# Cell migration on microstructured surfaces: - from single cell to collective behavior

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PEG-DMA

# growing epithelia (MDCK) cells

# 9000 x real time









The Nobel Prize in Physics 1991 was awarded to Pierre-Gilles de Gennes "for discovering that methods developed for studying order phenomena in simple systems can be generalized to more complex forms of matter, in particular to liquid crystals and polymers".

# From Single Cell to Collective Cell Migration



# From Single Cell to Collective Cell Migration



# Migratory phenotypes on artificial micro-pattern





Felix Segerer Alicia Piera

> **collaborators:** Erwin Frey Florian Thüroff Andriy Goychuk



Christoph Schreiber Sophia Schaffer Fang Zhou



**collaborators:** Ernst Wagner Andreas Roidl Stefan Zahler

Alexandra Fink Peter Röttgermann Christoph Schreiber

**collaborators:** Chase Broedersz David Brückner



# Flow and diffusion in channel-guided cell migration



<u>Anna-Kristina Marel</u>, Matthias Zorn, Christoph Klingner, Roland Wedlich-Söldner, Erwin Frey, Joachim O. Rädler Biophysical Journal vol.107(5) 1054 (2014)

# Microenvironments for cell migration



capillary-force lithography under polydimethylsiloxa ne (PDMS) stamps

poly(ethylene glycol) dimethacrylate (PEGDMA)

hydrogel microwell arrays

# Cell Proliferation & Collective migration





#### Madin-Darby canine kidney (MDCK) cells

# The velocity of cell invasion



Biophysical Journal vol.107(5) 1054 (2014)

# Particle image velocimetry yields flow field





# Fluorescent nuclei yield single cell trajectories

### Alternating phase contrast / fluorescence time-lapse microscopy





## Reconstructing cell-flow in 2-dimensional channels

### Alternating phase contrast / fluorescence time-lapse microscopy





#### - - - - - 1 Al marin En 150 > 50 x [µm]

graining

coarse

V

time averaging ->



# Mathematical model of cell density profile



$$J = -D_c \frac{dc}{dx}$$

cell flux proportional to cell density gradient D<sub>c</sub>: generalized transport coefficient

$$\dot{N} = N_0 e^{\lambda t}$$
 "cell proliferation"



cells number grows exponentially

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = D\nabla^2 c + \lambda c \left(1 - \frac{c}{K}\right)$$

Fisher-Kolmogorov Eq.

includes logistic growth with capacity K



# Collective vs. Self Diffusion







$$J = -D_c \frac{dc}{dx} + J_0$$

cell flow proportional to cell density gradient

$$D_C \approx \xi^2 / 4\tau$$

Collective diffusion is determined by the correlation length  $\xi$  and time  $\tau$ 

$$\langle x^2 \rangle = 4Dt$$

the mean squared displacement (MSD) grows linear with time

D<sub>s</sub> ≈20 μm<sup>2</sup>/h

## Collective migration stochastic: "collective bursts"

stochastic collective displacements equilibrate cell density

$$D_C \approx \xi^2 / 4\tau$$









confluent layer of MDCK cells





time correlation of vorticity strength  $\langle \Omega^2 \rangle$ 



no chirality in spontaneous vortices

## vortices are short-lived !

Biophysical Journal vol.107(5) 1054 (2014)

# **Modelling Collective Motion - Active Matter**

- particle based models (Viszek type)
  - dissipative particle dynamics (DPD)
- O cellular Potts models (CPM)
- phase field models (PFM)



# Active Matter: an ensemble of self-propelled units



Observe the fish in the water and you will understand the birds in the air

Leonardo da Vinci



# Active Matter: an ensemble of self-propelled units



# **collective behavior:** things move together

emergent phenomena: e.g. pattern formation order-disorder transitions

# **Active Matter:**

non-equilibrium system
non-linear dynamics
"active noise" = eff. temp.

T. Vicsek & Anna Zafeiris cond-mat-stat-mech arXiv 2012

# Collective Behavior in Active Soft Matter



$$\mathbf{x}_i(t+1) = \mathbf{x}_i(t) + \mathbf{v}_i(t)\Delta t \, .$$

# The Viscek Model of Self-Propelled Particles



# The Viscek Model of Self-Propelled Particles

VOLUME 75, NUMBER 6

#### PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

7 August 1995

#### Novel Type of Phase Transition in a System of Self-Driven Particles

Tamás Vicsek,<sup>1,2</sup> András Czirók,<sup>1</sup> Eshel Ben-Jacob,<sup>3</sup> Inon Cohen,<sup>3</sup> and Ofer Shochet<sup>3</sup>



kinetic second order phase transition into long-ranged order with spontaneously selected direction



# Alignment of cellular motility forces with tissue flow as a mechanism for efficient wound healing

Markus Basan<sup>a</sup>, Jens Elgeti<sup>b</sup>, Edouard Hannezo<sup>c</sup>, Wouter-Jan Rappel<sup>a</sup>, and Herbert Levine<sup>d,1</sup>



#### m: motility force

.. we propose that the motility forces of cells in the tissue tend to align with the flow ...

2452–2459 | PNAS | February 12, 2013 | vol. 110 | no. 7

DPD reproduces tension in expanding cell sheets

А



B Traction Force Field / y-component

2452-2459 PNAS | February 12, 2013 | vol. 110 | no. 7

# DPD reproduce finger formation at invading fronts



2452–2459 | PNAS | February 12, 2013 | vol. 110 | no. 7

# DPD modeling of channel flow





A. Marel, N. Podewitz, M. Zorn, J. Rädler and Jens Elgeti

New Journal of Physics 16 (2014)

# Alignment of cell division axes in directed migration





A. Marel, N. Podewitz, M. Zorn, J. Rädler and Jens Elgeti

New Journal of Physics 16 (2014)

# Alignment of cell division axes in directed migration



Marel et al. New Journal of Physics 16 (2014) 115005
Emergence and Persistence of Collective Cell Migration on Small Circular Micropatterns

- small system size
- defined boundary conditions



### **Plasma - Induced Patterning**





Peter Röttgermann, Soft Matter (2014)

F. Segerer, P. Röttgermann, S. Schuster, A Alberola, S. Zahler, and J Rädler. Biointerphases 11(1) (2016) 011005.



Peter Röttgermann, Soft Matter (2014)

## Live Cell Imaging on Single Cell Arrays

#### structured substrates





channel - chambers



Cells are seeded out & settle -> transfection

automated time-lapse movie acquisition scanning



### States of Coherent Angular Motion (CAMo)



#### States of Coherent Angular Motion (CAMo)



## Collective migration as a function of system size





#### The migration "states" exhibit a defined life time



#### Average spatial correlation on the circle

#### Experiment



#### Simulation



center cell impedes polarization: "frustrated state"

#### Experiment vs. computer simulation



cellular automata model including scalar polarization field (F. Thüroff, E. Frey)

experiment (F. Segerer)

#### Angular velocity distribution

#### 2 cells 3 cells 4 cells frequency 5 cells 6 cells 7 cells 8 cells 0.2 0.4 0 $|\Omega|$ [turns/h]

#### in-vitro

#### in-silico





velocity peak positions

#### ACTIN DYNAMICS, ARCHITECTURE, AND MECHANICS IN CELL MOTILITY



Blanchoin et al., Physiol Rev VOL 94, 2014

#### ACTIN DYNAMICS, ARCHITECTURE, AND MECHANICS IN CELL MOTILITY



Blanchoin et al., Physiol Rev VOL 94, 2014



# Cell shape in monolayers

#### The Influence of Cell Mechanics, Cell-Cell Interactions, and Proliferation on Epithelial Packing



Farhadifar et al. (2007) Curr. Biol.





## Vertex models and cell mechanics





Effective elastic energy

$$E(R_i) = \sum_{\alpha} \frac{K_{\alpha}}{2} (A_{\alpha} - A_{\alpha}^{(0)})^2 + \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \Lambda_{ij} l_{ij} + \sum_{\alpha} \frac{\Gamma_{\alpha}}{2} L_{\alpha}^2$$

Area elasticity (cell height and volume)

Line tension (cell-cell adhesion)

**Contractility (mechanics of the actin-myosin ring)** 

### Agent based Modeling (Potts Modell)



#### cell represented as a set of pixels

based on the original Potts model by F. Graner and J. A. Glazier, Phys. Rev. Lett. 69, 2013 (1992).

### Agent based Modeling (Potts Modell)

• protrusion and retraction events copy events with probability:

$$p(\mathcal{T}) = \min\{1, e^{-\Delta \mathcal{H}}\}\$$

$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_{\rm cont} + \mathcal{H}_{\rm adh} + \mathcal{H}_{\rm cyto}$$



## Agent based Modeling (Potts Modell)

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$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_{\rm cont} + \mathcal{H}_{\rm adh} + \mathcal{H}_{\rm cyto}$$

• cell contractility (Hcont),

 $\mathcal{H}_{\rm cont} = m P_{\alpha}^2(t) + a A_{\alpha}^2(t)$ 

stiffness parameters for the perimeter  $P_{\alpha}(t)$  and the area  $A_{\alpha}(t)$ 

- cell-cell adhesion (H<sub>adh</sub>)
- cytoskeletal remodeling (H<sub>cyto</sub>)



#### Rho GTPases and cell polarity: biochemical view



### Rho GTPases and cell polarity in CPM model



### Rho GTPases and cell polarity in CPM model



#### Monte-Carlo scheme for protrusions events



update  $\rho$ 

elementary protrusion event

#### From single cell migration to collective dynamics



#### Tissue level - dynamics



## Micropattern as standardized platforms:

#### "The first world cell race"



persistent random walk analysis:

mean-squared displacement (MSD)

$$\langle \delta(\tau)^2 \rangle = 2t_p v^2 (\tau - t_p (1 - \exp(-\tau t_p)))$$

characteristic speed: v(describes deterministic motion)persistence time:  $t_p$ (describes randomness, noise)

Maiuri, P. et al. (2012). Curr. Biol. *22*, R673–R675. Maiuri et al., 2015, Cell 161, 374–386

#### Micropattern as standardized platforms:



universal scaling cell speed and cell persistence  $au \propto e^{\lambda \cdot V}$ 

Maiuri, P. et al. (2012). Curr. Biol. *22*, R673–R675. Maiuri et al., 2015, Cell 161, 374–386

## Single cell migration on ring shaped structures



fibronectin coated ring pattern (µCP) in PEG-PLL

radius 50  $\mu m$  / width 20  $\mu m$ 

Chr Schreiber, F.J. Segerer, E.Wagner, A. Roidl & J.Rädler Sci Reports 6 (2016): 26858.









#### breast cancer cell line MDA-MB-436 (mesenchymal phenotype)

Huh7 hepato cellular carcinoma cells

cell lines cells differ
=> "migratory fingerprint"





breast cancer cell line MDA-MB-436 (mesenchymal phenotype)

Salinomycin affects rest time and crossing probability, but not velocity and run-times



#### Motility Parameters: Mean Square Displacement











#### **Adhesion Parameters: Affinity barriers**



The PLL-PEG level  $\phi$  describes the energy penalty for invading passivated grid sites.

The transition probability drops for increasing gap width.
### Pol-to-pol migration in finite slits





MDA-MB-231 human breast carcinoma

Fang Zhou

### CPM simulation of pol-to-pol migration



Sophia Schaffer / Andriy Goychuk

# Single cell migration - spatiotemporal decisions

### 1D-Random walk

with barrier



Christoph Schreiber Sophia Schaffer Fang Zhou

> collaborators: Ernst Wagner Andreas Roidl Erwin Frey Florian Thürhoff Andriy Goychuk



Alexandra Fink Peter Röttgermann Christoph Schreiber

### **Two-State-System**





### David Brückner & Chase Broedersz



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### Cell migration in a two-state systems



τ/h

MDA-MB-231 human breast carcinoma

### Cell migration in a two-state systems



MDA-MB-231 human breast carcinoma

normalized escape time distribution collapses on one master curve

$$S(\tau) = f(\tau / \langle \tau \rangle)$$





David Brückner / Chase Broedersz

$$\langle \tau_L \rangle = \frac{1}{\sigma} \int_{x_0}^{x_r} dy \exp\left(\frac{V_L(y)}{\sigma}\right) \int_{x_l}^{y} dz \exp\left(-\frac{V_L(z)}{\sigma}\right)$$

*Kramers expression for the transition rates* 



David Brückner / Chase Broedersz





Ansatz 
$$\dot{v} = F(x,v) + \sigma(x,v)\eta(t)$$

second-order Langevin equation:

acceleration = force + noise

$$\langle \eta(t)\eta(t')\rangle = \delta(t-t')$$

white noise conditon

data-driven retrieval of force and noise field:

$$F(x,v) = \langle \dot{v} | x, v \rangle$$
  
$$\sigma^2(x,v) = \Delta t \langle [\dot{v} - F(x,v)]^2 | x, v \rangle$$

# Inferred equation of motion for confined cell migration



### Model reproduces experimental dynamics



### Model reproduces experimental dynamics



### Deterministic component drives transitions







### Deterministic dynamics exhibits a limit cycle



Nature Physics 19 (2019): 1592.



### Narrow constrictions lead to speed amplification



# $\begin{bmatrix} 100 \\ (I-H) \\ 0 \\ -100 \\ -30 \\ x (\mu m) \end{bmatrix}$

### **MDA-MB-231** without constriction





Nature Physics 19 (2019): 1592.

### Method detects subtle differences between cells

# cancerous (MDA-MB-231)



### **Non-cancerous (MCF10A)**





Nature Physics 19 (2019): 1592.

### Two-state system with different areas





### Pattern with different shapes



### Pattern with different shapes



# Anisotropic shapes affect transition rates



Static cell adhesion:

*Théry, M., J Cell Sci 2010 123:* 4201-4213

### **Dynamic system:**



k<sub>LR</sub>=0.43 h<sup>-1</sup>





k<sub>RL</sub>=0.29 h<sup>-1</sup>



# Orientation of cell polarization biases transition rates





equal area & perimeter different orientation



 $\mu$ -pattern infer polarization

### Guiding 3D cell migration in deformed synthetic hydrogel microstructures

**View Article Online** 



Dietrich, Miriam, Hugo Le Roy, David B Brückner, Hanna Engelke, Roman Zantl, Joachim O Rädler, and Chase P Broedersz. Soft Matter 19 (2018): 1592.



# Conclusion

Collective Cell migration in microchannels described by flow and diffusion

Tina Marel, Felix Segerer, Matthias Zorn

Cell polarization produces spontaneous swirls (Cellular Potts Modell)



Felix Segerer Cooperation: Florian Thürhoff, Andriy Goychuk, Erwin Frey

Single Cell migration on micro-lanes allows for migratory fingerprints Christoph Schreiber Cooperation: E. Wagner, A. Roidl

Cell migration on two-state micropattern described by inferred force and noise maps Alexandra Fink, Christoph Schreiber Sophia Schaffer, Fang Zhou Cooperation: D. Brückner & C. Broedersz



