

Figure 39. The map-improvement principle

at  $T_0$ , and falls monotonically to the right. This picture is precisely equivalent to the above formulation, viz., appearing on a map, each correct feature does not vanish, whereas each incorrect one vanishes sooner or later if we discover that it does not correspond to reality (see Fig. 40).

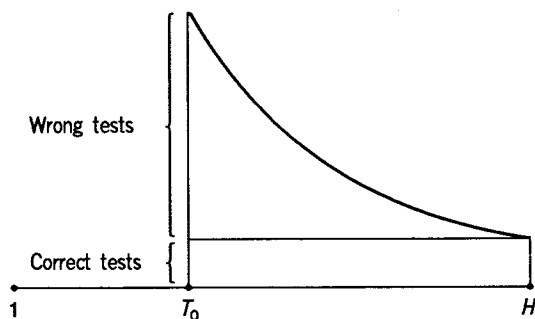


Figure 40. Evolution of correct and incorrect features for geographic maps

The collection of the graphs of  $L(T_0, T)$  can be conveniently organized into a square matrix  $L\{T\}$  (see Fig. 41) if  $T_0$  is the number of the rows, and  $T$  of the columns.

In the case of the maps ordered chronologically correctly,  $L\{T\}$  should be of the following form, viz., the absolute maxima of each row are on the principal diagonal, the graph decreasing monotonically along each row and column. That the  $L(T_0, T)$  decrease with respect to the columns (as the numbers  $T_0$  decrease) means that each map fixes the fewer incorrect features the more ancient they are.

Certainly, in the real situation,  $L\{T\}$  can be remote from the theoretical matrix