

Odd dynamics in a chiral active bath

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with Federico Ghimenti, Julien Tailleur, and Frédéric van Wijland

March 7, 2025

Small particles **move as though alive** in water.

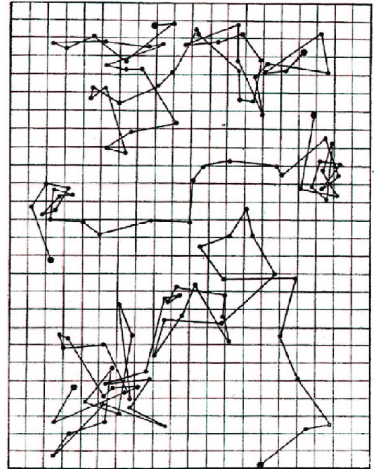
(*Brown, 1827*)

Grains of pollen

very evidently in motion

not limited to organic bodies

Fig. 6.



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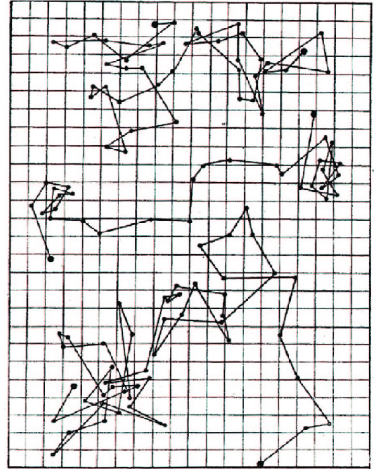
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Brownian motion is a consequence of many **collisions**.

(*Einstein 1905, Perrin 1909*)

Fig. 6.



A thermal bath

Small particles **move as though alive** in water.

(Brown, 1827)

Grains of pollen

very evidently in motion

not limited to organic bodies

Brownian motion is a consequence of many **collisions**.

(Einstein 1905, Perrin 1909)

...but what if the bath really is alive?

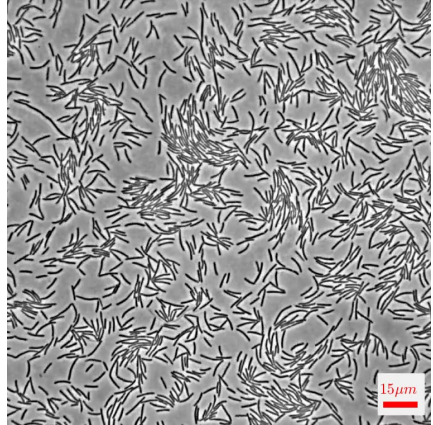


An active bath can drive a ratchet



Di Lionardo et al. *PNAS* 2010

Chiral motion has collective benefits



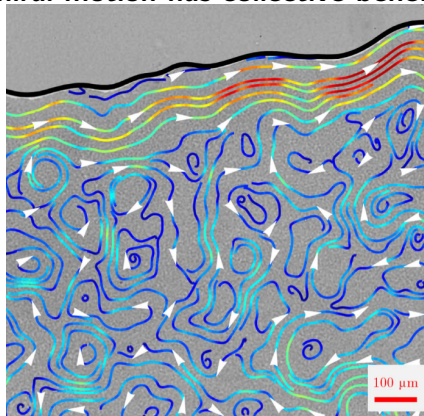
Li, Chaté, et al. *PRX* 2024

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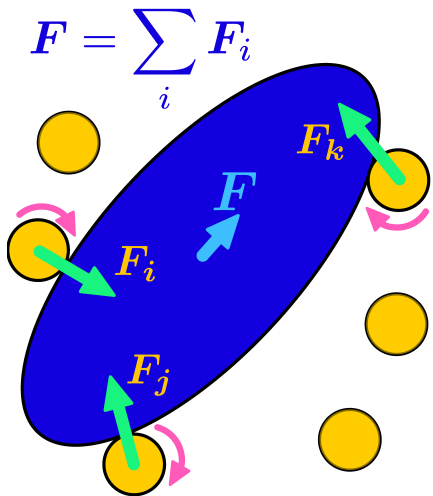


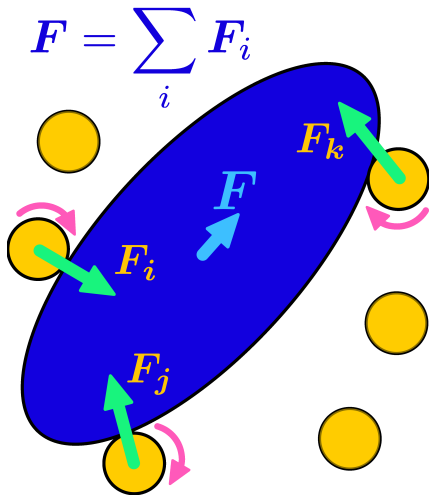
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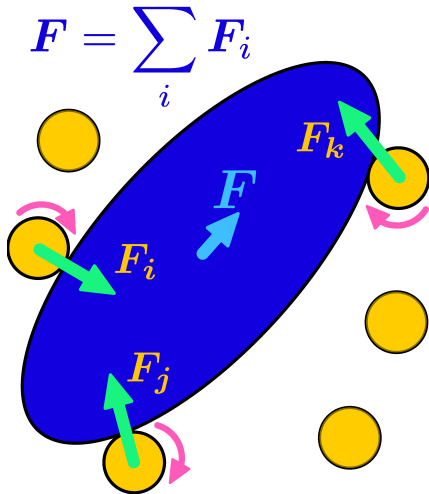


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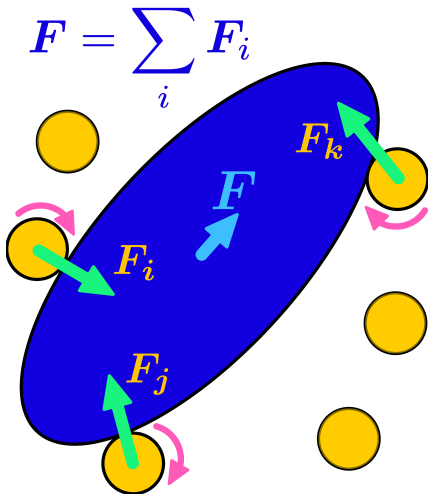




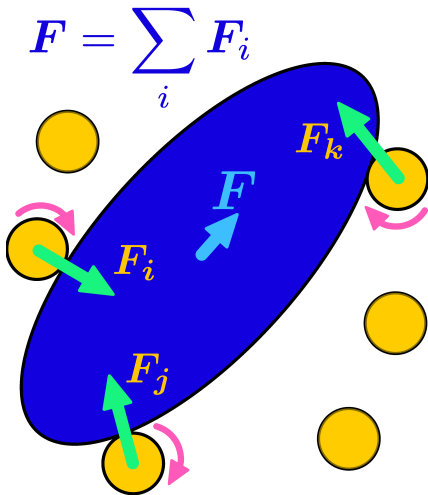
► Irreversible ratchet motion



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- ▶ Odd diffusion and odd mobility

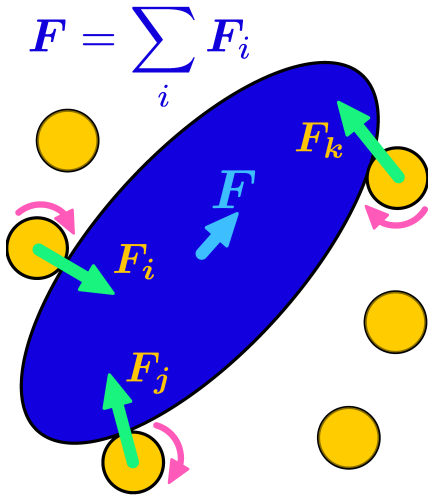


- ▶ Irreversible ratchet motion
- ▶ Odd diffusion and odd mobility
- ▶ Long-range density modulations and flows in the bath



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A passive object in a chiral active bath



- ▶ Irreversible ratchet motion
- ▶ Odd diffusion and odd mobility
- ▶ Long-range density modulations and flows in the bath

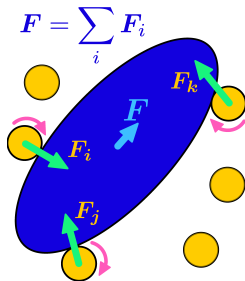
How do the object's shape, size, and mass control these effects?

Langevin dynamics in the adiabatic limit

Bath (Chiral ABPs)

$$\gamma \dot{\mathbf{r}}_i = f_0 \mathbf{u}(\theta_i) - \mathbf{F}_i$$

$$\dot{\theta}_i = \omega_0 + \sqrt{2D_r} \xi_i$$



Mazur and Oppenheim, *Physica* **50** (1970)
Van Kampen and Oppenheim, *Physica A* **138** (1986)
Solon and Horowitz, *J. Phys. A* **55** (2022)

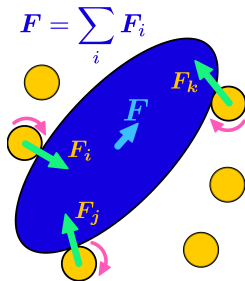
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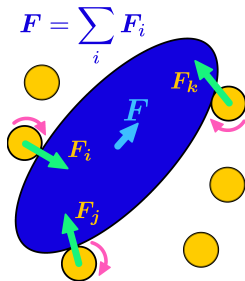
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Object (Rigid Newtonian dynamics)

$$\dot{\mathbf{R}} = \frac{1}{M} \mathbf{P}, \quad \dot{\Theta} = \frac{1}{I} L,$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{P}} = \mathbf{F} \quad \dot{L} = \Gamma$$

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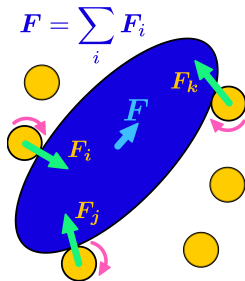
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$$\epsilon = \sqrt{\text{"}m\text{"}/M} = \sqrt{\gamma/D_r M}.$$

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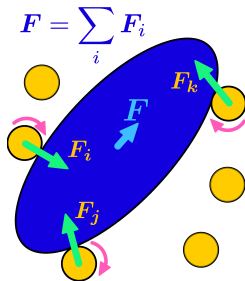
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In the adiabatic limit
of $M \rightarrow \infty$:



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$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{P}} \\ \dot{L} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \langle \mathbf{F} \rangle_b \\ \langle \Gamma \rangle_b \end{bmatrix} - \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \zeta_{PP} & \zeta_{PL} \\ \zeta_{LP} & \zeta_{LL} \end{bmatrix}}_{\zeta} \begin{bmatrix} M^{-1} \mathbf{P} \\ I^{-1} L \end{bmatrix} + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \xi_P(t) \\ \xi_L(t) \end{bmatrix}}_{\xi}$$

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where $\langle A(t) \rangle_{\mathbf{b}} := \int d\mathbf{r}^N A(\mathbf{r}^N) \rho_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbf{r}^N | \mathbf{R}, \Theta; t)$,

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and $\boldsymbol{\xi}(t)$ is Gaussian white* noise with $\langle \boldsymbol{\xi}(t) \otimes \boldsymbol{\xi}(t') \rangle = \boldsymbol{\lambda} \delta_+(t - t') + \boldsymbol{\lambda}^T \delta_-(t - t')$
where $\delta_-(t - t') + \delta_+(t - t) = 2\delta(t - t')$.

*Chun, Durang and Noh, *PRE* (2018)

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$$\boldsymbol{\lambda} = \int_0^\infty d\tau \begin{bmatrix} \langle \delta \mathbf{F}(\tau) \otimes \delta \mathbf{F}(0) \rangle_{\mathbf{b}} & \langle \delta \mathbf{F}(\tau) \delta \Gamma(0) \rangle_{\mathbf{b}} \\ \langle \delta \Gamma(\tau) \delta \mathbf{F}^T(0) \rangle_{\mathbf{b}} & \langle \delta \Gamma(\tau) \delta \Gamma(0) \rangle_{\mathbf{b}} \end{bmatrix},$$

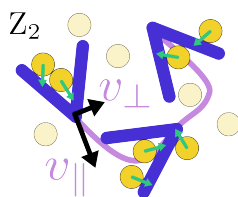
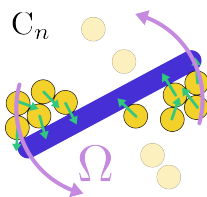
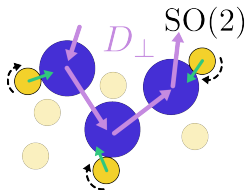
$$\boldsymbol{\zeta} = \int_0^\infty d\tau \begin{bmatrix} \langle \delta \mathbf{F}(\tau) \otimes \nabla_{\mathbf{R}} \log \rho_{\mathbf{b}}(0) \rangle_{\mathbf{b}} & \langle \delta \mathbf{F}(\tau) \partial_{\Theta} \log \rho_{\mathbf{b}}(0) \rangle_{\mathbf{b}} \\ \langle \delta \Gamma(\tau) \nabla_{\mathbf{R}}^T \log \rho_{\mathbf{b}}(0) \rangle_{\mathbf{b}} & \langle \delta \Gamma(\tau) \partial_{\Theta} \log \rho_{\mathbf{b}}(0) \rangle_{\mathbf{b}} \end{bmatrix}.$$

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Object symmetries determine the dynamics

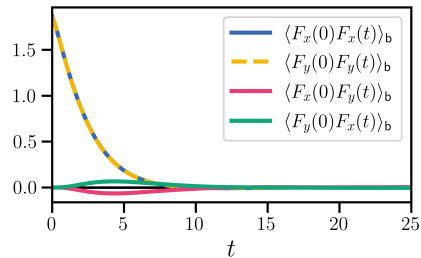
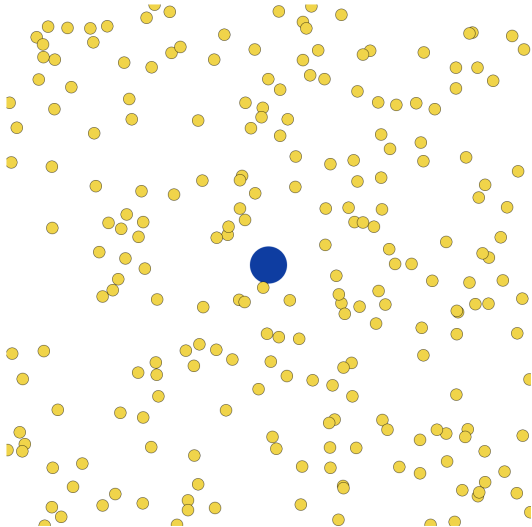
$$\begin{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{P}} \\ \dot{\mathbf{L}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \langle \mathbf{F} \rangle_{\mathbf{b}} \\ \langle \mathbf{\Gamma} \rangle_{\mathbf{b}} \end{bmatrix} - \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \zeta_{PP} & \zeta_{PL} \\ \zeta_{LP} & \zeta_{LL} \end{bmatrix}}_{\boldsymbol{\zeta}} \begin{bmatrix} M^{-1} \mathbf{P} \\ I^{-1} \mathbf{L} \end{bmatrix} + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\xi}_P(t) \\ \boldsymbol{\xi}_L(t) \end{bmatrix}}_{\boldsymbol{\xi}},$$

$$\boldsymbol{\zeta}^{\text{disk}} = \begin{bmatrix} \zeta_{\parallel} & \zeta_{\perp} & 0 \\ -\zeta_{\perp} & \zeta_{\parallel} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \boldsymbol{\zeta}^{\text{rod}} = \begin{bmatrix} \zeta_{xx} & \zeta_{xy} & 0 \\ \zeta_{yx} & \zeta_{yy} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \zeta_{\theta\theta} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \boldsymbol{\zeta}^{\text{wedge}} = \begin{bmatrix} \zeta_{xx} & \zeta_{xy} & \zeta_{x\theta} \\ \zeta_{yx} & \zeta_{yy} & \zeta_{y\theta} \\ \zeta_{\theta x} & \zeta_{\theta y} & \zeta_{\theta\theta} \end{bmatrix}$$



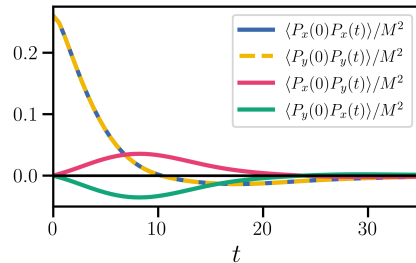
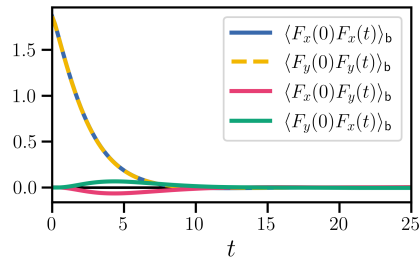
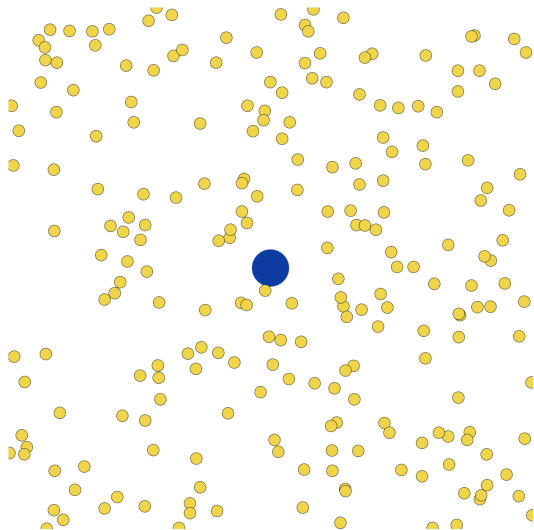
Passive disk in a chiral active bath

fixed disk



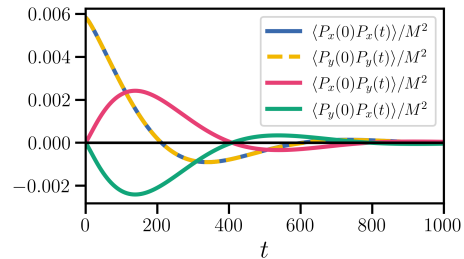
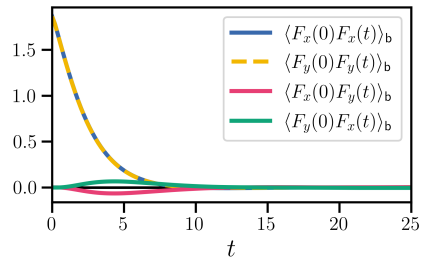
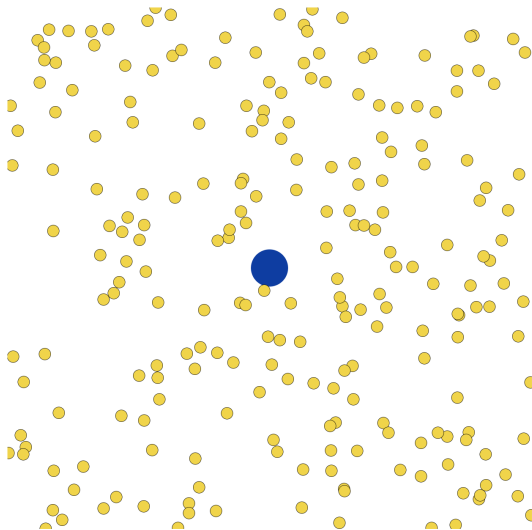
Passive disk in a chiral active bath

lightweight disk ($M = 1$)



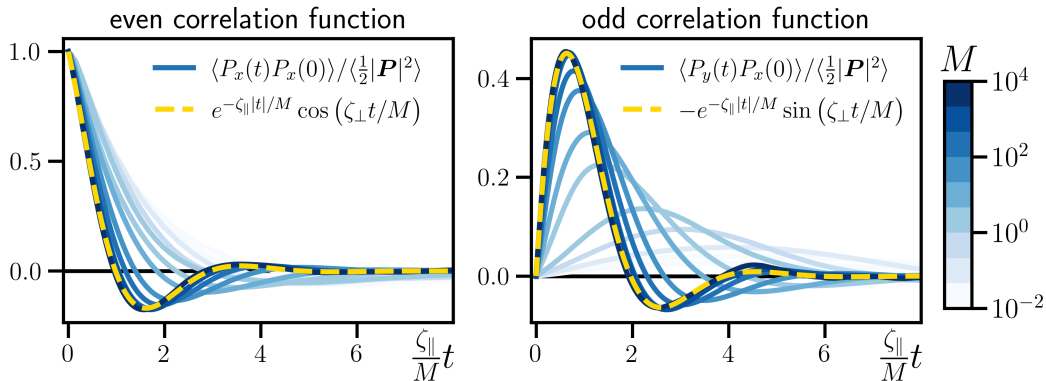
Passive disk in a chiral active bath

heavy disk ($M = 100$, 10x faster)

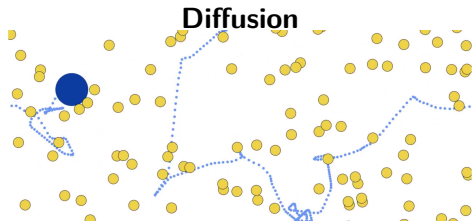


Passive disk in a chiral active bath

Momentum correlations match the Langevin prediction at $M \rightarrow \infty$

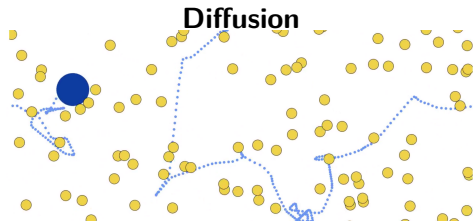


Einstein relations



$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{D} &= \frac{1}{M^2} \int_0^\infty dt \langle \mathbf{P}(t) \mathbf{P}(0) \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{M^2} \int_0^\infty dt e^{-\zeta t/M} \underbrace{\langle \mathbf{P}(0) \mathbf{P}(0) \rangle}_{MT_{\text{eff}}\delta} \end{aligned}$$

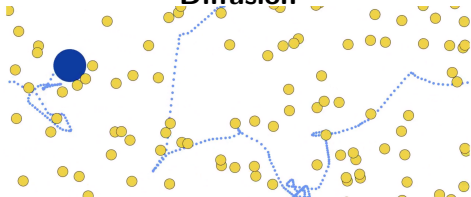
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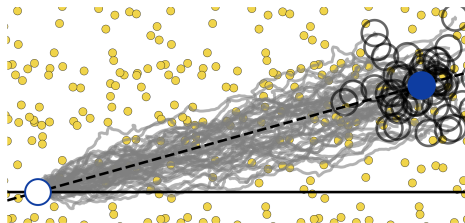
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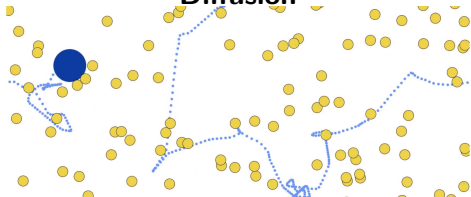
Mobility



$$\dot{\mathbf{P}} = -M^{-1} \zeta \mathbf{P} + \mathbf{F}^{\text{ext}} + \xi$$

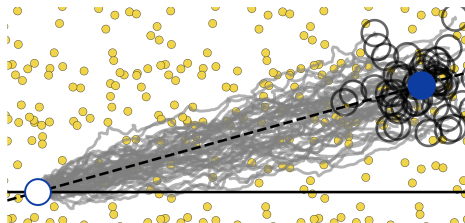
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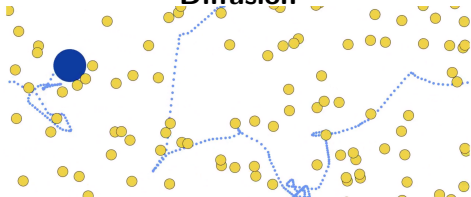
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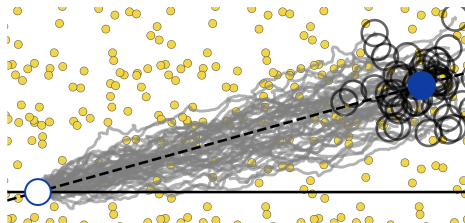
Einstein relations

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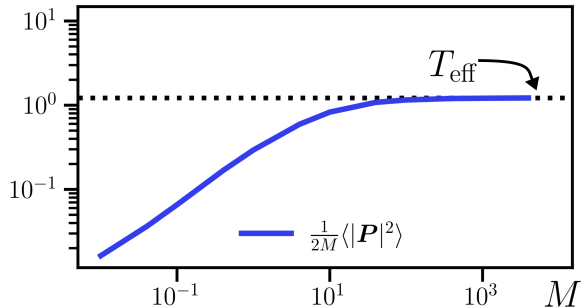
Mobility



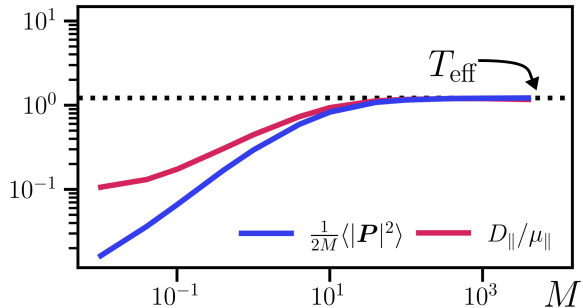
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$$\boxed{\mu T_{\text{eff}} = \mathbf{D}}$$

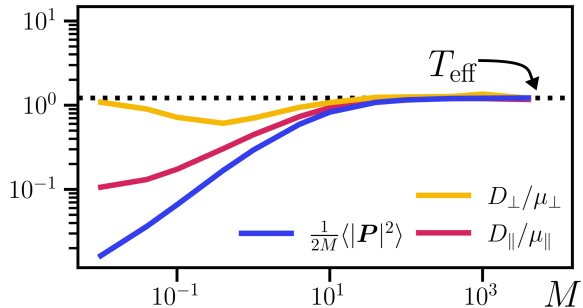
Even and odd thermometers for T_{eff}



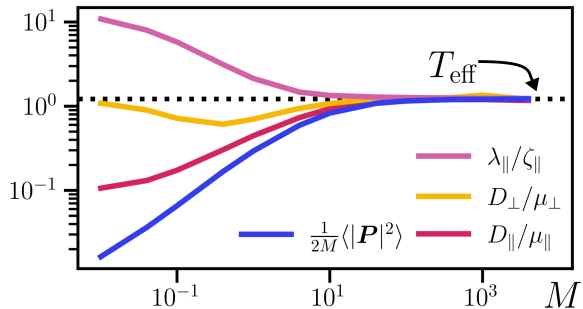
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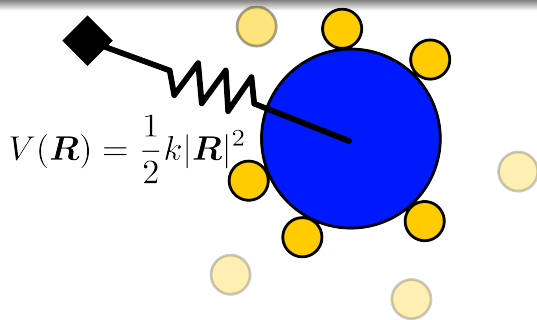
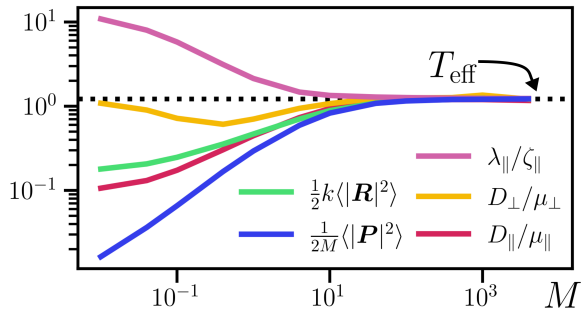
Even and odd thermometers for T_{eff}



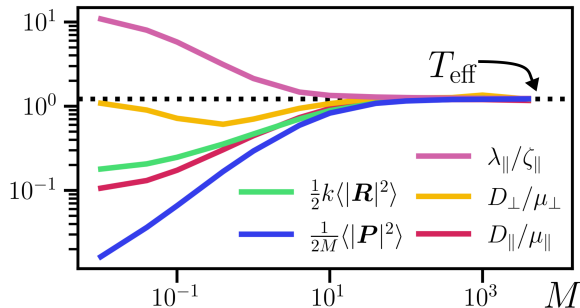
Even and odd thermometers for T_{eff}



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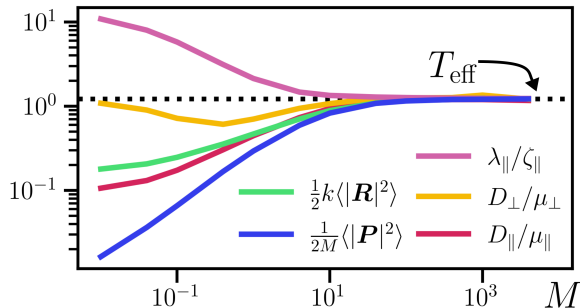
Even and odd thermometers for T_{eff}



Adiabatic steady state is Boltzmann-distributed

$$\rho_{\text{o}}^{\text{ss}} = \rho_{\mathbf{R}}^{\text{ss}}(\mathbf{R})\rho_{\mathbf{P}}^{\text{ss}}(\mathbf{P}) \propto e^{-(V(\mathbf{R}) + \frac{1}{2M}|\mathbf{P}|^2)/T_{\text{eff}}}$$

Even and odd thermometers for T_{eff}



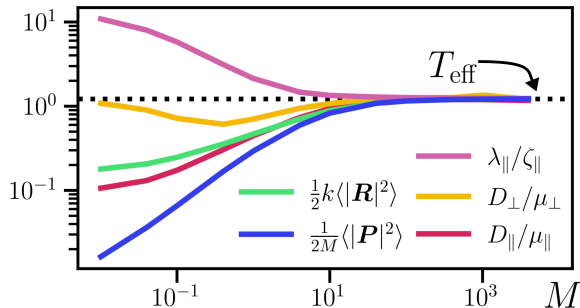
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$$\rho_{\mathbf{R}}(\mathbf{R}, t) = \langle \delta(\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{R}(t)) \rangle,$$

$$0 = \partial_t \rho_{\mathbf{R}}^{\text{ss}} = -\nabla \cdot \underbrace{[(T_{\text{eff}}\boldsymbol{\mu} - \mathbf{D})\nabla_{\mathbf{R}}\rho_{\mathbf{R}}^{\text{ss}}]}_{\mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{R}}^{\text{ss}}}$$

Even and odd thermometers for T_{eff}



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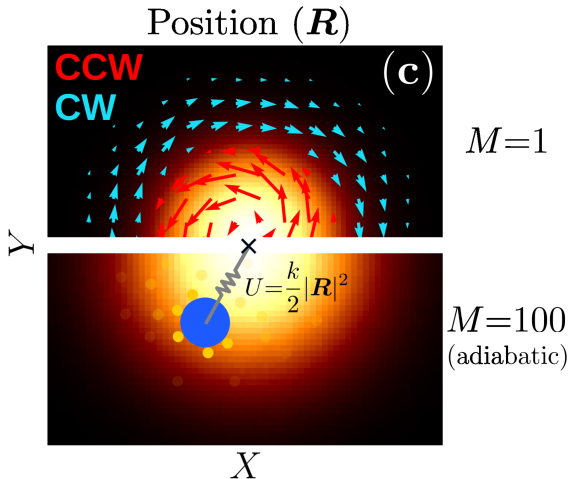
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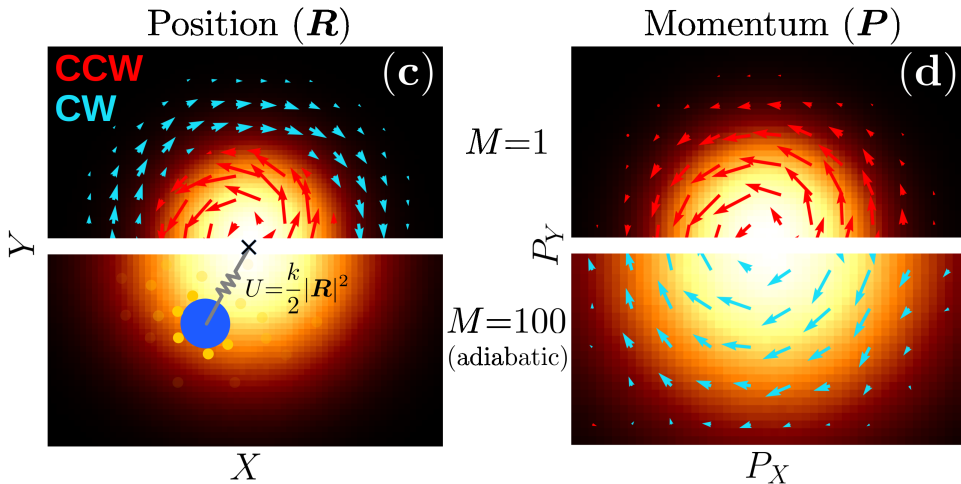
$$\rho_P(\mathbf{P}, t) = \langle \delta(\mathbf{P} - \mathbf{P}(t)) \rangle ,$$

$$0 = \partial_t \rho_P^{\text{ss}} = -\nabla \cdot \underbrace{[(T_{\text{eff}} \boldsymbol{\zeta} - \boldsymbol{\lambda}) \nabla_P \rho_P^{\text{ss}}]}_{\mathbf{J}_P^{\text{ss}} \neq 0 \text{ even when adiabatic}}$$

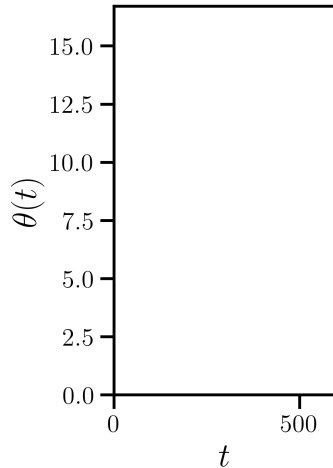
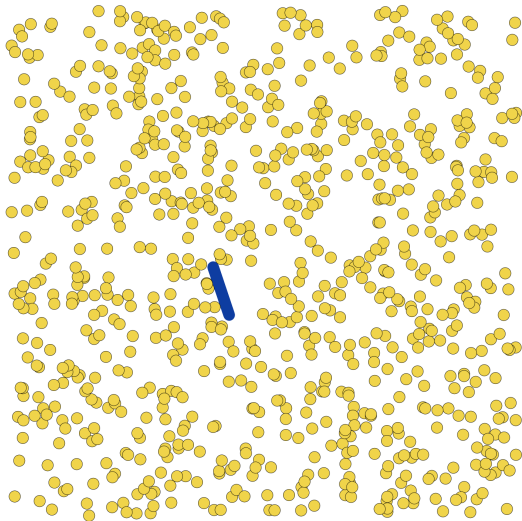
Odd circulation of the disk is a signature of nonequilibrium



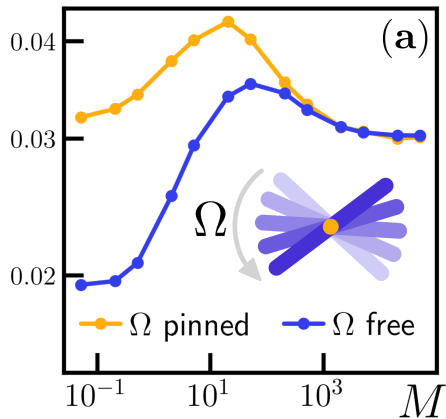
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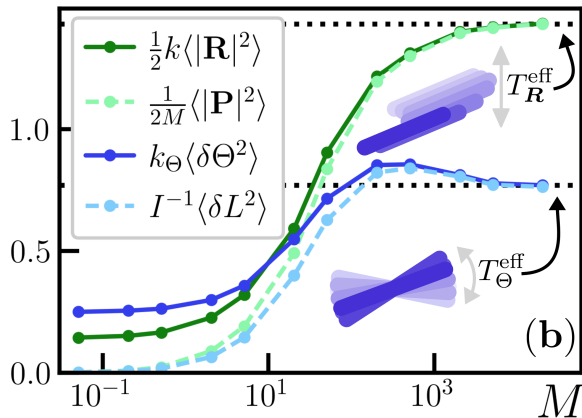
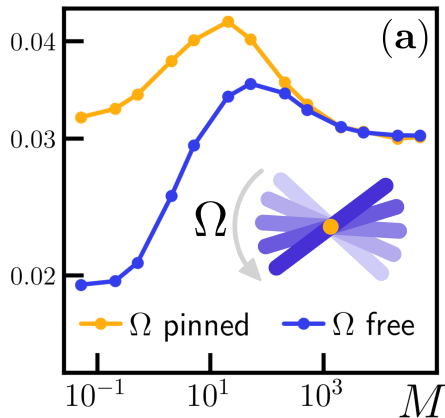
Rotational dynamics of the rod



Measures of rod **adiabaticity**

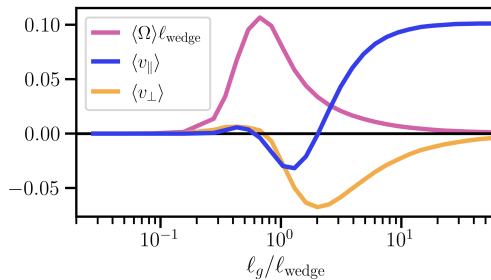
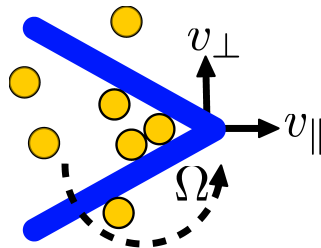
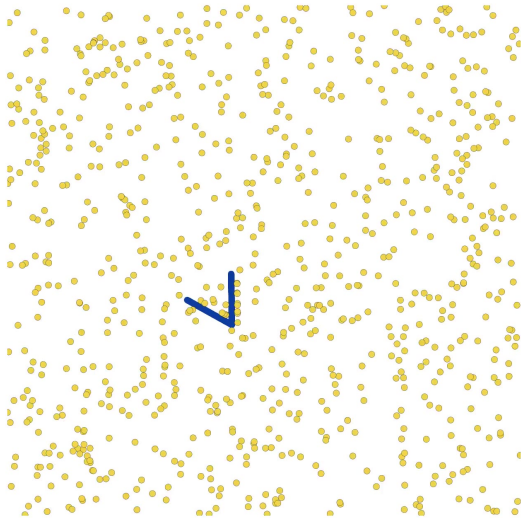


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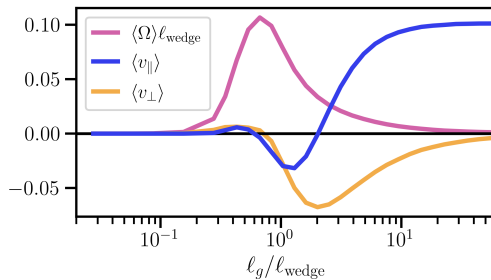
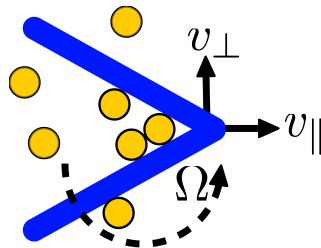
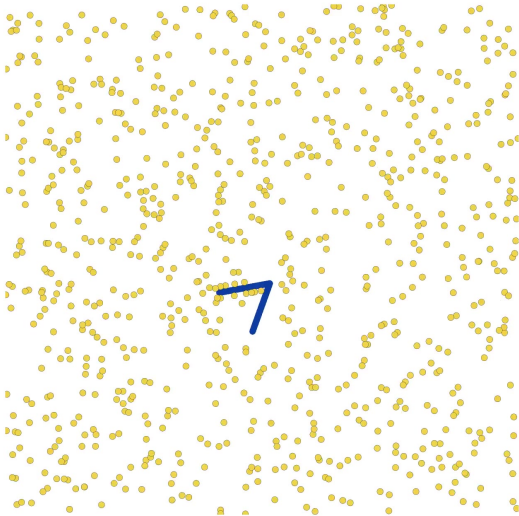
Wedge dynamics

Achiral: $\ell_g/\ell_{\text{wedge}} \rightarrow \infty$

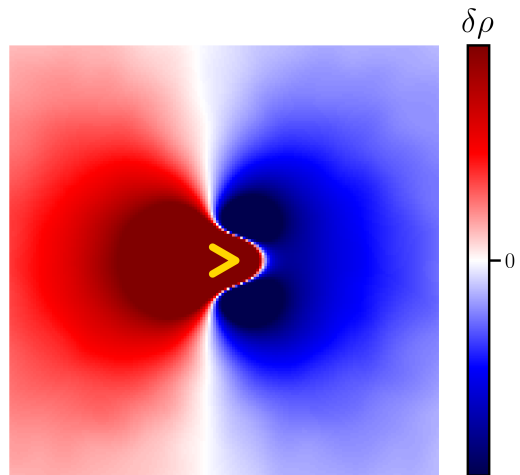


Wedge dynamics

Chiral: $\ell_g/\ell_{\text{wedge}} = 1$



How does the object affect the **bath** itself?

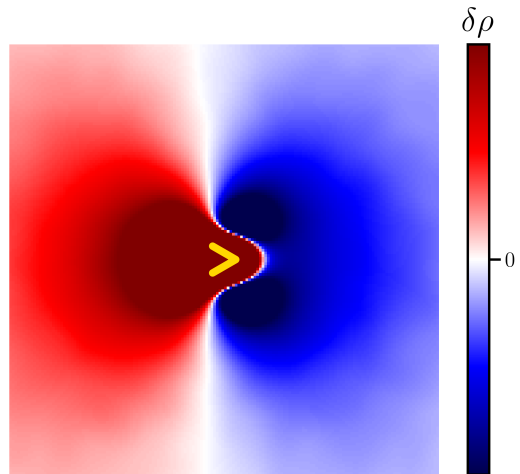


Baek et al., *PRL* (2018)
Granek et al., *J. Stat. Mech.* (2022)

How does the object affect the **bath** itself?

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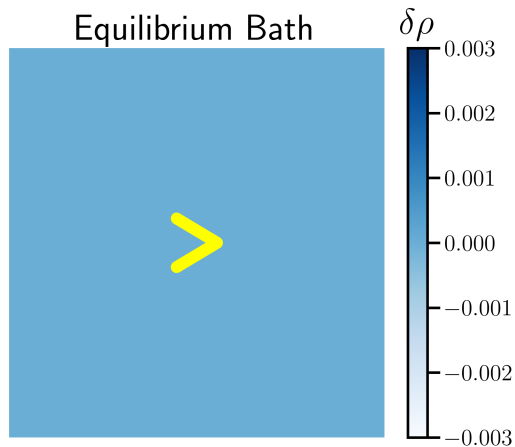


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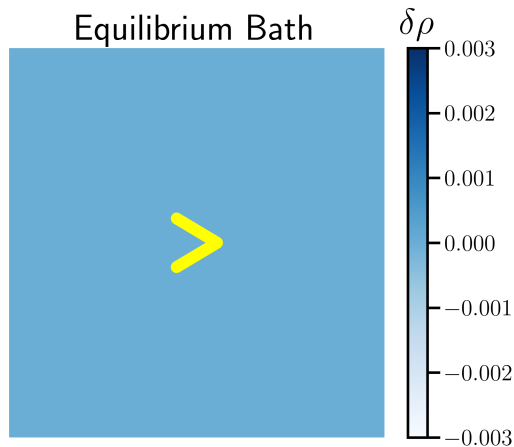


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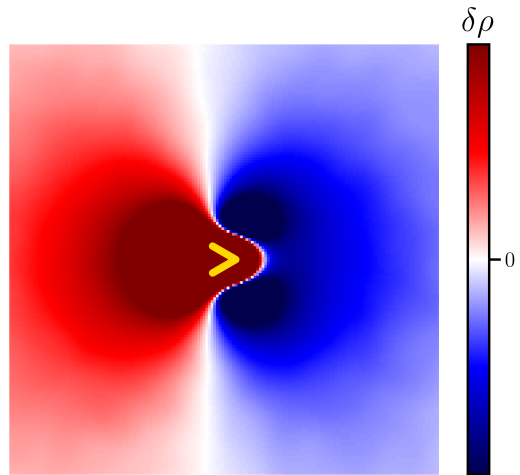


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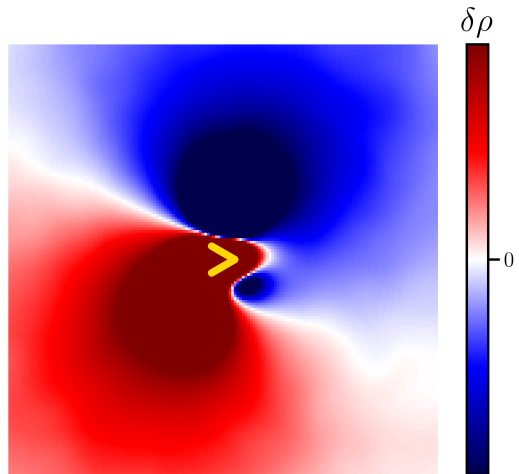
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What is the effect of chirality?



Baek et al., *PRL* (2018)
Granek et al., *J. Stat. Mech.* (2022)

A multipole expansion connects ratchet forces to the far field

In steady state $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J} = 0$. Defining $\mathbf{J} = \delta \mathbf{J} - \mathbf{D} \nabla \rho$ then yields

$$D_{\parallel} \nabla^2 \rho = -\nabla \cdot \delta \mathbf{J} ,$$

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with the dipole and quadrupole moments

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{p} &= - \int d\mathbf{r} \, \rho(\mathbf{r}) \nabla V(\mathbf{r}) = \\ \mathbf{q} &= \text{Traceless} \left(-2 \int d\mathbf{r} \, [\rho(\mathbf{r}) \mathbf{r} \otimes \nabla V + \frac{1}{v_0} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{m}(\mathbf{r}) \otimes \nabla V] \right) \end{aligned}$$

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$$\text{Asymm}(\mathbf{q}) = -\langle \mathbf{\Gamma} \rangle_{\mathbf{b}} + (\cdots) = \gamma \int d\mathbf{r} \, \mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{r})$$

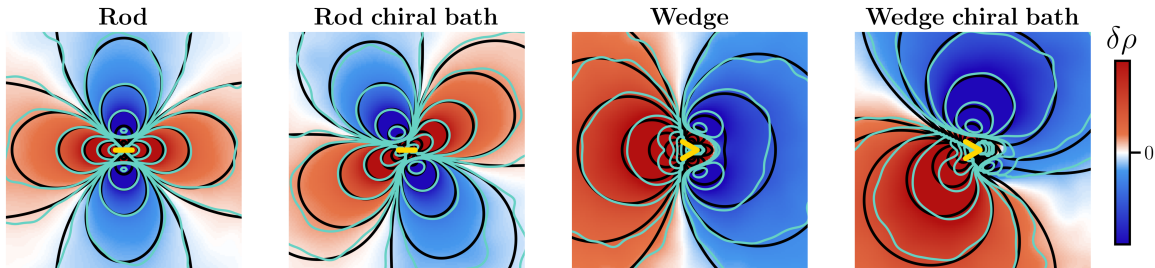
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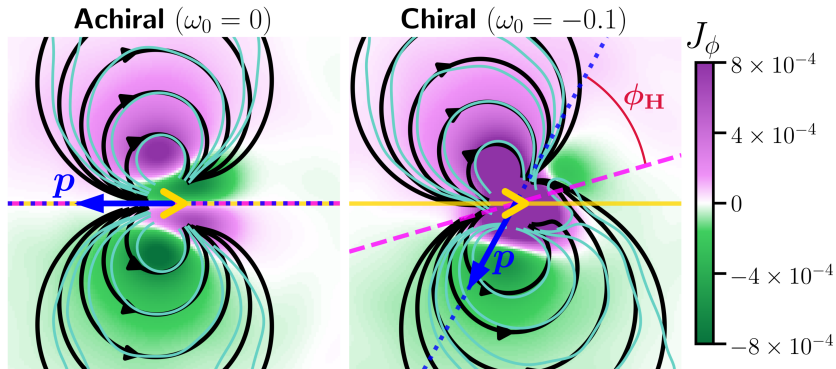
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Near field: chirality drives circulation

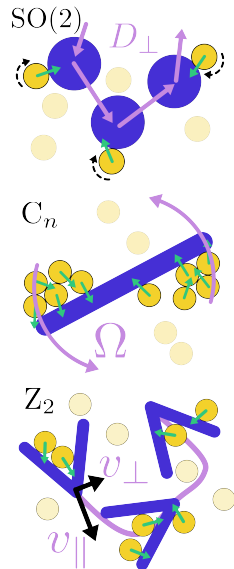
Far field: $\nabla \times \mathbf{J} = 0$



$$\phi_H = \arctan(D_\perp^b / D_\parallel^b), \quad J_\phi = \mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{J} / |\mathbf{r}|$$

Conclusions

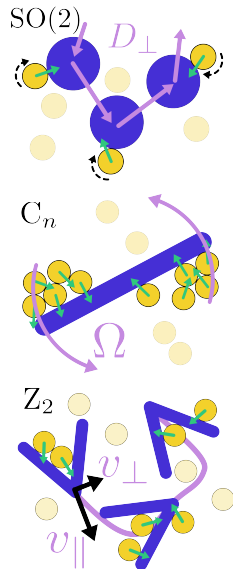
In a chiral active bath, **how do a passive tracer's shape, mass, and size control odd transport and ratchet effects?**



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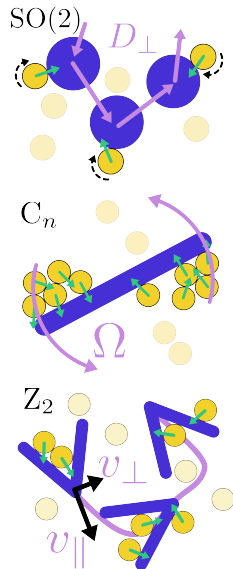
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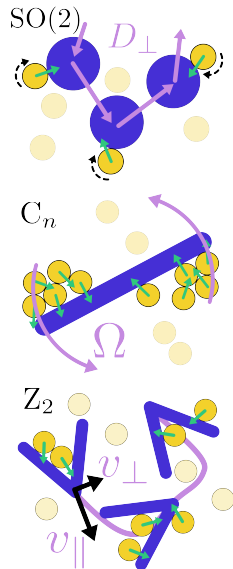
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- ▶ **Size:** Odd dynamics are maximized for $\ell_g \sim \ell_{\text{tracer}}$

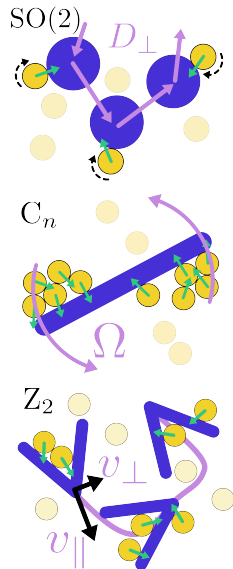


Conclusions

In a chiral active bath, **how do a passive tracer's shape, mass, and size control odd transport and ratchet effects?**

- ▶ **Shape:** Object symmetry + bath chirality determines the dynamics
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Future directions: tracer interactions and self-assembly, chiral nematic bath, application to bacterial ratchets



Backup slides

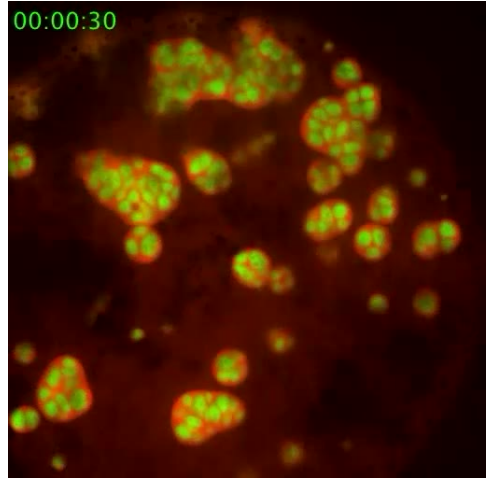
Molecular motors are chiral



Bacterial Flagellum, *Smart Biology*

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYt5135_0bs)

An active bath can drive assembly



Feric et al. *Cell* 2016

The adiabatic limit: $M \rightarrow \infty$

Define the small parameter

$$\epsilon = \sqrt{“m”/M} = \sqrt{\gamma/D_r M}.$$

Object: rigid Newtonian dynamics

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\mathbf{R}} &= \frac{1}{M} \mathbf{P}, & \dot{\Theta} &= \frac{1}{I} L, \\ \dot{\mathbf{P}} &= \mathbf{F} & \dot{L} &= \Gamma\end{aligned}$$

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Rescale: $\mathbf{P} = \epsilon^{-1} \mathbf{P}^*$, $L = \epsilon^{-1} L^*$.

For simplicity, set “ m ” = 1.

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$\rho(\mathbf{r}^N, \theta^N, \mathbf{R}, \mathbf{P}^*, \Theta, L^*, t)$ evolves as

$$\partial_t \rho = (\epsilon \mathcal{L}_{\text{object}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{bath}}) \rho$$

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Adiabatic approximation for $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$:

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}^N, \theta^N, \mathbf{R}, \mathbf{P}^*, \Theta, L^*, t) = \rho_{\text{tracer}}(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{P}^*, \Theta, L^*, t) \rho_{\text{bath}}(\mathbf{r}^N, \theta^N | \mathbf{R}, \Theta)$$

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Define the projection operator $\mathcal{P}$ where

$$\mathcal{P}\rho(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{P}, L, \Theta, \mathbf{r}^N, \theta^N, t) = \rho_{\text{bath}}(\mathbf{r}^N, \theta^N | \mathbf{R}, \Theta) \rho_{\text{o}}(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{P}, \Theta, L, t).$$

noting that $\mathcal{P}\mathcal{L}_{\text{B}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{B}}\mathcal{P} = 0$, because $\mathcal{L}_{\text{B}}\rho_{\text{bath}} = 0$.

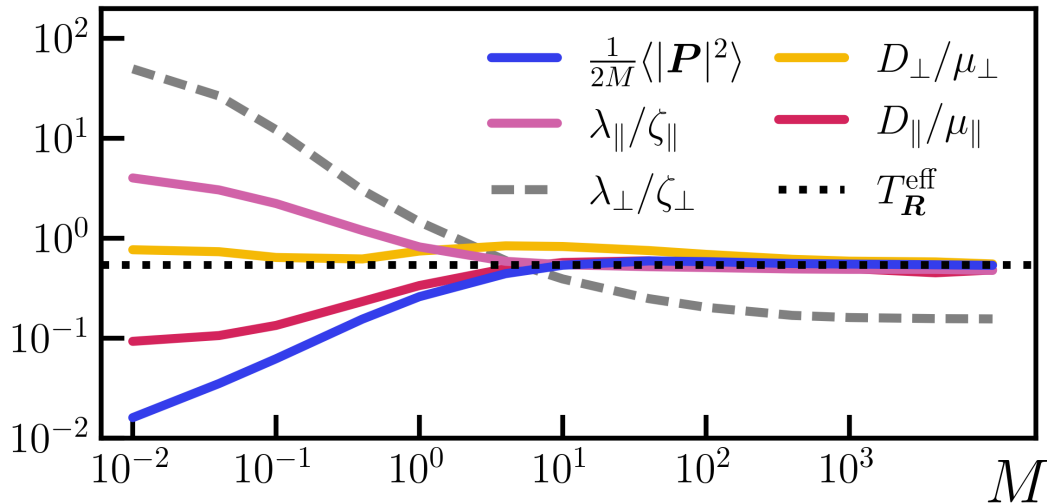
Then define the orthogonal projector $\mathcal{Q} \equiv 1 - \mathcal{P}$ to decouple the evolution as

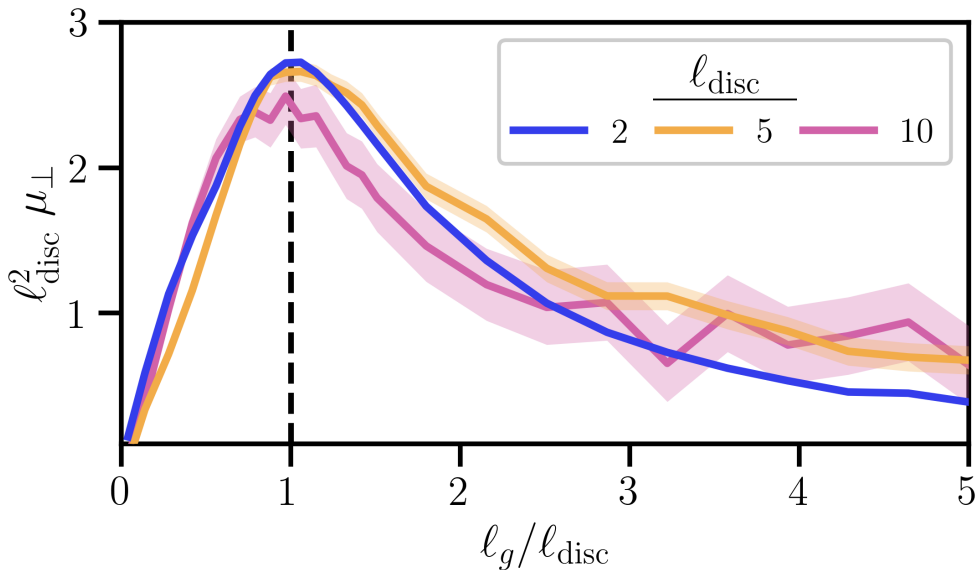
$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t \mathcal{P}\rho &= \epsilon \mathcal{P}\mathcal{L}_{\text{T}}\mathcal{P}\rho + \epsilon \mathcal{P}\mathcal{L}_{\text{T}}\mathcal{Q}\rho \\ \partial_t \mathcal{Q}\rho &= \epsilon \mathcal{Q}\mathcal{L}_{\text{T}}\mathcal{P}\rho + \epsilon \mathcal{Q}\mathcal{L}_{\text{T}}\mathcal{Q}\rho + \mathcal{Q}\mathcal{L}_{\text{B}}\mathcal{Q}\rho.\end{aligned}$$

Perturbative solution: $\mathcal{Q}\rho = q^{(0)} + \epsilon q^{(1)} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathcal{Q}\mathcal{L}_{\text{B}}q_1 + \mathcal{Q}\mathcal{L}_{\text{T}}\mathcal{P}\rho = 0.$

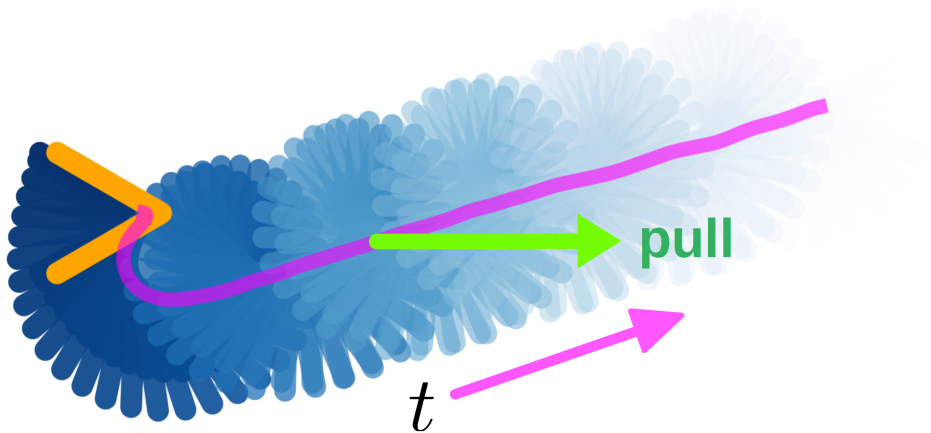
$$\partial_t \mathcal{P}\rho = \rho_{\text{bath}} \partial_t \rho_{\text{o}} = \mathcal{P}\mathcal{L}_{\text{T}}\mathcal{P}\rho + \mathcal{P}\mathcal{L}_{\text{T}}\mathcal{Q} \left(\int_0^\infty ds e^{\frac{1}{\epsilon} \mathcal{L}_{\text{B}} s} \right) \mathcal{Q}\mathcal{L}_{\text{T}}\mathcal{P}\rho + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2).$$

There is no FDT connecting $\lambda_{\perp}$ and $\zeta_{\perp}$.

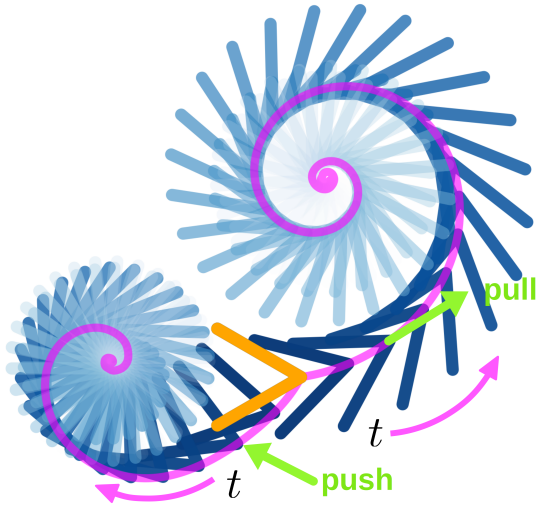




Wedge pulling



Wedge pulling



Rotational symmetry

