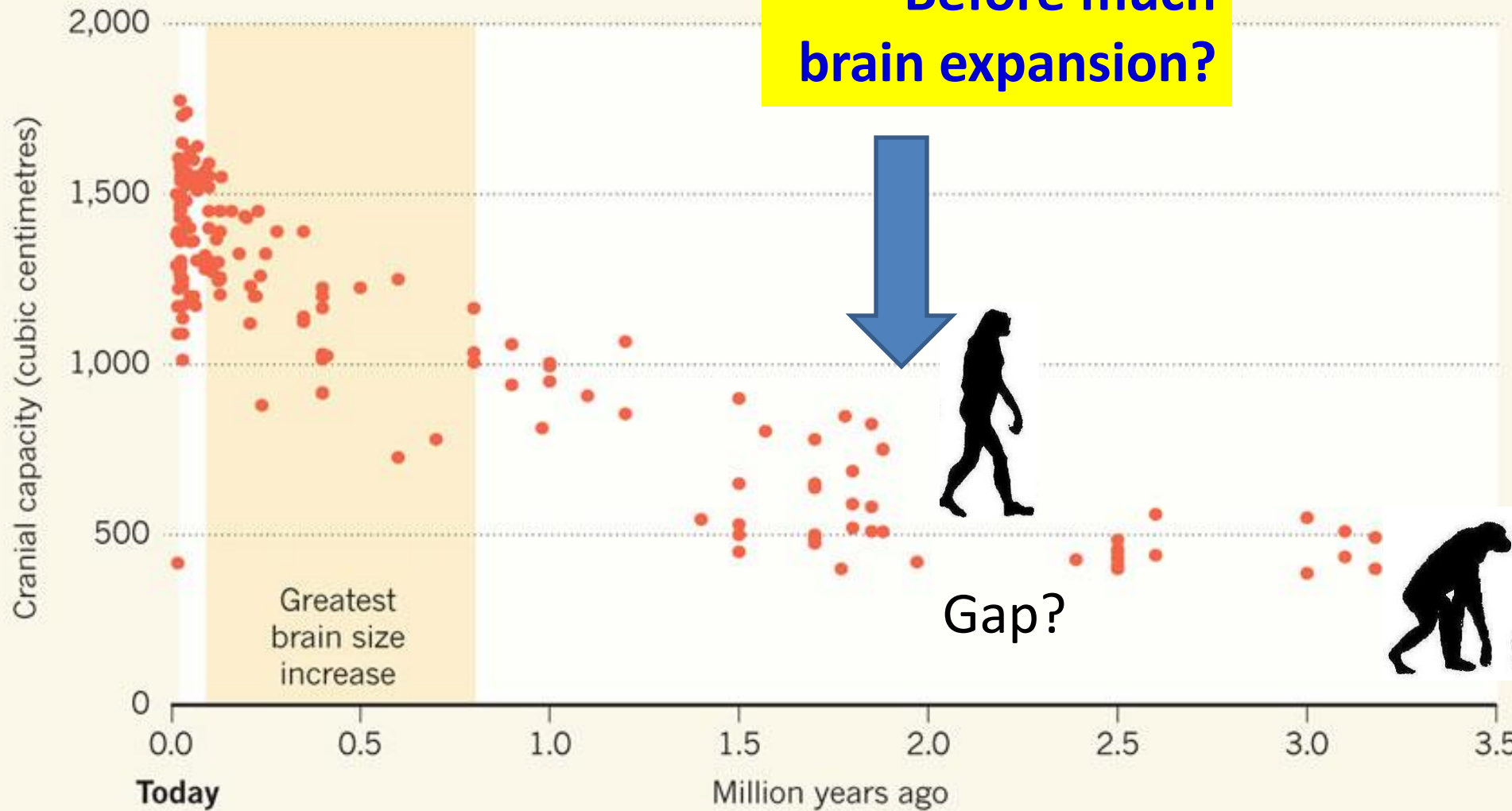
**Before much  
brain expansion?**

strong  
robust

efficient  
(slow)

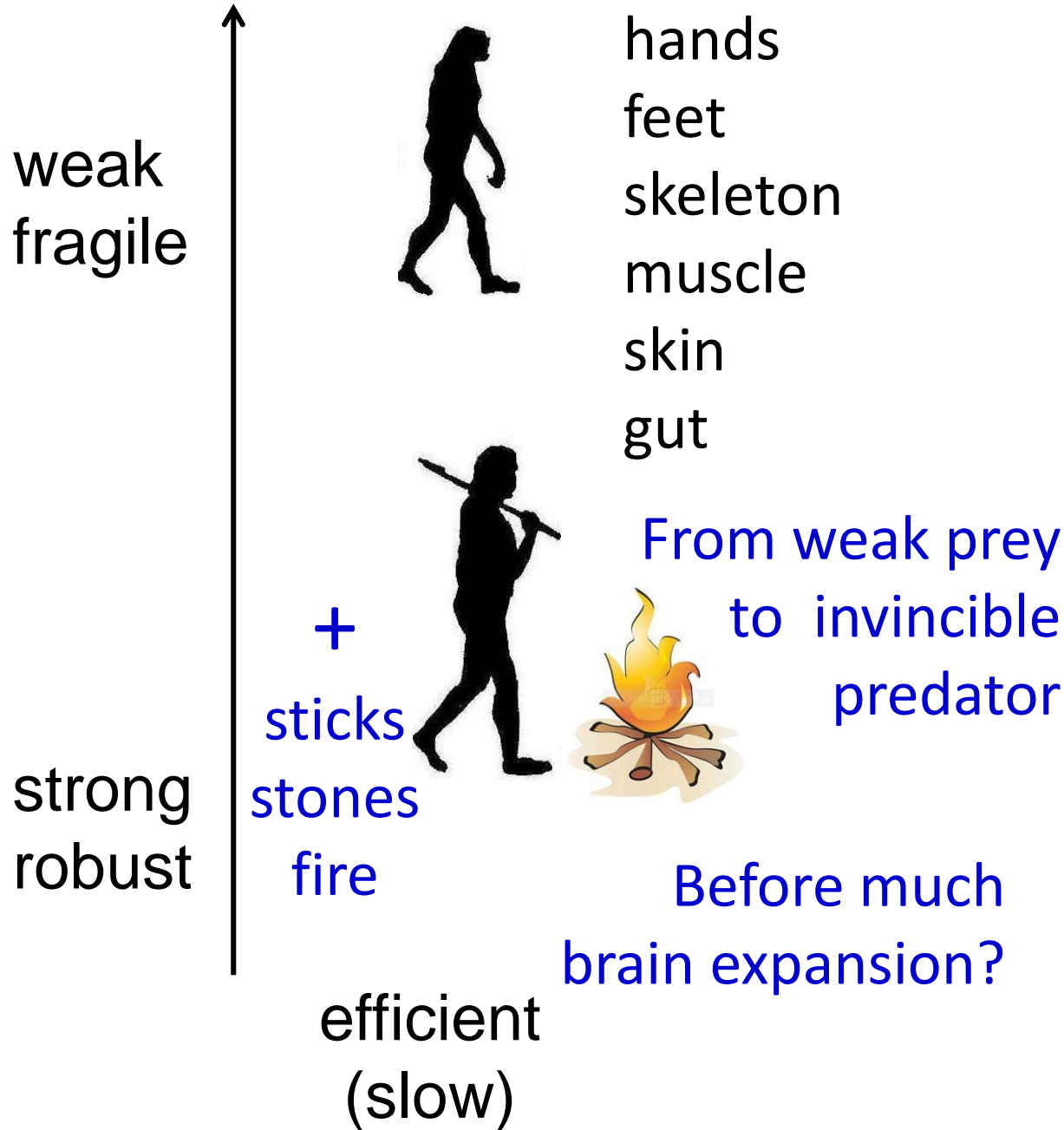
**Plausible but speculation?**

# Cranial capacity



Today

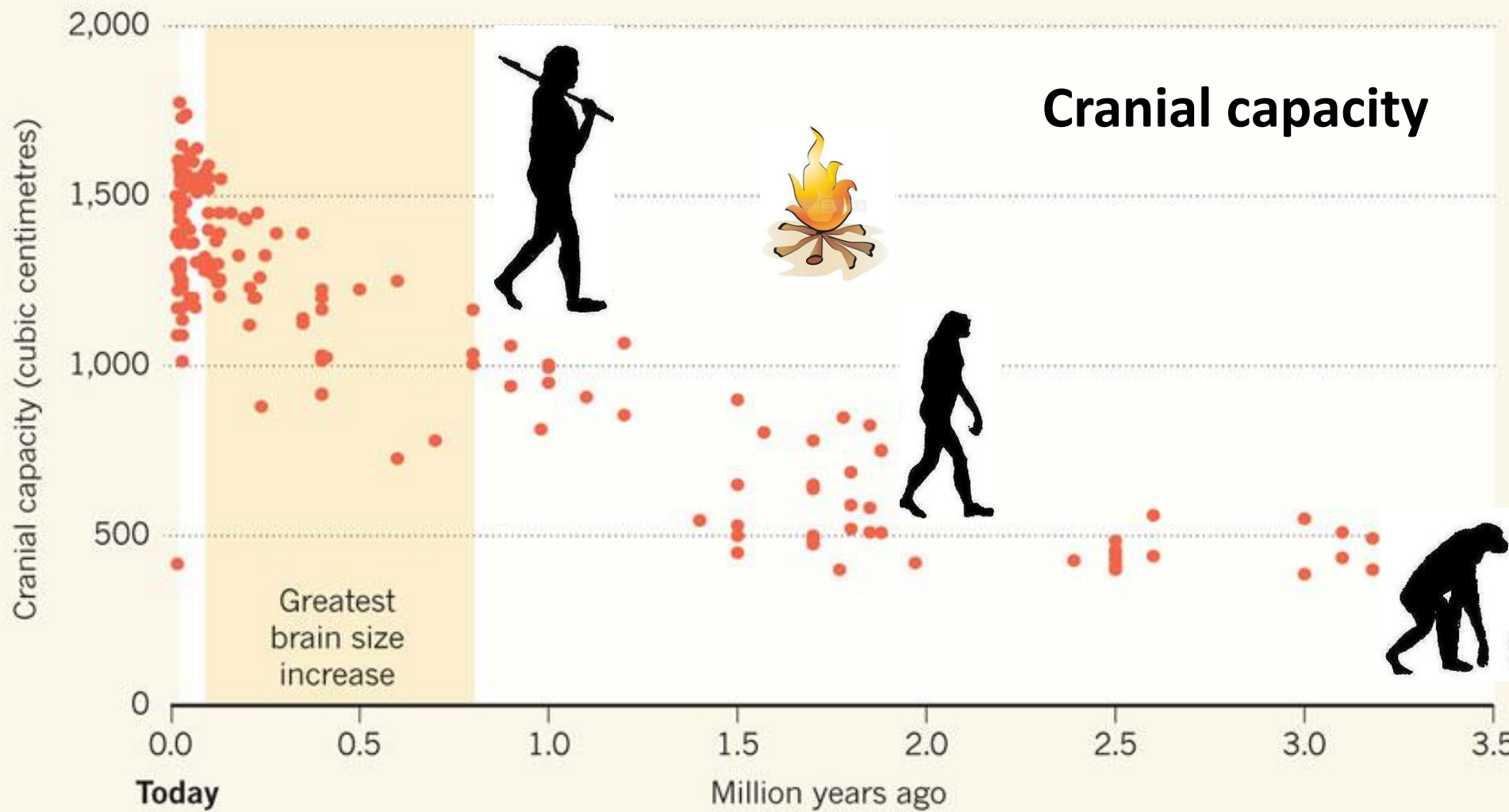
2Mya



**Key point:**  
Our physiology,  
technology,  
and brains  
have co-  
evolved

Probably true  
no matter what

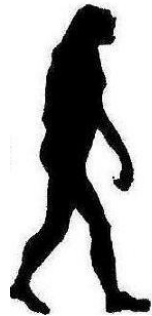
Huge  
implications.



Today

2Mya

weak  
fragile



hands  
feet  
skeleton  
muscle  
skin  
gut

**Key point needing  
more discussion:**  
The evolutionary  
challenge of big brains  
is *homeostasis*, not  
basal metabolic load.

strong  
robust

+

sticks  
stones  
fire



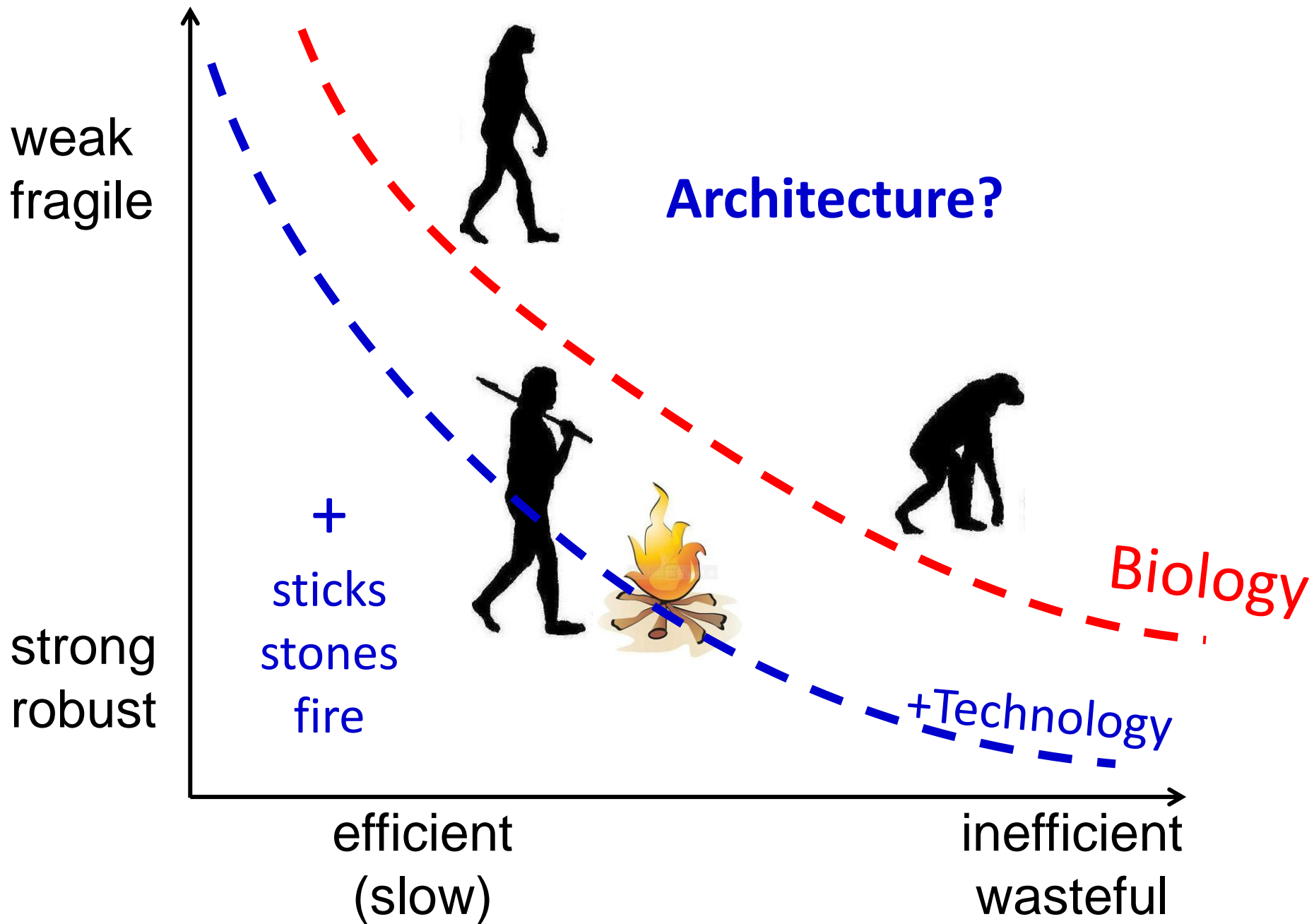
From weak prey  
to invincible  
predator

Before much  
brain expansion?

efficient  
(slow)

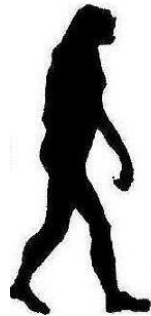


Huge  
implications.





weak  
fragile



hands  
feet  
skeleton  
muscle  
skin  
gut

+  
sticks  
stones  
fire

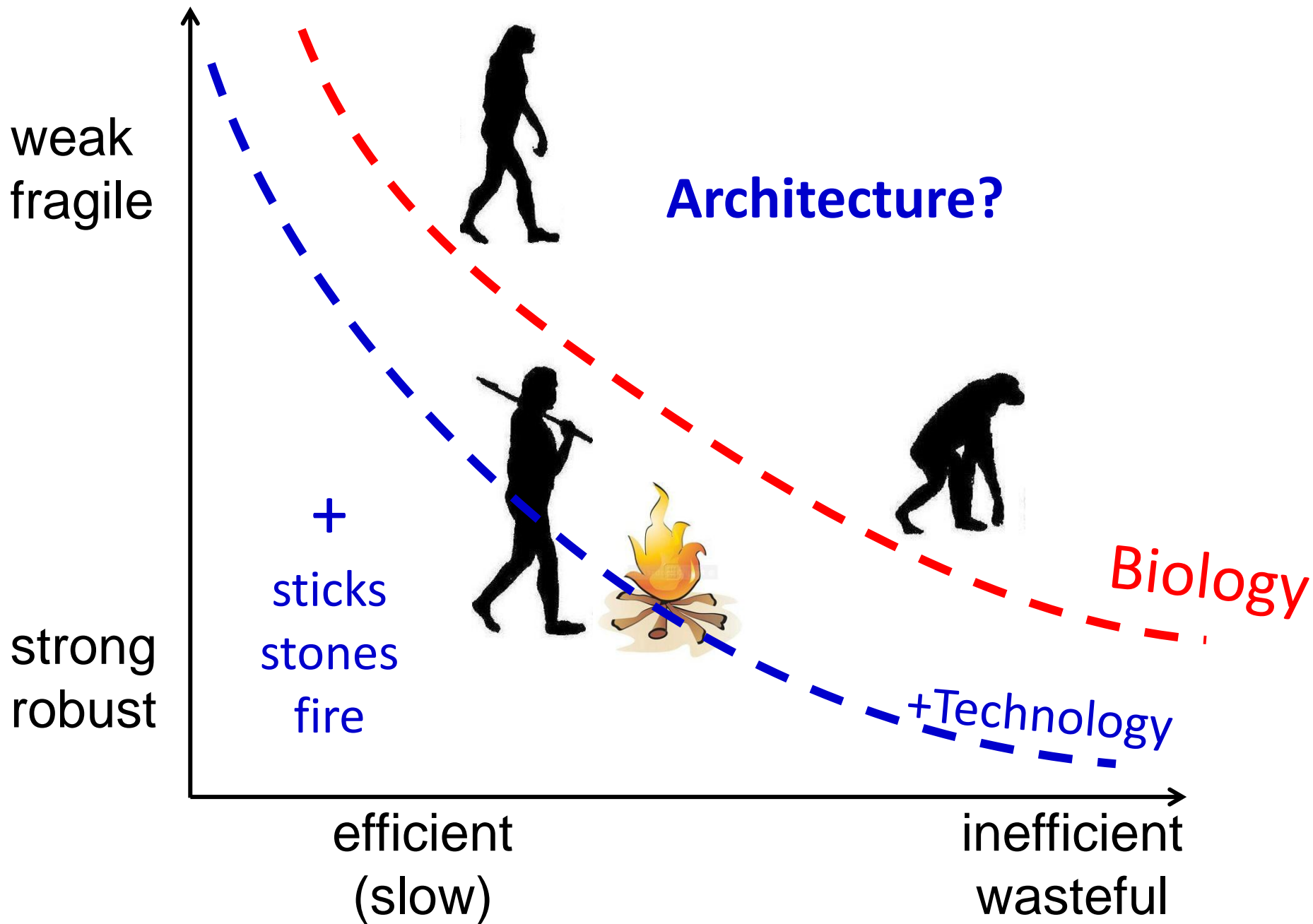


From weak prey  
to invincible  
predator

strong  
robust

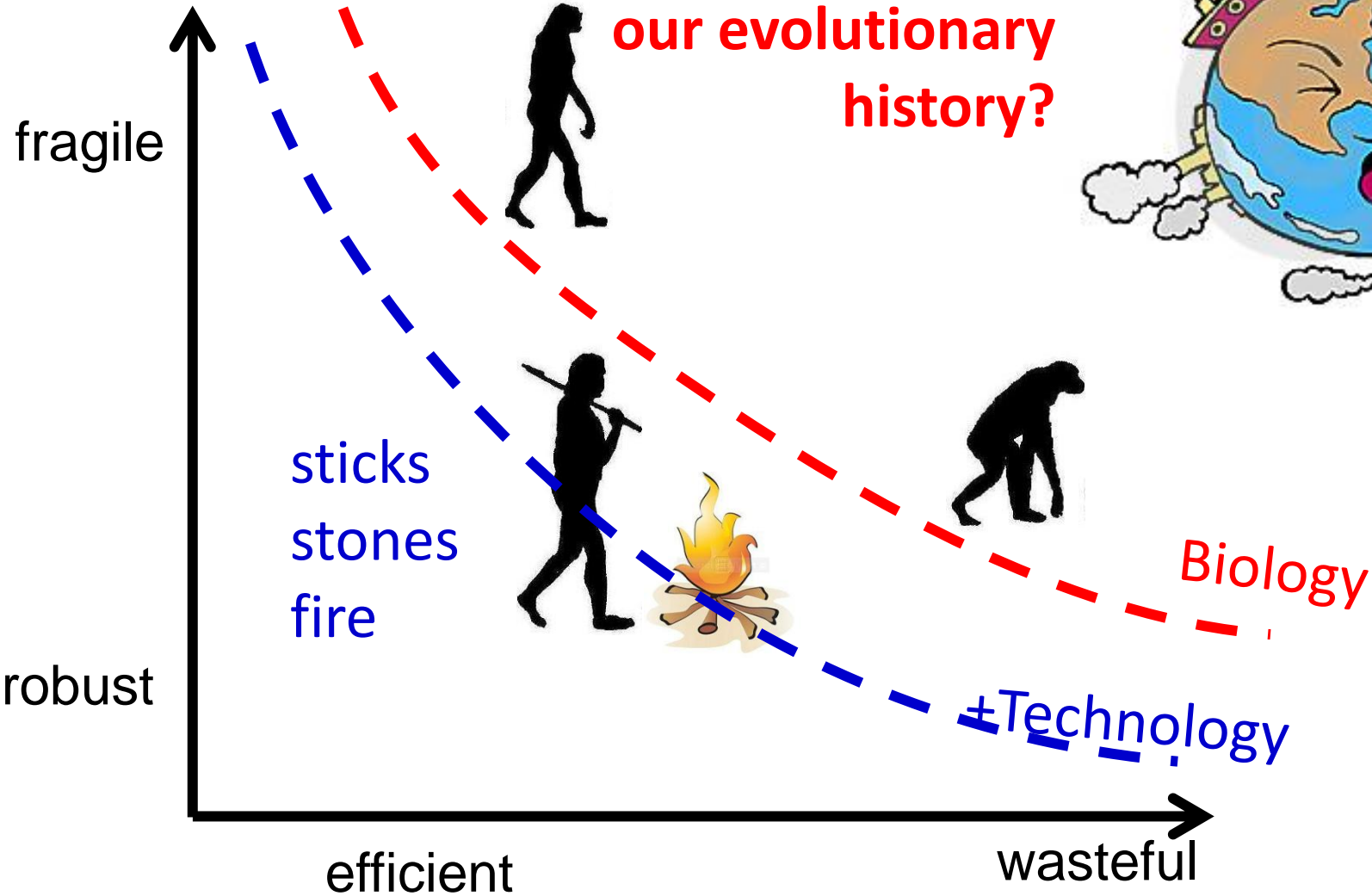
efficient  
(slow)

Before much  
brain expansion?



# Human complexity?

Consequences of  
our evolutionary  
history?



# Constraints (that deconstrain)

fragile

robust

**Hard  
tradeoffs?**

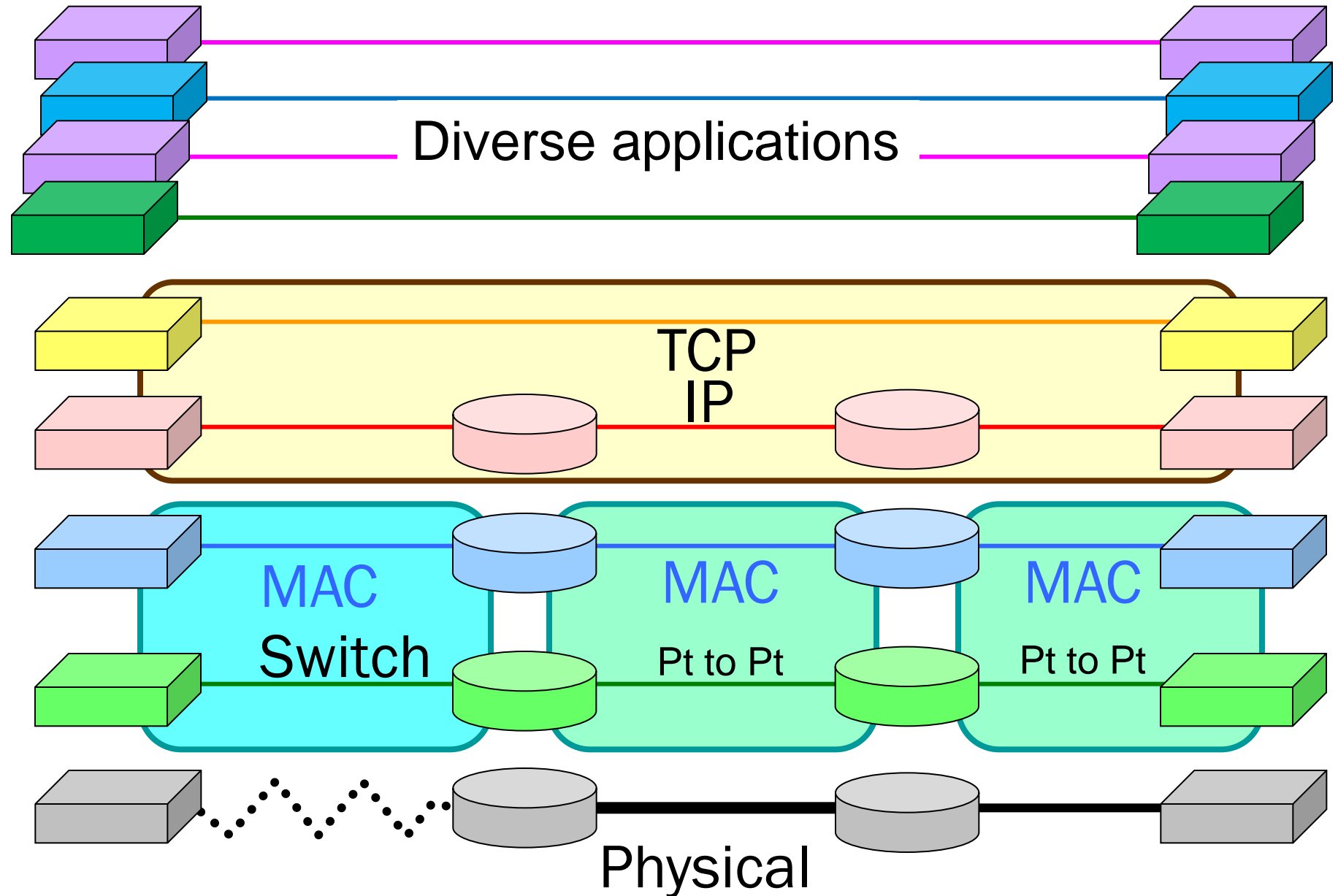
efficient

wasteful

Architecture?



# Layered architectures



# Layering as Optimization Decomposition: A Mathematical Theory of Network Architectures

What's  
next?

*There are various ways that network functionalities can be allocated to different layers and to different network elements, some being more desirable than others. The intellectual goal of the research surveyed by this article is to provide a theoretical foundation for these architectural decisions in networking.*

By MUNG CHIANG, Member IEEE, STEVEN H. LOW, Senior Member IEEE,  
A. ROBERT CALDERBANK, Fellow IEEE, AND JOHN C. DOYLE

Chang, Low, Calderbank, Doyle



**Fundamentals!**

A rant

# Layered architectures

Essentials

Deconstrained  
(Applications)

**Few global variables**

**Don't cross layers**

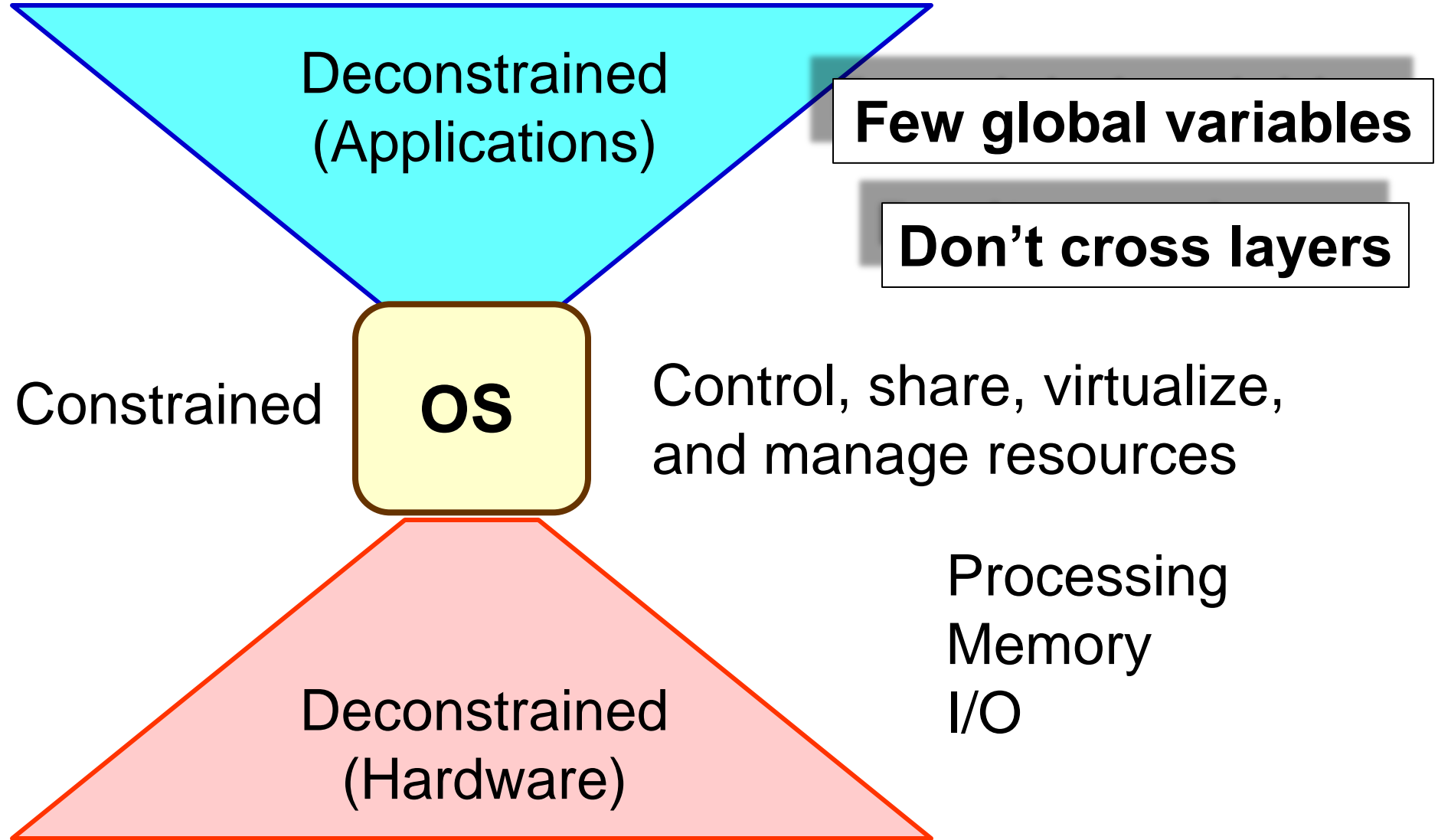
Constrained

**OS**

Control, share, virtualize,  
and manage resources

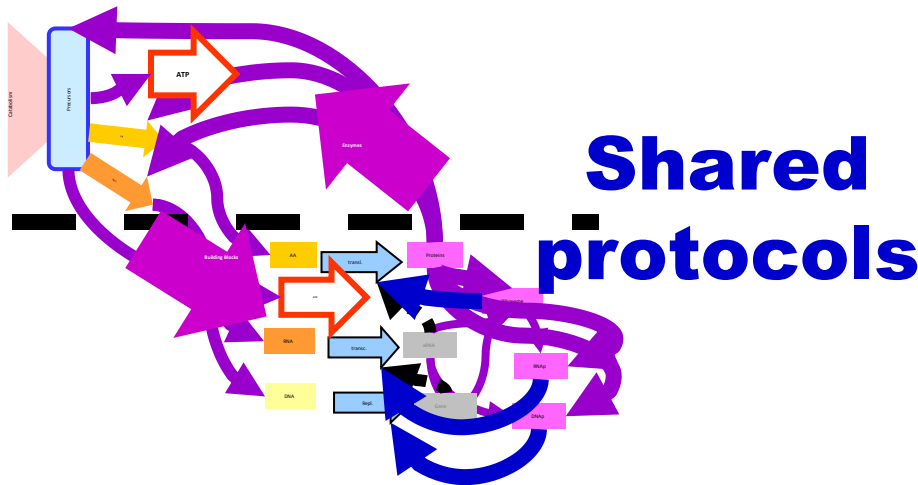
Processing  
Memory  
I/O

Deconstrained  
(Hardware)



# Layered architectures

Deconstrained  
(diverse)  
Environments

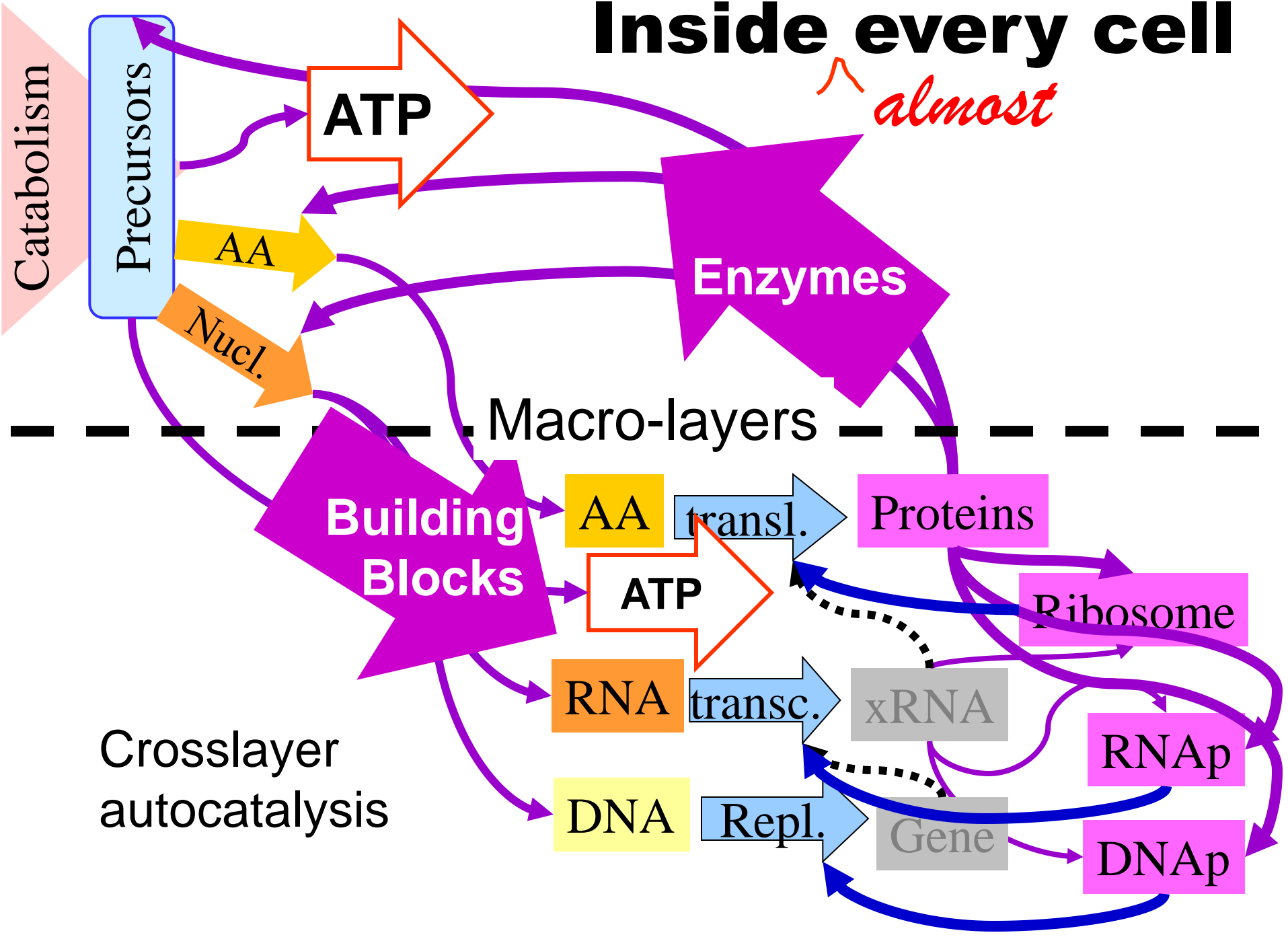


# Bacterial biosphere

Architecture  
=  
Constraints  
that  
Deconstrain



# Inside every cell



# What makes the bacterial biosphere so adaptable?

Deconstrained phenotype

Environment

Action

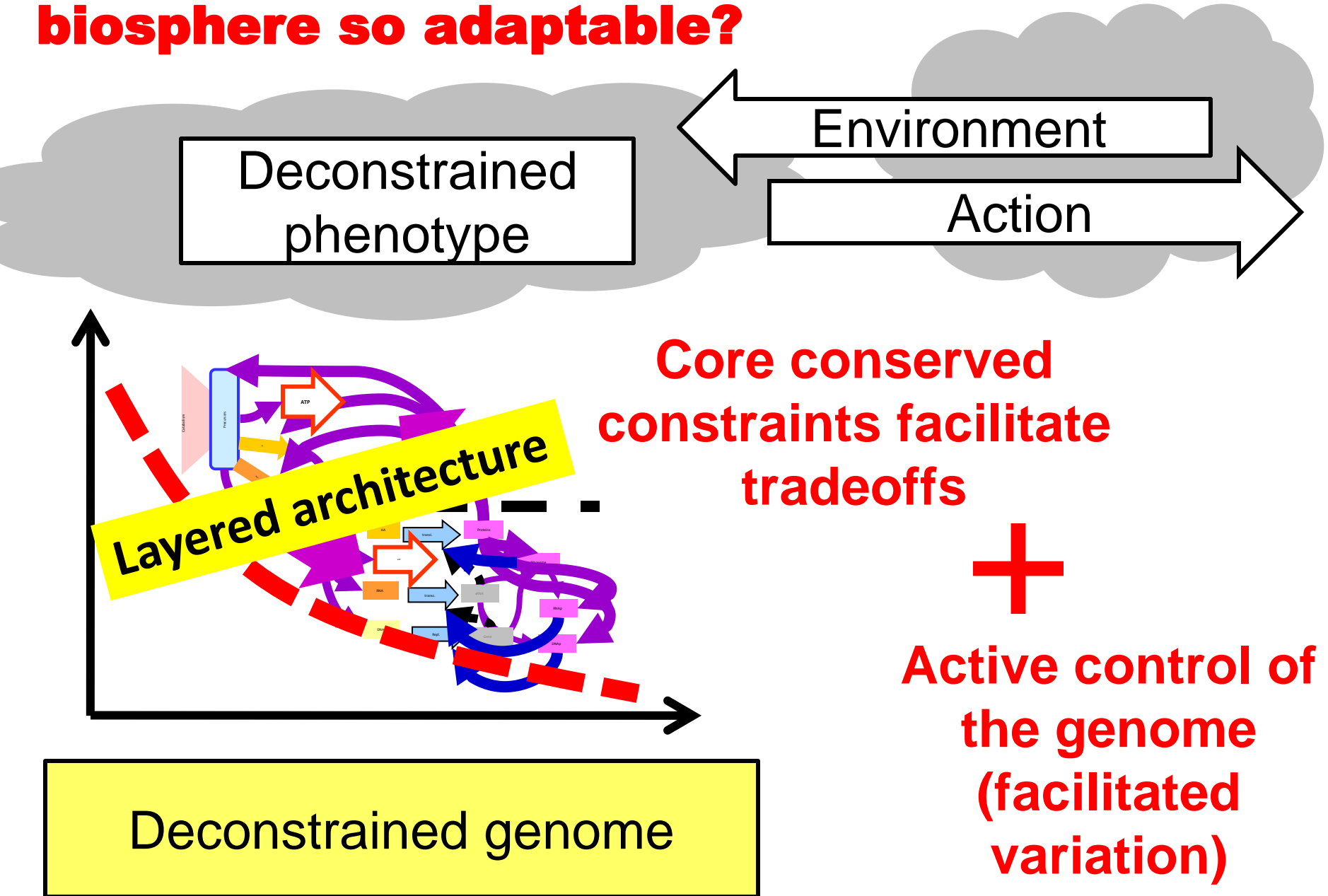
Core conserved constraints facilitate tradeoffs

+

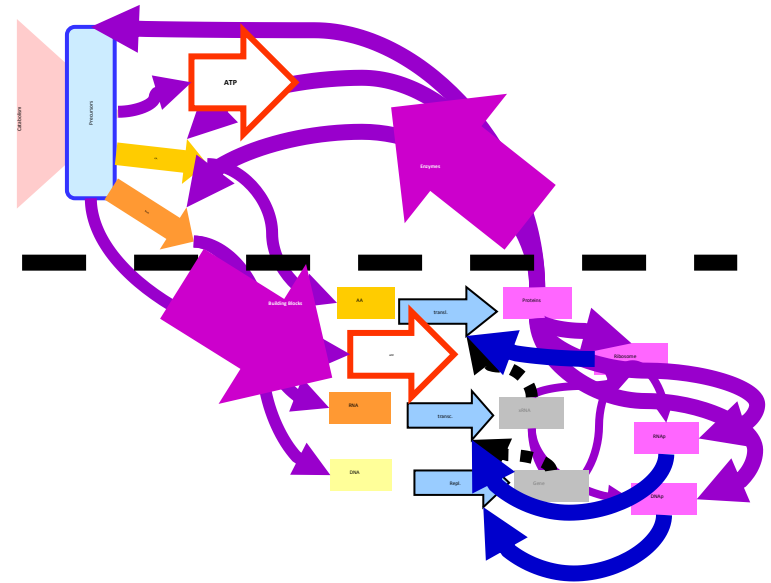
Active control of the genome (facilitated variation)

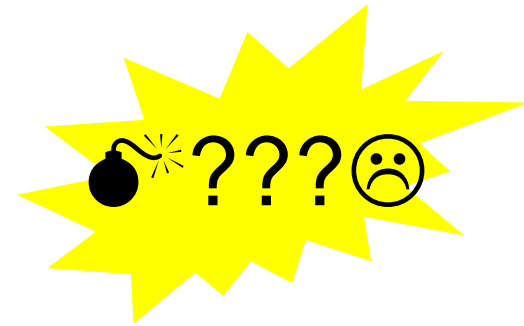
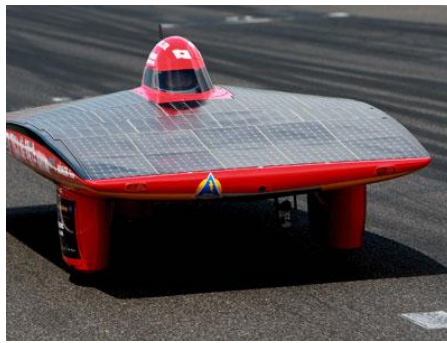
Layered architecture

Deconstrained genome

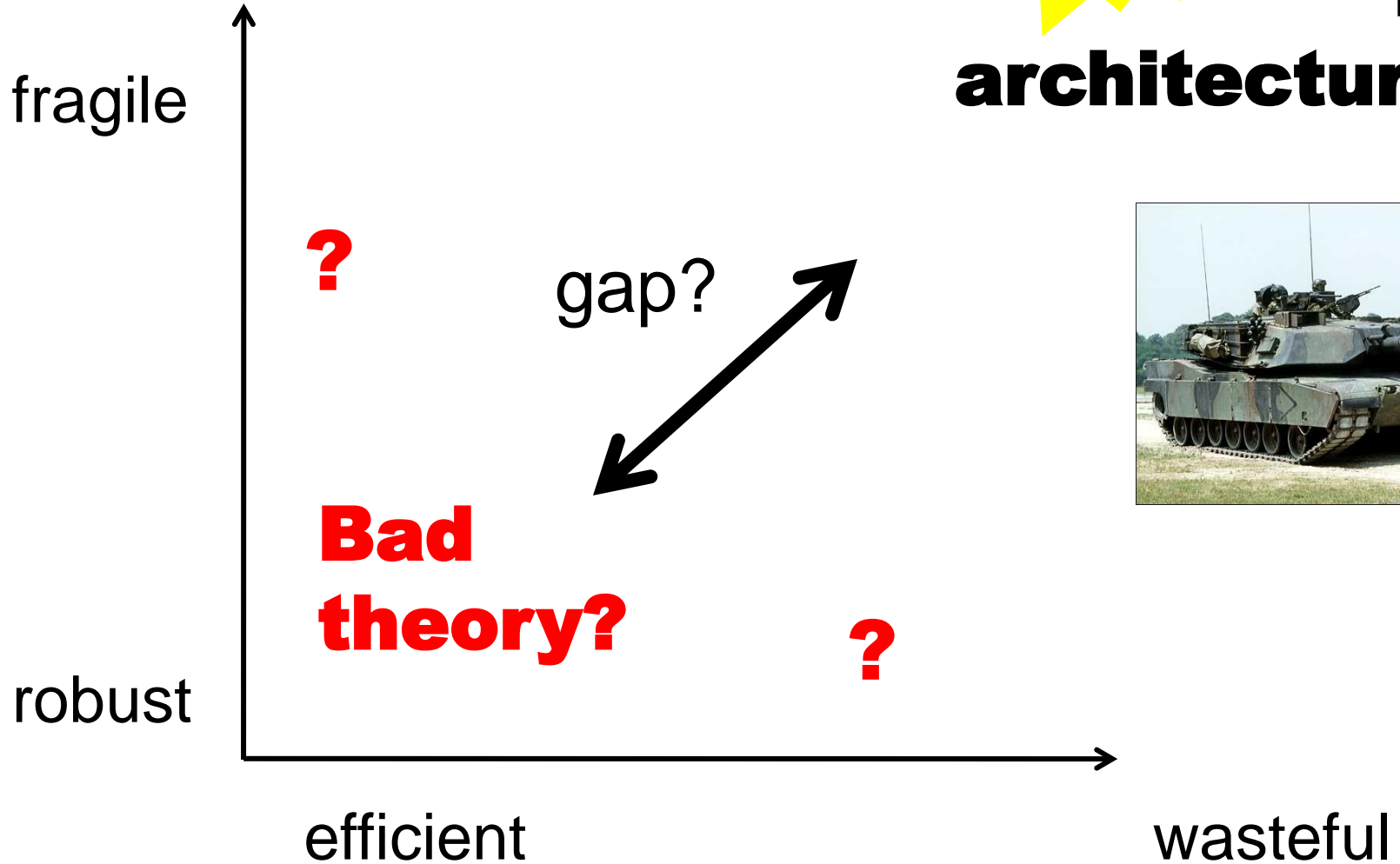


i.e. hard limits and architecture





**Bad  
architectures?**

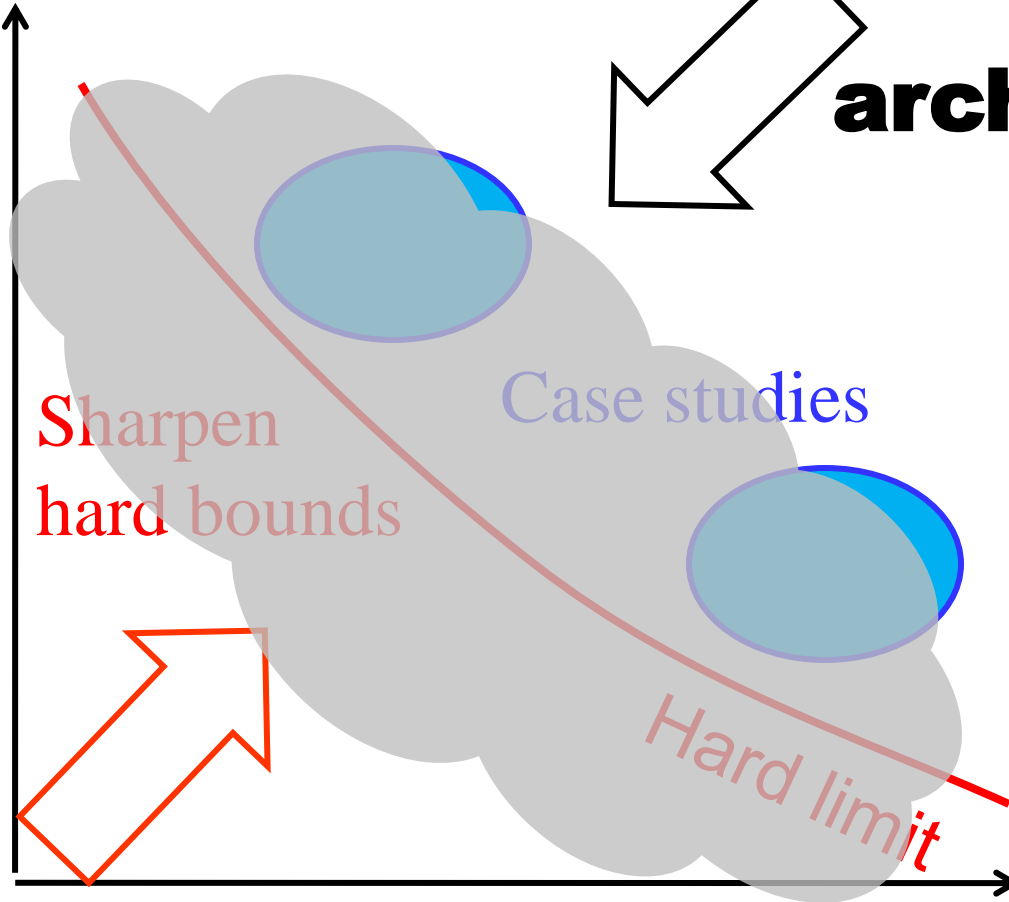


**Find and  
fix bugs**



**Bad  
architectures?**

fragile



wasteful

# “New sciences” of “complexity” and “networks”?



## Science as

- Pure fashion
- Ideology
- Political
- Evangelical
- Nontech trumps tech

- Edge of chaos
- Self-organized criticality
- Scale-free “networks”
- Creation “science”
- Intelligent design
- Financial engineering
- Risk management
- “Merchants of doubt”
- ...

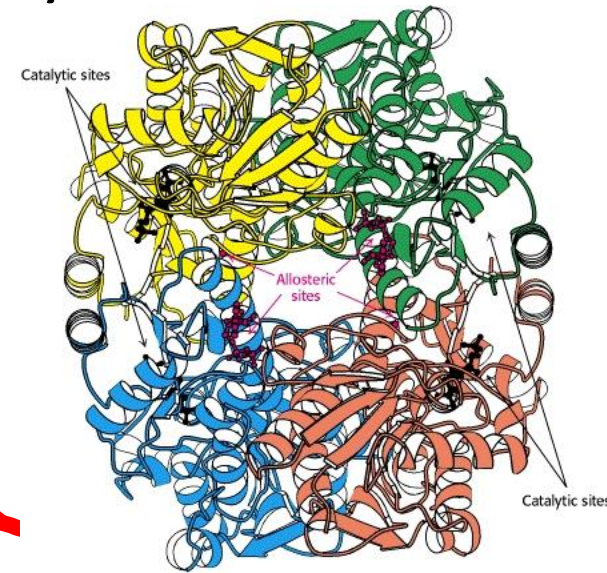
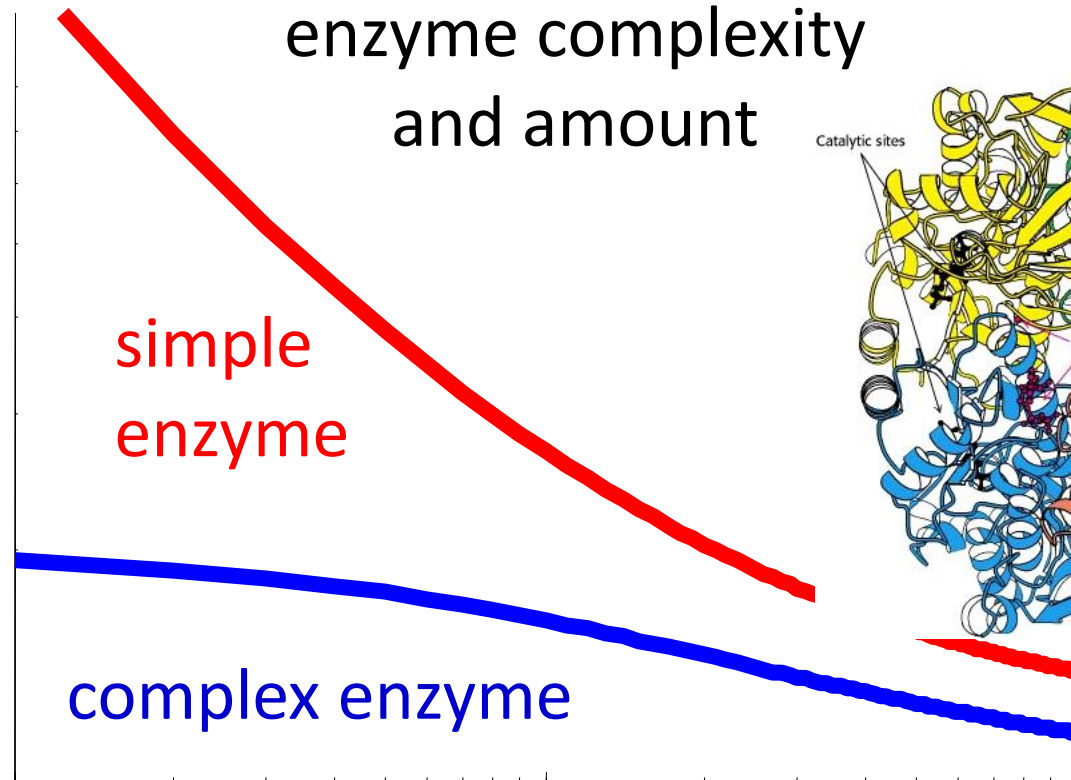
**Theorem!**

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\infty} \ln |S(j\omega)| \left( \frac{z}{z^2 + \omega^2} \right) d\omega \geq \ln \left| \frac{z + p}{z - p} \right|$$

$z$  and  $p$  functions of  
enzyme complexity  
and amount

Fragility

$$\ln \left| \frac{z + p}{z - p} \right|$$



Enzyme amount

Fragility

hard limits

- General
- Rigorous
- First principle

simple

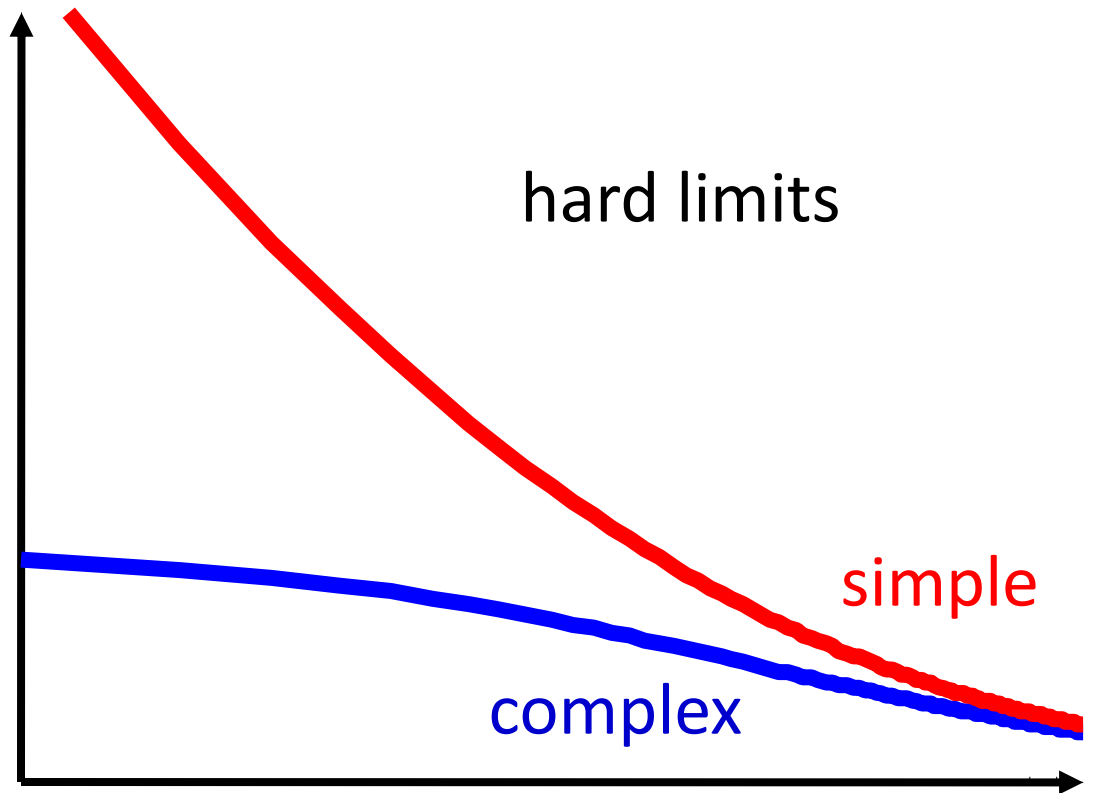
complex

Overhead, waste

**Plugging in  
domain details**

?

- Domain specific
- Ad hoc
- Phenomenological





**Control**

Wiener

**Comms**

Bode

robust control

Shannon

Kalman

- General
- Rigorous
- First principle

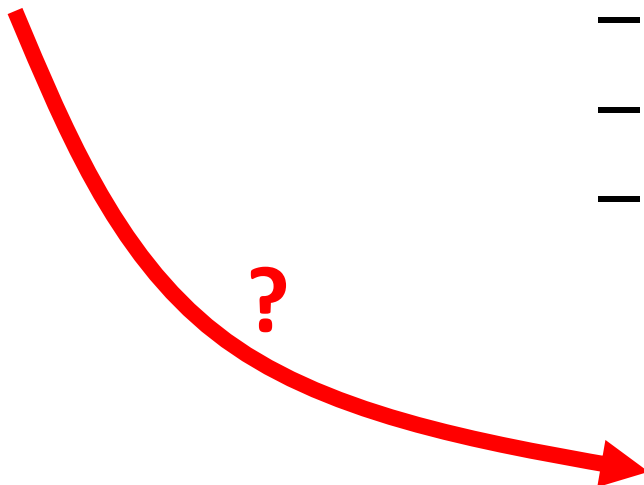
- **Fundamental multiscale physics**
- Foundations, origins of
  - noise
  - dissipation
  - amplification
  - catalysis

Carnot

Boltzmann

Heisenberg

**Physics**



# What I'm not going to talk much about

- It's true that most “really smart scientists” think almost everything in these talks is nonsense
- Why they think this
- Why they are wrong
- Time (not space) is our problem, as usual
- Don't have enough time for what is true, so have to limit discussion of what isn't
- No one ever changes a made up mind (almost)
- But here's the overall landscape

**Control**

**Comms**

Complex  
networks

Wildly “successful”



**Compute**

“New sciences” of  
complexity and networks  
edge of chaos, self-organized  
criticality, scale-free,...

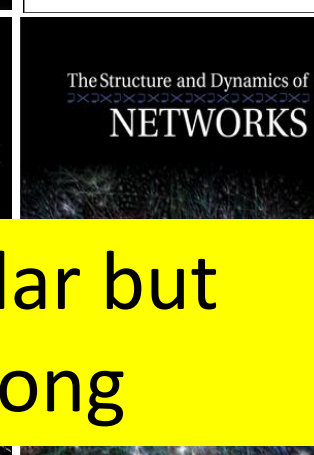
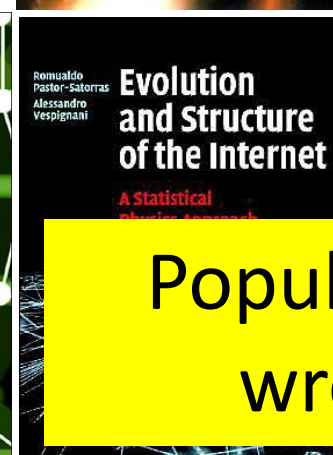
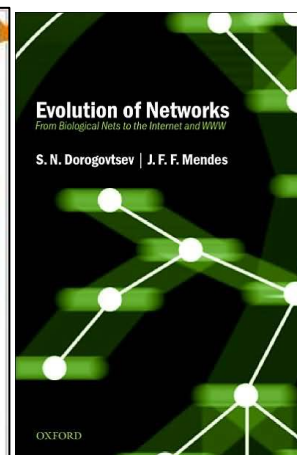
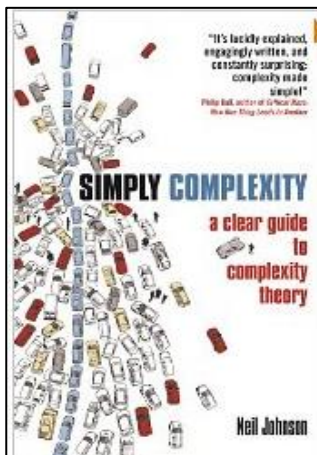
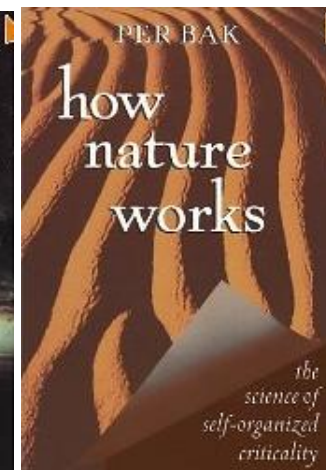
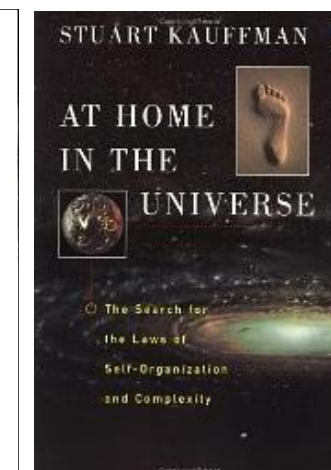
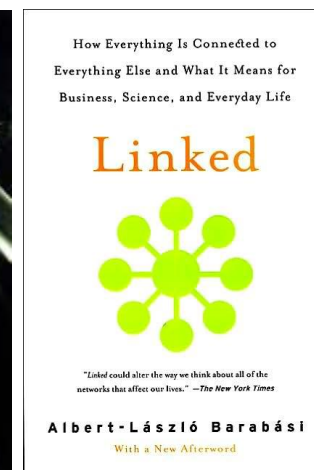
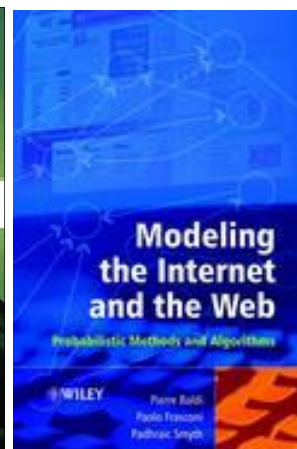
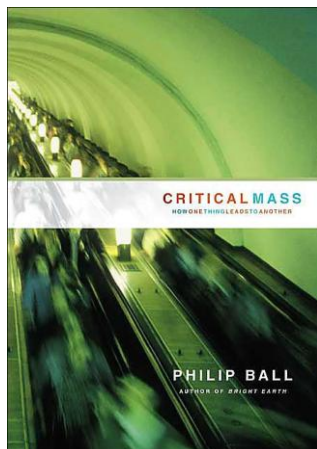
Stat physics

Carnot

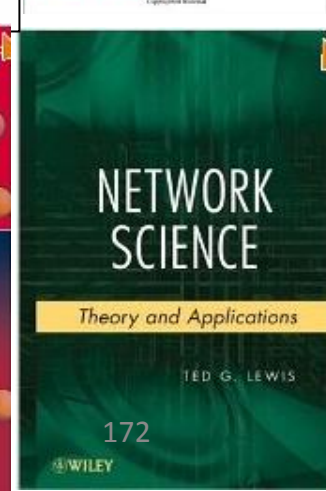
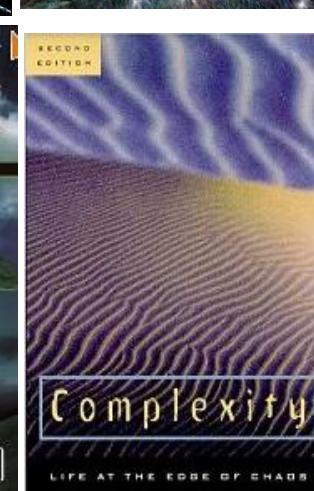
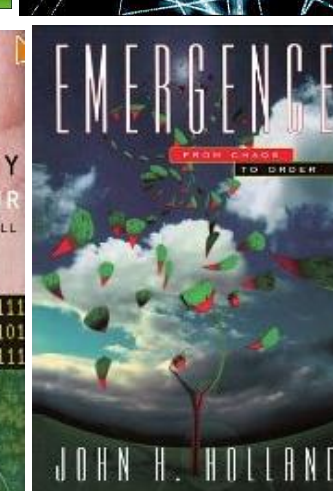
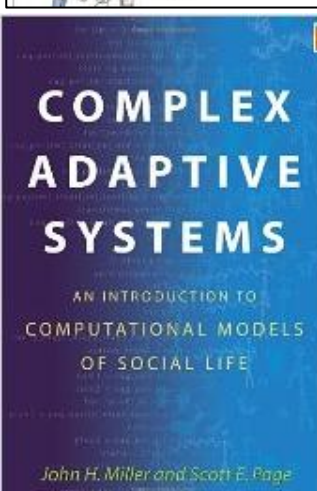
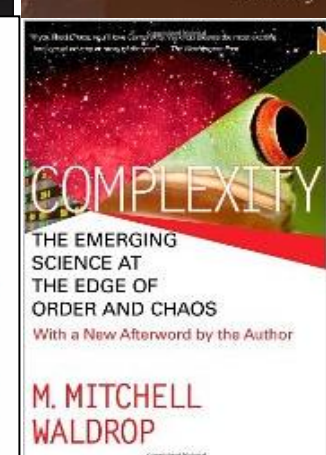
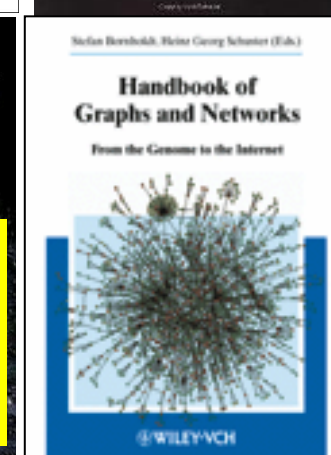
Boltzmann

Heisenberg

**Physics**



Popular but  
wrong



# Complex systems?

## Fragile

Even small  
amounts can  
create  
bewildering  
complexity

- Scale
- Dynamics
- Nonlinearity
- Nonequilibrium
- Open
- Feedback
- Adaptation
- Intractability
- Emergence
- ...

# Complex systems?

## Robust

- Scale
- Dynamics
- Nonlinearity
- Nonequilibrium
- Open
- Feedback
- Adaptation
- Intractability
- Emergence
- ...

## Fragile

- Scale
- Dynamics
- Nonlinearity
- Nonequilibrium
- Open
- Feedback
- Adaptation
- Intractability
- Emergence
- ...

# Complex systems?

## Robust complexity

- Scale
  - Dynamics
  - Nonlinearity
  - Nonequilibrium
  - Open
  - Feedback
  - Adaptation
  - Intractability
  - Emergence
  - ...
- Resources
  - Controlled
  - Organized
  - Structured
  - Extreme
  - ***Architected***
  - ...



- These words have lost much of their original meaning, and have become essentially meaningless synonyms
- e.g. nonlinear  $\neq$  not linear
- Can we recover these words?
- Idea: make up a new word to mean “I’m confused but don’t want to say that”
- Then hopefully we can take these words back (e.g. nonlinear = not linear)

## Fragile complexity

- Scale
- Dynamics
- Nonlinearity
- Nonequilibrium
- Open
- Feedback
- Adaptation
- Intractability
- Emergence
- ...



# New words

**Emergent**

**Emergence  
at the edge of  
chaocritiplexity**

**Fragile  
complexity**

- Scale
- Dynamics
- Nonlinearity
- Nonequilibrium
- Open
- Feedback
- Adaptation
- Intractability
- Emergence
- ...

Alderson & Doyle,  
Contrasting Views of  
Complexity and Their  
Implications for  
Network-Centric  
Infrastructure,  
IEEE TRANS ON  
SMC,  
JULY 2010

Complex  
networks

doesn't  
work

Stat physics

“New sciences” of  
complexity and networks  
edge of chaos, self-organized  
criticality, scale-free,...

# Complex systems?

**Control**

**Comms**

Complex  
networks

**Compute**

Stat physics

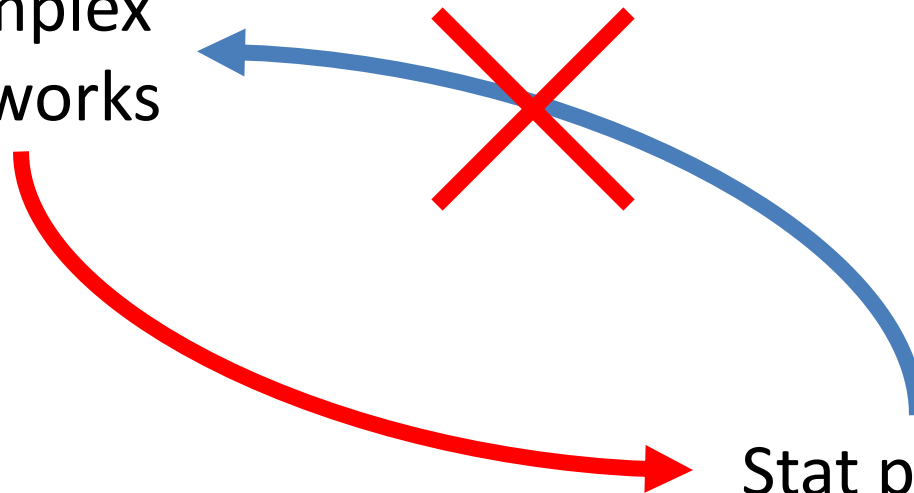
Carnot

Boltzmann

Heisenberg

**Physics**

**Jean Carlson, UCSB Physics**



Alderson & Doyle, Contrasting  
Views of Complexity and Their  
Implications for Network-Centric  
Infrastructure,  
IEEE TRANS ON SMC,  
JULY 2010

Complex  
networks

**Control**

Stat physics

Carnot

Boltzmann

Heisenberg

**Physics**

Sandberg, Delvenne,  
& Doyle, On Lossless  
Approximations, the Fluctuation-  
Dissipation Theorem, and  
Limitations of Measurement,  
IEEE TRANS ON AC,  
FEBRUARY, 2011

“The last 70 years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century will be viewed as the dark ages of theoretical physics.” (Carver Mead)

Complex  
networks

“orthophysics”

From prediction  
to mechanism  
to control

Sandberg, Delvenne,  
& Doyle, On Lossless  
Approximations, the Fluctuation-  
Dissipation Theorem, and  
Limitations of Measurement,  
IEEE TRANS ON AC,  
FEBRUARY, 2011

Stat physics,  
fluids, QM

Carnot

Boltzmann

Heisenberg

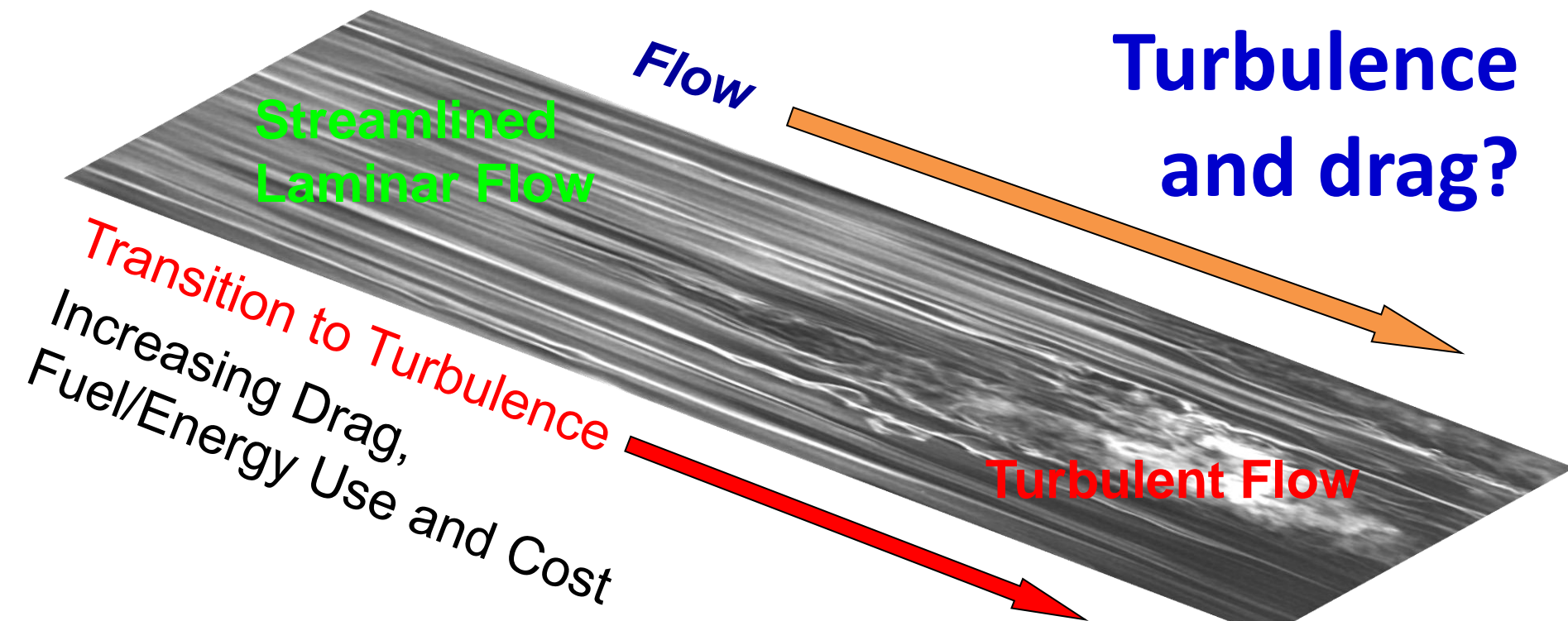
Physics



## *J. Fluid Mech* (2010)

# A streamwise constant model of turbulence in plane Couette flow

D. F. GAYME<sup>1†</sup>, B. J. McKEON<sup>1</sup>,  
A. PAPACHRISTODOULOU<sup>2</sup>, B. BAMIEH<sup>3</sup>  
AND J. C. DOYLE<sup>1</sup>



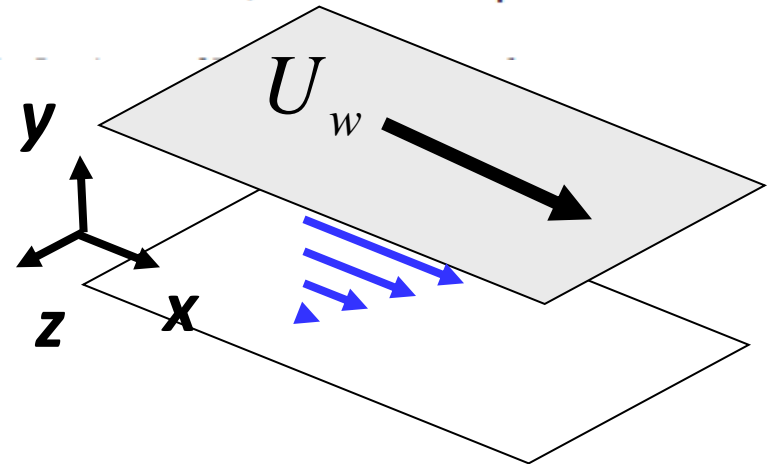
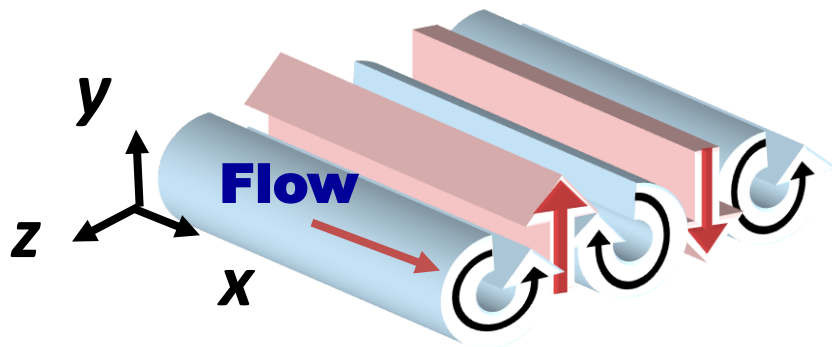
**Amplification and nonlinear mechanisms in plane Couette flow**

Dennice F. Gayme,<sup>1</sup> Beverley J. McKeon,<sup>1</sup> Bassam Bamieh,<sup>2</sup> Antonis Papachristodoulou,  
and John C. Doyle<sup>3</sup>

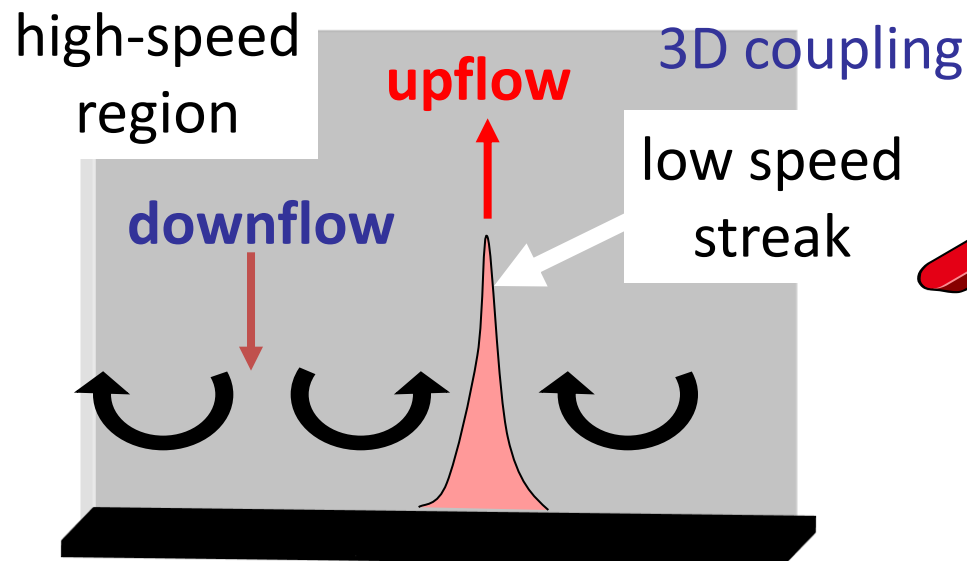
Dennice Gayme,  
Beverley McKeon,  
**Bassam Bamieh (UCSB ME),**  
Antonis Papachristodoulou,  
John Doyle

## Amplification and nonlinear mechanisms in plane Couette flow

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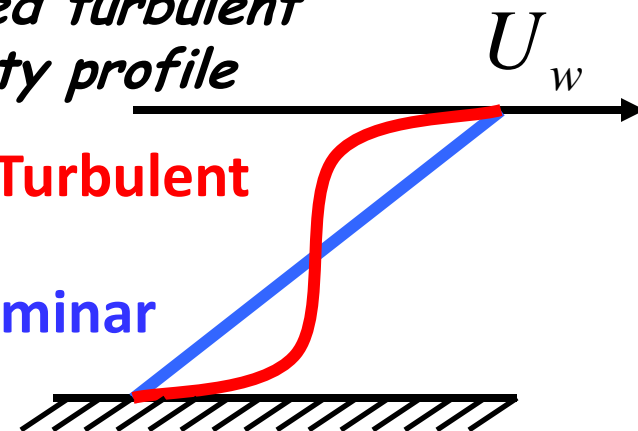


## Coherent structures and turbulent drag



*Blunted turbulent velocity profile*

**Turbulent**  
**Laminar**







fragile

Laminar

robust

efficient

wasteful

Control?

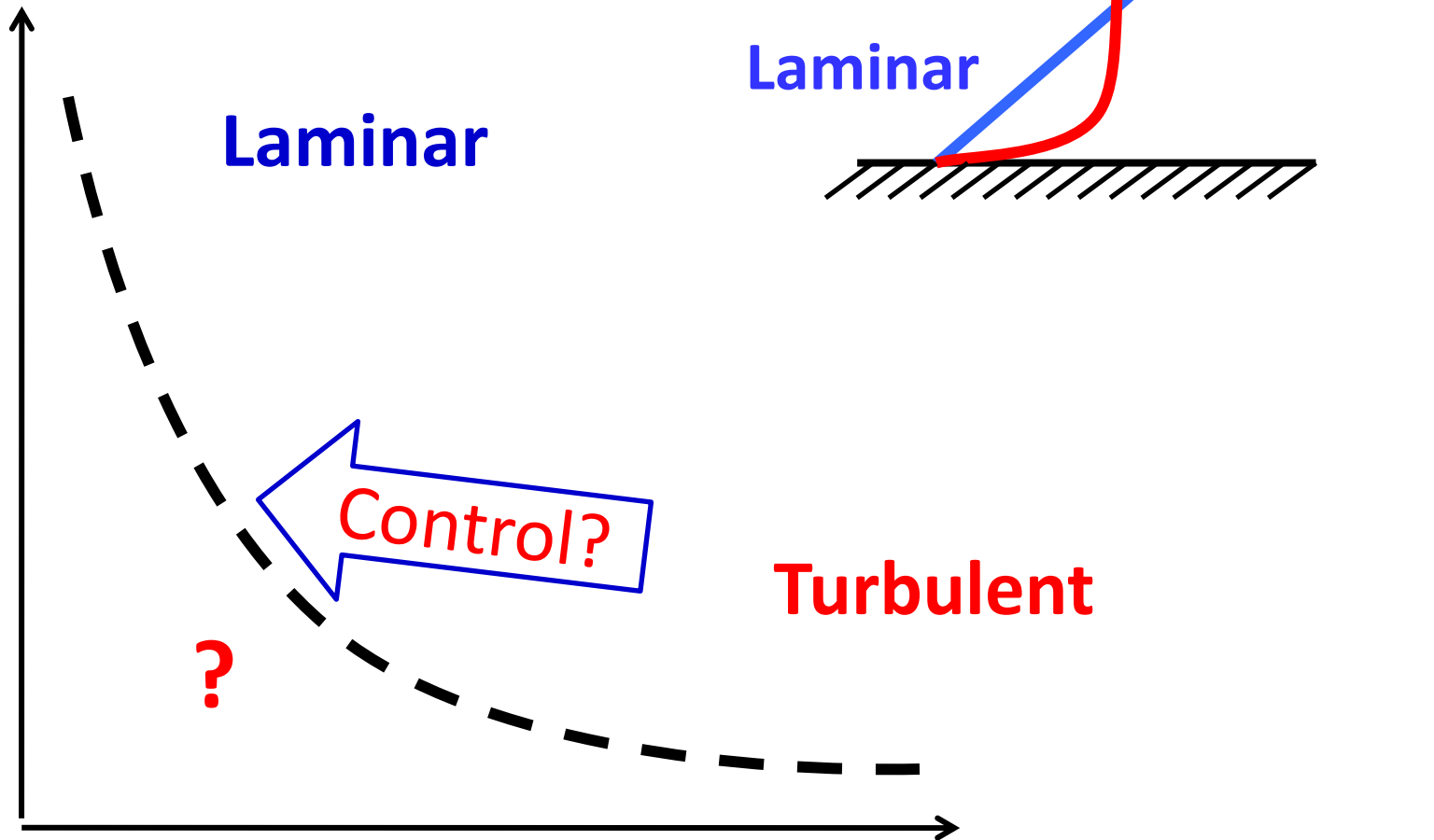
?

Turbulent

Laminar

Turbulent

$U_w$



- Limited theoretical framework

