

Molecular mechanisms of biological motion

Zsolt Mártonfalvi

1

Various levels of biological motion

Molecular motion



Axoplasm

Cellular motion



crawling keratinocyte

Body motion



2

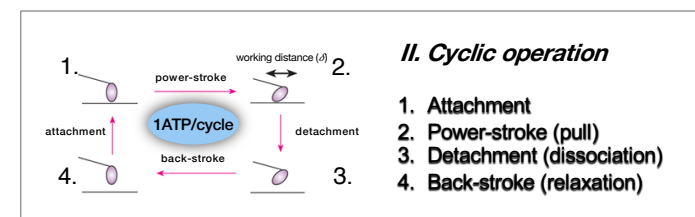
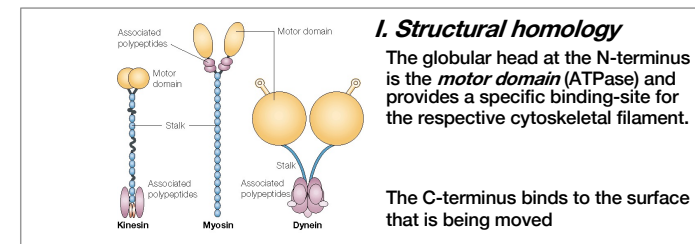
Motor proteins

Mechanoenzymes capable of converting chemical energy into mechanical work.

1. Specifically attach to a cytoskeletal filament or other biopolymer (DNA).
2. They generate force when moving along the filament.
3. They utilize energy from nucleotide cleavage for force generation.

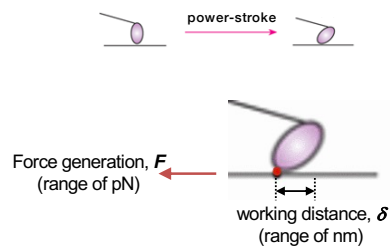
3

Common characteristics of motor proteins



4

Force generation of motor proteins



Work done by a single motor protein, W

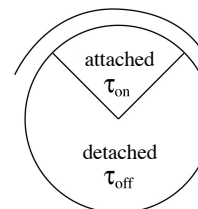
$$W = F \cdot \delta$$

range of 10^{-20} J (zeptojoule = 10^{-21} J)

5

Duty cycle of motor proteins

ATP-hidrolízis-ciklus Duty ratio (r):



$$r = \frac{\tau_{on}}{\tau_{on} + \tau_{off}} = \frac{\tau_{on}}{\tau_{total}}$$

Processive motor protein: $r \sim 1$

F.e. kinesin, DNA-, RNA-polymerase.

They remain attached in most of the cycle time. They function individually.

Non-processive motor protein: $r \sim 0$

F.e. conventional myosin (skeletal muscle myosin II.) They remain detached in most of the cycle time. They function in ensembles.

δ = working distance
 v_{stroke} = stroke velocity
 k_{ATPase} = ATPase rate

$$v_{stroke} = \frac{\delta}{\tau_{on}}$$

$$\tau_{on} = \frac{\delta}{v_{stroke}}$$

$$\tau_{total} = \frac{1}{k_{ATPase}}$$

$$r = \frac{\delta k_{ATPase}}{v_{stroke}}$$

6

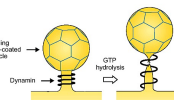
Types of motor proteins

1. Actin based

- **Myosins:** They move towards the plus end along the actin filament. (lamellipodium formation, muscle contraction)

2. Microtubule based

- **Dyneins:** Ciliary (flagellar) and cytoplasmic dyneins. They move towards the minus end along the microtubule. (axonal retrograde transport)
- **Kinesins:** They move towards the plus end along the microtubule. (axonal anterograde transport)
- **Dynamins:** Microtubule activated GTPase function. (pinchase)



3. DNA based mechanoenzymes

- They exert force and move along the DNS double helix. (DNA- and RNA-polymerases, viral capsid portal motor)

4. Rotary motors

- They are transmembrane mechanoenzymes that utilize the proton gradient across the membrane. F1Fo-ATP synthase, bacterial flagellar motor

5. Mechanoenzyme complexes

- Ribosome

7

Cytoskeleton based motors

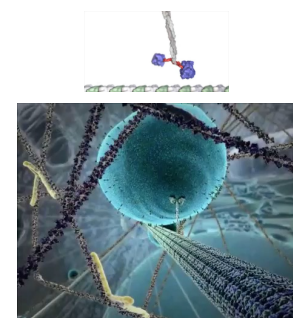
Non-processive motor

Skeletal myosin II.
 Moves along the actin filament



Processive motor

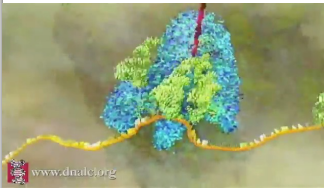
Kinesin
 Moves along the microtubule



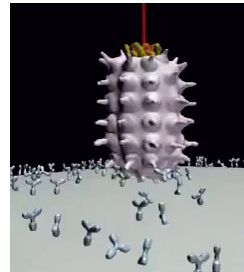
8

Nucleic acid based motors

Ribosome
mechanoenzyme complex



Virus portal motor
DNA „packaging“

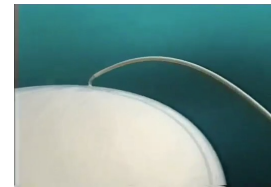
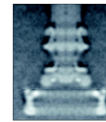


9

Rotating motors

driving force: proton gradient

Flagellar motor
bacterial movement



F_1F_0 ATP synthase



10

Muscle biophysics

(mechanobiology of actin filaments and the myosin motor protein)



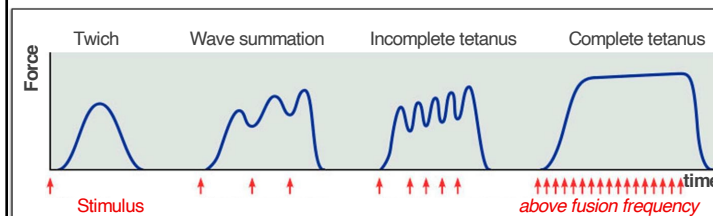
Machina Carnis

Cell and tissue specialized for movement.

It can only pull, not push!

11

Basic phenomena of muscle function I.



A single stimulus results in a single contractile response – a muscle **twitch** (contracts and relaxes).

More frequent stimuli increases contractile force – **wave summation** - muscle is already partially contracted when next stimulus arrives and contractions are summed.

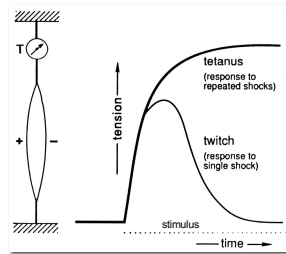
A sustained contraction that lacks even partial relaxation is known as **tetanus**.

12

Basic phenomena of muscle function II.

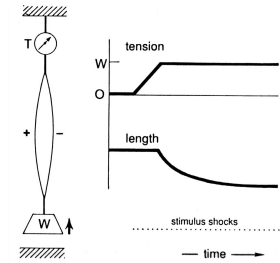
1. Isometric contraction

The muscle does not or cannot shorten, but the tension on the muscle increases.



2. Isotonic contraction

Tension remains unchanged while the muscle's length changes.



Auxotonic contraction (simultaneous shortening and force generation)

13

Basic phenomena of muscle function IV.

1. Work and Power

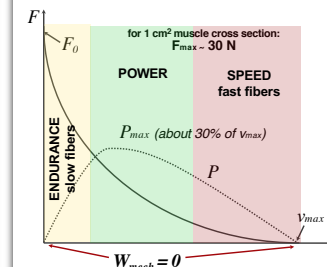
$$W = F \cdot s$$

$$P = \frac{W}{t} = \frac{F \cdot s}{t} = F \cdot v$$

If the shortening velocity is zero, the force is maximal:
maximal isometric force (F_0)

If v = maximum, then $F = 0$

2. Force - velocity diagram



Hill equation:

$$(F + a)(v + b) = (F_0 + a)b$$

F : force, v : shortening velocity

a and b : constants,

F_0 : maximal isometric force

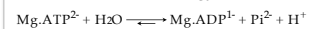
$$v_{\max} = \frac{bF_0}{a}$$

14

Energetics of muscle contraction

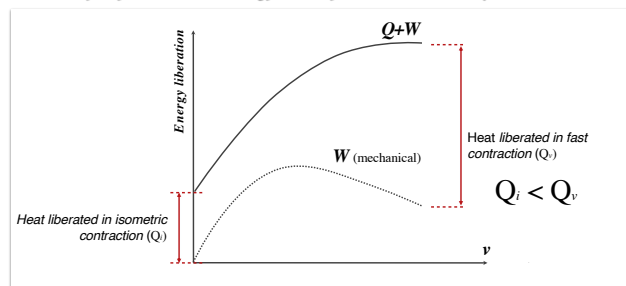
ATP hydrolysis, heat liberation

Source of energy:



Fenn effect: The liberation of heat increases when the muscle is doing work during shortening. The amount of heat liberated increases with increasing speed of contraction.

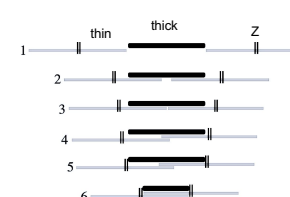
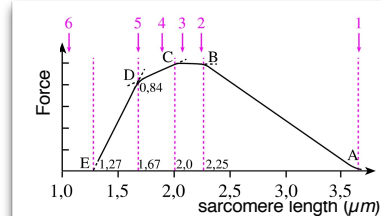
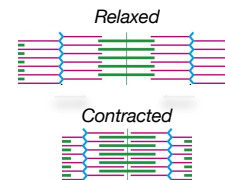
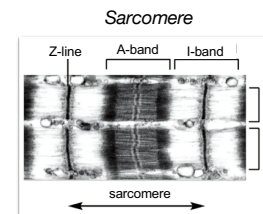
The majority of chemical energy used by the muscle is dissipated as heat



15

The mechanism of muscle shortening

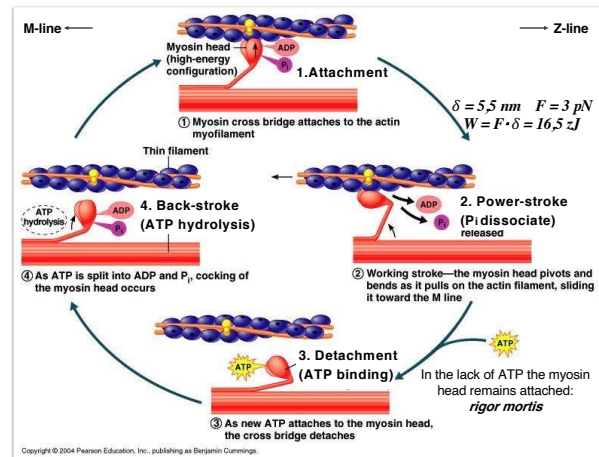
Phenomenological mechanism: sliding filament model



16

The myosin „cross-bridge“ cycle

Molecular bases of muscle contraction



17

Biomechanics

Biomolecular and tissue mechanics

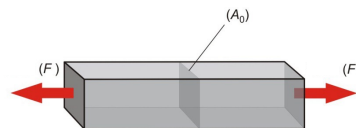
Medical Biophysics II.

18

Physical bases of biomechanics

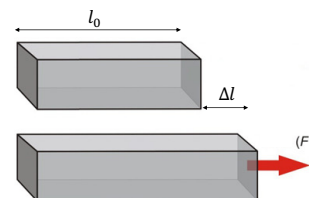
Stress

$$\sigma = \frac{F}{A_0} \quad \left[\frac{N}{m^2} = Pa \right]$$



Strain (deformation)

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\Delta l}{l_0} \quad \left[\frac{m}{m} \right] \text{ no dimension}$$



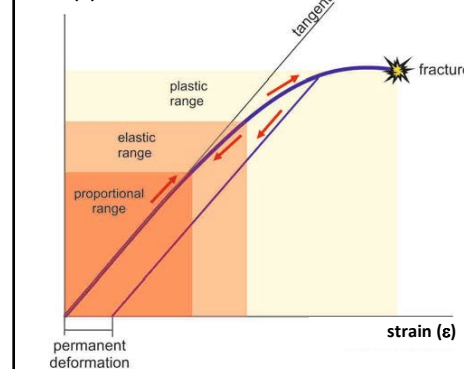
Strain is proportional to stress!

$$\sigma \sim \varepsilon$$

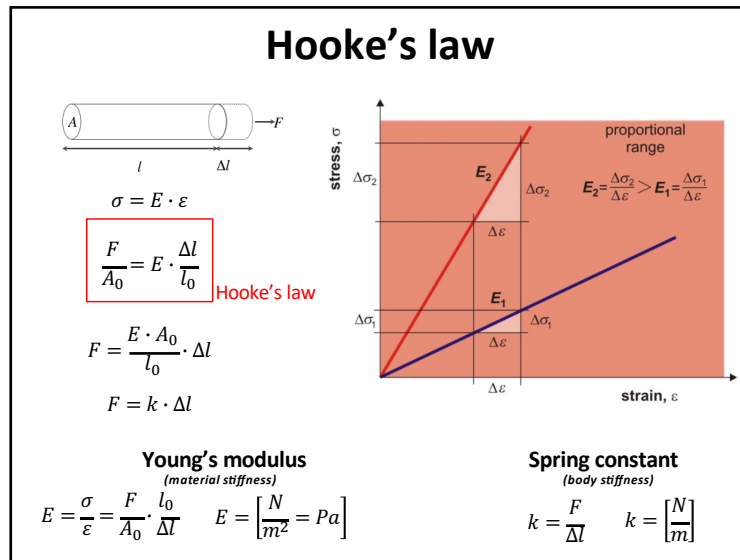
19

Stress-strain diagram

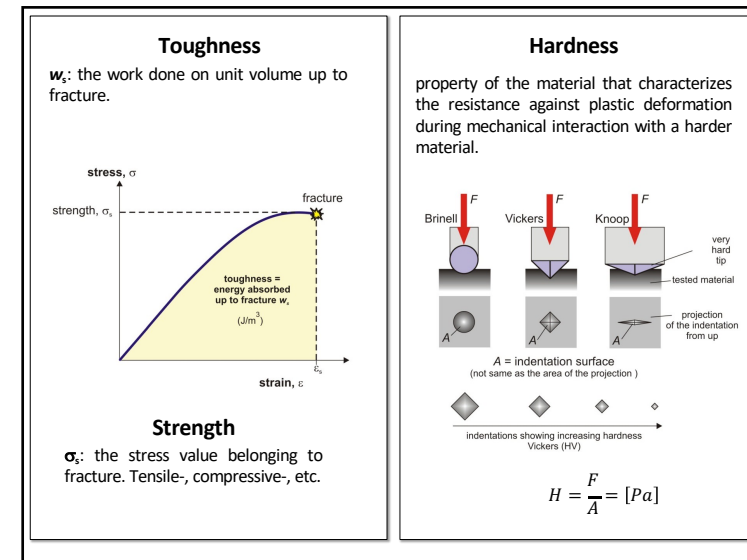
Stress (σ)



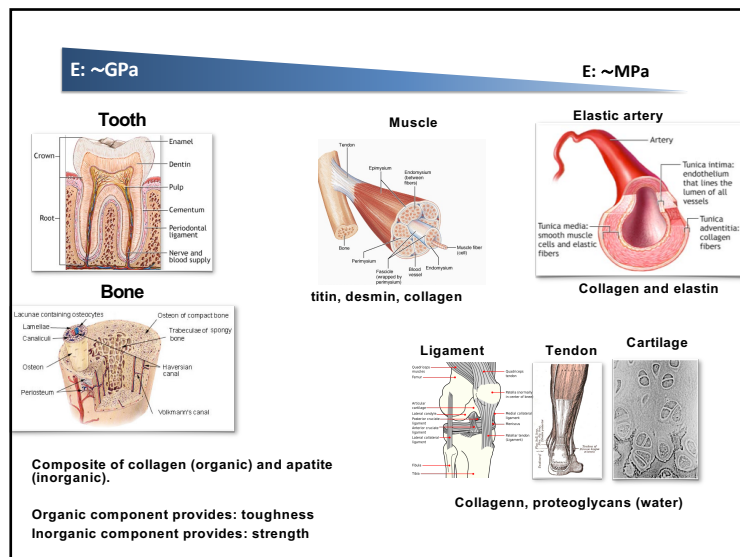
20



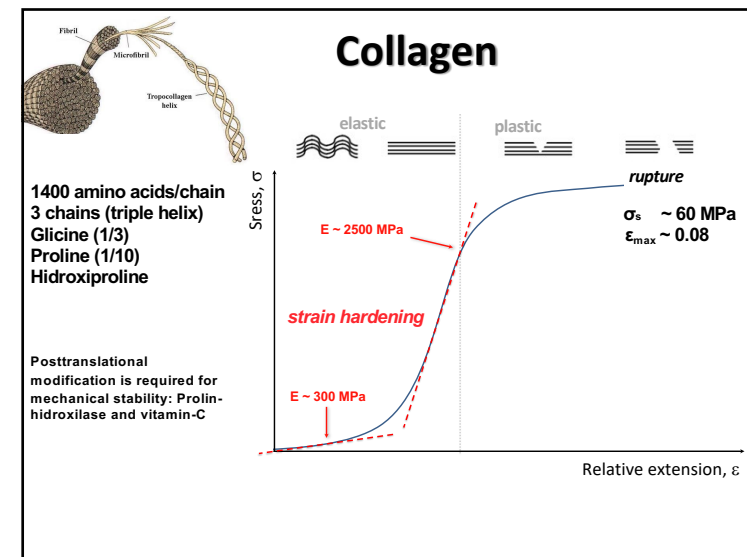
21



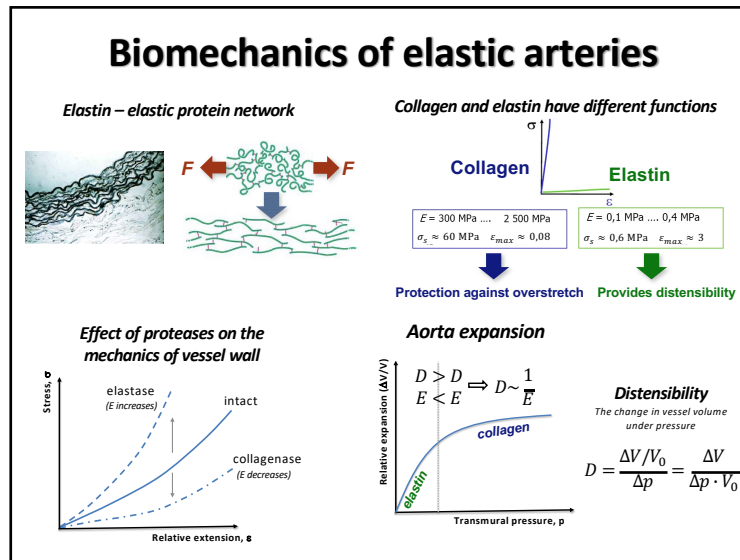
22



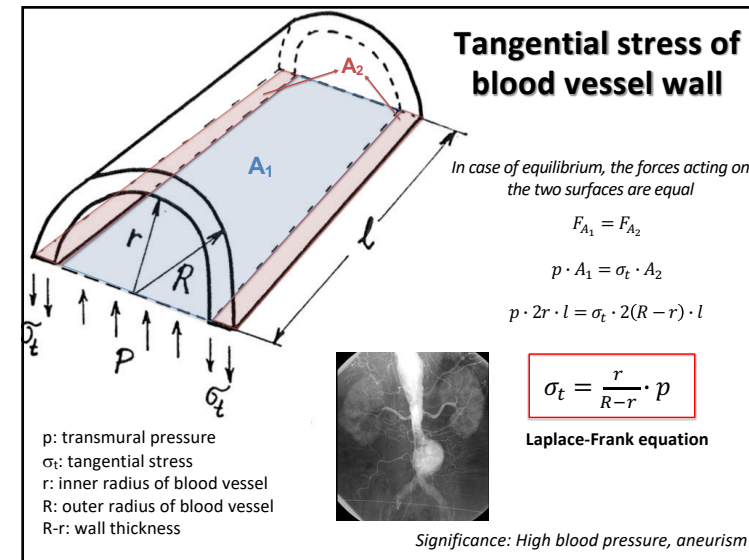
23



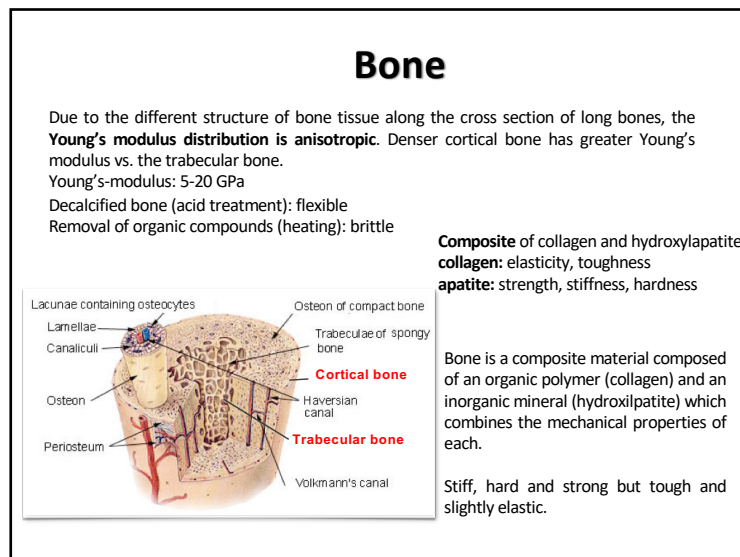
24



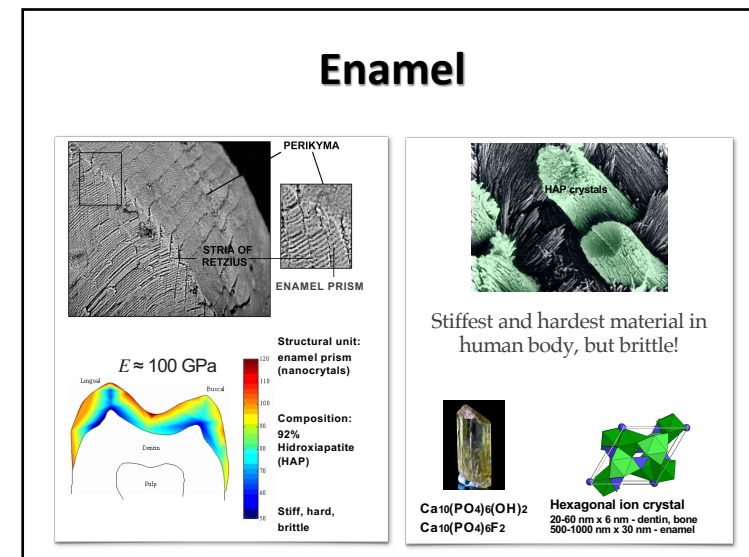
25



26

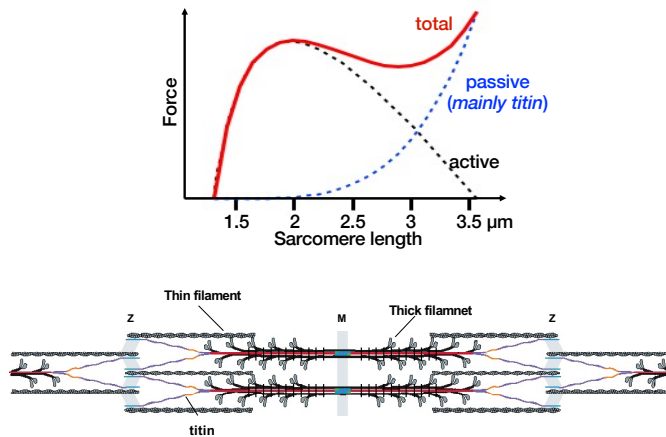


27



28

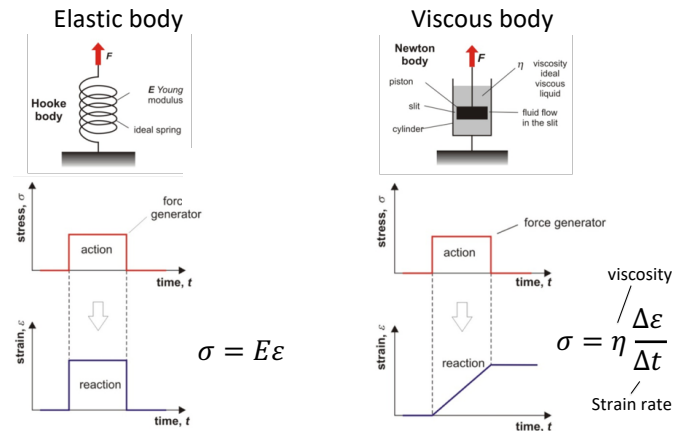
Titin: the elastic filament of the sarcomere



29

Viscoelasticity

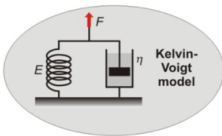
(mechanical model)



30

Viscoelasticity

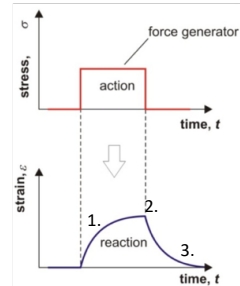
(mechanical model)



Viscoelasticity means the co-appearance of viscous and elastic behavior.

model: parallel connection of spring and dashpot (Kelvin-Voigt model)

Spring: ideal elastic (Hooke) body
Dashpot: ideal viscous (Newton) body

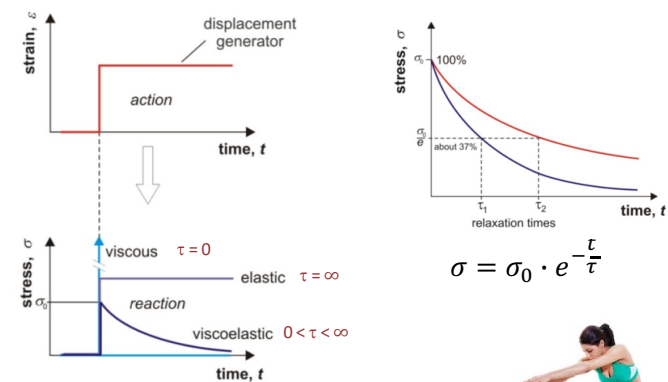


1. Upon stretch, the extension of the spring is slowed down by the dashpot.
2. Extension stops when the elastic spring force equals the external force.
3. When the external force is quenched, the contraction of the spring is slowed down by the dashpot.

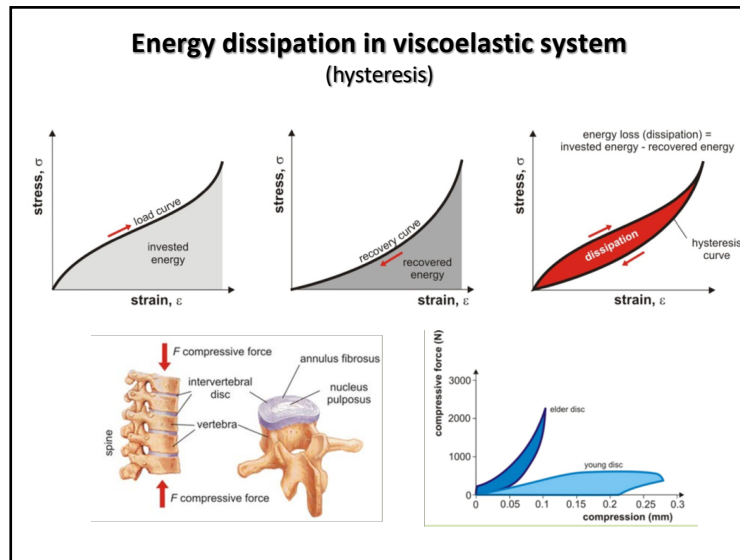
31

Stress-relaxation in viscoelastic system

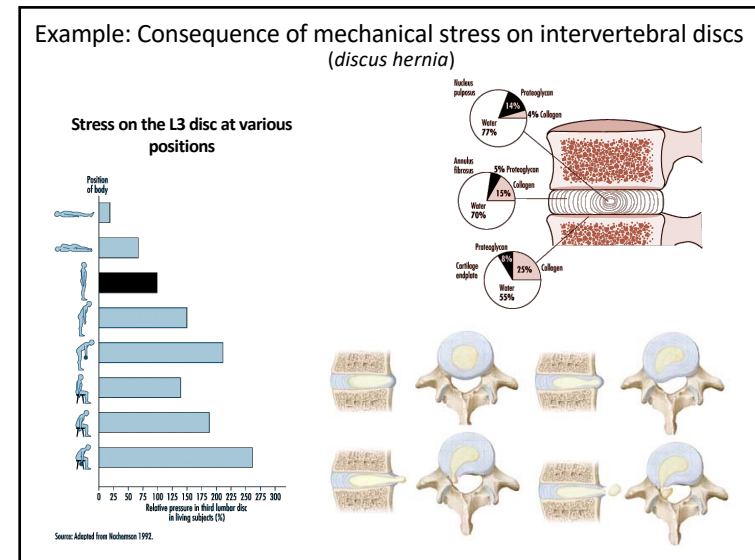
Decrease in stress while strain remains constant



32



33



34

Flashback: What did you learn about US propagation....?

In wich types of tissue does sound propagate faster?

The acoustic properties of each tissue are characterized by their stiffness

	E (GPa)	K (GPa ⁻¹)	c_{sound} (m/s)
Cortical bone	18	0.05	3600
Muscle	7×10^{-5}	0.38	1568

$$c_{sound} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\rho \cdot \kappa}}$$

$\kappa = \frac{-\Delta V/V}{\Delta p}$ Volumetric strain

compressibility stress

Greater Young-modulus, faster propagation speed

35

Diagnostic application: sonoelastography

Achilles examination

achilles

B-mode

Sonoelastogram

lymph node

Transient elastography (measurement of liver stiffness based on pulse-echo principle)

36