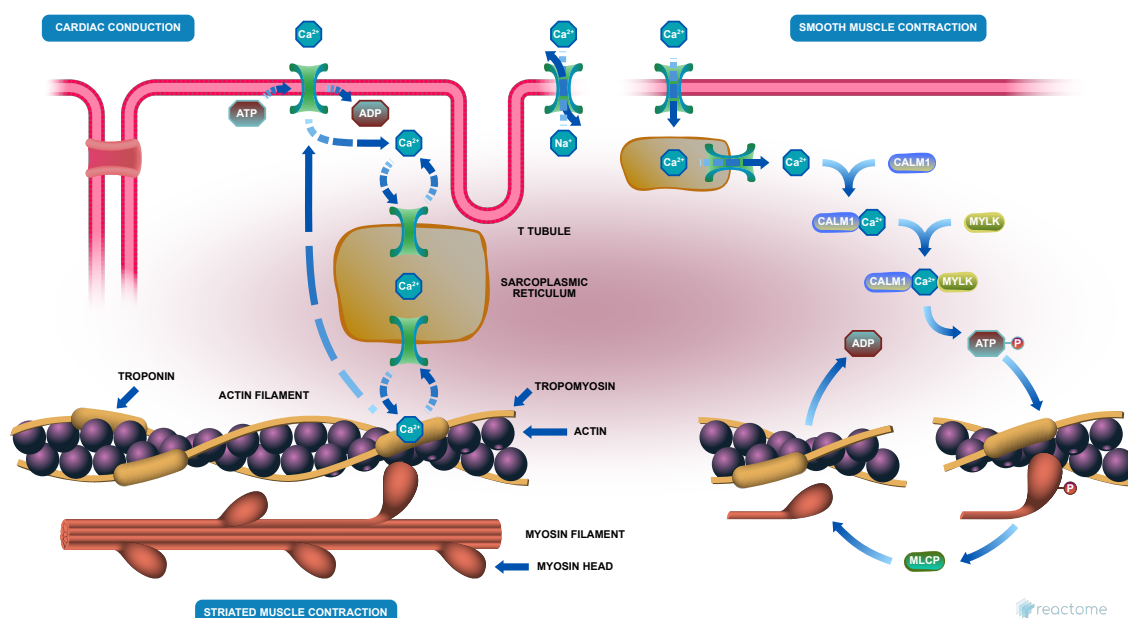


# Muscle contraction



Colotti, G., Gillespie, ME., Jassal, B., Rush, MG.

European Bioinformatics Institute, New York University Langone Medical Center, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, Oregon Health and Science University.

The contents of this document may be freely copied and distributed in any media, provided the authors, plus the institutions, are credited, as stated under the terms of [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International \(CC BY 4.0\) License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). For more information see our [license](https://reactome.org/page/faq).

This is just an excerpt of a full-length report for this pathway. To access the complete report, please download it at the [Reactome Textbook](https://reactome.org/page/faq).

18/09/2024

## Introduction

Reactome is open-source, open access, manually curated and peer-reviewed pathway database. Pathway annotations are authored by expert biologists, in collaboration with Reactome editorial staff and cross-referenced to many bioinformatics databases. A system of evidence tracking ensures that all assertions are backed up by the primary literature. Reactome is used by clinicians, geneticists, genomics researchers, and molecular biologists to interpret the results of high-throughput experimental studies, by bioinformaticians seeking to develop novel algorithms for mining knowledge from genomic studies, and by systems biologists building predictive models of normal and disease variant pathways.

The development of Reactome is supported by grants from the US National Institutes of Health (P41 HG003751), University of Toronto (CFREF Medicine by Design), European Union (EU STRP, EMI-CD), and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EBI Industry program).

## Literature references

Fabregat, A., Sidiropoulos, K., Viteri, G., Forner, O., Marin-Garcia, P., Arnau, V. et al. (2017). Reactome pathway analysis: a high-performance in-memory approach. *BMC bioinformatics*, 18, 142. [↗](#)

Sidiropoulos, K., Viteri, G., Sevilla, C., Jupe, S., Webber, M., Orlic-Milacic, M. et al. (2017). Reactome enhanced pathway visualization. *Bioinformatics*, 33, 3461-3467. [↗](#)

Fabregat, A., Jupe, S., Matthews, L., Sidiropoulos, K., Gillespie, M., Garapati, P. et al. (2018). The Reactome Pathway Knowledgebase. *Nucleic Acids Res*, 46, D649-D655. [↗](#)

Fabregat, A., Korninger, F., Viteri, G., Sidiropoulos, K., Marin-Garcia, P., Ping, P. et al. (2018). Reactome graph database: Efficient access to complex pathway data. *PLoS computational biology*, 14, e1005968. [↗](#)

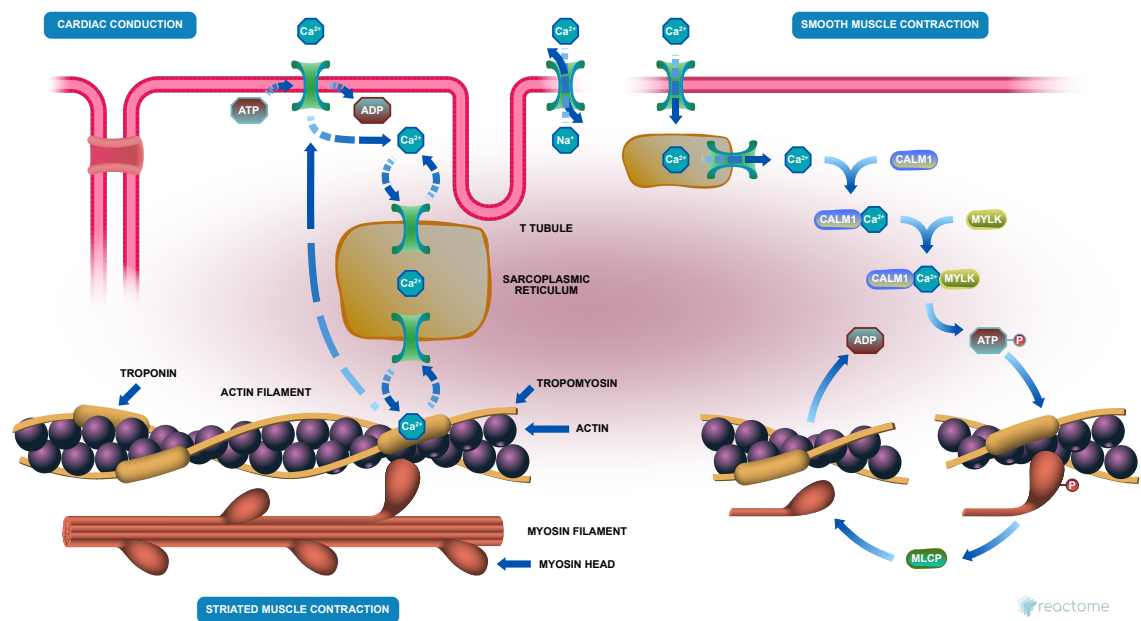
Reactome database release: 89

This document contains 4 pathways ([see Table of Contents](#))

Muscle contraction ↗

Stable identifier: R-HSA-397014

Compartments: cytosol, plasma membrane



In this module, the processes by which calcium binding triggers actin - myosin interactions and force generation in smooth and striated muscle tissues are annotated.

Editions

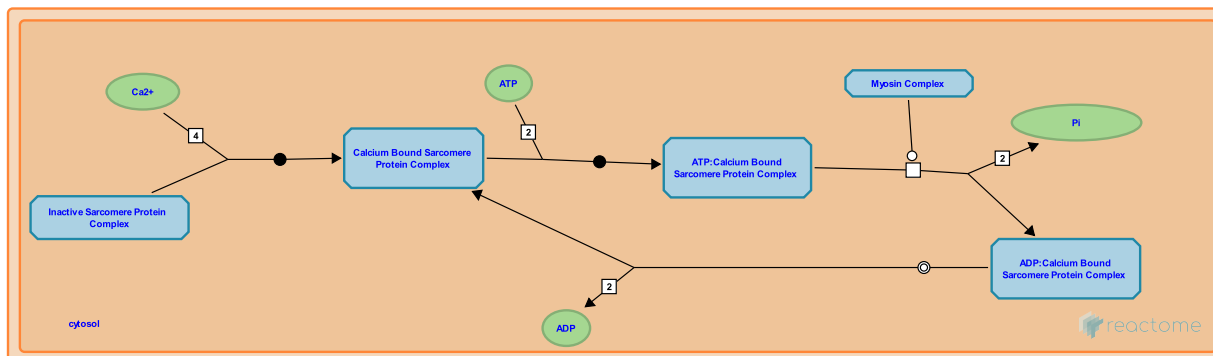
2009-02-10	Authored	Gillespie, ME.
2009-03-11	Edited	Gillespie, ME.

# Striated Muscle Contraction ↗

**Location:** Muscle contraction

**Stable identifier:** R-HSA-390522

**Compartments:** cytosol



Striated muscle contraction is a process whereby force is generated within striated muscle tissue, resulting in a change in muscle geometry, or in short, increased force being exerted on the tendons. Force generation involves a chemo-mechanical energy conversion step that is carried out by the actin/myosin complex activity, which generates force through ATP hydrolysis. Striated muscle is a type of muscle composed of myofibrils, containing repeating units called sarcomeres, in which the contractile myofibrils are arranged in parallel to the axis of the cell, resulting in transverse or oblique striations observable at the level of the light microscope.

Here striated muscle contraction is represented on the basis of calcium binding to the troponin complex, which exposes the active sites of actin. Once the active sites of actin are exposed, the myosin complex bound to ADP can bind actin and the myosin head can pivot, pulling the thin actin and thick myosin filaments past one another. Once the myosin head pivots, ADP is ejected, a fresh ATP can be bound and the energy from the hydrolysis of ATP to ADP is channeled into kinetic energy by resetting the myosin head. With repeated rounds of this cycle the sarcomere containing the thin and thick filaments effectively shortens, forming the basis of muscle contraction.

## Literature references

NIEDERGERKE, R., HUXLEY, AF. (1954). Measurement of muscle striations in stretch and contraction. *J Physiol*, 124, 46-7P. ↗

Cooke, R. (2004). The sliding filament model: 1972-2004. *J Gen Physiol*, 123, 643-56. ↗

NIEDERGERKE, R., HUXLEY, AF. (1954). Structural changes in muscle during contraction; interference microscopy of living muscle fibres. *Nature*, 173, 971-3. ↗

Ohtsuki, I., Ebashi, S. (2007). *Regulatory Mechanisms of Striated Muscle Contraction*. Springer.

Szent-Györgyi, AG. (2004). The early history of the biochemistry of muscle contraction. *J Gen Physiol*, 123, 631-41. ↗

## Editions

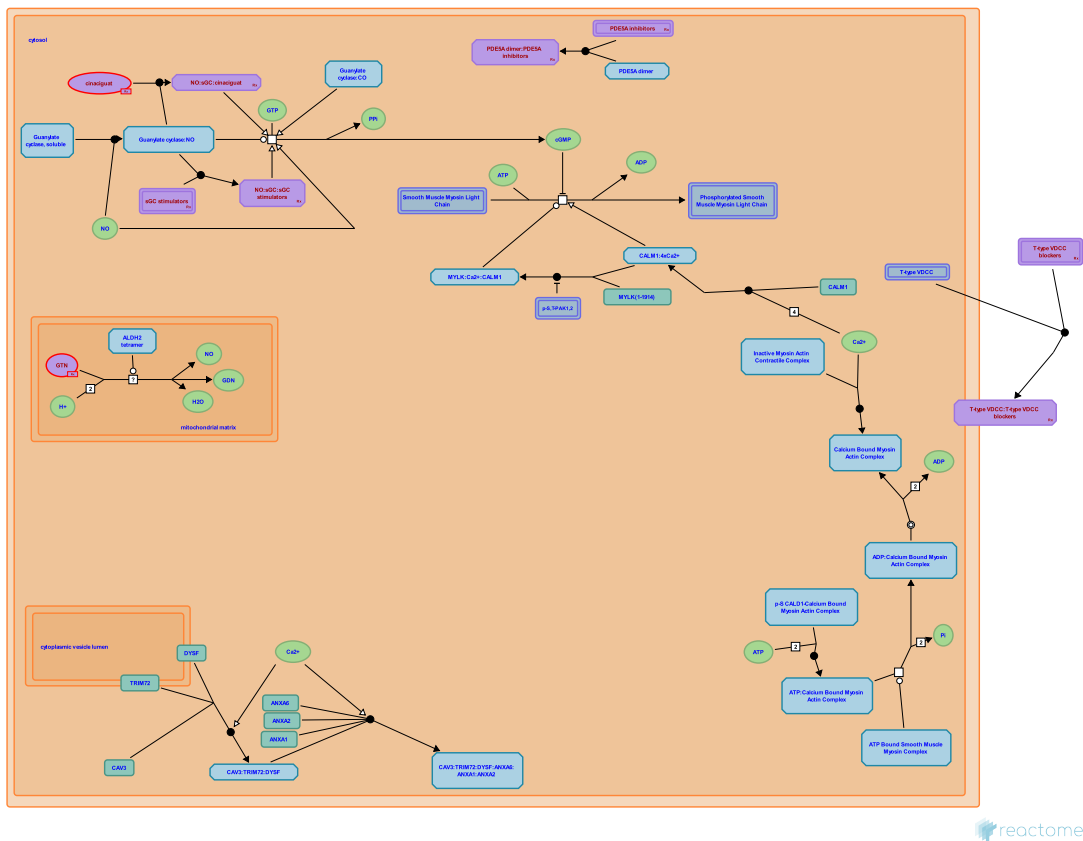
2008-01-11	Reviewed	Rush, MG.
2009-02-10	Authored	Gillespie, ME.
2009-03-11	Edited	Gillespie, ME.

# Smooth Muscle Contraction ↗

**Location:** Muscle contraction

**Stable identifier:** R-HSA-445355

**Compartments:** plasma membrane, cytosol



Layers of smooth muscle cells can be found in the walls of numerous organs and tissues within the body. Smooth muscle tissue lacks the striated banding pattern characteristic of skeletal and cardiac muscle. Smooth muscle is triggered to contract by the autonomic nervous system, hormones, autocrine/paracrine agents, local chemical signals, and changes in load or length.

Actin:myosin cross bridging is used to develop force with the influx of calcium ions (Ca<sup>2+</sup>) initiating contraction. Two separate protein pathways, both triggered by calcium influx contribute to contraction, a calmodulin driven kinase pathway, and a caldesmon driven pathway.

Recent evidence suggests that actin, myosin, and intermediate filaments may be far more volatile then previously suspected, and that changes in these cytoskeletal elements along with alterations of the focal adhesions that anchor these proteins may contribute to the contractile cycle.

Contraction in smooth muscle generally uses a variant of the same sliding filament model found in striated muscle, except in smooth muscle the actin and myosin filaments are anchored to focal adhesions, and dense bodies, spread over the surface of the smooth muscle cell. When actin and myosin move across one another focal adhesions are drawn towards dense bodies, effectively squeezing the cell into a smaller conformation. The sliding is triggered by calcium:caldesmon binding, caldesmon acting in an analogous fashion to troponin in striated muscle. Phosphorylation of myosin light chains also is involved in the initiation of an effective contraction.

## Literature references

Webb, RC. (2003). Smooth muscle contraction and relaxation. *Adv Physiol Educ*, 27, 201-6. ↗

## Editions

2008-01-11	Reviewed	Rush, MG.
2009-03-09	Authored	Gillespie, ME.
2009-11-18	Edited	Gillespie, ME.



# Table of Contents

Introduction	1
❖ Muscle contraction	2
❖ Striated Muscle Contraction	3
❖ Smooth Muscle Contraction	4
❖ Cardiac conduction	5
Table of Contents	6