

Linking genes to plant global morphogenesis beyond the SAM

: the role of tropisms



PIAF

INRAE 

French National Research Institute
for Agriculture, Food and Environment

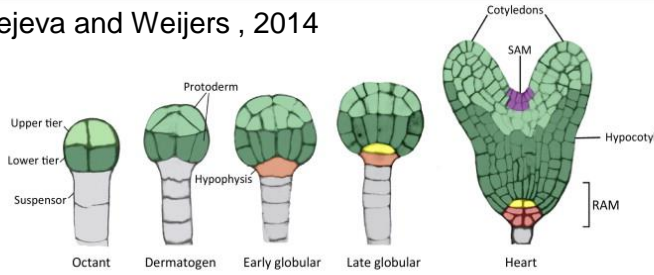
UNIVERSITÉ
Clermont
Auvergne

Bruno Moulia

Research Director Inrae
MECA Group
Plant MechanoBiology

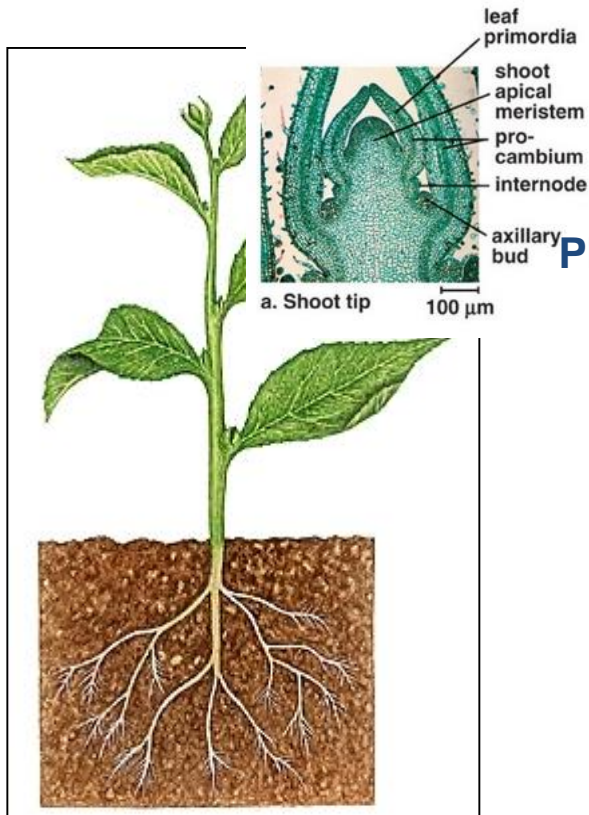
morphogenesis :SAM but also beyond !

Raejeva and Weijers , 2014



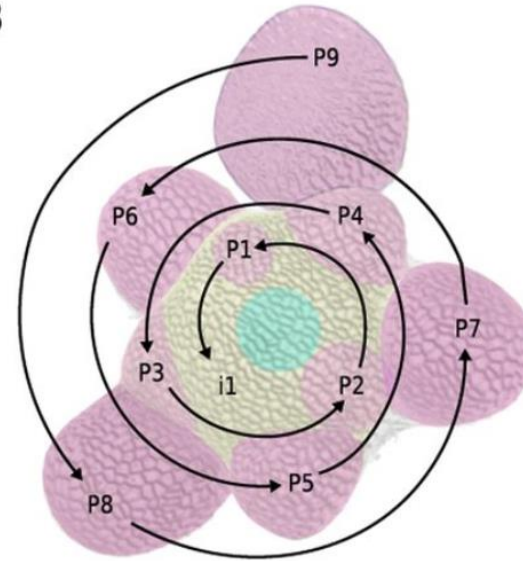
TRENDS in Plant Science

Embryogenesis



Post-embryotic morphogenesis !

B

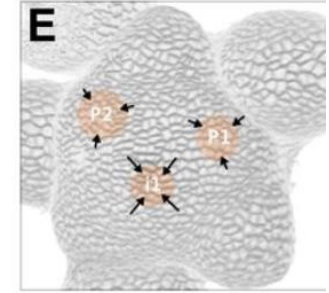


1 of 2

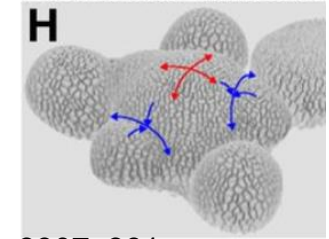
Murray et al 2012 The Plant Cell, 24: 3907–391

Phyllotaxis at the Shoot Apical Meristem: a dynamic crystal

Auxin



Mechanical Tensions/



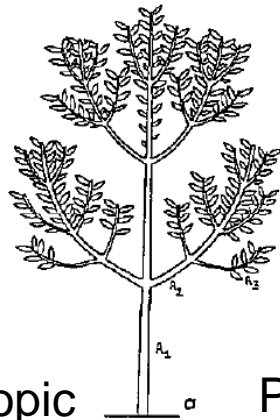
A lot of post SAM morphogenesis !

1- botanical architecture and tropism

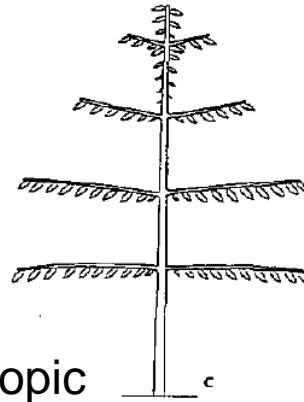
Characterizing the axes : phyllotaxis, sexuality, secondary growth and... tropism



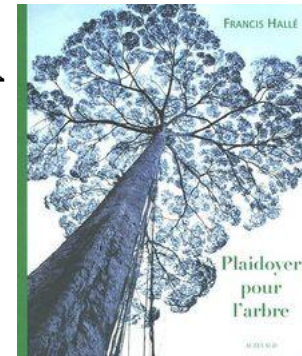
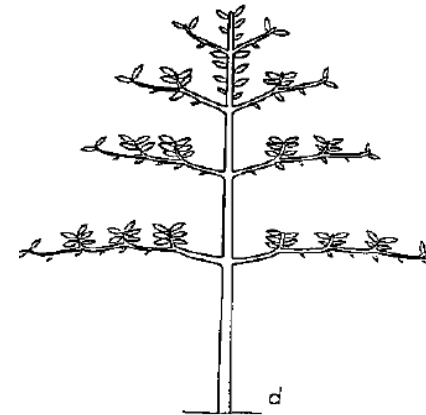
F Hallé



Ortho-tropic

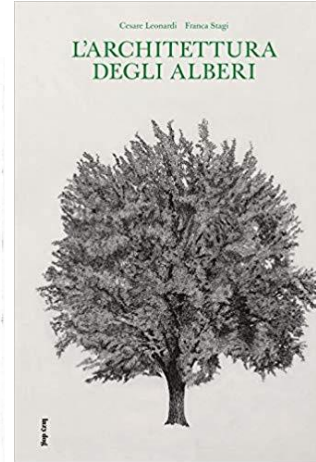
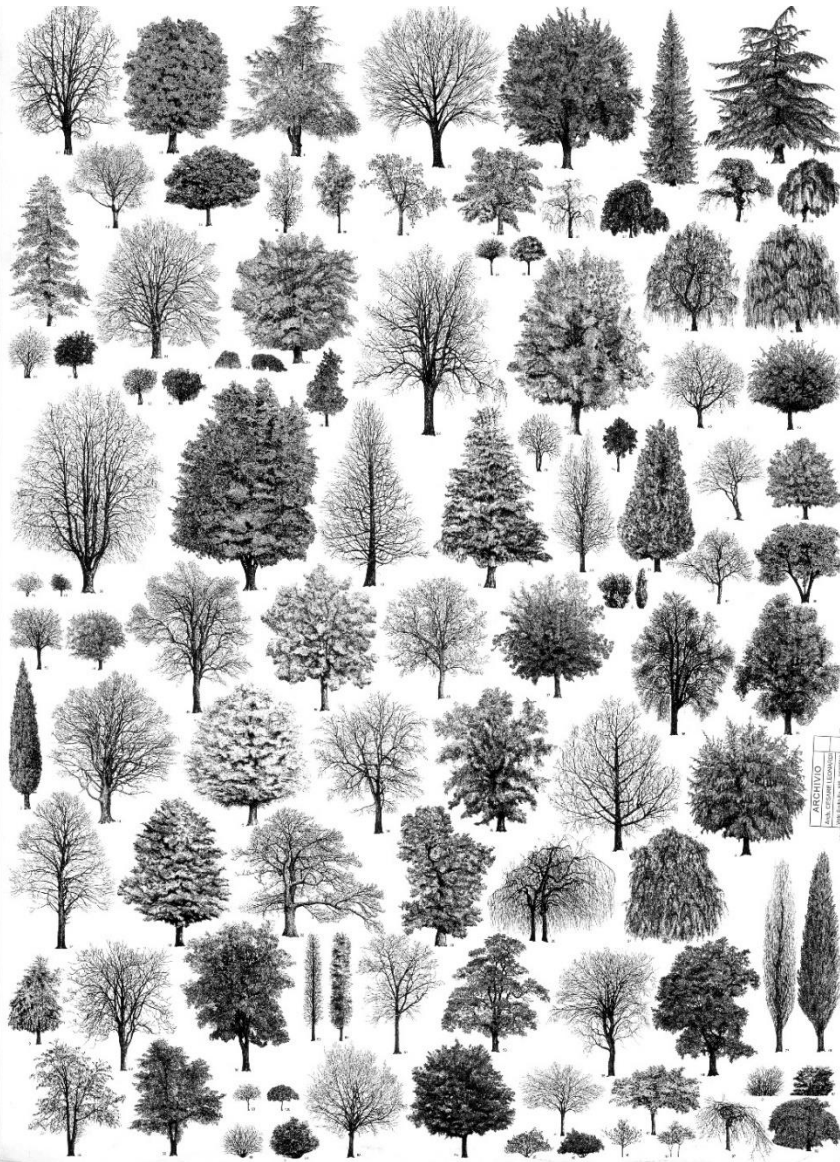


Plagio-tropic



↳ What controls the shaping and orientation of each axis ?

2- crown shaping (isolated free standing plants)



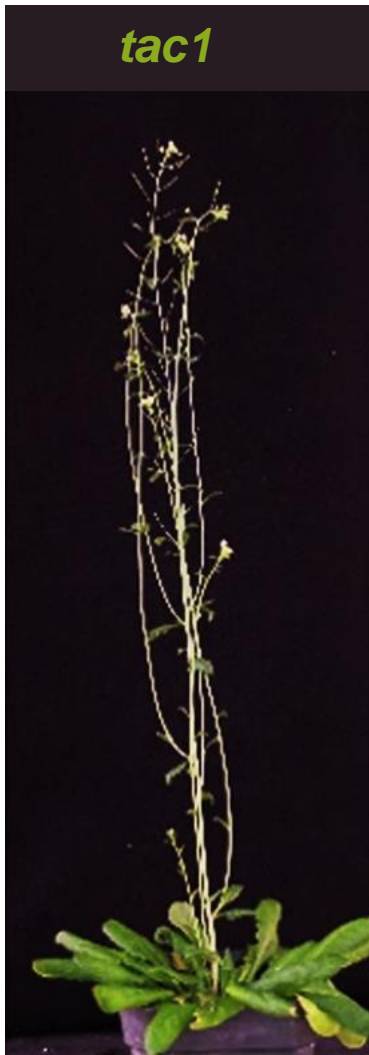
Landscape architects
Cesare Leonardi , Franca Stagi

➤ What controls the shaping of the crown edge,
at various developmental stages ?

3- Genetic control

major genes:

TAC1 ↔ *LAZY*



the shaping of plant axes and crowns



① What controls the shaping and orientation of each axis ?

② What controls the shaping of the crown edge (at various developmental stages) ?

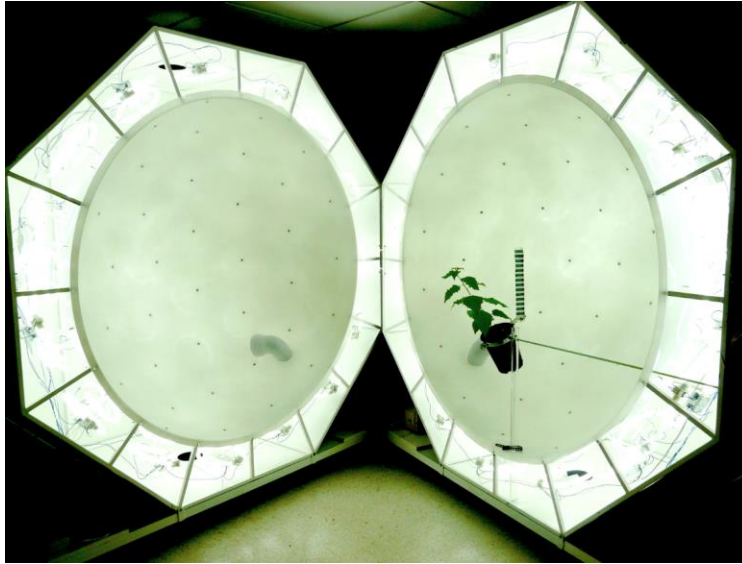


③ How can we account for both the genetic control and the environmental plasticity of plant shaping ?



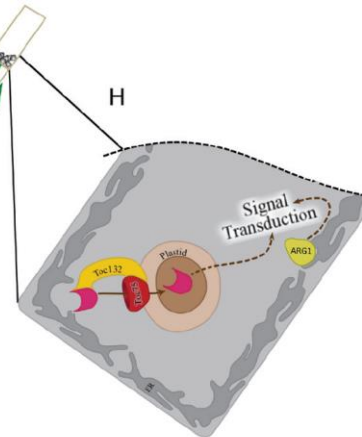
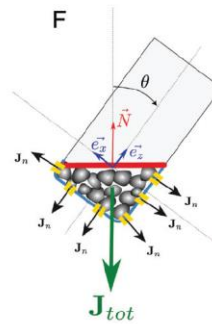
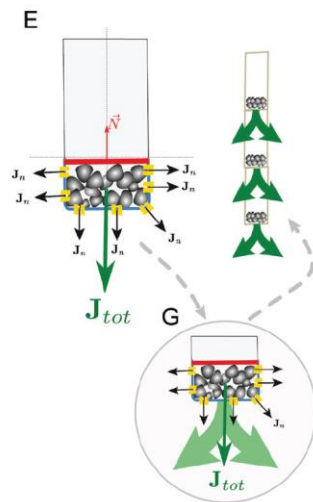
What controls the shaping and orientation of each axis ?

More than light



Coutand *et al* and Moulia 2019 Plos One

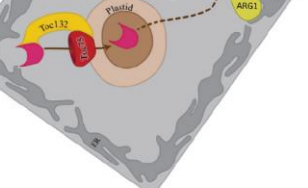
Gravity cue:
position sensing
(LAZY protein)



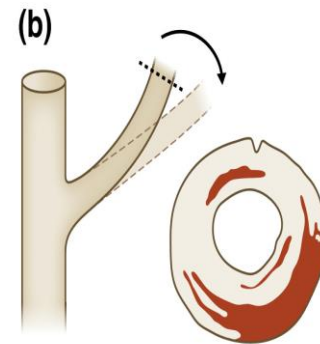
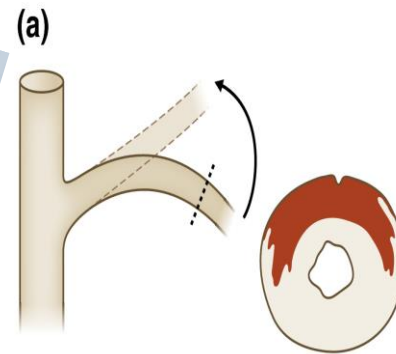
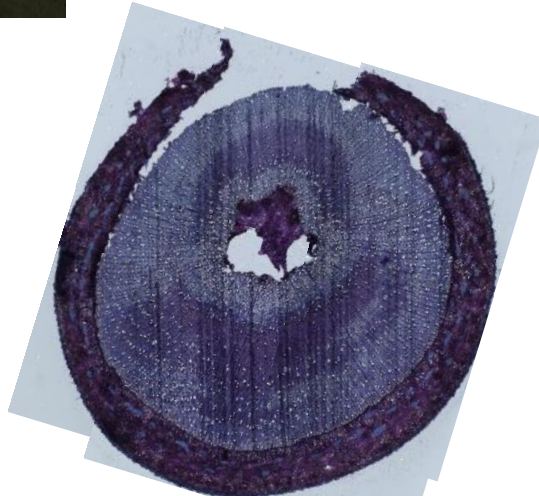
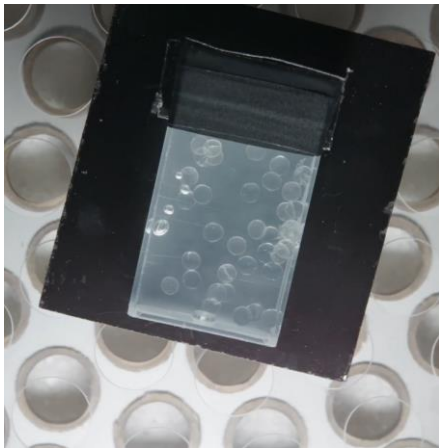
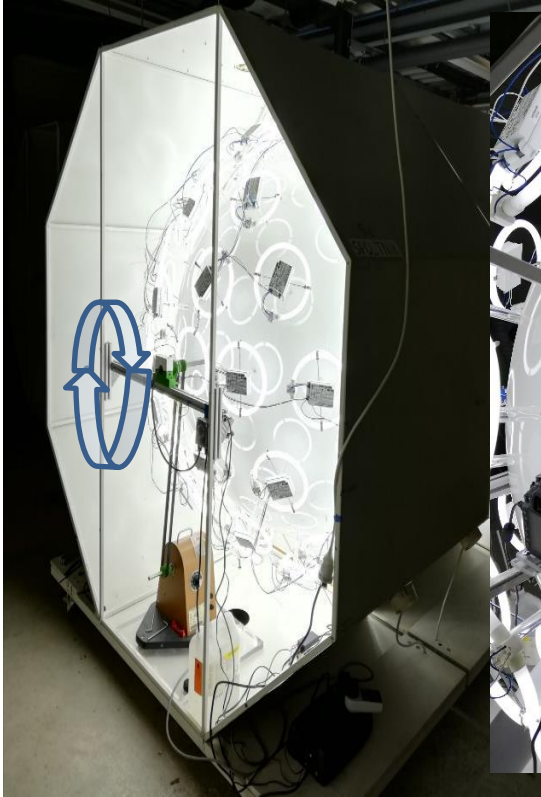
⇒ Gravitropism

Pouliquen *et al* and Moulia 2017 Physical Biology

Bérut *et al* and Forterre 2018 PNAS



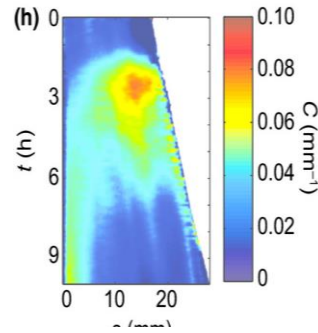
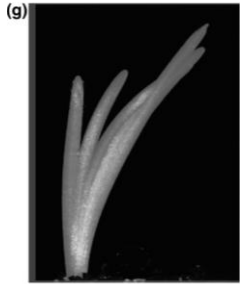
Proprioceptive cue: woody stem



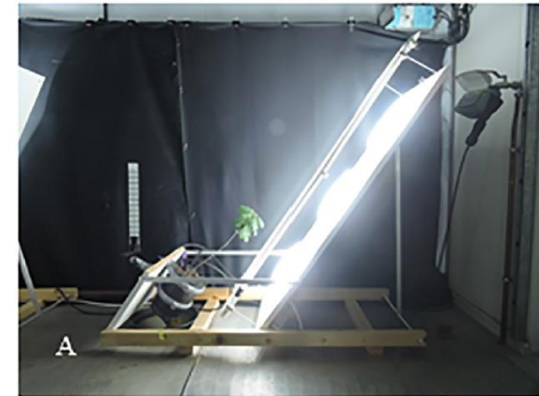
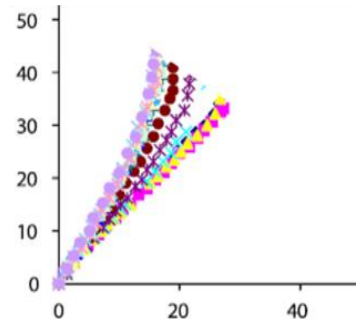
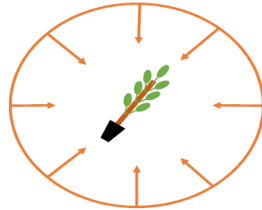
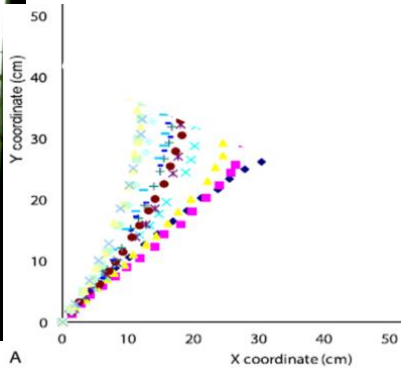
⇒ Controlled by gravitropic sensing and proprioception

What controls the shaping and orientation of each axis ?

Shedding light



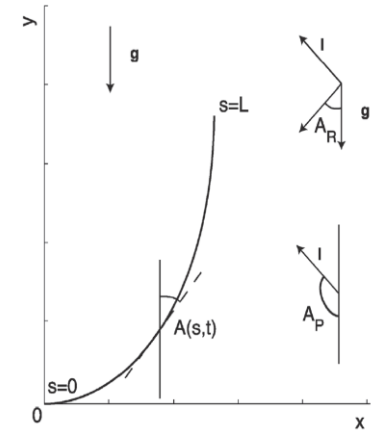
Bastien, Douady, Mouliat, 2015 Computational Biol



The A_rC model

$$\frac{\partial C(s, t)}{\partial t} = - \underbrace{\beta A(s, t)}_{\text{gravitropic}} - \underbrace{\gamma C(s, t)}_{\text{proprioceptive}} - \underbrace{v(A(L, t) - A_P)}_{\text{phototropic}}$$

Bastien *et al* 2013 Pnas, Bastien, Douady, Moulia, 2015
Computational Biol, Moulia *et al.* 2021 Science



↪ Dynamics controlled by only 2 dimensionless numbers

Balance Number **B**

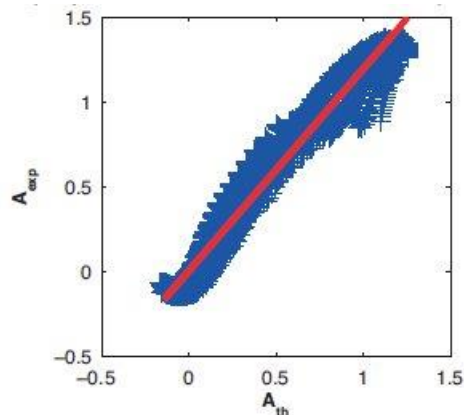
=gravisensitivity / propriosensitivity

Motion Pointing number **M**

=gravisensitivity / photosensitivity

$$B = \frac{\beta}{\gamma} L_0$$

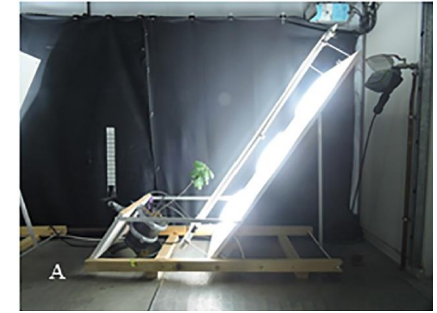
$$M = \frac{\beta}{v}$$



assessed on a set of 13 species
sampling the phylogeny of land angiosperms
(4 for the phototropic part)

combining experiments and the ArC Model
⇒ Estimates of B and M
(quantitative phenotyping)

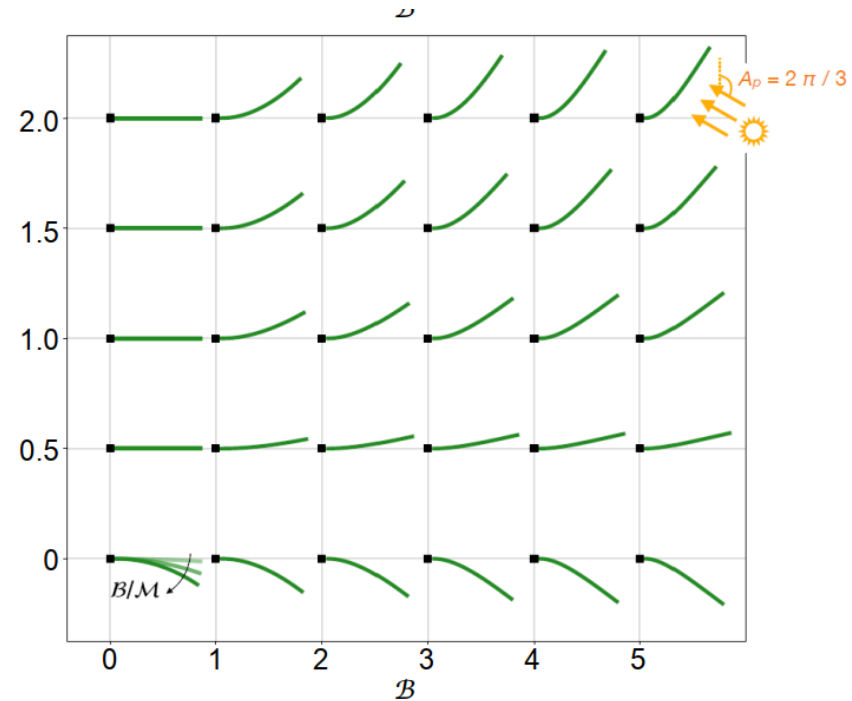
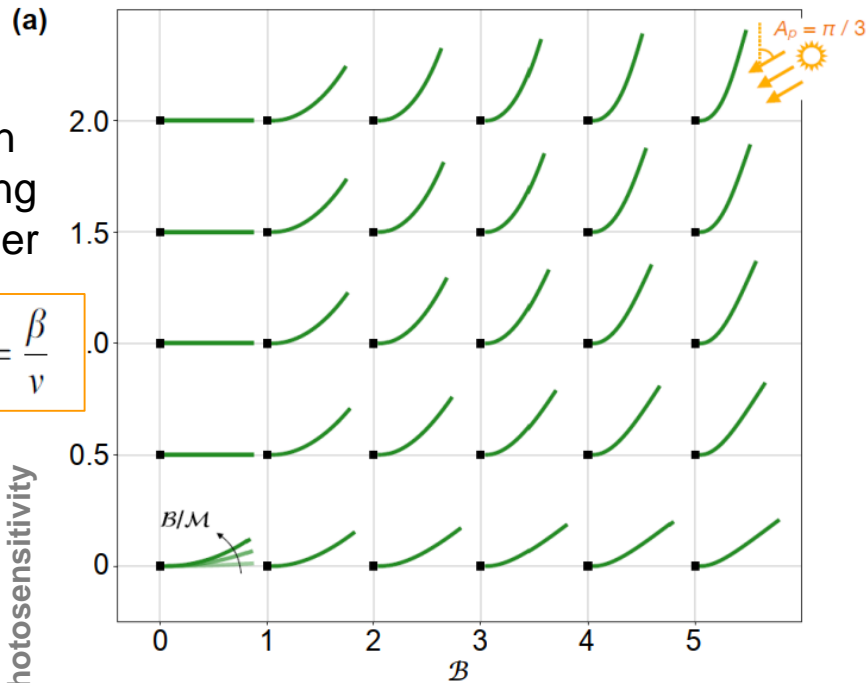
$\mathcal{B}M$ Photogravitropic MorphoSpace



Motion pointing Number

$$M = \frac{\beta}{\nu}$$

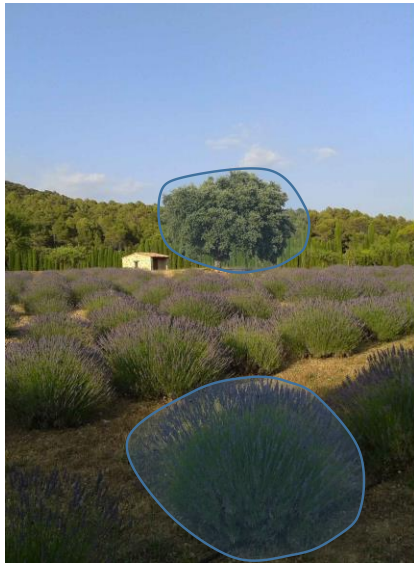
=gravisensitivity / photosensitivity



$$B = \frac{\beta}{\gamma} L_0$$

=gravisensitivity / propriosensitivity

② What controls the shaping of the crown edge, at various developmental stages ?



A crown front dynamics, driven by the gravi-phototropic orientation:

the CF_{gp} model

$$U = \psi \frac{n + \alpha_g v + \alpha_p \ell}{|n + \alpha_g v + \alpha_p \ell|} + \gamma_s \kappa_s n$$

Motion pointing Number

$$M = \frac{\beta}{v}$$

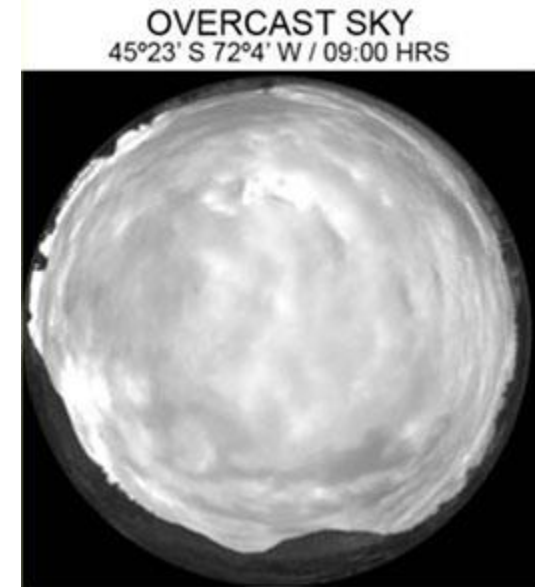
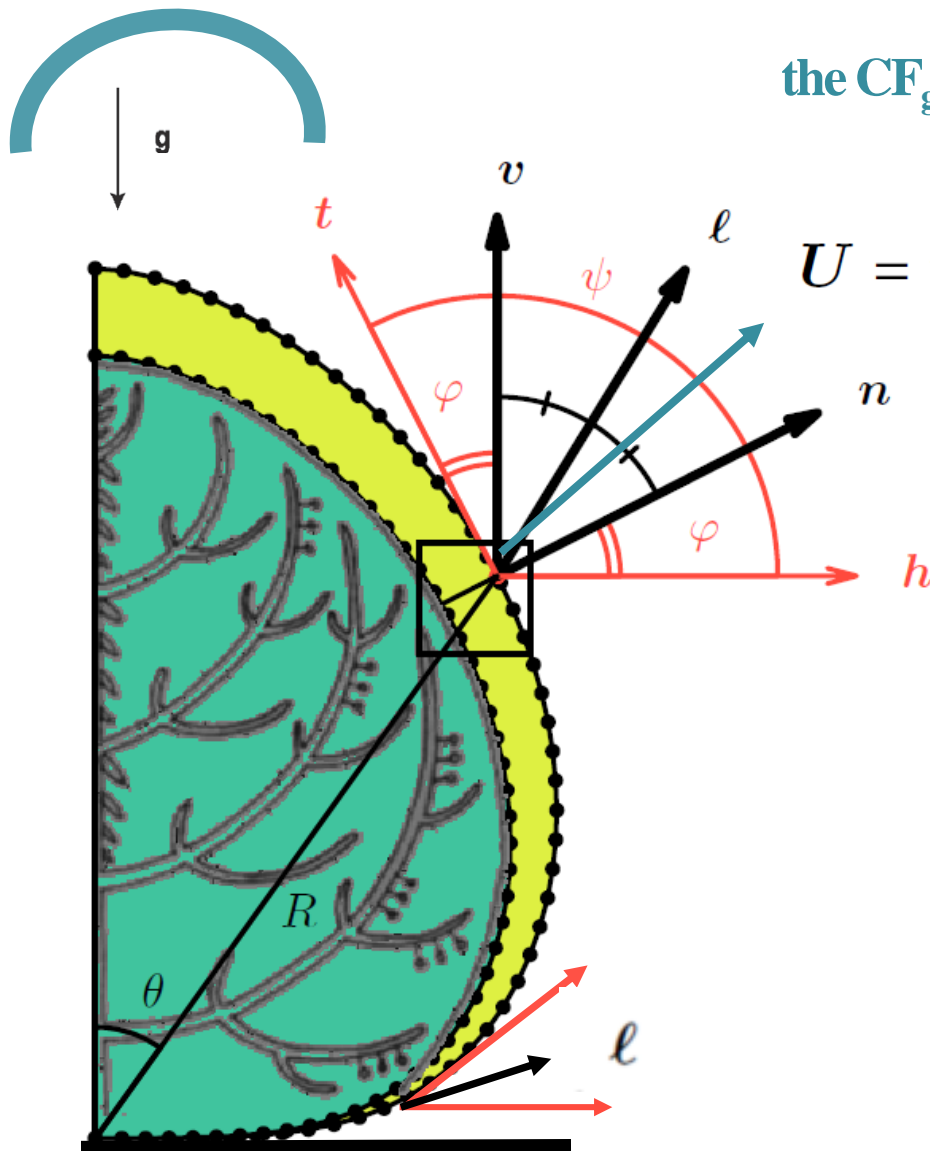
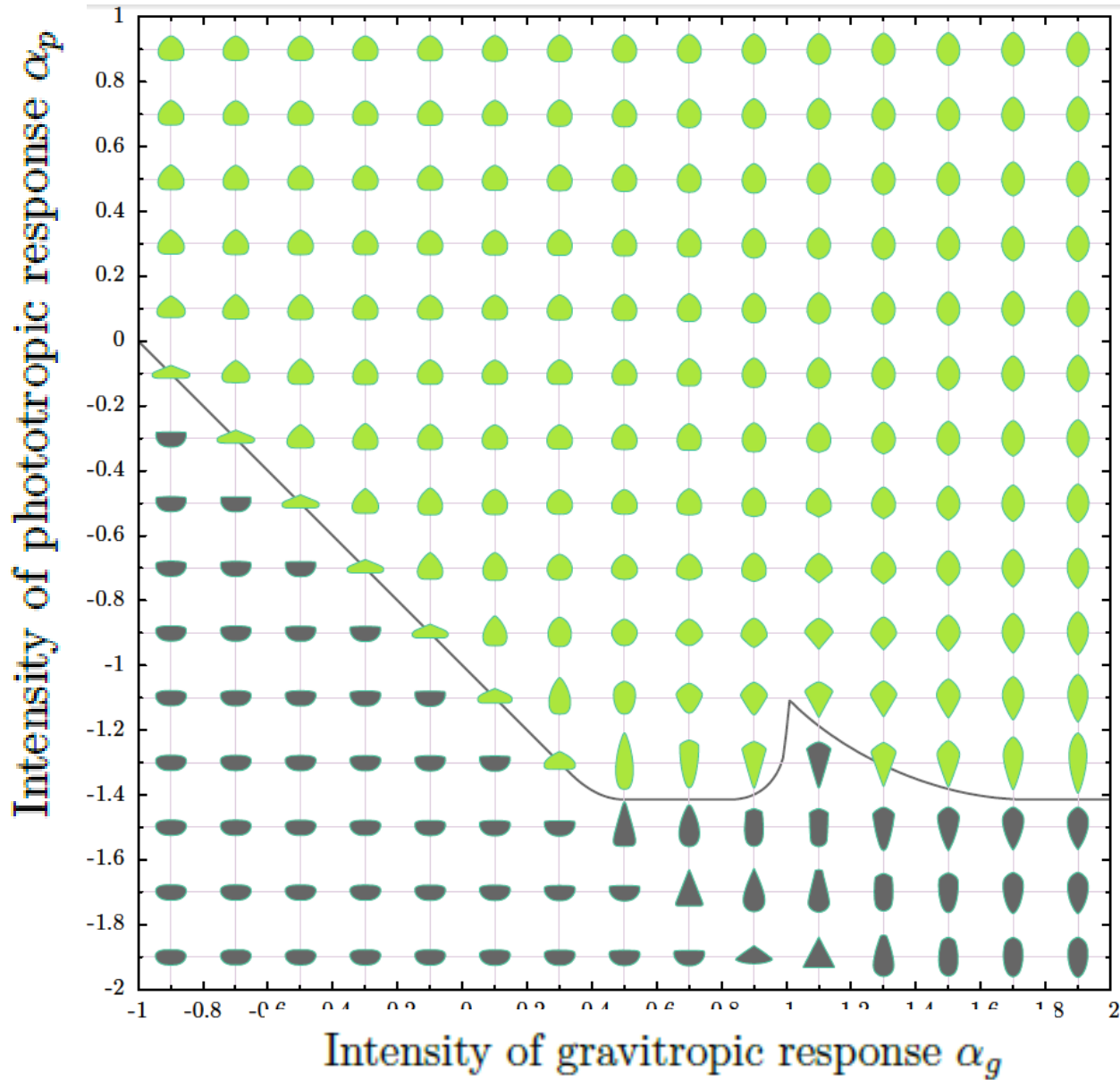


Figure 1. Sketch of a growing tree crown. h and v are unit horizontal and vertical vectors respectively, n and t are the unit vectors respectively normal and tangent to the front and the unit vector ℓ points towards the mean direction of light, which is the first bisector of $(\overline{h}, \overline{t})$. The angle $\psi = \varphi + \pi/2$ represents the local amount of sunlight intercepted for this axisymmetric shape. The inset shows a zoom around the front to highlight the conditions for self-similarity of the growing shape.

Duchemin, Eloy, Badel, Mouliat
2018 J Royal Soc Interface

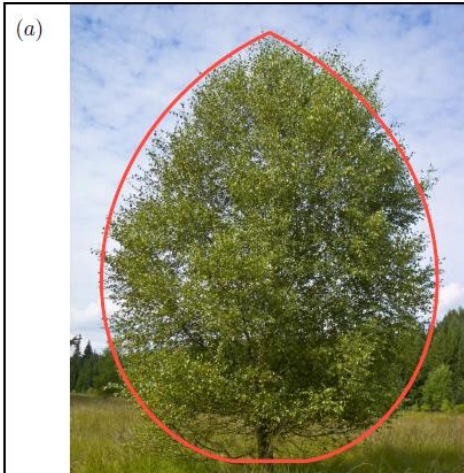
CF_{gp} model

$$U = \psi \frac{n + \alpha_g v + \alpha_p \ell}{|n + \alpha_g v + \alpha_p \ell|} + \gamma_s \kappa_s n$$



CF_{gp} Model fitting at the Architectural Unit and Mature Stages

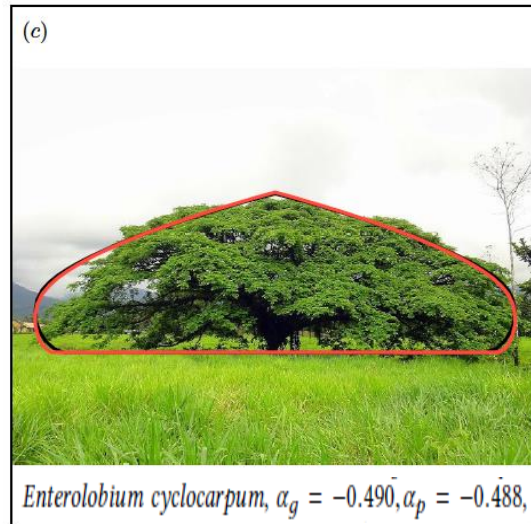
(undisturbed isolated trees)



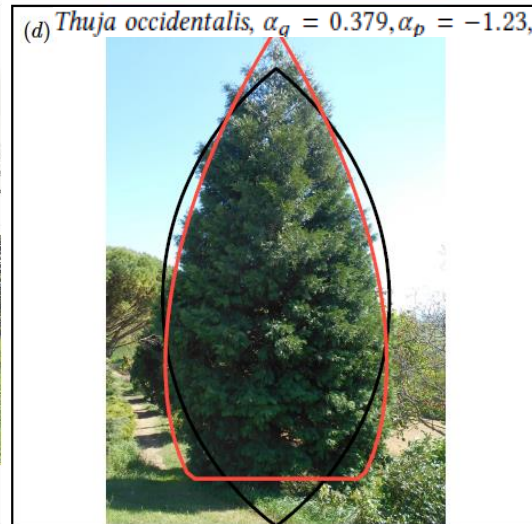
Betula pubescens, $\alpha_g = 0.927$, $\alpha_p = 0.267$,



Quercus castaneifolia, $\alpha_g = -1.00$, $\alpha_p = 0.3$



Enterolobium cyclocarpum, $\alpha_g = -0.490$, $\alpha_p = -0.488$,



(black curve: $\alpha_g = 5.00$, $\alpha_p = 2.69$,

Reasonable fit
(not a full validation)

Comparison between real tree crowns and self-similar shapes of the model

The red curve represents the best fit and the black curve the best fit with $\alpha_p > 0$.

The shaping of trees by mechanical (and optical) signals

① What controls the shaping and orientation of each axis ?

Sensing
position vs gravity/light
self-shape,

$BMW-\epsilon_l$

Dimensionless
numbers :
↪ morphogenetic
regimes

$$B = \frac{\beta}{\gamma} L_0$$

Balance
Number

$$M = \frac{\beta}{v}$$

Motion pointing
Number

$$W = \frac{\kappa_{AGO} R}{\gamma}$$

(active)
Weeping number

$$\epsilon_l = \frac{L_0}{l_e}$$

Elastic sagging
number

② What controls the shaping of the crown edge ?

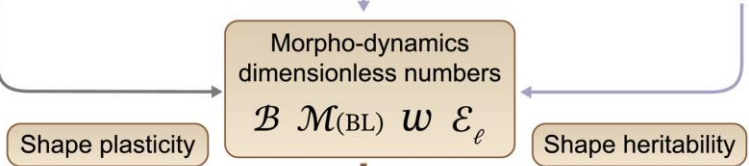
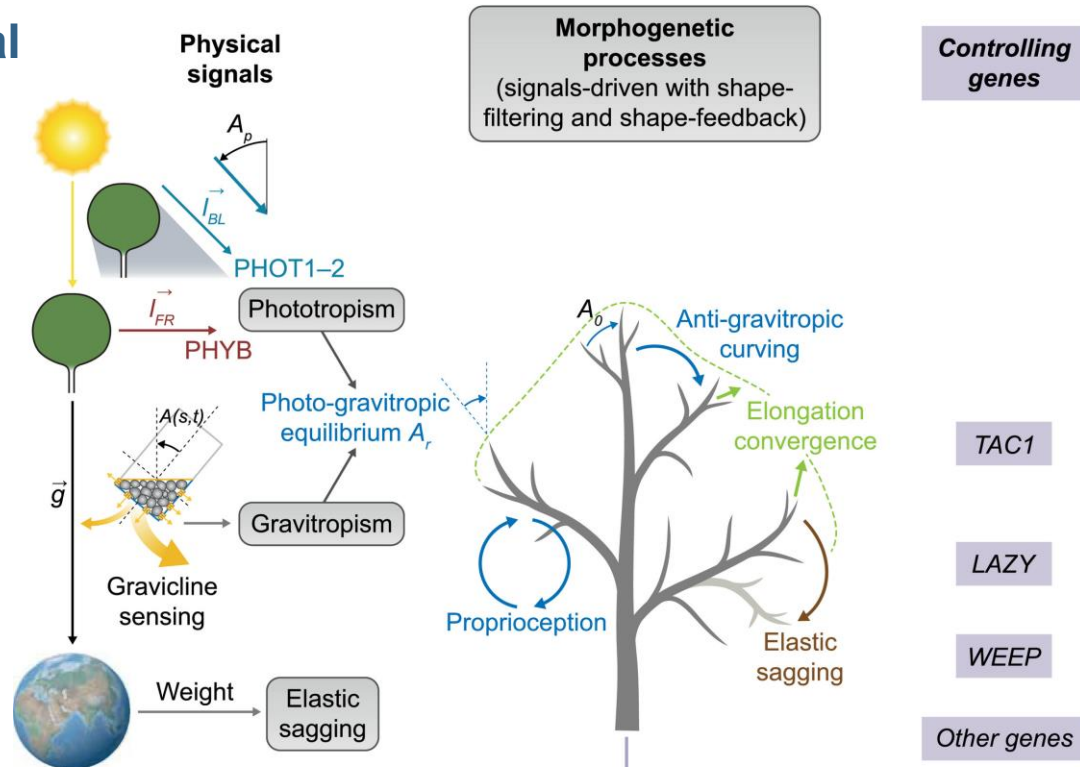
$BMW-\epsilon_l$ + crown feedback

Crowns ~ tropic droplets with
global shape feedback (shade)



③ How can we account for both the genetic control and the environmental plasticity of plant shaping ?

Environmental control



Model-assisted quantitative phenotyping



The interdisciplinary collective shaping of these researches

① What controls the shaping and orientation of each axis ?



R Bastien

PhD Physics
INRAE , PIAF



S Douady

Soft Matter
Physics MSC



T Bohr

Theoretical Physics,
DTU, Niels Bohr
Institute Dk



C Coutand plant
Biomechanics
NRAE PSH



H Chauvet

Geophysics
UCA, PIAF



V Legué,
Plant Biology

UCA, PIAF



Y Forterre

Soft Matter Physics IUSTI



O Pouliquen



M Decourteix

Functionnal genomics
UCA PIAF



F Hartmann

Computational Biol
INRAE , PIAF



S Ploquin

Technician NRAE
, PIAF



A Caulus

INRAE , PIAF
PhD -Biology

② What controls the shaping of the crown edge (at various developmental stages) ?



L Duchemin

Non linear physics PMMH



C Eloy

Non linear physics IRPHE



E Badel Plant and wood
biomechanics INRAE PIAF










Tansley review

The shaping of plant axes and crowns through tropisms and elasticity: an example of morphogenetic plasticity beyond the shoot apical meristem

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and **Christophe Eloy⁴** 

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2022

Thank you for your attention



PAUL
OCTAVIOUS

<http://pauloctavious.com/leanwithit/>

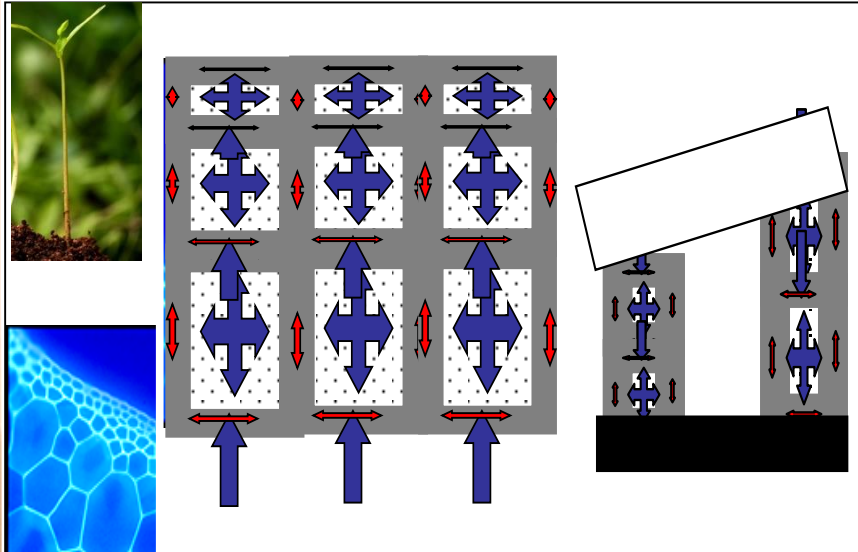
**Comparative Biology /
cross-phyllum understanding
(ecological awareness)**



annexes



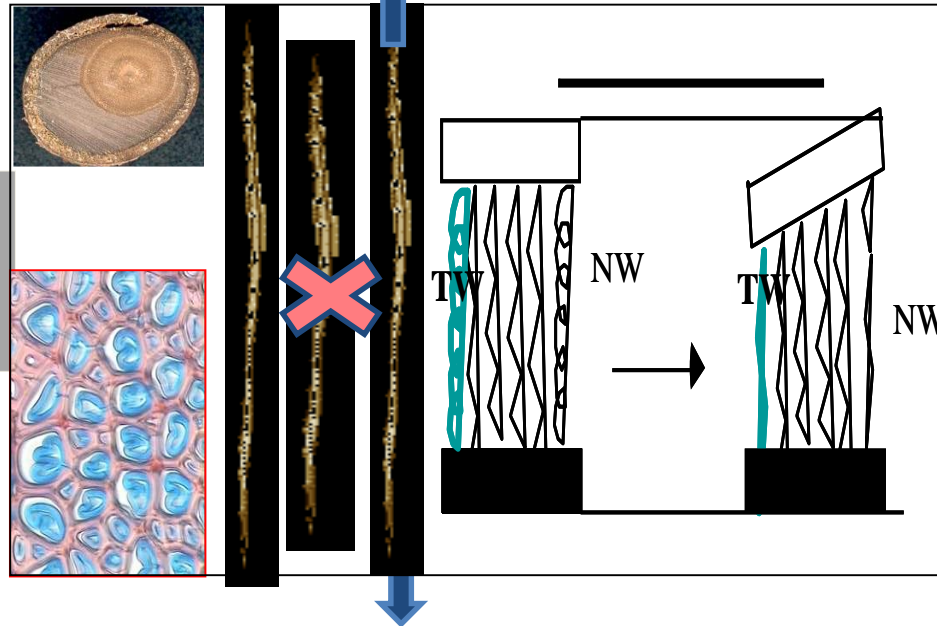
2 – two motors



•M1: Osmo-Hydraulic motors
(living tissues) typ $\sigma = 0.5$ MPa



•M2: Polymeric shrinkage motors
=> Tension woods (lignified tissues)
typ $\sigma = 5$ to 30 MPa

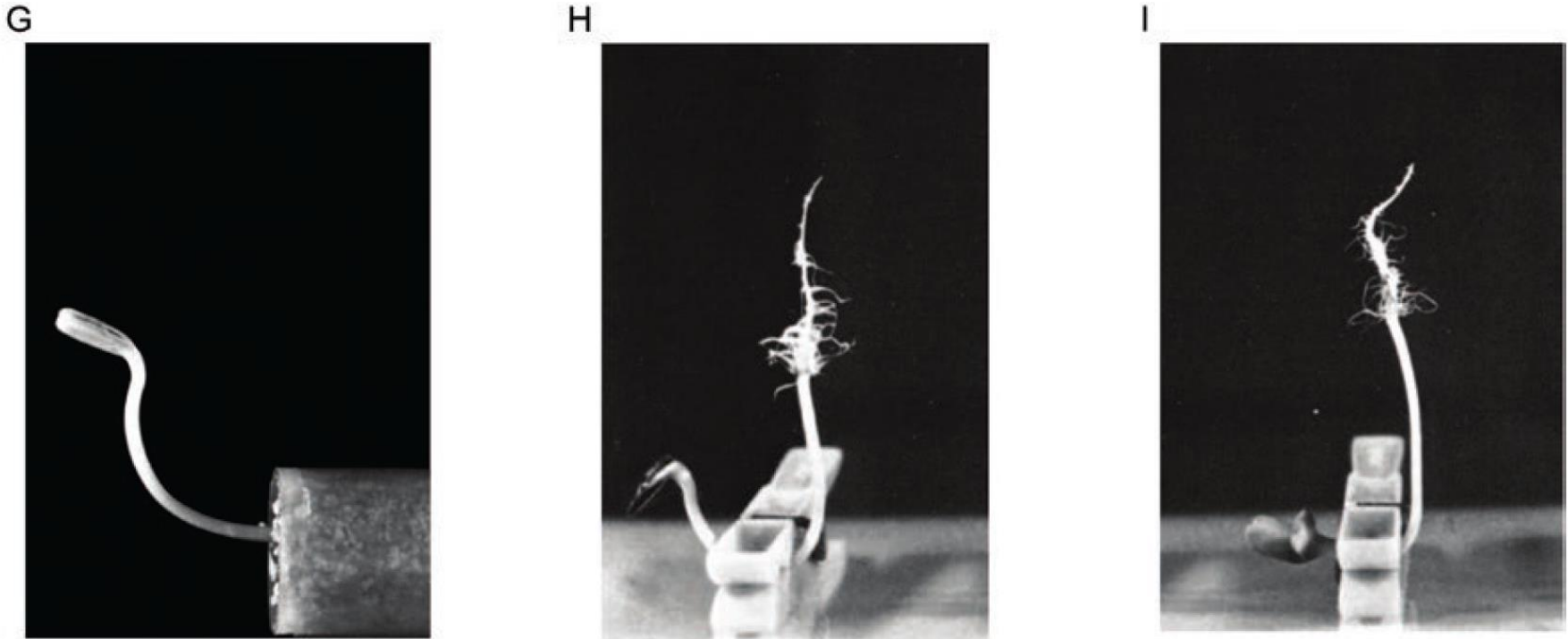


⇒ Plants produce motor capacity as they grow

⇒ Growth mechanics = internal free energy = additional stresses

A puzzle

How do you interpret the outcome of Firn and Digby 1979 experiment ?

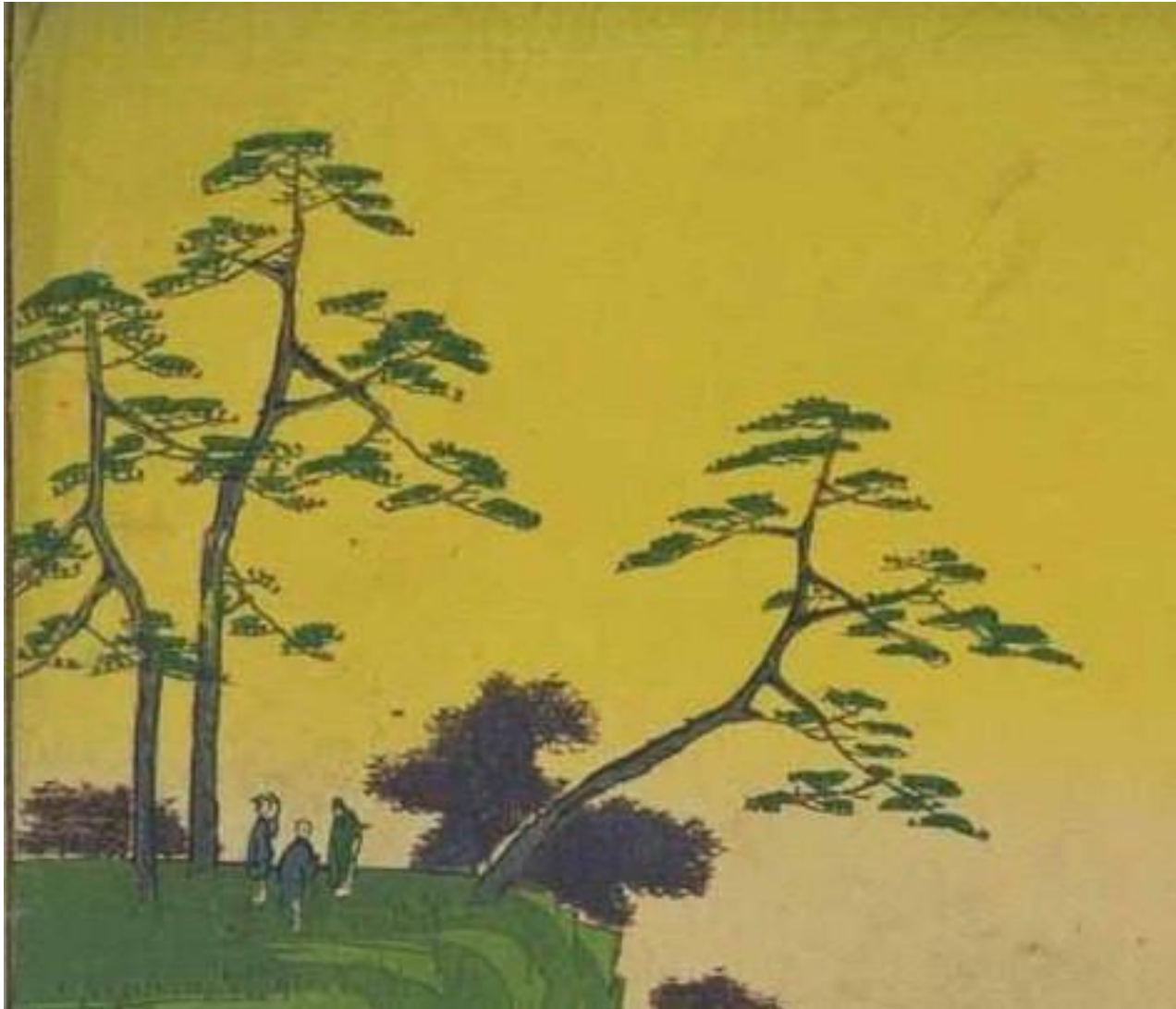


(G–I) Steady-state shapes of the sunflower (*Helianthus* sp.) hypocotyl after tilting to $A_0 = \pi/2$ and clamping at the collar (G), in the middle of the hypocotyl (H), or just below the cotyledons. from R. D. Firn and J. Digby, A study of the autotropic straightening reaction of a shoot previously curved during geotropism, *Plant, Cell & Environment* 2, 149–154, 1979. c1979 Blackwell Scientific Publications.

B

↪ continuous process of balance
along development

和

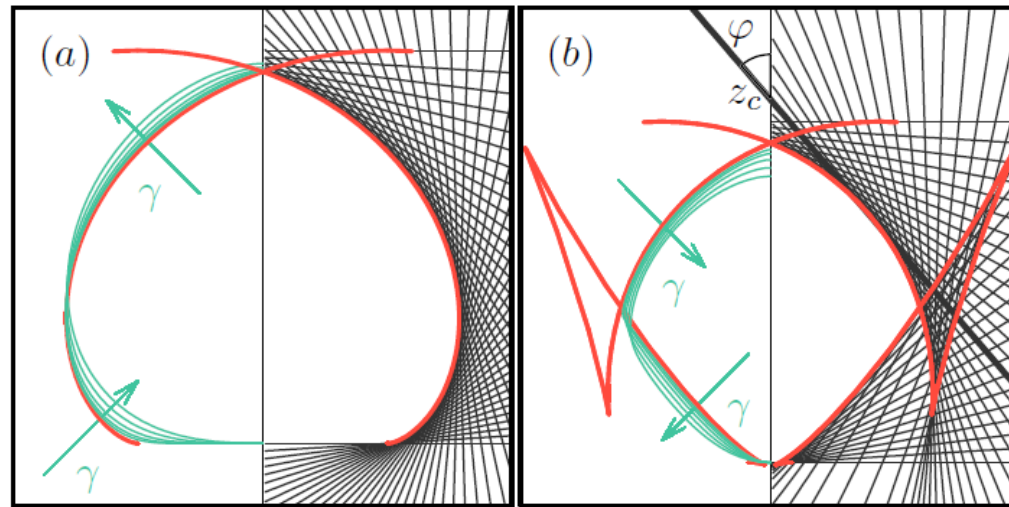


Hiroshige
Utagawa, 1856
"View of Konodai
and the Tone
River" in the
series of 100
views of Edo

Thank you !

Analytical solving and geometric construction

Phase Diagram



swallowtail

