The interactions and effects of fluid and body elasticity on locomotion at the micro-scale

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Joint work with Robert Guy, UC Davis

Micro-organisms move in complex environments at very small scales







- Chlamydomonas, Sperm, C. Elegans, bacteria
- Swim in a variety of media: water, cervical mucus, soil
 - Focus on *fluids with elasticity*
- Gait changes are observed as fluid changes
 - Can be functionally important
 - Focus on *undulatory waving sheets*
- How does fluid elasticity effect swimming speed?
 - Many different results in literature
 - Incomplete picture, complicated problem
 - Nonlinear interactions of fluid, body, gait...



From: Suarez and Dai, "Hyper-activation enhances mouse sperm capacity for penetrating viscoelastic media." *Biology of reproduction* 46.4 (1992): 686-691.

Is there a functional significance to these shapes and shape changes?

Some Results on Locomotion in Complex Fluids

Citation	Result
1979 Chaudhury (JFM) Asymptotic analysis, infinite sheet, 2 nd order fluid	Speed Up
1998 Fulford, Katz, Powell (Biorheology) Resistive force theory, general linear fluid, shear thinning	Speed Up
2007 Lauga (PoF) Asymptotic analysis, infinite small amp., wavy sheet, Oldroyd-B	Slow Down
2007,2009 Fu, Powers, Wolgemuth (PRL,PoF) Asymptotic analysis, UCM/ OB, helical	Slow Down
2010 Teran, Fauci, Shelley (PRL) Simulation, finite length, undulatory, Oldoryd-B	Speed Up (Local max)
2011 Shen, Arratia (PRL) Experiment, C. elegans (undulatory)	Slow Down
2011 Liu, Powers, Breuer (PNAS) Physical Experiment, helices	Speed Up
2013 Espinosa-Garcia, Lauga, Zenit (PoF) Phyiscal experiment, flexible tail	Speed Up (monotonic)
2013 Dasgupta, Liu,Fu,Berhanu,Breuer,Powers, Kudrolli (PRE) Physical experiment, "infinite sheet" (cylinder)	Depends on rheology
2013 Spagnolie, Liu, Powers (PRL) Simulation, helices, Oldroyd-B	Speed Up
2013 Montenegro-Johnson, Smith, Loghin (PoF) Simulation, Carreau fluid	Depends on stroke
2014 Riley, Lauga: Asymptotic analysis, flexible wave sheet	Speed Up

Oldroyd-B Model for Viscoelasticity

• Stokes Equations with extra stress due to polymer stress: au_p

$$\Delta \mathbf{u} - \nabla p + \xi \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\boldsymbol{p}} + \mathbf{f} = 0,$$

 $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0,$

- ξ polymer to solvent viscosity ratio
- γ rate-of-strain tensor
 upper-convected
 Maxwell

$$\mathrm{De}(\partial \boldsymbol{\tau}_{p}/\partial t + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \boldsymbol{\tau}_{p} - \nabla \mathbf{u} \ \boldsymbol{\tau}_{p} - \boldsymbol{\tau}_{p} \ \nabla \mathbf{u}^{T}) + \boldsymbol{\tau}_{p} = \dot{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}$$

• Deborah number:
$$De = \frac{\text{relaxation time}}{\text{flow time scale}}$$

De is a measure of elasticity of the fluid *De*→ 0 recover Newtonian fluid *De*→ ∞ recover neo-Hookean elastic solid

 Oldroyd-B model can also be derived from dilute suspension of dumbbells connected by linear springs



Asymptotic analysis: infinite length, small amplitude
 2007, Lauga: Always slow down





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- 2. Simulations: finite length, large amplitude
 - 2011, Teran-Fauci-Shelley: Non-monotonic speed up







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- 3. Biological experiment (C. Elegans): finite length, large amplitude
 - 2011, Shen-Arratia: Always slow down









Burrower Shen and Arratia (2011)

Thomases, Guy (2014)







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2014, Thomases-Guy: The gait is really important!







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- 3. Biological experiment (C. Elegans): finite length, large amplitude
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4. Physical experiment: finite length, large amplitude
2013, Espinosa-Garcia, Lauga, Zenit: Monontonic speed up



4. Physical experiment: finite length, large amplitude
2013, Espinosa-Garcia, Lauga, Zenit:
BIG Monontonic speed up



Model Equations

Fluid-Equations – Stokes-Oldroyd-B model

$$\Delta \mathbf{u} - \nabla p + \xi \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau_p} + \mathbf{f} = 0,$$
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0,$$

 $De(\partial \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\boldsymbol{p}}/\partial t + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\boldsymbol{p}} - \nabla \mathbf{u} \ \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\boldsymbol{p}} - \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\boldsymbol{p}} \ \nabla \mathbf{u}^{T}) + \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\boldsymbol{p}} = \dot{\boldsymbol{\gamma}}$

Structure Equations – penalty method (Immersed Boundary)

 $X_{t} = \int \delta(x - X(s,t))u(x,t)dx \qquad f_{struct} = \int \delta(x - X(s,t))F(s,t)ds$ fluid body

$$F = \frac{\delta E}{\delta X}$$

 E_s , stiff penalty for stretching $E = E_h + E_s$ "easy" to enforce

 $E_{b} = \frac{B}{2} \int (\kappa - \kappa_{0}(s,t))^{2} ds$

Prescribed body moments along the swimmer

- **Rigid body:** $B \gg 1$ realized shape is very close to prescribed • shape
- Flexible body: $B \approx 1$ elastic forces and viscous forces are of the • same scale and resultant shape is result of fluid-structure interaction

Speed dependence on frequency is related to swimmer body stiffness



Fluid elasticity measured with Deborah number

Change the Deborah number by changing the fluid **or** changing the period of oscillation

 $De = \frac{\lambda}{T} = \frac{\text{Viscoelastic relaxation time}}{\text{Period of oscillation}}$

- Numerical Simulations: Scale time by the period and thus change the relaxation time (Teran-Fauci-Shelley, Thomases-Guy)
- Biological experiment: (Shen-Arratia) Cannot control period and must change fluid (relaxation time)
- Physical model: E-L-Z (2013)
- Changed the period





Swimming speed for *soft kicker*





Deborah number alone is not the whole story!



Elasto-hydrodynamics

Balance of viscous drag force with elastic rod force



• Define a dimensionless (inverse) body relaxation time, G:

$$G = \frac{T}{B^{-1}\zeta L^4} = \frac{\text{Period of oscillation}}{\text{beam memory time}}$$
$$(G = Sp^{-4}, \text{ sperm number})$$



Elastic induced shape changes

- Elastic induced shape changes depend on G and De
- Small amplitude theory: shape changes first order in amplitude, swimming speed is second order
- Use linear viscoelasticity
 - Fulford et. al (1998), Fu-Wolgemuth-Powers (2007,2008)
- Obtain a complex drag coefficient, depends on fluid

$$\zeta_{viscoelastic} = \left(\frac{1 + \eta_p / \eta_s + 2\pi i \text{De}}{1 + 2\pi i \text{De}}\right) \zeta_{viscous}$$

- Solve for shape changes as a function of driving curvature
- Can we do analysis for LARGE AMPLITUDE?

Large Amplitude: Motion of curvature deviations

- Drive our system with prescribed target curvature
- Derive PDE for curvature deviations (good approximation for small amplitude or high stiffness limit)

$$c_t \approx -Gc_{ssss} - \frac{\partial \kappa_0}{\partial t}$$

Solve for shape as a function of prescribed curvature



Flexors: non-translating target curvature

Consider a flexible beam that does not translate horizontally, prescribe target curvature:

 $\kappa_0(s,t) = A\sin(\omega t)$



Flexors: compare simulation and theory



Emergence of three regimes, a very soft regime where the amplitude is always boosted, a moderately soft regime with a non-monotonic response, and a stiff regime with no amplitude boost



 $\kappa_{0}(s,t) = \frac{\alpha_{1}}{\alpha_{1}}\cos(2\pi t / T + \phi_{1})\psi_{1}(s) + \frac{\alpha_{2}}{\alpha_{2}}\cos(2\pi t / T + \phi_{2})\psi_{2}(s)$

Theoretical swimming speed **in viscous fluid** can be computed:

$$\left\langle U \right\rangle \propto \left(\frac{\zeta_{\perp}}{\zeta_{\parallel}} - 1 \right) \frac{1}{LT} \int_{0}^{T} \int_{0}^{L} y_{x} y_{t} \, ds \, dt$$
$$\left\langle U \right\rangle \propto \alpha_{1} \alpha_{2} \sin(\phi_{2} - \phi_{1})$$

Shape Comparisons: simulation and theory (Low amplitude is spot on)



Like the flexor the theory predicts the shape changes very well!

Theoretical vs. simulation swimming speed

Simulations

include other fluid effects

Theory – Speed changes due to shape changes

 $\propto \alpha_1 \alpha_2 \sin(\phi_2 - \phi_1)$





Theory ignores nonlinear elasticity effects

De = 4.0



Look at a measure of amplitude along side stress ratios



It is only in the high amplitude and high De regime where very large stresses develop

Some conclusions

- Espinosa-Garcia, Lauga, Zenit result has G≈0.43, soft regime, expect speed ups
- Another numerical group reported only slow-downs, 2016, Salazar, Roma, Ceniceros, G~7.7B, stiff regime (L = 0.6, G~B/L⁴), expect slow downs
- Essential to report body relaxation time:
 - 2007 Lauga small amplitude, large G, always slow down
 - o 2014 Riley, Lauga small amplitude, vary G, speed up possible
 - 2010 Teran, Fauci, Shelley large amplitude, small G, sometimes speed up
 - 2011 Shen, Arratia- large amplitude (head), large G, always slow down
 - 2013 Espinosa-Garcia, Lauga, Zenit large amplitude, small G, always speed up
 - o 2016 Salazar, Roma, Ceniceros, large G, always slow down

Some questions



- Away from the tail: linear elastic fluid assumption valid?
- What causes the large tail stresses?
- What is the effect on swimming from the large tail (or head) stresses?