

# Lecture 2: An agent-based cell model; application to DCIS

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# Motivation

- Want to study ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS)
  - Impact of adhesive forces and other mechanics
  - Impact of heterogeneity
  - Impact of many processes with varied time scales
  - Impact of many interacting cells, but with some subcellular processes
- Want a predictive model – emergent phenomena
  - If too much assumed *a priori*, then “predictions” just verify your programming
- Want a modular model
- Want to calibrate to patient data (IHC, H&E)
- **Model it as a physics problem!**
  - Cells are physical objects subject to forces
  - Biology comes in as constitutive relations that tell us:
    - what forces are active
    - what the cells are doing as they’re moved around by forces
  - Approach: agent-based model (a.k.a., particle method, individual-based model)

# Lecture Outline

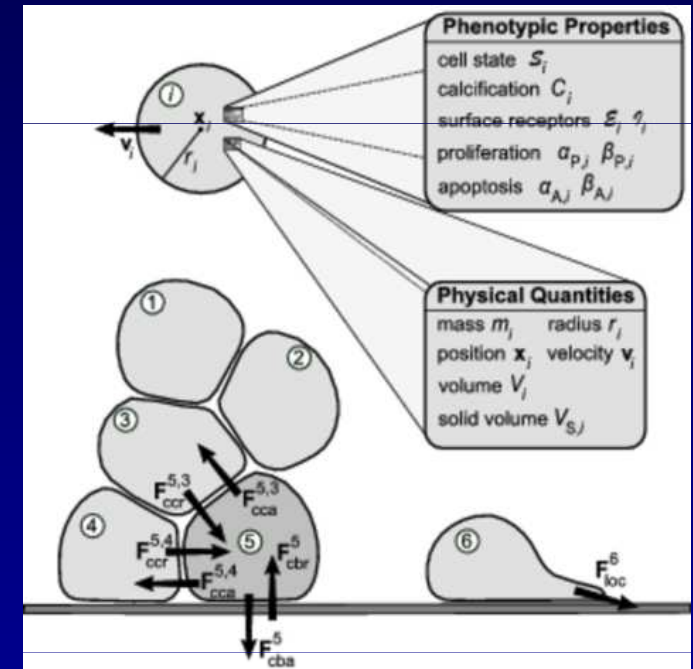
- Overall framework
- Cell biomechanics, cell and BM geometry
- Forces acting on the cell
- Phenotypic states as stochastic processes
- Linking with the microenvironment
- Linking with the molecular scale
- Volume-averaged analysis
  - Application: DCIS Ki-67 immunohistochemistry
- Coming next
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# Overall Framework

- Each cell is a physical object
  - Lattice-free position, velocity
- Finite size
  - Nuclear volume, overall volume, solid fraction
- No explicit morphology model
  - Cell-cell interactions designed to partly account for it
- Motion determined by forces
  - Cell-cell adhesion & repulsion
  - Cell-BM adhesion & repulsion
  - Cell-ECM adhesion
  - Fluid drag
  - Net locomotive force
- Each cell endowed with phenotypic state
  - Quiescent (**G0**), Proliferative (**S-G2-M-G1**), Motile, Apoptotic, Hypoxic, Necrotic, Calcified Debris
  - Governed by exponentially-distributed random variables – can be matched to IHC
  - Linked to cell's external state, local microenvironment
- Use same model for all cell types – only the parameters vary
  - Similar to Hanahan and Weinberg “Hallmarks of Cancer”

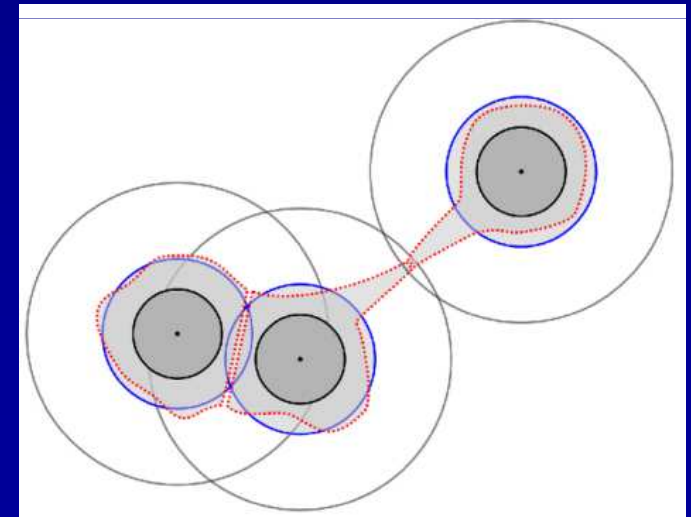
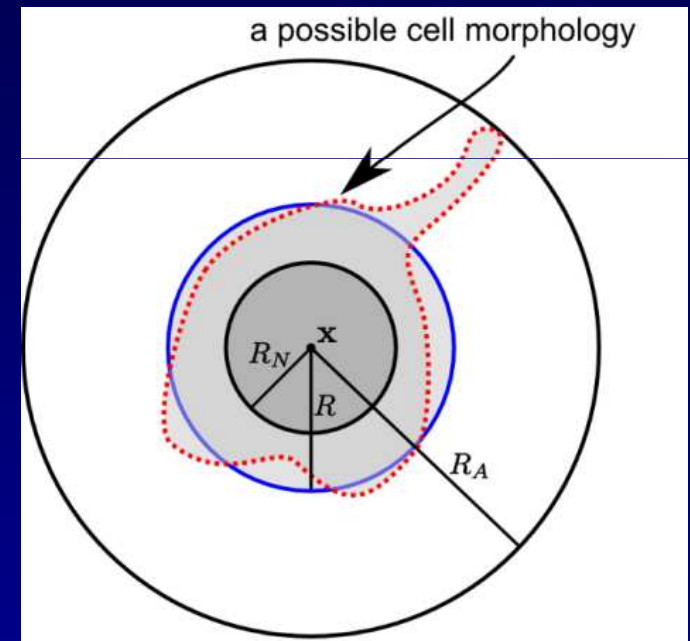


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# Cell biomechanics, cell and tissue geometry

- Each cell has overall and nuclear volumes  $V, V_N$ 
  - Regulated by phenotypic “sub-models”
  - Related to equivalent radii ( $R, R_N$ ) by spherical approximation
- Each cell has maximum interaction distance  $R_A$ 
  - Approximates cell deformability
  - Accounts for uncertainty in cell position and morphology
- Cell “radii” can overlap
  - Further accounts for deformability and uncertainty

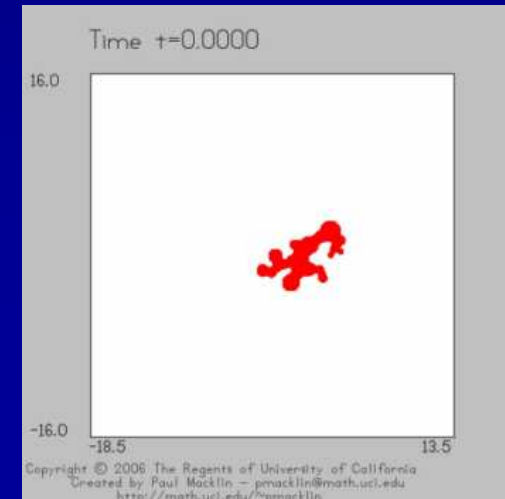
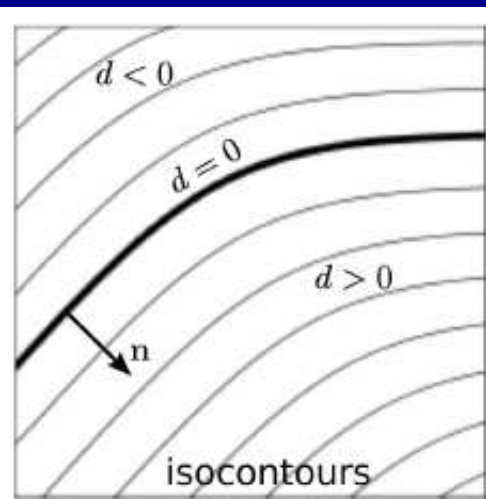
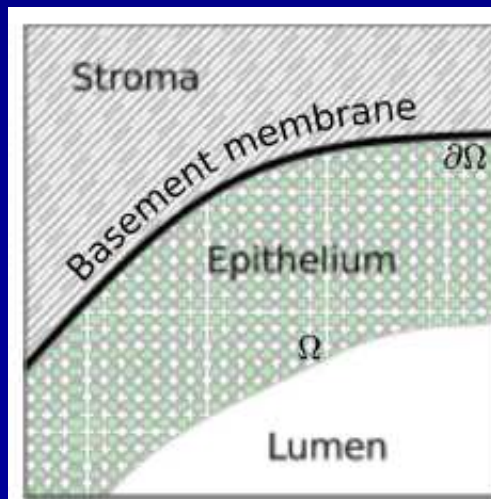


# Cell biomechanics, cell and tissue geometry

- Model basement membrane location with signed distance function  $d$  (level set function):

$$\begin{cases} d(\mathbf{x}) > 0 & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega \\ d(\mathbf{x}) = 0 & \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega \\ d(\mathbf{x}) < 0 & \mathbf{x} \notin \bar{\Omega} = \Omega \cup \partial\Omega \\ |\nabla d(\mathbf{x})| = 1. \end{cases}$$

- Encodes geometric information (normal vector, curvature) as derivatives:
  - $\mathbf{n} = \nabla d / |\nabla d|$                        $\kappa = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{n}$
- Can model very complex shapes
- Method originated in fluid mechanics (Sethian, Osher, Adalsteinsson)
- has also been used to model moving tumour boundary (Macklin et al.)
- Can use level set methods to model BM motion under stresses, similar to work by Ribba et al.





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# Forces acting on the cell

- Cell's motion is given by the sum of the forces acting upon it
  - Homophilic and heterophilic cell-cell adhesion ( $\mathbf{F}_{cca}$ )
  - Cell-cell repulsion ( $\mathbf{F}_{ccr}$ )
  - Cell-BM adhesion and repulsion ( $\mathbf{F}_{cba}$  and  $\mathbf{F}_{cbr}$ )
  - Cell-ECM adhesion ( $\mathbf{F}_{cma}$ )
  - Fluid drag ( $\mathbf{F}_{drag}$ )
  - Net locomotive force ( $\mathbf{F}_{loc}$ )
- Sum these to get motion by Newton's 2<sup>nd</sup> law:

$$m_i \dot{\mathbf{V}}_i = \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^{N(t)} \left( \mathbf{F}_{cca}^{ij} + \mathbf{F}_{ccr}^{ij} + \mathbf{F}_{dda}^{ij} \right) + \mathbf{F}_{cma}^i + \mathbf{F}_{cba}^i + \mathbf{F}_{cbr}^i + \mathbf{F}_{loc}^i + \mathbf{F}_{drag}^i$$

# Forces acting on the cell

- Model adhesive and repulsive forces using potential functions
  - See earlier models by Drasdo, Höhme, Galle, Ramis-Conde, ...
- Cells move down the potential gradient (minimise energy)
- Separate potentials for each force
- Compact support
  - finite interaction distances
  - Helpful for computations
- Repulsive properties separately defined in cytoplasm and nucleus
- Can be applied to cells with varying size and mechanical properties

Adhesive  
Potential

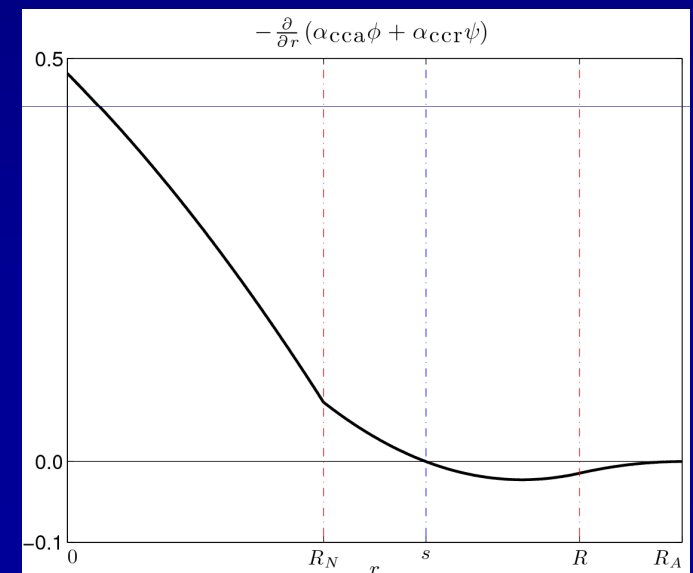
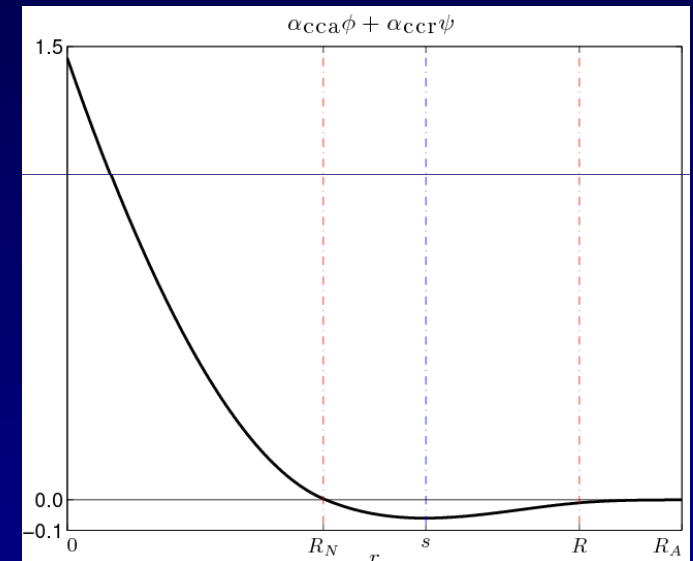
$$\nabla\varphi(\mathbf{r}; R_A, n) = \begin{cases} \left(1 - \frac{|\mathbf{r}|}{R_A}\right)^{n+1} \frac{\mathbf{r}}{|\mathbf{r}|}, & 0 \leq |\mathbf{r}| \leq R_A \\ \mathbf{0} & \text{else,} \end{cases}$$

Repulsive  
Potential

$$\nabla\psi(\mathbf{r}; R_N, R, M, m) = \begin{cases} \left(c \frac{|\mathbf{r}|}{R_N} + M\right) \frac{\mathbf{r}}{|\mathbf{r}|} & 0 \leq |\mathbf{r}| \leq R_N \\ -\left(1 - \frac{|\mathbf{r}|}{R}\right)^{m+1} \frac{\mathbf{r}}{|\mathbf{r}|} & R_N \leq |\mathbf{r}| \leq R \\ \mathbf{0} & \text{else,} \end{cases}$$

where

$$c = \left( \left(1 - \frac{R_N}{R}\right)^{m+1} - M \right).$$



# Forces acting on the cell

- Homophilic cell-cell adhesion
  - Proportional to E-cadherin on cell and neighbours

$$\mathbf{F}_{cca}^{ij} = -\alpha_{cca} \mathcal{E}_i \mathcal{E}_j \nabla \varphi \left( \mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_i; R_N^i + R_N^j, R_{cca}^i + R_{cca}^j \right)$$

- Heterophilic cell-cell adhesion
  - Proportional to adhesion molecules and ligands on both cell and neighbours

$$\mathbf{F}_{cca}^{ij} = -\alpha_{cca} (\mathcal{I}_{A,i} \mathcal{I}_{B,j} + \mathcal{I}_{B,i} \mathcal{I}_{A,j}) \nabla \varphi \left( \mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_i; R_N^i + R_N^j, R_{cca}^i + R_{cca}^j \right)$$

- Cell-cell repulsion

$$\mathbf{F}_{ccr}^{ij} = -\alpha_{ccr} \nabla \psi \left( \mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_i; R_N^i + R_N^j, R_i + R_j, M \right)$$

# Forces acting on the cell

- Cell-BM adhesion

$$\mathbf{F}_{cba}^i = -\alpha_{cba} \mathcal{L}_{B,i} B \nabla \varphi \left( d(\mathbf{x}_i) \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}_i); R_N^i, R_{cba}^i \right)$$

- Cell-BM repulsion

$$\mathbf{F}_{cbr}^i = -\alpha_{cbr} B \nabla \psi \left( d(\mathbf{x}_i) \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}_i); R_N^i, R_i, M \right)$$

- Cell-ECM adhesion and fluid drag

$$\mathbf{F}_{cma} = -\alpha_{cma} \mathcal{L}_{E,i} E \mathbf{V}_i$$

$$\mathbf{F}_{drag} = -\nu \mathbf{V}_i$$

- Net locomotive force

- Depends upon model complexity
- Can range to full actin polymerisation dynamics (e.g., Lauffenburger motility models) to chemotaxis as constitutive relation (e.g., McDougall, Chaplain, Anderson angiogenesis work)

# Forces acting on the cell

- Inertialess assumption

- Forces equilibrate quickly
- can solve for “terminal” velocity

$$\mathbf{v}_i = \frac{1}{\nu + \alpha_{cma} \mathcal{L}_{E,i} E} \left( \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^{N(t)} (\mathbf{F}_{cca}^{ij} + \mathbf{F}_{dda}^{ij} + \mathbf{F}_{ccr}^{ij}) + \mathbf{F}_{cba}^i + \mathbf{F}_{cbr}^i + \mathbf{F}_{loc}^i \right)$$

- Related to Darcy’s law for continuum models (Cristini et. al 2003 ...):

- $$\mathbf{u} = -\mu \nabla P$$
- P is mechanical pressure generated by proliferating cells
- Gradient pushes cells through porous medium (ECM)
- $\mu$  is the mobility: ability of tissue to respond to  $\nabla P$ 
  - Cells overcome cell-cell, cell-ECM adhesion and move
  - Tissue deforms
  - $\mathbf{V}$  is the net balance of repulsion + proliferation vs. adhesion

- Matches func. form of  $\mu$  from Frieboes et al. (2007), Macklin et al. (2009):

$$\mu = \frac{1}{\alpha + \beta E + \frac{1}{\epsilon} S}$$

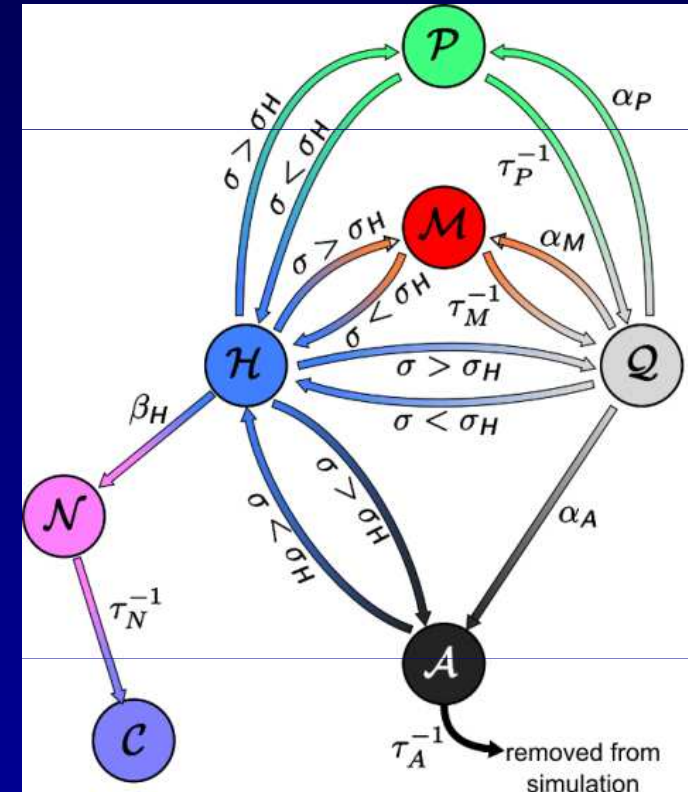
- S is a structure variable (1 in rigid barriers, 0 elsewhere)

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# Phenotypic states as stochastic processes

- Each cell has phenotypic state  $S(t)$
- Each state has finite (and nonzero) duration, with activity governed by a sub-model
- Transition probabilities among states governed by exponential random variables
  - Tied to internal state and microenvironment through the rate parameter
  - Originate from nonhomogeneous Poisson processes
  - Generalise constant-probability-per-constant-time models in widespread use today
  - Can be rigorously varied with variable time step size (e.g., for numerical stability conditions)





# Phenotypic states as stochastic processes: Proliferation

- Probability of  $Q \rightarrow P$  transition in  $(t, t+\Delta t]$ :
  - Rate  $\alpha_P$  depends upon internal state  $\bullet$  and microenvironment  $\circ$

$$\Pr(S(t + \Delta t) = P | S(t) = Q) = 1 - \exp\left(-\int_t^{t+\Delta t} \alpha_P(S, \bullet, \circ)(s) ds\right) \approx 1 - \exp(-\alpha_P(S, \bullet, \circ)(t)\Delta t),$$

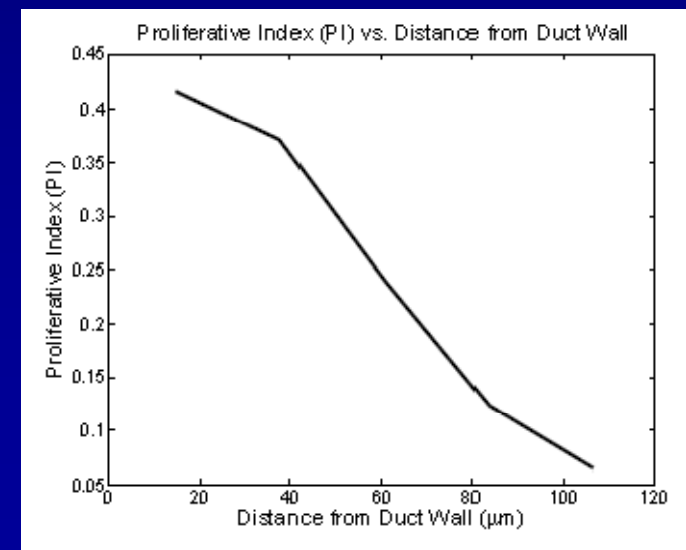
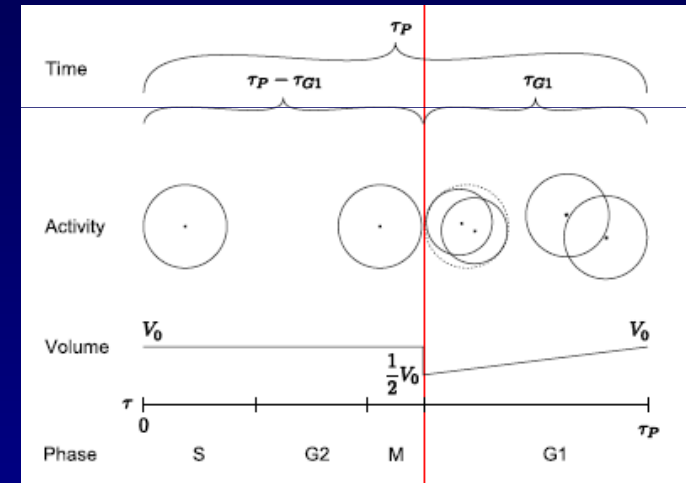
- Model extra biology with  $\alpha_P$  as constitutive relations
  - Dependence upon oxygen due to observed radial variation in Ki-67 IHC

$$\alpha_P = \alpha_P(S, \sigma, \bullet, \circ)(t) = \begin{cases} \bar{\alpha}_P(\bullet, \circ) \frac{\sigma - \sigma_H}{1 - \sigma_H} & \text{if } S(t) = Q \\ 0 & \text{else,} \end{cases}$$

- Model volume change after mitosis and during subsequent G1 growth

$$V(\tau) = \begin{cases} V_0 & 0 \leq \tau \leq \tau_P - \tau_{G1} \\ \frac{1}{2}V_0 \left(1 + \frac{\tau_{G1} + (\tau - \tau_P)}{\tau_{G1}}\right) & \tau_P - \tau_{G1} \leq \tau \leq \tau_P, \end{cases}$$

- Fixed cycle length  $\tau_P$ , G1 length  $\tau_{G1}$ , but could be made to vary with additional submodels



# Phenotypic states as stochastic processes: Apoptosis

- Probability of  $\mathcal{Q} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  transition in  $(t, t+\Delta t]$ :
  - Rate  $\alpha_A$  depends upon internal state  $\bullet$  and microenvironment  $\circ$

$$\Pr(\mathcal{S}(t + \Delta t) = \mathcal{A} | \mathcal{S}(t) = \mathcal{Q}) = 1 - \exp\left(-\int_t^{t+\Delta t} \alpha_A(s) ds\right) \\ \approx 1 - \exp(-\alpha_A(t)\Delta t),$$

where

$$\alpha_A(t) = \alpha_A(\mathcal{S}, \bullet, \circ)(t) = \begin{cases} \bar{\alpha}_A(\bullet, \circ) & \text{if } \mathcal{S}(t) = \mathcal{Q} \\ 0 & \text{else,} \end{cases}$$

- Cell removed from simulation after fixed time  $\tau_A$ 
  - Models phagocytosis by neighbours
  - Cell's volume now available to other cells
  - Similar to pressure / stress relief in continuum models

# Phenotypic states as stochastic processes: Hypoxia, Necrosis, Calcification

- Deterministic shift to hypoxic state  $\mathcal{H}$  if  $\sigma < \sigma_H$ :
- Probability of  $\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}$  increases with time spent in  $\mathcal{H}$ :

$$\Pr(\mathcal{S}(t + \Delta t) = \mathcal{N} | \mathcal{S}(t) = \mathcal{H}) = 1 - \exp\left(-\int_t^{t+\Delta t} \beta_H(\sigma)(s) ds\right) \approx 1 - \exp(-\beta_H(\sigma)(t)\Delta t).$$

- If normoxia restored, resumes previous state
- Currently no HIF signalling – see Gatenby, Smallbone, Silva ...
- Necrotic cells lose their adhesion receptors (exponential decay)
- Necrotic cells swell and lyse:

$$V(\tau) = \begin{cases} V_0 \left(1 + f_{NS} \frac{\tau}{\tau_{NL}}\right) & \text{if } 0 \leq \tau < \tau_{NL} \\ V_S & \text{if } \tau_{NL} < \tau, \end{cases}$$

- Remaining solid component calcifies:

$$C(t) = \tau / \tau_C$$

- Model debis-debris adhesion as homophilic (in the microcalcification)

# Phenotypic states as stochastic processes: Mathematical Context

- Probability of changing from state  $\mathcal{Q}$  to state  $\mathcal{X}$  with rate parameter  $\alpha$  is approximately linear (when  $\alpha$  is constant) for very short times:

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr(S(t + \Delta t) = \mathcal{X} | S(t) = \mathcal{Q}) &= 1 - \exp\left(-\int_t^{t+\Delta t} \alpha(s) ds\right) \\ &\approx 1 - e^{-\alpha(t) \Delta t} \\ &= \alpha(t) \Delta t + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^2).\end{aligned}$$

- This linearisation is common, particularly in cellular automata:
  - constant probability for a fixed time step size
- So, the exponential transition probability is a natural generalisation
- **Stochastic process**: A series of random variables indexed by time  $t$ :  $N_t$
- **Counting process**:

- (1)  $N_0 \geq 0$ . (The initial number of events  $N_0$  is at least zero.)
- (2)  $N_t \in \mathbb{Z}$  for all  $t \geq 0$ . (The cumulative number of events  $N_t$  is an integer.)
- (3) If  $s < t$ , then  $N_t - N_s \geq 0$ . ( $N_t$  is nondecreasing.)

- **Poisson process**:
- $\alpha$  is the *intensity function*

- (1)  $X_0 = 0$ . (The initial count is 0.)
- (2) If  $(s, s + \Delta s]$  and  $(t, t + \Delta t]$  are non-overlapping, then  $X_{s+\Delta s} - X_s$  and  $X_{t+\Delta t} - X_t$  are independent random variables. (What happens in the interval  $(t, t + \Delta t]$  is independent of what happened in  $(s, s + \Delta s]$ .)
- (3) For any  $0 \leq s < t$ , the distribution of  $X_t - X_s$  only depends upon the length of  $(s, t]$  (stationary increments), and in particular, if  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$\Pr(X_t - X_s = n) = \frac{e^{-\alpha(t-s)} (\alpha(t-s))^n}{n!}. \quad (3)$$

# Phenotypic states as stochastic processes: Mathematical Context

- Probability of ( $\geq$ ) one event in  $(t, t+\Delta t]$  is exponential:
  - $X_t$  is poisson process, number of events of some type at time  $t$
  - $A_n$  is time of  $n^{\text{th}}$  event (arrival time)
  - $T_n$  is the time between the  $A_n$  and  $A_{n-1}$  events (interarrival time)

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr(X_{t+\Delta t} - X_t \geq 1) &= \Pr(A_n \in (t, t + \Delta t] | A_n > t) \\ &= \Pr(T_n \leq \Delta t) = 1 - e^{-\alpha \Delta t}.\end{aligned}$$

- If the  $\alpha = \alpha(t)$ , lose stationary intervals, get **nonhomogeneous** Poisson process
- So, our model (and by generalisation, all models with probabilistic phenotypic transitions) stems from nonhomogeneous Poisson processes
- Useful tool for further understanding. Apply stochastic processes theory, queueing theory, Markov chains, etc.
- Example:
  - $P_t$  is number of  $\mathcal{Q} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}$  transitions by time  $t$ . (for a cell, its ancestors, and progeny)
  - $A_t$  is the number of  $\mathcal{Q} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  transitions by time  $t$  (for a cell, its ancestors, and progeny)
  - $N_t = A_t + P_t \leftarrow$  A Poisson process with intensity function  $\alpha_A + \alpha_P$
  - Time to next event is exponential with rate  $\alpha_A + \alpha_P$
  - Time to next event is minimum to next proliferation, apoptosis times
  - Probability next event is proliferation:  $\alpha_P / (\alpha_A + \alpha_P)$ 
    - Cell decisions as a “race” between competing processes

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# Linking with the microenvironment

- Oxygen transport
  - Uptake rate varies on the cell scale

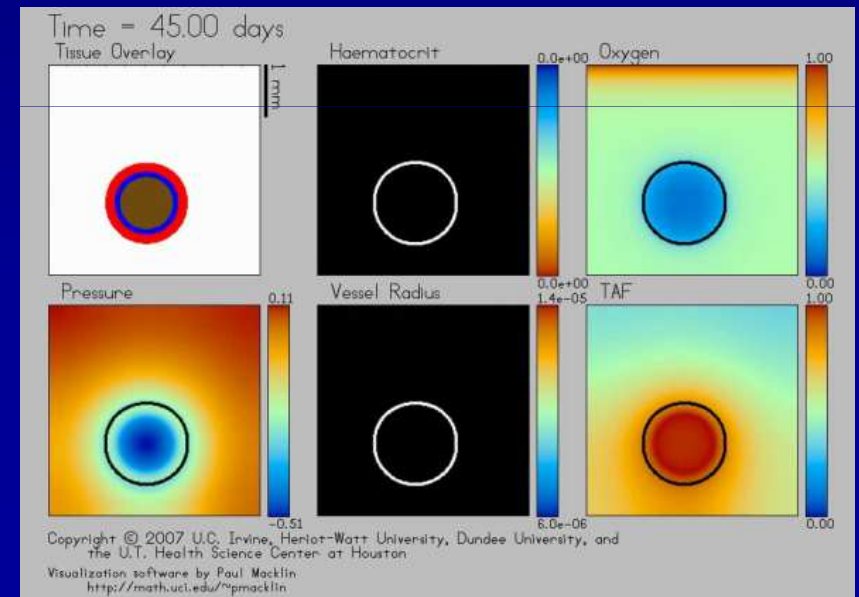
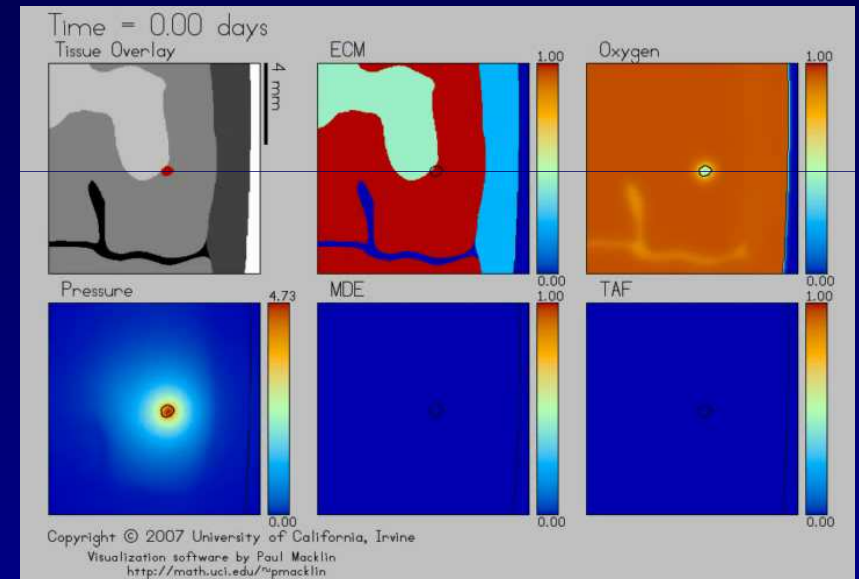
$$\frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (D \nabla \sigma) - \lambda \sigma,$$

- MMP secretion, ECM-MMP dynamics
  - Secretion rate varies on cell scale

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial t} = \lambda_{\text{production}}^E(\mathbf{x}) - \lambda_{\text{degradation}}^E E M$$

$$\frac{\partial M}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (D_M \nabla M) + \lambda_{\text{production}}^M(\mathbf{x}) - \lambda_{\text{decay}}^M M,$$

- Solve these on the tissue scale, get the rate constants by upscaling
- These feed back to affect cell phenotype and mechanics



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# Linking with the molecular scale

- Each cell gets a set of genes  $\mathbf{G}$ , proteins  $\mathbf{P}$ , samples microenvironmental stimuli  $\mathbf{S}$ , and a signalling network:

$$\dot{\mathbf{P}} = f(\mathbf{G}, \mathbf{P}, \mathbf{S})$$

- Make the phenotypic transition rates depend upon this network.
- Example: E-cadherin/ $\beta$ -catenin signalling:

- P1: unligated E-cadherin
- P2: ligated E-cadherin
- P3: free  $\beta$ -catenin
- P4: sequestered  $\beta$ -catenin

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{P}_1 &= \overbrace{c_1}^{\text{synthesis}} - \overbrace{c_2 S_1 P_1}^{\text{homophilic binding}} + \overbrace{c_3 P_2}^{\text{dissociation}} - \overbrace{c_4 P_1}^{\text{proteolysis}} & (6.32) \\ \dot{P}_2 &= c_2 S_1 P_1 - c_3 P_2 - \overbrace{d_5 P_2}^{\text{proteolysis}} - \overbrace{d_2 P_2 P_3}^{\beta\text{-catenin binding}} + \overbrace{d_3 P_4}^{\beta\text{-catenin dissociation}} & (6.33) \\ \dot{P}_3 &= \overbrace{d_1}^{\text{synthesis}} - d_2 P_2 P_3 + d_3 P_4 - \overbrace{d_4 P_3}^{\text{proteolysis}} & (6.34) \\ \dot{P}_4 &= d_2 P_2 P_3 - d_3 P_4 - \overbrace{d_5 P_4}^{\text{proteolysis}} & (6.35) \end{aligned}$$

- Free  $\beta$ -catenin can reach nucleus, transcribe other proteins, promote cycle progression

$$\alpha_P = \bar{\alpha}_P f_P(P_3) \frac{\sigma - \sigma_H}{1 - \sigma_H}$$

- $f_P$  is increasing, with  $f_P(0) \geq 0, f_P(1) \leq 1$ .
- See great work by Diesboeck et al. (for EGFR)
- Ramis-Conde, Chaplain and others (E-cadherin/ $\beta$ -catenin)

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# Volume-averaged analysis

- Fix any volume  $\Omega$  in a normoxic region.
- Consider the state space  $\{Q, A, P\}$
- Let  $Q(t), A(t), P(t)$  be total number of cells in  $\Omega$  in each state at time  $t$
- Let  $N = Q + A + P$  be the total number of cells in  $\Omega$
- Use the  $Q \rightarrow P$  probability and cell cycle length to get an equation for  $P$ :

$$P(t + \Delta t) = P(t) + \Pr(S(t + \Delta t) = \mathcal{P} | S(t) = \mathcal{Q}) Q(t) - \frac{1}{\tau_P} P(t) \Delta t$$

$$\approx P(t) + (1 - e^{-\langle \alpha_P \rangle \Delta t}) Q(t) - \frac{1}{\tau_P} P(t) \Delta t,$$

- Take the limit as  $\Delta t \rightarrow 0$ :

$$\dot{P} = \langle \alpha_P \rangle Q - \frac{1}{\tau_P} P.$$

- Similarly:

$$\dot{A} = \alpha_A Q - \frac{1}{\tau_A} A$$

$$\dot{Q} = 2 \frac{1}{\tau_P} P - (\langle \alpha_P \rangle + \alpha_A) Q.$$

$$\dot{N} = \frac{1}{\tau_P} P - \frac{1}{\tau_A} A.$$

# Volume-averaged analysis

- Want to match to immunohistochemistry:
  - **Proliferative index**:  $PI = P/N$  (by Ki-67 staining)
  - **Apoptotic index**:  $AI = A/N$  (by cleaved Caspase-3 staining)

- Divide equations by  $N$ , be careful with quotient rule:

- $PI' = P' / N - PI N' / N = P' / N - PI (PI/\tau_P - AI/\tau_A)$
- $AI' = A' / N - AI N' / N = A' / N - AI (PI/\tau_P - AI/\tau_A)$

- and get a nonlinear system for AI and PI:

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{PI} &= \langle \alpha_P \rangle (1 - AI - PI) - \frac{1}{\tau_P} (PI + PI^2) + \frac{1}{\tau_A} AI \cdot PI \\ \dot{AI} &= \alpha_A (1 - AI - PI) - \frac{1}{\tau_A} (AI - AI^2) - \frac{1}{\tau_P} AI \cdot PI.\end{aligned}$$

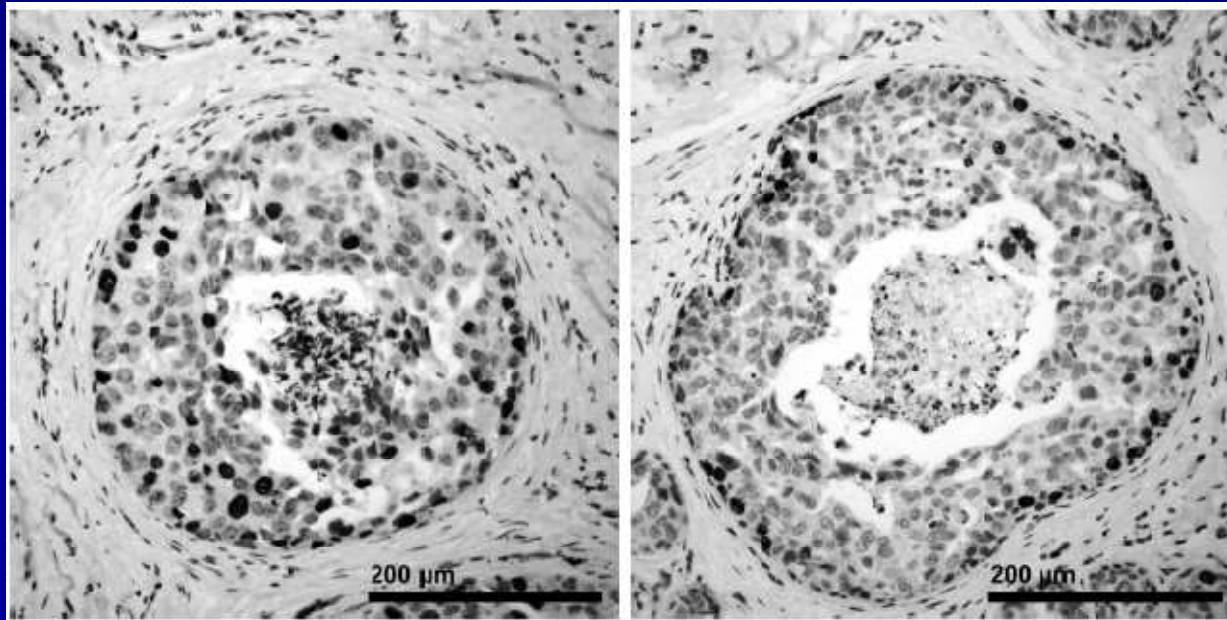
- Very simple argument on magnitude of  $\tau_A$  and  $\tau_P$  says this reaches steady state on the order of 10 to 100 days
- If AI and PI are known, and if the cell cycle and apoptosis times are known, can solve for the transition rates! (**Hint hint. Next lecture**)

# Lecture Outline

- Overall framework
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- Linking with the molecular scale
- Volume-averaged analysis
  - Application: DCIS Ki-67 immunohistochemistry
- Coming next
- References

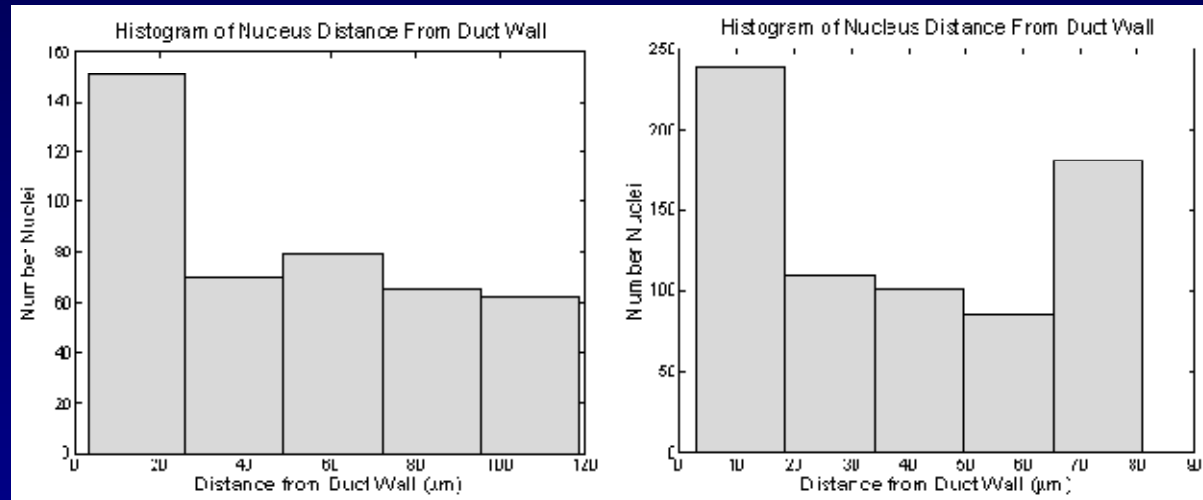
# Application: DCIS Ki-67 Immunohistochemistry

- If you solve the ODE system to steady state for fixed parameters, can get AI and PI as a function of any input parameter for  $\alpha_p$
- We applied this to understand PI vs  $O_2$  in DCIS
- Ki-67 IHC:
  - Ki-67 is a nuclear protein present through most of the cell cycle
  - Immunohistochemistry:
    - Immuno = uses antibody to protein X to attach stain to target protein
    - Histochemistry = chemistry of tissues
  - Very standard immunostain in pathology and experimental biology
  - In these images, Ki-67 positive nuclei are dark → indicates non-G<sub>0</sub> viable cell

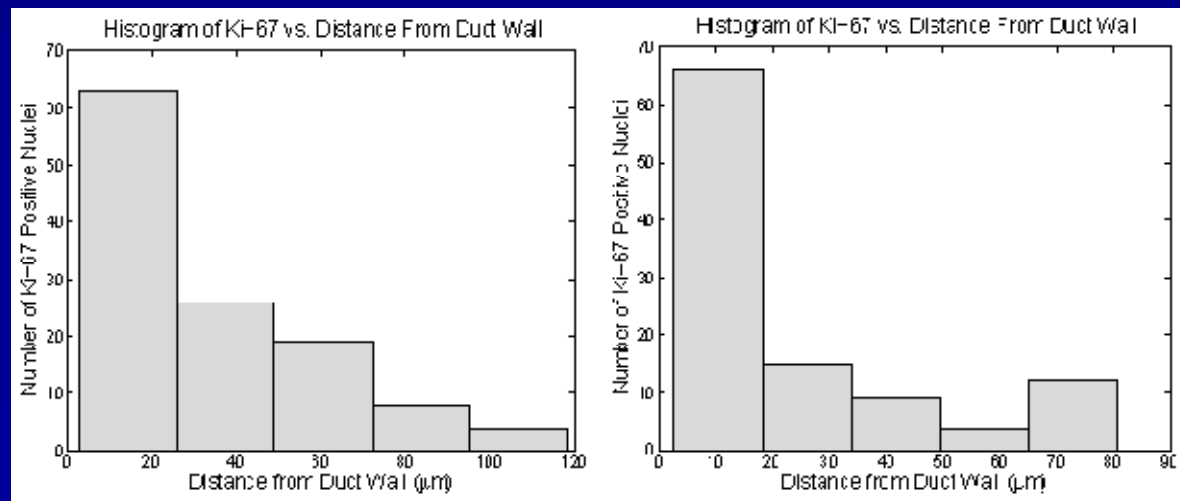


# Application: DCIS Ki-67 Immunohistochemistry

- **Step 1:** Get a histogram of total nucleus count vs. distance for breast duct wall in viable rim

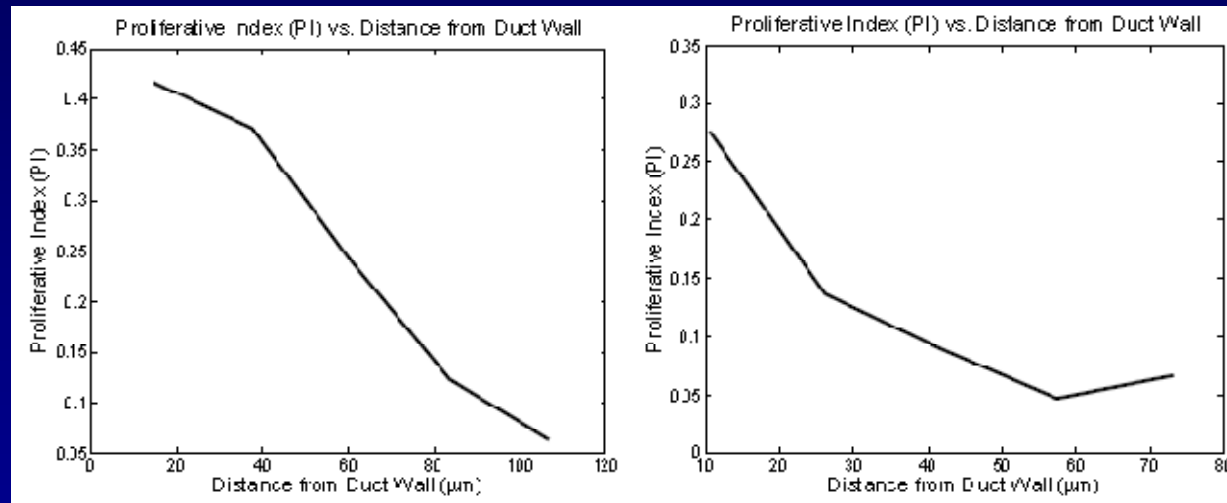


- **Step 2:** Get a histogram of total Ki-67 positive nucleus count vs. distance for *same bins*



# Application: DCIS Ki-67 Immunohistochemistry

- **Step 3:** Divide these to get PI vs. distance from duct wall



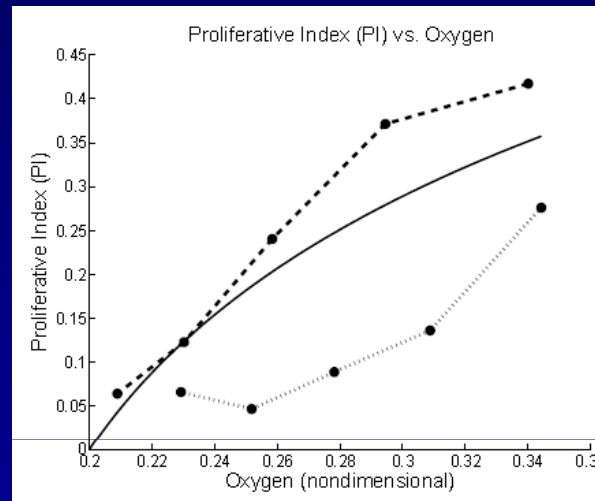
- **Step 4:** Estimate oxygen profile in duct

$$\sigma(r) = \frac{\sigma_H}{I_0 \left( \frac{R_{\text{duct}} - T}{L} \right)} I_0 \left( \frac{r}{L} \right)$$



# Application: DCIS Ki-67 Immunohistochemistry

- **Step 5:** Solve the nonlinear system to steady state for various values of  $\sigma$  to get predicted PI-vs- $\sigma$  curve
- **Step 6:** Compare results
  - Qualitative match  $\rightarrow$  general constitutive relation and model are good
  - No quantitative match  $\rightarrow$  some biology unaccounted for



- **Step 7:** New hypotheses, try again
  - Redo the PI-vs- $\sigma$  on a duct-by-duct basis (use individual duct data)

- Left duct:

$$\alpha_A \approx 0.00162405 \text{ h}^{-1},$$

$$\bar{\alpha}_P(\mathcal{S}, \bullet) \approx 0.270331 \text{ h}^{-1}$$

- Right duct:

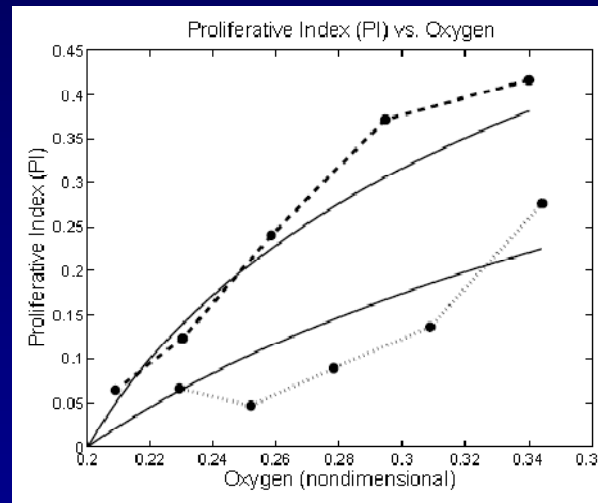
$$\alpha_A \approx 0.00129067 \text{ h}^{-1},$$

$$\bar{\alpha}_P(\mathcal{S}, \bullet) \approx 0.109562 \text{ h}^{-1}$$

- Should be able to match curves quantitatively

# Application: DCIS Ki-67 Immunohistochemistry

- **Step 8:** Compare again
  - Much better quantitative match



- **Step 9:** More analysis, new hypotheses
  - Both ducts had similar estimated oxygenation
  - Must be signalling heterogeneity
  - Notice densities are different → E-cadherin/ $\beta$ -catenin?
    - Higher proliferation where less of cell's surface area is in cell contact.
  - New functional form?

$$\alpha_P(\mathcal{S}, \sigma, \bullet, \circ) = \bar{\alpha}_P(\bullet, \circ) \left( 1 - \mathcal{E} \langle \mathcal{E} \rangle \frac{\rho}{\rho_{\max}} \right) \left( \frac{\sigma - \sigma_H}{1 - \sigma_H} \right)$$

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# Coming Next:

- **Lecture 1:**
  - Cancer biology for modellers
- **Lecture 2:**
  - An agent-based cell model; application to DCIS
- **Lecture 3:**
  - Parameter estimation, patient-specific calibration
- **Lecture 4:**
  - Numerical method, simulation results

# Lecture Outline

- Overall framework
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- Coming next
- References

# Some References

- The agent model presented here is published in:
  - P. Macklin et al. Agent-based modeling of ductal carcinoma in situ: Application to patient-specific breast cancer modeling. In: T. Pham (ed). *Computational Biology: Issues and Applications in Oncology*. Springer, New York, NY USA, 2009. Chapter 4, pages 77-112. ISBN 978-1-4419-0810-0.
  - P. Macklin et al. Discrete cell modeling. In: V. Cristini and J. Lowengrub. *Multiscale Modeling of Cancer*. Cambridge Univ. Press, Cambridge, UK, 2010. Chapter 6, pages 92-126. ISBN 978-0521884426. (in press)
  - P. Macklin et al. Agent-based cell modeling: application to breast cancer. In: V. Cristini and J. Lowengrub. *Multiscale Modeling of Cancer*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, 2010. Chapter 10, pages 216-44. ISBN 978-0521884426. (in press)
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  - P. Macklin et al. A composite agent-based cell model, with application to breast cancer-II: Calibration, Numerical Method and Simulation Results. *J. Theor. Biol.* 2010. (in preparation)
- References on other agent modelling can be found in the papers above, as well as the recent review:
  - J.S. Lowengrub et al. Nonlinear modeling of cancer: Bridging the gap between cells and tumors. *Nonlinearity*, 23(1):R1–R91, 2010. [doi: 10.1088/0951-7715/23/1/R01](https://doi.org/10.1088/0951-7715/23/1/R01).

# Some References

- The level set / continuum work can be found in:
  - P. Macklin, S.R. McDougall, A.R.A. Anderson, M. Chaplain, J. Lowengrub, and V. Cristini, Nonlinear simulation of the effects of tumor growth on neovascular remodeling, *Bull. Math. Biol.*, 2007. (search google – published).
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  - H.B. Frieboes, J.S. Lowengrub, S. Wise, X. Zheng, P. Macklin, E.L. Bearer, and V. Cristini, Computer Simulation of Glioma Growth and Morphology, *NeuroImage*, 37(S1):S59-S70, 2007. doi: [10.1016/j.neuroimage.2007.03.008](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2007.03.008).
  - P. Macklin, Toward Computational Oncology: Nonlinear Simulation of Centimeter-Scale Tumor Growth in Complex, Heterogeneous Tissues, *Ph.D. Dissertation*, University of California, Irvine Department of Mathematics, 2007.
  - P. Macklin and J.S. Lowengrub, Nonlinear simulation of the effect of microenvironment on tumor growth, *J. Theor. Biol.*, 245(4):677-704, 2007. doi: [10.1016/j.jtbi.2006.12.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtbi.2006.12.004).
  - P. Macklin and J.S. Lowengrub, An improved geometry-aware curvature discretization for level set methods: application to tumor growth, *J. Comput. Phys.*, 215(2):392-401, 2006. doi: [10.1016/j.jcp.2005.11.016](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcp.2005.11.016).
  - P. Macklin and J.S. Lowengrub, Evolving interfaces via gradients of geometry-dependent interior Poisson problems: application to tumor growth, *J. Comput. Phys.*, 203(1):191-220, 2005. doi: [10.1016/j.jcp.2004.08.010](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcp.2004.08.010).
  - P. Macklin, Nonlinear Simulation of Tumor Growth and Chemotherapy, *M.S. Thesis*, University of Minnesota School of Mathematics, 2003.

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- (new but under construction)

- <http://biomathematics.shis.uth.tmc.edu>

- (old but already built)