

On Mixing Rates for Bayesian CART



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December 3, 2025



Outline

Background : Tree and Mixing Rate

Setting ups and Mixing Time Framework

Theoretical and Numerical Results

Concluding Remarks

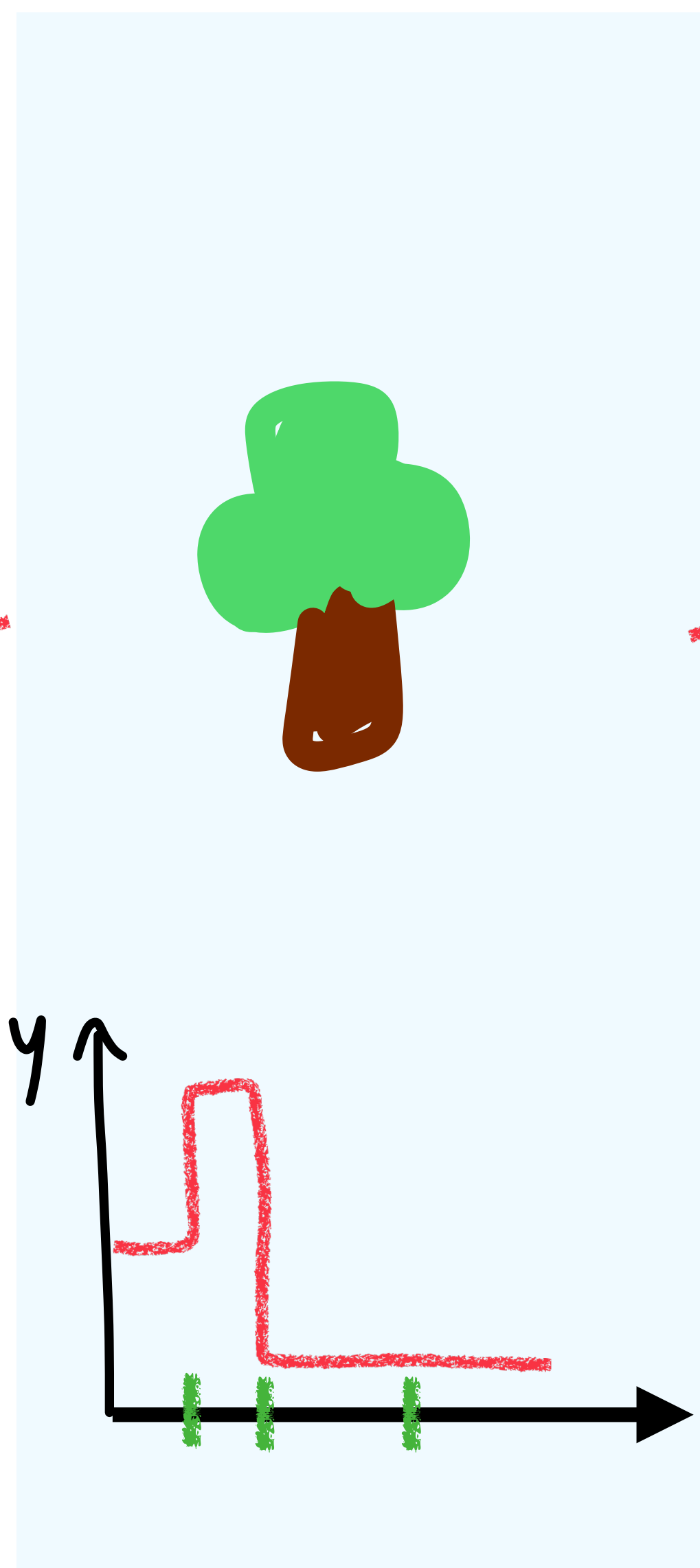
BART: Bayesian Additive Regression Tree



Chipman, George and McCulloch (10)



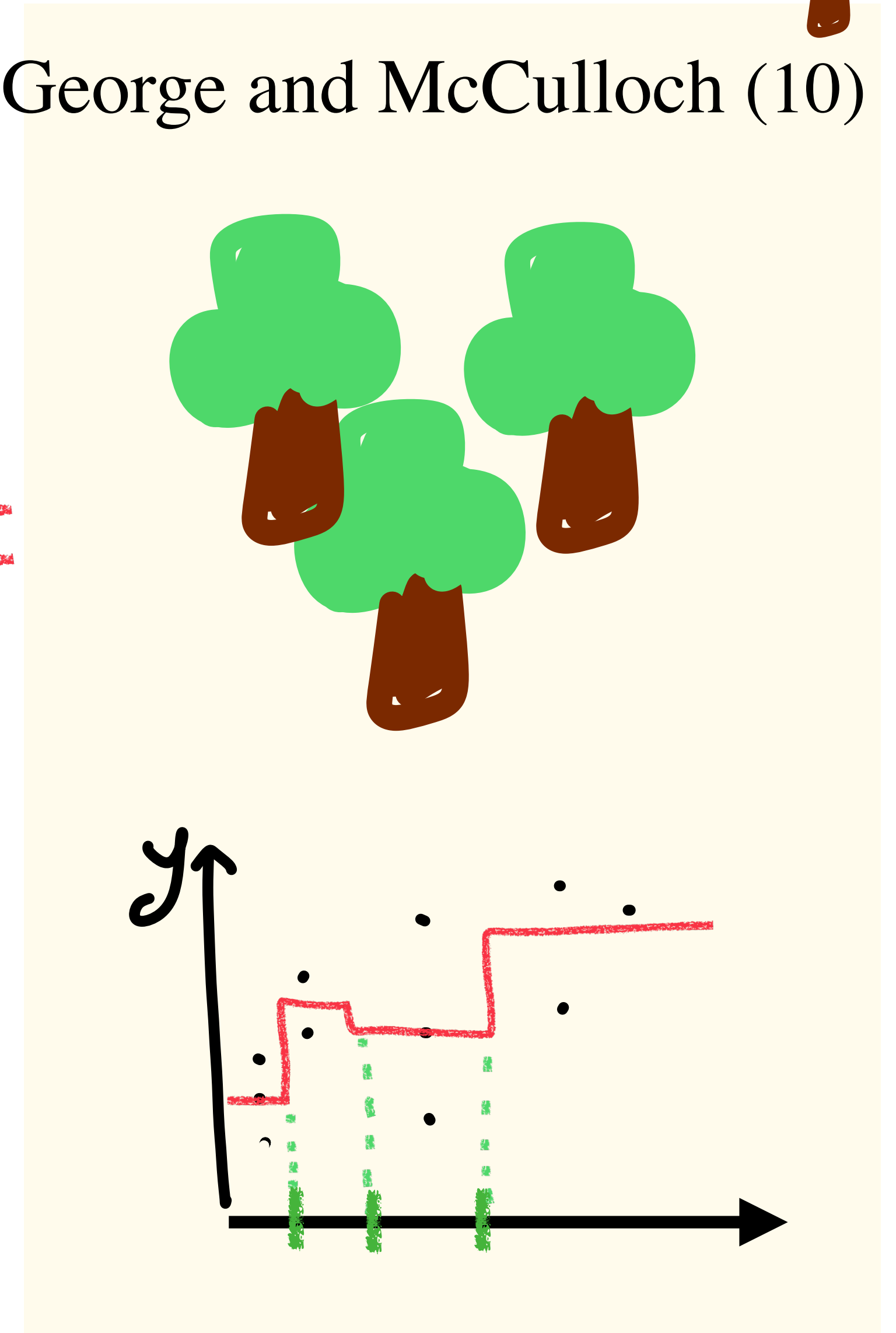
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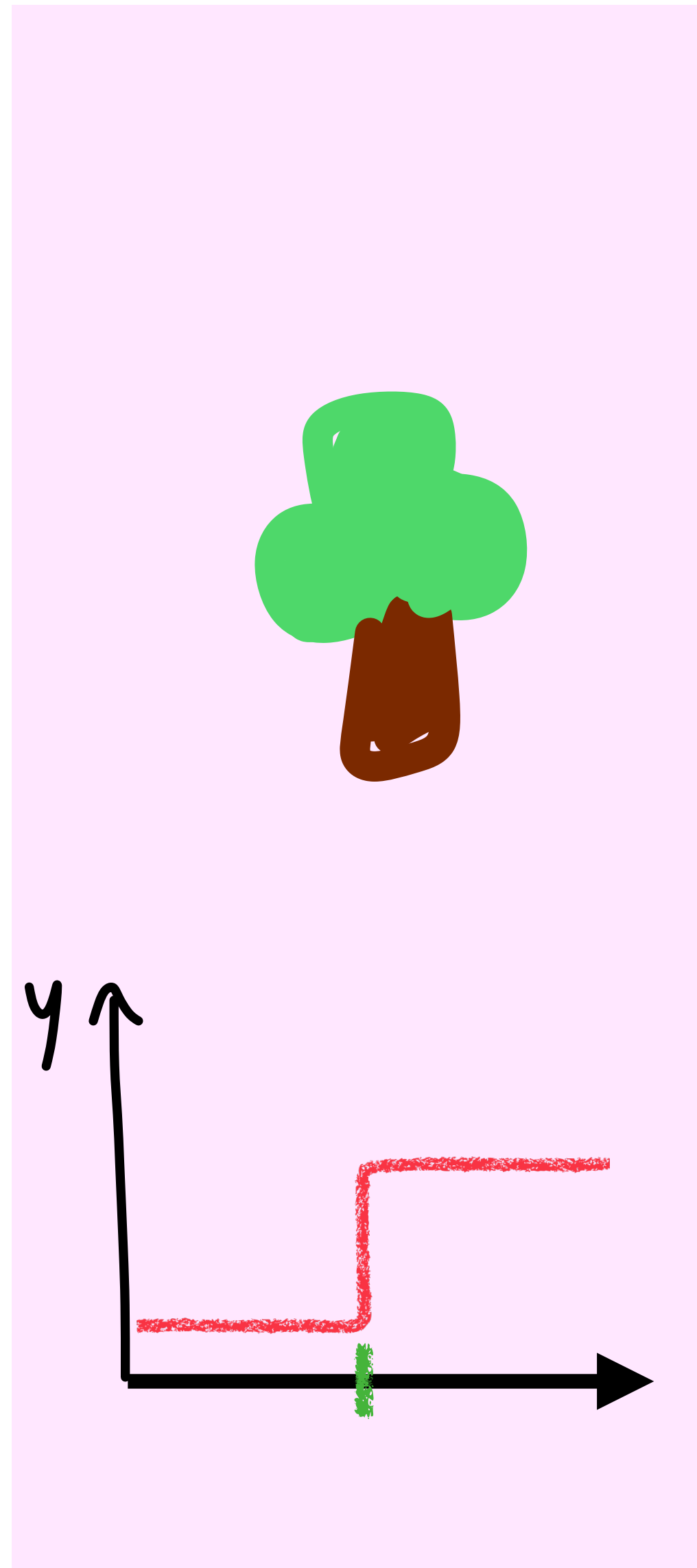
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BART: Bayesian Additive Regression Tree



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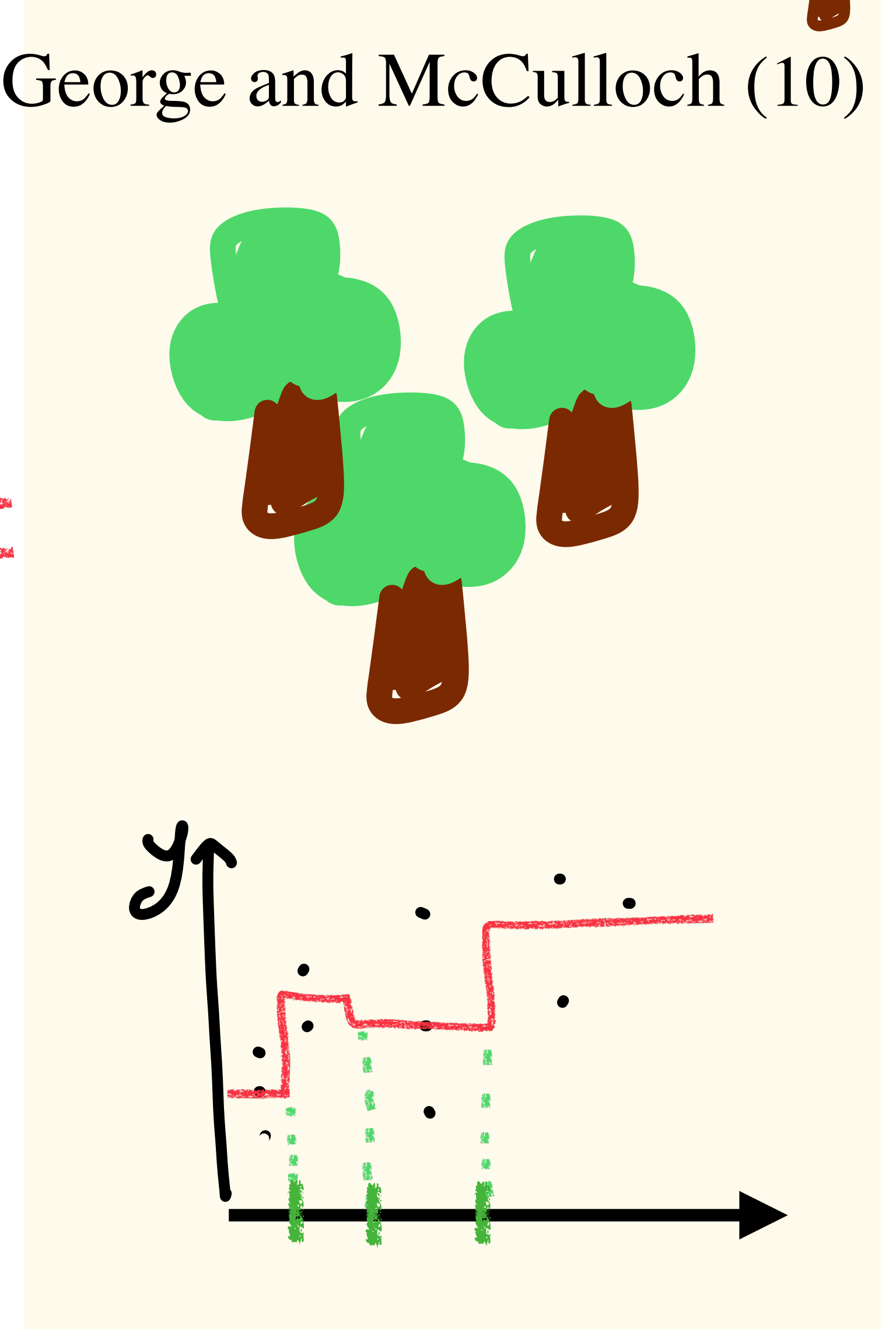
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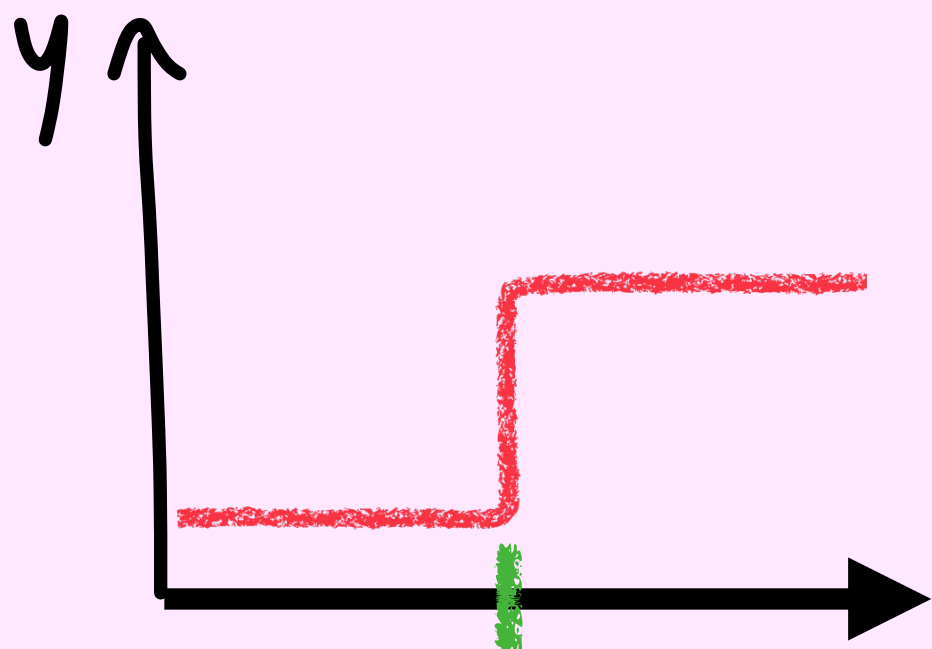
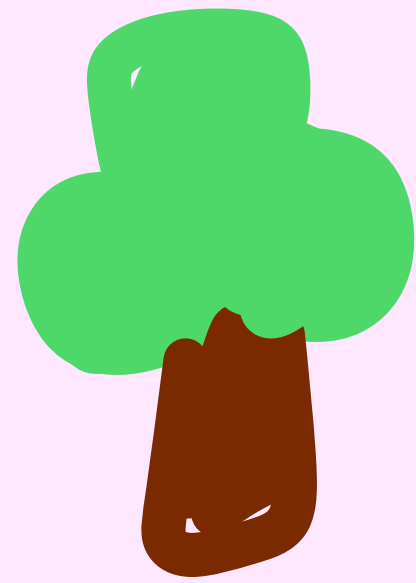


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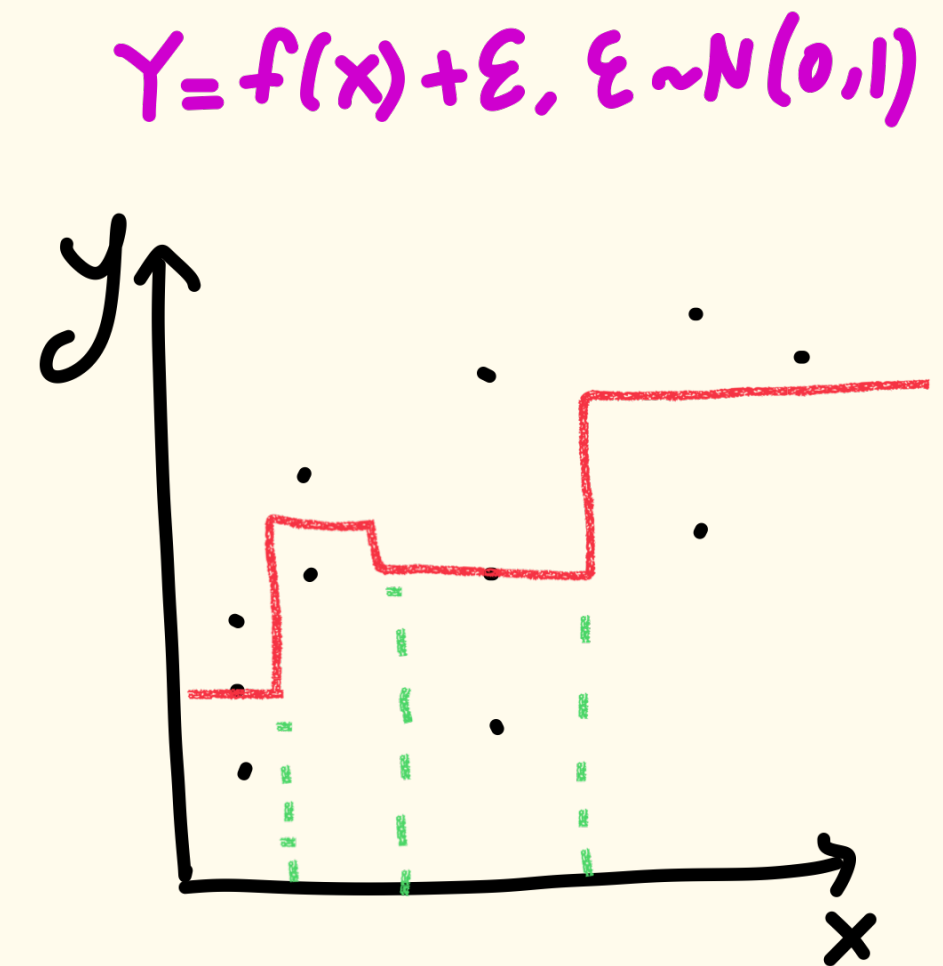
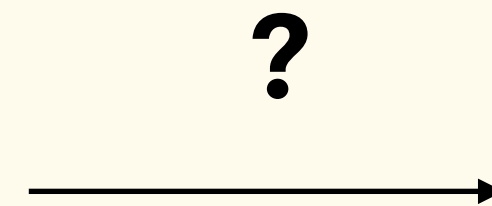
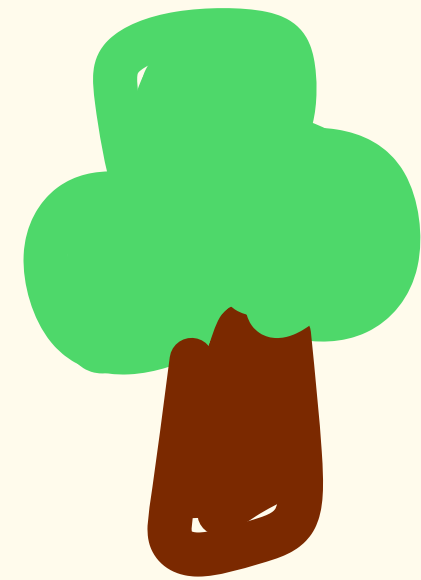
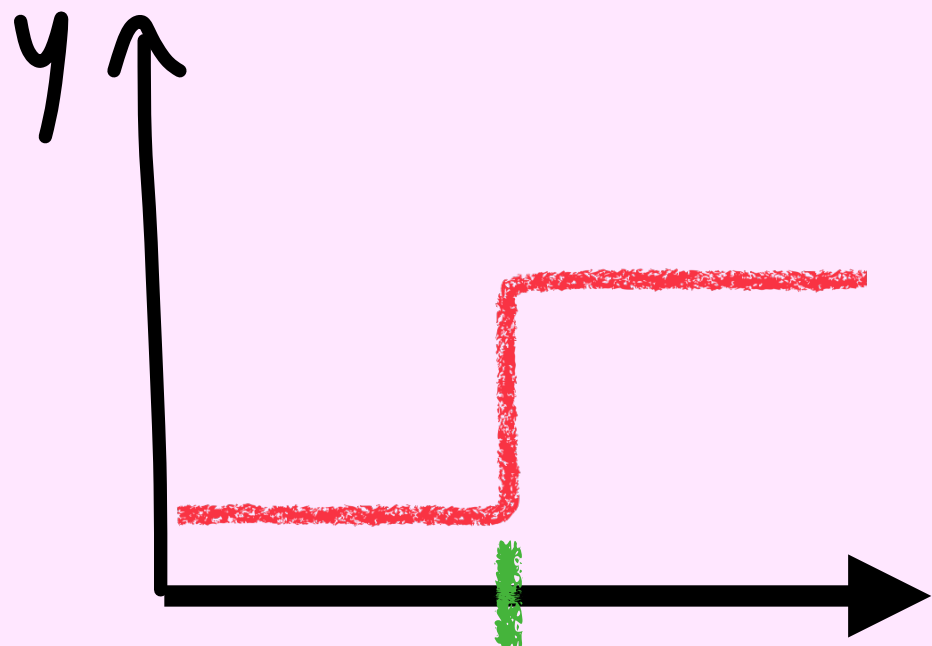
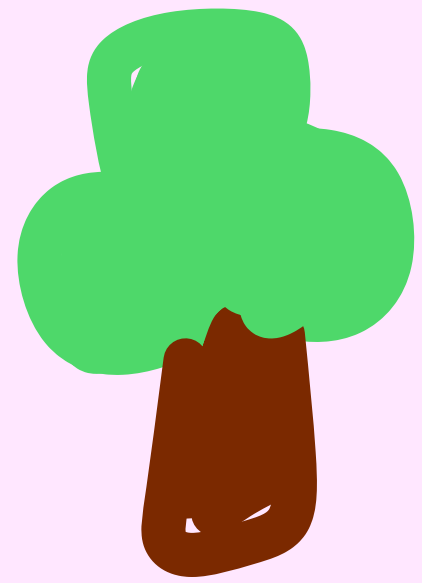
Bayesian Classification and Regression Tree

Chipman et al (98), Denison (98)



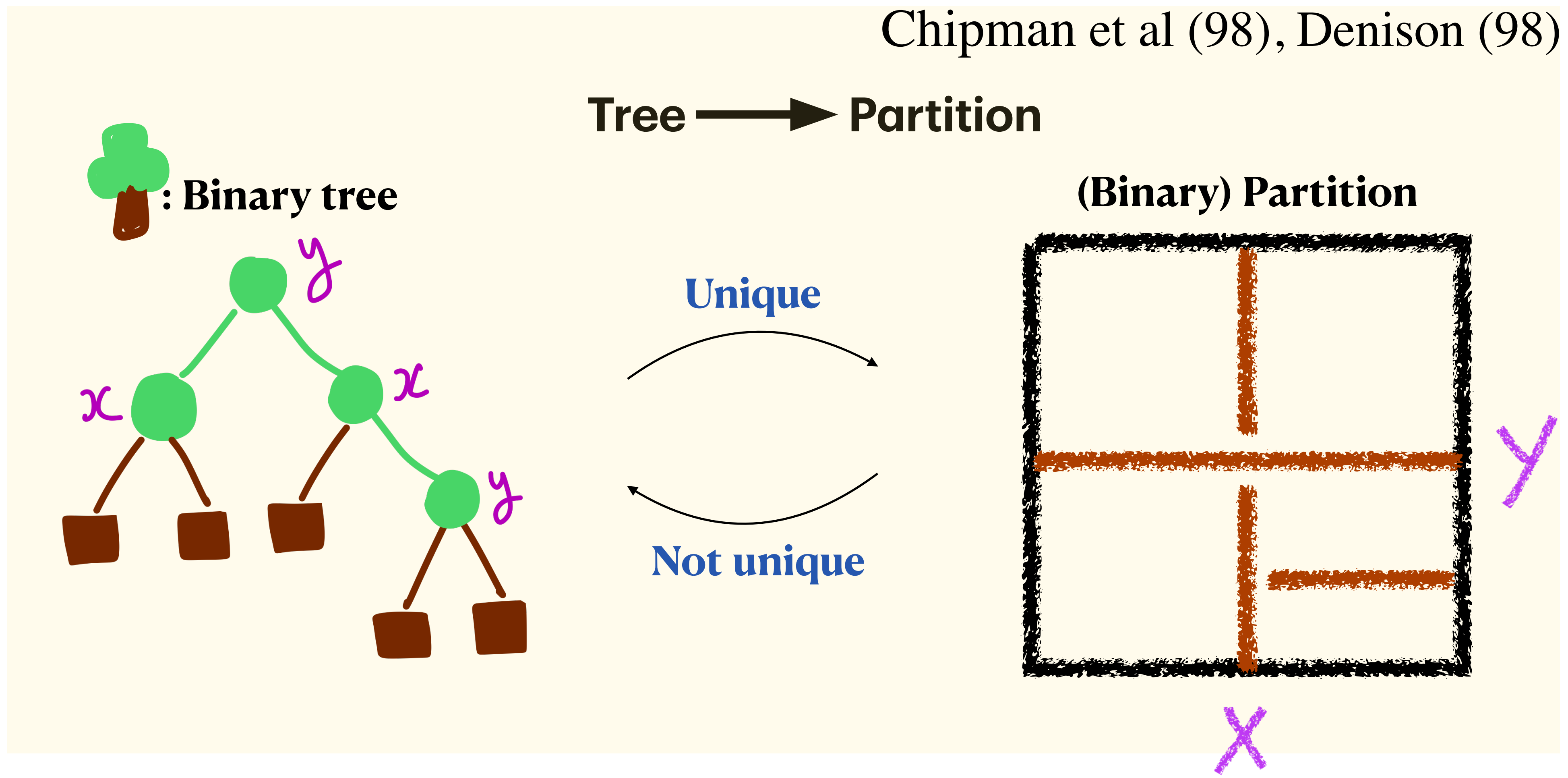
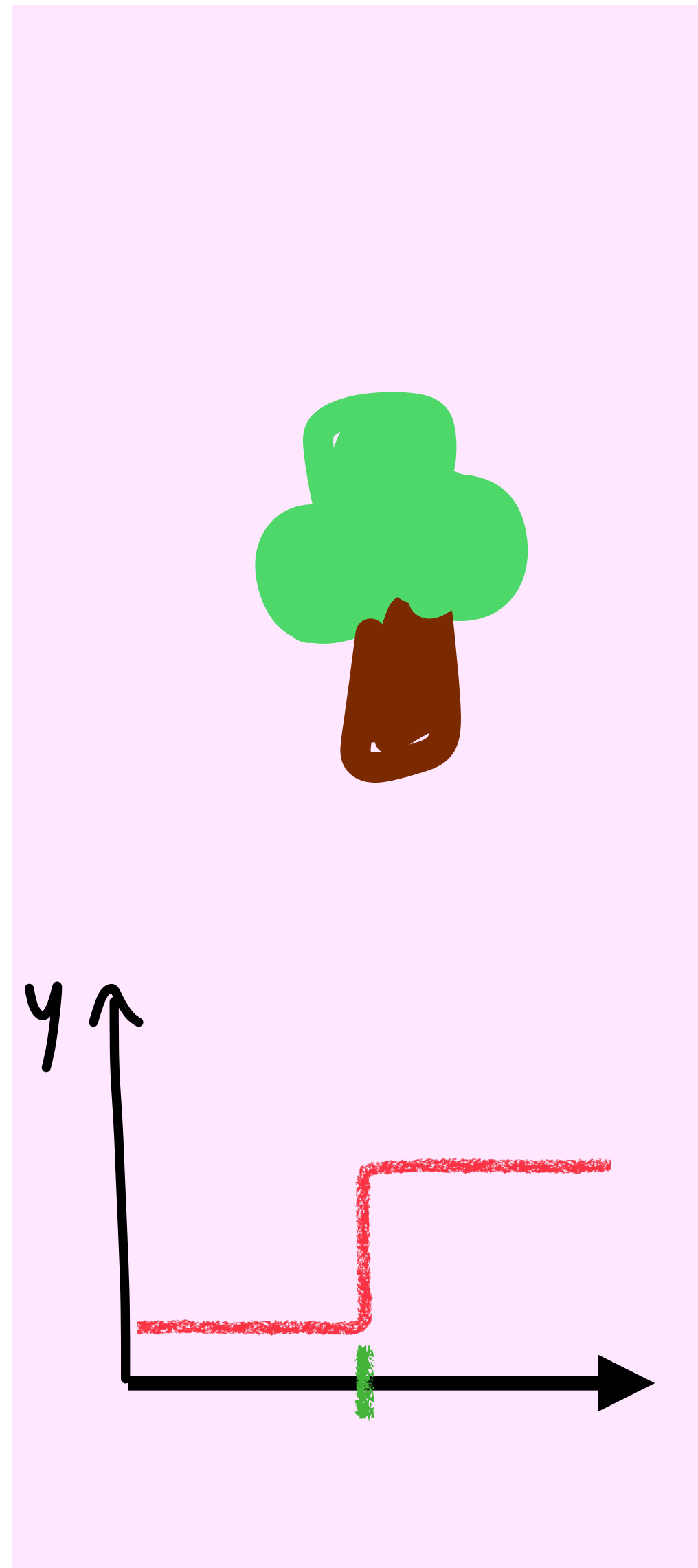
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Bayesian Classification and Regression Tree

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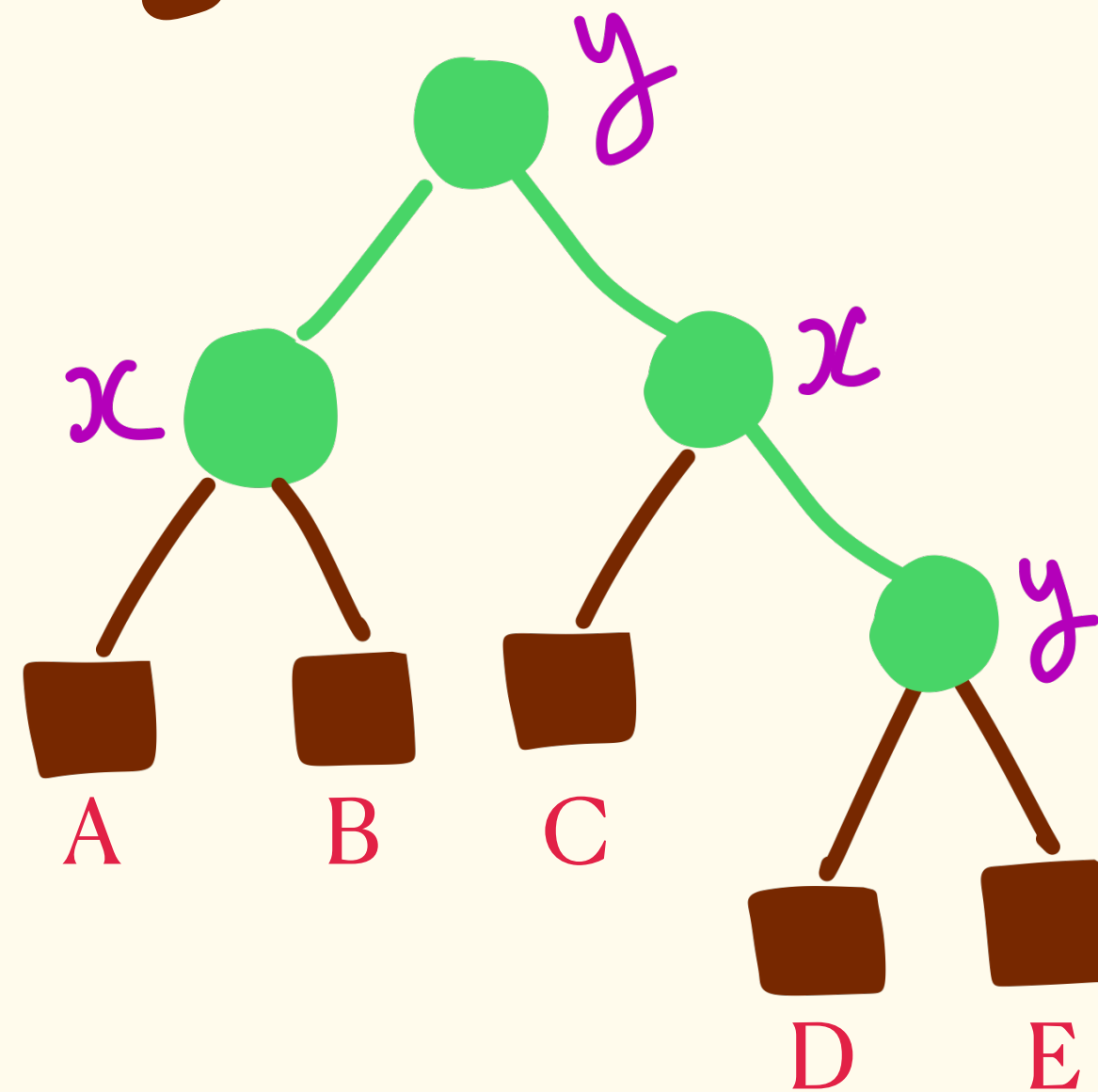
Given the box splits always at the center

Bayesian Classification and Regression Tree

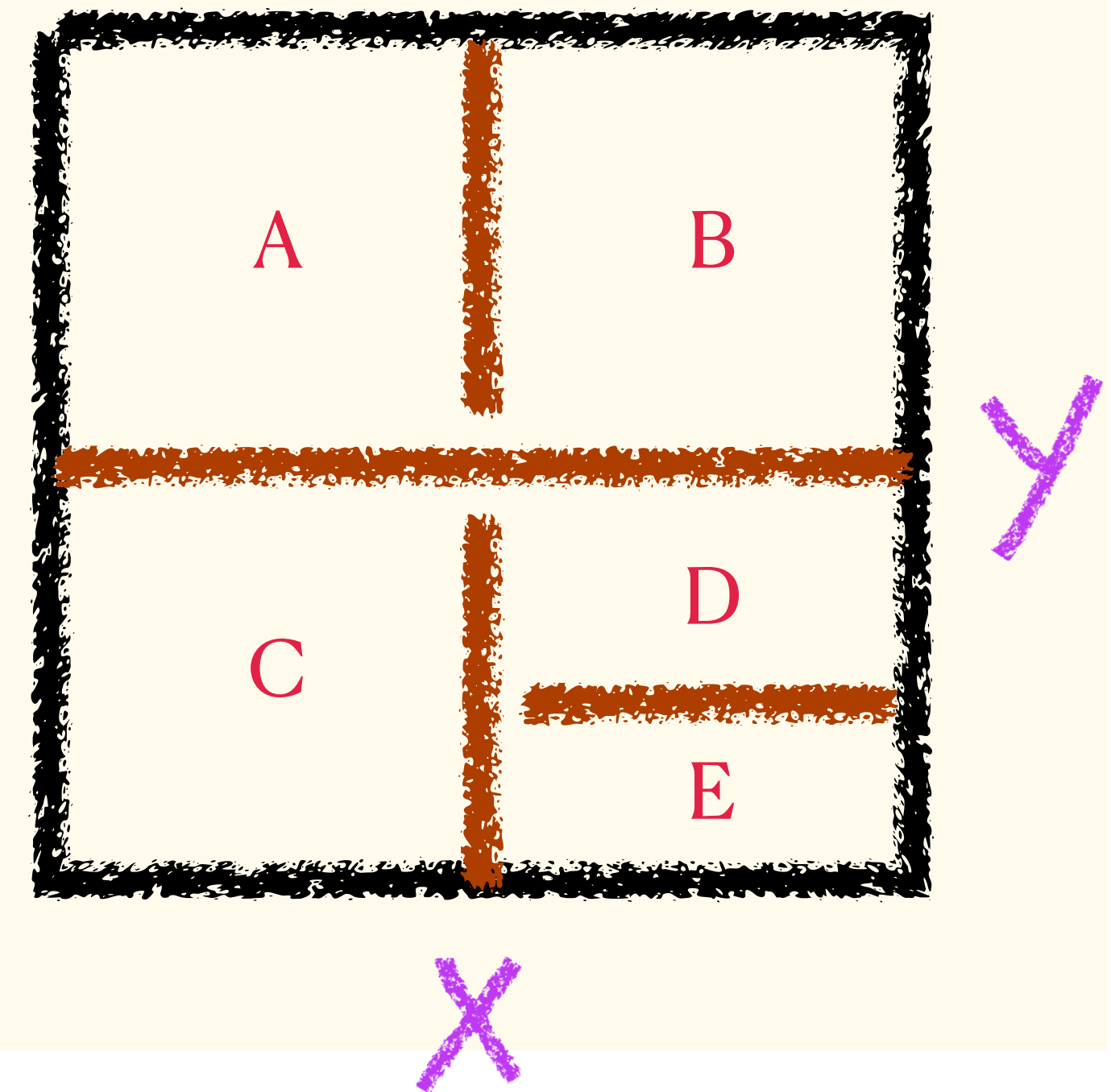
Chipman et al (98), Denison (98)

Tree \longrightarrow Partition

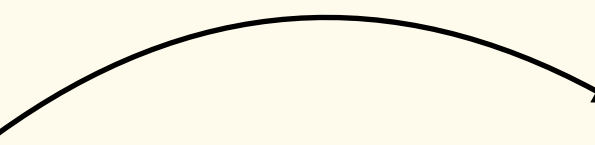
 : Binary tree



(Binary) Partition



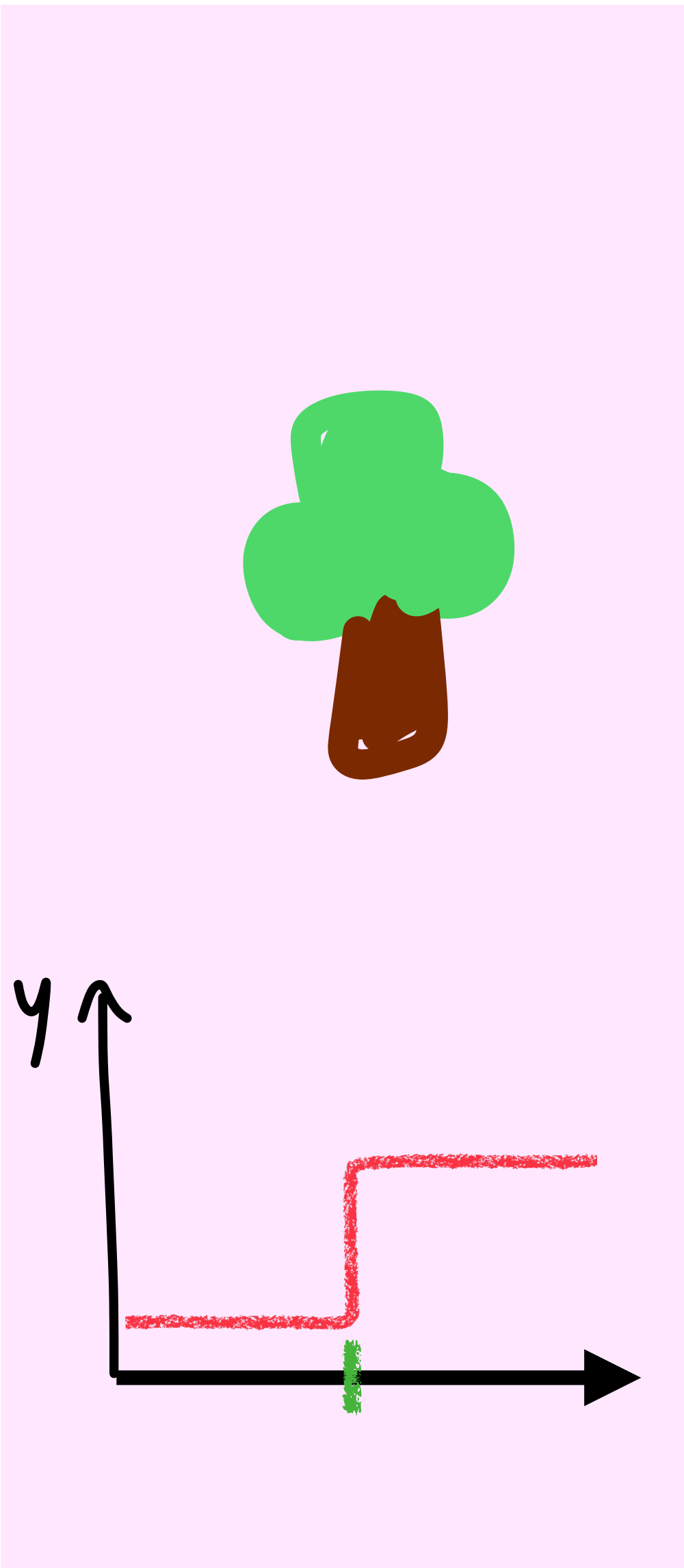
Unique



Not unique

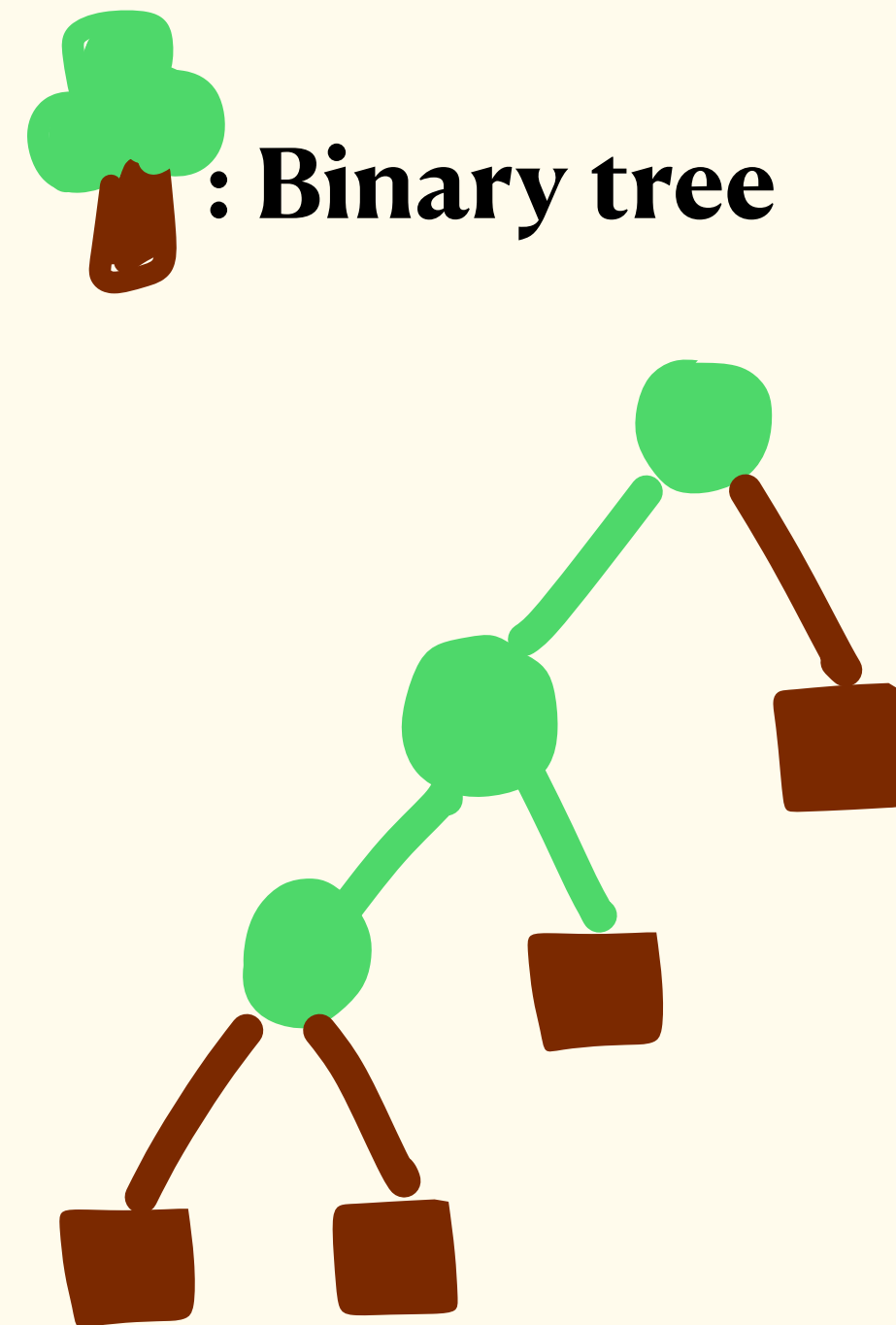
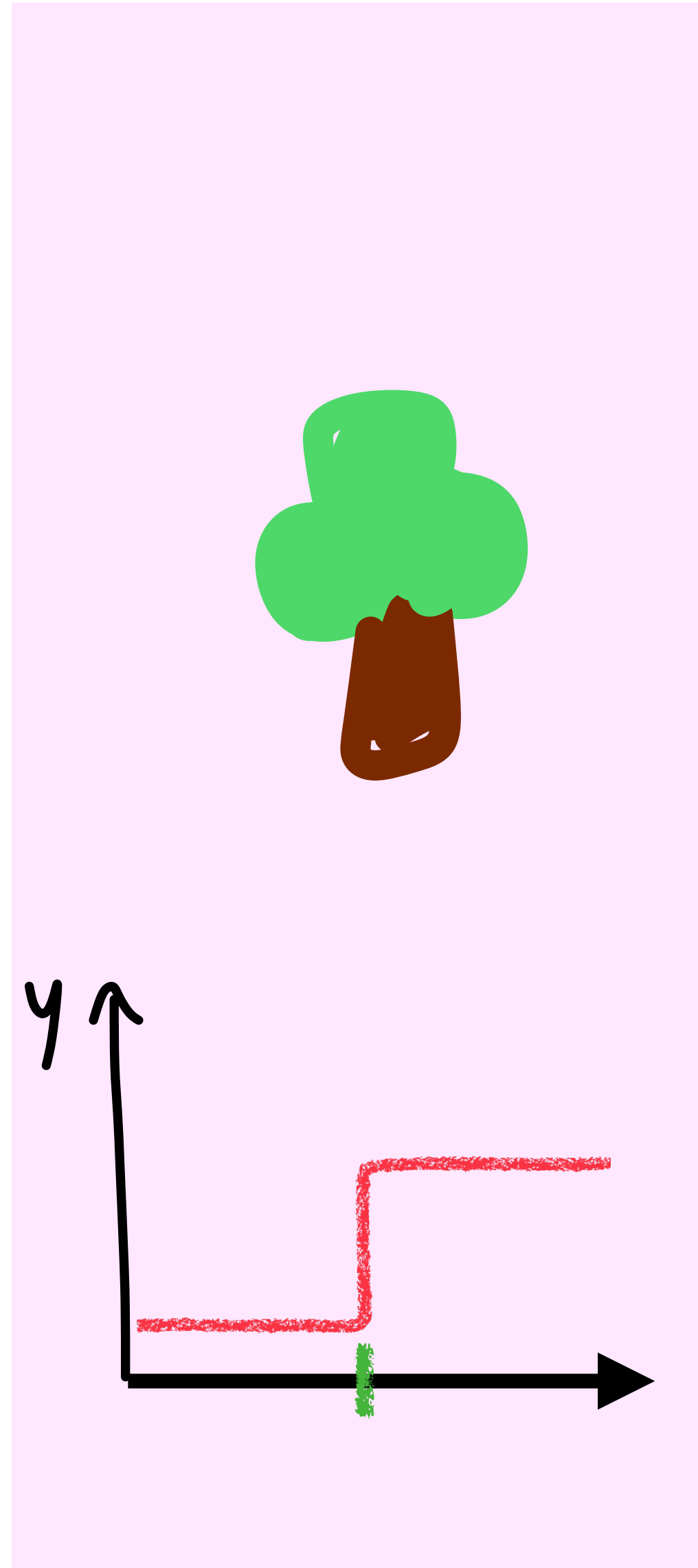


Given the box splits always at the center



Bayesian Classification and Regression Tree

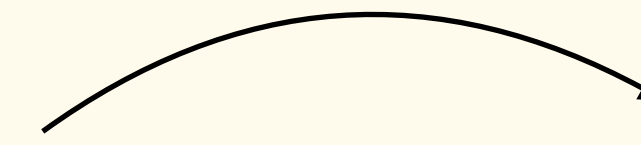
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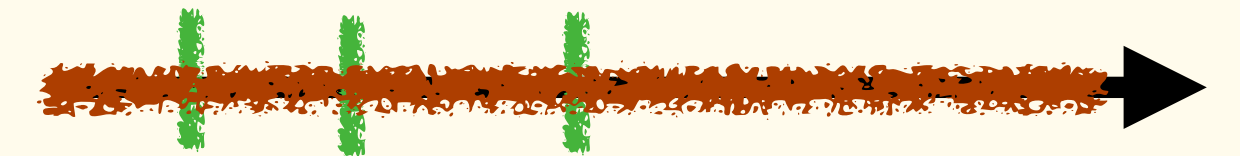
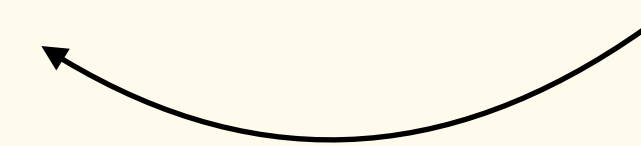
Tree \longrightarrow Partition

(Binary) Partition

Unique



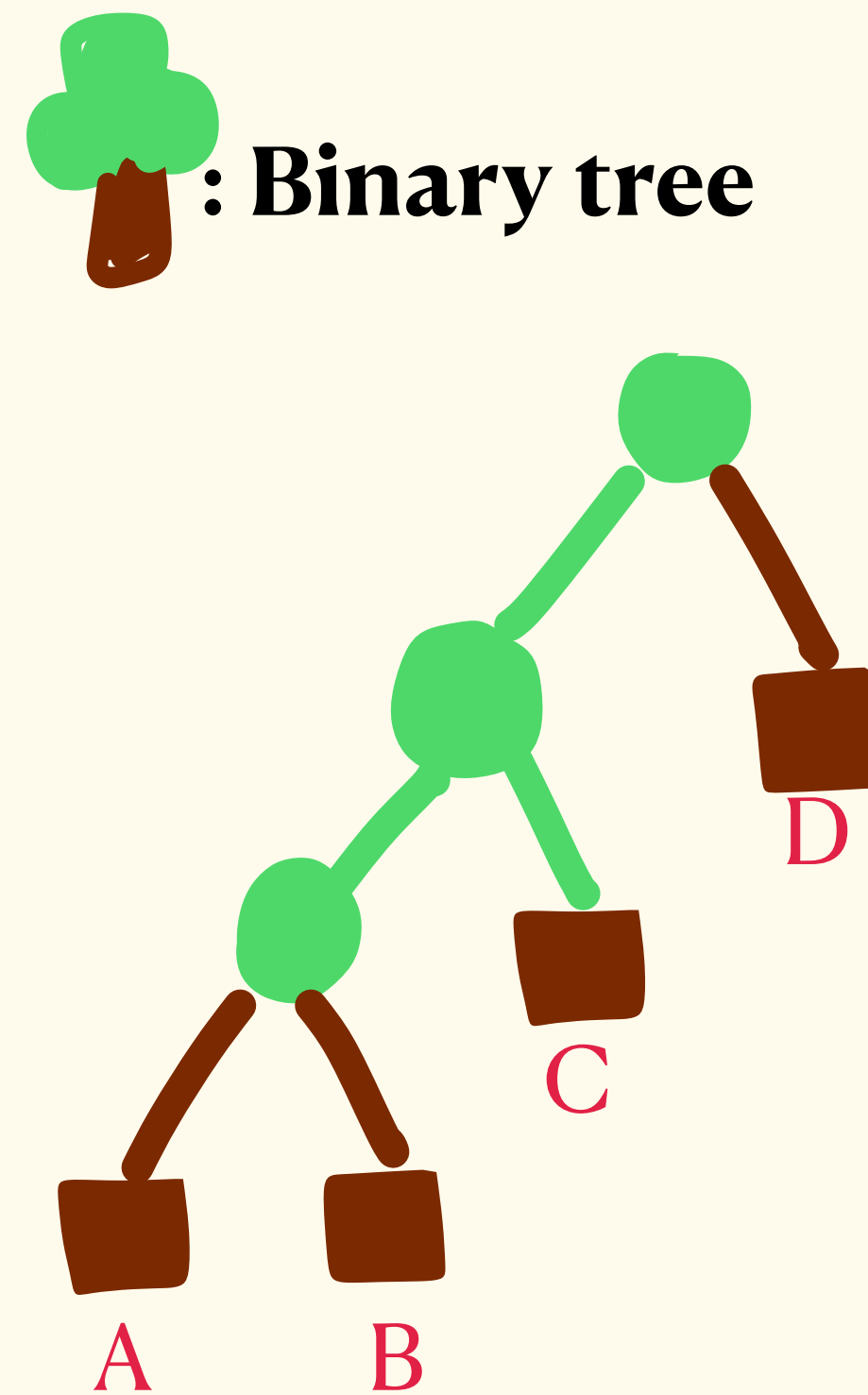
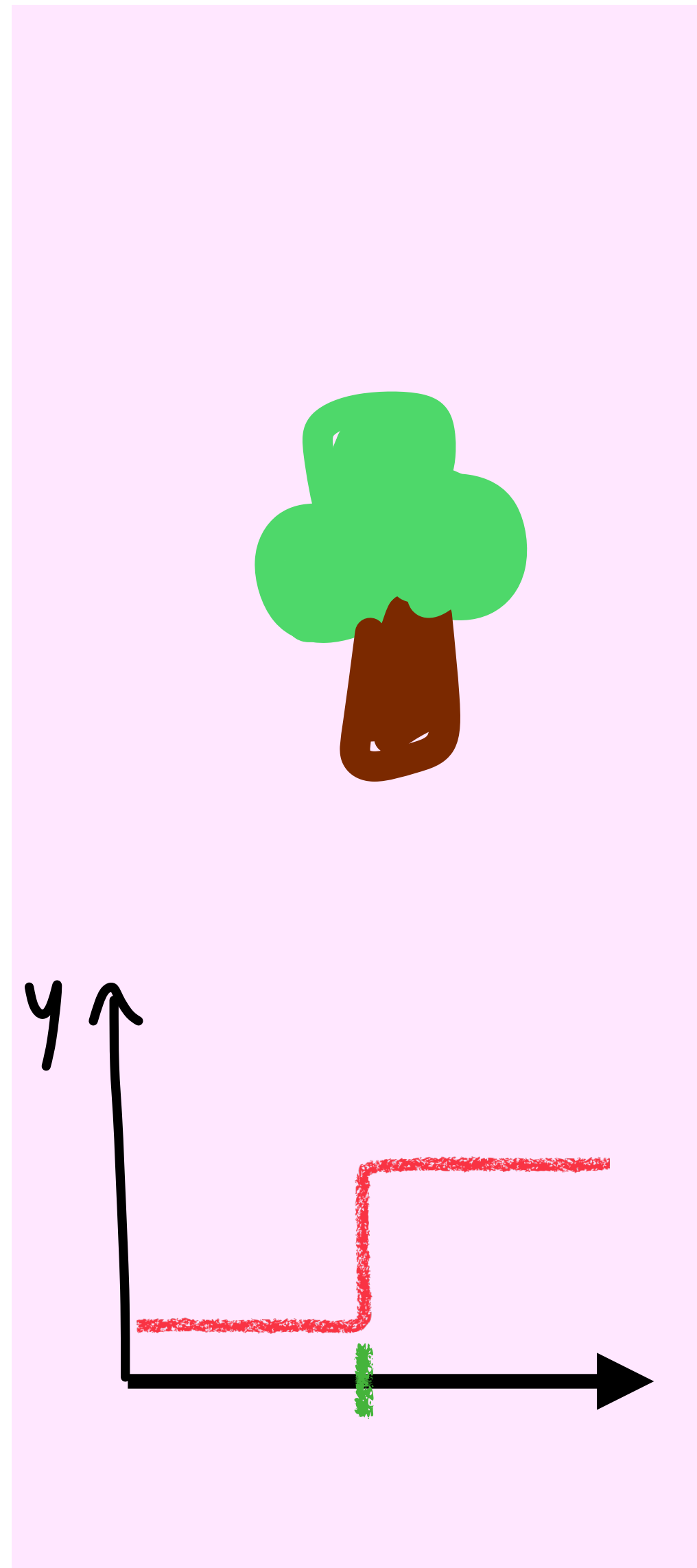
Unique



Given the box splits always at the center

Bayesian Classification and Regression Tree

Chipman et al (98), Denison (98)



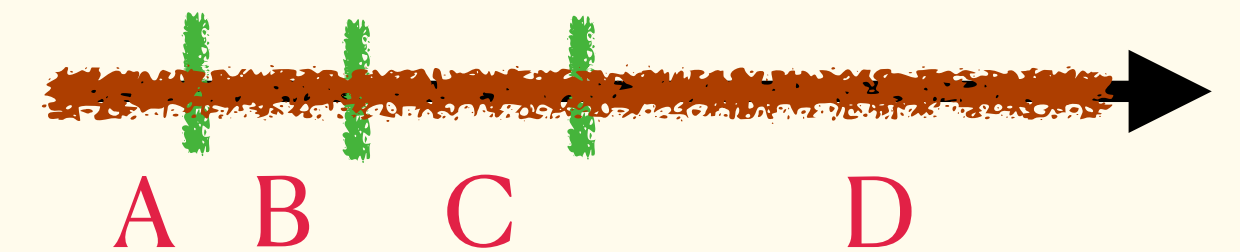
Tree \longrightarrow Partition

(Binary) Partition

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Unique



Given the box splits always at the center

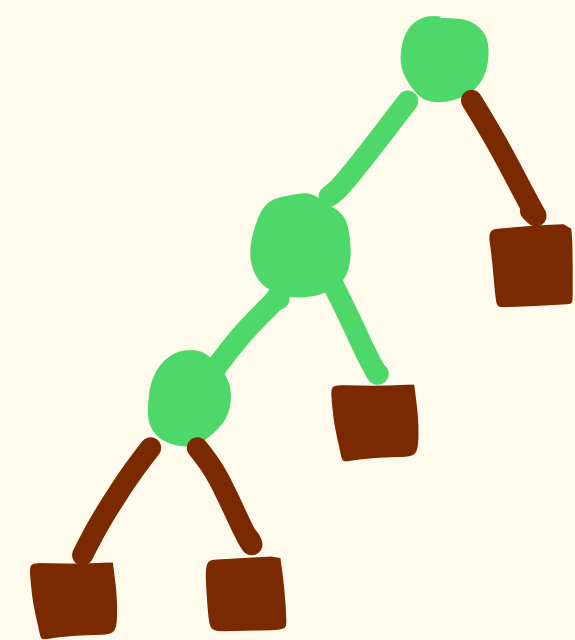
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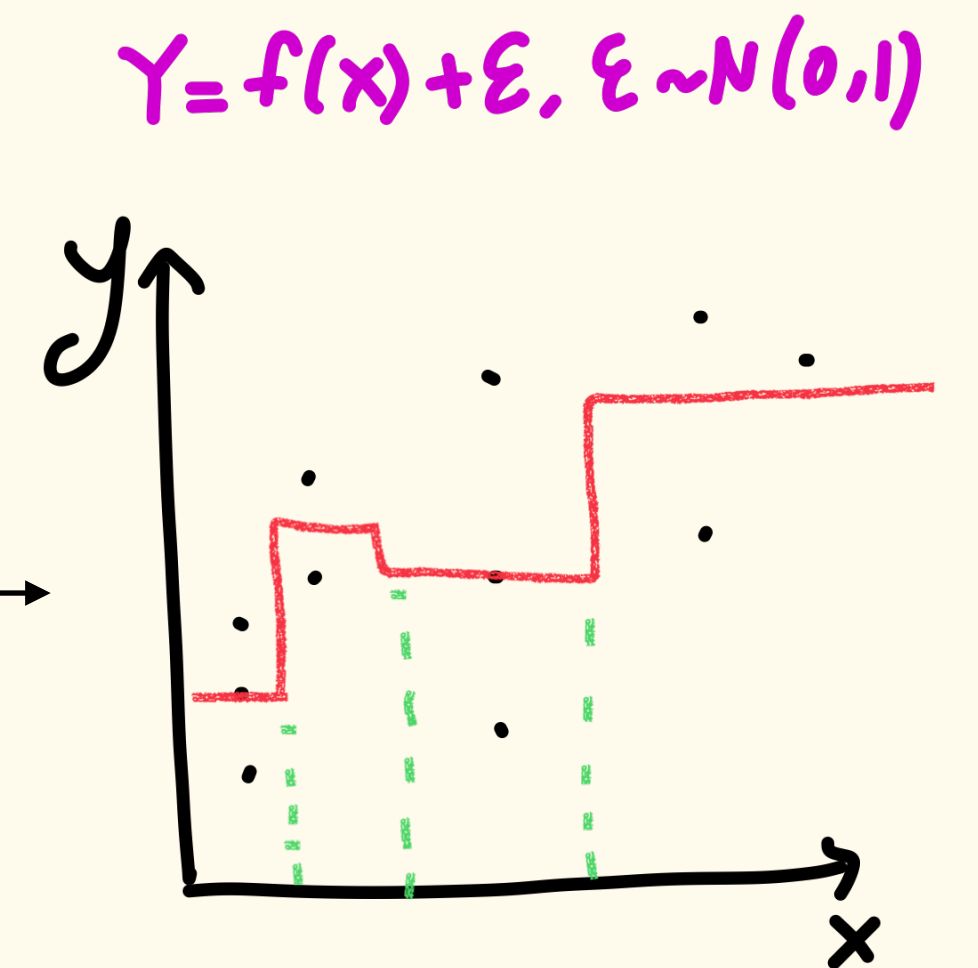
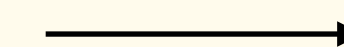
Step function:

- 1) Partition: \mathcal{T}
- 2) Jumps: regression function

(Very non-parametric modeling)



$\mathcal{T} \sim \pi(\mathcal{T})$

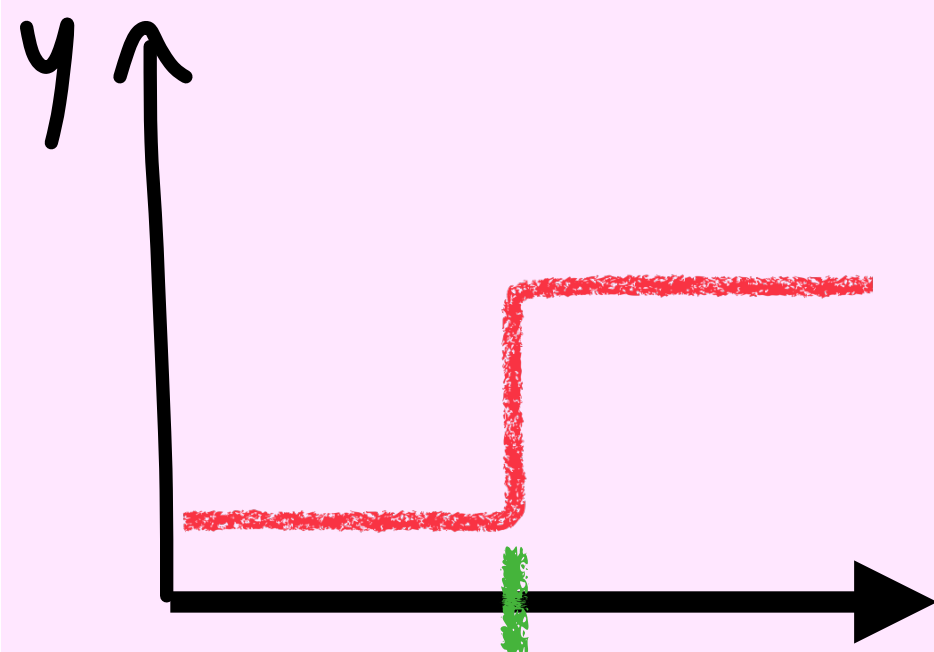
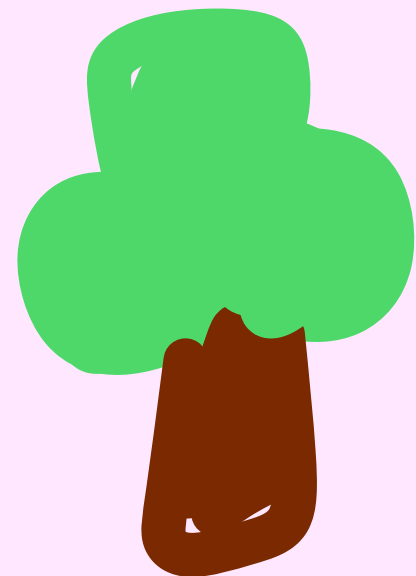


$L(Y | \mathcal{T})$

$$\pi(\mathcal{T} | Y) \propto \pi(\mathcal{T}) L(Y | \mathcal{T})$$

Rockova and Castillo (2021), Rockova and Rousseau (2023)

$\mathcal{T} \sim \pi(\mathcal{T})$



How to sample from $\pi(\mathcal{T} | Y)$? MCMC

The MH algorithm $\Rightarrow \mathcal{T}_t \sim P(\cdot | \mathcal{T}_{t-1})$

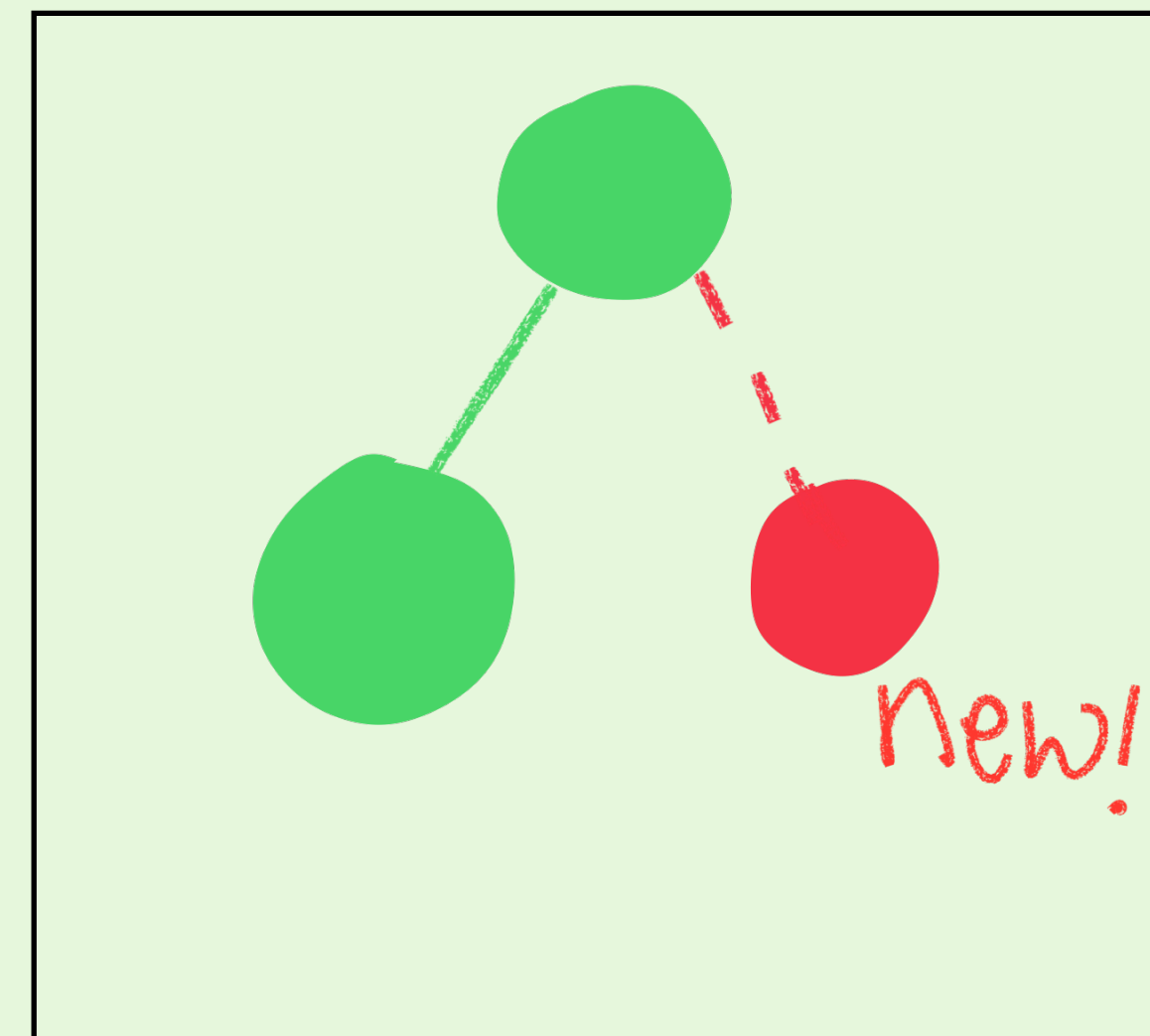
Given \mathcal{T}_{t-1} ,

1. Generate $\tilde{\mathcal{T}} \sim S(\cdot | \mathcal{T}_{t-1})$
2. Accept ($\mathcal{T}_t = \tilde{\mathcal{T}}$) with probability α , where

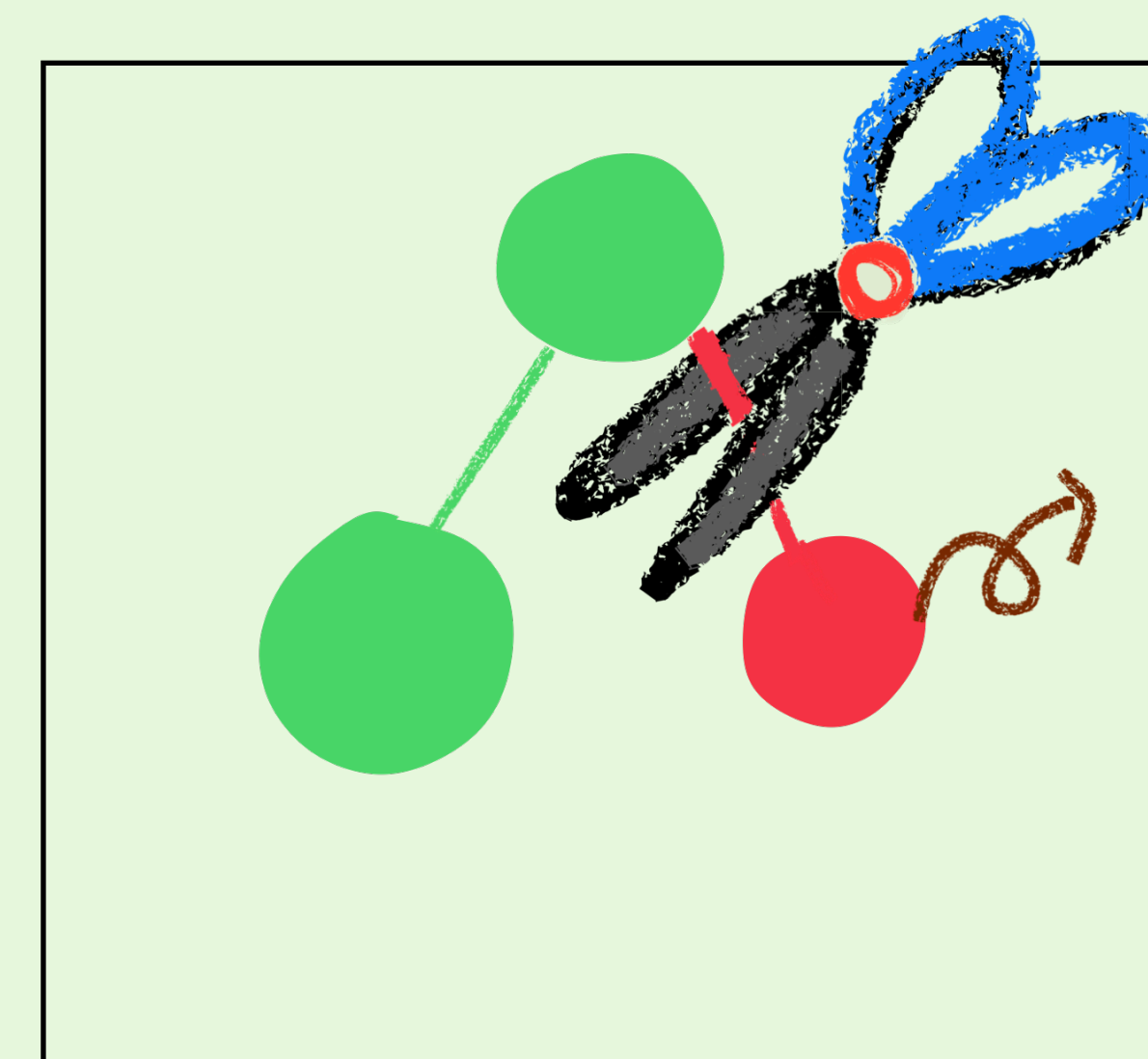
$$\alpha = \min \left\{ 1, \frac{\pi(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} | Y) S(\mathcal{T}_{t-1} | \tilde{\mathcal{T}})}{\pi(\mathcal{T}_{t-1} | Y) S(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} | \mathcal{T}_{t-1})} \right\}$$

Proposal of Bayesian CART

GROW



PRUNE

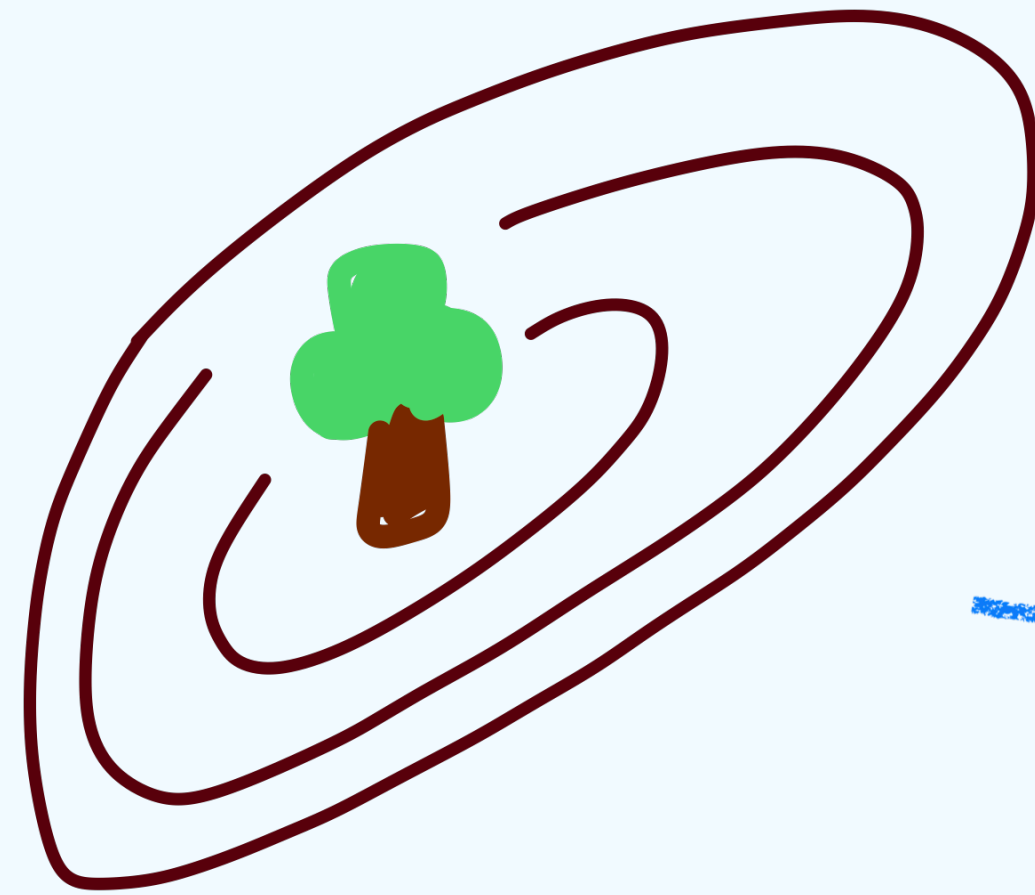


$$S(\cdot | \mathcal{T}_t) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{m \in M} 1_m S_m(\cdot | \mathcal{T}_t), \text{ where } M = \{\text{grow, prune}\}$$

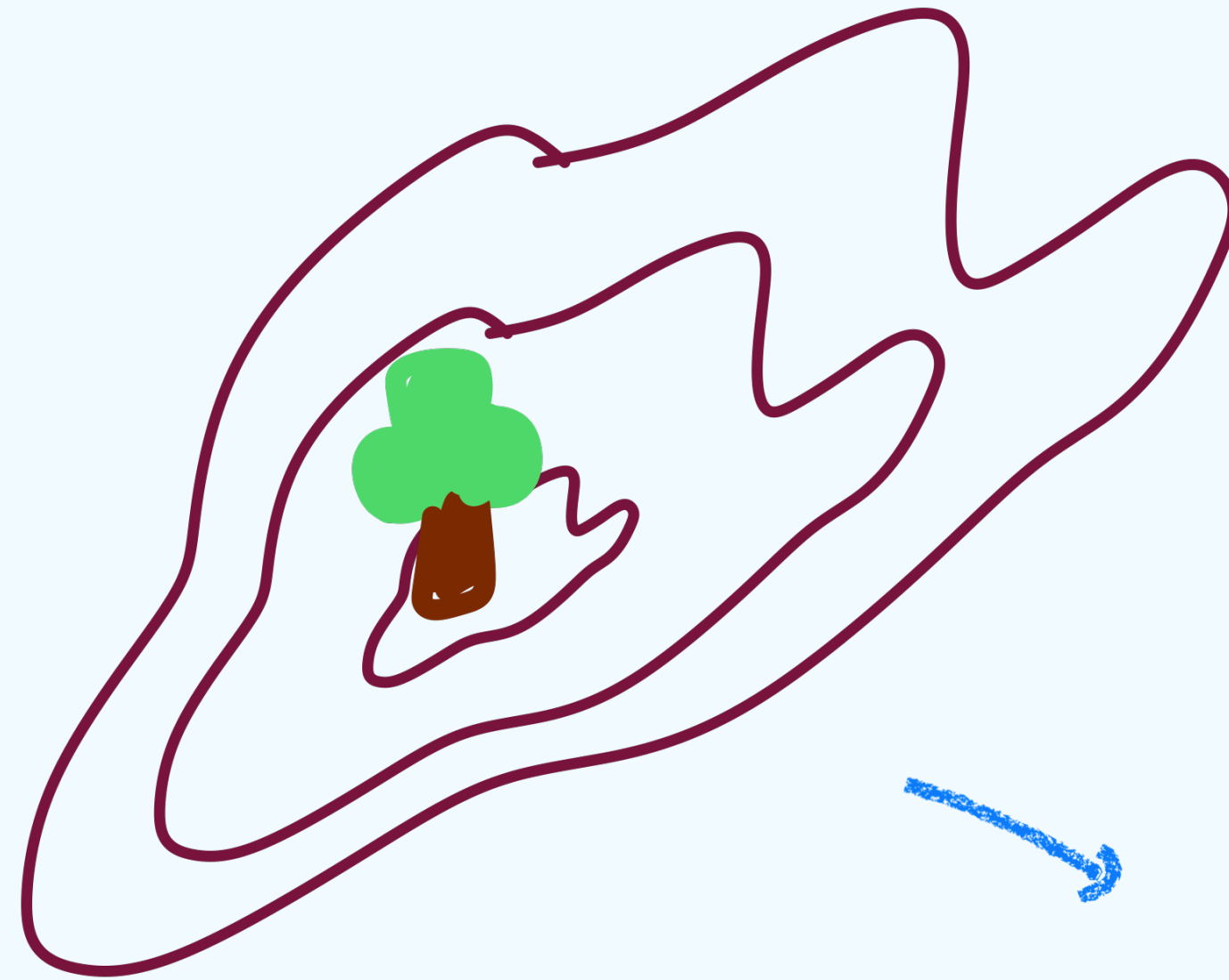
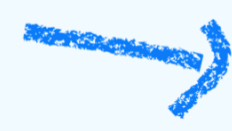
Mixing Rate: How fast?



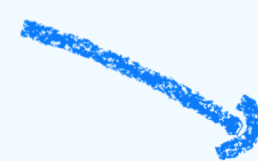
$$P^t(\cdot | \mathcal{T}_0) \xrightarrow{t \rightarrow \infty} \pi(\cdot | Y)$$



$$P(\cdot | \text{tree}_{t_1})$$



$$P(\cdot | \text{tree}_{t_2})$$



$$P(\cdot | \text{tree}_{t_3})$$



$$\pi(\text{tree} | Y)$$

Good algorithm: Fast convergence
Mixing rate : convergence speed.

Literature: Mixing rate can be slow

Bayesian CART mixes slow: [Wu et al \(2007\)](#), [Chipman et al \(2010\)](#).

New movements: [Gramacy and Lee \(2008\)](#),
[Lakshminarayanan et al. \(2015\)](#), [Pratola \(2016\)](#)

New initializations: [He and Hahn \(2021\)](#)

(Theoretical) **Exponentially slow** mixing : [Ronen et al \(2022\)](#)

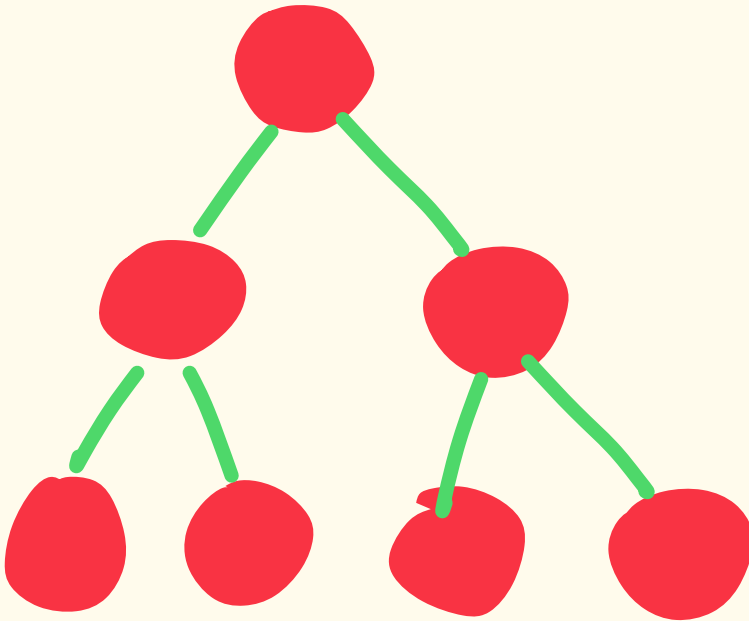
In multi-dimensional setting

GROW and PRUNE

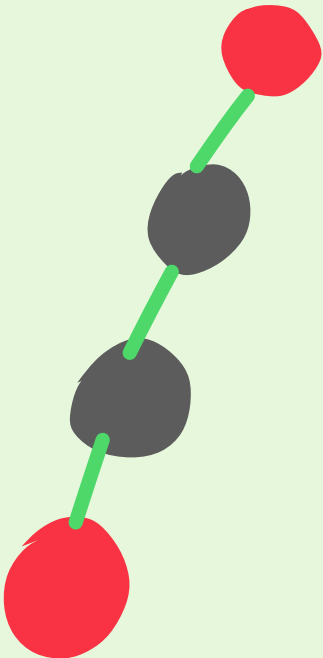
Our investigation : The mixing time **highly depends on the data structure !**

Our Contribution

Type A



Type A^c



Original Movement

Rapid

Slow

New Movement

Rapid

Rapid

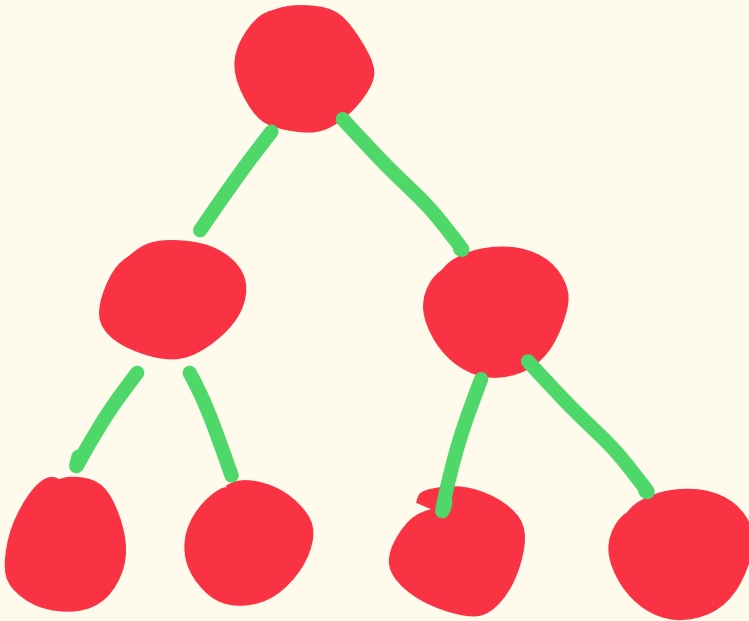
Informed Movement

Improvement

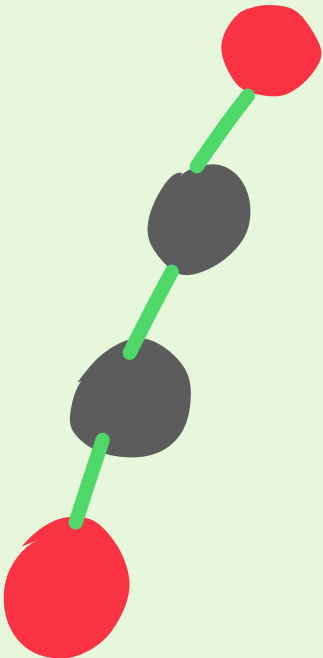
Improvement?

Our Contribution

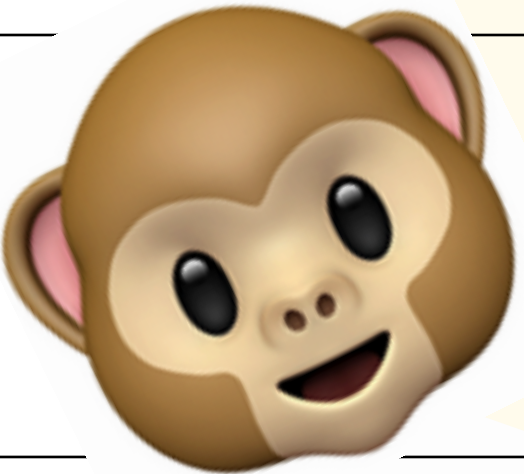
Type A



Type A^c



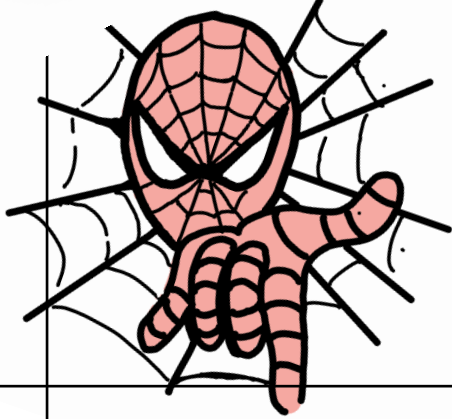
Original Movement



Rapid

Slow

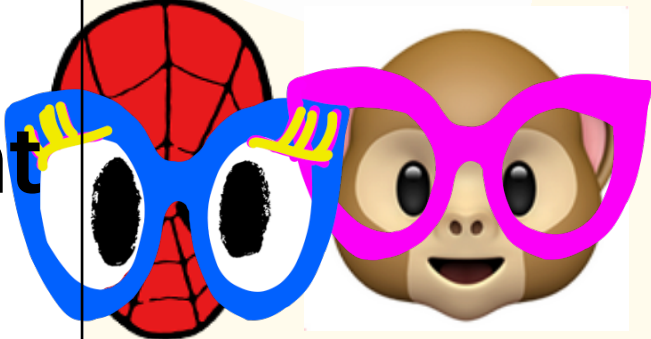
New Movement



Rapid

Rapid

Informed Movement



Improvement

Improvement?

Outline

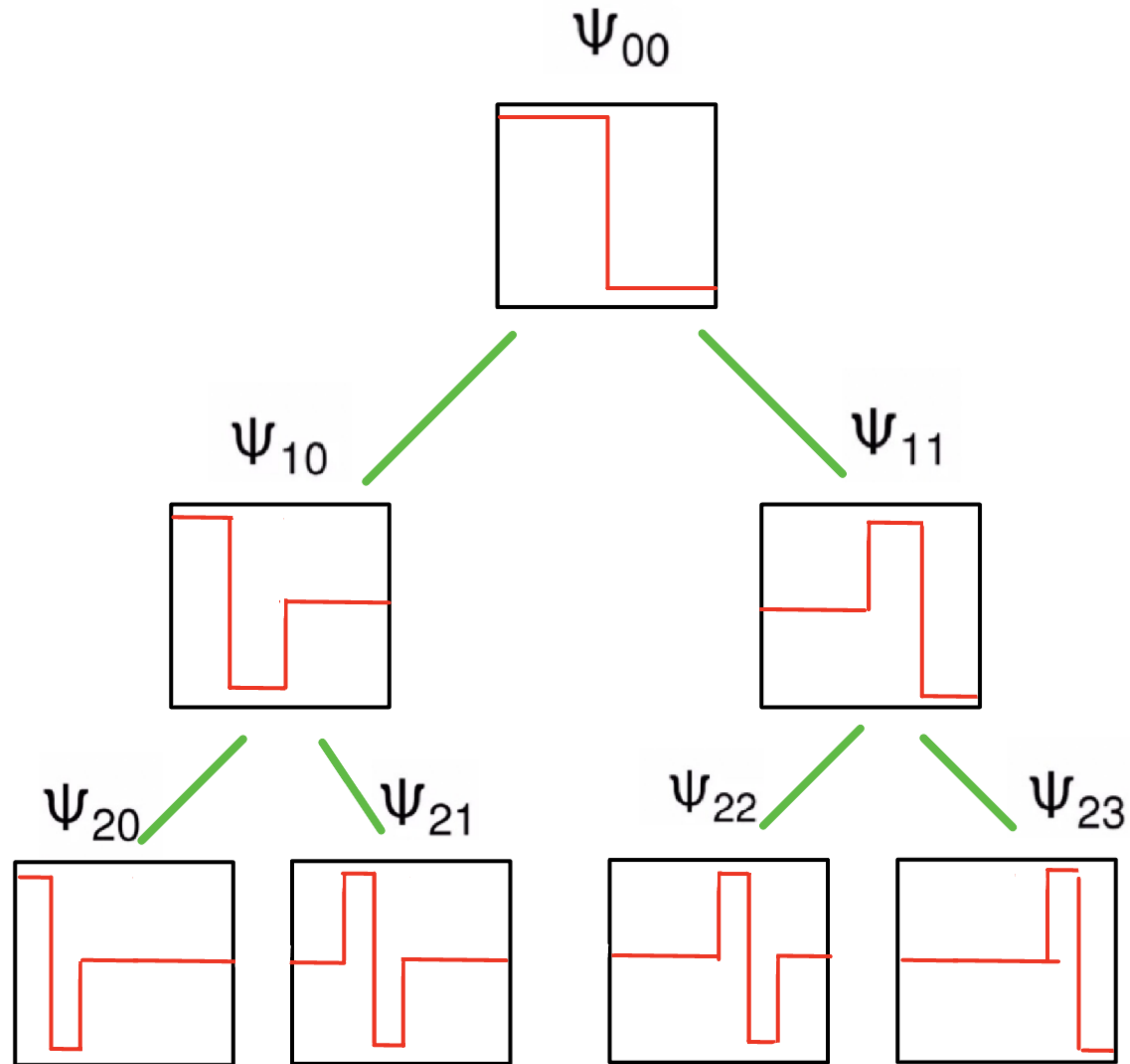
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Tree shaped wavelet reconstruction



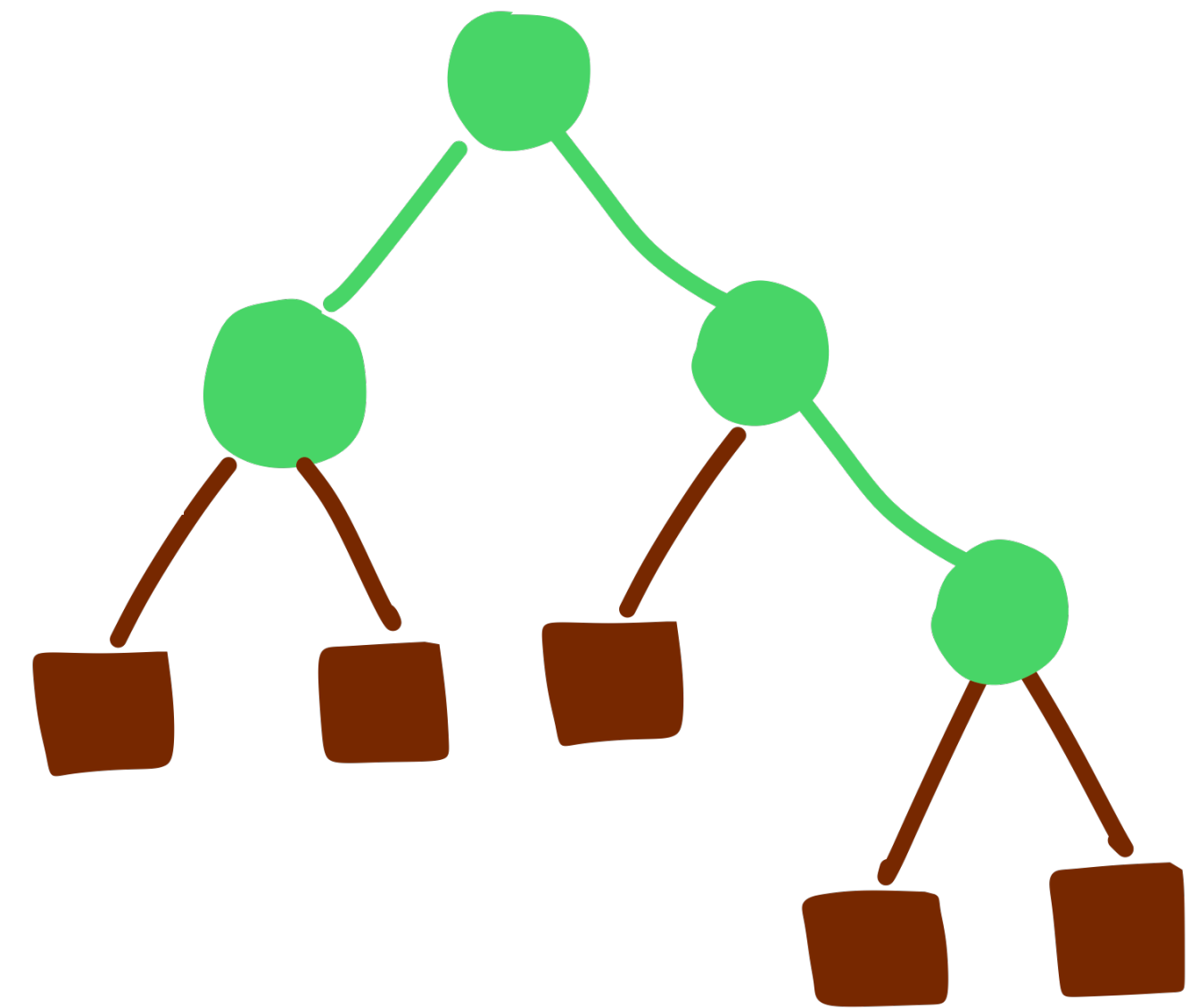
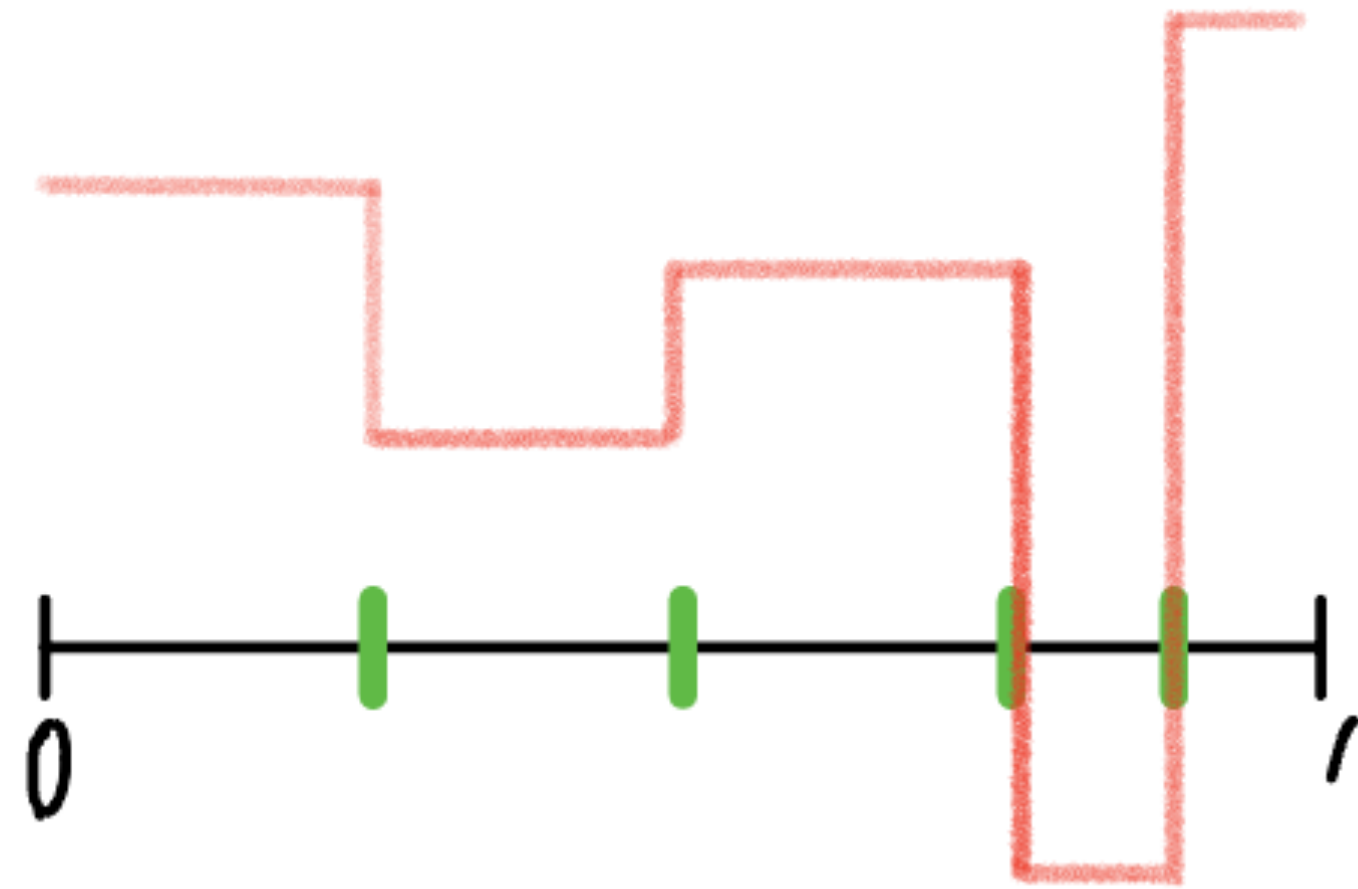
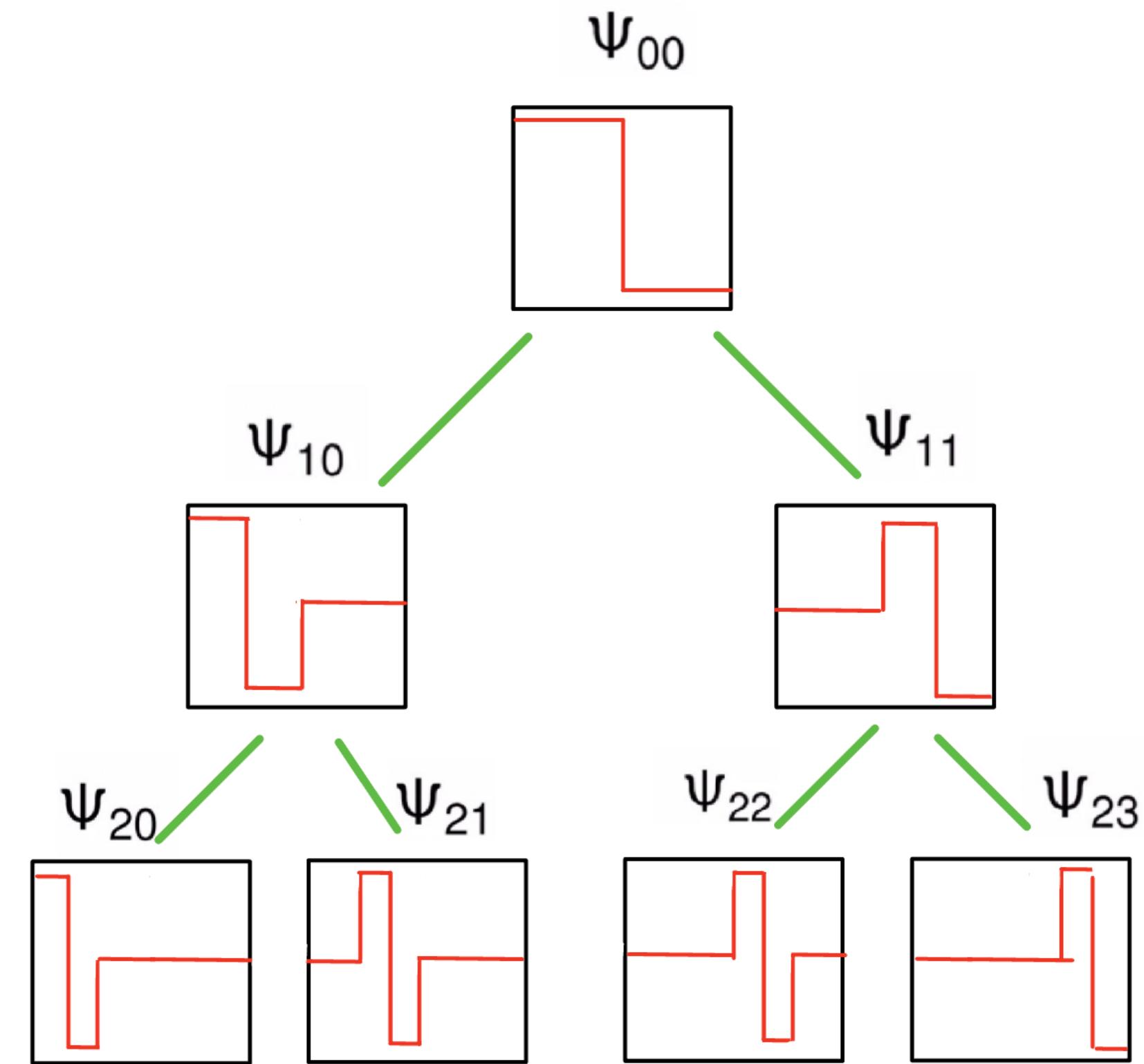
Haar wavelet basis

$$\psi_{-10}(x) = I_{[0,1]}(x)$$

$$\psi_{lk}(x) = 2^{l/2} \psi(2^l x - k),$$

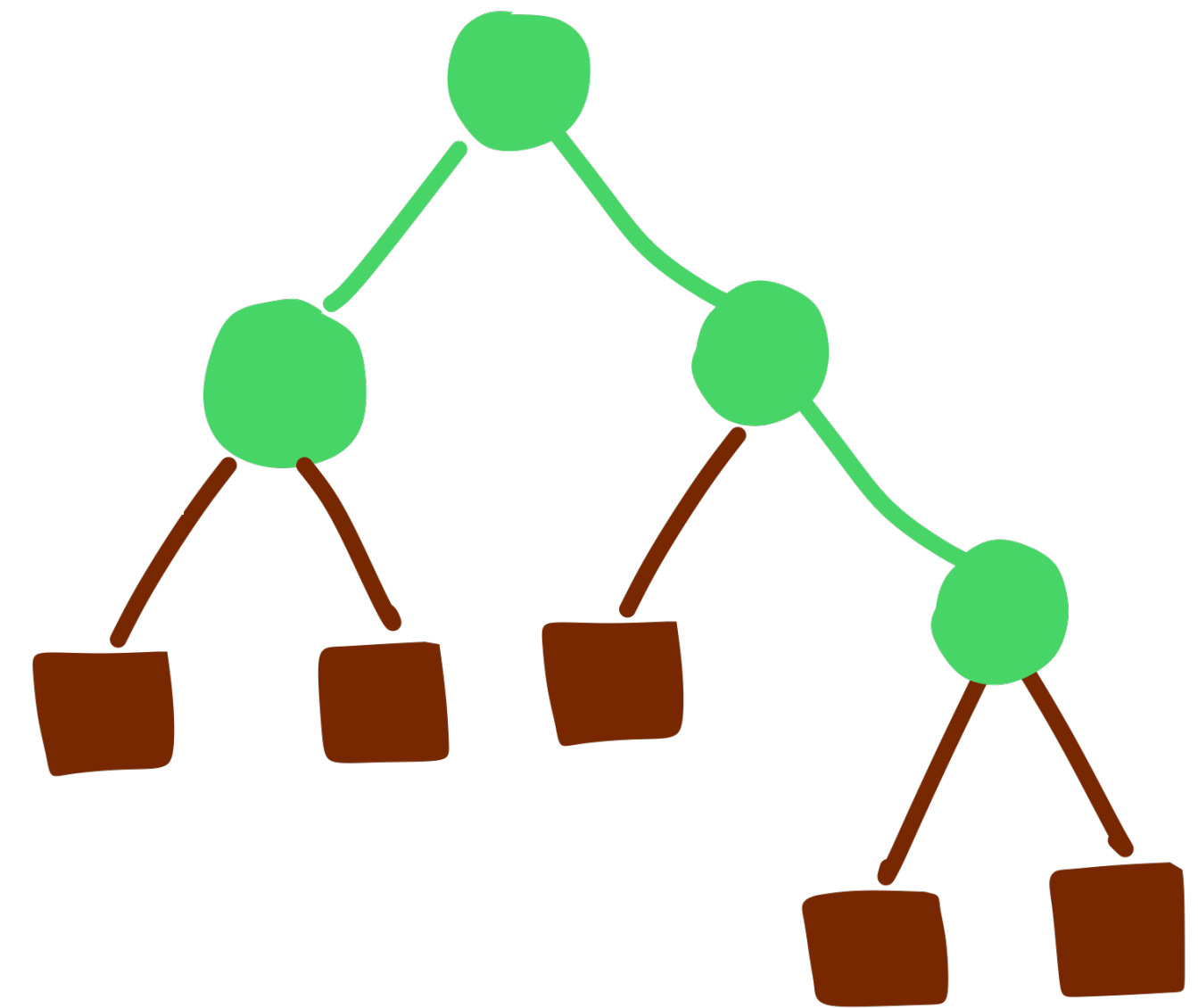
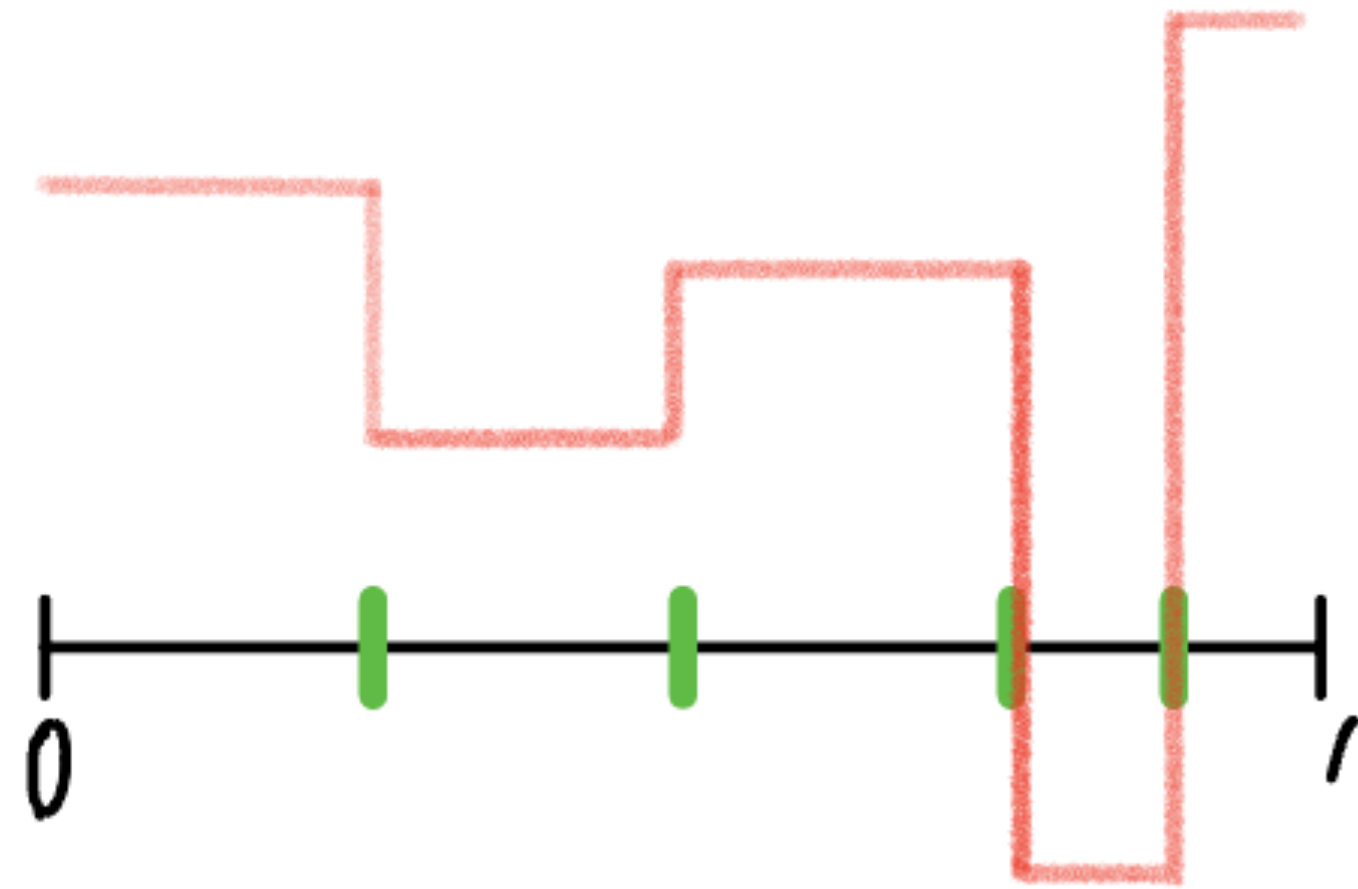
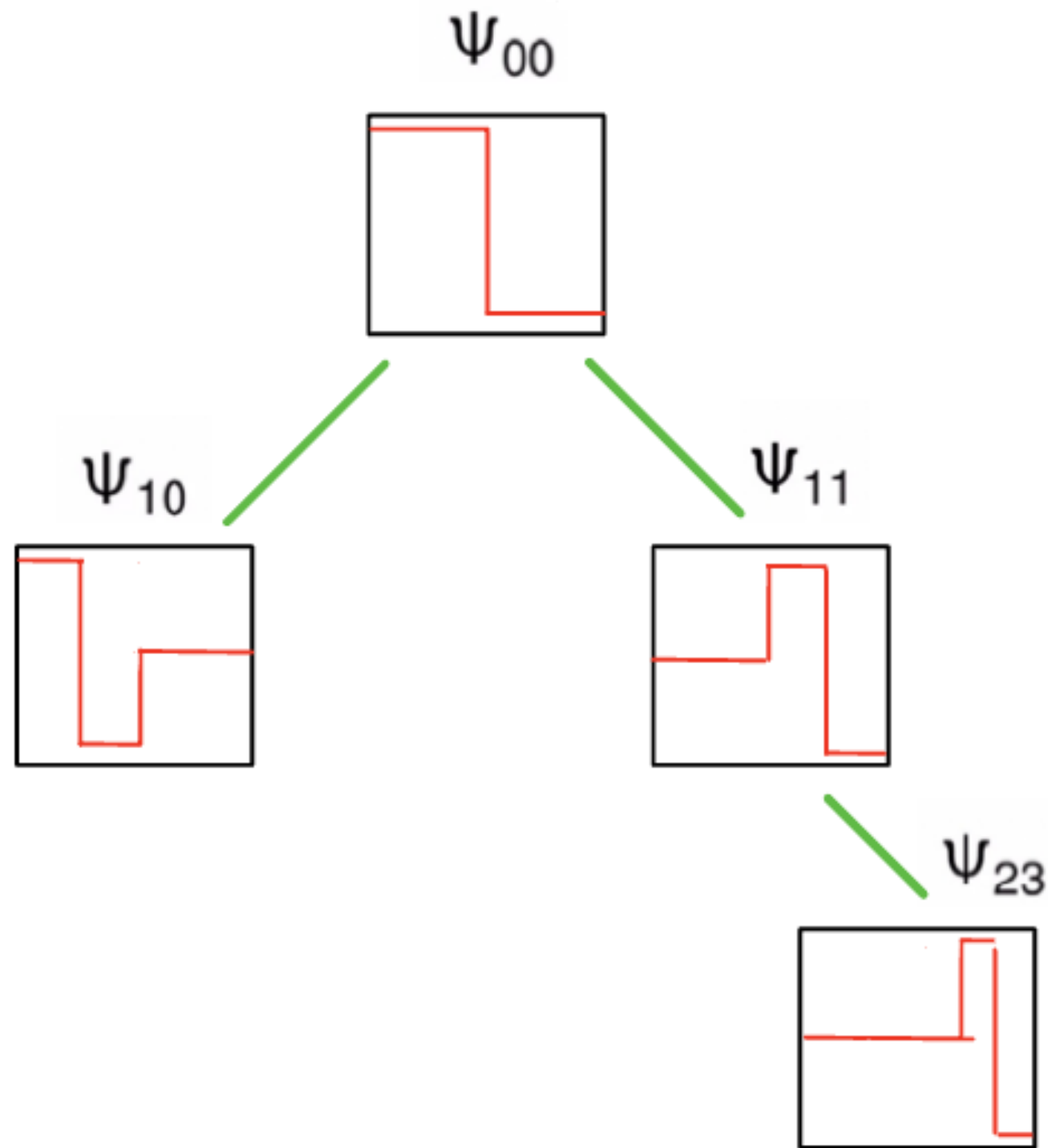
$$\text{where } \psi = I_{(0,1/2]} - I_{(1/2,1]}$$

Trees and Wavelets (Duality)



Donoho (1996)

Trees and Wavelets (Duality)



Donoho (1996)

Model

Data: $Y_i = f_0(x_i) + \varepsilon_i$, $\varepsilon_i \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0,1)$, $i = 1, \dots, n$

$$f_0(x) = \sum_{(l,k) \in \mathcal{B}} \psi_{lk}(x) \beta_{lk}^*$$

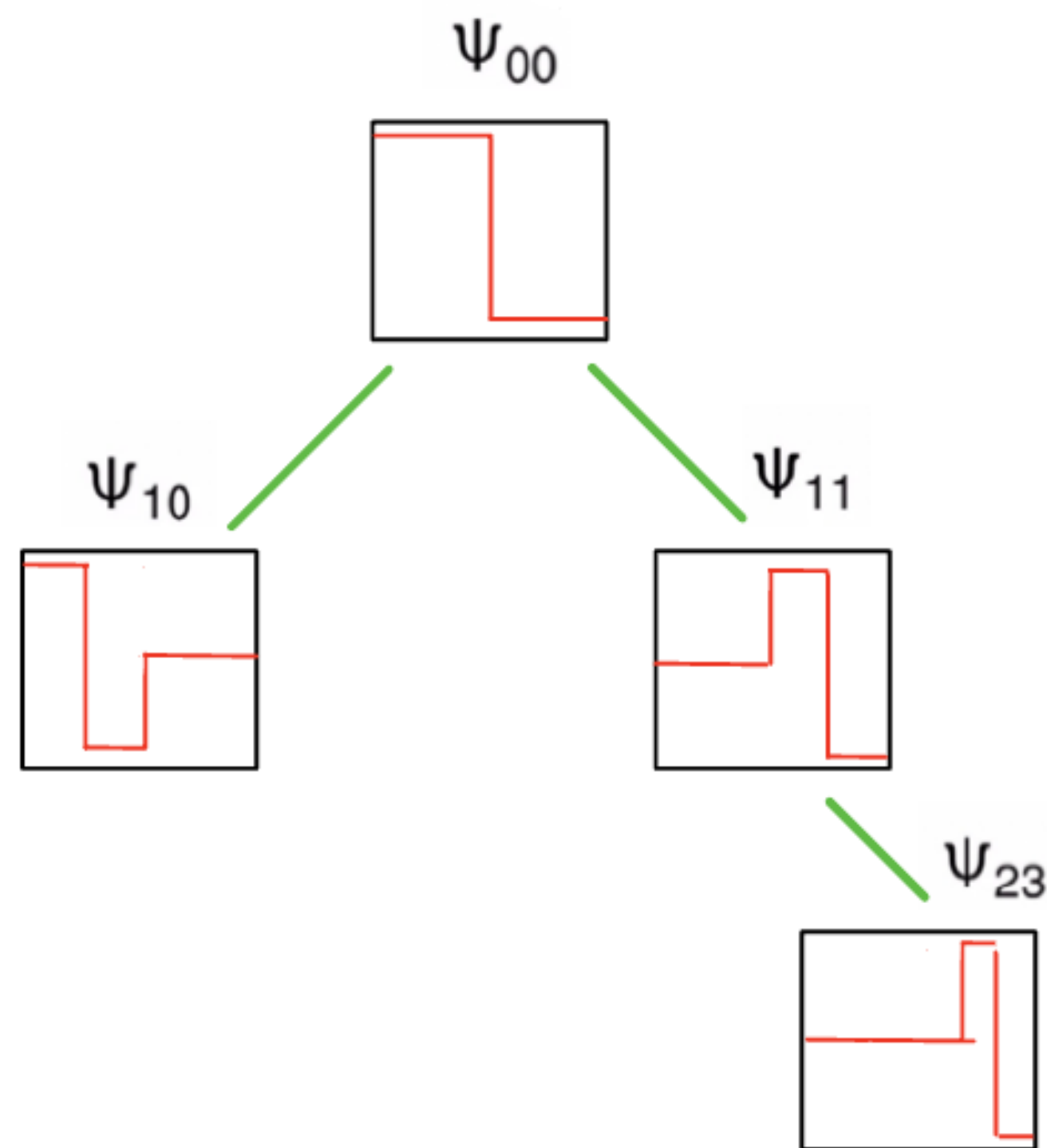
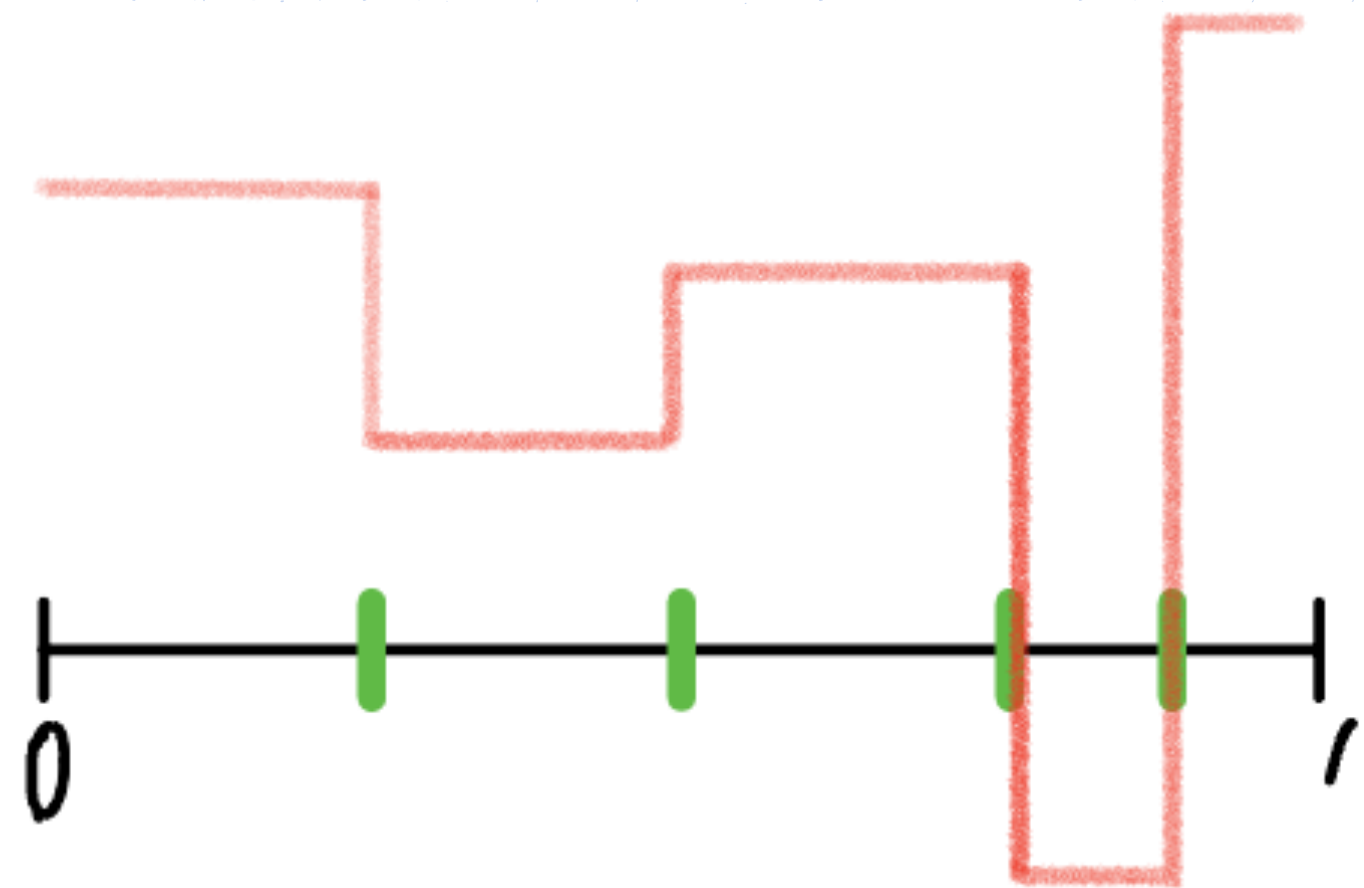
for $\mathcal{B} \subset \{(l, k) : l < L\}$

Model: $\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}^* + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$

X grid: $\mathcal{X} = \{x_i = i/n : 1 \leq i \leq n\}$

Design matrix: $\mathbf{X} = (x_{ij})_{(n \times p)}$, where $p = 2^L$

$$x_{ij} = \begin{cases} \psi_{-10}(x_i) = 1 & \text{for } j = 1 \\ \psi_{lk}(x_i) & \text{for } j = 2^l + k + 1. \end{cases}$$



Bayesian CART prior

Tree-shaped wavelet shrinkage prior

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{T} &\sim \Pi(\mathcal{T}) \\ \{\beta_{lk}\}_{l \leq L_{\max}, k} | \mathcal{T} &\sim \Pi(\beta_{\mathcal{T}}) \otimes \bigotimes_{(l,k) \notin \mathcal{T}_{int}} \delta_0(\beta_{lk}).\end{aligned}$$

Galton Watson Process

$$p_{lk} = \mathbb{P}[(l, k) \in \mathcal{T}_{int}] = n^{-c}$$

$$\Pi(\mathcal{T}) \propto \prod_{(l,k) \in \mathcal{T}_{int}} p_{lk} \prod_{(l,k) \in \mathcal{T}_{ext}} (1 - p_{lk})$$

G-prior ($g_n = n$)

$$\pi(\beta_{\mathcal{T}}) = N(0, I)$$

Posterior $\pi(\mathcal{T} | Y) \propto \pi(\mathcal{T}) L(\mathcal{T} | Y)$

Bayesian CART prior

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$$L(Y | \mathcal{T}) = \frac{\exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} Y' [I - X_{\mathcal{T}} \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} X_{\mathcal{T}}]' Y \right\}}{(2\pi)^{n/2} (1+n)^{|\mathcal{T}_{ext}|/2}}$$

$$\Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} = c_n (X'_{\mathcal{T}} X_{\mathcal{T}})^{-1} \text{ with } c_n = n/(n+1)$$

Posterior $\pi(\mathcal{T} | Y) \propto \pi(\mathcal{T}) L(\mathcal{T} | Y)$

Galton Watson Process

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Assumptions

Data: $Y_i = f_0(x_i) + \varepsilon_i$, $\varepsilon_i \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0,1)$, $i = 1, \dots, n$

$$f_0(x) = \sum_{(l,k) \in \mathcal{B}} \psi_{lk}(x) \beta_{lk}^*, \text{ for } \mathcal{B} \subset \{(l,k) : l < L\}$$

Signals: $A \log n / \sqrt{n} < |\beta_{lk}^*| < C_{f_0}$ for all $(l,k) \in \mathcal{B}$ for some $A > 0$, $C_{f_0} > 0$.

$\mathcal{T}^* \in \mathbb{T}_L$: the smallest tree that contains all signals \mathcal{B}

Assumptions

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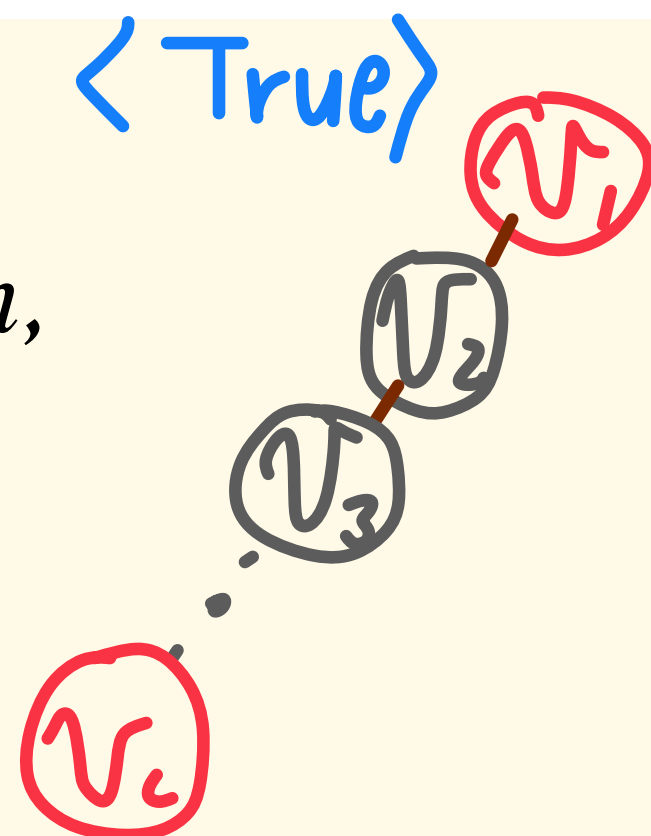
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Consistency: With probability $\geq 1 - 4/n$,

$$\pi(\mathcal{T}^* | Y) \geq 1 - o(1)$$



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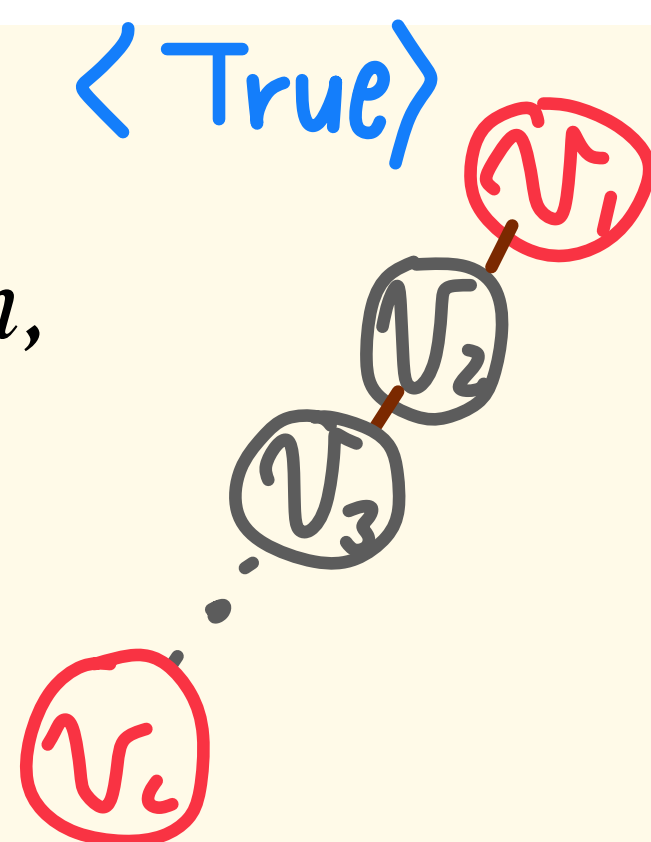
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$$\pi(\mathcal{T}^* | Y) \geq 1 - o(1)$$



Variable selection:



$$A \sqrt{\log n / n} < |\beta_{lk}^*| < C_{f_0}$$

Yang et al (2016)

Assumptions

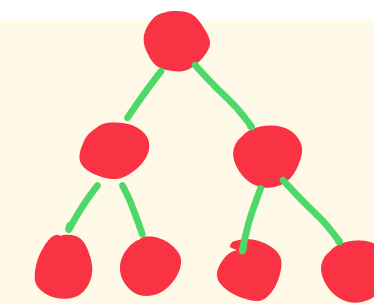
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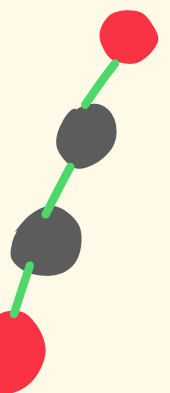
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$\mathcal{T}^* \in \mathbb{T}_L$: the smallest tree that contains all signals \mathcal{B}

(Connected signals) Assume that $\mathcal{B} \in \mathbb{T}_L$, i.e. $\mathcal{T}^* = \mathcal{B}$

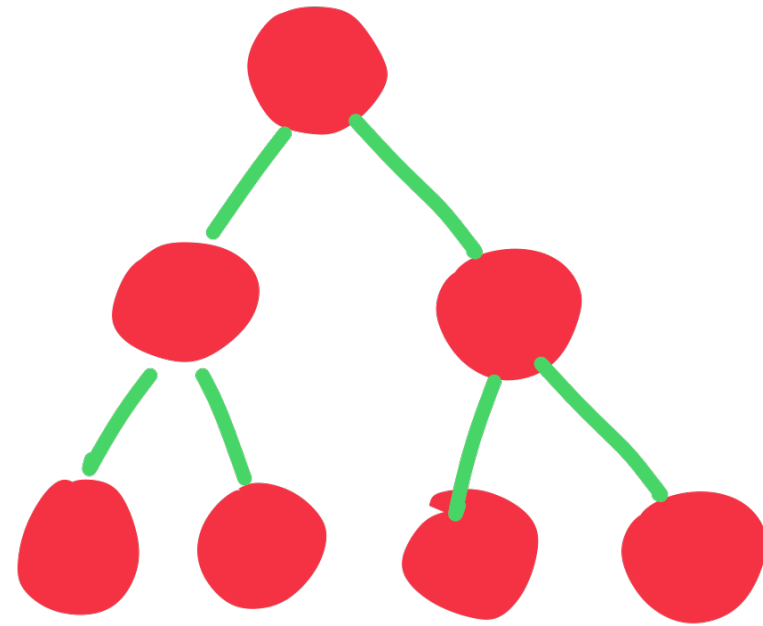


(Disconnected signals) Assume that $\mathcal{B} \notin \mathbb{T}_L$ (at least all preterminal nodes are signals)

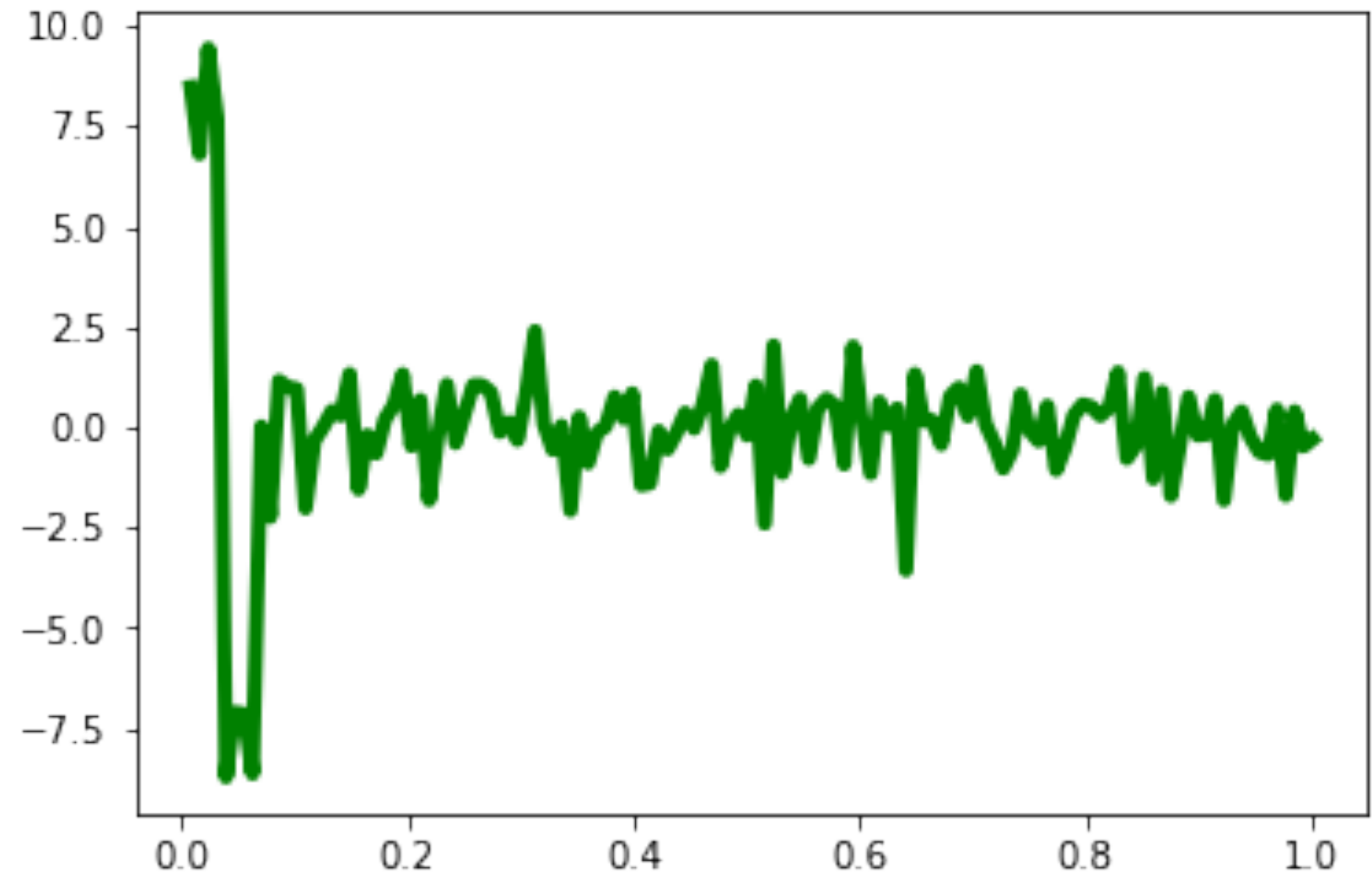
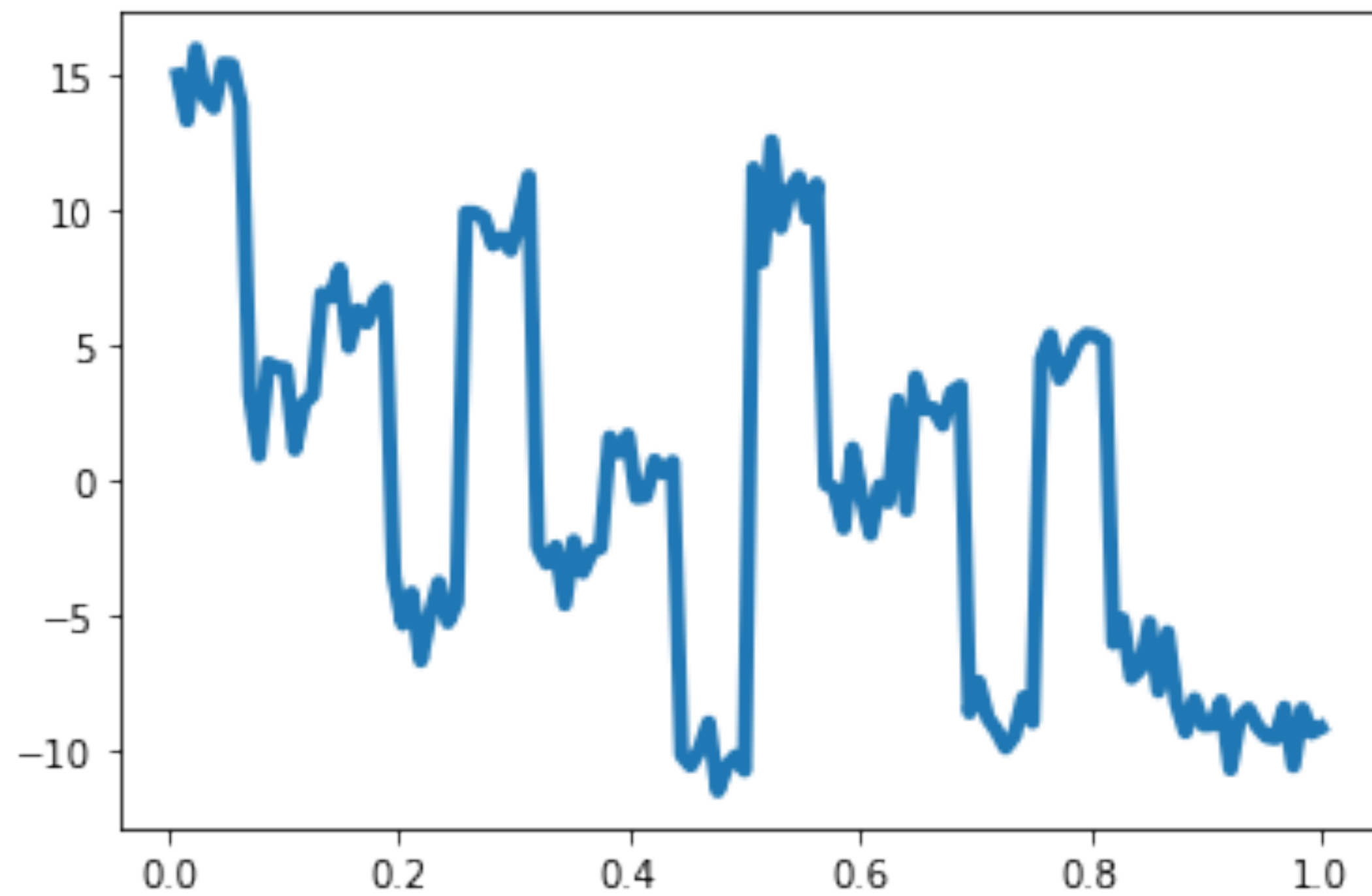
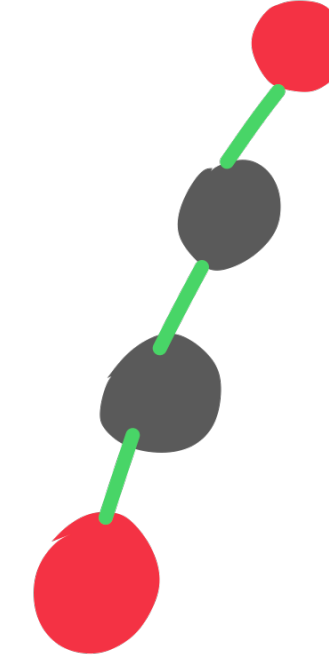


Data looks like:

(Connected signals) $\mathcal{T}^* = \mathcal{B}$



(Disconnected signals) $\mathcal{B} \notin \mathbb{T}_L$



Mixing time

$P^t(\mathcal{J}, \cdot)$: the distribution of the state at time t with an initial condition \mathcal{J}

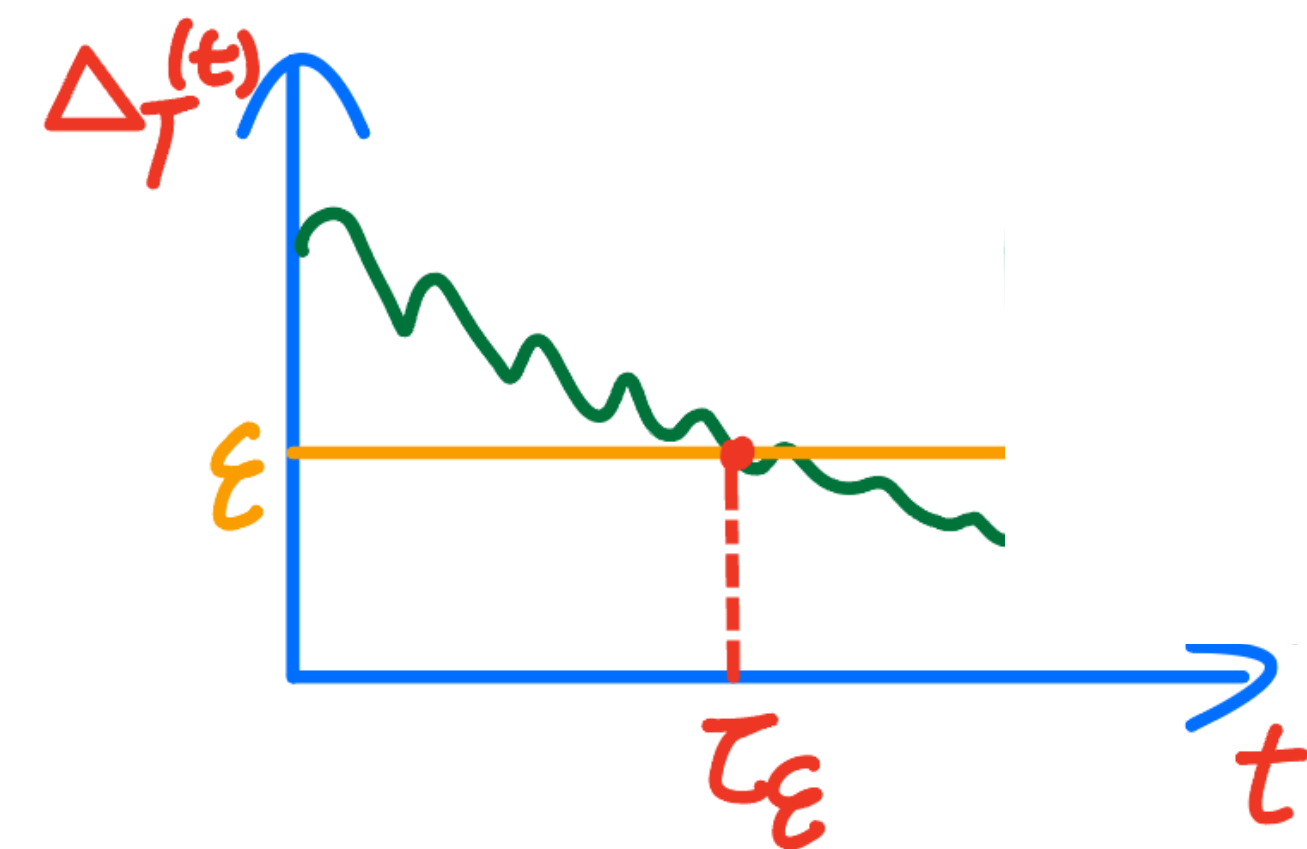
The total variation distance to the stationary distribution after t iterations

$$\Delta_{\mathcal{J}}(t) = \|P^t(\mathcal{J}, \cdot) - \Pi[\cdot | Y]\|_{TV} \equiv \max_{S \subset \mathbb{T}_L} |P^t(\mathcal{J}, S) - \Pi[S | Y]|$$

Definition

The ϵ -mixing time of the Markov chain is defined as

$$\tau_{\epsilon} \equiv \max_{\mathcal{J} \in \mathbb{T}_L} \min\{t \in \mathcal{N} : \Delta_{\mathcal{J}}(t') \leq \epsilon \text{ for all } t' \geq t\}$$



Outline

Background : Tree and Mixing Rate

Setting ups and Mixing Time Framework

Theoretical and Numerical Results

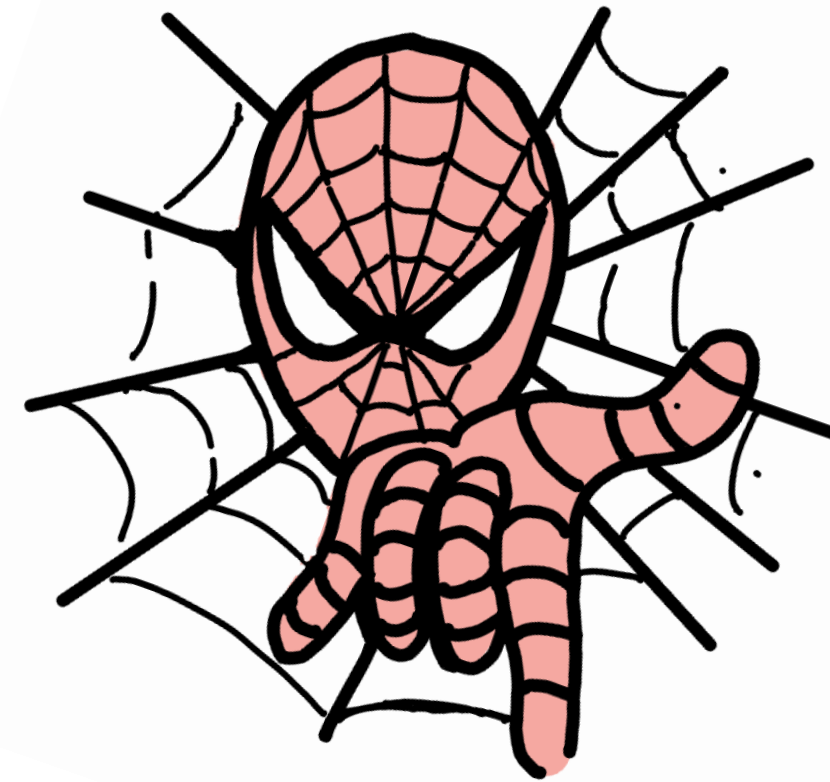
Concluding Remarks

Theoretical and Numerical Results

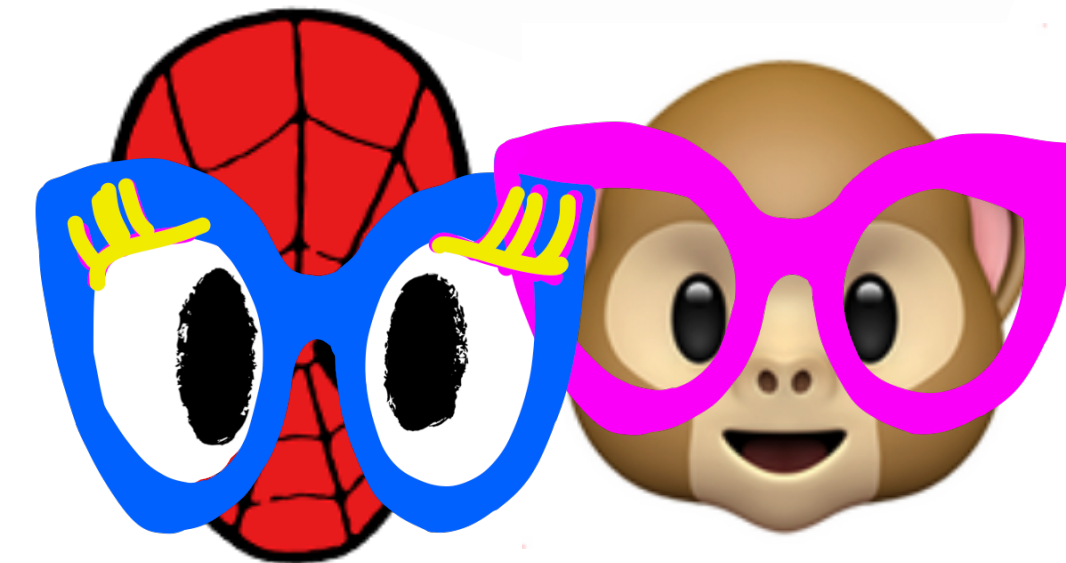
1. Bayesian CART



2. Twiggy CART



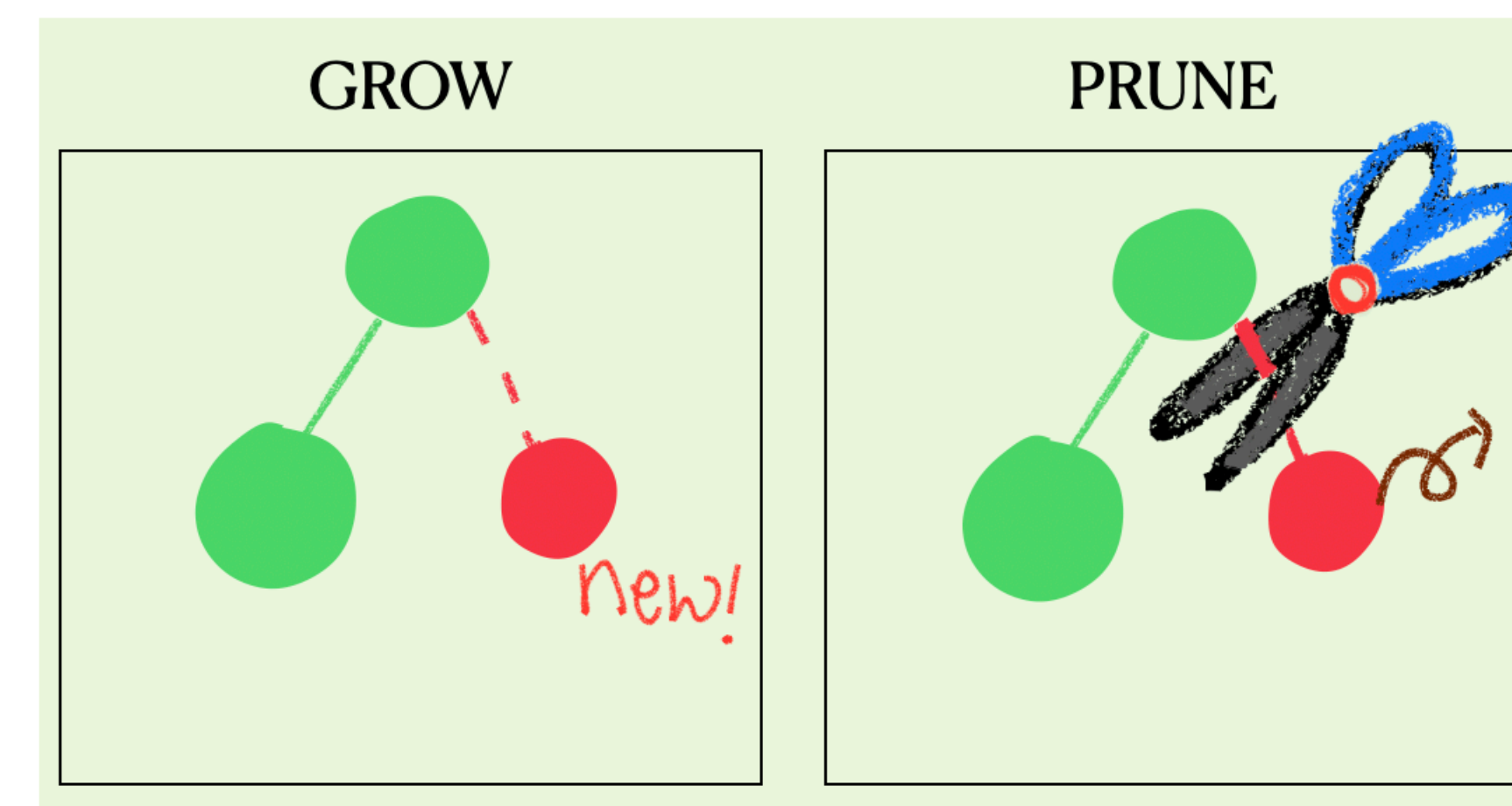
3. Informed MCMC



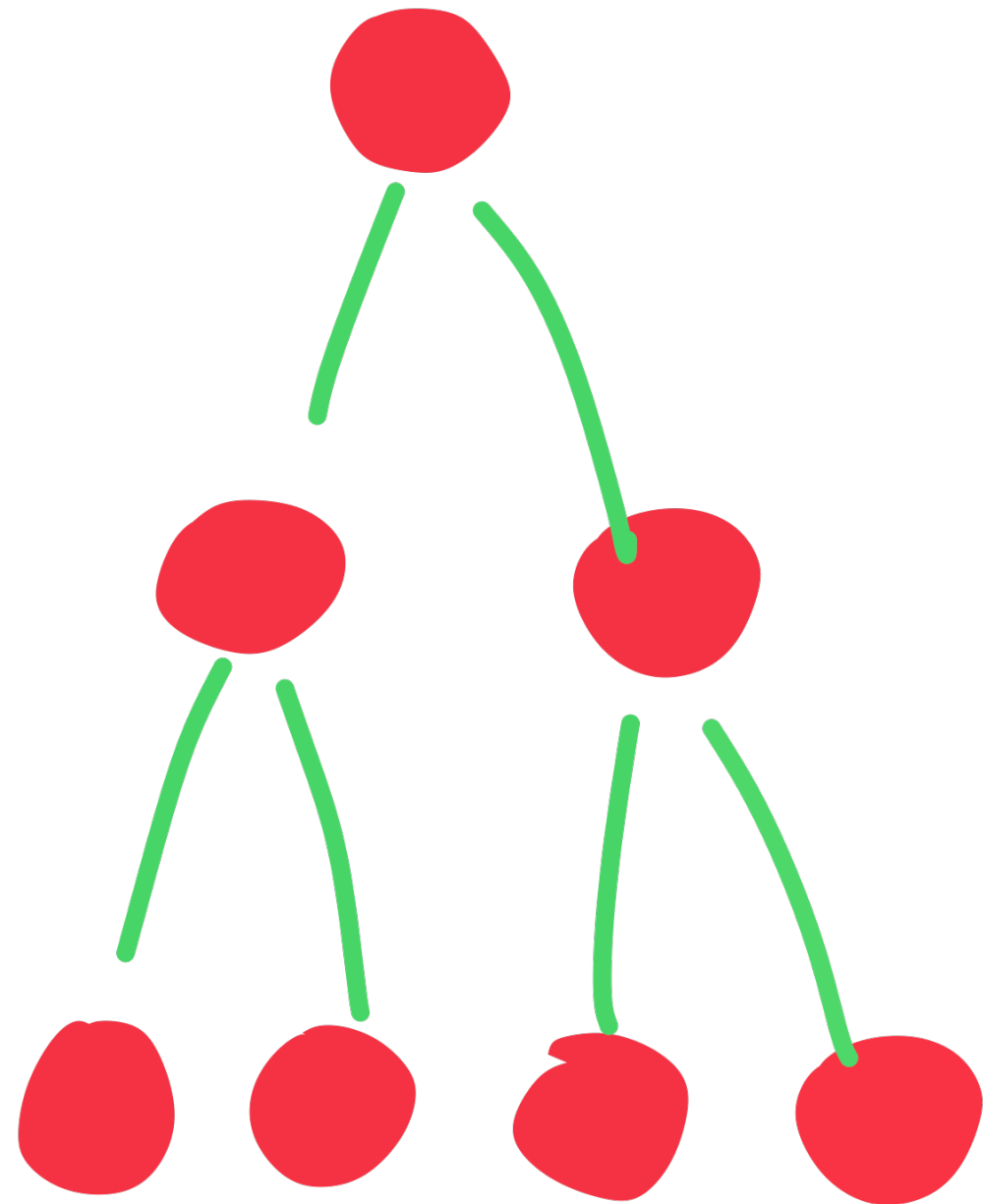
1. Bayesian CART



Proposal of Bayesian CART



Connected Signals: **Rapid** Mixing



Theorem 1 (Bayesian CART algorithm)

Assume the **connected** signals.

$$\tau_\epsilon \leq 2^{2L+3} \left\{ n \left[\left(c + \frac{1}{2} \right) \log(1+n) + |\mathcal{T}_{int}^*| C_{f_0}^2 + 1 \right] + 4 |\mathcal{T}_{int}^*| \log n + \log \left(\frac{2}{\epsilon} \right) \right\}$$

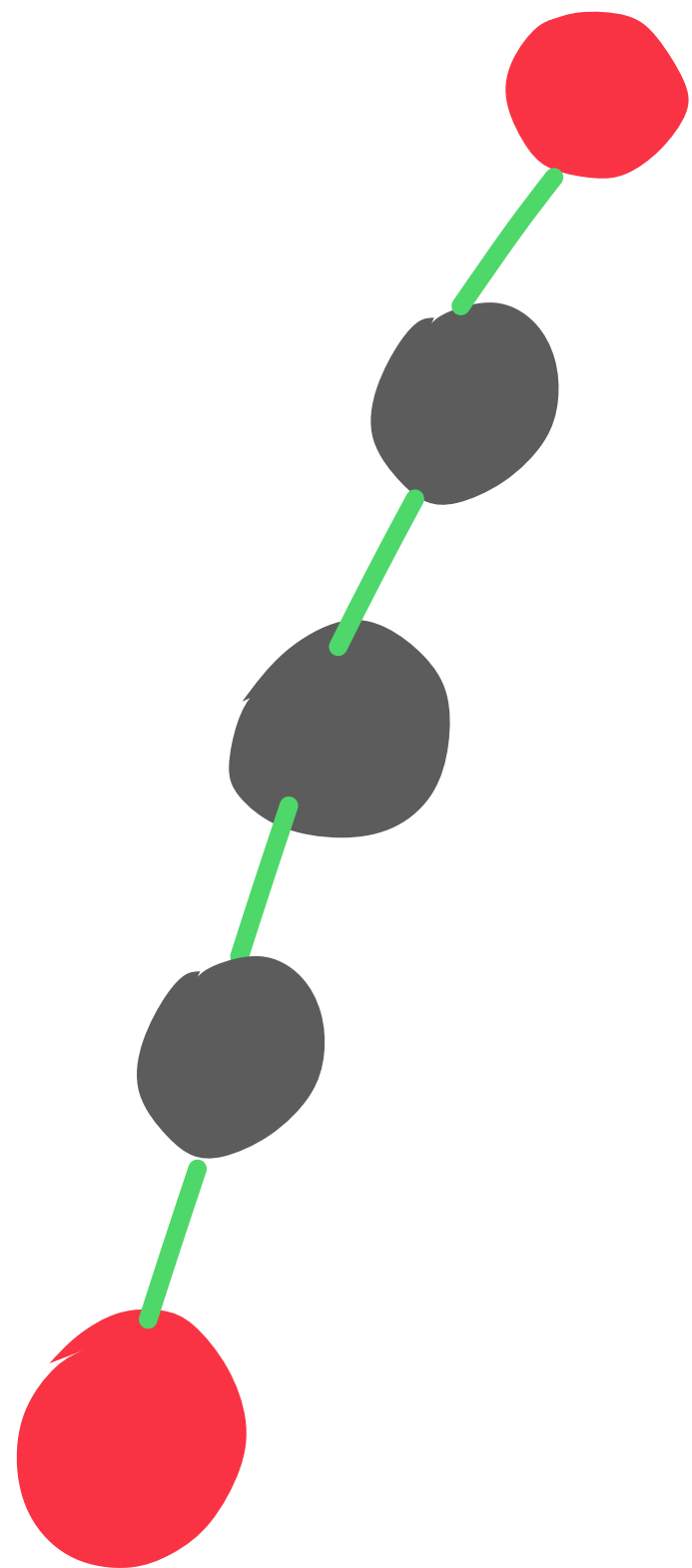
with probability at least $1 - 4/n$.

$p = 2^L$: the number of problem parameters ($2^L \leq n/2$)

$|\mathcal{T}_{int}^*|$: the number of internal nodes of true tree \mathcal{T}^*

C_{f_0} : the bound for the maximum signal strength

Disconnected Signals: **Slow** Mixing



Theorem 2 (Bayesian CART algorithm)

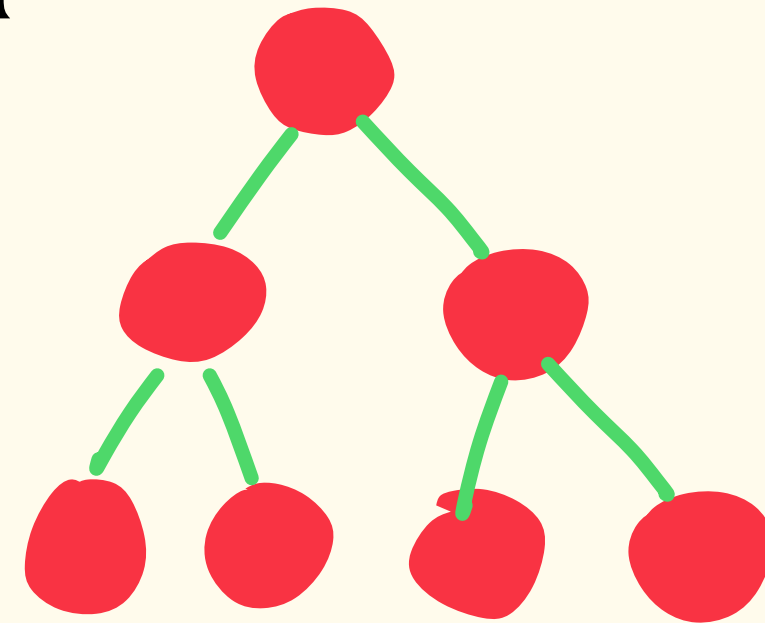
Assume the **disconnected** signals. There exists f_0 such that

$$\tau_\epsilon > \log \left(\frac{1}{2\epsilon} \right) \frac{1}{4} \left[\left(\frac{n^{(c-3/2)/4} - 1}{C} \right)^{L-2} - 3 \right]$$

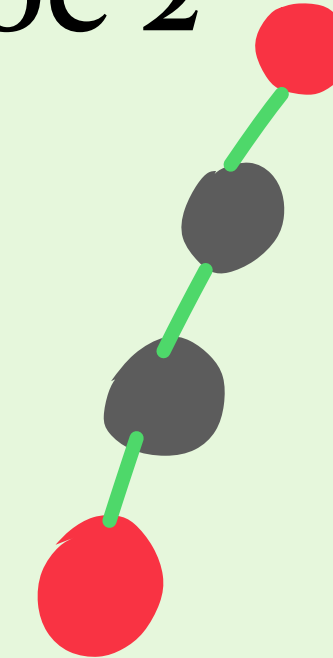
with probability at least $1 - 4/n$ for some $C > 1$.

Deeper the signal is, worse the mixing rate becomes.

Type 1



Type 2



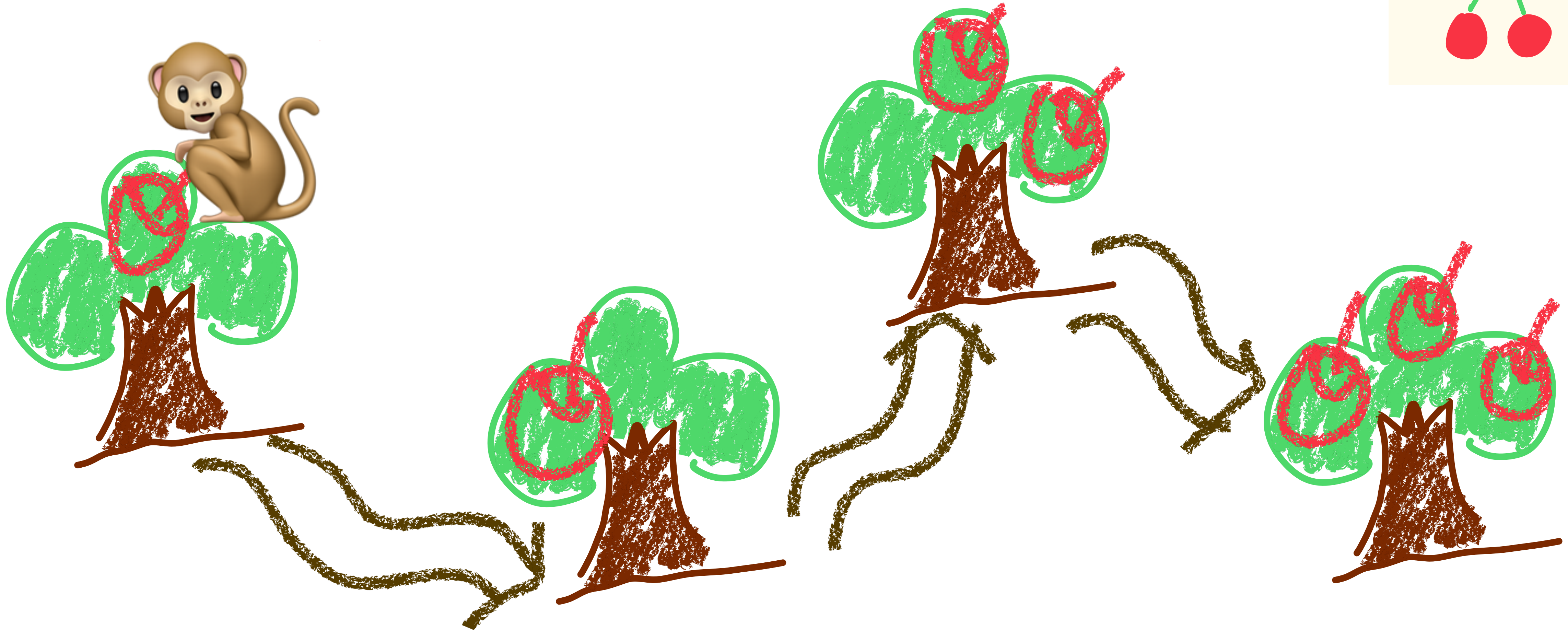
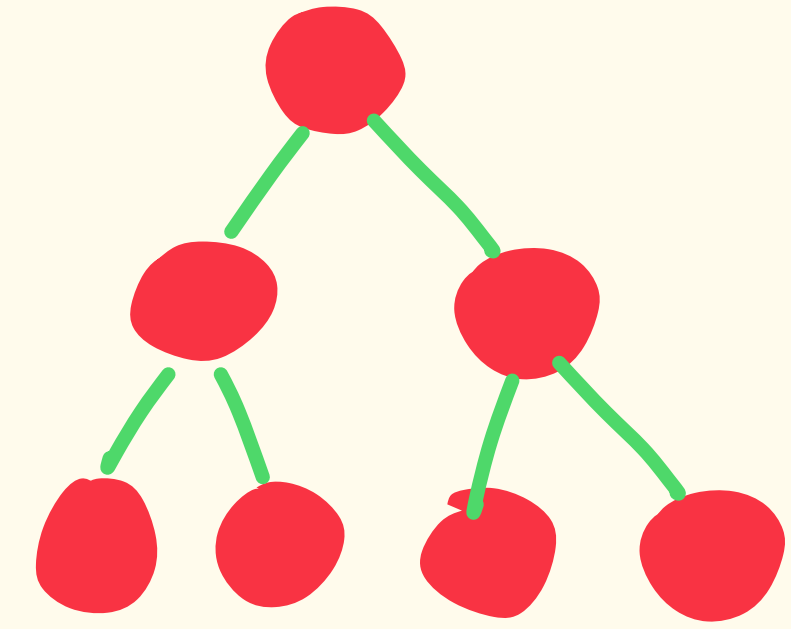
B-CART

Rapid

Slow

Connected Signals

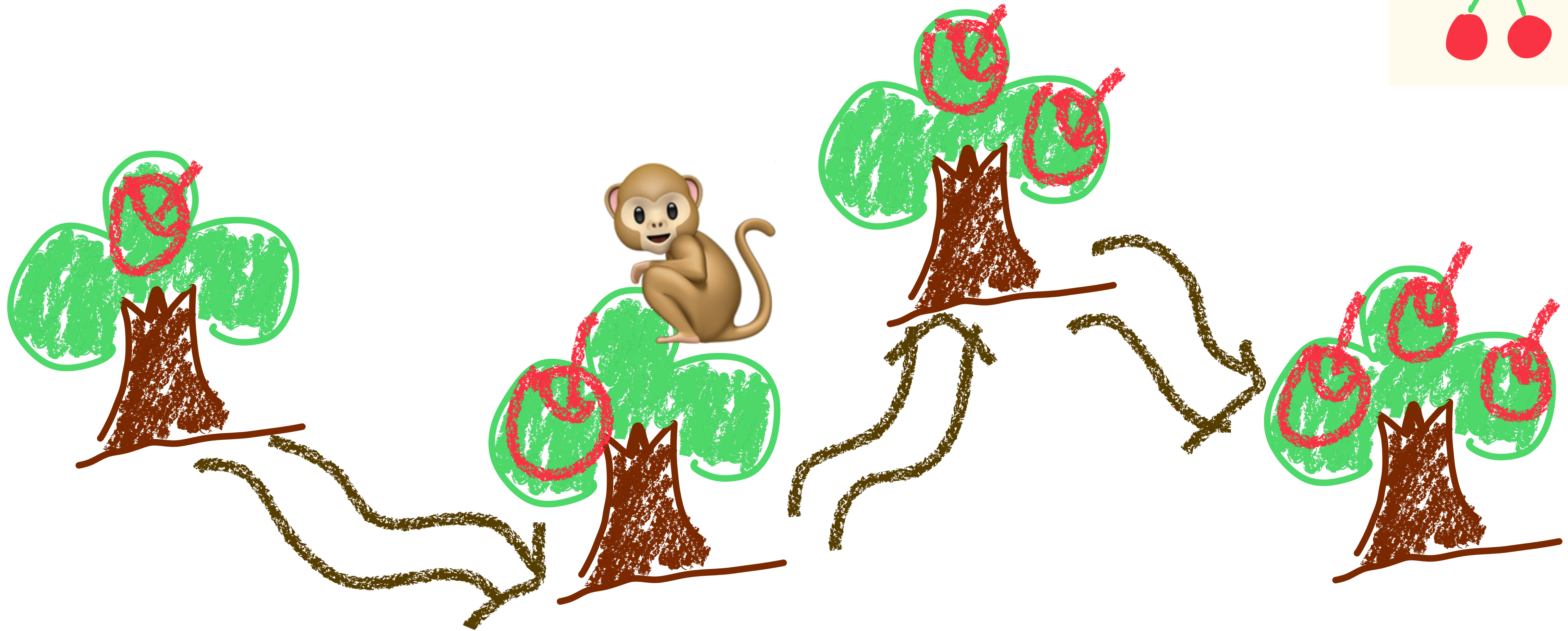
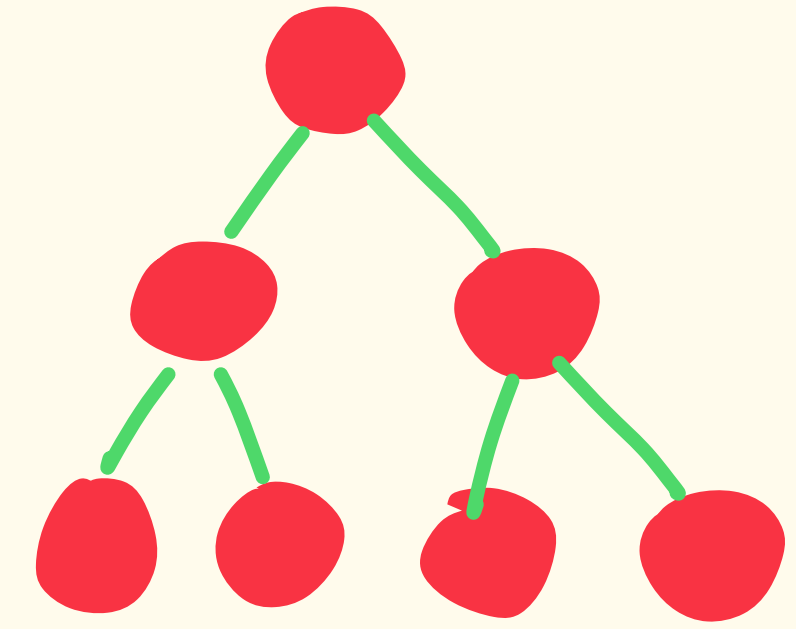
Type 1



There were plenty of food on the way to the apple tree \mathcal{T}^*

Connected Signals

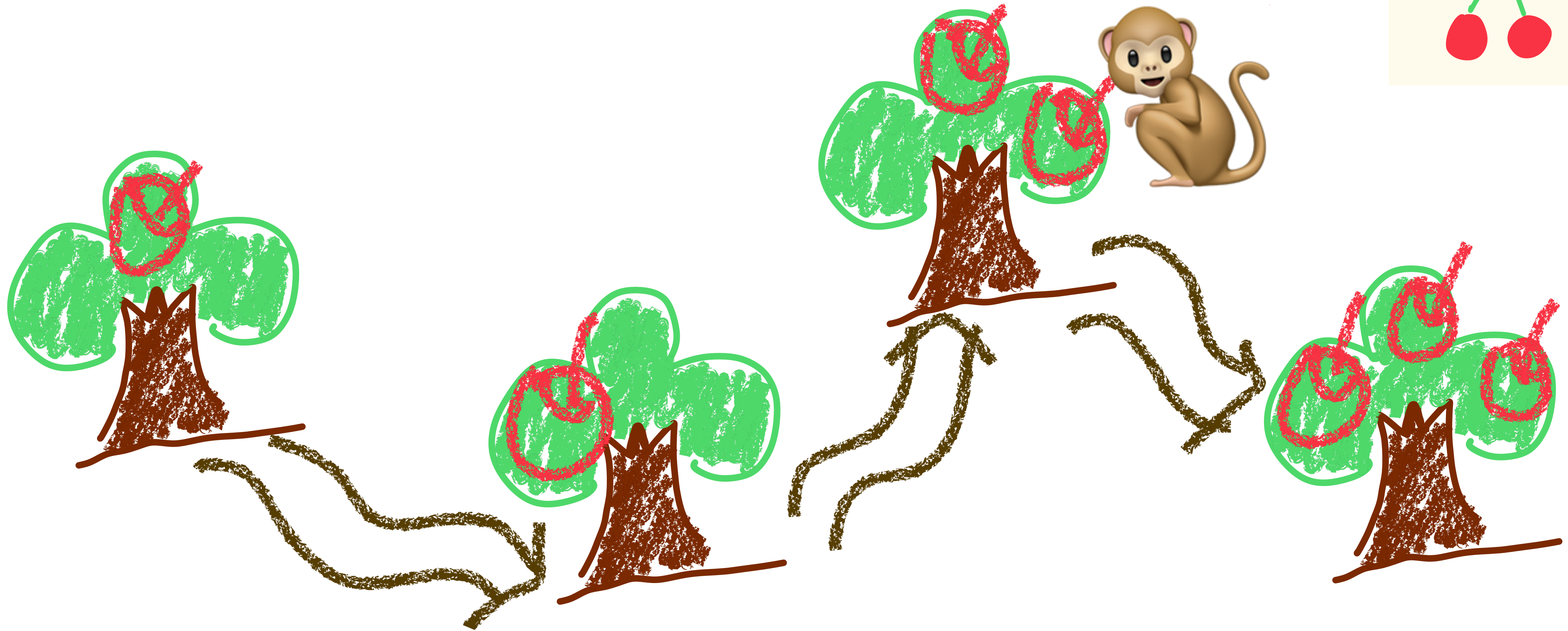
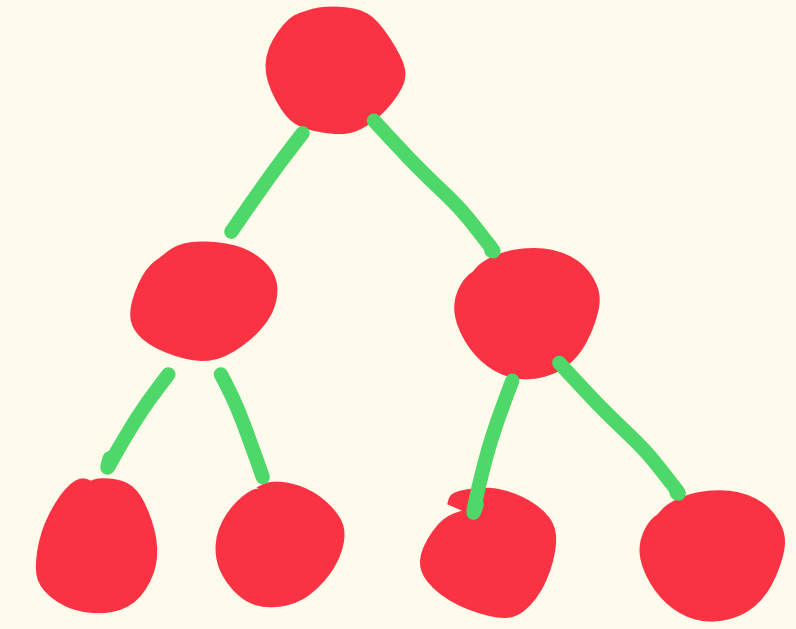
Type 1



There were plenty of food on the way to the apple tree \mathcal{T}^*

Connected Signals

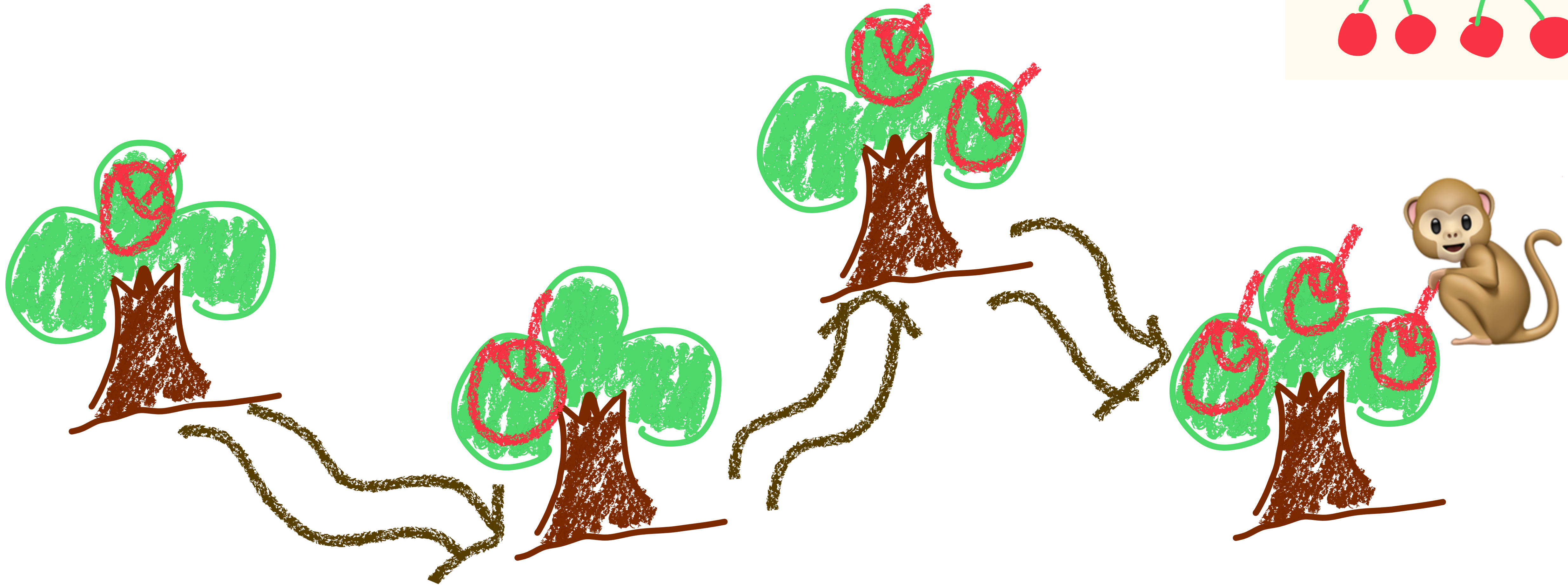
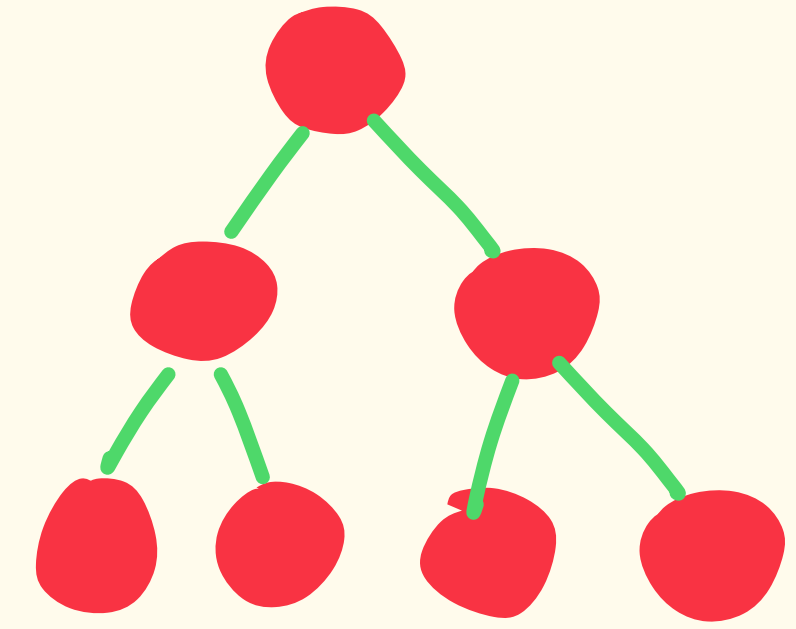
Type 1



There were plenty of food on the way to the apple tree \mathcal{T}^*

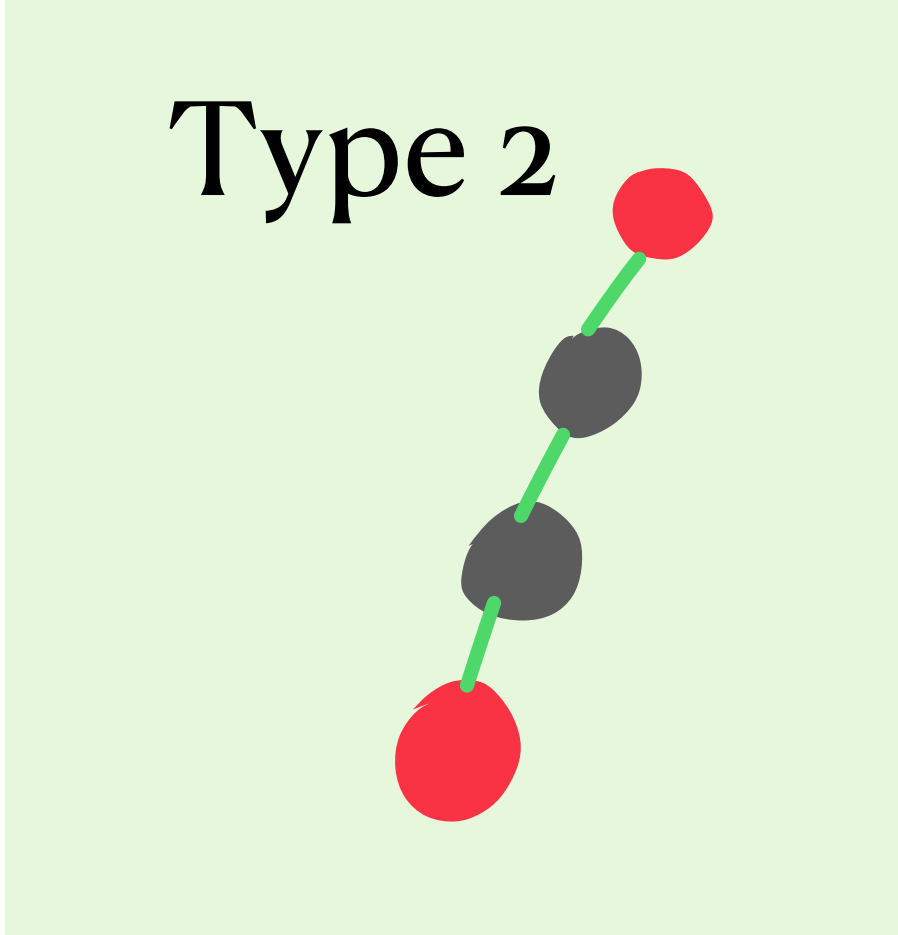
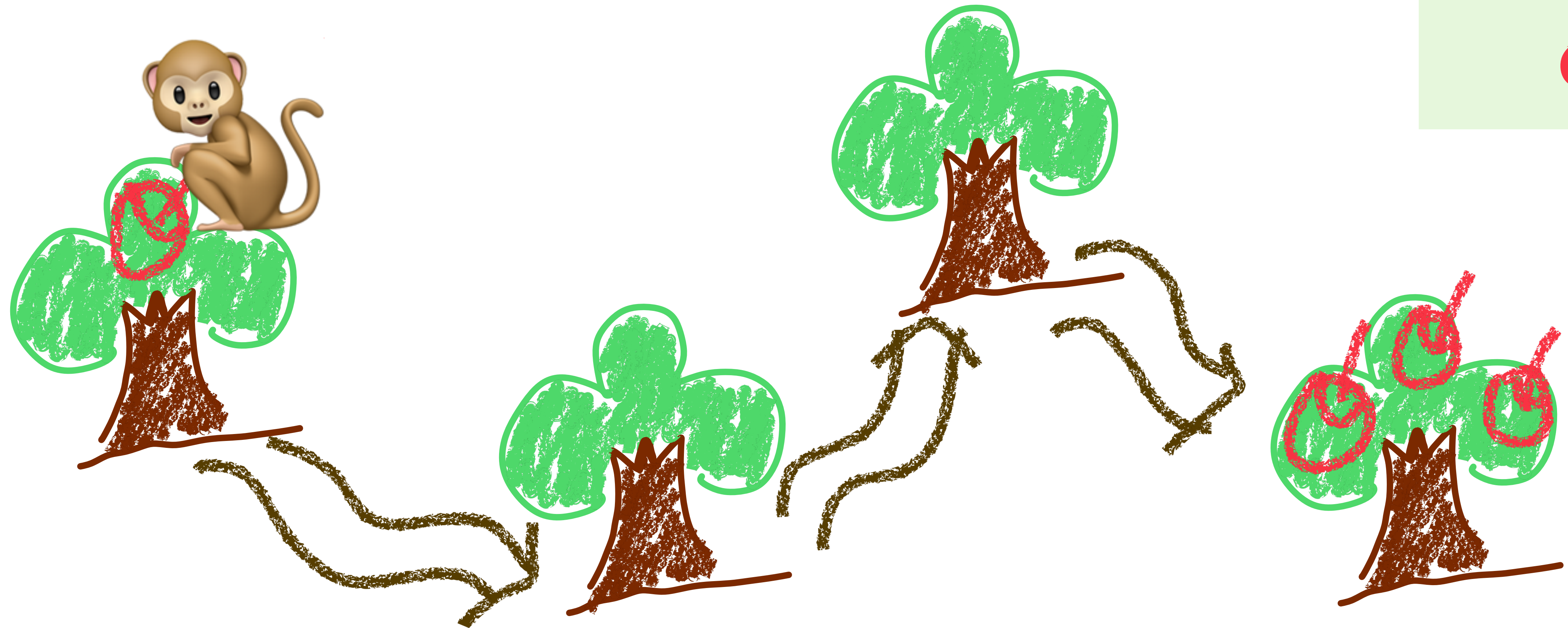
Connected Signals

Type 1



There were plenty of food on the way to the apple tree \mathcal{T}^*

Disconnected Signals



The monkey became **hungry on the way** to the apple tree \mathcal{T}^* , so **went back home.**

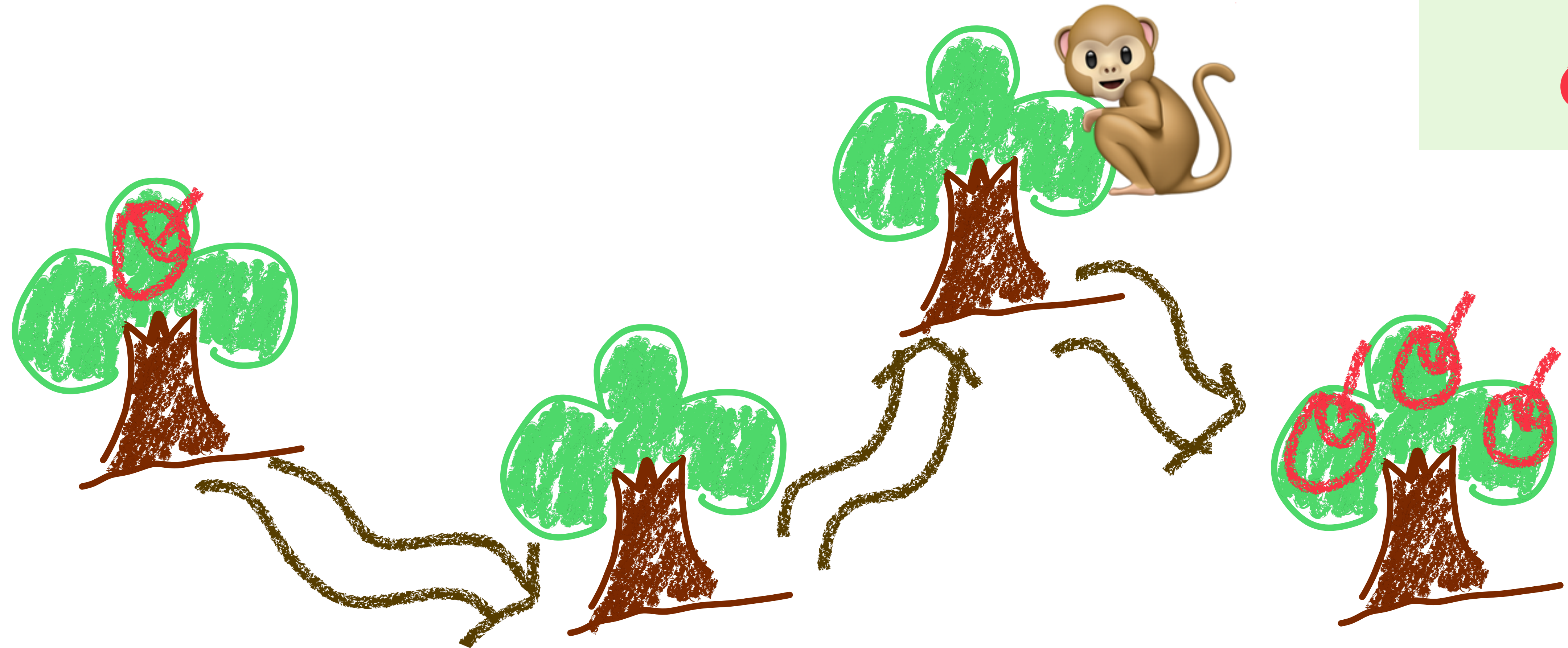
Disconnected Signals

Type 2



The monkey became **hungry on the way** to the apple tree \mathcal{T}^* , so
went back home.

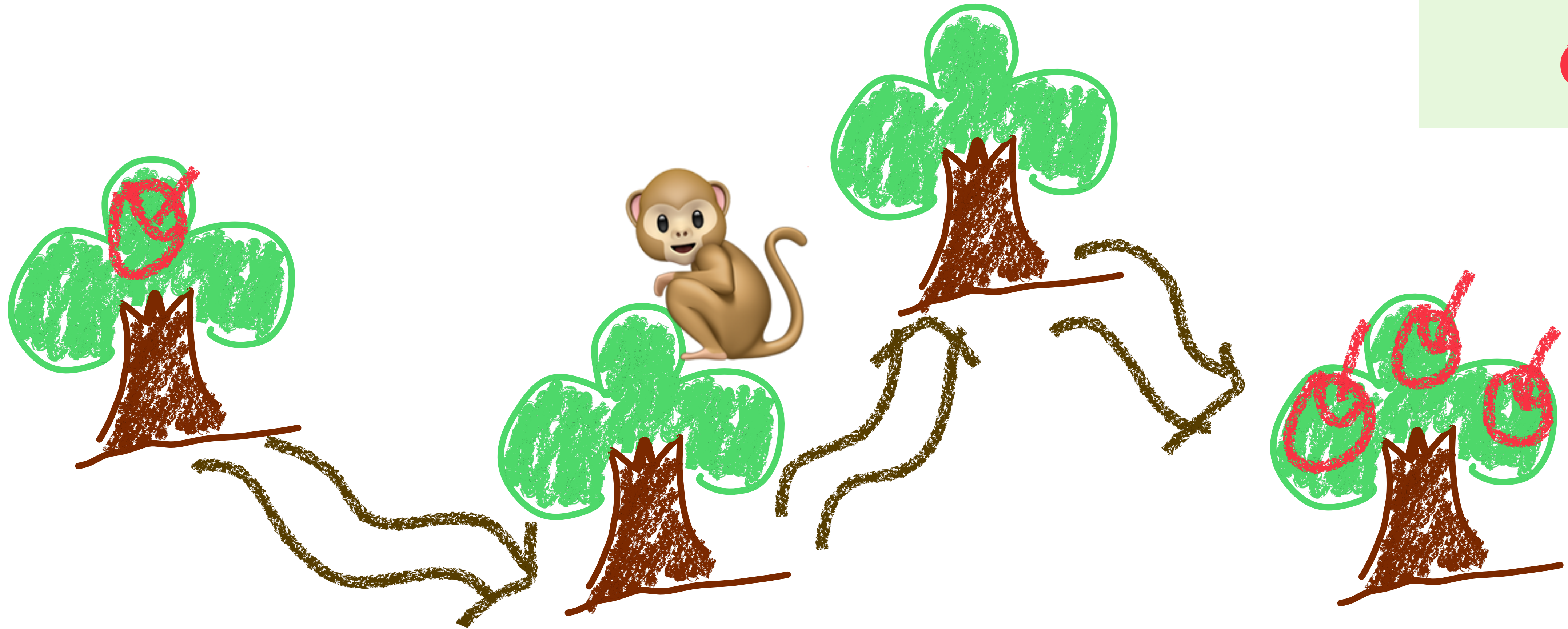
Disconnected Signals



The monkey became **hungry on the way** to the apple tree \mathcal{T}^* , so
went back home.

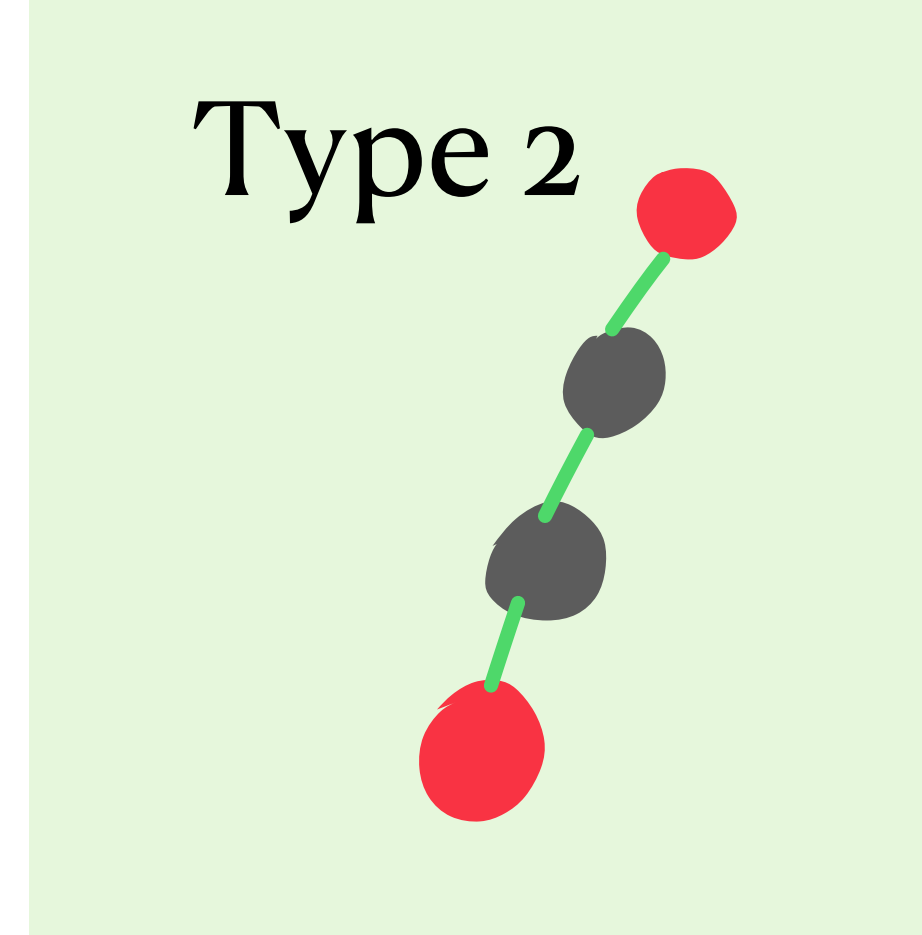
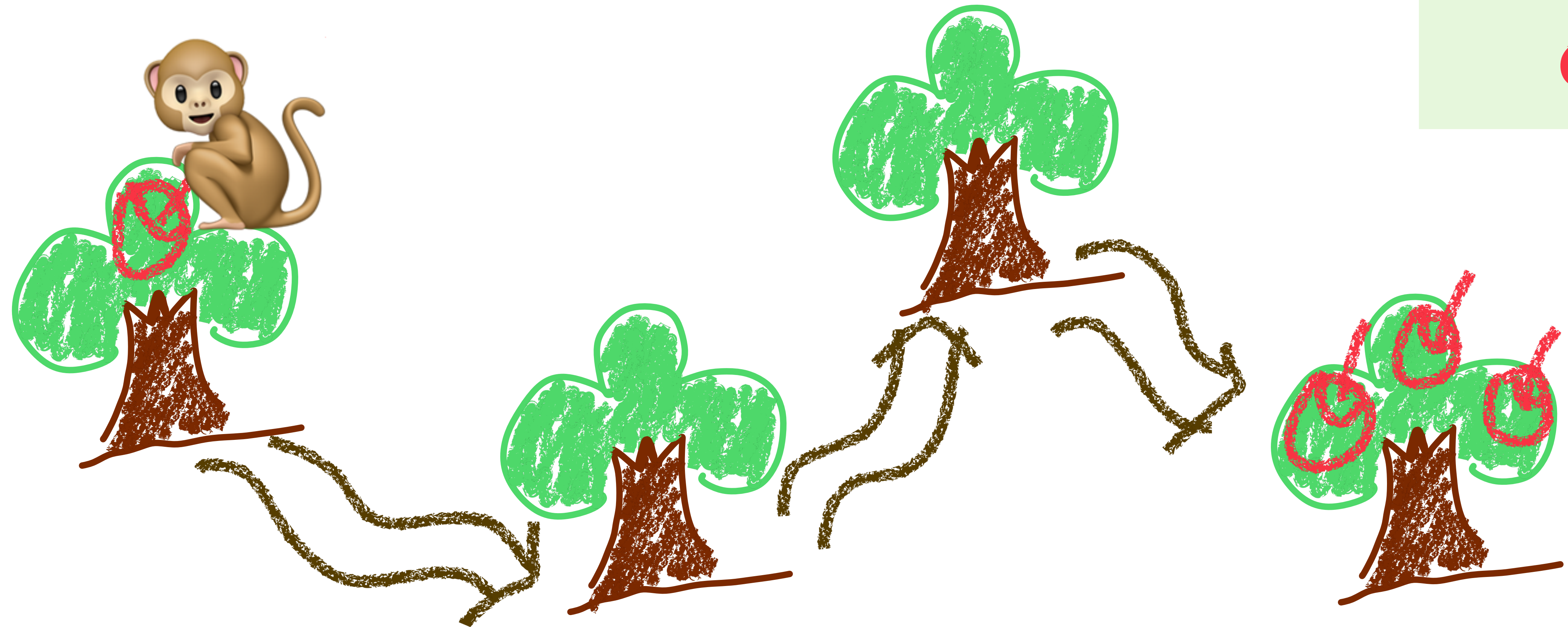
Disconnected Signals

Type 2



The monkey became hungry on the way to the apple tree \mathcal{T}^* , so went back home.

Disconnected Signals



The monkey became **hungry on the way** to the apple tree \mathcal{T}^* , so **went back home.**

From Root to \mathcal{T}^*

Initialization: $\mathcal{T}_0 = (0,0)$

Metropolis-Hastings algorithm

1. Generate $\tilde{\mathcal{T}} \sim S(\cdot | \mathcal{T}_{t-1})$

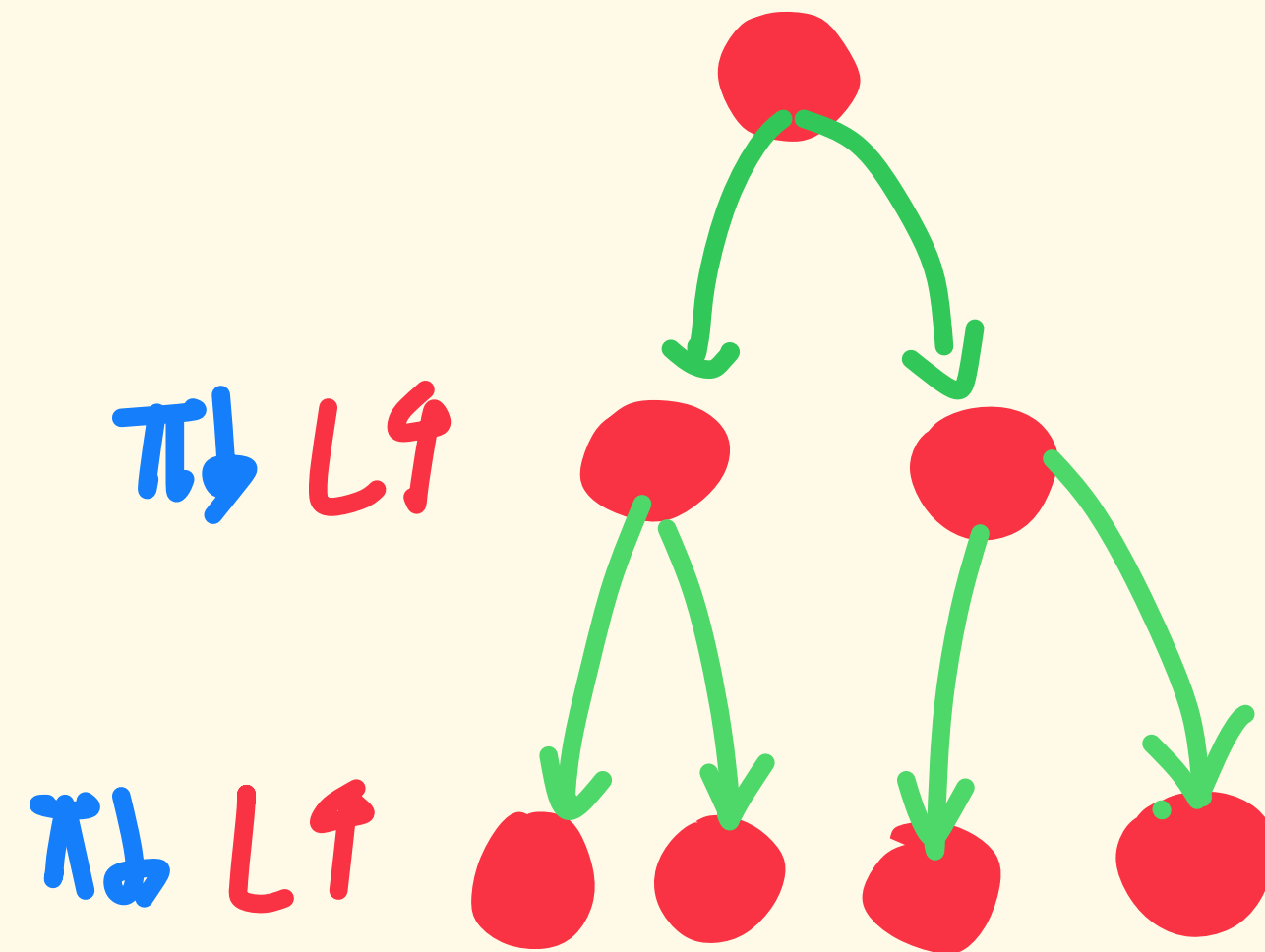
2. Accept ($\mathcal{T}_t = \tilde{\mathcal{T}}$) with

$$\alpha = \min \left\{ 1, \frac{\pi(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} | Y) S(\mathcal{T}_{t-1} | \tilde{\mathcal{T}})}{\pi(\mathcal{T}_{t-1} | Y) S(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} | \mathcal{T}_{t-1})} \right\}$$

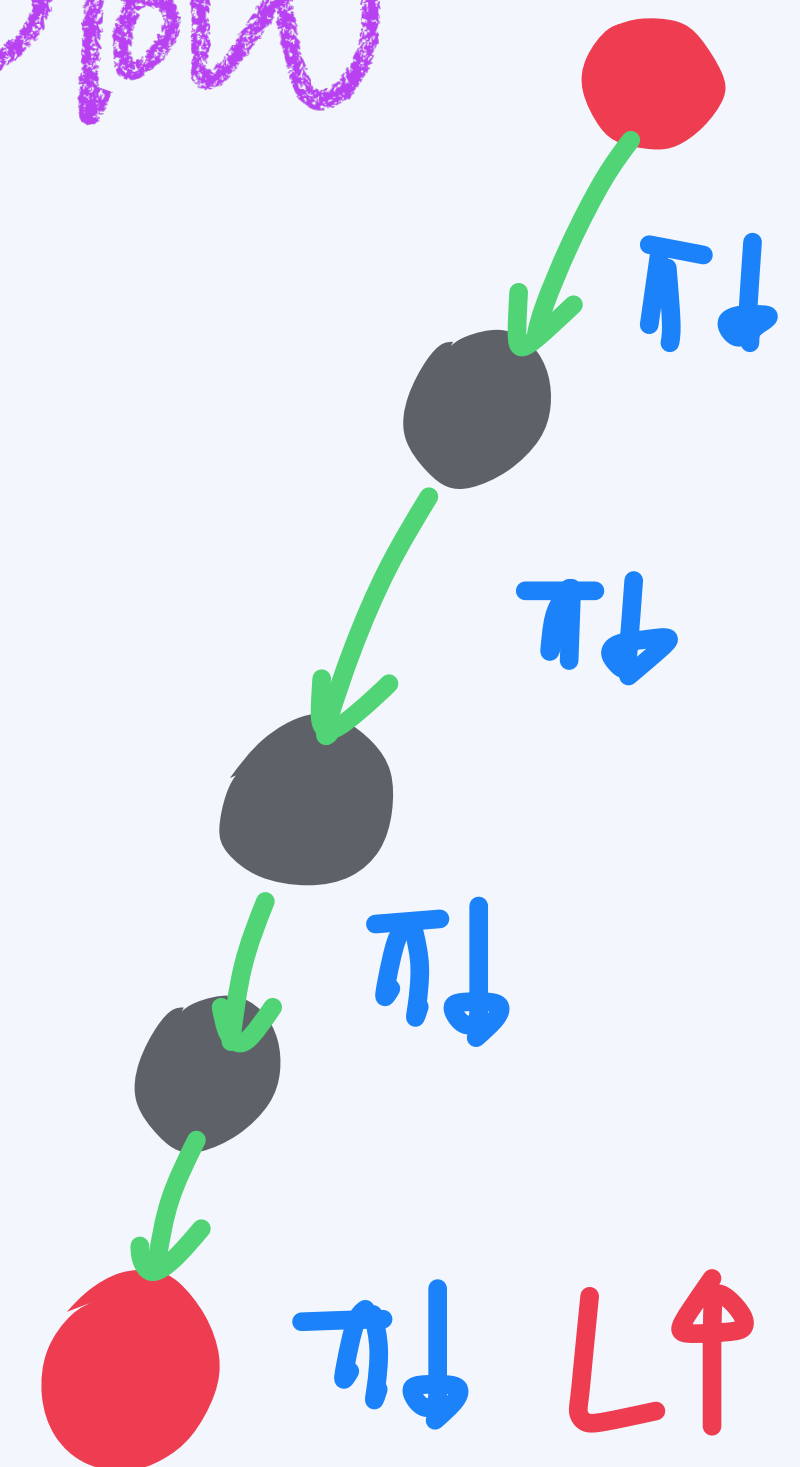
Important: $\pi(\mathcal{T} | Y) \propto \pi(\mathcal{T}) L(Y | \mathcal{T})$

$$L(Y | \mathcal{T}) = \frac{\exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} Y' [I - X_{\mathcal{T}} \Sigma_{\mathcal{T}} X_{\mathcal{T}}]' Y \right\}}{(2\pi)^{n/2} (1+n)^{|\mathcal{T}_{ext}|/2}}$$

Fast



Slow



Proof

Spectral Gap

Spectral gap: $Gap(P) = 1 - \lambda_{max}$, where $\lambda_{max} = \max\{\lambda_2, |\lambda_{|\mathbb{T}_L|}|\}$

Sinclair (1992) If the chain $\mathcal{T}_0, \dots, \mathcal{T}_t$ from P is **ergodic**,

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{Gap(P)} - 1 \right) \log \left[\frac{1}{2\epsilon} \right] \leq \tau_\epsilon \leq \frac{\log[1 / \min_{\mathcal{T} \in \mathbb{T}_L} \Pi(\mathcal{T} | Y)] + \log 1/\epsilon}{Gap(P)}.$$

By considering $\tilde{P} = \frac{P + I}{2}$, all eigen values made non-negative

1) The chain: ergodic

2) $Gap(\tilde{P}) = 1 - \lambda_2$

$$\text{Gap}(\tilde{P}) = 1 - \lambda_2$$

$$\tilde{P} = V\Lambda V^T$$

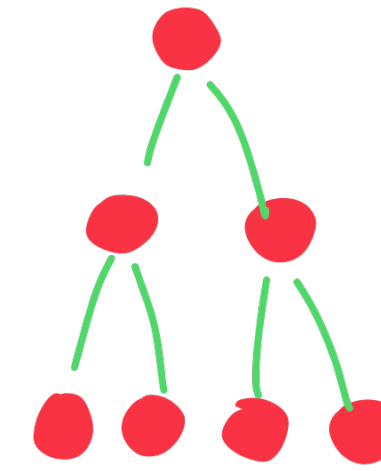
$$\tilde{P}^k = V\Lambda^k V^T \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow \infty} \begin{bmatrix} \pi \\ \pi \\ \vdots \\ \pi \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_1 = 1 > \lambda_2 \geq \lambda_3 \geq \dots \geq 0$$

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \Lambda^k = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \pi \\ \pi \\ \vdots \\ \pi \end{bmatrix} = vv^T, \text{ where } v \text{ is the first column of } V$$

Proof of rapid mixing



Sinclair, 1992 (Canonical Path)

For any reversible Markov chain and any choice of \mathcal{E}

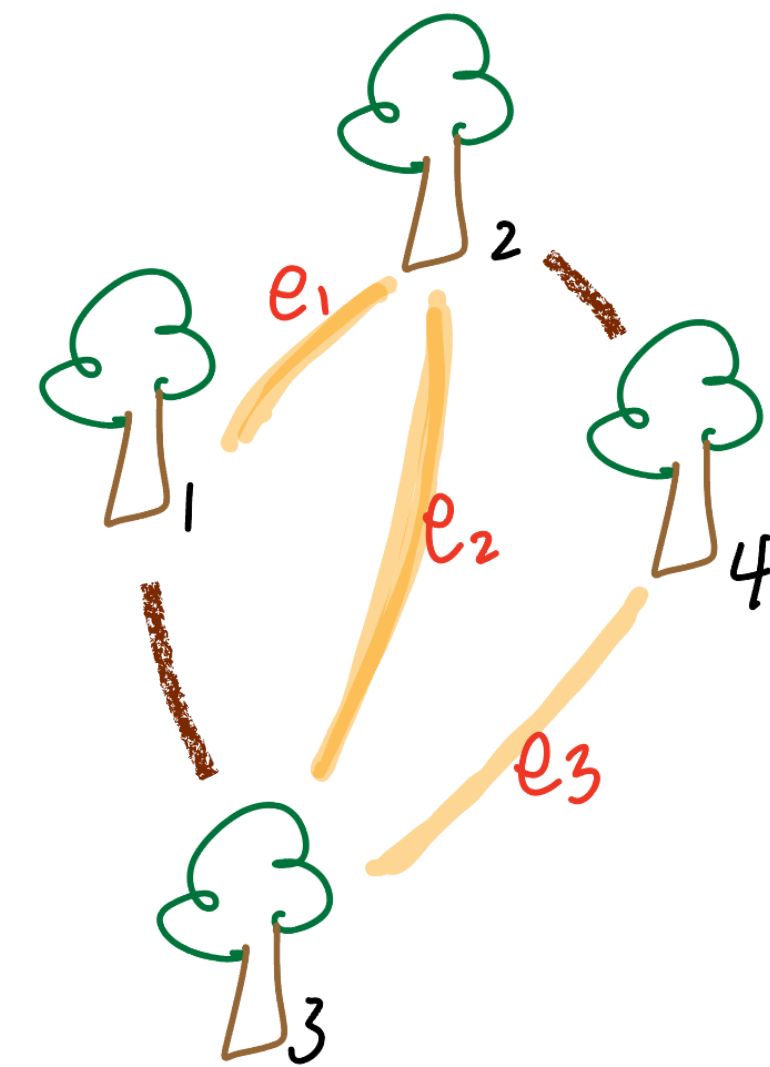
$$\text{Gap}(P)^{-1} \leq l(\mathcal{E})\rho(\mathcal{E})$$

$T_{\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{T}'}$: Simple path between $(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{T}') \in \mathbb{T} \times \mathbb{T}$

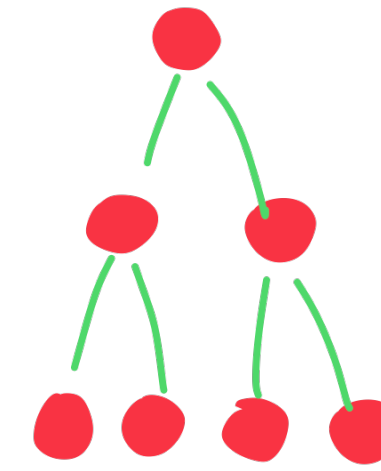
\mathcal{E} : Canonical path ensemble:

$$\mathcal{E} = \{T_{\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{T}'} : (\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{T}') \in \mathbb{T} \times \mathbb{T}\}$$

<Graph (Adjacency: P)>



Proof of rapid mixing



Sinclair, 1992 (Canonical Path)

For any reversible Markov chain and any choice of \mathcal{E}

$$Gap(P)^{-1} \leq l(\mathcal{E})\rho(\mathcal{E})$$

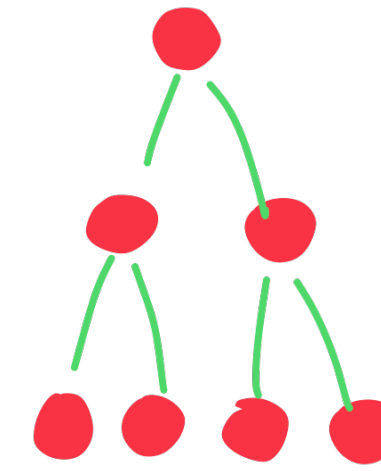
$l(\mathcal{E})$: the length of the longest path in \mathcal{E}

$\rho(\mathcal{E})$: the path congestion parameter of \mathcal{E}

< Canonical Path >



Proof of rapid mixing



Sinclair, 1992 (Canonical Path)

For any reversible Markov chain and any choice of \mathcal{E}

$$Gap(P)^{-1} \leq l(\mathcal{E})\rho(\mathcal{E})$$

$l(\mathcal{E})$: the length of the longest path in \mathcal{E}

$\rho(\mathcal{E})$: the path congestion parameter of \mathcal{E}

Yang et al, 2016 (Variable selection)

$$\mathcal{E}: \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}^* \rightarrow \mathcal{T}'$$

< Canonical Path >



Congestion parameter

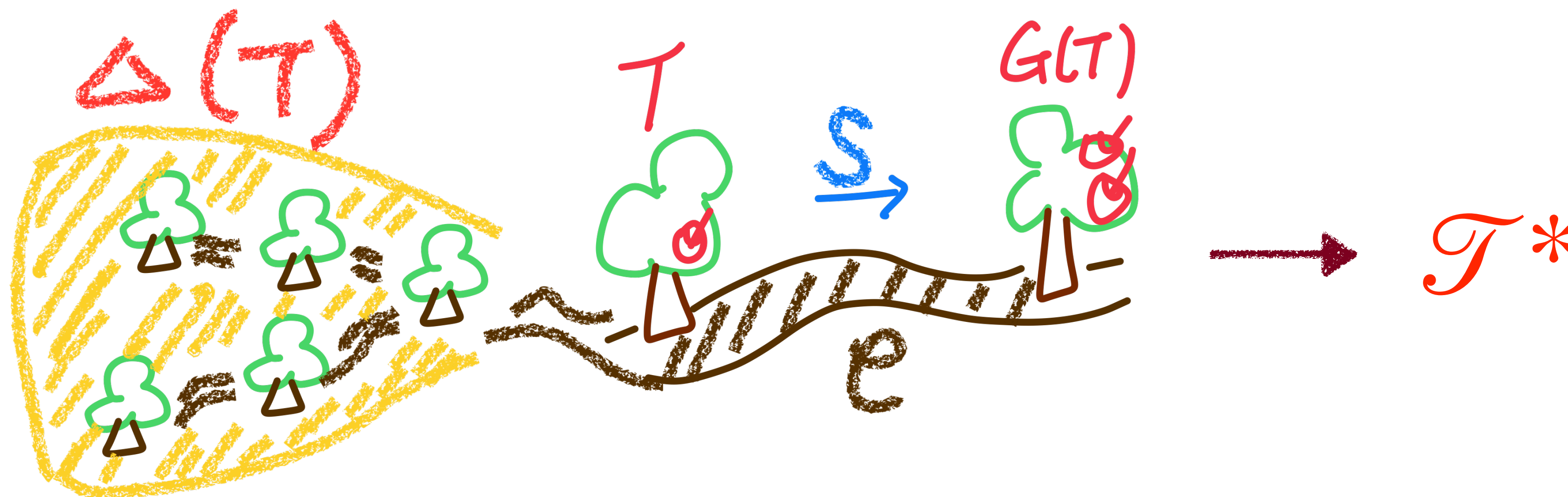
$$\rho(\mathcal{E}) = \max_{e \in \mathcal{E}} \frac{1}{Q(e)} \sum_{(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{T}') : e \in T_{\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{T}'}} \Pi(\mathcal{T} | Y) \Pi(\mathcal{T}' | Y)$$

$Q(e)$: the natural capacity of e

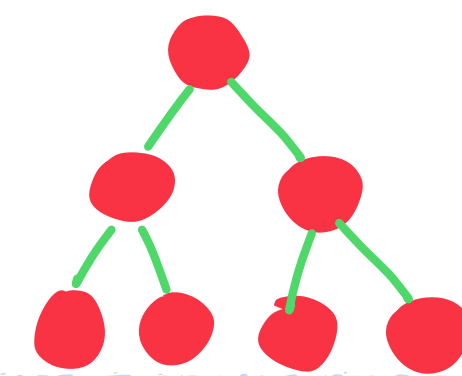
$Q(e) \equiv Q(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{T}') = \Pi(\mathcal{T} | Y) P(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{T}')$

$$\leq 2 \max_{\mathcal{T}} \frac{\pi(\Delta(\mathcal{T}) | Y)}{\pi(\mathcal{T} | Y)} \frac{1}{S(\mathcal{T} \rightarrow G(\mathcal{T}))} \max(1, \alpha^{-1})$$

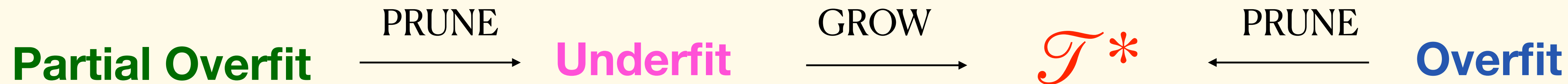
$G(\mathcal{T})$: the next tree of \mathcal{T} in \mathcal{E}



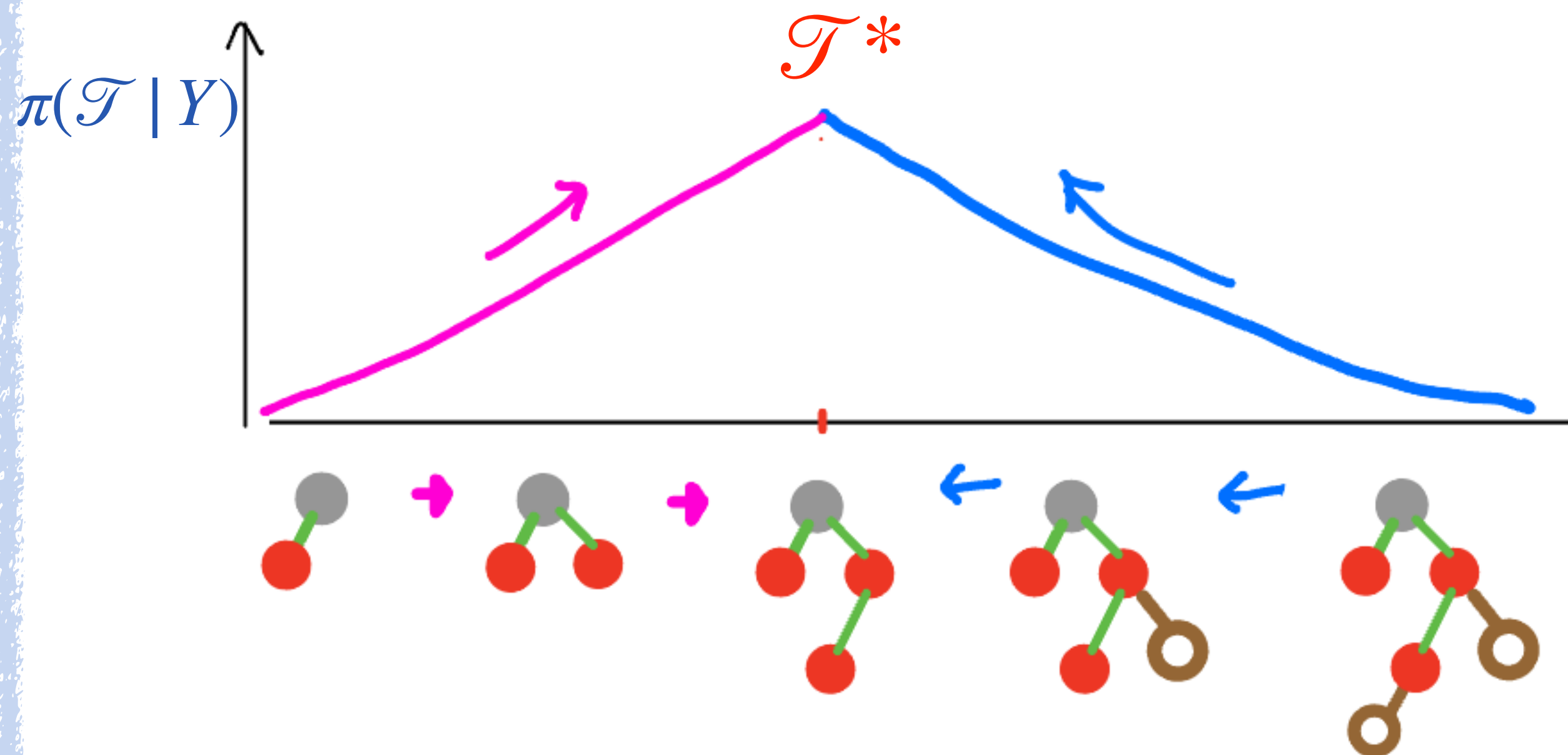
Canonical Path (Sinclair, 1992)



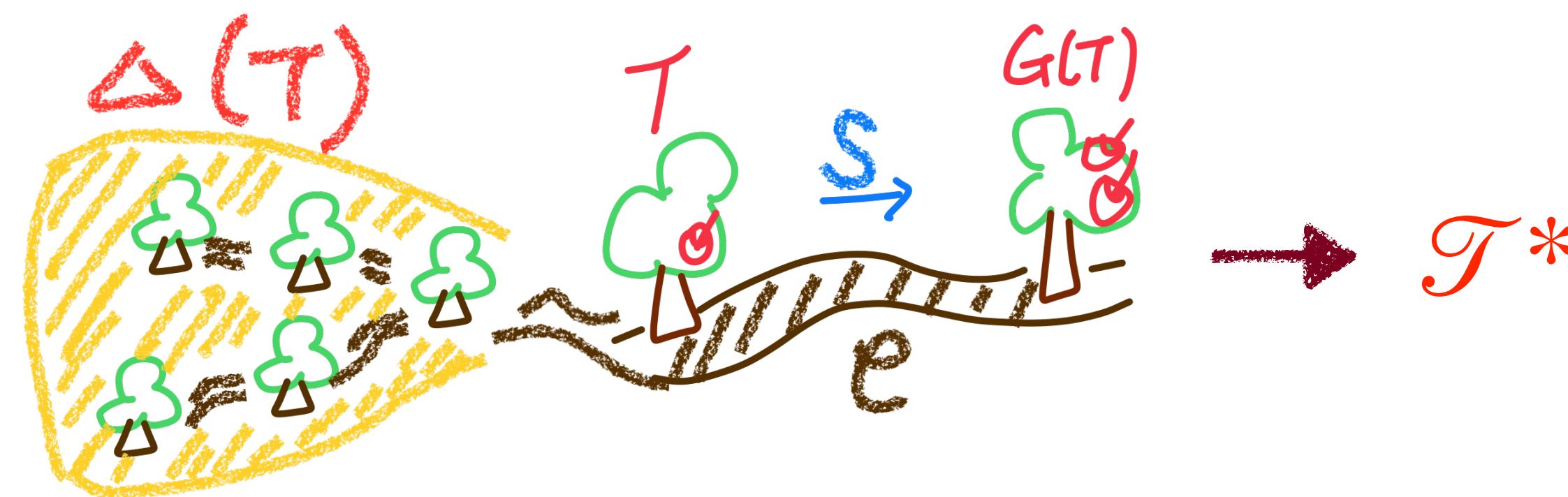
Our Canonical Path



Posterior Shaping

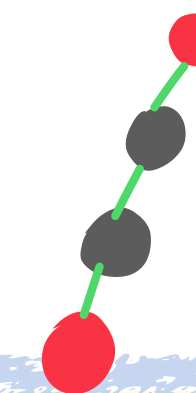


Congestion parameter

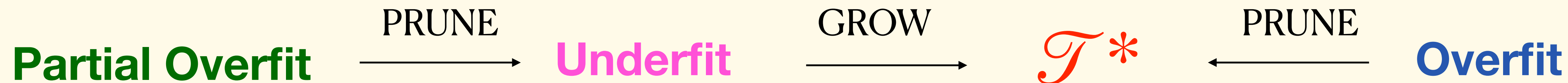


$$\rho(\mathcal{E}) \leq 2 \max_{\mathcal{T}} \frac{\pi(\Delta(\mathcal{T}) | Y)}{\pi(\mathcal{T} | Y)} \frac{1}{S(\mathcal{T} \rightarrow G(\mathcal{T}))} \max(1, \alpha^{-1})$$

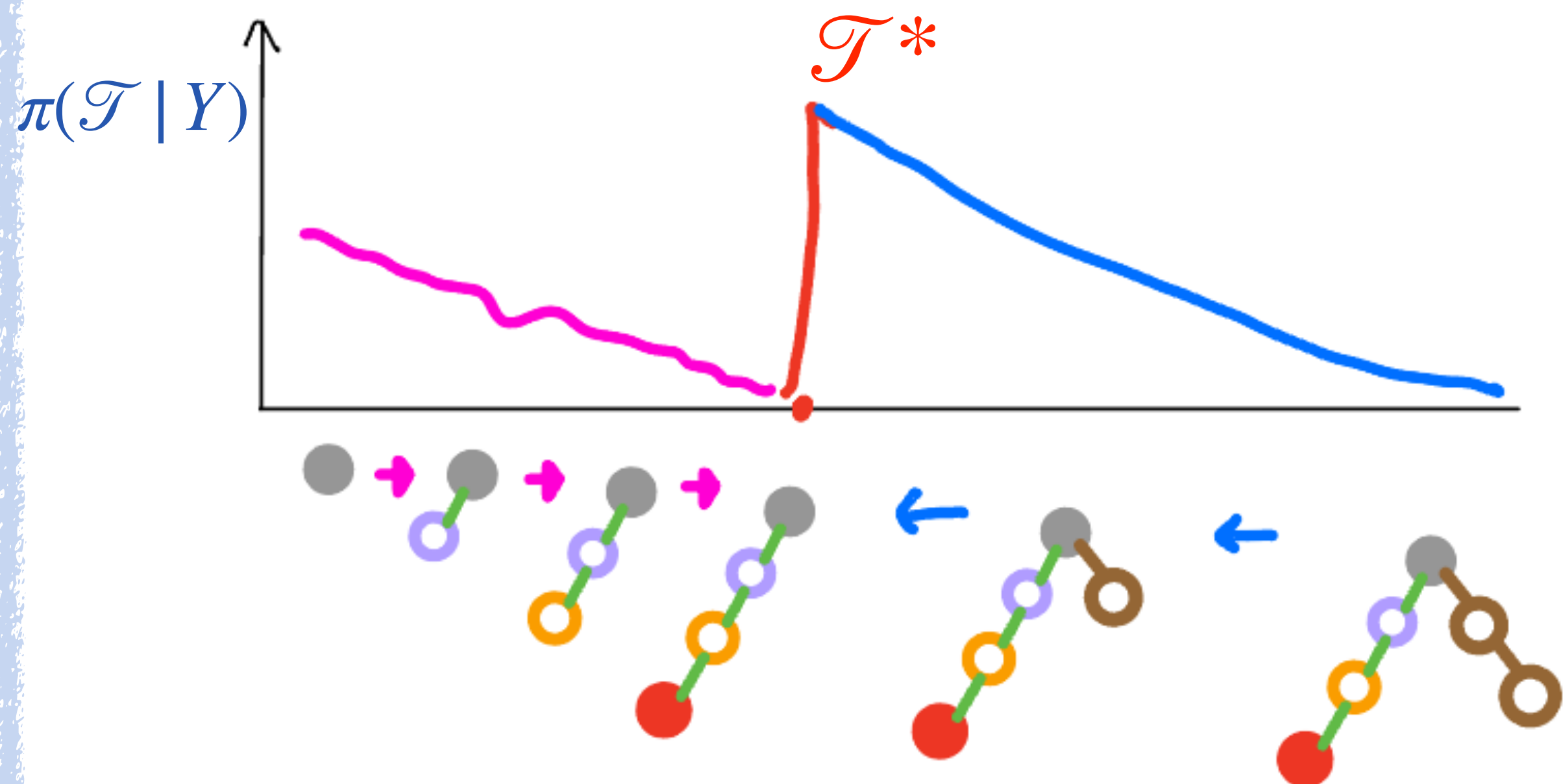
Canonical Path (Sinclair, 1992)



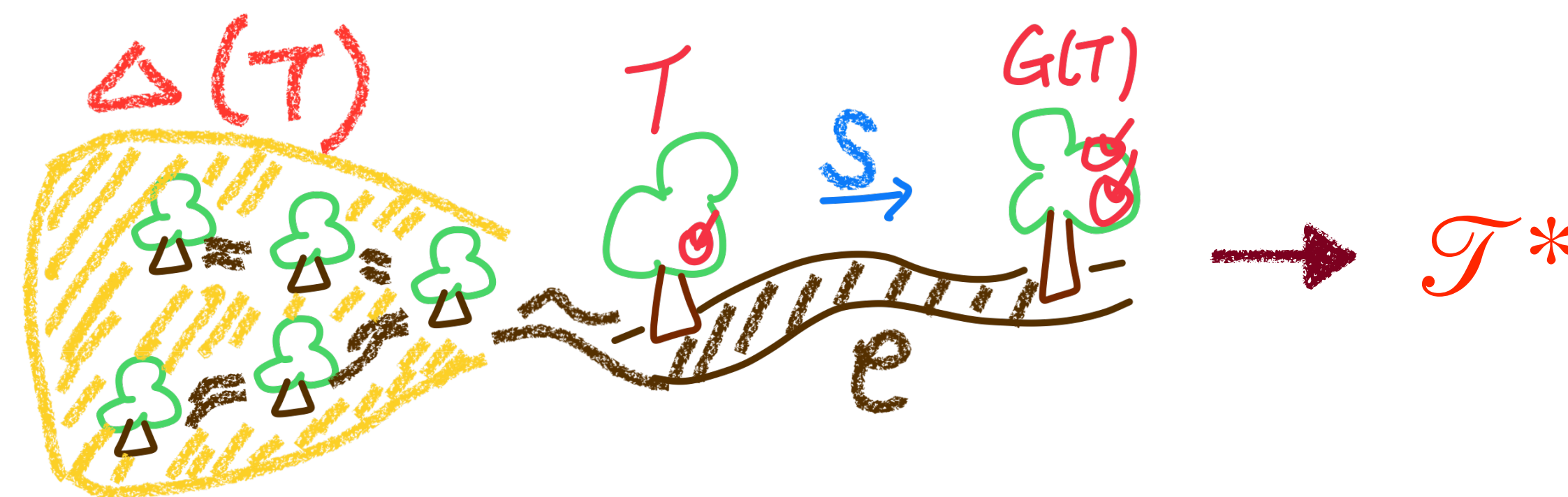
Our Canonical Path



Posterior Shaping

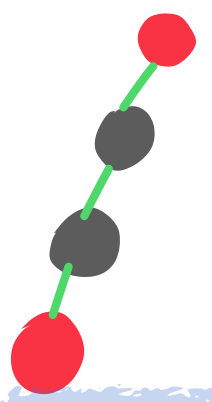


Congestion parameter

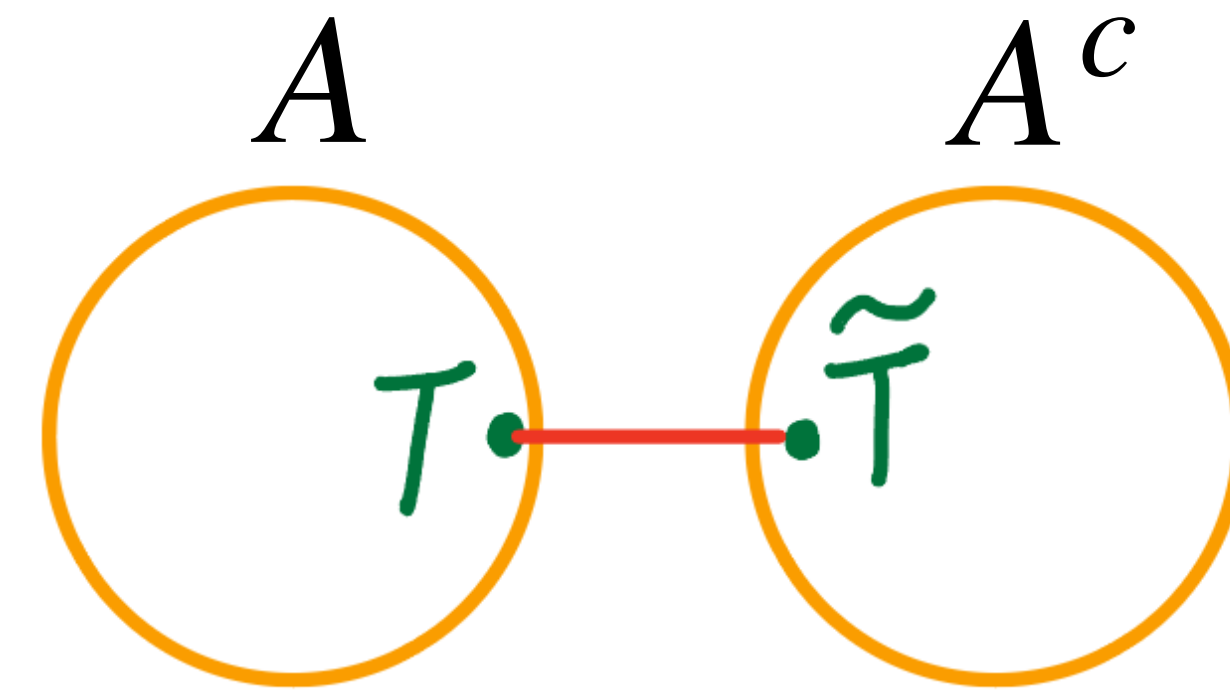
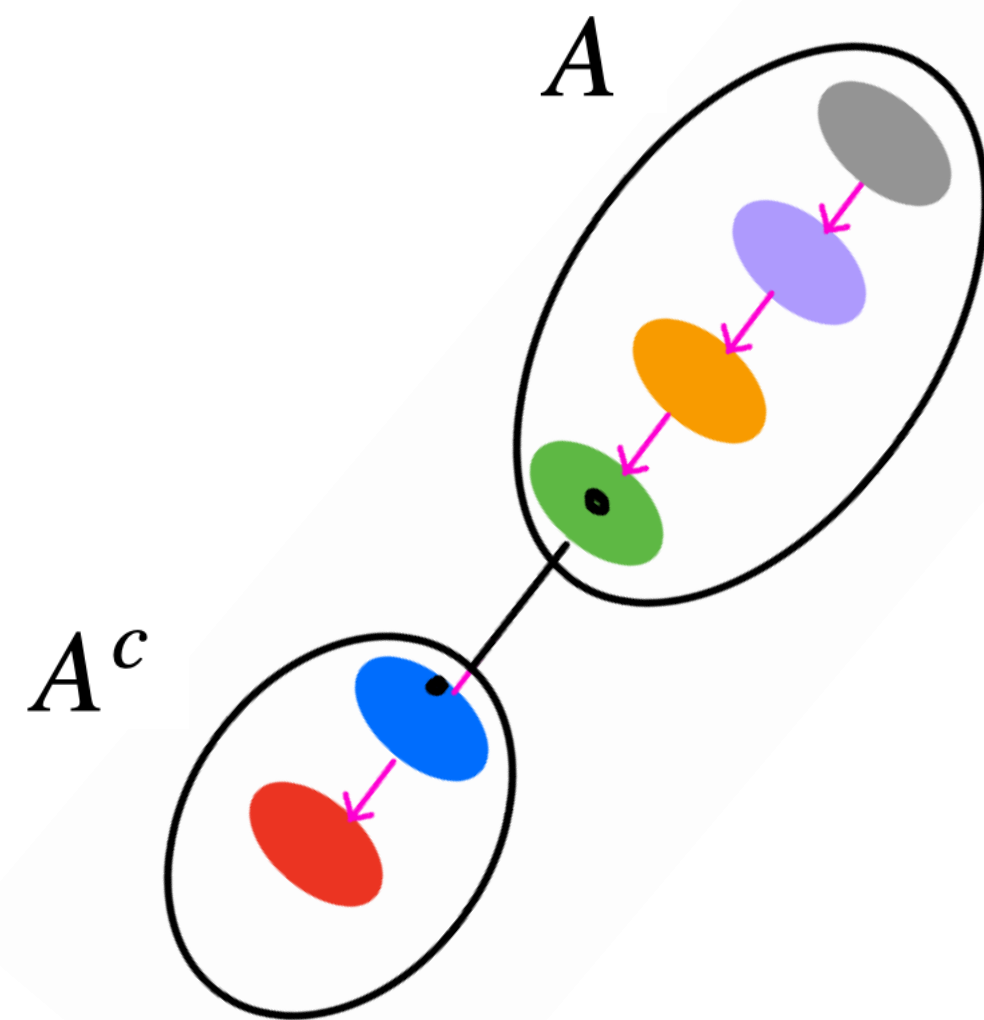
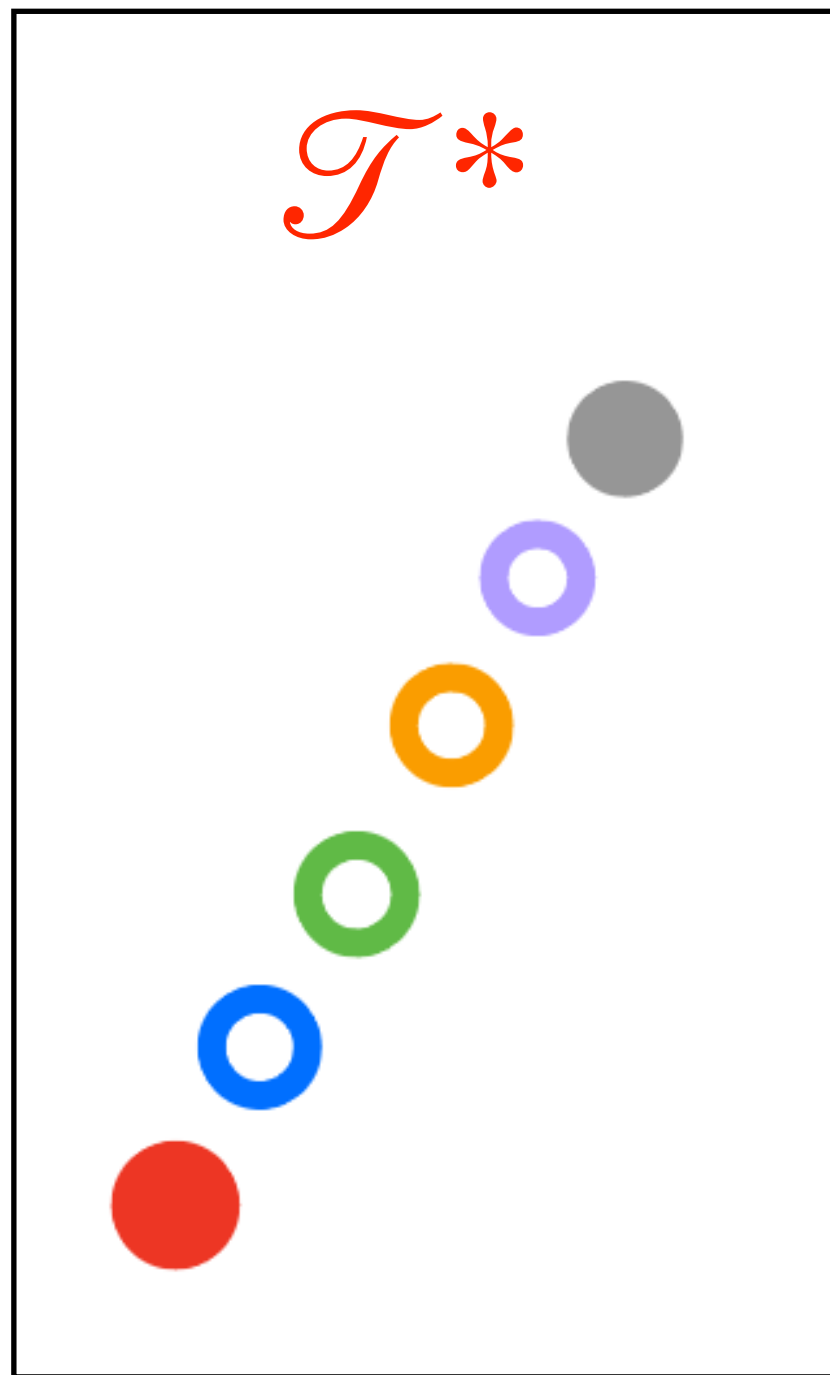


$$\rho(\mathcal{E}) \leq 2 \max_{\mathcal{T}} \frac{\pi(\Delta(\mathcal{T}) | Y)}{\pi(\mathcal{T} | Y)} \frac{1}{S(\mathcal{T} \rightarrow G(\mathcal{T}))} \max(1, \alpha^{-1})$$

Bottleneck ratio bound (Sinclair 1992)



Lower Bound

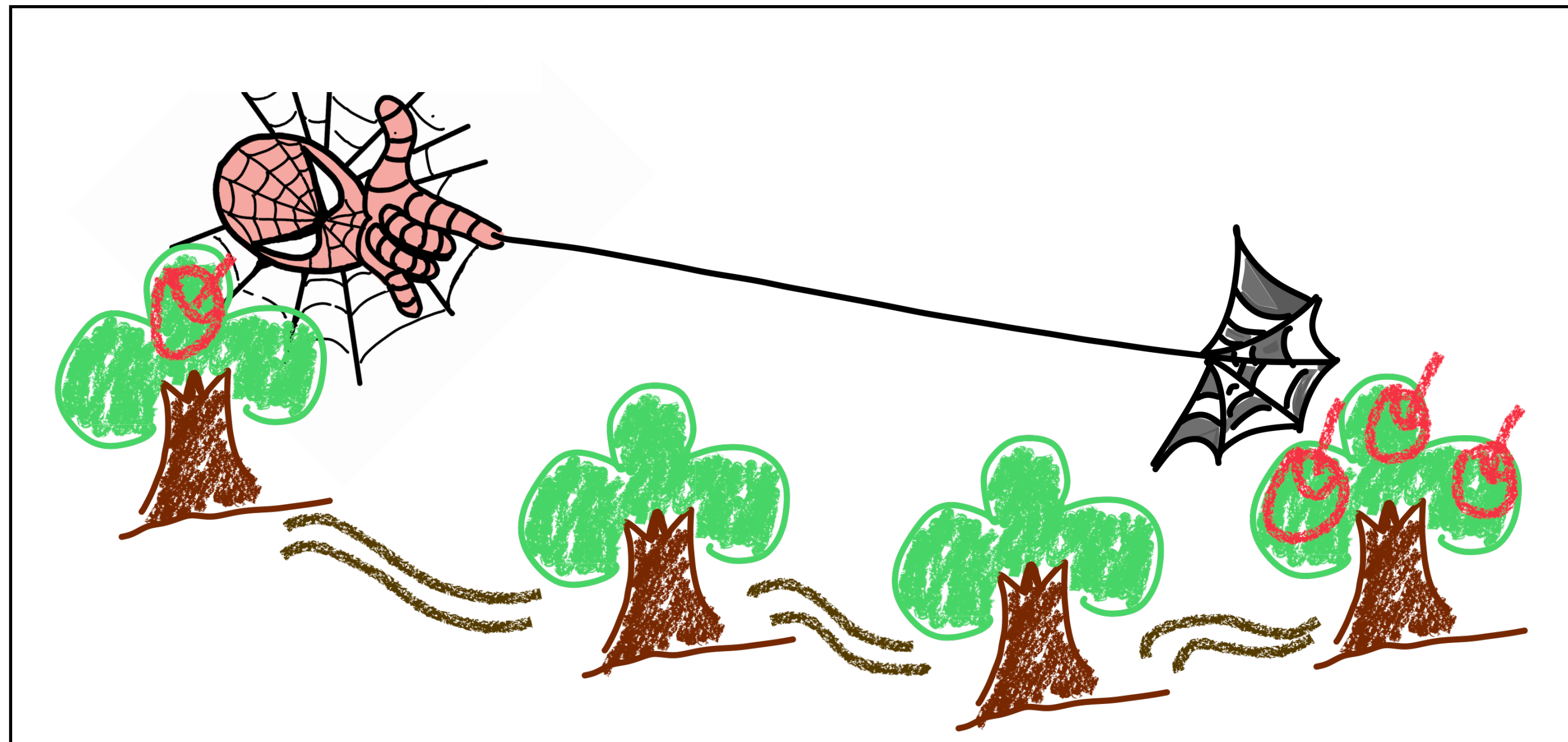


$$\Phi^2/2 \leq \text{Gap}(P) \leq 2\Phi$$

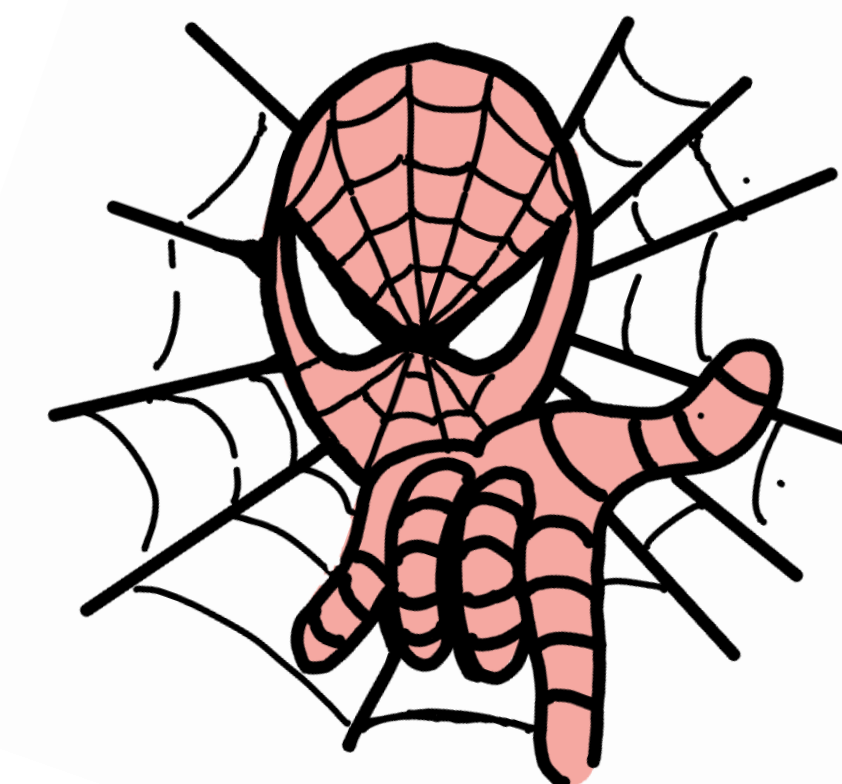
Ability to escape from any small region of the state space

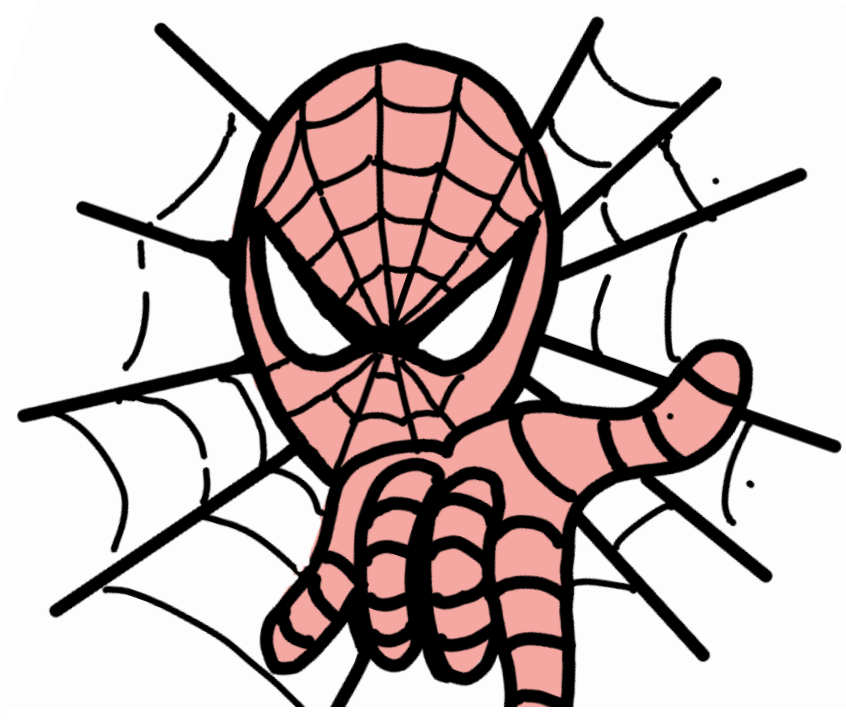
$$\Phi = \min_{0 < \Pi[A|Y] \leq 1/2} \frac{\sum_{\mathcal{T} \in A, \mathcal{T}' \in \mathcal{T} \setminus A} \Pi(\mathcal{T} | Y) P(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{T}')}{\Pi(A | Y)}$$

Twiggy CART

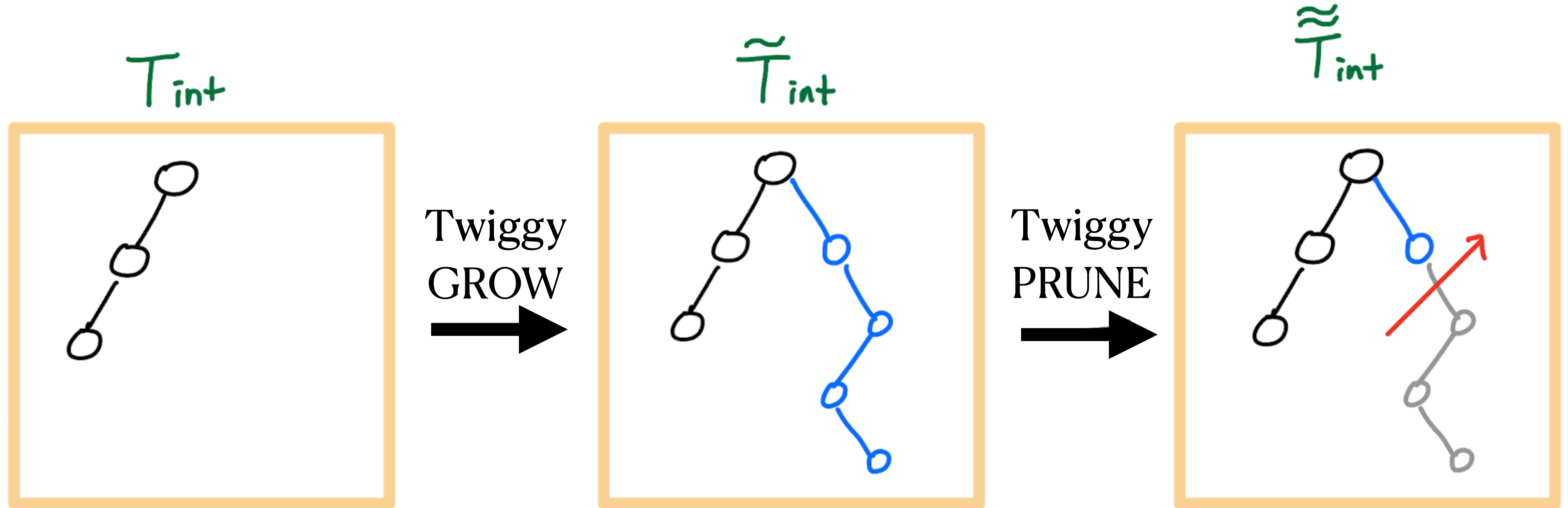


The Spiderman **directly flew** to the apple tree \mathcal{T}^* ,
and ate **instant rewarding apples**.





New movement: Twiggy GROW and PRUNE



$$S(\cdot | \mathcal{T}_t) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{m \in M} 1_m S_m(\cdot | \mathcal{T}_t), \text{ where } M = \{\text{twiggy grow, twiggy prune}\}$$

Both type Signals: **Rapid** Mixing

Theorem 3 (Twiggy Bayesian CART algorithm)

Assume the **connected** signals or **disconnected** signals.

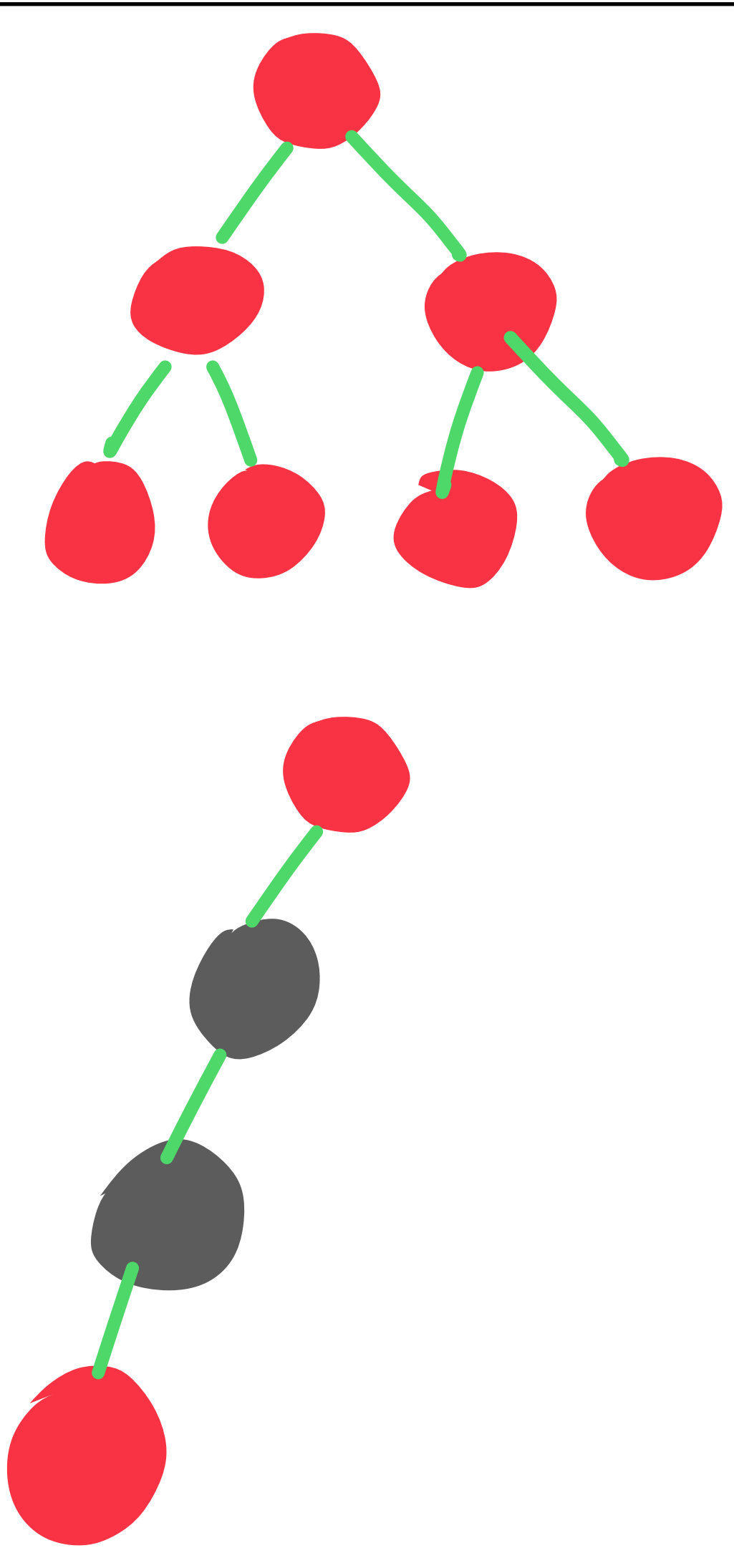
With $|\mathcal{T}_{int}^*| \lesssim \log^2 n$,

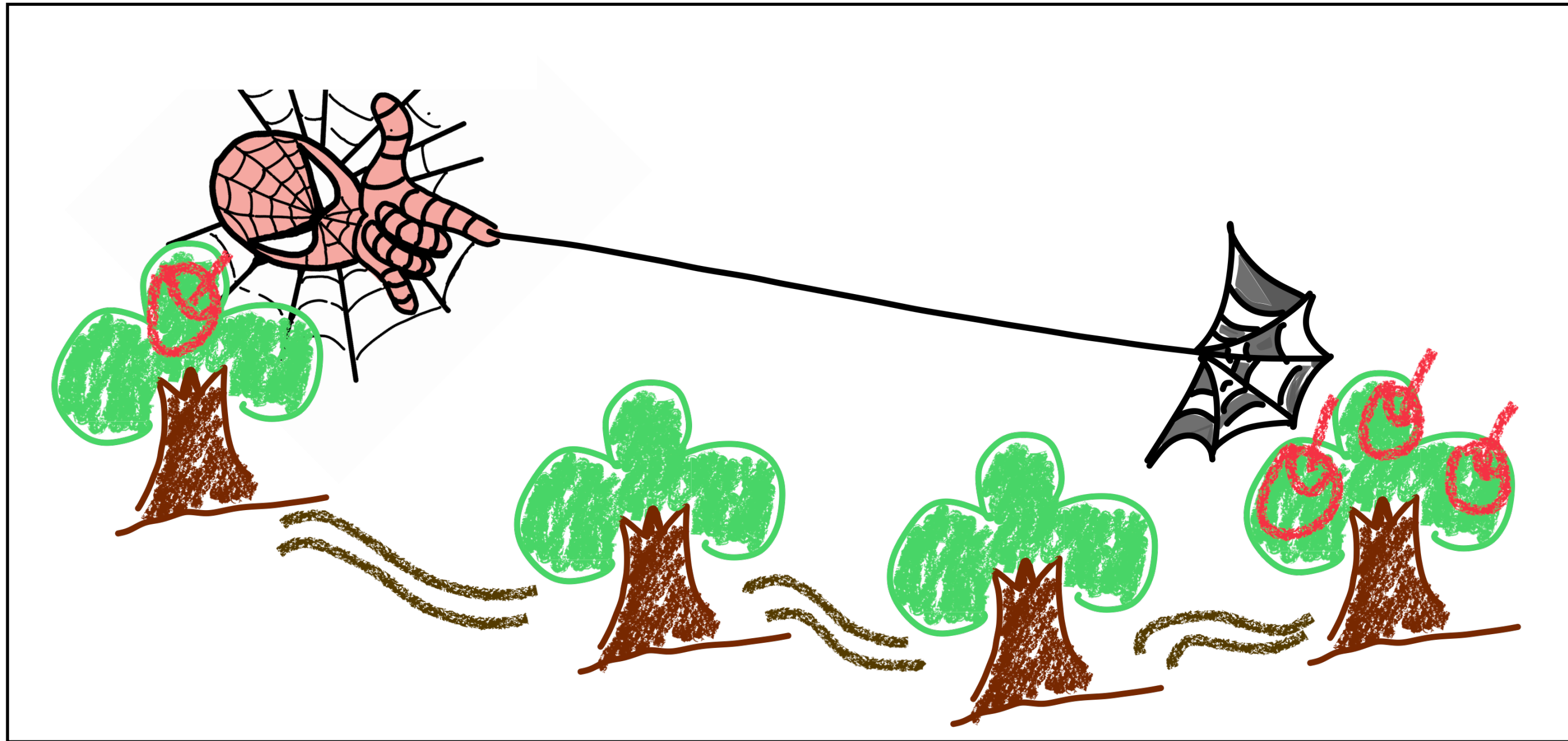
$$\tau_\epsilon \leq 2^{2L+3} \left\{ n \left[\left(c + \frac{1}{2} \right) \log(1+n) + |\mathcal{T}_{int}^*| C_{f_0}^2 + 1 \right] + 4 |\mathcal{T}_{int}^*| \log n + \log \left(\frac{2}{\epsilon} \right) \right\}$$

with probability at least $1 - 4/n$.

$p = 2^L$: the number of problem parameters ($2^L \leq n/2$)

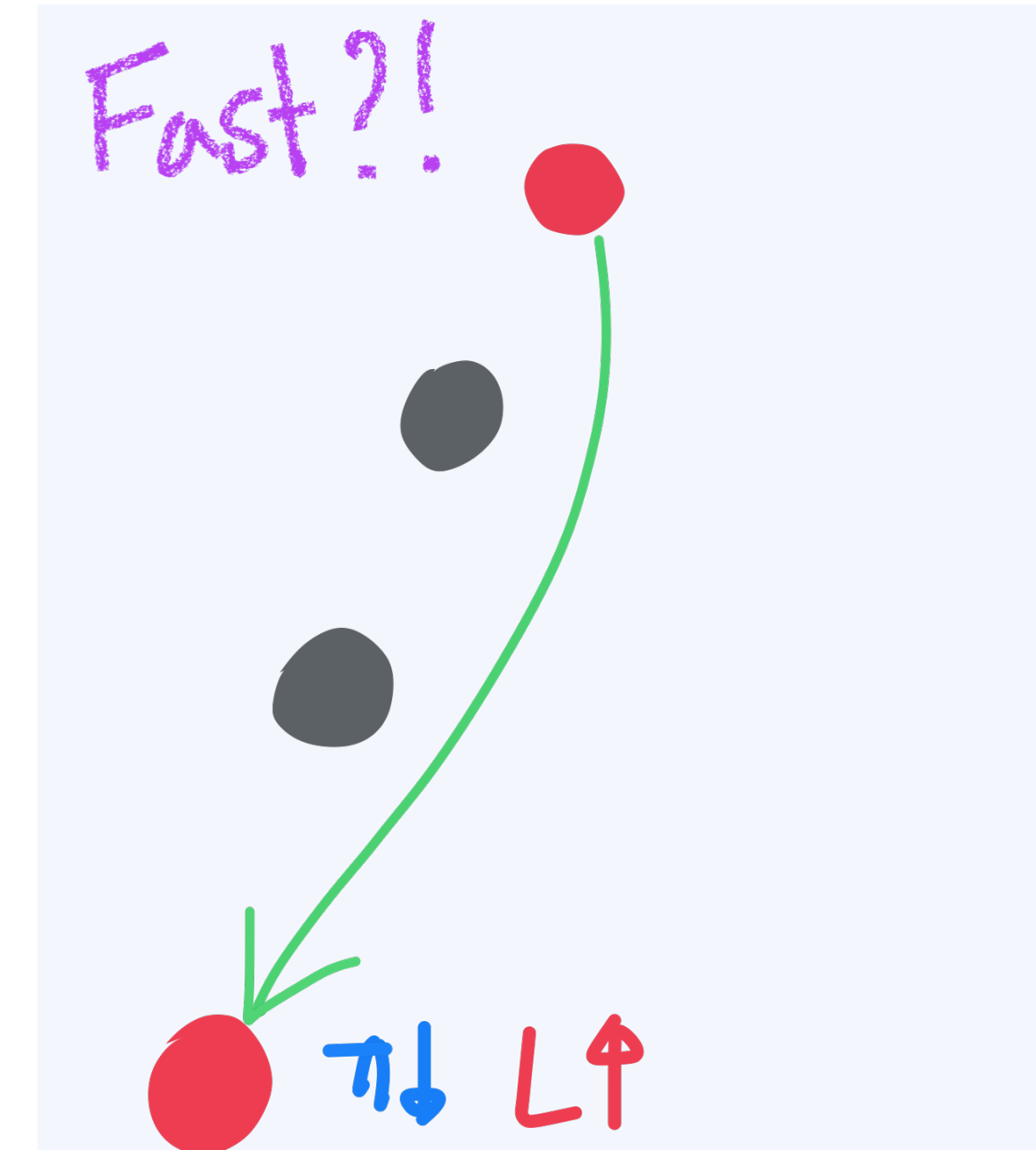
C_{f_0} : the bound for the maximum signal strength





The Spiderman **directly flew** to the apple tree \mathcal{T}^* ,
and ate **instant rewarding apples**.

Bottleneck Broken

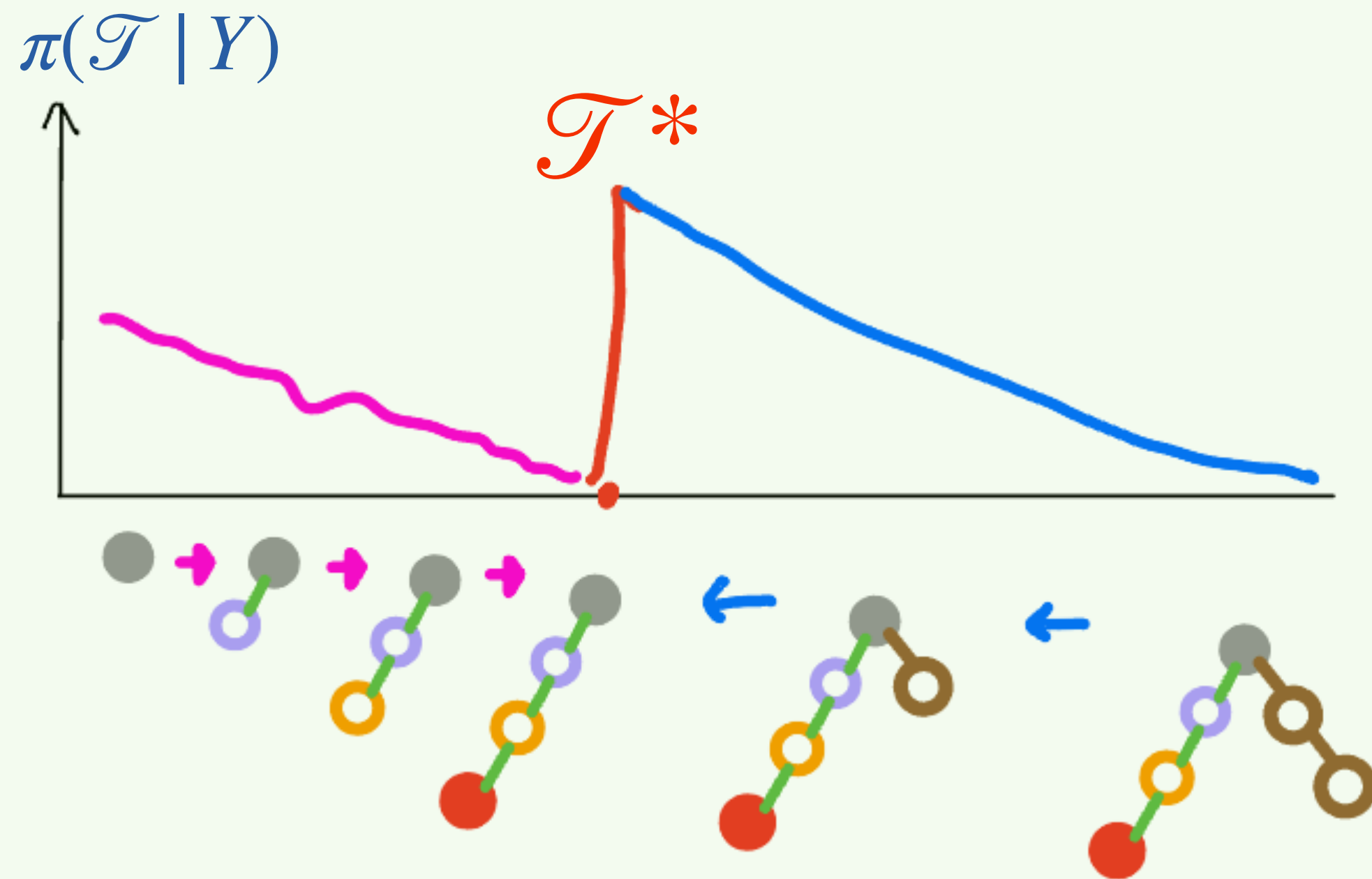


$$\pi(\mathcal{T} | Y) \propto \pi(\mathcal{T})L(\mathcal{T} | Y)$$

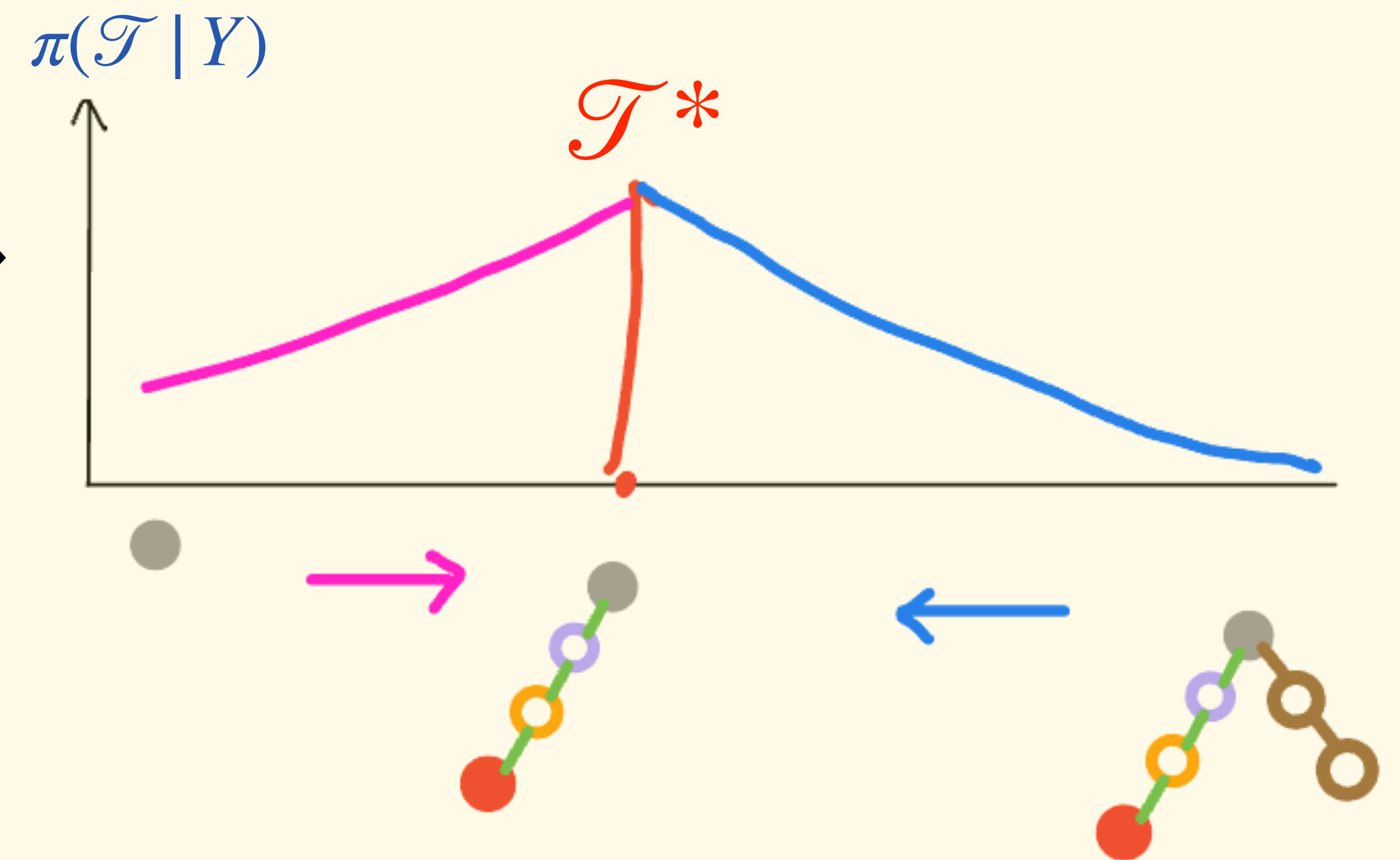
$$\alpha = \min \left\{ 1, \frac{\pi(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} | Y)}{\pi(\mathcal{T}_{t-1} | Y)} \frac{S(\mathcal{T}_{t-1} | \tilde{\mathcal{T}})}{S(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} | \mathcal{T}_{t-1})} \right\}$$

Twiggy effect

Canonical path
broken by B-CART moves



Canonical path
recovered by Twiggy moves



Why not small mini-trees?

Congestion parameter

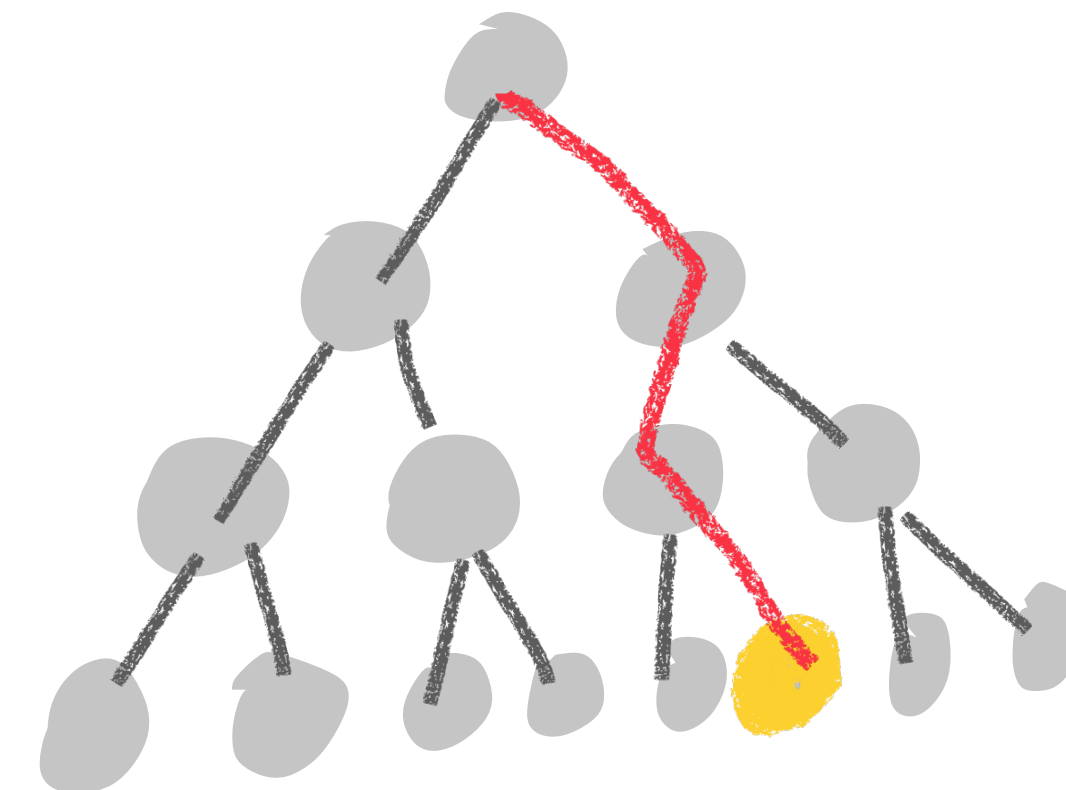
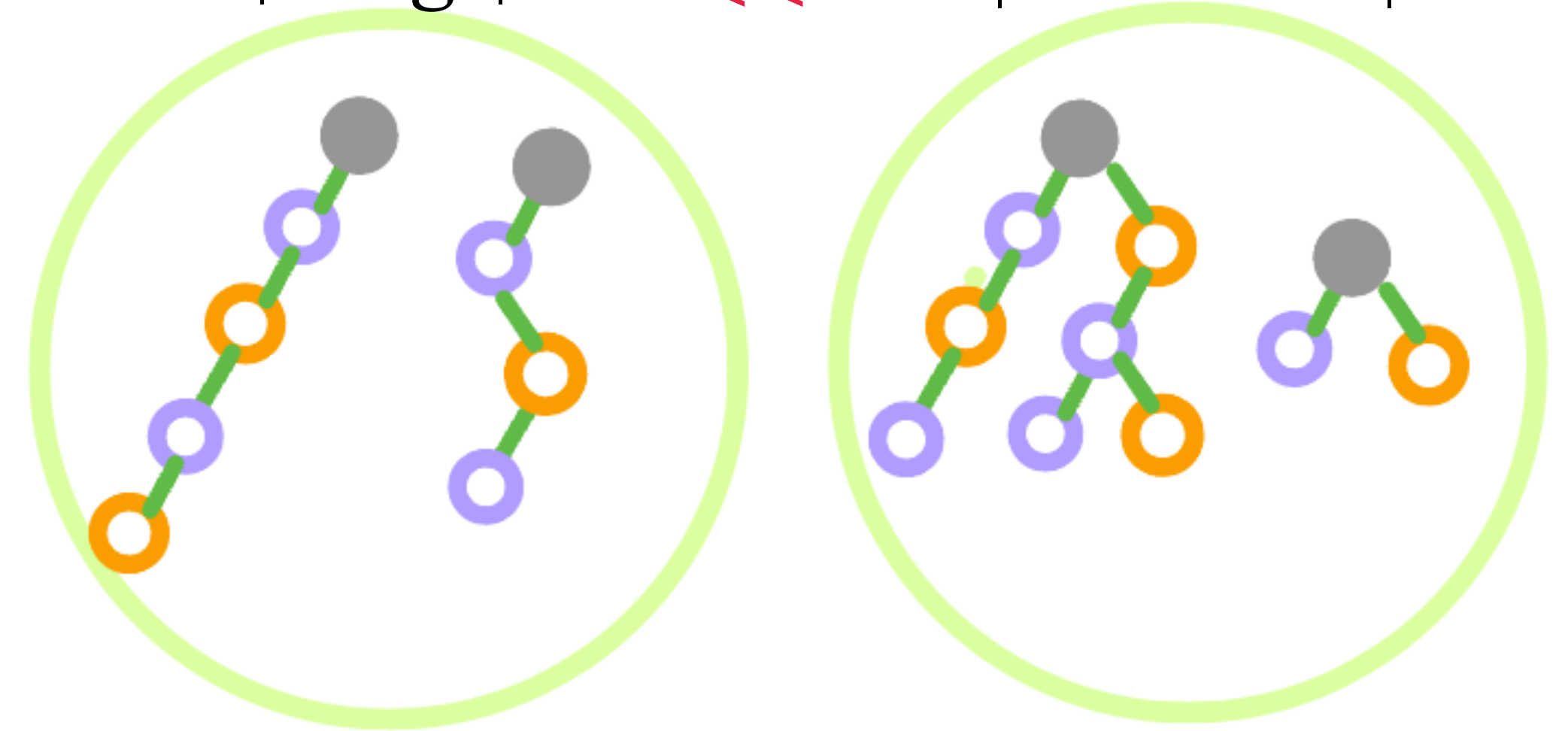


$$\rho(\mathcal{E}) \leq 2 \max_{\mathcal{T}} \frac{\pi(\Delta(\mathcal{T}) | Y)}{\pi(\mathcal{T} | Y)} \frac{1}{S(\mathcal{T} \rightarrow G(\mathcal{T}))} \max(1, \alpha^{-1})$$

|Twigs|

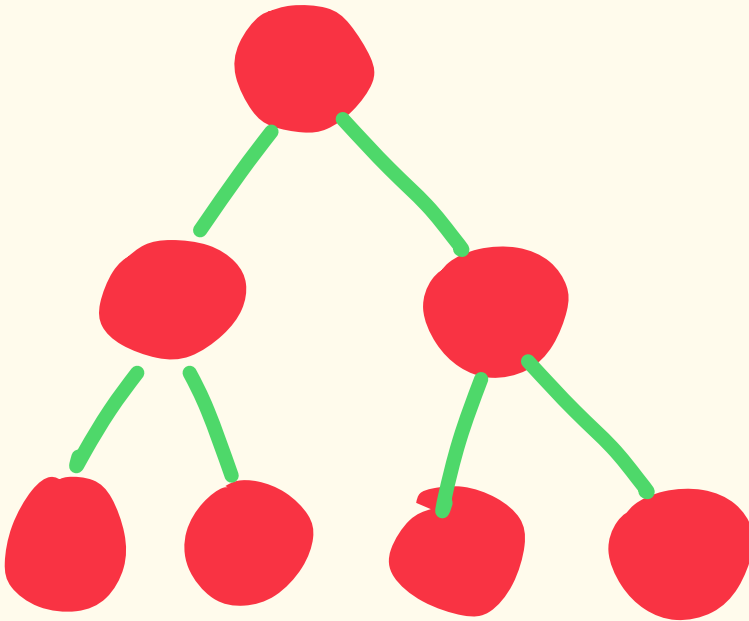
<<

|Mini-trees|

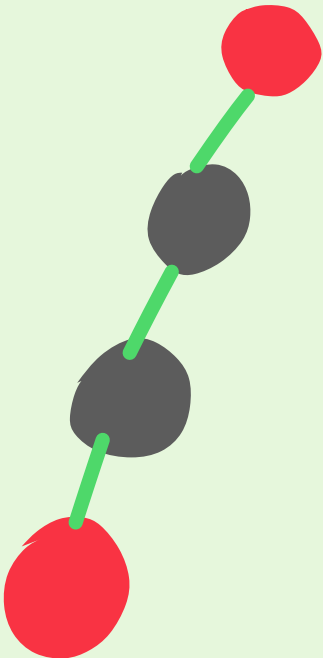


Our Contribution

Type A



Type A^c



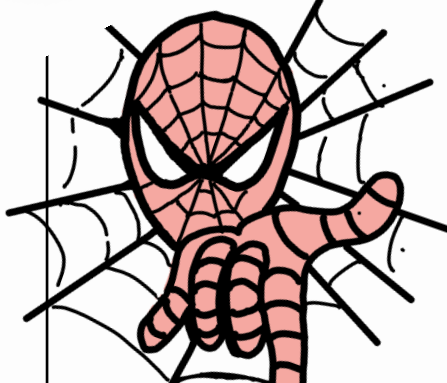
Original Movement



Rapid

Slow

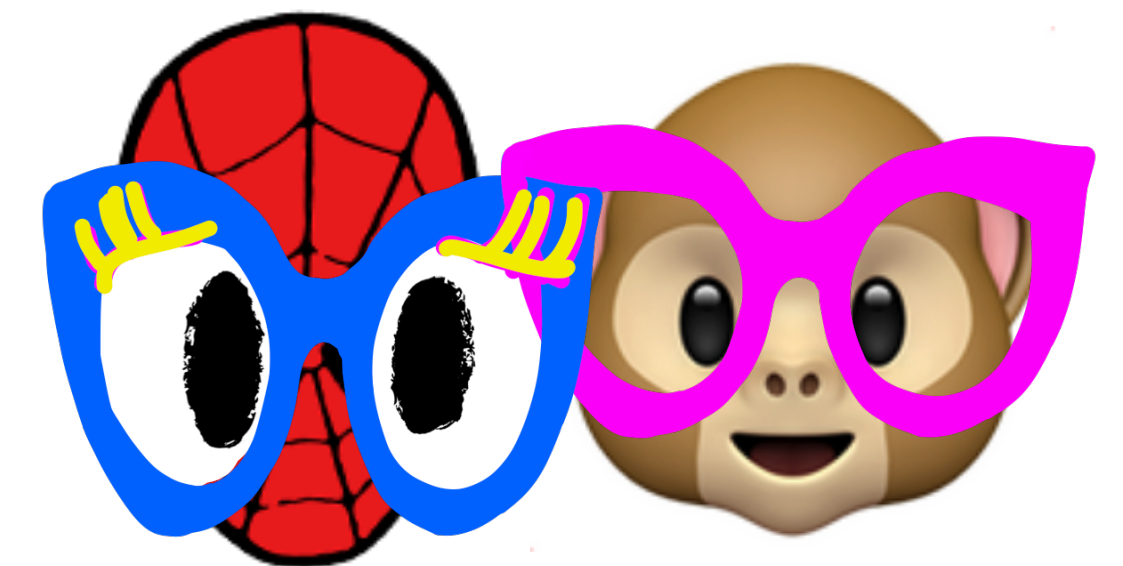
New Movement



Rapid

Rapid

Informed MCMC



Informed Proposal

Zanella et al (2020), Zhou et al (2022)

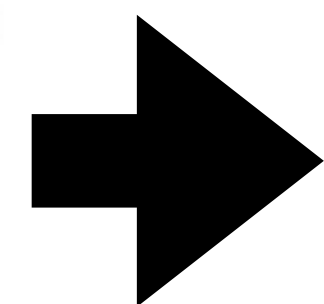
$$w_G(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} | \mathcal{T}) = \frac{\pi(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} | Y)}{\pi(\mathcal{T} | Y)} \wedge \delta_G,$$

$$Z_G(\mathcal{T}) = \sum_{\tilde{\mathcal{T}} \in \mathcal{N}_G(\mathcal{T})} w_G(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} | \mathcal{T})$$

$$w_P(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} | \mathcal{T}) = 1 \vee \frac{\pi(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} | Y)}{\pi(\mathcal{T} | Y)} \wedge \delta_P,$$

$$Z_P(\mathcal{T}) = \sum_{\tilde{\mathcal{T}} \in \mathcal{N}_P(\mathcal{T})} w_P(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} | \mathcal{T})$$

$$S(\mathcal{T} \rightarrow \cdot) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{m \in M} 1_{N_M(\mathcal{T})} \frac{w_m(\cdot | \mathcal{T})}{Z_m(\mathcal{T})}, \text{ where } M = \{G, P\}$$



Informed Proposal

Zanella et al (2020), Zhou et al (2022)

$$w_G(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} | \mathcal{T}) = \frac{\pi(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} | Y)}{\pi(\mathcal{T} | Y)} \wedge \delta_G,$$

$$Z_G(\mathcal{T}) = \sum_{\mathcal{T} \in \mathcal{N}_G(\mathcal{T})} w_G(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} | \mathcal{T})$$

$$w_P(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} | \mathcal{T}) = \mathbf{1} \vee \frac{\pi(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} | Y)}{\pi(\mathcal{T} | Y)} \wedge \delta_P,$$

$$Z_P(\mathcal{T}) = \sum_{\mathcal{T} \in \mathcal{N}_P(\mathcal{T})} w_P(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} | \mathcal{T})$$

$$P(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} | \mathcal{T}) = \min \left\{ S(\mathcal{T} \rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{T}}), \frac{\pi(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} | Y)}{\pi(\mathcal{T} | Y)} S(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}) \right\}$$



Improved Mixing rate

Theorem 3 (Informed Twiggy Bayesian CART)

Assume the **dis/disconnected** signals.

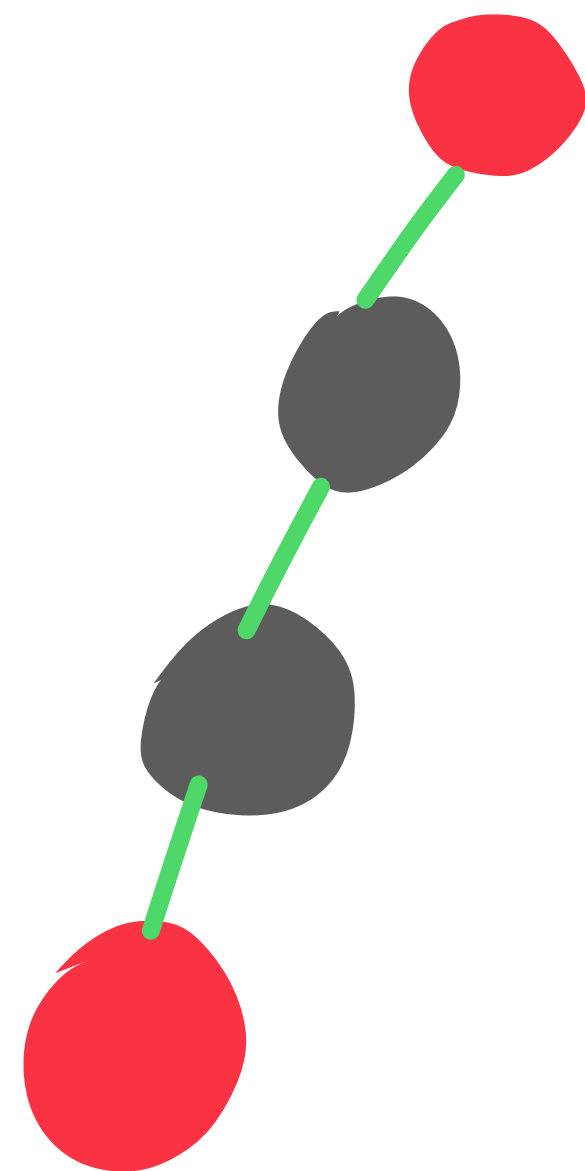
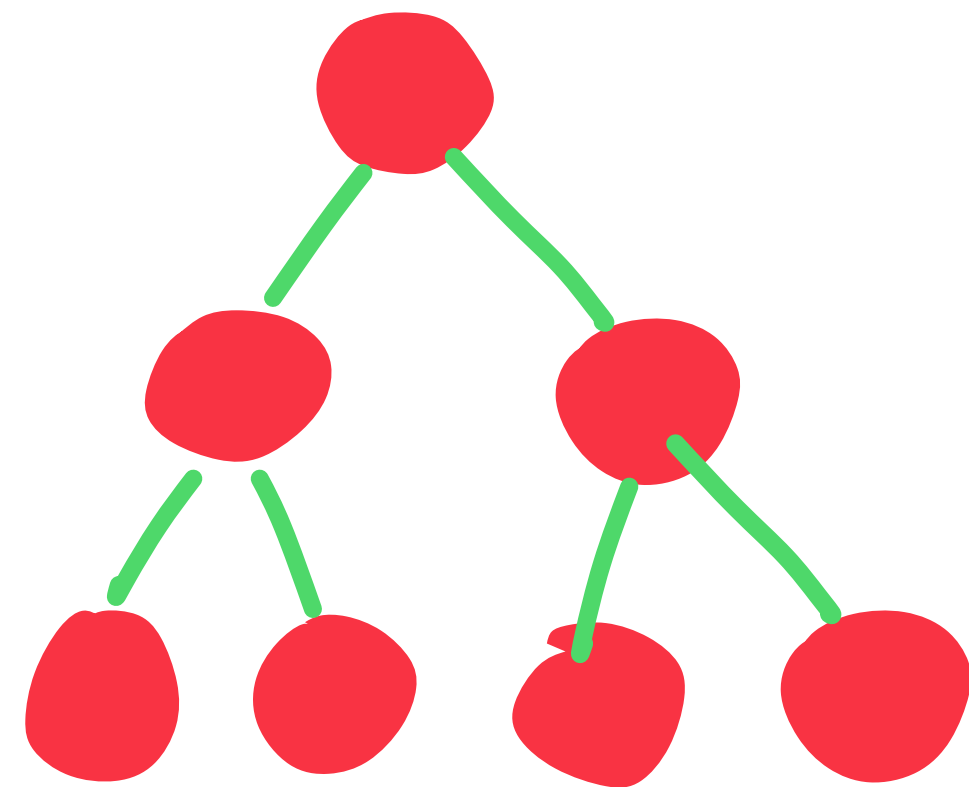
$$\tau_\epsilon \lesssim \log(6/\epsilon) \max \left(\frac{9 C_{f_0}^2}{A^2} \frac{2^L n}{\log^2 n}, 2^{L+5} \right),$$

with probability at least $1 - 4/n$.

$p = 2^L$: the number of problem parameters ($2^L \leq n/2$)

Similar result on the **informed Bayesian CART**,

on **connected** signals.



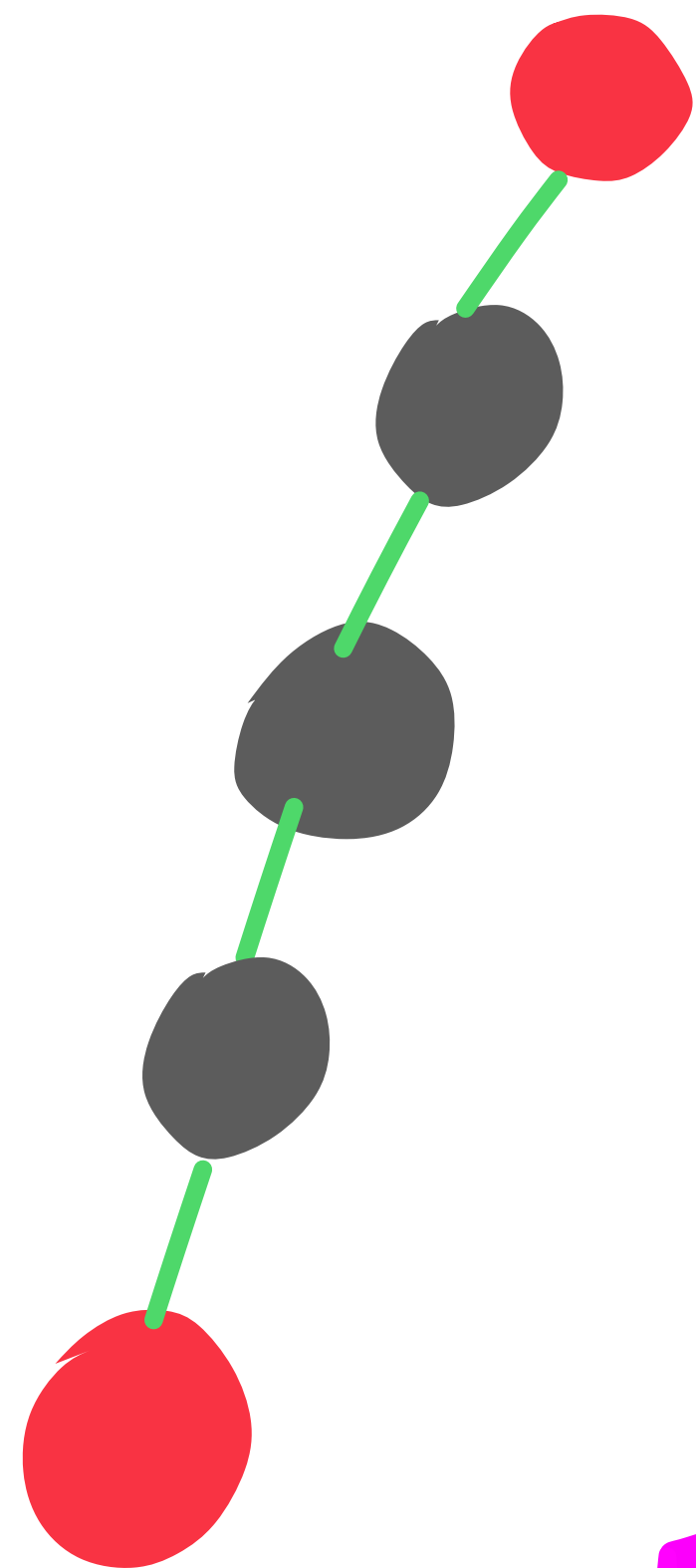
Disconnected Signals: **Slow** Mixing

(Informed Bayesian CART algorithm)

Assume the **disconnected** signals. There exists f_0 such that

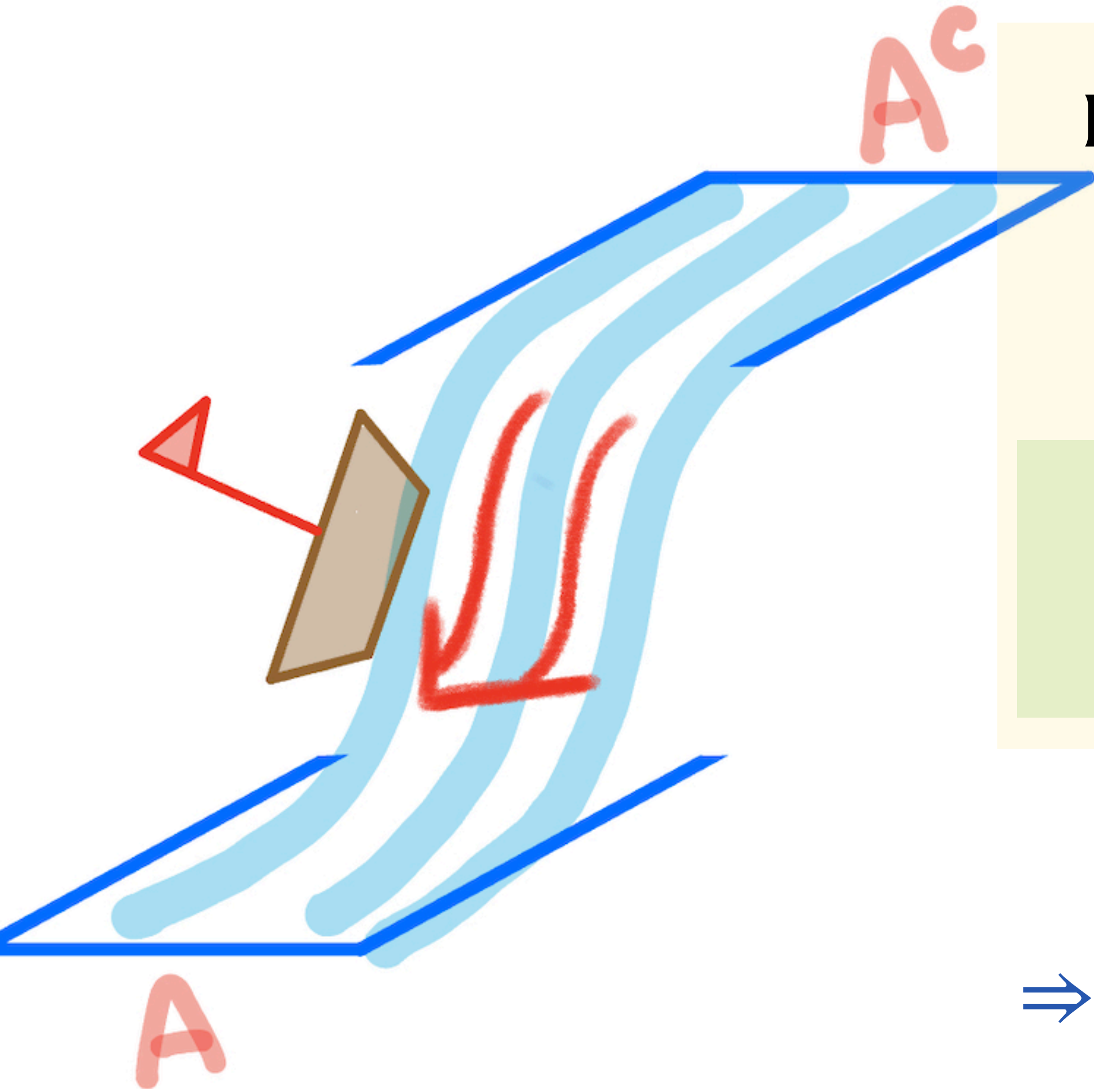
$$\tau_\epsilon > \log \left(\frac{1}{2\epsilon} \right) \frac{1}{4} \left[\left(\frac{n^{(c-3/2)/4} - 1}{C} \right)^{L-2} - 3 \right]$$

with probability at least $1 - 4/n$ for some $C > 1$.



Deeper the signal is, worse the mixing rate becomes.

Drift Condition



For $A \subset \mathbb{T}_L$, define $\tau_A = \min\{t \geq 0 : \mathcal{T}_t \in A\}$

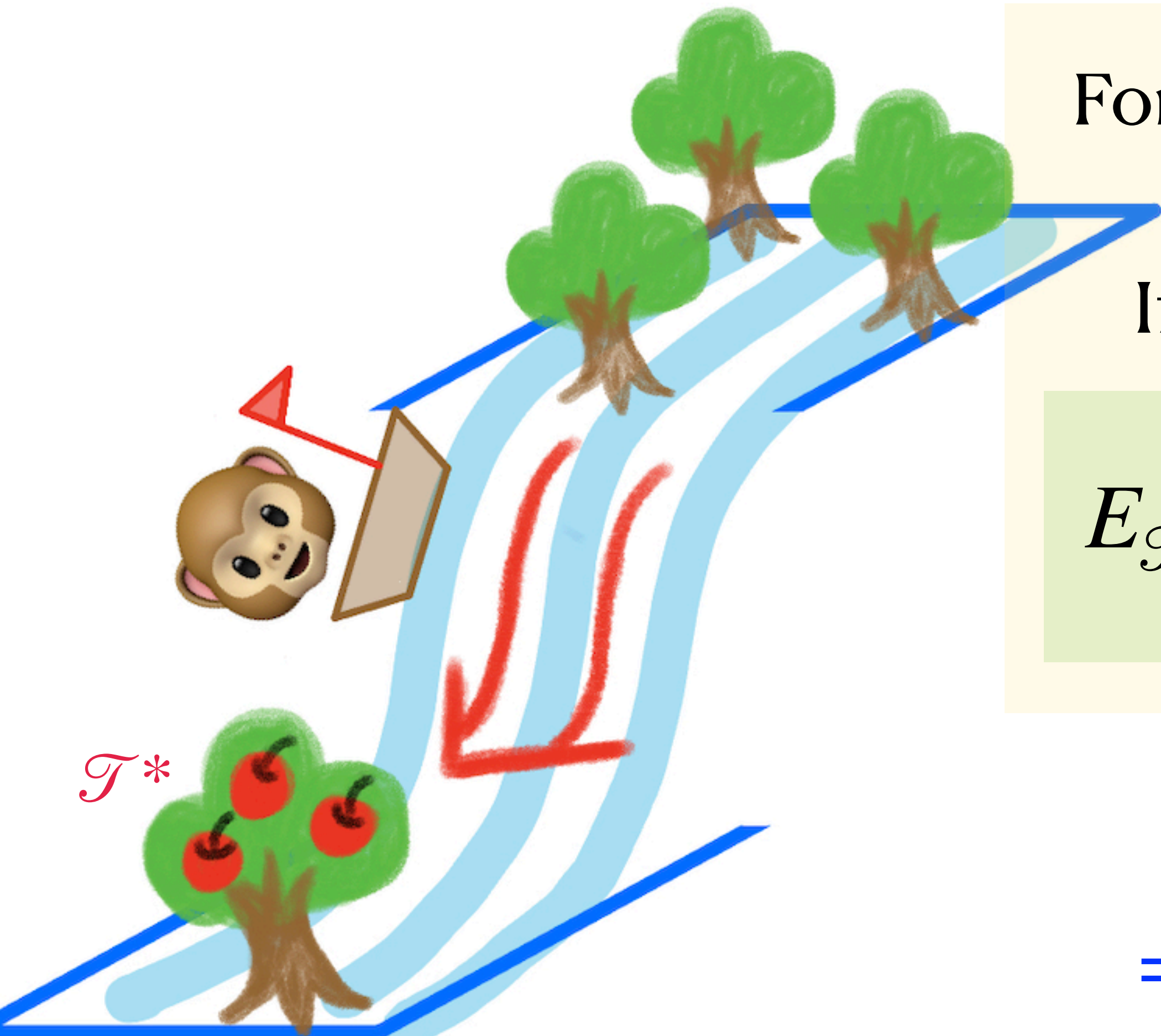
If $\exists V : \mathbb{T}_L \rightarrow [1, \infty)$ and $\exists \lambda \in (0, 1)$ such that

$$E_{\mathcal{T}_0 = \mathcal{T}} [V(\mathcal{T}_1)] \leq \lambda V(\mathcal{T}) \quad \text{for all } \mathcal{T} \in A^c,$$

\Rightarrow for any $\mathcal{T} \in \mathbb{T}_L$, $P_{\mathcal{T}}(\tau_A \geq t) \leq \lambda^t V(\mathcal{T})$ for all $t \in \mathbb{N}$

Drift condition = Entering condition: Entering to A would not be too late!

Drift Condition



For $\mathcal{T}^* \in \mathbb{T}_L$, define $\tau^* = \min\{t \geq 0 : \mathcal{T}_t = \mathcal{T}^*\}$

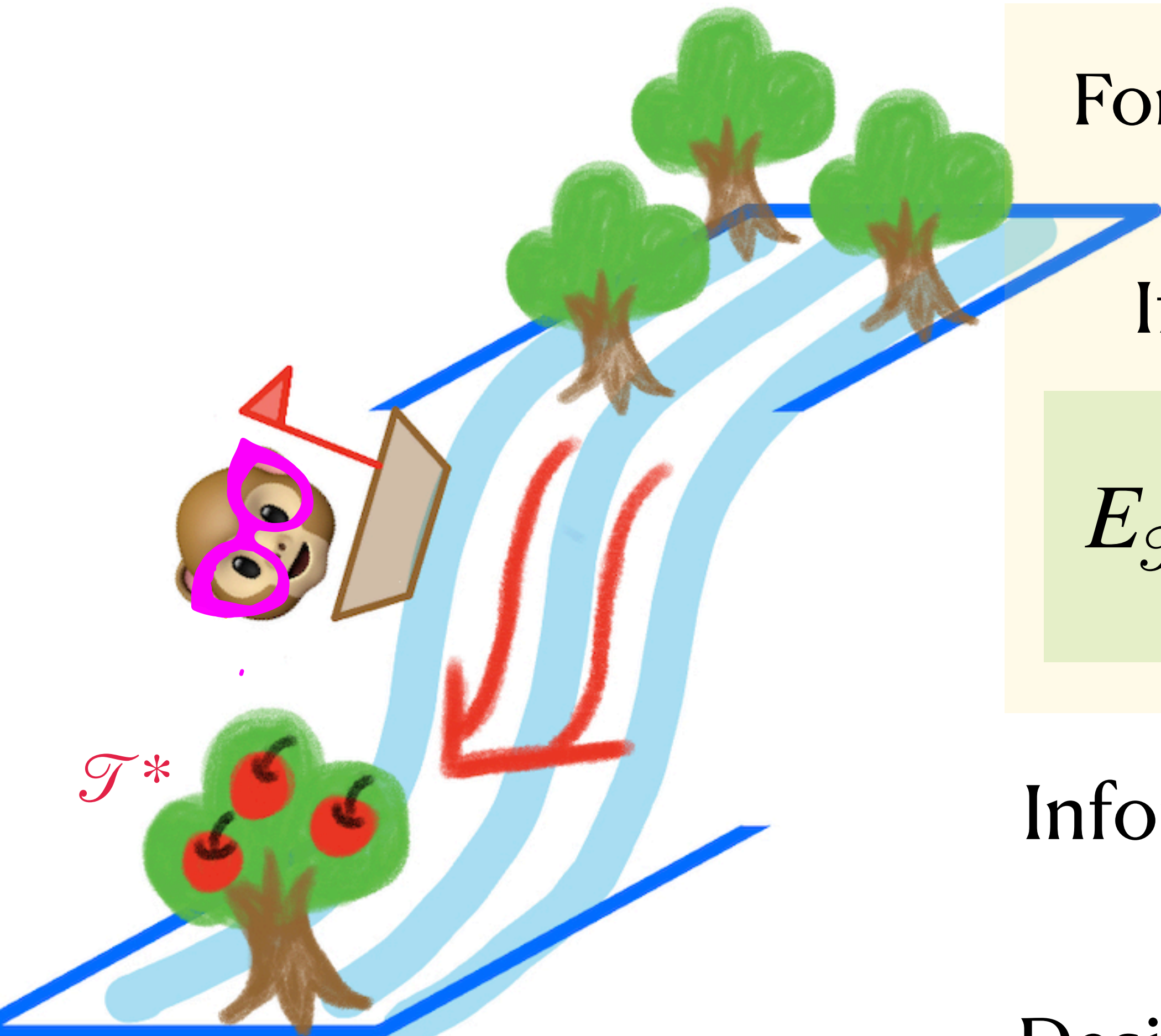
If $\exists V : \mathbb{T}_L \rightarrow [1, \infty)$ and $\exists \lambda \in (0, 1)$ such that

$$E_{\mathcal{T}_0 = \mathcal{T}} [V(\mathcal{T}_1)] \leq \lambda V(\mathcal{T}) \quad \text{for all } \mathcal{T} \neq \mathcal{T}^*,$$

$$\Rightarrow \|P^t(\mathcal{T}, \cdot) - \Pi[\cdot | Y]\|_{TV} \leq 2V(\mathcal{T})\lambda^{t+1} \quad (\text{Jerison, 2016})$$

Drift condition = **Hitting** condition: Hitting \mathcal{T}^* would not be too late!

Drift Condition



For $\mathcal{T}^* \in \mathbb{T}_L$, define $\tau^* = \min\{t \geq 0 : \mathcal{T}_t = \mathcal{T}^*\}$

If $\exists V : \mathbb{T}_L \rightarrow [1, \infty)$ and $\exists \lambda \in (0, 1)$ such that

$$E_{\mathcal{T}_0 = \mathcal{T}} [V(\mathcal{T}_1)] \leq \lambda V(\mathcal{T}) \quad \text{for all } \mathcal{T} \neq \mathcal{T}^*,$$

Informed Algorithm:

$$\pi(\mathcal{T} | Y) \ll \ll \pi(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} | Y)$$

Design intension for V :

If $\tilde{\mathcal{T}}$ is a desired movement, $V(\mathcal{T}) \gg \gg V(\tilde{\mathcal{T}})$

Our Drift Functions

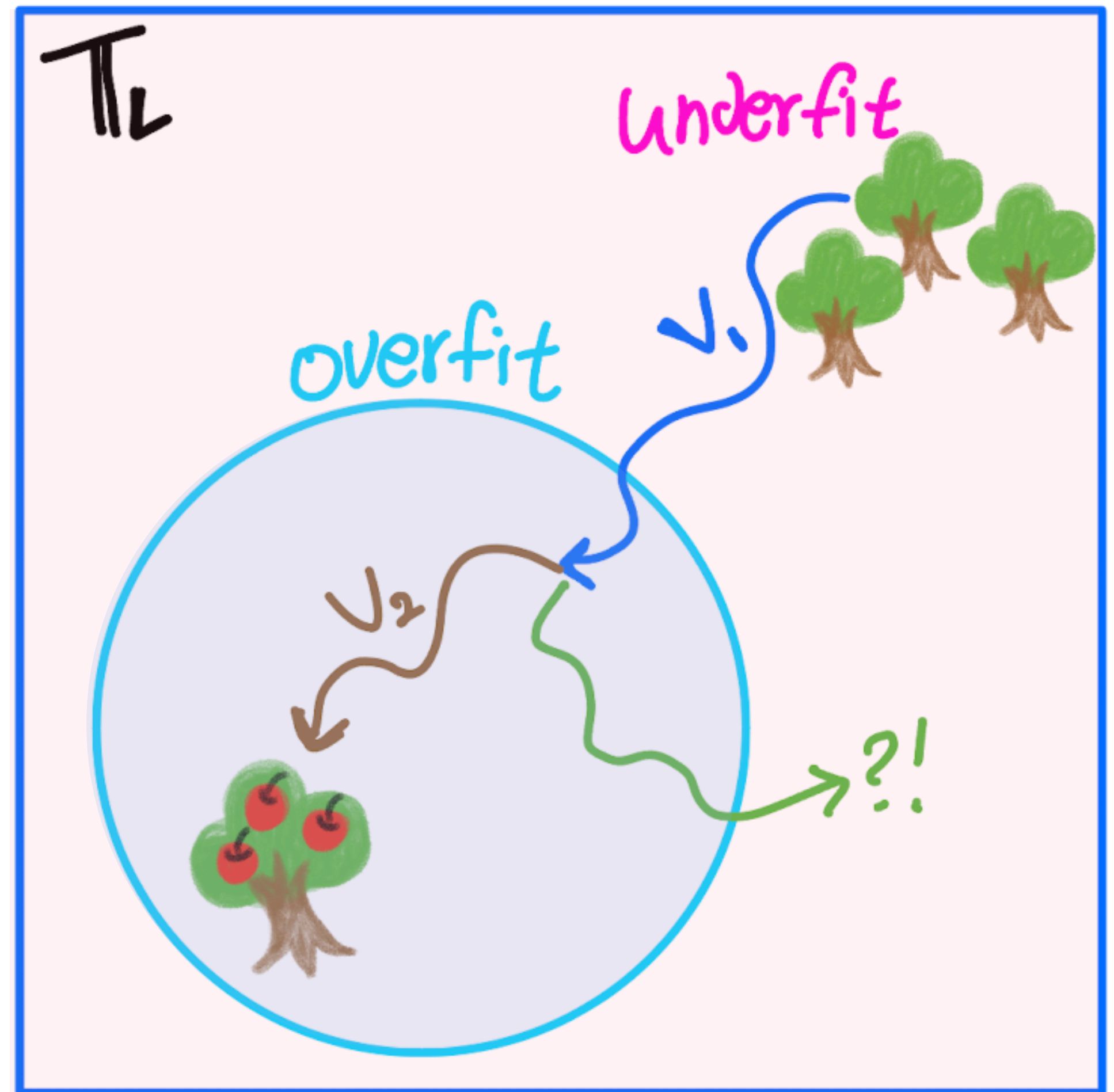
Two drift condition (Zhou et al., 2021)

$$V_1(\mathcal{T}) = \exp \left\{ \frac{1}{C_{f_0}^2 n^2 / 2} \left(Y^T (I - P_{\mathcal{T}} / n) Y \right) \right\}$$

=> **Escape underfit!**

$$V_2(\mathcal{T}) = \begin{cases} \exp \left\{ |\mathcal{T}_{int} \setminus \mathcal{T}_{int}^*| / 2^L \right\} & \text{if } \mathcal{T} \text{ overfits} \\ \exp \left\{ 1 - |\mathcal{T}_{int}^*| / 2^L \right\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

=> **Escape overfit!**



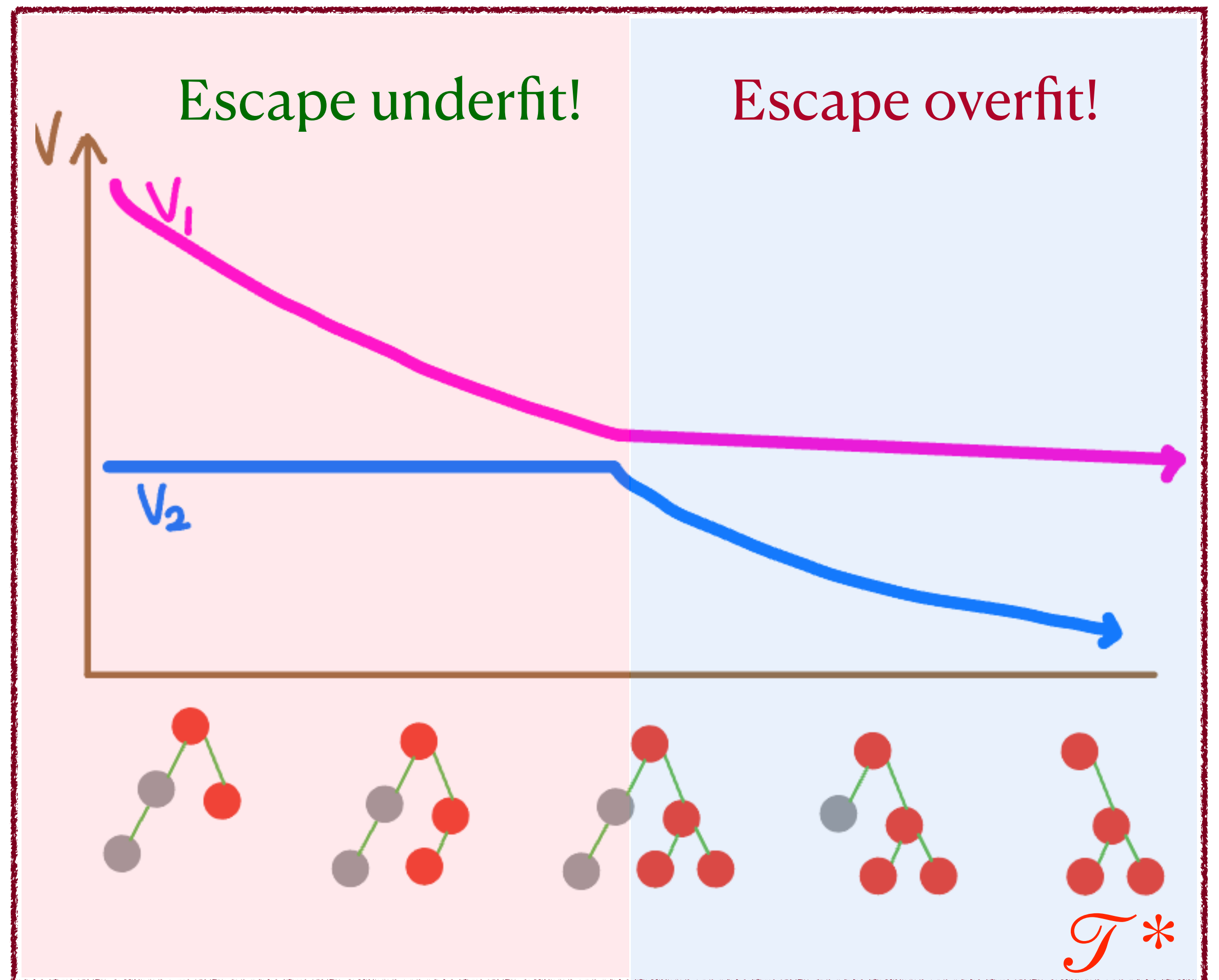
Our Drift Functions

$$V_1(\mathcal{T}) = \exp \left\{ \frac{1}{C_{f_0}^2 n^2 / 2} \left(Y^T (I - P_{\mathcal{T}} / n) Y \right) \right\}$$

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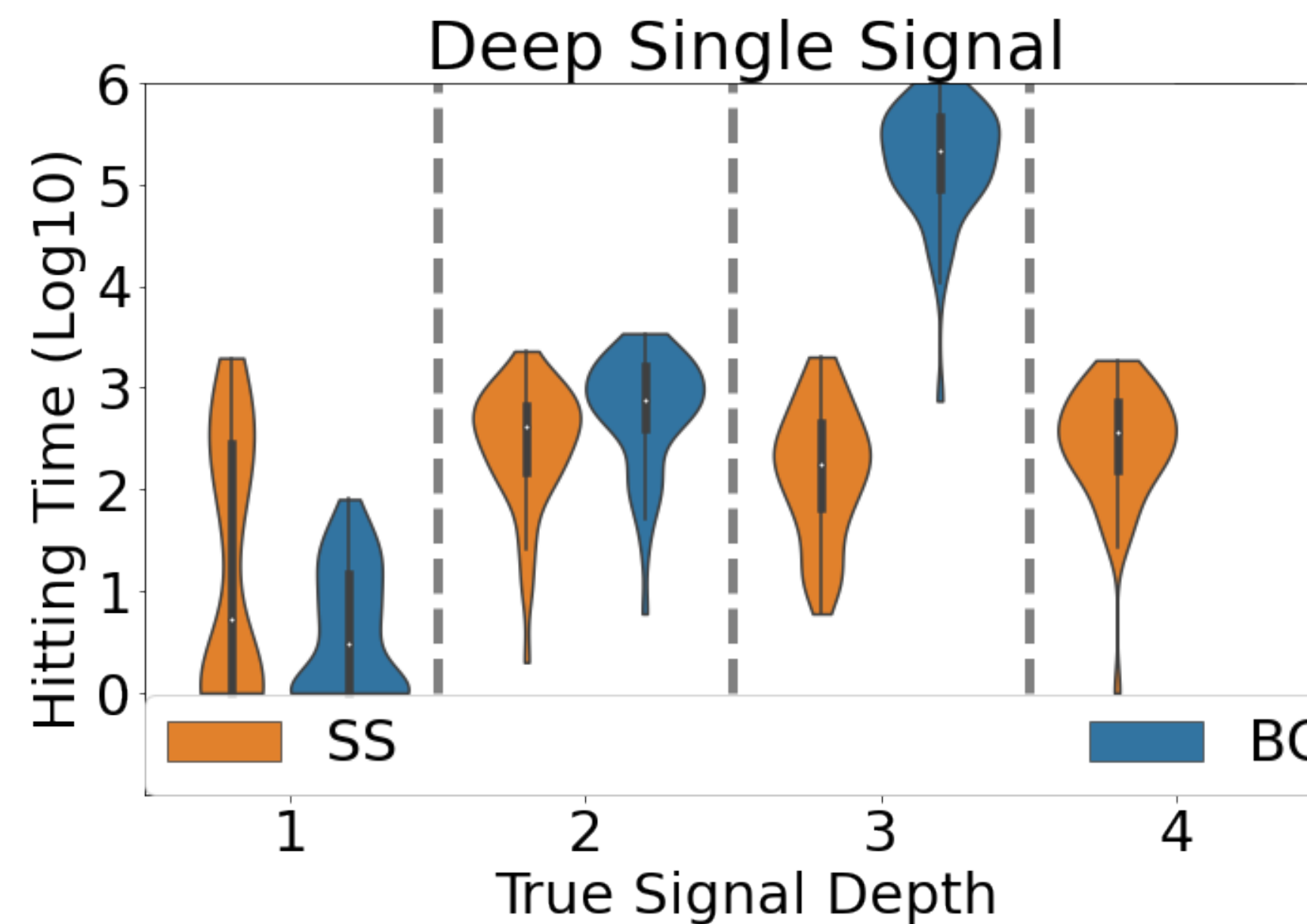
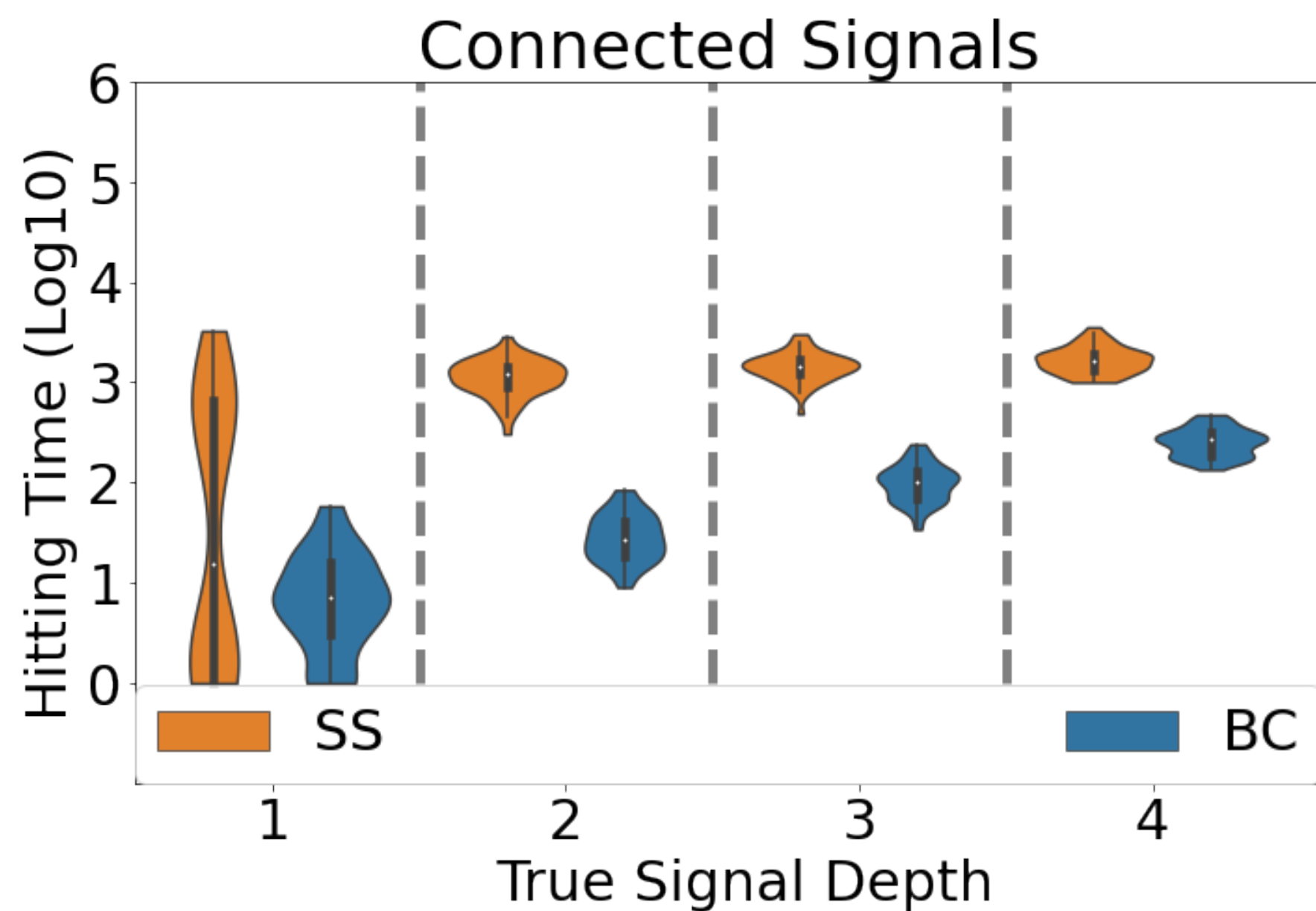
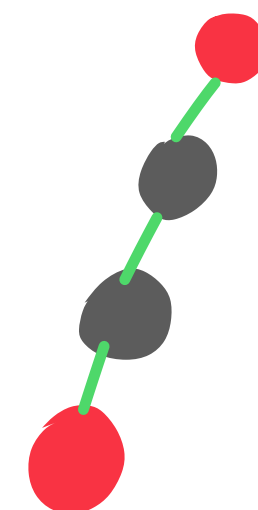
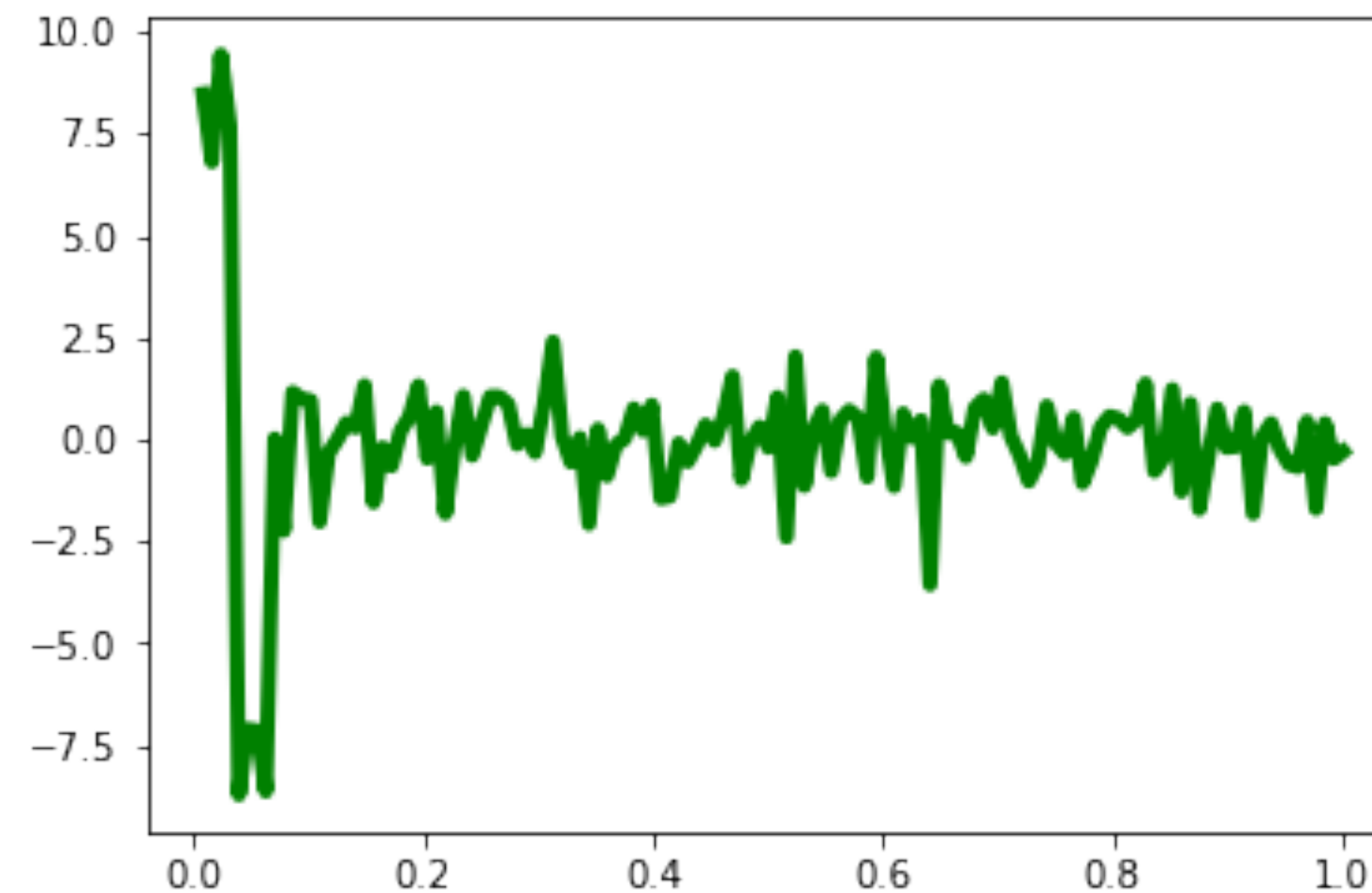
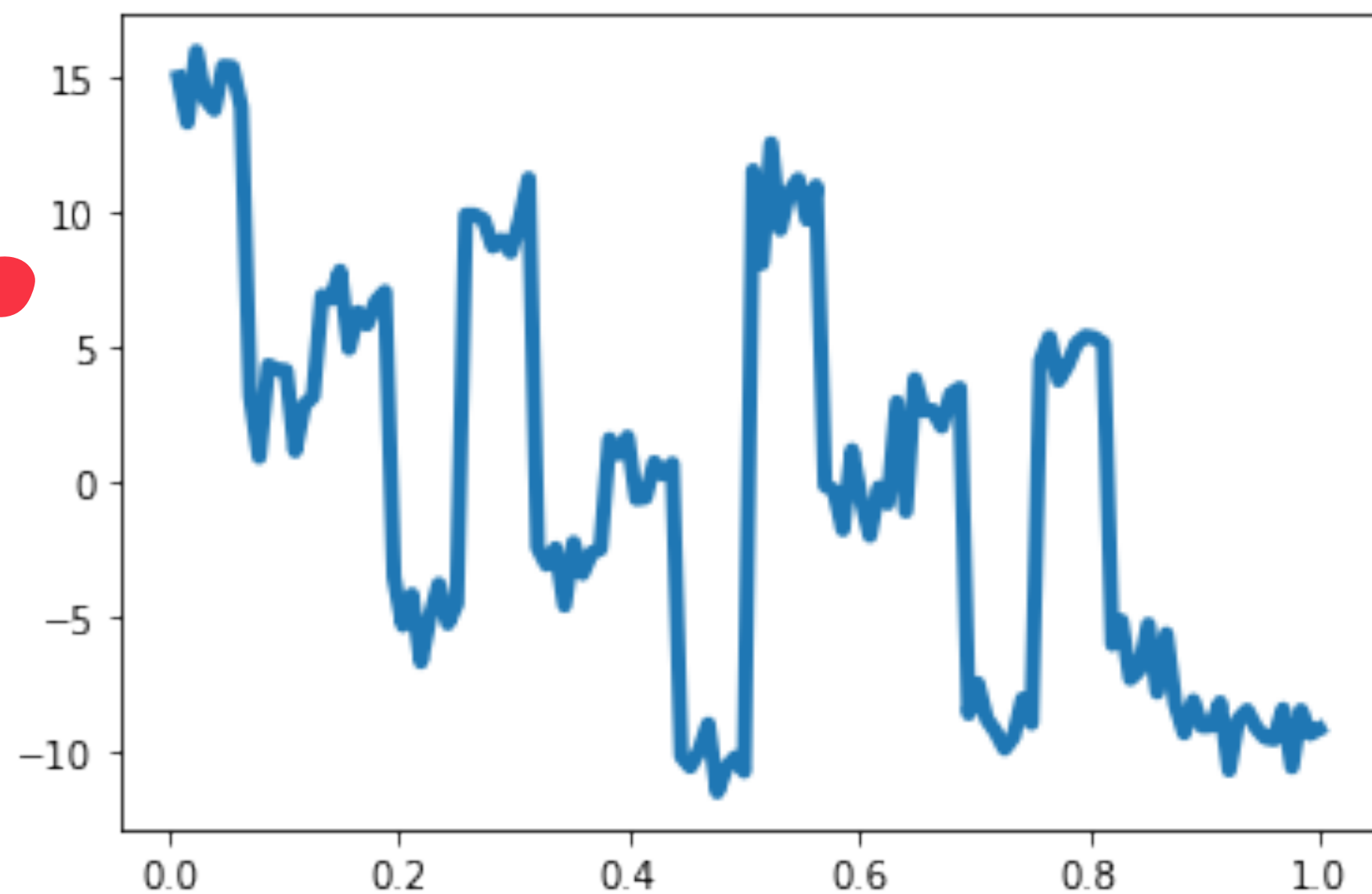
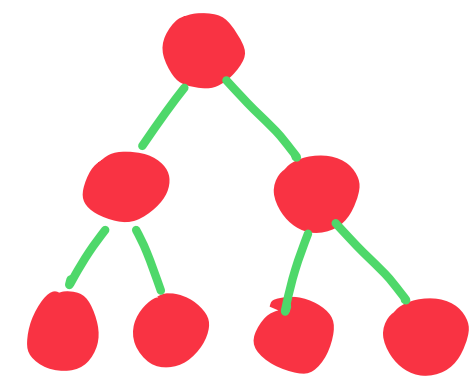
=> **Escape overfit!**



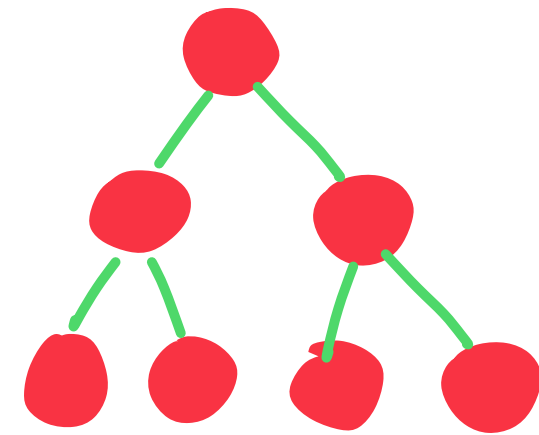
We apply two drift condition of Zhou (2021)

Experiment

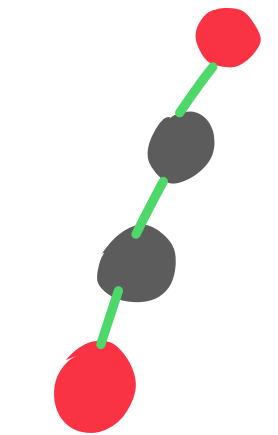
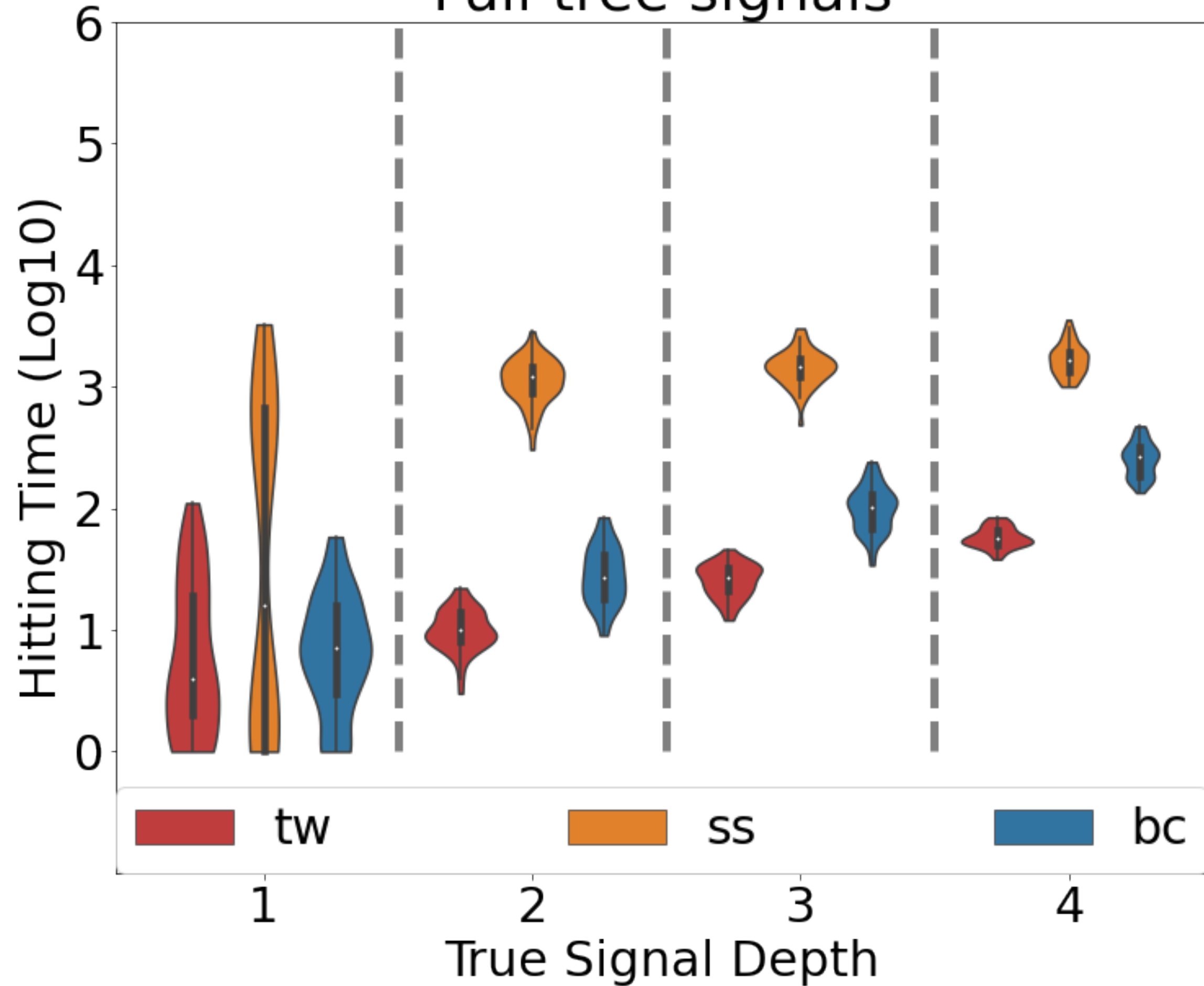
Performance of Original Proposal



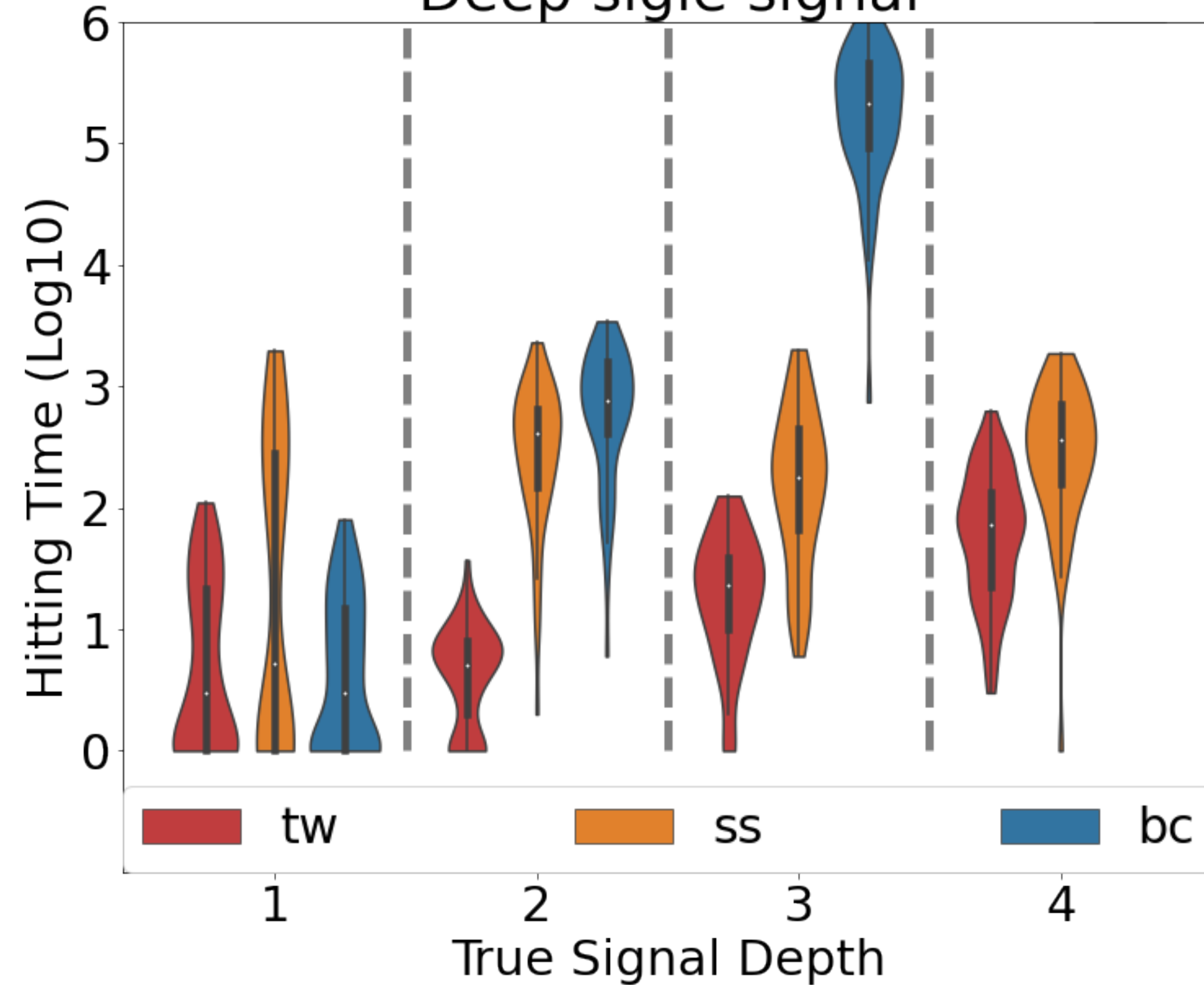
Improvement of **Twiggy** Proposal



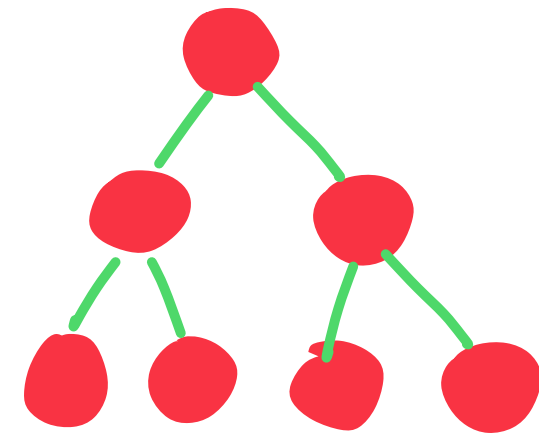
Full tree signals



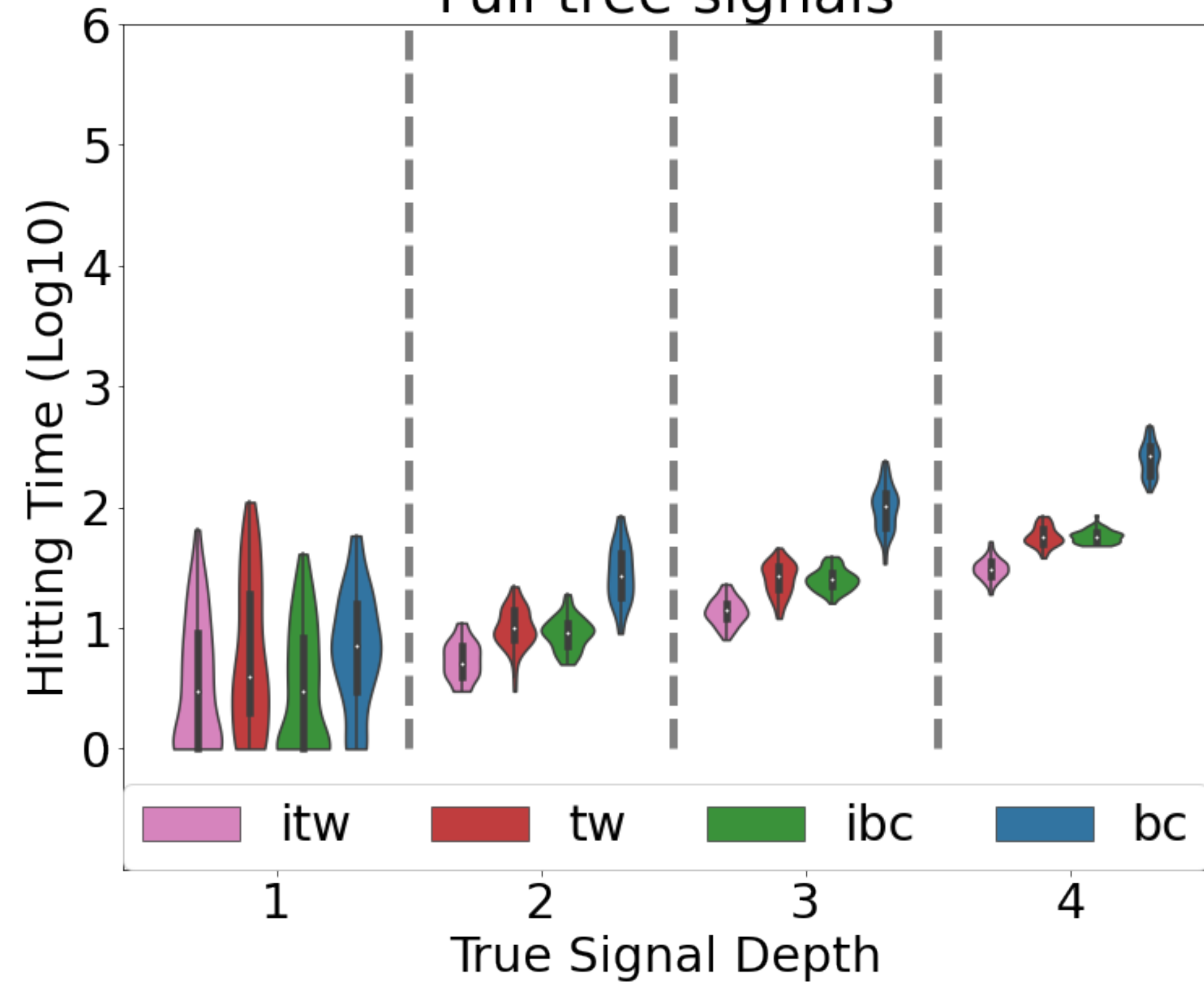
Deep single signal



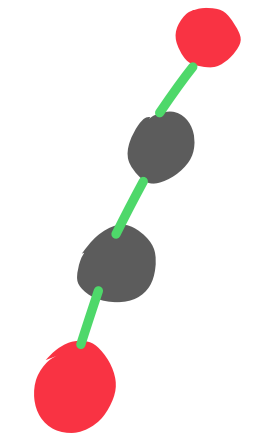
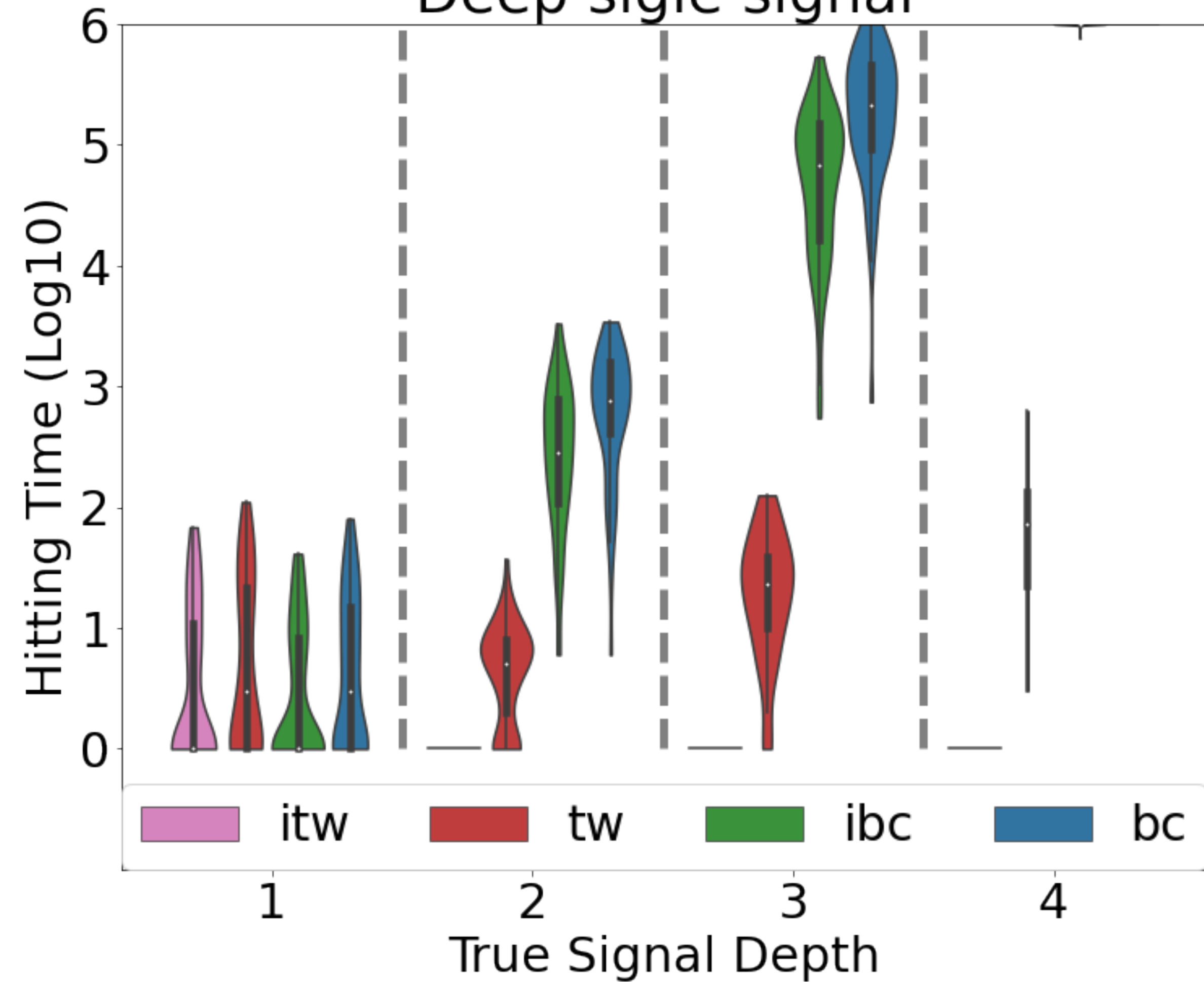
Improvement of Informed Proposal



Full tree signals

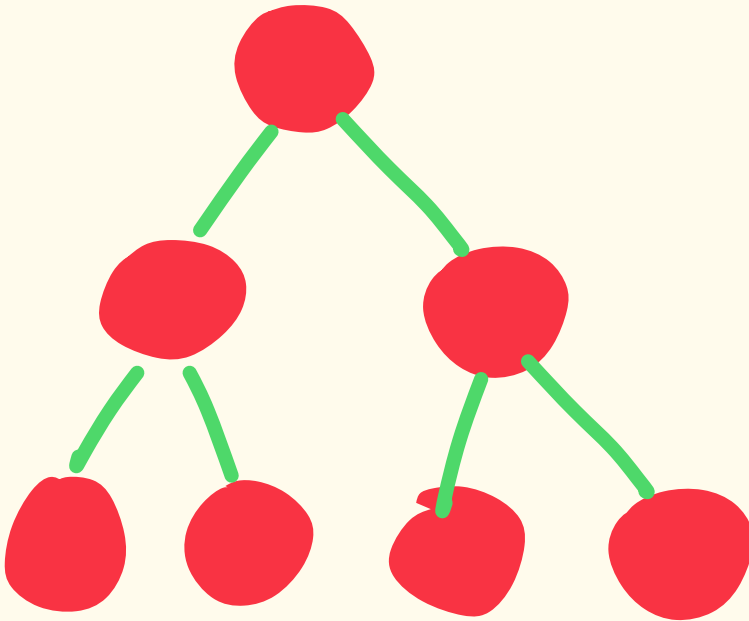


Deep sigle signal

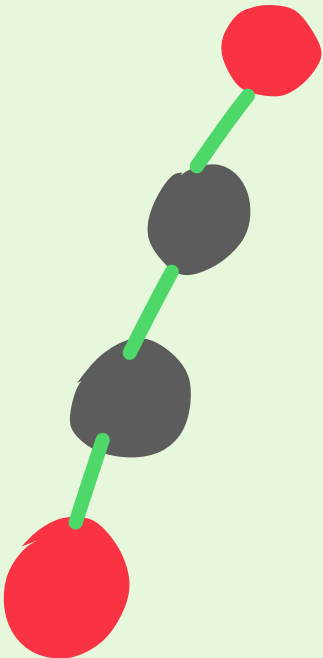


Our Contribution

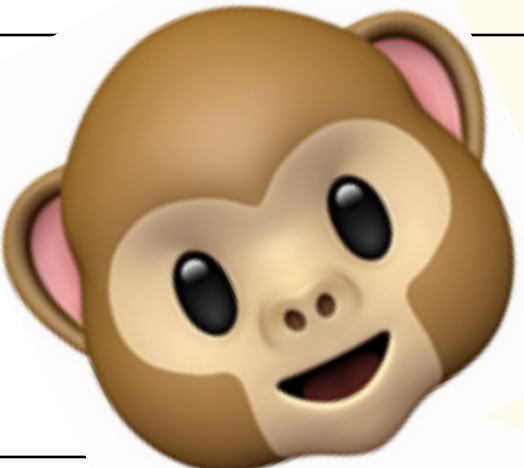
Type A



Type A^c



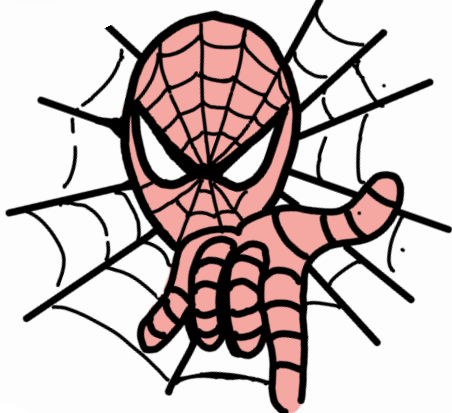
Original Movement



Rapid

Slow

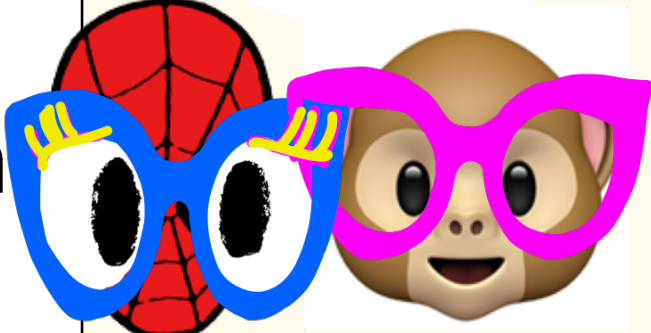
New Movement



Rapid

Rapid

Informed Movement

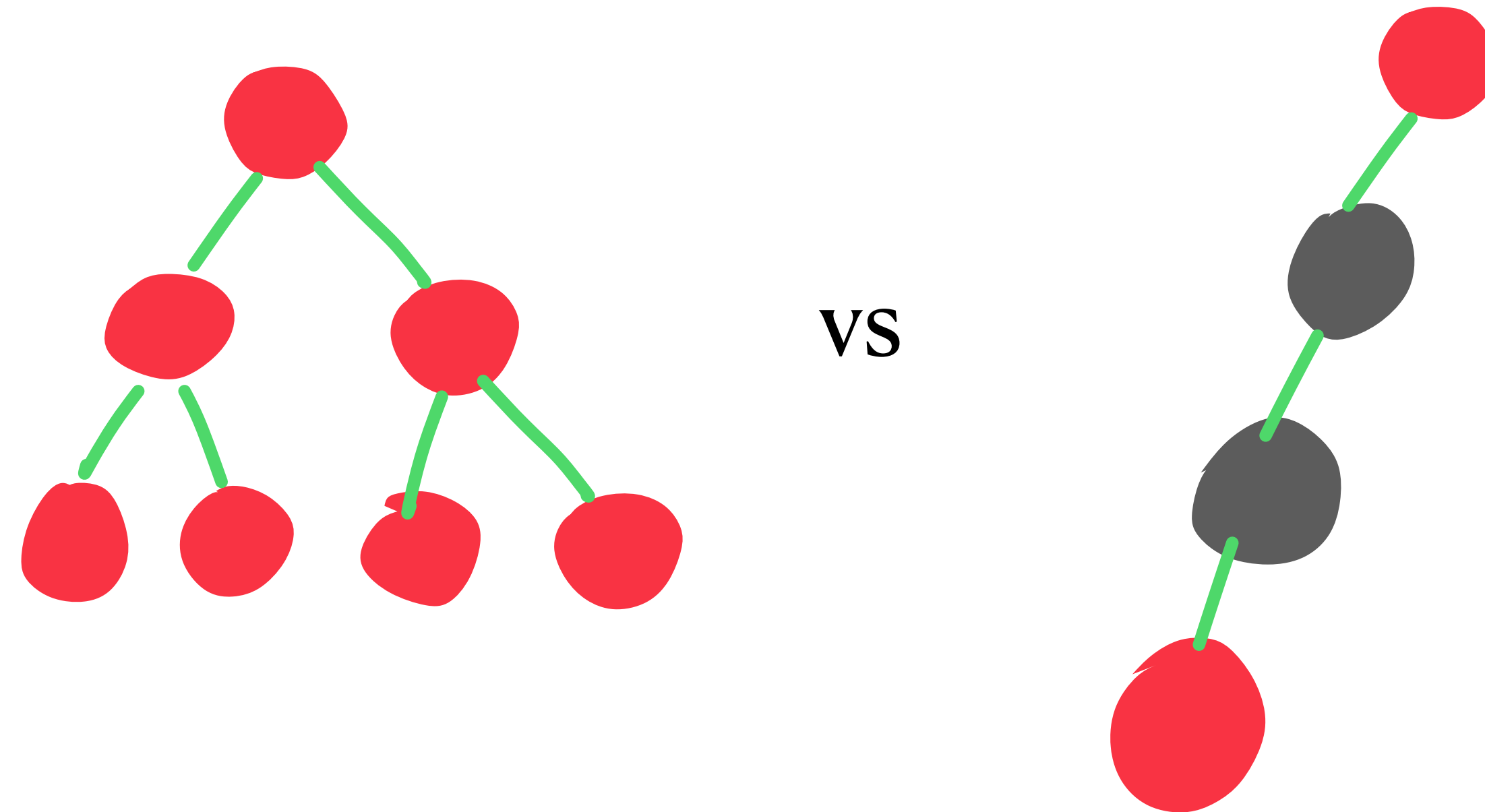


Improvement

Improvement?

Today's key message

1. GROW, PRUNE: **myopic** → The mixing depends on the data structure

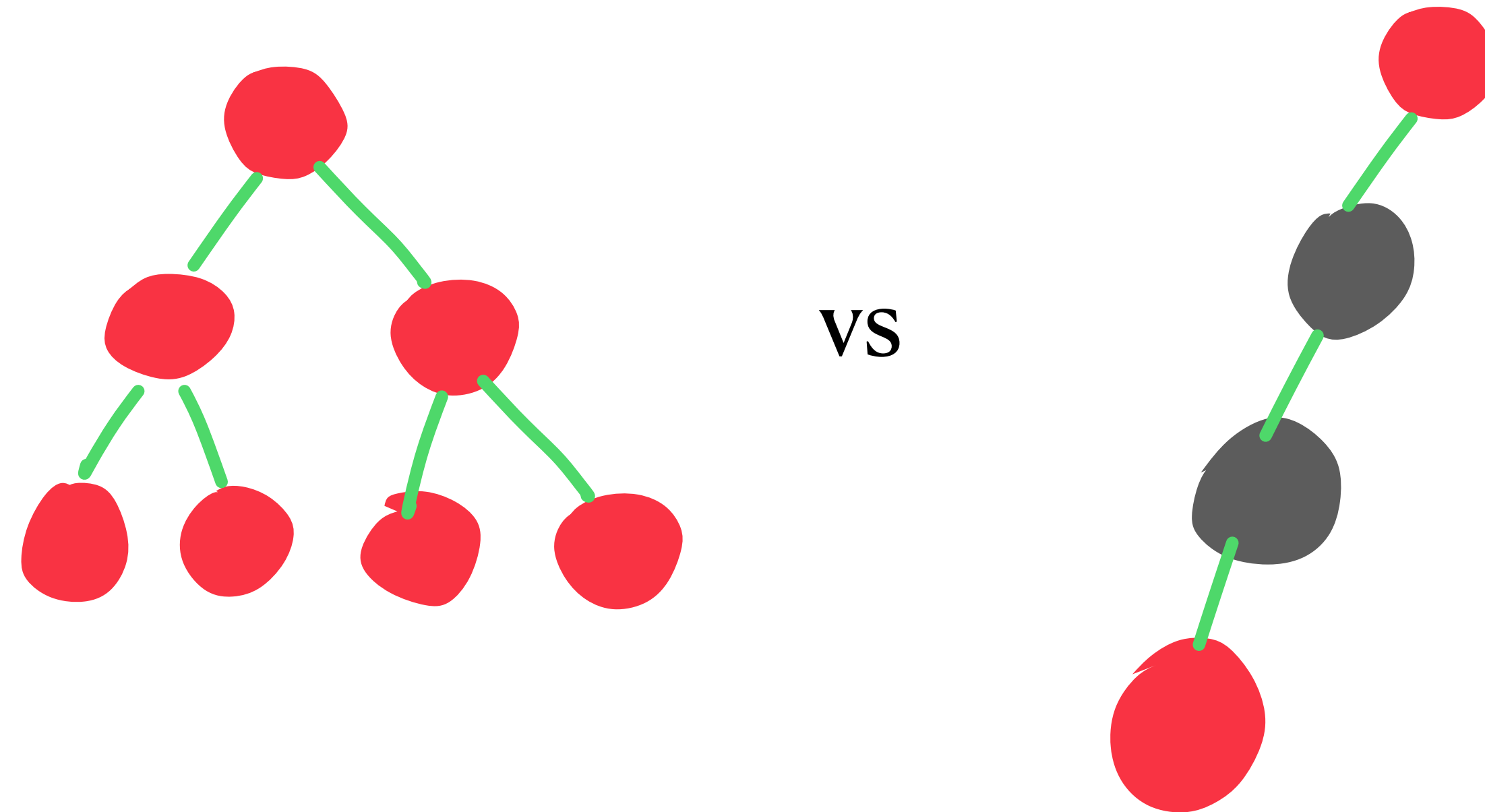


2. We may need more **global** movements
3. We may also need to **open the eyes** when moving (**Informed** MCMC)

Today's key message



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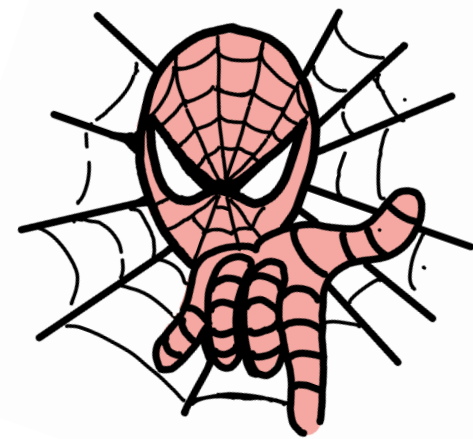
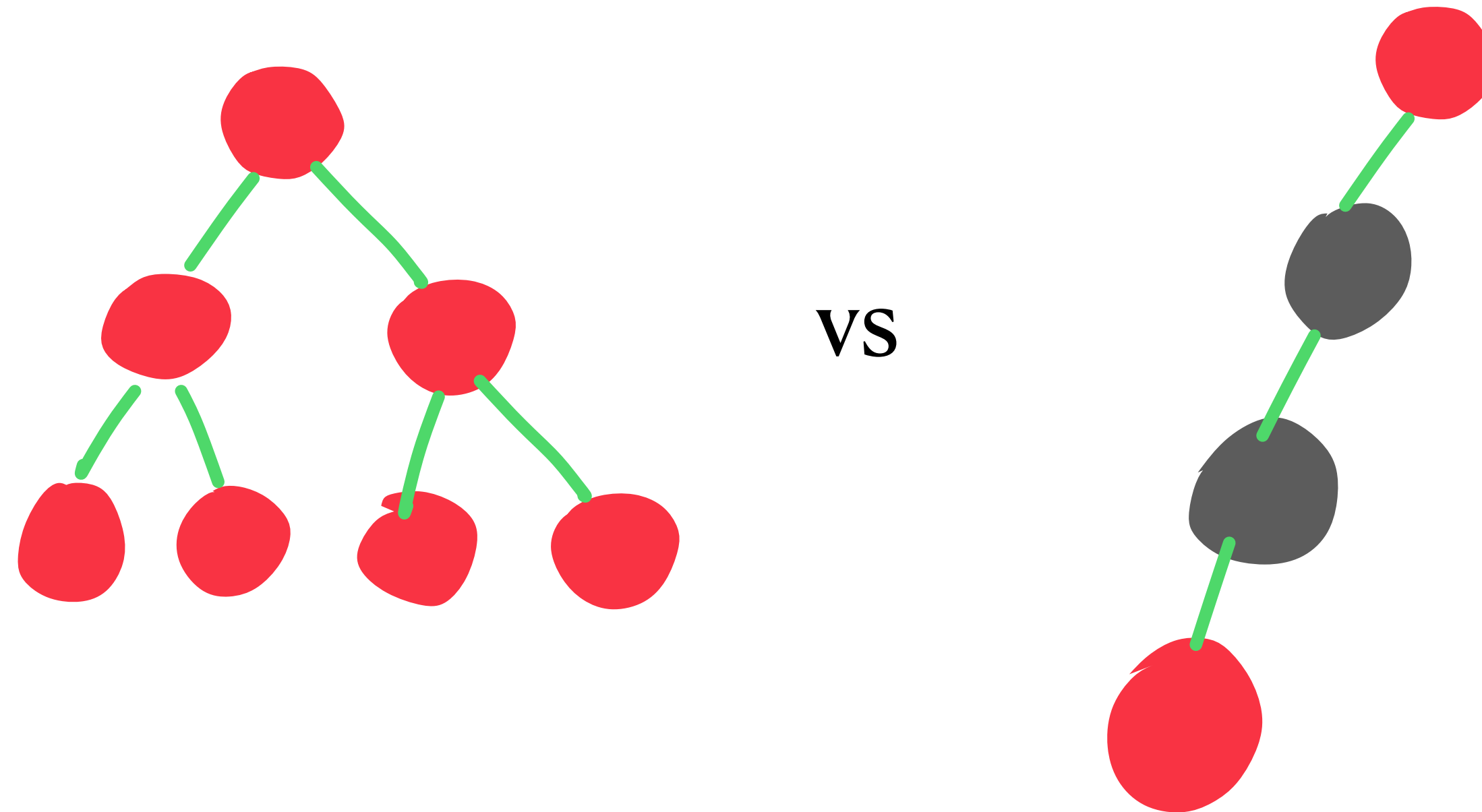


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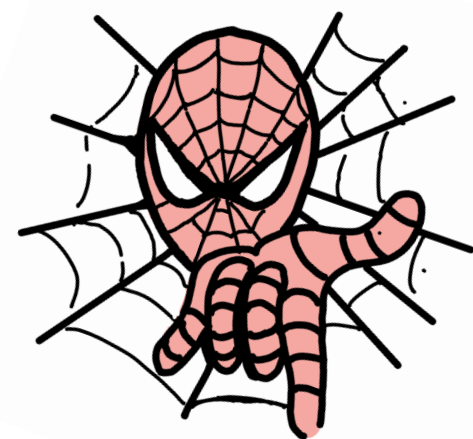
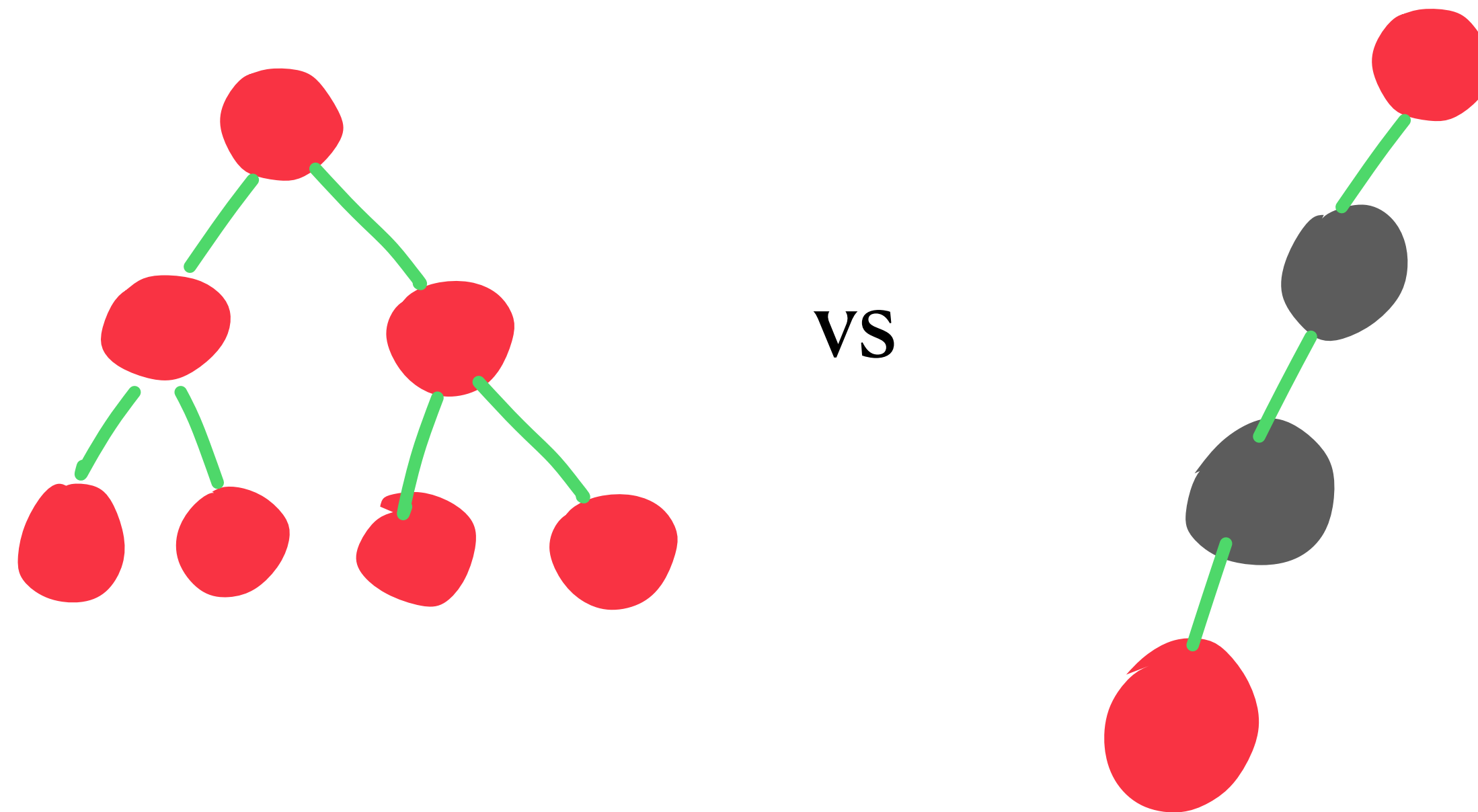
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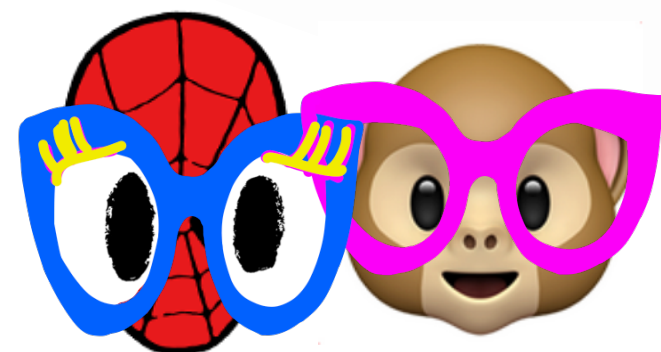
Today's key message



1. GROW, PRUNE: **myopic** → The mixing depends on the data structure



2. We may need more **global** movements



3. We may also need to **open the eyes** when moving (**Informed MCMC**)

Acknowledgement:

Joint work with Dr. Veronika Rockova

Thank you!



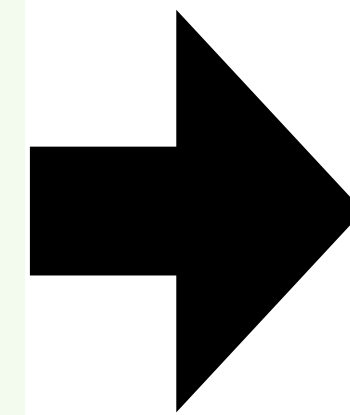
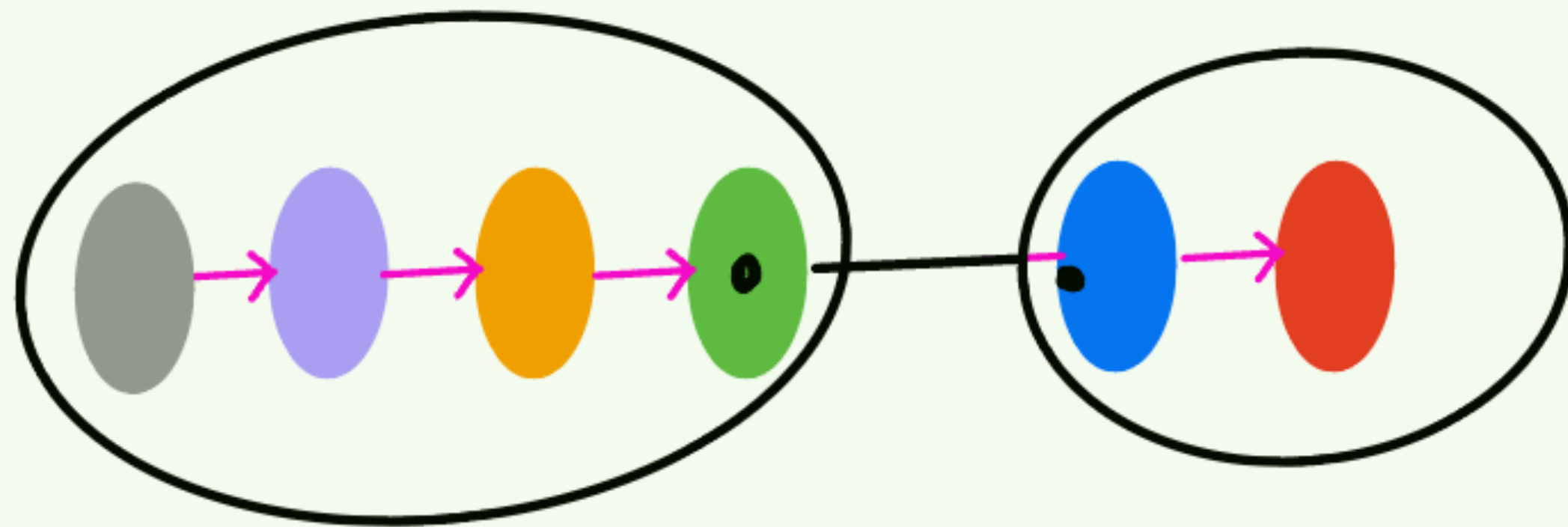
On Mixing Rates for Bayesian CART (EJS 2025)

Why **Not** Drift Conditions for **Original B-CART**?

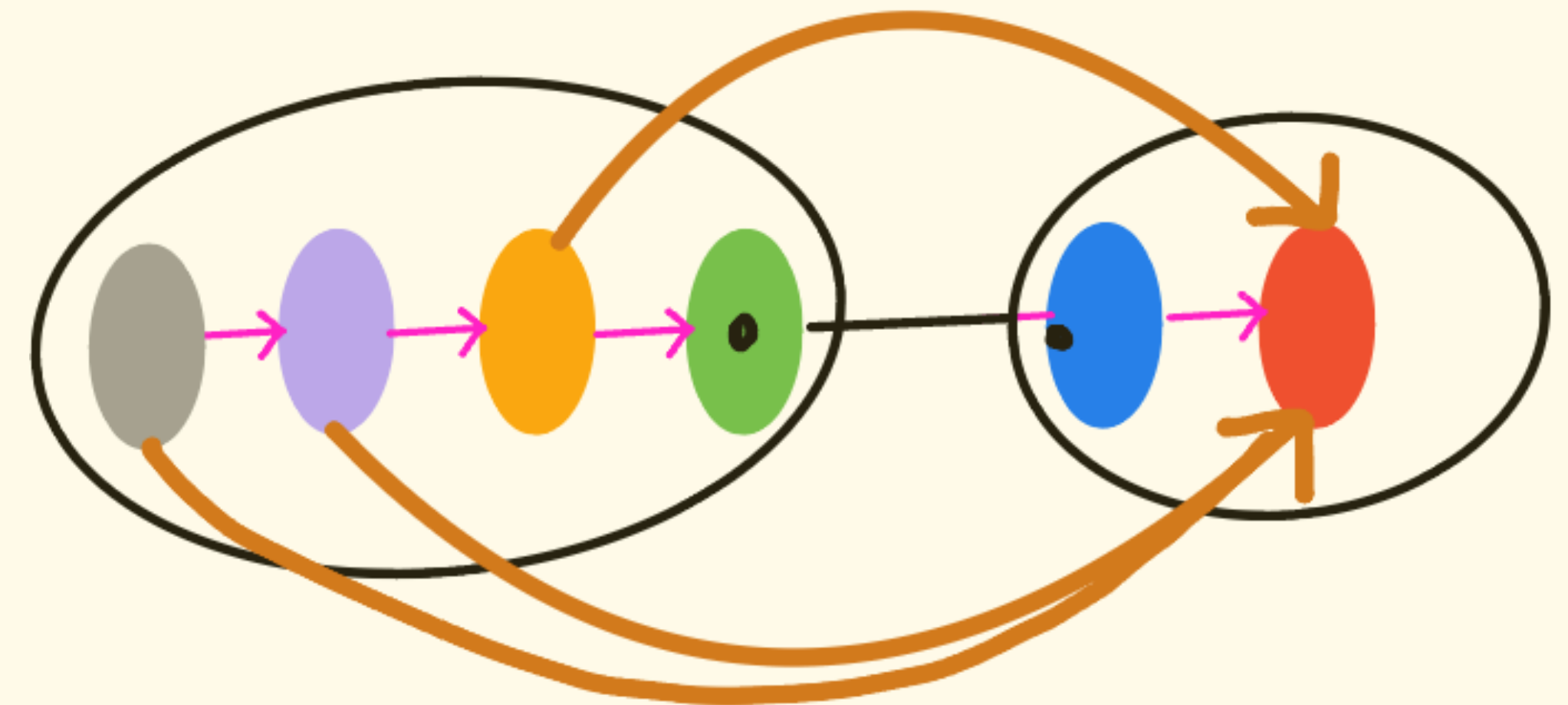
$$\begin{aligned} E_{\mathcal{T}_0=\mathcal{T}} \left[\frac{V(\mathcal{T}_1)}{V(\mathcal{T})} \right] &= 1 + \sum_{m \in [\text{Grow}, \text{Prune}]} \sum_{\tilde{\mathcal{T}} \in N_m(\mathcal{T})} \left(\frac{V(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} | Y)}{V(\mathcal{T} | Y)} - 1 \right) P(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} | \mathcal{T}) \\ &\geq 1 + \sum_{V(\tilde{\mathcal{T}}) < V(\mathcal{T})} \left(\frac{V(\tilde{\mathcal{T}} | Y)}{V(\mathcal{T} | Y)} - 1 \right) S(\mathcal{T} \rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{T}}) \end{aligned}$$

Twiggy effect

Bottleneck
made by B-CART moves



Bottleneck
broken by Twiggy moves



Two Drift Conditions

Zhou et al (2022)

For $A \subset \mathcal{T}_L$ and $\mathcal{T}^* \in A$,

if $\exists V_1, V_2 : \mathcal{T}_L \rightarrow [1, \infty)$ and $\exists \lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in (0, 1)$ such that

$$(PV_1)(\mathcal{T}) \leq \lambda_1 V_1(\mathcal{T}) \quad \text{for all } \mathcal{T} \in A^c,$$

$$(PV_2)(\mathcal{T}) \leq \lambda_2 V_2(\mathcal{T}) \quad \text{for all } \mathcal{T} \in A \setminus \mathcal{T}^*.$$

With some additional **regularity conditions** on V_1 and V_2 ,

$$\|P^t(\mathcal{T}, \cdot) - \pi\|_{TV} \leq 4\alpha(\lambda_1, \lambda_2)^{t+1} \left(1 + \frac{V_1(\mathcal{T})}{M} \right),$$

where $\alpha(\lambda_1, \lambda_2)$ is an increasing function of λ_1 and λ_2

Two Drift Conditions

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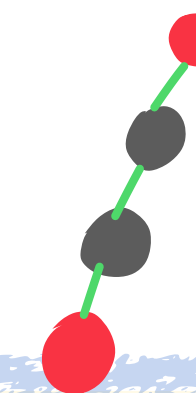
$$E_{\mathcal{T}_0=\mathcal{T}}[V_2(\mathcal{T}_1)] \leq \lambda_2 V_2(\mathcal{T}) \quad \text{for all } \mathcal{T} \in A \setminus \mathcal{T}^*.$$

With some additional **regularity conditions** on V_1 and V_2 ,

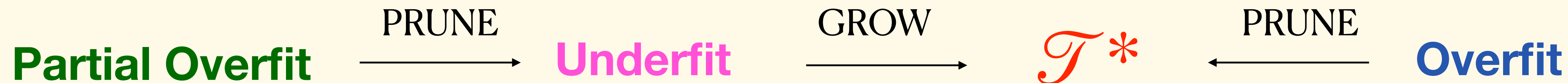
$$\|P^t(\mathcal{T}, \cdot) - \pi\|_{TV} \leq 4\alpha(\lambda_1, \lambda_2)^{t+1} \left(1 + \frac{V_1(\mathcal{T})}{M} \right),$$

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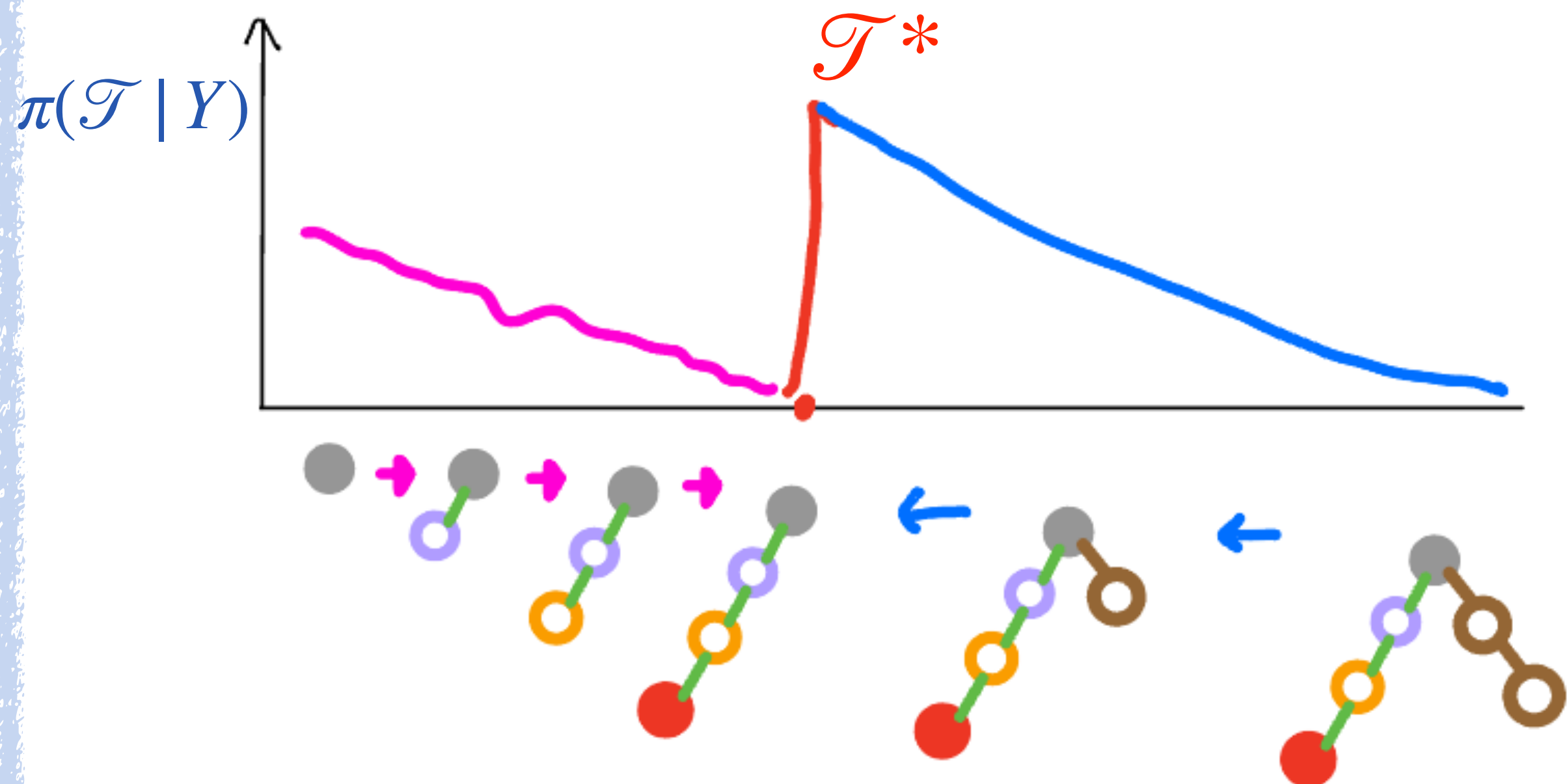
Canonical Path (Sinclair, 1992)



Our Canonical Path



Posterior Shaping



Exponential Lower Bound

