

Fluid Dynamics

Project Paper

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This paper presents a simple model of scallop swimming. For years, I've found valves of *Placopecten magellanicus* on the beach, and have been unable to explain why shells are almost always 10 cm to 12 cm in length. Scallops swim to migrate and to avoid predators. Several models in the literature predict that ^{adult} scallops swim until they are about 10 cm in length. Scallop swimming is more like bird flight because they are much heavier than sea water. This might explain the cause of death. Larger scallops have to burrow & are more vulnerable. A scallop failing to adapt to its size is more likely to fall prey. ✓

Observations

Caddy (1968) and Dadds et al + Weikel (1989) have studied scallop trajectories. To swim, a scallop opens its valves by relaxing the large (striped) adductor muscle and allowing the hinge tendons to open, the contracting that muscle forcing the sea water out openings in the back. The shell is somewhat streamlined and approximates a Boeing airfoil in cross-section - but the motion is in the opposite direction.

A contraction period is subdivided:

- 1) open valve for *P. magellanicus* maximum gap is $\sim 18^\circ$.
- 2) close valves (thrust)
- 3) glide

Each subdivision is about $\frac{1}{3}$ the entire cycle period, which is typically .5 s to 1 s. ✓

Scallops have two rows of 'eyes'. These photosensitive cells can detect an object moving at a range of 15 - 90 cm. ✓

Scallop swimming has 3 phases:

- 1) Rapid ascent to height of 30 - 90 cm. at a trajectory angle of $\sim 30^\circ$ for about 5 contractions.
- 2) Nearly level swimming for about 7 - 10 contractions.
- 3) Passive descent to ocean floor.

The time of flight is 5 to 20 s point to point. The point to point distance is about 3 m.

Figure 1 illustrates the internal structure and S_L = length, S_W = width.

Model

Scallop swimming is unsteady, with pulsed jets into a wake of vortices being shed from the valves. Cheng & Demont (1996) argue that the scallop is stream lined so the boundary layer doesn't separate on most of the valve, the wake is small + pressure drag can be ignored. (Figure 2)

Figure 3 shows the force diagram for this simple model. Other models regard the scallop as having a planned trajectory. This model says - the scallop eyes probably don't give it much opportunity to chart a course while swimming. The path they have results only from contractions made when it gets excited/disturbed by something it senses.

The gravitational force is not time dependant because the expellable water doesn't contribute to the buoyant weight. Dadds & Weihs show this weight for *Placopecten magellanicus* to be:

$$M_b = A_v(100 \cdot S_L - 3.5) \quad \text{in m and kg}$$

$$A_v = \text{valve area} = S_L \cdot S_w \quad \text{where } S_w = A_R \cdot S_L$$

$A_R = \text{aspect ratio} = 1.117 + 3.6 \cdot (S_L - 0.04)$
according to Cheng & Demont.

$$S_L = \text{length in m}$$

$$M_b \text{ in kg.}$$

~~Dadds & Weihs~~ Cheng & Demont have measured + modeled the lift + drag coefficients:

$$C_L = 0.0565 + (1.21 + 3.8 S_L) \cdot \alpha$$

~~$C_D = 0.06 + (1.21 + 3.8 S_L) \cdot \alpha$~~

$$C_D = 0.06 + \frac{(1.47 \cdot C_L^2)}{\pi A_R}$$

$\uparrow$
 C_{D0}

The form factor was measured by Hayami (1991)

The C_{D0} is found by modeling + measuring this species.

Cheng + Demont (1996) give a propulsion model, but in software it overestimated larger scallops giving them the best flight - opposite of observations. Their analysis of weight/drag ratio though does explain why larger scallops don't swim.

Modeling the scallop as having motion due to contractions and a random angle of attack (observed to be 6° to 12°) explained their trajectories. Figure 4 shows the model output with the larger scallop barely on the ocean floor and a .07m scallop traveling with rapid ascent that levels off.

To model propulsion, I just set it to be proportional to the scallop's volume, roughly

$$F \propto S_L^{3.24}$$

With constant of proportionality set to get the observed trajectories.

Level flight for the .07m scallop is due to a "I'm getting tired" parameter that increases the glide time between open cycle by 1.2 for contractions less than the 7th contraction. While there is no data to compare to, it seems reasonable.

Future

If this were to become a paper, the force of propulsion would be modeled in terms of vortex formation. (Dabiri, 2009) Vortex formation is important in biological propulsion because they have unsteady motion with high Reynold's numbers. The impact of ridges + symbiotic creatures attaching to the shell can be studied (Fig 5) Modeling the motion of scallops as a passive flight response, a reflex of the flight/fight/fright reaction to a threat, may lend insight into bivalve evolution, and mechanisms needed to productively protect scallop populations in our changing environment.

Cheng + Demont, "Jet Propelled Swimming in Scallops" *Swimming mechanics and ontogenic scaling* Can. J. Zool. Vol 74, 1996, pp 1734-1748

Dadswell + Weihs "Size-Related Hydrodynamic Characteristics of the Giant Scallop *Placopecten magellanicus*", Can. J. Zool. Vol 68 1990

Caddy "Underwater Observations on Scallop (*Placopecten magellanicus*) Behavior + Drag Efficiency" *Journal Fisheries Research Board of Canada*, Vol 25, No 10 1968

Dabiri, "Optimal Vortex Formation as a Unifying Principle in Biological Propulsion" *Ann. Rev. Fluid Mechanics*, 2004 41:1-3

"Swimming in Scallops" *Paleontology* Vol 4 1971

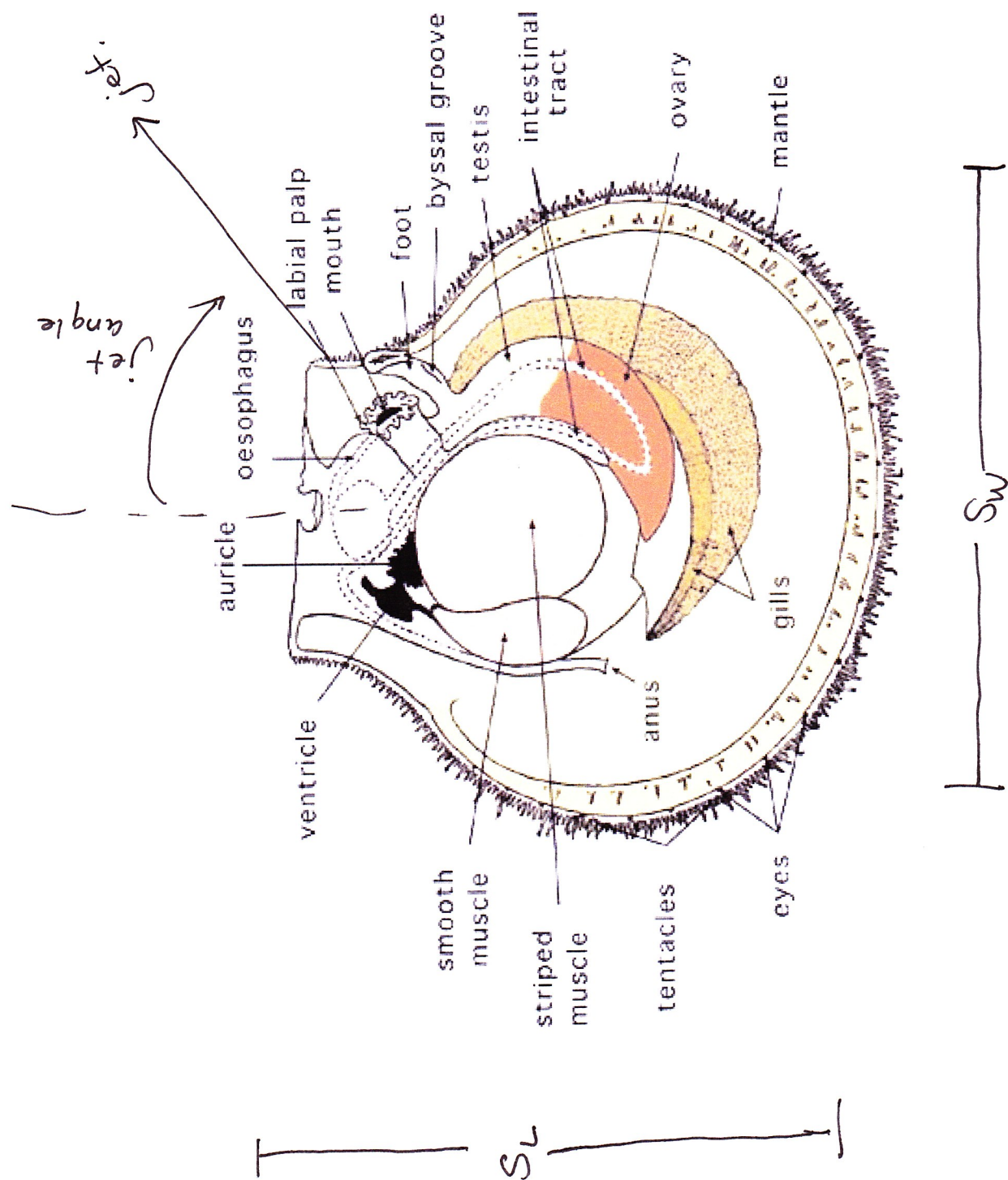


Fig. 1

U₀₀ →





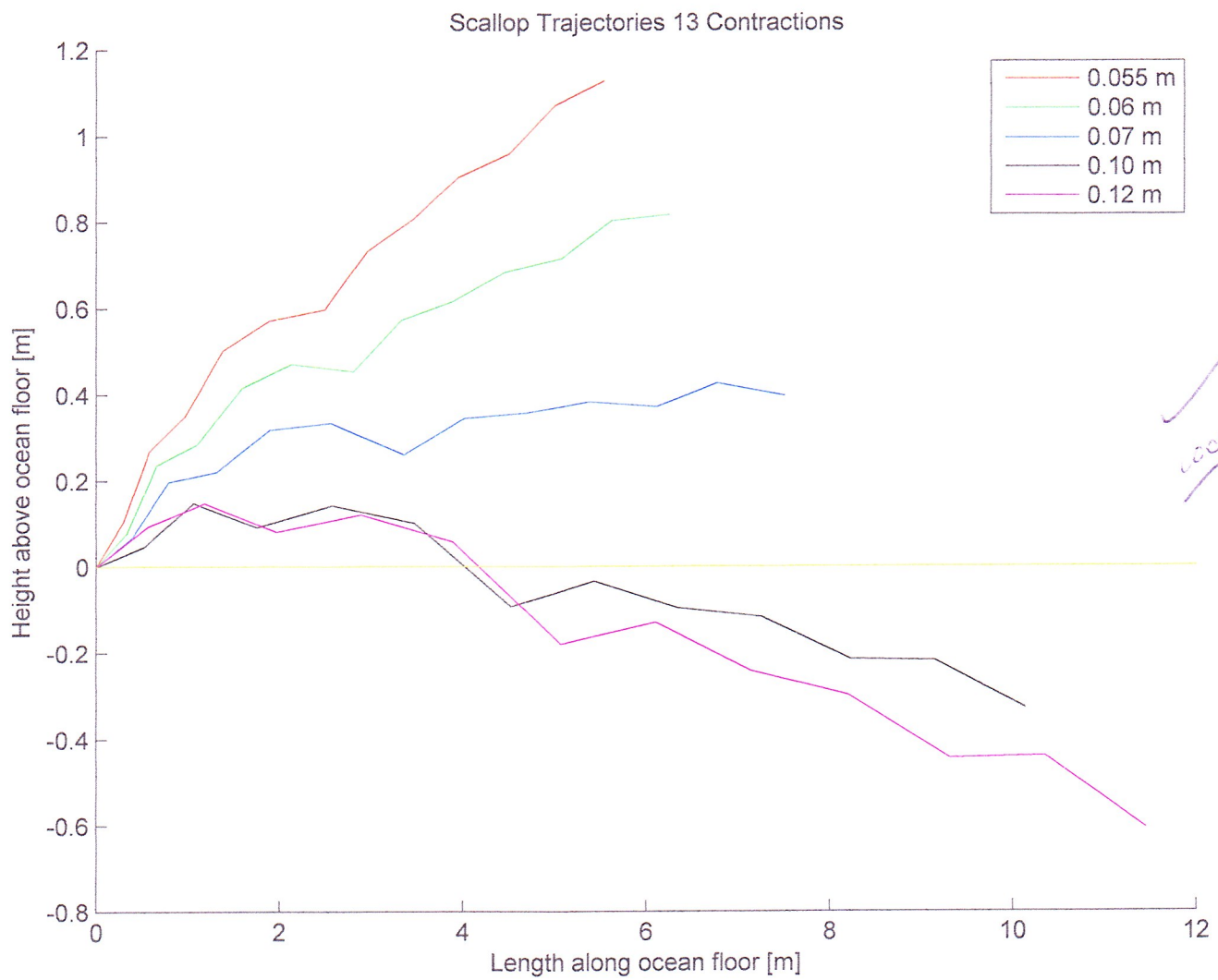


Fig 4

Wing-surface device

Longitudinal grooves on a scallop shell

