# Swimming in Sand, part 3



Daniel I. Goldman School of Physics Georgia Institute of Technology Boulder Summer School on Hydrodynamics July 25-27

Lectures on the mechanics of interaction with granular media including biological & physics experiments, numerical, theoretical and physical robot models

# Topics in the lectures

(revised)

- General principles in terrestrial locomotion
- Intro to granular media
- Drag, lift and flow fields during localized intrusion in granular media
- Modeling approaches: DEM & RFT
- Sandfish biological experiments
- Sandfish modeling: robot
- Sandfish modeling: DEM
- Biological tests of model predictions
- RFT modeling of sand-swimming



# Swimming in Sand

#### Papers:

Maladen et al, Science, 2009 Maladen et al, Robotics: Science & Systems conference 2010 (Best paper award) Maladen et al, J. Royal Society Interface, 2011 Maladen et al, International Journal of Robotic Research, 2011 Maladen et al, ICRA, 2011



### Pdfs and links to movies here:

http://crablab.gatech.edu/pages/publications/index.htm

## The sandfish lizard

### Sandfish (*Scincus scincus*)



•Native to Sahara desert

•Adaptations for living in sand: countersunk jaw, fringe toes, smooth scales, flattened sidewalls

•One of ~10 species classified *subarenaceous*: "swims" within sand

# Swimming without use of limbs



#### 1 mm



Nematode *(C. elegans*) in fluid Hang Lu, Georgia Tech





1 cm

### Kinematics during steady swimming



Single period sinusoidal wave, traveling head to tail

n=11 animals mass=16.2 ± 4 g

# Swimming kinematics

y



## Swimming speed vs frequency & wave efficiency



# Swimming by the sandfish inspired robot



10 cm Robot on the surface

Submerge robot to a depth of 4 cm in closely packed bed

### Robot sub-surface Real time



## Integrating WM with DEM simulation

Particles above the robot rendered transparent



10 cm

Box dimensions: 108cm x 40cm x 15cm Number of particles: 3e5 Particle size : 0.6cm



# Sandfish scale simulation

Maladen, Ding, Umbanhowar, Goldman, J. Royal Soc. Interface, 2011

### 50 segment "sandfish" model







Motors controlled to generate sandfish's traveling sinusoidal wave *kinematics*.

$$\beta(i,t) = \tan^{-1} \left[ \frac{2\pi A}{\lambda} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{l} x_{i+1} + 2\pi f t\right) \right]$$
  
$$\leftarrow \tan^{-1} \left[ \frac{2\pi A}{5 \, \mathrm{gm}} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{Pp} x_i + 2\pi f t\right) \right]$$

~10<sup>5</sup>, 3 mm "glass" particles

### Simulate granular medium: Discrete Element Method

(e.g, see book by Rappaport)

Specify particle-particle/particle-intruder interaction rule



## Simulate granular medium: Discrete Element Method

(e.g, see book by Rappaport)

Specify particle-particle/particle-intruder interaction rule



Anesthetize animal, tilt platform until it slides down, obtain  $\mu_{pb}$ 





50:50 mix of 3.0,3.4 mm "glass spheres) Animal-particle friction = 0.27

# Simulated sand-swimming



# Trajectories of body markers



# Speed vs frequency and $\eta$

Swimming in 3 mm glass particles, in experiment and simulation



### Variation of amplitude-> optimal swimming in sand



**Hypothesis:** animal utilizes swimming kinematics which maximize escape into the sand  $\rightarrow$  a template!

## Localized fluid

### Redder particles $\rightarrow$ higher speed



# Resistive forces during swimming



### Motor activation (torque) pattern



A/λ=0.2



### Torque is frequency independent--> Frictional fluid



## Minimum mechanical cost of transport



## Power



At f=2.5 Hz, total power developed in the 15 gram swimmer is ~1 W.

Top is 5 cm below surface

1W/0.015 kg= 60 W/kg

Vertebrate muscle is capable of ~100 W/kg:

--Swoap et al, JEB, 1993 measured 154 W/kg at ~40 C in hind limb of desert iguana

--Carroll & Wainwright, Comp. Bio & Phys, 2006, max of 330 W/kg in epaxial musculature in a bass

so simulation is reasonable in this regard

### Power generation and dissipation on the body



Top is 5 cm below surface

### Internal actuation generates kinematics



### Motor driven

### Muscle driven

Can we use the model to predict how the sandfish "turns on" its muscles to move its body?

### Trunk musculature in a lizard



### Muscle activity recordings during subsuface swimming

#### Musculature



Steinmetz, Goldman, In prep, 2011

#### Implantation sites



#### Apparatus



## Swimming Muscle Activation (EMG)

Steinmetz, Goldman, In prep, 2011

Slowed x10



Intensity=EMG burst area/EMG duration

Control: Intensity is recorded when animal is not moving

## Speed independence

Steinmetz, Goldman, In prep, 2011



### Biological support for frictional fluid picture

### Numerical Simulation Predicts an Increase in Motor Torque with Depth



## Intensity increases with depth



# Activation timing of the wave

Slowed x5

1 cm







### Emergent Activation Pattern with Simple Model

# Timing is similar between experiment and simulation



### Theory of sand-swimming



- **Goal**: gain analytic understanding using tools developed for small organisms swimming in fluids *Resistive Force Theory*
- Simplify: no taper, flat head (in simulation η=0.45 for flat head, η=0.57 for tapered head, difference of ~20%)

## **Resistive force modeling**



$$\delta F_x = F_{\perp}(\psi) \sin \theta - F_{\parallel}(\psi) \cos \theta$$
$$\int_0^t (\frac{F_{\perp}(\psi)}{area} \sin \theta - \frac{F_{\parallel}(\psi)}{area} \cos \theta) \sqrt{1 + \tan^2 \theta} b dx + \overline{F}_{head} = 0$$

(after Gray and Hancock, 1954, Taylor 1952

 Assume square cross-section swimming at constant speed at fixed depth with waveform:

$$y = A\sin\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}(x + v_w t)$$
  $\tan \theta = \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2A\pi}{\lambda}\cos\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}(x + v_w t)$ 

$$v_y = \frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{2A\pi v_w}{\lambda} \cos \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} (x + v_w t) \qquad \psi = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{v_y}{v_x} \right) - \theta.$$

- Non-inertial movement (net thrust=net drag)
- Head drag = flat plate (or for taper use 30% flat plate, Schiffer, 2001)
  - Insert force laws to solve for  $\eta = v_x / v_w$  for given A,  $\lambda$  and obtain  $v_x = \eta v_w = \eta \lambda f$

## **Resistive force modeling**

(after Gray and Hancock, 1954)



In low Re fluids, for long narrow element



C<sub>⊥</sub>: C<sub>||</sub> ≈ 2:1

# Granular resistive forces

Obtain empirical drag laws for  $F_{\perp}$  and  $F_{\parallel}$ 



- Drag rod in simulation of 3 mm "glass" particles while varying φ
- Use simulation to resolve forces on all surfaces
- Average in space and time during steady state, divide by area to find surface stresses



## Granular resistive forces



Empirical granular resistive force laws

$$F_{\perp} = C_S \sin \beta_0$$
  

$$F_{\parallel} = [C_F \cos \psi + C_L (1 - \sin \psi)]$$
  

$$\tan \beta_0 = \gamma \sin \psi$$

Independent of speed



### Resistive forces in DEM and RFT





Square body, no taper, 3 mm particles

## **Resistive force modeling**



• Assume square cross-section swimming at constant speed at fixed depth with waveform:

$$y = A\sin\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}(x + v_w t)$$
  $\tan \theta = \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2A\pi}{\lambda}\cos\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}(x + v_w t)$ 

$$v_y = \frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{2A\pi v_w}{\lambda} \cos \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} (x + v_w t) \qquad \psi = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{v_y}{v_x} \right) - \theta.$$

- Non-inertial movement (net thrust=net drag)
- Head drag = flat plate (or for taper use 30% flat plate, Schiffer, 2001)

Insert force laws to solve for  

$$\eta = v_x / v_w$$
 for given A,  $\lambda$  and  
obtain  $v_x = \eta v_w = \eta \lambda f$ 

# **RFT** solution



Range=from 30% flat plate drag on head to flat plate head

## Granular resistive forces



Empirical granular resistive force laws

$$F_{\perp} = C_S \sin \beta_0$$
  

$$F_{\parallel} = [C_F \cos \psi + C_L (1 - \sin \psi)]$$
  

$$\tan \beta_0 = \gamma \sin \psi$$

Independent of speed



## Wave efficiencies of undulatory swimmers

(see Alexander, Vogel, Gray & Hancock, Lighthill, etc..)



Maladen, et. al (2009), Hu (2010), Jung(2010), Gray and Lissman (1964), Gray and Hancock (1955), Gillis (1996), Fish (1984)

## RFT captures form of $\eta$ vs A/ $\lambda$

Gray=Analytic solutions (head drag neglected)



Competition of effects leads to maximum



Body lengths/cycle=





### RFT captures functional form & location of optimum

Sandfish simulation in loose packed 3 mm glass beads



RFT force approximation is good at intermediate A/ $\lambda$  but not good instantaneously at small A/ $\lambda$ 

 $A/\lambda = 0.06$   $A/\lambda = 0.22$ 

Green=RFT (using steady state drag) Black=DEM (measured instantaneously)

### Why thrust is over-estimated in RFT

Examine *transient* response in rod drag



10 cm long rod, 4 cm deep

### Force buildup occurs over a characteristic length



## Analytic approximations

Gray=Analytic solutions (head drag neglected)



### Direction of motion of segments

Blue arrows are velocity of each element







$$\delta F_x = F_{\perp}(\psi) \sin \theta - F_{\parallel}(\psi) \cos \theta$$





1 2



3



$$\delta F_x = F_{\perp}(\psi) \sin \theta - F_{\parallel}(\psi) \cos \theta$$











## Why is $\eta$ independent of $\phi$ ?

Force laws for 0.3 mm particles



### **OR...** Localized fluid achieves same state

### Initial

### Final

Initial low ¢ state

Initial high φ state



"wake" achieves similar φ

### RFT over-estimates η



Hypothesis scale thrust (but not drag) by 50%

## Summary

- Yielding terrestrial substrates---solid and fluid-like response to stress
  - many open locomotion questions
- Volume fraction qualitatively affects drag force: LP $\rightarrow$ fluid-like, CP $\rightarrow$ fracturing solid
- Granular lift forces are sensitive to shape dependent and can be approximated by summing plate elements
- Sandfish lizard swims within granular media ("frictional fluid") of different preparations using similar body undulation kinematics
  - Template for swimming in sand?
- DEM, robot and RFT models capture mechanics of sand-swimming:

−  $v_x$  vs f,  $\eta \approx 0.5$ , optimality condition A/ $\lambda$ =0.2

- RFT systematically deviates from DEM model
  - Ding et al, in prep, will show that instantaneous force=average drag force is not a good approximation