

Active Structures and their Active Matter Models

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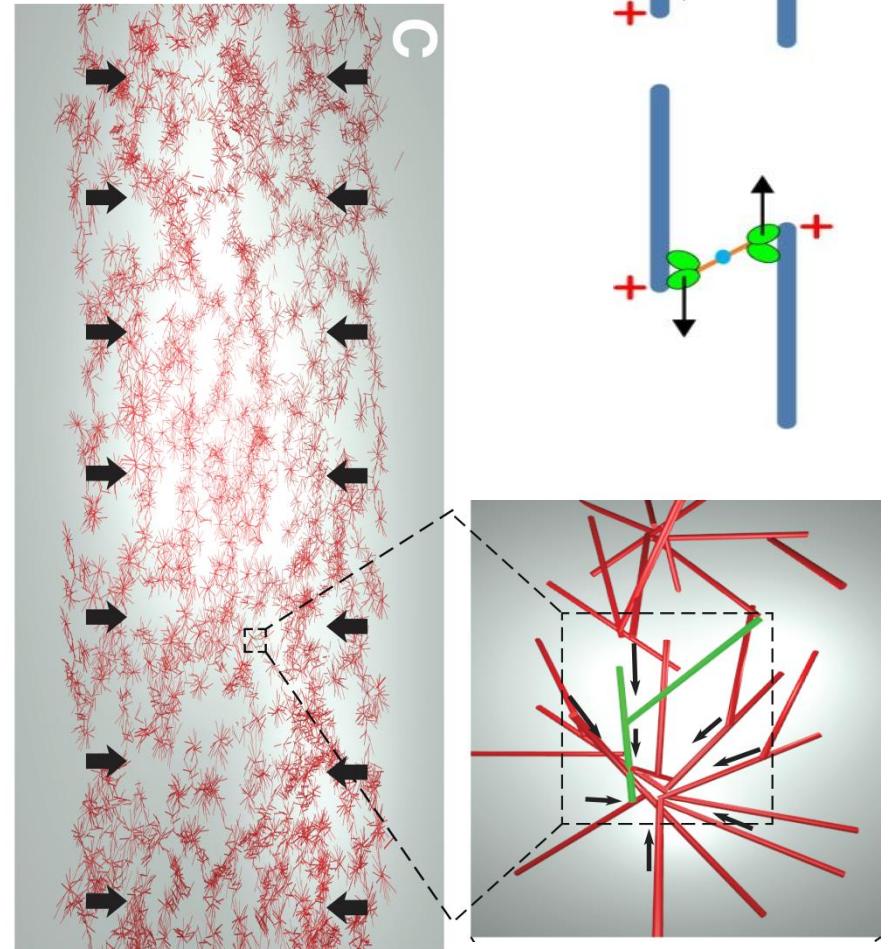
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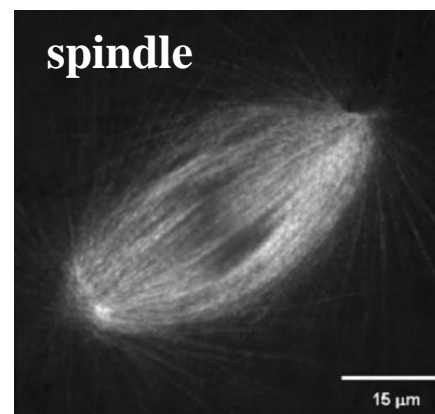
New Directions in Theoretical Physics

Some **collective structures** of self-propelled or active particles in fluids...



pelotons

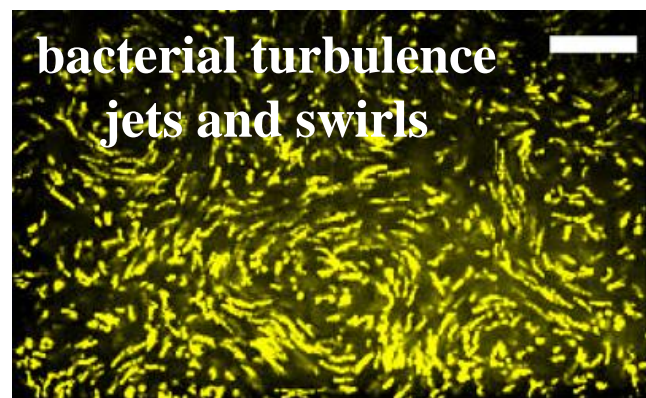
$$\text{Re} = \frac{\rho UL}{\mu}$$



spindle



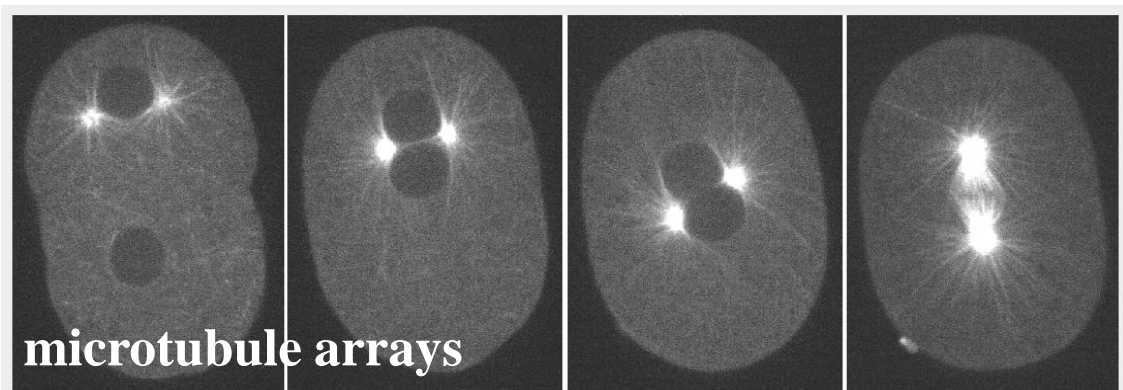
flocks



bacterial turbulence
jets and swirls



schools



microtubule arrays

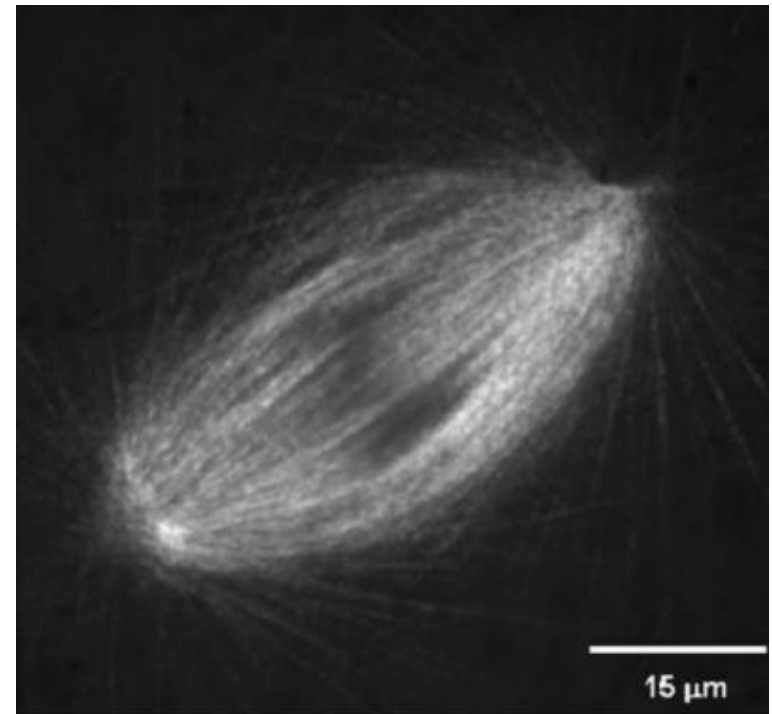
$$\text{Re} \gg 1 \Rightarrow \frac{D\omega}{Dt} \approx 0$$

$$\text{Re} \ll 1 \Rightarrow \Delta\omega \approx 0$$

A common aspect of all of these problems:

flocks, schools, spindles, rotors, motile defects, self-driven flows, ...

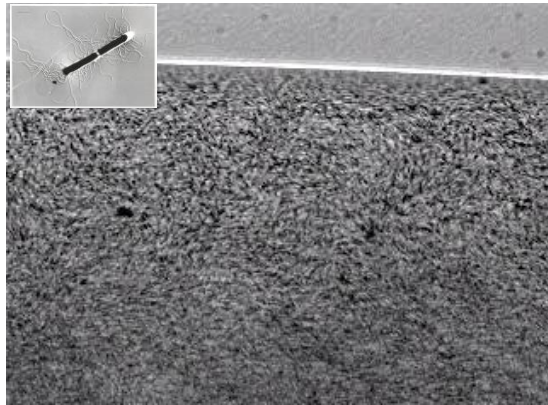
Coherent structures assemble and are maintained by the continuous consumption of energy by its constituents



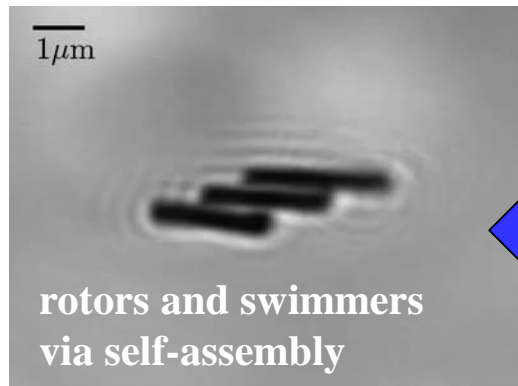
$Re \ll 1$: Active particles, fluids, materials (Active matter)

Fluids with suspended active microstructure:
swimmers, motor proteins, biopolymers

Extreme version of fluid-body interactions at small scales:
Reciprocal coupling between active microstructure
and large-scale flow

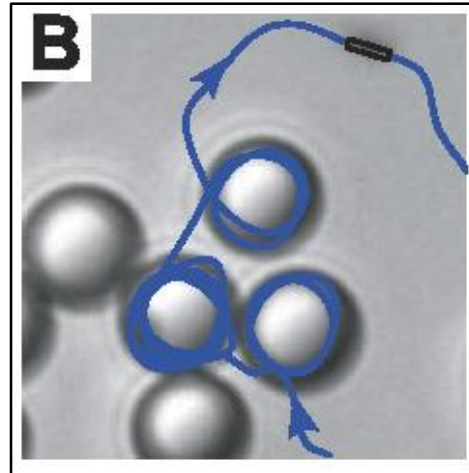


Goldstein and collaborators
the one and the many

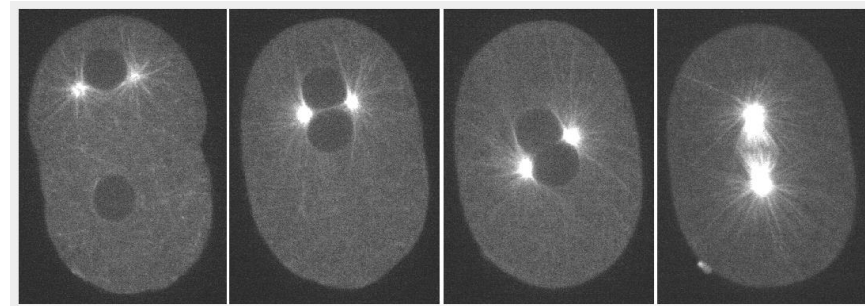
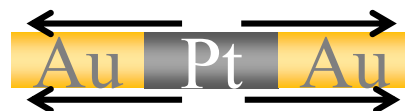


rotors and swimmers
via self-assembly

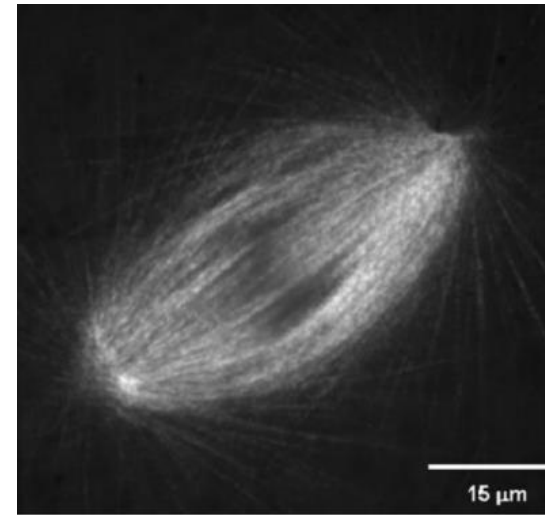
synthetic swimmers
Paxton et al JACS '04
Takagi et al, PRL '13, SM '14



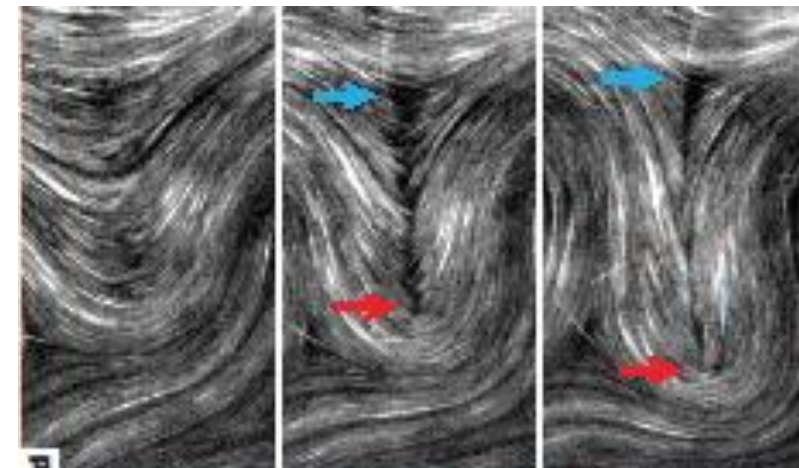
nonmotile but mobile
extensile particles



Pronuclear positioning *Shinar et al 2011*



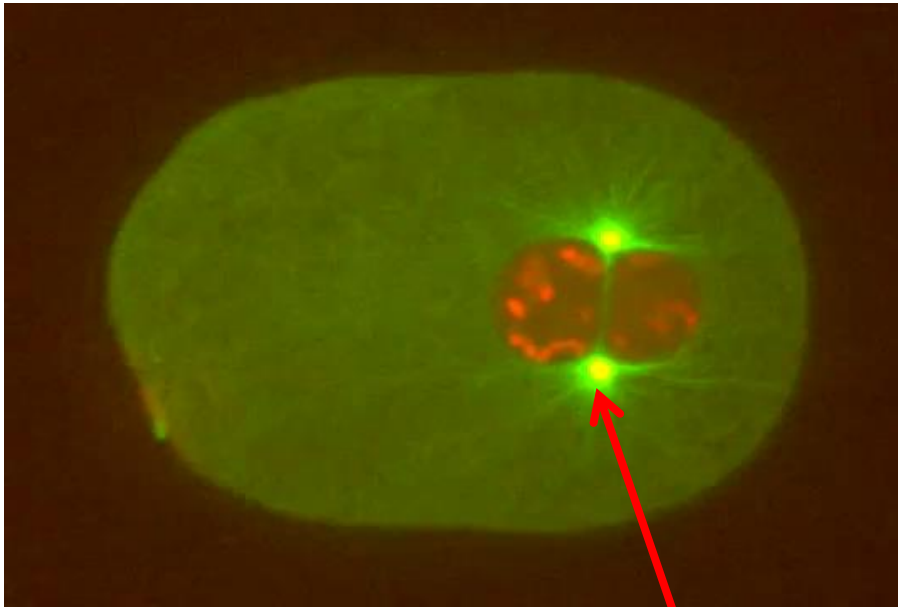
Mitotic spindle
Needleman Lab



Active nematics & defect dynamics
in MTs/motor-proteins *Sanchez et al 2012*

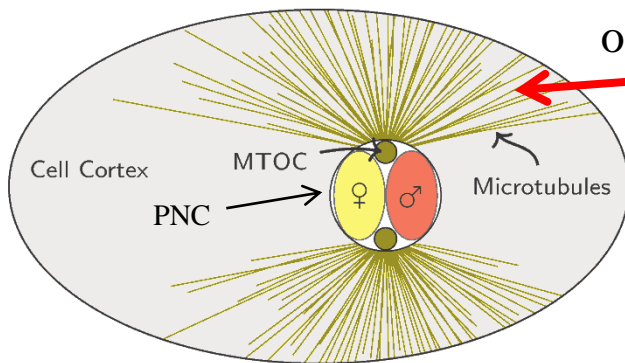
Cellular microtubule/motor-protein assemblies

Spindle positioning



Sugimoto Lab

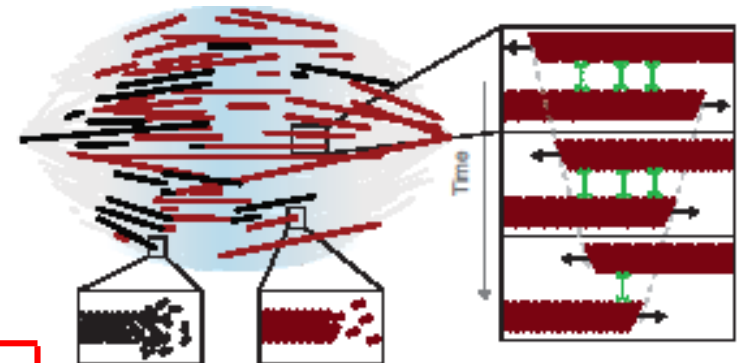
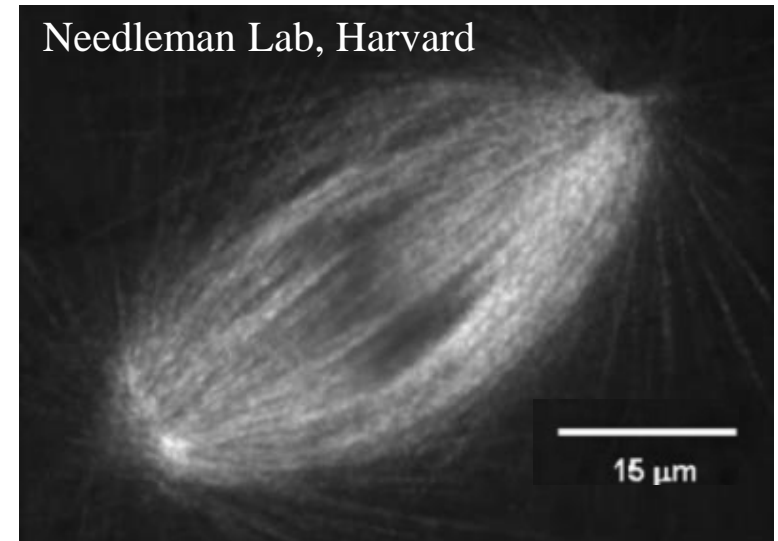
Centrosome (MTOC)
and centrosomal array
of microtubules (MTs)



Centrosomal array
of MTs maneuvers
pronuclear complex
(PNC=M+F) to the
“proper position”

Mitotic spindle & chromosome segregation

Needleman Lab, Harvard



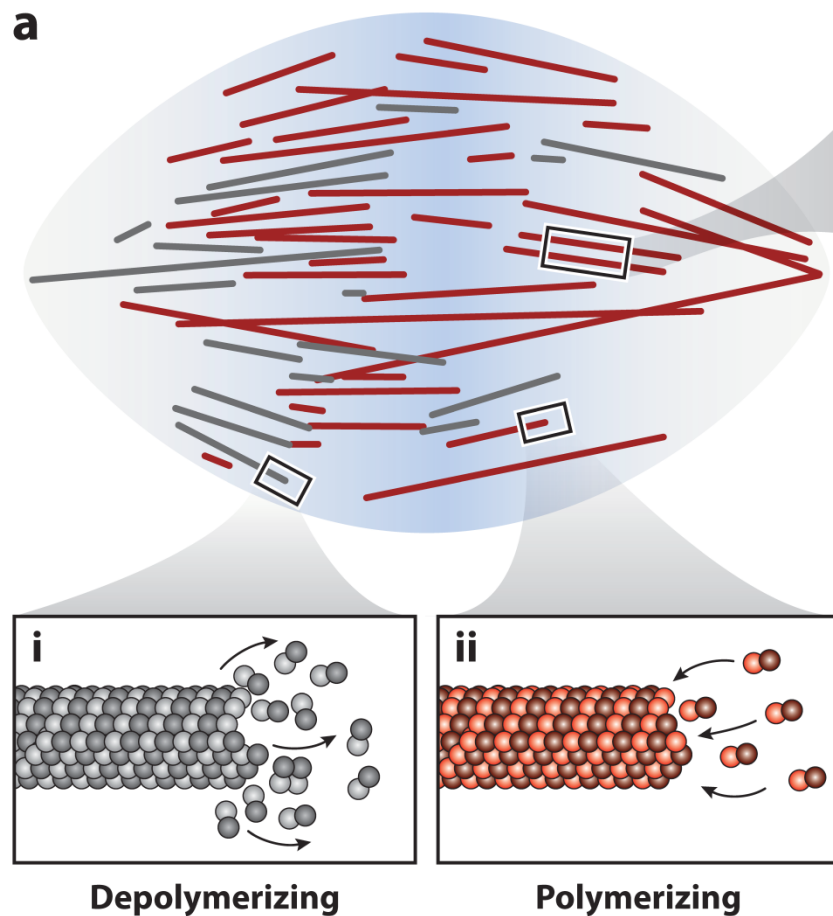
Spindle is self-assembled from
overturning MTs, motor proteins,
and many other things...

Performs chromosome segregation

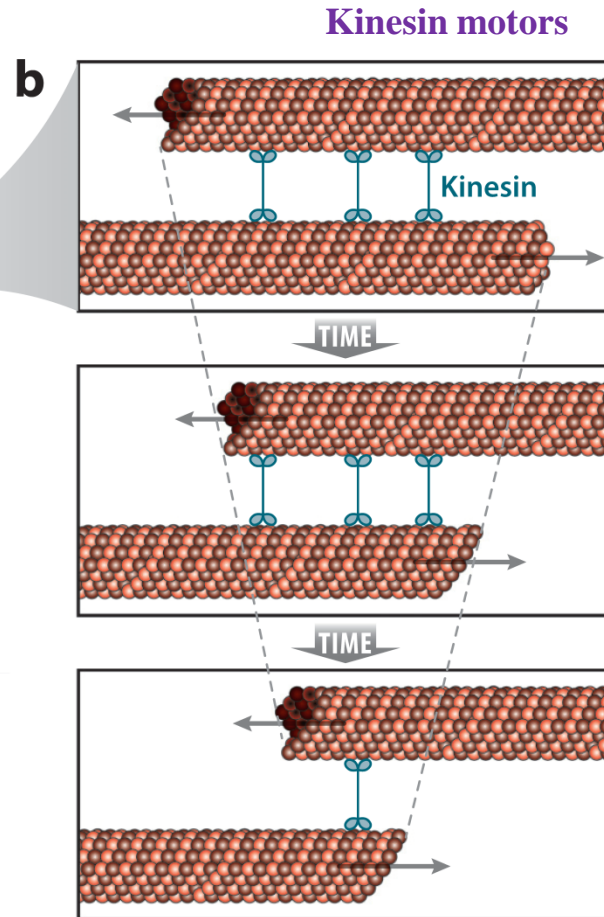
MTs and two of their motor-proteins

MTs: very thin – 20nm – but microns in length

- (I) MTs are highly dynamic (lifetime ~ 1 min)
- (II) MTs are polar and the motor-proteins know it.

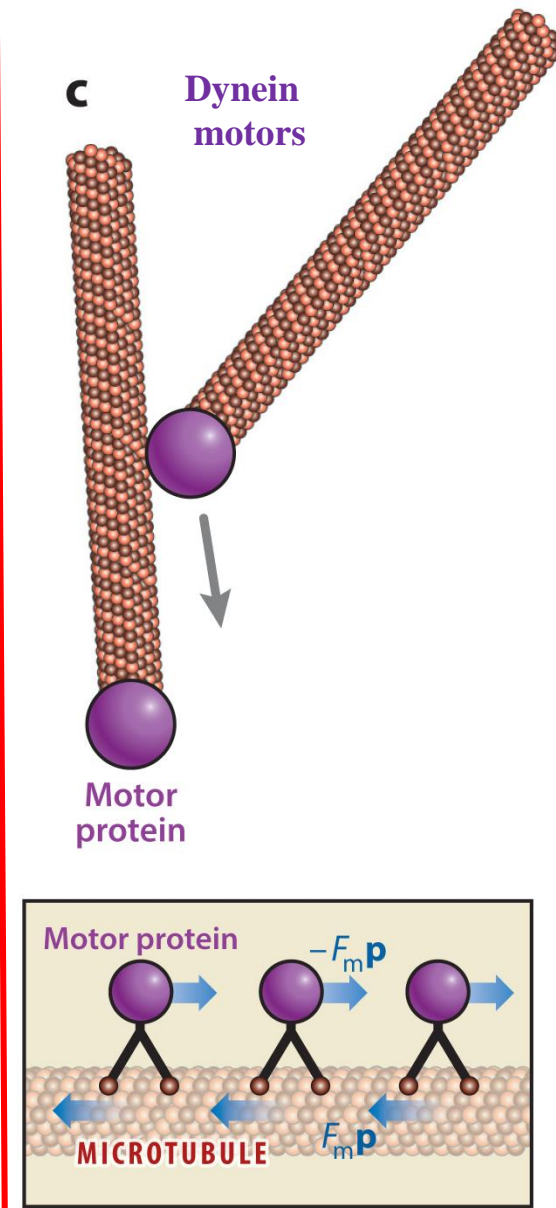


- (I) MTs are constantly assembling and disassembling (dynamic instability)



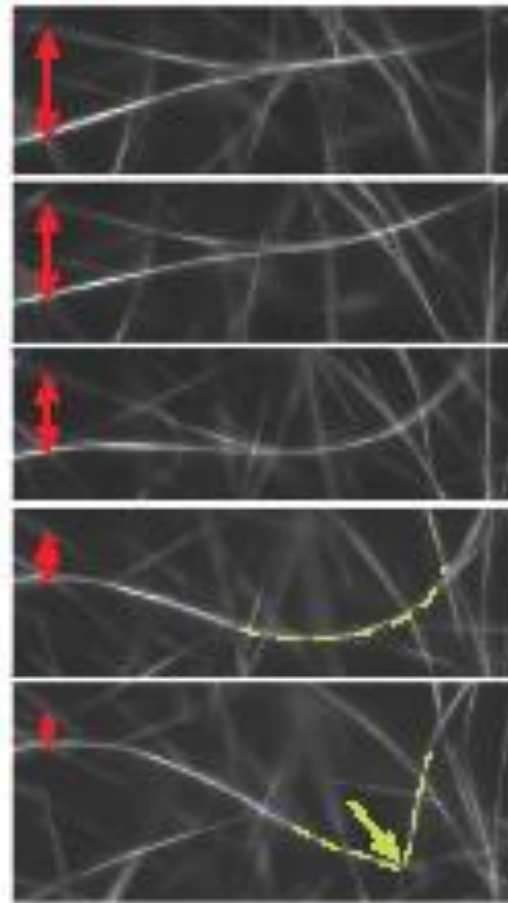
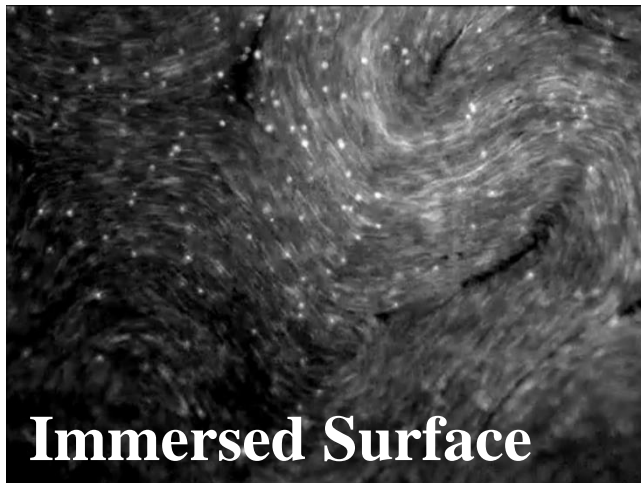
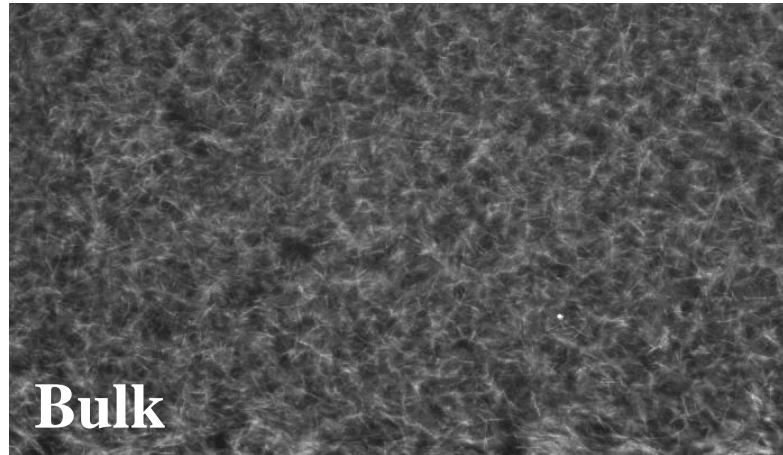
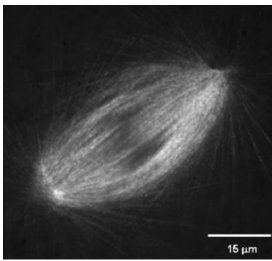
- (II) Kinesin-1 motors are plus-end directed and can “polarity-sort” MTs;

- (III) Dyneins are minus-end directed and are thought to cluster MT minus-ends, carry payloads

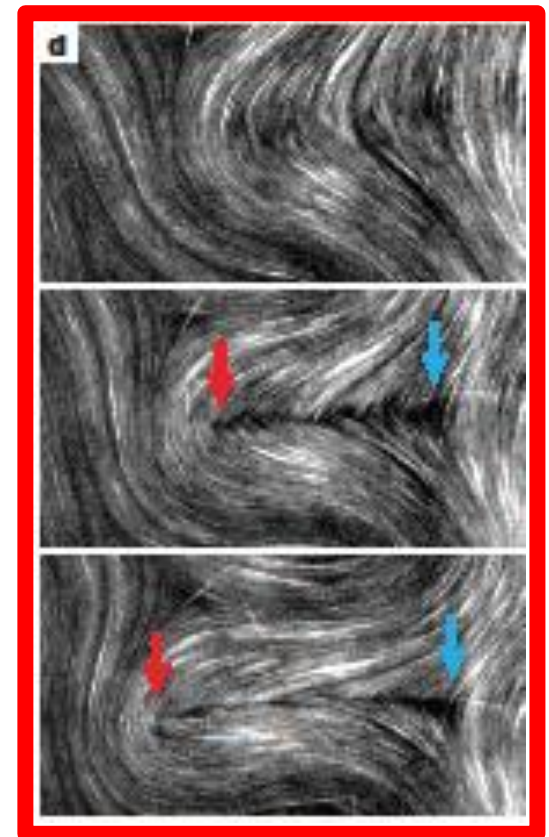
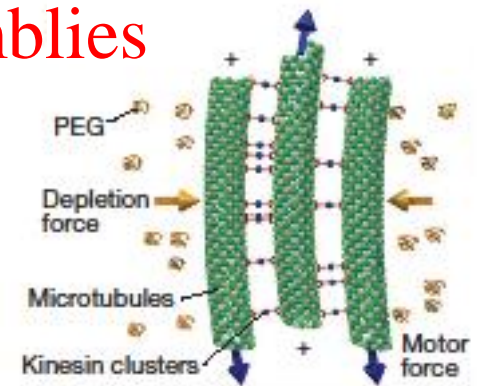


Biosynthetic MT/motor-protein assemblies

Dogic Lab @ Brandeis: synthetic fluids assembled from MTs, **kinesin motor complexes**, and ATP



Self-assembly of bundles in bulk; merging, sorting, fracturing, ... Independence of \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v} correlation length upon ATP concentration



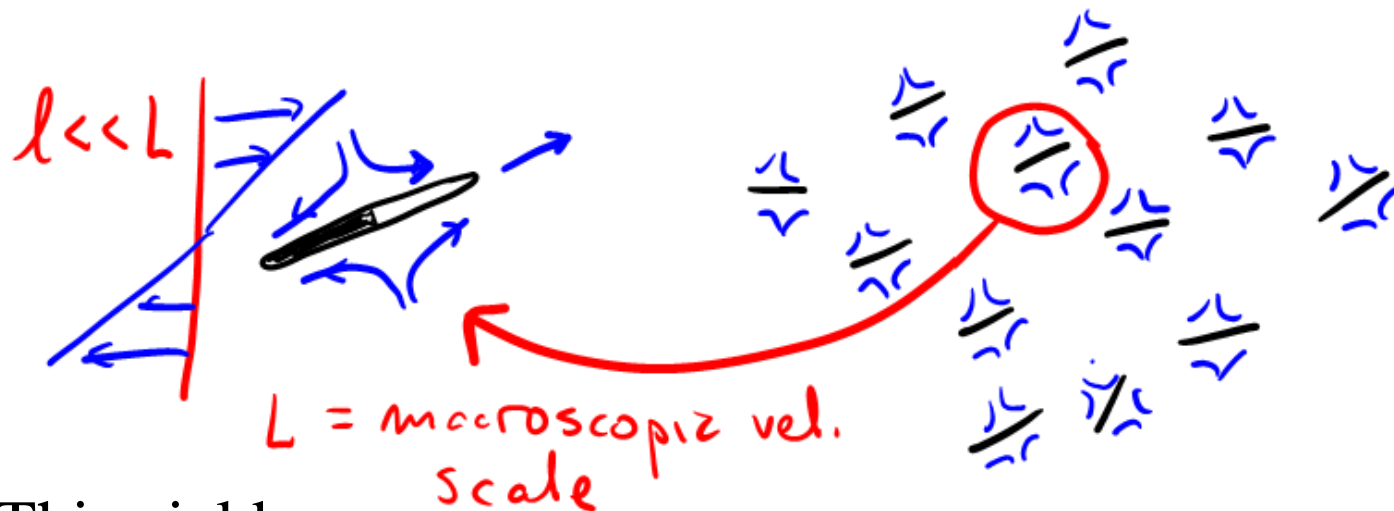
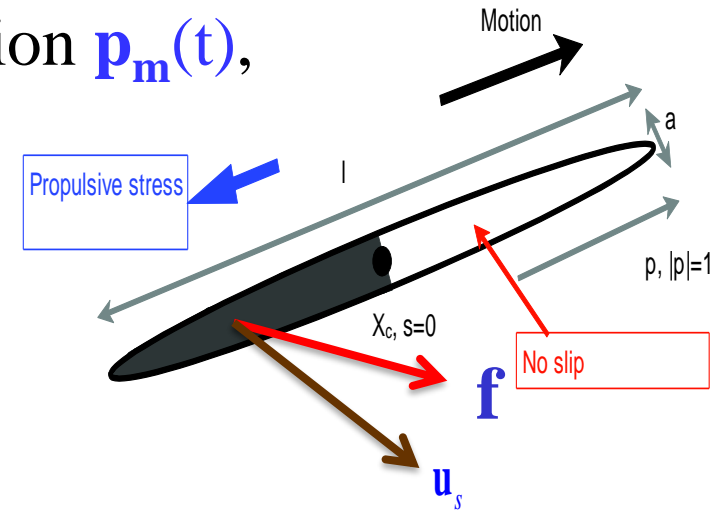
High concentration on surface: active nematic “turbulence”, defect production, annihilation.

Fluid stresses for swimmers / active particles:

Slender swimmer with position $\mathbf{X}_m(t)$, orientation $\mathbf{p}_m(t)$, exerting force/length $\mathbf{f}_m(s)$ on fluid

Solve the single particle problem using SBT.

Evolve a distribution function $\Psi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}, t)$



$\alpha < 0$: Pushers
pump energy
into system

This yields:

$$\dot{\mathbf{X}}_m = \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{X}_m) + U_0 \mathbf{p}_m \quad \& \quad \dot{\mathbf{p}}_m = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{p}_m \mathbf{p}_m^T) \nabla \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{X}_m) \mathbf{p}_m \quad \& \quad \mathbf{f}_m = a_m(s) \mathbf{p}_m$$

Swimming induced active stress:

$$\Sigma^a = + \frac{\sigma_0}{V} \sum_{m=1}^N \mathbf{p}_m \mathbf{p}_m^T \rightarrow \alpha \int dS_p \Psi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}, t) \mathbf{p} \mathbf{p}^T = \alpha \mathbf{D}[\Psi]$$

...

Simha & Ramaswamy '04
Saintillan & Sh. '08a&b
Subramanian & Koch, '09
Ezhilan, Sh. Saintillan '13

Most basic kinetic theory for motile suspensions

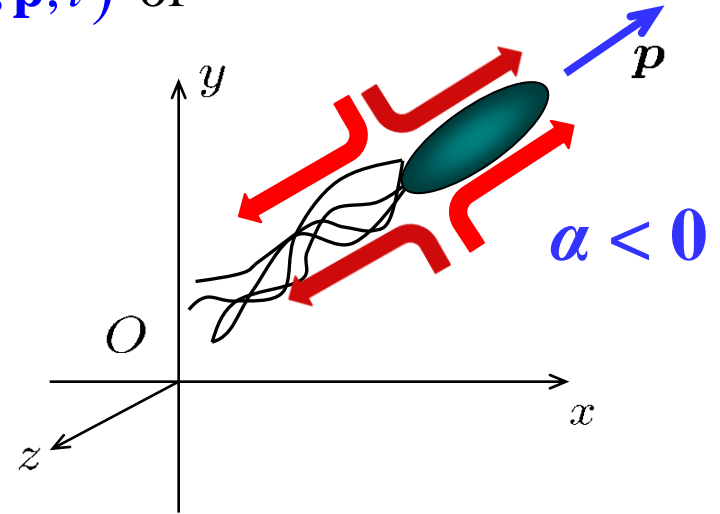
S&S, *PRL* '08, *PoF* '08, Koch & Subr. *JFM* '09, H&S *PRE* '10, LH Lectures '11, ESS, *PoF* '13

Fokker-Planck equation for distribution function $\Psi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}, t)$ of

center of mass \mathbf{x} and swimming director \mathbf{p}

$$\Psi_t + \nabla_x \cdot (\dot{\mathbf{x}} \Psi) + \nabla_p \cdot (\dot{\mathbf{p}} \Psi) = 0$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{p} + \underline{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{x}, t) - \nabla_x (D \ln \Psi) \\ \dot{\mathbf{p}} = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{p}\mathbf{p}^T) \underline{\nabla} \mathbf{u} \mathbf{p} - \nabla_p (d \ln \Psi) \end{array} \right.$$



Stokes Eqs driven by active stress (Kirkwood theory; Batchelor '70):

$$\nabla q - \Delta \mathbf{u} = \nabla \cdot (\boldsymbol{\Sigma}^a + \dots) \quad \text{and} \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma}^a(\mathbf{x}, t) = \alpha \mathbf{D}[\psi](\mathbf{x}, t) \quad \text{where}$$

Pushers: $\alpha < 0$

Pullers: $\alpha > 0$

$$\text{w. } \mathbf{D}[\psi] = \int d\mathbf{p} \, \psi \mathbf{p}\mathbf{p}^T \quad \text{the tensor order parameter}$$

Nondimensionalization: $u_c = U_s \rightarrow 1$, $l_c = l / \nu$, $t_c = l_c / u_c$; $\nu = n(l/2)^3$

$$\sigma_0 \rightarrow \alpha = \sigma_0 / \mu U_0 l^2 = \kappa_1 / \kappa_2 = O(1)$$

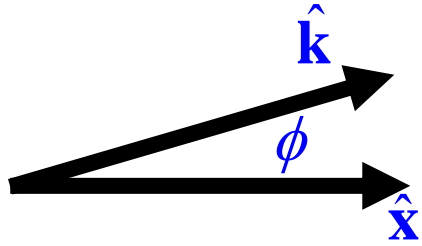
Some Results:

Reviewed by Saintillan & Shelley, *Comptes Rendes Physique* 2013

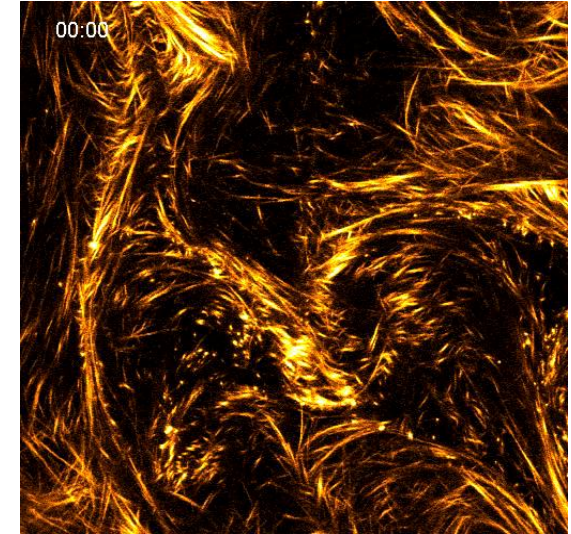
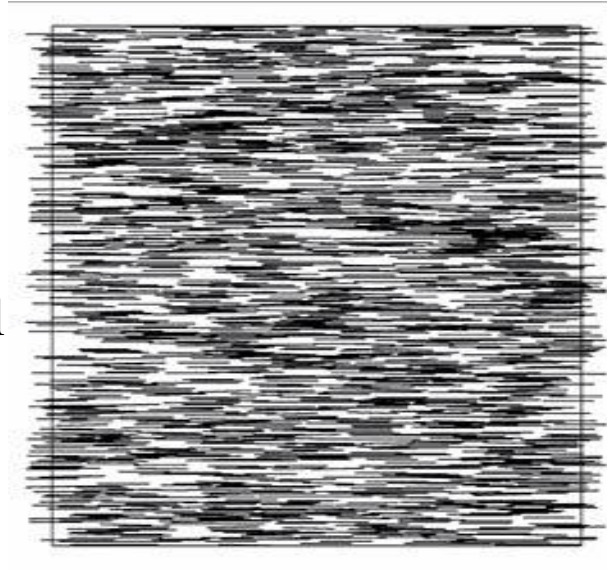
(i) Instability of globally aligned states (no flocks) *

Simha & Ramaswamy '02, Saintillan & Shelley '07, '08, Gao *et al* '15

Dogic Lab '16



Wave vector $\hat{\mathbf{k}}(\phi)$ of maximal growth is aligned with the suspension, i.e. $\phi = 0$



(ii) Stability criterion for isotropic Puller suspensions: $(L/l)\nu > C$ *

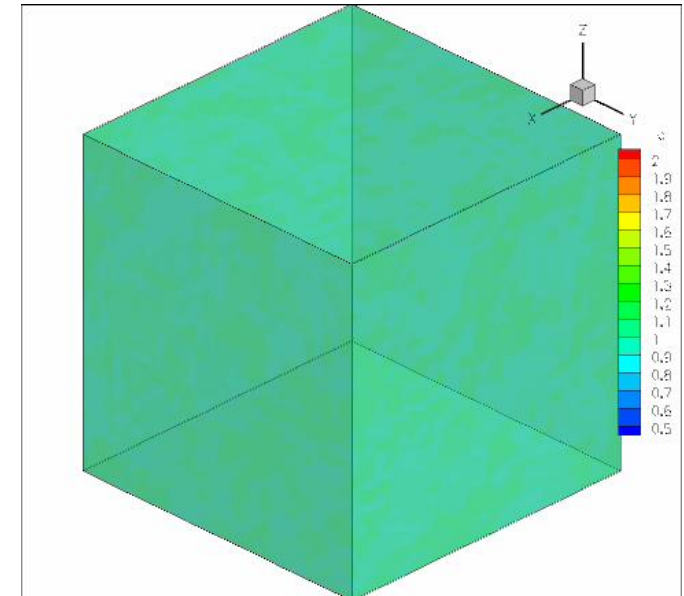
Hohenegger & Shelley '10, Saintillan & Shelley '12

Consistent with expts Sokolov *et al* '07,....

(iii) Simulations show formation of persistent and unsteady coherent structures, concentration fluctuations; strongly mixing flows.

(iv) Active stresses drive instabilities, not self-propulsion.

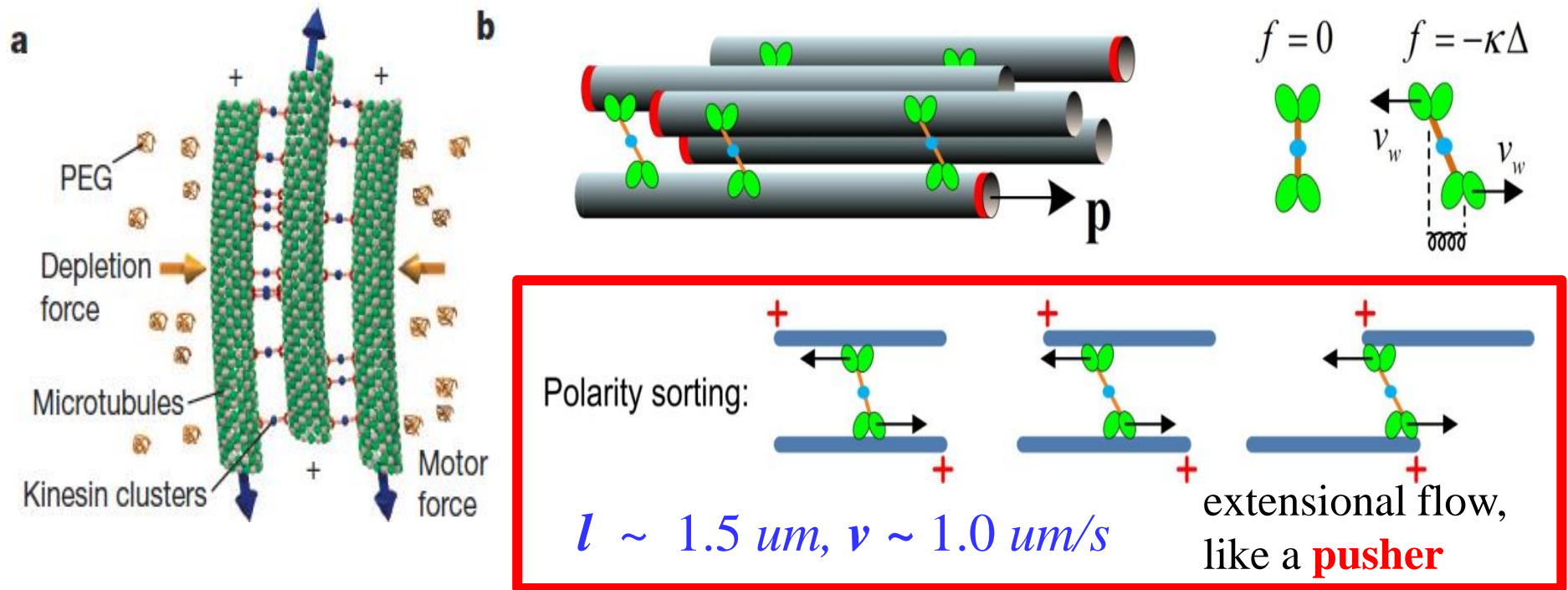
Applications to chemotaxis, confinement, rheology, active nematics, models of MTs/motor protein interactions



Active stresses for MT assemblies I:

Gao et al, *PRL* & *PRE* 2015

A basic interaction: polarity sorting of anti-aligned MTs



For bundle of m left-polar MTs, and n right-polar MTs

$$\text{MT translation: } \dot{x}_j^L = \frac{2n}{n+m} v, \quad \dot{x}_k^R = -\frac{2m}{n+m} v; \quad \dot{x}_j^L - \dot{x}_k^R = 2v$$

$$\text{Active stress: } \Sigma^{\text{active}} = -\frac{\eta v_w l}{V} \left(\bar{x}_c^L - \bar{x}_c^R \right) \frac{mn}{m+n} \mathbf{xx}^T; \quad \bar{x}_c^L - \bar{x}_c^R \sim \alpha_1 l$$

Crosslinking bias (towards overlap) yields **extensile stress**: $\alpha_1 < 0$

Polar “active nematic” theory for active MT assemblies

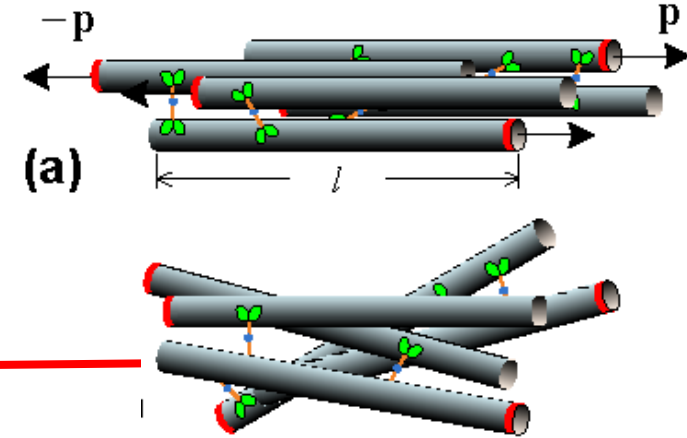
Gao, Blackwell, Betterton, Glaser, Sh., *PRL* '15, *PRE* '15; See Saintillan & Sh *PRL*, *PoF* '08, Ezhilan, Sa, Sh *PoF* '13

Evolve distribution $\Psi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}, t)$ of MT position \mathbf{x} and polar orientation \mathbf{p} .

$$\phi = \int dp \Psi = \text{local MT concentration}$$

$$\mathbf{q} = \phi^{-1} \int dp \mathbf{p} \Psi = \text{local average MT polarization vector}$$

$$\mathbf{D} = \int dp \mathbf{p} \mathbf{p}^T \Psi; \quad \mathbf{Q} = \phi^{-1} \mathbf{D} = \text{tensor order parameter of MT field}$$



$$\Psi_t + \nabla_x \cdot (\dot{\mathbf{x}} \Psi) + \nabla_p \cdot (\dot{\mathbf{p}} \Psi) = d_x \nabla_x^2 \Psi + d_p \nabla_p^2 \Psi$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \underline{(\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{p})} + \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t), \text{ polarity sorting + local background } \mathbf{u}$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{p}} = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{p} \mathbf{p}^T)(\nabla \mathbf{u} + \zeta \mathbf{D}) \mathbf{p}, \text{ Jeffery's eqn plus steric alignment torque}$$

$$\nabla q - \Delta \mathbf{u} = \nabla \cdot \Sigma^{extra} \quad \& \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 \text{ with}$$

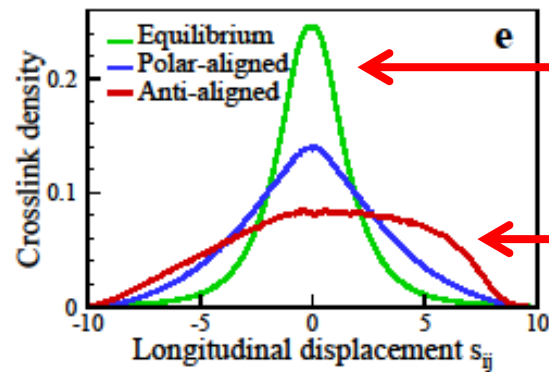
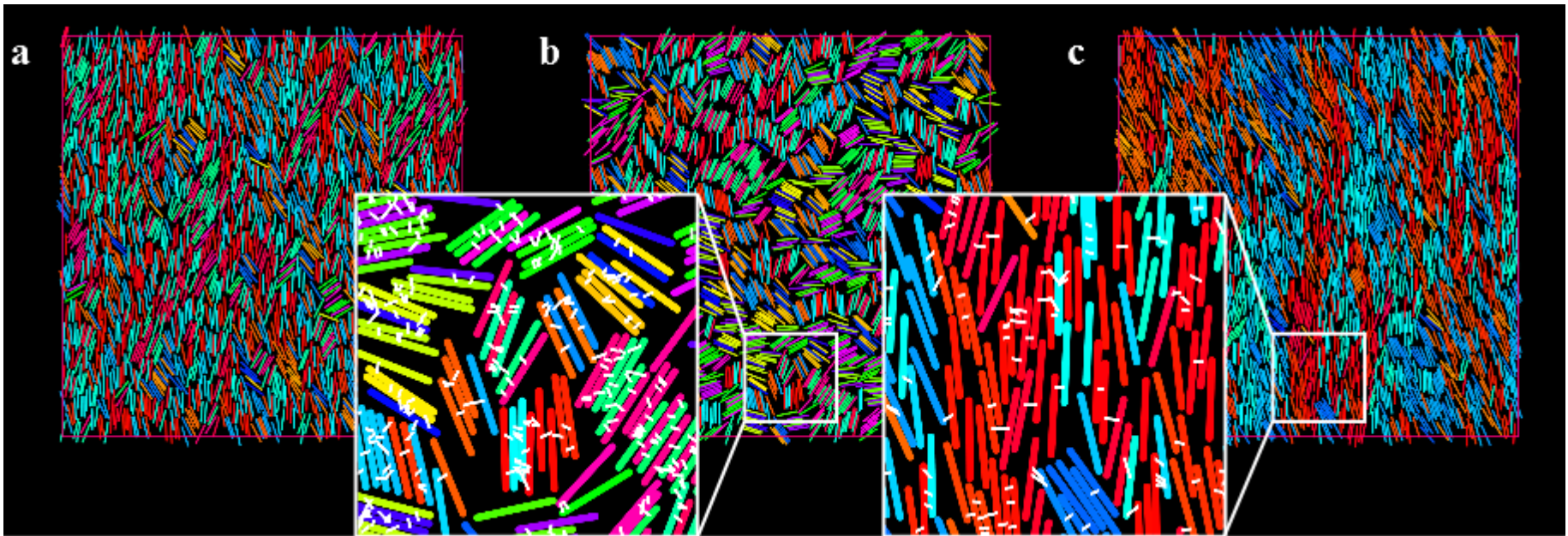
$$\Sigma^{extra} = \Sigma^{active} + \Sigma^{constraint} + \Sigma^{steric}$$

$$\Sigma^{active}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{\alpha_1}{2} (\underline{\mathbf{D} - \phi \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T}) + \frac{\alpha_2}{2} (\mathbf{D} + \phi \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T)$$

active stresses produced by anti-aligned interactions (polarity sorting)

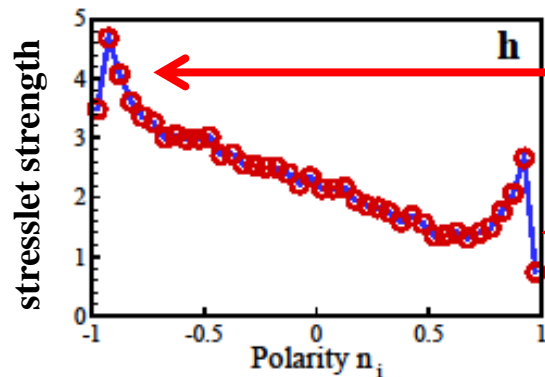
+ active stresses produced by polar-aligned interactions

BD-MC simulations estimate parameters (micro to macro)



immobile crosslinks

cross-linked anti-aligned MTs
biased towards extension



extensile stress produced by
polarity sorting (anti-aligned)

extensile stress produced by
polar-aligned MT interactions

BD-MC estimates

$$\alpha_1 \approx 2$$

$$\alpha_2 \approx 0.5$$

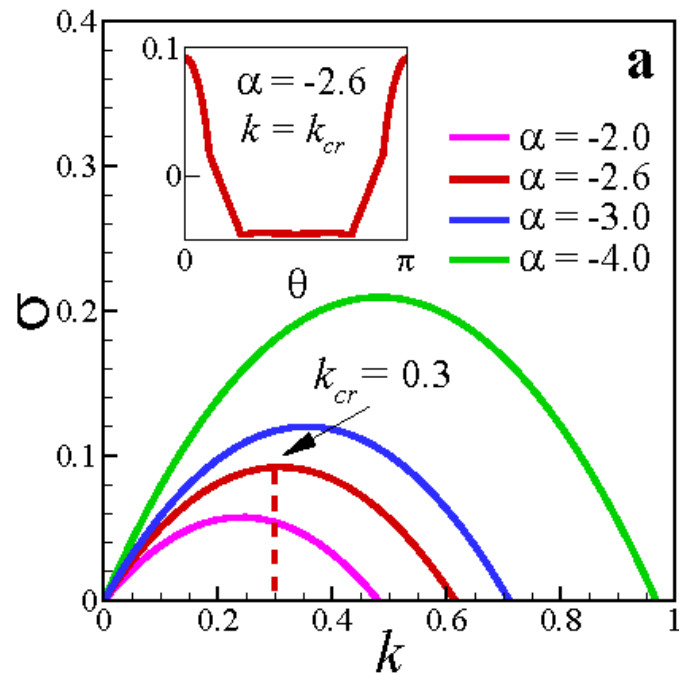
Linear theory of nematic steady state : $\psi = \psi_{\parallel} + \varepsilon \eta$ with $\hat{\mathbf{m}}_0 = \hat{\mathbf{x}}$

Fastest growing plane-wave vector is aligned

with nematic field: $\hat{\mathbf{k}} = \hat{\mathbf{m}}_0$ (generic)

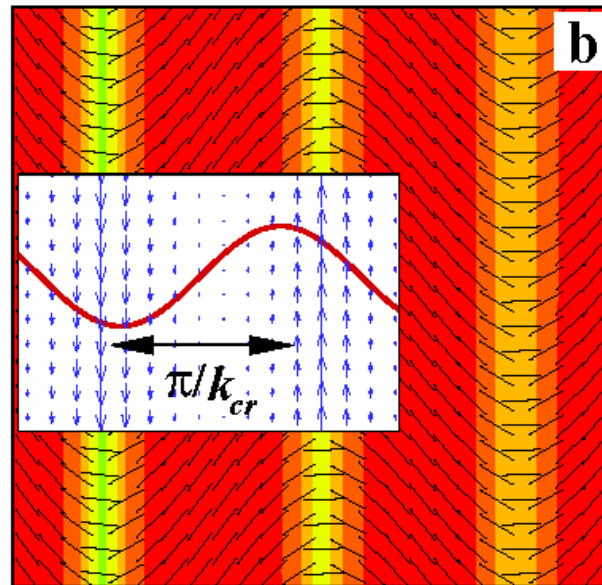
(as in swimming suspension theory -- RS2004, SS2008)

Activity, diffusion & immersion pick out fastest growth-scale λ_{cr} .

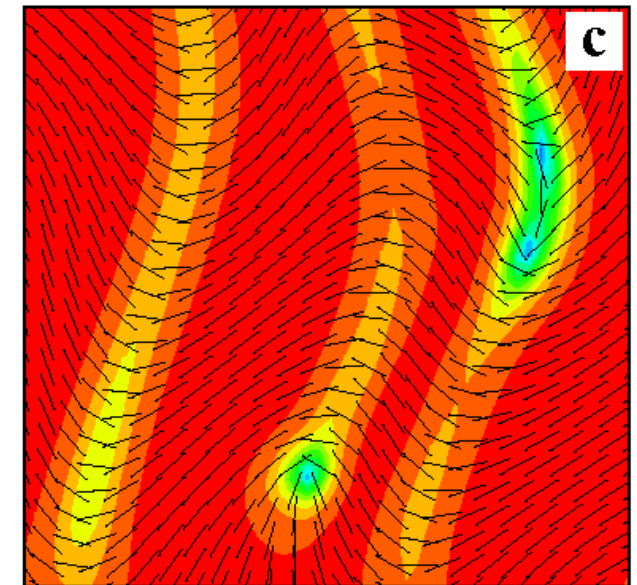


$\theta = 0$, direction of maximal growth

Accounting for outer fluid yields maximal growth-rate at finite k .



crack forming



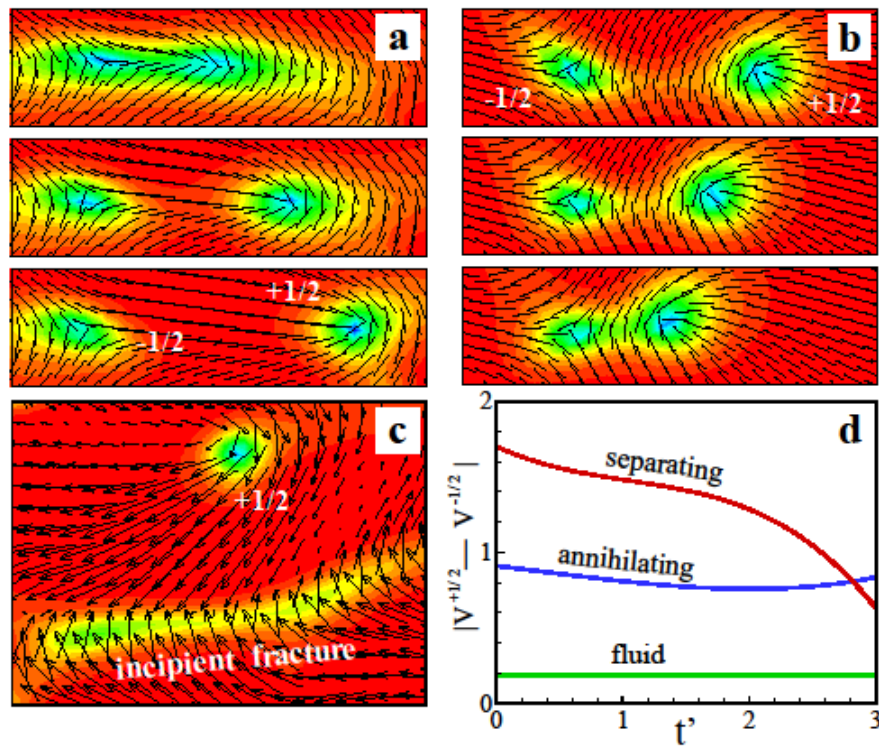
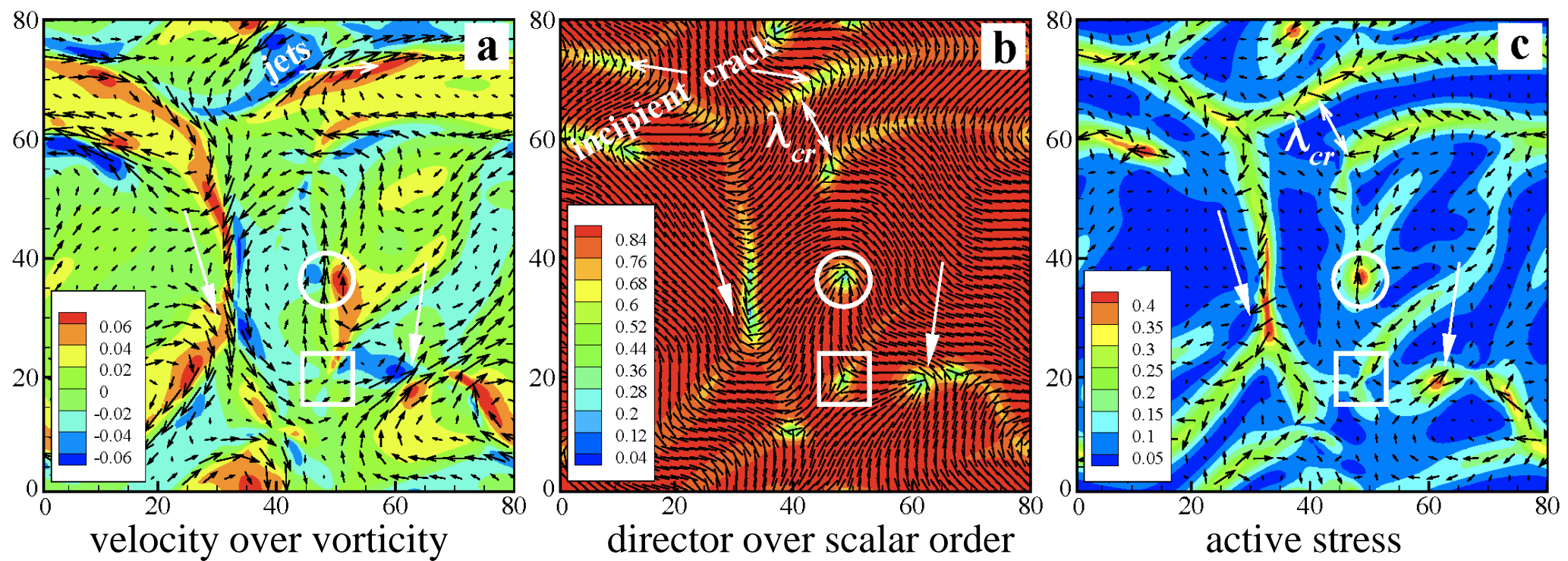
defect genesis

Nonlinear crack solns unstable to transverse modes.

See [Giomi et al. 2011](#)

[Giomi, Marchetti, et al, 2013,...](#)

[Thampi et al 2013, ...](#)



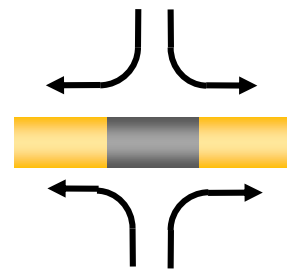
- Disclination singularities emerge from “cracks”, or lines of low order. $+1/2$ -order defects are highly mobile
- Cracks associated with surface jets, vortex pairs, and nematic bending
- Active force concentrated at $+1/2$ -order defects; Defects leave behind polarity-sorted material.
- Defects separate on the motor-protein speed.

Gao et al, *PRL*, *PRE* '15

Active nematic flows in confinement

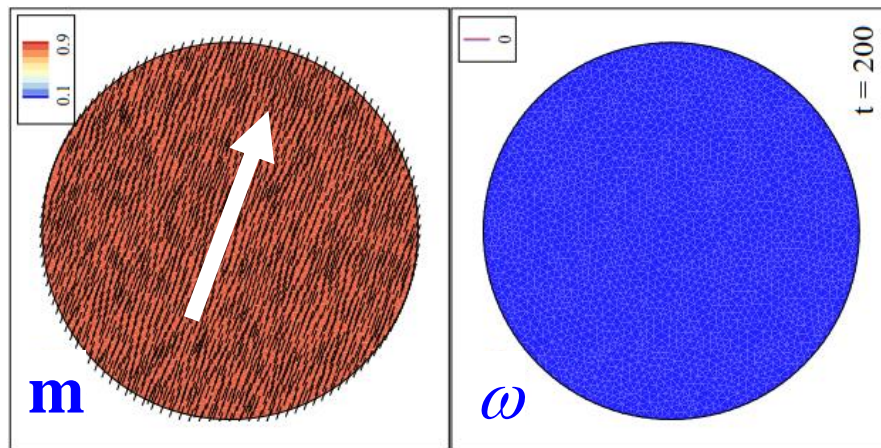
Gao, Betterton, Shelley '16

Woodhouse & Goldstein '12, Saintillan *et al* '16 (w.o. steric interactions), Dogic *et al*



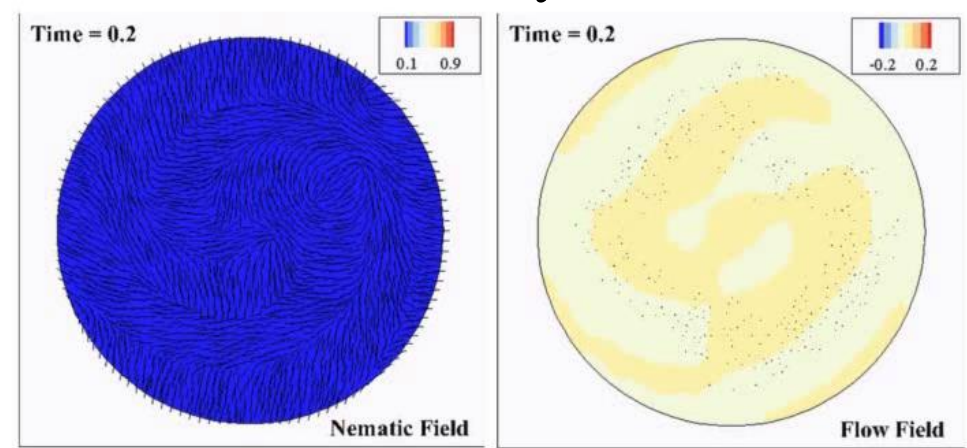
BCs: $\mathbf{u} = 0$ and $D_x(\partial\psi/\partial n) = 0$

relaxation to nematic alignment



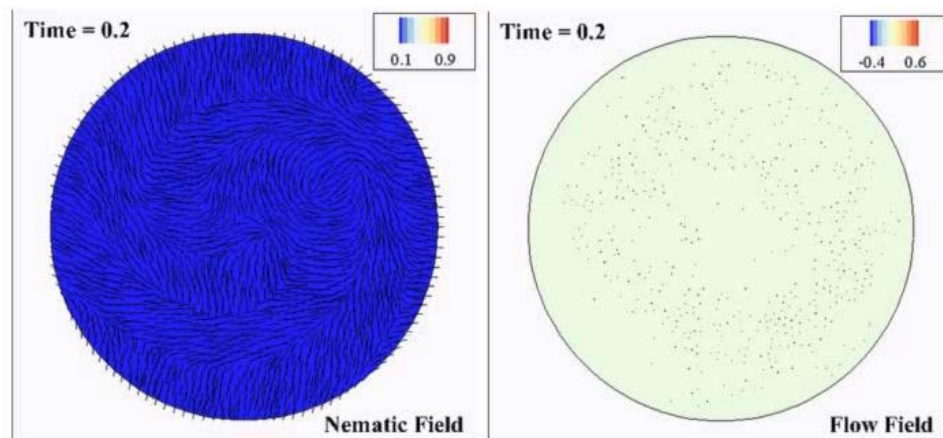
$\alpha = -0.3$

symmetry breaking to time-periodic flows by defects



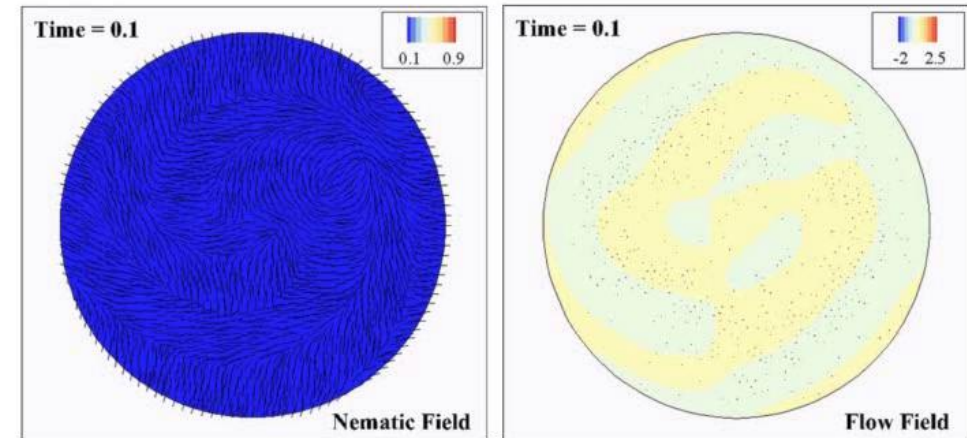
$\alpha = -2.5$

boundary annihilation of defects



$\alpha = -3$

quasi-periodic defect dynamics

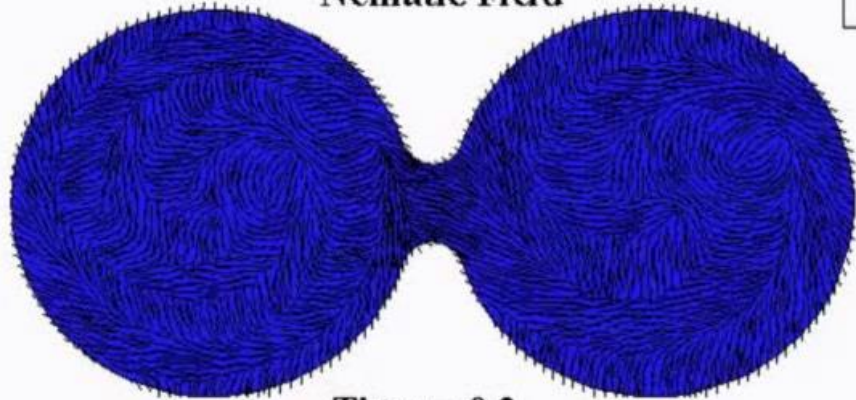


$\alpha = -4$

Biconvex domains (w a Fredericks transition)

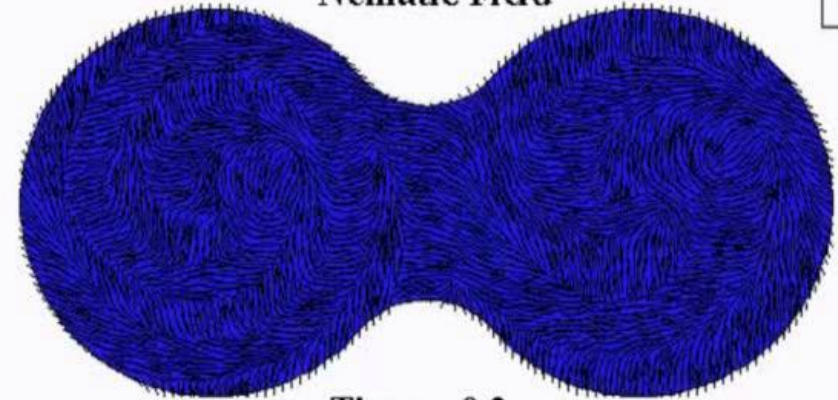
$$\alpha = -3$$

Nematic Field



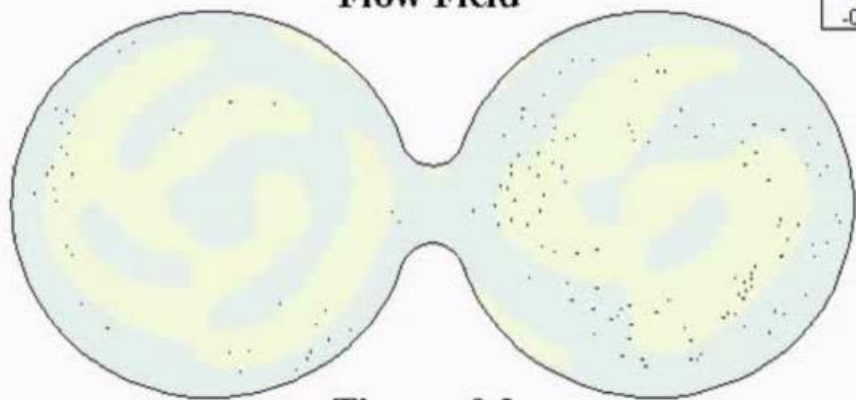
Time = 0.2

Nematic Field



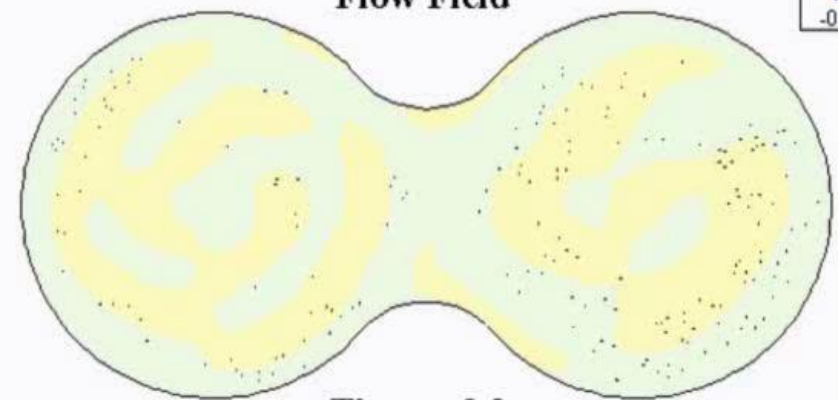
Time = 0.2

Flow Field



Time = 0.2

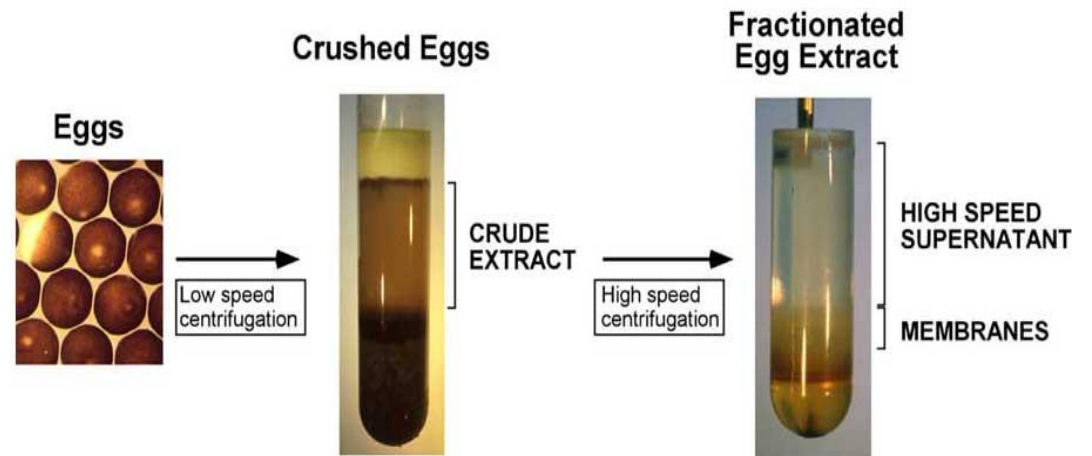
Flow Field



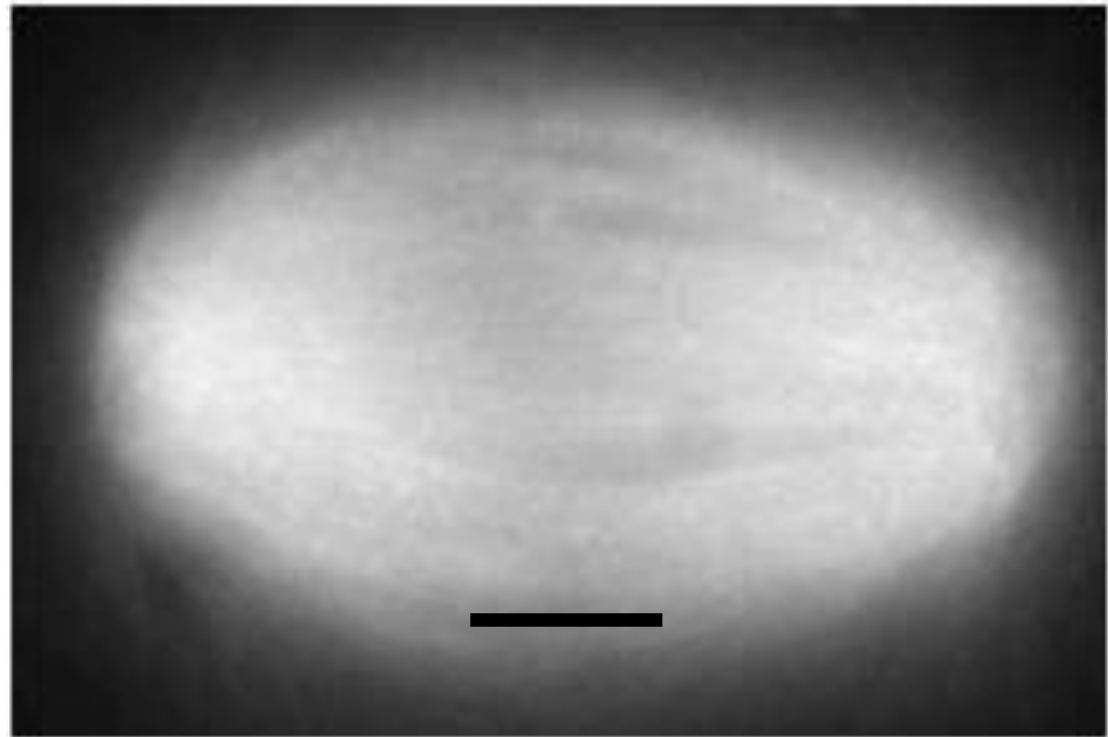
Time = 0.2

Active stresses for MT assemblies II:

Contractions in *Xenopus Laevis* egg extract

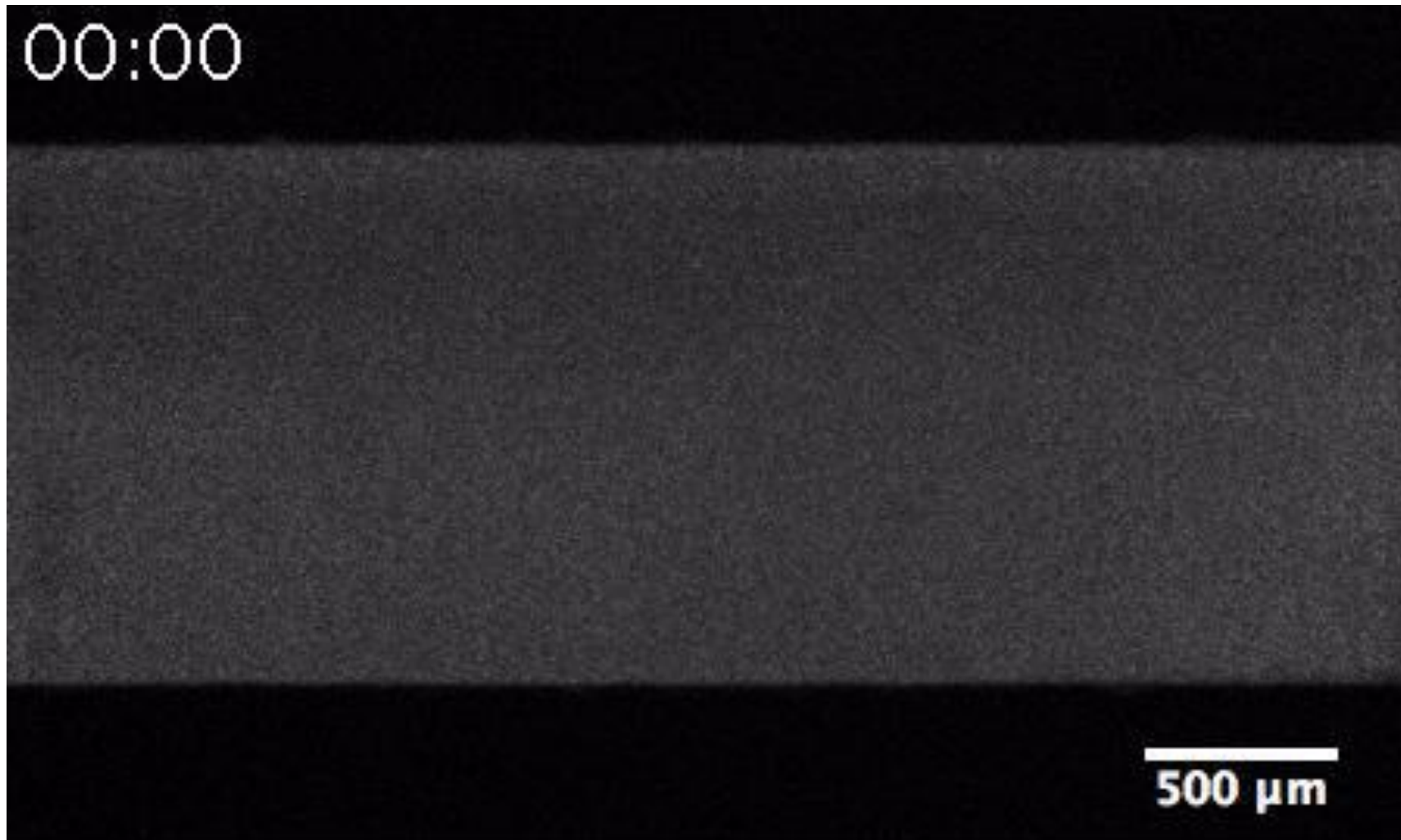


+ DNA



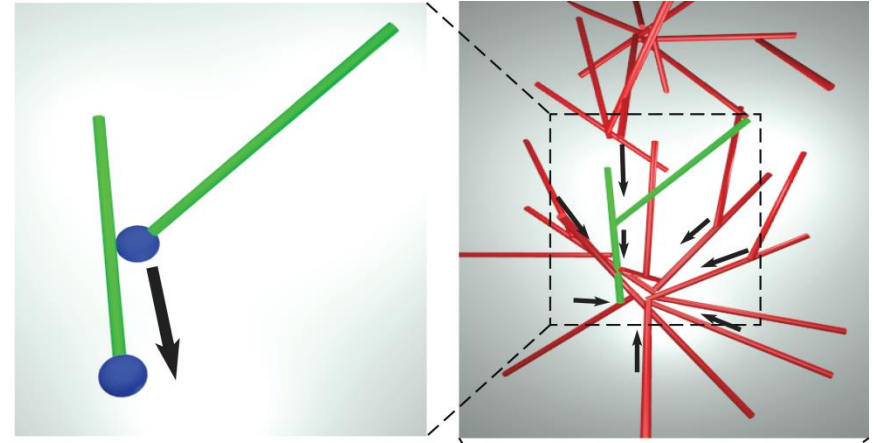
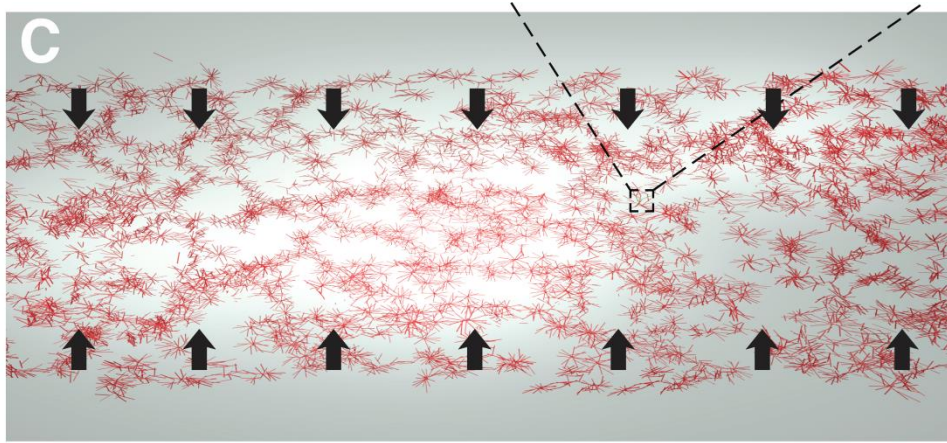
X. Laevis extract spindle (Needleman Lab)

Instead of DNA, add taxol
(an anti-cancer drug) which
both nucleates and stabilizes MTs



Contraction, not extension

A simple active material model



Dyneins pull MT minus ends together $\Rightarrow \boldsymbol{\sigma}_1 \sim -s\rho\mathbf{I}$

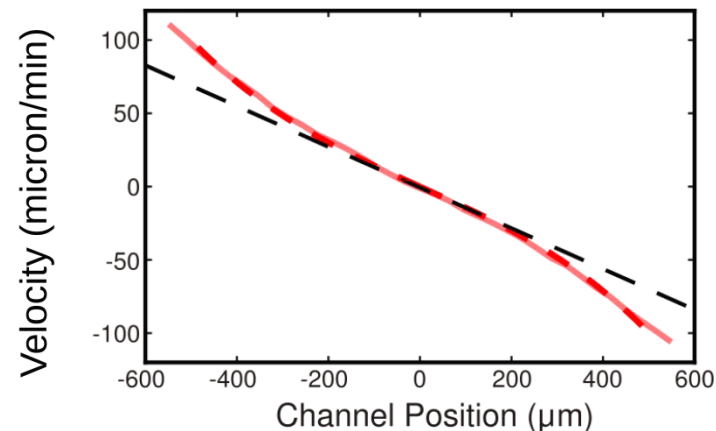
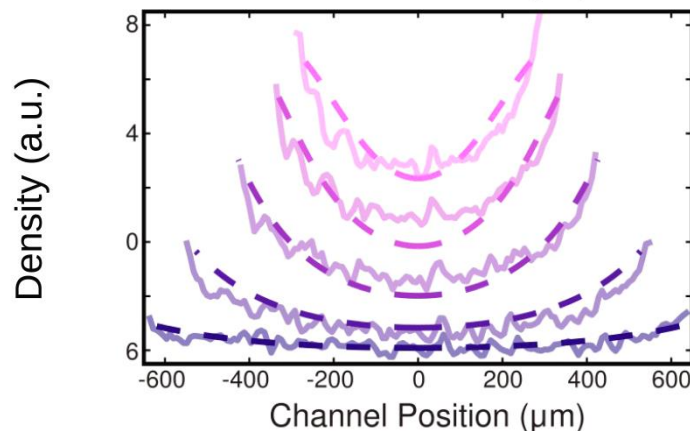
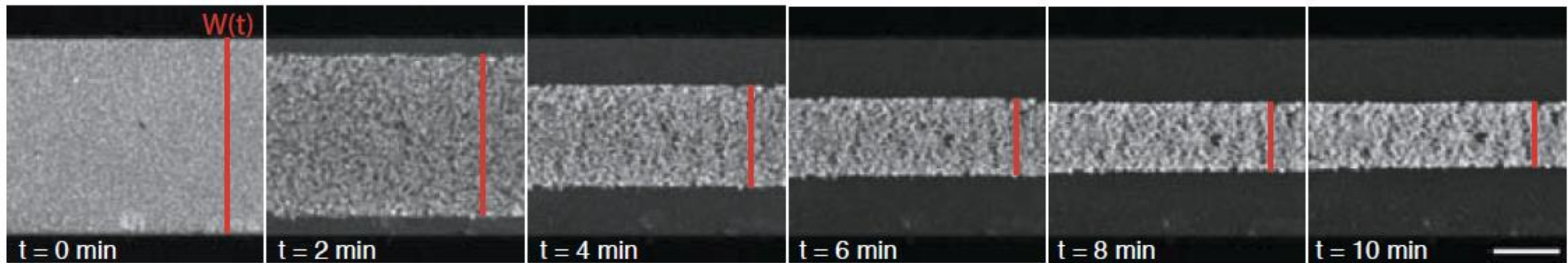
Steric interactions push MTs apart $\Rightarrow \boldsymbol{\sigma}_2 \sim s\rho^2\mathbf{I}$

Gives active stress of form: $\boldsymbol{\sigma}_a \sim s\rho(\rho - \rho_0)\mathbf{I}$

For a viscously damped material dragging itself through the fluid:

$$\eta\Delta\mathbf{v} - \gamma\mathbf{v} = \nabla\cdot\boldsymbol{\sigma}_a \quad \text{and} \quad \rho_t + \nabla\cdot(\rho\mathbf{v}) = 0$$

plus BCs: $(\eta\nabla\mathbf{v} - \boldsymbol{\sigma}_a)\cdot\mathbf{n}|_{\Gamma} = \mathbf{0}$ and $\mathbf{V}_{\Gamma} = \mathbf{v}|_{\Gamma}$

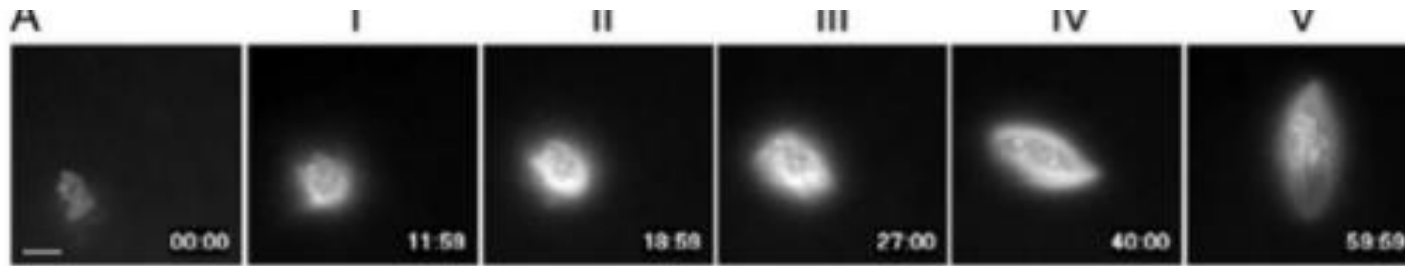


1D version gives a quantitative match to the film's contraction and velocity dynamics with reasonable parameter choices.

Suggests that contractile dynein-driven stresses could be operative in spindle...

Foster, Furthauer, Shelley, Needleman, *eLife* 2015

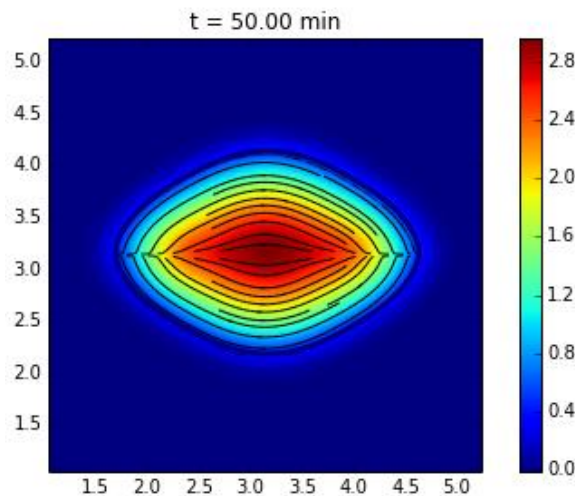
Ongoing:



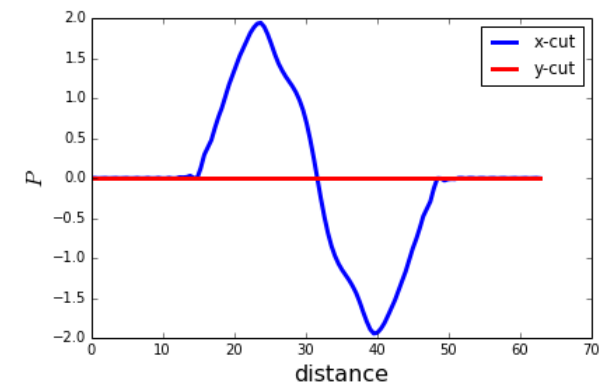
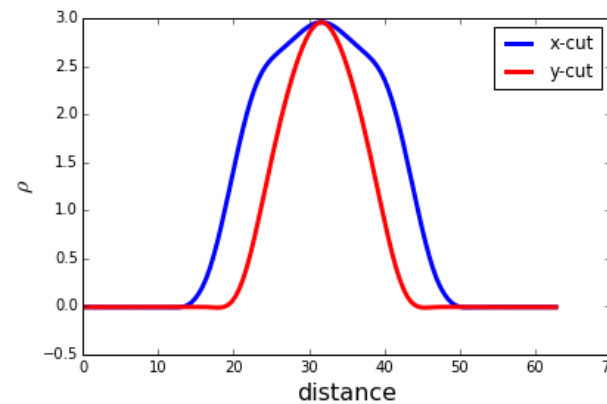
Spontaneous formation of spindle in *Xenopus* extract
A.C. Groen et al, MCB '09

Polar active nematic model of spindle formation via microtubule nucleation, polarity sorting, active contractile stresses

Furthauer, Needleman, Sh, 2016



$30 \times 20 \mu m$



Agrees well with measurements of Brugues & Needleman PNAS 2014

Discrete structure methods for MT dynamics (BIM)

$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_i \mathbf{u}_i^{mt}(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{u}^{pnc}(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{u}^{cor}(\mathbf{x})$$

- MTs: Use slender body theory, local or nonlocal

$$\mathbf{u}_i^{mt}(\mathbf{x}) = \int_0^{L_i} ds \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{X}_i(s)) \mathbf{f}_i(s)$$

(distribution of Stokeslets)

$$8\pi\mu \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{X}_i}{\partial t} - \overline{\mathbf{u}_i^{mt}}(\mathbf{X}_i) \right) = -\Lambda[\mathbf{f}_i](s) - \mathbf{K}[\mathbf{f}_i](s)$$

with $\mathbf{f}_i = -\left(T\mathbf{X}_{i,s}\right)_s + E\mathbf{X}_{i,ssss}$ inextensible, elastic beam

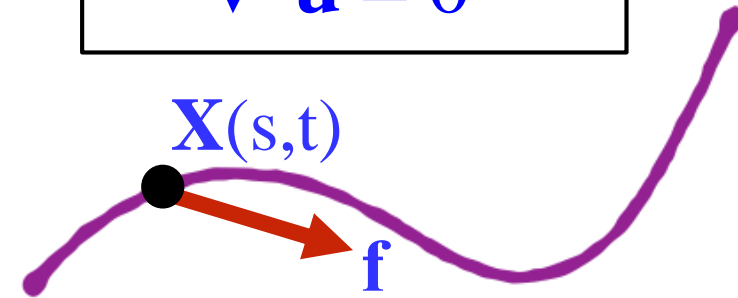
- Immersed surfaces (pnc) and boundaries (cor)

use *stresslet distribution* Power & Miranda '87

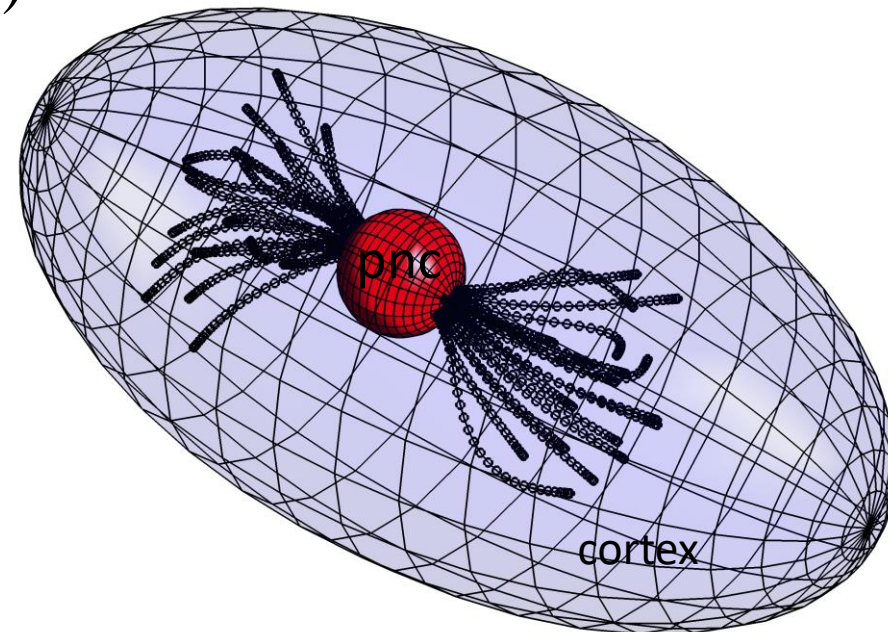
$\left(\begin{array}{l} \text{yields well-conditioned 2nd-kind} \\ \text{boundary integral equations} \end{array} \right)$

$$\mathbf{u}^{pnc}(\mathbf{x}) = \int_{pnc} dS_x \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}') \mathbf{T}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}') \mathbf{q}_{pnc}(\mathbf{x}') + \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{X}_0) \mathbf{F}_{pnc}^{ext} + \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{X}_0) \mathbf{L}_{pnc}^{ext}$$

$$\begin{aligned} -\nabla p + \mu \Delta \mathbf{u} &= \mathbf{0} \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$



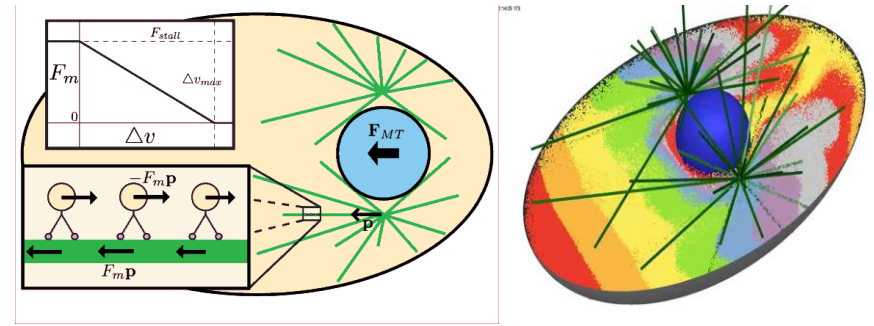
Keller & Rubinow *JFM* '76
 Johnson *JFM* '80, Gotz '00
 Tornberg & Shelley *JCP* '04
 Nazockdast *et al*, *JCP* '16



Positioning: Our “early” work using IBM, with ~50 rigid MTs, and w. no transverse MT drag.

Shinar et al, PNAS 2011

Underestimates motor-protein forces by an order of magnitude, but does the right thing...



3 different models of pronuclear positioning, ~1000 MTs

Pulling by cytoplasmic dynein



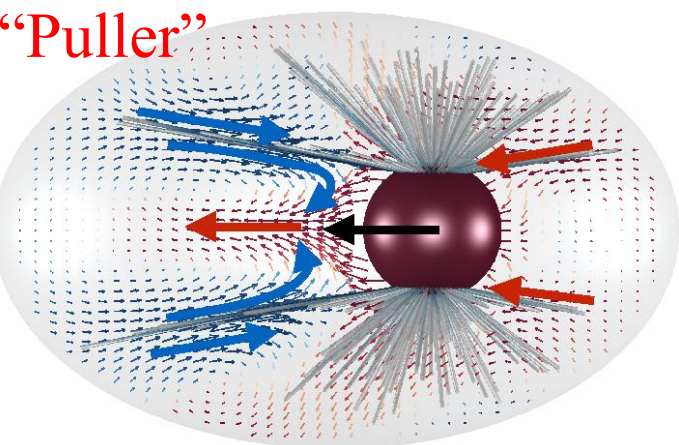
Pushing by growing MTs



Pulling by cortically bound dynein

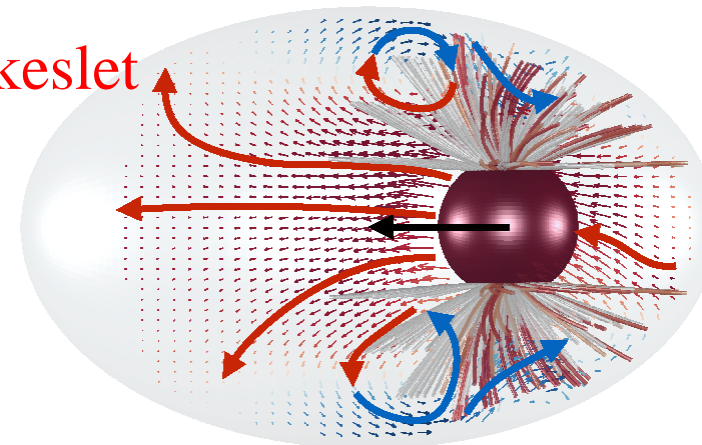


“Puller”



Different mechanisms leave different signatures in cytoplasmic flow and MT conformation

Stokeslet



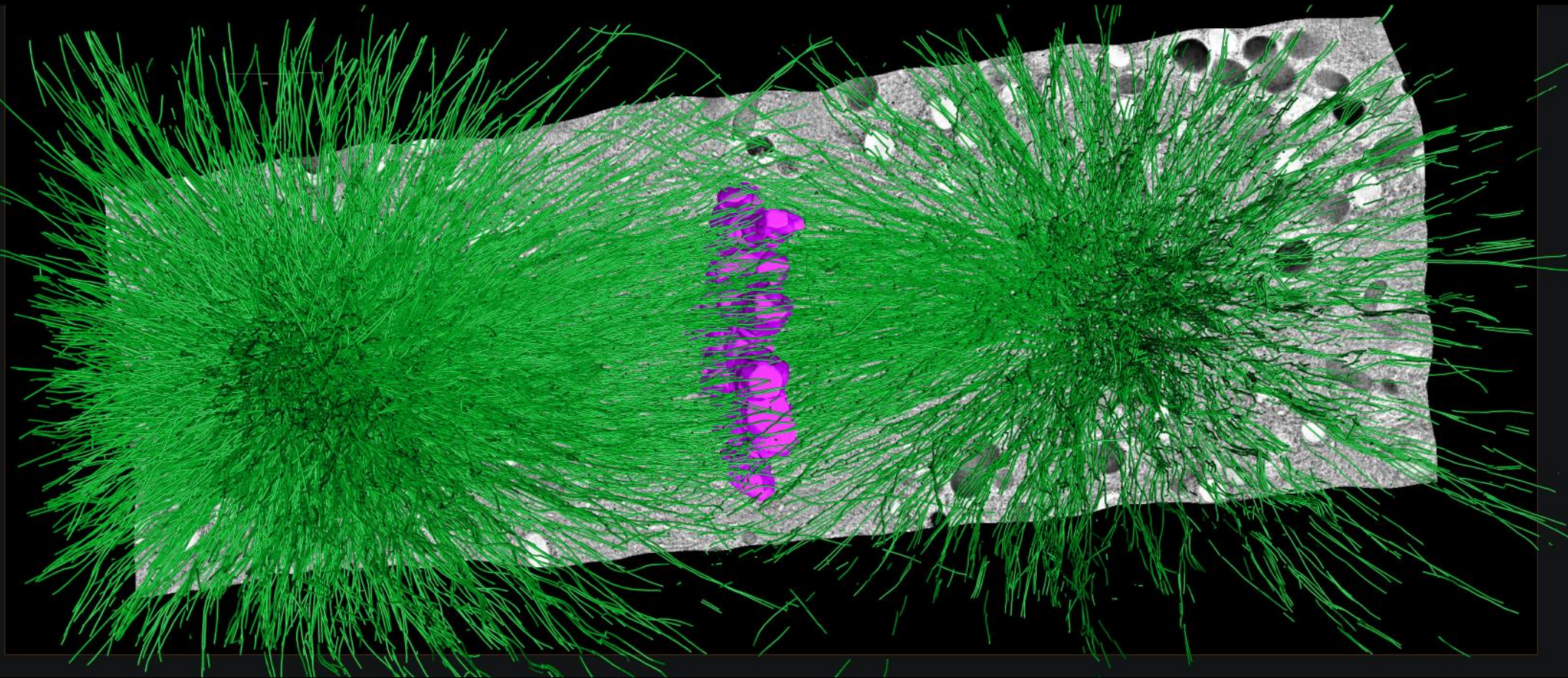
Zia et al '16, Nazockdast, Rahimian, Needleman, Shelley, to appear, MBOC '16

3D ET reconstruction of *C. elegans* metaphase spindle

Redemann, ..., SF, EN, ..., MS, Muller-Reichert, submitted 2016

anterior

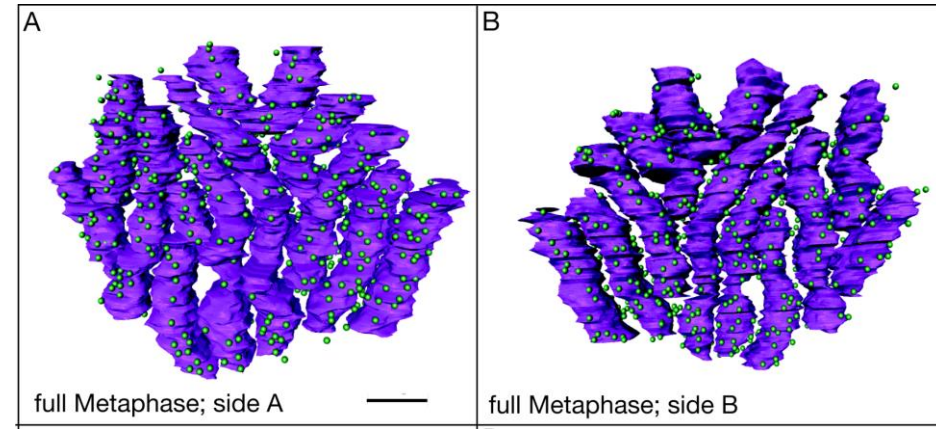
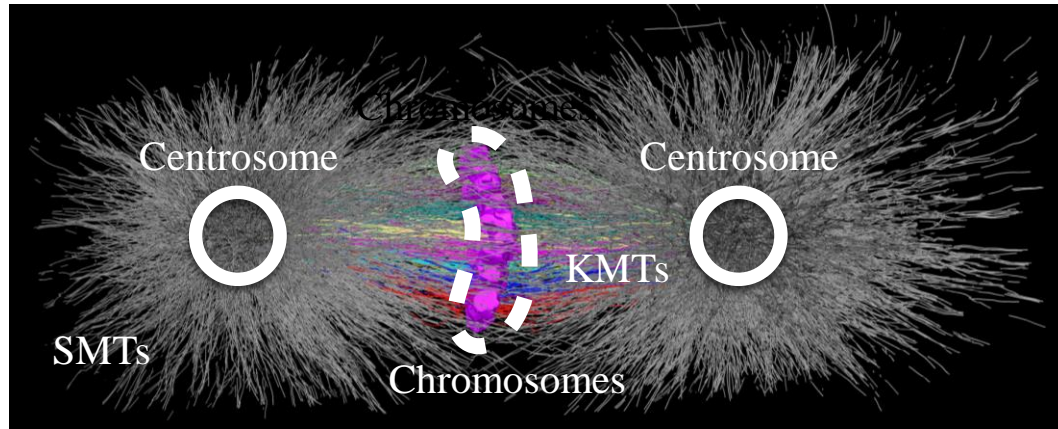
posterior



Microtubules, Chromosomes

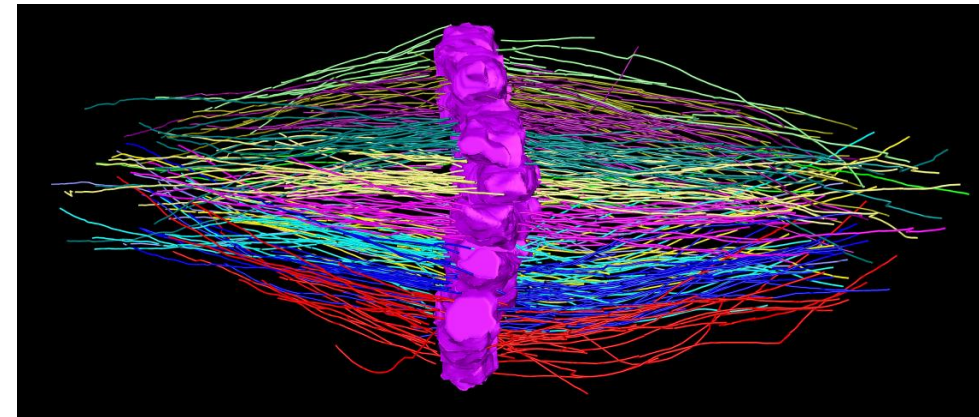
1 μ m —

Main Structural Elements of Mitotic Spindle



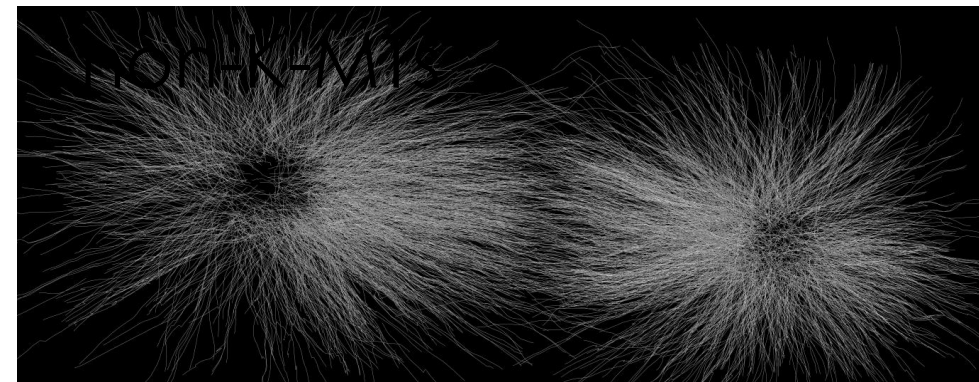
Kinetochores Microtubules (KMTs):

- Connected to chromosomes
- Mechanical agents for chromosome segregation
- About 500 KMTs (250 each half spindle)



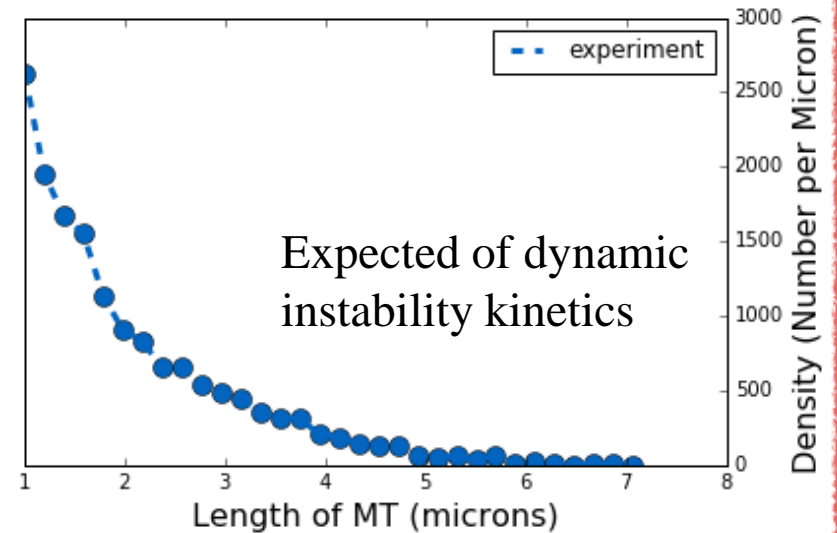
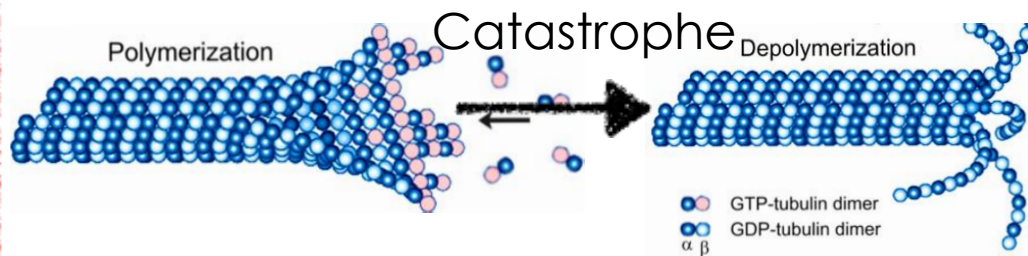
Non-Kinetochores MTs (nKMTs)

- One end is mainly located near centrosomes
- About 15000 nKMTs (\gg 250 KT) in each half-spindle
- Large number of short nKMTs and very few longer than the half-spindle

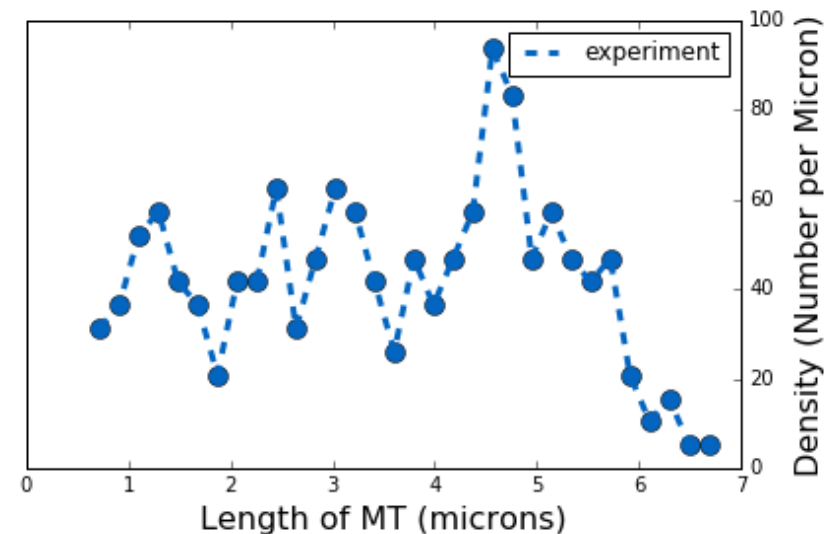


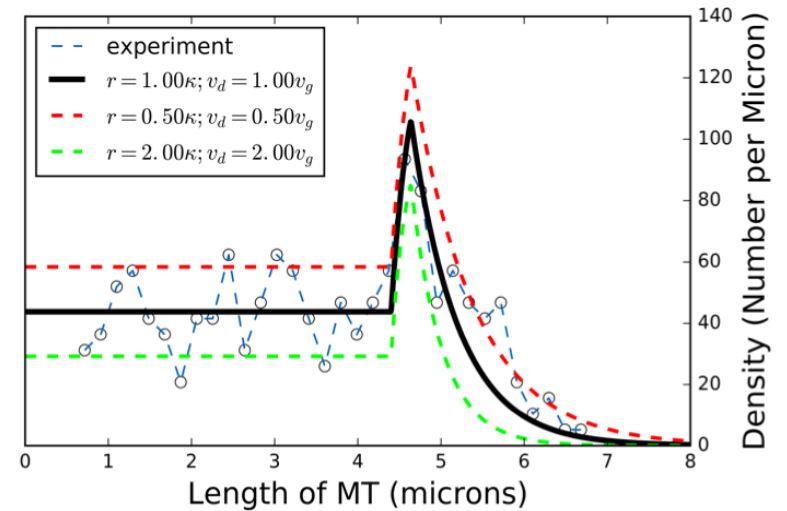
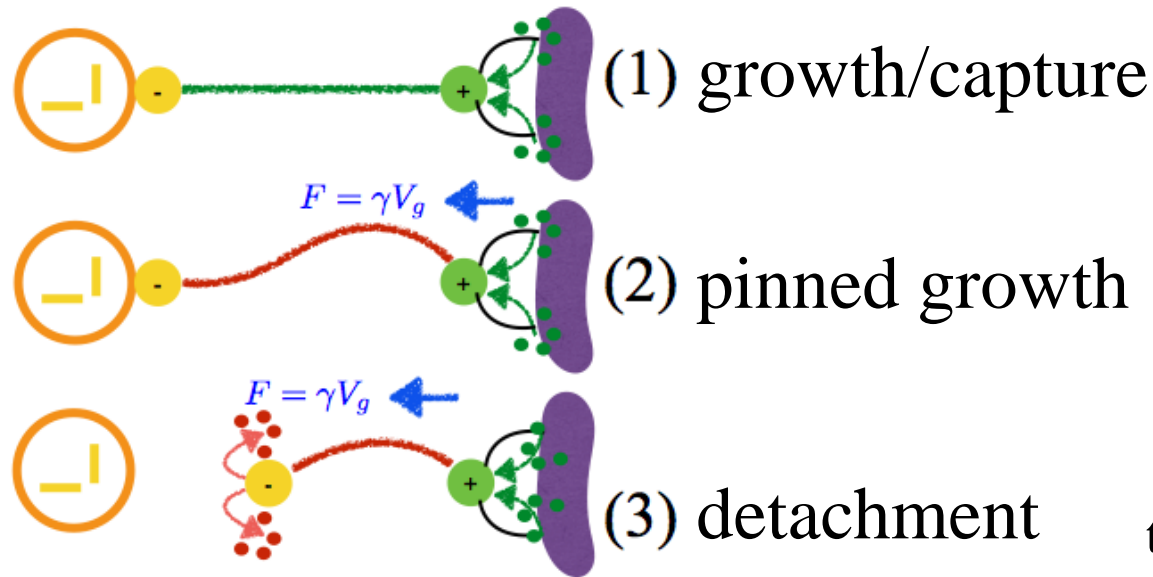
Length Distribution of KMTs and SMTs

nKMTs: Exponential

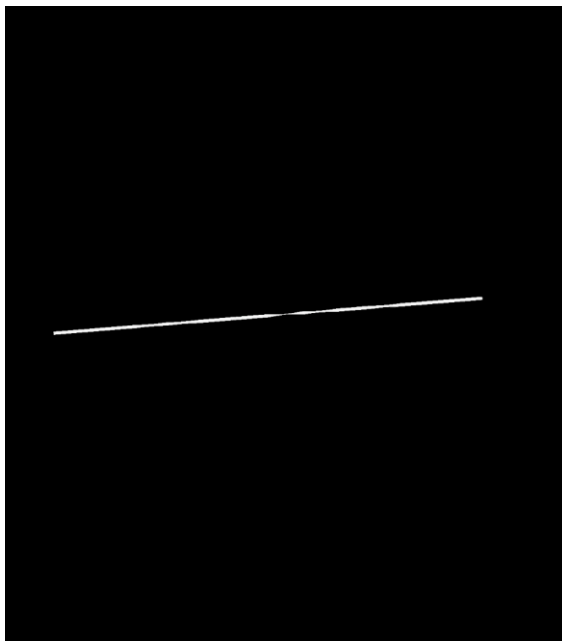


- K-MTs: Uniform with a maximum around the length of half-spindle
- There are very few K-MTs that are directly connected to the centrosomes.
- K-MTs cannot directly pull the chromosomes apart

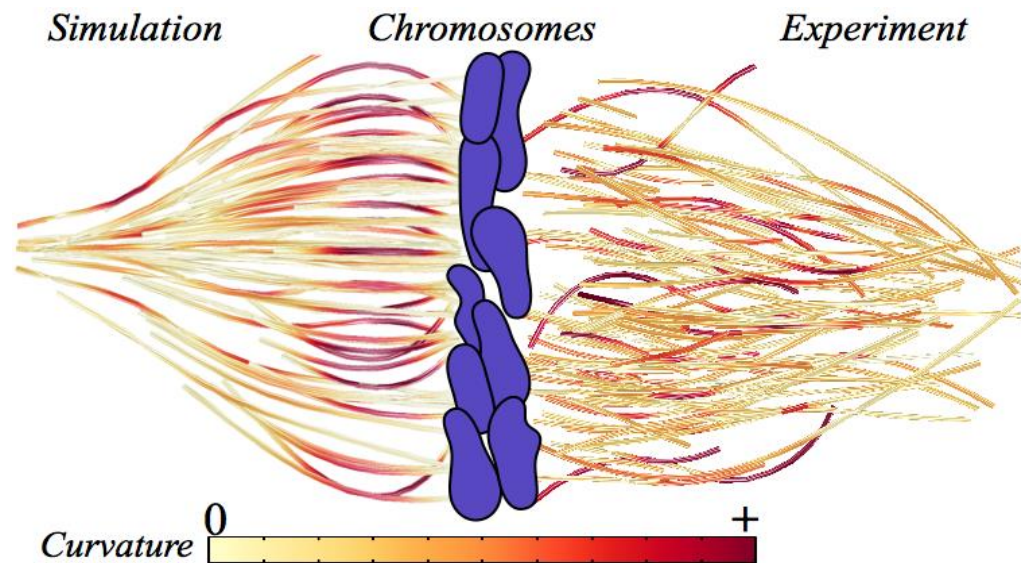




there is evidence for KMT-SMT linkage



Nazockdast *et al*, '16



Viscosity is the only unknown parameter $\eta \approx 10 \text{ Pa.s}$

Ongoing:

Working w the Needleman lab on understanding their laser ablation experiments.

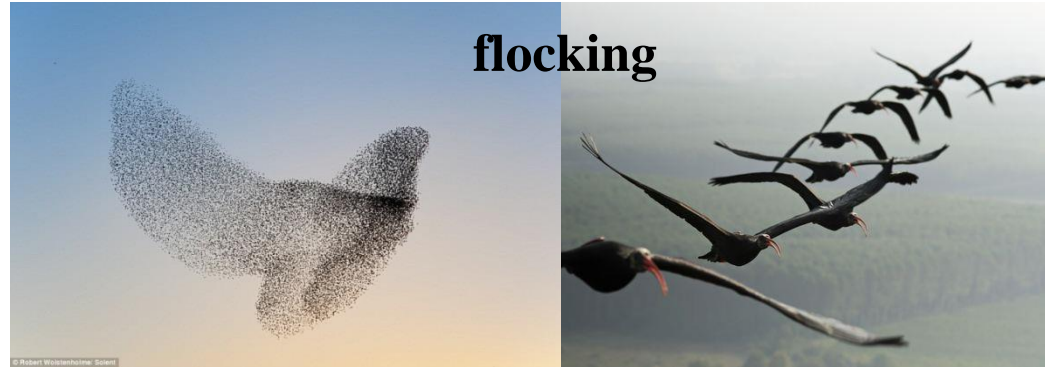
 a comprehensive model of spindle positioning & segregation

thanks

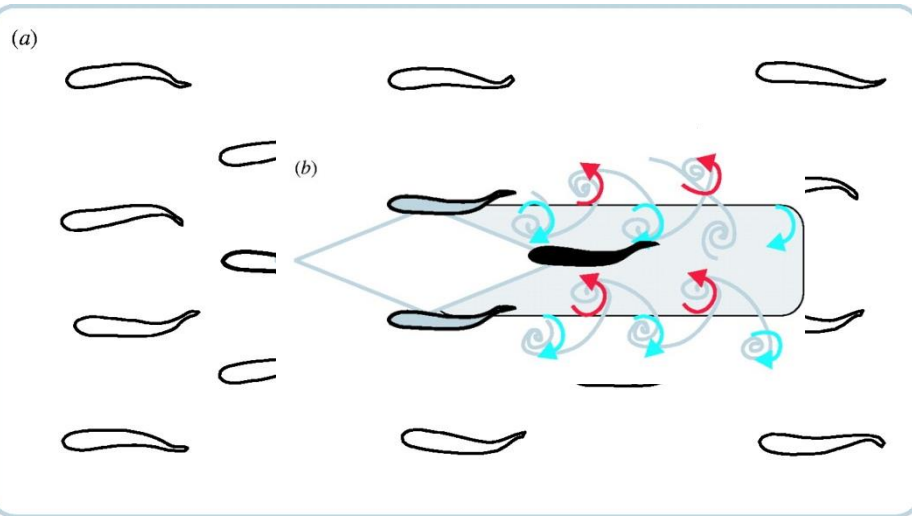
Some **collective behaviors/self-organized structures** moving in fluids...



laning up



flocking



Weihs '73, Liao et al '03, 06, ... and many others

$Re \gg 1$: the fluid can store information in the fluid as shed vortices – introduces delay

Becker et al, *Nature Comm.* 2015

