

# Contents

REMERCIEMENTS .....	I
ABSTRACT .....	III
RÉSUMÉ .....	V
CONTENTS .....	VII
<b>1) INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 GENERAL CONTEXT .....	1
1.2 CONTENT OF THE THESIS .....	2
<b>2) BIOPHYSICAL BACKGROUND .....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 THE CYTOSKELETON .....	5
2.2 ACTIN .....	7
2.2.1 Actin microfilaments .....	7
2.2.2 Actin associated proteins .....	9
2.3 CYTOSKELETAL MOTORS .....	12
2.3.1 Microtubule motors .....	13
2.3.2 Actin motors .....	13
2.3.2.1 Myosin II .....	14
2.4 THE CELL MEMBRANE .....	16
2.5 THE CRAWLING MOTION .....	17
2.5.1 Fish keratocyte as a model for crawling motion .....	18
2.5.2 Polarized organization of the cytoskeleton during motion in keratocytes .....	19
2.6 CELL PROTRUSION .....	20
2.6.1 The dendritic nucleation .....	20
2.6.2 Protrusive forces .....	22
2.6.2.1 Brownian ratchet model .....	22
2.7 CELL RETRACTION .....	23
2.7.1 Dynamic network contraction .....	24
2.8 CELL ADHESION .....	25
2.9 FORCE GENERATION DURING CELL MIGRATION .....	26
2.9.1 Traction forces .....	26
2.9.2 Cell traction forces measurement methods .....	27
2.9.2.1 Cell-populated collagen gel .....	27
2.9.2.2 Thin silicon membrane .....	27
2.9.2.3 Force sensor array .....	28
2.9.2.4 Traction force microscopy .....	29
2.10 MEMBRANE TENSION .....	30
2.11 CELL POLARIZATION .....	31
2.11.1 Signaling networks .....	32
2.11.2 Actin flow .....	33
2.11.3 Membrane tension and cell shape .....	34
<b>3) MATERIALS AND METHODS .....</b>	<b>35</b>
3.1 CELL CULTURE .....	35
3.2 MICROSCOPY .....	35
3.2.1 Phase-contrast and fluorescence microscopy .....	35

3.2.2 Scanning electron microscopy .....	36
3.3 CELL TREATMENT .....	36
3.3.1 Cytoskeleton inhibitors .....	36
3.3.2 Hypo-osmotic treatment .....	37
3.4 IMMUNOSTAINING .....	37
3.5 POLYACRYLAMIDE GEL FABRICATION .....	38
3.6 TRACTION FORCE MICROSCOPY .....	39
3.6.1 Analysis of force map .....	39
3.7 COMPUTATIONAL MODEL OF CELL EDGE DYNAMIC .....	40
3.7.1 Mapping protrusion-retraction switches .....	40
3.7.2 Model parameters .....	42
3.7.3 CELL CENTER, LOOP ELIMINATION AND CONTOUR RE-SAMPLING .....	42
3.8 ACTIN MICROINJECTION .....	43
3.8.1 Microinjection .....	43
3.8.2 Phalloidin solution .....	43
3.9 TOPOGRAPHIC SUBSTRATE .....	43
3.9.1 Fabrication of features .....	43
3.9.2 Switch frequency measurement near the feature .....	44
3.10 FLUORESCENCE DISPLACEMENT METHOD .....	45
3.11 CONTRIBUTION TO CITED PAPERS .....	45
3.12 GLOSSARY .....	45
<b>4) CELL EDGE DYNAMICS DURING THE PROCESS OF MOTILITY INITIATION .....</b>	<b>47</b>
4.1 EXPERIMENTAL CELL EDGE DYNAMICS .....	47
4.1.1 Cell fluctuation .....	47
4.1.2 Myosin II inhibition .....	49
4.1.3 Actin polymerization inhibition .....	51
4.2 PROTRUSION-RETRACTION TRANSITIONS IN CELL POLARIZATION .....	53
4.2.1 Distribution of protrusion/retraction switches during cell polarization .....	53
4.2.2 Induced cell shape perturbation .....	55
4.2.3 Computational model of cell edge dynamic .....	57
4.2.4 Actin dynamics during protrusion-retraction fluctuations .....	58
4.3 CELL EDGE DYNAMICS ON FLEXIBLE GEL SUBSTRATE .....	59
4.3.1 Cell detachment methods .....	60
4.3.2 Polyacrylamide gel rigidity .....	61
4.4 CONCLUSION .....	63
<b>5) RELATION BETWEEN TRACTION FORCES AND PROTRUSION- RETRACTION SWITCHES .....</b>	<b>65</b>
5.1 TRACTION FORCES MICROSCOPY .....	65
5.2 TRACTION FORCES DURING CELL POLARIZATION ON SOFT GEL .....	66
5.2.1 Two distinct pathways to initiate motility .....	67
5.2.2 Distribution of traction forces on soft gel .....	69
5.2.3 Force-distance relationship on soft gel .....	70
5.3 TRACTION FORCES AND SWITCHES DURING CELL POLARIZATION ON RIGID GEL .....	72
5.3.1 Force-distance relationship .....	73
5.3.2 Induced cell shape perturbation .....	74
5.3.3 Correlative mapping of switches and traction forces .....	75
5.4 CELL CONTRACTILITY INHIBITION ON RIGID GEL .....	77
5.4.1 Distribution of traction forces in contractility-inhibited cells .....	77
5.4.2 Mapping of switches in contractility-inhibited cells .....	78

5.5 MANIPULATION OF EDGE DYNAMICS WITH EXTERNAL FORCES.....	79
5.5.1 <i>External forces during cell fluctuation</i> .....	79
5.5.2 <i>External forces on contractility-inhibited cells</i> .....	80
<b>6) CONTACT ANGLE AT THE LEADING EDGE CONTROLS SWITCHING PROCESS.....</b>	<b>83</b>
6.1 SHAPE OF THE PROTRUDING EDGE .....	83
6.2 MODIFICATION OF CONTACT ANGLE USING SUBSTRATE TOPOGRAPHY .....	86
6.3 EFFECT OF SUBSTRATE TOPOGRAPHY ON CELL BEHAVIOR AND SWITCH DISTRIBUTION .....	87
6.4 CONCLUSION.....	89
<b>7) CONCLUSIONS AND PERSPECTIVES.....</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>CV .....</b>	<b>103</b>