

# **Chapter 6**

## **Muscle Tissue**

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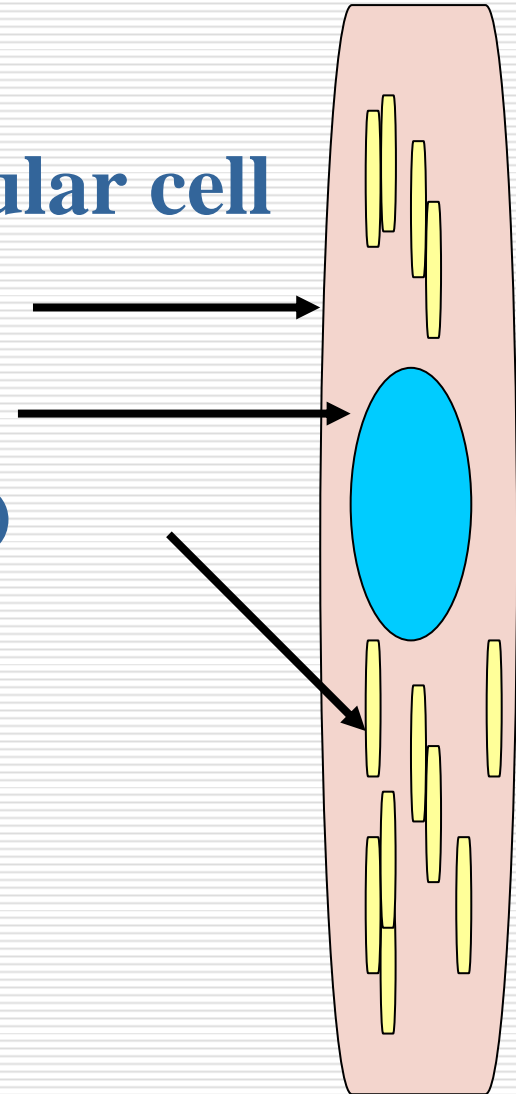
# General characteristics

## □ Muscle fiber/myofiber/muscular cell

■ Sarcolemma (membrane)

■ Sarcoplasm (cytoplasm)

■ Sarcoplasmic reticulum (SER)



Function

voluntary ←

involuntary {

**Skeletal muscle**

**Cardiac muscle**

**Smooth muscle** →

} striated

unstriated

Structure

Skeletal muscle



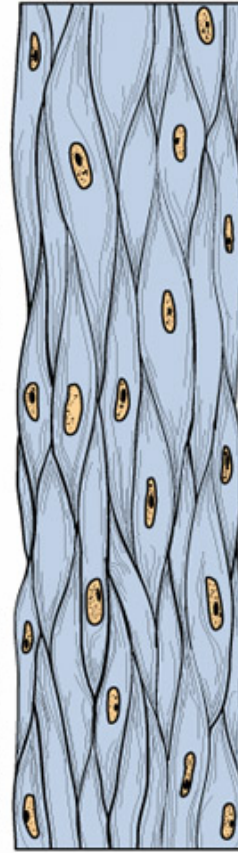
Nuclei

Cardiac muscle



Smooth muscle

Intercalated disks





# Skeletal muscle

- Organization of Skeletal Muscle
- Fine structure of muscle fibers (LM)
- Ultrastructure (EM)
- Mechanism of contraction

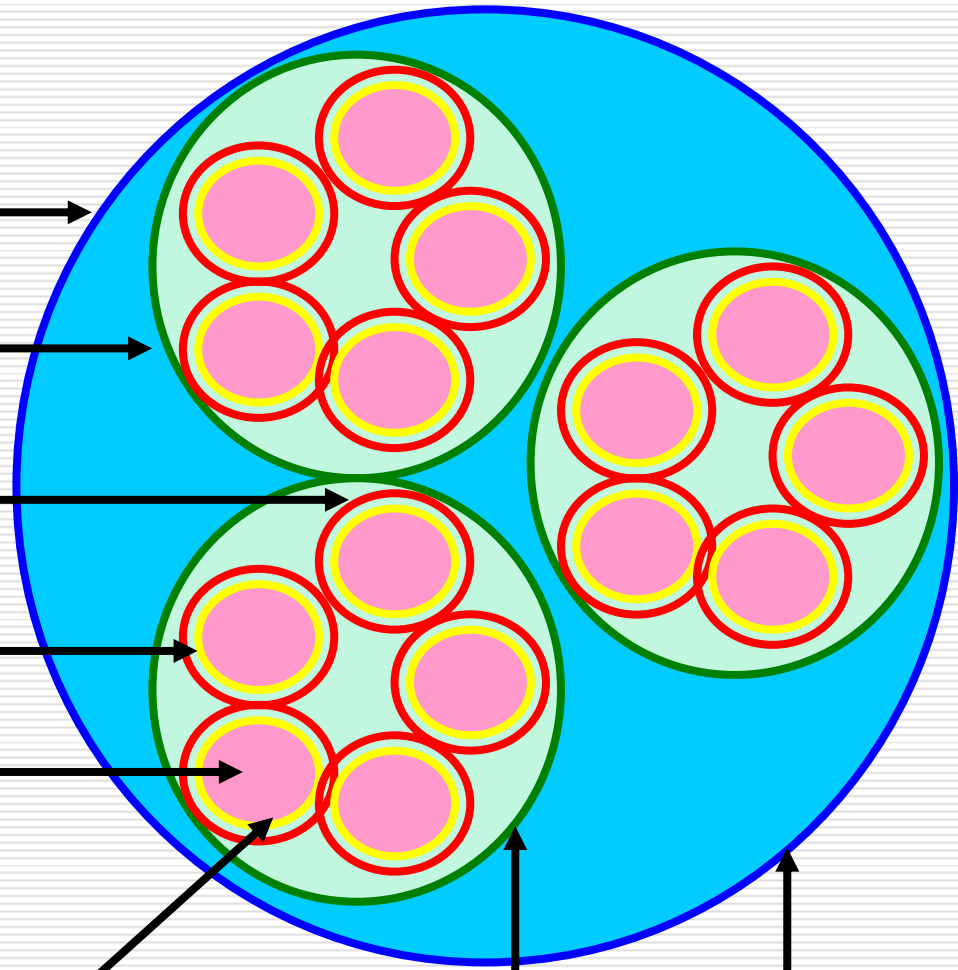
□ **Epimysium** →

□ **Perimysium** →

□ **Endomysium** →

□ **Sarcolemma** →

□ **sarcoplasm** →

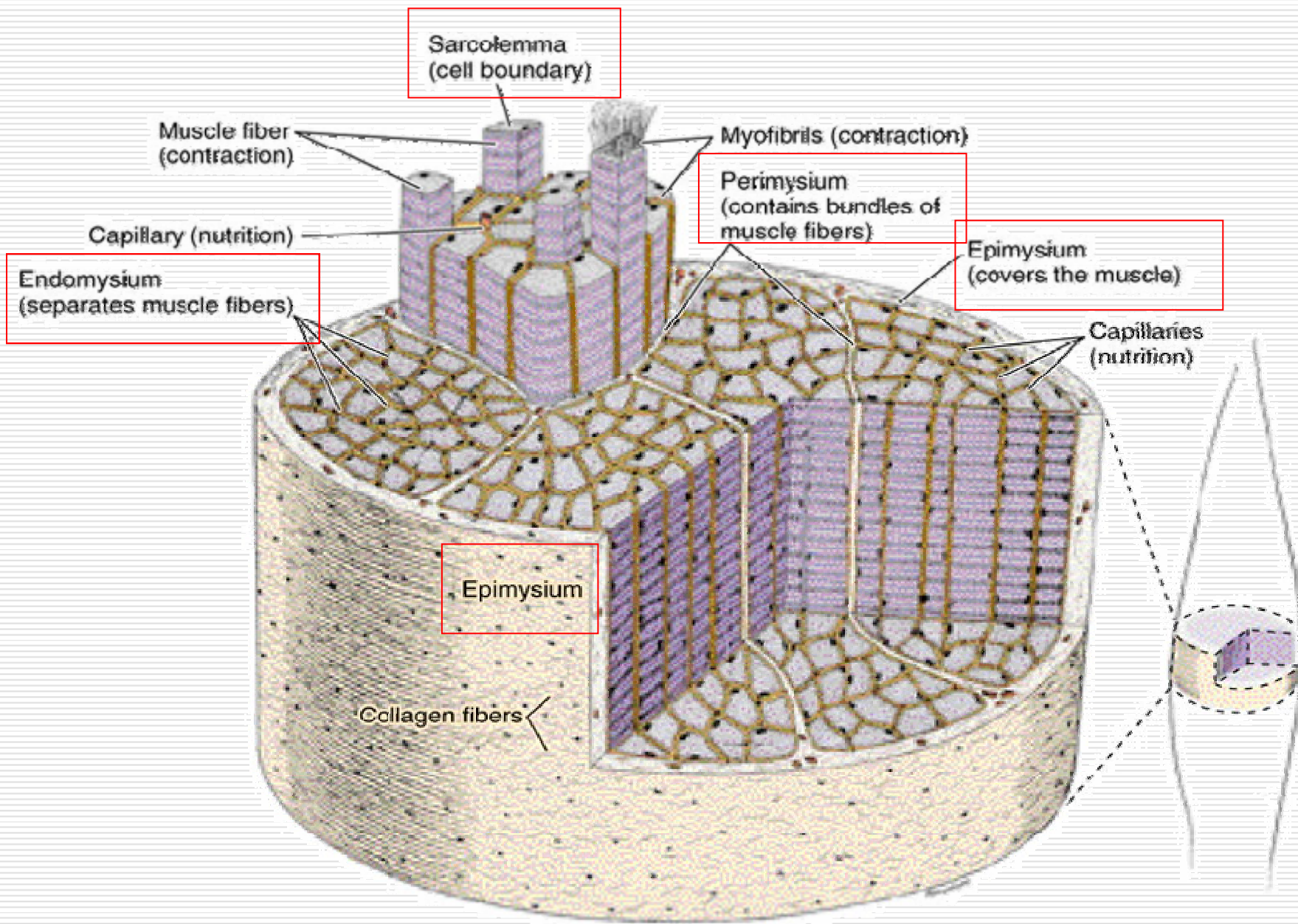


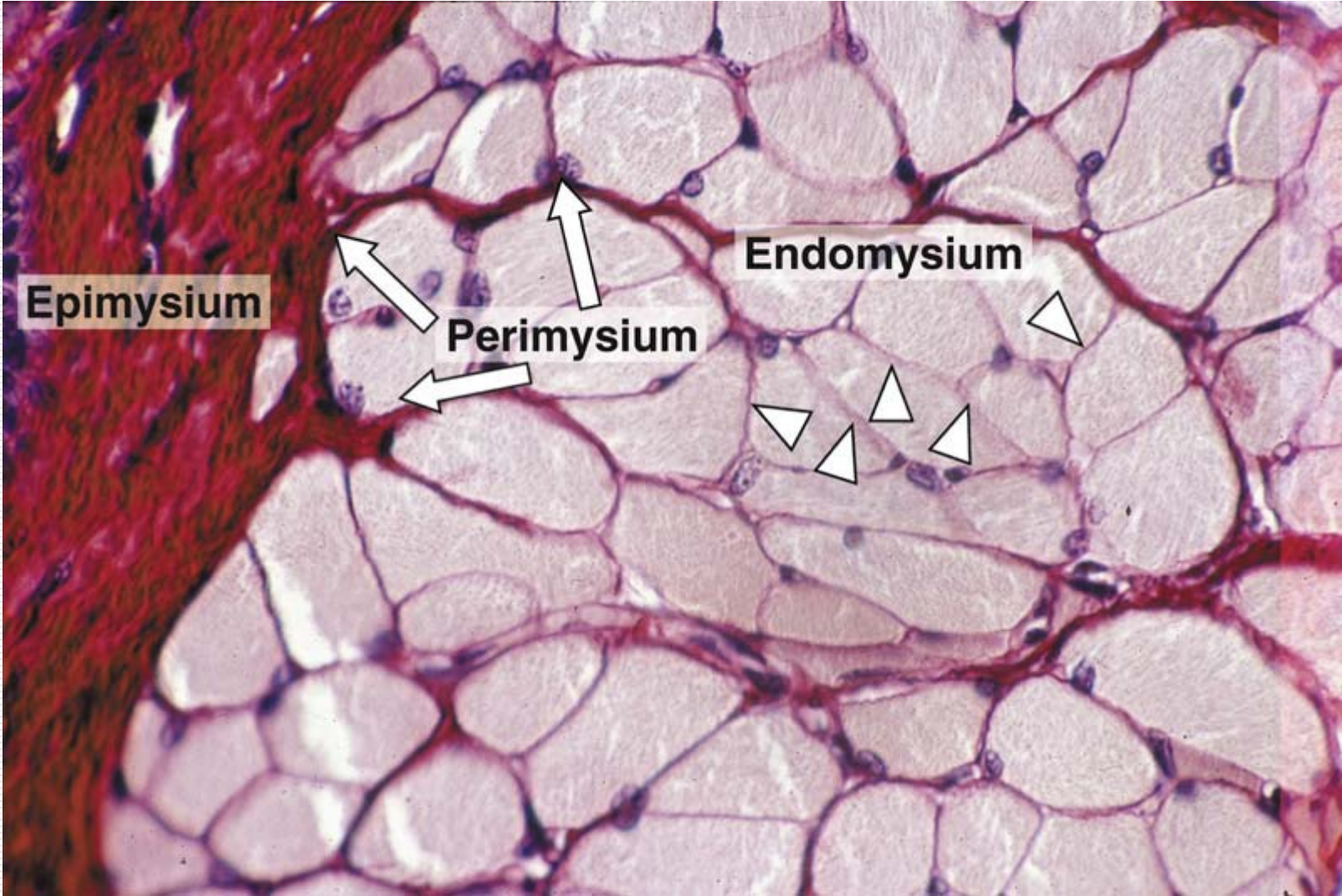
a muscle fiber

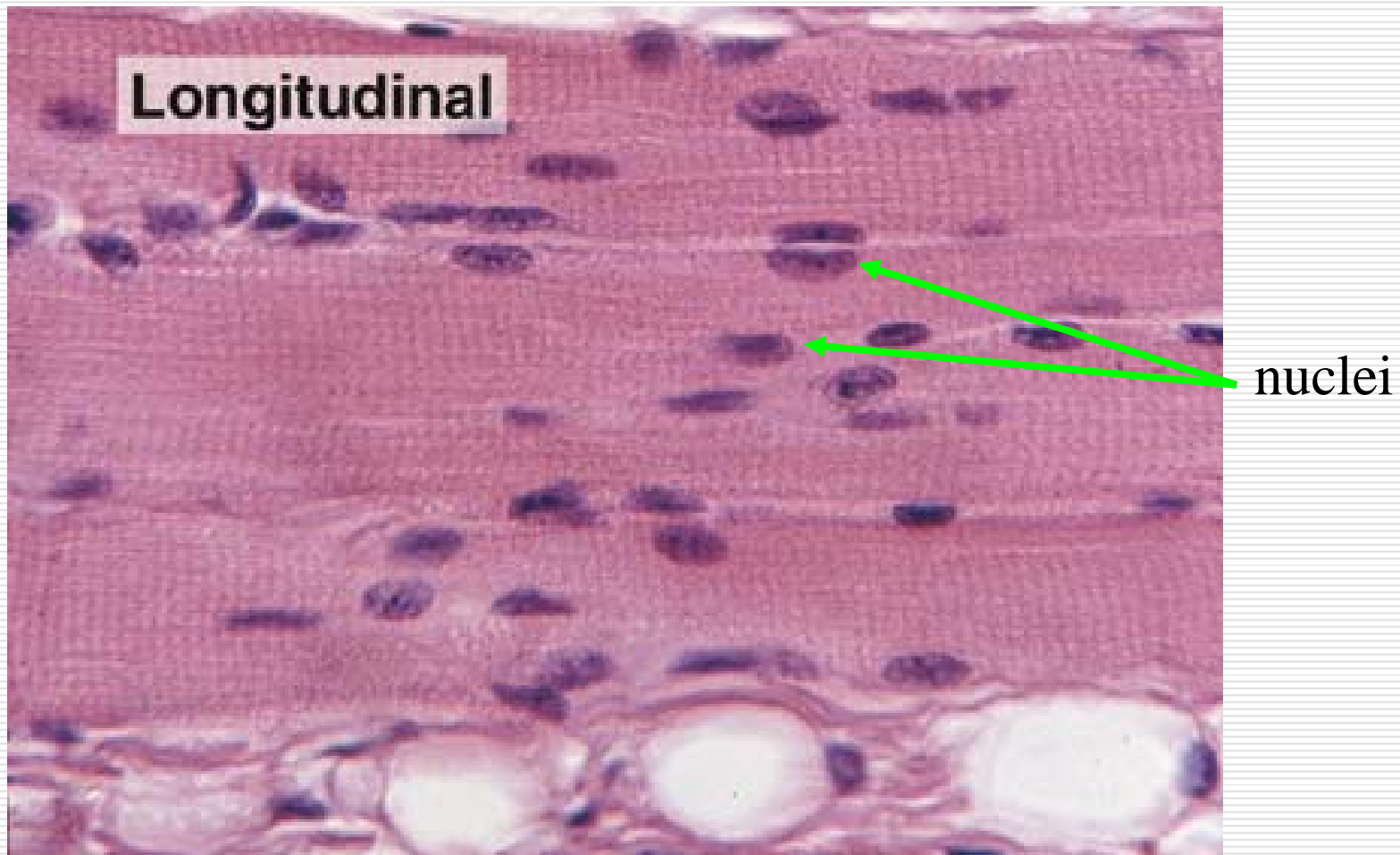
bundle of  
muscle fibers

Skeletal  
muscle

transmit the forces generated by contracting muscle cells

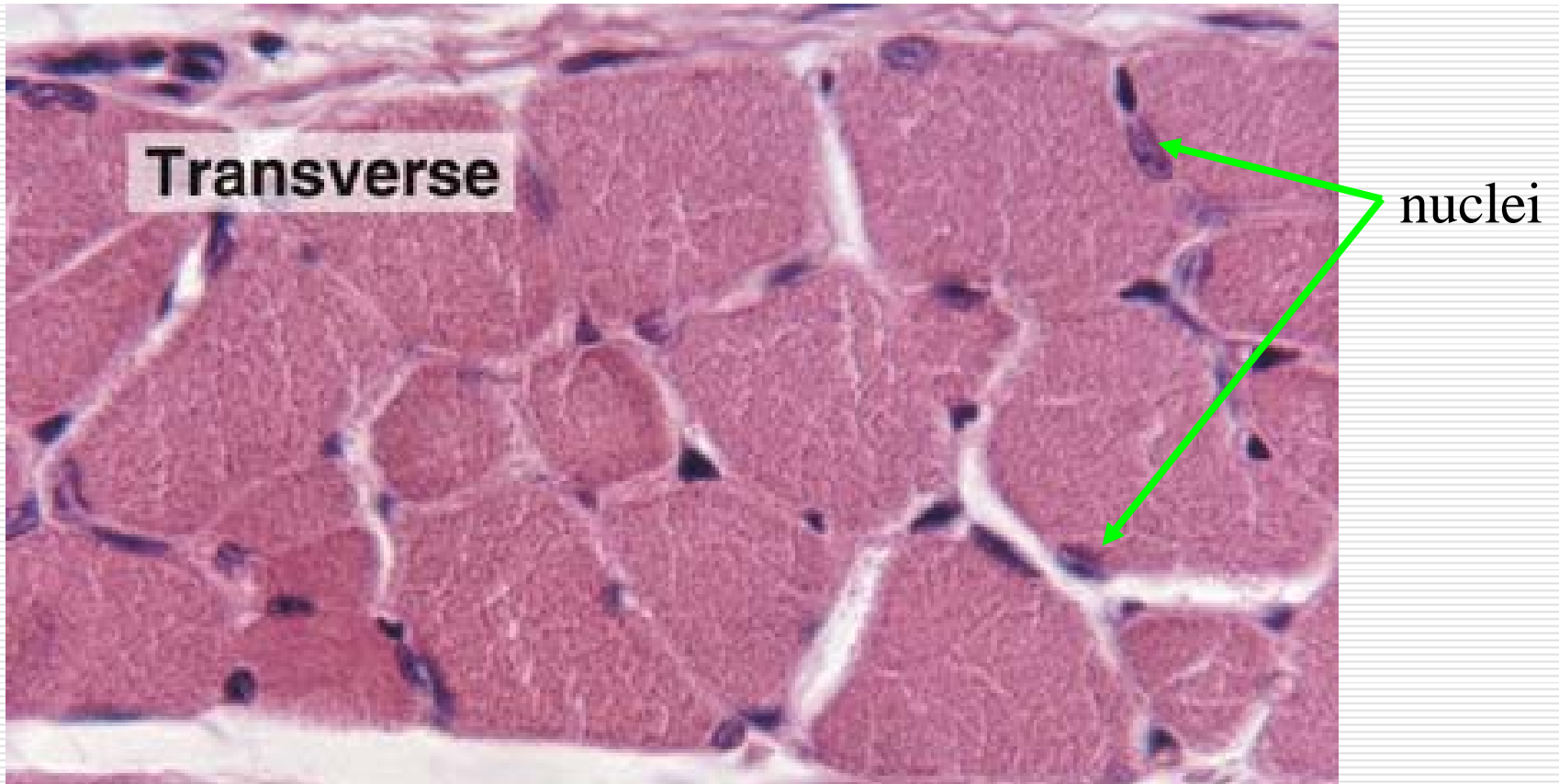






Skeletal muscle fibers are bundles of very long cylindrical multinucleated cells. The ovoid nuclei can be seen in the periphery of the cell, just under the cell membrane.

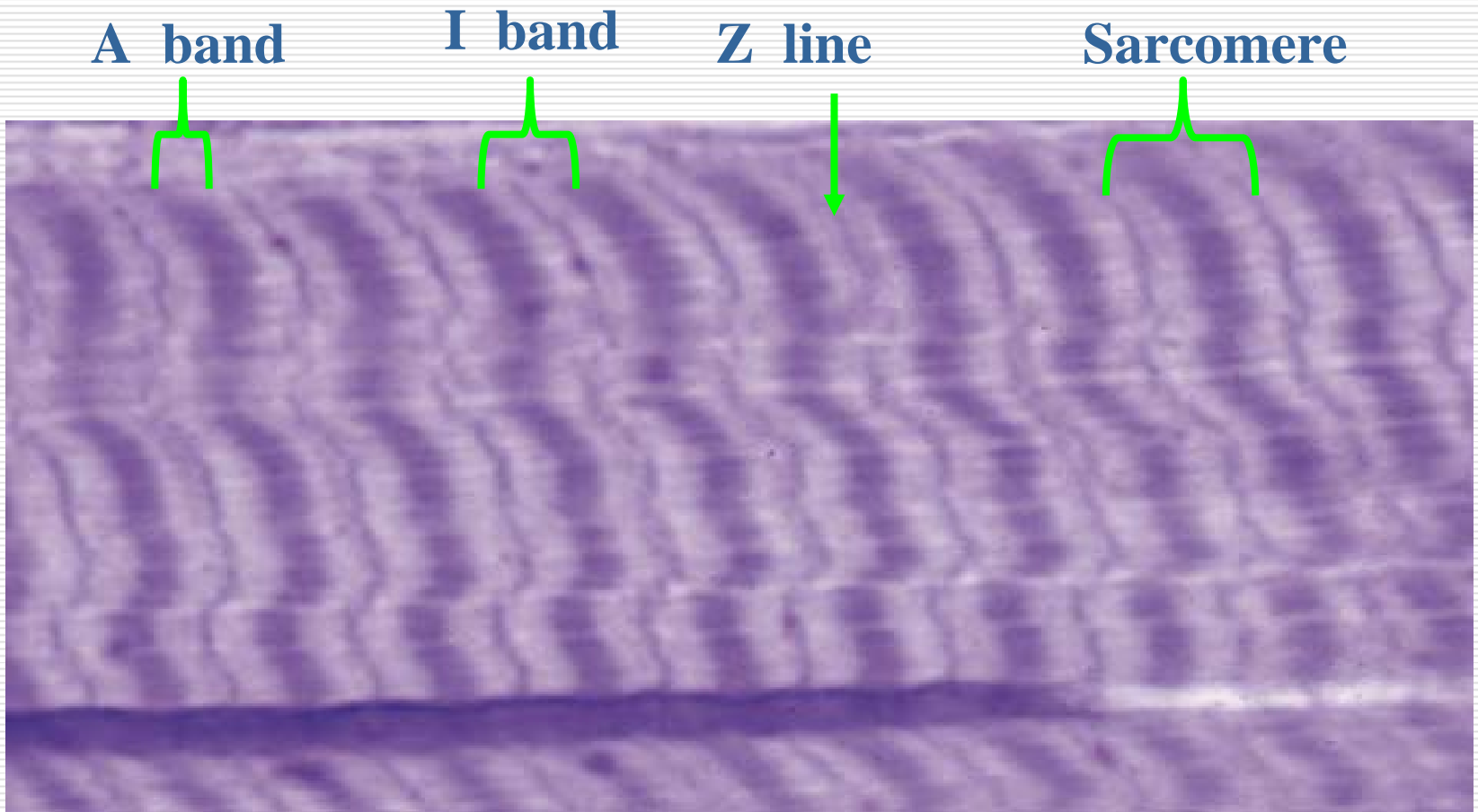




The muscle fibers are irregular in shape and the ovoid nuclei are just under the sarcolemma.

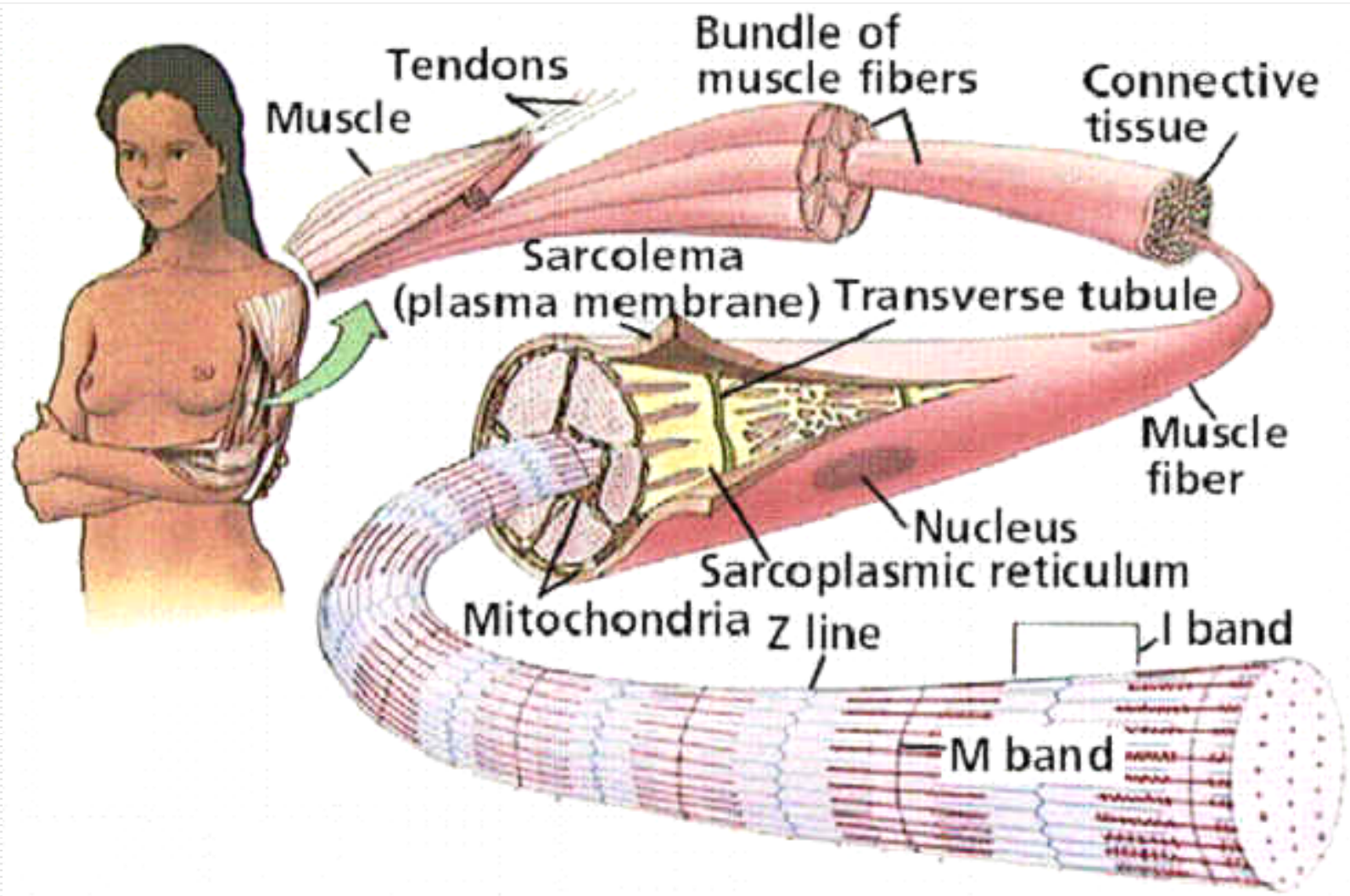


- ❑ **cross-striations of alternating light and dark bands**
- ❑ **A band; I band; Z line**
- ❑ **Sarcomere=1/2 I+A+1/2 I ; contractile apparatus**

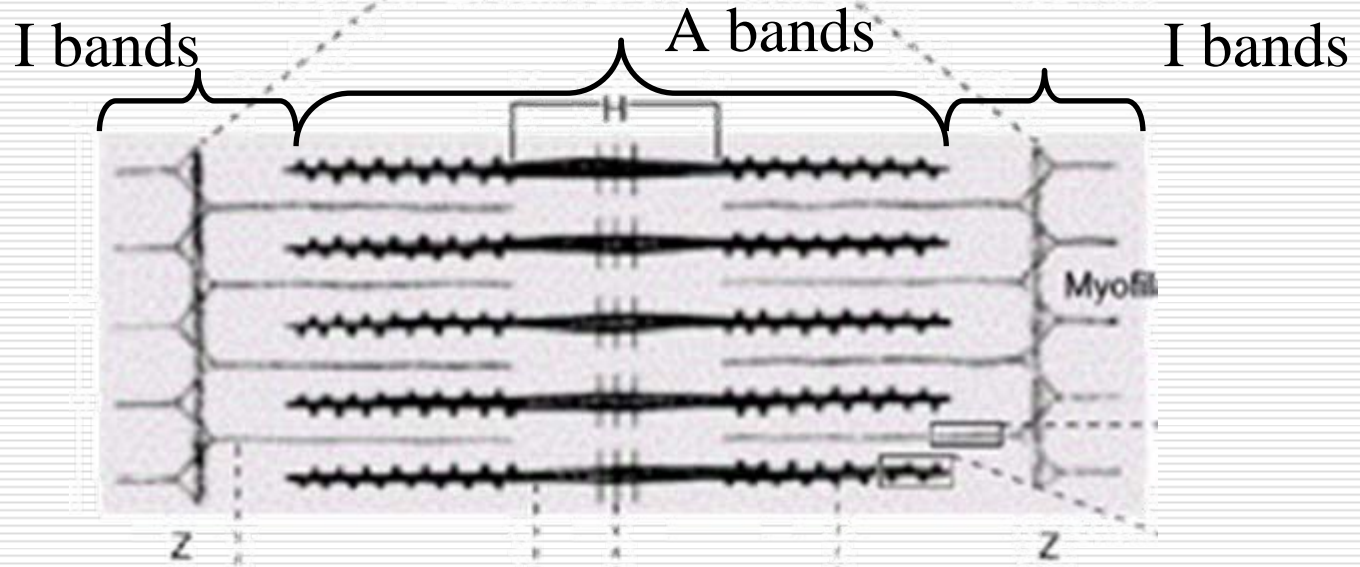
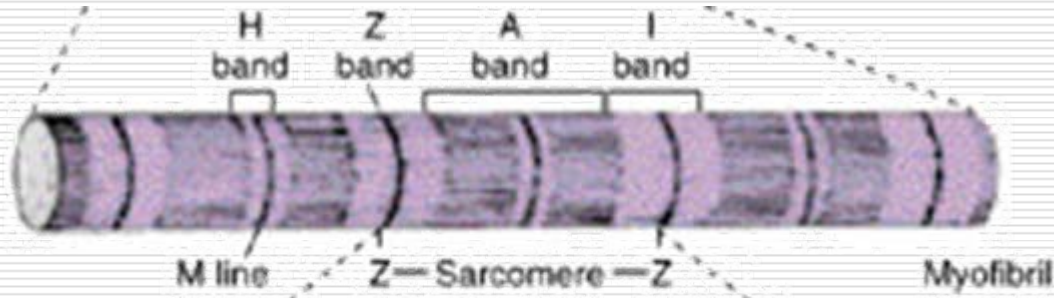


# Ultrastructure

- myofibrils
  - Thin filaments
  - Thick filaments
- transverse tubule (T tubule)
- sarcoplasmic reticulum (L tubule)
  - terminal cisternae
  - triad
- other organelles and inclusions



- run parallel to the long axis of the muscle fiber
- consist of **end-to-end sarcomeres**
- sarcomeres in adjacent myofibrils arrange so regularly

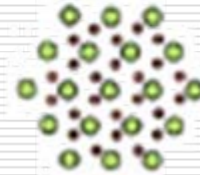
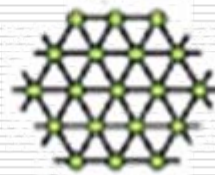
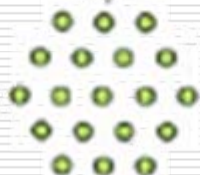
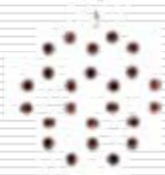


**thin filaments**

**thick filaments**

**M line**

**filament overlap**



# Components of myofibrils

## thick myofilament:

myosin

cross bridge

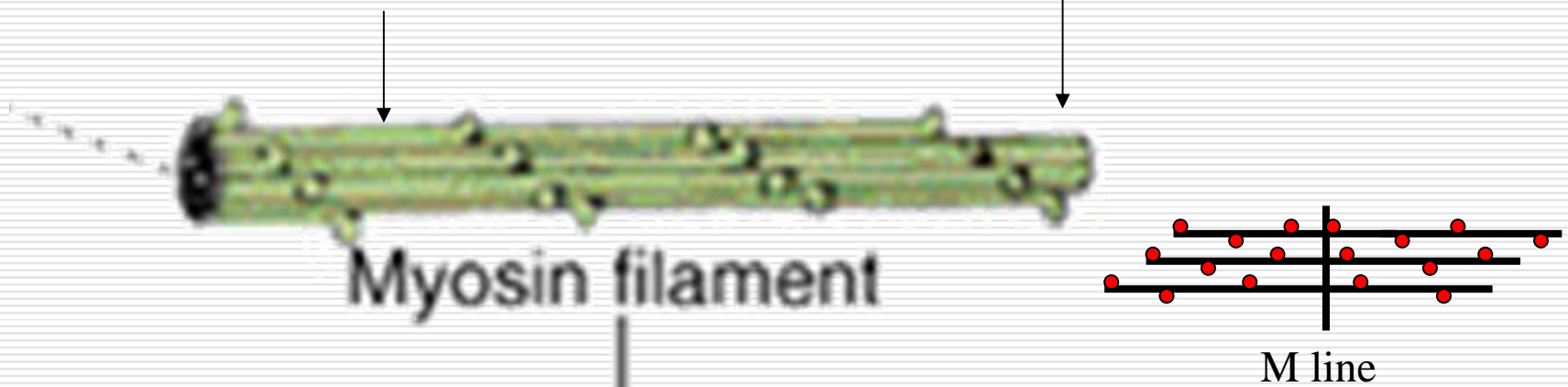
## thin myofilament:

actin

tropomyosin

troponin: TnC; TnT; TnI

rod-like portion + globular head = cross-bridge



Myosin light chains

Myosin heavy chains

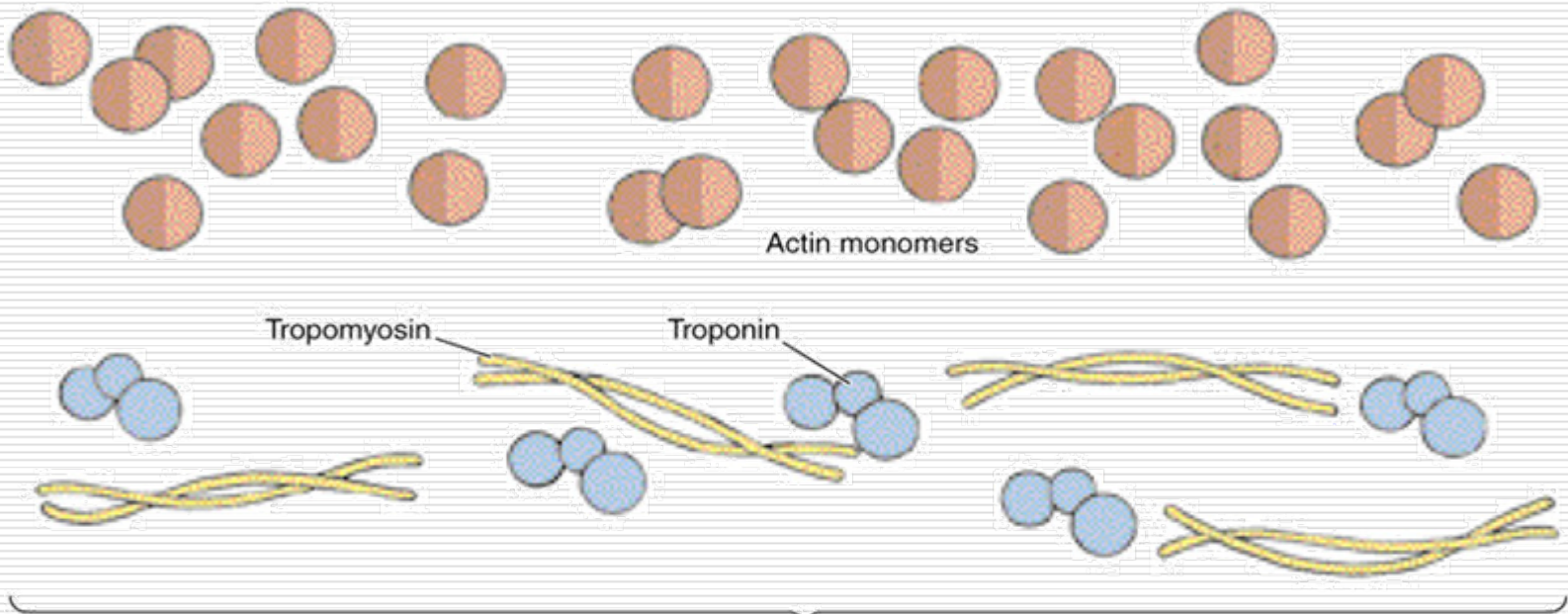
**head:** bind and hydrolyze ATP; bind actin

cross-bridge  
Chemical energy → mechanical energy

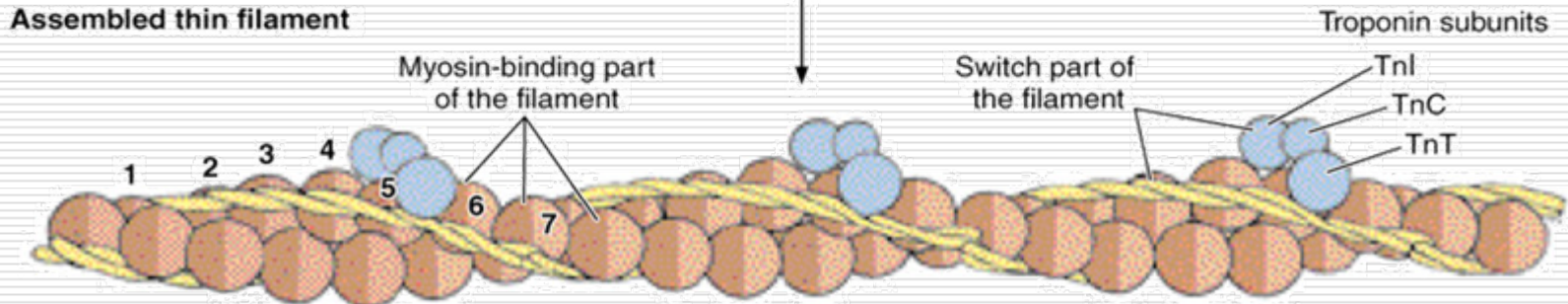




## Disassembled components of the thin filament



## Assembled thin filament

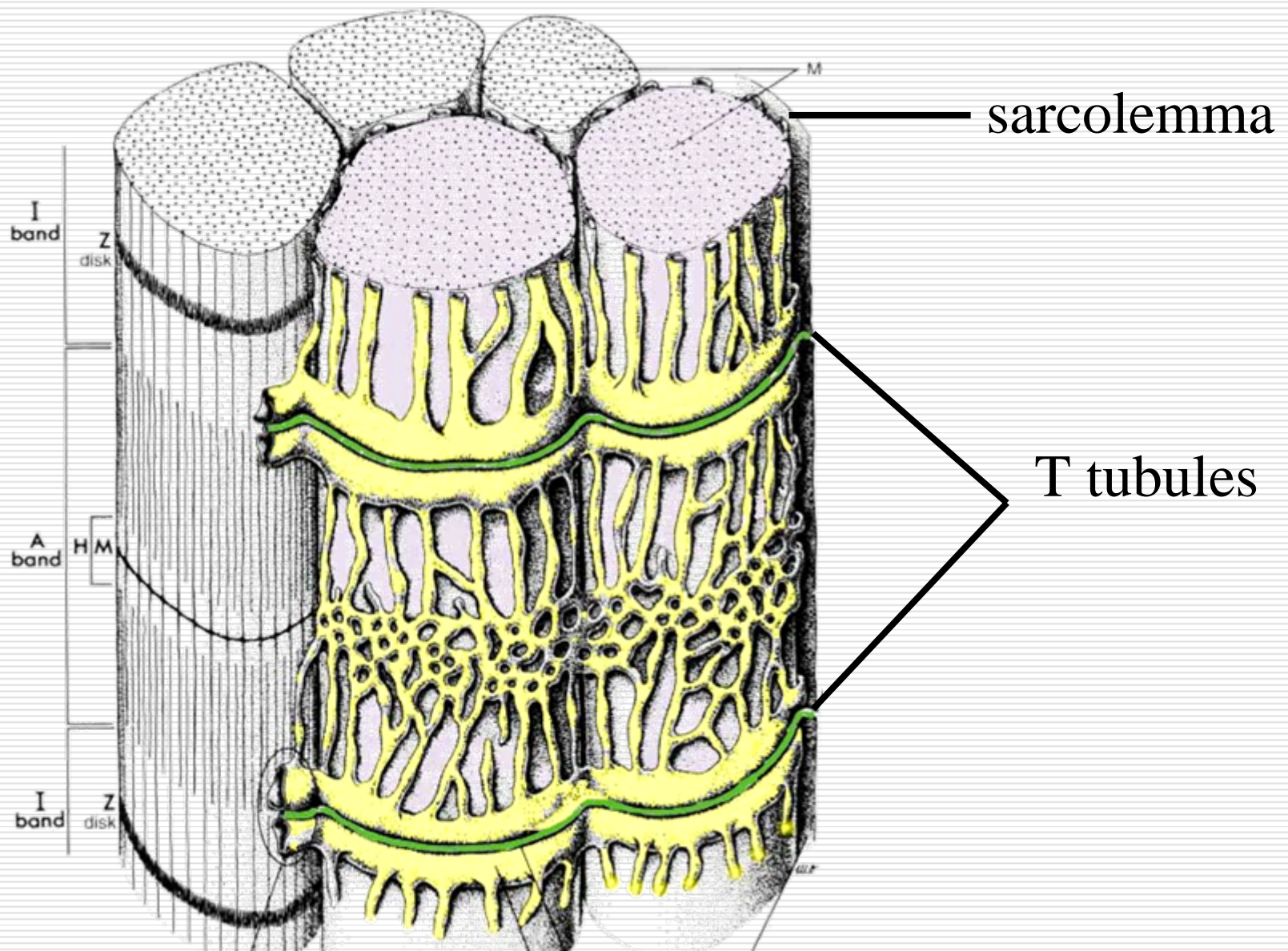


Actin monomers form 2 twisted strands. Each actin monomer contains a myosin binding site.

Tropomyosins containing 2 polypeptide chains are bound head to tail, forming filament that run over the actin subunits alongside the outer edges of the groove between 2 twisted actin strands. Each tropomyosin has 7 actin and one TnT binding site.

Troponin contains 3 subunits: TnT attaching to tropomyosin; TnC binding calcium ions; and TnI inhibiting actin-myosin interaction.

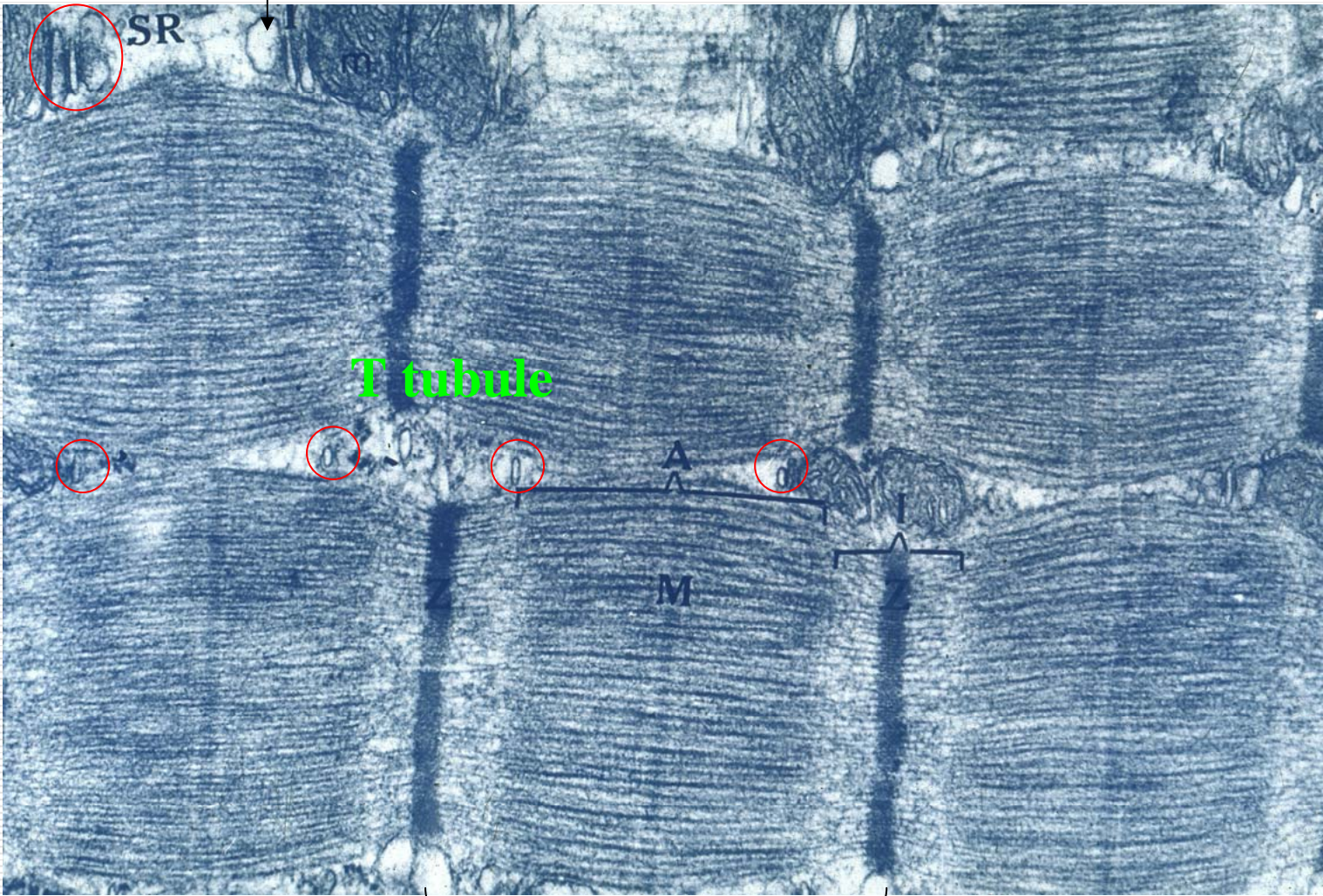




- encircle the boundaries of the A–I bands
- rapidly conduct contraction impulses to every myofibril



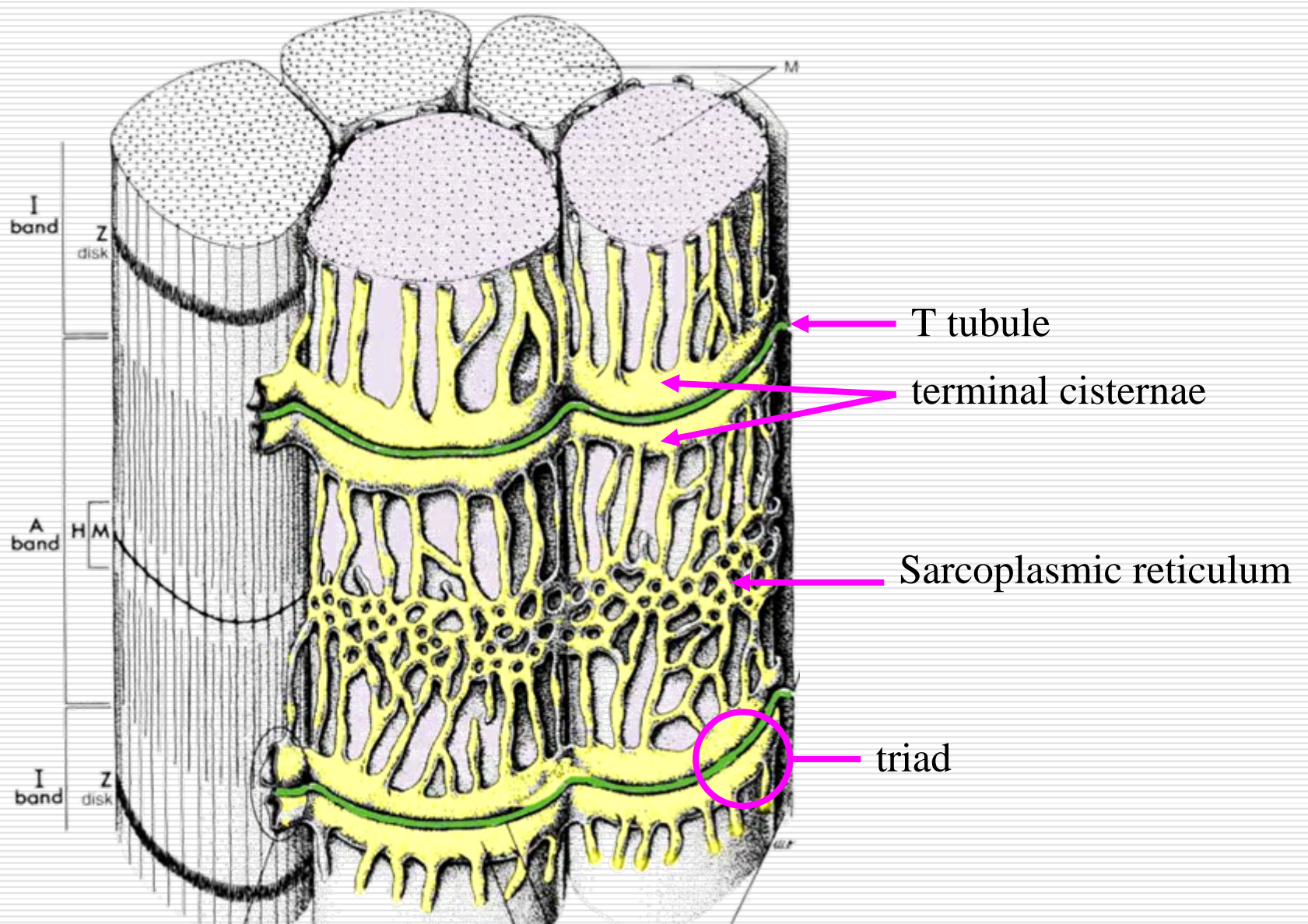
triad terminal cisternae



sarcomere



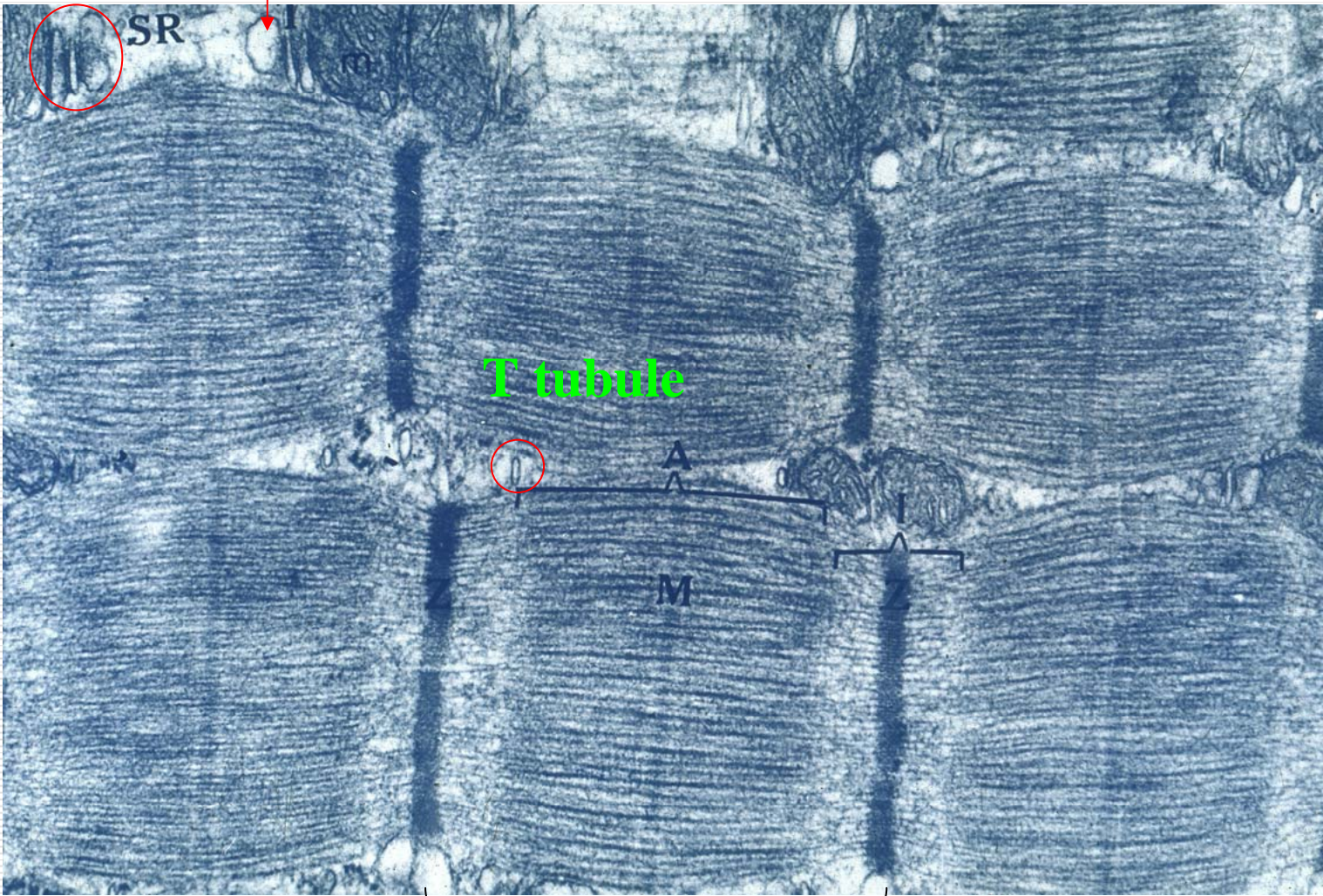




- terminal cisternae: 2 lateral portions adjacent to T tubule
- triad: a T tubule + 2 lateral terminal cisternae

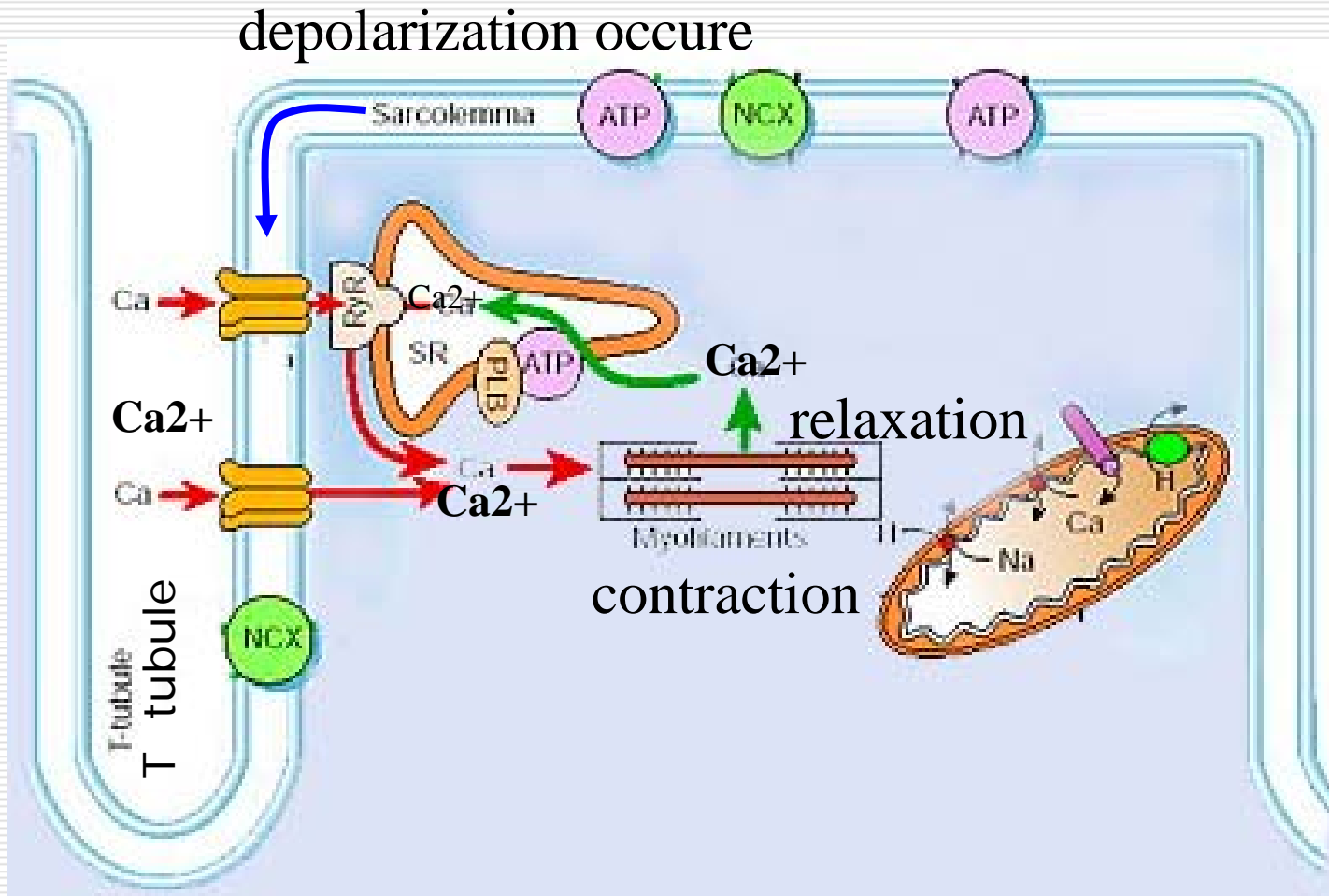


triad terminal cisterna



sarcomere

- regulate calcium flow in rapid contraction and relaxation cycles

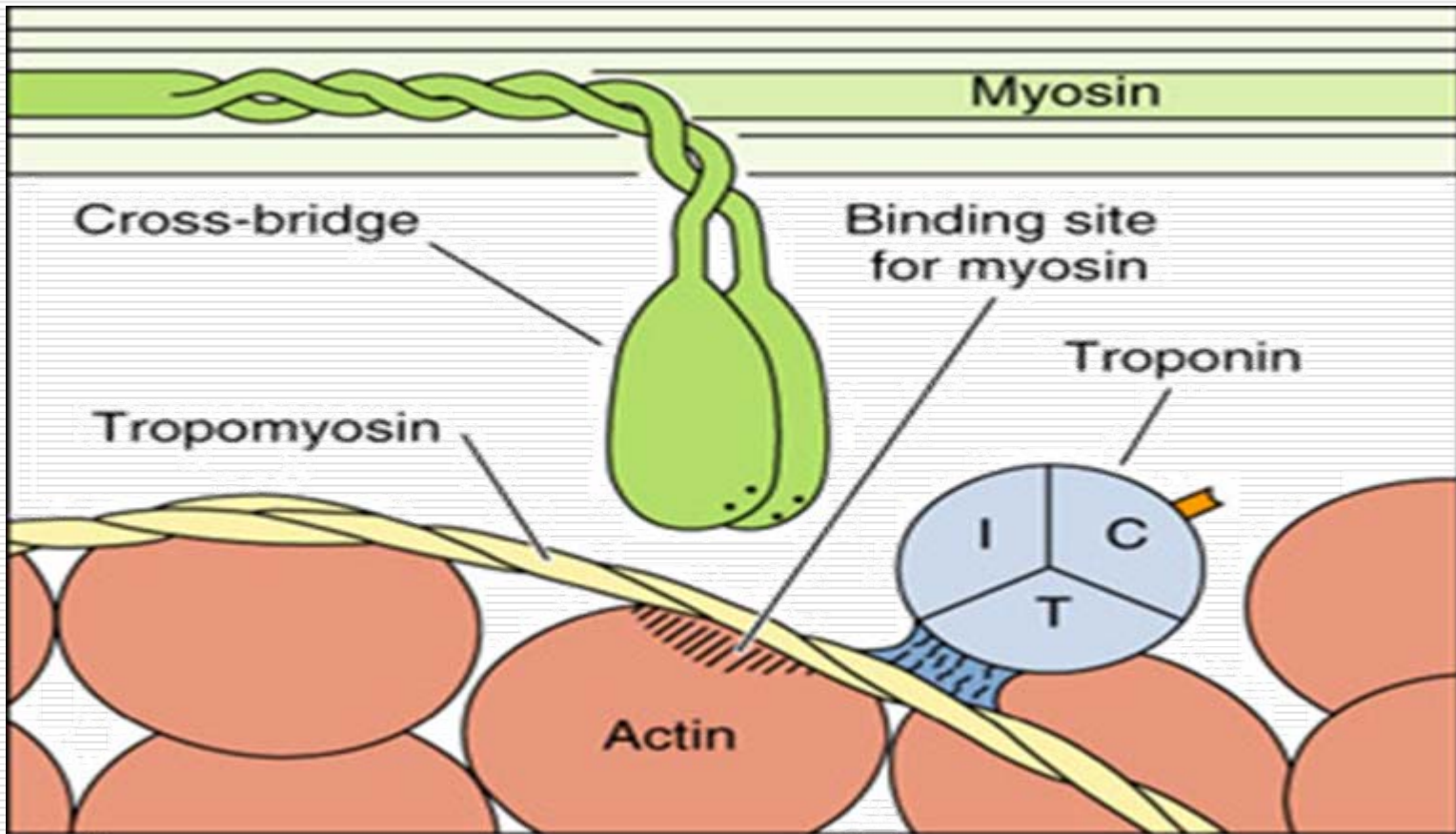




# other organelles and inclusions

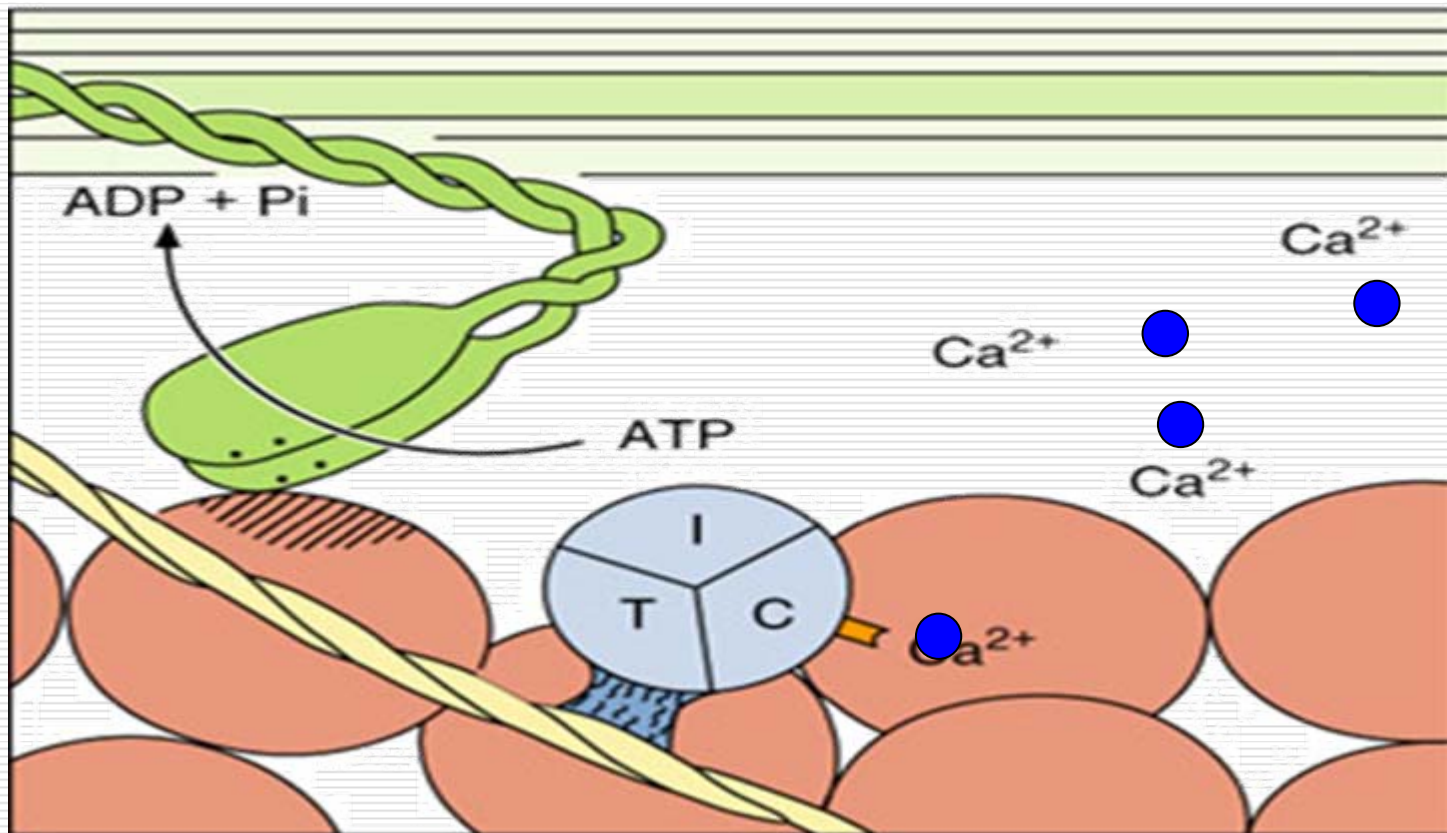
- Mitochondria
- Golgi apparatus
- Glycogen granules
- Lipid droplets



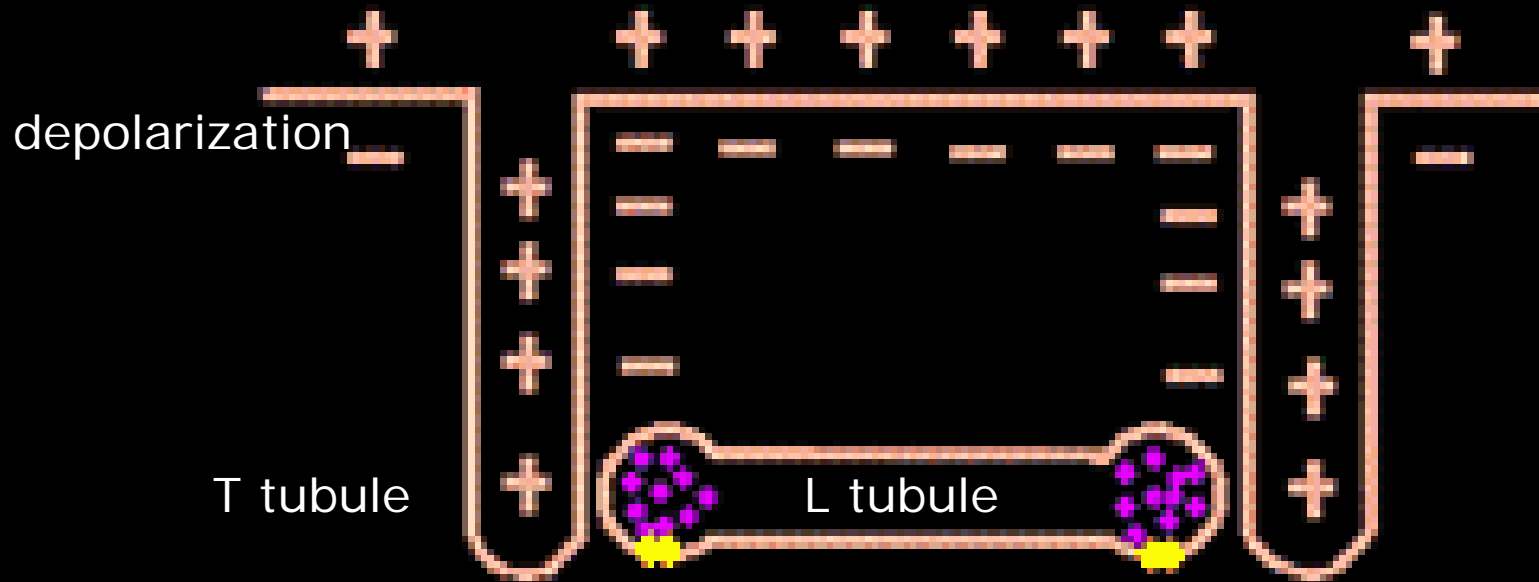


## A resting skeletal myofiber

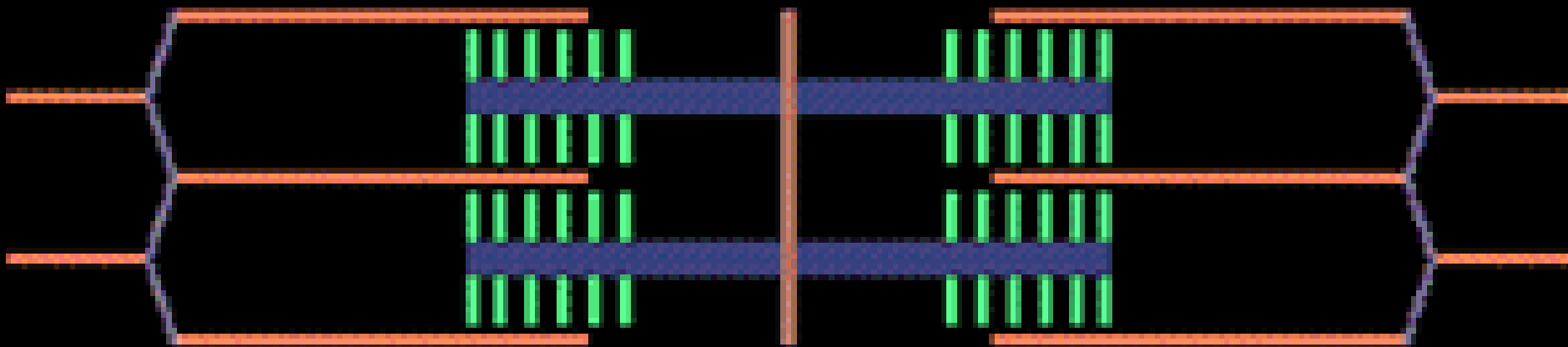
- TnT of troponin binding to tropomyosin
- myosin binding site on actin is hided by tropomyosin.
- Cross-bridge of myosin is free.

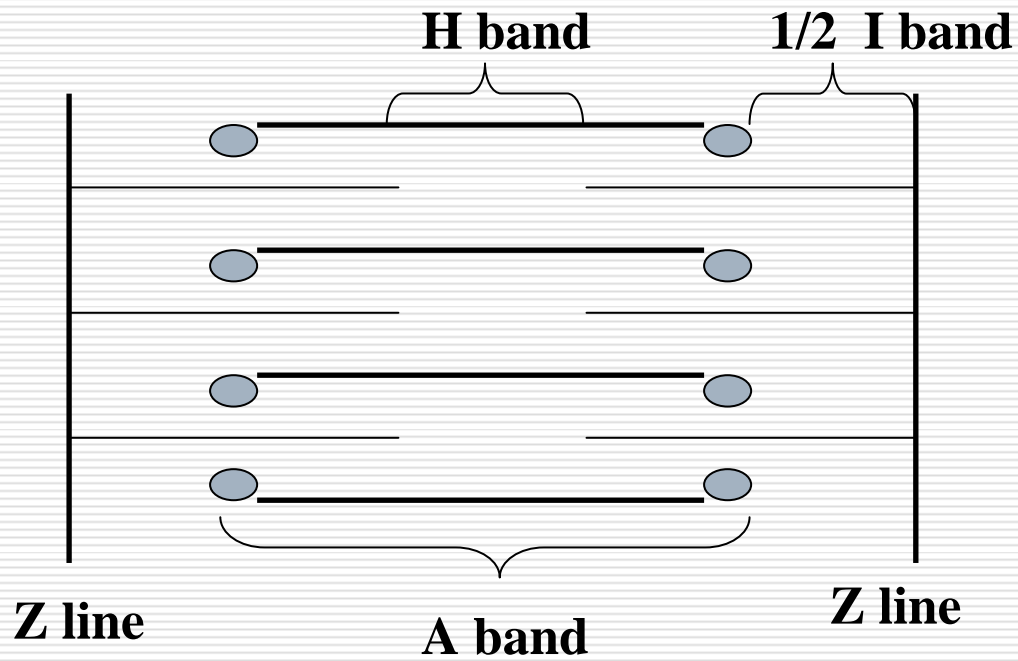


- Ca<sup>2+</sup> ion binds to the TnC unit of troponin.
- Tropomyosin moves and exposes myosin binding site on actin.
- Myosin head binds to actin and break down ATP into ADP.
- Energy produces a movement of the myosin head.
- Thin filaments slide over the thick filaments.
- This process repeats many times and leads to shortening of myofibers.
- Ca<sup>2+</sup> ions are removed and myofibers relax.



Process repeats 3 times.



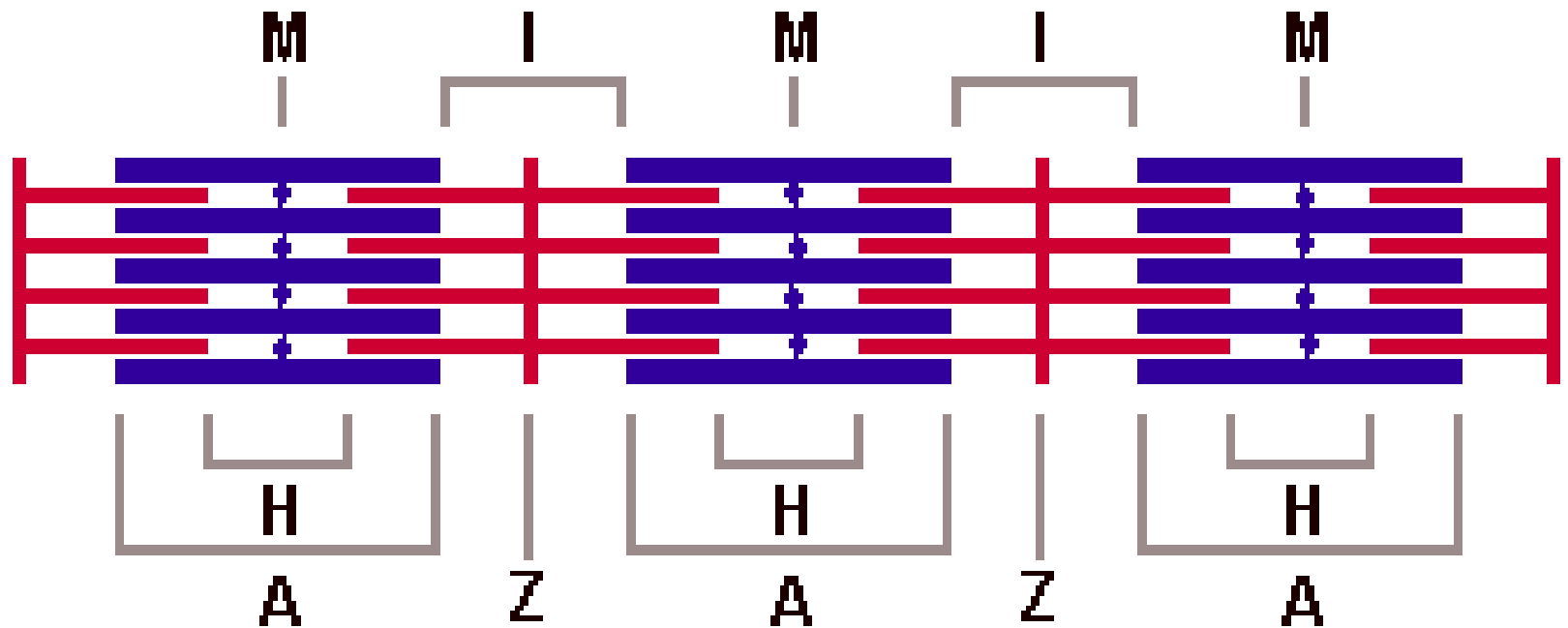


**I band decreases**

**The H diminishes**

**each sarcomere is shortened.**

■ myosin    ■ actin

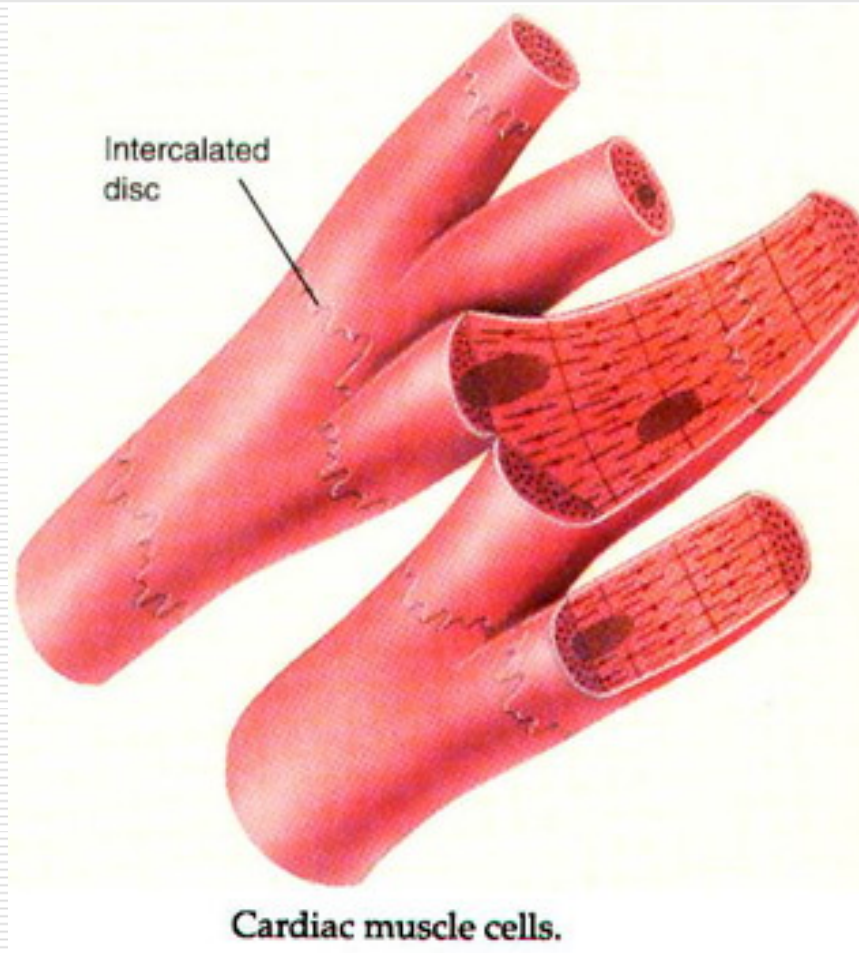


**Bands and lines in the contractile apparatus of skeletal muscle**

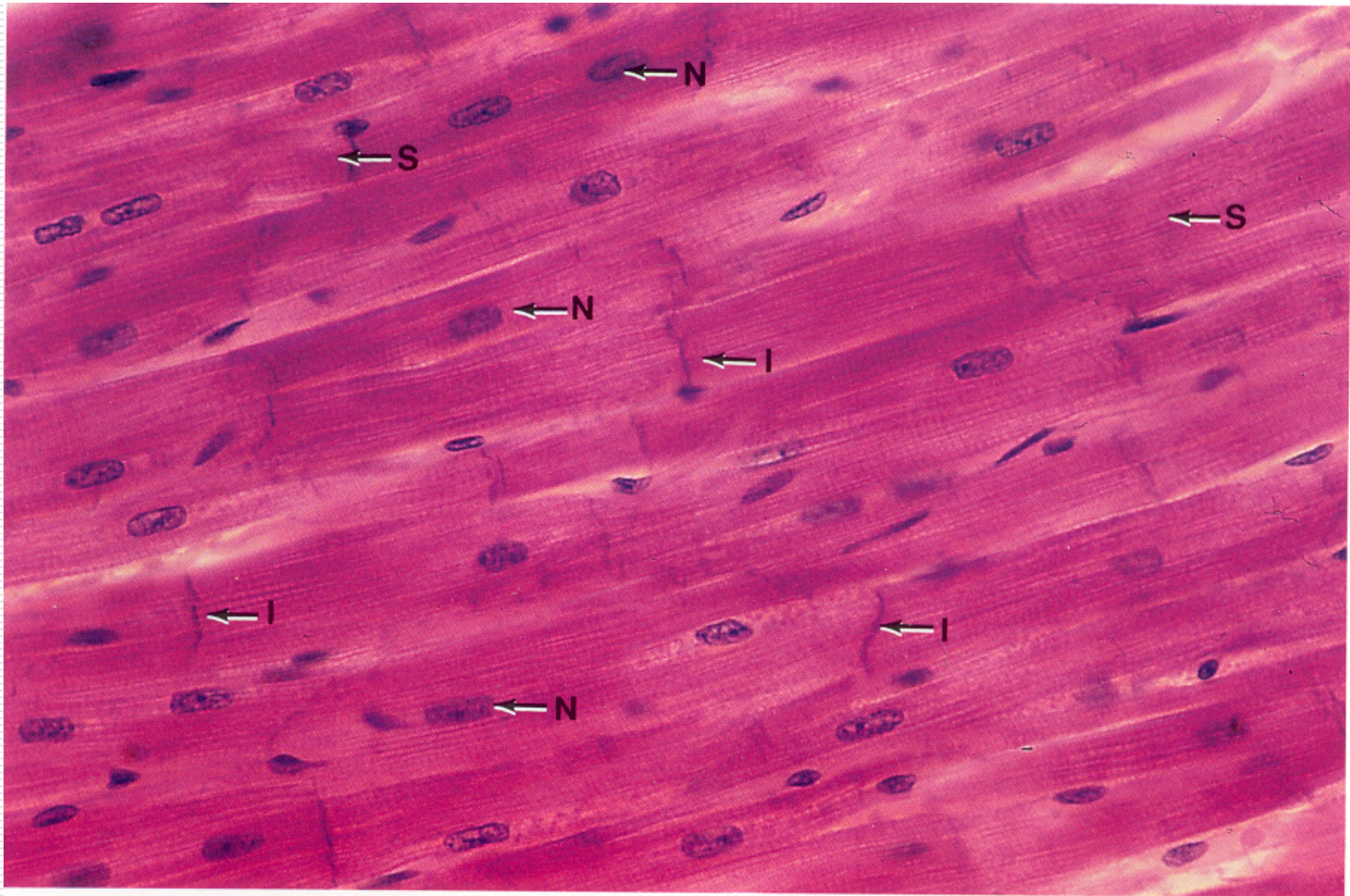


## 2. Cardiac muscle

- Fine structure under LM
  - intercalated disk
  
- Ultrastructure feature
  - intercalated disk
  - Myofibrils
  - T tubules
  - Sarcoplasmic reticulum, diads
  - Mitochondria
  - Atrial natriuretic factor



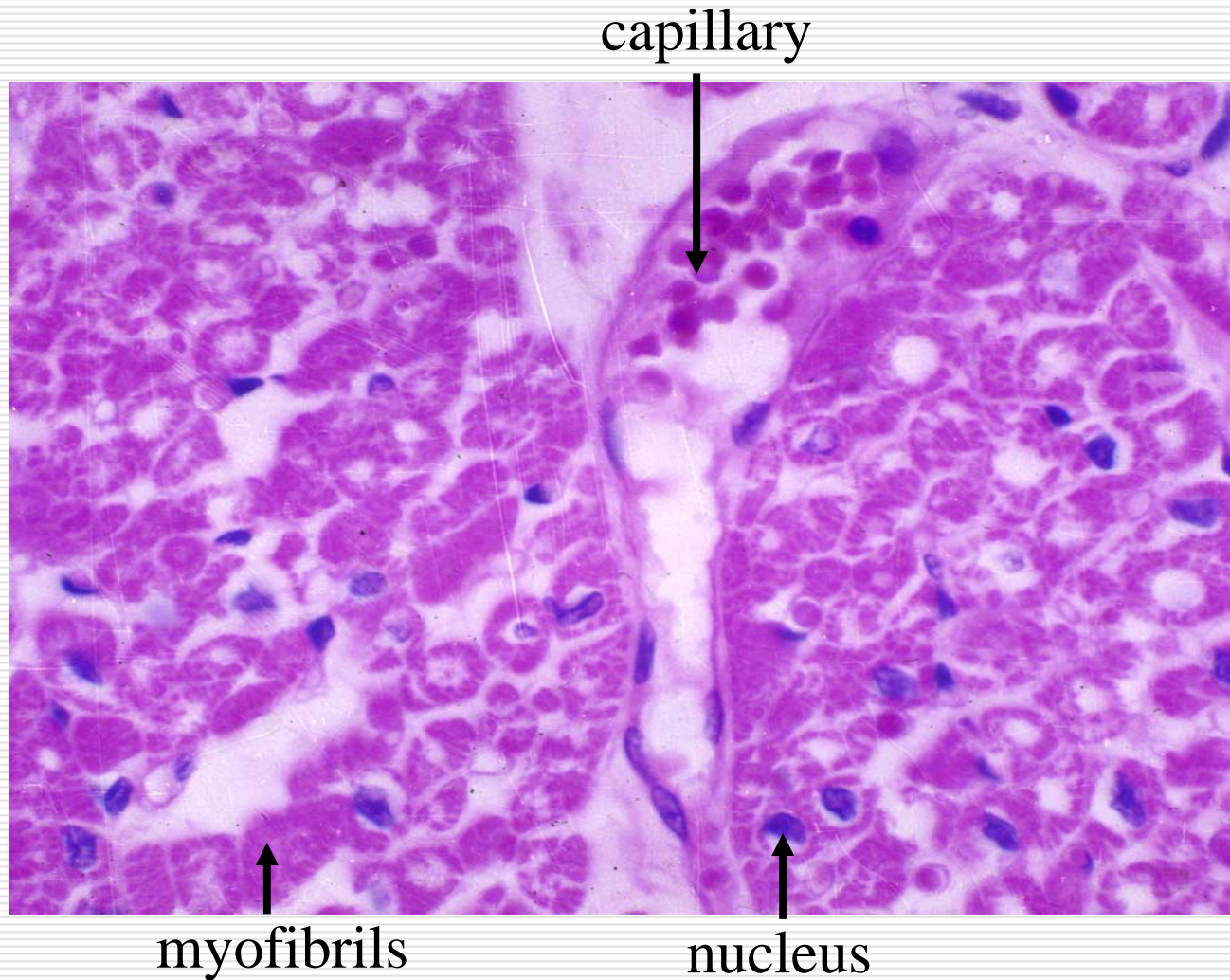
short cylindrical cells branch at their ends and connect with adjacent cells. It exhibits a cross-striated banding pattern.



Cardiac muscular cell:

short cylindrical with branches; cross-striated banding pattern  
1 or 2 centrally located nuclei; central light stained cytoplasm;  
intercalated disc: transverse line, junctional complex

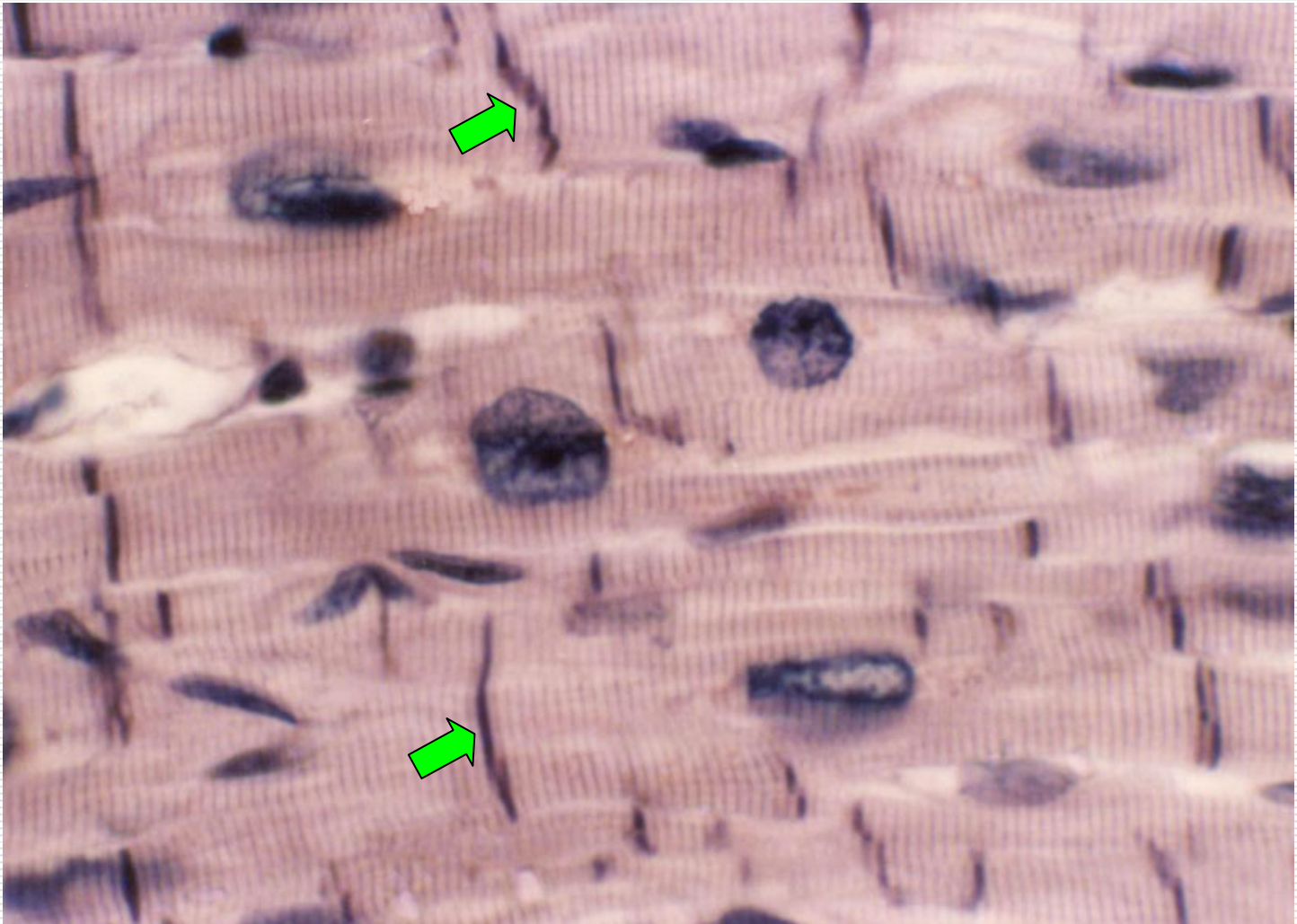




The sarcoplasm immediately surrounding the nuclei is poor in myofibrils, so it presents weaker acidophilia than the rest.

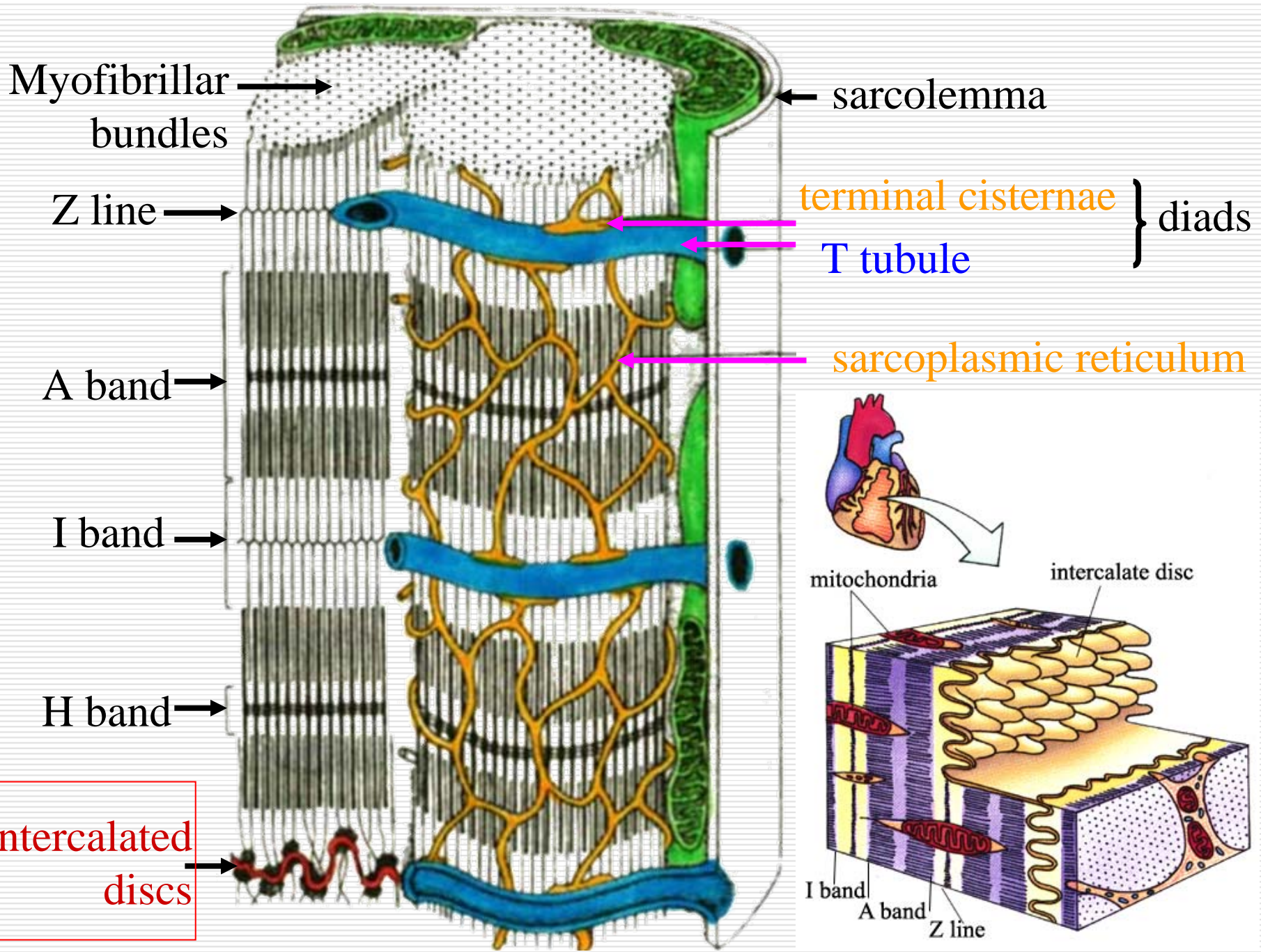
A rich network of capillaries winds among the cells.



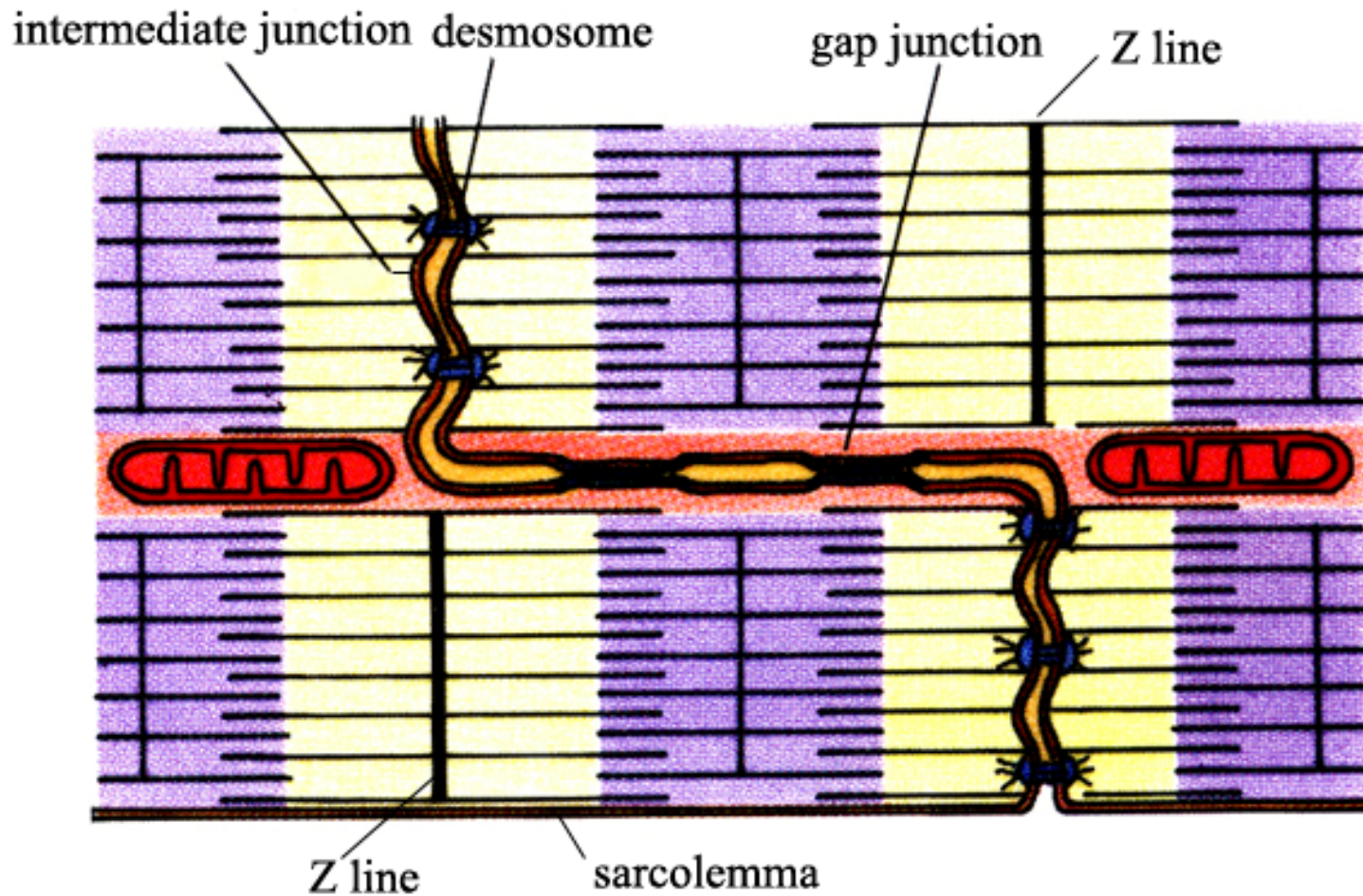


**intercalated discs are junctional complexes between adjacent cells, appear as black thick straight lines. The thin lines between intercalated discs are Z lines.**

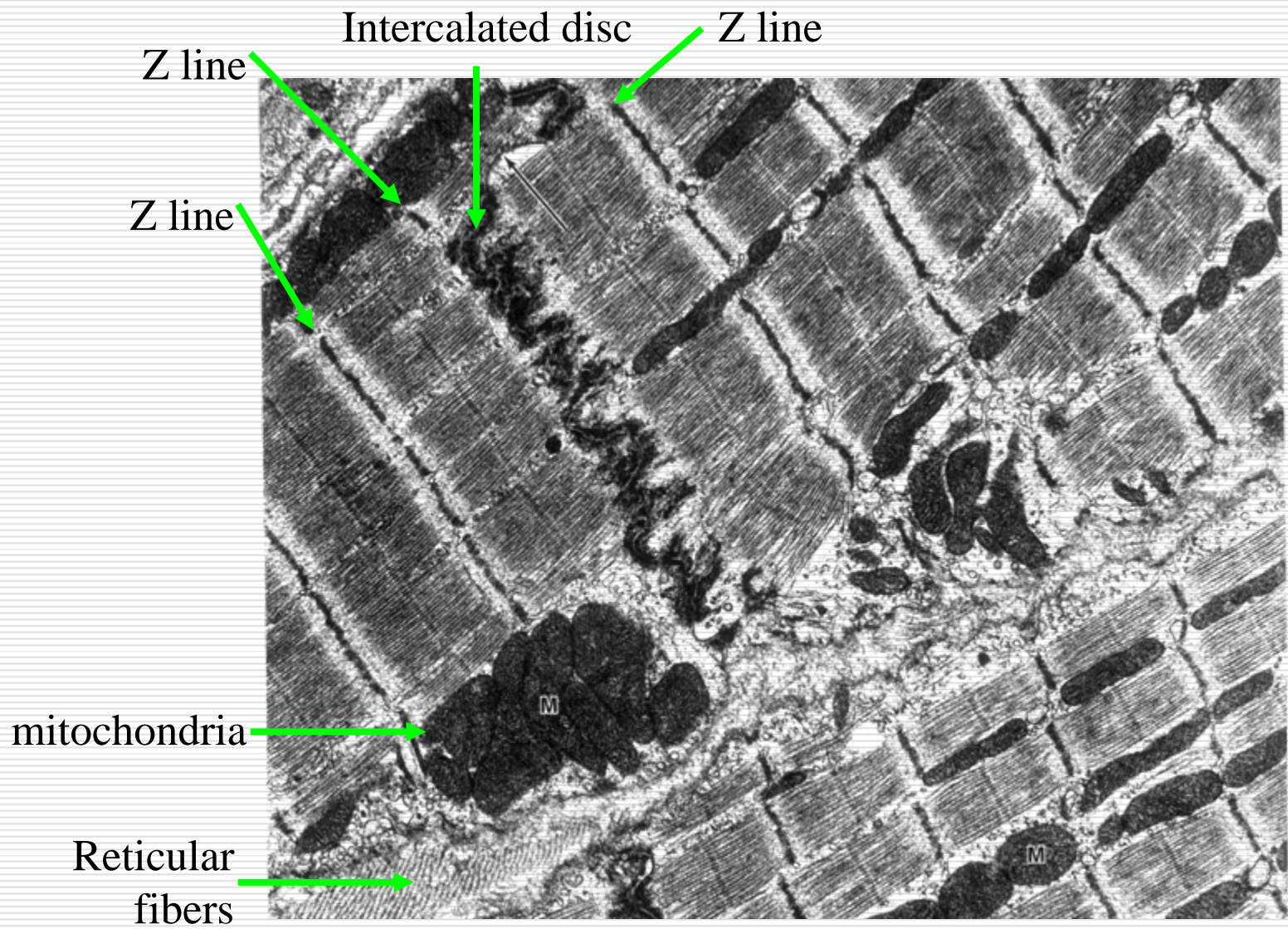








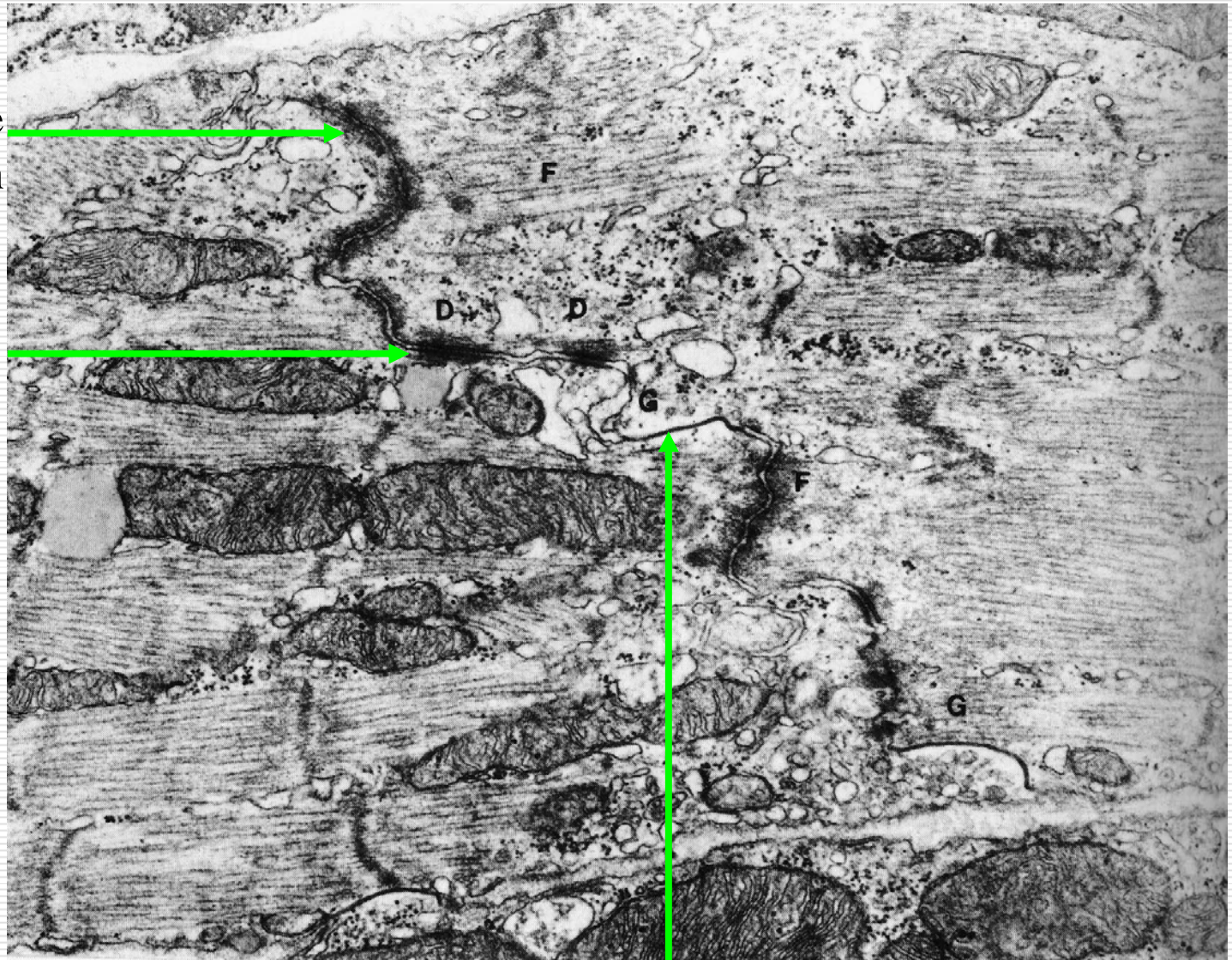
Intermediate junction: anchoring sites for actin filaments of the terminal sarcomeres  
Desmosome: prevent cardiac cells pulling apart under constant contractile activity  
Gap junction: provide ionic continuity, allow cells contract together





Intermediate  
junction

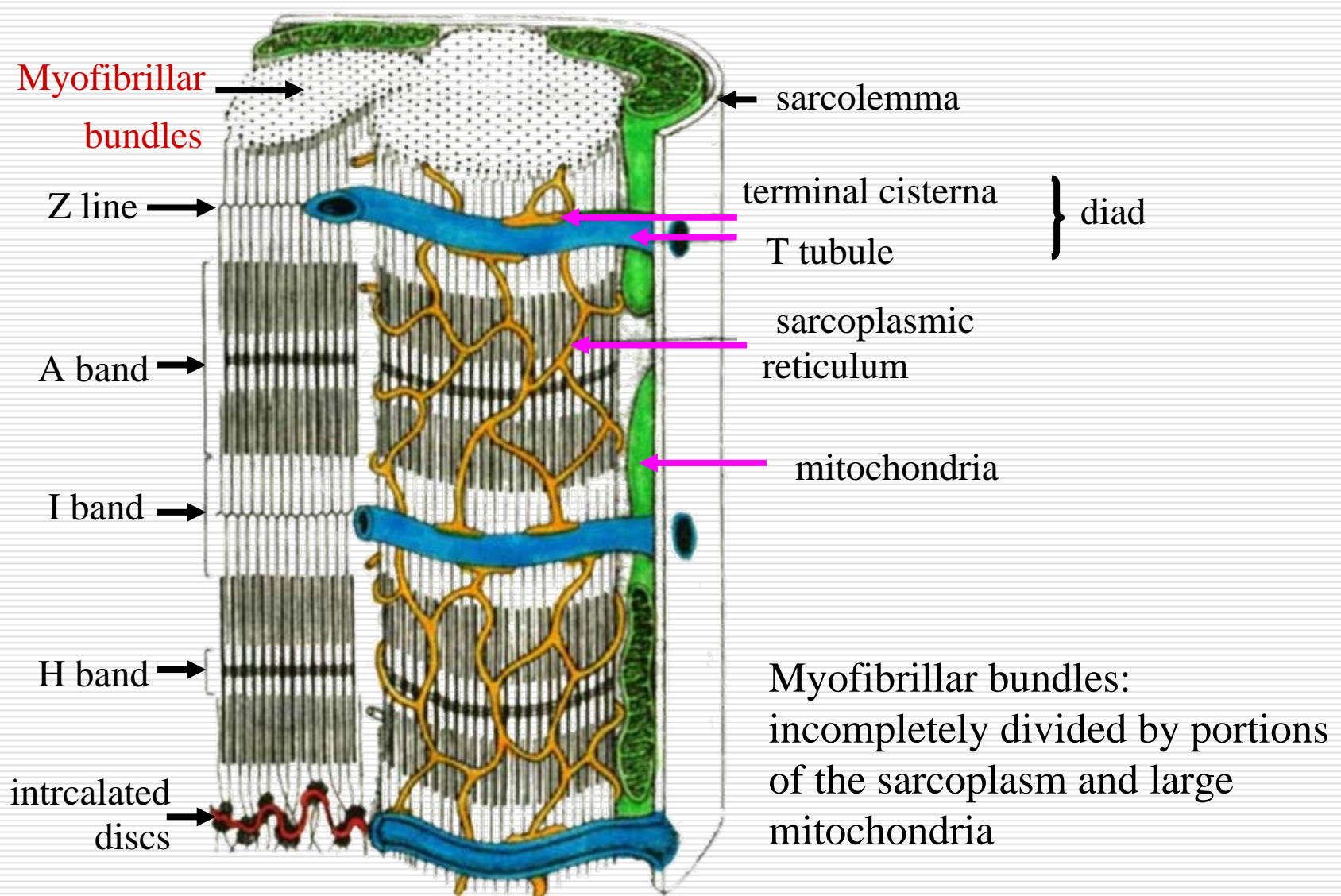
desmosome



Structure of Intercalated disc

Gap junction





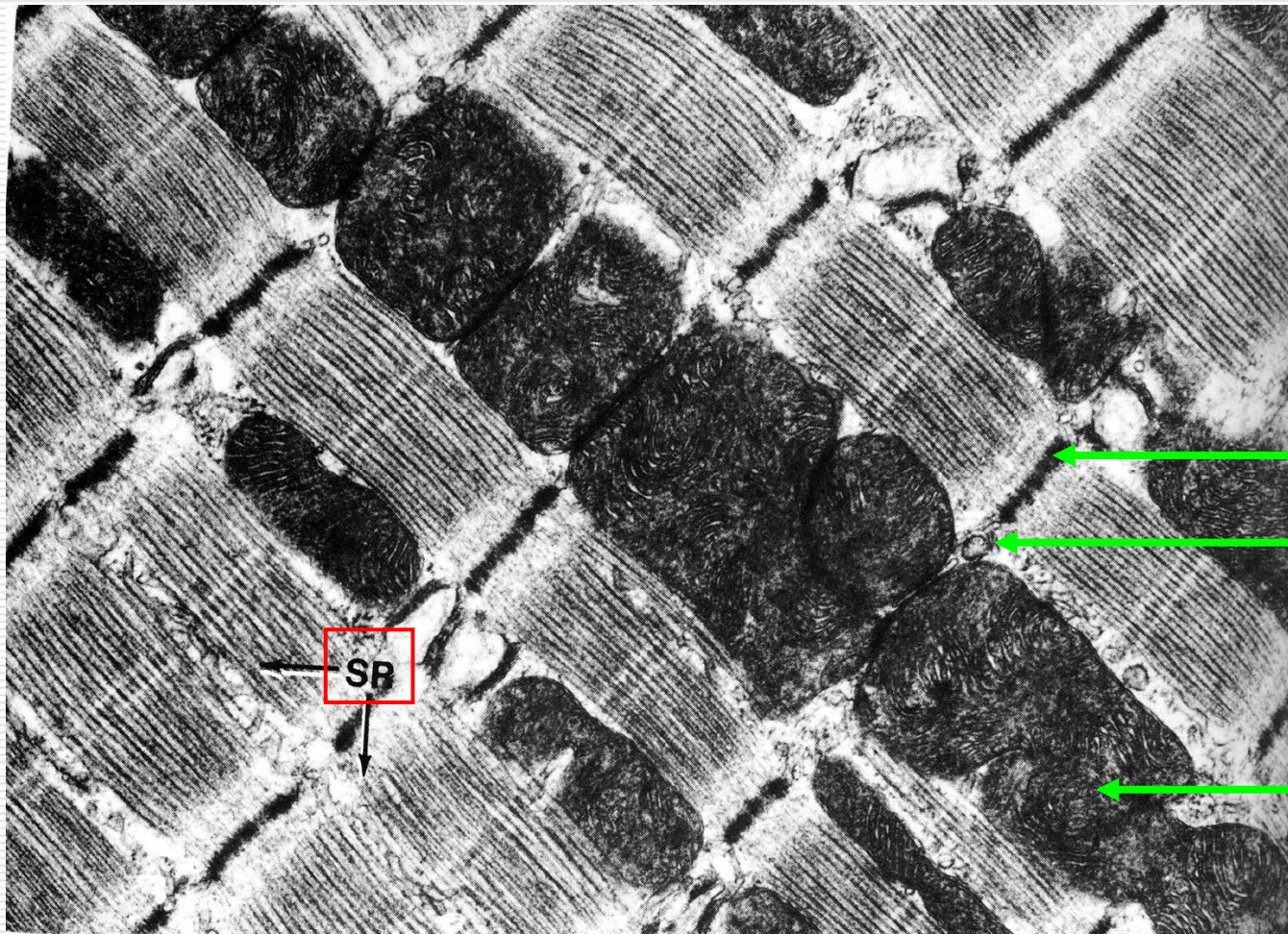
T tubules: more, larger, the level of the Z band

Sarcoplasmic reticulum: undeveloped, irregular

diads: one T tubule + one sarcoplasmic reticulum cisterna

Mitochondria: more numerous, larger





Z line

T tubule

mitochondria

T tubules: the level of the Z band  
sarcoplasmic reticulum

Mitochondria: more numerous, larger





granules →



atrial natriuretic factor:

In muscle cells of the atrium;

act on the kidneys to cause sodium and water loss



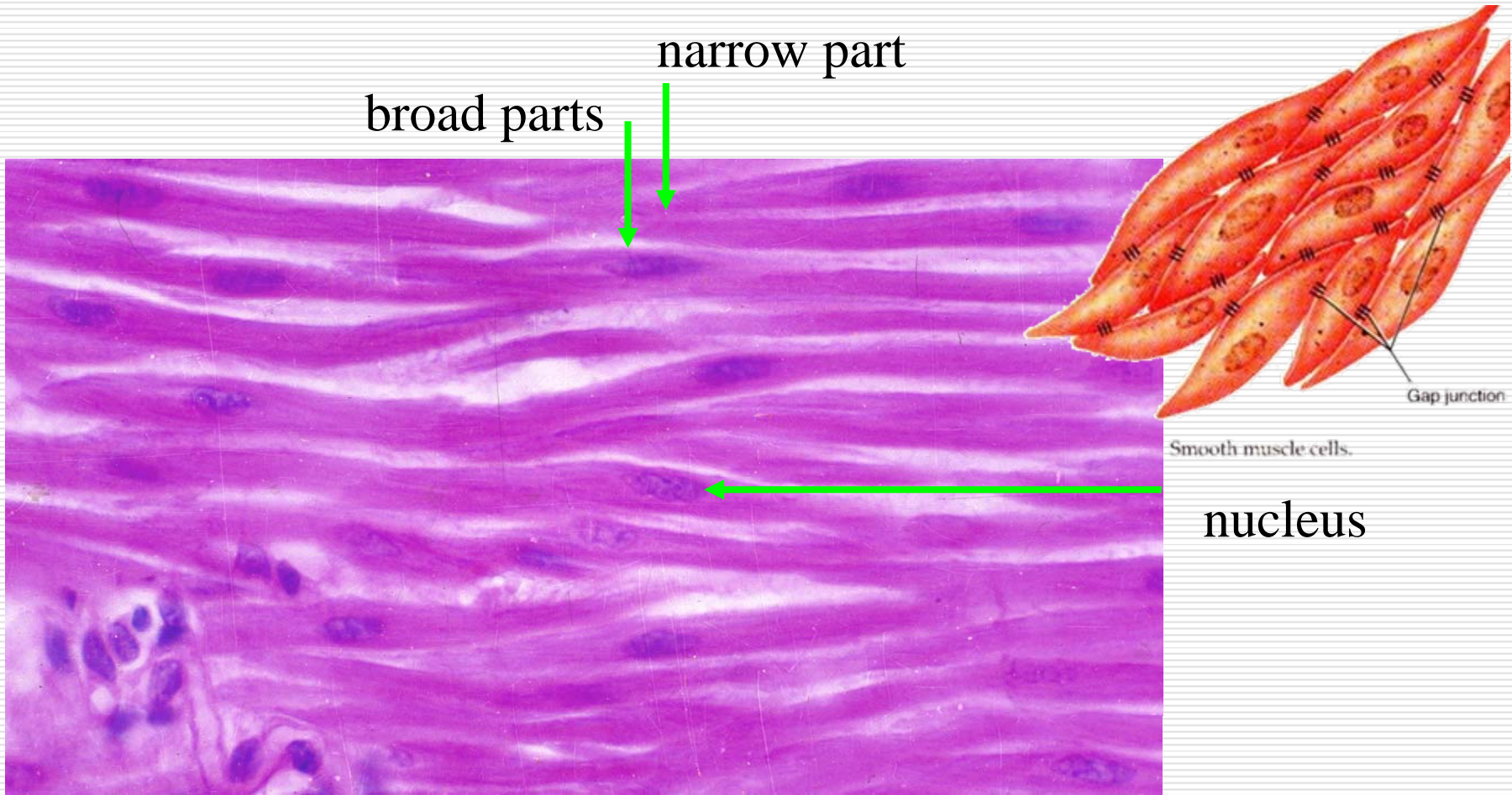
### 3. Smooth muscle

#### Fine structure under LM

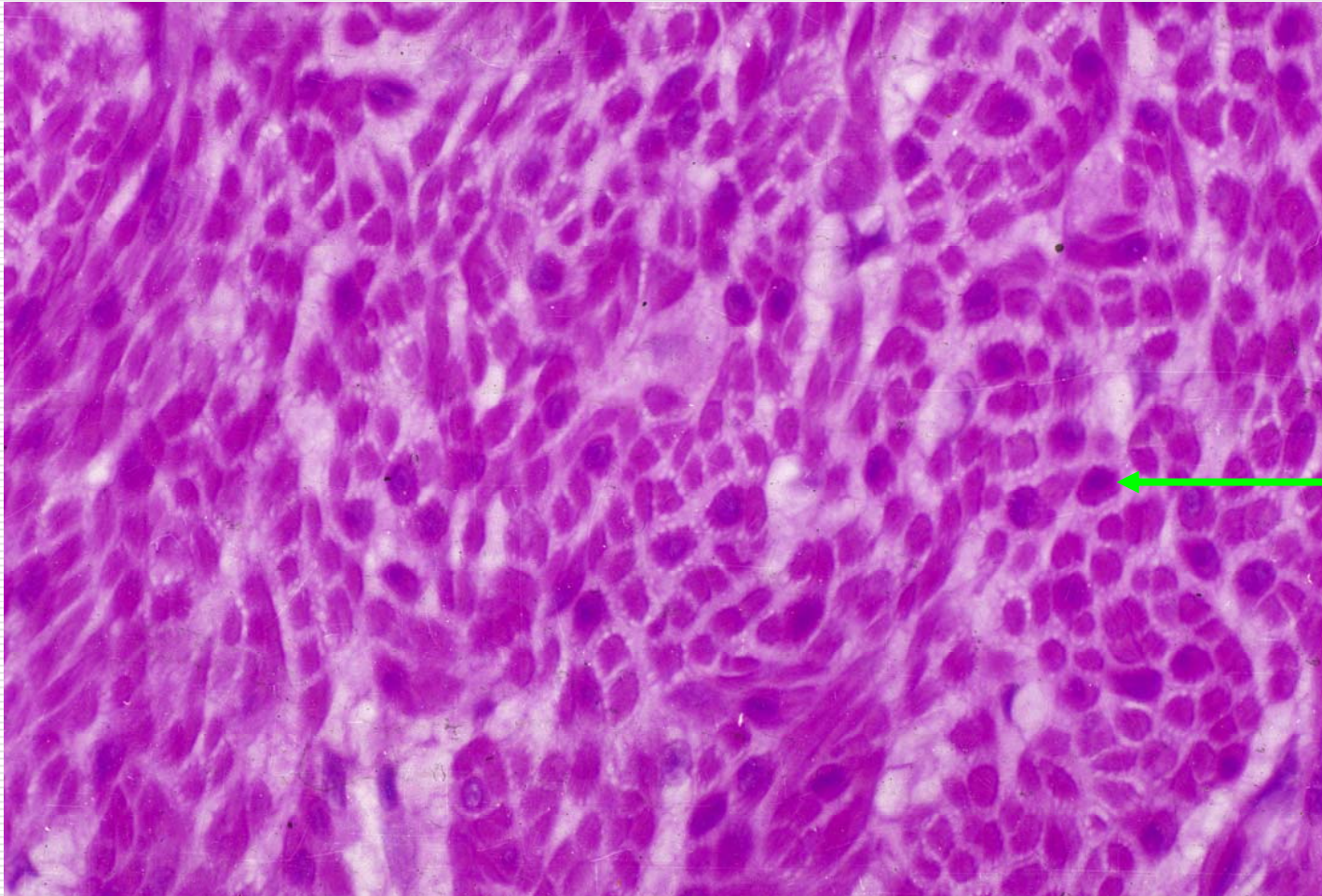
- cell body
- nucleus

#### Ultrastructure under EM

- sarcoplasmic reticulum
- myofilaments
- cytoskeleton



fusiform cells arranged in layers  
largest at their midpoints and taper toward ends.  
narrow part of one cell lies to the broad parts of adjacent cells  
single rod-like nucleus located in the center .

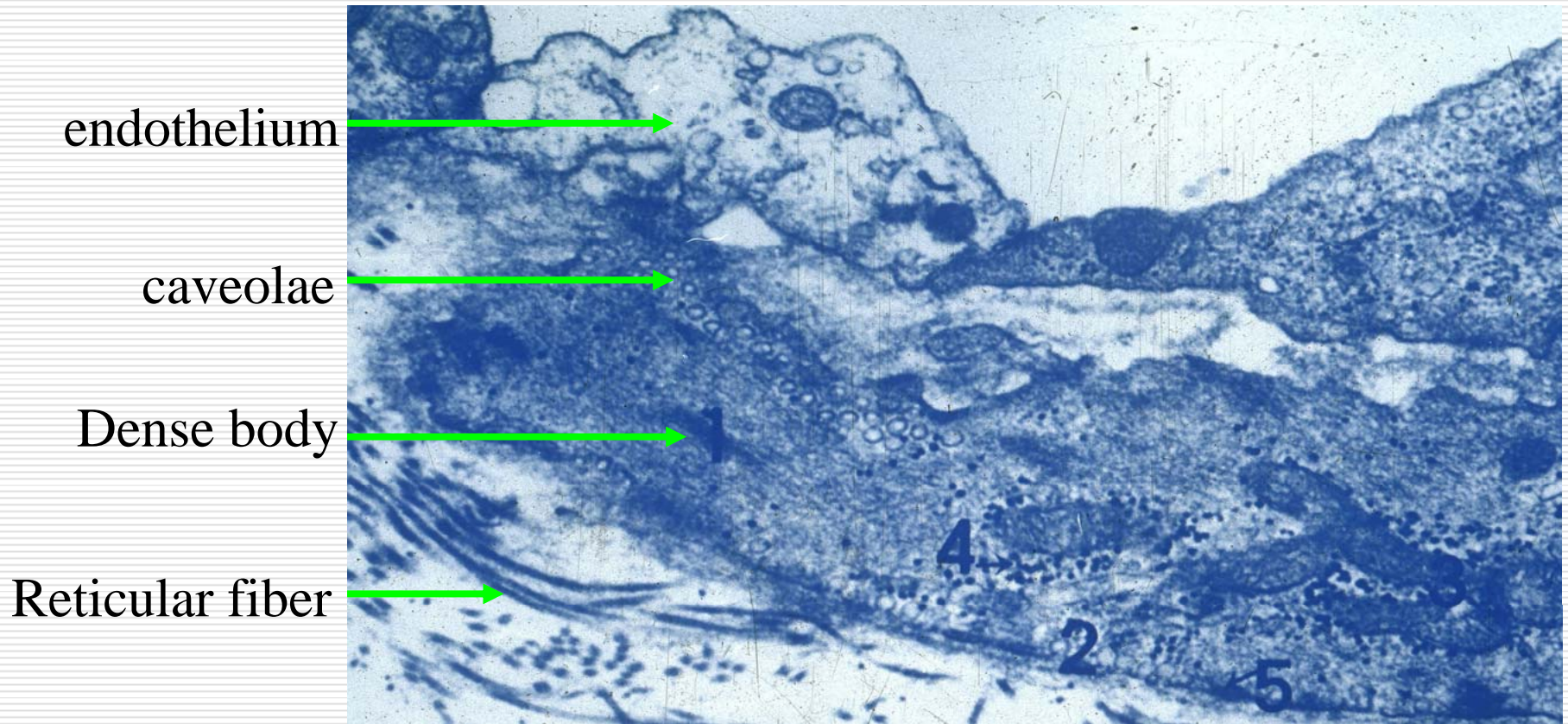


nucleus

a range of diameters  
only the largest profiles containing a nucleus







Dense patches

caveolae : counterparts of T tubules

myofilaments : thin filaments and thick filaments

cytoskeleton: dense patches, dense bodies, intermediate filaments

abundant gap junctions , poor nerve supply



# Key points

- ❑ Master the light microscopic structure and function of three types of muscle tissues
- ❑ Master the difference between skeletal and cardiac muscular cells in EM (ultrastructure)
- ❑ Master the function of atrial natriuretic factor
- ❑ Master the structure and function of intercalated disc
- ❑ Master the terms of sarcomere, T tubule, L tubule, triad, biad, terminal cisterna