

Generic long-range interactions between bodies in an active fluid

Yongjoo Baek,^{1,2,*} Alexandre P. Solon,³ Xinpeng Xu,^{1,4} Nikolai Nikola,¹ and Yariv Kafri¹

¹*Department of Physics, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa 32000, Israel*

²*DAMTP, Centre for Mathematical Sciences,
University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB3 0WA, United Kingdom*

³*Department of Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, USA*

⁴*Department of Physics, Guangdong Technion – Israel Institute of Technology,
Shantou, Guangdong 515063, P. R. China*

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Abstract

It is well known that a non-spherical body immersed in an active fluid generates currents by ratchet effects. We show that, in the presence of two or more passive bodies, these currents induce long-range interactions between the bodies. Using a canonical model of dry active matter in the dilute regime, we characterize the far-field features of the interactions by multipole expansion. These include the algebraic decay with the distance between the bodies, anisotropy, and the violation of the actionreaction principle. They lead to rich dynamical phenomena, illustrated by the spontaneous synchronized rotation of pinned non-chiral bodies and the formation of traveling bound pairs. The occurrence of these phenomena depends on tunable properties of the bodies, thus opening new possibilities for self-assembly mediated by active fluids.

* y.baek@damtp.cam.ac.uk