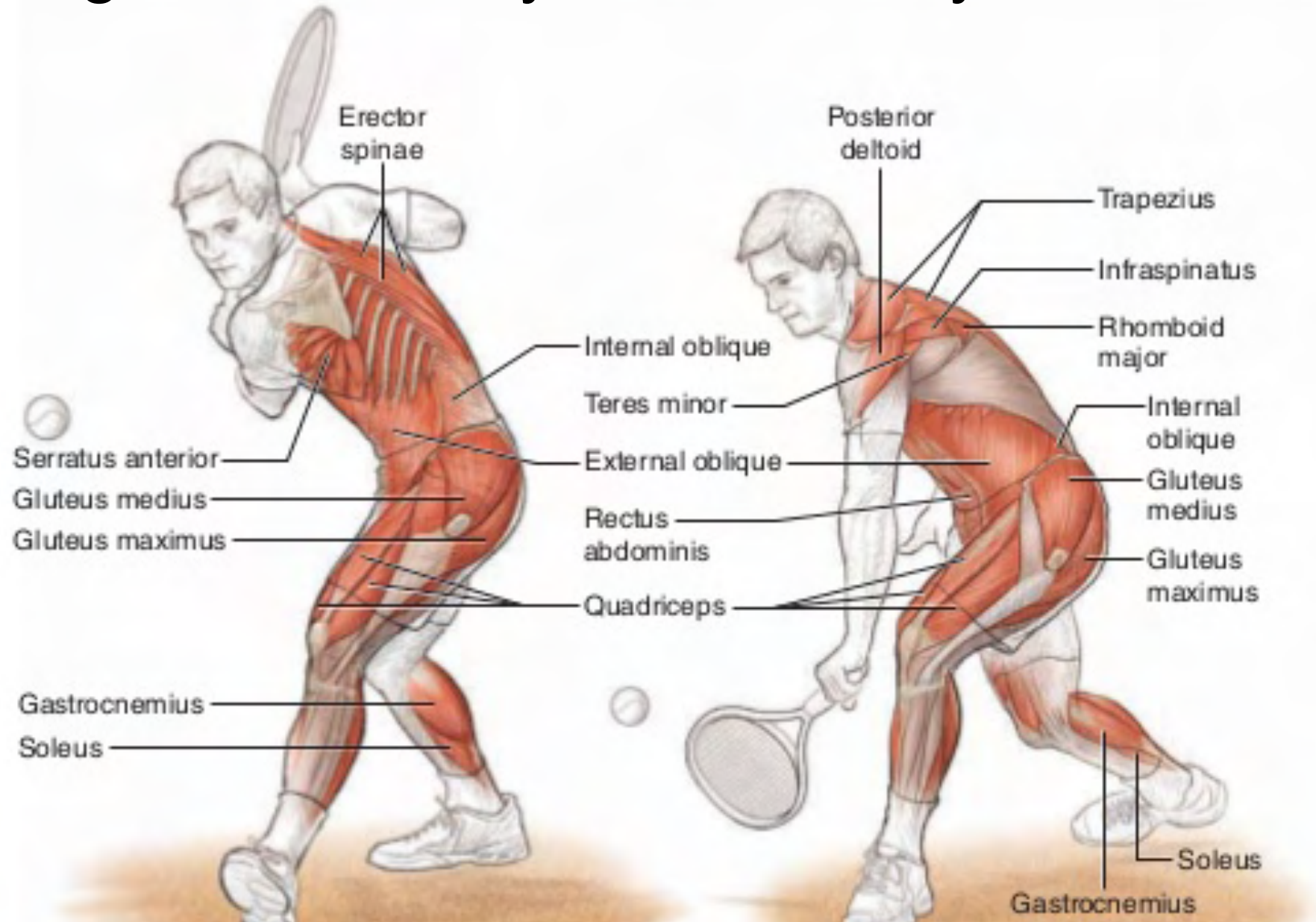


A fluorescence microscopy image showing a network of cells. The cells are represented by red circular spots, and the connections between them are shown as a dense web of green lines. The network is roughly rectangular and occupies the central portion of the image. The background is black.

Intro to Cell Mechanics

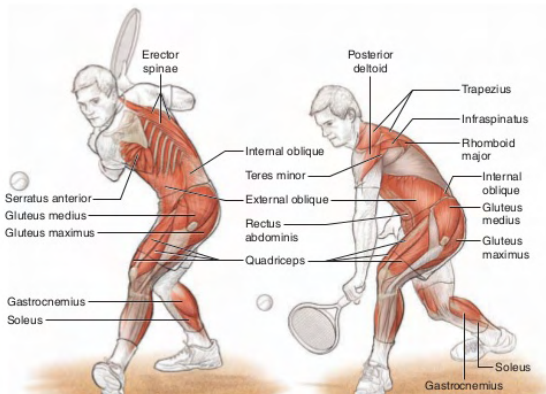
1.28.16

Biological Hierarchy- Whole Body



Tennis Anatomy (2011)

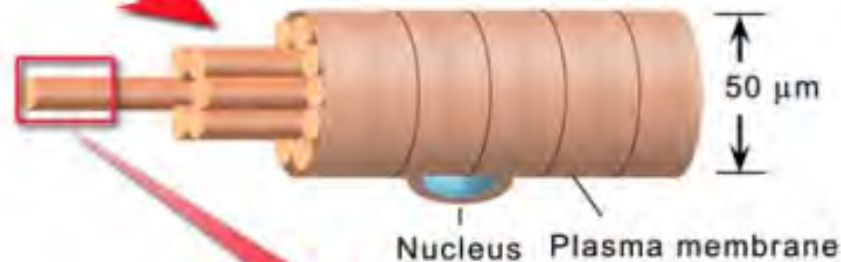
Biological Hierarchy – Muscles to Cells



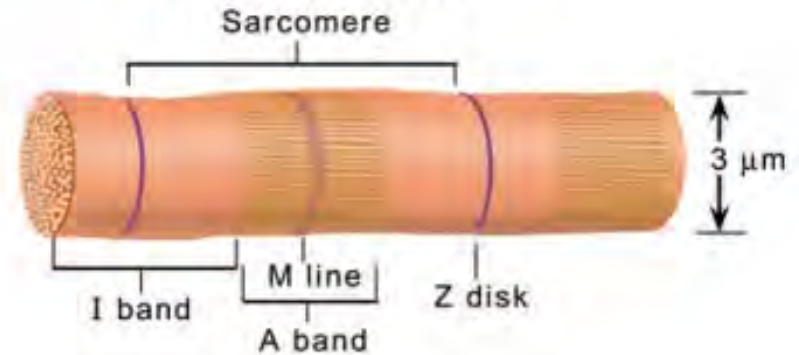
Collection of myofibers



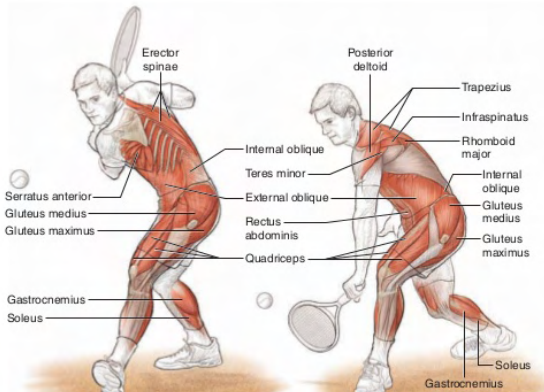
Myofiber (single cell)



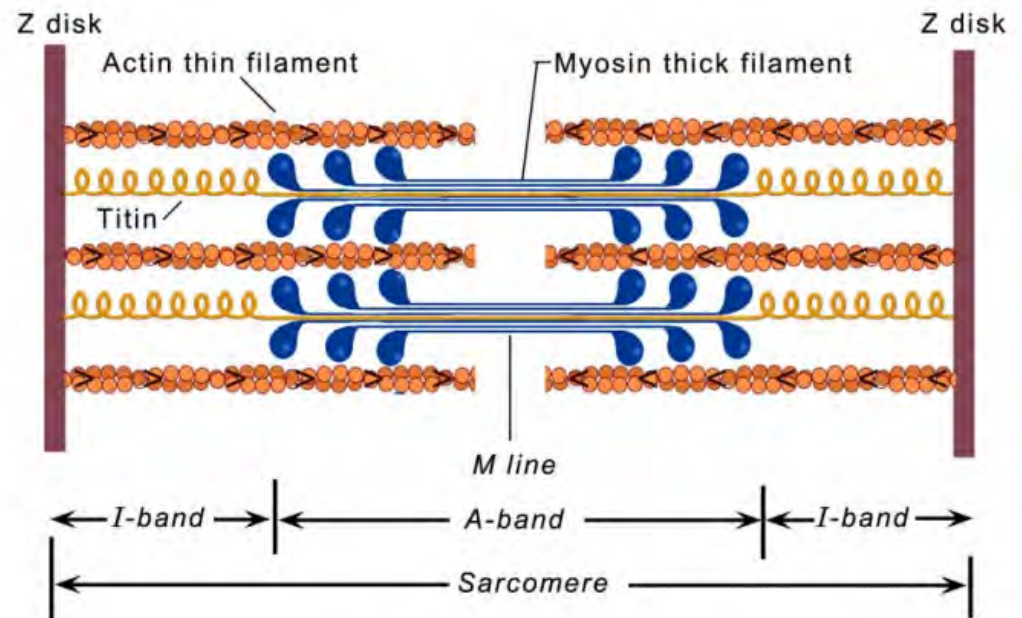
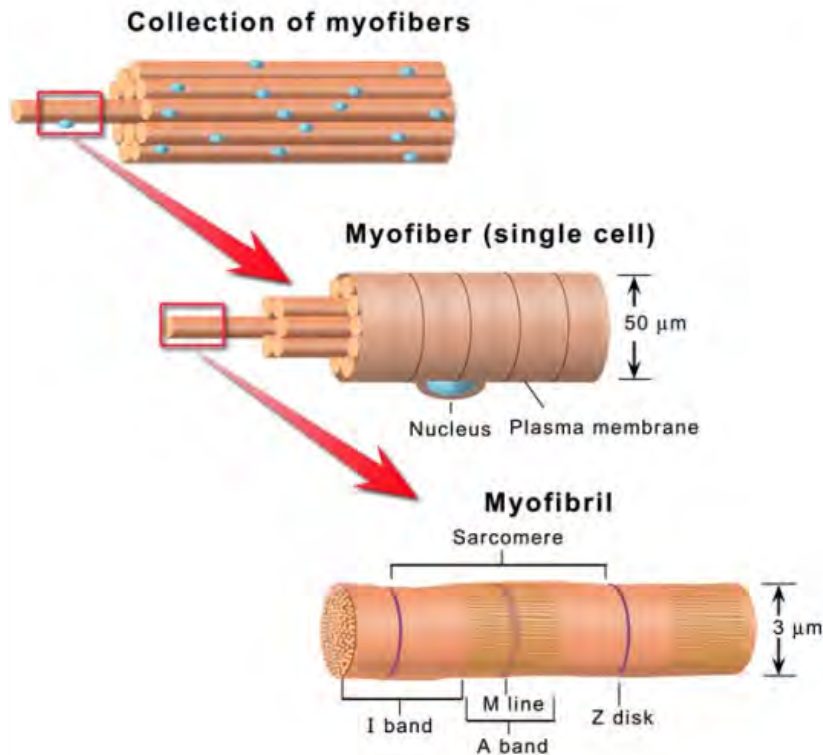
Myofibril



Biological Hierarchy – Cells to Proteins



Muscles contract via sliding the myosin and actin filaments along each other.



Actin: semiflexible polymer
Myosin: molecular motor
Titin: resting elasticity

Fermi Problem: Number of cells

The Human Body ~ 70% water, $\rho = 1000 \text{ kg/m}^3$

Let's say the average mass of a human is 85 kg.

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$$\rightarrow 1000 \text{ kg/m}^3 = (0.7)(85 \text{ kg})(1/V_{\text{human}})$$

$$V_{\text{human}} \sim 0.0595 \text{ m}^3$$

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What is the volume of a cell? Pretend a cell is a cube.

$$V_{\text{cell}} = (20 \text{ } \mu\text{m})^3 = 8 \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}^3$$

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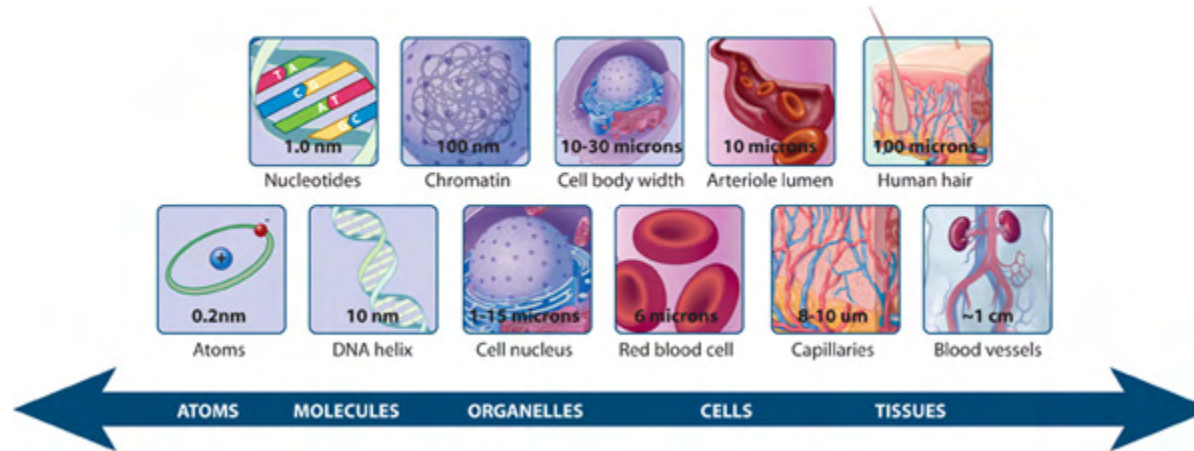
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$$V_{\text{cell}} = (20 \text{ } \mu\text{m})^3 = 8 \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}^3$$

$$N_{\text{cell}} = V_{\text{human}}/V_{\text{cell}} \sim 10 \text{ trillion}$$

The Numbers



Current data estimation $\sim 3.72 \times 10^{13}$

Types of cells ~ 210

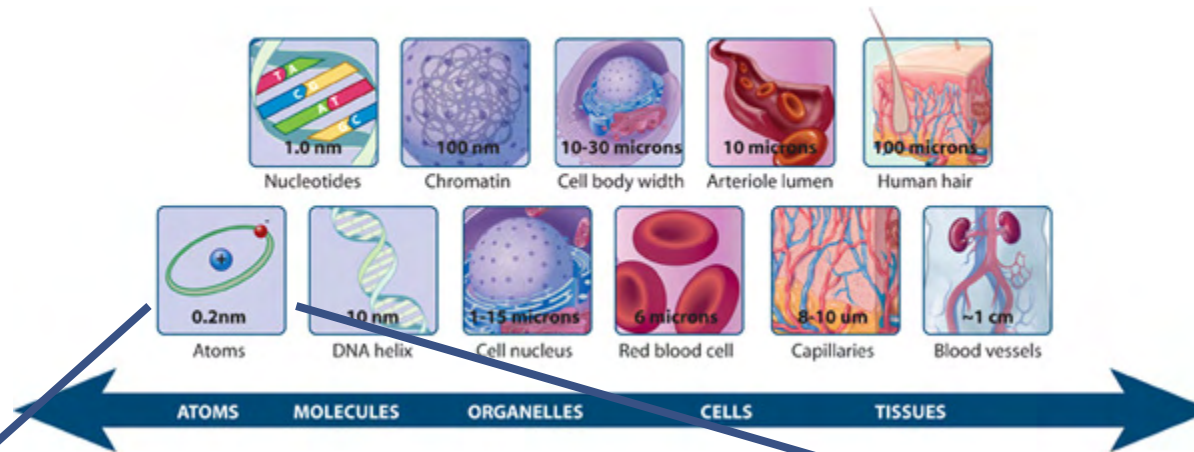
Typical mass ~ 1 ng

Distance – microns

Force – pN to nN

Stress – 1 Pa to 1 kPa

The Numbers

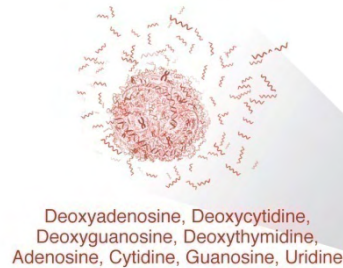


“If an apple is magnified to the size of the earth, then the atoms in the apple are approx. the size of the original apple.”
~ Richard Feynman

68 Molecular Building Blocks

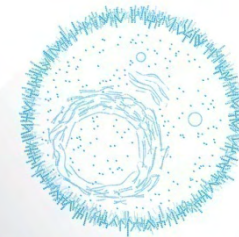
Nucleic Acids
8 nucleosides

**Nucleic Acids
(DNA and RNA)**



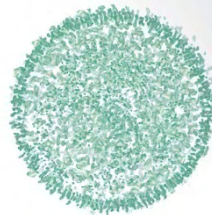
Glycans

Glycans
32+ sugars



Proteins
20 amino acids

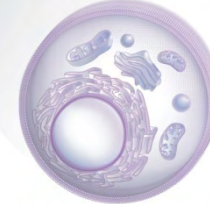
Proteins



Alanine, Arginine, Aspartic Acid, Asparagine,
Cysteine, Glutamic Acid, Glutamine,
Glycine, Histidine, Isoleucine, Leucine, Lysine,
Methionine, Phenylalanine, Proline, Serine,
Threonine, Tryptophan, Tyrosine, Valine

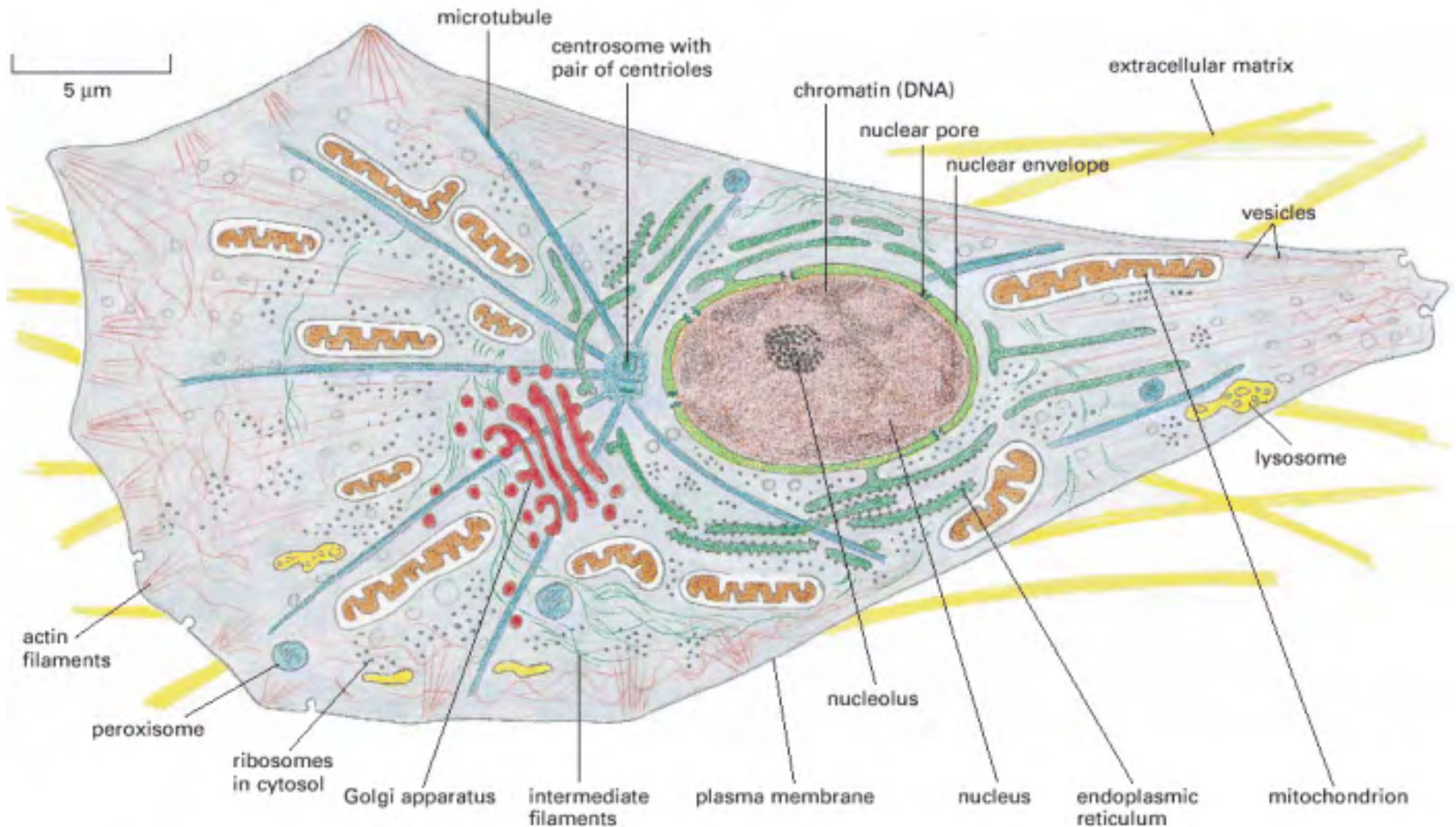
Lipids

Lipids
8 types

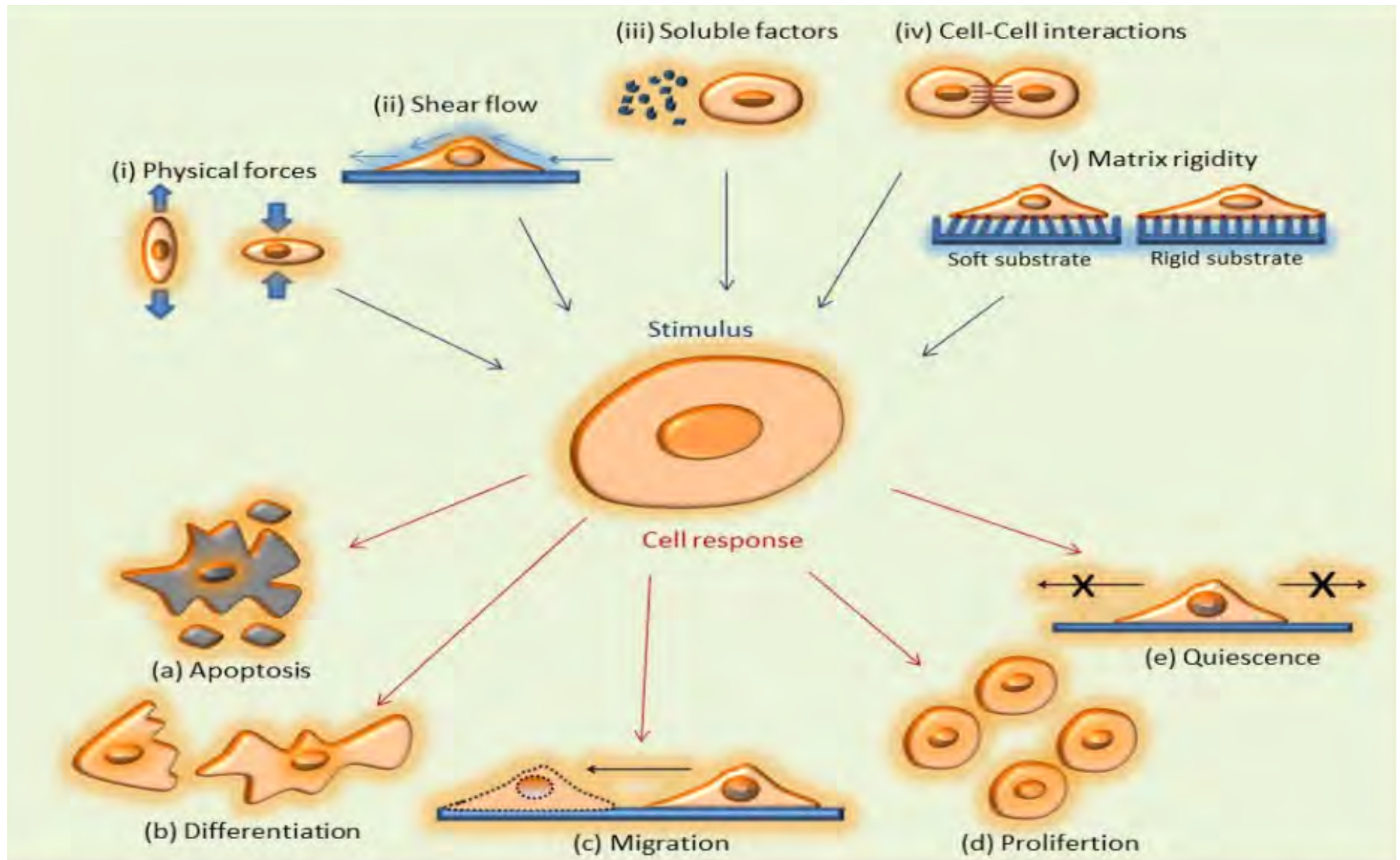


“From the construction, modification, and interaction of these components,
the cell develops and functions.” –Jamey Marth

The Subsystems (Organelles)



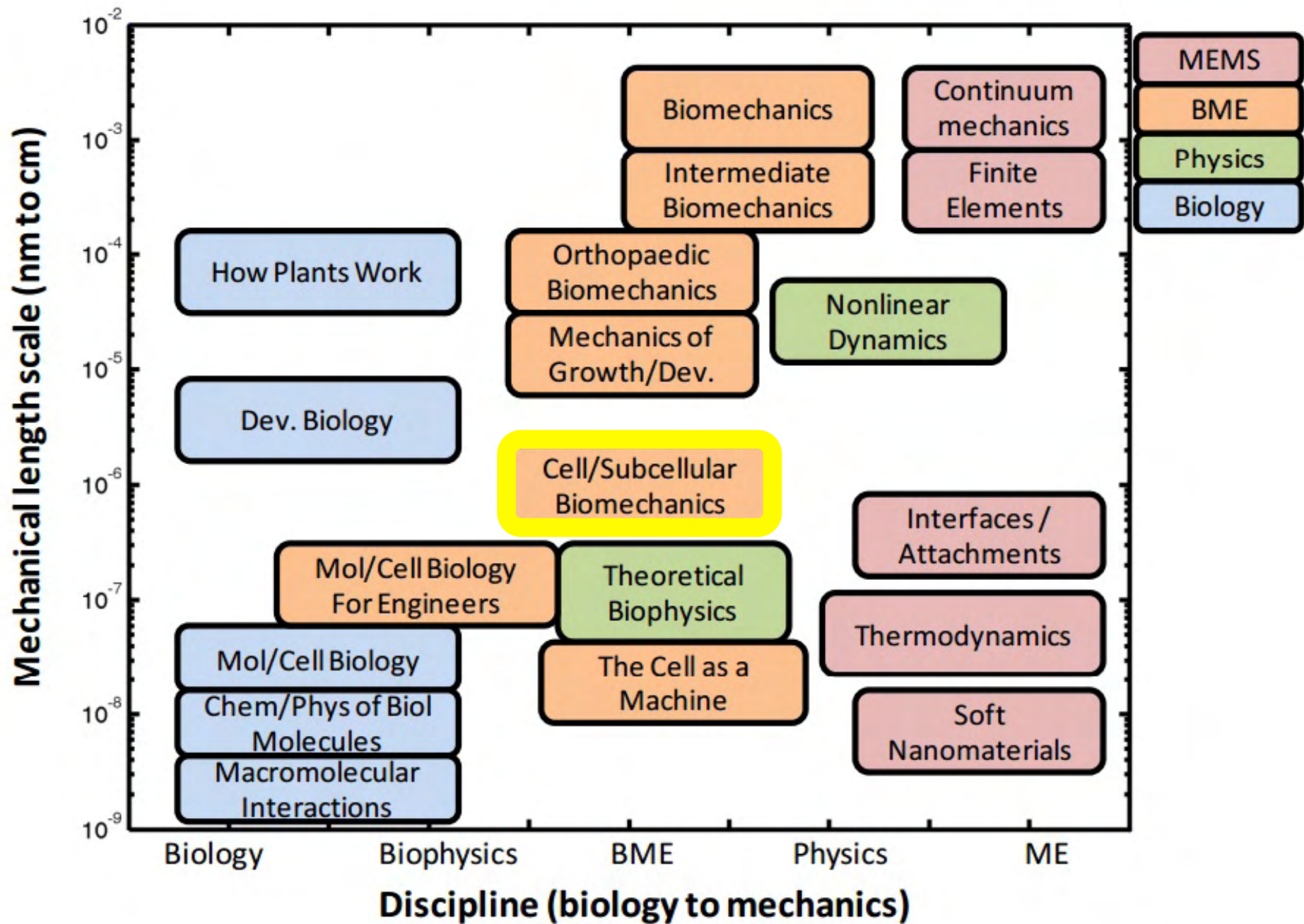
From Stimulus to Cell Response

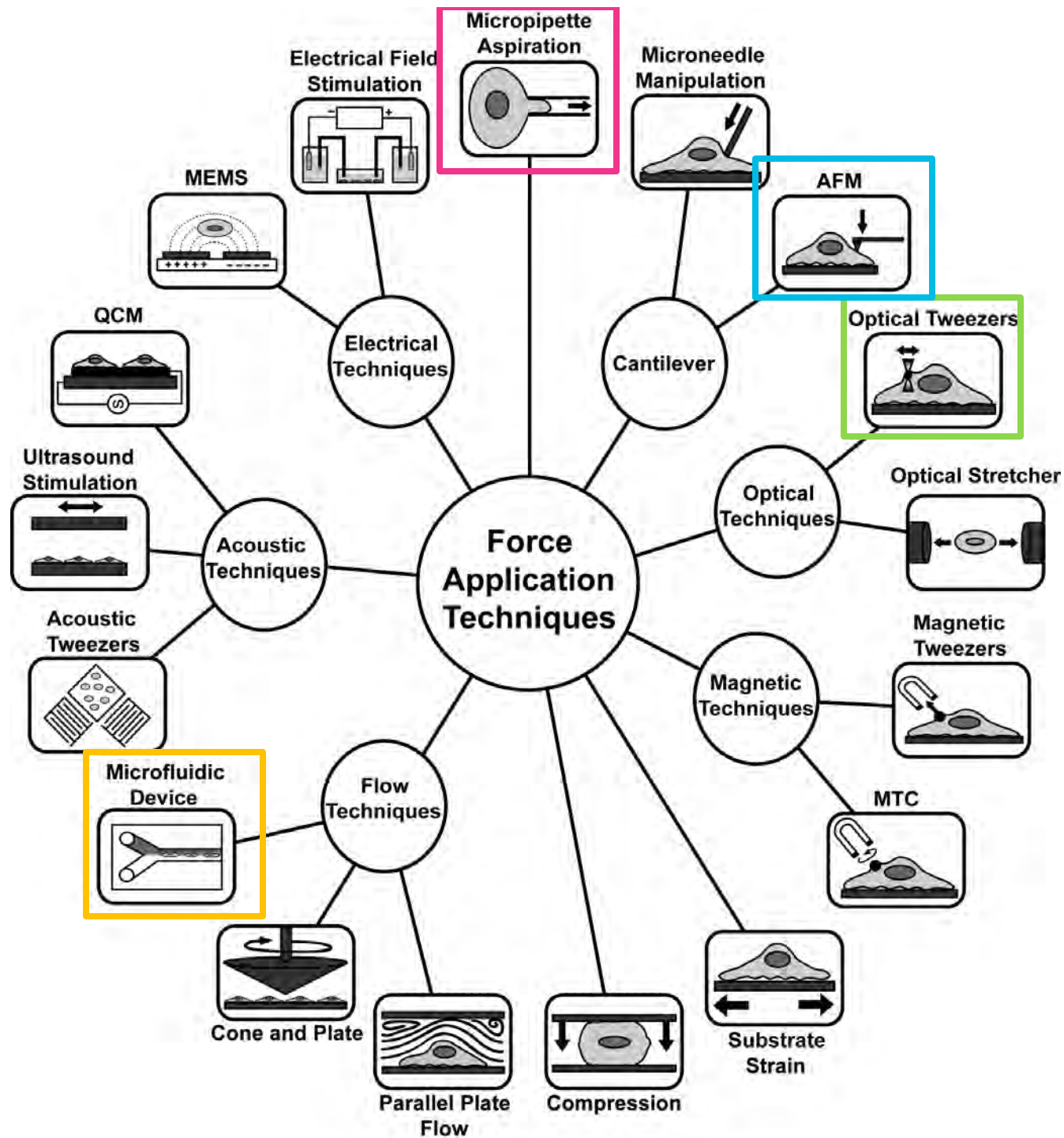


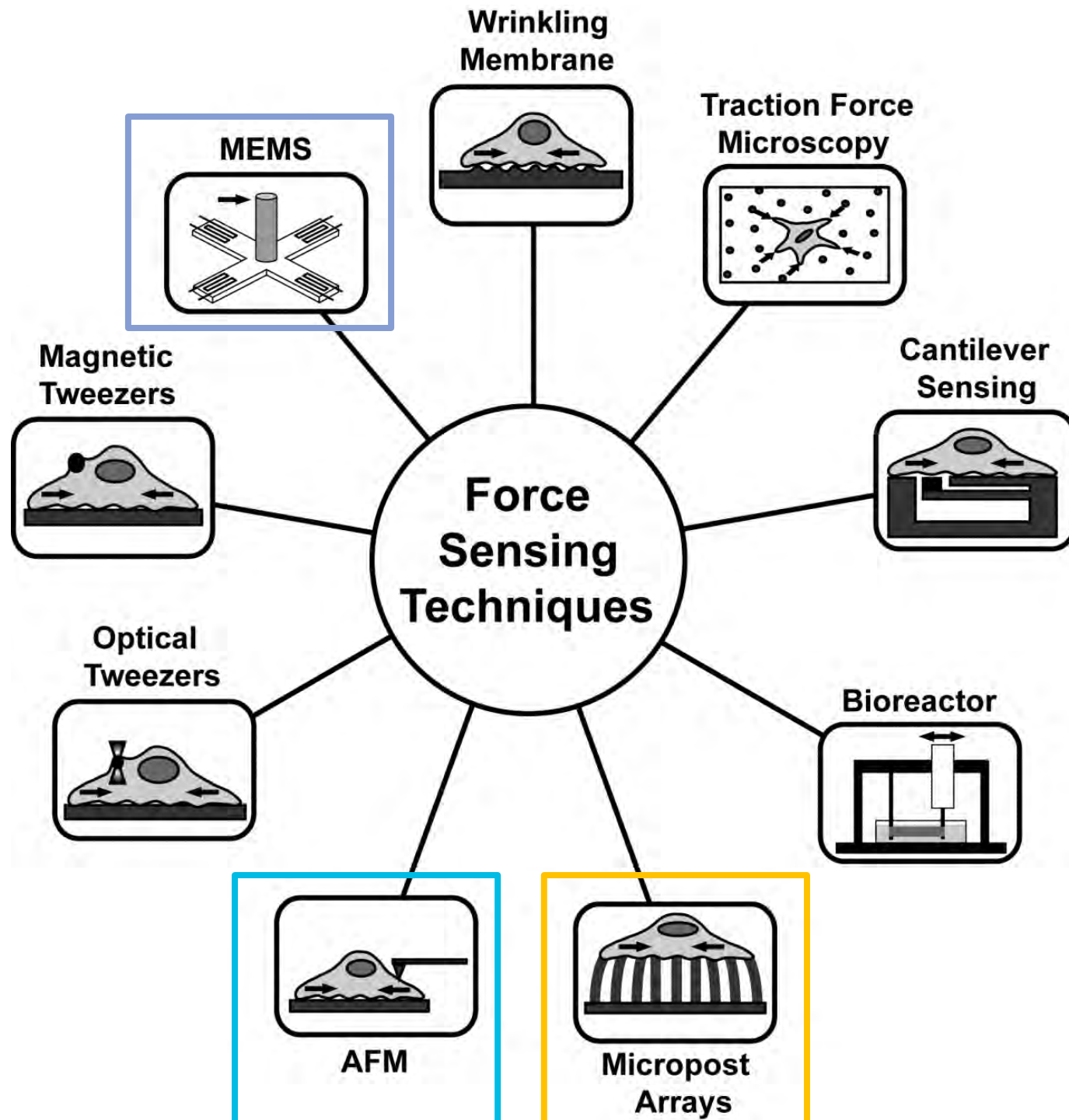
What is Cell Mechanics?

“The subject of cell mechanics encompasses a wide range of essential cellular processes, ranging from **macroscopic events** like the *maintenance of cell shape, cell motility, adhesion, and deformation* to **microscopic events** such as how cells *sense mechanical signals and transduce them into a cascade of biochemical signals* ultimately leading to a host of biological responses.”

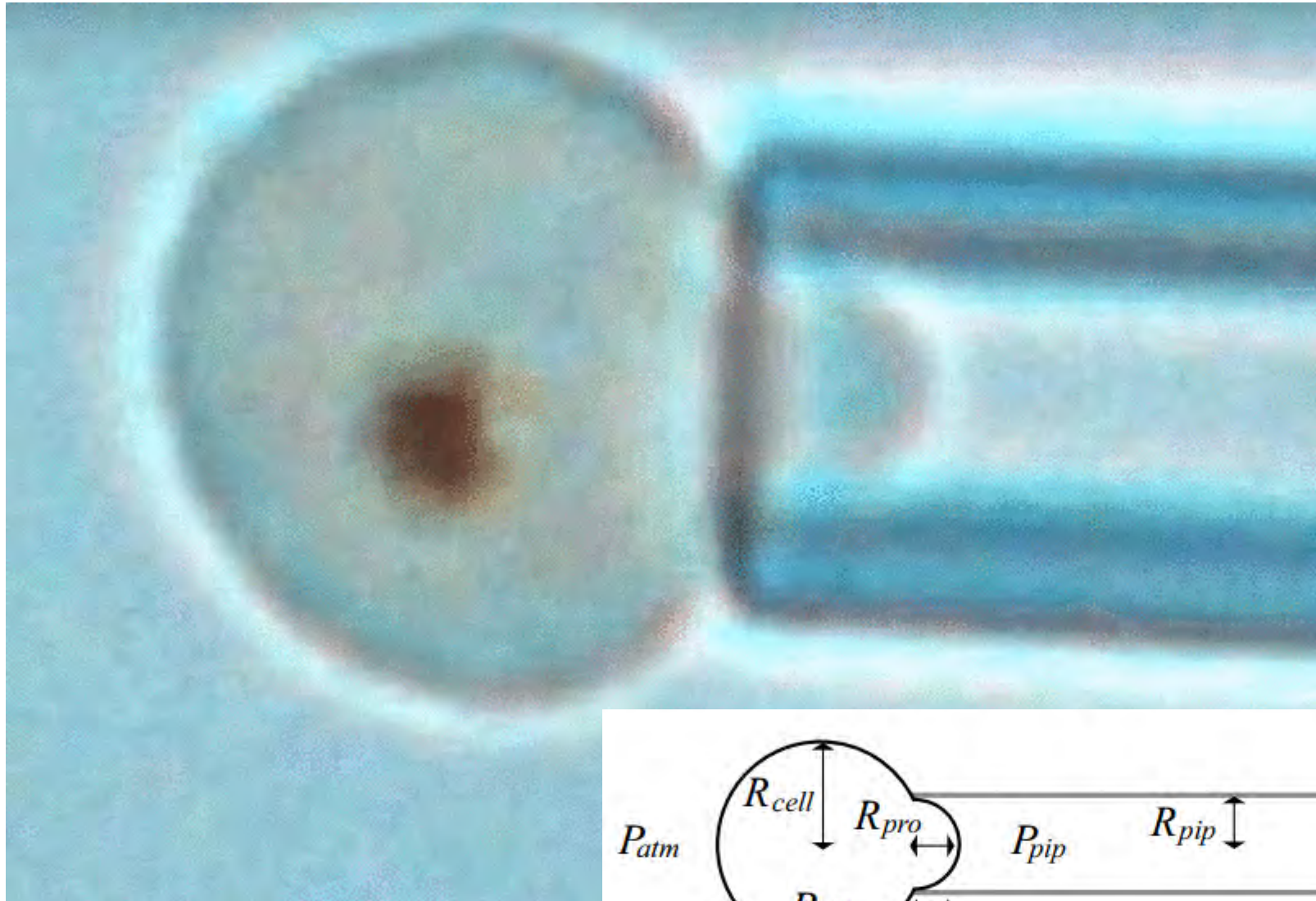
-- Mofrad & Kamm





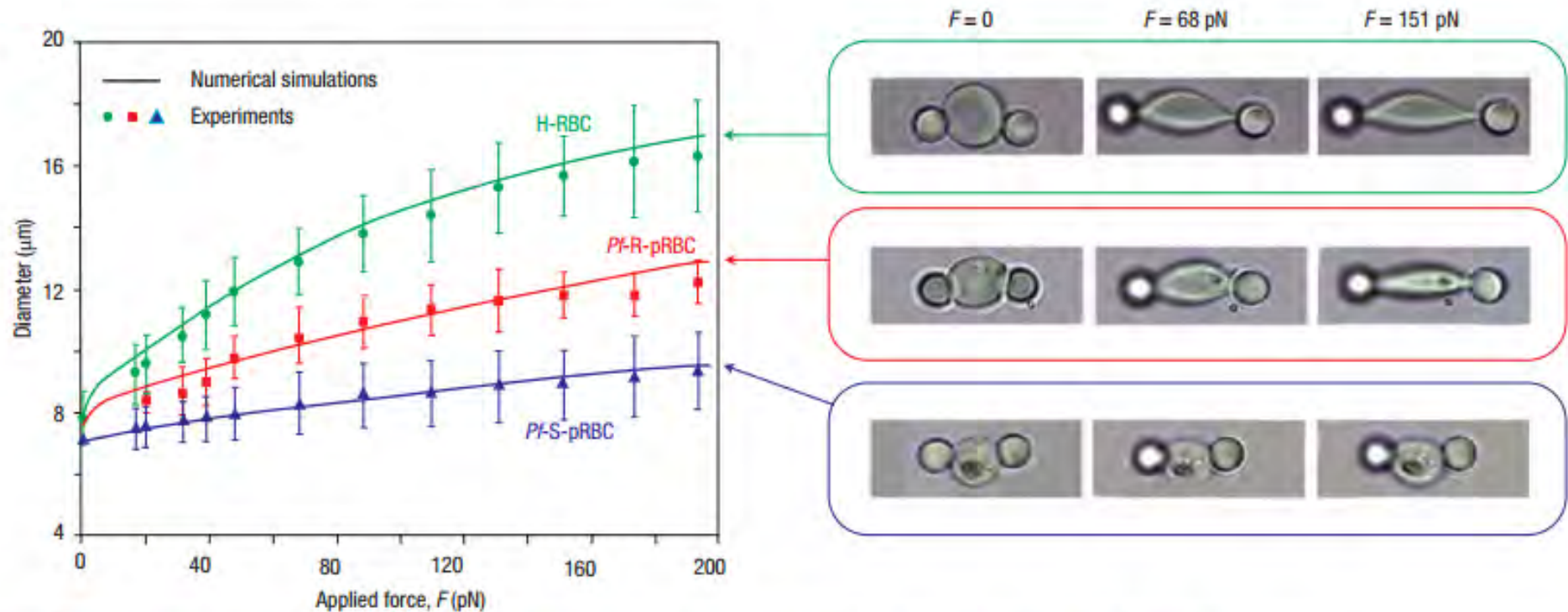


Micropipette Aspiration (Application)



Optical Tweezers (Application)

Biomechanics of RBC infected by the malaria-inducing parasite *P. falciparum*. Normal RBCs (H-RBC, $n = 7$) and RBC infected by *P. falciparum* at the ring stage (*Pf*-R-pRBC, $n = 5$) and the schizont stage (*Pf*-S-pRBC, $n = 23$).

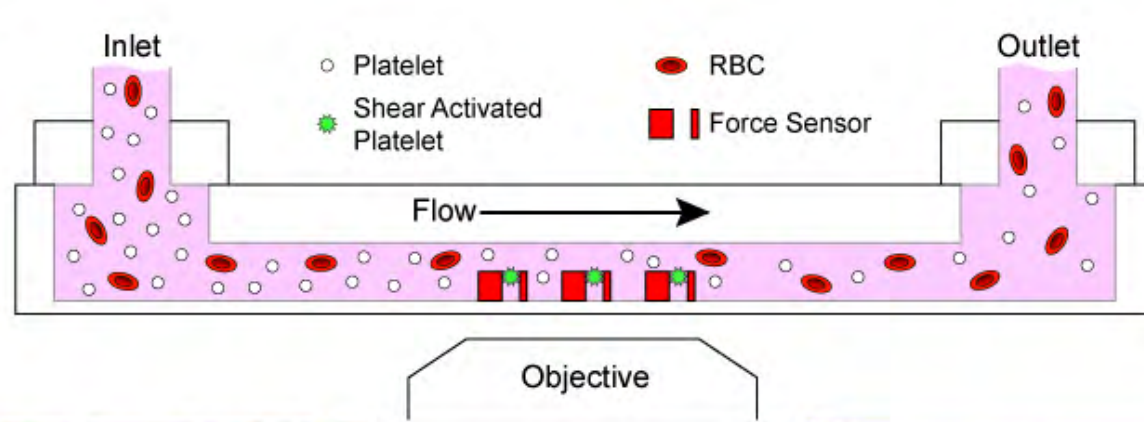


The solid lines are from three-dimensional finite-element simulations of an optical tweezers stretching experiment of RBC with an effective shear modulus of the cell membrane = 5.3 N m^{-1} (H-RBC), 16 N m^{-1} (*Pf*-R-pRBC) and 53.3 N m^{-1} (*Pf*-S-pRBC).

Laser Tweezers (Application)

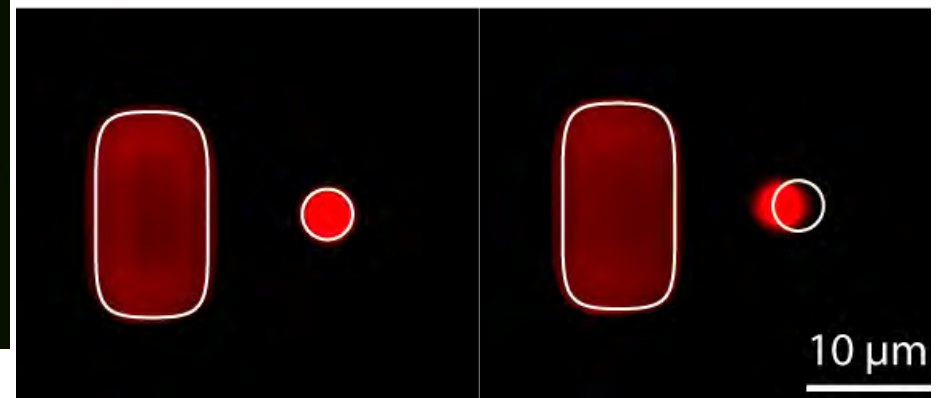
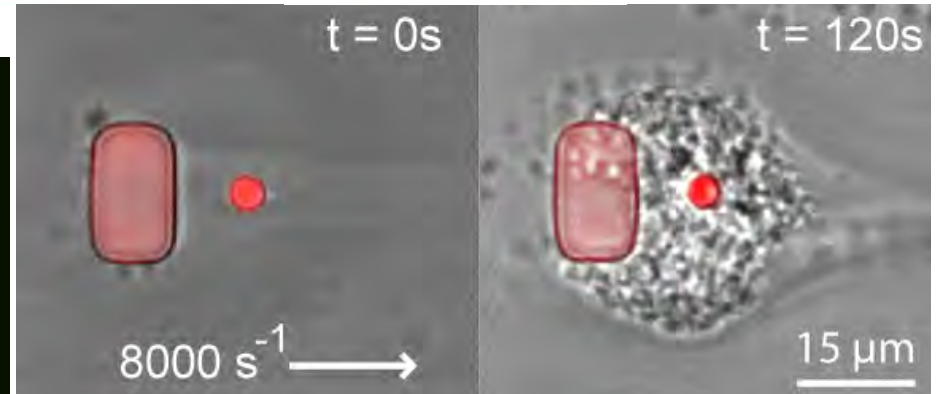
Kapil Bambardekar et al (2015),
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences,
DOI: [10.1073/pnas.1418732112](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1418732112)

Microfluidic Device (Application/Sensing)

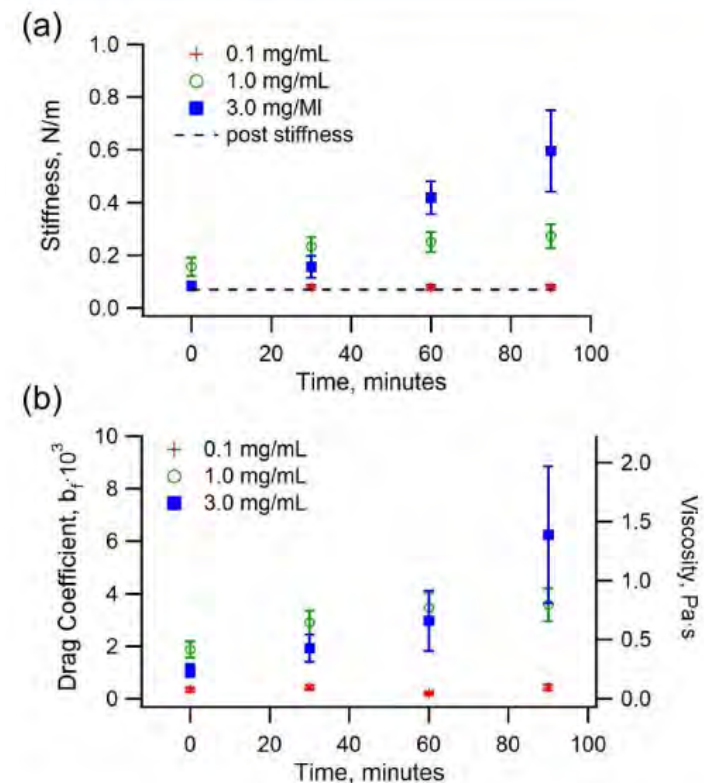
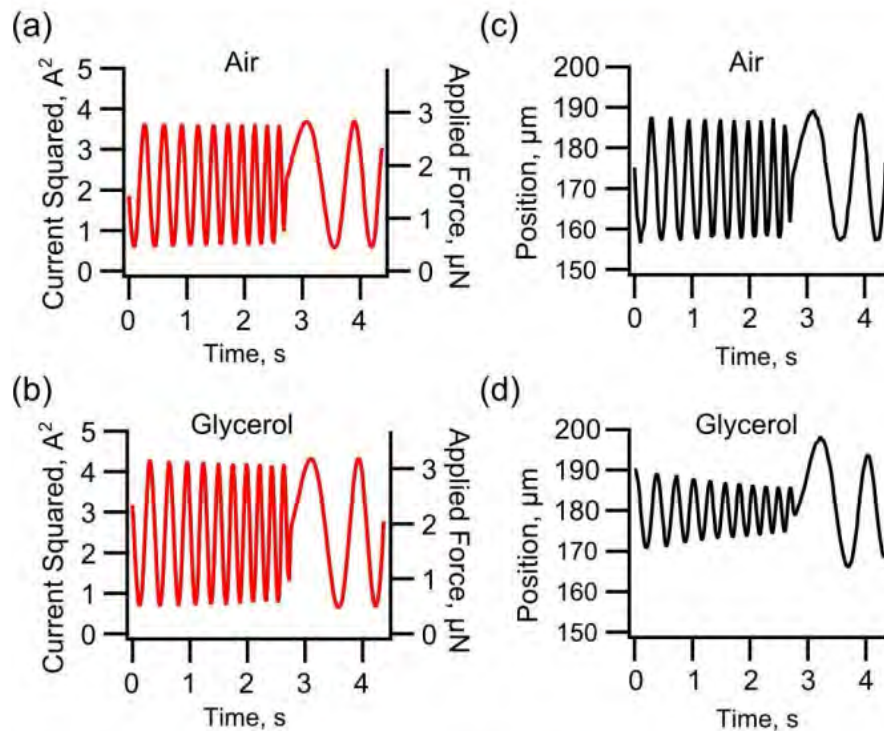
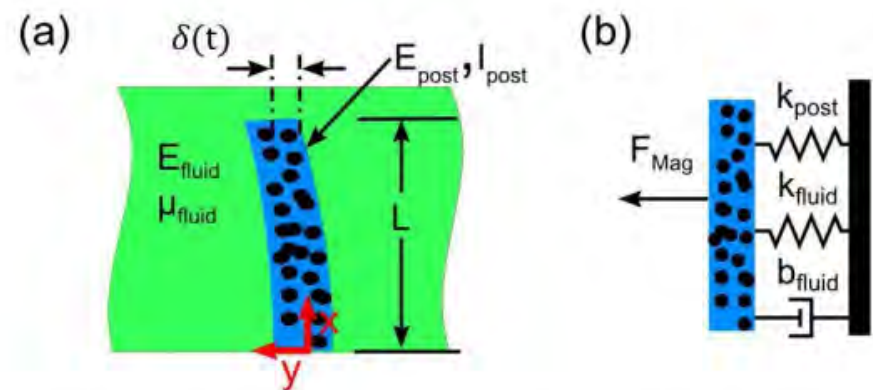
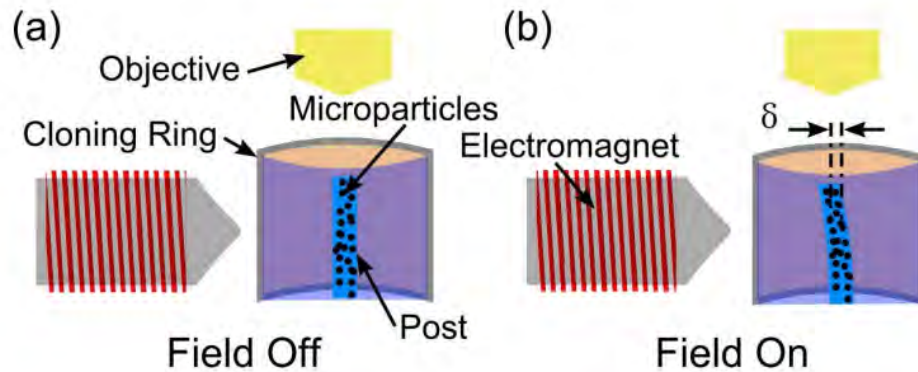


A diagram illustrating the mechanical model of the force sensor. It shows a cantilever of length L and thickness d deflected by a force F at its free end, resulting in a deflection δ . The equation for the deflection is given as:

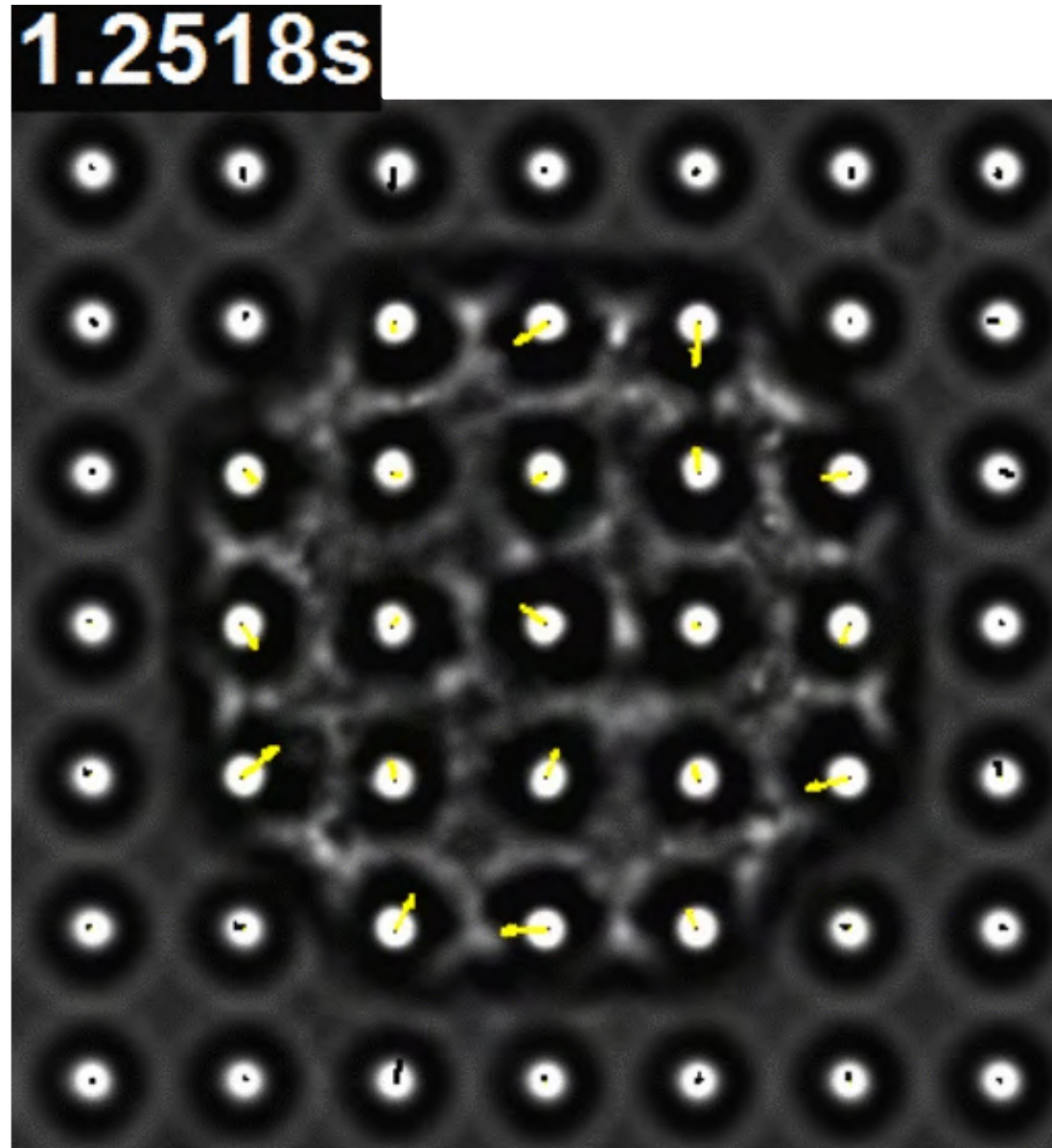
$$F = \frac{3\pi E d^4}{64 L^3} \delta$$



Magnetic Cantilever (Actuation)



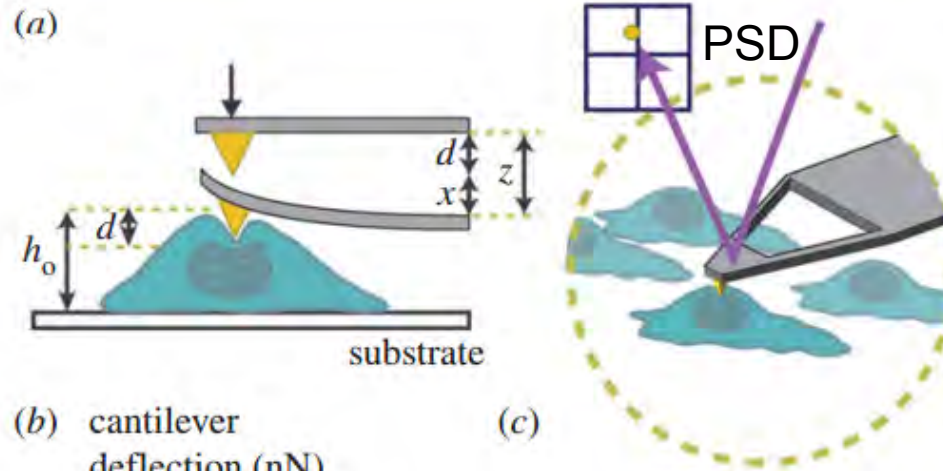
Micropost Technology (Sensing)



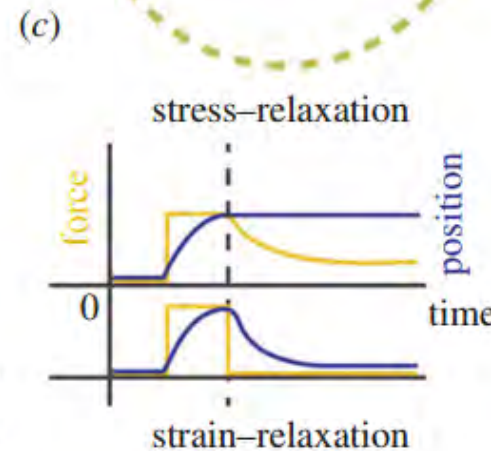
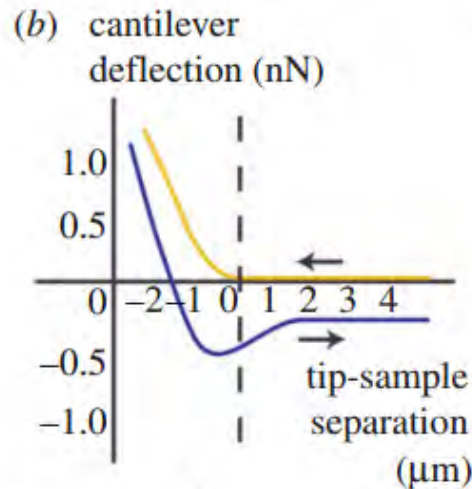
Rodriguez, M.L., et al (2014) *J Biomechanical Engineering*. 136(5). 051005

AFM (Application and Sensing)

Apply compressive strains

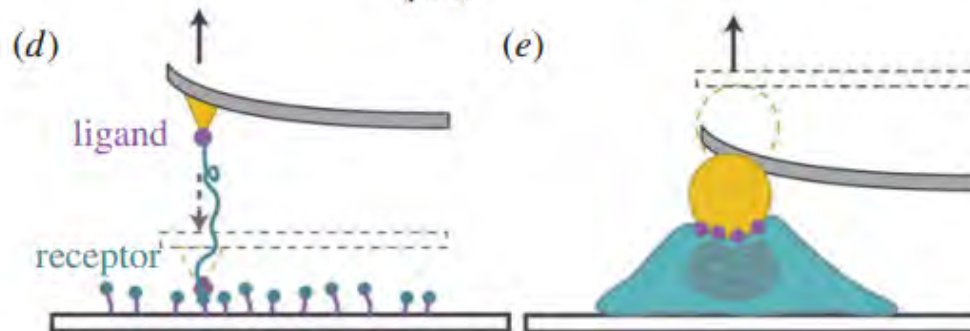


AFM force - indentation curve used to measure elasticity



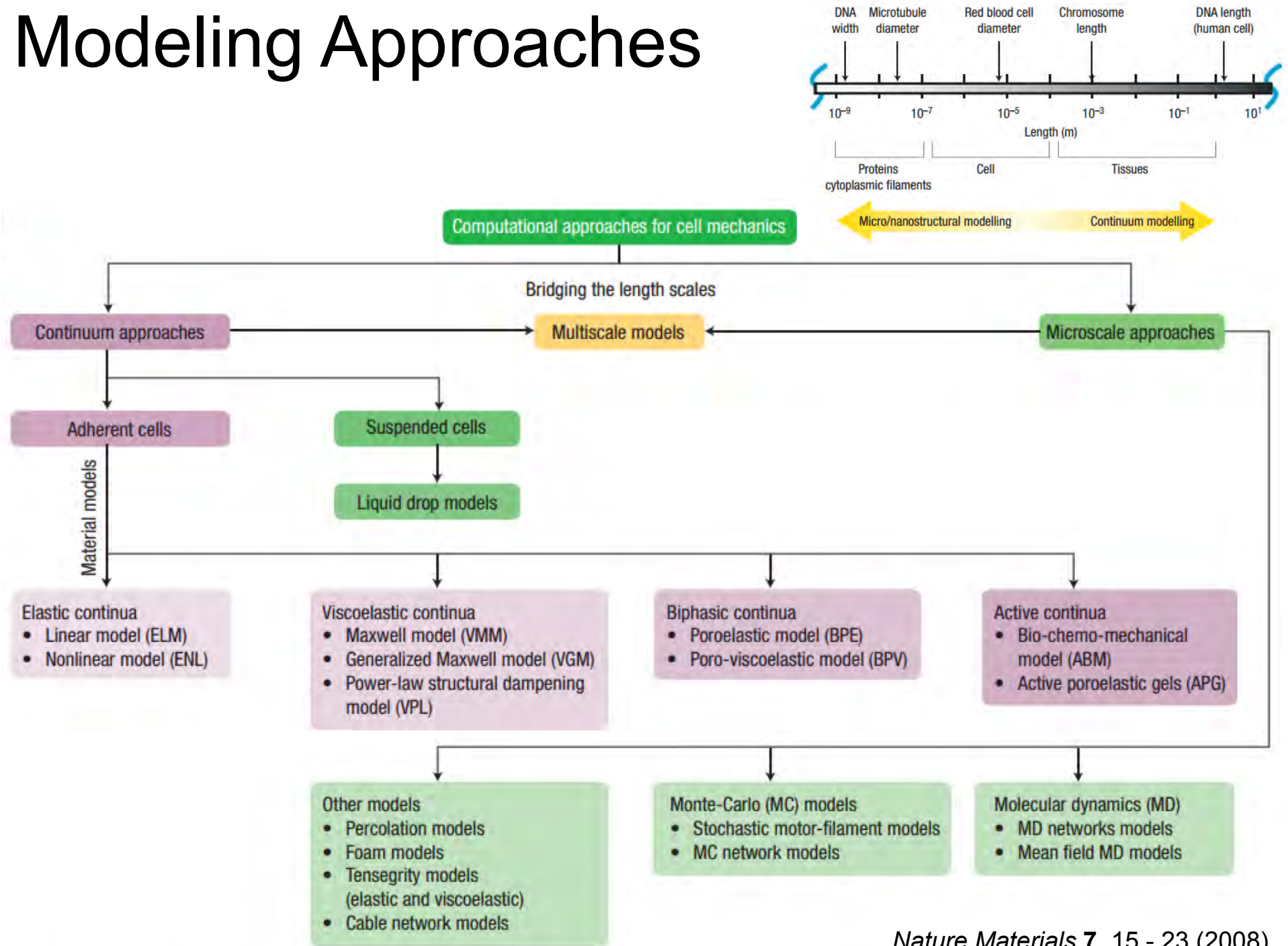
Stress and strain relaxation curves to measure time dependent cellular behaviors

Single molecule interaction experiments



Spherical tip used to measure distributed forces

Modeling Approaches

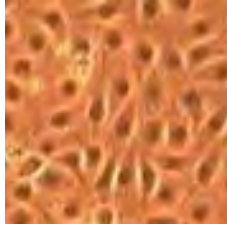


We study cell mechanics...

- to understand interaction between cells and their environment
- to improve the control/function of cells
- to improve cell growth/cell production
- to manipulate cells for medical applications
- to treatment of certain diseases
- to understand how cells move and change cell motion
- to build/engineer tissues with desired mechanical properties
- to understand how cell growth is affected by stress and mechanical properties of the substrate the cells are in
- to understand how cells are affected by their environment
- to understand how mechanical factors alter cell behavior and gene expression
- to understand how different cells interact with each other
- to understand how mechanical loading affects cells, e.g. stem cell differentiation or cell morphology
- to understand how mechanically gated ion channels work
- to understand how the loading of cells could aid developing structures to grow cells or organize existing cells more efficiently
- to understand macrostructural behavior
- to build machines/sensors similar to cells
- to be able to study the impact of different parts of a cell on its overall behavior
- to provide scientific guidance for targeted cell manipulation

Back Up

Cells in Context



Cells/Tissue

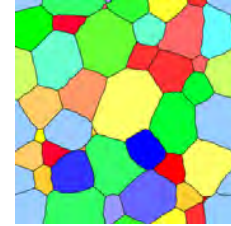
Animate

Basic Unit of Living

Composed of Proteins

Defines structure/function of tissue

Sensitive to temperature, radiation, water, pH, nutrients, pressure, ionic strength, osmolarity, hormones, etc.



Grains/Material

Inanimate

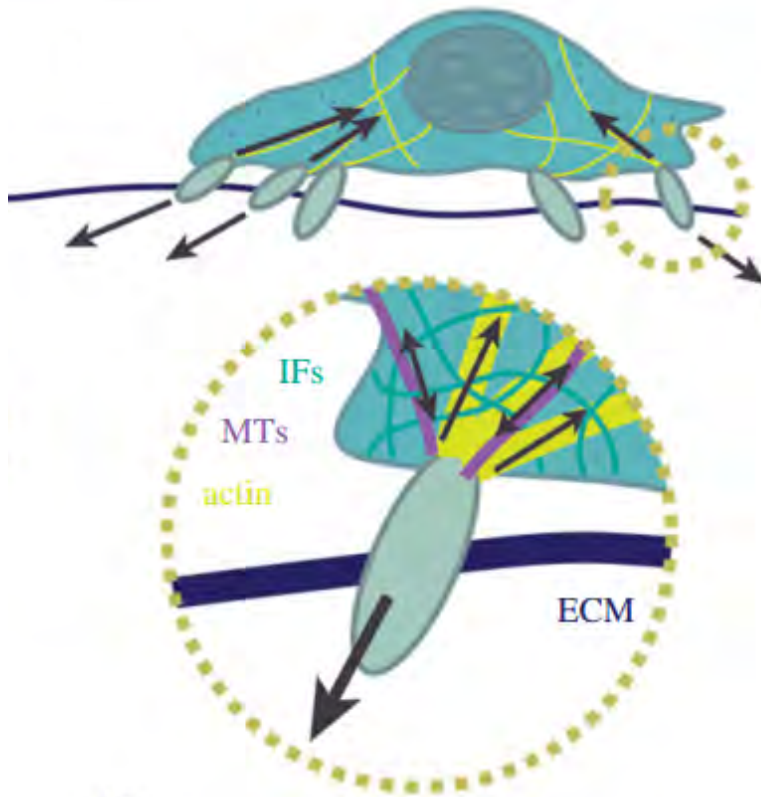
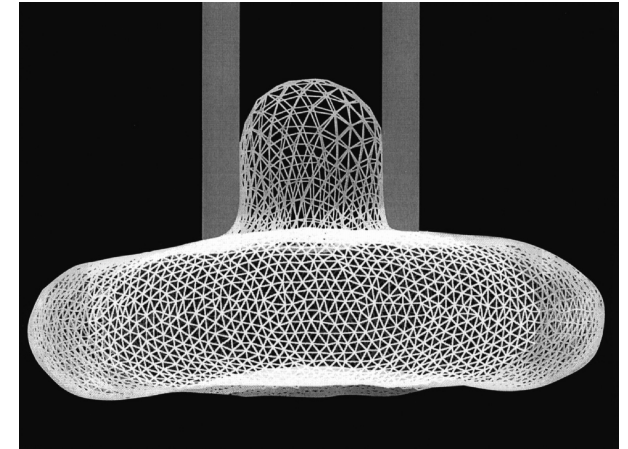
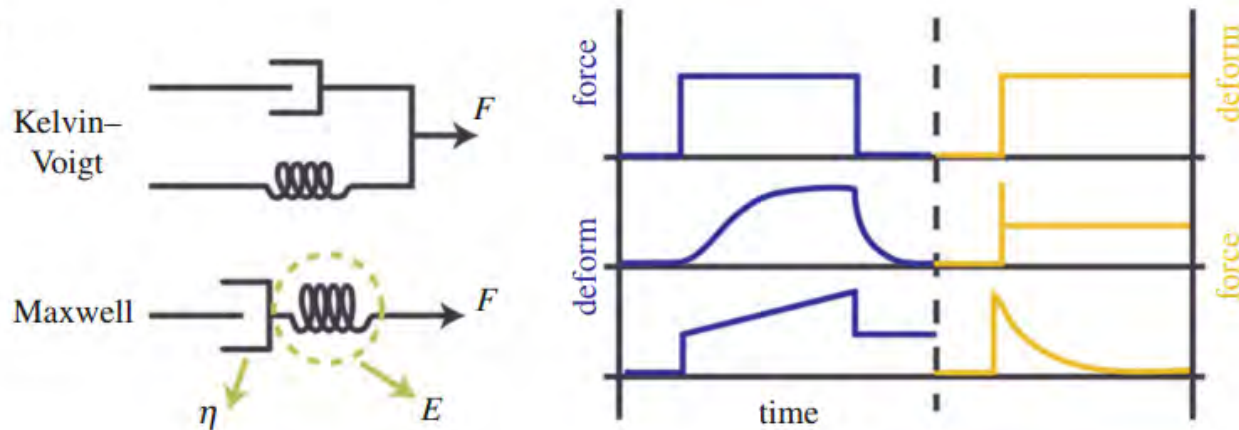
Basic Unit of Metal/Ceramics

Composed of Atoms

Defines structure strength of material

Sensitive to temperature, radiation, corrosion, loading

Modeling Approaches



Haase K, Pelling AE. (2015) J. R. Soc. Interface 12: 20140970.

Table 2 Material constants used for cells

Cell type	Young's modulus (kPa)	Poisson's ratio	Technique	Reference(s)
Adipocyte				
Human joint	0.61		AFM	[82]
Cancer cells				
Bladder carcinoma	0.4–1.4		AFM	[129]
Chondrosarcomas	1–2.5	0.4	AFM/C	[83,275]
Melanoma	0.3–2		MTC	[84]
Human osteosarcoma	0.92–1.09	0.37	MN	[79]
Chondrocyte				
Bovine articular	0.69–8	0.26	MN/C	[106,287]
Bovine cartilage	2.55–2.7		C	[276,288]
Human cartilage	0.36–0.67	0.4	MP	[64,85]
Human femoral	1.1–1.3	0.36–0.38	AFM/MP	[62,82]
Porcine cartilage	0.6–1.2		AFM	[86]
Endothelial				
Bovine aortic	0.32		MP	[87]
Bovine aortic cytoplasm	0.5		C	[289]
Bovine aortic nucleus	5		C	[289]
Human aortic	1.5–5.6		AFM	[88]
Undisclosed Endothelial	0.5		MP	[51]
Epithelial				
A549 human alveolar	0.1–0.2		MTC	[89]
Human bladder	10–13		AFM	[129]
Monkey kidney cortex	0.16		MTC	[90]
Monkey kidney interior	0.04		PT	[90]
Fibroblast				
Avian heart	14.7		C	[285]
Murine L929	4		AFM	[91]
Murine 3T3	0.015–14		AFM/MN/PT/S/C/OT	[92–96,105,179,180]
Muscle cells				
Mouse myoblast C2C12	2		C	[286]
Mouse myogenic C2-7	0.66		S	[97]
Rat aortic smooth muscle	1.5–11		S	[98]
Rat myocyte (cardiac)	35–42		AFM	[99]
Osteoblast				
Human femoral	2.0–5.8		AFM	[82]
Human SaOS2	5.4–7.6		AFM	[100]
Murine MC3T3-E1	1–5		AFM	[136,94]
Murine neonatal long bone	14		AFM	[101]
Rat neonatal long bone	3.175–10	0.2–0.5	AFM	[145,146]
Stem cells				
Human bone marrow	0.56–33		AFM/MP	[82,102,103]
White blood cells				
Lymphocyte	0.2913		MN	[107]
Neutrophil	0.118		MN	[107]
Rat neutrophil	0.38–0.8		AFM	[104]

References cited in the table are [51,62,64,82,107,129,136,145,146,179,180,275,276,285–289].

Note: AFM = atomic force microscopy, C = compression, MN = microneedle, MP = micropipette aspiration, MTC = magnetic twisting cytometry, OT = optical tweezers, PT = particle tracking, and S = stretch.

Aspects of cell mechanics	Cell type	Magnitude	Tool/Technique
Stiffness	Fibroblasts	0.02 N/m	Micropipette Magnetic twisting cytometer
	Vascular endothelial cells	0.03-0.04 N/m	
	Vascular smooth muscle cells	0.09-0.88 N/m	
	Rat ASM(airway smooth muscle)cells	0.099 N/m	
Elastic modulus	Cancer MCF-7 cell	0.95 - 1.19 kPa	Atomic force microscopy
	Osteoblasts	0.3-20 kPa	
	Skeletal muscle cells	8-45 kPa	
	Cardiocytes	90-110 kPa	
	Erythrocytes	14-33 kPa	
	Leukocytes	0.2-1.4 kPa	
	Fibroblasts	0.6-12 kPa	
	Endothelial cells	0.2-2 kPa	
	Outer hair cells	2-4 kPa	
Viscoelasticity	Cytoplasm	210 Pa s	Magnetic bead microrheology
		2000 Pa s	
Cell adhesion force	Human cervical carcinoma cell	19-204 nN	Atomic force microscopy High-speed centrifugation technique Manipulation force microscope Traction force microscopy
	Epithelial cells	100 nN	
	Murine fibroblast cells	300-400 nN	
	Rat cardiac fibroblast	10 nN	
Cell traction forces	Fibroblasts	100 nN	Microcantilevers micro pads Flexible substrate
	Fish keratocytes	20 nN	
Shear stress	Endothelial cells	1-15 dyn/cm ²	Microfluidics
	Bovine aortic endothelial cells	10 dyn/cm ²	
	Human umbilical vein endothelial cells	1-3 dyn/cm ²	

Table 1. Mechanical properties of cells reported in the literature



Observ. XVIII. Of the Schematisme or Texture of Cork, and of the Cells and Pores of some other such frothy Bodies.

I Took a good clear piece of Cork, and with a Pen-knife sharpen'd as keen as a Razor, I cut a piece of it off, and thereby left the surface of it exceeding smooth, then examining it very diligently with a *Microscope*, me thought I could perceive it to appear a little porous; but I could not so plainly distinguish them, as to be sure that they were pores, much less what Figure they were of: But judging from the lightness and yielding quality of the Cork, that certainly the texture could not be so curious,