

# Universal exploration dynamics of random walks

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S. Redner

O. Bénichou

*Nat. Commun.* **14**, 618,  
(2023)

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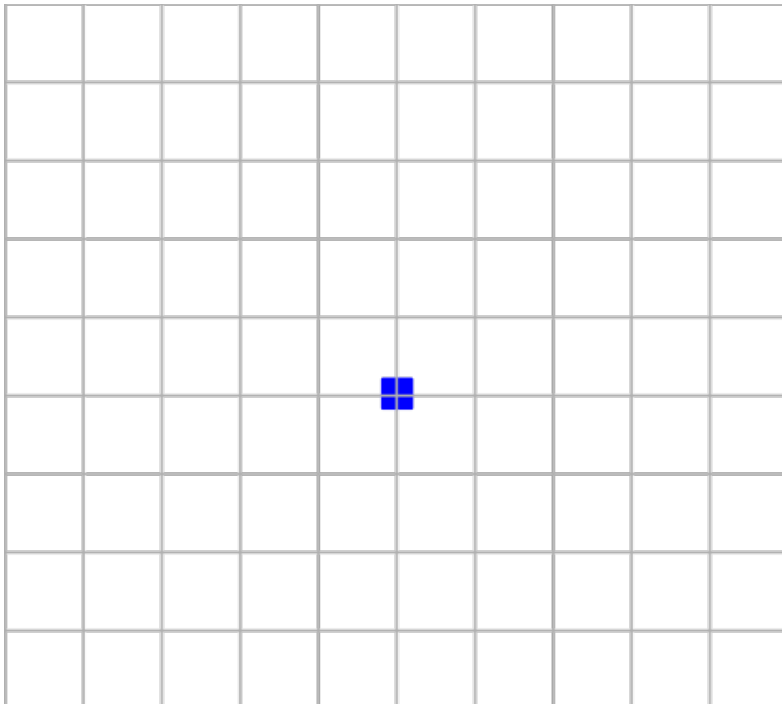
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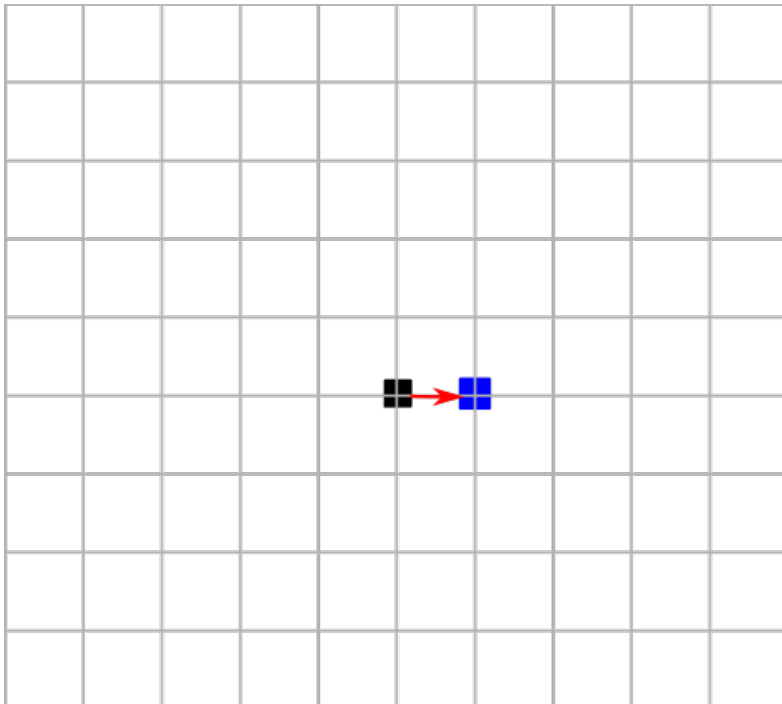
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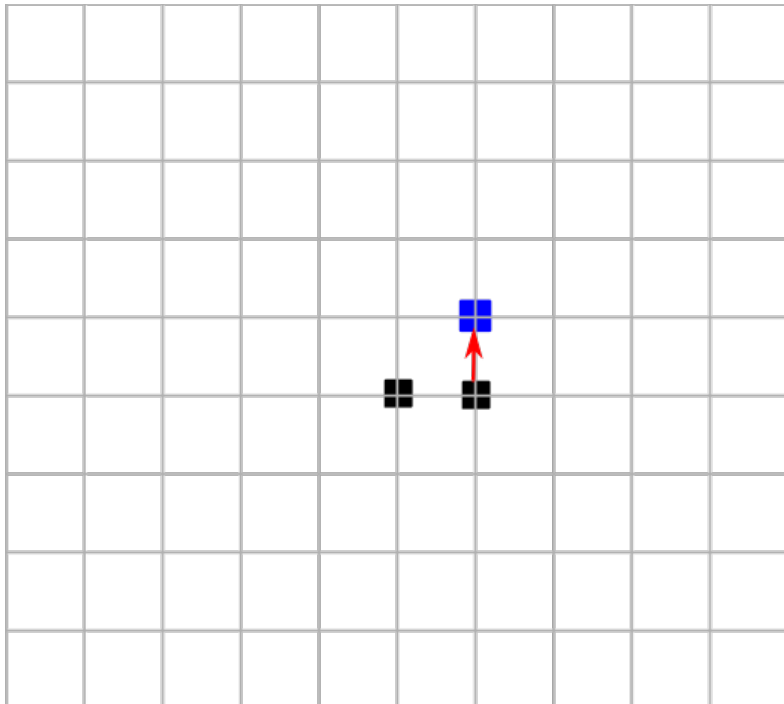
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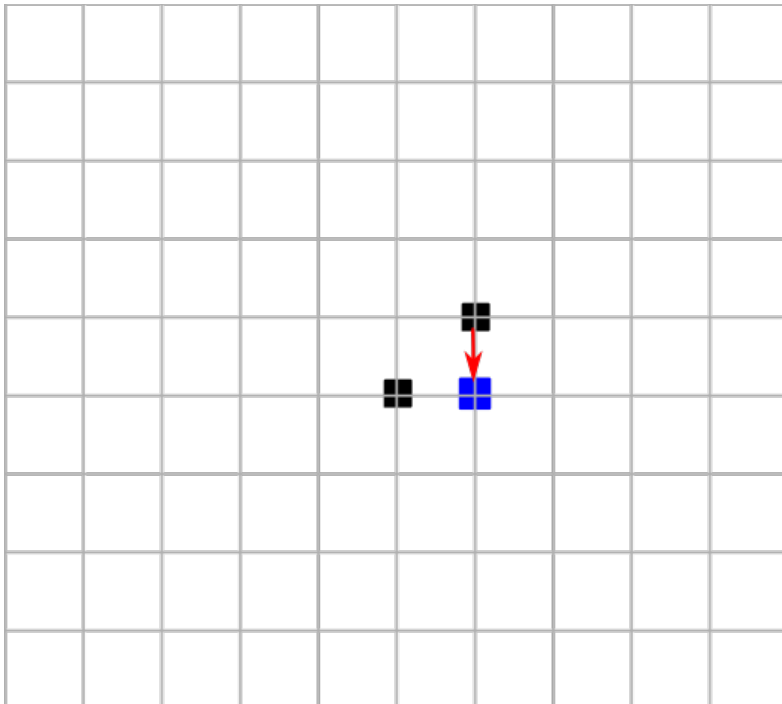
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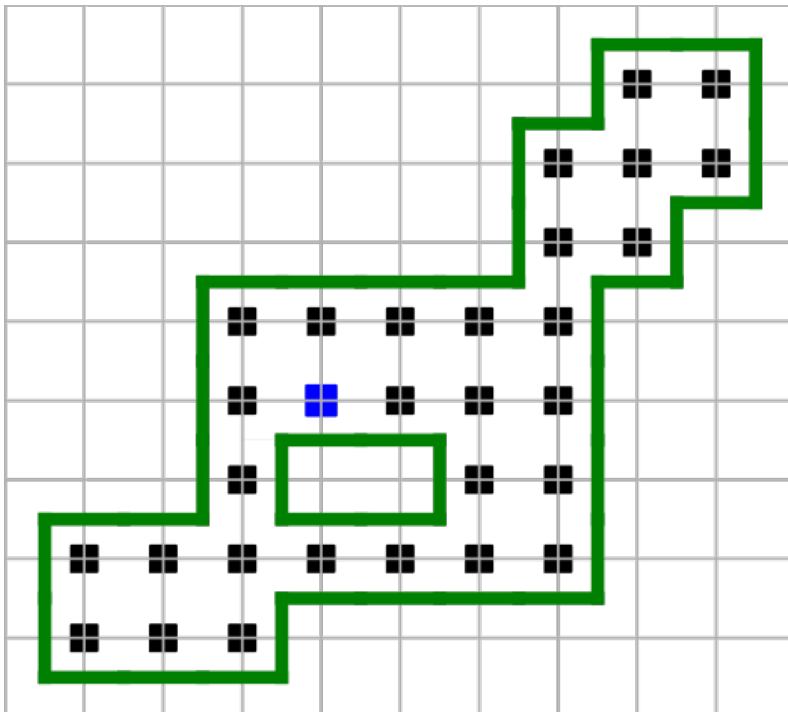
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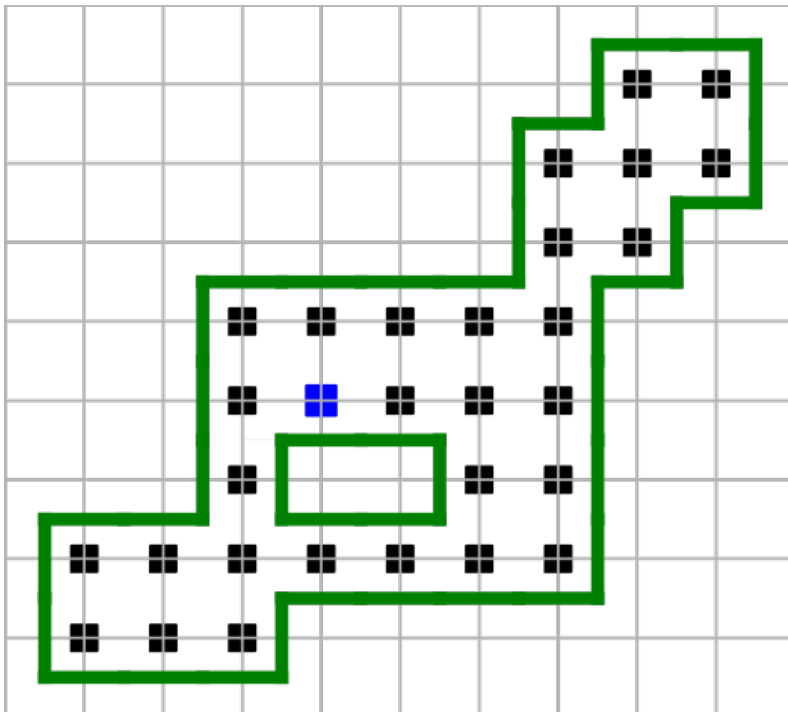
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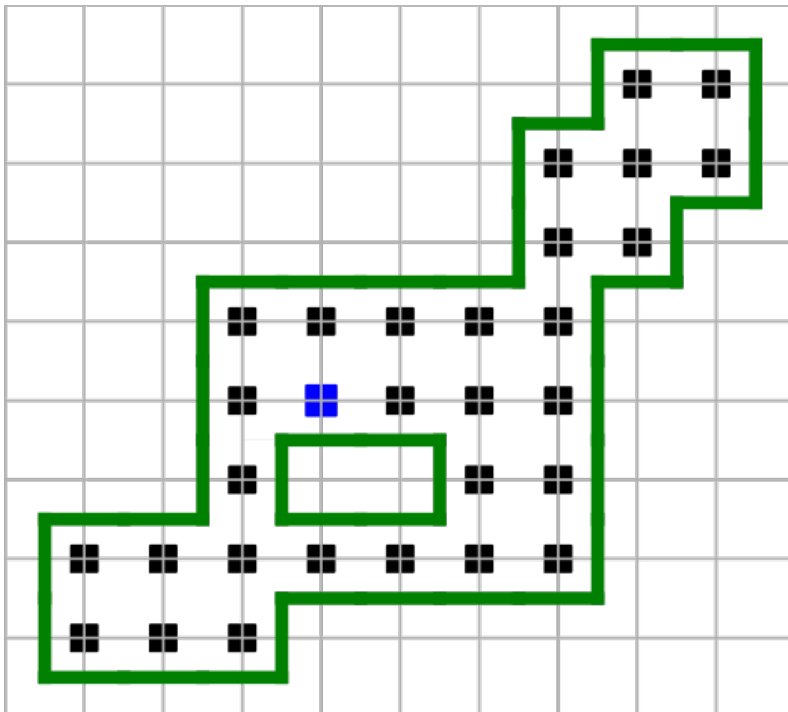
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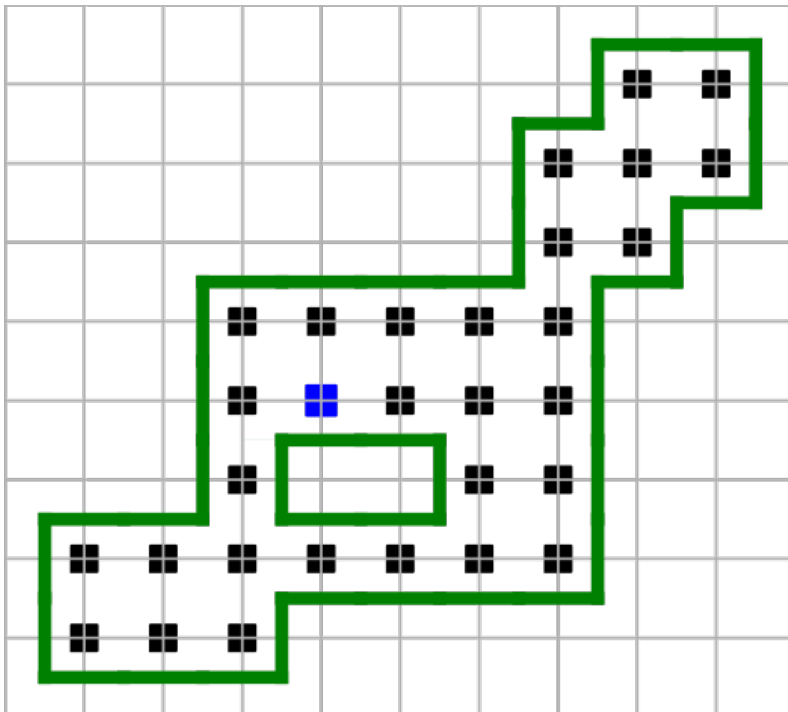
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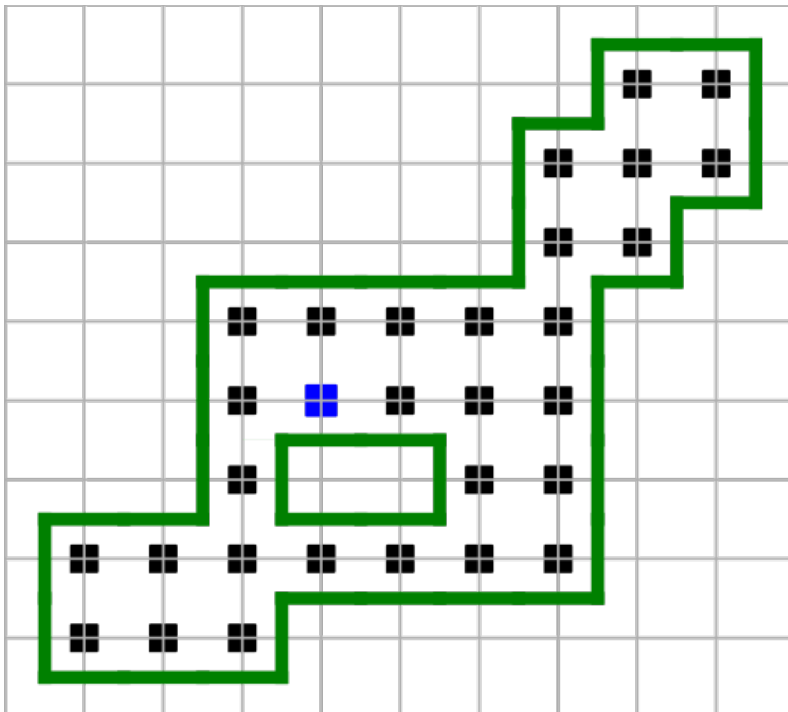
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→ Foraging: food collected

→ Trapping problem: trap concentration  $p$ ,  
Survival probability =  $\langle (1-p)^{N(t)} \rangle$

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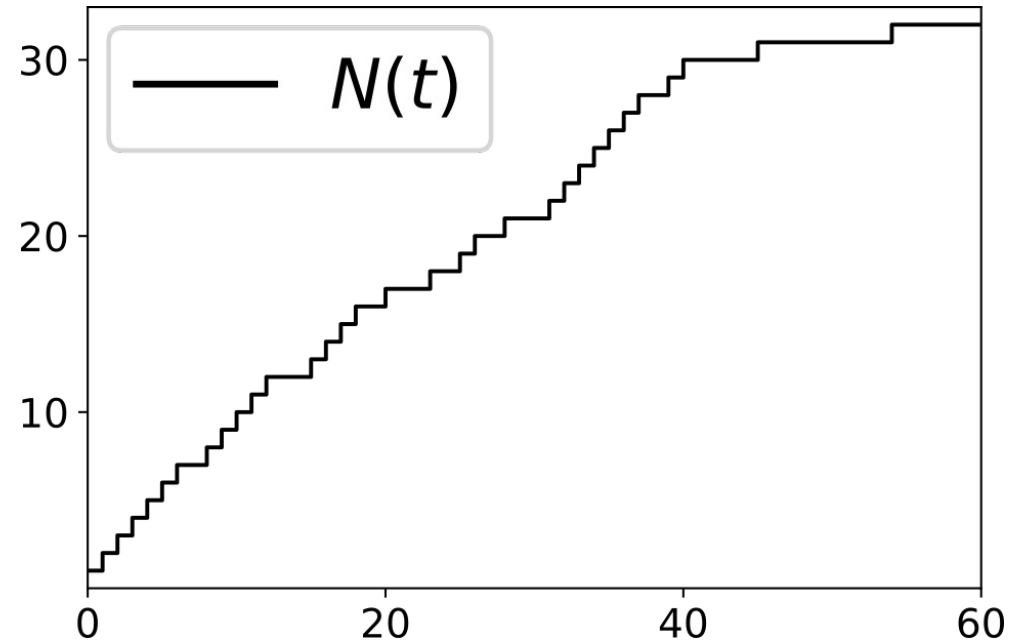
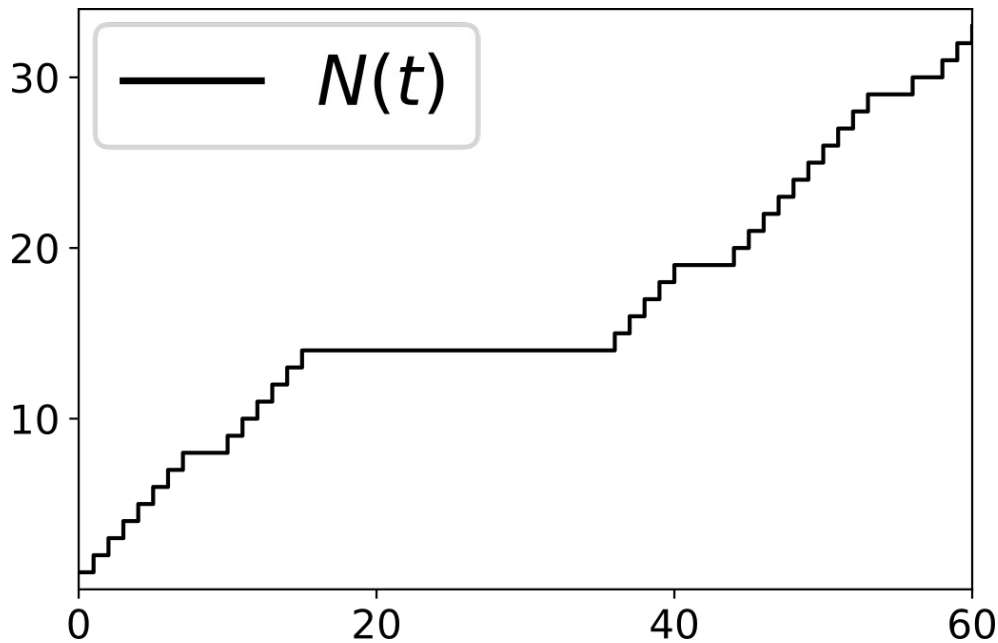
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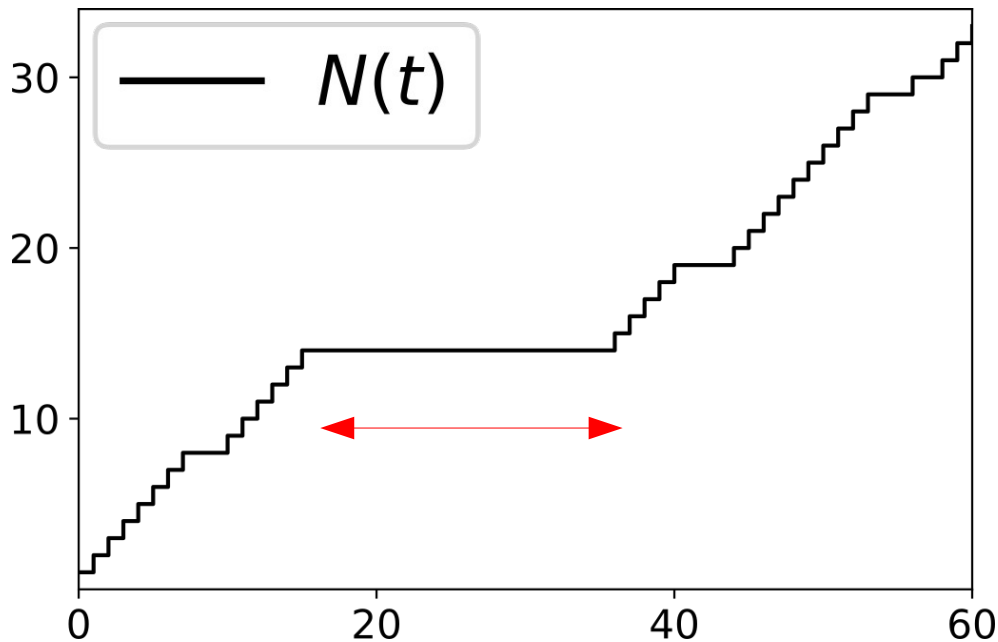
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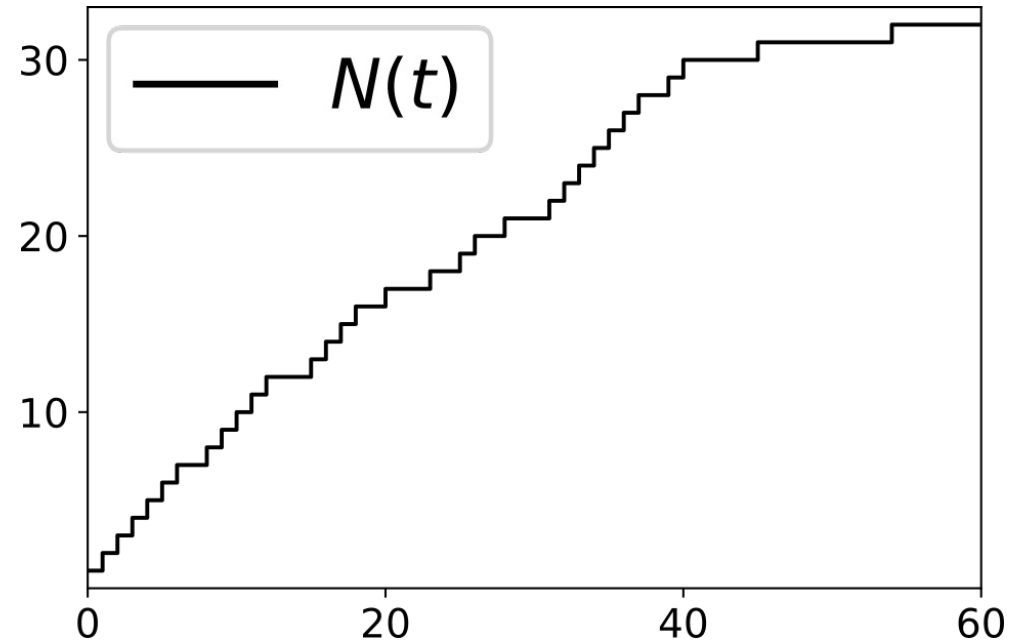
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**Irregular** food intake [starves]



**Regular** food intake [survives]

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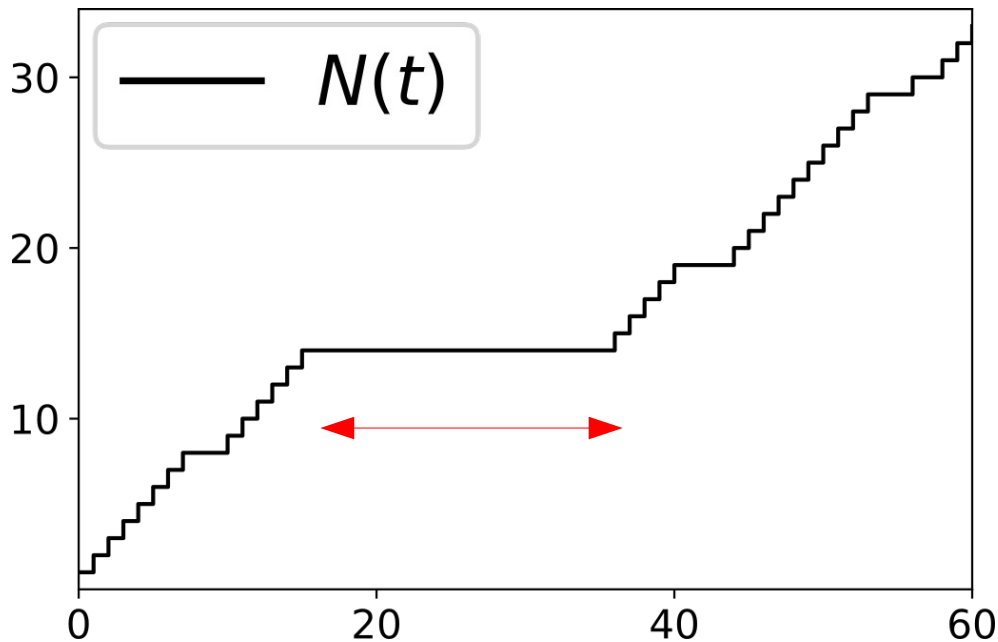
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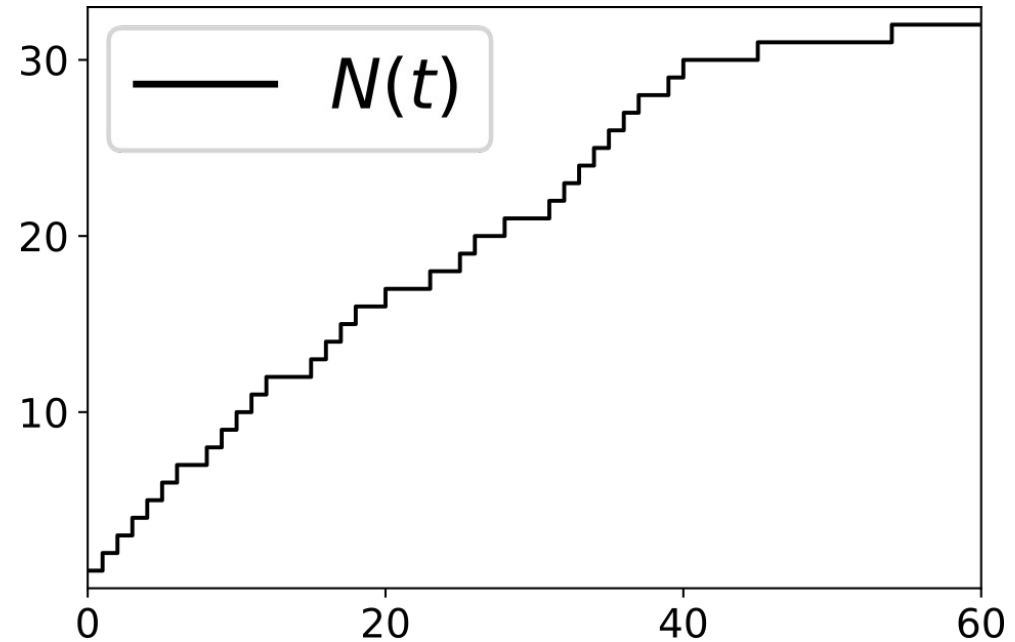
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Time elapsed between finding of new resources?

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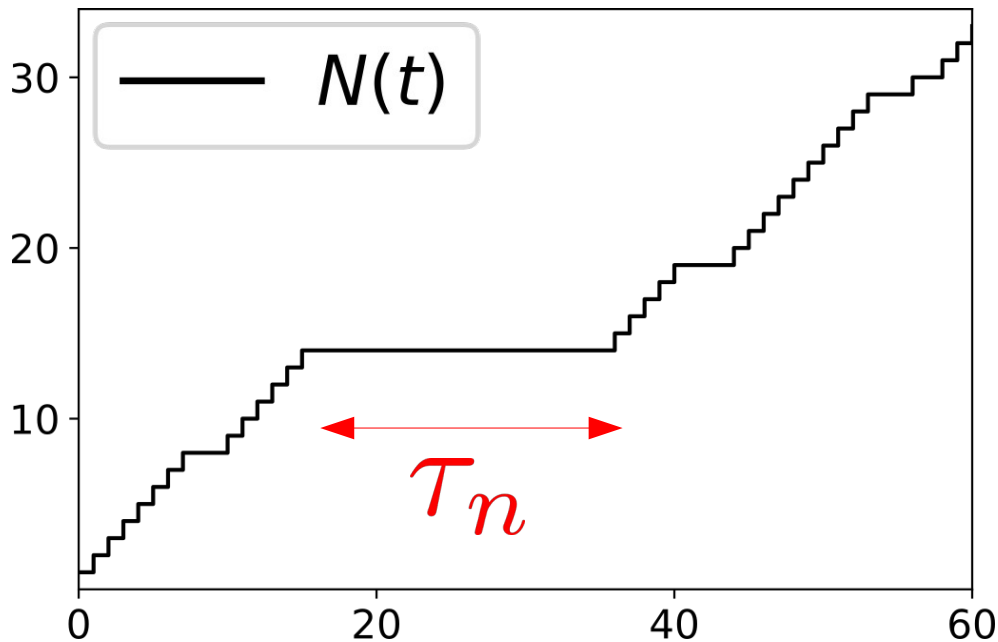
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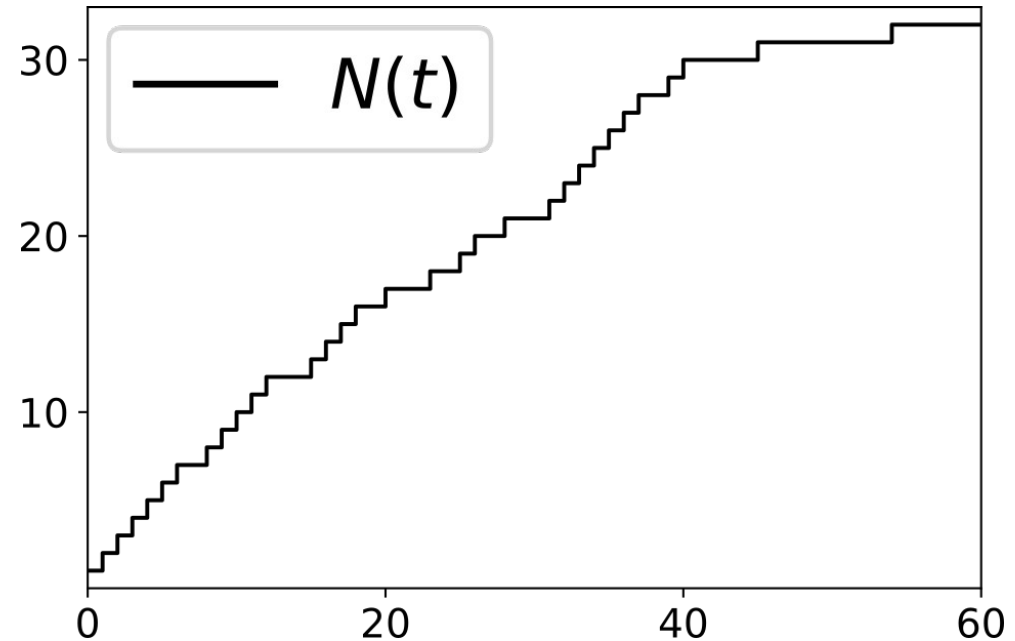
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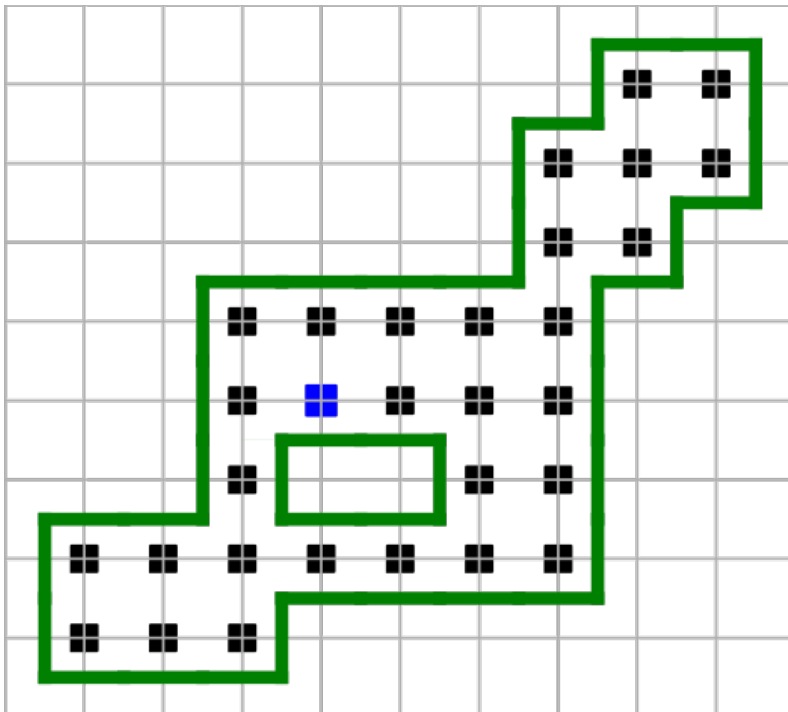
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How long does it take to visit a new site?



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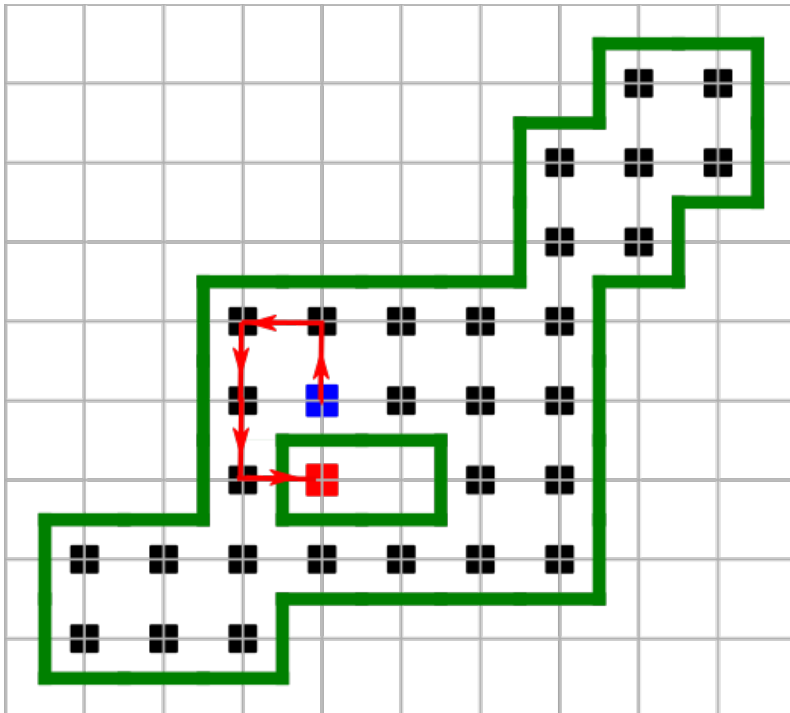
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$\mathcal{T}_n$  = time elapsed between the visit of the  $n$ th  
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(here,  $n=30$  and  $\mathcal{T}_n=5$ )



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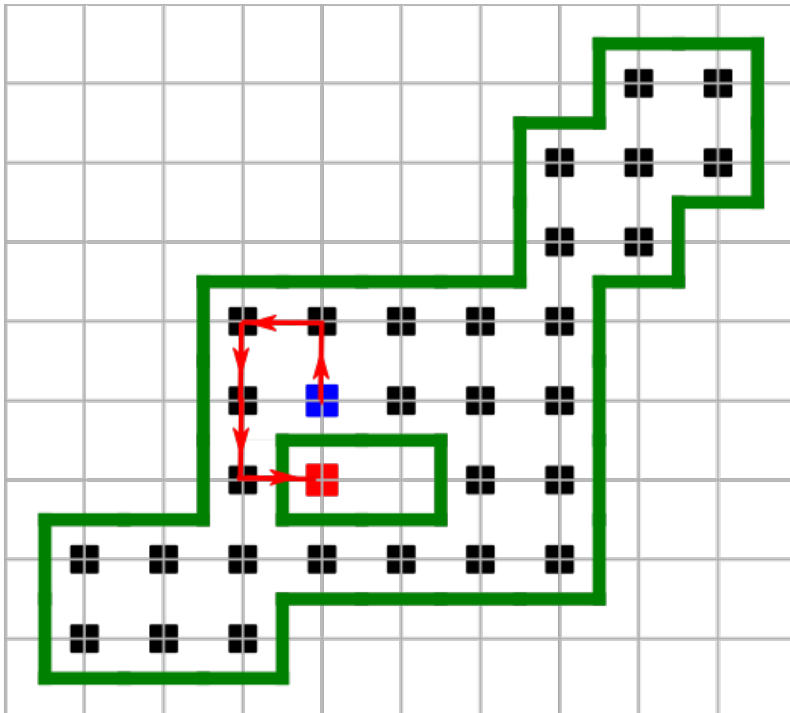
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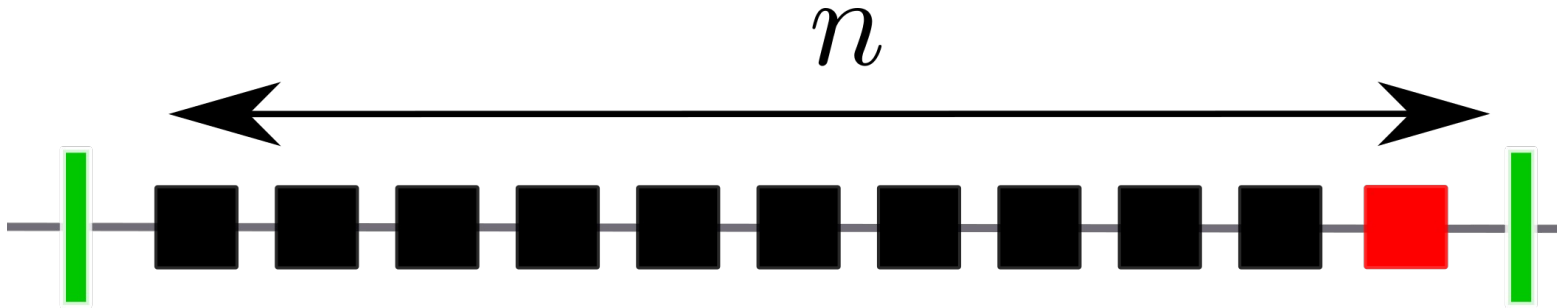
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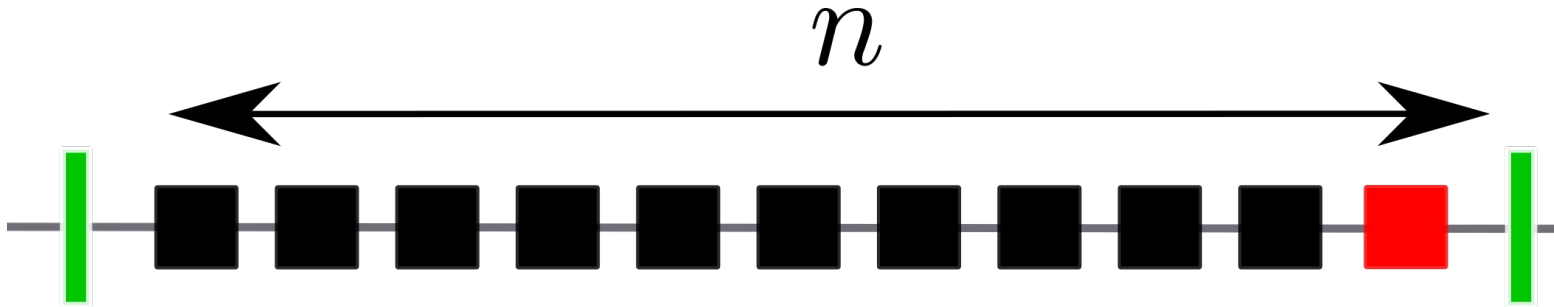
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Objective:  $F_n$  characterization ?  $n$  dependence?

# The 1d case



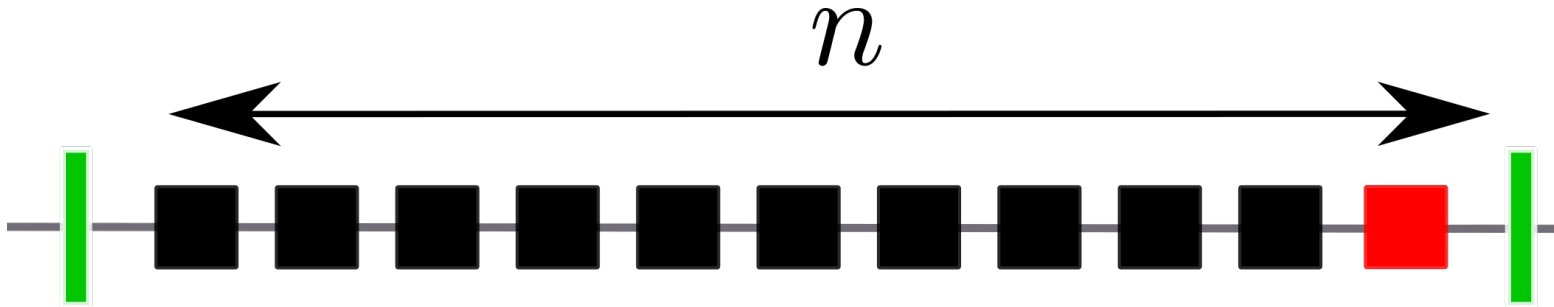
# The 1d case



$F_n(\tau)$  is the first exit time probability starting one lattice step from the boundary

$$F_n(\tau) \sim \frac{2\pi^2}{n^3} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (2k+1)^2 \exp \left[ -\pi^2 (2k+1)^2 \tau / 2n^2 \right]$$

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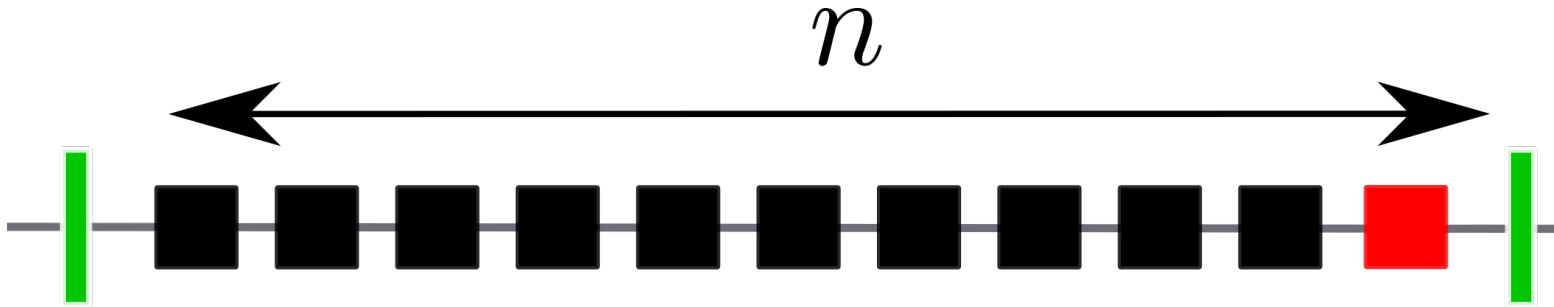
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## Properties:

- (i) Depends on  $n$ , aging

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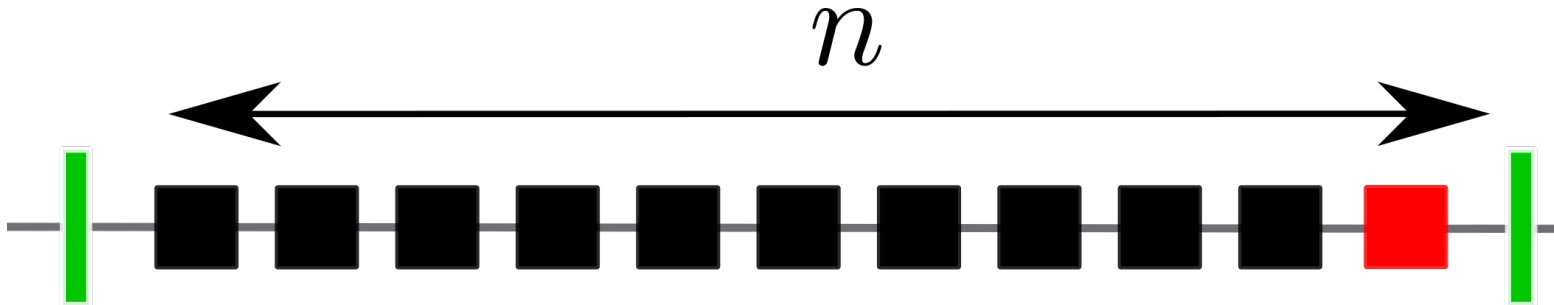
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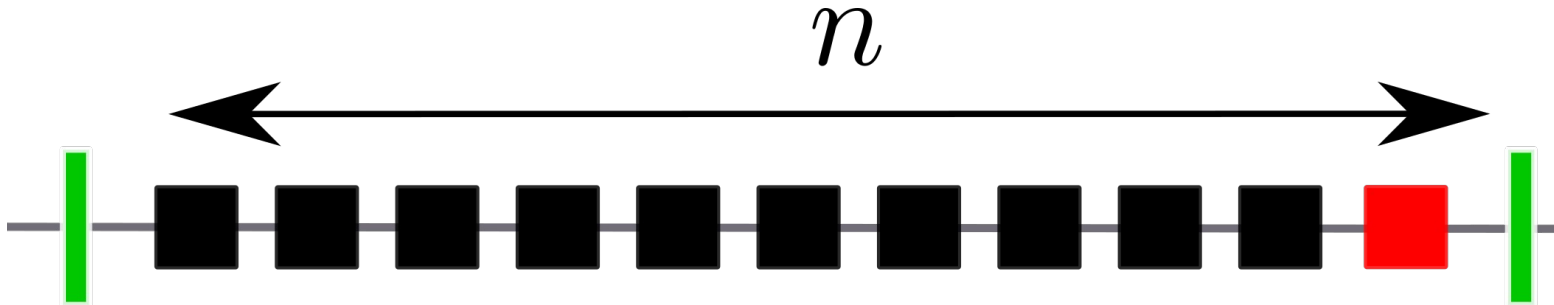
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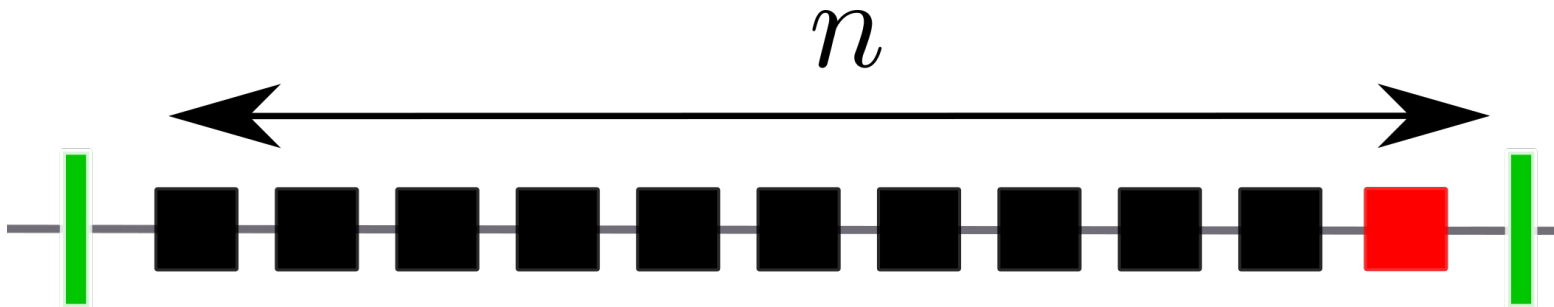
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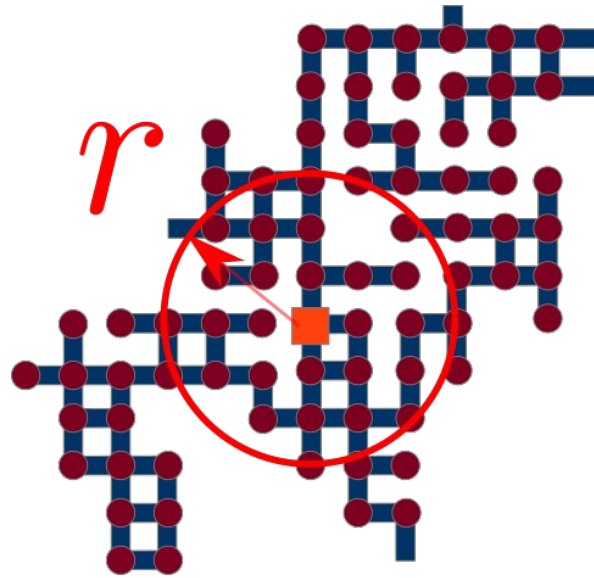
## Question:

What about more general RWs in more complex geometries?



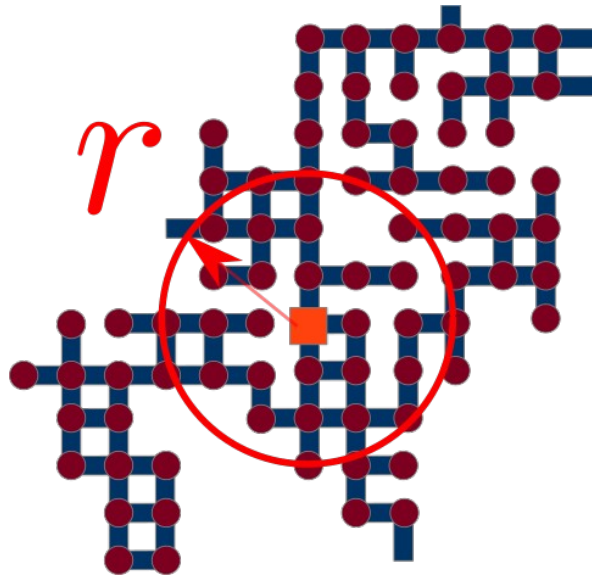
# Defining general RWs

We consider **symmetric**, **Markovian** RWs in **discrete** time + **scale-invariance**



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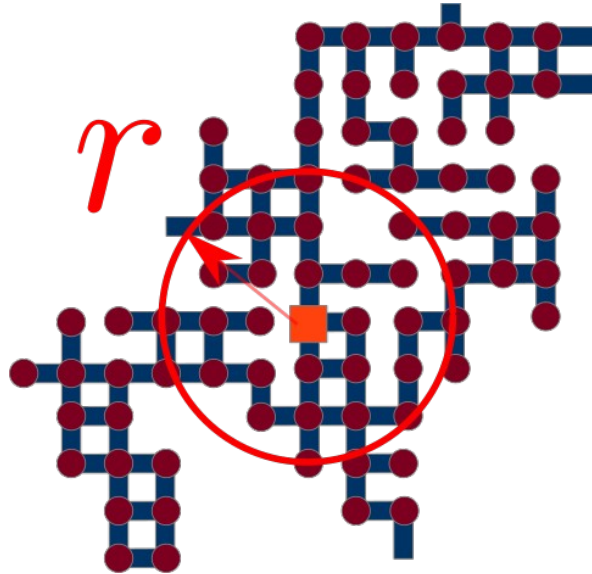
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( $d_f$  = fractal dimension,  $d$  for lattice)  $\propto r^{d_f}$

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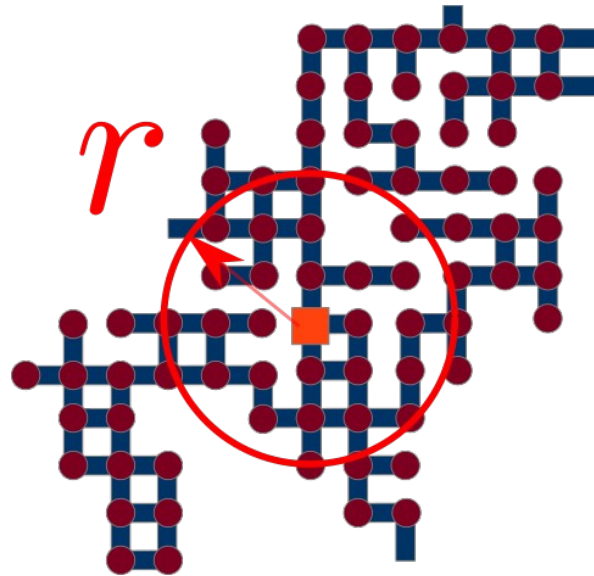
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$$\mu \equiv \frac{d_f}{d_w}$$

Recurrent:  $< 1$

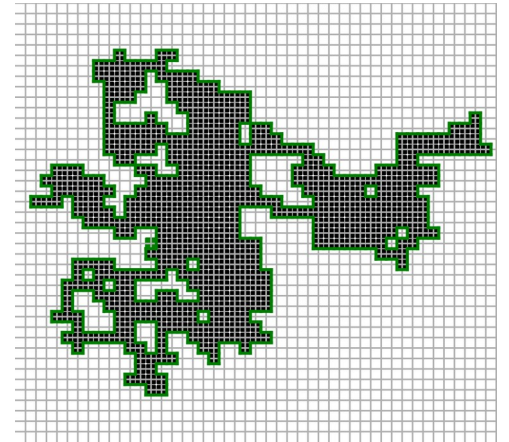
Marginal:  $= 1$

Transient:  $> 1$

# Mapping to a trapping problem

## METHOD:

Mapping with a **trapping problem** where traps=non-visited sites.

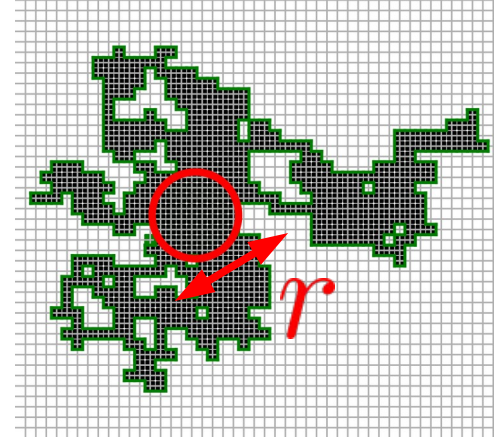


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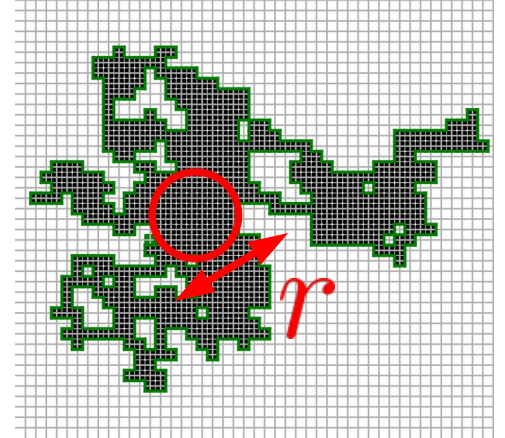


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We obtain via scaling arguments,

$$Q_n(r) \approx \rho_n^{-1} \exp \left[ -a(r/\rho_n)^{d_f} \right]$$

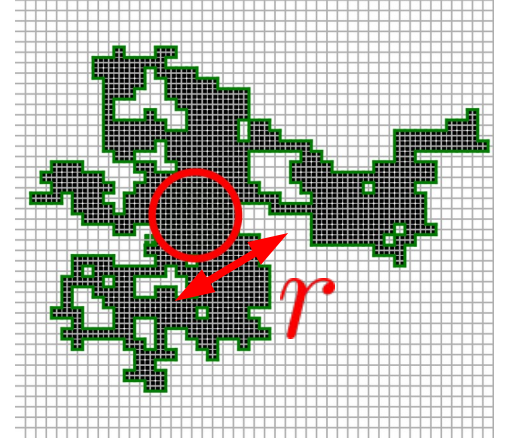
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Different from classical trapping problem:

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- Correlations

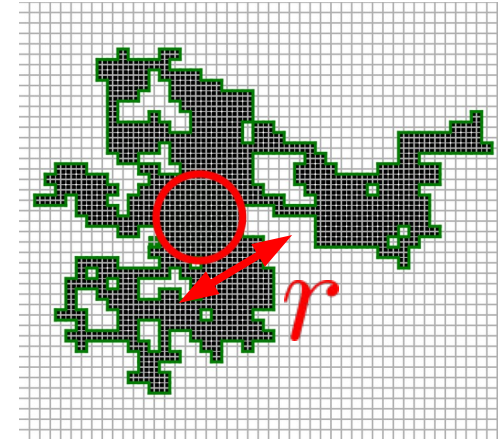


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$$\rho_n \propto \begin{cases} n^{1/d_f}, & \text{if } \mu < 1 \\ \sqrt{n^{1/d_f}}, & \text{if } \mu = 1 \\ 1, & \text{if } \mu > 1 \end{cases}$$

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# Results:

For **general** scale-invariant Markovian process:

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# Results: recurrent RWs

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	$t_n$	$T_n$	$1 \ll \tau \ll t_n$	$t_n \ll \tau \ll T_n$	$T_n \ll \tau$
$\mu < 1$ [recurrent]	$n^{1/\mu}$	$n^{1/\mu}$	$\tau^{-(1+\mu)}$		$\exp \left[ - \text{const } \tau / n^{1/\mu} \right]$

**Algebraic**

**Exponential**

**Scale invariance**

# Results: transient RWs

For **general** scale-invariant Markovian process:

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$\mu > 1$ [transient]	1	$n^{(\mu+1)/\mu}$		$\exp \left[ - \text{const} (\tau/t_n)^{\mu/(1+\mu)} \right]$	$\exp \left[ - \text{const} \tau/n^{1/\mu} \right]$

**Stretched exponential**

**Exponential**

# Results: marginal RWs

For **general** scale-invariant Markovian process:

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	$t_n$	$T_n$	$1 \ll \tau \ll t_n$	$t_n \ll \tau \ll T_n$	$T_n \ll \tau$
$\mu = 1$ [marginal]	$\sqrt{n}$	$n^{3/2}$	$\tau^{-(1+\mu)}$	$\exp \left[ - \text{const} (\tau/t_n)^{\mu/(1+\mu)} \right]$	$\exp \left[ - \text{const} \tau/n^{1/\mu} \right]$

Algebraic

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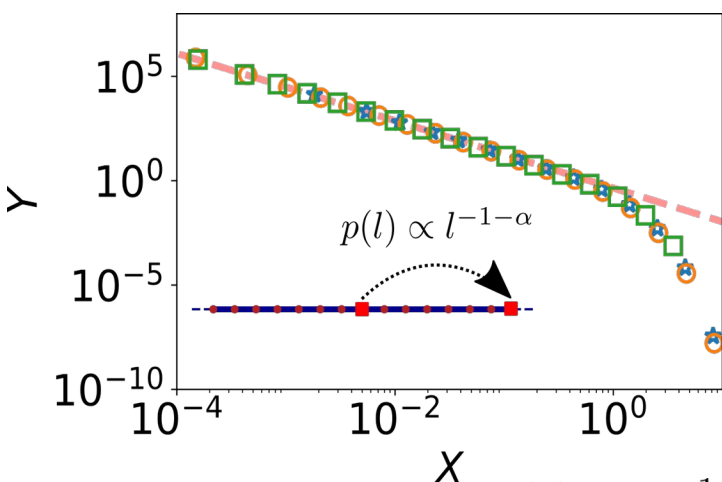
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$\mu > 1$ [transient]	1	$n^{(\mu+1)/\mu}$			

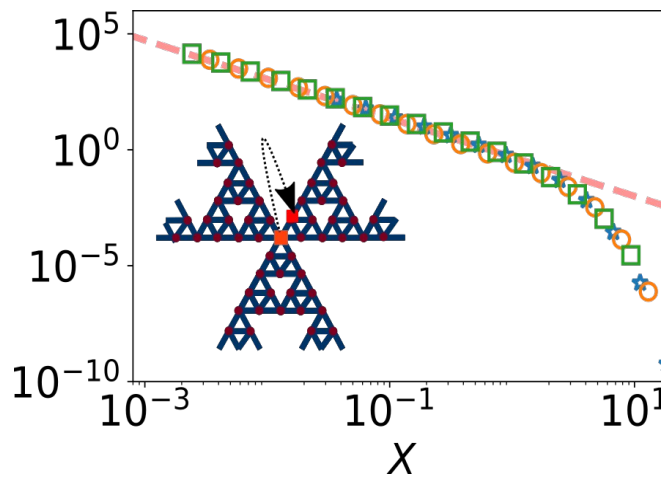
# Distribution $F_n$ of the inter visit time: Recurrent



1d Lévy flight  $p(l) \propto l^{-1-\alpha}$

$$\mu = 1/\alpha < 1$$

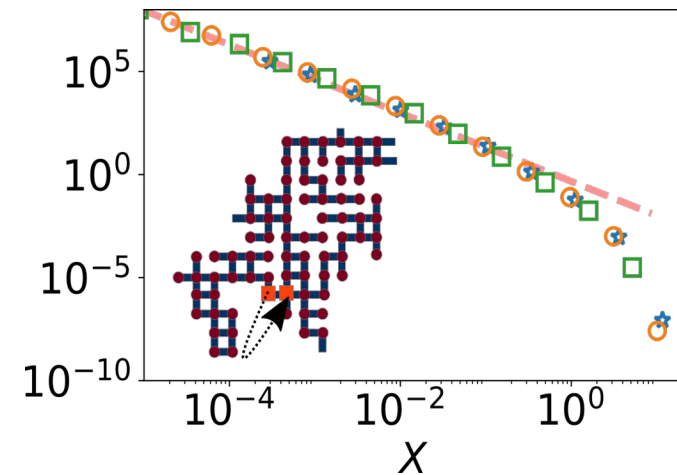
[superdiffusive, long jumps]



Sierpinski gasket

$$\mu = \ln 3 / \ln 5$$

[subdiffusive, fractal]



Percolation cluster

$$\mu \approx 0.659$$

[subdiffusive, disordered]

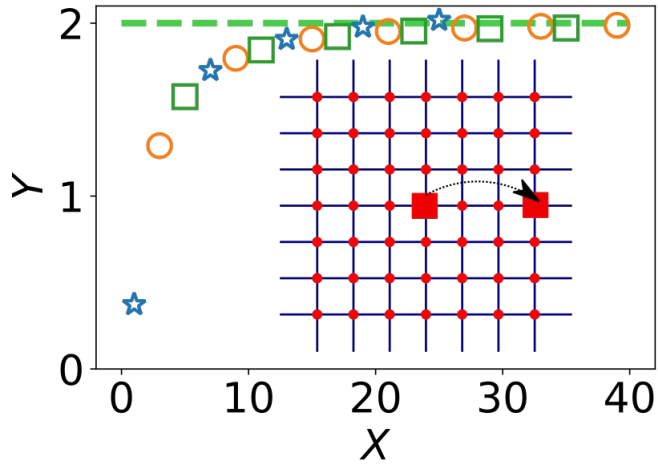
$$X = \tau/t_n, \quad Y = F_n(\tau)t_n^{\mu+1}$$

**Algebraic**

**Exponential**

**Scale invariance**

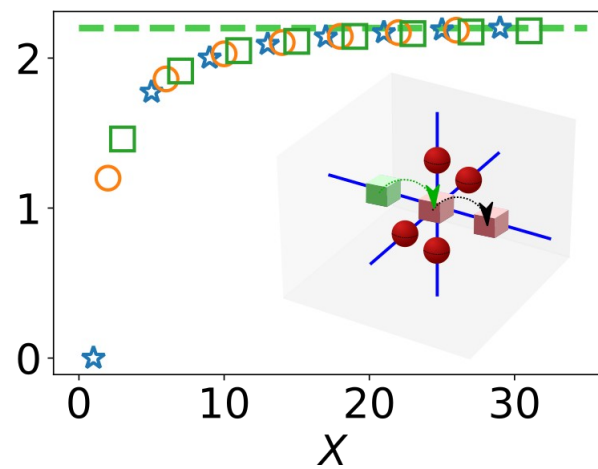
# Distribution $F_n$ of the inter visit time: Transient



2d Lévy flight  $p(\ell) \propto \ell^{-1-\alpha}$

$$\mu = 2/\alpha > 1$$

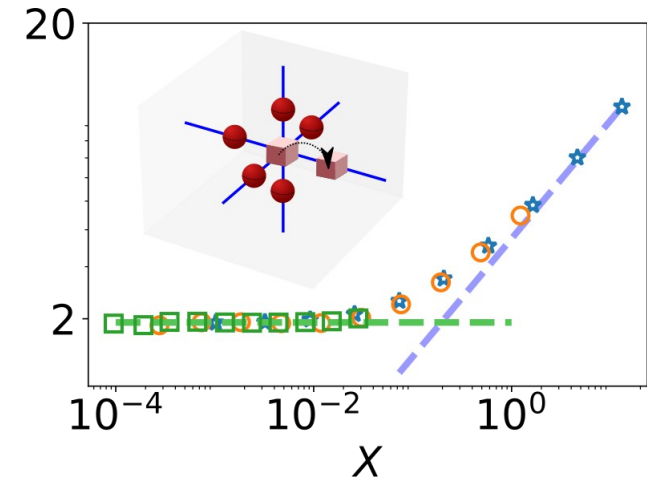
$$X = \tau$$



3d persistent RW

$$\mu = 3/2$$

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3d simple RW

$$\mu = 3/2$$

$$X = \tau/T_n$$

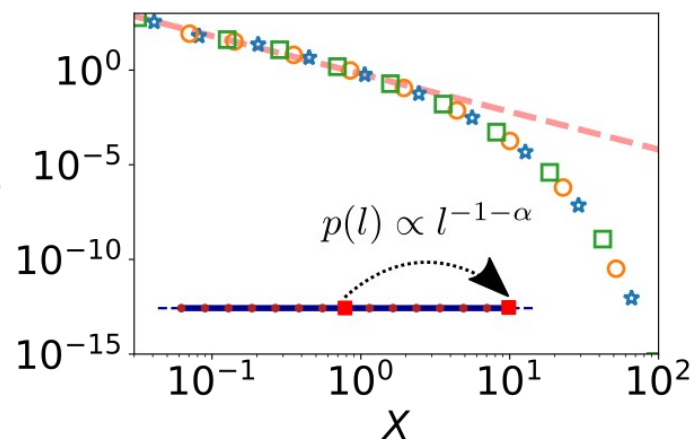
$$Y = -\ln[F_n(\tau)] / (\tau/t_n)^{\mu/(1+\mu)}$$

Stretched exponential

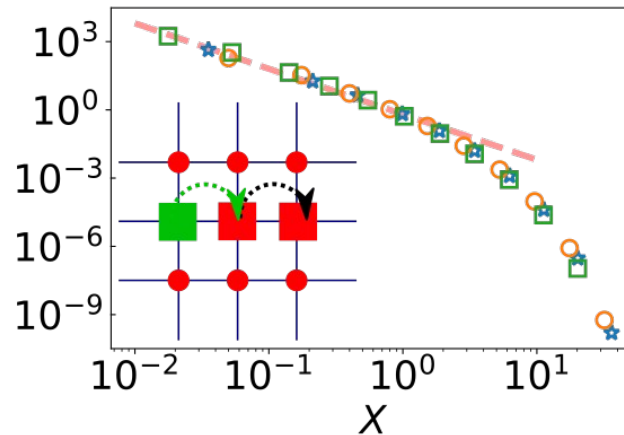
Exponential



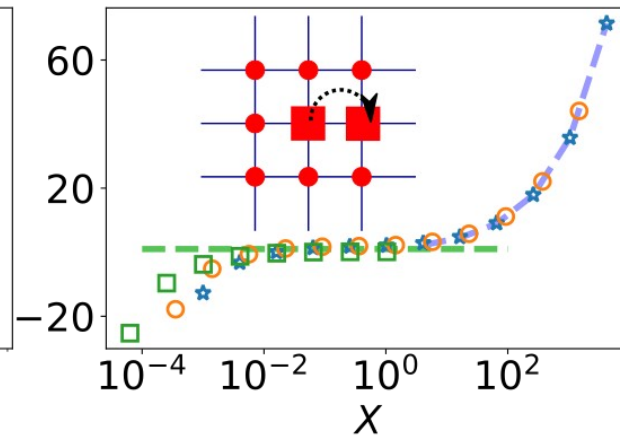
# Distribution $F_n$ of the inter visit time: Marginal



1d Lévy flight



2d persistent RW



2d simple RW

$$X = \tau/t_n, \quad Y = F_n(\tau)t_n^{\mu+1}$$

$$X = \tau/T_n$$

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**Algebraic**

**Stretched exponential**

**Exponential**

# Conclusion: Universality

For **general** scale-invariant Markovian process:

	$t_n$	$T_n$	$1 \ll \tau \ll t_n$	$t_n \ll \tau \ll T_n$	$T_n \ll \tau$
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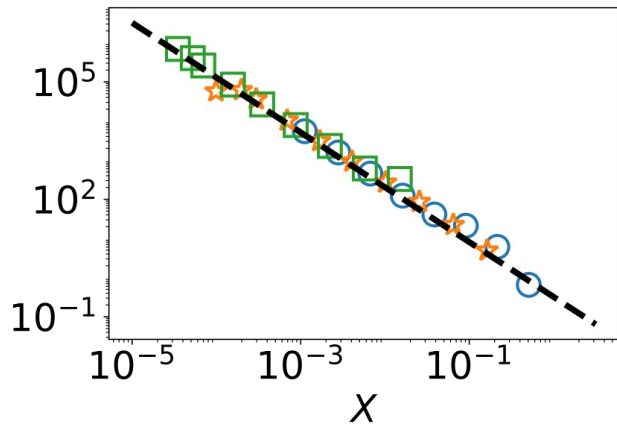
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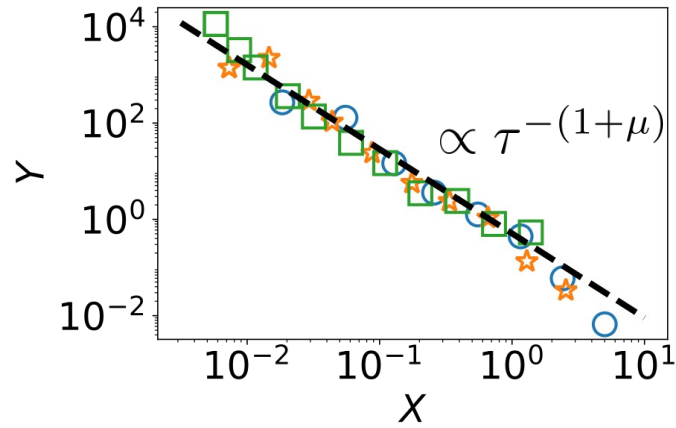




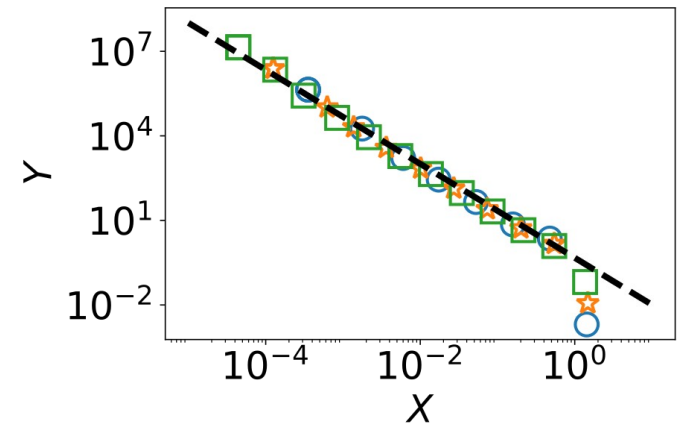
# Openings: Universality?



1d fBm subdiffusive



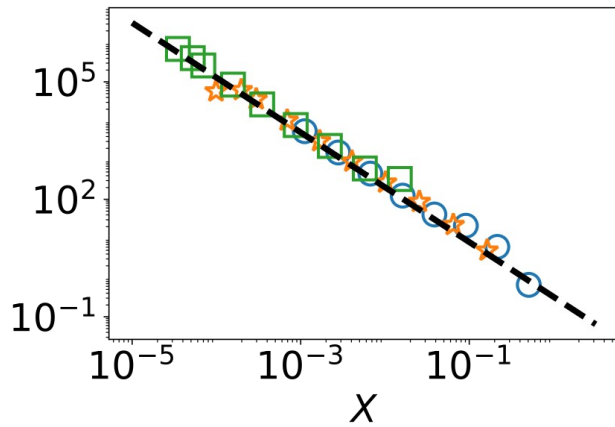
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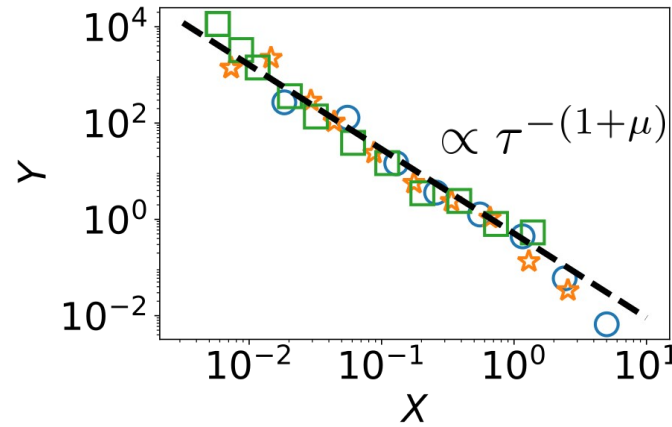
1d True Self-Avoiding RW

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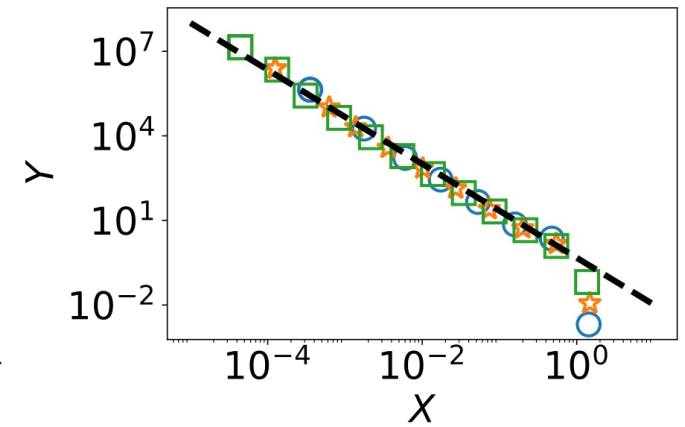
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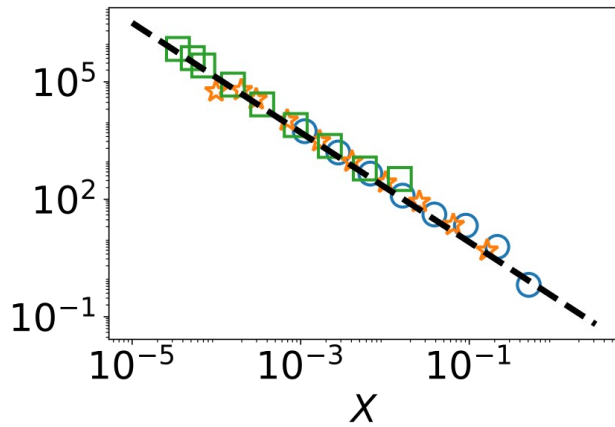
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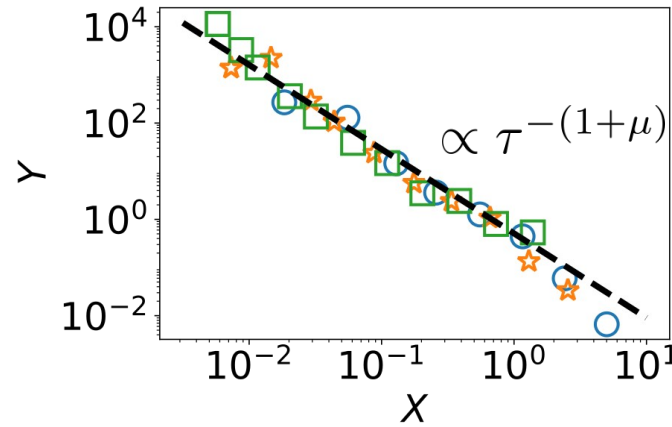
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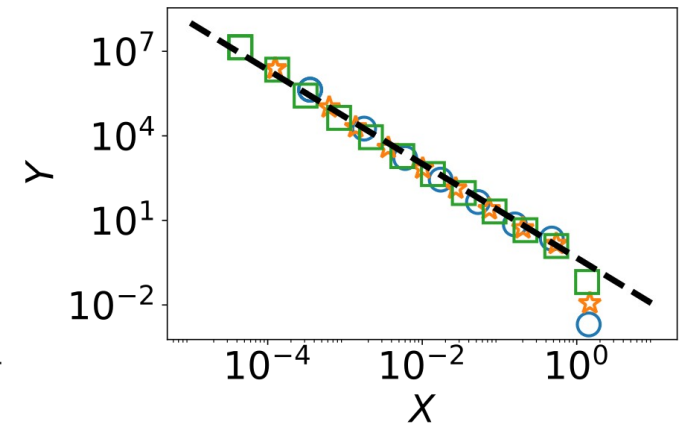
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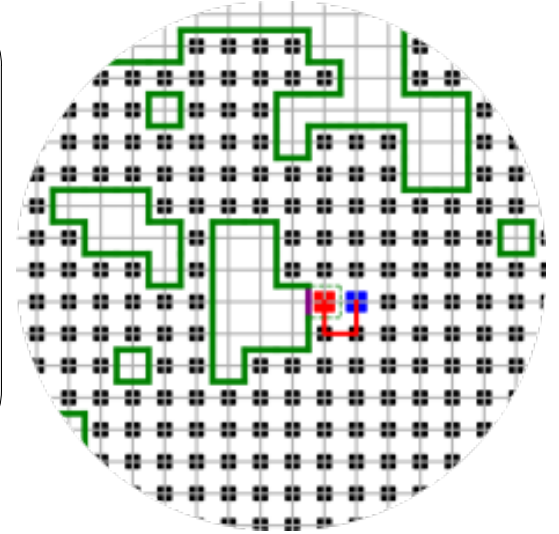
*Record ages of non Markovian RWs:*



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METHOD:  $\tau \ll t_n = \rho_n^{d_w}$

The RW sees an infinite visited domain,  $F_n \approx F_\infty$



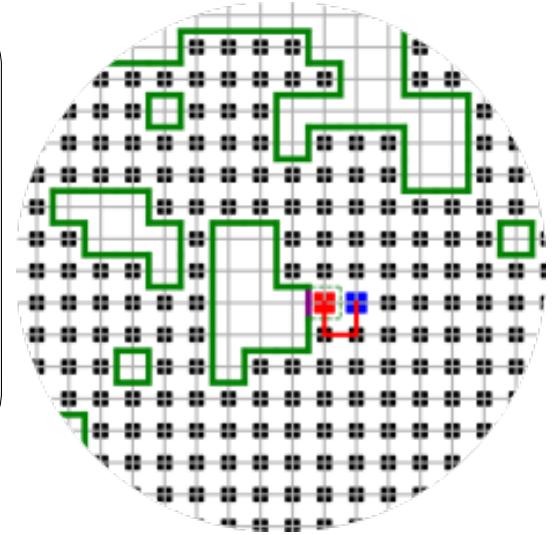
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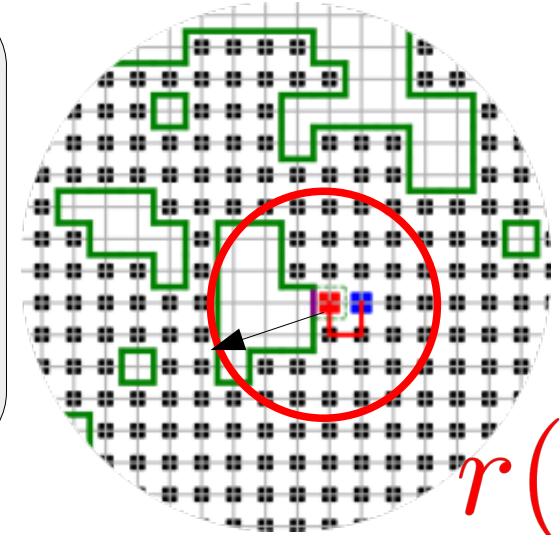
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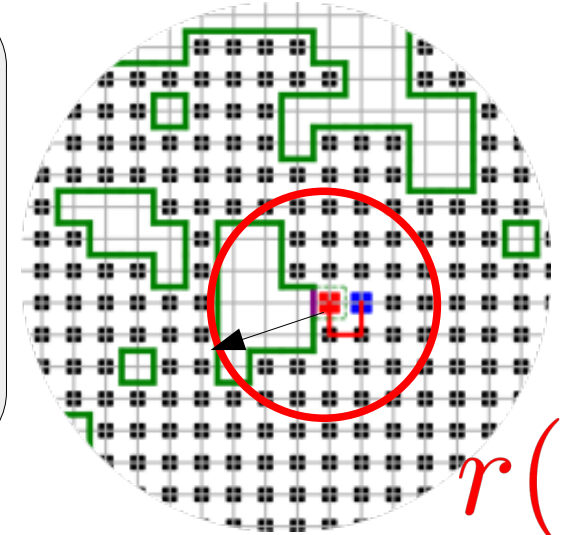
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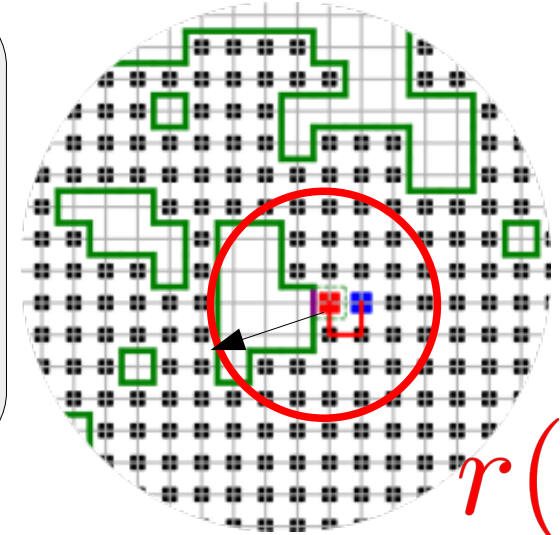
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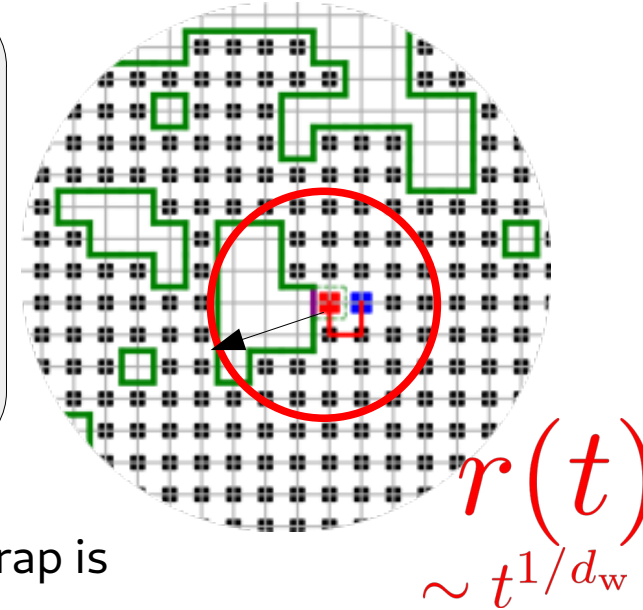
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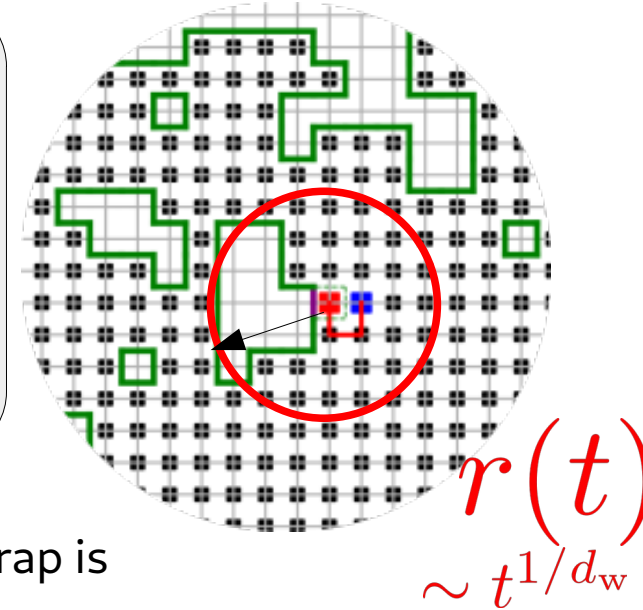
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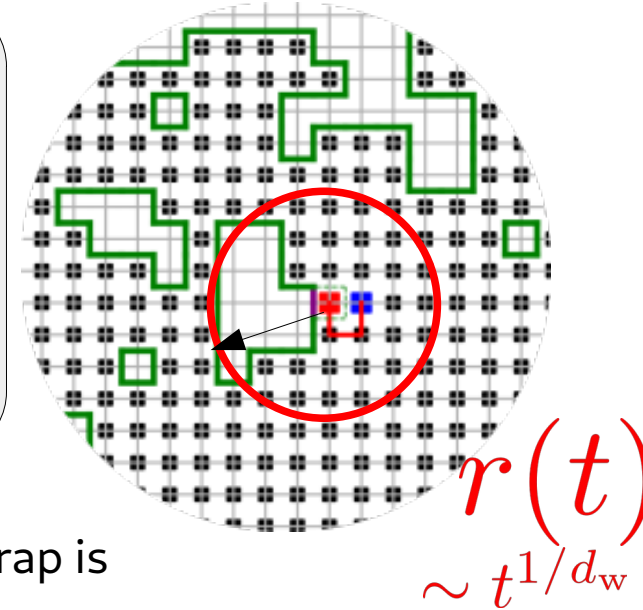
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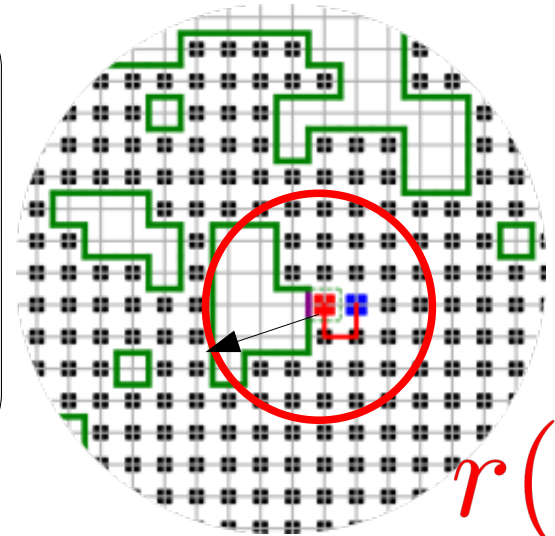
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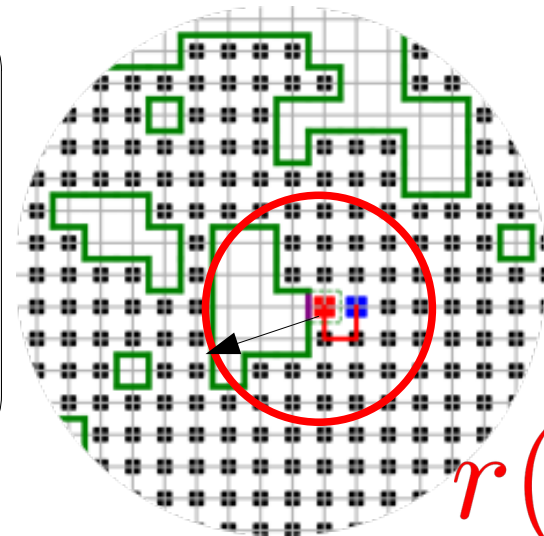
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Algebraic decay,  $F_\infty(\tau) \propto \tau^{-(1+\mu)}$

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Lower bound for survival probability  $S_n(\tau)$  [same as classical trapping problem]

Using the result on  $Q_n(r)$  which gives the controlling regions radius at large times,

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+at long time when statistics is dominated by the upper bound of the integral,

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