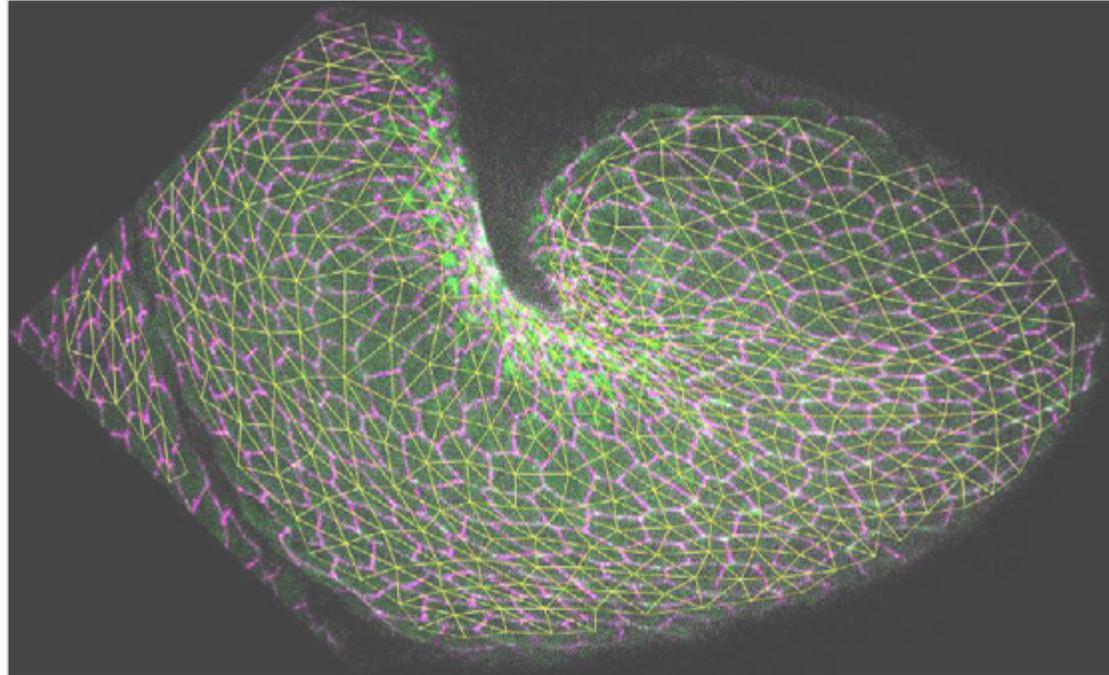


# Morphogenesis: space, time, information



Course 2: Spatial and temporal instabilities

*Thomas Lecuit*  
*chaire: Dynamiques du vivant*



COLLÈGE  
DE FRANCE  
— 1530 —

# Biological organisation in space and time

- Two modalities of information flow during morphogenesis

## Program



- hierarchical, indirect interactions
- modular
- long and short range interactions
- high-wired
- multiple parameters

## Self-organization

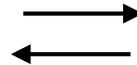


- local and direct interactions
- few rules and parameters



# Mechano-chemical information

## Biochemistry



## Mechanics

- Sets mechanical parameters (stiffness: actin crosslinkers, viscosity: turnover)
- Regulates stresses (eg. activation of motors)

- affects transport of molecules: advection by flow
- elicits mechanotransduction: stress/strain dependent effect
- affects geometry of environment: polarity

Time scale  
Length scale

- **diffusion:**  $\lambda = (D \cdot \tau)^{1/2}$
  - **transport:**  $\ell = v \cdot \tau$
- D: diffusion coefficient  
v: velocity of motor + processivity

- **propagation of deformation:**  $\tau = \eta / E$
  - **hydrodynamic length:**  $\ell = (\eta / \gamma)^{1/2}$
- E: stiffness  
 $\eta$ : viscosity  
 $\gamma$ : friction

Information  
(genetics/biochemistry)



Mechanics

Information  
(mechano-chemistry)



# Self-organisation with mechano-chemical information

---

Information  
(genetics/biochemistry)



Mechanics

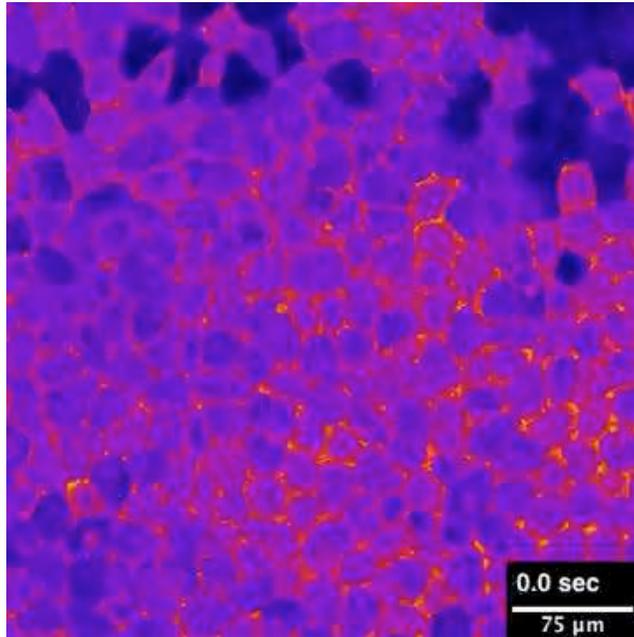


Information  
(mechano-chemistry)



# What underlies the spatial and temporal organisation of cellular activity ?

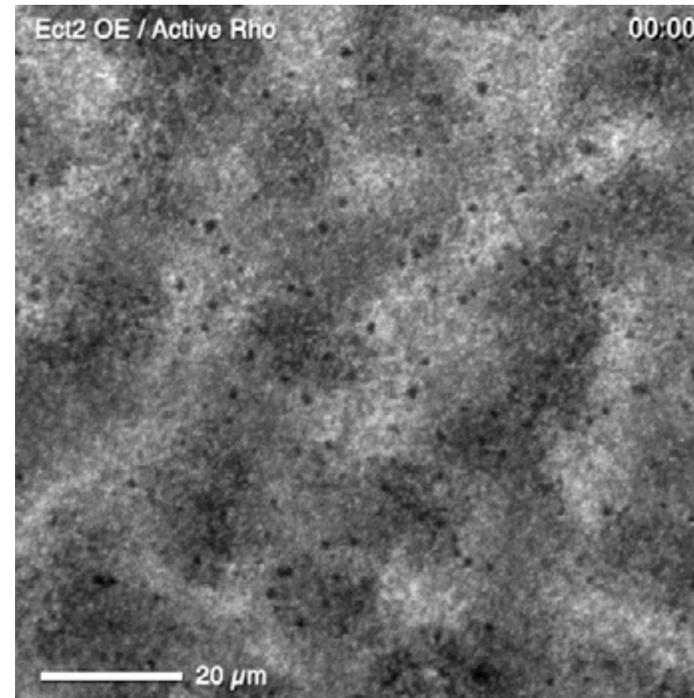
*Xenopus*



Calcium imaging

- Image by Nicholas Davenport, Graduate Student, Cellular and Molecular Biology | Confocal Microscope

Sea Urchin/Starfish

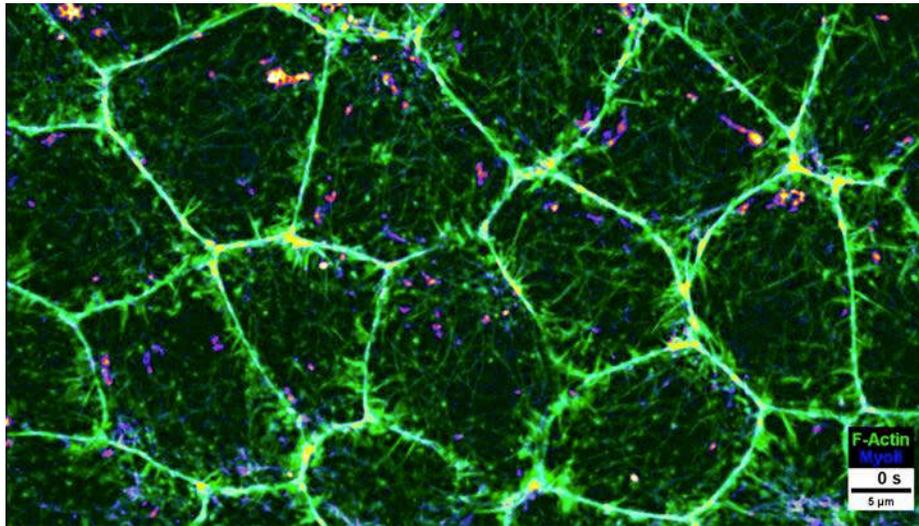


W. Bement et al *Nature Cell Biology* 2015



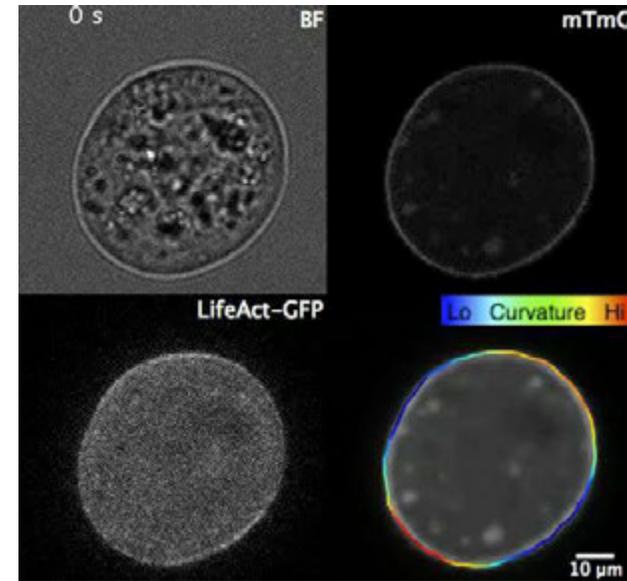
# What underlies the spatial and temporal organisation of cellular activity ?

*Drosophila*



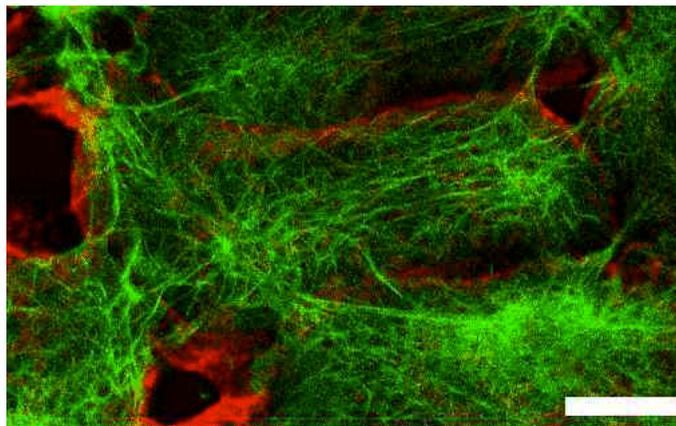
B. Dehapiot and T. Lecuit, *unpublished*

Mouse



JL Maître, R. Niwayama, H. Turlier F. Nédélec and T. Hiragii. *Nature Cell Biology* (2015) 17:849-855

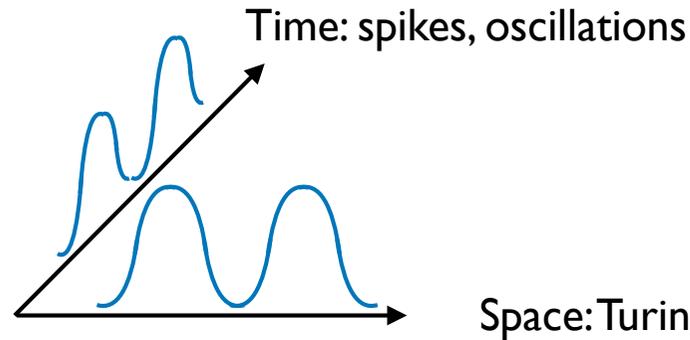
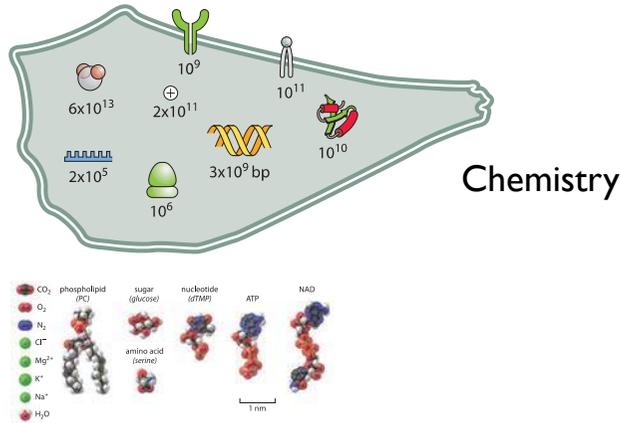
*Xenopus*



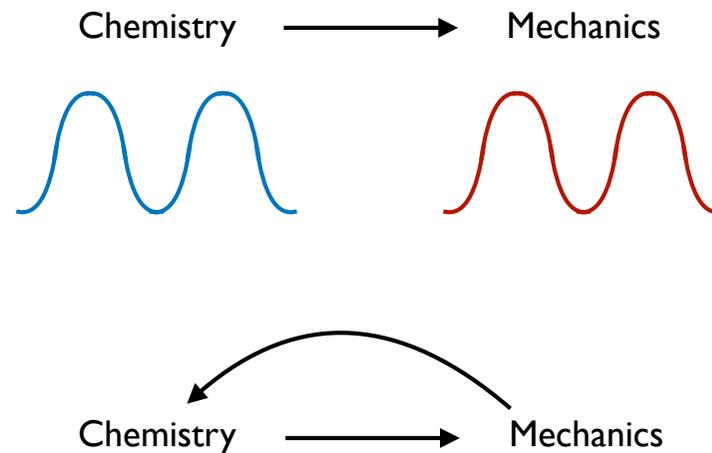
HY. Kim and LA. Davidson, *Journal of Cell Science* (2011) 124:635-646

# Self-organisation of biological patterns: Time and Space

## Chemical and Mechanical Information



self-organization in nonequilibrium **chemical systems**



self-organization in nonequilibrium **mechano-chemical systems**

- 
1. Introduction - Program and Self-Organisation
  2. Chemical Instabilities
    21. Spatial instabilities - Turing patterns
    22. Temporal instabilities - Excitability
    23. Spatial-temporal instabilities: waves
  3. Mechanical instabilities
    31. Cellular aggregates: viscoelastic model
    32. Active gel: hydrodynamic and viscoelastic models
  4. Mechano-chemical Instabilities
    41. Mechano-chemical coupling: actomyosin dynamics
    42. Actin based trigger waves
  5. Developmental significance: impact on cellular and tissue morphogenesis



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## II. Chemical Instabilities

### Self-organisation of biological patterns: chemistry and mechanics.



Alan Turing  
(1912-1954)

#### THE CHEMICAL BASIS OF MORPHOGENESIS

By A. M. TURING, F.R.S. *University of Manchester*

*(Received 9 November 1951—Revised 15 March 1952)*

In the continuous form of the theory the concentrations and diffusibilities of each substance have to be given at each point. In determining the changes of state one should take into account

- (i) The changes of position and velocity as given by Newton's laws of motion.
- (ii) The stresses as given by the elasticities and motions, also taking into account the osmotic pressures as given from the chemical data.
- (iii) The chemical reactions.
- (iv) The diffusion of the chemical substances. The region in which this diffusion is possible is given from the mechanical data.

One cannot at present hope to make any progress with the understanding of such systems except in very simplified cases. The interdependence of the chemical and mechanical data adds enormously to the difficulty, and attention will therefore be confined, so far as is possible, to cases where these can be separated. The mathematics of elastic solids is a well-developed subject, and has often been applied to biological systems. In this paper it is proposed to give attention rather to cases where the mechanical aspect can be ignored and the chemical aspect is the most significant. These cases promise greater interest, for the characteristic action of the genes themselves is presumably chemical.

# II. Chemical Instabilities

## I. Reaction — Diffusion (chemical) systems

self-organization in  
nonequilibrium **chemical**  
**systems**

$$\partial_t u = D \partial_x^2 u + R(u)$$

Diffusion      Reaction

1-component

$$\begin{pmatrix} \partial_t u \\ \partial_t v \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} D_u & 0 \\ 0 & D_v \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \partial_{xx} u \\ \partial_{xx} v \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} F(u, v) \\ G(u, v) \end{pmatrix}$$

Diffusion                      Reaction

2-components

⋮

n-components



Alan Turing  
(1912-1954)

### THE CHEMICAL BASIS OF MORPHOGENESIS

By A. M. TURING, F.R.S. *University of Manchester*

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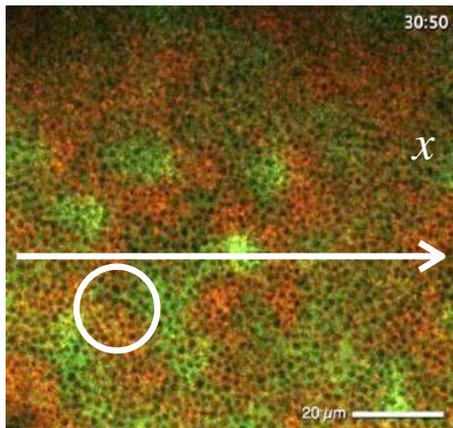
# II. Chemical Instabilities

## I. Reaction — Diffusion systems

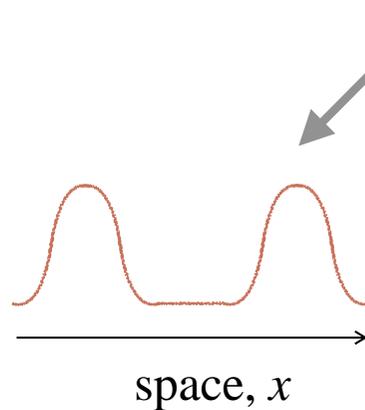
### Self-organisation of spatial and temporal patterns

self-organization in nonequilibrium chemical systems:

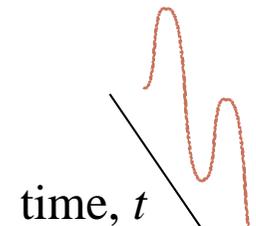
- **activator** auto-activation
- **inhibitor** induction



W. Bement, et al and George von Dassow. *Nature Cell Biology*. 2015



✓ Diffusion



✓ Reaction speed



# II. Chemical Instabilities

## 2I. Spatial patterns: Turing instabilities

self-organization in  
nonequilibrium **chemical**  
**systems**



$$\begin{pmatrix} \partial_t u \\ \partial_t v \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} D_u & 0 \\ 0 & D_v \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \partial_{xx} u \\ \partial_{xx} v \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} F(u, v) \\ G(u, v) \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{2-component}$$

Diffusion                      Reaction



Alan Turing  
(1912-1954)

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✓ Turing Instabilities (role of diffusion)

$$Du \ll Dv$$



# II. Chemical Instabilities

## 2I. Spatial patterns: Turing instabilities

### THE CHEMICAL BASIS OF MORPHOGENESIS

By A. M. TURING, F.R.S. *University of Manchester*

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#### I Cell - 2 species (activator and inhibitor)



X stimulates X and Y  
Y inhibits both

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dX}{dt} &= 5X - 6Y + 1 \\ \frac{dY}{dt} &= 6X - 7Y + 1\end{aligned}$$

$X = Y = 1$   
unique steady state

linear stability analysis: deviation from steady state  $X = 1 + x$  and  $Y = 1 + y$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & -6 \\ 6 & -7 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{solutions} \quad \begin{aligned} x(t) &= x_0 e^{\lambda t} \\ y(t) &= y_0 e^{\lambda t} \end{aligned}$$

Condition on stability:  $\lambda$  negative

$$\lambda \text{ is solution of } \det \begin{pmatrix} 5 - \lambda & -6 \\ 6 & -7 - \lambda \end{pmatrix} = \lambda^2 + 2\lambda + 1 = 0 \quad \text{so } \lambda = -1$$

# II. Chemical Instabilities

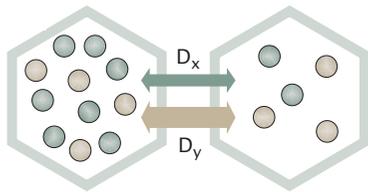
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THE CHEMICAL BASIS OF MORPHOGENESIS

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### 2 Cells - 2 species + diffusion



$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dX_1}{dt} &= 5X_1 - 6Y_1 + 1 + D_X(X_2 - X_1) \\ \frac{dY_1}{dt} &= 6X_1 - 7Y_1 + 1 + D_Y(Y_2 - Y_1) \\ \frac{dX_2}{dt} &= 5X_2 - 6Y_2 + 1 + D_X(X_1 - X_2) \\ \frac{dY_2}{dt} &= 6X_2 - 7Y_2 + 1 + D_Y(Y_1 - Y_2) \end{aligned}$$

$$X_1 = Y_1 = X_2 = Y_2 = 1$$

unique steady state

but: Diffusion makes the system potentially UNSTABLE if  $D_Y \gg D_X$

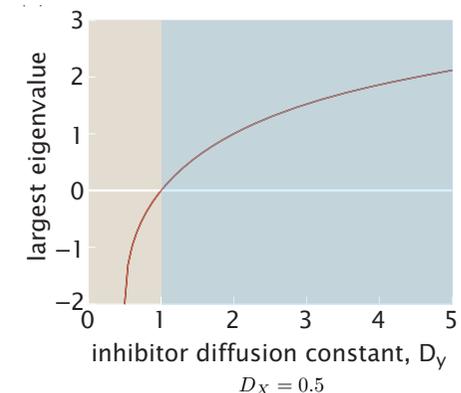
linear stability analysis:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \\ x_2 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 - D_X & -6 & D_X & 0 \\ 6 & -7 - D_Y & 0 & D_Y \\ D_X & 0 & 5 - D_X & -6 \\ 0 & D_Y & 6 & -7 - D_Y \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \\ x_2 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= x_0 e^{\lambda t} \\ y(t) &= y_0 e^{\lambda t} \end{aligned}$$

and  $\lambda$  is eigenvalue of rate matrix

hence: stability depends on  $D_Y$  relative to  $D_X$



# II. Chemical Instabilities

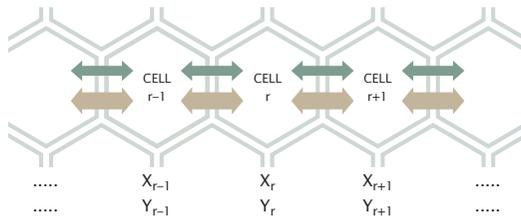
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(Received 9 November 1951—Revised 15 March 1952)

**N Cells - 2 species + diffusion**



linear stability analysis:

$$(X_r, Y_r) = (h + x_r, k + y_r)$$

$$\frac{dx_r}{dt} = A_1 x_r + B_1 y_r + D_X(x_{r+1} + x_{r-1} - 2x_r)$$

$$\frac{dy_r}{dt} = A_2 x_r + B_2 y_r + D_Y(y_{r+1} + y_{r-1} - 2y_r)$$

(equation of deviation from steady state)

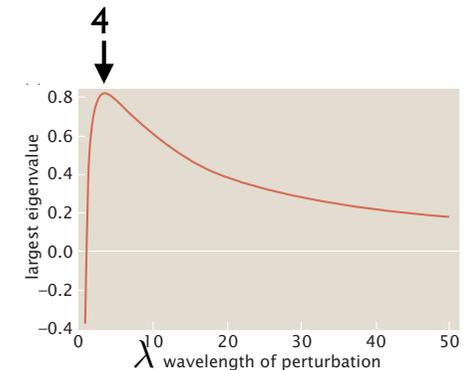
$$x_r(t) = x(t) \exp\left(i \frac{2\pi r}{\lambda}\right)$$

$$y_r(t) = y(t) \exp\left(i \frac{2\pi r}{\lambda}\right),$$

$\lambda$  is wavelength of perturbation

rate matrix (approximation with  $\lambda \gg 1$ )

$$\mathcal{R} = \begin{pmatrix} A_1 - D_X(2\pi/\lambda)^2 & B_1 \\ A_2 & B_2 - D_Y(2\pi/\lambda)^2 \end{pmatrix}$$



Of all possible perturbations with periodic waves, some will dominate and give rise to spatial patterns

(will have a value of  $\lambda$  with largest eigenvalue of rate matrix)

Solutions depend of respective values of Diffusion coefficients



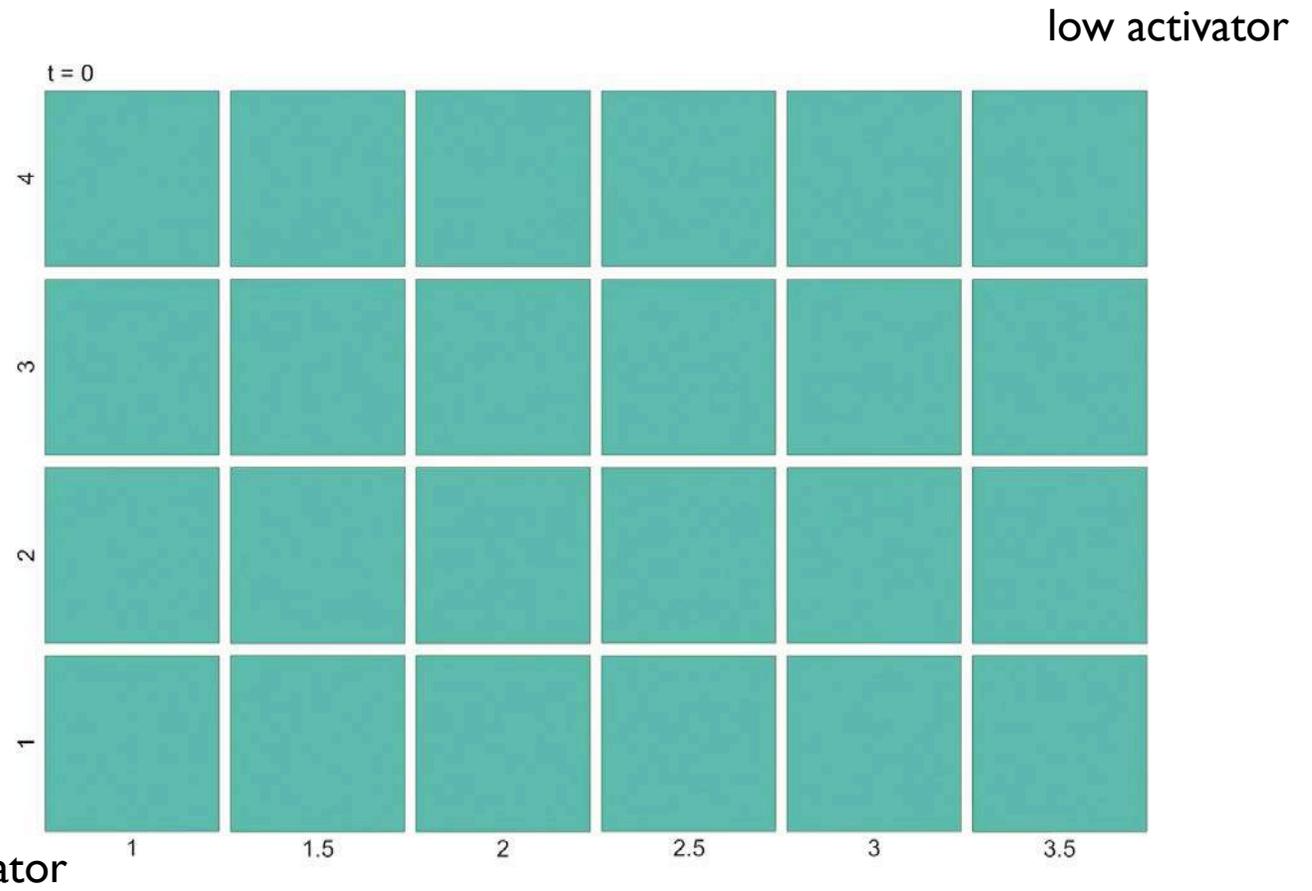
## II. Chemical Instabilities

### 2I. Spatial patterns: Turing instabilities — Diffusion!

Standing waves in 2D form spots and stripes



Of all possible perturbations with periodic waves, some will dominate and give rise to spatial patterns



# II. Chemical Instabilities

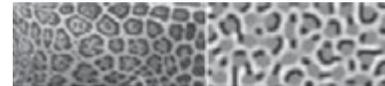
## 21. Spatial patterns: Turing instabilities — Diffusion!



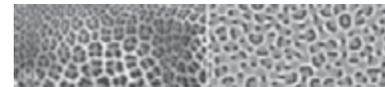
Standing waves in 2D form spots and stripes

photograph

simulation



jaguar *Panthera onca*



leopard *Panthera pardus*



tiger *Panthera tigris*



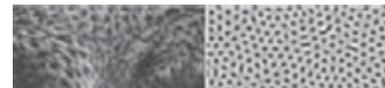
snow leopard *Panthera uncia*



clouded leopard *Neofelis nebulosa*



serval *Caracal serval*



Geoffroy's cat *Leopardus guigna*



Iberian Lynx *Lynx pardinus*



cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus*

# II. Chemical Instabilities

## 21. Spatial patterns: Local self-enhancement - Global inhibition

A Theory of Biological Pattern Formation

A. Gierer and H. Meinhardt

Max-Planck-Institut für Virusforschung, Tübingen, Germany

Kybernetik 12, 30—39 (1972)

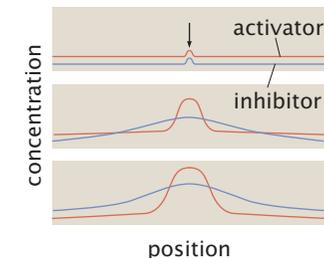
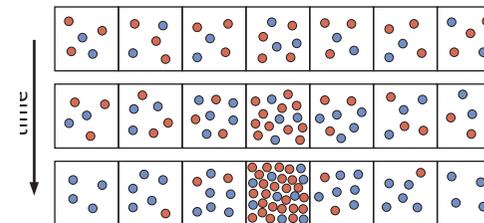
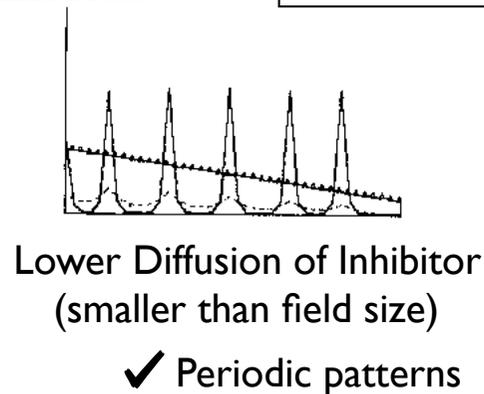
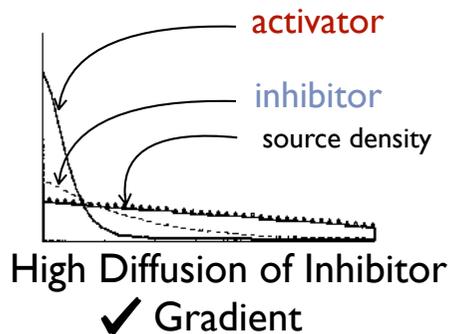
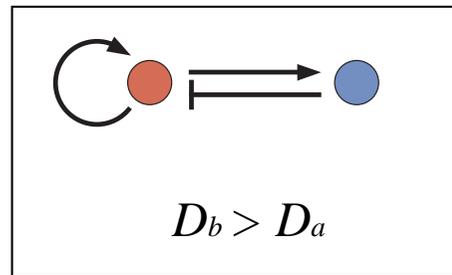


Hans Meinhardt  
(1938-2016)

**Local Excitation - Global Inhibition** model  
(activator-inhibitor scheme)

$$\frac{\partial a}{\partial t} = s \left( \frac{a^2}{b} + b_a \right) - r_a a + D_a \frac{\partial^2 a}{\partial x^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial b}{\partial t} = s a^2 - r_b b + D_b \frac{\partial^2 b}{\partial x^2} + b_b$$



# II. Chemical Instabilities

## 21. Spatial patterns: Local self-enhancement - Global inhibition

Local Excitation - Global Inhibition model  
(activator-inhibitor scheme)



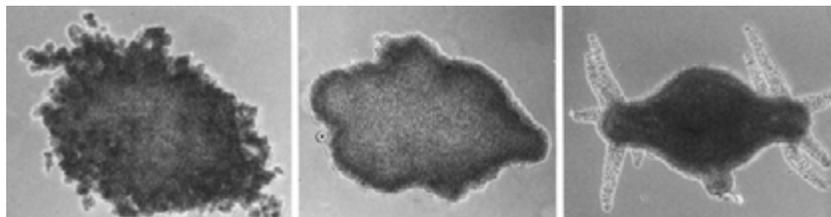
(i.e. local instability and global stabilisation)



Hans Meinhardt  
(1938-2016)

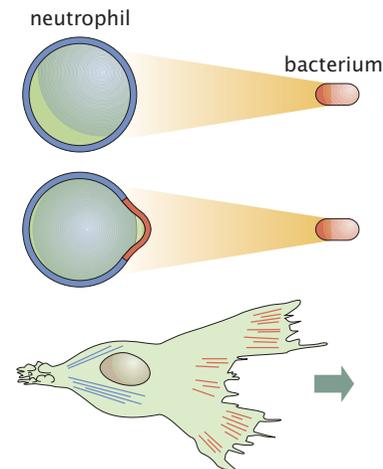
The theory was proposed to explain symmetry breaking at tissue level (morphogenesis) and at cellular level (cell polarisation)

Hydra morphogenesis/regeneration



<https://www.eb.tuebingen.mpg.de/emeriti/hans-meinhardt/>

Cell polarisation/motility



*Physical Biological of the Cell* (Garland Science)



# II. Chemical Instabilities

## 21. Spatial patterns: Local self-enhancement - Global inhibition

Local Excitation - Global Inhibition model  
(activator - substrate depletion scheme)

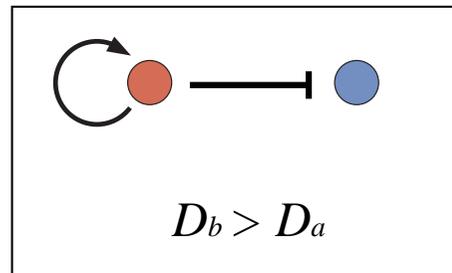


Hans Meinhardt  
(1938-2016)

- The activator A needs a substrate B and depletes it.
- The Global inhibition/Negative Feedback is due to depletion of the substrate

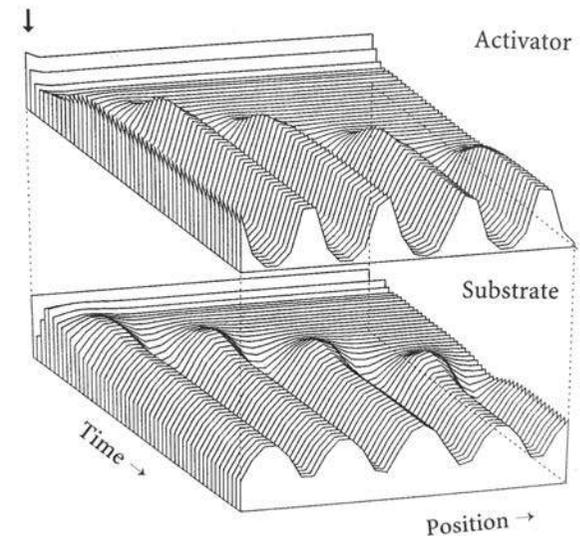
$$\frac{\partial a}{\partial t} = sba^{*2} - r_a a + D_a \frac{\partial^2 a}{\partial x^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial b}{\partial t} = b_b(x) - sba^{*2} - r_b b + D_b \frac{\partial^2 b}{\partial x^2}$$



$$a^{*2} = \frac{a^2}{1 + s_a a^2} + b_a$$

saturation term  $s_a$



Hans Meinhardt  
*The algorithmic beauty of seashells* (Springer)

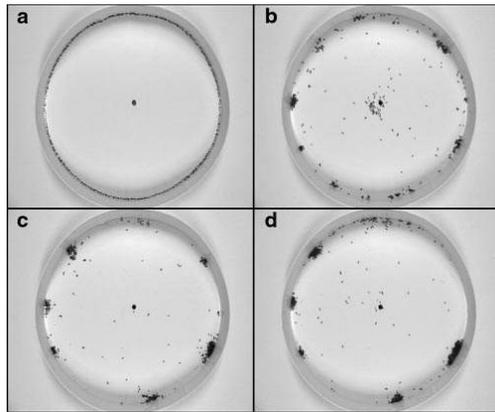


## II. Chemical Instabilities

### 2I. Spatial patterns: Local self-enhancement - Global inhibition

**Local Excitation - Global Inhibition** model  
(activator - substrate depletion scheme)

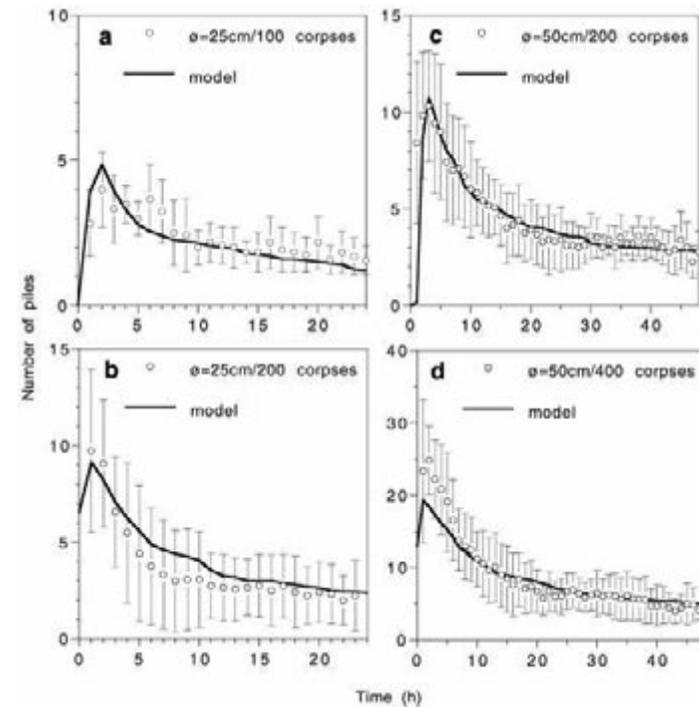
- Example: Ant cemetery construction
  - Ants carry dead corpses and deposit them to form piles
  - Local + Feedback (ants deposit on piles)
  - Global negative feedback: depletion of corpses that arrest growth of piles



$c$  corpses  
 $a$  corpse-carrying ant

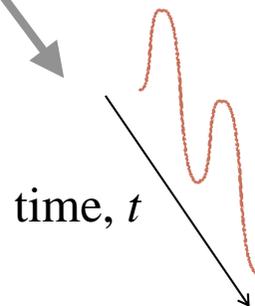
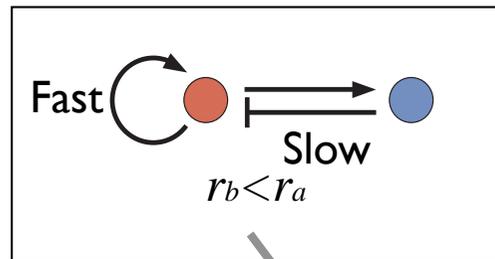
$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = \Omega(c, a)$$

$$\frac{\partial a}{\partial t} = -\Omega(c, a) + D \frac{\partial^2 a}{\partial x^2},$$



## II. Chemical Instabilities

### 22. Temporal patterns: Bistability, Excitability and Oscillations.



$$\frac{\partial a}{\partial t} = s \left( \frac{a^2}{b} + b_a \right) - r_a a + D_a \frac{\partial^2 a}{\partial x^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial b}{\partial t} = s a^2 - r_b b + D_b \frac{\partial^2 b}{\partial x^2} + b_b$$

self-organization in nonequilibrium chemical systems:

- **activator** auto-activation
- **inhibitor** induction

✓ Inhibition with a delay: slow action of inhibitor compared to activator

✓ Decay rate:

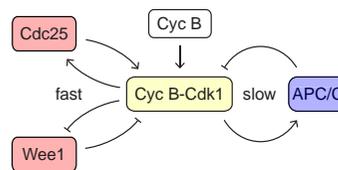
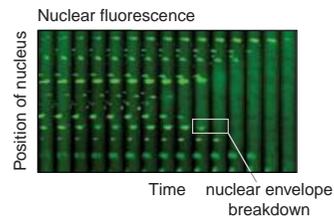
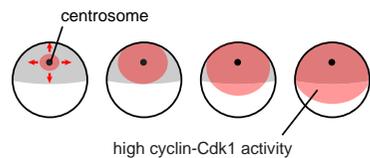
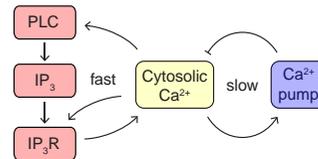
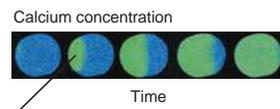
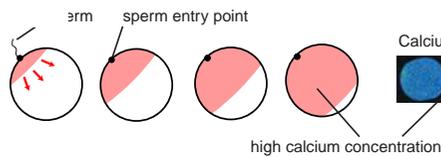
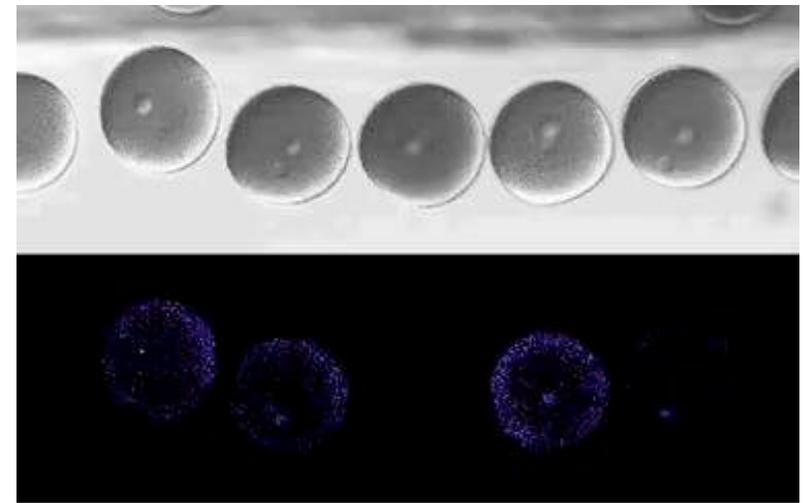
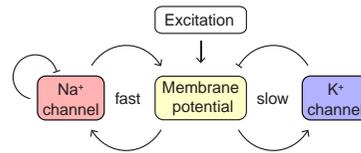
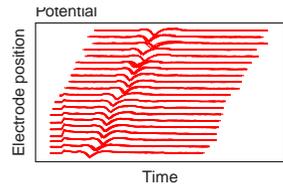
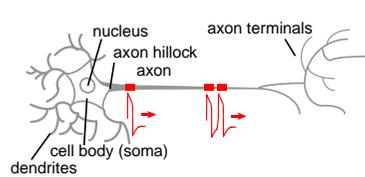
the decay rate of inhibitor must be lower than that other activator ( $r_b < r_a$ )

Existence of **refractory period**: time needed to clear inhibitor (or to re-synthesise depleted substrate)



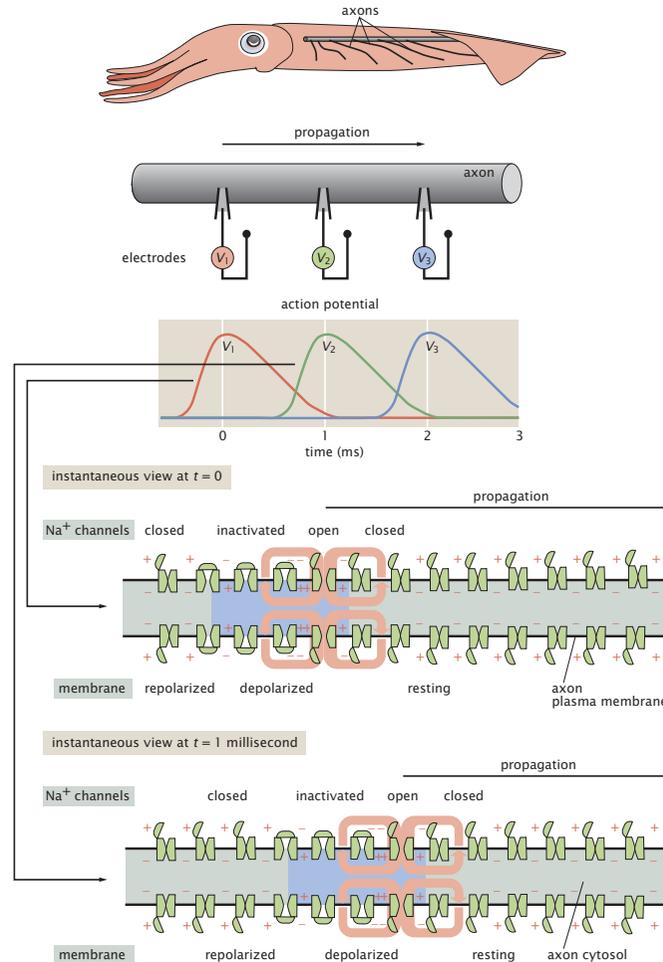
# II. Chemical Instabilities

## 22. Temporal patterns: Bistability, Excitability and Oscillations.



# II. Chemical Instabilities

## 22. Temporal patterns: Bistability, Excitability and Oscillations.



Rob Philipps, Jane Kondev, Julie Theriot, Hernan G. Garcia.

illustration: Nigel Orme

*Physical Biological of the Cell* (Garland Science)



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# II. Chemical Instabilities

## 22. Temporal patterns: Bistability, Excitability and Oscillations.

- FitzHugh-Nagumo Model :  
(heuristic model adapted for study of action potential)

$$\begin{cases} \frac{du}{dt} = u - u^3 - v & \text{Fast reaction} \\ \frac{dv}{dt} = \varepsilon(u - bv + a) & \text{Slow reaction} \\ & (\varepsilon \ll 1) \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} du/dt \propto u, & \quad \text{positive feedback} \\ du/dt \propto -u^3 & \quad \text{fast negative feedback} \end{aligned}$$

- Conditions on steady state

$$u - u^3 - v = 0$$

$$\varepsilon(u - bv + a) = 0$$

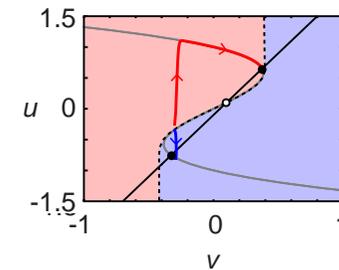
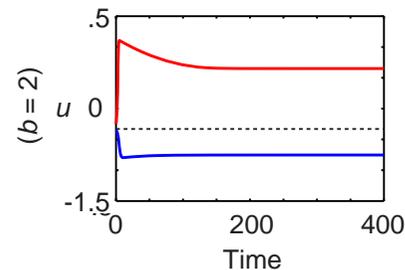
(nullclines in uv plane: steady state response of u to v and of v to u)

..... separatrix / threshold

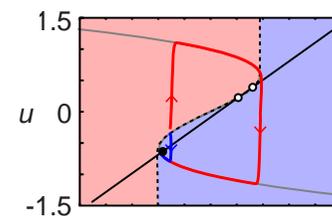
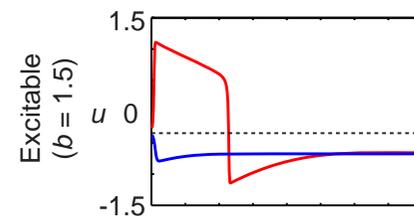
● stable point  
○ unstable point

**Bistable**

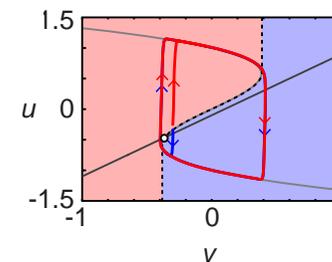
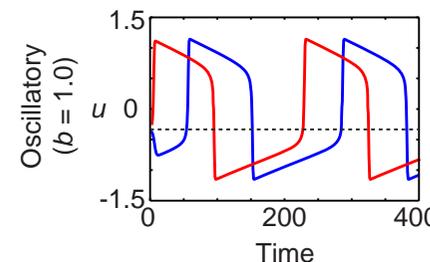
$a = 0.1; \quad \varepsilon = 0.01$



**Excitable**



**Oscillatory**



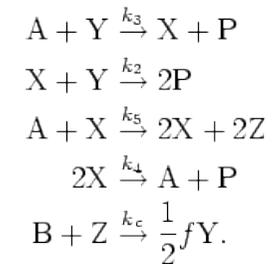
$b$



## II. Chemical Instabilities

### 23. Spatial Temporal patterns: Trigger waves

Belousov-Zhabotinsky reaction



$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dX}{dt} &= k_3AY - k_2XY + k_5AX - 2k_4X^2 \\ \frac{dY}{dt} &= -k_3AY - k_2XY + \frac{1}{2}fk_cBZ \\ \frac{dZ}{dt} &= 2k_5AX - k_cBZ.\end{aligned}$$

## II. Chemical Instabilities

### 23. Spatial Temporal patterns: Trigger waves

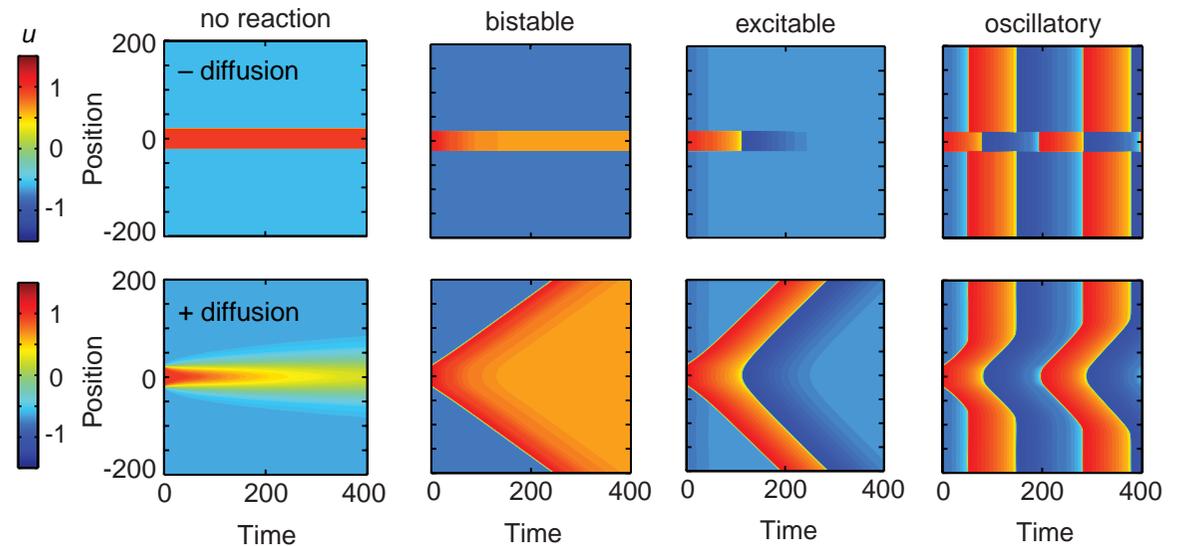
- Spatial coupling by diffusion — Synchronization

FitzHugh-Nagumo Model :

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + u - u^3 - v \\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2} + \varepsilon(u - bv + a) \end{array} \right.$$

Diffusion      Reaction

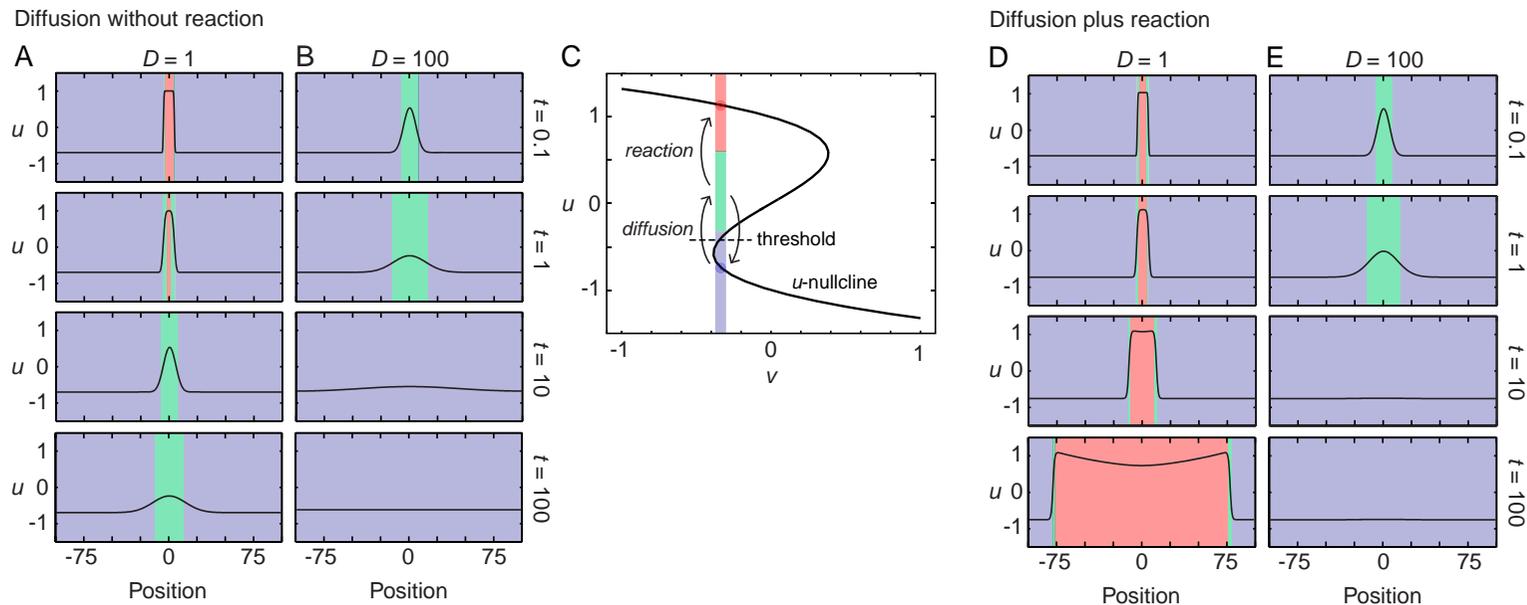
Kymographs (x, t):



## II. Chemical Instabilities

### 23. Spatial Temporal patterns: Trigger waves

- Diffusion is a mechanism for crossing the threshold in space



- a low  $u$  value state will increase its  $u$  concentration due to diffusion of nearby high  $u$  state but will relax back
- Higher diffusion increases rate of local propagation but makes it more transient

- The presence of a reaction captures supra-threshold state and move to high  $u$  state
- This depends on the **relative time scale of diffusion and reaction**

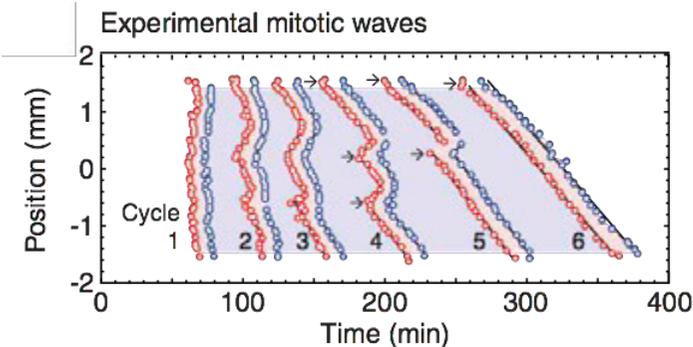
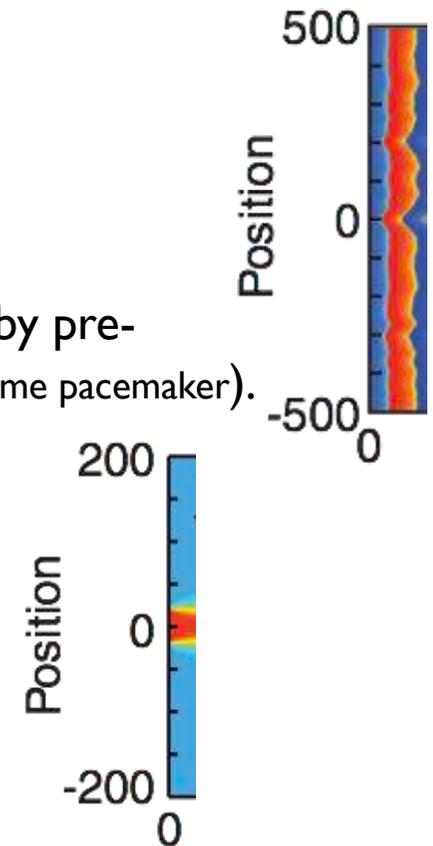
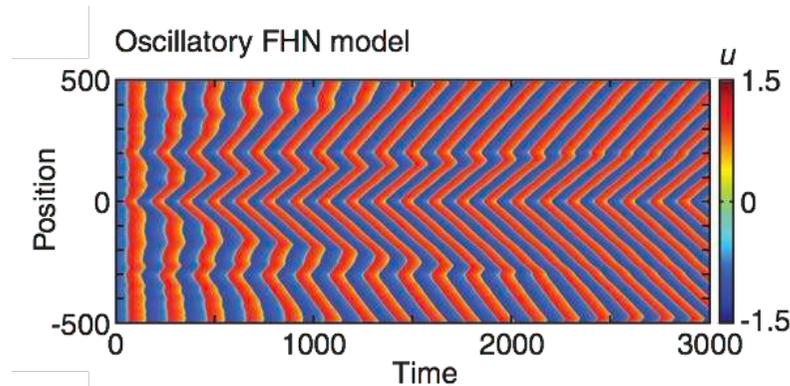
- Speed:  $s = 2\sqrt{\frac{D}{\tau}}$  doubling time of + feedback



## II. Chemical Instabilities

### 23. Spatial Temporal patterns: Trigger waves

- Initiation of waves: self-organisation
  1. Stochastic processes in homogeneous medium
  2. Pacemaker: spatial bias (heterogeneous medium) set up by pre-pattern (e.g. frequency modulation: higher frequency region will become pacemaker).



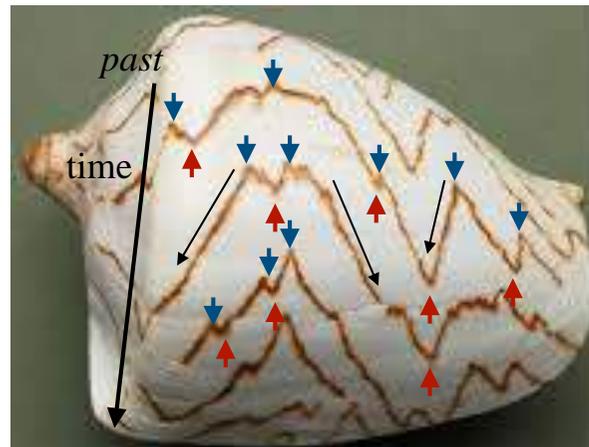
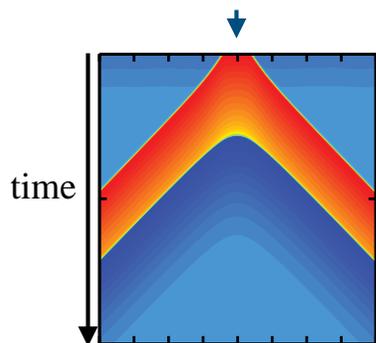
## II. Chemical Instabilities

### 23. Spatio-temporal patterns: seashell patterns

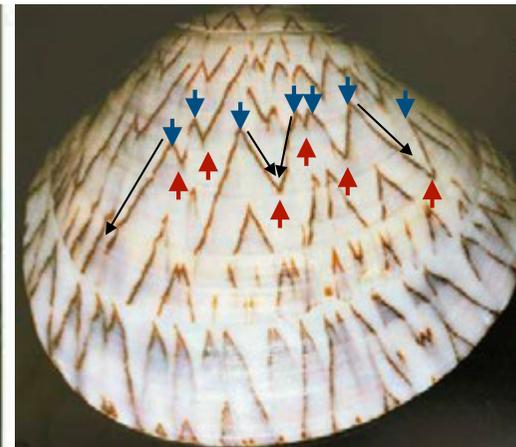
Summary: Properties of excitable systems

- Initiation beyond a *threshold* for activation
- Self-organisation of *trigger waves*
- *Refractory period*: clearance of excess inhibitor or new synthesis of depleted substrate
- *Colliding waves annihilation*: due to wave entering refractory zone.

✓ Seashells patterns as developmental kymographs



t=0 *Oliva Porphyra*



*Lioconcha lorenziana*

## II. Chemical Instabilities

### 23. Spatio-temporal patterns: seashell patterns

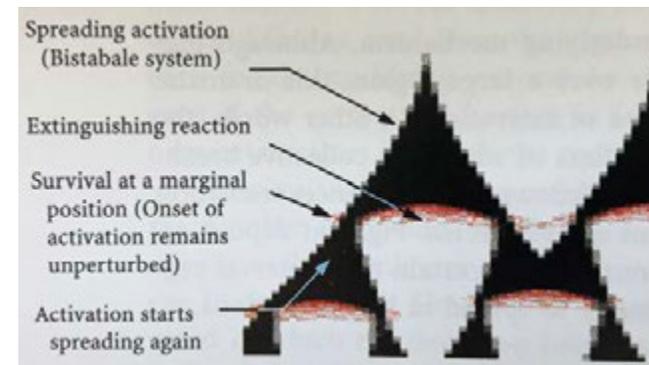
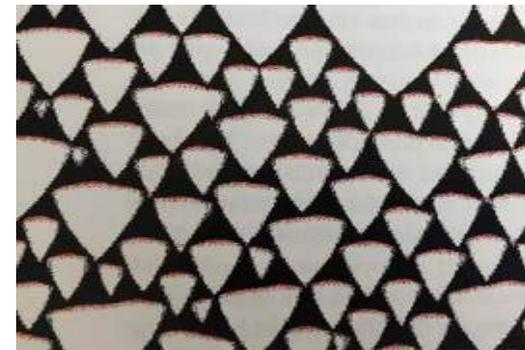
*Conus marmoreus*

- **Excitability**



*Lioconcha hieroglyphica*

- **Bistability**



Hans Meinhardt

*The algorithmic beauty of seashells* (Springer)



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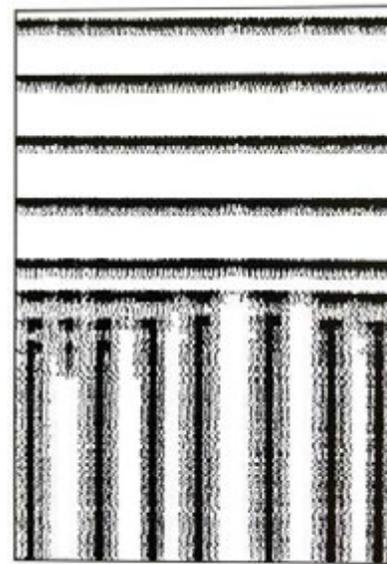
## II. Chemical Instabilities

### 23. Spatio-temporal patterns: seashell patterns

- Temporal instability: Oscillations



- Spatial instability: Turing patterns



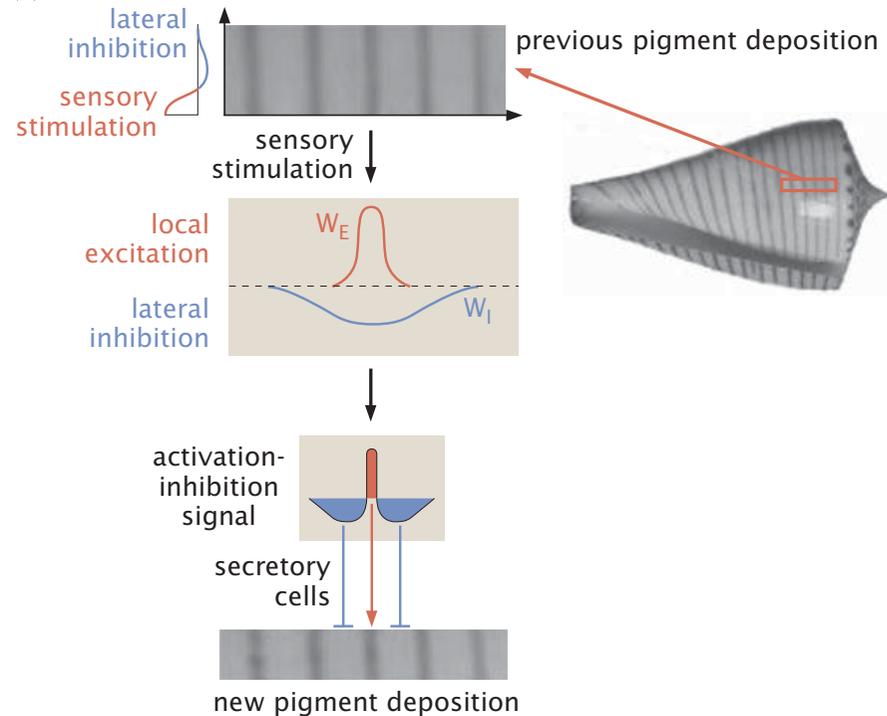
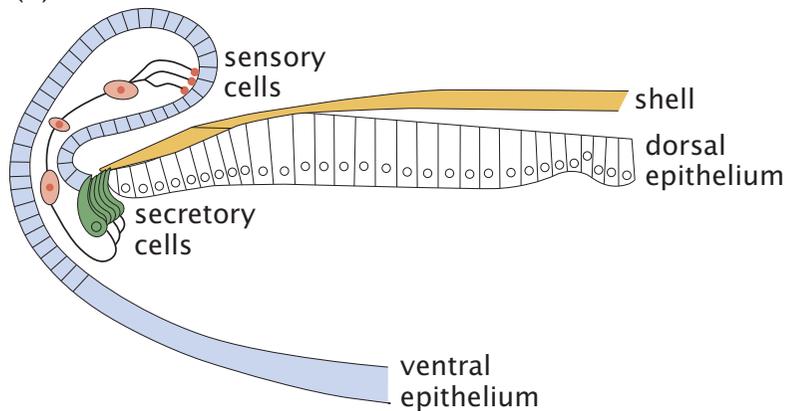
Synchronous oscillations:  
(diffusion mediated coupling)

Spatial patterns:  
Reduced inhibitor lifetime

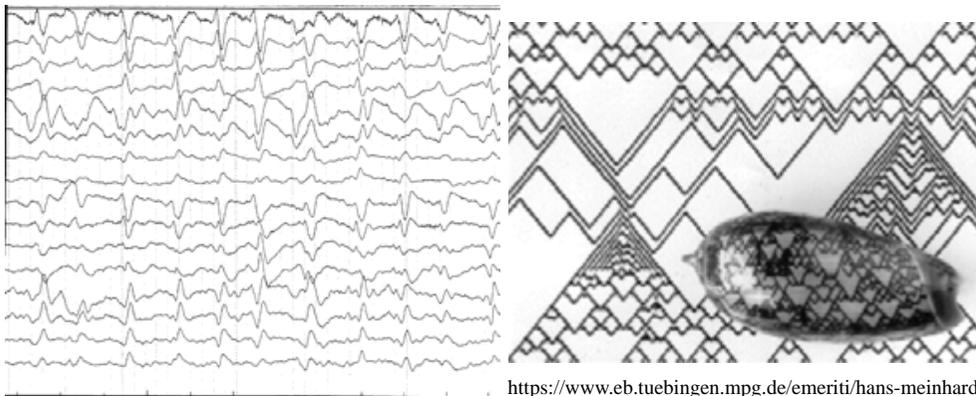
## II. Chemical Instabilities

### 23. Spatio-temporal patterns: seashell patterns

- Seashell patterns are not mediated by diffusing chemical activators/inhibitors
- They reflect the spatial-temporal activity patterns of neural nets
- Sensory cells « read » past activity and induce secretory cells



#### Seashell patterns as EEGs...



<https://www.eb.tuebingen.mpg.de/emeriti/hans-meinhardt/>

A. Boettiger, B. Ermentrout and G. Oster. *P.N.A.S* 106:6837-6842. 2009

Rob Philipps, Jane Kondev, Julie Theriot, Hernan G. Garcia.  
 illustration: Nigel Orme  
*Physical Biological of the Cell* (Garland Science)



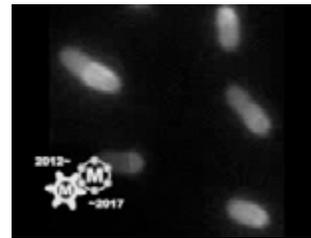
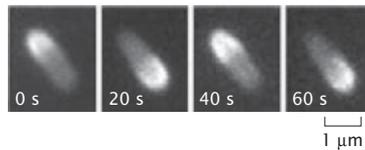
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## II. Chemical Instabilities

### 23. Spatio-temporal patterns: defining the middle of a cell

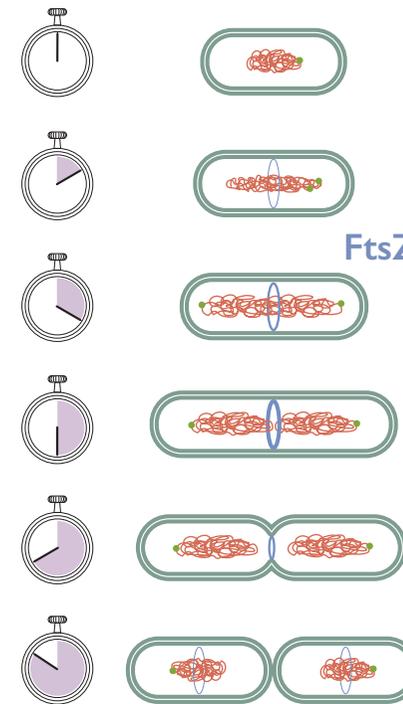
MinD standing wave results from opposing moving waves



Oscillations of MinD  
MinC recruited by MinD  
>mean MinC concentration is lowest in middle

MinC inhibits **FtsZ** (tubulin homolog in Bacteria)

minutes

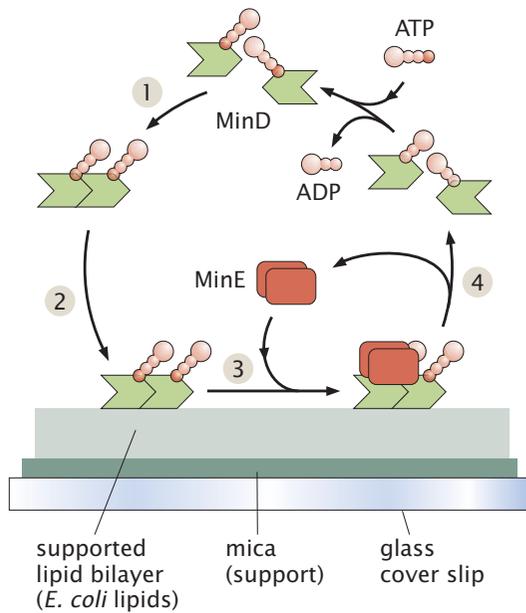


Rob Philipps, Jane Kondev, Julie Theriot, Hernan G. Garcia.  
illustration: Nigel Orme  
*Physical Biological of the Cell* (Garland Science)

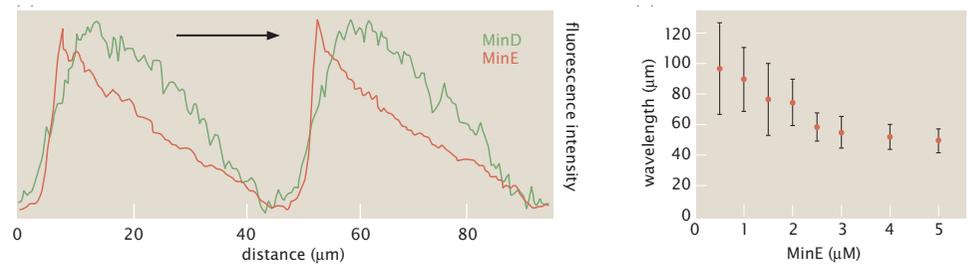
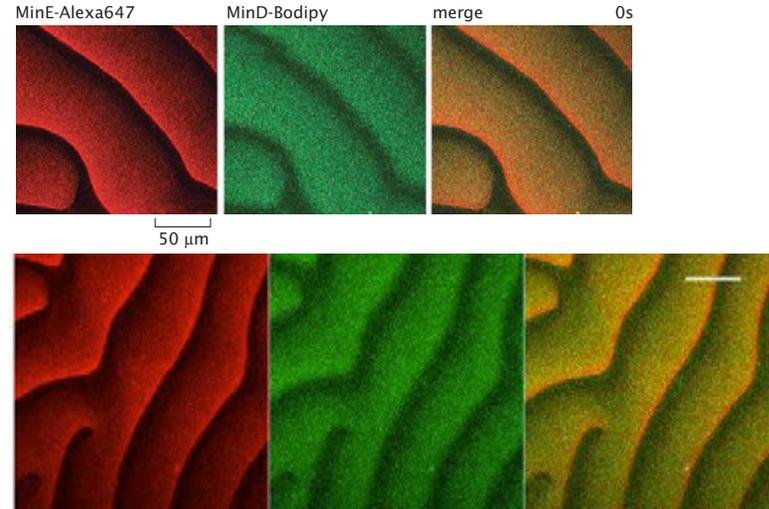
## II. Chemical Instabilities

### 23. Spatio-temporal patterns: defining the middle of a cell

Turing instabilities: travelling waves in 2D



MinD is an autocatalytic activator  
MinD recruits its own inhibitor MinE  
MinE induces its dissociation via MinD dissociation



Loose M, Fischer-Friedrich E., Ries J. Kruse Karsten and Schwille Petra. *Science*, 320:789-792 (2008)

Rob Philipps, Jane Kondev, Julie Theriot, Hernan G. Garcia.

illustration: Nigel Orme

*Physical Biological of the Cell* (Garland Science)



## II. Chemical Instabilities

### 23. Spatio-temporal patterns: defining the middle of a cell

stable length scale requires that  $k_{on} = k_{off}$ , which can be achieved if MinE promotes MinD dissociation.

dissociation of MinD above threshold of MinE recruitment

$$v = k_{on}d$$

$$k_{on} = Ddc$$

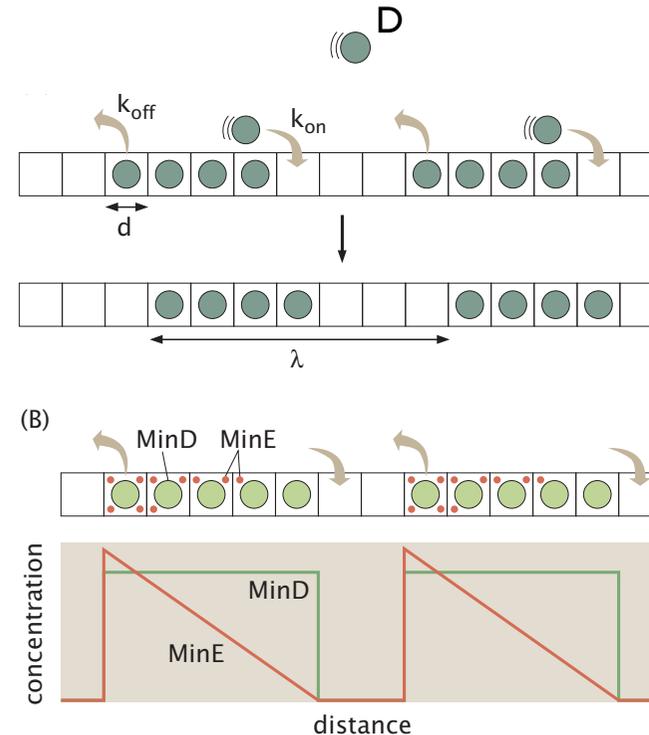
$$v \approx 0.7 \mu\text{m/s}$$

$$d = 5 \text{ nm}$$

$$D = 60 \mu\text{m}^2/\text{s}$$

$$c = 1 \mu\text{M}$$

Experiments:  $v = 0.3 - 0.8 \mu\text{m/s}$



Rob Philipps, Jane Kondev, Julie Theriot, Hernan G. Garcia.  
 illustration: Nigel Orme  
*Physical Biological of the Cell* (Garland Science)

Loose M, Fischer-Friedrich E., Ries J. Kruse Karsten and Schwillle Petra. *Science*, 320:789-792 (2008)

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1. Introduction - Program and Self-Organisation
  2. Chemical Instabilities
    21. Spatial instabilities - Turing patterns
    22. Temporal instabilities - Excitability
    23. Spatial-temporal instabilities: waves
  3. Mechanical instabilities
    31. Cellular aggregates: viscoelastic model
    32. Active gel: hydrodynamic and viscoelastic models
  4. Mechano-chemical Instabilities
    41. Mechano-chemical coupling: actomyosin dynamics
    42. Actin based trigger waves
  5. Developmental significance: impact on cellular and tissue morphogenesis

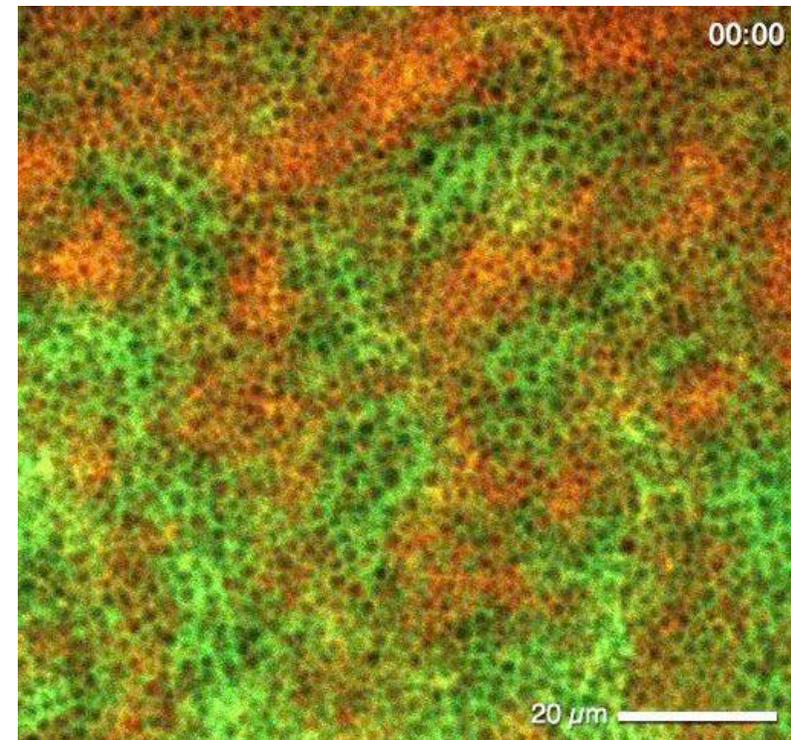


# III - Mechanical Instabilities

One cannot at present hope to make any progress with the understanding of such systems except in very simplified cases. The interdependence of the chemical and mechanical data adds enormously to the difficulty, and attention will therefore be confined, so far as is possible, to cases where these can be separated. The mathematics of elastic solids is a well-developed subject, and has often been applied to biological systems. In this paper it is proposed to give attention rather to cases where the mechanical aspect can be ignored and the chemical aspect is the most significant. These cases promise greater interest, for the characteristic action of the genes themselves is presumably chemical.

The difficulties are, however, such that one cannot hope to have any very embracing *theory* of such processes, beyond the statement of the equations. It might be possible, however, to treat a few particular cases in detail with the aid of a digital computer. This method has the advantage that it is not so necessary to make simplifying assumptions as it is when doing a more theoretical type of analysis. It might even be possible to take the mechanical aspects of the problem into account as well as the chemical, when applying this type of method.

Alan Turing. The chemical basis of morphogenesis.  
*Journal of Theoretical Biology*. 1952



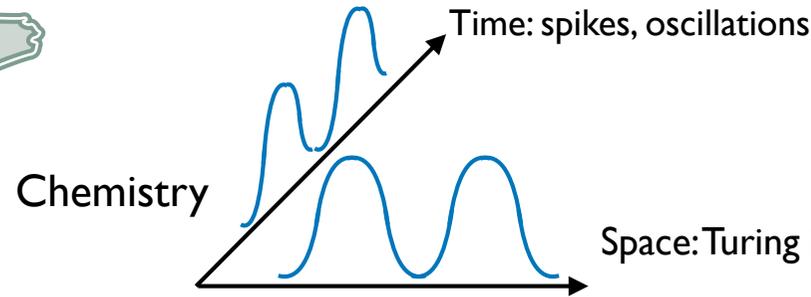
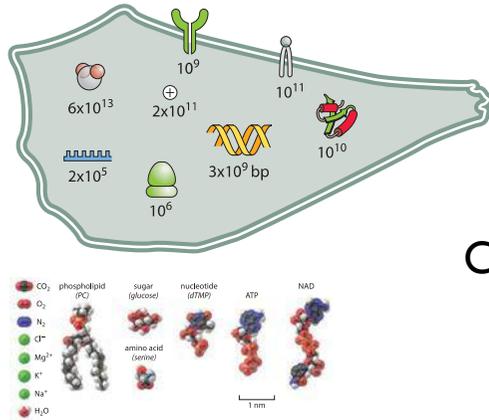
Actin filaments  
Active Rho1

Xenopus Egg

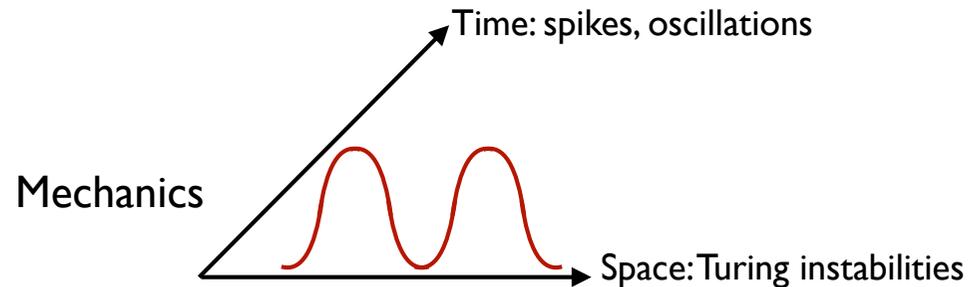
William Bement et al and George von Dassow. *Nature Cell Biology* 17(11):1471-83 (2015)

# III - Mechanical Instabilities

## Chemical and Mechanical Information



self-organization in nonequilibrium **chemical systems**



self-organization in nonequilibrium **mechanical systems**



Chemistry → Mechanics



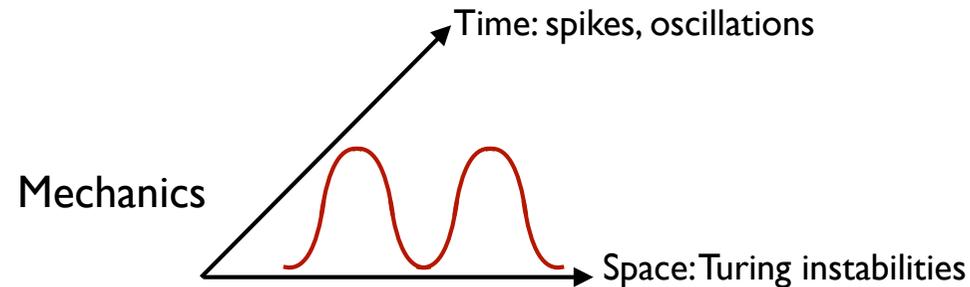
self-organization in nonequilibrium **mechano-chemical systems**

Chemistry → Mechanics



# III - Mechanical Instabilities

## Spatial and temporal Mechanical instabilities



self-organization in  
nonequilibrium  
**mechanical systems**

- Viscoelastic model: cell motility and active gel
- Hydrodynamic model: active gel

# III - Mechanical Instabilities

## Mechanically driven self-organisation of cellular patterns

*J. Embryol. exp. Morph.* 80, 1-20 (1984)

Printed in Great Britain © The Company of Biologists Limited 1984

1

Generation of spatially periodic patterns by a mechanical instability: a mechanical alternative to the Turing model

By ALBERT K. HARRIS<sup>1</sup>, DAVID STOPAK<sup>2</sup> AND PATRICIA WARNER<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Biology, Wilson Hall (046A), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514, U.S.A.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Biological Sciences, Stanford University, Stanford, Carolina 94305-2493, U.S.A.

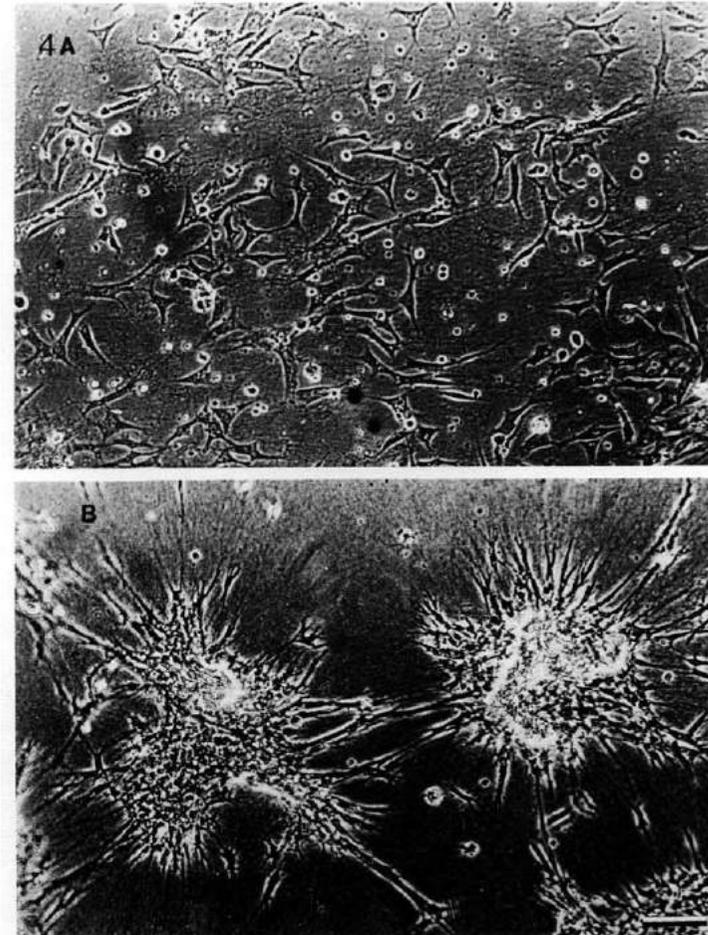


Fig 4. Time sequence of pattern development. A. 24 h after plating, fibroblasts are still evenly distributed. B. After 6 days, the formation of periodic condensations is complete. The scale bar equals 100  $\mu$ m.



# III - Mechanical Instabilities

## Mechanically driven self-organisation of cellular patterns

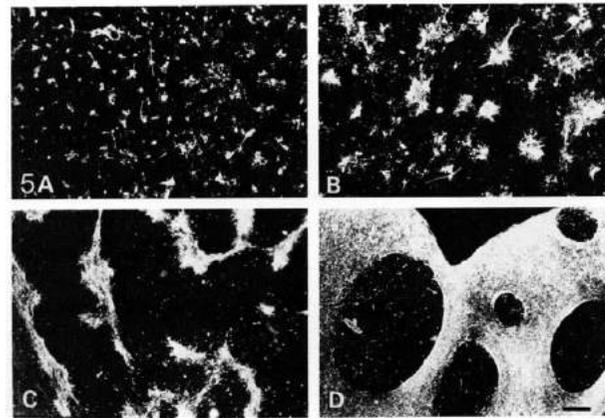
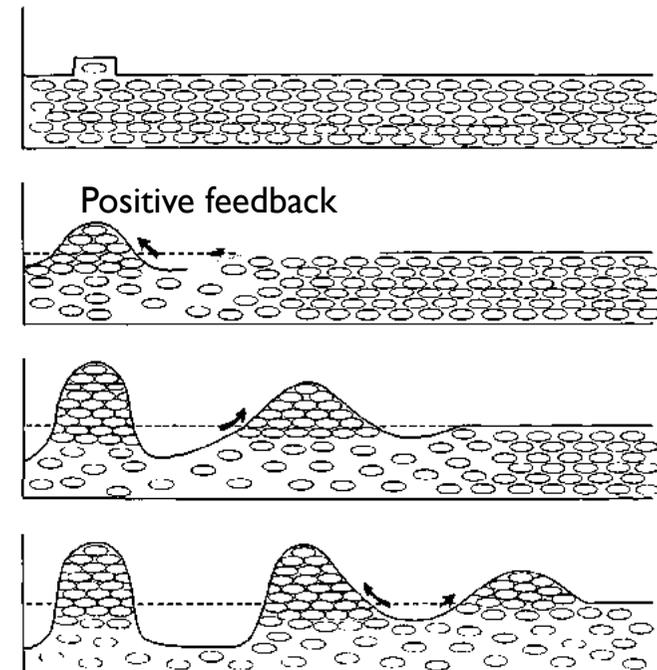


Fig. 5. Effects of differing initial population densities of fibroblasts on the resulting spatial pattern. Scale bar equals 400  $\mu\text{m}$ . A.  $2 \times 10^4$  cells/cm<sup>2</sup>. B.  $4 \times 10^4$  cells/cm<sup>2</sup>. C.  $7 \times 10^4$  cells/cm<sup>2</sup>. D.  $9 \times 10^4$  cells/cm<sup>2</sup>.

Higher density of initial cell population affects aggregate pattern



# III - Mechanical Instabilities

## Mechanically driven self-organisation of cellular patterns

- Modelling cell motility on viscoelastic matrix

flux **J** mitosis **M**

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = - \nabla \cdot \left\{ \underbrace{[D_2(\mathbf{e})\nabla(\nabla^2 n) - D_1(\mathbf{e})\nabla n]}_{\substack{\text{diffusion} \\ \text{(non-local} \\ \text{interactions)}}} + \underbrace{[\alpha n \nabla \rho]}_{\substack{\text{diffusion} \\ \text{(local} \\ \text{interactions)}}} + \underbrace{\left[ n \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} \right]}_{\text{haptotaxis advection}} \right\} + rn(N - n) \quad (1)$$

random motion with strain guidance
directed motion

Conservation law

Autocatalytic aggregation

$n(t, \mathbf{x})$  cell density  
 $\rho(t, \mathbf{x})$  matrix density  
 $\mathbf{u}(t, \mathbf{x})$  displacement vector of matrix

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = - \nabla \cdot \left( \rho \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} \right). \quad (2)$$

- **Random motion:** harmonic (Fickian, short-range) diffusion and biharmonic (long-range) diffusion
- **Directed motility:** passive cell dragging (advection), migration up adhesion gradient (haptotaxis), contact guidance (mediated via anisotropic mechanical strain of matrix by cell tractions)

G.F. Oster, J.D. Murray, and A.K. Harris. *J. Embryol. esp. Morph.* 1983. 78:83-125

J.D. Murray, G.F. Oster and A.K. Harris. *J. Math. Biology* 1983. 17:125-129

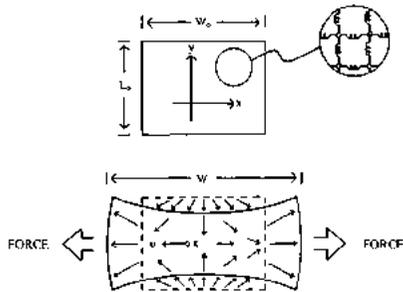
Donald Cohen and J.D. Murray *J. Math. Biology* 1981. 12:237-249

# III - Mechanical Instabilities

## Mechanically driven self-organisation of cellular patterns

- Feedback mechanism between cells and the matrix: traction forces due to cell motility causes matrix deformation which steers cell motility

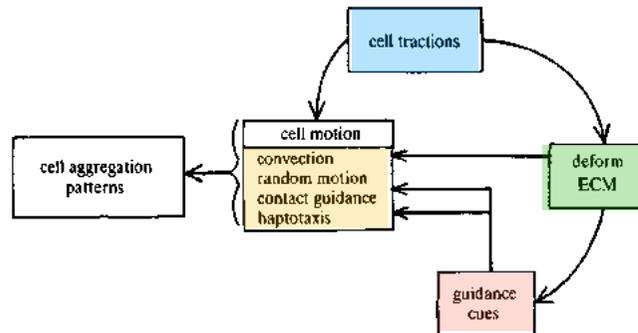
$n(t, \mathbf{x})$  cell density  
 $\rho(t, \mathbf{x})$  ECM matrix density  
 $\mathbf{u}(t, \mathbf{x})$  displacement vector of ECM  
 $\theta = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}$  dilatation of ECM matrix  
 $\mathbf{e}$  strain matrix  
 $E$  Young's modulus  
 $\nu$  Poisson ratio



$$\nabla \cdot \left\{ \left[ \mu \frac{\partial \mathbf{e}}{\partial t} + \lambda \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} \mathbf{I} \right] + \left[ \frac{E}{2(1+\nu)} \left( \mathbf{e} + \frac{\nu}{1-2\nu} \theta \mathbf{I} \right) + \tau \rho n \mathbf{I} \right] \right\} = 0. \quad (3) \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} \text{viscous force} \\ \text{elastic force} \\ \text{traction force} \end{array} \right. \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} \\ \\ \text{Force balance} \end{array} \right.$$

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot \left\{ [D_2(\mathbf{e})\nabla(\nabla^2 n) - D_1(\mathbf{e})\nabla n] + [\alpha n \nabla \rho] + \left[ n \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} \right] \right\} + rn(N - n)$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot \left( \rho \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} \right).$$



# III - Mechanical Instabilities

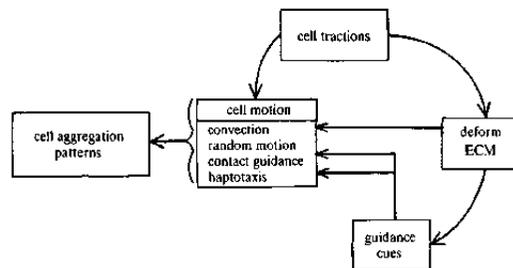
## Mechanically driven self-organisation of cellular patterns

- Feedback mechanism between cells and the matrix: traction forces due to cell motility causes matrix deformation which steers cell motility

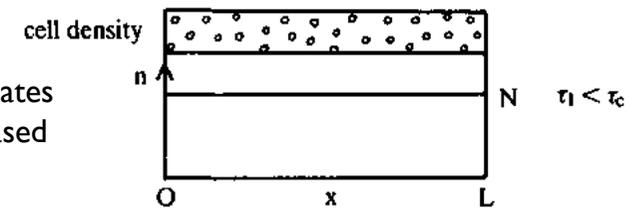
- dimensionless traction parameter (cell traction, matrix density and Poisson ratio play equivalent roles)

$$\tau^* = \tau_0 N(1+\nu)/E$$

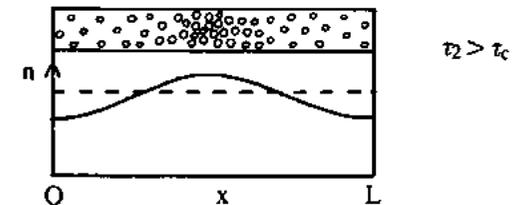
- **Bifurcation point:** when cell traction induced strain guidance, haptotaxis and advection overcome diffusion
- **Multiple foci can emerge:** elastic resistance limits the range of local contraction
- **Elasticity as a Turing like « long range inhibitor » and cell traction as « local activator » with autocatalysis (guidance effects)**



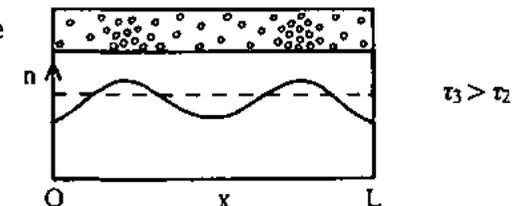
Diffusion dominates over traction based guidance



Guidance dominates diffusion



Matrix elastic resistance shortens range of cell aggregation



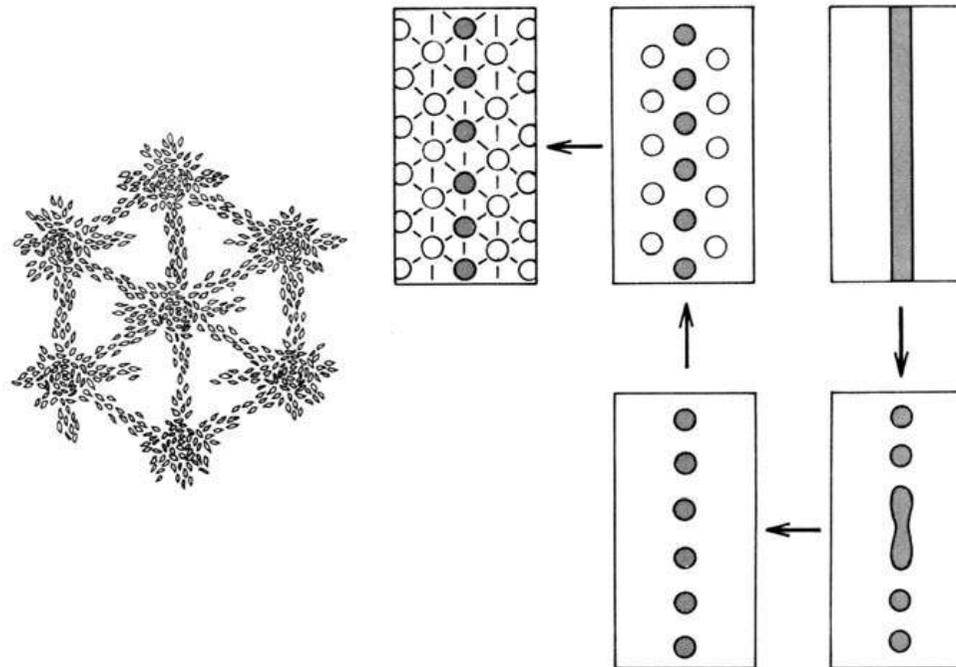
Spacing between foci:

$$W_c \sim \left( \frac{D_2}{rN} \right)^{1/4}$$

# III - Mechanical Instabilities

## Mechanically driven self-organisation of cellular patterns

- Feedback mechanism between cells and the matrix: traction forces due to cell motility causes matrix deformation which steers cell motility
- Emergence of cellular patterns

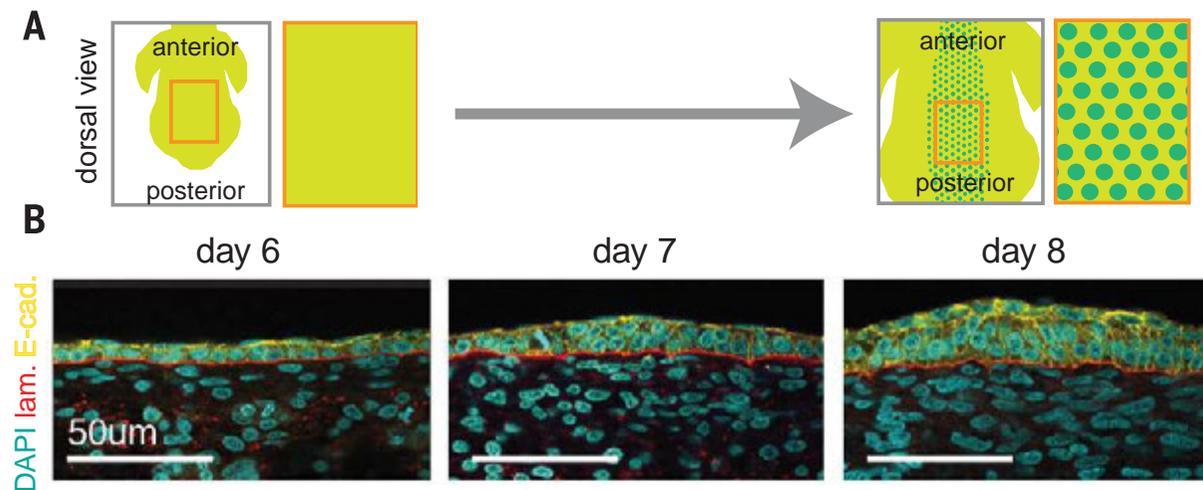


# III - Mechanical Instabilities

## Mechanically driven self-organization of cellular patterns

### Emergent cellular self-organization and mechanosensation initiate follicle pattern in the avian skin

Amy E. Shyer,<sup>1,\*</sup> Alan R. Rodrigues,<sup>1,2\*</sup> Grant G. Schroeder,<sup>1</sup> Elena Kassianidou,<sup>3</sup> Sanjay Kumar,<sup>3</sup> Richard M. Harland<sup>1</sup>



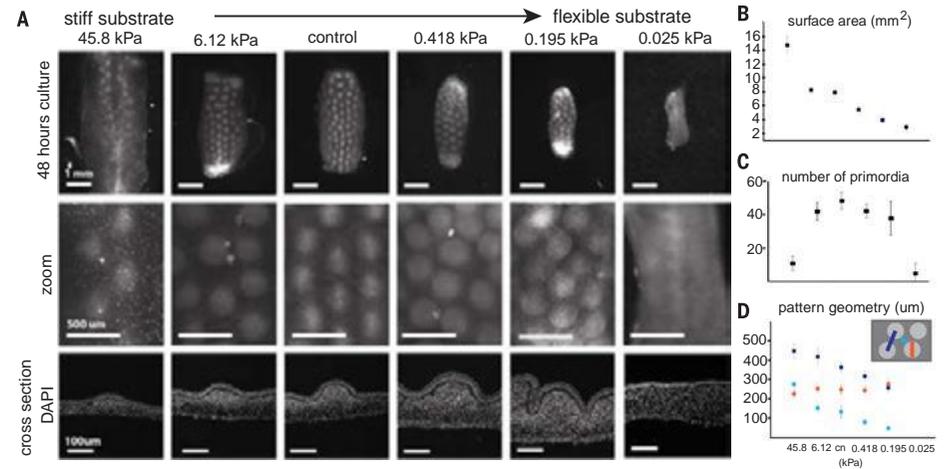
# III - Mechanical Instabilities

## Mechanically driven self-organization of cellular patterns

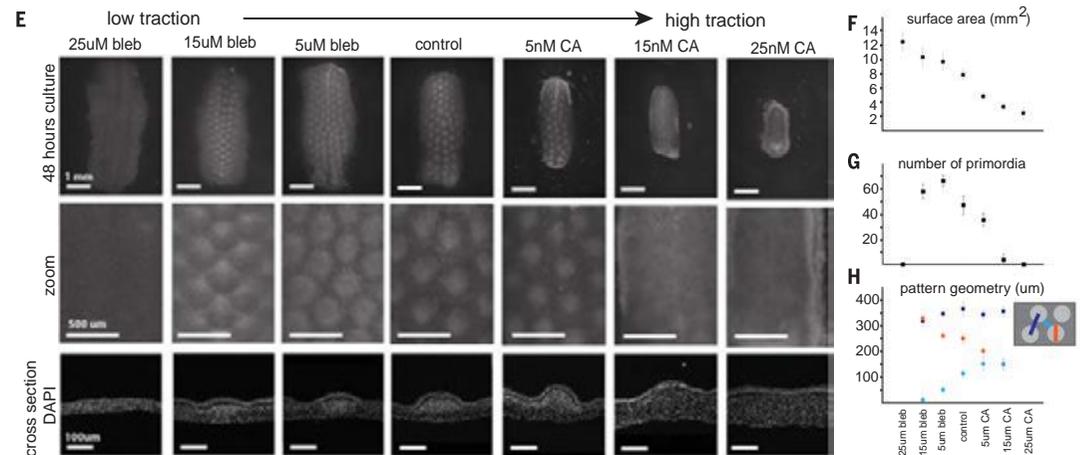
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- Spatial patterns require mechanical resistance of substrate

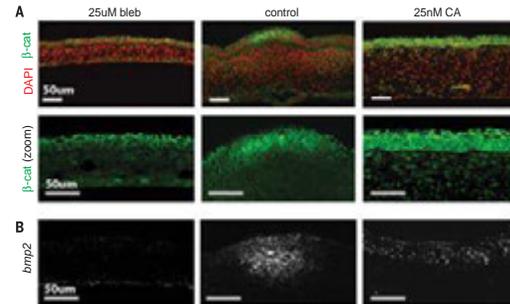


- Spatial patterns require cellular contractility



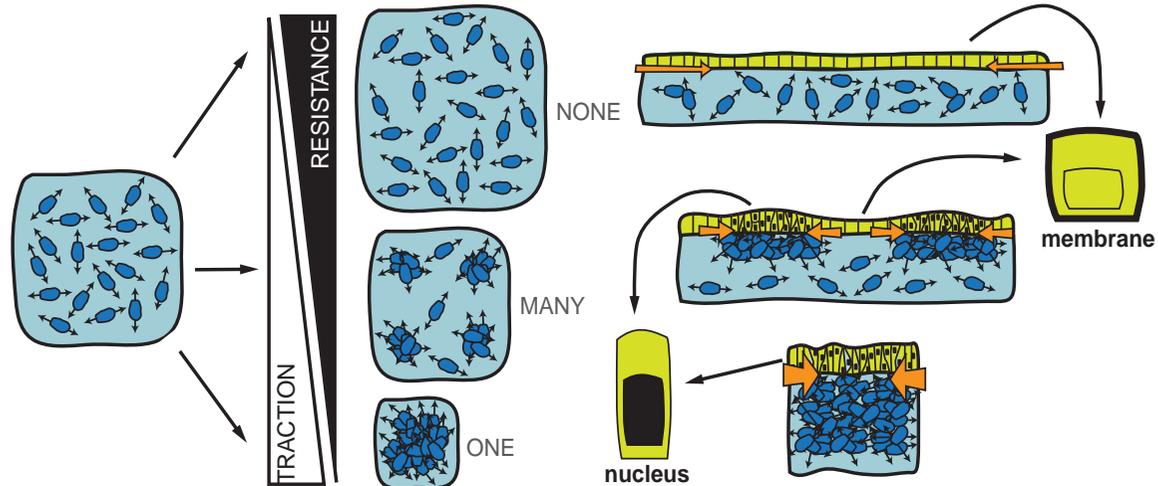
# III - Mechanical Instabilities

## Mechanically driven self-organisation of cellular patterns



Uniform traction when adequately resisted leads to an array of aggregates  
[field of dermal cells from above]

Dermis **COMPRESSES** epidermis force causes translocation of  $\beta$ -catenin  
[cross-section of tissue bilayer]

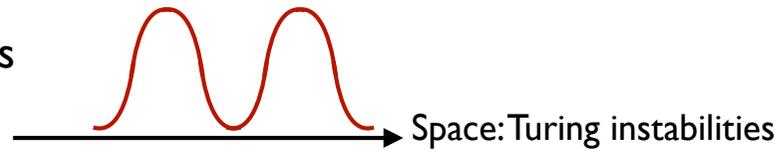


# III - Mechanical Instabilities

## Spatial Mechanical instabilities



Mechanics



self-organization in  
nonequilibrium  
**mechanical systems**

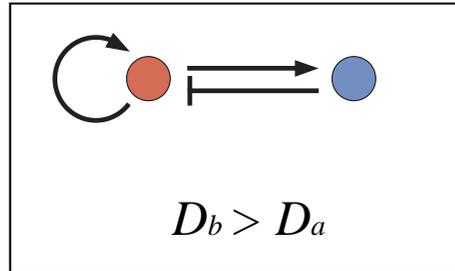
- Turing like pattern: Contraction must overcome Inhibitory effect of substrate stiffness
- Cell traction as « local activator» with autocatalysis (guidance effects) and Elasticity as« long range inhibitor ».



# Conclusions

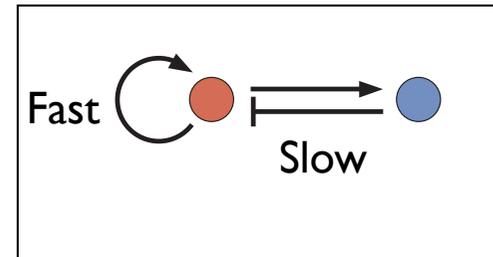
## Spatial Instabilities

- Local positive feedback
- Long range inhibition



## Temporal Instabilities

- Local positive feedback
- Negative feedback with a delay



Chemical

Mechanical

Contractility driven positive feedback  
Elasticity: negative feedback

# Next Course: 4 December

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1. Introduction - Program and Self-Organisation
2. Chemical Instabilities
  21. Spatial instabilities - Turing patterns
  22. Temporal instabilities - Excitability
  23. Spatial-temporal instabilities: waves
3. Mechanical instabilities
  31. Cellular aggregates: viscoelastic model
  32. Active gel: hydrodynamic and viscoelastic models
- 4. Mechano-chemical Instabilities**
  41. Mechano-chemical coupling: actomyosin dynamics
  42. Actin based trigger waves
- 5. Developmental significance: impact on cellular and tissue morphogenesis**

