

- Microfilaments, also called actin filaments, are polymers of the protein actin that are part of a cell's **cytoskeleton**.
- They are long chains of G-actin formed into two parallel polymers twisted around each other into a helical orientation with a diameter between 6 and 8nm.
- Common to all eukaryotic cells, these filaments are primarily structural in function and are an important component of the cytoskeleton, along with microtubules and often the intermediate filaments. They are the smallest filaments of the cytoskeleton.
- Their functions include cytokinesis, amoeboid movement and cell motility in general, changes in cell shape, endocytosis and exocytosis, cell contractility and mechanical stability.

