

# Molecular mechanisms of biological motion

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## Various levels of biological motion

*Molecular motion*



*Axoplasm*

*Cellular motion*



*crawling keratinocyte*

*Body motion*



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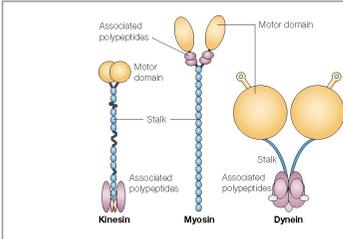
## Motor proteins

*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.

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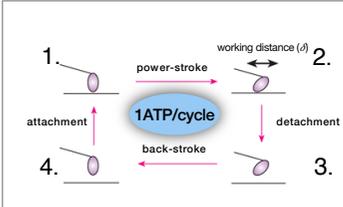
## Common characteristics of motor proteins



**I. Structural homology**

The globular head at the N-terminus is the *motor domain* (ATPase) and provides a specific binding-site for the respective cytoskeletal filament.

The C-terminus binds to the surface that is being moved



**II. Cyclic operation**

1. Attachment
2. Power-stroke (pull)
3. Detachment (dissociation)
4. Back-stroke (relaxation)

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### Force generation of motor proteins

Force generation,  $F$   
(range of pN)

working distance,  $\delta$   
(range of nm)

Work done by a single motor protein,  $W$

$$W = F \cdot \delta$$

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

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### 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~1**  
F.e. kinesin, DNA-, RNA-polymerase.  
They remain attached in most of the cycle time. They function individually.

**Non-processive motor protein: r~0**  
F.e. conventional myosin (skeletal muscle myosin II.) They remain detached in most of the cycle time. They function in ensembles.

$\delta = \text{working distance}$   
 $v_{stroke} = \text{stroke velocity}$   
 $k_{ATPase} = \text{ATPase rate}$

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

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

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

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### Types of motor proteins

- Actin based**
  - Myosins:** They move towards the plus end along the actin filament. (lamellipodium formation, muscle contraction)
- 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)
- DNA based mechanoenzymes**
  - They exert force and move along the DNS double helix. (DNA- and RNA-polymerases, viral capsid portal motor)
- Rotary motors**
  - They are transmembrane mechanoenzymes that utilize the proton gradient across the membrane. F1Fo-ATP synthase, bacterial flagellar motor
- Mechanoenzyme complexes**
  - Ribosome

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### Cytoskeleton based motors

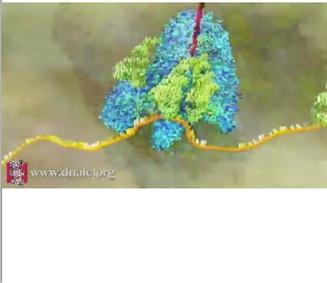
**Non-processive motor**  
Skeletal myosin II.  
Moves along the actin filament

**Processive motor**  
Kinesin  
Moves along the microtubule

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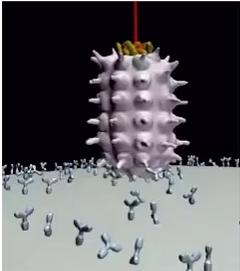
## Nucleic acid based motors

**Ribosome**  
*mechanoenzyme complex*



www.dnalc.org

**Virus portal motor**  
*DNA „packaging“*

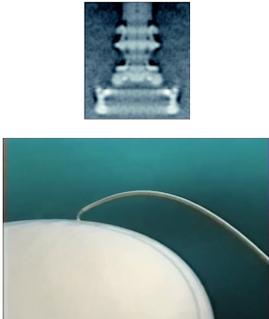


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## Rotating motors

driving force: proton gradient

**Flagellar motor**  
*bacterial movement*



**$F_1F_0$  ATP synthase**



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## Muscle biophysics

*(mechanobiology of actin filaments and the myosin motor protein)*



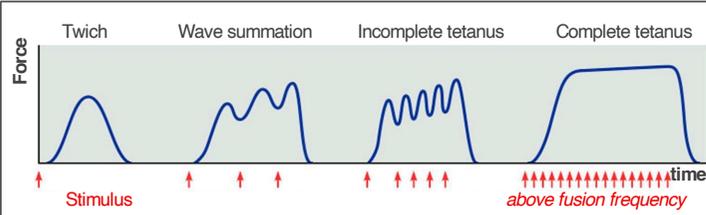
**Cell and tissue specialized for movement.**

**It can only pull, not push!**

*Machina Carnis*

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## 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**.

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### 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)**

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### 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  $v = \text{maximum}$ , 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<sub>0</sub>: maximal isometric force*

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

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### Energetics of muscle contraction

*ATP hydrolysis, heat liberation*

Source of energy:  
 $Mg \cdot ATP^{2-} + H_2O \longrightarrow Mg \cdot ADP^{1-} + P_i^{2-} + H^+$

**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*

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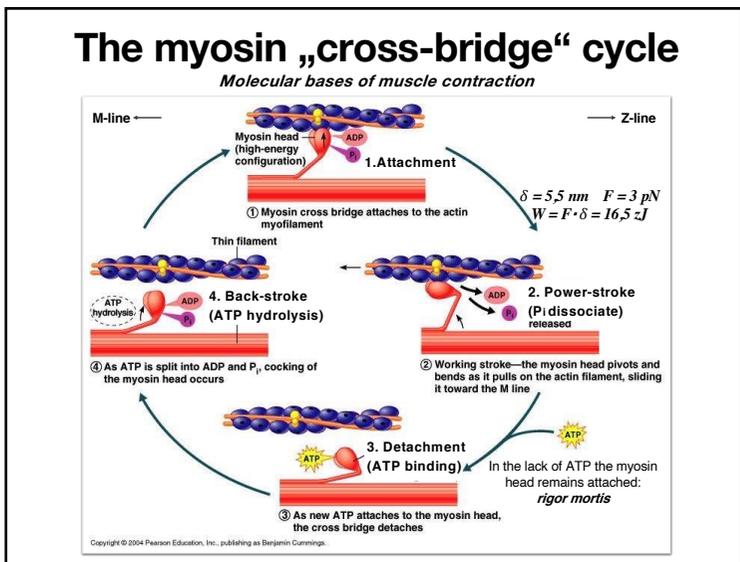
### The mechanism of muscle shortening

*Phenomenological mechanism: sliding filament model*

**Sarcomere**

**Force vs sarcomere length ( $\mu\text{m}$ )**

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*Medical Biophysics II.*

## Biomechanics

### Biomolecular and tissue mechanics

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### Physical bases of biomechanics

**Stress**

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

**Strain (deformation)**

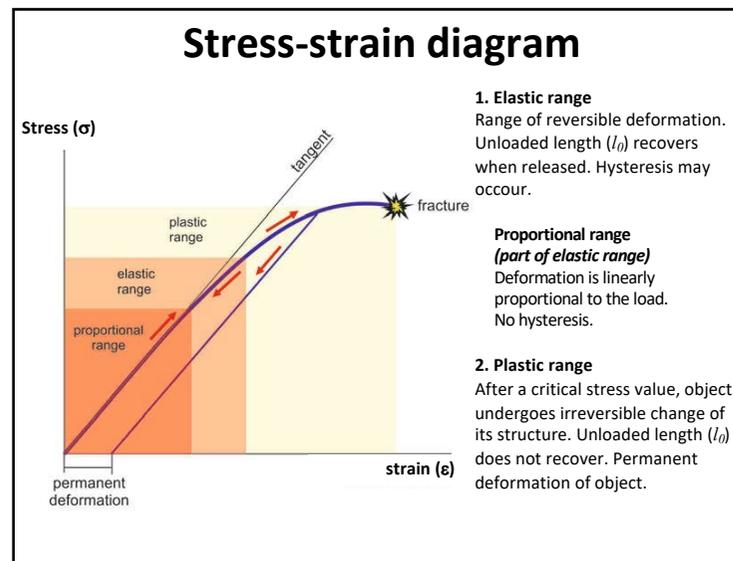
$$\varepsilon = \frac{\Delta l}{l_0} \quad \left[ \frac{m}{m} \right] \text{ no dimension}$$

**Strain is proportional to stress!**

$$\sigma \sim \varepsilon$$

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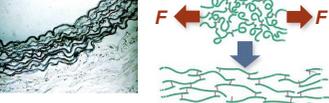


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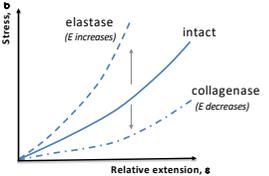


## Biomechanics of elastic arteries

**Elastin – elastic protein network**



**Effect of proteases on the mechanics of vessel wall**

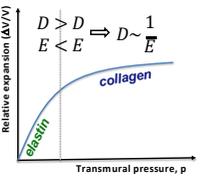


**Collagen and elastin have different functions**

Collagen	Elastin
$E = 300 \text{ MPa} \dots 2.500 \text{ MPa}$	$E = 0,1 \text{ MPa} \dots 0,4 \text{ MPa}$
$\sigma_s \approx 60 \text{ MPa} \quad \epsilon_{max} \approx 0,08$	$\sigma_s \approx 0,6 \text{ MPa} \quad \epsilon_{max} \approx 3$

Collagen: Protection against overstretch  
Elastin: Provides distensibility

**Aorta expansion**



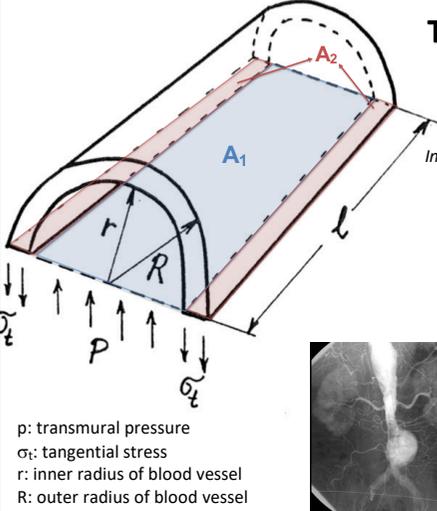
**Distensibility**  
The change in vessel volume under pressure

$$D = \frac{\Delta V/V_0}{\Delta p} = \frac{\Delta V}{\Delta p \cdot V_0}$$

$D > D \Rightarrow D \sim \frac{1}{E}$   
 $E < E \Rightarrow D \sim \frac{1}{E}$

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## Tangential stress of blood vessel wall



In case of equilibrium, the forces acting on the two surfaces are equal

$$F_{A_1} = F_{A_2}$$

$$p \cdot A_1 = \sigma_t \cdot A_2$$

$$p \cdot 2r \cdot l = \sigma_t \cdot 2(R - r) \cdot l$$

$$\sigma_t = \frac{r}{R-r} \cdot p$$

**Laplace-Frank equation**

p: transmural pressure  
 $\sigma_t$ : tangential stress  
 r: inner radius of blood vessel  
 R: outer radius of blood vessel  
 R-r: wall thickness

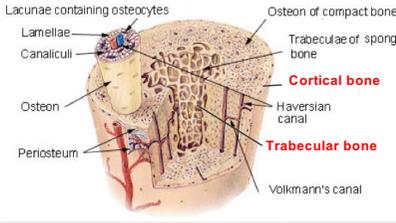


*Significance: High blood pressure, aneurism*

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## Bone

Due to the different structure of bone tissue along the cross section of long bones, the **Young's modulus distribution is anisotropic**. Denser cortical bone has greater Young's modulus vs. the trabecular bone.  
 Young's-modulus: 5-20 GPa  
 Decalcified bone (acid treatment): flexible  
 Removal of organic compounds (heating): brittle



**Cortical bone**

**Trabecular bone**

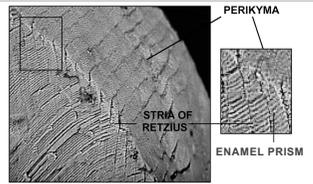
**Composite** of collagen and hydroxylapatite  
**collagen**: elasticity, toughness  
**apatite**: strength, stiffness, hardness

Bone is a composite material composed of an organic polymer (collagen) and an inorganic mineral (hydroxylapatite) which combines the mechanical properties of each.

Stiff, hard and strong but tough and slightly elastic.

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## Enamel



**PERIKYMA**

**STRIA OF RETZIUS**

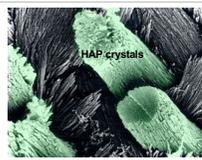
**ENAMEL PRISM**

**Structural unit: enamel prism (nanocrystals)**

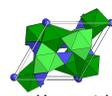
**Composition: 92% Hydroxylapatite (HAP)**

Stiff, hard, brittle

Stiffest and hardest material in human body, but brittle!

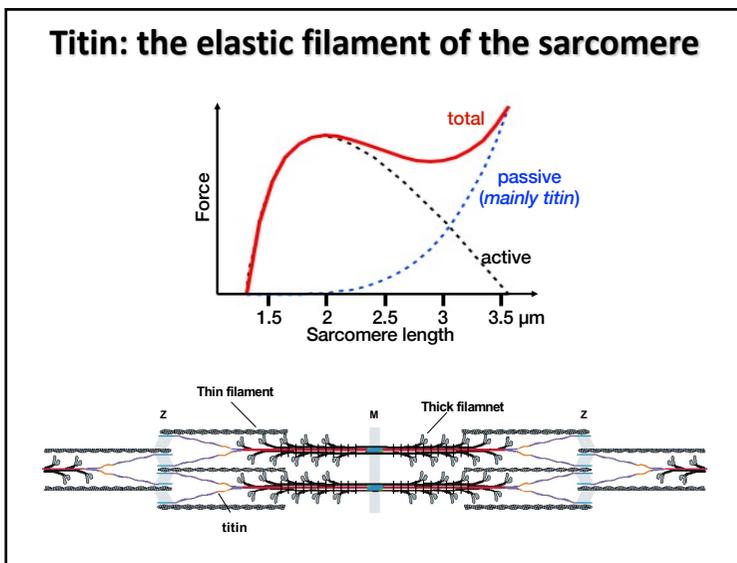


**HAP crystals**

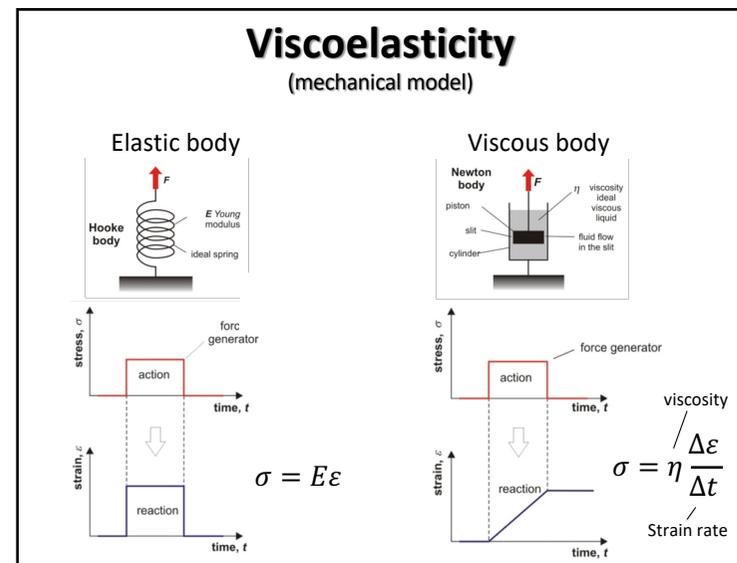


**Hexagonal ion crystal**  
 20-60 nm x 6 nm - dentin, bone  
 500-1000 nm x 30 nm - enamel

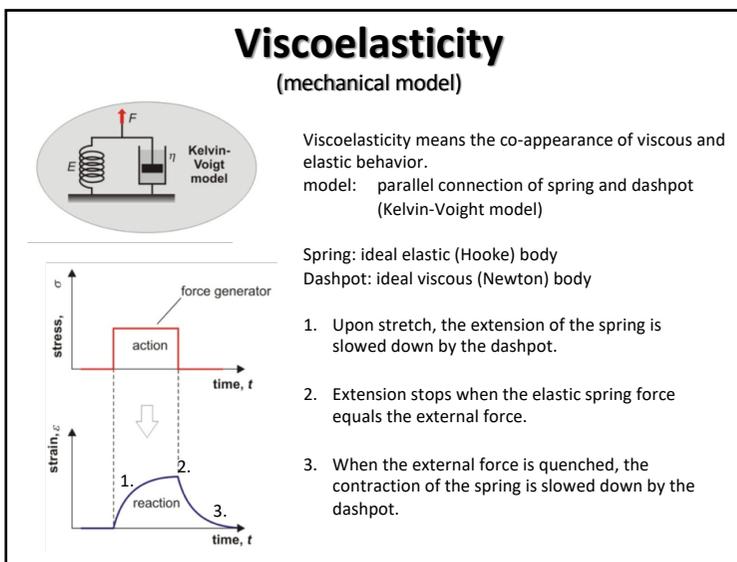
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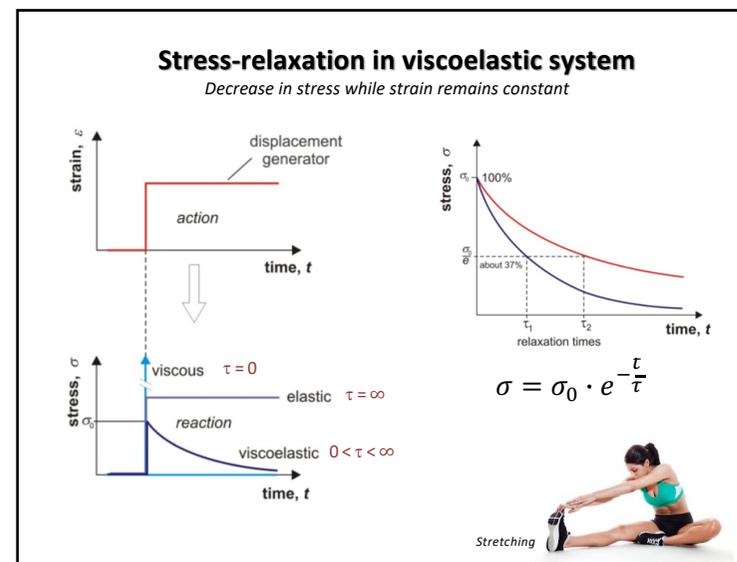
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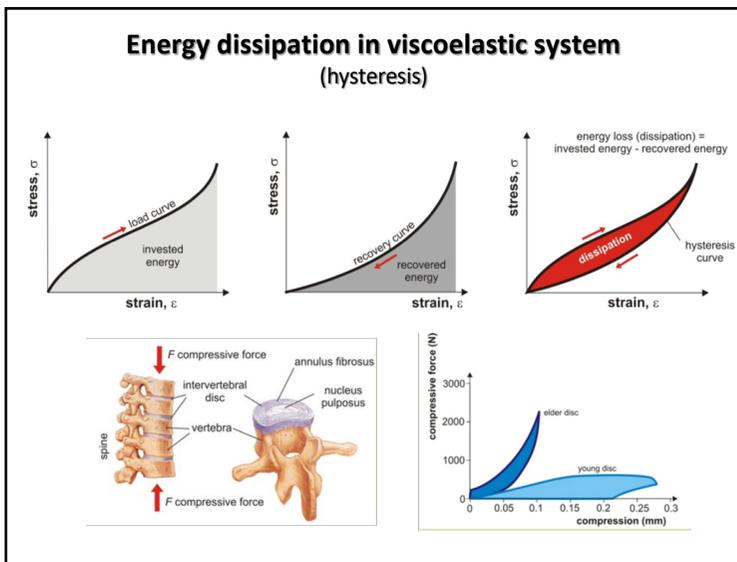
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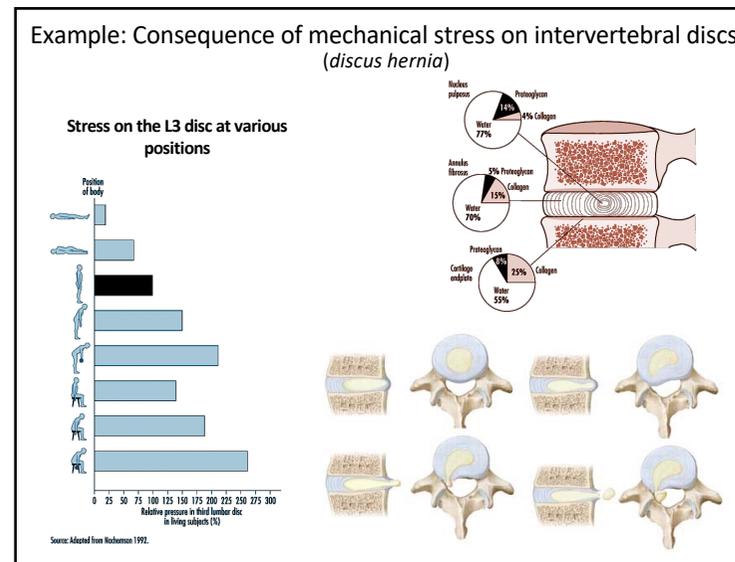
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### Flashback: What did you learn about US propagation....?

#### In wich types of tissue does sound propagate faster?

The acoustic properties of each tissue are characterized by their stiffness

	$E$ (GPa)	$\mathcal{K}$ (GPa <sup>-1</sup> )	$c_{sound}$ (m/s)
Cortical bone	18	0.05	3600
Muscle	$7 \times 10^{-5}$	0.38	1568

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

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

compressibility

Volumetric strain

stress

**Greater Young-modulus, faster propagation speed**

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### Diagnostic application: sonoelastography

#### Achilles examination

#### Lymph node

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

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