

In typically playful fashion, he summarised the mathematical mechanism he sought (italics added): “Unstable equilibrium is not ... a condition which occurs very naturally. .. Since systems tend to leave unstable equilibria they cannot often be in them. *Such equilibria can, however, occur naturally through a stable equilibrium changing into an unstable one.* For example, if a rod is hanging from a point a little above its centre of gravity it will be in stable equilibrium. If, however, a mouse climbs up the rod the equilibrium eventually becomes unstable and the rod starts to swing. ... The system which was originally discussed ... might be supposed to correspond to the mouse somehow reaching the top of the pendulum without disaster, perhaps by falling vertically on to it.” Turing, Alan. M (1952), [*The Chemical Basis of Morphogenesis*](#), Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, Series B, Vol. 237, pp. 37-72