

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Motivation . . . . .	1
1.1.1	Active Matter . . . . .	1
1.1.2	Epithelial tissues as active systems . . . . .	2
1.1.3	<i>Austrolebias nigripinnis</i> : early developmental stages . . . . .	3
1.1.4	Apical cellular contractions . . . . .	6
1.2	Computational models of epithelial tissues . . . . .	7
1.2.1	Vertex model . . . . .	7
1.2.2	Cellular Potts model . . . . .	10
1.3	Theoretical models . . . . .	11
1.3.1	Vectorial activity . . . . .	11
1.3.2	Active gels . . . . .	11
1.4	Research aims and objectives . . . . .	12
1.5	Thesis overview . . . . .	12
<b>2</b>	<b>Our model: its ingredients</b>	<b>14</b>
2.1	Vertex model for a two-dimensional planar tissue . . . . .	14
2.2	Active and fluctuating vertex model, with plasticity or memory . . . . .	15
2.3	Fluctuating tissues with memory and impulsive activity . . . . .	16
2.4	Active contraction pulses . . . . .	17
<b>3</b>	<b>Instabilities for tissues subject to cellular activity or applied stresses</b>	<b>19</b>
3.1	Tissue under cell activity . . . . .	20
3.2	Short and long time scales . . . . .	23
3.3	Tissue under pre-stress . . . . .	25
3.4	Anisotropic pre-stresses . . . . .	28
3.5	Examples of non-diagonal $\mu$ -matrices . . . . .	30
<b>4</b>	<b>Geometrical characterization of active contraction pulses in epithelial cells using the vertex model</b>	<b>32</b>
4.1	Isolated active hexagonal cell . . . . .	33
4.2	Active cell embedded in a tissue . . . . .	34
4.2.1	Linear response . . . . .	36
4.2.2	Non-linear dynamic response . . . . .	38
4.2.3	Plasticity . . . . .	41
<b>5</b>	<b>Application: <i>Austrolebias nigripinnis</i> pre-epiboly stage</b>	<b>45</b>

5.1	Experimental information . . . . .	45
5.2	Computational model . . . . .	50
5.2.1	Vertex model geometrically constrained . . . . .	50
5.2.2	Pre-epiboly cellular rearrangements and active contraction pulses . . . . .	52
5.3	First stage of optimization: pseudo-passive system . . . . .	52
5.4	Second stage of optimization: active events . . . . .	54
5.4.1	Active cell C37 . . . . .	55
5.4.2	Active cell C44 . . . . .	57
5.4.3	Active cell C32 . . . . .	59
5.4.4	All active cells . . . . .	61
5.5	Third stage of optimization: Simplified model . . . . .	62
<b>6</b>	<b>From discrete to continuum</b>	<b>65</b>
6.1	Discrete stress tensor . . . . .	65
6.2	M tensor as a field . . . . .	67
6.3	Elastic stress tensor . . . . .	68
6.4	Centered active force: steady state . . . . .	71
6.4.1	Comparison with simulations . . . . .	74
6.5	Centered active force: temporal evolution . . . . .	82
6.5.1	Comparison with simulations . . . . .	82
<b>7</b>	<b>Structure factors in active tissues</b>	<b>85</b>
7.1	Static structure factor: velocity field . . . . .	85
7.2	General considerations for the simulations . . . . .	86
7.3	Structure factors of cellular fields: $S_R$ , $S_Q$ and $S_\phi$ . . . . .	89
	<b>Conclusions</b>	<b>103</b>
	<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Vertex model: Equations of motion</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Models of viscoelasticity</b>	<b>115</b>
B.0.1	Maxwell model . . . . .	115
B.0.2	Kelvin model . . . . .	116
<b>C</b>	<b>Energy expressions for fluctuation tissues</b>	<b>117</b>
C.1	Tissue under cell activity . . . . .	117
C.2	Tissue under stress . . . . .	118
<b>D</b>	<b>Vertex model: Isolated active hexagonal cell</b>	<b>121</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>Vertex active model: Linear order equations of motion</b>	<b>125</b>