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# Contraction Wave

**Software baseado em fluxo óptico denso  
para quantificar a contratilidade celular**

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Sérgio Ricardo Aluotto Scalzo Júnior

**CONTRACTIONWAVE: Software baseado em fluxo óptico denso para quantificar a contratilidade celular**

**Versão final**

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**SÉRGIO RICARDO ALUOTTO SCALZO JÚNIOR**

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“Devemos sempre ensinar o que se sabe,  
praticar o que se ensina e perguntar o que se  
ignora.”

Cortella

## RESUMO

A quantificação da contratilidade dos cardiomiócitos é uma tarefa biomédica essencial e uma etapa fundamental na compreensão dos mecanismos envolvidos na patogênese da doença cardíaca. No entanto, medidas precisas e reproduzíveis são dificultadas por vários fatores inerentes às opções de *software* disponíveis atualmente. Por tanto, o presente trabalho tem por objetivo desenvolver uma tecnologia inovadora para quantificar a biomecânica dos cardiomiócitos por meio de um *open-source software* escrito em linguagem Python. Foram utilizadas imagens celulares obtidas em microscópio de campo claro e processadas pelo método de fluxo óptico denso. Para validar a eficiência do *software*, tratamos células de camundongos e ratos machos adultos (12 semanas), neonatais (1-3 dias) e cardiomiócitos derivados de células-tronco pluripotentes induzidas por humanos (hiPSCM) com drogas que possuem efeitos bem definidos nos parâmetros de contratilidade (isoproterenol ou verapamil). A análise estatística foi realizada por meio de ANOVA e Teste t student, utilizando  $p < 0,05$ . Desse modo, desenvolvemos uma plataforma o CONTRACTIONWAVE (CW), um *open-source software* escrito em linguagem Python que combina em uma única plataforma um método robusto para adquirir, visualizar, analisar e quantificar parâmetros de contratilidade de células cardíacas em diferentes estágios de desenvolvimento. CW apresenta características inovadoras: 1) o algoritmo de fluxo óptico denso torna o programa mais sensível; 2) CW pode detectar automaticamente os parâmetros de velocidade média de contração-relaxamento e a frequência de contração; 3) A interface do CW foi projetada para usuários que não são especialistas na área cardiovascular, o que permite atingir, portanto, um público amplo; 4) CW fornece um novo recurso que permite a visualização simultânea da imagem da célula e do gráfico de contração celular. Os cardiomiócitos adultos, neonatais e hiPSCM, tratados com ISO ou VERA, mostraram uma diminuição significativa no tempo de contração, relaxamento e tempo total de contração-relaxamento (ms). Apenas as células tratadas com VERA apresentaram diminuição na Velocidade Máxima de Contração ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ ) e Velocidade Máxima de Relaxamento ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ ) enquanto o ISO aumentou. Da mesma forma, ISO e VERA induziram efeitos opostos na área de encurtamento ( $\mu\text{m}^2$ ). Cardiomiócitos adultos provenientes de um modelo de hipertensão mostraram um aumento no tempo de contração. Em conjunto, nossos dados mostram que o

CONTRACTIONWAVE é um software de alto desempenho para analisar parâmetros de contração celular, proporcionando uma maior rapidez em testes de drogas, modelagem de doenças e o avanço da pesquisa básica na área cardíaca.

**Palavras-Chave:** Cardiomiócito, parâmetros de contratilidade, iPSC-CM, processamento de imagem, fluxo óptico, *software*

## ABSTRACT

Quantification of cardiomyocyte contractility is an essential biomedical task and a key step in understanding the mechanisms involved in the pathogenesis of cardiac disease. However, accurate and reproducible measurements are hampered by several factors inherent to the software options currently available. Therefore, our goal was to develop an innovative technology to quantify the biomechanics of cardiomyocytes through robust open-source software written in Python language. We used cell images obtained from bright field microscope, and processed by dense optical method. To validate the software efficiency, we exposed male adult (12 weeks), neonatal (1-3 days) and Human-induced pluripotent stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes (hiPSCM) to drugs known to affect contractility (Isoproterenol or Verapamil). Statistical analysis was performed using ANOVA and Test t student, using  $p < 0.05$ . Thus, we developed CONTRACTIONWAVE (CW), an open-source software written in Python language that combines in a single platform a robust method to acquire, visualize, analyze, and quantify contractility parameters of cardiac cells at different developmental stages. CW presents innovative features: 1) the Dense optical flow algorithm makes the program more sensitive; 2) CW can automatically detect contraction-relaxation average speed parameters and frequency; 3) CW interface was designed for users that are not a specialist in the cardiovascular field, therefore achieving a wide audience; 4) CW provides a novel visualization feature that permits simultaneous viewing of the cell image and the contraction waves. Adult, Neonatal and hiPSCM cardiomyocytes, treated with ISO or VERA, showed a significant decrease in Contraction Time, Relaxation and Total Contraction-Relaxation (ms). Only cells treated with VERA showed a decrease in the Maximum Contraction Speed ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ ) and Maximum Relaxation Speed ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ ) while the ISO increased. Likewise, ISO and VERA induced opposite effects in the shortening area ( $\mu\text{m}^2$ ). Cardiomyocytes from a hypertension model showed an increase in contraction time. Taken together, our results shows that CONTRACTIONWAVE is a high power open-source software to analyze cardiac contraction parameters, streamlining drug testing, disease modeling and advancing basic research in the cardiac.

**Keywords:** Cardiomyocyte, contractility parameters, iPSC-CM, image processing, optical flow, software

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## LISTA DE ABREVIATURAS E SIGLAS

$\beta$ -AR	Receptores $\beta$ 1-adrenérgicos
$\beta$ -MHC	Cadeia pesada de miosina- $\beta$
AMPc	Monofosfato cíclico de adenosina
ANOVA	Análise de variância;
ARA-C	Citosina- $\beta$ -d-arabinofuranosida;
ATPase	Adenosina trifosfatase
BSA	Albumina sérica bovina
°C	Grau celsius
Ca <sup>2+</sup>	Cálcio
[Ca <sup>2+</sup> ] <sub>i</sub>	Concentração de cálcio intracelular;
FLB	Fosfolambam
Hz	Hertz
ISO	Isoproterenol
VERA	Verapamil
MCF	Microscopia de contraste de fase
NCX	Trocador de sódio e cálcio
pH	Potencial hidrogeniônico
PKA	Proteína quinase A
RYR	Receptor de rianodina
RS	Retículo sarcoplasmático
SERCA	Bomba de cálcio ATPase do retículo sarco/endoplasmático
TnC	Troponina C
CRT	Tempo de Contração-Relaxamento
CT	Tempo de Contração
RT	Tempo de Relaxamento
MCS	Velocidade Máxima de Contração
MRS	Velocidade Máxima de Relaxamento
MCS/MRS-DS	Velocidade de diferença MCS/MRS
CTP	Tempo de contração até o pico
CTPMS	Tempo de contração do pico à velocidade mínima
RTP	Tempo de relaxamento até o pico



RTPB	Tempo de relaxamento do pico à linha de base
TBC-RMS	Tempo entre as velocidades máximas de C-R
CRA	Área de Contração-Relaxamento
SA	Área de encurtamento
WHO	<i>World Health Organization</i>

## SUMÁRIO

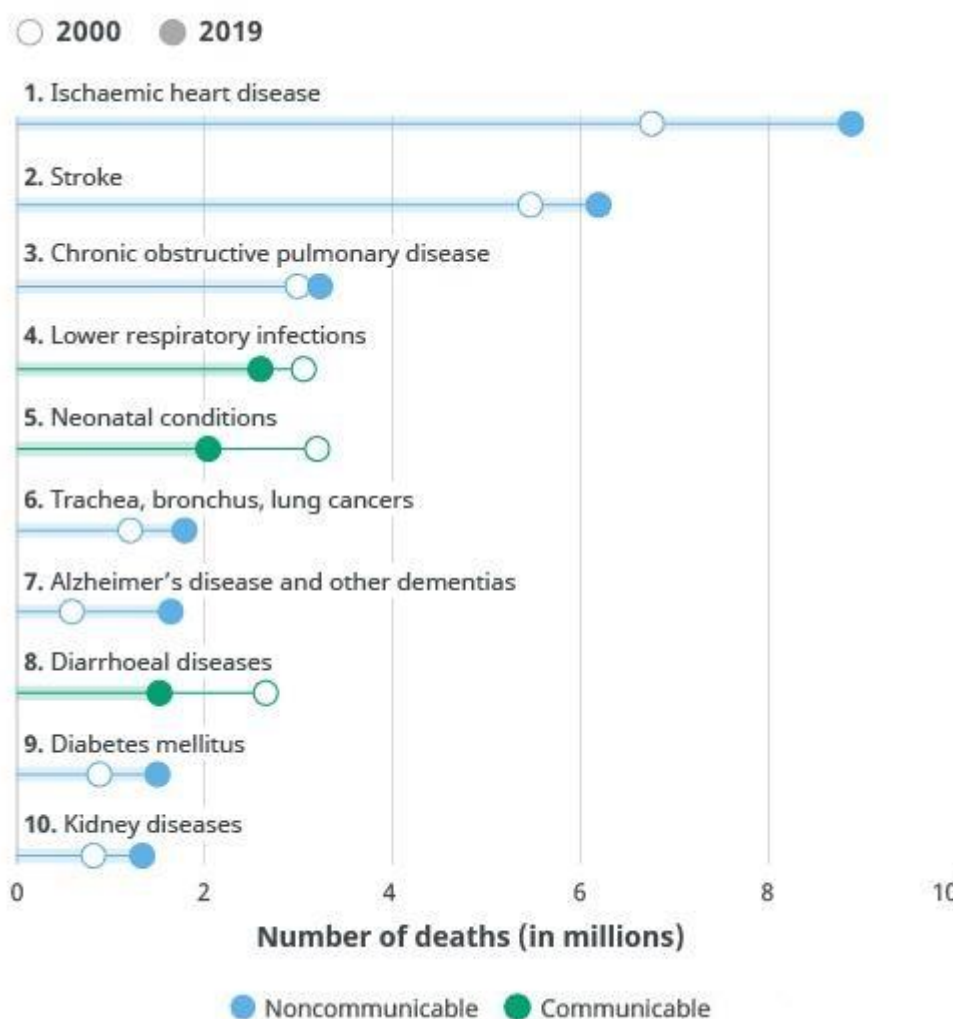
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## 1. INTRODUÇÃO

Segundo a Organização Mundial da Saúde (WHO), as doenças cardiovasculares representam a principal causa de morte em todo o mundo (VIRANI et al., 2021). Com uma estimativa de 17,9 milhões de mortes por ano (WHO, 2020), as doenças cardiovasculares se enquadram na categoria de doenças não comunicáveis (crônicas), representando aproximadamente 27% do total de óbitos no mundo no ano de 2020 (WHO, 2020). Dentre estas doenças, destacam-se as doenças cardíacas isquêmicas responsáveis por 16% e as doenças cerebrovasculares por 11% (Figura 1). Mesmo ocorrendo uma diminuição nos casos entre os anos de 2019 e 2020, essas doenças ainda são responsáveis por liderarem o *ranking* de mortes globalmente (WHO, 2020).



**Figura 1: Principais causas de morte em todo o mundo** (WHO Global Health Estimates, 2020).

A fim de desenvolver novas estratégias terapêuticas, muitos estudos empregam o cardiomiócito (CM) isolado como uma ferramenta para a descoberta de novas drogas (LIEBEN LOUIS et al., 2019; NGUYEN et al., 2017) ou como um modelo *in vitro* para investigar os mecanismos decorrentes da doença cardíaca (CHEN et al., 2018; KODO et al., 2016; SCHICK et al., 2018). Miócitos cardíacos isolados também são amplamente utilizados para responder a questões básicas sobre a fisiologia celular, bem como caracterizar alterações no acoplamento excitação-contração que ocorrem durante o desenvolvimento da doença (CHEN-IZU et al., 2007; GOMÉZ, 1997; SONG et al., 2005).

Um parâmetro importante para a análise do cardiomiócito isolado é a contratilidade, capaz de fornecer informações que refletem sua função celular. As medidas de contratilidade são amplamente utilizadas para pesquisas em miócitos adultos e neonatais (BELOSTOTSKAYA; GOLOVANOV, 2014; BERGER et al., 1994; BOUDREAU-BÉLAND et al., 2015; HARARY; FARLEY, 1960; HAWORTH et al., 1987; HISSA et al., 2017; JESUS et al., 2020; PENITENTE et al., 2014; RAMADAN et al., 2018). E ainda recentemente, cardiomiócitos humanos derivados de células tronco pluripotentes induzidas (hiPSC-CMs) são empregados como um modelo para doença cardíaca humana, bem como para triagem de diversas drogas (BALLAN et al., 2020; BIRKET et al., 2015; GONG; SOBIE, 2018; LAHTI et al., 2012; LAN et al., 2013; RIBEIRO et al., 2015; WANG et al., 2014, 2019). O desenvolvimento deste novo modelo experimental embora se mostre muito promissor, também traz alguns desafios inerentes ao tipo celular no que tange a detecção eficiente da dinâmica de contração dos cardiomiócitos. Enquanto a aquisição e análise da contração em miócitos adultos é relativamente simples, devido à sua geometria e movimento unidimensional, nos cardiomiócitos neonatais (neonatal-CM) e hiPSC-CM, que são células imaturas, o sincício funcional formado por essas células, carece de bordas bem definidas, a contração não é tão vigorosa com a do adulto, representando um desafio para a aquisição dos parâmetros contráteis.

A avaliação da contratilidade dos cardiomiócitos pode ser realizada usando métodos que capturam os movimentos celulares associados à contração e o relaxamento celular. Esses métodos incluem técnicas bem estabelecidas, como a difração de luz (LEUNG, 1982), microscopia a laser (SHEVCHUK et al., 2001),

microscopia de condutância iônica de varredura (GORELIK et al., 2006) e microscopia de força atômica (AFM) (CHANG et al., 2013). No entanto, essas técnicas geralmente requerem instrumentos sofisticados, um analista altamente experiente, altos investimentos financeiros, e ainda, o tempo para realização do experimento é grande. Além de questões práticas, essas técnicas também têm o potencial de causar danos às células. No caso específico dos cardiomiócitos adultos, a técnica mais comumente utilizada para estudar a contratilidade celular é o sistema de detecção de borda por imagem, que mensura o movimento da borda celular (IonWizard Ionoptix, Steadman et al., 1988). Embora amplamente utilizada, esta técnica não captura o movimento de toda a área celular, apenas analisando uma região específica de interesse definida pelo usuário, o que pode introduzir um viés nos resultados durante a aquisição e processamento da análise (DELBRIDGE; ROOS, 1997).

O desenvolvimento de câmeras digitais de alta velocidade e técnicas de processamento de imagens permitiu o surgimento de novas metodologias, e melhorou significativamente a forma como a coleta de dados é realizada para avaliação da contratilidade celular. Juntamente com microscópios ópticos, essas ferramentas permitem uma avaliação mais precisa e não invasiva da contratilidade celular (HUEBSCH et al., 2015; MADDAH et al., 2015), sendo uma grande promessa para a pesquisa básica e clínica. Hayakawa et al. (2014) foram os primeiros a aplicar uma metodologia de fluxo óptico para acessar os ciclos de contração-relaxamento em cardiomiócitos. Ao realizar medidas simultâneas de contratilidade celular e parâmetros eletrofisiológicos, os autores demonstraram que a técnica de fluxo óptico permite a quantificação precisa dos parâmetros de contratilidade dos cardiomiócitos e ainda são correlacionáveis aos resultados eletrofisiológicos. Estudos subsequentes baseados em imagens caracterizaram os parâmetros de contratilidade dos cardiomiócitos usando diferentes algoritmos baseados em fluxo óptico (CZIROK et al., 2017; HUEBSCH et al., 2015; POINTON et al., 2017). Além disso, os autores avaliaram os efeitos de diversos fármacos que modulam a contração celular, a fim de reforçar a sensibilidade e eficiência desse tipo de análise. Recentemente, métodos computacionais, disponíveis como plugins do ImageJ (SCHINDELIN et al., 2015), foram desenvolvidos para avaliação quantitativa das respostas contráteis das células cardíacas (BOUDAUD et al., 2014; GRUNE et al., 2019; PASQUALIN et al.,

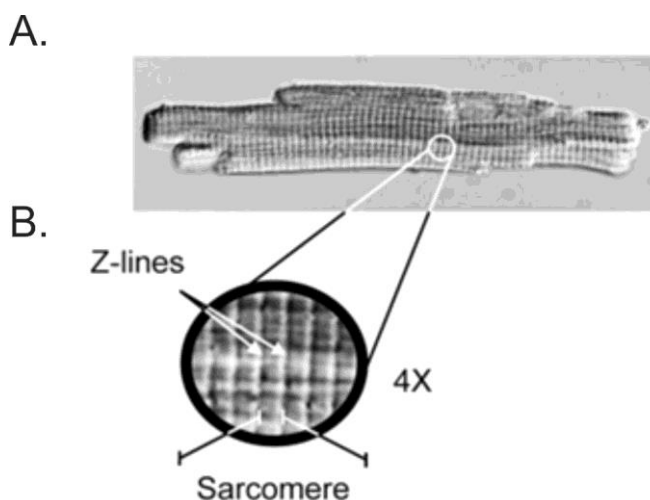
2016; SALA et al., 2018). Apesar deste progresso, esse campo ainda carece e se beneficiaria muito de uma estrutura computacional robusta que pudesse fornecer em uma plataforma única uma análise rápida e acessível da contratilidade celular. Com o objetivo de atender esta demanda, desenvolvemos CONTRACTIONWAVE, um software de código aberto, escrito em linguagem de programação Python (van Rossum, 1995, mais detalhes no Manual do Usuário fornecido como Apêndice B). O *software* possui interface amigável, que combina em uma única plataforma, um método robusto para adquirir, visualizar, analisar e quantificar parâmetros de contratilidade de células cardíacas em diferentes estágios de desenvolvimento por meio de captura de imagem e fluxo óptico. Os algoritmos de alto desempenho podem processar automaticamente grandes arquivos de imagem de dados de maneira rápida e precisa. Além disso, CONTRACTIONWAVE apresenta uma forma inovadora de exibir simultaneamente as imagens celulares obtidas durante um ciclo de contração-relaxamento, e correlaciona-las a vetores de movimento e sua respectiva representação gráfica. Portanto, CONTRACTIONWAVE combina uma alta capacidade de processamento e flexibilidade com uma interface projetada para o usuário “não especialista” fornecendo uma solução prática para laboratórios e empresas de biotecnologia envolvidas na triagem de drogas, modelagem de doenças cardíacas, assim como a pesquisa básica.



## 2. REVISÃO DA LITERATURA

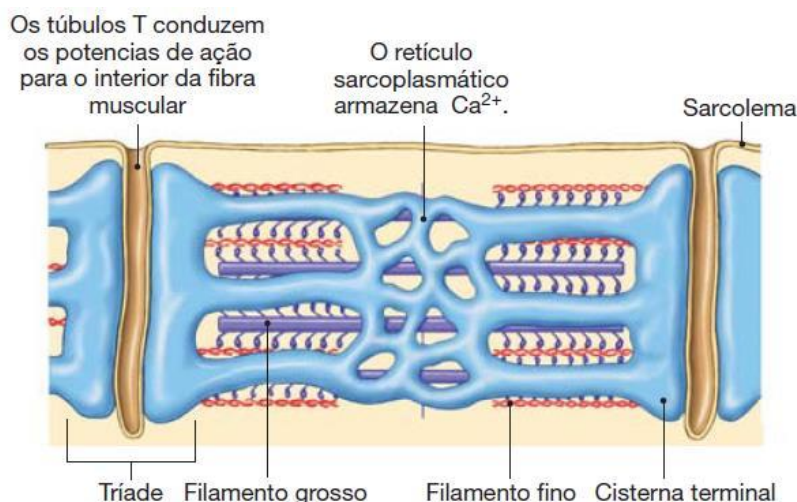
### 2.1 CONTRAÇÃO DE CARDIOMIÓCITOS

O coração é formado, principalmente, pelo tecido muscular cardíaco, sendo esse, composto por células contráteis, os cardiomiócitos (Figura 2A). Esse tipo celular possui um papel fundamental para a eficiência do bombeamento cardíaco através da sua contração e relaxamento. Cada célula cardíaca possui unidades funcionais contráteis constituídas por várias proteínas organizadas estruturalmente, denominadas de sarcômero. O sarcômero é a unidade funcional do miócito cardíaco, delimitado por duas linhas Z, como apresentado na Figura 2B. A Figura 3 apresenta uma visão do sarcômero, delimitado por túbulos T, que são invaginações do sarcolema (Figura 3), que permitem que o potencial de ação seja rapidamente transferido da superfície para o interior da célula.



**Figura 2: Imagem de um cardiomiócito adquirida por Microscopia de Contraste de Interferência Diferencial. A.** Imagem de um cardiomiócito adulto. **B.** Aumento de 4x mostrando a unidade funcional da célula, o sarcômero, delimitado por duas linhas Z, possuindo um comprimento de aproximadamente 1,8  $\mu\text{m}$  (GUATIMOSIM et al., 2002).

O processo de acoplamento contração-excitação é iniciado com a excitação elétrica, seguido pela geração da força contrátil que advém do aumento transitório de íons cálcio ( $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ) no citosol do cardiomiócito que permitirá a contração a partir do acionamento dos miofilamentos. (KATZ; LORELL, 2000)



**Figura 3: Imagem de um sarcômero delimitado por dois túbulos T associados às cisternas terminais do retículo sarcoplasmático.** (SILVERTHORN, Dee U.; Fisiologia Humana – Uma abordagem integrada. 7 ed. Porto Alegre: Artmed, 2017).

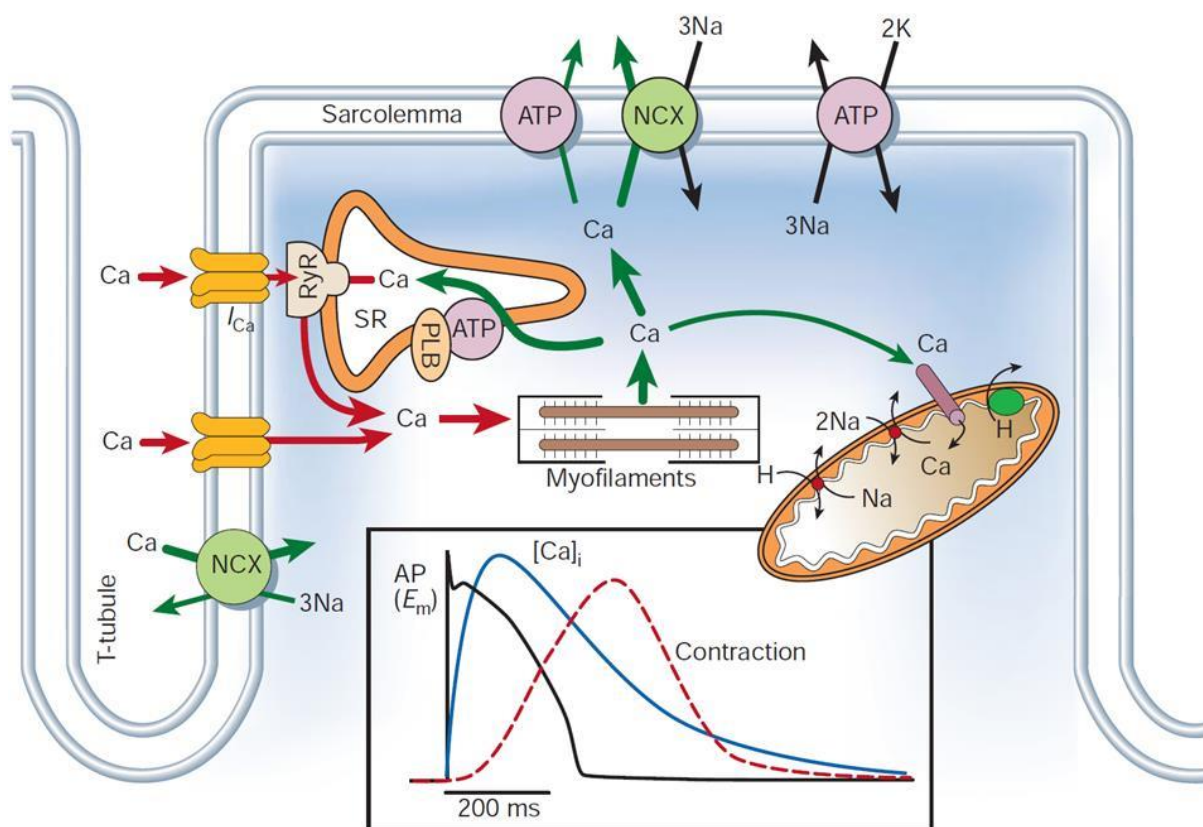
De forma resumida, o início da contração ocorre quando um potencial de ação despolariza o sarcolema, percorrendo os túbulos T e neste processo induzem a abertura dos canais de  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  tipo L (dependentes de voltagem), também denominados de receptores de dihidropiridinas (Figura 4). A abertura dos canais de  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  tipo L proporciona um pequeno influxo de  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , que por sua vez, ativa os canais de  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  intracelulares do retículo sarcoplasmático (RS), denominados de receptores de rianodina (RYR). Os RYRs estão localizados na membrana do retículo sarcoplasmático (RS), a uma distância de aproximadamente 10 nanômetros do túbulo T e canais de cálcio tipo L. O RS é a principal organela responsável pelo armazenamento e liberação do cálcio no interior dos miócitos (BERS, 2002). Os RYR quando ativados, possibilitam uma expressiva liberação de cálcio do RS para o citoplasma, proporcionando um aumento significativo de sua concentração intracelular. Este aumento transitório dos níveis de cálcio no citosol a valores de micromolar é denominado de transiente de  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  (KNOT et al., 2005).

A contração inicia-se com a ligação do cálcio a troponina c (TnC), permitindo que os sítios ativos que estão localizados na actina fiquem expostos para a sua interação com as cabeças de miosina. Por outro lado, para que ocorra o relaxamento celular, íons  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  tem que se dissociar desses sítios de ligação e sua concentração intracelular deve ser reduzida (BERS, 2002; SEVERS, 2000). A retirada do cálcio do citosol é feita principalmente pela Bomba de cálcio ATPase do retículo sarco/endoplasmático (SERCA), que promove a recaptação do cálcio para o

RS e conseqüentemente diminui a concentração de cálcio do citoplasma. A atividade da SERCA é um fator determinante para o relaxamento e conseqüentemente fim da contração celular.

A modulação da SERCA é feita pela interação com uma fosfoproteína, a fosfolambam (PLN) (SEVERS, 2000). A PLN, quando não se encontra fosforilada, inibe a SERCA. No entanto, quando fosforilada pela proteína quinase A (PKA), ou pela proteína quinase II dependente de cálcio/calmodulina (CaMKII), a PLN reduz sua afinidade pela SERCA. Nesta condição a PLN se desliga da SERCA, possibilitando um aumento de atividade da mesma, levando a rápida recaptação de cálcio para o RS (BERS, 2002, 2006).

Em condições fisiológicas, a diminuição de cálcio do citosol também é feita pelo trocador de sódio cálcio (NCX), que é responsável pelo efluxo deste íon para o meio extracelular, em troca do influxo de três íons de sódio para o meio intracelular. Quando o  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  se dissocia da TnC, os sítios de ligação da actina são bloqueados pela tropomiosina, impedindo a interação da cabeça de miosina, caracterizando a fase de relaxamento (Figura 4) (BERS, 2002).



**Figura 4: Representação esquemática dos eventos celulares envolvidos no acoplamento-excitação-contracção.** A figura mostra temporalmente a comparação entre um registo de potencial de acção, o transiente de cálcio e a contracção celular (BERS, 2002).

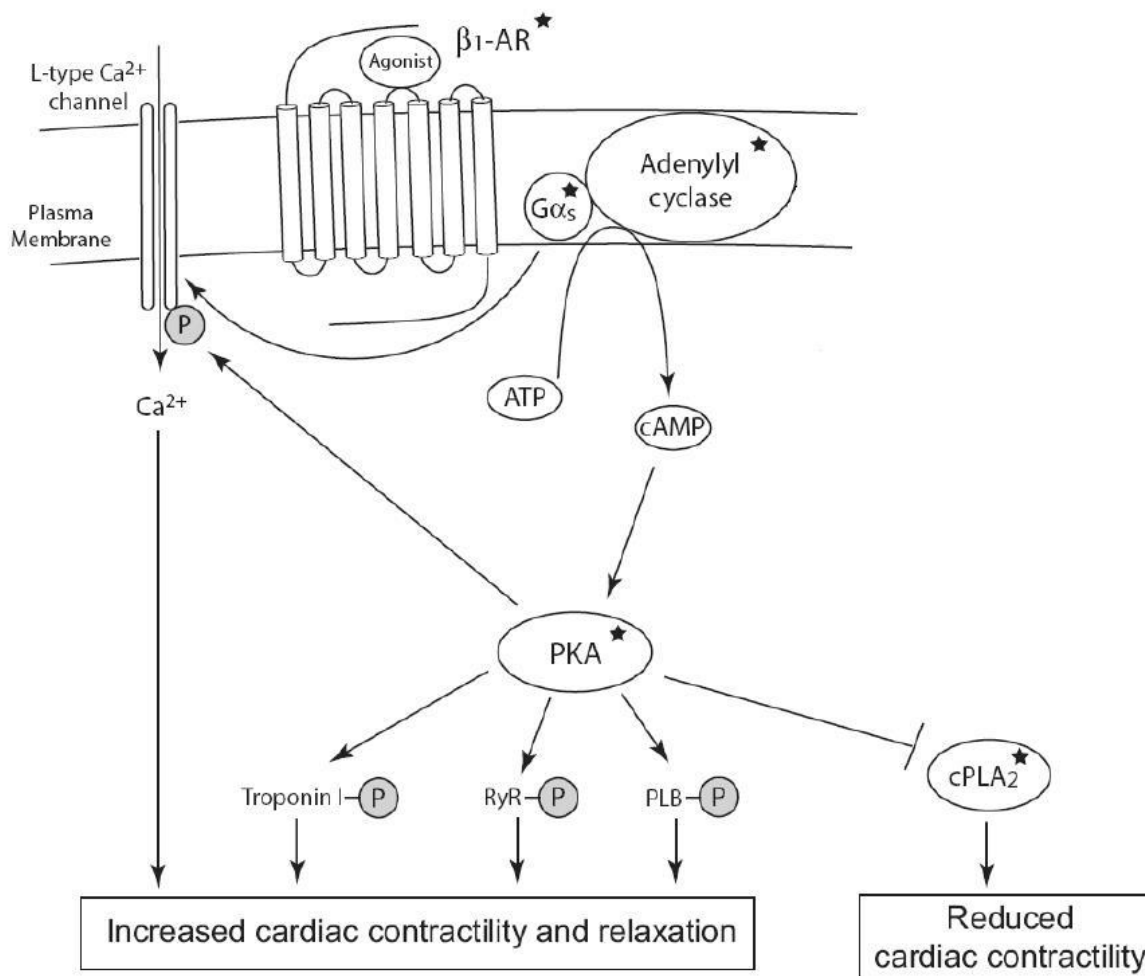
Deste modo, todo o processo de contracção e relaxamento dos cardiomiócitos é regulado por uma combinação de sinalizações moleculares que interagem promovendo o movimento celular. Em condições patológicas, o acoplamento excitação-contracção e consequentemente a contracção do cardiomiócitos estão alterados, modificando o padrão de contracção e relaxamento da célula cardíaca (NATTEL et al., 2007).

### 2.1.1 Ações do isoproterenol sobre a contratilidade de miócitos cardíacos

As células ventriculares cardíacas, em condições saudáveis, expressão receptores  $\beta$ 1-adrenérgicos ( $\beta$ -AR), que pertencem a classe dos receptores acoplados a proteína Gs (estimulatória). Quando esses receptores são estimulados pelo Isoproterenol (ISO) ocorrerá a ativação da enzima Adenilil Ciclase, que sintetizará Adenosina Monofosfato Cíclico (AMPc), aumentando a atividade da Proteína Quinase A (PKA) (GINSBURG; BERS, 2004; MADAMANCHI, 2007). Pelo fato da PKA mediar processos de fosforilação dos canais de cálcio do tipo L, receptor de rianodina e da PLN, isso promoverá um aumento da concentração de  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  intracelular (KOKOZ et al., 1999; MADAMANCHI, 2007). Essa maior disponibilidade de  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  intracelular promoverá uma maior interação de pontes cruzadas entre as actinas e cabeças de miosina tendo por consequência um aumento da força contrátil.

Como mencionado acima, a PKA também irá fosforilar a PLN, tendo por consequência uma diminuição do seu efeito inibitório sobre a bomba SERCA (GINSBURG; BERS, 2004; LINDEGGER; NIGGLI, 2005; MADAMANCHI, 2007). O relaxamento celular se torna mais rápido nessa condição uma vez que a SERCA aumentará a sua atividade e bombeará o  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  com mais eficiência para dentro do RS (Figura 5) (LINDEGGER; NIGGLI, 2005; SONG et al., 2001).

Em resumo, toda esta sinalização ativada em resposta a ligação do ISO ao  $\beta$ -AR influenciará de forma significativa a cinética de contratilidade e relaxamento do cardiomiócito. Aumentando a velocidade média, o valor do comprimento de encurtamento, e ainda diminuindo o tempo de contração-relaxamento (CRAWFORD; HUSSAIN, 2008; HAYAKAWA et al., 2014).



**Figura 5: A ativação do receptor  $\beta_1$ -adrenérgico pelo Isoproterenol estimula a contratilidade do cardiomiócito.** O  $\beta$ -AR quando estimulado pelo ISO ativa a proteína Gs, que se dissocia em 2 subunidades,  $G_{\alpha_s}$  e  $G_{\beta\gamma}$ . A Adenilil ciclase é então ativada pela subunidade  $G_{\alpha_s}$  que aumentará os níveis de AMPc . A PKA é ativada pelo aumento dos níveis intracelulares de AMPc e irá fosforilar a PLN, Troponina I, Canais de Rianodina e canais de cálcio do tipo L. Ao mesmo tempo a PKA irá bloquear a ação da Fosfolipase A2 (cPLA2) que promove a redução da contratilidade cardíaca. O conjunto dessa sinalização resultará em um aumento da força de contração e uma maior rapidez nos processos de contração e relaxamento do miócito.(Figura adaptada de MADAMANCHI, 2007).

### 2.1.2 Ações do verapamil sobre a contratilidade de miócitos cardíacos

O Verapamil é um importante bloqueador do canal para cálcio, sendo amplamente utilizado para tratamento de arritmias cardíacas (BOURGONJE et al., 2013), bem como anti-hipertensivo, devido ao seu efeito inotrópico, cronotrópico e dromotrópico negativo cardíaco (STERN; MATTHEWS; BELZ, 1986).

A principal função do canal para cálcio é a regulação do movimento de  $Ca^{2+}$  para dentro da célula (BKAILY; JACQUES, 2009; BODI et al., 2005), como mencionado anteriormente. Para que ocorra a abertura de uma quantidade

significativa desses canais é necessária uma despolarização da membrana celular, permitindo o influxo de  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  para o citoplasma que desencadeará todos os eventos de sinalização intracelular, tendo por consequência a contração do cardiomiócito (BODI et al., 2005; NAWRATH; WEGENER, 1997).

O verapamil (VERA) possui afinidade pelo poro interno do canal do tipo L, bloqueando a entrada de  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  para o interior celular (BERGSON et al., 2011). Na presença de VERA, ocorre uma diminuição no influxo de  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , e por consequência, um comprometimento na contração, uma vez que ocorrerá uma atenuação da estimulação dos RYR que promovem a liberação de cálcio do RS (BODI et al., 2005).

Tendo em vista o efeito bloqueador do VERA sobre a sinalização que promove a contratilidade da célula cardíaca, esta droga diminuirá a velocidade média, a porcentagem de encurtamento, e ainda aumentará o tempo para o ciclo de contração e relaxamento (BUTLER et al., 2015; HARMER et al., 2012; NAWRATH; WEGENER, 1997).

Neste trabalho utilizamos tanto o ISO, quanto o VERA como modulares positivos e negativos da contração, respectivamente. Este tipo de estratégia possibilitou testar a eficiência e a sensibilidade do nosso programa de análise.

## **2.2 METODOLOGIAS PARA AVALIAÇÃO DA CONTRATILIDADE DE MIÓCITOS CARDÍACOS**

A contratilidade celular pode ser obtida por diferentes metodologias e *softwares* disponíveis. A maioria dos métodos acessíveis baseia-se na aquisição da variação de comprimento gerada pela contração celular (IonWizard Ionoptix; PASQUALIN et al., 2016), ou mesmo a deformação dos sarcômeros (TOEPFER et al., 2019). Também estão disponíveis metodologias que se baseiam em processamento da imagem por fluxo óptico e são capazes de adquirir o movimento de toda a membrana celular de forma mais ampla, tornando-se um método mais robusto para a obtenção de parâmetros de contratilidade (Boudaoud et al., 2014; Grune et al., 2019; Maddah et al., 2015; Pasqualin et al., 2016; Sala et al., 2018).

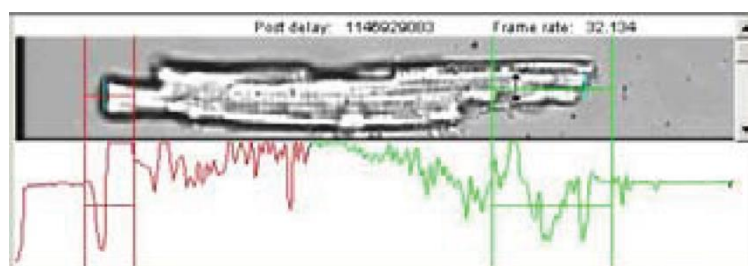
Nas próximas sessões será apresentado um breve detalhamento das metodologias disponíveis para análise de contração.

### 2.2.1 Método por detecção de bordas: análise por detecção das extremidades

Uma metodologia amplamente utilizada para obtenção de parâmetros contráteis de cardiomiócitos é a detecção de borda utilizada pela empresa IonOptix. Esse método possibilita a aquisição da variação do comprimento celular em tempo real, a partir do movimento das bordas da célula.

O módulo de aquisição SoftEdge detecta os limites da célula em duas linhas separadas, uma para borda esquerda e outra para a direita. Por meio de uma interface de usuário é realizado o ajuste do posicionamento da janela de detecção, permitindo que os limiares marquem corretamente as duas extremidades do miócito (Figura 6). Para uma maior precisão, os limiares que detectam as bordas, devem ser ajustados para que o sistema localize corretamente as extremidades da célula (IonWizard Ionoptix).

Durante o experimento é ainda necessário um constante ajuste pelo usuário, dos parâmetros de posicionamento da janela de detecção, que pode gerar um ruído ainda maior na representação do sinal fisiológico.



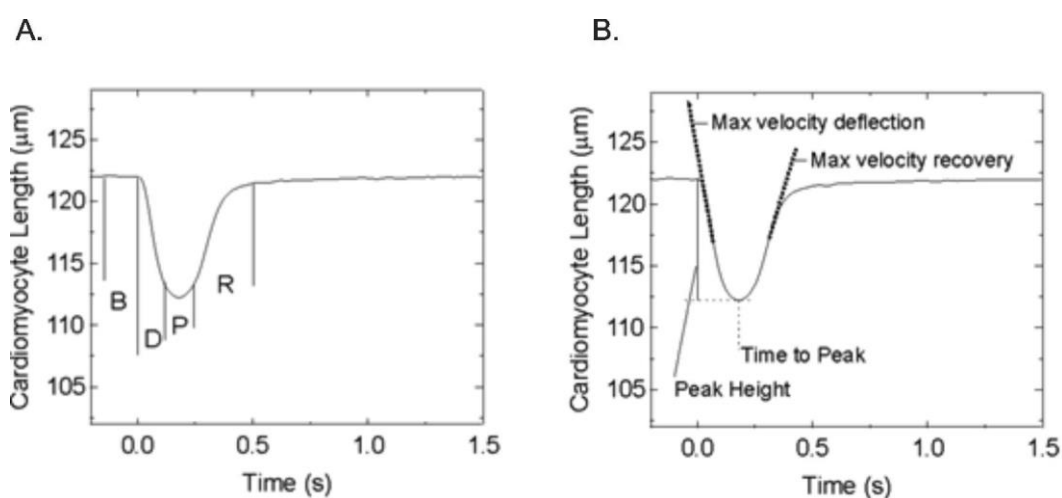
**Figura 6: Imagem do sistema de obtenção do comprimento celular utilizando o módulo de aquisição SoftEdge.** As extremidades da célula são detectadas pela menor reta vertical verde. O intervalo de detecção é ajustado pelas retas verticais e horizontais maiores verdes e vermelhas. O traçado abaixo da célula permite uma melhor detecção da borda proveniente do contraste da imagem (IonWizard Ionoptix).

Os limiares se movimentam de acordo com o a contração e relaxamento da célula. A detecção desse deslocamento da borda celular gera uma função gráfica da alteração do comprimento celular ao longo do tempo. O sinal obtido inicialmente diverge de um valor basal e retorna novamente para este valor, sendo classificado



em cinco períodos de tempo: basal, contração, pico, relaxamento e retorno ao basal (Figura 7A) (IonWizard Ionoptix).

O Ion Wizard Transient Analysis é o software responsável pela análise do ciclo de contração-relaxamento gerado. Isto é feito por meio de um ajuste em uma função analítica que identifica o comprimento diastólico, a taxa de encurtamento, a fração de encurtamento, a taxa de relaxamento, a velocidade máxima de contração e de relaxamento e os tempos de contração e relaxamento (Figura 7B) (IonWizard Ionoptix).



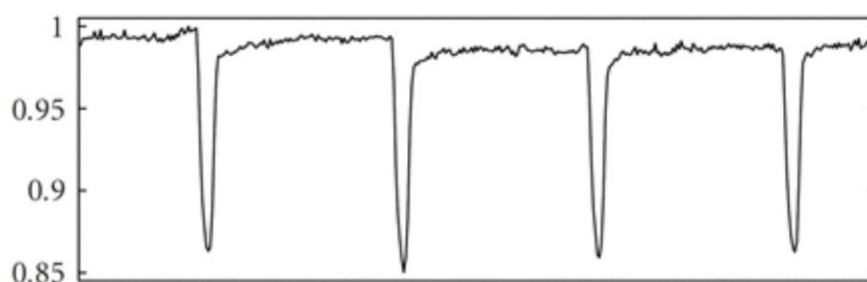
**Figura 7: Encurtamento do miócito determinado pelo Ion Wizard Transient Analysis. A.** Representação do basal (B), contração (D), pico (P), relaxamento (R). **B.** As velocidades de contratilidade são encontradas pela derivada do ciclo de contração e relaxamento (IonWizard Ionoptix).

Este tipo de metodologia possui algumas limitações, pois o gráfico bruto muitas vezes é obtido com ruído, o que dificulta a análise dos parâmetros. Durante o experimento é ainda necessário um constante ajuste pelo usuário, dos parâmetros de posicionamento da janela de detecção, gerando um ruído ainda maior na representação do sinal fisiológico. Para diminuir o ruído é utilizada uma função analítica (série de Taylor truncada), mas essa representação do sinal introduz uma polarização no dado, limitando a obtenção de um sinal real (IonWizard Ionoptix). Junta-se a isso o fato de que a detecção do movimento com esta metodologia é baseado em apenas uma região da célula, o que de certa forma compromete a sensibilidade da medida, quando comparado com um método que detecta o movimento de toda a membrana da célula.

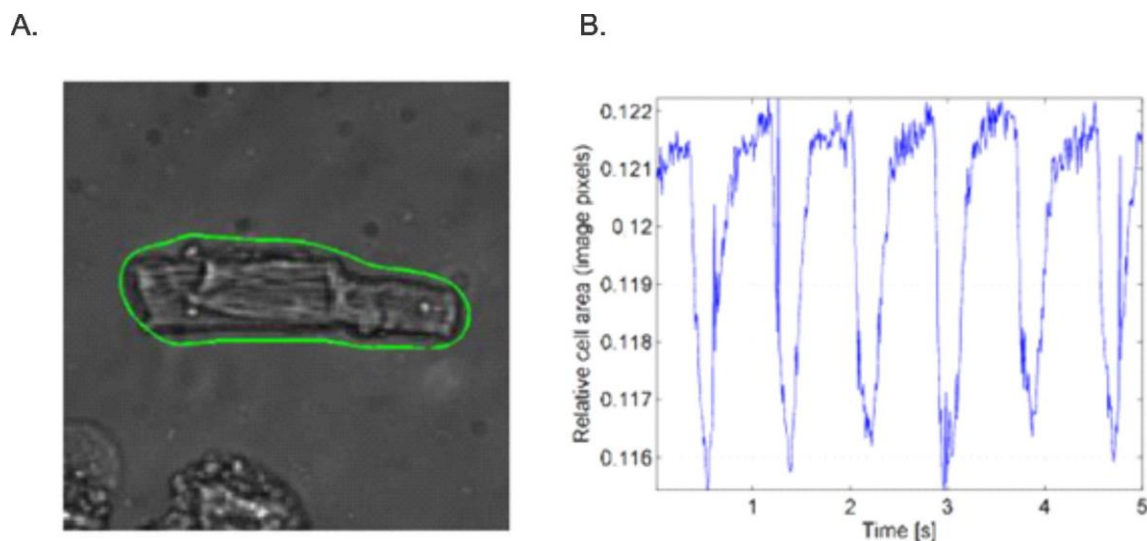
### 2.2.2 Método por detecção de borda: análise por detecção da borda total

Outra forma de obter a contratilidade é a partir do processamento digital das imagens e realizar uma detecção da célula inteira ao invés de somente as extremidades (BAZAN et al., 2009; ODSTRCILIK et al., 2015).

A correlação das imagens por descritores de Fourier é capaz de capturar a mudança na forma e no tamanho da célula ao longo do tempo, em nível de sarcômero, e gerar uma função (Figura 8), tendo a célula em repouso como referência quantitativa (BAZAN et al., 2009, 2011). Isto é possível por meio do estabelecimento de algoritmos que suavizam a imagem e preservam as bordas, (BAZAN et al., 2009) ou por meio de contornos ativos chamados de Snakes, onde um retângulo gerado fora do objeto de interesse contorna automaticamente a célula (Figura 9A) pelo princípio de expressão mínima de energia (ODSTRCILIK et al., 2015).



**Figura 8: Representação gráfica do encurtamento do miócito de rato adulto utilizando o sistema de detecção de borda por meio de algoritmos de suavização de imagem.** A estimulação celular foi feita eletricamente com uma frequência de 0,33 Hz e duração de 3ms. Imagens adquiridas com uma taxa de captura de 30Hz utilizando microscopia de campo claro (BAZAN et al., 2009).



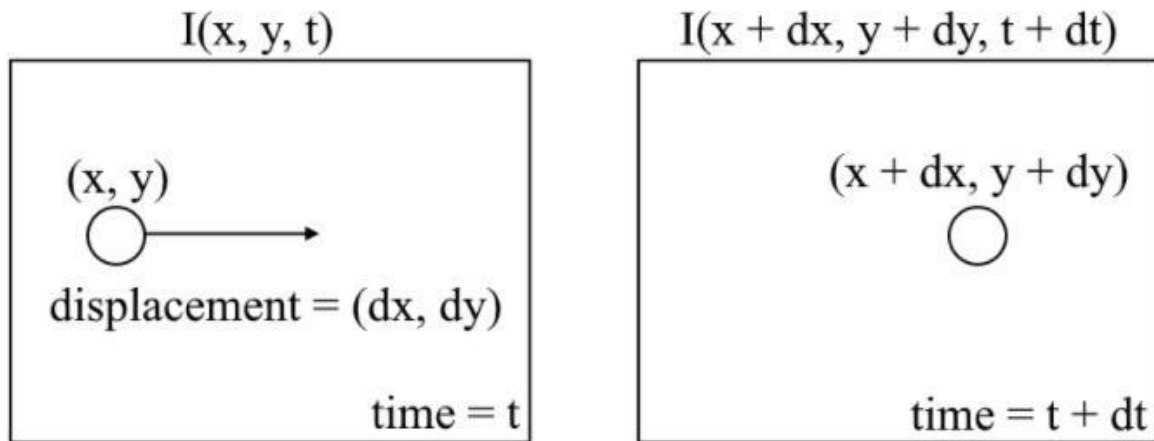
**Figura 9: Obtenção da contratilidade de miócito adulto utilizando o sistema de detecção de bordas por meio de algoritmos de contornos ativos Snakes. A.** Imagem do contorno de detecção do miócito utilizando a microscopia óptica de campo claro. **B.** Função de contração e relaxamento extraída do movimento de borda adquirida à uma taxa de 20 fps (ODSTRCILIK et al., 2015)

O contorno do miócito também possibilita o cálculo de sua área relativa, que se encontra segmentada nas imagens, obtendo parâmetros contráteis ao longo do tempo (Figura 9B) (ODSTRCILIK et al., 2015).

#### 2.4.4 Metodologia de fluxo óptico

O fluxo óptico representa o movimento de um objeto em relação a um observador (AKPINAR et al., 2004). Quando o conceito é aplicado em uma câmera que captura um objeto em movimento, o fluxo óptico desse objeto pode ser adquirido a partir da captura e processamento de uma sequência de imagens consecutivas. Essa metodologia é capaz de determinar a distribuição da velocidade aparente do objeto a partir dos padrões de intensidade de pixel relativa da sequência de imagens capturadas. Essa velocidade calculada pode ser ainda descrita através de vetores de deslocamentos, que indicarão a direção, sentido e magnitude do movimento (DAVIES, 2018).

No nosso trabalho utilizamos o método diferencial para estimar o fluxo óptico entre duas imagens. Na figura 14 exemplificamos o método considerando a variação da intensidade da imagem ( $I$ ) em função do espaço ( $x, y$ ), no tempo ( $t$ ) e a variação do tempo  $dt$  (Figura 14).



**Figura 10: Esquema representando o fluxo óptico.** Entre imagens consecutivas, podemos expressar a intensidade da imagem ( $I$ ) em função do espaço ( $x, y$ ) e tempo ( $t$ ). E quando ocorre um deslocamento dos pixels ( $dx, dy$ ) em função do tempo é obtida uma imagem  $I(x+dx, y+dy, t+dt)$ . Fonte: Introduction to Motion Estimation with Optical Flow<sup>1</sup>.

Para  $dx = u(x, y)$ ,  $dy = v(x, y)$  e  $dt = \Delta t$ , assumimos que as intensidades de pixel de um objeto são constantes entre imagens consecutivas, obtendo a seguinte relação:

$$I(x, y, t) = I(x + u(x, y), y + v(x, y), t + \Delta t) \quad (1)$$

Uma vez que essa equação é utilizada na comparação entre duas imagens, podemos assumir que  $\Delta t = 1$ . Portanto, o fluxo óptico determina um vetor  $\vec{v} = [u(x, y), v(x, y)]$ . Assumindo  $\vec{v} = [u, v]$  e aplicando a série de Taylor no lado direito da equação obtemos que:

$$I(x, y, t) \approx I(x, y, t) + I_x u + I_y v + I_t \quad (2)$$

Onde  $I_x = \frac{\partial I}{\partial x}$ ,  $I_y = \frac{\partial I}{\partial y}$ ,  $I_t = \frac{\partial I}{\partial t}$  e pode ser definido por:

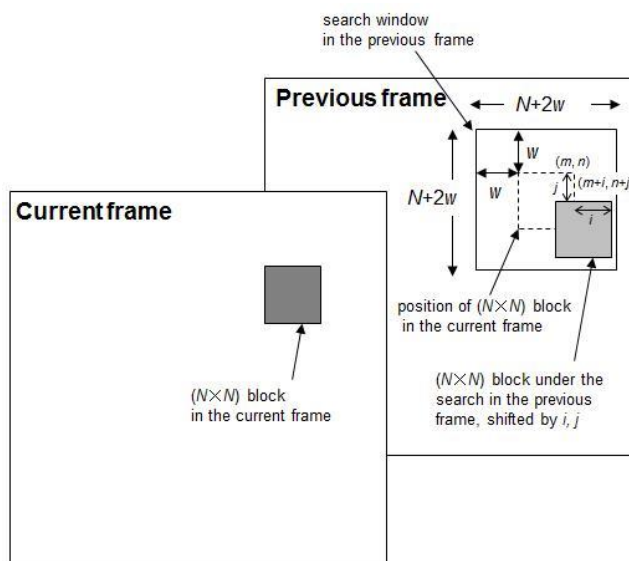
$$I_x u + I_y v + I_t = 0 \quad (3)$$

<sup>1</sup> Disponível em: <<https://nanonets.com/blog/optical-flow>>. Acesso em 19 ago. 2021.

Uma vez que  $u = \frac{dx}{dt}$  e  $v = \frac{dy}{dt}$ , nos deparamos com um problema com duas variáveis desconhecidas, e que ao longo do tempo foi sendo resolvida de diversas maneiras (FARNEBACK, 2003; LUCAS; KANADE, 1981; QUÉNOT; PAKLEZA; KOWALEWSKI, 1998).

#### 2.4.4.1 Aquisição do movimento celular através velocimetria por imagem de partículas

A velocimetria por imagem de partículas (PIV, do inglês Particle Image Velocimetry) é um tipo de metodologia de fluxo óptico, (QUÉNOT; PAKLEZA; KOWALEWSKI, 1998) que gera vetores de movimento em uma sequência de imagens, a partir de algoritmos de bloco de adaptação (GHANBARI, 1990; HAYAKAWA et al., 2014; KAMGOUÉ et al., 2009). Esta metodologia correlaciona o padrão espacial de uma janela de tamanho específico (Figura 11), obtendo a variação do movimento celular por meio da variação dos pixels em um intervalo de tempo.



**Figura 11: Representação esquemática de uma sequência de imagens e os parâmetros utilizados para gerar os vetores de movimento e sua magnitude.** Cada imagem é dividida em blocos quadrados de  $N \times N$  pixels sendo necessária a definição dos parâmetros  $N$  e  $W$ . Para um deslocamento máximo de movimento de pixels  $w$  por imagem, é realizada uma combinação de pixels entre o bloco atual e o anterior, que corresponderá as mesmas coordenadas dentro de uma janela quadrada de largura  $N+2w$  (GHANBARI, 1990; HAYAKAWA et al., 2014)

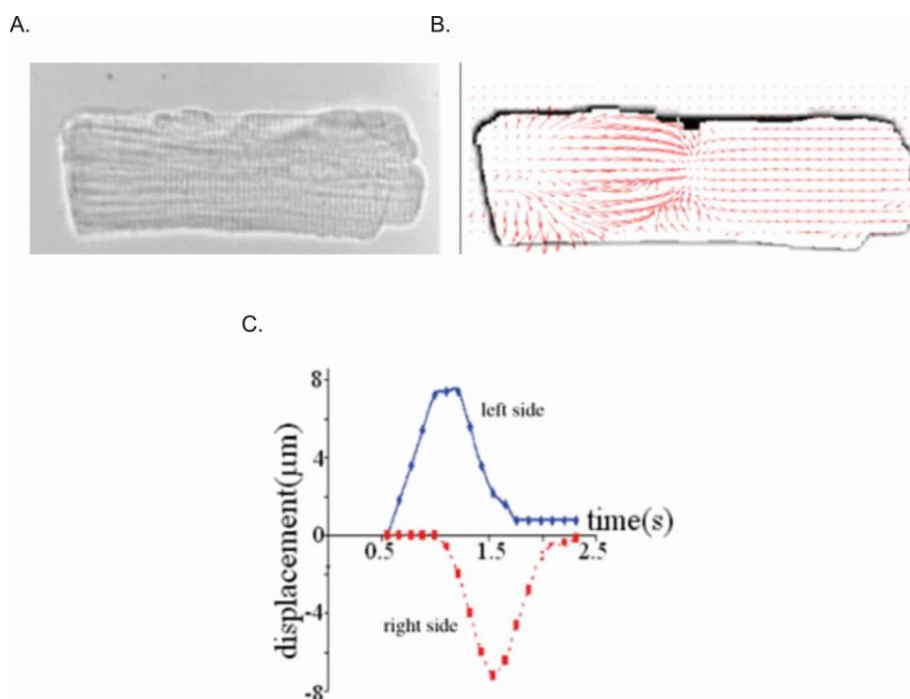
HAYAKAWA e colaboradores (2014) utilizaram o PIV para obtenção dos vetores de movimento, realizando o cálculo para cada  $w \times w$  pixels na imagem

inteira. Posteriormente, o movimento celular foi então obtido pela média espacial da magnitude dos vetores de movimento existentes em cada imagem segundo as equações:

$$|V| = \frac{1}{N_{ROI}} \sum_{i=1}^n |V|_i \quad (4)$$

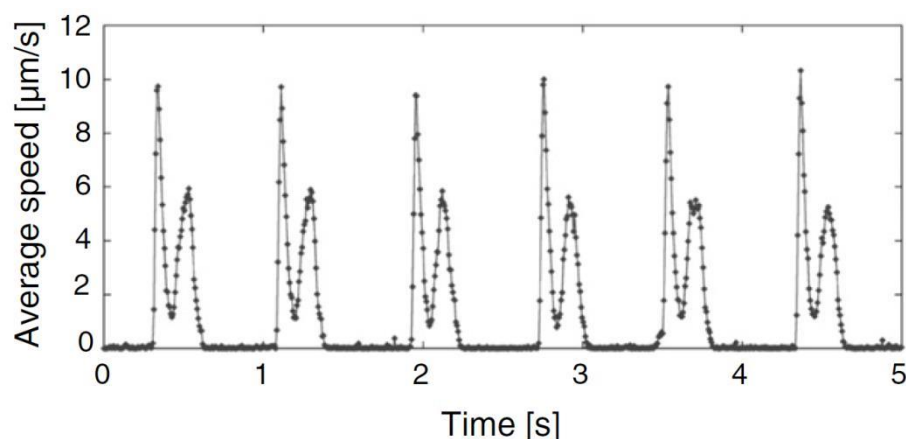
$$|V|_i = \sqrt{x_i^2 + y_i^2} \quad (5)$$

Onde  $|V|$  é o valor absoluto do vetor de movimento.  $N_{ROI}$  é o número válidos de vetores de movimento da região de interesse e  $x_i$  e  $y_i$  representam os componentes de movimento de cada bloco (HAYAKAWA et al., 2014). A possibilidade de se obter estes vetores de movimento proporciona o desenvolvimento de metodologias que analisam seqüências do intervalo de tempo de contração e relaxamento, permitindo a quantificação espaço-temporal de cardiomiócitos (Figura 11A-C) (KAMGOUÉ et al., 2009).



**Figura 12: Avaliação da contratilidade pela Velocimetria por Imagem de Partículas. A.** Imagem do miócito de rato adulto adquirida por microscopia de contraste de fase. **B.** Campo de deslocamento representado por vetores de movimento obtido no início da contração celular. **C.** Dinâmica do encurtamento do miócito relativa a cada extremidade, por meio de vetores ao longo da sequência de imagens (KAMGOUÉ et al., 2009).

O PIV também foi bem caracterizado em culturas de cardiomiócitos derivados de células tronco com aplicações para teste de cardiotoxicidade (MADDAH et al., 2015). Sua aplicação em hiPSC-CM, proporcionou um gráfico de velocidade por tempo que foi gerado à partir da média da magnitude dos vetores de movimento (Figura 12), à partir de um ciclo de contração-relaxamento. (HAYAKAWA et al., 2014).



**Figura 13: Representação do movimento de contração e relaxamento de uma célula hiPSC-CM, obtida pela média espacial das magnitudes dos vetores de movimento.** As imagens foram adquiridas por microscopia de contraste de fase com uma taxa de captura de 150 Hz (HAYAKAWA et al., 2014).

Nosso laboratório desenvolveu uma nova metodologia para processar e adquirir parâmetros de contratilidade por meio da metodologia PIV (SCALZO et al 2017 -Dissertação de Mestrado). Neste trabalho foi utilizada um plugin do programa ImageJ, para obter o valor da velocidade de cada ponto da membrana com uma janela de (12-24-6 pixels), dos ciclos de contração-relaxamento. Posteriormente, a velocidade média do cardiomiócito é obtida através da média espacial da magnitude dos vetores de movimento existentes de cada imagem. As ferramentas de análise de imagem descritos neste estudo foram desenvolvidas em linguagem de programação Python 3.5 e MATLAB R2014a.

Apesar de a metodologia cumprir o papel de adquirir os parâmetros de contratilidade, utilizava um plugin do Imagej (PIV) que apresenta um tempo longo para processar uma grande quantidade de imagens (média de horas), dependia diretamente da janela de escolha do usuário e não adquiria o movimento em nível de

pixel. E ainda, como parte do processamento posterior ao PIV requeria conhecimento de linguagem de programação, o que impedia que grande parte de pesquisadores utilizassem a metodologia.

### 2.4.3. Método de correlação de imagem por intensidade de pixel

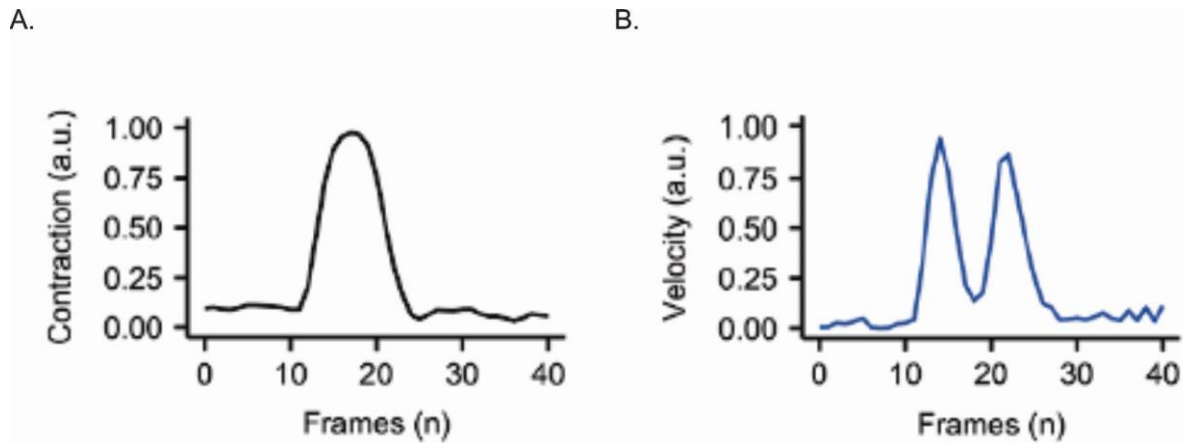
Uma recente metodologia utilizada para adquirir a contratilidade é o método por intensidade de pixel utilizada pelo programa MUSCLEMOTION (SALA et al., 2018). Essa metodologia utiliza a subtração do pixel de interesse por uma imagem de referência, para descrever o resultado de deslocamento acumulado ao longo do tempo (Eq.6). Com esse princípio, ainda existe a possibilidade de se obter a velocidade a partir da derivada da intensidade de pixel imagens, resultando assim, no deslocamento relativo por intervalo de imagem (Eq.7).

$$|-Img_i - Img_{ref}| = Img_{resultado} \quad (6)$$

$$-Img_{ref} = -Img_{i-1} \quad (7)$$

Onde  $Img_i$  é a imagem de interesse,  $Img_{ref}$  é a imagem de referência, e  $Img_{resultado}$  é a imagem resultante. Adquirindo a média de pixels de cada imagem resultante ao longo do tempo, é possível obter perfis de onda que refletem o ciclo de contração-relaxamento (Figura 13), resultando em um gráfico obtido pela subtração de uma imagem de referencia (Figura 13A), ou para a derivada da medida de deslocamento (Figura 13B).





**Figura 14: Perfis de contração e velocidade de um ciclo de contração-relaxamento gerado pelo MUSCLEMOTION e alinhado temporalmente de um cardiomiócito adulto de coelho.** A. Perfil de contração obtido pelo princípio da diferença de intensidade do pixel pela subtração das imagens por uma imagem de referência. B. Perfil de contração obtido pelo princípio de usar a diferença de intensidade de pixel como uma medida de velocidade de deslocamento (SALA et al., 2018).

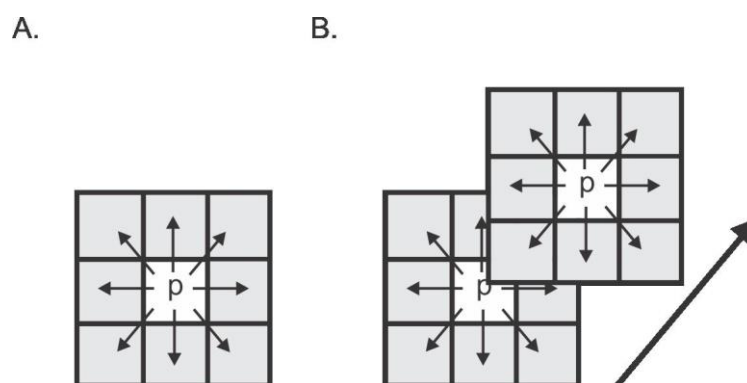
#### 2.4.4.1 Metodologia de Fluxo Óptico Denso

Uma abordagem robusta para resolver o problema do fluxo óptico (Eq.3) é o método de fluxo óptico denso de Farneback, 2003. Esse método possui alta sensibilidade de detecção de movimento, uma vez que tem a capacidade de processar e fornecer a magnitude do movimento de cada pixel da imagem e ainda gerar vetores de fluxo. E como cada pixel é usado para gerar a amplitude, direção e sentido do movimento (Figura 15), é um método bastante preciso, mas geralmente tem um custo computacional maior do que outros métodos que utilizam janelas de seleção. Em outras palavras, o método de Farneback detecta o movimento de todos os pixels entre um par de imagens e gera vetores para quantificação da velocidade, permitindo que seja um bom método para utilizar na aquisição dos parâmetros de contratilidade celular.

De maneira sucinta, a metodologia de Farneback consiste em primeiro estimar o movimento de duas imagens, realizando a transformada de expansão polinomial para cada pixel, e utilizar seus vizinhos mais próximos (Figura 15A). E isso é obtido segundo a Eq.8.

$$f(x) \sim x^T A x + b^T x + c \quad (8)$$

Onde  $A$  é uma matriz simétrica,  $b$  um vetor e  $c$  uma escalar. Posteriormente, utiliza-se o ajuste de mínimos quadrados ponderados aos valores de sinal na vizinhança para estimar os coeficientes, e assim, identificar a localização do pixel em relação às duas imagens e obter o seu deslocamento (Figura 15B). E por fim, o fluxo óptico denso pode ser estimado a partir da integração das informações em uma vizinhança de cada pixel (para mais detalhes ver Farneback, 2000).



**Figura 15: Esquema da metodologia de fluxo óptico denso. A.** Representação da transformada da expansão polinomial utilizando os vizinhos mais próximos de um pixel. **B.** Identificação da localização do pixel em relação à imagem subsequente.

#### 2.4.4 Softwares para a análise da contratilidade celular

Hoje estão disponíveis alguns softwares com a finalidade de adquirir a contratilidade celular, podendo estes serem pagos ou não (IonWizard Ionoptix; Boudaoud et al., 2014; Grune et al., 2019; Maddah et al., 2015; Pasqualin et al., 2016; Sala et al., 2018). Independente deste fato, a grande maioria não possui uma interface. Dentre as metodologias disponíveis, muitos fornecem apenas o código utilizado, exigindo do usuário um determinado nível de conhecimento da linguagem de programação. A isto se junta o fato de que a maioria dos artigos fornece instruções limitadas para seu uso, o que pode representar um desafio mesmo para usuários com conhecimento de programação.

Dentre os programas que oferecem um mínimo de interface para o usuário (MADDAH et al., 2015; SALA et al., 2018), vários não tem acesso gratuito (MADDAH et al., 2015), permitindo apenas testes de processamento limitados por mês, e com limite máximo do tamanho do dado a ser processado. Além disso, a flexibilidade

para o usuário identificar o ruído e interagir para adquirir os melhores dados de contratilidade também não está disponível.

Neste trabalho propomos o desenvolvimento de um software de alto desempenho escrito em linguagem de programação Python que permite ao usuário processar grandes arquivos de imagens de dados e obter parâmetros de contratilidade por meio da análise do fluxo óptico de imagens obtidas por videomicroscopia. O *software* foi validado usando cardiomiócitos adultos, neonatais e cardiomiócitos humanos derivados de células tronco pluripotentes induzidas, tratados ou não com drogas que afetam a contratilidade.

### 3. OBJETIVOS

#### 3.1 OBJETIVO GERAL

Desenvolver uma tecnologia inovadora para quantificar a biomecânica dos cardiomiócitos por meio de um *open-source software* escrito em linguagem python.

#### 3.2 OBJETIVOS ESPECÍFICOS

- i) Desenvolver uma tecnologia baseada em processamento de imagens, com a finalidade de processar, analisar e visualizar o padrão de movimentação da membrana das células cardíacas.
- ii) Padronizar as configurações do microscópio e câmera para coleta de imagens de diferentes tipos celulares.
- iii) Caracterizar o padrão basal de contração de células cardíacas de animais adultos, neonatos e derivadas de células-tronco pluripotentes induzidas de humanos por meio da tecnologia desenvolvida.
- iv) Avaliar a efetividade da metodologia desenvolvida, por meio de testes de curva concentração-resposta utilizando células cardíacas tratadas com Isoproterenol ou Verapamil
- v) Avaliar a contratilidade de cardiomiócitos adultos provenientes de ratos hipertensos.
- vi) Desenvolver um Software em linguagem Python, que contenha a tecnologia desenvolvida, em uma interface gráfica de fácil utilização para os ambientes Windows, Linux e OS X.
- vii) Descrever as funcionalidades do *Software* por meio de um manual, proporcionando uma melhor experiência para o usuário.

## **4. MATERIAL E MÉTODOS**

### **4.1 ANIMAIS**

Para este estudo, usamos camundongos C57BL / 6 machos com 10-12 semanas de idade (n = 3), ratos Wistar neonatais (P1-3) (n = 10), ratos Sprague-Dawley machos com 10-14 semanas de idade (SD, n = 3), e ratos TGR heterozigotos (mREN2) 27 (n = 3). Os ratos utilizados neste estudo foram obtidos no biotério do Laboratório de Hipertensão do Instituto de Ciências Biológicas/UFMG, e os camundongos foram obtidos no biotério da UFMG. Os experimentos foram realizados de acordo com protocolos aprovados pela Comissão de Ética no Uso de Animais da Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG) (CEUA 138/2018).

### **4.2 FÁRMACOS**

Os fármacos utilizados neste estudo foram adquiridos pela SIGMA-ALDRICH: Isoproterenol (I6504) e Cloridrato de Verapamil (V4629).

### **4.3 ISOLAMENTO DE MIÓCITO VENTRICULAR DE ANIMAIS ADULTOS**

Cardiomiócitos de camundongos adultos foram isolados de acordo com a metodologia descrita previamente (GUATIMOSIM et al., 2002). Resumidamente, o coração foi rapidamente removido e retro-perfundido via método de Langendorff com solução de Tyrode modificada livre de  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  (em mmol/L: NaCl, 130; KCl, 5,4; HEPES, 25;  $\text{MgCl}_2$ , 0,5;  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4$ , 0,33; glicose, 22 e insulina 100 U/mL; pH=7,40). Posteriormente, o coração foi perfundido com solução de Tyrode contendo 50  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  de  $\text{CaCl}_2$  e colagenase (tipo 2 – 1 mg/mL) durante 15 minutos. Após esta etapa de digestão enzimática, as câmaras ventriculares foram separadas e submetidas à digestão mecânica. Sendo em seguida filtrado para remover o tecido que não foi digerido. A concentração extracelular de  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  foi aumentada após três ciclos de centrifugação e troca de tampão, chegando a 500  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  ao final do processo. Logo após, as células foram novamente centrifugadas e mantidas em solução de Tyrode.

#### 4.4 ISOLAMENTO DE MIÓCITO VENTRICULAR DE ANIMAIS NEONATOS

O tecido cardíaco foi removido de ratos Wistar com 1 a 3 dias de idade, conforme descrito anteriormente por Guatimosim et al., 2008. Os corações foram cortados em pedaços menores e mantidos com tripsina (0,5 mg/mL em HBSS) sob agitação a 2-8°C *overnight* (16-20 horas). Após esse período as células foram tratadas com inibidor de tripsina (1-2 mg) e posteriormente submetidas à digestão com colagenase (5 mg) por 40 minutos à temperatura de 37 ° C, sob agitação. Após a digestão química, as células foram homogeneizadas uma pipeta graduada de 10 ml para iniciar a digestão mecânica, sendo posteriormente filtrado por uma membrana de 100 µM. Os cardiomiócitos neonatais de ratos isolados foram ressuspensos no meio de 199, suplementado com soro fetal bovino (FBS) a 10%, suplementado com penicilina/estreptomicina (100 U/mL e 100 µg/mL, respectivamente), e plaqueadas em garrafas de 75 cm<sup>2</sup> por duas 2h para a remoção dos fibroblastos. O sobrenadante com os cardiomiócitos foi então plaqueado e mantido na estufa de CO<sub>2</sub>, temperatura 37°C, por 16-20 horas para a aderência dos cardiomiócitos. Um dia após o plaqueamento, as células foram lavadas com M199 mais soro e alimentadas por mais 48 h com meio de cultura regular, agora incluindo 20 µg/ml de citosina-D-arabinofuranosídeo para inibir o crescimento de não cardiomiócitos. As células cultivadas foram usadas em experimentos no quarto dia de cultura.

#### 4.5 ISOLAMENTO DE HIPSC-CM

Os cardiomiócitos humanos derivados de células-tronco pluripotentes induzidas (hiPSC-CM) foram obtidas pela empresa Pluricell Biotech. A reprogramação de células-tronco pluripotentes induzidas por humanos (hiPSCs) foi realizada conforme descrito em Tofoli et al., 2016. As linhas de hiPSCs foram derivadas de eritroblastos por transfecção com plasmídeos pEB-C5 e pEB-Tg. Um clone (ACP5) foi selecionado, expandido e apresentou vários marcadores de células-tronco pluripotentes OCT4, NANOG, SOX2 e SSEA4, e não apresentava aberrações cariotípicas após o cultivo de células de longo prazo (CRUVINEL et al., 2020). As hiPSCs foram diferenciadas usando um método de diferenciação dirigido

por monocamada modificado a partir de relatórios anteriores (BURRIDGE et al., 2014; LIAN et al., 2013).

As células foram singularizadas, contadas e plaqueadas ( $2,5 \times 10^5$  células /  $\text{cm}^2$ ) com meio E8 (Thermo Fisher, EUA) com  $10 \mu\text{M}$  de Y27632 (Cayman Chemical, EUA). Este dia foi considerado como dia de diferenciação 0 e o meio foi alterado para RPMI 1640 suplementado com 1x suplemento B27 (Thermo Fisher, EUA) sem insulina (RB-) e  $4 \mu\text{M}$  CHIR99021 (Merck Millipore Sigma, EUA). 24 horas depois, o meio foi trocado para RB- suplementado com  $10 \text{ ng/mL}$  de BMP4 (R&D Systems, EUA). No dia 2, o meio foi mudado para RB- fresco suplementado com  $2,5 \mu\text{M}$  KY2111 e XAV939 (ambos da Cayman Chemical, EUA). No dia 4 e a cada dois dias, o meio foi trocado para RPMI fresco suplementado com  $213 \mu\text{g/ml}$  de ácido ascórbico 2-fosfato (Sigma Aldrich, EUA),  $500 \mu\text{g} / \text{ml}$  de DPBS 35% BSA e  $2 \mu\text{g/ml}$  de Plasmocina (InvivoGen, EUA). As células foram cultivadas por 15 dias, passadas com Tripsina EDTA (Thermo Fisher, EUA).

Após a inativação da tripsina, as células foram centrifugadas e ressuspensas em RPMI suplementado com suplemento de B27 e  $10 \mu\text{M}$  de Y27632 e semeadas na confluência do experimento específico. Este protocolo gera uma população de cardiomiócitos com pureza acima de 90%. Os cardiomiócitos usados nas experiências deste manuscrito mostraram pureza acima de 98% para o marcador cardíaco específico da troponina TNNT2 e mais de 94% para a Troponina I madura (TNNI3) (Figura S5). Todas as células (hiPSCs e cardiomiócitos) foram verificadas quanto à ausência de micoplasma.

#### **4.6 TRATAMENTOS AGUDOS DE CÉLULAS CARDÍACAS**

As células foram incubadas com isoproterenol ou verapamil para realizar uma curva concentração-resposta. O tempo de incubação foi de 5 min, com variação de 5 a 15 min para aquisição das imagens.

## 4.7 AQUISIÇÃO DE IMAGENS DAS CÉLULAS CARDÍACAS

Uma câmera CMOS digital de alta velocidade (SILICON VIDEO ® 642M, EPIX, Inc) foi acoplada em um microscópio invertido Nikon Eclipse Ti-e contendo uma objetiva de 40x (Nikon Japan, abertura numérica de 0.55 e distância de trabalho de 2.1mm). Na platina do microscópio, foi adicionada uma incubadora (modelo ChamlielIC-CU:109, Live Cell Instrument, Nowan-gu, Korea) que mantém uniforme os níveis de temperatura (37 °C) e umidade (60%).

Os cardiomiócitos adultos foram estimulados eletricamente por eletrodos de platina (1Hz, 30V) com pulsos de 5 ms de duração. A sequência de imagens foi gravada a 200fps por 1min para adultos-CM e 100fps por 15s para neonatal-CM e hiPSC-CM, com resolução de 640x200 pixels e 640x480 respectivamente. O tamanho do pixel da imagem era de 0,25 µm/pixel com uma profundidade de 8 bits. Para mais informações sobre a taxa de captura a ser utilizada para diferentes tipos celulares, consulte Apêndice C: CONTRACTIONWAVE Manual do usuário v1.0 seção 2.2 REQUIREMENTS – 2. Minimum frame rate)

## 4.8 CONTRACTIONWAVE SOFTWARE

CONTRACTIONWAVE (CW) é um software desenvolvido em Linguagem de Programação Python que permite ao usuário visualizar, quantificar e analisar os parâmetros de contratilidade das células em um formato simples e intuitivo. O software permite que o usuário adquira dados de cinética de membrana de contratilidade celular durante os ciclos de contração-relaxamento por meio de captura de imagem e um algoritmo de fluxo óptico denso. Ambos os métodos e software foram desenvolvidos usando conhecimento multidisciplinar, o que resultou em um protocolo de extração de dados robusto. Para obter detalhes sobre as instruções passo a passo do software, consulte Apêndice C: CONTRACTIONWAVE Manual do usuário v1.0.

### 4.8.1 Análise da contratilidade obtida por meio do processamento de imagens

Para detectar o movimento de contração celular, utilizamos a metodologia Dense Optical Flow, que se baseia nos princípios do fluxo óptico, utilizando o



algoritmo Gunnar Farneback (Farneback, 2003) para detectar o movimento de todos os pontos entre um par de imagens. CONTRACTIONWAVE suporta vários tipos de imagens (ver seção 4.2 do Manual do Usuário fornecido como Apêndice B), e para obter os melhores resultados de qualidade, usamos imagens do tipo Tiff-8bit. Aplicamos o algoritmo de fluxo óptico a um filme de uma célula contrátil com várias imagens  $F$  e o tamanho da imagem  $n \times m$  para obter a magnitude do deslocamento de um pixel entre duas imagens. A partir do deslocamento para cada pixel, fazemos a média para obter uma magnitude do deslocamento para cada imagem ( $i$ ) ( $i = [1, 2, \dots, F]$ ) (Eq. 9).

$$Avg.Mag(i) = \frac{1}{n \times m} \times \sum_{n=1}^n \sum_{m=1}^m |OpticalFlow(n, m, i)| \quad (9)$$

O deslocamento para cada imagem foi obtida a partir da média da magnitude do deslocamento de cada pixel da imagem, convertido para a velocidade real multiplicando a taxa de captura e o tamanho do pixel (Eq. 10) e, a seguir, plotado em função do tempo.

$$Speed(i) = Avg.Mag \times pixelFPS \quad (10)$$

#### 4.8.2 Algoritmos de detecção de ondas e análise de contratilidade de dados

Um algoritmo de detecção de pico foi desenvolvido para medir os parâmetros de contratilidade ao longo do tempo. Velocidade máxima de contração (MCS) e Velocidade máxima de relaxamento (MRS) são os dois picos positivos que abrangem um vale central (Figura 20B). O ponto de velocidade mínima é o valor mínimo deste vale entre o MCS e o MRS.

Para determinar o retorno à linha de base, uma parte da forma de onda após MRS (PArea, definida como 0,35 como padrão – Eq. 14) abaixo de um limite “W” (Eq. 11) é ajustada por uma única função de decaimento exponencial. O retorno à linha de base é o ponto em que uma fração da área total ajustada a uma curva exponencial atingiu um limite (PStop), que pode ser alterado pelo usuário. Resumidamente, para detectar os principais parâmetros da contratilidade, definimos quatro constantes,  $W$  (mediana de velocidade),  $\Delta$  (média dos pontos de velocidade

acima de  $W$ ),  $PStop$  e  $PArea$  (fatores de multiplicação para parâmetros ajustados obtidos pela curva de decaimento exponencial, para definir o fim da contratilidade). Todos esses parâmetros são definidos a partir de valores automatizados estimados em casos de teste ideais ou podem ser definidos a partir da entrada do usuário para melhorar o ajuste aos dados e sua condição.

$$W = \text{median}[\text{Speed}(i)] \quad \text{if wave Max filter input} \quad (11)$$

$$\Delta = \text{mean}[\text{Speed}(i)] > W \quad \text{if delta input} \quad (12)$$

$$PStop = 0.9(\text{default}) \quad \text{if fraction of exp. AUC input} \quad (13)$$

$$|0 < \text{input} < 1|$$

$$PArea = 0.35(\text{default}) \quad \text{if fraction of wave Max area input} \quad (14)$$

$$|0 < \text{input} < 1|$$

O algoritmo de definição de onda pode ser definido pelas seguintes etapas:

Primeiro, detectamos os pares de picos correspondentes aos possíveis MCS e MRS. Esses picos são definidos como os pontos máximos acima de  $W$  em torno de um vale definido por  $\Delta$  (Eq. 12). Para fazer isso, adaptamos os algoritmos Peakdet de [<http://billauer.co.il/peakdet.html>]. Um algoritmo de busca é então aplicado para cada par de pontos máximos (MCS, MRS). Um ponto de início da contração é atribuído a partir do ponto mínimo local mais próximo antes do MCS. O menor valor de velocidade média entre MCS e MRS é definido como o ponto de velocidade mínima.

O retorno ao ponto de linha de base é obtido por um ajuste exponencial da curva de decaimento após a velocidade máxima de relaxamento (MRS) (Eq. 15). Uma vez que todos os valores abaixo de  $W$  após o MRS podem ser usados neste

ajuste, incluímos um parâmetro PArea (Eq. 14) que permite o subconjunto dos dados a serem ajustados para possivelmente excluir quaisquer valores pertencentes ao início da próxima onda que poderia enviesar a regressão.

$$\text{exp. fit(afterMRS)} = \text{Lev. Marquardt}(Ae^{-Bx} + c) \quad (15)$$

A área total sob a curva decrescente para o exponencial ajustado é então calculada:

$$A = \int \text{exp. fit(afterMRS)} \quad (16)$$

O Retorno ao ponto da linha de base é determinado como o primeiro ponto acima da proporção da área calculada PStop (Eq. 13). O algoritmo de pesquisa então identifica o próximo par de máximos, detectando todas as ondas possíveis para os valores atuais das quatro constantes. Um exemplo dos pontos detectados será mostrado na Figura 18C e na Figura 20B.

Vários parâmetros relativos ao tempo, velocidade e área sob a curva são calculados para a média de todas as ondas selecionadas pelo usuário (como será visto na Figura 20B).

#### 4.8.3 Disponibilidade de dados e código do software

CONTRACTIONWAVE é um software gratuito e de código aberto, distribuído sob os termos da GNU General Public License versão 2, e seu código-fonte está disponível em:

<https://github.com/marcelogla/ContractionWavePy>.

Os dados de amostra deste estudo estão disponíveis no Mendeley Data:

<https://doi.org/10.17632/hswwzgw6rp.1>

CONTRACTIONWAVE pode ser instalado a partir de um arquivo executável para Windows ou Ubuntu (ver seção 3.1 do Manual do Usuário fornecido como Apêndice B) ou da instalação do ambiente Anaconda para Windows, Ubuntu ou Mac-OS (consulte a seção 3.2 do Usuário Manual fornecido como Apêndice B). Informações adicionais sobre a instalação do CONTRACTIONWAVE e como processar os dados podem ser encontradas no Manual do Usuário (Apêndice B).

Informações adicionais podem ser encontradas em:

<https://sites.icb.ufmg.br/cardiovascularrc/contractionwave/>

#### **4.9 ANÁLISE ESTATÍSTICA**

Os dados foram expressos como a média  $\pm$  erro padrão da média (SE) de pelo menos três experimentos independentes. Para comparações de duas variáveis foi utilizado o teste t de student, e para comparação de mais de duas variáveis foi utilizado o teste One Way ANOVA seguido pelo teste post hoc de comparação múltipla de Dunnett. O nível de significância foi estabelecido para  $*p < 0.05$ .

## 5. RESULTADOS

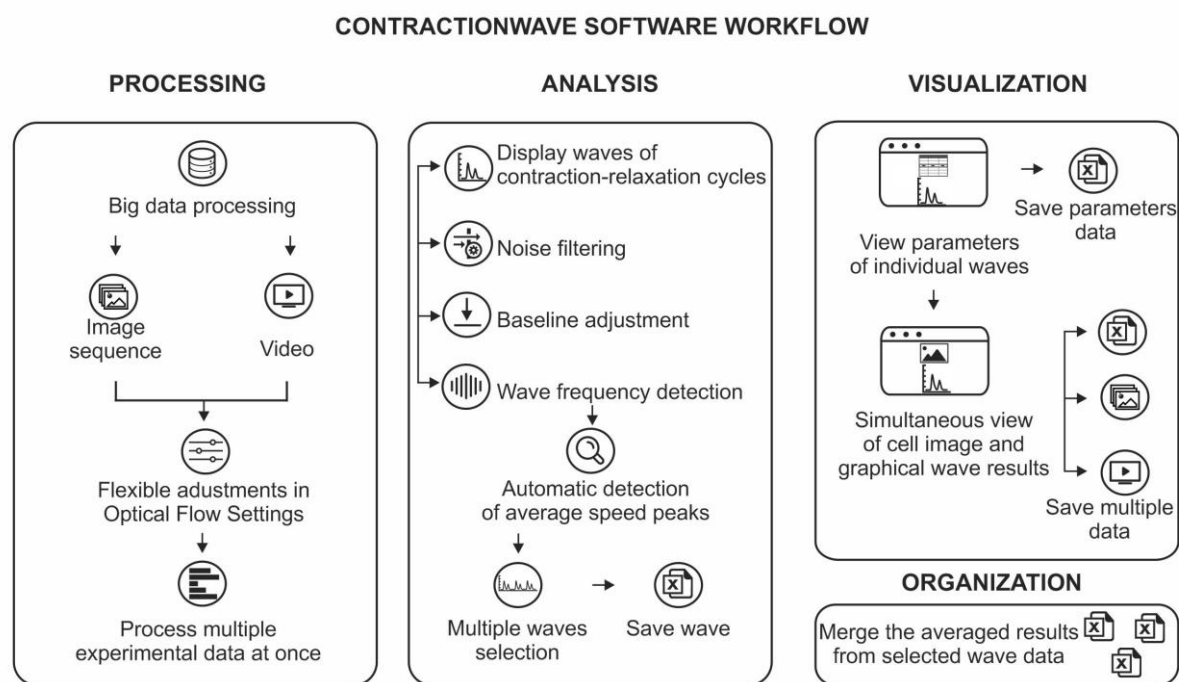
Os resultados desse trabalho foram publicados na revista *Cell Reports Methods* com o título *Dense optical flow software to quantify cellular contractility* (SCALZO et al., 2021) (Apêndice C).

### 5.1 CONTRACTIONWAVE WORKFLOW

CONTRACTIONWAVE é um software que pode processar imagens obtidas de forma sequencial ou de arquivos de vídeo (processing window, Figura 16). A maioria dos programas disponíveis atualmente é capaz de processar apenas um conjunto de dados de imagem de cada vez. Em contraste, CONTRACTIONWAVE é um aplicativo *multithread*, permitindo o processamento simultâneo de um grande conjunto de dados (processing window, Figura 16).

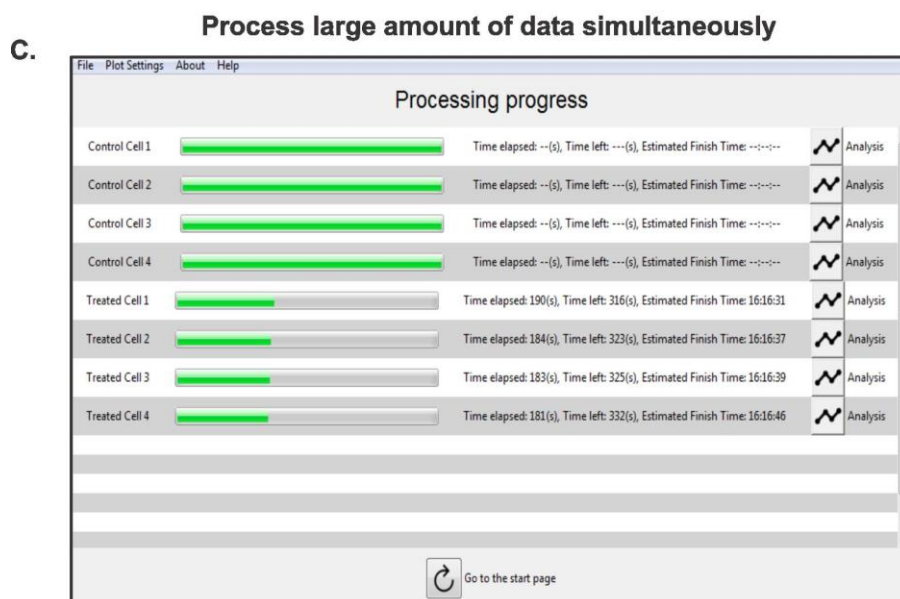
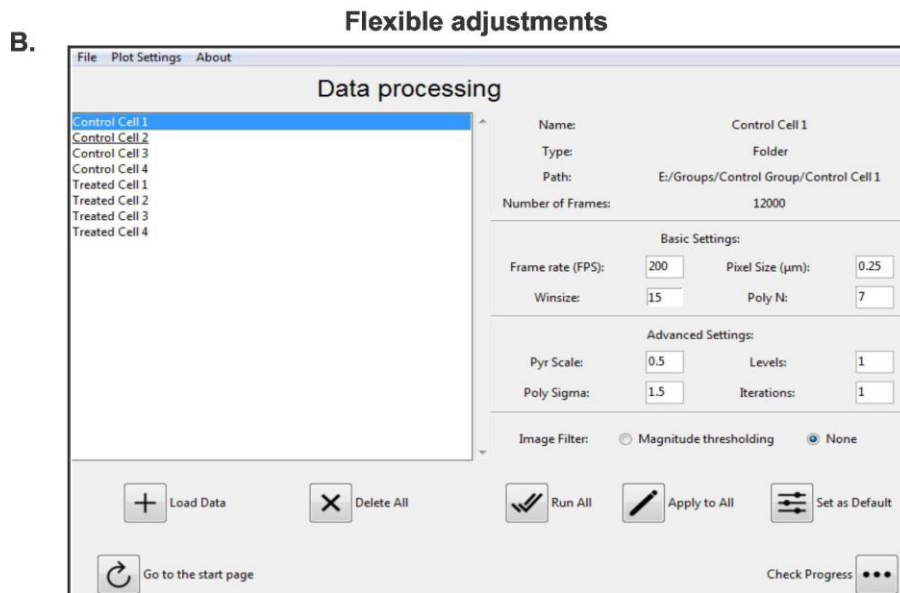
Uma vez que as informações de movimento são extraídas dos arquivos de vídeo, o usuário inicia a análise de contratilidade clicando no menu “start analysis” (Figura 17A). A Figura 17A fornece um esboço da tela inicial que permite ao usuário importar e processar grandes conjuntos de imagens e analisar os resultados obtidos.

Uma característica interessante do CONTRACTIONWAVE é a flexibilidade para ajustar as configurações do programa. Embora exista uma configuração padrão de fluxo óptico denso, que pode ser usado para a maioria dos experimentos celulares, CONTRACTIONWAVE permite que o usuário ajuste e escolha os melhores parâmetros experimentais (Figura 17B), de acordo com a qualidade da imagem ou tipo celular. Dois parâmetros experimentais importantes que precisam ser adicionados pelo usuário, são a taxa de captura da câmera em quadros por segundo (FPS, do inglês *frames per second*) e o tamanho do pixel da imagem ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) (Basic settings, Figura 17B). Com isso, as medidas de movimento celular poderão ser obtidas em unidades físicas ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ ). Maiores detalhes sobre a escolha da taxa de captura serão apresentados no item 5.6.



**Figura 16: CONTRACTIONWAVE software workflow.** O programa CONTRACTIONWAVE é organizado em quatro etapas, que englobam: o processamento, a análise, visualização e gerenciamento de resultados. **PROCESSAMENTO:** O programa possui capacidade para processar grandes quantidades de dados, de imagens ou vídeos, de uma só vez. **ANÁLISE:** O usuário pode selecionar o ruído de fundo e normalizar todos os dados para uma nova linha de base ajustada, permitindo a identificação automática das ondas de contração-relaxamento. Posteriormente, várias ondas podem ser selecionadas para serem analisadas e salvas. **VISUALIZAÇÃO:** Os parâmetros de cada onda podem ser visualizados e selecionados. A célula e as imagens gráficas podem ser visualizadas simultaneamente e os resultados finais salvos. **ORGANIZAÇÃO:** Os resultados da média de várias ondas podem ser combinados em uma única tabela e salvos.

O progresso do processamento das imagens pode ser acompanhado através da barra de progresso (Figura 17C) e a análise dos resultados ser feita simultaneamente com o processamento de novos conjuntos de dados.



**Figura 17: Janelas do CONTRACTIONWAVE para o processamento inicial das imagens de contratilidade.** **A.** CONTRACTIONWAVE possui um menu principal intuitivo que engloba 5 funções. O botão “New Data” é onde as imagens e os dados de vídeo podem ser carregados no programa. A função “Check Progress” permite ao usuário rastrear o processamento de dados. Além disso, existem três funções disponíveis: “Start Analysis” onde os dados carregados anteriormente podem ser analisados; “Load Saved Waves” onde os resultados salvos podem ser exportados e “Merge Results” onde todos os dados podem ser mesclados em uma única planilha. **B.** CONTRACTIONWAVE permite ao usuário definir a taxa de captura (Frame rate: FPS) e o valor do tamanho do pixel ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) utilizado no experimento, bem como ajustar configurações avançadas de fluxo óptico. **C.** A janela “Processing progress” mostra todos os grupos de imagens já carregados, e a barra verde estima o tempo restante para o processamento dos diferentes dados.

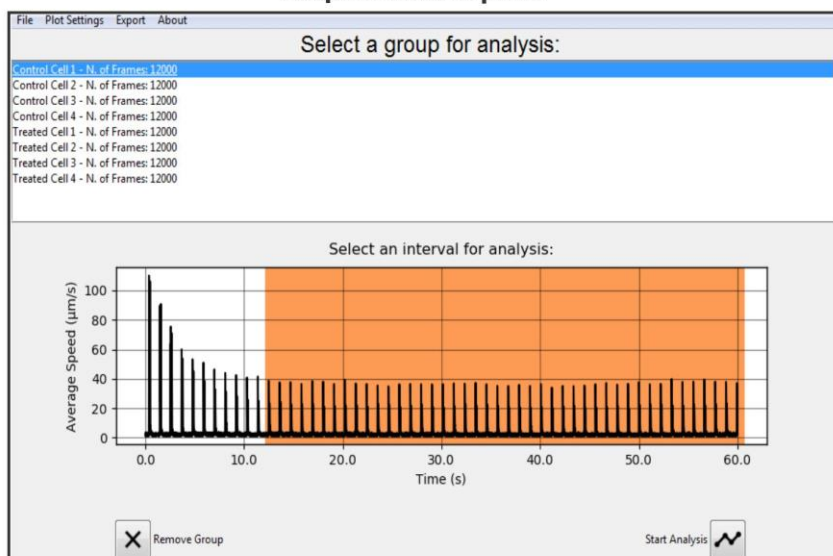
Os dados calculados de velocidade versus tempo são inicialmente mostrados em um gráfico que corresponde aos ciclos de contração-relaxamento (Waves), que podem ser selecionados clicando e arrastando um intervalo para iniciar a análise (retângulo laranja, Figura 18A). O fluxo de trabalho de análise é dividido para: (a) exibir ondas de ciclos de contração-relaxamento; (b) filtragem de ruído; (c) ajuste da linha de base; e (d) detecção de frequência de onda (veja em analysis, Figura 16). Esses parâmetros podem ser encontrados na janela “Wave detection” (Figura 18B).

O perfil típico de velocidade versus tempo correspondente aos ciclos de contração-relaxamento, gerado a partir das imagens processadas do fluxo óptico é apresentado na Figura 19A (painel superior). Para fins de análise, CONTRACTIONWAVE proporciona ao usuário a opção de escolher um único ciclo contrátil ou a média de vários ciclos. Na janela “Wave detection”, uma vez que a seleção é feita (painel superior, área laranja, Figura 19A), um segundo gráfico mostrando uma versão ampliada do intervalo selecionado é exibido (painel inferior, Figura 19A) para ajudar o usuário a escolher as ondas de interesse a serem analisadas.

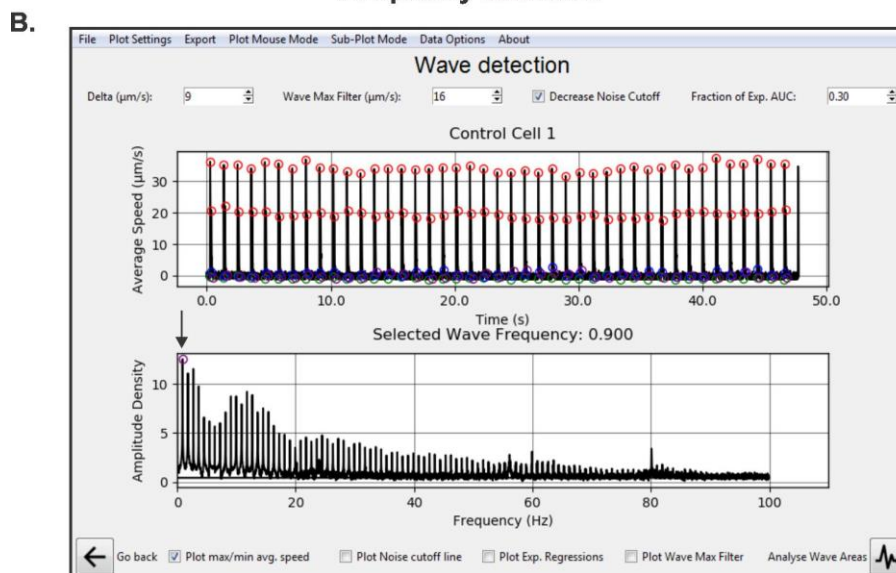
Além disso, CONTRACTIONWAVE oferece a opção de diminuir o ruído de fundo selecionando “Data Options > decrease noise cutoff” (painel superior, Figura 19A). O valor de ruído calculado é então plotado como uma linha azul, conforme mostrado na representação gráfica no painel inferior da Figura 19A (consulte a seção 5.2.1 do Manual do Usuário fornecido como Apêndice B para obter mais detalhes).



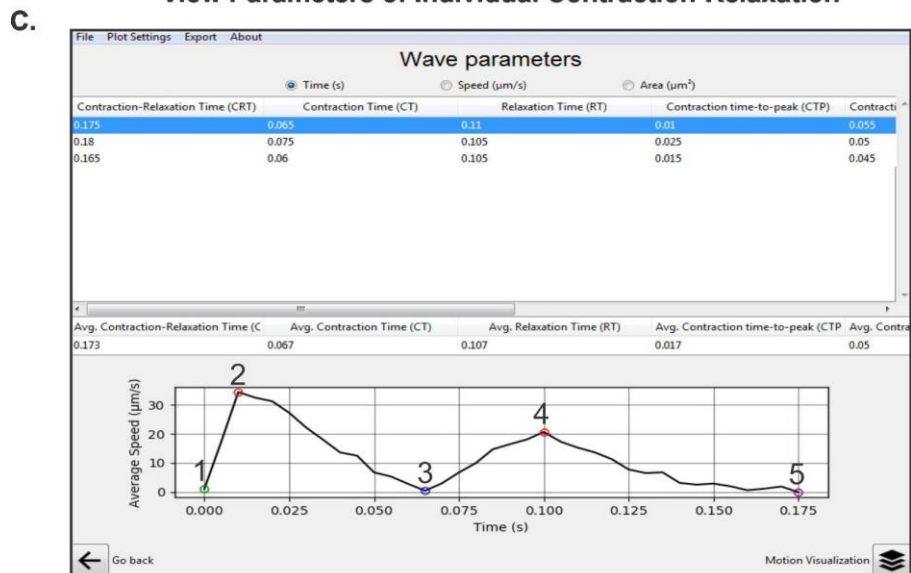
### A. Acquire data in $\mu\text{m/s}$



### B. Frequency detection



### C. View Parameters of Individual Contraction-Relaxation

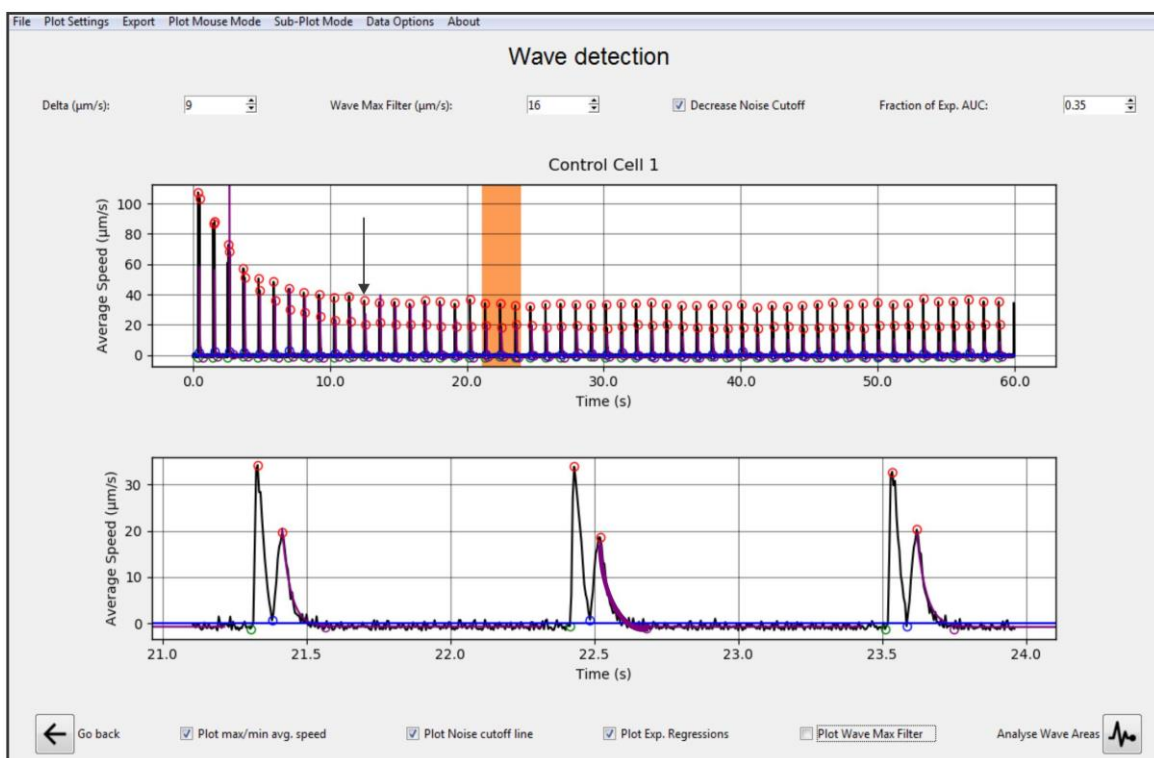


**Figura 18: CONTRACTIONWAVE para análise dos dados. A.** Na janela “select a group for analysis” a lista de todos os dados já processados será exibida com sua respectiva velocidade média e tempo. **B.** A frequência da contração celular (obtida em Hz) pode ser adquirida usando uma Transformada Rápida de Fourier, sendo representada pelo maior pico de densidade de amplitude, conforme mostrado pelo círculo roxo (ver seta preta exibida no painel inferior). **C.** CONTRACTIONWAVE pode encontrar automaticamente os picos de velocidade média de contração-relaxamento (círculos coloridos no painel inferior), e os dados adquiridos e parametrizados conterão cinco pontos: 1. Início da contração; 2. Velocidade máxima de contração; 3. Velocidade mínima de contração; 4. Velocidade máxima de relaxamento; 5. Retorno à linha de base. Os parâmetros calculados para cada pico detectado nos intervalos selecionados são exibidos na tabela (painel superior).

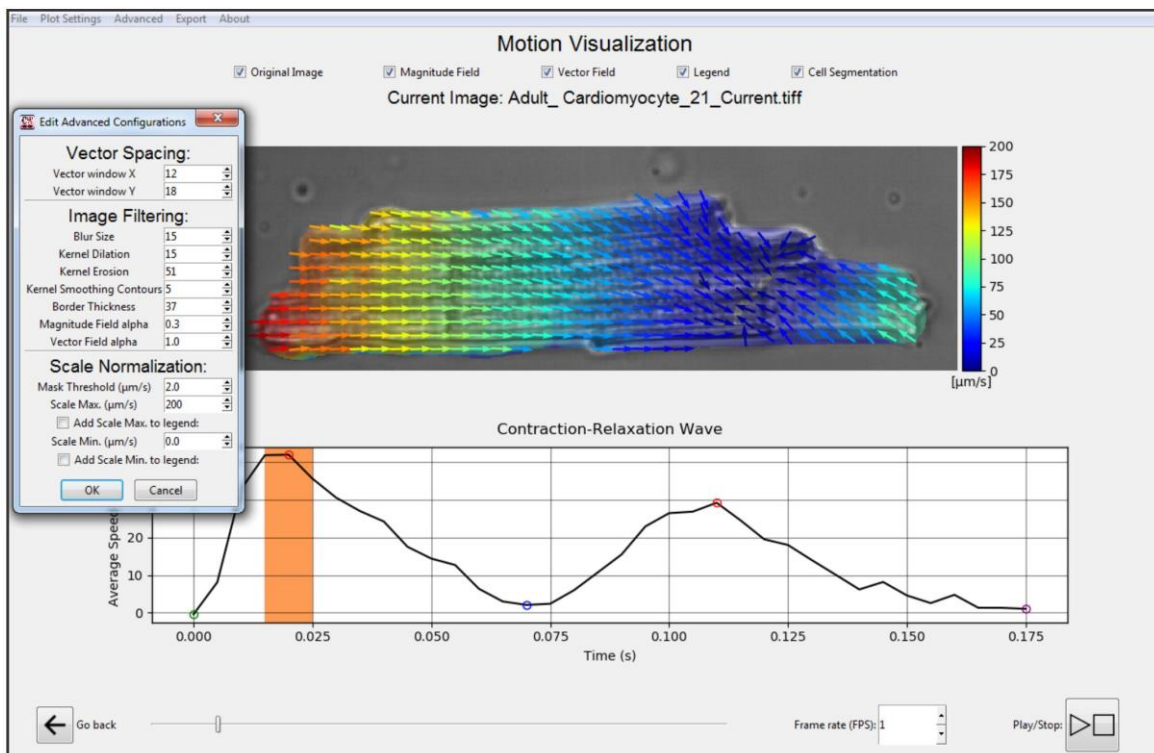
Em alguns casos algumas ondas de contração e relaxamento podem conter oscilações ruidosas apresentando dificuldade na sua identificação. Estes casos surgem particularmente da dinâmica de contração-relaxamento multidirecional, como as encontradas em neonato-CMs e hiPSC-CM. Para minimizar ondas ruidosas, na configuração de pré-análise, o usuário deve selecionar algoritmos de suavização / redução de ruído em Data Options > smooth-denoise (para maiores detalhes ver seção 5.3 do Manual do usuário fornecido como Apêndice B).

Outro parâmetro importante que pode ser adquirido é a frequência da contração celular, o que pode ser feito simplesmente clicando em Sub-plot-Mode> Fast Fourier Transform. Uma vez que os dados (painel superior, Figura 18B) são analisados, o valor de frequência de batimento celular correspondente será representado pelo pico mais alto de densidade de amplitude, conforme mostrado pelo círculo roxo (veja a seta preta) no painel inferior da Figura 18B. Neste exemplo, a frequência da onda da célula é 0,9 Hz.

A.



B.



**Figura 19: Funções básicas e aplicações do CONTRACTIONWAVE.** A. CONTRACTIONWAVE possui uma janela de análise robusta que permite ao usuário selecionar vários intervalos para extrair os parâmetros de contratilidade. O programa pode detectar automaticamente as ondas de velocidade média de contração-relaxamento e também permite ajustes finos para encontrar os picos máximos corretos de cada onda (painel superior). A seta preta indica o início do estado estacionário. Para auxiliar na seleção de picos únicos ou múltiplos, uma versão ampliada do gráfico de velocidade média é exibido

(painel inferior). A linha roxa mostra o ajuste de regressão exponencial da fase de decaimento da velocidade de relaxamento. A linha azul representa a média do ruído capturado. **B.** CONTRACTIONWAVE inova na forma como a célula é visualizada, pois tanto a imagem da célula e seus vetores de movimento (painel superior) quanto à onda de contração-relaxamento (painel inferior) são exibidas simultaneamente. Além disso, uma análise em tempo real da sequência de imagens e sua etapa correspondente no ciclo de contração-relaxamento são apresentadas (a área laranja no painel inferior destaca a etapa do ciclo na qual a imagem da célula superior foi adquirida). CONTRACTIONWAVE permite ajustes de detecção nas opções “Advanced” e também filtra as magnitudes exibidas por um determinado limite de velocidade usando a função “mask threshold” (ver janela apresentada à esquerda).

Uma vez selecionados os ciclos de contratilidade (Figura 19A, retângulo laranja), o usuário pode visualizar na janela seguinte (Wave parameters - Figura 18C) cada um dos ciclos de contração-relaxamento previamente selecionados e calcular a média de cada parâmetro. Conforme mostrado na Figura 18C (painel inferior), a velocidade média para um ciclo de contratilidade fornece duas ondas subsequentes: uma onda maior que corresponde à contração e uma menor que reflete a dinâmica de relaxamento. CONTRACTIONWAVE pode detectar automaticamente os picos de velocidade média de contração-relaxamento, e os dados adquiridos conterão cinco pontos: 1. Início da Contração; 2. Velocidade Máxima de Contração (MCS); 3. Velocidade Mínima de Contração; 4. Velocidade Máxima de Relaxamento (MRS); 5. Retorno à linha de base. Para detectar com eficiência todos os pontos, o valor Delta ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ ) (ver canto superior esquerdo, Figura 18B) deve ser definido como a metade da diferença mínima entre os pontos da linha de base e o ponto de Velocidade Máxima de Relaxamento.

Uma vez que o relaxamento celular termina com uma queda lenta, que pode ser difícil de distinguir do ruído de fundo, detectar o ponto final do relaxamento (5º ponto na Figura 18C) pode ser um desafio durante o processo de análise de dados. Para detectar apropriadamente o final do relaxamento celular, CONTRACTIONWAVE ajusta uma função exponencial do pico de relaxamento até a linha de base (ver a linha roxa na Figura 19A). Um critério de parada padronizado é então usado para determinar o fim de uma onda. Para obter detalhes sobre as configurações padrões recomendadas, consulte a Figura 5 na seção 3.3 do Guia de início rápido ou a Figura 32 na seção 5.2.3, ambas no Manual do usuário fornecido como Apêndice B. Alternativamente, o usuário pode usar um dos vários pontos de tempo de decaimento fixos (T10%, T20%, T30%, T40%, T50%, T60%, T70%, T80% e T90%) que são exportados junto com os dados analisados. Os pontos indicam o

tempo em que a velocidade de relaxamento decaiu para certa porcentagem de sua amplitude de pico. Alguns tempos de decaimento são representados na Figura 20B.

Depois que os picos de velocidade média são corretamente atribuídos e selecionados, os parâmetros de tempo, velocidade e área para cada onda detectada podem ser visualizados e exportados na janela subsequente, clicando nas seleções apropriadas no painel superior da Figura 18C. Após selecionar uma onda, o usuário pode clicar em Motion Visualization (caixa inferior direita na Figura 18C) para visualizar os dados (Figura 19B).

Outra inovação introduzida no CONTRACTIONWAVE é o recurso que possibilita a visualização simultânea da imagem da célula e da onda de contração-relaxamento (Figura 19B). Nenhum outro programa permite a visualização completa e integrada de um movimento celular, recurso que o CONTRACTIONWAVE alcança ao desenhar vetores de movimento, correlacionando com o deslocamento ao longo da imagem aos seus respectivos pontos de onda no gráfico de contração-relaxamento (Figura 19B). Na figura 19B (painel inferior) a caixa laranja representa o respectivo ponto de onda em que a imagem foi adquirida.

## **5.2 VALIDAÇÃO DO SOFTWARE CONTRACTIONWAVE: DETECÇÃO VISUAL E NUMÉRICA DA CONTRAÇÃO CELULAR**

Para validar o sistema, avaliamos parâmetros contráteis em três modelos celulares bem estabelecidos: (1) miócitos ventriculares provenientes de camundongos ou ratos adultos (adulto-CM); (2) cardiomiócitos provenientes de ratos neonatais (neonatal-CM); e (3) cardiomiócitos humanos derivados de células-tronco pluripotentes induzidas (hiPSC-CM).

Ao contrário dos sistemas celulares provenientes de neonatal-CM e hiPSC-CM que formam um sincício *in vitro*, o adulto-CM é um modelo muito mais simples composto de uma única célula com dinâmica de contração robusta, portanto, primeiro testamos a funcionalidade do nosso software neste tipo celular. Adulto-CMs foram estimulados eletricamente a se contrair a 1 Hz. A sequência típica de ondas de contratilidade obtida de um adulto-CM é mostrada na Figura 19A. Normalmente, a velocidade máxima é maior nas primeiras contrações, e em seguida, diminui gradualmente com o tempo até que se estabilize em um valor de velocidade no estado estacionário (ver a seta preta na Figura 19A). Depois de atingir o estado

estacionário, podemos analisar a dinâmica de contração-relaxamento. Imagens representativas adquiridas durante cada fase do ciclo de contração-relaxamento são mostradas na Figura 20Ai-v.

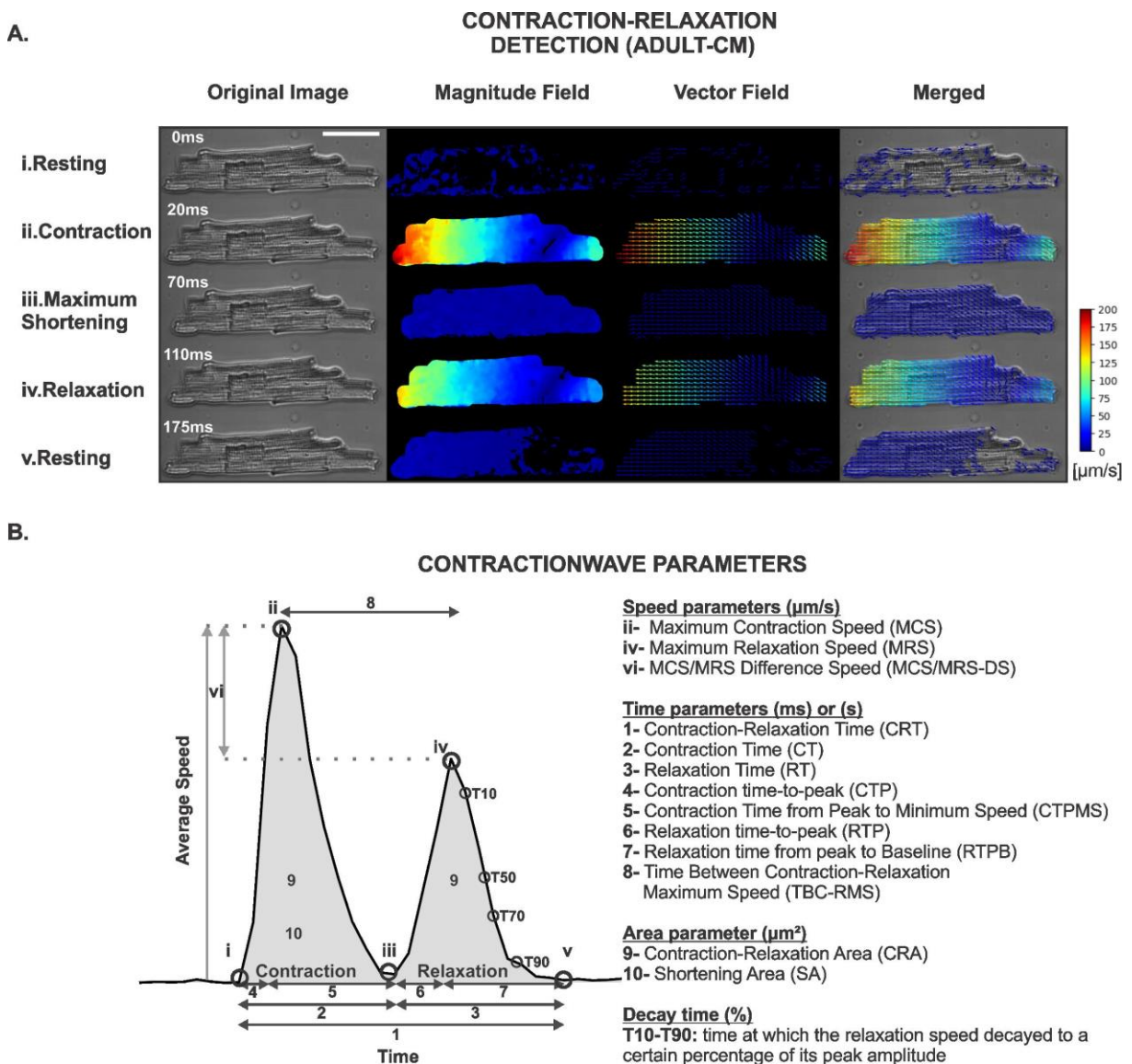
A extração do movimento associado à contratilidade celular ocorre por meio da análise de pares sequenciais de imagens, que são processadas pelo algoritmo de fluxo óptico denso, usando todos os pixels da imagem. Isso permite que o programa identifique o deslocamento do pixel e calcule sua magnitude e direção. A magnitude final do movimento é obtida pela média da magnitude do deslocamento de cada pixel da imagem, onde é convertida para velocidade média, usando a multiplicação da taxa de captura e da resolução do pixel (definida pelo usuário), e então plotada em um gráfico em função do tempo (ver secção 4.8.1 dos Materiais Métodos para obter mais detalhes). Este processo permite a detecção e geração do deslocamento por meio da magnitude (Figura 20A, Magnitude Field) e vetores de movimento (Figura 20A, Vector Field). Na Figura 20A, a velocidade de deslocamento da membrana é representada em uma escala de intensidade visual e numérica.

Em condições de repouso, antes da estimulação elétrica, a intensidade do vetor de movimento é baixa, com velocidade média próxima de zero (resting, Figura 20Ai). Seguindo o estímulo elétrico, a contração celular começa e pode ser visualizada pelo aumento da intensidade das magnitudes e vetores de movimento. A célula então atinge sua velocidade máxima de contração (MCS do inglês Maximum contraction speed) (Figura 20Aii). Após o MCS, a intensidade dos vetores diminui, aproximando-se da velocidade zero, representando a fase de encurtamento máximo da célula (Figura 20Aiii). Quando o relaxamento inicia-se, a direção do movimento dos vetores muda e a velocidade média aumenta até atingir a velocidade máxima de relaxamento (MRS, do inglês Maximum relaxation speed) (Figura 20Aiv). Após o final de um ciclo de relaxamento, os vetores de intensidade e velocidade média voltam ao nível basal (Figura 20Av).

Conforme mostrado no painel (Original Image, Magnitude Field e Vector Field) ilustrado na Figura 20A, o CONTRACTIONWAVE pode detectar o deslocamento da membrana em toda a área celular, com resolução espacial limitada apenas ao microscópio e à câmera utilizados. A partir dos dados gerados, a velocidade de média pode ser traçada para cada imagem em função do tempo (Figura 20B). Isso

permite a análise quantitativa de parâmetros que refletem a dinâmica de todo o ciclo de contratilidade-relaxamento dos cardiomiócitos.

Todos os pontos identificados com algarismos romanos na Figura 20B correspondem às imagens apresentadas na Figura 20A. Um resumo de todos os parâmetros de contratilidade obtidos por meio da análise do CONTRACTIONWAVE é apresentado na Figura 20B e pode ser dividido em três categorias: Velocidade, Tempo e Área.



**Figura 20: CONTRACTIONWAVE** permite que o usuário adquira dados sobre a cinética da membrana do cardiomiócito durante os ciclos de contração-relaxamento através da captura de imagem. **A.** Imagens representativas mostram a detecção do movimento da membrana pelos campos de magnitude e vetor com escala de intensidade visual e numérica durante um ciclo de contração-relaxamento em adultos-CM. Barra de escala =  $40 \mu\text{m}$  **B.** À esquerda, onda de velocidade média de um ciclo de contração-relaxamento em um cardiomiócito estimulado eletricamente. Todos os pontos identificados com algarismos

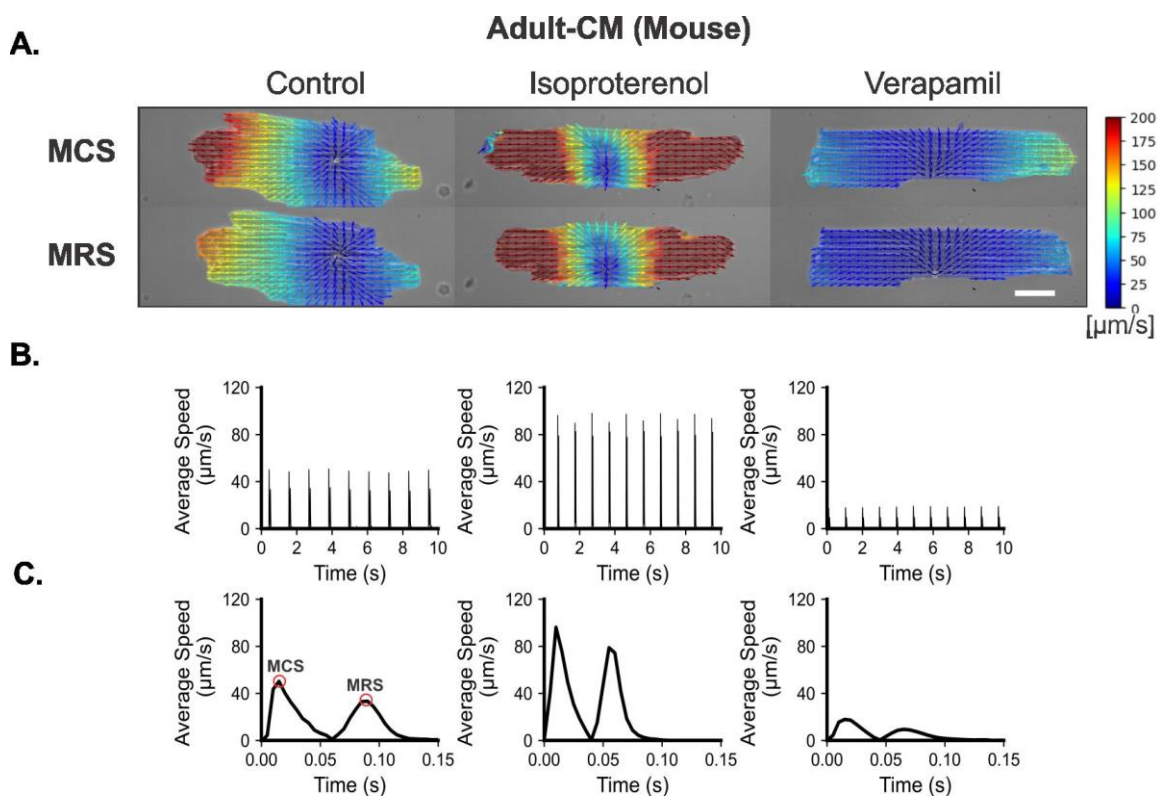
romanos no painel B correspondem às fases do ciclo de contração e as respectivas imagens definidas no painel A. À direita, um resumo dos parâmetros obtidos pelo CONTRACTIONWAVE durante um ciclo de contração-relaxamento.

Em alguns casos a identificação correta da onda é difícil. Isso normalmente ocorre com células imaturas e pode ser causado por ruído ou mesmo pelo fato de existirem células para as quais a velocidade de relaxamento é maior que a contração. Para contornar este problema, CONTRACTIONWAVE tem uma janela de detecção de onda (data options > contraction amplitude) (Apêndice B: Manual do usuário, seção 5.8 Contraction amplitude) que permite ao usuário visualizar todo o ciclo de contração-relaxamento junto com um pico único correspondente, que representa a amplitude de contração.

### **5.3 CONTRACTIONWAVE E SUA APLICAÇÃO EM CARDIOMIÓCITOS PROVENIENTES DE ANIMAIS ADULTOS**

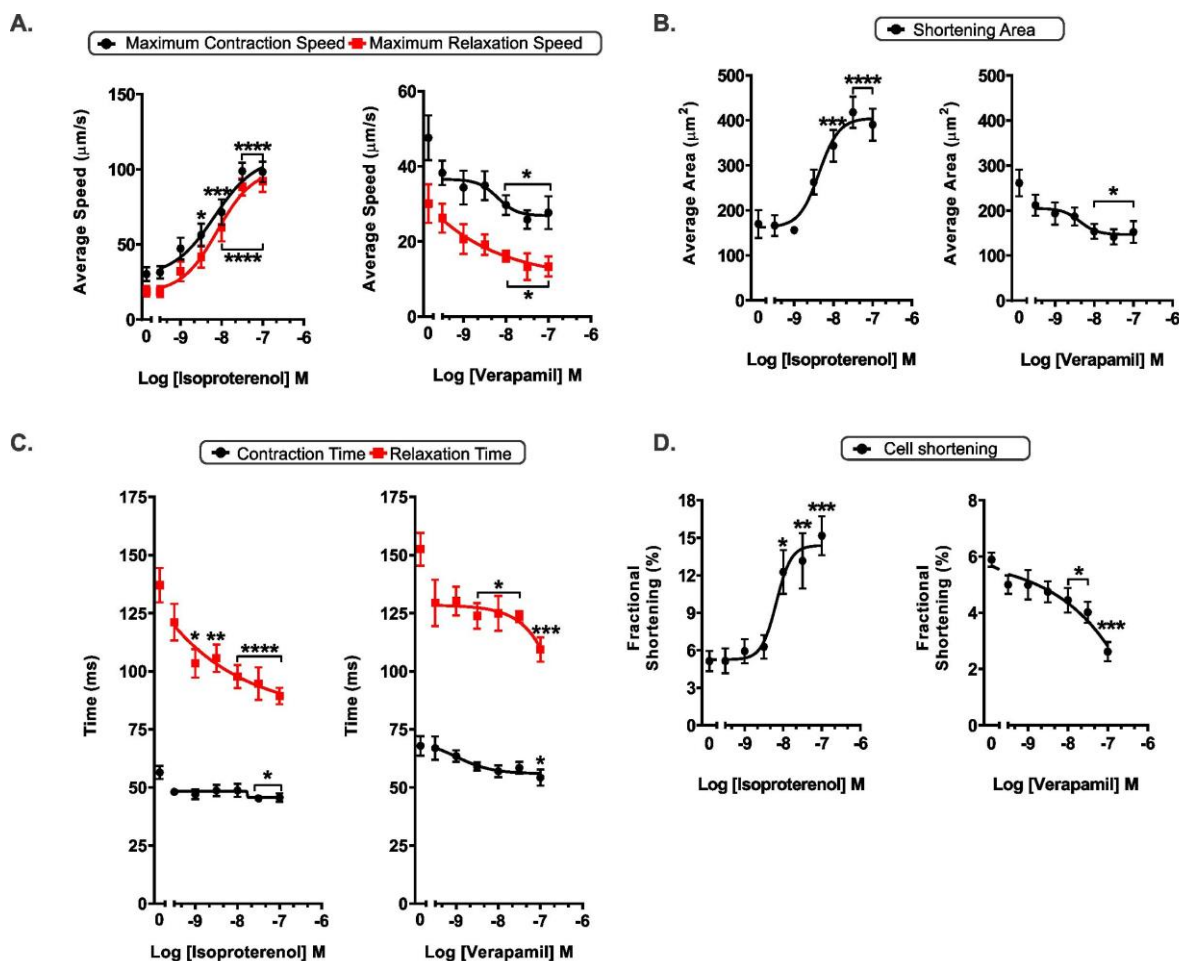
Para testar a eficácia e a sensibilidade do nosso método, tratamos as células com drogas que possuem efeitos bem definidos nos parâmetros de contratilidade. Os adulto-CMs foram submetidos ao tratamento com isoproterenol (100 nmol/L) ou verapamil (100 nmol/L). A Figura 21A-B mostra o resultado da detecção da magnitude e dos vetores de movimento celular e seus respectivos gráficos de velocidade média ao longo do tempo, respectivamente. A Figura 21C mostra o resultado do gráfico de velocidade média adquirida a partir de um ciclo de contração-relaxamento.





**Figura 21: Detecção vetorial e gráfica dos efeitos da contratilidade em adultos-CMs de camundongos obtido pelo CONTRACTIONWAVE. A.** Dado de velocidade de deslocamento obtido de cardiomiócitos de camundongos adultos exibida em magnitude e campo vetorial com detecção visual em escala de intensidade numérica durante a Velocidade Máxima de Contração (MCS) e de Relaxamento (MRS) em resposta ao tratamento com isoproterenol (100 nmol/L) ou verapamil (100 nmol/L). Barra de escala = 20  $\mu\text{m}$ . **B.** Gráficos de velocidade média obtido a partir de cardiomiócitos estimulados a 1Hz com ou sem tratamento. **C.** Ciclo de contração-relaxamento obtido sob os efeitos de tratamentos com isoproterenol ou verapamil em adulto-CM.

A Figura 22A-D exibe a curva concentração-resposta para os efeitos do isoproterenol e verapamil nos parâmetros de contratilidade do adulto-CM, a partir de três experimentos independentes. Conforme mostrado na Figura 22A-B, o tratamento com ISO aumentou a velocidade máxima de contração e relaxamento, bem como a área de encurtamento de uma forma dependente da concentração. Além disso, tanto ISO quanto VERA reduziram os tempos de contração e relaxamento, com efeitos mais pronunciados no tempo de relaxamento (Figura 22C). Com relação a fração de encurtamento, efeitos opostos foram observados quando as células foram tratadas com ISO e VERA (Figura 22D). Todos os parâmetros de contração adquiridos para adulto-CMs tratados com diferentes concentrações de ISO e VERA são apresentados na Tabela S1 (Apêndice A).

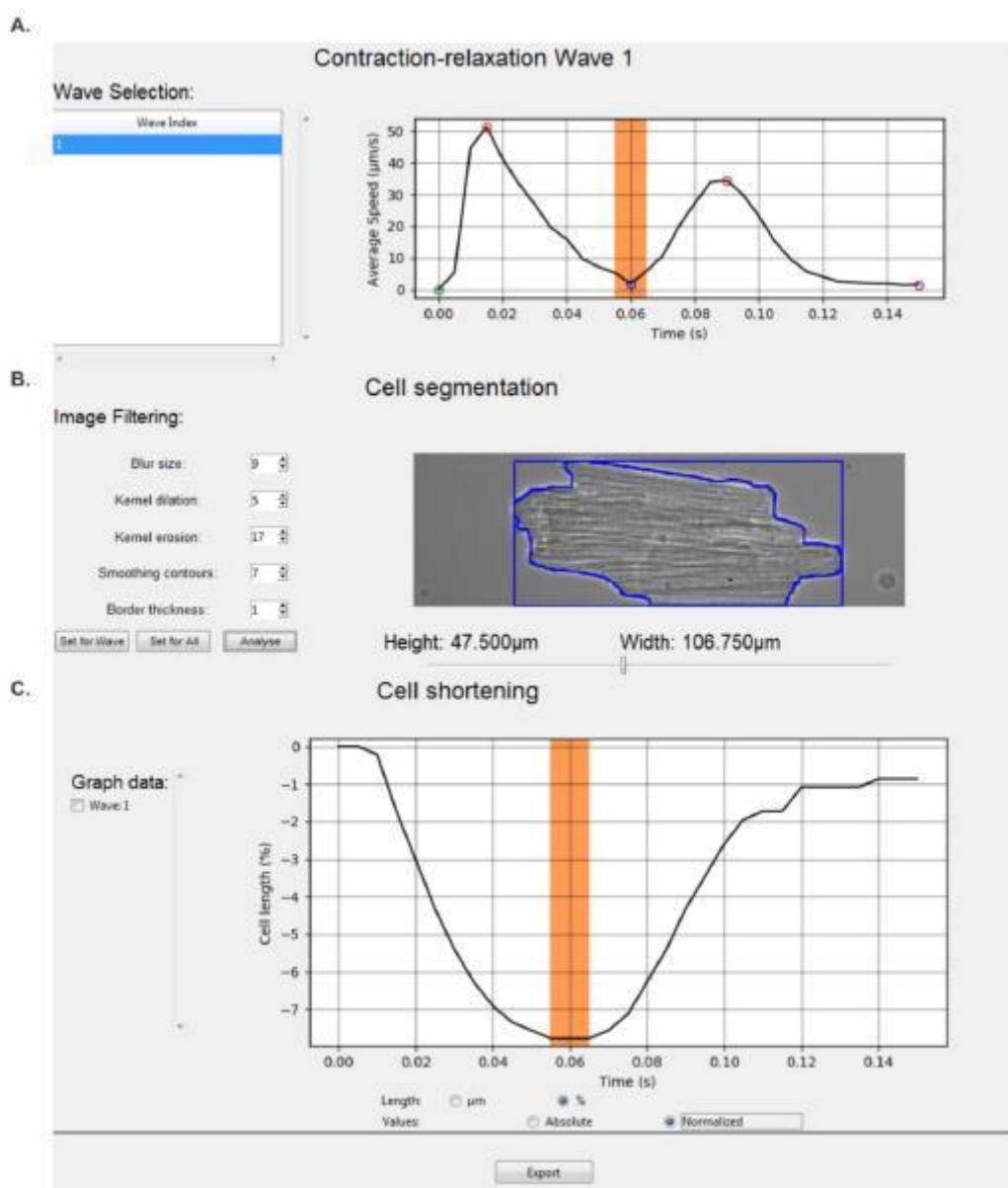


**Figura 22: Detecção do CONTRACTIONWAVE sobre os efeitos do isoproterenol e verapamil na contratilidade de adulto-CMs** A. As células tratadas com VERA apresentaram diminuição de MCS e MRS, enquanto ISO induziu aumento significativo desses parâmetros. B. ISO e VERA induziram efeitos opostos na área de encurtamento C. O tratamento agudo com ISO e VERA induziu uma diminuição significativa de todos os parâmetros de tempo nos cardiomiócitos D. ISO e VERA induziram efeitos opostos na fração de encurtamento. Os resultados são expressos como médias  $\pm$  SE de uma média de 20 regiões de células de cada grupo experimental. \*  $p < 0,05$ ; \*\*  $p < 0,01$ ; \*\*\*  $p < 0,001$  e \*\*\*\*  $p < 0,0001$  em comparação com o controle.

Outra característica do CONTRACTIONWAVE é a possibilidade de adquirir a porcentagem de encurtamento do comprimento de adulto-CMs. Na janela avançada “Motion Visualization” (Advanced> Export cell length data - Apêndice B: Manual do Usuário - seção 7.4 Figura 70), o usuário pode abrir uma nova janela para medir a porcentagem de encurtamento do comprimento celular (Figura 23). A janela mostra a caixa de seleção da onda de contração-relaxamento previamente selecionada (barra azul na Figura 23A - lado esquerdo) e seu respectivo gráfico (Figura 23A - lado direito).

CONTRACTIONWAVE usa o processamento de segmentação celular por imagem para obter o comprimento das duas extremidades de borda da célula, e

assim aplicar os filtros para encontrar a melhor segmentação (Figura 23B). Os dados podem ser visualizados e o gráfico plotado em tempo real, para em seguida, serem analisados e exportados (Figura 23C). Para validar nosso método de segmentação, realizamos a análise da porcentagem de encurtamento do comprimento celular usando adulto-CMs tratados ou não com isoproterenol e verapamil. Conforme mostrado na Figura 22D, o ISO aumentou a porcentagem de encurtamento do comprimento das células, enquanto o VERA reduziu.



**Figura 23: CONTRACTIONWAVE** permite ao usuário adquirir a porcentagem de encurtamento do comprimento de adulto-CMs. **A.** A janela para aquisição do comprimento da célula mostra a onda de contração-relaxamento selecionada anteriormente (lado esquerdo), e seu respectivo gráfico (lado direito). **B.** Para adquirir o comprimento celular, CONTRACTIONWAVE usa o algoritmo de segmentação para obter o comprimento da borda da célula no eixo horizontal da imagem (lado direito). O usuário pode modificar os filtros de segmentação (lado esquerdo) para encontrar os melhores parâmetros de filtragem

e realizar uma segmentação adequada. Ao clicar no botão “Set for Wave” (lado esquerdo) os parâmetros de filtragem serão configurados para a onda atual. Ao clicar no botão “Set for all”, os parâmetros de filtragem escolhidos serão aplicados a todas as ondas da lista (lado esquerdo). O usuário pode clicar no botão “Analyse” para atualizar os valores do comprimento obtido e seu respectivo gráfico serão traçados em tempo real (lado direito), conforme mostrado no painel **C**. Para exportar os dados, o usuário pode selecionar as ondas de interesse a serem analisadas (lado esquerdo) e clicar no botão “Export”.

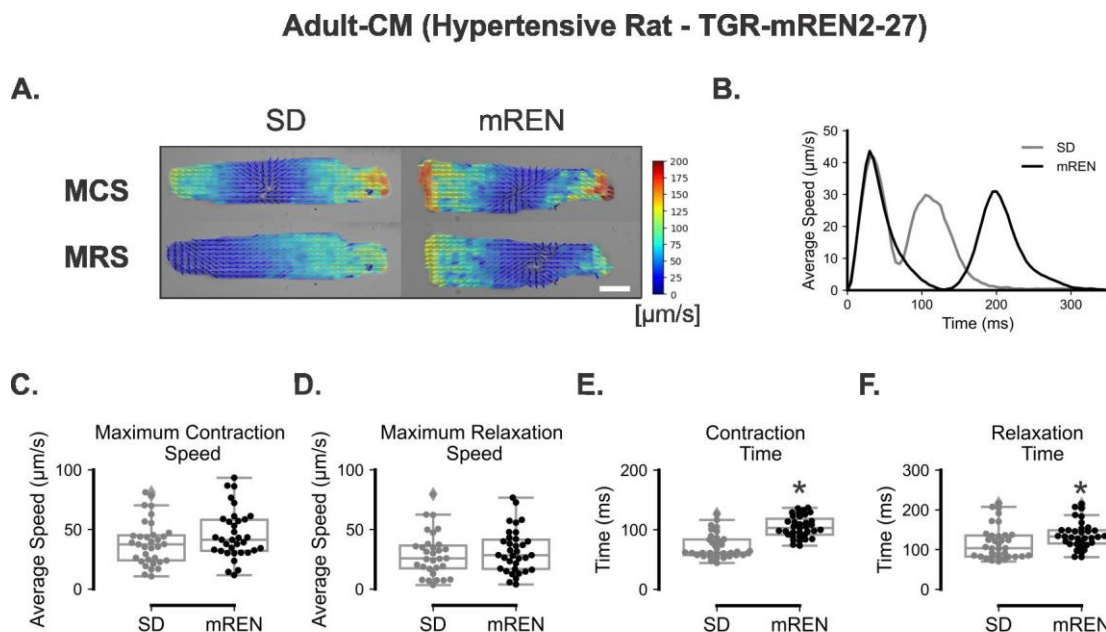
#### **5.4 APLICABILIDADE DO CONTRACTIONWAVE EM MIÓCITOS PROVENIENTES DE RATOS HIPERTENSOS**

Disfunção contrátil é uma característica comum em modelos animais de hipertensão (JESUS et al., 2020; KOVÁCS et al., 2016). Neste trabalho, utilizamos um modelo de hipertensão em ratos, bem caracterizado, causada por superexpressão genética de renina em tecidos extra-renais, o rato TGR (mREN2) 27 (LANGHEINRICH, 1996; MULLINS; PETERS; GANTEN, 1990).

Uma característica importante dos cardiomiócitos mREN é o aumento da área celular característica da hipertrofia cardíaca (JESUS et al., 2020). Tendo em vista o fato de que CONTRACTIONWAVE adquire a média da velocidade de magnitude, quanto maior for a diferença de tamanho entre as células comparadas, menor será a sensibilidade para adquirir a diferença na contratilidade que possa existir. Assim, isso pode ser um problema ao medir dados de miócitos hipertróficos como, por exemplo, a célula do mREN em comparação com SD (Figura 24). Para contornar este problema, implementamos um pipeline usando um filtro de magnitude (Magnitude Thresholding) (para detalhes, consulte Apêndice B: Manual do usuário - seção 7.3 Magnitude Thresholding Filter), que detecta uma linha de base de magnitude na imagem e encontra um valor de mínimo de velocidade, para assim, diminuir a influência de áreas detectadas fora da célula.

A Figura 24A-B mostra imagens com os vetores de movimento e a comparação do traçado de velocidade média de miócitos Sprague-Dawley (SD) e mREN, respectivamente. Conforme mostrado na Figura 24C-D, não há diferença na velocidade máxima de contração ou relaxamento entre os miócitos SD e mREN. Por outro lado, CONTRACTIONWAVE detectou um aumento significativo no tempo de contração e relaxamento nos miócitos mREN quando comparados às células SD (Figura 24E-F). Os parâmetros de contração são detalhados na Tabela S2 (Apêndice A). Esses resultados confirmam e expandem os achados anteriores do

nosso grupo (JESUS et al., 2020), mostrando com mais detalhes o movimento celular por meio de campos vetoriais ao longo da célula.

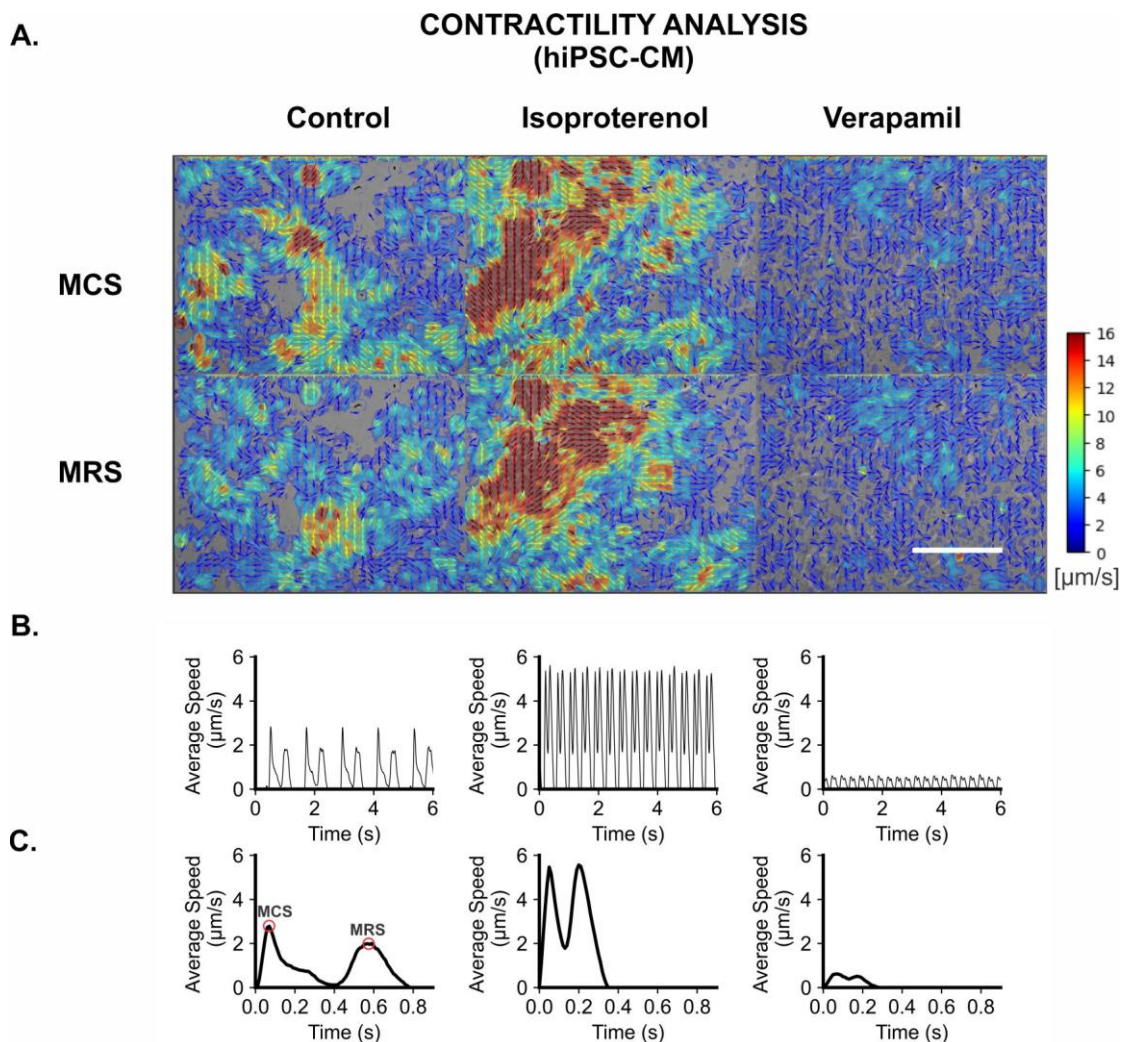


**Figura 24: Detecção vetorial e gráfica dos efeitos da contratilidade em adulto-CMs de ratos TGR-mREN2-27 obtidos pelo CONTRACTIONWAVE.** **A.** Deslocamento do movimento de membrana em cardiomiócitos SD e mREN exibido em magnitude e campo vetorial com detecção de escala de intensidade visual e numérica durante o MCS e MRS. Barra de escala = 20 µm. **B.** Comparação gráfica de células SD e mREN durante um ciclo de contração-relaxamento. **C–D.** Cardiomiócitos SD e mREN mostram MCS e MRS semelhantes. **E–F.** Células mREN apresentam aumento no tempo de contração e relaxamento quando comparadas com SD. Para cada célula, analisamos um mínimo de 10 eventos (cada evento corresponde a um ciclo de contração-relaxamento) e os resultados representam a média desses eventos. Os resultados são expressos como médias ± SE de de 30 células de cada grupo experimental. \*  $p < 0,05$ ; \*\*  $p < 0,01$ ; \*\*\*  $p < 0,001$  e \*\*\*\*  $p < 0,0001$  em comparação com o controle.

## 5.5 VALIDAÇÃO DO CONTRACTIONWAVE NA CULTURA DE CARDIOMIÓCITOS NEONATAIS (NEONATAL-CM) E CARDIOMIÓCITOS HUMANOS DERIVADOS DE CÉLULAS TRONCO PLURIPOTENTES INDUZIDAS (HIPSC-CM)

Os cardiomiócitos em diferentes estágios de desenvolvimento apresentam diferenças funcionais e estruturais. Por meio do uso do CONTRACTIONWAVE, determinamos a velocidade média dos ciclos de contração e relaxamento em hiPSC-CMs (Figura 25 e 26) e neonatal-CMs (Figura 27 e 28) sob condições basais e após incubação com ISO e VERA. A Figura 25A mostra campos vetoriais que detectam todo o movimento do sincício de hiPSC-CMs, o que permite ao usuário extrair os traços de velocidade média de vários ciclos de contração-relaxamento (Figura 25B).

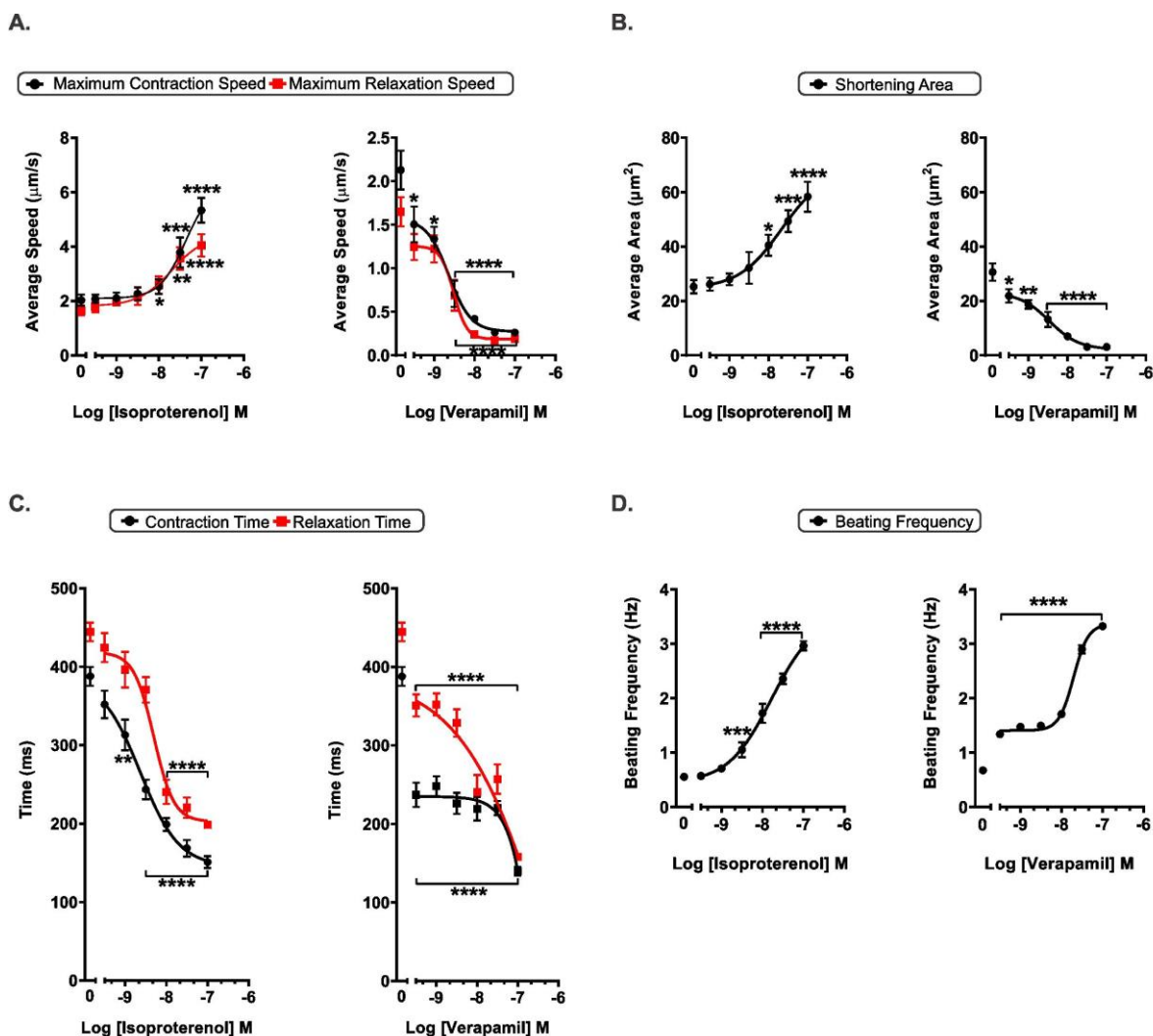
Para ter uma melhor visualização em um único ciclo de contração-relaxamento após o tratamento com ISO e VERA, o gráfico de cada onda específica foi plotado na Figura 25C.



**Figura 25: Detecção vetorial e gráfica dos efeitos do isoproterenol e verapamil na contratilidade de hiPSC-CMs obtidos pelo CONTRACTIONWAVE. A.** Velocidade máxima de contração e relaxamento de hiPSC-CM na detecção de escala de intensidade visual e numérica obtida de células tratadas com isoproterenol ( $100 \text{ nmol.L}^{-1}$ ) ou verapamil ( $100 \text{ nmol.L}^{-1}$ ). Barra de escala =  $50 \mu\text{m}$ . **B.** Detecção gráfica da velocidade média obtida frente aos tratamentos com isoproterenol ou verapamil. **C.** Comparação das alterações promovidas por ISO e VERA durante um ciclo de contração-relaxamento. MCS: velocidade máxima de contração; MRS: velocidade máxima de relaxamento.

Os efeitos do ISO e VERA em hiPSC-CMs também ocorreram de forma dependente da concentração e mostraram resultados opostos para os parâmetros dependentes da velocidade (Figura 26A) e área de encurtamento (Figura 26B), como seria de esperar para essas drogas. Conforme relatado anteriormente na literatura (HAYAKAWA et al., 2014), uma diminuição comparável nos tempos de

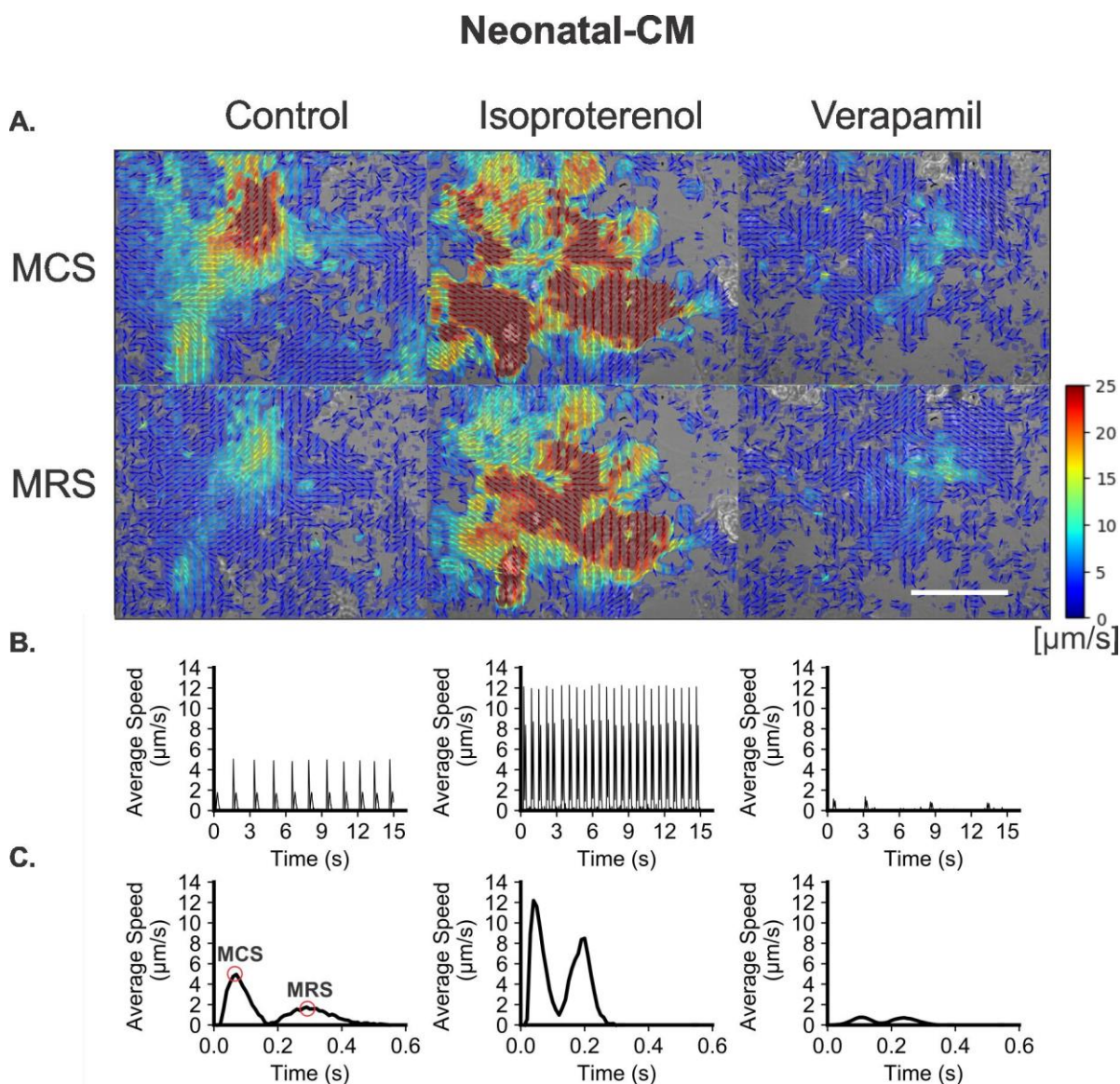
contração e relaxamento foi observada após o tratamento com ISO e VERA (Figura 26C). Além disso, ISO e VERA aumentaram a frequência de batimento de hiPSC-CMs (Figura 26D).



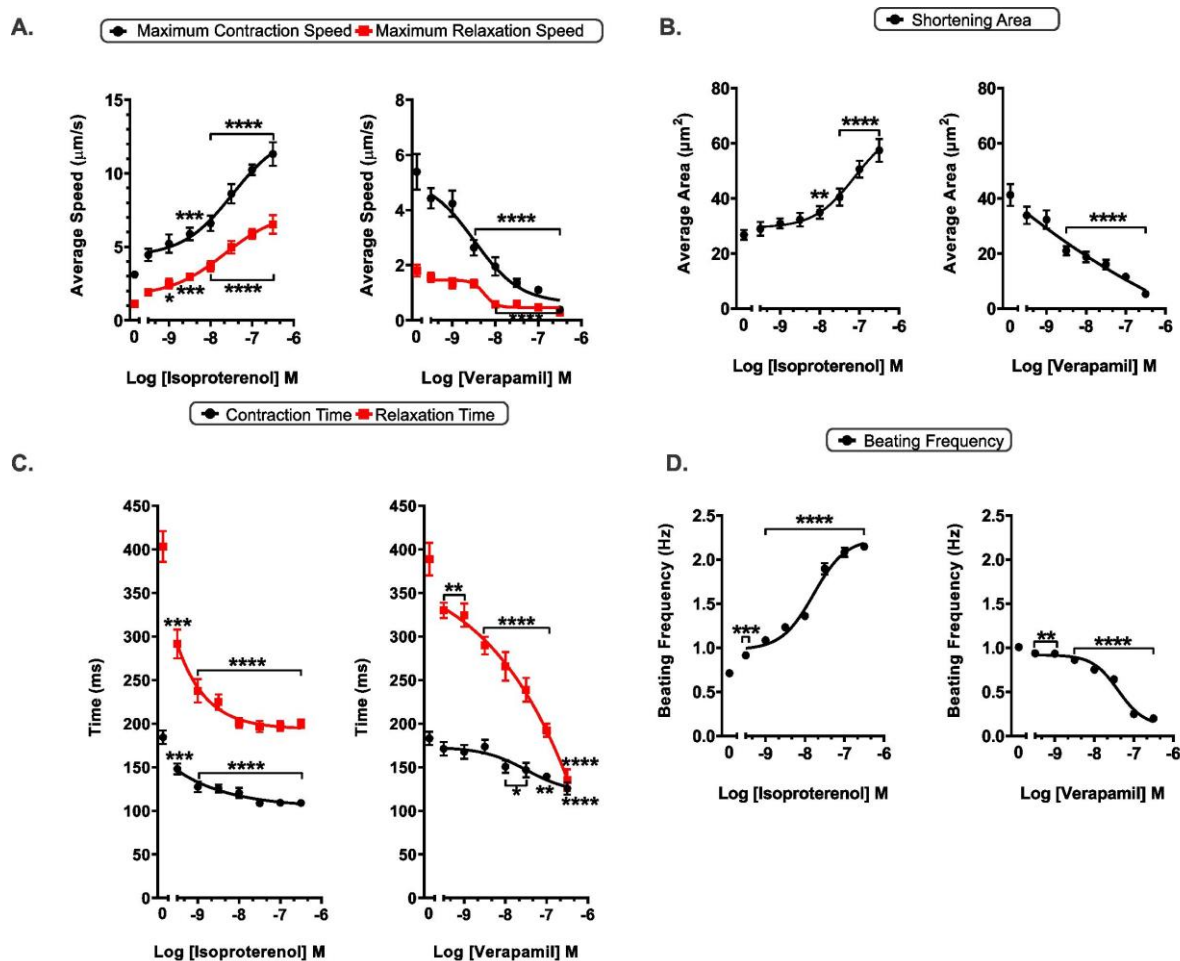
**Figura 26: Curva de concentração-resposta dos efeitos do isoproterenol e verapamil na contratilidade de hiPSC-CMs.** **A.** A curva de concentração-resposta da velocidade média foi obtida a partir dos efeitos dos tratamentos com isoproterenol ou verapamil em hiPSC-CMs. Os cardiomiócitos tratados com VERA apresentaram diminuição do MCS e do MRS. No entanto, o ISO induziu um aumento significativo nesses parâmetros. **B.** ISO e VERA induziram efeitos opostos na área de encurtamento dos cardiomiócitos. **C.** O tratamento agudo com ISO e VERA induziu uma diminuição significativa de todos os parâmetros de tempo em hiPSC-CMs. **D.** Os tratamentos com ISO e VERA induzem um aumento semelhante na taxa de contração celular da curva concentração-resposta. Para cada região celular, analisamos um mínimo de 10 eventos (cada evento corresponde a um ciclo de contração-relaxamento), e os resultados representam a média desses eventos na presença ou não de ISO e VERA. Os resultados são expressos como médias  $\pm$  SE de uma média de 20 regiões de células de cada grupo experimental. \*  $p < 0,05$ ; \*\*  $p < 0,01$ ; \*\*\*  $p < 0,001$  e \*\*\*\*  $p < 0,0001$  em comparação com o controle.

Da mesma forma, a Figura 27A mostra que o CONTRACTIONWAVE foi capaz de detectar de maneira eficiente a diferença da contratilidade celular de neonatal-CMs de grupos tratados com ISO e VERA, por meio da geração de vetores de movimento (Figura 27A-C). Como esperado para essas drogas, o tratamento com ISO induziu um aumento dos parâmetros dependentes da velocidade (Figura 28A) e na área de encurtamento dos cardiomiócitos (Figura 28B), em contrapartida, ocorreu uma diminuição nas células tratadas com VERA. Além disso, a análise mostra que tanto ISO quanto VERA diminuem significativamente os tempos de contração e relaxamento dos neonatal-CMs, respectivamente, de maneira dependente da concentração (Figura 28C). Resultados opostos de ISO e VERA também foram observados quando a frequência de batimento de neonatal-CMs foi analisada (Figura 28D). Os parâmetros de contração para hiPSC-CM e neonatal-CM após tratamento com diferentes concentrações dos fármacos são apresentados nas Tabelas S3 e S4 (Apêndice A), respectivamente.





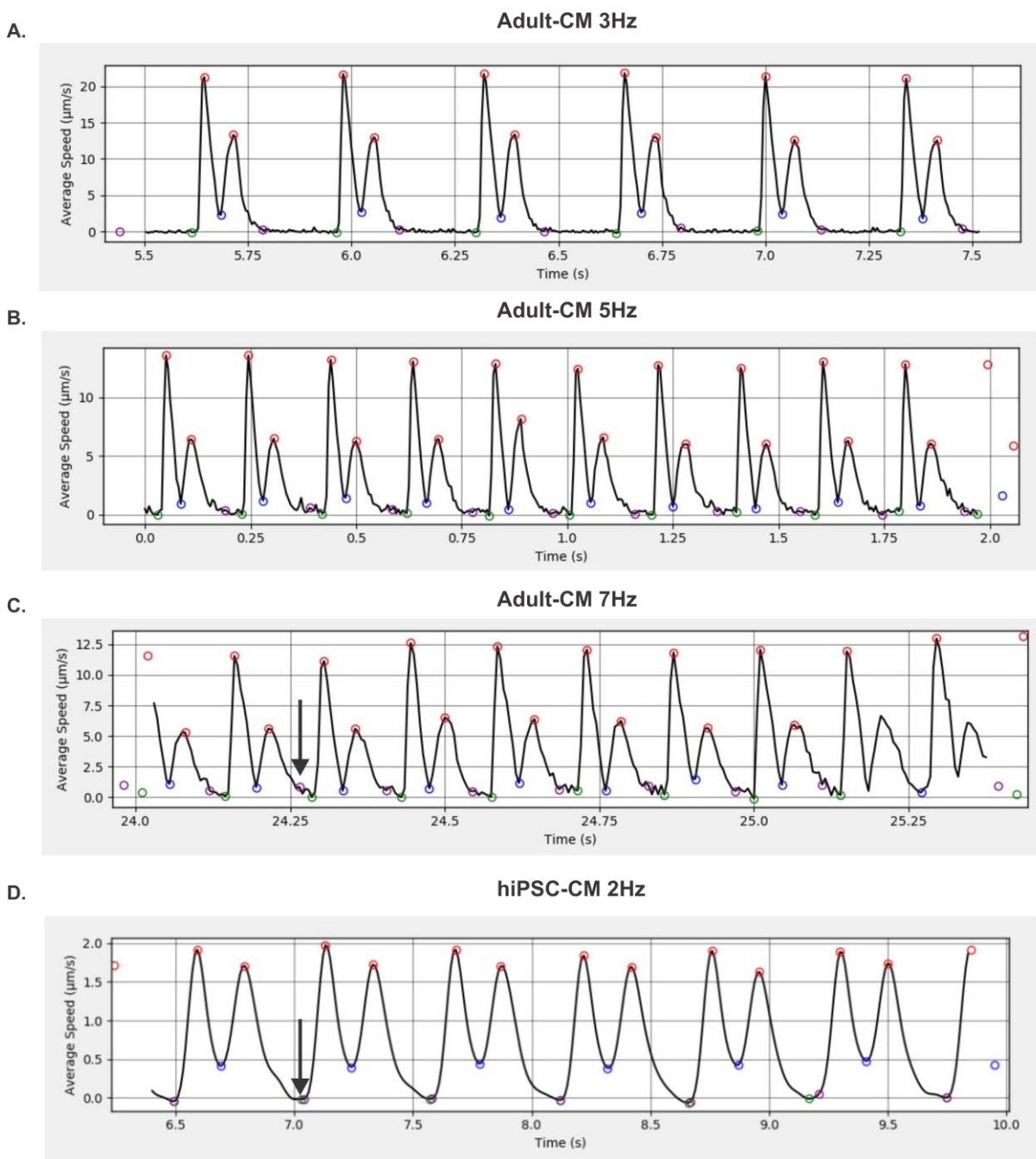
**Figura 27: Detecção vetorial e gráfica dos efeitos de isoproterenol e verapamil na contratilidade de neonatal-CMs obtidos pelo CONTRACTIONWAVE. A.** Velocidade de deslocamento de células neonatal-CM na detecção de escala de intensidade visual e numérica durante um ciclo de contração-relaxamento obtido em resposta aos tratamentos com isoproterenol ( $100 \text{ nmol L}^{-1}$ ) ou verapamil ( $100 \text{ nmol L}^{-1}$ ). Barra de escala =  $50 \mu\text{m}$ . **B.** Detecção gráfica das modificações de velocidade média registradas a partir de neonatal-CMs tratados com isoproterenol ou verapamil. **C.** Comparação das alterações induzidas por drogas na velocidade máxima durante um ciclo de contração-relaxamento.



**Figura 28: Curva de concentração-resposta dos efeitos do isoproterenol e verapamil na contratilidade de neonatal-CMs.** **A.** As células tratadas com VERA apresentaram diminuição de MCS e MRS, enquanto ISO induziu aumento significativo desses parâmetros. **B.** Da mesma forma, ISO e VERA induziram efeitos opostos na área de encurtamento. **C.** O tratamento agudo com ISO e VERA induziu uma diminuição significativa dos parâmetros de tempo de contração e relaxamento em neonatal-CMs. **D.** Ambos os tratamentos mostram efeitos opostos nas curvas concentração-resposta da frequência de contração. Para cada região celular, analisamos um mínimo de 10 eventos (cada evento corresponde ao ciclo de contração-relaxamento) e os resultados representam a média desses eventos na presença ou não de ISO e VERA. Os resultados são expressos como médias  $\pm$  SE de uma média de 20 regiões de células de cada grupo experimental. \*  $p < 0,05$ ; \*\*  $p < 0,01$ ; \*\*\*  $p < 0,001$  e \*\*\*\*  $p < 0,0001$  em comparação com o controle.

Também avaliamos a capacidade do algoritmo de detectar o pico correto em cada fase do ciclo de contração em resposta a diferentes frequências de estimulação, 3 Hz, 5 Hz e 7 Hz (Figura 29). Para as células estimuladas a 3 Hz (painel A), o software foi capaz de detectar as ondas através dos cinco pontos (veja os círculos nos gráficos). O final da contração-relaxamento é caracterizado pelo quinto ponto (círculo roxo) e será fundamental para detectar todo o ciclo. À medida que aumentamos a taxa para 5 Hz (painel B) e 7 Hz (painel C - abaixo), os intervalos entre as ondas não foram mais detectados facilmente, pois o último ponto de um

ciclo de contração-relaxamento geralmente está muito próximo do primeiro ponto do ciclo subsequente (veja a seta no painel C). Porém, mesmo nessa condição, o software ainda foi capaz de detectar corretamente todas as ondas.



**Figura 29: CONTRACTIONWAVE é capaz de detectar corretamente cada fase do ciclo de contração em células estimuladas em diferentes frequências. A-C.** Adulto-CMs foram estimulados em diferentes frequências. Em todas as condições o algoritmo foi capaz de detectar os cinco pontos principais para a identificação dos parâmetros de contratilidade. **D.** Frequência de 2Hz obtida por hiPSC-CM e a identificação correta do início até o fim do ciclo de contração-relaxamento.

Em conjunto os dados apresentados na Figura 29 mostram que mesmo quando não existe um grande intervalo de tempo entre contrações, como em células estimuladas em alta frequência, CONTRACTIONWAVE ainda pode detectar os cinco pontos que descrevem todo o ciclo de contração-relaxamento, podendo adquirir as ondas de contração de maneira adequada e confiável. É importante ressaltar que essa dificuldade em distinguir entre o final de um ciclo e o início do seguinte pode ocorrer mesmo em frequências mais baixas, como apresentado na Figura 29 painel D, em amostras de células hiPSC-CM (veja a seta no painel D abaixo). No entanto, mesmo nesta condição todas as ondas foram detectadas pelo programa.

Para resumir nossos achados, a Tabela S5 (Apêndice A) fornece uma comparação da variação máxima das velocidades de contração e relaxamento e dos parâmetros da área de encurtamento entre adulto-CMs, neonatal-CMs e hiPSC-CMs em resposta ao ISO ou VERA. Conforme mostrado na Tabela S5 (Apêndice A), hiPSC-CMs mostraram uma resposta mais fraca frente ao ISO em termos de alteração máxima da velocidade de contração e relaxamento quando comparados aos adultos-CMs e neonatal-CMs. Este achado inclusive mostra uma maior sensibilidade da resposta  $\beta$ -adrenérgica em células neonatais quando comparadas com hiPSC-CMs e aponta para uma diferença na maturidade entre esses dois tipos de celulares. Apesar dos valores de alteração de resposta máxima similares entre adulto-CMs e neonatal-CMs, os primeiros exibiram uma EC50 mais baixa (concentração que gera metade do efeito máximo), confirmando a maior sensibilidade dessas células ao ISO. Isto é consistente com o fato de que hiPSC-CMs e neonatal-CMs apresentam sinalização adrenérgica imatura em comparação com adulto-CMs (JUNG et al., 2016; SLOTKIN; LAPPI; SEIDLER, 1995).

No entanto, tanto os neonatal-CM como os hiPSC-CM mostraram uma resposta muito mais forte ao VERA em comparação com adulto-CMs, com efeitos de contração inibitórios mais pronunciados observados nas células neonatais. Da mesma forma, os neonatal-CM e os hiPSC-CM mostraram uma redução da metade da concentração inibitória máxima (IC50) para VERA para a velocidade máxima de contração, em comparação com os adulto-CM.

## 5.6 CONFIGURAÇÕES DO MICROSCÓPIO E CÂMERA PARA COLETA DE IMAGENS DE DIFERENTES TIPOS CELULARES

CONTRACTIONWAVE possui a capacidade de processar diferentes tipos de imagens (ver seção 4.2 do Manual do Usuário fornecido como Apêndice B), com diferentes qualidades, e mesmo assim gerar bons resultados. Contudo, a configuração do sistema de aquisição pode influenciar diretamente a qualidade da análise de dados e conseqüentemente os resultados obtidos. Para obter imagens de alta qualidade, é importante certificar-se de que não haja poeira ou sujeira aparecendo na imagem capturada, pois isso pode afetar substancialmente a análise da contratilidade. Desta forma, a sujeira no sistema óptico ou na lente da câmera precisa ser removida.

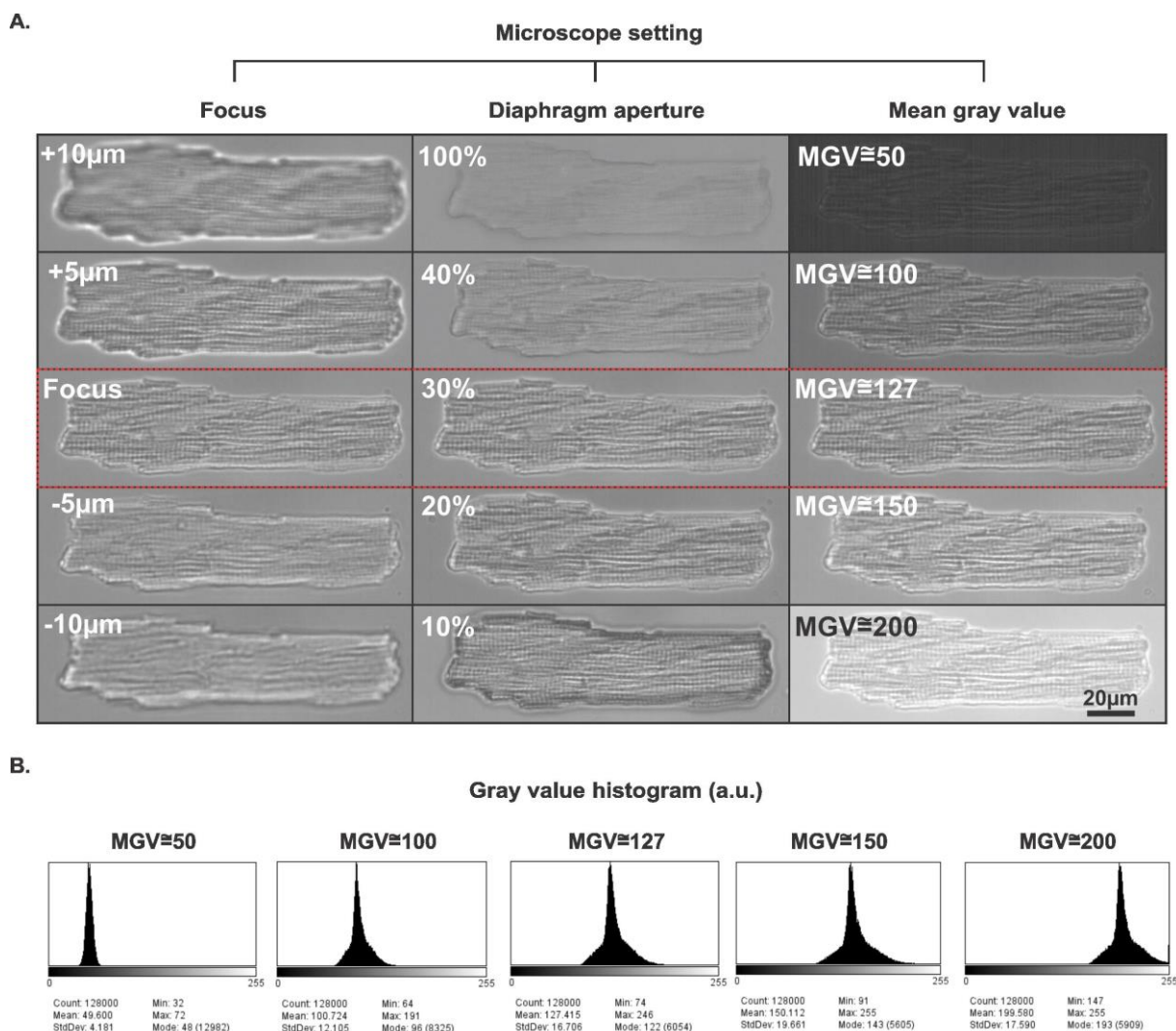
As configurações do microscópio e da câmera são muito importantes para a obtenção de dados robustos e confiáveis por meio do software CONTRACTIONWAVE. Tendo isso em mente, realizamos experimentos a fim de padronizarmos as melhores configurações do microscópio e câmera, para obter dados de contratilidade celular de alta qualidade a partir dos diferentes tipos celulares.

Primeiramente, foi realizado o ajuste do foco da objetiva do microscópio até que a borda da célula esteja delimitada, nítida e sem qualquer efeito óptico, apresentando um mínimo de brilho na borda (veja Focus nas Figuras 30, 31 e 32). Para adulto-CMs, o melhor foco encontra-se no melhor contraste para visualização do sarcômero, que é obtido quando a maior parte da linha longitudinal tem variação de branco e preto, fornecendo assim uma visualização clara das estriações do sarcômero (ver Foco na Figura 30). Em células de neonatal-CM ou hiPSC-CM, o núcleo e as vesículas intracelulares foram usados como referência para encontrar o melhor foco. Vesículas bem focalizadas geralmente terão seu interior preto, e ambos, vesículas e núcleos, devem apresentar uma borda bem definida (veja Foco na Figura 31 e 32).

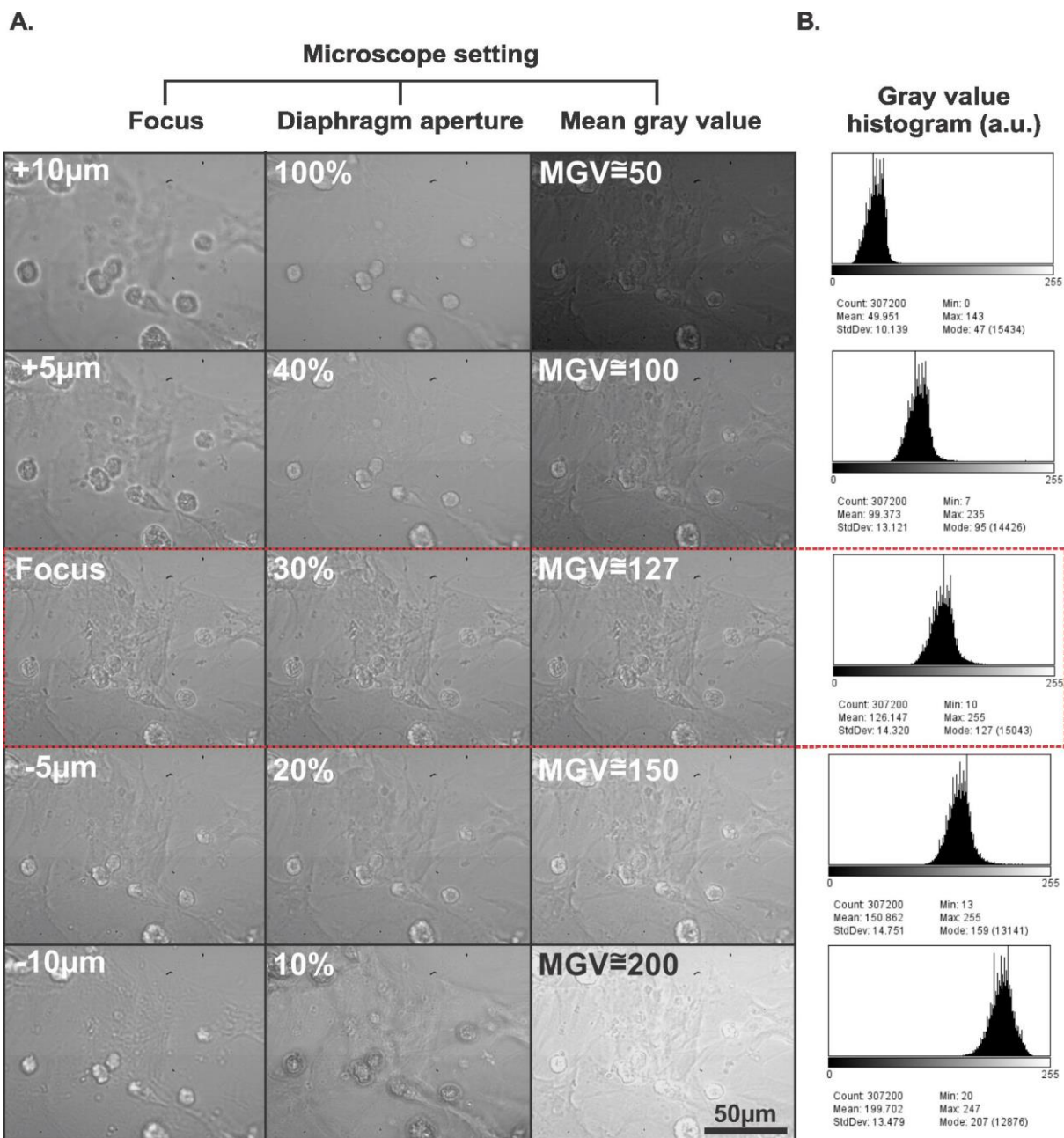
A configuração da abertura do diafragma é essencial para obter um melhor contraste de imagem e conseqüentemente a contratilidade celular. Um diafragma totalmente aberto resulta em uma imagem celular com baixo contraste e pouca delimitação da borda celular (ver painel Diafragma aperture 100% nas Figuras 30, 31

e 32). A partir do fechamento do diafragma, as limitações da borda celular e do núcleo começam a aparecer (ver painel Diafragma aperture nas Figuras 30, 31 e 32). Para adultos-CMs, um bom contraste geralmente foi obtido com o diafragma 20% -30% aberto (ver Diafragma 30% Figura 30), e para neonatal-CM ou hiPSC-CM, 30% (ver Diafragma 30% Figuras 31 e 32)

Para aquisição e análise de imagens robustas, o microscópio e a câmera devem fornecer uma iluminação uniforme, contraste razoável e delimitação clara do limite celular. Em uma iluminação ideal, a imagem da célula deve se apresentar brilhante, sem reflexos e dispersa uniformemente no campo de visão. A intensidade dessa iluminação se correlaciona com o valor do nível de cinza médio (MGV) da imagem. Normalmente, uma imagem de 8 bits é suficiente para adquirir os parâmetros de contratilidade celular. Esse tipo de imagem tem uma faixa de valores de 0-255 de níveis de cinza do pixel, e a intensidade de iluminação ideal será a média dessa faixa, deixando uma margem de erro para garantir que nenhum pixel fique abaixo da sensibilidade da câmera ou acima da saturação. Assim, a melhor abordagem foi ajustar as configurações de iluminação e câmera para definir o fundo próximo a 127, que é a metade desse intervalo. Este procedimento foi realizado usando um histograma do nível de cinza gerado pelo programa ImageJ (Figuras 30B, 31B e 32B).



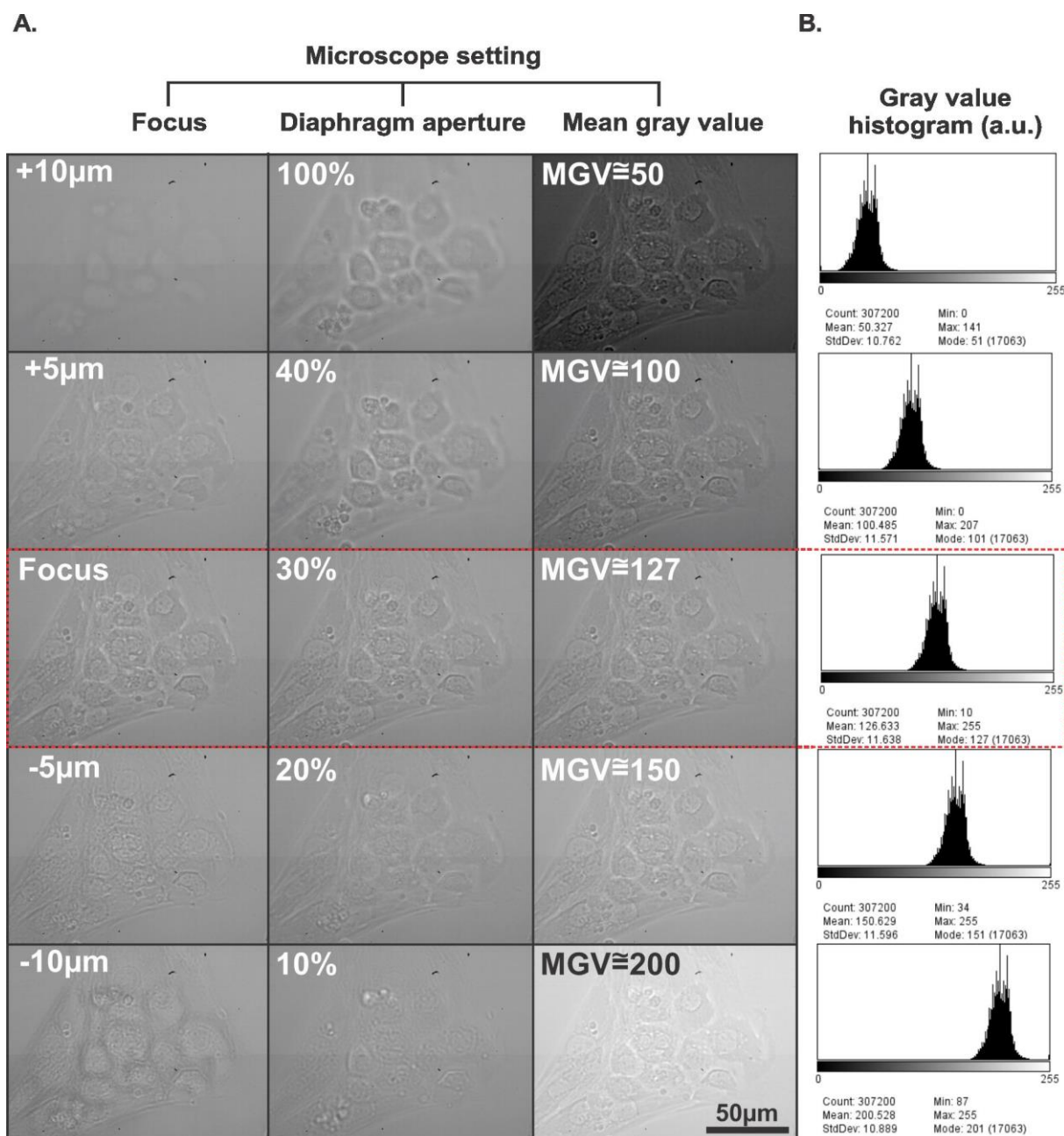
**Figura 30: Configurações ideais do microscópio de campo claro para adultos-CMs. A.** Foco: as células fora de foco apresentam um halo brilhante ao redor da borda da célula e baixa resolução das estruturas intracelulares. O foco geralmente é obtido através da minimização do brilho da borda e melhor nitidez das estruturas intracelulares. Diafragma: mudanças no diafragma alteram drasticamente a visualização das células. Um diafragma totalmente aberto (100%) resulta em baixo contraste, enquanto um diafragma fechado (10%) produz contraste suficiente, mas uma imagem totalmente escura. Nível de cinza médio (MGV): As configurações de iluminação e câmera devem ser ajustadas de forma que a média do histograma do nível de cinza da imagem seja centralizado na metade do máximo da faixa de cinza (127 para uma imagem de 8 bits), e sem intensidades de pixel próximas de zero ou da saturação. As configurações ideais são destacadas no retângulo vermelho. **B.** Histograma do nível de cinza adquirido pelo software ImageJ para cada condição apresentada em A.



**Figura 31: Configurações ideais do microscópio de campo claro para neonatal-CMs.**

**A.** Foco: as células fora de foco apresentam um halo brilhante ao redor da borda da célula e baixa resolução das estruturas intracelulares. O foco geralmente é obtido através da minimização do brilho da borda e melhor nitidez das estruturas intracelulares. Diafragma: mudanças no diafragma alteram drasticamente a visualização das células. Um diafragma totalmente aberto (100%) resulta em baixo contraste, enquanto um diafragma fechado (10%) produz contraste suficiente, mas uma imagem totalmente escura. Nível de cinza médio (MGV): As configurações de iluminação e câmera devem ser ajustadas de forma que a média do histograma do nível de cinza da imagem seja centralizado na metade do máximo da faixa de cinza (127 para uma imagem de 8 bits), e sem intensidades de pixel próximas de zero ou da saturação. As configurações ideais são destacadas no retângulo vermelho. **B.** Histograma do nível de cinza adquirido pelo software ImageJ para cada condição apresentada em A.





**Figura 32: Configurações ideais do microscópio de campo claro para hiPSC-CMs A.** Foco: as células fora de foco apresentam um halo brilhante ao redor da borda da célula e baixa resolução das estruturas intracelulares. O foco geralmente é obtido através da minimização do brilho da borda e melhor nitidez das estruturas intracelulares. Diafragma: mudanças no diafragma alteram drasticamente a visualização das células. Um diafragma totalmente aberto (100%) resulta em baixo contraste, enquanto um diafragma fechado (10%) produz contraste suficiente, mas uma imagem totalmente escura. Nível de cinza médio (MGV): As configurações de iluminação e câmera devem ser ajustadas de forma que a média do histograma do nível de cinza da imagem seja centralizado na metade do máximo da faixa de cinza (127 para uma imagem de 8 bits), e sem intensidades de pixel próximas de zero ou da saturação. As configurações ideais são destacadas no retângulo tracejado vermelho. **B.** Histograma do nível de cinza adquirido pelo software ImageJ para cada condição apresentada em A.

### 5.6.1 Resultados esperados com diferentes configurações de microscópio e câmera

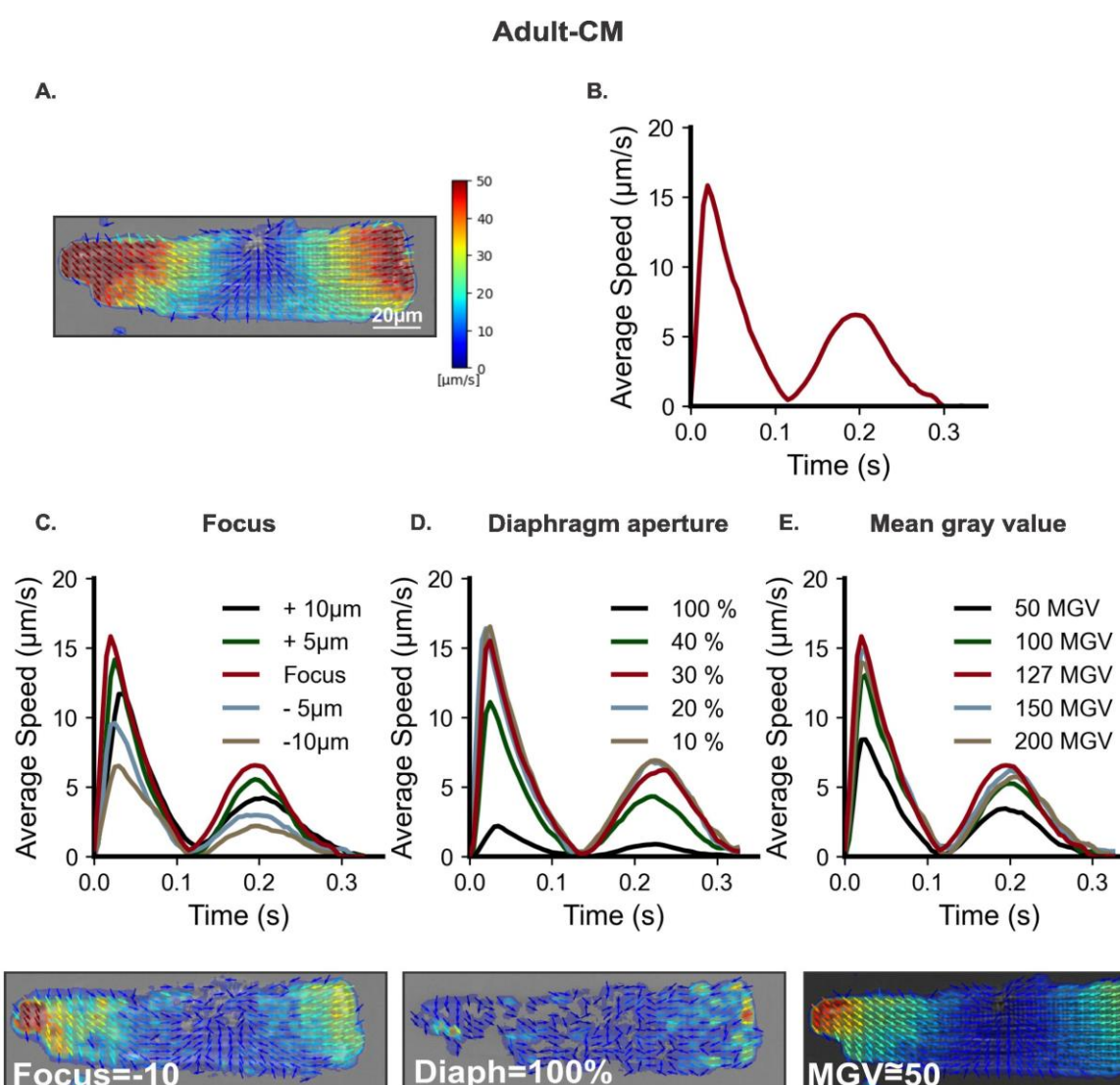
Em uma aquisição bem-sucedida da contratilidade celular, CONTRACTIONWAVE detecta corretamente o ciclo de contração-relaxamento através do fluxo óptico denso e exibe a magnitude e o campo vetorial do movimento da membrana (Figura 33A, 34A e 35A), com seus respectivos gráficos (Figura 33B, 34B e 35B). A fim de demonstrar como as configurações do microscópio podem influenciar a aquisição de dados, os gráficos de contração-relaxamento foram adquiridos e analisados para diferentes configurações (Figura 33C-E, 34C-E e 35C-E) e comparados com a melhor configuração (Figura 33A-B, 34A-B e 35A-B).

Todos os três parâmetros analisados (foco, diafragma e MGV) influenciaram a velocidade de contração-relaxamento nos três tipos celulares (Figura 33, 34 e 35). É interessante notar que a onda de contratilidade das células cardíacas é influenciada pelo foco. No exemplo mostrado nas figuras 33C e 34C, a velocidade de contração-relaxamento é alterada quando o foco está abaixo de  $-5\ \mu\text{m}$  para adulto-CM e acima de  $+10\ \mu\text{m}$  para neonatal-CM em comparação com a imagem focada. Para hiPSC-CM, a velocidade de contração-relaxamento é amplamente influenciada pela mudança no foco (Figura 35C), em parte devido ao menor contraste e espessura celular. É importante ressaltar que o valor do foco ideal precisa ser ajustado para cada célula.

Nosso resultado mostra que a configuração do diafragma é uma das etapas essenciais para adquirir imagens de alta qualidade e detectar a contratilidade celular. Com valores de diafragma aberto maiores que 40%, o contraste celular não é obtido de forma adequada, influenciando significativamente as ondas de contração-relaxamento (Figura 33D, 34D e 35D). É importante ressaltar que as células hiPSC-CM são as mais influenciadas por este tipo de configuração, uma vez que valores maiores que 40% não detectarão nenhum movimento coordenado para gerar uma onda típica e muitas vezes fornecerão apenas um ruído (Figura 35D).

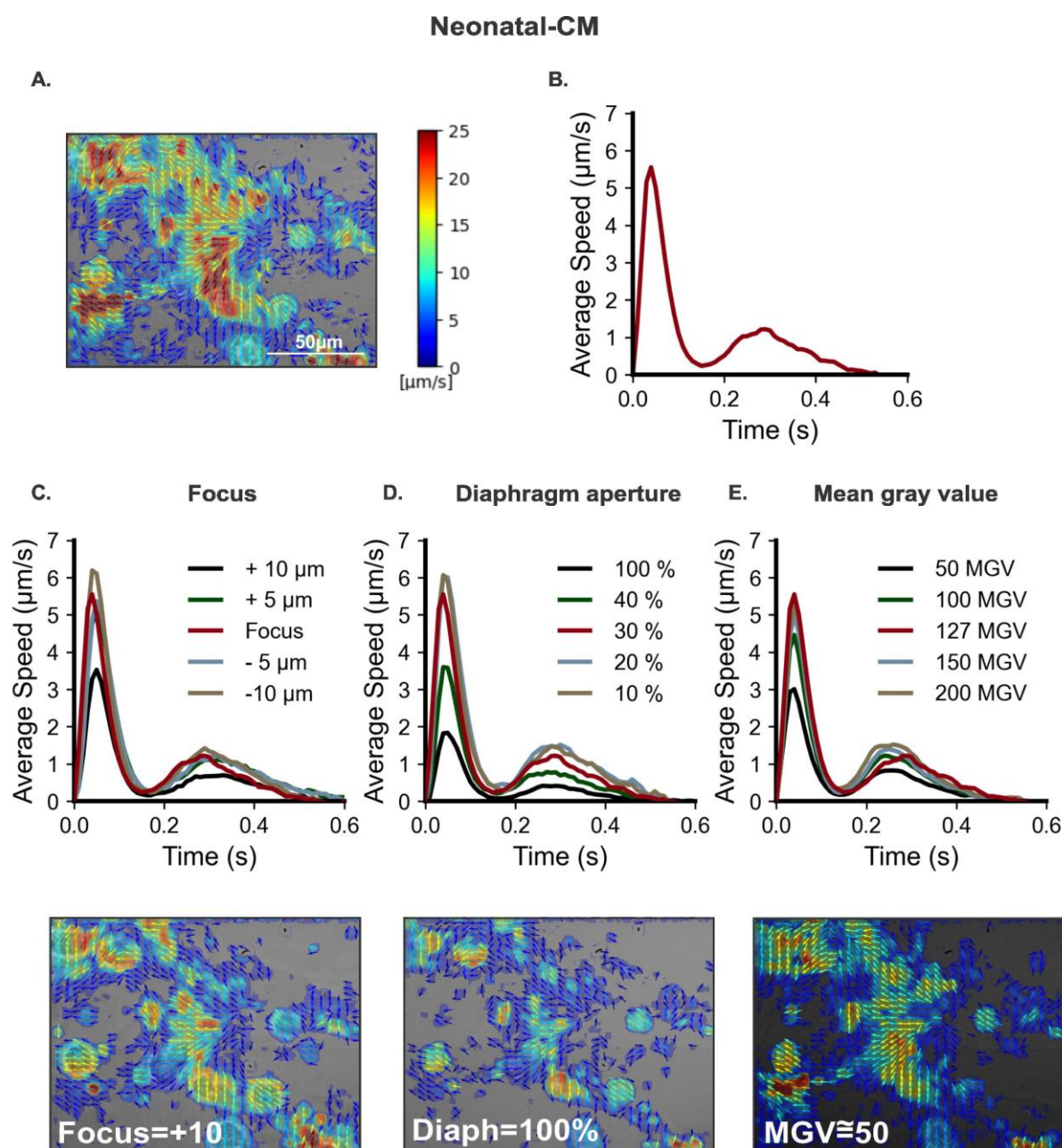
Valores inferiores a 50 MGV mostram diminuição da velocidade de contração-relaxamento (Figura 33E, 34E e 35E). Isto provavelmente se deve ao fato de que a câmera perde informações quando valores de níveis de cinza são menores. Portanto, para uma imagem de 8 bits, o MGV deve ser ajustado no meio da faixa

dinâmica da câmera, próximo a 127. Assim, essa influência de luminosidade está diretamente relacionada ao tipo de câmera utilizada para a aquisição da imagem, uma vez que o algoritmo do CONTRACTIONWAVE não é influenciado significativamente pela variação da iluminação. Portanto, para a análise de dados usando CONTRACTIONWAVE, o brilho não afetará significativamente os resultados de contração-relaxamento. Em conclusão, todos os parâmetros mencionados influenciam na velocidade final de contração-relaxamento, pelo fato de proporcionarem uma variação na sensibilidade de detecção dos vetores de magnitude e movimento da membrana celular.

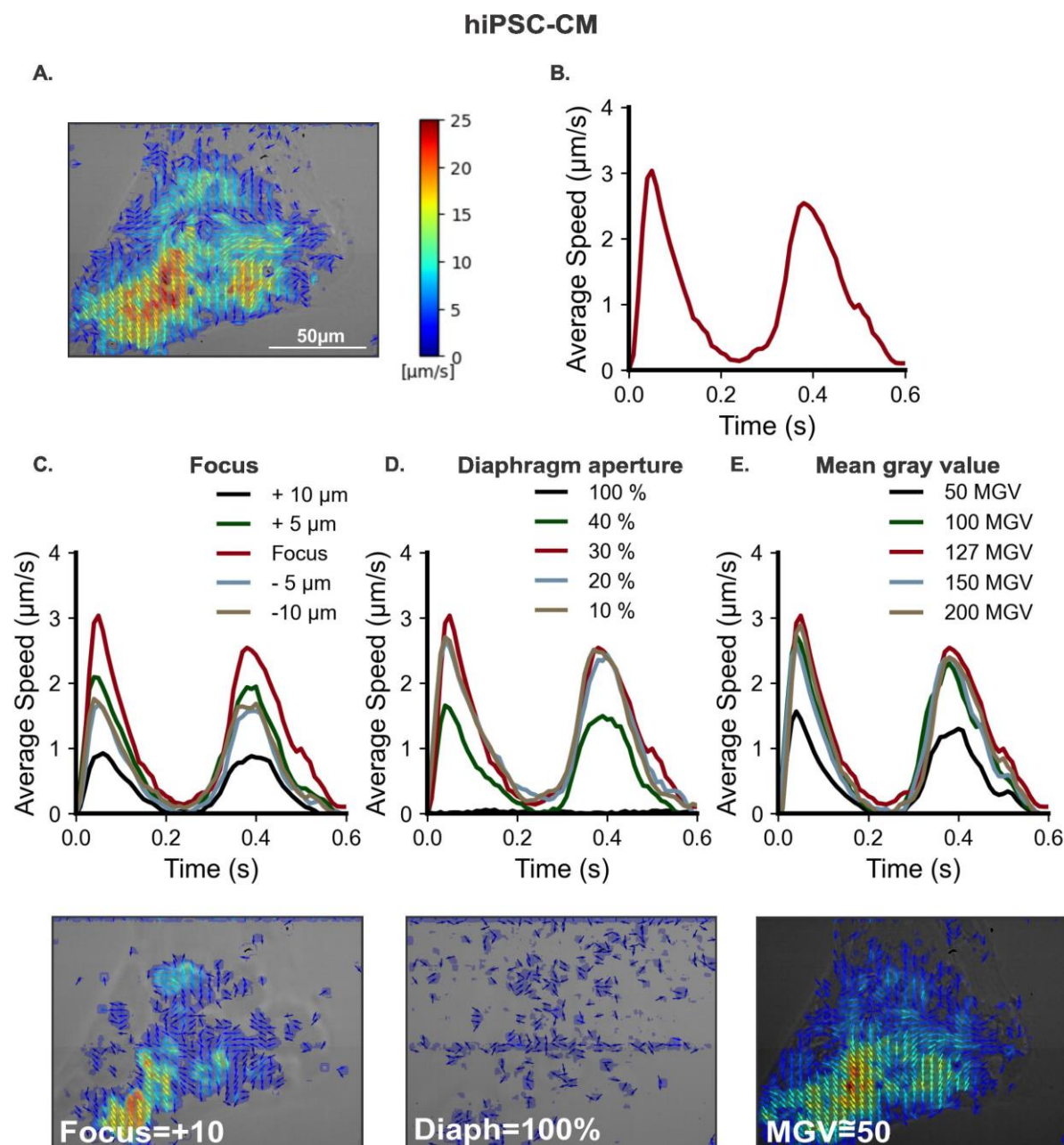


**Figura 33: Variações nos parâmetros de configuração experimental para aquisição de imagem de adulto-CM podem impactar a aquisição de dados de contração-relaxamento. A.** Imagem representativa de magnitude e campo vetorial a partir da velocidade máxima de contração. **B.** o respectivo ciclo de contração-relaxamento celular processado por CONTRACTIONWAVE usando os parâmetros de aquisição ideais (Célula em foco; Diafragma = 30% e MGV = 127). Configurações subótimas do microscópio, como

foco ruim (C), abertura inadequada do diafragma (D) ou baixo MGV (E) têm impacto significativo na velocidade de contração-relaxamento.



**Figura 34: Variações nos parâmetros de configuração experimental para aquisição de imagem de CM neonatal podem impactar a aquisição de dados de contração-relaxamento.** A. Imagem representativa de magnitude e campo vetorial a partir da velocidade máxima de contração B. o respectivo ciclo de contração-relaxamento celular processado por CONTRACTIONWAVE usando os parâmetros de aquisição ideais (Célula em foco; Diafragma = 30% aberto e MGV = 127). Configurações subótimas do microscópio, como foco deficiente (C), abertura inadequada do diafragma (D) ou baixo MGV (E) têm impacto significativo na velocidade de contração-relaxamento.

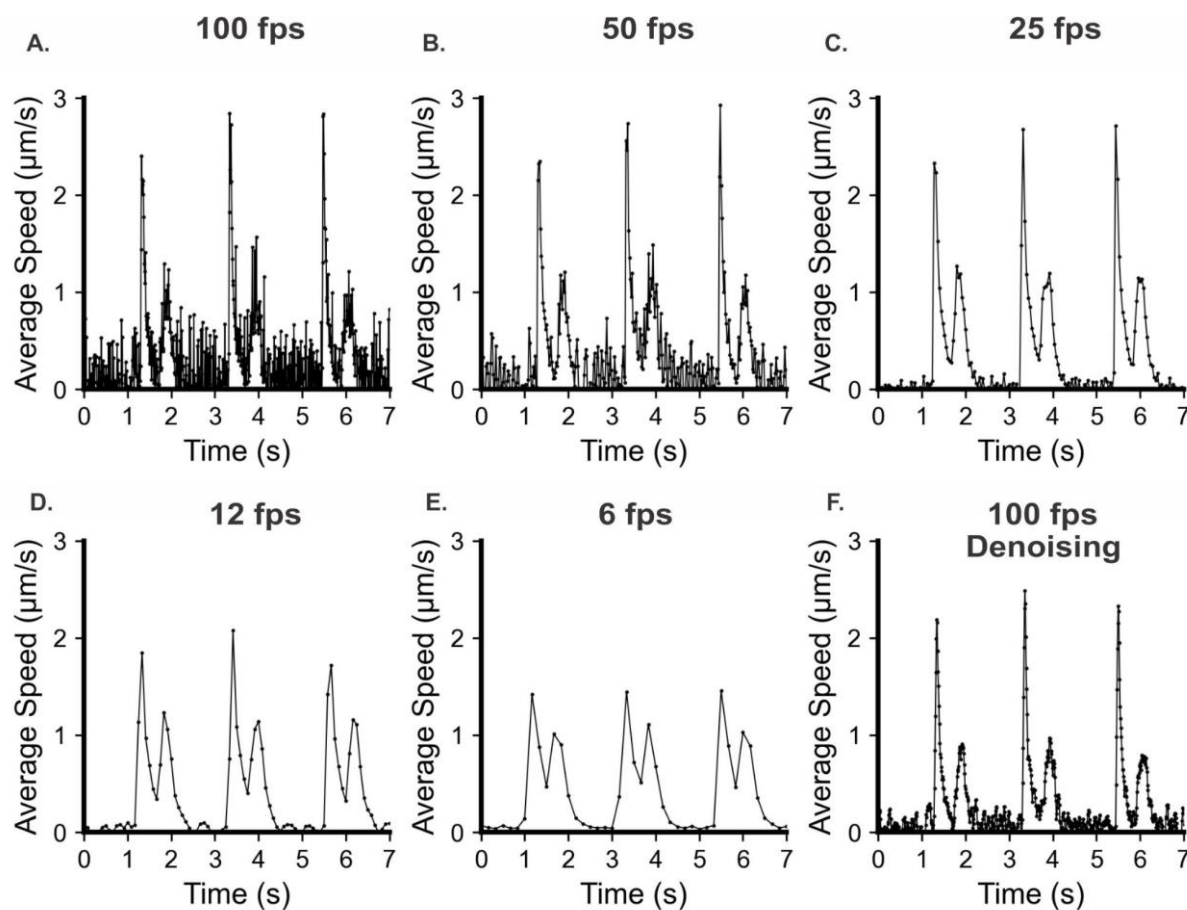


**Figura 35: Variações nos parâmetros de configuração experimental para aquisição de imagem de hiPSC-CM podem impactar a aquisição de dados de contração-relaxamento.** **A.** Imagem representativa de magnitude e campo vetorial a partir da velocidade máxima de contração. **B.** o respectivo ciclo de contração-relaxamento celular processado por CONTRACTIONWAVE usando os parâmetros de aquisição ideais (Cell on Focus; Diafragma = 30% aberto e MGV = 127). Configurações subótimas do microscópio, como foco ruim (**C**), abertura inadequada do diafragma (**D**) ou baixo MGV (**E**) têm impacto significativo na velocidade de contração-relaxamento.

### 5.6.2 Influência da taxa de captura nos resultados de contratilidade

A taxa de captura da imagem pode influenciar na qualidade do sinal da onda de contração, podendo gerar um ruído no resultado final. Essencialmente, quanto maior a taxa de captura, menor será o movimento adquirido para cada pixel entre duas imagens. Uma célula que possui uma pequena área de contração com baixa velocidade, pode resultar em um cálculo de velocidade média próxima ao limite de detecção, aumentando a quantidade de ruído capturado. Portanto, ajustes na taxa de captura devem ser feitos para minimizar este efeito.

Reduzir a taxa de captura para um valor ideal pode reduzir significativamente o ruído com pouco ou nenhum impacto nos parâmetros da onda de contração-relaxamento (MCS e MRS). Nossos experimentos demonstram que hiPSC-CMs possuem uma velocidade média baixa ( $<10 \mu\text{m} / \text{s}$ ) e a captura de imagens da célula realizada a 100 fps proporciona dados ruidosos e difíceis de analisar (Figura 36A). Simplesmente diminuindo a taxa de captura da câmera, o ruído diminui gradualmente, enquanto os parâmetros de velocidade de contratilidade são mantidos (Figura 36B-C). É importante ressaltar que uma diminuição excessiva da taxa de captura pode impactar diretamente os parâmetros MCS e MCS (Figura 36D-E). Portanto, uma análise de calibração cuidadosa deve ser feita a fim de identificar o valor de taxa de captura ideal para cada tipo celular. Nesse sentido, CONTRACTIONWAVE fornece filtros para a eliminação do ruído, e portanto proporcionando uma melhor qualidade para obtenção dos parâmetros de contratilidade (Figura 36F).



**Figura 36: Reduzindo o ruído, ajustando a taxa de captura e usando filtros. A. e B.** Os dados de contração-relaxamento adquiridos a 100 e 50 fps mostram um alto conteúdo de ruído que pode contribuir para erros na análise de dados. **C.** Os dados de contração-relaxamento adquiridos a 25 fps mostram um equilíbrio ideal entre a minimização de ruído e a integridade dos dados de contração-relaxamento. **D. e E.** Os dados de contração-relaxamento adquiridos a 12 e 6 fps mostram reduções significativas no ruído do sinal, mas afetam significativamente os valores de MRS e MCS. **F.** Os dados de contração-relaxamento adquiridos a 100 fps e analisados usando o filtro de eliminação de ruído fornecido por CONTRACTIONWAVE mostram reduções significativas no ruído do sinal, não comprometendo os valores de MRS e MCS.

## 5.7 LIMITAÇÕES DO CONTRACTIONWAVE

O CONTRACTIONWAVE usa o método de fluxo óptico que possui alguns valores arbitrários como premissas de processamento, o que pode impor algumas limitações à análise de dados. Para contornar esse problema potencial, fornecemos um padrão de configuração ótimo para cada célula, permitindo medições calibradas da velocidade de contratilidade ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ ) que podem ser usadas na maioria dos experimentos celulares. Uma limitação inerente a todos os métodos de fluxo óptico é que ele captura a velocidade de deslocamento na imagem. Esses valores refletem tanto movimentos aleatórios, correspondendo ao ruído do plano de fundo, quanto

movimentos adicionais associados à contração e relaxamento. Embora o valor quadrático médio feito pelo CONTRACTIONWAVE, após o processamento do fluxo óptico denso, não reflita diretamente a contração do músculo cardíaco, este representa todos os deslocamentos celulares associados à contração e ao relaxamento. E ainda se correlaciona com a velocidade de encurtamento em diferentes estágios celulares sob diferentes condições experimentais.

## 6. DISCUSSÃO

A aquisição da contratilidade celular é um procedimento comum na cardiologia celular e molecular básica e aplicada. Medidas exatas, precisas e reproduzíveis da contratilidade celular são dificultadas por vários fatores. Estes incluem: i) A maioria das ferramentas de software atuais não são capazes de processar imagens de “big data”, devido ao grande tamanho de arquivos de imagem de série temporal e alta resolução, ii) a falta, na maioria dos sistemas disponíveis atualmente, de medidas calibradas de velocidade da contratilidade em vez de simplesmente medições relativas expressas como unidades arbitrárias, iii) a ausência de um pacote computacional unificado com uma interface simples e que permita ajustes flexíveis para uma melhor aquisição dos parâmetros de contratilidade, iv) o software ser pago e por fim destacamos v) que muitas vezes há uma necessidade do usuário possuir a habilidade de linguagem de programação avançada.

Visando superar essas limitações, desenvolvemos o CONTRACTIONWAVE, um software de acesso aberto, que fornece i) algoritmos de alto desempenho que processam automaticamente grandes arquivos de imagens de dados de forma rápida e precisa, ii) uma orientação vetorial qualitativa e medidas calibradas de velocidade de contratilidade ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ ), usando o algoritmo de fluxo óptico denso, que pode extrair o movimento para todos os pixels da imagem, proporcionando melhor precisão e sensibilidade nos resultados de contratilidade, iii) interface amigável (construída usando um kit de ferramentas GUI) que combina em uma plataforma única um método para adquirir, visualizar, analisar e quantificar os parâmetros de contratilidade, incluindo uma exibição visual para monitorar a imagem da célula e os resultados gráficos simultaneamente. CONTRACTIONWAVE foi construído em linguagem de programação Python, que é uma das maiores comunidades



colaborativas, permitindo assim, melhorias e incrementos ao programa ao longo do tempo.

A versão atual do programa também tem alta capacidade de processamento e flexibilidade, fornecendo uma solução exigida por laboratórios e empresas de biotecnologia envolvidas na triagem de drogas e modelagem de doenças cardíacas por meio de cardiomiócitos derivados de iPSC humanas. O desenvolvimento do CONTRACTIONWAVE surgiu de uma colaboração multidisciplinar entre os grupos de Fisiologia Cardíaca, Física e Bioinformática da UFMG, proporcionando uma construção robusta para os fins de aquisição da contratilidade celular.

Uma vantagem da metodologia utilizada, é que não requer um filtro gaussiano para acessar o deslocamento celular, e ainda, a análise é menos sensível às condições de iluminação em comparação com o princípio da intensidade do pixel que são utilizados por outras metodologias (HOSSAIN et al., 2010; SALA et al., 2018), o que pode influenciar os parâmetros de amplitude.

Um diferencial do CONTRACTIONWAVE em relação a outros programas disponíveis começa na forma como os dados podem ser obtidos, pois o programa permite que uma grande quantidade de dados seja processada de uma só vez através da janela de multiprocessamento. Este recurso permite ao usuário processar vídeos simultaneamente, alocando os processos em diferentes threads que são executados em paralelo, melhorando o desempenho ao analisar múltiplos conjuntos de dados pelo fator N-1 onde N é o número de núcleos de CPU disponíveis. Além disso, algoritmos de alto desempenho foram criados para acessar o gráfico de contratilidade, permitindo ao usuário processar automaticamente, bem como fazer ajustes finos e importantes que proporcionam maior confiança na aquisição dos parâmetros de contratilidade.

Em relação à aquisição da contratilidade de miócitos cardíacos provenientes de murinos adultos, a metodologia mais utilizada extrai apenas o dado bruto da contratilidade da imagem por meio da detecção do movimento das bordas (IonWizard, Ionoptix, EUA), desprezando o restante da informação que pode ser obtida a partir da análise da célula inteira. Porém, o CONTRACTIONWAVE foi idealizado e desenvolvido para eliminar as limitações desse tipo de método de detecção e segmentação de bordas ópticas (DELBRIDGE; ROOS, 1997; REN; WOLD, 2001). É importante ressaltar que a análise de dados pelo

CONTRACTIONWAVE não exige que o usuário manipule a imagem, pois o software pode processar a imagem inteira conforme ela é gerada pelo experimento, sem a necessidade de alinhamento e rotação celular para obter um resultado adequado durante o processo de aquisição do dado.

CONTRACTIONWAVE foi projetado para adquirir parâmetros de contratilidade em cardiomiócitos sob várias condições experimentais, inclusive durante diferentes fases de maturação e desenvolvimento celular. Cardiomiócitos derivados de células-tronco pluripotentes induzidas por humanos (hiPSC-CMs) e cardiomiócitos neonatais (neonatal-CMs) são células imaturas que apresentam características morfológicas e estruturais distintas em comparação com miócitos ventriculares adultos (BEDADA; WHEELWRIGHT; METZGER, 2016; KHAN et al., 2015; LI et al., 2017; ROHR; SCHÖLLY; KLÉBER, 1991). Essa falta de maturidade estrutural afeta a contratilidade dos cardiomiócitos, que é consideravelmente menos robusta do que nos cardiomiócitos adultos e representa um desafio para sua aquisição e análise. Além disso, hiPSC-CMs e neonatal-CMs são auto-organizados em um sincício e exibem contração espontânea (BEDADA; WHEELWRIGHT; METZGER, 2016; LI et al., 2017). Essas diferenças refletem, pelo menos em parte, a alta dependência das células imaturas ao ciclo de  $Ca^{2+}$  sarcolemal e a presença de unidades imaturas de liberação de  $Ca^{2+}$  (KORHONEN; HÄNNINEN; TAVI, 2009; LOUCH; KOIVUMÄKI; TAVI, 2015).

As hiPSC-CMs estão sendo exploradas recentemente por diferentes técnicas para obter a dinâmica celular de contração e relaxamento (CZIROK et al., 2017; HUEBSCH et al., 2015; MADDAH et al., 2015; POINTON et al., 2017). Porém, sua implantação como rotina em centros de pesquisa e clínica permanece um desafio, seja pelas dificuldades de implementação, seja porque ainda falta uma ferramenta com grande capacidade de processamento aliada a uma interface projetada para um público não especializado. CONTRACTIONWAVE fornece uma abordagem confiável, rápida e acessível para processar e analisar a dinâmica da contratilidade nestes tipos de células, desde a imagem até o conjunto de resultados finais.

Com a finalidade de verificar a sensibilidade de nossa metodologia nos diferentes tipos celulares (adulto-CM, neonatal-CM e hiPSC-CM), utilizamos as drogas Isoproterenol e Verapamil, que possuem sua atuação conhecida em miócitos cardíacos. Já é descrito que o ISO é um agonista beta-adrenérgico que aumenta

significativamente a contratilidade dos cardiomiócitos, aumentando a velocidade média de contração e relaxamento bem como a área de encurtamento, diminuindo ainda o tempo necessário para efetuar o ciclo de contratilidade (BUTLER et al., 2015; CRAWFORD; HUSSAIN, 2008; HARMER et al., 2012). O VERA é um bloqueador dos canais de cálcio, amplamente utilizado para o tratamento de arritmias cardíacas (BOURGONJE et al., 2013), bem como um anti-hipertensivo, devido ao seu efeito inotrópico e cronotrópico negativo no sistema cardíaco (HARMER et al., 2012; STERN; MATTHEWS; BELZ, 1986). Em nossos experimentos, verificamos que o CONTRACTIONWAVE foi capaz de identificar as variações que ocorrem nos parâmetros de contratilidade provocadas por esses fármacos, validando a sensibilidade de nosso programa. As células de ratos hipertensos mostraram um aumento significativo apenas no tempo de Contração e Contração-Relaxamento Total, sugerindo que o tempo de contratilidade é importante para a eficiência cardíaca na hipertensão. No geral, esses dados reforçam a sensibilidade do nosso software para detectar respostas contráteis a drogas distintas em diferentes tipos celulares.

Um ponto que merece grande atenção e destacado aqui, é a padronização das configurações de microscópio e câmera para a aquisição da contratilidade celular, uma vez que diferentes configurações podem influenciar significativamente na obtenção do gráfico final do ciclo de contração-relaxamento. Diferentes tipos de células podem exigir configurações específicas do microscópio e, para obter o melhor contraste, alguns ajustes na abertura do diafragma, foco e intensidade de luz podem ser necessários. A estrutura do sarcômero maduro encontrada em cardiomiócitos adultos fornece um contraste robusto para medições de contração. Em comparação, neonatal e hiPSC-CMs têm contraste intrinsecamente inferior devido à ausência de uma estrutura de sarcômero organizada e falta de um sistema t-tubular (BEDADA; WHEELWRIGHT; METZGER, 2016; KHAN et al., 2015; LI et al., 2017). Além disso, a contratilidade pode ser significativamente afetada por diferenças na maturidade estrutural dos cardiomiócitos. Neonatal-CMs e hiPSC-CMs não apenas possuem uma contratilidade mais fraca em comparação aos adulto-CMs, além de sua auto-organização do sincício podendo contrair espontaneamente (Bedada et al., 2016; Li et al., 2017). Essas características requerem configurações de microscopia ligeiramente diferentes entre esses tipos de células.

Tomados em conjunto, nossos dados mostram que CONTRACTIONWAVE pode processar e analisar de forma confiável e eficiente os dados de adult-CMs, detectando diferenças nos parâmetros de contração sob os efeitos das drogas. Essa sensibilidade, por exemplo, permite a investigação de drogas que podem ser cardioprotetoras, bem como a variação que ocorre em relação às patologias cardíacas existentes.

Existem pelo menos outros seis softwares disponíveis para analisar a contratilidade dos cardiomiócitos (IonWizard Ionoptix; Boudaoud et al., 2014; Grune et al., 2019; Maddah et al., 2015; Pasqualin et al., 2016; Sala et al., 2018). Embora esses programas tenham obtido algum sucesso, a maioria deles não envolveu de forma significativa a grande comunidade de pesquisa cardíaca (somente o IonWizard Ionoptix). Vários fatores podem explicar essa falta de engajamento. Por exemplo, a maioria funciona como plug-ins ImageJ, o que pode inibir os usuários que procuram uma solução pronta para uso. Além disso, os dois que possuem uma interface de usuário exigem pagamento, permitindo apenas o uso gratuito limitado para teste. Também, alguns destes programas não demonstraram a capacidade de adquirir contrações de hiPSC-CMs, limitando assim um segmento importante da comunidade de usuários em potencial. Finalmente, estes outros programas não possuem uma Janela de Multiprocessamento para analisar grandes quantidades de dados em paralelo, conforme exigido para os testes de triagem de drogas. Por outro lado, todos esses recursos estão presentes no CONTRACTIONWAVE. Um resumo estendido dos recursos do CONTRACTIONWAVE é apresentado na Tabela S6 (Apêndice A). Também destacamos o potencial do CONTRACTIONWAVE de ser utilizado para caracterização de qualquer célula contrátil, simplesmente alterando os parâmetros de Fluxo Ótico. Além disso, a visualização dos resultados processados é apresentada de forma inovadora, pois o programa mostra os vetores de movimento correlacionados a seus respectivos gráficos. Assim, CONTRACTIONWAVE é uma plataforma versátil e robusta, com habilidades únicas que a diferenciam dos softwares atualmente disponíveis.

## 7. CONCLUSÃO

CONTRACTIONWAVE é um software versátil e de alto desempenho, capaz de analisar a contratilidade celular de modelos experimentais regularmente utilizados em laboratórios de pesquisa básica, como neonatal-CM e adulto-CM, até hiPSC-CM que abrangem também a pesquisa clínica e aplicada de. Sua capacidade de adquirir dados de contratilidade do hiPSC-CM é crucial para obter dados farmacológicos e toxicológicos para a triagem de drogas e modelagem de doenças.

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## 9. APÊNDICES

### 9.1 APÊNDICE A – TABELAS SUPLEMENTARES

**Table S1: Contractile parameters of adult-CM treated with different concentrations of ISO and VERA.**

Contractility parameters	CTR <sup>a</sup>	ISOPROTERENOL						CTR	VERAPAMIL					
		0.3nM	1nM	3nM	10nM	30nM	100nM		0.3nM	1nM	3nM	10nM	30nM	100nM
Contraction time-to-peak (CTP) (ms)	16.57 ±1.24	16.88 ±0.94	15.83 ±0.53	15.65 ±1.07	14.06 ±0.96	13.12 ±0.80	14.38 ±0.49	16.36 ±0.84	15.64 ±0.79	15.72 ±0.55	15.02 ±0.70	14.92 ±0.73	14.81 ±0.62	16.28 ±0.50
Contraction time from peak to minimum speed (CTPMS) (ms)	39.94 ±2.95	33.77 ±2.33	31.25 ±1.68	33.04 ±1.99	34.67 ±2.29	32.19 ±0.93	34.66 ±2.34	51.57 ±4.00	51.35 ±5.17	47.82 ±2.71	44.22 ±1.64	42.08 ±2.48	44.59 ±2.37	38.02 ±3.66 *
Relaxation time-to-peak (RTP) (ms)	27.62 ±2.32	24.45 ±1.05	21.17 ±1.0	22.93 ±1.88	20.14 ±1.68 **	19.41 ±0.75 **	18.78 ±1.68 **	35.4 ±4.02	34.83 ±5.98	32.31 ±1.47	32.58 ±2.32	27.69 ±1.74	32.23 ±3.71	26.15 ±2.19
Relaxation time from peak to Baseline (RTPB) (ms)	109.4 ±6.58	81.18 ±5.91 **	82.25 ±6.76 **	82.69 ±5.51 **	75.15 ±3.14 ****	68.89 ±4.48 ****	68.65 ±4.88 ****	117.1 ±4.51	94.61 ±5.38 *	97.91 ±6.20	89.55 ±4.79 **	97.25 ±6.64	97.88 ±2.90	83.23 ±5.56 **
Time between Contraction-Relaxation maximum speed (TBC-RMS) (ms)	67.56 ±5.03	58.21 ±3.24	52.42 ±2.33	67.98 ±10.67	57.24 ±4.79	51.6 ±1.01	55.35 ±4.57	86.98 ±7.67	86.18 ±11.05	80.13 ±3.94	76.8 ±3.80	69.78 ±3.97	76.82 ±5.71	64.16 ±5.70
MCS/MRS <sup>b</sup> Difference Speed (MCS/MRS-DS) (µm/s)	13.59 ±2.44	12.84 ±1.44	15.23 ±7.51	14.58 ±2.05	10.07 ±3.40	10.49 ±2.54	6.17 ±2.13	17.73 ±2.28	12.09 ±2.40	13.73 ±1.97	15.72 ±1.39	13.54 ±1.30	15.85 ±1.82	12.6 ±2.64
Contraction-Relaxation Area (CRA)( µm <sup>2</sup> )	341.60 ±62.41	309.90 ±44.02	419.9 ±62.51	490.50 ±62.60	598.00 ±75.34 *	788.80 ±65.59 ***	774.10 ±68.06 ***	494.30 ±56.41	398.30 ±42.83	360.40 ±49.13	344.70 ±38.36	285.20 ±33.36 *	252.90 ±37.23 *	280.90 ±46.88 *

The results are expressed as means ± SE. \*p<0.05; \*\*p< 0.01;\*\*\*p<0.001 and \*\*\*\*p<0.0001 compared with the control.

<sup>a</sup>CTR: Control

<sup>b</sup>MCS/MRS: Maximum contraction speed/Maximum relaxation speed

**Table S2: Contractile parameters of SD and mREN.**

<b>Contractility parameters</b>	<b>SD<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>mREN<sup>b</sup></b>
Contraction time-to-peak (CTP) (ms)	17.26±0.60	18.97±0.89
Contraction time from peak to minimum speed (CTPMS) (ms)	54.74±3.3	85.8±2.72****
Relaxation time-to-peak (RTP) (ms)	43.07±4.00	59.72±2.75**
Relaxation time from peak to Baseline (RTPB) (ms)	73.77±3.61	77.18±3.69
Time between Contraction-Relaxation maximum speed (TBC-RMS) (ms)	97.81±7.16	145.5±5.14****
MCS/MRS <sup>c</sup> Difference Speed (MCS/MRS-DS) (μm/s)	11.32±0.80	13.64±1.15

The results are expressed as means ± SE. \*p<0.05; \*\*p< 0.01;\*\*\*p<0.001 and \*\*\*\*p<0.0001 compared with the control.

<sup>a</sup>SD: Sprague-Dawley

<sup>b</sup>mREN: TGR (mREN2)27 rat

<sup>c</sup>MCS/MRS: Maximum contraction speed/Maximum relaxation speed

**Table S3: Contractile parameters of human iPSC-CM treated with different concentrations of ISO and VERA**

Contractility parameters	CTR <sup>a</sup>	ISOPROTERENOL						CTR	VERAPAMIL					
		0.3nM	1nM	3nM	10nM	30nM	100nM		0.3nM	1nM	3nM	10nM	30nM	100nM
Contraction time-to-peak (CTP) (ms)	97.42 ±7.22	79.24 ±5.22	72.33 ±3.75 **	58.83 ±5.41 **	57.94 ±5.54 ****	59.4 ±8.20 **	30.78 ±1.24 ****	96.28 ±8.48	75.87 ±7.12	117.50 ±14.43	88.93 ±7.47	84.00 ±4.52	90.00 ±8.86	68.05 ±2.39 *
Contraction time from peak to minimum speed (CTPMS) (ms)	289.90 ±10.57	268.40 ±18.50	219.60 ±21.41 **	167.60 ±13.99 ***	157.80 ±9.50 ****	103.50 ±10.71 ****	122.70±7.21 ****	283.00 ±11.57	178.80 ±14.01 ****	130.40 ±10.97 ****	137.10 ±11.6 ****	146.20 ±15.4 ****	130.40 ±8.48 ****	61.81 ±2.34 ****
Relaxation time-to-peak (RTP) (ms)	198.60 ±10.22	140.80 ±10.38 ***	132.40 ±13.68 ****	108.20 ±16.03 ****	102.20 ±13.09 ****	67.50 ±9.58 ****	71.08 ±3.09 ****	194.10 ±9.92	129.70 ±9.57 ****	113.30 ±11.40 ****	109.10 ±9.16 ****	94.33 ±9.15 ****	89.50 ±7.18 ****	40.24 ±1.78 ****
Relaxation time from peak to Baseline (RTPB) (ms)	253.90 ±9.65	293.30 ±9.00	244.50 ±17.00	206.50 ±34.13	155.00 ±10.06 ****	140.00 ±14.09 ****	127.10 ±3.488 ****	253.80 ±11.10	221.30 ±13.34	238.80 ±17.94	207.70 ±18.70 *	175.30 ±22.13 **	151.80 ±10.33 ****	114.00 ±3.03 ****
Time between Contraction-Relaxation maximum speed (TBC-RMS) (ms)	480.70 ±7.91	420.00 ±17.34 **	364.70 ±21.21 ****	261.30 ±22.66 ****	260.00 ±11.65 ****	267.50 ±27.79 ****	193.80 ±7.052 ****	474.70 ±8.08	308.50 ±20.62 ****	243.70 ±11.78 ****	257.90 ±17.42 ****	252.10 ±20.94 ****	235.70 ±12.66 ****	102.00 ±2.66 ****
MCS/MRS <sup>b</sup> Difference Speed (MCS/MRS-DS) (µm/s)	0.55 ±0.10	0.3566 ±0.19	-0.090 ±0.11	-0.52 ±0.212 *	-0.16 ±0.10 *	0.42 ±0.12	1.47 ±0.35 **	0.83 ±0.22	0.31 ±0.13 *	-0.19 ±0.14 ****	0.2512 ±0.13 *	0.09 ±0.02 *	0.071 ±0.03 **	0.132 ±0.01 ***
Contraction-Relaxation Area (CRA) ( µm <sup>2</sup> )	50.18 ±4.33	52.3 ±4.73	58.66 ±4.669	64.28 ±14.8	80.89 ±7.75 *	95.23 ±13.44 **	116.60 ±11.03 ****	58.35 ±6.22	49.34 ±5.12	45.66 ±4.16	33.73 ±7.20 **	5.32 ±0.93 ****	5.48 ±0.85 ****	10.88 ±0.98 ****

The results are expressed as means ± SE. \*p<0.05; \*\*p< 0.01; \*\*\*p<0.001 and \*\*\*\*p<0.0001 compared with the control.

<sup>a</sup>CTR: Control

<sup>b</sup>MCS/MRS: Maximum contraction speed/Maximum relaxation speed



**Table S4: Contractile parameters of rat neonatal-CM treated with different concentrations of ISO and VERA.**

Contractility parameters	CTR <sup>a</sup>	ISOPROTERENOL						CTR	VERAPAMIL					
		0.3nM	1nM	3nM	10nM	30nM	100nM		0.3nM	1nM	3nM	10nM	30nM	100nM
Contraction time-to-peak (CTP) (ms)	70.48 ±3.57	56.04 ±2.69**	52.82 ±3.81 **	56.01 ±3.19 **	48.70 ±3.21 ****	41.81 ±3.04 ****	34.17 ±2.31 ****	68.64 ±7.53	65.07 ±3.79	66.01 ±4.48	81.44 ±4.13	78.90 ±5.47	70.70 ±5.81	87.50 ±6.58
Contraction time from peak to minimum speed (CTPMS) (ms)	114.00 ±4.91	92.08 ±4.224 ****	74.73 ±3.85 ****	71.98 ±2.95 ****	66.13 ±2.51 ****	68.23 ±1.76 ****	75.13 ±1.91 ****	114.50 ±3.50	106.20 ±5.14	98.40 ±3.33 *	97.59 ±4.42 *	71.79 ±3.17 ****	72.56 ±4.00 ****	70.83 ±3.57 ****
Relaxation time-to-peak (RTP) (ms)	151.40 ±14.22	96.03 ±8.27 ****	71.93 ±5.21 ****	70.48 ±3.85 ****	62.88 ±2.77 ****	62.63 ±3.91 ****	63.76 ±2.67 ****	118.6 ±8.54	118.90 ±8.01	99.31 ±3.88	93.55 ±4.60 *	67.27 ±4.10 ****	62.47 ±3.91 ****	53.81 ±4.21 ****
Relaxation time from peak to Baseline (RTPB) (ms)	244.70 ±10.59	189.30 ±9.29 ****	165.80 ±9.69 ****	154.3 ±6.35 ****	137.80 ±4.29 ****	134.30 ±4.34 ****	133.70 ±5.06 ****	260.00 ±18.11	211.20 ±6.58 **	215.10 ±10.27 *	192.10 ±7.47 ****	198.5 ±13.88 **	175.10 ±9.38 ****	138.00 ±8.72 ****
Time between Contraction-Relaxation maximum speed (TBC-RMS) (ms)	265.40 ±18.28	194.40 ±13.93 ****	146.70 ±8.81 ****	142.50 ±6.52 ****	129.00 ±4.95 ****	130.90 ±5.34 ****	138.90 ±4.04 ****	243.30 ±16.08	225.2 ±11.48	205.40 ±9.85	199.00 ±8.71*	139.10 ±7.05****	138.9 ±8.76 ****	128.20 ±4.79 ****
MCS/MRS <sup>b</sup> Difference Speed (MCS/MRS-DS) (µm/s)	2.61 ±0.25	2.57 ±0.23	2.74 ±0.30	2.351 ±0.22	2.55 ±0.26	3.14 ±0.31	3.90 ±0.27 *	3.59 ±0.46	2.67 ±0.30	2.36 ±0.26 **	1.31 ±0.16 ****	1.38 ±0.26 ****	0.75 ±0.06 ****	0.43 ±0.06 ****
Contraction-Relaxation Area (CRA) (µm <sup>2</sup> )	51.05 ±4.35	52.47 ±4.83	57.58 ±5.93	63.53 ±4.87	61.38 ±4.62	76.36 ±5.97 **	97.34 ±3.63 ****	75.03 ±7.31	63.24 ±6.60	55.77 ±5.74	38.76 ±3.15 ****	33.86 ±4.86 ****	27.36 ±3.37 ****	20.52 ±1.97 ****

The results are expressed as means ± SE. \*p<0.05; \*\*p< 0.01;\*\*\*p<0.001 and \*\*\*\*p<0.0001 compared with the control.

<sup>a</sup>CTR: Control

<sup>b</sup>MCS/MRS: Maximum contraction speed/Maximum relaxation speed

**Table S5: Comparison of the maximum fold-change, EC50, and IC50 for different cellular types treated with ISO or VERA.**

Contractility parameters	Isoproterenol			Contractility parameters	Verapamil		
	Adult-CM	Neonatal-CM	hiPSC-CM		Adult-CM	Neonatal-CM	hiPSC-CM
Maximum fold-change Contraction speed	3,34 ±0,27	3,43 ±0,34	2,15 ±0,04* <sup>#</sup>	Maximum fold-change Contraction Speed	2,06 ±0,11	17,10 ±0,77***	7,92 ±1,50*** <sup>##</sup>
EC50 <sup>a</sup> (nM)	6,68 ±1,07	27,96 ±4,34*	36,37 ±6,58**	IC50 <sup>b</sup> (nM)	7,10 ±0,86	3,70 ±0,98*	2,38 ±0,55*
Maximum fold-change Relaxation Speed	5,01 ±0,48	5,80 ±0,62	2,30 ±0,21*** <sup>##</sup>	Maximum fold-change Relaxation Speed	2,64 ±0,24	7,47 ±1,32*	7,70 ±1,27*
EC50 (nM)	7,75 ±0,40	24,29 ±4,17**	19,58 ±2,25*	IC50 (nM)	5,49 ±2,18	3,55 ±0,66	2,28 ±1,12
Maximum fold-change Shortening Area	2,35 ±0,06	2,04 ±0,02	2,13 ±0,02	Maximum fold-change Shortening Area	2,13 ±0,14	7,61 ±0,77*	9,66 ±2,00**
EC50 (nM)	3,85 ±0,70	49,31 ±9,79**	14,98 ±4,35* <sup>#</sup>	IC50 (nM)	5,54 ±2,32	3,43 ±1,05	3,95 ±1,37

The results are expressed as means ± SE. \* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$  and \*\*\*\* $p < 0.0001$  compared with the Adult-CM.

<sup>#</sup> $p < 0.05$ ; <sup>##</sup> $p < 0.01$  compared with the Neonatal-CM

<sup>a</sup>EC50: half maximal effective concentration

<sup>b</sup>IC50: half maximal inhibitory concentration

EC50 and IC50 were calculated based on the maximum contraction and relaxation speeds and shortening area parameter

**Table S6: CONTRACTIONWAVE features**

CW feature	Description
<b>PROCESSING</b>	
Language: Python	The large collection of open-source Python software libraries and collaborative user community will allow improvement and increments to the program over time.
Dense Optical flow algorithm	Extracts motion from all pixels in the frame, providing better accuracy and sensitivity of the contractility results, compared to the available optical flow methods.
Dense Optical Flow configuration	Allows the user to adjust and choose the best experimental parameters.
User friendly interface	Built using a GUI toolkit that combines all the steps of contraction analyses in a single platform.
Calibrated measurements of contractility ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ )	Allows measurement of physically defined values rather than “arbitrary units”.
All in one: Measures contraction speed and changes in area plus length in adult CM.	The user can adjust and observe the processing of these analyses in real time, and acquire all these parameters at once.
Multiprocessing Window.	CW is able to process a large amount of images in parallel. The user can input a sequence of images or videos and process all at once. The window provides the elapsed time and time remaining to finish image processing and allows the user to analyze waves while processing others cells.
Image speed filter	The Magnitude Thresholding filter detects a speed magnitude baseline on the image, and finds a speed threshold value. All the pixels displaying magnitude values below this threshold are masked before the average speed calculation.
<b>ANALYSIS</b>	
Selecting an interval data to analyze (pre-selecting window)	The user selects only relevant data to process.
Wave detection screen	Allows the user to select waves of interest from the processed data. CW provides two graphs: the main graph data and the interest selected interval with a zoomed in subplot.
Click and drag the mouse for selecting wave areas of interest	Multiple plot selections can be created in a single plot.

Normalize the baseline and dynamic thresholding	A basal line reference indicates the background denoise and with one click, the user can normalize the data to properly acquire the speed value.
Robust algorithm wave detection	Automatic wave detection algorithm combined with optional manual adjustment by the user.
Flexibility for the user to correct peak detection	Each reference point can be changed manually with a just click and drop.
FFT graph for beating frequency	CW provides the FFT for the user to verify if the automatic cell frequency was correctly acquired.
Wave filters and data smoothing/denoising algorithms	Flexible adjustments for noise data.
Detecting the end of a contraction cycle	CW provides an algorithm that detects the endpoint of the contractility wave by using an exponential regression fitting in the relaxation-speed decay phase. Or the user can use the decay time that is automatically calculated by CW (T10% to T90%)
Automatic average of all wave parameters values	CW calculates the data selected and provides, in an organized and exportable table, all the contractility parameters.
Shortening % of cell length for adult-CM	CW uses the cell segmentation process to obtain the cell border length and apply the filters to find the best segmentation for the cell in order to provide the shortening of cell length
Multiple waves selection	Gives the user the option to choose a single contractile cycle or the average of multiple cycles
Contraction Amplitude	Allows the user to visualize the entire contraction-relaxation cycle along with the corresponding single peak that represents the contraction amplitude
Editing wave points manually	Allows the user to edit wave points with the “dragging and dropping” option.
<b>VISUALIZATION</b>	
Visualizing Time, Speed, and Area Parameters	The user can visualize each of the pre-selected individual contraction-relaxation cycle graphs with their respective parameters.
Visual display to monitor cell image and graphical results simultaneously	CW simultaneously displays cellular images obtained during a contraction-relaxation cycle correlated to motion vectors and their respective graph representation.
Window view wave parameters of individual contraction-relaxation	The user can visualize each of the previously selected waves and see the parameters of interest: time, speed, and area
Movement magnitude and vectors	For both the magnitude and the vector plots, each pixel represents the movement magnitude through color intensity in speed units

through color intensity in speed units ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ ).	( $\mu\text{m/s}$ )
Instant comparison original image, magnitude and vector spectrum	Visualizations can be merged in a total of seven different combinations.
Adjusting cell segmentation settings	For adult cardiomyocytes and other well-delimited cell types, the software allows the user to generate a customizable contour for each visualization type.
Editing Plot Settings	The user can customize graph settings.
Time visualization	Time units can be changed between Seconds and Milliseconds.
Merging table results	Option that merges all data table results into one table.

## 9.2 APÊNDICE B – MANUAL DO USUÁRIO

<https://sites.icb.ufmg.br/cardiovascularrc/contractionwave>

# Contraction Wave

**CONTRACTIONWAVE: Dense optical flow software to  
quantify cellular contractility**

Scalzo et al., 2021,

Cell Reports Methods - Cell Press

ContractionWave Software © 2021

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## CONTRACTIONWAVE (CW) SOFTWARE

Software Version: 1.0

Contents: User's manual. -- Software manual.

Software Developers: Sérgio Scalzo

Marcelo Lima

Neli Fonseca

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Sérgio Scalzo, Marcelo Q. L. Afonso, Néli J. da Fonseca Jr, Itamar Couto Guedes Jesus, Ana Paula Alves, Carolina A. T. F. Mendonça, Vanessa Pereira Teixeira, Diogo Biagi; Estela Cruvinel, Anderson Kenedy Santos, Kiany Miranda, Flavio A.M. Marques, Oscar N. Mesquita Christopher Kushmerick, Maria José Campagnole-Santos, Ubirajara Agero, Silvia Guatimosim. CONTRACTIONWAVE: Dense optical flow software to quantify cellular contractility **Cell Reports Methods - Cell Press, 2021.**

All rights reserved. CONTRACTIONWAVE is free software that was originally published in the Cell Reports Methods - Cell Press, 2021, **any use of CONTRACTIONWAVE should be cited as described on the website:**

<https://sites.icb.ufmg.br/cardiovascularrrc/contractionwave/how-to-cite-us/>

This software was developed at the Departamento de Fisiologia e Biofísica, Instituto de Ciências Biológicas, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG). Av. Pres. Antônio Carlos, 6627 - Pampulha, Belo Horizonte - MG Brazil, 31270-901. In collaboration with Departamento de Bioquímica e Imunologia, Instituto de Ciências Biológicas, UFMG, Belo Horizonte, MG; Departamento de Física, Instituto de Ciências Exatas, UFMG, Belo Horizonte, MG, and Departamento de Física, Departamento de Ciências Exatas, UFLA, Lavras, MG Brazil and PluriCell Biotech, São Paulo, SP and Cellular Structure and 3D Bioimaging, European Molecular Biology Laboratory, European Bioinformatics Institute, Wellcome Genome Campus, CB10 1SA, Hinxton, United Kingdom.

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# USER'S MANUAL

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# **1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

## 1.1 Software Overview

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# 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

## 1.1 SOFTWARE OVERVIEW

CONTRACTIONWAVE (CW) is a software developed in Python Programming Language that allows the user to visualize, quantify, and analyze cell contractility parameters in a simple and intuitive format. The software enables the user to acquire membrane kinetics data of cell contractility during contraction-relaxation cycles through image capture and a dense optical flow algorithm as described by Gunnar Farneback (Farneback, 2003).

Both methods and software were developed using multidisciplinary knowledge, which resulted in a robust data extraction protocol. This manual consists of a tutorial describing the software functionalities to provide an overall better user experience. Additional information, source code, and literature references are available at:

<https://sites.icb.ufmg.br/cardiovascularrrc/contractionwave>

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## **2. SYSTEM SUMMARY**

2.1 License

2.2 System Requirements

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## 2. SYSTEM SUMMARY

### 2.1 LICENSE

The software and the additional materials are all available at the <https://sites.icb.ufmg.br/cardiovascularrc/contractionwave>. The website is copyright protected: Copyright (©) 2021 Sergio Scalzo. All rights reserved. CONTRACTIONWAVE (CW) is licensed under the: GNU General Public License version 3 ACC is free software: you can redistribute it and/or modify it under the terms of the GNU General Public License as published by the Free Software Foundation, either version 3 of the License, or any later versions (at your option). This program is distributed in the hope that it will be useful, but WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY; without even the implied warranty of MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. See the GNU General Public License for more details. The source code of this program can be found in its [GitHub repository](#).

### 2.2 REQUIREMENTS

CONTRACTIONWAVE is written in Python using Tkinter and OpenCV packages. We provide binaries for **Windows and Debian-based systems**. To be able to launch in **Mac-OS or other operating systems**, please access the source code here and follow the instructions in **section 3.2 of this manual**.

<b>CPU</b>	Intel Celeron 800 MHz (Intel Core 2 Duo 2 GHz recommended)
<b>RAM</b>	256 MB (2 GB recommended)
<b>Available disk space</b>	200 MB
<b>Operating system</b>	Windows 7+ and Debian-based systems

---

## 1.EQUIPMENT

Any standard research microscope equipped with digital can be used for image acquisition to be processed by CONTRACTIONWAVE, requiring only a reasonable contrast that allows the identification of the cell membrane. The magnification is also important to access the whole-cell membrane, typically requiring between 20x-40x magnification with a pixel size of 0.3-0.5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

### 2.Minimum frame rate:

According to the Nyquist-Shannon theorem [1], to reconstruct a signal the minimum acquisition period should be smaller than half the time of the fastest component. Based on this principle, the contraction-relaxation cycle time of the cell determines the minimum frame rate required. Since contraction usually occurs faster than relaxation, we use the contraction time-to-peak value as a reference to obtain the minimum frame rate.

For example, a control adult cardiomyocyte has a contraction time-to-peak around 20 ms (under our experimental condition). Therefore, the minimum frame rate corresponds to half this period, or one frame every 10 ms (100 FPS). The equation used to calculate the frame rate is:

$$\text{Frame Rate (fps)} = \frac{1}{\text{Contraction time to peak (s)}/2}$$

Therefore the minimum frame rate value for the adult cardiomyocyte is,

$$\text{Frame Rate (fps)} = \frac{1}{0.01 (s)} = 100 \text{ fps}$$

---

The value of 100 fps calculated above is a reference only, for adult cardiomyocytes under control conditions. For cells with movement components significantly faster (for example, cells treated with isoproterenol) or slower (neonatal cells or hiPSC-CM cells), faster or slower frame rates may be more appropriate. Therefore, to improve the result for robust analysis, we can use a twice as fast condition (200 fps), to double the number of points on the graph and get the data properly.

In summary, in our experiments (37°C), we found that 200 fps is a suitable acquisition rate to record data from adult-CM under different experimental conditions and 100 fps works well for neonatal-CMs and hiPSC-CMs.

### **3. Minimum resolution:**

In order to obtain robust data, the resolution of one pixel needs to be equal to or smaller than the sarcomere length, which is around 1.8  $\mu\text{m}$  [2,3]. In our setup, the pixel size was 0.25  $\mu\text{m}/\text{pixel}$ . We used an objective with 40x magnification with a numerical aperture of 0.55 and obtaining a resolution of 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

### **References**

- [1] Nyquist, H. (1928). Certain Topics in Telegraph Transmission Theory. Trans. Am. Inst. Electr. Eng. 47, 617–644.
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## **3. GETTING STARTED**

3.1 Installation

3.2 Installation – Anaconda environment for Windows, Ubuntu or  
Mac-OS

3.3 Quickstart Guide



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## 3. GETTING STARTED

CONTRACTIONWAVE can be installed from an executable file (3.1 section – for **Windows or Ubuntu**) or from Anaconda environment installation (3.2 section – for **Windows, Ubuntu, or Mac-OS**).

### 3.1 INSTALLATION – EXECUTABLE FILE FOR WINDOWS OR UBUNTU

**Step 1:** The latest stable version compiled executable **for Windows and Ubuntu (64-bit)** can be downloaded from: <https://sites.icb.ufmg.br/cardiovascularrc/contractionwave> (Choose the Operating System and click on Download)

In Experiment data files click on CONTRACTIONWAVE - Executable file (Windows or Ubuntu) folder and choose the Operating System to download.

**Step 2:** Unpack the zip file

**Step 3:** The extracted directory contains a library folder and one executable file (.exe for Windows)

**Step 4:** Double-click on the CW icon to start the executable file

Wait until CONTRACTIONWAVE window opens (it might take some time). Then, you can proceed to section 3.3- Quick Start Guide.

---

## 3.2 INSTALLATION – ANACONDA ENVIRONMENT FOR WINDOWS, UBUNTU OR MAC-OS

### I- Anaconda environment installation (should only be executed once)

#### Step 1: Download CONTRACTIONWAVE code

- a) Access the page <https://github.com/marceloqla/ContractionWavePy>
- b) Click on the "Code" green button on the right-hand side of the screen
- c) Click on the "Download ZIP" button.
- d) Unpack the files and complete the extraction process to the desired target directory.

#### Step 2: Installation using Anaconda

Follow the instructions for installing Anaconda:

**Windows:** <https://docs.anaconda.com/anaconda/install/windows/>

**Mac-OS:** <https://docs.anaconda.com/anaconda/install/mac-os/>

**Linux:** <https://docs.anaconda.com/anaconda/install/linux/>

After the installation is complete, close the Anaconda dialog box and then go to step II. (No need to register)

### II- CONTRACTIONWAVE environment installation with Anaconda Prompt (should only be executed once)

#### Step 3: Open Anaconda Prompt

**Windows:** Click Start, search, or select Anaconda Prompt from the menu.

**Mac-OS:** Cmd+Space to open Spotlight Search and type "Navigator" to open the program.

---

**Ubuntu:** Open the Dash by clicking the upper left Ubuntu icon, then type “terminal”.

Please refer to other materials for opening the Terminal in other Operating Systems.

#### **Step 4: Access the directory in which the ZIP file was extracted**

To access the **ContractionWavePy-master directory** follow the instructions below:

**Windows:** Right mouse click on desired file/folder > Select and click Properties  
The full path should be under the “Location” tab.

**MacOS:** the "Finder" application to access the containing folder of the extraction target directory and follow the instructions on:

<https://www.josharcher.uk/code/find-path-to-folder-on-mac/>

Instructions include pressing the "Command ⌘" or "cmd ⌘" and the "i" keyboard keys at the same time AFTER selecting the extraction target directory containing the program. A new window will open and the full path for the directory will be shown in the "General > Where" tab.

**Ubuntu:** Right mouse click on desired file/folder > Select and click Properties  
The full path should be under the “Parent folder” tab.

For example, if the full path for the directory is:

"/Users/PC-name/Desktop/ContractionWavePy-master/"

you should type in the Anaconda Prompt the following command **Example:**

```
cd /Users/PC-name/Desktop/ContractionWavePy-master/
```

---

And then press “Enter” to access this folder using the Anaconda Prompt window.

**Important:** type: *"cd " with space* before the extracted program folder full path for accessing this folder on “Anaconda Prompt”.

### **FAQ**

**Q:** I've been getting: "python: can't open file "ContractionWave.py":[Errno 2]: No such file or directory"

**A:** Check that you are in the correct directory for running the program. Remember to type:

*"cd "*

before the extracted program folder full path for accessing this folder on Anaconda Prompt.

### **Step 5: Install all dependencies for ContractionWave using Anaconda**

**Important:** make sure you have a stable internet connection.

ContractionWave dependencies can be easily installed by typing the following command on the previously opened Anaconda Prompt window:

#### **Windows:**

```
conda env create -f ContractionWavePy-windows.yml
```

Press “Enter” to start the installation.

#### **Mac-OS:**

```
conda env create -f ContractionWavePy-mac.yml
```

Press “Enter” to start the installation.

#### **Ubuntu:**

```
conda env create -f ContractionWavePy-ubuntu.yml
```

Press “Enter” to start the installation.

---

Wait until all installations are concluded (it might take some time – 10 to 40 minutes)

### **III- Executing ContractionWave (It should be executed every time to open CW)**

#### **Step 6: Executing ContractionWave**

- I. Open the Anaconda Prompt as instructed in **Step 3**.
- II. Access the Extracted folder by typing the full path for the ContractionWavePy-master directory as instructed in section **Step 4**.
- III. Activate the Anaconda environment by typing on the previously opened Anaconda Prompt window.

Type in the Anaconda Prompt the following command:

```
conda activate ContractionWavePy
```

And then press “Enter” to start the environment and then go to step 7.

**Important:** You should be able to see (base) change to (ContractionWavePy)

#### **Step 7: Run the ContractionWave program by typing on the previously opened Anaconda Prompt window**

Type in the Anaconda Prompt the following command:

```
python ContractionWave.py
```

And then Press “Enter” to start the program.

Wait until ContractionWave window opens (it might take some time). Then, you can proceed to section 3.3- Quick Start Guide.

#### **FAQ**

**Q:** ContractionWave is not opening, what can be done?

---

**A:** If for any reason ContractionWave does not open, try to remove the environment in the Anaconda Prompt

```
conda env remove -n ContractionWavePy
```

Press “Enter” to remove the environment.

Or try to update Anaconda in the Anaconda Prompt

```
conda update -n base -c defaults conda
```

Press “Enter” to update Anaconda.

and start again the steps from II- ContractionWave environment installation with Anaconda Prompt (Should only be executed once)

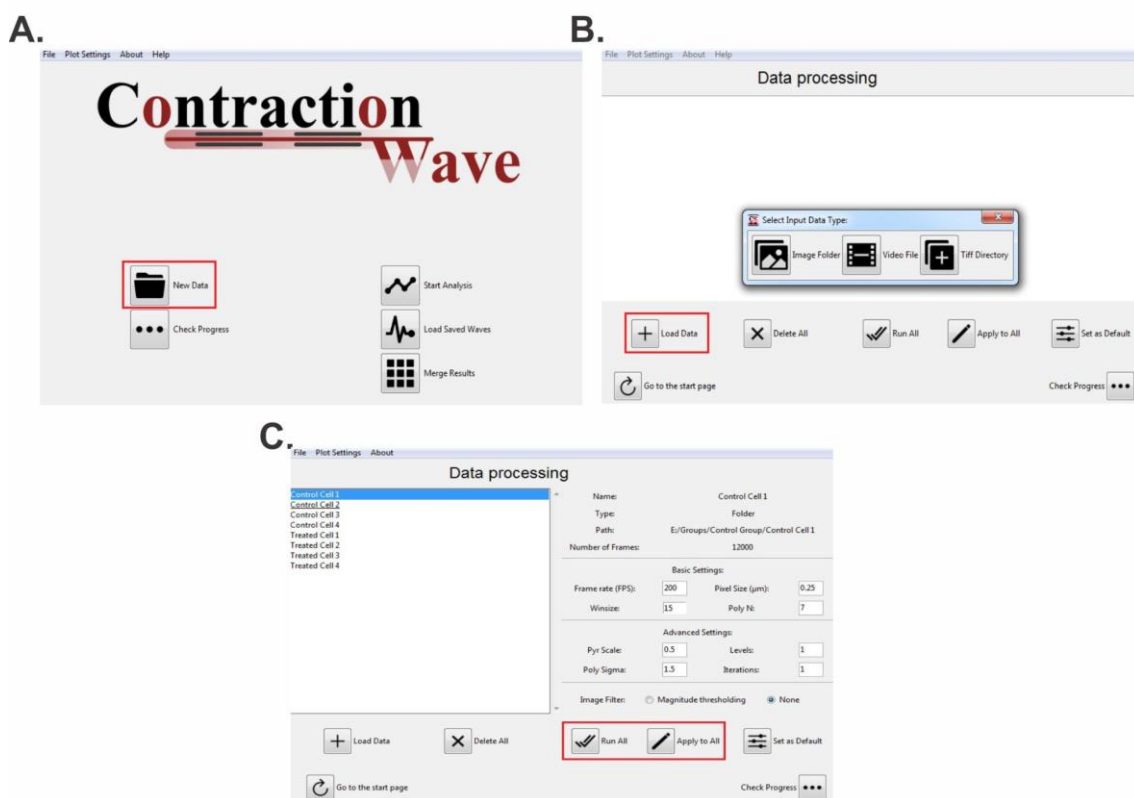
---

### 3.3 QUICKSTART GUIDE

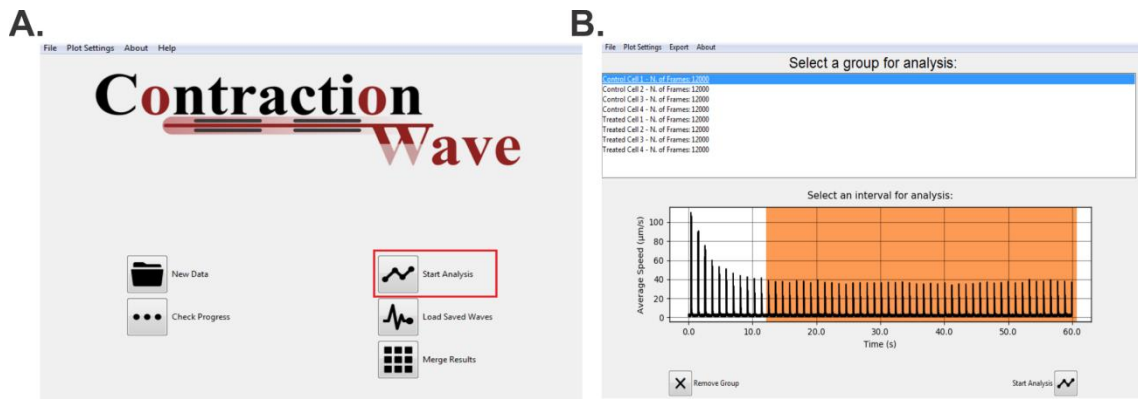
CONTRACTIONWAVE was organized in an accessible way to the user. In this section, we present a quick tutorial summarizing how data can be processed, analyzed, and visualized.

To start the process, click on “New Data” (**Figure 1A**). To import data, click on the “Load data” button, so a popup window containing three options will appear (**Figure 1B**). The user should choose the best option to set the Frames per Second, Pixel Size Parameters, and the best Optical Flow settings (**section 4.3.1 and 4.3.2** of this manual) then click on “Apply to All” to certify that all groups will be processed with the same settings (**Figure 1C**). The data can be processed by selecting the “Run All” button (**Figure 1C**).

### PROCESSING



**Fig 1 - Steps involved in the data processing**



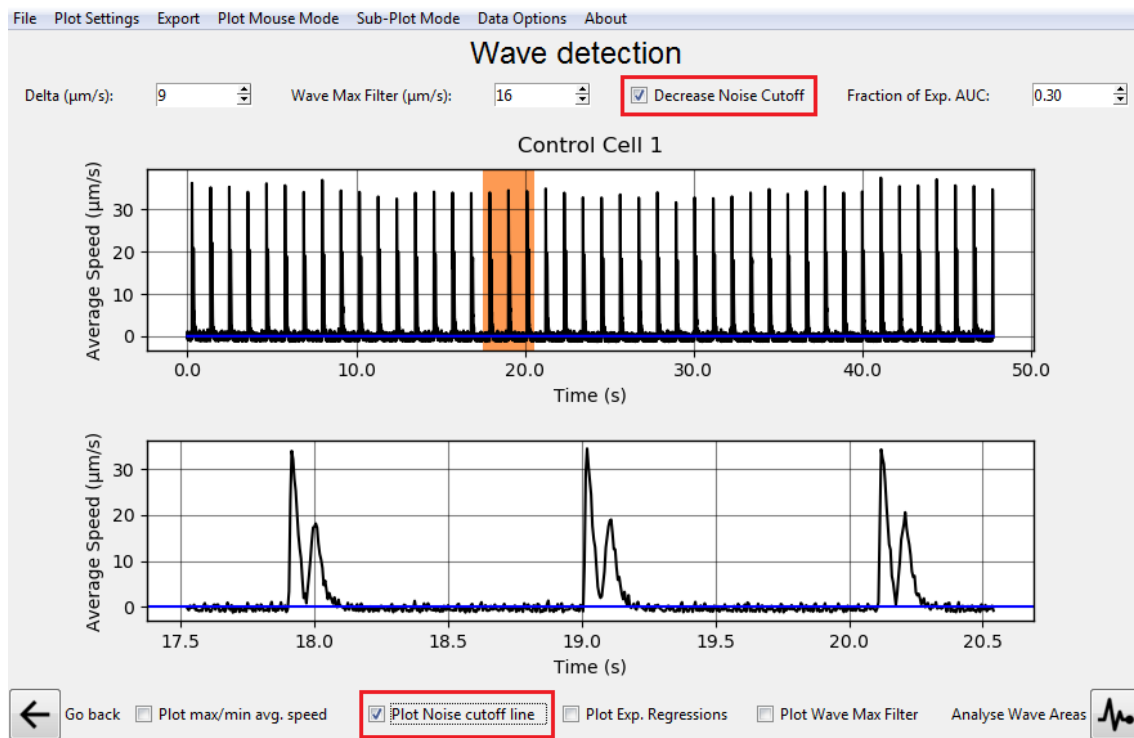
**Fig 2 - Starting data analysis**

After processing the image data, click on the “Start Analysis” option (**Figure 2A**). A popup window will appear displaying the contraction-relaxation average speed waves corresponding to the whole acquisition series. By clicking and dragging on the plot area, the user has the option to filter/pre-select the processed data (orange box) before detecting individual waves (**Figure 2B**).



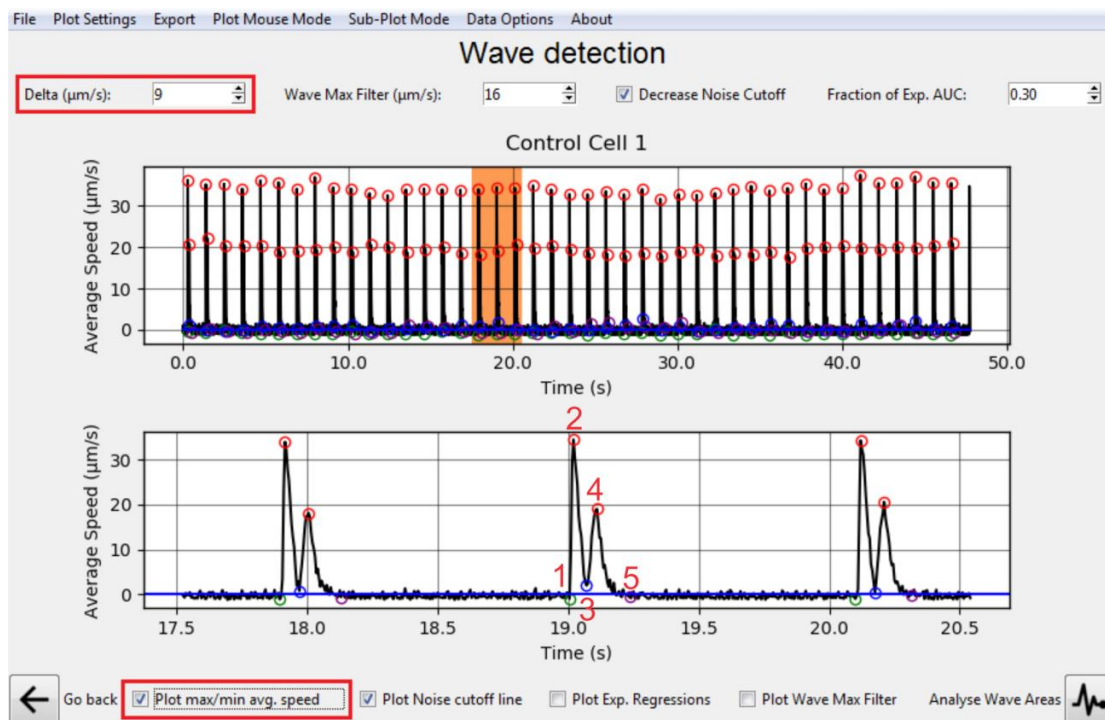
The following window will show the correspondent interval selected for analysis, (**Figure 3**). The average speed data wave profile corresponds to the selected group data, as shown for cell 1 in Figure 3, and will be displayed on the top panel and a zoomed view of the selected wave (orange box) on the bottom.

**Removing intrinsic noise data (Figure 3):** By clicking on “Decrease noise Cutoff” and “Plot Noise cutoff line” checkboxes, the user can separate the Contraction-Relaxation (**Waves**) from baseline oscillations that occur during experimental acquisition (**Noise**). A blue line corresponding to the noise cutoff line will appear. **Important note:** it is desired that the cutoff line (blue line) is near a speed value of 0  $\mu\text{m/s}$ . If this is not the case, the background noise cutoff value can be manually adjusted by clicking at the following buttons from the top bar: “Data Options”> ”Noise Advanced Options”> ”Decrease Custom Values from the plot”, and manually setting the “Custom Value”.



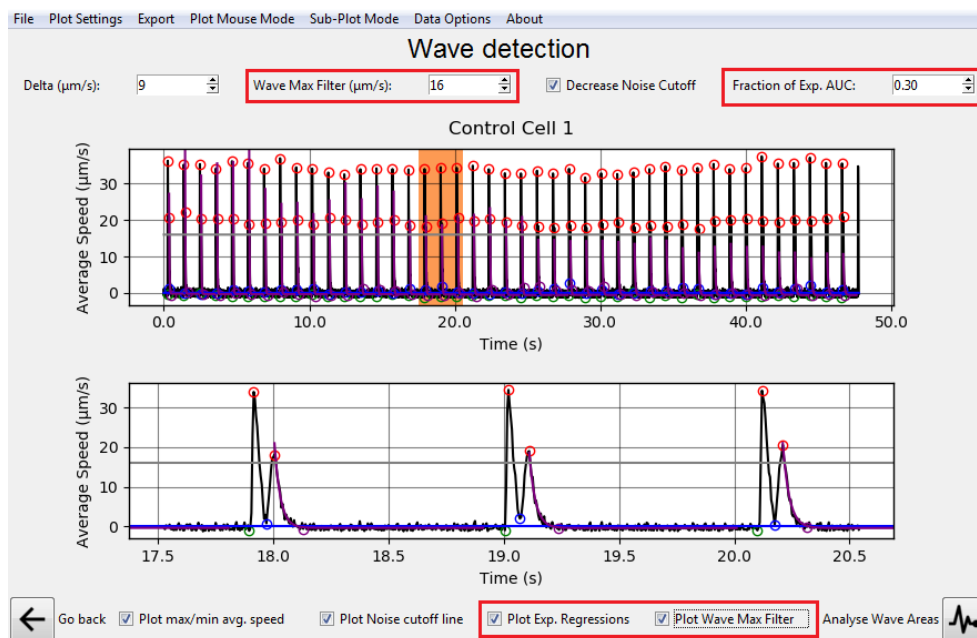
**Fig 3 - Removing intrinsic noise from a group data**

**Wave detection parameters (Figure 4):** As previously shown, CONTRACTIONWAVE can automatically detect the contraction-relaxation average speed waves. Group data corresponding to a sequence of contraction-relaxation cycles is shown in Figure 4. A selection can be made on the top graph (orange box, top panel), so a zoomed view of waves of interest will be displayed on the bottom panel. By clicking on Plot max/min average speed checkbox, the user can visualize circles identifying the maximum/minimum average speed acquired during contractility and relaxation (**Figure 4**): The circles correspond to: **(1)**: Contraction Initiation; **(2)**: Maximum contraction Speed; **(3)**: Minimum Speed; **(4)**: Maximum Relaxation Speed; **(5)**: Return to baseline. To properly set the circles, the Delta value ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ ) should be set as the minimum difference between baseline points and the “Maximum Relaxation Speed” points. For convenience, we suggest setting a starter value that corresponds to half of the “Average Speed” ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ ) of the smallest “Maximum Relaxation Speed” point of the data.



**Fig 4 - Wave detection parameters**

**Setting the return to baseline (circle #5) (Figure 5):** greater attention is needed to detect the end of the relaxation phase of contractility properly. The return to baseline (circle #5) is defined by fitting an exponential function to all points succeeding the “Maximum Relaxation Speed”, until the end of relaxation. To set return to baseline (circle#5): first click on “Plot Exp. Regressions” and “Plot Wave Max Filter” to see the filters (purple and grey line, respectively). Usually, the “Wave Max Filter” ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ ) value (grey line) is subtly below the Maximum Relaxation Speed (circle#4). Alternatively, the user can change the Wave Max Filter ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ ) value to make sure that the exponential fits properly to the data. If anyway the exponential doesn’t fit, the user is advised to use the “Fraction of Exp. AUC” option to set the position of circle #5 (value between 0 and 0.99). Circle #5 can fluctuate according to the experimental data, with a greater or lesser noise that interferes with the adjustment of the exponential and real detection of the end of the relaxation. **Important:** we indicate that after setting, the user must make sure that circle#5 stays at the beginning of the return to baseline on the beginning of the average noise. Thus, the best circle#5 position is on the first point below the noise cutoff (blue line) and aligned to circle#1.



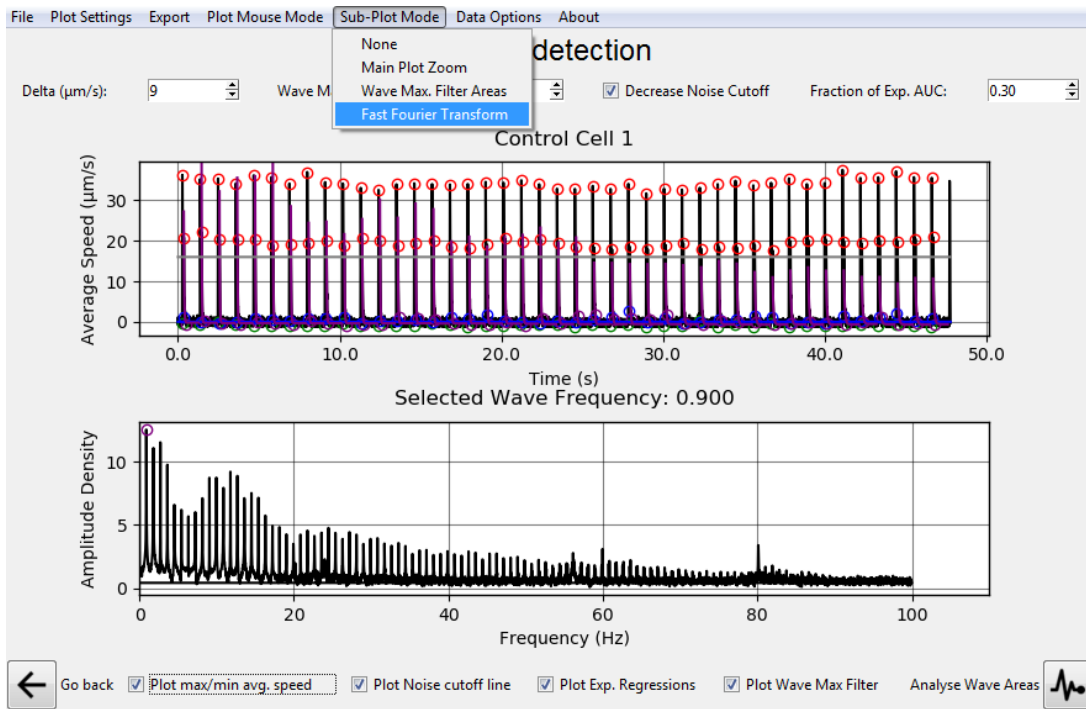
**Fig 5 - Setting the return to baseline**

---

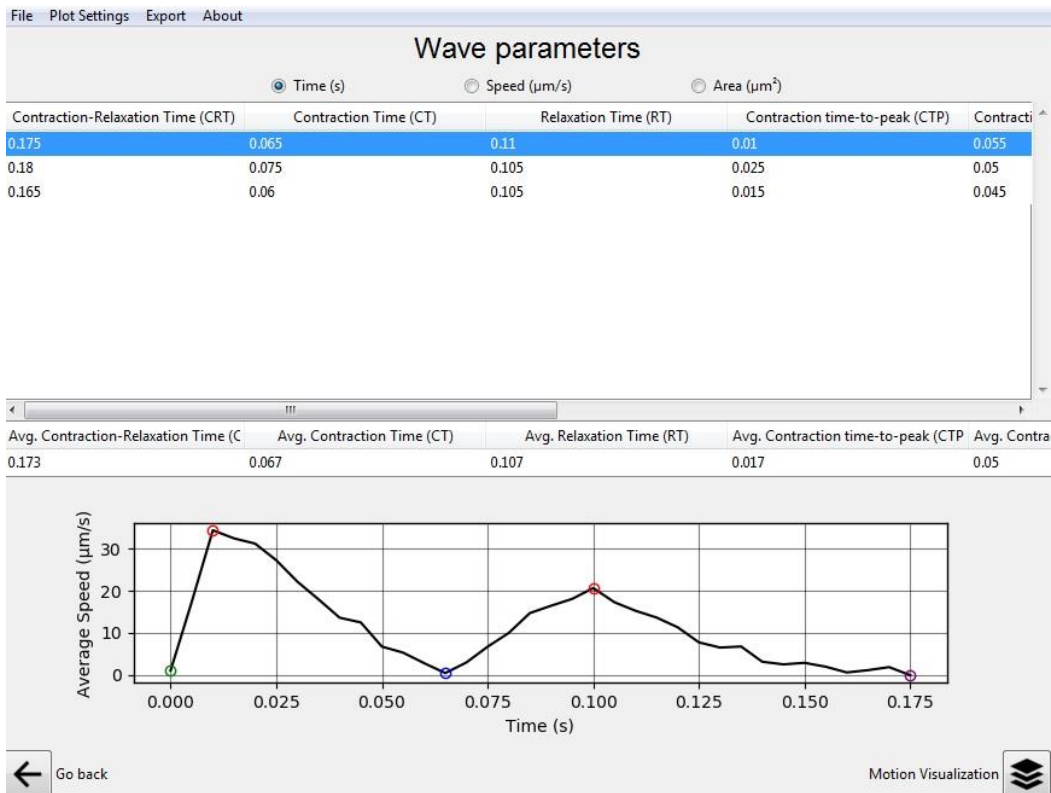
**Contraction frequency (Figure 6A):** To acquire the contraction frequency value, select “Sub-Plot Mode” > “Fast Fourier Transform” (FFT) (Figure 5). The first peak will be the wave frequency, displayed on “Select Wave Frequency”. If the highest peak is not the first, the user can select the highest peak by changing the FFT peak detection algorithm by using the following options: on the top bar, select “Data Options” > “Set FFT Peak det. Delta”.

After selecting **Waves** on the processed data, click on “Analyse Wave Area” to continue. In the next screen (**Figure 6B**), the user can visualize each of the previously selected **Waves** in the bottom plot by clicking at any of the table rows (top). Various parameters of interest related to the **Waves** (time, speed, and area) are calculated for an individual **Wave** based on the previously defined five points of interest. Switching between these three types of tables containing “time”, “speed”, and “area” parameters can be done by selecting the Top *Radio Buttons*. Click on “Export”> “Export Data” to save the results.

**A.**



**B.**



---

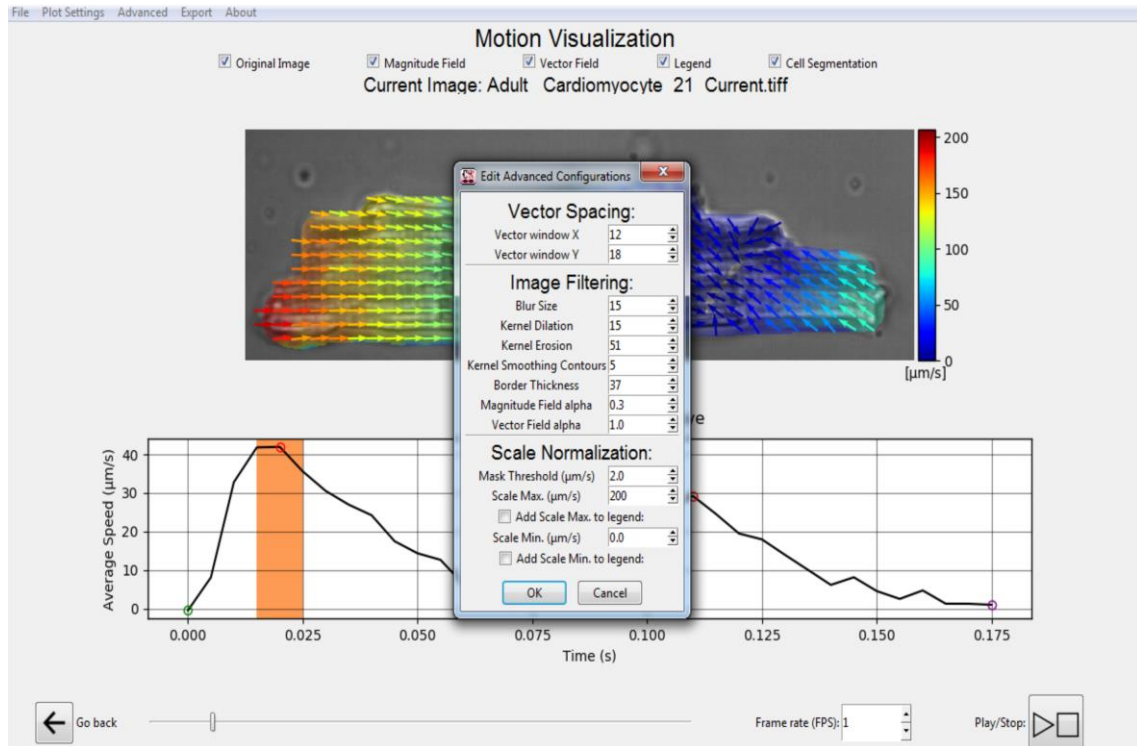
**Fig 6 - Selecting contraction frequency and *Visualizing Wave Parameters* Screen**

To start a new analysis go to “File” > “Start Page”, alternatively, the magnitude and the vectors for a single **Wave** can be visualized after clicking on “Motion Visualization”

**Motion Visualization (Figure 7):** CONTRACTIONWAVE allows the visualization of the graphical result of the contraction-relaxation cycles. In both the magnitude and the vector plots, each pixel represents the movement magnitude through color intensity in speed units ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ ). The Magnitude field CheckBox displays Speed per pixel in the selected frame. The Vector field CheckBox displays Speed Vectors with both velocities and the optical flow calculated directions over a window in the X (horizontal) and Y (vertical) image axes (Figure 7). The Image CheckBox displays the current plot Image the Optical flow was calculated from (Figure 7).

Various possible visualizations of the full Contraction-Relaxation Cycle of a selected **Wave** are possible on this *Screen*. For more information see “Data Visualization” presented in **section 7** of this manual.

## VISUALIZATION



**Fig 7** - Simultaneous viewing of the cell image magnitude/vectors displacement and the contraction-relaxation graph

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## **4. DATA PROCESSING**

4.1 Initial screen

4.2 Data from Image folder, Video file or Tiff Directory

4.3 Data processing screen

4.3.1 Setting the Frames per Second and Pixel Size Parameters

4.3.2 Optical Flow configuration

4.3.3 Choosing the best Optical Flow settings

4.3.4 Saving and Loading Optical Flow parameters

4.3.5 Processing the Input Data

4.3.6 Progressing processing screen

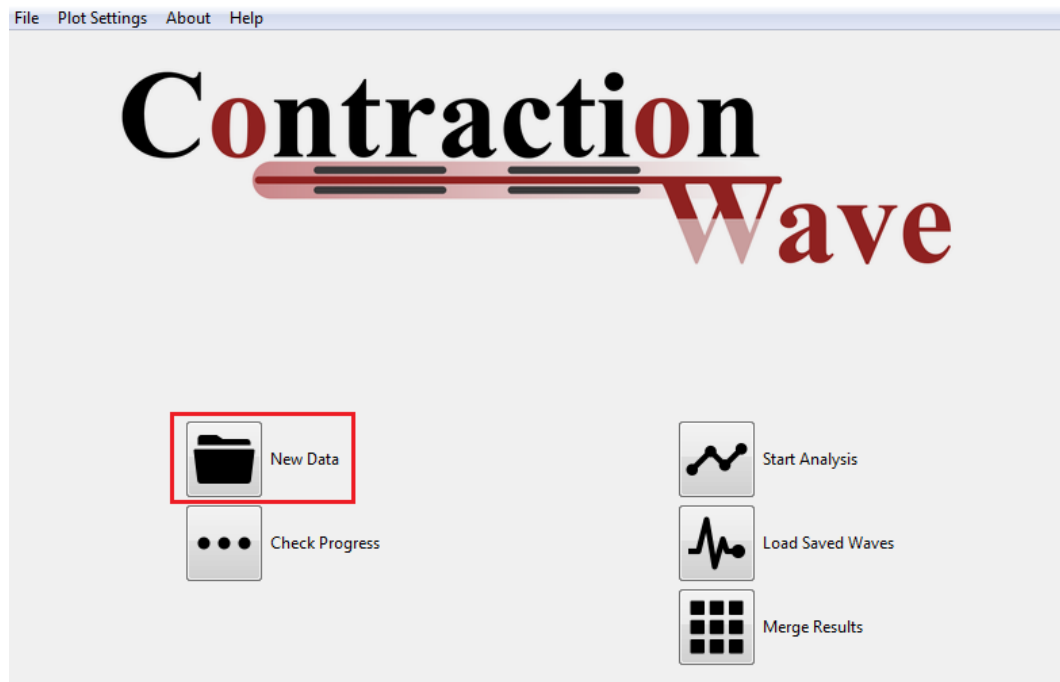


---

## **4. DATA PROCESSING**

### **4.1 INITIAL SCREEN**

CONTRACTIONWAVE (CW) has an intuitive primary menu, which consists of 5 functions. To load New Data into the program, click the “New data” button, highlighted in Figure 1, to move to the New Data screen. The “Check Progress” function allows the user to track data processing. Additionally, there are three functions available to analyze data: “Start Analysis”, where the previously loaded data can be analyzed; “Load saved waves”, where previously selected waves can be imported and “Merged results”, where data from multiple experiments/data groups can be merged in a single spreadsheet. All these features are displayed in Figure 8. CW allows the user to load the data as either a folder containing an image sequence, a video file, or a TIFF directory file. The user can process a large amount of data from an internal or external computer HD.



**Fig 8** - Primary menu initial screen. The *New data* button is highlighted in red on the program's screen.

Importantly, the “*New Data*” option can be selected from the top bar file menu at any time to move to the new data screen (Figure 9).



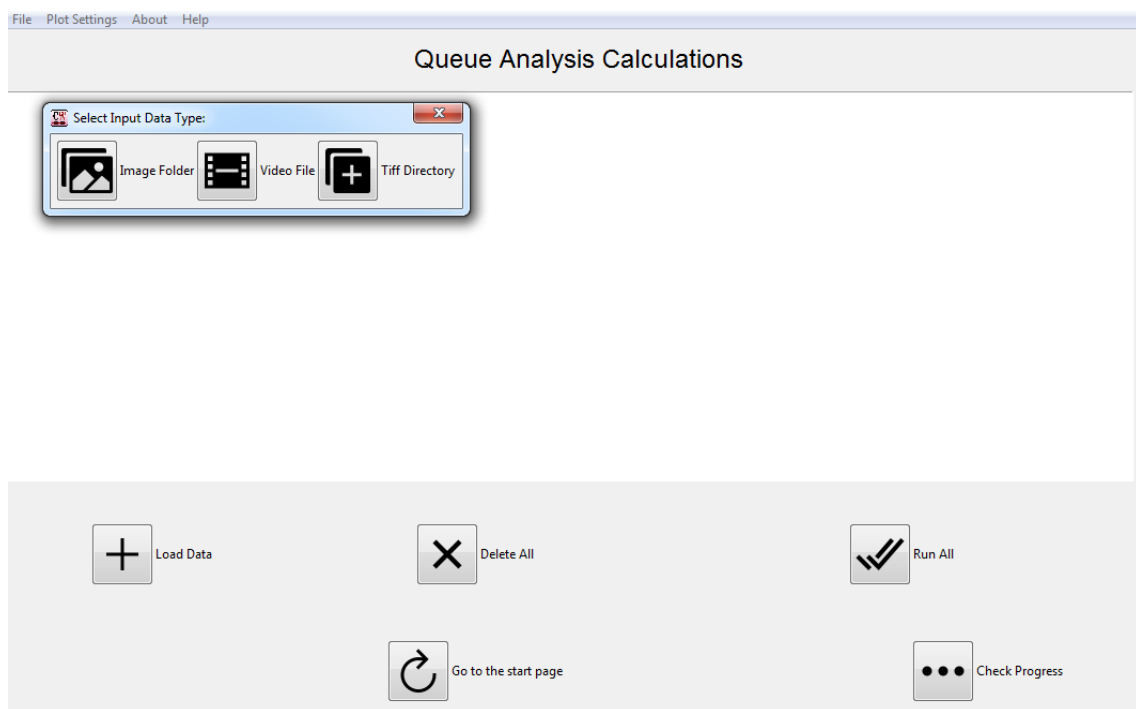
**Fig 9** - The *New Data* option highlighted in red in the program's file menu

---

## 4.2 DATA FROM IMAGE FOLDER, VIDEO FILE, OR TIFF DIRECTORY

The user can start a new analysis by simply clicking on “New Data”. To import data, click on the “Load data” button. A Popup Window containing three options will appear above the Processing screen: image folder, video file, and Tiff directory (Figure 10).

**IMPORTANT:** Folders containing Non-ASCII characters such as: “^ ' ` ç” are not well supported by the program.



**Fig 10** - Data processing screen and “Load data” button

---

The user will have to select the option that matches the data to be processed:

**Image folder data:** for processing a folder containing multiple images in sequence click on the “*Image folder*” Button on the Popup Window. Readable Image types include all OpenCV supported Image types: “.bmp”, “.dib”, “.jpeg”, “.jpg”, “.jpe”, “.jp2”, “.png”, “.pbm”, “.pgm”, “.ppm”, “.sr”, “.ras”, “.tiff”, “.tif”. The Select Input Data Type window will then appear. Please navigate and select the Image containing Folder to be analysed and click OK for the next step.

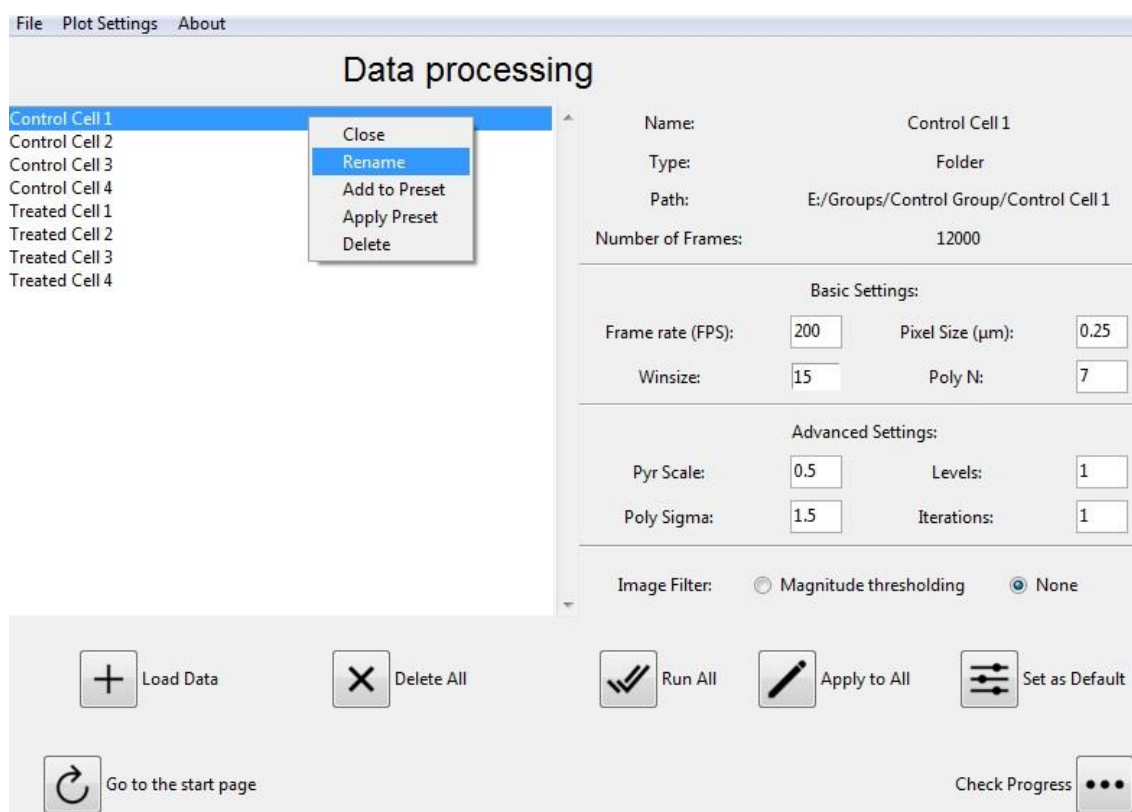
**Video file data:** for processing a Video file click on the “*Video file*” Button on the Popup Window. Only the “.avi” video type is supported, due to its OpenCV support in multiple platforms. The Select Input Data Type window will then appear. Please navigate to the Folder containing the Video file to be analyzed, select the Video File, and click OK for the next step. The selected Video File will then be briefly pre-processed so that relevant information can be extracted from it. The right side of the *New Data Screen* is then updated with information extracted from the Video File. Various parameters that need to be adjusted by each user also appear on the screen.

**TIFF Directory data:** For processing a TIFF Directory file, click the “TIFF Directory” Button on the Popup Window. Both “.tiff” and “.tif” files are supported. The Select Input Data Type window will then appear. Please navigate to the Folder containing the TIFF Directory to be analyzed, select the TIFF Directory File, and click OK for the next step. The selected TIFF Directory File will then be briefly pre-processed so that relevant information can be extracted from it. The right side of the *New Data Screen* is then updated with information extracted from the TIFF Directory File. Various parameters that need to be adjusted by each user also appear on the screen.

---

### 4.3 DATA PROCESSING SCREEN

All added Data inputs are automatically named according to their current Files/Folder names (Figure 11). Three main buttons allow the user to: (1) load a new data type (*Load Data* Button), (2) remove all added data types from the processing list (*Delete All* Button), or (3) run the added data types (*Run All* Button). The other two buttons allow the user to apply the same settings of the current data type to all others (*Apply to All* Button), and to set the settings of the current data type as the default configuration when opening new data types (*Set as Default* Button) in the *Data processing* window. Click the *Load Data* Button for loading a new data type.



**Fig 11 - Data processing screen and “Rename” button**

**Editing and deleting a Data input:** For editing a given data type’s name, click the “Rename” Menu button after right-clicking a specific data type (Figure 11). A new popup window will open in which the data group’s name can be edited. In the above case in Figure 11 we are editing the data group’s name that

corresponds to control cell 1. After typing a new name, click the “OK” option for saving. For deleting a given data group name, click the “Delete” Menu Button after right-clicking a data group. This will remove the pre-processed data group from the data groups list view on the left side of the screen.

### 4.3.1 Setting the Frames per Second and Pixel Size Parameters

The Frame rate (Frames per Second, FPS) parameter is automatically extracted from the “.avi” files in case of Video Inputs but needs to be properly set for TIFF directory and Image folder data types. This parameter refers to the number of images that were recorded per second, which is particular to the camera used during the contractility experiment (Figure 12).

Similarly, the Pixel Size parameter also refers to the size of a pixel given the capturing device used for acquiring the images during the experiment (Figure 12). Both FPS and Pixel Size values are not bounded by any means in the program and as such, caution is needed for setting these parameters.

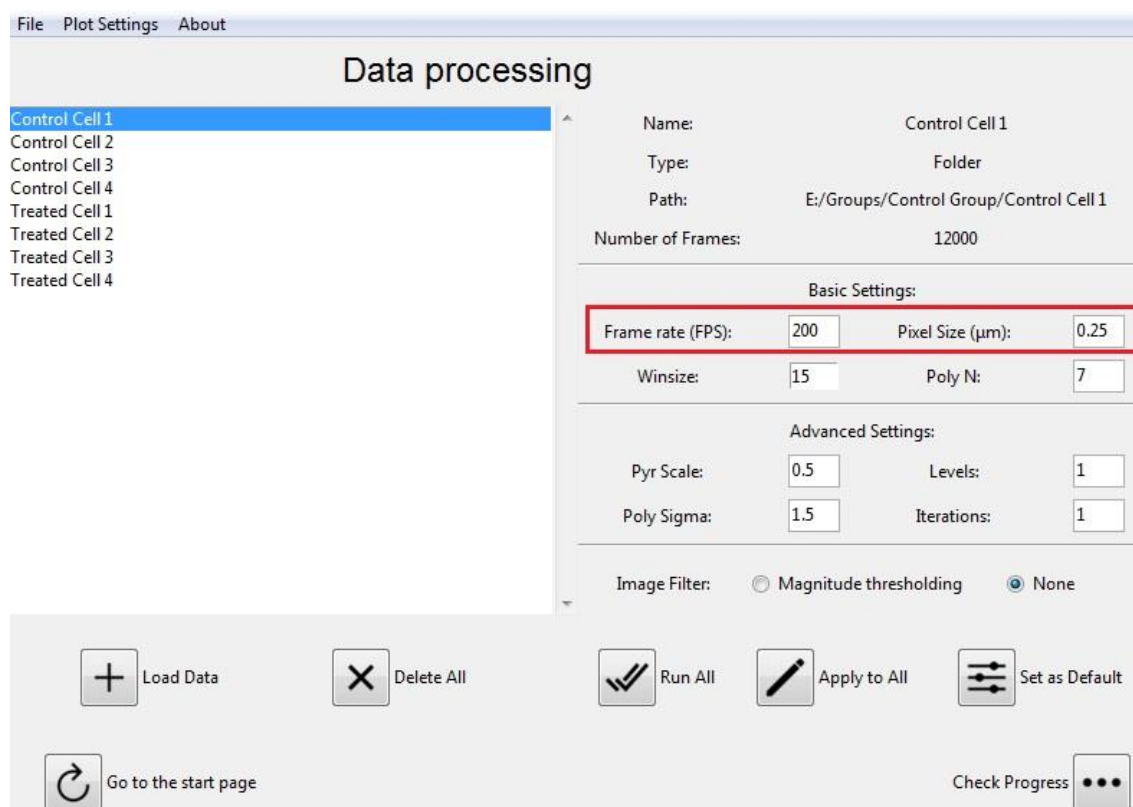


Fig 12 - Setting the Frames Per Second and Pixel Size Parameters

---

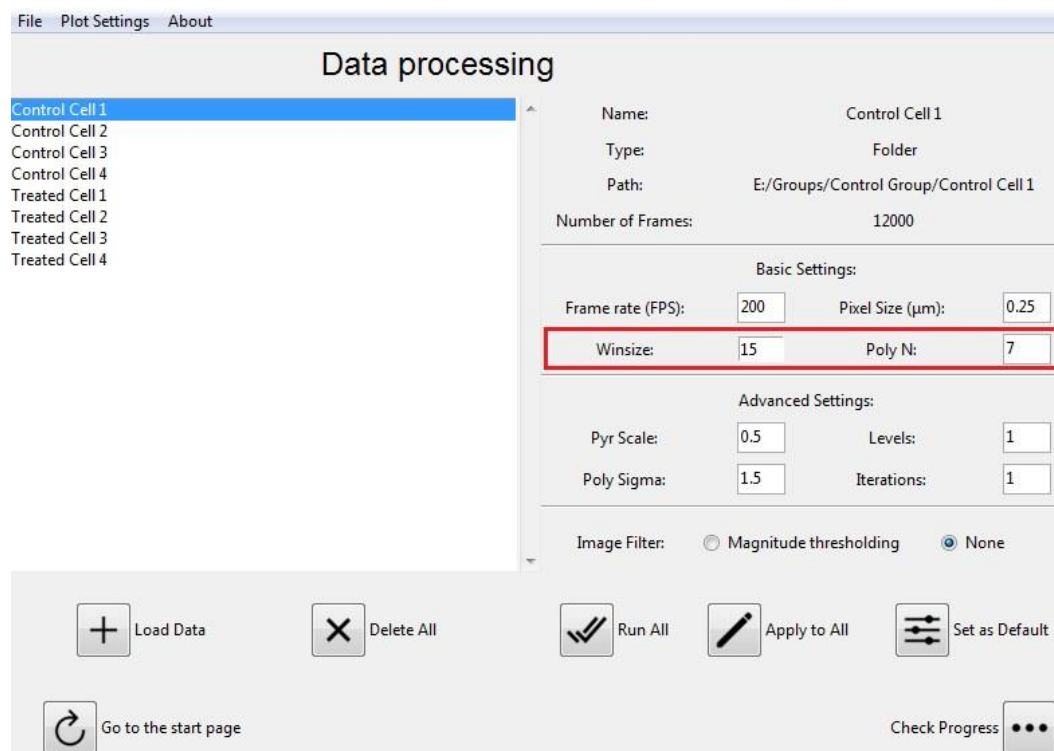
### 4.3.2 Optical Flow configuration - terms definition

To acquire the cell contractility movement, CONTRACTIONWAVE computes the Dense Optical Flow using Gunnar Farneback's algorithm (FARNEB, 2003). Below, we present some of the features of CONTRACTIONWAVE that highlight its flexibility in the settings adjustments (Figure 13 and 14).

#### Basic Parameters (Figure 13)

**Winsize:** averaging window size. Larger values increase the algorithm's robustness to image noise, providing a higher chance of fast motion detection, although it can result in a more blurred motion field.

**Pixel Size (poly\_n):** the size of the pixel neighborhood used to find the polynomial expansion in each pixel; larger values result in approximating the image with a smoother surface, yielding a more robust algorithm and more blurred motion field. Typically poly\_n =5 or 7 works well.



**Fig 13 - Basic Parameters setting-Optical Flow configuration**

---

## Advanced Parameters (Figure 14)

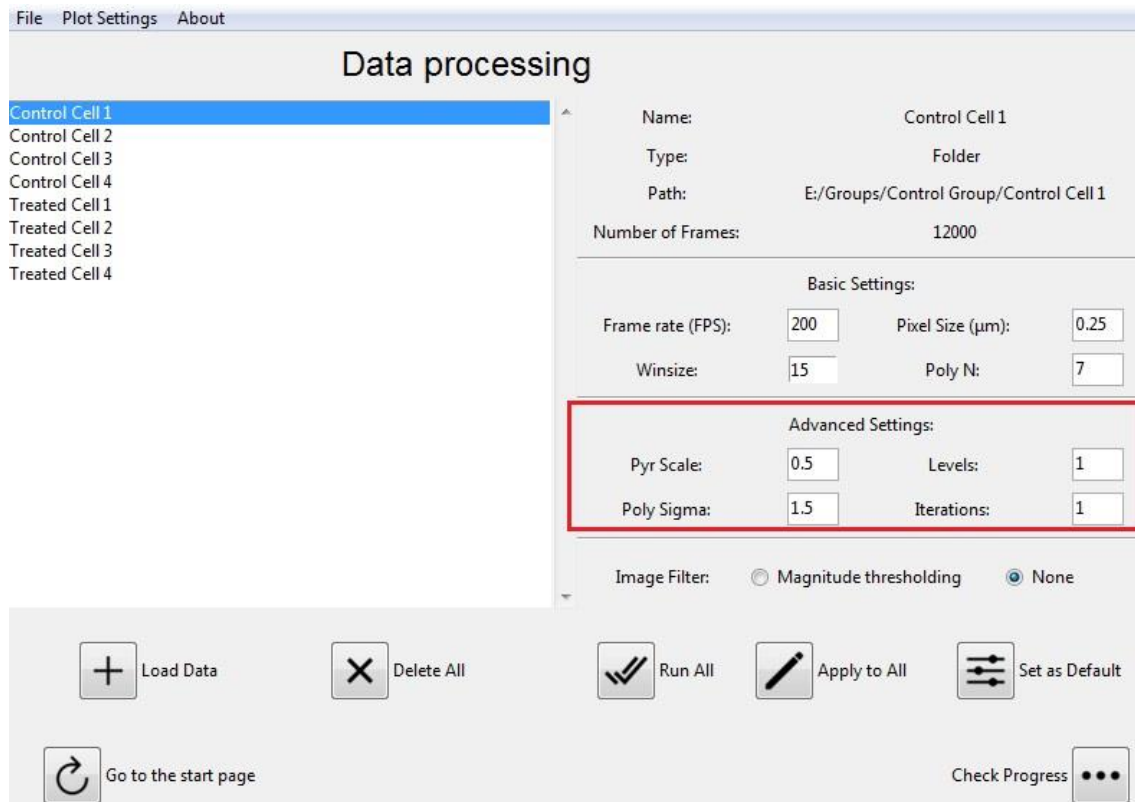
**Pyramids Scale (Pyr\_scale):** this parameter specifies the image scale ( $<1$ ) to build pyramids for each image;  $\text{pyr\_scale}=0.5$  means a classical pyramid, where each next layer is twice smaller than the previous one.

**Levels:** number of pyramid layers including the initial image;  $\text{levels}=1$  means no extra layers are created, and only the original images are used.

**Iteration:** the number of iterations the algorithm does at each pyramid level.

**Sigma (Poly\_sigma):** standard deviation of the Gaussian is used to smooth derivatives as a basis for the polynomial expansion; for  $\text{poly\_n}=5$ , set  $\text{poly\_sigma}=1.1$ , for  $\text{poly\_n}=7$ , a good value would be  $\text{poly\_sigma}=1.5$ .

Users should refer to the OpenCV Documentation for more details on [OpenCV Gunner Farneback Docs](#).



**Fig 14 - Advanced Parameters setting-Optical Flow configuration**



---

### 4.3.3 Choosing the best Optical Flow settings

In this step, the user can set up the best parameters to process the images. The program has an Optical Flow default setting that is usually good for most cases. The basic setting values for modification are Default settings are **Winsize: 15** and **Pixel Size: 5**. For cardiomyocyte culture, we advise **Winsize: 15** and **Pixel Size: 7**. The best parameters could change depending on the image quality or cell type. For fine adjustments, we suggest small changes, increasing or decreasing the Winsize. If the results were not satisfactory, set the **Pixel Size** to 7 and continue changing the Winsize (Figure 14).

**Important:** once the parameters were set for a given group as part of an experiment (cell type/microscopy/FPS capture) **DO NOT** change the settings to ensure that a proper comparison can be made.

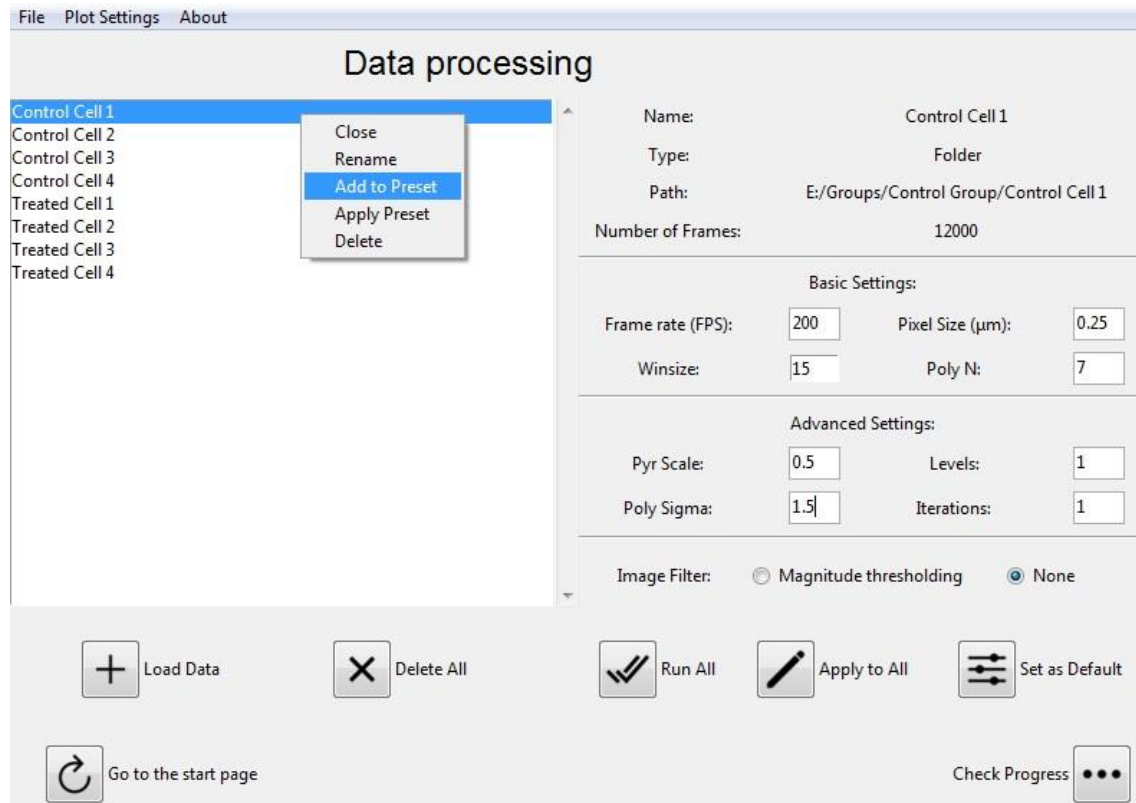
**Hint**

To test the best parameters efficiently, make copies of the same image/video file, load them as different data types into the program and then configure different settings on the same cell data, comparing the resulting waves and vectors to observe what works best.

---

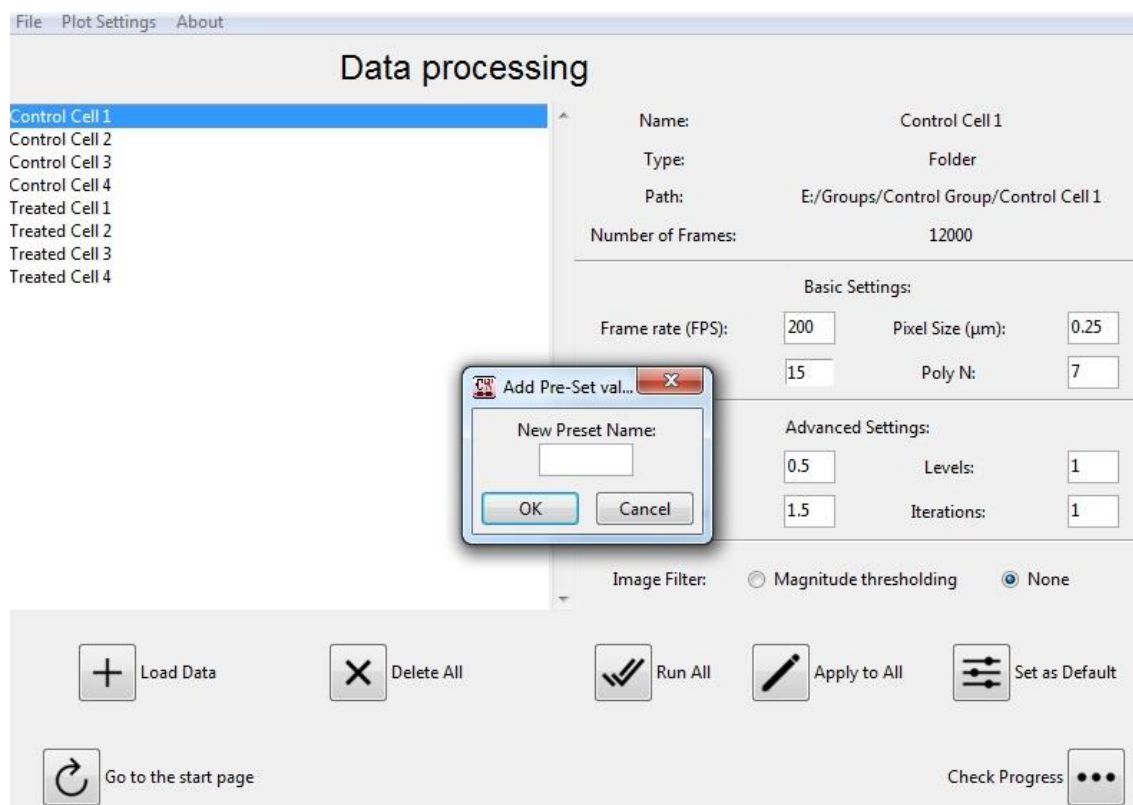
#### 4.3.4 Saving and Loading Optical Flow parameters

All parameters input in the Advanced Settings can be saved in Add to Preset (Figure 15 and 16). Saved presets can be applied to any other Data input. Both options are done by Right-Clicking a Data input at the Screen Left side.



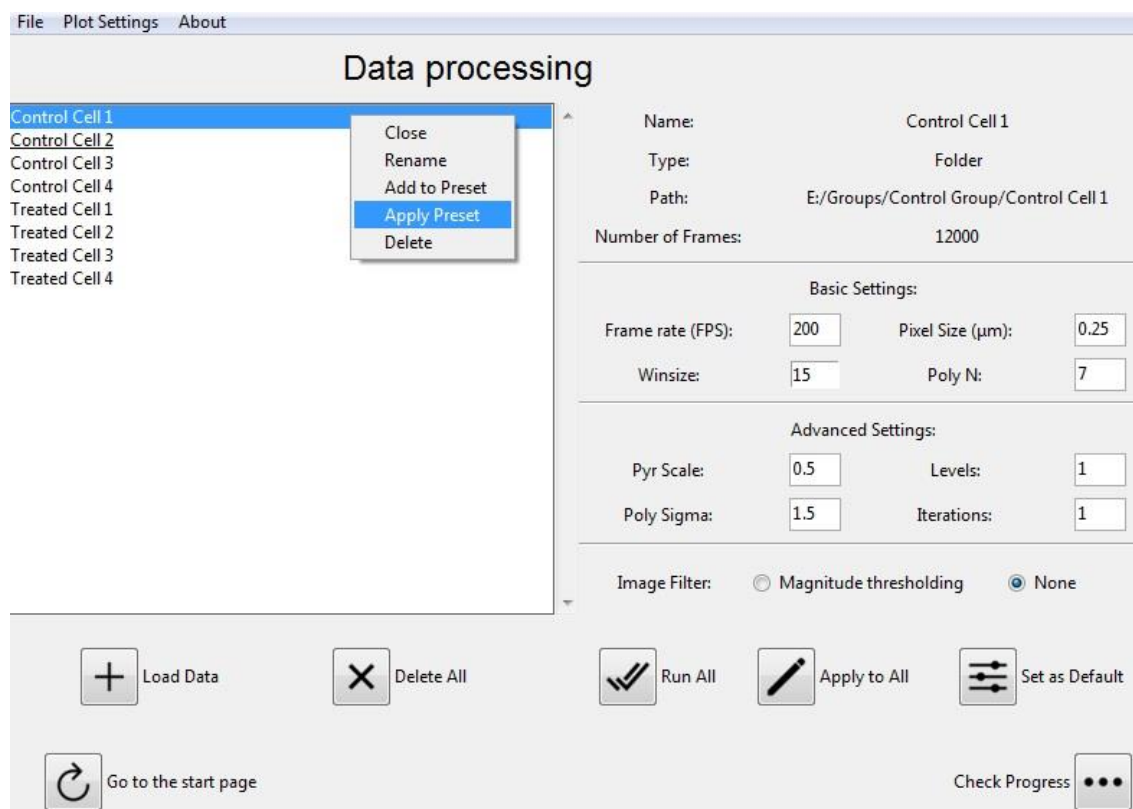
**Fig 15** - Right Click context Menu for a Data Group with the “Add to Preset” and “Apply Preset” Button options highlighted.

To define a new set of parameters, the user should save as a new Preset by clicking on the “Add to Preset” menu button after right-clicking on the data group (Figure 16). A new popup window will then open and a preset name will be asked. After typing a name, click the “OK” option for saving the selected group’s Advanced Parameters tab as a new Preset (Figure 16).



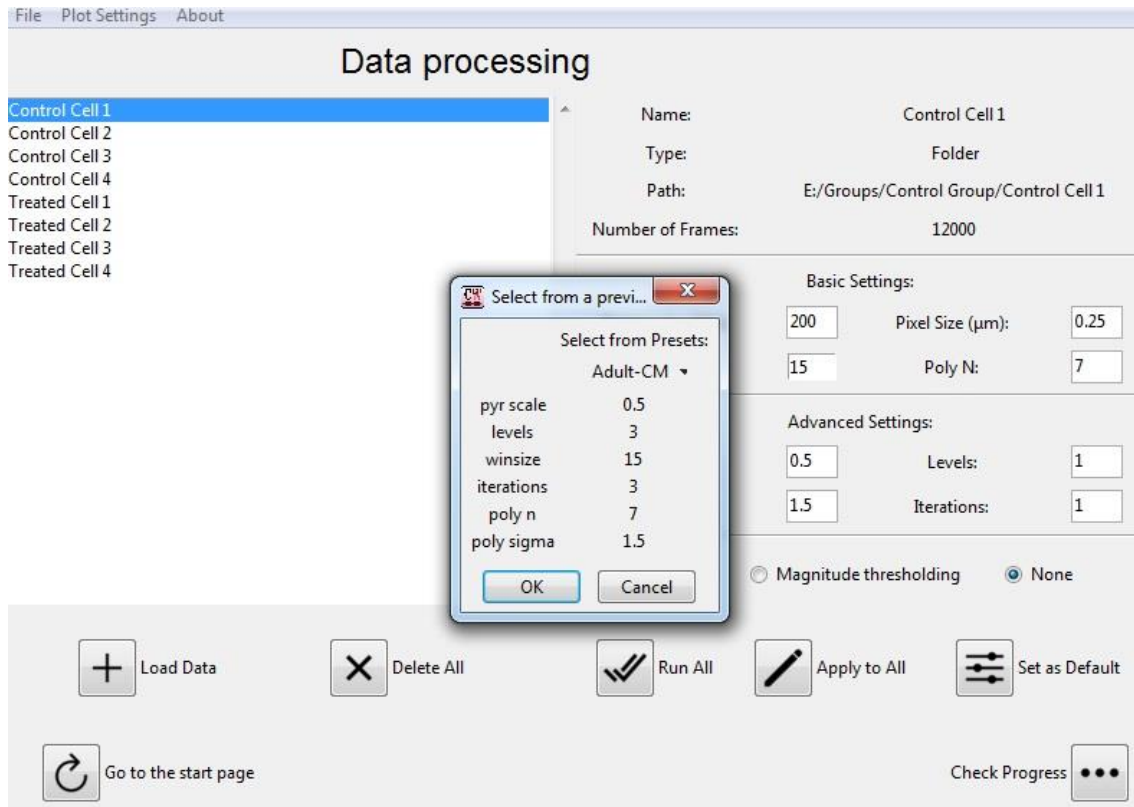
**Fig 16 - Pop Up Window for adding a new Preset.**

For applying a previous preset to a Data Group, click the “*Apply Preset*” Menu Button after Right Clicking a Data Group (Figure 17). A new Popup Window will then open containing all previously saved Presets and their corresponding Advanced Parameters tab values.



**Fig 17 - Apply preset selection**

After selecting an adequate Preset, click the “OK” option for applying these values to the selected group (Figure 18).



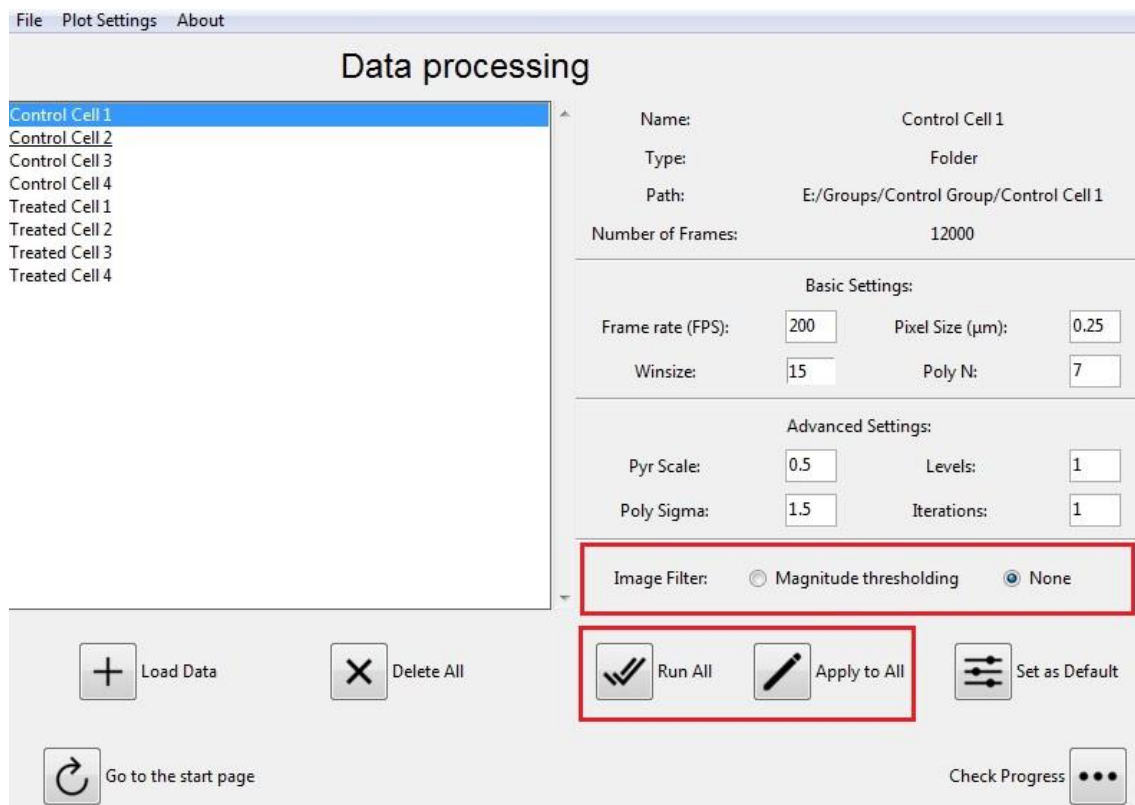
**Fig 18 - Pop Up Window for applying a previous Preset.**

---

### 4.3.5 Processing the Input Data

To process the data, the user can choose whether to perform the processing with or without the Image Filter (Figure 19). In order to show the full capacity of the Magnitude thresholding filter, we have added its definition as well as comparative results between cell velocity using the filter or none in Section 7.3 Magnitude Thresholding Filter.

After inputting the processing parameters, click on “Apply to All” to certify that all groups will be processed with the same settings (Figure 19). All input data can be processed by clicking the “Run All” button at the bottom of the screen (Figure 19). In the example presented in Figure 19, the user can process cell movies simultaneously. The program will automatically save the queued Data Groups. Data Groups are processed in a multithreaded processing queue, enabling the processing of several cell movies at the same time.




**Fig 19 - Running all selected Data.**

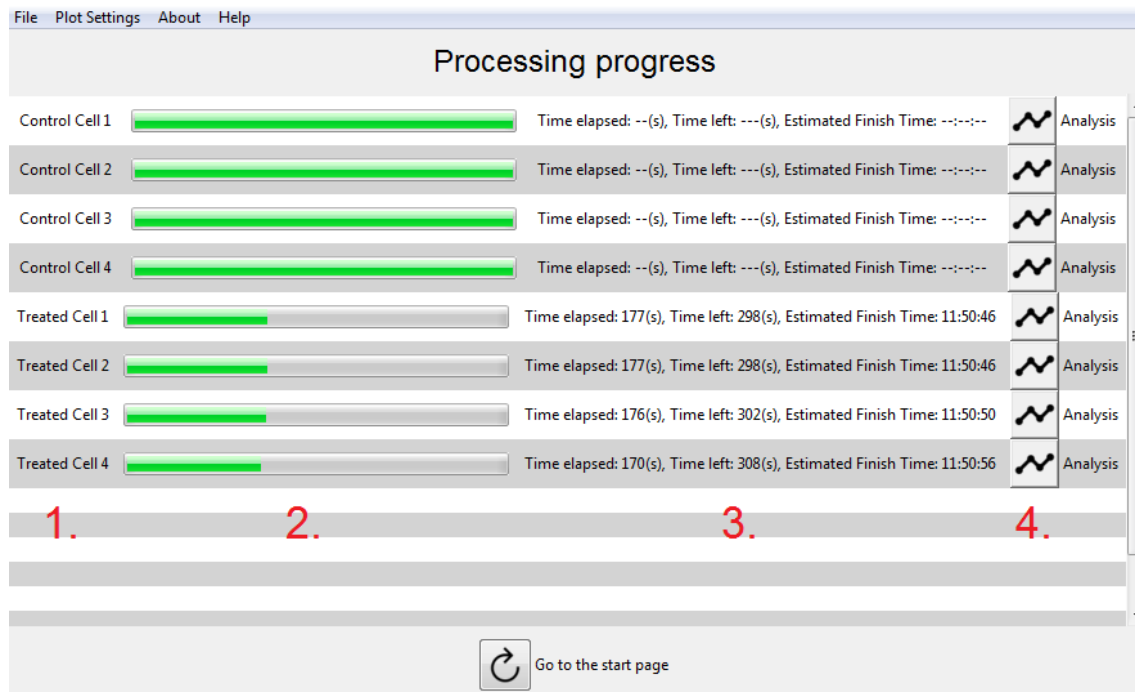
---

### 4.3.6 Processing progress screen

The next window shows the “processing progress” of all loaded groups and the “Processing progress” bar estimates the remaining processing time (Figure 20). Once the data is processed, the status will change from “running” to “done”. Click on “Go to the start page” to finish the processing data step.

Various information regarding a Data Group’s processing can be seen on the “*Processing progress*” screen. These include a progress bar indicating the time elapsed until processing completes and the estimated finish time and an

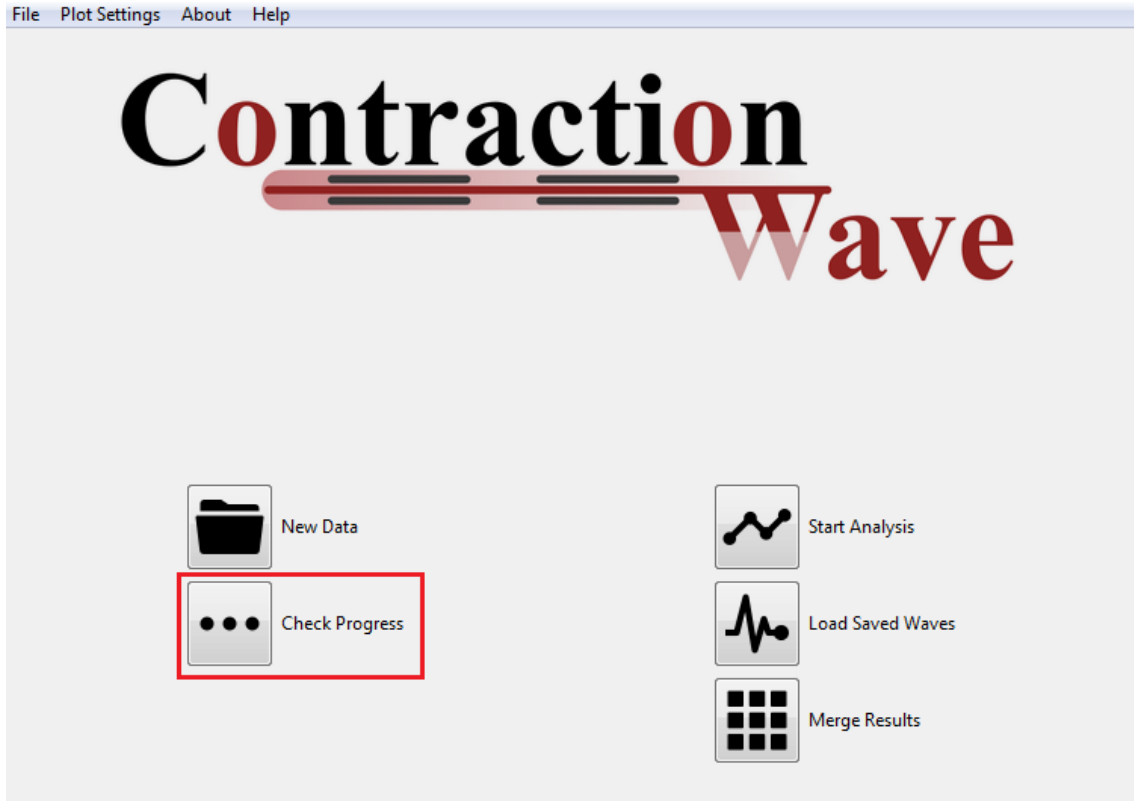
“*Analysis Button*”  that allows the user to start the analysis on a given data group after its processing is finished.



**Fig 20** - Check Progress Screen. 1. Data Group’s name; 2. Processing *Progress Bar*; 3. Time elapsed and Estimated Finish Time for Processing; 4. *Analysis Button* for a Data Group

---

After running all the selected Data Group, the Processing status for each group can be checked by clicking the “*Check Progress*” button at the bottom of the *New Data* button (Figure 21).

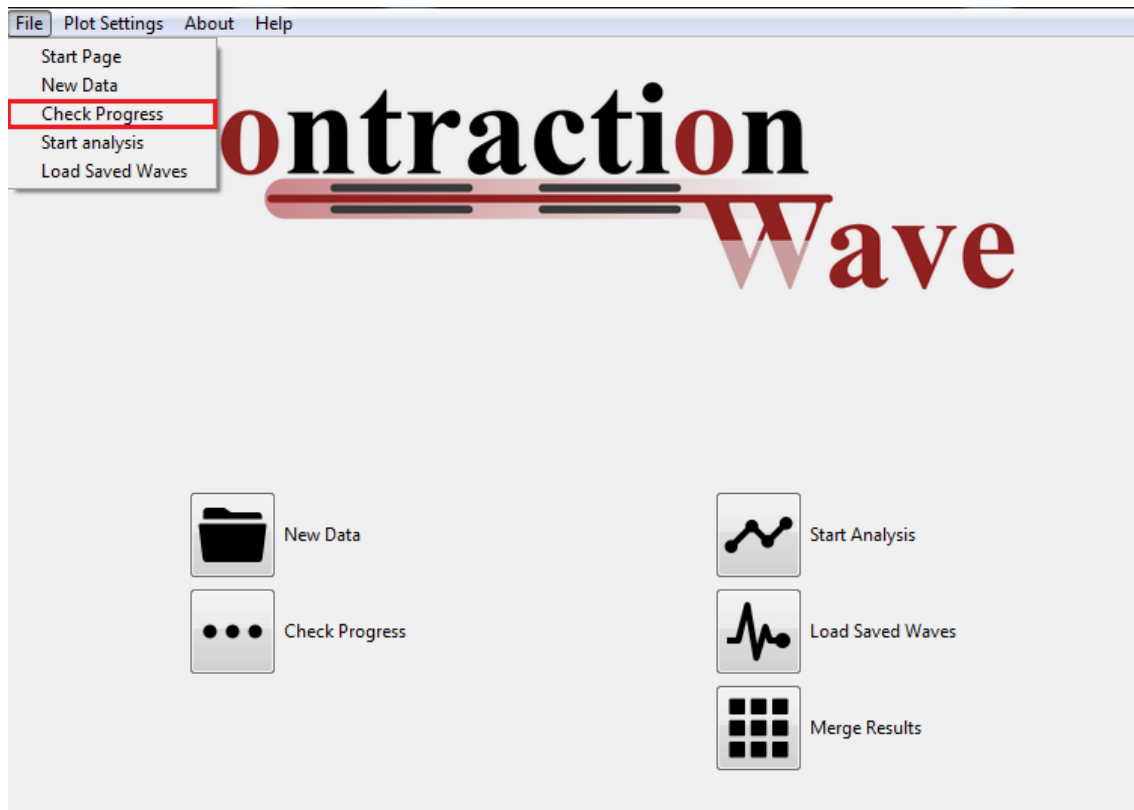


**Fig 21** - Checking Progress from the *New Data* Screen.



---

Alternatively, the user can also check the progress by clicking the *Check Progress* Menu Button from the *File Menu* of the program's top bar (Figure 22).



**Fig 22** - Checking Progress directly from the *Initial Screen*.

---

## **5. DATA ANALYSIS**

5.1 Starting analysis

5.2 Wave detection screen

5.2.1 First step: Separating Wave from Noise

5.2.2 Second step: decreasing background noise

5.2.3 Third step: wave points defining

5.3 Noisy Data

5.3.1 Applying Smoothing/Denoising Algorithms

5.3.2 Separating Waves by area selection

5.4 Editing and Creating Wave points manually

5.5 Checking Wave Frequency data by Fast Fourier Transform

5.6 Exporting Data Analysis

5.7 Selecting data for analysis

5.8 Contraction Amplitude

---

## 5. DATA ANALYSIS

### 5.1 STARTING ANALYSIS

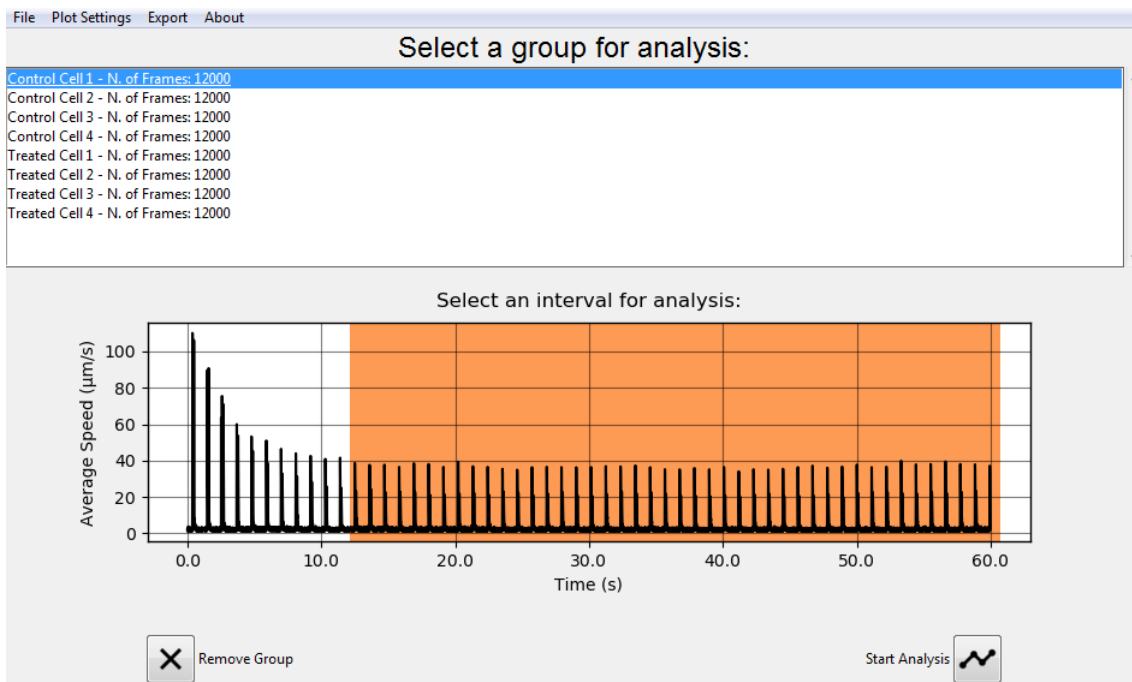
After processing the images data, clicking on the *Start Analysis Button* from the *Initial Screen* (Figure 23) or the *Start Analysis Menu* button (Figure 24) allows the user to check a Data Group's Average Speed graph versus time generated from the Dense Optical Flow algorithm in a line plot (Figure 25).



**Fig 23** - Starting Analysis by clicking the Start Analysis Button.



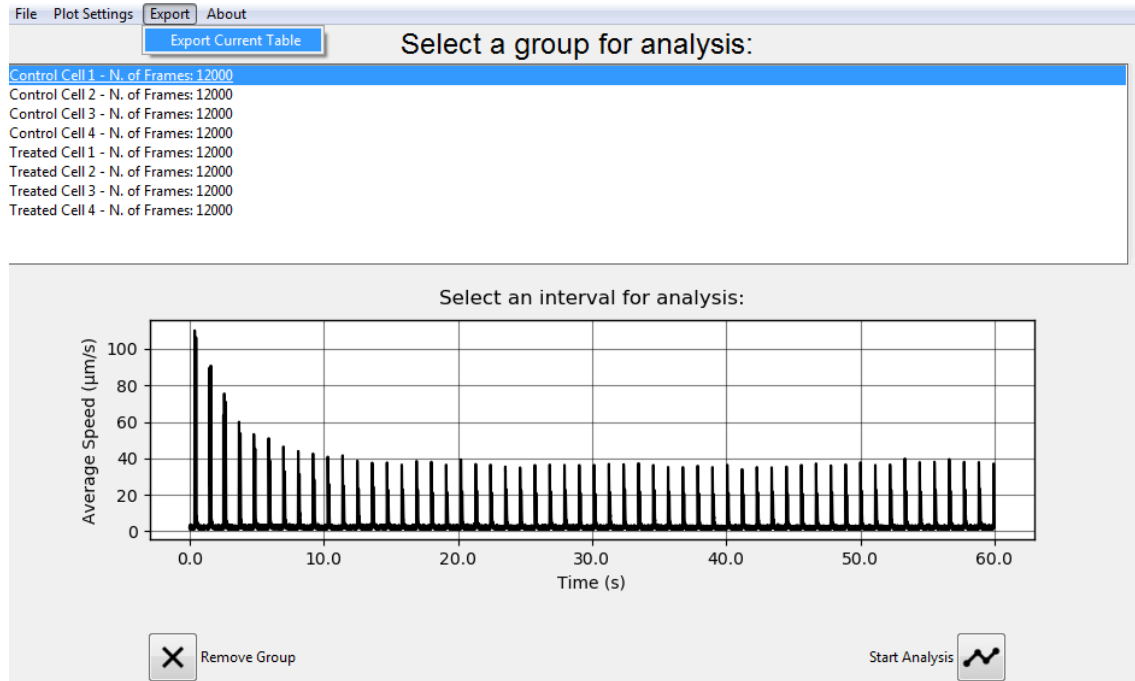
**Fig 24** - Loading Analysis by clicking the *Load Analysis* Menu Button.



**Fig 25** - Selecting processed Data Groups saved on Memory or Disk for Analysis.

In Figure 25, a line in the plot showing the average speed versus time is presented for control cell1. Clicking and dragging on the line plot area allows the user to pre-select/filter the data (orange area in the plot) before detecting individual waves which is a computer-power demanding process that can be slow on very large datasets.

The Data Group's Average Speed data versus time generated from the Dense Optical Flow algorithm can also be downloaded in the *Export Current Table* Menu Button from the *Export* menu (Figure 26).



**Fig 26 - Exporting processed Data Groups raw Data.**

Both .CSV and .XLS exporting formats are supported and can be selected from a pop-up window (Figure 27)

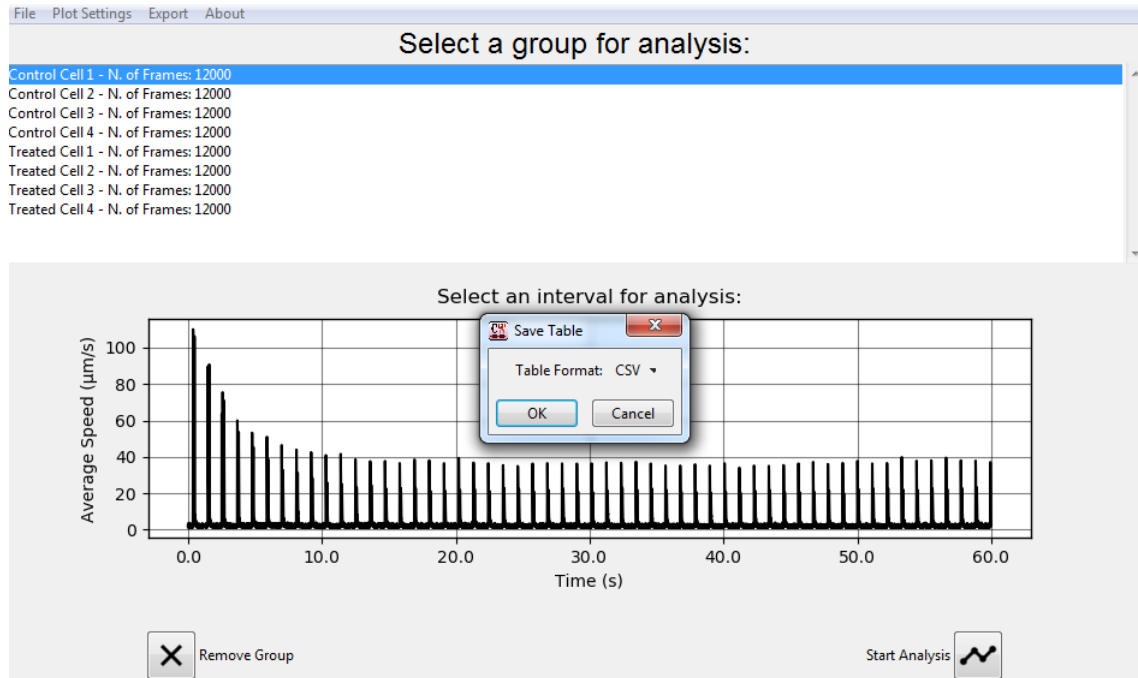


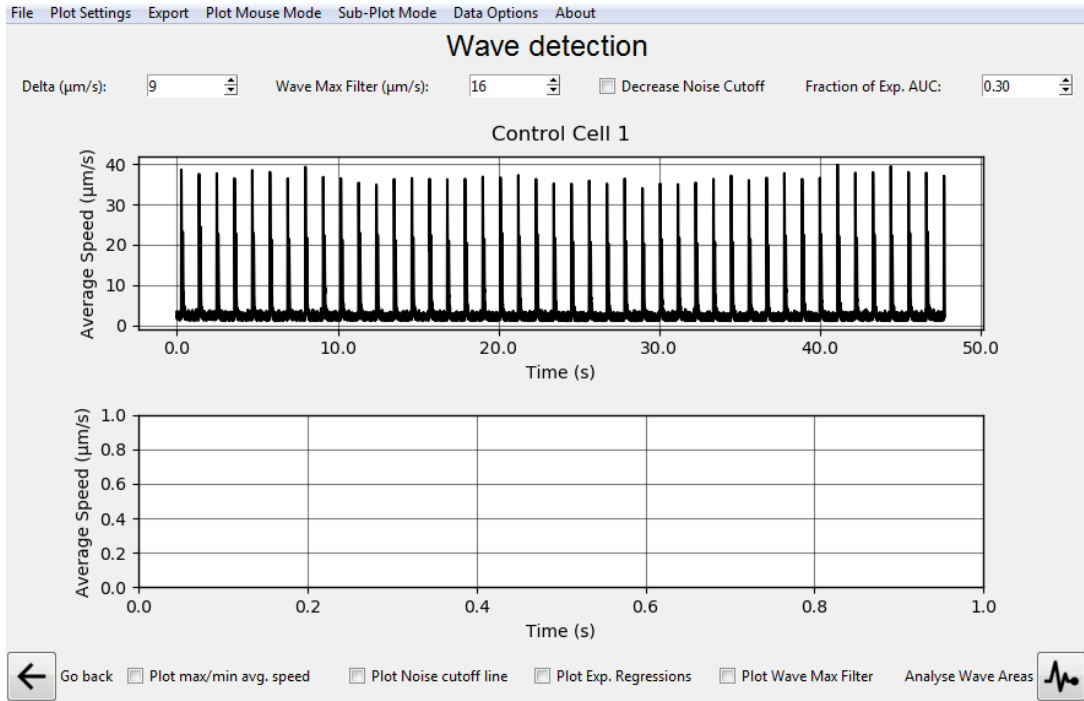
Fig 27 - Pop up Window for selecting export table format.

## 5.2 WAVE DETECTION SCREEN

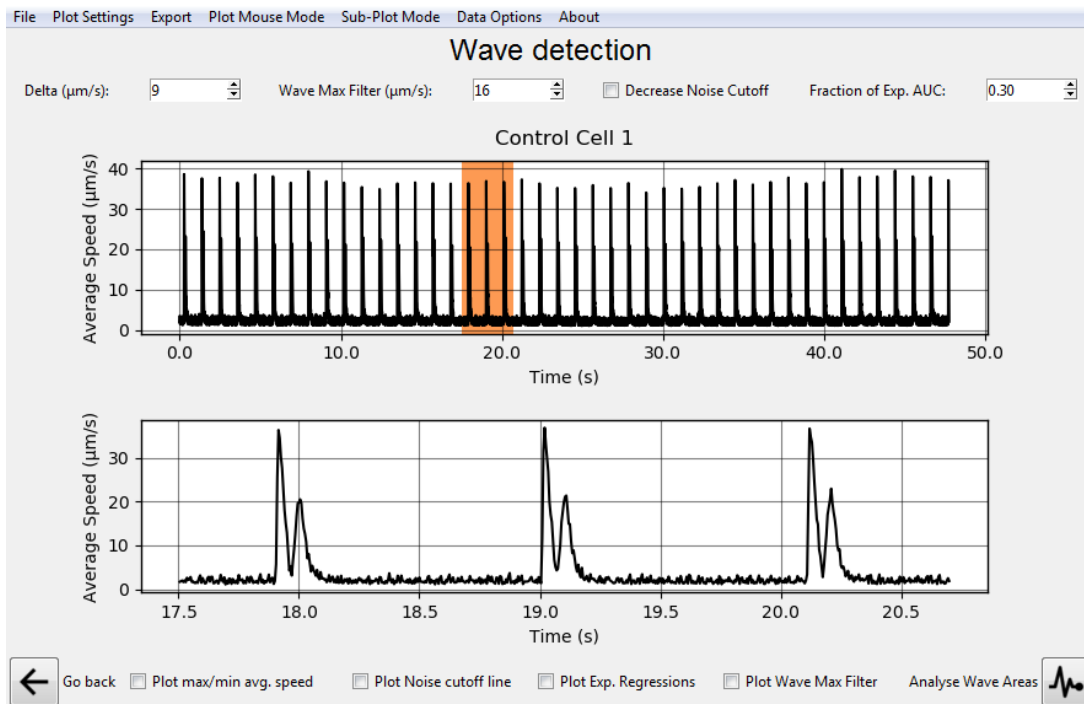
The main objective of the “Wave detection screen” (Figure 28A) is to allow the user to select waves of interest from the Processed Data by an automatic wave detection algorithm combined with the manual adjustment by the user when needed.

The user can click and drag the mouse for select **Wave areas** of interest to be analyzed in the subsequent plots (Figure 28B). Releasing the mouse inside the plot creates a **Plot Selection** that is initially zoomed in the subplot below. The user can display the automatically detected points by clicking the *Plot Max/Min average speed* Box at the bottom menu (Figure 28C). More on this algorithm and how to better adjust it to fit the data of interest is written in the next section (5.2.1 section).

**A.**

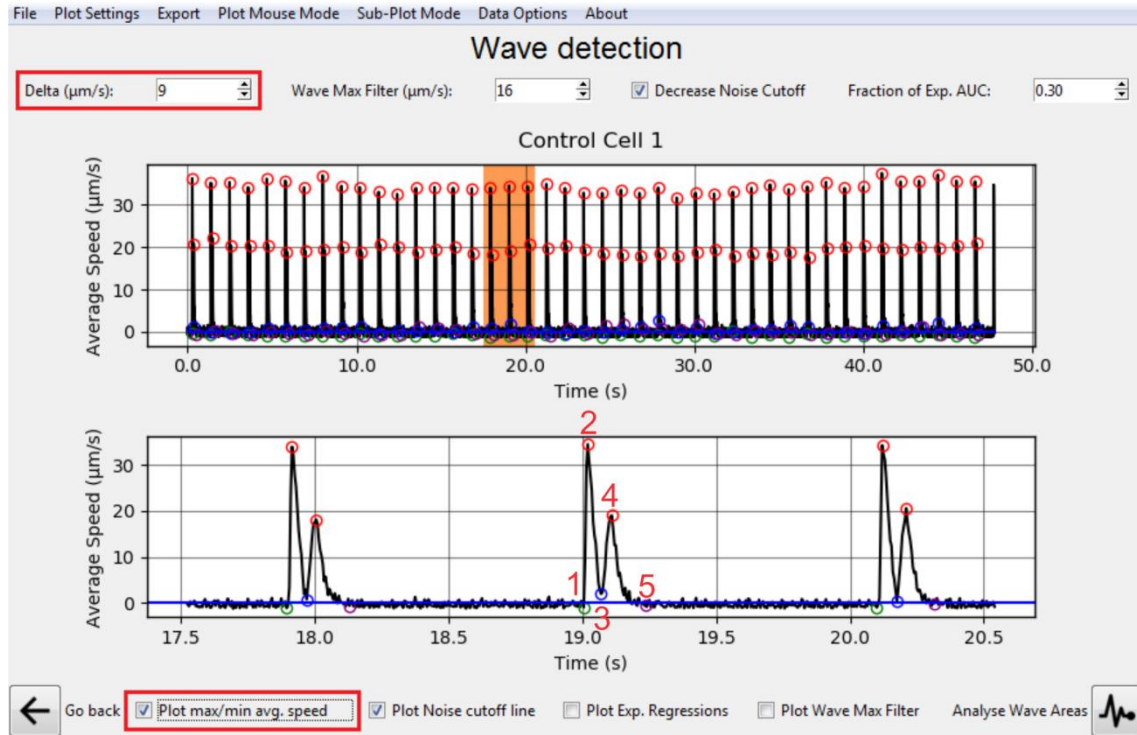


**B.**





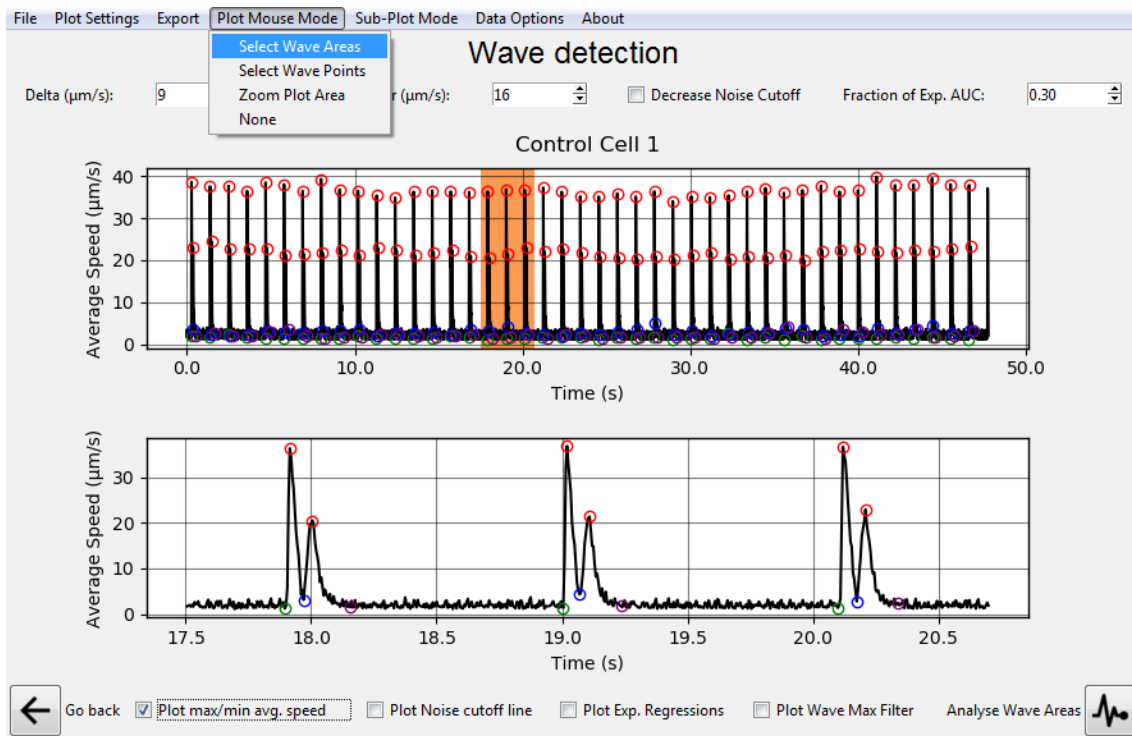
C.



**Fig 28 - A)** Initial Plot display for the starting analysis. **B)** Clicking and dragging in the Plot Area creates a **Plot Selection** that is zoomed in the initial sub-plot below. **C)** by clicking the Max/Min average speed Box at the bottom menu, the program automatically detects **(1):** Contraction Initiation; **(2):** Maximum contraction Speed; **(3):** Minimum Speed; **(4):** Maximum Relaxation Speed; **(5):** Return to baseline

Multiple **Plot Selections** can be created in a single plot. **Plot Selections** can be deleted by double mouse clicking and can be merged by overlapping the areas of a currently drawn **Plot Selection** with a previously drawn **Plot Selection**.

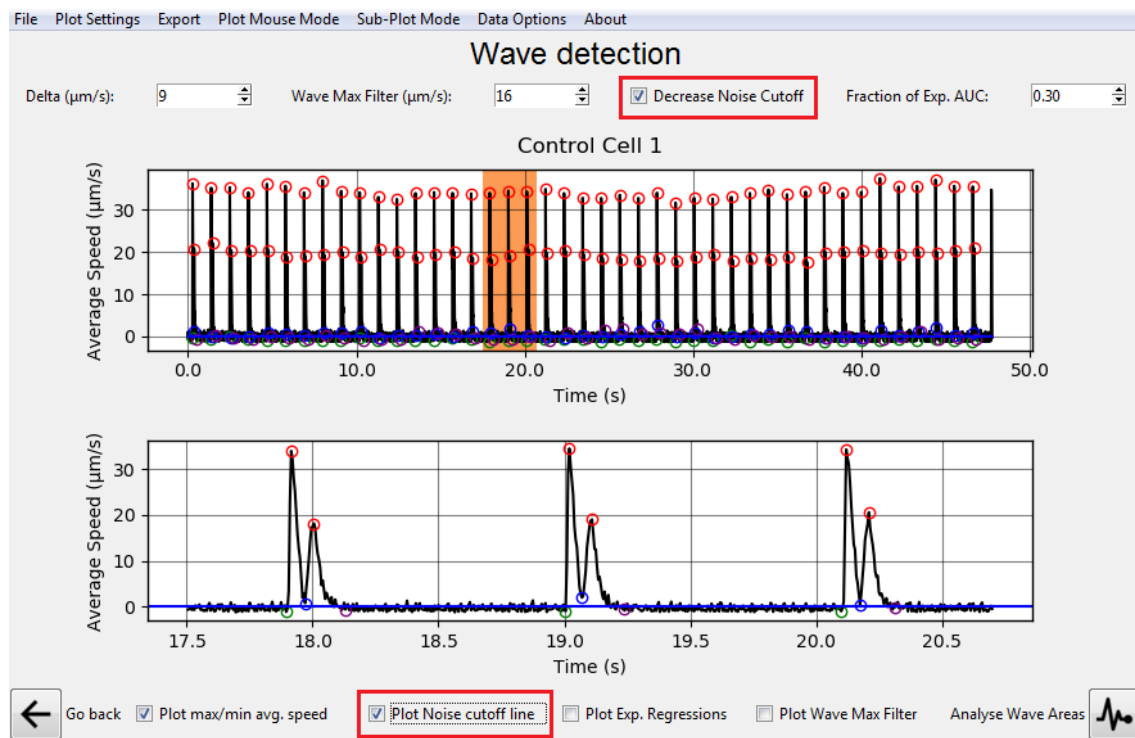
Three Mouse Modes options are currently available in this Screen: *Select Wave Areas*, *Select Wave Points*, and *Zoom Plot Area* in the top bar under the *Plot Mouse Mode* Menu (Figure 29). The first two modes allow the user to directly interact with the plot data and the third one can be used for zooming the plot or subplot areas at any time by clicking and dragging (Figure 29). This zoom can be reset by double-clicking the plot or subplot when the *Zoom Plot Area* (orange box) is selected (Figure 29). To be able to make a selection, please ensure that the *Select Wave Areas* in the *Plot Mouse Mode* are selected.



**Figure 29:** “Plot Mouse Mode” options

## 5.2.1 First step: Separating Wave from Noise

The automatic Wave detection algorithm **first step** is to separate frames related to Contraction-Relaxation (**Wave**) from baseline state oscillations during measurement (**Noise**) or any other data points. This is done by a fixed threshold whose first guess is calculated as the **median** of all data points values (*Wave Max Filter* threshold). This allows proper Contraction and Relaxation Maxima detection described in the third step of this section. When first opening the *Wave Detection Screen* (Figure 30) this value can be seen in the “Decrease Noise Cutoff” top menu Spin Box highlighted below (Figure 30). Visualization of values defined as **Noise** can be done by clicking the *Plot Noise cutoff line* (blue line) checkbox in the top menu (Figure 30).



**Fig 30** - “Decrease Noise Cutoff” and “*Plot Noise cutoff line*” visualization in the plot. top menu Spin Box highlighted in red.

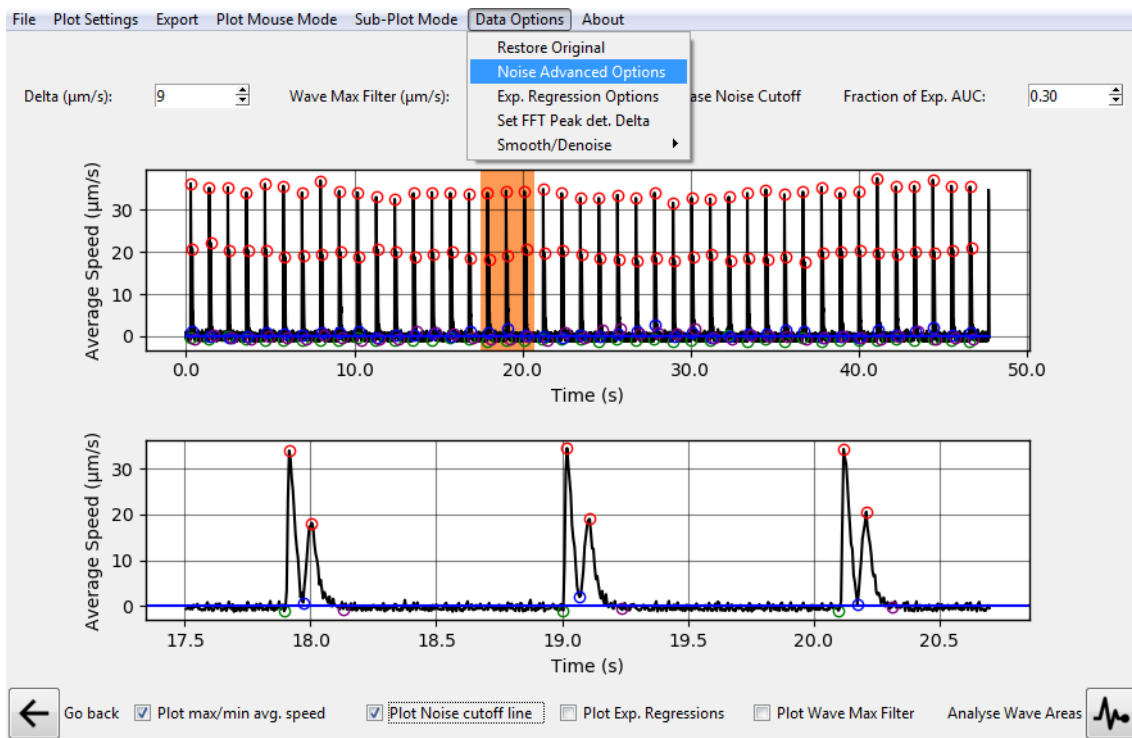
---

Decrease Noise Cutoff: the automated average noise detection algorithm for subtracting noise from the data is done in three steps. First, all the calculated average speed values are sorted. Then, two linear regressions are calculated by a least-squares solution from the sorted data. One regression is done on the 5% lowest speed values and another on the 5% highest average speed values. Finally, the intersection between these two regression lines on the sorted data is then determined. The average noise value is calculated as the mean of all points below this intersection speed value. When such determination is not possible due to a low number of measurement points or when the linear regression computation does not converge, the mean of the lowest 25% average speed values is returned as the average noise value.

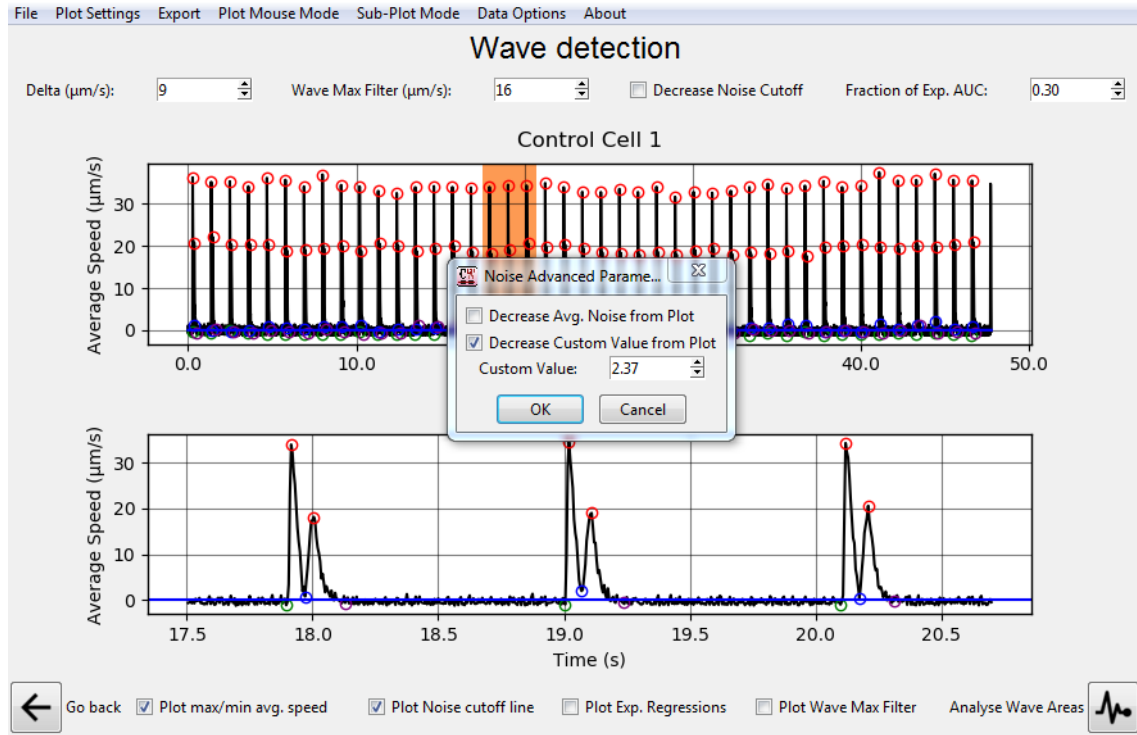
The **noise** value is not suited for all Data Groups. The user can help the algorithm to select an adequate *Wave Max Filter* threshold by editing the values in the top menu Spin Box. **Noise** values are also automatically detected by a threshold which can be changed at Data Options > Noise Advanced Options > Decrease Custom value from Plot (Figure 31A) in “*Noise Detection Options*” (Figure 31B)

You may notice some of the points inside the **Wave** area were below the **Wave Max Filter cutoff**. The algorithm accounts for such variation and this generally does not affect the **max/min average speed points**.

**A.**



## B.



**Fig 31 - A)** - “Noise Detection Options” in the top bar Menu. **B)** “Noise Detection Options” Pop Up Window with labeled options.

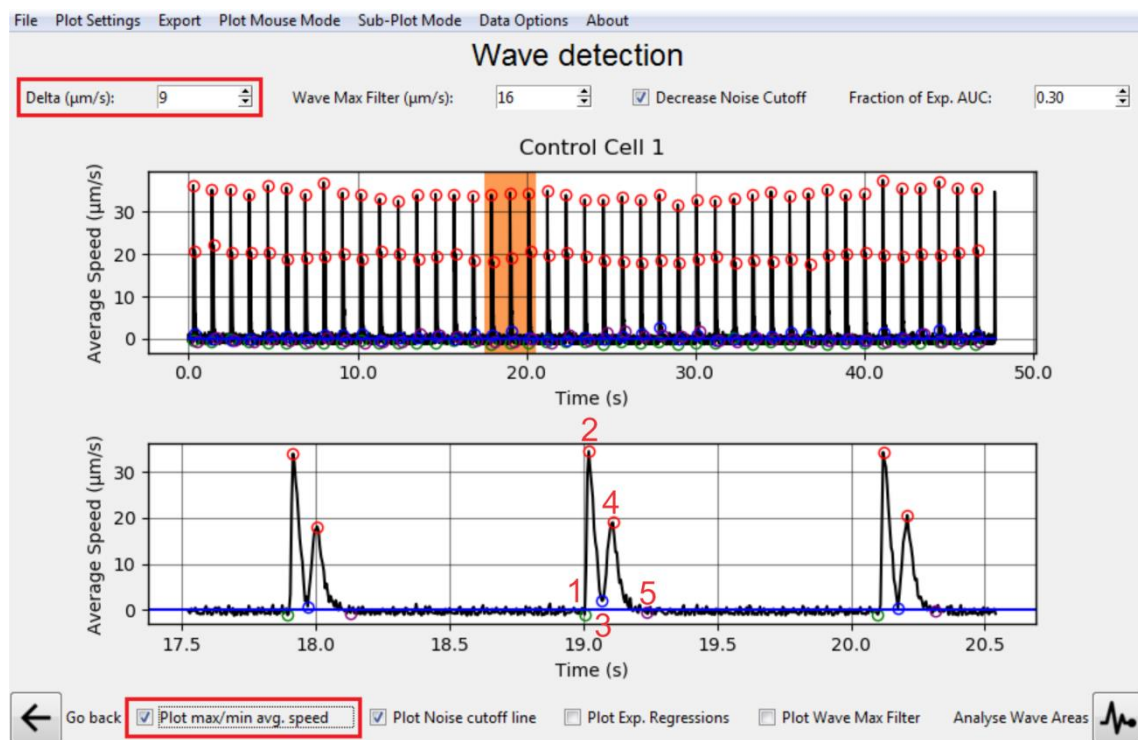
### 5.2.2 Second step: decreasing background noise

Other options in this window (Figure 31B) include decreasing the **Average Speed of ALL Noise areas** or a Custom user input value from the Data after the **Noise** defining algorithm and the **Point Definition** step are done. This may be useful for cases in which the user believes the obtained Wave Speed values are suffering from interference from the baseline values since these interferences can affect the analysis of wave areas.

### 5.2.3 Third step: wave points defining

CONTRACTIONWAVE can automatically find the contraction-relaxation average speed waves. A correctly acquired and parameterized data will contain the five following points: **(1)**: Contraction Initiation; **(2)**: Maximum contraction Speed; **(3)**: Minimum Speed; **(4)**: Maximum Relaxation Speed; **(5)**: Return to baseline.

The **third step** starts by **defining these 5 points**. In these steps, five points of four possible **point types** are detected for each possible **Wave** area. First, possible local maximums are extracted from an open-source [Peak Detection Algorithm](#) requiring a parameter called **Delta** (Figure 32), which is the difference from a possible local minimum to the following local maximum. The initial value guessed by the program for this parameter is the **Average Speed of all points above the Wave Max Filter**.



**Fig 32** - “max/min average speed” CheckBox in the bottom menu and “Delta” Spin Box in the top menu

---

The User can display the automatically detected points by clicking the *Plot max/min average speed checkbox* at the bottom menu (Figure 32). If these points don't properly match the wave, the first correcting measure should be editing the **Delta** value at the top menu (Figure 32). Delta value ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ ) should be set as the minimum difference between baseline points and the "Maximum Relaxation Speed" points. For convenience, we suggest setting a starter value that corresponds to half of the "Average Speed" ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ ) of the smallest "Maximum Relaxation Speed" point of the data. It should be **raised when more dots** are being displayed than it should and **lowered when fewer dots** are being displayed than it should (Figure 32).

In the following steps for *max/min average speed* definition, possible local maximums are filtered and only those with zero-derivative in any **Areas above the Wave Max Filter** remain for analysis (Figure 33). For each pair of remaining **Maximum points (2) and (4)**, the **Start Point (1)** of a **Wave** is defined as the closest zero-derivative minimum **Noise** point preceding the Maximum Contraction Speed **(2)** (Figure 33).

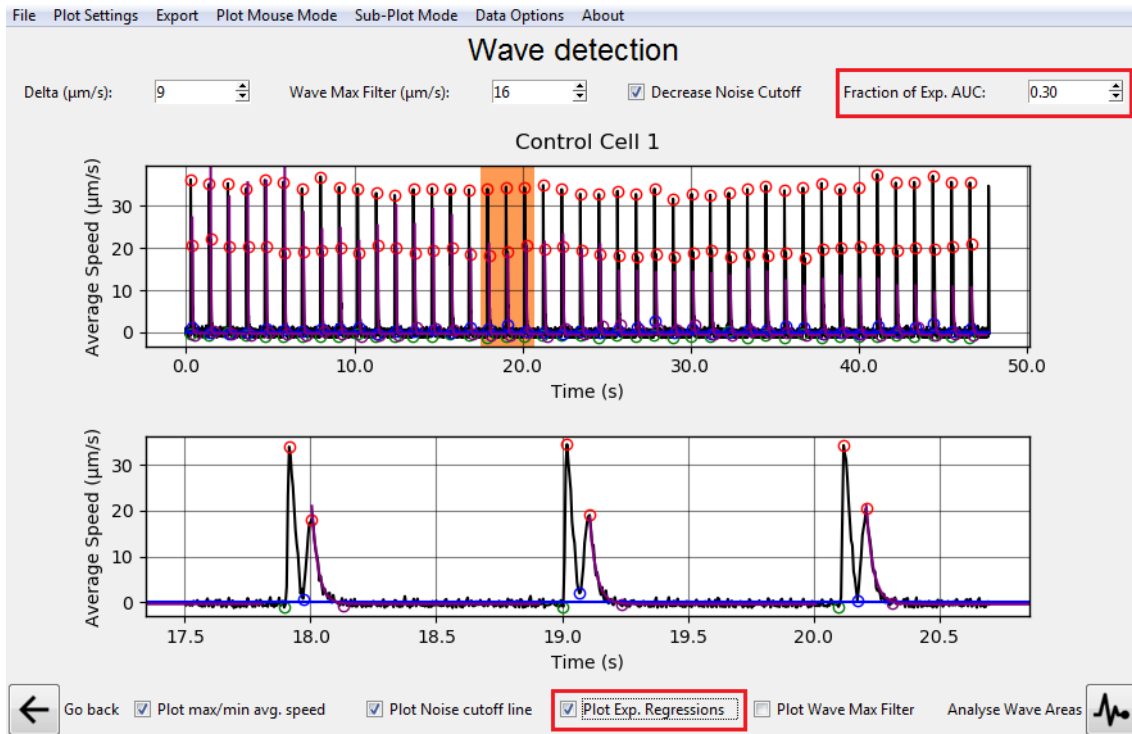
The Minimum Speed **(3)** is defined as the point with the smallest Speed between the two Maximums **(2)** and **(4)**. The Return to baseline **(5)** is finally defined by fitting an exponential function to all points succeeding the Maximum Relaxation Speed **(4)** until the end of the following area below the **Wave Max Filter** and defining a **Fraction of Exp AUC** when the exponential has stabilized. This approach was chosen due to the Waves double-peak pattern which consists of a very fast increase from the baseline in the double peak beginning but a slow decay in the end (Figure 33).

The initial **Fraction of Exp AUC** is 0.30 or 30% which means that when the point following the Maximum Contraction Speed **(2)** has a cumulative area under the curve in the fitted function bigger than 30% it is defined as the Return to baseline **(5)** (Figure 33).

These settings to find the Return to baseline **(5)**, generally works fine with the tested cases but should also be customized according to the data in the **Fraction of Exp AUC Spin Box** shown in Figure 33. Waves displaying a slower



decay should have a higher **Fraction of Exp AUC** value and Waves with a faster decay should have a smaller **Fraction of Exp AUC** value.



**Fig 33** - “Fraction of Exp AUC” Spin Box and the *Plot Exponential Regressions* CheckBox in the top menu.

The Exponential regression can also be visualized for each wave by clicking the *Plot Exponential Regressions* CheckBox highlighted in Figure 33.

Each of the four-point types (**1-5**) is colored differently in the plot (Figure 33). Default color configurations are Green, Red, Blue, and Purple but can be changed anytime along with other Plot Settings (See Customizing Plots in this Document).

After **Waves** are properly assigned and selected, the user can click on Analyse Wave Areas (Figure 33) to move to the next analysis as described in the final session for this Analysis.

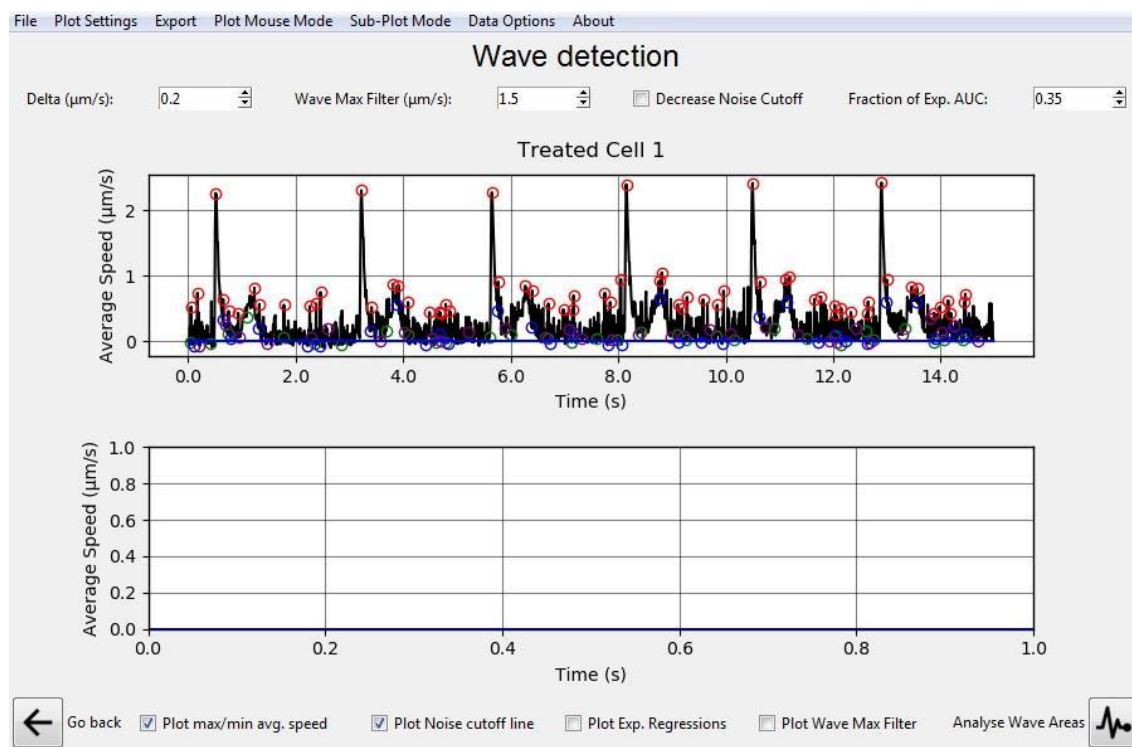
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## 5.3 NOISY DATA

### 5.3.1 Applying Smoothing/Denoising Algorithms

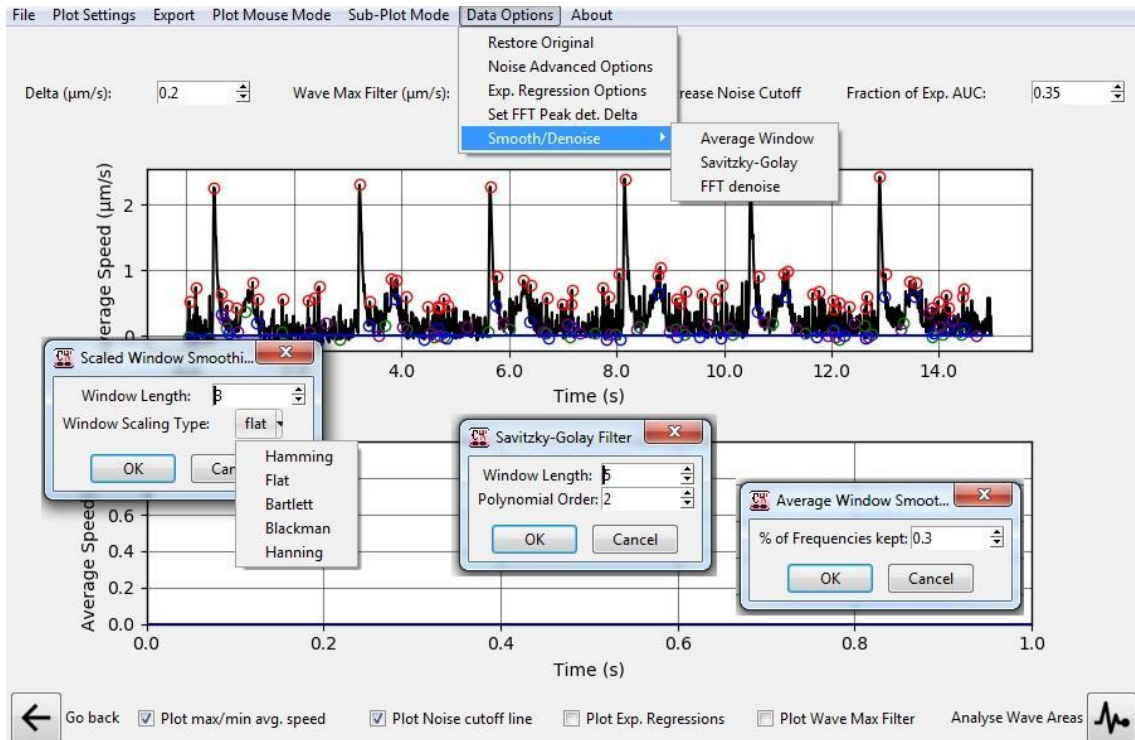
Despite all these steps, noisy data groups with **Noise** oscillations close to the **Wave** values may difficultly **Wave** assignment from the Speed data calculated by the Optical Flow Algorithm. These particularly arise from multidirectional Contraction-Relaxation data such as those seen in Neonatal cardiomyocytes. The program presents multiple options for contouring such issues which are all exemplified below.

One option for correcting highly noisy data is applying a Smoothing/Denoising Algorithm on the data (Figure 34). The offset of this method is that the Raw Speed data is modified when such an algorithm is applied, which may lead to wrong conclusions regarding the methodology results. As such these methods are to be applied with care, especially when the objective is comparing data groups from different experiments/cell types which is the most often case.



**Fig 34** - A highly noisy case with clear bad max/min average speed detection

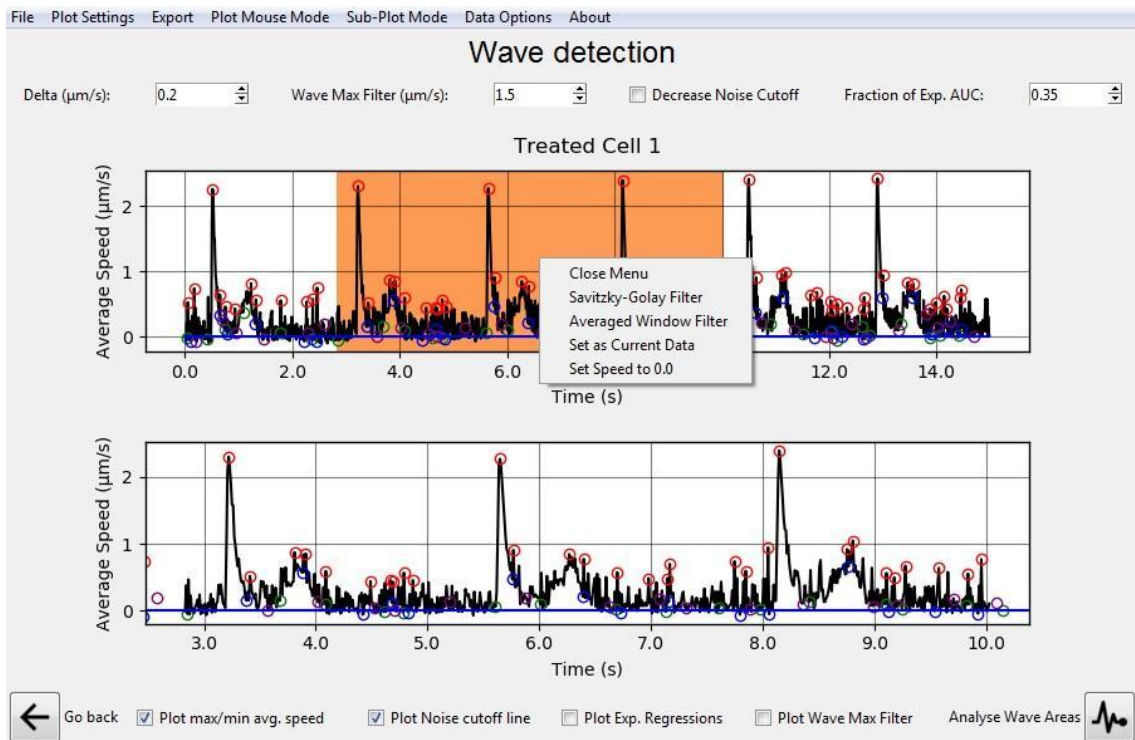
Three main Smoothing algorithms are present in this program (Figure 35) and are the Savitzky-Golay filter, a Fast Fourier Transform finite impulse response (FIR) filter, and Average Window denoising. These can be opened from the *Data Options > Smooth/Denoise* Menu in the Top Bar (Figure 35).



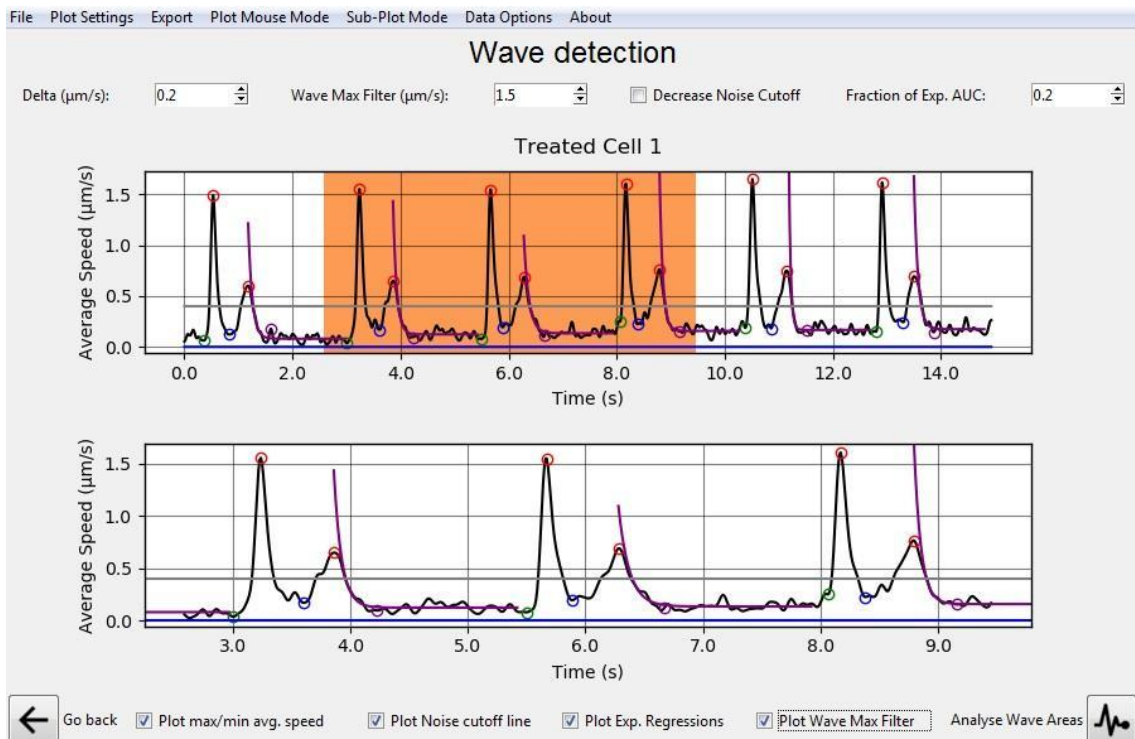
**Fig 35 - Data Options > Smooth/Denoise** Menu in the Top Bar. Selecting one of the *Smooth/Denoise* options opens up three possible pop-ups for the Average Window, Savitzky-Golay, and FFT Frequency filters (left to right pop-ups respectively)

Clicking each filter opens up a Pop Up Window for applying such a filter (Figure 35). Customizing options for these filters include Window length for the Savitzky-Golay filter; the Average Window denoising, and the Polynomial Order used by the Savitzky-Golay filter; various possible Window Scaling types for the Average Window denoising and the Percentage of the highest frequencies kept in the Fast Fourier Transform filter (Figure 35).

The Savitzky-Golay filter and Average Window denoising procedure can also be applied to a user-selected **Plot Selection** by clicking the **Plot Selection** with the right mouse button and selecting any of the two options regarding these filters as seen in Figure 36, and the result of the filtering in Figure 37.



**Fig 36** - Right-clicking a **Plot Selection** allows the user to apply the Savitzky-Golay filter and Average Window denoising procedure on a specific plot area as highlighted in red.



**Fig 37** - Data filtering result

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The data can be restored to the original configuration by clicking on the *Data Options > Restore Original* Menu Option in the Top Bar. After **Waves** are properly assigned and selected, the user can move to the next analysis as described in the final session for this Analysis.

**More details about the filters for denoising are presented below:**

### **Savitzky-Golay (SG)**

SG filter is a convolutional digital filter used to smooth data points through the application of successive subsets of data points into a least-squares polynomial regression. The filter can be calculated according to Equation (1) for a dataset of  $n$  points  $(x_j, y_j)$  and  $m$  convolutions coefficients  $C_i$  [1].

$$Y_j = \sum_{i=\frac{1-m}{2}}^{\frac{m-1}{2}} C_i y_{j+i}, \quad \frac{m-1}{2} \leq j \leq n - \frac{m-1}{2}$$

Equation (1)

### **Window function convolution**

The noise is removed by the convolution of a scaled window function with the signal, the software includes five window methods available in the SciPy package [2] and they are listed below.

Flat top:

$$W(n) = a_0 - a_1 \cos\left(\frac{2\pi n}{N-1}\right) + a_2 \cos\left(\frac{4\pi n}{N-1}\right) - a_3 \cos\left(\frac{6\pi n}{N-1}\right) + a_4 \cos\left(\frac{8\pi n}{N-1}\right),$$

$$a_0 = 0.21557895; a_1 = 0.41663158; a_2 = 0.277263158; a_3 = 0.083578947; a_4 = 0.006947368;$$

Equation (2)

Hann:

$$W(n) = 0.5 \left( 1 - \cos\left(2\pi \frac{n}{N}\right) \right), \quad 0 \leq n \leq N$$

Equation (3)

Hamming:

---


$$W(n) = 0.54 - 0.461 - \cos\left(2\pi\frac{n}{N}\right), \quad 0 \leq n \leq N$$

Equation (4)

**Bartlett:**

$$W(n) = \begin{cases} \frac{2n}{N}, & 0 \leq n \leq \frac{N}{2} \\ 2 - \frac{2n}{N}, & \frac{N}{2} \leq n \leq N \end{cases}$$

Equation (5)

**Blackman:**

$$W(n) = 0.42 - 0.5\cos\left(\frac{2\pi n}{L-1}\right) + 0.8\cos\left(\frac{4\pi n}{L-1}\right), \quad 0 \leq n \leq M-1$$

Equation (6)

### **FFT low pass filter**

This filter uses the Fast Fourier Transform to block all frequency components above a given cutoff. This action is performed in the frequency domain and followed by an inverse Fourier transform to return to the time domain [3].

**Important:** CONTRACTIOWAVE denoising filters can produce a small decrease in the average speed, which in our experiments, varied between 2-3% of the maximum amplitude. However, the effect of these filters will depend on how noisy the data is. The noisier the data, the greater the difference in average speed in the filtered data. Therefore, for comparisons between cells, this filter should be held constant.

[1] Savitzky, A., & Golay, M. J. (1964). Smoothing and differentiation of data by simplified least squares procedures. *Analytical chemistry*, 36(8), 1627-1639.

[2] Virtanen, P., Gommers, R., Oliphant, T. E., Haberland, M., Reddy, T., Cournapeau, D., & van Mulbregt, P. (2020). SciPy 1.0: fundamental algorithms for scientific computing in Python. *Nature methods*, 17(3), 261-272.

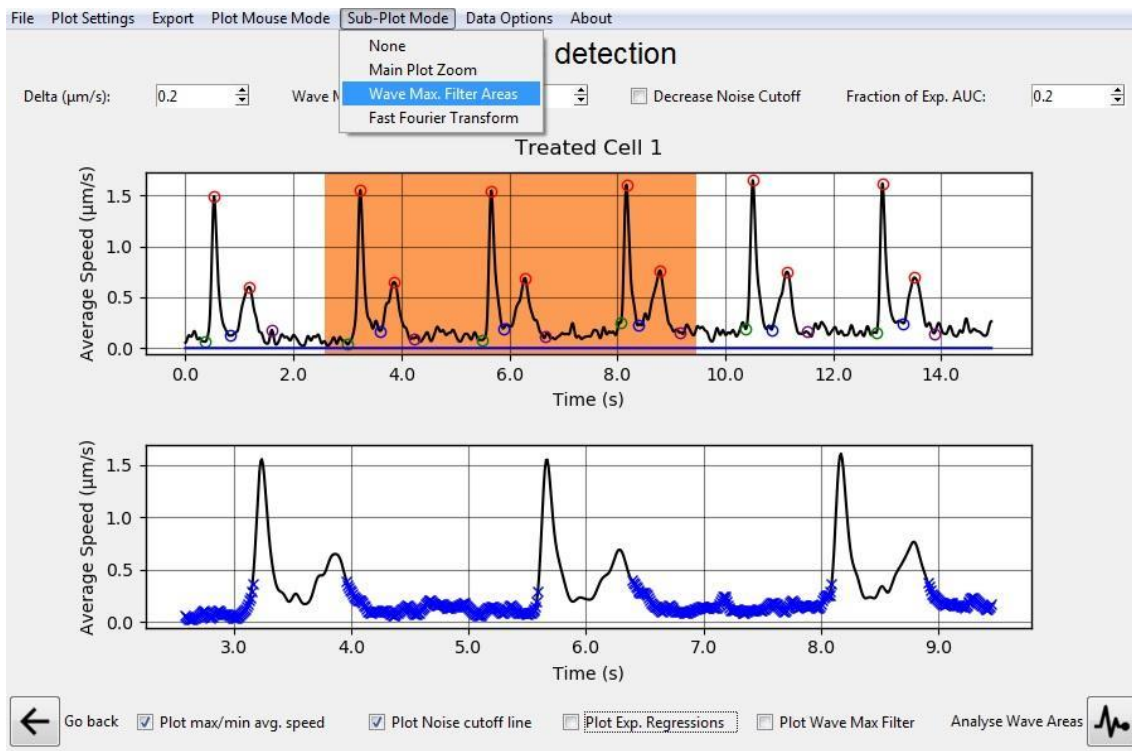
[3] Cooley, J. W., & Tukey, J. W. (1965). An algorithm for the machine calculation of complex Fourier series. *Mathematics of computation*, 19(90), 297-301.

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### 5.3.2 Separating Waves by area selection

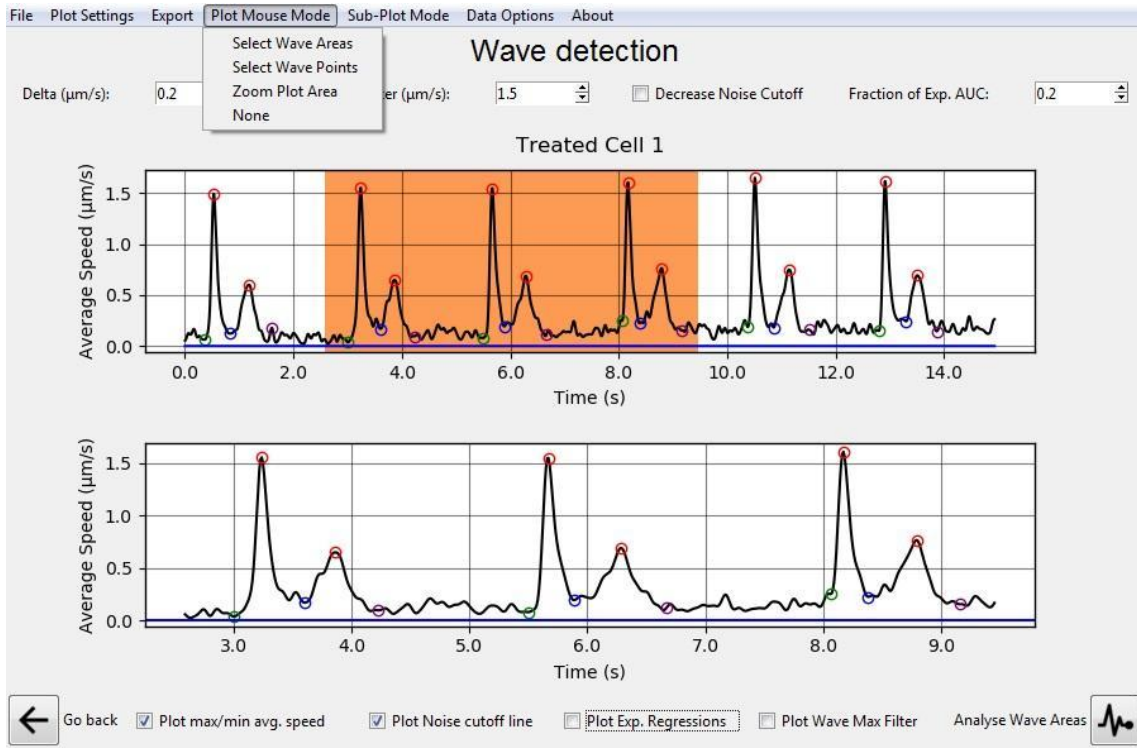
The following two options for correcting **Wave area** definition by the program is by manually setting **Areas under the Wave Max Filter** for each of the five peak points after adjusting the parameters in the first section of this *Screen tutorial (Separating Wave from Noise and the Wave Points defining Algorithm)* (Figure 38).

For manually setting areas as valid for searching maxima first set the Sub-Plot Mode to *Wave Max. Filter Areas* in the *Sub-Plot Mode* Menu of the Top Bar (Figure 38). This will update the below Sub-Plot to show points defined as **below the Wave Max Filter** by the Maximum searching algorithm in blue crosses as shown below.



**Fig 38** - Sub-Plot Modes in the Sub-Plot Mode Menu of the Top Bar

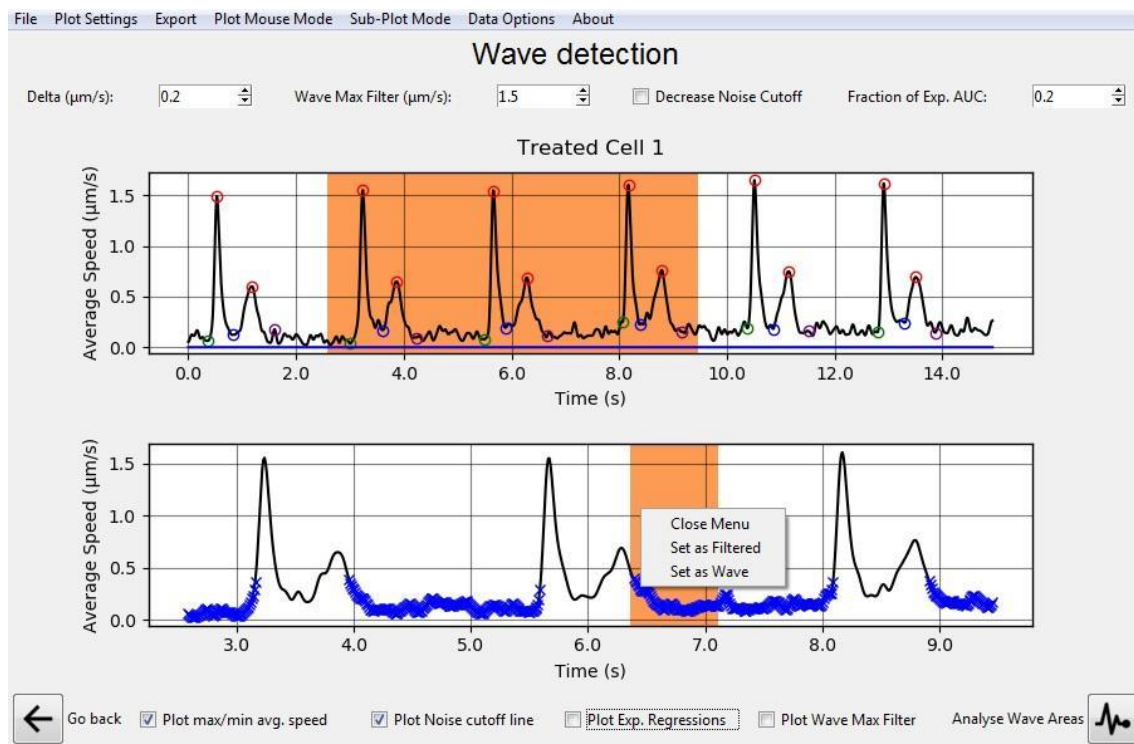
Also, ensure that the Plot Mouse Mode is set to *Select Wave Areas* in the *Plot Mouse Mode* Menu of the Top Bar (Figure 39).



**Fig 39 - Plot Mouses Modes in the Plot Mouse Mode Menu of the Top Bar**



Now **Sub-Plot Selection Areas** can be generated in the same way **Plot Selection** areas are by clicking, dragging, and releasing with the left mouse button (Figure 40).

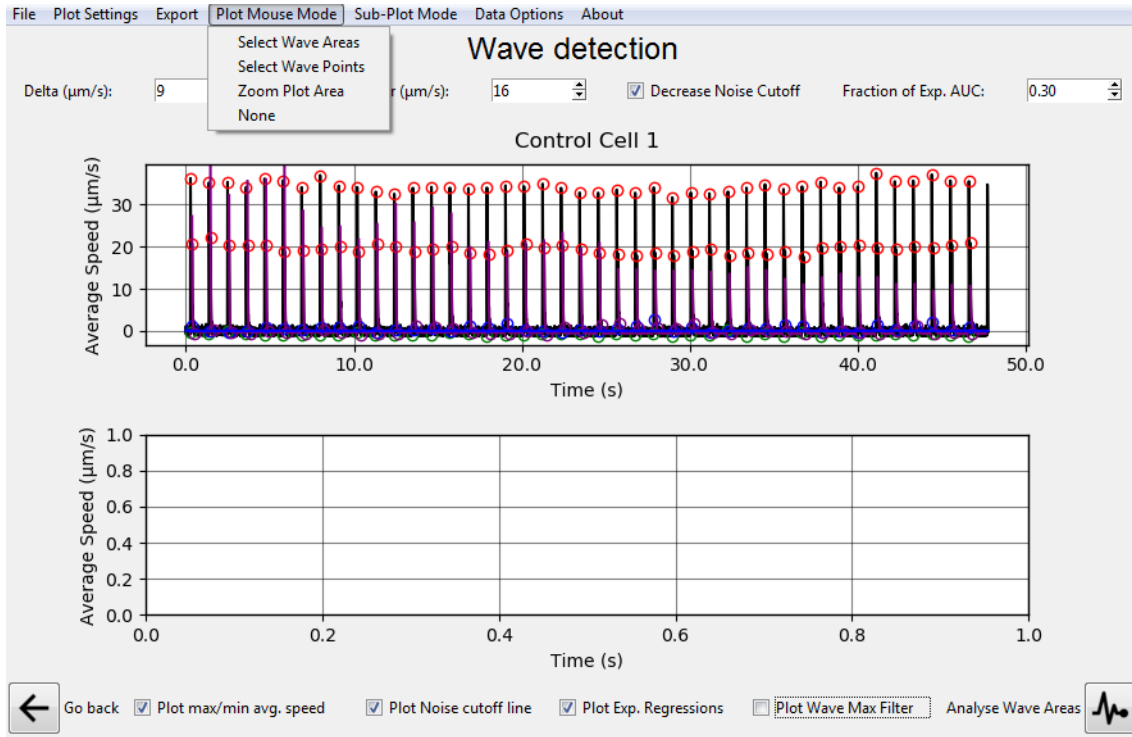


**Fig 40** - Sub-Plot Selections in the *Noise/Peak Areas* Sub-Plot generated by clicking and dragging. “*Set as Wave*” and “*Set as Filtered*” Menu Options in the *Wave Max Filter Areas* Sub-Plot generated by right-clicking a Sub-Plot Selection.

Right-clicking a **Sub-Plot Selection Area** allows the user to set individual parts of the Plot as **Wave** or **Filtered**, which greatly helps the **max/min average speed** algorithm in defining where the true **Maximum** points are located (Figure 40). An important thing to note is that changing any of the automatic detection options resets any of the user manual editions. After **Waves** are properly assigned and selected, the user can move to the next analysis as described in the final session for this Analysis.

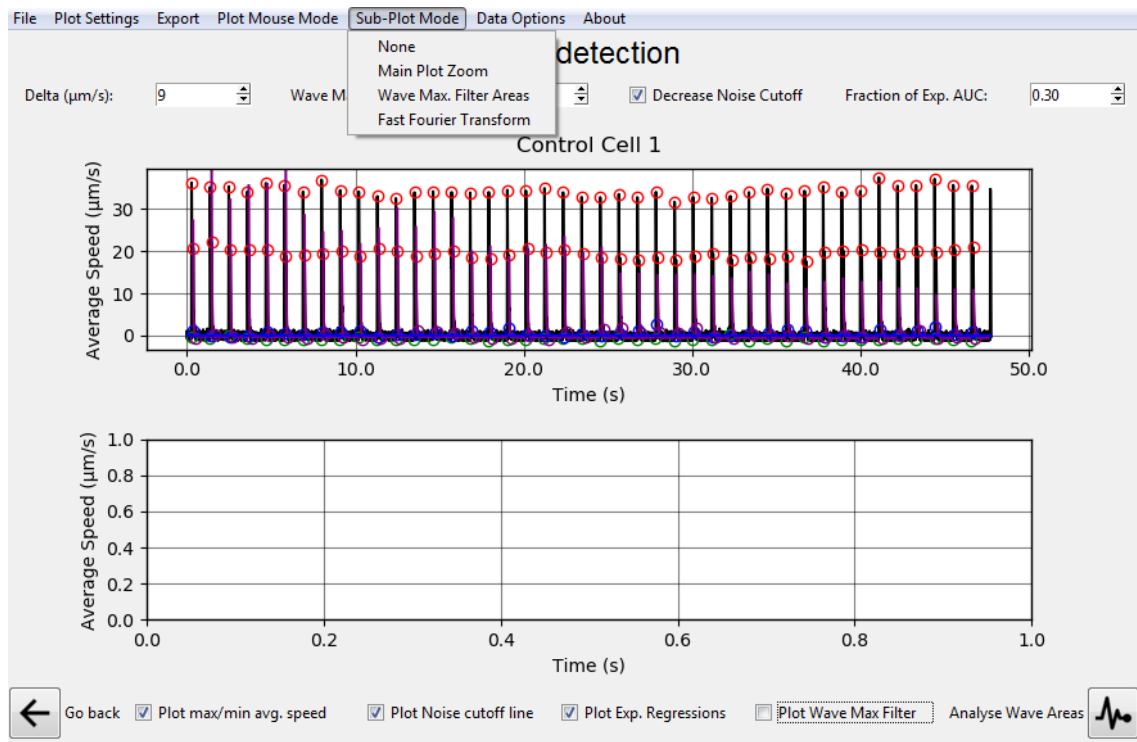
## 5.4 EDITING AND CREATING WAVE POINTS MANUALLY

Another way to edit wrongly or non-assigned **Wave** points is to manually add, remove or move points in the plot. First, ensure that the Plot Mouse Mode is set to *Select Wave Points* in the *Plot Mouse Mode* Menu of the Top Bar (Figure 41).



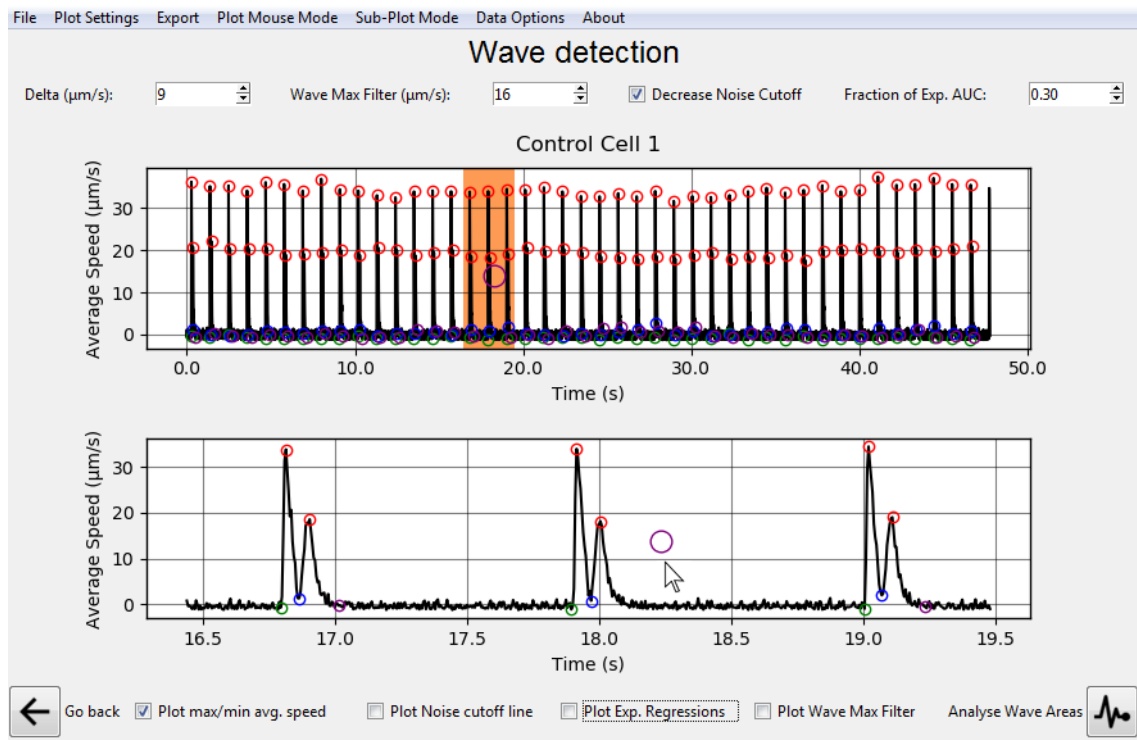
**Fig 41** - Plot Mouses Modes in the Plot Mouse Mode Menu of the Top Bar

Also, check that the Sub-Plot Mode is assigned to the Main *Plot Zoom* in the *Sub-Plot Mode* Menu of the Top Bar (Figure 42). Now points can be moved by dragging and dropping with the left mouse button.



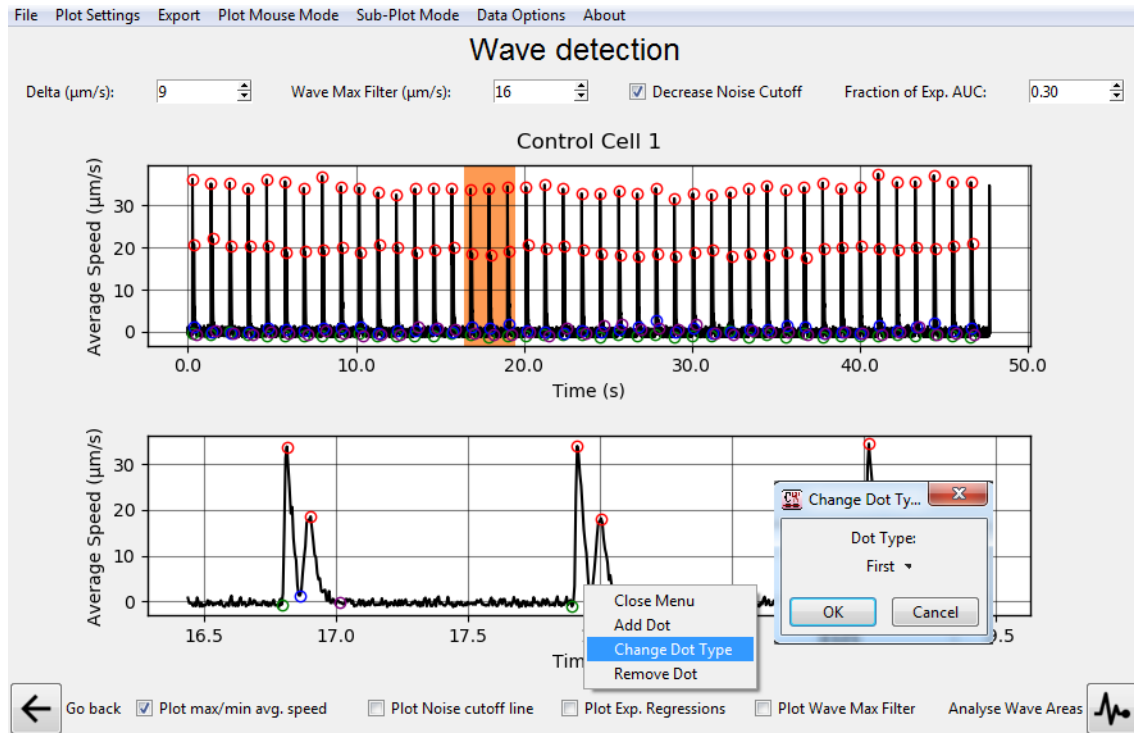
**Fig 42 - Sub-Plot Modes in the Sub-Plot Mode Menu of the Top Bar**

The plot can be right-clicked at any position for adding a new Point. Points in the Plot can also be right-clicked and removed or have their type changed to another one (Figure 43).



**Fig 43** - Clicking and dragging a Wave Point.

This is a more radical way to assign **Waves** which anyhow can be useful since all the assignment here is completely done by the user. An important thing to note is that changing any of the automatic detection options resets any of the user manual editions (Figure 44). After **Waves** are properly assigned and selected, the user can move to the next analysis as described in the final session for this Analysis.



**Fig 44 - A)** Right-clicking in the Plot in the *Select Wave Points* Mouse Mode opens up a new Menu. **B)** Pop Up Window for creating a new point or changing a point's type.

## 5.5 CHECKING WAVE FREQUENCY DATA BY FAST FOURIER TRANSFORM

The cell wave frequency can be acquired using a Fast Fourier Transform of the Data. First, ensure that the Plot Mouse Mode is set to *Select Wave Points* in the *Plot Mouse Mode* Menu of the Top Bar (Figure 45).

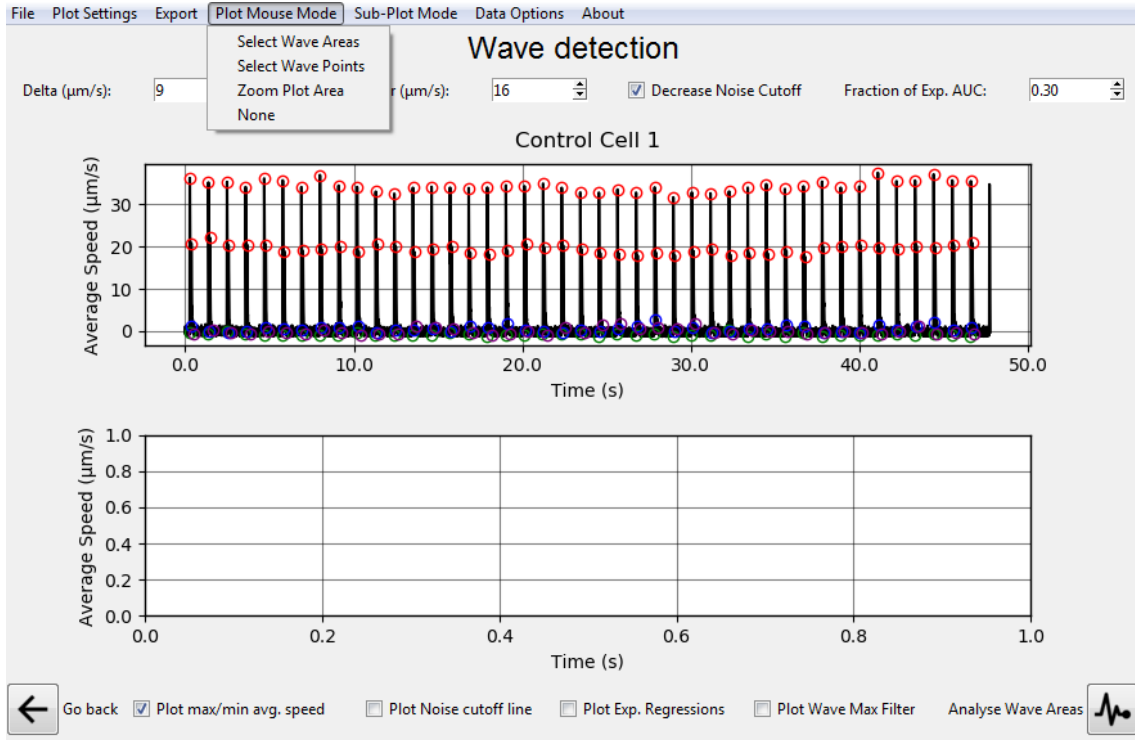
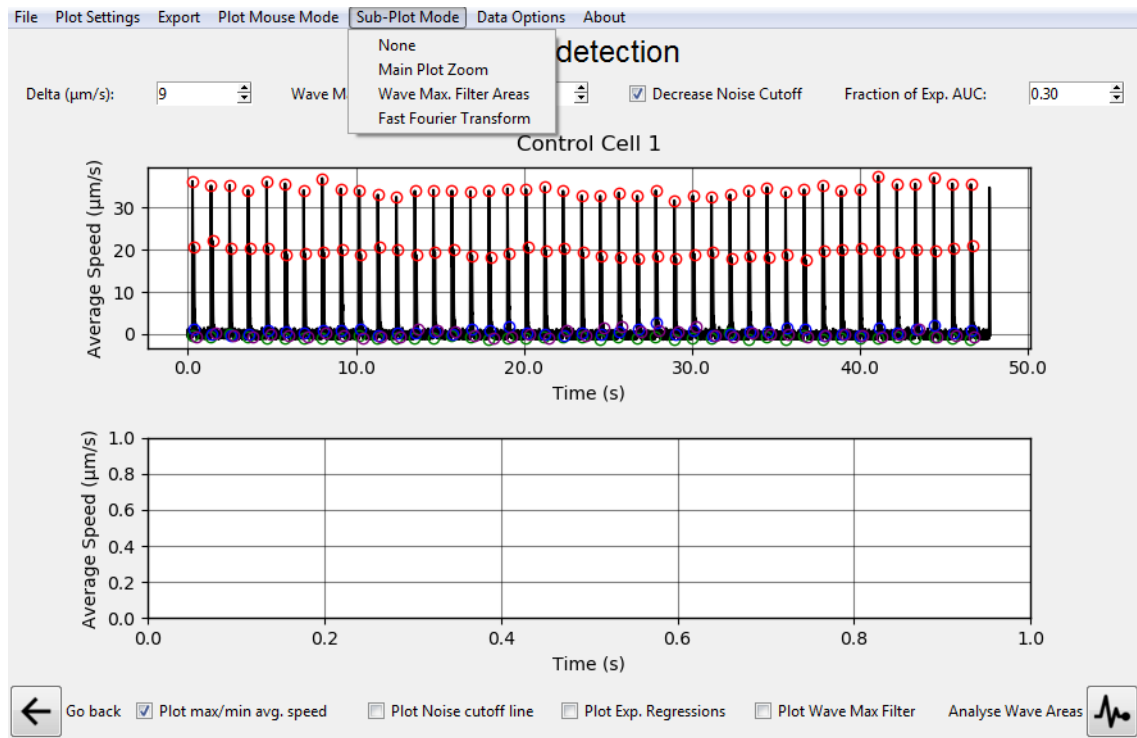


Fig 45 - Plot Mouses Modes in the Plot Mouse Mode Menu of the Top Bar

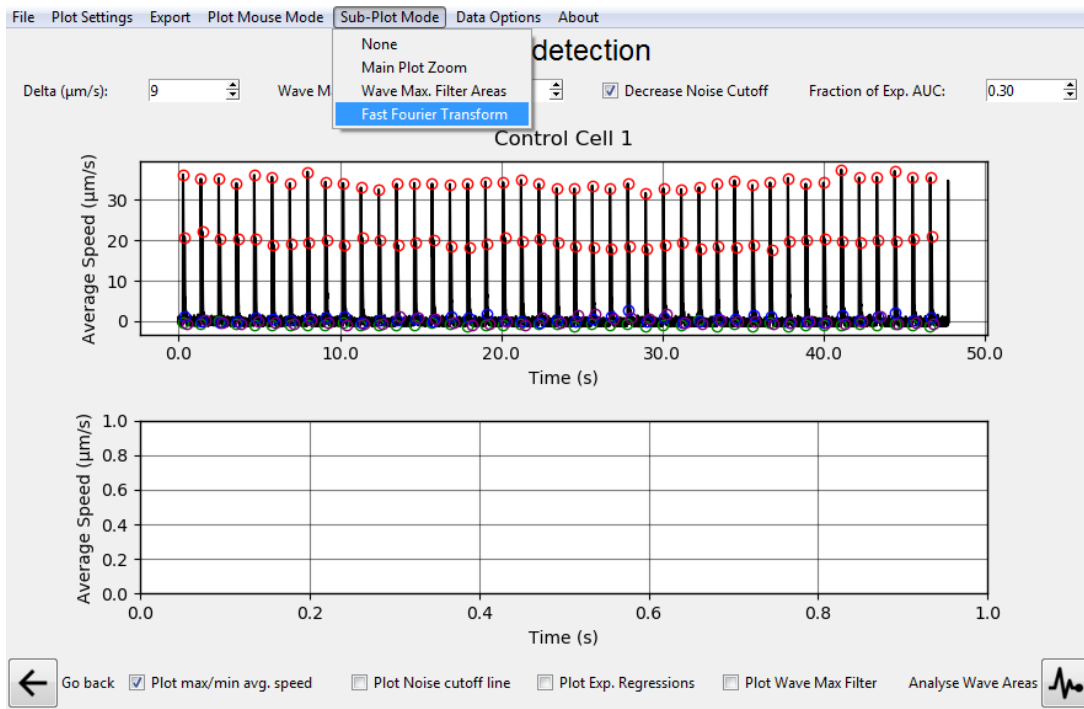
Then check that the Sub-Plot Mode is assigned to *Fast Fourier Transform* in the *Sub-Plot Mode* Menu of the Top Bar (Figure 46).



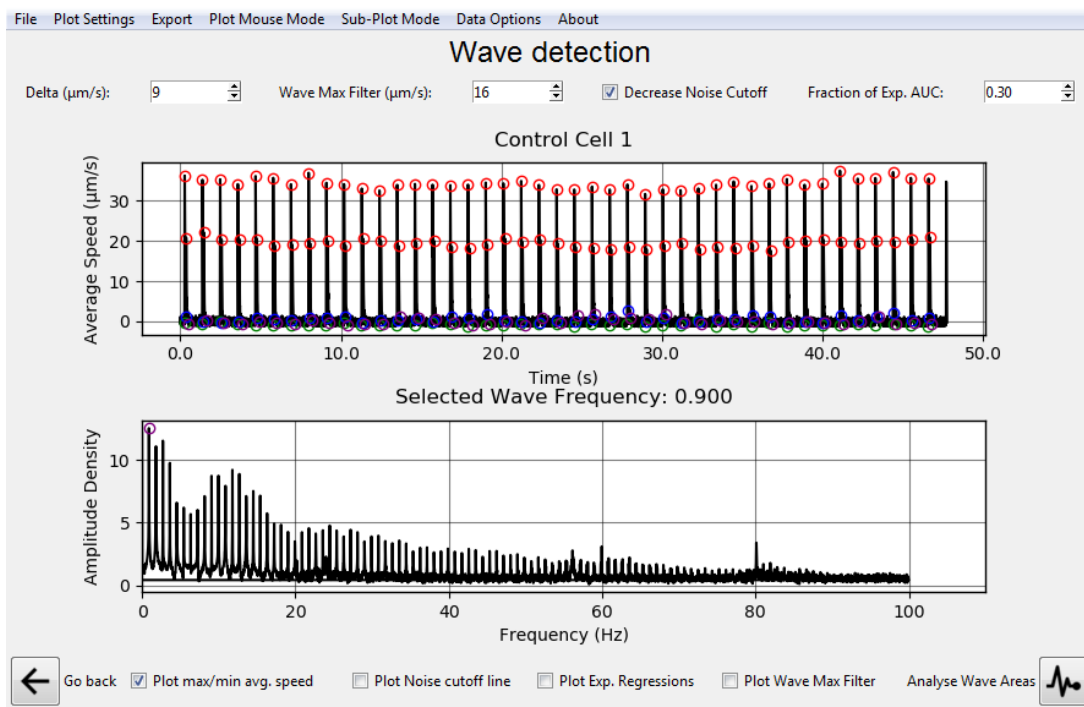
**Fig 46** - Sub-Plot Modes in the Sub-Plot Mode Menu of the Top Bar

This displays the Fast Fourier Transform of the Plot Data (Figure 47A-B). The subplot highlights the first detected maximum point and updates the Plot's title with the corresponding selecting Frequency (Figure 47A-B).

**A.**



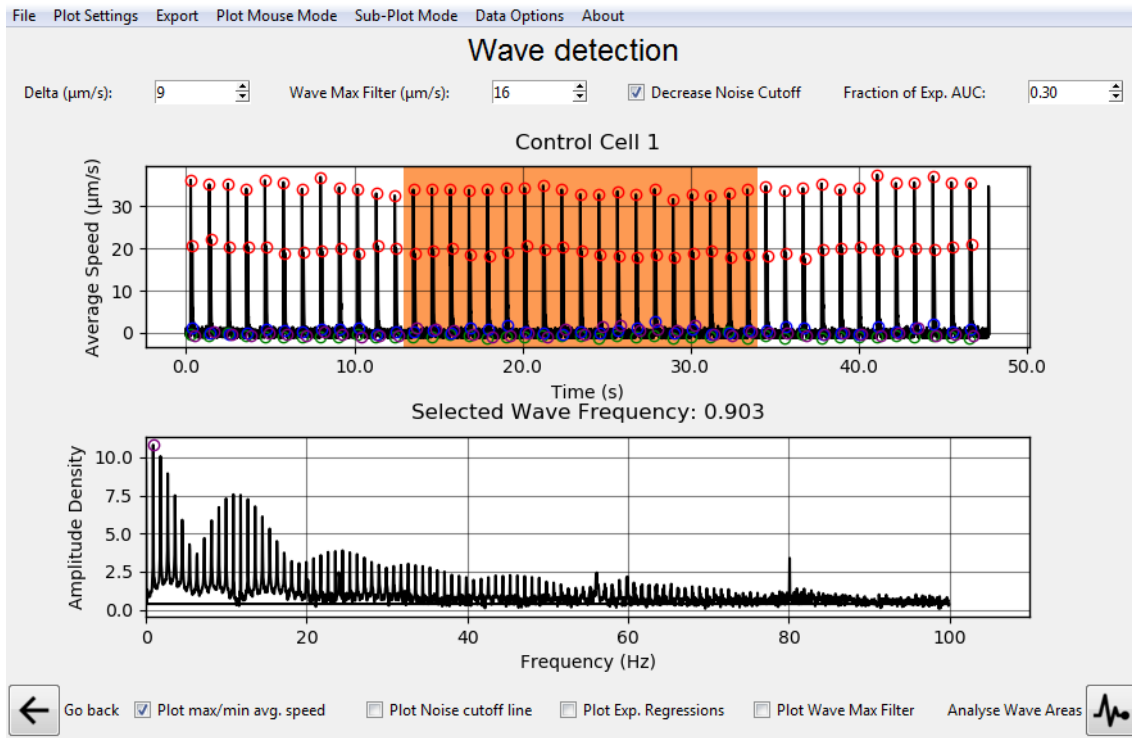
**B.**



**Fig 47 - A) FFT Sub-Plot Mode. B) Clicking a new dot**

The Fast Fourier Transform is applied to the last created **Plot Selection** in the Plot if any has been previously selected (Figure 48).





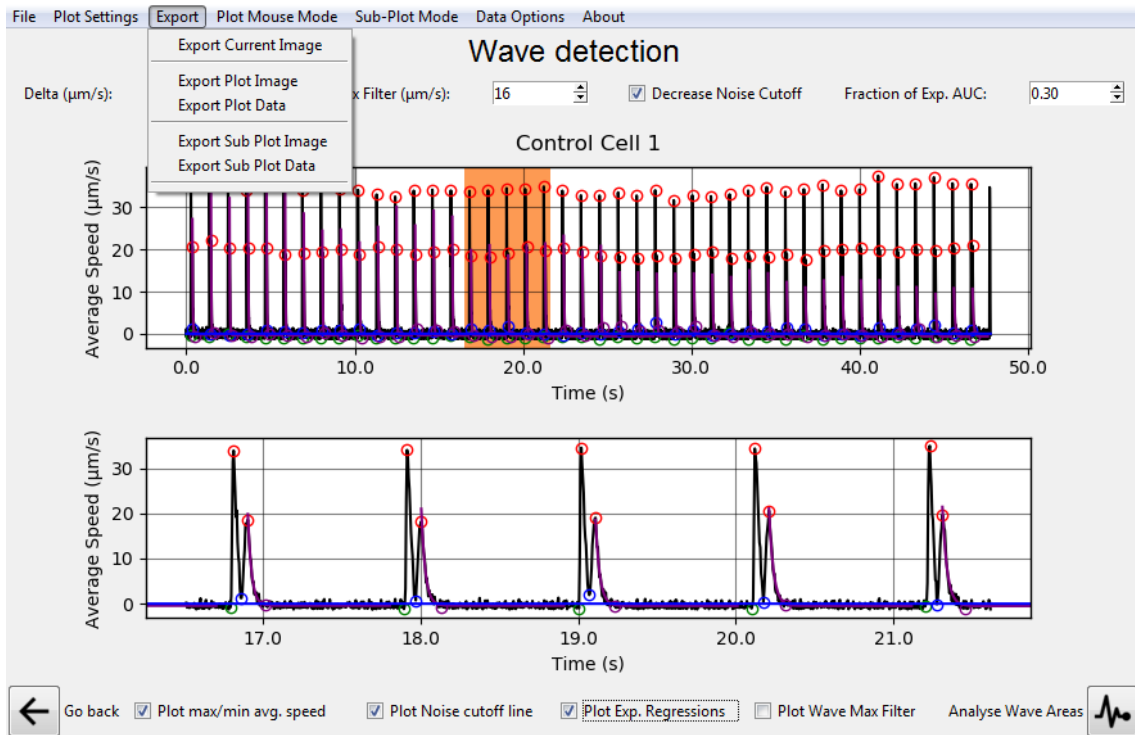
**Fig 48** - FFT Sub-Plot Mode is now applied to the last Plot Selection created.

The cell wave frequency will be represented by the highest amplitude density peak value of the amplitude density x frequency (Hz) graph (bottom panel, see the purple circle on the highest amplitude density peak detected in Figure 48).

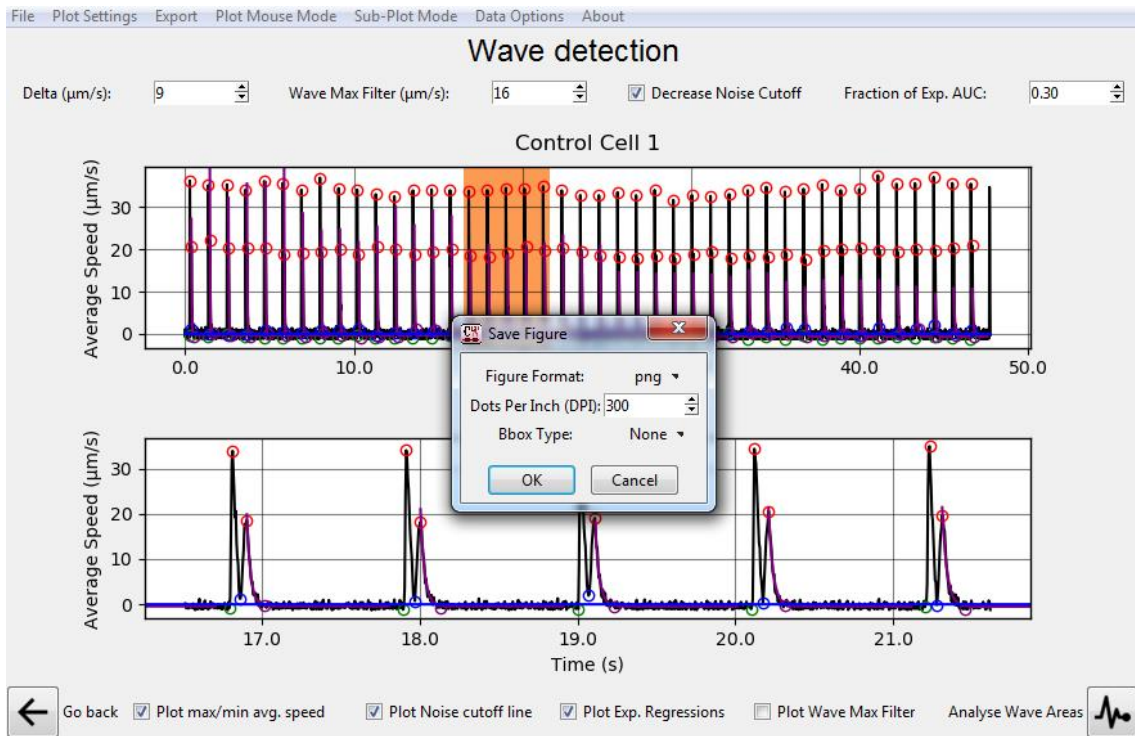
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## 5.6 EXPORTING DATA ANALYSIS

Multiple Data can be exported from this Screen if the user desires to do so. This includes the whole or individual Plot+Sub Plot images as well as their data. Supported export figure data includes various possible formats according to the user's computer *matplotlib* installation. Like the previous Screen, Data is exported (Figure 49) in a tabular format in either the .csv or .xls formats (Figure 50).



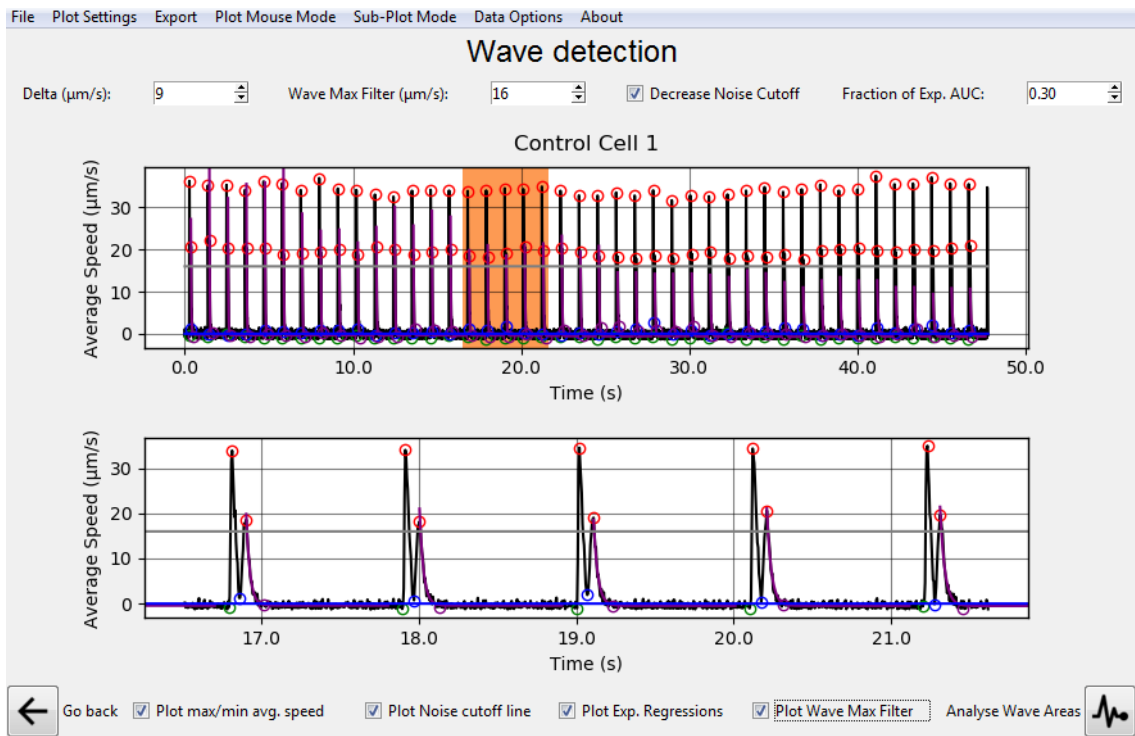
**Fig 49 - Export Menu in the Top Bar with several export options.**



**Fig 50** - Pop-up window for exporting Figures in Contraction Wave. After clicking the ok button, the user is prompted to select a file name and a folder for saving.

## 5.7 SELECTING DATA FOR ANALYSIS

One or more **Waves** are required to be selected (under a **Plot Selection**) before progressing for further analysis. A complete **Wave** is defined by the presence of the following **Wave Points** in this order: **(1)**: Contraction Initiation; **(2)**: Maximum contraction Speed; **(3)**: Minimum Speed; **(4)**: Maximum Relaxation Speed; **(5)**: Return to baseline (Figure 46). For drawing selections, please ensure that the *Select Wave Areas* mouse mode is selected by clicking under this Menu and click and drag the Top Plot (Figure 51).



**Fig 51 - A)** A valid selection of five Waves before progressing to the next analysis. **B)** Clicking the *Analyse Wave Areas* button allows the user to progress to the next analysis.

## 5.8 CONTRACTION AMPLITUDE

An alternative for better visualization of the contraction start and end points is also provided by CONTRACTIONWAVE. Sometimes the correct identification of these points is difficult. This normally occurs with immature cells and can be caused by noise or even the fact that there are cells that have a relaxation speed greater than contraction. To circumvent this problem, CONTRACTIONWAVE has a pipeline in the Wave detection window (Data Options>Contraction Amplitude) (Figure 52) that allows the user to visualize the entire contraction-relaxation cycle along with a corresponding single peak that represents the amplitude contraction (Figure 53). The amplitude contraction graph is obtained through pixel subtraction of all frames to a reference defined by the nearest previous Contraction initiation points or the first Contraction Initiation for the starting points where no contraction-relaxation cycles have

been initiated. The baseline for each subtraction operation is then defined by the second frame preceding each Contraction Initiation, however, the user can choose a different reference frame in the window “Image subtraction reference frames” (Figure 52). The program subtracts all subsequent images from this reference baseline frame.

The comparison window (Figure 53) provides a comparison between the adult-CM data processed using the optical flow and the calculated contraction amplitude (Figure 54 - zoomed figure).

Figure 55 shows a comparison between the data processed using the optical flow (black line) and the calculated contraction amplitude (red line) of hiPSC-CM.

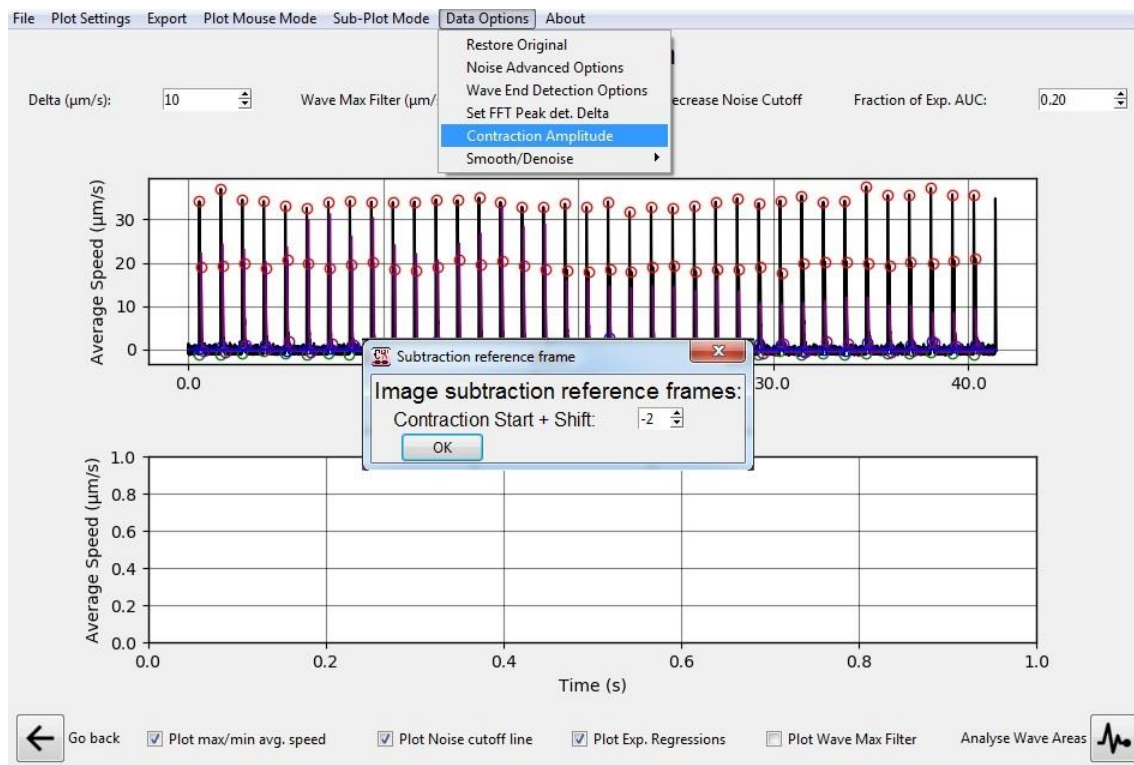
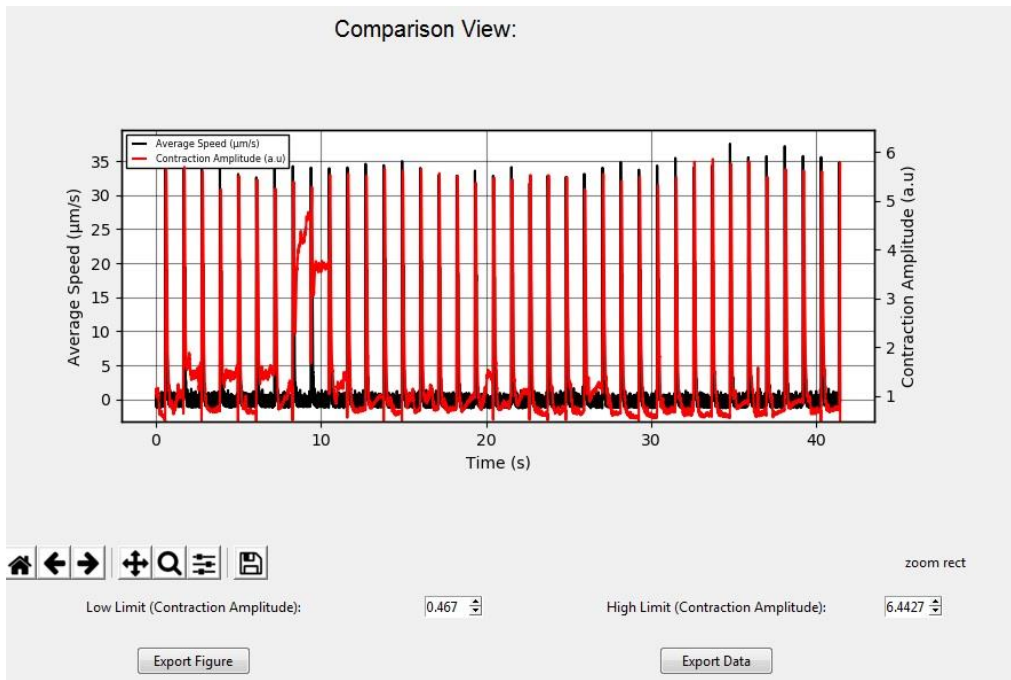
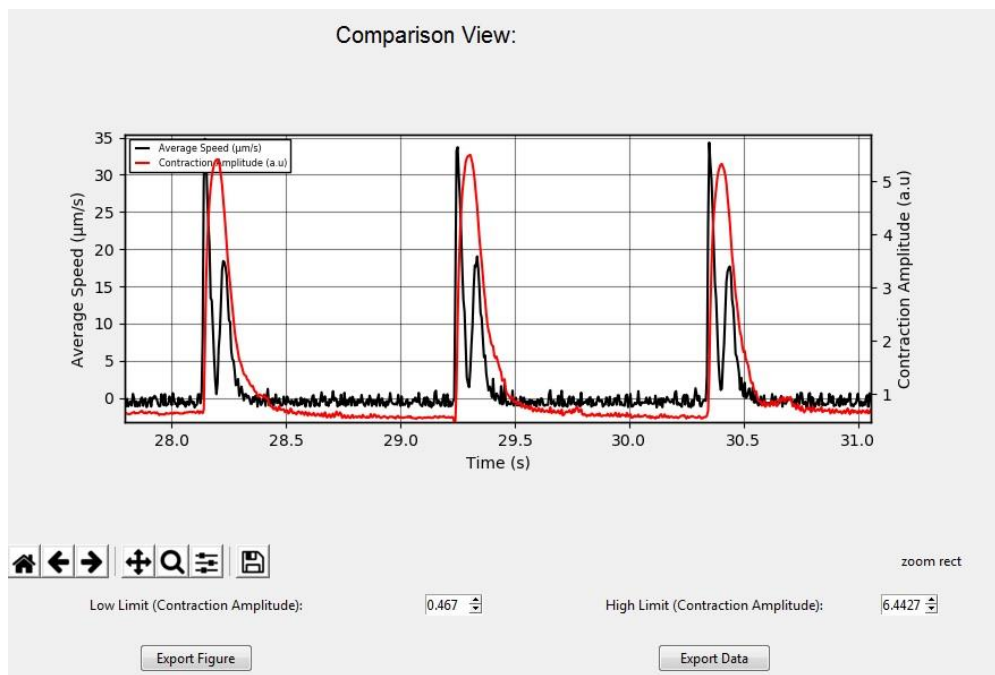


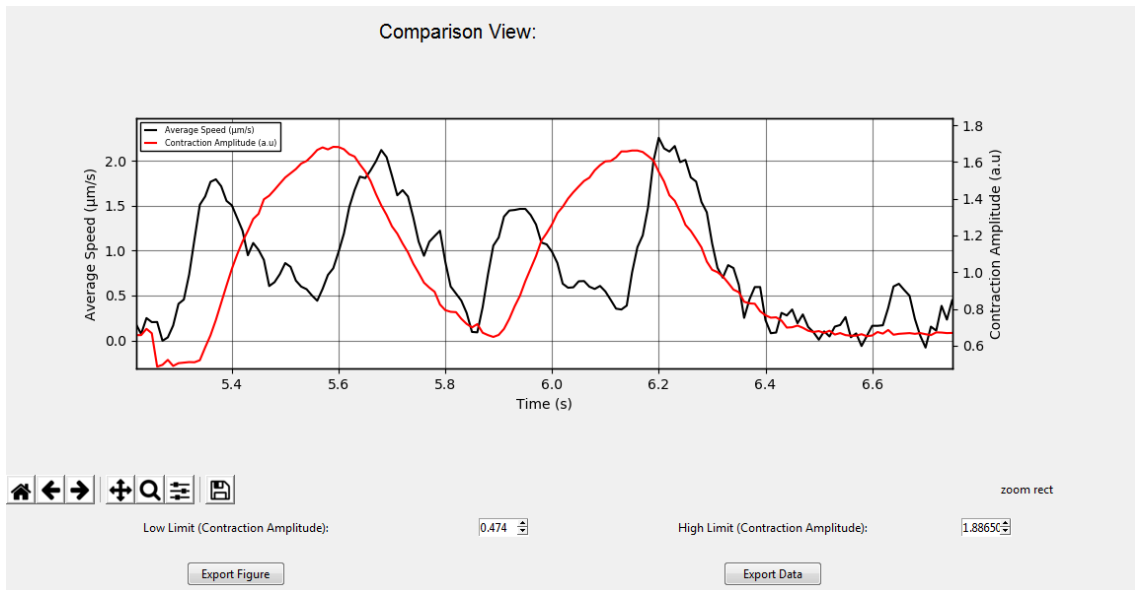
Fig 52 - Amplitude Contraction option



**Fig 53-** Comparison View window of Average speed and Amplitude Contraction.



**Fig 54-** Zoomed figure of Comparison View window of Average speed and Amplitude Contraction.



**Fig 55-** Zoomed in a view window of Average speed and Amplitude Contraction comparison of hiPSC-CM data. Average speed noisy data acquired from hiPSC-CM cells is presented in black, and the corresponding amplitude contraction is shown in red.

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## **6. VISUALIZING WAVE PARAMETERS**

### 6.1 Time, Speed, and Area Parameters

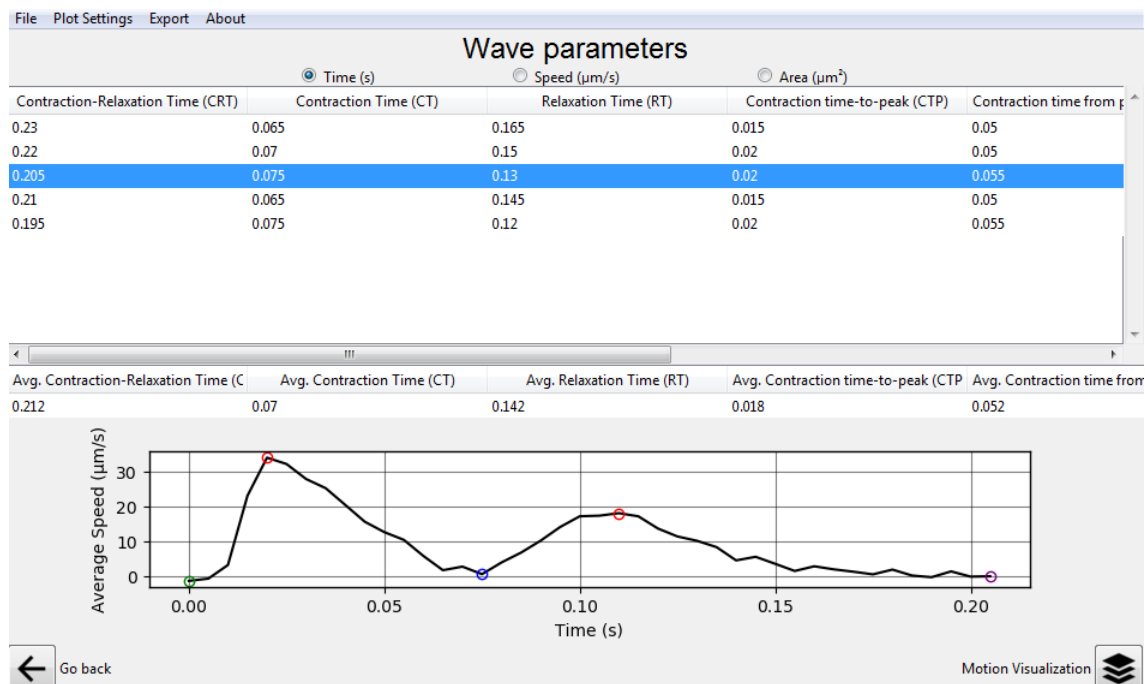


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## 6. VISUALIZING WAVE PARAMETERS

### 6.1 TIME, SPEED, AND AREA PARAMETERS

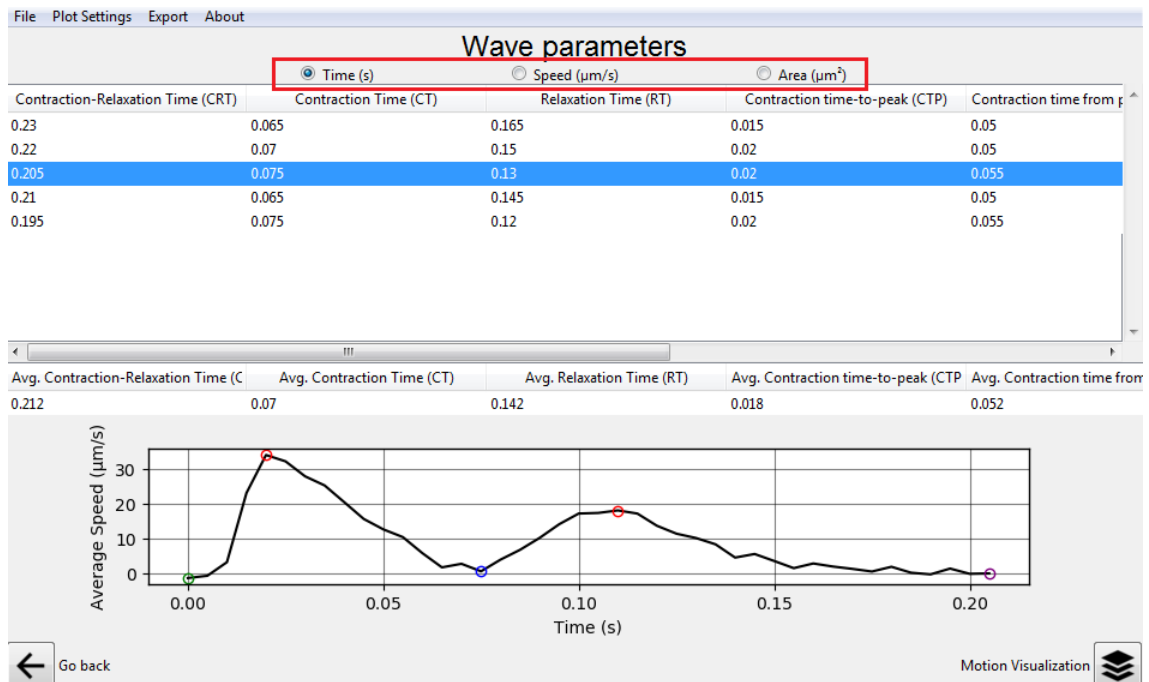
In this *Screen*, the user can visualize each of the previously selected **Waves** in the below *Plot* by clicking any of the *Top Table* rows (Figure 56).



**Fig 56** - Visualizing Wave Parameters Screen after selecting various Waves.

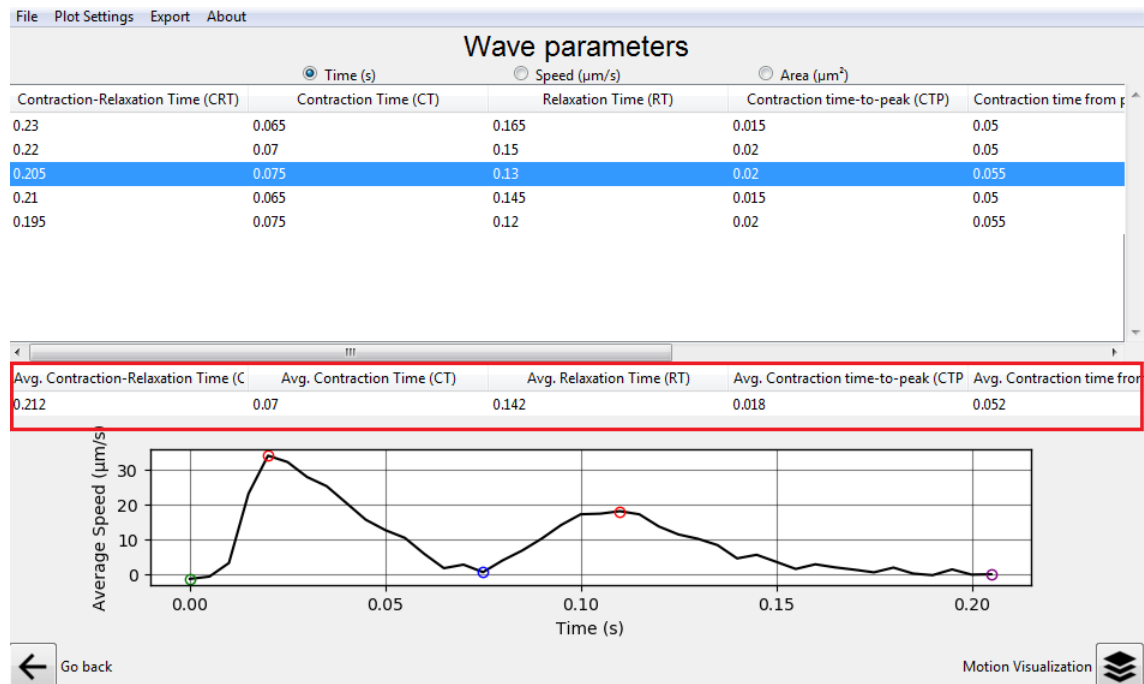
Various parameters of interest regarding the **Waves** Time, Speed, and Area are calculated for each **Wave** based on the previously defined: **1)**: Contraction Initiation; **(2)**: Maximum contraction Speed; **(3)**: Minimum Speed; **(4)**: Maximum Relaxation Speed; **(5)**: Return to baseline (Figure 47).

Switching between these three types of tables containing Time, Speed, and Area parameters can be done by clicking on the Top *Radio Buttons* (Figure 57).



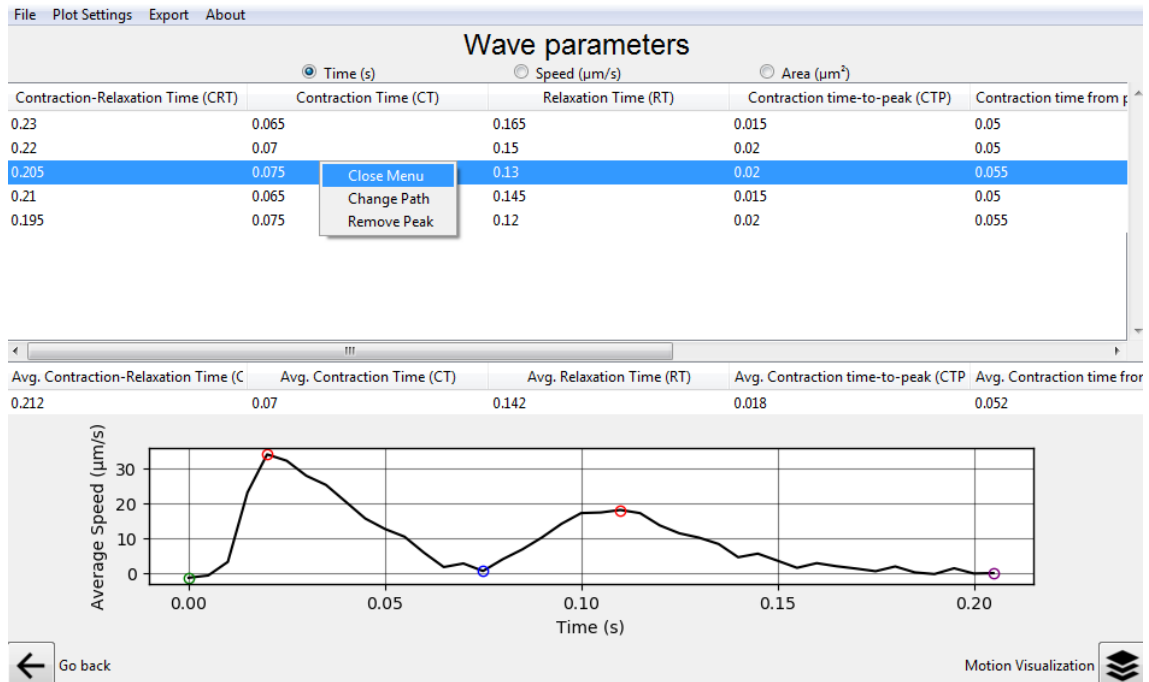
**Fig 57** - Switching between Top *Radio Buttons* of the *Visualizing Wave Parameters* Screen.

A Middle table allows seeing the Average values of each of the selected Parameters for the currently selected **Waves** (Figure 58).



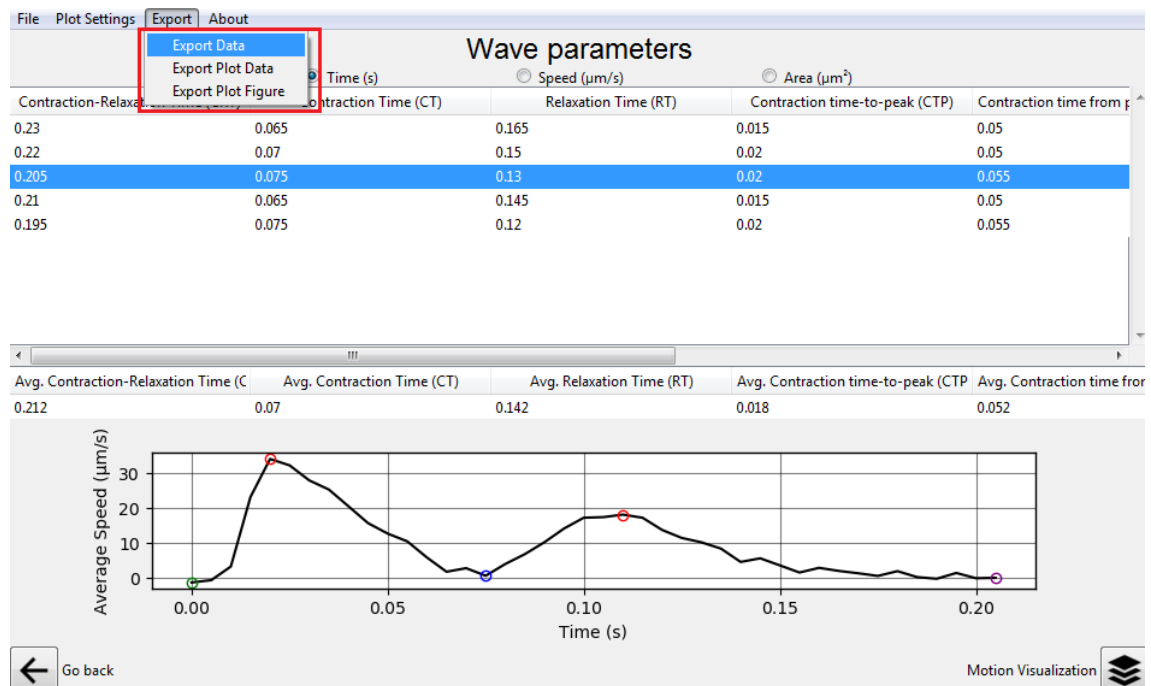
**Fig 58** - Highlighted average parameter table in the middle of the screen.

Incorrectly assigned or selected **Waves** can be deleted by right-clicking to open a context menu and selecting the *Delete* option (Figure 59).



**Fig 59** - Deleting a misassigned Wave by right-clicking and selecting *Remove Peak*.

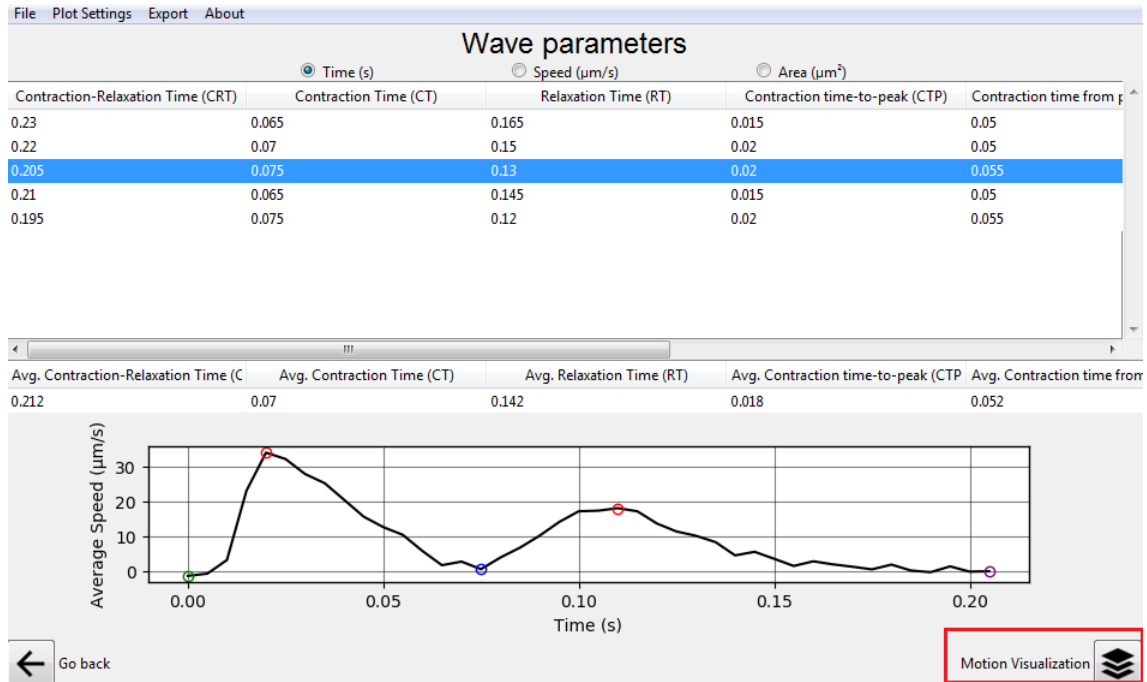
The Plot Figure/Data and all the tabular data can be exported in the Top Bar *Export* Menu (Figure 60)



**Fig 60** - Export options for this Screen.

**Important:** alternatively, the user can use one of several fixed decay time points (T10%, T20%, T30%, T40%, T50%, T60%, T70%, T80%, and T90%) which are exported together with the analyzed data. The points indicate the time at which the relaxation speed decayed to a certain percentage of its peak amplitude. Some decay times are represented in Figure 3B (main manuscript).

To move to the final analysis, the user must select a valid **Wave** row and click the *Motion Visualization* button at the bottom of the screen (Figure 61). By doing so, the program will ask whether the user desires to save the current waves to the disk. This is highly recommended for accessing this data at a later time (Figure 61).



**Fig 61** - Moving forward to the last analysis by clicking the *Motion Visualization* button

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Saved **Waves** can be accessed at any time by clicking the *Load Saved Waves* option in the *File* Menu of the Top Bar. From the *Initial Screen*, it is also possible to load saved **Waves** by clicking the *Load Saved Waves* Button (Figure 62).



**Fig 62** - *Load Saved Waves* Menu Option and Button at the *Initial Screen*

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## **7. DATA VISUALIZATION**

7.1 Visualizing the magnitude and vectors spectrum of Contraction-  
Relaxation Cycle

7.2 Adjusting automatic cell segmentation settings

7.3 Exporting Visualization Data

7.3.1 Exporting Visualization Data

7.4 Adult-CM shortening of cell length



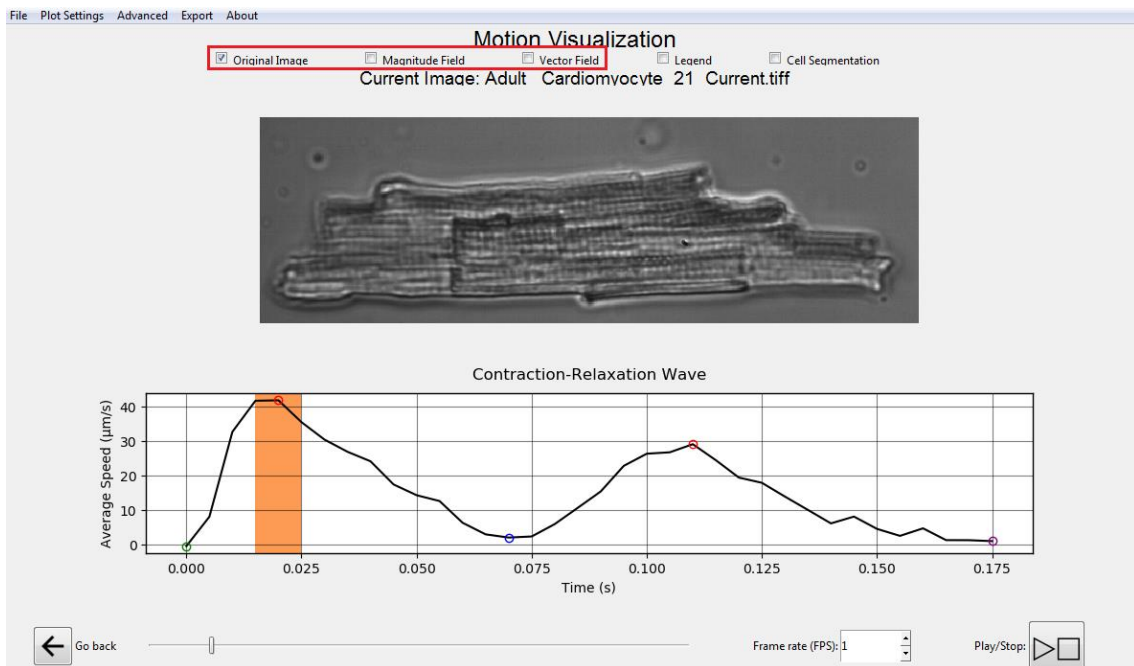
---

# 7. DATA VISUALIZATION

## 7.1 VISUALIZING THE MAGNITUDE AND VECTORS SPECTRUM OF CONTRACTION-RELAXATION CYCLE

CONTRACTIONWAVE allows the visualization of the graphical result of the contraction-relaxation cycles. In both the magnitude and the vector plots, each pixel represents the movement magnitude through color intensity in speed units ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ ).

Various possible visualizations of the full Contraction-Relaxation Cycle of a selected **Wave** are possible on this *Screen*. By clicking the first three Top *Check Boxes*, three different visualizations can be merged in a total of seven different combinations (Figure 63).



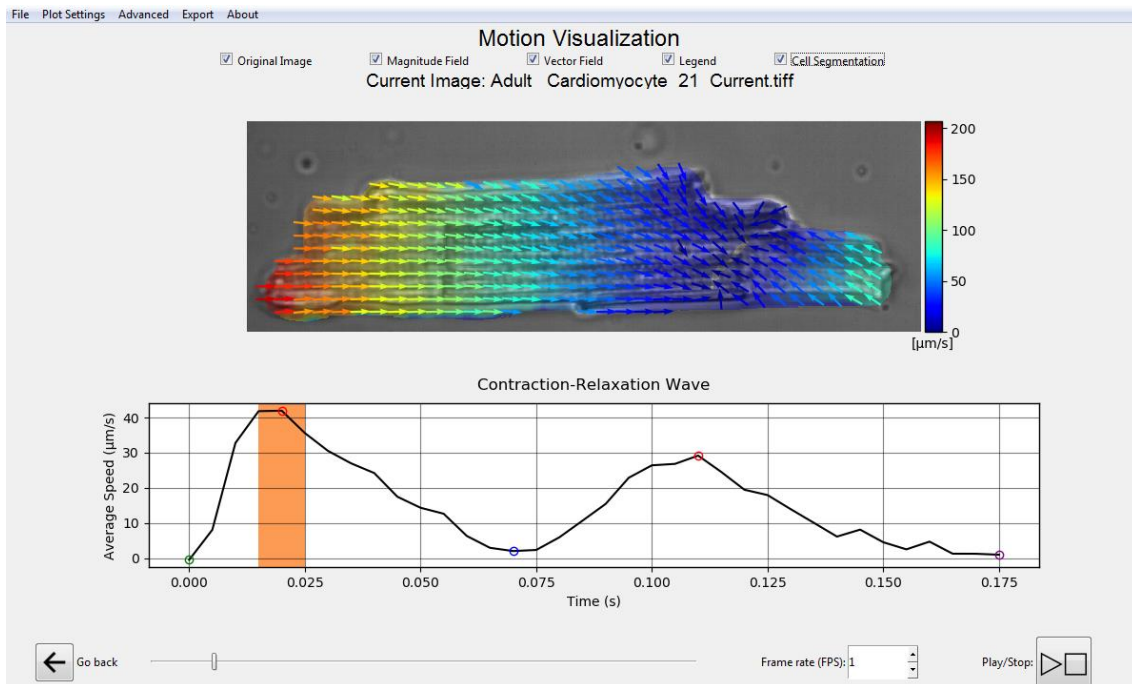
**Fig 63** - Three Top *CheckBoxes* in red highlighting the three different visualizations: Image, Magnitude, and Vector.

The Magnitude field *CheckBox* displays Speed per pixel in the selected frame. The Vector field *CheckBox* displays Speed Vectors with both velocities and the optical flow calculated directions over a window in the X (horizontal)

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and Y (vertical) image axes (Figure 64). The Image *CheckBox* displays the current plot Image the Optical flow was calculated from (Figure 64).

A Legend automatically scaled from 0 to the Maximum possible Speed in any of the image's pixels can also be drawn or removed by clicking the fourth *CheckBox*. The magnitude and vector fields initially mask any speed points below the previously selected Noise threshold (Figure 64).



**Fig 64** - Fourth *CheckBox* in red and legend drawn for the magnitude visualization.

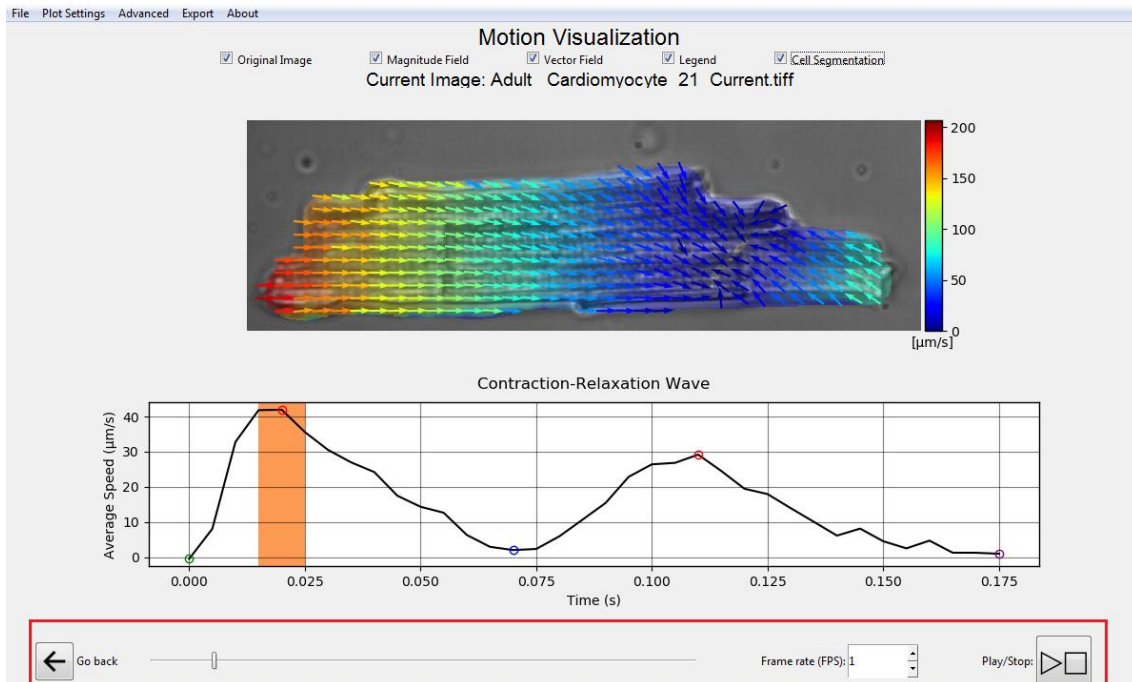
The Magnitude/Vectors Plots can also be automatically contoured by clicking the last top *CheckBox* allowing the user to highlight the cell when such single-cell contouring is possible (Figure 64).

The user can also move between different frames of the Contraction-Relaxation cycle by clicking and dragging the bottom slider or by clicking directly into the bottom plot.

The “Slider” (Figure 65) allows visual analysis of the image sequence with the magnitude and motion vectors of contractility movement on the respective graph points, simultaneously. The “Color Scale” shows the speed

intensity of membrane displacement provided by magnitude and vectors in the image (Figure 65). The user can set the video speed by modifying the “Frames per Second” option, clicking on the “Play” button, and observing the wave data and the image at the same time (Figure 65).

HINT: Double-clicking with the left mouse button inside the image, will generate a new window of the same image dimensions (up to 80% of the user's screen height and width) for better visualization.



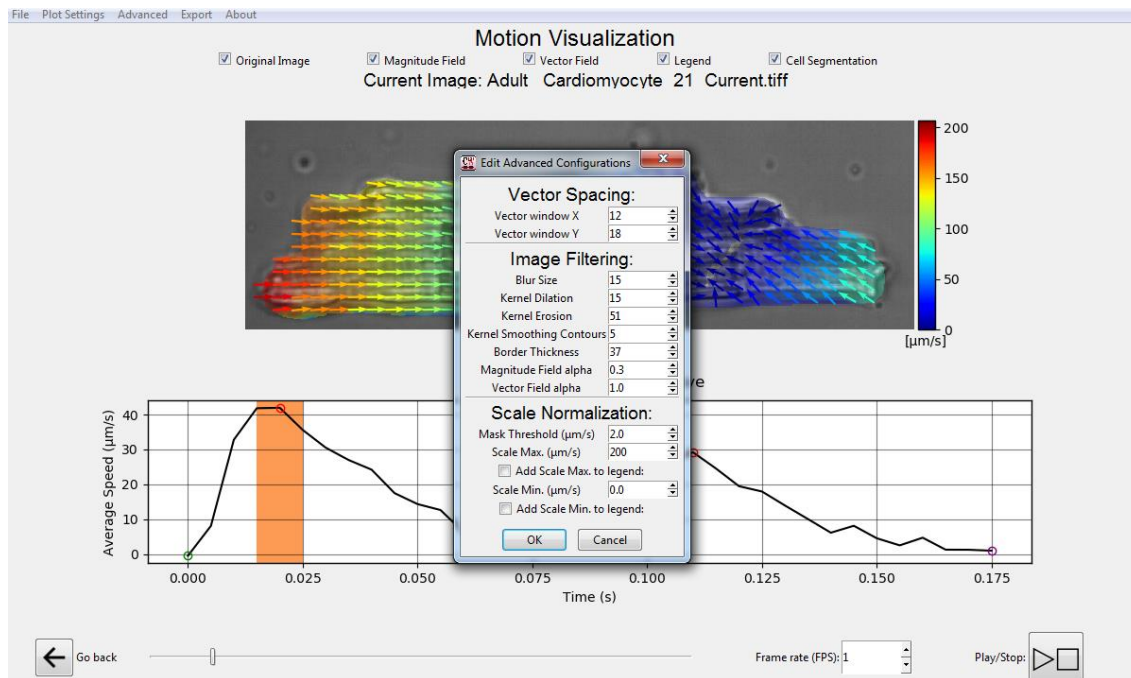
**Fig 65** - Moving between different frames of the Image/Magnitude visualization via the slider or plot clicks highlighted in red.

Alternatively, the user can also play an animation of the full cycle by clicking the *Play/Stop* button and adjusting the *Frame per Second rate* Spin Box at the bottom of the screen (Figure 65). This can sometimes be laggy since plots are dynamically drawn and not pre-buffered at this time.

## 7.2 ADJUSTING AUTOMATIC CELL SEGMENTATION SETTINGS

For adult cardiomyocytes and other well-delimited cell types, the software allows the user to generate a customizable contour for each visualization type. Advanced settings can be adjusted by clicking the *Advanced*

Menu Option in the Top Bar and editing the parameters at the next Pop Up Window (Figure 66). The Vector field X and Y windows can be adjusted for controlling the size of the Plot vectors horizontal and vertical directions (Figure 66).



**Fig 66 - Advanced settings Pop up Window.**

Blur Size, Kernel Dilation, Kernel Erosion, Kernel Smoothing Contours, are all parameters related to the respective OpenCV functions: [OpenCV Docs Filtering](#) - See: blur(), erode(), dilate(), morphologyEx() in order. Likewise, the Border thickness parameter refers to the Contour Thickness of the respective OpenCV function: [OpenCV Docs Structural Analysis and Shape Descriptors](#) - See draw contours().

The Scale Min. and Scale Max. parameters refer to the drawn Colorbar Legend limits and can be changed to match a user's needs when generating publication-ready figures. All parameters are updated in real time when changed in this Pop Up Window (Figure 66).

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**Options Arrow Size:** For the “Vector Field” visualization, this option allows setting the vectors intervals on the X or Y scales (in pixels).

**Mask Threshold ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ ):** filters the displayed magnitudes by a given speed threshold. As a reference, this value is automatically set by the program according to the previously selected noise-containing plot interval.

**Scale Min ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ ) and Scale Max ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ ):** maps the generated color scale between this two respective minimum and maximum speed values. As a reference, these two values are automatically set by the program according to the maximum magnitude value found for the selected peaks.

### 7.3 MAGNITUDE THRESHOLDING FILTER

CONTRACTIONWAVE acquires the average speed of image movement, which can be influenced by the relationship of the camera window size and the cellular area. Therefore, for comparisons between cells, the user should maintain the camera window size constant and choose cells with similar areas. To circumvent this problem CONTRACTIONWAVE has a pipeline using a Magnitude Thresholding filter (**4.3.5 Processing the Input Data, page 37**), that detects a speed magnitude baseline on the image, and finds a speed threshold value, to decrease the influence of area outside the cell on the measurements.

**Magnitude Thresholding description:** First, image similarity is calculated using the normalized cross-correlations of the pixel intensity matrices for every sequential frame pair. The most similar frame pair (defined as the frame pair with the highest normalized cross-correlation) indicates the lowest movement found in the time series and is used as a reference to a near motionless state. The optical flow is calculated for this framed pair and its average value is set as a minimum threshold before average speed magnitudes are acquired for all frame pairs. As such all pixels displaying magnitude values below this threshold are masked before the average speed calculation.

Tip: to see only what was pre-segmented, it is necessary to set the minimum value of this thresholding in the "Adjust segmentation" part to a value slightly above 0 (0.0001 works well).

When processing takes place without the filter, small regions with low magnitude are considered when calculating the average speed. These movements can be observed when the displayed magnitudes are all shown (Mask Threshold = 0) (Figure 67).

However, when the **Magnitude Thresholding filter** is used in the processing step, by keeping the Mask Threshold at zero, we can observe in the image the regions of speed magnitude that were considered for the analyzed average, while regions further out of the cell were not considered (Figure 68). It is important to note that since there is a speed magnitude in the image, the average speed increases when the filter is added (Figure 68), compared with a no-filter analysis (Figure 67).

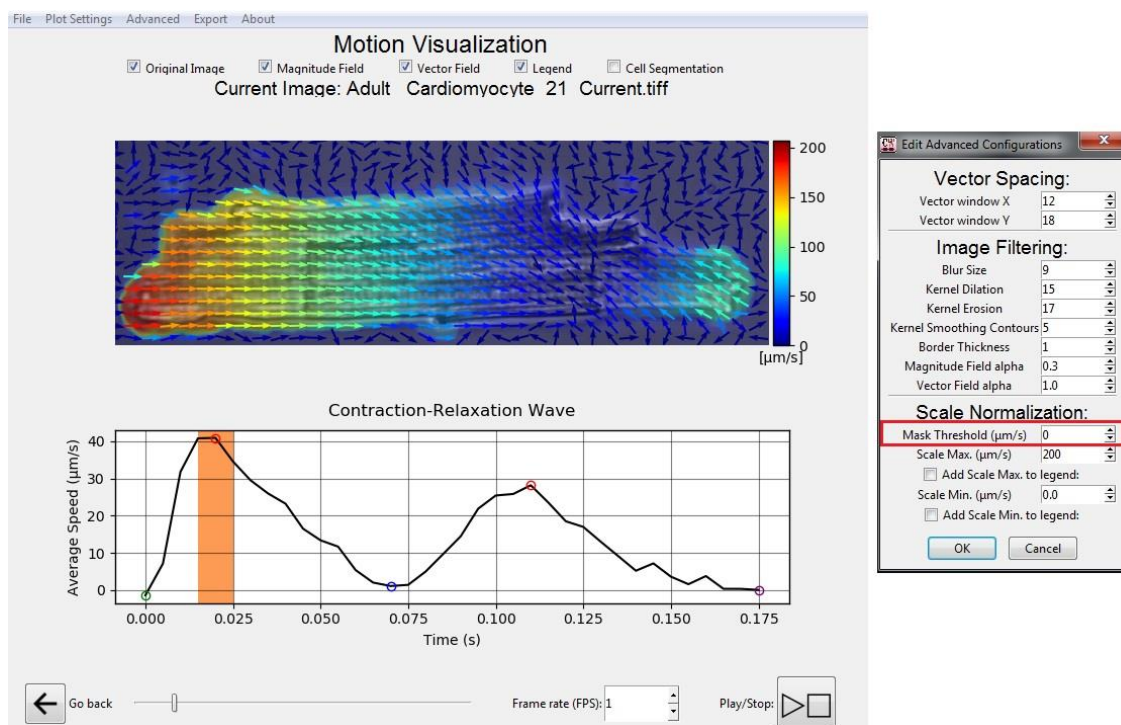
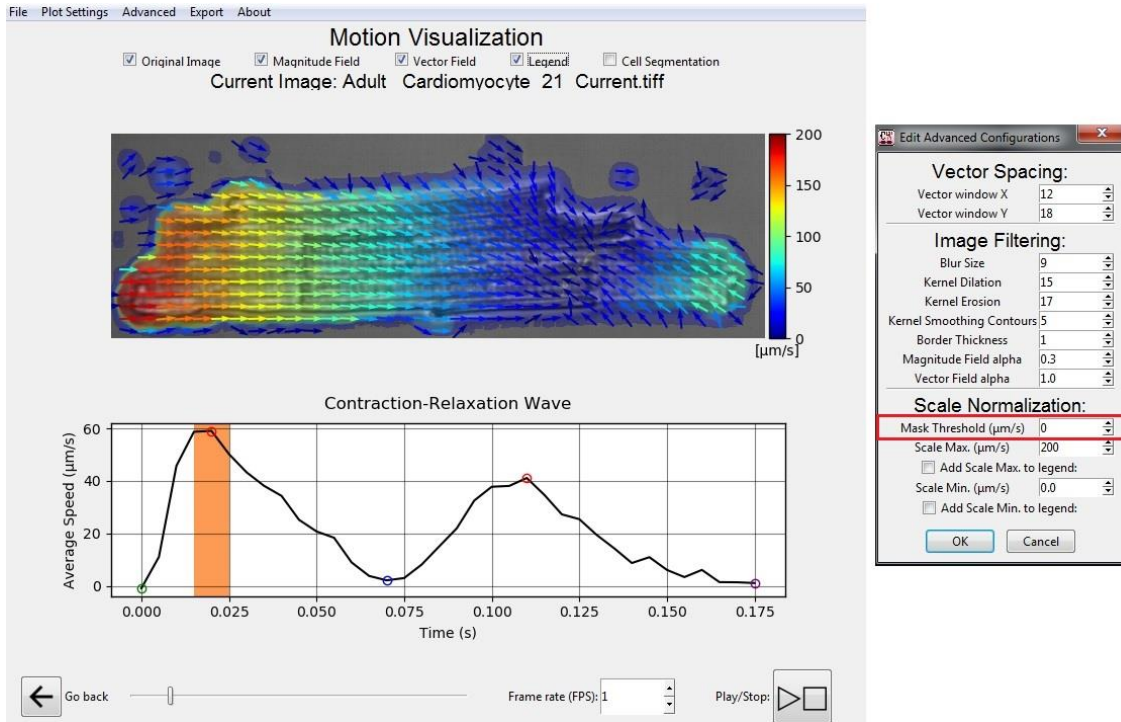


Fig 67 - Results without Magnitude Thresholding filter.

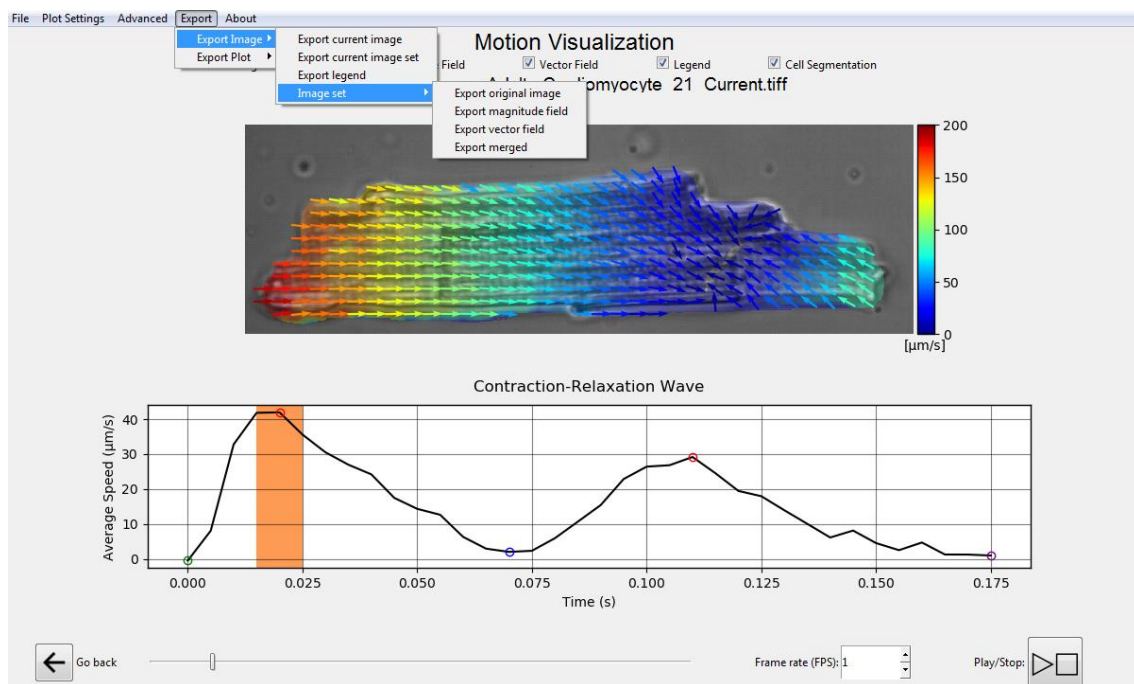


**Fig 68 - Results using Magnitude Thresholding filter.**

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### 7.3.1 EXPORTING VISUALIZATION DATA

Various export options exist for this Window. Besides being able to export the current plot and plot data as a figure and a table, respectively, each of the seven possible image combinations can be exported in various formats either for the currently selected frame or for all frames of the selected **Wave**. An additional exporting option is available when all frames are selected which is exporting as a video (“.avi” extension). The Legend color box can also be separately exported (Figure 69).



**Fig 69** - Exporting Data Options for the *Magnitude/Vector Fields Plot* Screen.



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## 7.4 ADULT-CM SHORTENING OF CELL LENGTH

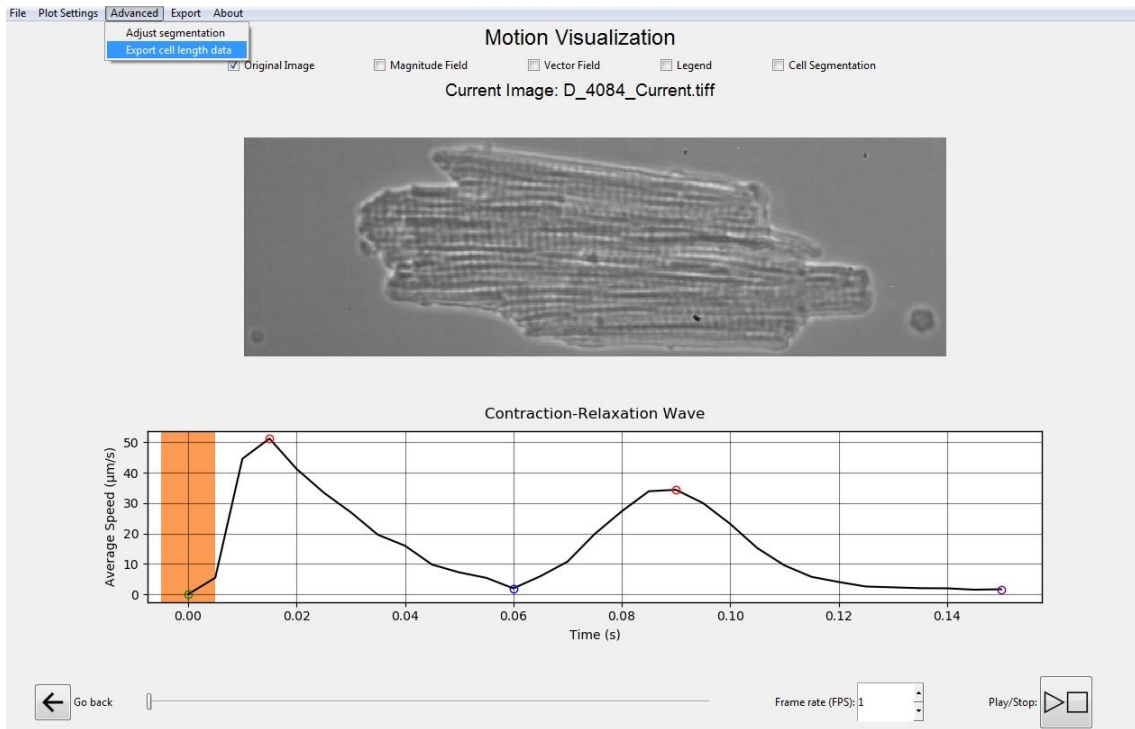
CONTRACTIONWAVE allows the user to acquire the shortening % cell length for adult-CM:

**1-** The user can click on the advanced option in the Motion Visualization window (Figure 70) to open the contraction-relaxation wave window (Figure 71). The window shows the previously selected contraction-relaxation wave (Figure 71A - Left side) and its respective graph (Figure 71A - Right side).

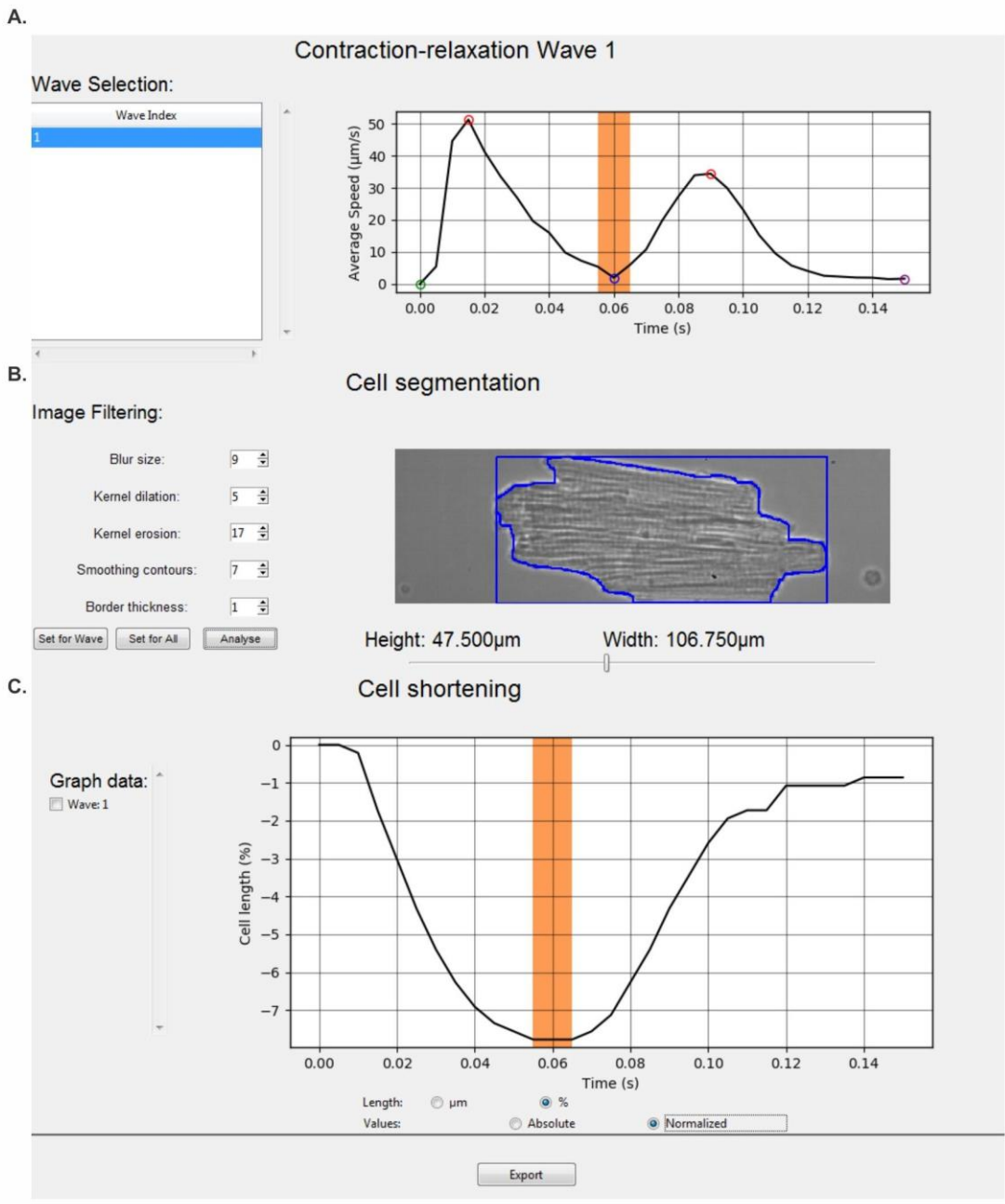
**2-** To acquire the cell length, CONTRACTIONWAVE uses the cell segmentation algorithm to obtain the cell border length in the horizontal axis of the image (Figure 71B - Right side). The user can modify the segmentation filters (Figure 71B - Left side) to find the best filtering parameters for an adequate segmentation. The filters are the same used for cell segmentation in the Motion Visualization window (Figure 66).

**3-** By clicking on the “Set for a wave” button (Figure 71B - Left side) the currently set filtering parameters will be set for the current wave. By clicking on the “Set for all waves” button, the currently chosen filtering parameters will be applied to all waves in the list (Figure 71A - Left side). The user can then click on the “Analyse” button to update the obtained length values and the data graph will be plotted in real time (Figure 71C - right side).

**4-** To export data, the user can select the waves of interest to be analyzed (Figure 65C - left side) and click on the “Export” button.



**Fig 70 - Exporting cell length option.**



**Fig 71 - Contraction-relaxation window for acquiring adult-CM cell length.**

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## **8. MERGING RESULTS**

### 8.1 Merging multiple data table results into one

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## 8. MERGING RESULTS

### 8.1 MERGING MULTIPLE DATA TABLE RESULTS INTO ONE

This option can be accessed from the *Initial Screen* by clicking on the *Merge Results* Button (Figure 72).

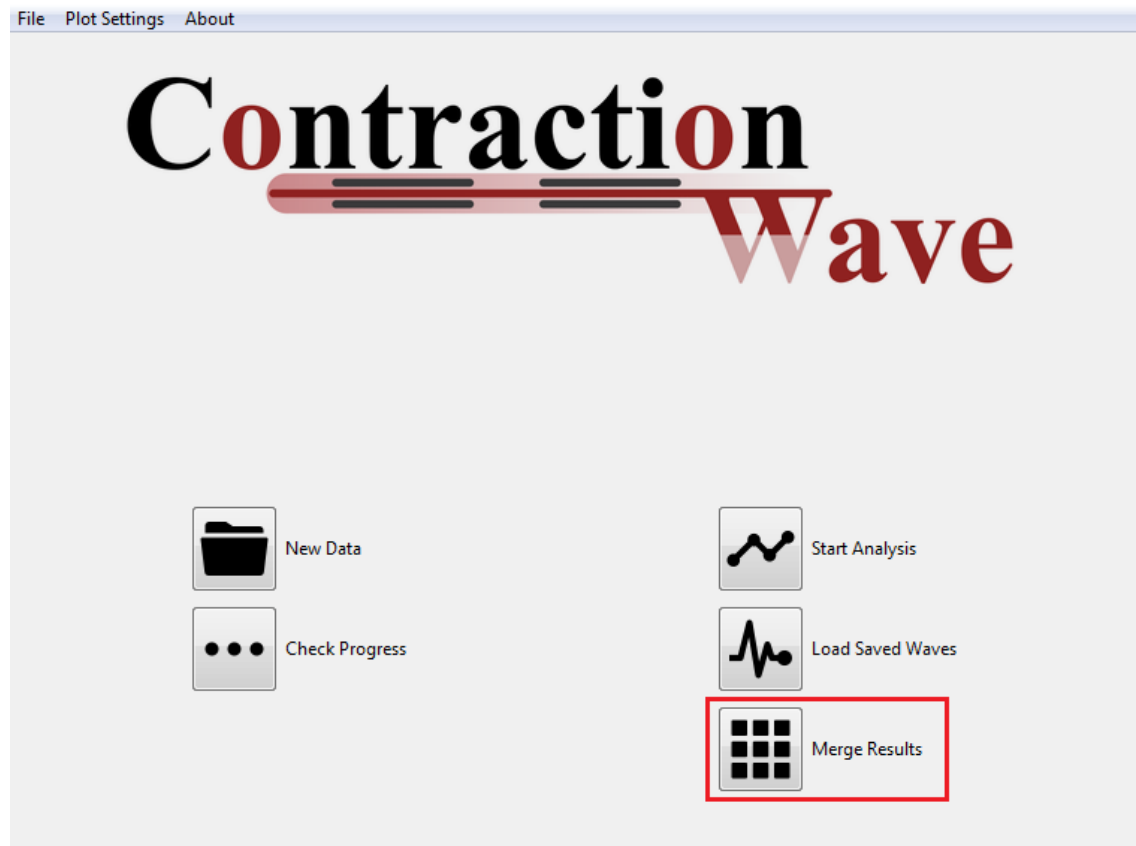
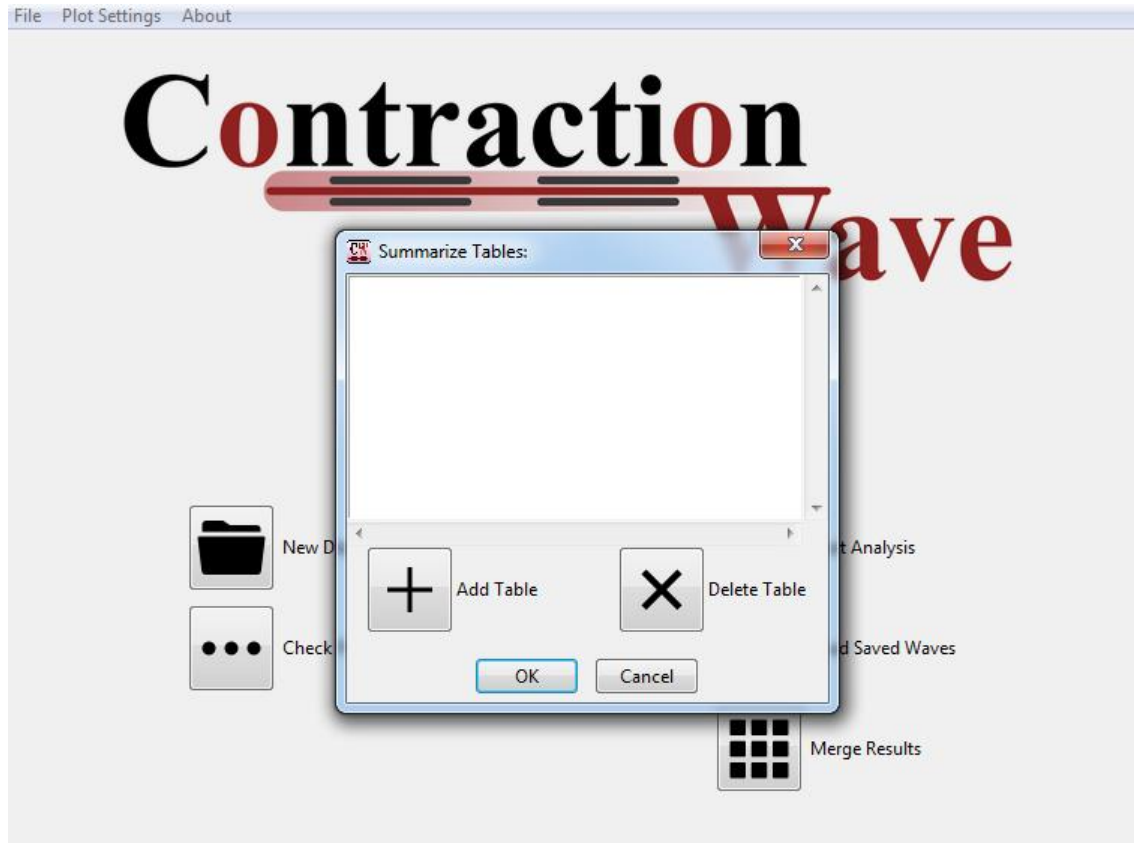


Fig 72 - Merge Results Button in the *Initial Screen*

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Tables exported from the *Visualizing Wave Parameters Screen* (See the section in this document) can be added or removed in a Pop Up Window. After all desired Tables were included, experiments from different Data Types can be summarized and compared in a final table when the “Ok” button is clicked. The user will be prompted to select a file name and destination folder for the Summary table (Figure 73).



**Fig 73** - Merge Results Pop Up Windows with the Add and Delete Buttons for selecting tables for creating a Summary.

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## **9. CUSTOMIZING PLOTS**

### 9.1 Editing Plot Settings

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## 9. CUSTOMIZING PLOTS

### 9.1 EDITING PLOT SETTINGS

Custom Plot Settings can be edited at any time by clicking the *Plot Settings* Menu at the Top Bar (Figure 74). The user then has the option to Edit, Save, or Load a Plot Setting.

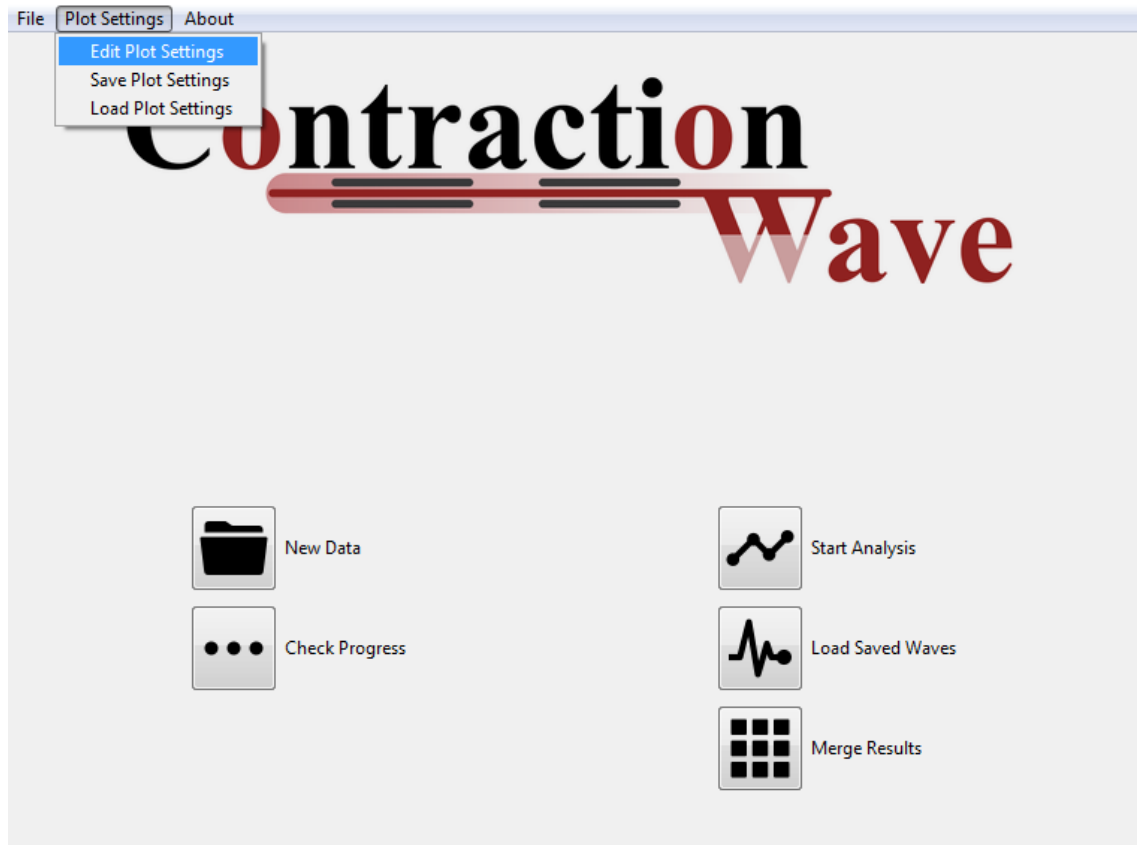
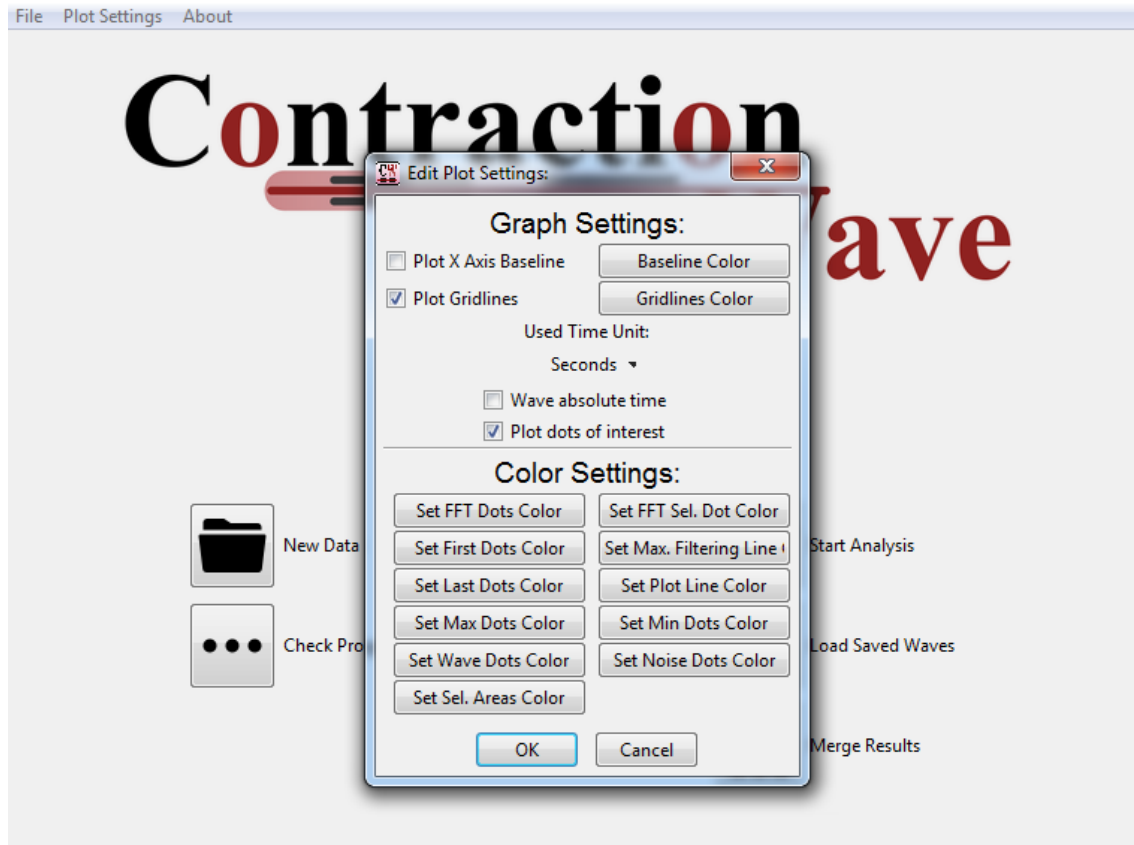


Fig 74 - Plot Settings Menu at the Top Bar options.



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Editing a Plot setting allows the user to change colors for any of the **Wave Points, Lines, Selection Areas**, to select whether a horizontal baseline is drawn at each plot at 0.0 and whether a grid is drawn in each plot, and to customize the baseline and grid colors. Time units can be changed between Seconds and Milliseconds (Figure 75).



**Fig 75 - Editing Plot Settings option Pop Up Window.**

The Peak Absolute (about the whole analysis) or Relative time (starting at 0.0) can be displayed in the *Visualizing Wave Parameters* and the *Magnitude and Vector Plots* window also according to the user's preference (Figure 67).

Saving or Loading a Plot Setting prompts the user to select a filename or directory for their respective operation. The window plots are automatically refreshed after a new Plot Setting is loaded.

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## **10. CONTACT**

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## 10. CONTACT

This project was carried out to provide a robust tool for the acquisition of cellular contractility. If you find any problems in CONTRACTIOWAVE or wants to contribute to further developing it, please contact the author:

Sérgio Scalzo

Email: [contractionwave@gmail.com](mailto:contractionwave@gmail.com)

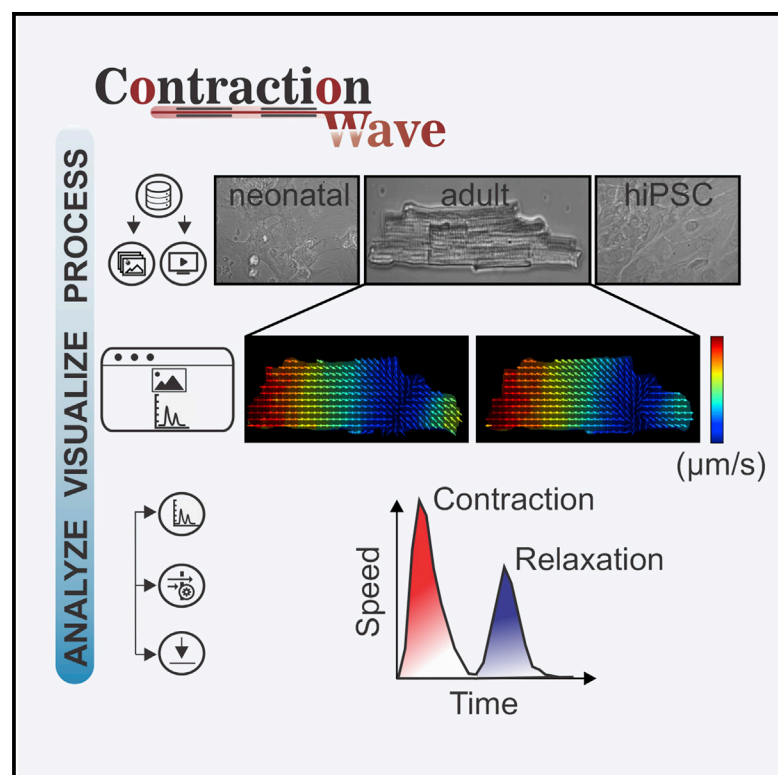
Website: <https://sites.icb.ufmg.br/cardiovascularrc/contractionwave/>

### **9.3 APÊNDICE C – ARTIGO: DENSE OPTICAL FLOW SOFTWARE TO QUANTIFY CELLULAR CONTRACTILITY**

Os resultados da tese foram publicados na revista Cell Reports Methods, e encontra-se anexado abaixo. O artigo completo com as figuras suplementares e apêndices “A” e “B” do presente trabalho pode ser acessado pelo seguinte link: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crmeth.2021.100044>

# Dense optical flow software to quantify cellular contractility

## Graphical abstract



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## In brief

Quantification of contractility is an important step in understanding cardiac disease. To meet this demand, Scalzo et al. develop CONTRACTIONWAVE, open-source software for large-scale analysis of cardiomyocyte contraction. Combining speed and flexibility, the pipeline provides a solution for laboratories and companies involved in drug screening and cardiac disease modeling.

## Highlights

- Open-source Python software for large-scale analysis of cardiomyocyte contractility
- CW uses the dense optical flow algorithm to quantify contractility parameters
- CW provides a user-friendly interface designed for the non-specialist
- CW displays cellular images correlated to motion vectors and their graphical results



## Article

# Dense optical flow software to quantify cellular contractility

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crmeth.2021.100044>

**MOTIVATION** Quantification of cardiomyocyte contractility is an important step in understanding the cellular mechanisms involved in the pathogenesis of cardiac disease. However, accurate and reproducible measurements are hampered by several factors inherent to the software options currently available. These include limited ability to process large datasets, the inability to provide calibrated measurements of contractility speed, the absence of a unified and accessible computational package, the high cost of some programs, and often the need for advanced programming skills. Aiming to overcome these limitations, we developed CONTRACTIONWAVE, open-source Python software that provides high-performance algorithms for large-scale analysis of cardiac contraction.

## SUMMARY

Cell membrane deformation is an important feature that occurs during many physiological processes, and its study has been put to good use to investigate cardiomyocyte function. Several methods have been developed to extract information on cardiomyocyte contractility. However, no existing computational framework has provided, in a single platform, a straightforward approach to acquire, process, and quantify this type of cellular dynamics. For this reason, we develop CONTRACTIONWAVE, high-performance software written in Python programming language that allows the user to process large data image files and obtain contractility parameters by analyzing optical flow from images obtained with videomicroscopy. The software was validated by using neonatal, adult-, and human-induced pluripotent stem-cell-derived cardiomyocytes, treated or not with drugs known to affect contractility. Results presented indicate that CONTRACTIONWAVE is an excellent tool for examining changes to cardiac cellular contractility in animal models of disease and for pharmacological and toxicology screening during drug discovery.

## INTRODUCTION

According to the World Health Organization, cardiovascular diseases represent a significant cause of death worldwide (Mozaffarian et al., 2016). In order to develop new therapeutic strategies, many studies employ the isolated cardiomyocyte (CM)

either as a platform for drug discovery (Lieben Louis et al., 2019; Nguyen et al., 2017) or as an *in vitro* model to investigate the underlying mechanisms of cardiac disease (Chen et al., 2018; Kodo et al., 2016; Schick et al., 2018). Isolated cardiac myocytes have also been widely used to answer basic questions about cardiac cellular physiology and to characterize changes



in the excitation-contraction coupling that occurs during disease development (Chen-izu et al., 2007; Gómez, 1997; Song et al., 2005).

An important parameter for the analysis of the isolated CM is contractility, which provides information that reflects its cellular function. Measurements of contractility have been widely used for research on both adult and neonatal myocytes (Belostskaya and Golovanova, 2014; Berger et al., 1994; Boudreau-Béland et al., 2015; Harary and Farley, 1960; Haworth et al., 1987; Hissa et al., 2017; Jesus et al., 2020; Penitente et al., 2014; Ramadan et al., 2018). More recently, human induced pluripotent stem cell-derived CMs (hiPSC-CMs) have been employed as a model for human cardiac disease and drug screening (Ballan et al., 2020; Birket et al., 2015; Gong and Sobie, 2018; Lahti et al., 2012; Lan et al., 2013; Ribeiro et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2014, 2019). The development of this new experimental model, although showing great promise, also brings some challenges to efficiently detect CM contraction dynamics. Measurements in adult myocytes are relatively simple due to their geometry and one-dimensional movement, whereas in neonatal CMs and hiPSC-CMs, the functional syncytium formed by the cells lacks well-defined borders and represents a challenge to acquire contractility parameters.

Evaluation of CM contractility can be achieved by using methods that capture cellular movements associated with cellular contraction and relaxation. These methods include well-established techniques, such as light diffraction (Leung, 1982), laser microscopy (Shevchuk et al., 2001), scanning ion conductance microscopy (Gorelik et al., 2006), and atomic force microscopy (Chang et al., 2013). However, these techniques usually require sophisticated instruments, a highly experienced analyst, high financial investments, and time-consuming experiments. In addition to these practical issues, these techniques also have the potential to cause cell damage. In the specific case of adult CMs, the most commonly used technique to study cellular contractility is the edge detection system that measures cell border movement (IonWizard Ionoptix, Steadman et al., 1988). Although widely used, this technique does not capture the movement of the whole cell area, but instead only analyzes a specific region of interest defined by the user, which can introduce bias to the results during acquisition and analysis processing (Delbridge and Roos, 1997).

The development of high-speed digital cameras and image-processing techniques allowed the emergence of new methodologies and significantly improved how data collection is performed for cellular contractility evaluation. Together with optical microscopes, these tools allow for a more accurate and non-invasive assessment of cellular contractility (Huebsch et al., 2015; Maddah et al., 2015), and have shown great promise for both basic and clinical research. Hayakawa et al. (2014) were the first to apply an optical flow methodology to access contraction cycles in CMs. By performing simultaneous measurements of cellular contractility and electrophysiological parameters, the authors demonstrated that the optical flow technique allows accurate quantification of CM contractility parameters that correlate well with the electrophysiology results. Subsequent image-based studies have characterized CM contractility parameters by using different algorithms based on optical flow (Czirok

et al., 2017; Huebsch et al., 2015; Pointon et al., 2017). In addition, the authors assessed the effects of several drugs that modulate cellular contraction to reinforce the sensitivity and efficiency of this type of analysis. Recently, computational methods, available as ImageJ plugins (Schindelin et al., 2015), have been developed for quantitative assessment of CM contractile responses (Boudaoud et al., 2014; Grune et al., 2019; Pasqualin et al., 2016; Sala et al., 2018). Despite this progress, the field still lacks and would greatly benefit from a computational framework that can provide fast and accessible analysis of cellular contractility.

Here, we present CONTRACTIONWAVE, an open-source software written in the Python programming language (van Rossum, 1995; for more details see the User Manual provided as Methods S1) with a built-in user-friendly interface, which combines in a single platform a robust method to acquire, visualize, analyze, and quantify contractility parameters of cardiac cells at different developmental stages through image capture and optical flow. The high-performance algorithms can automatically process large data image files in a fast and accurate manner. In addition, CONTRACTIONWAVE presents an innovative way to simultaneously display cellular images obtained during a contraction-relaxation cycle correlated to motion vectors and their respective graph representation. Therefore, CONTRACTIONWAVE combines a high processing capability and flexibility with an interface designed for the non-specialist audience, providing a solution required by laboratories and biotech companies involved in drug screening and cardiac disease modeling.

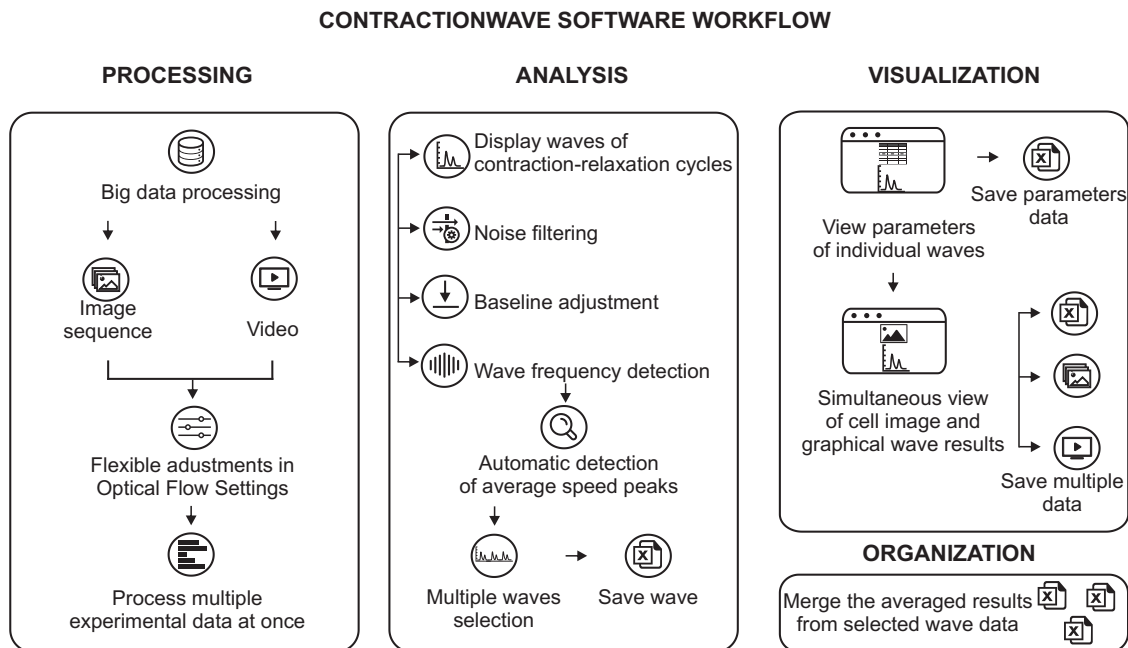
## RESULTS

CONTRACTIONWAVE measures contractility by time-lapse image analysis of individual CMs observed under bright-field microscopy. To acquire the cell movement, CONTRACTIONWAVE calculates contractility from generated images based on principles of optical flow, computing the dense optical flow as described by Farneback (2003).

Our implementation of the dense optical flow method has the advantage of reporting both the direction of movement in the form of oriented vectors and calibrated measurement of speed in  $\mu\text{m/s}$ . The method does not require a Gaussian filter to access cellular displacement, and the analysis is less sensitive to illumination conditions than the principle of pixel intensity (Hossain et al., 2010; Sala et al., 2018), which can influence contraction amplitude parameters.

### CONTRACTIONWAVE workflow

Figure S1A provides an outline of the initial screen that allows the user to import and process large image datasets and analyze the results obtained. CONTRACTIONWAVE can process frames obtained from sequential images or video files (processing window, Figure 1). Most of the currently available software packages are only able to process image datasets one at a time. In contrast, CONTRACTIONWAVE is a multithreaded application, allowing the simultaneous processing of multiple, large datasets (processing window, Figure 1). Moreover, the progress of image processing can be followed in real time (Figure S1C) and data



**Figure 1. CONTRACTIONWAVE software workflow**

CONTRACTIONWAVE comprises four steps to study cell contractility: data processing, data analysis, visualization, and results management. Processing: the program innovates with its capacity to process big amounts of data, from either images or videos, all at once. Analysis: the user can select the background noise and normalize the entire data to a new adjusted baseline. Then, the software algorithm is capable of automatically identifying the contraction-relaxation waves, also allowing fine adjustments. Subsequently, multiple waves can be selected to be further analyzed and the progress saved. Visualization: parameters of each wave can be visualized and selected. The cell and the graphical images can be simultaneously visualized and the final results saved. Organization: the averaged results from multiple waves can all be merged in a single table and saved.

analysis can be done concurrently with the processing of new datasets.

An interesting feature of our software is the flexibility to adjust the program settings. Although CONTRACTIONWAVE has an optical flow default setting that can be used for most cellular experiments, the program allows the user to adjust and choose the best experimental parameters (Figure S1B) depending on the image quality or cell type. To provide the measurements of cell movement in physical units ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ ) the user needs to insert experimental settings, such as frames per second and pixel size ( $\mu\text{m}$ ).

Once movement information is extracted from the video files, the user starts the contractility analysis by clicking on the menu “start analysis” (Figure S1A). The calculated speed versus time data are initially shown in a plot that corresponds to contraction-relaxation cycles (waves), which can be selected by clicking and dragging an interval to start the analysis (Figure S2A). The analysis workflow is divided to: (1) display waves of contraction-relaxation cycles; (2) noise filtering; (3) baseline adjustment; and (4) wave frequency detection (see analysis window, Figure 1). These parameters are found in the “wave detection window” (Figure 2A). A typical speed versus time profile corresponding to contraction-relaxation cycles, generated from the optical flow processed images, is presented in Figure 2A (top panel). For analysis purposes, CONTRACTIONWAVE gives the user the option to choose a single contractile cycle or the average of multiple cycles. In the wave detection window, once the selection is made (top panel, orange area, Figure 2A), a second plot

showing a zoomed version of the selected interval is displayed (bottom panel, Figure 2A) to assist the user to choose the detected waves of interest to be analyzed.

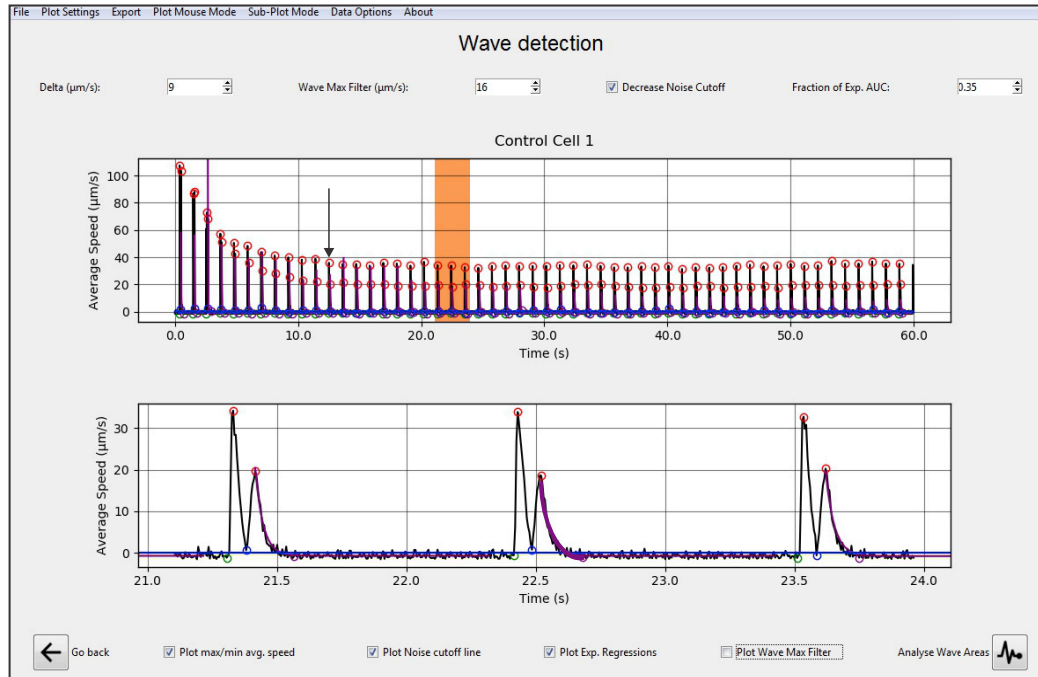
In addition, CONTRACTIONWAVE provides the option to decrease the background noise by selecting the “decrease noise cutoff” box (top box, Figure 2A). The calculated noise value is then plotted as a blue line as shown in the graphical representation on the bottom panel of Figure 2A (see section 5.2.1 of the User Manual provided as Methods S1 for more details).

Despite all these detection steps, waves from datum groups with noisy oscillations that are close to the baseline signal values may still be difficult to assign from the speed data calculated by the optical flow algorithm. These particularly arise from multidirectional contraction-relaxation dynamics, such as those found in neonatal-CMs and hiPSC-CMs in culture. To minimize noisy waves, at the pre-analysis settings, the user can select smooth-denoise algorithms on Data Options > smooth-denoise (see Figure 34, Section 5.3, from User Manual provided as Methods S1).

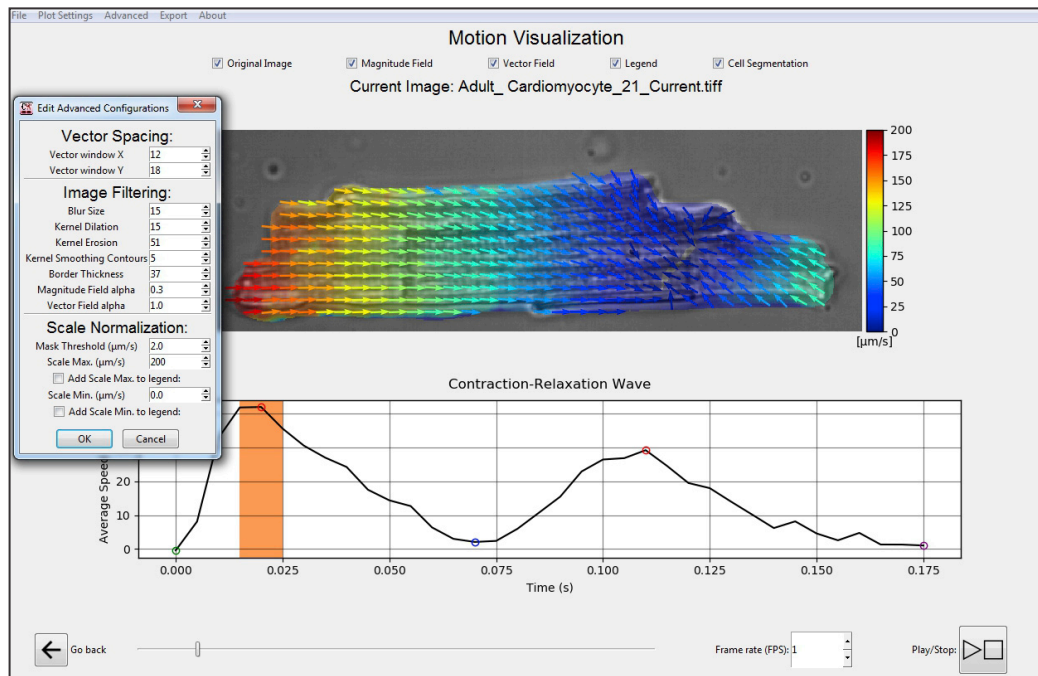
Another important parameter that can be acquired is the cell wave frequency, which can be done by simply clicking on sub-plot-mode > fast Fourier transform. Once the data (top, Figure S2B) is analyzed, the corresponding cell frequency value will be represented by the highest amplitude density peak obtained, as shown by the purple circle (see black arrow) in the bottom panel of Figure S2B. In this example, the cell wave frequency is 0.9 Hz.



A



B



**Figure 2. CONTRACTIONWAVE basic functions and applications**

(A) CONTRACTIONWAVE has a robust analysis window that allows the user to select multiple datum intervals to extract the contractility parameters. The program can automatically detect the contraction-relaxation average speed waves, and also allows fine adjustments to find the correct wave peaks (top). The black arrow indicates the start of the steady state. To assist the selection of single or multiple peaks, a zoomed version of the plot is also displayed (bottom). The purple line shows the exponential regression fit of the relaxation speed decay phase.

(B) CONTRACTIONWAVE innovates on the way the cell is visualized, as both the cell image (top) and the contraction waves (bottom panel) are displayed simultaneously. Moreover, a dynamic analysis of the image sequence coordinated with the magnitude and motion vectors of the contractility movement is also available (the orange area on the bottom panel highlights the time in which the upper cell image was acquired). CONTRACTIONWAVE allows detection adjustments on the “advanced” options (box) and also filters the displayed magnitudes by a given speed threshold by using the “mask threshold” function.

Once the contractile cycles are selected (Figure 2A, orange box), the user can visualize in the following window (wave parameters, Figure S2C) each of the previously selected beats and calculate the average. As shown in Figure S2C (bottom), the average speed for a contraction-relaxation cycle provides two subsequent waves: a major wave that corresponds to contraction, and a minor one that reflects the relaxation dynamics. CONTRACTIONWAVE can automatically find the contraction-relaxation average speed peaks, and the acquired and parameterized data will contain five points: (1) contraction initiation; (2) maximum contraction speed (MCS); (3) minimum contraction speed; (4) maximum relaxation speed (MRS); (5) return to baseline. To detect all points, the Delta value ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ ) should be set as half of the minimum difference between baseline points and the MRS point. The Delta value box can be found in the wave detection window (top left, Figure S2B).

Since cell relaxation ends with a slow decay that can be difficult to distinguish from background noise, detecting the endpoint of the contractility wave (fifth point in Figure S2C) is usually a challenge during the data analysis process. To appropriately detect the end of one contraction-relaxation cycle, CONTRACTIONWAVE fits an exponential function from peak relaxation down to baseline (see the purple line in Figure 2A). A customizable stopping criterion is then used for determining the end of a wave. For details regarding default recommended settings, see Figure 5 in section 3.3 from the Quickstart Guide or Figure 32 in section 5.2.3, both in the User Manual provided as Methods S1. Alternatively, the user can use one of several fixed decay time points (T10%, T20%, T30%, T40%, T50%, T60%, T70%, T80%, and T90%), which are exported together with the analyzed data. The points indicate the time at which the relaxation speed decayed to a certain percentage of its peak amplitude. Some decay times are represented in Figure 3B.

After the average speed peaks are properly assigned and selected, the time, speed, and area parameters for each detected wave can be then visualized and exported in the subsequent window by clicking the appropriate boxes on the top panel of Figure S2C. After selecting one wave, the user can click on “motion visualization” (bottom right box in Figure S2C) to visualize data (Figure 2B).

Another innovation introduced in CONTRACTIONWAVE is a visualization feature that allows simultaneous viewing of the cell image and the contraction waves (visualization window, Figures 1 and 2B). No other program allows for complete and integrated visualization of a cellular movement, a resource that CONTRACTIONWAVE achieves by drawing motion vectors, correlating the movement throughout the image to their respective wave points on the contraction-relaxation graph (Figure 2B). In Figure 2B (bottom) the orange box represents the respective wave point in which the image was acquired.

### Visual and numerical detection of contraction

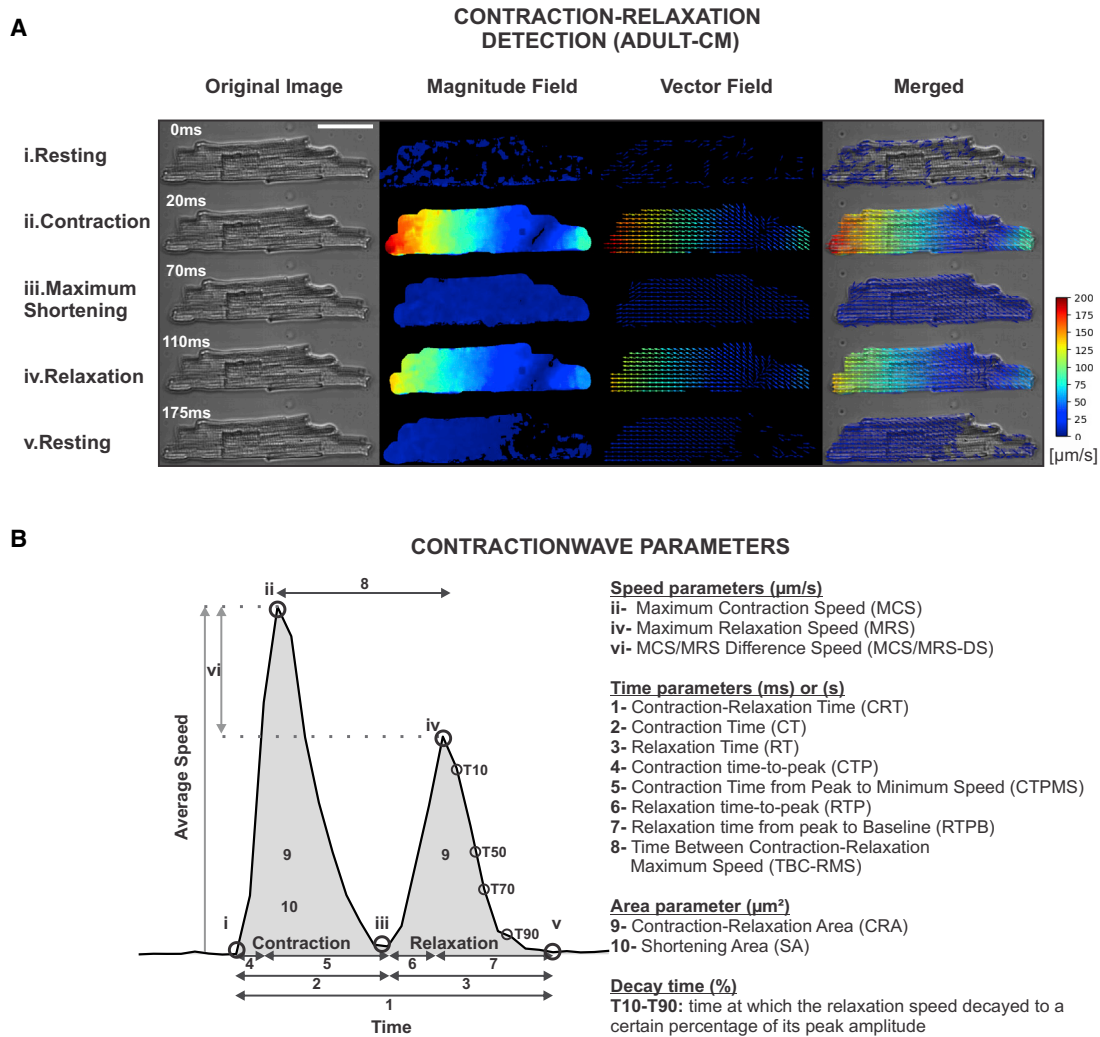
To validate the system, we investigated the contractility of three well-established cardiac cell type models: (1) acutely isolated adult mice or rat ventricular myocytes (adult-CMs); (2) cultured neonatal-CMs; and (3) hiPSC-CMs (see the STAR Methods for more details). Unlike other neonatal and hiPSC-CM systems that form a syncytium *in vitro*, the adult-CM is a much simpler sub-

ject composed of a single cell with robust contraction dynamics. Therefore, we first tested the CONTRACTIONWAVE functionality by using adult-CMs that were electrically stimulated to contract repeatedly at 1 Hz. A typical sequence of average speed waves obtained from an adult-CM is shown in Figure 2A. Typically, the maximum speed is greatest for the first contractions in the sequence and then gradually decays over time until it stabilizes at a steady-state speed value (see black arrow in Figure 2A). After reaching the steady state, we can analyze the contraction-relaxation dynamics. Representative images acquired during each phase of the speed wave are shown in Figure 3Ai–v.

Extraction of movement associated with cellular contractility occurs through analysis of sequential pairs of images that are processed with the dense optical flow algorithm by using all pixels in the image. This allows the program to identify pixel displacement and calculate its magnitude and direction. The final motion magnitude is obtained from the pixel displacement magnitude mean for each image, converted to the real speed, by using the multiplication of the frame rate and the pixel resolution (set by the user), then plotted on a time function graph (see the STAR Methods for more details). This process allows the detection and generation of the total magnitude displacement (Figure 3A, magnitude field) and motion vectors (Figure 3A, vector field). In Figure 3A, membrane displacement speed is represented on a visual and numerical intensity scale. Under resting conditions, before electrical stimulation, motion vector intensity is low, with an average speed close to zero (Figure 3Ai). After the electrical stimulus, the cellular contraction starts and can be visualized by the increase in motion vector intensity. The cell then reaches its MCS (Figure 3Aii). After MCS, vector intensity decreases, approaching the zero speed, representing the point of maximum cell shortening (Figure 3Aiii). When relaxation starts, the vector motion direction changes, and the average vector motion speed increases until it reaches the MRS (Figure 3Aiv). After the end of a relaxation cycle, the vector intensity and average speed return to the basal level (Figure 3Av).

As shown in the merged panel (transmitted light image, magnitude field, and vector field) illustrated in Figure 3A, CONTRACTIONWAVE can detect membrane displacement throughout the whole cellular area, and spatial resolution was limited only to the microscope and camera used. From the generated data, the mean magnitude speed can be plotted for each frame as a function of time (Figure 3B). This allows the quantitative analyses of parameters that reflect the dynamics of the entire CM contraction-relaxation cycle. All points identified with roman numerals in Figure 3B correspond to the phases of the contraction cycle defined in Figure 3A. A summary of all contraction/relaxation parameters obtained by CONTRACTIONWAVE is presented in Figure 3B and can be divided into three categories: speed, time, and area.

Sometimes the correct identification of the wave is difficult. This normally occurs with immature cells and can be caused by noise or even by the fact that there are cells for which the MRS is greater than the MCS. To circumvent this problem, CONTRACTIONWAVE has a pipeline in the wave detection window (data options > contraction amplitude) (Methods S1: User Manual, section 5.8, Contraction amplitude) that allows the user to visualize the entire contraction-relaxation cycle along with a corresponding single peak that represents the amplitude contraction.



**Figure 3. CONTRACTIONWAVE enables the user to acquire data regarding membrane kinetics of CMs during contraction-relaxation cycles through image capture**

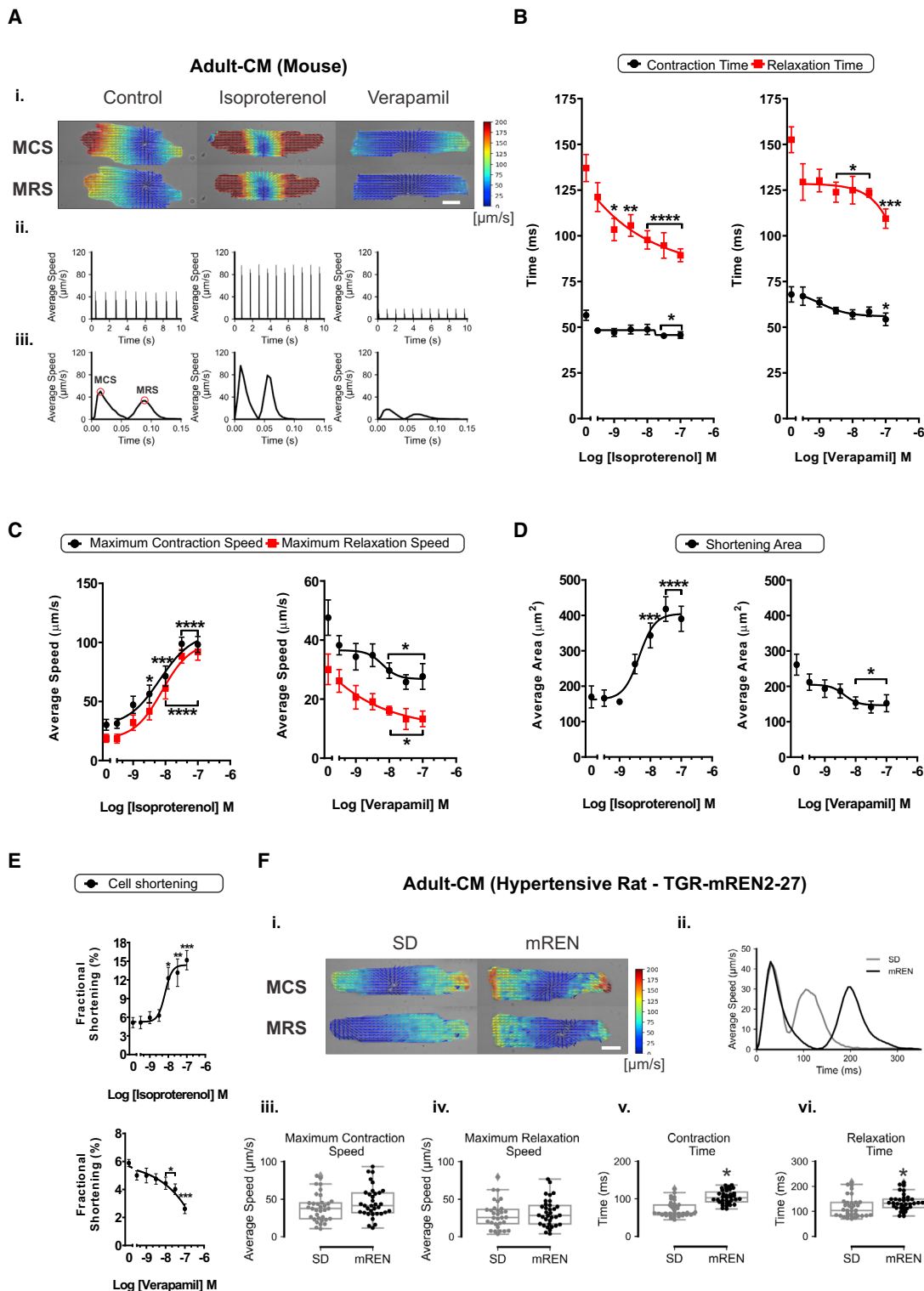
(A) Sample images show the membrane movement detection by the magnitude and vector fields with visual and numerical intensity scale detection during a contraction-relaxation cycle in adult-CMs. Scale bar, 40 μm.

(B) Left, sample average speed wave acquired from one contraction-relaxation cycle in an electrically stimulated CM. All points identified with roman numerals in (B) correspond to the phases of the contraction cycle defined in (A). Right, a summary of CONTRACTIONWAVE parameters obtained during a contraction-relaxation cycle.

### Application of CONTRACTIONWAVE in adult myocyte contractility

CONTRACTIONWAVE was idealized and developed to eliminate the limitations that optical edge detection and segmentation methods have, such as the requirement for proper cell alignment and cell rotation during the acquisition process for adult-CMs (Delbridge and Roos, 1997; Ren and Wold, 2001). To test the effectiveness and sensitivity of our method we exposed the cells to drugs that have well-defined effects on contractility parameters. Adult-CMs were subjected to treatment with either isoproterenol (ISO) (100 nmol L<sup>-1</sup>) or verapamil (VERA) (100 nmol L<sup>-1</sup>). Isoproterenol is a β-adrenergic agonist that significantly enhances CM contractility by increasing the average speed, and the extent of shortening length, thus decreasing the time required for contraction and relax-

ation (Butler et al., 2015; Harmer et al., 2012). Verapamil is a calcium channel blocker, widely used for the treatment of cardiac arrhythmias (Bourgonje et al., 2013), as well as an antihypertensive, because of its negative inotropic and chronotropic effect in the cardiac system (Harmer et al., 2012; Stern et al., 1986). Figure 4Ai-ii shows the sample spatial images and the average speed traces, respectively, recorded from cells stimulated at 1 Hz and treated with isoproterenol or verapamil for 60 s. Figure 4Aiii shows a zoomed view of one average speed trace acquired from one cycle of contraction-relaxation. Figures 4B-4D displays concentration-response analysis for the effects of isoproterenol and verapamil on contractility parameters of adult-CMs, from three independent experiments. As shown in Figure 4B, both ISO and VERA reduced contraction and relaxation times, with more



**Figure 4. CONTRACTIONWAVE motion and graphical detection of contractility effects in adult-CMs from mice and TGR-mREN2-27 rats**  
(A) (i) Adult mouse CM cell displacement speed displayed in magnitude and vector fields with visual and numerical intensity scale detection during maximum contraction speed (MCS) and maximum relaxation speed (MRS) in response to isoproterenol ( $100 \text{ nmol L}^{-1}$ ) or verapamil ( $100 \text{ nmol L}^{-1}$ ) treatment. Scale bar,  $20 \mu\text{m}$ . (ii) Average speed graph recorded from CMs stimulated to contract at 1 Hz. (iii) A single contraction-relaxation cycle was obtained under the effects of isoproterenol or verapamil treatments on CMs.

(legend continued on next page)

pronounced effects on relaxation time. Moreover, ISO increased maximum contraction and relaxation speed (Figure 4C) and shortened the area (Figure 4D) of adult-CMs in a concentration-dependent fashion. Opposite effects were observed when the cells were treated with VERA (Figures 4C and 4D). All contraction parameters acquired for adult-CMs treated with different concentrations of ISO and VERA are presented in Table S1. Of note, the data analysis does not require the user to manipulate the image as the software can process the entire image as it is generated by the experiment.

Another feature of CONTRACTIONWAVE is the possibility to acquire the shortening percentage of cell length for adult-CMs. In the advanced window of the Motion Visualization (Advanced > Export cell length data—Methods S1: User Manual—section 7.4 Figure 70), the user can open a new window to measure the shortening percentage of cell length (Figure S3). The window shows the wave selection box with the previously selected contraction-relaxation wave (blue bar on Figure S3A, left side) and its respective graph (Figure S3A, right side). CONTRACTIONWAVE uses the cell segmentation process to obtain the cell border length and apply the filters to find the best segmentation for the cell (Figure S3B). The data can be visualized and the graph plotted in real time (Figure S3C). Then, the analyzed wave data can be exported. To validate our segmentation method, we have performed shortening percentage of cell length analysis by using adult-CMs treated or not with isoproterenol and verapamil. As shown in Figure 4E, ISO increased the shortening percentage of cell length of adult-CMs, whereas VERA reduced it. Taken together, our data show that CONTRACTIONWAVE can reliably and efficiently process and analyze data from adult-CMs, detecting differences in contractility parameters under drug effects. This sensitivity, for instance, allows the investigation of drugs that can be cardioprotective, as well as the variation that occurs in relation to existing cardiac pathologies.

### CONTRACTIONWAVE applicability in a rat model of hypertension

Contractility defects are a common feature in animal models of hypertension (Jesus et al., 2020; Kovács et al., 2016). Here, we used a well-characterized rat model of hypertension caused by genetic overexpression of renin in extrarenal tissues, the TGR (mREN2)27 rat (Langheinrich, 1996; Mullins et al., 1990). An important feature of mREN CMs is the increase in cellular area characteristic of cardiac hypertrophy (Jesus et al., 2020). Given that CONTRACTIONWAVE acquires the mean of the magnitude speed, the greater the size difference between the compared cells, the lower the sensitivity will be to acquire a difference that might exist. Thus, this can be a problem when measuring data from hypertrophic mREN myocytes when compared with Sprague-Dawley (SD) rat myocytes. To circumvent this problem, we implemented a pipeline by using a new filter (magnitude

thresholding) (for details, see Methods S1: User Manual—section 7.3, Magnitude thresholding filter).

Figure 4Fi–ii shows CM images with motion vectors and the comparison of the average speed trace of SD and mREN myocytes. As shown in Figure 4Fiii–iv, there is no difference in maximum speed contraction or relaxation between SD and mREN myocytes. On the other hand, CONTRACTIONWAVE detected a significant increase in contraction and relaxation times in mREN myocytes when compared with SD cells (Figure 4Fv–vi). The contraction parameters are detailed in Table S2. These results extend previous findings (Jesus et al., 2020) by showing in more detail the cellular movement through vector fields along with the whole cell.

### CONTRACTIONWAVE validation in neonatal-CM culture and hiPSC-CMs

Cardiomyocytes derived from different developmental stages show functional and structural differences. CONTRACTIONWAVE was designed to acquire contractility parameters in CMs under several experimental conditions during different maturation and cellular developmental stages. hiPSC-CMs and neonatal-CMs are immature cells that show distinct morphological and structural organization features compared with adult ventricular myocytes (Bedada et al., 2016; Khan et al., 2015; Li et al., 2017; Rohr et al., 1991). This structural lack of maturity affects CM contractility, which is considerably less robust than in adult CMs and poses a challenge for its acquisition and analyses. Moreover, hiPSC-CMs and neonatal-CMs are self-organized into a syncytium and exhibit spontaneous contraction (Bedada et al., 2016; Li et al., 2017).

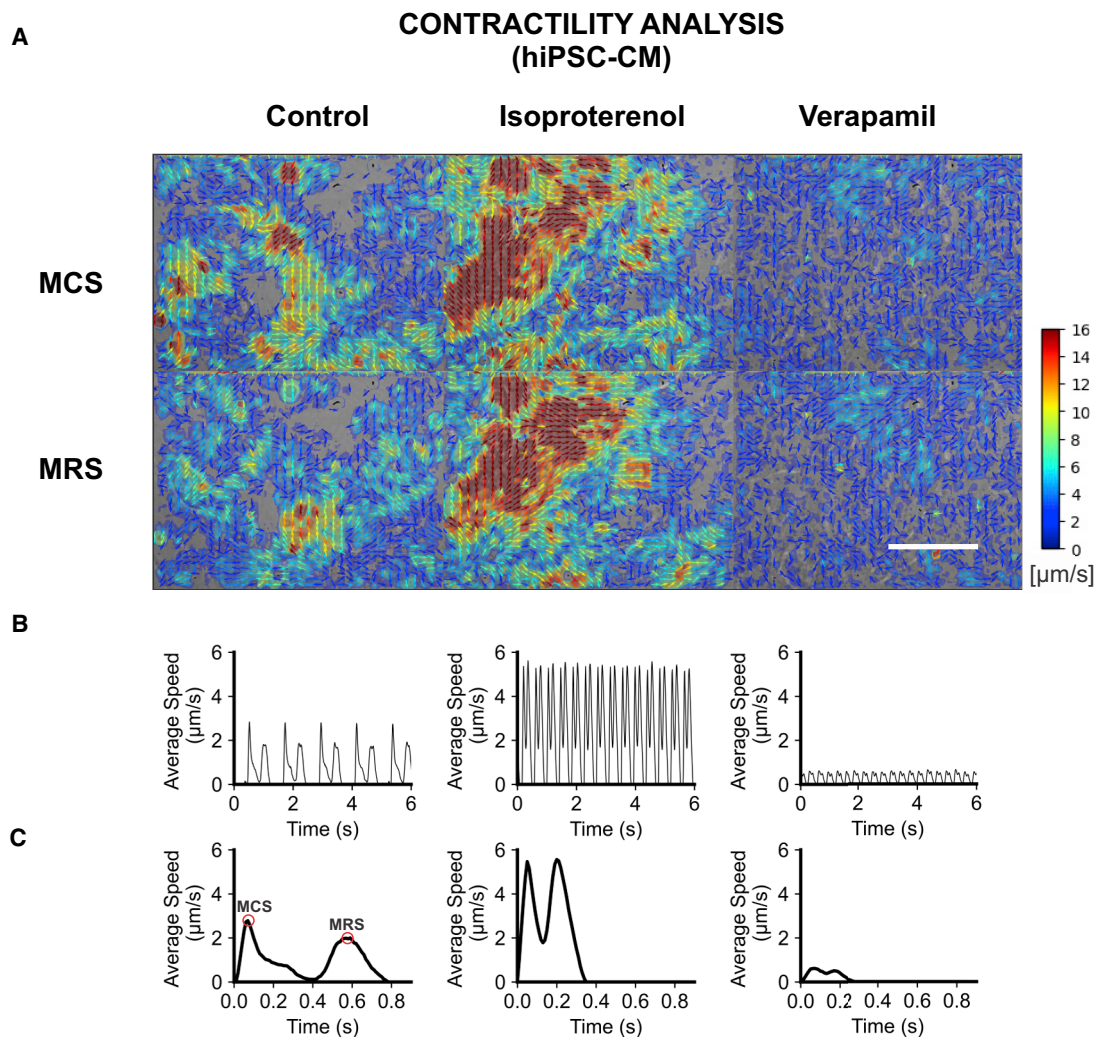
hiPSC-CMs have been explored by different techniques to obtain cellular dynamics of contraction and relaxation (Czirok et al., 2017; Huebsch et al., 2015; Maddah et al., 2015; Pointon et al., 2017). However, their application as a routine in research and clinical centers remains a challenge, either due to implementation difficulties or because there is still a missing tool with a large processing capability combined with an interface designed for a non-specialist audience. CONTRACTIONWAVE provides a reliable, fast, and accessible approach for processing and analyzing contractility dynamics in these cellular types, from the image to the final results set.

Using CONTRACTIONWAVE, we determined the average speed of contraction and relaxation cycles in hiPSC-CMs (Figures 5 and S4) and neonatal-CMs (Figure 6) under basal control conditions and after incubation with ISO and VERA. Figure 5A shows sample spatial images that detect all hiPSC-CMs syncytial movement, which allows the user to extract the average speed traces from multiple contraction-relaxation cycles (Figure 5B). To have a better view, at a single-wave level, on

(B) Acute treatment with ISO and VERA induced a significant decrease in all-time parameters in CMs.

(C–E) (C) The cells treated with VERA presented a decrease of MCS and MRS, whereas ISO induced a significant increase in these parameters. ISO and VERA induced opposite effects on the shortening area (D) and fractional shortening (E).

(F) (i) SD and mREN cell displacement speed displayed in magnitude and vector fields with visual and numerical intensity scale detection during MCS and MRS. Scale bar, 20  $\mu\text{m}$ . (ii) Graphical comparison of SD and mREN cells during one contraction-relaxation cycle. (iii)–(iv) SD and mREN CMs show similar MCS and MRS. (v)–(vi) mREN cells show an increase in contraction and relaxation time when compared with SD. For each cell, we analyzed a minimum of 10 events (each event corresponds to one contraction-relaxation cycle) and the results represent the average of these events. The results are expressed as means  $\pm$  SE from an average of 30 cells from each experimental group. \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ , \*\*\*\* $p < 0.0001$  compared with the control.



**Figure 5. CONTRACTIONWAVE motion and graphical detection of isoproterenol and verapamil effects in hiPSC-CM contractility**

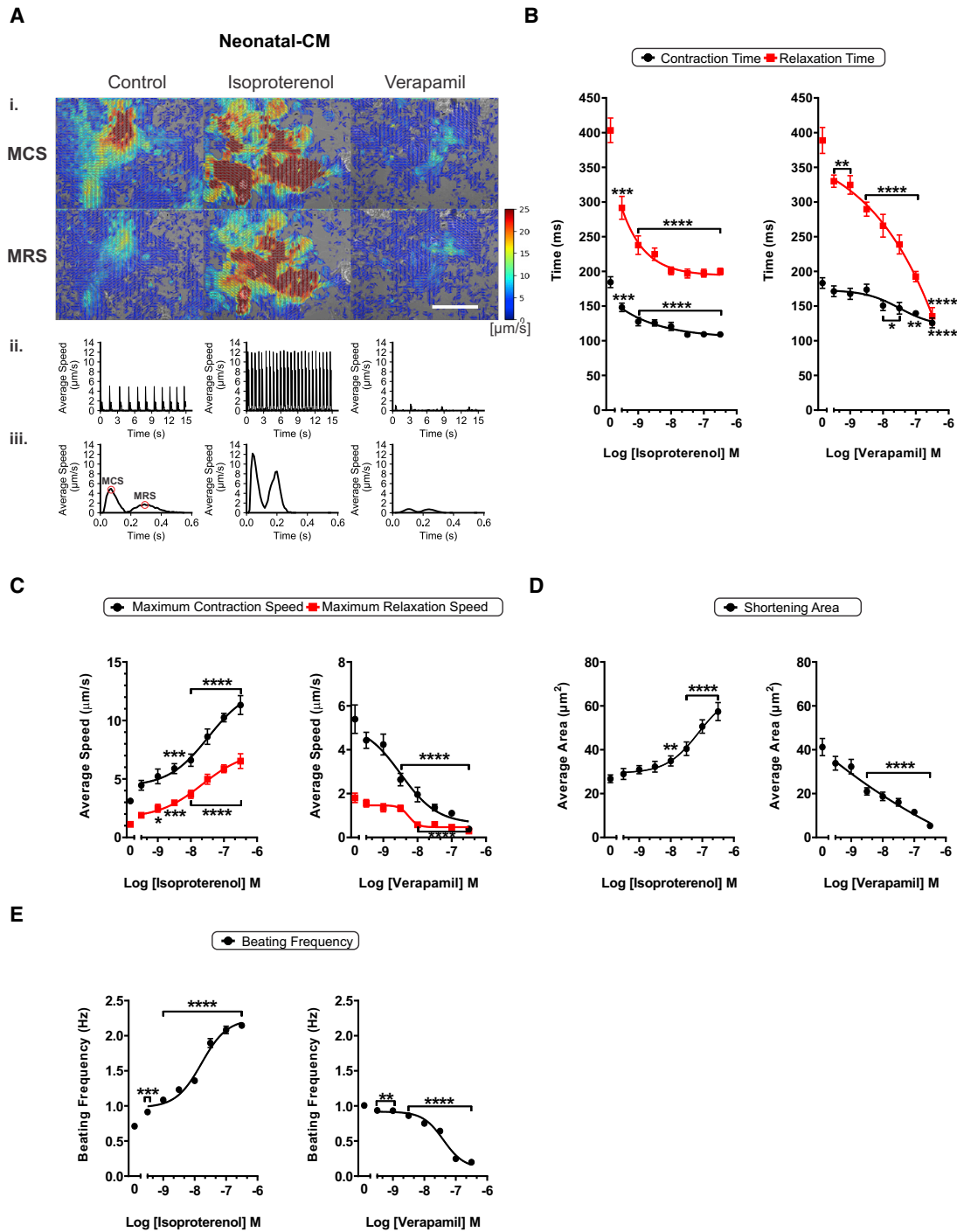
(A) hiPSC-CM maximum displacement speed in visual and numerical intensity scale detection obtained from cells treated with isoproterenol ( $100 \text{ nmol L}^{-1}$ ) or verapamil ( $100 \text{ nmol L}^{-1}$ ). Scale bar,  $50 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ .

(B) Graphical detection of average speed with treatments of isoproterenol or verapamil.

(C) Comparison of drug-induced changes during one contraction-relaxation cycle. MCS, maximum contraction speed; MRS, maximum relaxation speed. See also Figure S4.

treatment with ISO and VERA, the graph of each specific wave was plotted in Figure 5C. ISO and VERA effects on hiPSC-CMs also occurred in a concentration-dependent fashion and showed opposite results for both speed-dependent parameters (Figure S4A) and average shortening area (Figure S4B), as we would expect for these drugs. As previously reported in the literature (Hayakawa et al., 2014), a comparable decrease in contraction and relaxation times was observed upon treatment with ISO and VERA (Figure S4C). Moreover, ISO and VERA increased the beating frequency of hiPSC-CMs (Figure S4D). Taken together, these results confirm the versatility of our system, providing the user the possibility to obtain a visual and quantitative assessment of different contractile cell types by subtle modifications.

Likewise, Figure 6A shows that CONTRACTIONWAVE efficiently detects the difference of cellular contractility from ISO and VERA neonatal-CM-treated groups, through membrane displacement and generation of motion vectors (Figure 6Ai–iii). Moreover, the analysis shows that both ISO and VERA significantly decrease contraction and relaxation times, respectively, of neonatal-CMs in a concentration-dependent manner (Figure 6B). As expected for these drugs, treatment with ISO induced an increase in speed-dependent parameters (Figure 6C) and CM shortening area (Figure 6D), whereas a decrease was observed for VERA-treated cells. In addition, CONTRACTIONWAVE detected the self-rhythm of neonatal-CMs treated or not with the drugs. Opposing results of ISO and VERA were also observed when the beating frequency of neonatal-CMs was analyzed (Figure 6E).



**Figure 6. CONTRACTIONWAVE motion and graphical detection of isoproterenol and verapamil effects in neonatal-CM contractility**

(A) (i) Neonatal-CM cell displacement speed in visual and numerical intensity scale detection during contraction-relaxation cycles obtained from effects of isoproterenol ( $100 \text{ nmol L}^{-1}$ ) or verapamil ( $100 \text{ nmol/L}^{-1}$ ) treatments. Scale bar,  $50 \mu\text{m}$ . (ii) Graphical detection of average speed modifications recorded from isoproterenol or verapamil-treated neonatal-CMs. (iii) Comparison of drug-induced changes during one contraction-relaxation cycle.

(B) Acute treatment with ISO and VERA induced a significant decrease of contraction and relaxation time parameters in neonatal-CMs.

(C) The cells treated with VERA presented a decrease of MCS and MRS, whereas ISO induced a significant increase in these parameters.

(D) Similarly, ISO and VERA induced opposite effects on the shortening area.

(legend continued on next page)

The contraction parameters for both hiPSC-CMs and neonatal-CMs upon treatment with different concentrations of the drugs are presented in [Tables S3](#) and [S4](#), respectively.

To summarize our findings, [Table S5](#) provides a comparison of maximum fold change in the contraction and relaxation speeds, and in the shortening area parameters between adult-CMs, neonatal-CMs, and hiPSC-CMs treated with ISO or VERA. As shown in [Table S5](#), hiPSC-CMs show a weaker response to ISO in terms of contraction and relaxation speed maximum fold changes when compared with adult-CMs and neonatal-CMs. This finding shows an improved  $\beta$ -adrenergic response in neonatal cells when compared with hiPSC-CMs and indicates a difference in maturity between these two cell types. Despite the similar maximum fold change values shared by adult-CMs and neonatal-CMs, the former exhibited a lower half-maximal effective concentration confirming the stronger response of these cells to ISO. This is consistent with the fact that hiPSC-CMs and neonatal-CMs present immature  $\beta$ -adrenergic receptor signaling compared with adult-CMs ([Jung et al., 2016](#); [Slotkin et al., 1995](#)). Yet, both neonatal-CMs and hiPSC-CMs showed a much stronger response to VERA compared with adult-CMs, with more pronounced inhibitory contraction effects observed in neonatal cells. Likewise, neonatal-CMs and hiPSC-CMs showed a reduced half-maximal inhibitory concentration to VERA for the MCS compared with adult-CMs. These differences reflect, at least in part, the high dependency of immature cells to the sarcolemmal  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  cycling and the presence of immature  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  release units ([Korhonen et al., 2009](#); [Louch et al., 2015](#)). Overall, these data reinforce the sensitivity of our software to detect cellular differences in contractile responses to distinct drugs.

### CONTRACTIONWAVE: A summary of its innovations and applications

We are aware of six other software programs available to analyze CM contractility (IonWizard Ionoptix; [Boudaoud et al., 2014](#); [Grune et al., 2019](#); [Maddah et al., 2015](#); [Pasqualin et al., 2016](#); [Sala et al., 2018](#)). Although these programs have enjoyed some success, none of them has engaged the large cardiac community. Several factors might explain this lack of engagement. For example, most work as ImageJ plugins, which might inhibit users looking for a turn-key solution. In addition, the two that have their user interface require payment, allowing only limited free use for testing. Furthermore, some have not demonstrated the ability to acquire contractions from hiPSC-CMs, thus limiting an important segment of the potential user community. Finally, these other programs do not have the multiprocessing window to analyze large amounts of data in parallel, as required for drug screening tests. In contrast, all these features are combined in CONTRACTIONWAVE. An extended summary of CONTRACTIONWAVE features is presented in [Table S6](#).

CONTRACTIONWAVE provides an innovative solution for the high processing capability and flexibility required to quantify cardiac cell biomechanics and motility kinetics during the

contraction-relaxation cycle. CONTRACTIONWAVE uses the dense optical flow algorithm which is less sensitive to the selection of “window size” when compared with older optical flow methods. This implies that significant changes in the optical flow parameters are not required to be optimized for each similar application. In addition, the second advantage of this algorithm is that it computes the displacement for all the pixels in the image, increasing sensitivity. One differential of CONTRACTIONWAVE compared with other available programs starts from how the data can be obtained, as the program allows a large amount of data to be processed at once through the multiprocessing window. This feature allows the user to process videos simultaneously, allocating the processes in different threads that are executed in parallel, improving performance when analyzing multiple datasets by factor  $N-1$ , where  $N$  is the number of CPU cores available. Moreover, high-performance algorithms were created to access the contractility graph, allowing the user to process automatically as well as to make fine and important adjustments that provide greater confidence in the acquisition of contractility parameters. Furthermore, the whole program was designed in a user-friendly interface that opens a wide and flexible manner for the graphical and image data to be analyzed. The noteworthy applicability of CONTRACTIONWAVE is the potential to be used for a better characterization of any contractile cell, by simply changing the optical flow parameters. In addition, the visualization of the processed results is displayed in an innovative way, as the program shows the correlated motion vectors and their respective graphs. Finally, CONTRACTIONWAVE was built in the Python programming language, which is one of the largest programming collaborative communities, facilitating improvements and increments to the program over time. In conclusion, CONTRACTIONWAVE is a versatile and robust platform, with unique abilities that set it apart from currently available software.

### Limitations of study

CONTRACTIONWAVE uses the optical flow method that has arbitrary binning factors or thresholds, which can impose some limitations to data analysis. To bypass this potential issue, we provide default and flexible adjustments of these settings allowing calibrated measurements of contractility velocity ( $\mu\text{m/s}$ ) that can be used on the majority of cellular experiments. An inherent limitation to all optical flow methods is that it captures the root-mean-square contraction velocity. These values reflect both random movements, corresponding to the baseline noise in our measurements, and additional movement associated with contraction and relaxation. Although this average does not directly reflect heart muscle contraction, it represents all cell displacements associated with contraction and relaxation and correlates with shortening speed at different cell stages and under different experimental conditions.

CONTRACTIONWAVE is a versatile, high-performance software capable of analyzing CM culture from basic research, such as neonatal-CMs and adult-CMs from various animal

(E) Both treatments show opposite effects on the cellular beating concentration-response curves. From each cell region, we analyzed a minimum of 10 events (each event corresponds to the contraction-relaxation cycle) and the results represent the average of these events in the presence or not of ISO and VERA. The results are expressed as means  $\pm$  SE from an average of 20 cell regions from each experimental group. \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ , \*\*\*\* $p < 0.0001$  compared with the control.



models to clinical research, as in the use of hiPSC-CMs. Its ability to acquire contractility data from hiPSC-CMs is crucial to obtain pharmacological and toxicological data for screening drugs and modeling disease.

## STAR★METHODS

Detailed methods are provided in the online version of this paper and include the following:

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- **EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS**
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  - Neonatal ventricular myocyte isolation (neonatal-CM)
  - Human-induced pluripotent stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes (hiPSC-CM)
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  - Image contractility analysis
  - Wave detection algorithms and data contractility analysis
- **QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**

## SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental information can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crmeth.2021.100044>.

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## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

S.G., U.A., and S.S. conceived and led the project. M.Q.L.A., S.S., and N.J.d.F. developed the CONTRACTIONWAVE algorithm and GUI. D.B. and E.C. generated the hiPSC-CMs. I.C.G.J. isolated adult-CMs. S.S. isolated neonatal-CMs. S.S., A.P.A., V.P.T., and K.M. performed the drug screen and analyzed data. S.G., U.A., S.S., C.A.T.F.M., C.K., M.J.C.-S., A.K.S., O.N.M., and F.A.M.M. wrote and edited the manuscript. All authors critically reviewed and approved the final manuscript.

## DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.

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STAR★METHODS

KEY RESOURCES TABLE

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
<b>Antibodies</b>		
Anti-TNNT2	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#MA5-12960; RRID: AB_11000742
Anti-TNNI3	DSHB	Cat#TI-4; RRID: AB_10573815
<b>Bacterial and virus strains</b>		
pEB-C5	<a href="#">Chou et al., 2011</a>	Cat#Addgene 28213; RRID: Addgene_28213
pEB-Tg	<a href="#">Chou et al., 2011</a>	Cat#Addgene 28220; RRID: Addgene_28220
<b>Chemicals, peptides, and recombinant proteins</b>		
Isoproterenol	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#I6504
Verapamil Hydrochloride	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#V4629
Trypsin-EDTA solution	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#T4299
Cytosine $\beta$ -D-arabinofuranoside	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#C1768
Bovine Serum, heat inactivated, New Zealand origin - Gibco®	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#26170035
Trypsin inhibitor from Glycine max (soybean)	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#T6522
Penicillin-Streptomycin	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#P4333
Insulin from bovine pancreas	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#I5500
Bovine Serum Albumin	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#A7906
Collagenase, Type 2	Worthington Biochemical Corporation	Cat#L5004176
Y27632	Cayman Chemical	Cat#10005583
B27 supplement without insulin	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#1895601
CHIR99021	Merck Millipore Sigma	Cat#361571
B27 supplement	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat#17504044
BMP4	R&D Systems	Cat#314-BP-010
KY2111	Cayman Chemical	Cat#14315
XAV939	Cayman Chemical	Cat#13596
DPBS 35% BSA	Merck Millipore Sigma	Cat#A7979
Plasmocin	InvivoGen	Cat#ANT-MPT
<b>Critical commercial assays</b>		
Human CD34+ Cell Nucleofector kit	Lonza	VPA-1003
<b>Deposited data</b>		
Raw and analyzed data	This paper	N/A
Sample data is available from Mendeley Data at the following doi	This paper	<a href="https://doi.org/10.17632/hswwzgw6rp.1">https://doi.org/10.17632/hswwzgw6rp.1</a>
<b>Experimental models: Cell lines</b>		
human-induced pluripotent stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes (hiPSC-CM)	Pluricell Biotech®	<a href="https://www.pluricellbiotech.com.br/">https://www.pluricellbiotech.com.br/</a>
<b>Experimental models: Organisms/strains</b>		
Mouse: C57BL/6	Animal Facility UFMG	<a href="https://www.jax.org/strain/000664">https://www.jax.org/strain/000664</a>
Wistar Rat	Animal Facility of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics ICB-UFMG	N/A
Sprague-Dawley rats	Laboratory of Hypertension ICB-UFMG	N/A
Hypertensive transgenic rat: TGR(mREN2)27	Laboratory of Hypertension ICB-UFMG	N/A

(Continued on next page)

**Continued**

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
<b>Software and algorithms</b>		
CONTRACTIONWAVE Code repository	This paper	<a href="https://github.com/marceloqla/ContractionWavePy">https://github.com/marceloqla/ContractionWavePy</a>
CONTRACTIONWAVE executable file	This paper	<a href="https://sites.icb.ufmg.br/cardiovascularrc/contractionwave">https://sites.icb.ufmg.br/cardiovascularrc/contractionwave</a> <a href="https://doi.org/10.17632/hswwzgw6rp.1">https://doi.org/10.17632/hswwzgw6rp.1</a>
Python 3.6.9	<a href="https://www.python.org/">van Rossum, 1995</a>	<a href="https://www.python.org/">https://www.python.org/</a>
Numpy	<a href="https://github.com/numpy/numpy">Harris et al., 2020</a>	<a href="https://github.com/numpy/numpy">https://github.com/numpy/numpy</a>
Pandas	<a href="https://github.com/pandas-dev/pandas">McKinney, 2010</a>	<a href="https://github.com/pandas-dev/pandas">https://github.com/pandas-dev/pandas</a>
Matplotlib	<a href="https://github.com/matplotlib/matplotlib">Hunter, 2007</a>	<a href="https://github.com/matplotlib/matplotlib">https://github.com/matplotlib/matplotlib</a>
Opencv	<a href="https://github.com/opencv/opencv">Bradski, 2000</a>	<a href="https://github.com/opencv/opencv">https://github.com/opencv/opencv</a>
Ttkthemes	<a href="https://pypi.org/project/ttkthemes/">https://pypi.org/project/ttkthemes/</a>	<a href="https://github.com/TkinterEP/ttkthemes">https://github.com/TkinterEP/ttkthemes</a>
Tkinter	<a href="https://www.python.org/">Lundh, 1999</a>	<a href="https://www.python.org/">https://www.python.org/</a>
Pillow	<a href="https://github.com/python-pillow/Pillow">Clark, 2015</a>	<a href="https://github.com/python-pillow/Pillow">https://github.com/python-pillow/Pillow</a>
Xlsxwriter	<a href="https://pypi.org/project/XlsxWriter/">https://pypi.org/project/XlsxWriter/</a>	<a href="https://github.com/jmcnamara">https://github.com/jmcnamara</a>
Psutil	<a href="https://pypi.org/project/psutil/">https://pypi.org/project/psutil/</a>	<a href="https://github.com/giampaolo/psutil">https://github.com/giampaolo/psutil</a>
SciPy	<a href="https://github.com/scipy/scipy">Virtanen et al., 2020</a>	<a href="https://github.com/scipy/scipy">https://github.com/scipy/scipy</a>
PyInstaller	<a href="https://www.pyinstaller.org/">https://www.pyinstaller.org/</a>	<a href="https://github.com/pyinstaller/pyinstaller">https://github.com/pyinstaller/pyinstaller</a>
Ionicons		<a href="https://ionicons.com/">https://ionicons.com/</a>
ImageJ	<a href="https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/">Schneider et al., 2012</a>	<a href="https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/">https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/</a>
<b>Other</b>		
CMOS camera	EPIX, Inc	SILICON VIDEO ® 642M
Nikon Eclipse Ti-E inverted microscope	Nikon	Ti-E
ChamlideIC-CU Incubator	Live Cell Instrument, Nowan-gu, Korea	109

**RESOURCE AVAILABILITY**

**Lead contact**

Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Silvia Guatimosim, [guatimosim@icb.ufmg.br](mailto:guatimosim@icb.ufmg.br)

**Materials availability**

This study did not generate new materials.

**Data and code availability**

CONTRACTIONWAVE is free and open-source, distributed under the terms of the GNU General Public License version 2, and its source code is available at: <https://github.com/marceloqla/ContractionWavePy>.

Sample data of this study are available at the Mendeley Data:

<https://doi.org/10.17632/hswwzgw6rp.1>

Given large file sizes, the image data that supports the findings in supplemental figures of this study are available from the lead contact upon request.

CONTRACTIONWAVE can be installed from an executable file for **Windows or Ubuntu** (see [section 3.1](#) of the User Manual provided as [Methods S1](#)) or from Anaconda environment installation for **Windows, Ubuntu or Mac-OS** (see [section 3.2](#) of the User Manual provided as [Methods S1](#)).

Additional information about the CONTRACTIONWAVE installation and how to process data can be found in the User Manual ([Methods S1](#)).

**EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS**

**Animal models**

For this study, we used male C57BL/6 Mice 10-12 weeks of age (n=3), neonatal (P1-3) Wistar rats (n=10), male Sprague-Dawley rats 10-14 week old (SD, n=3), and heterozygous TGR (mREN2)27 (n=3) rats. The rats used in this study were obtained from the breeding

colony established at the animal facility of the Laboratory of Hypertension, Institute of Biological Sciences/UFMG, and the mice were obtained from the UFMG animal facility. Experiments were performed according to protocols approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG). The study followed the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (CEUA 138/2018).

### Adult ventricular myocyte isolation (adult-CM)

Cardiomyocytes from adult mice were isolated according to the methodology as previously described (Guatimosim et al., 2002). Briefly, the heart was rapidly removed and perfused retrogradely by the Langendorff method with  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  free modified Tyrode's solution. Subsequently, the heart was perfused with  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  free modified Tyrode's solution containing 50  $\mu\text{mol/L}$   $\text{CaCl}_2$  and collagenase type 2 (1 mg/ml) for approximately 12 minutes. The ventricular chambers were separated and submitted to mechanical digestion. It is then filtered to remove tissue that has not been digested. The extracellular concentration of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  was increased after three cycles of centrifugation and exchange of buffer, reaching 500  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  at the end of the process. Soon after, the cells were again centrifuged and maintained in Tyrode's solution.

### Neonatal ventricular myocyte isolation (neonatal-CM)

Cardiac tissue was removed from 1- to 3-day-old Wistar rats, as previously described by Guatimosim et al., 2008. In brief, the collagenase type 2 enzyme was used to digest the heart tissue. Isolated neonatal rat cardiomyocytes were resuspended in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), 100 U/ml penicillin, and 100  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  streptomycin, and replated in 75- $\text{cm}^2$  flasks for 2h. The cells were then plated into fibronectin-coated culture dishes and incubated at 37°C in a 5%  $\text{CO}_2$  incubator. One day after plating, cells were rinsed with DMEM plus serum and fed for another 48 h with regular culture medium, now including 20  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  cytosine-D-arabinofuranoside to inhibit the growth of noncardiomyocytes. The cultured cells were used in experiments on the fourth day of culture.

### Human-induced pluripotent stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes (hiPSC-CM)

Human-Induced pluripotent stem cell (hiPSCs) reprogramming was performed as described in Tofoli et al., 2016. Briefly, hiPSCs lines were derived from erythroblasts by transfection with plasmids pEB-C5 and pEB-Tg using the Human CD34+ nucleofactor kit and the Nucleofector II device, following manufacturer's instructions. One clone (ACP5) was selected, expanded, and presented several pluripotent Stem Cells markers OCT4, NANOG, SOX2, and SSEA4, and did not presently karyotype aberrations after long term cell cultivation (Cruvinei et al., 2020). hiPSCs were differentiated using a monolayer directed differentiation method modified from previous reports (Burridge et al., 2014; Lian et al., 2013). hiPSCs were grown in feeder-free conditions until they reached 60%–70% confluence. Cells were singularized, counted, and plated (2.5 x 10<sup>5</sup> cells/ $\text{cm}^2$ ) with E8 medium (Thermo Fisher, USA) with 10  $\mu\text{M}$  of Y27632 (Cayman Chemical, USA). E8 medium was changed daily until cells reached 100% confluence. This day was considered as differentiation day 0 and the medium was changed to RPMI 1640 supplemented with 1x B27 supplement (Thermo Fisher, USA) without insulin (RB-) and 4  $\mu\text{M}$  CHIR99021 (Merck Millipore Sigma, USA). 24 hours later, the medium was changed to RB- supplemented with 10 ng/mL BMP4 (R&D Systems, USA). On day 2, the medium was changed to fresh RB- supplemented with 2.5  $\mu\text{M}$  KY2111 and XAV939 (both from Cayman Chemical, USA). On day 4 and every two days, the medium was changed to fresh RPMI supplemented with 213  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  Ascorbic Acid 2- phosphate (Sigma Aldrich, USA), 500  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  DPBS 35% BSA, and 2  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  Plasmocin (InvivoGen, USA). Cells were cultivated for 15 days, passed with Trypsin EDTA (Thermo Fisher, USA). After Trypsin inactivation, cells were centrifuged and resuspended in RPMI supplemented with B27 supplement and 10  $\mu\text{M}$  of Y27632 and plated at specific experiment confluence. This protocol generates a population of cardiomyocytes with purity above 90%. The cardiomyocytes used in the experiments from this manuscript showed purity above 98% by troponin-specific cardiac marker TNNT2 and more than 94% for mature Troponin I (TNNI3) (Figure S5). All cells (hiPSCs and cardiomyocytes) were checked for the absence of mycoplasma.

## METHOD DETAILS

### Overview of the software

CONTRACTIONWAVE (CW) is a software developed in Python Programming Language that allows the user to visualize, quantify, and analyze cell contractility parameters in a simple and intuitive format. The software enables the user to acquire membrane kinetics data of cell contractility during contraction-relaxation cycles through image capture and a dense optical flow algorithm. Both methods and software were developed using multidisciplinary knowledge, which resulted in a robust data extraction protocol. For details on step-by-step software instructions, see [Methods S1: CONTRACTIONWAVE User manual v1.0, Related to STAR Methods](#).

### Cell treatment

The drugs used in this study were purchased by Sigma-Aldrich: Isoproterenol and Verapamil Hydrochloride. The cells were incubated with isoproterenol or verapamil to perform a concentration-response curve. The incubation time was 5 min, with a variation between 5 and 15 min for image acquisition.

### Microscopy system imaging

A high-speed digital CMOS camera (SILICON VIDEO ® 642M, EPIX, Inc) was coupled to a Nikon Eclipse Ti-E inverted microscope, brightfield microscopy, containing a 40x objective (Nikon Japan, 0.55 numerical aperture and 2.1mm working distance). In the microscope stage, an incubator (model ChamlielC-CU: 109, Live Cell Instrument, Nowan-gu, Korea) was added that maintains uniform temperature (37°C) and humidity (60%) levels for adult-CM and also adding CO<sub>2</sub> (5%) to neonatal-CM and hiPSC-CM. Adult cardiomyocytes were stimulated electrically by platinum electrodes (1Hz, 30V) with pulses of 5 ms duration. The image sequence was recorded at 200fps over 1min for adult-CM and 100fps over 15s for neonatal-CM and hiPSC-CM, with a resolution of 640x200 pixels and 640x480 respectively. The image pixel size was 0.25 μm/pixel with a depth of 8 bits.

### Image contractility analysis

To detect cell contraction movement, we used the Dense Optical Flow methodology, which is based on the principles of optical flow, using the Gunnar Farneback algorithm (Farneback, 2003) to detect the movement of all points between a pair of images. CONTRACTIONWAVE supports various image types (Methods S1), and to obtain the best quality results, we used Tiff-8bit type images. We apply the Optical flow algorithm to a movie of a contractile cell with several frames  $F$ , and the image size  $n \times m$  to obtain the magnitude of the displacement of a pixel between two frames. From the displacement for each pixel, we average to obtain a magnitude of the displacement for each frame ( $i$ ) ( $i = [1, 2, \dots, F]$ ) (Equation 1).

$$Avg.Mag(i) = \frac{1}{n \times m} \times \sum_1^n \sum_1^m |OpticalFlow(n, m, i)| \quad (\text{Equation 1})$$

The displacement for each frame was obtained from the average of the magnitude of the displacement of each pixel in the image, converted to the actual speed multiplying the frame rate and pixel size (Equation 2), and then plotted as a function of time.

$$Speed(i) = Avg.Mag \times pixelFPS \quad (\text{Equation 2})$$

### Wave detection algorithms and data contractility analysis

A peak-detection algorithm was developed to measure contractility parameters over time. Maximum contraction Speed (MCS) and Maximum Relaxation Speed (MRS) are the two positive peaks spanning a central valley. The Minimum Speed Point is the minimum value of this valley between the MCS and MRS. To determine the return to baseline, a portion of the waveform after MRS (PArea, set to 0.9 as default) below a threshold ( $W$ ) is fitted by a single exponential decay function. Return to baseline is the point in which a fraction of the total area fitted to an exponential curve, has reached a limit (PStop), set to 0.35 as default which can be changed by the user. Briefly, to detect the main parameters of the contractility we define four constants,  $W$  (speed median),  $\Delta$  (mean of the speed points above  $W$ ), PStop, and PArea (multiplication factors to adjusted parameters obtained by the exponential decay curve, to define the end of the contractility). All these parameters are defined from automated values estimated on optimal test cases or can be defined from user input to improve the fit to the data and their condition.

$$W = median[Speed(i)] \text{ if wave Max filter input} \quad (\text{Equation 3})$$

$$\Delta = mean[Speed(i)] > W \text{ if delta input} \quad (\text{Equation 4})$$

$$PStop = 0.9(\text{default}) \text{ if fraction of exp.AUC input } |0 < \text{input} < 1| \quad (\text{Equation 5})$$

$$PArea = 0.35(\text{default}) \text{ if fraction of wave Max area input } |0 < \text{input} < 1| \quad (\text{Equation 6})$$

The wave definition algorithm can be defined by the following steps:

First, we detect the pairs of peaks corresponding to possible MCS and MRS. These peaks are defined as the maximum points above  $W$  around a valley defined by  $\Delta$  (Equation 4). To do that we adapted the peakdet algorithms from [http://billauer.co.il/peakdet.html]

A search algorithm is then applied for each pair of maximum points (MCS, MRS). A contraction initiation point is assigned from the closest local minimum point preceding MCS. The lowest average speed value between MCS and MRS is defined as the Minimum Speed point.

The Return to the baseline point is obtained by an exponential fit of the decaying curve after the maximum relaxation speed (MRS) (Equation 7). Since all values below  $W$  following the MRS can be used in this fit we included a parameter PArea (Equation 6) that allows subsetting the data to be fitted to possibly exclude any values belonging to the start of the next wave which could bias the regression.

$$exp.fit(afterMRS) = Lev.Marquardt(Ae^{-Bx} + c) \quad (\text{Equation 7})$$

The total area under the decaying curve for the fitted exponential is then calculated:

$$A = \int \text{exp.fit(afterMRS)} \quad (\text{Equation 8})$$

The Return to the baseline point is determined to be the first point above the proportion of the calculated area PStop (Equation 5). The search algorithm then skips to the next pair of maximums, detecting all possible waves for the current values of the four constants. An example of the detected points is shown in [Figures 2A](#), [S2B](#), and [S2C](#).

Various parameters regarding Time, Speed, and the Area under the curve are calculated and averaged for all the user-selected waves (as seen in [Figure S2C](#)).

### QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Data are presented as mean  $\pm$  SEM of at least 3 independent experiments. For statistical comparison, we used Student's t-test, One-Way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's Multiple Comparison post hoc test. The level of significance was set to values of  $p < 0.05$ .



#### **9.4 APÊNDICE D – ARTIGO EM REVISÃO: MICROSCOPY-BASED CELLULAR CONTRACTILITY ASSAY FOR ADULT, NEONATAL, AND HIPSC CARDIOMYOCYTES**

Os resultados da presente tese foram submetidos e encontra-se em estágio de revisão para a revista Star Protocols da editora Cell. O artigo em revisão encontra-se anexado abaixo.

# Microscopy-based cellular contractility assay for adult, neonatal, and hiPSC cardiomyocytes

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<sup>3</sup>Technical contact

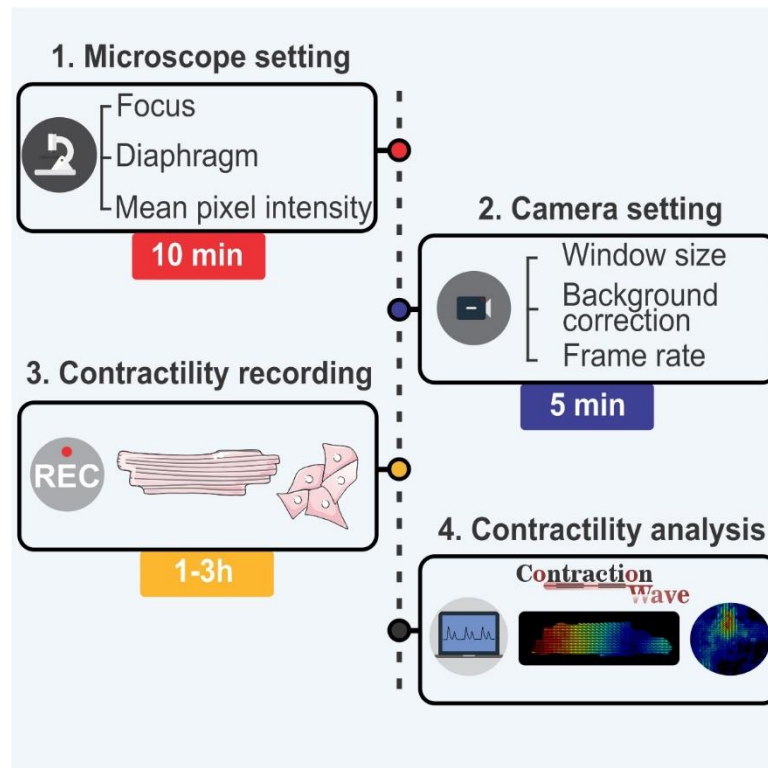
<sup>4</sup>Lead contact

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## Graphical Abstract



## Summary

Cellular contractility is a key parameter to unravel mechanisms underlying cardiac pathologies. Unfortunately, difficulties in processing and analyzing data on cardiomyocyte contractility can impair accurate and reproducible measurements. Herein, we provide a method to acquire high-quality contractility data from adult, neonatal and human induced pluripotent stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes. The protocol describes the optimization steps for the experimental setup and cell selection criteria for robust and reliable data acquisition. Moreover, we use CONTRACTIONWAVE software to analyze and show the optimized results.

**For complete details on the use and execution of this protocol, please refer to Scalzo *et al.* (2021).**

## Before you begin

This optimized protocol includes methods for different types of cardiomyocytes (adult, neonatal, and human induced pluripotent stem cells), each with their own experimental particularities. The steps were written as a guide for both beginners and expert researchers to acquire robust and reproducible cellular contractility data.

## Cardiomyocyte cellular dissociation

The protocol described below has been tested using freshly dissociated adult ventricular myocytes as well as cultured neonatal and human induced pluripotent stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes. As each laboratory likely follows its protocols, the methods cited below are for reference only: for freshly adult cardiomyocytes (Guatimosim *et al.*, 2001; Tian *et al.*, 2020), for neonatal cardiomyocytes (Guatimosim *et al.*, 2008), for human induced pluripotent stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes (Cruvinel *et al.*, 2020).

## Cell imaging setup optimization

### Kohler Illumination

#### Timing: 10-15 min

For robust image acquisition and analysis, the microscope and camera should provide uniform illumination, reasonable contrast, and clear delimitation of the cell boundary. These criteria can be satisfied by setting up the microscope for bright field examination and Köhler illumination (set up instructions can be usually found in the microscope manual).

**Note:** Even modern microscopes can have compromised image quality due to issues with the light source. An optimal cell illumination should be glare-free and dispersed uniformly in the field of view.

## Microscope Cleanliness

### Timing: 10-30 min

For high-quality cell imaging, it is important to certify that no dust or dirt appears in the captured images, as it can substantially affect the contractility analysis. Therefore, dirt along the optical pathway or on the camera lens needs to be removed. There are few steps to identify if the dirt is on the specimen, microscopy optical system, or in the camera:

1. Dirt on the specimen can be identified by moving the specimen stage. If that is the case, the dirt will have the same relative movement as the specimen.
2. Dirt on the objective can be identified by comparison with images using a different objective, if available. If the dirt is on the objective, it will disappear when the objective is changed. Alternatively, dirt on the objective can also be tested by moving the objective slightly and observing if the dirt also moves or remains stationary.

**Note:** Remember also that the front of the objective is not in the focal plane and therefore a bit of dirt on the front of the objective might appear out of focus and may just cause an overall bad image.

3. If the dirt stays static when the stage moves and is not on the objective, it is probably located in the optical system, either on the intermediate lens or in the camera sensor, and can be identified by rotating the camera. If the dirt moves with the camera rotation, the dirt is on the camera. If it remains stationary, by process of elimination, the dirt is on an intermediate lens. Once the dirt is found, the following steps need to be taken:
  - a. Place the objective lens on a dust-free surface.
  - b. Use an air duster to gently remove the loose dust from the optical glass surface. To avoid damaging the lens, the air must be blown across the lens surface.
  - c. Use a cotton swab or a low-lint lens tissue for cleaning optics. Do not rub the lens with dry cotton.
  - d. To remove water-soluble dirt, dip a cotton swab or lens wipe into distilled water, remove the excess liquid, and then wipe the lens in a spiral motion.
  - e. To remove oily dirt, a lens cleaning liquid or absolute ethanol should be used following the same procedure as for distilled water. In some cases, the dirt may require several passes to be completely removed.

**Important:** Do not use an excessive amount of liquid. A single drop or immersion of the cotton swab or lens wipe should be sufficient. Remember to never apply the liquid directly to the lens.

## Calibration of image pixel size

### Timing: 10 min

Normally, a microscope with a built-in camera has a scale bar in its system that provides a convertible value for the image pixels into a known unit, such as micrometers. However, if the camera is added as a peripheral, the user needs to find out what a pixel unit corresponds to in the desired unit. One way

to acquire the image pixel size value is by a simple calculation of the ratio between the camera pixel size and the objective magnification (Equation 1).

$$\text{Image pixel size} = \frac{\text{Camera pixel size}}{\text{Objective magnification}}$$

Equation 1

**Important:** Each camera has a specific image pixel size. Make sure to obtain the right value in the camera manual.

The image pixel size value can also be obtained experimentally. Calibration of image pixel size should be performed by imaging a stage micrometer and calculating the X- and Y-axis pixel size in ImageJ. If the microscope has built-in calibration, it is recommended to verify the calibration using the same procedure. For that, a stage micrometer calibration slide can be used with an image capture program. For ImageJ, follow these steps:

4- Put a stage micrometer on the microscope and acquire the image.

5- Use ImageJ to find the pixel value:

- a. Open the image file on ImageJ.
- b. On the scale bar, draw a straight line to define a known distance.
- c. Go to the menu and select 'Analyze'>'Set Scale'.
- d. In the dialog window, type the distance value in micrometers (from the stage micrometer).
- e. The scale will show the relationship between the pixel and micrometers.
- f. Use the following formula to find the image pixel size in micrometers:

$$\text{Image pixel size} = \frac{\text{distance}}{\text{Number of pixels}}$$

Equation 2

To add the scale bars to the images using ImageJ, please follow the steps below:  
<http://www.swarthmore.edu/NatSci/nkaplin1/scalebar.htm>

## Microscope resolution

The microscope resolution defines the sensitivity for measurements of cell contractility. The microscope spatial resolution can be estimated by the formula:

$$\text{Resolution}_{x,y} = \frac{1.22\lambda}{NA_{obj} + NA_{con}}$$

Equation 3

Where,  $\lambda$  is the imaging wavelength of light, and  $NA_{obj}$  and  $NA_{con}$  are the objective and the condenser numerical aperture, respectively. In our experiments, we used an objective with 40x

magnification (NAobj= 0.55) and the Long Working Distance (LWD) condenser (NAcon= 0.8). Using an average wavelength for visible light =  $0.55 \mu\text{m}$ , we have:

$$Resolution_{x,y} = \frac{1.22 \times 0.55}{0.55 + 0.8} = \sim 0.5 \mu\text{m}$$

Equation 4

To obtain robust data, the pixel size should be below the microscope resolution. In our setup, the pixel size was  $0.25 \mu\text{m}$ .

## Step-by-step method details

### Microscope and image setting for the different cell types

To perform cellular contractility experiments, a standard microscope coupled with a digital camera is necessary. The microscope contrast needs to be sufficient to identify the cellular membrane. Importantly, the magnification must allow the user to visualize the whole cell, typically requiring between 20x-40x magnification with a pixel size of  $0.2\text{-}0.5 \mu\text{m}$ . In order to capture a high-quality image and fully detect the entire cell movement, both microscope resolution and image pixel size should be smaller than the sarcomere length, which is around  $1.8 \mu\text{m}$  (Li et al., 2016; Pollack and Huntsman, 1974). Due to differences in cell contractility speed within the different cell types, a camera should have a frame rate ranging from 25 to 200 fps (see table 1 for details).

#### Timing: 5-10 min

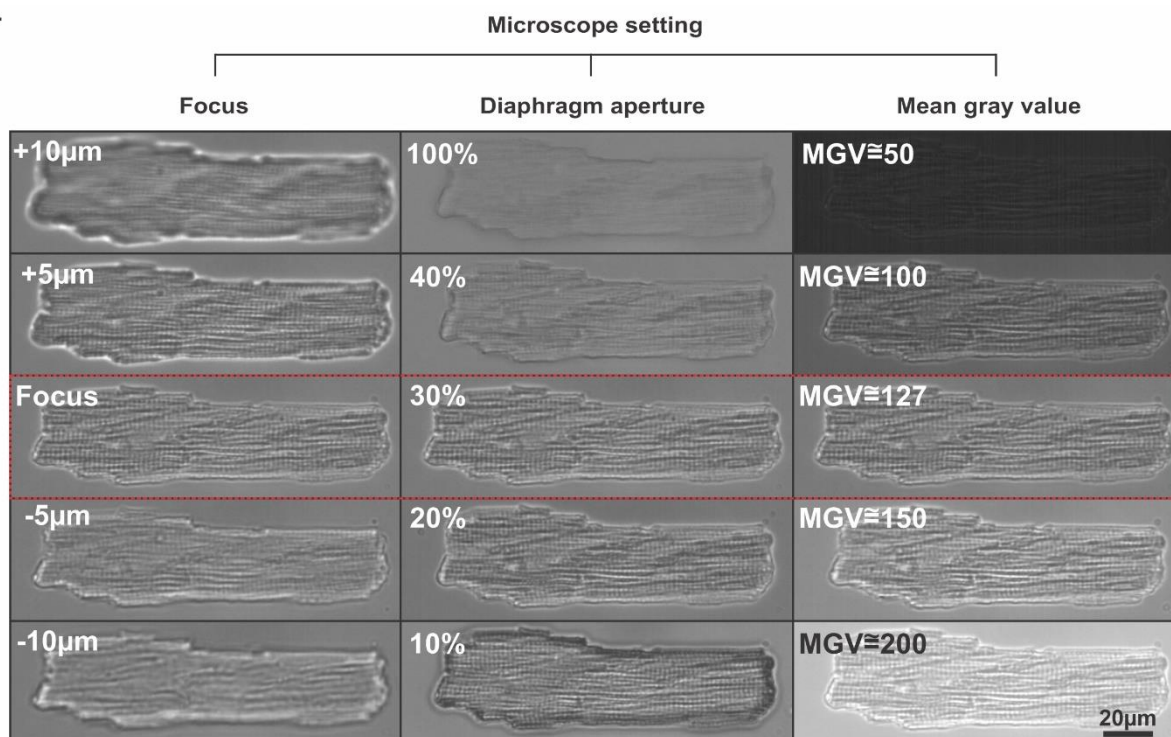
Different cell types may require specific microscope settings, and to achieve the best contrast, some adjustments to diaphragm aperture, focus, and light intensity may be necessary. The mature sarcomere structure found in adult cardiomyocytes provides robust contrast for contraction measurements. In comparison, neonatal and human induced pluripotent stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes (hiPSC-CMs) have intrinsically lower contrast due to the absence of an organized sarcomere structure and lack of a t-tubule system (Bedada et al., 2016; Khan et al., 2015; Li et al., 2017). In addition, contractility can be significantly affected by differences in cardiomyocyte structural maturity. Neonatal-CMs and hiPSC-CMs not only have weaker contraction compared to adult-CMs, but their syncytium self-organization can also contract spontaneously (Bedada et al., 2016; Bezzerides et al., 2019; Li et al., 2017). These characteristics require slightly different microscope settings between these types of cells.

**Critical:** An inappropriate microscope setting will directly influence the acquisition of contractility that is obtained through cell membrane movement, reflecting in a poor measurement of the contractility parameters.

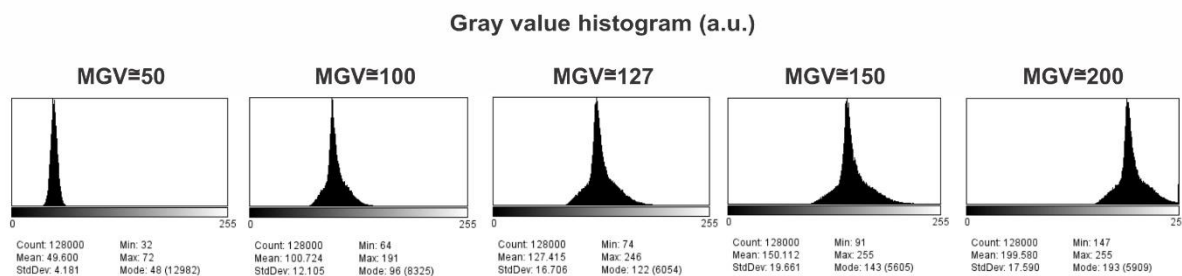
1- Focus: the focus should be adjusted until the cell border is delimited with minimum edge brightness (see Focus on Figures 1, 2, and 3). Small adjustments should be made to the fine focus control until the cell border is sharp and without any optical bloom.

**Note:** For adult-CMs, the focus should be optimized to obtain the greatest amount of black and white variation longitudinally, providing a clear visualization of sarcomere striations (see Focus on Figure 1A). For neonatal-CM or hiPSC-CM, intracellular vesicles or cell nuclei can be used as a reference to find the best focus. Well-focused vesicles usually will have a black interior and both vesicles and nuclei should have a well-defined border (see Focus on Figure 2A and 3A).

A.



B.



**Figure 1: Optimal bright field microscope settings for Adult-CMs.** **A. Focus:** Out-of-focus cells present a bright halo around the cell border and poor resolution of intracellular structures. Use the fine focus control to minimize border brightness and to bring intracellular structures into sharp focus. **Diaphragm:** changes in the diaphragm drastically alter cell visualization. A fully-opened diaphragm (100%) results in low contrast whereas a closed-down diaphragm (10%) produces sufficient contrast but an overall-all dark image. **Mean gray value (MGV):** Lighting and camera settings should be adjusted so that the gray value histogram is centered on the half-maximal range (127 for an 8-bit image), with no pixel intensities close to zero or to saturation. Ideal settings are highlighted in the red rectangle. **B.** Gray value histogram acquired for each condition presented in A. For greater precision, the variation of illumination should be observed from the gray value histogram, generated by the camera's application program or the image can be processed by ImageJ software.

2- Diaphragm aperture (Condenser lens): Start with the microscope setup for Kohler illumination. Open the diaphragm fully, which results in a cell image with low contrast and with little cell border delineation (see panel Diaphragm 100% in Figures 1A, 2A, and 3A). Slowly close the diaphragm until the delineation of the cell edge and nucleus appear and contrast is optimized.

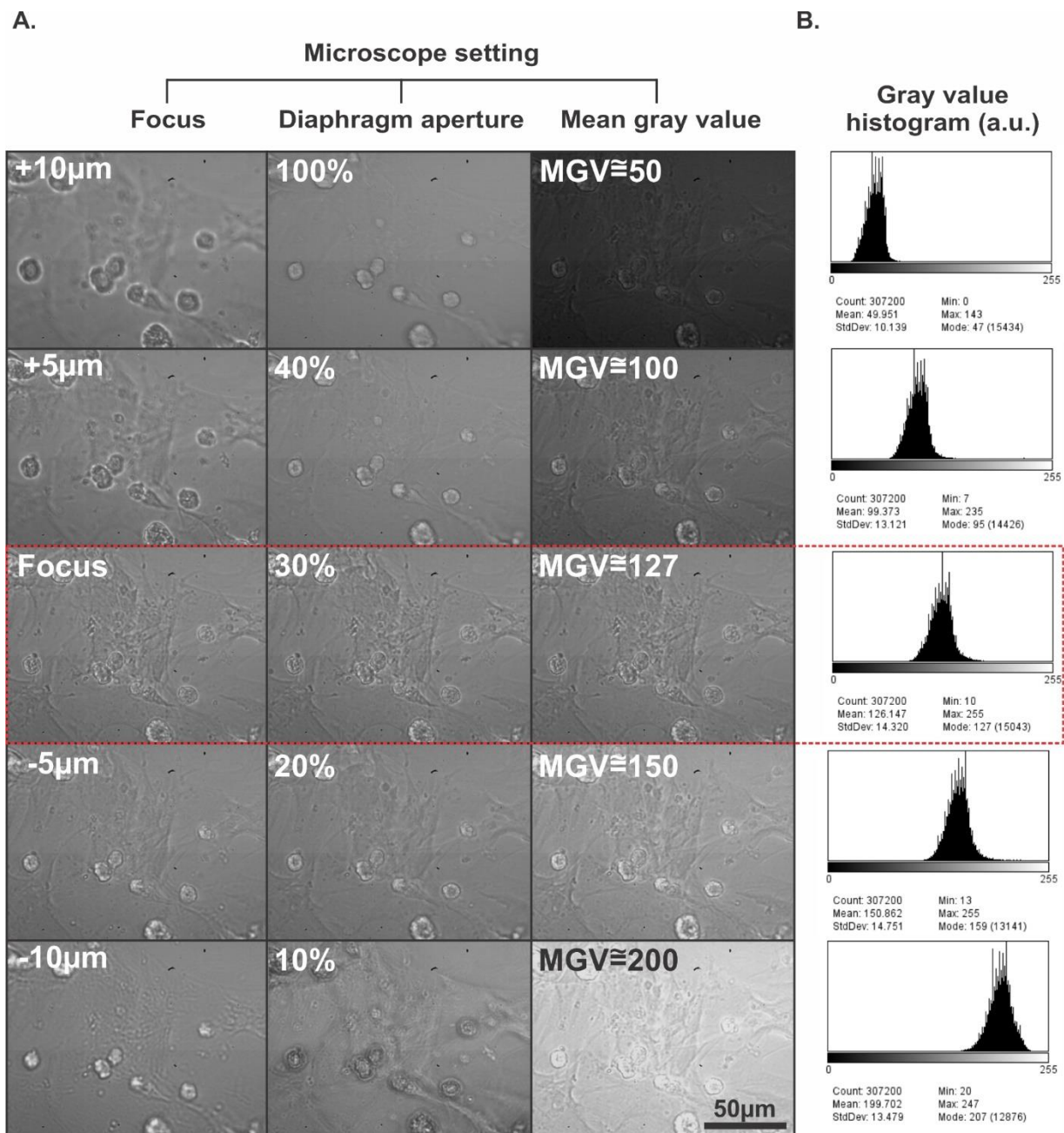
**Note:** For adult-CMs, good contrast can generally be obtained with the diaphragm 20%-30% open (see Diaphragm 30% Figure 1A), and for neonatal-CM or hiPSC-CM, 30% (see Diaphragm 30% Figure 3A).

3- Mean gray value (MGV): Pixel brightness is converted into a grayscale value that is the primary information in an image. Usually, an 8-bit image is sufficient to acquire the cell contractility parameters. This kind of image has a grayscale that ranges from 0 to 255, and the ideal illumination intensity will nearly fill this range, leaving a margin of error to guarantee that no pixels go below camera sensitivity or above saturation. Thus, the best approach is to adjust lighting and camera settings to set the background close to 127, which is the middle of this range. This procedure can be carried out using a grayscale value histogram plot (Figures 1B, 2B, and 3B).

**Note:** The histogram plot can be usually acquired in real time through the software camera acquisition, or the image can be captured, stored, and processed by ImageJ software ('Analyze'>'Histogram' or Ctrl+h).

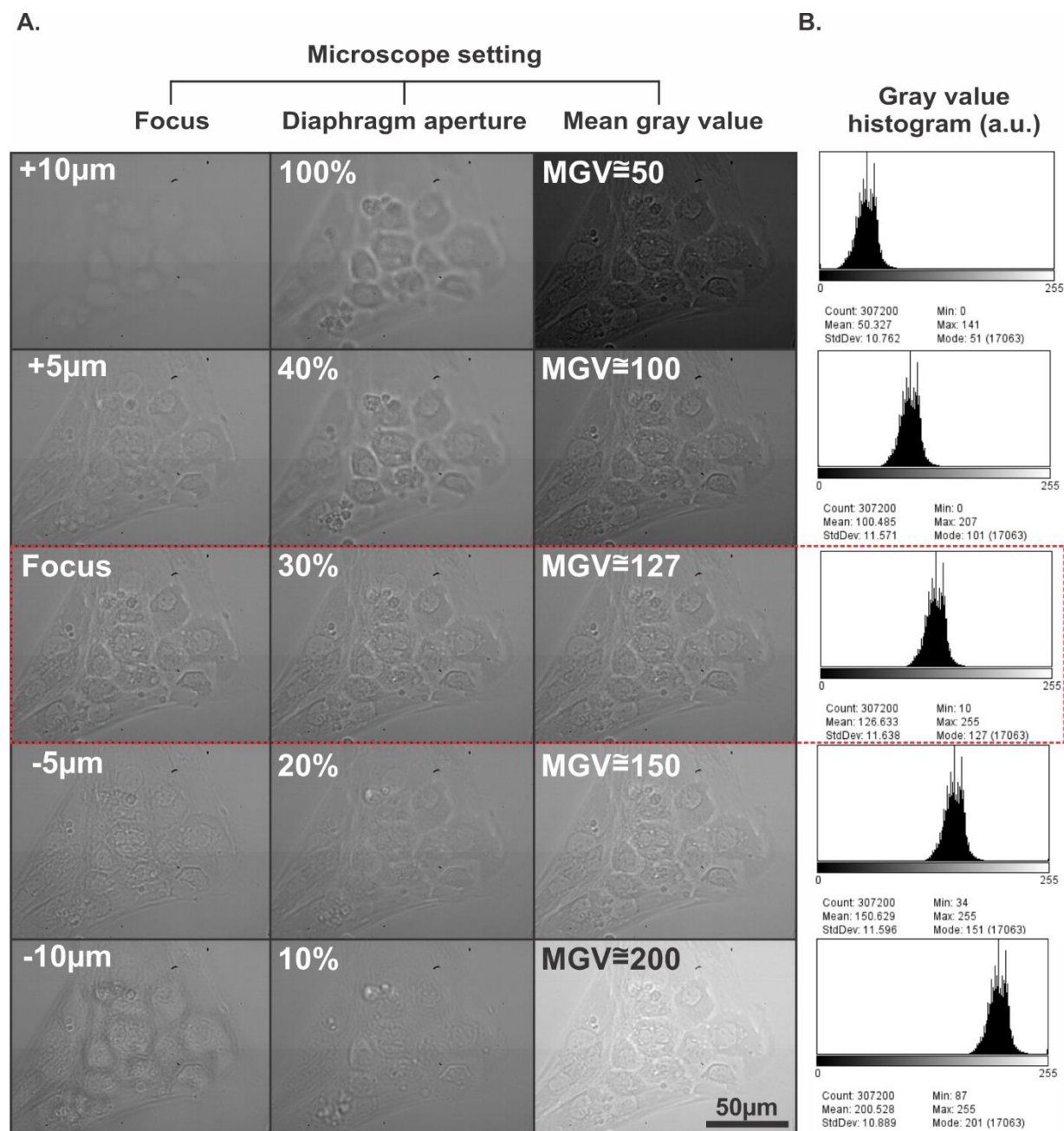
**Critical:** Make sure that the combination of these steps (focus, diaphragm and mean gray value) leads to the best contrast image.





**Figure 2: Optimal bright field microscope settings for Neonatal-CMs. A. Focus:** Out-of-focus cells present a bright halo around the cell border and poor resolution of intracellular structures. Use the fine focus control to minimize border brightness and to bring intracellular structures into sharp focus. **Diaphragm:** changes in the diaphragm drastically alter cell visualization, when it is fully open (100%) the cell does not have a clear delimitation and contrast. When it is partially 10% opened the cell has a dark border, indicating poor lighting of the cell. Therefore, normally in a brightfield microscope, the diaphragm should be between 30-20% opened to get the best contrast. **Mean gray value (MGV):** In an 8-bit image, the best illumination will be proportional to the average total pixels of the image, which in this case will be 127. Smaller values do not produce good lighting, and larger values produce an excess of illumination and can reach exaggerated pixel intensity. Ideal settings are highlighted in the red rectangle. **B.** Gray value histogram acquired for each condition presented in **A.** For greater

precision, the variation of illumination should be observed from the gray value histogram, generated by the camera's own application program or the image can be processed by the ImageJ software.



**Figure 3: Optimal bright field microscope settings for hiPSC-CMs. A. Focus:** Out-of-focus cells present a bright halo around the cell border and poor resolution of intracellular structures. Use the fine focus control to minimize border brightness and to bring intracellular structures into sharp focus. **Diaphragm:** changes in the diaphragm drastically alter cell visualization, when it is fully open (100%) the cell does not have a clear

delimitation and contrast. When it is 10% opened the cell has a dark border, indicating poor lighting of the cell. Therefore, normally in a brightfield microscope, the diaphragm should be between 30-20% open to get the best contrast. **Mean gray value (MGV):** In an 8-bit image, the best illumination will be proportional to the average total pixels of the image, which in this case will be 127. Smaller values do not produce good lighting, and larger values produce an excess of illumination and can reach exaggerated pixel intensity. Ideal settings are highlighted in the red rectangle. **B.** Gray value histogram acquired for each condition presented in **A.** For greater precision, the variation of illumination should be observed from the gray value histogram, generated by the camera's own application program or the image can be processed by the ImageJ software.

## Camera setting and image collection for the different cell types

### Timing: 5 min

The first step to cell imaging acquisition is to set up the camera for image collection. Importantly, different cell types require specific parameters, such as image size and capture rate, and they must be set before starting the experiment.

In the camera software:

4- Select the image window size to record just the area of interest around the cell. For Adult-CM experiments, using the magnification (40x) and pixel size (0.25  $\mu\text{m}/\text{pixel}$ ) of our microscope (see Microscope resolution), an image window size of 640 horizontal x200 vertical pixels allows most cells to fit within the image. Neonatal-CM or and hiPSC-CM require a field of view, and an image window size of 640x480 pixels is our standard configuration for these cells.

**Note:** If in the experiment more than 5% of the adult-CM does not fit within the image window, increase the height or width window size. For many cameras, variation of the window height does not affect the maximum frame rate that can be acquired, which is limited by the width window. Therefore, it is easier to change the height size to find the best window size.

**Critical:** The resolution window size must be the same within and across experimental groups to provide the best comparison.

### 5- Background correction

To acquire a clearer image without background interference, we recommend the use of background correction (for details, see Troubleshooting - Problem 1).

### 6- Select the capture frame rate

The capture frame rate is an important parameter to acquire a complete and robust contraction-relaxation cycle wave. To do so, it is important to keep in mind that mature cells have a greater speed and contraction area compared to immature cells, and therefore, require higher frame rates. To find the best rate, note that the minimum acquisition period to reliably reconstruct a signal needs to be smaller than half the time of the fastest component (Nyquist, 1928). For more details see Scalzo et al. 2021 (User Manual provided as Methods S1, section 2.2 Requirements, subsection: Minimum frame rate).

**Note:** The frame rate and the intrinsic noise produced by the cell movement can influence the way the data is visualized (for more details, see Troubleshooting - Problem 2).

#### 7- Save Images

The camera should be connected to the computer through a USB 3.0 interface, to provide high frame rate acquisition. Most of the camera software allows capturing and storing the image in different ways. The best way to avoid variation in the capture rate value is to choose the option that first stores the images in the RAM, and then the user saves manually in computer HD.

**Critical:** Make sure that throughout image acquisition the capture rate remains at the desired speed during all the capture time. Sometimes, there is a slight variation in the camera capture rate. Be aware that the variation must not exceed 1% of the desired value.

## Contractility assay in cardiomyocytes

### Adult-CM experiments

#### Timing: 1-4 h

The adult-CM usually has a robust contraction and a good cell image contrast (Methods Video S1), allowing an easier image acquisition compared to more immature neonatal cells (Methods Video S2) and hiPSC-CMs (Methods Video S3). However, since healthy adult-CM require electrical stimulation to contract, and exhibit a higher degree of heterogeneity compared to immature cells, some steps are essential to acquire the contraction properly:

8- Assemble the cell-stimulation chamber and fix it onto the stage of the microscope.

**Note:** In our cellular contractility experiments, isolated adult-CMs must be plated on a suitable chamber. Our laboratory utilizes a commercial chamber (model ChamlideIC-CU: 109, Live Cell Instrument, Nowan-gu, Korea) (see key resources table). However, any mini-incubator with temperature and CO<sub>2</sub> (when required) control should work. Usually, the chamber can be attached to the microscope through a specific stage provided with the incubation system.

9- Set the temperature to 37°C. Position the recording chamber and platinum electrodes that will provide the field stimulation to generate the cell action potential.

10- Turn on the stimulator and set up the parameters (frequency, voltage, and pulse width duration).

11- Resuspend the dissociated adult-CM in the Tyrode solution.

**Note:** High cellular density can impair single cell visualization, so dilution is recommended (for more details, see Troubleshooting - Problem 3).

12- Gently homogenize the cell solution and add few drops of cells in the chamber at 37°C until the experiment starts. Wait at least 1 min for the cells to settle. Usually, the cells attach to the surface without any coated substrates. However, different types of experiments may require the surface to be coated with laminin or another matrix solution (e.g. cell perfusion experiments).

13- Select a healthy cardiomyocyte, position the cell in the center of the field of view, and rotate the camera as necessary to align the long axis of the cell with the horizontal axis of the image window. To distinguish between healthy and unhealthy cells, please see Troubleshooting - Problem 4. Due to the strength of their contractions, adult-CMs can occasionally detach from the surface, changing the alignment. However, even in this case, the analysis can be performed provided that no part of the cell leaves the image field of view.

14- Adjust the adult-CM image focus as described in the “*Microscope and image setting for the different cell types*” section.

15- Start the camera recorder.

16- Turn on the stimulator. Choose the pacing condition which will depend on the experiment goal.

17- Acquire cell contractility.

For a healthy control cardiomyocyte, starting with the cell at rest, the first contraction will be the strongest one, as the sarcoplasmic reticulum calcium store is full. As the stimulation sequence proceeds, there is a decay in the cell shortening of each subsequent contraction through calcium homeostasis. Control cells generally reach a steady state after 10-15 contractions, although this can vary from animal to animal and experimental conditions, such as the temperature setting. After the cell contraction amplitude reaches steady-state, record relevant contractility data.

**Critical:** In healthy cardiomyocytes, the cells must contract in synchrony with the stimulation. Moreover, before electrical pacing begins, the cells should be quiescent (Methods Video S4 and S5). Cells that contract in the absence of stimulation or that present arrhythmic events should be excluded from the analysis.

**Note:** To obtain the CM fractional shortening, the cell border must be well defined.

## Neonatal-CM and hiPSC-CM experiments

### Timing: 1-4 h

Make a preparation of neonatal-CM or hiPSC-CM that has several separated syncytium and spontaneously contracting cells.

**Critical:** A culture that has not formed a connection between cells to form a syncytium usually does not contract, or if it does, shows a lower contraction area.

18- Turn on the chamber at 37°C and 5% CO<sub>2</sub>.

19- Put the recipient containing the culture cells in the microscope chamber.

**Critical:** The temperature and the culture medium can strongly impact cardiomyocyte contractility. Hence, subtle variations in these parameters can drastically alter cellular contractility results. In our experiment, we use Dulbecco's modified Eagle's culture medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) for neonatal-CM and RPMI 1640 supplement and 10  $\mu$ M of Y27632 for hiPSC-CM (for more details, see key resources table). However, different types of experiments may require a specific culture medium. Wait at least 5 minutes to stabilize the cell temperature at 37°C.

20- Select the cell in the region of interest (ROI) in the camera image field according to the steps described in the "*Microscope and image setting for the different cell types*" section.

**Note:** It is recommended to acquire the data in a syncytium where all cell contractions are synchronized and that have similar areas and number of cells (that can be estimated by counting cell nuclei). Images of multiple syncytia or an unsynchronized syncytium will not show a typical signal to be analyzed. In neonatal-CM culture select the cell area without debris or fibroblasts (for details see Troubleshooting - Problem 5).

Importantly, the size of the pre-set window should be adjusted accordingly and be kept the same throughout the entire experiment. If the syncytium is too big and does not fit in the image, a tip is to look for and acquire the contraction at its center of convergence. Acquire the cell contractility for at least 15 seconds.

## Saving images

Images should be saved at a depth of at least 8 bits. There are three standard ways to store contractility images:

Image sequence: a folder containing multiple images in sequence.

Multipage image: one TIFF file.

Video file data: one video with .avi extension.

It is recommended that images are saved using the TIFF file format. Many other common image formats, such as JPEG, use image compression resulting in loss of information. However, if HD space limitations require the use of compressed file formats, it is important to be aware of the possibility of information loss and to consistently use the same file format in all experimental groups that will be compared.

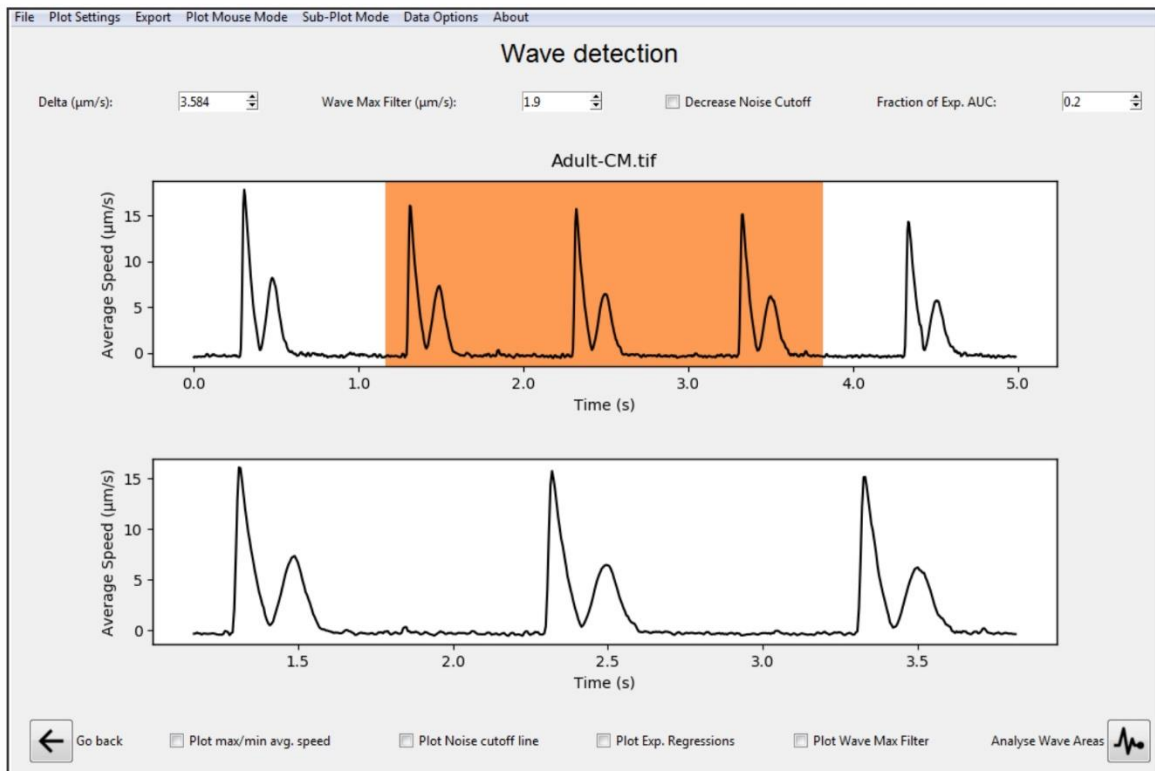
## Contractility analysis using CONTRACTIONWAVE:

Once high-quality data is acquired, the analysis of contractility parameters can be performed using a variety of available software programs (IonWizard Ionoptix; Boudaoud *et al.*, 2014; Grune *et al.*, 2019; Maddah *et al.*, 2015; Pasqualin *et al.*, 2016; Sala *et al.*, 2018). The authors have developed CONTRACTIONWAVE (Scalzo *et al.*, 2021), a high-performance Python program that processes video micrograph films using dense optical flow image analysis. This program has been validated for large-scale analysis of different cell types (adult-, neonatal- and hiPSC-CMs), treated or not with drugs, including both healthy cells and cells isolated from animal models of human disease. Figure 4 illustrates the CONTRACTIONWAVE window that shows the average speed of contraction-relaxation cycle results of an adult-CM that was electrically stimulated at 1 Hz and processed using the software.

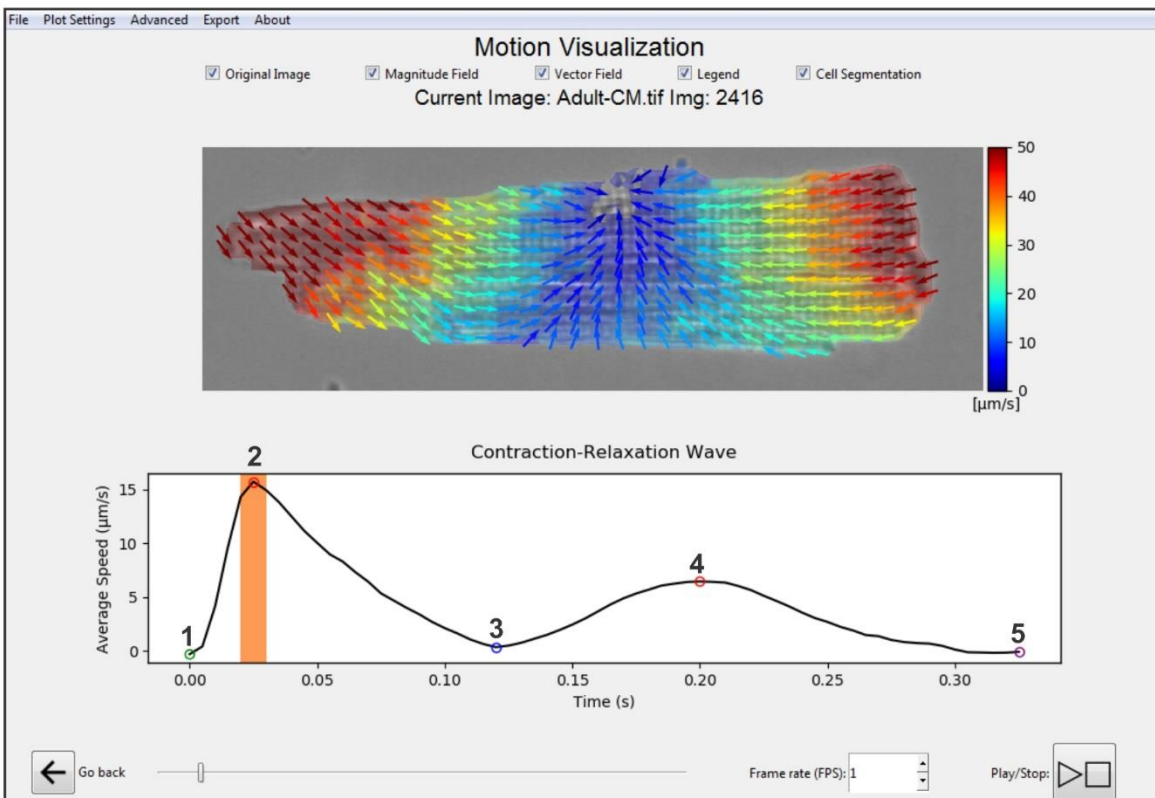
In the wave detection window, a time interval can be selected by the user (top panel, orange area, Figure 4A). Once an interval is chosen, the program displays a zoomed plot of the selection in the window below (bottom panel, Figure 4A). An innovative feature of CONTRACTIONWAVE compared to other available software is its ability to display simultaneous views of the cell image and the derived contraction-relaxation wave (Figure 4B). Contractility analysis using CONTRACTIONWAVE allows for the acquisition of three distinct types of parameters of the contraction-relaxation cycle: speed of contraction at different points along the cycle, time intervals between several important phases of contraction-relaxation cycle, and shortening area, in appropriate calibrated units. For a complete description and definition of all contractility parameters, please see Figure 3 in the original description of CONTRACTIONWAVE (Scalzo *et al.*, 2021).

**Note:** CONTRACTIONWAVE is open-source software and all details for download, installation, and optimized use are fully described in Scalzo *et al.* (2021).

A.



B.



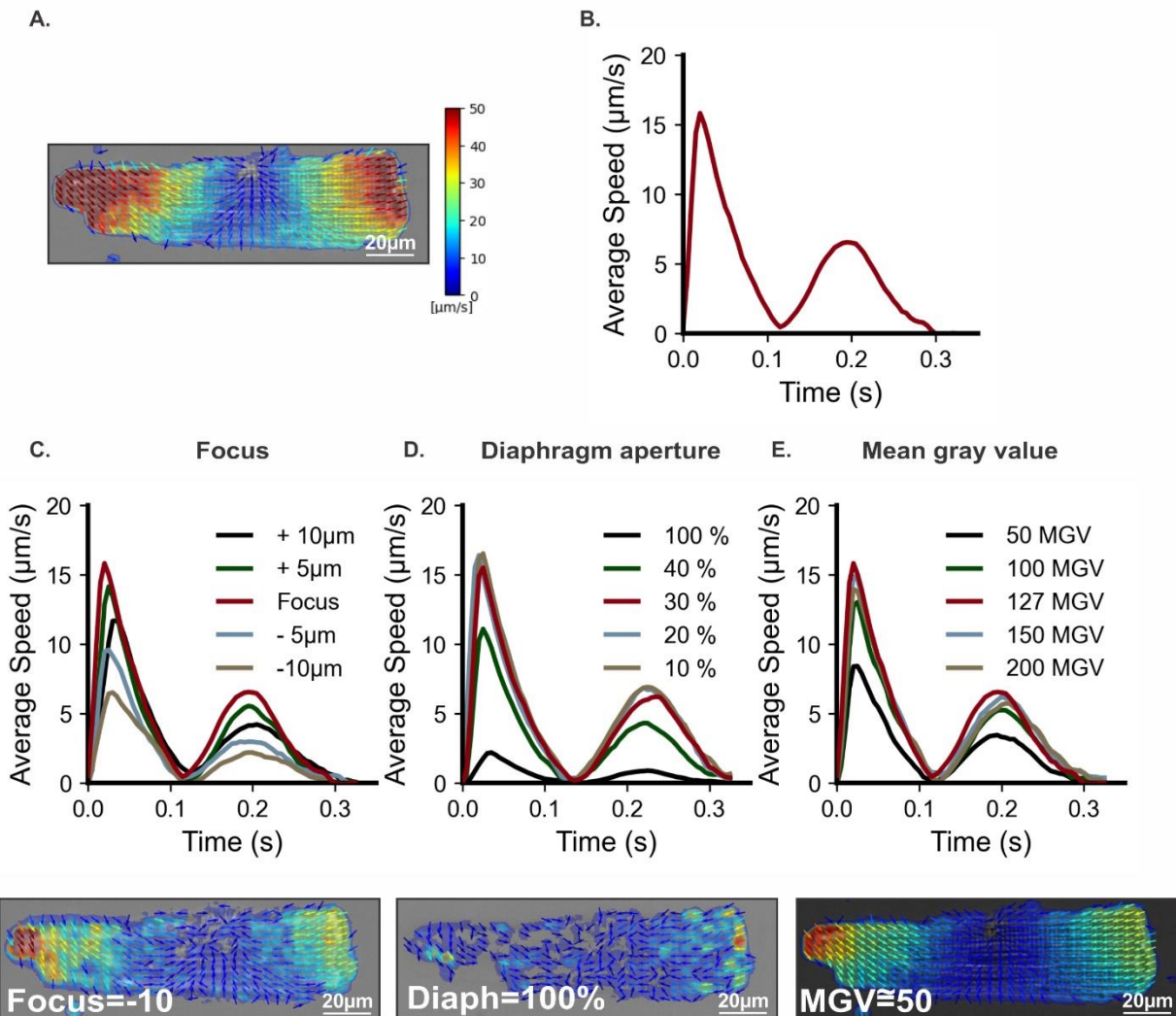


**Figure 4: Analysis of cellular contractility using CONTRACTIONWAVE. A.** CONTRACTIONWAVE data analysis window allows interval selections of the contraction-relaxation waves. The software automatically detects the average speed of the contraction-relaxation waves and allows for fine adjustments to improve peak detections (top panel). To assist single or multiple peak selection for data analysis, a zoomed version of the selected interval is displayed on the panel below (bottom panel). **B.** CONTRACTIONWAVE simultaneously displays both the cell image (top panel) and the contraction-relaxation waves (bottom panel). The top panel shows the cardiomyocyte image with the magnitude and motions vectors of the contractility movement acquired during step (2) represented on the bottom panel (the orange area highlights the time in which the upper cell image was acquired). Note that the average speed corresponds to a single contraction-relaxation cycle of an electrically stimulated cardiomyocyte. Colored circles presented in the contraction-relaxation wave (bottom panel) represent (1) contraction initiation; (2) maximum contraction speed (MCS); (3) minimum contraction speed; (4) maximum relaxation speed (MRS); (5) return to baseline.

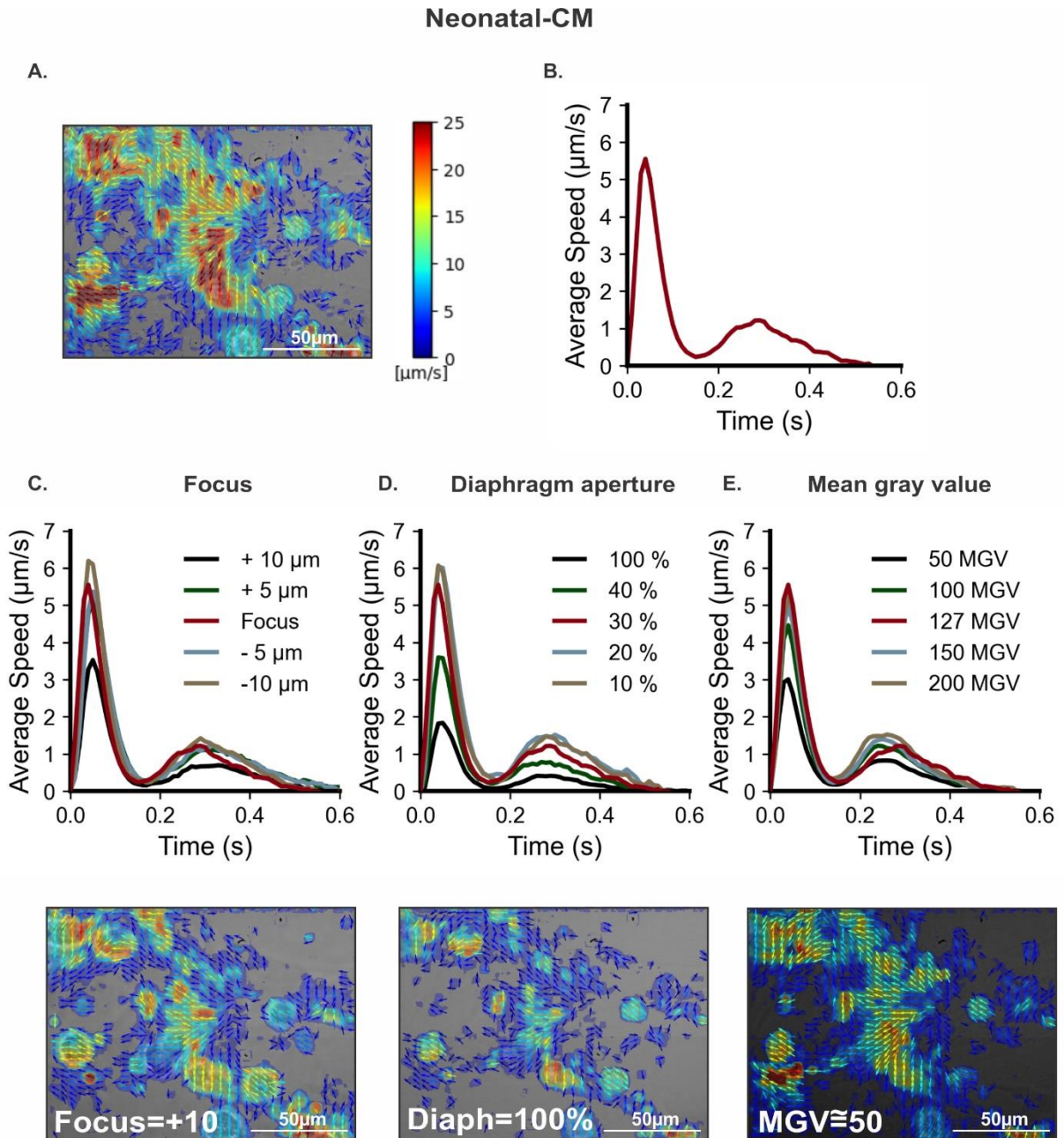
## Expected outcomes

On a successful acquisition of cellular contractility, CONTRACTIONWAVE will properly detect the contraction-relaxation cycle through the dense optical flow. The software can obtain the magnitude and vector field of the membrane movement (Figure 5A, 6A, and 7A show only the maximum contraction speeds), and their respective cycle graph (Figure 5B, 6B, and 7B), to analyze the contractility parameters. In order to demonstrate how the microscope settings can influence data acquisition, contraction-relaxation data were acquired and analyzed for different settings (Figure 5C-E, 6C-E, and 7C-E)

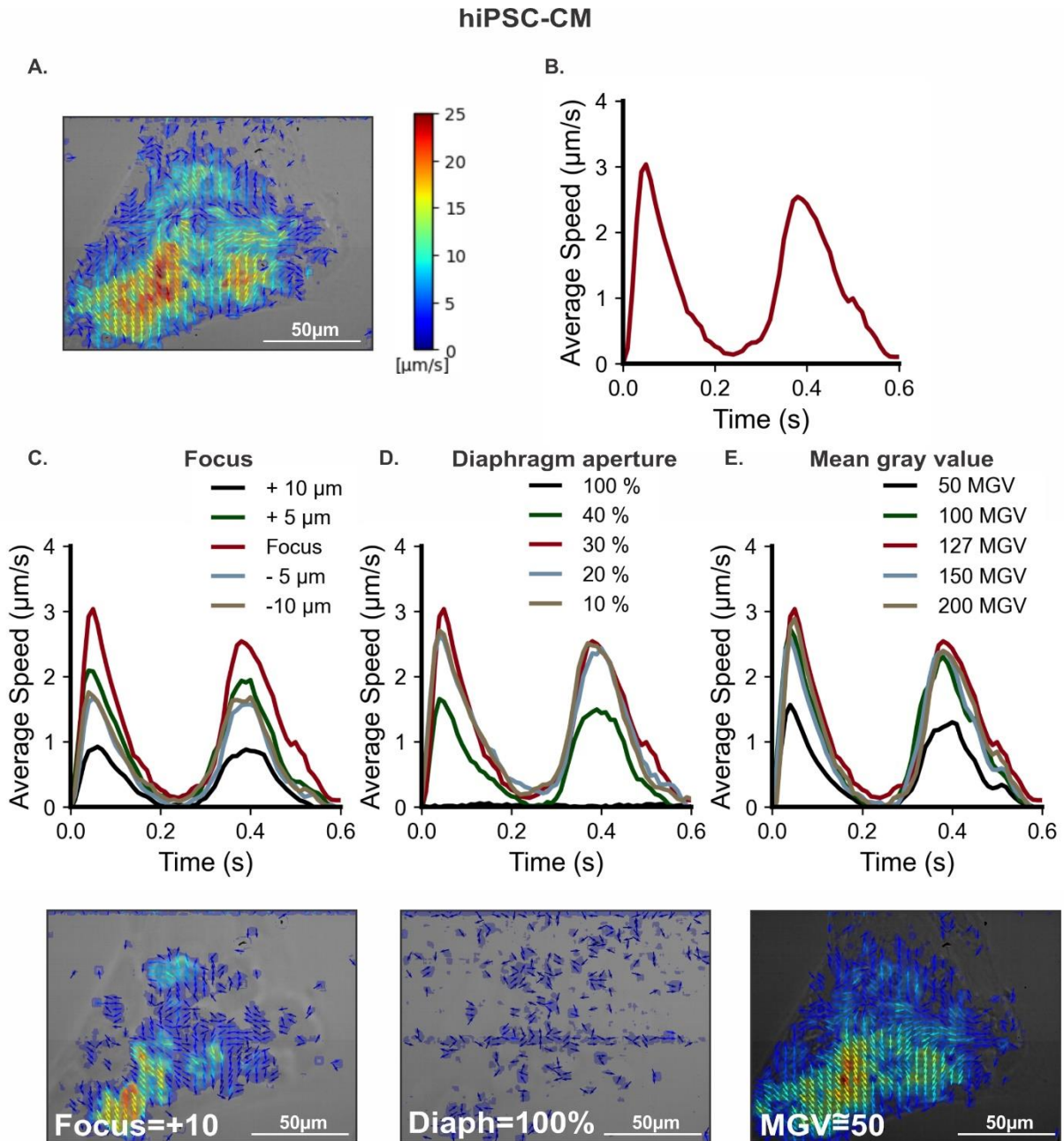
### Adult-CM



**Figure 5: Sub-optimal microscope settings for image acquisition of adult-CMs can impact contraction-relaxation average speed.** **A.** Representative image of magnitude and vector field from the maximum contraction speed, and **(B)** the respective cell contraction-relaxation cycle processed by CONTRACTIONWAVE using the optimal acquisition parameters (Cell in focus; Diaphragm = 30% and MGV = 127). Sub-optimal microscope settings such as poor focus **(C)**, improper diaphragm opening **(D)**, or low mean gray values (MGV), **(E)** could result in an underestimate of the contraction-relaxation speed. Below each graph is a representative image of magnitude and vector field from the maximum contraction speed acquired in a specific setting.



**Figure 6: Sub-optimal microscope settings for image acquisition of neonatal-CMs can impact contraction-relaxation average speed.** **A.** Representative image of magnitude and vector field from the maximum contraction speed, and **(B)** the respective cell contraction-relaxation cycle processed by CONTRACTIONWAVE using the optimal acquisition parameters (Cell on Focus; Diaphragma = 30% opened and MGV = 127). Sub-optimal microscope settings such as poor focus **(C)**, improper diaphragm opening **(D)**, or low mean gray values (MGV), **E)** could result in an underestimate of the contraction-relaxation speed. Below each graph is a representative image of magnitude and vector field from the maximum contraction speed acquired under a specific setting.



**Figure 7: Sub-optimal microscope settings for image acquisition of hiPSC-CMs can impact contraction-relaxation average speed.** **A.** Representative image of magnitude and vector field from the maximum contraction speed, and **(B)** the respective cell contraction-relaxation cycle processed by CONTRACTIONWAVE using the optimal acquisition parameters (Cell on Focus; Diaphragma = 30% opened and MGV = 127). Sub-optimal microscope settings such as poor focus **(C)**, improper diaphragm opening **(D)**, or low mean gray values (MGV), **(E)** could result in an underestimate of the contraction-relaxation speed. Below each graph is a representative image of magnitude and vector field from the maximum contraction speed acquired under a specific setting.

All three parameters analyzed (focus, diaphragm, and MGV) showed an influence in the contraction-relaxation speed in the three cell types (Figure 5, 6, and 7). It is interesting to note that the

contractility wave of cardiac cells is influenced by the focus. In the example shown in figures 5C and 6C, the contraction-relaxation speed is greatly altered when the focus is below  $-5 \mu\text{m}$  for adult-CM and above  $+10 \mu\text{m}$  for neonatal compared to the focused image. Measurement of contraction-relaxation speed of hiPSC-CM is significantly influenced by the quality of focus (Figure 7C), partly due to lower contrast and cell thickness. Of note, the optimal focus value may need to be adjusted for each cell.

The diaphragm is a vital microscope component when ensuring image quality for contractility analysis. With diaphragm values higher than 40% opened, the cell contrast is not properly obtained, significantly influencing the contraction-relaxation waves (Figure 5D, 6D, and 7D). Although diaphragm settings can influence the movement detection for all cell types, it is important to point out that hiPSC-CM cells are the most influenced by this type of setting. Diaphragm aperture higher than 40% will not allow for a proper detection of the coordinated movements to generate a typical wave of hiPSC-CMs (Figure 7D). Mean gray values (MGV) of 50 and lower show a decrease in the contraction-relaxation speed (Figure 5E, 6E, and 7E). This is probably due to the fact that the camera loses information from small gray level values. Therefore, for an 8-bit image, MGV should be set to the middle of the camera's dynamic range, close to 127. For data analysis using CONTRACTIONWAVE, the brightness does not significantly affect the contraction-relaxation results. With this said, good results can be achieved with an illumination that provides sufficient light to visualize the cell with no difficulty. This value should be higher than 100 MGV to avoid the camera's influence.

In summary, all these parameters will influence the final contraction-relaxation speed, since they provide a variation in the detection sensitivity of the magnitude and motion vectors of the cell membrane (see sample images in Figures 5E, 6E, and 7E). A summary of all contractility recording settings is presented in Table 1.

**Table 1 - Contractility recording settings**

Parameters	Adult-CM	Neonatal-CM	hiPSC-CM
	<b>Microscope setting</b>		
Objective magnification	40x	20x-40x	20x-40x
Microscope diaphragm aperture (%)	30	30	30
Mean gray value (8 bit image)	~127	~127	~127
Minimum microscope resolution	~ 0.5 $\mu\text{m}$	~ 0.5 $\mu\text{m}$	~ 0.5 $\mu\text{m}$
	<b>Camera settings</b>		
Recording speed (fps)	200	25-100	25-100

Camera suggestion	CMOS	CMOS	CMOS
Image Type	8 bits	8 bits	8 bits
Window size (px)	640x200	640x480	640x480

## Limitations

A high-quality cardiomyocyte contractility analysis is largely dependent on the condition of the isolated cells and how they were prepared. For instance, adult-CM samples with a large number of dead cells or inadequate morphology (see Troubleshooting - Problem 4) will not provide robust contractility data. The small shortening area of neonatal-CM and hiPSC-CM can also impact contractility data acquisition. For instance, more subtle contractions can sometimes be interpreted as noise, and because of that, they cannot be measured (see Scalzo et al., 2021).

## Troubleshooting

### Problem 1: Background correction for non-uniformity of illumination

Non-uniform illumination in a bright-field imaging experiment does not significantly impact cellular contractility analysis using CONTRACTIONWAVE. Nonetheless, it can affect the image background (Figure 8), and the user may choose to correct it.

Some camera software allows the user to automatically set up the background correction during the recording step. When that option is not available, the background correction can also be done after images are acquired (see potential solution below).

### Potential solution 1:

A standard way of doing the background correction after data acquisition is by using the ImageJ software (download and installation instructions: <https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/> or <https://fiji.sc/>). First, an image of the empty chamber without the cell is acquired to show the non-uniform illumination of the background in a bright-field image (Figure 8i). The correction consists in dividing the cell image by the background image and multiplying the result by the average value of the original image (Equation 5).

$$\text{Background correction} = \frac{\text{Cell image sequence}}{\text{Image background}} \times \text{Background mean gray value}$$

Equation 5

The steps to process the background correction using ImageJ goes as follows:

- a. In ImageJ software, import the “background-image” (captured from a surface with no cell, Figure 8i) and go to Analyze > Measure, to obtain the background mean gray value parameter (Figure 8ii).
- b. Select File > Import > Image Sequence to open the “Image sequence” (Figure 8iii).
- c. Go to Process > Image Calculator and select the previous imported “Image sequence” (in Image 1), “Divide” (in operation), and “background-image” (in image 2) (Figure 8iv). Click “Create a new window” and “32-bit (float) result” (Figure 8iv), and then hit the “OK” button and select “Yes” to process all images.

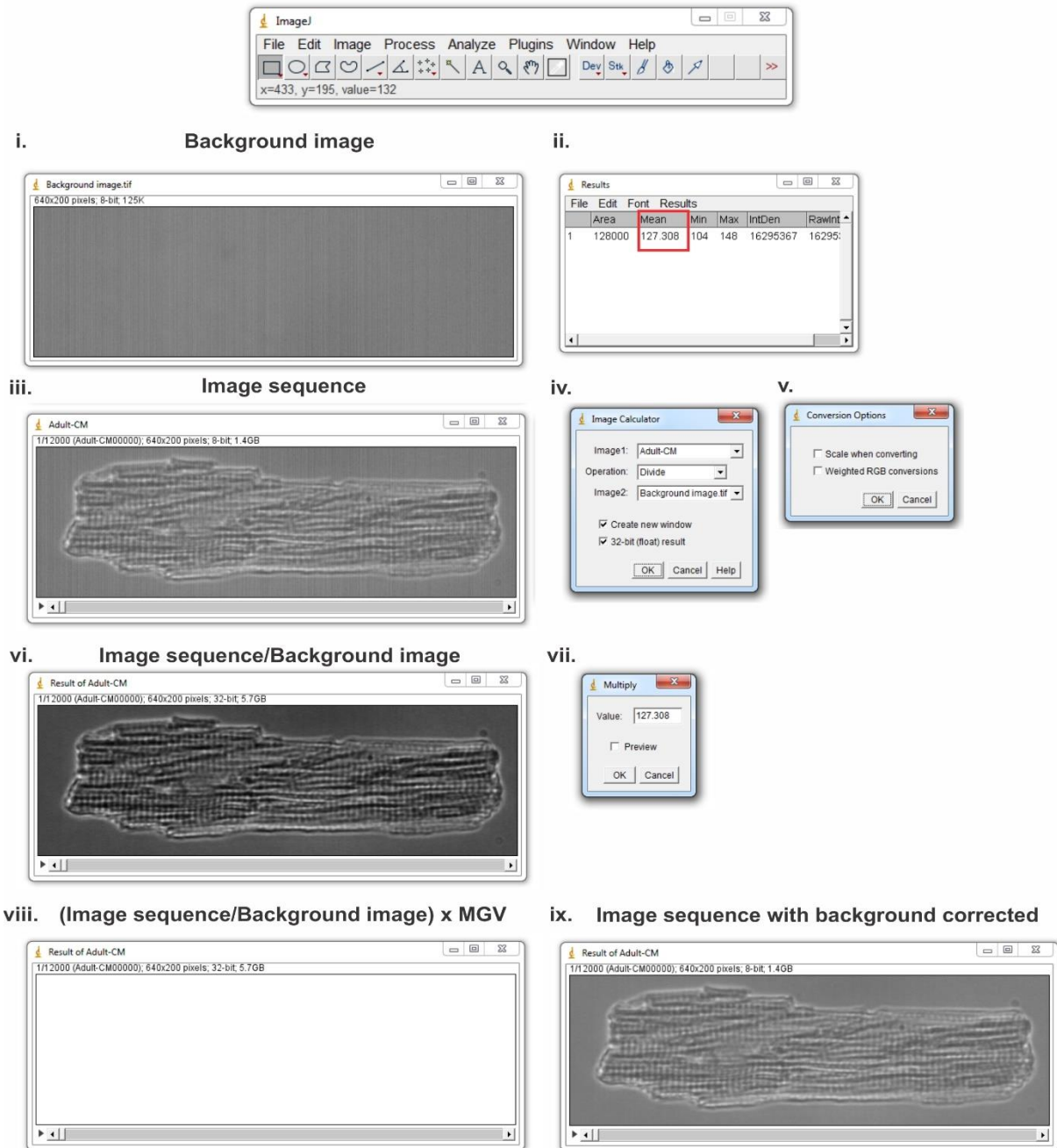
**Important:** Go to Edit > Options > Conversions to make sure no option is selected in the window (Figure 8v).

- d. In the resulting image (Figure 8vi) go to Process > Math > Multiply and put the background mean grey value (Figure 8vii), which was obtained in Figure 8ii. A white image will appear (Figure 8viii), representing the brightness adjustment. Then, go to Image > Type > 8-bit to convert the 32-bit image into 8 bit.
- e. The new window will automatically show the converted final image with the corrected background (Figure 8ix).
- f. Save image as multipageTIFF (File > Save as > TIFF), or as image sequence (File > Save as > Image Sequence).

**Note:** To resolve other background problems such as hot pixels and banding, please see the following ImageJ tutorial at:

[https://imagejdocu.tudor.lu/howto/working/how\\_to\\_correct\\_background\\_illumination\\_in\\_brightfield\\_microscopy](https://imagejdocu.tudor.lu/howto/working/how_to_correct_background_illumination_in_brightfield_microscopy)

### Correcting background image with ImageJ



**Figure 8: Background correction for non-uniformity of illumination using ImageJ.** i. Import one “background-image” taken on a surface with no cell and ii. Obtain the background mean gray value (red square value). iii. Open the cell “image sequence”. iv. Select Image 1 with the “image sequence stack”, Operation “Divide” and Image 2 with the “background-image”. Click the boxes “Create a new window” and “32 bit (float) result”, then click “OK” and select “Yes” to process all images. v. Go to Edit > Options > Conversions to make sure no option is selected. Multiply the resulting image (vi) by the background mean gray value obtained in step ii as shown in step vii. A white image will appear (viii). ix. Convert the 32-bit image (viii) into 8 bits and save the correction image.



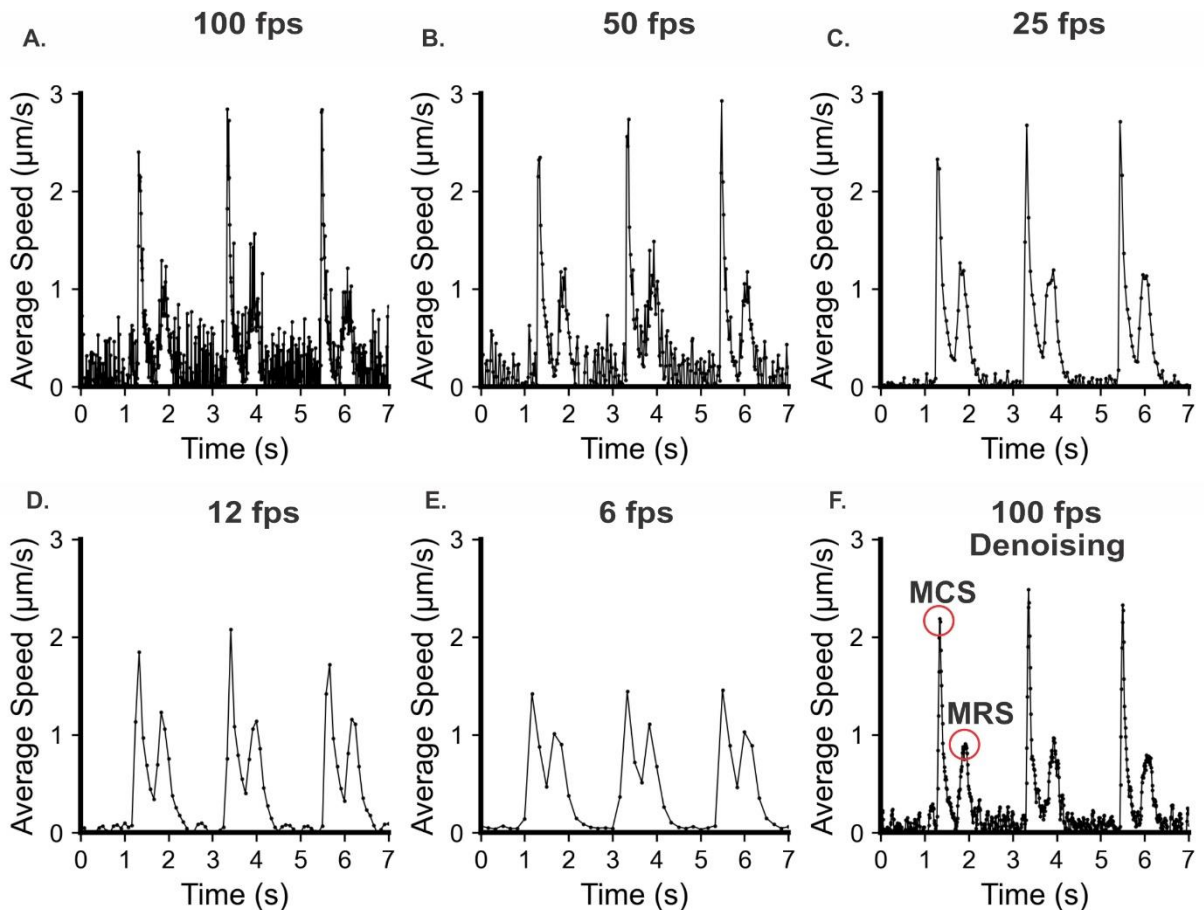
## Problem 2: Noisy contractility data

Commonly, contraction-relaxation recordings from immature cells have a lower signal-to-noise ratio compared to recordings from adult cardiomyocytes. In particular, neonatal- and hiPSC-CMs often show an increased signal noise during the relaxation phase (Figure 9A-B). For these cellular types, it is important to minimize the noise to obtain a reliable and robust contractility analysis.

### Potential solution 2: Change the capture rate or apply a filter

The image capture rate can influence the signal noise. Essentially, the higher the capture rate, the shorter the displacement collected for each pixel between two frames. A short cell displacement can result in a calculated speed that is close to the limit of detection, increasing the amount of captured noise. Adjustments in the frame rate can be made to minimize this effect. Reducing the frame rate to an optimal value can significantly reduce noise with little or no impact on the derived contraction-relaxation wave parameters (maximum contraction speed (MCS) and maximum relaxation speed (MRS)). Our experiments demonstrate that hiPSC-CMs have a low average speed ( $<10 \mu\text{m/s}$ ) and a cell recording performed at 100 fps captures noisy data that is difficult to analyze (Figure 9A). By simply reducing the camera frame rate, the noise gradually decreases, while the contractility speed parameters are maintained (Figure 9B-C). Importantly, an excessive frame rate decrease can directly impact the MCS and MRS parameters (Figure 9D-E), so a careful calibration analysis must be done to identify the optimal frame rate value for the specific cell type.

Alternatively, CONTRACTIONWAVE provides denoising filters that can also minimize the influence of background noise, with no requirement of a specific frame rate (Figure 9F). All details for filter use can be found in Scalzo et al. (2021) (Method S1- User Manual).



**Figure 9: Reducing noise by adjusting frame rate and using filters.** A. and B. Contraction-relaxation data acquired at 100 and 50 frames per second (fps) from hiPSC-CM show a high noise content that can contribute to errors in the data analysis. C. Contraction-relaxation data acquired at 25 fps shows an optimal balance between noise minimization and data integrity. D. and E. Contraction-relaxation data acquired at 12 and 6 fps show significant reductions in the signal noise, but significantly affect maximum contraction speed (MCS) and maximum relaxation speed (MRS). F. Contraction-relaxation data acquired at 100 fps and analyzed using the denoising filter provided by CONTRACTIONWAVE shows significant reductions in the signal noise, not compromising MCS and MRS values.

### Problem 3: Adult-CM cellular density for image acquisition

When acquiring Adult-CM contractility data, it is important that there be only a single cell in the field of view, as the presence of neighboring cells can impact the results. Thus, the density of dissociated cells in the suspension is a key parameter for clear cell image acquisition.

#### Potential solution 3:

The cell image should be as clean as possible. For this, be careful with the adult-CM final cell density. The best way to obtain a clean image is by adjusting the volume that is plated so that the settled cells will have a confluence of about 40%. The greater the confluence, the more nearby cells will be

acquired in the same image window, and the more difficult it will be to acquire a single-cell image. This type of dilution will also decrease the amount of cell debris and dirt that may remain throughout the solution.

#### Problem 4: Adult-CM cell variability

When choosing an adult-CM cell to acquire the image data, be aware that bubbles and cell debris can dramatically impact the contractility results. It is very important to identify these undesirable components to guarantee that the best cell image will be captured and then analyzed. In addition, the shape of the cell can help identify healthy cardiomyocytes (see details below).

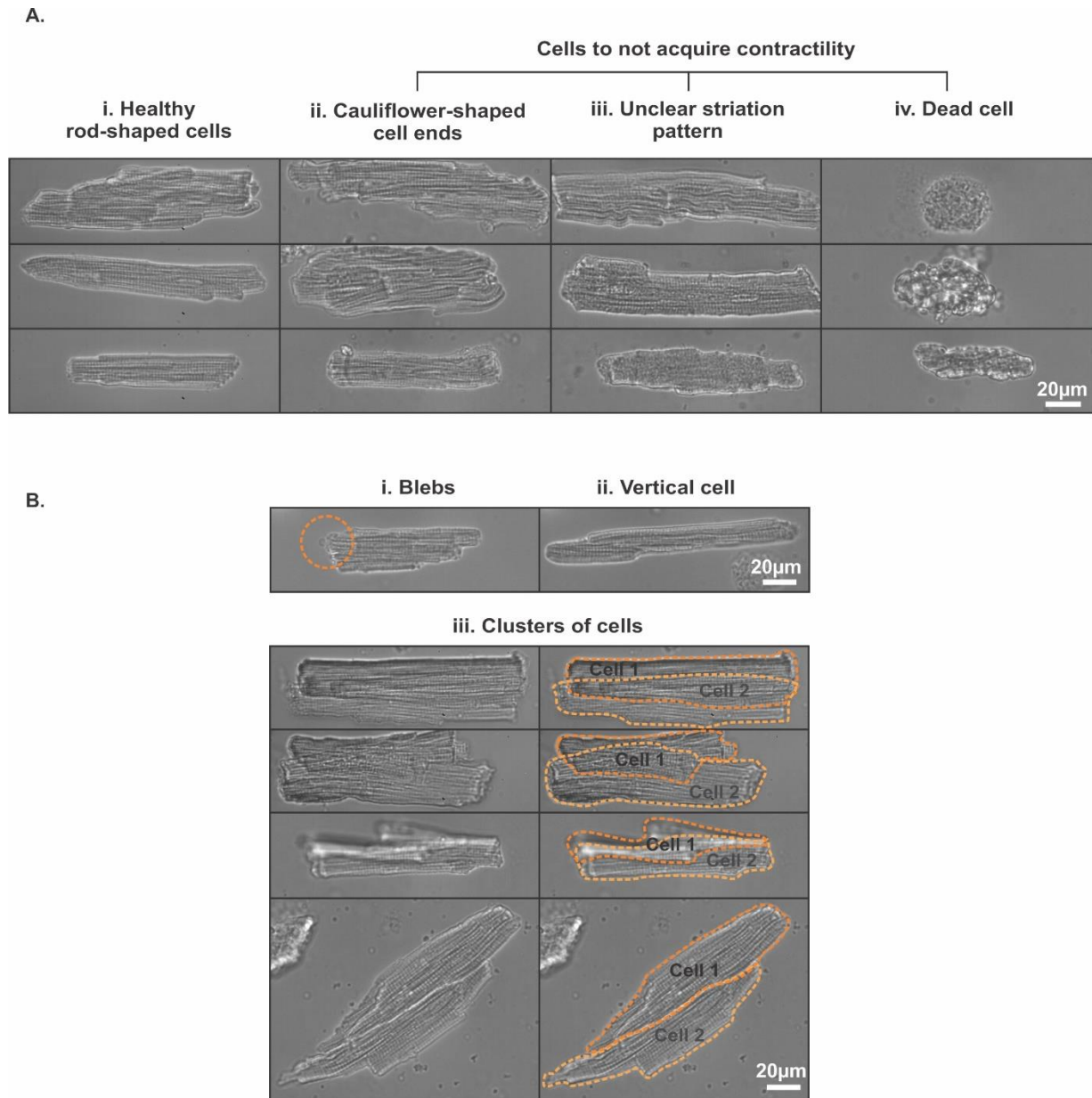
#### Potential solution 4:

Bubbles or cell debris that enters the field of view can be observed directly or by the shadow they cast. If this happens, stop recording since their presence will cause the analysis to underestimate contraction speed. The experiment can be restarted after clearing the bubbles or debris. When adding the cell solution, avoid generating bubbles by the pipette, since during the experiment they can burst, provoking spontaneous contraction.

To obtain the best contraction-relaxation data, it is necessary to be aware of the cell viability, contraction pattern, and cell morphology. A good adult-CM preparation usually has at least 60% viable cells. To ensure that quality data is acquired, rod-shaped cells with a clear striation pattern and well-defined edges should be selected (Figure 10Ai). Make sure not to record from cells with “cauliflower”-shaped ends, unclear striation patterns, or contaminated with debris or dead cells (Figure 10Aii-iv). Blebs on the cell membrane are an indication that the cells are unhealthy (Figure 10Bi). Another issue is that cells may settle to the chamber resting on their narrow edge rather than resting flat (Figure 10Bii). These cells should be avoided, as they may impact data analysis by CONTRACTIONWAVE, as the software analyzes cellular contractility throughout the entire cell membrane.

Adult cardiomyocytes from healthy animals should not present spontaneous contraction. In this case, cells that do present spontaneous contraction should be avoided. However, for some disease models or drug treatments, spontaneous or lack of contractions can occur.

**Critical:** Sometimes one cell may lie on top of another (Figure 10Biii). Analyzing the cell border or through stimulation, it is possible to identify the two cells. If the cell clings to another cell or to debris, the contractility acquisition will be underestimated. In cells from normal healthy animals, thinner cells must be examined carefully to be sure that they are not cells that settled on its side.



**Figure 10: Cell selection is an important step to get the best contractility results. Ai.** Healthy cells are rod-shaped and have a well-defined border and linear sarcomere striations. **Aii.** Cells with cauliflower-shaped ends should not be used to study contractility as they are likely in the process of cell death. **Aiii.** The unclear striation pattern will affect the potency of cell contraction-relaxation, therefore should also be avoided. **Aiv.** Dead cells are easy to identify, having a more round shape and little or no contraction-relaxation. **Bi.** Membrane blebs can be an indication of apoptosis and cell damage. **Bii.** Cells can sediment and be attached to the substrate on their thin edge, rather than laying flat. **Biii.** Clusters of two or more cells either on top of each other (**Biii - top**) or beside each other (**Biii - below**) should be avoided.

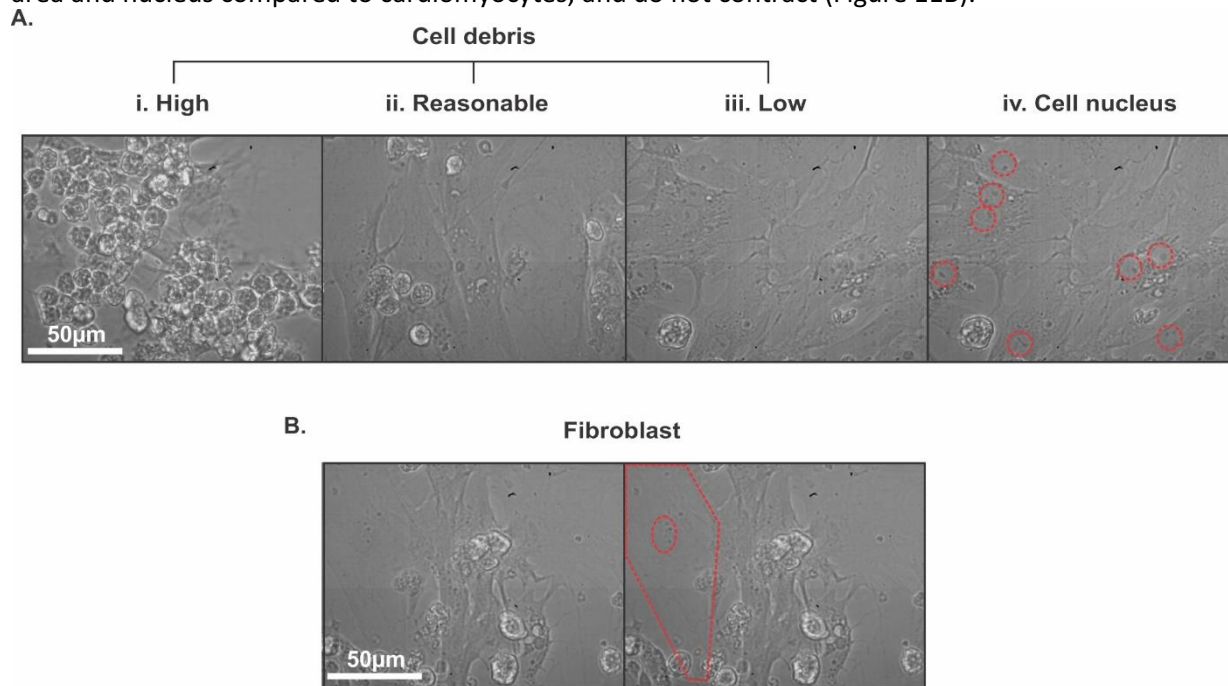
### Problem 5: Neonatal-CM and hiPSC-CM cell variations

Obtaining a good image of the cell syncytium for Neonatal and hiPSC-CMs is crucial to provide high-quality data of cell contractility. The number of cells, presence of cell debris, and fibroblasts must be carefully analyzed before choosing the best cell area to perform the experiment (Figure 11).

### Potential solution 5:

Cell debris and dead cells are commonly found in neonatal-CM cultures, usually due to cells that did not attach to the plate or problems with the dissociation process (Figure 11A). Always try to acquire an image with the least amount of debris overlaying the cells. Normally, the amount of debris in hiPSC-CM is much lower. Additionally, caution should be taken with contamination by fibroblasts in the neonatal-CM culture, as they can indirectly influence cardiomyocyte contractility through chemical signaling or even physically preventing cardiomyocytes from contracting properly.

**Note:** Fibroblasts have a more transparent appearance with a trapezoidal shape, presenting a larger area and nucleus compared to cardiomyocytes, and do not contract (Figure 11B).



**Figure 11: Cell debris and fibroblasts could impact cell membrane movement and influence the contractility results. Ai.** The image labeled “high” is an example of preparation with a large amount of dead rounded cells loosely tethered above the viable stellate cells fixed to the substrate. **Aii.** The image labeled “reasonable” shows somewhat less debris. **Aiii.** The image labeled “Low” is an example of preparation with very little debris, a situation that is ideal for contractility acquisition. **Aiv.** Red circles identify the cell nucleus (outlined in red) of the images that contain low cell debris. **B.** Example of a culture contaminated by a large fibroblast (outlined in red in the right-hand image).

### Resource availability

#### **Lead contact**

Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the lead contacts, Prof. Silvia Guatimosim ([guatimosim@icb.ufmg.br](mailto:guatimosim@icb.ufmg.br)) and Prof. Ubirajara Agüero ([bira@fisica.ufmg.br](mailto:bira@fisica.ufmg.br))

#### **Materials availability**

This study did not generate new materials.

#### **Data and code availability**

This study did not generate new data and code.

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## Author contributions

S.G., U.A., S.S, and C.A.T.F.M. conceived and led the project. S.S. performed the experiments and analyzed data. S.G., U.A., S.S., C.A.T.F.M., C.K. wrote and edited the manuscript. All authors critically reviewed and approved the final manuscript.

## Declaration of interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

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**Methods Video S1:** Adult-CM contractility acquired in a bright-field microscope in focus, 30% diaphragm aperture, and 127 MG. Related to step “*Contractility assay in cardiomyocytes*”.

**Methods Video S2:** Neonatal-CM contractility acquired in a bright-field microscope in focus, 30% diaphragm aperture, and 127 MG. Related to step “*Contractility assay in cardiomyocytes*”.

**Methods Video S3:** hiPSC-CM contractility acquired in a bright-field microscope in focus, 30% diaphragm aperture, and 127 MG. Related to step “*Contractility assay in cardiomyocytes*”.

**Methods Video S4:** Spontaneous twitching of an Adult-CM cardiomyocyte. Related to step “*Contractility assay in cardiomyocytes*”.

**Methods Video S5:** Arrhythmic ventricular myocyte. Related to step “*Contractility assay in cardiomyocytes*”.