Optimization of Uniflagellate and Biflagellate Locomotion

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Taxonomy of Microorganisms



X

continuous gradient between

plantlike and animal-like

organisms

Structure of Flagella and Cilia

- Eukaryotic cells (flagella and cilia)
 - 9+2 microtubule structure
 - Diameter of tail \approx 250-400 nm \approx constant across ALL species!
 - Organism can apply local bending moments along the tail
 can select shape as a function of time (control kinematics)





http://sun.menloschool.org/~cweaver/cells/e/cilia_flagella/ http://cellbio.utmb.edu/cellbio/cilia.htm

Simple Model System: 3-link Swimmer

Life at low Reynolds number

E. M. Purcell

Lyman Laboratory, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138 (Received 12 June 1976)



- Purcell (1977): proposed design
 - "In fact, I worked this one out just for fun and you can prove from symmetry that it goes along the direction shown in the figure. As an exercise for the student, what is it that distinguishes that direction?"
- Becker, Koehler and Stone (2003): optimized geometry (arm length/body length and stroke angle)





0

22

Optimising Kinematics



Fixed geometry





Kanso and Marsden (2005) - 3-link fish Berman and Wang (2006) - insect flight

Model Swimmer



- Lowest order: resistive force theory
- Next order: can incorporate effects of slenderness and interactions between links

R. Cox. J. Fluid Mech. 44 (4), 791 (1970).J. Keller and S. Rubinow. J Fluid Mech. 75 705 (1976)



Effect of Slenderness



 Δ

0.0050

0.0025

0.0000

 $\mathbf{0}$

5

Biological systems

 $\check{\mathsf{Slenderness}}\,\log 1/\kappa$

 \triangle Tam and Hosoi stroke

□ Large amplitude strokes

10

15

- Biological systems sit at the "knee" (trade-off \bullet between robustness and efficiency)
- Raz and Avron found more efficient large amplitude strokes
 - only more efficient for very slender flagella (~3 OM larger than those found in nature)

Kinematics of uniflagellates



- Flagellum: Slenderbody theory find Stokeslet distribution (Keller and Rubinow, 1976)
- Head: Exact singularity distribution (Chwang and Wu. 1974)
- Head flagellum interaction: Faxen's laws (Happel and Brenner)
- Find optimal curvature along the tail



No head:



	Ψ	E	U/V
Analytical solution	40°	0.0857	0.29
Computed solution	$\sim 41^{\circ}$	~ 0.08	~ 0.25

Kinematics of uniflagellates



- Travelling wave (~ one wavelength)
- Localized regions of high curvature connected by segments of ~ zero curvature
- Curvature decreases from head to tail









Optimal Tail Length

Goal: To move genetic material

Q: For a given head size, what is the optimal tail length?



Optimal Tail Length





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Structure of Flagella and Cilia

- Eukaryotic cells (flagella and cilia)
 - 9+2 microtubule structure
 - Diameter of tail ≈ 250-400 nm ≈ constant across ALL species!

Diameter of tail is approximately constant across all species EXCEPT bandicoots.





Bandicoot (www.scarysquirrel.org)

The bandicoot spermatozoon: an electron microscope study of the tail

By K. W. CLELAND AND LORD ROTHSCHILD, F.R.S. Department of Histology and Embryology, University of Sydney, Australia, and Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge

(Received 15 July 1958)



Optimal Tail Length









-Escaping

- Same objective function as uniflagellates
 - Traveling waves (two sperm tails)
- More complex optimization space multiple local maxima





 Breast stroke (effective/ recovery)

Compare with Biology

From Ken Foster's and Juree Saranak's homepage



- Two commonly observed beat patterns
- "Normal" swimming effective/recovery stroke (breast stroke)



• Escape (shock response) - "hula" (traveling wave)



"Waves of bending, probably traveling from base to tip, pass along the flagella and exert a pushing force." D. Ringo (1967)



High-speed cinematography of chlamydomonas Reinhardtii stroke, Rüffer and Nultsch (1998)

Acknowledgments

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Funding by NSF



D. radiodurans (the world's toughest bacteria)

Back-up Slides

Model Swimmer

 $2b\zeta_6$

s =

y

Force per unit length (slender body theory):



R. Cox, Journal of fluid mechanics 44 (4), 791 (1970)

 Next order: can incorporate effects of slenderness and interactions between links