

Rotorcraft Unmanned Aerial Systems

An Introduction to Modeling and System Identification

Kostas Alexis & Christoph Huerzeler
3 July 2012



Lecture Overview

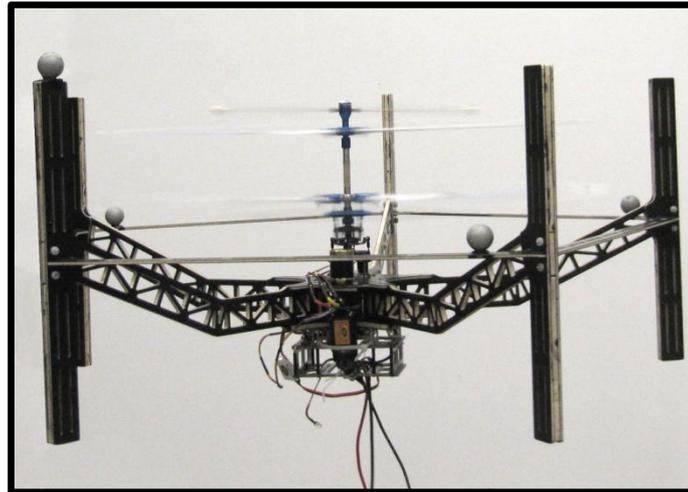
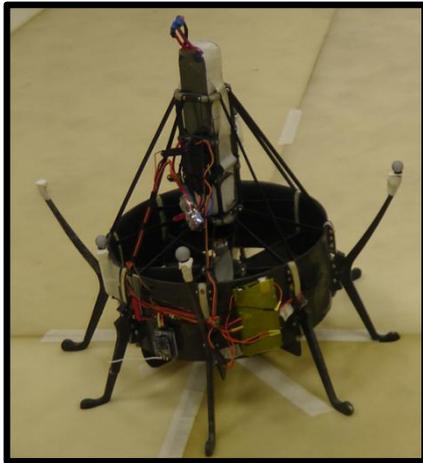
▶ Content

- Introduction
- Modeling Approaches & Challenges
- Rotorcraft Modeling
- Identification Techniques

▶ Goals

- Provide Basic Introduction for Self-Study
- Emphasize Core Challenges
- Define Research Trends

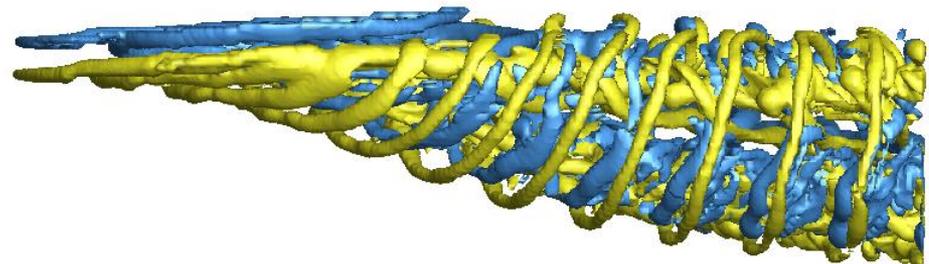
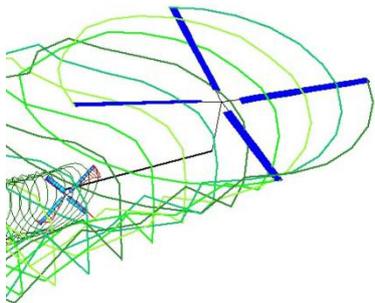
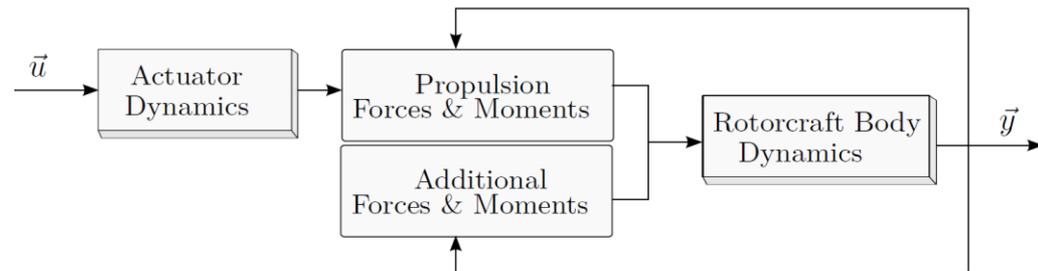
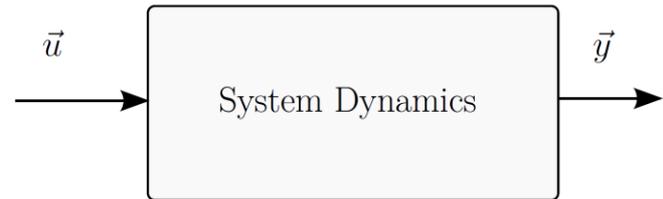
Rotary Wing UAV Configurations



- ▶ Various Types of UAV Configuration Exist
- ▶ Underlying Modeling Approaches Similar
- ▶ Learn From Full-Scale Rotorcraft Theory

Modeling Approaches

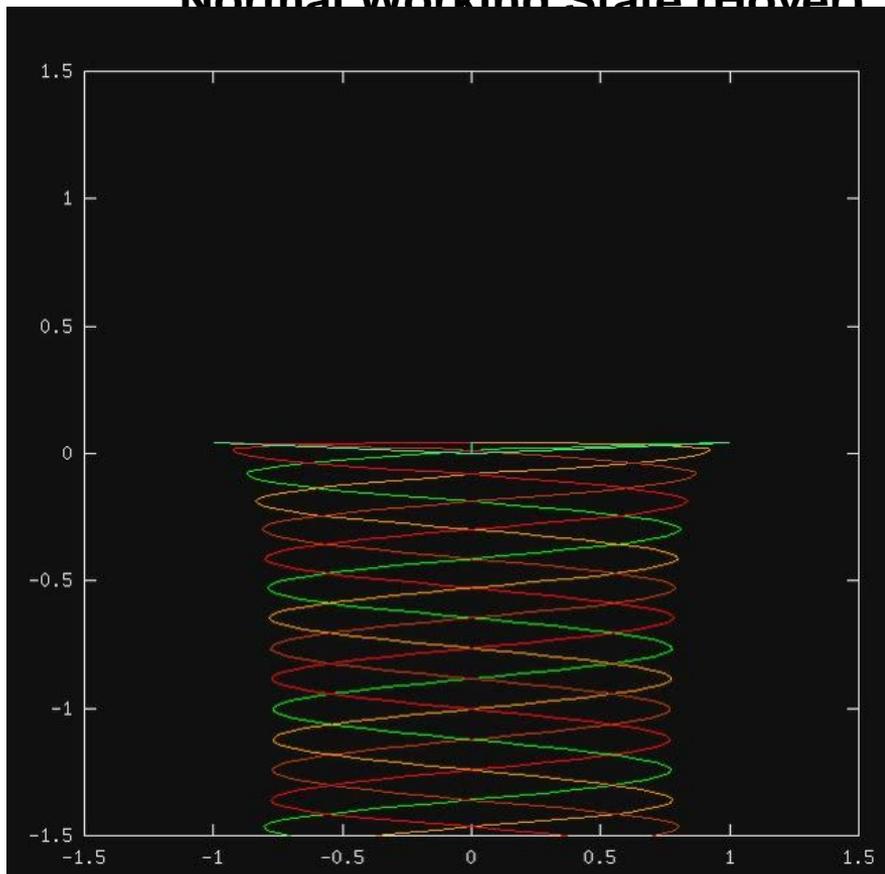
- ▶ **Blackbox**
 - Identify input-output behavior
 - No understanding of underlying system
- ▶ **Greybox**
 - Based on laws of physics
 - Identify model parameters
- ▶ **Whitebox**
 - Purely based on laws of physics
 - All parameters predicted
 - Numerical or analytical



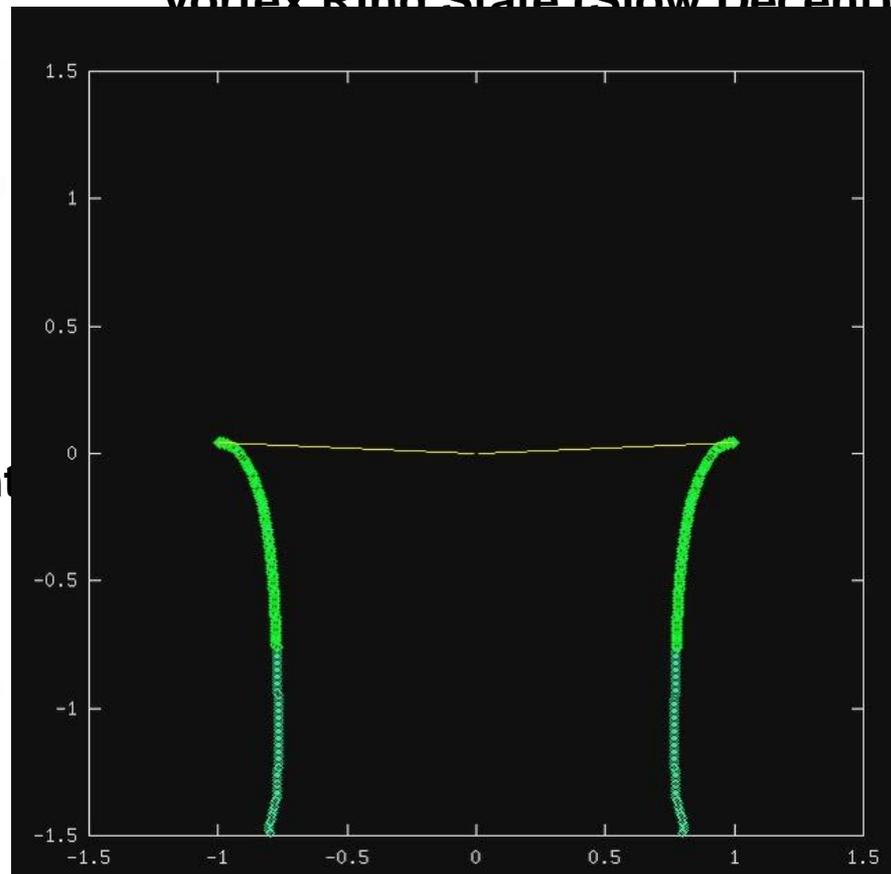
Modeling Challenges: Operation Enveloppe

▶ Axial Flight

Normal Working State (Hover)

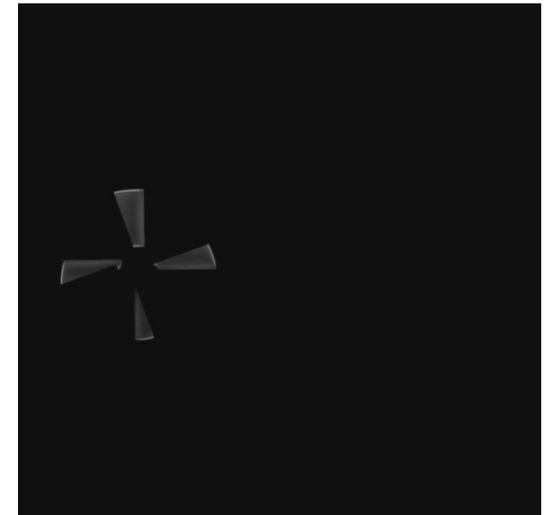
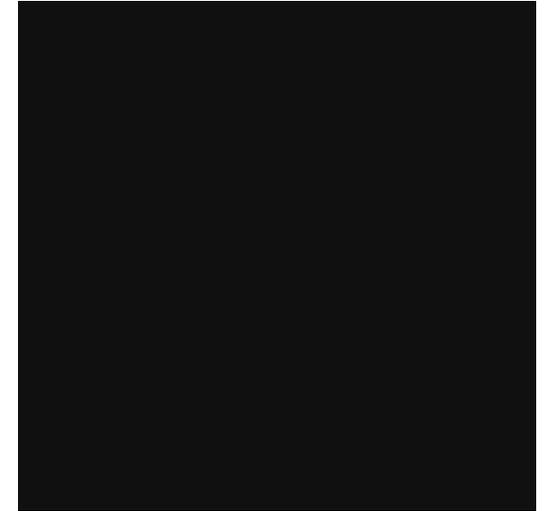
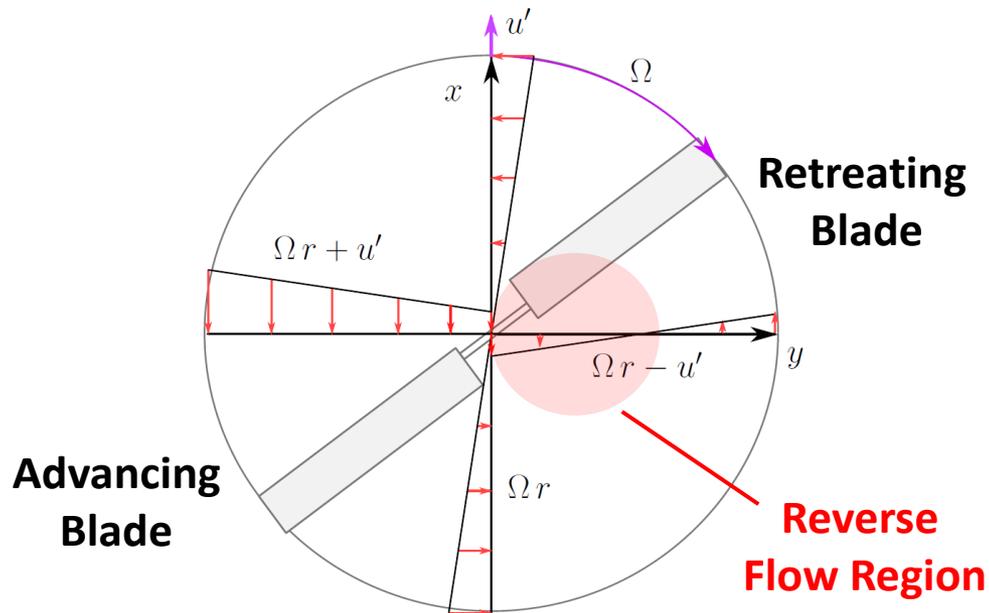


Vortex Ring State (Slow Decent)

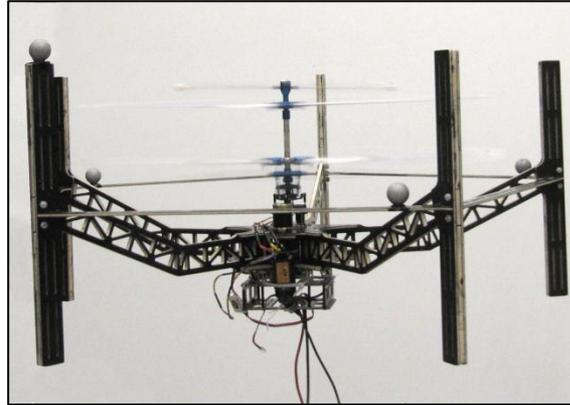


Modeling Challenges: Operation Enveloppe

- ▶ Axial Flight
- ▶ Forward Flight



Modeling Challenges: Coupled Non-Linear Dynamics



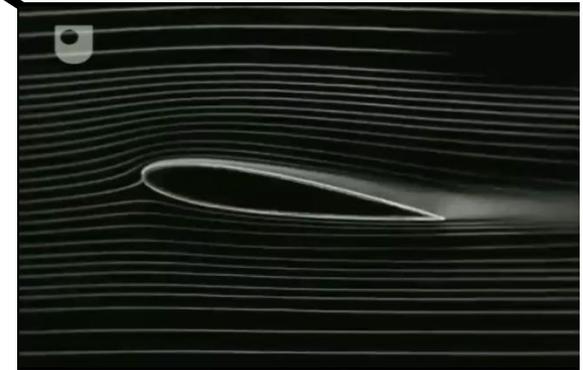
**AIRobots Coaxial
(helicopter type UAV)**



**Main Body Motion
(«slow» dynamics)**



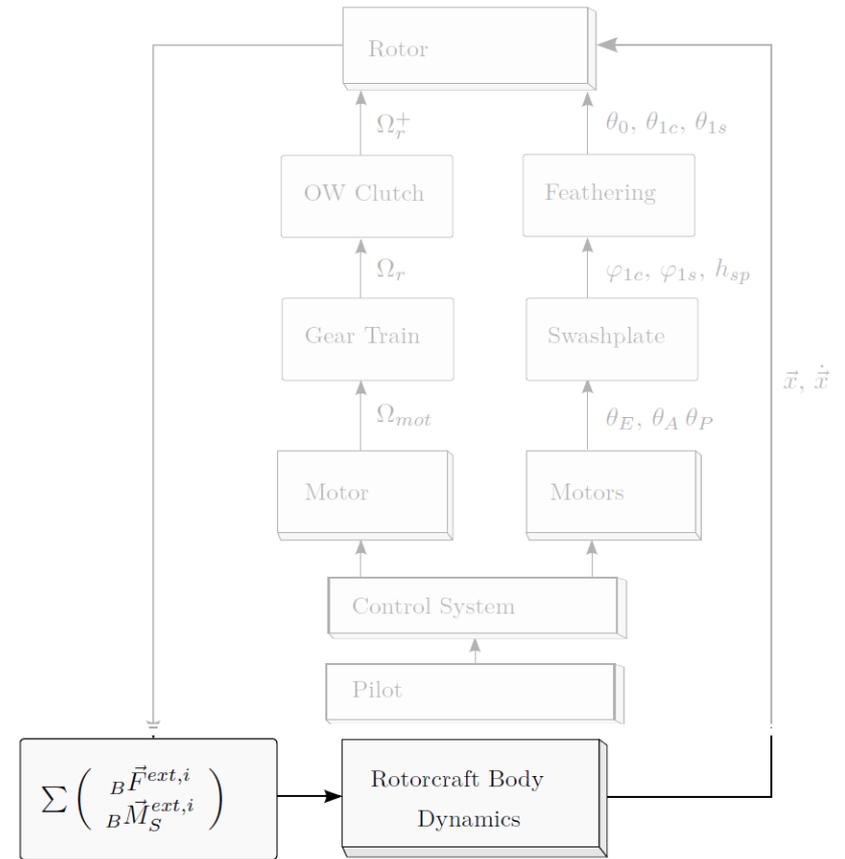
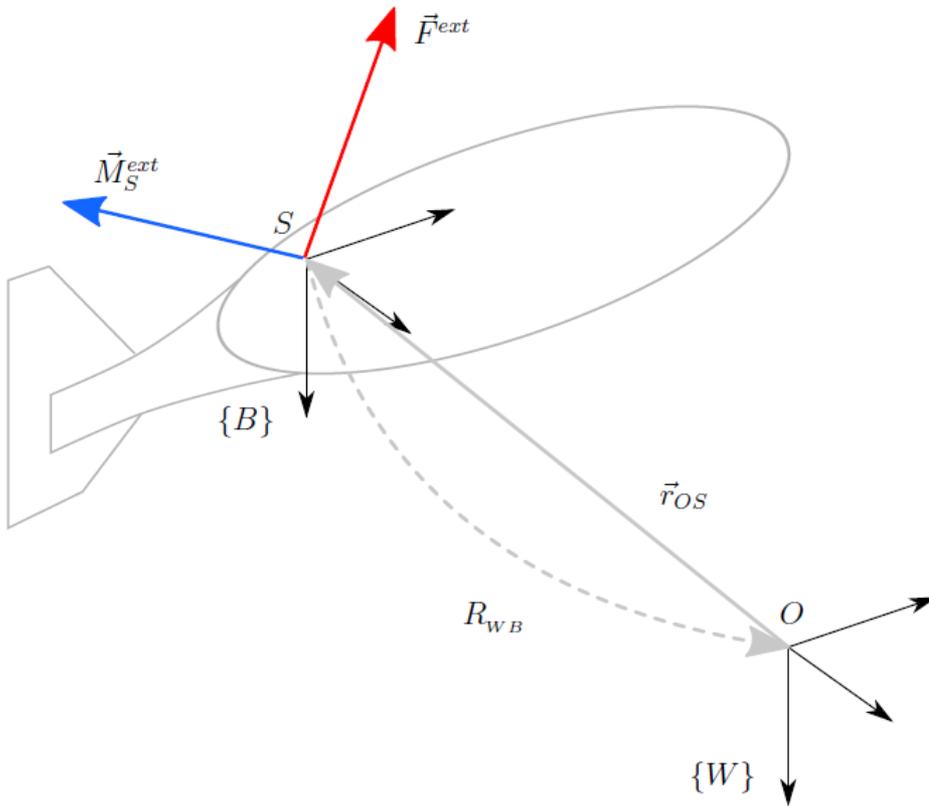
**Rotorblade Motion
(«fast» dynamics)**



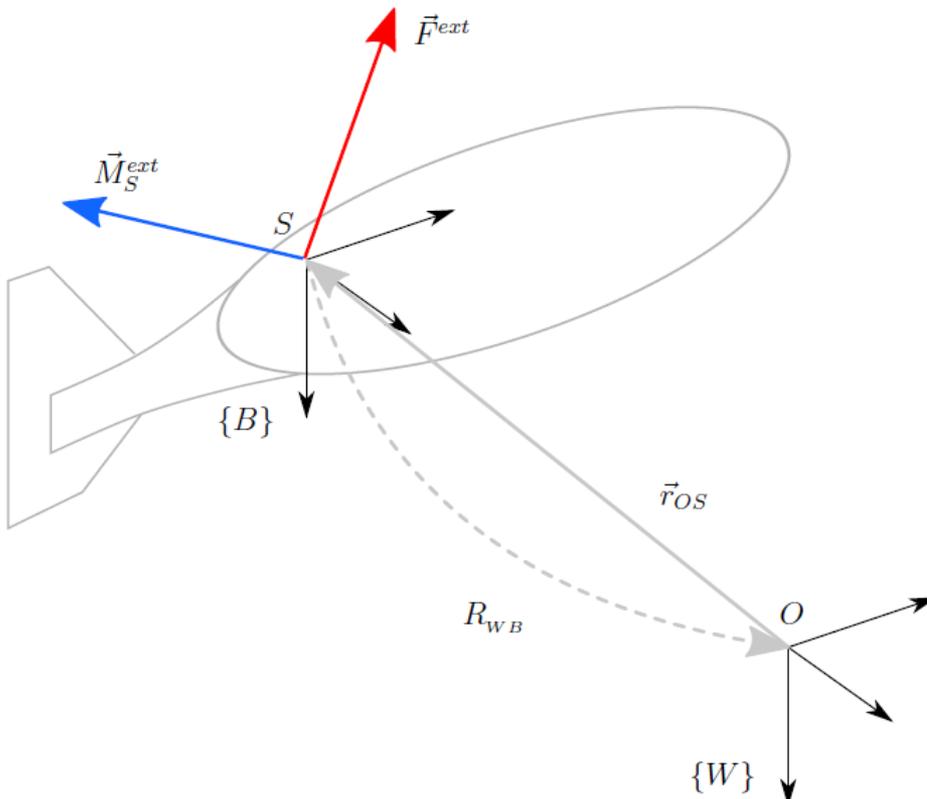
Rotorblade Aerodynamics

Source: open.edu/youtube

Rotorcraft Dynamics: An Overview



Rotorcraft Dynamics: An Overview



$${}^W \vec{r}_{OS} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} \quad {}^W \dot{\vec{r}}_{OS} = \begin{pmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \\ \dot{z} \end{pmatrix}$$

$${}^B \vec{v}_S = \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \\ w \end{pmatrix} \quad {}^B \dot{\vec{v}}_S = \begin{pmatrix} \dot{u} \\ \dot{v} \\ \dot{w} \end{pmatrix}$$

$${}^B \dot{\vec{\Omega}} = \begin{pmatrix} \dot{p} \\ \dot{q} \\ \dot{r} \end{pmatrix} \quad {}^B \vec{\Omega} = \begin{pmatrix} p \\ q \\ r \end{pmatrix}$$

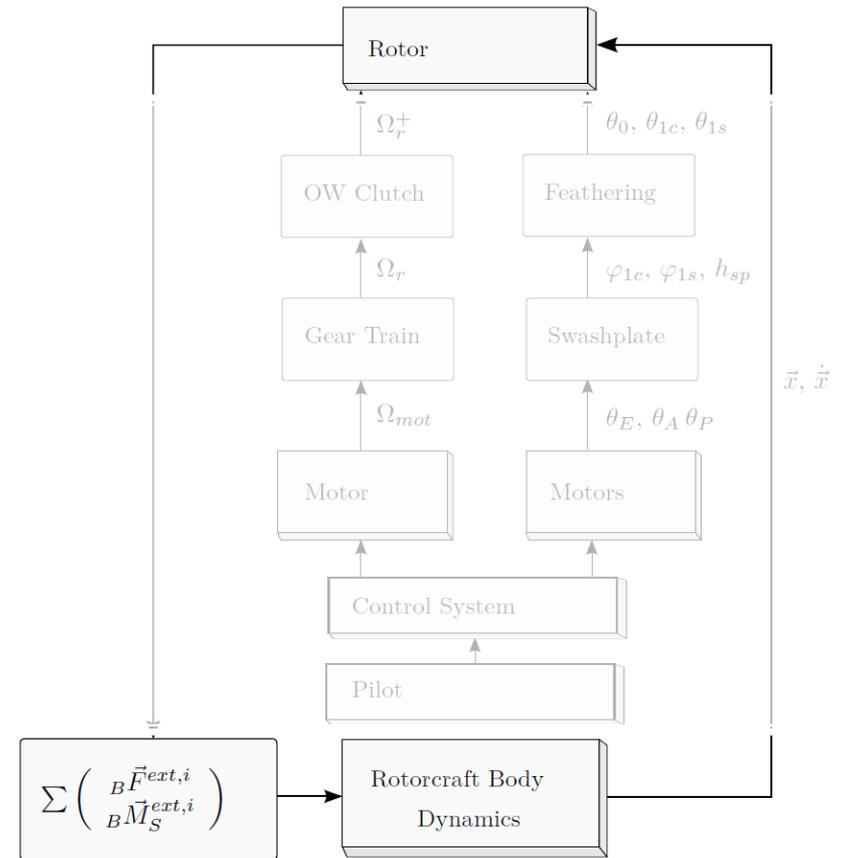
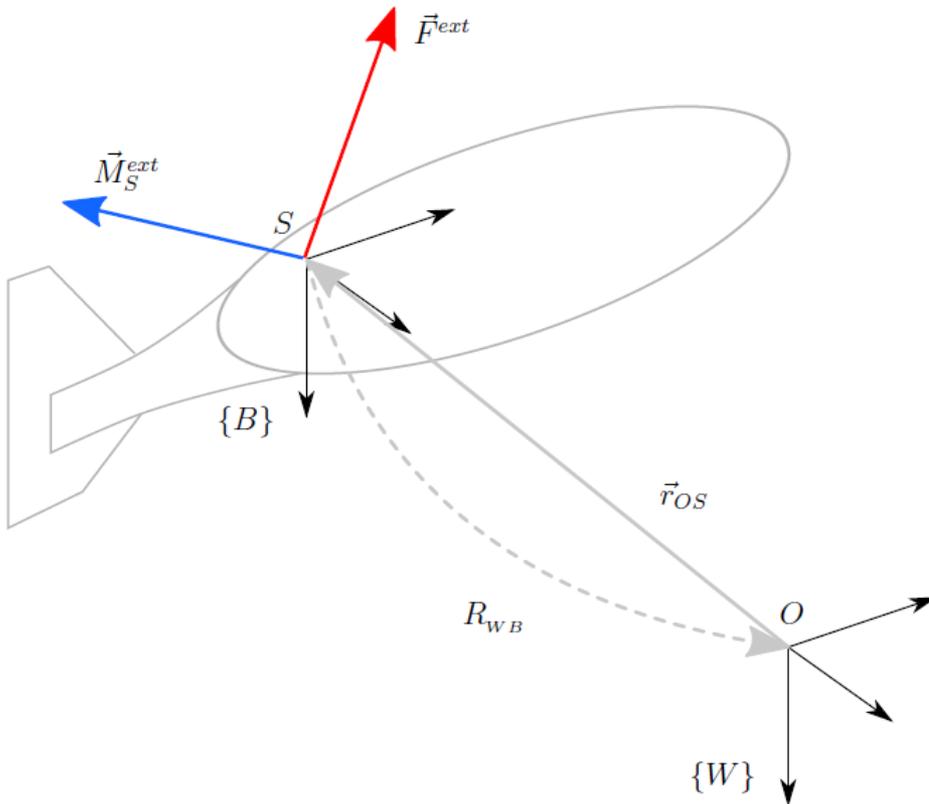
$$m ({}^B \dot{\vec{v}}_S + {}^B \vec{\Omega} \times {}^B \vec{v}_S) = {}^B \vec{F}^{ext}$$

$${}^B \bar{\Theta}_S {}^B \dot{\vec{\Omega}} + {}^B \vec{\Omega} \times ({}^B \bar{\Theta}_S {}^B \vec{\Omega}) = {}^B \vec{M}_S^{ext}$$

**Momentum
Conservation**

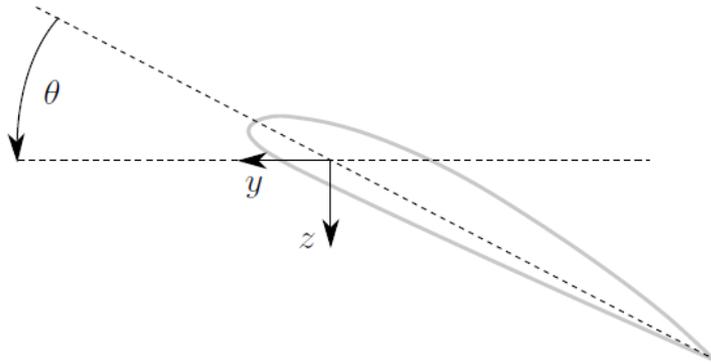
**Angular Momentum
Conservation**

Rotorcraft Dynamics: Rotor DOF

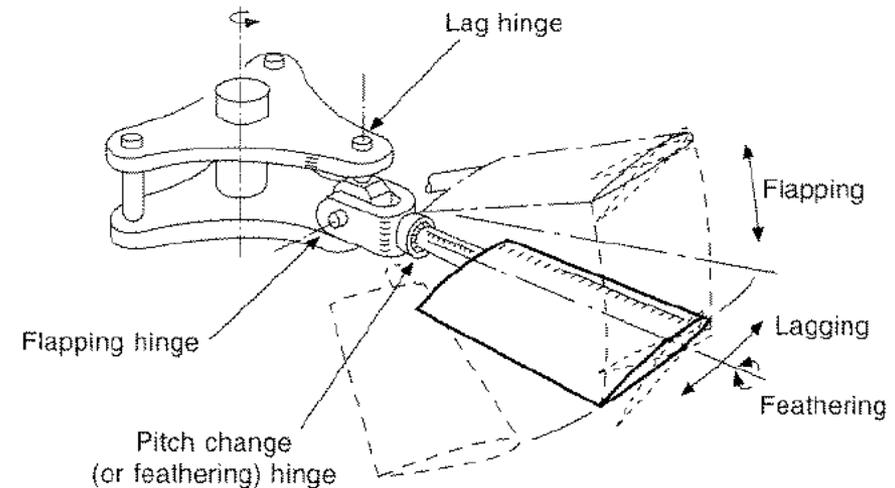
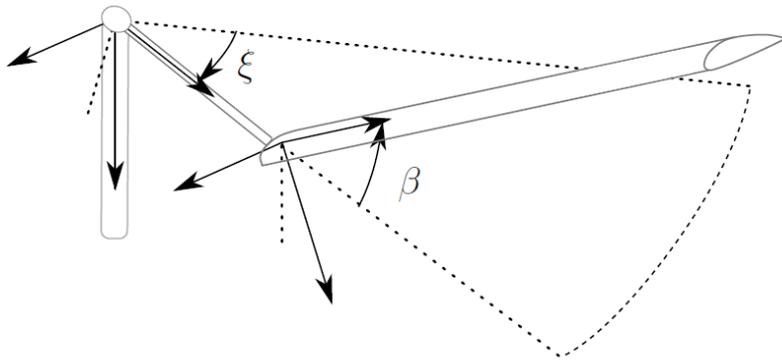


Rotorcraft Modeling: Rotor DOF

▶ Blade Feathering («Pitch»)

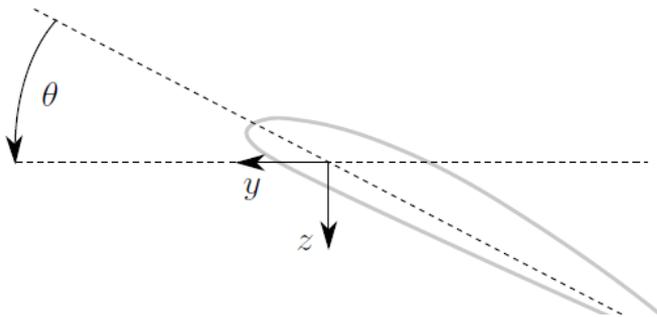


▶ Blade Flapping



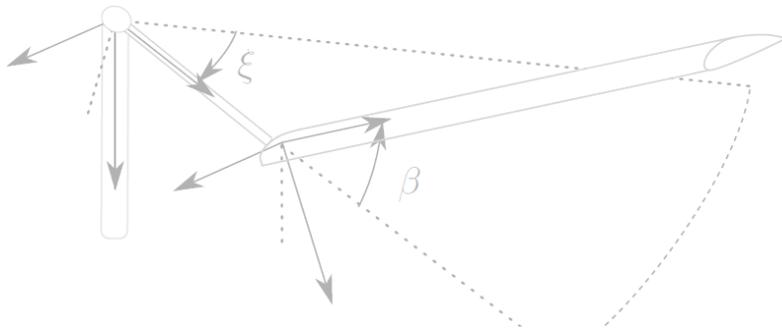
Rotorcraft Modeling: Rotor DOF

▶ Blade Feathering

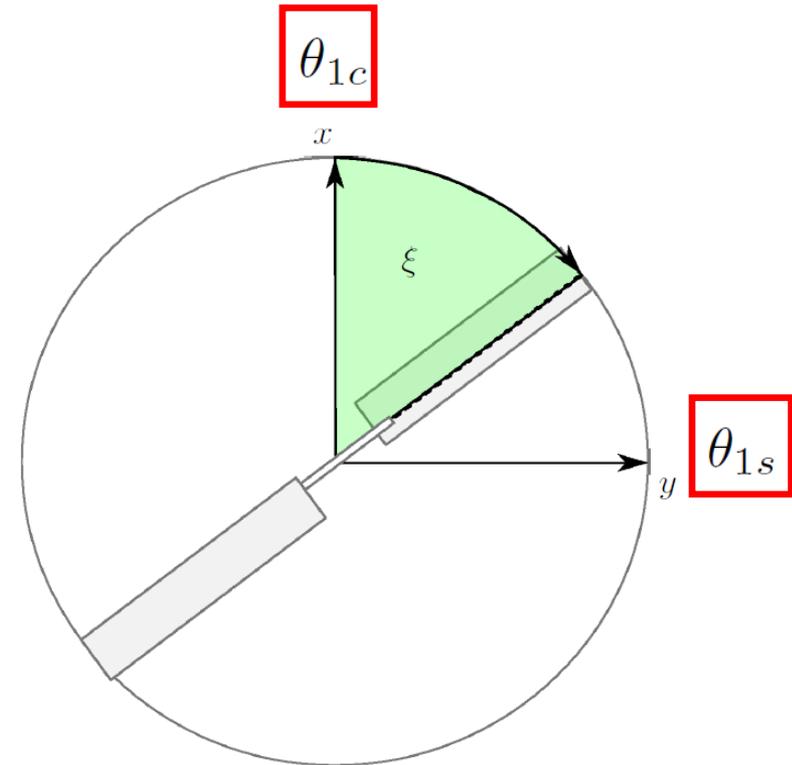


$$\theta(\xi) = \theta_0 + \theta_{1c} \cos(\xi) + \theta_{1s} \sin(\xi)$$

▶ Blade Flapping

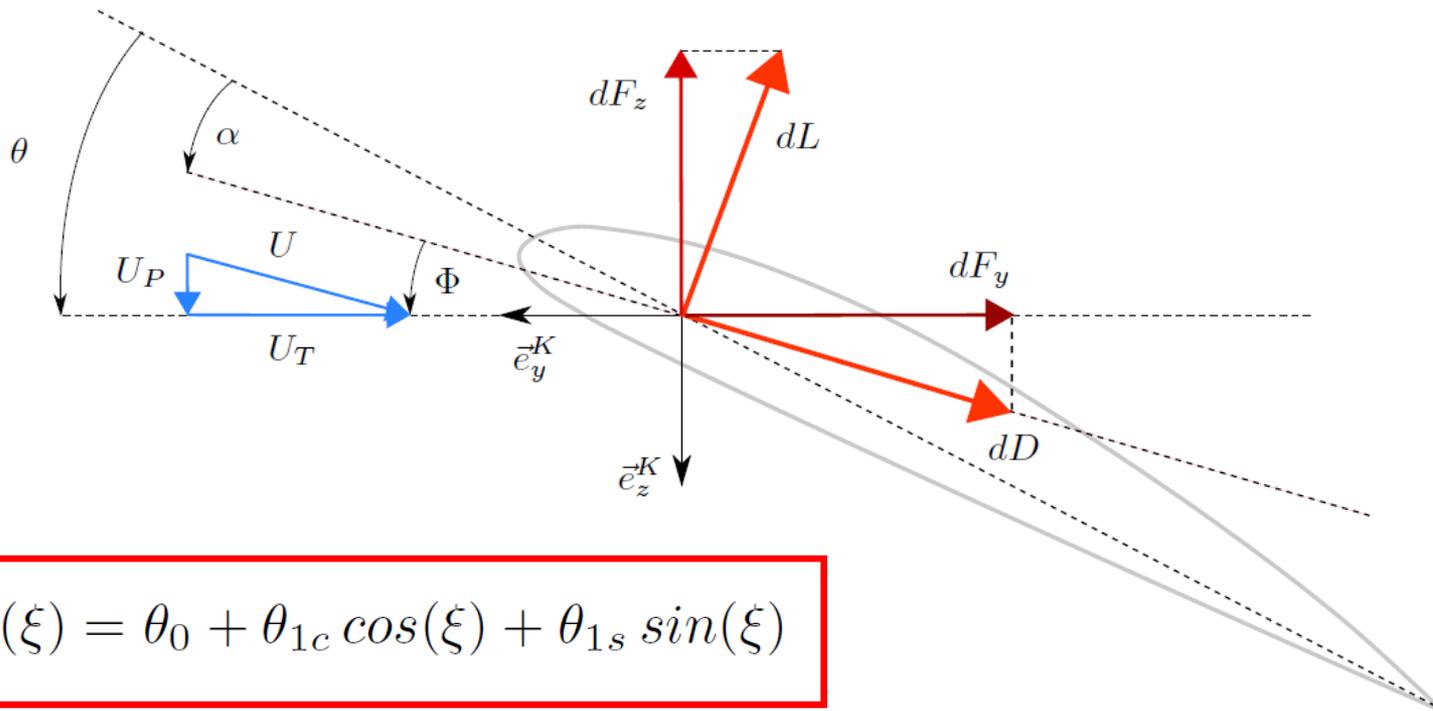


$$\beta(\xi) = \beta_0 + \beta_{1c} \cos(\xi) + \beta_{1s} \sin(\xi)$$



Rotorcraft Modeling: Rotor Feathering

▶ Blade Element Theory



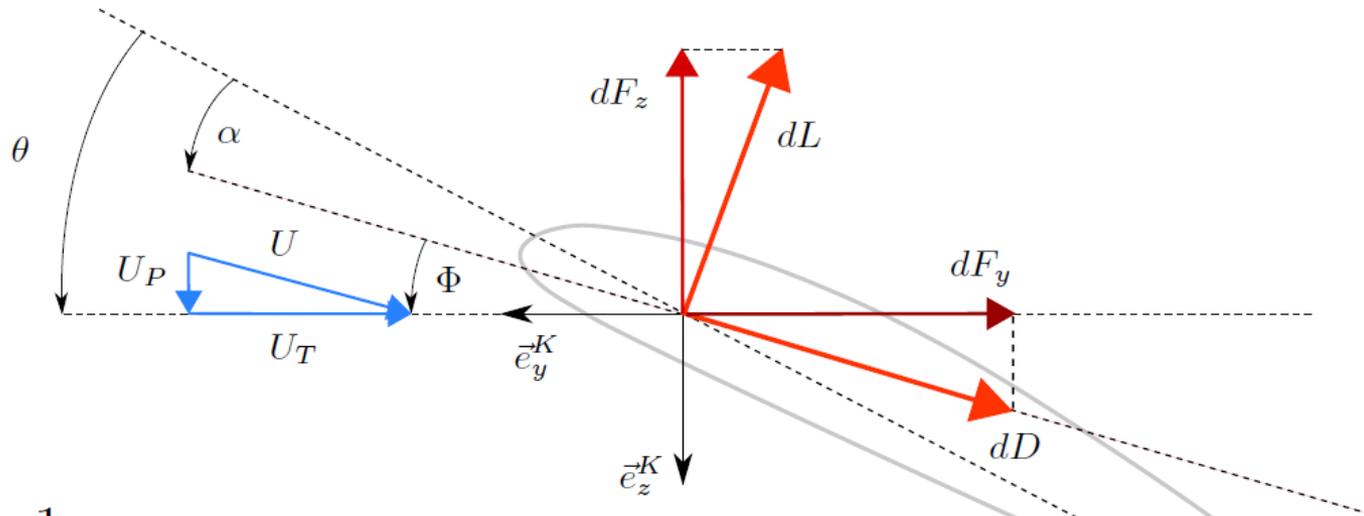
$$\theta(\xi) = \theta_0 + \theta_{1c} \cos(\xi) + \theta_{1s} \sin(\xi)$$

$$dF_y = dD \cos(\phi) + dL \sin(\phi) \approx dD + \phi dL \quad \longrightarrow \quad \text{Rotor Torque}$$

$$dF_z = dL \cos(\phi) - dD \sin(\phi) \approx dL - \phi dD \quad \longrightarrow \quad \text{Rotor Thrust}$$

Rotorcraft Modeling: Rotor Feathering

Blade Element Theory



$$dL = \frac{1}{2} \rho C_L U^2 c dr$$

$$dD = \frac{1}{2} \rho C_D U^2 c dr$$

$$C_L = C_L(\alpha, Re, Ma)$$

$$C_D = C_D(\alpha, Re, Ma)$$

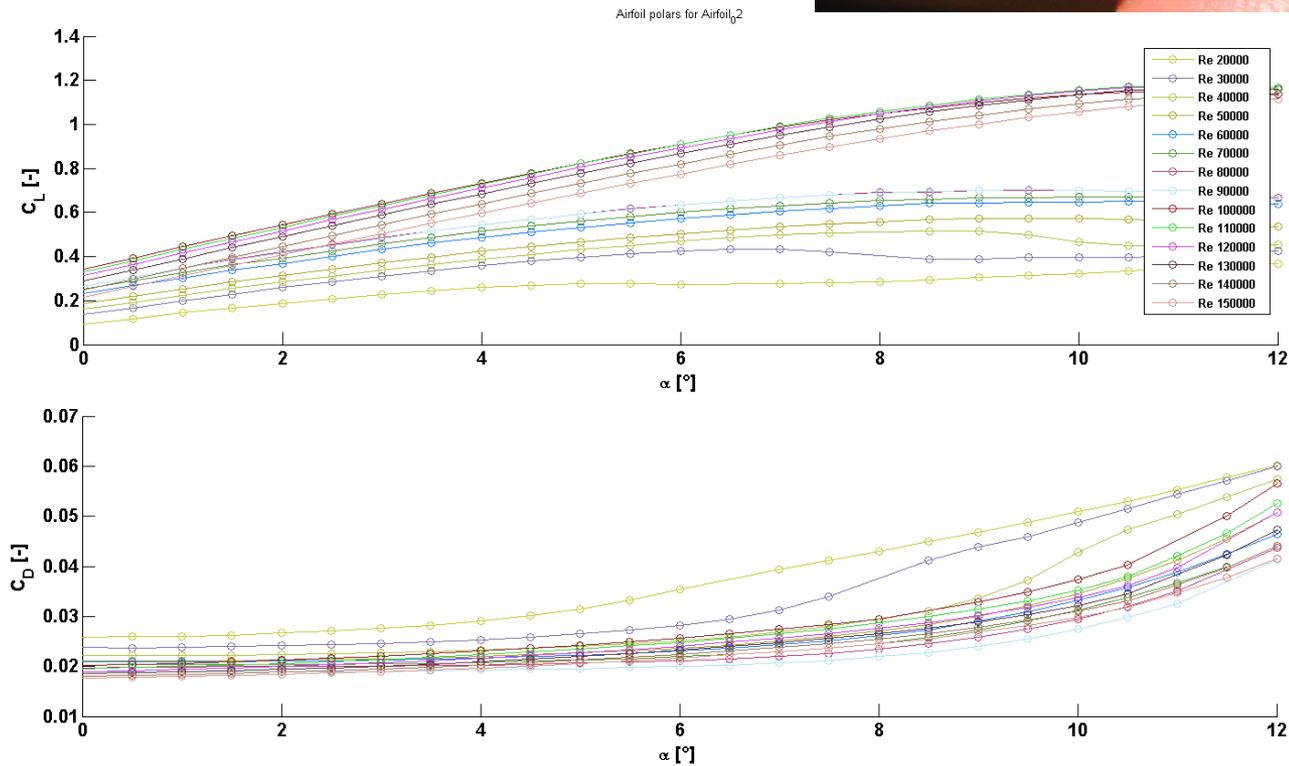
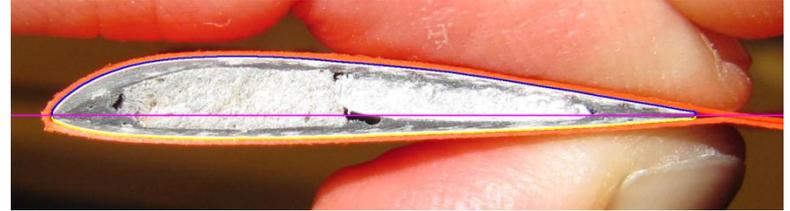
$$\alpha = \theta - \phi$$

$$\alpha = \theta - \frac{U_P}{U_T}$$

$$\phi = \text{atan}\left(\frac{U_P}{U_T}\right)$$

Rotorcraft Modeling: Rotor Feathering

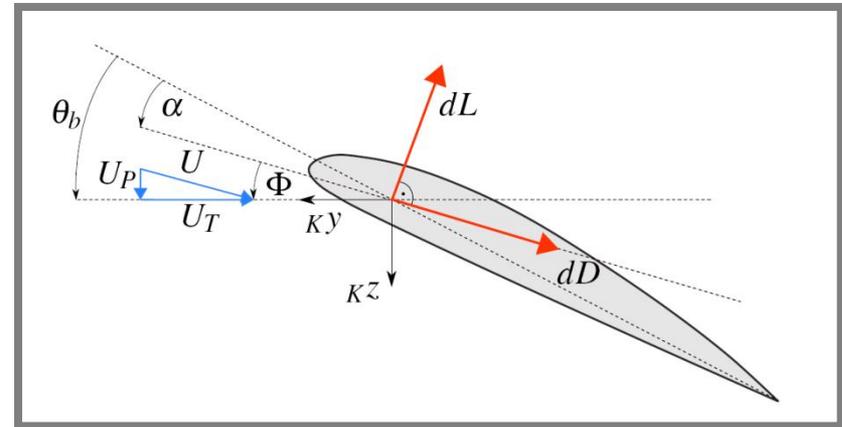
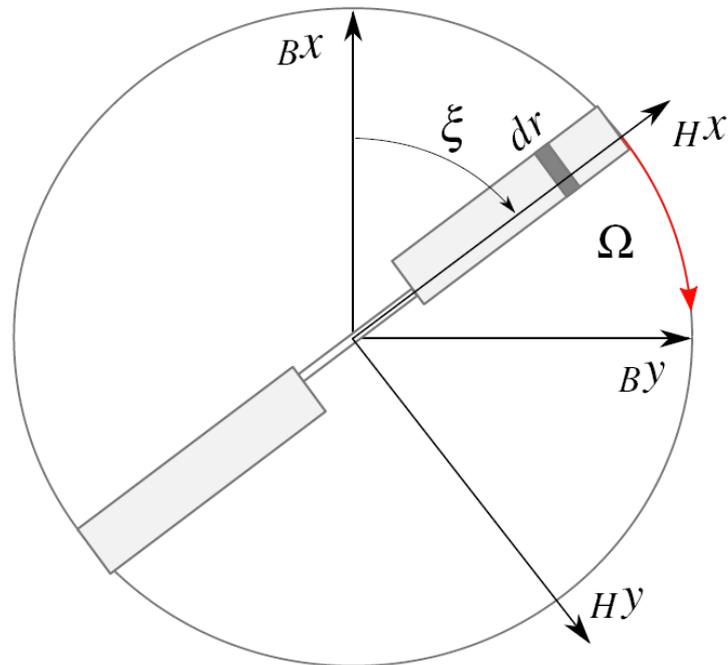
Aerodynamic Coefficients



$$C_L = C_{L1} \alpha + C_{L0}$$

$$C_D = C_{D2} \alpha^2 + C_{D1} \alpha + C_{D0}$$

Rotorcraft Modeling: Thrust & Torque



$$\theta_b(\xi) = \theta_0 + \theta_{1c} \cos(\xi) + \theta_{1s} \sin(\xi)$$

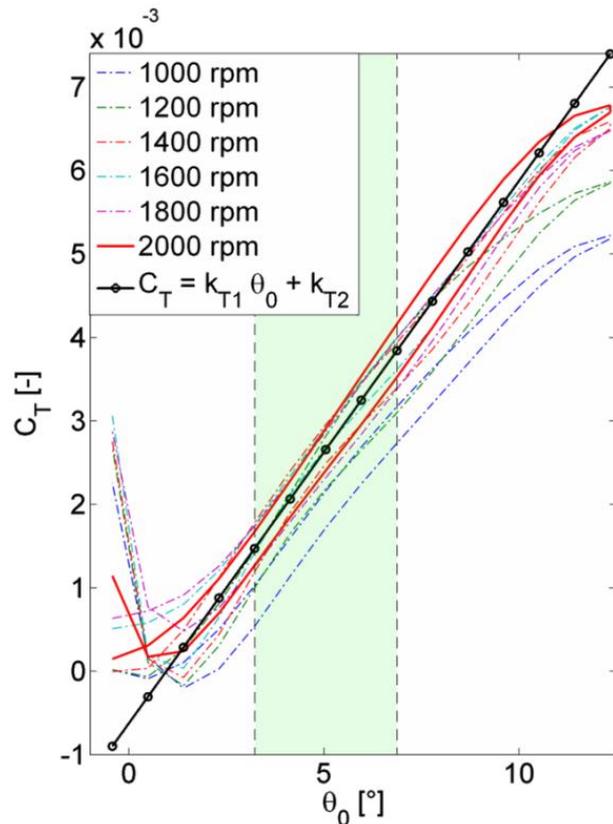
$$T = \frac{N_b}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^R dL(r, \theta)$$

$$Q = \frac{N_b}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^R (dD(r, \theta) + \Phi dL(r, \theta))$$

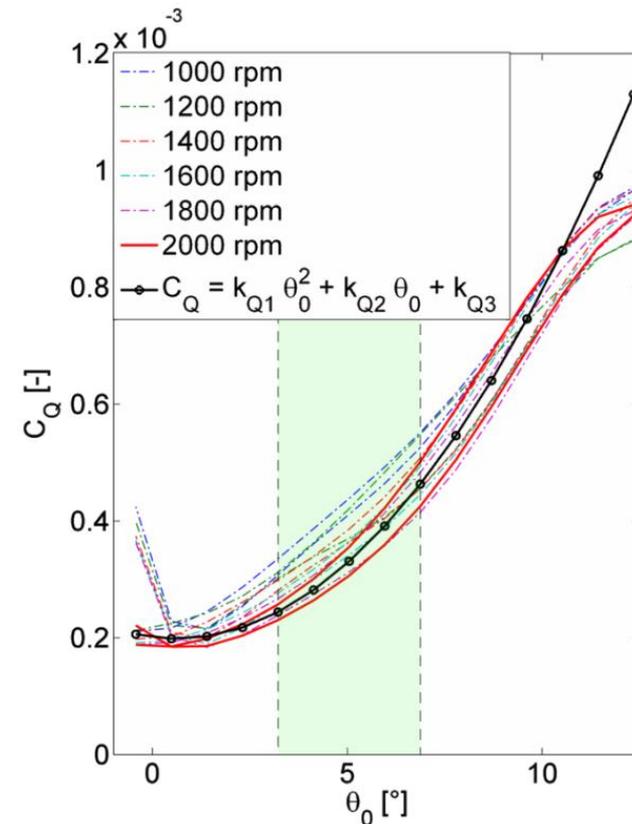
Averaged Thrust & Torque

Rotorcraft Modeling: Thrust & Torque

$$T = (k_{T1} \theta_0 + k_{T0}) \Omega^2$$



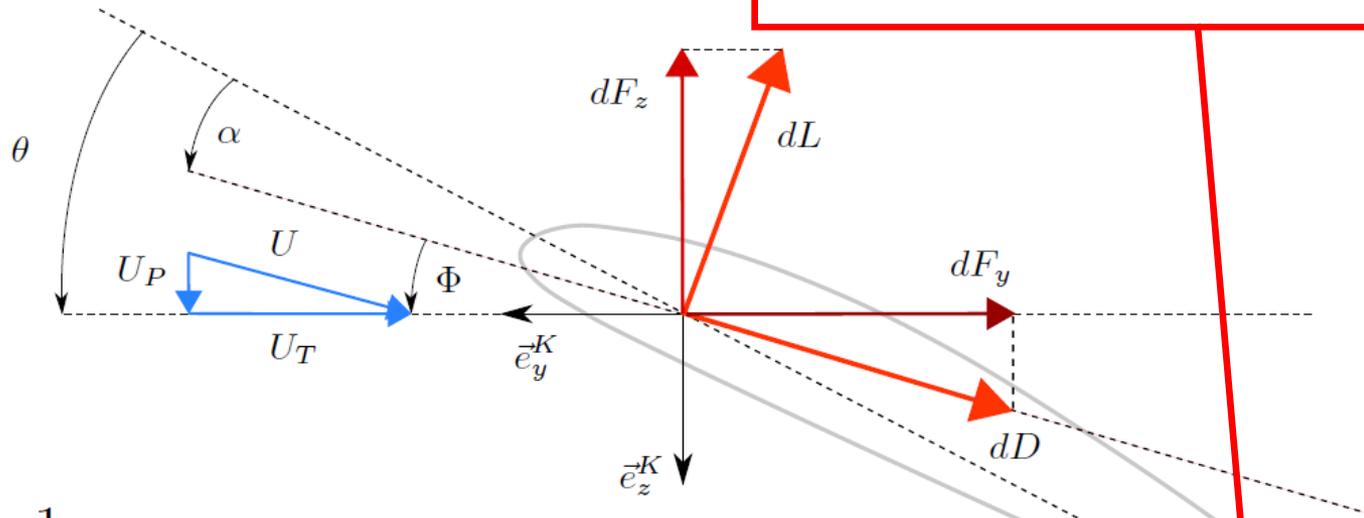
$$Q = (k_{Q2} \theta_0^2 + k_{Q1} \theta_0 + k_{Q0}) \Omega^2$$



Rotorcraft Modeling: Rotor Feathering

Blade Element Theory

$$\theta(\xi) = \theta_0 + \theta_{1c} \cos(\xi) + \theta_{1s} \sin(\xi)$$



$$dL = \frac{1}{2} \rho C_L U^2 c dr$$

$$dD = \frac{1}{2} \rho C_D U^2 c dr$$

$$C_L = C_L(\alpha, Re, Ma)$$

$$C_D = C_D(\alpha, Re, Ma)$$

$$\alpha = \theta - \phi$$

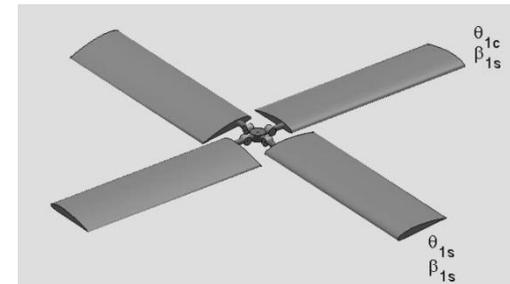
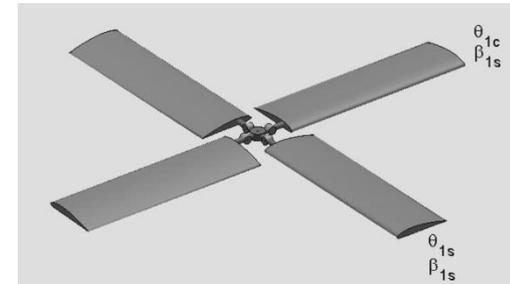
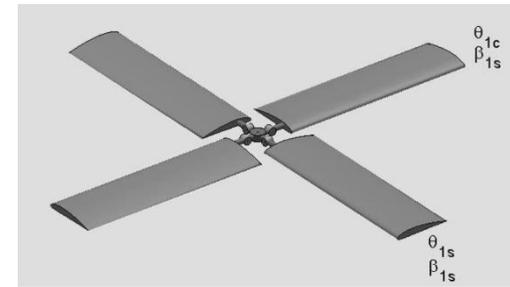
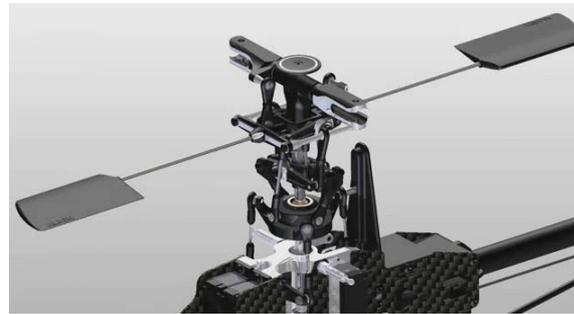
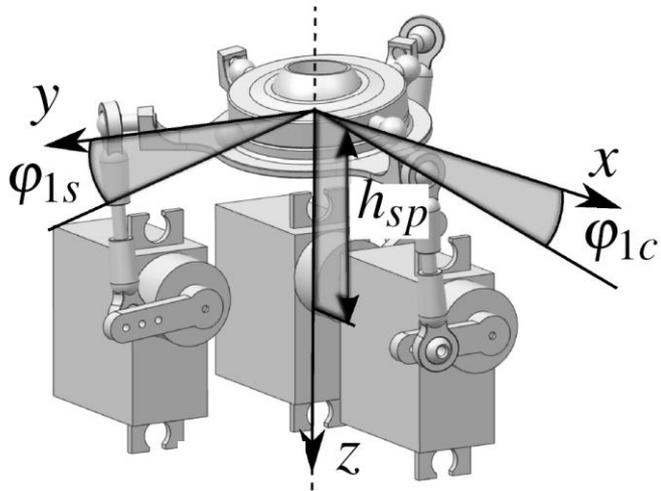
$$\alpha = \theta - \frac{U_P}{U_T}$$

$$\phi = \text{atan}\left(\frac{U_P}{U_T}\right)$$

Rotorcraft Modeling: Rotor Feathering

► Pitch Actuation

$$\theta(\xi) = \theta_0 + \theta_{1c} \cos(\xi) + \theta_{1s} \sin(\xi)$$



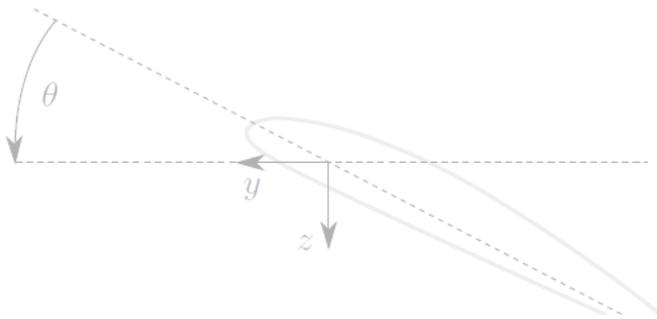
$$\theta_0^l = k_1^{cm} h_{sp} + k_2^{cm}$$

$$\theta_{1c}^l = k_3^{cm} \varphi_{1s} + k_4^{cm} \beta_{1s}^{fb}$$

$$\theta_{1s}^l = -k_3^{cm} \varphi_{1c} - k_4^{cm} \beta_{1c}^{fb}$$

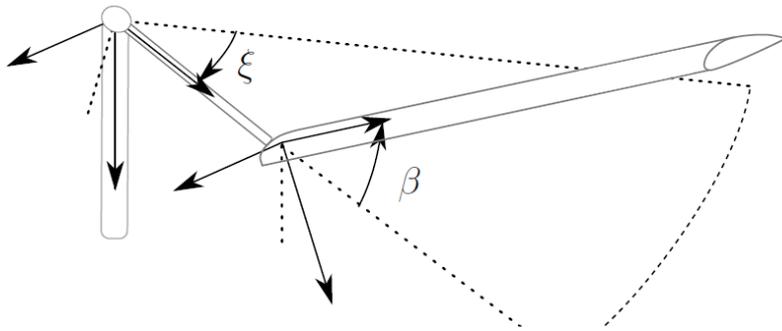
Rotorcraft Modeling: Rotor DOF

▶ Blade Feathering

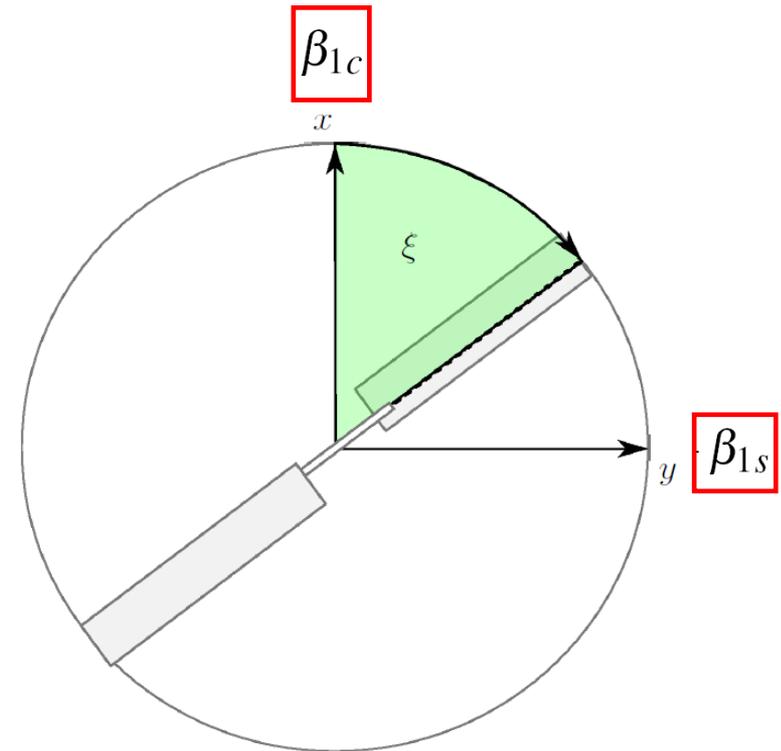


$$\theta(\xi) = \theta_0 + \theta_{1c} \cos(\xi) + \theta_{1s} \sin(\xi)$$

▶ Blade Flapping

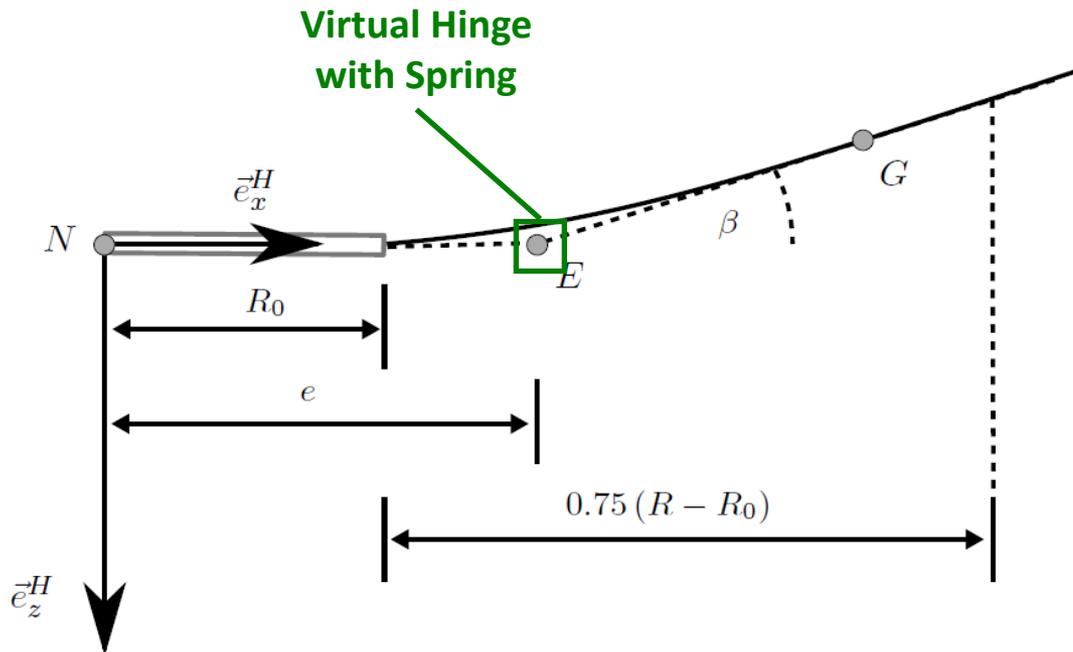


$$\beta(\xi) = \beta_0 + \beta_{1c} \cos(\xi) + \beta_{1s} \sin(\xi)$$



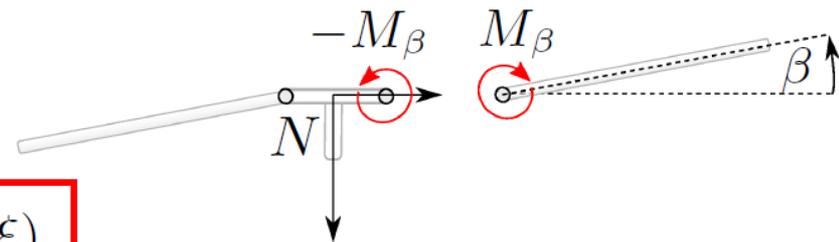
Rotorcraft Modeling: Rotor Flapping

▶ Blade Flapping



$$M_\beta = -k_b \beta$$

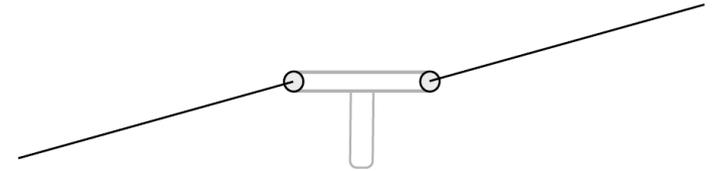
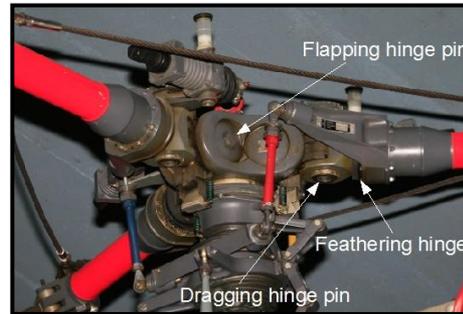
Flap Moment
Couples Body and Rotor Dynamics



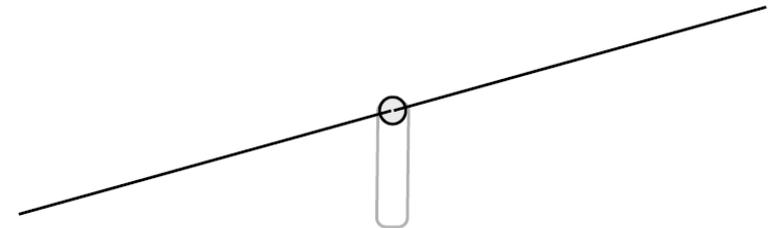
$$\beta(\xi) = \beta_0 + \beta_{1c} \cos(\xi) + \beta_{1s} \sin(\xi)$$

Rotorcraft Modeling: Rotor Flapping

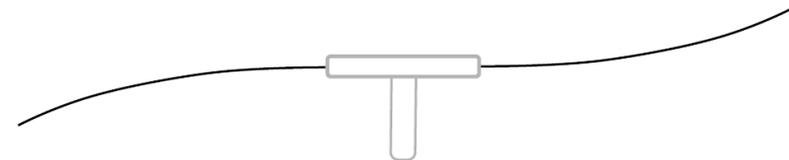
▶ Fully Articulated



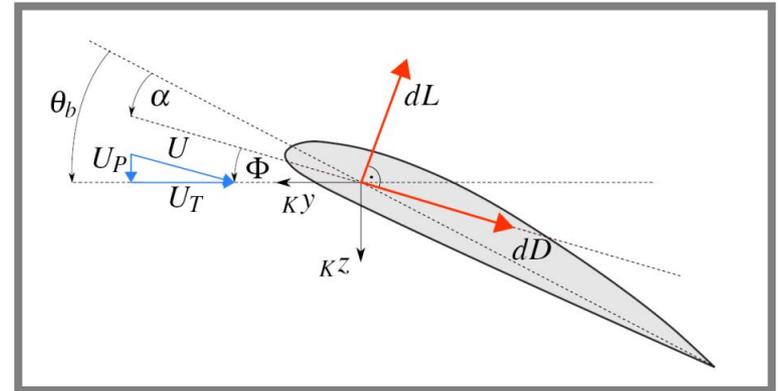
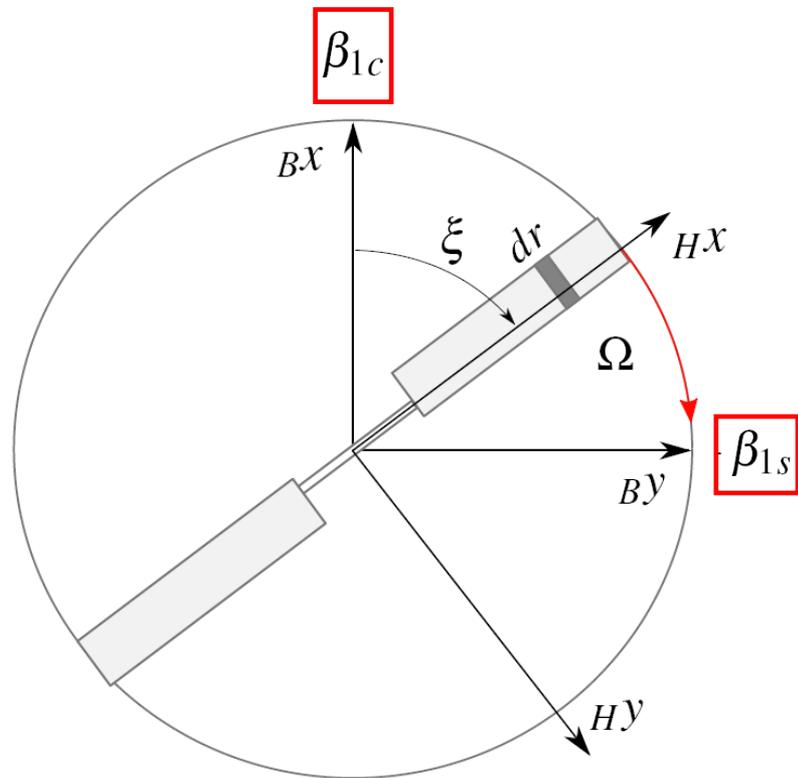
▶ Teetering



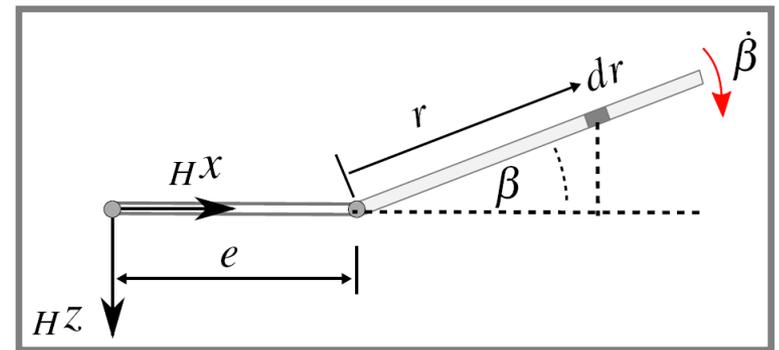
▶ Hingeless



Rotorcraft Modeling: Flap Dynamics

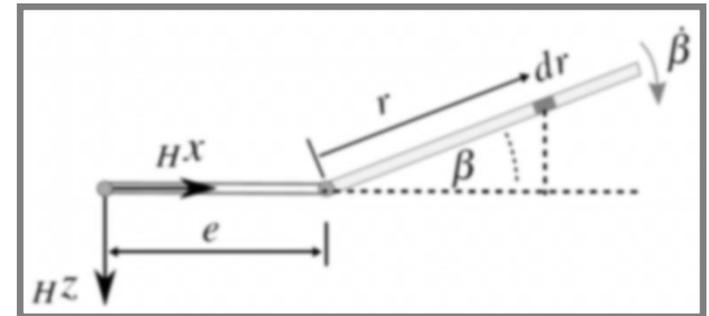
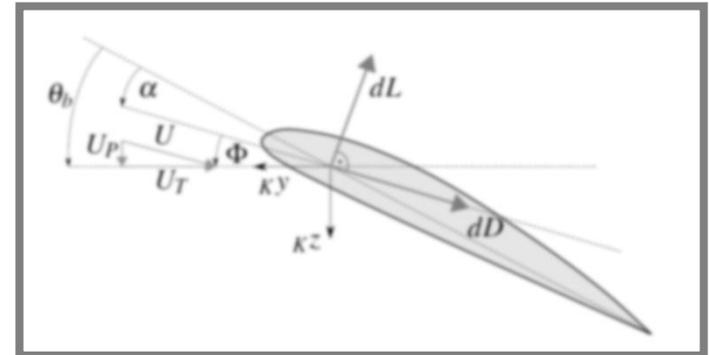
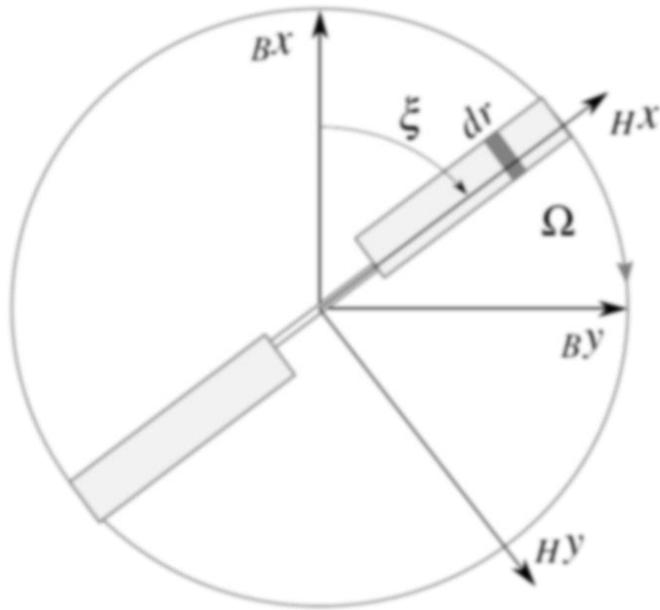


$$\theta_b(\xi) = \theta_0 + \theta_{1c} \cos(\xi) + \theta_{1s} \sin(\xi)$$



$$\beta(\xi) = \beta_0 + \beta_{1c} \cos(\xi) + \beta_{1s} \sin(\xi)$$

Rotorcraft Modeling: Flap Dynamics



$$\dot{\beta}_{1c} = \Omega \left(\left(k_{1c} + \frac{k_{2c}}{\Omega^2} \right) \beta_{1c} + \left(k_{3c} + \frac{k_{4c}}{\Omega^2} \right) \beta_{1s} + k_{5c} \theta_{1c} + k_{6c} \theta_{1s} + k_{7c} \frac{q}{\Omega} \right)$$

$$\dot{\beta}_{1s} = \Omega \left(\left(k_{1s} + \frac{k_{2s}}{\Omega^2} \right) \beta_{1s} + \left(k_{3s} + \frac{k_{4s}}{\Omega^2} \right) \beta_{1c} \right) + k_{5s} \theta_{1s} + k_{6s} \theta_{1c} + k_{7s} \frac{p}{\Omega}$$

Rotorcraft Modeling: Assembling the System



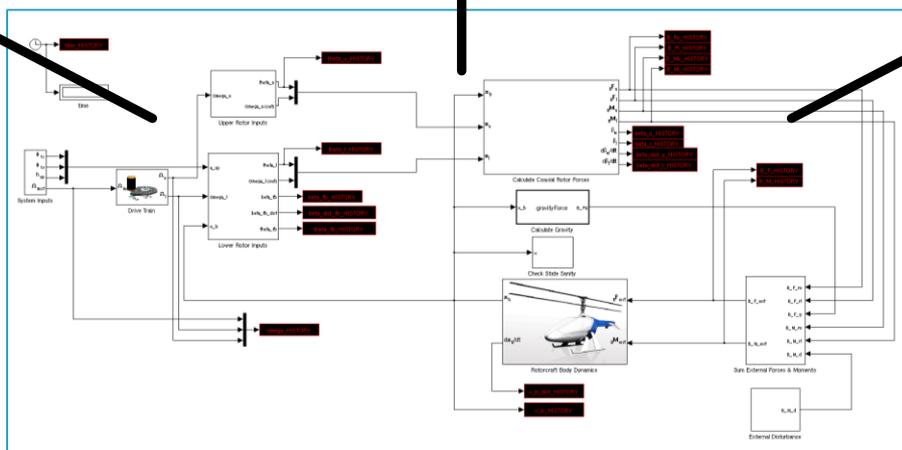
Main Body Motion



Rotorblade Motion



Rotorblade Aerodynamics



Motivation

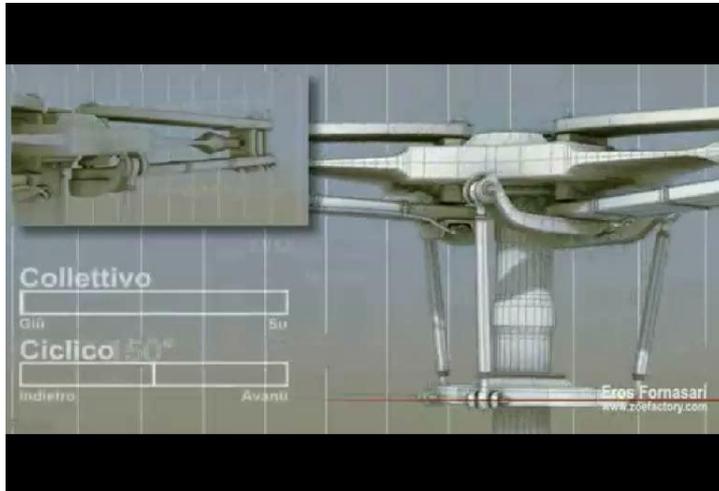


© Konstantin Khmelik

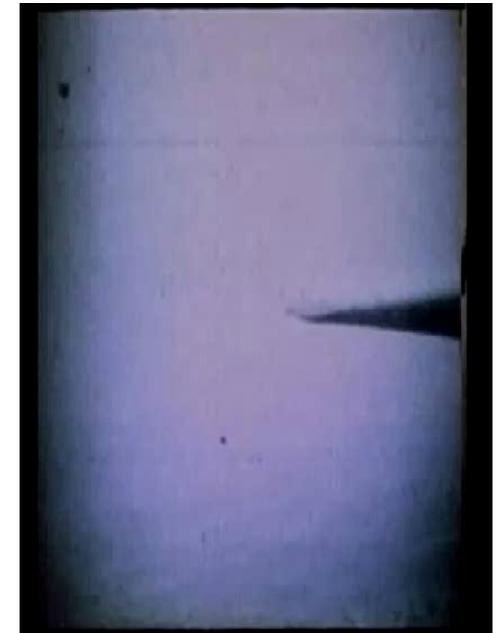
“A helicopter is a collection of oscillations held together by differential equations”



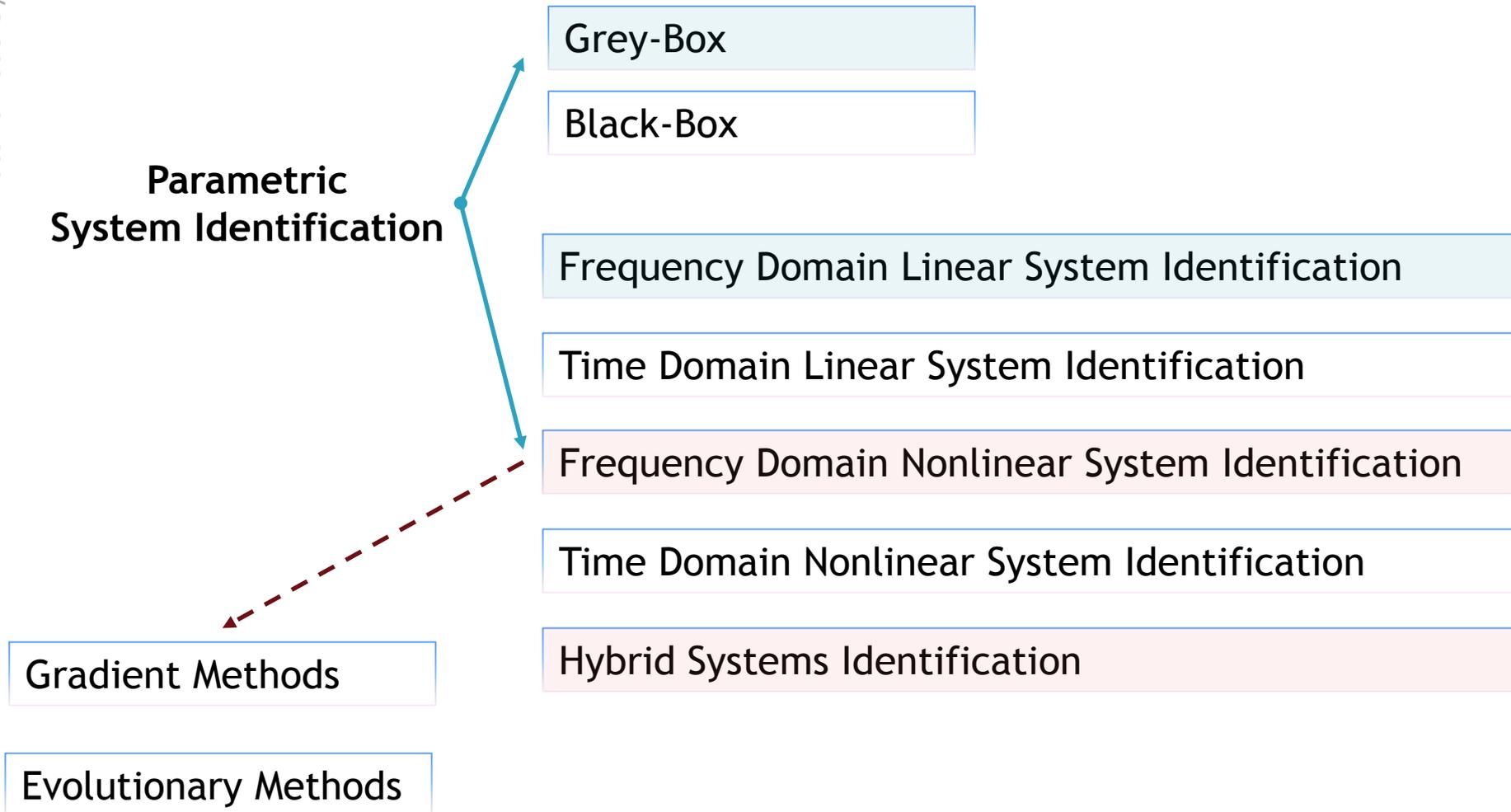
White-Box models are often inaccurate or very difficult and time consuming to obtain



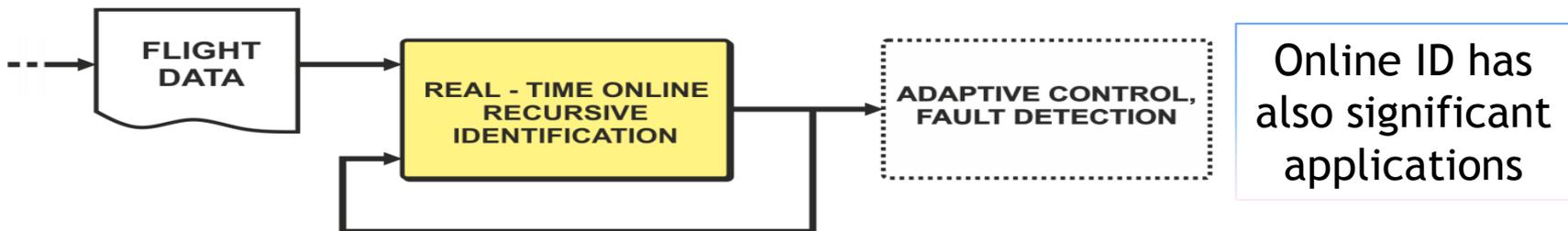
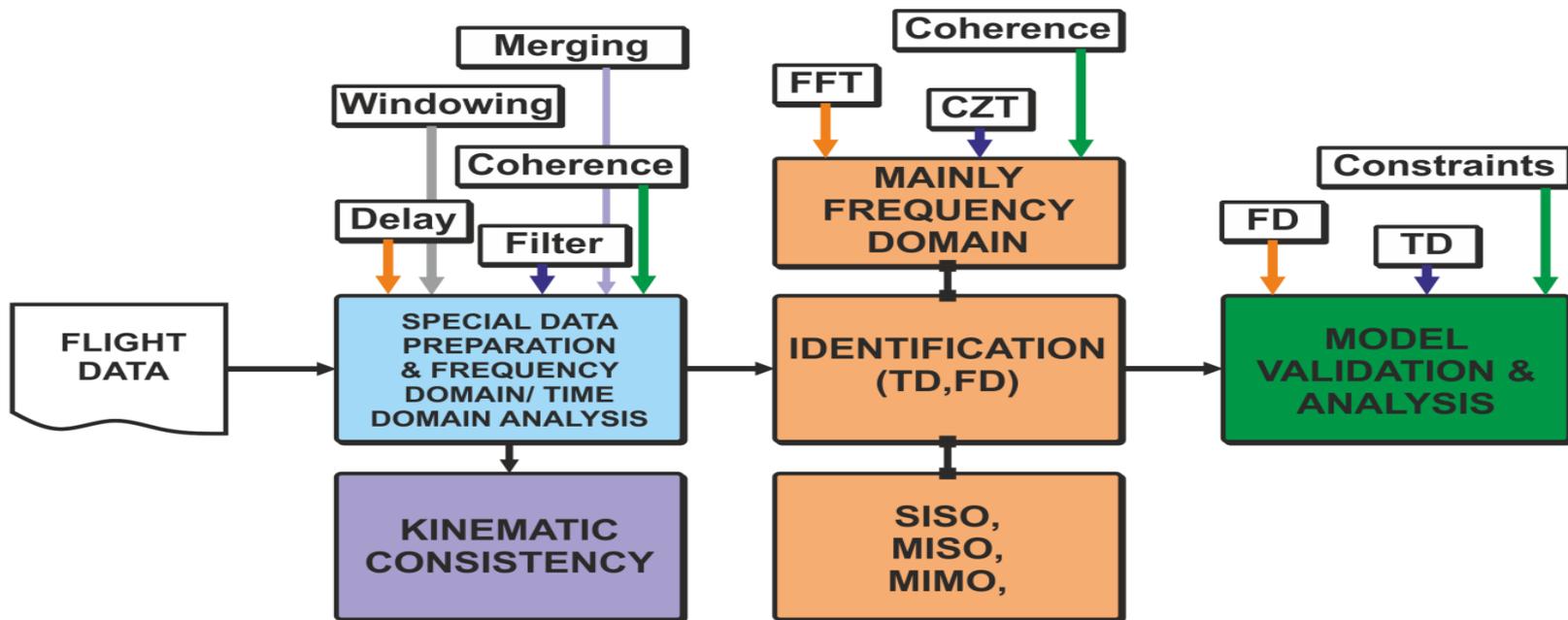
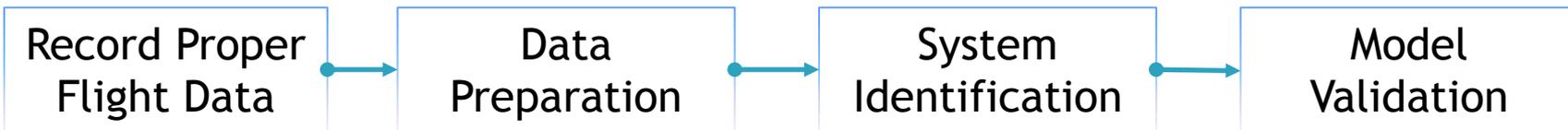
Blade flapping, coning and lagging increase the order of the system with states that are not directly measurable



Rotorcraft System Identification



System Identification Steps



Flight Experiments and Data Preparation

Record Proper Flight Data

Data Preparation - **Use of empirical Metrics!**

Excite expected rotorcraft frequencies

Detrend - Unbias

Based on trim

Flight long enough to capture low frequencies

Estimate Input Delays

Actuation delays

Start and end at trim

Coherence (≥ 0.6) & Random Error Check

Check Linearity of the system

Use Chirp Signals

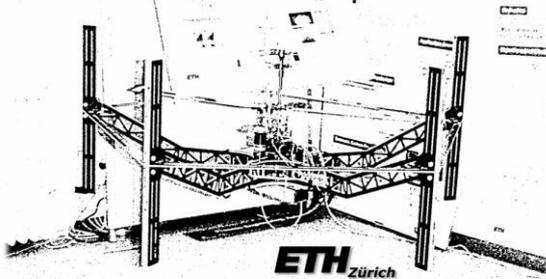
Persistence of Excitation Check

Conclusions about the order

AIRobots COAXial Prototype
Frequency Sweep Excitations

I/O Spectrogram & Power Spectral Density

Visual understanding



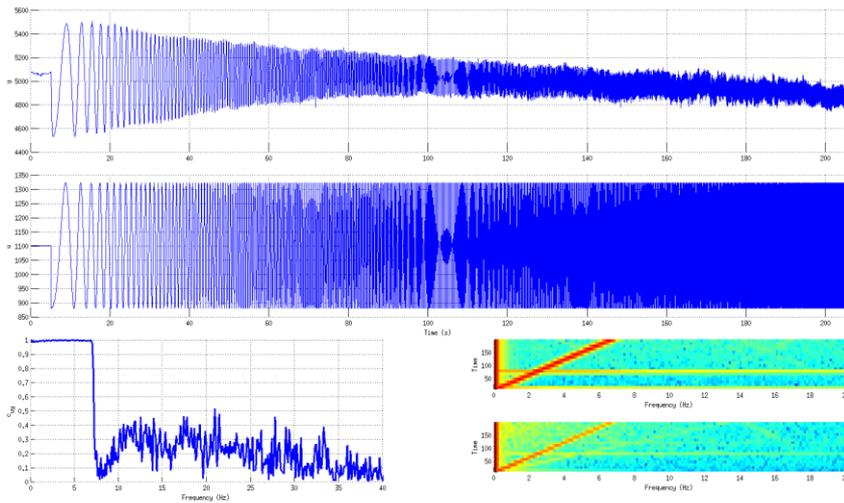
Windowing

Increase accuracy over specific frequencies

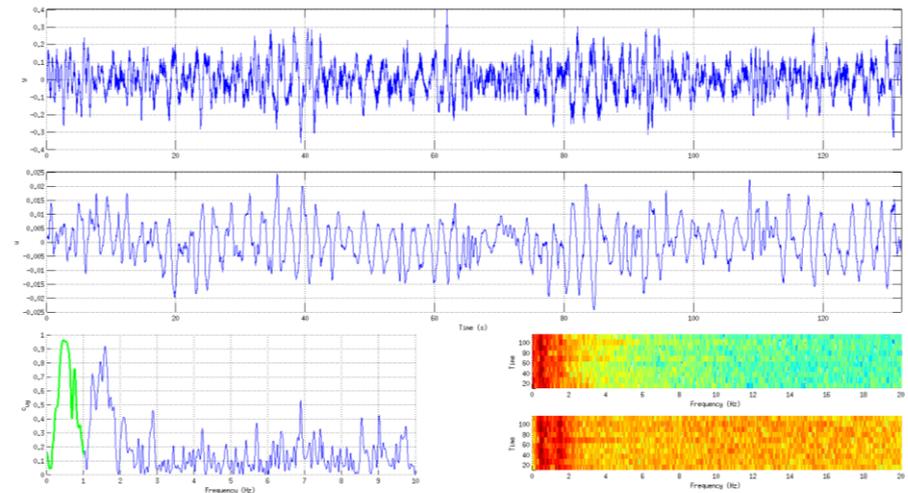
Filter

Flight Experiments and Data Preparation

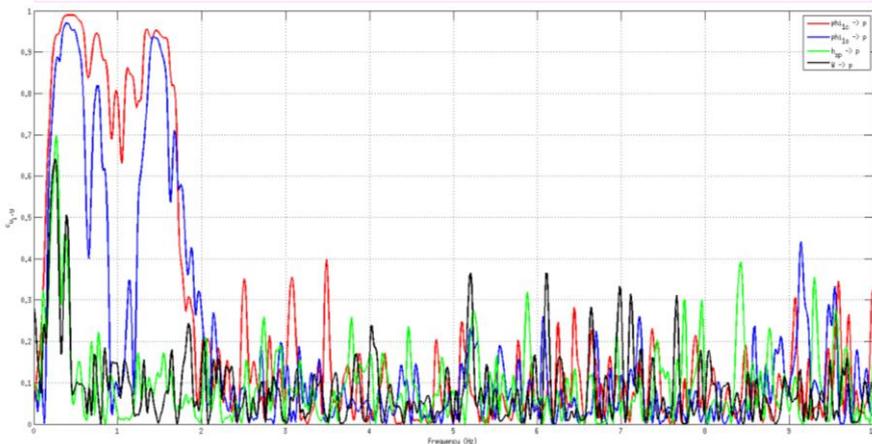
DC-Brushless Motor



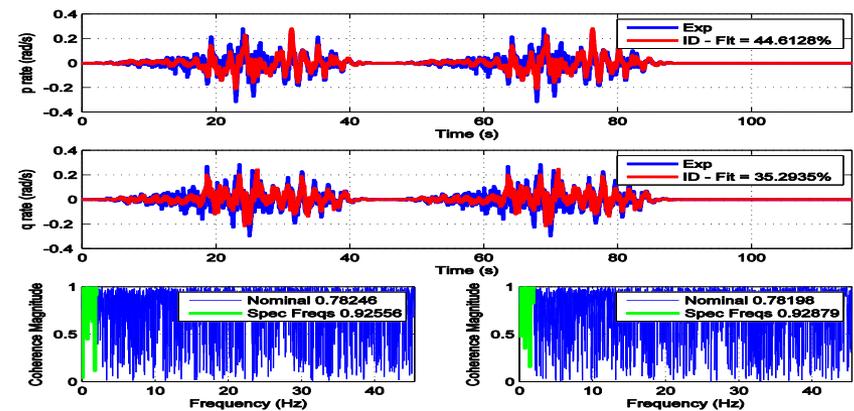
AIROBOTS Coaxial Prototype



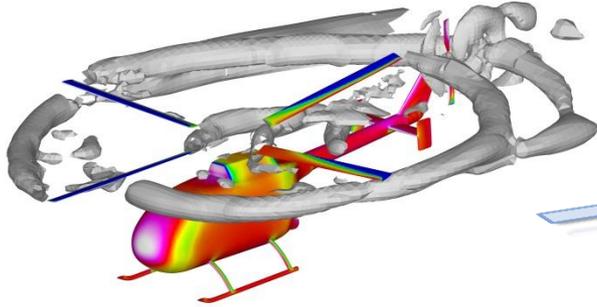
Use coherence to check Input/Output relations



Effect of windowing



Grey-box Model Derivation



$$\dot{x} = f(x, u, \theta)$$

x → rigid body and rotor states
 u → swashplate and motor inputs
 θ → vector of parameters to be identified

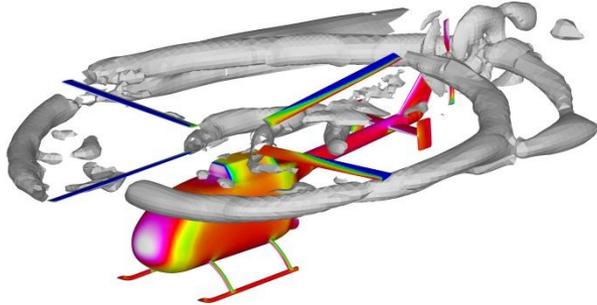
Decide the level of accuracy and neglect some phenomena (i.e. blade lag)

Define constraints for the vector of predicted parameters θ

Write the Nonlinear Differential Equations in Symbolic Form

Trim and Linearize the system around an operation point (i.e. hover, forward flight)

System Identification



$$\dot{x} = f(x, u, \theta)$$

Prepared Flight Data over specific frequencies and for specific degrees of freedom

Define Frequency Response Transform

Fast Fourier Transform

Chirp-Z Transform

Define Objective Function

$$J = \sum_{l=1}^{n_{TF}} \sum_{\omega_l} W_{\gamma}(\omega_l) [W_g (|\hat{T}_c(\omega_l)| - |T(\omega_l)|)^2 + W_p (\angle \hat{T}(\omega_l)_c - \angle T(\omega_l))^2],$$

$$W_{\gamma}(\omega) = [1.58(1 - \exp^{-\gamma u_i y_j})]^2, \quad W_g = 1.0, \quad W_p = 0.01745,$$

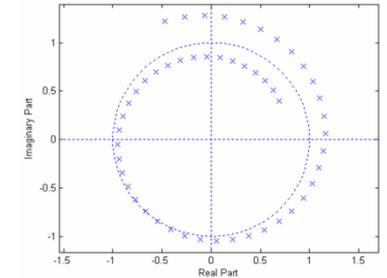
Define Optimization Strategy

Solve constrained problem

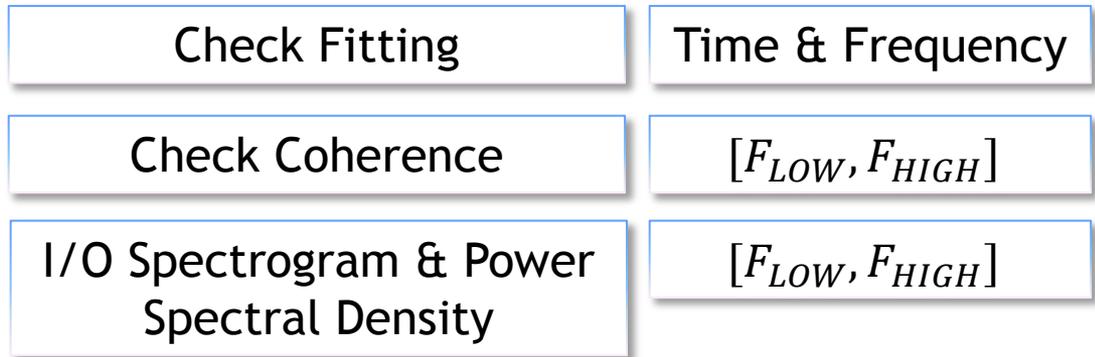
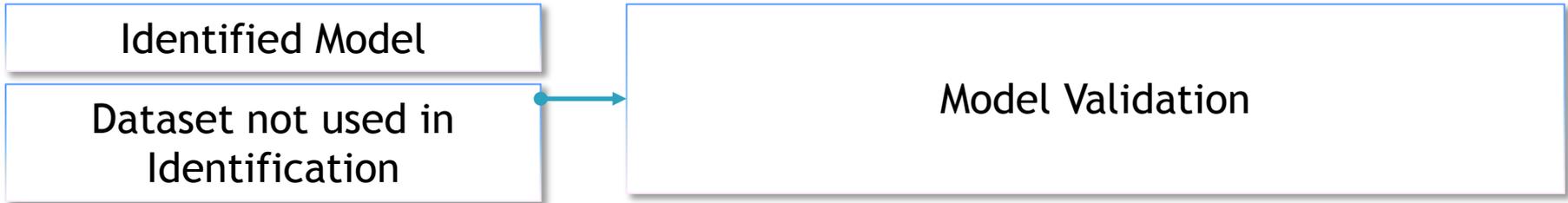
Computes the Z-Transform of a signal along spiral contours in the z-plane:

$$CZT(x[n]) = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x[n] z_k^{-n}$$

$$z_k = AW^{-k}, k = 0, \dots, M - 1$$



Model Validation



Initialize the model and run previous steps

*Acceptable Fit?
Satisfy constraints?*



AIROBOTS Coaxial Prototype Identification

Frequency Area

$[0.01, 2] Hz$

Minimum Length

$[100 - 120] sec$

Lower “capturable”
frequency $\approx 0.05 Hz$

Frequency Response

Fast Fourier Transform

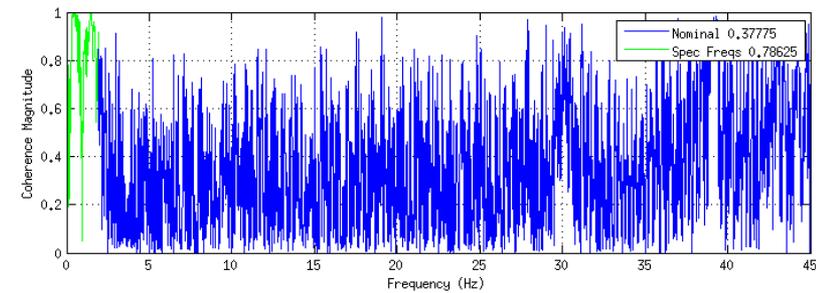
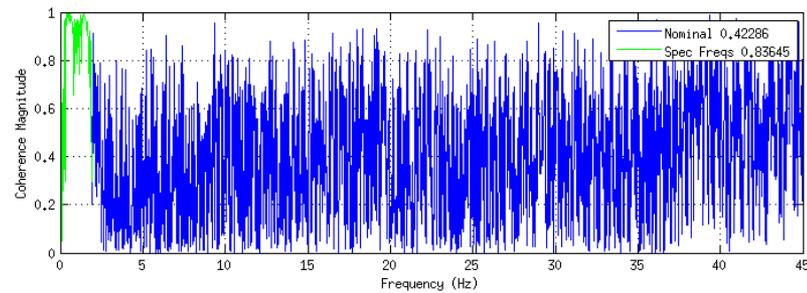
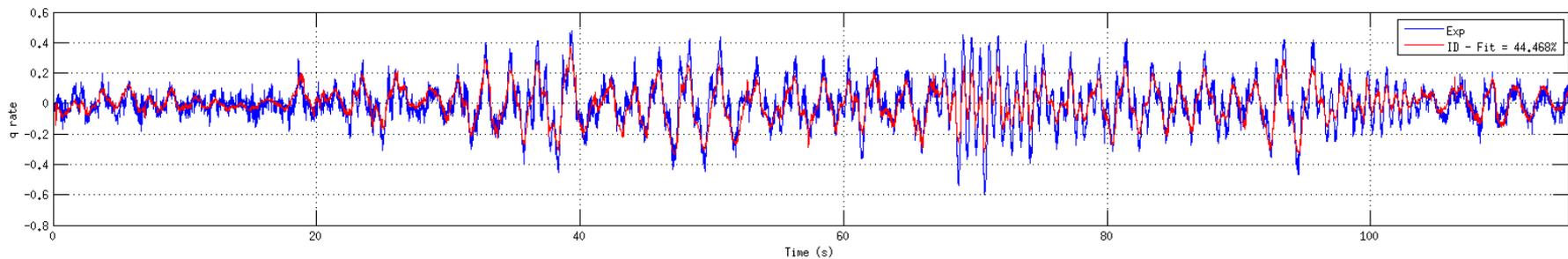
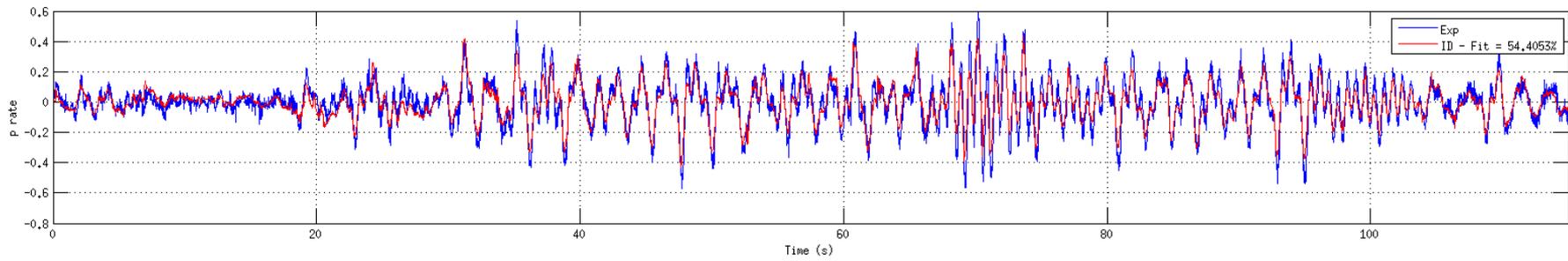
Chirp Z Transform

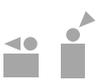
Optimization Algorithm

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{J} &= \sum_{i=1}^{n_{TF}} \sum_{\omega_1}^{\omega_n \omega} W_{\gamma}(\omega_i) [W_g (|\hat{\mathbf{T}}_c(\omega_i)| - |\mathbf{T}(\omega_i)|)^2 + W_p (\angle \hat{\mathbf{T}}(\omega_i)_c - \angle \mathbf{T}(\omega_i))^2], \\
 W_{\gamma}(\omega) &= [1.58(1 - \exp^{-\frac{\gamma}{\omega_i} \omega_j})]^2, \quad W_g = 1.0, \quad W_p = 0.01745,
 \end{aligned}$$

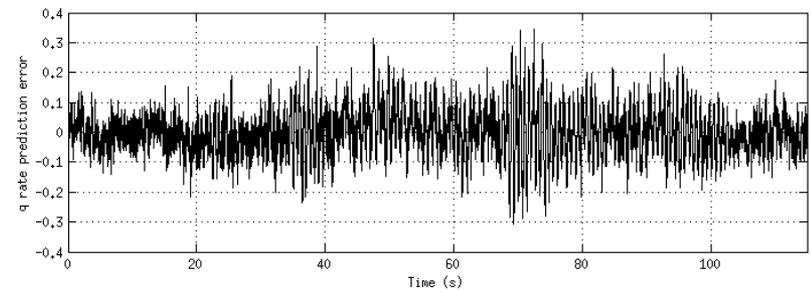
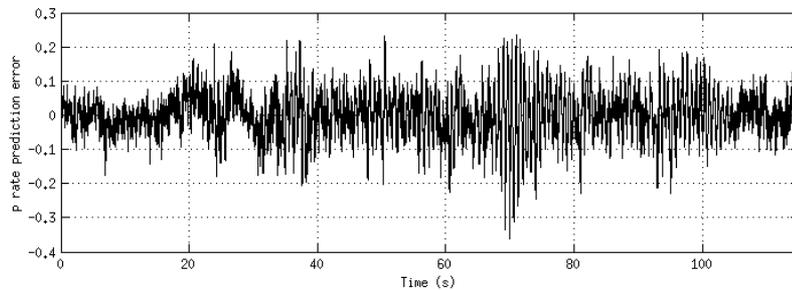
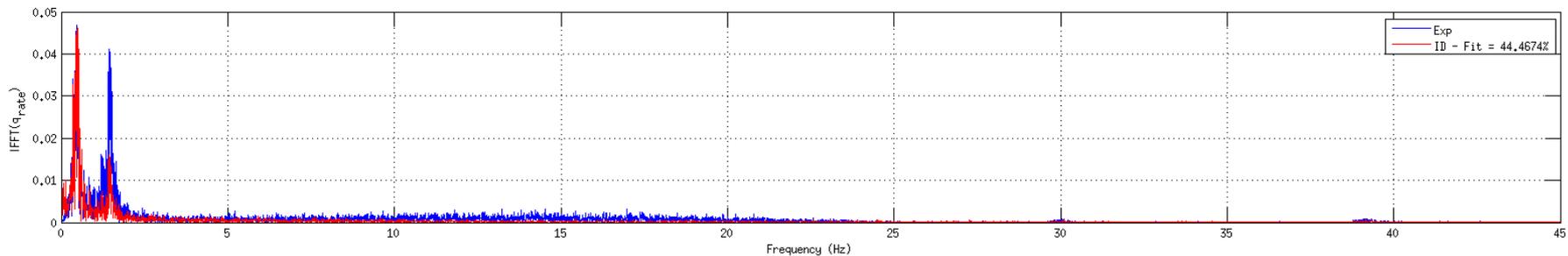
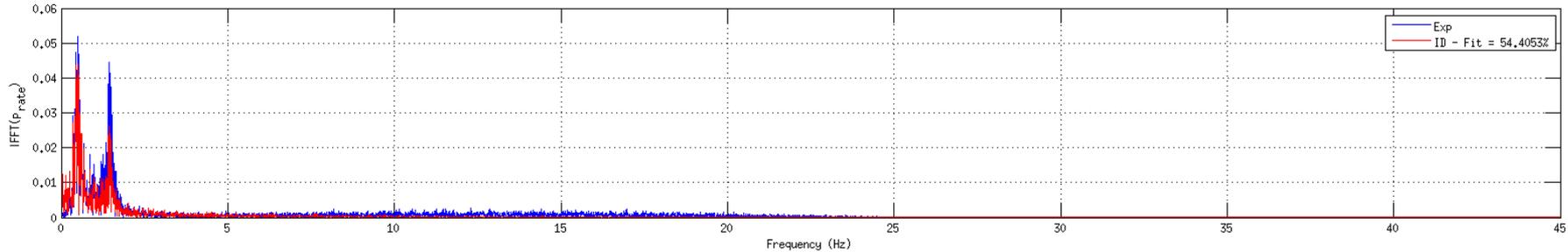
Mathworks MATLAB® classic gradient
and adaptive gradient method

Roll rate (p), Pitch rate (q) Identification

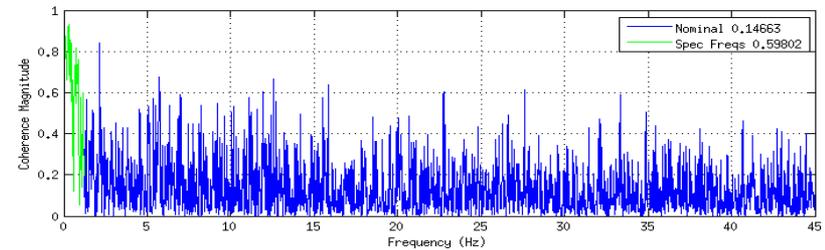
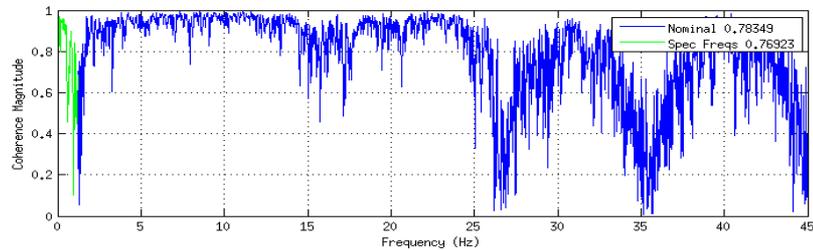
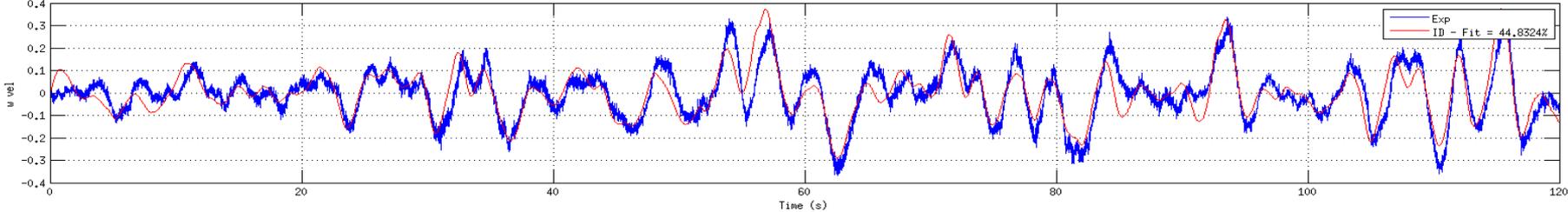
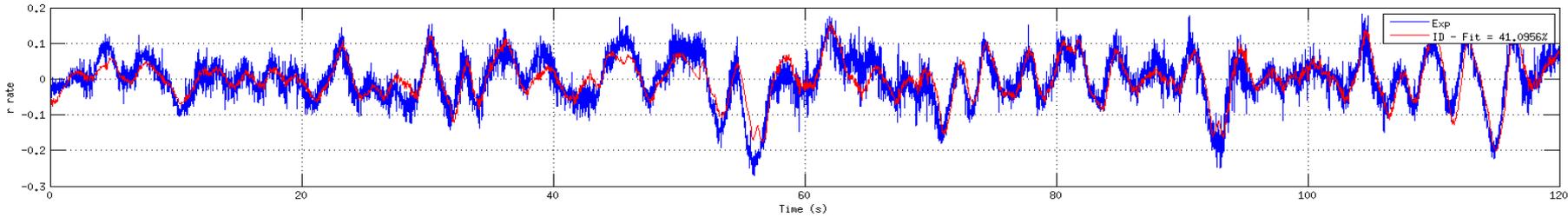




Roll rate (p), Pitch rate (q) Identification



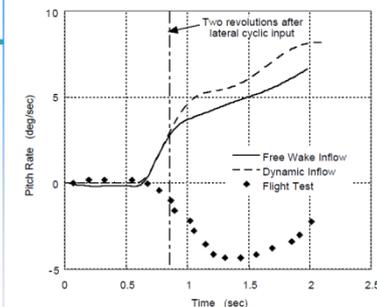
yaw rate (r), heave velocity(w) Identification



Identification as a multi-tool

- Accurate grey-box physically close models
- Simplified (Quasi-Steady) Models for Control Computation.
- Identify partial response of the system such as off-axis responses.
- Identify Closed-loop system response as a step for higher-level control (closed-loop attitude for velocity, velocity for trajectory control etc).
- Identify actuator dynamics as part of the selection process

How u_{roll} excites pitch?



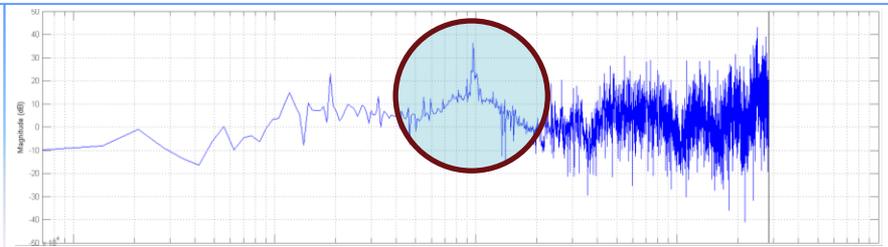
System Identification is a research field but also a tool for the system and control engineer

Nonparametric Identification

Estimate the input/output relation of a system without a model but rather using the recorded data to nonparametrically calculate the frequency response of the system

- Empirical Transfer Function
- Estimate Frequency Response with Fixed Frequency Resolution using Spectral Analysis
- Estimate Frequency Response and Spectrum using analysis with Frequency-dependent Resolution.
- Use of harmonic Windowing

Example application: Identify the Resonance frequency of the coupled rotors/fuselage dynamics



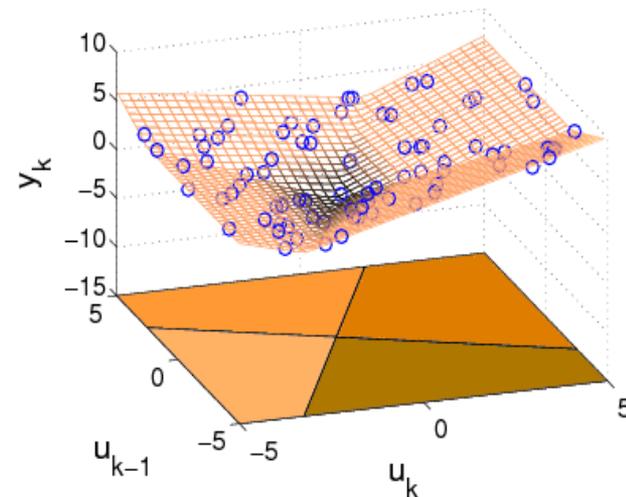
Research Trend

Nonlinear Frequency Domain System Identification:

- Possibly through the utilization of the generalized frequency response functions to reconstruct the model.
- Nonlinear Identification is until now dominated from time-domain approaches which lack the advantages of frequency-domain identification.

Hybrid Systems Identification:

- Hybrid systems often appear in robotics either due to physical interaction or due to modeling approach.
- Identify Piecewise Affine systems
 - Hinging-Hyperplane AutoRegressive eXogenous models (HHARX)
 - PieceWise affine AutoRegressive eXogenous models (PWARX)



Conclusions

- Grey-box System Identification can lead to accurate models that preserve the physicality of the system.
- Frequency-domain System Identification poses significant advantages for rotorcraft identification.
- All four main steps, flight experiments, data preparation, identification and model validation require special attention.
- The coupled rotors/fuselage model represents a special and challenging identification problem.
- Identification can be used as a tool in order to aid in various problems.
- Nonparametric identification can be very if properly used.
- Robotics can be benefitted from the aerospace community experience.