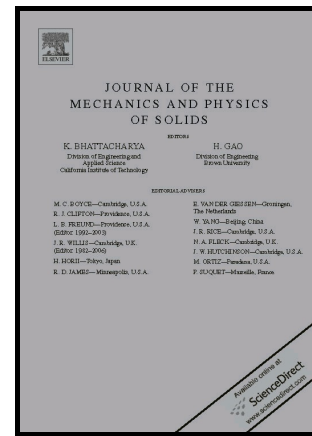


# Author's Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0022-5096(16)30240-X  
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jmps.2016.04.014>  
Reference: MPS2867

To appear in: *Journal of the Mechanics and Physics of Solids*

Received date: 26 April 2015  
Revised date: 20 March 2016  
Accepted date: 11 April 2016

Cite this article as: Xiao Huang, Bo Li, Wei Hong, Yan-Ping Cao and Xi-Qiao Feng, Effects of tension–compression asymmetry on the surface wrinkling of film–substrate systems, *Journal of the Mechanics and Physics of Solids* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jmps.2016.04.014>

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## Effects of tension–compression asymmetry on the surface wrinkling of film–substrate systems

Xiao Huang<sup>a</sup>, Bo Li<sup>a</sup>, Wei Hong<sup>b</sup>, Yan-Ping Cao<sup>a</sup>, and Xi-Qiao Feng<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>*Institute of Biomechanics and Medical Engineering, AML, Department of Engineering  
Mechanics, Tsinghua University, Beijing 100084, P. R. China*

<sup>b</sup>*Department of Aerospace Engineering, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011, USA*

\*Corresponding author. Tel.: +86 10 62772934; fax: +86 10 62781824. *E-mail address:*  
fengxq@tsinghua.edu.cn (X. Q. Feng).

### Abstract

Many soft materials and biological tissues are featured with the tension–compression asymmetry of constitutive relations. The surface wrinkling of a stiff thin film lying on a compliant substrate is investigated through theoretical analysis and numerical simulations. It is found that the tension–compression asymmetry of the soft substrate not only affects the critical strain of buckling but, more importantly, may also dictate the wrinkling pattern that occurs in the film–substrate system under specified loading conditions. Due to this mechanism, the thin film subjected to equi-biaxial compression will first buckle into a hexagonal array of dimples or bulges, rather than the checkerboard pattern theoretically predicted in previous studies, and consequently evolve into labyrinths with further loading. Under non-equi-biaxial compression, the system may buckle either into a parallel bead-chain pattern or a stripe pattern, depending on the substrate nonlinearity and the loading biaxiality. Phase diagrams are established for the wrinkling patterns in a wide range of geometric and mechanical parameters, which facilitate the design of surface patterns with desired properties and functions.

*Keywords:* Film–substrate system; Tension–compression asymmetry; Wrinkling; Biaxial compression; Morphological evolution

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