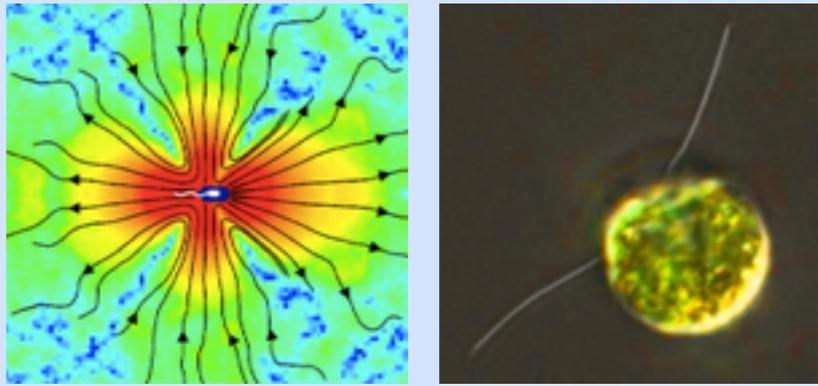


18.095 IAP Maths Lecture Series

# Over-damped dynamics of small objects in fluids

Jörn Dunkel  
Physical Applied Math

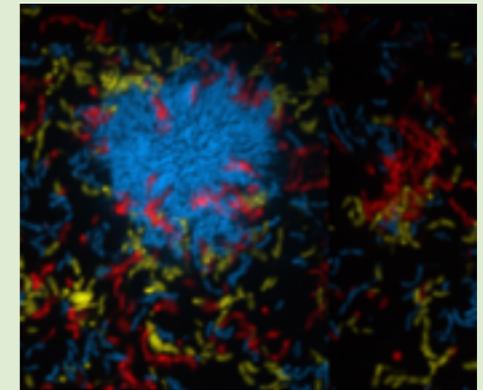
## Fluid dynamics of microorganisms



Goldstein group



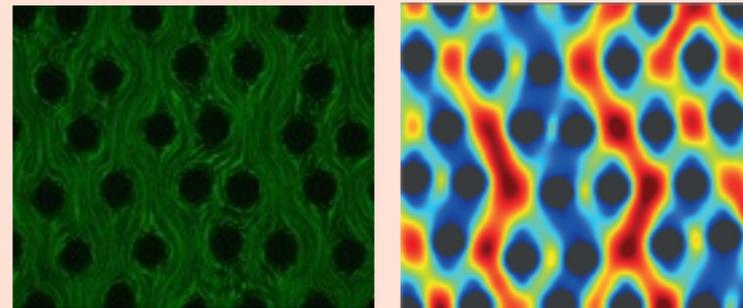
## Biofilm formation



Drescher lab



## Microbial transport in porous media



Guasto lab

## Surface wrinkling



Reis lab

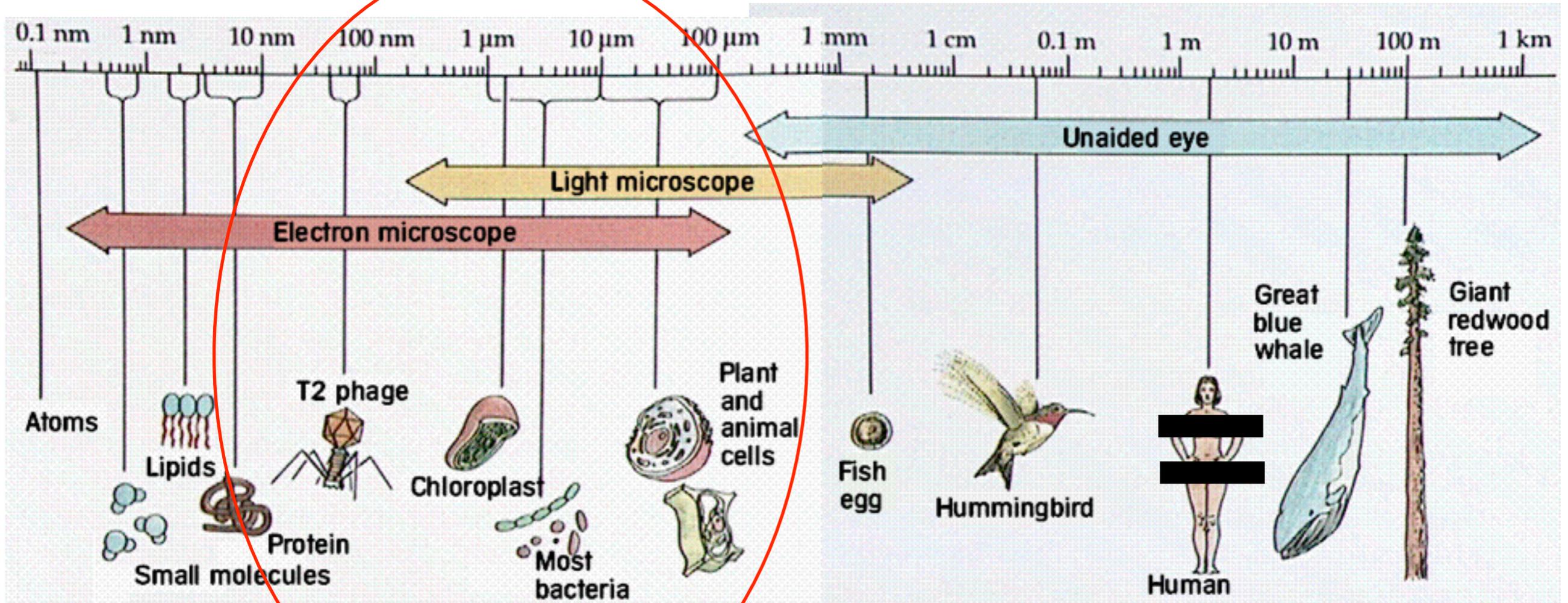
## Biological pattern formation



Gregor lab



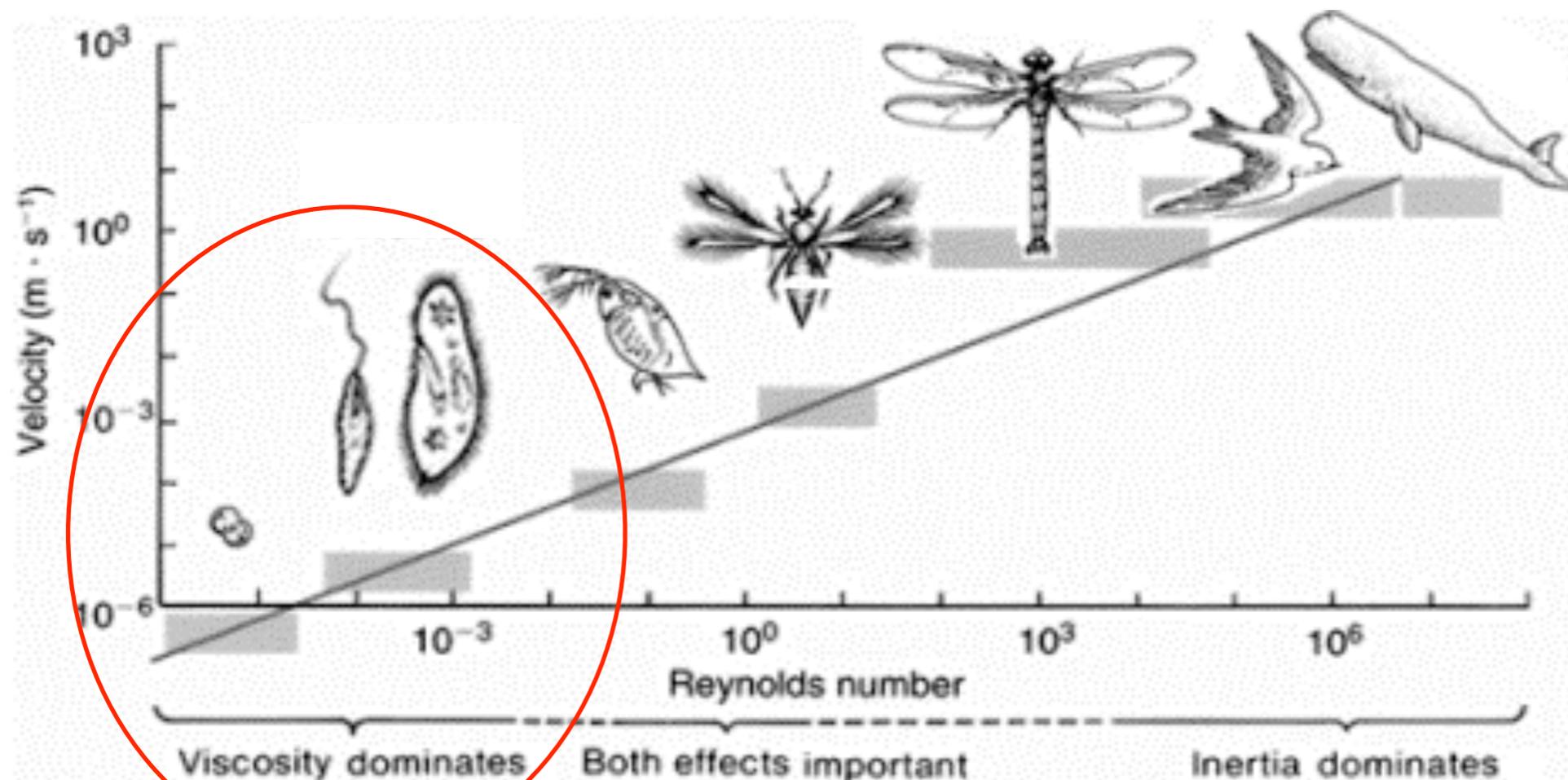
# Typical length scales



<http://www2.estrellamountain.edu/faculty/farabee/BIOBK/biobookcell2.html>

# Reynolds numbers

$$Re = \frac{\rho U L}{\mu} = \frac{U L}{\nu}$$



# Laminar (low-Re) flow



For  $Re \rightarrow 0$   
fluid flow becomes  
reversible !

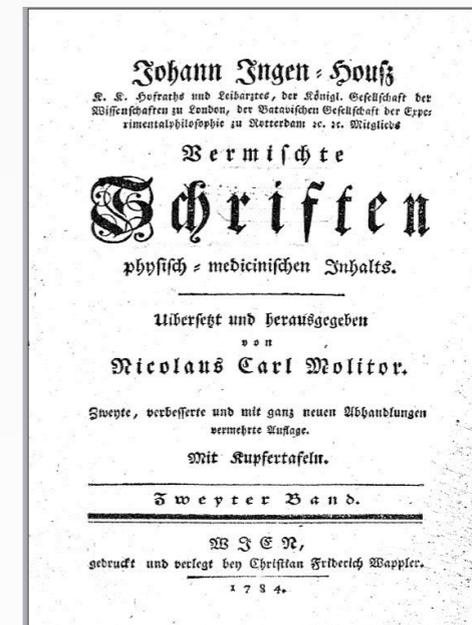
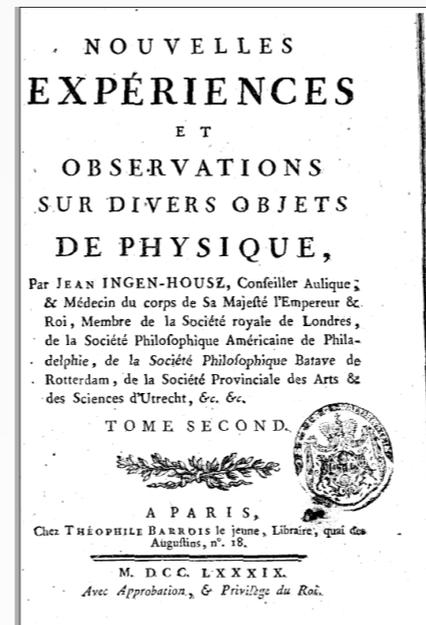
... except for thermal  
fluctuations

# Brownian motion



# “Brownian” motion

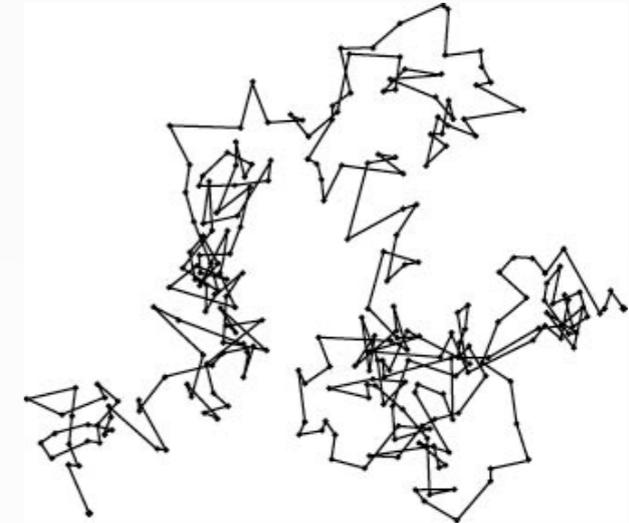
Jan Ingen-Housz (1730-1799)



1784/1785:

über betrügen könnte, darf man nur in den Brennpunct eines Mikroskops einen Tropfen Weingeist sammt etwas gestoßener Kohle setzen; man wird diese Körperchen in einer verwirrten beständigen und heftigen Bewegung erblicken, als wenn es Thierchen wären, die sich reißend unter einander fortbewegen.

## Robert Brown (1773-1858)

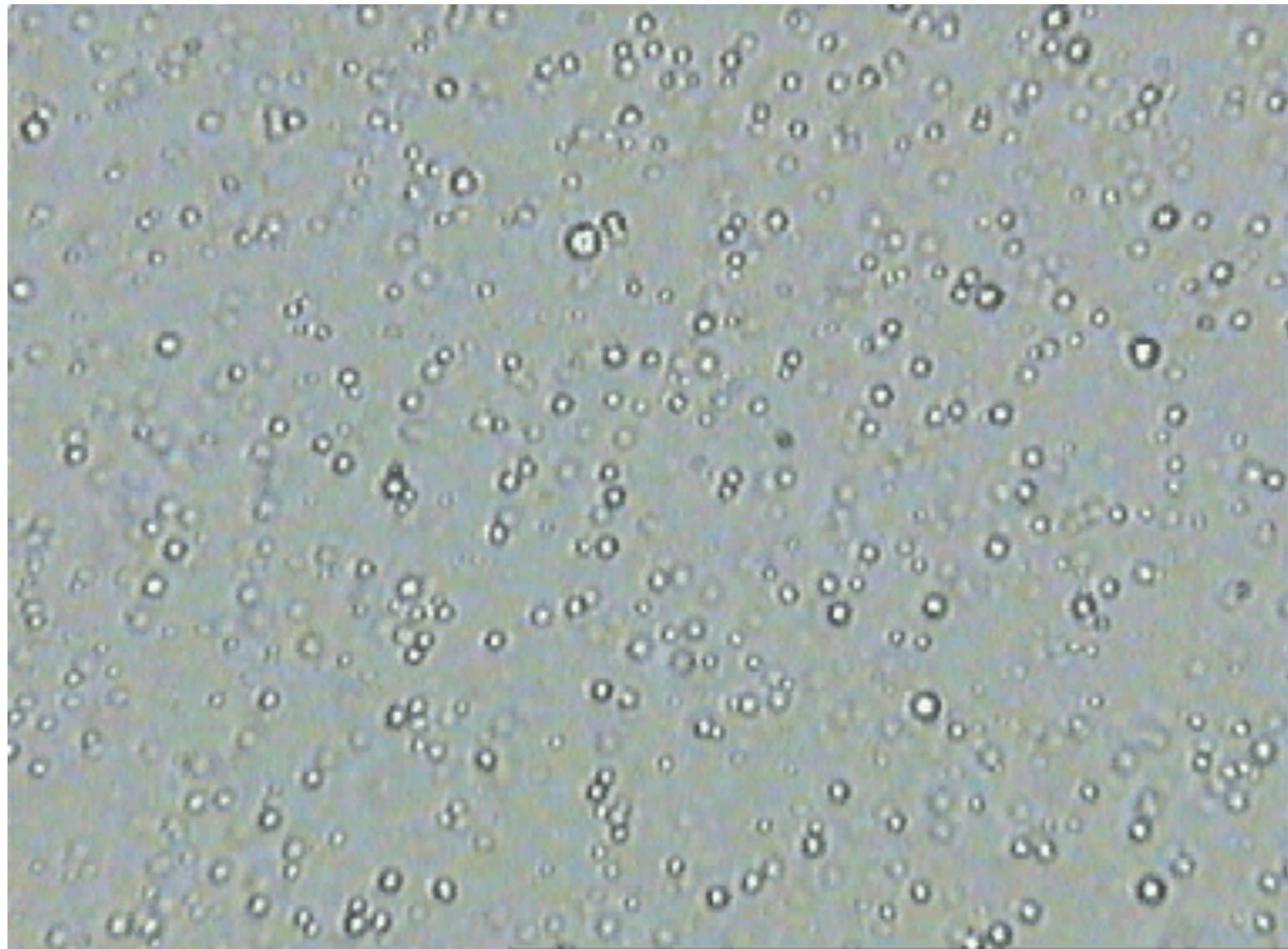


Linnean Society (London)

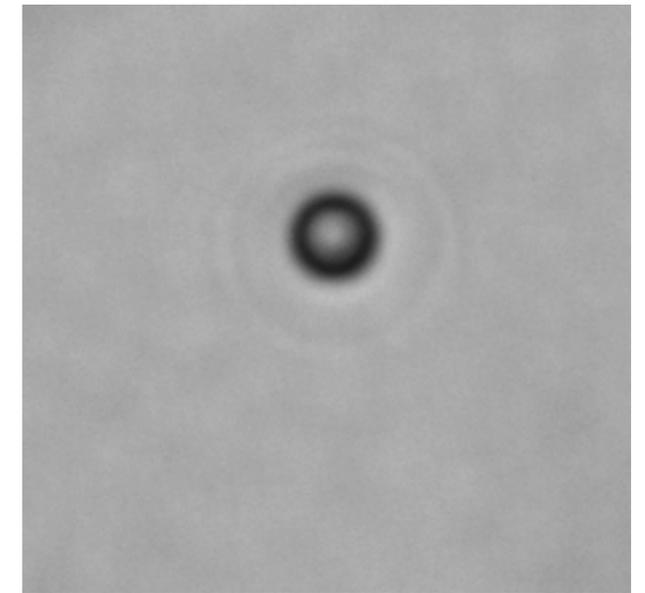
1827: irregular motion of pollen in fluid

<http://www.brianjford.com/wbbrownc.htm>

# Brownian motion



David Walker



Mark Haw

W. Sutherland (1858-1911)

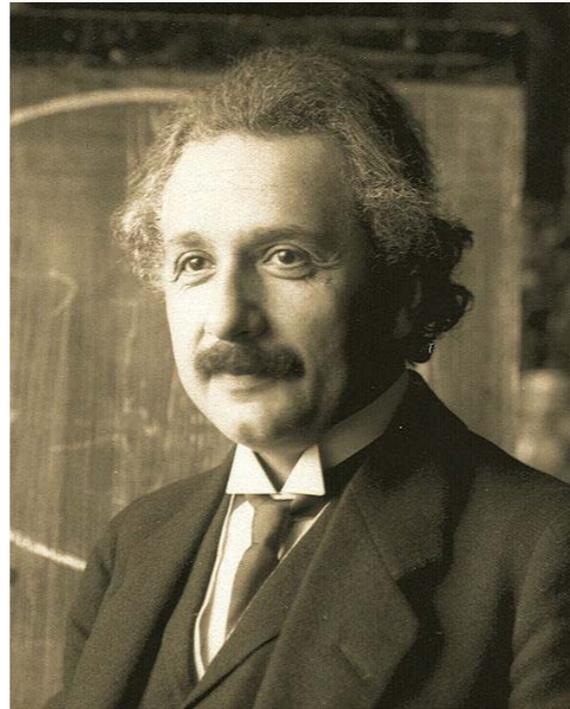


Source: [www.theage.com.au](http://www.theage.com.au)

$$D = \frac{RT}{6\pi\eta aC}$$

Phil. Mag. **9**, 781 (1905)

A. Einstein (1879-1955)



Source: [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org)

$$\langle x^2(t) \rangle = 2Dt$$

$$D = \frac{RT}{N} \frac{1}{6\pi kP}$$

Ann. Phys. **17**, 549 (1905)

M. Smoluchowski  
(1872-1917)

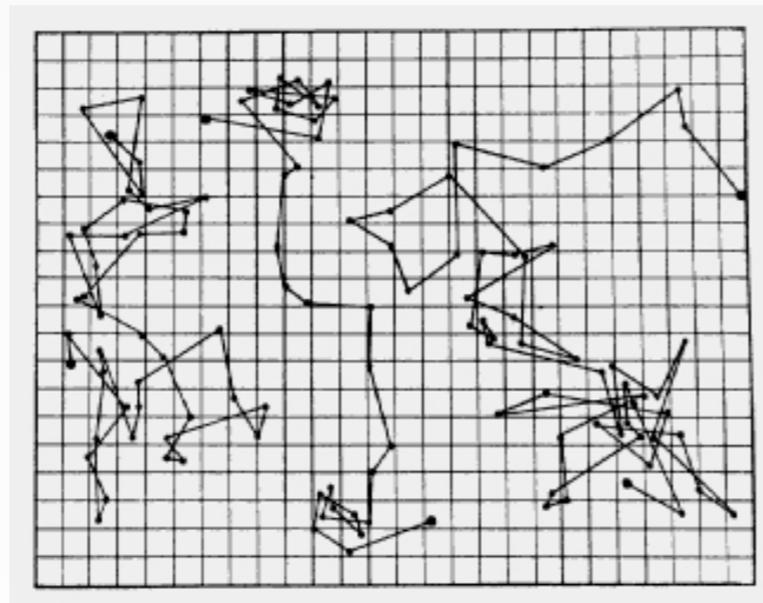


Source: [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org)

$$D = \frac{32}{243} \frac{mc^2}{\pi\mu R}$$

Ann. Phys. **21**, 756 (1906)

# Jean Baptiste Perrin (1870-1942, Nobel prize 1926)



- ▶ colloidal particles of radius  $0.53\mu\text{m}$
- ▶ successive positions every 30 seconds joined by straight line segments
- ▶ mesh size is  $3.2\mu\text{m}$

*Mouvement brownien et réalité moléculaire*, Annales de chimie et de physique VIII 18, 5-114 (1909)

*Les Atomes*, Paris, Alcan (1913)

$$D = \frac{kT}{6\pi\eta_0 a}, \quad k = \frac{R}{N_A} \quad N_A = 6.56 \times 10^{23}$$

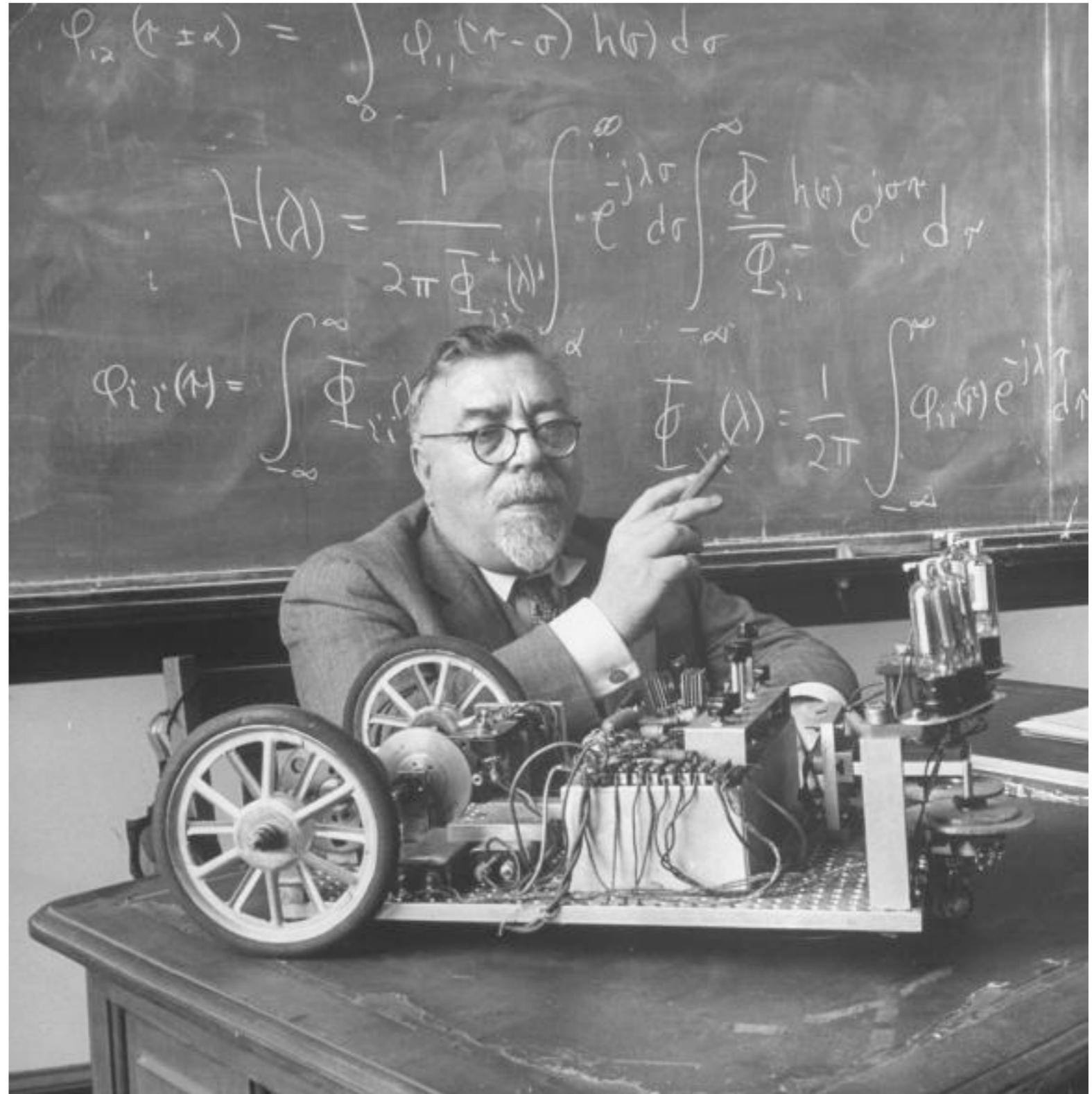
experimental evidence for  
atomistic structure of matter

# Mathematical theory

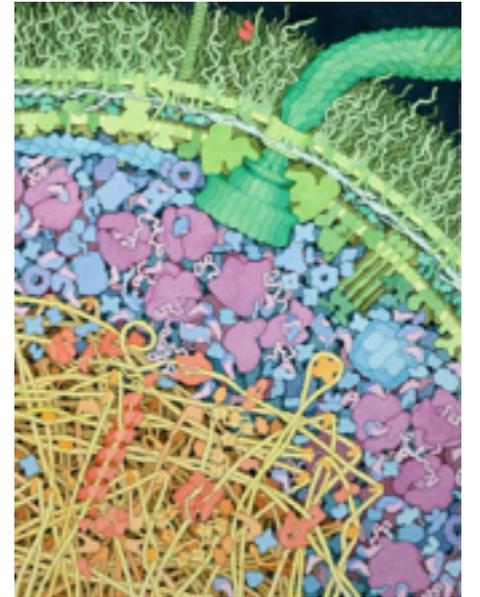
Norbert Wiener

(1894-1864)

MIT

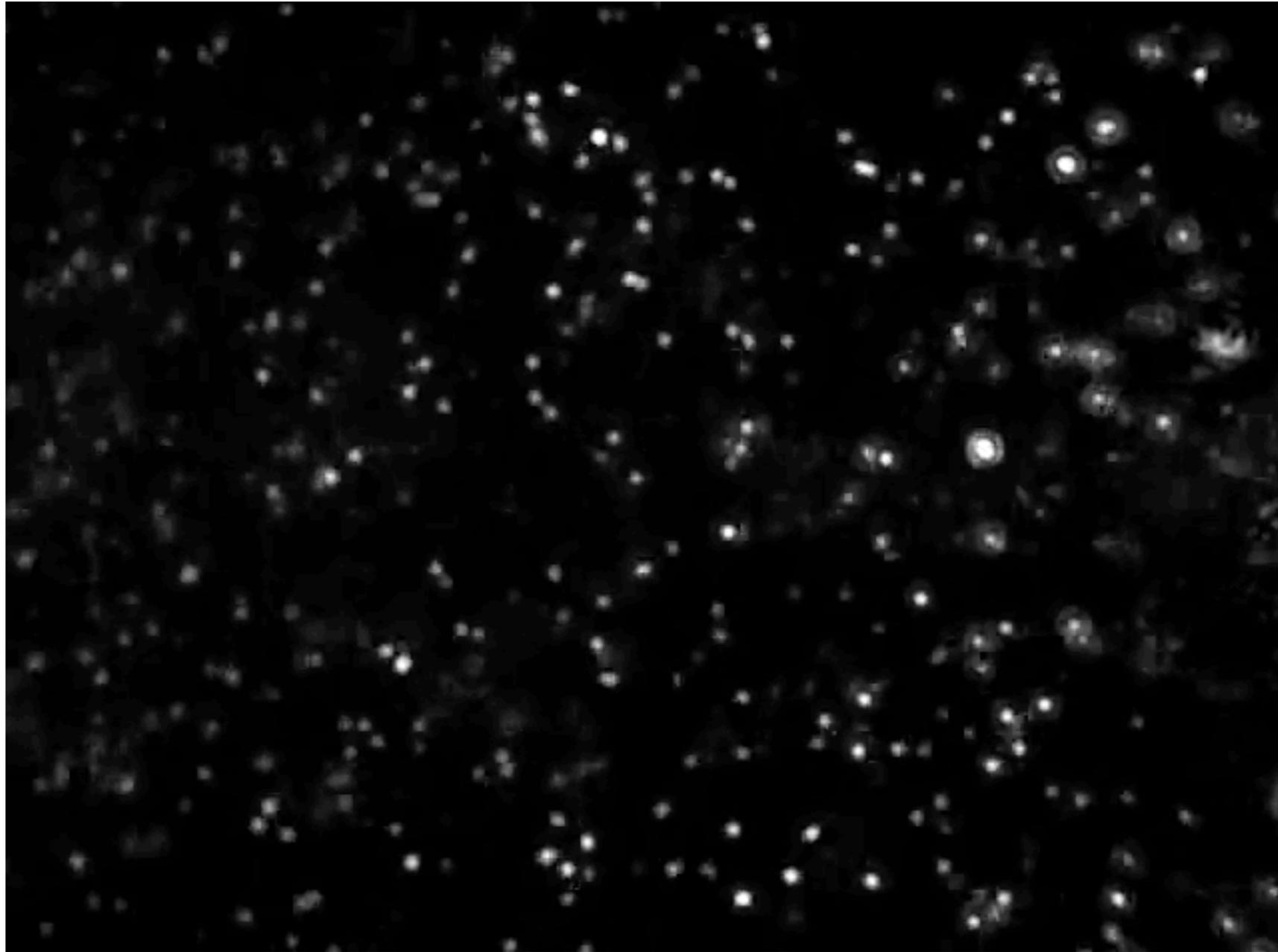


# Relevance in biology



- **intra**cellular transport
- **inter**cellular transport
- microorganisms must beat BM to achieve directed locomotion
- tracer diffusion = important experimental “tool”
- generalized BMs (polymers, membranes, etc.)

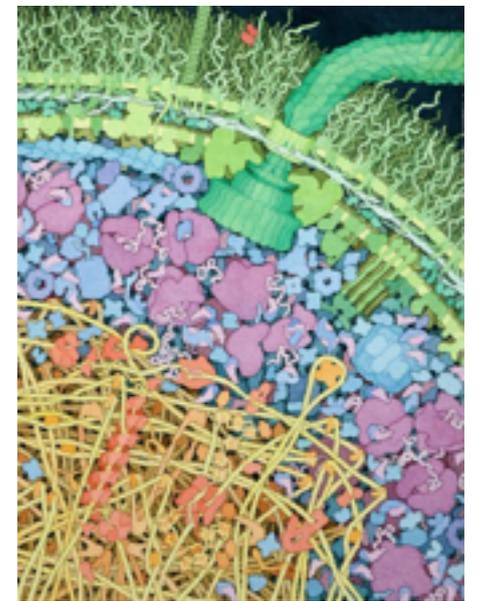
# Nano-spheres in water



Rutger Saly

# Polymer in a fluid

Dogic lab  
(Brandeis)



$< 1\mu m$

# Ring-polymer in a fluid

Dogic lab  
(Brandeis)



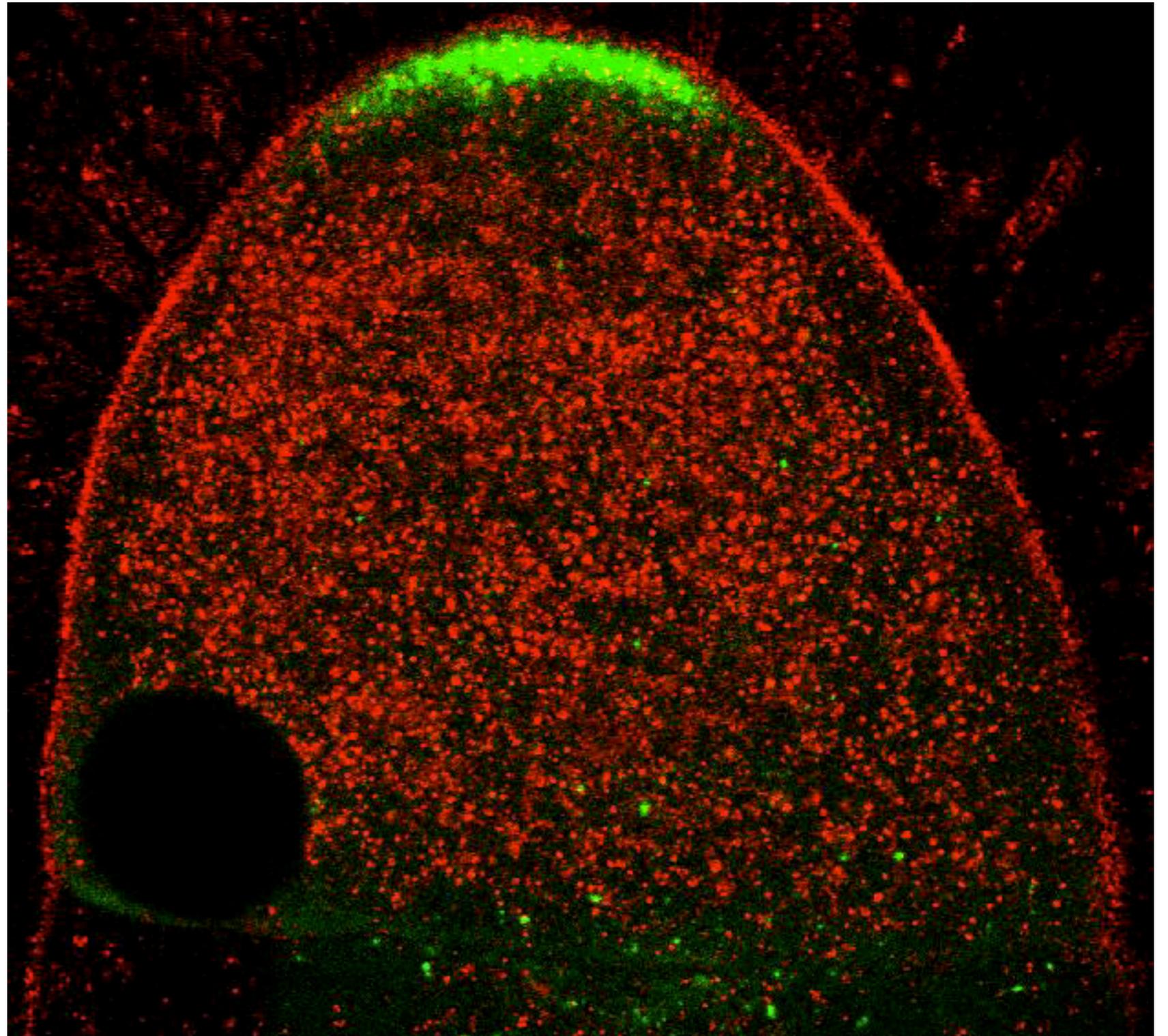
$< 1\mu m$

# Flow **in** cells

# Flow & transport in cells



Drosophila  
embryo

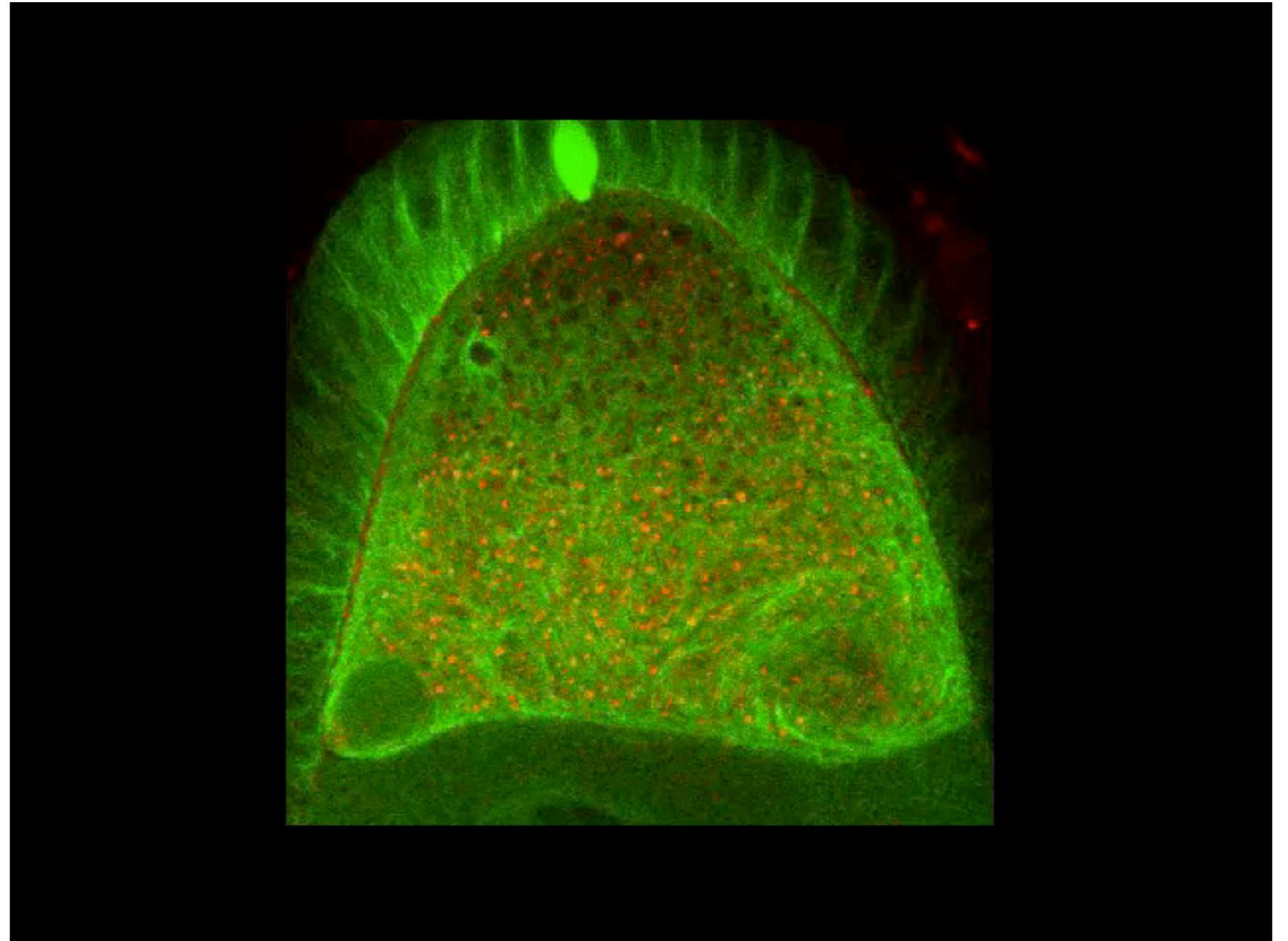


Goldstein lab (Cambridge)

# Flow & transport in cells



Drosophila  
embryo



Goldstein lab (Cambridge)

# Intracellular transport

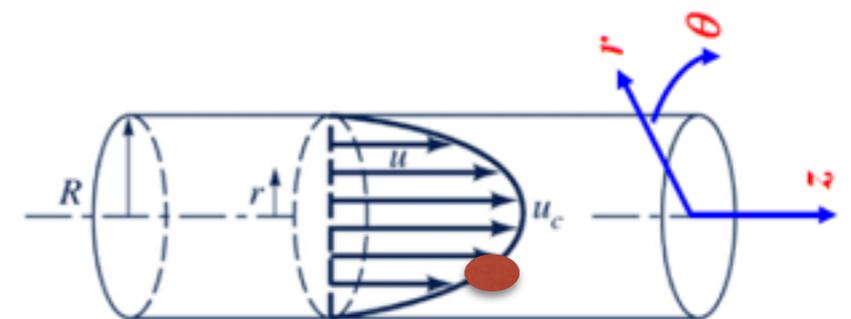
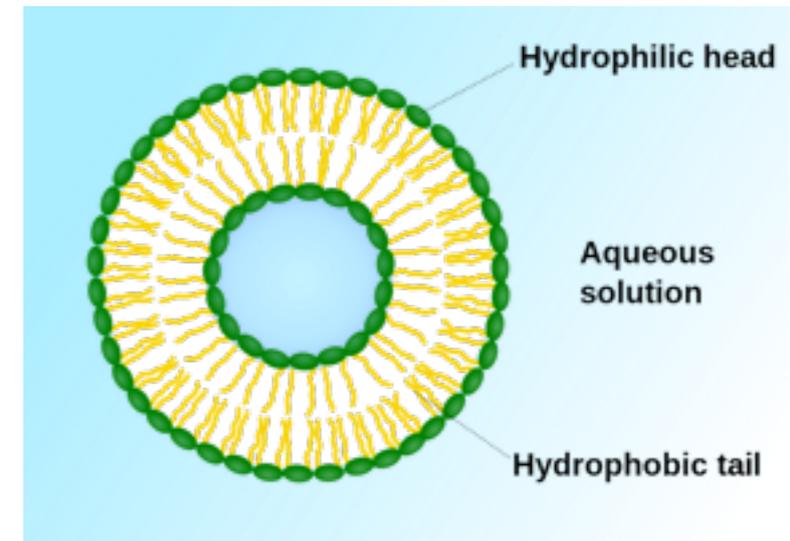
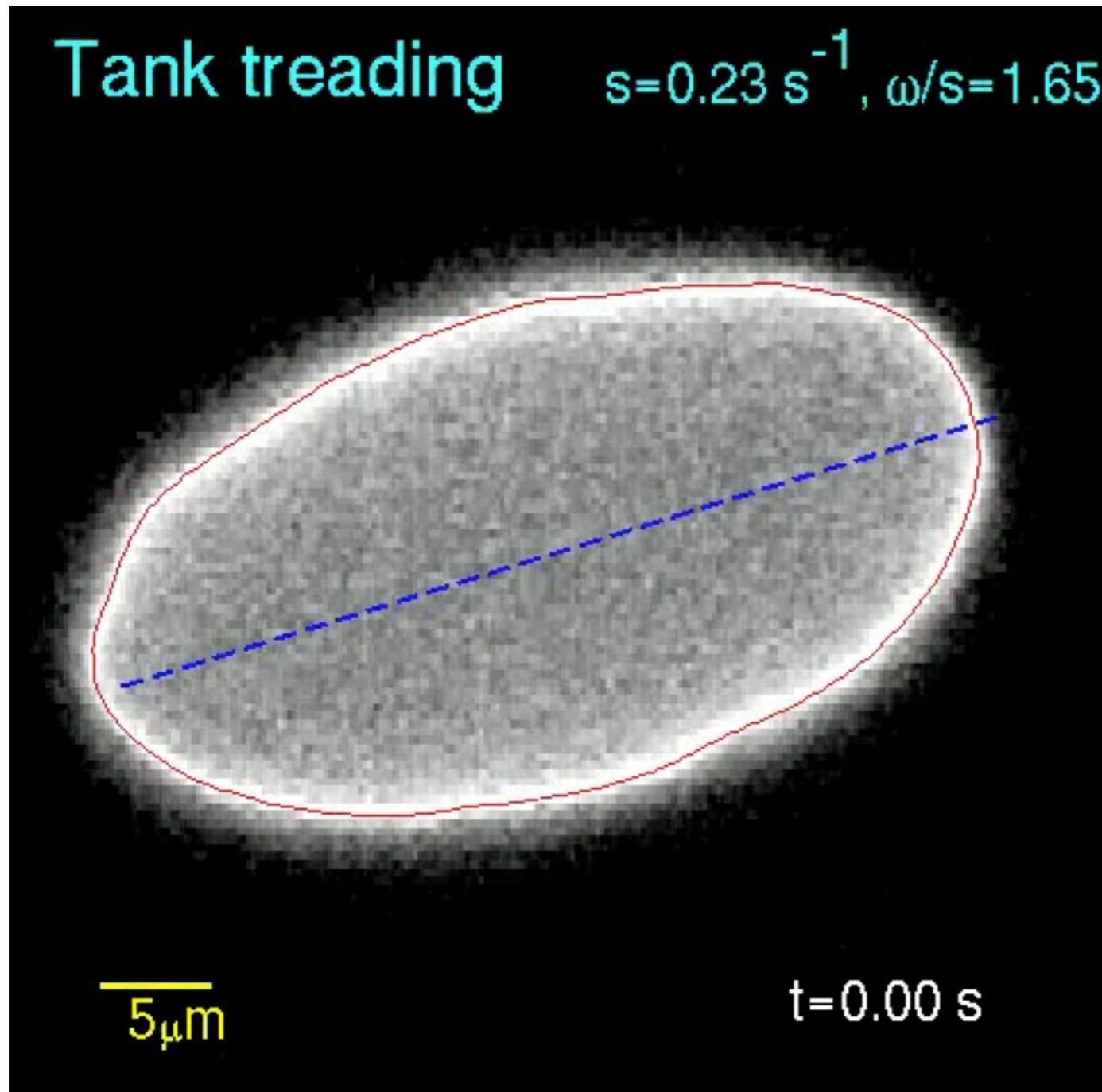


Giant cell

<http://damtp.cam.ac.uk/user/gold/movies.html>

# Flow around cells

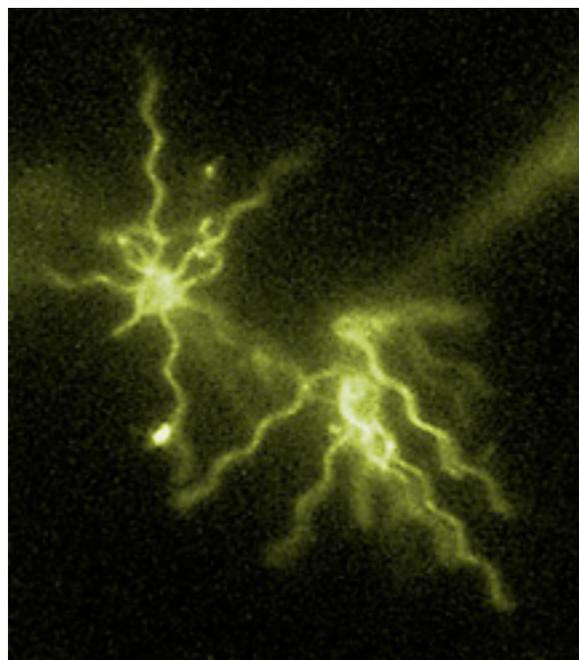
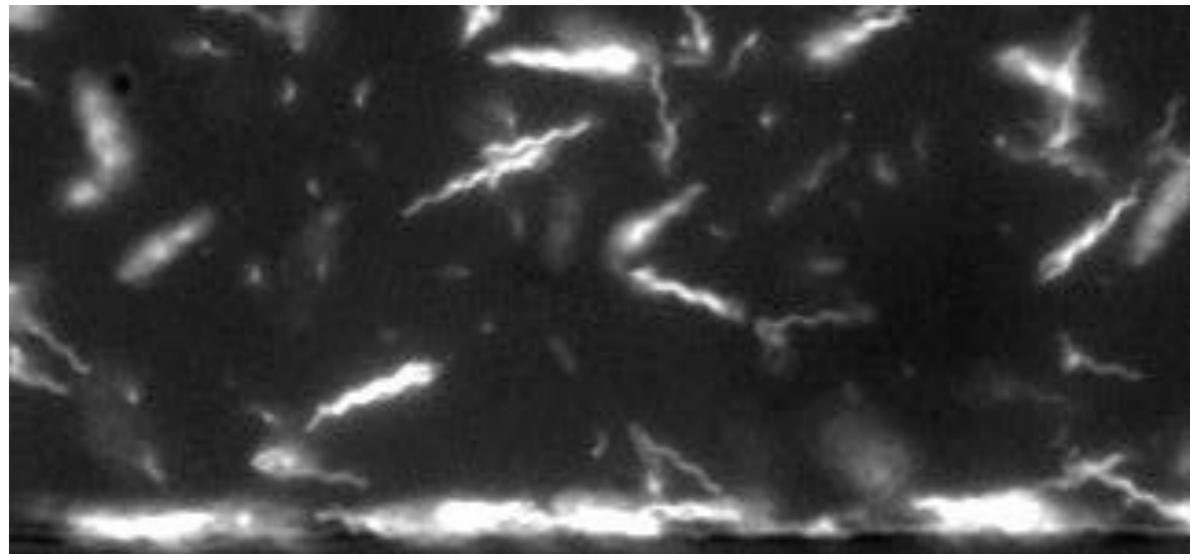
# Vesicles in a shear flow



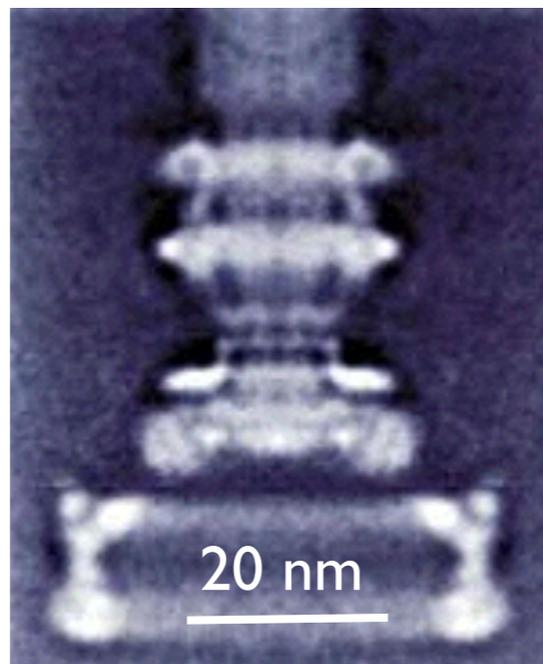
model for  
blood cells  
dynamics

# Swimming bacteria

movie: V. Kantsler

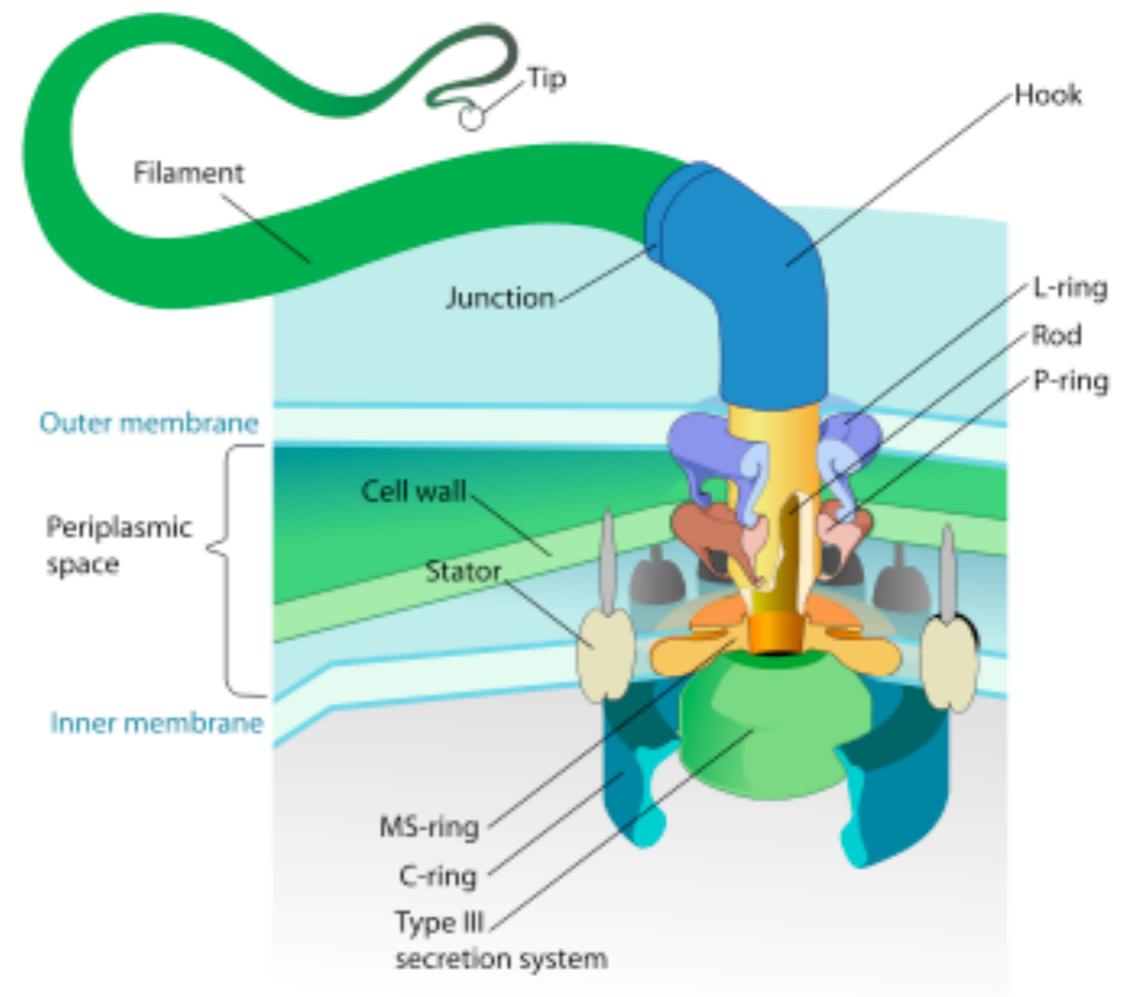


Berg (1999) Physics Today



Chen et al (2011) EMBO Journal

~20 parts



source: wiki

# How fast must a cell swim to beat Brownian motion?

$$\langle x^2 \rangle = 2Dt$$

$$D = \frac{kT}{6\pi\eta_0 a}$$

$$kT = 4 \times 10^{-21} \text{ J}$$

$$a \sim 1 \mu\text{m}$$

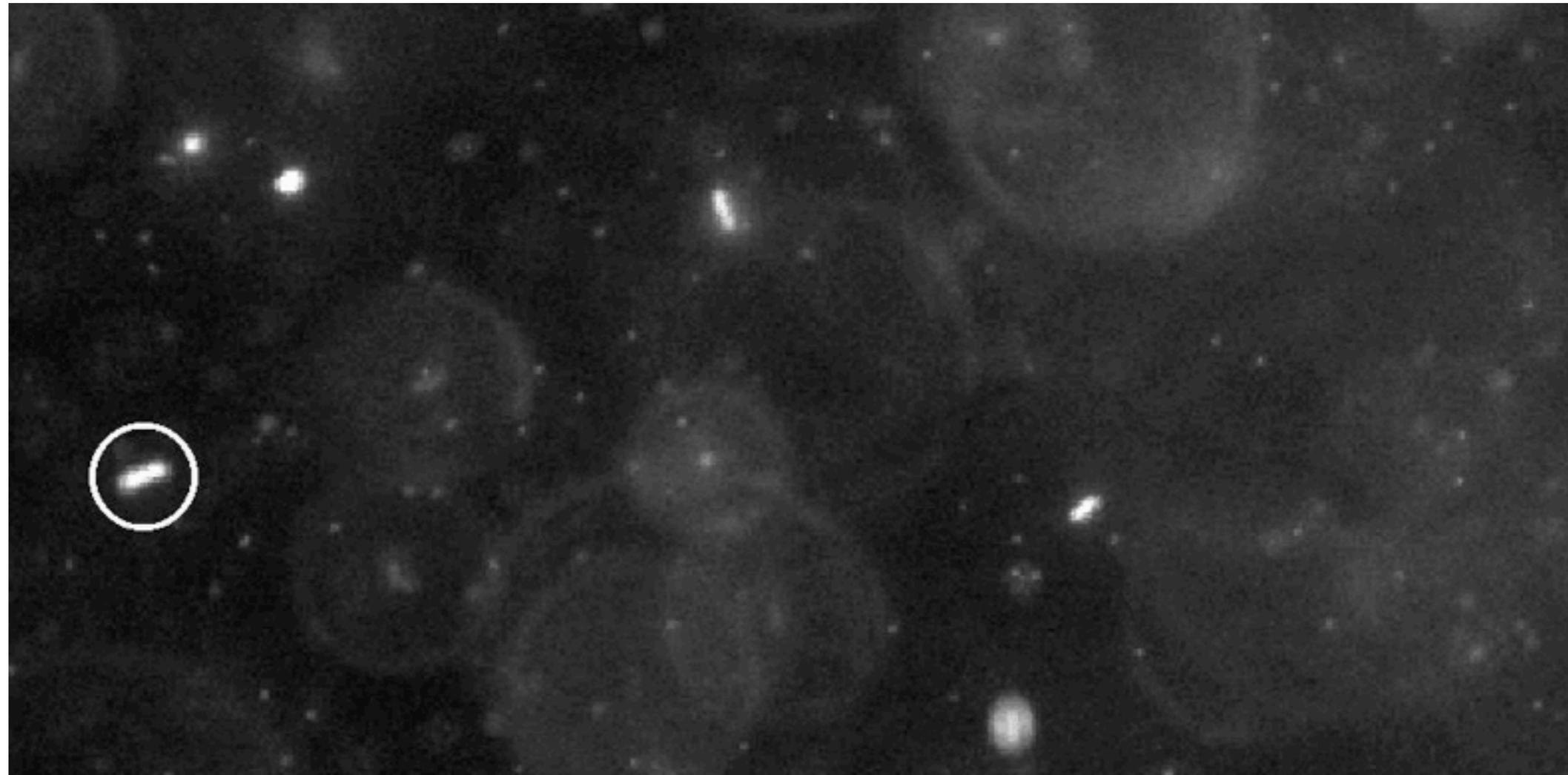
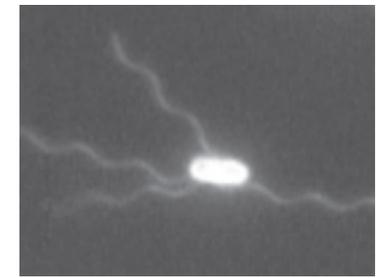
$$\gamma_S = 6\pi\eta a \sim 2 \times 10^{-8} \text{ kg/s}$$

Hence, we find for the diffusion constant

$$D \sim 0.2 \mu\text{m}^2/\text{s}$$

Assuming a run length  $\sim 1$  s, Brownian motion would move a micron-sized bacterium by approximately  $0.5 \mu\text{m}$  per second. Thus a bacterium should swim at last  $5\text{-}10 \mu\text{m/s}$ , which is close to typical swim bacterial speeds.

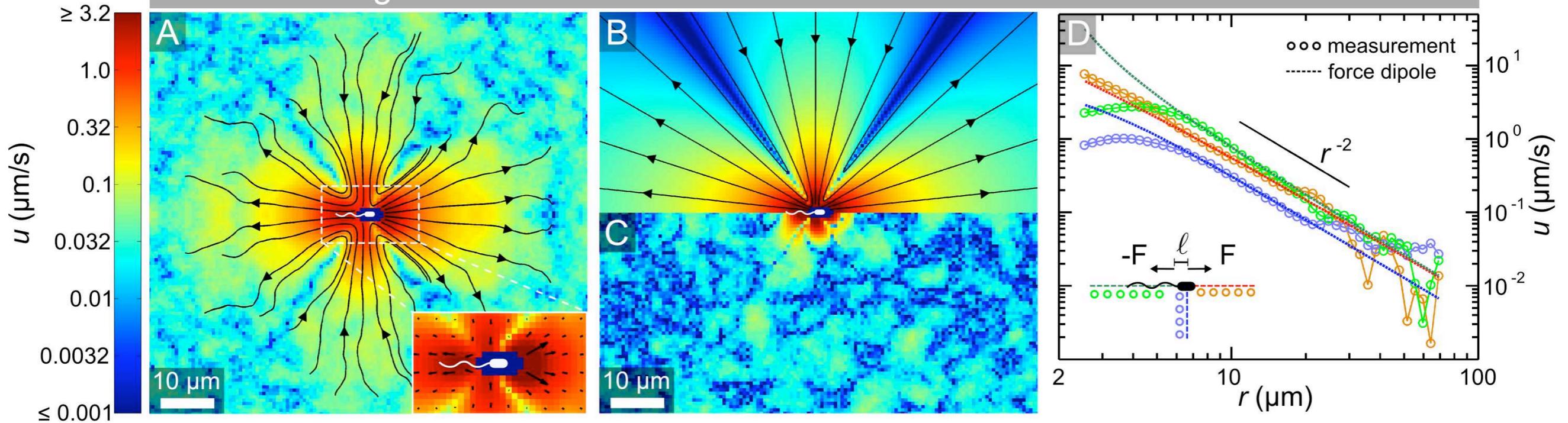
# *E. coli* (non-tumbling HCB 437)



# E.coli (non-tumbling HCB 437)



Free swimming



$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{A}{|\mathbf{r}|^2} \left[ 3(\hat{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{d}})^2 - 1 \right] \hat{\mathbf{r}}, \quad A = \frac{\ell F}{8\pi\eta}, \quad \hat{\mathbf{r}} = \frac{\mathbf{r}}{|\mathbf{r}|}$$

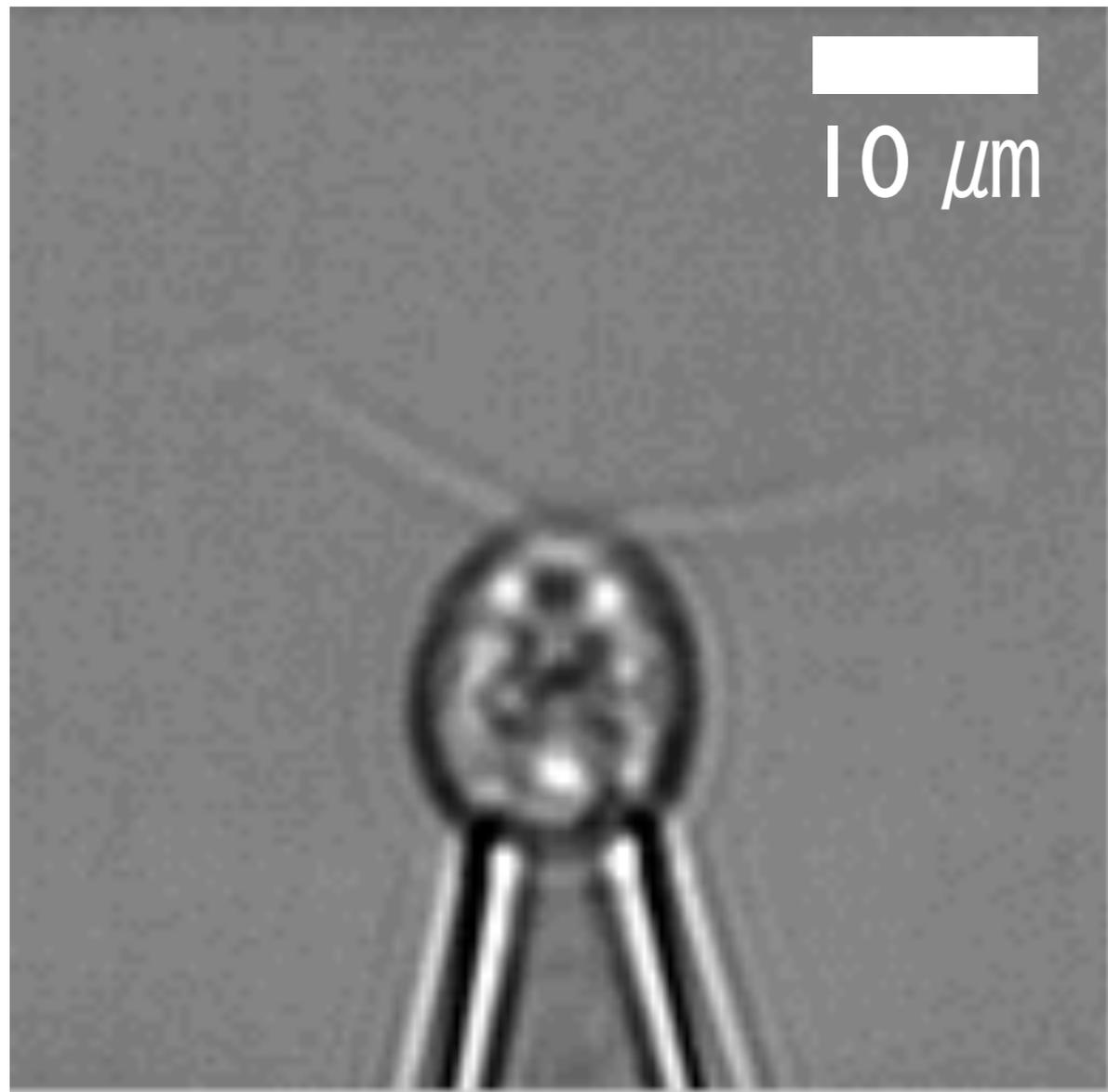
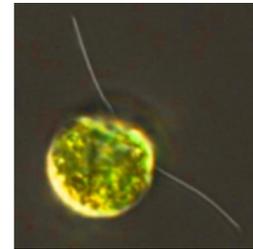
$$V_0 = 22 \pm 5 \mu\text{m/s}$$

$$\ell = 1.9 \mu\text{m}$$

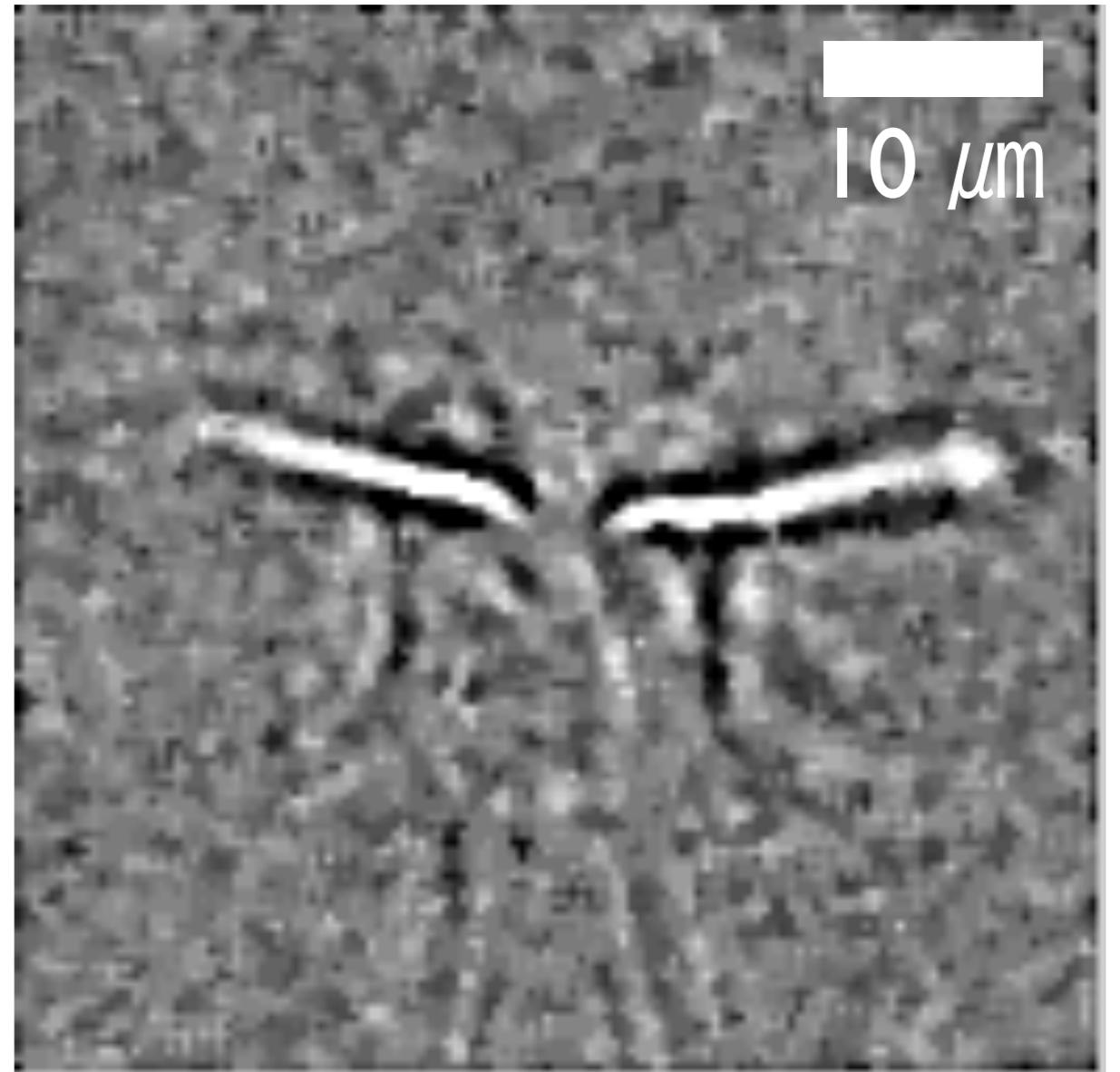
$$F = 0.42 \text{ pN}$$

weak 'pusher' dipole

# *Chlamydomonas* alga

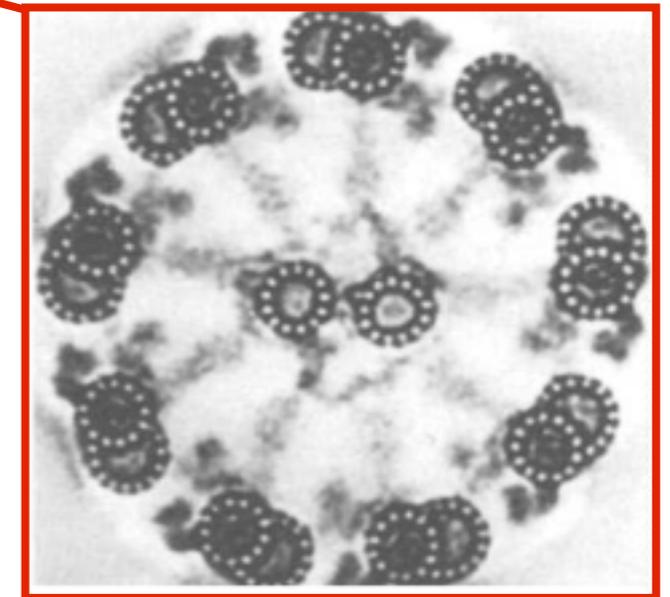
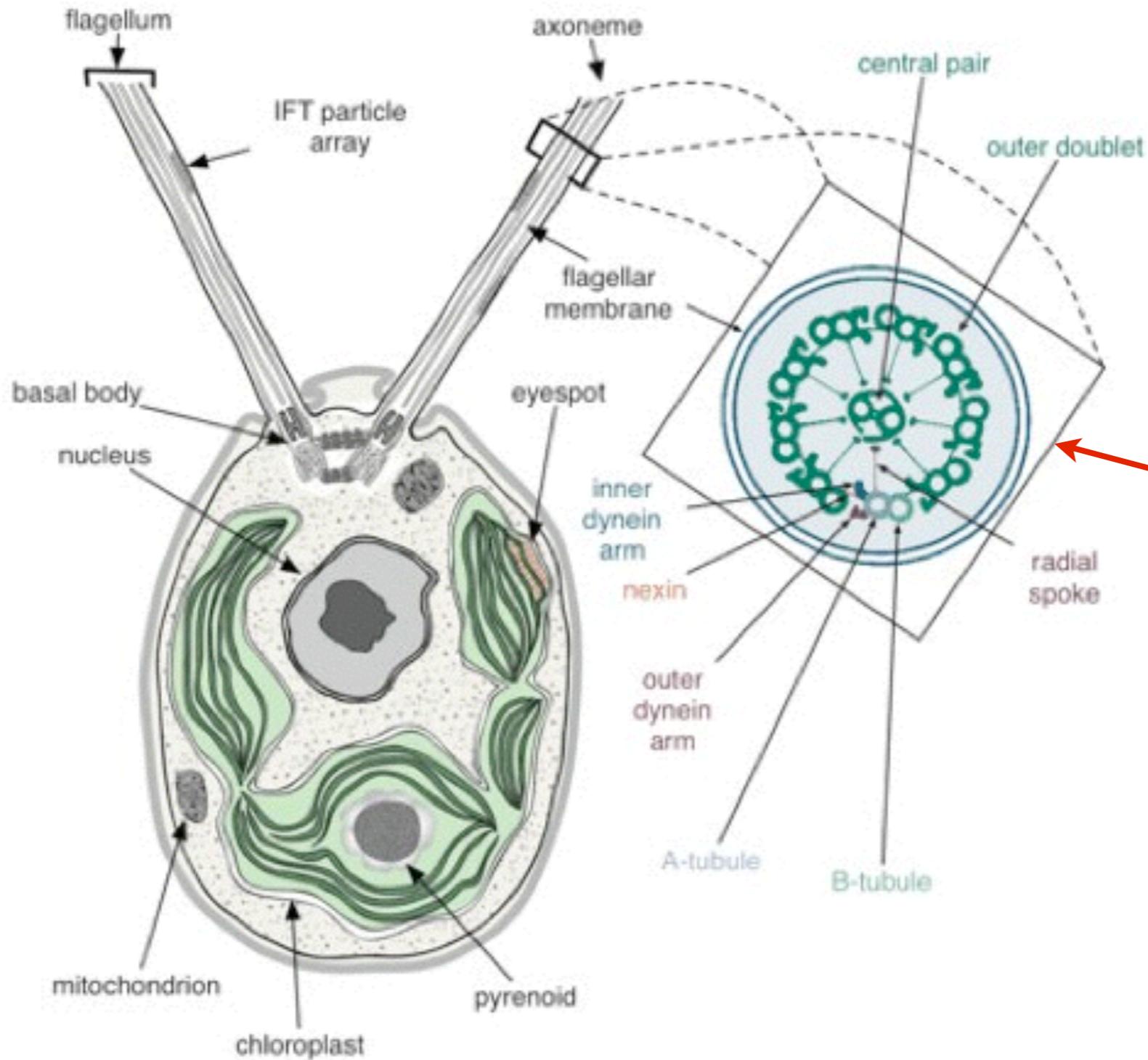
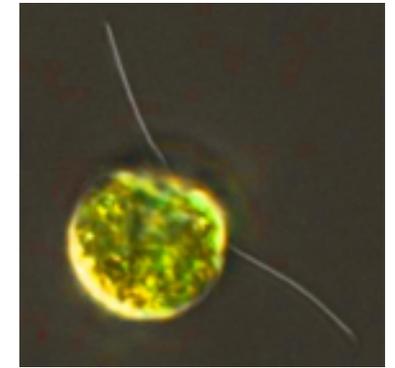


~ 50 beats / sec

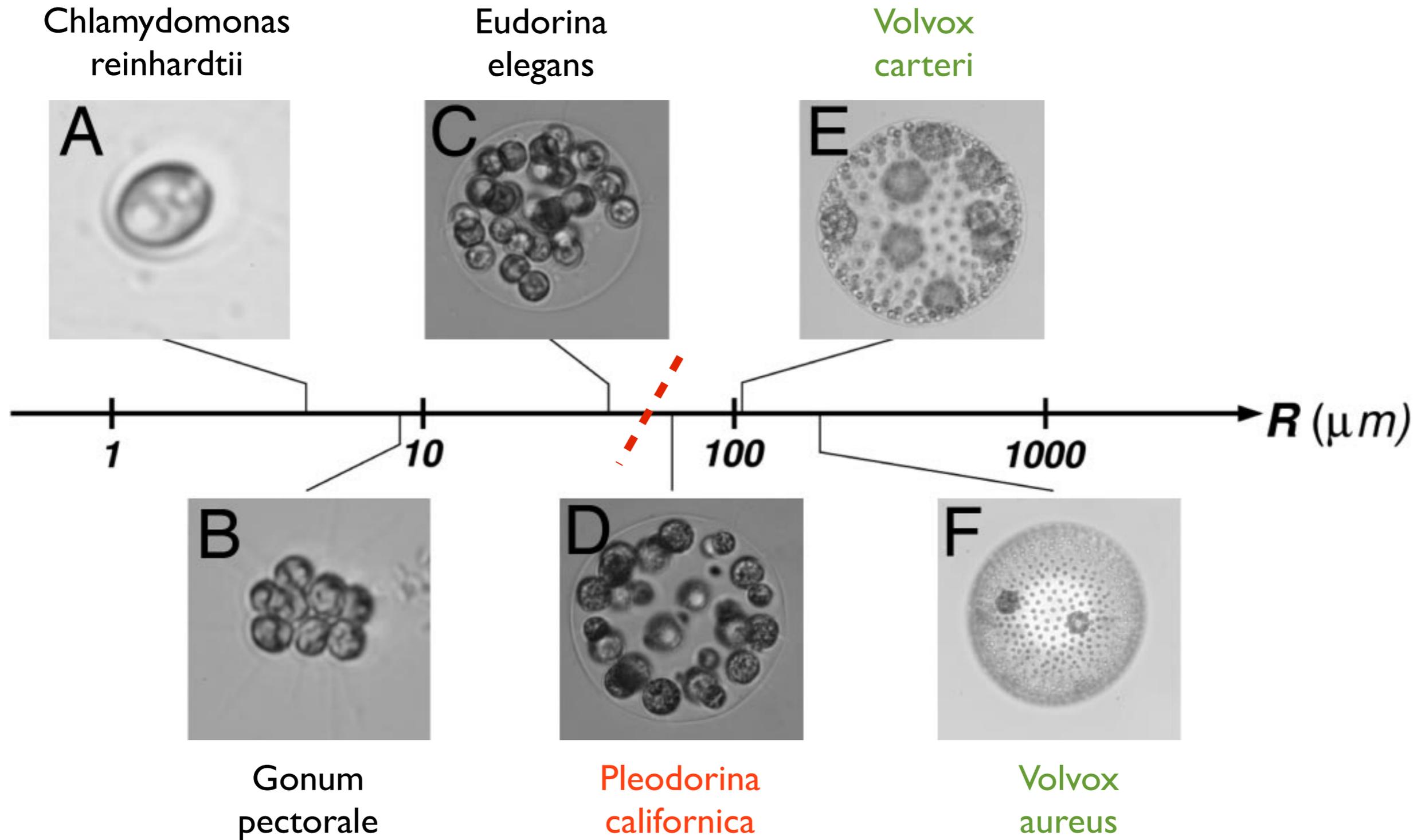


speed ~ 100 μm/s

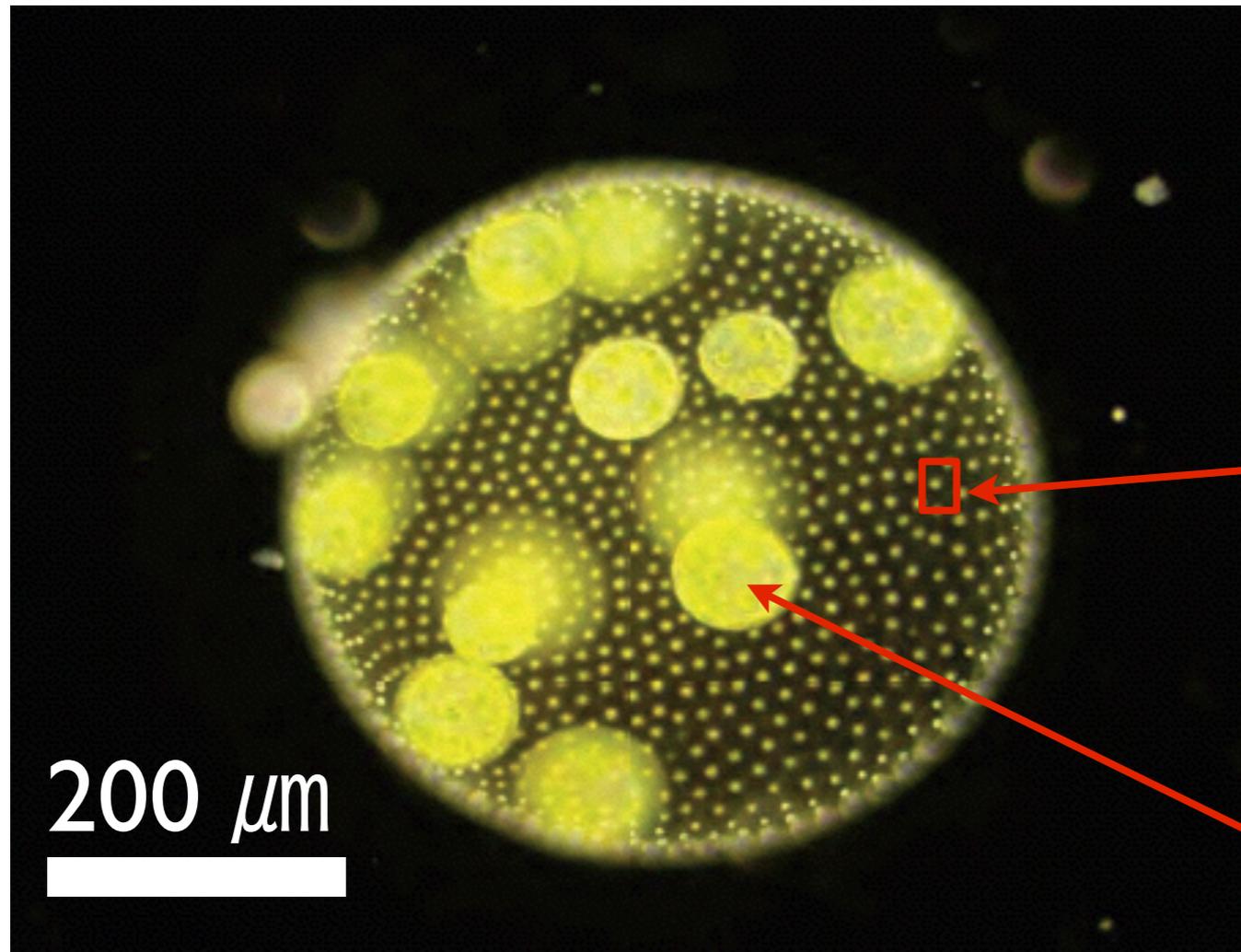
# Chlamydomonas



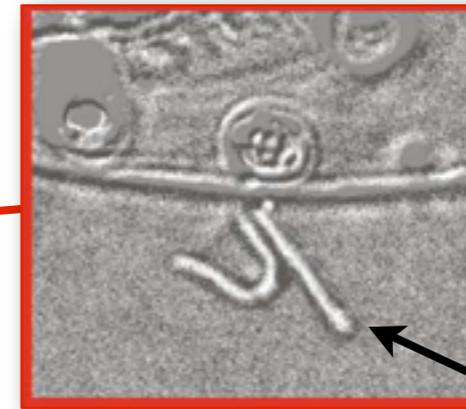
# Evolution of multicellularity



# Volvox carteri



200 μm



somatic  
cell

cilia

daughter colony

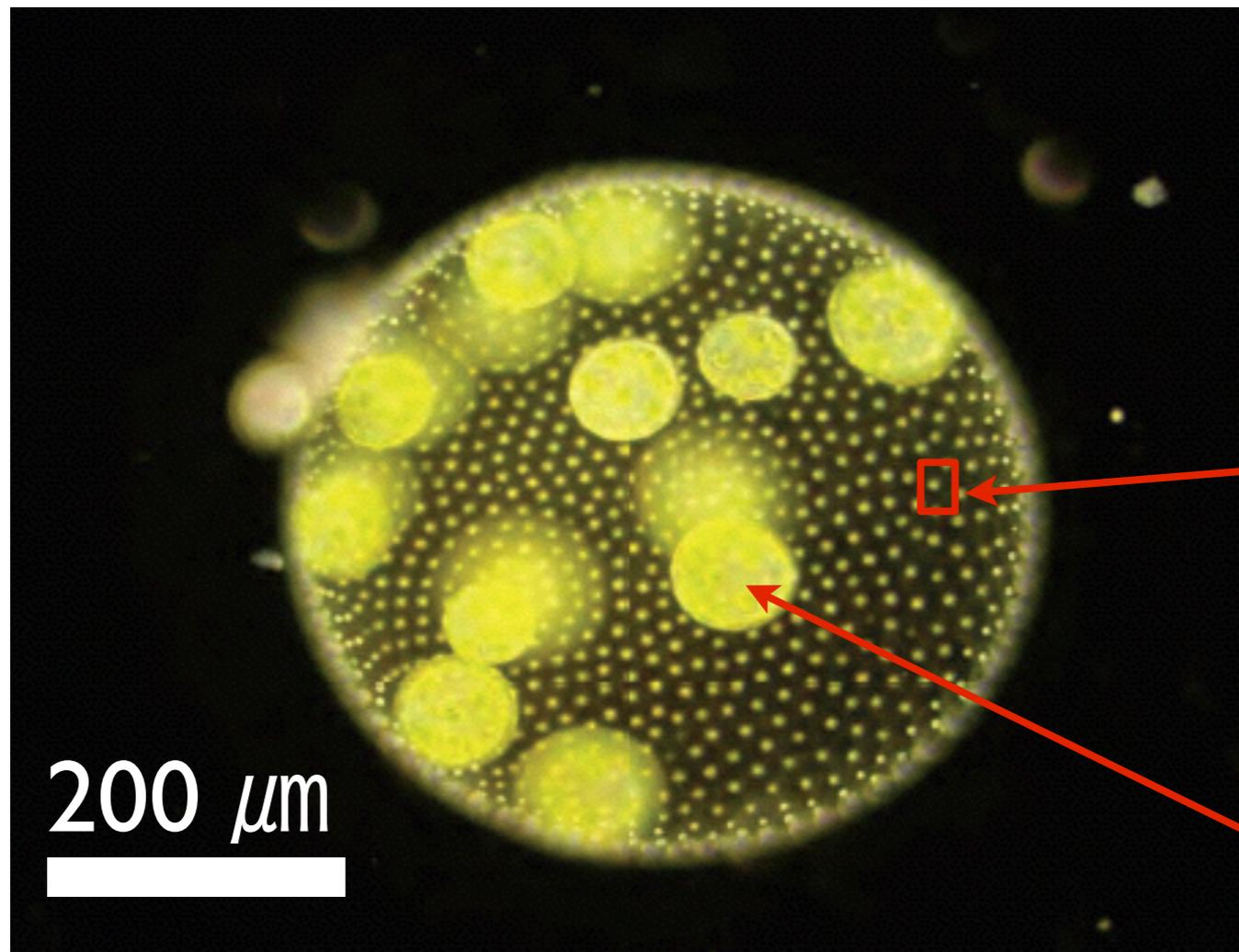
# Asexual reproduction & inversion

Time lapse movie showing multiple  
embryonic inversions

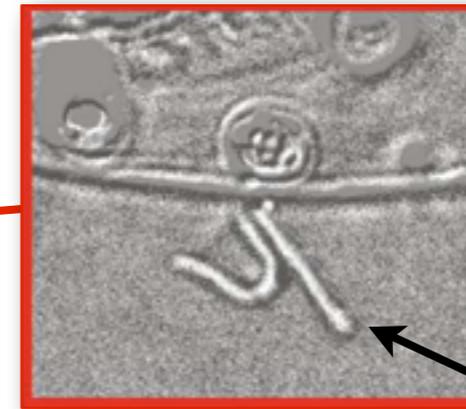
Videos show 3D renderings of images acquired using  
Selective Plane Illumination Microscopy (SPIM)  
and chlorophyll autofluorescence

scale bar: 100 microns

# Volvox carteri



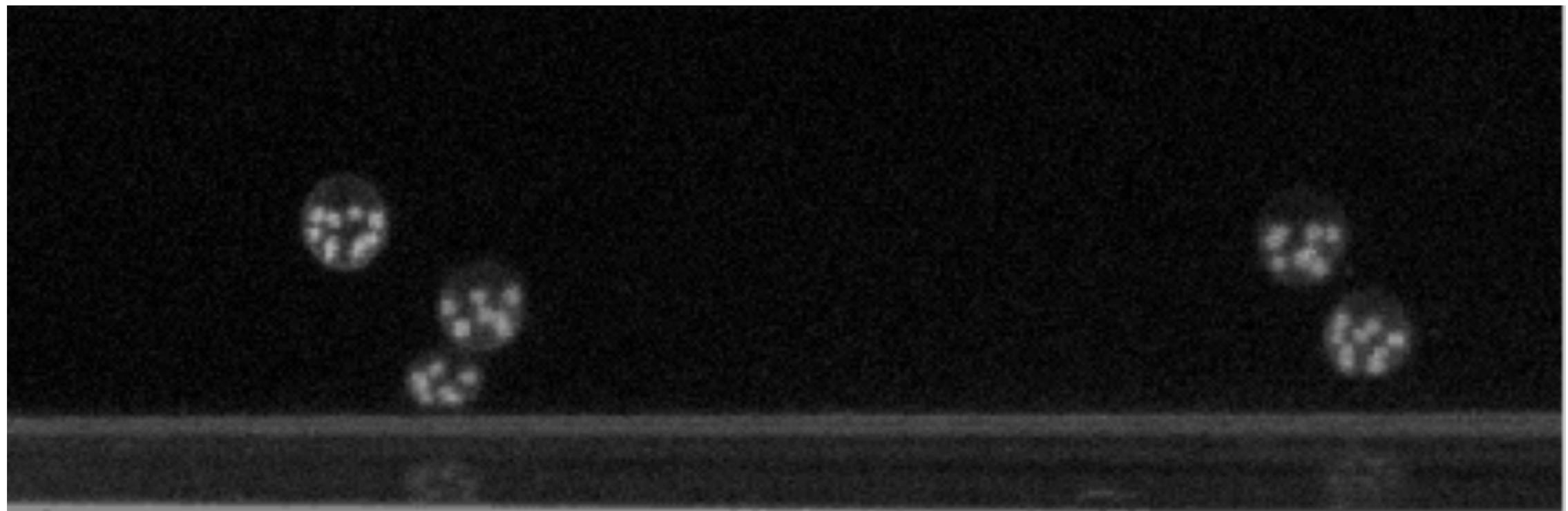
200 μm



somatic  
cell

cilia

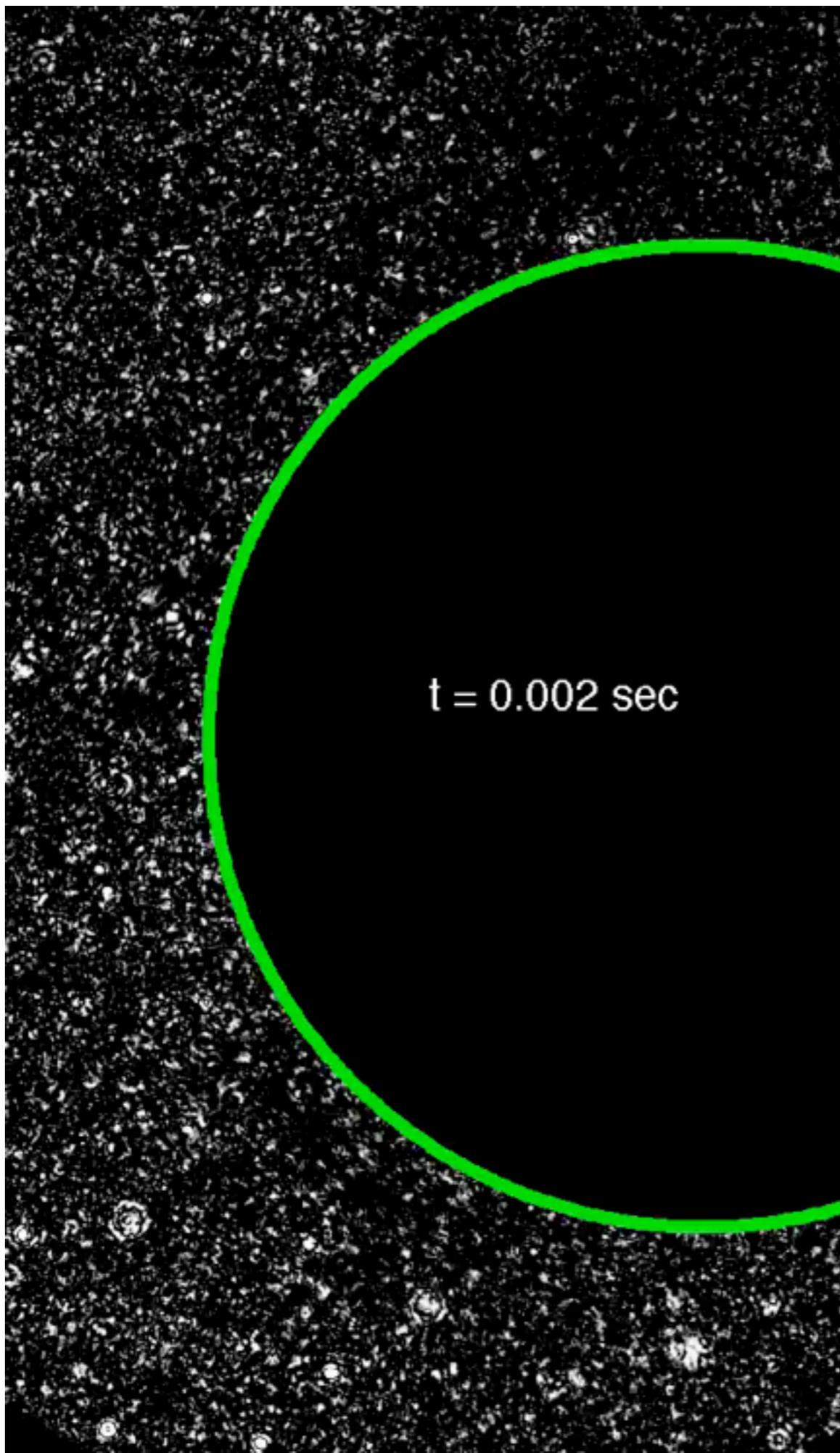
daughter colony



# Volvox

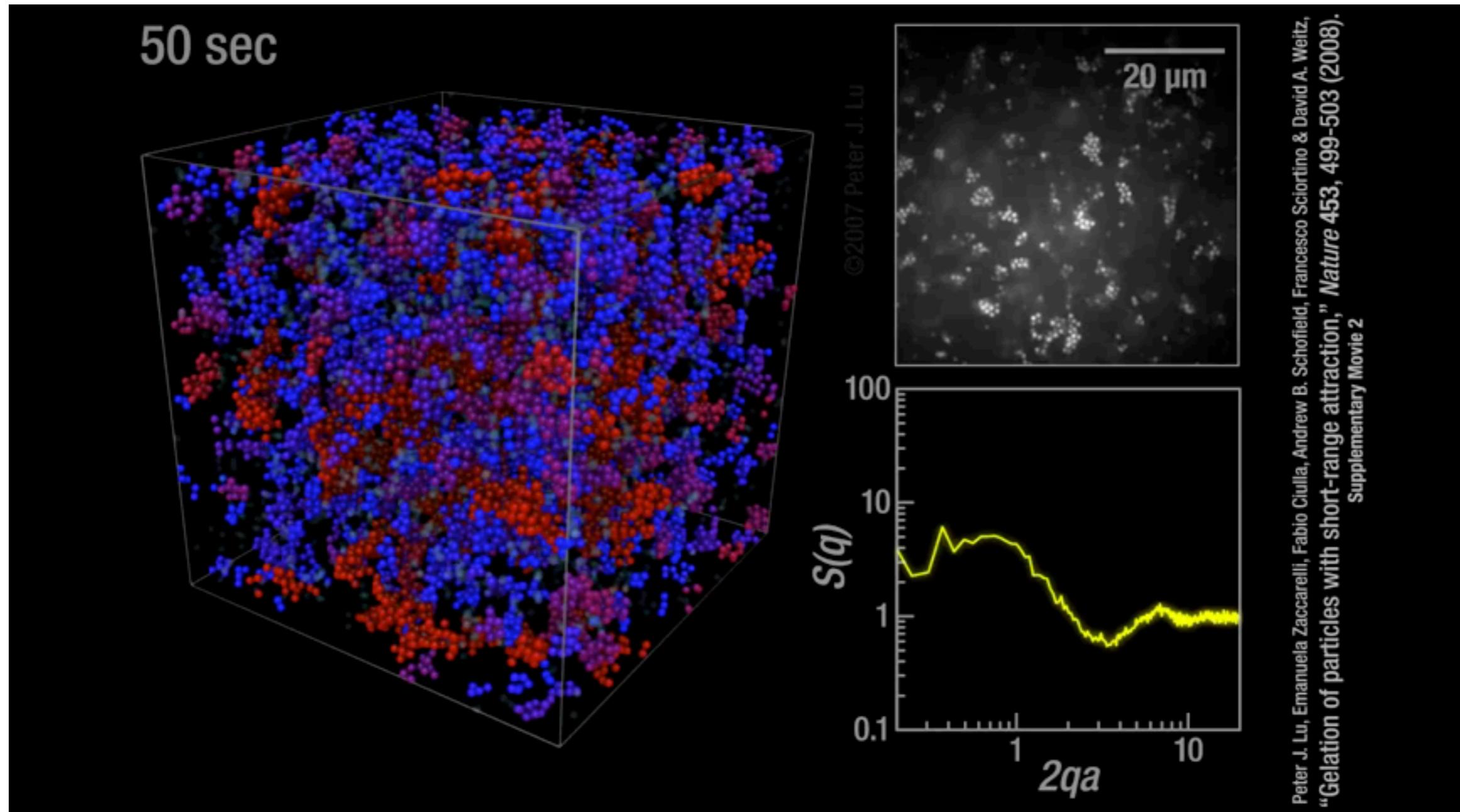
## Meta-chronal waves

Brumley et al (2012) PRL



# Ecological implications & technical applications

# Colloidal gel formation via spinodal decomposition (rapid demixing)



Peter Lu

# Sedimentation

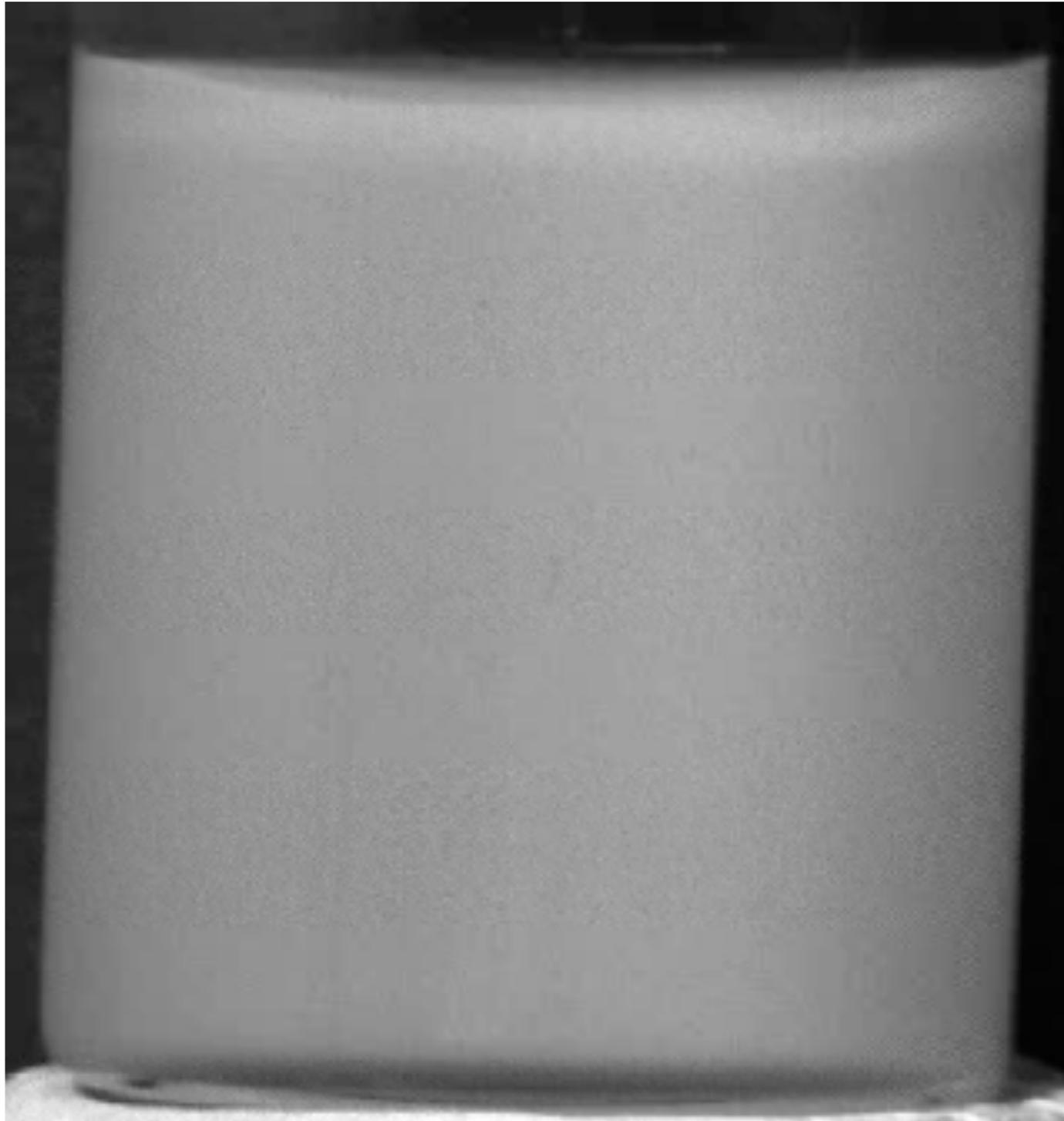


Mississippi

NASA Earth Observatory

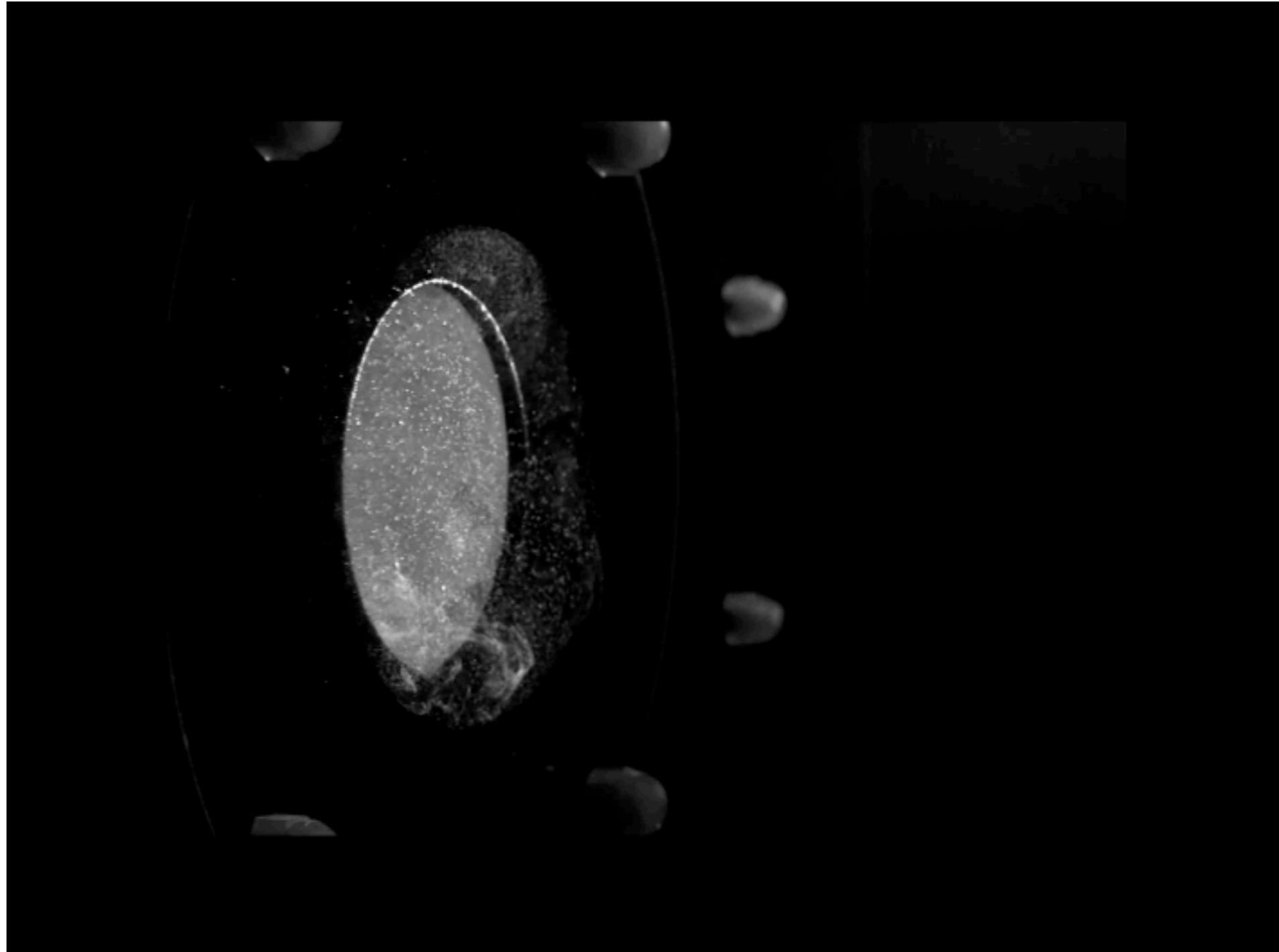


# Sedimentation



Particle  
separation

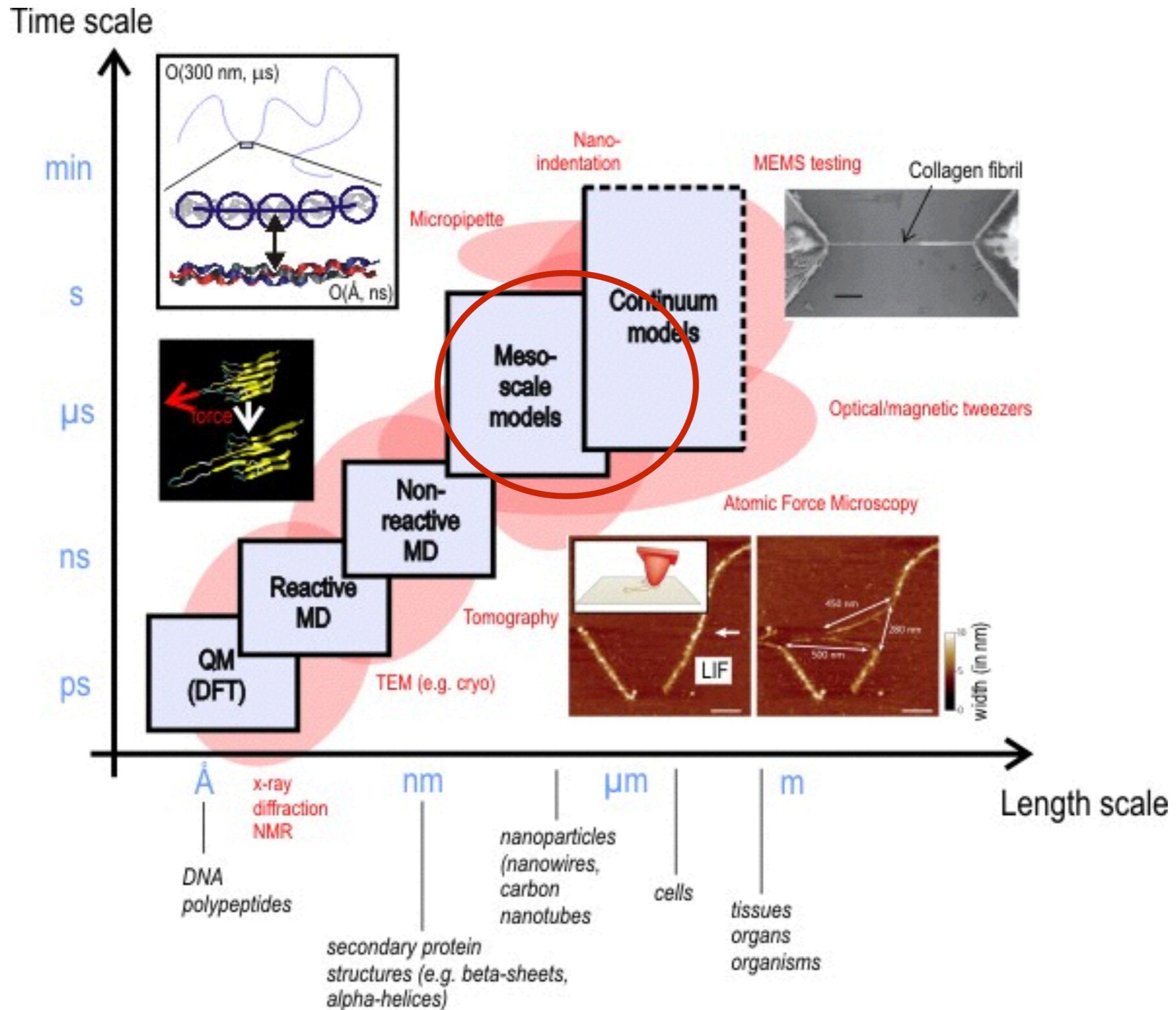
# Knotted water

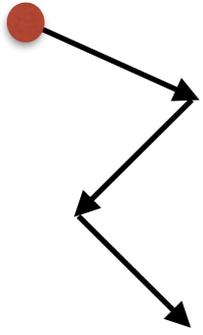


Irvine lab (Chicago)

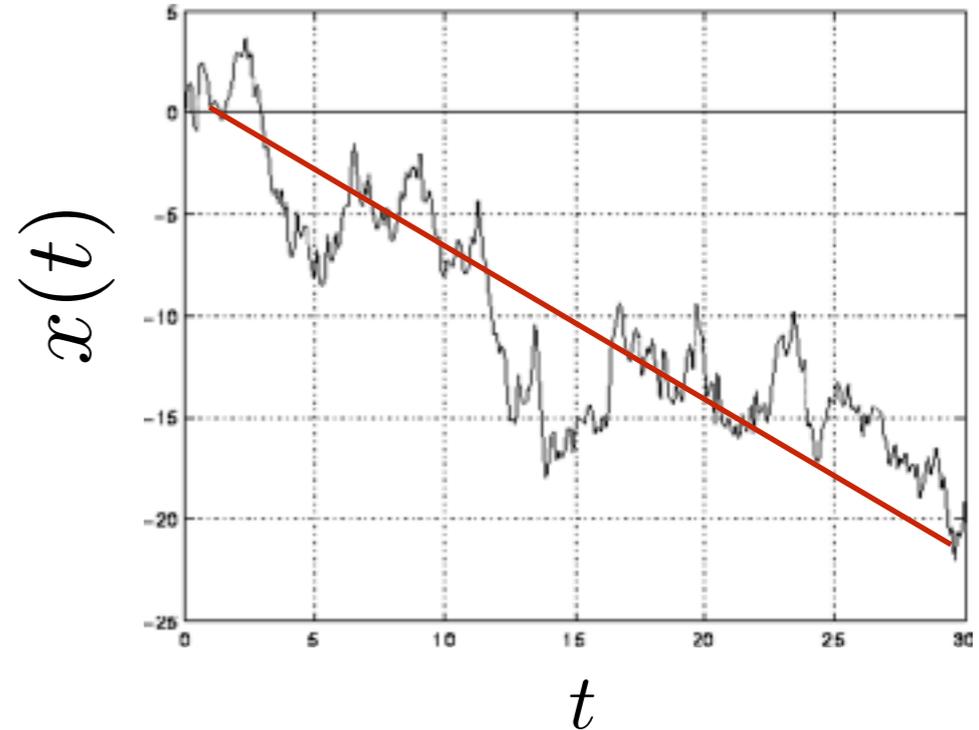
Brownian motion of small objects in fluids  
is biologically and technologically relevant  
(and interesting)

How can we describe these phenomena  
mathematically ?





# Basic idea



Split dynamics into

- deterministic part (**drift**)
- random part (**diffusion**, “noise”)

$$\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t)) + \sqrt{2D} \xi(t)$$

Stochastic **D**ifferential **E**quation

# Over-damped dynamics

Newton:  $m\ddot{x}(t) = F(x(t)) + S(\dot{x}(t)) + L(t)$

Stokes:  $m\ddot{x}(t) = F(x(t)) - \gamma\dot{x}(t) + L(t)$

Neglect inertia ( $Re=0$ ):  $m\ddot{x}(t) \rightarrow 0$

$$0 = F(x(t)) - \gamma\dot{x}(t) + L(t)$$

$$\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t)) + \sqrt{2D} \xi(t)$$

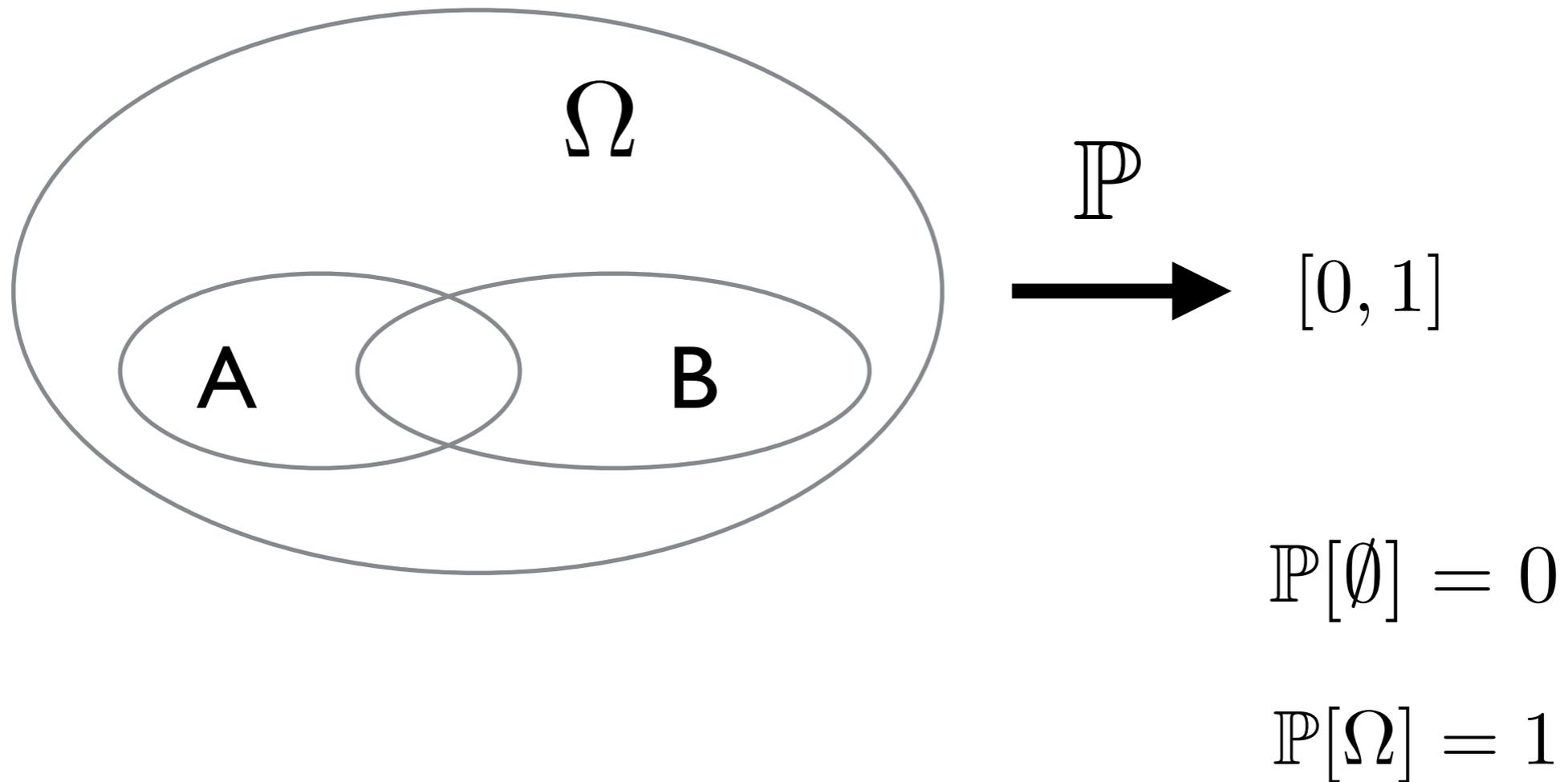
$$\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t)) + \sqrt{2D} \xi(t)$$



How can we characterize randomness?

# Probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$

$$\mathcal{F} = \{\emptyset, A, B, A \cap B, A \cup B, \dots, \Omega\}$$



$$\mathbb{P}[A \cup B] = \mathbb{P}[A] + \mathbb{P}[B] - \mathbb{P}[A \cap B]$$

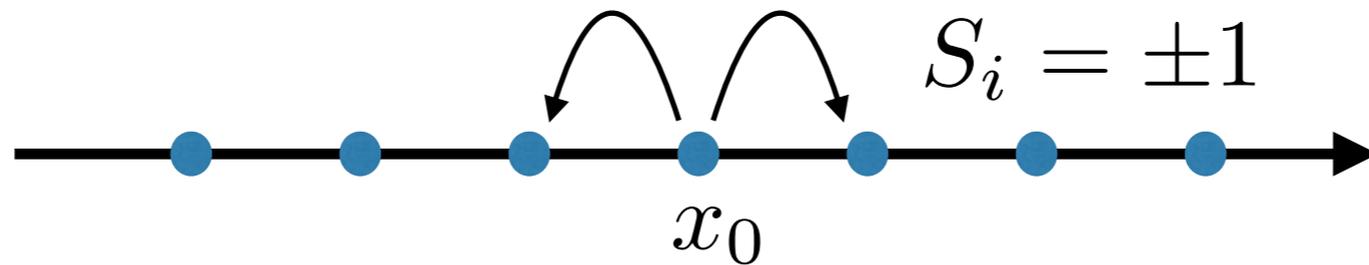
# Expectation values of random variables

$$X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$\mathbb{E}[f(X)] = \int d\mathbb{P} f(x) = \int dx p(x) f(x)$$

$$p(x) \geq 0, \quad \int dx p(x) = 1$$

$$\mathbb{E}[\alpha f(X) + \beta g(X)] = \alpha \mathbb{E}[f(X)] + \beta \mathbb{E}[g(X)]$$



## 1.1 Random walk

Consider the one-dimensional unbiased RW (fixed initial position  $X_0 = x_0$ ,  $N$  steps of length  $\ell$ )

$$X_N = x_0 + \ell \sum_{i=1}^N S_i \quad (1.1)$$

where  $S_i \in \{\pm 1\}$  are iid. random variables (RVs) with  $\mathbb{P}[S_i = \pm 1] = 1/2$ . Noting that <sup>1</sup>

$$\mathbb{E}[S_i] = -1 \cdot \frac{1}{2} + 1 \cdot \frac{1}{2} = 0, \quad (1.2)$$

$$\mathbb{E}[S_i S_j] = \delta_{ij} \mathbb{E}[S_i^2] = \delta_{ij} \left[ (-1)^2 \cdot \frac{1}{2} + (1)^2 \cdot \frac{1}{2} \right] = \delta_{ij}, \quad (1.3)$$

we find for the first moment of the RW

$$\mathbb{E}[X_N] = x_0 + \ell \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{E}[S_i] = x_0 \quad (1.4)$$

## Second moment (uncentered)

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[X_N^2] &= \mathbb{E}\left[\left(x_0 + \ell \sum_{i=1}^N S_i\right)^2\right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}\left[x_0^2 + 2x_0\ell \sum_{i=1}^N S_i + \ell^2 \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N S_i S_j\right] \\ &= x_0^2 + 2x_0 \cdot 0 + \ell^2 \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N \mathbb{E}[S_i S_j] \\ &= x_0^2 + 2x_0 \cdot 0 + \ell^2 \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N \delta_{ij} \\ &= x_0^2 + \ell^2 N.\end{aligned}\tag{1.5}$$

# Variance

The variance (second centered moment)

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E} [(X_N - \mathbb{E}[X_N])^2] &= \mathbb{E}[X_N^2 - 2X_N\mathbb{E}[X_N] + \mathbb{E}[X_N]^2] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[X_N^2] - 2\mathbb{E}[X_N]\mathbb{E}[X_N] + \mathbb{E}[X_N]^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}[X_N^2] - \mathbb{E}[X_N]^2\end{aligned}\tag{1.6}$$

therefore grows linearly with the number of steps:

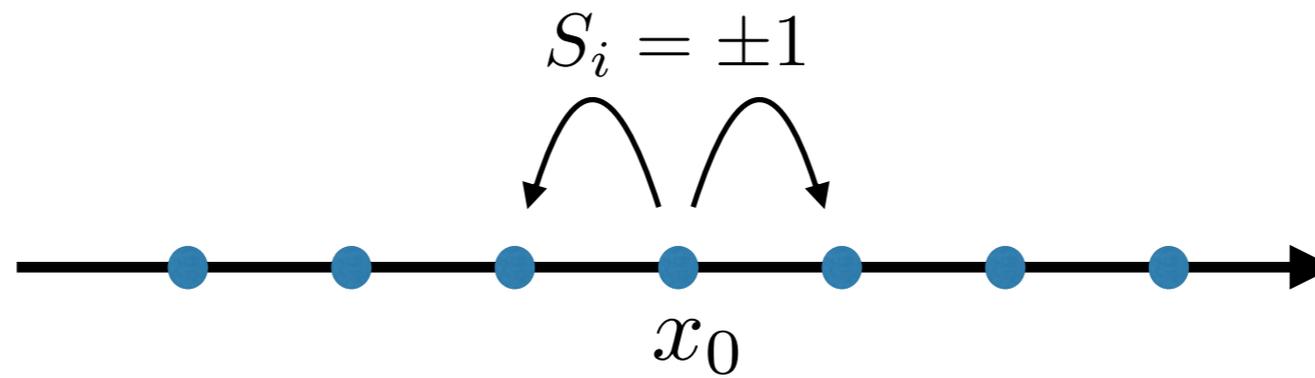
$$\mathbb{E} [(X_N - \mathbb{E}[X_N])^2] = \ell^2 N.\tag{1.7}$$

Let

$$x_0 = 0, \quad N = t/\tau$$

$$\mathbb{E}[X_N^2] = 2Dt, \quad D := \frac{\ell^2}{2\tau}$$

# Continuum limit

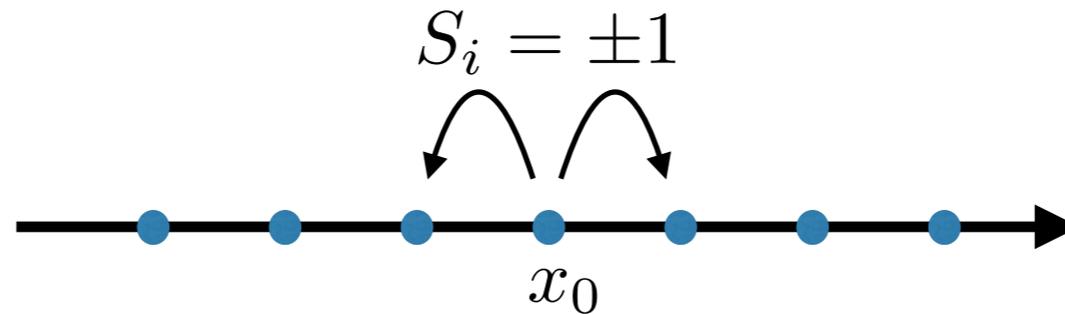


$$X_N = x_0 + \ell \sum_{i=1}^N S_i$$

Let  $x_0 = 0, \quad N = t/\tau$

$$P(N, K) := \mathbb{P}[X_N/\ell = K]$$

# Continuum limit



$$\begin{aligned}
 P(N, K) &= \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^N \binom{N}{\frac{N-K}{2}} \\
 &= \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^N \frac{N!}{((N+K)/2)! ((N-K)/2)!}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{1.8}$$

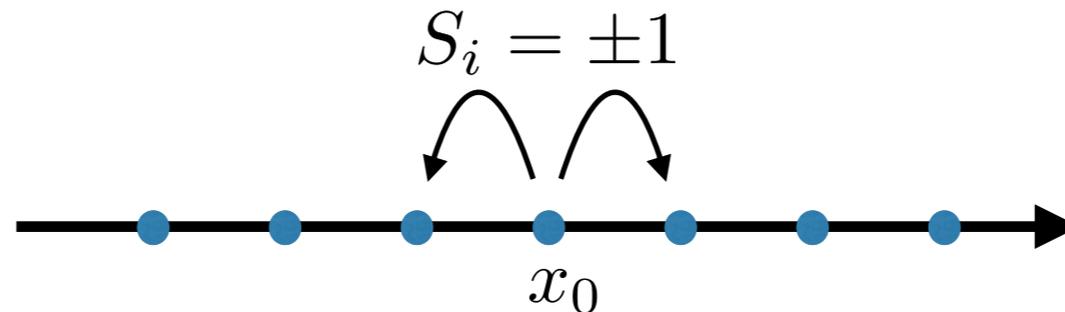
The associated probability density function (PDF) can be found by defining

$$p(t, x) := \frac{P(N, K)}{2\ell} = \frac{P(t/\tau, x/\ell)}{2\ell} \tag{1.9}$$

and considering limit  $\tau, \ell \rightarrow 0$  such that

$$D := \frac{\ell^2}{2\tau} = \text{const}, \tag{1.10}$$

# Continuum limit



yielding the Gaussian

$$p(t, x) \simeq \sqrt{\frac{1}{4\pi Dt}} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{4Dt}\right) \quad (1.11)$$

Eq. (1.11) is the fundamental solution to the diffusion equation,

$$\partial_t p_t = D \partial_{xx} p, \quad (1.12)$$

where  $\partial_t, \partial_x, \partial_{xx}, \dots$  denote partial derivatives. The mean square displacement of the continuous process described by Eq. (1.11) is

$$\mathbb{E}[X(t)^2] = \int dx x^2 p(t, x) = 2Dt, \quad (1.13)$$

in agreement with Eq. (1.7).

# Different types of “diffusion”

**Remark** One often classifies diffusion processes by the (asymptotic) power-law growth of the mean square displacement,

$$\mathbb{E}[(X(t) - X(0))^2] \sim t^\mu. \quad (1.14)$$

- $\mu = 0$  : Static process with no movement.
- $0 < \mu < 1$  : Sub-diffusion, arises typically when waiting times between subsequent jumps can be long and/or in the presence of a sufficiently large number of obstacles (e.g. slow diffusion of molecules in crowded cells).
- $\mu = 1$  : Normal diffusion, corresponds to the regime governed by the standard Central Limit Theorem (CLT).
- $1 < \mu < 2$  : Super-diffusion, occurs when step-lengths are drawn from distributions with infinite variance (Lévy walks; considered as models of bird or insect movements).
- $\mu = 2$  : Ballistic propagation (deterministic wave-like process).

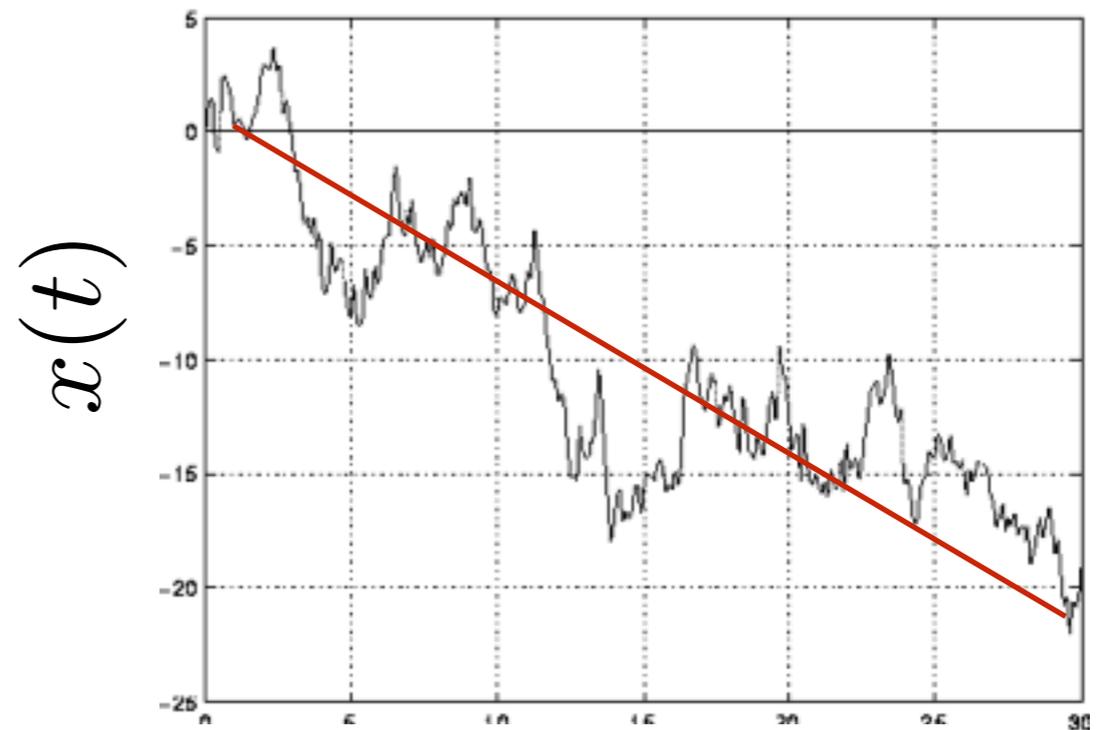
# Continuous representation of Brownian trajectories ?

## 1.2 Brownian motion (constant drift)

$$\dot{X}(t) = u + \sqrt{2D} \xi(t)$$

$$dB(t) = \xi(t) dt$$

$$dX(t) = u dt + \sqrt{2D} dB(t)$$



SDE



# Wiener process

$$dX(t) = u dt + \sqrt{2D} dB(t). \quad (1.25)$$

Here,  $dX(t) = X(t + dt) - X(t)$  is increment of the stochastic particle trajectory  $X(t)$ , whilst  $dB(t) = B(t + dt) - B(t)$  denotes an increment of the standard Brownian motion (or Wiener) process  $B(t)$ , uniquely defined by the following properties<sup>3</sup>:

- (i)  $B(0) = 0$  with probability 1.
- (ii)  $B(t)$  is stationary, i.e., for  $t > s \geq 0$  the increment  $B(t) - B(s)$  has the same distribution as  $B(t - s)$ .
- (iii)  $B(t)$  has independent increments. That is, for all  $t_n > t_{n-1} > \dots > t_2 > t_1$ , the random variables  $B(t_n) - B(t_{n-1}), \dots, B(t_2) - B(t_1), B(t_1)$  are independently distributed (i.e., their joint distribution factorizes).
- (iv)  $B(t)$  has Gaussian distribution with variance  $t$  for all  $t \in (0, \infty)$ .
- (v)  $B(t)$  is continuous with probability 1.

The probability distribution  $\mathbb{P}$  governing the driving process  $B(t)$  is commonly known as the Wiener measure.



# Langevin equation

$$dX(t) = u dt + \sqrt{2D} dB(t). \quad (1.25)$$

Although the derivative  $\xi(t) = dB/dt$  is not well-defined mathematically, Eq. (1.25) is in the physics literature often written in the form

$$\dot{X}(t) = u + \sqrt{2D} \xi(t). \quad (1.26)$$

The random driving function  $\xi(t)$  is then referred to as Gaussian white noise, characterized by

$$\langle \xi(t) \rangle = 0, \quad \langle \xi(t) \xi(s) \rangle = \delta(t - s), \quad (1.27)$$

with  $\langle \cdot \rangle$  denoting an average with respect to the Wiener measure.

$$\delta(x) = \begin{cases} +\infty, & x = 0 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad f(y) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dx \delta(x - y) f(x)$$

**Dirac's Delta-function**

# Mean displacement

$$\dot{X}(t) = \sqrt{2D} \xi(s)$$

Direct integration with  $X(0) = 0$

$$X(t) = \sqrt{2D} \int_0^t ds \xi(s)$$

Averaging

$$\langle X(t) \rangle = \left\langle \sqrt{2D} \int_0^t ds \xi(s) \right\rangle = \sqrt{2D} \int_0^t ds \langle \xi(s) \rangle = 0$$

$$\langle \xi(t) \rangle = 0$$


# Mean square displacement

$$X(t) = \sqrt{2D} \int_0^t ds \xi(s)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle X(t)^2 \rangle &= \left\langle \left[ \sqrt{2D} \int_0^t ds \xi(s) \right] \cdot \left[ \sqrt{2D} \int_0^t du \xi(u) \right] \right\rangle \\ &= \left\langle 2D \int_0^t ds \int_0^t du \xi(s) \cdot \xi(u) \right\rangle \\ &= 2D \int_0^t ds \int_0^t du \langle \xi(s) \cdot \xi(u) \rangle \\ &= 2D \int_0^t ds \int_0^t du \delta(s - u) \\ &= 2D \int_0^t ds \\ &= 2Dt \end{aligned}$$