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Active filaments (Active Nematics) Nature, 467 (2010).

Nature Materials 22, 260–268 (2023)





Nat. Comm. 9, 1, 3246 (2018)



Active intracellular processes Nature, 416 (2002) | PNAS, 114 (2017) Nature Physics 11, 2, 111 (2015).





Collective motion interphase chromatin PNAS 110, 15555–15560 (2013)| PNAS 115, 45, 11442–11447 (2018)| PRX 12, 041033 (2022) | PRL 131, 048401 (2023)

Chromatin organization

PRL 126, 158101 (2021) | Soft Matter, 19, 1348-1355 (2023) | Soft Matter, 18, 8134-8146 (2022) | Biophys. J. 106, 9, 1871-1881 (2014) | Phys. Rev. E 99, 032421 (2019) | PNAS 120 e2221726120 (2023)



Source: Wikipedia

Cilia carpet in lung cells

Cilia in eukaryotic cells

Science 337: 937-941, (2012) Annu. Rev. Physiol., 77:379 (2015) Nat. Phys., 16 1158–1164 (2020)

Modelisation with active polymers Sci. Rep. 7, 16758 (2017)| Soft Matter,15, 7926 (2019)| J.Chem.Phys 146, 154901 (2017)|Phys. Rev. E 106, 054501 (2022)

J. R. Soc. Interface 11:20130884 (2013) | J. R. Soc. Interface 14: 20170491 (2017) | Sci. Rep. 3, 1964 (2013) |PRFluids 4, 043102 (2019)|PRL 123, 208101 (2019)

Microswimmer locomotion

Flagella locomotion (Spermatozoa, C. Reinhardtii)





<u>Cilia locomotion (Ciliate)</u>





Plasmodium sporozites, Nat. Phys. 18, 586-594 (2022)

Microswimmer locomotion

Cyanobacteria

Scientific American 270.1 (1994): 78-86. eLife 12 (2023) Mol. Microbiol. 98, 1021 (2015) arXiv:2403.03093





Macroswimmers: Tubifex Tubifex & other worms



Organization Nat. Comm. 10.683 (2019) | arXiv:2301.11667 (2023)

Dynamics & Rheology Soft Matter, 18, 1174 (2022) | Nat. Phys., 17, 275-283 (2021) | PNAS 116, 51, 25569-25574 (2019) | arXiv:2303.00647 | PRL 124, 188002 (2020) | Sci. Adv., 8, eabj7918 (2022)

Phase separation PRL 124, 208006 (2020) | PNAS, 118, 2010542 (2021) | Front. Phys., 9, 734499 (2021)

Entanglement & collective motion Int. & Comp. Biol., 62, 890-896 (2022) | Science 380.6643 (2023) | Soft Matter 19,10 (2023)



<u>2-temperature model</u>



From: Nat. Comm. 11, 26 (2020)

Active Brownian Polymers



Correlated noise



From: PNAS 120 e2221726120 (2023)



From: PRL 121, 217802 (2018)



Multi-scale analysis of dense suspensions

Towards modeling biophysical systems

Polar (tangential) self-propulsion



Decorrelation/relaxation time

$$\tau \frac{D_0}{\sigma^2} \sim \frac{N}{Pe}$$

Total active force $\mathbf{F}^{\mathrm{act}} = \sum_{i}^{N} \mathbf{f}_{i}^{\mathrm{act}} pprox \mathbf{R}_{E}$

V. Bianco, E. Locatelli, P. Malgaretti, PRL, 121, 217802 (2018)

 $Pe \equiv \frac{v^{act}b}{D_0} = \frac{f^{act}b}{k_B T}$

Radius of gyration $R_g^2 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i (\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_{cm})^2$



Scaling exponent $< R_g > \propto N^{\nu}$



Coil-to-globule-like transition: the polymer becomes more compact (bundled) for higher values of Pe

Due to follower-forces instability (akin to buckling instability)

V. Bianco, E. Locatelli, P. Malgaretti, PRL, 121, 217802 (2018)







V. Bianco, E. Locatelli, P. Malgaretti, PRL, 121, 217802 (2018)

Minimal stochastic model for the dynamics of the center of mass

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}}_{CM} \equiv \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i}^{N} \dot{\mathbf{r}}_{i} = \frac{1}{N} \left(\boldsymbol{\xi} + \boldsymbol{\eta} \right) \qquad \qquad \boldsymbol{\xi} \equiv \frac{1}{\zeta} \mathbf{F}^{\text{act}} = \frac{1}{\zeta} \sum_{i}^{N} \mathbf{f}_{i}^{\text{act}} \\ \boldsymbol{\eta} \equiv \frac{1}{\zeta} \sum_{i}^{N} \boldsymbol{\eta}_{i}$$

As F^{act} is almost parallel to the end-to-end vector, we model it as a random force with the same decorrelation properties as C(t)

$$\langle \boldsymbol{\xi}(t)\boldsymbol{\xi}(t')\rangle \propto C(t) \equiv \langle \mathbf{r}_{E}(t) \cdot \mathbf{r}_{E}(0) \rangle$$

$$D = 2aN^{2\nu}(\mathrm{Pe}) - 1 + \frac{D_{0}}{N}$$

V. Bianco, E. Locatelli, P. Malgaretti, PRL, 121, 217802 (2018)

Even simpler approach:

$$D = D_t + \frac{\tau_r v_a^2}{2d} = D_t + \frac{\tau_r (f_a/\gamma)^2}{2d} \qquad \text{Active Brownian} \\ \text{Particle} \\ \hline \\ \frac{D_a - D_t^P}{D_t^P} = \frac{\tau_r^P D_t}{\sigma^2} \frac{R_e^2}{2N\sigma^2} \operatorname{Pe}^2 \qquad \tau_r^P \propto \frac{N}{\operatorname{Pe}} \end{aligned}$$

M. Fazelzadeh et al, Phys. Rev. E 108, 024606 (2023); J. Martin-Roca, et al, in preparation



V. Bianco, E. Locatelli, P. Malgaretti, PRL, 121, 217802 (2018)

Active Rouse Model (with semi-flexibility)



Active Diblock Copolymer





M. Vatin, S. Kundu, E. Locatelli, Soft Matter, 20, 1892-1904 (2024)

Active Diblock Copolymer



Notor-powered Polymer Semi-flexible polymer substrate of length L N Freely diffusing motors of size σ



- •Average number of bound motors $\langle n \rangle$
- •Motor force *f*
- •Binding energy K_{MOT}
- •Substrate rigidity K_{BEND}

Freely diffusing motors bind to the substrate and propel themselves in the direction of the local bond vector, pushing the polymer in the opposite direction M. Foglino, et.al, Soft Matter, 2019



The buckling instability manifests by the formation of U-shaped tight turns (hairpins) and the "softening" of the substrate

M. Foglino, et.al, *Soft Matter*, 2019



Motor-powered Polymer



The bending instability manifests here by the formation of U-shaped rather tight turns (hairpins)

M. Foglino, et.al, Soft Matter, 2019

Ring Polymers

Why rings?

- Bacterial DNA is ring shaped; other unicellular parasites organize their DNA into a network of interlocked rings (kDNA)
- Ring polymers (solutions and melts) show distinctive properties, very different from their linear counterpart, despite there is a difference of a single bond
- The effects of circularization are of topological origin (topological repulsion)
- Chromosomes can be modeled as ring polymers

Nature Chemistry 12.5, 433-444 (2020)

Active Ring Polymers



Swelling – collapse transition that becomes sharper at increasing Pe

E. Locatelli, V. Bianco, P. Malgaretti, PRL, 126, 097801 (2021)

Active Ring Polymers

Kinetics

 $(s) = 10^{2} + N = 70 + N = 100 + N = 200 + N = 500 + N = 500 + N = 800 + 10^{2} + 10^{3} + 10^{4} + 10^{5} + 10^{6} +$

Non-equilibrium route from passive conformation to steady state is independent of N

In the steady state, collapsed rings show signs of dynamical arrest in many observables

E. Locatelli, V. Bianco, P. Malgaretti, PRL, 126, 097801 (2021)



Dynamics



Multi-scale analysis of dense suspensions



Towards modeling biophysical systems

Dilute

Melt



M.A. Ubertini, E.Locatelli, A. Rosa, arXiv:2404.08425 (submitted)





 $n_{min}(Pe, N)$ is the length that marks the minimum of the tangent correlation function.

It is a characteristic length scale of the system both at infinite dilution and in the melt.

M.A. Ubertini, E.Locatelli, A. Rosa, arXiv:2404.08425 (submitted)

Dynamics: two different length scales



M.A. Ubertini, E.Locatelli, A. Rosa, arXiv:2404.08425 (submitted)



M.A. Ubertini, E.Locatelli, A. Rosa, arXiv:2404.08425 (submitted)

Active Rings under confinement





J.P. Miranda, E.Locatelli, C. Valeriani, JCTC, 2023

Active Rings under confinement



There is a rather large area of the ρ -h plane in which these bundles form; too high density suppresses organization

J.P. Miranda, E.Locatelli, C. Valeriani, JCTC, 2023



Multi-scale analysis of dense suspensions

Towards modeling biophysical systems





Gyanobacteria reversals







Can we come up with a (local) model for the mechanism of reversals?



J. Rosko, K. Cremin, E.Locatelli, et al, bioRxiv, 2024.02. 06.579126



Local (mechanical) sensing mechanism drives coordination

$$\dot{x}_i = \frac{1}{\gamma} \left(-\frac{dV}{dx_i} + f_i^a \cdot s_i(x, t) \right) + \xi_i(t)$$
$$\dot{\omega}_i(x, t) = \frac{1}{\gamma_\omega} \left(-\frac{dU_c}{d\omega_i} - \frac{dV_\omega}{dx_i} + f_{\text{ext}}(x, t) \right) + \eta_i(t)$$

J. Rosko, K. Cremin, E.Locatelli, et al, bioRxiv, 2024.02. 06.579126



Cyanobacteria coordination model



J. Rosko, K. Cremin, E.Locatelli, et al, bioRxiv, 2024.02. 06.579126

Modeling worms under confinement

Science 380, 392–398 (2023)

Does a simpler (and more transferable) model exists?

Modeling worms under confinement

Semi-flexible polymer Non-homogeneous activity profile 3D+gravity

Modeling worms under confinement

Confinement

 Linear polymers in cylindric and corrugated channels (Phys. Rev. Lett. 131, 048101 (2023))

- Non-homogeneous activity
- Knots & entanglements
- Multi-scale modeling micro/macro-organisms
 - 3D model of reversing bacteria (plectoneme formation)
 - assembly of bacteria (effect of external bias)
 - learning the worm model

Collaborators

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C. N. Likos (Univie) D. Michieletto, C. Brackley, D. Marenduzzo (Edinburgh)

M. Vatin, E. Orlandini (Padova) S. Kundu, M. Ubertini, A. Rosa (SISSA)

O. Soyer (Warwick), M. Polin (IMEDEA)

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