



**POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO**

## **T2: Nested Models in Biomedicine**

**Dipartimento di Scienze Matematiche (DISMA)**

**"G. L. Lagrange", Politecnico di Torino**

**Davide Ambrosi, Chiara Giverso, Alfio Grillo, Luigi Preziosi**



**Kick-off del Gruppo di Fisica Matematica**

**14 marzo 2018**

**Politecnico di Torino**

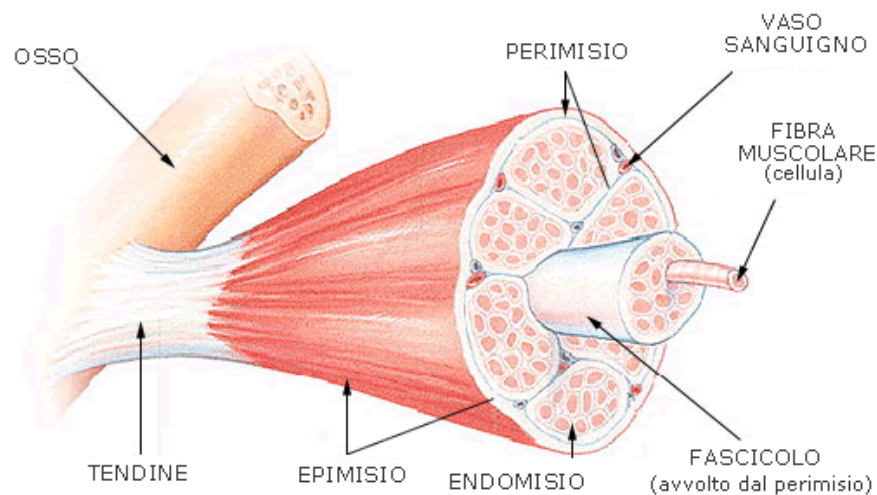


**POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO**

# State of the art

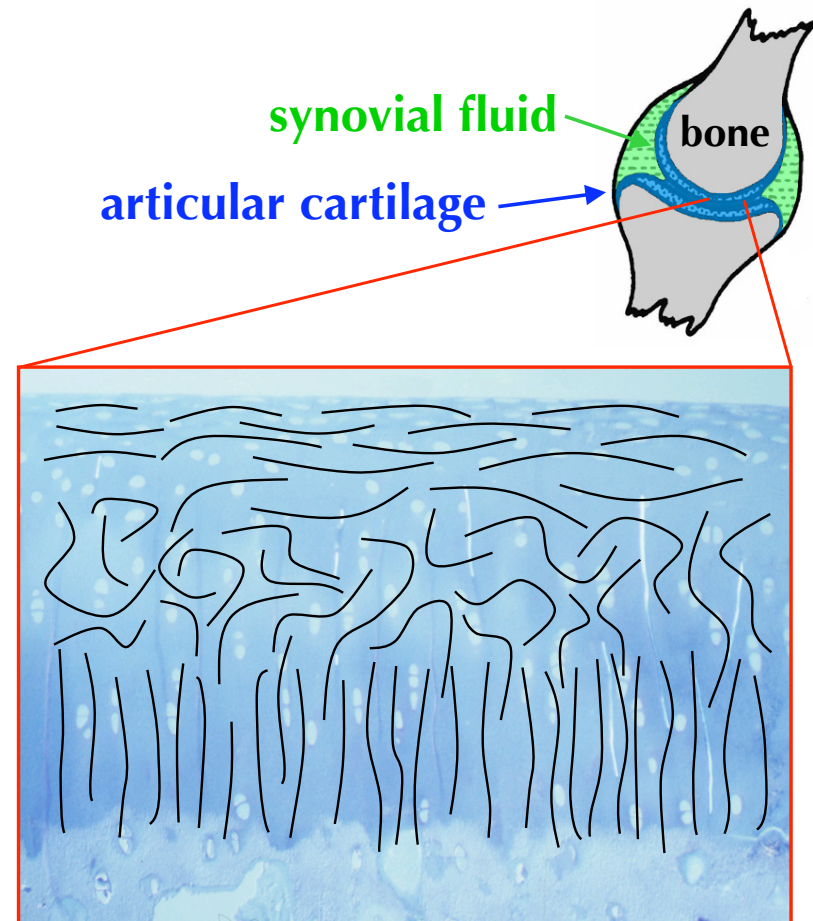
# Biological tissues as *living porous media*

## Muscle



<https://www.google.it/search?q=muscoli...>

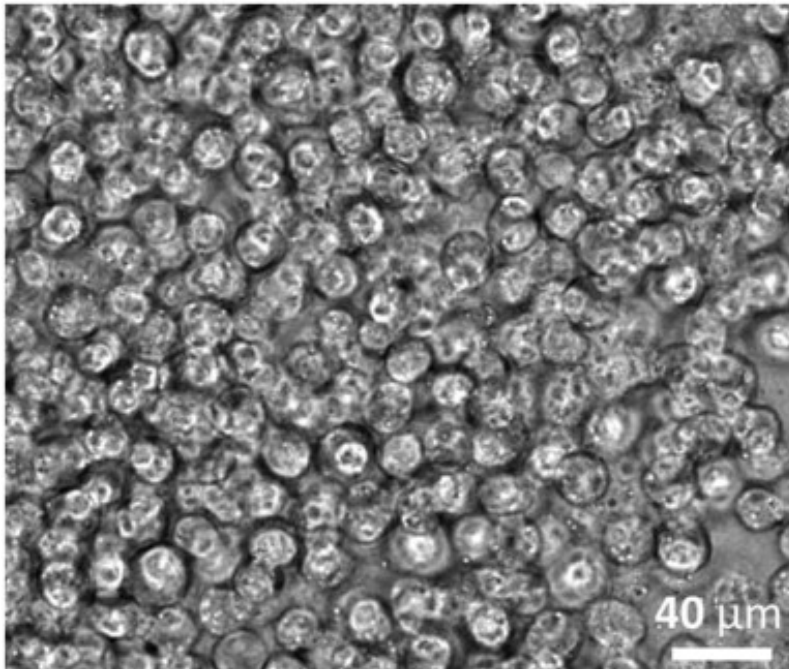
## Articular cartilage



Federico, S., Grillo, A., La Rosa, G., Giaquinta, G., Herzog, W. (2005) *J. Biomech.*, **38**, 2008–2018.

# Biological tissues as *living porous media*

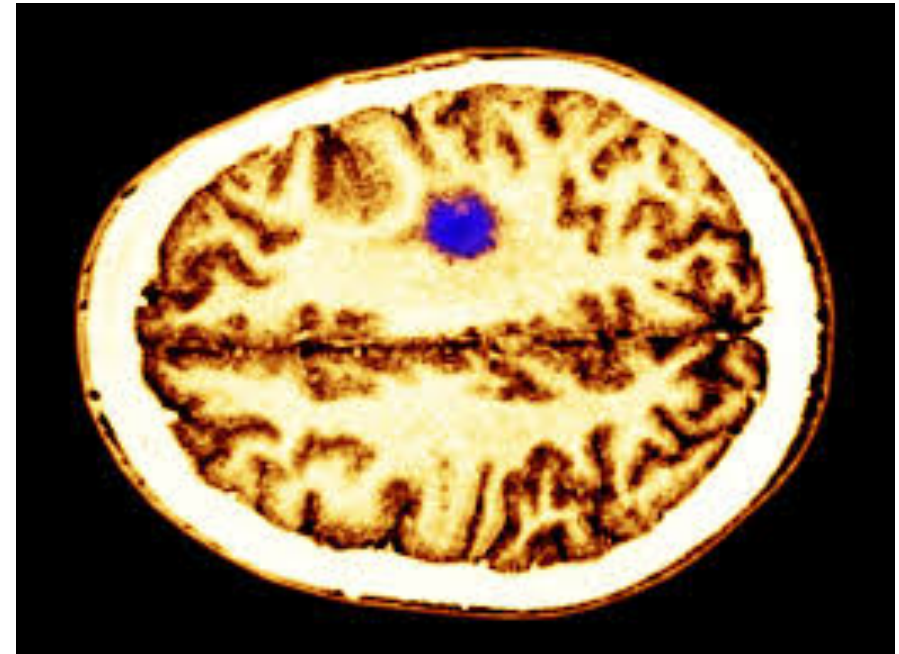
## Cellular aggregates



“Photograph of CHO cell suspension”

Image taken from Preziosi, L., et al. (2010). *J. Theor. Biol.*, **262**(1), 35–47

## Tumour tissue



<https://www.google.it/search?q=Brain&client...>





# Remodelling and Growth of Tissues

## Biological tissues are living matter

### Remodelling:

*Adaptation of the structure and of the material properties of a tissue in response to both internal and external stimuli.*

### Growth:

*Gain or loss of mass of a tissue. It can be **appositional** (new material is either laid over or removed from the pre-existing one) or **volumetric** (it can be diverted either in a change of volume or in a change of density of the tissue).*

*Both phenomena are the result of complexes of processes that involve a variety of physical, chemical, and genetic processes, and several levels of observation (i.e., from the molecular to the macroscopic scale of the tissue).*

---

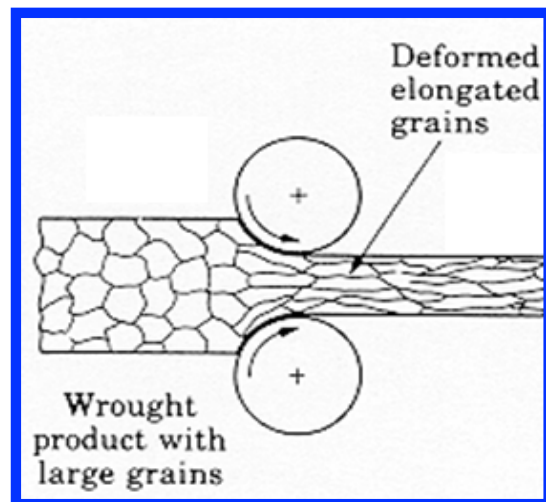
Taber, L.A. (1995). Biomechanics of growth, remodeling and morphogenesis. *ASME Appl. Mech. Rev.*, **48**, 487–545.

Cowin, S.C. (2000). How is a tissue built? *J. Biomech. Eng.*, **122**, 553–569.

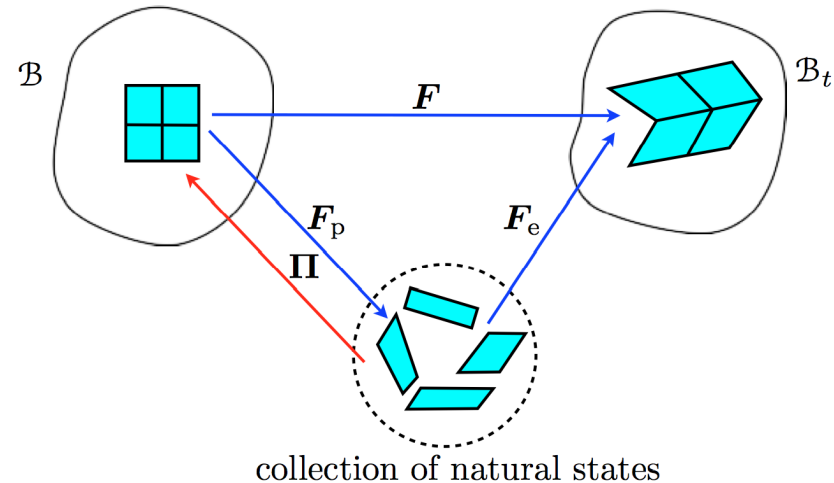
## The role of mechanics

### Inelasticity to describe growth and remodelling:

*The change of shape of a tissue is accompanied by a reorganisation of its internal structure, which manifests itself through plastic-like distortions, and leads to macroscopic variations of the mechanical properties of the material.*



Cold rolling (Source: The Internet)



Bilby-Kröner-Lee decomposition

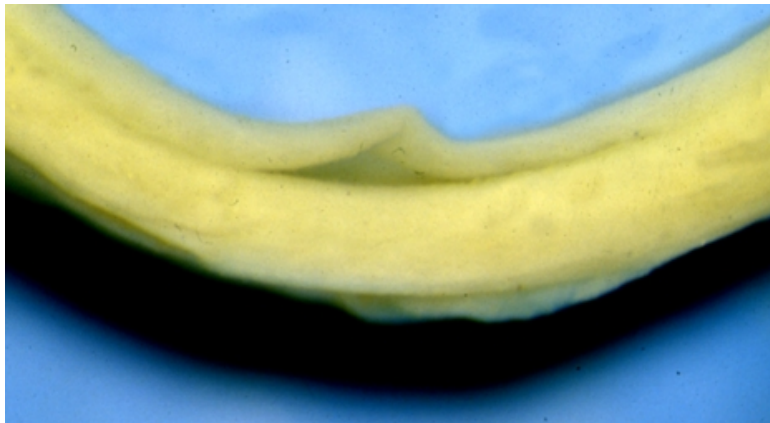
Rodriguez, E.K., et al. (1994). Stress-dependent finite growth in soft elastic tissues. *J. Biomech.*, **27**, 455–467.

Epstein, M., Maugin, G.A. (2000). Thermomechanics of volumetric growth in uniform bodies. *Int. J. Plasticity*, **16**, 951–978.

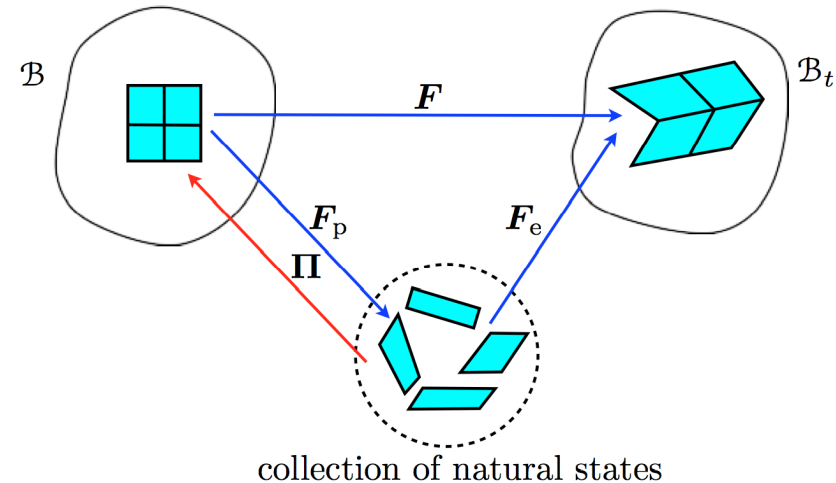
## The role of mechanics

### The issue of residual stresses

*Growth can be thought of as the process that brings the tissue from a zero-stress state (i.e., the natural state) to a state in which residual stresses may be present also in the absence of external loading.*



Delamination and buckling of a ring of a human iliac artery [Holzapfel&Ogden, 2010]



Bilby-Kröner-Lee decomposition

Rodriguez, E.K., et al. (1994). Stress-dependent finite growth in soft elastic tissues? *J. Biomech.*, **27**, 455–467.

Holzapfel, G.A., Ogden, R.W. (2010). Modelling the layer-specific three-dimensional residual stresses in arteries, with an application to the human aorta. *J. R. Soc. Interface*, **7(46)**, 787–799.

# Mathematical description of soft tissues

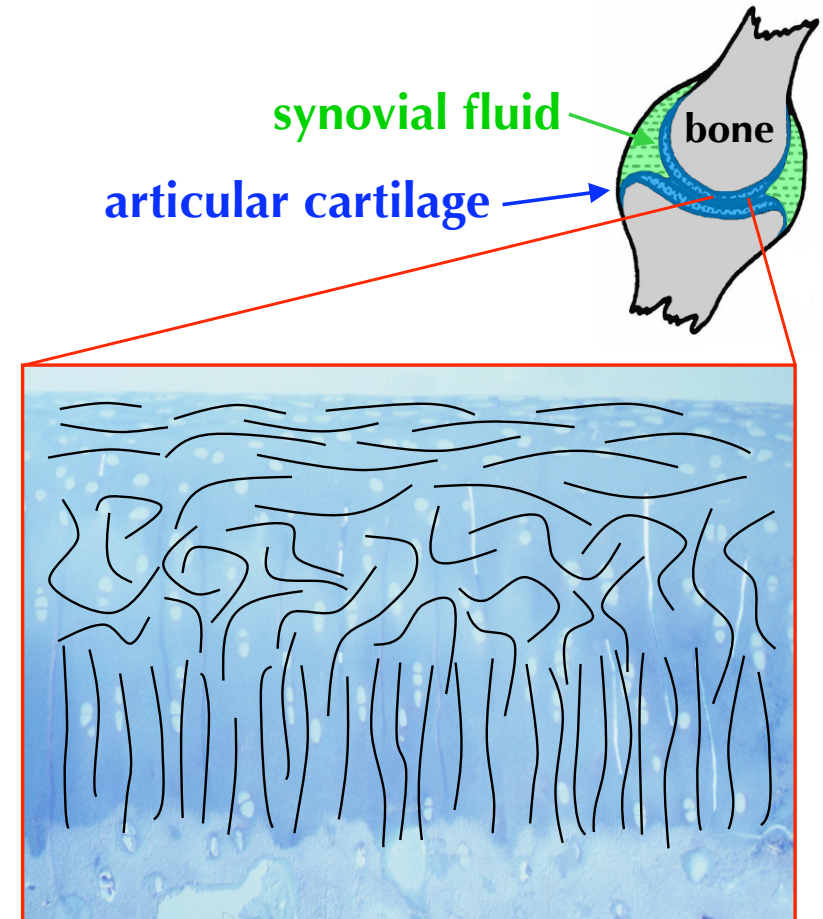
## A tissue with a "rich" microstructure: Articular Cartilage

Soft connective tissue covering the continuous surfaces of bones in diarthrodial joints

**Water:** «Approximately 70% to 85% of the weight of the whole tissue» [Mansour, 2003].

**Chondrocytes:** Cells that synthesise the ECM. They are "elongated" ellipsoids in the deep zone, spheres in the middle zone, and flat disks in the upper zone.

**Collagen fibres:** Oriented statistically in inhomogeneous way; about the 60%-70% of the tissue's dry weight.



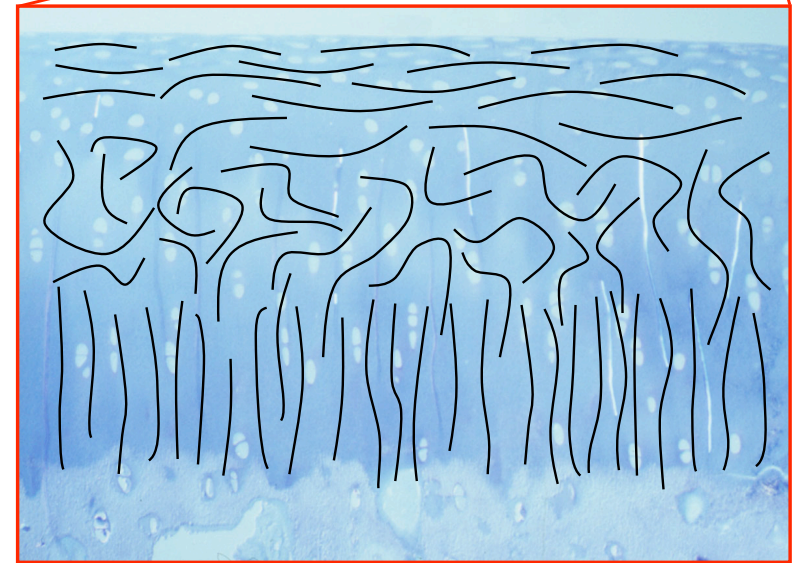
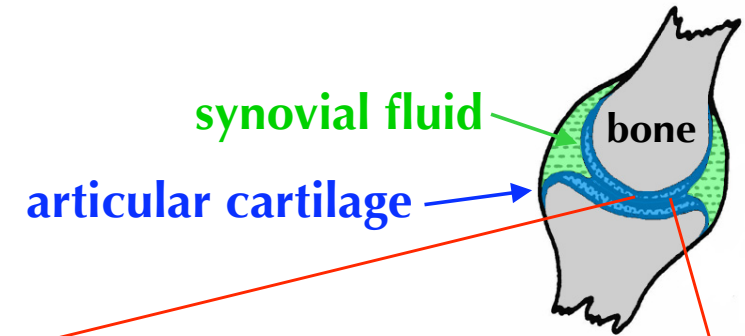
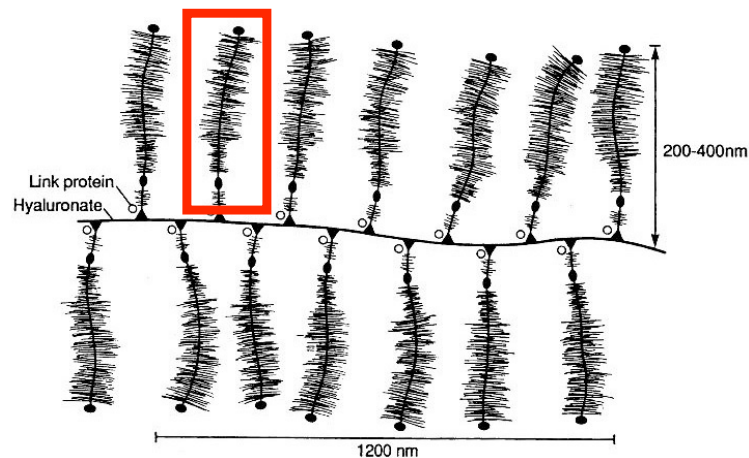


# Mathematical description of soft tissues

## A tissue with a "rich" microstructure: Articular Cartilage

Soft connective tissue covering the continuous surfaces of bones in diarthrodial joints

*Proteoglycans: Bottlebrush structures to which **chondroitin sulfate** and **keratan sulfate** are attached.*





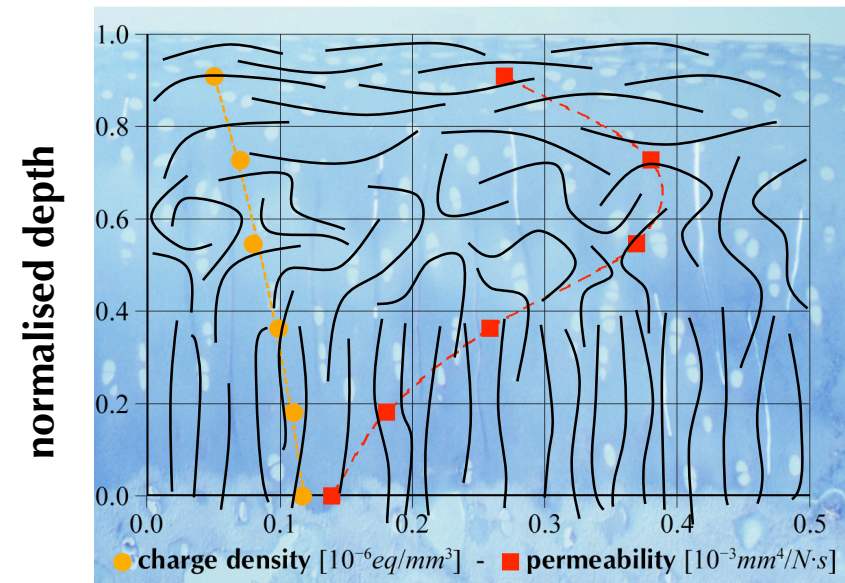
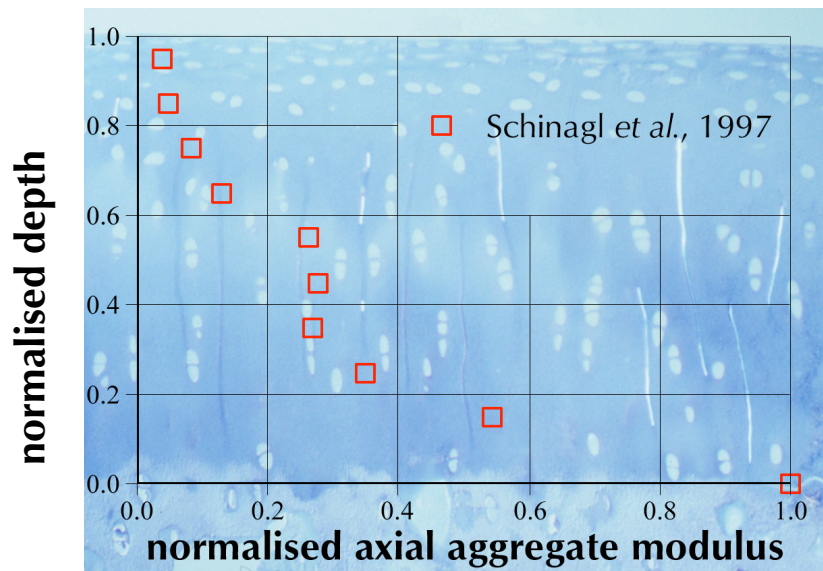
# Mathematical description of soft tissues

## Elastic and hydraulic properties, and fibre orientation

### Anisotropic and inhomogeneous tissue [analogy with fractures?]

*Axial aggregate modulus: decreasing from the bottom to the top layers.*

*Permeability: influenced by water content and fibre concentration.*



Maroudas, A., Bulloah, P. (1968). Permeability of articular cartilage. *Nature*, **219**, 1260–1261.

Schinagl, R.M., Gurskis, D., Chen, A.C., Sah, R.L. (1997). Depth dependent confined compression modulus of full-thickness bovine articular cartilage. *J. Orth. Research*, **15**, 499–506.



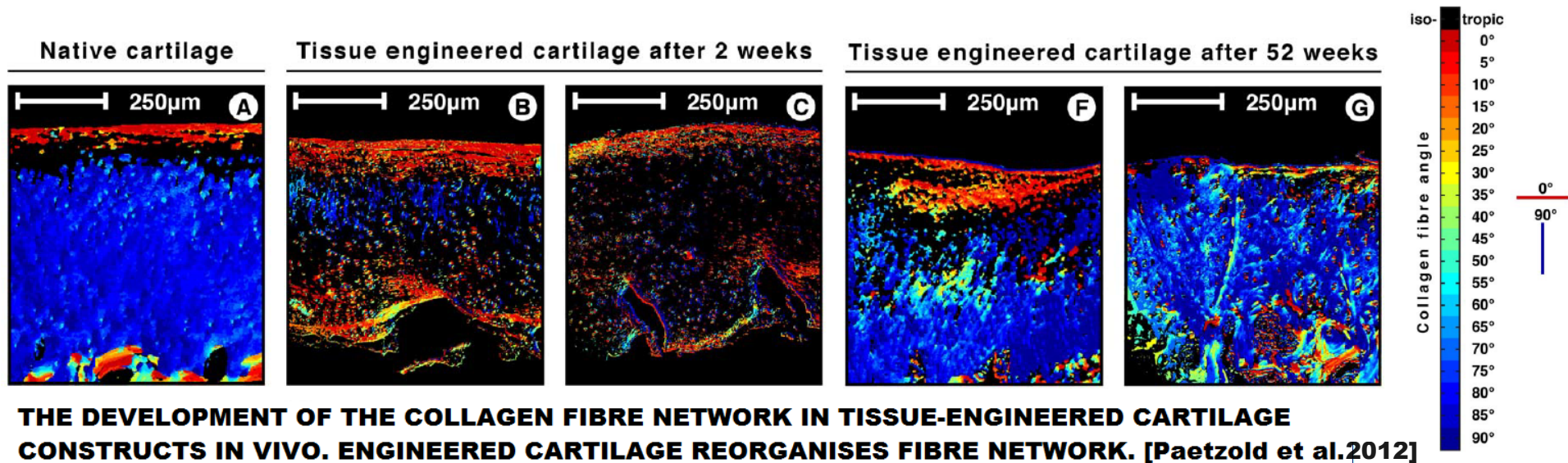
**POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO**

# Motivations

# Mathematical description of soft tissues

## Towards engineered articular cartilage

«[...] it is possible to create tissue-engineered cartilage with sufficient proteoglycan content, *but not to obtain sufficient amounts of collagen with an appropriate structural organization.* As a result, the dynamic compressive properties and especially the tensile *properties of tissue-engineered cartilage are inferior to native tissue.*»

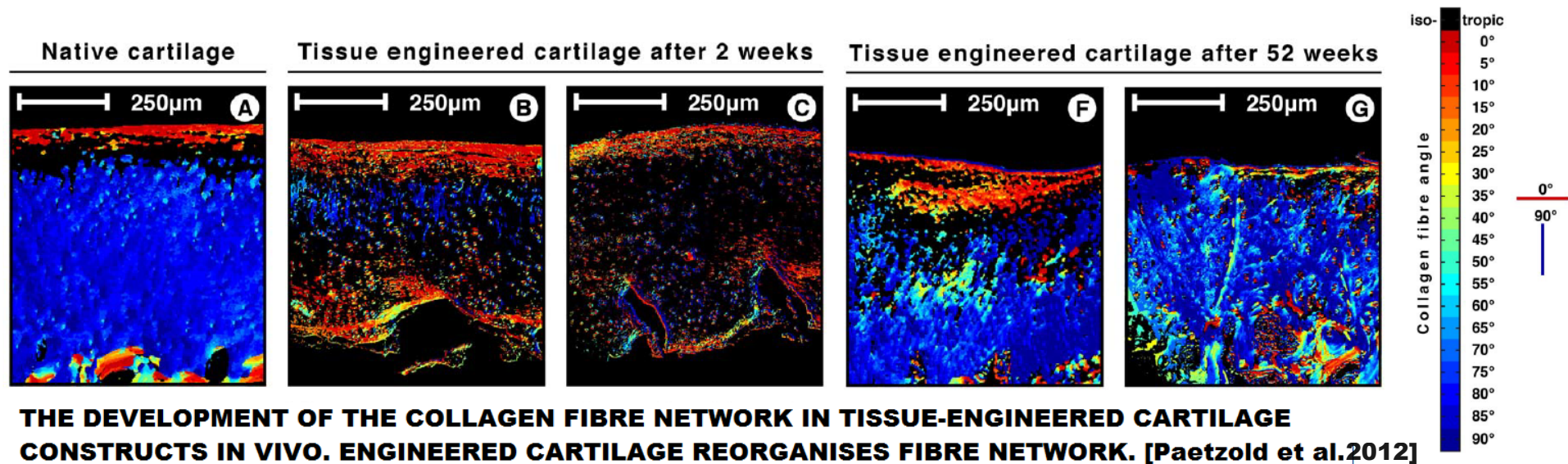




# Mathematical description of soft tissues

## Towards engineered articular cartilage

«[...], *the rules by which the spatial organisation of collagen fibres is related to mechanical and chemical stimuli are poorly understood. This makes it difficult to incorporate elements in tissue engineering strategies that stimulate engineered cartilage to develop the desired anisotropic organization.*»





## Methods

*Towards a non-standard mechanics, to comply with biology*

- *Re-interpret old equations*
- *Invent new models*



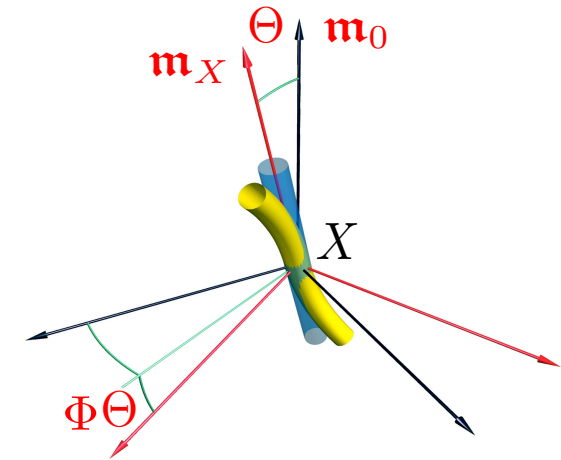
## Anisotropy and statistical fibre-reinforcement

### Directional averaging

$$\mathbb{S}_X^2 \mathcal{B} = \{\mathbf{m}_X \in T_X \mathcal{B} : \|\mathbf{m}_X\| = 1\}$$

$$\tilde{\mathfrak{F}}_X(\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{F}_p, \cdot) : \mathbb{S}_X^2 \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad \mathbf{m}_X \mapsto \tilde{\mathfrak{F}}_X(\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{F}_p, \mathbf{m}_X),$$

$$\langle\langle \tilde{\mathfrak{F}}_X(\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{F}_p, \mathbf{m}_X) \rangle\rangle = \int_{\mathbb{S}_X^2 \mathcal{B}} \tilde{\mathfrak{F}}_X(\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{F}_p, \mathbf{m}_X) \psi_X(\mathbf{m}_X)$$



*Main computational issue: Spherical Design Algorithm*

## The equations describing "pure" remodelling

$$(\det \mathbf{F}) \operatorname{tr}[\dot{\mathbf{F}} \mathbf{F}^{-1}] = \operatorname{Div} [\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{F}) \operatorname{Grad} p],$$

*Mass balance*

$$\operatorname{Div} \left[ -(\det \mathbf{F}) p \mathbf{g}^{-1} \mathbf{F}^{-\mathrm{T}} + \mathbf{P}_{\mathrm{sc}}(\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{V}) \right] = \mathbf{0},$$

*Momentum balance*

$$\Gamma \dot{\mathbf{q}} = \operatorname{Div} \left[ \Phi_{1s\nu} D_0 \mathbf{V}^2 \operatorname{Grad} \mathbf{q} \right] - \Phi_{1s\nu} \frac{\partial(\hat{W}_{1a} + \hat{W}_{\mathrm{str}})}{\partial \mathbf{q}} - \operatorname{Div} \left[ \Phi_{1s\nu} D_0 \mathbf{V}^2 \operatorname{Grad} \mathbf{q}_T \right] + \Phi_{1s\nu} \frac{\partial(\hat{W}_{1a} + \hat{W}_{\mathrm{str}})}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \Bigg|_{\mathbf{q}=\mathbf{q}_T},$$

*Fibre reorientation*

$$\dot{\mathbf{V}} = -\operatorname{sym} \left( \frac{\lambda}{J} \frac{\mathbf{C}^{-1} [\operatorname{dev} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathrm{eff}}(\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{V})] \mathbf{C}}{\|\operatorname{dev} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathrm{eff}}(\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{V})\|_{\mathbf{C}}} \mathbf{V} \right)$$

*Evolution of inelastic distortions*

Giverso, C., Preziosi, L. (2012). Modelling the compression and reorganization of cell aggregates. *Math. Med. Biol.*, **29**(2), 181–204.

Crevacore, E., Di Stefano, S., Grillo, A. (2018). Coupling among deformation, fluid flow, structural reorganisation and fibre reorientation in fibre-reinforced, transversely isotropic biological tissues. *Submitted*.



## The equations describing "pure" growth

$$(\det \mathbf{F}) \operatorname{tr} [\dot{\mathbf{F}} \mathbf{F}^{-1}] = \operatorname{Div} [\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{F}, \gamma) \operatorname{Grad} p],$$

*Mass balance*

$$\operatorname{Div} \left[ -(\det \mathbf{F}) p \mathbf{g}^{-1} \mathbf{F}^{-\mathrm{T}} + \mathbf{P}_{\mathrm{sc}}(\mathbf{F}, \gamma) \right] = \mathbf{0},$$

*Momentum balance*

$$f(\mathbf{F}, \gamma) \dot{\omega} = \operatorname{Div} [\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{F}, \gamma) \operatorname{Grad} \omega] - R(\gamma, \omega) \omega,$$

*Mass balance of the nutrients*

$$\frac{\dot{\gamma}}{\gamma} = \frac{\Gamma_0(\mathbf{F}, \gamma)}{3} \left\langle \frac{\omega - \omega_{\mathrm{cr}}}{\omega_{\mathrm{env}} - \omega_{\mathrm{cr}}} \right\rangle_+ \left[ 1 - \frac{\delta_1 \langle \bar{\sigma} \rangle_+}{\delta_2 + \langle \bar{\sigma} \rangle_+} \right]$$

*Growth*

*with  $\bar{\sigma} = -\frac{1}{3 \det \mathbf{F}} \operatorname{tr} [\mathbf{P}_{\mathrm{sc}} \mathbf{F}^{\mathrm{T}}]$  being the spherical part of the constitutive Cauchy stress tensor.*

---

Ambrosi, D., Mollica, F. (2002). On the mechanics of a growing tumor. *Int. J. Eng. Sci.*, **40**, 1297–1316.

Giverso, C., Preziosi, L. (2012). Modelling the compression and reorganization of cell aggregates. *Math. Med. Biol.*, **29**(2), 181–204.

Mascheroni, P., Carfagna, M., Grillo, A., Boso, D.P., Schrefler, B.A. (2017). An avascular tumor growth model based on porous media mechanics and evolving natural states. *Math. Mech. Solids*, In press.



## Challenges

*Paraphrasing Simon & Gerfunktel...*

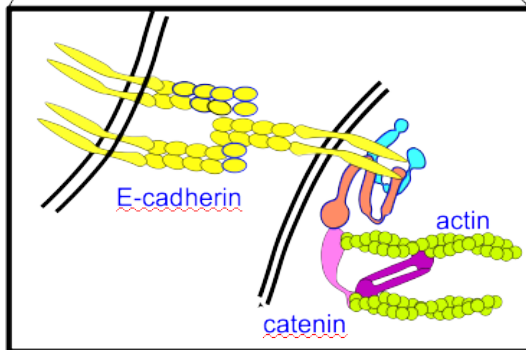
*Building a "bridge over troubled" ... scales*

## Nesting in continuum models: Growth

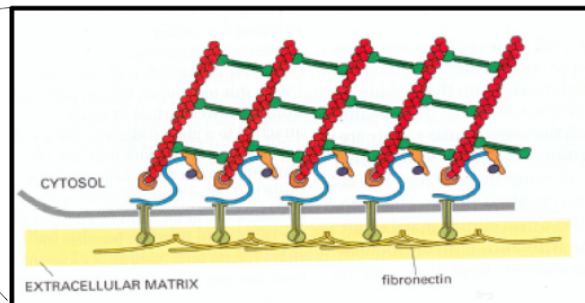
$$\partial_t \phi_\alpha + \operatorname{div}(\phi_\alpha \mathbf{v}_\alpha) = \Gamma_\alpha, \quad \alpha = c, m,$$

$$\operatorname{div} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_c + \mathbf{m}_{cm} + \rho \phi_c \mathbf{b}_c = \mathbf{0},$$

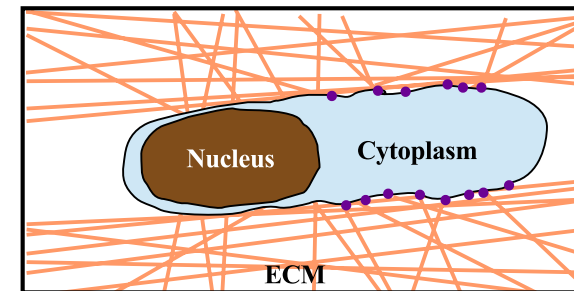
$$\operatorname{div} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_m - \mathbf{m}_{cm} = \mathbf{0}$$



*Cell-cell interactions*



*Cell-ECM interaction*

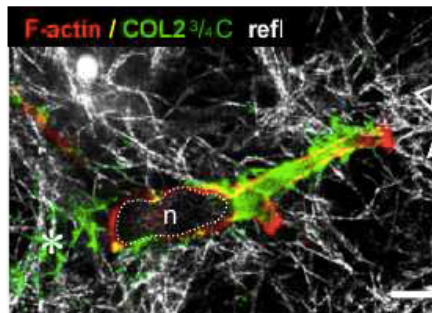


*ECM microstructure and nucleus mechanical properties*

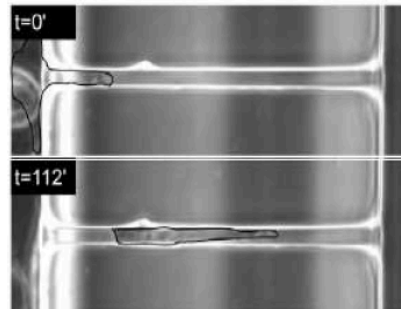


## Nucleus mechanical properties

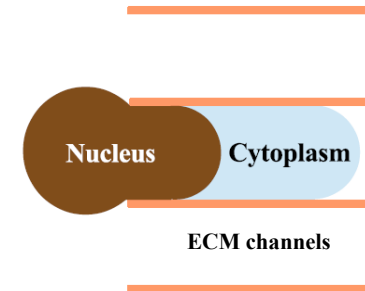
### Single cell migration



Friedl&Wolf (2009). *Canc. Met. Rev.*



Rolli et al. (2010). *Plos One*



**Energy source for nucleus deformation:** Active contraction of the cytoskeleton, thrust passively received from the fluid, and pressure from surrounding cells

- **Energy balance:**

$$W_{\text{active}} + W_{\text{passive}} \geq W_{\text{def}}$$

- **Elastic nucleus deformation:**

$$W_{\text{def}} := W_{\text{def}}^S + W_{\text{def}}^V$$

- **Active force model:**

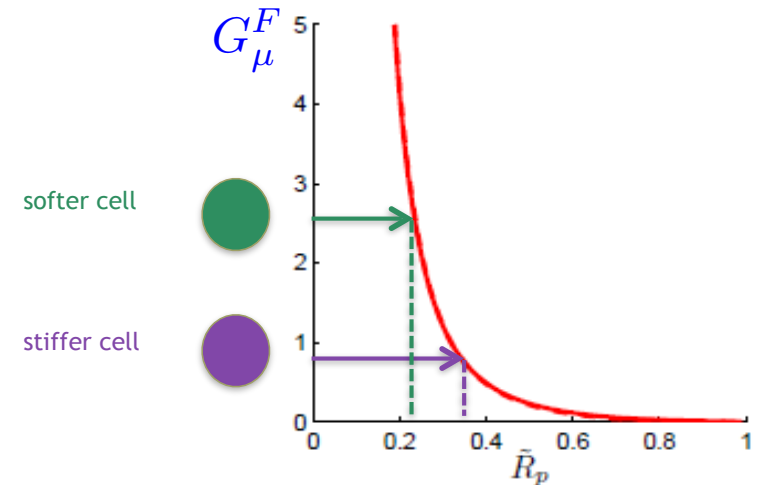
$$W_{\text{active}} := F_{\text{active}} \Delta L$$

## Criterion at the cell scale

### Determination of the minimum pore size of the structure

Ratio between the *adhesive/active properties of the cell* and the *mechanical properties of the nucleus*:

$$G_{\mu}^F = \frac{\rho_b \alpha_{ECM} F_b^M}{\mu}$$



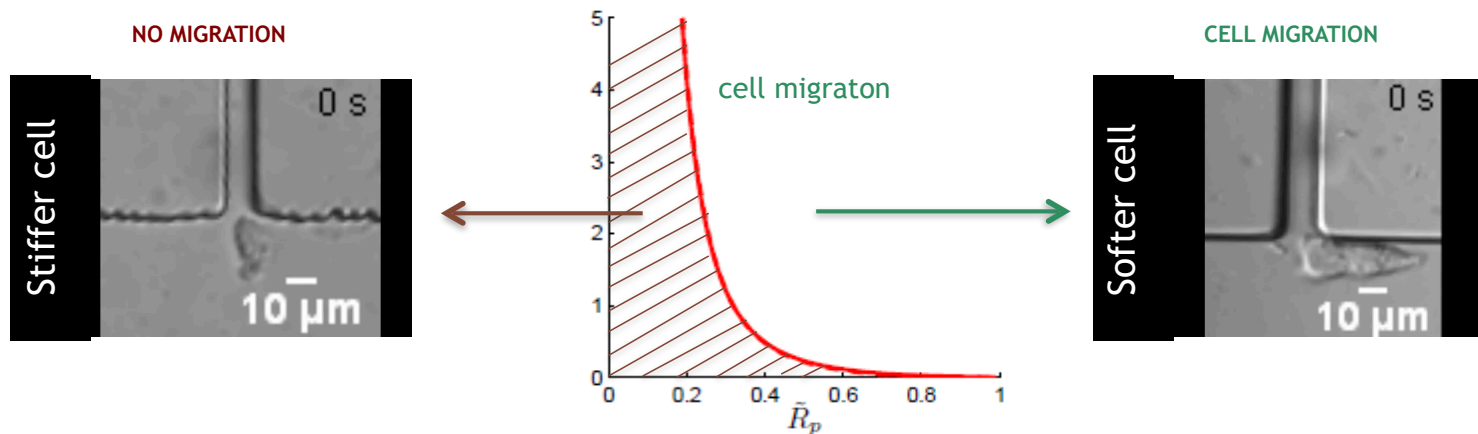
*Minimum size of the cross-section of a penetrable channel ("physical limit of cell migration")*

## Criterion at the cell scale

### Determination of the minimum pore size of the structure

Definition of region in the space of parameters in which the *cell migration* is *hindered*.

Up-scale information to the *Multicellular Aggregate Model*.





## Upscale to the macroscopic model

### Segregation vs invasion

The *cytoplasm* of cells at the border of multicellular aggregates *extends inside the ECM*, while their *nuclei might remain trapped* (*tumour segregation*) depending on:

- *Matrix-metalloproteinases secretion;*
- *Nuclear mechanical properties;*
- *ECM pore section*

### *Multiphase Model Equations*

*Evolution of the cellular volumetric fraction:*

$$\partial_t \phi_c + \operatorname{div} [\phi_c \Sigma'(\psi) \mathbf{M} \nabla \psi] = \Gamma_c$$
$$\psi = \phi_c + \phi_m$$

*Motility tensor:*

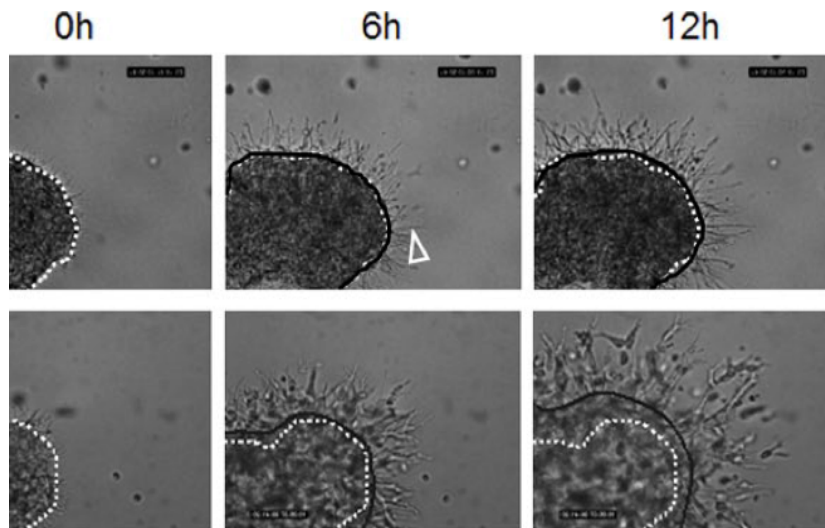
$$\mathbf{M} = \alpha [A_m(\phi_m) - A_0]_+ \mathbf{g}^{-1}$$

*Critical pore cross-section  $A_0$  determined by energetic inequality at the cell scale.*

## Upscale to the macroscopic model

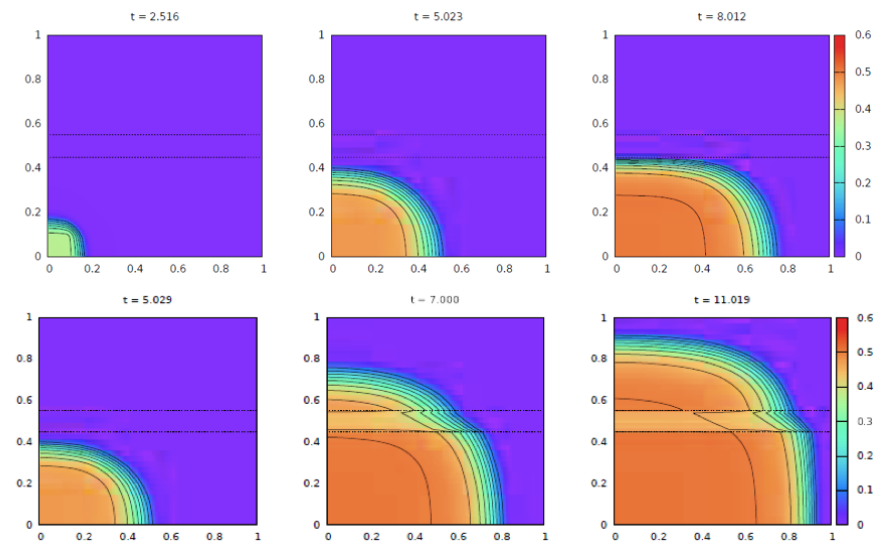
### Segregation vs invasion

#### *Formation of metastasis*



Wolt et al. (2013). *J. Cell. Biol.*

#### *Multiphase Model Equations*



Arduino et al. (2018). *Ongoing work.*

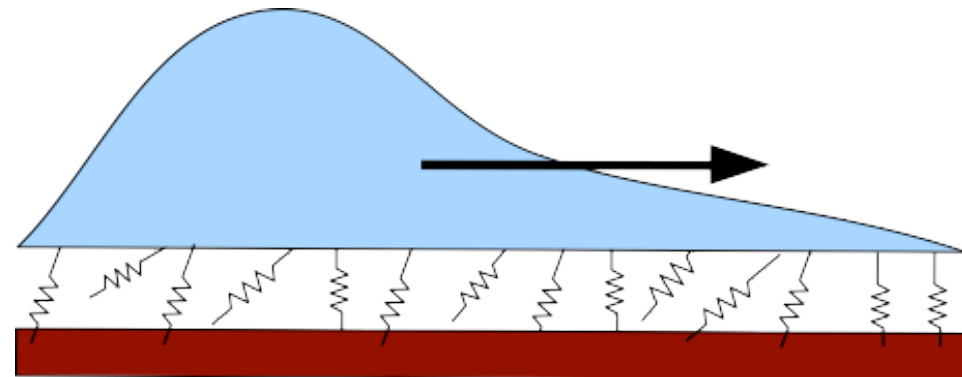
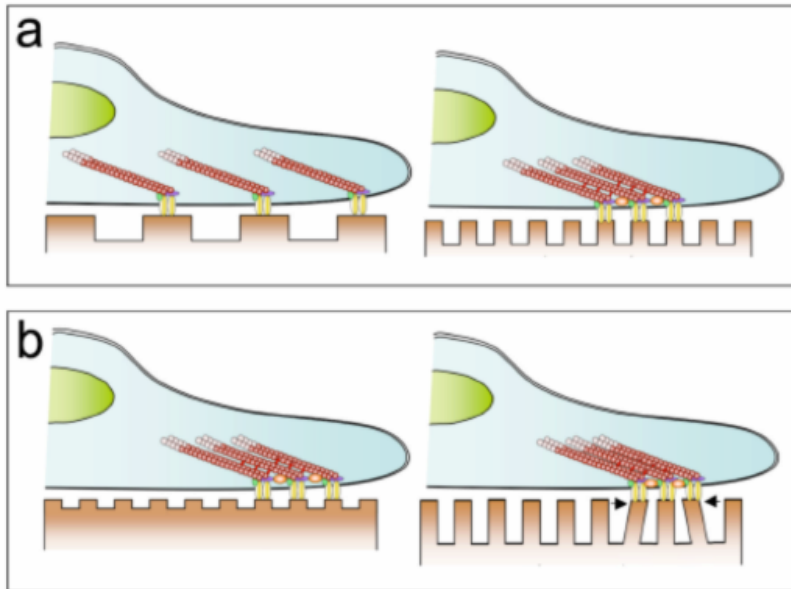
$$\partial_t \phi_c + \operatorname{div} [\phi_c \Sigma'(\psi) \mathbf{M} \nabla \psi] = \Gamma_c$$

$$\mathbf{M} = \alpha [A_m(\phi_m) - A_0]_+ \mathbf{g}^{-1}$$



## Adhesion models

### Forces exchanged between cell and ECM



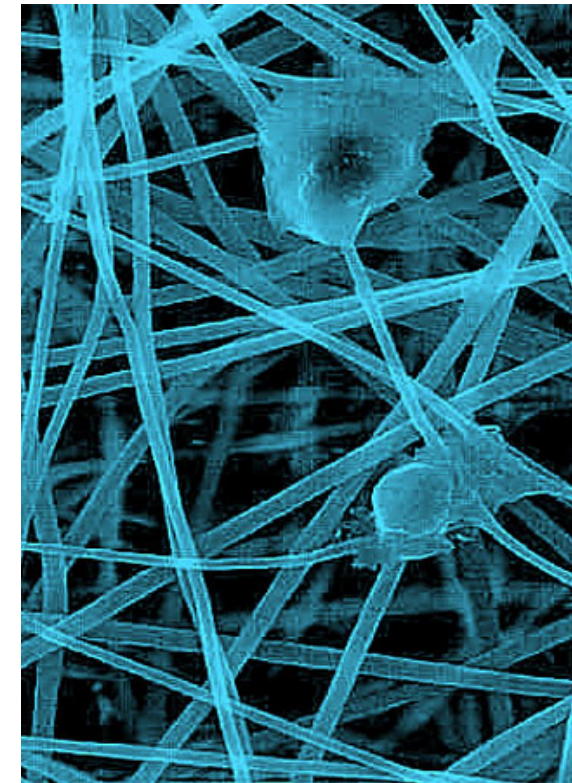
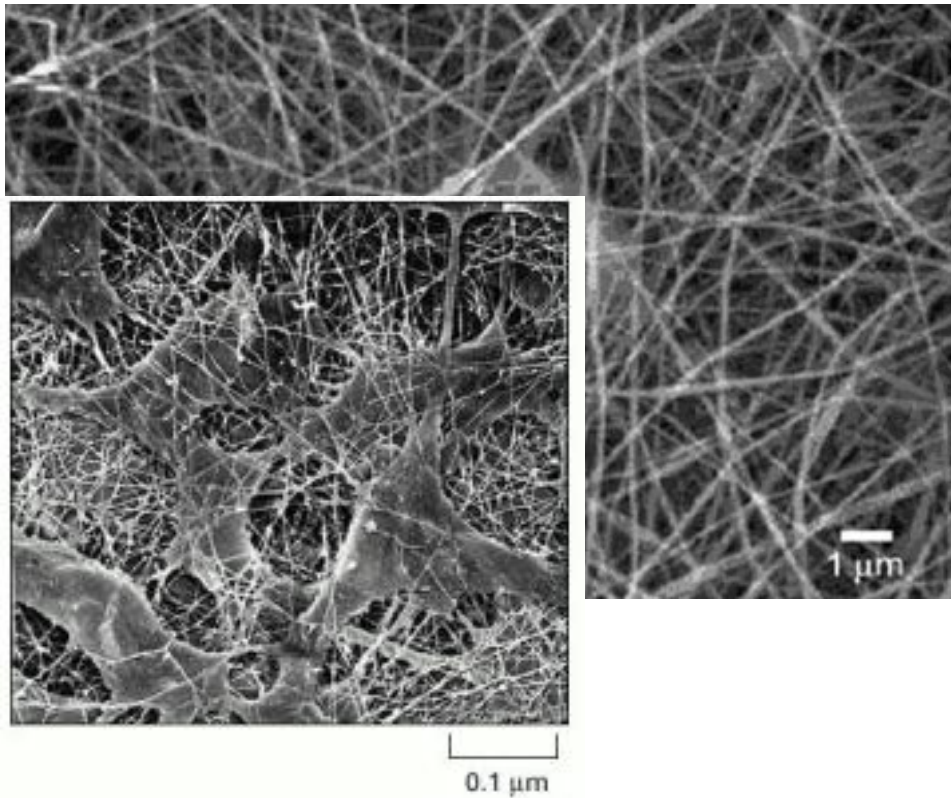
$$\mathbf{m}_{\text{cm}}^{\text{ad}}(X_c, t) = \int_{\mathcal{B}_m} \mathbf{F}_{\text{cm}}^{\text{mic}}(X_c, Y, t) dY$$

Preziosi, L., Vitale, G. (2011). A multiphase model of tumor and tissue growth including cell adhesion and plastic reorganization. *Math. Mod. Med. Appl. S.*, **21(9)**, 1901–1932.

Théry ... & Julicher (2007). Experimental and theoretical study of mitotic spindle orientation. *Nature*, **447**, 493–497.

## Again tissue engineering

### Building a proper artificial ECM



## Again tissue engineering

### Building a proper artificial ECM

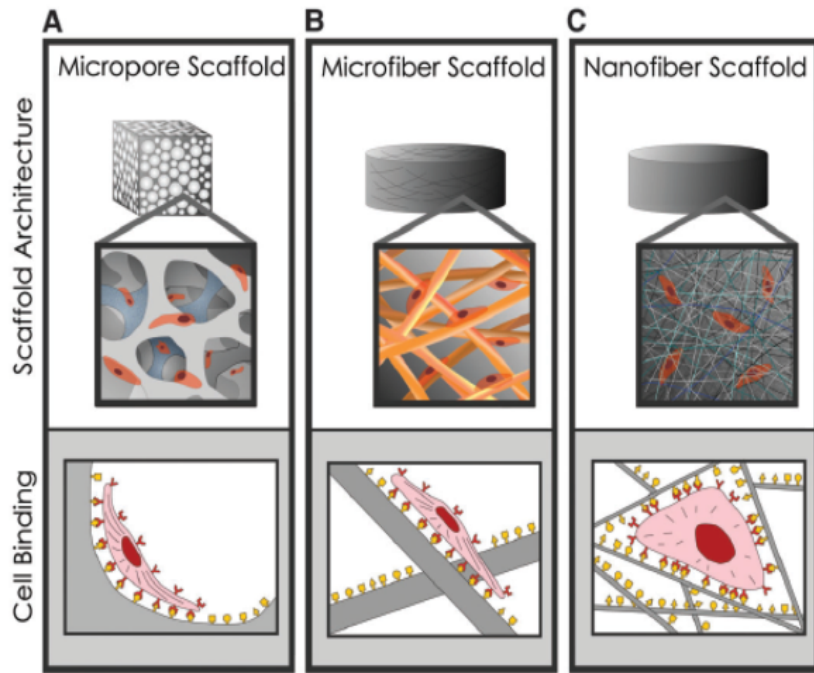
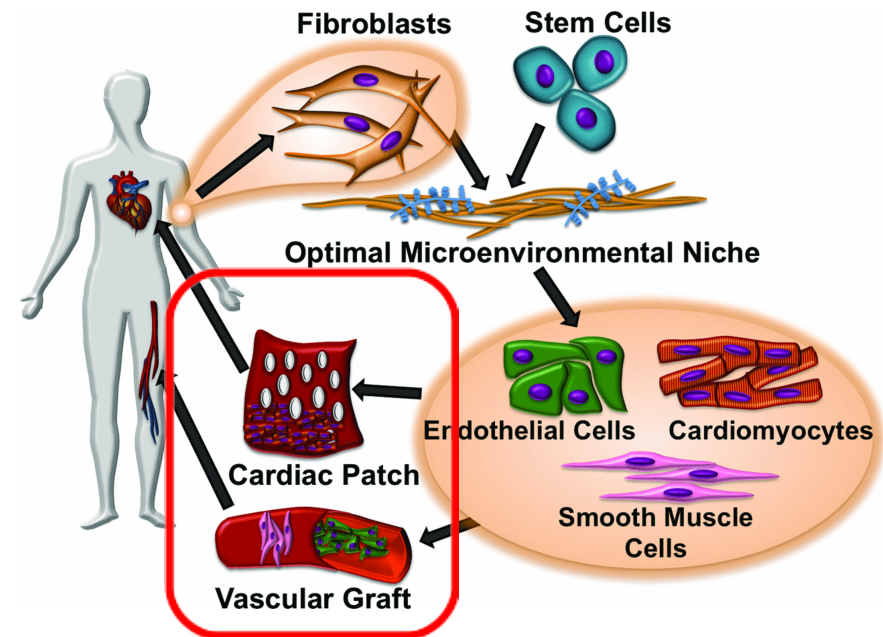
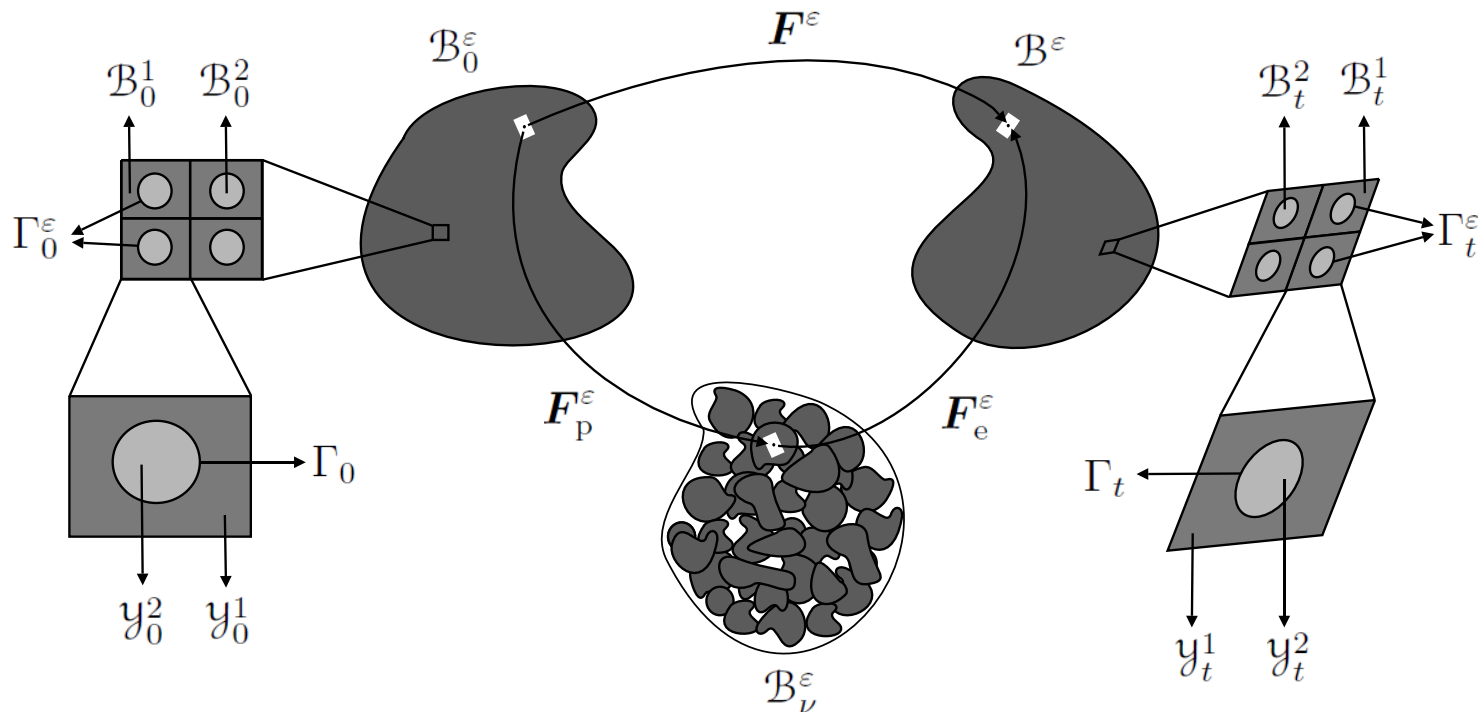


Fig. 2. Scaffold architecture affects cell binding and spreading. (A and B) Cells binding to scaffolds with microscale architectures flatten and spread as if cultured on flat surfaces. (C) Scaffolds with nanoscale architectures have larger surface areas to adsorb proteins, presenting many more binding sites to cell membrane receptors. The adsorbed proteins may also change conformation, exposing additional cryptic binding sites.



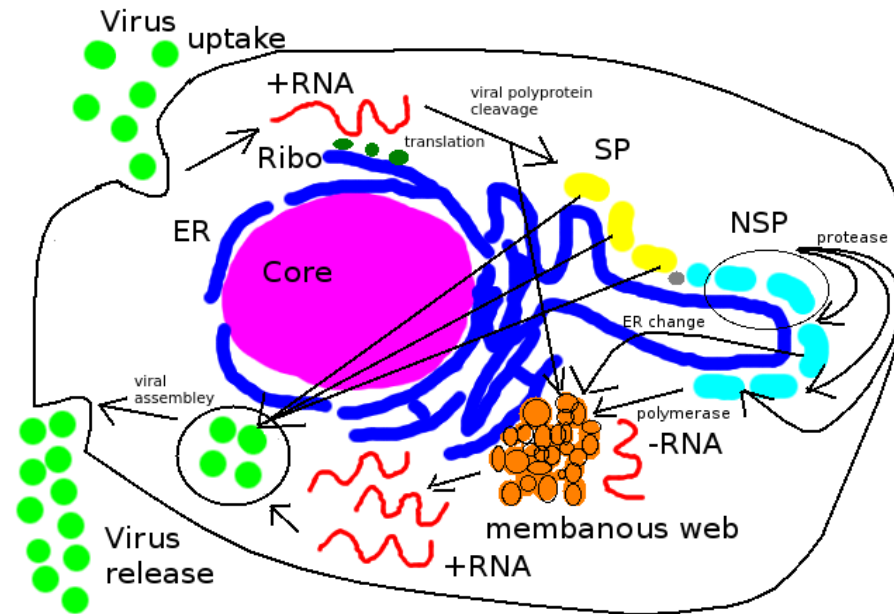
## Homogenisation in the presence of structural evolution



- *Highly non-linear and coupled cell problems; call for dedicated numerical schemes.*
- *Breaking of the symmetry group of the material due to scale transfer.*

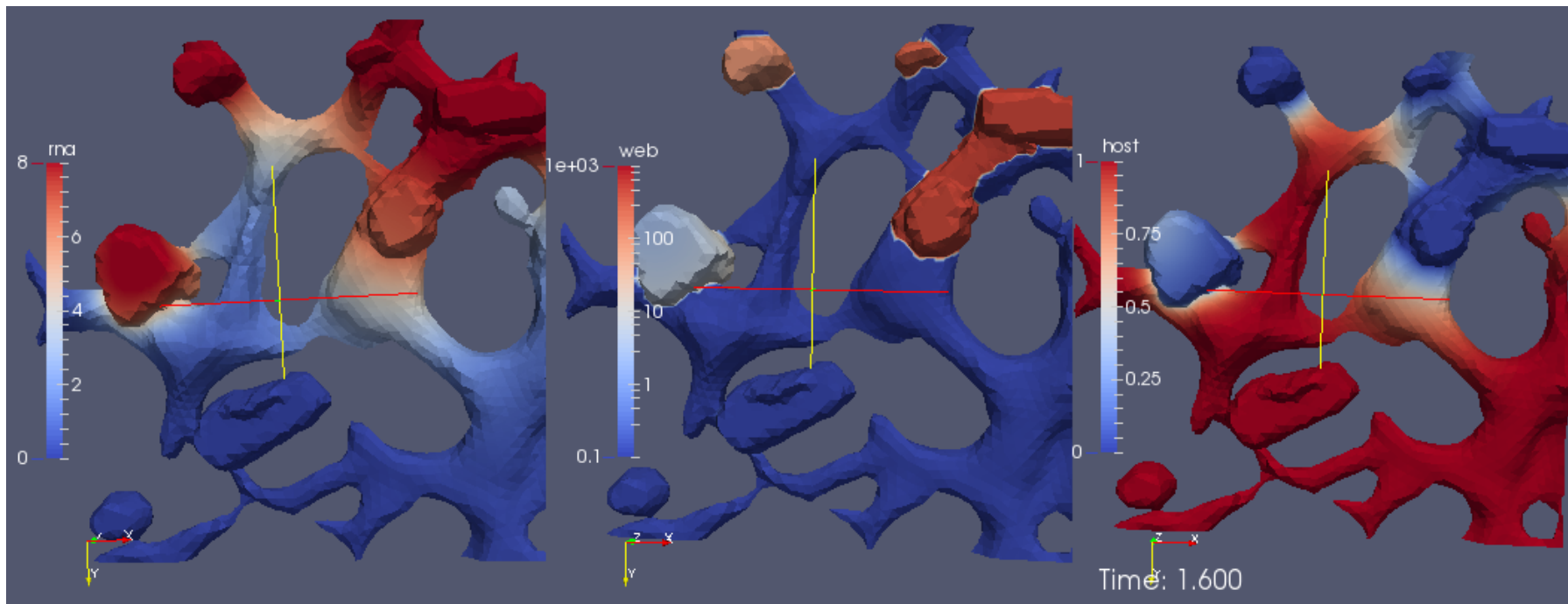


## Replication cycle of the Hepatitis C viral genome





## Replication cycle of the Hepatitis C viral genome



- *Surface diffusion-reaction equations, with high nonlinear couplings*

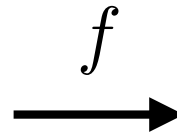


Thank you very much ...

... for your kind attention!!!



Eruption of Mt. Etna, Italy



Turin, Italy