

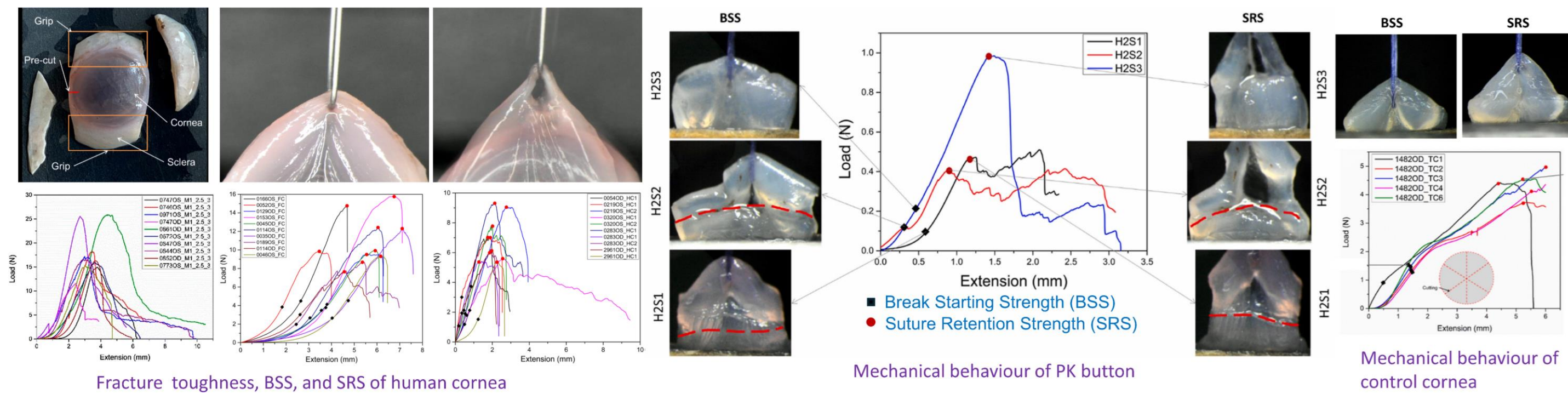


MECHANICS OF BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS GROUP

Fracture toughness, suture strength, and structure of corneal graft-host junction

S N S H Chittajallu^{1,2,3}, H Gururani¹, R Dalai¹, V K Saggam¹, S N Rath¹, S Jakati², S Basu², P K Vaddavalli², K M Tse³, Viswanath C¹

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1. Fracture behavior in corneal specimens depends on notch size and location, with lamellar tear and collagen fiber pull-out as failure mechanisms.
2. A rare corneal graft that failed after 13 years of PK is investigated. The Graft-Host-Junction (GHJ) strength observed is 1/10th of the control Cornea, and the microstructural characteristics showed remodeling at the wound junction.

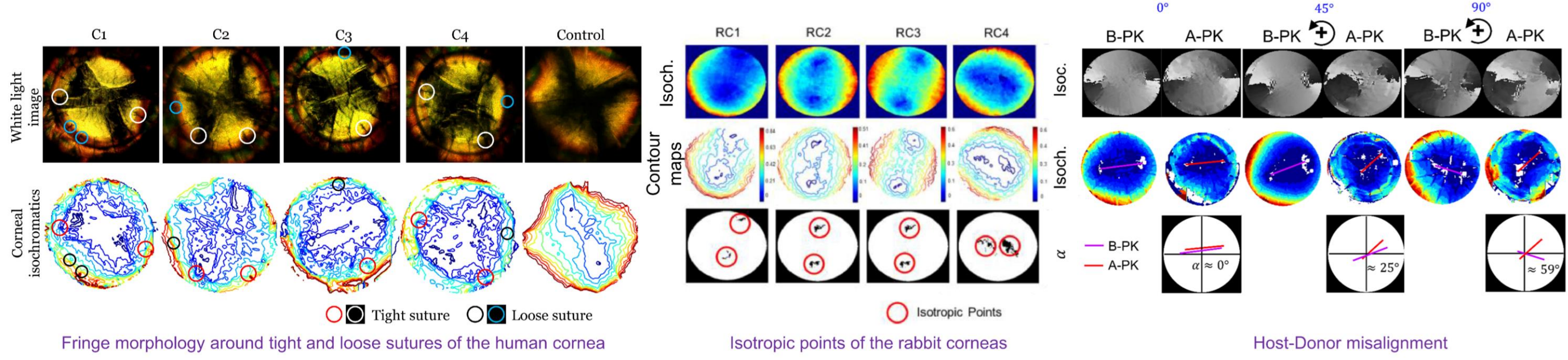
Publications:

1. Investigation of microstructural failure in the human cornea through fracture tests. *Scientific Report* 2023; 13:13876
2. Investigation of mechanical strength and structure of corneal graft-host junction. *Heliyon* 2024; 10: e30871
3. A study on suture retention strength in human cadaver corneas was conducted, and it is submitted to the *Scientific Reports* (Under review)

Subject-Specific Corneal Microstructure and Post-PK Misalignment Through Birefringence

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1. Individual suture tension and interactions significantly influence tissue configuration during corneal transplantation, affecting visual outcomes.
2. Rabbit corneas exhibited inter-corneal variability in birefringence with different degrees of biaxiality, similar to human corneas.
3. The structural misalignment and suture tension collectively influence the suture-tissue interaction, resulting in an erratic change in the corneal birefringence after PK.

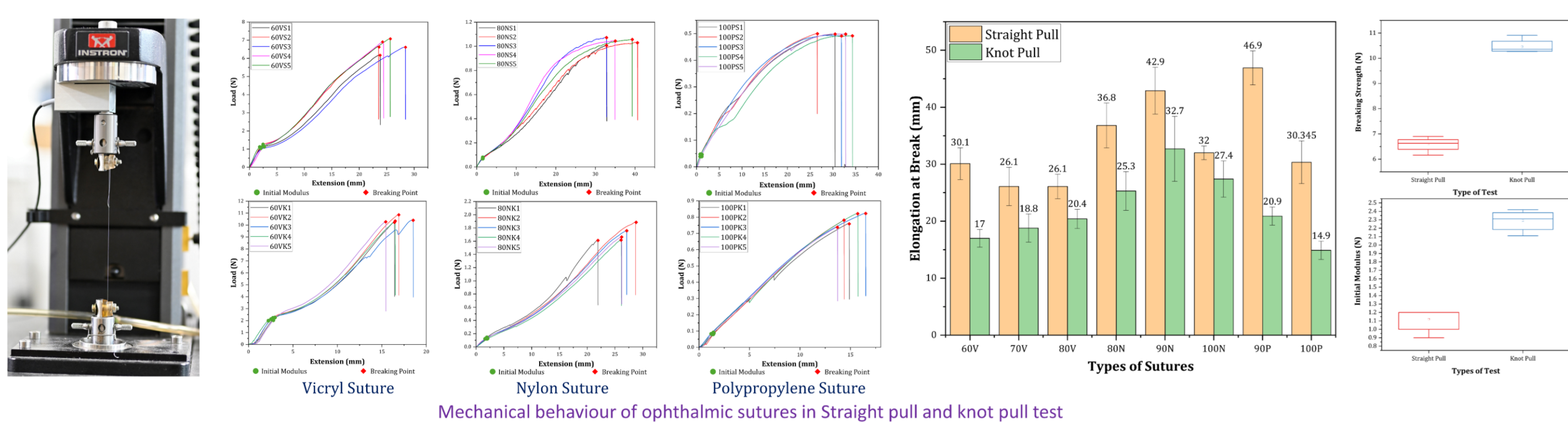
Publications:

1. An In-Vitro Investigation on the Birefringence of the Human Cornea Using Digital Photoelasticity. *Experimental Mechanics* 2023; 63:205-19.
2. Identification of subject-specific fibrillar disposition in healthy rabbit cornea through birefringence analysis. *Optics and Lasers in Engineering* 2023; 169: 107747
3. Intraoperative collagen imaging of sutured cornea: A way towards managing post-penetrating keratoplasty astigmatism. *Medical Engineering and Physics* 2024; 123: 104076.

Tensile Properties of Ophthalmic Sutures

R Dalai¹, V K Saggam¹, S N S H Chittajallu^{1,2}, M Ramji¹, S Basu², Viswanath C¹

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1. The mechanical properties of ophthalmic suture materials (Vicryl, polypropylene, Nylon) are investigated. The mechanical properties play a critical role in withstanding different intraocular pressures.
2. Load-displacement curves determine vital parameters such as initial modulus, breaking strength, and elongation at break.
3. The suture mechanical properties provide valuable insights to surgeons in optimizing suture material selection for ophthalmic surgeries.



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- #### Areas of Research :
- ❖ Nano and Micro-mechanics
 - ❖ Fracture Mechanics
 - ❖ Contact Mechanics
 - ❖ Bio-Mechanics
 - ❖ Structural Health Monitoring



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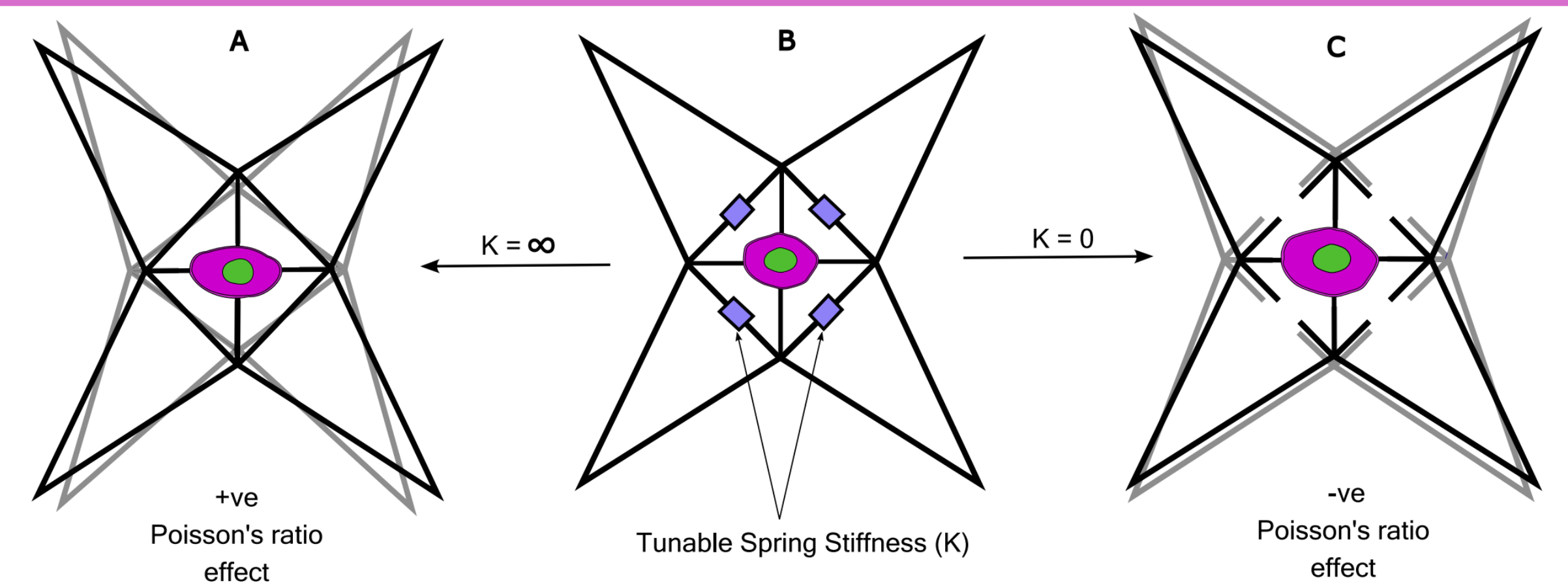


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- #### Areas of Research :
- ❖ Experimental Solid Mechanics,
 - ❖ Material Characterisation,
 - ❖ Finite Element Analysis,
 - ❖ Fracture Mechanics,
 - ❖ Composite Structures,
 - ❖ Damage Mechanics



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The mechanical properties of substrates, such as Elastic Modulus and Poisson's ratio, strongly influence the behavior of adhered biological cells. While tunable materials like polyacrylamide gels and hydrogels have been used to study this, they do not allow for in situ changes to their elastic properties during cell growth. This research proposes an alternative using tunable compliant micro-mechanism substrates, allowing real-time adjustment. The mechanism exhibits an invertible Poisson's ratio, switching between positive and negative values. By altering the stiffness of a re-entrant structure, lateral deformation direction reverses, with analytical models and experiments confirming this behavior.

Publication:

Sebastian, M., Balakrishnan, S. and Palathingal, S., 2023, August. Design and Modelling of Compliant Mechanisms With Invertible Poisson's Ratio Effect for Growing Biological Cells. In *International Design Engineering Technical Conferences and Computers and Information in Engineering Conference* (Vol. 87363, p. V008T08A027). American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

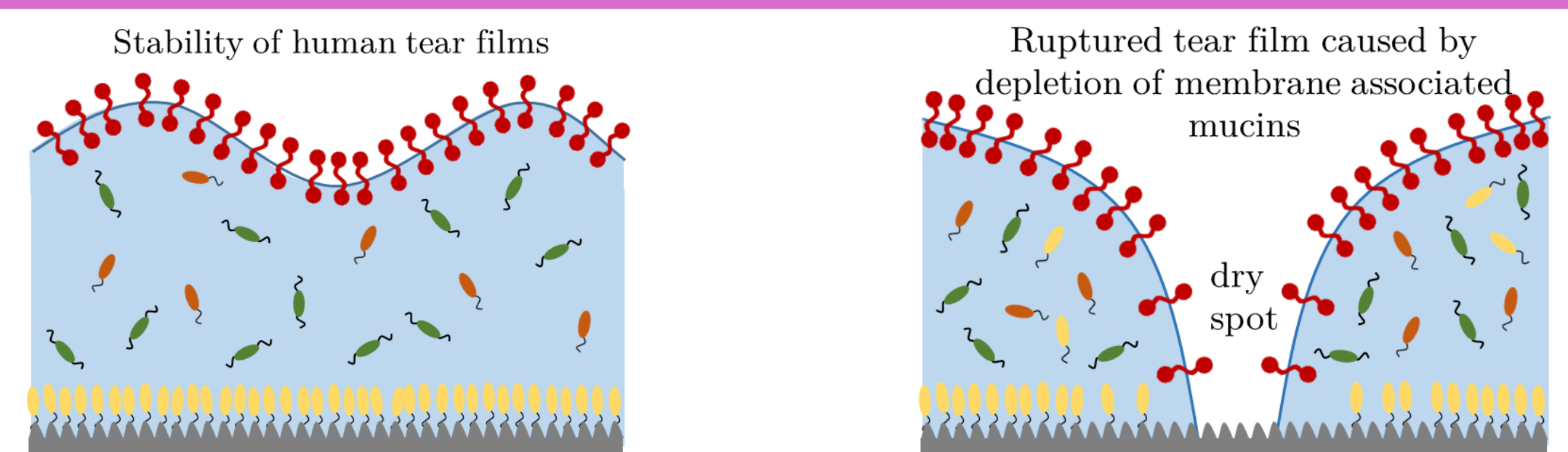


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- #### Areas of Research :
- ❖ Nonlinear mechanics of slender structures
 - ❖ Compliant mechanisms
 - ❖ Optimization



Google Scholar Link



Publication:

Mohar Dey, Atul Vivek, Harish N. Dixit, A. Richhariya, James J. Feng. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, 858:352-76, 2019
Anjishnu Choudhury, Mohar Dey, Harish N. Dixit, and James J. Feng, *Phys. Rev. E* 103, 013108, 2021

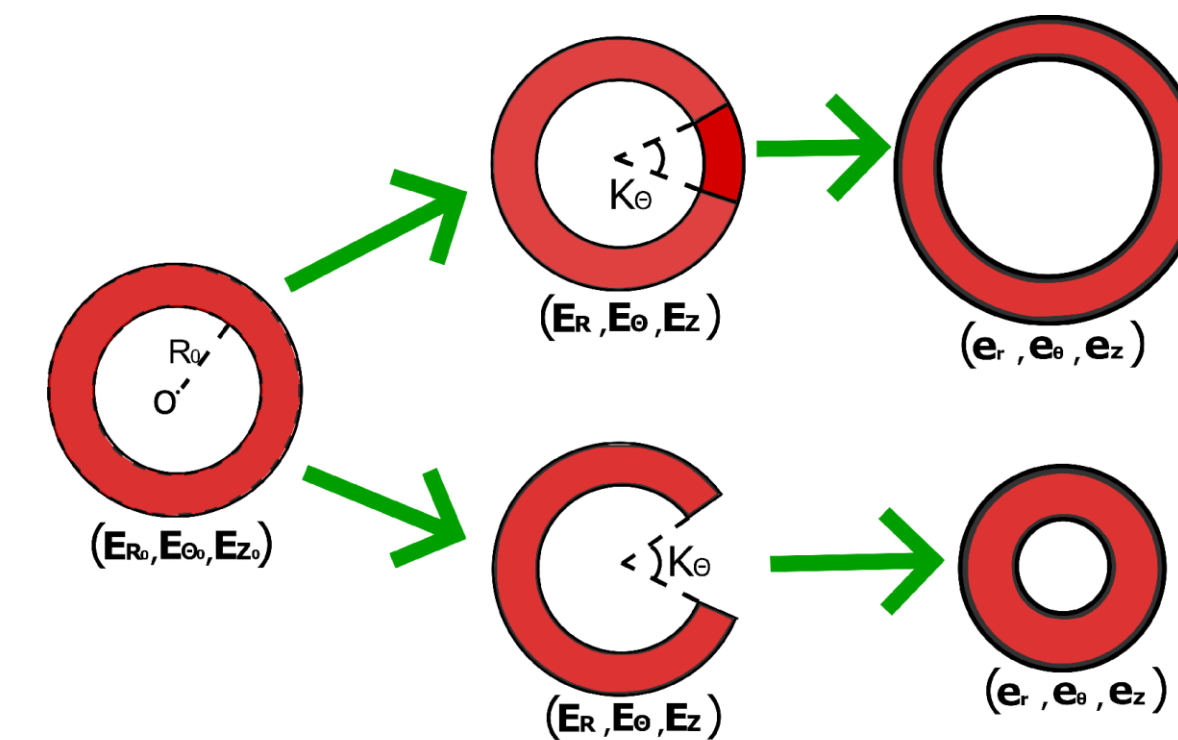


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- #### Areas of Research :
- ❖ Interfacial fluid mechanics,
 - ❖ Vortex dynamics,
 - ❖ Hydrodynamic stability theory,
 - ❖ Geophysical flows.



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At the SUCSHM (Searching Unique Class of Small-scale High-performance Materials) Lab, we explore a wide range of biophysical phenomena—from fundamental questions like why plants exhibit specific growth patterns to advanced modeling of residual stresses in biological tissues, particularly cancerous tissue. Our focus lies in the modeling and simulation of complex biophysical problems. By deriving new theories and validating them against the natural laws of physics, we aim to understand the mechanisms driving these processes.



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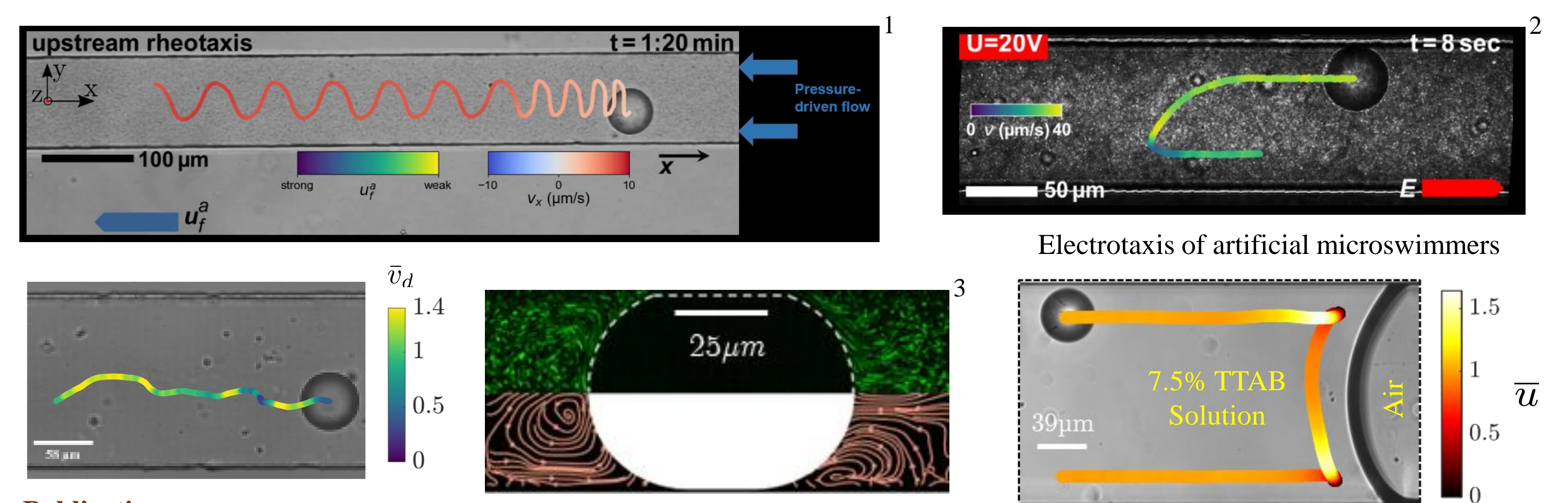
- #### Areas of Research :
- ❖ Multiscale and multiphysics modeling
 - ❖ Computational materials science
 - ❖ Nonlinear elasticity
 - ❖ Biomechanics
 - ❖ Computational mechanics



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Dynamics of Self-propelled Microswimmers in Complex Environment

Smita S. Sontakke, Subhashish Guchhait, Aneasha Kajampady, Ranabir Dey



Publications:

1. R. Dey, C. M. Bunes, B. V. Hokmabad, C. Jin, C. C. Maass, *Nature Communications* 13, 2952, 2022.
2. C. M. Bunes, A. Rana, C. C. Maass, R. Dey, arXiv:2401.14376v1, 2024.
3. S. Guchhait, S. S. Sontakke, S. Mandal, R. Dey, arXiv:2407.04324v1, 2024, under review



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- #### Areas of Research :
- ❖ Low Reynolds number fluid mechanics
 - ❖ Microfluidics
 - ❖ Capillarity and wetting phenomena
 - ❖ Active soft matter- dynamics of self-propelling microswimmers (e.g. swimming droplets) in complex surroundings



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