Dynamic of isotropic active gels



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Spontaneous flow transition in active polar gels

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Bioinspired soft active matter



Cytoplasmic streaming in *Drosophila* oocyte

goal: use efficient energy transducing proteins to assemble biomimetic non-equilibrium materials from the bottom-up

Building blocks

Microtubules





microns long rigid filaments
stabilized with GMCPP depletion effect: attractive interactions with tunable strength and range

bundling dynamics visualized with darkfield microscopy



Measuring filament cohesion energy



Third component: kinesin motors

kinesin

 kinesin convert energy from ATP hydrolysis to move along MT





bound into multimeric clusters.

Needlec, Surrey, Leibler, 1998, 2001



Third component: kinesin motors

kinesin

 kinesin convert energy from ATP hydrolysis to move along MT



biotin labeled kinesin bound into multimeric clusters.

Needlec, Surrey, Leibler, 1998, 2001



bundle geometry increases filament sliding efficiency

Isolated active MT bundles

Dilute active MT bundle observed with darkfield microscopy in quasi 2D confinement



- isolated bundles are static, locally polarity sorted
- bundle recombination reinitializes polarity sorting

Motor driven bundle extension velocity



buckling and fracture of active MT bundles





motor driven extension drives bundle buckling and fracture

Mechanics of internally driven buckling





Buckle extension speed 0.09±0.04 μm/s

Force generation of a buckling bundle



Outline

1. building blocks of microtubule based active matter

microtubules + kinesin clusters + cohesion \rightarrow extensile bundles

structural motif that drives non-equilibrium dynamics of diverse active soft materials

2. bulk isotropic active gels

3. confined active gels

Active MT bundles at high concentration turbulent like steady state





ATP regeneration – dynamics persist for > 24 hrs

1500 μm=

Microscopic MT dynamics? Macroscopic properties of MT active gels?



Microscopic MT dynamics

extension, polarity sorting and buckling

bundle fracture



bundle merging

isotropic active gels – repeating cascades of bundle merging, extension, buckling and fracture

Spontaneous fluid flow





Enhanced and tunable mixing





Enhanced transport and mixing of passive particles

Tunable mean square displacement from sub-diffusive to ballistic

Particles on average do not go anywhere <x(t)>=0

Spontaneous bend instability

What is the appropriate hydrodynamic description of active isotropic gels?



aligned extensile filaments are unstable against bend fluctuations

 $\Leftrightarrow \Leftrightarrow \rightleftharpoons \bigstar \Leftrightarrow \longleftrightarrow \longleftrightarrow$

Outline

1. building blocks of microtubule based active matter

2. bulk isotropic active gels

3. confined active gels

low ATP – no net circulation currents



Intermediate ATP – large fluctuations in mean angular velocity circulation







Spontaneous fluid flow

ATP dependence







Self-pumping of confined active gels

flow velocity – weak dependence on curvature





Circulation Phase diagram





Donuts



Vorticity Order Parameter vs Time



Shrinking Inner Radii





Flow Profile



Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV)







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Disk





Donuts



Donuts



Local Vorticities





 $|C(0)| |C(R)| \sim e^{1-R/l \downarrow R}$

 $\langle |C(0)| |C(\Theta)| \rangle \sim e^{\uparrow} - \Theta / l \downarrow \Theta$

 $\langle |C(0)| |C(T)| \rangle \sim e^{\uparrow} - T/\tau$

Local Vorticity









Lifetime of a local Vorticity



CNC + COC Embossing







Chiral flows



Chiral flows



Chiral flows



Increasing surface roughness decreases efficiency





1 mm

Spontaneous flow in more complex geometries



Spontaneous flow in more complex geometries





