

UC San Diego

UC San Diego Electronic Theses and Dissertations

Title

The Wobbling to Swimming Transition of Rotated Helices

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/7vv7766j>

Author

Man, Yi

Publication Date

2013

Peer reviewed|Thesis/dissertation

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

The Wobbling to Swimming Transition of Rotated Helices

A thesis submitted in partial satisfaction of the
requirements for the degree
Master of Science

in

Engineering Science (Mechanical Engineering)

by

Yi Man

Committee in charge:

Professor Eric Lauga, Chair
Professor Daniel Tartakovsky
Professor William Young

2013

Copyright
Yi Man, 2013
All rights reserved.

The thesis of Yi Man is approved, and it is acceptable in quality and form for publication on microfilm and electronically:

Chair

University of California, San Diego

2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Signature Page	. . . . .	iii
Table of Contents	. . . . .	iv
List of Figures	. . . . .	v
Acknowledgements	. . . . .	vii
Vita	. . . . .	viii
Abstract of the Thesis	. . . . .	ix
Chapter 1	Introduction	1
Chapter 2	Modeling the dynamics of artificial bacterial flagella	5
	2.1 Geometry	5
	2.2 Dynamics	6
	2.2.1 External torque	6
	2.2.2 Hydrodynamics	7
	2.2.3 Force and torque balance	8
	2.3 Nondimensionalization	9
Chapter 3	Numerical Results	12
Chapter 4	Asymptotic Analysis	15
	4.1 Zeroth order solution	17
	4.2 First order solution	18
	4.3 Wobbling angle	19
	4.4 Time-averaged swimming velocity	20
Chapter 5	Discussion	23
Appendix A	mobilities	25
Bibliography	. . . . .	28

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1:	Experimental dependence of helix (artificial bacterial flagella) wobbling angle as a function of the magnetic field frequency (log-log scale), reproduced from Ref. [1]. The line in the figure has the slope of -1 showing that the wobbling angle scales as the inverse of the frequency.	3
Figure 2.1:	Geometry of the rigid helix as a model for an artificial bacterial flagellum. The parameters of the helix are its wavelength λ , the helix angle θ , the radius R , the diameter of the cross-section $2r$, and the number of wavelengths n . The wobbling angle, which is the angle between the axis of the helix and the mean forward velocity, is denoted β . The vectors $(\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{e}_3)$ and $(\mathbf{e}_x, \mathbf{e}_y, \mathbf{e}_z)$ constitute the laboratory frame and body frame respectively. The magnetic field, \mathbf{B} , rotates in the $(\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2)$ plane with frequency ω	6
Figure 2.2:	Example of a straight swimming artificial bacteria flagellum. Velocity (left) and rotation rate (right) in the body frame (top) and laboratory frame (bottom) with $n = 4$ wavelengths, a helix angle of $\theta = \pi/4$, and $\text{Ma} = 0.4$. In the body frame, both the velocity and rotation rates reach steady values, while in the laboratory frame the velocities in the \mathbf{e}_1 and \mathbf{e}_2 directions oscillate around a zero mean. The wobbling angle in this case is $\beta \approx 0.9^\circ$ which is almost zero and thus the helix essentially swims in a straight line. The four panels display the variation with the dimensionless time of: (a) velocity in the body frame; (b) rotation rate in the body frame; (c) velocity in the laboratory frame; (d) rotation rate in the laboratory frame.	10
Figure 3.1:	Same as Fig. 2.2 but with a Mason number decreased to $\text{Ma} = 0.0063$. In this case significant wobbling is obtained with $\beta \approx 35^\circ$. Compared to Fig. 2.2 the mean velocity in the forward direction has decreased while the velocity amplitudes in other two directions have increased. In addition, the rotation rate in the \mathbf{e}_x direction is no longer zero.	13
Figure 3.2:	Dependence of the wobbling angle β (in degrees) on the dimensionless time, ωt , for a helix with $n = 3$ wavelengths and an angle of $\theta = \pi/6$ (a) and $\theta = \pi/4$ (b).	14

Figure 4.1: Dependence of the long-time wobbling angle β (in degrees) on the Mason number, Ma , for four different helix angles, $\pi/10$, $\pi/6$, $\pi/4$, $\pi/3$, and a number of wavelengths $n = 3$ (left) and $n = 4$ (right). Results are plotted on a log-log scale demonstrating a $\beta \sim \text{Ma}^{-1}$ relationship in the wobbling-to-swimming transition. 15

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to acknowledge Professor Eric Lauga for his support as the chair of my committee. His guidance has proved to be invaluable. Chapter 1-5, in full, has been submitted for publication of the material as it may appear in *Physics of Fluids*, 2013, Man, Yi; Lauga, Eric. The thesis author was the primary investigator and author of this paper.

VITA

- 2011 B. S. in Theoretical and applied mechanics, Peking University, Beijing, China
- 2011-2013 Graduate Student, University of California, San Diego
- 2013 M. S., in Mechanical Engineering, University of California, San Diego

ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

The Wobbling to Swimming Transition of Rotated Helices

by

Yi Man

Master of Science in Engineering Science (Mechanical Engineering)

University of California, San Diego, 2013

Professor Eric Lauga, Chair

A growing body of work aims at designing and testing micron-scale synthetic swimmers. One method, inspired by the locomotion of flagellated bacteria, consists in applying a rotating magnetic field to a rigid, helically-shaped, propeller attached to a magnetic head. When the resulting device, termed an artificial bacteria flagellum, is aligned perpendicularly to the applied field, the helix rotates and the swimmer moves forward. Experimental investigation of artificial bacteria flagella stability shows that at low frequency of the applied field, the helix axis

does not align perpendicularly to the field but wobbles around that direction, with an angle which increases as the inverse of the field frequency. We use numerical computations and an asymptotic analysis to provide a theoretical explanation for this wobbling behavior. We first build a dynamical model for the locomotion of an artificial bacteria flagellum based on the mechanical balance of forces and moments and on resistive-force theory for the hydrodynamics. A numerical solution of the dynamical system demonstrates the wobbling-to-swimming transition as a function of the helix geometry and the dimensionless Mason number quantifying the ratio of viscous to magnetic torques. We then employ an asymptotic expansion for near-straight helices to derive an analytical estimate for the wobbling angle allowing to rationalize our computations and past experimental results. These results can help guide future design of artificial helical swimmers.

Chapter 1

Introduction

A significant effort in the fluid mechanics literature has focused on the individual and collective dynamics of low-Reynolds number swimmers. The original work in the field, started decades ago, aimed at quantifying the kinematics and energetics of biological microorganisms such as bacteria, spermatozoa, or plankton [2, 3]. Recently, fluid mechanical studies have also focused on the dynamics of artificial microswimmers, motivated in part by potential application of small-scale locomotion to targeted drug delivery, micro-surgery, or diagnostics [4, 5, 6, 7].

As is now well known, the physics of swimming in Stokes flows is quite different from that of swimming on a human length scale. The oft-cited distinguishing property is the scallop theorem [8], which states that locomotion by a sequence of shape which is reciprocal (i.e. identical under a time-reversal symmetry) leads to zero net propulsion. So, for example, the flapping of the fins of a scuba diver does not work on small length scales. Biological organisms are able to circumvent the constraints of the theorem by deforming their bodies or appendages (flagella) in a wave-like fashion breaking the time-reversibility requirement [9, 10].

Broadly speaking, three different types of synthetic micro/nano swimmers have been proposed. The first kind exploits chemical reactions on patterned catalytic surfaces and the flow resulting from phoretic or electrokinetic motion [11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17]. The second type, actuated by external (typically magnetic) fields, exploits the presence of a nearby surface to escape the constraint of the scallop theorem under a time-periodic actuation [18, 19, 20]. The final category

of synthetic swimmer is inspired by the locomotion strategy of flagellated bacteria, namely the rotation of one or many helical flagella [21]. Flexible, straight, filaments can acquire chirality when actuated in rotation by an external field, leading to propulsion scaling nonlinearly with the field frequency [22, 23, 24]. Alternatively, the chirality can be built in the design and fabrication of the filament, the simplest examples of which are rigid helical filaments attached to magnetic heads which, under an externally rotating magnetic field, rotate as cork-screws and lead to forward motion [25, 26, 27].

In this paper we focus on the dynamics of such rigid helical propeller, referred to in the literature as artificial bacteria flagellum (or flagella). Different experimental protocols have been proposed to design them capable of precise motion control yet high speed velocities. One method uses a self-scrolling technique to fabricate a nanobelt-based artificial bacteria flagellum consisting of a helical metal tail attached to a thin square soft-magnetic metal head [25]. This helix has a width of $1.8 \mu\text{m}$, a wavelength of $10 \mu\text{m}$, and is equipped with a square head, of width $1.8 \mu\text{m}$ [25, 1], which can alternatively be replaced by a microholder to allow cargo transport [28]. A different design was implemented using glancing angle deposit [26]. The helix in this case is made of silicon dioxide, and has a width of $200 - 300 \text{ nm}$ and a length of $1 - 2 \mu\text{m}$ [26]. In both cases, the artificial bacteria flagella possess a magnetic moment perpendicular to the long axis of the helix and are controlled by an externally-rotating magnetic field generated by triaxial Helmholtz coils. Under this actuation, the nano-belt based swimmer in Ref. [25] with four wavelengths is able to swim with velocity $\approx 5 \mu\text{m/s}$ at an input frequency of about 10 Hz while the glass (silicon dioxide) helix from Ref. [26] can swim at a velocity $\approx 40 \mu\text{m/s}$ at a field frequency of about 150 Hz .

In order for a helical filament to give rise to efficient forward propulsion, the axis of the helix needs to remain straight and to point in the swimming direction. In that case, local thrust arising from the fluid drag is everywhere directed along the helix axis [9]. Therefore, in order for artificial bacteria flagella to be efficient, it is experimentally important that their axis remain always perpendicular to applied field, in which case one would then expect a swimming velocity scaling linearly with

the input frequency [25, 1, 26]. Experimentally, problems are however seen to arise at both high and low frequencies. When the frequency is larger than a critical value (step-out frequency), the viscous drag becomes larger than the typical magnetic torque and the helix can no longer follow the field [1, 27].

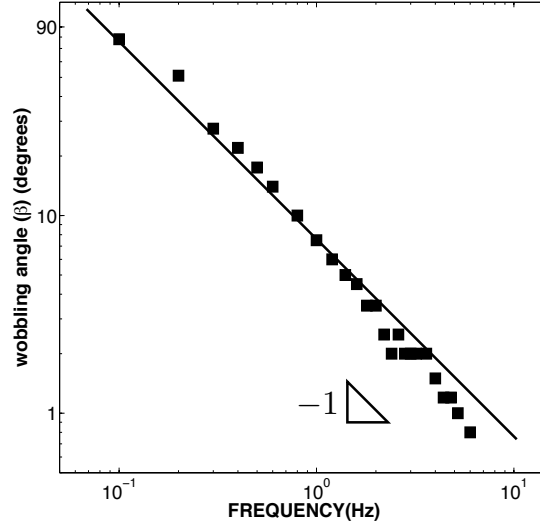


Figure 1.1: Experimental dependence of helix (artificial bacterial flagella) wobbling angle as a function of the magnetic field frequency (log-log scale), reproduced from Ref. [1]. The line in the figure has the slope of -1 showing that the wobbling angle scales as the inverse of the frequency.

Perhaps more surprisingly, at low actuation frequency, the axis of the artificial bacteria flagellum is observed experimentally to not to remain straight and perpendicular to the plane of the magnetic field but instead undergoes a periodic processive movement at an angle with the (desired) average swimming direction. This movement, referred to as wobbling, is best characterized by an average wobbling angle [1], with straight swimming corresponding to a wobbling angle of zero. At small frequencies (typically below a few Hertz in the experiments of Ref. [1]) the wobbling angle is observed to increase as the frequency decreases, from zero up to a maximum of ninety degrees at the lowest test frequency (meaning that, in this limit, the helix axis actually rotates at a right angle with respect to the desired swimming direction). Plotting the measured wobbling angle from Ref. [1] in Fig. 1.1 we see that the wobbling angle, β , scales as the inverse first power of

the field frequency, $\beta \sim \omega^{-1}$. In this paper, we use numerical computations and a theoretical analysis to provide a physical model for this wobbling behavior.

Our paper is organized along three sections. We first build a mathematical model of the dynamics of artificial bacteria flagella based on the mechanical balance of forces and torques together with resistive force theory for the hydrodynamics. We then employ numerical computations to characterize the steady-state locomotion of artificial bacteria flagella and demonstrate numerically a transition from wobbling to swimming with a similar inverse frequency scaling as the one seen experimentally. We finally employ an asymptotic analysis to provide an analytical model for the wobbling behavior, recovering in particular the scaling with the frequency and predicting the geometrical factors affecting it.

Chapter 1, in full, has been submitted for publication of the material as it may appear in *Physics of Fluids*, 2013, Man, Yi; Lauga, Eric. The thesis author was the primary investigator and author of this paper.

Chapter 2

Modeling the dynamics of artificial bacterial flagella

2.1 Geometry

We model an artificial bacterial flagellum as a rigid helix of circular cross-section with no head, as illustrated in Fig. 2.1. The geometric parameters are therefore: the radius of helical body (R), its wavelength along the helix axis (λ), the helix angle (θ), the radius of the helix cross-section (r) and the number of wavelength (n). We set up two frames of reference, the laboratory frame, denoted ($\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{e}_3$), and the frame attached to the body, termed ($\mathbf{e}_x, \mathbf{e}_y, \mathbf{e}_z$). The wobbling angle, which is the angle between the axis of the helix (\mathbf{e}_z) and the desired direction of the forward velocity (\mathbf{e}_3), is denoted β . In the body frame, the shape of the helix remains constant and is described by the location vector, \mathbf{x}_h , of material points along the helix centerline as

$$[\mathbf{x}_h]_{body} = [R \cos(\kappa \alpha s), R \sin(\kappa \alpha s), \alpha s]^T, \quad (2.1)$$

where s is the arclength coordinate, κ is the wavenumber, and $\alpha = \cos \theta$. In this paper, we use the subscripts “body” and “lab” when we explicitly give the components of a vector to denote in which frame of reference these components are to be understood. We also denote vectors as column vectors and thus use a transpose sign, T , when the coordinates are written along a row.

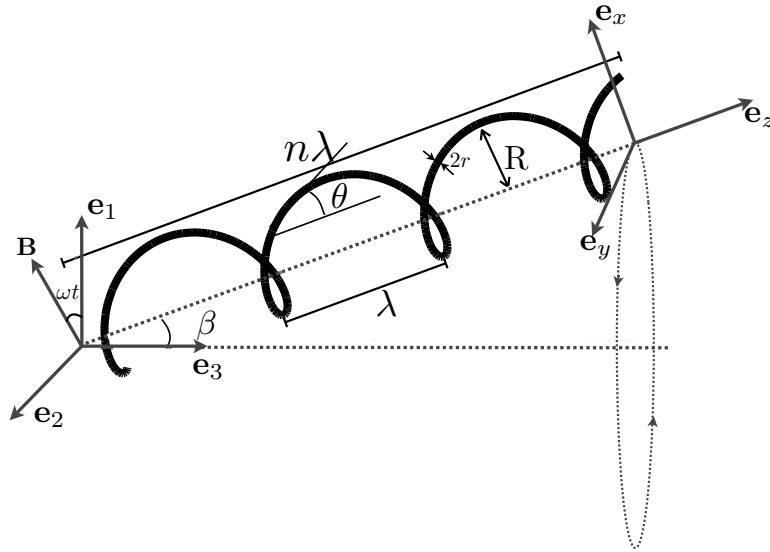


Figure 2.1: Geometry of the rigid helix as a model for an artificial bacterial flagellum. The parameters of the helix are its wavelength λ , the helix angle θ , the radius R , the diameter of the cross-section $2r$, and the number of wavelengths n . The wobbling angle, which is the angle between the axis of the helix and the mean forward velocity, is denoted β . The vectors $(\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{e}_3)$ and $(\mathbf{e}_x, \mathbf{e}_y, \mathbf{e}_z)$ constitute the laboratory frame and body frame respectively. The magnetic field, \mathbf{B} , rotates in the $(\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2)$ plane with frequency ω .

2.2 Dynamics

2.2.1 External torque

The locomotion of the artificial bacteria flagellum is actuated by an external magnetic field, \mathbf{B} , rotating in the $(\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2)$ plane with frequency ω and amplitude B_0 as

$$[\mathbf{B}]_{lab} = B_0[\cos(\omega t), \sin(\omega t), 0]^T. \quad (2.2)$$

Experimentally this magnetic field provides an external torque to the head of the artificial flagellum and no external force. Since the presence of the head is not necessary from a hydrodynamic standpoint to obtain wobbling, we ignore it hydrodynamically in our model. As a proxy for the head's magnetization we assume that a constant magnetic moment of magnitude H , is present along the \mathbf{e}_y direction in the body frame. The torque imposed by the magnetic field, \mathbf{L}_m , is

then obtained as

$$\mathbf{L}_m = H\mathbf{e}_y \times \mathbf{B}. \quad (2.3)$$

2.2.2 Hydrodynamics

In the experiments of Ref. [1], the typical rotation frequency of the field reaches a maximum of tens of Hz and the helix radius is on the order of a few microns, leading to a typical Reynolds number for locomotion in water much less than unity. The fluid dynamics for the flow around the artificial bacteria flagellum is thus well approximated by a solution to the incompressible Stokes equations. Given the slenderness of the helical geometry, it is appropriate to use resistive-force theory to describe the distribution of forces and moments on the moving helix [29, 30, 31, 9]. The basic assumption of resistive-force theory is that the hydrodynamic forces acting on the slender helix moving through the fluid per unit length, $d\mathbf{F}_v$, is locally proportional, albeit in an anisotropic fashion, to the relative velocity, \mathbf{U} , between the helix and the surrounding fluid. Given the unit tangent vector along the helix, $\mathbf{t} = d\mathbf{x}_h/ds$, and the shear viscosity of the fluid, μ , this linear relationship is written as

$$d\mathbf{F}_v = -\xi_{\parallel}\mathbf{U}_{\parallel} - \xi_{\perp}\mathbf{U}_{\perp}, \quad (2.4)$$

where $\mathbf{U}_{\parallel} = (\mathbf{U} \cdot \mathbf{t})\mathbf{t}$ and $\mathbf{U}_{\perp} = \mathbf{U} - \mathbf{U}_{\parallel}$ are the components of velocity along the tangential and normal directions respectively and ξ_{\parallel} and ξ_{\perp} are the corresponding viscous drag coefficients [29]

$$\xi_{\parallel} \approx \frac{2\pi\mu}{\ln(2\lambda/r) - 1/2}, \quad (2.5a)$$

$$\xi_{\perp} \approx 2\xi_{\parallel}. \quad (2.5b)$$

Resistive force theory is the leading-order term in a systematic expansion of the flow around slender bodies in powers of $\sim (\ln L/r)^{-1}$, where L is the total length of helix [30, 31, 32, 33, 9]. The next-order terms in the case of rotated helices can be estimated to be about 0.1 smaller than the leading-order term, which is thus sufficient to qualitatively describe the physics of wobbling.

With the force distribution, $d\mathbf{F}_v$, known everywhere along the helix, it is straightforward to calculate its contribution to the net moment per unit length acting on the helix as $\mathbf{x}_h \times d\mathbf{F}_v$. An additional contribution to a torque on the helix arises from its instantaneous rotation around its centerline, described by a moment density $d\mathbf{L}_r = 4\pi\mu r^2(\boldsymbol{\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{t})\mathbf{t}$ where $\boldsymbol{\Omega}$ is the helix rotation rate [34]. This term is typically of order $\sim (r/L)^2$ smaller than the torque arising from resistive-force theory and can usually be disregarded, but it becomes important when the helix is a near-rod as it prevents its viscous mobility matrix to become singular. We therefore keep it in our formulation and write the net hydrodynamic torque per unit length acting on the helix as

$$d\mathbf{L}_v = \mathbf{x}_h \times d\mathbf{F}_v + d\mathbf{L}_r. \quad (2.6)$$

Integrating Eqs. (2.4) and (2.6) along the flagellum finally leads to a linear relationship relating the total hydrodynamic force, \mathbf{F}_v , and torque, \mathbf{L}_v , to the rigid-body velocity, \mathbf{U} , and rotation rate, $\boldsymbol{\Omega}$, of the swimming helix as

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{F}_v \\ \mathbf{L}_v \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{D} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{U} \\ \boldsymbol{\Omega} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (2.7)$$

The 6×6 viscous resistance tensor, \mathbf{D} , has constant coefficients in the body frame of the helix. The calculation for its components is straightforward but tedious, and the final nondimensionalized results are given in Appendix A.

2.2.3 Force and torque balance

The dynamics of the helix is governed by the balance of force and torque as

$$\mathbf{F}_v = \mathbf{0}, \quad (2.8a)$$

$$\mathbf{L}_v + \mathbf{L}_m = \mathbf{0}. \quad (2.8b)$$

Since the viscous resistance tensor, \mathbf{D} , has constant coefficients when expressed in the body frame, it is necessary to enforce Eq. (2.8) in the body frame. The dynamics of the body frame is described by the three vector equations

$$\frac{d\mathbf{e}_x}{dt} = \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{e}_x, \quad \frac{d\mathbf{e}_y}{dt} = \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{e}_y, \quad \frac{d\mathbf{e}_z}{dt} = \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{e}_z. \quad (2.9)$$

The combination of Eq. (2.7), Eq. (2.8), and Eq. (2.9) has a total of 15 unknowns (6 kinematics components and 9 components of the rotating frame coordinates) together with a 6×6 linear system (Eqs. 2.7, 2.8) and a 9×9 ODE system (Eq. 2.9) leading to a closed system.

2.3 Nondimensionalization

In order to nondimensionalize the problem we use the wavelength Λ calculated along the helix centerline as length scale ($\Lambda = \lambda/\cos\theta$) and the inverse of magnetic field frequency, ω^{-1} , as the characteristic time scale. Geometrically, there are three independent dimensionless parameters describing the helix, namely the helix angle θ , the number of wavelengths n , and the dimensionless radius of the flagellum, which we denote γ . The viscous drag coefficients are nondimensionalized by the fluid viscosity and thus we have, using bars to denote dimensionless quantities,

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{\xi}_{\parallel} &= \frac{\xi_{\parallel}}{\mu} = \frac{2\pi}{\ln(2\cos\theta/\gamma) - 1/2}, \\ \bar{\xi}_{\perp} &= \frac{\xi_{\perp}}{\mu} = 2\bar{\xi}_{\parallel}.\end{aligned}\tag{2.10}$$

Using B_0 as the scale of the magnetic field we have therefore $[\bar{\mathbf{B}}]_{lab} = [\cos\bar{t}, \sin\bar{t}, 0]^T$, where \bar{t} is the dimensionless time, $\bar{t} = \omega t$. The dimensionless version of the force and torque balance, Eq. (2.8), is given by

$$\mu\omega\Lambda^2\bar{\mathbf{F}}_v = \mathbf{0},\tag{2.11a}$$

$$\frac{\mu\omega\Lambda^3}{HB_0}\bar{\mathbf{L}}_v + \bar{\mathbf{L}}_m = \mathbf{0}.\tag{2.11b}$$

Inspecting Eq. (2.11b) we observe that a dimensionless group appears in the torque balance. It is termed a Mason number, $\text{Ma} = \mu\omega\Lambda^3/HB_0$, and quantifies the typical ratio of hydrodynamic to magnetic torque. If we write the resistance tensor in the body frame, $\bar{\mathbf{D}}$, as composed of 4 sub-tensors

$$\bar{\mathbf{D}} = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{\mathbf{D}}\mathbf{a} & \bar{\mathbf{D}}\mathbf{b} \\ \bar{\mathbf{D}}\mathbf{b}^T & \bar{\mathbf{D}}\mathbf{c} \end{bmatrix},\tag{2.12}$$

then the final dimensionless equations to solve are given by the system

$$\bar{\mathbf{D}}\mathbf{a}\bar{\mathbf{U}} + \bar{\mathbf{D}}\mathbf{b}\bar{\boldsymbol{\Omega}} = \mathbf{0}, \quad (2.13a)$$

$$\text{Ma}(\bar{\mathbf{D}}\mathbf{b}^T\bar{\mathbf{U}} + \bar{\mathbf{D}}\mathbf{c}\bar{\boldsymbol{\Omega}}) + \mathbf{e}_y \times \bar{\mathbf{B}} = \mathbf{0}, \quad (2.13b)$$

$$[\bar{\mathbf{B}}]_{lab} = [\cos \bar{t}, \sin \bar{t}, 0]^T, \quad (2.13c)$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{e}_x}{dt} = \bar{\boldsymbol{\Omega}} \times \mathbf{e}_x, \quad \frac{d\mathbf{e}_y}{dt} = \bar{\boldsymbol{\Omega}} \times \mathbf{e}_y, \quad \frac{d\mathbf{e}_z}{dt} = \bar{\boldsymbol{\Omega}} \times \mathbf{e}_z. \quad (2.13d)$$

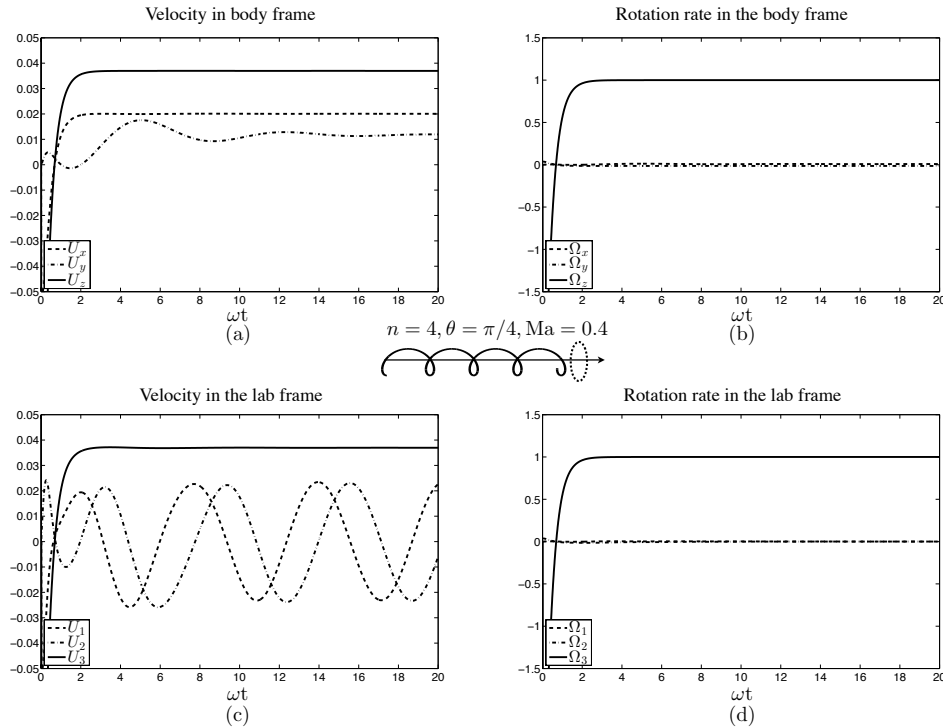


Figure 2.2: Example of a straight swimming artificial bacteria flagellum. Velocity (left) and rotation rate (right) in the body frame (top) and laboratory frame (bottom) with $n = 4$ wavelengths, a helix angle of $\theta = \pi/4$, and $\text{Ma} = 0.4$. In the body frame, both the velocity and rotation rates reach steady values, while in the laboratory frame the velocities in the \mathbf{e}_1 and \mathbf{e}_2 directions oscillate around a zero mean. The wobbling angle in this case is $\beta \approx 0.9^\circ$ which is almost zero and thus the helix essentially swims in a straight line. The four panels display the variation with the dimensionless time of: (a) velocity in the body frame; (b) rotation rate in the body frame; (c) velocity in the laboratory frame; (d) rotation rate in the laboratory frame.

Chapter 2, in full, has been submitted for publication of the material as it may appear in *Physics of Fluids*, 2013, Man, Yi; Lauga, Eric. The thesis author

was the primary investigator and author of this paper.

Chapter 3

Numerical Results

To address wobbling we first turn to numerical simulations of the system in Eq. (2.13). To be relevant to the the experiments in Ref. [1], we fix the number of wavelengths, n , to be 3 or 4 and we pick $\gamma = 2.3 \times 10^{-3}$. We vary the helix geometry by addressing four different helix angles, namely ($\pi/10, \pi/6, \pi/4, \pi/3$), and we let the Mason number, Ma , range from 0.001 to 0.1. The system is solved using a Crank-Nicolson method where, at each time step, the rotation rate is obtained from the linear system, Eqs. (2.13a)-(2.13b), with the information from the location of the body frame from the previous step.

Our numerical simulations demonstrate the experimentally-observed transition from wobbling at low Mason number to directional swimming at high Mason number. To illustrate this transition we plot in Figs. 2.2 and 3.1 the dynamics, both in the body frame (top) and the laboratory frame (bottom) of two helices displaying qualitatively different behaviors. In Fig. 2.2 we show the velocity (left) and rotation rate (right) of a helix with $n = 4$ wavelengths and a helix angle of $\theta = \pi/4$ at a Mason number of $\text{Ma} = 0.4$. The helix is seen to swim straight (small wobbling angle $\beta \approx 0.9^\circ$). In contrast we show in Fig. 3.1 the kinematics for the same helix at a smaller Mason number of $\text{Ma} = 0.0063$. In that case, as can clearly be seen in Fig. 3.1c, the components of the helix velocity in the plane perpendicular to the average swimming direction are time-periodic and of amplitude large compared to the average swimming speed along the third direction. This is an indication of wobbling with a large angle (here, $\beta \approx 35^\circ$). Wobbling

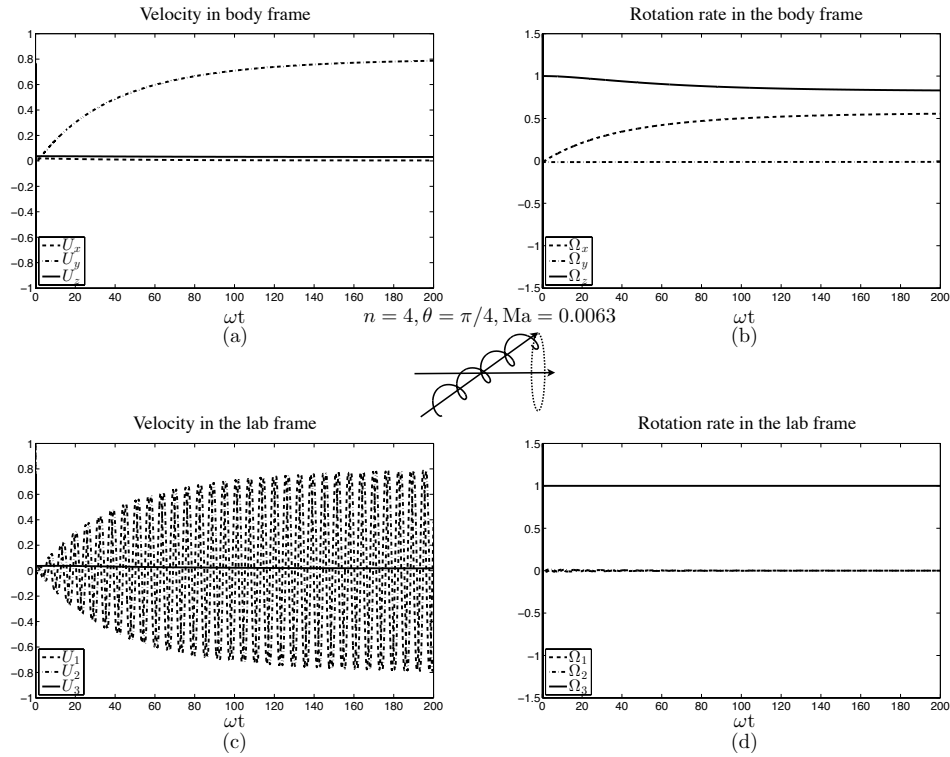


Figure 3.1: Same as Fig. 2.2 but with a Mason number decreased to $Ma = 0.0063$. In this case significant wobbling is obtained with $\beta \approx 35^\circ$. Compared to Fig. 2.2 the mean velocity in the forward direction has decreased while the velocity amplitudes in other two directions have increased. In addition, the rotation rate in the \mathbf{e}_x direction is no longer zero.

can also be seen by comparing the values of the rotation rates in the body frame in Fig. 2.2b and Fig. 3.1b. When no wobbling occurs and the helix is swimming straight, the body-frame rotation rate includes only a component in the direction of the helix axis (z direction). In contrast, for a helix with significant wobbling, a component of the rotation rate perpendicular to the direction of the axis helix exists (x direction), of the same order as the axial rotation rate.

To further quantify wobbling, we perform simulations where we measure the time-variation of the wobbling angle. The results for $n = 3$ are illustrated in Fig. 3.2 for two values of the helix angles. For all values of the Mason number, we observe convergence of the wobbling angle to a steady value. The dependence of that long-time, steady value on the Mason number is shown in Fig. 4.1 for $n = 3$ (left) and $n = 4$ (right) and for four values of the helix angle. For every helix, the

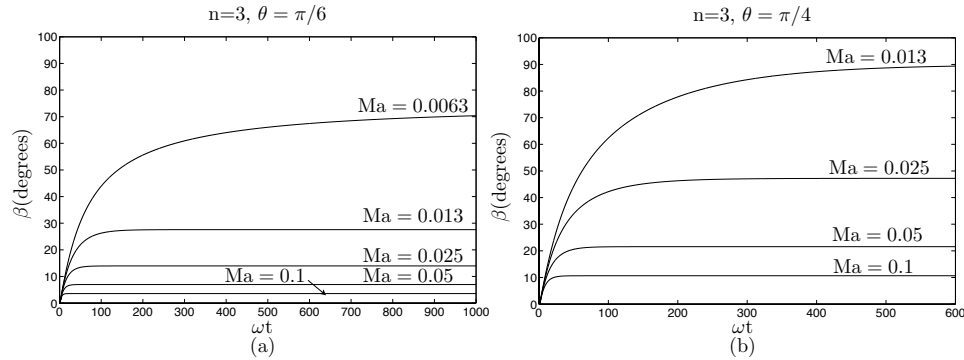


Figure 3.2: Dependence of the wobbling angle β (in degrees) on the dimensionless time, ωt , for a helix with $n = 3$ wavelengths and an angle of $\theta = \pi/6$ (a) and $\theta = \pi/4$ (b).

wobbling angle is 90° for small Ma number while it decreases to zero as $\beta \sim \text{Ma}^{-1}$ for large values of the Mason number. This dependence with Ma is reminiscent of the inverse frequency behavior seen experimentally in Fig. 1.1 [1]. For a fixed Mason number, the wobbling-to-swimming transition is also affected by the helix geometry. Specifically, directed swimming happens sooner for helices with larger number of wavelengths (n) and smaller helix angles (θ).

Chapter 3, in full, has been submitted for publication of the material as it may appear in *Physics of Fluids*, 2013, Man, Yi; Lauga, Eric. The thesis author was the primary investigator and author of this paper.

Chapter 4

Asymptotic Analysis

Our numerical computations demonstrate the wobbling-to-swimming transition. We saw in particular in the transition region an inverse linear relationship between wobbling angle and Mason number. In this section we present an analytical description of the helix dynamics and recover the $\beta \sim \text{Ma}^{-1}$ scaling. In order to proceed we take advantage of the fact that if the helix angle is zero, $\theta = 0$, the helix turns into a rod which does not swim but for which the steady state dynamics can be solved exactly. We therefore examine the dynamics analytically in the small- θ limit.

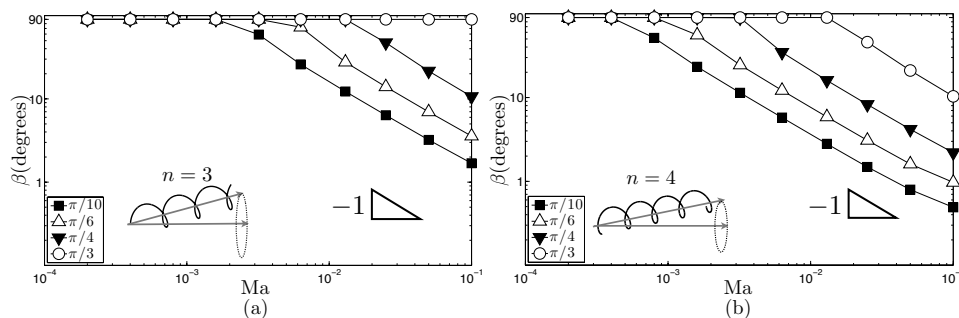


Figure 4.1: Dependence of the long-time wobbling angle β (in degrees) on the Mason number, Ma , for four different helix angles, $\pi/10$, $\pi/6$, $\pi/4$, $\pi/3$, and a number of wavelengths $n = 3$ (left) and $n = 4$ (right). Results are plotted on a log-log scale demonstrating a $\beta \sim \text{Ma}^{-1}$ relationship in the wobbling-to-swimming transition.

We consider the dimensionless dynamical system given by Eq. (2.13) and

drop the bars for notation convenience. We pick the number of wavelengths, n , to be an integer in order to simplify some of the algebra (although our procedure remains valid for non-integer number of wavelengths). First off, in order to facilitate the expansion, we write Eq. (2.13) component by component as

$$(Da_{ij}U_j + Db_{ij}\Omega_j) \mathbf{e}_i = \mathbf{0}, \quad (4.1a)$$

$$\text{Ma} (Db_{ji}U_j + Dc_{ij}\Omega_j) \mathbf{e}_i + \epsilon_{mnl}e_{yn}B_l\mathbf{e}_m = \mathbf{0}, \quad (4.1b)$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{e}_i}{dt} = \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{e}_i = \epsilon_{jkp}\Omega_k e_{ip}\mathbf{e}_j = \epsilon_{ijk}\Omega_k\mathbf{e}_j. \quad (4.1c)$$

In Eq. (4.1), in order to differentiate between base vectors in the laboratory vs. body frame we use the following convention: vectors with subscripts (m, n, l) are in the laboratory frame (therefore 1, 2, 3) while those with subscripts (i, j, k, p) are in the body frame (therefore x, y, z). As a consequence, the terms e_{yn} in Eq. (4.1b) and e_{ip} in Eq. (4.1c) are different: the first one refers to the components in the laboratory frame of the vector \mathbf{e}_y while the latter refers to the p th components of \mathbf{e}_i in the body frame, i.e. δ_{ip} . In the body frame we write $\mathbf{U} = U_x\mathbf{e}_x + U_y\mathbf{e}_y + U_z\mathbf{e}_z$ and $\boldsymbol{\Omega} = \Omega_x\mathbf{e}_x + \Omega_y\mathbf{e}_y + \Omega_z\mathbf{e}_z$, and similarly for each components of the tensor \mathbf{D} . The advantage of using the body frame is that, in it, the components of \mathbf{D} are all constant. The components of each body frame vector, \mathbf{e}_i , in the laboratory frame are written as $[\mathbf{e}_i]_{lab} = [e_{i1}, e_{i2}, e_{i3}]^T$, for any i is in (x, y, z) .

Aiming at solving Eq. (4.1) order by order, we expand all variables in powers of θ as

$$\begin{aligned} \{U_i, \Omega_i, D_{ij}, [\mathbf{e}_i]_{lab}, \xi_{\parallel}\} &= \{U_i^{(0)}, \Omega_i^{(0)}, D_{ij}^{(0)}, [\mathbf{e}_i]_{lab}^{(0)}, \xi_{\parallel}^{(0)}\} \\ &+ \theta\{U_i^{(1)}, \Omega_i^{(1)}, D_{ij}^{(1)}, [\mathbf{e}_i]_{lab}^{(1)}, \xi_{\parallel}^{(1)}\} \\ &+ \dots, \end{aligned} \quad (4.2)$$

for any i, j in (x, y, z) . In the body frame, the coefficients of the tensor \mathbf{D} , written under matrix form as \mathbf{D}_{body} , are given in Appendix A. They involve the helix geometry and the viscous resistance coefficient, ξ_{\parallel} . The expansion for that coefficient

is

$$\begin{aligned}\xi_{\parallel} &= \frac{2\pi}{\ln(2\cos\theta/\gamma) - 1/2} = 2\pi \left[\ln \frac{2}{\gamma} - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\theta^2}{2} + o(\theta^2) \right]^{-1} \\ &= \frac{2\pi}{\ln(2/\gamma) - 1/2} + \frac{\pi\theta^2}{[\ln(2/\gamma) - 1/2]^2} + o(\theta^2).\end{aligned}\quad (4.3)$$

We therefore obtain $\xi_{\parallel}^{(0)} = 2\pi/[\ln(2/\gamma) - 1/2]$, $\xi_{\parallel}^{(1)} = 0$, and $\xi_{\parallel}^{(2)} = \pi/[\ln(2/\gamma) - 1/2]^2$.

Using the expressions in Appendix A, it follows that

$$[\mathbf{D}]_{body}^{(0)} = \xi_{\parallel}^{(0)} \begin{bmatrix} -2n & 0 & 0 & 0 & -n^2 & 0 \\ 0 & -2n & 0 & n^2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -n & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & n^2 & 0 & -\frac{2n^3}{3} & 0 & 0 \\ -n^2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{2n^3}{3} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{4\pi\gamma^2}{\xi_{\parallel}^{(0)}}n \end{bmatrix} \quad (4.4)$$

and

$$[\mathbf{D}]_{body}^{(1)} = \xi_{\parallel}^{(0)} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{n}{2\pi} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{n}{2\pi} & 0 & 0 & -\frac{n}{2\pi^2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{n}{2\pi^2} & 0 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (4.5)$$

4.1 Zeroth order solution

At zeroth order, the helix becomes a rigid rod. In that case, Eq. (4.1) becomes

$$\left(Da_{ij}^{(0)} U_j^{(0)} + Db_{ij}^{(0)} \Omega_j^{(0)} \right) \mathbf{e}_i^{(0)} = \mathbf{0}, \quad (4.6a)$$

$$\text{Ma} \left(Db_{ji}^{(0)} U_j^{(0)} + Dc_{ij}^{(0)} \Omega_j^{(0)} \right) \mathbf{e}_i^{(0)} + \epsilon_{mnl} e_{yn}^{(0)} B_l \mathbf{e}_m = \mathbf{0}, \quad (4.6b)$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{e}_i^{(0)}}{dt} = \epsilon_{ijk} \Omega_k^{(0)} \mathbf{e}_j^{(0)}. \quad (4.6c)$$

The obvious steady solution to Eq. (4.6) is then given by

$$U_x^{(0)} = U_y^{(0)} = U_z^{(0)} = 0, \quad (4.7a)$$

$$\Omega_x^{(0)} = \Omega_y^{(0)} = 0, \quad \Omega_z^{(0)} = 1, \quad (4.7b)$$

$$[\mathbf{e}_x]_{lab}^{(0)} = [\sin(t + \psi_0), -\cos(t + \psi_0), 0]^T, \quad (4.7c)$$

$$[\mathbf{e}_y]_{lab}^{(0)} = [\cos(t + \psi_0), \sin(t + \psi_0), 0]^T, \quad (4.7d)$$

$$[\mathbf{e}_z]_{lab}^{(0)} = [0, 0, 1]^T, \quad (4.7e)$$

where ψ_0 , satisfying

$$\sin \psi_0 = 4\pi\gamma^2 n \text{Ma}, \quad (4.8)$$

is the phase delay between the applied field and the rotation of the rod. At leading order, the rod simply is aligned with, and rotates around, the axis perpendicular to the plane of the applied field with no wobbling.

4.2 First order solution

At order $O(\theta)$, Eq. (4.1) become

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{0} &= \left(Da_{ij}^{(0)} U_j^{(1)} + Db_{ij}^{(0)} \Omega_j^{(1)} + Da_{ij}^{(1)} U_j^{(0)} + Db_{ij}^{(1)} \Omega_j^{(0)} \right) \mathbf{e}_i^{(0)} \\ &\quad + \left(Da_{ij}^{(0)} U_j^{(0)} + Db_{ij}^{(0)} \Omega_j^{(0)} \right) \mathbf{e}_i^{(1)}, \end{aligned} \quad (4.9a)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{0} &= \text{Ma} \left(Db_{ji}^{(0)} U_j^{(1)} + Dc_{ij}^{(0)} \Omega_j^{(1)} + Db_{ji}^{(1)} U_j^{(0)} + Dc_{ij}^{(1)} \Omega_j^{(0)} \right) \mathbf{e}_i^{(0)} \\ &\quad + \text{Ma} \left(Db_{ji}^{(0)} U_j^{(0)} + Dc_{ij}^{(0)} \Omega_j^{(0)} \right) \mathbf{e}_i^{(1)} + \epsilon_{mnl} e_{yn}^{(1)} B_l \mathbf{e}_m, \end{aligned} \quad (4.9b)$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{e}_i^{(1)}}{dt} = \epsilon_{ijk} \left(\Omega_k^{(0)} \mathbf{e}_j^{(1)} + \Omega_k^{(1)} \mathbf{e}_j^{(0)} \right). \quad (4.9c)$$

The system of equation for the first-order unknowns in Eq. (4.9) is linear and can thus be solved exactly. Using Eq. (4.9a), the number of unknowns can be decreased by three

$$U_x^{(1)} = -\frac{n}{2} \Omega_y^{(1)}, \quad U_y^{(1)} = \frac{n}{2} \Omega_x^{(1)}, \quad U_z^{(1)} = 0. \quad (4.10)$$

Then using Eq. (4.9b) and combining it with Eq. (4.10), the rotational components can be obtained as the function of the components of body frame vectors expressed

in the laboratory frame as

$$\Omega_x^{(1)} = -\frac{6}{\xi_{\parallel}^{(0)} n^3 \text{Ma}} [e_{y3}^{(1)} \cos \psi_0 - e_{z1}^{(1)} \sin \psi_0 \sin(t + \psi_0) + e_{z2}^{(1)} \sin \psi_0 \cos(t + \psi_0)], \quad (4.11a)$$

$$\Omega_y^{(1)} = -\frac{3}{\pi^2 n^2} + \frac{6 \sin \psi_0}{\xi_{\parallel}^{(0)} n^3 \text{Ma}} [e_{y3}^{(1)} + e_{z1}^{(1)} \cos(t + \psi_0) + e_{z2}^{(1)} \sin(t + \psi_0)], \quad (4.11b)$$

$$+ e_{z2}^{(1)} \sin(t + \psi_0)], \quad (4.11c)$$

$$\Omega_z^{(1)} = -e_{z3}^{(1)} + \frac{1}{\sin \psi_0} (e_{y2}^{(1)} \cos t - e_{y1}^{(1)} \sin t). \quad (4.11d)$$

Finally substituting Eq. (4.11) into Eq. (4.9c), we obtain the full order-one solution as

$$\Omega_x^{(1)} = \frac{18 \cos \psi_0}{\pi^2 \xi_{\parallel}^{(0)} n^5 \text{Ma} \left(1 + \frac{24\pi\gamma^2}{\xi_{\parallel}^{(0)} n^2}\right)}, \quad \Omega_y^{(1)} = -\frac{3}{\pi^2 n^2}, \quad \Omega_z^{(1)} = 0, \quad (4.12a)$$

$$[\mathbf{e}_x]_{lab}^{(1)} = \left[0, 0, \frac{18 \cos \psi_0}{\pi^2 \xi_{\parallel}^{(0)} n^5 \text{Ma} \left(1 + \frac{24\pi\gamma^2}{\xi_{\parallel}^{(0)} n^2}\right)} \right]^T, \quad (4.12b)$$

$$[\mathbf{e}_y]_{lab}^{(1)} = \left[0, 0, -\frac{3}{\pi^2 n^2} \right]^T, \quad (4.12c)$$

$$[\mathbf{e}_z]_{lab}^{(1)} = -\sqrt{[\Omega_x^{(1)}]^2 + [\Omega_y^{(1)}]^2} [\cos(t + \psi_0 - \psi_1), \sin(t + \psi_0 - \psi_1), 0]^T \quad (4.12d)$$

with $\tan \psi_1 = \Omega_x^{(1)} / \Omega_y^{(1)}$.

4.3 Wobbling angle

With the knowledge of both the zeroth and first-order solution we can now calculate our prediction for the wobbling angle, β . It is defined as $\sin \beta = \sqrt{e_{z1}^2 + e_{z2}^2}$. Since the zeroth-order solution shows no wobbling, we have $\beta = O(\theta)$ and thus can use the approximation $\sin \beta \approx \beta$. Given Eq. (4.12d) we therefore

obtain $\beta \approx \theta \left(\left[\Omega_x^{(1)} \right]^2 + \left[\Omega_y^{(1)} \right]^2 \right)^{1/2}$ which, using Eq. (4.12a), becomes

$$\beta \approx \frac{3\theta}{\pi^2 n^2} \left[\left(\frac{6 \cos \psi_0}{\xi_{\parallel}^{(0)} n^3 \text{Ma} \left(1 + \frac{24\pi\gamma^2}{\xi_{\parallel}^{(0)} n^2} \right)} \right)^2 + 1 \right]^{1/2}. \quad (4.13)$$

Our model, Eq. (4.13), predicts that the wobbling angle decreases with the Ma number, increases with the helix angle, and decreases for large number of wavelengths n , which are that the three main observations from our computational results. In addition, for low values of Ma we get from Eq. (4.13) the approximate angle

$$\beta \approx \frac{18\theta \cos \psi_0}{\pi^2 \xi_{\parallel}^{(0)} n^5 \text{Ma} \left(1 + \frac{24\pi\gamma^2}{\xi_{\parallel}^{(0)} n^2} \right)}. \quad (4.14)$$

This can be further simplified by noting that $\cos \psi_0 = \sqrt{1 - 16\pi^2 \gamma^4 n^2 \text{Ma}^2} \approx 1$ at low Ma. In addition, $24\pi\gamma^2 / \xi_{\parallel}^{(0)} n^2 \approx 12\gamma^2 [\ln(2/\gamma) - 1/2] / n^2 \ll 1$ for $\gamma \ll 1$. Our approximation, Eq. (4.14), can therefore be further simplified as

$$\beta \approx \frac{18\theta}{\pi^2 \xi_{\parallel}^{(0)} n^5 \text{Ma}} \approx \frac{9[\ln(2/\gamma) - 1/2]}{\pi^3} \frac{\theta}{n^5 \text{Ma}}. \quad (4.15)$$

The theoretical approach allows therefore to recover the $\beta \sim \text{Ma}^{-1}$ scaling observed experimentally and numerically in the wobbling-to-swimming transition.

4.4 Time-averaged swimming velocity

Using our model, we can beyond the prediction for the wobbling angle and calculate the time-averaged swimming velocity of the helix at leading order. The swimming speed is written as $\mathbf{U} = U_i \mathbf{e}_i$ in the body frame, which can be expanded as

$$\mathbf{U} = U_i^{(0)} \mathbf{e}_i^{(0)} + \theta \left(U_i^{(0)} \mathbf{e}_i^{(1)} + U_i^{(1)} \mathbf{e}_i^{(0)} \right) + \theta^2 \left(U_i^{(0)} \mathbf{e}_i^{(2)} + U_i^{(1)} \mathbf{e}_i^{(1)} + U_i^{(2)} \mathbf{e}_i^{(0)} \right) + \dots$$

(4.16)

where i is in (x, y, z) . The forward velocity of interest is the component U_3 along the direction perpendicular to the applied magnetic field. With the information from Eqs. (4.7), (4.10), and (4.12), we get the velocity in the laboratory frame.

$$U_1 = -\frac{\theta n}{2} \sqrt{\left[\Omega_x^{(1)}\right]^2 + \left[\Omega_y^{(1)}\right]^2} \sin(t + \psi_0) + o(\theta), \quad (4.17a)$$

$$U_2 = \frac{\theta n}{2} \sqrt{\left[\Omega_x^{(1)}\right]^2 + \left[\Omega_y^{(1)}\right]^2} \cos(t + \psi_0) + o(\theta), \quad (4.17b)$$

$$U_3 = o(\theta), \quad (4.17c)$$

and therefore we have to go to the next order in θ to obtain the leading-order behavior for U_3 . At order $O(\theta^2)$ we have

$$\mathbf{U}^{(2)} = U_i^{(0)} \mathbf{e}_i^{(2)} + U_i^{(1)} \mathbf{e}_i^{(1)} + U_i^{(2)} \mathbf{e}_i^{(0)}, \quad (4.18)$$

and given that we know that $U_i^{(0)} = U_z^{(1)} = e_{x3}^{(0)} = e_{y3}^{(0)} = 0$, and $e_{z3}^{(0)} = 1$, we obtain

$$U_3^{(2)} = U_x^{(1)} e_{x3}^{(1)} + U_y^{(1)} e_{y3}^{(1)} + U_z^{(2)} = U_z^{(2)}, \quad (4.19)$$

which means we only need to solve for $U_z^{(2)}$. At second order, Eq. (4.1a) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(Da_{ij}^{(0)} U_j^{(2)} + Db_{ij}^{(0)} \Omega_j^{(2)} + Da_{ij}^{(1)} U_j^{(1)} + \right. \\ & \left. Db_{ij}^{(1)} \Omega_j^{(1)} + Da_{ij}^{(2)} U_j^{(0)} + Db_{ij}^{(2)} \Omega_j^{(0)} \right) \mathbf{e}_i^{(0)} \\ & + \left(Da_{ij}^{(0)} U_j^{(1)} + Db_{ij}^{(0)} \Omega_j^{(1)} + Da_{ij}^{(1)} U_j^{(0)} + Db_{ij}^{(1)} \Omega_j^{(0)} \right) \mathbf{e}_i^{(1)} \\ & + \left(Da_{ij}^{(0)} U_j^{(0)} + Db_{ij}^{(0)} \Omega_j^{(0)} \right) \mathbf{e}_i^{(2)} = \mathbf{0}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.20)$$

$$(4.21)$$

Combining the solutions in Eqs. (4.7), (4.10) and (4.12), we obtain the simplifications

$$\left(Da_{ij}^{(0)} U_j^{(0)} + Db_{ij}^{(0)} \Omega_j^{(0)} \right) \mathbf{e}_i^{(2)} = \mathbf{0}, \quad (4.22a)$$

$$\left(Da_{ij}^{(0)} U_j^{(1)} + Db_{ij}^{(0)} \Omega_j^{(1)} \right) \mathbf{e}_i^{(1)} = \mathbf{0}, \quad (4.22b)$$

$$\left(Da_{ij}^{(1)} U_j^{(0)} + Db_{ij}^{(1)} \Omega_j^{(0)} \right) \mathbf{e}_i^{(1)} = \mathbf{0}. \quad (4.22c)$$

As we have $Da_{ij}^{(1)} = U_i^{(0)} = 0$, the corresponding terms cancel out, and Eq. (4.21) simplifies to

$$\left(Da_{ij}^{(0)} U_j^{(2)} + Db_{ij}^{(0)} \Omega_j^{(2)} + Db_{ij}^{(1)} \Omega_j^{(1)} + Db_{ij}^{(2)} \Omega_j^{(0)} \right) \mathbf{e}_i^{(0)} = \mathbf{0}. \quad (4.23)$$

The second order expansion of $[\mathbf{Db}]_{body}$ is

$$[\mathbf{Db}]_{body}^{(2)} = \xi_{\parallel}^{(0)} \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{3}{8\pi}n & \frac{3}{4}n^2 & 0 \\ -\frac{3}{4}n^2 & -\frac{1}{8\pi}n & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{n}{2\pi} \end{bmatrix} + \xi_{\parallel}^{(2)} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -n^2 & 0 \\ n^2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (4.24)$$

Substituting Eq. (4.24) into Eq. (4.23), we obtain

$$-nU_z^{(2)} + \frac{n}{2\pi}\Omega_y^{(1)} + \frac{n}{2\pi} = 0. \quad (4.25)$$

With Eq. (4.19), this finally leads to the leading-order expression for the time-averaged swimming speed in the laboratory frame as

$$U_3^{(2)} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left(1 - \frac{3}{\pi^2 n^2} \right). \quad (4.26)$$

Note that we have $U_3 = O(\theta^2)$, while both U_1 and U_2 are $O(\theta)$, and thus for a small helix angle the forward swimming velocity is much smaller than the velocities perpendicular to the average swimming direction.

Chapter 4, in full, has been submitted for publication of the material as it may appear in *Physics of Fluids*, 2013, Man, Yi; Lauga, Eric. The thesis author was the primary investigator and author of this paper.

Chapter 5

Discussion

Motivated by experimental work on artificial bacterial flagella driven by external magnetic fields we address theoretically in this paper the dynamics of rigid helices under time-periodic torques. Using numerical computations we obtain, in agreement with experimental results, that driven helices do swim in a directed fashion at high Mason number but wobble around their mean swimming direction for lower values of the Mason number. During the wobbling-to-swimming transition, the wobbling angle varies as the inverse of the Mason number. The shape of the helix also affects this transition and helices with larger number of wavelengths or smaller helix angle are seen to swim sooner. We then use an asymptotic analysis of the helix dynamics in the near-rod geometric limit to derive analytically an estimate for the wobbling angle. Our prediction, Eq. (4.15), shows the same inverse Ma dependence as in our computations and in past experimental work, and quantifies the strong influence of the helix geometry on the swimming behavior.

We hope our results will help guide the future design of artificial bacterial flagella. Two factors important for the practical operation of micro-swimmers are that they remain stable while being efficient energetically. Energy efficiency is bound to play an important role since any external source of power not converted to useful propulsive work will be dissipated in the surrounding fluid, leading to heating which is possibly problematic in biological environments. As is well known, a rotating rigid helix is most efficient when its helix angle, θ , is around 40 degrees [9]. Stability was addressed specifically in our paper, and we now understand the

dynamic and energetic factors impacting it. From Eq. (4.15), we have $\beta \sim \theta/n^5\text{Ma}$ and we see that, with the value of θ fixed, stability of swimming (i.e non-wobbling) will be obtained for large values of n and Ma . Recalling that $\text{Ma} = \mu\omega\Lambda^3/HB_0$, we get a wobbling angle scaling as $\beta \sim \theta HB_0/\mu\omega n^5\Lambda^3$. Perhaps-counter-intuitively, wobbling is avoided when small magnetic field and magnetic moments are used. Low frequencies should also be avoided. In addition, given that the total helix length is $L \sim n\Lambda$, we see that long helices, with many wavelengths, are preferable.

Of course the work considered here only addressed the case of a single artificial bacterial flagellum, and it could be that swimmers composed of more than one helices would be more stable. For example, two identical parallel and counter-rotating helices are stable in the plane containing the two helix axis, which would therefore constraint potential wobbling to the plane perpendicular to it. A combination of such helix pair with its mirror image would be stable and always swim along a straight line, but such elaborate geometry would probably require infinite ingenuity to be implemented in practice. Decreasing length scales even further to design nanometer-scale swimmers will further complicate the dynamics by introducing thermal fluctuations. The hunt for the ultimate stable and efficient artificial low-Reynolds swimmer is still open.

Chapter 5, in full, has been submitted for publication of the material as it may appear in *Physics of Fluids*, 2013, Man, Yi; Lauga, Eric. The thesis author was the primary investigator and author of this paper.

Appendix A

mobilities

All 21 terms of the symmetric viscous resistance matrix, $[\bar{\mathbf{D}}]_{body} = \bar{\xi}_{\parallel} \mathbf{M}$, are given below; the remaining 15 terms can be found using $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{M}^T$. We use the notation $\alpha = \cos \theta$, $2\pi\eta = \sin \theta$, $\phi = 2\pi n$, and n is any positive number.

$$M_{11} = -\frac{\pi}{2}\eta^2 \sin 2\phi - 2(1 - \pi^2\eta^2)n \quad (\text{A.1a})$$

$$M_{12} = -\frac{\pi}{2}\eta^2(1 - \cos 2\phi) \quad (\text{A.1b})$$

$$M_{13} = -\alpha\eta(1 - \cos \phi) \quad (\text{A.1c})$$

$$M_{14} = -\pi\alpha\eta^2n \left(1 + \frac{\cos \phi}{2}\right) + \frac{3}{8}\alpha\eta^2 \sin 2\phi \quad (\text{A.1d})$$

$$M_{15} = \pi\alpha\eta^2n \left(n\pi - \frac{\sin \phi}{2}\right) + \frac{3}{8}\alpha\eta^2(1 - \cos 2\phi) - \alpha n^2 \quad (\text{A.1e})$$

$$M_{16} = \frac{\eta}{\pi}(1 - 2\pi^2\eta^2)(1 - \cos \phi) \quad (\text{A.1f})$$

$$M_{22} = \frac{\pi}{2}\eta^2 \sin 2\phi - 2(1 - \pi^2\eta^2)n \quad (\text{A.1g})$$

$$M_{23} = \alpha\eta \sin \phi \quad (\text{A.1h})$$

$$M_{24} = -\pi\alpha\eta^2n \left(n\pi + \frac{\sin \phi}{2}\right) + \frac{3}{8}\alpha\eta^2(1 - \cos 2\phi) + \alpha n^2 \quad (\text{A.1i})$$

$$M_{25} = -\pi\alpha\eta^2n \left(1 - \frac{\cos \phi}{2}\right) - \frac{3}{8}\alpha\eta^2 \sin 2\phi \quad (\text{A.1j})$$

$$M_{26} = -\frac{\eta}{\pi}(1 - 2\pi^2\eta^2) \sin \phi \quad (\text{A.1k})$$

$$M_{33} = (\alpha^2 - 2)n \quad (\text{A.1l})$$

$$M_{34} = -\alpha^2\eta n \sin \phi - 4\pi\eta^3(1 - \cos \phi) \quad (\text{A.1m})$$

$$M_{35} = \alpha^2\eta n \cos \phi + 4\pi\eta^3 \sin \phi \quad (\text{A.1n})$$

$$M_{36} = 2\pi\alpha\eta^2n \quad (\text{A.1o})$$

$$M_{44} = \frac{3}{4}\alpha^2\eta^2n \cos \phi + \left(\frac{\eta^2}{4\pi} + \frac{\pi}{2}\alpha^2\eta^2n^2 - \frac{5}{16\pi}\alpha^2\eta^2 \right) \sin 2\phi - \quad (\text{A.2a})$$

$$\left(1 - \frac{\alpha^2}{2} \right) \eta^2n - \frac{2}{3}\alpha^2(1 - \pi^2\eta^2)n^3 + \frac{8\pi^3\gamma^2}{\bar{\xi}_{\parallel}}\eta^2 \left(n - \frac{\sin 2\phi}{4\pi} \right) \quad (\text{A.2b})$$

$$M_{45} = \frac{1}{4}\alpha^2\eta^2n \sin \phi + \left(\frac{\eta^2}{4\pi} + \frac{\pi}{2}\alpha^2\eta^2n^2 - \frac{3}{16\pi}\alpha^2\eta^2 \right) (1 - \cos \phi) \quad (\text{A.2c})$$

$$+ \frac{\pi}{2}\alpha^2\eta^2n^2 - \frac{2\pi^2\gamma^2}{\bar{\xi}_{\parallel}}\eta^2(1 - \cos 2\phi) \quad (\text{A.2d})$$

$$M_{46} = \frac{\alpha\eta n}{\pi}(1 - 2\pi^2\eta^2) \sin \phi - \frac{\alpha^3\eta}{2\pi^2}(1 - \cos \phi) - \frac{4\pi\gamma^2}{\bar{\xi}_{\parallel}}\alpha\eta(1 - \cos \phi) \quad (\text{A.2e})$$

$$M_{55} = -\frac{3}{4}\alpha^2\eta^2n \cos \phi - \left(\frac{\eta^2}{4\pi} + \frac{\pi}{2}\alpha^2\eta^2n^2 - \frac{5}{16\pi}\alpha^2\eta^2 \right) \sin 2\phi \quad (\text{A.2f})$$

$$- \left(1 - \frac{\alpha^2}{2} \right) \eta^2n - \frac{2}{3}\alpha^2(1 - \pi^2\eta^2)n^3 + \frac{8\pi^3\gamma^2}{\bar{\xi}_{\parallel}}\eta^2 \left(n + \frac{\sin 2\phi}{4\pi} \right) \quad (\text{A.2g})$$

$$M_{56} = -\frac{\alpha\eta n}{\pi}(1 - 2\pi^2\eta^2) \cos \phi + \frac{\alpha^3\eta}{2\pi^2} \sin \phi + \frac{4\pi\gamma^2}{\bar{\xi}_{\parallel}}\alpha\eta \sin \phi \quad (\text{A.2h})$$

$$M_{66} = -2\eta^2n(1 - 2\pi^2\eta^2) + \frac{4\pi\gamma^2}{\bar{\xi}_{\parallel}}\alpha^2n \quad (\text{A.2i})$$

Bibliography

- [1] Kathrin E. Peyer, Bradley E. Kratochvil Li Zhang, and Bradley J. Nelson. Non-ideal swimming of artificial bacterial flagella near a surface. In *Proceedings of the 2010 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation*, pages 96–101, Anchorage, AK, May 2010.
- [2] Christopher Brennen and Howard Winetl. Fluid mechanics of propulsion by cilia and flagella. *Annu. Rev. Fluid Mech.*, 9:339–98, 1977.
- [3] T. J. Pedley and J. O. Kessler. Hydrodynamic phenomena in suspensions of swimming microorganisms. *Annu. Rev. Fluid Mech.*, 24:313–358, 1992.
- [4] B. J. Nelson, I. K. Kaliakatsos, and J. J. Abbott. Microrobots for minimally invasive medicine. *Annu. Rev. Biomed. Eng.*, 12:55–85, 2010.
- [5] J.J. Abbott, K.E. Peyer, M.C. Lagomarsino, L. Zhang, L. Dong, I.K. Kaliakatsos, and B.J. Nelson. How should microrobots swim? *Int. J. Robot. Res.*, 28:1434, 2009.
- [6] G. Kosa, P. Jakab, G. Szekely, and N. Hata. Mri driven magnetic microswimmers. *Biomed. Microdevices*, 14:165, 2011.
- [7] Gabor Kosa, Pter Jakab, Nobuhiko Hata, Ferenc Jlesz, Zipi Neubach, Moshe Shoham, Menashe Zaaroor, and Gebor Szekely. Flagellar swimming for medical micro robots: Theory, experiments and application. In *Proceedings of the 2nd Biennial IEEE/RAS-EMBS International Conference on Biomedical Robotics and Biomechatronics*, pages 258–263, Scottsdale, AZ, USA, October 2008.
- [8] E.M. Purcell. Life at low reynolds number. *Am. J. Phys.*, 45:3–11, 1977.
- [9] Eric Lauga and Tom Powers. The hydrodynamics of swimming microorganisms. *Rep. Prog. Phys.*, 72:096601, 2009.
- [10] Eric Lauga. Life around the scallop theorem. *Soft Matter*, 7:3060–3065, 2011.

- [11] W. F. Paxton, K. C. Kistler, C. C. Olmeda, A. Sen, S. K. St Angelo, Y. Y. Cao, T. E. Mallouk, P. E. Lammert, and V. H. Crespi. Catalytic nanomotors: Autonomous movement of striped nanorods. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 126:13424–13431, 2004.
- [12] R. Golestanian, T. B. Liverpool, and A. Ajdari. Propulsion of a molecular machine by asymmetric distribution of reaction products. *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 94(22):220801, 2005.
- [13] J. R. Howse, R. A. L. Jones, A. J. Ryan, T. Gough, R. Vafabakhsh, and R. Golestanian. Self-motile colloidal particles: From directed propulsion to random walk. *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 99(4):048102, 2007.
- [14] R. Golestanian, T. B. Liverpool, and A. Ajdari. Designing phoretic micro- and nano-swimmers. *New J. Phys.*, 9:126, 2007.
- [15] Joseph Wang. Can man-made nanomachines compete with nature biomotors? *ACS Nano*, 3:4–9, 2009.
- [16] Thomas E. Mallouk and Ayusman Sen. Powering nanorobots. *Sci. Am.*, 300:72–77, 2009.
- [17] Tihana Mirkovic, Gregory D. Scholes, Nicole S. Zacharia, and Geoffrey A. Ozin. Fuel for thought: Chemically powered nanomotors out-swim nature's flagellated bacteria. *ACS Nano*, 4:1782–1789, 2010.
- [18] Pietro Tierno, Oriol Guell, and Francesc Sagues. Controlled propulsion in viscous fluids of magnetically actuated colloidal doublets. *Phys. Rev. E*, 81:011402, 2010.
- [19] Charles E. Sing, Lothar Schmid, Matthias F. Schneider, Thomas Franke, and Alfredo Alexander-Katz. Controlled surface-induced flows from the motion of self-assembled colloidal walkers. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 107:535, 2010.
- [20] Li Zhang, Tristan Petit, Yang Lu, Bradley E. Kratochvil, Kathrin E. Peyer, Jun Lou Ryan Pei, and Bradley J. Nelson. Controlled propulsion and cargo transport of rotating nickel nanowires near a patterned solid surface. *ACS Nano*, 4:6228, 2010.
- [21] Howard C. Berg. *E. Coli in Motion*. Springer, 2003.
- [22] Rmi Dreyfus, Jean Baudry, Marcus L. Roper, Marc Fermigier, Howard A. Stone, and Jerme Bibette. Microscopic artificial swimmers. *Nature*, 437:862–865, 2005.
- [23] Wei Gao, Sirilak Sattayasamitsathit, Kalayil Manian Manesh, Daniel Weihs, and Joseph Wang. Magnetically powered flexible metal nanowire motors. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 132:14403, 2010.

- [24] On Shun Pak, Wei Gao, Joseph Wang, and Eric Lauga. High-speed propulsion of flexible nanowire motors: Theory and experiments. *Soft Matter*, 7:8169–8181, 2011.
- [25] Li Zhang, Kathrin E. Peyer, and Bradley J. Nelson. Artificial bacteria flagella for micromanipulation. *Lab on a Chip*, 10:2203–2215, June 2010.
- [26] Ambarish Ghosh and Peer Fischer. Controlled propulsion of artificial magnetic nanostructured propellers. *Nano Lett.*, 9:2243–2245, 2009.
- [27] A. Ghosh, D. Paria, H. J. Singh, P.L. Venugopalan, and A. Ghosh. Dynamical configurations and bistability of helical nanostructures under external torque. *Phys. Rev. E*, 86:031401, 2012.
- [28] Soichiro Tottori, Li Zhang, Famin Qiu, Krzysztof K. Krawczyk, Alfredo Franco-Obregon, and Bradley J. Nelson. Magnetic helical micromachines: Fabrication, controlled swimming, and cargo transport. *Advanced Material*, 24:811816, February 2012.
- [29] J. Gray and G. J. Hancock. The propulsion of sea-urchin spermatozoa. *J. Exp. Biol.*, 32:802–814, 1955.
- [30] R. G. Cox. The motion of long slender bodies in a viscous fluid. *J. Fluid Mech.*, 44:791–810, 1970.
- [31] G. K. Batchelor. Slender-body theory for particles of arbitrary cross-section in stokes flow. *J. Fluid Mech.*, 44:419–440, 1970.
- [32] J. B. Keller and S. I. Rubinow. Slender body theory for slow viscous flow. *J. Fluid Mech.*, 75:705–714, 1976.
- [33] R. E. Johnson. An improved slender body theory for Stokes flow. *J. Fluid Mech.*, 99:411–431, 1980.
- [34] Charles W. Wolgemuth, Thomas R. Powers, and Raymond E. Goldstein. Twirling and whirling: Viscous dynamics of rotating elastic filaments. *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 84:16231626, 2000.