# Physics 131- Fundamentals of Physics for Biologists I



Professor: Wolfgang Losert wlosert@umd.edu

10/31/2012

Waves inside cells
Waves are biochemical
and mechanical

### **Outline**

- Quiz 6
- Pressure
- Archimedes Principle

10/31/2012 Physics 131 2

### Kinds of Matter

- Classify objects by how they deform and flow when forced!
  - Solid: the amount of deformation depends on the applied force. If you stop applying a force, the solid reverts back to its original shape
    - » Where have we seen a force that depends on the amount of deformation?
  - Fluid: the speed of flow depends on the applied force. A fluid stops deforming if you stop applying a force but it doesn't revert back. Fluids have no shape on their own. Flow to fill a container. (Liquid: Constant volume; Gas: Volume can change)
    - » Where have we seen a force that depends on the flow speed

10/24/11 Physics 131

### **Complex Materials**

- Sand http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2XQ97XHjVw
- Gel http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&v=w 40JgaKNihY&feature=endscreen

Generally have a mixture of fluid and solid characteristics

10/31/2012 Physics 131 4

### Static fluids

- Somehow the forces balance?
- Last lecture: momentum conservation for each collision implies that the momentum of a sack full of gas or liquid is conserved
  - Also implies that the net force is zero if there is other gas or liquid around the sack

10/31/2012 Physics 131

### Foothold ideas: Pressure



At a boundary or wall, the pressure in a constrained fluid creates a force perpendicular to the surface.

$$\vec{F} = p\vec{A}$$

- The constrained fluid has an internal pressure, meaning that it would create a force against any surface placed anywhere inside the fluid in any orientation.
- The pressure in a fluid increases with depth. (Why?)

$$p = p_0 + \rho g d$$

 When immersed in a fluid, an object feels an (upward) force equal to the weight of the displaced fluid. (Archimedes' Principle)

11/29/10 Physics 121 6

## Reading questions

- Area as a vector  $\vec{F} = p\vec{A}$
- Could also write it with a dimensionless unit vector indicating the direction:

$$\vec{F} = pA\hat{n}$$

■ But what is the direction of an area?

10/24/11 Physics 131

# Direction of area unit vector 1. Up 2. Down 3. Left 4. Right 5. Into page 6. Out of Page 7. Either 1-4 arbitrary 8. Either 5,6 arbitrary 9. Not enough information Physics 131 Physics 131

**‡**3

A cylinder with a movable piston is filled with a uniform fluid. If the corks are all in equally tightly, which are most likely to pop when we push down on the piston?

- 1. Cork 1
- 2. Corks 1 & 2
- 3. Cork 3
- 4. Cork 4
- 5. Some other combination
- 6. All
- 7. None

