

# CHALMERS



## Experimental measurements of Jeffery orbits of microrods in microchannels

*MSc Thesis in Complex Adaptive Systems*

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## Abstract

Orientational motion of axisymmetric particles in shear flow is important in a number of scientific fields. It was first studied theoretically by Jeffery, who showed that an axissymmetrical particle in shear flow follows one of infinitely many periodic orbits depending on the initial condition of the particle. Later theoretical studies by Yarin *et al.* suggested that asymmetric particles may follow periodic, quasi-periodic, or chaotic orbits depending only on the initial conditions. This thesis attempts to experimentally verify Yarin's predictions, using glass particles in a reversible Stokes flow in a microfluidic PDMS channel. An optical tweezer is used to control the initial conditions. An automatic tracking of the particles was developed, and a number of improvements were made compared to previous experiments by Einarsson *et al.* [1]. We study the effects of asymmetry on the particles, and the transition from periodic to quasi-periodic orbits for different initial conditions, and for different degrees of asymmetry of the particles. Some measurements show good agreement with theoretical predictions, but there are also unexplained behaviours when the flow is reversed. The measurements were made in collaboration with Alexander Laas [2].

## Acknowledgements

I hereby wish to thank my supervisors Bernhard Mehlig and Dag Hanstorp for helping me through this journey. I want to thank girlfriend Callie Gibbons for supporting me through the work on this thesis and Alexander Laas for being a tireless and understanding co-worker. I want to thank all the contributors to the wealth of open source software which I have used to create everything from most of the software to more of the figures and of course this very report.

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# 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Introduction

My goal in this thesis is to study and better understand the dynamics of ellipsoidal particles in shear flows. The thesis is a continuation of two previous MSc theses [3, 4]. The methodology is to experimentally measure the orientational dynamics of  $\mu$ meter-sized glass particles in a shear flow, then comparing the results to results from theoretical models. In the first part of the thesis, I describe the improvements that were made to the experimental setup, in particular an automated tracking system. In the second part of the thesis, the measurements and their analysis is discussed. But before discussing either of these subjects more in depth some background is needed.

### 1.2 Background

Understanding the orientational dynamics of particles in flow might appear somewhat esoteric to someone unfamiliar with the topic, but there are a number of fields where it is very useful. In medical applications understanding the dynamics of ellipsoidal particles such as bacteria can be relevant to a detailed understanding of their interactions with cells and other bodies [5]. In geology

## 1.2. BACKGROUND

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the rotational dynamics of mineral grains in magma flows determines rock structures which form after the magma cools [6].

One important early paper in the study of particle dynamics in flow was by Einstein in 1905 [7]. He showed how much suspended spherical particles increase the viscosity of a fluid. Jeffery in his 1922 paper [8] extended these results to ellipsoidal particles and for systems where inertial effects could be disregarded he derived equations for the orientational dynamics of the particle. He also solved the equations for axisymmetric particles and found their motion to be periodic and depending only on the initial condition of the particle.

Investigation of triaxial particles was started by Gierszewski & Chaffey [9] and was continued by Hinch & Leal [10] and more recently by Yarin *et al.* [11]. The dynamics Jeffery had found for axisymmetric particles was periodic, but it was shown by Hinch & Leal that for triaxial particles some orbits could be doubly periodic, in other words exhibiting two separate independent periods. This behaviour is referred to as *quasi-periodic* in this thesis.

Yarin *et al.* used numerical simulations to generate a surface of section [12] for ellipsoidal particles with different shapes. They showed that not only were there doubly periodic or quasi-periodic orbits but when the ellipsoids had sufficiently different minor and median axes there could be chaotic orbits. In these orbits the particles rotate periodically perpendicular to the flow but the orientation of the particles in the flow changes unpredictably over longer time scales.

Several other surfaces of section were produced by Johansson [3] using the same method as Yarin *et al.* It was shown that even small asymmetries of the order of 1% lead to quasi-periodic motion for some initial conditions.

Attempts to experimentally verify the theoretical results of Jeffery were initially performed by Goldsmith and Mason in 1962 [13] who used flow in a glass pipe to observe the rotation rate of particles of several different shapes. They confirmed that the rotation rate matched well with that predicted from Jeffery orbits but they did not study the actual orbits. Since then most experimental research, such that as by Harlen and Koch [14], has focused on how dilute suspensions of particles affect the properties of a liquid. Only tangential efforts such as by Tolga [5] were concerned with the Jeffery orbits. A good summary of both theoretical and experimental results was written by

Petrie [15] in 1999.

Dedicated experiments to measure the actual Jeffery orbits in angular components and verify the orientational dynamics were performed by Einarsson *et al.* [1]. They studied the rotational dynamics of  $\sim 30\mu\text{m}$  long polymer particles in a microfluidic channel. Some particles showed orbits that were shown to be qualitatively similar to some Jeffery orbits. These particles also very closely retraced their motion when reversing the flow implying that no significant amount of noise had disturbed their orientational motion nor had there been any inertial effects. the vast majority of particles were asymmetric to the degree that their orbits were chaotic or highly quasi-periodic. No particular particle could also be shown to exhibit both quasi periodic and periodic motion. Moreover the width and length of particles varied greatly and could not be measured accurately.

The goal of this thesis is to improve the setup from Johansson [3] and Einarsson *et al.* [1] in order experimentally verify the results of Yarin *et al.* [11] and Hinch, Leal [10]. The aim is to show that the same particle may exhibit different types of motion for different initial conditions: Periodic motion, quasi-periodic motion and chaotic motion. Furthermore that particles with different asymmetries may show different motion for the same initial conditions. To this end we observe the orientation of a  $\mu\text{meter}$  length particle in a creeping shear flow.  $\mu\text{m}$  sized particles guarantee that there are no inertial effects and are also small enough to be controlled by optical tweezers. The flow is shown to be creeping by demonstrating that the particle dynamics revert as the flow is reversed. The results are compared to theoretical predictions for different initial conditions and asymmetries.

# 2

## Theory

In order to better understand the results and discussions in this thesis, basic knowledge of fluid mechanics and image analysis is needed. This is given in this chapter along with a more detailed discussion of Jeffery orbits in particular.

Since the main focus of this thesis is experimental, the theory background is only briefly summarized. A more inquisitive reader is recommended to read Einarssons licentiate thesis [16] which goes into greater detail concerning most of the topics covered in this chapter.

### 2.1 Fluid dynamics

In order to understand the motivations for, as well as the limitations and the behaviour of, the experiment we need to know about a few key concepts in fluid mechanics.

#### 2.1.1 Reynolds number

The Reynolds number ( $Re$ ) is a dimensionless number describing the ratio of the strength of inertial forces to the strength viscous forces in a flow. Roughly speaking one can think of viscous forces as acting to keep adjacent fluid elements moving in the same direction whereas inertial forces act to

## 2.1. FLUID DYNAMICS

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prevent any change in the motion of a fluid element. For a flow it is defined as [17]

$$\text{Re} = \frac{UW\rho}{\mu} \quad (2.1)$$

where  $U$  is the characteristic velocity of the flow,  $W$  is its characteristic length scale,  $\rho$  is the density of the fluid, and  $\mu$  is its dynamic viscosity. The Reynolds number is used to characterize the regime of the flow. There are two primary regimes

1. Laminar regime, where viscous forces dominate over inertial forces.
2. Turbulent regime where inertial forces dominate.

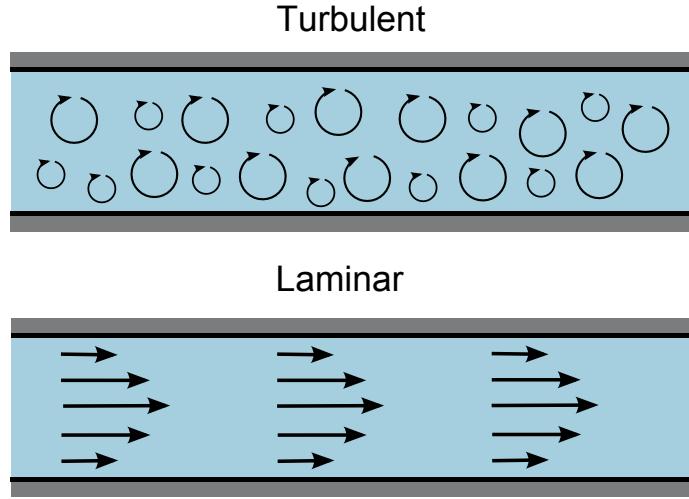
A simple visual characterization of the flow types can be seen in Figure 2.1.

Flow with  $\text{Re} \ll 1$  is referred to as *Stokes flow*. In this regime we can ignore inertial forces completely. The flow is guaranteed to be laminar, and it is also time reversible. This means any dynamics of the fluid are retraced when the flow is reversed, as if time was reversed. [18]

Particles in Stokes flow are also time reversible if they have a particle Reynolds number  $\text{Re}_p \ll 1$ . The particle Reynolds number is defined as [16]

$$\text{Re}_p = \frac{u_p L \rho}{\mu} \quad (2.2)$$

where  $u_p$  is the typical flow speed relative to the particle surface,  $L$  is the characteristic size of the particle,  $\rho$  is the density of the fluid and  $\mu$  is the dynamic viscosity of the fluid.



**Figure 2.1:** This shows the principal difference between laminar and turbulent flow.

### 2.1.2 Stokes drag and Stokes' law

For  $\text{Re} = 0$  the drag force  $F_D$  exerted by a fluid on a spherical particle is found using Stokes's law [19]

$$F_D = 6\pi\mu Rv. \quad (2.3)$$

Here  $v$  is the velocity of the sphere relative to the fluid,  $\mu$  is the dynamic viscosity, and  $R$  is the radius of the sphere. This can be used to find the terminal velocity of a sphere sinking in a liquid by equating the gravitational force  $F_G$  acting on the sphere with the drag force from eq 2.3.  $F_G$  is calculated as

$$F_G = \Delta\rho g \frac{4\pi R^3}{3}, \quad (2.4)$$

where  $\Delta\rho$  is the difference in density between the fluid and the sphere and  $g$  is the specific gravity. We find that the terminal velocity of a sinking (or floating) sphere is

$$v_s = \frac{2}{9} \frac{\Delta\rho}{\mu} g R^2. \quad (2.5)$$

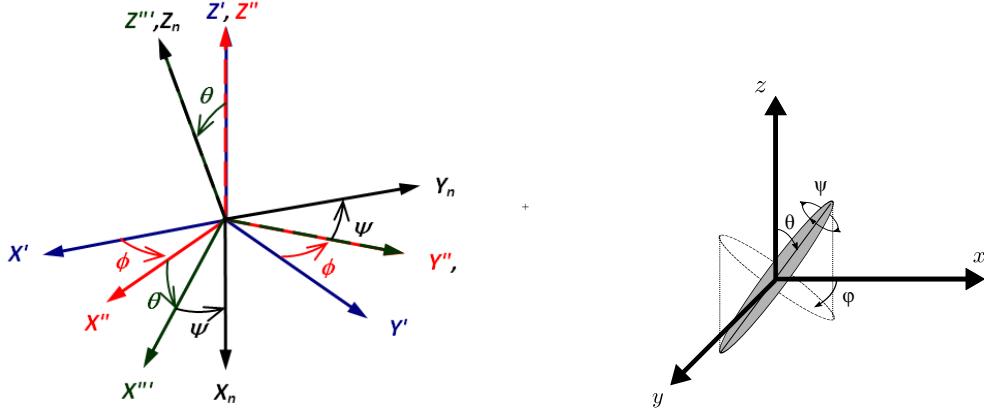
This is not immediately applicable to cylindrical particles but serves as a first order approximation.

## 2.2 Euler angles and coordinate system

When describing rotating particles it is common to use the so-called Euler angles  $\mathbf{E} = (\phi, \theta, \psi)$ . A formal definition is given by Diebel [20] but for the purposes of this thesis we describe them as a transformation. We start with a stationary right-hand coordinate system  $\{x,y,z\}$  with the  $x$ -axis along the length of the channel, the  $z$ -axis along the width of the channel, and the  $y$ -axis along depth. We define the Euler angles as the transformation from the channel coordinate system to the coordinate system attached to our particle  $\{x',y',z'\}$ . This transformation is performed in three steps by using an intermediate axis T.

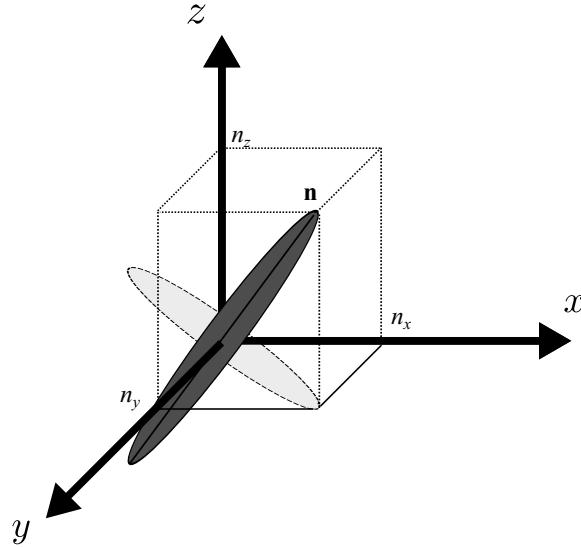
- Rotate the  $x$ - $y$  plane  $\phi$  radians about the  $z$ -axis.
- Denote the shifted  $x$ -axis  $T$  and rotate the  $z$ - $y'$  plane  $\theta$  radians around the  $T$ -axis
- Denote the shifted  $z$ -axis  $z'$  and rotate the  $x'$ - $y'$  plane  $\psi$  radians around the  $z'$  axis.

This procedure is illustrated in Figure 2.2a where each prime marks one additional step of rotation to the coordinate system. Figure 2.2b shows the Euler angles for a triaxial particle from a point of view similar to that of the experiment where the  $x$ - $z$  plane is the field of view. Note that although  $\psi$  has an impact on the particle dynamics, we cannot observe it in our experiment as the particles are too symmetric around that axis, as is shown in section 3.2.1



(a) A general illustration of the Euler angles (b) The Euler angles as used in our experiment

**Figure 2.2:** Figure (a): The Euler angles illustrated using a series of coordinate rotations. Figure (b): The Euler angles illustrated using an ellipsoid. This alternate visualization shows the angles with a point of view similar to that of the camera in the experiment.



**Figure 2.3:** The unit vector  $\mathbf{n}$  and its components  $n_x$ ,  $n_y$  and  $n_z$ . The vector  $\mathbf{n}$  is a unit vector,  $|\mathbf{n}| = 1$ .

The conversion from  $\mathbf{E} = (\phi, \theta, \psi)$  to the unit vector  $\mathbf{n} = (n_x, n_y, n_z)$  is given by

$$n_x = \sin(\theta) \cos(\psi), \quad (2.6a)$$

$$n_y = \sin(\theta) \sin(\psi), \quad (2.6b)$$

$$n_z = \cos(\theta). \quad (2.6c)$$

In particular  $n_z$  and  $\cos(\theta)$  are be used interchangeably.

### 2.2.1 Triaxial particles

A triaxial particle is an ellipsoidal particle that has a distinct radius around the  $x$ -axis,  $y$ -axis and  $z$ -axis. In other words it has distinct length, width and height. We refer to these lengths as  $a_1, a_2, a_3$  with  $a_1 > a_2 > a_3$ .

When discussing triaxial particles that are close to being axisymmetric of the form  $a_1 \gg a_2 \approx a_3$ , it is convenient to introduce the particle asymmetry  $\epsilon$  defined as

$$\epsilon = \frac{a_2}{a_3} - 1, \quad (2.7)$$

and the aspect ratio  $\lambda$  given by

$$\lambda = \frac{a_1}{a_2}. \quad (2.8)$$

These parameters are as used by among others Yarin *et al.* [11].

## 2.3 Jeffery orbits

The Jeffery orbits describe the orientational motion of an ellipsoidal particle in Stokes flow. The general equations of motion for any ellipsoid in shear flow were found by Jeffery[8] who also solved these equations of motion for axisymmetric ( $a_1 \neq a_2 = a_3$ ) ellipsoidal particles. Solutions for asymmetric particles were found numerically by Yarin *et al.* [11] who also rewrote the equations in

a different but equivalent form. The equations of rotational motion for a triaxial particle in shear flow are in the form of Yarin *et al.*

$$\frac{d\theta}{dt} = (g_2 \sin \psi + g_3 \cos \psi) \sin \theta, \quad (2.9a)$$

$$\frac{d\phi}{dt} = \frac{1}{2} + g_3 \sin \psi - g_2 \cos \psi, \quad (2.9b)$$

$$\frac{d\psi}{dt} = g_1 + (g_2 \cos \psi - g_3 \sin \psi) \cos \theta. \quad (2.9c)$$

$$(2.9d)$$

The functions  $g_i$  are defined as

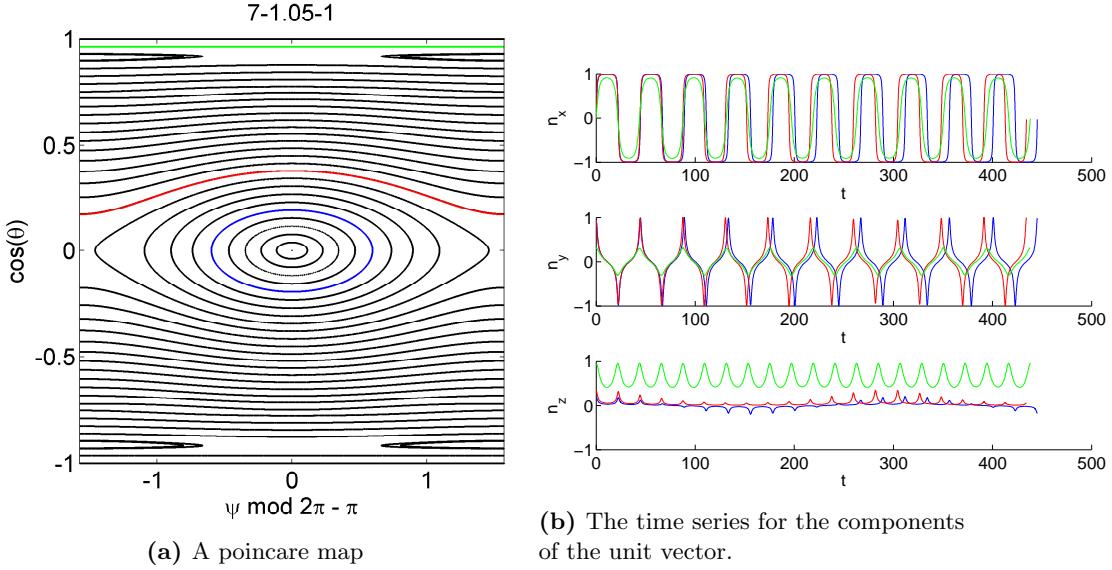
$$g_1 = \frac{a_2^2 - a_3^2}{2(a_2^2 + a_3^2)} \left( -\frac{1}{2}(\cos^2 \theta + 1) \sin 2\phi \sin 2\psi + \cos \theta \cos 2\phi \cos 2\psi \right), \quad (2.10a)$$

$$g_2 = \frac{a_3^2 - a_1^2}{2(a_1^2 + a_3^2)} \left( -\cos \theta \sin 2\phi \sin \psi + \cos 2\phi \cos \psi \right), \quad (2.10b)$$

$$g_3 = \frac{a_1^2 - a_2^2}{2(a_1^2 + a_2^2)} \left( \cos \theta \sin 2\phi \cos \psi + \cos 2\phi \sin \psi \right). \quad (2.10c)$$

Here  $(\phi, \theta, \psi)$  are the Euler angles seen in Figure 2.2a.

Note that the eq. (2.9) uses the coordinate system from Yarin *et al.*[11] which differ from the one used in this thesis, details are discussed in Johansson [3]. Numerical solutions for three different initial conditions for an asymmetric particle are shown in Figure 2.4b.



**Figure 2.4:** A Poincaré map and three different orbits for a simulated particle with  $\lambda = 7$  and  $\epsilon = 0.05$ . The three orbits highlight the three different kinds of motion, the quasi-periodic sign changing orbit in blue, the quasi-periodic sign preserving orbit in red and the periodic orbit in green. We see that while  $n_x$  and  $n_y$  look qualitatively similar but differ in amplitude for the different orbits,  $n_z$  shows three different types of behaviour

Looking at Figure 2.4b we see that  $n_x$  and  $n_y$  are periodic, corresponding to periodic rotation around the  $z$ -axis. We refer to these rotations as flips. The period  $\eta$  of  $n_x$  and  $n_y$  is for an axisymmetric particle [8]

$$\eta = 2\pi \left( \lambda + \frac{1}{\lambda} \right) \frac{1}{\kappa}, \quad (2.11)$$

where  $\kappa$  is the shear rate.

The time evolution of  $\theta$  and  $\psi$  for different initial conditions can be plotted in a Poincaré map, also known as a Surface-of-Section (S.O.S.) [21]. This plots the  $\psi$  and  $\theta$  coordinates each time  $\phi = 0$ . The successive points on the Poincaré map for each initial condition move and explore certain regions of the surface of section. This region is referred to as the *orbit*.

For a particle with an asymmetry  $\epsilon$  in the range  $[0.01 - 0.05]$  there are three classes of orbits, depending on the initial condition  $\theta_0$ .

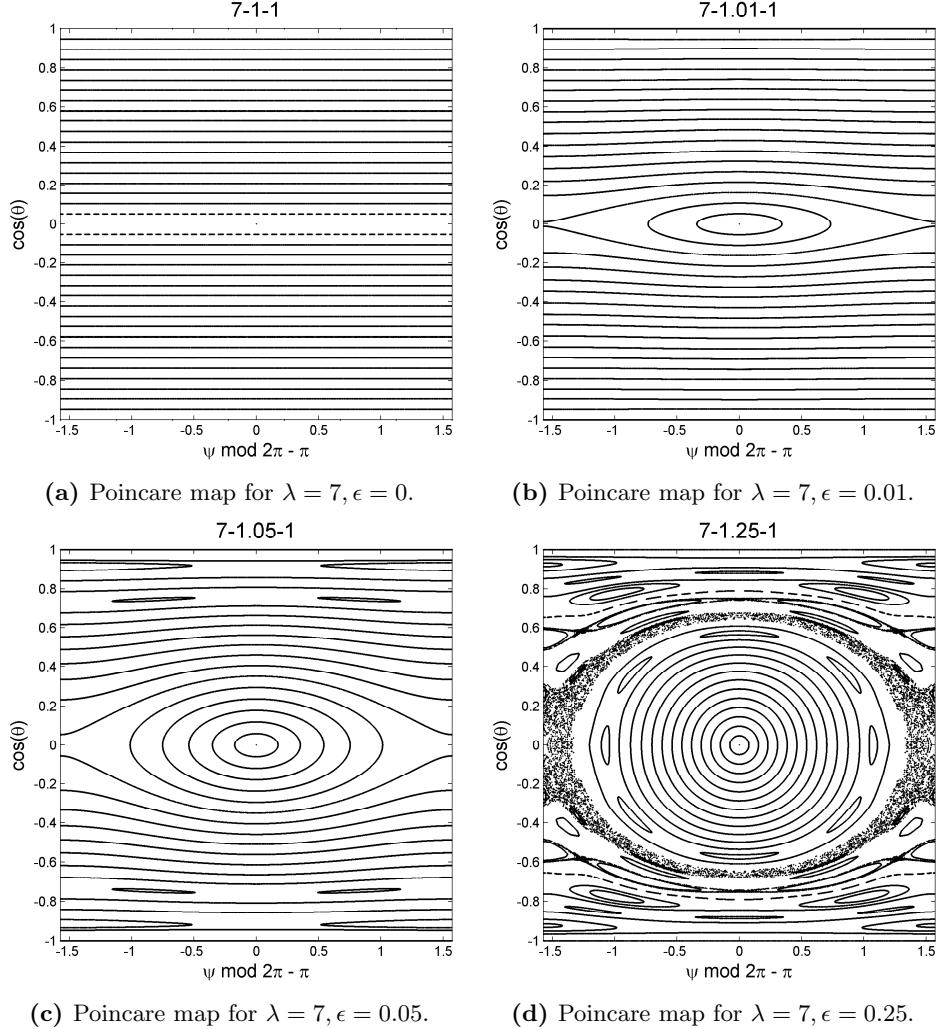
### 2.3. JEFFERY ORBITS

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1. **Periodic:**  $|\theta_0| \approx 1$  in which there is little variation and the particle is largely periodic with fluctuations too small to measure.
2. **Quasi-periodic sign preserving:** For  $|\theta_0| > \theta_b$  the amplitude of  $\cos(\theta)$  changes noticeably but does not change sign. Here  $\theta_b$  is a breaking point that changes for different  $\epsilon$ .
3. **Quasi-periodic sign changing:** For small  $|\theta_0| < \theta_b$  the amplitude of  $\cos(\theta)$  changes noticeably and changes sign.

Simulations of these three different types of orbits for a particle with  $\lambda = 7$  and  $\epsilon = 0.05$  are illustrated in Figure 2.4. Figure 2.4 shows the orbits on the S.O.S. and Figure 2.4b shows the components of  $\mathbf{n}$  as a function of time. We can see that while  $n_x$  and  $n_y$  are periodic, albeit with different amplitudes, the behaviour of  $n_z$  is significantly different for the different orbits. The  $n_z \approx 1$  orbit shown in green is constant on the S.O.S and is simply periodic over time. The sign preserving quasi-periodic orbit in red is bent on the S.O.S. We can see in the time series that it is doubly periodic as it peaks with a fixed period but the amplitude of the peaks vary periodically themselves. The sign changing quasi-periodic orbit in blue also peaks periodically with varying peak amplitude but these also change sign, again with a fixed period.

For larger asymmetries  $\epsilon > 0.05$  there are chaotic orbits that explore a larger region of the S.O.S. The simulations used do not have long enough time evolutions for the chaotic orbits to fill the regions in the way that quasi-periodic or periodic orbits fill the one dimensional regions that define their orbits. This results in the chaotic orbits appearing as a 'sea' of dots instead of filled lines. Chaotic orbits can be seen around the quasi-periodic sign changing orbits in Figure 2.5d.



**Figure 2.5:** Four Poincare maps for different  $\epsilon$ . Already at  $\epsilon = 0.01$  there are noticeably quasi-periodic orbits around the centre at  $\cos(\theta) \approx \psi \approx 0$  but it is also a significantly larger region for  $\epsilon = 0.05$ . For  $\epsilon = 0.25$  we can see chaotic orbits surrounding the circular orbits in the centre that appear as a 'sea' of dots.

### 2.3.1 Winding number

The quasi-periodic orbits are also referred to as doubly-periodic [11]. It is called doubly-periodic to emphasize the fact that the amplitude of the short period  $\theta_2$  also varies periodically with period  $\theta_1$ . The ratio between the two periods is referred to as the winding number  $\omega$  referring to the winding

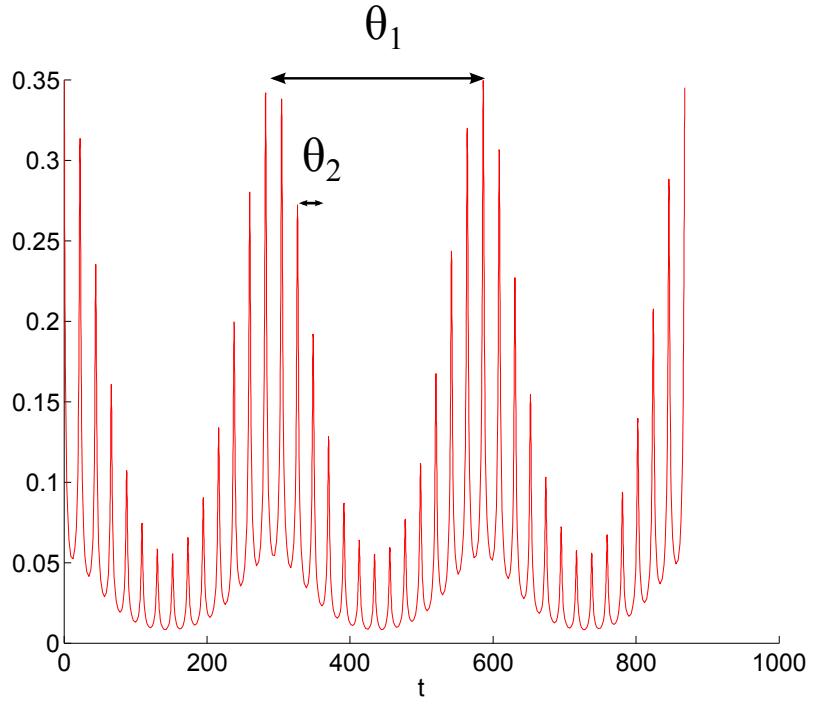
around a unit torus. The shorter period  $\theta_2$  corresponds to rotations around the small cross section and the longer period  $\theta_1$  corresponds to rotations around the large circumference of the torus. The winding number is defined as [22]

$$\omega_{def} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f^n(\xi) - \xi_0}{n}. \quad (2.12)$$

where  $\xi$  is the angle around the large circumference of the torus and  $f^n(\xi)$  is the shift caused in  $n$  rotations around the smaller axis. Applying this to our double-periodic orbits  $\xi$  would be the angle with period  $\theta_1$  and  $n$  the number of flips with period  $\theta_2$ . Since we cannot measure  $\xi$  I consider it more comprehensible to consider the inverse winding number: The number of flips necessary to complete one period of  $\xi$ . This can be measured as is shown in Figure 2.6. If we measure over several  $\theta_1$  peaks the average winding number approximates the real one. We refer to the this inverse winding number as  $\omega$  and it is given by

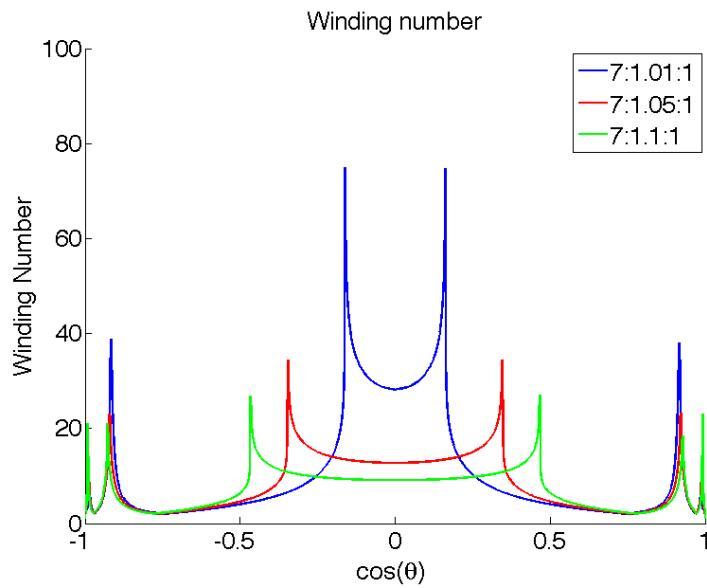
$$\omega = \frac{\theta_1}{\theta_2}. \quad (2.13)$$

The winding number of the quasi-periodic sign preserving orbit from Figure 2.4 and the way we approximate  $\theta_1$  (and thereby  $\omega$ ) is illustrated in Figure 2.6.



**Figure 2.6:** The quasi-periodic sign preserving orbit from Figure 2.4b over a longer time, highlighting the short period  $\theta_2$  which is simply the period of  $\phi$  and the longer period  $\theta_1$ . We find the inverse winding number as the ratio between the longer and shorter periods.

The winding number is the same for any point along a quasi-periodic orbit on a Poincaré map but it is different for different orbits as well as for different asymmetries. The winding numbers for orbits along  $\psi = 0$  for  $\epsilon = \{0.01, 0.05, 0.10\}$  can be seen in Figure 2.7. The difference in winding number for the sign changing orbits almost a factor 2. This means that if we can measure the winding number it allows us to approximate the asymmetry of the particle. Without looking at the winding number we cannot determine if a particle with an orbit close to  $n_z = 0$  and small variations in amplitude is close to symmetric or not.



**Figure 2.7:** The winding number for  $\psi_0 = 0$  and  $\lambda = 7$  as a function of  $\cos(\theta_0)$  for three different asymmetries,  $\epsilon = 0.01$ ,  $\epsilon = 0.05$  and  $\epsilon = 0.10$ . The sharp edge that occurs centred around zero is where the sign changing orbits end and sign preserving orbits begin, denoted by  $\theta_b$ . We see that a lower asymmetry leads to a sharper difference between the sign changing and the sign preserving orbits and that higher asymmetry in general leads to lower winding numbers on average.

# 3

## Method

## **Part I**

# **Improvements of experimental setup**

### 3.1. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

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To measure Jeffery orbits we need to have an experimental setup with which to measure. The one used in this thesis is an iteration of the one used by Einarsson *et al.* [1], Johansson [3], and Mishra *et al.* [26]. In this chapter we describe the setup and why it is designed the way it is. We also discuss the improvements over previous iterations, as well as new problems that have arisen from the changes made.

## 3.1 Experimental setup

The orientational motion of  $\mu\text{m}$ -sized particles suspended in a liquid was investigated by pumping the liquid through a microfluidic channel using a syringe pump. The channel is placed on a moveable stage on top of a microscope. A particle is tracked by moving the stage to match the center of mass velocity of the particle in the channel and thus keep the particle stationary in the field of view of the microscope. Connected to the microscope is a CCD camera recording the images and these movies are saved on a computer.

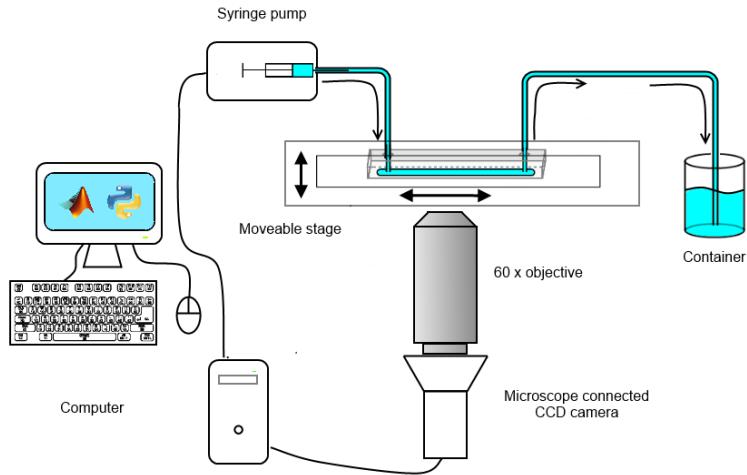
When the tracked particle gets within 10 mm of the inlets on the channel the flow is reversed. If the particle retraces its motion when the flow is reversed we know that no noise has disturbed the motion and that the flow is Stokes flow, as discussed in Section 2.1. In order to reduce the sudden impact of the pressure difference caused by the flow reversal, the reversals are performed in several steps. At the start of a reversal the infusion/withdrawal rate is reduced by 50% for 10 seconds, then stopped completely for 10 seconds. After this the pump resumes in the reverse direction at 50% of the normal flow rate for another 10 seconds before resuming at full speed.

The movies are analyzed as described in Section 4. We refer to the trajectory of  $\mathbf{n}$  for a particle along one length of the channel a **stretch** and a series of stretches for a single particle a **measurement**. A sketch of the experimental setup can be seen in Figure 3.1, and a photograph of the actual setup in Figure 3.2.

Between measurements, optical tweezers constructed by A. Laas were used to change the orientation of the particle. For details on optical tweezers see the introductory guide from Stanford, [23] or Laas thesis [2].

### 3.1. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

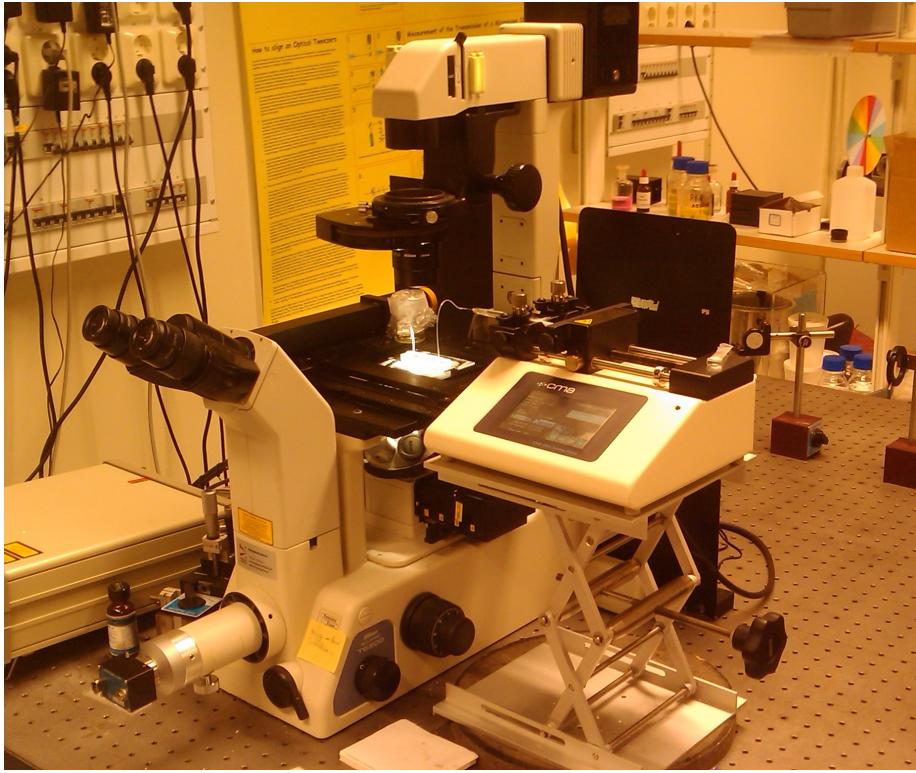
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**Figure 3.1:** Sketch of the set up. The computer controlled stage moves over the microscope. The pump reverses when the tracked particle gets close to the inlets of the channel. A CCD camera connected to the microscope records the dynamics of the particle as movies.

### 3.1. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

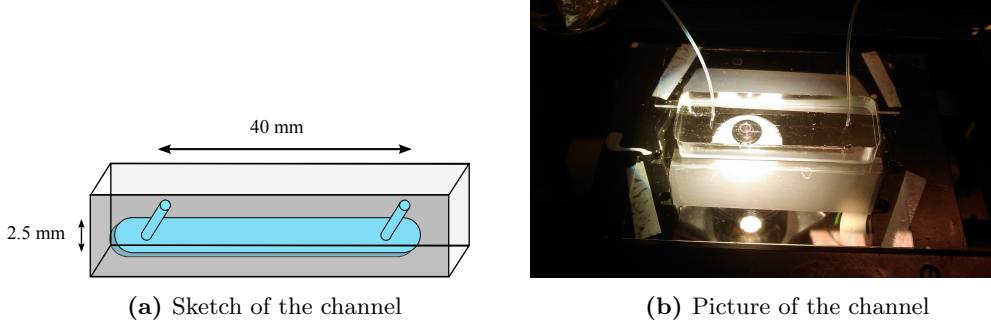
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**Figure 3.2:** Overview of the set up. The microscope to the left and the syringe pump to the right. In the center is the channel and the outlet container is seen behind it. The CCD camera is mounted on the left side of the microscope and cannot be seen in this picture.

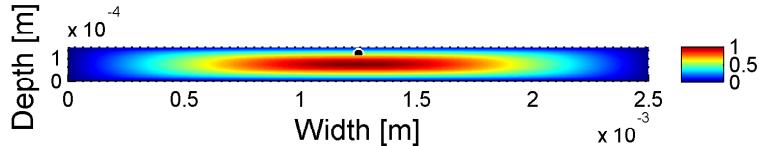
The microfluidic channel is 40 mm long, 2.5 mm wide and approximately 150  $\mu\text{m}$  deep. The channel is made from Polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) and plasma bonded to a microscope slide. A more detailed description of the process can be found from the Center for Computer Integrated Systems for Microscopy and Manipulation [24]. This material and procedure is chosen so that a channel that gets filled with dirt or breaks can cheaply and easily be replaced. Dirt in this case refers primarily to bubbles and to particles that stick to the glass or the PDMS. PDMS is non-reactive which means surface effects and other interactions with the particles are not a concern. PDMS is also highly transparent which means the light from the microscope illuminator won't be blocked or distorted before hitting the particles. A sketch of the channel can be seen in Figure 3.3a, and a photograph of an actual channel in Figure 3.3b.

### 3.1. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP



**Figure 3.3:** A sketch of the channel as well as a picture of the channel as it is set up during a measurement. The channel is only  $150\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  deep, but the PDMS surrounding it is around 15 mm to try and prevent the channel from expanding and contracting too much.

In order to find the maximum flow speed of the channel we need to know the flow profile. Using the software employed by Johansson [3] which in turn is using the result from Zheng [25], we solve the Poisson equation in a rectangular channel to obtain the flow profile. The solution for our channel measurements can be seen in Figure 3.4. Integrating the flow profile over the entire surface gives an effective flow area, essentially how large the channel 'actually' is. Using the flow profile from Figure 3.4 we find that the effective flow area is  $0.14 \text{ mm}^2$ . With a pump rate of  $7.5 \mu\text{l}/\text{minute}$  we get a maximum velocity of  $0.90 \text{ mm/s}$  for the liquid.



**Figure 3.4:** The theoretical estimation of the flow profile. Image generated with software from Johansson [3], used with permission.

We need to confirm that the flow is Stokes' flow and thus have no inertial effects. We can calculate the maximum Reynolds number using eq 2.1, the  $3\ \mu\text{m}$  length rods, and our maximum flow speed.

$$\text{Re} = \frac{UW\rho}{\mu} \leq \frac{9.0 \cdot 10^{-4} \cdot 3 \cdot 10^{-3} \cdot 2.5}{24 \cdot 10^{-3}} \approx 2.78 \cdot 10^{-6} \ll 1. \quad (3.1)$$

This should satisfy the conditions of validity for the Jeffery equations.

### **3.2. PROBLEMS AND IMPROVEMENTS**

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To track the particles the channel is put in a moveable stage on a confocal microscope. The entire setup can be seen in Figure 3.2

#### **3.1.1 List of equipment**

The equipment used during the experiment is as follows

- Leica DFC350 FX digital camera
- Nikon Eclipse TE 300 microscope
- Nikon 60x water immersion objective
- Märzhäuser Wetzlar 'LStep-eco' step engine
- CMA 4004 syringe pump
- Ytterbium fiber laser

## **3.2 Problems and improvements**

As mentioned above this thesis is a continuation of previous work [1, 3, 26]. There were a number of problems that needed to be solved in order to improve the results. They can be summarized as:

### 1. Particles

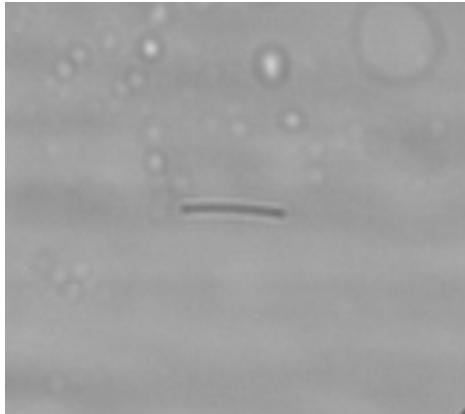
- Very few particles used in previous experiments were sufficiently symmetric to have periodic orbits or even quasi-periodic orbits. Most were visibly bent or uneven, see Figure 3.5
- The average aspect ratio of the particles was very high which meant there were very few flips along a stretch.
- The width of the particles was highly irregular and the resolution of the microscope did not allow for accurate measurements of it. This meant it was difficult to accurately estimate the aspect ratio.

### 3.2. PROBLEMS AND IMPROVEMENTS

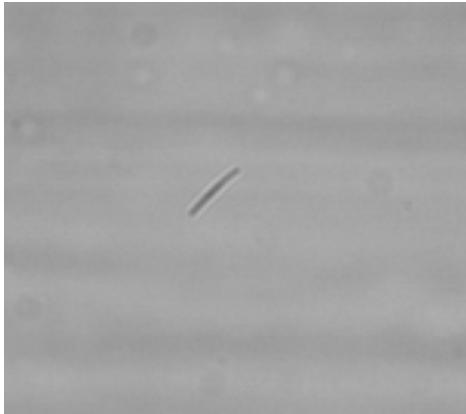
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- The particles could not be trapped with an optical tweezers due to low transmittance.
2. The PDMS in the channel was jagged which gave rise to noise unless the focus was in a very narrow band.
  3. Manual tracking of particles was time consuming.
  4. Bubbles were difficult to avoid when setting up the experiment.

#### 3.2.1 Particles and channel



(a) Particle 13 from July 2012



(b) Particle 22 from July 2012

**Figure 3.5:** Two typical particles from the previous setup. Note that these particles are selected for being among the most symmetric in the sample and yet they are noticeably bent.

In order to solve the issues with the polymer particles were replaced with glass particles from Nippon Glass, Japan [27].

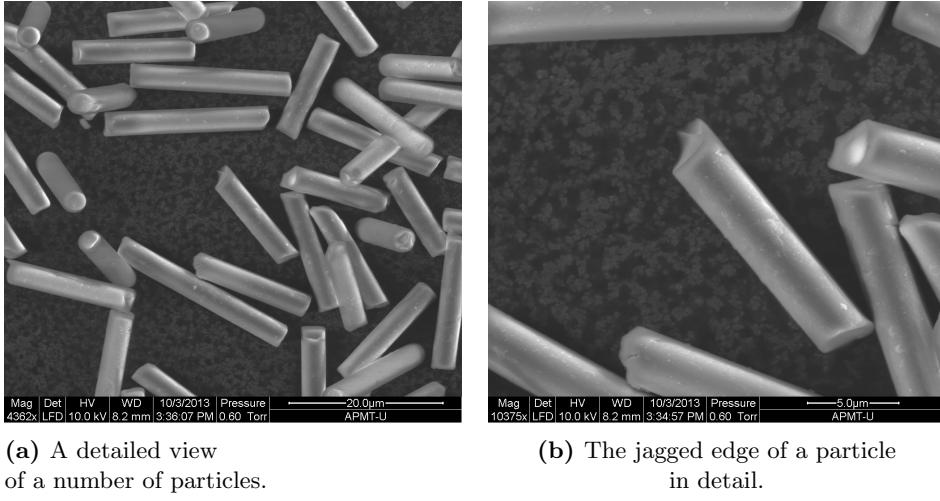
These new particles are made from LCD spacing rods that are broken into pieces. This means that they are essentially broken cylinders with very homogeneous widths but some variation in length. Two different batches of particles were used, one with a  $3\mu m$  diameter and one batch with  $5\mu m$  diameter. All the measurements presented in this thesis are using the  $3\mu m$  width particles. This is primarily as they were more easily controlled with the optical tweezers and because they sink or float more slowly.

### 3.2. PROBLEMS AND IMPROVEMENTS

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The symmetries of the particles were investigated with help from Stefan Gustafsson by taking images with an ESEM (Environmental Scanning Electron Microscope) shown in Figure 3.6. We see that the particles are uniformly smooth along the sides but have varyingly jagged edges causing different degrees of asymmetry.

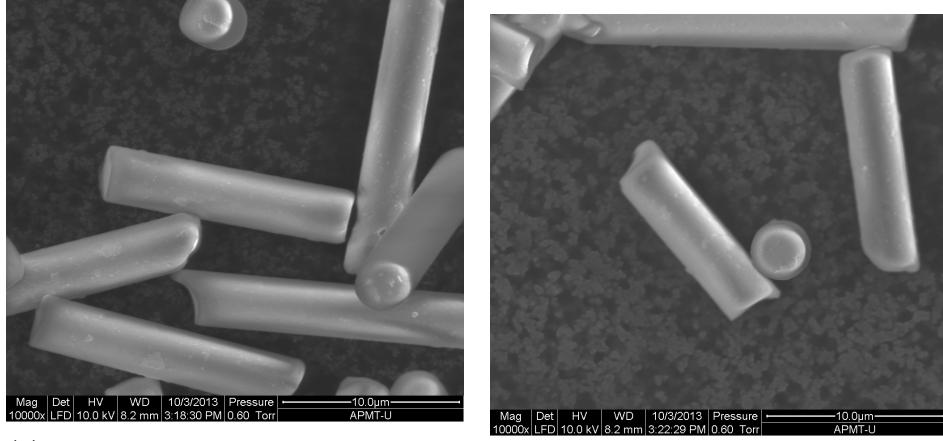
Figure 3.7b shows a particle along the main axis and we see that it is circular shape with no discernible deformation or asymmetry whereas Figure 3.6 show the jagged edges of several particles.



**Figure 3.6:** Pictures of the glass particles that were used. Their width is uniform and there is a noticeable variation in asymmetry. Some particles show very clearly jagged edges while other appear very smooth. This suggests that they should have quite different  $\epsilon$  and then exhibit quite different behaviour. Obtained with the help of Stefan Gustafsson

### 3.2. PROBLEMS AND IMPROVEMENTS

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(a) What appears to be a highly symmetric particle.

(b) A top down view of a particle.

**Figure 3.7:** Pictures highlighting the roundness of the particles as well as the apparent symmetry of some particles. Obtained with the help of Stefan Gustafsson

Figure 3.7b and 3.7a are the same as can be seen in Laas [2] Figure 5.2(c) and 5.2(b) respectively.

The particles satisfy the symmetry conditions but are made of glass with a density of approximately  $2.57 \text{ g/cm}^3$  at  $20^\circ\text{C}$ . This is significantly higher than that of water with a density of  $1 \text{ g/cm}^3$  at  $20^\circ\text{C}$  and glycerol with a density of  $1.5 \text{ g/cm}^3$ . In order to keep the particles buoyant the water soluble Sodium metatungstate is added to the liquid. Sodium metatungstate dissolved in water has a density of  $2.94 \text{ g/cm}^3$  at  $20^\circ\text{C}$  when fully saturated. To increase the viscosity of the liquid around 8% glycerol is added and the liquid was measured using a MCR 302 rheometer to have a dynamic viscosity of  $24 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ Pa s}$ .

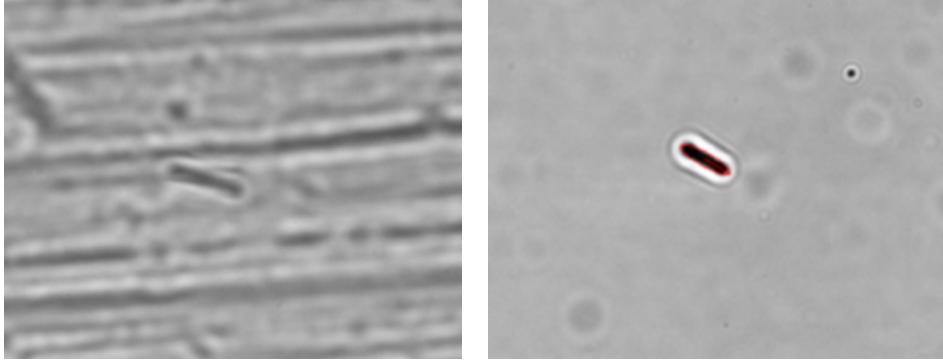
The problem with using these cylindrical particles is that the asymmetric cylinders with jagged edges do not have the same symmetries as the triaxial particles. The triaxial particles with distinct  $a_2$  and  $a_3$  have 2-fold rotational symmetry around every axis whereas this is not true for the cylinders. We do not know how this effects the equations of motion and in turn the orbits, Poincaré maps and the winding numbers. We assume that we can approximate a jagged cylinder with a triaxial particle and further theoretical development will prove if this is correct or not.

A problem in finding and tracking a particle was that the surface of the PDMS was very uneven and sharp ridges along the length of the channel would appear as seen in Figure 3.8a unless the

### 3.3. AUTOMATED TRACKING

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focus was in a narrow depth of the channel.



(a) An unusually severe case of the PDMS ridges creating noise. (b) After being polished there is no trace of ridges in the PDMS.

**Figure 3.8:** The effects of polishing the channel using emery cloth and a silicate abrasive. (a) Shows sharp lines along the length of the channel disturbing tracking, (b) no ridges can be seen.

This was fixed by polishing the copper mold in which the PDMS channels are formed with a silicate abrasive (Autosol) and emery cloth. This was shown to remove all visible scratches from the mold and thus from the PDMS. As seen in Figure 3.8b no scratches can be detected.

## 3.3 Automated tracking

Most of the time making measurements was spent manually tracking a particle using the movable stage as described in section 3.1. Depending on the flow rate and the number of stretches desired for a particle it could take up to several hours to compile one measurement. Thus one important way to improve the setup from previous iteration is as discussed by Johansson [3] to automate the camera tracking. This would speed up measurements and allow for a larger data set to be gathered.

A tracking algorithm was implemented using Python and the external packages `OPENCV`, `NumPy`, `SciPy`, `ImageMagick` and `ctypes`. The goal of the tracking was relatively similar to the tracking described in 4.1 and more in detail in Johansson [3]. The main difference is that the tracking described in this section moves the actual stage and control the pump in real time whereas Johansson tracking tracks the particle in the movie after manual measurements have been made. This produces

### 3.3. AUTOMATED TRACKING

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some different problems which are detailed below.

#### 3.3.1 Acquiring the image

The first step in tracking a particle is to acquire the image from the microscope in order to identify (and track) the particle. However the Leica DFC350 FX camera only works with the proprietary Leica software which has no API. This means that there is no way to get the image straight from the camera in real time. To solve this the `ImageGrabber` package in `Python` is used to take screenshots as often as possible. The camera image is isolated from the full screenshot by cropping the image acquired. This in itself is a very short program however it still takes ca 50 ms per frame on an Intel Core i5 processor. Each frame is stored as a matrix  $\mathbf{F}$  with brightness values ranging from 0 to 255.

#### 3.3.2 Reducing noise

In order to reduce noise from the image we first reduce the static noise caused by dirt, scratches and other defects in the microscope and on the camera lens, as shown in Figure 4.1a. As the noise is static it is the only thing that remains if we compute an average image  $\bar{\mathbf{F}}$ . After taking  $N$  images and denote them  $\{\mathbf{F}_1, \mathbf{F}_2, \dots, \mathbf{F}_N\}$  the average images  $\bar{\mathbf{F}}$  is given by

$$\bar{\mathbf{F}} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{F}_i. \quad (3.2)$$

An example of such an average image can be seen in Figure 4.1b. The static noise is then removed from each frame using eq (3.1) from Johansson [3].

$$\widetilde{\mathbf{F}}_i = \mathbf{F}_i - \bar{\mathbf{F}} + (\mathbf{F}_i^* \mathbf{I}) \quad (3.3)$$

where  $\mathbf{F}_i^*$  is the average brightness of the frame  $\mathbf{F}_i$ ,  $\widetilde{\mathbf{F}}_i$  is the corrected frame and  $\mathbf{I}$  is a matrix of ones. The result can be seen in Figure 4.1c.

### 3.3.3 Contour detection and selection

The edges of the captured image are detected using the Canny edge detector from the OpenCV package. The canny edge detector uses two different threshold values for finding edges,  $\tau_1$  and  $\tau_2$  with  $\tau_1 > \tau_2$ .  $\tau_1$  is used for finding initial edges and  $\tau_2$  is used on pixels adjacent to ones already found. For more details on how the Canny Edge detector works see the original paper by Canny from 1986[28]. Once an edge image has been generated, we use the OpenCV command, `Contours` which returns a list of every contiguous group of edge pixels. We denote these contours  $\{C_1, C_2 \dots C_M\}$  and each contour contains  $M_i^c$  pixels,  $C_i = \{\mathbf{p}_1^i, \mathbf{p}_2^i \dots \mathbf{p}_{M_i^c}^i\}$ . If the image is not too noisy and we have chosen the threshold values to the edge detection correctly, this should include the particle as a contour.

In order to identify the particle contour a few techniques are used. First, contours whose total size  $M_i^c$  is less than some minimum value,  $n_{min}$  or larger than some maximum value  $n_{max}$  are ignored. Then the average position  $\mathbf{P}_i$  of each contour  $C_i$  is calculated as the average pixel position

$$\mathbf{P}_i = \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbf{p}_j / n$$

which is used to find the distance  $D_i$  between each position  $\mathbf{P}_i$  and the expected position  $\mathbf{E}$ . The expected position is the center of the image in the first frame and thereafter we assumed the particle has the same velocity as it did the last frame. So we have

$$D_i = ||\mathbf{P}_i - \mathbf{E}||$$

Finally a 'thinness value' for each contour  $\zeta_i$  is calculated using

$$\zeta_i = \left( \frac{d_{i,max}^2}{M_i^c} \right)^2, \quad (3.4)$$

where  $d_i^{(max)}$  is the longest distance between two pixels in the contour  $C_i$ .

Finally a weighted score  $S_i$  is assigned to each contour based on its position and thinness using

$$S_i = w_{thin}\zeta_i + \frac{w_{pos}}{D_i} \quad (3.5)$$

where  $w_{thin}$  is a weighting constant for the thinness and  $w_{pos}$  is a weighting constant for the position. The contour with the highest score is chosen unless it is lower than some worst acceptable score  $S_{min}$ .

### 3.3.4 Adjusting the camera velocity

After the particle has been detected two times at positions  $\mathbf{P}(t_0)$  and  $\mathbf{P}(t_1)$ , the change in position is the relative velocity  $\mathbf{v}_{rel} = \mathbf{P}(t_1) - \mathbf{P}(t_0)$ . The velocity of the step engine as  $\mathbf{v}_{step}$  and the correctional change in velocity of the step engine  $\mathbf{v}_{corr}$ .

If the velocity is larger than some threshold  $v_{thresh}$  the step engine velocity is changed by

$$\mathbf{v}_{corr} = \zeta \mathbf{v}_{rel}$$

where  $\zeta < 1$  is damping to prevent too sudden changes. If the position of the particle is too far from the center of the image the velocity of the step engine is changed by .

$$\mathbf{v}_{corr} = \frac{\mathbf{P}(t_1)}{|\mathbf{P}(t_1)|} v_\epsilon$$

where  $v_\epsilon$  is a small incremental velocity.

### 3.3.5 Time considerations

A higher frame rate allows for greater predictive power and increased stability as the error between frames is reduced. Reducing computational time of each task is important for optimizing the tracking, which also means knowing what tasks are the most demanding. A list of the different tasks and their average execution times can be seen in table 3.1

### **3.4. SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENTS**

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Task	Average time	Std deviation
Capture screen	41	14
Find edges	78	23
Change velocity	230	62

**Table 3.1:** WRITE A CAPTION HERE SOON

We see that the FPS is limited primarily by three routines: The screen capture routine, the change velocity routine and finally the save position routine. The first and last are unavoidable and must be done every frame by definition if we are interested in knowing the particles position as well as possible. This means we simply want to use the velocity correction as little as possible. Since the time constraint is in the communication with the step engine, there is not any optimization to be done here, at least not within the scope of this thesis.

## **3.4 Summary of improvements**

To conclude we return to the problems listed in section 3.2

1. The particles are now all symmetric enough to make useful measurements
2. The particles have low aspect ratios and uniform widths allowing which makes accurate estimations of size possible
3. Particles are made from glass meaning they can be trapped using an optical tweezer.
4. The PDMS in the channel is now smooth enough to not be noticed with the microscope.
5. Manual tracking is still necessary when tracking with the optical tweezers.
6. Bubbles are still an issue, but are reduced as one gets more experienced in setting up the experiment.

Part 2: Measurements and Analysis

## Part II

# Data analysis and results

# 4

## Data analysis

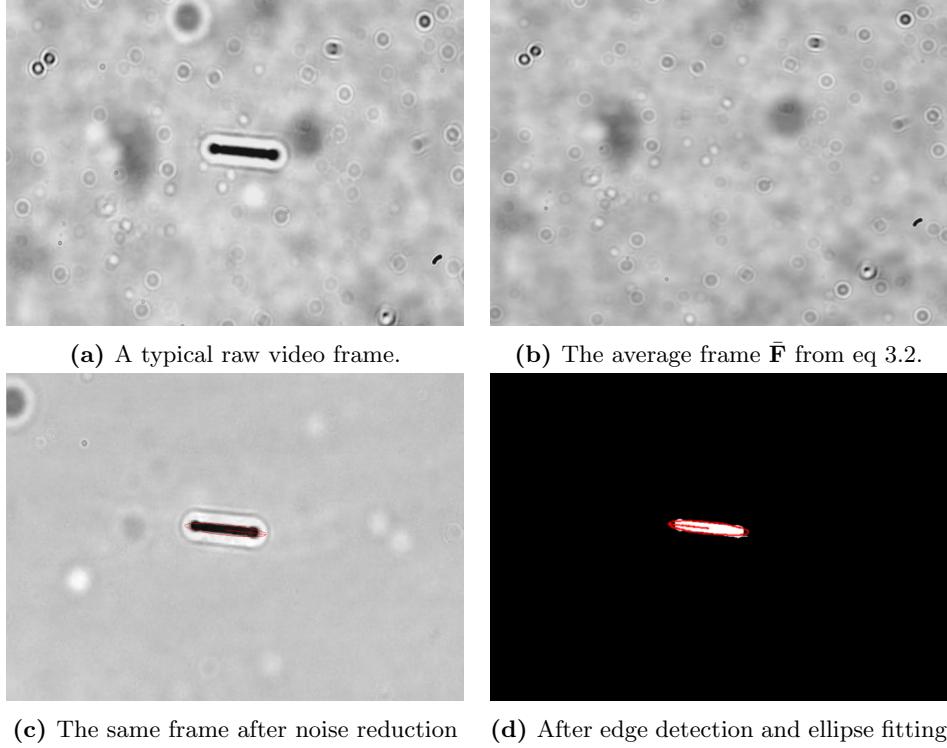
Once a measurement has been made and a movie recorded the orientational dynamics are estimated. The first step is to identify the particle and approximate its position and orientation at every point. This is done using software from Johansson [3] and is explained in detail in his thesis and summarized below.

### 4.1 Particle identification

The first step of the data analysis is to reduce the static noise from the movie caused by dirt, scratches and other defects in the microscope and on the camera lens as can be seen in Figure 4.1a. As the noise is static and the actual contents of the image changes the noise is isolated by computing an average frame of all frames in a movie using equation 3.2

An example of such an average frame can be seen in Figure 4.1b. The average frame is removed from the camera frame and the result can be seen in Figure 4.1c. After this we apply a gaussian smoothing function and Canny edge detection [28] and fill the resulting edge located closest to the previous particle location. The resulting pixels are then fit to an ellipse as described in [3, 29], the ellipse is defined by a length  $l_e$ , width  $w_e$  and an angle  $\phi_p$  from the  $x$ -axis. Note that  $\phi_p$  is The

filled contour and the fit ellipse can be seen in Figure 4.1d.



**Figure 4.1:** These pictures illustrate the most important step of the image analysis from raw image to estimated particle position. First the static noise from the average frame  $\bar{F}$

## 4.2 Estimation of orientation

The ellipsoid given by the fitting is then our best approximation of the projection in the  $x$ - $z$  plane.

The projection of the particle along the  $x$ -axis and  $z$ -axis are found by

$$p_x = l_e \sin(\phi_p) \quad (4.1)$$

$$p_z = l_e \cos(\phi_p) \quad (4.2)$$

Here  $p_x$  and  $p_z$  are the  $x$ -axis and  $z$ -axis projection respectively.

To find the unit vector  $\mathbf{n}$  we need to know the length of the particle. It was shown by Leal [10]

that the particle always spends a majority of its time aligned with the flow, ie aligned with the camera plane. This means that by finding the ellipse length  $l_e$  every frame and finding the mode of the distribution we find a good estimate of  $L$ . We find the orientation vector  $\mathbf{n}$  from Section 2.3 by normalizing the projections

$$n_x = \frac{p_x}{L}, \quad (4.3a)$$

$$n_z = \frac{p_z}{L}, \quad (4.3b)$$

$$n_y = \sqrt{1 - n_x^2 - n_z^2}. \quad (4.3c)$$

This allows us to make comparisons between theory and measurement. Until this point the data analysis is the same as that in Johansson [3].

### 4.3 Width compensation

We have assumed that the particle is a *thin* rod so that the projection  $\mathbf{p}$  onto the  $x$  and  $z$ -axes give us an accurate estimate of  $\mathbf{n}$ . However, when we consider that our particle is 'thick' with length  $l_e$  as well as width  $w_e$  the actual unit vector we use in the above algorithms is  $\mathbf{n}'$ . The width of the particle appears as an ellipse even when the major axis of the particle is aligned completely with the  $y$ -axis. Looking at the points when  $\phi = 0$ , which are the points plotted on the surfaces of section and thus of the most interest, we find

$$\mathbf{n}' = \frac{p'_z}{L} = \frac{p_z \cos(\theta) + D \sin(\theta)}{L}. \quad (4.4)$$

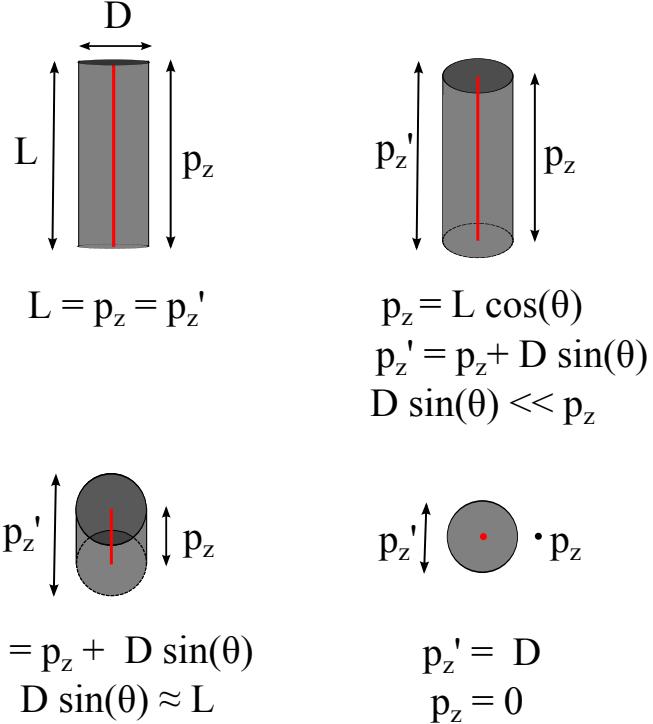
Here  $L$  is the particle length and  $D$  is the particle width. The difference between the measured orientation vector  $\mathbf{n}'$  and the actual orientation vector  $\mathbf{n}$  is illustrated in Figure 4.2 for 4 different values of  $\theta$ .

In order to compensate for the width of the particle we modify our projection equation 4.1 to

$$p_x = (l_e - w_e) \sin(\phi_p) \quad (4.5)$$

$$p_z = (l_e - w_e) \cos(\phi_p) \quad (4.6)$$

This reduces the particles estimated length by  $w_e$



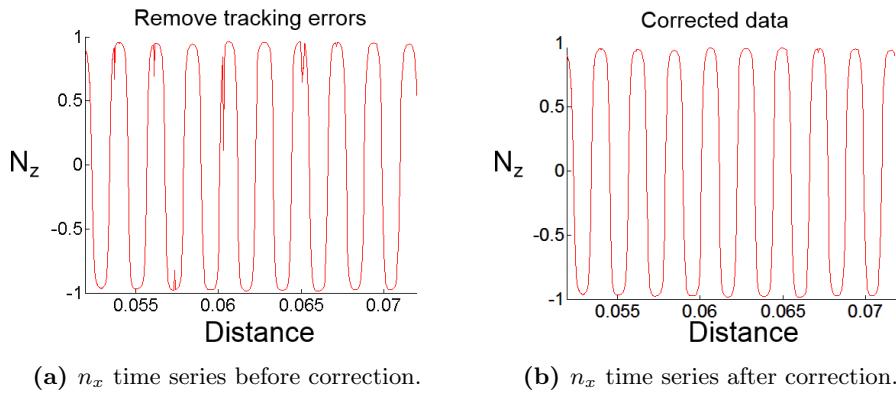
**Figure 4.2:** Shows the incorrect projection vector  $p'$  we obtain from incorrectly assuming the particle is 'thin' in eq. 4.1. The correct projection vector is highlighted in red. Shows four different  $\theta$  angles at  $\phi = 0$ .

## 4.4 Removing tracking errors

The tracking typically contains a few frames where either the view of the particle is visually obstructed or is not detected correctly leading to spikes in the data. To make further theoretical analysis possible the data is corrected by removing such points manually. The basis for removal is

a large discontinuity in the data, and could largely be eliminated with algorithmic means. However in particular for  $n_z$  it is very difficult to write an algorithm that catches all possible edge cases. For example  $n_z$  have peaks that make its derivative non continuous which means that cannot be used as a criterion to exclude points. It's thus simpler to look at the analysis program and remove the points where the particle cannot be traced accurately due to noise.

An example of data before and after correction can be seen in Figure 4.3 and all uncorrected data files are available at <http://goo.gl/jgzSXe>.

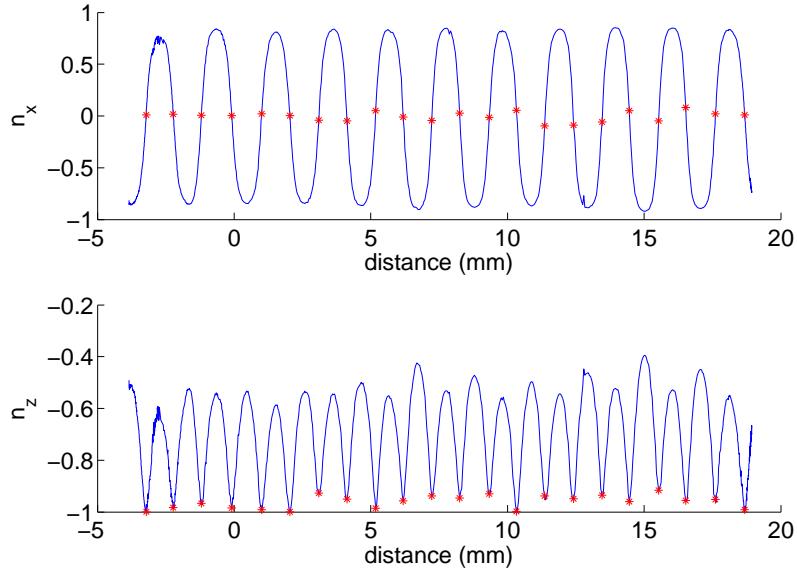


**Figure 4.3:** Shows screenshots from the software used to remove tracking errors for a time series of  $n_z$  before and after removing points where a significant amount of noise disturbed the tracking.

## 4.5 Estimating the winding numbers

As discussed in section 2.3.1, estimating the winding number for different types of orientational orbit for one particle allows for a better estimation of  $\epsilon$ . In order to estimate the winding number for a measured particle we must identify the two periods  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$  from Figure 2.6.

The maxima with the shorter period  $\theta_2$  are located where  $n_x = 0$  as is seen in Figure 4.4. We denote the set of these points  $P_z$ . The longer period  $\theta_1$  is the periodicity of  $P_z$ , marked as red points in Figure 4.4. To estimate the winding number we want to locate the maxima  $M$  and minima  $m$  in  $P_z$  that occur with period  $\theta_1$  in the same way we do to find  $\theta_2$  in  $n_z$ . Unfortunately the height of peaks is noisy and there are few data points for each measurement as the channel is of finite length only allowing a few dozen flips. This means averaging cannot be used to reduce the noise. This



**Figure 4.4:** The stars are plotted at the same distances in the  $n_x$  and  $n_z$  plots. We see that zeros of  $n_x$  and maxima of  $n_z$  occur almost exactly at the same points. These points are referred to as  $\mathbf{P}_z$

means we have no algorithmic means to find  $\theta_1$ .

Instead we select a number of maxima  $M_1, M_2, \dots, M_p$  and minima  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_q$  from  $P_z$ . We denote their index in  $n_z$  as  $I_1^M, I_2^M, \dots, I_p^M$  for the maxima and  $I_1^m, I_2^m, \dots, I_q^m$  for the minima. We then find  $\theta_1$  as the mean distance between successive maxima  $\overline{d_M}$  and successive minima  $\overline{d_m}$ ,

$$\overline{d_M} = \frac{1}{p-1} \sum_{j=1}^p I_{j+1}^M - I_j^M \quad (4.7)$$

$$\overline{d_m} = \frac{1}{q-1} \sum_{j=1}^q I_{j+1}^m - I_j^m \quad (4.8)$$

$$\hat{\theta}_1 = \frac{\overline{d_M} + \overline{d_m}}{2}. \quad (4.9)$$

In the case that we only have 1 maxima and minima eq. 4.9 can't be calculated so we assume that the distance between a maxima and minima is half a period, i.e.

$$\hat{\theta}_1 = 2 |I_1^M - I_1^m| \quad (4.10)$$

## 4.6 Matching data to theoretical orbits

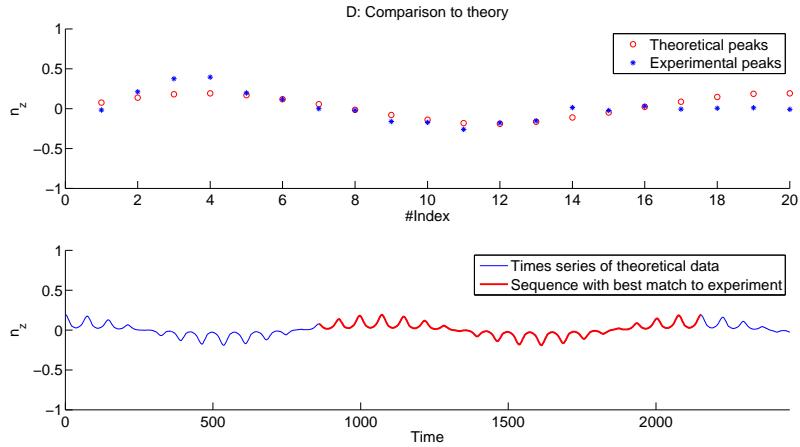
To verify that the theoretical orbits from Section 2.3 have been measured we want to match the measurements to theoretical orbits.

To find the best matching orbit from a Poincaré map for a measurement we again utilize  $\mathbf{P}_z$ , the points where  $n_z$  peaks and  $n_x = 0$ . We denote the length of  $\mathbf{P}_z$  as  $N$ . We are concerned with matching them with the peaks from theoretical orbits.

To find the best matching theoretical orbit for a measurement we compute the least square distance between  $\mathbf{P}_z$  and all orbits on all phase maps with  $\epsilon$  in the range  $[0.01, 0.02, \dots, 0.1]$  for 200 consecutive initial  $\psi$  (the  $x$ -axis on the Poincaré map). If we for each orbit denote the theoretical series of  $n_z$  peaks as  $\mathbf{Q}_z(\theta, \epsilon)$ . We make sure that the length of  $\mathbf{Q}_z(\theta, \epsilon)$  be twice that of  $\mathbf{P}_z$  which guarantees that we always find the correct phase. We define  $\mathbf{Q}_z(\theta, \epsilon, i)$  to be the  $n_z$  series  $\mathbf{Q}_z(\theta, \epsilon)$  starting at index  $i$ . We assign a score function  $S(\theta, \epsilon, i)$  as

$$S(\mathbf{P}_z, \theta, \epsilon, i) = \frac{1}{N} \left| \mathbf{P}_z - \mathbf{Q}_z^{(i)}(\theta, \epsilon) \right|^2. \quad (4.11)$$

An example experimental  $P_z$  series matched to theoretical data is seen in Figure 4.5.



**Figure 4.5:** The upper figure shows the experimental  $n_z$  peaks  $\mathbf{P}_z$  and the theoretical peaks  $\mathbf{Q}_z$  for the best matching orbit. The lower plot shows where what section of the theoretical time series was used for matching, ie what  $i$  from section 4.6 was chosen.

$\epsilon$  does not change for a particle over  $r$  different measurements  $\mathbf{P}_z^{(1)}, \mathbf{P}_z^{(2)}, \dots, \mathbf{P}_z^{(r)}$ , however the initial conditions  $\theta$  and  $i$  (the phase) do. So for each  $\epsilon$  we find the best  $\theta$  and  $i$  using  $\hat{S}(\mathbf{P}_z^{(j)}, \epsilon)$

$$\hat{S}(\mathbf{P}_z^{(j)}, \epsilon) = \min(S(\mathbf{P}_z^{(j)}, \theta, \epsilon, i)) \quad (4.12)$$

and then find the best  $\epsilon$  using

$$\epsilon_{best} = \min\left(\sum_{j=1}^r \frac{\hat{S}(\mathbf{P}_z^{(j)}, \epsilon)^2}{N^{(j)}}\right). \quad (4.13)$$

It is important to note that this matching has a theoretical limitation. The asymmetry of our cylindrical particles is different from the asymmetry in the triaxial particles used in the theoretical models. The triaxial particles still have a rotational symmetry for rotations of  $\pi$  around any of the major/minor axes. This is not the case with the asymmetric cylindrical particles, which have no rotational symmetry. We therefore have to make the assumption that the difference between these two types of asymmetry is not significant and further theoretical work might reject this assumption.

# 5

## Results

The aim of these measurements is to show that the particles follow the Jeffery orbits and to show that they exhibit quasi-periodic and periodic motion for different initial conditions. In order to show that there are no significant disturbance we examine the reversal of the flow. If the particle reverts its dynamics perfectly there has been no noise or inertial effects.

During the work of this thesis a large number of movies of particles have been recorded with gradual improvements to the setup primarily in terms of density matching, particle density (the number of particles per liquid volume) and bubble elimination. In this section we present the data from two different particles. These were the only particles where there were good reversals for several stretches for both quasi-periodic and periodic orbits. One is referred to as particle A, the other as particle B. Particle A is approximately  $24 \mu\text{m}$  long so it has an aspect ratio  $\lambda \approx 8$ . Particle B is approximately  $20.5 \mu\text{m}$  long so it has an aspect ratio  $\lambda \approx 7$ . The measurements in this section were done together with Alexander Laas [2].

We started each measurement at an approximate depth  $D$  and at position  $p_0 = (x_0, z_0)$  in the channel relative to the inlet on the right, closer to the pump. We have assumed that the shear is entirely in the  $y$  direction when doing our theoretical analysis. This means the flow profile has to be almost entirely flat in the  $z$ -direction which it only is if the particle is close to the centre.

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Variations do occur but when are less than  $10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  as is seen in Figure 5.10.

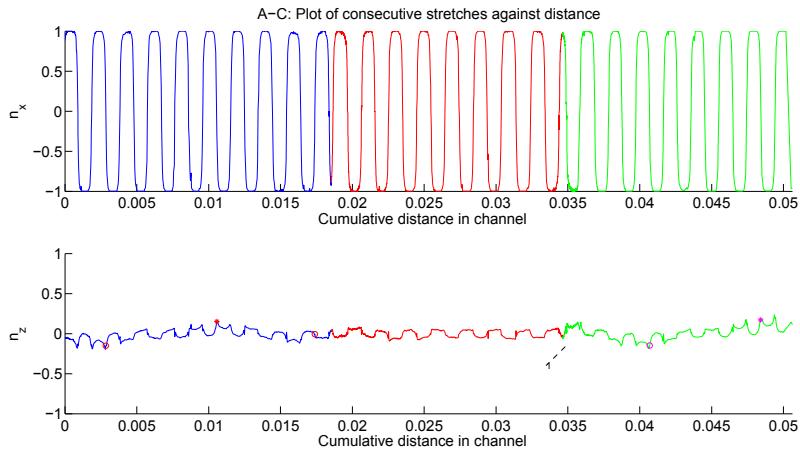
## 5.1 Measurements

### 5.1.1 Measurements of particle A

Particle A was measured on October 11 in 2013. Two of the measurements retraced their orbits very well: measurement 1 and measurement 2 which can be seen in Figure 5.1 and Figure 5.2 respectively. Measurement 1 was started with initial condition  $n_z \approx 0$  and showed quasi periodic behaviour with a periodic change in amplitude for  $n_z$  peaks. Measurement 2 was started with initial condition  $n_z \approx 1$  and showed periodic behaviour with very constant  $n_z$  peaks.

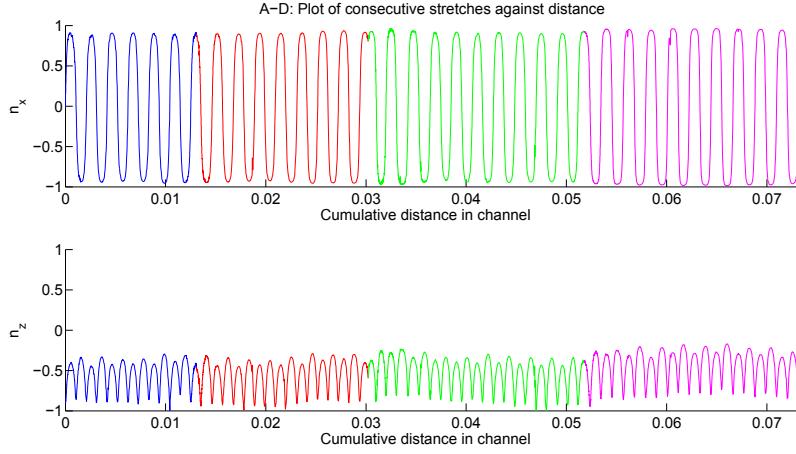
Other measurement had reversals where the orbit changed considerably, two examples are seen in Figure 5.3 and 5.4. All measurement data for particle A can be found at [goo.gl/jgzSXe](http://goo.gl/jgzSXe) where particle A is referred to as particle 2 from October 11.

#### Measurement 1



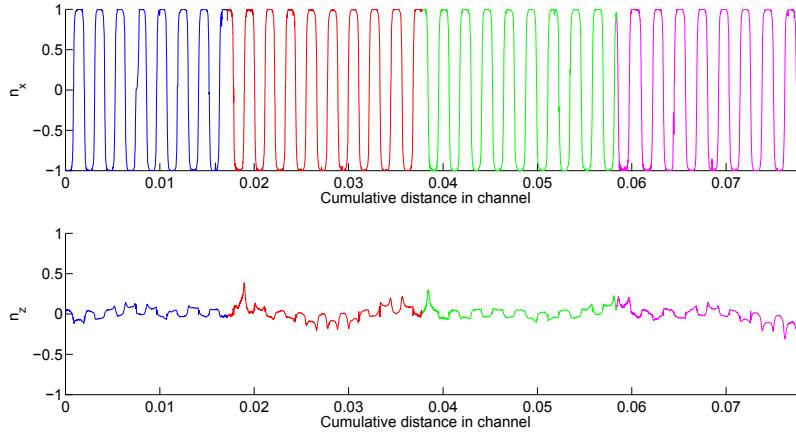
**Figure 5.1:** The estimate  $n_x$  and  $n_z$  components of the particle. Despite being very close to a centre orbit there is limited quasi-periodic behaviour as the peaks stay close to 0. The very flattened peaks compared to a low  $n_z$  orbit in 2.4b are a result of the width compensation discussed in section 4.3. This particle started  $x_0 = 9.8\text{mm}$ ,  $z_0 = 8.9924\mu\text{m}$  and  $D \approx 90\mu\text{m}$ . This is the same measurement as is used in Figure 6.20 in Laas thesis [2]

### Measurement 2



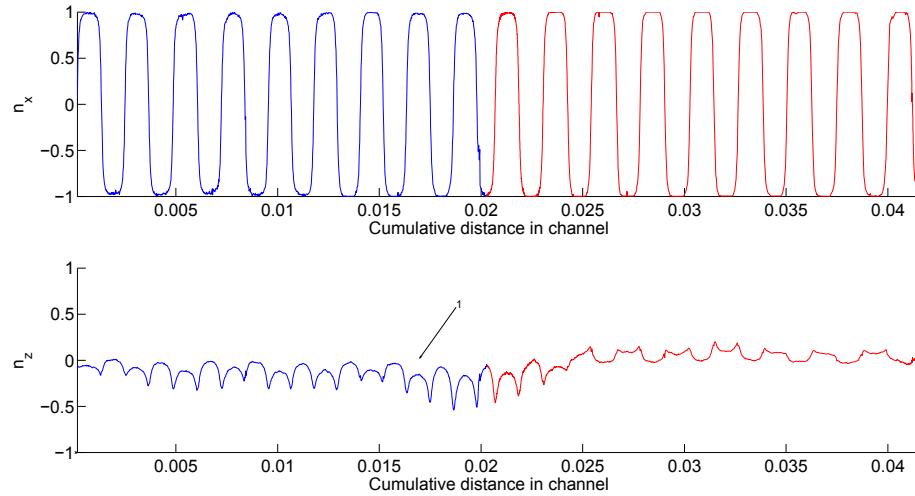
**Figure 5.2:** The  $n_z$  and  $n_x$  components for measurement 2 against cumulative distance. The  $n_z$  component is consistently close to 1 at the peaks and. The particle started at  $x_0 = 26.0\text{mm}$ ,  $z_0 = 275\mu\text{m}$ ,  $D \approx 105\mu\text{m}$ . This figure is the same as can be seen in Laas [2] Figure 6.21

### Measurement 3



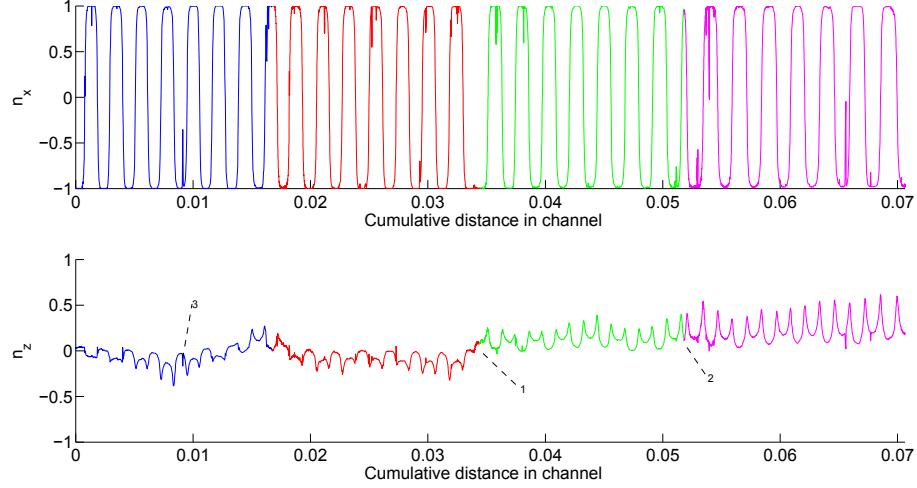
**Figure 5.3:** The  $n_z$  and  $n_x$  components for measurement 3 against cumulative distance. The larger peaks that occur after the reversals are not the cause of a tracking error but can be seen clearly in the films. The cause of such a sudden peak and then reverting back to another orbit is not known and we have no good theoretical explanation for it. The reversal of the flow is started when the particle is next to the point marked (3) which is also where there is a change in the orbit. The particle started at  $x_0 = 12.3\text{mm}$ ,  $z_0 = 160\mu\text{m}$ ,  $D \approx 100\mu\text{m}$ .

**Measurement 4**



**Figure 5.4:** The  $n_z$  and  $n_x$  components for measurement 4 against cumulative distance. The flow is reversed when the particle is at the point marked by (1) and we can see that the peaks around the reversal are larger than for the rest of the measurement. Started at  $x_0 = 8.7\text{mm}$ ,  $z_0 = 16\mu\text{m}$ ,  $D \approx 95\mu\text{m}$ .

### Measurement 5

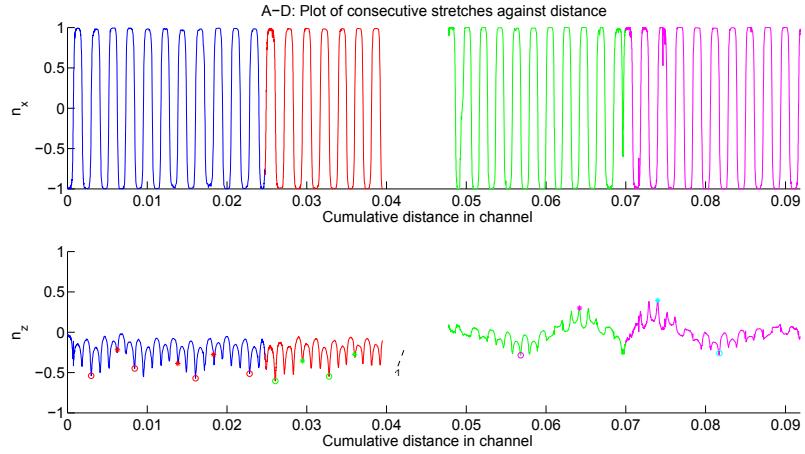


**Figure 5.5:** The  $n_z$  and  $n_x$  components for measurement 5 against cumulative distance. At the point marked by (1)  $n_z$  changes drastically at the reversal which occurs at the side of the channel closer to the pump. Although there is also some change in the orbit at the reversal marked by (2) it does not move comparably far on the S.O.S. There are a number of small peaks in the data such as the one indicated by (3) which is a consequence is due to insufficient removal of tracking errors, see section 4.4. The particle started at  $x_0 = 10.7\text{mm}$ ,  $z_0 = 240\mu\text{m}$ ,  $D \approx 60\mu\text{m}$ .

#### 5.1.2 Measurements of particle B

Particle B was measured on October 1 2013. Particle B has four measurements for which most reversals showed little change in orbit. These are shown below in Figures 5.6, 5.7, 5.8 and 5.9. There were also problematic measurements of particle B analogous to those for particle A, but they have not been included in this section for brevity. All measurement data for particle B can be found at [goo.gl/jgzSXe](http://goo.gl/jgzSXe) where particle B is referred to as particle 4 from October 1.

### Measurement 1

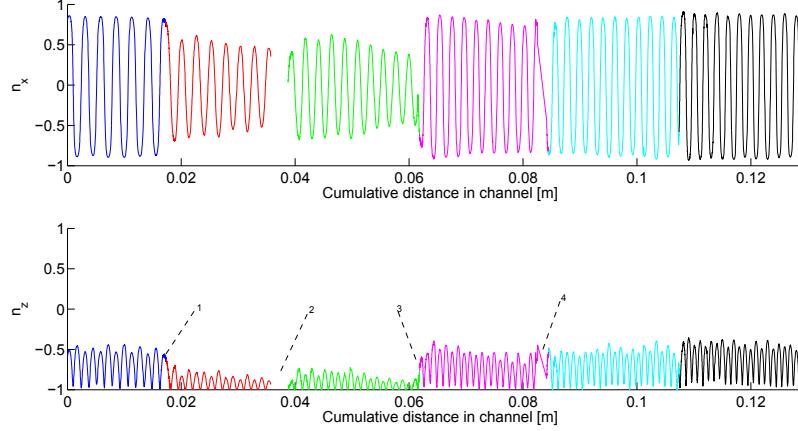


**Figure 5.6:** The  $n_z$  and  $n_x$  components for measurement 1 against cumulative distance. The first two and the last two stretches revert very well. In the reversal between the two good reversals there is a large change in orbit which begins at (1) where the flow is starting to revert. This reversal also occurs at the end of the channel closer to the pump. Starts at  $x_0 = 9.3\text{mm}$ ,  $z_0 = 35\mu\text{m}$ ,  $D \approx 100\mu\text{m}$ . This is the same measurement as is used in Figures 6.2 and 6.4 in Laas thesis [2]

## 5.1. MEASUREMENTS

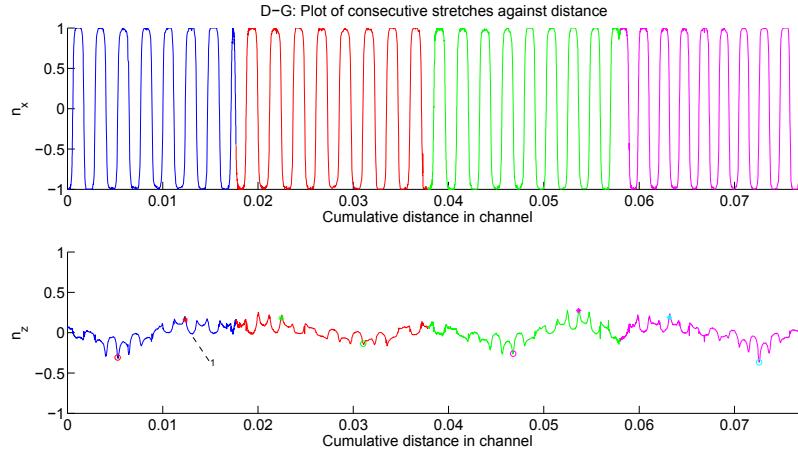
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### Measurement 2



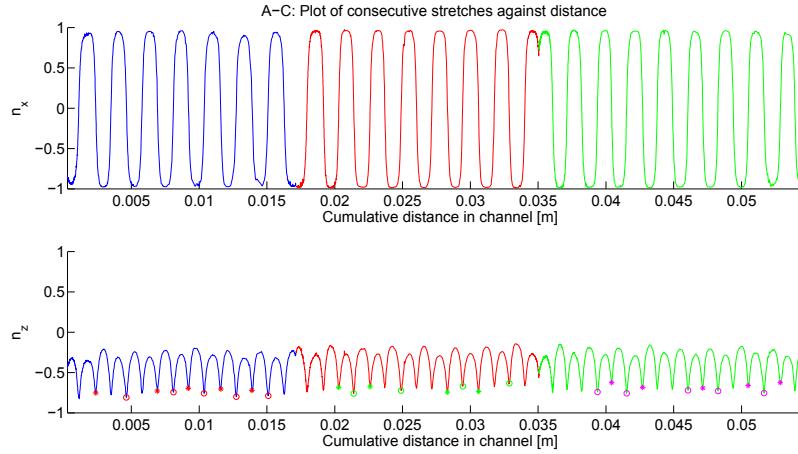
**Figure 5.7:** The  $n_z$  and  $n_x$  components for measurement 2 against cumulative distance. The orbit is mostly constant orbit with  $n_z \approx 1$  at the peaks. The reversals at (1) and (3) both change the orbit slightly however the difference between the peaks is small and the best matched theoretical orbits in Figure 5.17 are very similar before and after reversals. There is missing data at (2) and (4) where the particle was lost in tracking for some time. The particle started at  $x_0 = 28.6\text{mm}$ ,  $z_0 = 72\mu\text{m}$ ,  $D = \approx 85\mu\text{m}$ . This is the same measurement as is used in Figure 6.8 in Laas thesis [2]

### Measurement 3



**Figure 5.8:** The  $n_z$  and  $n_x$  components for measurement 3 against cumulative distance. The initial condition is  $n_z \approx 0$  and the sign changes periodically. Started at  $x_0 = 2.7\text{mm}$ ,  $z_0 = 76\mu\text{m}$ ,  $D \approx 90\mu\text{m}$ . This is the same measurement as is used in Figures 6.10 and 6.12 in Laas thesis [2]

### Measurement 4



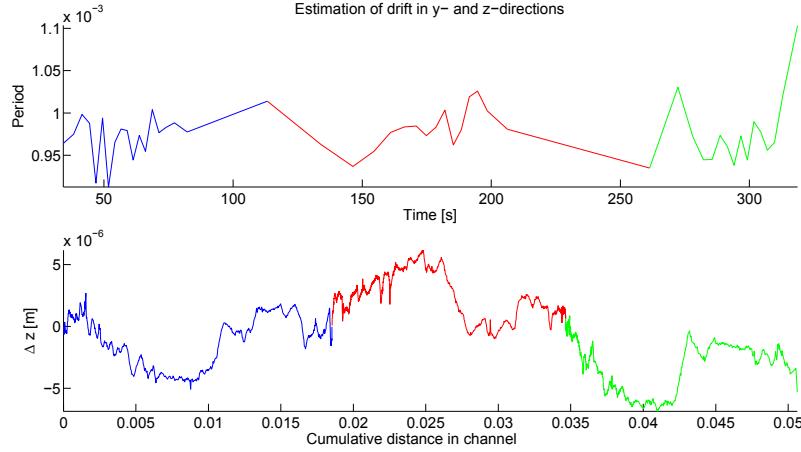
**Figure 5.9:** The  $n_z$  and  $n_x$  components for measurement 4 against cumulative distance. While the changes are not large change in  $n_z$  there is a periodic variations that could correspond to a sign preserving quasi-periodic orbit. Started at  $x_0 = 12.9\text{mm}$ ,  $z_0 = 21\mu\text{m}$ ,  $D \approx 85\mu\text{m}$

## 5.2 Diagnostic plots

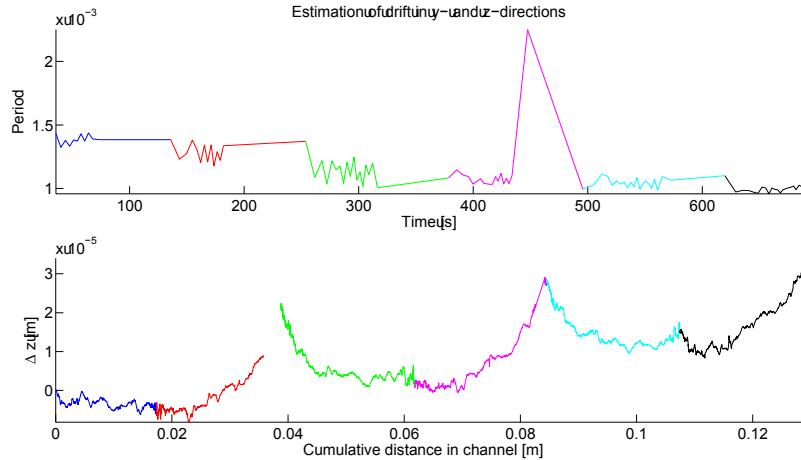
A number of diagnostic measurements were made for each particle to find possible problems with the setup. In this section we only show the diagnostic measurements from measurement 1 for particle A, and from measurement 2 for particle B but all diagnostic plots can be found at <http://goo.gl/jgzSXe>.

## 5.2. DIAGNOSTIC PLOTS

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**Figure 5.10:** The estimation of drift in  $y$  and  $z$  direction for Particle from measurement 1. Upper figure is the estimation of the sinking of the particle, the lower figure is the measured  $z$  position in the channel against cumulative distance.



**Figure 5.11:** The estimation of drift in  $y$  and  $z$  direction for Particle from measurement 1. Upper figure is the estimation of the sinking of the particle, the lower figure is the measured  $z$  position in the channel against cumulative distance.

The center of mass movement in the direction perpendicular to the flow direction  $x$  is seen in Figures 5.10 and 5.11. Movement in the  $y$  direction, i.e. sinking or floating, was measured by plotting the period of each flip against time as in the upper figure. The period here refers to the distance  $\Delta_i$  between two successive zeros for  $n_x$  relative to the first such distance  $\Delta_0$ . If there is no

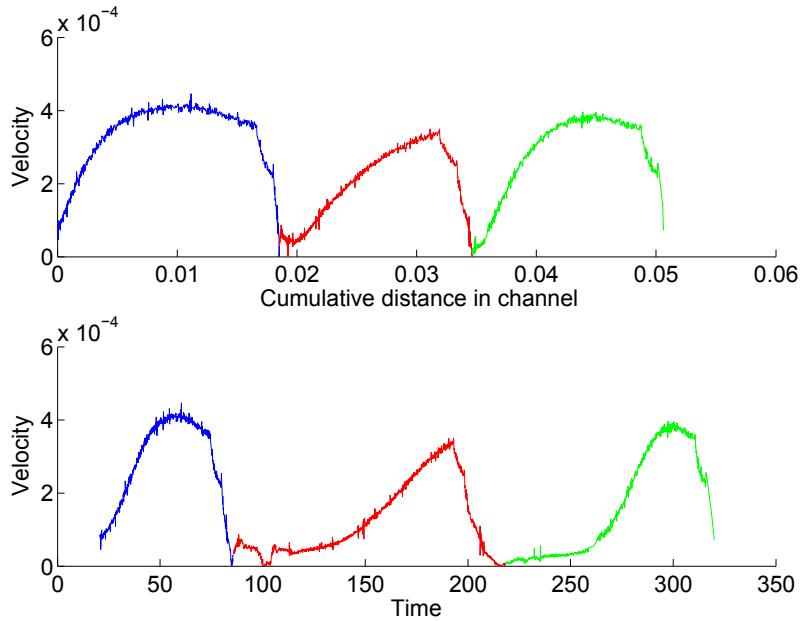
## 5.2. DIAGNOSTIC PLOTS

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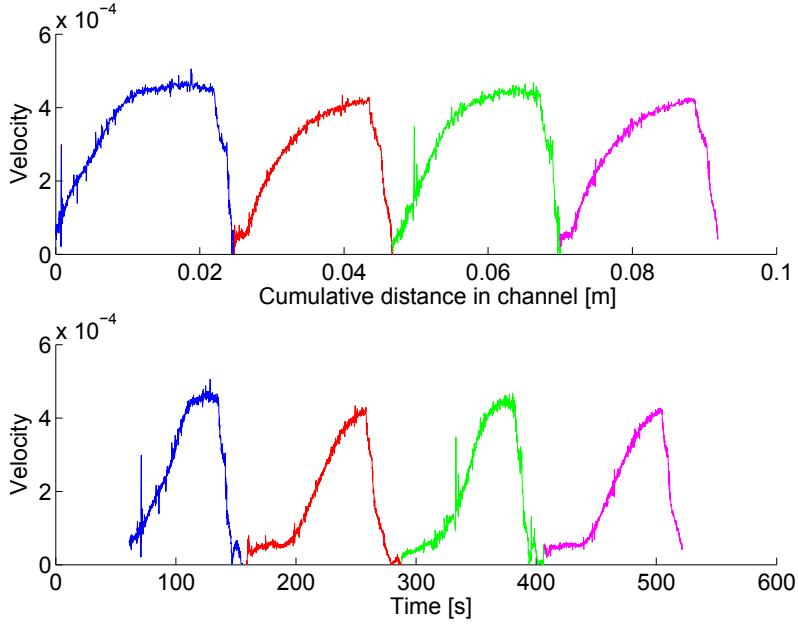
clear trend to higher or lower values it implies that there is little sinking or floating.

The movement in the z coordinate is very small relative to the movements in the x direction. We can see that Z-direction movements along one stretch are on the order of  $10\mu m$  compared to the x direction which is on the order of  $2 \cdot 10^4 \mu m$ . The change in period was less than 20% for all particles presented in this chapter.

The speed was plotted as a function of time to see how the flow reversed and if there were any problems with the pump. There is a noticeable difference between reversals that occur on the side of the channel and the side closer to the pump where on the reversal on the end of the channel further from the pump the speed drops to 0, increases for a short while and then goes back down to 0. This has been a consistent feature across all measurements.



**Figure 5.12:** The speed (note not the velocity) of the particle A from measurement 1 against cumulative distance in the upper figure and against time in the lower figure.



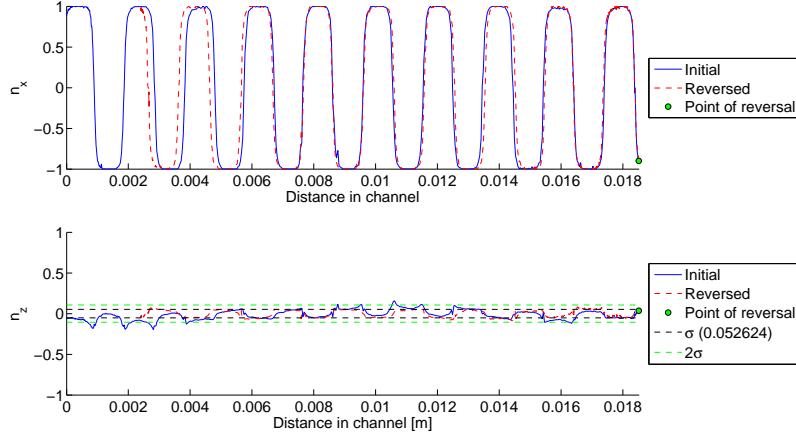
**Figure 5.13:** The speed (note not the velocity) of particle B from measurement 2 against distance in the upper figure and against time in the lower figure. In the plot against time there is an extra dip to 0 at around  $t = 150$  and  $t = 400$ . This occurs at the end of channel further away from the pump.

### 5.2.1 Reversals

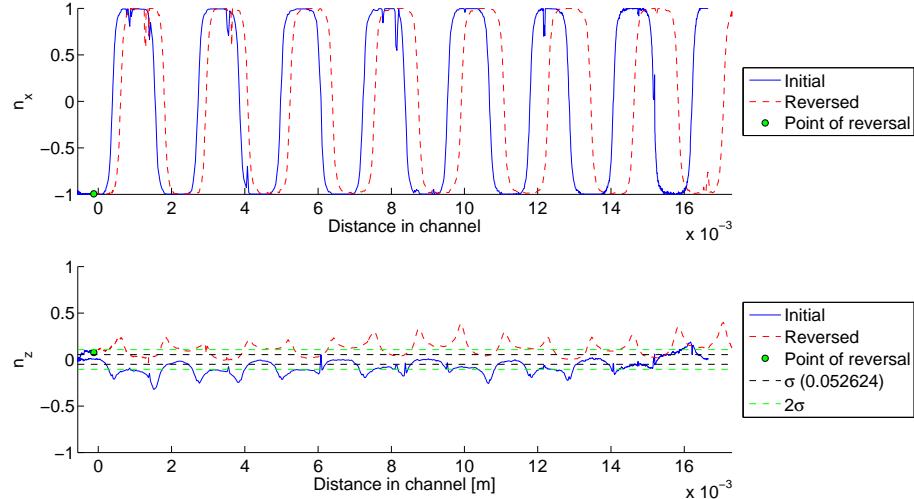
In order to show that the dynamics of the particle revert when the flow is reversed we plot the components of  $\mathbf{n}$  against distance in the channel. The first reversal from measurement 1 for particle A is seen in Figure 5.14. There is very good agreement along the entire length of the channel only at the very end does there a difference larger than the margin of error. The same plot is made from the second reversal from measurement 5 in Figure 5.15. Here the particle changes orbit drastically at the reversal while being stable before and after.

## 5.2. DIAGNOSTIC PLOTS

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**Figure 5.14:** Shows  $n_x$  and  $n_z$  first and second stretches from Measurement 1, seen in Figure 5.1 but against the actual position in the channel as opposed to cumulative distance. There is an almost perfect match along the entire channel for  $n_x$  and only small disagreement for  $n_z$ . The dashed lines indicate the error margins for detecting  $n_z = 0$ . This figure is the same as can be seen in Laas[2] Figure 6.21



**Figure 5.15:**  $n_x$  and  $n_z$  from Figure 5.5 for the second and third stretch plotted against actual distance instead of commutative distance. The reversal occurs at the left and although there is some moderate agreement in  $n_x$  the match in  $n_z$  is non existant from the very start.

## 5.3 Match to theoretical orbits

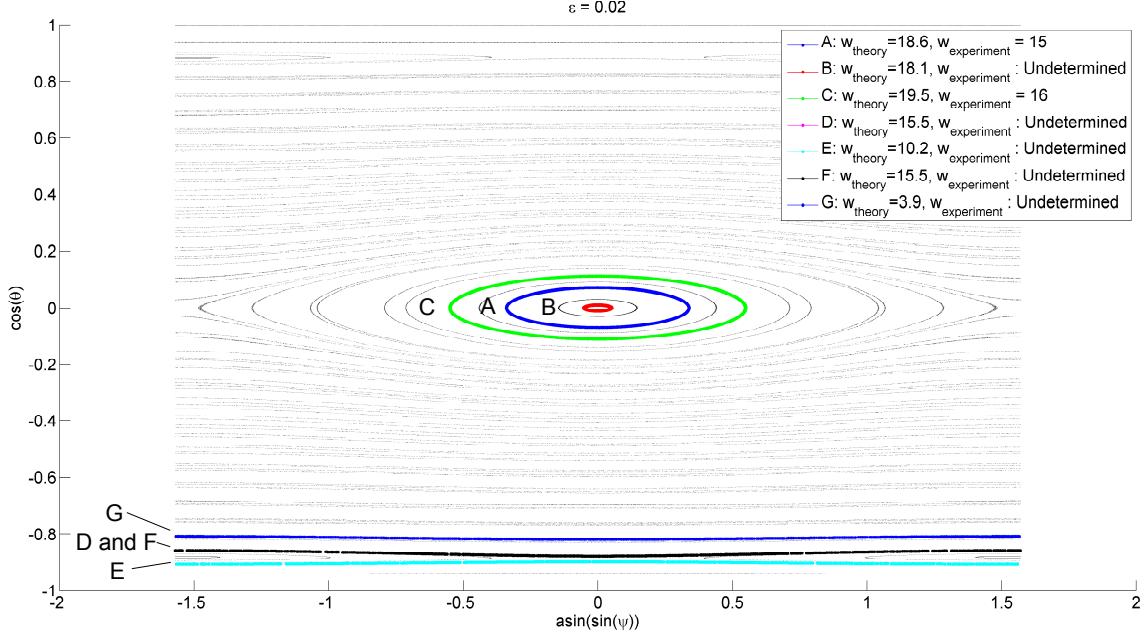
### 5.3.1 Particle A

Particle A is approximately  $24 \mu m$  long so it has a  $\lambda$  close to 8 and the closest match for the asymmetry is  $\epsilon = 0.02$ . 5.1

Using the algorithm described in section 4.6 we match the data from measurement 1 and 2 for particle A to find the closest matching  $\epsilon$  and the best matching orbits. This is shown in Figure 5.16. We can see that particle A is in a quasi-periodic circular orbit during measurement 1, it is matched to the lines indicating A B and C for the first, second and third stretches respectively. After being shifted by the optical tweezer particle A followed a periodic orbit during measurement 2. Measurement 2 is matched to the orbids D, E, F and G for the first, second, third and fourth stretches respectively.

### 5.3. MATCH TO THEORETICAL ORBITS

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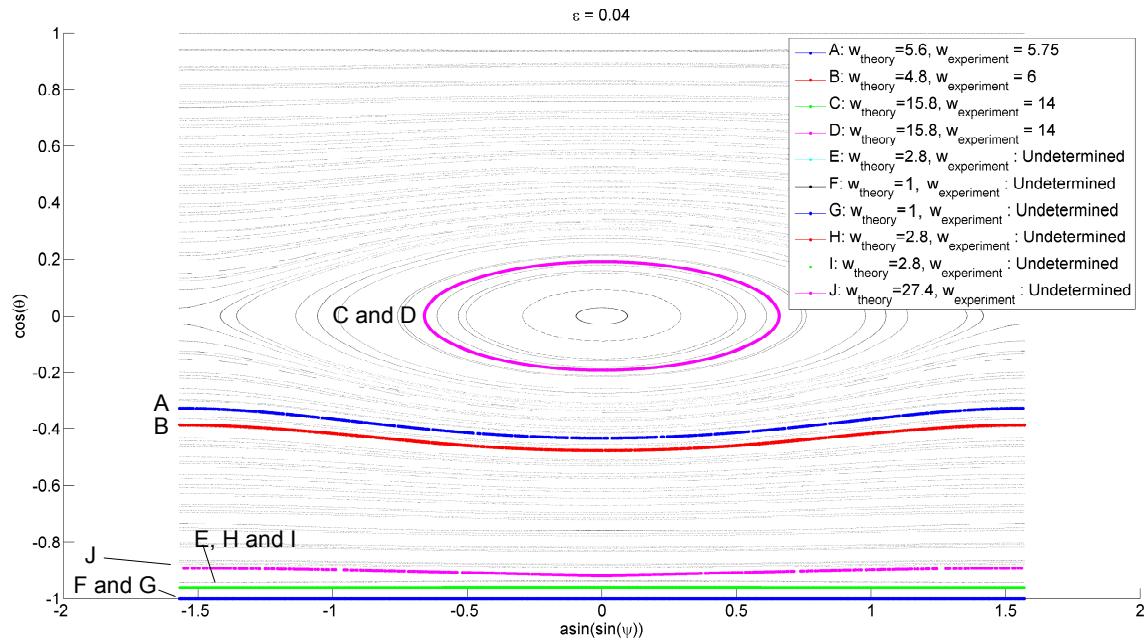
**Figure 5.16:** Gray lines represent the phase map for  $\lambda = 8$  and  $\epsilon = 0.02$ . The measured  $\lambda$  was  $8.2 \pm 0.1$ . The orbits of the best fit theoretical fits to measurements are highlighted stretch by stretch. None of the orbits for this particle had any large variation despite being very close to  $n_z = 0$ . The winding numbers are within 50% of the estimates but both are too low, suggesting that the  $\epsilon$  might be too low.

#### 5.3.2 Particle B

The same procedure is repeated for particle B using the data from measurement 1,2, 3 and 4. To make the graph less cluttered it is split into two figures, Figure 5.17 for measurement 1 and 2 and Figure 5.18 for measurement 3 and 4. We can see that particle B is in a quasi-periodic circular orbit , it is matched to the lines indicating A B and C for the first, second and third stretches respectively. After being shifted by the optical tweezer particle A followed a periodic orbit during measurement 2. Measurement 2 is matched to the orbits D, E, F and G for the first, second, third and fourth stretches respectively.

### 5.3. MATCH TO THEORETICAL ORBITS

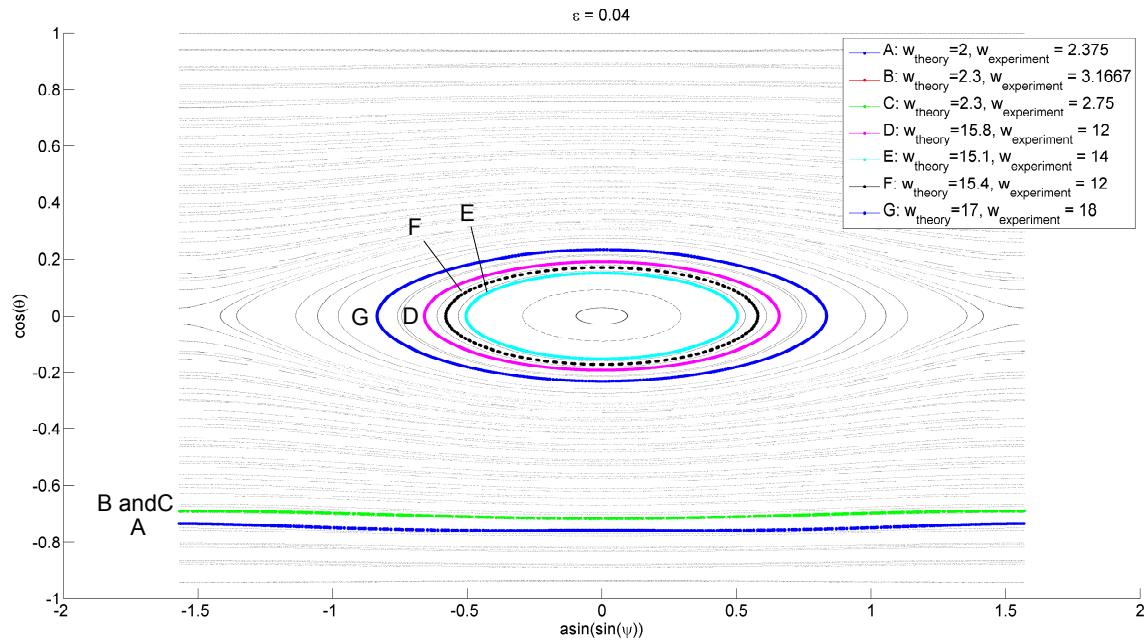
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**Figure 5.17:** Grey lines represent the poincaré map for  $\lambda = 7$  and  $\epsilon = 0.04$ , the estimate of  $\lambda$  from measurement was  $6.7 \pm 0.1$ . The highlighted orbits are the best fits to the stretches from measurements 1 and 2, A-D from measurement 1 and E-I from measurement 2.

### 5.3. MATCH TO THEORETICAL ORBITS

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**Figure 5.18:** Gray lines represent the poincare map for  $\lambda = 7$  and  $\epsilon = 0.04$ . the estimate of  $\lambda$  from measurement was  $6.7 \pm 0.1$ . The highlighted orbits are the best fits to the stretches from measurements 3 and 4.

# 6

## Discussion

The primary goal of this thesis is to experimentally verify that asymmetric particles in shear flow exhibit different types of motion for different initial conditions as was shown by Yarin *et al.* [11]. To verify that there was no significant amount of noise we look at the reversal of the flow and if the particle retraces its motion it confirms a lack of noise as well as a lack of inertial effects. To estimate the asymmetry  $\epsilon$  of the particles we try to match the experimental trajectories over several of several measurements with theoretical orbits. We also utilize the winding number of quasi-periodic orbits where we can detect it to confirm that the match is valid.

Looking at Figures 5.18, 5.17 and 5.16 we find both quasi-periodic and periodic motion as well as all three types of orbits discussed in section 2.3.1. The winding numbers for the orbits where we can measure it are within 50% of our theoretical predictions. This suggests that we have observed both quasi-periodic orbits and periodic orbits for the same particle two times. We do however have to consider the assumption we make regarding the symmetry difference between the damaged cylinders used experimentally and the flattened spheroids use in theoretical models.

This is however the results from a few measurements of two particles, there are many other measurements that have reversals where there are large differences before and after such as in Figure 5.15 and Figure 5.5. There are four major problems in the data

1. Sinking
2. Bad reversals
3. Too few flips to clearly estimate winding number
4. Unexplained changes in orbit

## 6.1 Sinking

One of the major problems with this setup compared to the previous setup used by Einarsson *et al.* [1] is matching the density of the fluid to that of the particles. Even small mismatch of 0.05 g/ml we find using eq. (2.5) a sinking speed of  $= 4.9 \cdot 10^3 \mu\text{m}/\text{s}$ . In earlier measurements the pump speed was  $3 \mu\text{l}/\text{minute}$  and the particle were 60% larger, which meant the sinking occurred more than twice as long and twice as fast which meant it was a larger problem. Even now though it can be noticeably as in longer measurements such as in Figures 5.7 and 5.11.

## 6.2 Reversals

Almost every measurement with several stretches have a reversal where the particle noticeably changes orbit. This can been seen in Figures 5.5, 5.4 and 5.6. While there is a trend that bad reversals occur at he end further from the pump, there are many exceptions to this. There are many cases where the orbit begins to change just as the flow is starting to reverse, such as in Figure 5.4. The particle Reynolds number depends on the velocity relative to the particle so a possible culprit would then be that reversals occur too rapidly and increase the  $Re_p$  such that the  $Re_p \ll 1$  condition from Jeffery [8] does not hold. We have not been able to draw any clear conclusion and solving issues with reversals would be a tremendous improvement.

### 6.2.1 The speed of the particle

A possible cause of bad reversals are too rapid reversals and to prevent this the reversals are incremental as discussed in Section 3.1.

Possibly increasing this staggering on the first part might make a difference, but if we look at the speed of the particle A in Figure 5.12 and particle B in Figure 5.13 we see that after a rather sharp decline in speed the acceleration is very slow. Almost all of this acceleration occurs while the pump is infusing or withdrawing at a fixed rate. The liquid in the channel accelerating while the pump rate constant implies that there is a noticeably expansion in the channel. To verify this we look again at Figures 5.12 and 5.13.

If we have an expanded/contracted channel it should have different effects on different sides of the channel. We expect that when we revert the flow with the particle on the side closer to the pump the channel would have a small impact and the flow would revert quickly. However when we the flow is reversed and the particle is on the far end of the channel we should have an impact. The 'extra' fluid that is in the expanded channel would be withdrawn before any pressure is felt on the far side. This would cause a delay where there is no acceleration for some time while after the pump reversed.

This behaviour is exactly what we see in all speed plots like 5.12 and 5.13. For reversals on the far end of the channel there is a second dip where the particle goes to  $|v| = 0$ . On the end closer to the pump this never occurs.

An earlier theory for the delay would be an offset in the pump, for example a distance between the syringe handle and the pump holder which would need to be traversed, but this would occur at both ends of the channel and would not explain the very long acceleration of the fluid.

How this impacts the dynamics is not clear, most bad reversals occur at the end of the channel close to the pump, which suggests that this extra elasticity in the system might in fact be positive.

### 6.3 Winding number matching

Using the score function  $\hat{S}$  as described in section 4.6 to find the closest matching orbit is useful, it only gives the best fit. Instead we use the winding number to validate or dismiss a matched orbit and an estimated  $\epsilon$ . The winding number can only be used for the orbits where  $n_z$  changes noticeably, i.e. the quasi-periodic orbits, but these are also the ones of primary interest. Figure 2.7 shows that the difference in winding number for the same  $\theta$  is on the order of a factor 2 between  $\epsilon = 0.01$  and  $\epsilon = 0.05$  for circular orbits, and still quite noticeably different between  $\epsilon = 0.05$  and  $\epsilon = 0.10$ . However the largest difference is where the change from circular to bent orbit occurs.

When we look instead at orbits for large  $|n_z|$  such as in Figure 5.17 or for  $n_z \approx \psi \approx 0$  such as orbit B in Figure 5.16 the orbits for different  $\epsilon, \lambda$  and  $i$  are all largely the same. The differences in  $n_z$  are too small for us to reliably detect. This creates a problem for detecting particles with very small  $\epsilon$ . For  $n_z$  that are very small, we cannot distinguish the orbits for a small  $\epsilon$  particle with higher  $\psi$  orbit for a high  $\epsilon$  particle with a low  $\psi$  orbit. For higher  $n_z$  we cannot distinguish straight lines from straight lines. And in the intermediary we are unable to detect a  $w > 20$ , at best finding a sloping  $n_z$  which might just be undesired reversals. Particle A has several orbits that are matched in the intermediary circular  $n_z$  region which we can distinguish from  $\epsilon = 0$  but we can not estimate the winding number especially well as we barely have a half period.

### 6.4 Unexplained behaviours

In a number of measurements there are changes in orbit for which we have no good explanation. For example in Figure 5.5 the second reversal is completely sharp, the orbit virtually instantly changes, completely 'forgetting' the previous orbit. Why does this occur with the same particle, the same setup, that produce the excellent reversals in Figure 5.1. In everything we can control all conditions are the same. The only difference is the z coordinate, yet Figure 5.3 was measured at a similar z and showed very few odd behaviours.

## 6.5 Width compensation

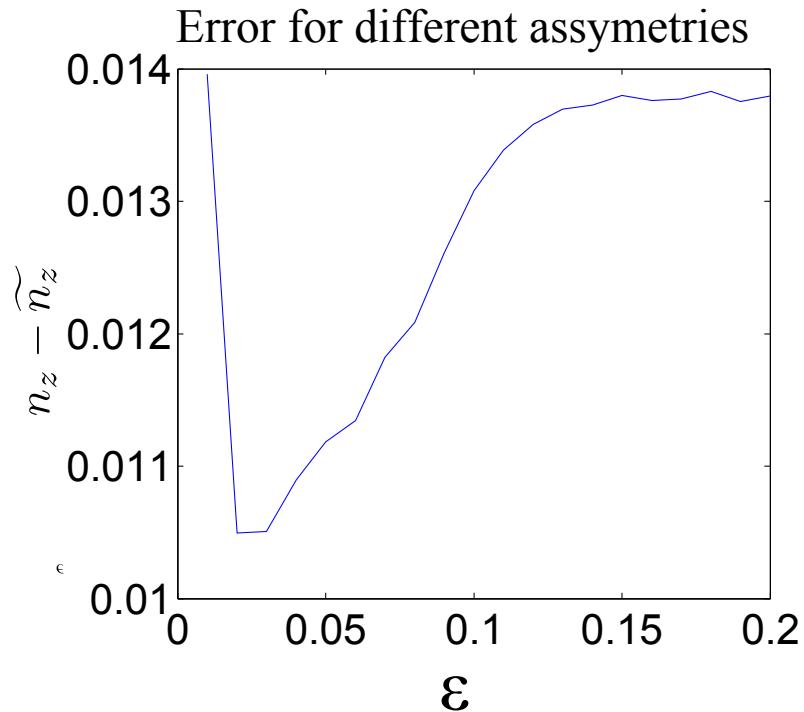
The width compensation discussed in Section 4.3 does solve the issues the previous algorithm had with 'thick' particles for  $n_z$  close to 0. It does still produce small errors for  $n_z \neq 0$ . However it was discovered that Eq 4.4 can be solved explicitly. Given the actual length L of the particle the Euler angle  $\theta$  can be solved for at each point after a measurement is complete. This would improve the resolution of peaks and allow for more accurate results.

## 6.6 Goodness of fit

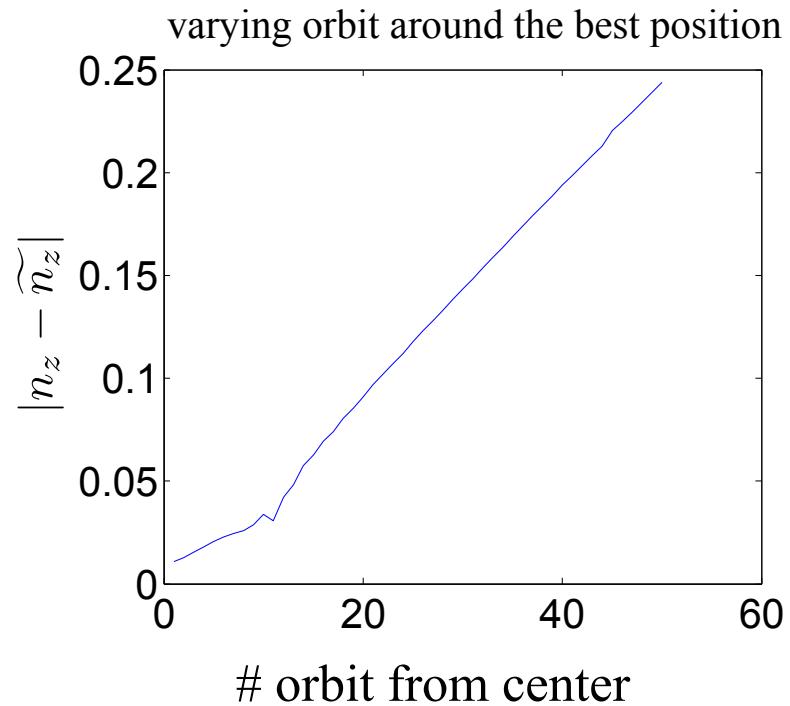
The method for matching the data to a theoretical orbit described in 4.6 finds the best fit but it is important to know how good of a fit. A flat fitness curve would mean a very small change in the data could lead to a very large change in our matched orbit. To determine the goodness of fit we vary the three parameters separately and find the best fit for the other two parameters. In Figure 6.1 we find the best matching orbits for Particle A for asymmetries ranging from 0 to 0.2. We see that there is a clear minima around  $\epsilon = 0.02$  implying that it is a good fit.

In Figure 6.2 the match of stretch 1 from measurement 1 of particle A is matched. We use the best matching asymmetry, match for orbits from the center of the pointcare map to the top. For each orbit we find the best starting position (the initial  $\psi$ ). The result is a steady slope down to the correct orbit suggesting that this variable also had a clear best value that was chosen.

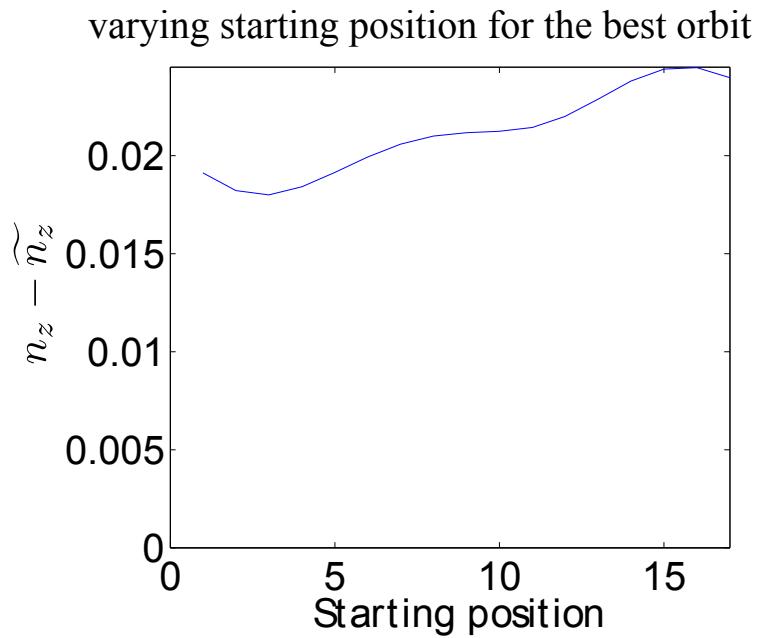
The best In Figure 6.3 we use the best matching asymmetry and orbit for stretch 1 from measurement 1 of particle A, and the starting position (initial  $\psi$ ) is varied over 1 full period. The relatively flat slope suggests that this parameter while certainly improving the fit slightly is not as important as the other two parameters.



**Figure 6.1:** We see how the difference between the theoretical  $n_z$  and all the measured  $\widetilde{n}_z$  for all measurements of particle A for different asymmetries  $\epsilon$ . For each asymmetry we find the orbit and the initial  $\psi$  with the smallest distance for each stretch. We see that there is a clear minima around  $\epsilon = 0.02$



**Figure 6.2:** The difference between the theoretical  $n_z$  and the measured  $\widetilde{n_z}$  for the first stretch of the measurement 1 for particle A (seen in Figure 5.1) with the best asymmetry for different orbits. .



**Figure 6.3:** The difference between the theoretical  $n_z$  and the measured  $\widetilde{n}_z$  for the first stretch of the first measurement for particle A. The best orbit and best asymmetry are chosen, but different initial conditions are tested.

# 7

## Conclusion

The Jeffery orbits are frequently used across scientific fields but thus far there has been few experimental studies of the orientational dynamics. In particular the quasi-periodic and chaotic orbits have only been studied experimentally by Einarsson *et al.* [1] and Mishra *et al.* [26]. The goal of the thesis was to verify the theoretical predictions of Yarin *et al.* [11] and Hinch,Leal [10] and to show that the same particle could exhibit quasi-periodic and periodic behaviour for different initial conditions.

There are several measurements that agree well with theoretical models by comparing using both the phase map matching and the winding number estimation. Furthermore, for several particles we have found that different initial conditions exhibit different behaviour. From almost constant to being quasi-periodic with a large regular variation. We can therefore conclude that we have measured the orbits predicted by Yarin *et al.* [11] and Hinch, Leal [10].

The time reversibility of the system is unreliable, for some measurements the dynamics revert very well, and for others it does not. We have not understood fully what causes this type of unpredictability that can occur for the same particle only minutes apart. The primary focus of future efforts should be understanding and correcting whatever issues cause the reversals to be so unreliable. It is possible that the time reversal can be improved by attempting to somehow increase

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the viscosity of the liquid without changing the optical index. Another or by slowing down reversals. Another possibility is limiting the significant expansion and contraction of the channel that seems to occur.

The automated tracking was useful, but with the increased flow speed during measurements, as well as the smaller particles, there a better predictive model is needed in order to not lose the particle during reversals. The tracking is also less necessary measurements take significantly less time., However if significantly slower reversals become the preferred way of improving time reversibility then the tracking may be more useful.

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