

Non-equilibrium effects of 'hydrolysis': consequences on kinetics and size regulation of microtubules

Dipjyoti Das

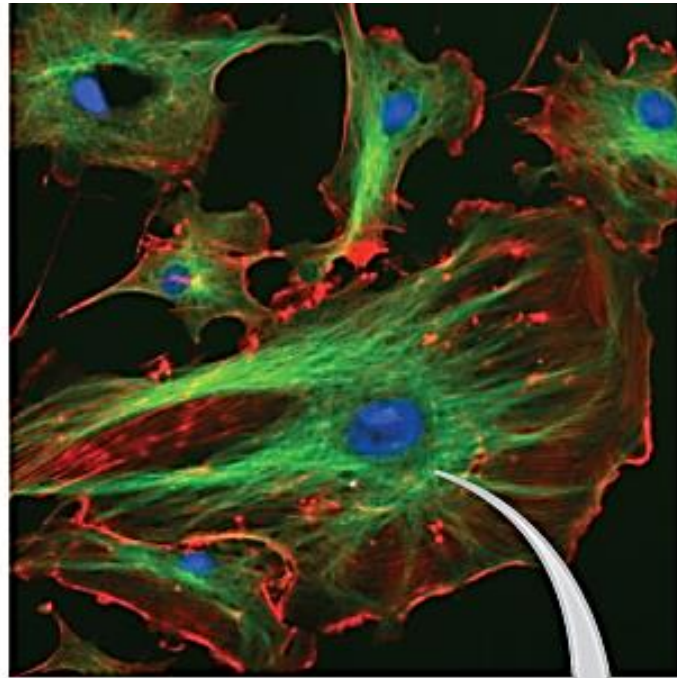
Department of Biological Sciences

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata

(Dec 11, 2020)



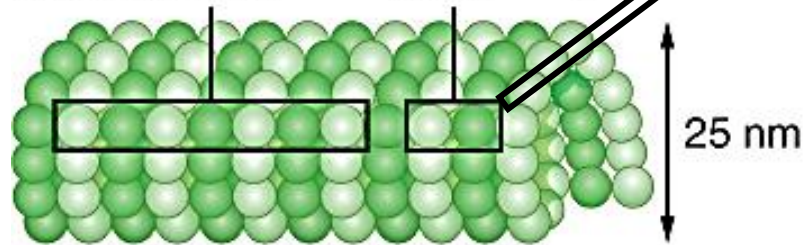
Microtubules: Structure



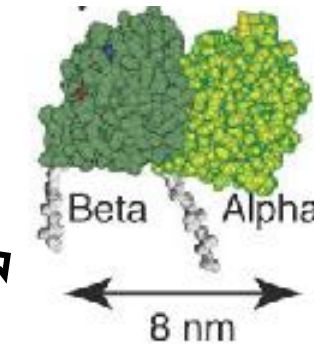
Microtubules in cytoskeleton are tagged along with **actins** and **nuclei**.

(a protofilament)
Column of tubulin dimers

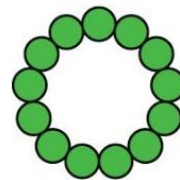
Tubulin dimer



25 nm



The building-block of a MT



Cross-section
(tubulin-ring from
13 protofilaments)

Microtubules: Some functions

- Structural rigidity

Persistence length \sim 1-5 μ m ; rigid over a cell dimension.

(Frederick Gittes et al., JCB, 1993; Howard, J. "Mechanics of motor proteins and the cytoskeleton".)

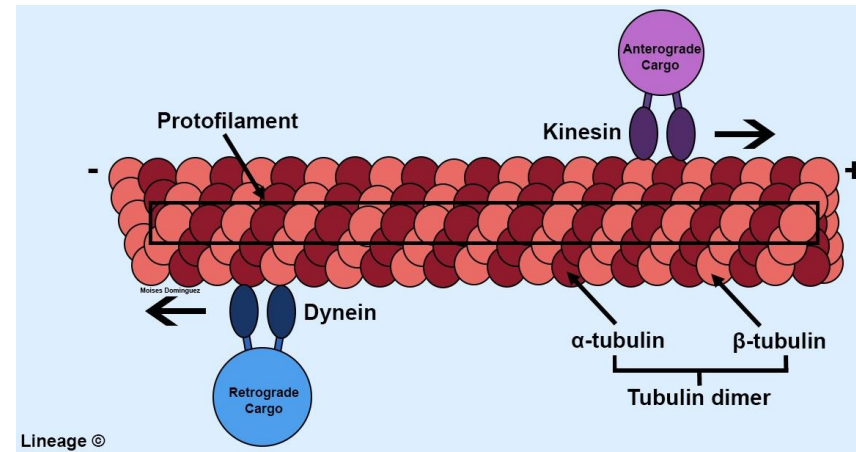
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- Act as tracks for intracellular transport



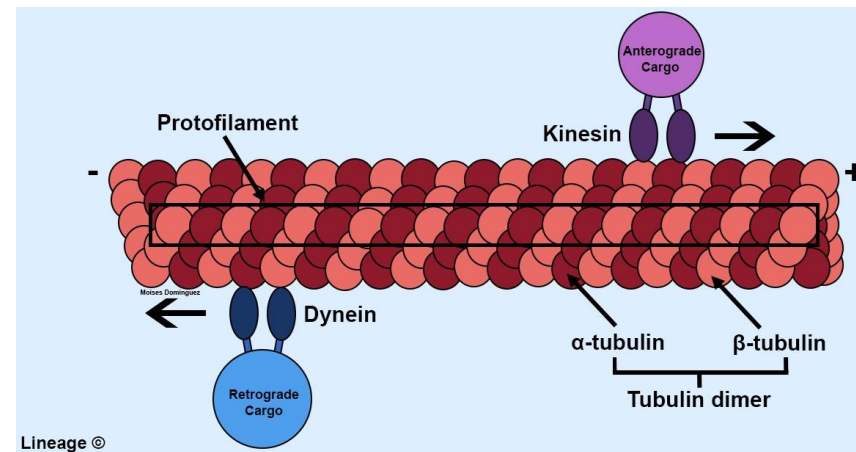
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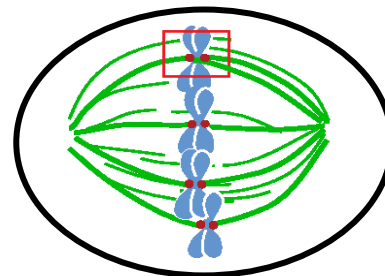
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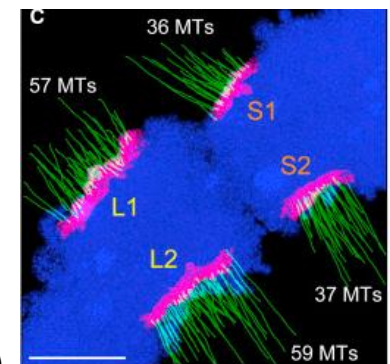


- Help in chromosome segregation during cell division

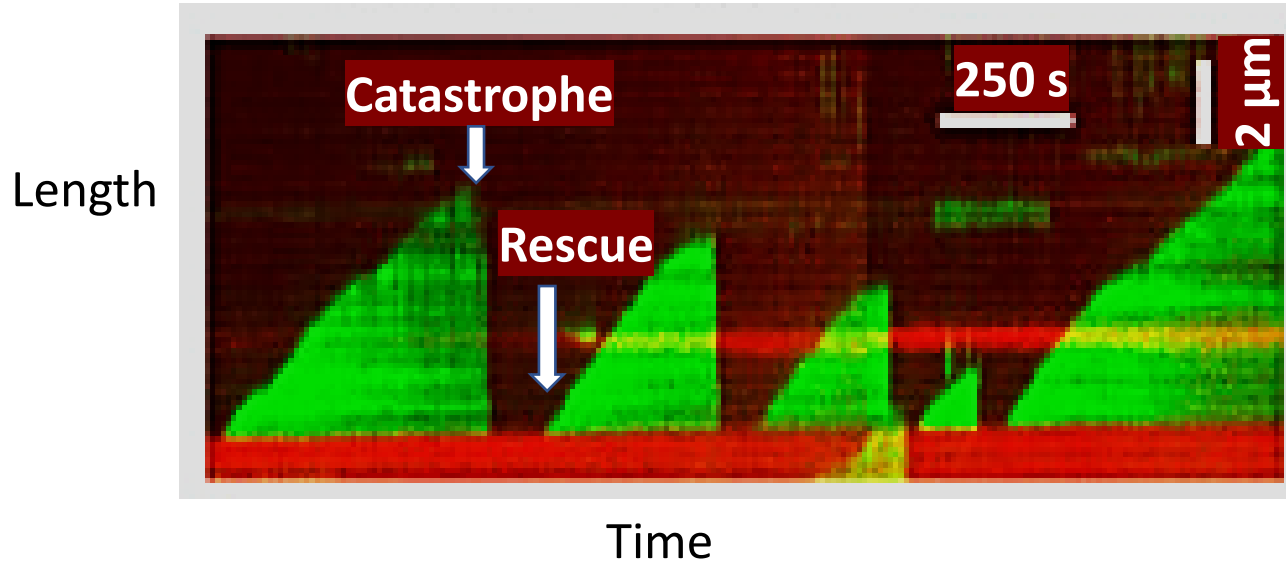


During mitosis
microtubules
are attached to
kinetochores on
chromosomes.

(Danica Drpic et al., Curr Bio, 2018.)

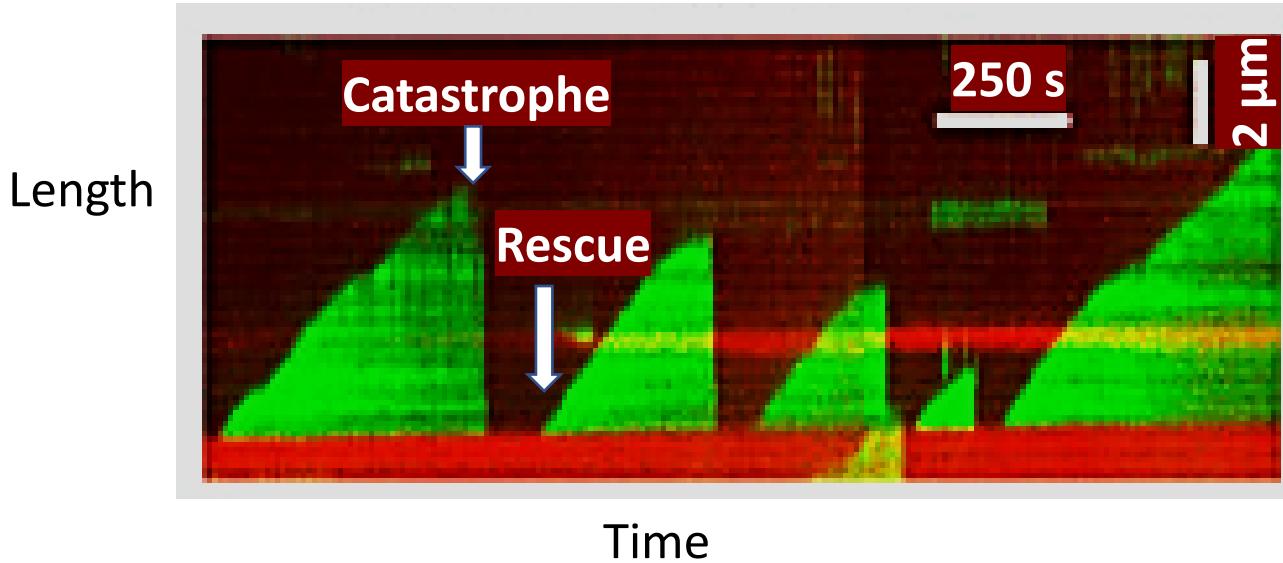


Stochastic kinetics of a microtubule (dynamic instability)



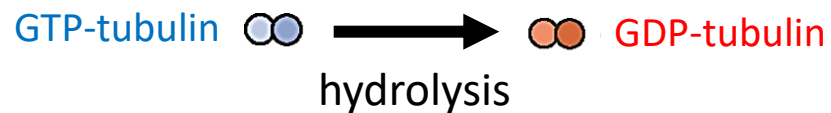
TIRF image at 12 μM
tubulin concentration
(Gardner et al., Cell, 2011)

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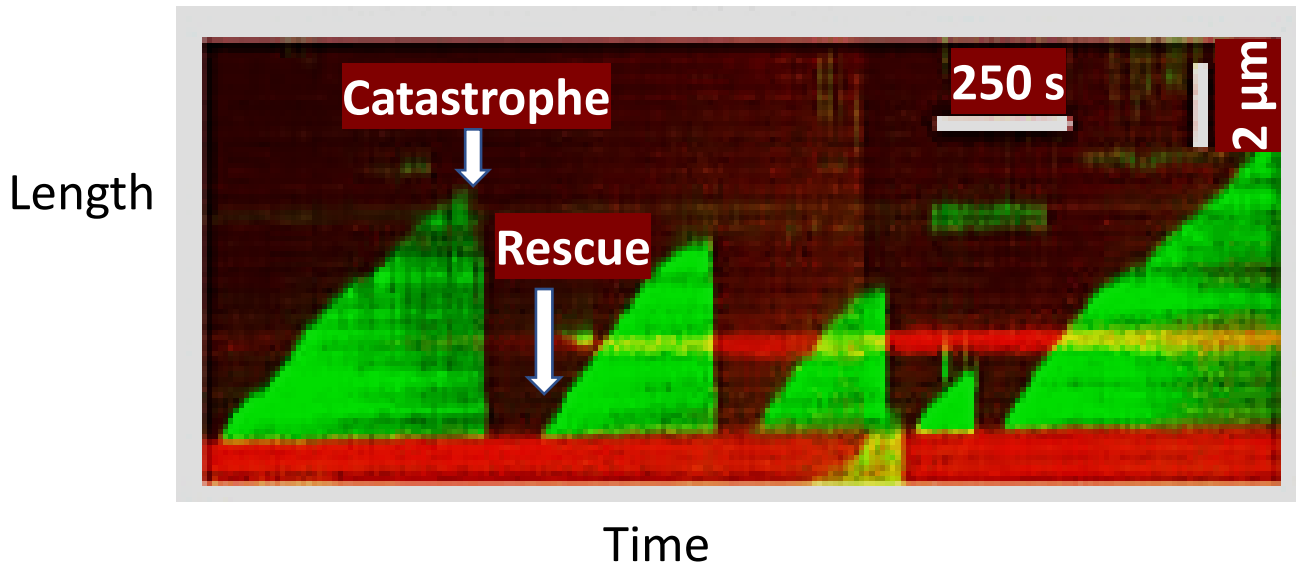
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WHY 'dynamic instability' ? → "Hydrolysis"



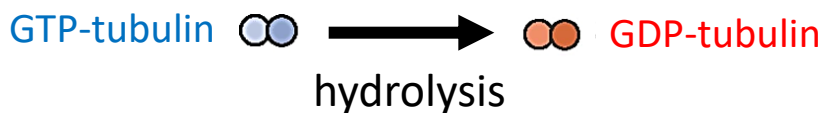
(A mostly irreversible 'chemical switch' on the MT lattice)

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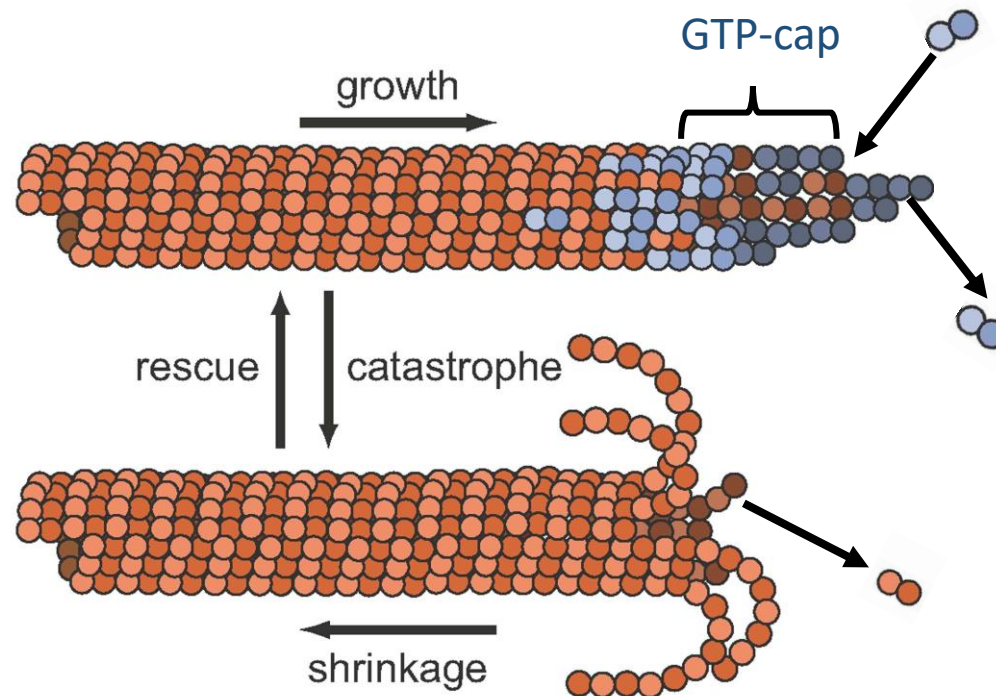
TIRF image at 12 μM tubulin concentration (Gardner et al., Cell, 2011)

WHY 'dynamic instability' ? \rightarrow "Hydrolysis"



(A mostly irreversible 'chemical switch' on the MT lattice)

Depolymerization rate of GDP-tubulin \gg Depolymerization of GTP-tubulin
 (290-700 /s) (~24 /s)



More on 'hydrolysis'

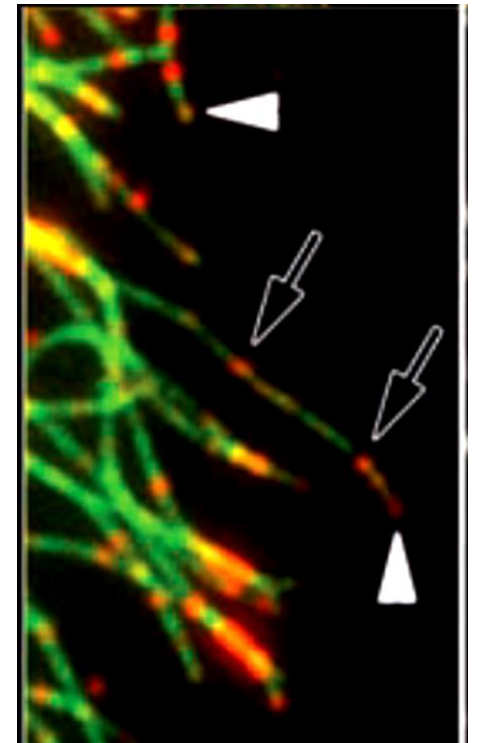
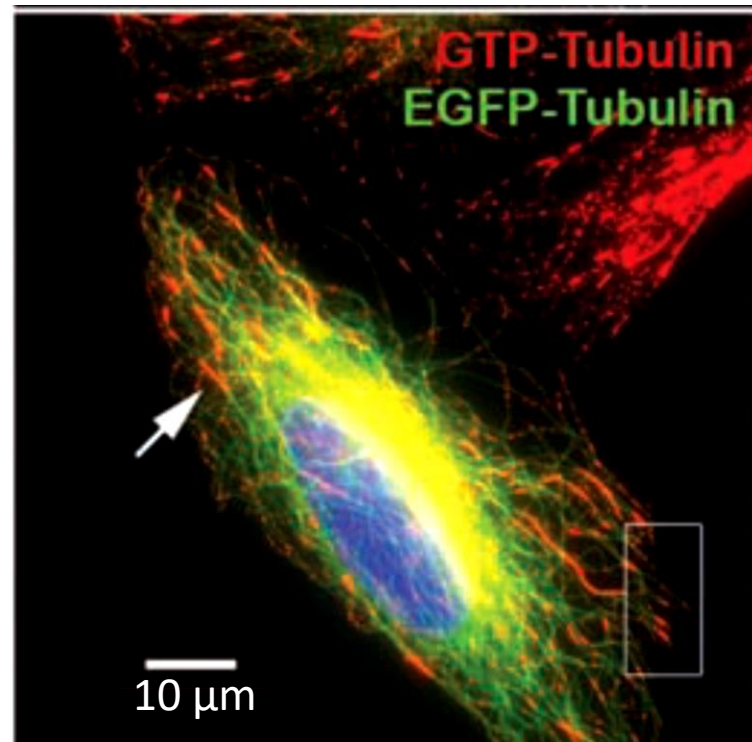
- Almost **non-hydrolysable tubulins (GMPCPP-tubulin) DO NOT show dynamic instability** (Mitchison, MBoC, 1992)

More on 'hydrolysis'

- Almost **non-hydrolysable tubulins (GMPCPP-tubulin) DO NOT show dynamic instability** (Mitchison, MBoC, 1992)
- Hydrolysis takes place **randomly and irreversibly (nonequilibrium dynamics)**.

GTP-tubulin 'islands' are seen in experiments.
(A Dimitrov et al., Science, 2008)

Theory: Sumedha et al., PRE, 2011



A nonequilibrium statistical physics perspective

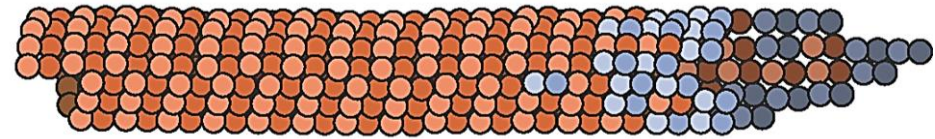
Random & irreversible hydrolysis can lead to nonequilibrium dynamics of a microtubule.

A single microtubule → Multiple microtubules → Emergence of collective phenomena (?)

Models of microtubules

1. Highly 'detailed' models:

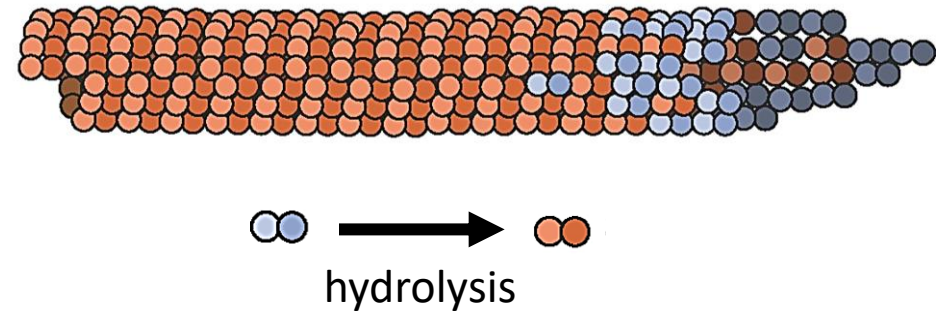
VanBuren et al, PNAS, 2002;
Margolin et al, MBoC, 2012;
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Aparna et al., Soft matter, 2019.



Models of microtubules

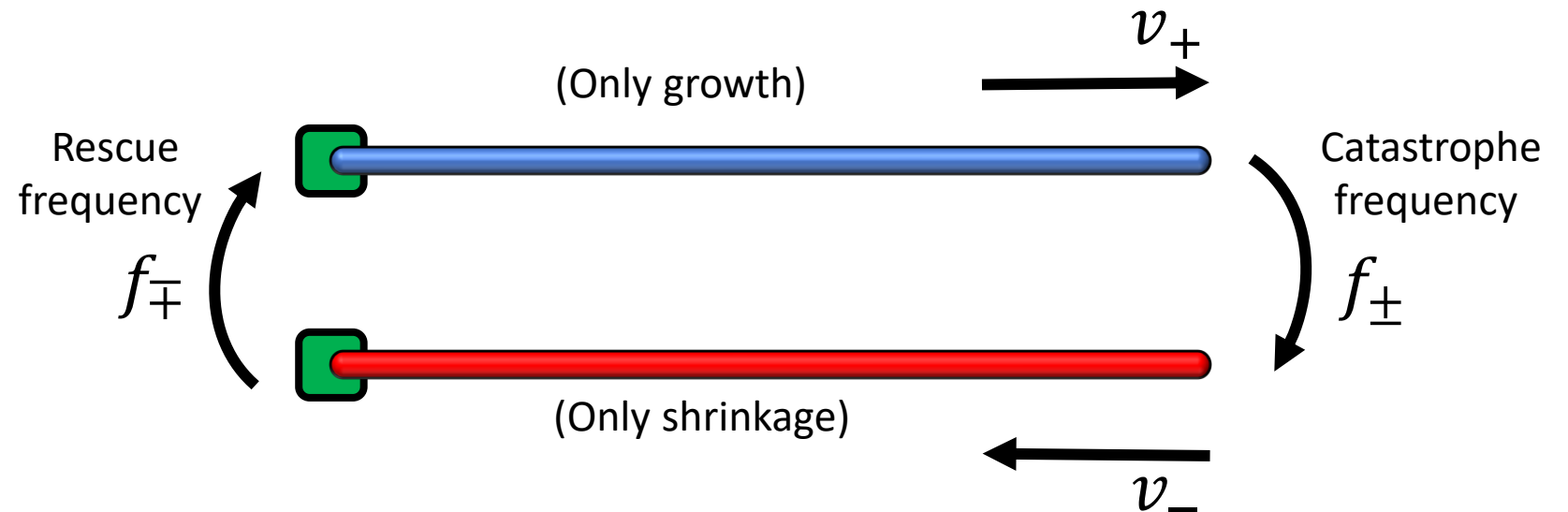
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2. Simple 'coarse-grained' models:

Dogterom & Leibler,
PRL, 1993



Models of microtubules: Our approach

An intermediate level of 'coarse-graining' :

Ranjith & Kolomeisky et al., BPJ , 2009 & 2010; Aparna et al, Sci Rep., 2019; J. Howard, BioEssays (review), 2013.

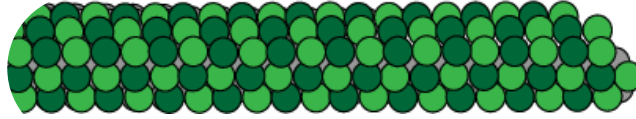


(tubulin ring)

def



(a subunit)

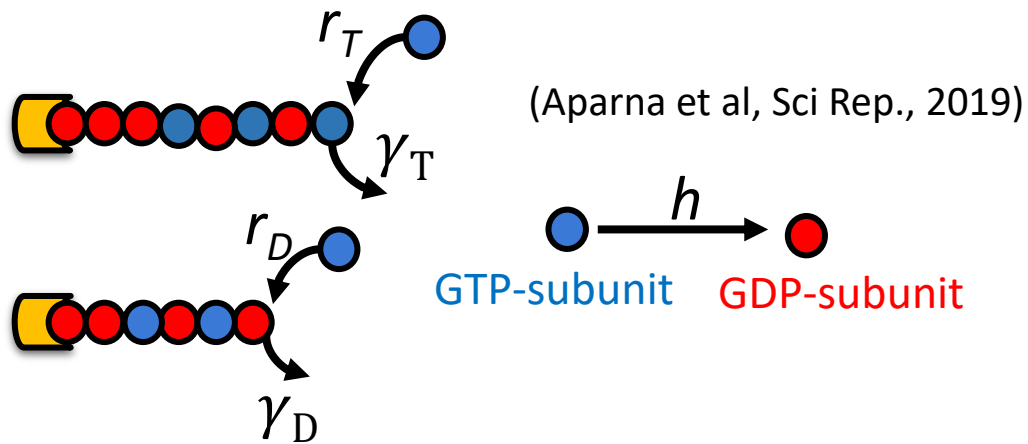
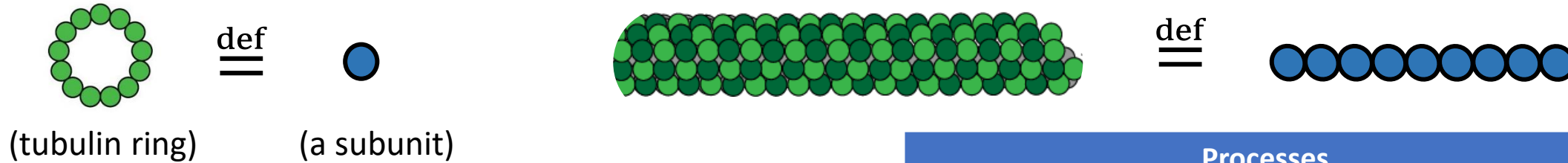


def



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An intermediate level of 'coarse-graining' :

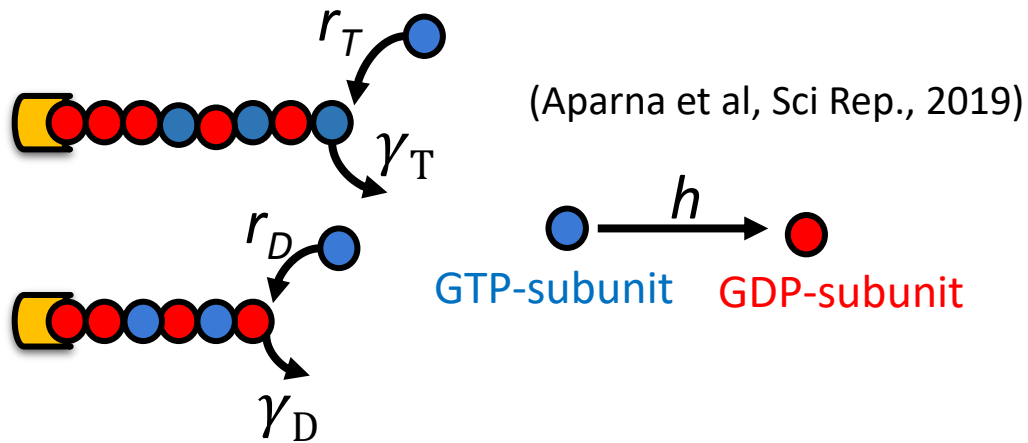
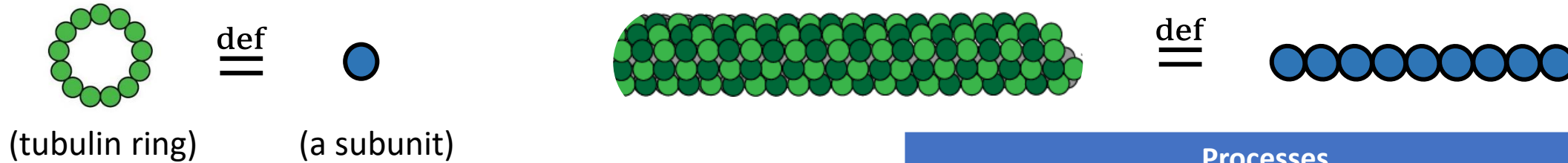


Processes	Rate
Subunit assembly rate when the tip is GTP-bound	r_T
Subunit assembly rate when the tip is GDP-bound	r_D
Subunit disassembly rate when the tip is GTP-bound	γ_T
Subunit disassembly rate when the tip is GDP-bound	γ_D
Hydrolysis	h

Rates must be supplied from *in vitro* experiments.

Models of microtubules: Our approach

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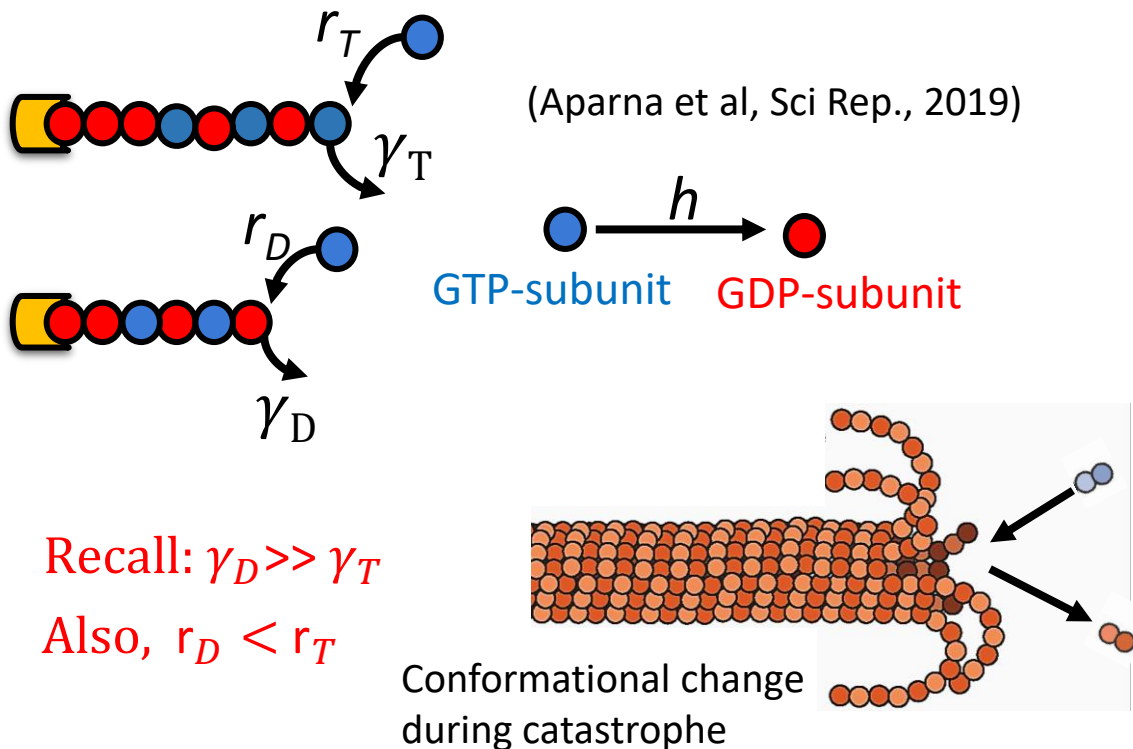
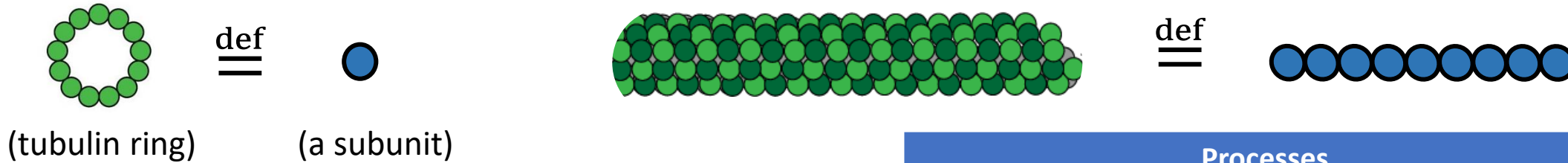
Recall: $\gamma_D \gg \gamma_T$

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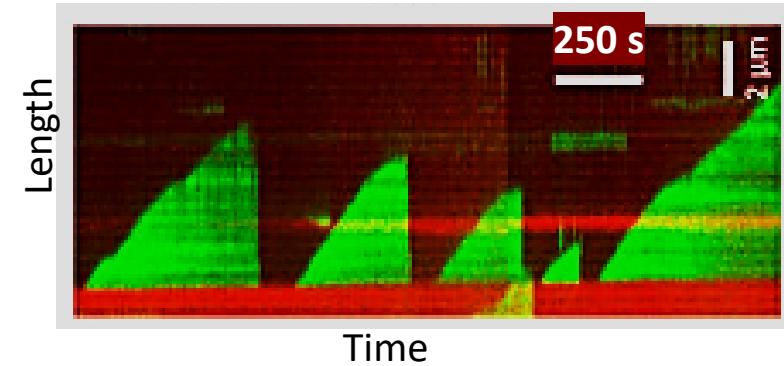
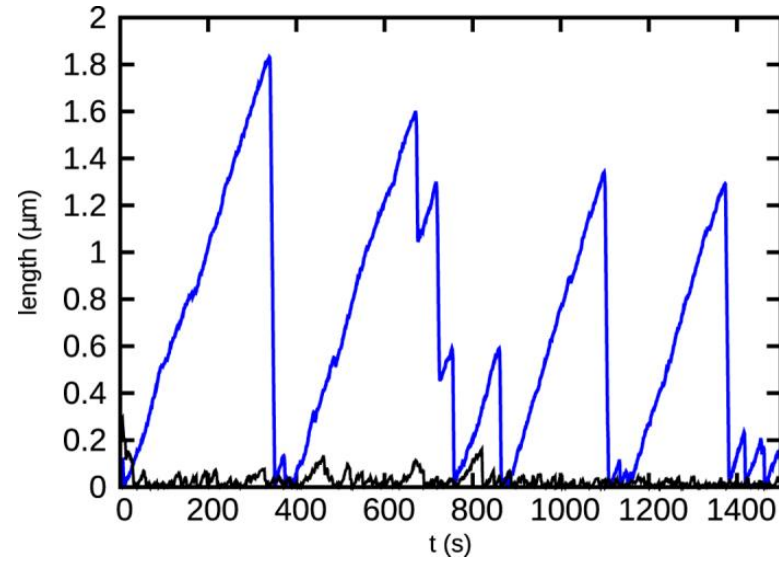
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Hydrolysis	h

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Experimental correspondence for the 'coarse-grained' model

- Captures the length-vs-time traces

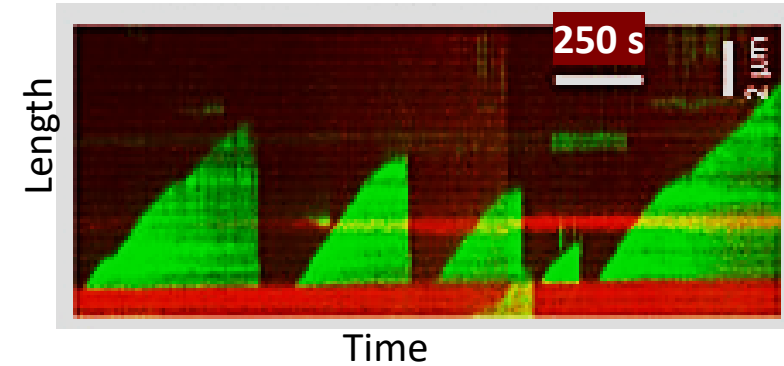
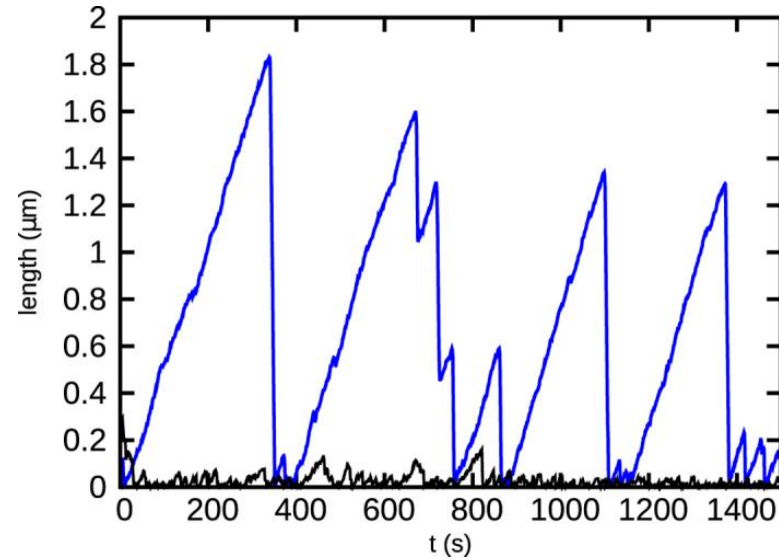
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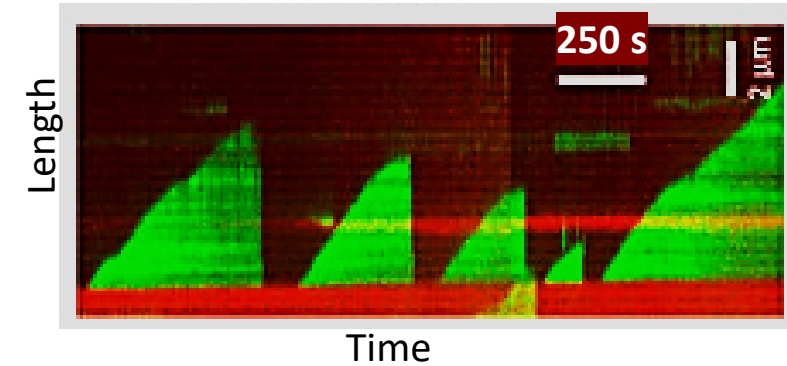
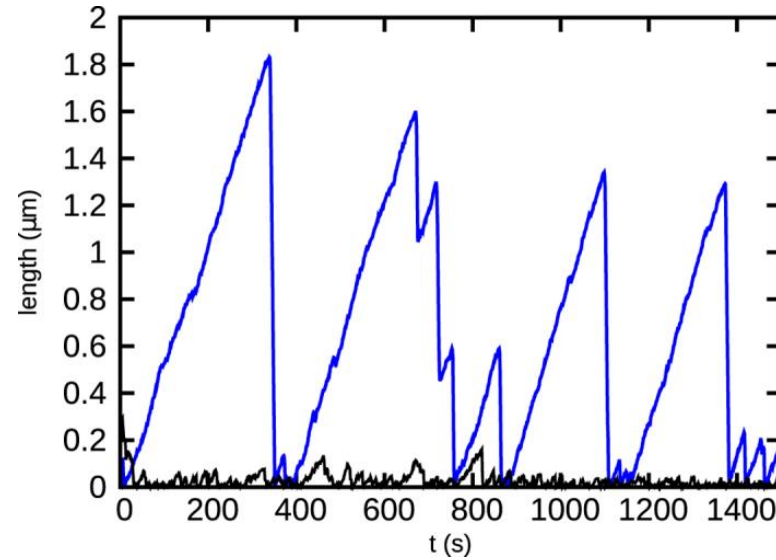
- Produce 'GTP-islands' in simulations



Experimental correspondence for the 'coarse-grained' model

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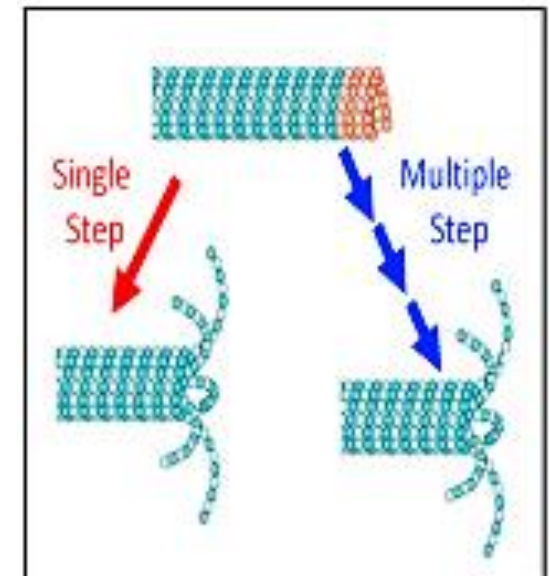
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- Produce 'GTP-islands' in simulations



- Multi-step catastrophe



Are there 'out-of-equilibrium' collective effects?

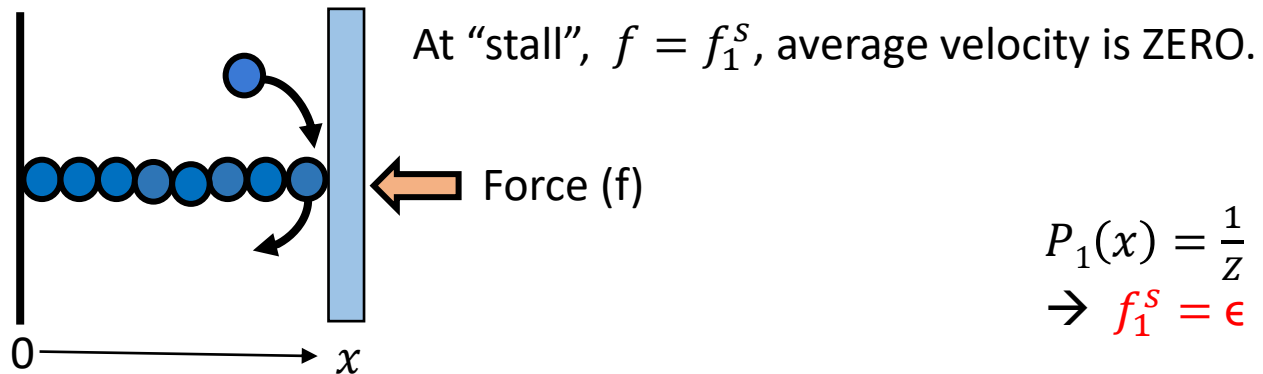
- Collective force generation by microtubules

D. Das et al., New J Phys & PloS One, 2014; T. Bameta & D. Das et al., PRE, 2017 (editor's choice)

- Length regulation of microtubules

S. Satheesan & D. Das , 2020 (under review)

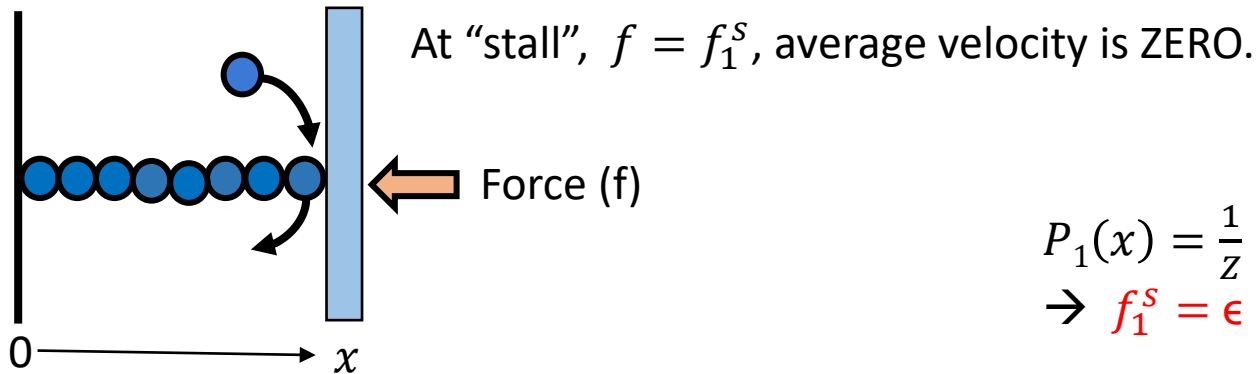
Equilibrium ensures additivity of stall forces



$$P_1(x) = \frac{1}{Z} e^{\beta \epsilon x} e^{-\beta f_1^S x} = \frac{1}{Z} e^{\beta x (\epsilon - f_1^S)}$$
$$\rightarrow f_1^S = \epsilon$$

(ϵ is energy per subunit)

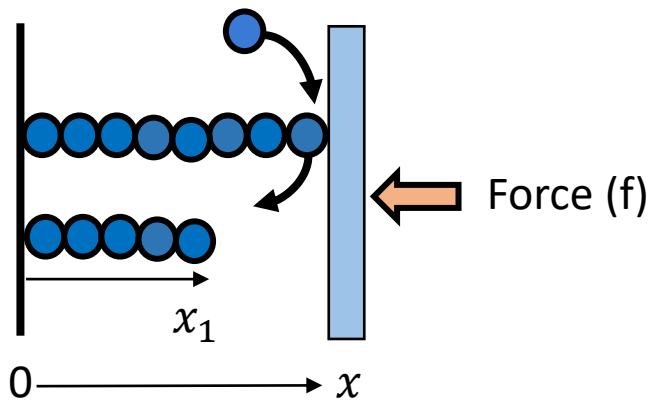
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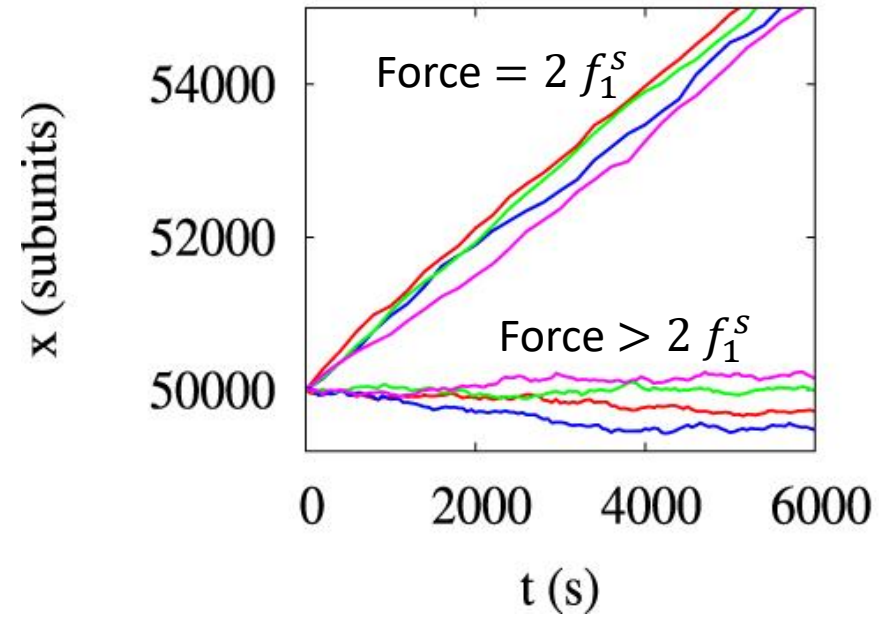
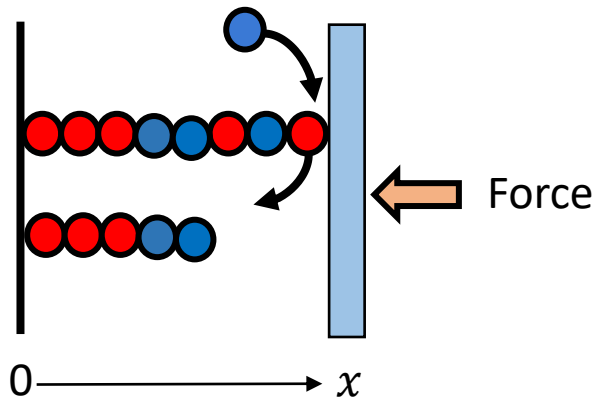
$$P_2(x) = \frac{1}{Z_2} e^{\beta \epsilon x} e^{-\beta f_2^S x} \left(2 \sum_{x_1=0}^x e^{\beta \epsilon x_1} \right)$$

$$\sim e^{\beta x (2\epsilon - f_2^S)}$$

$$\rightarrow f_2^S = 2\epsilon = 2 f_1^S$$

Without hydrolysis, $f_N^S = N f_1^S$

Nonequilibrium random hydrolysis makes stall forces nonadditive



With hydrolysis, $f_N^S > N f_1^S$

How cells control sizes of subcellular structures?

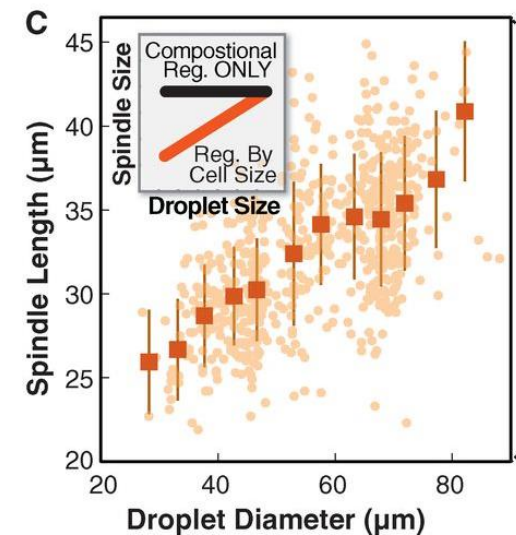
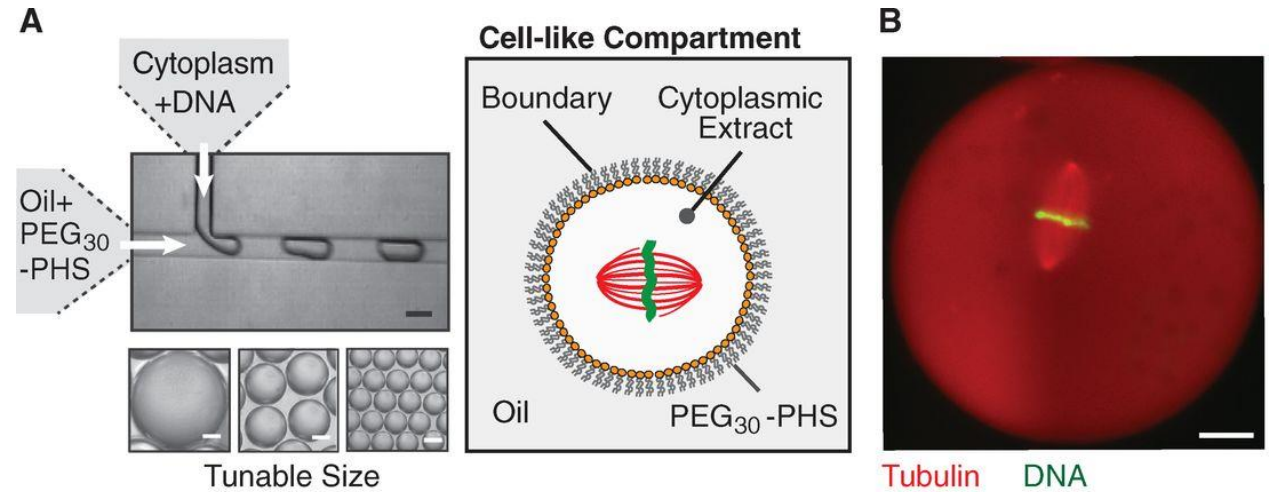
Size regulation of microtubules in a limiting subunit pool

S. Satheesan & D. Das , 2020 (under review)

Limiting pool of building blocks can control sizes of subcellular structures

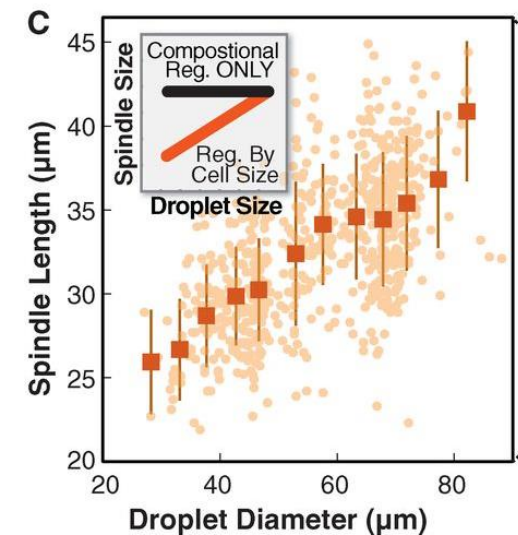
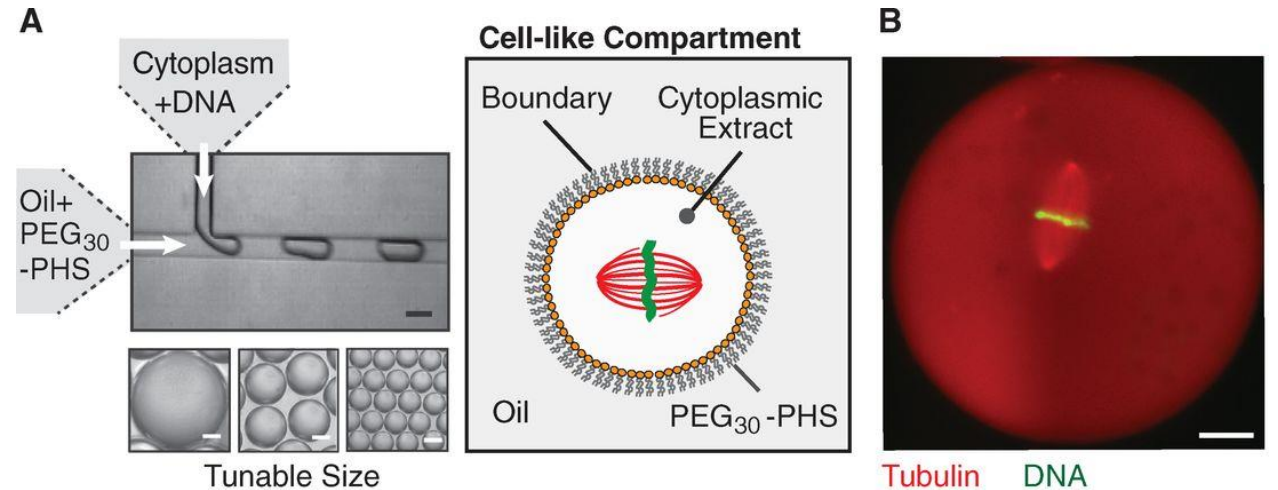
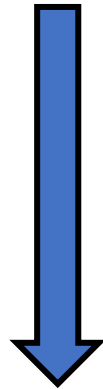
Sizes of mitotic spindles and also its constituent MTs scale with cytoplasmic volume.

(Good et al., Science, 2013; Hazel et al., Science, 2013; Winey et al., JCB, 1995)



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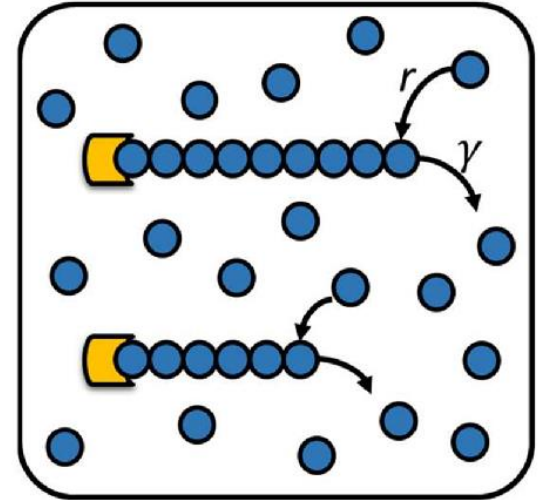
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An intuitive idea of size control:
Assembly and disassembly of balances each other in **a limiting pool of building-blocks.**

Length distributions of filaments in a limiting subunit pool pool (without hydrolysis)

Consider N subunits and F nucleation sites.

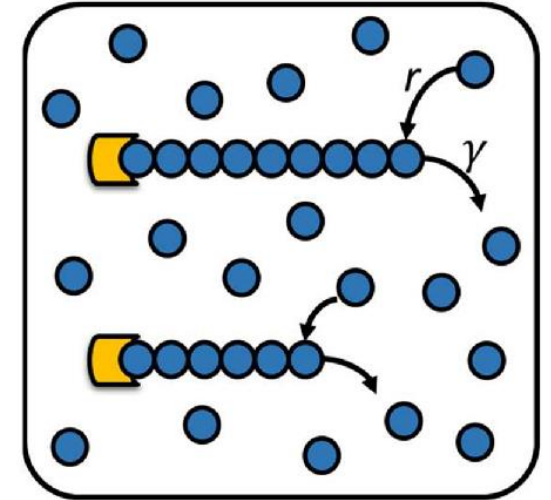


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$m(t)$: number of free subunits. At steady state: $rP(m) = \gamma P(m - 1)$

$P(m) \rightarrow$ **Poisson** with mean K and std. dev \sqrt{K} (dissociation const. $K = \frac{\gamma}{r}$)



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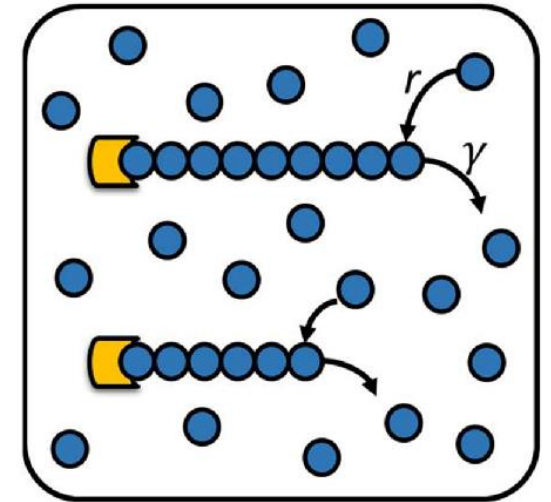
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Also **Poisson** with mean $= (N - \langle m \rangle) = (N - K)$, and std. dev $\sim \sqrt{K}$



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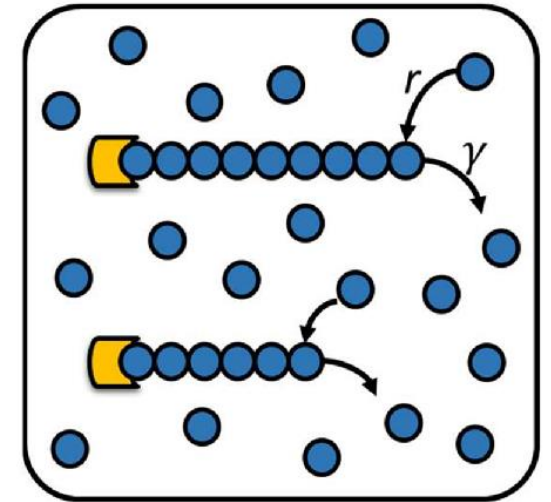
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Since distribution of free subunits is narrow with negligible fluctuation, $l_1 + l_2 \dots + l_F \approx (N - K)$



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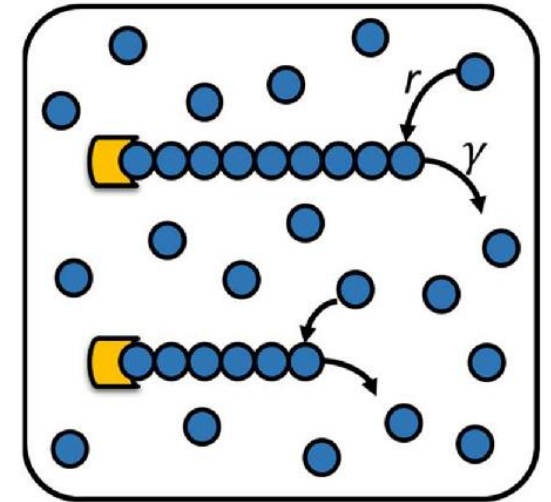
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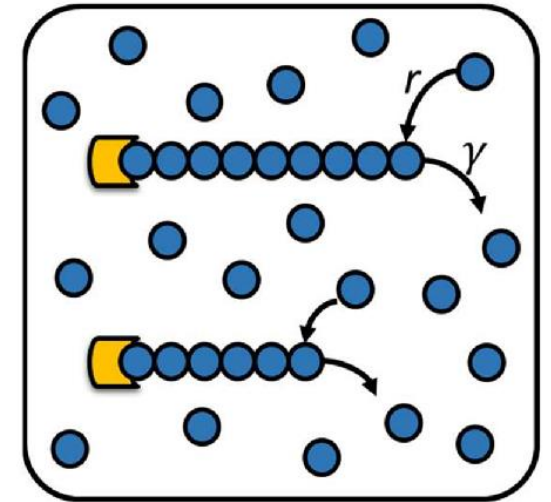
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Now, consider filament 1 in the collection, $l_2 \dots + l_F \approx (N - K - l_1)$. Number of configurations: $\binom{N - l_1 - K + F - 2}{F - 2}$



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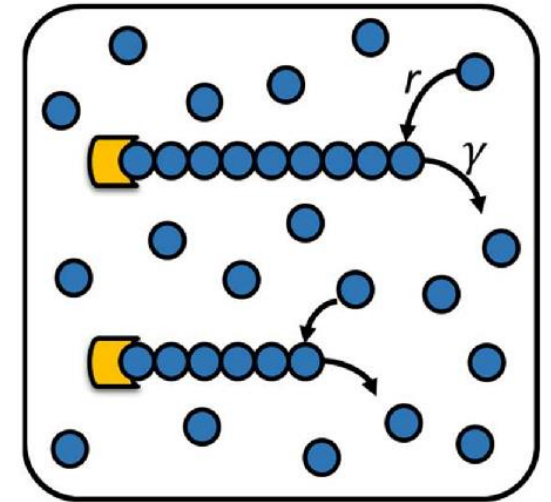
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Therefore, $P(l_1) = \frac{\binom{N - l_1 - K + F - 2}{F - 2}}{\binom{N - K + F - 1}{F - 1}} \approx \frac{F-1}{N-K} \left(1 - \frac{l_1}{N-K}\right)^{F-2}$



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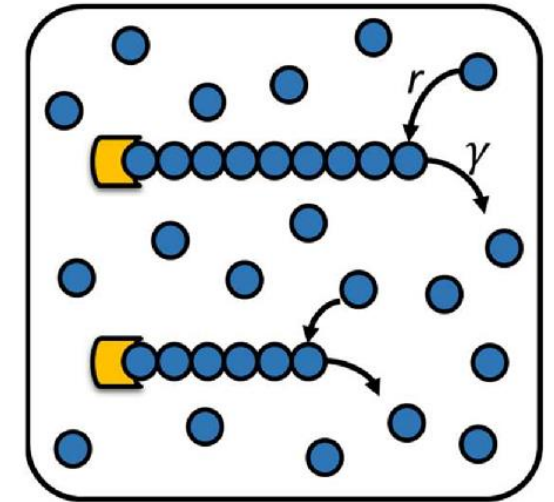
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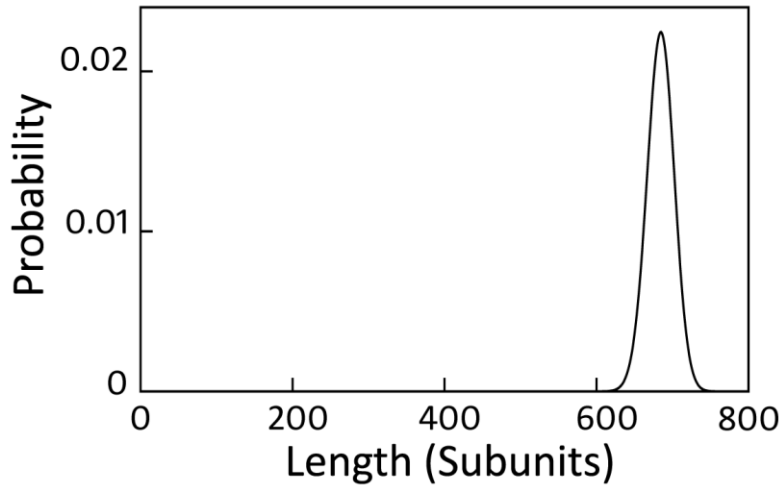
Now, consider filament 1 in the collection, $l_2 \dots + l_F \approx (N - K - l_1)$. Number of configurations: $\binom{N - l_1 - K + F - 2}{F - 2}$

Therefore, $P(l_1) = \frac{\binom{N - l_1 - K + F - 2}{F - 2}}{\binom{N - K + F - 1}{F - 1}} \approx \frac{F-1}{N-K} \left(1 - \frac{l_1}{N-K}\right)^{F-2}$



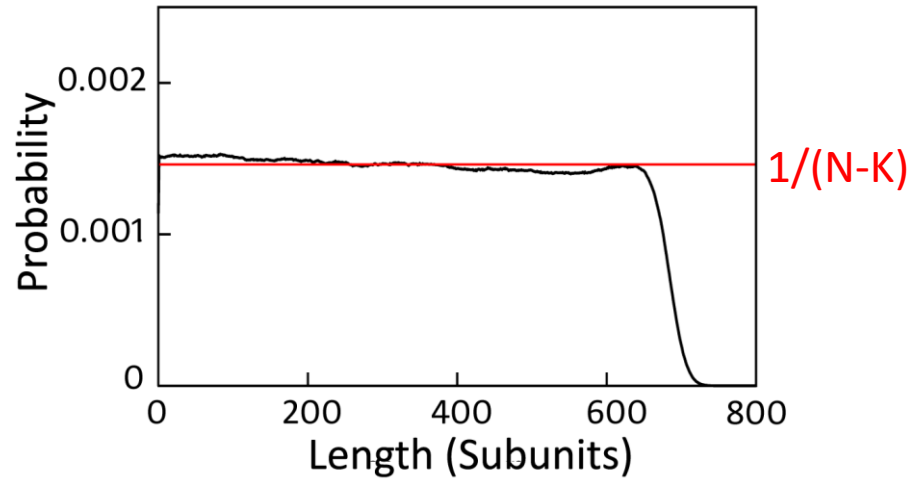
For 2 filaments (F=2): $P(l_1) = \frac{1}{N-K}$ in the interval $[0, N-K]$ \rightarrow **Uniform Dist.**

So...a limiting subunit pool by itself cannot control filament lengths



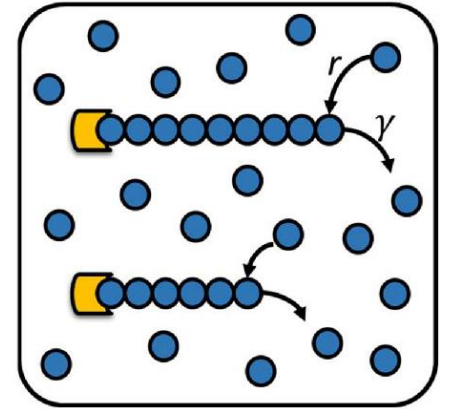
Single filament length distribution:

Poisson

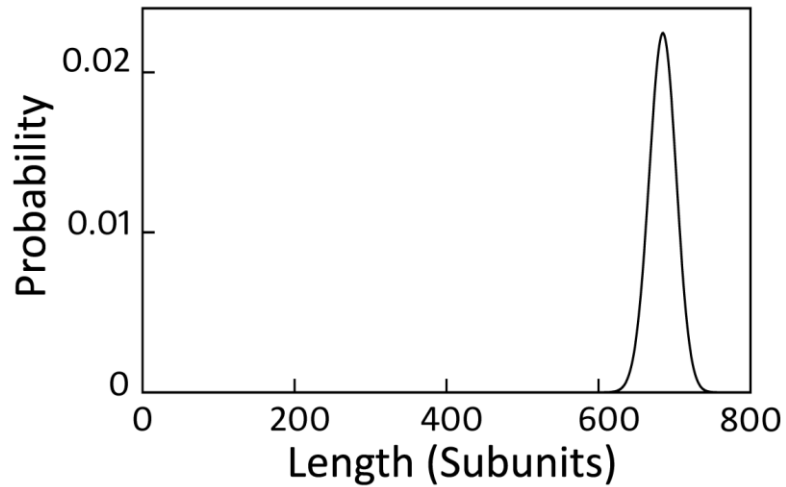


individual length distribution
in a collection of 2-filaments:

Uniform

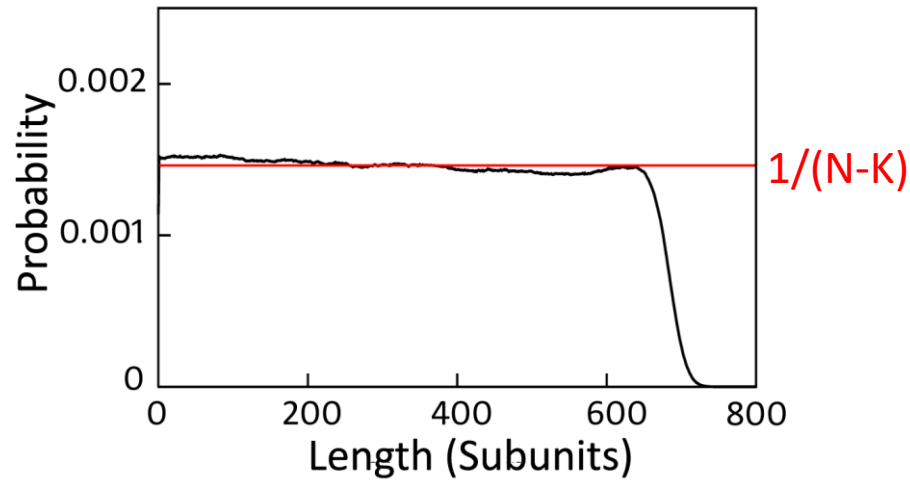


So...a limiting subunit pool by itself cannot control filament lengths



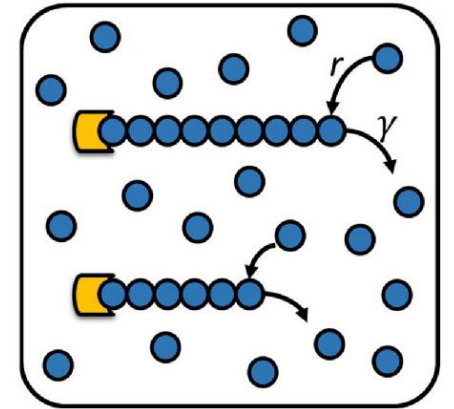
Single filament length distribution:

Poisson



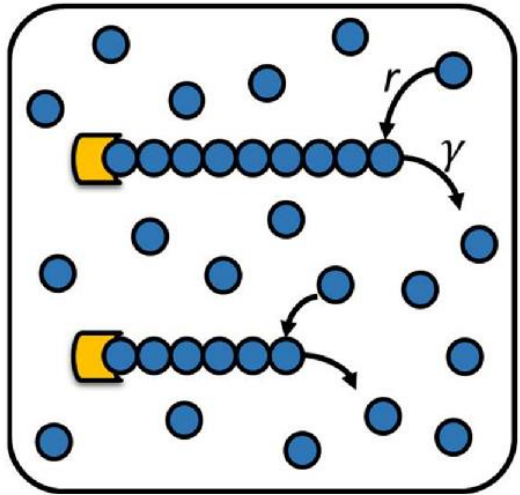
individual length distribution
in a collection of 2-filaments:

Uniform

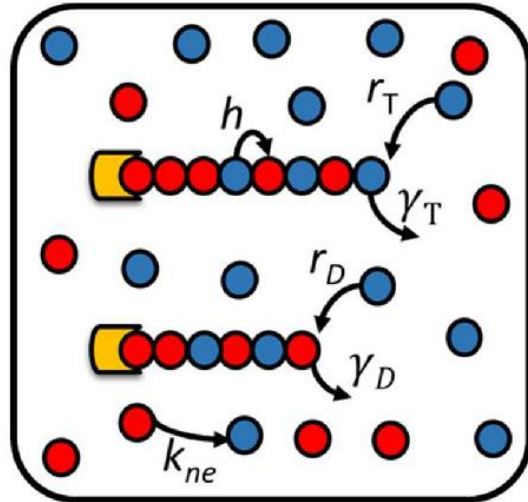


We ask: How hydrolysis affects filament length distributions in a limiting subunit pool?

Homogenous (without hydrolysis) vs. heterogeneous (with hydrolysis) pool



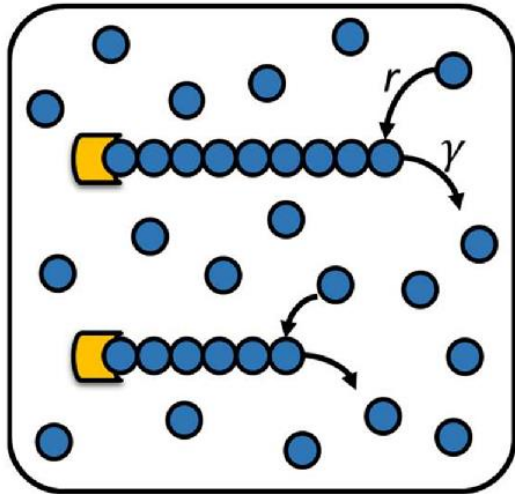
No hydrolysis



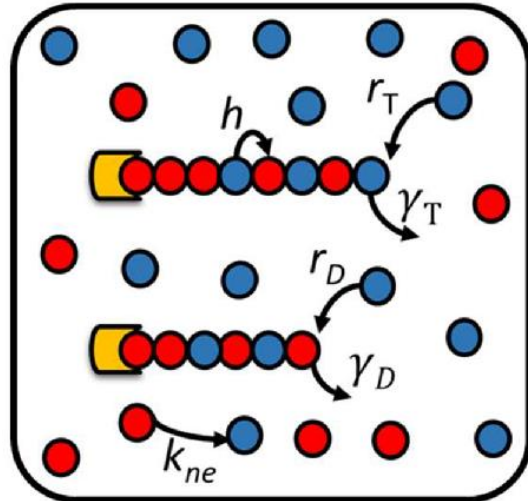
with hydrolysis

Processes	Rate
Subunit assembly rate when the tip is GTP-bound	r_T
Subunit assembly rate when the tip is GDP-bound	r_D
Subunit disassembly rate when the tip is GTP-bound	γ_T
Subunit disassembly rate when the tip is GDP-bound	γ_D
Hydrolysis	h
Nucleotide exchange (in the solution)	k_{ne}

Homogenous (without hydrolysis) vs. heterogeneous (with hydrolysis) pool



No hydrolysis



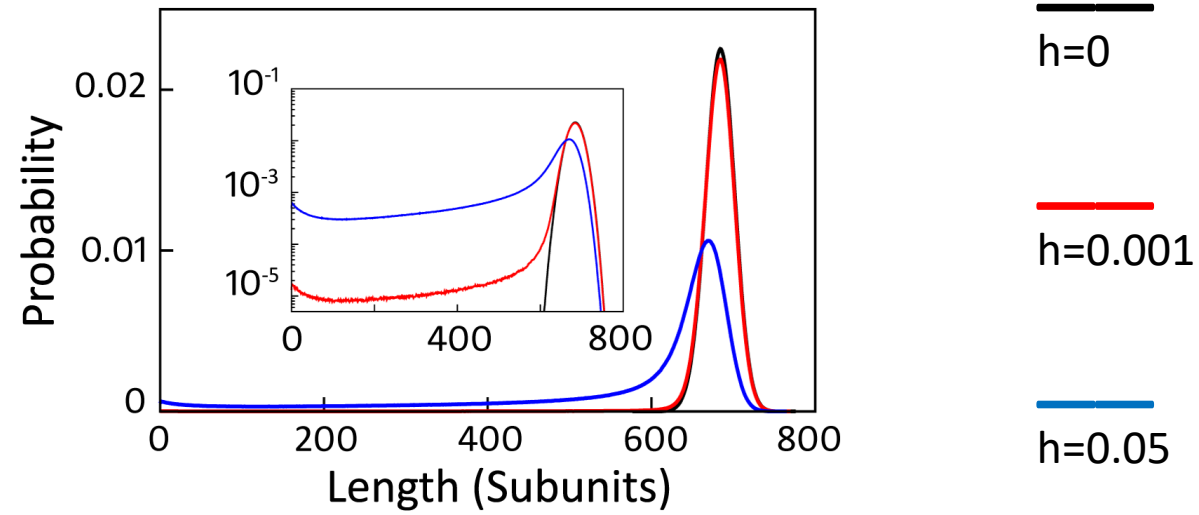
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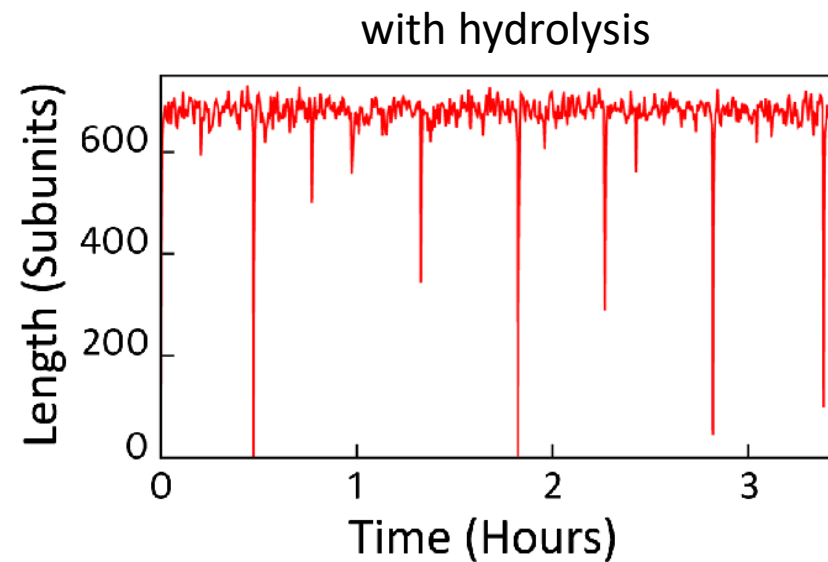
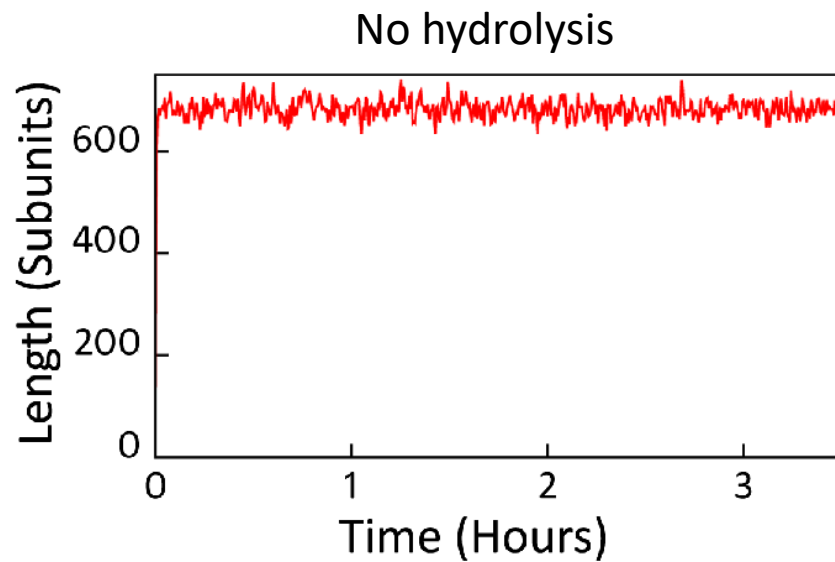
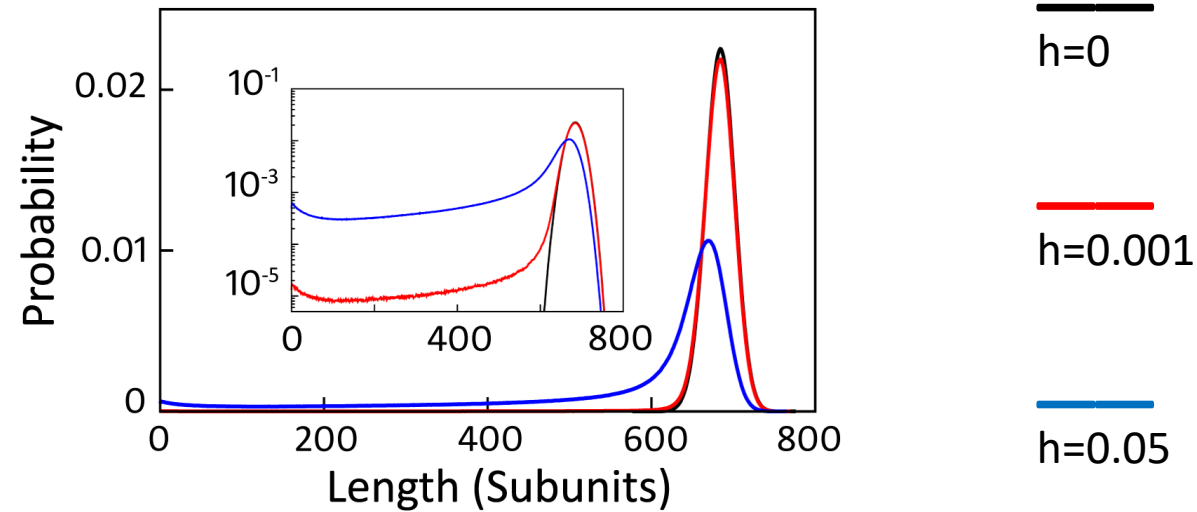
We take *in vitro* parameters for microtubules and simulate.

Results

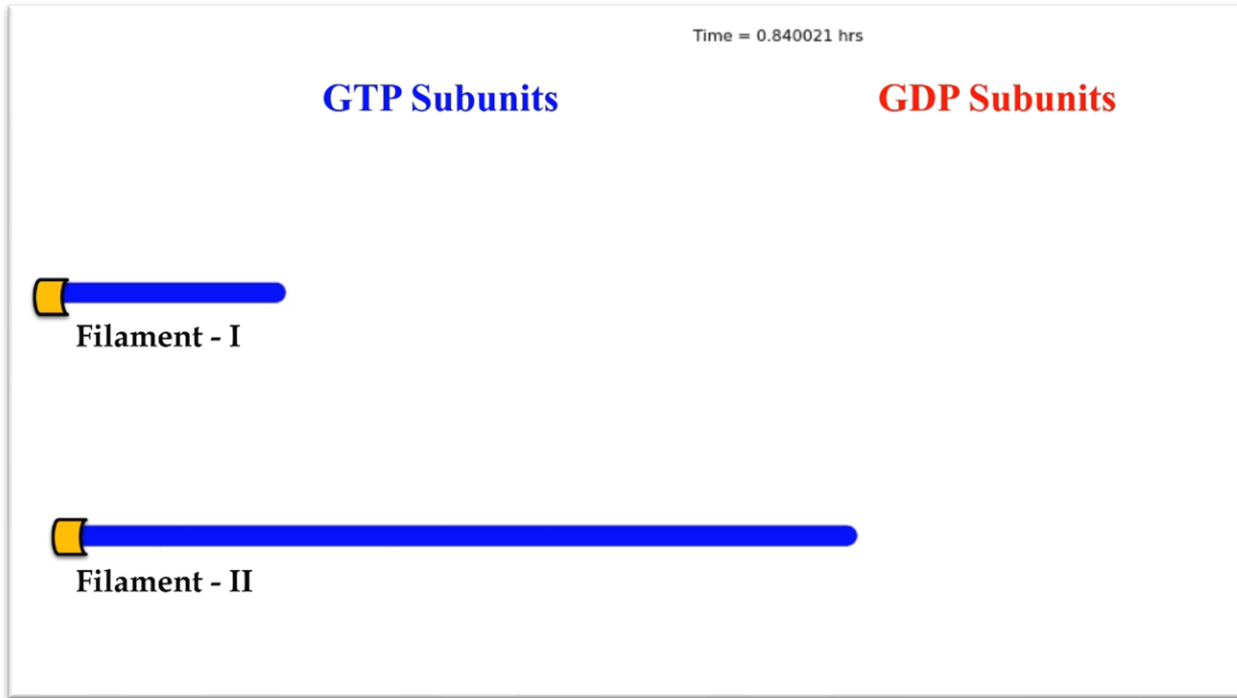
A single microtubule in limiting subunit pool



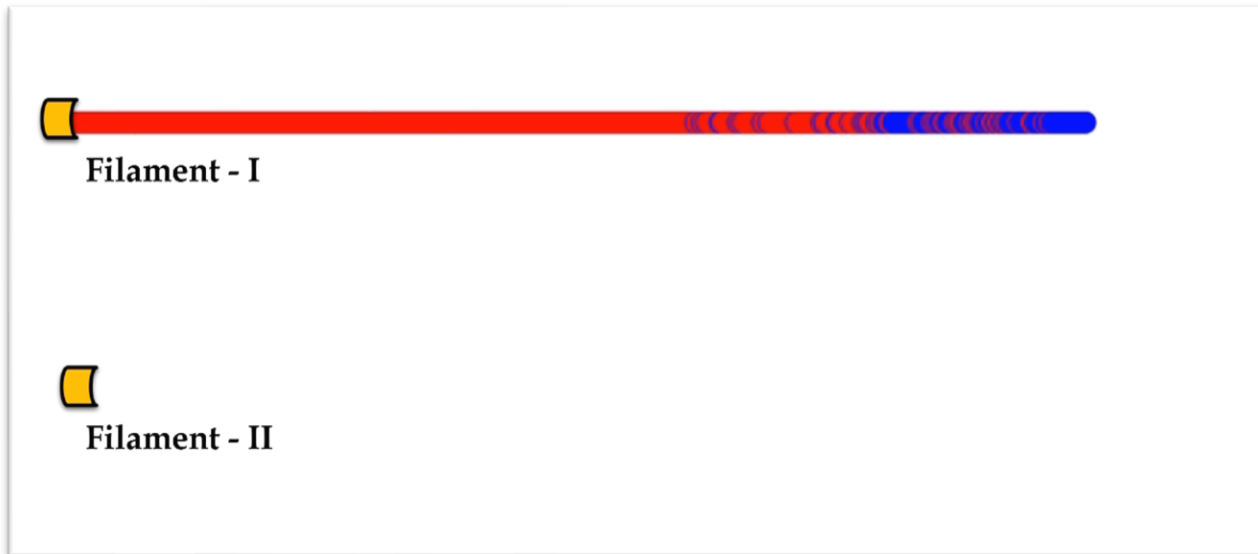
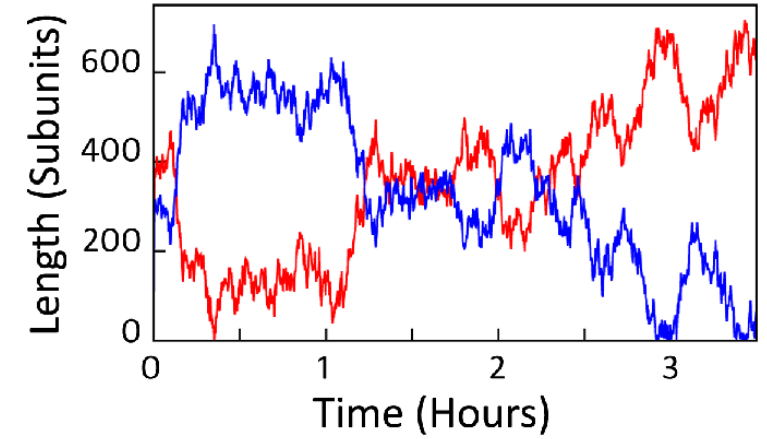
A single microtubule in limiting subunit pool



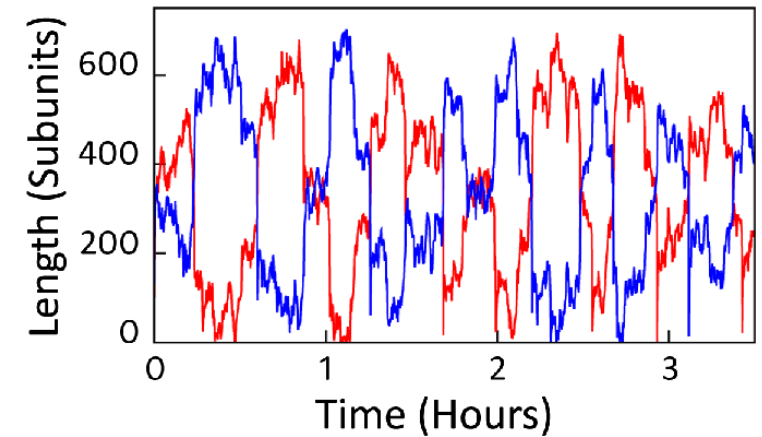
Two microtubules in limiting subunit pool



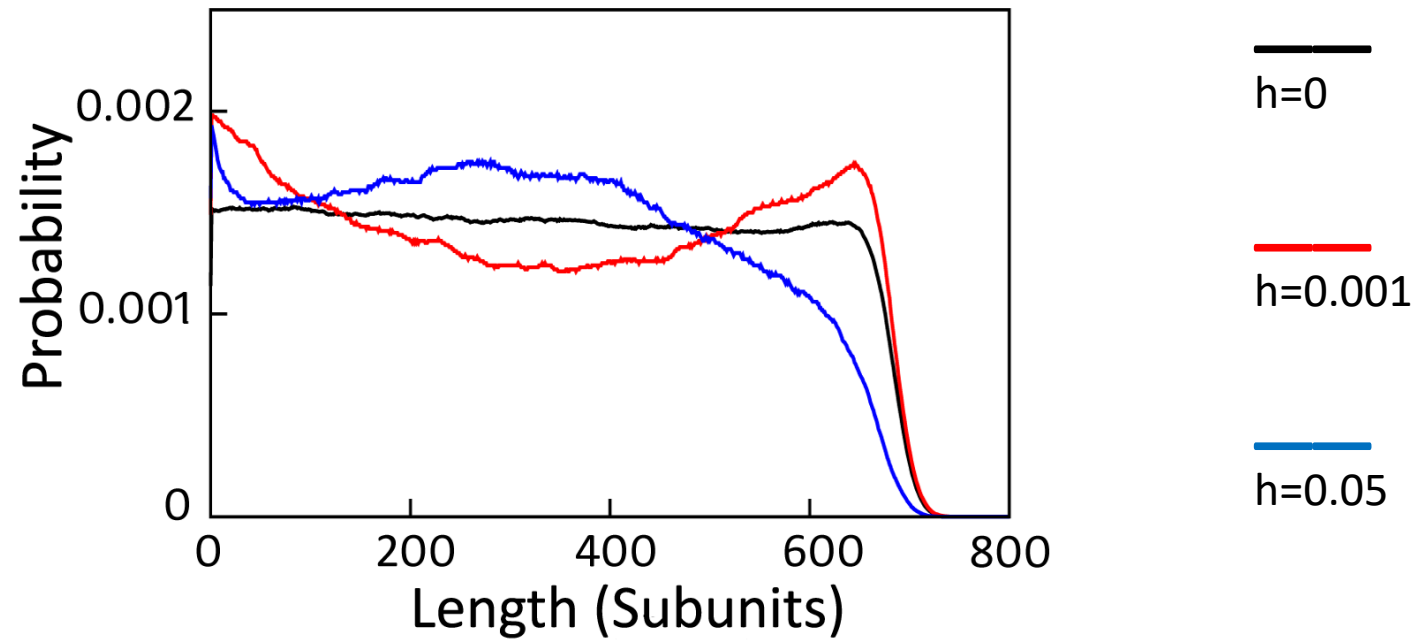
No hydrolysis



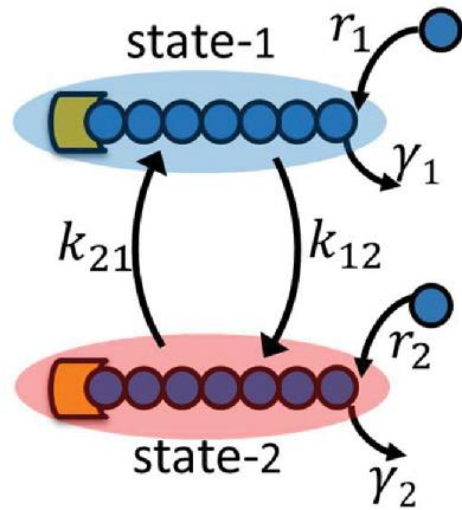
With hydrolysis



Bimodal distribution of individual lengths for two microtubules



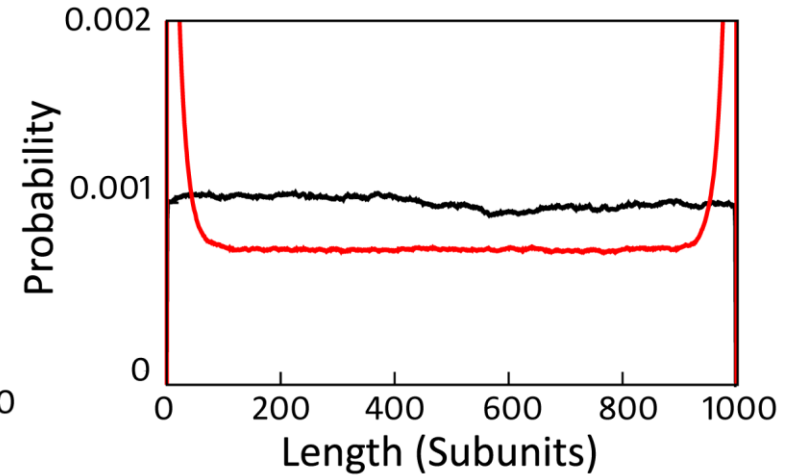
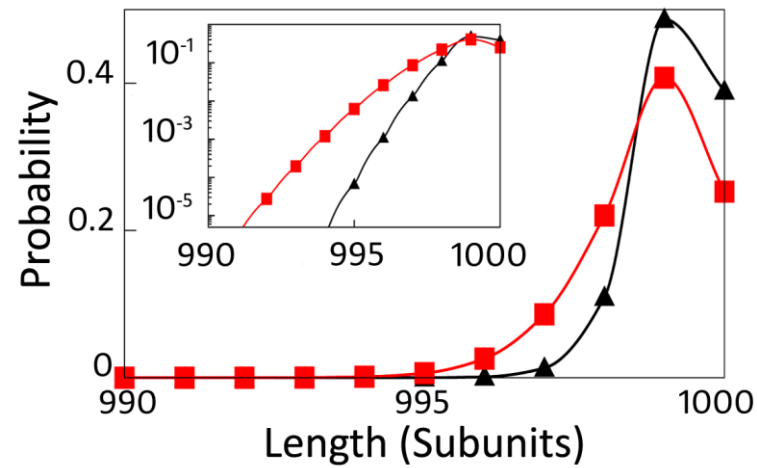
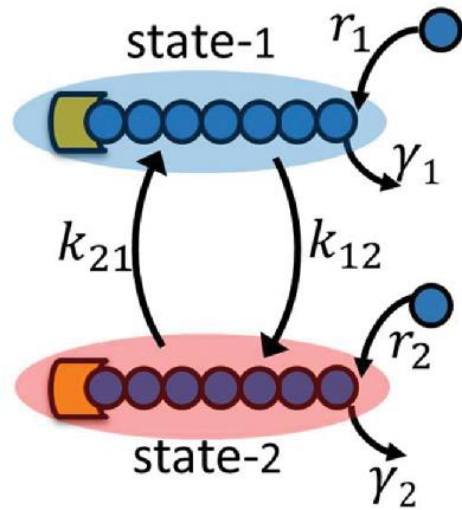
Similar results for a simple 'two-state' model



Single filament **Hill model**
(Hill T L et al., PNAS, 1984)

Processes	Rate
assembly in state 1	r_1
assembly in state 2	γ_1
disassembly in state 1	r_2
disassembly in state 2	γ_2
State switching ($1 \rightarrow 2$ & $2 \rightarrow 1$)	k_{12}, k_{21}

Similar results for a simple 'two-state' model



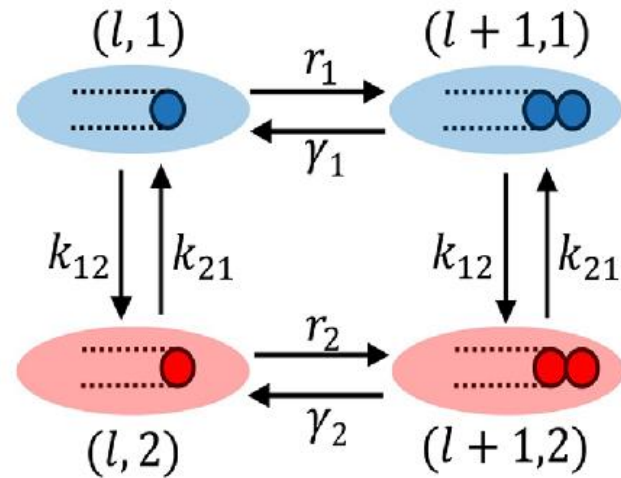
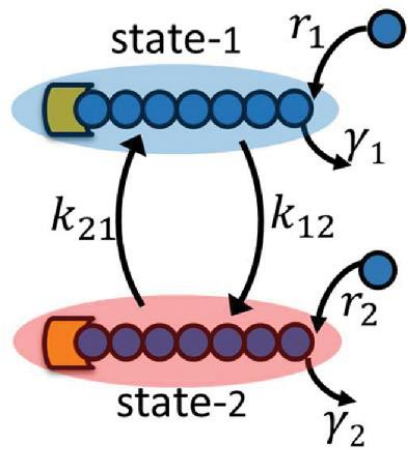
Single filament **Hill model**
(Hill T L et al., PNAS, 1984)

—
 $k_{12} = k_{21} = 0$

—
 $k_{12} = k_{21} = 0.001$

Emergence of bimodality is linked with the deviation
from reversible/equilibrium dynamics

Departure from 'equilibrium' in Hill model



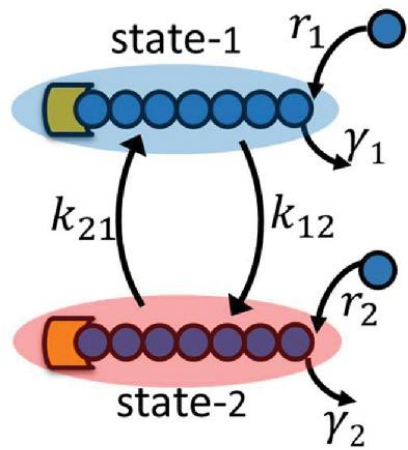
Single filament **Hill model**
(Hill T L et al., PNAS, 1984)

Kolmogorov's criterion:

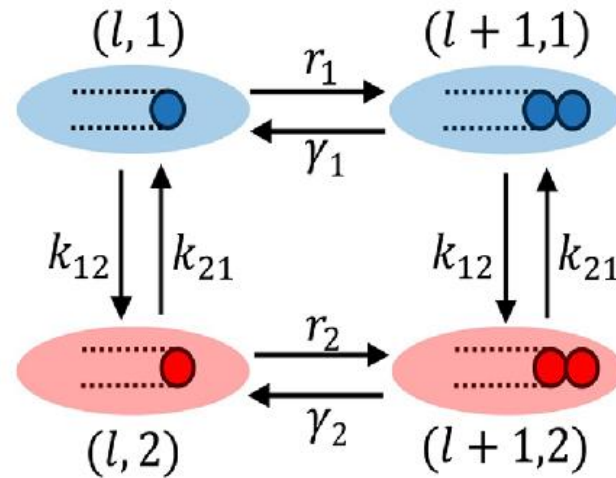
$$r_1 k_{12} \gamma_2 k_{21} = \gamma_1 k_{12} r_2 k_{21}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{r_1}{\gamma_1} = \frac{r_2}{\gamma_2}$$

Departure from 'equilibrium' in Hill model

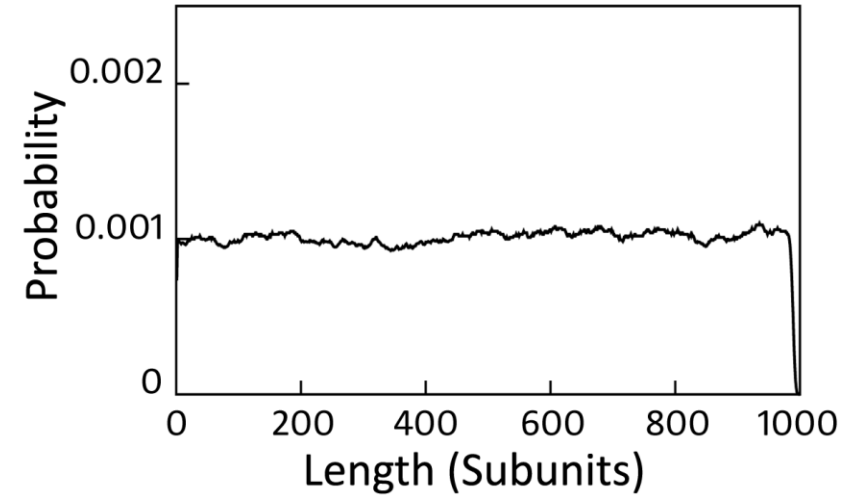


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Kolmogorov's criterion:
 $r_1 k_{12} \gamma_2 k_{21} = \gamma_1 k_{12} r_2 k_{21}$
 $\Rightarrow \frac{r_1}{\gamma_1} = \frac{r_2}{\gamma_2}$

$\gamma_2 = 3$

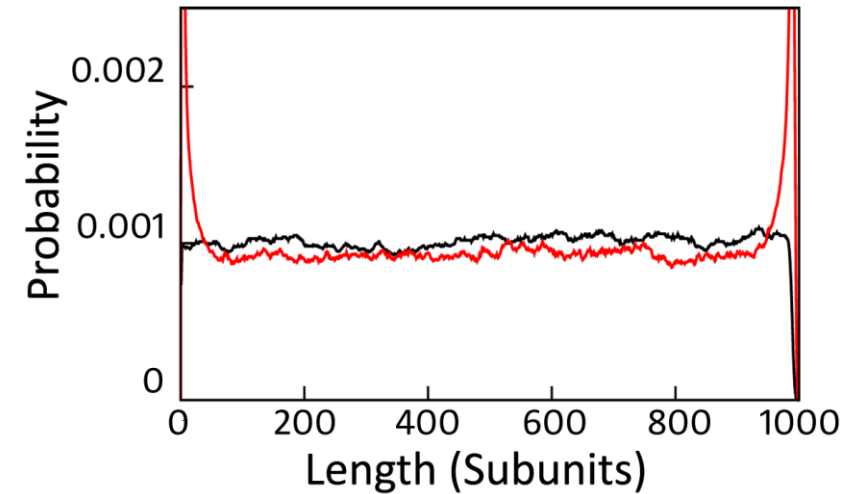
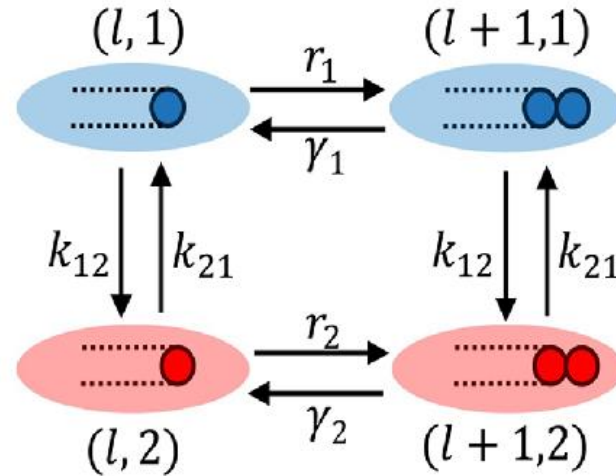
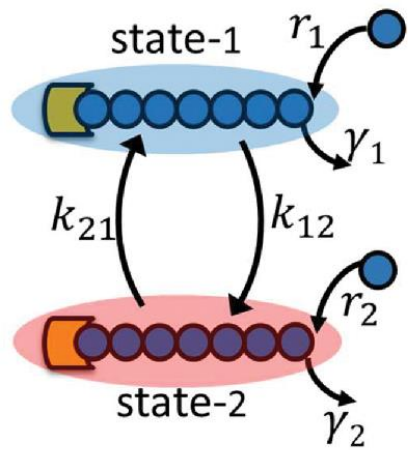


We set: $k_{12} = k_{21} = 0.005 \text{ s}^{-1}$,
 $r_1 = 0.5 \text{ s}^{-1}$, $\gamma_1 = 5 \text{ s}^{-1}$, $r_2 = 0.3 \text{ s}^{-1}$.

$\gamma_2 = 3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ corresponds to equilibrium

Departure from 'equilibrium' in Hill model

_____ $\gamma_2 = 3$ _____ $\gamma_2 = 2$



Single filament **Hill model**
(Hill T L et al., PNAS, 1984)

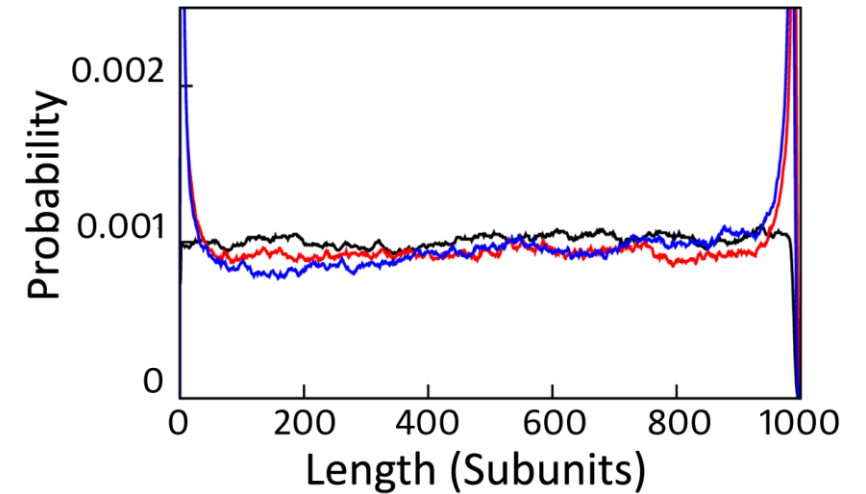
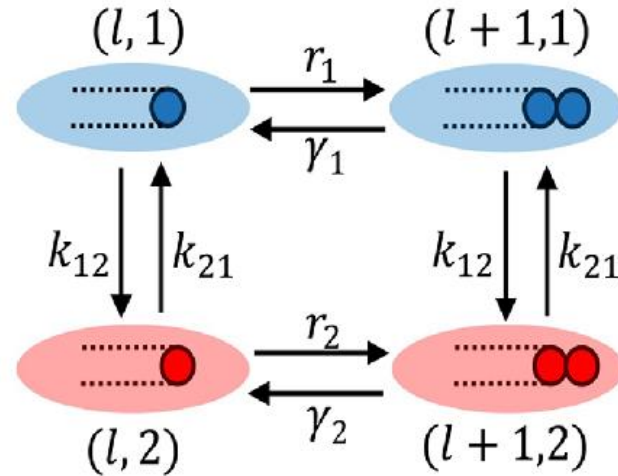
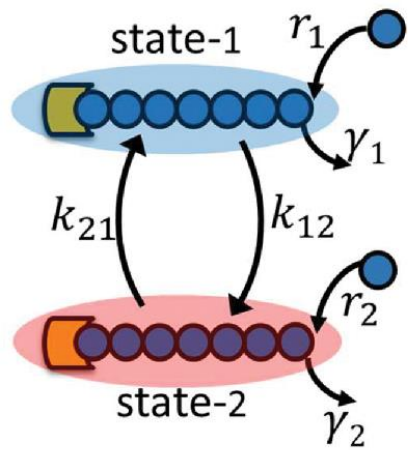
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Departure from 'equilibrium' in Hill model

_____ $\gamma_2 = 3$
 _____ $\gamma_2 = 2$
 _____ $\gamma_2 = 4$



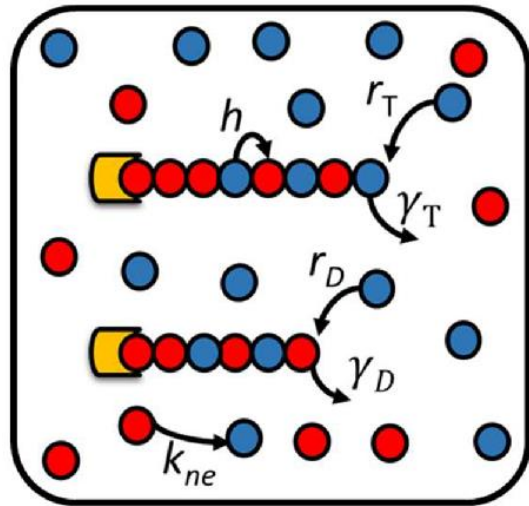
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Departure from 'equilibrium' in hydrolysis model

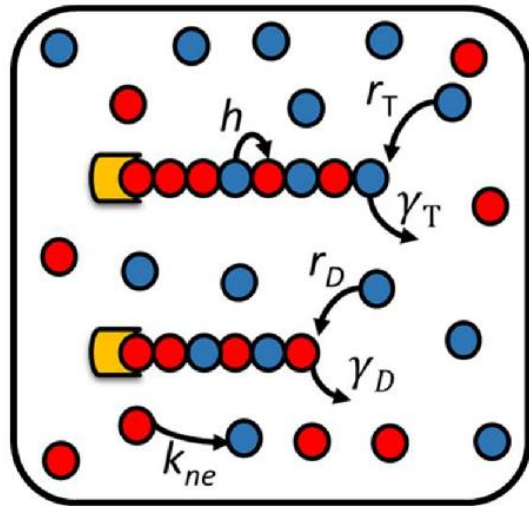


If we set $r_T = r_D$

then,

$\gamma_T = \gamma_D$ effectively corresponds to reversibility/equilibrium

Departure from 'equilibrium' in hydrolysis model

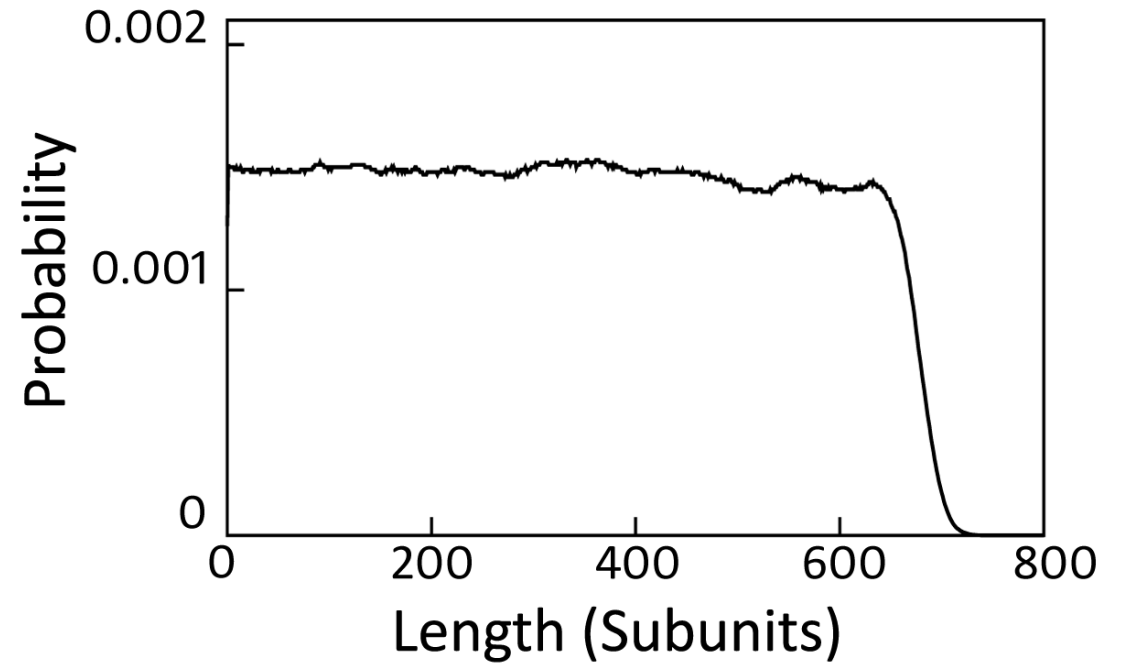


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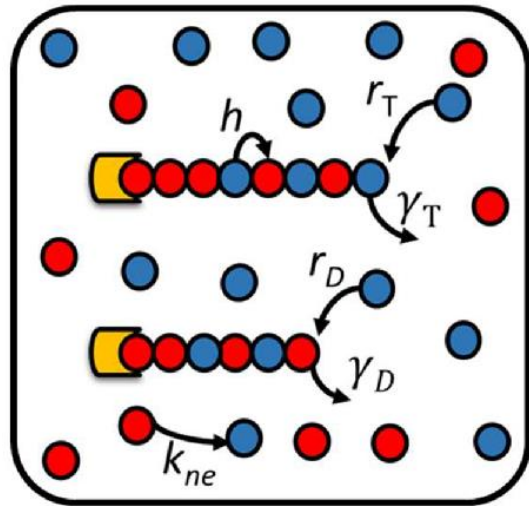
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$\gamma_D = 24$



We set: $\gamma_T = 24$

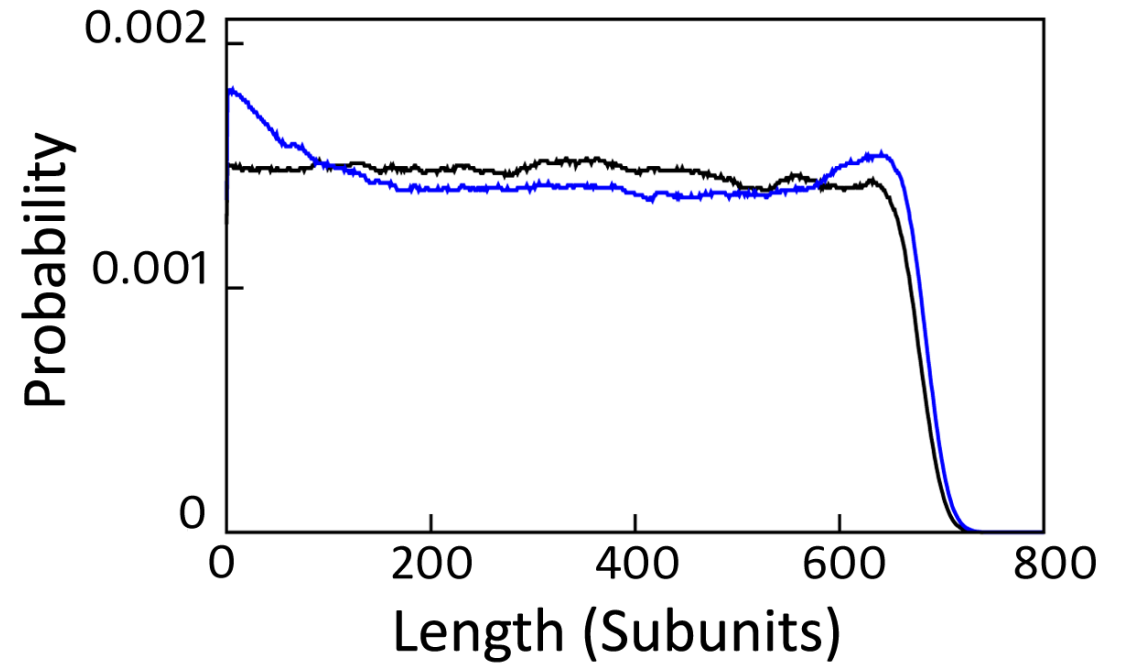
Departure from 'equilibrium' in hydrolysis model



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then,

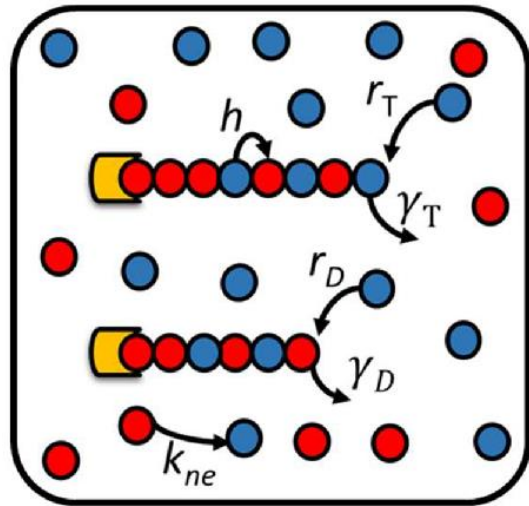
$\gamma_T = \gamma_D$ effectively corresponds to reversibility/equilibrium

— $\gamma_D = 24$ — $\gamma_D = 80$



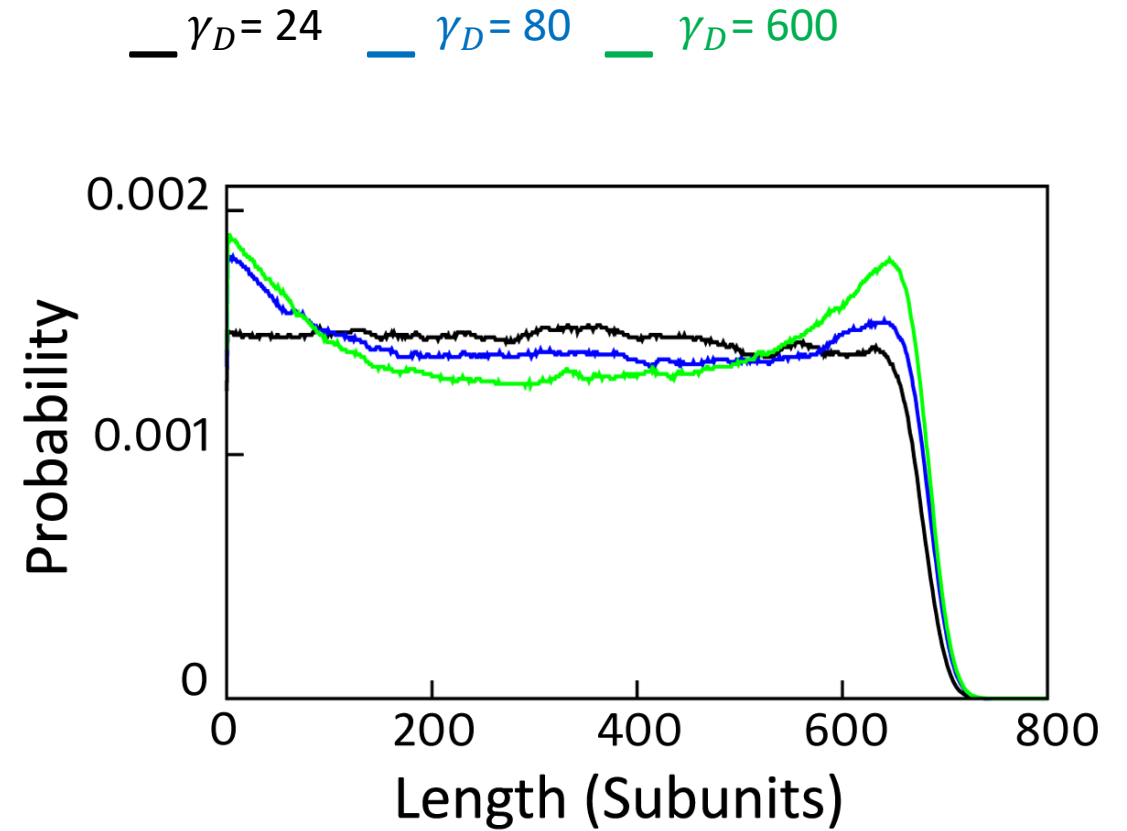
We set: $\gamma_T = 24$

Departure from 'equilibrium' in hydrolysis model



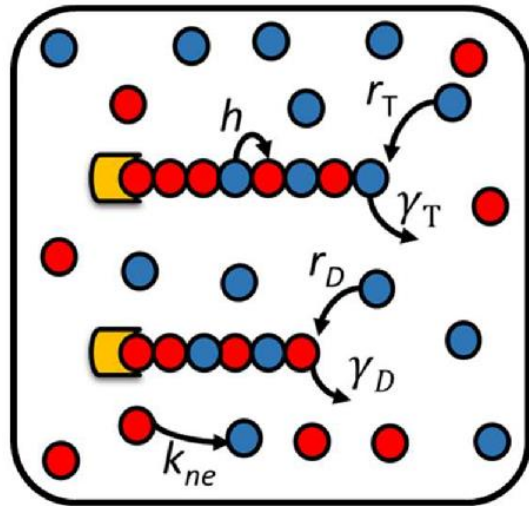
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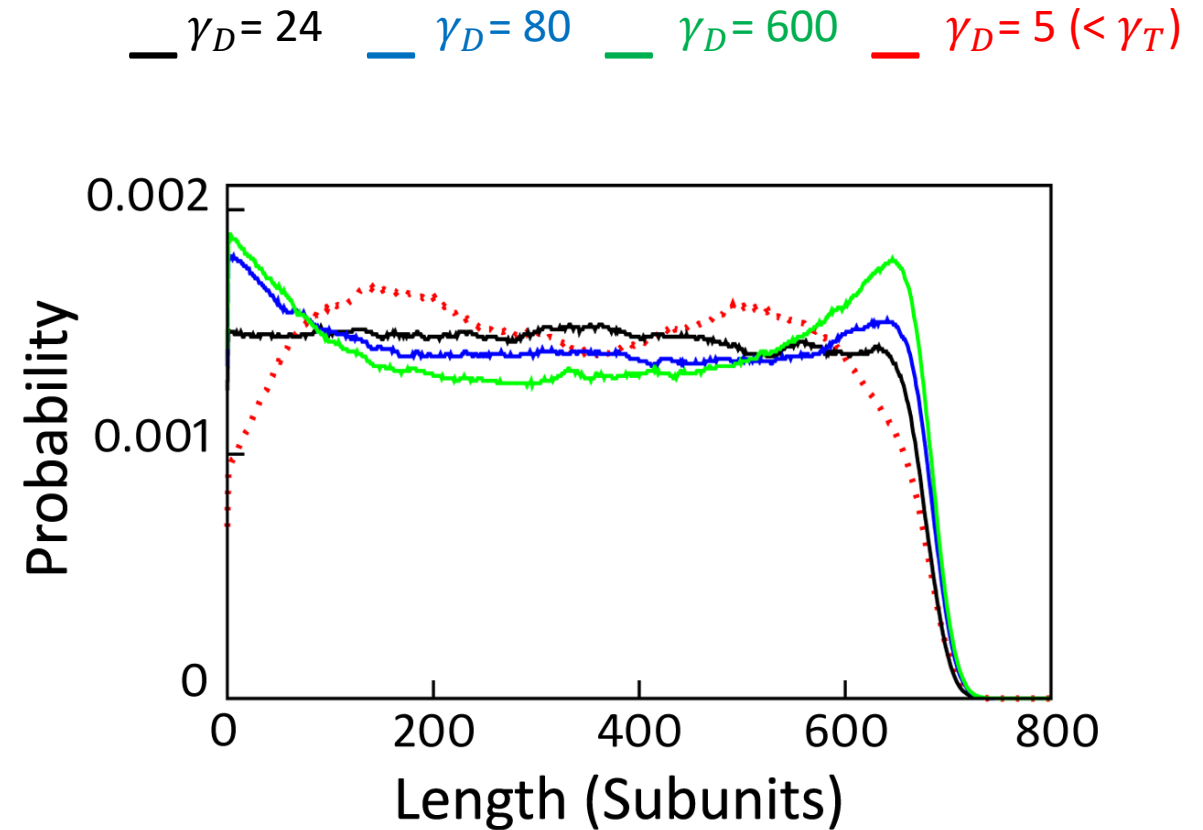
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Departure from 'equilibrium' in hydrolysis model



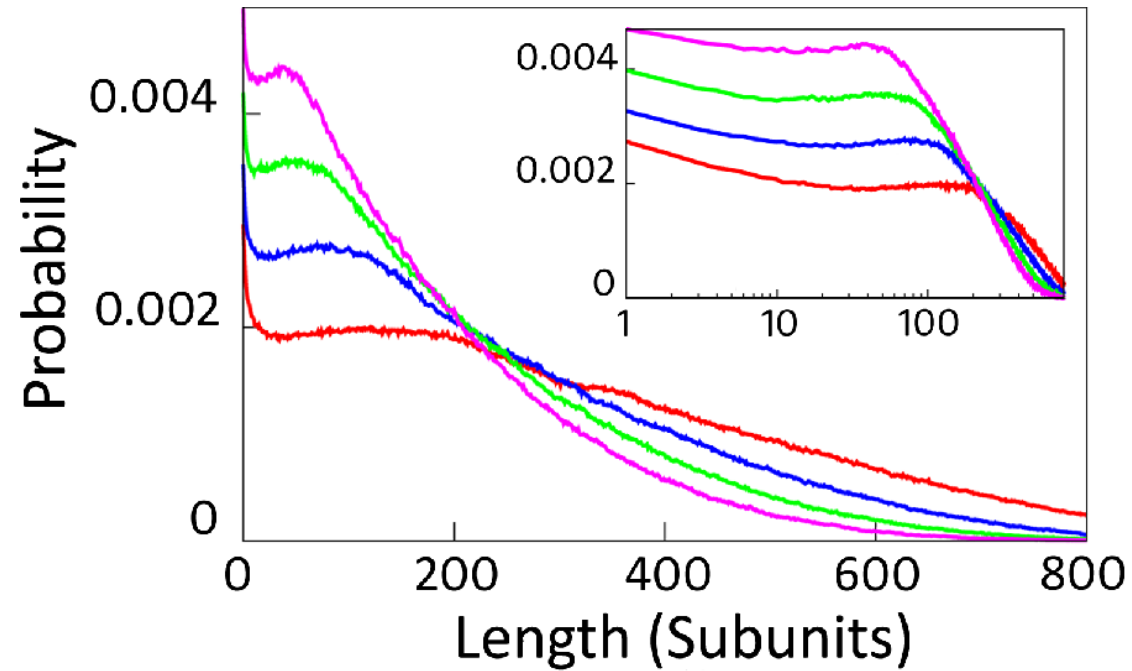
If we set $r_T = r_D$
then,

$\gamma_T = \gamma_D$ effectively corresponds to reversibility/equilibrium



We set: $\gamma_T = 24$

Bimodality in multiple microtubules



Three filament system — Four filament system —
Five filament system — Six filament system —

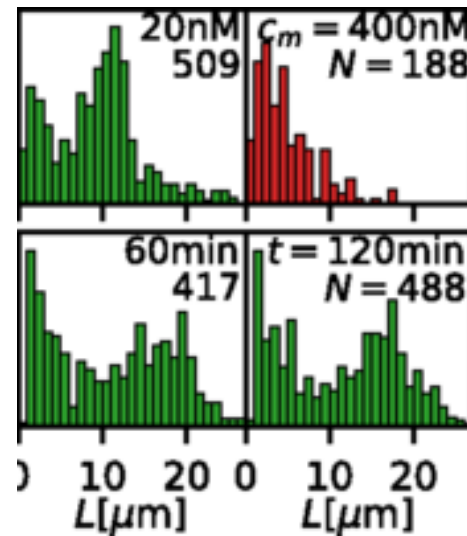
How can we test the predictions?

- *In vitro* experiments can be designed with GMPCPP-tubulins (nonhydrolyzable) as a control
- Solutions' pH level is known to affect GTP hydrolysis, by which hydrolysis rate may be tuned.

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➤ A recent *in vitro* experiment with finite pools of kip3 motors and GMPCPP tubulins showed **bimodality**. (Rank et al., PRL, 2018)

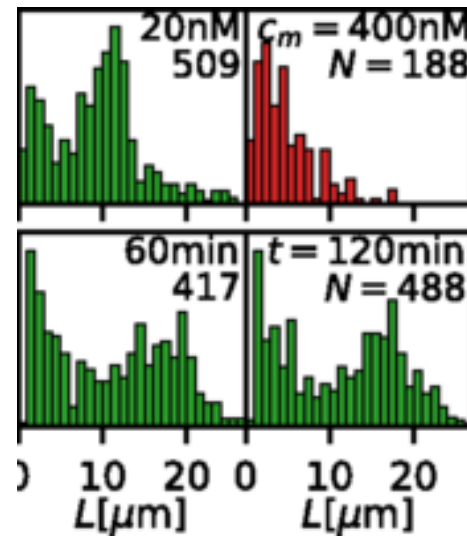


Similar to a 'two-state' model in essence.

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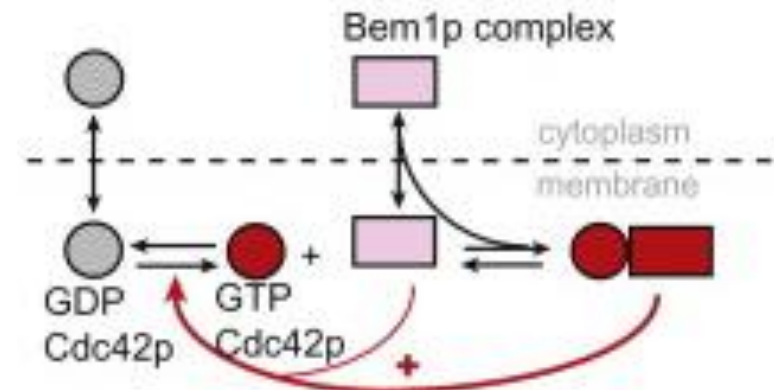
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Similar to a 'two-state' model in essence.

➤ Yeast polarity protein Cdc42 oscillate in sizes *in vivo*. (Howell et al., Cell, 2012)



Summary

- Hydrolysis acts like a **irreversible 'chemical switch'** that makes microtubule dynamics **nonequilibrium** in nature.
- Hydrolysis leads to a number of **collective effects in multiple filaments**.
 - Collective stall force of multiple filaments is not just the sum of individual forces.
 - In a limiting pool of subunits, individual filaments toggle stochastically between 'higher length' and 'lower length' → **Bimodal length distribution**
- The larger the difference of kinetic rates between GTP-bound & GDP-bound states, the more prominent collective effects are expected
- Actin and ParM filaments also exhibit hydrolysis: our results can carry forward.

Acknowledgements

- Old works at IITB: Dibyendu , Ranjith, Mandar, Tripti
- **Recent work at our IISERK lab: Sankeert (BS-MS)**
- Computational facility: DBT Ramalingaswami fellowship & SERB start-up grant

That's all for today

Thank you