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38. This subsurface warming is qualitatively similar to that of previous experiments with North Atlantic MWF, especially in the tropical region and Southern Hemisphere [e.g., (30, 48)]; it seems also to be consistent with benthic $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ inferred temperature changes in the tropical Atlantic (49), western subtropical North Atlantic (4), and Nordic Sea (50), as well as Mg/Ca-based benthic temperatures from the eastern subtropical North Atlantic (51).
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40. The MWF varies slowly during this period at a rate of ~ 0.1 sverdrup/ky in DGL-B, comparable to that used in previous standard hysteresis tests (18, 39).
41. About a third of the model BA warming appears to be associated with a nonlinear convective response in the Nordic Sea. As seen in experiment DGL-B, under a gradual forcing, the AMOC and Greenland temperature, after a long period of gradual change, increase abruptly at the end stage (14.6 ka) in 100 years (6 sverdrup and 6°C), nearly identical to the last 100 years of warming in experiment DGL-A (Fig. 1, D and E, and fig. S4). This abrupt warming is induced by regional convective instability in the Nordic Sea (18) on a background deep-ocean warming (52) and is enhanced by the northward heat transport associated with the enhanced AMOC.
42. With a slower reduction in MWF, the AMOC resumption and attendant BA warming in CCSM3 usually occur faster than the rate at which the MWF is reduced, partly due to the convective instability process in the Nordic Sea (41). In a deglaciation sensitivity experiment similar to DGL-B, but with a faster termination time of 2000 years, the BA warming takes only 500 years, substantially faster than the MWF itself (not shown).
43. Except for an earlier generation of CGCM with flux adjustments (53, 54), all published results from CGCMs are similar to those of CCSM3 in showing that the AMOC recovers its strength after the termination of the freshwater pulse. Because these CGCM hosing experiments are usually short (<1000 years), they are not strict tests for the hysteresis of AMOC (18). Nevertheless, these models have shown little sign of substantial hysteresis.
44. A diagnosis of nine coupled climate models, including both CGCMs and intermediate models, suggests a positive bias in the freshwater transport by the AMOC in the South Atlantic, which may imply a bias toward a more stable AMOC and therefore a lack of multiple equilibria and in turn substantial hysteresis in these climate models (55). Further study is needed, however, to understand the stability of the AMOC in coupled climate models, especially in state-of-art CGCMs.
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56. We thank A. Ganopolski, J. Marotzke, and A. Timmermann for helpful discussions and two reviewers for comments. This research was supported mainly by the Paleoclimate Program of NSF, NCAR, and Chinese NSF (NSFC40875058). The computing is supported by the U.S. Department of Energy INCITE program and Abrupt Climate Change Program. This paper is CCR contribution No. 980.

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Materials and Methods

SOM Text

Figs. S1 to S7

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Movie S1

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Undulatory Swimming in Sand: Subsurface Locomotion of the Sandfish Lizard

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The desert-dwelling sandfish (*Scincus scincus*) moves within dry sand, a material that displays solid and fluidlike behavior. High-speed x-ray imaging shows that below the surface, the lizard no longer uses limbs for propulsion but generates thrust to overcome drag by propagating an undulatory traveling wave down the body. Although viscous hydrodynamics can predict swimming speed in fluids such as water, an equivalent theory for granular drag is not available. To predict sandfish swimming speed, we developed an empirical model by measuring granular drag force on a small cylinder oriented at different angles relative to the displacement direction and summing these forces over the animal movement profile. The agreement between model and experiment implies that the noninertial swimming occurs in a frictional fluid.

The locomotion of organisms (1, 2), whether by running, flying, swimming, or crawling, is the result of multiple-degree-of-freedom nervous and musculoskeletal systems interacting with an environment that often flows and deforms in response to movement. Nearly all experiments and models of terrestrial locomotion have been developed for running and walking on rigid, flat, no-slip frictional substrates for which the complication of substrate flow is not considered. In contrast, complexity in interaction with the environment in aquatic and aerial locomotion (swimming and flying) is well recognized (3). Determining mechanisms for propulsion or lift in these media is

always possible in principle because the rules of interaction with fluids are worked out: They require solving Navier-Stokes hydrodynamics in the presence of moving boundary conditions. A major challenge in biology is to understand the locomotion of organisms that walk, crawl, or burrow on or within terrestrial substrates like sand (4), soil (5), and muddy sediments (6) that display both solid and fluidlike behavior. In such materials, validated theories such as the Navier-Stokes equations for fluids do not exist, and visualization techniques [such as particle image velocimetry in fluids (7)] are nearly nonexistent. Understanding of the mechanics of subsurface movement has ecological importance and could reveal how the actions of small burrowing organisms can transform entire landscapes (8).

Animal burrowing and movement within granular media is relevant to desert organisms like scorpions, snakes, and lizards that move within sand to escape heat and predators and hunt

for prey (9, 10). Desert sand [which covers 6 to 10% of land surface (11)] is an example of a granular material, a collection of dissipative particles that interact through contact forces and in bulk can display solid and fluidlike features (12) when disturbed. A key parameter that controls the response of granular media to intrusion is the volume fraction ϕ , the ratio of material volume to total occupied volume. In dry granular media in natural environments, ϕ depends on the history of the sand (for example, perturbations by wind or animal burying and digging), and can vary between 0.57 and 0.64 (13). The response of granular media to intrusion depends on ϕ : Closely packed material at high ϕ must expand to flow, whereas loosely packed material at low ϕ consolidates (14). The effects of ϕ on drag are largely unexplored, although we have recently found that vertical penetration resistance doubles as ϕ increases by just 0.08 (15).

To investigate how rheological features of the material influence the locomotor mode and performance of an organism moving within sand, we used high-speed x-ray imaging to study a small (~ 10 cm) desert-dwelling lizard, the sandfish, that inhabits the Saharan desert of Africa and moves within granular media of different ϕ . The sandfish's above-ground burial process has been described (9), and it is hypothesized that its counter-sunk lower jaw and smooth scales with low friction and low wear properties (16) aid swimming and digging. However, little is known about how the animal moves subsurface. Although it has been hypothesized that body motion plays an important role in thrust production (9, 17) in sand-dwelling lizards, a recent study using nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) to visualize subsurface motion proposed that the sandfish used its limbs in a paddling motion along with undulations on its body to generate thrust subsurface (18). However, the observa-

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tional quality and number of trials were limited. We show through detailed biological experiment and development of a model of the locomotion that subsurface sandfish motion is not driven by limbs but by an undulatory gait without use of limbs. Thrust and drag result from frictional grain flow, which leads to features of the swimming that are intermediate to movement in fluids and

on solid surfaces, and surprisingly are independent of ϕ .

To perform controlled studies of the burial and swimming of the sandfish (11 animals; mass = 16.2 ± 4 g, body length $L = 8.3 \pm 3.3$ cm, defined as the length from snout tip to the base of the tail), we used a fluidized bed (fig. S1) (19) to prepare a 10-cm-deep container of $0.27 \pm$

0.04 mm glass beads into naturally occurring loosely packed and closely packed volume fractions $\phi = 0.58$ and $\phi = 0.62$, respectively. The sandfish took 672 ± 239 ms to complete its entire burial process, independent of volume fraction (Student's t test, $P > 0.05$) (movie S1). Once below the surface, the dorsal x-ray video imaging (movies S2 and S3) revealed that the animal no longer used limbs for propulsion. Instead, the animal placed its limbs against its sides and executed an undulatory motion (Fig. 1, E and F) with large-amplitude axial oscillation, using its body to propel itself at speeds of up to ~ 10 cm/s. We observed similar limbless undulatory motion in beads with mean diameters ranging from 0.1 mm to 3 mm. To quantify the lack of limb use, we measured the distance between pairs of limbs (fore and hind) (Fig. 1G). As the animal ran across the surface, this interlimb distance oscillated around 2.75 ± 0.59 cm, indicating the sprawl of the limbs during the diagonal gait (1, 9). As it began to bury, the interlimb distance decreased significantly (Student's t test, $P < 0.01$) until it became a constant (1.72 ± 0.53 cm) close to body width (1.23 ± 0.51 cm) because limbs were placed close to the side of the body. Like in (18), side-view x-ray imaging of the sandfish subsurface showed that the animal undulates in a plane at $\sim 22.2 \pm 3.7^\circ$ with respect to the horizontal and buries consistently to a depth of 2.1 ± 0.5 cm (surface to top of mid-point of the back), independent of volume fraction (Student's t test, $P > 0.05$).

We characterized the undulatory kinematics by digitizing the midline from the dorsal x-ray images (Figs. 1F and 2A). The undulatory motion fit well ($r^2 > 0.85$, $P < 0.01$) the form of a posteriorly traveling single-period sinusoidal wave (Fig. 2A) such that $y = A \sin 2\pi(x + v_w t)/\lambda$, with y the displacement away from the midline of a straight animal, A the amplitude, λ the wavelength, f the wave frequency, and $v_w = f\lambda$, the wave speed. From the fit, we deduced these parameters as well as the forward swimming speed of the center of mass v_x (which was not equal to the wave speed; see discussion below). During a swim, there was no change in either A ($P = 0.12$) or λ ($P = 0.66$), and neither A nor λ varied significantly for the different ϕ ($P > 0.05$ comparing each treatment by using a repeated measures one-way analysis of variance) (Fig. 2B). The large-amplitude undulations over the entire body are unlike the kinematics of other undulatory swimming organisms on the sandfish-sized scale [such as eels (20)], which tend to increase in amplitude posteriorly. The undulations do resemble those of eel movement on land (20) as well as small (< 1 mm) swimmers (for example, nematodes) in fluids at low Reynolds (Re) number, in which the inertia of the material surrounding the organism plays no role (21, 22).

The sandfish increased swimming speed by increasing wave frequency f (Fig. 2C) (Student's t test, $P < 0.01$), and the slope of the v_x versus f relationship was independent of vol-

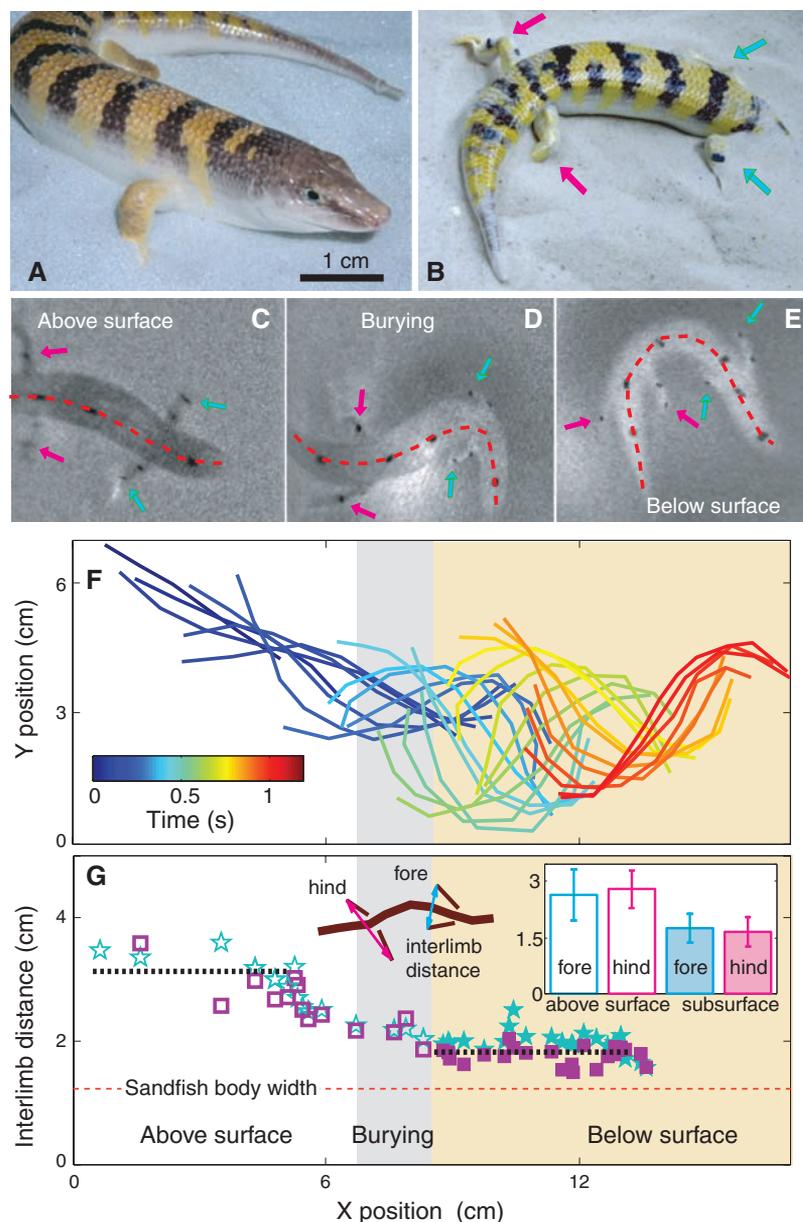


Fig. 1. Burial and undulatory subsurface swimming of the (A) sandfish lizard. (B) The burying sandfish with opaque markers bonded to its fore (cyan) and hind (purple) limbs and midline, just before it dives into the media. (C) Representative x-ray images of the sandfish as it moves with a diagonal gait on the surface, (D) as it buries into the media with high-amplitude oscillations and use of limbs, and (E) moving subsurface with its limbs at its sides. (F) Curves show the tracked midline of the sandfish as the animal runs on the surface using a diagonal gait (1, 9) with little back bending (unshaded region), buries with significant back bending (gray region from when snout first enters material to when fully submerged), and then swims within the media with large-amplitude back bending (brown shading). The curve color (color bar, inset) indicates time progress of the motion. (G) Interlimb distance of the fore (blue star) and hind (purple square) limbs versus the position of the center of mass. The dashed lines represent the average interlimb distance (10 animals) above and below the surface. (Inset) Bar graph shows the interlimb distance (mean \pm SD) for the fore and hind limbs both above and below the surface. $n = 46$ trials were recorded.

ume fraction (Student's t test, $P > 0.05$). We found, however, that v_x is not simply the product of f and λ , but instead the slope is reduced by a constant factor η so that $v_x = \eta f$ (Fig. 2C) with $\eta = 0.54 \pm 0.12$ and $\eta = 0.49 \pm 0.09$ for loosely and closely packed material, respectively. Because $v_w = \lambda f$, this implies that the average forward speed is a fraction of the wave speed. Thus, the animal is not moving in a tube because successive undulations do not trace a continuous path; this can be seen in Fig. 1F. Instead, tracer particles placed in the bulk reveal that there is backward displacement of material as the animal moves forward. Slipping while progressing is common to undulatory swimmers in deformable media across length scales (for example, eels and spermatozoa in fluids) (1) and is characterized by the wave efficiency (η) (21), defined as the ratio between the forward speed of the animal (v_x) and the velocity of the wave traveling down its body (v_w): $\eta = v_x/v_w$. Because λ for the sandfish is independent of f in our experiments, η is the slope of the v_x/λ versus f curve and is shown in Fig. 2C. Typical wave efficiencies of organisms in moving in fluids at low Re (such as nematodes) are 0.25 (23), nearly a factor of two smaller than the sandfish, whereas organisms undulating (creeping) along the solid surface of an agar-air interface can have η close to unity [$\eta \sim 0.8 - 0.9$ (21)] because deformations in the surface allow movement that is effectively in a tube. η for the sandfish in granular media is intermediate to that for fluids and solids and is independent of ϕ , even though materials with different ϕ have penetration resistances that can vary by a factor of 2 (15).

Prediction of η for undulatory movement in fluids and solids has been accomplished by use of models of interaction of the organism and the environment: In low Re Newtonian fluids, forces are purely viscous (Stoke's law) such that force is proportional to instantaneous velocity (22, 23), and in undulatory crawling on solids force is determined with static/dynamic friction coefficients (22). Although the equivalent force laws are not available in granular media, features of the sandfish motion allow us to hypothesize about the medium in which it swims: (i) It is well known that for slow enough disturbances, the drag in granular systems is dominated by friction between flowing grains, and thus this makes drag independent of velocity (14, 24–26). (ii) At the observed body speeds and accelerations during undulatory motion, inertial forces due to accelerating material are small as compared with frictional drag forces ($ma/F \approx 0.2$, where $F \approx 2$ N is estimated for a small cylinder dragged in sand and $ma \approx 0.4$ N is found from the product of the acceleration of the sandfish body and a mass of sand surrounding it), and thus inertia can be neglected. (iii) Because grain interactions are dissipative, disturbances typically dampen in short times, and thus changes in the static configuration dominate the drag force.

Therefore, we hypothesize that the animal swims in a so-called “frictional fluid” (27), such that flowing grain-grain and grain-animal friction

determine the thrust and drag forces. Such a frictional fluid superficially resembles low Re swimming in that there is no inertia, but the mechanism for drag is frictional, rather than viscous. Movement in a frictional fluid differs from noninertial crawling on a surface in which anisotropic friction [originating from, for example, deforming the surface and pushing off as does nematode on agar (21) or using overlapping belly scales or changes in weight distribution as does a snake (28)] generates net propulsive force without net flow of material.

To test this hypothesis, we developed a model inspired by similar local force, noninertial models [typically called Resistive Force Theory (RFT) (23)] such that the body of the organism is partitioned into elements, each of which generates thrust and experiences drag when moving through a media and whose forces are not influenced by force fields from other segments. If F_N and F_L are the normal and lateral forces (perpendicular and parallel to the element respectively) acting on the sides of the sandfish body, net forward force on the element can be written as $F_x = F_N \sin\theta - F_L \cos\theta$, where θ is the angle between the forward direction of the animal and the orientation of an element of the organism (Fig. 3A). The forces for each element are integrated over the length of the body (snout to tail tip) and for a full period of a traveling wave to obtain average swimming speed. Unlike in fluids, we have no validated theory to calculate the force on an intruder as a function of its angle relative to displacement or

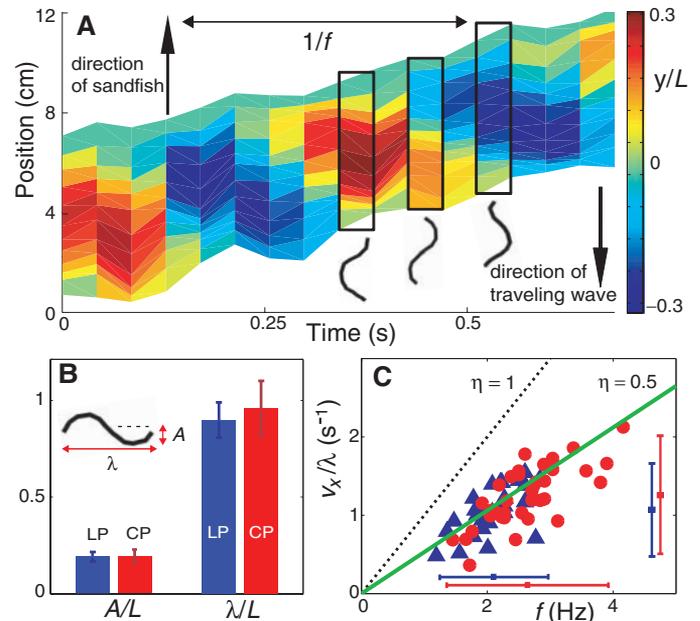
for varying ϕ . Therefore, we used a combination of measurements (19) of the granular thrust and drag forces on a stainless steel cylindrical rod [with grain-surface friction coefficient similar to the sandfish (16)], insights from Fig. 3B, and an empirical fitting function that incorporates drag on the sidewalls and end-faces of the cylinder (equation S8) so as to approximate F_N and F_L for elements of the sandfish body as:

$$\begin{aligned} F_N &= 2lr(C_S \sin\beta_0 + C_F \sin\psi) \\ F_L &= 2lrC_F \cos\psi \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where $\tan\beta_0 = \cot\gamma_0 \sin\psi$, ψ is the angle of the segment with respect to its local velocity vector, l and r are the length and radius of the segment (assumed cylindrical), and the constants C_S , C_F , and γ_0 characterize the material response to drag. Plots of F_N and F_L as a function of ψ are shown in Fig. 3, C and D. Equation 1 represents the data well ($R^2 = 0.97$) (solid lines shown in Fig. 3, C and D), and the fit coefficients are given in table S1.

F_L is well approximated by the cosine function, similar to viscous fluids or frictional material, indicating that its source is the resolved component of friction between the grains and the body. The form of F_N is not well approximated by the corresponding sine component (Fig. 3C, dashed gray lines) but rather increases more rapidly for $\psi < 30^\circ$ and increases more slowly for $\psi > 30^\circ$. We hypothesize that above this angle [close to the angle at which internal slip planes or shear bands form and move (14)], the force

Fig. 2. Kinematics of the undulatory sandfish motion. **(A)** Traveling wave moving down the body of the sandfish opposite to the direction of the sandfish forward motion (sampled every 0.04 s). For each time instant, the instantaneous lateral displacement of a tracked section of the sandfish is represented in color. The black curves represent the tracked midline (for example, Figure 1E, snout tip to tail tip) of the sandfish. **(B)** The amplitude A and wavelength λ of the sinusoidal fit to the tracked midline of the sandfish (inset), for loosely and closely packed media. **(C)** Red circles (closely packed, $n = 24$ trials), and blue triangles (loosely packed, $n = 22$ trials) show dependence of swimming velocity on wave frequency. The slope of green line is the approximate wave efficiency $\eta \approx 0.5$ of animal (Fig. 4A) and the dashed black line represents $\eta = 1$. The horizontal and vertical blue and red bars (mean ± 2 SD) represent the range of frequencies and forward velocities (normalized by λ) accessed in loosely packed (2.10 ± 0.75 Hz, 0.98 ± 0.27 per second) and closely packed (2.63 ± 1.13 Hz, 1.28 ± 0.37 per second), respectively. The average frequency and average speed are greater in closely packed than in loosely packed material (Student's t test, $P < 0.01$). $n = 46$ trials were recorded.



increases slowly because of the formation of a solid region of grains that moves along with the rod (14, 26). Preliminary numerical simulation indicates that the size of the solid region grows slowly with ψ for $\psi > 20^\circ$. The fitting function (Eq. 1) incorporates these effects in F_N and F_L through terms proportional to the angular component of C_S (which is determined primarily by grain-object frictional forces) and an extra term in F_N that increases rapidly and then saturates for $\psi > 20^\circ$. In this term, the coefficient C_S is set by grain-grain frictional force and γ_0 , which is related to the internal slip angle. $C_F \approx C_S/2$, indicating that grain-grain friction is larger than grain-surface friction.

To determine the wave efficiency (and thus swimming speed for a given frequency), we balanced thrust and drag over a cycle (net force, $F_x = 0$ in equation S7, assuming constant cycle average speed v_x). Because v_x and v_w appear only as a ratio (from the kinematics in equation S2) in the argument of the integral in Equation S7, and do not appear in the F_N and F_L terms (fig. S2B), the force balance predicts η . Numerical integration of the model over a measured organism sinusoid from Fig. 2 with constant cylindrical cross-section predicts $0.4 \leq \eta \leq 0.65$ independent of ϕ (Fig. 4A), which is in accord with experimental observation; the bounds on η are set by assuming the head drag is zero or that of a flat plate because measurements for the drag force on an object with the exact morphology of the shovel-

shaped head are unavailable. The model predicts a maximum in forward progress per cycle when $A/\lambda \approx 0.2$, and we find that the measured kinematics fall close to this speed (Fig. 4B). The maximum is due to a competition between increased η (less slipping) from increased A and decreased λ because for an inextensible animal λ decreases as A increases. An analytic low-amplitude approximation (equations S9 to S14) demonstrates the relevant scaling of η .

It is remarkable that η does not change significantly for different ϕ , especially because drag forces between closely and loosely packed material differ by $\approx 80\%$. The model indicates that η is essentially constant because F_N and F_L scale by the same ratio of 2.1 between closely and loosely packed material (Fig. 3, C and D, insets), and it is this ratio that determines η (equation S14). The model implies that η is greater than in low- Re fluids because of the greater thrust to drag force ratio in the frictional granular media.

The agreement between experiment and model indicates that the assumptions of velocity independence, local interaction, and the use of the average F_N and F_L for all phases of the motion are good approximations at these slow swimming speeds. Although the assumption that all body and head segments encounter material with the same ϕ is probably not true (because the body encounters grains disturbed by the head and other body segments), because F_N and F_L scale in the same ratio in all ϕ and this ratio determines

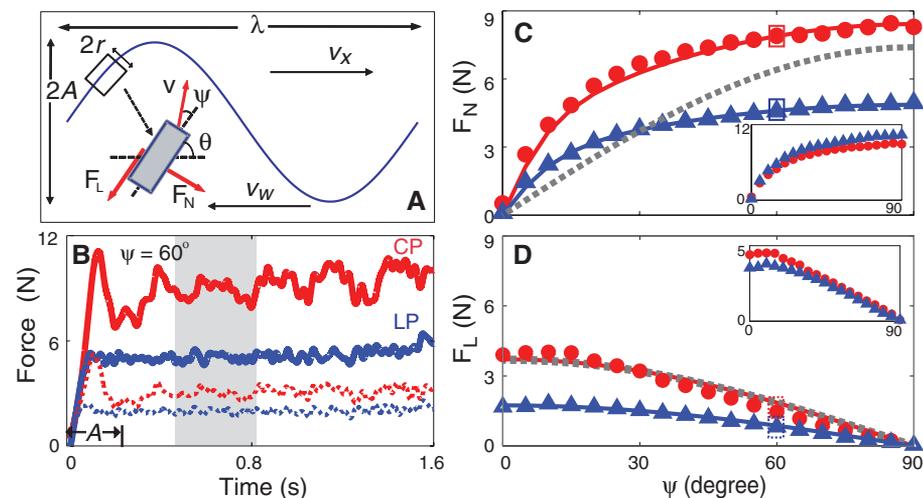


Fig. 3. Drag measurements to model undulatory locomotion: (A) Diagram of forces F_N (perpendicular) and F_L (parallel) on a given element of a sinusoidal traveling wave. (B) Representative total drag force profiles (including sidewalls and end-faces) versus time for a stainless-steel cylinder (diameter = 1.58 cm and length = 4.00 cm) oriented at an angle $\psi = 60^\circ$ to the direction of its forward velocity (10 cm/s). The solid lines correspond to F_N and the dashed to F_L . The red and blue colors correspond to closely and loosely packed media, respectively. The label A represents displacement associated with the average amplitude of oscillation of the sandfish. (C) Average F_N and (D) F_L on the cylinder (removing force contribution from the end-faces); red circles and blue triangles correspond to closely and loosely packed preparations, respectively. In (C) and (D), the average forces corresponding to the force profiles in (B) are indicated with the respective rectangles. Both insets show the loosely packed force data scaled by 2.1. Averages of F_N and F_L are calculated over the shaded region in (B). Solid lines are model fits described by Eq. 1. For comparison, dashed gray lines correspond to F_N and F_L calculated for a fluid (water) by choosing a velocity that fits F_L versus ψ .

η , wave efficiency should be independent of position along the body. The model assumptions break down in the approximation that the instantaneous force (Fig. 3B) can be replaced by the average force. This is a good approximation except for F_N in closely packed material (Fig. 3B, red curves); enhancement of F_N because of peak stress significantly greater than the mean could explain why, contrary to expectation, the range of f (and v_x) that the animal accessed was greater in closely packed material and the maximal swimming speed the animal was able to access was $\approx 50\%$ larger in closely packed material (Fig. 2C).

In conclusion, we used high-speed x-ray imaging to show that the sandfish lizard propels itself within granular media using a large-amplitude traveling-wave oscillation of its body without using its limbs and that the wave efficiency of this motion is independent of the volume fraction of the medium. Using a model that balances thrust and drag with measured granular drag laws, we can predict the wave efficiency and optimal kinematics. We demonstrated that the animal swims in a medium with properties intermediate to those of low Re viscous fluids and frictional solid surfaces and that are unique to dense granular beds, namely velocity-independent forces and enhanced normal-drag forces. Our results demonstrate that burrowing and swimming in complex media can have similar complexity to

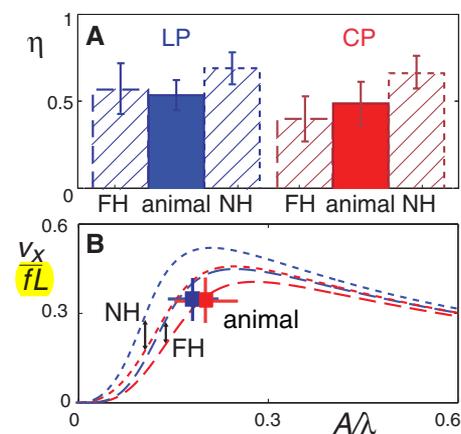


Fig. 4. Comparison of experimental results and model predictions; blue denotes loosely packed and red denotes closely packed material. (A) Animal wave efficiencies from experiment are represented by solid bars (loosely packed average $\eta = 0.54 \pm 0.12$; closely packed average $\eta = 0.49 \pm 0.09$). Shaded bars correspond to model predictions assuming head drag of a flat disk (FH) and no head drag (NH). (B) Predicted swimming speed (in body-length per cycle) versus amplitude normalized by wavelength. The dashed lines are model predictions with no-head (short-dashes) and flat-head (long-dashes) for loosely packed and closely packed material. Squares denote the measured average animal swimming speed for loosely packed and closely packed material. The range of frequency and speed accessed is given by the extent of the solid lines. $n = 46$ trials were recorded.

movement in air or water, and that organisms can exploit the solid and fluidlike properties of these media to move effectively within them.

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Supporting Online Material

www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/325/5938/314/DC1

Materials and Methods

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Table S1

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Targeted Retrieval and Analysis of Five Neandertal mtDNA Genomes

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Analysis of Neandertal DNA holds great potential for investigating the population history of this group of hominins, but progress has been limited due to the rarity of samples and damaged state of the DNA. We present a method of targeted ancient DNA sequence retrieval that greatly reduces sample destruction and sequencing demands and use this method to reconstruct the complete mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) genomes of five Neandertals from across their geographic range. We find that mtDNA genetic diversity in Neandertals that lived 38,000 to 70,000 years ago was approximately one-third of that in contemporary modern humans. Together with analyses of mtDNA protein evolution, these data suggest that the long-term effective population size of Neandertals was smaller than that of modern humans and extant great apes.

Currently, DNA sequences determined from multiple Neandertals are restricted to short fragments [120 to 360 base pairs (bp)] of the hypervariable regions (HVRs) of mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) (1, 2). These data have demonstrated that Neandertal mtDNA is distinct from that of modern humans (3). However, collecting sequence data from the rest of the mtDNA ge-

nome has proven difficult due to numerous technological difficulties (4). Recently, the complete mtDNA genome sequence of a ~38,000-year-old Neandertal individual from Vindija Cave, Croatia, was determined by high-throughput shotgun sequencing from total DNA extract (5). A similar approach has been used to recover complete mtDNA sequences from permafrost-preserved mammoths and a human (6, 7). However, the amount of shotgun sequencing needed to retrieve complete mtDNA sequences is prohibitive for most ancient bone specimens due to the high fraction of environmental DNA that they contain. For example, only 0.001% of DNA sequences determined from typical well-preserved Neandertal specimens are derived from mtDNA (table S1). Thus, a simple shotgun approach would require hundreds or thousands of high-throughput pyrosequencing runs to recover a single Neandertal mitochondrial genome (table S1). Direct polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is also poorly suited for retrieving complete Neandertal mtDNA genomes, because DNA extracted from the fossils

is so fragmented that hundreds of overlapping amplicons would be necessary, either requiring highly multiplexed primer mixes that present severe difficulties for avoiding modern human contamination, or many parallel amplification reactions that consume large amounts of precious ancient DNA extracts (8).

We have developed a method—primer extension capture (PEC)—that directly isolates specific DNA sequences from complex libraries of highly degraded DNA (Fig. 1). PEC uses 5'-biotinylated oligonucleotide primers and a DNA polymerase to capture specific target sequences from an adaptor-ligated DNA library. It combines the high specificity of PCR primers with the numerous advantages of a library sequencing approach, including immortalization through reamplification from adaptor priming sites (9) (fig. S1), contamination control with project-specific barcodes (5, 10), access to very short fragments predominant in ancient extracts (11), and quantification of the number of unique ancient DNA molecules, which is necessary to identify nucleotide misincorporations (10–12).

We used PEC to recover the entire Neandertal mtDNA genome [supporting online material (SOM)] of five individuals from four sites across the geographic range of Neandertals (Fig. 2 and table S2). One individual (Vindija 33.25) from Vindija Cave, Croatia, is undated but was found in an older stratigraphic layer than the previously sequenced bone (5) (Vindija 33.16), which was dated to ~38,000 years before present (yr B.P.) (3). Two individuals (Feldhofer 1 and 2, the former being the Neandertal type specimen) come from Kleine Feldhofer Grotte, Neander Valley, Germany, and are dated to ~40,000 yr B.P. (13). One individual (Sidron 1253) comes from El Sidron Cave, Spain, and is dated to ~39,000 yr B.P. (14), and one (Mezmaiskaya 1) comes from Mezmaiskaya Cave, Russia, and is dated to 60,000 to 70,000 yr B.P. (15).

We generated between 170,330 and 521,680 sequence reads per individual on the 454 FLX platform and processed them with a mapping

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