## Optimization of Uniflagellate and Biflagellate Locomotion

Anette (Peko) Hosoi<br>Hatsopoulos Microfluids Laboratory, MIT



## Taxonomy of Microorganisms

## FLAGELLAR HYDRODYNAMICS*

The John von Neumann Lecture, 1975
JAMES LIGHTHILL $\dagger$

## SIAM Review

Vol. 18. No. 2. April 1976

continuous gradient between plantlike and animal-like organisms

Sharp boundary between prokaryotic (no membrane-bound organelles) and eukaryotic (membrane-bound nuclei and other organelles )

Uniflagellate vs biflagellate

## Structure of Flagella and Cilia

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


Wemmer \& Marshall, 2004
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)




## 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. 75705 (1976)


Constraint: links are attached

Swimming velocities and efficiencies

## Effect of Slenderness




- Optimise kinematics for each value of slenderness more slender is better.
- Biological systems sit at the "knee" (trade-off 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:


|  | $\Psi$ | $\mathcal{E}$ | $U / V$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | $\Psi$ |  |  |
| Analytical solution | $40^{\circ}$ | 0.0857 | 0.29 |
| Computed solution | $\sim 41^{\circ}$ | $\sim 0.08$ | $\sim 0.25$ |

## Kinematics of uniflagellates

- Travelling wave (~ one wavelength)
- Localized regions of high curvature connected by segments of $\sim$ 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

## Goal: To move genetic material

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



## Structure of Flagella and Cilia

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


Wemmer \& Marshall, 2004
http://sun.menloschool.org/~cweaver/cells/e/cilia_flagella/ http://cellbio.utmb.edu/cellbio/cilia.htm

## 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!

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


The bandicoot spermatozoon: an electron microscope study of the tail

By K. W. Cleland and Lord Rothschmd, 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

## Goal: To move genetic material

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



Order Artiodactyla (even-toed ungulates)


## Biflagellate Kinematics

## Goal: Enhance nutrient uptake OR <br> Out-run predators




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

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

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


High-speed cinematography of chlamydomonas

## Acknowledgments

## Real work done by DANIEL TAM

Thanks to Dr. Linda Turner (Harvard) and Prof. Susan Suarez (Cornell) for many many many biology lessons

Funding by NSF

D. radiodurans (the world's toughest bacteria)

## Back-up Slides

## Model Swimmer

Force per unit length (slender body theory):

$$
\begin{gathered}
\frac{\mathcal{F}}{2 \pi \mu}=\left[\frac{-\mathbf{U}}{\ln \kappa}+\frac{\lim _{\epsilon \rightarrow 0}(\mathbf{J}-\mathbf{U} \ln (2 \epsilon))}{(\ln \kappa)^{2}}\right] \cdot[\boldsymbol{\Lambda} \boldsymbol{\Lambda}-2 \mathbf{I}]+\frac{-\mathbf{U}}{2(\ln \kappa)^{2}} \cdot[3 \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \boldsymbol{\Lambda}-2 \mathbf{I}] \\
\mathbf{J}=-\frac{1}{2}\left[\int_{0}^{s-\epsilon}+\int_{s+\epsilon}^{2 l}\right]\left[\frac{\mathbf{I}}{|\boldsymbol{\Delta}|}+\frac{\boldsymbol{\Delta} \boldsymbol{\Delta}}{|\boldsymbol{\Delta}|^{3}}\right] \times\left[\mathbf{I}-\frac{1}{2} \hat{\boldsymbol{\Lambda}} \hat{\boldsymbol{\Lambda}}\right] \cdot \hat{\mathbf{U}} d \hat{s}
\end{gathered}
$$

$$
\begin{equation*}
\Delta \equiv \mathbf{R}-\hat{\mathbf{R}} \tag{Cox}
\end{equation*}
$$


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


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

