

# Modelling biological systems: a computational challenge

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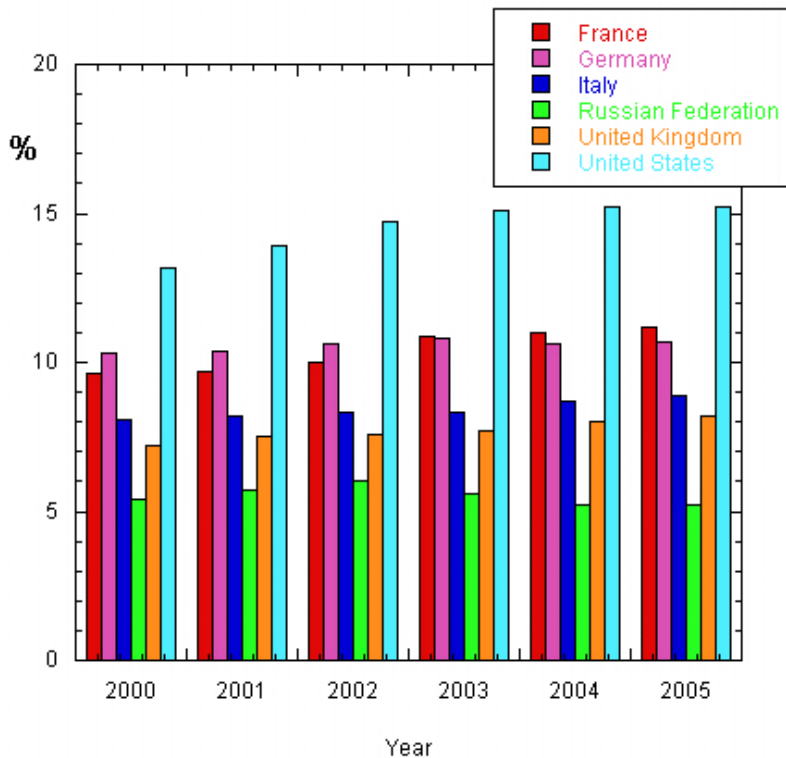
# Acknowledgments --- Apologies

- I wish to thank Enrico for the opportunity he gave me to present this material
  - and all the people of the Biophysics group of ToV (especially Silvia) for ∞-ly many discussions which are at the origin of these lectures
- 
- Choice of arguments was made on the basis on my tastes, preferences and incompetence
  - The amount of underlying biological knowledge behind most of the arguments I will touch is essentially unlimited and well beyond my competence
  - Thus, I will try to convey you rather than a fully detailed biological information, some general description of certain broad classes of systems and problems on which one can probably say something interesting and useful
  - I hope you'll find some of these problems intellectually appealing and exciting, not less than High Energy Physics (HEP) or Astrophysics, if not for their dramatic impact on our everyday life

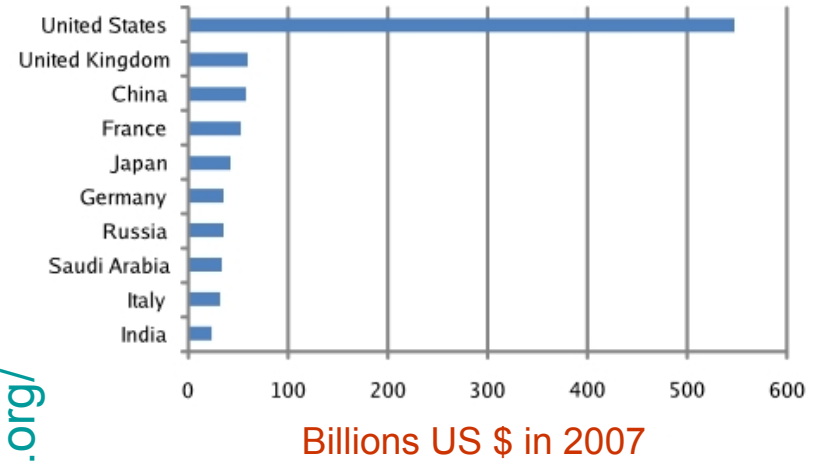
# Outline?

The field of health care and biomedical sciences is where the **action** is (in developed countries)

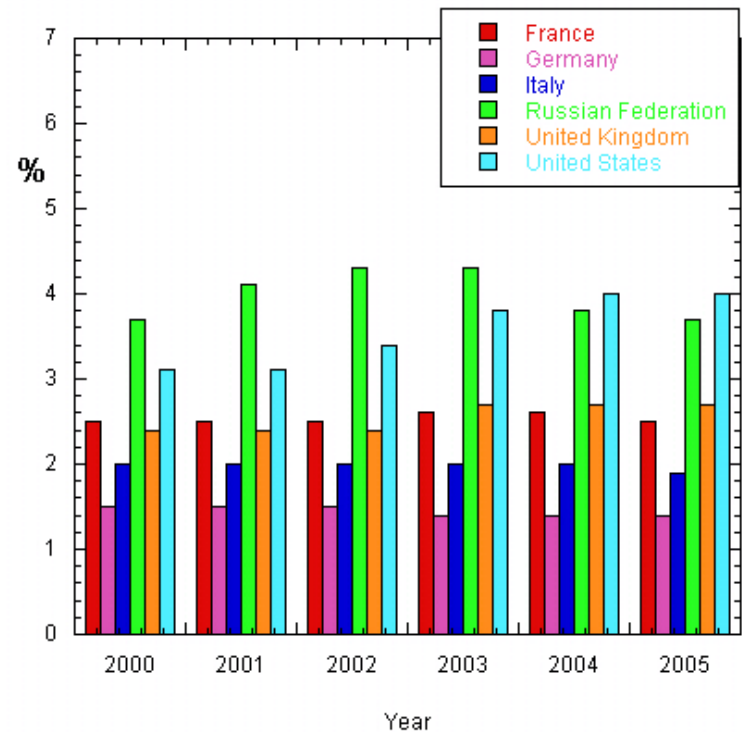
Total expenditure on health as percentage of gross domestic product



<http://milexdata.sipri.org/>



Military expenses as percentage of gross domestic product



# Outline

- I. Reductionism vs complexity
- II. Data, (physical) models and (mathematical) tools
- III. What we would like to know and/or to do
- IV. What we can actually do and/or are really doing
- V. Conclusions and outlook

**From concepts to action**

# I. Reductionism vs complexity

- A bit of philosophy
- A bit of phenomenology

# Biology vs Physics

(the viewpoint of a theoretical physicist)

## ✚ Compare and contrast the situation in the study of Biological systems

- “Complex” structures governed by (as yet) unknown macro-laws
- Powerful and cheap experimental techniques
- Huge amount of data
- Inadequate models: poor understanding of “micro” to “macro” transition

## ✚ and, at the other extreme, of Elementary Particle Physics

- Supposedly “simple” systems governed by “elegant” known micro-laws
- Very complicated and expensive experiments
- Very few new experimental data (LHC is coming!)
- Rather good models (almost “theories”)

**Physics** (until very recently) has always found its way by progressively moving towards more and more elementary structures

matter → atoms → nucleons → quarks → ???

guided by the “**radical reductionism**” paradigm according to which

**FUNDAMENTAL LAWS GOVERN ELEMENTARY OBJECTS**

This attitude has been very fruitful in the “paradigmatic” case of **HEP**, but it is not obviously being employed in other emerging fields of investigation

- **Dynamical** systems { Weather forecasting  
Catalytic reactions  
Fluidodynamics (turbulence)

key words: non-linearity, chaos

- **Disordered** systems      Glasses, Spin glasses

key-words: frustration, disorder

- **Biological** systems

key-words: complexity, and perhaps all of the above

# 1 - There are implications for the notion of **modelling** and the nature of **physical laws**

- Even in **Fundamental Physics** what we usually call

Relativity }  
Field } **Theories**  
String }

are actually **Models**, formulated in the language of **Mathematics**, from which they borrow the necessary internal **logical consistency**

- Complications of everyday life (like friction in Mechanics) are considered (conceptually) irrelevant (up to a certain point - airplanes, cars,...!)
- **Theories** become progressively simpler in the process of understanding
- For **Biosystems**, **Models** (nobody would call them theories) tend to become more and more complicated, as they develop (not simpler!), with a **limit**: the model shouldn't become **as** complicated **as** the system itself!
- The key questions about modelling in **Biology** are then
  - ⇒ When do we decide that we have “**understood**”?  
protein folding  
functional behaviour of the cell
  - ⇒ What kind of **knowledge/predictions** will we be happy with?



## 2 - There are implications for the notions of **experiment** and **reproducibility**

- The **Central Dogma** of Physics

Theories (models) are validated through reproducible experiments

- In many biological instances the situation is somewhat more complicated. For instance, to put it in a provocative way

“The experiment of testing *in vivo* the effectiveness of a drug (working *in vitro*), would certainly not be considered a failure if, say, only **30%** of ill people recover”

- Can we somehow understand this situation?
  1. Biological experiments may not give reproducible results because not all the **relevant** dof's are/can be kept under control  $\Rightarrow$  **# dof's  $\gg$  1**
  2. On the other hand, in most cases (but, see later) it is not of any interest to be able to predict the properties of the final state of a biological system, or process, in its finest details  $\Rightarrow$  **disorder & redundancy**
  3. Models are very crude (when they exist at all) and most often overwhelming complicated  $\Rightarrow$  **need for some intrinsically new concept?**

# The systems of interest

Reductionism

- Elementary is an **object** characterized by a small # of properties
- All **elementary objects** of a given kind are alike (**electrons**)
- Simple physical laws (**theories**) apply to **elementary** objects
- Strict **determinism** and **experimental reproducibility** follow

- **Complex systems** have many dof's and many functionally relevant components

- One should talk of **classes** of systems, e.g.
  - the class of nervous cells, the class of liver cells
  - or, more generally, the class of nucleated cellsClasses are defined by identifying the common properties of the constituent systems

- **Models** yield a mathematical description of common features of systems belonging to a given **class** in terms of **probability distribution functions (PDF)**

- **Class averages** are computed and compared to results coming from **averages** over sets of **experiments**

Complexity

### 3 - There are implications for the **amount** and the **nature** of the **possible information output**

#### Key point

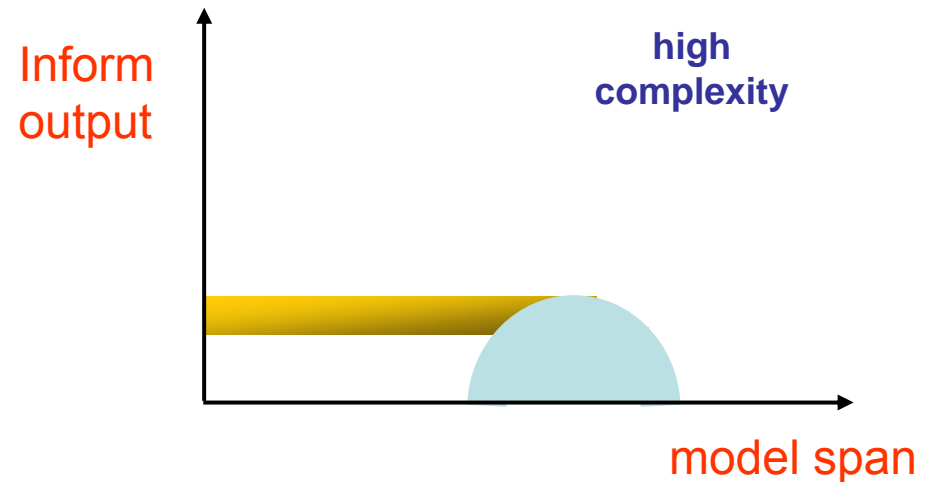
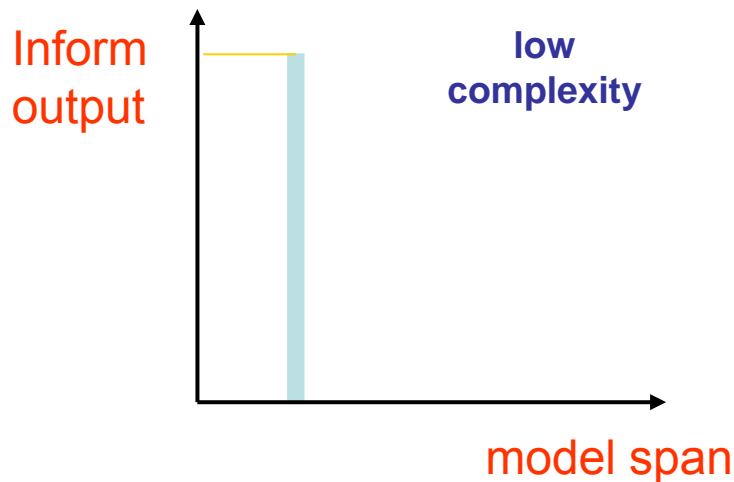
is the accuracy by which a class of homogeneous objects can be defined

The **more accurate** (**looser**) the definition of the objects belonging to a certain class

the **simpler** (**more complicated**) the model

the **sharper** (**more involved**) its mathematical description

the **more precise** (**fuzzier**) the information output



Key questions at this point are

Q1: What is complexity?

A1: Its meaning is context dependent

Q2: Are biosystems complex objects?

A2: Looks like they are

# 1. Algorithmic Complexity of Kolmogorov and Chaitin

- Definition:

Given a string  $S$  of  $N$  symbols  $\longrightarrow$   $AC = \#$  of bits of a T.M. code that can produce  $S$  as an output

- Such a definition does not look interesting for us

$$AC(\text{random string}) \gg AC(\pi)$$

$$\begin{cases} AC(\text{random string}) \sim N \\ AC(\pi) \sim \log N \quad [\text{actually the digits of } \pi \text{ are totally random}] \end{cases}$$

# 2. Logical depth of Bennett

- Definition:

Given a string  $S$  of  $N$  symbols  $\longrightarrow$   $LD =$  time ( $\#$  of operation) for a T.M. to run the shortest code that can produce  $S$  as an output

- A somewhat more interesting definition

$$\begin{cases} LD(\text{random string}) \propto \text{time to read } S \sim N \\ LD(\pi) \propto \text{time to generate } \pi \sim N \end{cases}$$

# Biological Complexity

- is not **randomness**

Box of molecules  
with random velocities

$S = \text{large}$

- is not **entropy**

Box of molecules  
with all parallel velocities

$S = 0$

- is not **logical depth**

Life emerged from a very short  
(random) program, but it took  $10^9$  y  
to run the code: very high **LD!**  
What about running the code today?

Then what is it?

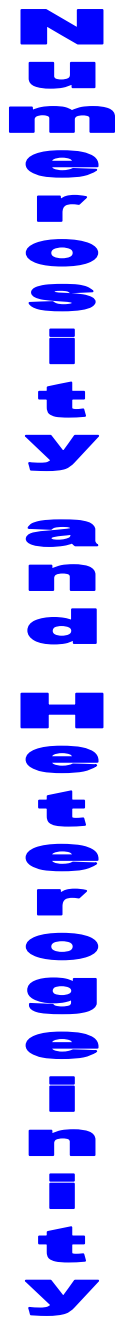
## Necessary conditions

- many variables
- many relevant dof's

Here a bit of “phenomenology” starts

**N  
u  
m  
e  
r  
o  
s  
i  
t  
y**

	# of elementary constituents (atoms)
<b>ATOM</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>AMINO ACID</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>PROTEIN</b>	<b><math>10^3-10^5</math></b>
<b>CELL</b>	<b><math>10^{10}</math></b>
<b>·</b>	
<b>·</b>	
<b>·</b>	
<b>HUMAN BODY</b>	<b><math>5 \times 10^{28}</math> (nucleons)</b>



- Proteins {  $10^2 - 10^3$  amino acids  
 $10^3 - 10^5$  atoms → (only  $\sim 10^7$  expressed)  
 $20^{300}$  different possible sequences!

- Immune system {  $10^6$  actual repertoire of Ab's  
 $10^7$  available repertoire  
 $10^8$  lymphocytes

- Brain {  $10^{10}$  neurons  
 $\times 10^3 \sim 10^4$   
 $10^{13} - 10^{14}$  synapses

- Genoma {  $3 \times 10^9$  bases (human DNA)  
 $4^n$  with  $n = 3 \times 10^9$  possible genomes  
(only  $10^{60}$  expressed @ 1 mut/sec) Eigen

2-3 nm helix x 2 m long  
2x23 chromosomes  $V \sim (1.5 \mu\text{m})^3$

It is not so much the number of “elementary” objects that is important (gas), but rather the existence of a large number of “functionally” relevant distinct components



- There is a lot of disorder in Biosystems

They have ( $\sim \infty$ -ly) many randomly distributed microscopic variables and few (still very many!) mesoscopic variables controlling the system

Not every detail can be encoded in DNA,  
nor every Genoma has been tried

No optimal evolution

- There is a lot of redundancy in Biosystems

They can exist in very many “equilibrium/metastable” states

{  
Individuals  
Organs  
Immune system states  
Proteins

Microscopically different organs (harts, brains,...)  
equally well accomplish their task

High degeneracy

# Complexity:

here is a sort of “phenomenological” definition

The more one can say about a class of systems,  
the more the systems of that class are complex

**Complexity** is complexity of classification

## 1. Sequences of random numbers

Not much can be said

all instances belong to the same class



It is a very simple class of systems

## 2. Equilibrium states of a system of spins at $H = 0$ , $T \sim 0$

Only two states: spin up, spin down



It is a simple system

### 3. Class of sequences of symbols giving rise to “books”

Many things can be said

Language	⇒	English, Italian, German, ...
Style	⇒	Poem, Tragedy, ...
Plot	⇒	Love story, Detective story, ...
...	⇒	...

Many “description levels” or tasks	⇒	Various possible “types of classification”
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It is a complex class of systems

## 4. Set of painters

We could learn a lot, if we could establish

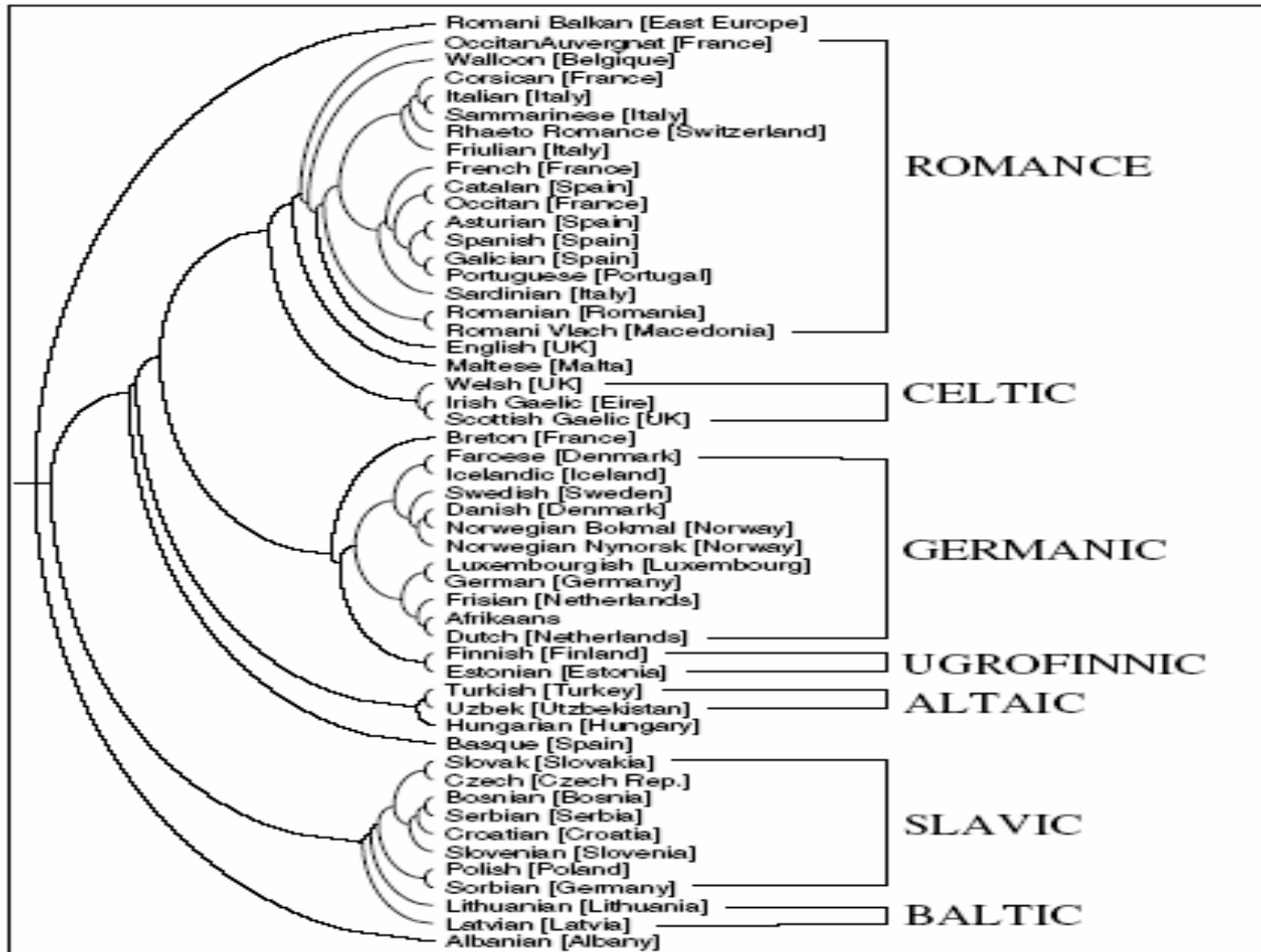
When they were active	⇒	Date of birth
Where they were active	⇒	Place of birth
Their style	⇒	Relative influence
...	⇒	...

Many “description levels” or tasks	⇒	Various possible “types of classification”
---------------------------------------	---	---



It is a complex class of systems

## 5. The class of human languages is a complex system



*Evolutionary tree*

# Correlating Genetic Tree and Linguistic Phyla

Cavalli Sforza  
Piazza Menozzi  
Mountain

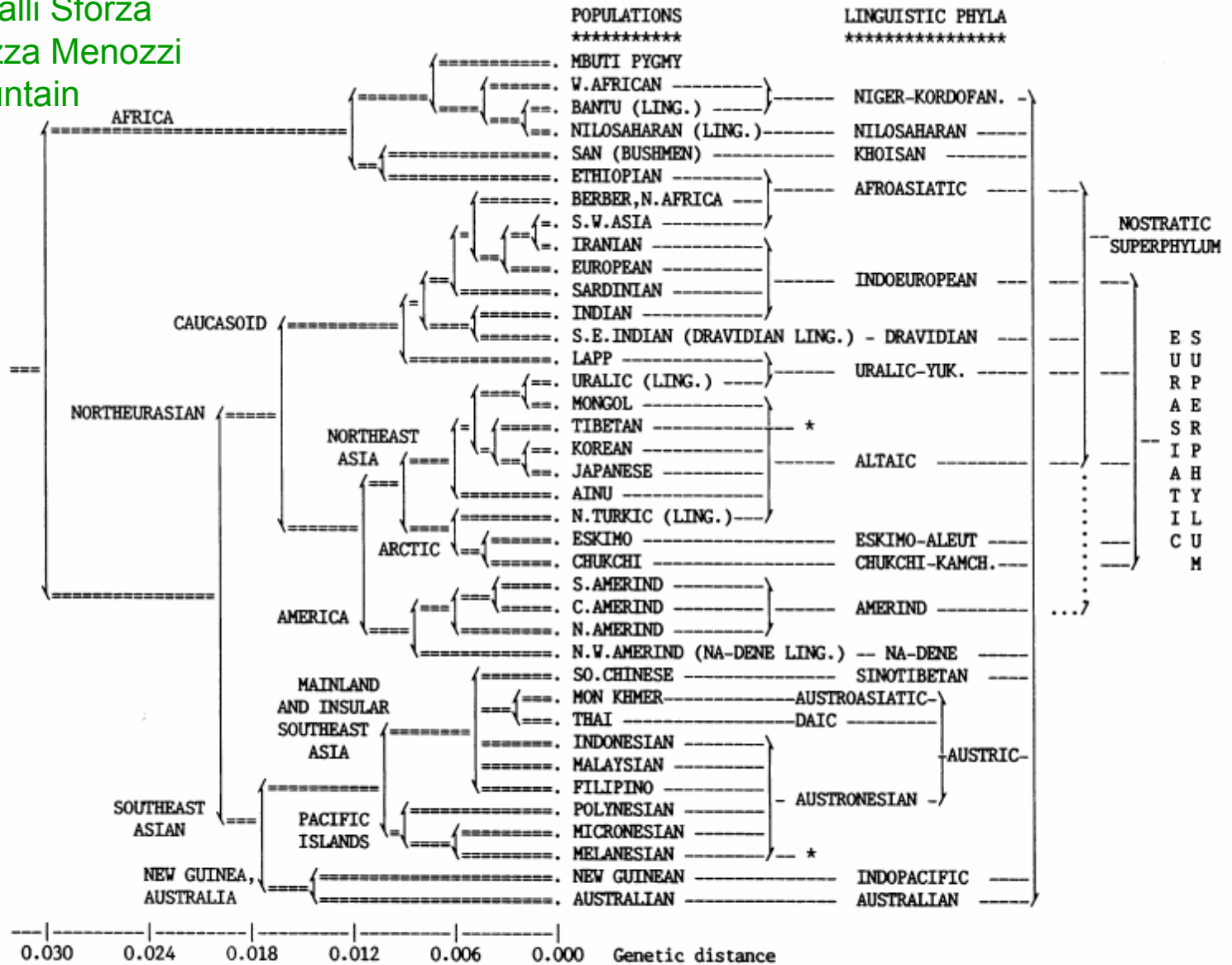


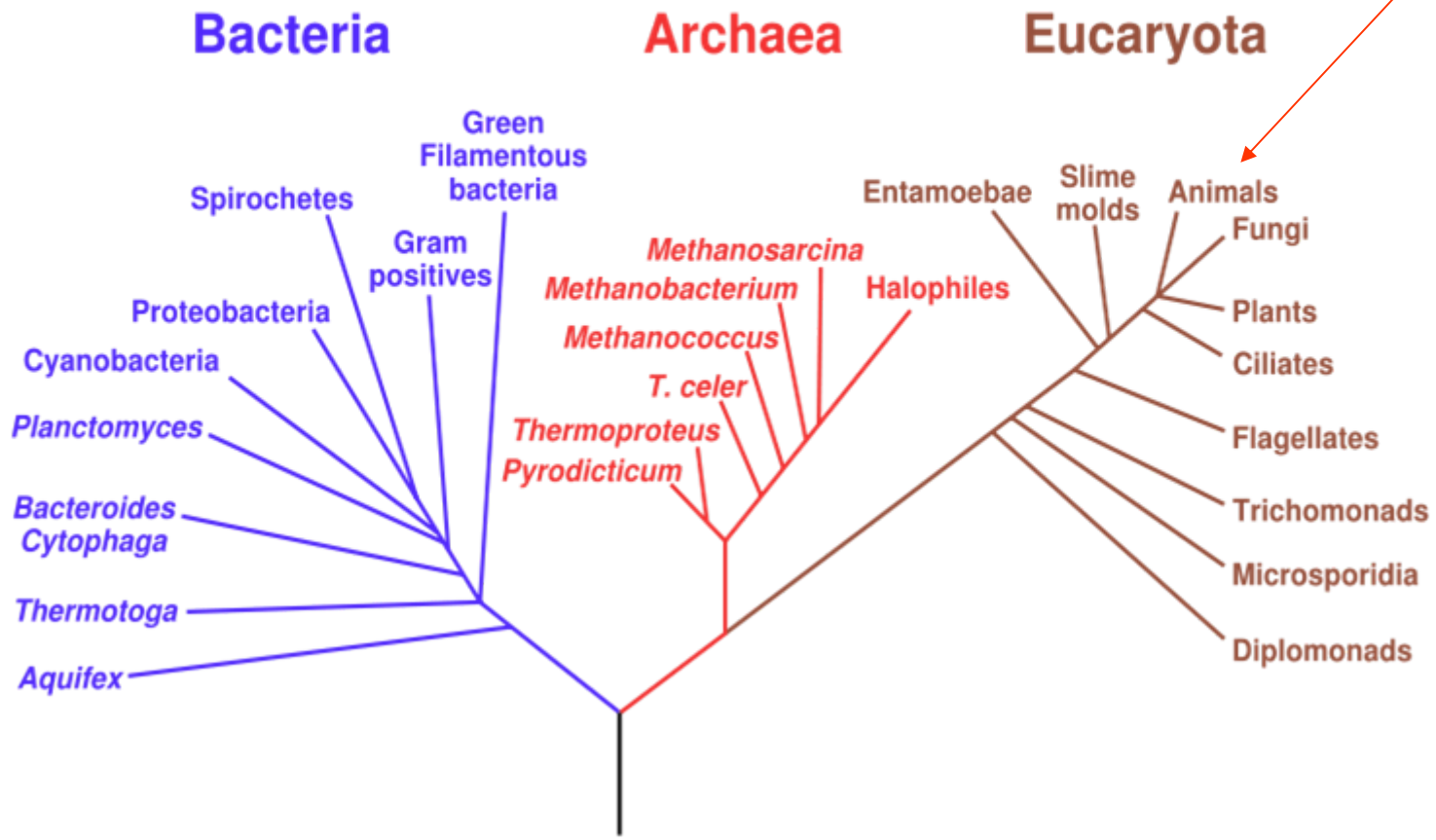
FIG. 1. Comparison of genetic tree and linguistic phyla. See text for details. (Ling.) indicates populations pooled on the basis of linguistic classification. The tree was constructed by average linkage analysis of Nei's genetic distances. Distances were calculated based on 120 allele frequencies from the following systems: *A1A2BO*, *MNS*, *RH*, *P*, *LU*, *K*, *FY*, *JK*, *DI*, *HP*, *TF*, *GC*, *LE*, *LP*, *PEPA*, *PEPB*, *PEPC*, *AG*, *H1AA* (12 alleles), *H1AB* (17 alleles), *PI*, *CP*, *ACP*, *PGD*, *PGM1*, *MDH*, *ADA*, *PTC*, *E1*, *SODA*, *GPT*, *PGK*, *C3*, *SE*, *ESD*, *GLO*, *KM*, *BF*, *LAD*, *E2*, *GM*, and *PG*.

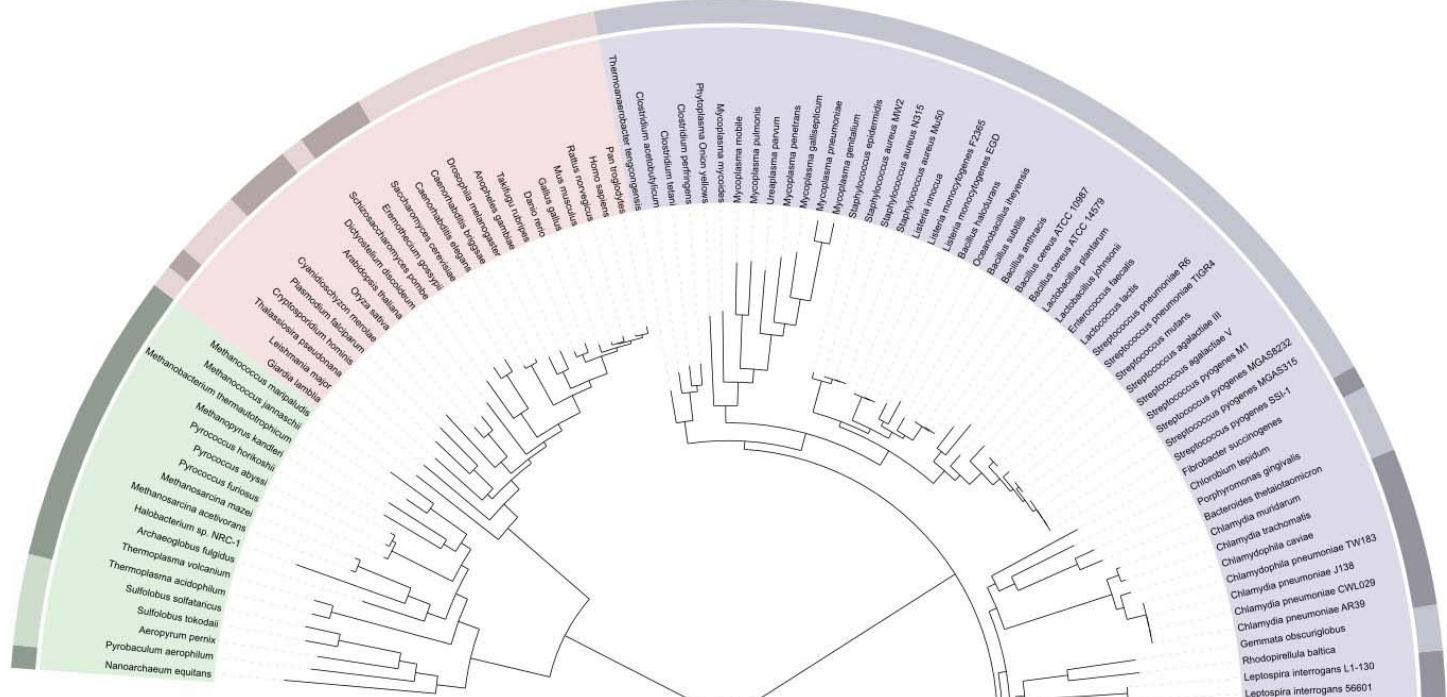
6. The set of living organisms on the Earth is a complex system

# Phylogenetic Tree of Life

we are here

temporal evolutive tree

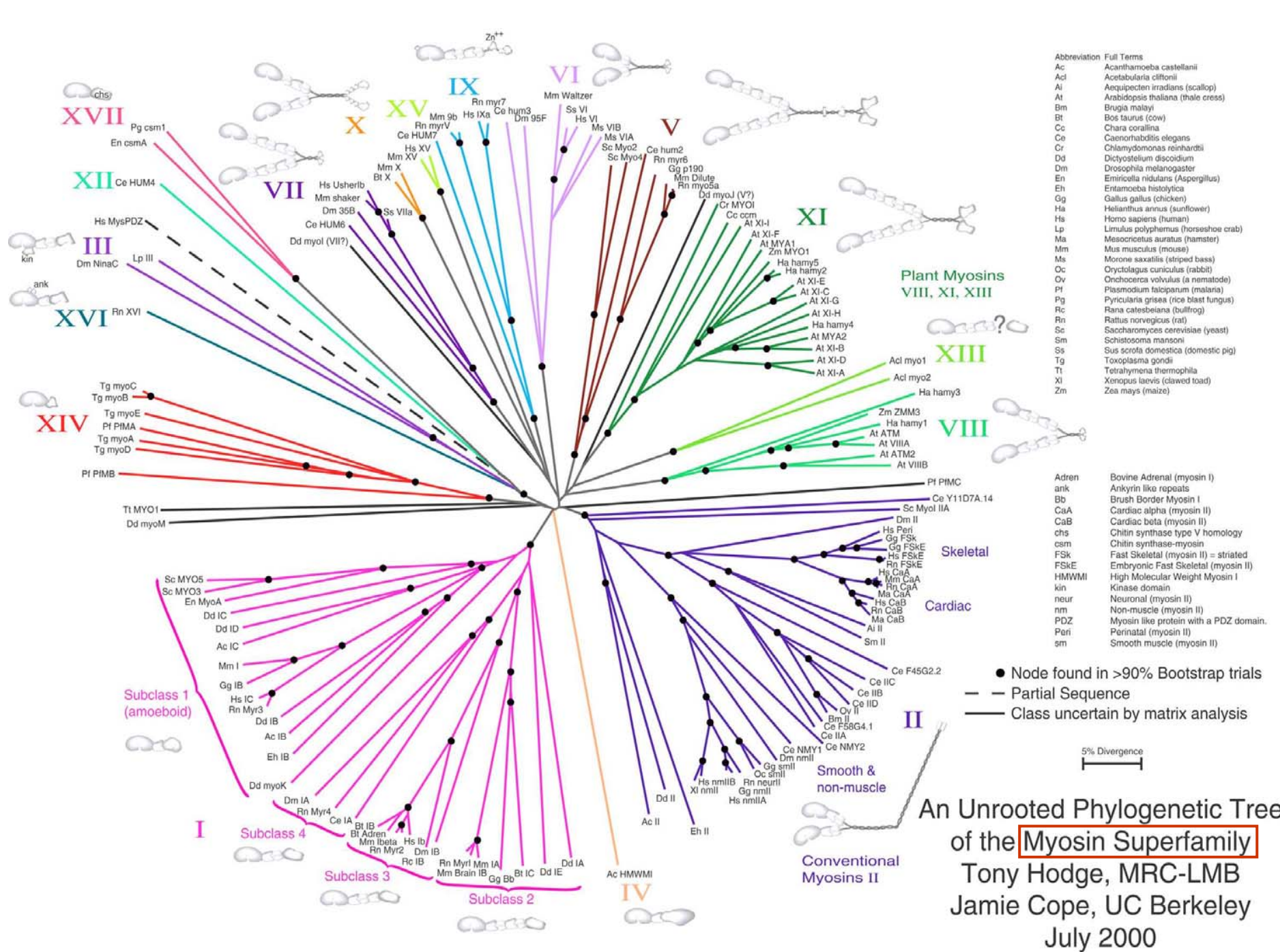




from where everything started







An Unrooted Phylogenetic Tree of the **Myosin Superfamily**  
 Tony Hodge, MRC-LMB  
 Jamie Cope, UC Berkeley  
 July 2000

# Biological systems and Spin glasses

## Biosystems

### Disorder

very many random variables,  
few dynamical (relevant) dof's

### Degeneracy

can exist in very many "equilibrium" states

## Spin glasses

### Disorder

random coupling among spins

### Frustration

within triplets of spins

## Spin glasses: a suggestive paradigm for biosystems

{ Protein folding (see below)  
Associative memory  
Scaling laws in taxonomy  
Immune system memory and stability  
....

Iori Marinari Parisi  
Hopfield  
Mezard Parisi Virasoro  
Parisi

Complexity of Classification



# A Spin glass Primer

- $N$  individuals interacts pairwise with couplings

$$\begin{array}{lll} J_{AB}=+1 & \text{if} & A \text{ likes } B \\ J_{AB}=-1 & \text{if} & A \text{ dislikes } B \end{array}$$

- Given 3 individuals, there is **frustration** if

$$J_{AB} J_{BC} J_{CA} = -1$$

- The  $N$  individuals are asked to separate in 2 fields so as to minimize in each field the number of pairs of “enemies”
- Given a **J-PDF** and an initial subdivision, “equilibrium” is reached by asking each individual to decide to change field if the move lowers the frustration

- If many pairs are frustrated  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{system is highly } \mathbf{unstable} \\ \downarrow \\ \text{many possible equally good } \mathbf{subdivisions} \end{array} \right.$

A **locally** optimal state is reached in **polynomial** time

A **globally** optimal state (if it can be reached at all) generically requires an **exponential** time (**NP-problem**)

## An illuminating example

- M likes M                      W likes W  
  M dislikes W                  W dislikes M                   $\longrightarrow$

For any triplet  $J^3=+1$   
No frustration

$\Rightarrow$  **Optimal state:** 2 separate groups, [M] and [W]

- M dislikes M                      W dislikes W  
  M likes W                        W likes M                       $\longrightarrow$

For any triplet  $J^3=-1$   
Maximal frustration

$\Rightarrow$  **Optimal state:** any subdivision with equal number of M and W

## Further examples of interesting physical systems

- Alloys, like  $\text{Fe}_x \text{Au}_{100-x}$ , with small  $x$  %  $\rightarrow H = \sum_{ik} \sigma_i J(|x_i - x_k|) \sigma_k$   
 $J(|x_i - x_k|)$  very rapidly oscillating with  $|x_i - x_k|$ , almost a **random** function

- **Electrons** moving in a **metallic glass**, containing various types of atoms, located at fixed but **random** positions

$\Rightarrow$  We expect the electron **conductibility** not to depend on the detailed positions of the impurities (for not too small samples)

$$H_{\text{SG}} = \sum_{ik} \sigma_i J_{ik} \sigma_k, \text{ with some PDF for the } J_{ik}$$



## Basic Mathematics

Sherrington  
Kirkpatrick  
Parisi

- Hamiltonian

$$H_J [\sigma] = \sum_{ik} \sigma_i J_{ik} \sigma_k \quad J_{ik} = J_{ki}, J_{ii} = 0$$

- $J_{ik}$  are random variables with PDF  $\Rightarrow P(J)$

- Partition Function and Free Energy at fixed  $P(J)$

$$Z_J = \sum_{[\sigma]} \exp -\beta H_J [\sigma] \quad \beta = 1/KT$$

$$F_J = -\frac{1}{\beta N} \log Z_J$$

- $N$  is the number of spins

- We want to compute the **quenched** average

$$F = \sum_J P(J) F_J = -\frac{1}{\beta N} \sum_J P(J) \log Z_J$$

and not the **annealed** average

$$F_{An} = -\frac{1}{\beta N} \log Z_{An} \quad Z_{An} = \sum_J P(J) \sum_{[\sigma]} \exp -\beta H_J [\sigma]$$

- time scale of  $J$ -dynamics  $\gg$  time scale of  $\sigma$ -dynamics

# The Replica Method

$$Z_n \equiv \sum_J P(J) (Z_J)^n$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow 0} F_n = F$$

$$F_n = -\frac{1}{\beta N} \frac{1}{n} \log Z_n$$

the replica index

A simple proof

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow 0} -\frac{1}{\beta N} \frac{1}{n} \log Z_n &= \lim_{n \rightarrow 0} -\frac{1}{\beta N} \frac{1}{n} \log [\sum_J P(J) (Z_J)^n] = \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow 0} -\frac{1}{\beta N} \frac{1}{n} \log [\sum_J P(J) (1+n \log Z_J + \dots)] = \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow 0} -\frac{1}{\beta N} \frac{1}{n} \log [1+n \sum_J P(J) \log Z_J + \dots] = \\ &= -\frac{1}{\beta N} \sum_J P(J) \log Z_J = F \quad \text{looks OK, except that } n \text{ is an integer...} \end{aligned}$$

Typical  $P(J)$ 's

Gaussian:  $P(J) \propto \exp[-(J-J_0)^2/2\sigma_J^2]$

Uniform:  $P(J=+1) = P(J=-1) = 1/2$

# Phase structure

Edwards  
Anderson

$$m_i(J) = \langle \sigma_i \rangle = \sum_{[\sigma]} \sigma_i \exp -\beta H_J [\sigma]$$

$$q(J) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i [m_i(J)]^2 = \sum_J P(J) [m_i(J)]^2 = q$$

self-averaging

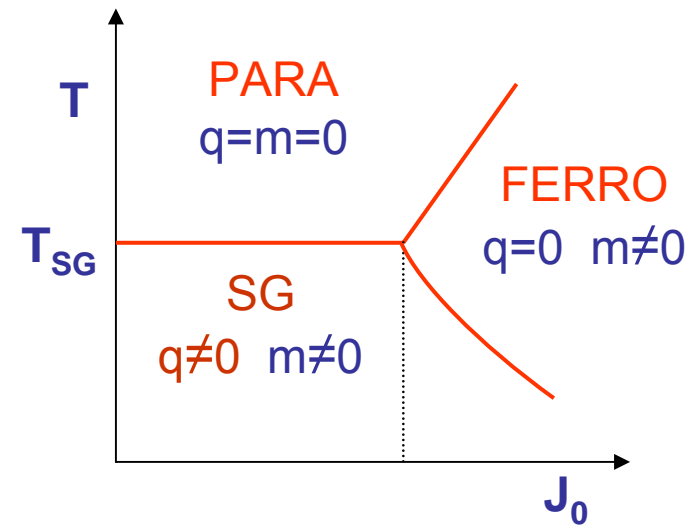
High temperature  $m_i(J) = 0 \Rightarrow q = 0$

Low temperature  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} m_i(J) \neq 0 \text{ for some } i \\ \text{with } \sum_i [m_i(J)] = 0, \text{ but} \\ q(J) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i [m_i(J)]^2 \neq 0 \end{array} \right.$

self-averaging

Order parameters  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} q = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i [m_i(J)]^2 \\ m = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i [m_i(J)] \end{array} \right.$

The whole game is to compute  $P(q)$



# Few further numbers

dimensions  
times  
weights  
chemical events

Human body:  $\sim 7 \times 10^{27}$  atoms:  
99% C, H, O and N; 87% are either H or O;  
but 41 different elements

## Estimated Atomic Composition of a lean 70 kg Male Human Body

Element	Sym	# Atoms	Element	Sym	# Atoms	Element	Sym	# Atoms			
Hydrogen	H	1	4.22 x 10 <sup>27</sup>	Rubidium	Rb	37	2.2 x 10 <sup>21</sup>	Zirconium	Zr	40	2 x 10 <sup>19</sup>
Oxygen	O	8	1.61 x 10 <sup>27</sup>	Strontium	Sr	38	2.2 x 10 <sup>21</sup>	Cobalt	Co	27	2 x 10 <sup>19</sup>
Carbon	C	6	8.03 x 10 <sup>26</sup>	Bromine	Br	35	2 x 10 <sup>21</sup>	Cesium	Cs	55	7 x 10 <sup>18</sup>
Nitrogen	N	7	3.9 x 10 <sup>25</sup>	Aluminum	Al	13	1 x 10 <sup>21</sup>	Mercury	Hg	80	6 x 10 <sup>18</sup>
Calcium	Ca	20	1.6 x 10 <sup>25</sup>	Copper	Cu	29	7 x 10 <sup>20</sup>	Arsenic	As	33	6 x 10 <sup>18</sup>
Phosphorus	P	15	9.6 x 10 <sup>24</sup>	Lead	Pb	82	3 x 10 <sup>20</sup>	Chromium	Cr	24	6 x 10 <sup>18</sup>
Sulfur	S	16	2.6 x 10 <sup>24</sup>	Cadmium	Cd	48	3 x 10 <sup>20</sup>	Molybdenum	Mo	42	3 x 10 <sup>18</sup>
Sodium	Na	11	2.5 x 10 <sup>24</sup>	Boron	B	5	2 x 10 <sup>20</sup>	Selenium	Se	34	3 x 10 <sup>18</sup>
Potassium	K	19	2.2 x 10 <sup>24</sup>	Manganese	Mn	25	1 x 10 <sup>20</sup>	Beryllium	Be	4	3 x 10 <sup>18</sup>
Chlorine	Cl	17	1.6 x 10 <sup>24</sup>	Nickel	Ni	28	1 x 10 <sup>20</sup>	Vanadium	V	23	8 x 10 <sup>17</sup>
Magnesium	Mg	12	4.7 x 10 <sup>23</sup>	Lithium	Li	3	1 x 10 <sup>20</sup>	Uranium	U	92	2 x 10 <sup>17</sup>
Silicium	Si	14	3.9 x 10 <sup>23</sup>	Barium	Ba	56	8 x 10 <sup>19</sup>	Radium	Ra	88	8 x 10 <sup>10</sup>
Fluorine	F	9	8.3 x 10 <sup>22</sup>	Iodine	I	53	5 x 10 <sup>19</sup>				
Iron	Fe	26	4.5 x 10 <sup>22</sup>	Tin	Sn	50	4 x 10 <sup>19</sup>				
Zinc	Zn	30	2.1 x 10 <sup>22</sup>	Gold	Au	79	2 x 10 <sup>19</sup>				
								<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6.71x10<sup>27</sup></b>	

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1	1																	2
2	3	4											5	6	7	8	9	10
3	11	12											13	14	15	16	17	18
4	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
5	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
6	55	56	*	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86
7	87	88	**	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112						
			*	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71
			**	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103

Element Groups (Families)		
Alkali Earth	Alkaline Earth	Transition Metals
Rare Earth	Other Metals	Metalloids
Non-Metals	Halogens	Noble Gases



## Estimated Molecular Content of a Typical 20-micron Human Cell

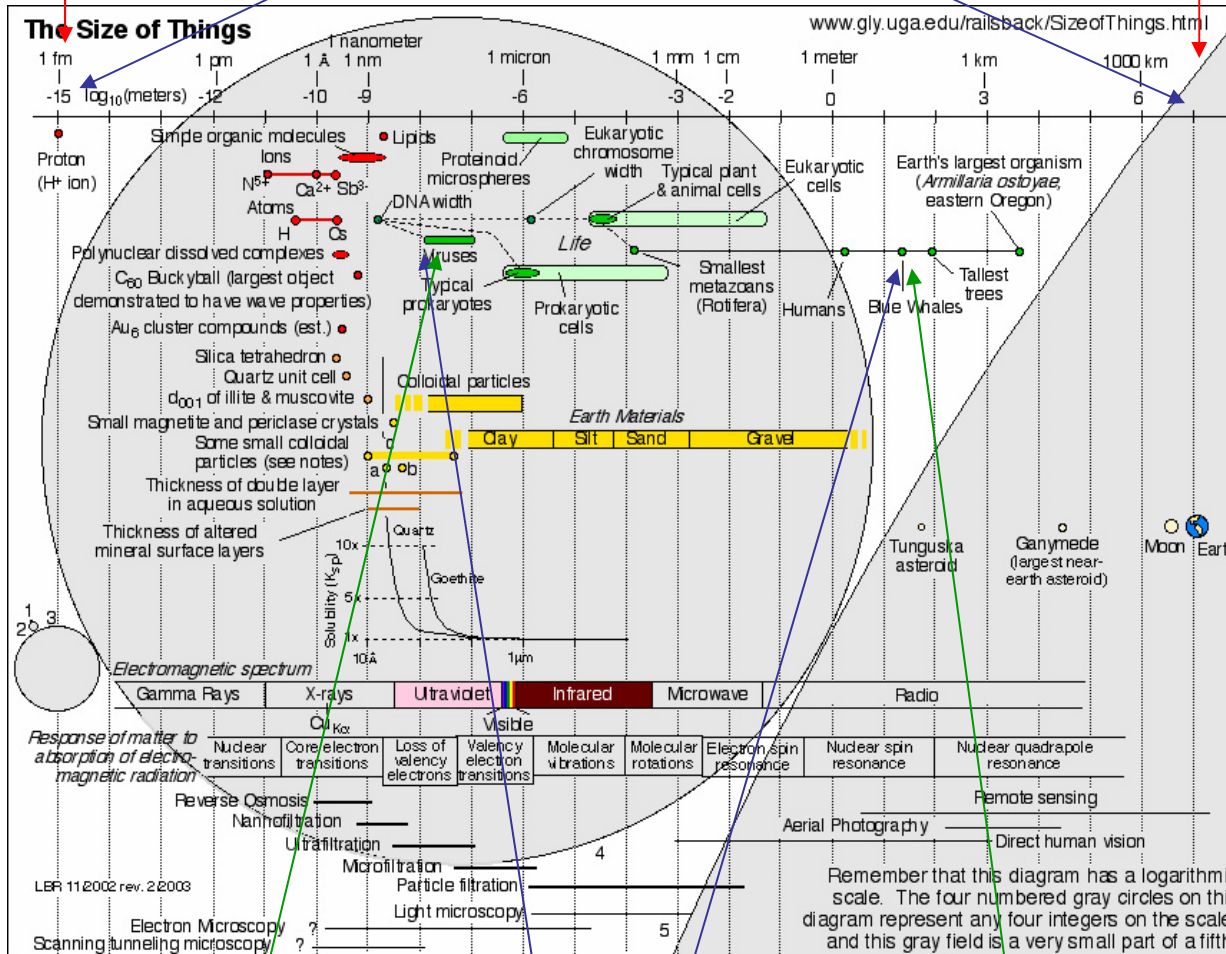
Molecule	Mass %	<MW> (Daltons)	# Molecules	Molecule %	# of Types
Water	65%	18	$1.74 \times 10^{14}$	98.73 %	1
Other Inorganic	1.5%	55	$1.31 \times 10^{12}$	0.74 %	20
Lipid	12%	700	$8.4 \times 10^{11}$	0.475 %	50
Other Organic	0.4%	250	$7.7 \times 10^{10}$	0.044 %	~200
Protein	20%	50,000	$1.9 \times 10^{10}$	0.011 %	~5,000
RNA	1.0%	$1 \times 10^6$	$5 \times 10^7$	$3 \times 10^{-5}$ %	----
DNA	0.1%	$1 \times 10^{11}$	46	$3 \times 10^{-11}$ %	----
TOTALS	100%	----	$1.76 \times 10^{14}$	100%	----

**1 Da (Dalton) = 1 atomic unit =  $m_a(^{12}\text{C}) / (12 \times 1,660540 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg} \sim \text{hydrogen mass})$**   
**dimensionless unit**

Proton

10<sup>22</sup>

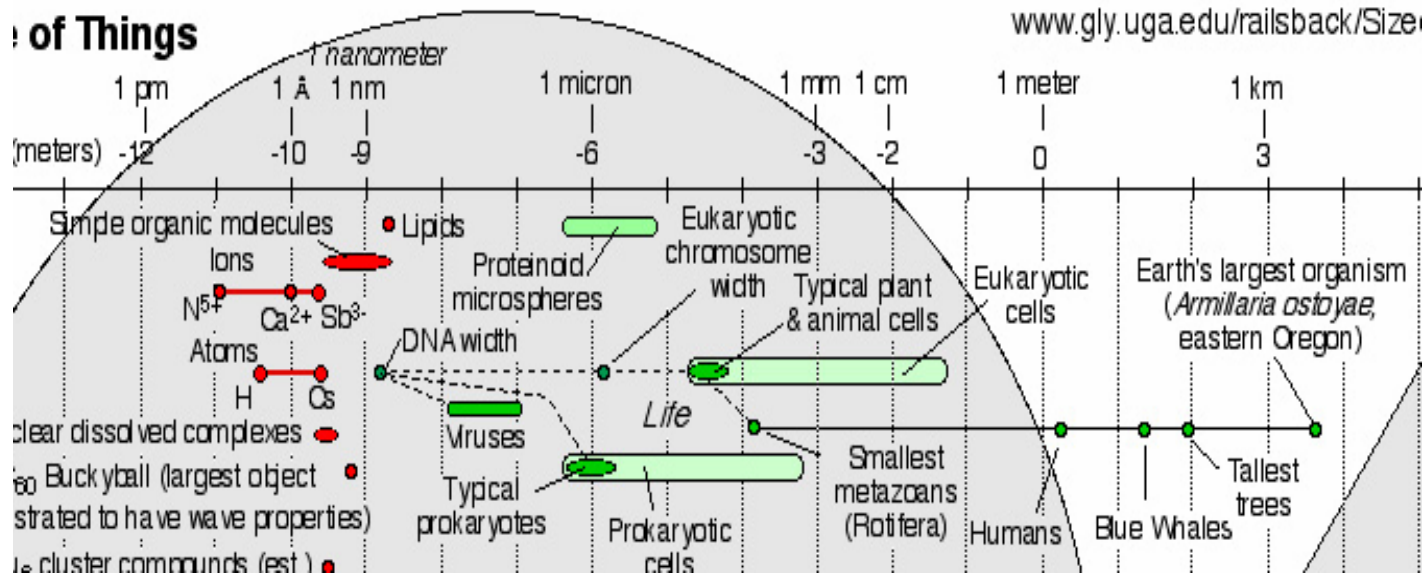
Earth



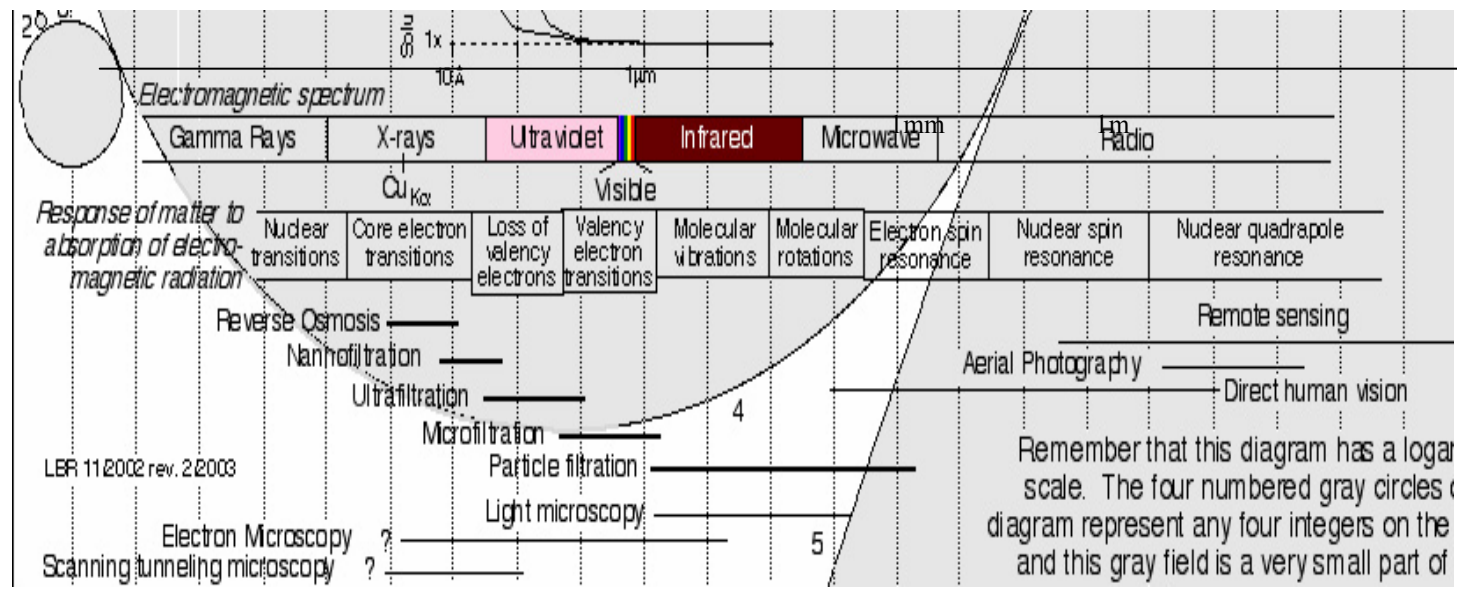
Virus

10<sup>9</sup>

Blue whale



A  
b  
l  
o  
w  
u  
p



The **largest** and **smallest** cells in the human body are the gametes or the sex cells

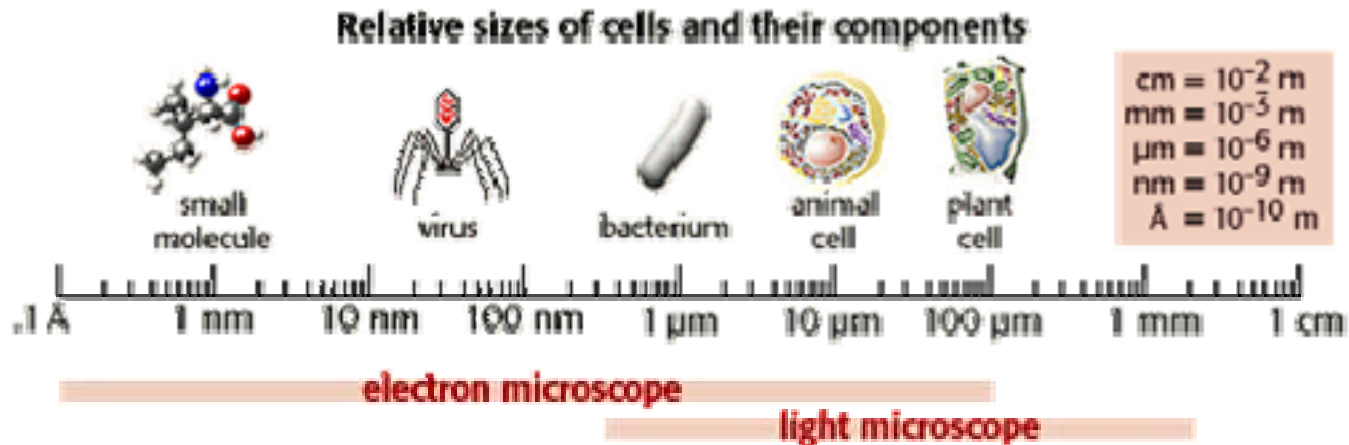
♀ **female** = oocyte:  $\emptyset \approx 35 \mu\text{m}$  (almost visible with the naked eye)

♂ **male** = spermatozoon:  $\emptyset \approx 3 \mu\text{m}$

The **smallest** known organism capable of independent growth and reproduction

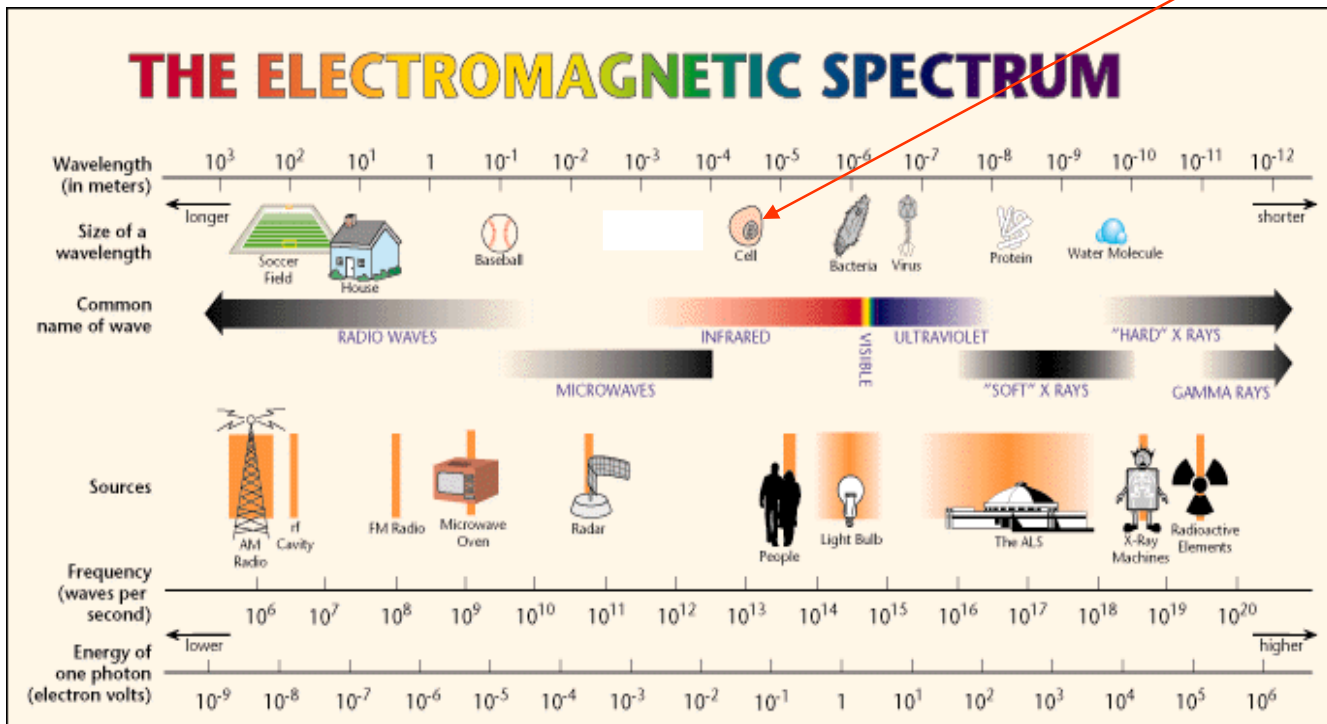
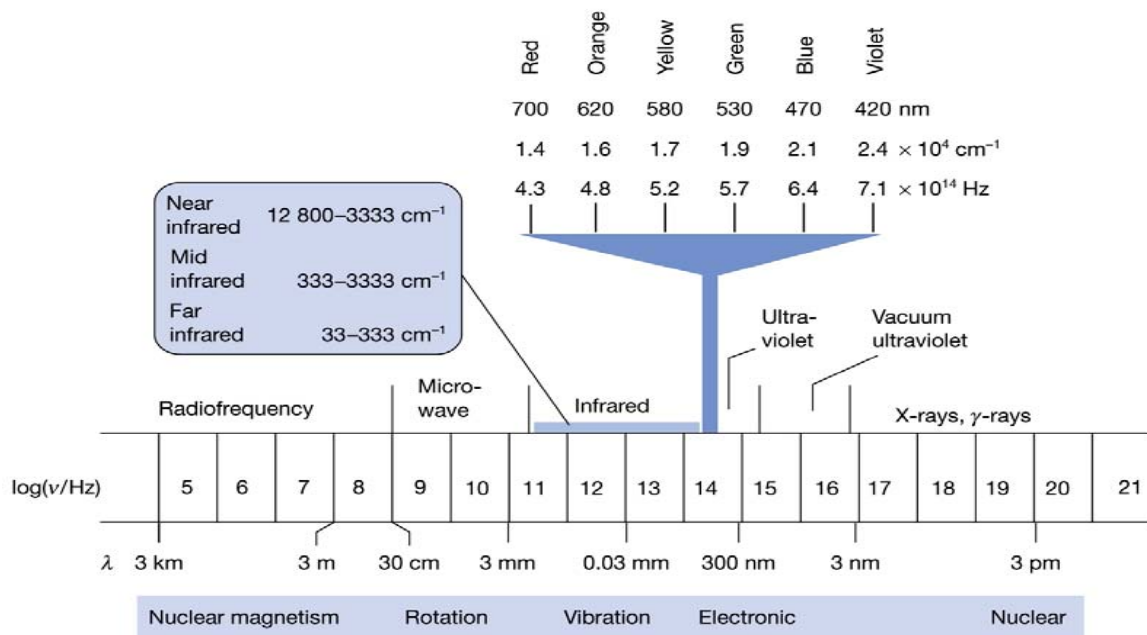
*Mycoplasma genitalium*:  $\emptyset \approx 0.2 - 0.3 \mu\text{m}$

The smallest “**theoretical**” bacterium:  $\emptyset \approx 0.17 \mu\text{m}$

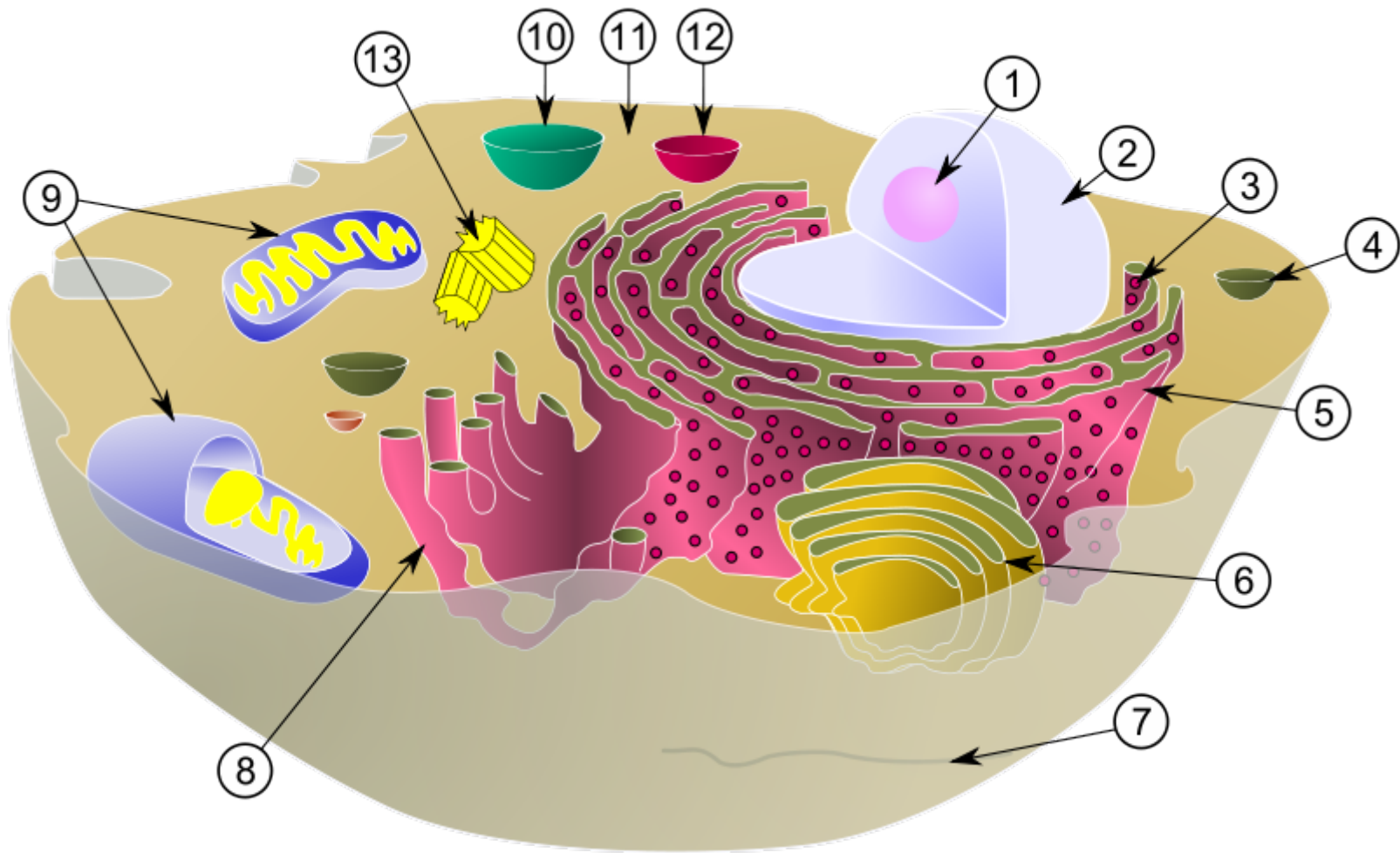


<Average bacterium>: rod shape  $V \approx 1 \mu\text{m}^2 \times 3 \mu\text{m}$

<Average human cell>: spherical shape  $\emptyset \approx 25 \mu\text{m}$

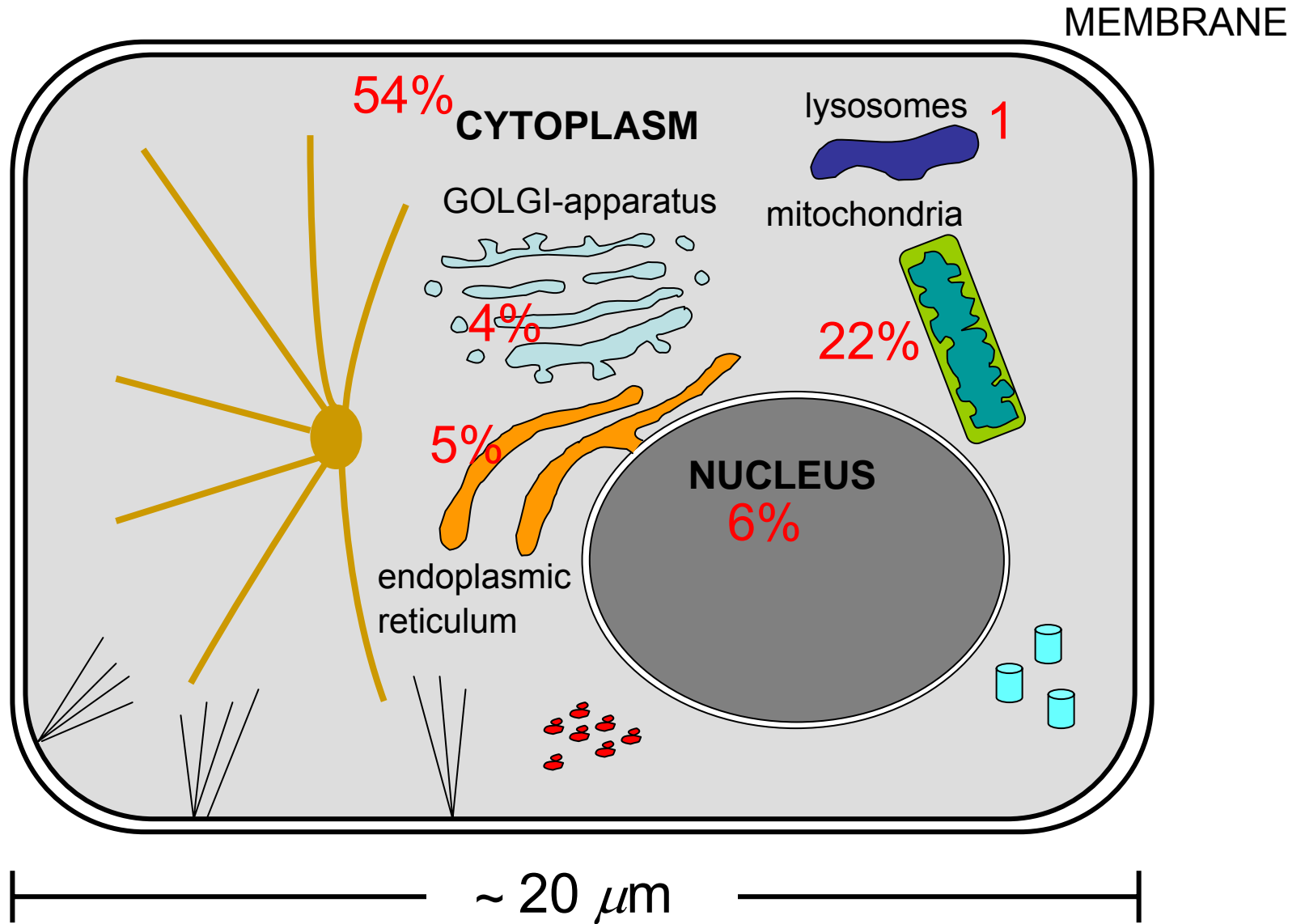


# A eukaryotic cell artistic view

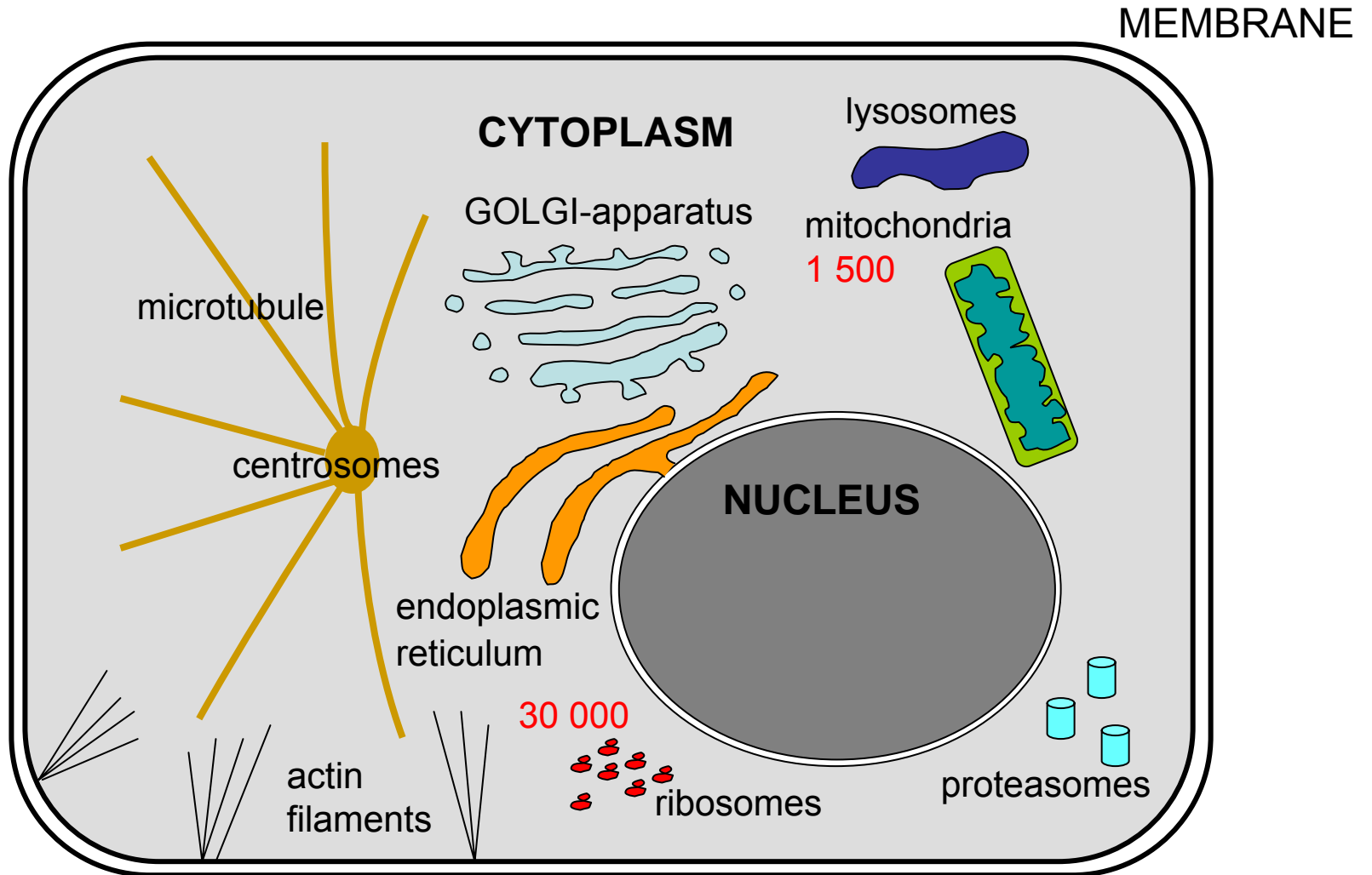


1. Nucleolus
2. Nucleus
3. Ribosome
4. Vesicle
5. Rough endoplasmic reticulum
6. Golgi apparatus
7. Cytoskeleton
8. Smooth endoplasmic reticulum
9. Mitochondrion
10. Vacuole
11. Cytosol
12. Lysosome
13. Centriole

# SCHEMATIC STRUCTURE OF LIVING EUKARYOTIC CELLS

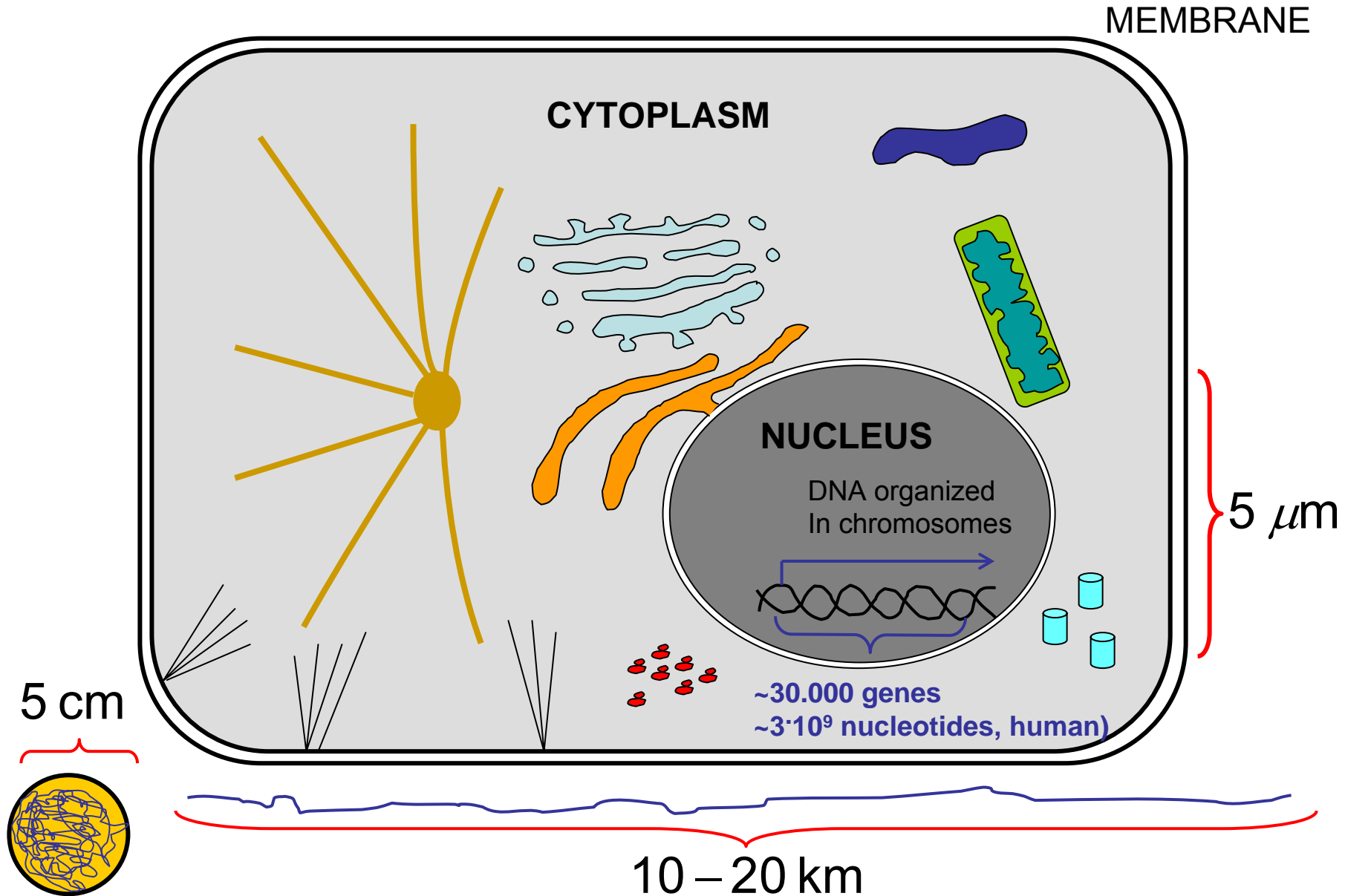


# SCHEMATIC STRUCTURE OF LIVING EUKARYOTIC CELLS

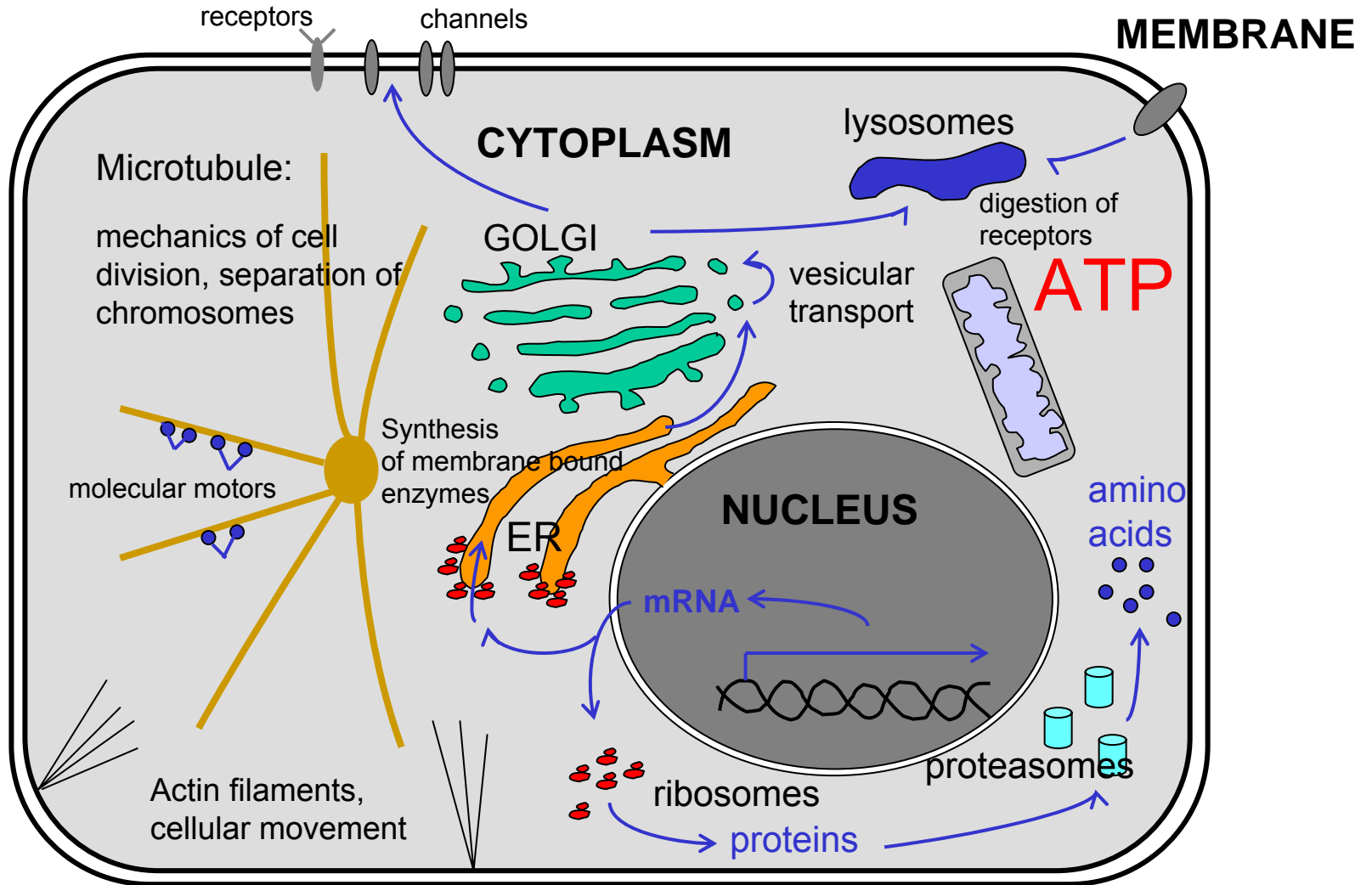




# SCHEMATIC STRUCTURE OF LIVING EUKARYOTIC CELLS



# SCHEMATIC STRUCTURE OF LIVING EUKARYOTIC CELLS



## Comparison of features of prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells

	Prokaryotes	Eukaryotes
<b>Typical organisms</b>	<a href="#">bacteria</a> , <a href="#">archaea</a>	<a href="#">protists</a> , <a href="#">fungi</a> , <a href="#">plants</a> , <a href="#">animals</a>
<b>Typical size</b>	~ 1-10 $\mu\text{m}$	~ 10-100 $\mu\text{m}$ ( <a href="#">sperm cells</a> , apart from the tail, are smaller)
<b>Type of <a href="#">nucleus</a></b>	<a href="#">nucleoid region</a> ; no real nucleus	real nucleus with double membrane
<b>DNA</b>	circular (usually)	linear molecules ( <a href="#">chromosomes</a> ) with <a href="#">histone proteins</a>
<b>RNA-/protein-synthesis</b>	coupled in <a href="#">cytoplasm</a>	RNA-synthesis inside the nucleus protein synthesis in cytoplasm
<b><a href="#">Ribosomes</a></b>	50S+30S	60S+40S
<b>Cytoplasmatic structure</b>	very few structures	highly structured by endomembranes and a <a href="#">cytoskeleton</a>
<b><a href="#">Cell movement</a></b>	<a href="#">flagella</a> made of <a href="#">flagellin</a>	flagella and <a href="#">cilia</a> containing <a href="#">microtubules</a> ; <a href="#">lamellipodia</a> and <a href="#">filopodia</a> containing <a href="#">actin</a>
<b><a href="#">Mitochondria</a></b>	none	one to several thousand (though some lack mitochondria)
<b><a href="#">Chloroplasts</a></b>	none	in <a href="#">algae</a> and <a href="#">plants</a>
<b>Organization</b>	usually single cells	single cells, colonies, higher multicellular organisms with specialized cells
<b><a href="#">Cell division</a></b>	<a href="#">Binary fission</a> (simple division)	<a href="#">Mitosis</a> (fission or budding) <a href="#">Meiosis</a>

## II. Data, (physical) models and (mathematical) tools