# System Identification and Models for Flight Control





Steve Brunton and Clancy Rowley Princeton University FAA/JUP Meeting October 7, 2010



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### 1. Autopilot



2. Flight Simulators



- a. small, agile UAV
- b. severe weather
- c. wake vorticity
- d. cheaper than full CFD to compute aerodynamic response of airframe
- e. necessary when using for onboard control



### 2. Flight Control

- a. Stability augmentation
- b. Control augmentation
- c. 6DOF inertial model
- d. Coupled aerodynamic model
- e. Interesting control problem when inertial/aerodynamic timescales are close







### 2.7.2.2 Unmanned Aircraft Systems

UAS operations are some of the most demanding operations in NextGen. UAS operations include scheduled and on-demand flights for a variety of civil, military, and state missions.

Because of the range of operational uses, UAS operators may require access to all NextGen airspace. ...

### 2.7.2.3 Vertical Flight

... Rotorcraft are also used for UAS applications for commercial, police, and security operations. These operations add to the density and complexity of operations, particularly in and around urban areas.

### 3.3.1.2.3 Integrated Environmental Operations

UAS performing security functions and the airport perimeter security intrusion detection system may have the capability to assist with wildlife management programs.

### **5.3.3 Weather Information Enterprise Services**

• Enterprise Service 3: UASs Are Used for Weather Reconnaissance. [R-169] En route weather reconnaissance UASs are equipped to collect and report in-flight weather data. Specialized weather reconnaissance UASs are used to scout potential flight routes and trajectories to identify available "weather-favorable" airspace...



## **UAV** Challenges





Shadow (Aerocam)

### **UAVs and NextGen:**

May require access to all NextGen airspace

Civil, military and state missions

**Mobile communications relays** 

Security/Policing

Weather reconnaissance

and much more ...

### Safety Hazards:

Extremely light, very difficult to control in high crosswinds

No human failsafes

Especially dangerous in takeoff and landing

"... 65 of the 195 Predators the Air Force has acquired since 1994 had been lost because of Class A mishaps."

"... 36% were attributed to human error. And 15% of the accidents occurred during landing"

Government Computer News (Oct. 9, 2009)



**Predator (General Atomics)** 



## Wind Disturbances



#### Free air turbulence



### Wake vorticity



(Slides and history courtesy of Rob Stengel)

### Wind rotors



#### **Microburst wind shear**



**Safety Hazards:** Landing and takeoff (congestion during storms, takeoff waiting lines)

**Especially problematic for lightweight UAVs** 





### Goal: Pilot flies real aircraft for 5-10 minutes, and reduced order aerodynamic model is automatically generated.

Not specific to unsteady aerodynamics

Physics based, generalizable to nonlinear affects, such as wake vorticity, turbulence, etc.





### FLYIT Simulators, Inc. The New Standard in Aviation Training















# Wagner's Indicial Response

Given  $y^{\delta}(t)$  for an impulse response  $u = \delta(t)$ , The response to an arbitrary input u(t)is given by linear superposition

$$y(t) = y^{\delta}(t)u(0) + \int_0^t y^{\delta}(t-\tau)u(\tau)d\tau$$

In particular, input is pitch rate, and output is lift coefficient:

$$u = \dot{\alpha}$$

$$y = C_L$$

Wagner, 1925.

Leishman, 2006.

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# (Indicial) Step Response











I. Gather outputs  $y(k) = CA^k B$  from an impulse-response experiment, and arrange into Hankel matrices:

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} CB & CAB & \cdots & CA^{m_c}B \\ CAB & CA^2B & \cdots & CA^{m_c+1}B \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ CA^{m_o}B & CA^{m_o+1}B & \cdots & CA^{m_c+m_o}B \end{bmatrix} \qquad H' = \begin{bmatrix} CAB & CA^2B & \cdots & CA^{m_c+1}B \\ CA^2B & CA^3B & \cdots & CA^{m_c+2}B \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ CA^{m_o+1}B & CA^{m_o+2}B & \cdots & CA^{m_c+m_o+1}B \end{bmatrix}$$

2. Compute the singular value decomposition of H:

$$H = U\Sigma V^* = \begin{bmatrix} U_1 & U_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_1^* \\ V_2^* \end{bmatrix} = U_1 \Sigma_1 V_1^*$$

 $B_r = \text{ first } p \text{ columns of } \Sigma_r^{1/2} V_1^*$ 

 $C_r = \text{ first } q \text{ rows of } U_r \Sigma_r^{1/2}$ 

3. Let  $\Sigma_r$  be the first  $r \times r$  block of  $\Sigma_1$  and  $U_r, V_r$  the first r columns of  $U_1, V_1$ so that the reduced order model  $A_r, B_r, C_r$  is given by:  $A_r = \Sigma_r^{-1/2} U_r^* H' V_r \Sigma_r^{-1/2}$ 

Juang and Pappa, J. Guid. Contr. Dyn., 8:5, 1985.

Ma, Z., Ahuja, S., and C. Rowley, Theor. Comput. Fluid. Dyn., to appear.

## Recently shown to yield reduced order models equivalent to those obtained through Balanced Proper Orthogonal Decomposition

**ERA Model** 





$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \alpha \\ \dot{\alpha} \end{bmatrix}_{k+1} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{\text{ERA}} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \Delta t \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \alpha \\ \dot{\alpha} \end{bmatrix}_{k} + \begin{bmatrix} B_{\text{ERA}} \\ 0 \\ \Delta t \end{bmatrix}_{\text{input}} \ddot{\alpha}_{k}$$

$$C_{L}(k\Delta t) = \begin{bmatrix} C_{\text{ERA}} & C_{L_{\alpha}} & C_{L_{\dot{\alpha}}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \alpha \\ \dot{\alpha} \end{bmatrix}_{k} + D_{\text{ERA}} \ddot{\alpha}_{k}$$
**ERA Model**

$$(\text{quasi-steady plus added-mass contribution})$$

$$(\text{additional fast dynamics})$$







### **Canonical Maneuver**

M. Ol, J. Eldredge et al, 48th AIAA ASM, 2010.

Developed to compare models, simulations and experiments

Qualitatively similar for range of Reynolds numbers from 300 - 40k

- I. Pitch-up to  $45^{\circ}$
- **2.** Hold at  $45^{\circ}$
- 3. Pitch-down to  $0^{\circ}$

### Leading-edge pitch-ramp maneuver

Large added-mass forces appear as spikes

Reduced order ERA model captures unsteady lift







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## Pitching at Quarter Chord













### 2. Advantages

- a. More accurate than Quasi-steady
- b. More accurate than Theodorsen
- c. Efficient
- d. ODE framework ideal for control
- e. Fits naturally into fight dynamic framework







# Flight Dynamic Model





Interesting control scenario when time-scales of flight dynamics are close to time-scales of aerodynamics







![](_page_23_Picture_0.jpeg)

## Next Step

![](_page_23_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Picture_3.jpeg)

**DISTURBANCE:** Gust Field

**INPUT:** Flaperon

**INPUT: Elevator** 

![](_page_24_Figure_0.jpeg)

## **Moving Base Flow**

![](_page_24_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Figure_3.jpeg)

Base flow velocity:

 $u(x, y, t) = U_{\infty} \cos(\alpha + \alpha_{\infty}) - \dot{x} - \dot{\alpha}(y - y_C)$  $v(x, y, t) = U_{\infty} \sin(\alpha + \alpha_{\infty}) - \dot{y} + \dot{\alpha}(x - x_C)$ 

Vorticity:

$$\nabla \times (u, v) = v_x - u_y = \dot{\alpha} + \dot{\alpha} = 2\dot{\alpha}$$

where  $(x_C, y_C)$  is the center of mass.

### **Moving Base Flow**

Faster simulations (Cholesky decomposition)

allows more aggressive maneuvers and gusts

#### subject of current research

### **Immersed Boundary Method**

T. Colonius and K. Taira, 2008

A fast immersed boundary method using a nullspace approach and multi-domain far-field boundary conditions.

![](_page_25_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Picture_2.jpeg)

Kornfeld, Hansman, and Deyst, ICAT-99-5, 1999.

![](_page_25_Figure_4.jpeg)

Figure 2.1: Classical Flight Control Loops

![](_page_26_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_2.jpeg)

Kornfeld, Hansman, and Deyst, ICAT-99-5, 1999.

![](_page_26_Figure_4.jpeg)

Figure 2.7: Single-Antenna GPS-Based Instrumentation Architecture