

# HOW TO STORE THE BLUEPRINT



CONTOUR LENGTH  $L_C$

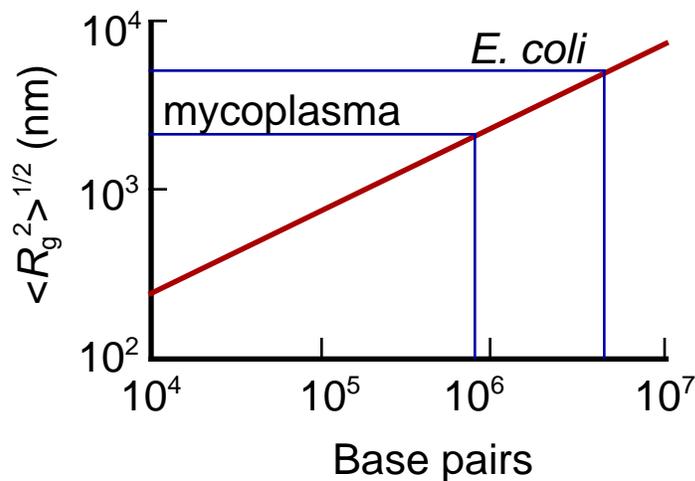
RANDOM WALK



SIZE OF RANDOM WALK SCALES LIKE  $(\xi_p L_C)^{1/2}$

$\xi_p$  = PERSISTENCE LENGTH = 53 nm

$L_C$  = [# GENES] x [1000 bp] x 0.34 nm  
(CODING REGION)



ESTIMATED SMALLEST VIABLE CELL HAS  
250 GENES =  $2.5 \times 10^5$  bp

EARLY CELLS MAY HAVE USED A MORE FLEXIBLE  
BLUEPRINT THAN DNA