

BIO-INSPIRED INTELLIGENT AND GREEN FLYING VEHICLES (IGFVs)

**15th ANNUAL PNW AIAA TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM
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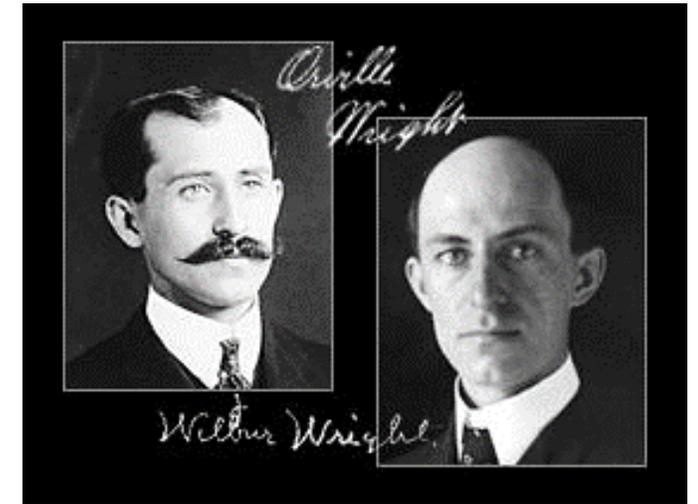
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Inspired but not copy (mimic) nature

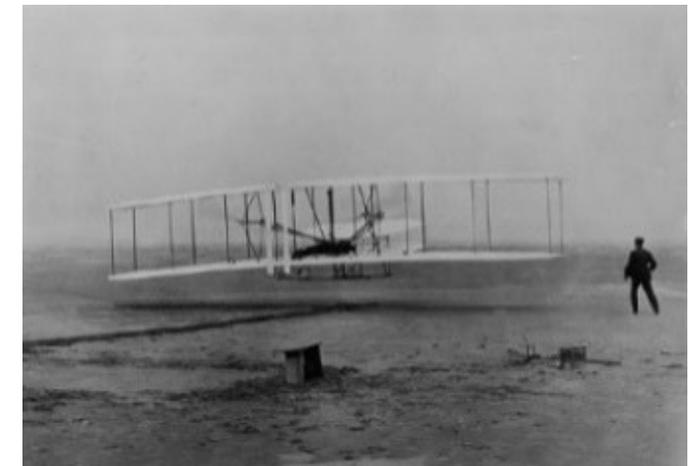
❑ Prior to 1903, human flight was



▶ In 1903, the Wright brothers achieved the first powered flight and laid the foundation for the present days' aerodynamics

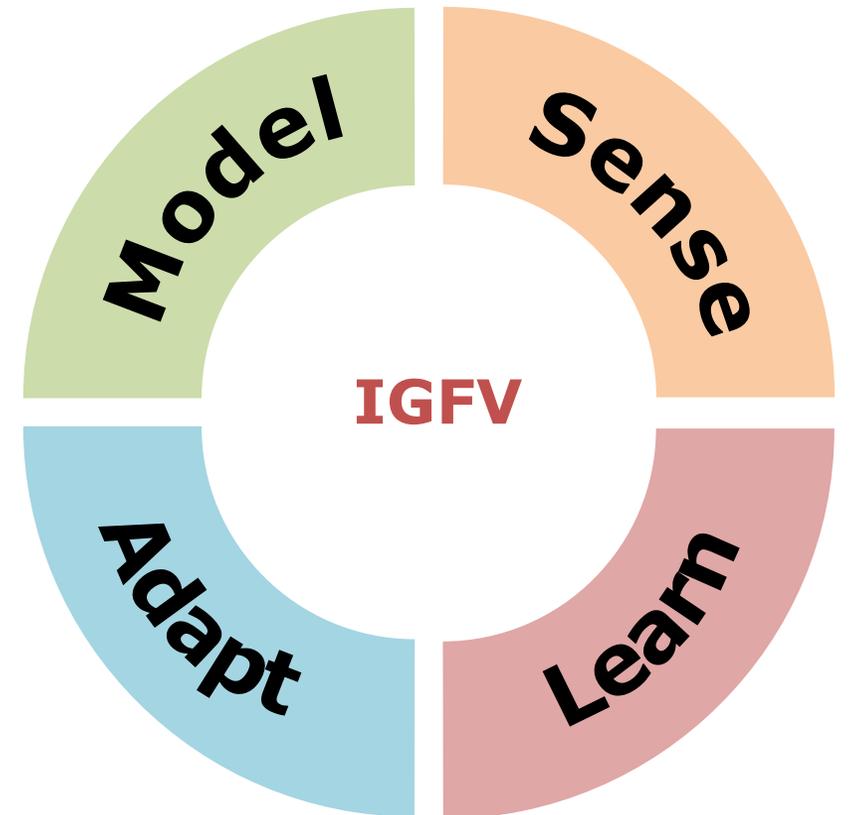
❑ Next generation of flying vehicles and brain-inspired machine learning should be engineered with scientific understanding

▶ Breaking barriers of impossible?



What do we mean by Intelligent and Green?

- ❑ Intelligent; ability to model the environment and to act accordingly
- ❑ Green; low emissions in environment
- ❑ Can human-engineered aircraft operate like flying animals?
 - ▶ Biological systems perceive the world by simultaneously processing inputs from sensory cues as diverse as vision, auditory, haptic, etc.
 - ◇ Brain-inspired computation
 - ◇ Model, sense, learn and adapt



Flying Vehicles vs Natural Flyers

- ❑ Maneuverability and agility
 - ▶ Gust handling
 - ▶ Hovering
 - ▶ Reconfiguration
- ❑ Swarming and coordinated flight
 - ▶ Complex wake interactions
 - ▶ Distributed sensing and control
- ❑ Endurance and silencing
 - ▶ High energy efficiency
 - ▶ Noise reduction



Bar-tailed godwits flies 7,500 miles nonstop, breaking the world record (2020)

Scientific Challenges of Bio-Inspired Flight Dynamics

❑ Complex Fluid-Structure Interactions

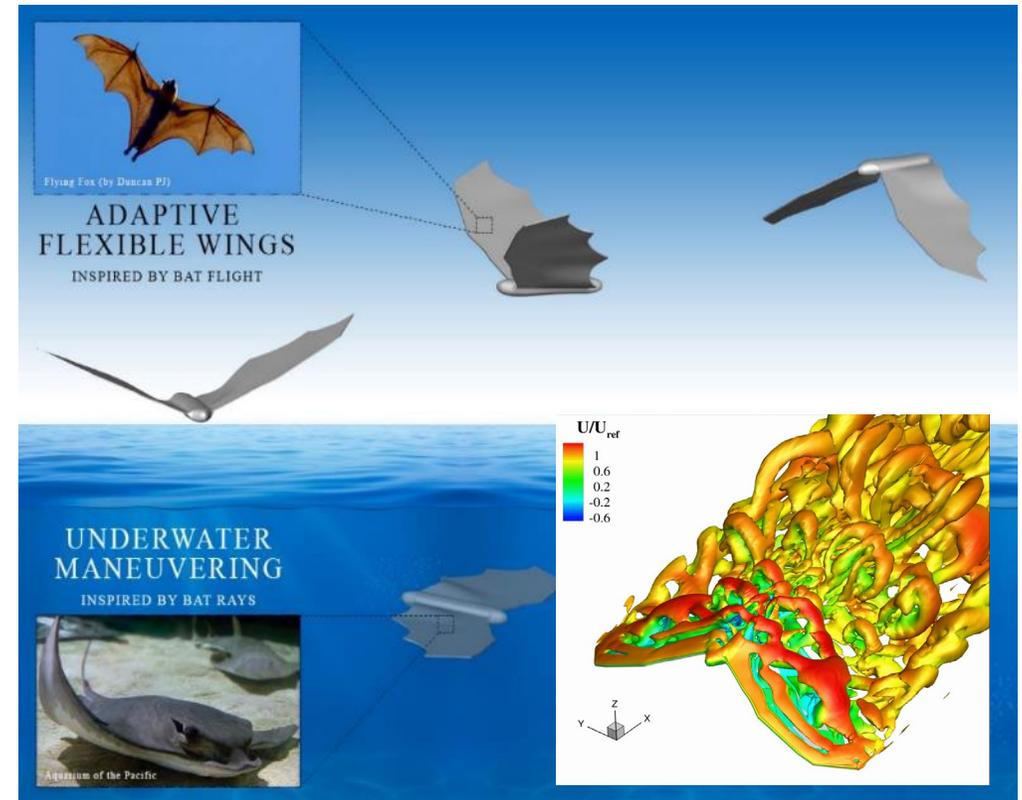
- ▶ Highly deformable structures interacting with fluid flow

❑ Unsteady Aero/Hydrodynamics

- ▶ Massively separated flow
- ▶ Low Reynolds numbers to transitional/turbulent flows

❑ Flow Control

- ▶ Adaptive feedback control
- ▶ Sensing and multifunctional materials
- ▶ Reduced order modeling
 - ◇ Computational intelligence
 - ◇ Neuroscience

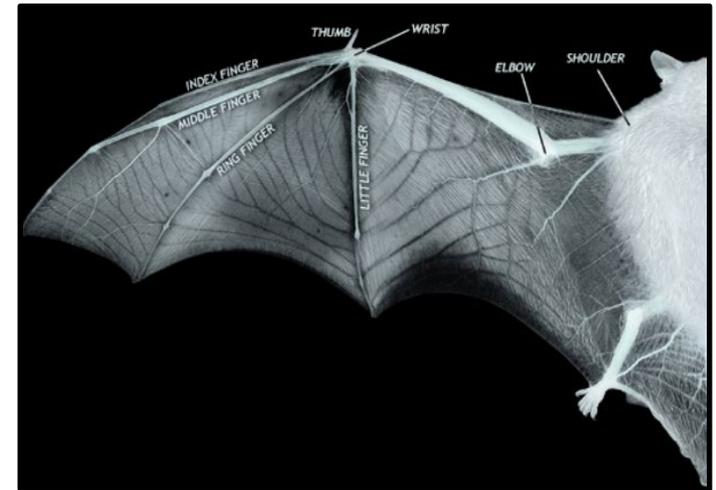


Concept of hybrid avian-aquatic vehicles and drones

Why Bat-Inspired Designs?

❑ Unique flight dynamics

- ▶ Multifunctional adaptive wing
- ▶ Membrane-like wing instead feathered: elastic fibers, muscles, blood vessels etc.
- ▶ Articulated kinematics: flexible bones and joints

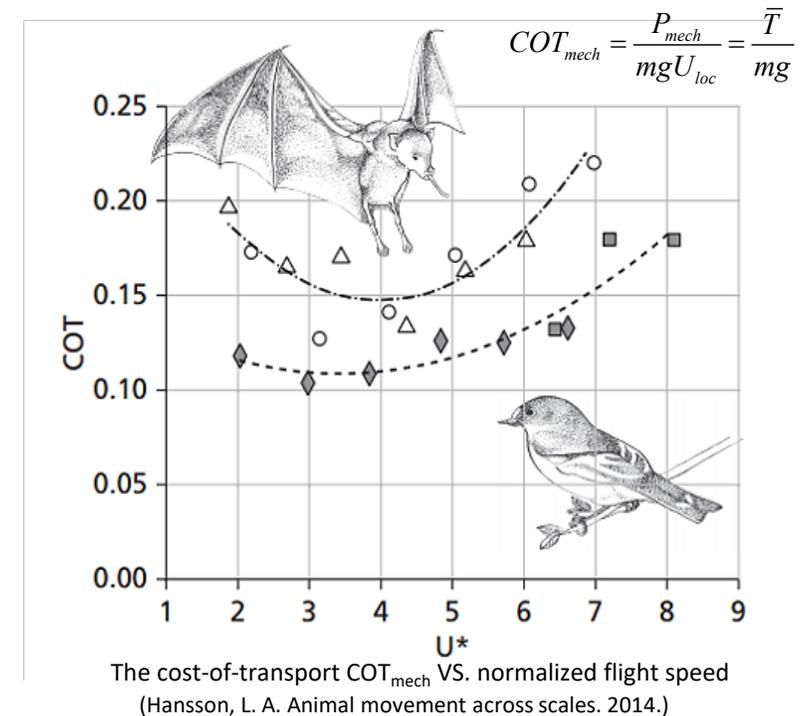


❑ Aerodynamic performance

- ▶ Adaptive to wind gusts
- ▶ Comparable cost of transport
- ▶ Favorable lift-to-drag ratio
- ▶ Low flight noise

❑ Maneuverability

- ▶ Active control for wing shape by muscles
- ▶ Complex kinematic behaviors



Modeling of a Bat-Inspired Wing

Complex Flexible Multibody Structure

□ Wing Flexibility

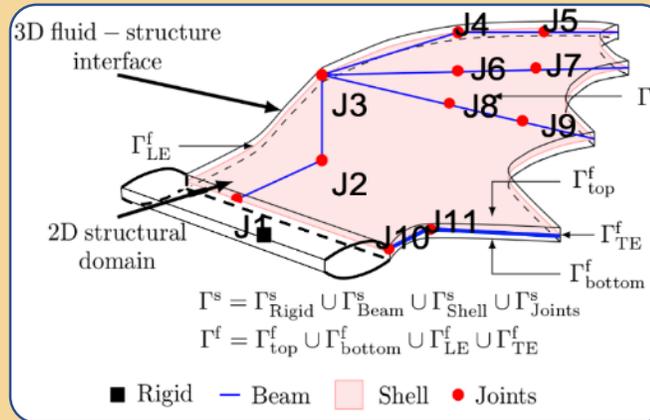
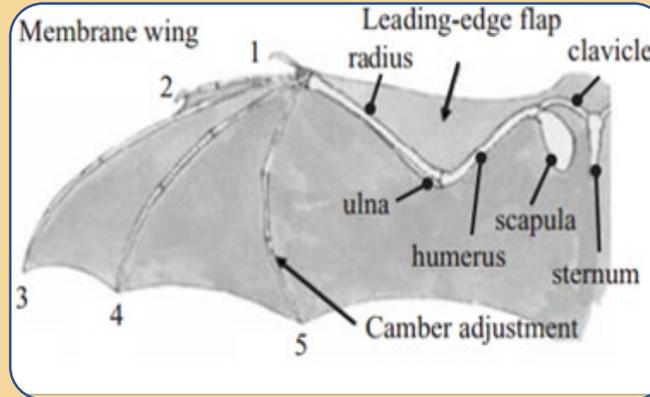
- ▶ Benefit of delayed stall and attached leading edge vortex

□ Adaptive Wing-Span

- ▶ Induced drag reduction and increased agility

□ Articulated Kinematics

- ▶ Dynamic wing conformations with 40+ active and passive joints



Displacement,
Motion



Fluid

(Aerodynamics)

Flow structures

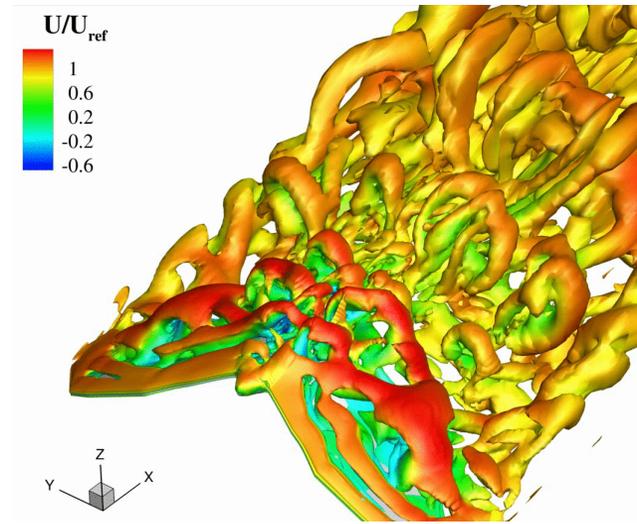
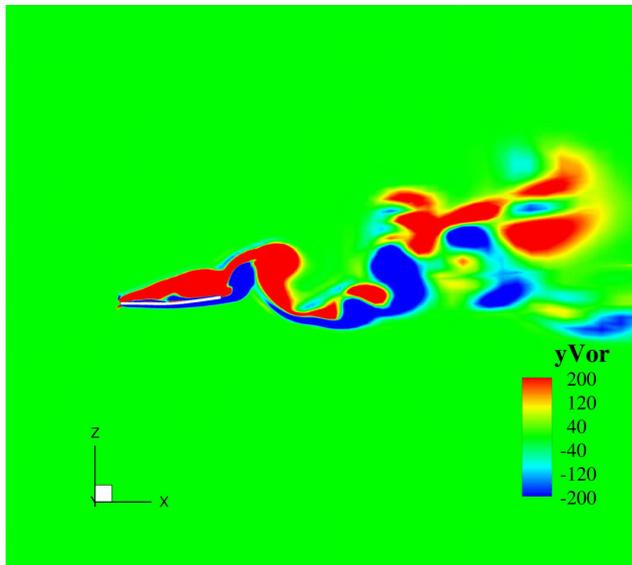
Vorticity and pressure
distributions

Traction

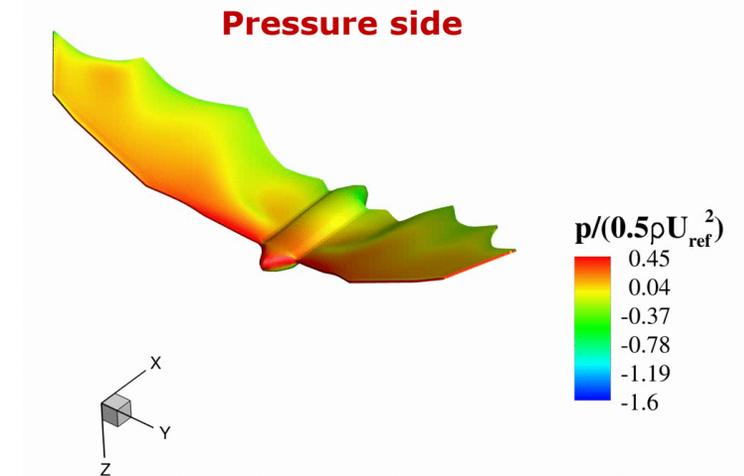
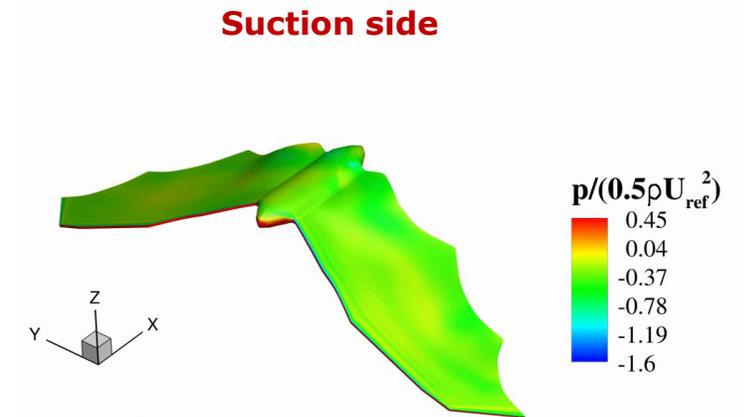


Forward Flight: Full-Scale Bat Model

- ❑ 15% increase in mean lift compared to the stationary wing
- ❑ More freedom of movement due to the multibody system
- ❑ Large deformation leads to high unsteady lift

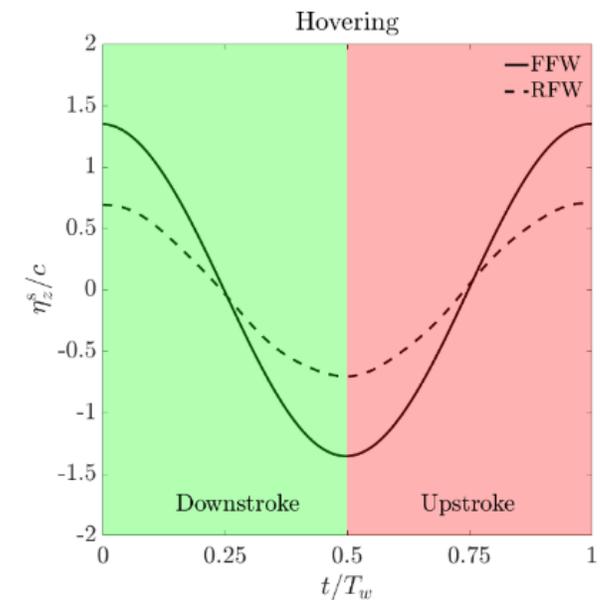
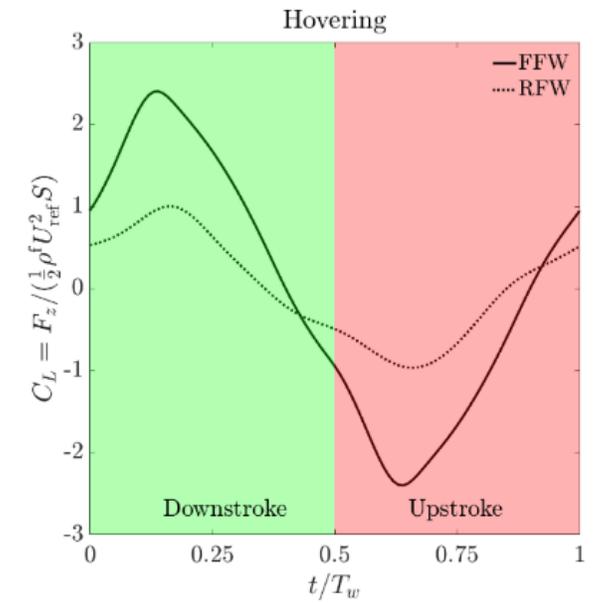
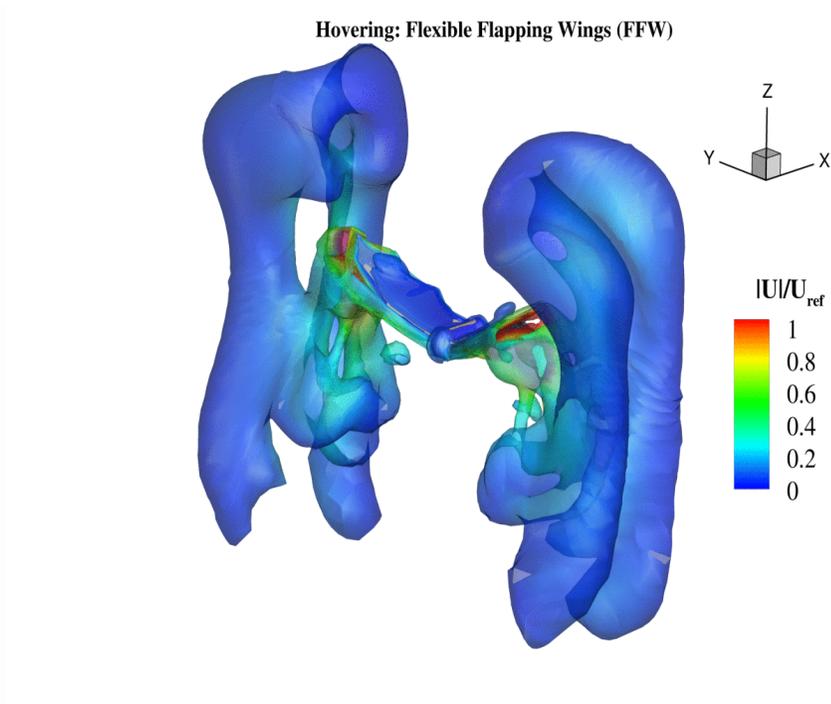
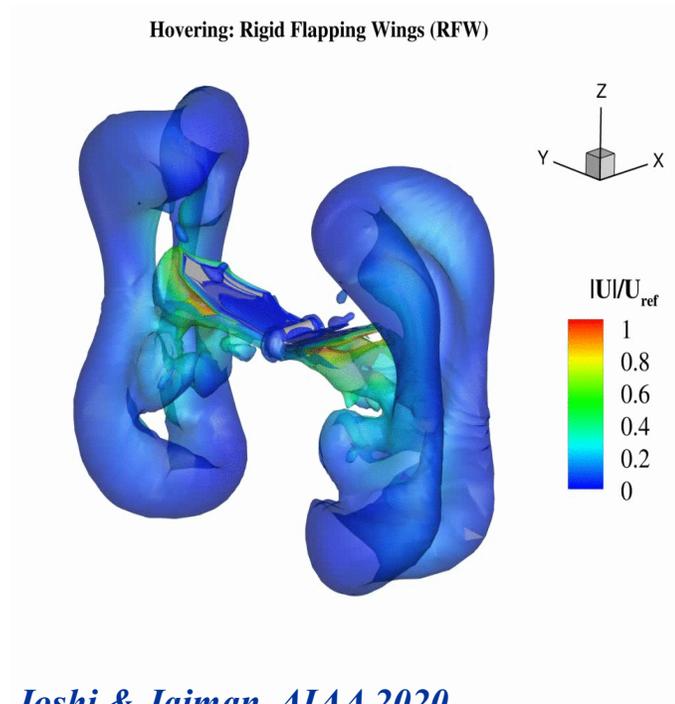


Vortex structures represented by Q-criterion colored by normalized streamwise velocity



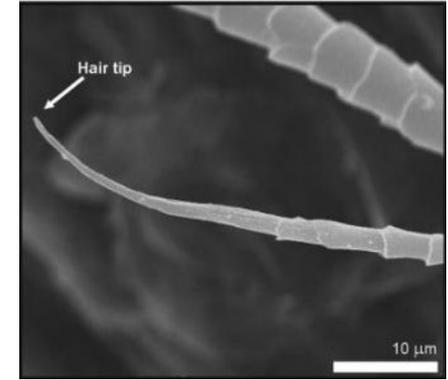
Hovering Bat: Vortex dynamics

- Maximum unsteady lift increased by about 137% for the flexible wing during downstroke
 - ▶ Increasing flexibility of the wing improves aerodynamic performance

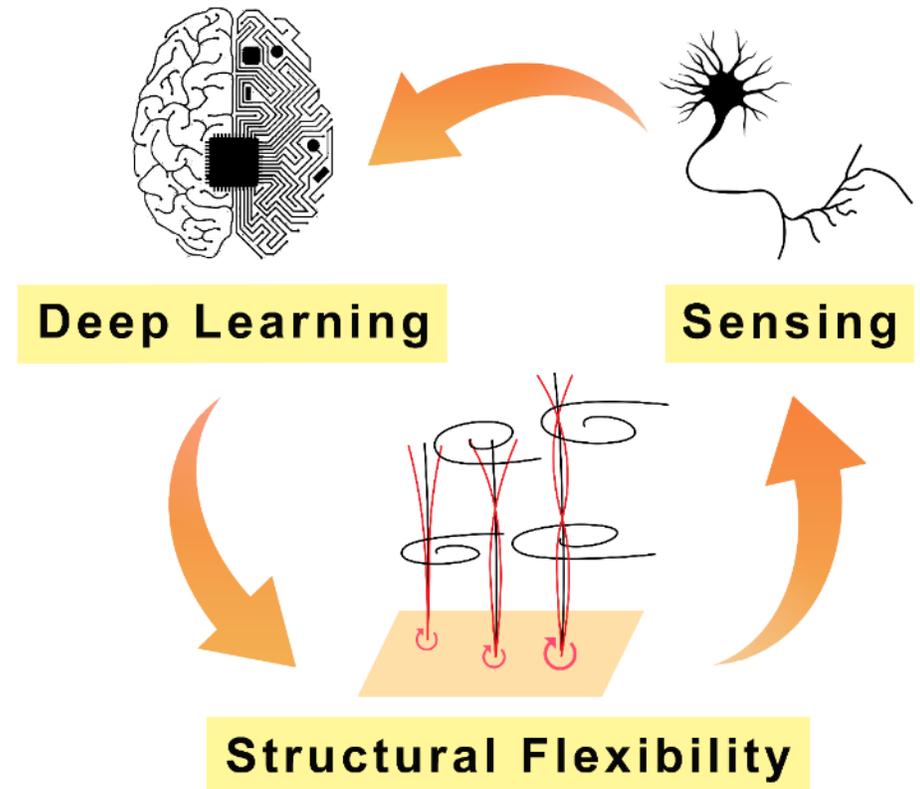


Powered Flight in Bats: Role of Sensory Receptors in Wings

- ❑ Rapid integration of sensory inputs enable bats to make split-second flight control adjustments
 - ▶ Hairy-like sensory receptors in bat wings send information about airflow to neurons in the brain
- ❑ A physics-based digital twin
 - ▶ Emulate the biomechanical behavior of hairy-like structures in bat wings during flight
 - ▶ Importance in design of agile aircraft that maneuver through complex environments

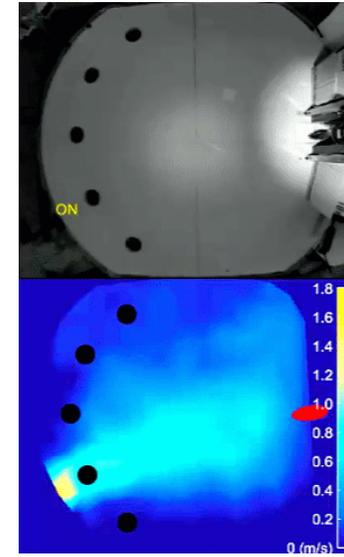


Sterbing-D'Angelo et al., J Neurophysiol. 2017

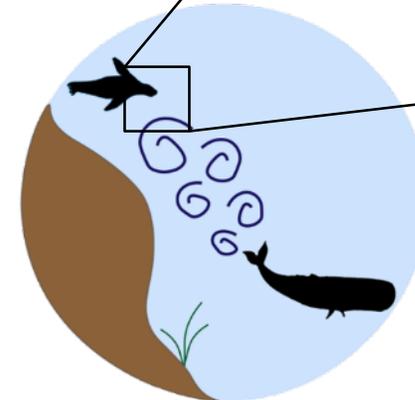
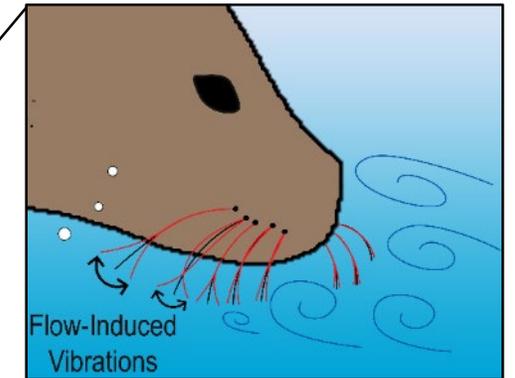
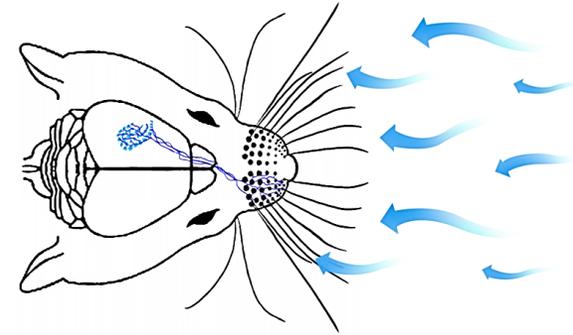


Aerodynamic Perception and Sensing in mammals

- ❑ Whiskers facilitate wind-sensing and prey detection in some mammals such as rats and seals
 - ▶ Flow detection and localization through flow-induced vibrations
- ❑ Fluid-structure interaction of whiskers in fluid flow
 - ▶ Large-amplitude vibrations at laminar flows
- ❑ Flow-sensing devices inspired by whiskers
 - ▶ Application in robotics, flying vehicles, etc.

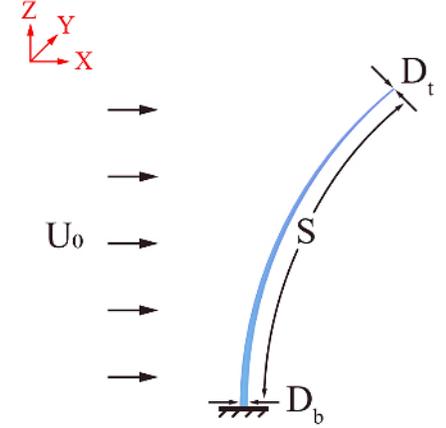


Yu et al., 2016



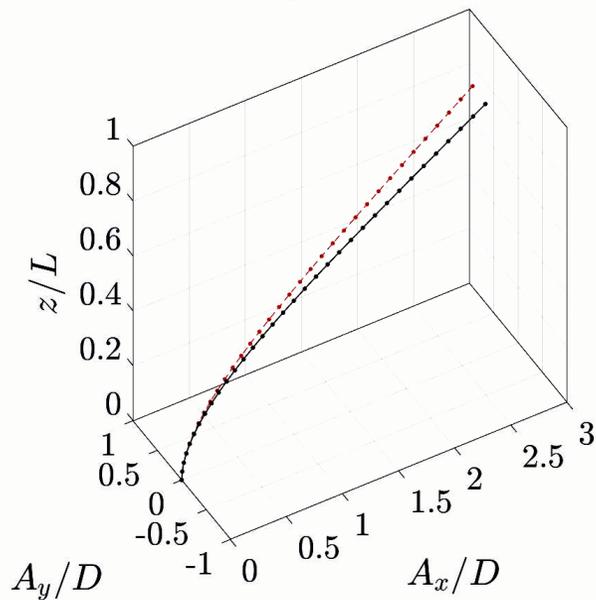
Dynamics of Whiskers in Fluid Flow

- Whiskers have a tapered conical geometry
 - ▶ Aspect ratio $50 < S/D_b < 500$
- Resonance in natural modes of vibrations



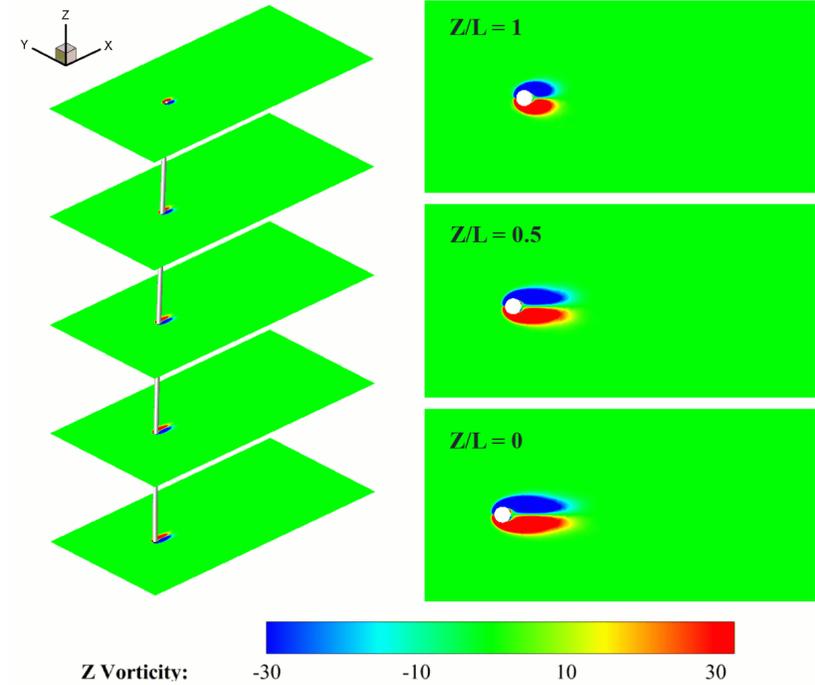
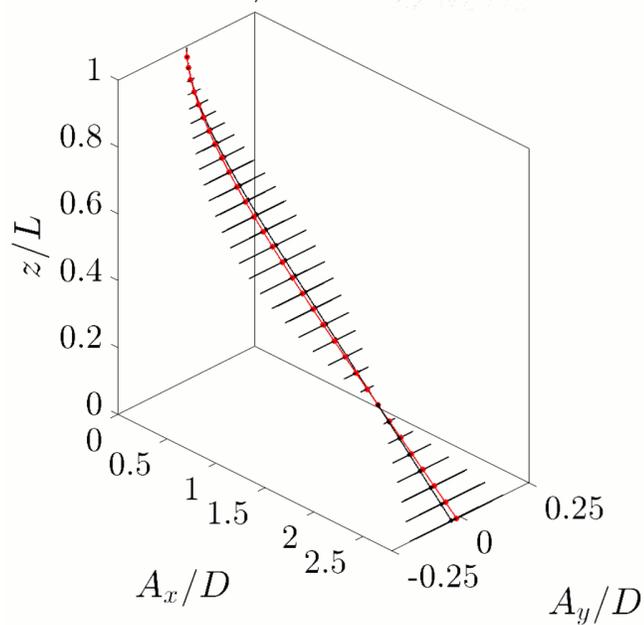
Resonance in First Mode

$tU_0/D = 198.7$



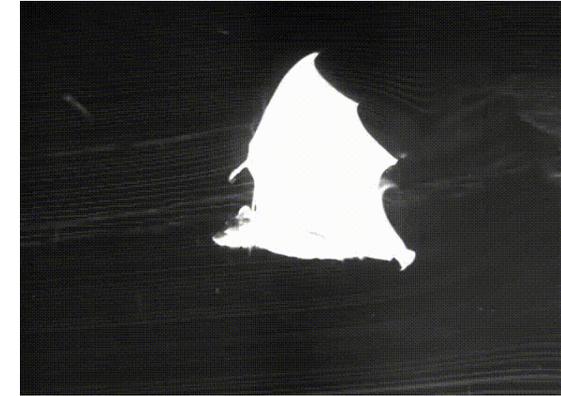
Resonance in Second Mode

$tU_0/D = 7801.3$

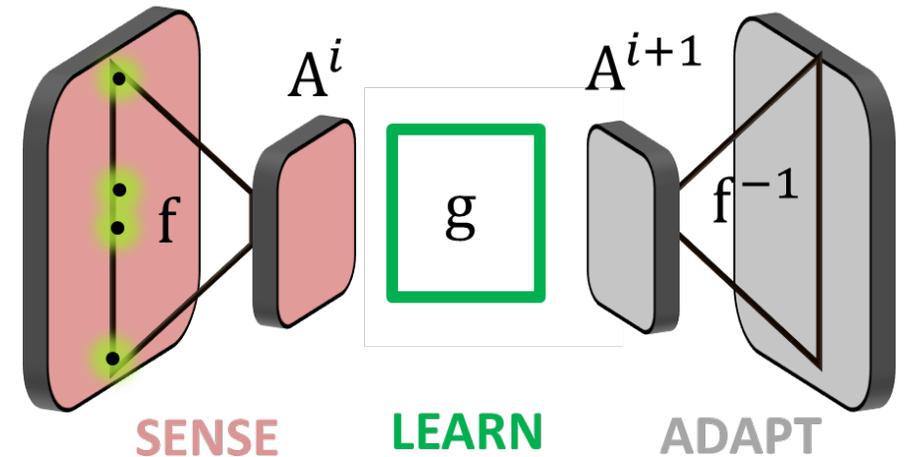


Enhancing Aeromechanics via AI/Machine Learning

- ❑ Data-driven computing for real-time predictions of multiphysics and multiphase systems for flying vehicles
- ❑ Can we find useful features or embedding functions in low-dimension, then make inference and predictions from datasets?
 - ▶ Separation of spatial-temporal scales
 - ▶ Composition of feature maps with hierarchical importance



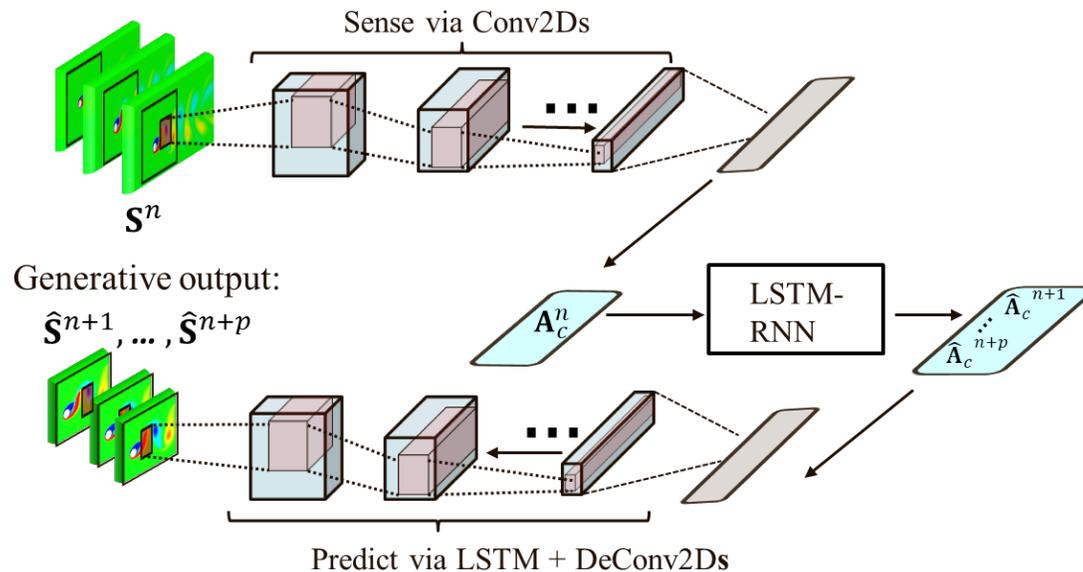
Breuer & Swartz (Brown University)



f = Reduced model
 g = Deep Learning

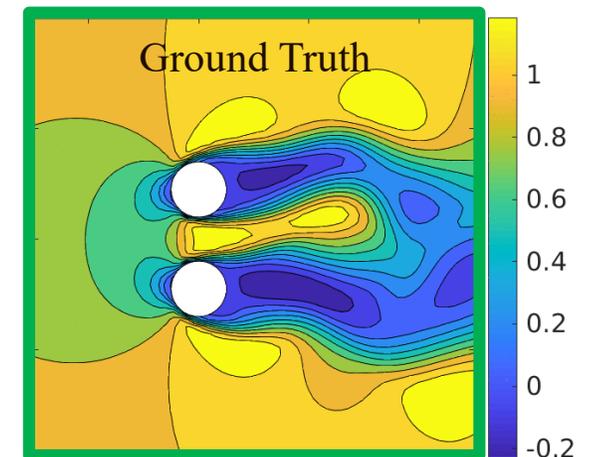
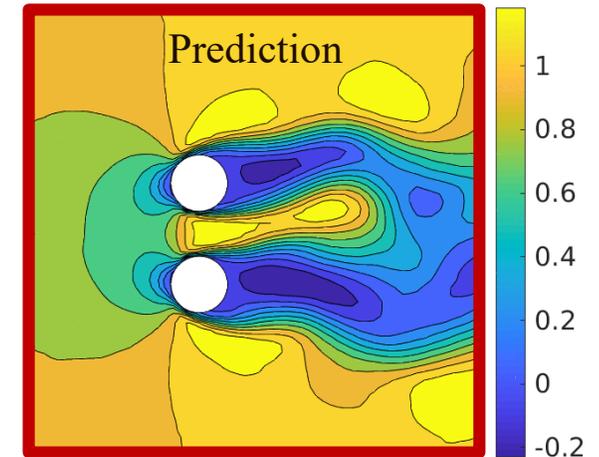
Deep Learning-based Reduced Order Model (DL-ROM) for Aerodynamic Predictions

- DL-ROM: Convolution Recurrent Autoencoder Net (CRAN)
 - ▶ Automatic ROM/feature detection using autoencoders
 - ▶ Nonlinear generalization of Galerkin-ROMs



CRAN-based solvers scalable to moving boundaries and 3D flows

Bistable flows

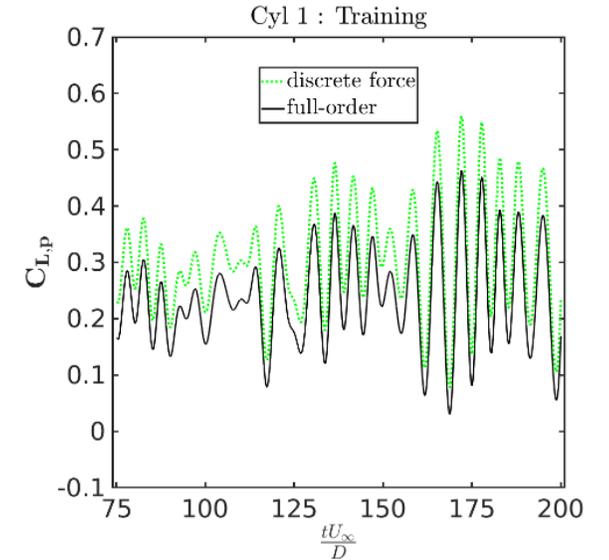
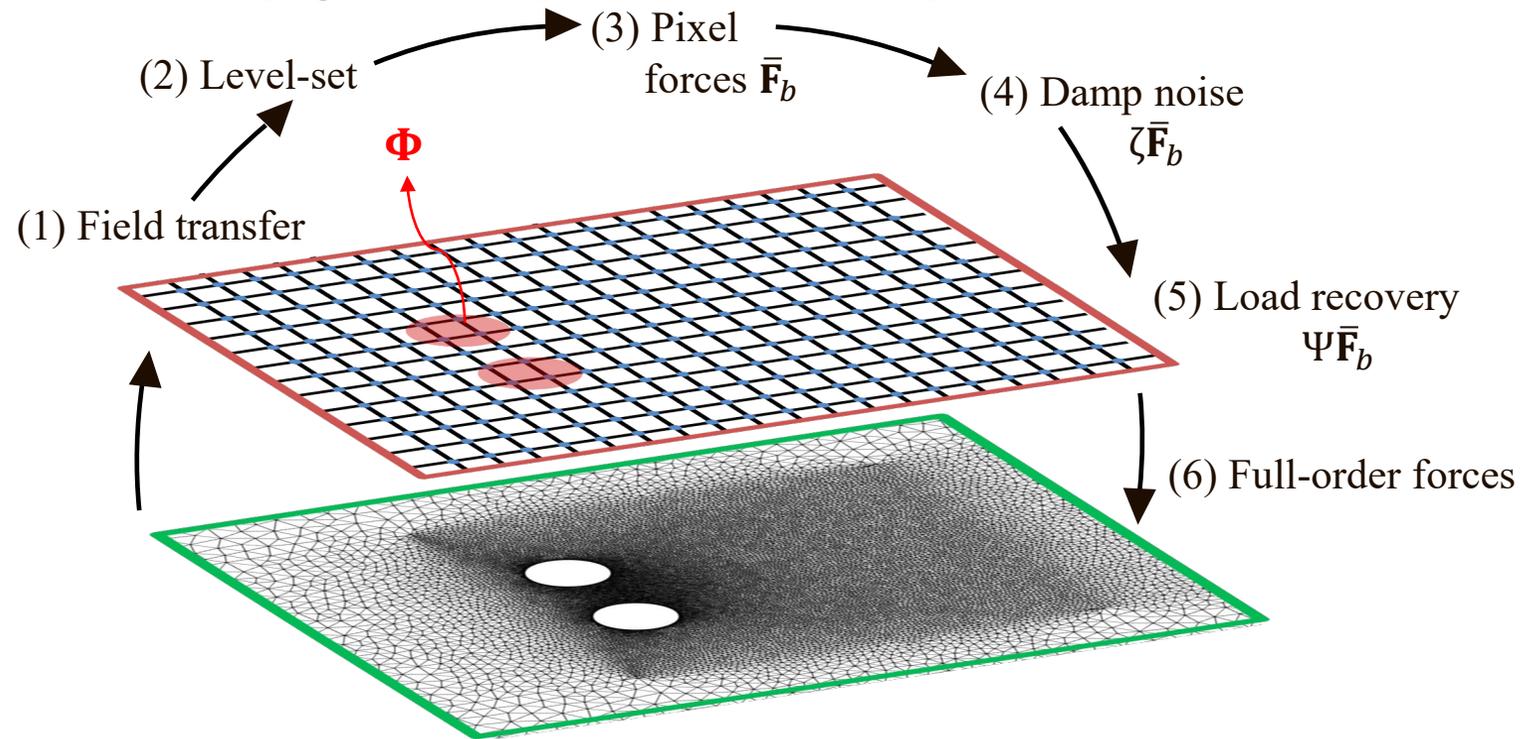


Bukka, Gupta & Jaiman, POF 2021

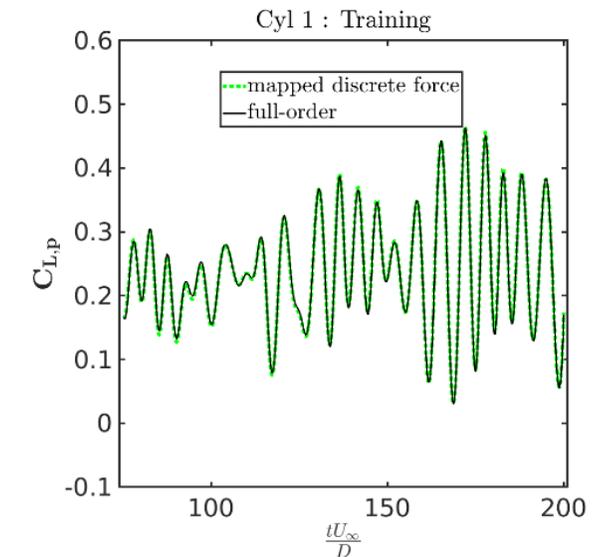
Unstructured to Structured Grids

□ Mesh-to-mesh field transfer & interface force recovery

- ▶ CFD unstructured mesh complexities is overcome in neural networks
- ▶ Preserving interface description from sensor data for arbitrary geometry and boundary conditions

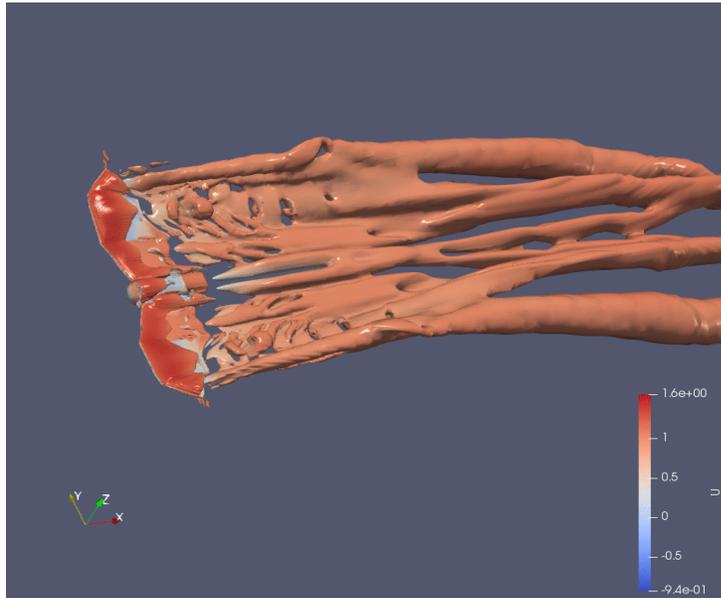


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Generalized Deep Learning for Fluid-Structure Coupling

□ Partitioned full-order FSI solver

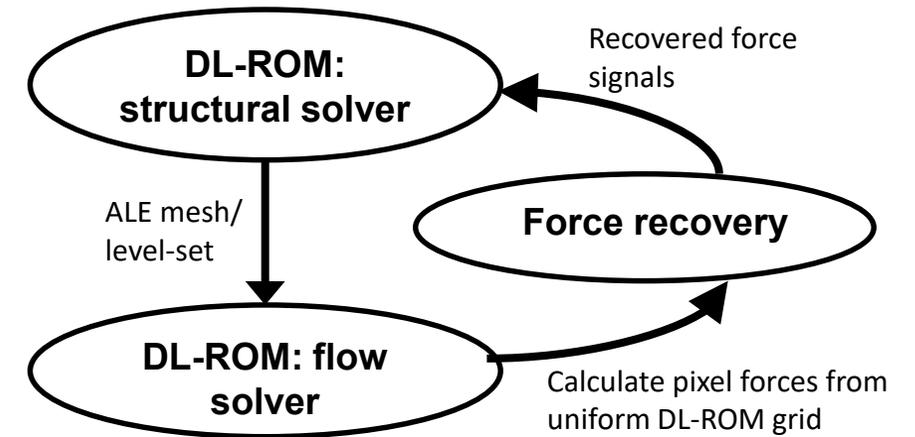


Point cloud displacements



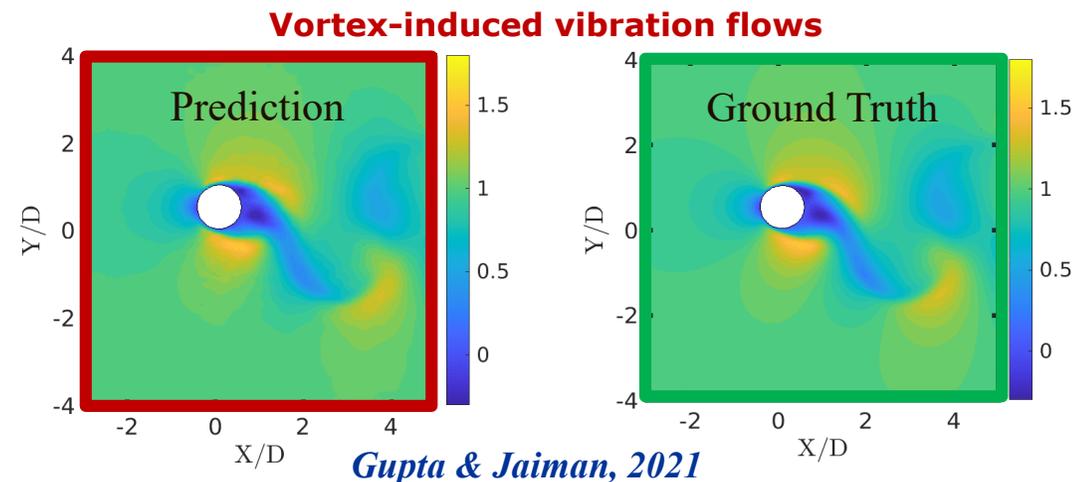
Flow field snapshots

□ Partitioned DL FSI solver



□ Partitioned DL-ROMs for FSI

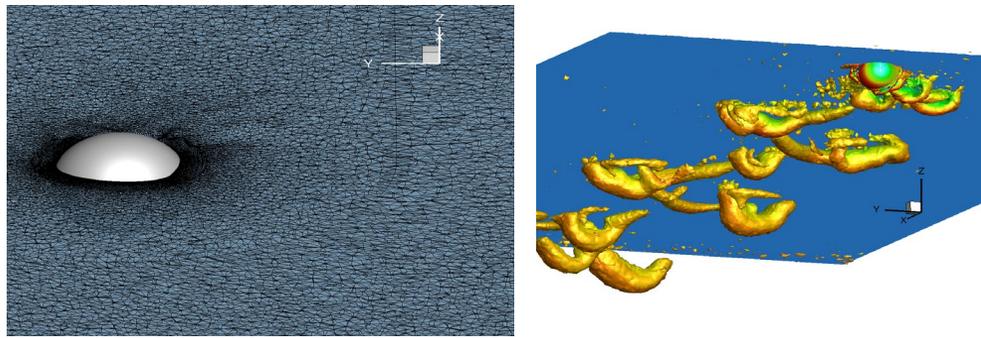
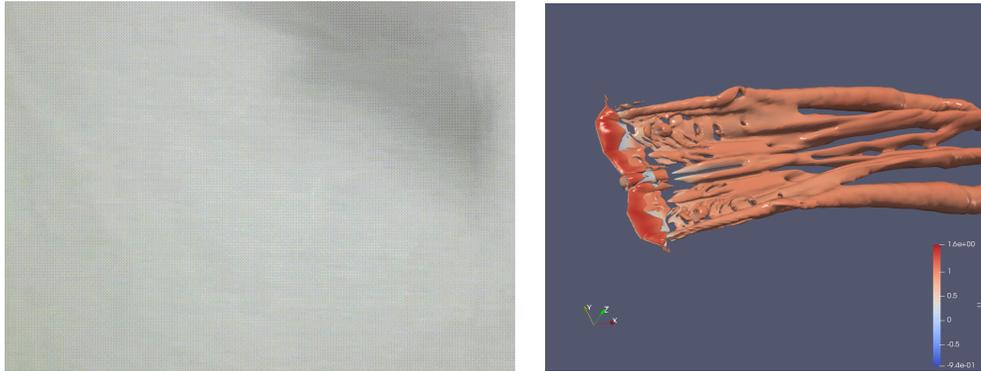
- ▶ Decouple structural and fluid flow representations
- ▶ Modular learning of two physical fields



Bio-inspired Designs and Feedback Control

□ High-fidelity model

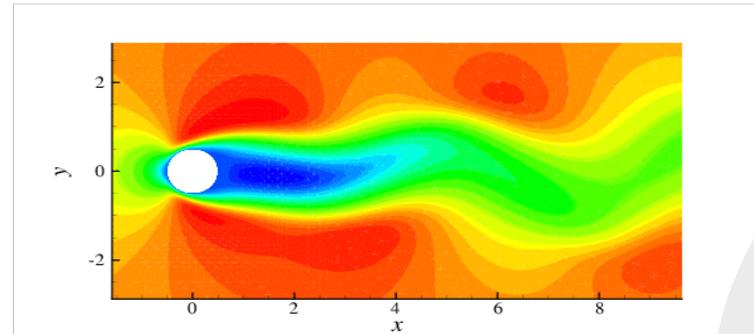
- ▶ Validation study
- ▶ Physical understanding
- ▶ Ground truth data



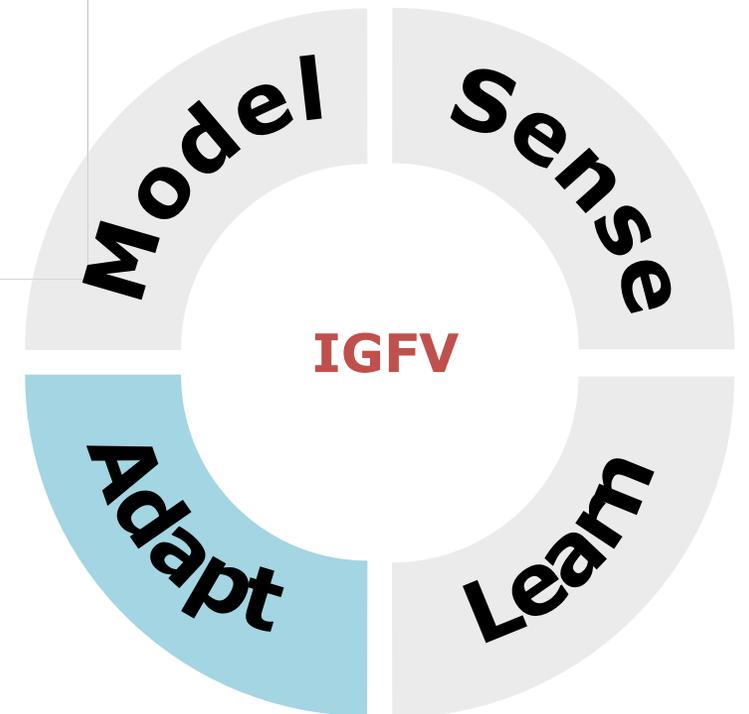
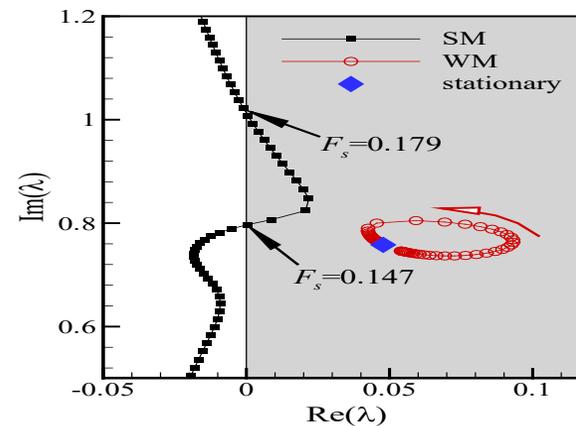
Chizfahm & Jaiman, JFS 2021

□ Reduced-order model

- ▶ Stability analysis
- ▶ Online control strategies
- ▶ Parameter space exploration

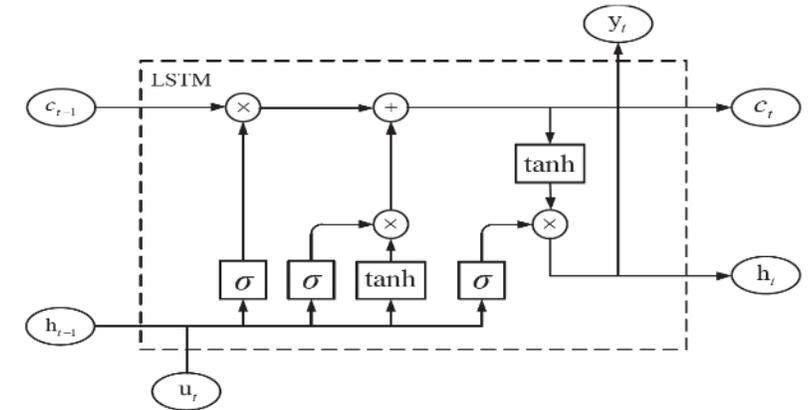
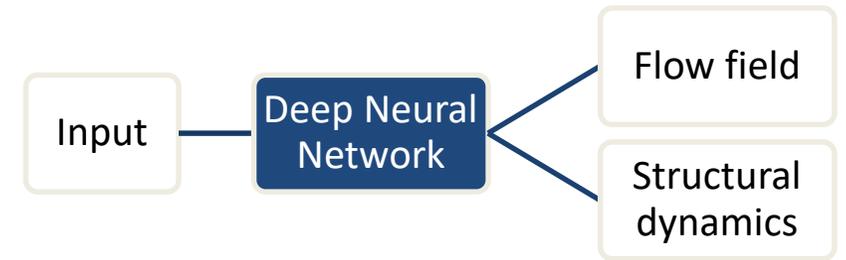


Yao and Jaiman, JFM 2017

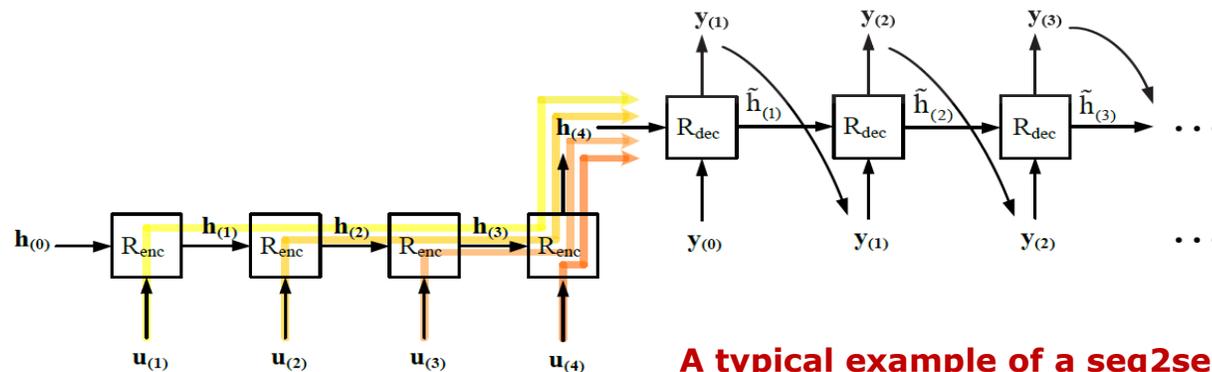


Deep Learning for Control

- ❑ Data-driven approximations via deep learning
 - ▶ Describing and modeling nonlinear systems
- ❑ RNN-LSTM can be easily adapted for a time series forecast problem and suitable for control systems.
- ❑ Encoder-Decoder (ENC-DEC) networks are a particular variant of RNN



Cell structure of long short-term memory network (LSTM)



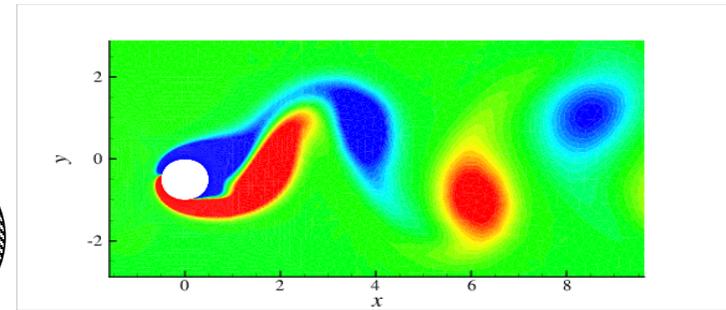
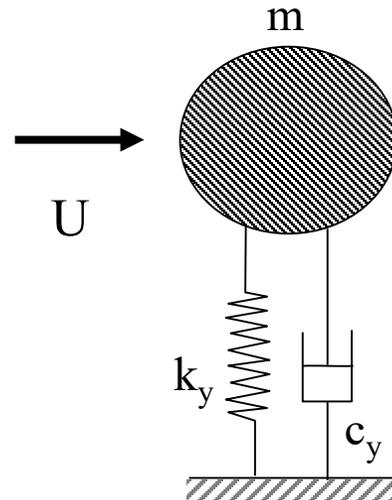
A typical example of a seq2seq architecture with an RNN encoder-decoder

Deep Learning for Stability Prediction and Adaptation

- LSTM network is applied to construct nonlinear DL-based ROM
 - ▶ Coupled nonlinear state-space model (NLSS)

$$\mathbf{x}_{fs}(t+1) = \mathbf{A}_{fs} \mathbf{x}_{fs}(t)$$

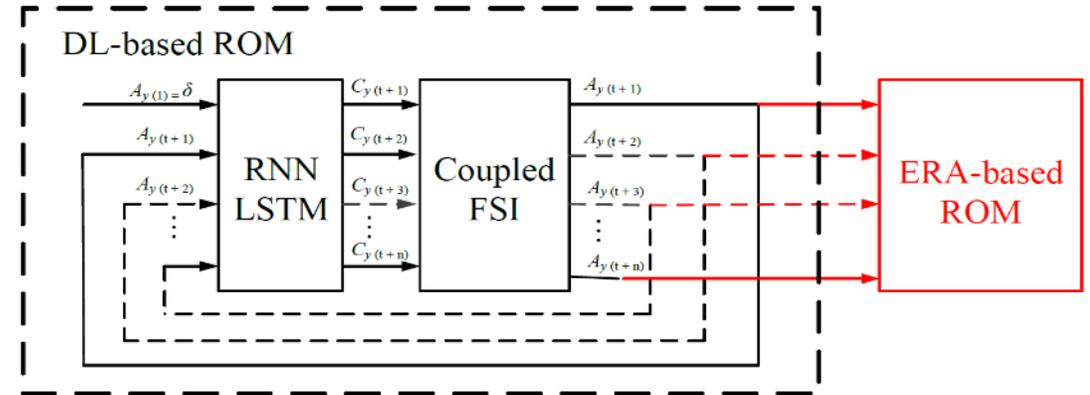
- ▶ Stability predictions
- ▶ Parameter space exploration
- ▶ Online adaptation and control



$$\lambda = \log(\text{eig}(A_{sf})) / \Delta t$$

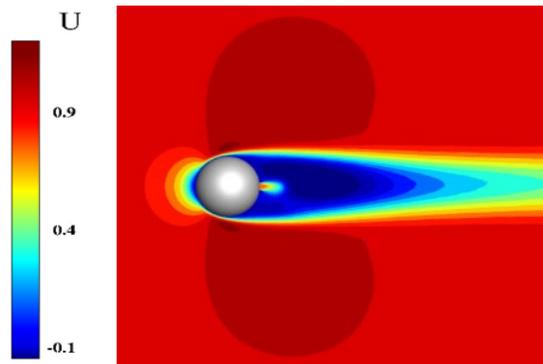
$$\text{Reduced velocity: } U^* = \frac{U}{f_N D} = \frac{1}{F_s}$$

$$\text{Mass ratio: } m^* = \frac{m}{\rho \pi D^2}$$



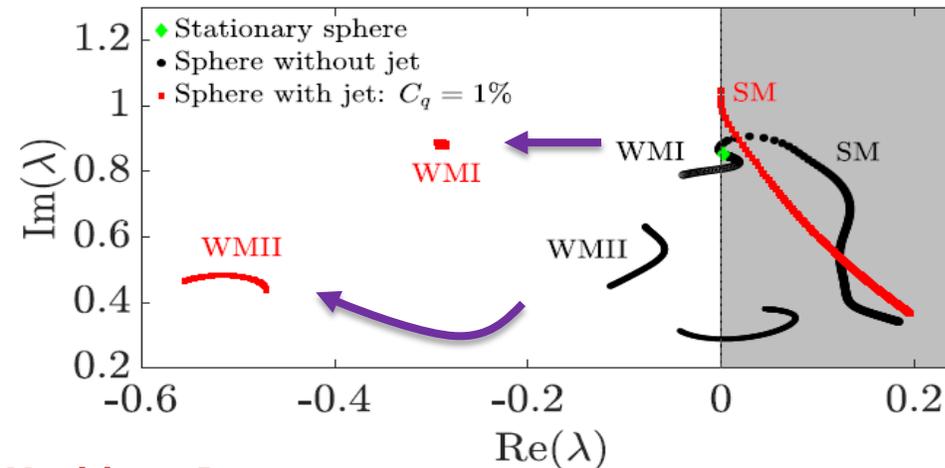
Reduced-Order Models for Active Near-Wake Jet Control

- Active control strategy to attenuate unsteady aerodynamics

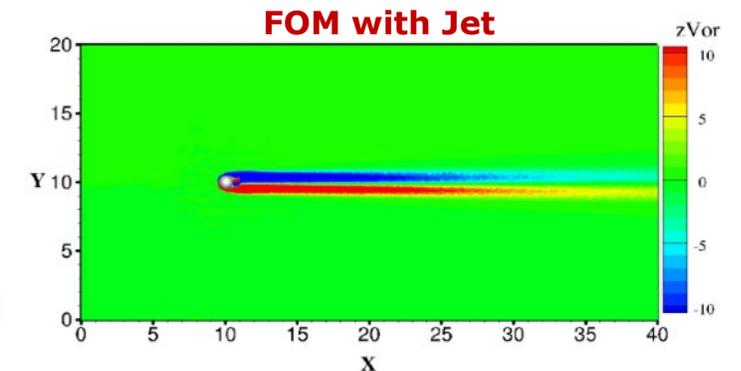
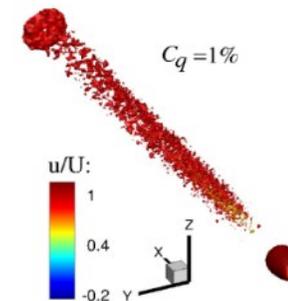
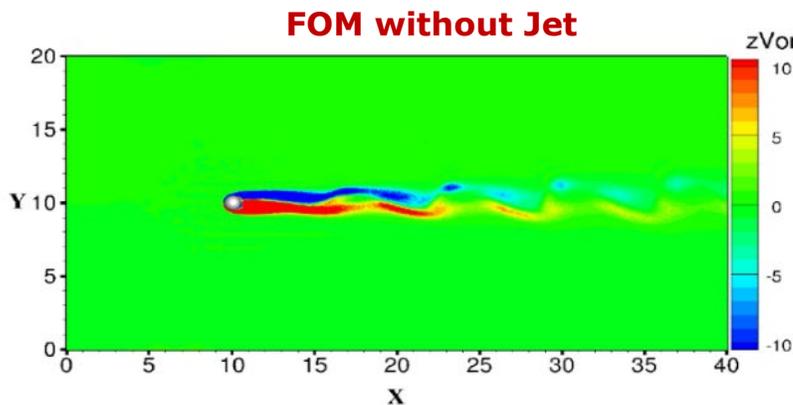
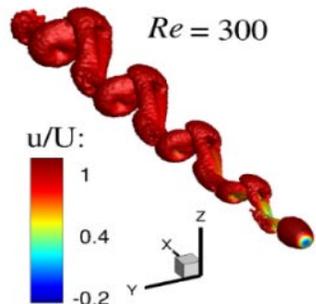


Chizfahm & Jaiman, POF 2021

Reduced Model: Eigenvalue distribution

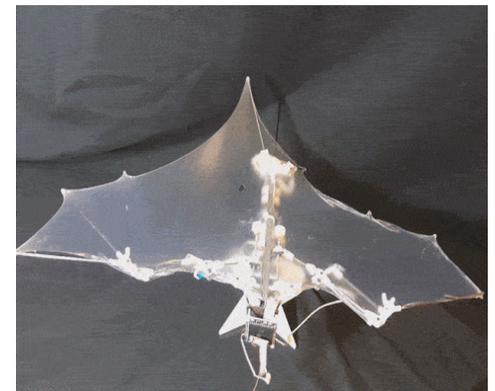
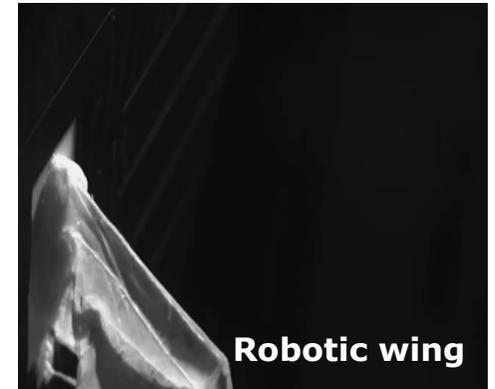
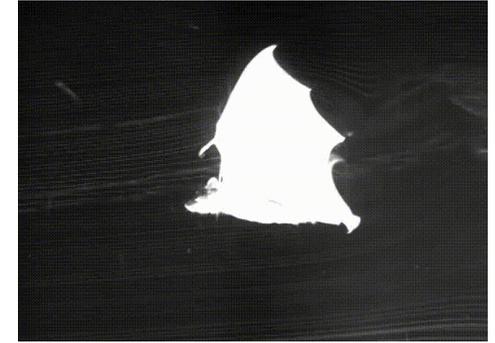


Just a tiny jet flow ($C_q=1\%$) can suppress unsteady aerodynamics completely!



Summary and Barriers

- ❑ Flexible multibody fluid-structure interaction
 - ▶ Flexibility of structures (i.e., wing morphing) can drive a new revolution in aerospace engineering
 - ▶ Natural flyers (birds and bats) can offer design solutions to engineers
- ❑ Automation and control
 - ▶ Reduced order modeling
 - ▶ Sensing and control of aeroelastic modes of interest
 - ▶ Physics-based articulatory motion synthesizer
- ❑ Manufacturing and fabrication
 - ▶ Complex muscular hydrostats and tissue structures
 - ▶ Material characterization and biomechanics



Thank you for your attention!