

**CG020 Genomika**  
**Bi7201 Základy genomiky**

# 10. Systémová biologie

# 10. Systems biology

Kamil Růžička

**Funkční genomika a proteomika rostlin,**  
Mendelovo centrum genomiky a proteomiky rostlin,  
Středoevropský technologický institut (CEITEC), Masarykova univerzita, Brno  
[kamil.ruzicka@ceitec.muni.cz](mailto:kamil.ruzicka@ceitec.muni.cz), [www.ceitec.muni.cz](http://www.ceitec.muni.cz)

# Přehled

- What is systems biology
  - System theory
  - Omics
  - Reductionism vs. holism
  - Networks
  - Modular concept
- Regulation of gene expression – example task for systems biology
  - Gene regulation  $X \rightarrow Y$
  - Transcriptional network of E. coli
  - Negative autoregulatory networks
  - Robustness of negative autoragulatory networks
  - (Positive autoregulatory networks)

# What is systems biology

- fashionable catchword?
- a real new (philosophical) concept?
- new discipline in biology?
- just biology?



# What is systems biology

- fashionable catchword?
- a real new (philosophical) concept?
- new discipline in biology?
- just biology?

<http://www.ceitec.eu/programs/genomics-and-proteomics-of-plant-systems/>



# Systems theory

- The behavior of a system depends on:
  - Properties of the components of the system
  - The interactions between the components

# Systems theory

- The behavior of a system depends on:
  - Properties of the components of the system
  - The interactions between the components

Forget about **reductionism**, think **holistically**.

ὅλος [hol'-os] – greek. all, the whole, entire, complete

# Systems biology

meeting of old and new

- Systems theory and theoretical biology are old
- Experimental and computational possibilities are new

# Ludwig von Bertalanffy

(1901-1972)

Copyrighted material; sample page 22 of 22

\$15.95

## GENERAL SYSTEM THEORY

Gathered here are Ludwig von Bertalanffy's writings on general system theory, selected and edited to show the evolution of systems theory and to present its applications to problem solving. An attempt to formulate common laws that apply to virtually every scientific field, this conceptual approach has had a profound impact on such widely diverse disciplines as biology, economics, psychology, and demography.

A German-Canadian biologist and philosopher, Ludwig von Bertalanffy (1901–1972) was the creator and chief exponent of general system theory. He is the author of ten books including *Robots, Men, and Minds* and *Modern Theories of Development*, both which have been published in several languages.

Also available from George Braziller, Inc.

*The Systems View of the World*

ISBN 0-8076-0636-7, pb, \$7.95

*The Relevance of General Systems Theory*

ISBN 0-8076-0659-6, hb, \$8.95

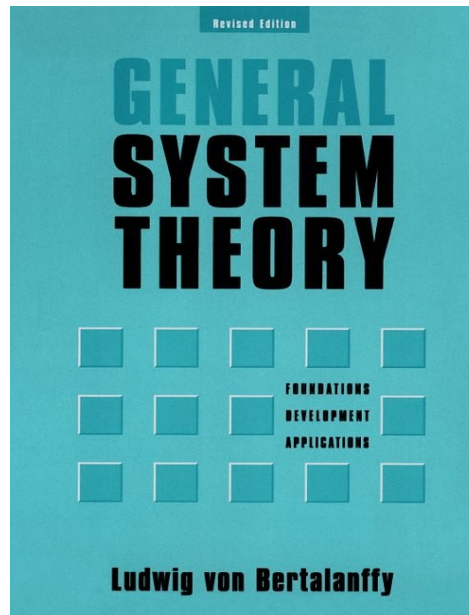
*Hierarchy Theory*

ISBN 0-8076-0674-X, hb, \$7.95

GEORGE BRAZILLER, INC.

171 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10016

ISBN 0-8076-0453-4



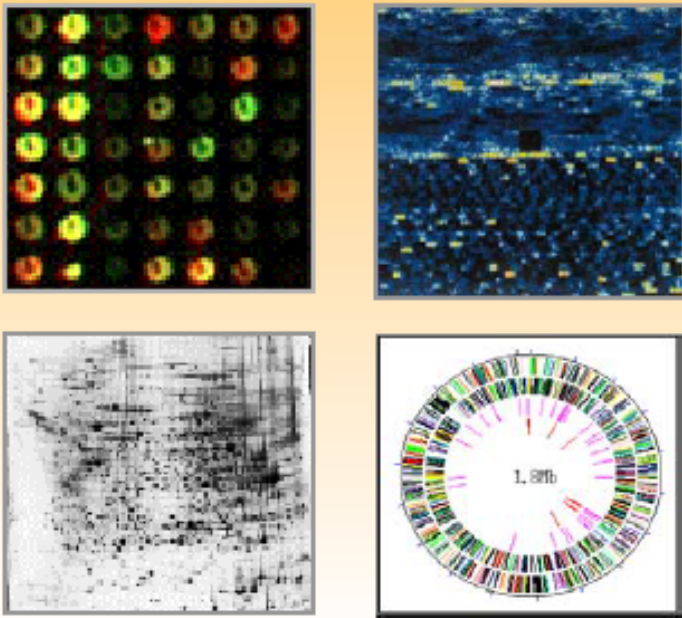
Copyrighted material; sample page 3 of 22

4	Advances in General System Theory .....	87
	Approaches and Aims in Systems Science .....	87
	Methods in General Systems Research .....	94
	Advances of General System Theory .....	99
5	The Organism Considered as Physical System .....	120
	The Organism as Open System .....	120
	General Characteristics of Open Chemical Systems .....	124
	Equifinality .....	131
	Biological Applications .....	134
6	The Model of Open System .....	139
	The Living Machine and Its Limitations .....	139
	Some Characteristics of Open Systems .....	141
	Open Systems in Biology .....	145
	Open Systems and Cybernetics .....	149
	Unsolved Problems .....	151
	Conclusion .....	153
7	Some Aspects of System Theory in Biology .....	155
	Open Systems and Steady States .....	156
	Feedback and Homeostasis .....	160
	Allometry and the Surface Rule .....	163
	Theory of Animal Growth .....	171
	Summary .....	184
8	The System Concept in the Sciences of Man .....	186
	The Organismic Revolution .....	186
	The Image of Man in Contemporary Thought .....	188
	System-Theoretical Re-orientation .....	192
	Systems in the Social Sciences .....	194
	A System-Theoretical Concept of History .....	197
	The Future in System-Theoretical Aspect .....	203
9	General System Theory in Psychology and Psychiatry .....	205
	The Quandary of Modern Psychology .....	205
	System Concepts in Psychopathology .....	208
	Conclusion .....	220
10	The Relativity of Categories .....	222
	The Whorfian Hypothesis .....	222
	The Biological Relativity of Categories .....	227



# Omics-revolution shifts paradigm to large systems

## High Throughput Data

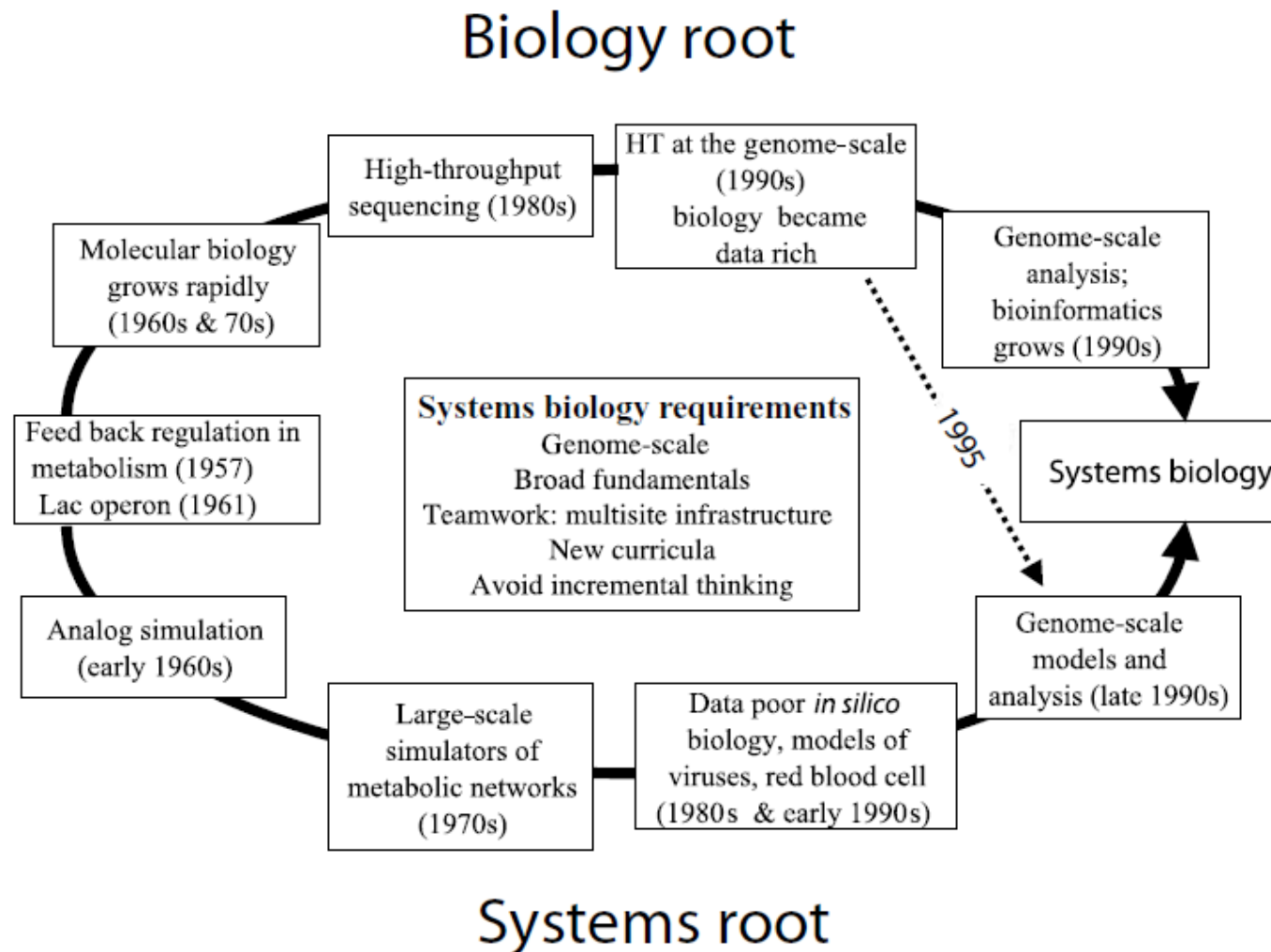


## Cellular Complexity



- Integrative bioinformatics
- (Network) modeling

# Two roots of systems biology



# Associated disciplines

- Genomics
- Epigenomics
- Transcriptomics
- Translatomics / Proteomics
- Interactomics
- Metabolomics
- Fluxomics
- NeuroElectroDynamics
- Phenomics
- Biomics

# Associated disciplines

- Genomics
- Epigenomics
- Transcriptomics
- Translatomics / Proteomics
- Interactomics
- Metabolomics
- Fluxomics
- NeuroElectroDynamics
- Phenomics
- Biomics

Jozef Mravec's term:  
multidimensional biology

# How I understand systems biology

- **Genetics** - you have one or few RNA processing genes where you show their importance in protoxylem development
- **Functional genomics** - you find in e.g protoxylem expression profiles numerous RNA processing genes and demonstrate which are important for protoxylem developments
- **Systems biology** - based on obtained large scale data you propose model how genes (and/or other components) collectively regulate protoxylem development

# How I understand systems biology

- Good biology – you explain why just some genes regulate protoxylem development

(sorry for aphorisms)

# Reconstructed genome-scale networks

Species
<i>Escherichia coli</i>
<i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>
<i>Human</i>
<i>Arabidopsis</i>

Reference
Feist AM. <i>et al.</i> (2007), <i>Mol. Syst. Biol.</i>
Förster J. <i>et al.</i> (2003), <i>Genome Res.</i>
Oh YK. <i>et al.</i> (2007), <i>J. Biol. Chem.</i>
Teusink B. <i>et al.</i> , (2006), <i>J. Bio. Chem.</i>
Duarte NC. <i>et al.</i> , (2007), <i>PNAS</i>
Arabidopsis Interactome Mapping Consortium (2011), <i>Science</i>

# Reconstructed genome-scale networks

## Species

*Escherichia coli*

*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

*Human*

*Arabidopsis*

## Reference

Feist AM. *et al.* (2007),  
*Mol. Syst. Biol.*

Förster J. *et al.* (2003),  
*Genome Res.*

Oh YK. *et al.* (2007), *J.*  
*Biol. Chem.*

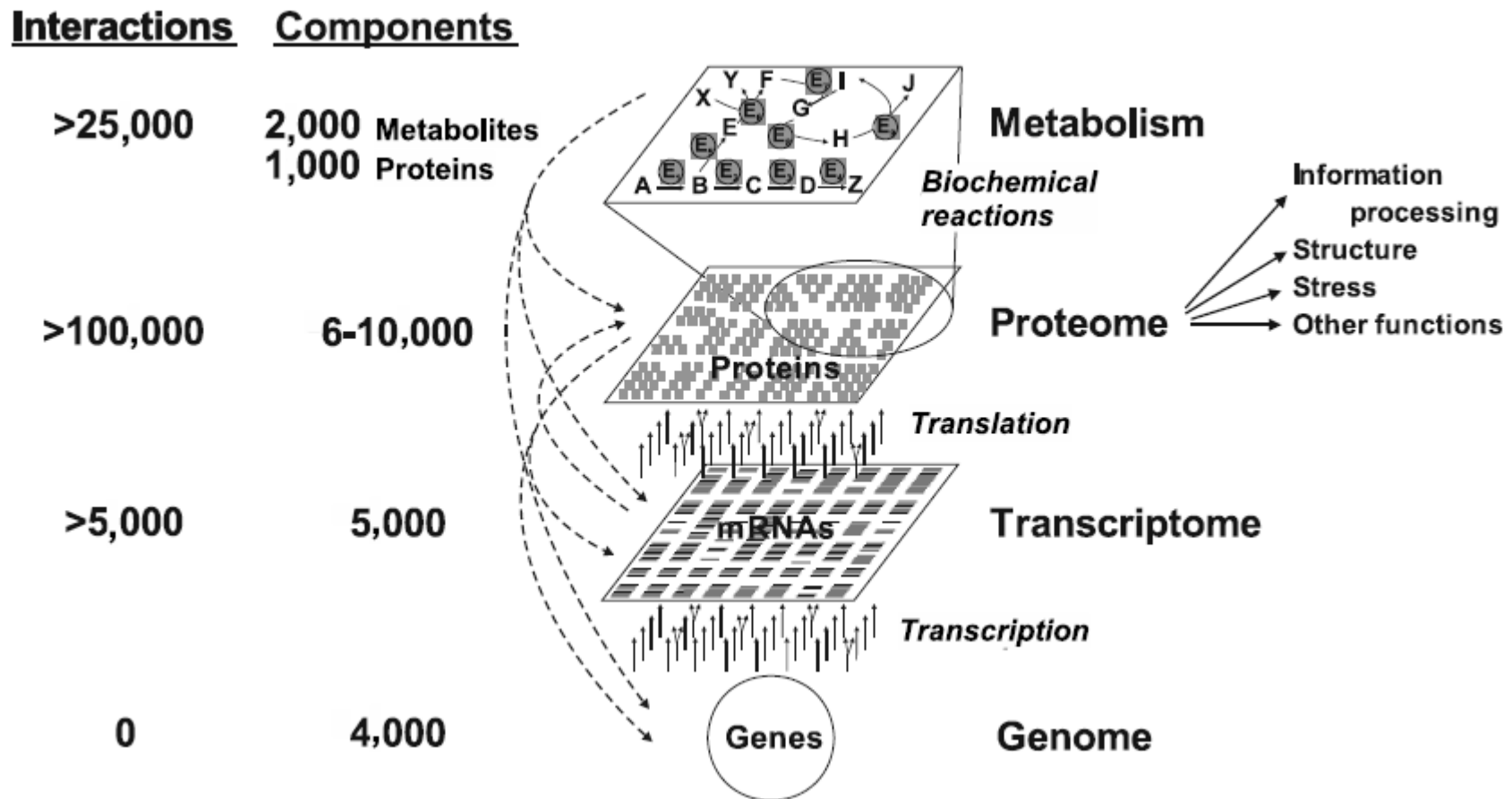
Teusink B. *et al.*, (2006),  
*J. Bio. Chem.*

Duarte NC. *et al.*, (2007),  
*PNAS*

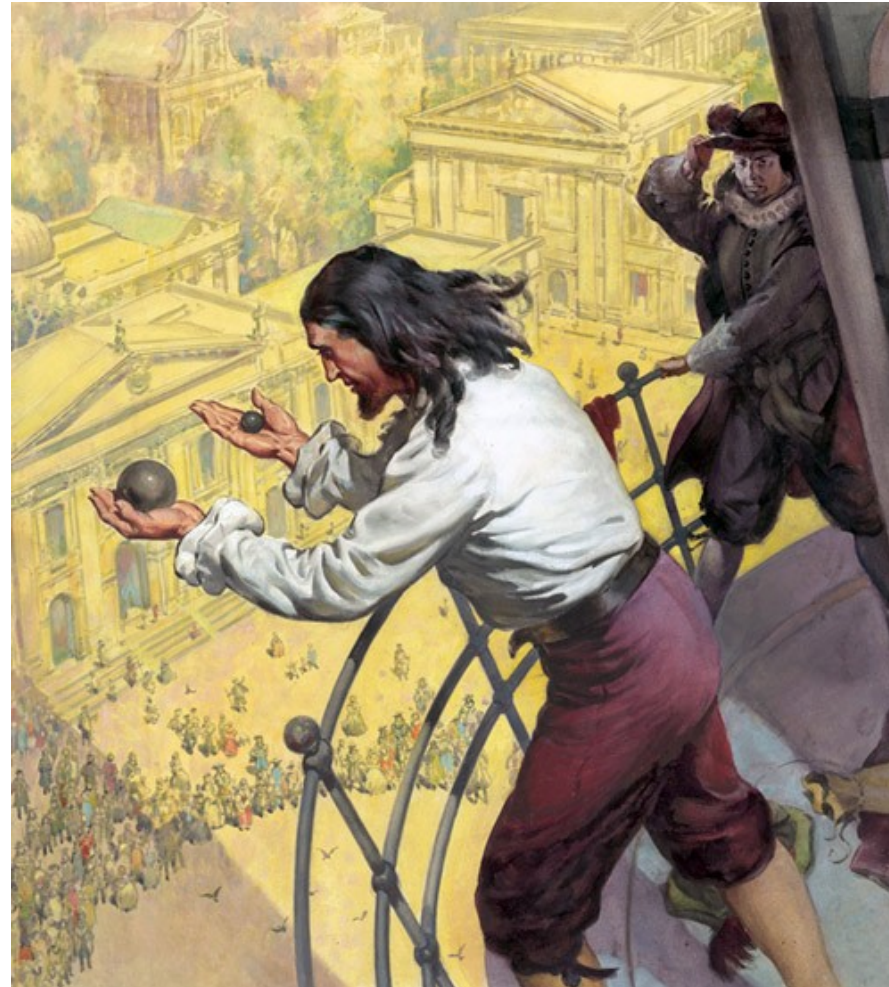
Arabidopsis Interactome  
Mapping Consortium  
(2011), *Science*



# Complexity of cellular networks in *E. coli*



Sometimes the things are  
different than we just think



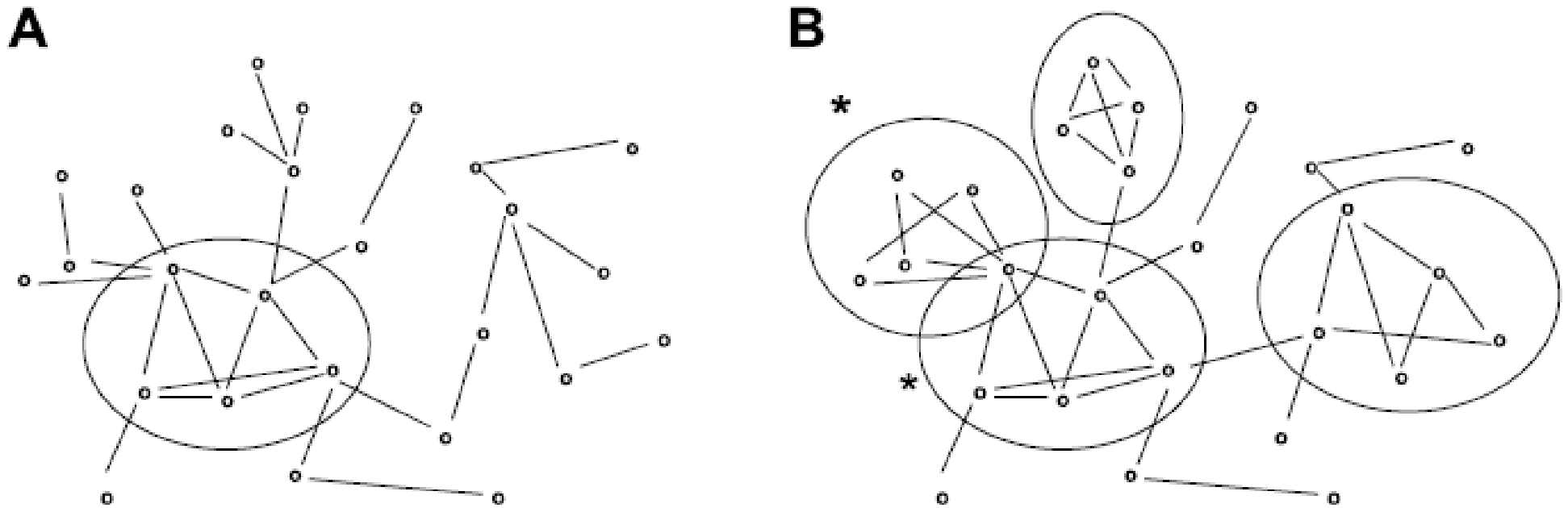
# Reconstruction of networks from -omics for systems analysis

- Gene expression networks: based on transcriptional profiling and clustering of genes
- Protein-protein interaction networks (Y2H, TAP etc).
- Metabolic networks: network of interacting metabolites through biochemical reactions.

# Reconstruction of networks from -omics for systems analysis

- Gene expression networks: based on transcriptional profiling and clustering of genes
- Protein-protein interaction networks (Y2H, TAP etc).
- Metabolic networks: network of interacting metabolites through biochemical reactions.

# How to simplify. Modularity concept.



Lets e.g. assume that transcription and translation is one module.

# *E. coli*

---

Binding of a small molecule (a signal) to a transcription factor, causing a change in transcription factor activity	~1 msec
Binding of active transcription factor to its DNA site	~1 sec
Transcription + translation of the gene	~5 min
Timescale for 50% change in concentration of the translated protein (stable proteins)	~1 h (one cell generation)

---

Generation time	20 min
-----------------	--------

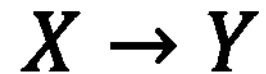
# Description of gene regulation

*Transcription factor X regulates gene Y:*

$$X \rightarrow Y$$

*(X → transcription → translation → Y)*

# Description of gene regulation

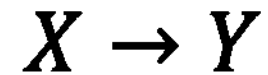


Rate of production:  $\beta$  [units .time<sup>-1</sup>]

Rate of degradation:  $\alpha$  [time<sup>-1</sup>]



# Description of gene regulation

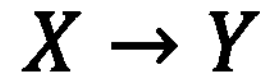


Rate of production:  $\beta$  [units .time<sup>-1</sup>]

Rate of degradation:  $\alpha$  [time<sup>-1</sup>]

$$\alpha = \alpha_{\text{dil}} + \alpha_{\text{deg}}$$

# Description of gene regulation



Rate of production:  $\beta$  [units .time<sup>-1</sup>]

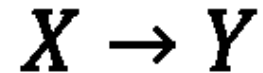
Rate of degradation:  $\alpha$  [time<sup>-1</sup>]

$$\alpha = \alpha_{\text{dil}} + \alpha_{\text{deg}}$$

  
cells grow                      protein is degraded



# Description of gene regulation



Rate of production:  $\beta$  [units.time<sup>-1</sup>]

Rate of degradation:  $\alpha$  [time<sup>-1</sup>]

Change of concentration:

$$\frac{dY}{dt} = \beta - \alpha Y$$

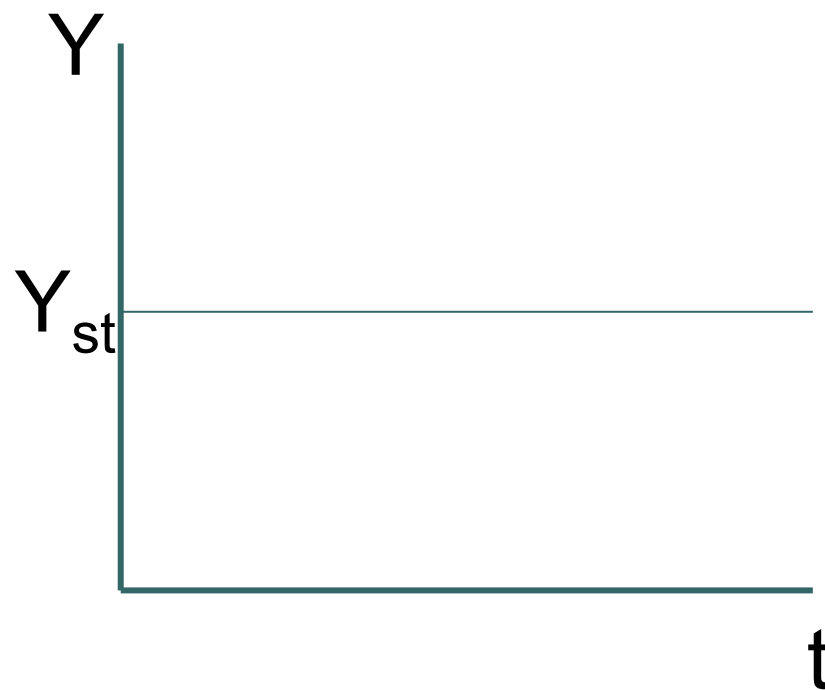
# 1. Steady state – ustálený stav

$$\frac{dY}{dt} = \beta - \alpha Y$$

$$\frac{dY}{dt} = 0$$



$$Y_{st} = \frac{\beta}{\alpha}$$



## 2. Production of Y stops

$$\frac{dY}{dt} = \beta - \alpha Y$$
$$\beta = 0$$

$$Y_t = Y_{st} e^{-\alpha t}$$

**The decay is exponential.**

## 2. Production of Y stops:

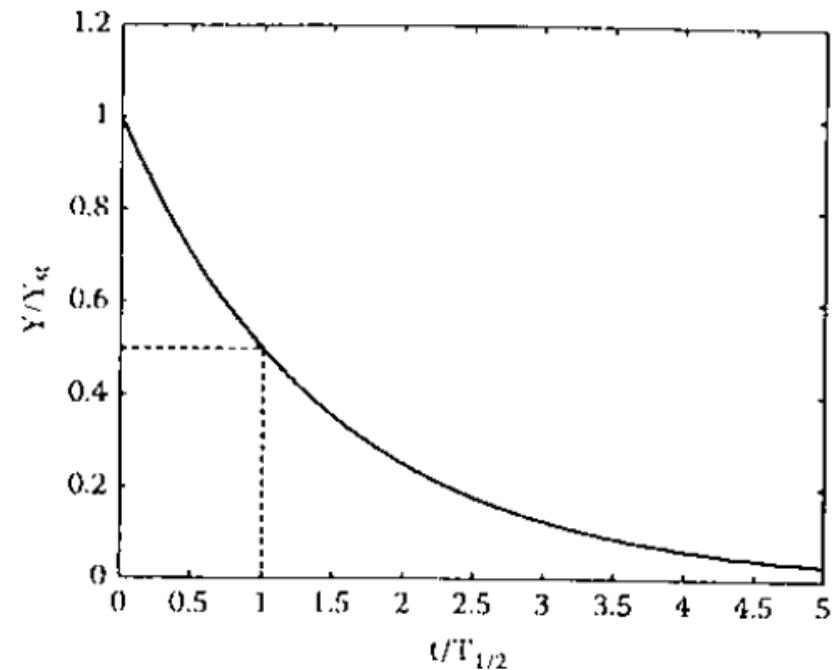
Measure of Y decay – response time ( $T_{1/2}$ ).

$$Y_t = Y_{st} e^{-\alpha t}$$

$$Y_t = \frac{1}{2} Y_{st}$$



$$T_{1/2} = \frac{\log 2}{\alpha}$$



(log => ln [.CZ])

## 2. Production of Y stops:

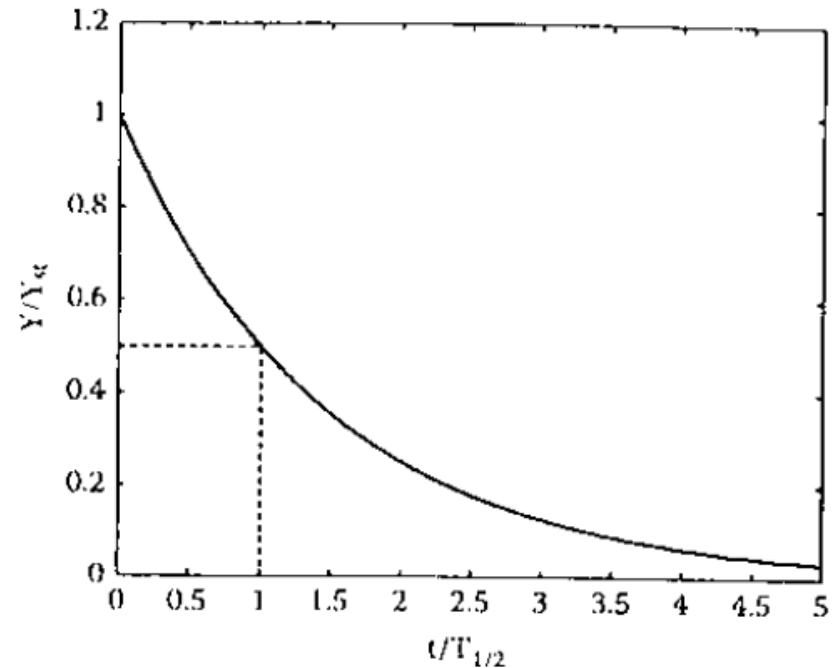
Measure of Y decay – response time ( $T_{1/2}$ ).

$$Y_t = Y_{st} e^{-\alpha t}$$

$$Y_t = \frac{1}{2} Y_{st}$$



$$T_{1/2} = \frac{\log 2}{\alpha}$$



Large  $\alpha$  → rapid degradation

(log => ln [.CZ])

# Stable proteins

(most of E. coli proteins)

$$T_{1/2} = \frac{\log 2}{\alpha}$$

$$\alpha = \alpha_{\text{dil}} + \alpha_{\text{deg}}$$

$$\alpha \approx \alpha_{\text{dil}}$$

$\tau$  – cell generation

$$T_{1/2} = \frac{\log 2}{\alpha_{\text{dil}}} = \tau$$



# Stable proteins

$$T_{1/2} = \frac{\log 2}{\alpha}$$

$$\alpha = \alpha_{\text{dil}} + \alpha_{\text{deg}}$$

$$\alpha \approx \alpha_{\text{dil}}$$

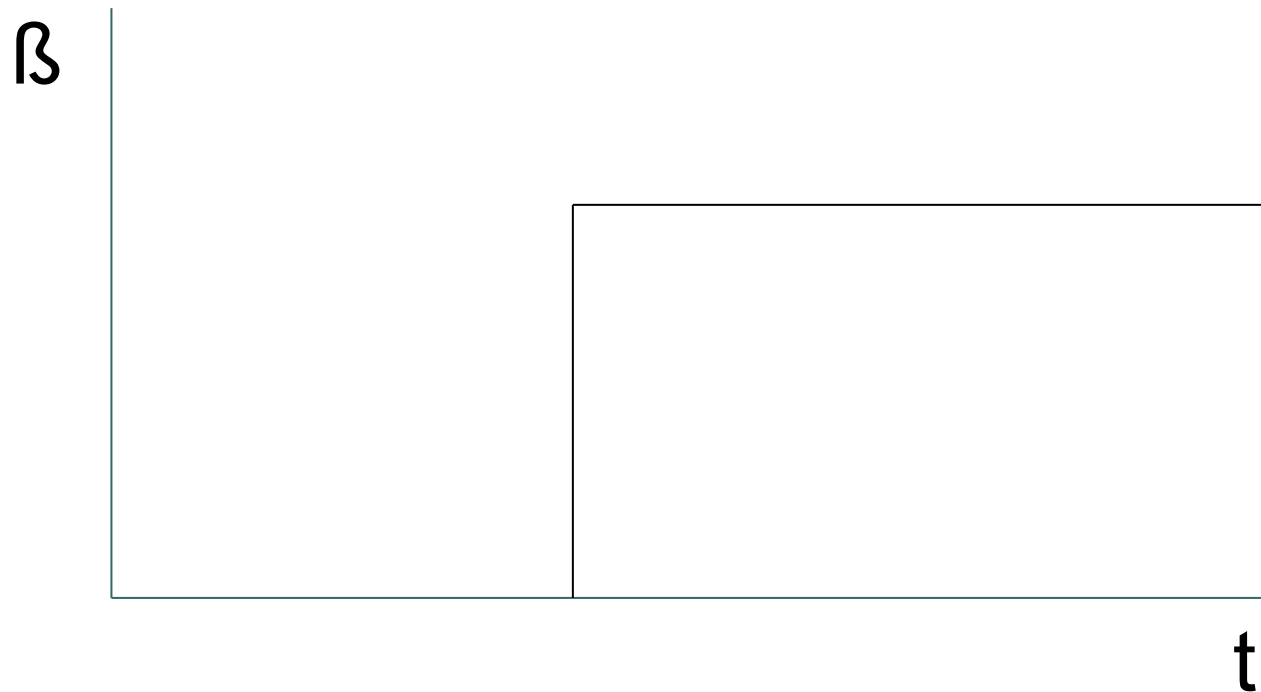
$\tau$  – cell generation

$$T_{1/2} = \frac{\log 2}{\alpha_{\text{dil}}} = \tau$$

Response time is one generation.

### 3. Production of $Y$ starts from zero

$$\frac{dY}{dt} = \beta - \alpha Y$$

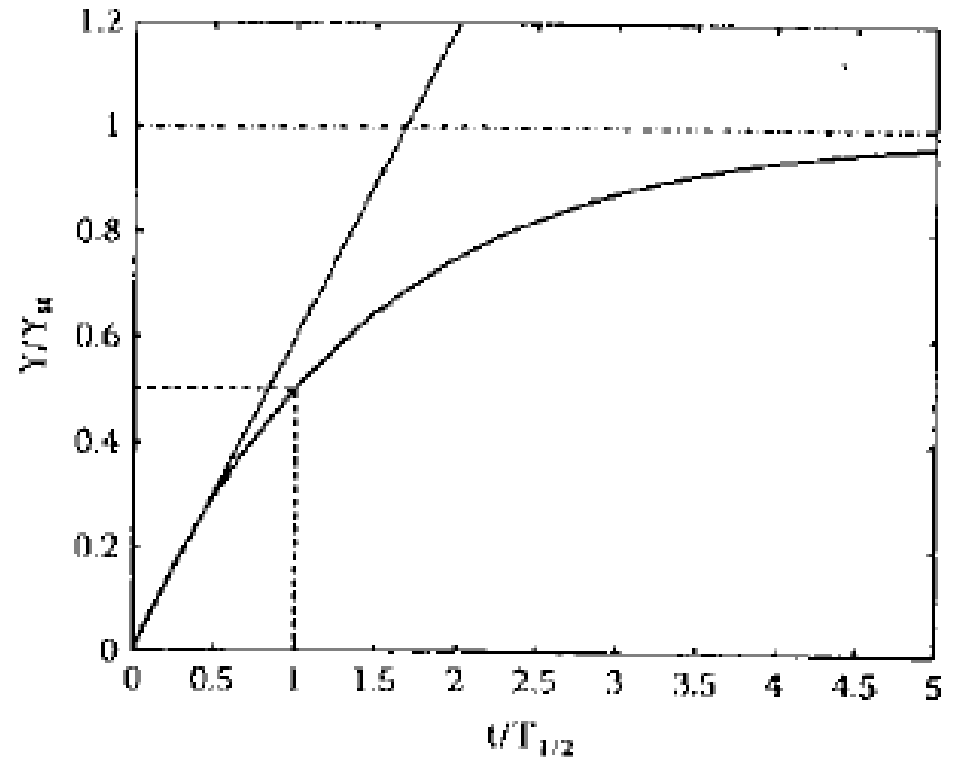


### 3. Production of Y starts from zero

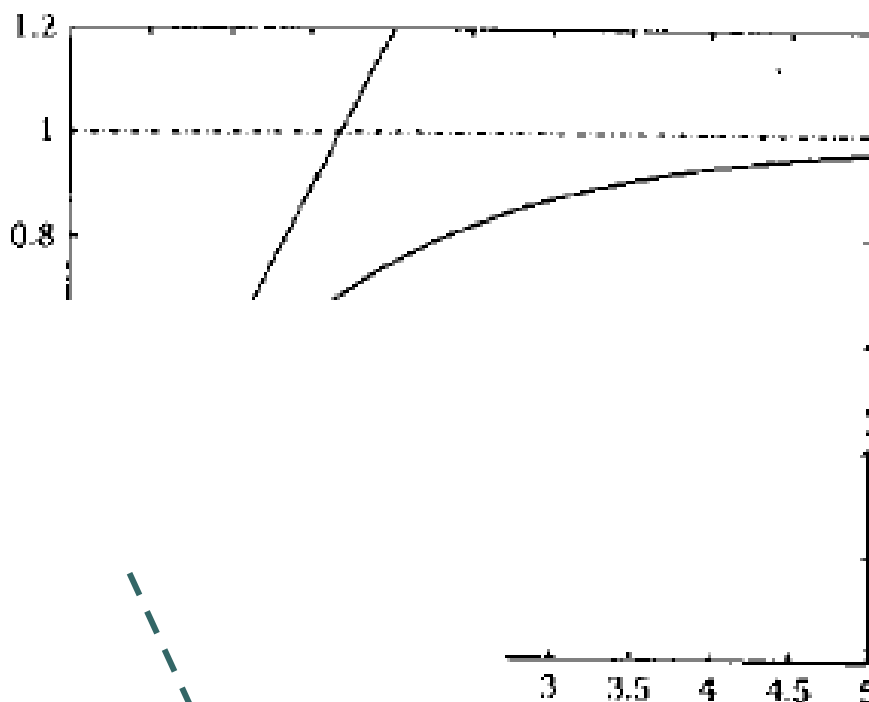
$$\frac{dY}{dt} = \beta - \alpha Y$$



$$Y_t = \frac{\beta}{\alpha} (1 - e^{-\alpha t})$$



### 3. Production of Y starts from zero



$$\frac{dY}{dt} = \beta - \alpha Y$$

↓ (magic)

$$Y_t = \frac{\beta}{\alpha} (1 - e^{-\alpha t})$$

Y grows almost linearly initially

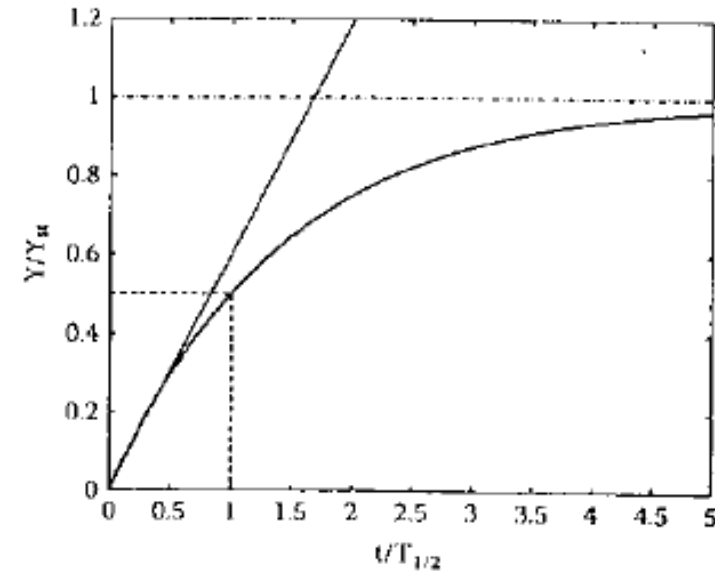
### 3. Production of Y starts from zero

Response time:

$$Y_t = Y_{st}(1 - e^{-\alpha t})$$

$$Y_t = \frac{1}{2} Y_{st}$$

$$T_{1/2} = \frac{\log 2}{\alpha}$$



The same response time as in case 2.

Response time does not depend on production rate!

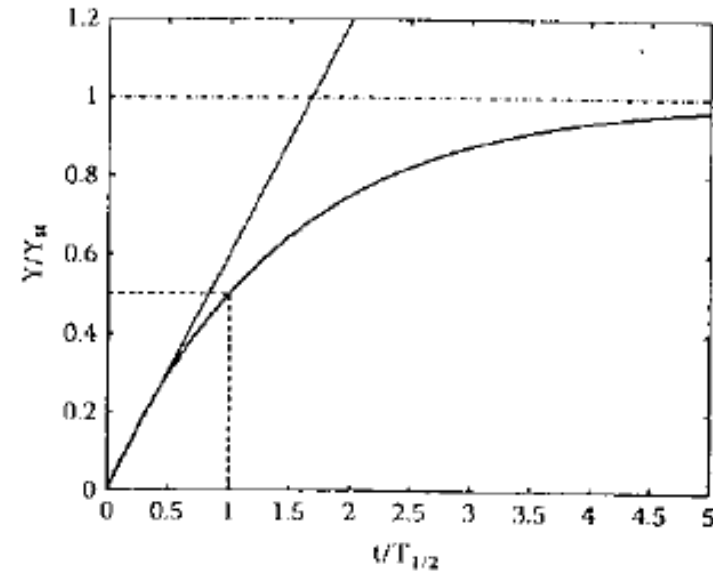
# 3. Production of Y starts from zero

Response time:

$$Y_t = Y_{st}(1 - e^{-\alpha t})$$

$$Y_t = \frac{1}{2} Y_{st}$$

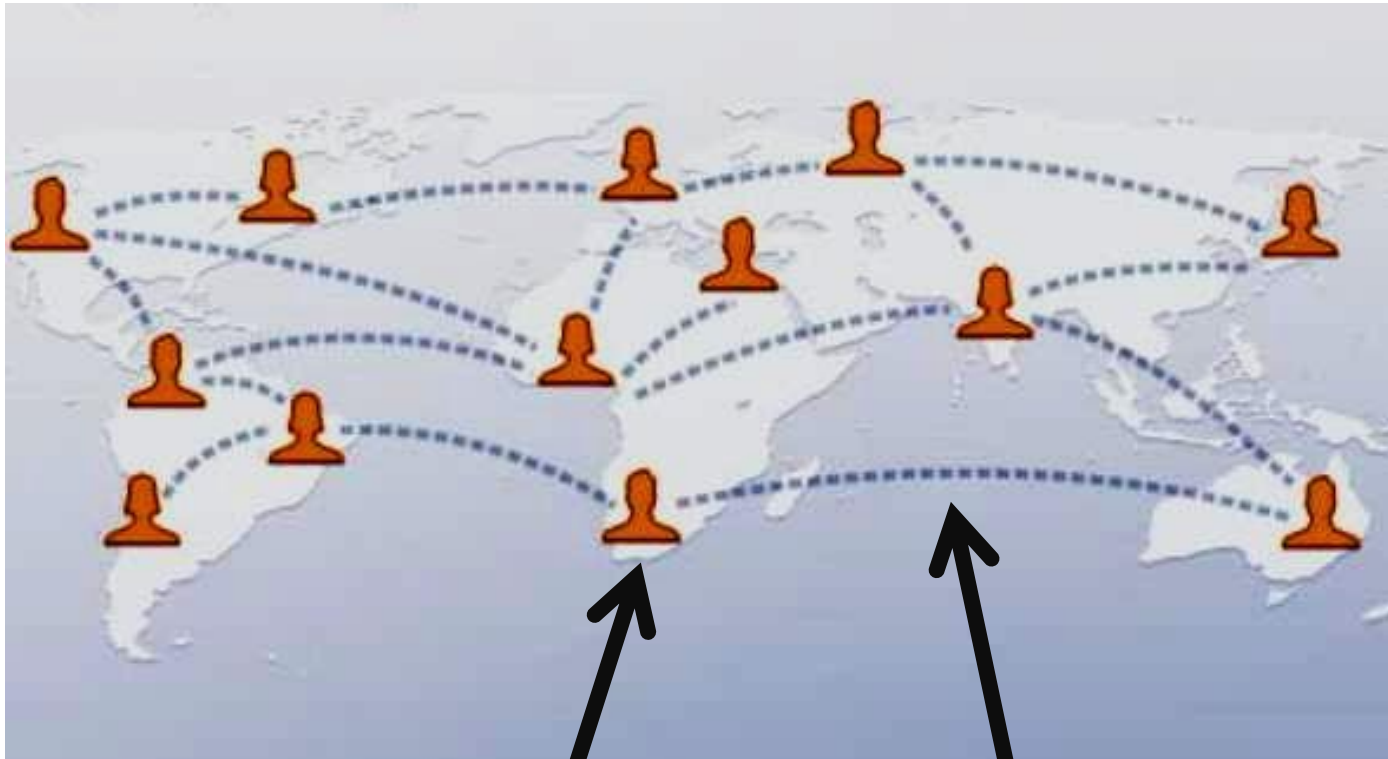
$$T_{1/2} = \frac{\log 2}{\alpha}$$



Not many degradation mechanisms in *E. coli* (energy consuming).

Perhaps in plants?

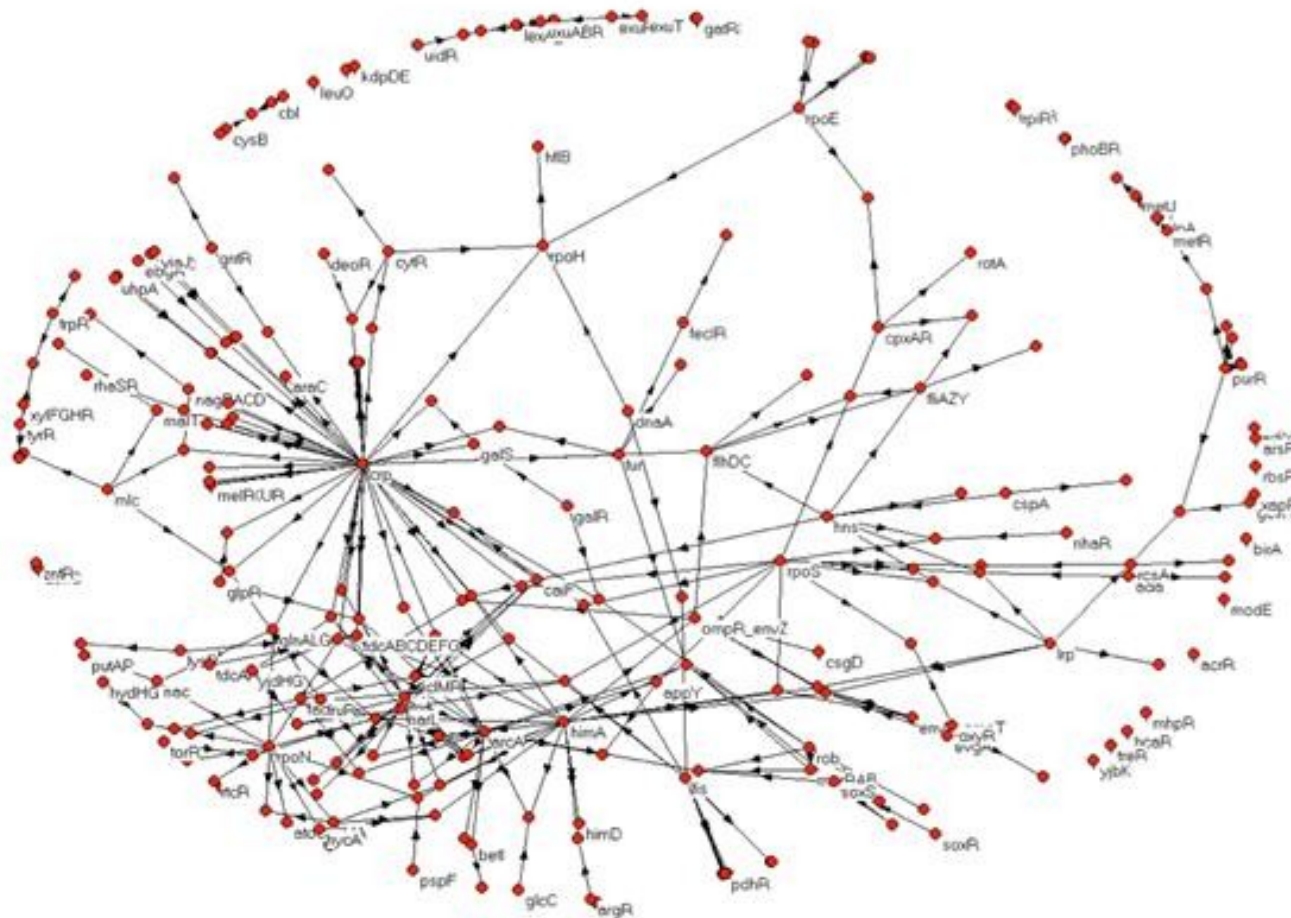
# Networks



node  
(CZ: uzel)

thread  
(CZ: hrana)

# Transcriptional network of *E. coli*



420 nodes, 520 edges

How many self-edges? (CZ: samohrana?)

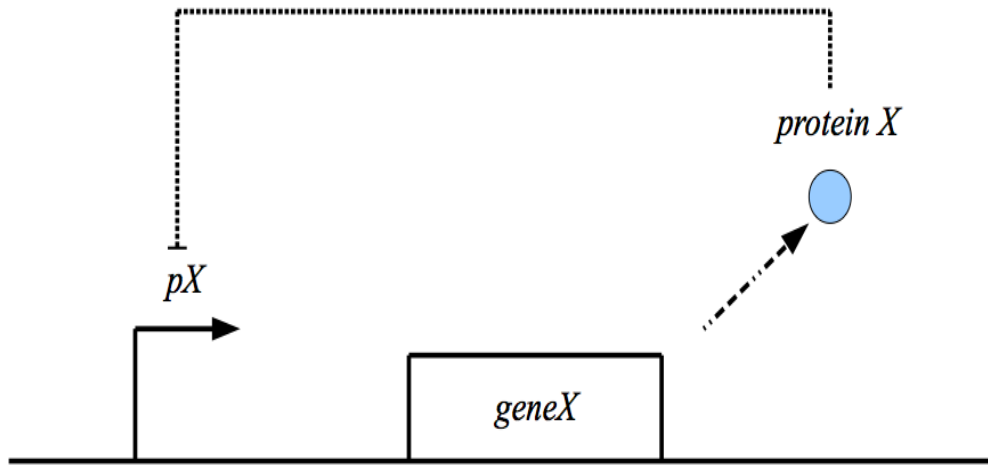


# Likelihood of the self-edge

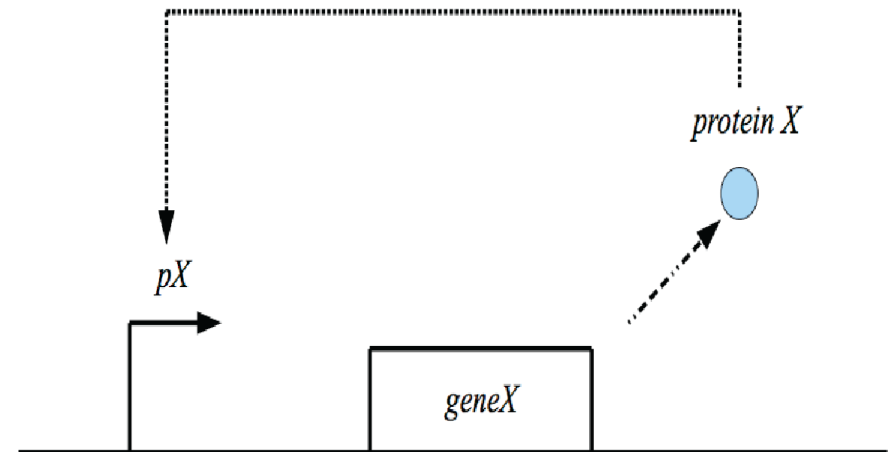
- Assumptions from random network (400 nodes ( $N$ ), 500 edges ( $E$ )). How many self-edges?
- $P_s = E \cdot \frac{1}{N} = 500 \cdot \frac{1}{400} = 1.2 \quad (\pm 1.1)$



# Autoregulation is a network motif



negative regulation



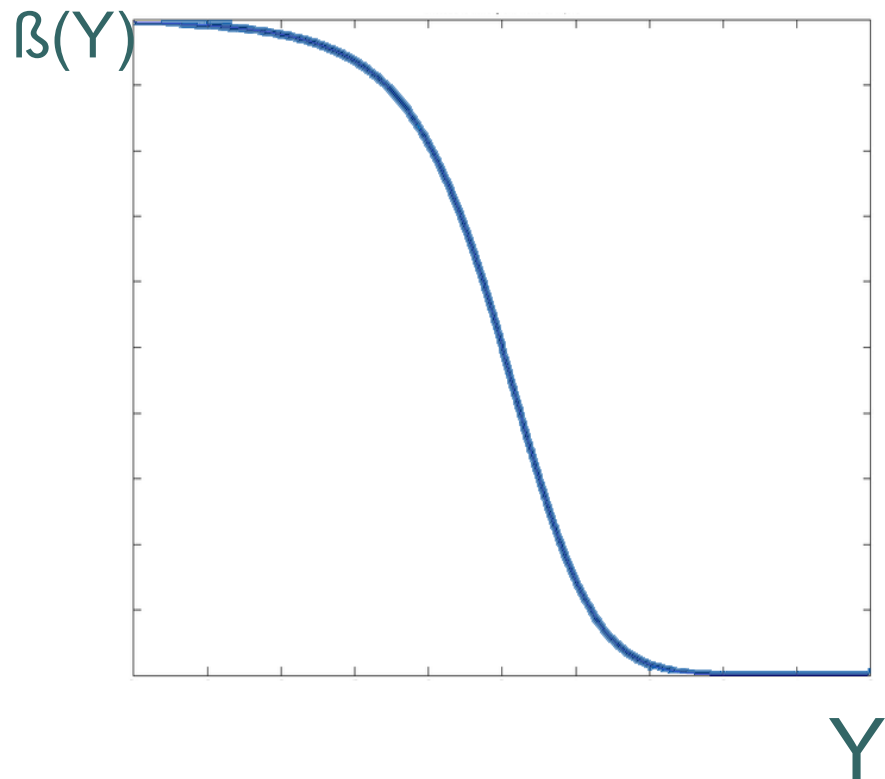
positive regulation

*E. coli*: 40 autoregulatory loops: 36 negative, 4 positive

# Negative autoregulatory loop is best described by Hill's function

$$\frac{dY}{dt} = \beta - \alpha Y$$

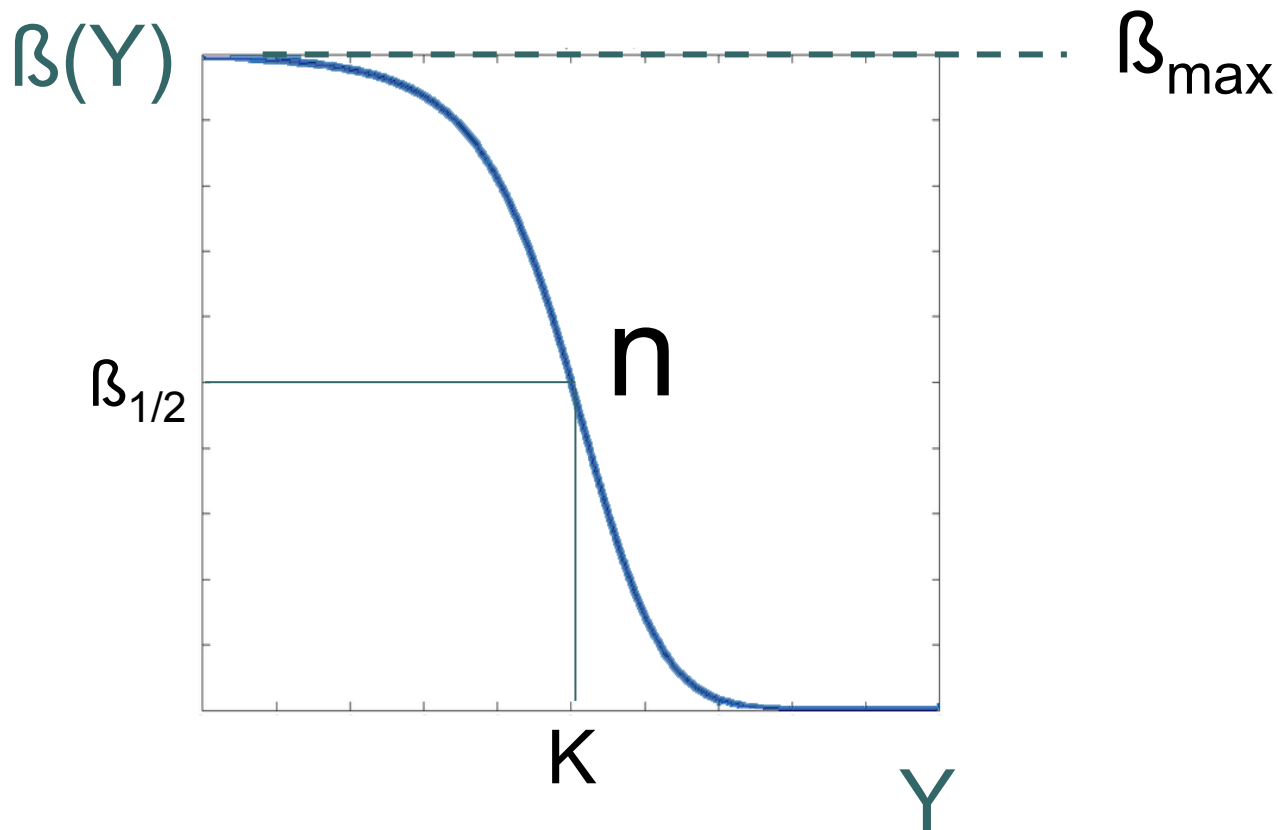
$$\frac{dY}{dt} = \beta(Y) - \alpha Y$$



$$\beta(Y) = \frac{\beta_{max}}{1 + \left(\frac{Y}{K}\right)^n}$$

# Negative autoregulatory loops

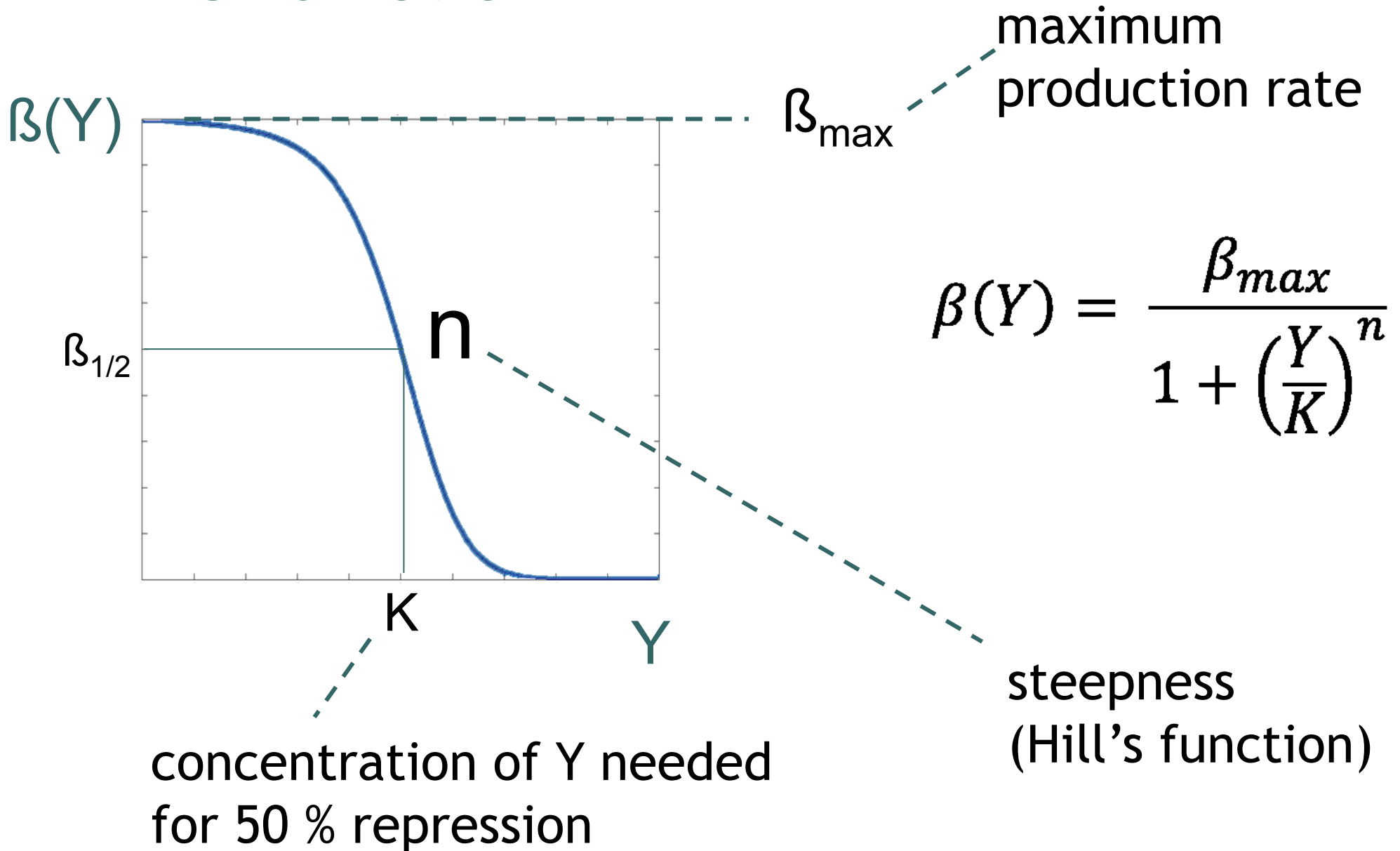
## Hill's function



$$\beta(Y) = \frac{\beta_{max}}{1 + \left(\frac{Y}{K}\right)^n}$$

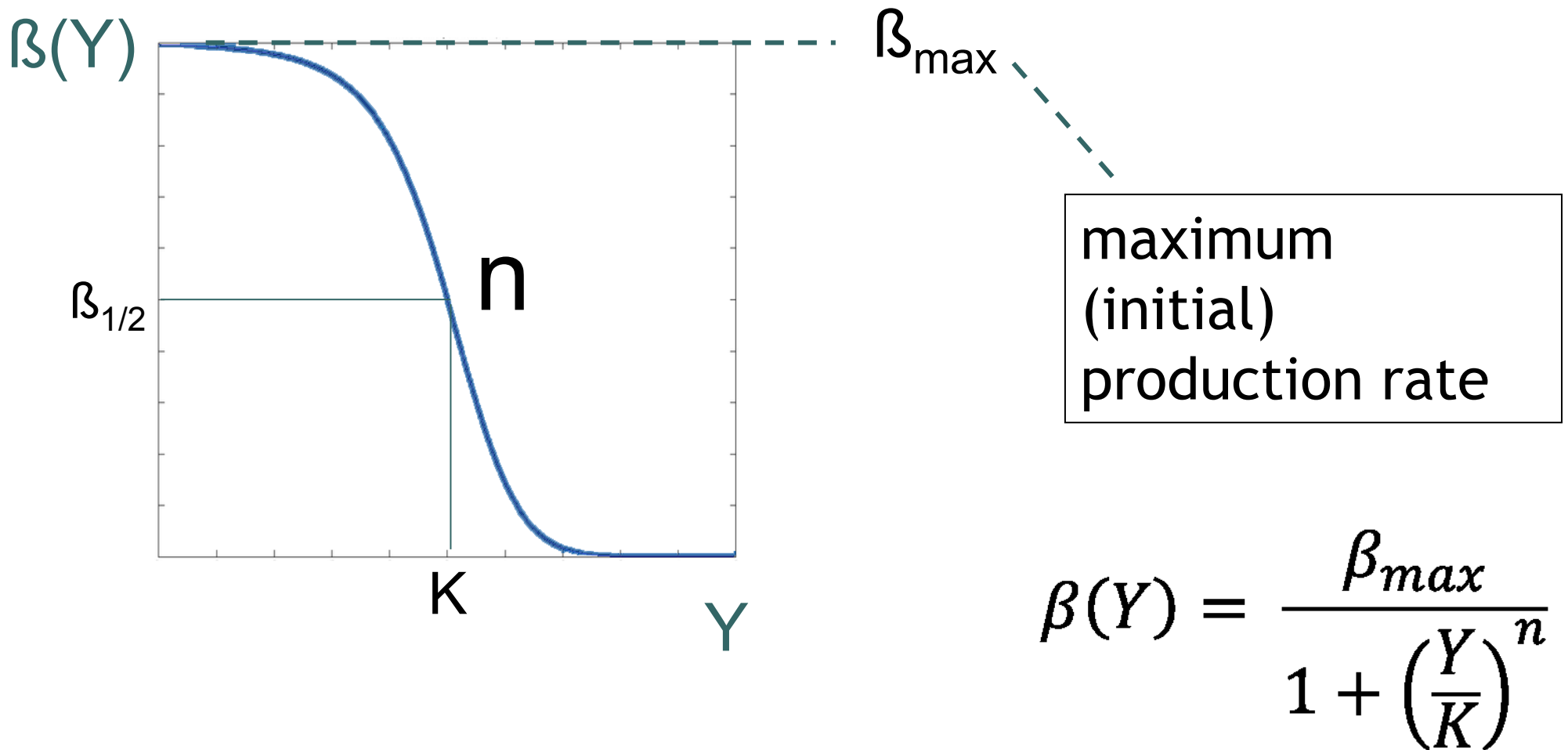
# Negative autoregulatory loops

## Hill's function



# Negative autoregulatory loops

## Hill's function

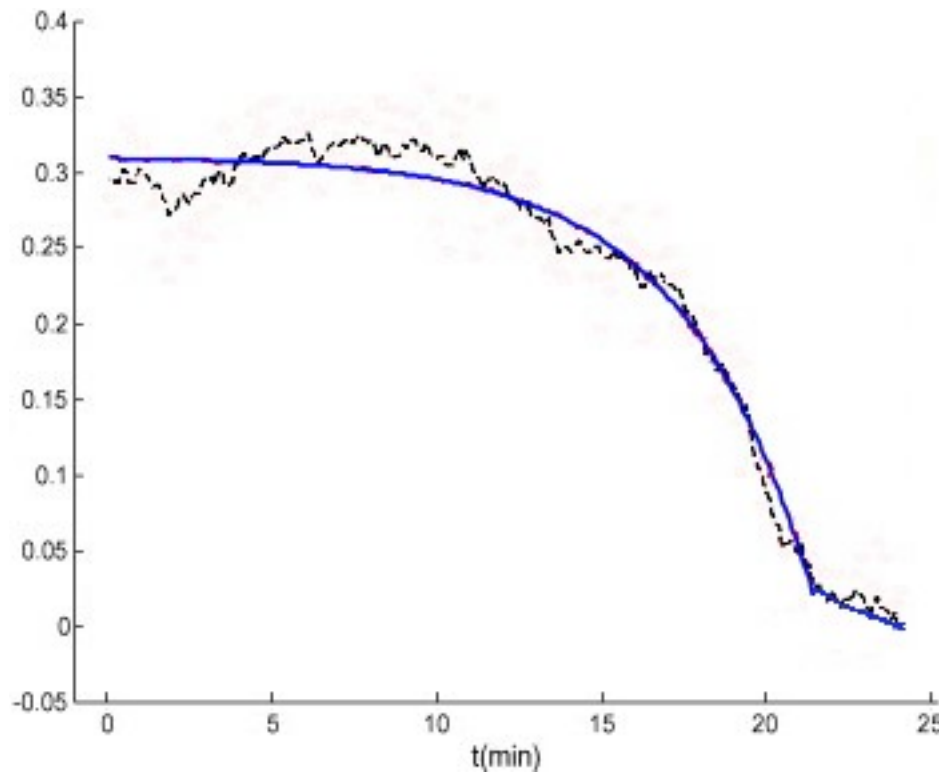


# Negative autoregulatory loops

## $\beta$ synthesis rate – stochastic noise

(stochastický ruch)

$\beta(Y)$



$$\beta(Y) = \frac{\beta_{max}}{1 + \left(\frac{Y}{K}\right)^n}$$

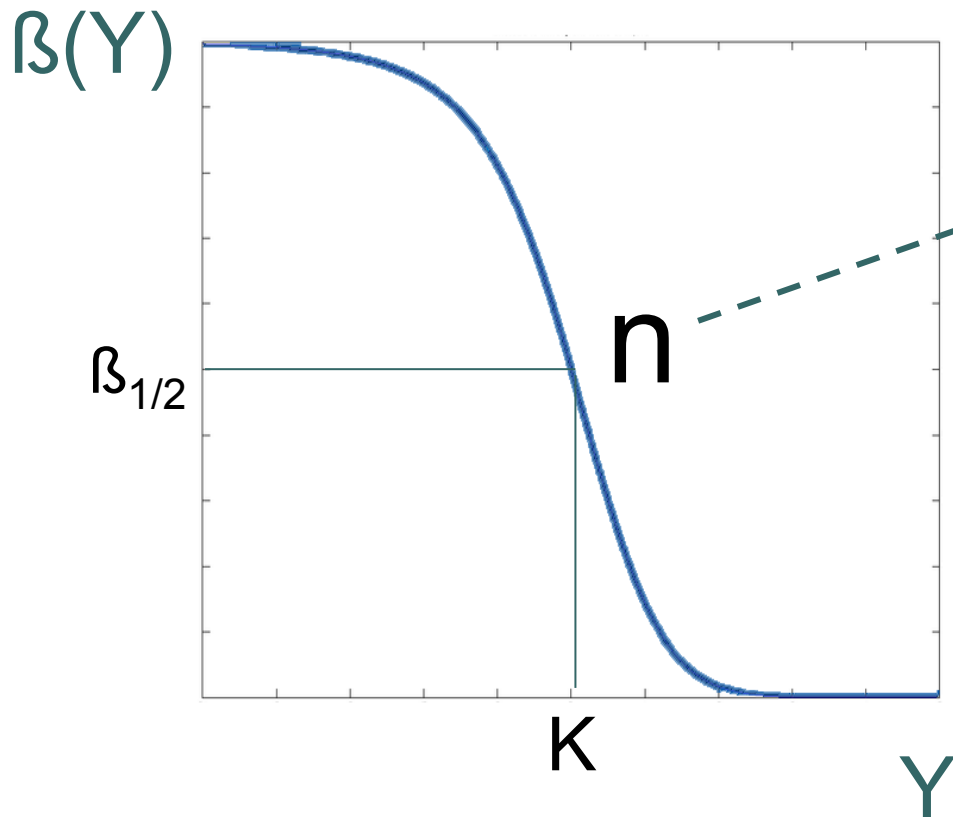
$Y$

$\beta$  may vary by 10 - 30 % (other parameters stable)



# Negative autoregulatory loops

## Hill's coefficient

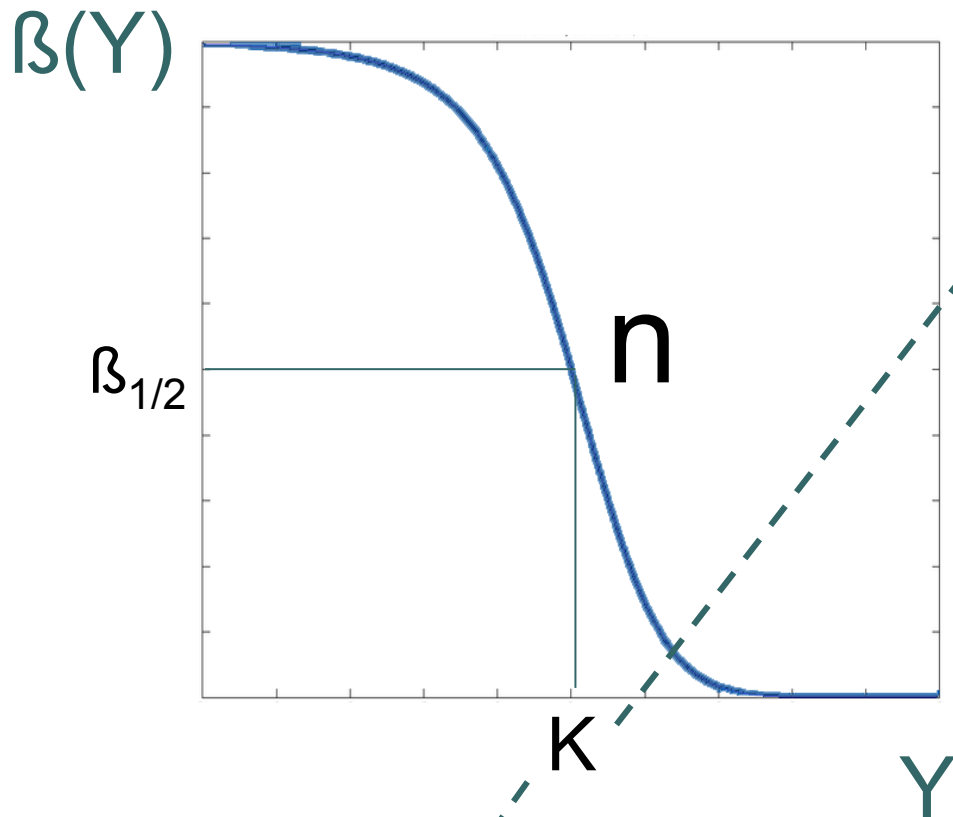


- varies between 1 - 4, the higher the steeper
- important factor: multimerization

$$\beta(Y) = \frac{\beta_{max}}{1 + \left(\frac{Y}{K}\right)^n}$$

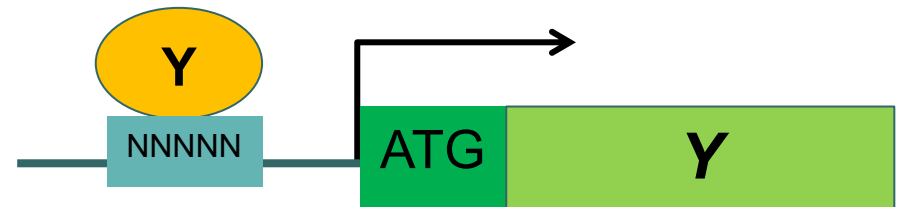
# Negative autoregulatory loops

$K$  – repression coefficient



concentration of Y needed for 50 % repression

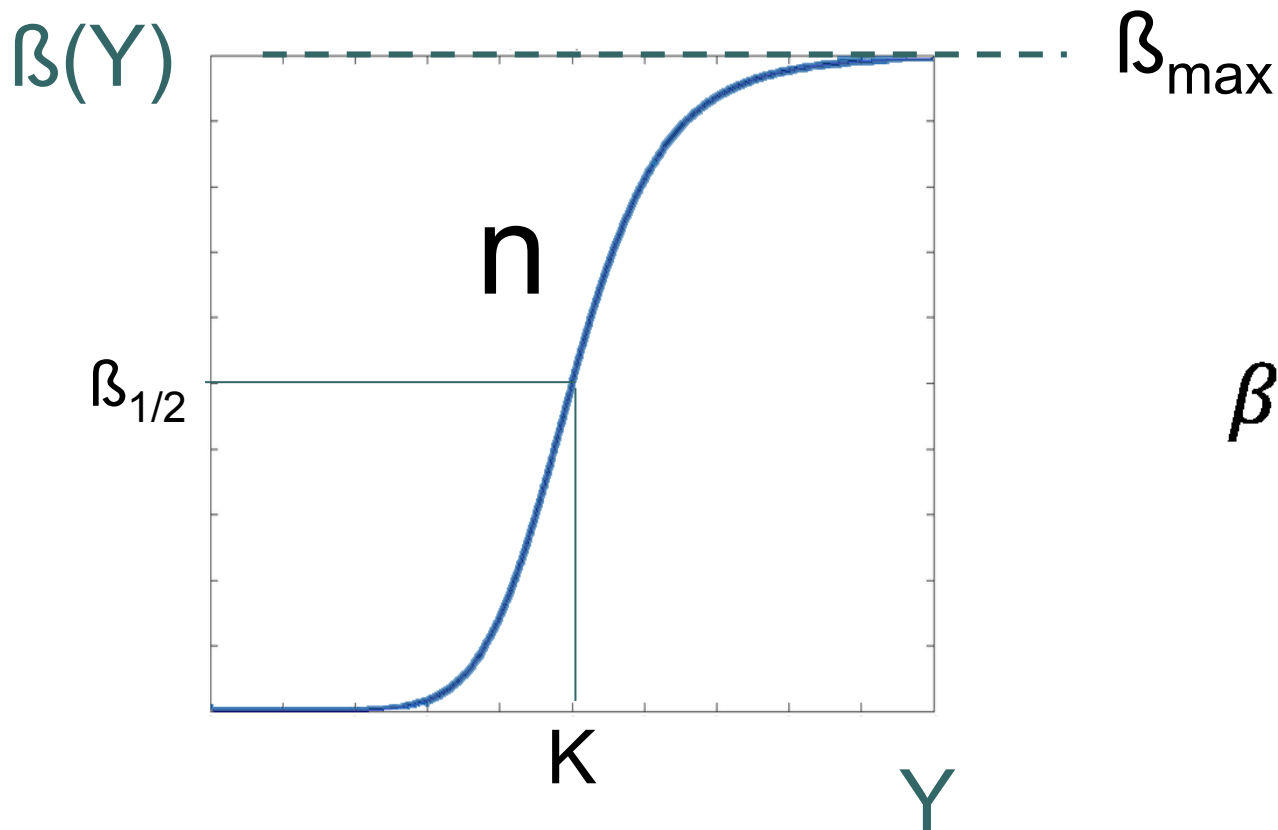
- depends on chemical bonds between Y and its binding sites
- a point mutation can increase  $K \sim 10$  times



$$\beta(Y) = \frac{\beta_{max}}{1 + \left(\frac{Y}{K}\right)^n}$$

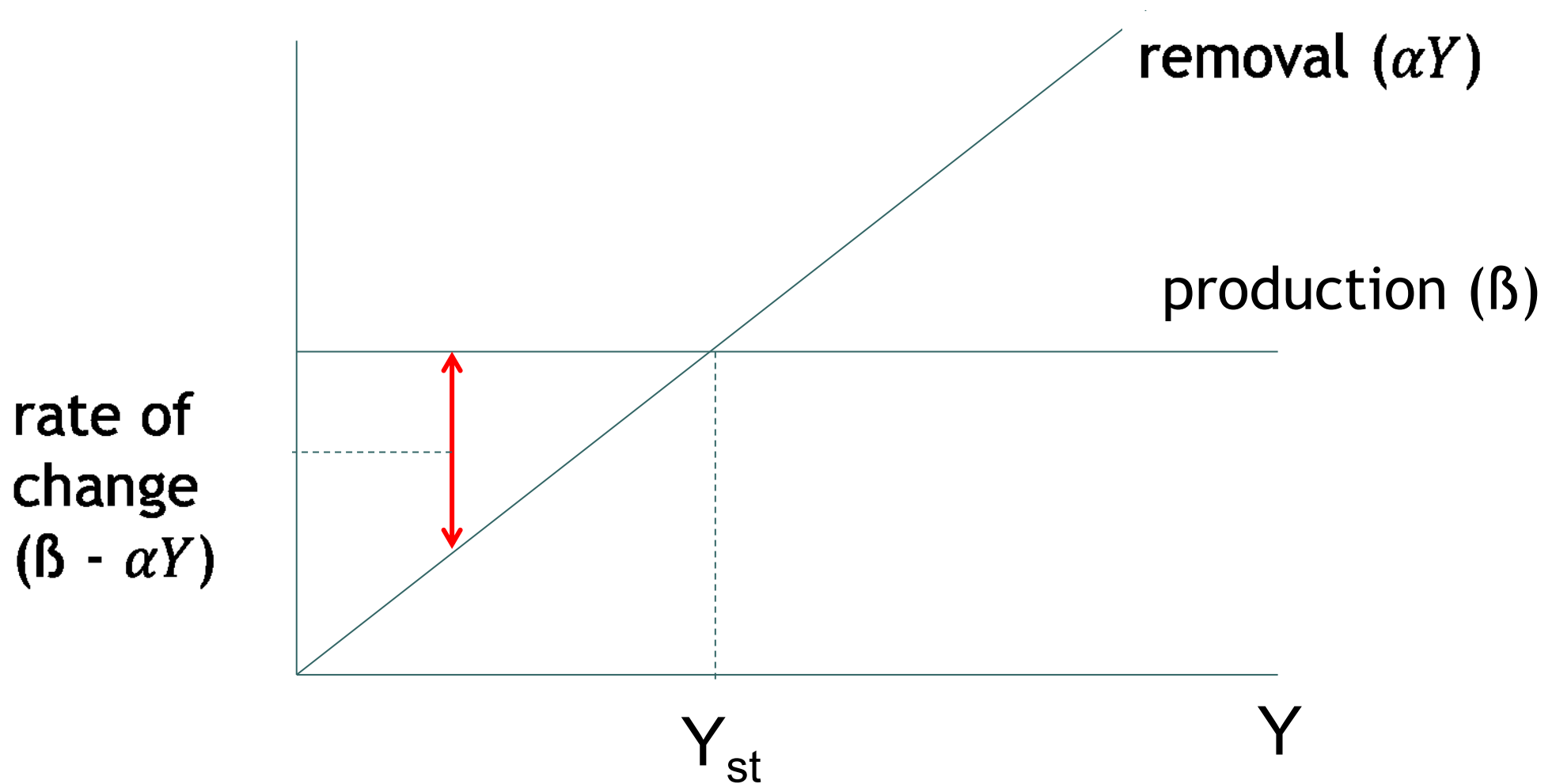
# Positive autoregulatory loops

## Hill's function

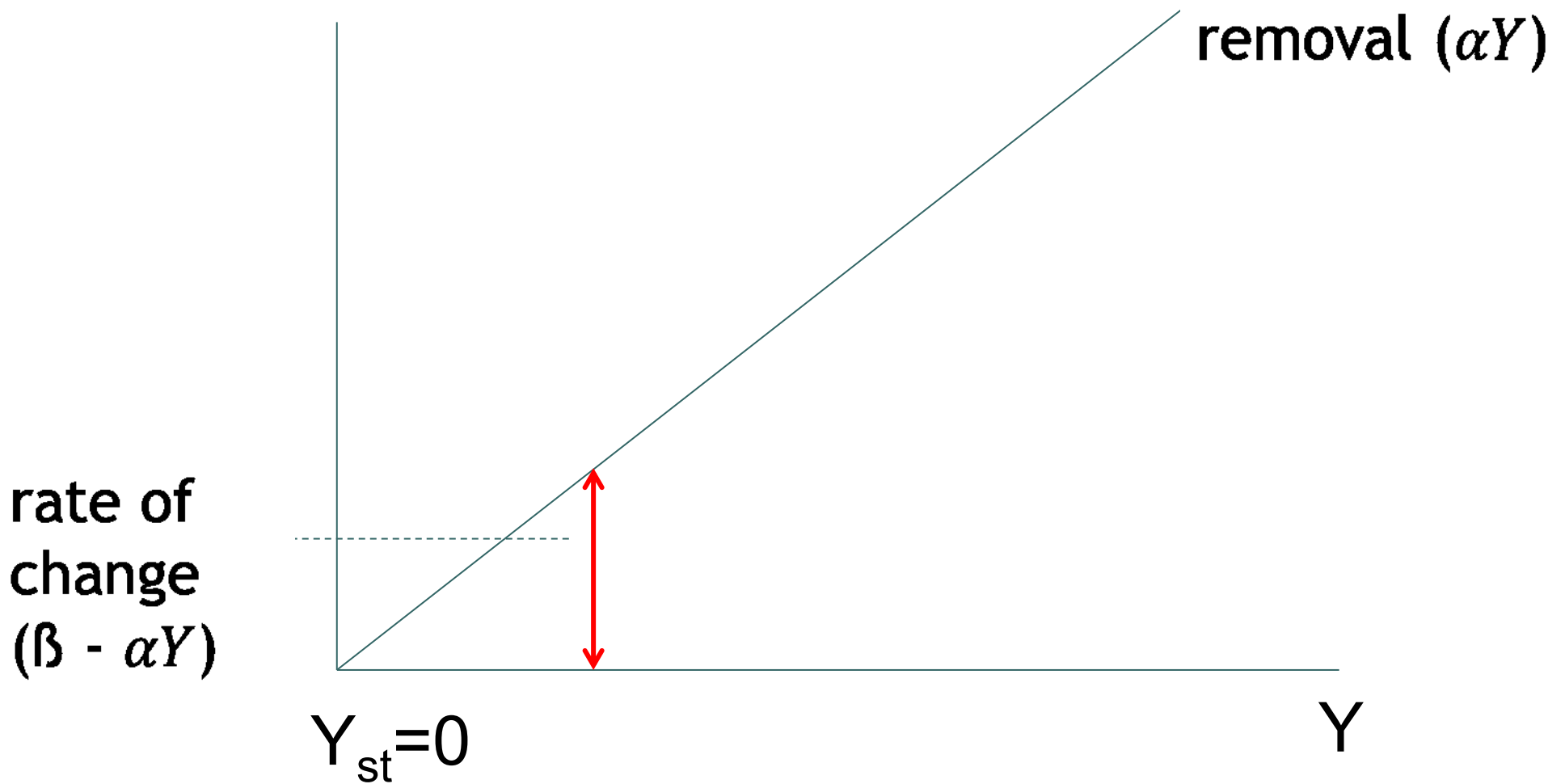


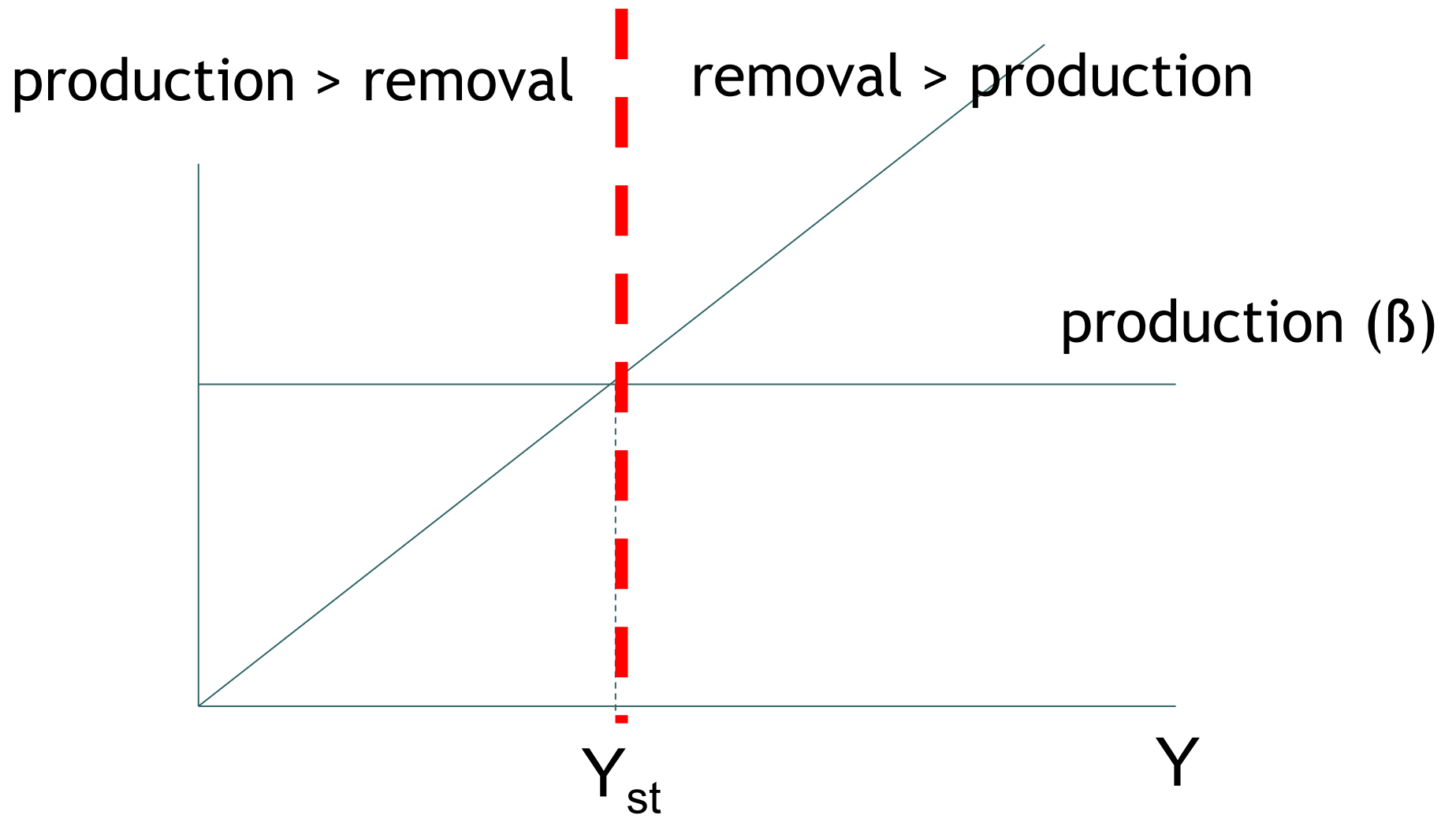
$$\beta(Y) = \frac{\beta_{max} \left(\frac{Y}{K}\right)^n}{1 + \left(\frac{Y}{K}\right)^n}$$

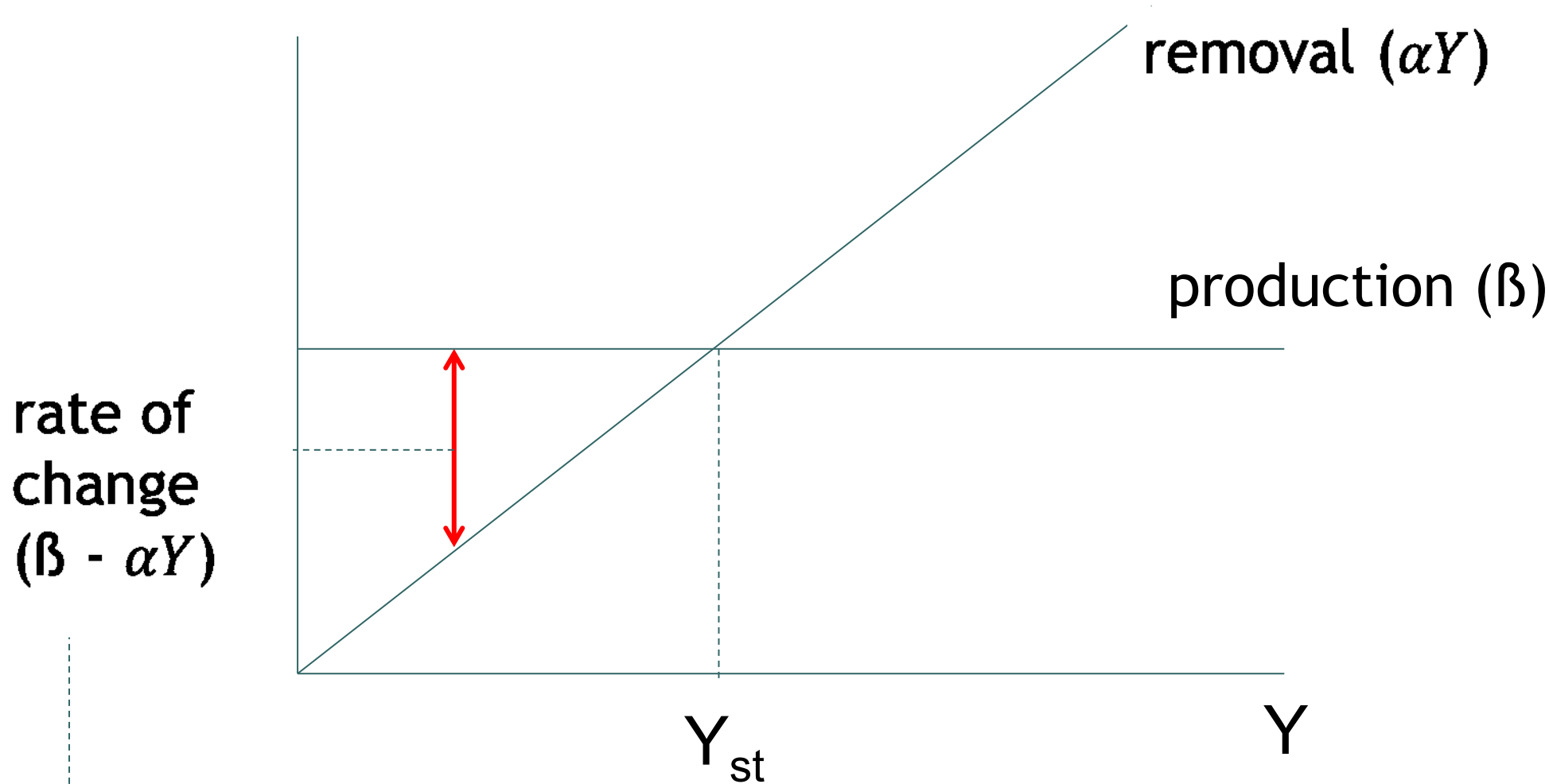
# Back to simple regulation



Example: if  $\beta=0$  (no production)

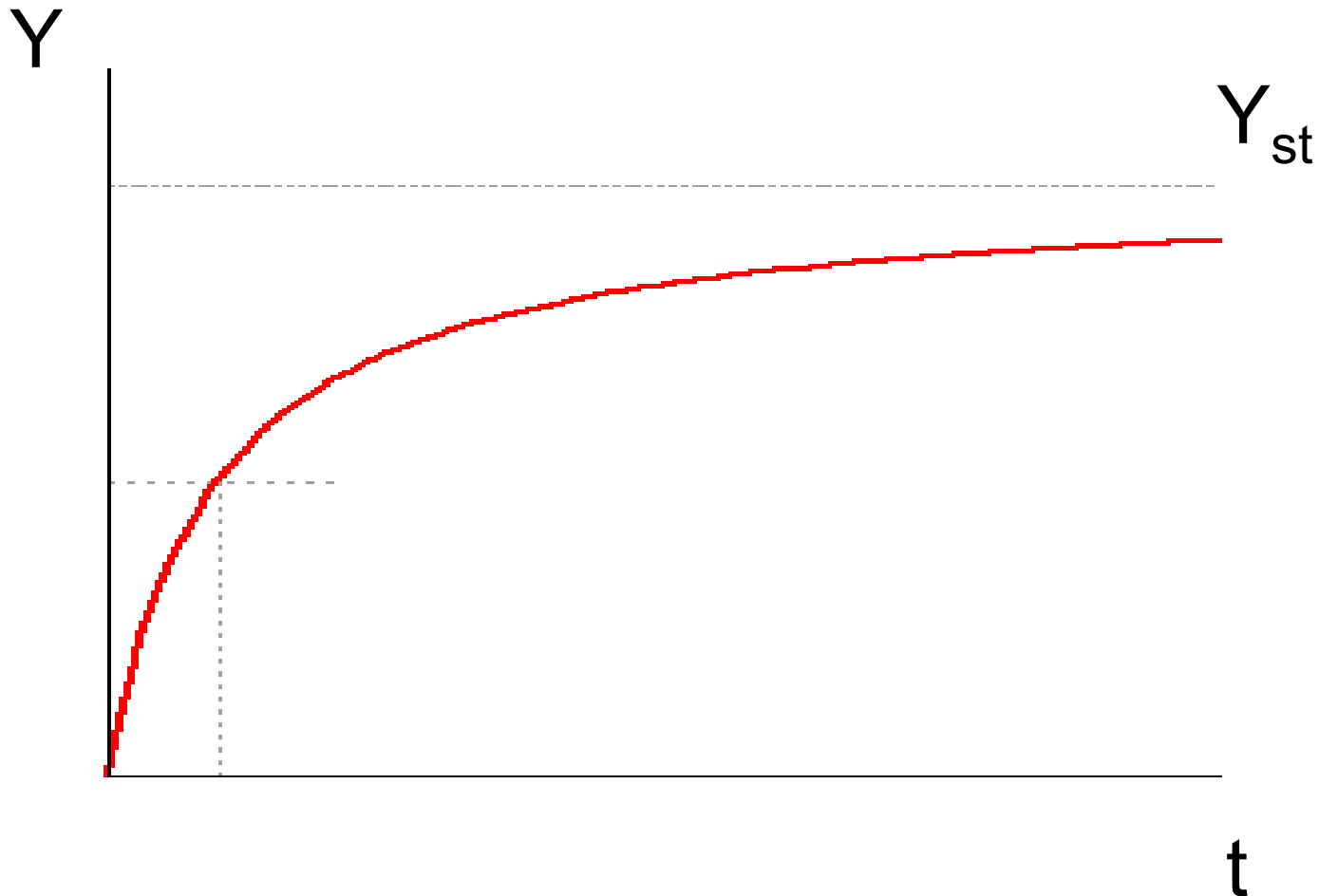






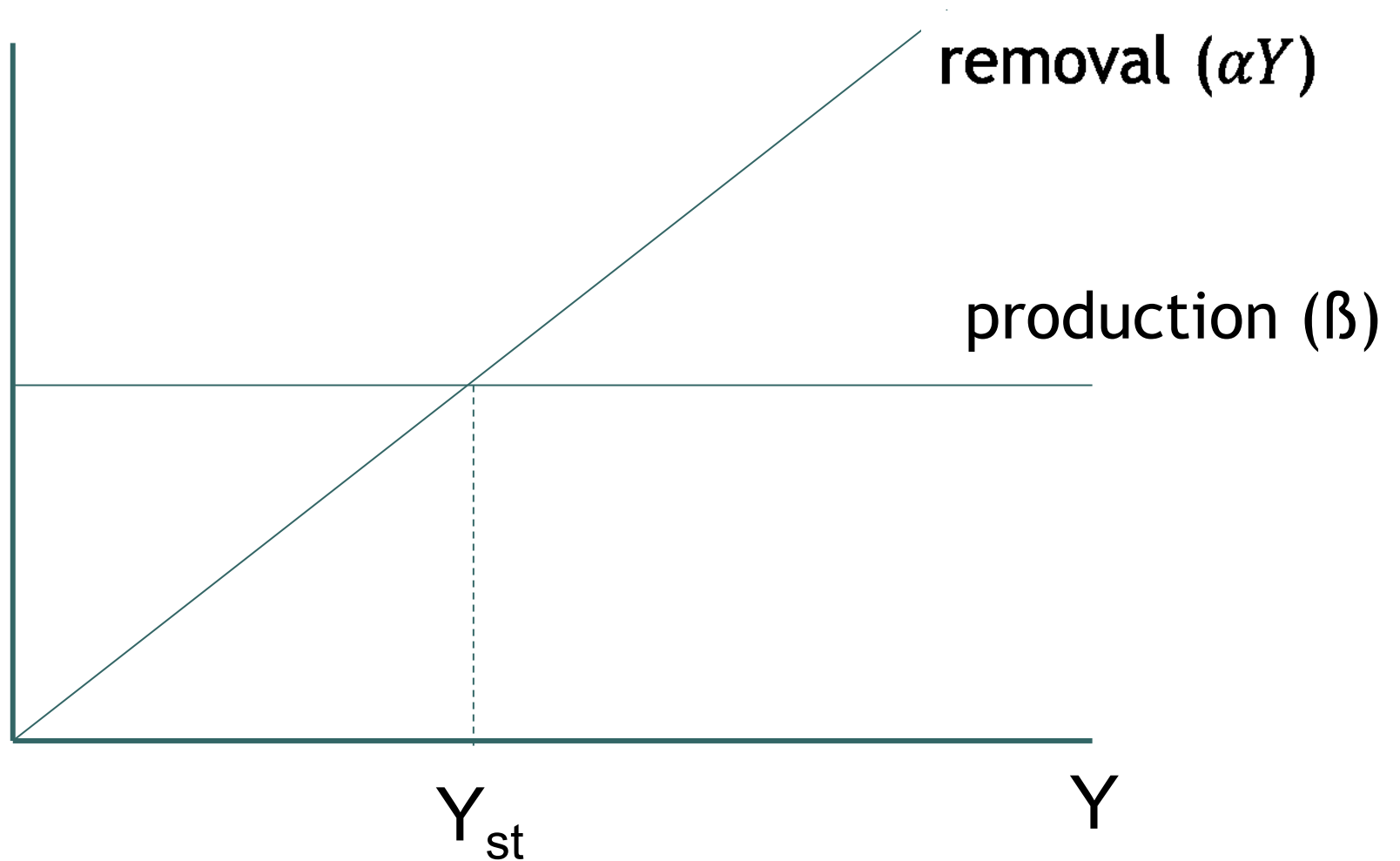
the longer the distance, the faster the change

Therefore more difficult to come to  $Y_{st}$  with time





# Autoregulation vs. simple production



# Comparison

Lets assume that these values are the same:

1.  $Y_{st}$

2.

# Comparison

Lets assume that these values are the same:

1.  $Y_{st}$

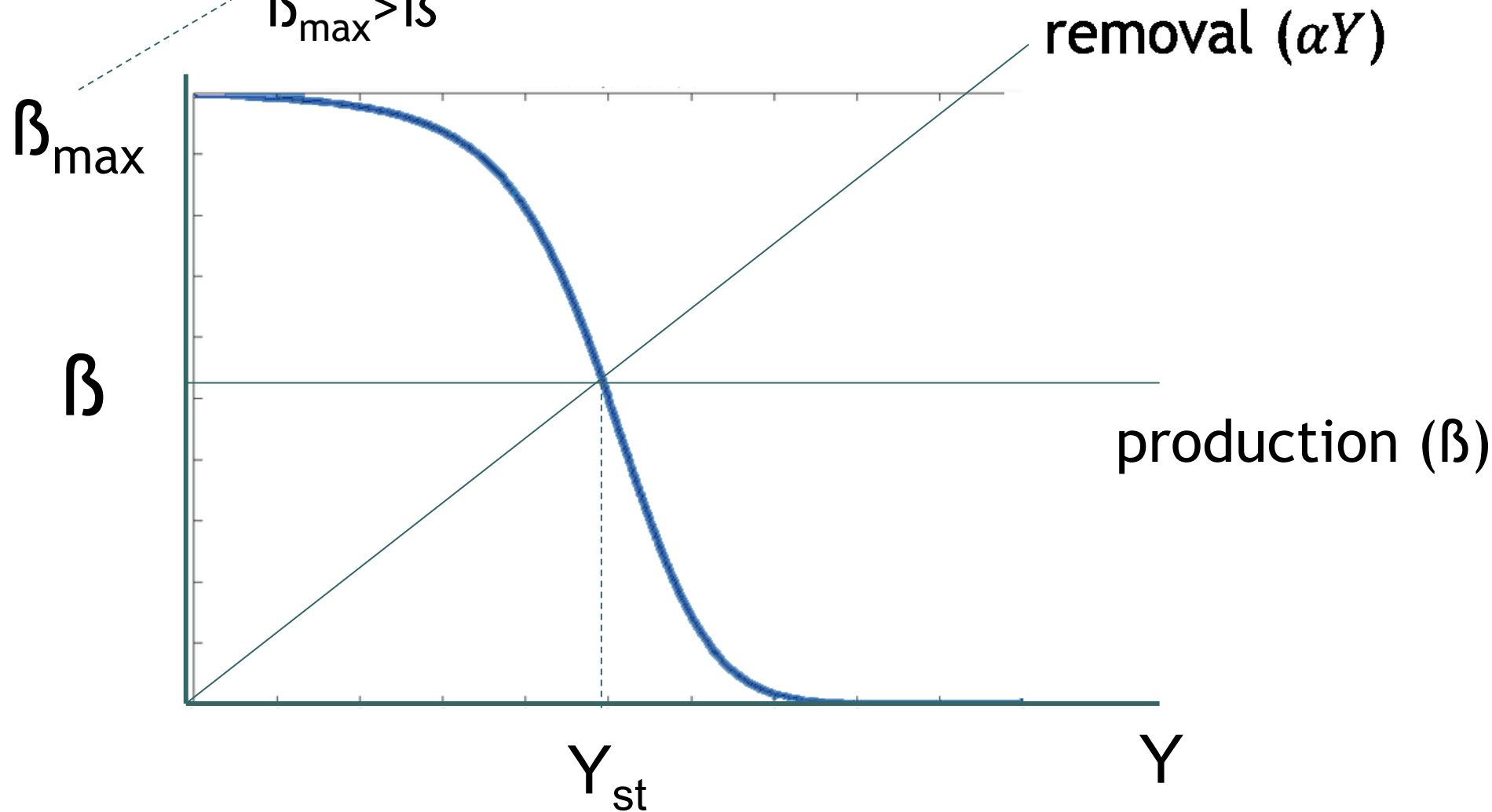
- 2.

Lets put it in one graph.

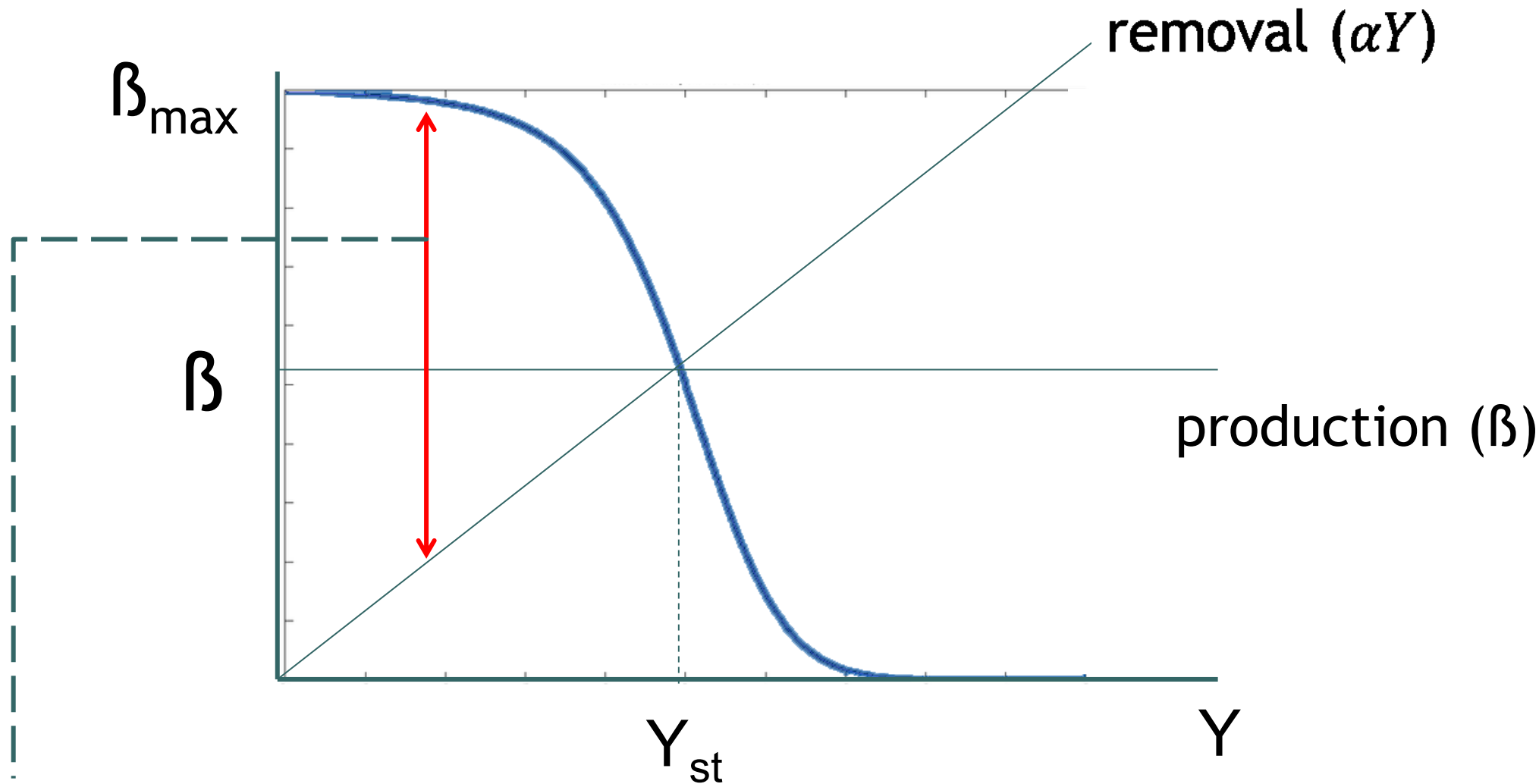
# Autoregulation vs. simple production

in such case, always

$$\beta_{\max} > \beta$$

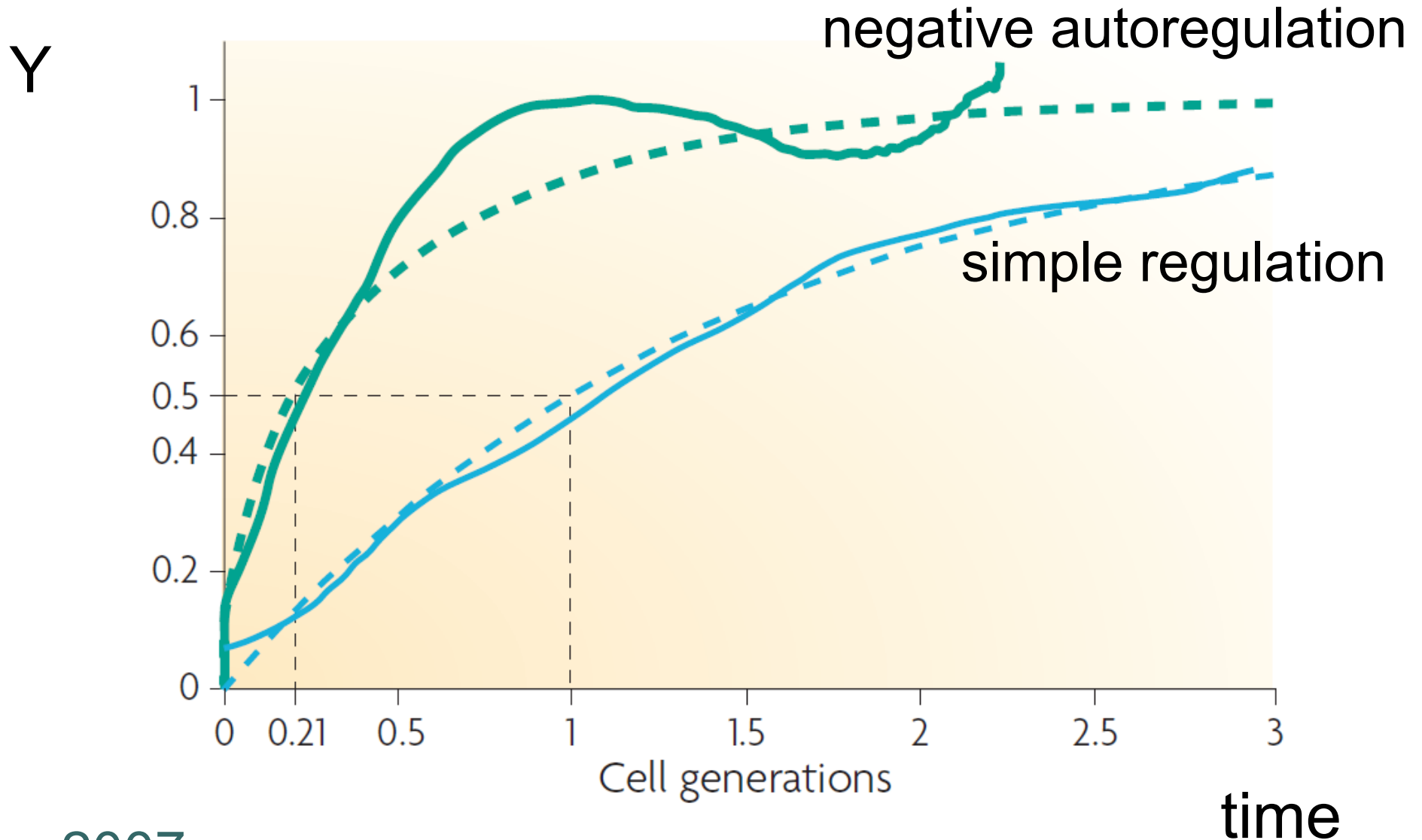


# Autoregulation vs. simple production

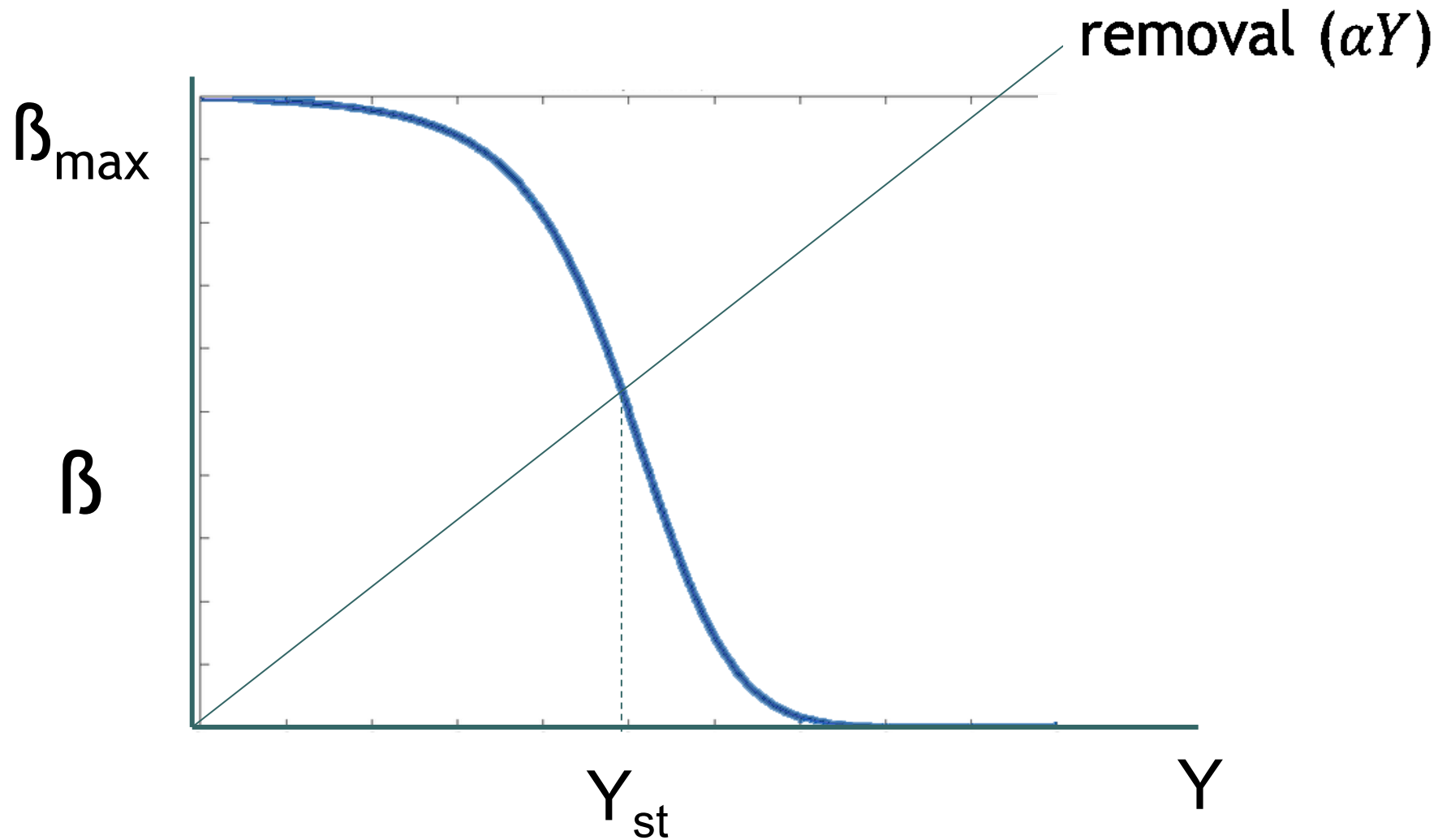


the distance always more far => the reactions are faster

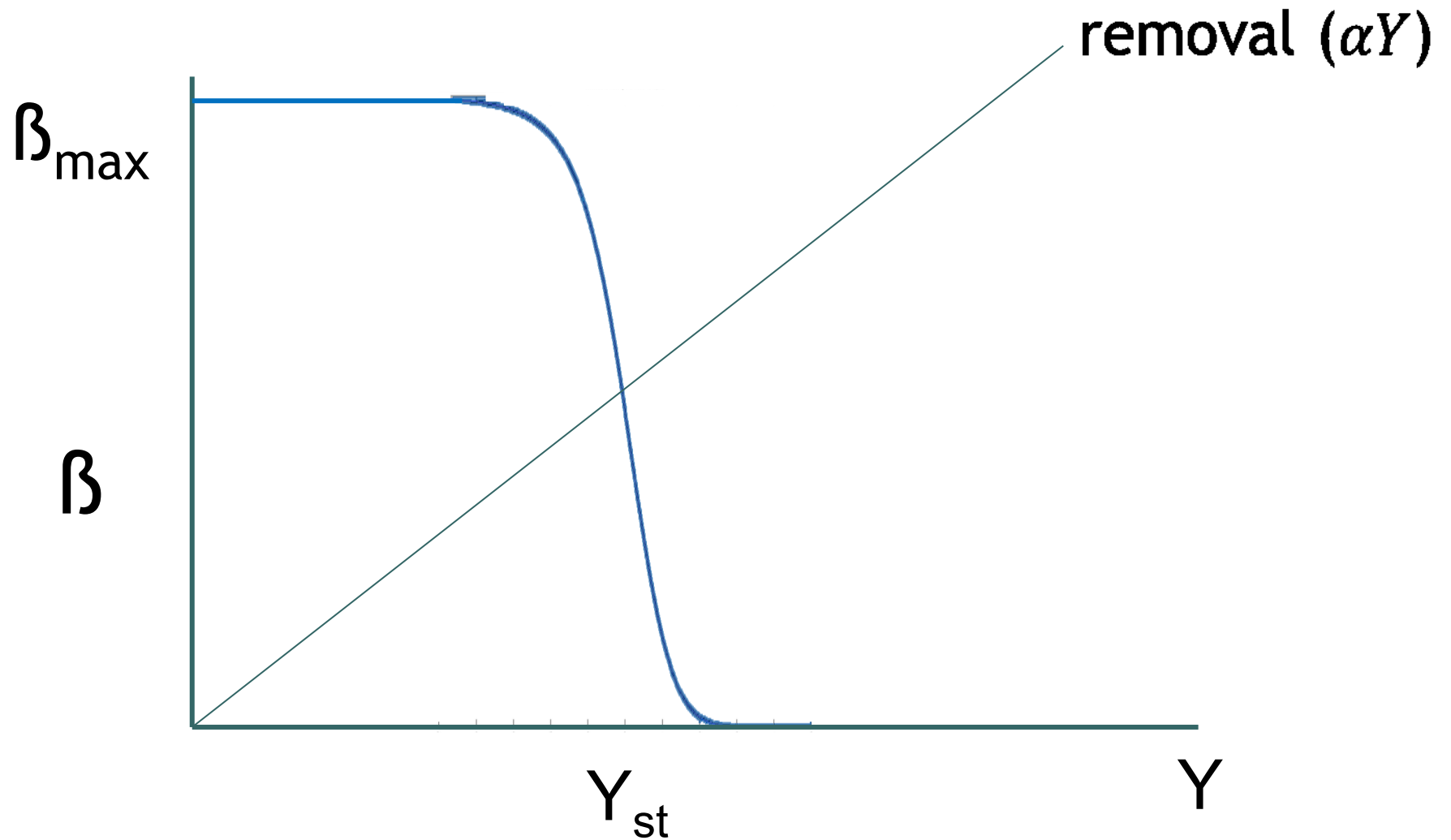
# Response time was confirmed indeed faster (~5 times)



# Cases of sharp curve

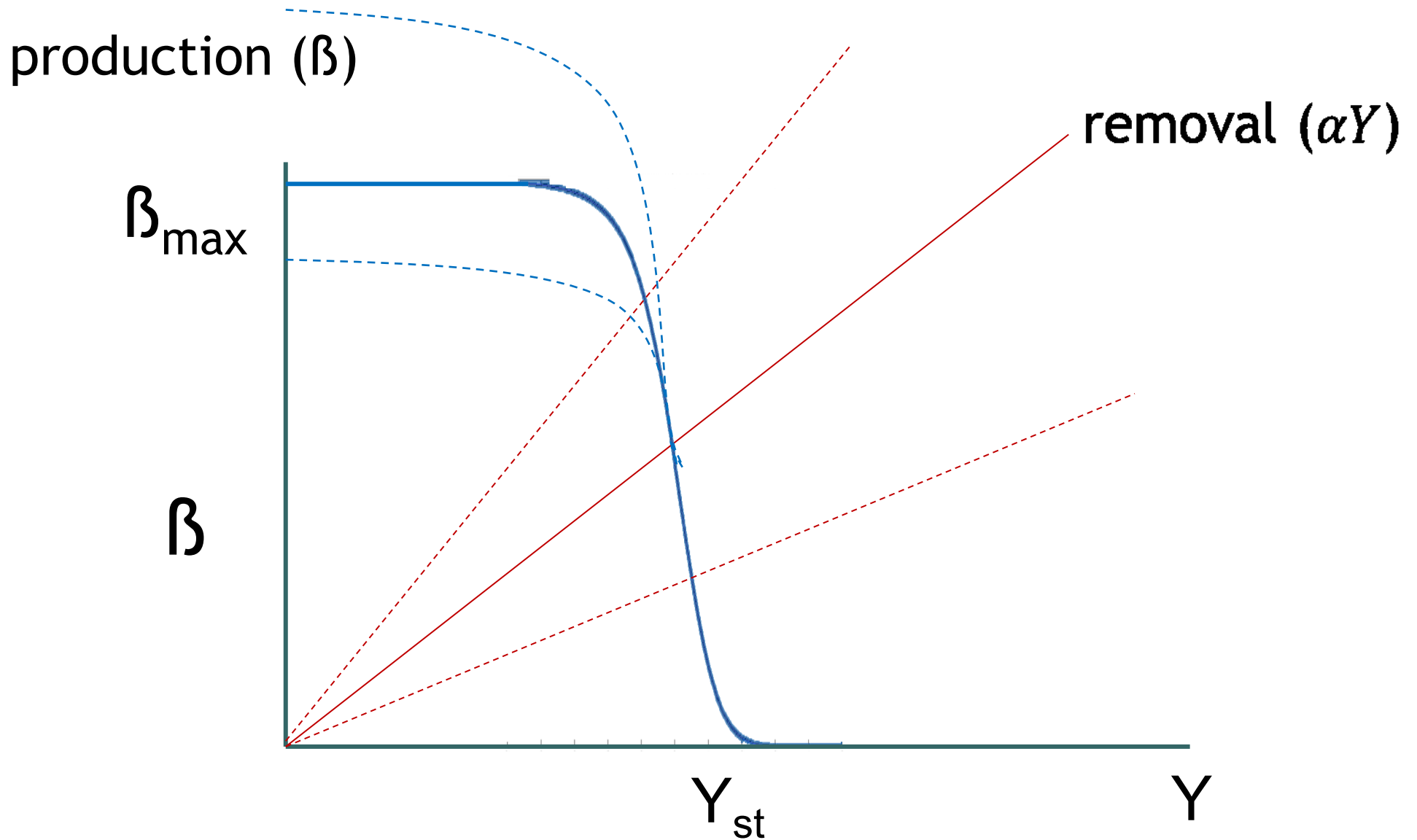


# Cases of sharp curve



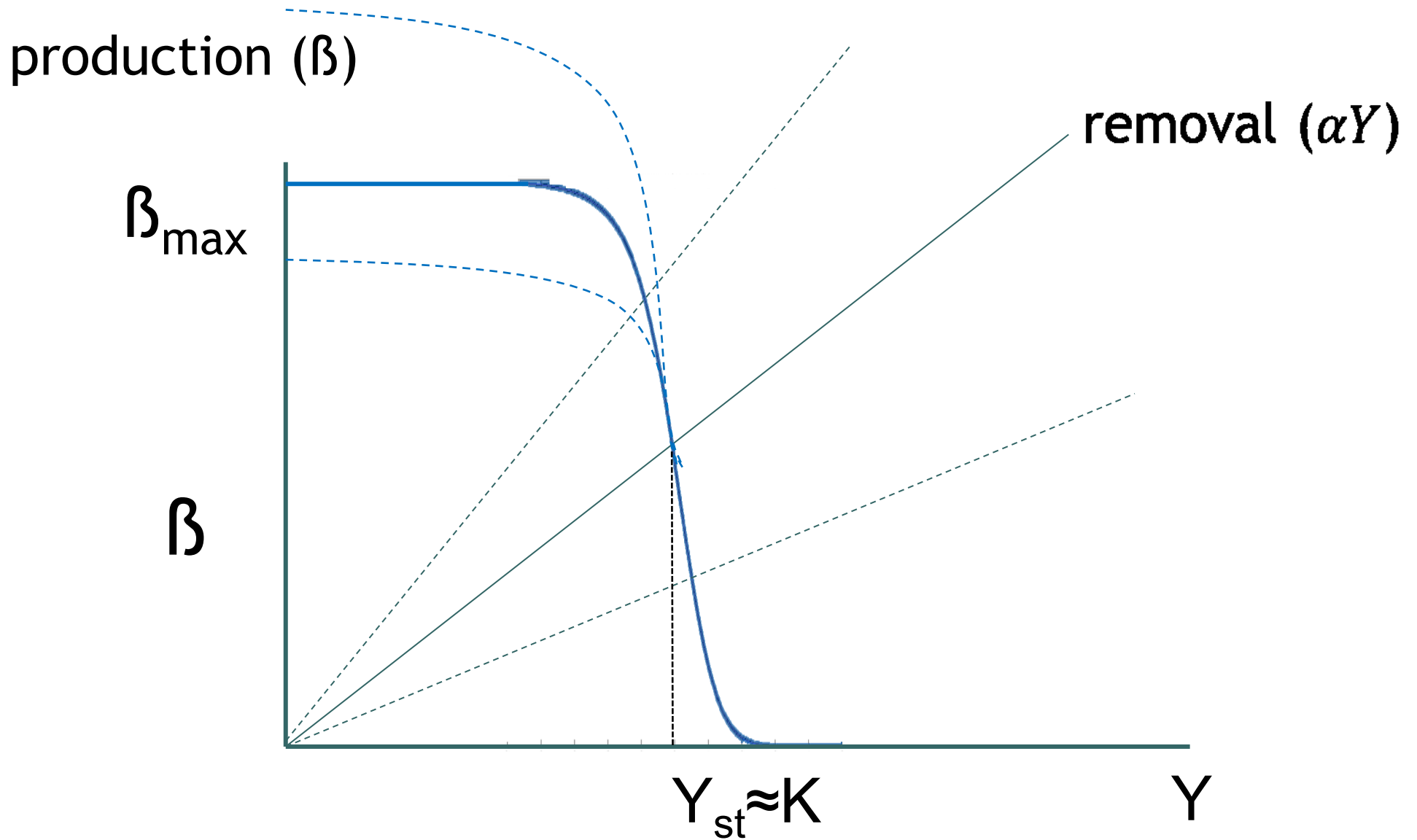


# Cases of sharp curve



Fluctuations in synthesis or removal don't change much.

# Cases of sharp curve

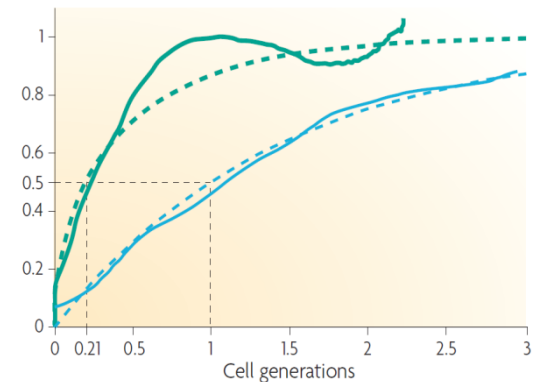
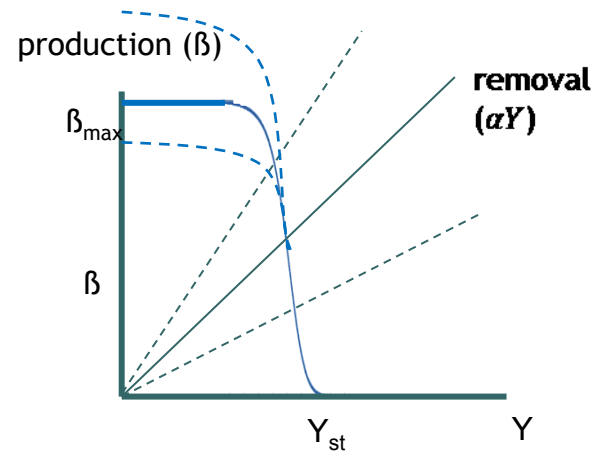


$Y_{st}$  depends only on  $K$  – on protein-DNA binding properties.

# Conclusions

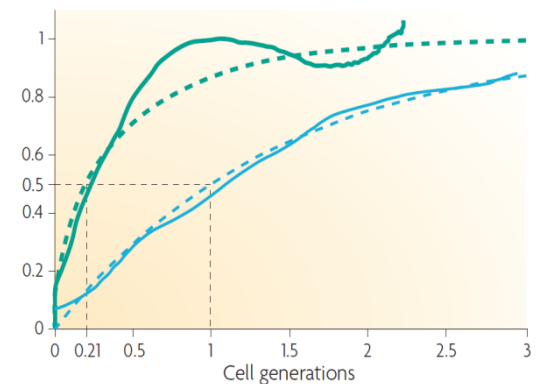
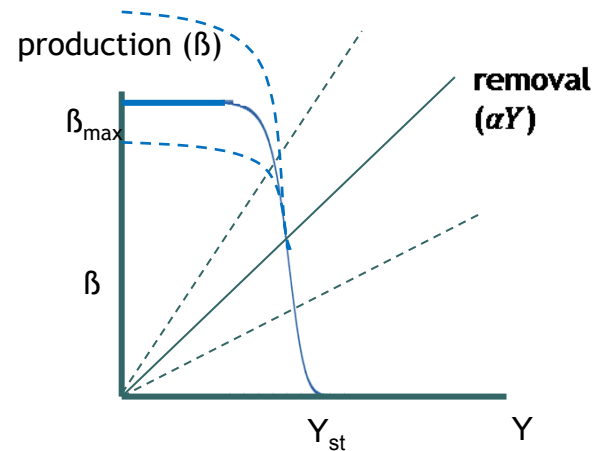
## Negative autoregulation

- speeds up response time
- is robust (for  $\beta$ ,  $\beta$ )  $\Rightarrow$  basically on/off
- bypasses stochastic noise



# Conclusions

The model explains why negative autoregulation is a common network motif in *E. coli*.



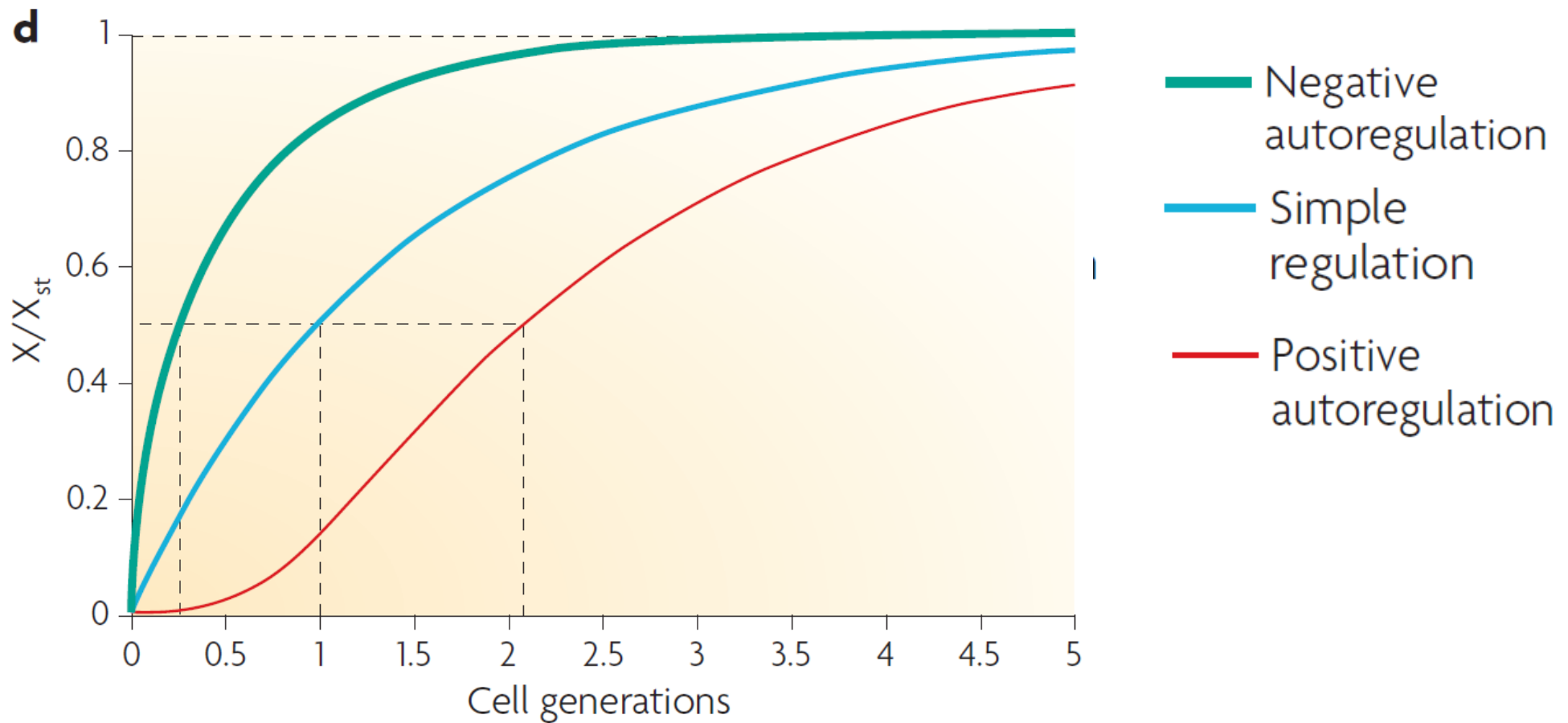
# Conclusions

The model explains why negative autoregulation is network motif.

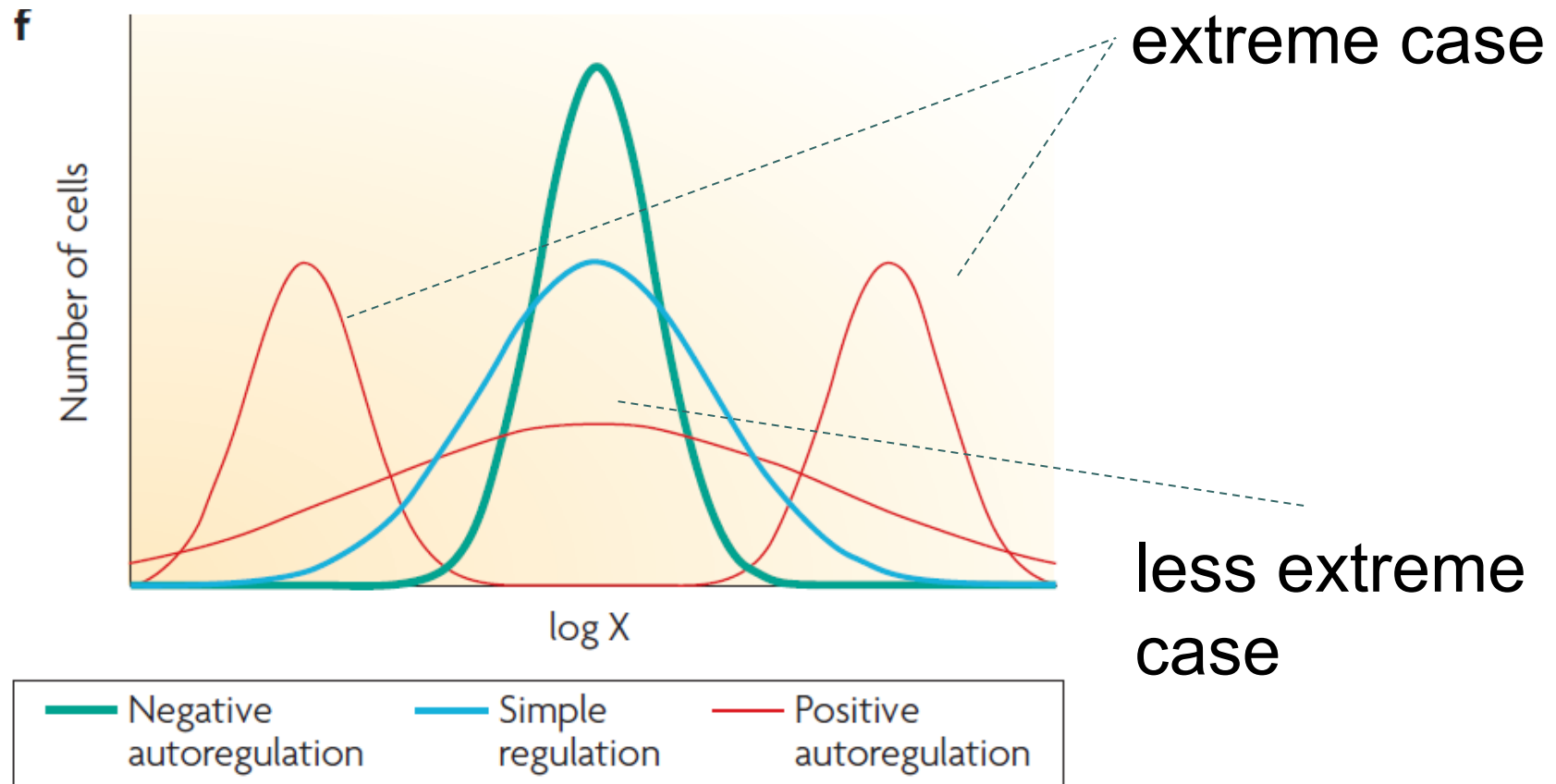
We will not avoid mathematics in biology.



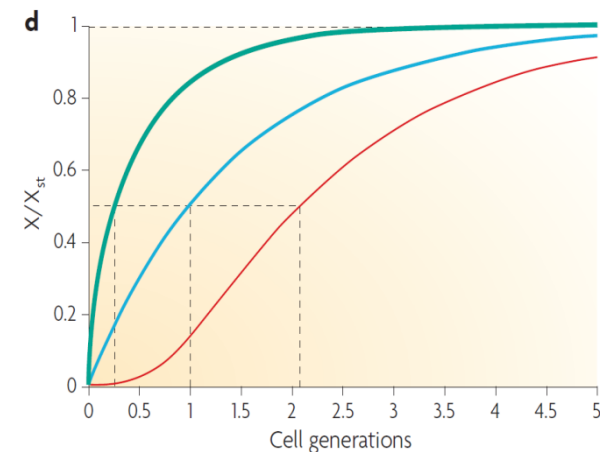
# Positive autoregulation leads to slower response



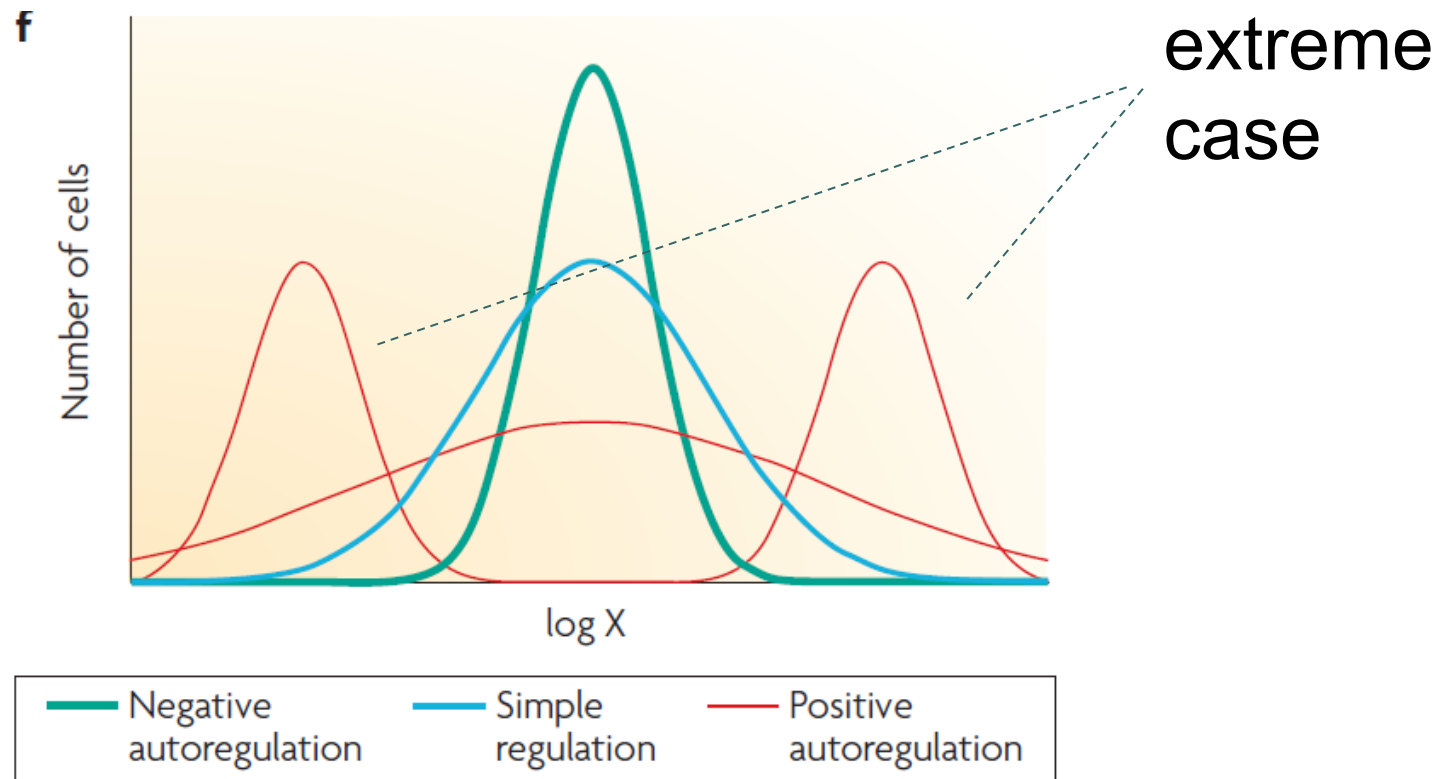
# Positive autoregulation leads to higher variation



=> increasing cell-cell variability



# Positive autoregulation leads to higher variation



## Strong variation:

- => differentiation of cells into 2 populations (development)
- => memory for maintaining gene expression (development)
- helps with maintaining mixed phenotype for better response to changing environment



# Literature

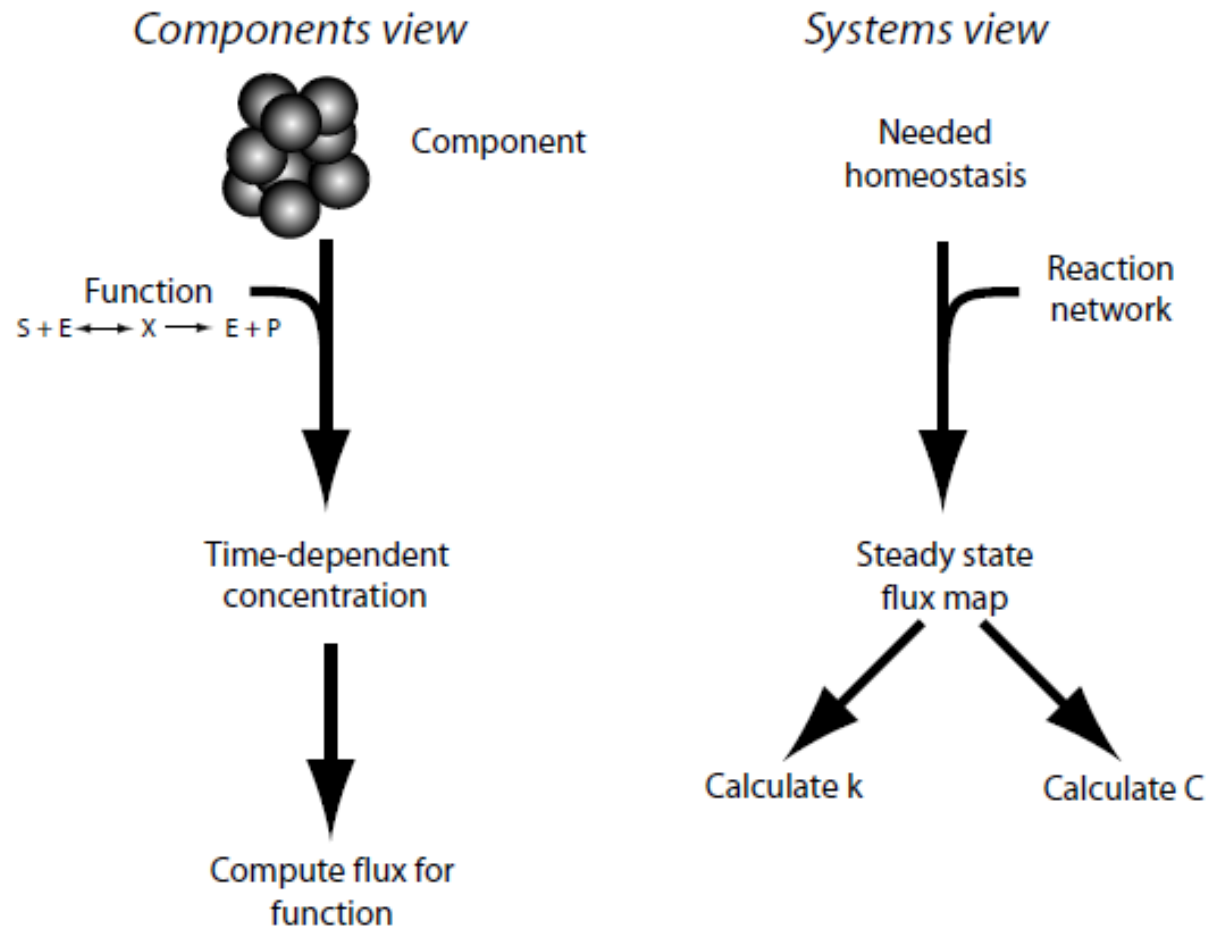
## ■ Source literature

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z\\_BHVFP0Lk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_BHVFP0Lk) and further – excellent talks about systems biology from Uri Alon (Weizman Institute)
- Rosenfeld N, Negative autoregulation speeds the response times of transcription networks. J Mol Biol. 2002 Nov 8;323(5):785-93. – experimental testing of the data
- Alon U. Network motifs: theory and experimental approaches. Nat Rev Genet. 2007 Jun;8(6):450-61. Review about the same.
- Alon, U. (2006). An Introduction to Systems Biology: Design Principles of Biological Circuits (Chapman and Hall/CRC).
- Palsson, B.Ø. (2011). Systems Biology: Simulation of Dynamic Network States (Cambridge University Press). Most common textbook about systems biology,

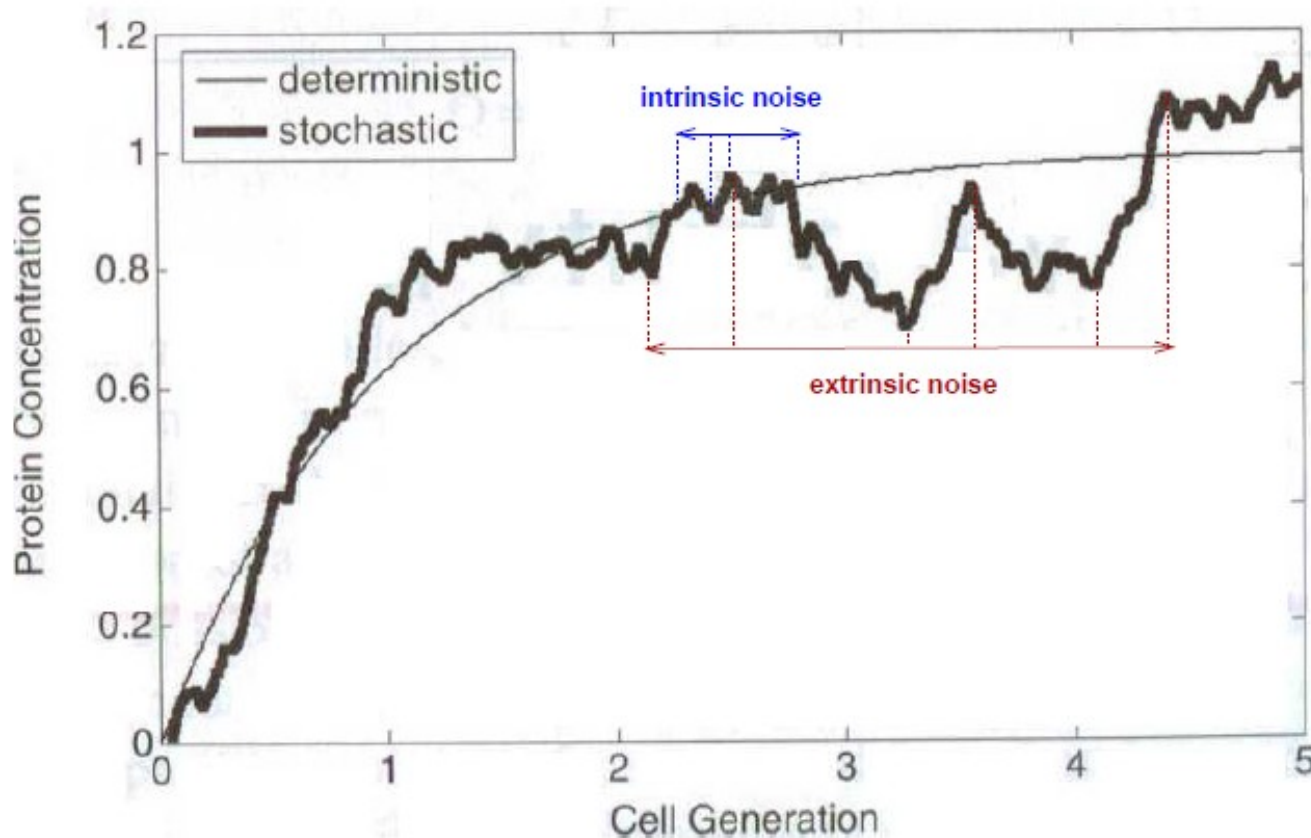
## ■ For enthusiasts

- Zimmer (2009). Microcosm- E Coli & the New Science of Life (Vintage) (popular scientific book about E. coli as model organism and what you probably didn't know)
- Albert-László Barabási (2005) V pavučině sítí. (Paseka) (znamenitá kniha o matematice sítí, dynamicky se rozvíjejícím oboru od předního světového vědce)
- PA052 Úvod do systémové biologie, Přednášky. Fakulta Informatiky MU
- <http://sybila.fi.muni.cz/cz/index> - obor na fakultě informatiky.

# Reductionism vs. holism

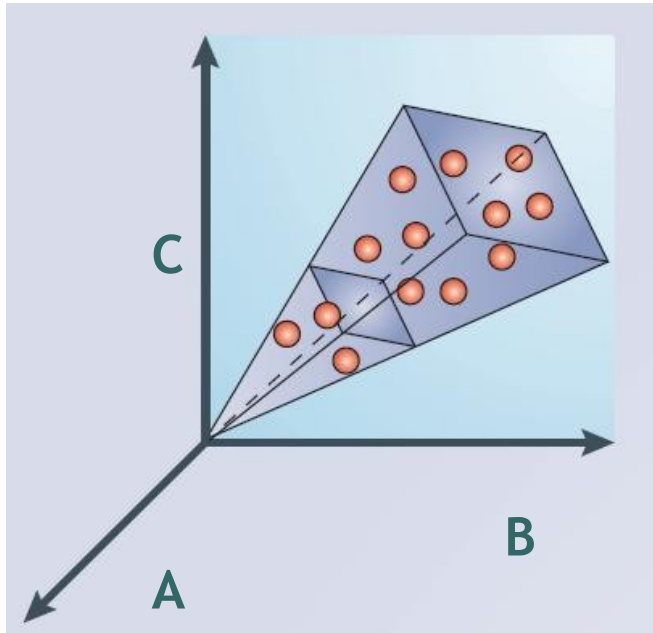


# Stochastic noise (stochastický ruch)

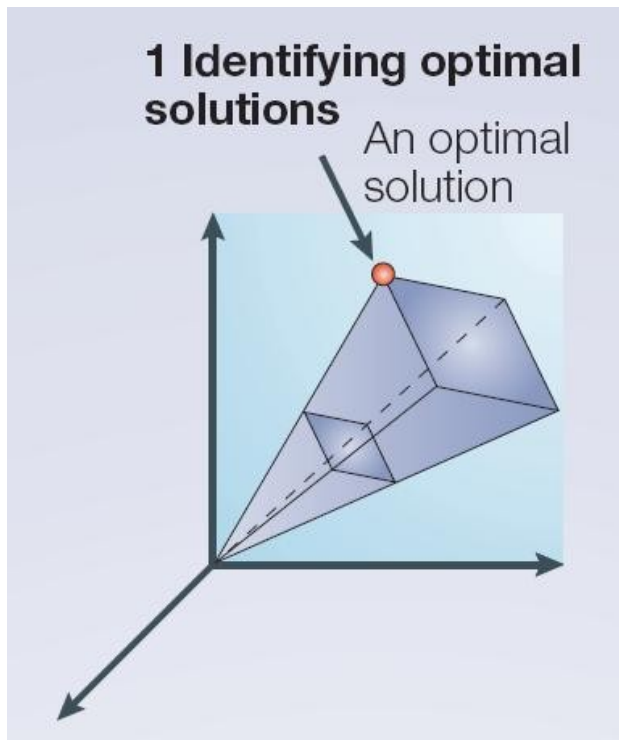


- interní ruch – transkripce, translace, post-transkripční jevy, pozice DNA v chromozómu

# Flux balance analysis (FBA)



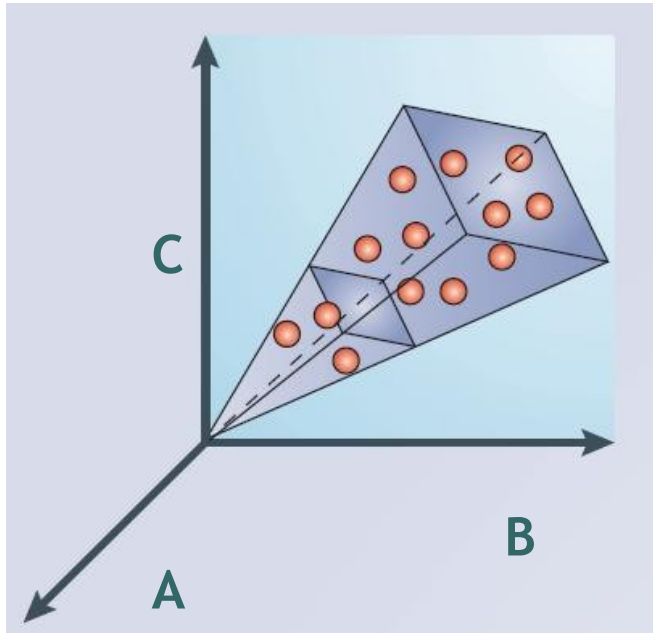
Constraints set bounds on solution space, but where in this space does the “real” solution lie?



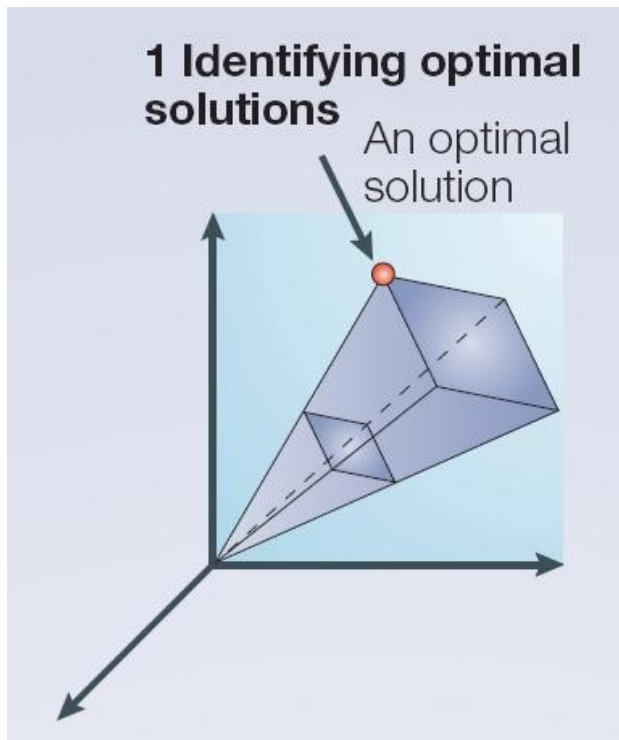
FBA: optimize for that flux distribution that maximizes an objective function (e.g. biomass flux) – subject to  $S \cdot v = 0$  and  $\alpha_j \leq v_j \leq \beta_j$

Thus, it is assumed that organisms are evolved for maximal growth -> efficiency!

# Flux balance analysis (FBA)



Constraints set bounds on solution space, but where in this space does the “real” solution lie?

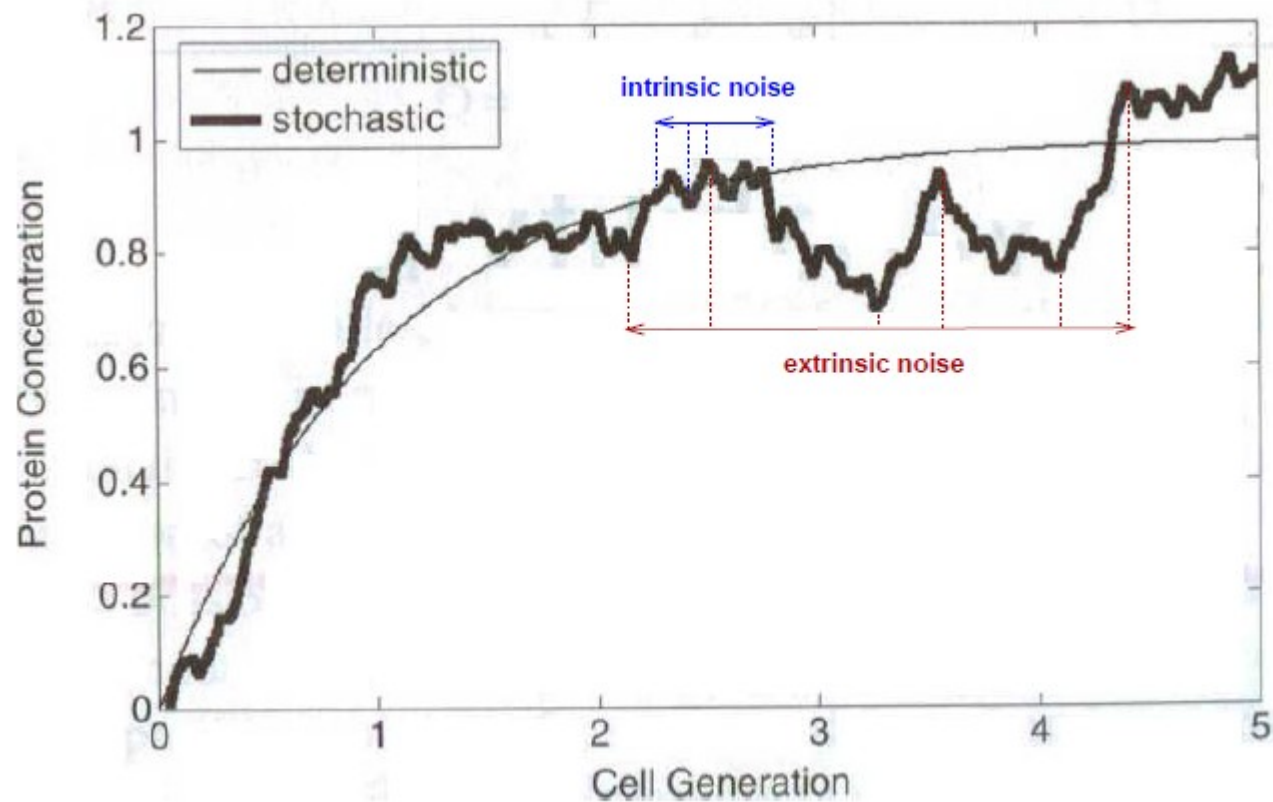


FBA: optimize for that flux distribution that maximizes an objective function (e.g. biomass flux) – subject to  $S \cdot v = 0$  and  $\alpha_j \leq v_j \leq \beta_j$

Thus, it is assumed that organisms are evolved for maximal growth -> efficiency!

# **PA052 Úvod do systémové biologie**

# Metagenomics



- interní ruch – transkripce, translace, post-transkripční jevy, pozice DNA v chromozómu
- externí ruch – fluktuace koncentrací regulačních faktorů



