

Mechanical properties of cells and tissues

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Outline

- 1 Cell Mechanics
 - Acto-myosin cytoskeleton
 - Dynamics of cytokinesis

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 - Tissue surface tension
 - Spheroid growth

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Multicellular spheroids

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- Spheroid growth

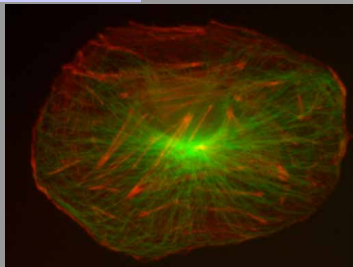
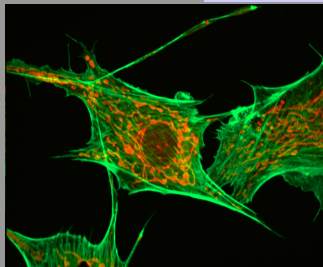
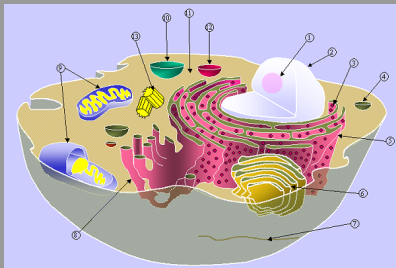
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Organelles and Cytoskeleton



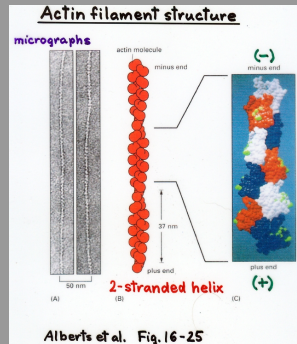
Actin polymerization

Actin monomers



- molecular weight 45kDa
- size $\delta = 5.5\text{nm}$
- ATP binding pocket
- polar monomer

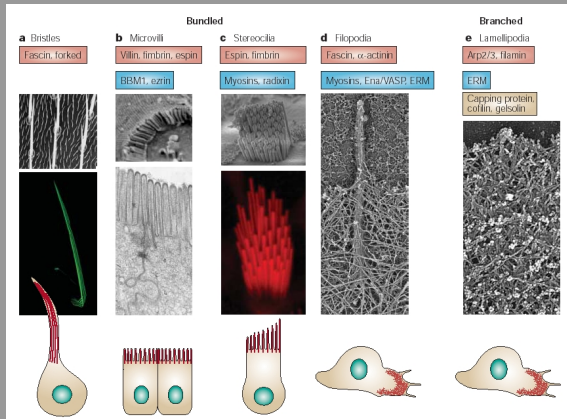
Actin polymers



- 2 protofilaments
- right-handed helix, 72nm pitch, 24 monomers per turn

Actin in vivo

Actin interacting proteins



Revenu et al.

Molecular motors

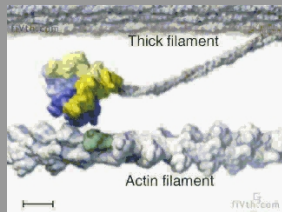
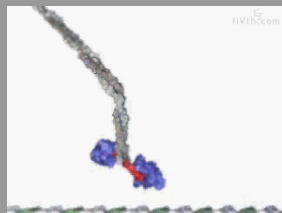
Motor proteins

- Muscle contraction (myosin II)
- Cilia and axonemes (Dynein)
- Mitosis
- Intracellular transport
- Inner ear hair cells (Myosin 1c)
- Rotating motors

General properties

- Motors consume ATP
- Processive and non-processive motors

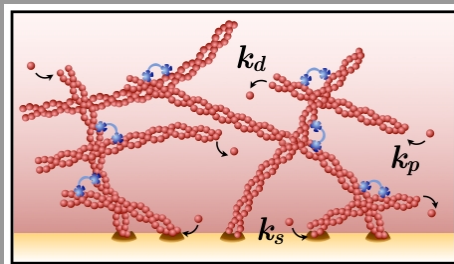
Motor structure



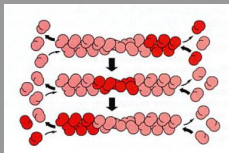
Vale

Cytoskeleton mechanics

Actomyosin gel



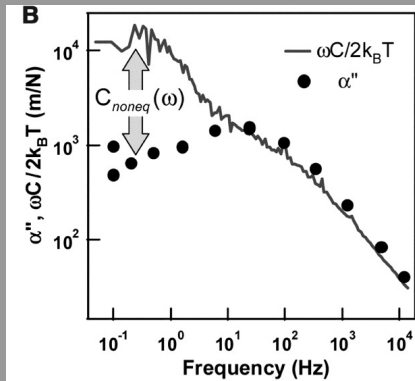
Treadmilling



Polar filament with + and - end

Violation of the fluctuation dissipation theorem

Fluctuations of acto-myosin networks

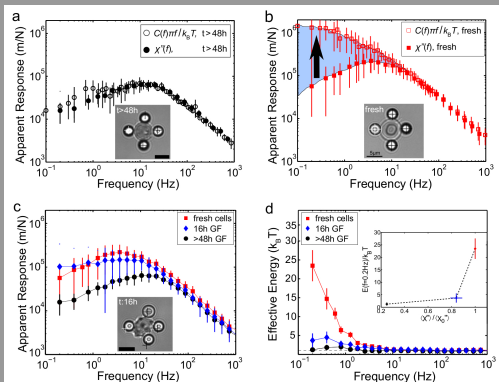


- Microrheology experiment: active and passive
- Similar experiment with cells

Mizuno et al.

Red blood cells

Fluctuations of red blood cells



- Spectrin network needs to be prestressed
- Non-equilibrium reaction: binding and unbinding of spectrins to the membrane

Betz et al.

Active Systems

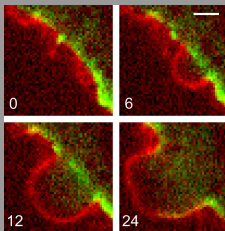
- Tissues
- Bacterial colonies [Kessler, Goldstein](#)
- Vibrated granular materials [Menon et al.](#)
- Active colloids, Active nematics [Ramaswamy et al.](#)
- Bird flocks, Fish shoals [Vicsek, Toner, Chaté, Carere](#)



- [Marchetti et al, Rev.Mod.Phys. 2013](#)

Cell Cortex

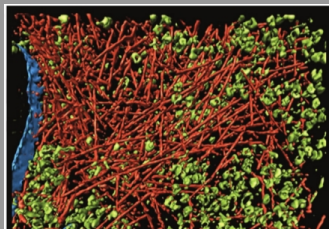
Optical Imaging



Charras

- Actomyosin layer
- Polymerization from the surface (formins)
- Treadmilling time ~ 30 s
- Cortex tension

Electron microscopy

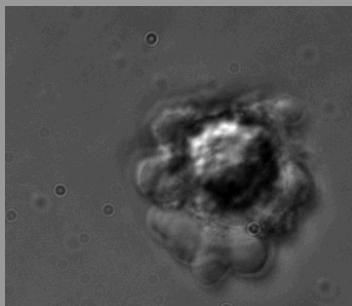


Medalia

- Dense actin layer
- Thickness $\sim 1\mu\text{m}$
- Filaments parallel to the cell surface

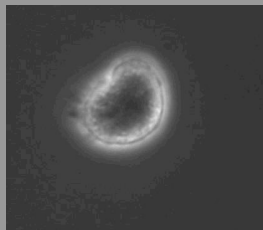
Cell instabilities associated to cortical layer

Blebs Paluch



- Detachments of the membrane form the cortical layer
- Bleb lifetime 30s

Cell oscillations Pullarkat



- Oscillations depend on actin contractility
- Oscillations depend on calcium (threshold density)

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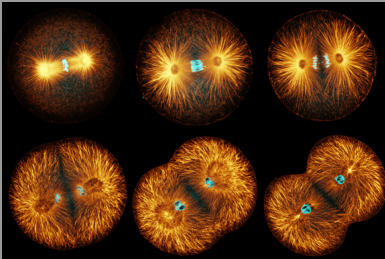
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Multicellular spheroids

- Tissue surface tension
- Spheroid growth

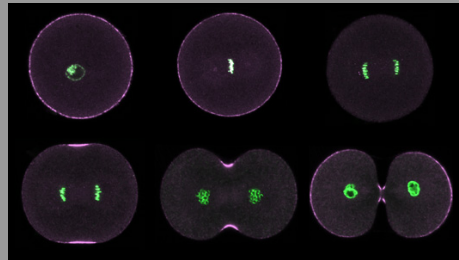
Final stages of cell division **von Dassow**

Final stage of cell division



- Separation between daughter cells
- See urchin

Myosin contractility

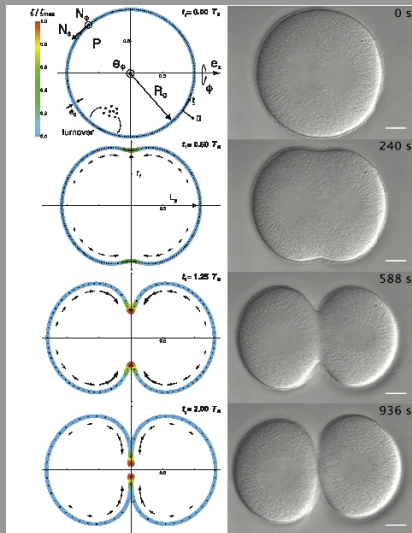


- Ring closure due to actin contractility
- Local enhancement of myosin activity due to astral microtubules

Active gel theory of Cytokinesis

- Cytokinesis driven by myosin contractility in the actin cortical layer
- Excess of contractility at the equator of the cell.
- Actin cortical layer described by active gel theory
 - Constant density in cortical layer
 - Ignore polarization effects
 - Viscoelastic actin layer
 - Active stress $\zeta \Delta \mu$ non homogeneous, increases at the equator
- Cortical flow due to active stress gradient
- Numerical solution of active gel equations, using Lagrangian coordinates
- Impose cylindrical symmetry of the cell

Dynamics of Cytokinesis

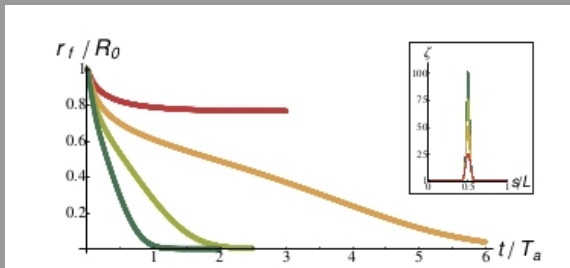


Cytokinesis completion

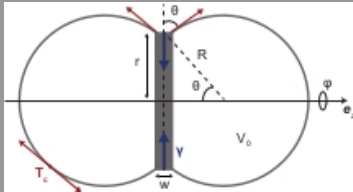
- Critical value of activity for cytokinesis completion
- Low activity of the ring: cytokinesis failure
- Large activity of the ring: cytokinesis success

Kinetics of ring closure

- Quasi-linear furrow constriction
- Rate of constriction increases with amplitude and width of input signal
- If $w \sim R_0 \frac{dR}{dt} \sim R_0$, Closure time $T_c \sim \eta/\zeta \Delta\mu$ independent of R_0
- Good agreement with experiments

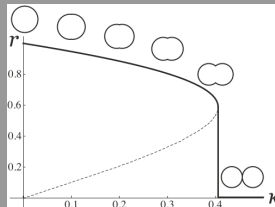
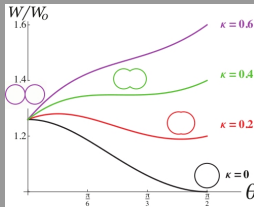


Qualitative interpretation



- Cell tension $T = \frac{e\zeta\Delta\mu}{2}$
- Line tension $\lambda = \int ds(T(s) - T_p) \sim w\delta T$
- Dimensionless number $\kappa \sim \lambda/(2T_p R_0)$

Discontinuous closure transition



- Linear constriction if dissipation dominated by cortical flow

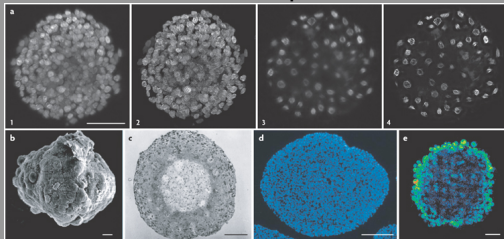
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Multicellular spheroids



Nature Reviews | Molecular Cell Biology

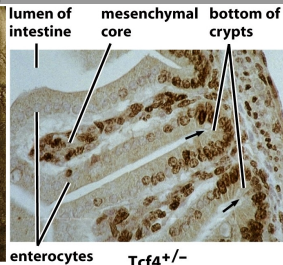
Intestinal epithelia



Figure 11-5a. The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2007)



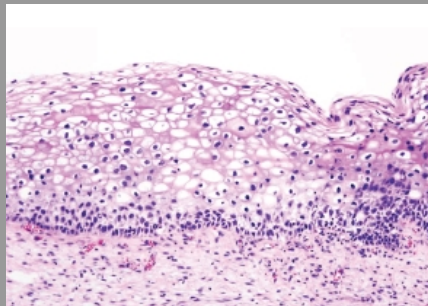
Figure 11-5b. The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2007)



Epithelial tissues

Epithelial structure

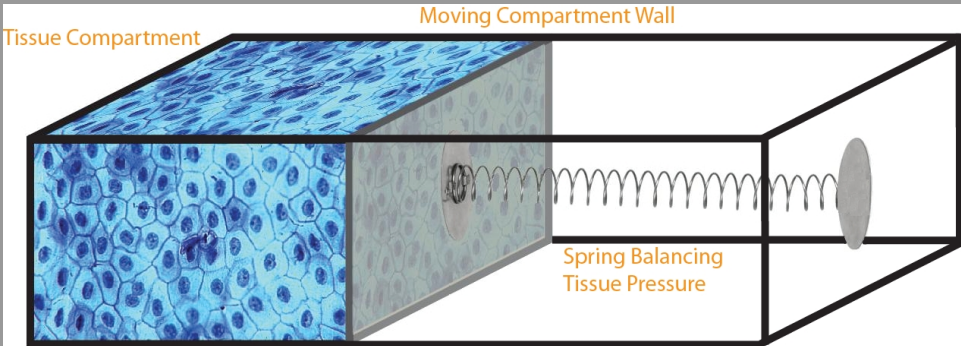
- Dividing cells
- Differentiated cells
- Apoptotic cells



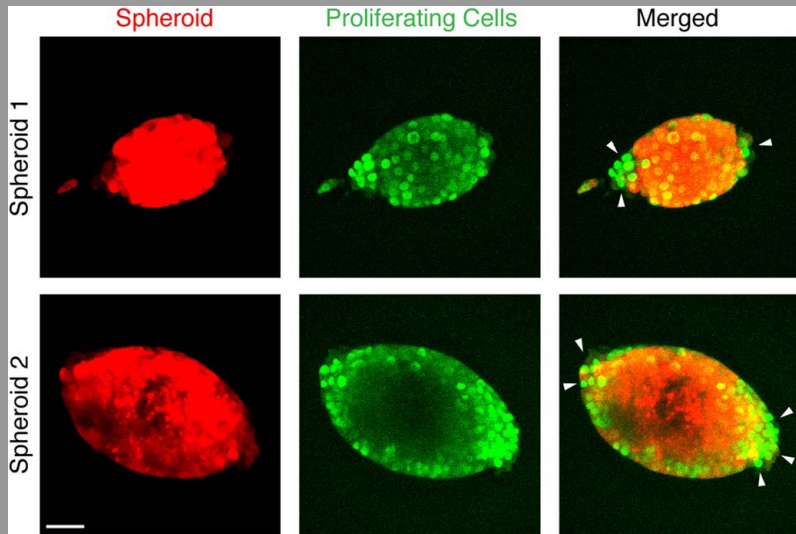
Tissue mechanics

- Solid-like behavior
- Liquid-like behavior
- Viscoelastic liquid, relaxation time T
- Plastic behavior

Homeostatic pressure



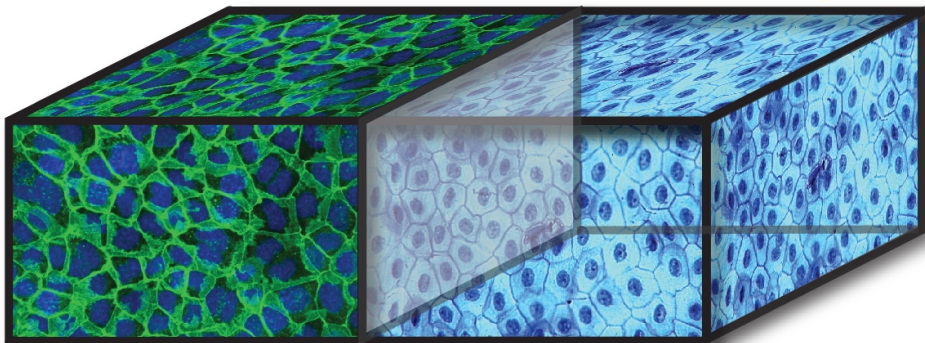
- Membrane permeable to interstitial fluid
- Steady State ($k_d = k_a$) defines homeostatic density
- Homeostatic pressure

Cell proliferation and stress **Cheng et al.**

Competition between two tissues

Cancerous Tissue Compartment

Healthy Tissue Compartment



Moving Compartment Wall

- Tissue with larger homeostatic pressure invades the other one
- Final state: homeostatic density
- Numerical simulation of tissue invasion

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Stress relaxation in a tissue **Ranft, Julicher**

Force dipoles induced by division and apoptosis

- Dividing or apoptotic cells exert a force dipole $f_\alpha d_\beta$
- Force dipole density $Q_{\alpha\beta} = \sum d_{\alpha\beta}^i \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_i)$
- Force balance $\partial_\beta \sigma_{\alpha\beta}^{el} + \sum f_\alpha^i \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_i) = 0$
- Total stress $\sigma_{\alpha\beta} = \sigma_{\alpha\beta}^{el} - Q_{\alpha\beta}$ so that $\partial_\beta \sigma_{\alpha\beta} = 0$

Internal stress in a tissue $\sigma_{\alpha\beta}^{in} = -Q_{\alpha\beta}$

- Change in internal stress due to division and apoptosis
- Cell division coupled to stress **Fink, Cuvelier**

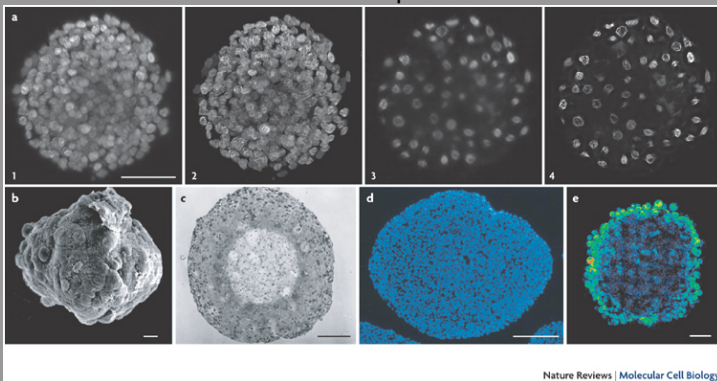
$$\frac{d}{dt} \sigma^{\text{int}} = -\rho p_d k_d - \rho p_a k_a$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \tilde{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta}^{\text{int}} = -\rho \tilde{p}_d k_d \langle n_\alpha n_\beta - \frac{1}{3} \delta_{\alpha\beta} \rangle = -\frac{1}{\tau_a} \tilde{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta}$$

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Multicellular spheroids



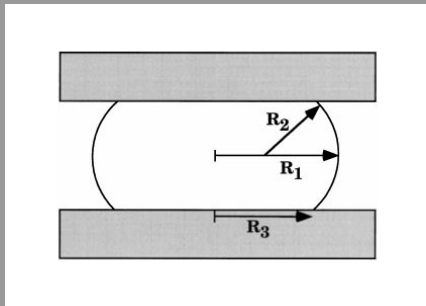
Tissue spheroids in micropipettes **Guevorkian, Brochard**

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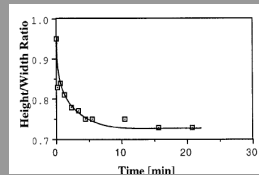
Surface tension of Tissues

Relaxation measurements
Steinberg et al., F. Montel



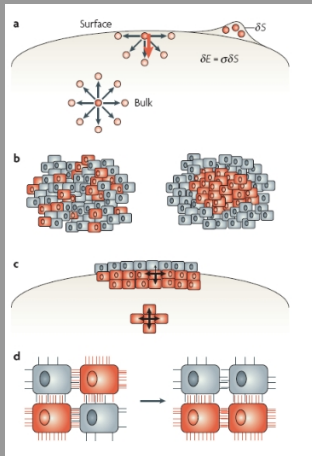
Relaxation measurements
Steinberg et al.

Neural Retina relaxation



Interfacial tension

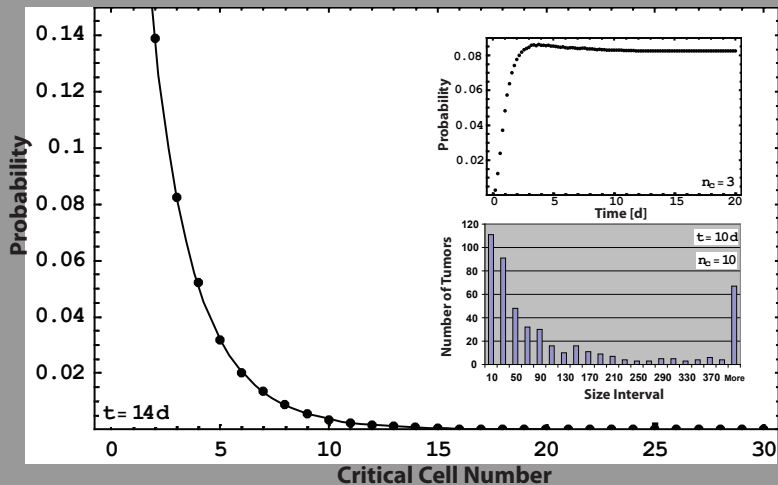
Interfacial tension between tissues Steinberg



Adhesion between cells

- Interfacial tension depends on adhesion molecules **Steinberg**
- depends on actomyosin cytoskeleton and contractility
- Laplace law $P_h^c - P_h^h = \frac{2\gamma}{r}$

Metastatic Inefficiency

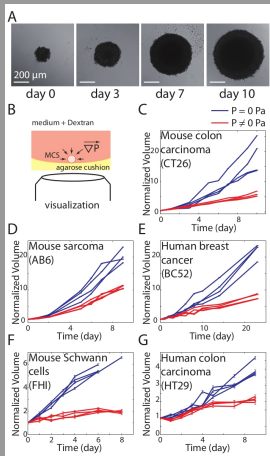


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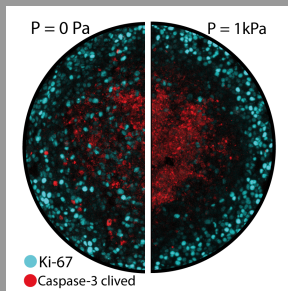
Spheroid growth F.Montel, M.Delarue

Growth experiments

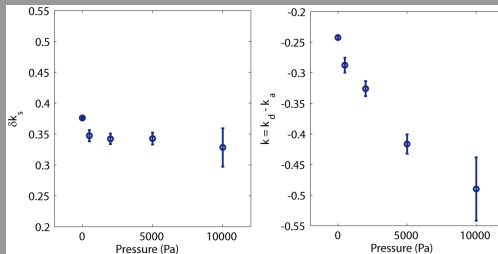


- Indirect experiments
 - Dialysis bag
 - Pressure exerted by dextran
- Direct experiments
 - Spheroid in contact with dextran solutions
 - No penetration of dextran in spheroid

Surface growth



Pressure dependence

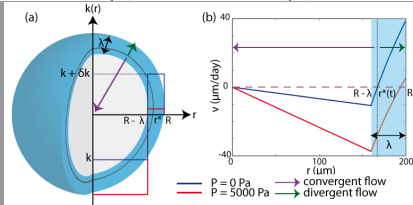
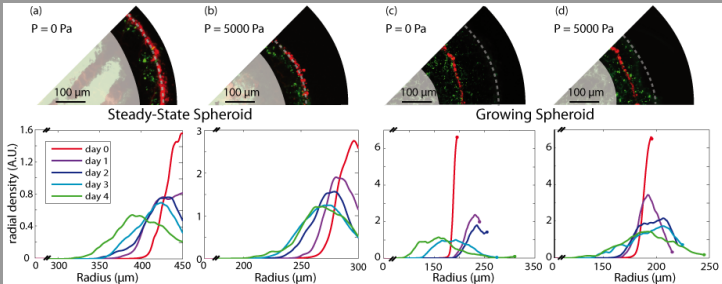


$$\partial_t V = (k_d - k_a)V + 4\pi \left(\frac{3}{4\pi}\right)^{2/3} \delta k_s \lambda V^{2/3}$$

- Nutrient effect
- Crowding effect
- Negative homeostatic pressure **Elgeti**

Cell flow

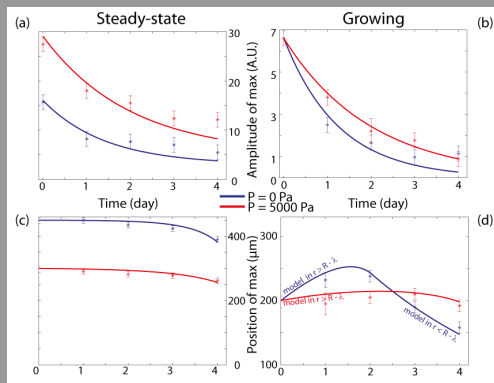
- Injection of fluorescent nano-particles



- Incompressible fluid
- Velocity field $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = k(r)$

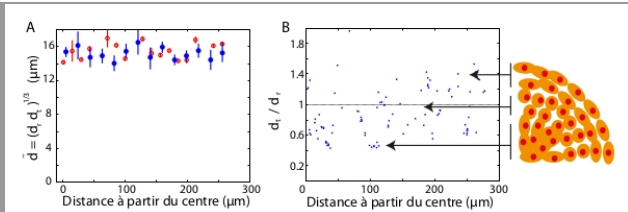
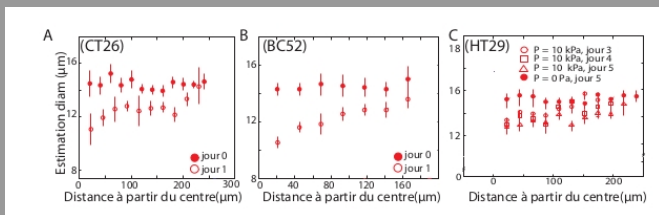
Particle distribution

- Transport by cell flow $\partial_t \rho + \nabla v \rho = 0$
- Negligible diffusion



Volume change after a pressure step

- Growing spheroid with no applied pressure
- Pressure step 5000 Pa after 4 days
- Volume and anisotropy from correlations between nuclei position



Hydrodynamic calculation

Isotropic liquid Spheroid

- Constant pressure both in outer dividing layer and in inner layer
- Pressure jump, larger pressure in the outer layer
- Upon pressure jump, cell contraction in the outer layer

Cell orientation

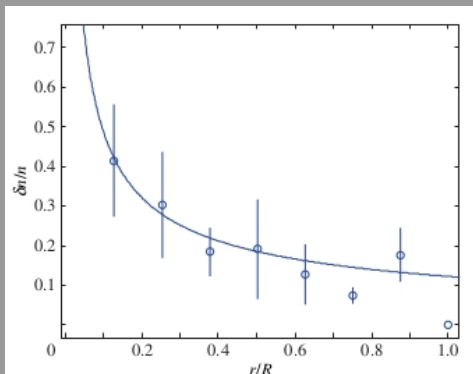
- Viscoelastic spheroid. Elastic short time response
- Active stress because of cell orientation $\sigma_{\alpha\beta}^a = \zeta \Delta \mu p_\alpha p_\beta$
- Active stress depends on pressure

Active hydrodynamics of tissues

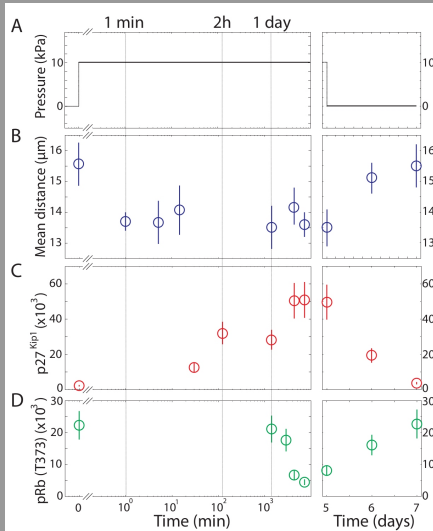
- Radially polarized cell cells
- Active gel hydrodynamics with active stress depending on pressure

- Power law decay of density $\frac{\delta n}{n} = \frac{\Delta P(3+\beta_e)}{3K} \left(\frac{r}{R_0}\right)^{\beta_e}$

$$\beta_e = -0.6$$



Volume decrease and cell division



- Decrease in cell division rate, no change in apoptosis
 - Decrease in cell diameter at center after 5 min.
 - P27 Overexpression after 1 day
 - Decrease in cell division after 4 days
 - Cell proliferation arrest in G1 phase

Curie Theory Group



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Morgan Delarue



Pierre Recho



Jonas Ranft



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Edouard Hannezo



Hervé Turlier



Alexandre Mamane