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- 1. Non-linear elasticity of actin networks
- 2. Effect of molecular motors
- 3. Fluctuations of microtubules
- 4. Fluctuations within cells

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Active Systems GIST, 6/26/14

Biopolymer networks provide mechanical rigidity







Cytoskeleton crowds the cell

network meshsize << 1μm

Total protein volume fraction in

cells is typically 20-30%

Actin Networks



Study reconstituted networks





5 *µ*m

Actin filaments



Polymerize in presence of ATP, divalent salt Mass ~ 42k Da $a \sim 7$ nm



- •Young's Modulus, $E \sim 10^9$ Pa →Hard Plastic
- •Large Aspect Ratio $d \ll L$ \rightarrow Soft Bending Modulus $\kappa \sim Ed^4$

•1-5% of proteins in nonmuscle cells

Reconstituted Actin Networks





Actin network Electron Microscopy Actin with bundling protein Confocal Microscopy

Viscoelasticity of Soft Materials



Solid:
$$\tau = G\gamma$$

Fluid: $\tau = \eta\dot{\gamma}$ \longrightarrow $\tau = \begin{bmatrix} G'(\omega) + iG''(\omega) \end{bmatrix}\gamma$
Elastic Viscous

Assumes intrinsically equilibrium system \rightarrow causality (Kramers-Kronig)



 $c_A = 12 \ \mu M$ R=0.03

weak, elastic gel

Cytoskeletal Mechanics



Bausch et. al., Fabry et. al.

Rheology of cells: twisting-beads



Cells are much stiffer than actin networks



(Fabry, Fredberg, 2003)

Actin Networks

0.2 μm





in vitro Filaments are shorter Filaments are cross-linked

Gelsolin → Capping



Limits filament length

Gelsolin → Capping Filamin → Cross-linking





Limits filament length

Cross-links filaments Cell motility, mechanoprotection

Actin Networks



0.2 μm



in vitro

in vivo

Actin (24 μM), 1/50 FlnAwt, 1/555 gelsolin, MgATP (5 mM), KCl (50 mM)

Actin-filamin networks are gels



G' extremely sensitive to stress



Non-linear spring constant



Need new ways to measure elasticity Measure differential spring constant

Linear Measurements in Nonlinear Regime



<u>Creep Test:</u> Apply Steady Stress: σ_s Measure γ



Prestress stiffens Filamin-Actin Networks



Traction force microscopy: Measures prestress in cell





Cytoskeleton is pre-stressed



Traction Force Microscopy



Cell data agrees with filamin network



External strain puts tension on filaments



How to generate tension internally?

Can motors put internal tension on filaments??







Add motors: skeletal muscle myosin II

Non-processive heads:

- ATP hydrolysis: 50 ms.
- Bound 1 ms, unbound 49 ms.

Tail:

- Bipolar filament formation.
- Size: ionic strength, pH, T







- 50 mM KCl, 5 mM MgATP.
- Length ~1 μm (~300 myosins).



50 F-actin: 1 Filamin Niederman, Amrein and Hartwig, JCB, **96** 1983

Stress build-up monitored with rheology $\leftrightarrow \sigma(t) = \sigma_0 \sin(\omega t)$ = Cone-plate 1°: gap 30 – 80 µm. = Probe with small strain <1%, 1 Hz.



Actin + myosin (1/50)

Add filamin (1/100)



Stress build-up monitored with rheology





- Cone-plate 1°: gap 30 80 μm.
- Probe with small strain <1%, 1 Hz.</p>



Stress build-up monitored with rheology





Probe with small strain <1%, 1 Hz.</p>



Stress build-up monitored with rheology $\leftrightarrow \sigma(t) = \sigma_0 \sin(\omega t)$

- Cone-plate 1°: gap 30 80 μm.
- Probe with small strain <1%, 1 Hz.</p>



Calibrate internal tension







Internal stress identical to external stress



Calibration

But: Anisotropic *vs* Isotropic

Internal stress identical to external stress



Depends on actin filaments



Sharp onset \rightarrow minimum number required

Microtubule fluctuations





Compressive stresses on microtubules



Compressive stresses on microtubules



Buckling from exogenous compressive forces



Fourier Mode Analysis - Ensemble



•Thermal-like spectrum
Fourier Mode Analysis - Ensemble



Thermal-like spectrumMuch larger amplitude

Microtubules can be highly bent



Fixed CHO cell

Fluctuations are short wavelength



•GFP-tubulin transfected Cos7 cell

- •Time difference 1.6 seconds
- •New position red; earlier position green

Fluctuation spectrum of single microtubule



Microtubules confined in actomyosin networks

Act 24 μ M, 1:50 myo, L= 19 μ m





140 frames, 42 s total



906 frames, 41/2 min total

Act 24 μ M, 1:50 myo, L=19 μ m



1200 frames, 6 min total



300 frames, 11/2 min total

All movies: 0.3 s between frames, 2x sped up.

Act 24 μM, 1:100 myo, L=43 μm

Fourier Mode Analysis: Single Microtubule *in vitro*



Tip growth of microtubules



Fluctuations of Tip Growth



Tip Growth: Persistent Random_Walk



Larger polymerization forcesImproved "search and capture"

Forces on microtubules



Point force

Exponential time dependence

Fluctuating motion within cells



5 μmCOS 7 cell transfectedEndogenous granuleswith GFP-tubulin

Fluctuating motion within cells

Brownian motion



2 μ m particles



COS 7 cell transfected with GFP-tubulin

Brownian motion

Mean square displacement:







Micro-inject inert beads into cells Probe motion within a cell



Micro-inject inert beads into cells Probe motion within a cell



Mean-squared displacement of 200 nm beads in wild type A7 cells



Motion appears diffusive

Microrheology: Viscous medium $\eta = 500$ x water

 $6\pi\eta a$

Biopolymer networks in cells

0.2 *μ*m



Biopolymer networks in cells

0.2 *μ*m



MSD of 200nm beads in wild type A7



MSD of 200nm beads in wild type A7



MSD of beads in wild type A7



Red:	100nm in diameter
Green:	200nm
Blue:	500nm

Scale by bead radius



Decrease cell's activity

Open symbols: 10 µM Blebbistatin treated (inhibit Myosin II motors)



Further decrease in cell activity



Effect of molecular motors on microtubules



Requires a solid network

Fluctuations of elastic network

- Levine & MacKintosh; Lau et al
- Elastic network
- Random forces from motors
- Random force dipoles drive fluctuations

Distribution of motors \rightarrow random forces





Particle must be in an elastic matrix



- Fluctuating actin filament
 - Inactive myosin II minifilament



≻8-8←

Active myosin II minifilament



Lipid vesicle



- Mitochondria
- Tracer particle



Active microrheology



Jeff Moore Mikkel Jensen BU

Laser tweezers

Optical Trap Oscillation and Bead Response (f = 1 Hz)



Response is still very much in phase at f=1Hz, suggests that the material inside is still elastic at 1Hz.

Active microrheology



Spectrum of forces on microtubules



Exponential time dependence

Fluctuations of elastic network

 $\left\langle x^{2}(\omega)\right\rangle = \frac{\left\langle f^{2}(\omega)\right\rangle}{\left|K(\omega)\right|^{2}}$ Force spectrum due to active motors $\left\langle f_{act}^{2}(\omega)\right\rangle \propto \frac{1}{\omega^{2} + 1/\tau_{p}^{2}}$ Viscoelastic response

 $\left< \Delta r^2 \right> \sim t$

 $\left<\Delta r^2\right> \sim t^{2\alpha}$

 $\langle \Delta r^2 \rangle \sim t^{1.2}$

Fluctuations of elastic network

- Elastic network
- Random forces from motors
- Random force dipoles drive fluctuations

Scaled Mean Square Displacement



Fluctuations of elastic network



- Slope: 1+2α:
 - 1 from motor fluctuations
 - α from elastic behavior of network

Distribution of local slopes


Distribution of processivity times



Force spectrum: Colored noise



Force spectrum microscopy



Force spectrum microscopy



Force spectrum microscopy



New assay to probe cancer cells

Force spectrum

Test effects of changes of biopolymer networks



cytoD to depolymerize actin

Effect on small molecule transport



Transport of small molecules is enhanced by motor activity.

Effect of motors

- Motors throughout cell
 - -Coupled through network, fluid
- Active material
- Leads to 'effective' thermal-like behavior
 Not like thermal behavior in elastic medium
- Elastic medium \rightarrow depends on *a*
- Lau, Hoffman, Davies, Crocker, Lubensky PRL '03
- Levine & MacKintosh, PRL '09
- Motors impact stiffness of cells

Conclusions

- •Biopolymer networks are elastic
- •Biopolymer networks are highly non-linear
- •Motors produce required internal tension
- •Networks and motors cause transverse fluctuations of microtubules
- •Motors drive random fluctuations of particles in cells

Thank you for your attention