

# **Actin Gels dynamics**

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## 1.1 Misc To say

- Even in mitosis for big cell, actin is needed to assemble chromosomes [Lenart2005]
- Rapid change in actin structure [Vasilev2012], timing is also important (exposure to nocodazole disrupts cortex functionality)
- F-actin network capable of supporting mechanical load [Feric2013]
- Presence of f-Actin meshwork meshsize  $\sim 0.5\mu\text{m}$  [Feric2013]
- This actin network can withstand repetitive compression [Feric2013]
- F-actin network might be linked to the lamin (a kind of IF) cortex around the nucleus [Feric2013]
- Such a network would only need to sustain a pressure on the order of  $0.01\text{ PA}$  [Feric2013], and is essential to fight against gravity

## 1.2 Introduction

Cells are the basic component of living organism, understanding their individual behavior and the way they function is a key step into understanding how they interact with their environment and other organism. One of the key components to most of organism is Actin, a protein which is highly conserved across the species and plays an important role in cell mechanics, from cell migration to cell differentiation and division. It plays also a non-negligible role in most mechanical properties of the cell and how it interacts with its environment. In particular, actin is the main component of the actin cortex : the part of the cell cytoskeleton below the plasma membrane mostly responsible for cell mechanical properties. The properties of this actin cortex are driven by the mechanics of the properties of its main component : a dynamic actin network. Understanding this actin network is hence a key piece to learn how the actin cortex behaves.

The properties of an actin network highly depend on its structure. The structure itself depends on many parameters that influence how the network is formed. Network structure and formation can be not only influenced by its physical and chemical environments but also by the variation of these parameters with time and space.

Cells are complex systems that adapt their shape, mechanical properties and biochemical conditions permanently. The spatial repartition of these properties is also variable as the cell regulates the concentration of

proteins all across its body. To well study the effect of each components independently, it is crucial to study actin network in a controlled environment.

Biomimetic systems allow to respond to most of these concern, they provide a well controlled environment where biochemical condition can be well controlled both in space and time. Theses systems keep their biological relevance, as they can mimic *in vivo* phenomenon. Biomimetic systems are also well adapted to the tools available and the approach from a physics point of view. The optical trap will allow us to study local mechanical properties of actin network with a high time resolution which could allow to get insight into the variation of theses properties as a function of time.

During my PhD, my work has mainly be to study the mechanics of branched actin network polymerizing on optically trapped polystyrene beads. Such network was studied before [Kawska2012] but have suspected to be highly inhomogeneous, the use of optical trap allowed to probe mechanics of part of the network inaccessible before.

- time resolution
- network dynamics
- Move to liposome,
- study in OOCyte :
- Basically from purely biiomimetic to real cells

## 1.3 Cells

- cell will differentiate differently depending on the substract [Discher2005] [Engler2006] [Saha2008]
- give a standard size for a cell.

Cells are the smallest living component which are present from unicellular plants to multicellular animals. Thus, cells should cover a huge range of behavior going from extremely specific on multicellular organism, to all the function that are needed to survive and reproduce for bacterial colony. Multicellular organism will grow specialized cell from neurone — for example responsible from propagating the electric signal along nerves — that grow on soft material, to osteoblast growing on stiff substrate and responsible to generate bone materials, going through germinal cells allowing the organism to reproduce. In the other hand, unicellular organisms are made of cell that are responsible for all the function of the organism, from motility to reproduction, passing through absorption of nutriment to replication of the cell.

Cell are hence able to adapt to their environment as a function of time, and also have function and behavior that depends on time, and a small change of timing and/or biochemical conditions can highly injure the development of an organism [things on starfishes].

Nonetheless, even with all theses different behavior and phenotype, the cells all have a common structure. They are constituted by a membrane which is responsible form separating the cytoplasm from the outside of the cell. The cytoplasm contains organelles, genetic material, and lots of proteins that the cell use to accomplish its functions. Cells are of course not completely isolated, and have numbers of mechanism to exchange and communicate with the outside. Communication with the outside can be with chemical signal, hence cells have developed way of transporting or detecting proteins and ions through it's membrane. But it also need to change its mechanics. To do so, cells can for example change there osmotic pressure by varying their osmotic pressure, but can also exert and feel force through the membrane. Cross membrane proteins,

named integrins are made to do so, but need a structure on the inside of the cell that can support the forces transmitted by integrins.

This structure, which is situated just below the cell membrane, is named the actin cortex,

All the living kingdom is characterised by the fact that organism can reproduce,

And

### 1.3.1 Cell Motility

Whether cells are part of multicellular or uni-cellular organism, they should be able to move in their environment. Usually, cell movement is differentiated in two categories: when cells are placed on a two dimensional environment — which is often the case for epidermal cells, or a culture cells —, or a three dimensional environment.

Motility on a two dimensional environment is called reptation. To move by reptation. Cells need to be spread on the surface, in the front of the cell can be seen a lamellipodia, a thin and wide protrusion of the cell that will progress forward, then the rear of the cell will detach, making the centroid of cell change position. On the edge of the lamellipodia is present tubular protrusion that will go farther than the leading edge of the lamellipodia, attach to the surface.

### 1.3.2 Cell Division

We saw that cell phenotype was changing as a function of time. In particular, cell divide to and grow. The mechanism of cell division can be quite different depending on the type of dividing cells. Bacteria, for example, will replicate identically, giving birth to two identical daughter cells. Somatic cells of most multicellular organism, will also divide symmetrically leading to 2 daughter cells having the same genetic material, than the mother cell. On the other hand, Mouse Oocyte, will at some point of their maturation — Meiosis — divide asymmetrically two time in a row, leading to a mature Oocyte and 3 polar body.

Mitosis in normal cell,

- cell detach from surface,
- rounds up
- nucleus center
- nuclear breakdown
- chromosome forms,
- actin pack chromosome,
- microtubule fetch chromosome
- spindle form and migrate to the centrosome,
- cytokinetic actin ring contract.

### 1.3.3 Cell Organelle

- Mitochondria, ER (made to produce proteins), also serve in lacust
- nucleus en eucariotes cells, contains the chromosomes.
- Nucleus get moved by actin filement to the periclinal/anticlinal wall,
- centromere centriole,
- Organelles are supported by

### 1.3.4 Description of cell

- Unit of all living things
- Move, divide, react to their environment, differentiate
- divide
  - spherical, cytokinetic ring, filopodia
  - how force effect actin
- focal adhesion
- that was mostly all of what was internal<-> external interaction there are also inner cell effect :
- organelle,
  - nucleus/spindle positioning in division
  - from OOcyte, diploid -> haploid
  - Movement nucleus to periclinal/anticlinal wall away from UV.
  - translocation in locust

We can see in plants that actin, also known as microfilement [Iwabuchi2010] is used to move nucleus away from

## 1.4 Cytoskeleton

The cytoskeleton, literally skeleton of the cell, is the structure which give it shape to a cell. As for other multicellular animals that possesses skeleton, its shape is often a hint on how a organism move. As feet, fins and wigs are characteristics that will tell you whether a animal does more preferably prefer land, see or air, the cytoskeleton is will tell you many things a bout a cell.

In the other hand, unlike (exo)-Skeleton of animals which is ridged and unchanging, the cytoskeleton of cell is a highly dynamic structure that keep remodeling itself on a short time scale compared to the speed at which a cell move. That's through this dynamics that the cytoskeleton can achieve its functions. As mammals skeletons are necessary to transmit force from one part of the body to another, the cell cytoskeleton is responsible to not only transmit the force the cell is exerting, but also to generate theses force. Thats through its cytoskeleton that a cell can be connected to its environment, both mechanically and biochemically.



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**Todo**

trouver des ref pour ci dessous

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The cytoskeleton is mainly composed of three type of filaments. The microtubules, intermediate filament and actin filament, also known as microfilament.

Microtubules are the wider with a diameter of 20nm and [un article où on voit le diametre] the stiffer of the three kinds of filament with a persistence length in the order of millimeter, which is much longer than the size of the usual cell. Microtubules are extensively studied [cite some reviews ...]. Microtubules form polar (oriented) filament that can be walked on by molecular motors that can be decomposed in two families – kinesins and dyneins – depending on the end toward which the motor preferably walk. Microtubules are mostly known for their action during the cells mitosis where they will form majority of the mitotic spindle that drive the segregation of the chromosomes in two groups, each group ending in one of the daughter cells.

We will not be interested directly into the effect and behavior of microtubules in this manuscript.

Intermediate filaments are of medium diameter in the order of around 10nm, in between actin and microtubules filament, hence their name. Unlike microtubules and actin filament, intermediate filaments are composed by several sub-families of proteins and are non-polar.

Actin, is the third component of the cytoskeleton, the one we will focus most of our effort.

- cf fletcher 2010 review [Fletcher2010] the cytoskeleton as 3 main functions :
  - organize cell in space
  - connect cell to external environment (biochemical and mechanical)
  - generate and coordinate force to allow cell to change shape.
  - some things on temporal and spacial effect of structures like “bud scar”
  - schema of branched Arp2/3 actin factor
- Loading history determines the velocity of actin-network growth [Parekh2005] hence network can record history, single filament cannot.
- more than 150 protein have been found to bind with actin.
- Wave complex,
  - Wasp, N-Wasp ( need to cite *Machesky1999* )
- Not composed only by actin

Should cite *Pollard2003*

- Some network need actin, some other do not. (Fletcher review 2010)
- NPF
- Polymerase, (depolymerase severing),
- crosslinker,
  - // like fascine

- \* rotate like alpha-actinin
- \* effect of cross linking distance [Morse20..]
- stabilizing
- Molecular motors.
- interphase, cellule prepare for division
- Mitosis : “DNA Segregating”
- need to describe actin,
  - depending on the length scale semi-flexible polymers.
- polymerisation barbed end pointed end, (directed)
  - form microfilament
- cytoskeleton is dynamic
- formed under the plasma membrane
- ratchet mechanism
- use of Arp2/3 to branch
- capping, protein, formin (Oocyte)
- myosin, run on actin to barbed end/ processive/not processive.
  - stress fibres
- thymosine
- phalloidin

## 1.5 Myosis

- Asymmetric division of oocyte,
- from diploid, to haploid, - spindle usually in mitosis pulled by microtubule

## 1.6 Active and Passive microrheologie

## 1.7 Optical tweezer

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 2.1 Actin

### 2.2 Profilin

### 2.3 Arp2/3

[Goley2006]

### 2.4 Bead Motility

### 2.5 3D fitting

### 2.6 ?? ?? ??



RESULTS

**3.1 Actin Cloud**

**3.2 Doublets**

**3.3 Oocytes**



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**CHAPTER**

**FOUR**

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**DISCUSSION**





## OPTICAL TRAP SETUP

### 5.1 Preface

In order to manipulate the polystyrene beads that are used in the different experiments, I worked on a already build setup with time shared optical trap

To investigate the effect of different actin network on mechanics of cell behavior, Sykes team of curie institute is specialized in using biomimetics sytems. In particular, polystyrene actin bead covered with nucleator of actin polymerisation have been developped as a biomimetic system of listeria monocytogen. It is such a system that I have studied.

By growing actin network in controlled condition I was able to reproductibly determine mechanical properties.

### 5.2 Choice of experimental tools

The choice of experimental tools, and experimental conditions is important to determine in the range of properties and parameters you can access to. Previous and ongoing studies at the time were focused on the properties of dense gel in comets tails, as well as the one around the polystyrene beads, as well as the one on the surface before symetry breaking.



## LIPOSOME DOUBLETS

In this chapter we study the comportment of what we will refer as “Doublets”; an biomimetic system that allow us to study quantitatively the tension on a membrane covered with a actin shell mimicking the cells actin cortex. Even if such a system has already been studied, we believe that the new technique we develop can allow the non-invasive measure of variation of tension on liposome.

Starting with a liposome solution containing biotinilated actin filament and streptavidine doublet will naturally occurs. Liposomes will either adhere before or after being covered with actin filament. In the rest of this chapter we are interested in studying only the case where both liposome adhere before being in covered with actin. To increase the ratio of both kinds of doublet, the solution of liposome is gently centrifuged before adding the F-actin into the mix. As experiments were done using fluorescently labeled actin, the discrimination between the two kinds of doublets was easily done looking at the fluorescent intensity on the interface between the two doublets. Only doublet where no signal on the interface was visible were analysed.

### 6.1 Relating Doublets to Living cell

Determining contact angle in cell is the often use methods to determine effective tension of membrane linked to cythoskeleton. :cite:Leon Maitre:

### 6.2 Doublets geometric parameter

Using biomimetic system allow to more control over a system and decrease the number of parameter one have to study to better understand there influence. Unlike cell that are active and constantly shape changing, liposome have a shape that follow a smaller number of physical law. This translate in the right condition to liposome taking a spherical form. Knowing this information we derived a methods to determine the contact angle between liposome in a less experimentor biased way.

In this section we will show that the geometrical parameters of a doublet can be modeled by the combinaison of two intersecting sphere, simulate the fluorescent image that such a doublet would generate and show that we can optimise the parameters of the model to reflect the exerimental data thus determining the actual geometrical parameter of the doublets in an experimentor independant mater by also automatising the system.

In the following par we will restrain ourselves to example in a two dimensional space for easier visualisation and work in pixel for convenience

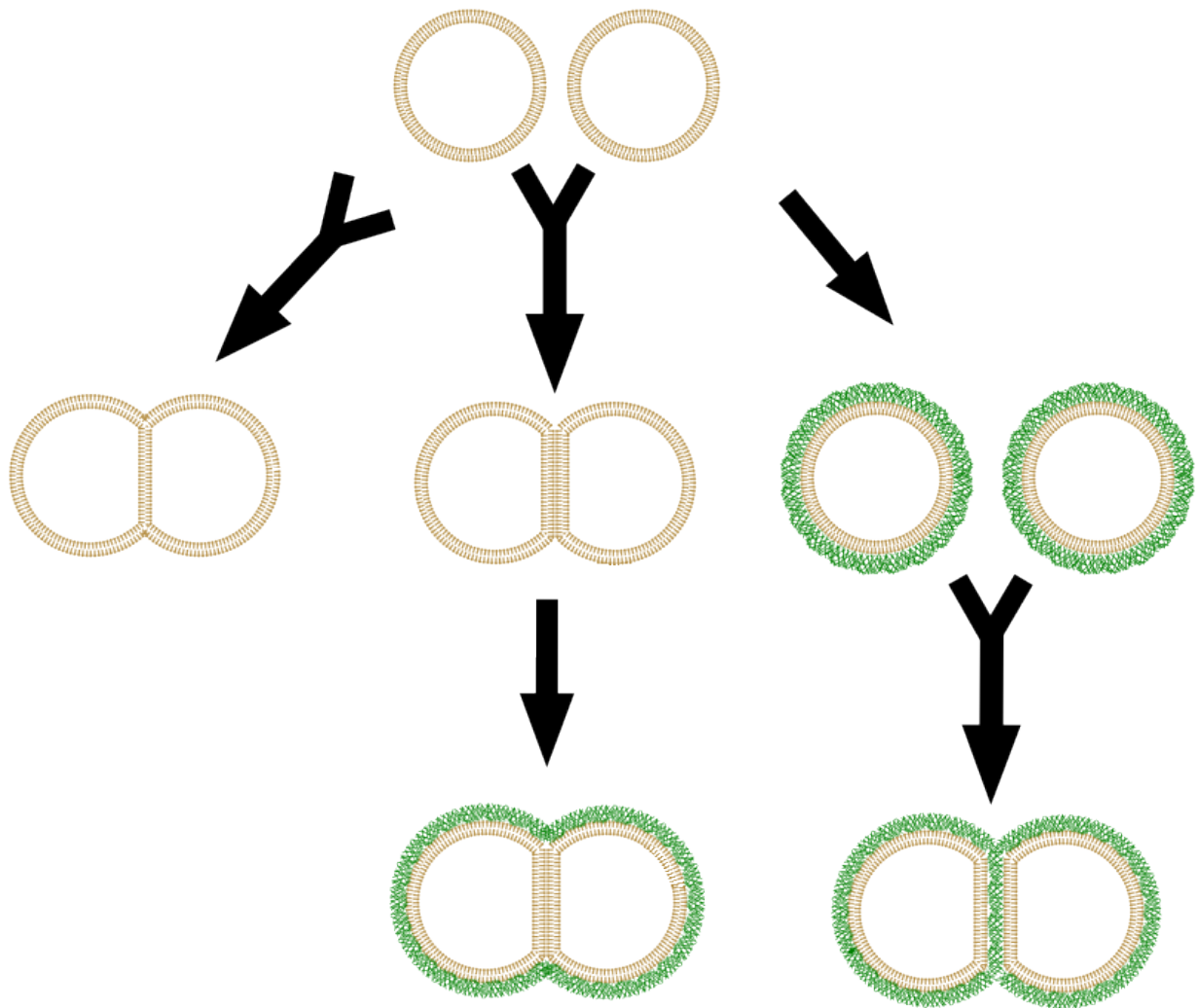


Figure 6.1: Single liposome can form doublets with a single double layer separating them, adhere with a double bi-layer, or cover with actin. Bare doublets can then get covered with actin and actin covered liposome can adhere together. The two kinds of doublets can be differentiated by using fluorescently labeled actin.

### 6.2.1 Finding a single liposome

Experimentally liposomes are observed using fluorescently labeled component, in particular we used a GFP labeled actin and streptavidine that will be imaged using a inverted microscope. In the observation plane, the liposome formed using fluorescently labeled streptavidine will form a bright ring of given thickness. When imaging the actin shell, assuming the actin shell is of homogeneous thickness around the liposome will also manifest as a fluorescent ring.

In the case where the membrane is marked, the radius of liposome will be the median radius of the ring.

In the case of actin shell, when the thickness of the actin shell is bigger compared the resolution limit of our method, then the liposome radius should be taken as the inner radius of the ring

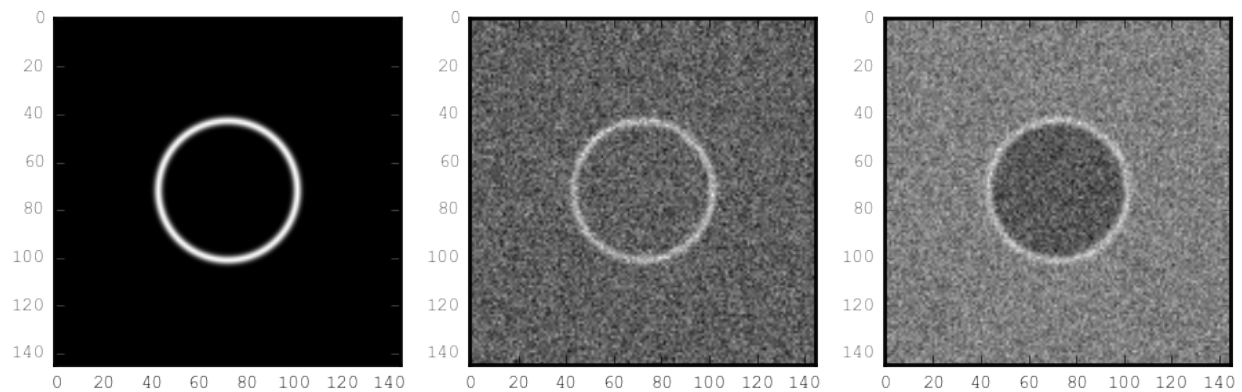
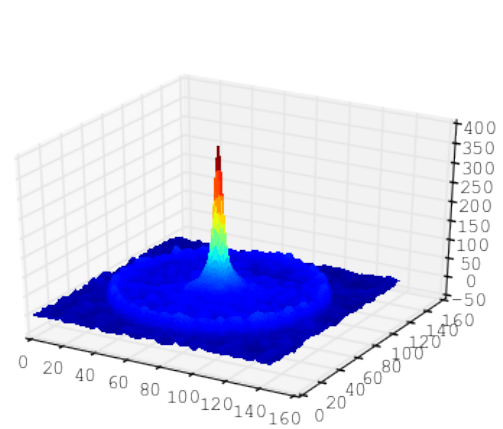
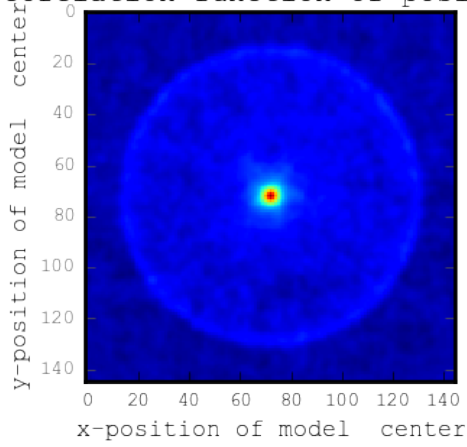


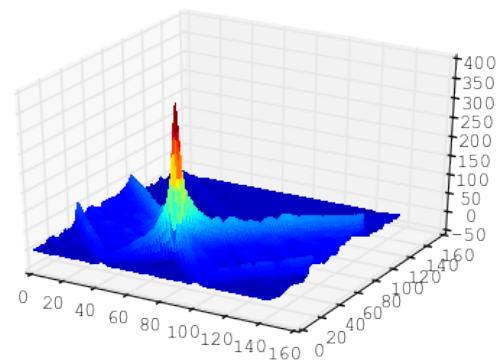
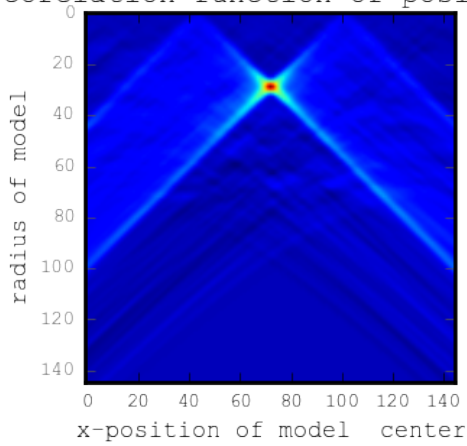
Figure 6.2: Left : A simulation of liposome fluorescent of an uniform shell or membrane. Middle: Same Image Adding gaussian noise to simulate a plane from a confocal Z-stack. Right: Fluorescently labelled Liposome in fluorescent External Buffer and non fluorescent medium.

- *search*

corelation function of position



corelation function of position



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**CHAPTER  
SEVEN**

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**REFERENCES**