Recent advances in the understanding of biological tissues: what lessons for foam modelling?







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Richard Carthew (Northwestern Biology); Jasna Brujić (NYU Physics) Matthew Miklius, Ian Gemp (Northwestern ESAM) Ian Berg, Peter Ho (UIUC MechSE) Outline – Describing and Understanding Tissue Structures

- I. Disordered vs. Ordered Tissues
- **II.** Role of Mathematics / statistics
- III. Role of Physics / interactions /energy

Ordered vs. Disordered Tissues



Drosophila wing

Drosophila eye

- Statistical vs. Deterministic model?
- Role of dynamics? Morphogenesis, growth, development, wound healing,...

If it looks like a foam...



[Classen et al. 2005]



[Lewis 1928]



[Arif, Tsai, SH 2011]

- Universal properties? Explain through Mathematics/ geometry only?
- Physical Processes? Interactions?
- Specific Biological Effects?

2D Cellular Matter Domain Geometry and Coordination



[Classen et al. 2005]

Topology: number of neighbors n(note: 3-way vs. 4-way junctions) Size: cross-sectional areas A_i , perimeters L_i Shape: texture tensor M, ...

[Blankenship et al. 2006]

[Miklius 2011]

2D Cellular Matter Domain Statistics



[cf. Gibson et al. 2006, Rivier 1980s/90s Peshkin,...]

> Topology: number of neighbors *n* (note: 3-way vs. 4-way junctions); Euler's theorem: $\overline{n} = 6$ Size: cross-sectional areas A_i , perimeters L_i Shape: texture tensor *M*, ...

Probabilistic biological tissues



Drosophila wing epithelium:

• Disordered structure



 Described by distribution functions: statistics of cell areas and neighbor numbers ("topology") [M. Miklius & SH, EPJB 2011]



remodeling (T1)

Drosophila wing development



Both neighbor and area distributions narrow simultaneously over time

quantify width by coefficients of variation c_n , c_A (= $\Delta n/<n>, <math>\Delta A/<A>$)

Many other polydisperse disordered systems...









[Torquato & Stillinger]



Voronoi tiling



Size-topology Correlations



from Quilliet et al., Phil. Mag. Lett. 2008

How to describe the statistics?

- Packing / space-filling constraints only?
- Interactions?
- Interfacial energies?
- More specific (biological) processes?

Local (mean field) model? Are spatial neighbor correlations important?

The Granocentric Model in 2D



 $\phi = 2 \arcsin\left(1/(1 + \sqrt{A_c/A})\right)$

given $P(A) \Rightarrow f_c(\phi)$

For fixed A_c , draw neighbors until $\phi > \phi_{max}$

disk areas \Leftrightarrow regular polygonal areas

Euler's theorem: mean number of neighbors $\bar{n} = 6$

Computing probabilities

Conditional probability:

 $P(n|A_c) = \int_0^{\phi_{max}} R_{c,n}(\phi) F(\phi_{max} - \phi) d\phi$

 $R_{c,n}(\phi)$: PDF of sum of *n* angles $F(\psi) \equiv \int_{\psi}^{\infty} f_c(\phi) d\phi$

Unconditional probability: $P_n = \int P(n|A_c)P(A_c)dA_c \quad \Rightarrow c_n, \mu_{2,n}$

explicit results ("GM simulations") using P(A) as input

[M. Miklius and SH, PRL 2012]

Analytical Approximations

Realistic area distributions: gamma, Weibull, log-normal,...



But correlations use (at most) c_A

 \Rightarrow use Gaussian fits: integrals become analytically solvable!

Analytical Approximations

$$P(n|A_c) = \Phi_{n+1}(c_A, A_c) - \Phi_n(c_A, A_c) \quad \text{with}$$
$$\Phi_n(c_A, A_c) = \frac{1}{2} \text{erf}\left(\frac{n\bar{\phi}(A_c) - \phi_{max}}{\sqrt{2n}\sigma_{\phi}(c_A, A_c)}\right)$$

$$P_{n} = \Psi_{n+1}(c_{A}) - \Psi_{n}(c_{A}) \quad \text{with}$$
$$\Psi_{n}(c_{A}) = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{\sqrt{2n}(1 - (2 - c_{A}^{2}/8)\Sigma)}{c_{A}((1 - \Sigma)^{2} + n(1 - c_{A}^{2}/8)\Sigma^{2})^{\frac{1}{2}}} \right), \ \Sigma \equiv \sin(\phi_{max}/2n)$$

[M. Miklius and SH, PRL, 2012]

Result: Neighbor probabilities



Result: Size-topology correlation



Non-conforming tilings



Introducing an interfacial energy establishes compactness of domains and reduces $c_n!$

Result: Size-topology correlation



Alternative theory for Foams: Statistical Physics approach

M.Durand EPL (2010)

M. Durand, J. Käfer, C. Quilliet, S. Cox, S. Ataei Talebi, F. Graner PRL (2011).

Foam = tiling of space (no overlaps and no gaps)

Must satisfy Euler, Plateau, Laplace laws (low shear rate)



"shuffling": T1s
(compactness of domains!)

Each bubble exchanges sides *n* and curvature with rest of foam, such that :

 $n + n_{\text{rest of foam}} = \text{constant} = 6N$ (large foam) $\kappa + \kappa_{\text{rest of foam}} = \text{constant} = 0$

$$p_A(n) = \chi(A)^{-1} \exp(-0.28\beta \frac{n(n-6)}{\sqrt{A}} + \mu n)$$

where effective « temperature » and « chemical potential » are related to the shape of area distribution.

For moderate dispersities :

$$eta^{-1}\simeq 5.06rac{\langle A^{1/2}
angle\langle A^{-1/2}
angle-1}{\langle A^{1/2}
angle}$$



correlates geometrical disorder (p(A)) and topological disorder (p(n)):

$$p(n) = \int_0^\infty p(A) p_A(n) dA$$

For moderate dispersities, *i.e.*

 $(\Delta A/\langle A \rangle)^2 \ll 4$



For moderate dispersities, *i.e.*

 $(\Delta A/\langle A \rangle)^2 \ll 4$



Deterministic biological tissues





Drosophila eye (retinal epithelium):

- Strictly deterministic structure
- Described quantitatively by energy functional minimization

But not liquid foam energy!

$$\mathcal{E} \neq \gamma_0 \int dA$$



[Hayashi & Carthew, Nature 2004]

The Drosophila eye





10um

F-actin, adherens junction

Highly conserved structure – complex genetic regulation Interface Mechanics, without bulk terms, describes these shapes! Adherens junction cross section: 2D mechanics

The Drosophila eye





One Ommatidium



E-cadherin, adherens junction Hayashi & Carthew, *Nature* 2004



homophilic interaction

Cells adhere by two kinds of cadherins!

The Drosophila eye





One Ommatidium



N-cadherin, adherens junction Hayashi & Carthew, *Nature* 2004



Cells adhere by two kinds of cadherins!

homophilic interaction

Adhesive Membrane Model

Surface energy functional (cells *i*, edges *ij*):

$$\mathcal{E} = \sum_{i} \frac{1}{2} \Delta_{i}^{2} L_{0i} - \sum_{i,j} L_{ij} \gamma_{E} \delta_{i,E} \delta_{j,E} - \sum_{i,j} L_{ij} \gamma_{N} \delta_{i,N} \delta_{j,N}$$

interfacial elasticity E-cadherin binding N-cadherin binding

Essential: contains competing energy terms nonlinear and linear in geometric parameters, respectively.

 $\Delta_i \equiv \frac{L_i - L_{0i}}{L_{0i}}$ membrane strain; note: this is not a film! $\gamma_E, \gamma_N \sim 10^{-2}$ dimensionless adhesion strengths

Very similar functionals in work by Brodland; Jülicher, Eaton; Aegerter-Wilmsen et al.; Graner...

Modeling Drosophila eye morphology

Numerical modeling: optimize all L_{ij} , θ_i ,...

- Surface Evolver simulations
- find local minimum of energy functional
- optimization parameters: γ_E, γ_N



SH, S. Erisken, R. Carthew, PNAS 2008

Modeling results

Geometry feature	Experimental value	Model simulation	Physical parameter	Modeled value
w ₁ /w ₂	0.53±0.08	0.55	т _f /K _A	0.8±0.2
θ ₁	109°±6°	105°	$L_{0P}^{2}/2(\pi S_{P}^{2})^{1/2}$	1.40±0.01
θ ₂ θ ₃ L _{cen} /D	118°±6° 130°±9° 0.0792±0.0055	122° 128° 0.0776	γ _E γ _N	0.025±0.005 0.032±0.005

Validated by comparison with mutants!

Alternative: Potts Model simulations

- Grid elements with neighbor "spin" energies
- interfacial energy penalty
- evolution to local equilibrium

Käfer et al. PNAS 2007



Two independent calculations confirm: Shape can be obtained by energy minimization!

... but how about *mutants*?



Mosaic mutants: N⁺, N⁻, E⁺

N⁺ (extra N-Cadherin) Mutants: temporal sequence of cell contact



simultaneous cell contact





P cells contact *after* N+ cadherin expression

a feature of morphogenesis!

[I. Gemp, R. Carthew, SH PLoS Comp. Biol. 2011]

Conclusions

- Strictly local neighbor statistics capture size-topology correlations in 2D (foams, biological tissues,...)
- Analytical, general expressions
- Domain compactness (interface energy penalty) is important, but does not specifically enter statistics
- Individual cell shapes governed by membrane elasticity and cell-cell adhesion
- Geometric constraints + Interfacial energy + Quasistatic dynamics are all important determinants of structure/morphology/morphogenesis