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## Development of all-magnetic active matter





Active matter systems are composed of energy consuming/ dissipating components which are intrinsically out of thermal equilibrium.

This phenomenon is present in processes ranging from

- intra-cellular transport
- bird migration
- marine life
- bacterial colonies
- even human migration !









#### Life at low Reynolds number

**Our focus : Systems at small scales** 



At small scales, inertial forces are negligible and viscous (friction) forces dominate.

Life at Low Reynolds number, E.M. Purcell, 1976





### Bacterial colony

#### Three examples of sperm swimming

Donner F. Babcock, Petra M. Wandernoth and Gunther Wennemuth "Episodic rolling and transient attachments create diversity in sperm swimming behavior." BMC Biology 2014, 12:67 http://www.biomedcentral.com/1741-7007/12/67

## Swimming of Sperms

\*\*Youtube



#### Our artificial system of magnetic swimmers



Scale of the system  $-1 \sim 5 \mu m$ 

Energy source – magnetic field

Helical structure – corkscrew motion

Permanent magnetic moment – due to ferromagnetic element

Under a rotating magnetic field – translational motion















## Motion at small scales is dictated by Scallop theorem

A swimmer that exhibits time-symmetric motion cannot achieve net displacement in a low Reynolds number, Newtonian fluid environment.

Navier - Stokes:  
- 
$$\nabla p + \gamma \nabla^2 \vec{v} = \vec{v} + \vec{p} \cdot \vec{v} \cdot \vec{v}$$



Life at Low Reynolds number, E.M. Purcell, 1976





## With time, clockwise (CW) and counterclockwise (CCW) turns continue alternately









Ratio of turns as a function of switching time between +B and -B







#### Experimentally obtained statistics

	CW	CCW
Slow Switching	94%	6%
Fast Switching	43%	57%



















Back and forth



W













Noise necessary in breaking CW-CCW symmetry



Brownian ratchet principle

Asymmetric spatially modulating periodic potential + non-equilibrium system + thermal noise

$$U = -mB_z \cos(\alpha) + WR(1 + \cos(\alpha + \varphi))$$

An introduction to ratchets in Chemistry and Biology, Materials Horizons











#### In a nutshell,

We have designed an artificial active system which is easily tunable to study the various phenomenological ideas like flocking, swarming and phase separation.

The system can be tuned very easily from driven to an active system; With reciprocal to non-reciprocal swimming.

Collective motion of such swimmers show interesting features which is the work currently being pursued.





#### References:

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[3] Patil, G., & Ghosh, A. (2021). Anomalous Behavior of Highly Active Helical Swimmers. Frontiers in Physics, 8, 656.

[4] Patil, G., Mandal, P., & Ghosh, A., Breaking reciprocity of a magnetic helical swimmer using the principle of ratchet, *To be submitted* 

## Thank You