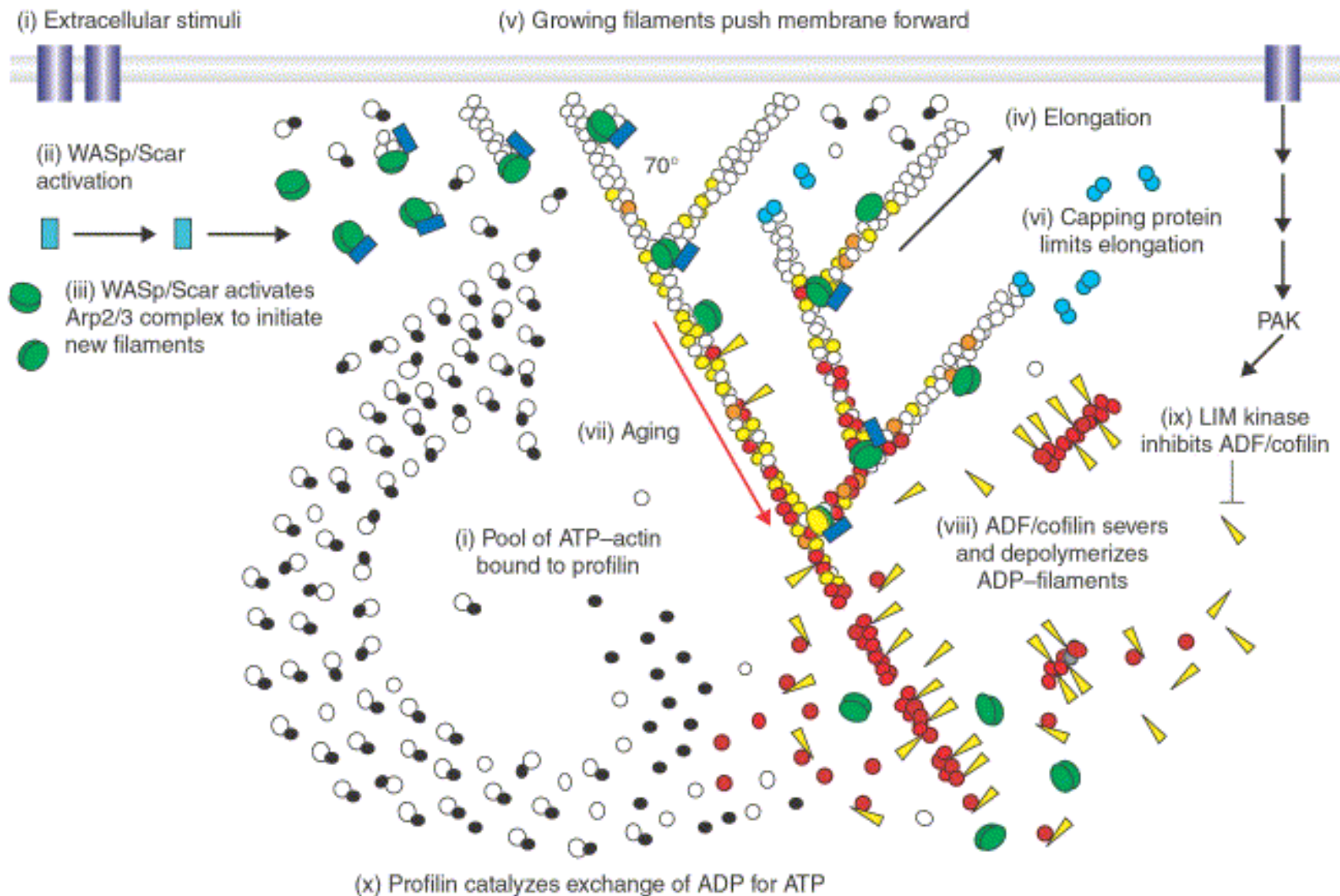
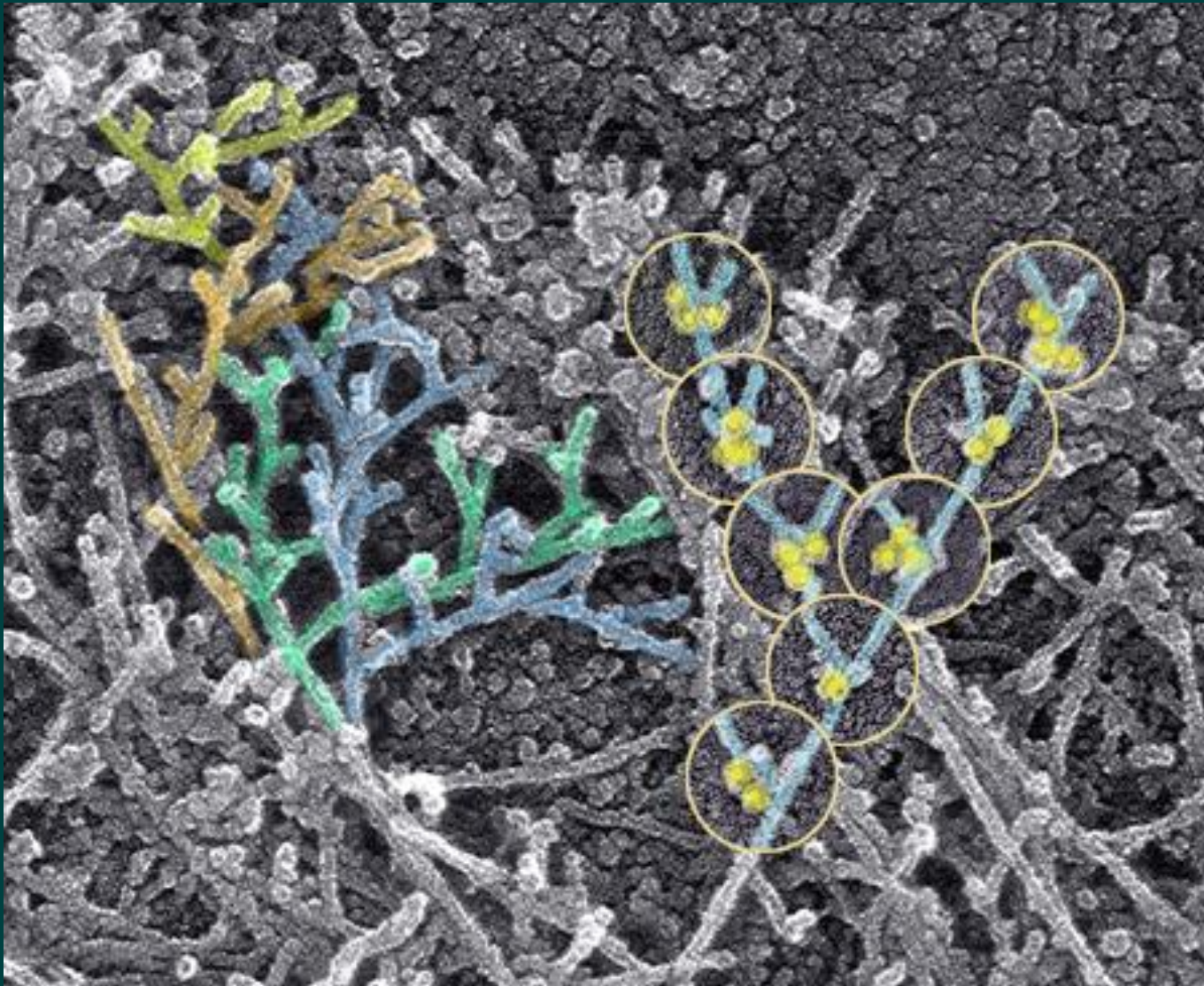


## last time: Dendritic nucleation model of actin assembly in the lamellipodia



# branching actin network



Svitkina and Borisy, 1999

today:

reconstitution of force generation by branching actin array in vitro

other models of force generation by actin assembly

experimental force measurement in vitro and in vivo

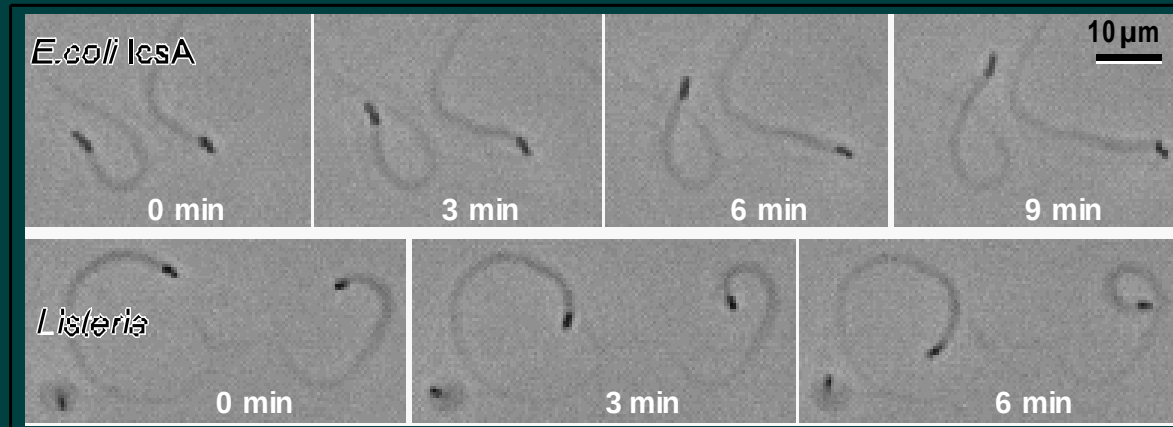
properties of actin branching array in vivo

# Reconstitution of actin-based movement from pure proteins (Loisel et al., Nature 1999)

---

- **Proteins required for movement:**
  - 1) N-WASP (resp. ActA)-activated Arp2/3: site-directed generation of barbed ends
  - 2) Actin, ADF/cofilin, Capping protein: chemostat maintaining a high steady-state concentration of ATP-G-actin
- **Not required, but improve movement:**
  - VASP, Profilin,  $\alpha$ -actinin.

# Movement of *E. coli* (IcsA) and *Listeria monocytogenes* with pure components.



Rate :  
2 to 3  $\mu\text{m}/\text{min}$

## Essential Proteins :

| N-WASP            | IcsA-bound        |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Arp2/3            | 0.1 $\mu\text{M}$ |
| Capping Protein   | 0.1 $\mu\text{M}$ |
| ADF               | 2 $\mu\text{M}$   |
| ATP-actin+F-actin | 8 $\mu\text{M}$   |

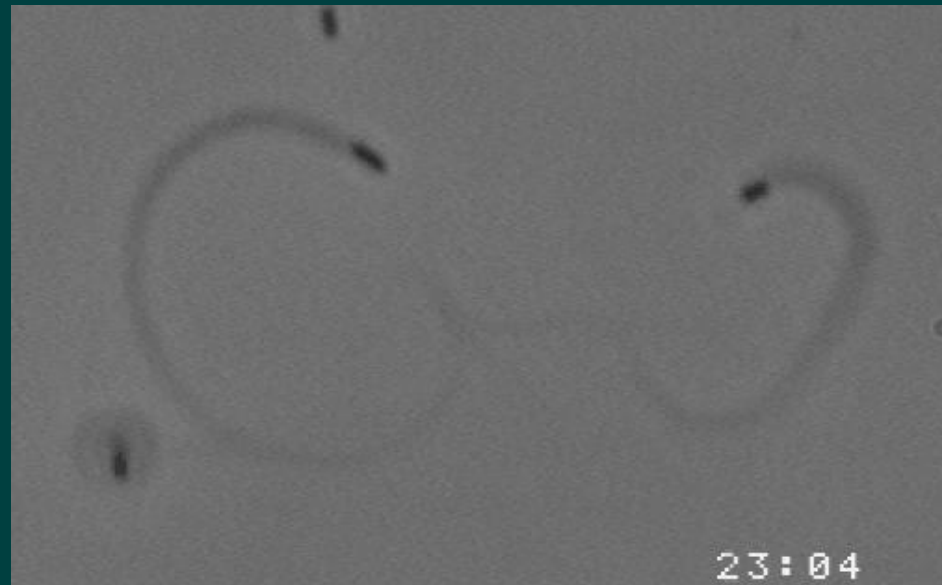
## Useful Proteins :

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Profilin          | 2 $\mu\text{M}$   |
| $\alpha$ -actinin | 0.5 $\mu\text{M}$ |
| VASP              | 0.1 $\mu\text{M}$ |

# Movement of *E. coli* (IcsA) and *Listeria monocytogenes* with pure components.

*E. coli* IcsA

Rate :  
 $\approx 2 \mu\text{m}/\text{min}$



*Listeria*

Rate :  
 $\approx 3 \mu\text{m}/\text{min}$

# Movement of *E. coli* (IcsA) and *Listeria monocytogenes* with pure components.

Bacteria →



←  $\cong 70^\circ$  Branching

Comet tail →

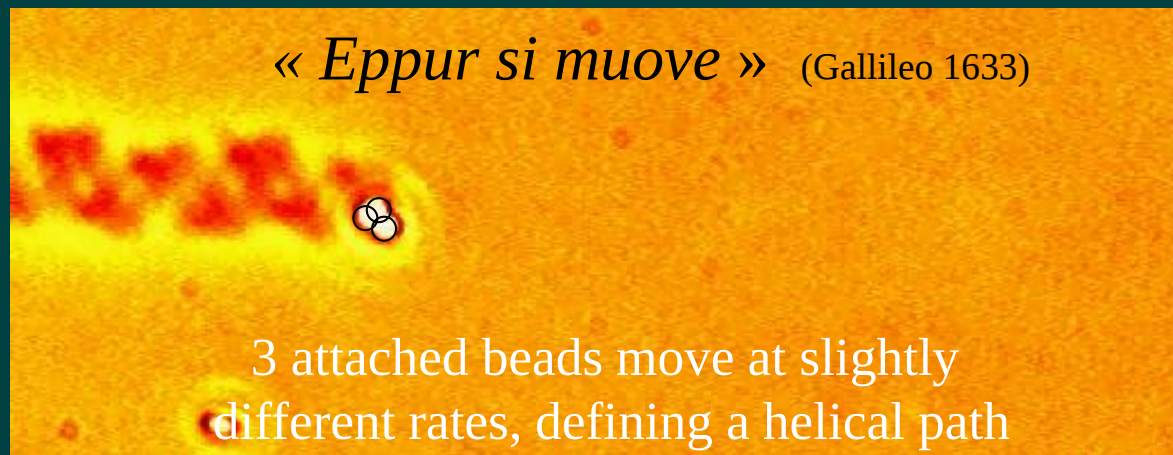
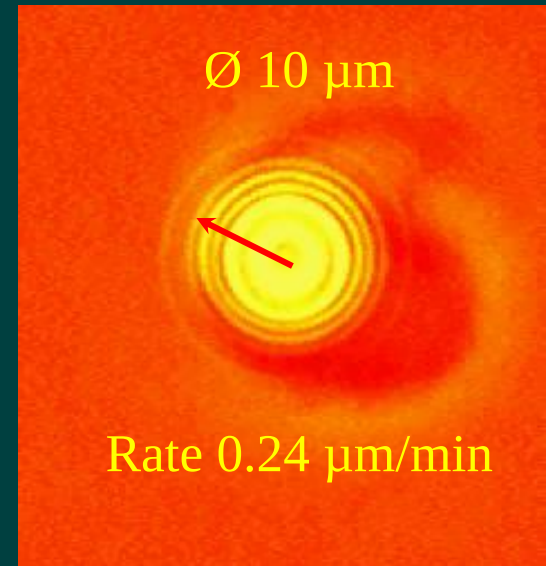
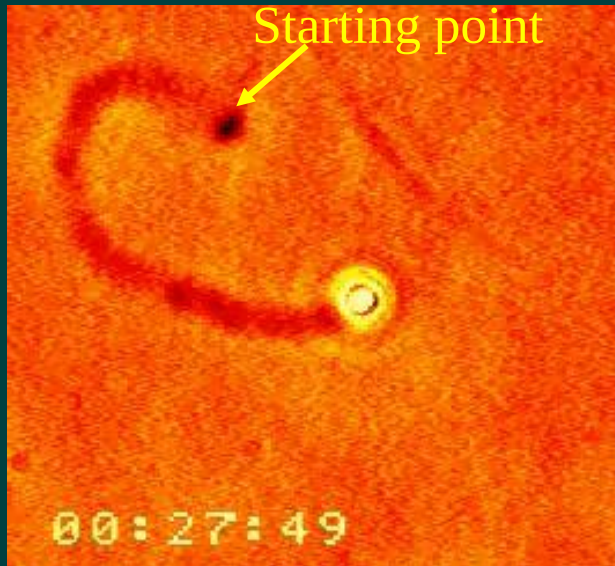
Low CP  
concentration  
Slow Rate  
Slow capping of  
the branches

# Movement of *E. coli* (IcsA) and *Listeria monocytogenes* with pure components.

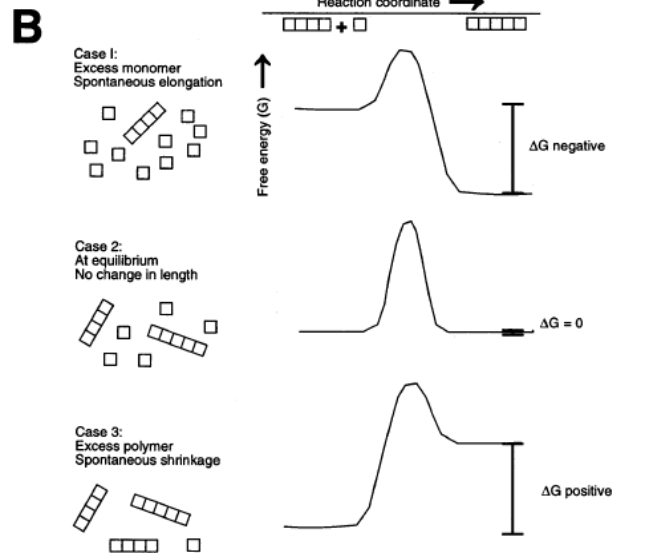
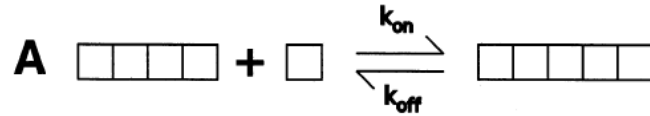


Low CP concentration  
Slow Rate : less than  
1  $\mu\text{m}/\text{min}$   
Poor capping of  
the branches

# Any object N-WASP-coated can move in minimal motility medium

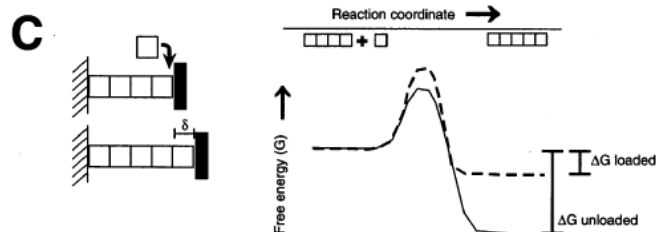


# thermodynamics of force generation by filament assembly



$$F_{max} = \frac{k_B T}{\delta} \ln \frac{m}{m^*}$$

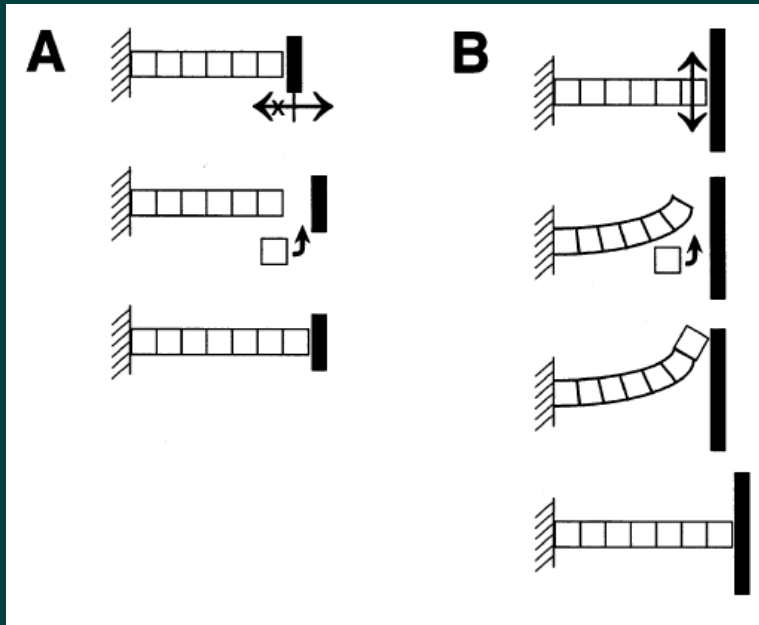
$$m^* = K_d(0)$$



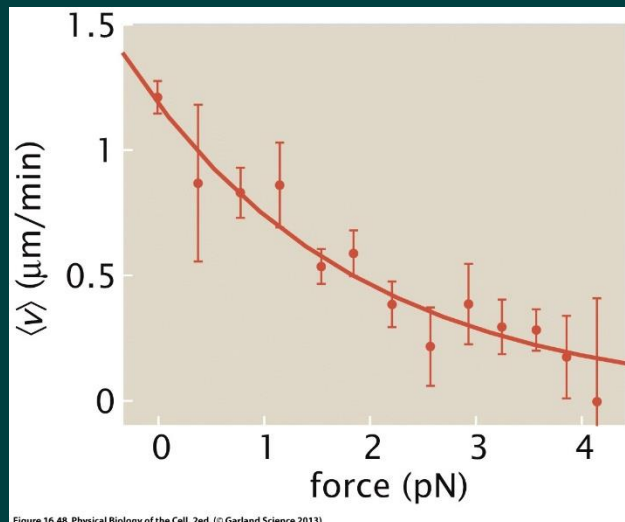
$$F_{max} = \frac{4 \text{ pN nm}}{2.7 \text{ nm}} \times \ln 100 \approx 7 \text{ pN}$$

Theriot, 2000

# Polymerization Brownian ratchet

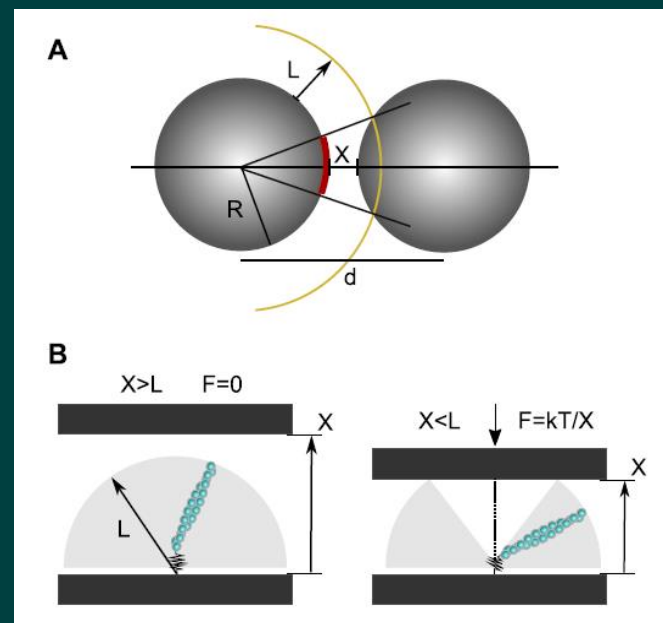
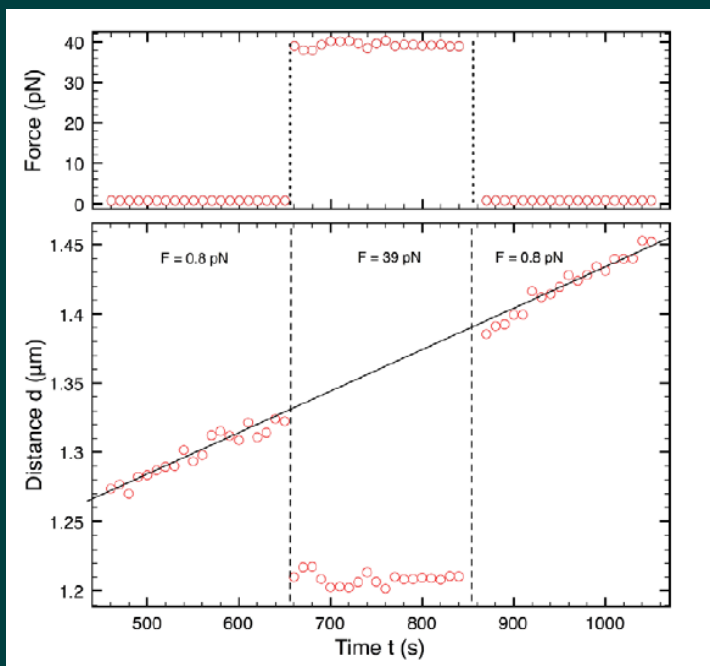
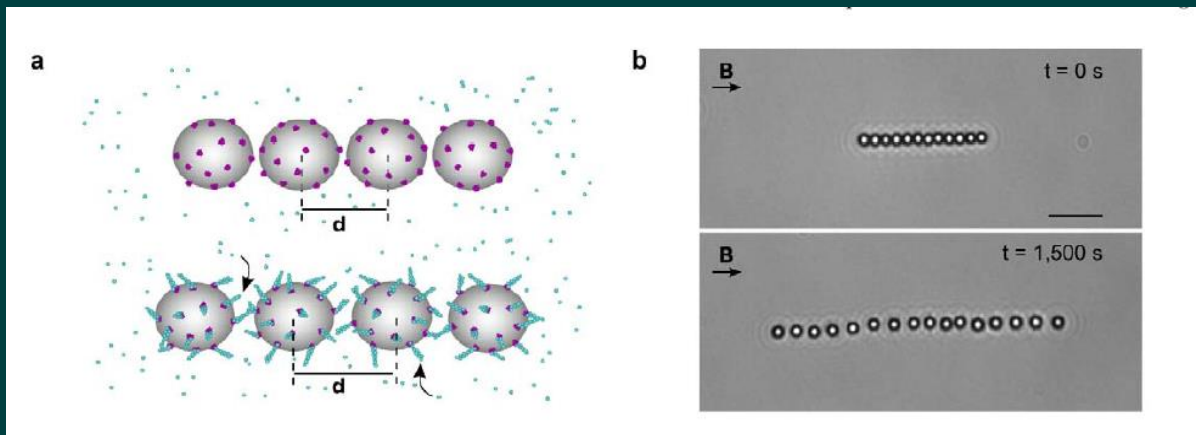


Theriot, 2000

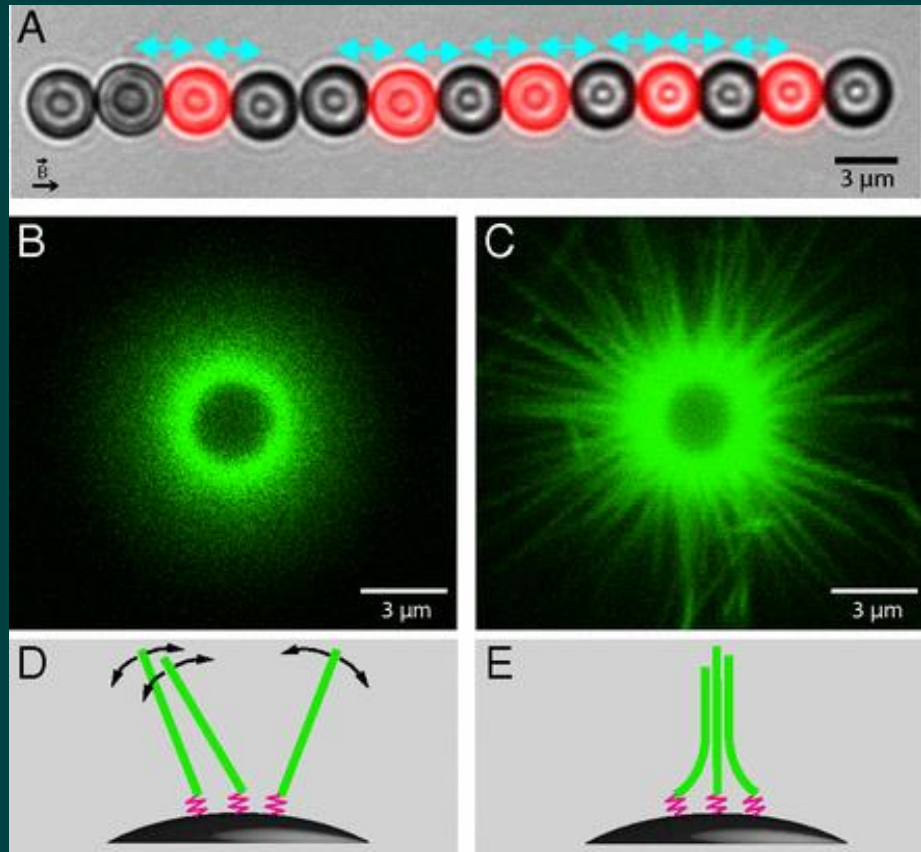


$$v = \delta[k_{on}me^{-F\delta/k_B T} - k_{off}]$$

when filaments are flexible, force deflects them but doesn't slow their growth (inconsistent with Brownian ratchet)

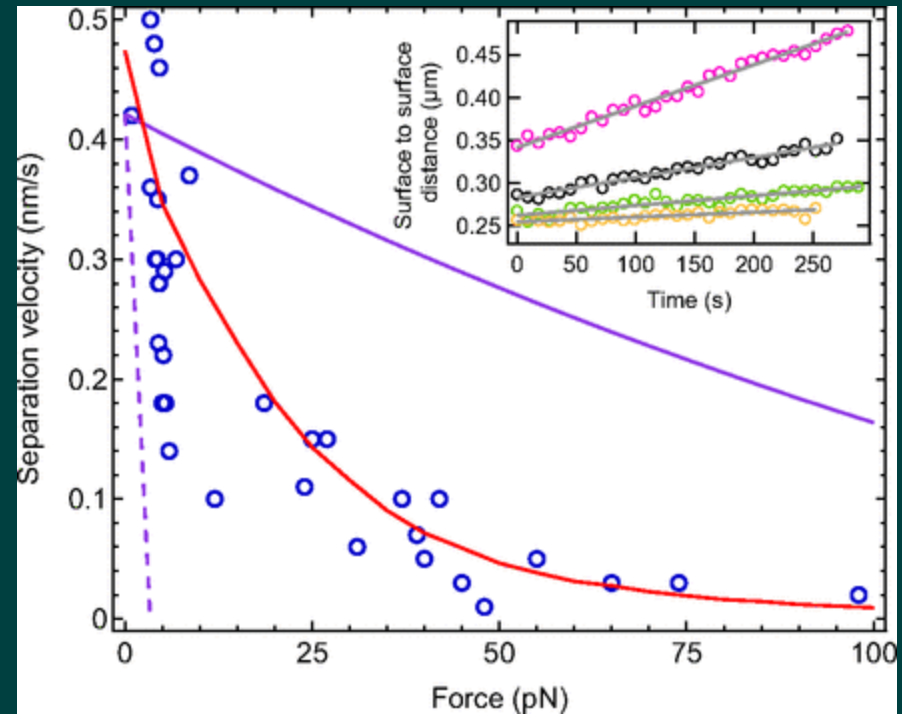


# Force production by rigid filament bundles is consistent with Brownian ratchet mechanism



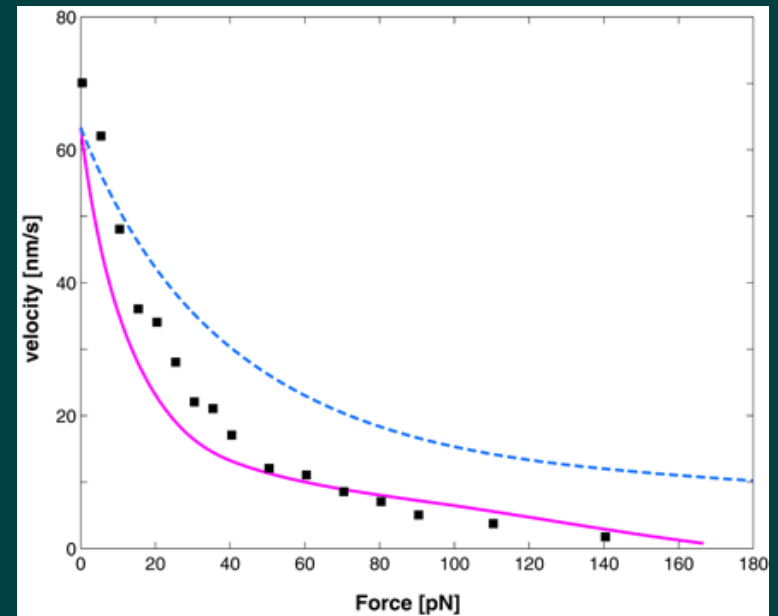
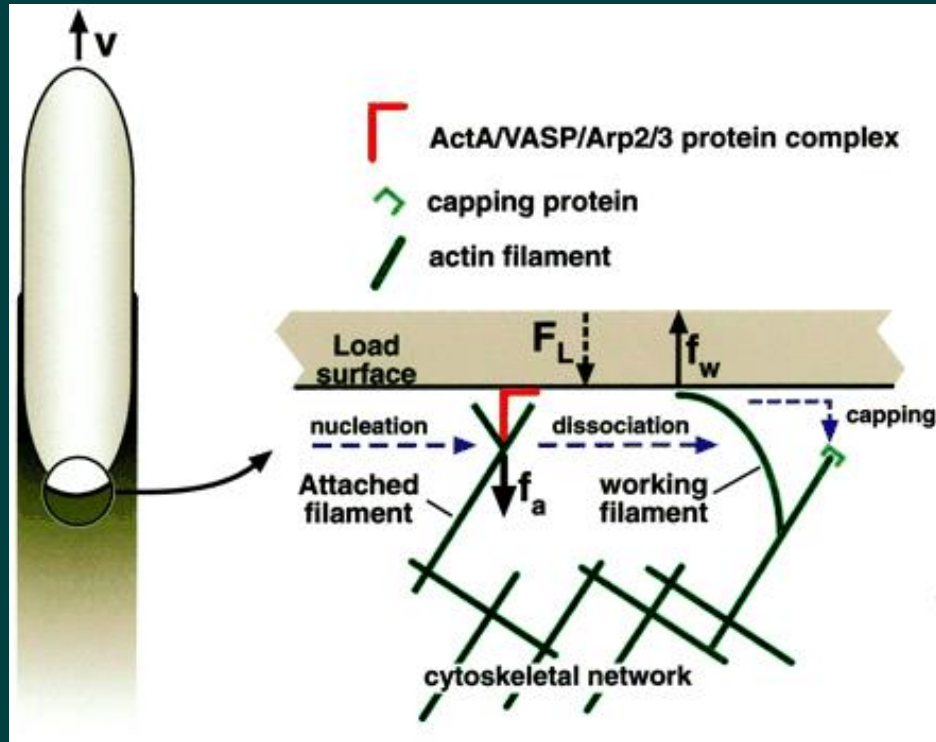
no bundling

bundling with fascin



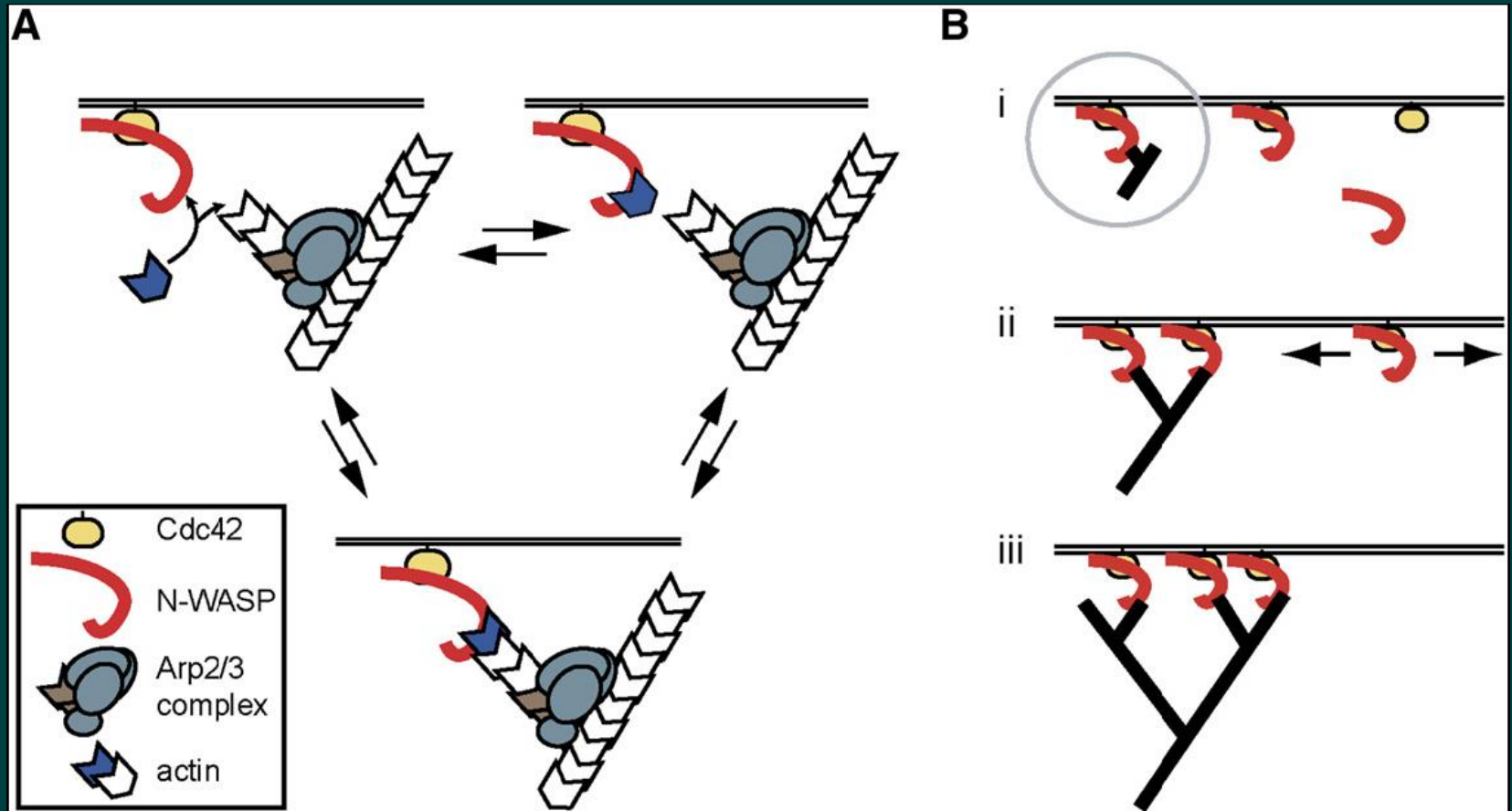
Démoulin et al, 2014

## tethered Brownian ratchet: pushing and attached filaments

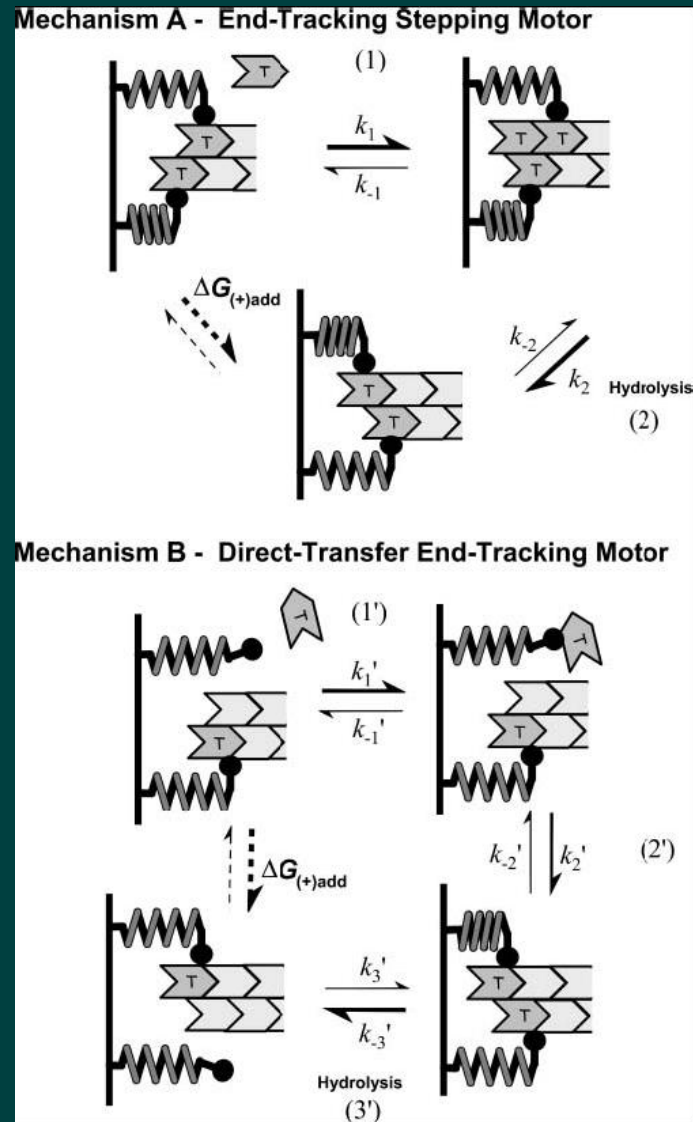


Mogilner, A. & Oster, G. (2003) *Biophys. J.* **84**, 1591–1605.

N-WASP attaches barbed filament ends to the membrane  
Co et al., Cell, 2007

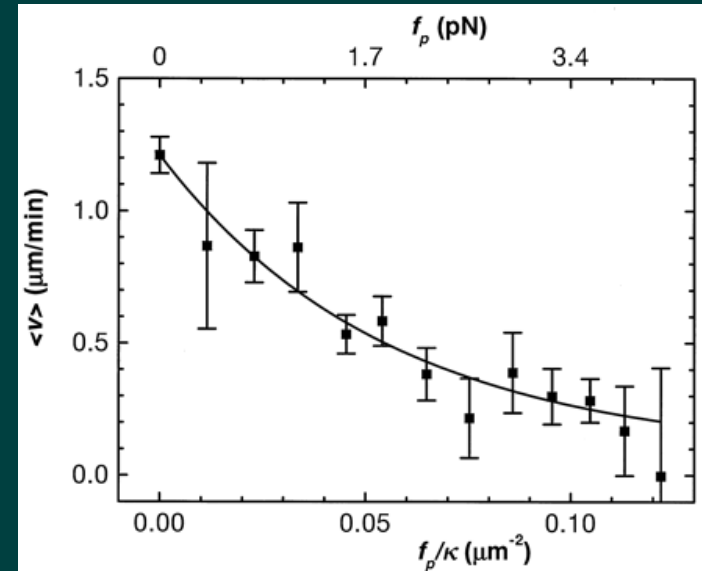
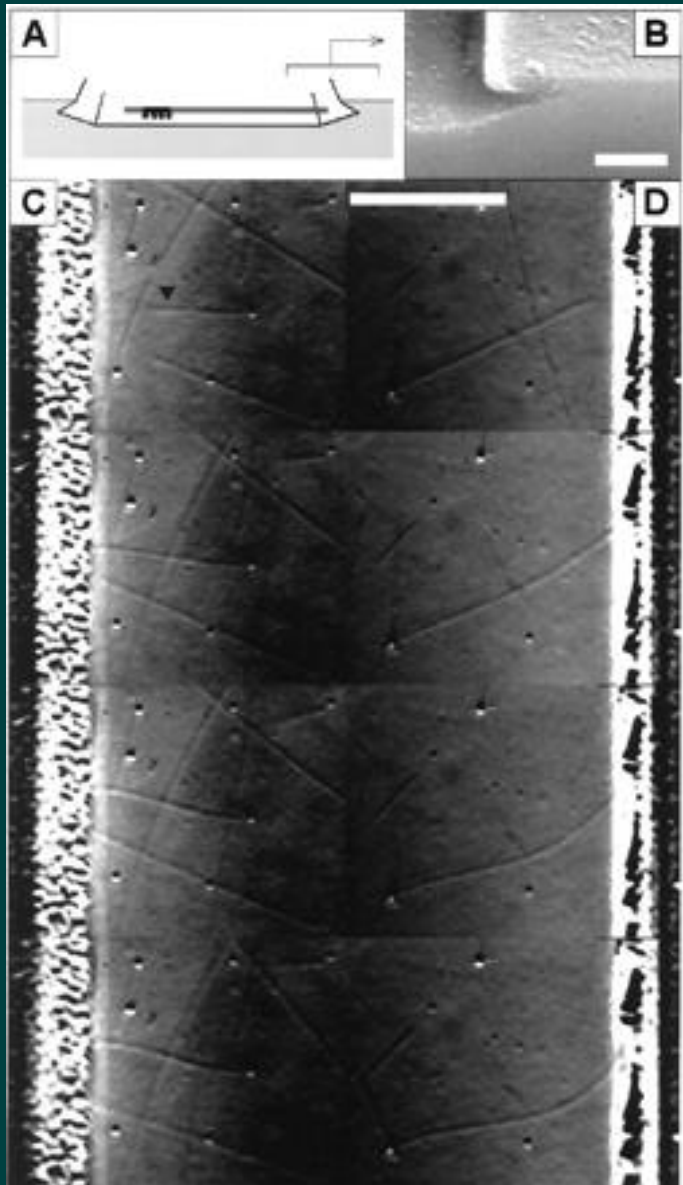


# Alternative to Brownian ratchet – end-tracking motor



Dickinson et al.,  
Biophys. J., 2004

# Experimental measurement of polymerization force



Force-velocity relation for growing microtubule

$$v(f_p) = \delta[\alpha \exp(-f_p \delta / k_B T) c - \beta]$$

Dogterom M, Yurke B. Science. 1997 Oct 31;278(5339):856-60.

## with optical trap for microtubules

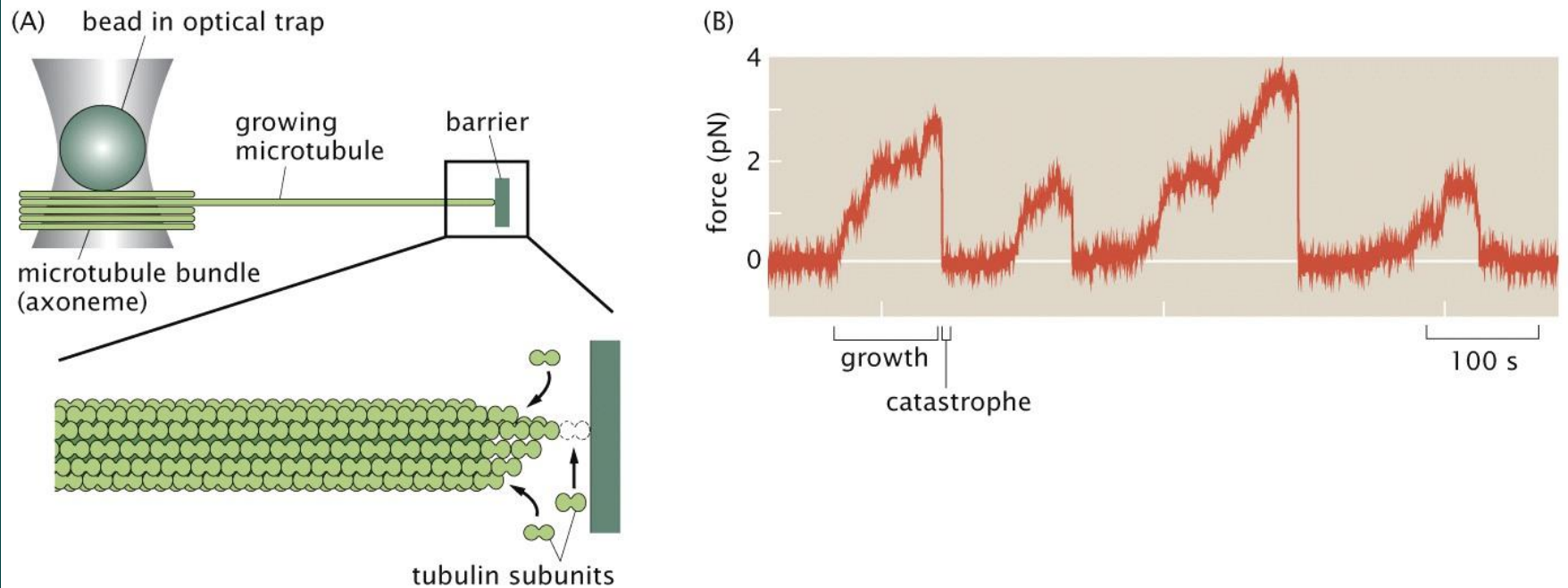
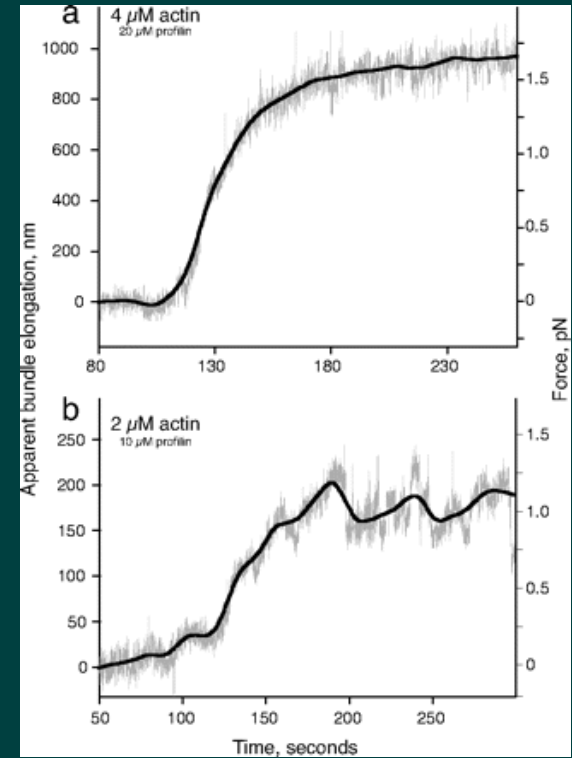
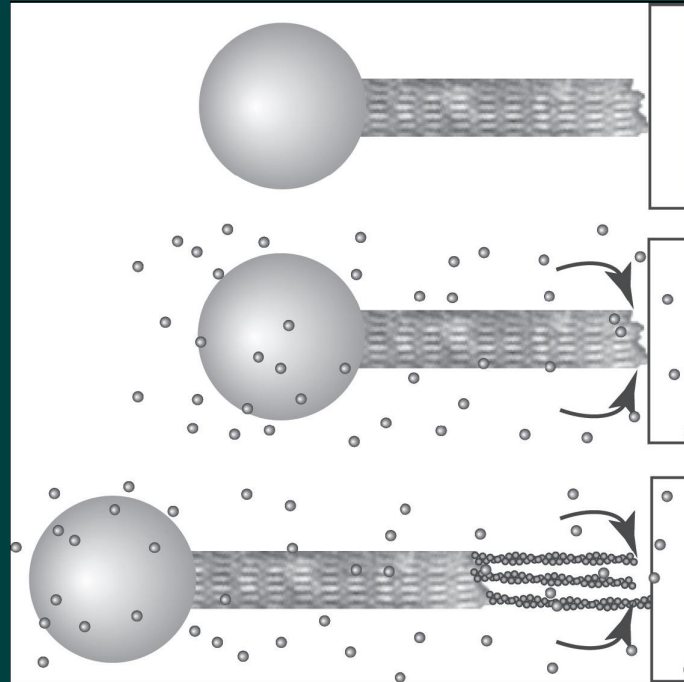
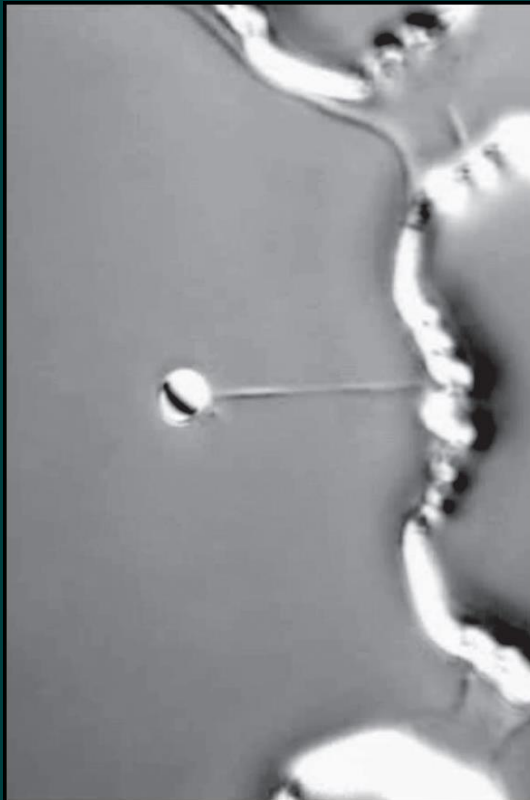


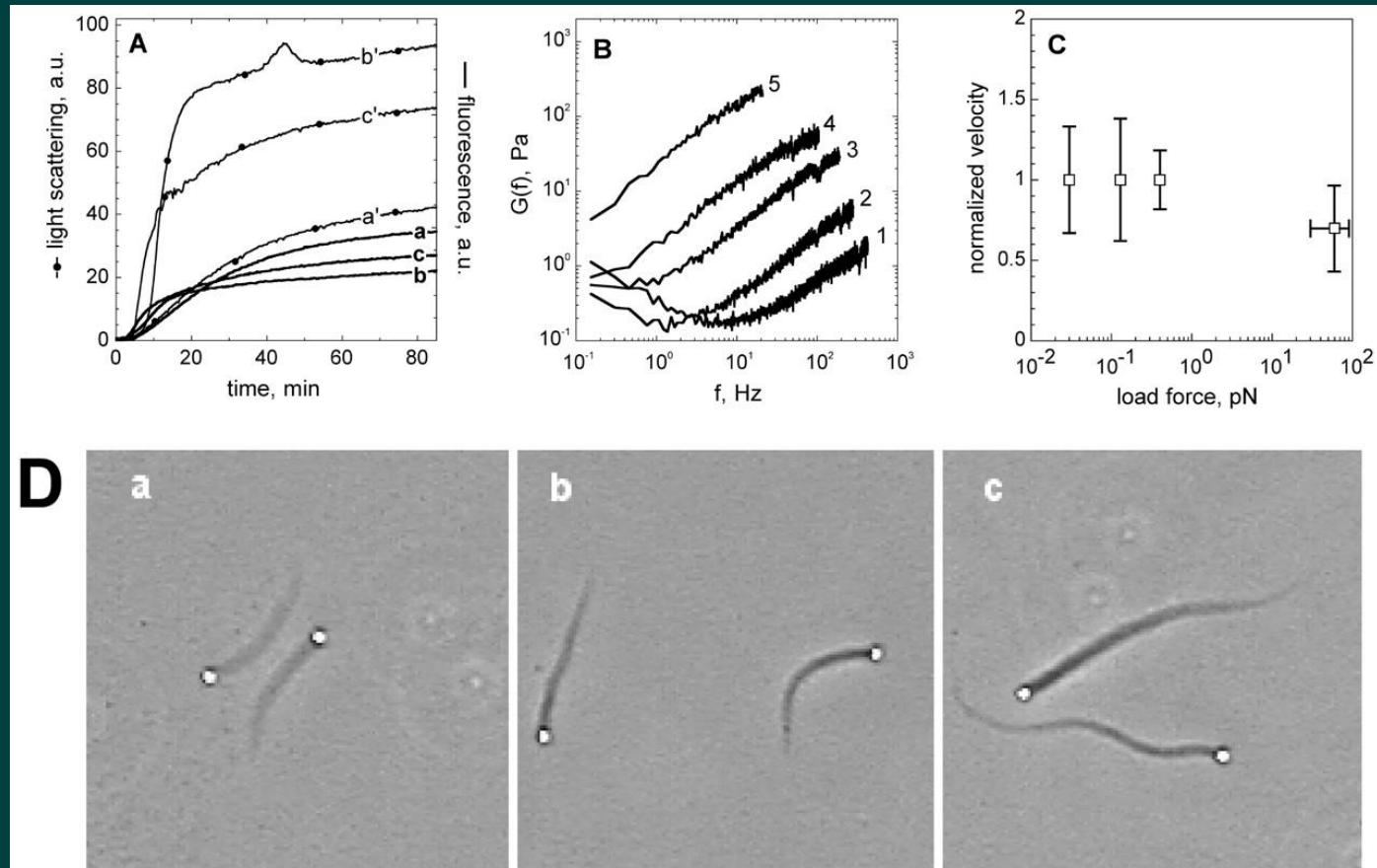
Figure 16.49 Physical Biology of the Cell, 2ed. (© Garland Science 2013)

with optical trap for actin



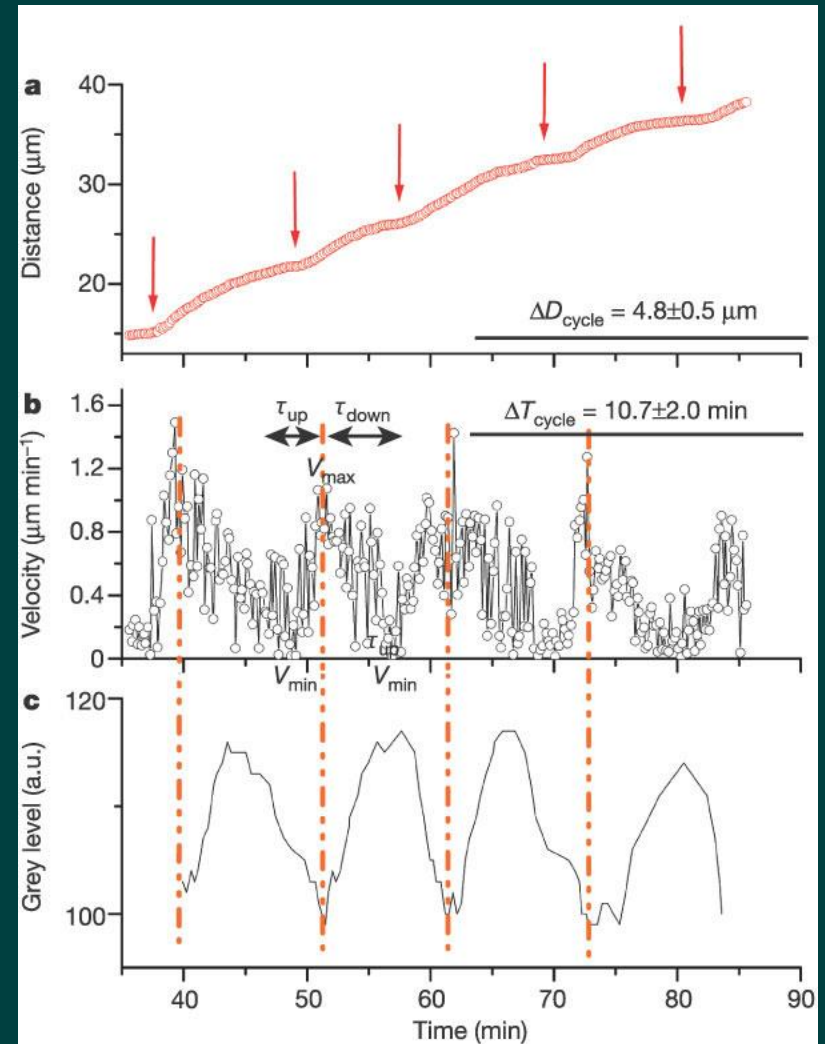
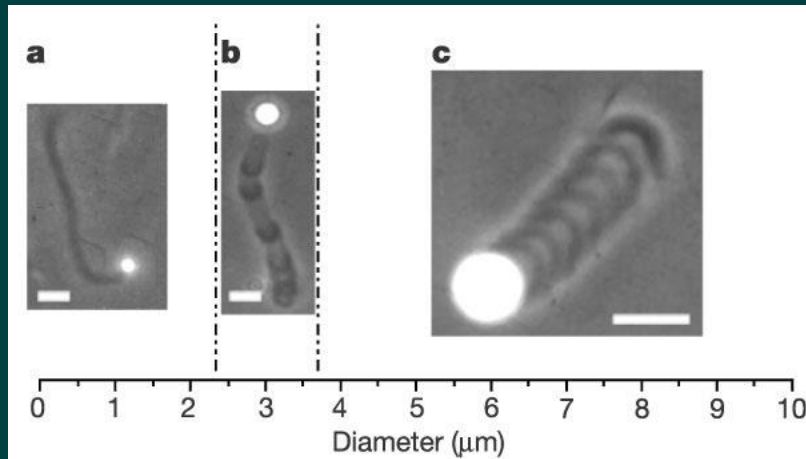
Footer et al., PNAS, 2007

assembly of many filaments: velocity independent of viscous drag up to 50 pN



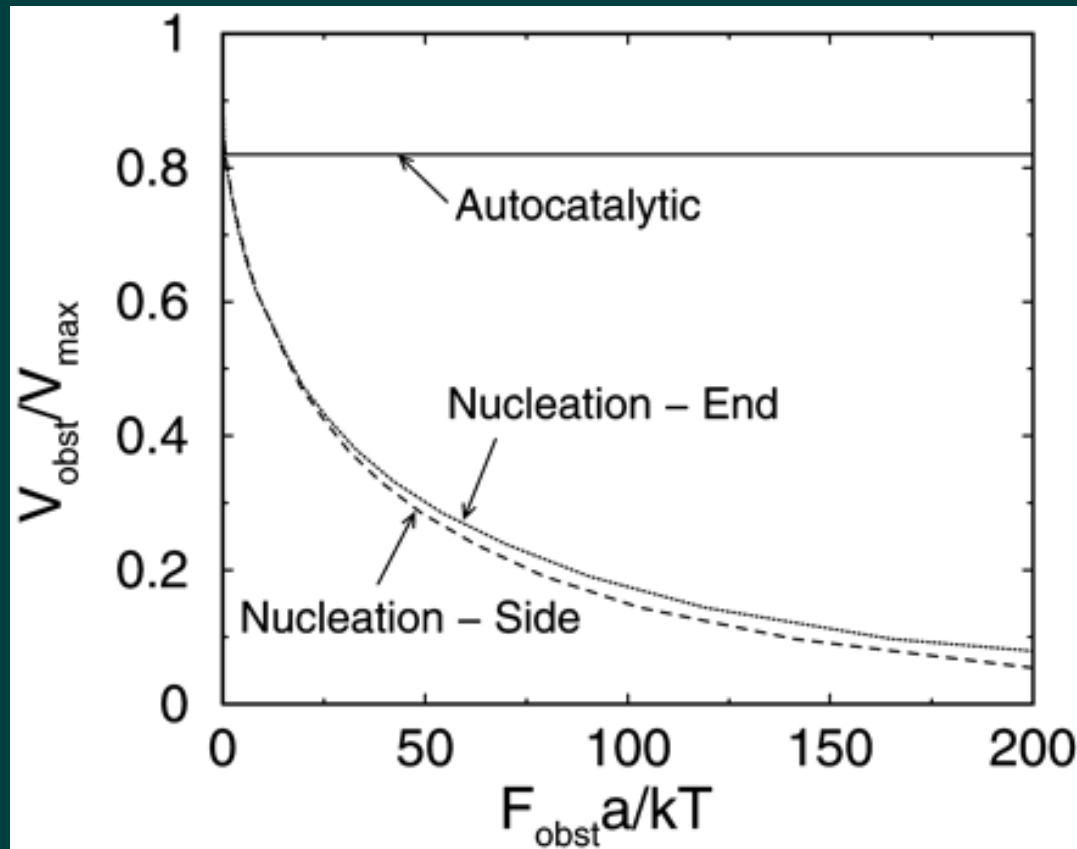
Wiesner, S., E. Helfer, D. Didry, F. Lafuma, M.-F. Carrier, and D. Pantaloni. 2003. *J. Cell Biol.* 160:387–398

# Fluctuations of velocity and tail density



Bernheim-Groswasser, A., Wiesner, S., Golsteyn, R. M., Carlier, M. F. & Sykes, C. (2002) *Nature* **417**, 308–311

Effects of branching kinetics:  
autocatalytic branching results  
in increase of filament density with force  
and flat force-velocity relationship



Carlsson AE. Biophys J. 2003 May;84(5):2907-18.

# force-velocity relationship for actin network measured with AFM cantilever

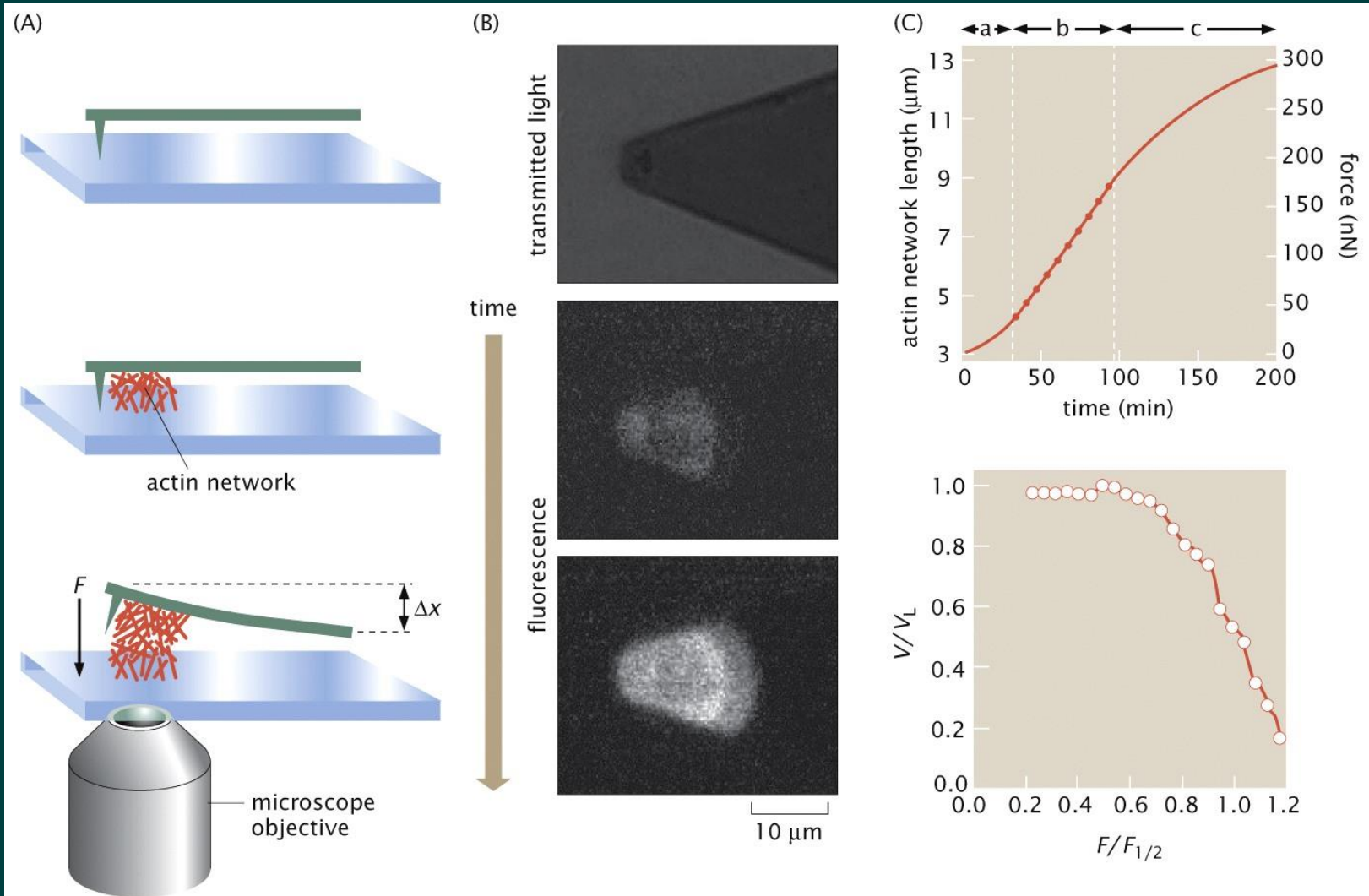


Figure 16.50 Physical Biology of the Cell, 2ed. (© Garland Science 2013)

see also: Bieling et al., Cell, 2016

# Measurement of force-velocity relation for actin comet-tail with a flexible glass needle

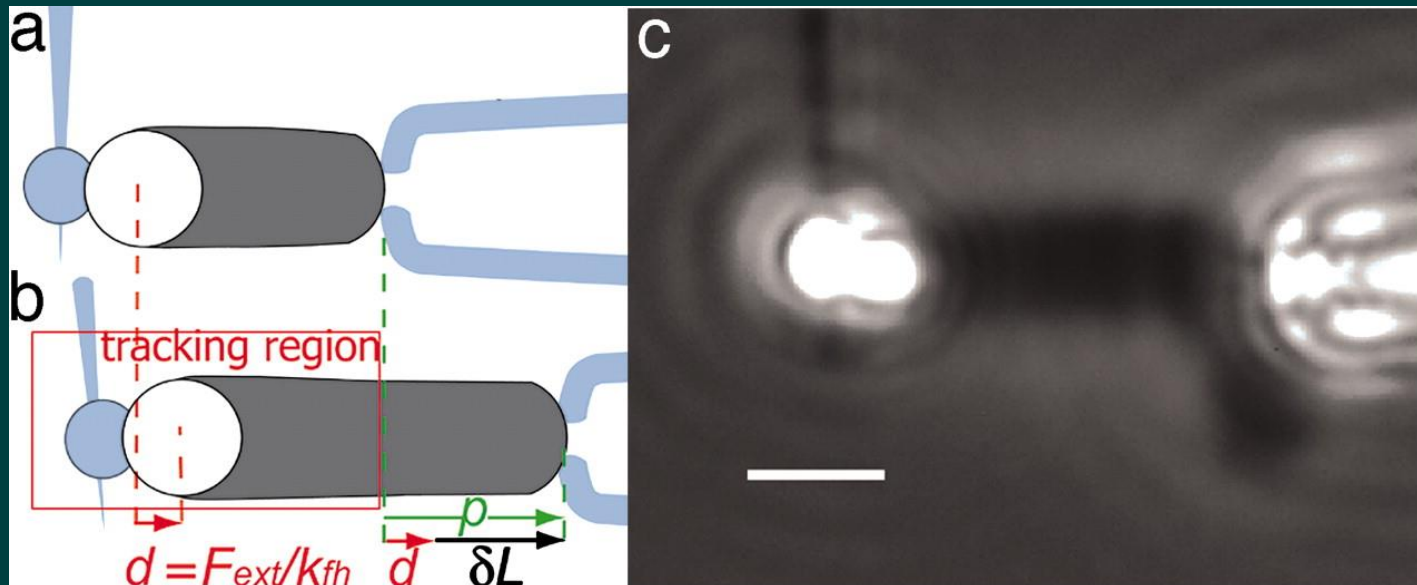
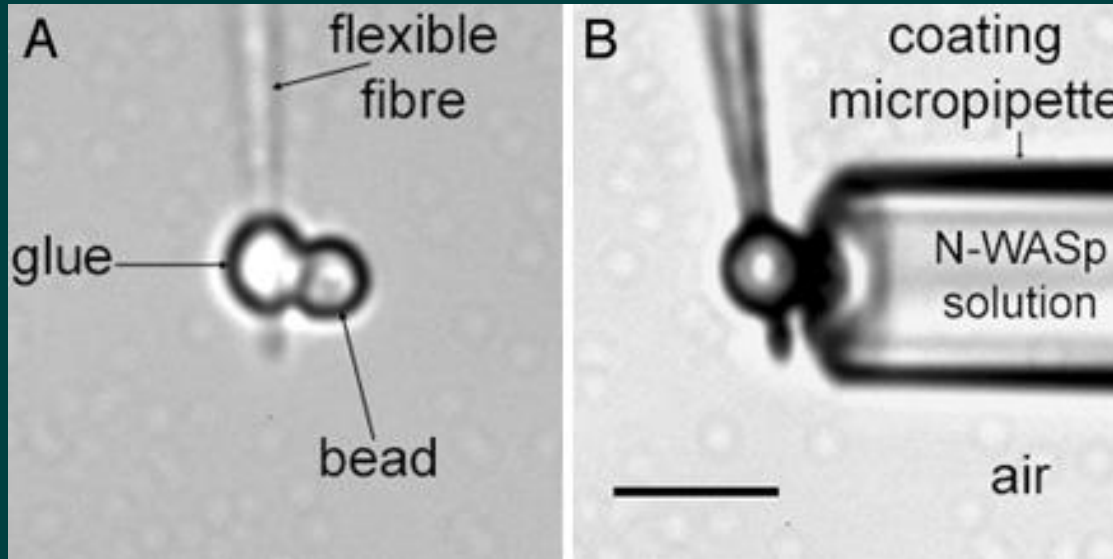
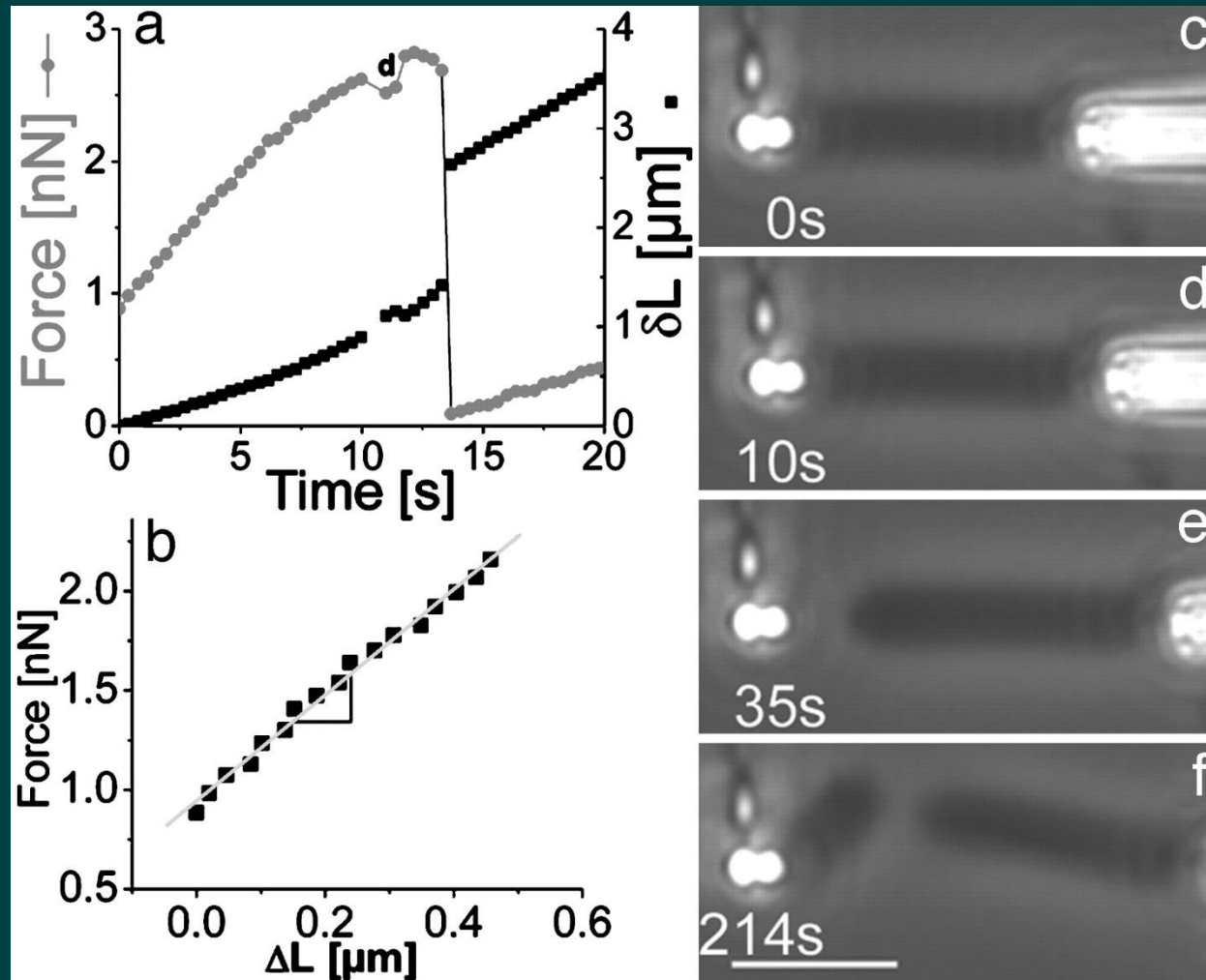


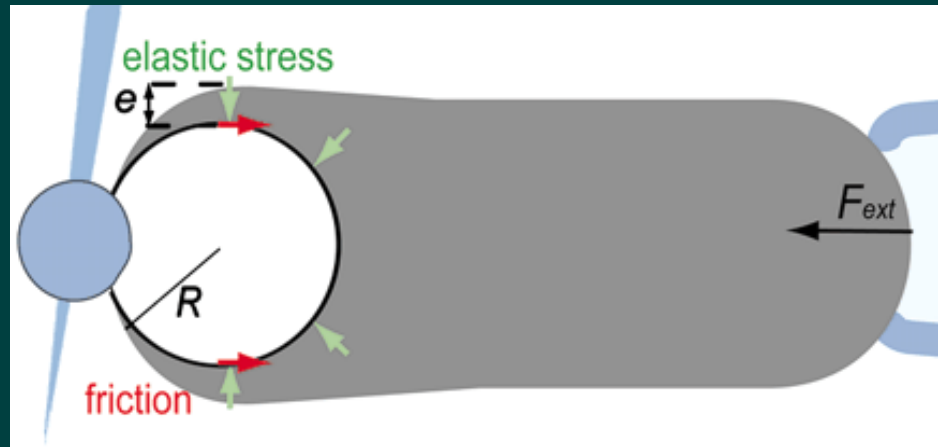
Fig. 3. Fast-pulling, detachment, and regeneration of a comet



force-extension curve allows estimation of elastic modulus

Marcy, Yann et al. (2004) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 101, 5992-5997

## elastic gel model of force generation

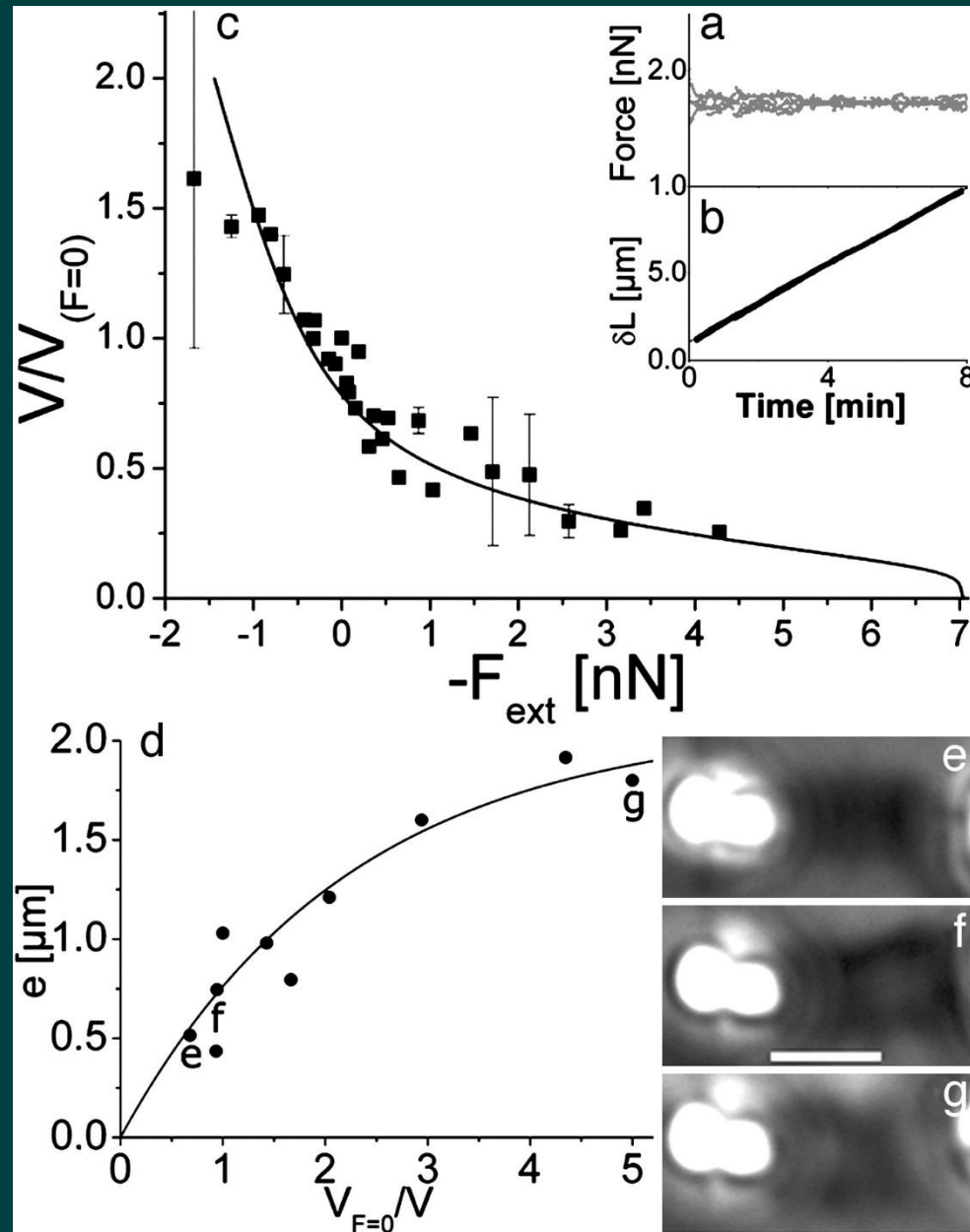


$$F_{ext} + F_{el} + F_{fric} = 0.$$

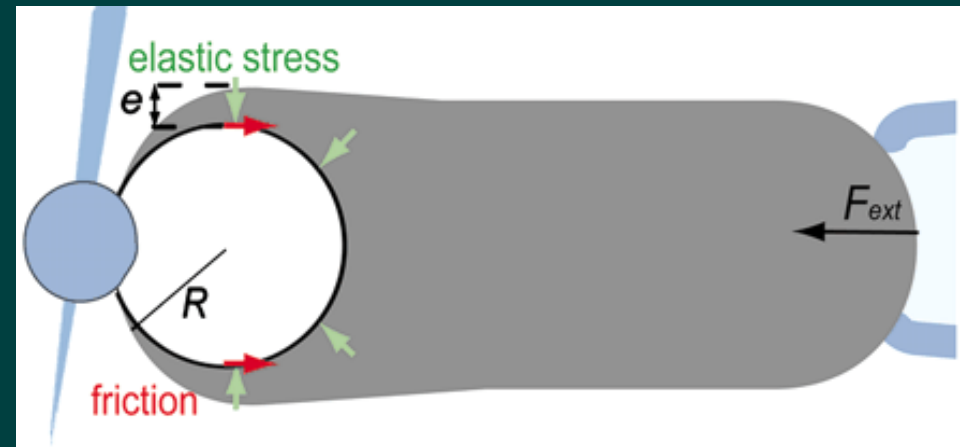
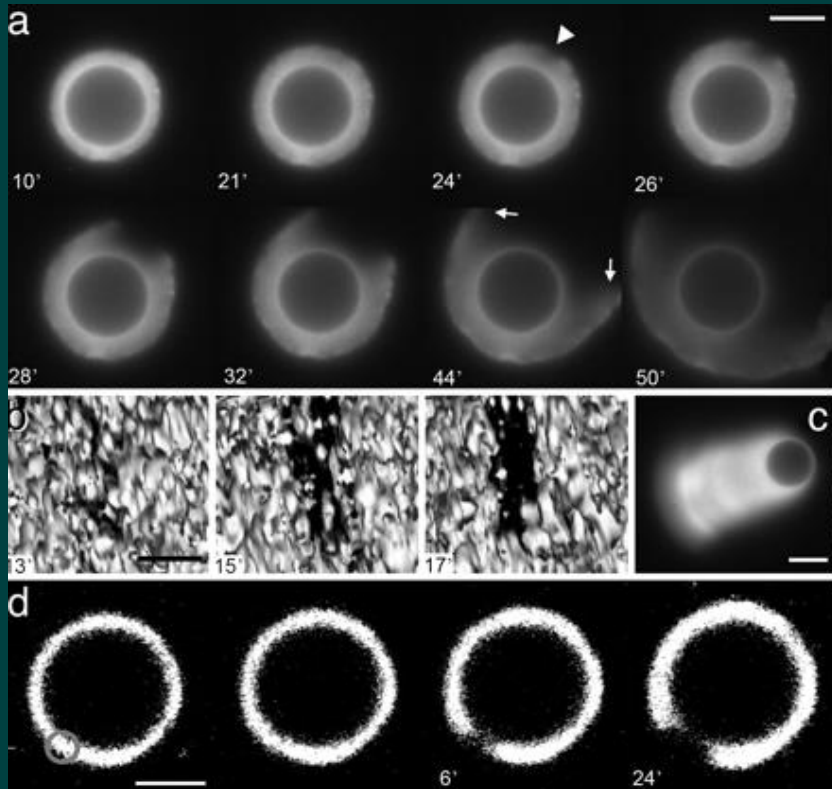
$$F_{ext} + E \frac{e^3}{R} \cong S\xi V.$$

$$e(V) = e^* \left[ 1 - \exp\left(-\frac{V_p^0 R}{V e^*}\right) \right].$$

# Force-velocity relation



## Alternative (?) to Brownian ratchet – elastic gel theory - symmetry breaking and propulsion



Marcy Y, Prost J, Carlier MF, Sykes C. PNAS, 2004; Gocht et al., PNAS, 2005

Are elastic gel and Brownian ratchet models really alternative?

They consider events at different scales:  
could be complementary to each other (?)

What is the feature that could distinguish between the two models?

Brownian ratchet model implies  
that filaments grow with their ends to the surface

In elastic gel theory filament orientation is not important

Brownian ratchet model implies  
that filaments grow with their ends to the surface

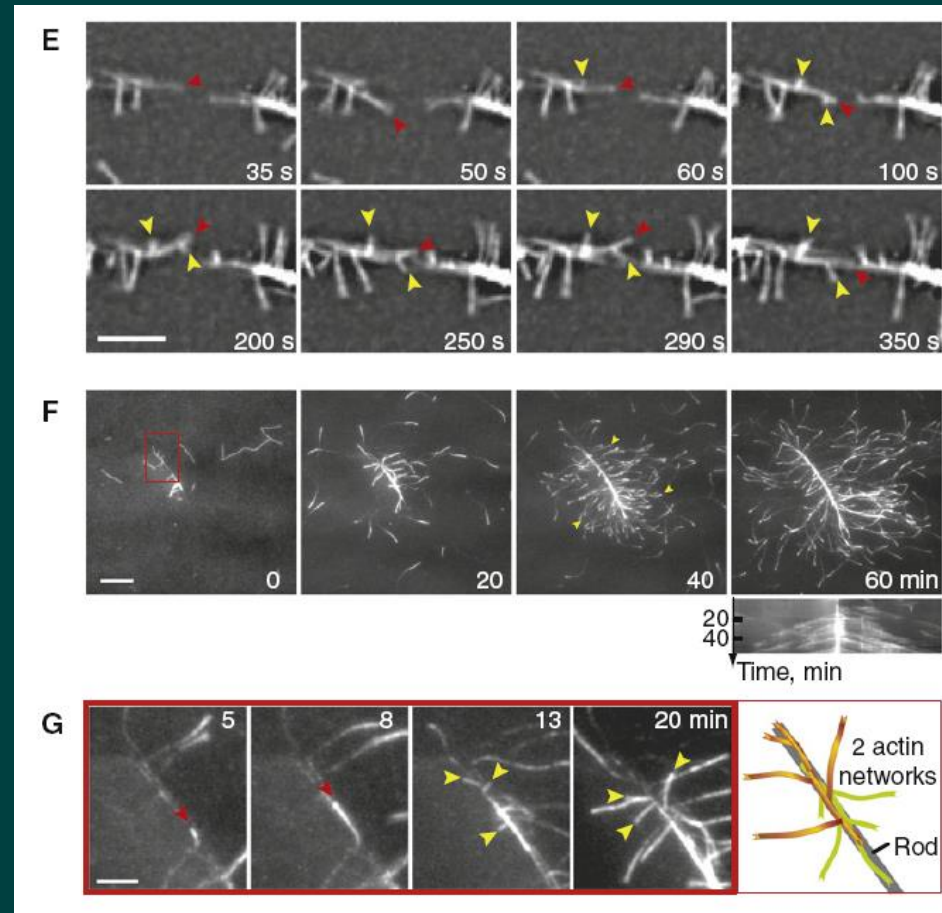
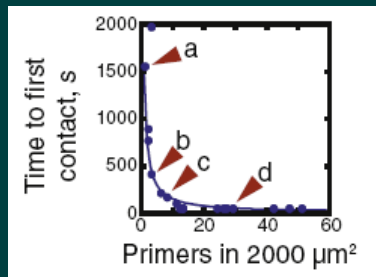
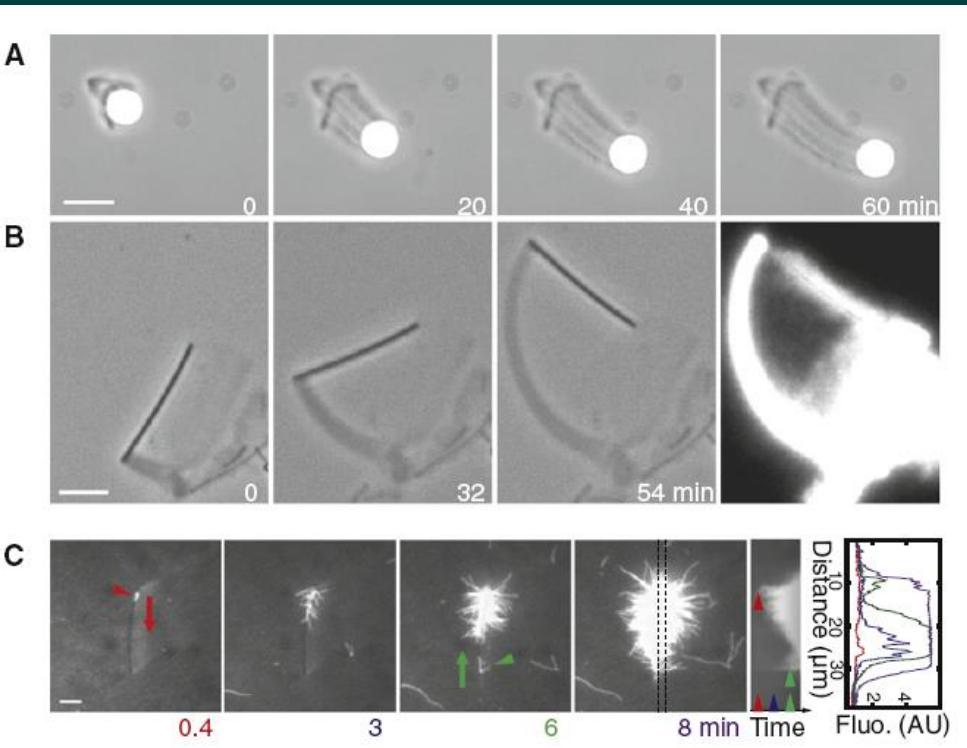
In elastic gel theory filament orientation is not important

Determining filament orientation and visualizing how they push  
would help to distinguish between the two models:

- In a reconstituted *in vitro* motility system

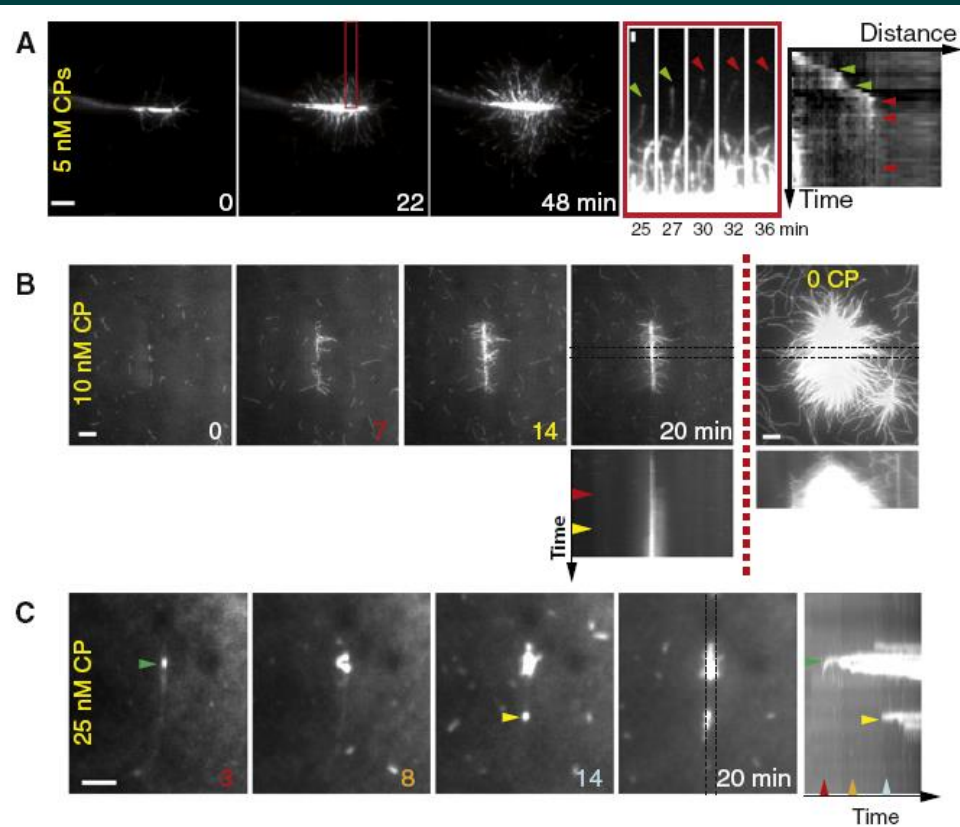
Achard et al., Current Biology 20, 423-28, 2010

Autocatalytic branching starts after filament “primer” contacts a particle functionalized with Arp2,3 activator. Filaments grow **away** from the particle.

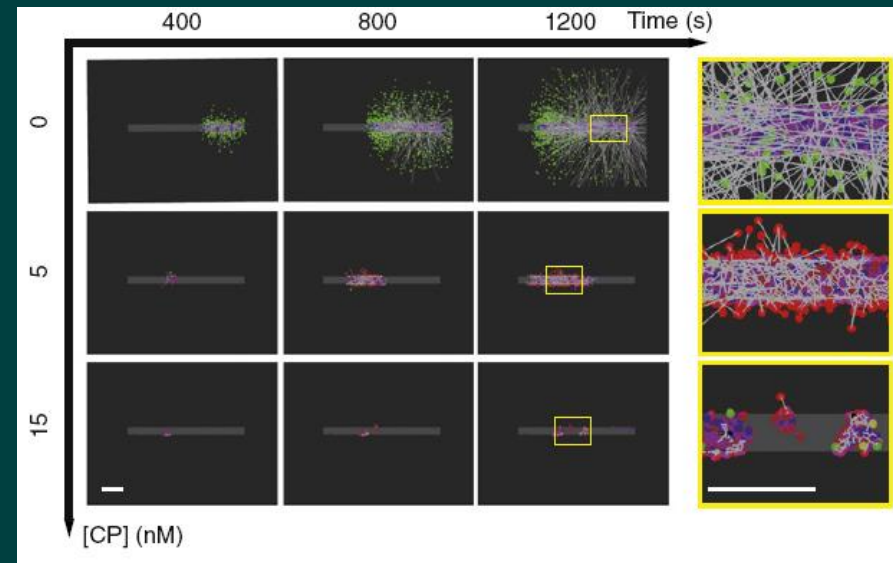


# Capping protein limits the size of actin network around the particle and increases its density

## experiment

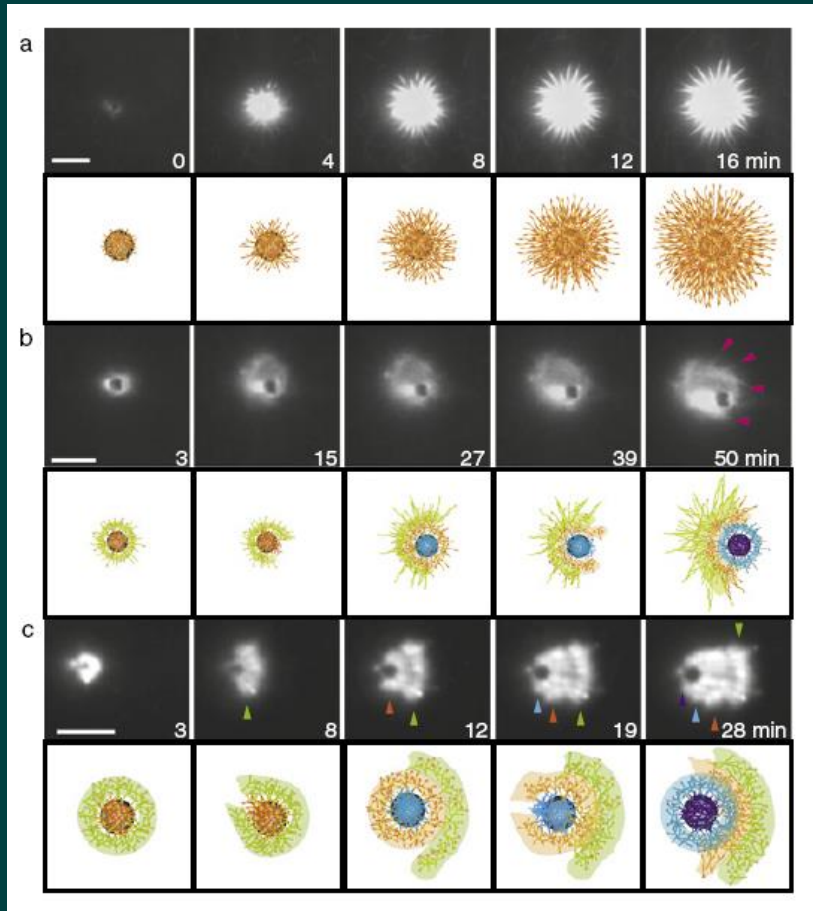


## simulation

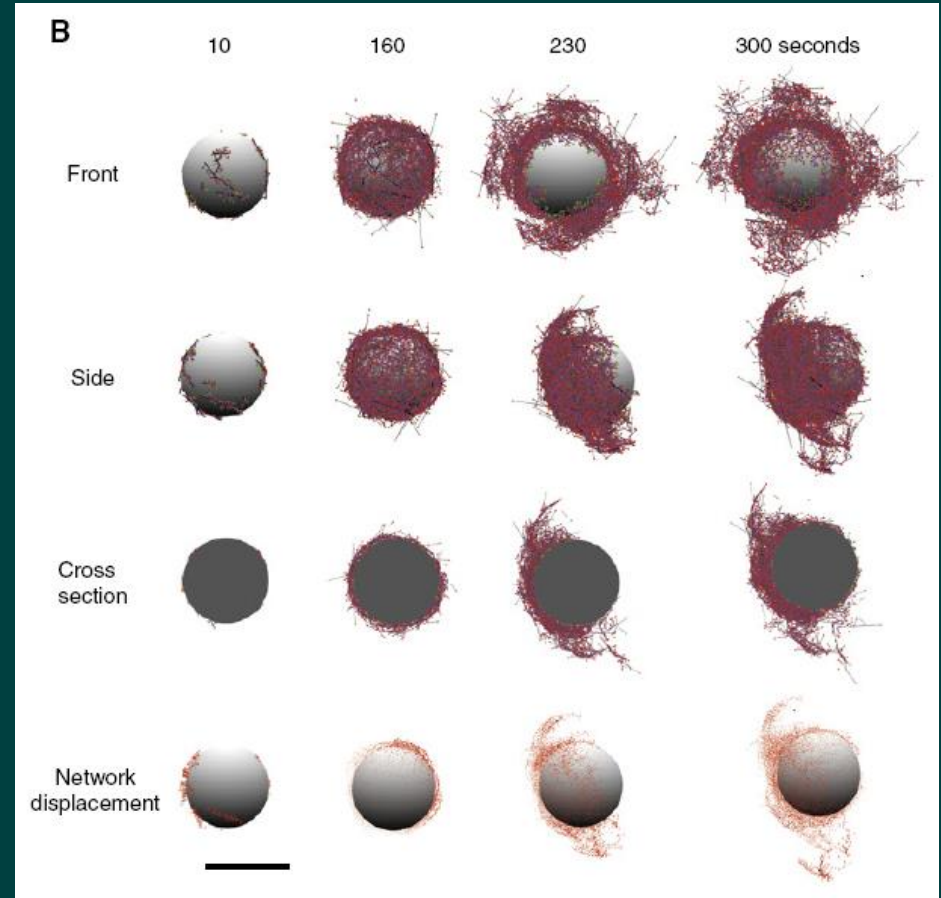


# Multiple actin shell-breaking leads to motility

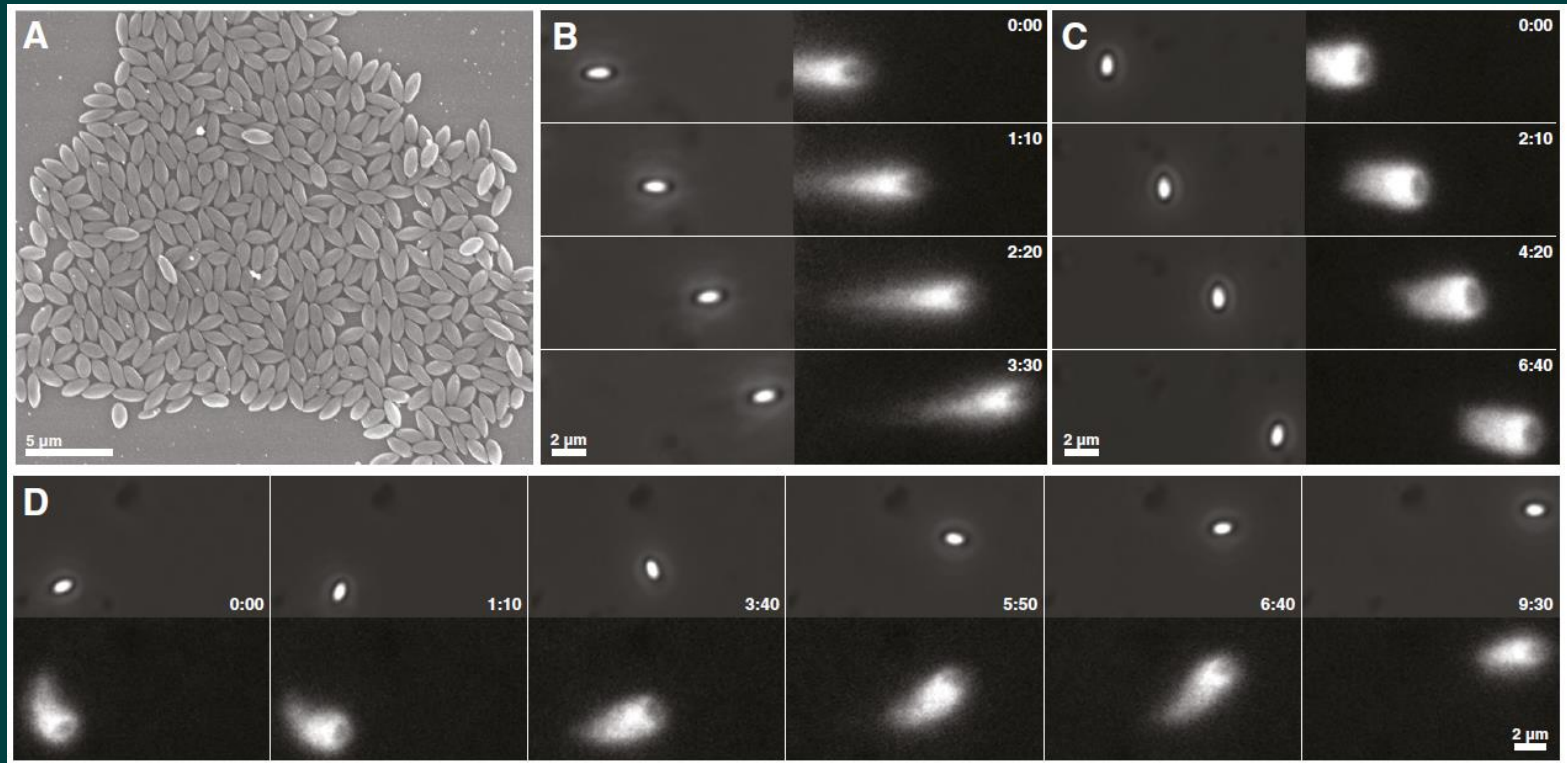
experiment



model



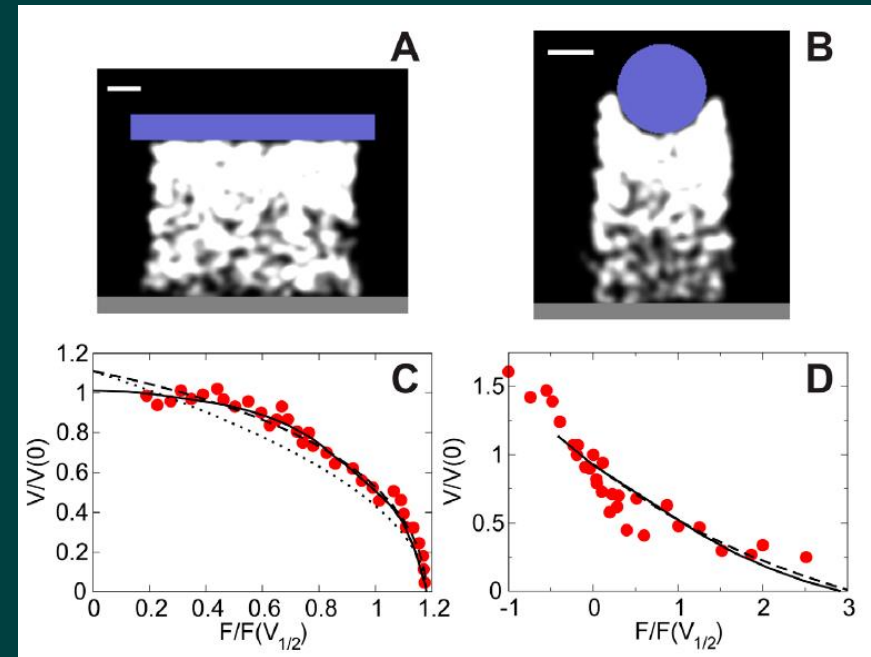
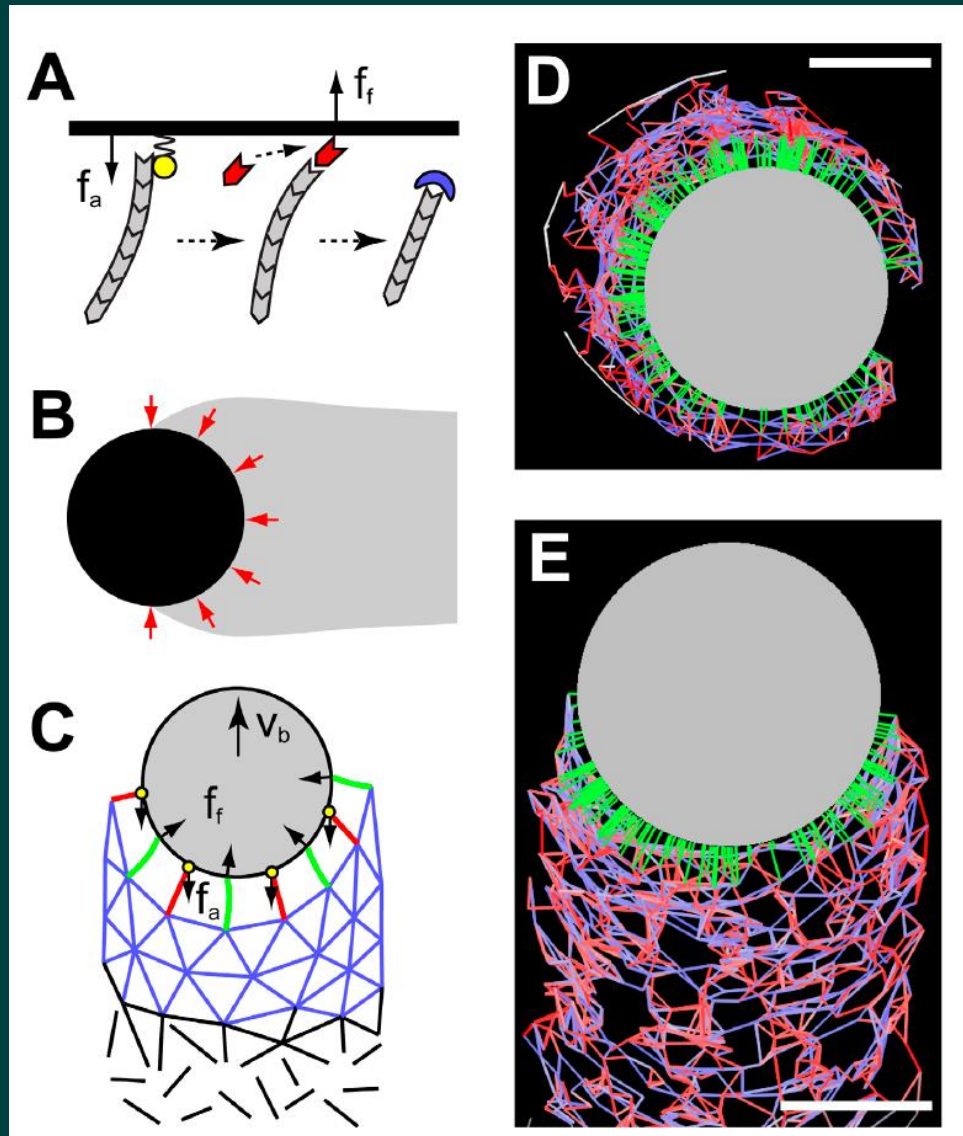
## Synthes of elastic gel and Brownian ratchet models



ellipsoidal beads move in two orientations

Lacayo et al., MBoC, 2012

# Explained by a hybrid model



actin organization and polymerization forces in the cell:

Measuring protrusive forces in vivo

Is the filament organization at the cell edge really similar to the branching network generated in vitro?

What is the filament length?

How are filaments oriented?

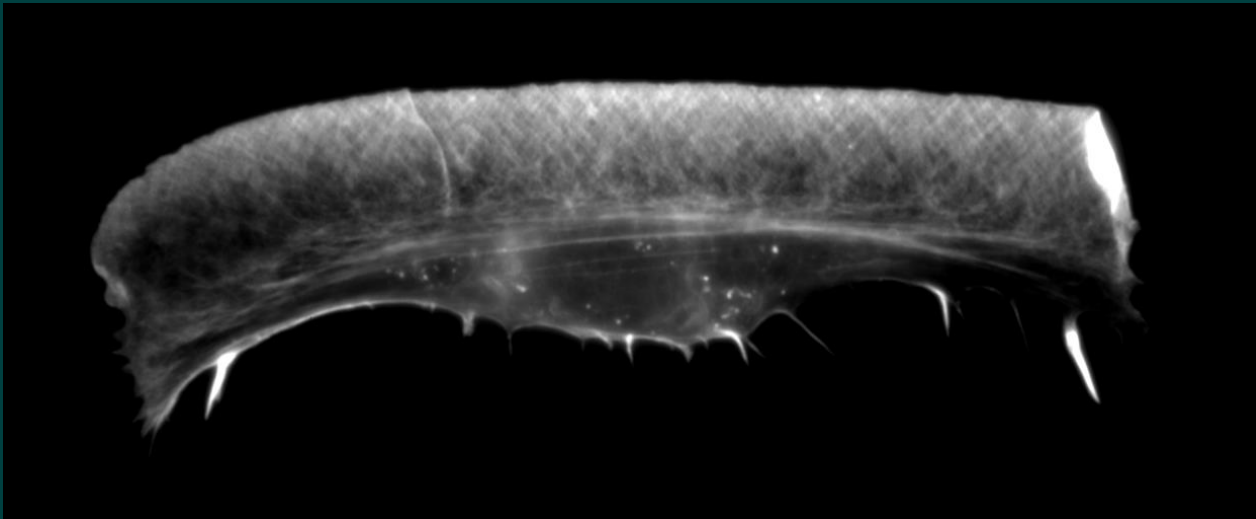
Problems of EM: difficult to measure, prone to artifacts

Brownian ratchet model implies  
that filaments grow with their ends to the surface

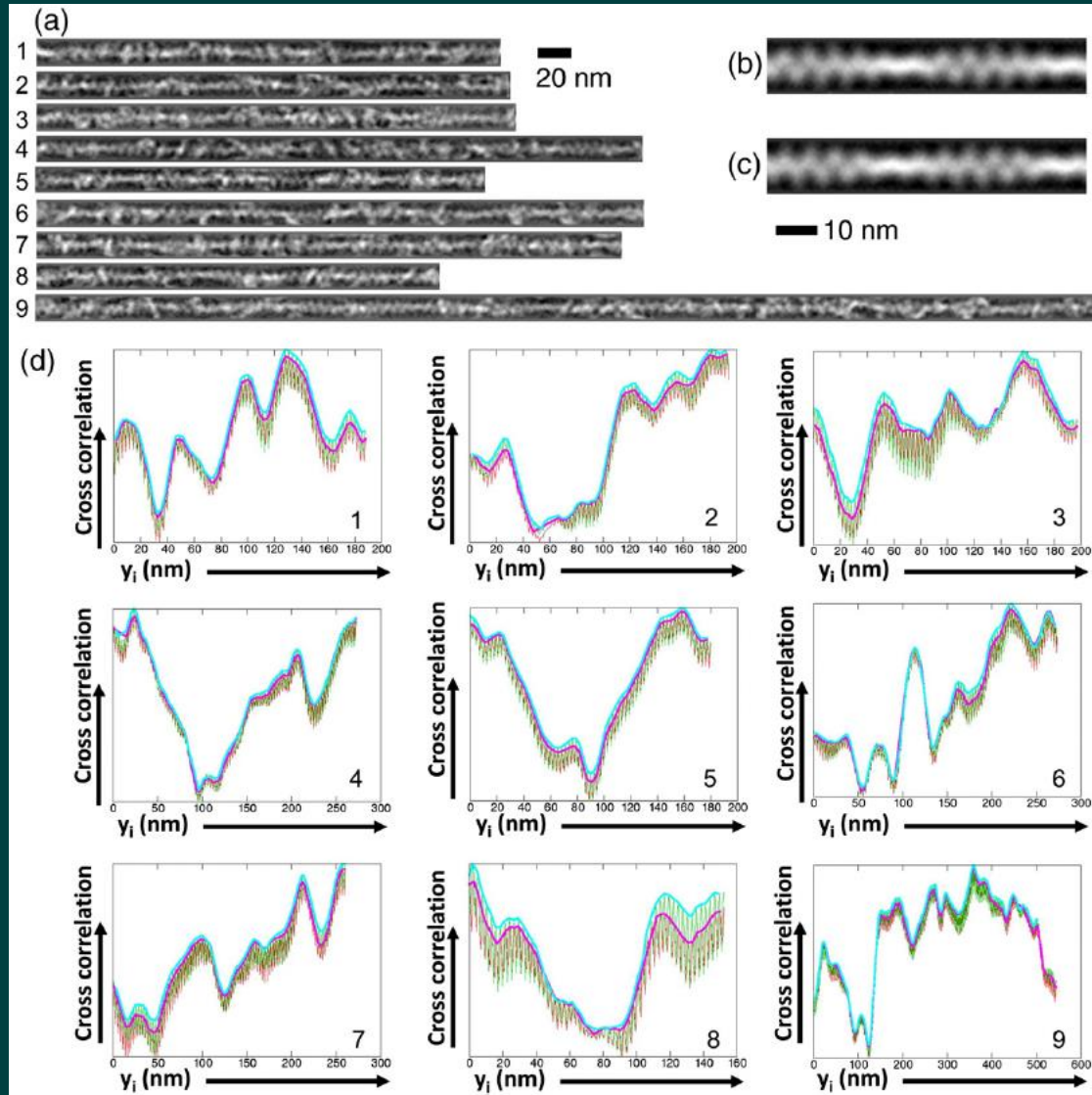
In elastic gel theory filament orientation is not important

What is the filament orientation in reality?

- In the lamellipodia of migrating cells filaments are oriented with barbed ends towards the edge, consistent with Brownian ratchet model

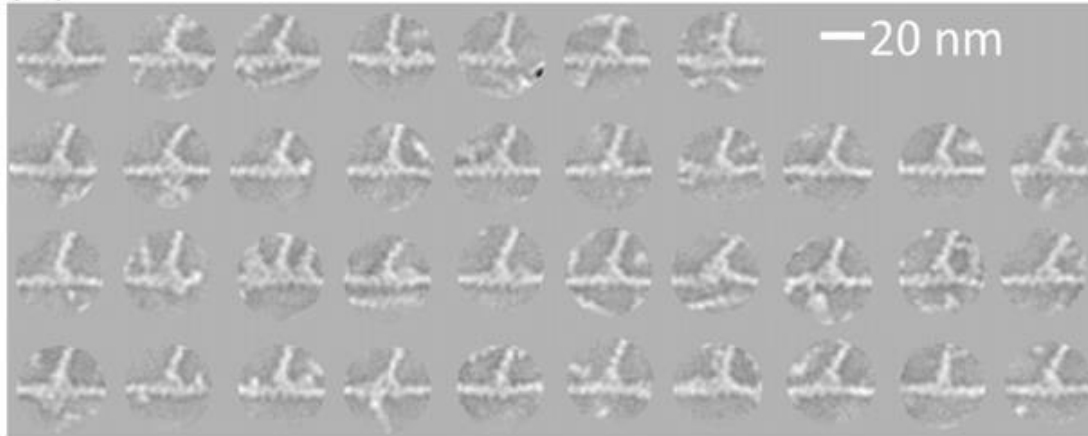


# Direct determination of actin filament polarity

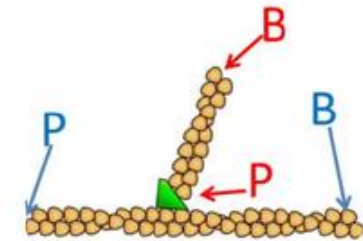


# Branches and polarity

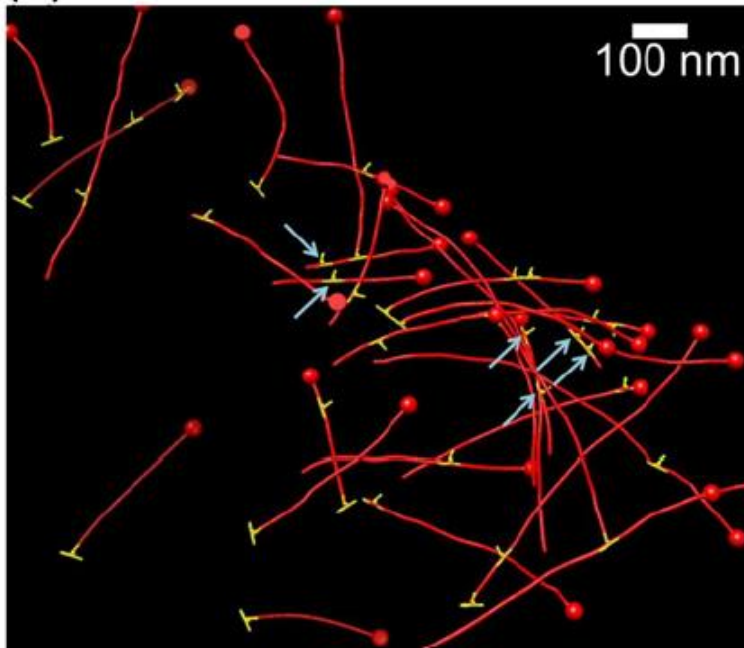
(a)



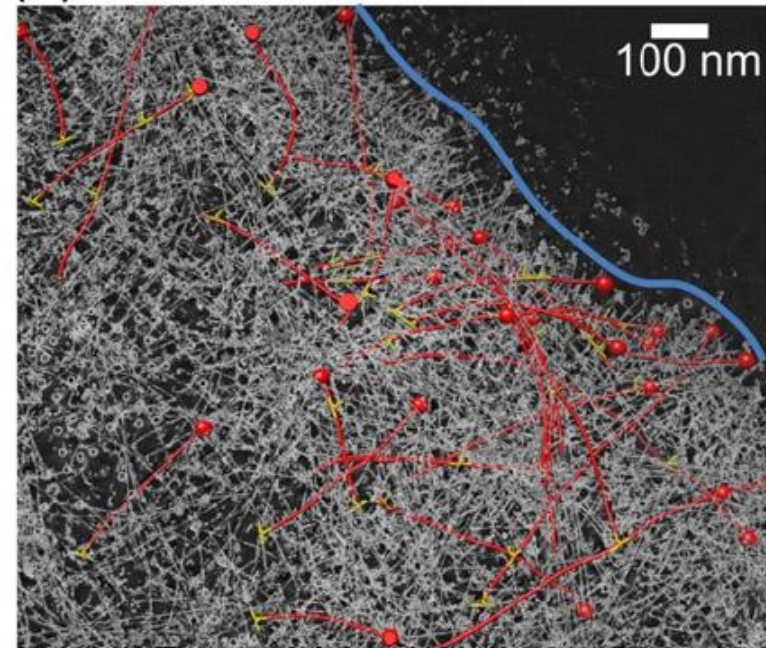
(b)

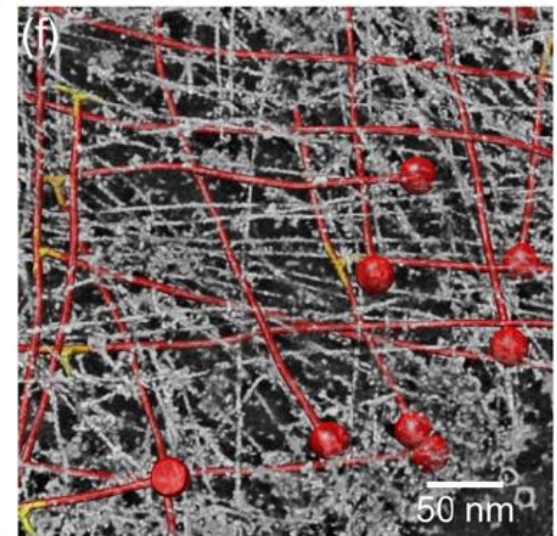
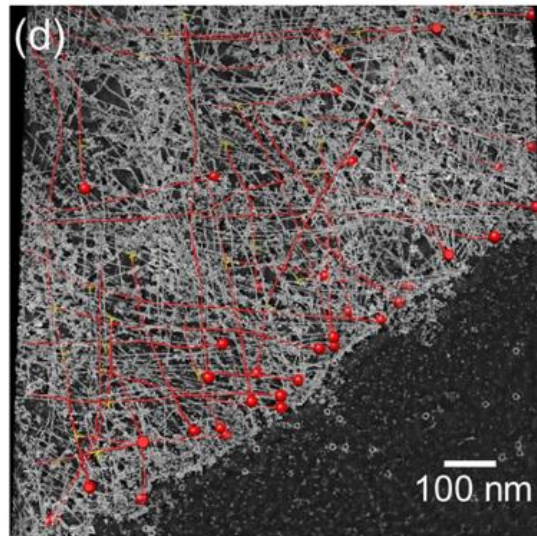
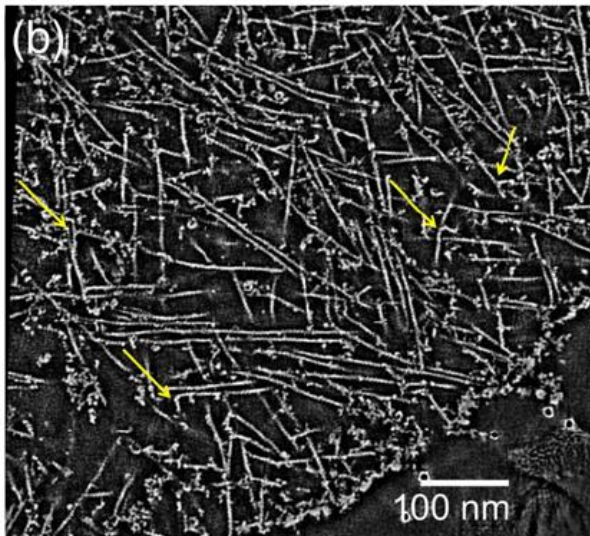
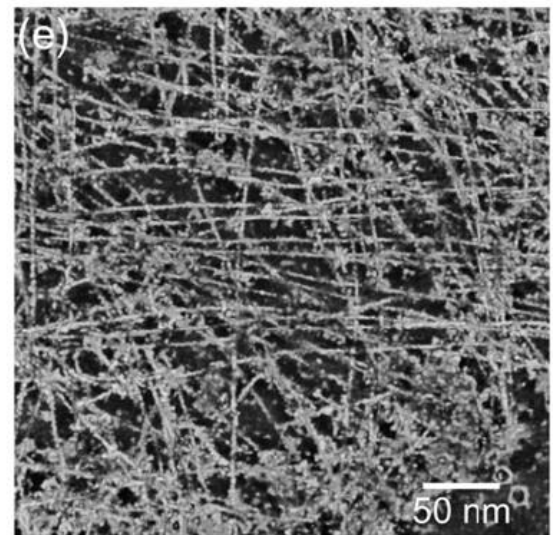
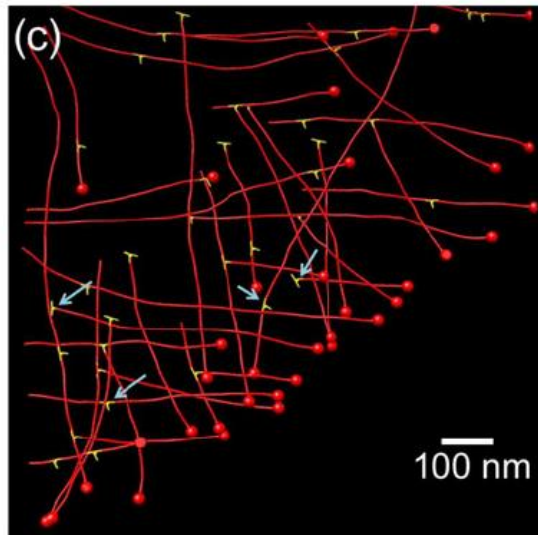
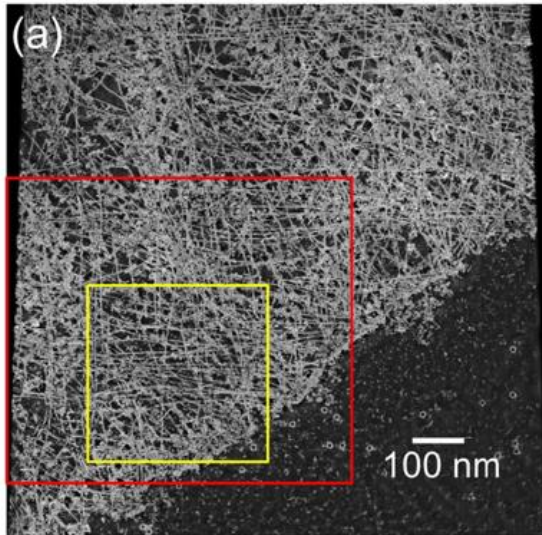


(c)

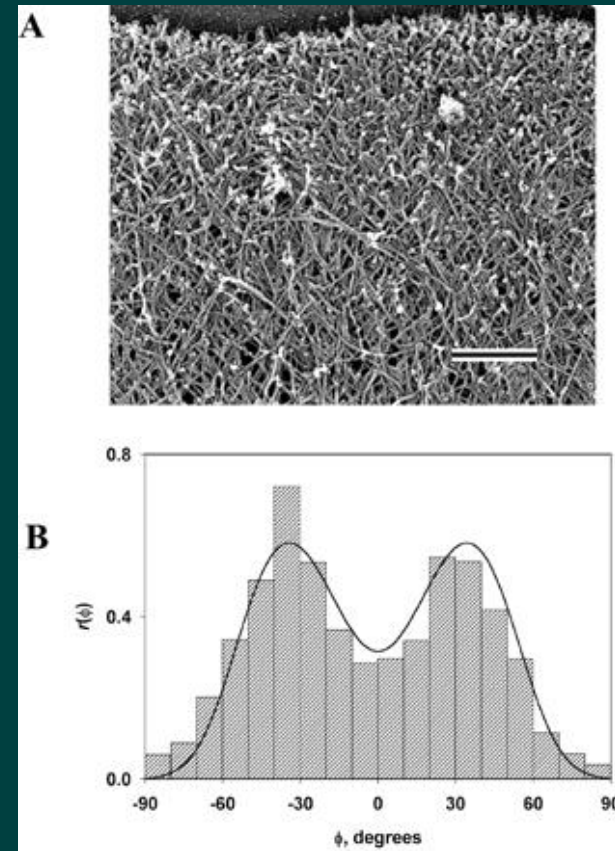
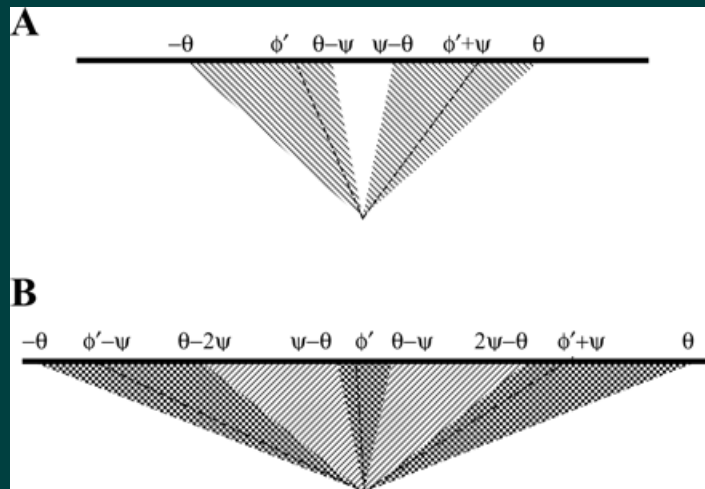
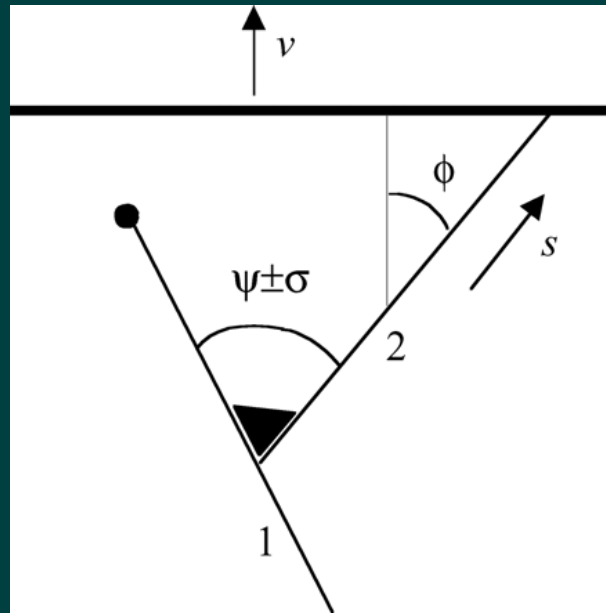


(d)





# Selection of filament orientation



Maly IV, Borisy GG. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2001 98:11324-9

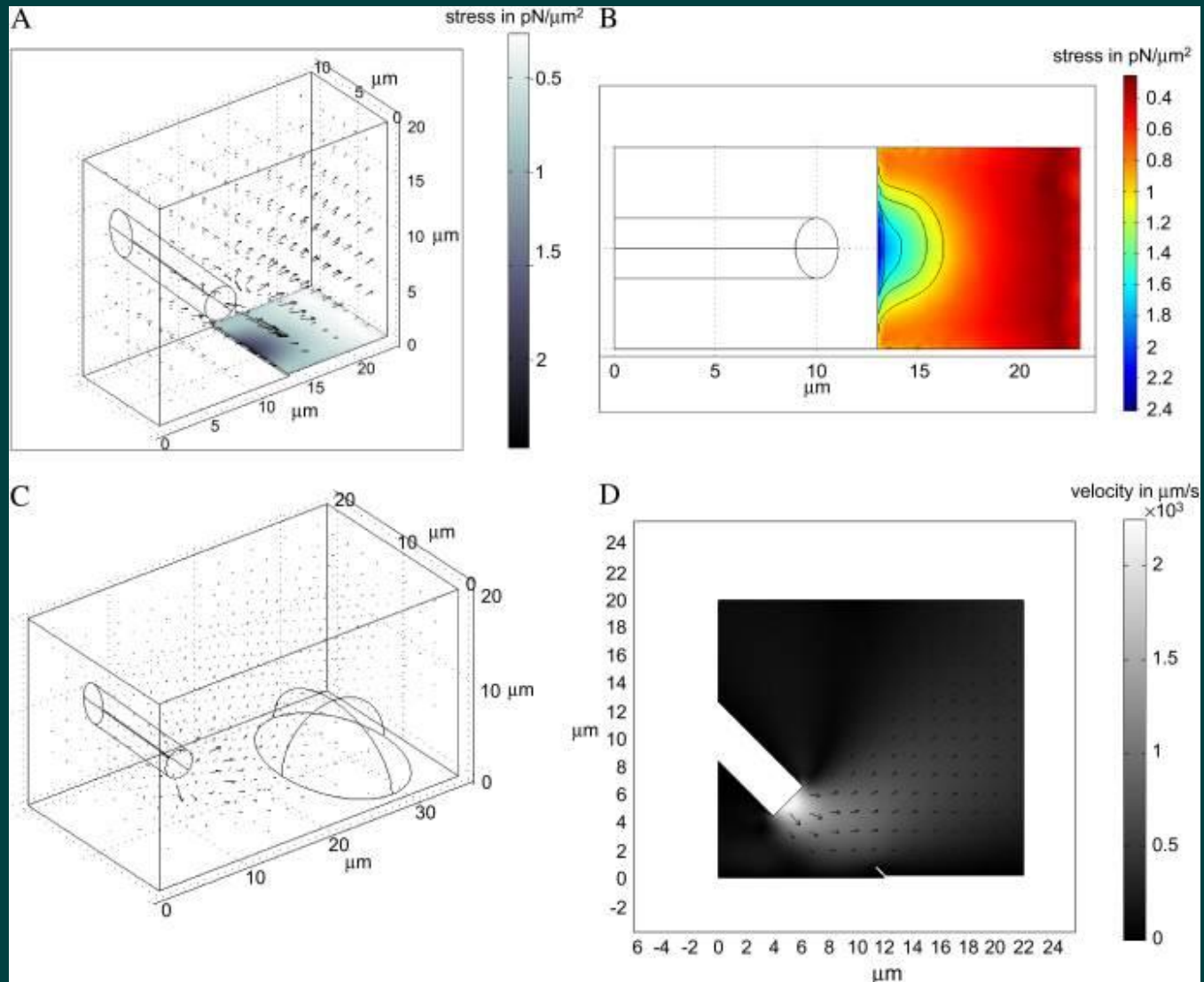
## Experimental measurement of polymerization force in the cells

lamellipodial protrusion stalled with fluid flow

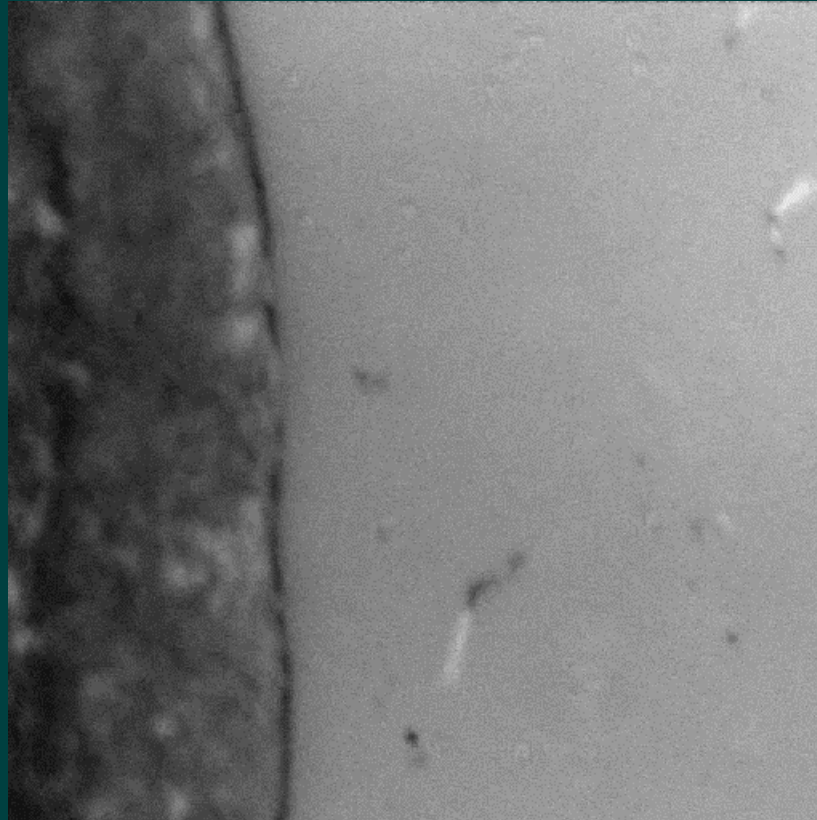


Bohnet et al., Biophys. J., 2006

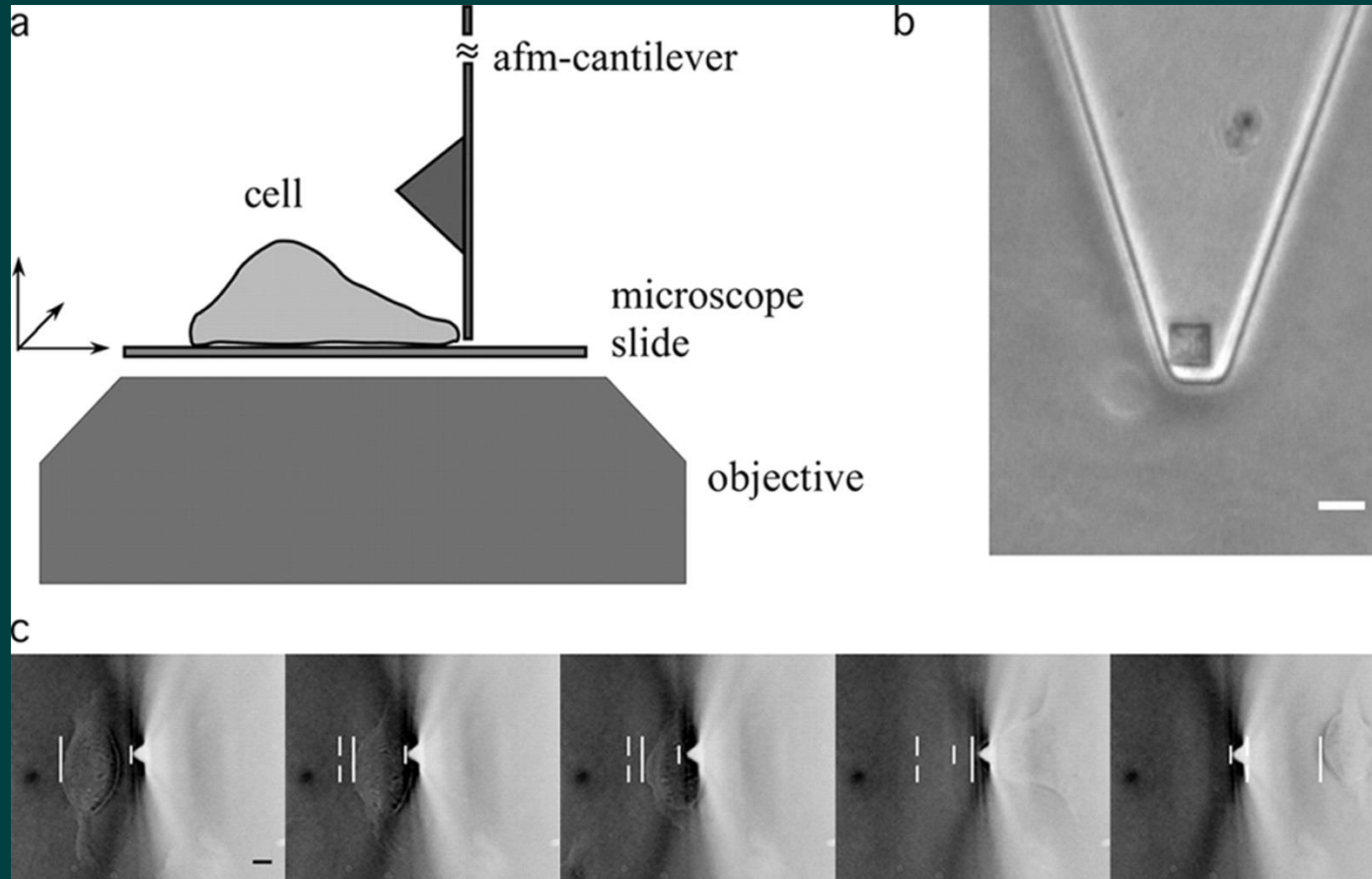
force to stall the edge estimated in a few pN range



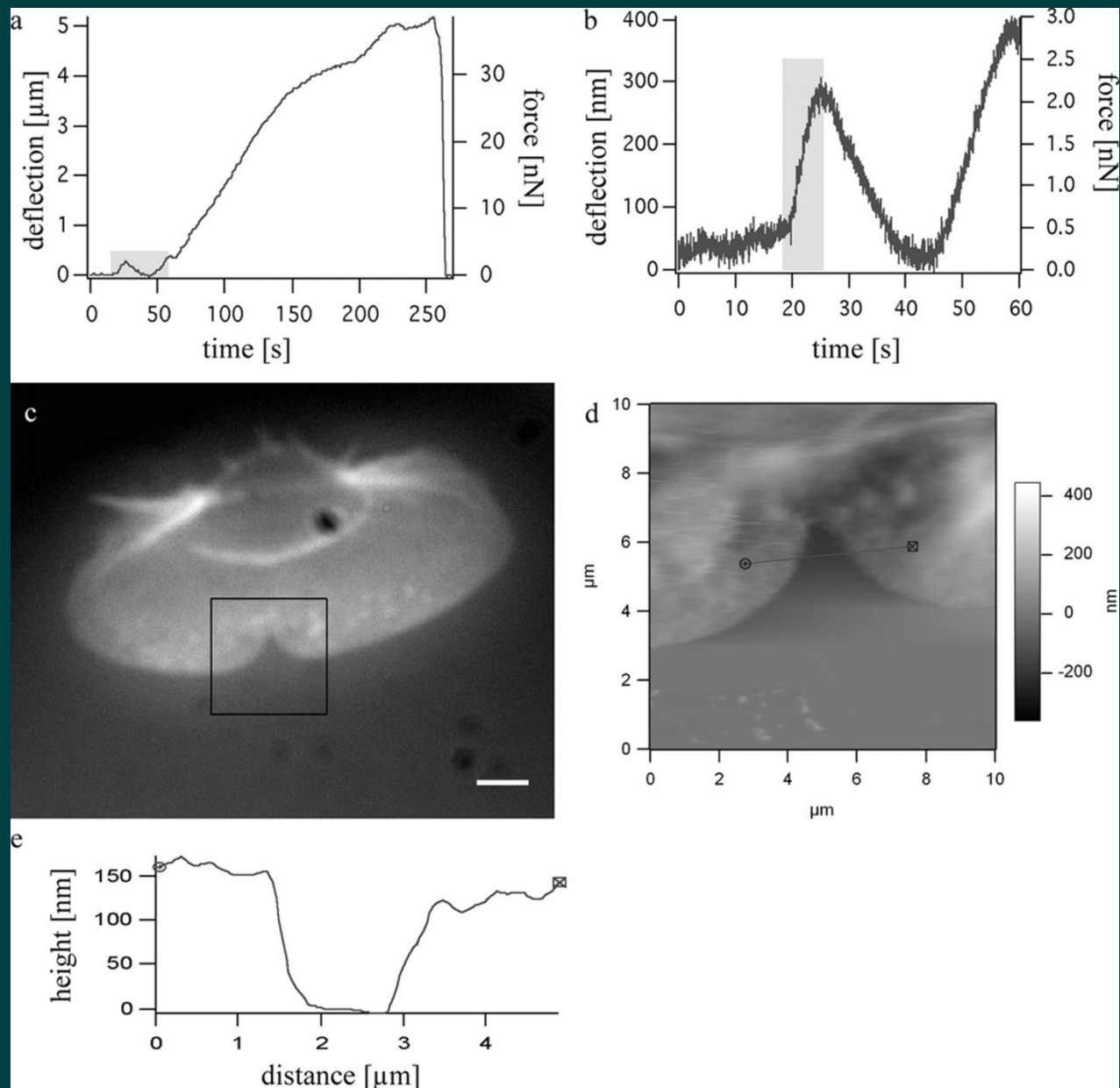
IRM: competition between the external force  
and the nascent contacts at the very tip of the  
lamellipodia



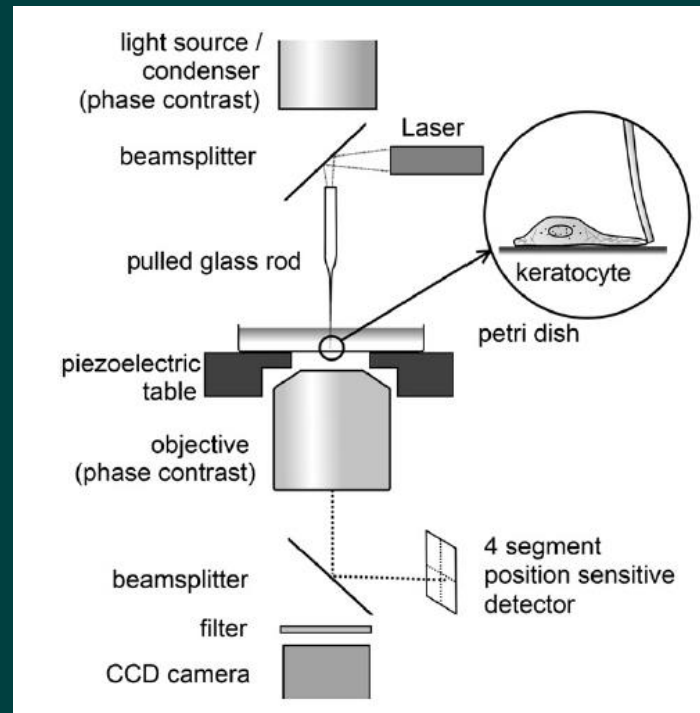
## Measuring protrusive force with the AFM



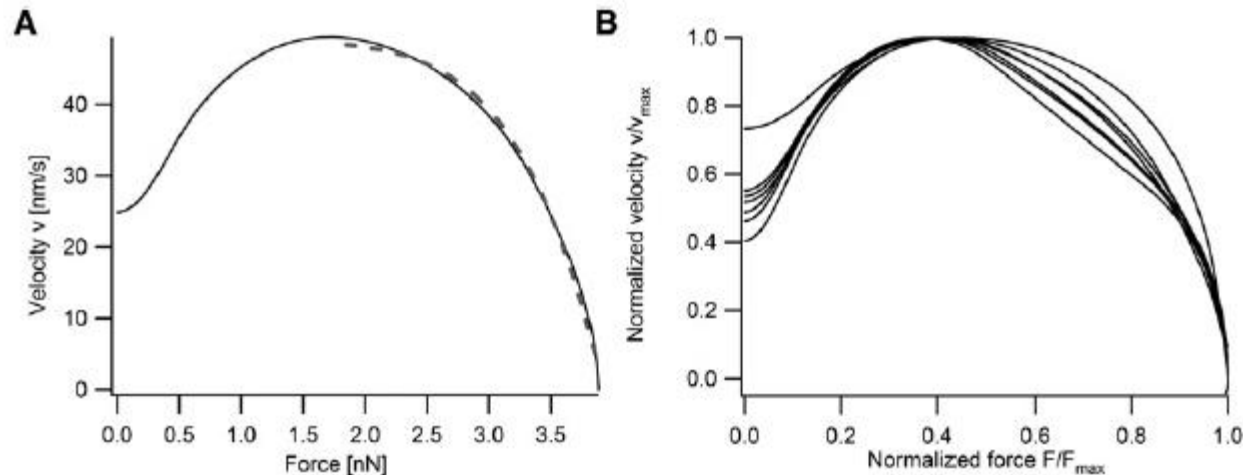
Prass et al., J. Cell Biol., 2006



## With optical fiber

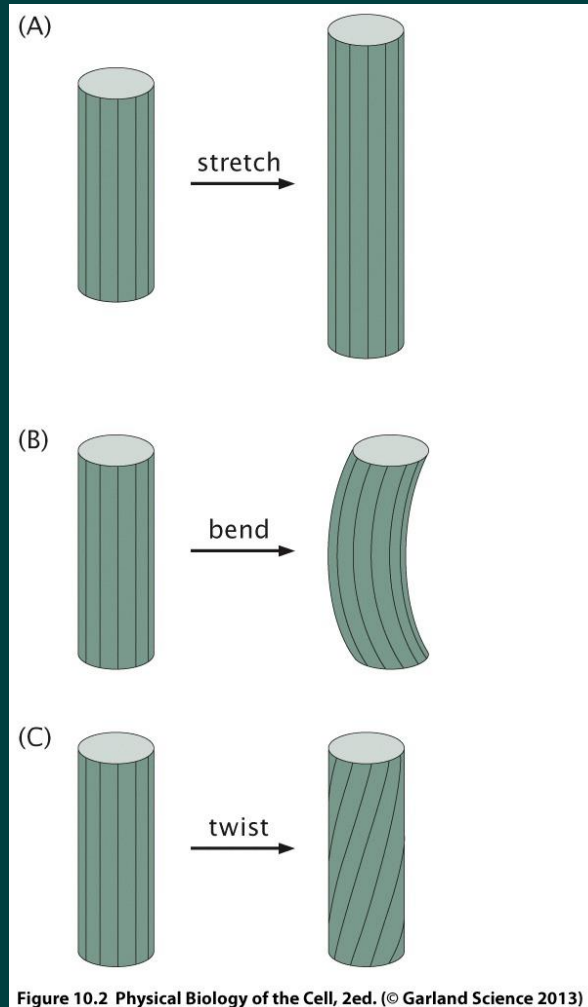


Heinemann et al.,  
BJ, 2011

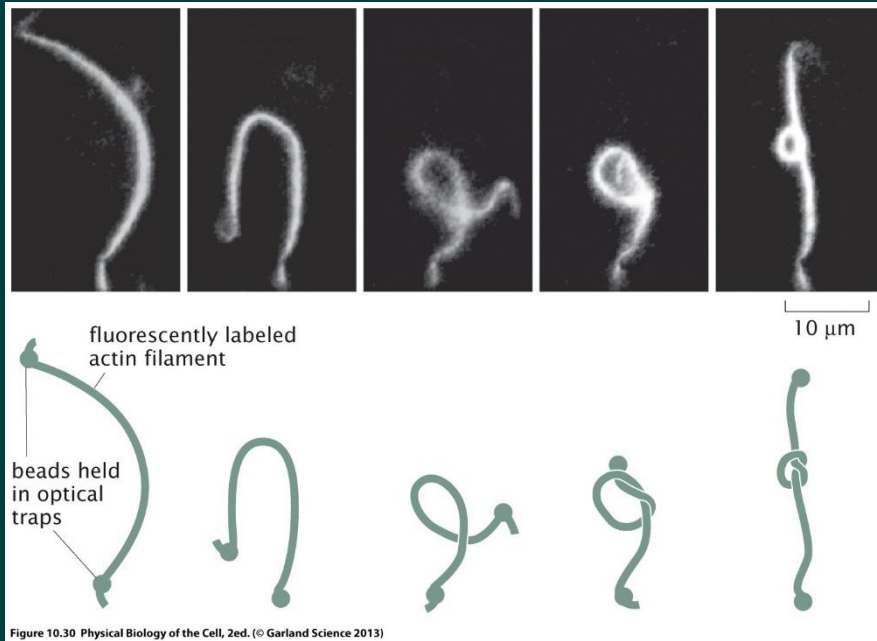


Filament reorganization and/or deformation may be responsible for convex up force-velocity profiles in vivo

## modes of filament deformation



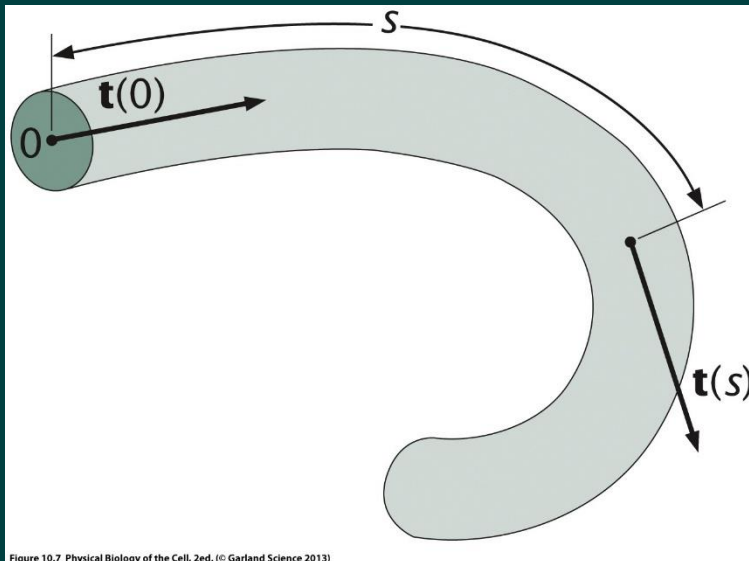
filaments are flexible  
persistence length



$$k_B T \approx \frac{EI L}{2R^2}$$

for  $L = R = \text{persistence length}$

$$\xi_P \approx \frac{EI}{2k_B T}$$



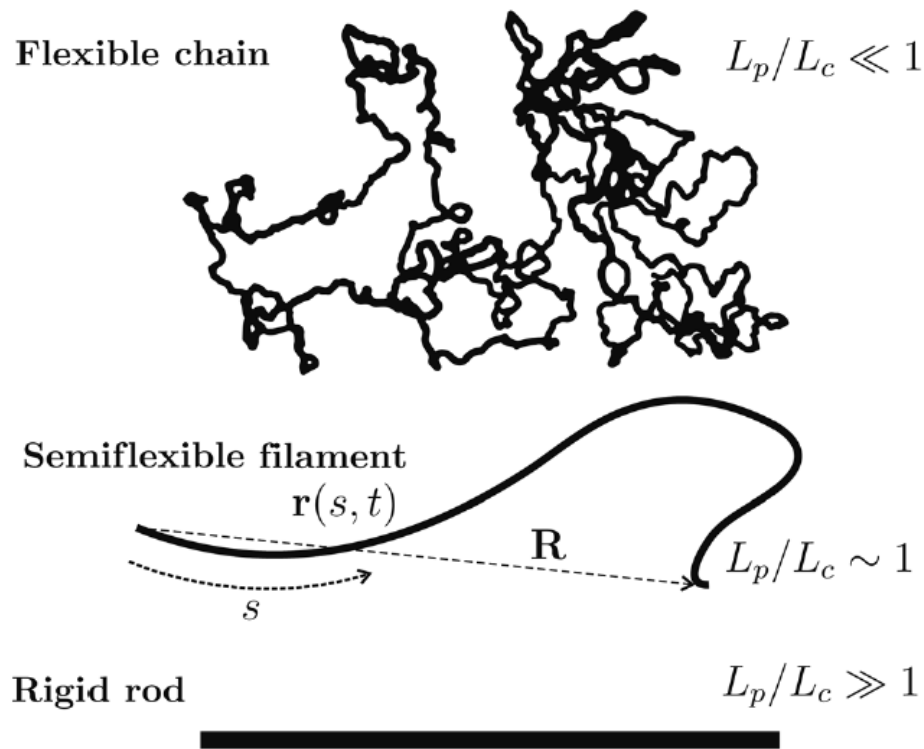
from correlation of tangent vectors

$$g(s) = \langle \mathbf{t}(s) \cdot \mathbf{t}(0) \rangle$$

$$g(s) = e^{-\frac{s}{\xi_P}}$$

$$\xi_P = \frac{EI}{k_B T}$$

$$EI = \xi_P k_B T$$

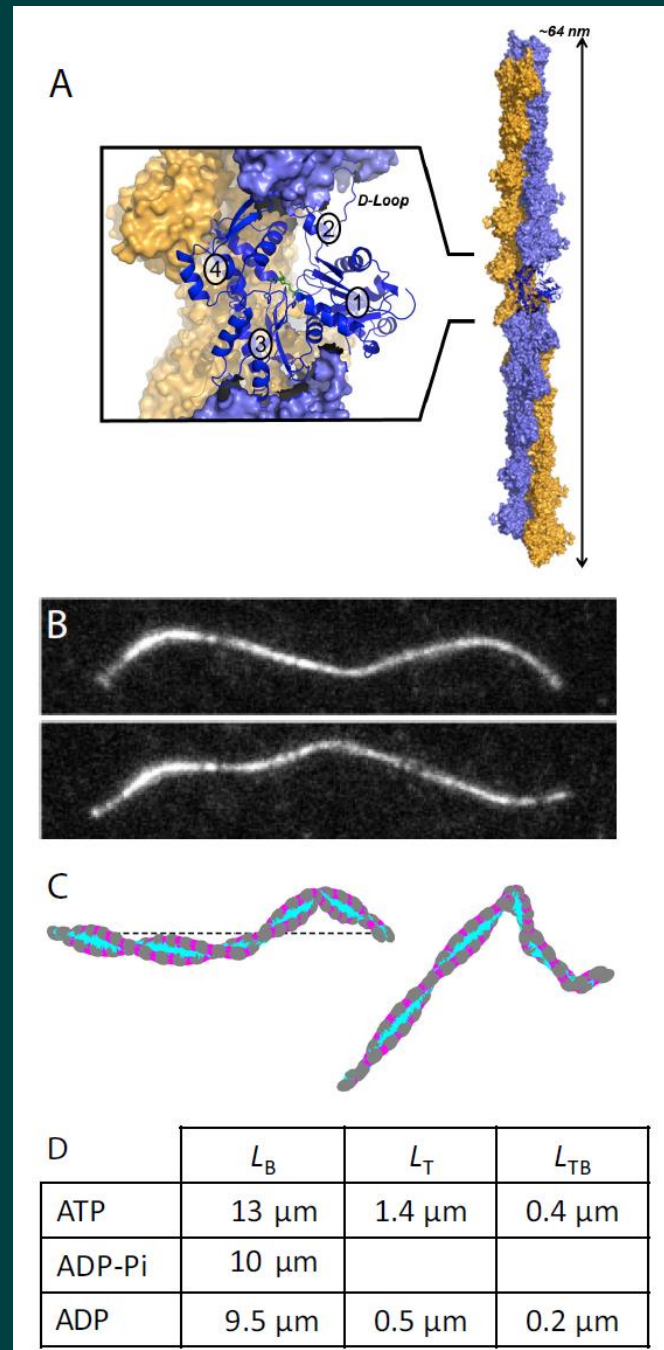


Persistence length  $L_p$

Fig. 1 Chain conformation depends on persistence length,  $L_p$ , and contour length,  $L_c$ . Flexible chains take a random coil formation, semiflexible filaments are comparatively straight with thermally induced bending undulations, and rigid rods are not influenced by thermal energy.

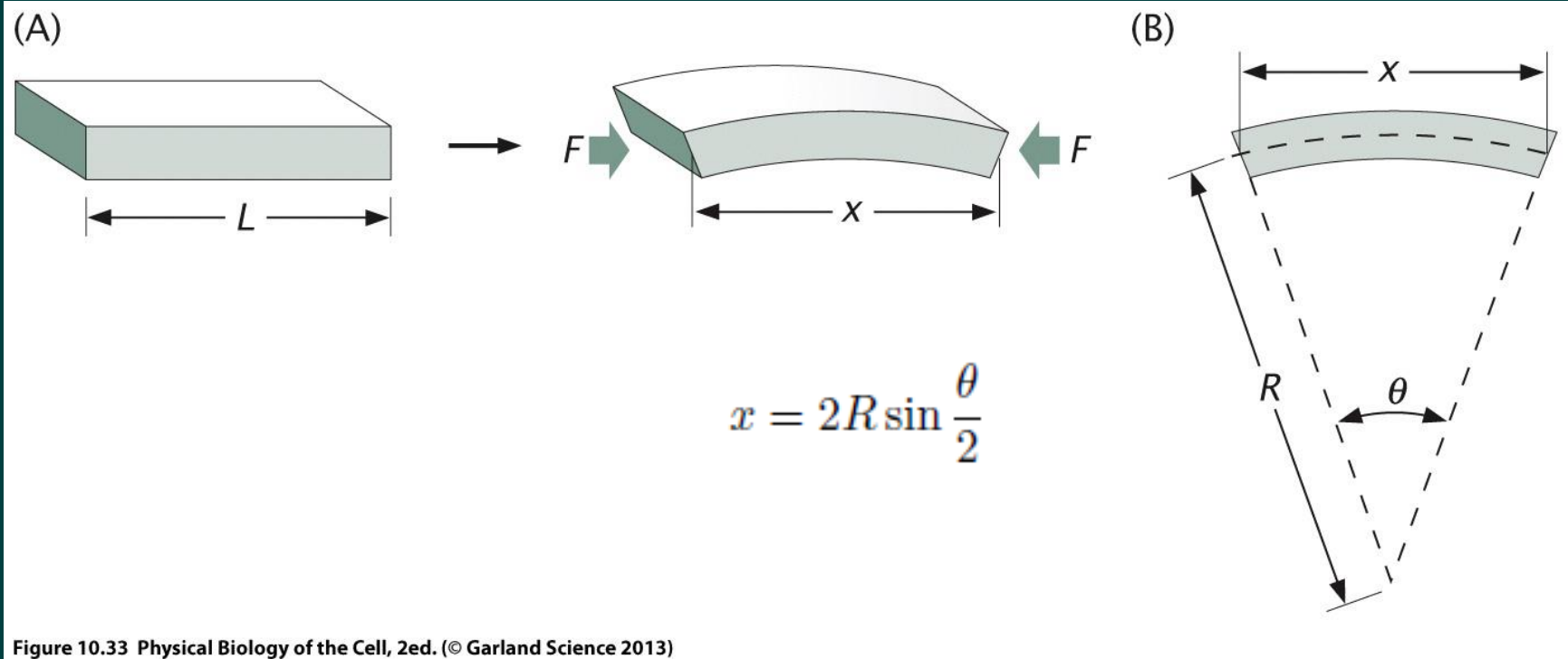
Pritchard et al., Soft Matter, 2014

# Actin filaments: bending, torsional and coupled twist-bend persistence lengths



De la Cruz and  
Gardel, 2015

to buckle, work of buckling force should exceed strain energy of bending



$$EI = \xi_P k_B T$$

$$E_{\text{tot}} = \frac{\xi_P k_B T}{2} \frac{L}{R^2} - F(L - x)$$

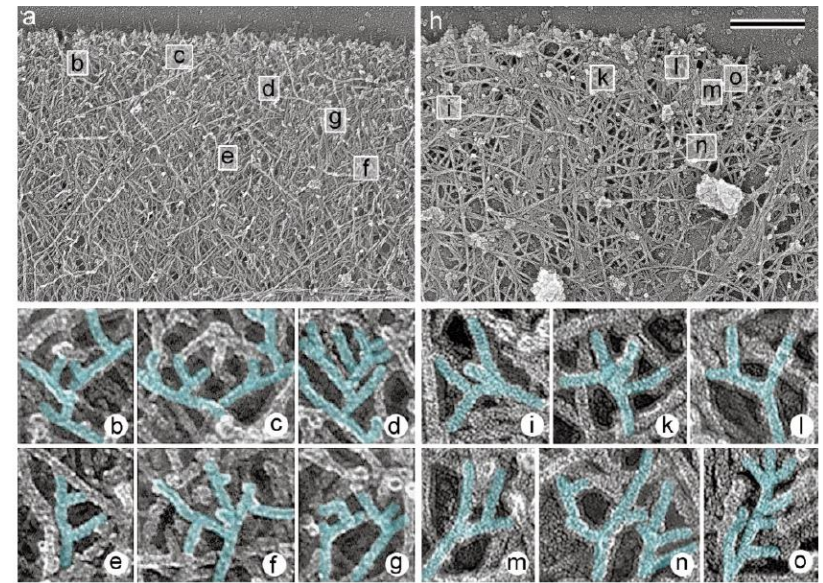
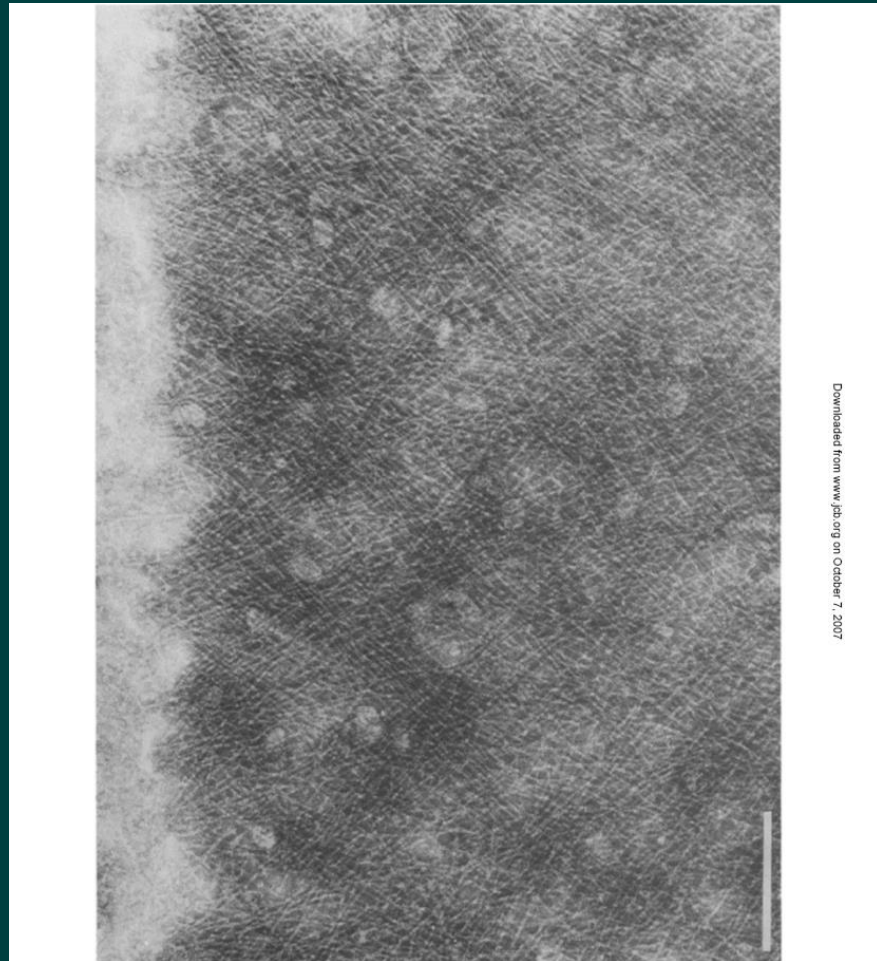
$$F_{\text{crit}} = 12 \frac{k_B T \xi_P}{L^2}$$

$$\frac{E_{\text{tot}}}{k_B T} = \frac{\xi_P}{L} \frac{\theta^2}{2} - \frac{FL}{k_B T} \left( 1 - \frac{2}{\theta} \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \right)$$

for 1  $\mu\text{m}$  actin filament with  $\xi = 10 \mu\text{m}$

$$F_{\text{crit}} = 0.5 \text{ pN}$$

# long filaments or short filaments?



**Figure 1.** Multiple branching of actin filaments in lamellipodia. EM of lamellipodia of *Xenopus* keratocytes (a-g) and fibroblasts (h-o) showing overviews of the leading edge (a and h) and enlargements of the boxed regions (b-g and i-o). Many examples of filaments with tightly spaced multiple branches (cyan) can be visualized in lamellipodia despite the high overall density of the actin network. Bar, 0.5  $\mu$ m.

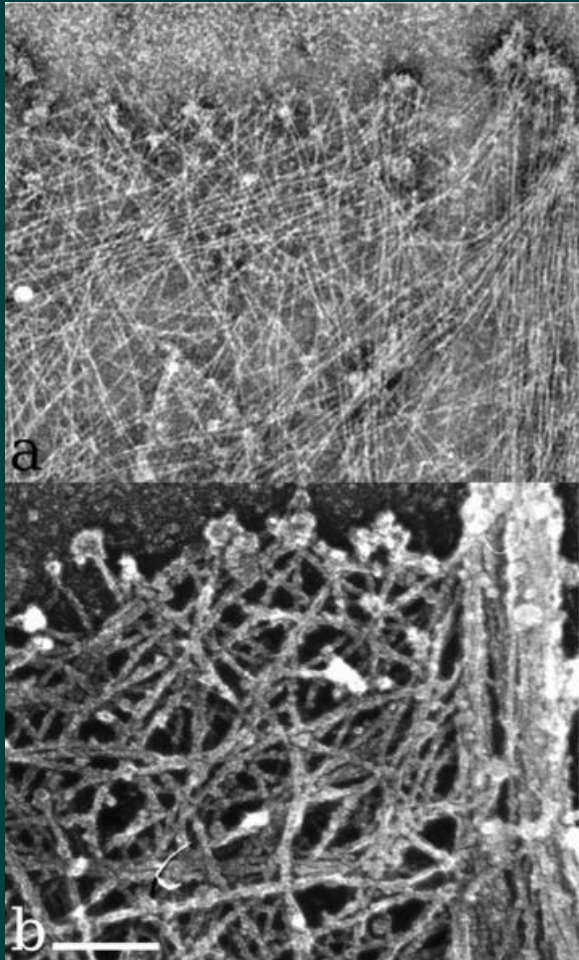
Svitkina and Borisy, 99

Small, Herzog and Anderson, 95

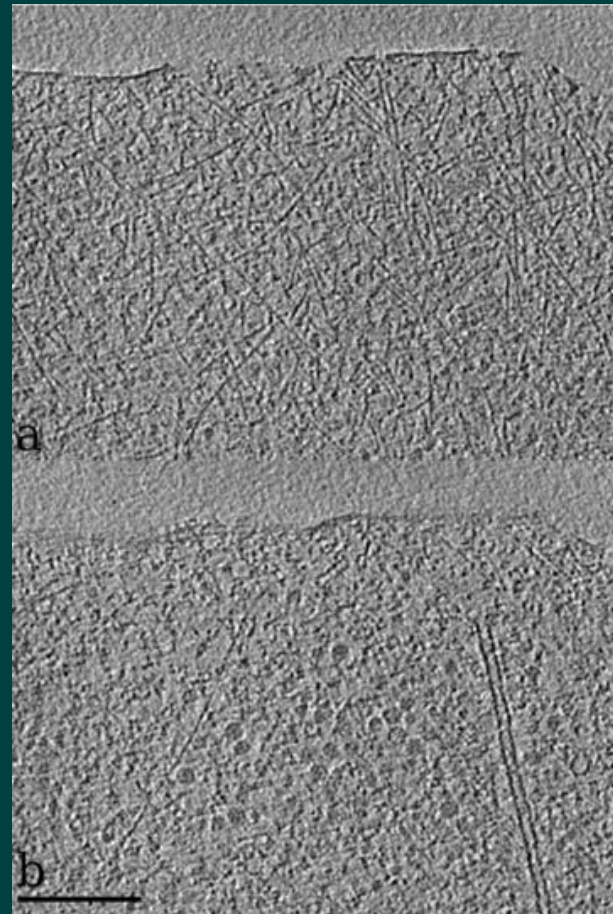
Related to length:  
network stiffness,  
branching and capping frequency

## Short branching filaments – real or artifact of EM?

negative staining



electron tomography



freeze-drying/metal replication

Small et al., 2008

next time:

estimation of filament length with optical microscopy

how the cell makes long, unbranched filaments

molecular motors