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Kai-Bin Fu* (kafu@pvamu.edu), Department of Mathematics, Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX 77446. *A new constitutive framework for biological materials with elastic behavior*. Preliminary report.

To fully understand mechanisms of any biological material, we need to understand its mechanics. Although there are numerous attempts to model the constitutive relation from the nanoscale, it is extremely difficult to verify the results due to the complexity of biological tissues. Their mathematical foundations are rather weak. Ultimately the ultra-structural mechanisms for tissue behavior are most important, yet phenomenological relations are crucial toward understanding the material as a whole. We start with continuum mechanics framework for materials with elastic mechanical behavior, which has rigorous mathematical support.

Existing constitutive theories for high-strain materials, such as those of Rivlin and Fung, are not suitable for the determination of constitutive relation via bi-axial experiments because of the choice of kinematical variables. It is no wonder little work has been done to analyze the mathematical features of those models. A new constitutive framework has been proposed. When we gain more confidence from its applications and mathematical features, we can apply it to the study of biomembrane. (Received March 24, 2010)