

Is this the most boring experiment ever? Scientists watch drops of pitch form - and there have been eight in 75 years

- Experiment began in 1927 to prove pitch is a liquid
- In 75 years, just EIGHT drops have fallen
- The rate is slowing, and last drop fell 12 years ago
- Current custodian has watched since 60s - but has missed all five drops that have fallen
- Drop 'could' fall this year, but 2013 'is a better bet'

By [ROB WAUGH](#)

PUBLISHED: 13:34, 11 May 2012 | **UPDATED:** 08:40, 12 May 2012

[Comments \(51\)](#) | [Share](#)  +1  14 [Tweet](#)  Like  429

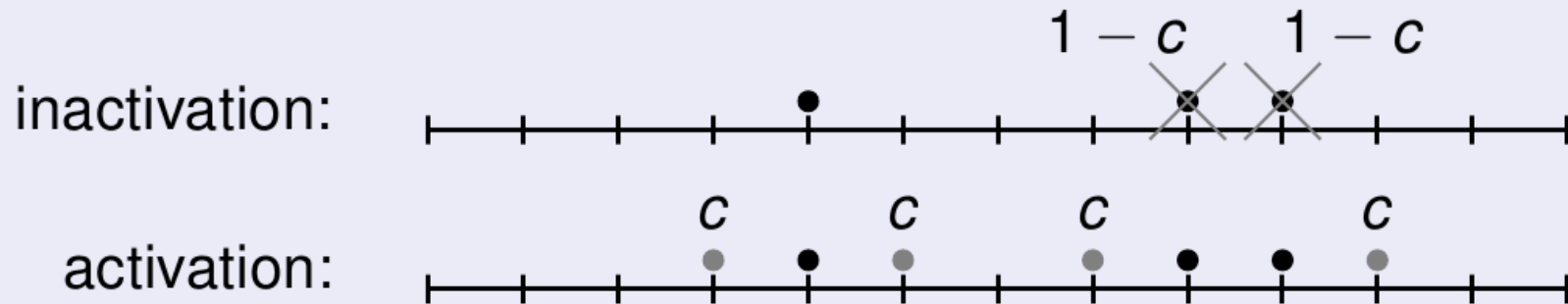
It's the world's longest-running experiment - and the very, very patient scientists in charge are waiting for a single drop of pitch to fall, 12 YEARS after the last one fell.

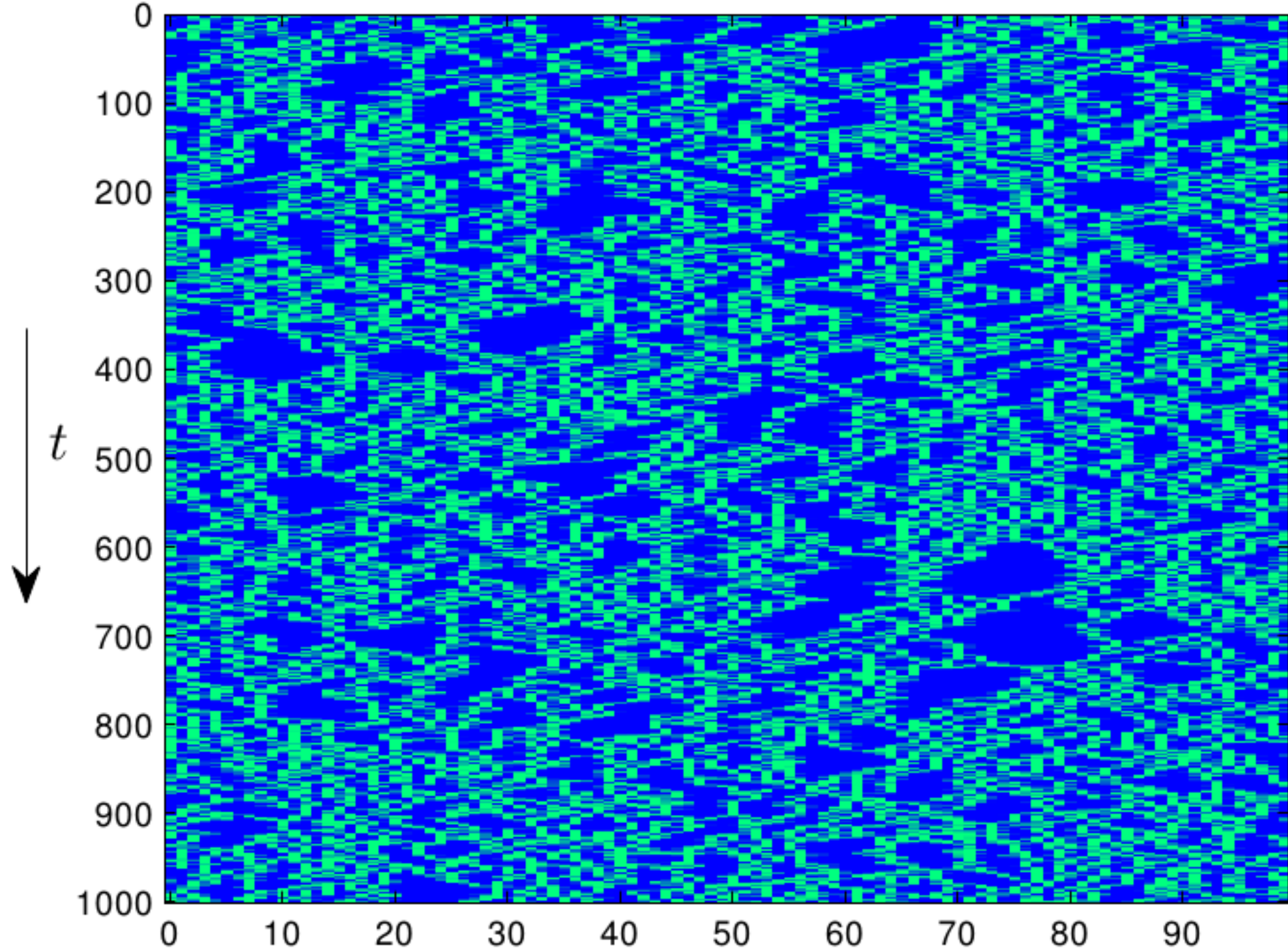
The 'pitch drop' experiment began in 1927 and was designed to show that solid-looking pitch was, in fact, a liquid.

The experiment has been running now for 85 years and it is estimated that it will last for another century.

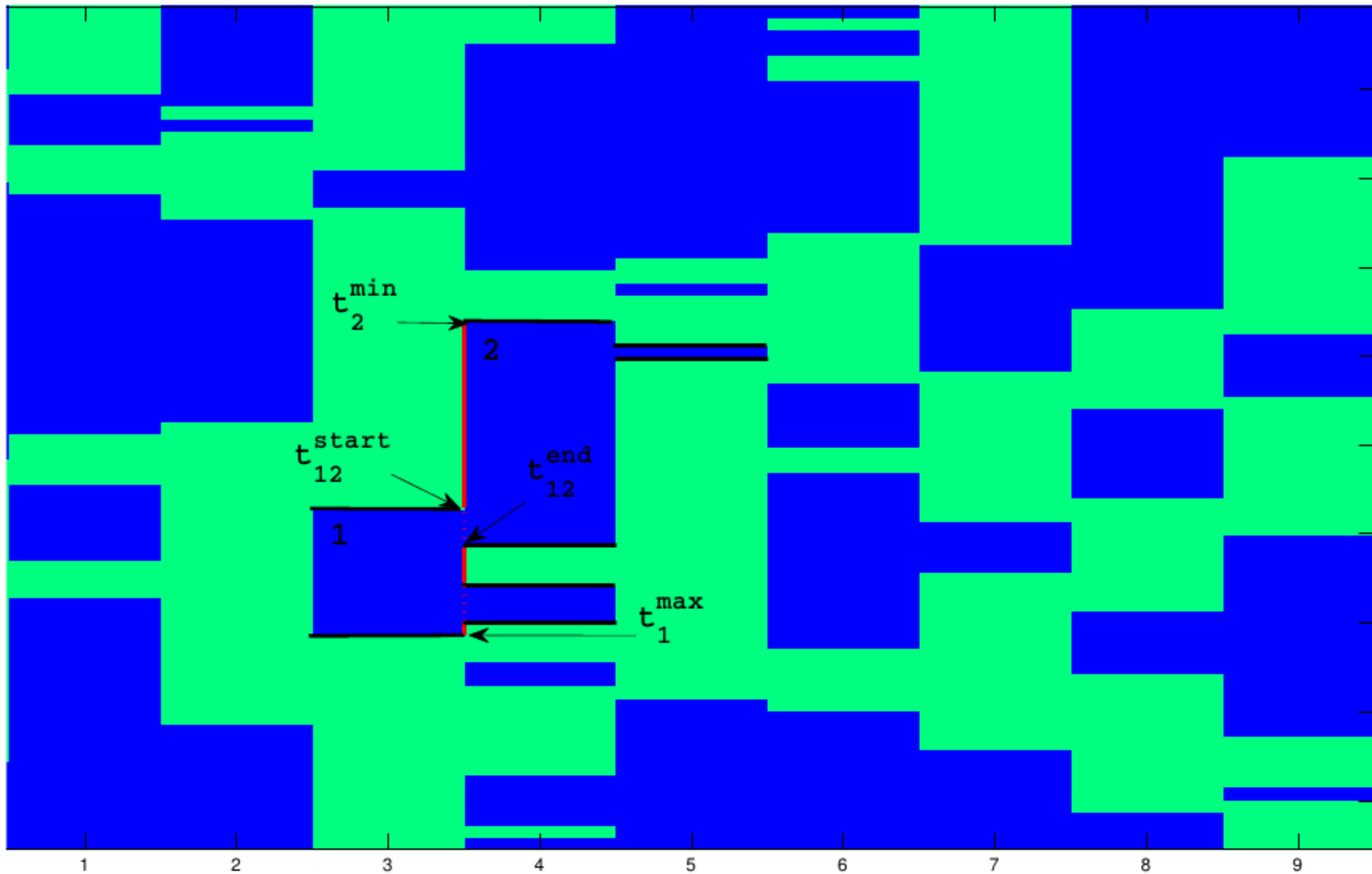
Fredrickson Andersen model in 1D

at least one neighbor of i must be active to allow i to change





[simulations by A. Leos Zamorategui]



[simulations by A. Leos Zamorategui]

Part II –

EVALUATION OF LARGE DEVIATION FUNCTIONS POPULATION DYNAMICS ALGORITHM

Outline:

1- Operator formalism & $\psi(s)$ as a max. eigenvalue

1.a Generic observable

1.b The simplest case: the dynamical activity K

2- Evaluating $\psi(s)$ through a “cloning algorithm”

2.a Rewriting the evolution in terms of a population dynamics

2.b Implementation in continuous time

2.c Implementation in discrete time