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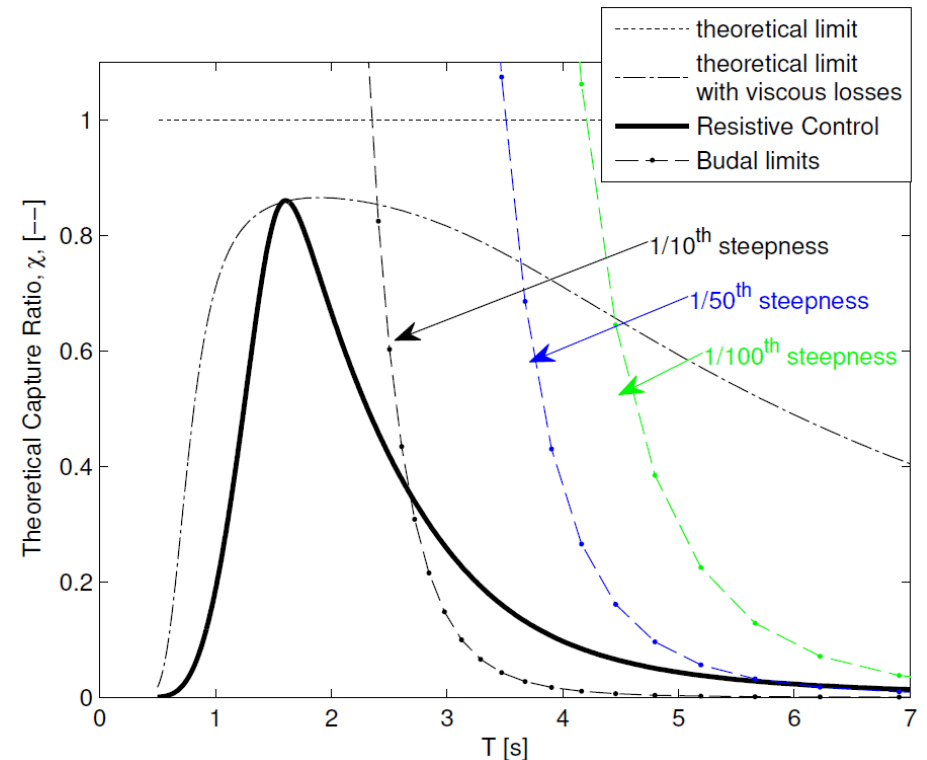
Photos placed in horizontal position
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between photos and header

A comparison of WEC control strategies for a linear WEC model

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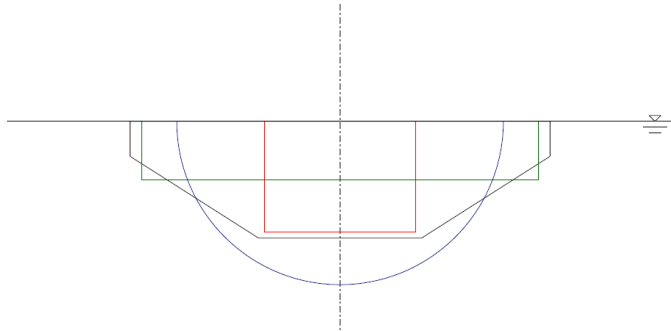
Advanced WEC Control

- Goal
 - What is the potential of control systems in WECs?
 - Validate the extent to which control strategies, given real world limitations, can increase the energy production of WEC devices.

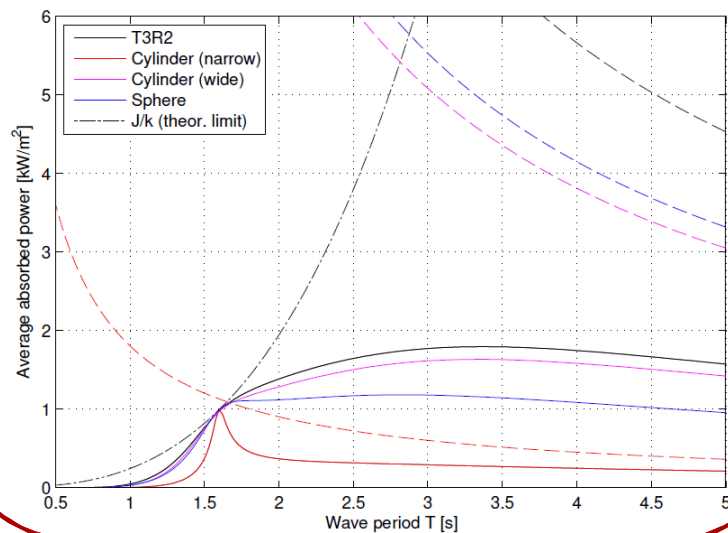


Buoy design

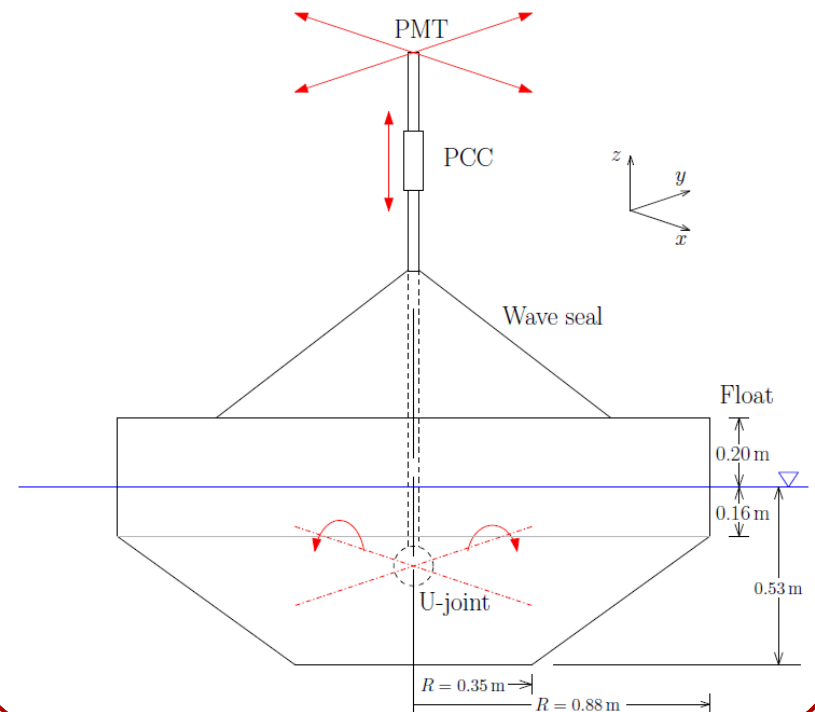
Axisymmetric shapes



Absorption: comparison

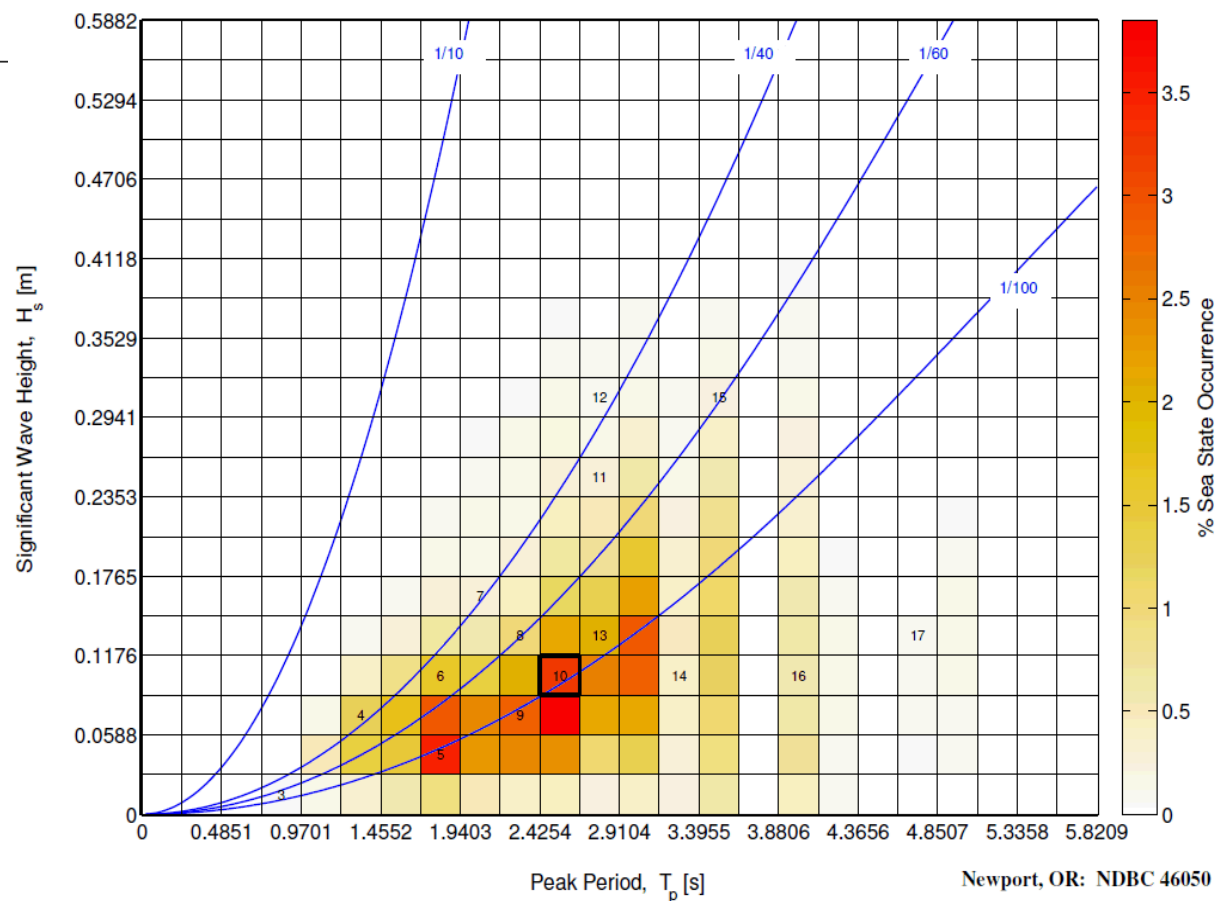


Final design



Sea states

Sea-State index	Peak period, T_p [s]	Significant wave height, H_s [m]
1	1.00	0.0247
2	1.00	0.0148
3	1.00	0.0370
4	1.53	0.0871
5	2.00	0.0594
6	2.05	0.1039
7	2.25	0.1875
8	2.50	0.1545
9	2.50	0.0927
10	2.58	0.1194
11	2.89	0.2523
12	3.00	0.3337
13	3.03	0.1363
14	3.46	0.1283
15	3.60	0.3195
16	4.02	0.1320
17	4.86	0.1617



Control Strategies

- Baseline (Resistive)
- Model Predictive Control (MPC)
- Dynamic Programming (DP)
- Shape Based (SB) Control
- Linear Quadratic (LQ) Control
- PDC3
- Latching

Model Predictive Control

- Optimization based control strategy
 - Can be computationally expensive
- The control signal is optimal for the predicted excitation force for a linear system.
 - Requires estimator/predictor
 - If the prediction is perfect, the control algorithm provides the maximum energy absorption
- The control algorithm is capable including constraints (motion, force) in the formulation of the optimization problem
- Requires PTO capable of generating reactive power
 - Requires energy storage

Dynamic Programming

- It can be implemented for nonlinear systems
- Optimization based control strategy
 - Computationally very expensive
- The control signal is optimal for the predicted excitation force for a linear system.
 - Requires estimator/predictor
 - If the prediction is perfect, the control algorithm provides the maximum energy absorption
- The control algorithm is capable including constraints (motion, force) in the formulation of the optimization problem
- Requires PTO capable of generating reactive power
 - Requires energy storage

Shape Based Control

- It can be implemented for nonlinear systems
- Optimization based control strategy
 - Computationally very expensive, but more efficient than DP
- The control signal is optimal for the predicted excitation force for a linear system.
 - Requires estimator/predictor
 - If the prediction is perfect, the control algorithm provides the maximum energy absorption
- The control algorithm is capable including constraints (motion, force) in the formulation of the optimization problem
- Requires PTO capable of generating reactive power
 - Requires energy storage

Linear Quadratic Control

- Pure feedback control strategy
 - Computationally inexpensive (matrix multiplication)
 - Optimal feedback gain is obtained by offline optimization
- Linear WEC model
- LQ feedback control is well known for good properties (stability, robustness to parameters uncertainty,...)
- Requires PTO capable of generating reactive power
 - Requires energy storage
- NOT capable of dealing with constraints

- Potential to demonstrate actual realization of CC control design
 - Implementation will be fundamentally novel and first practical approximation (scheduled for next FY17)
- Wave foreknowledge is not required
- Method is computationally fast and potentially easy to implement
- Uses linear WEC model
- Fundamentally feedback control strategy (PD loops)
- Requires PTO capable of generating reactive power
 - Requires energy storage
- Expansion of strategy to multi-DOF's and more nonlinear cases is essential in order to understand how well strategy can work on real world systems

Latching

- It is a switching control strategy
- It does not require model of the WEC for the calculation for the control signal (in its simplest form)
 - It can be used also for nonlinear systems
- It may require prediction of wave elevation/excitation force to improve performance
- It does not require PTO capable of generating reactive power
 - Requires energy storage
- NOT capable of dealing with constraints

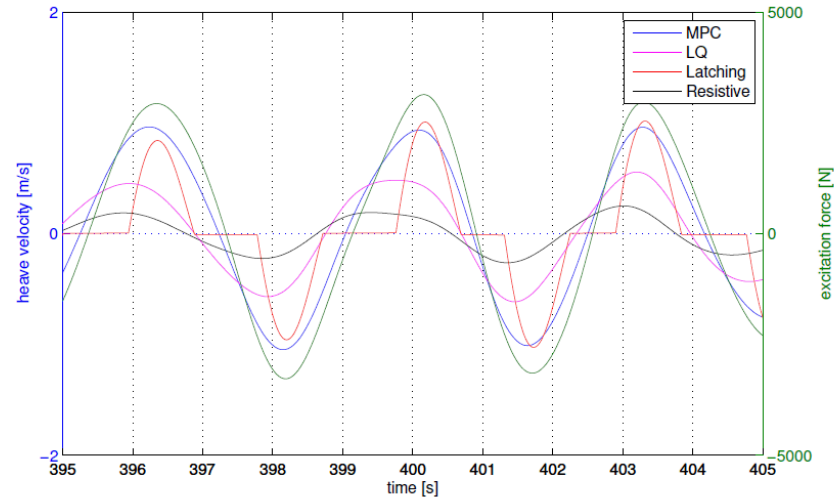
Summary of results

	Bounding cases		TP	TAP-FB		TAP-FF		
	Resistive	CCC	Latching	LQG	PDC3	Linear MPC	DP	SB
<i>Power production characteristics</i>								
Average power-in	0	279	0	46.5	45.8	98.8	374.8	39.0
Average power-net	15.5	52.5	28.8	39.8	25.5	46.1	38.4	22.6
Average energy-stored	0	251	0	27.5	42.9	76.4	332.9	23.8
Power-in, peak/RMS	0.0	5.8	0.0	5.6	5.1	5.6	5.4	4.3
Power-net, peak/RMS	7.3	38.8	6.2	14.3	17.3	20.2	60.1	16.2
Total absolute power flow	15.5	313.3	28.8	76.0	91.5	131.8	384.9	54.5
<i>PCC requirements</i>								
PCC force, peak	739	4312	2099	1970	1854	2653	5850	2500
Slew rate requirements	2.8 E+3	1.1 E+3	1.5 E+6	5.9 E+3	4.5 E+3	7.0 E+3	1.2 E+3	5.5 E+3
PCC force, RMS	315	2367	923	915	1086	1401	2730	1010
PCC Force, peak/RMS	2.35	1.82	2.27	2.15	1.71	1.89	2.14	2.49
<i>Mechanical loading</i>								
Oscillation amplitude, peak	0.06	0.25	0.10	0.14	0.11	0.17	0.28	0.12
Oscillation amplitude, peak/RMS	2.52	1.97	2.05	2.27	1.89	2.09	1.99	2.52
Oscillation velocity, peak	0.14	0.47	0.30	0.31	0.22	0.35	0.50	0.22
Oscillation velocity, peak/RMS	2.63	2.20	2.77	2.43	2.30	2.33	2.17	2.6
Oscillation acceleration, peak	0.39	1.02	0.45	0.78	0.22	0.46	1.27	0.64
Oscillation acceleration, peak/RMS	2.70	2.39	1.21	2.58	2.30	1.95	2.36	2.56

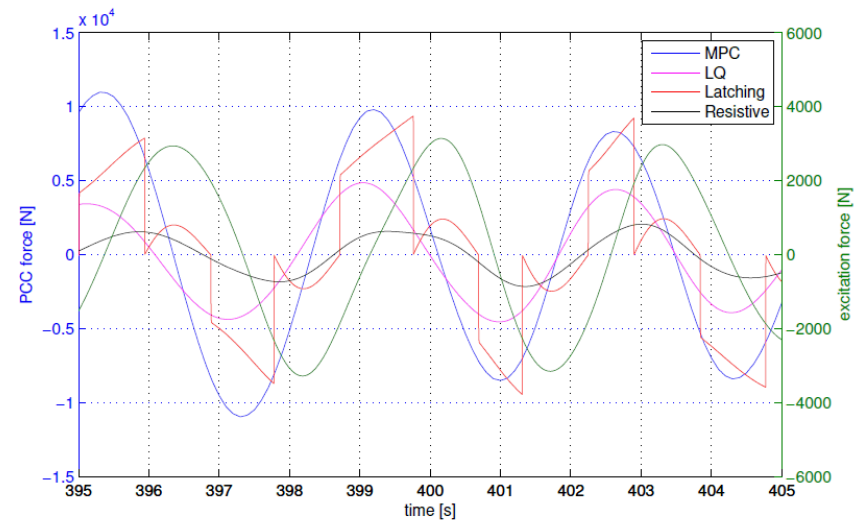
Summary of results

Sample time-series

Velocity vs
Excitation force

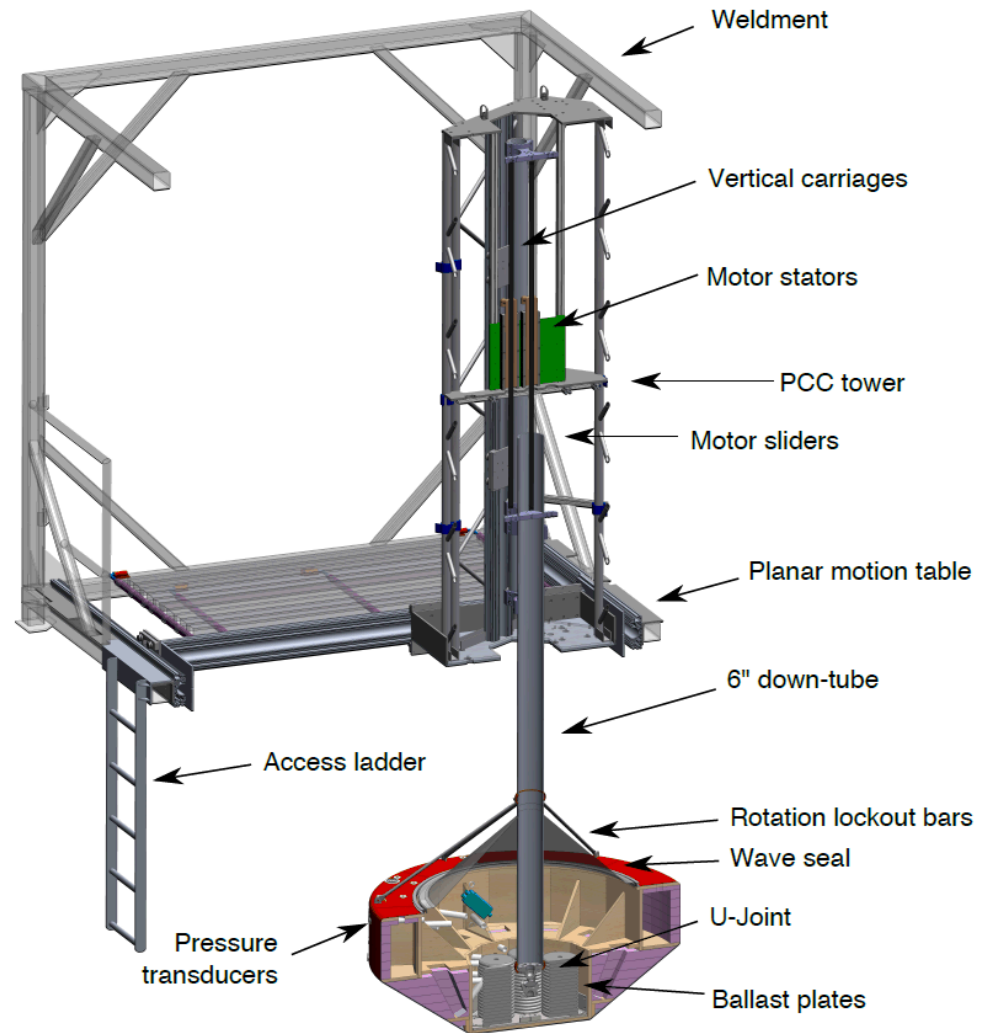


Actuator force vs
Excitation force



NEXT STEPS

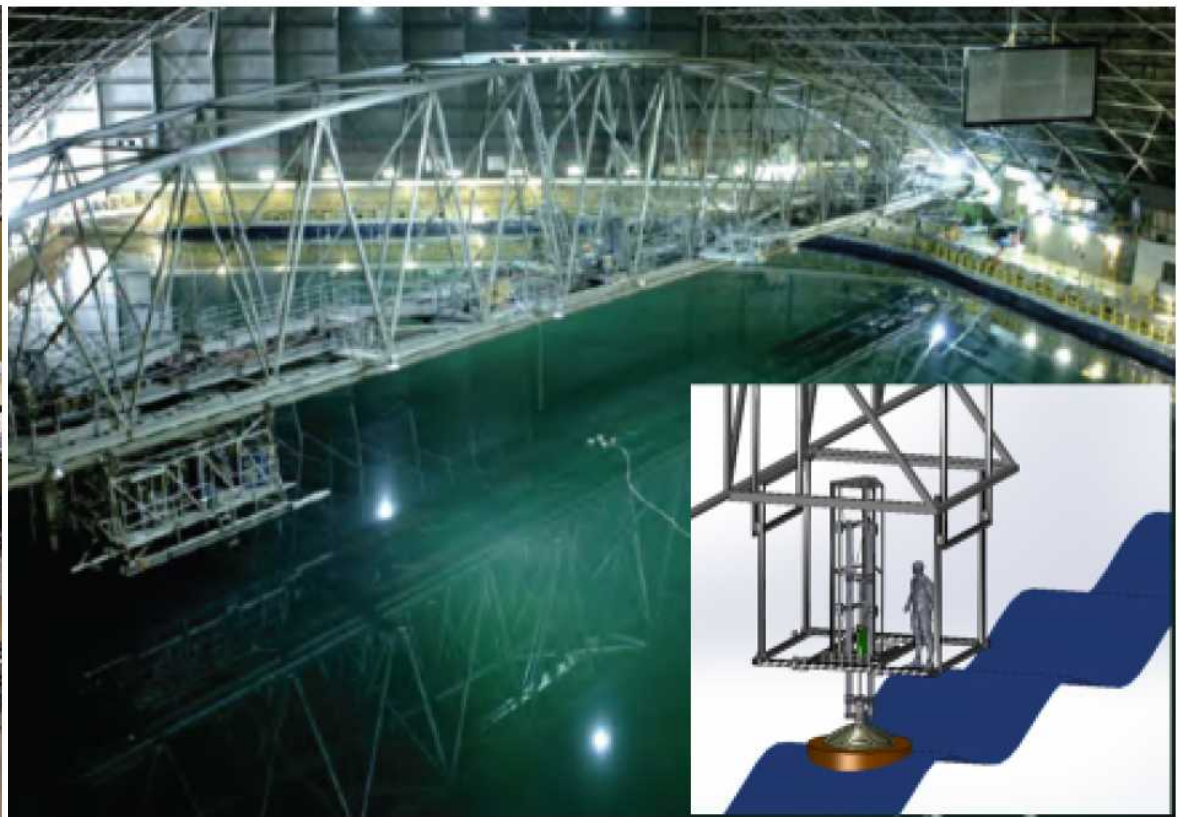
Wave tank testing: completed



Wave tank testing: completed

Buoy

Maneuvering and Sea Keeping (MASK) Basin
NSWCCD - Bethesda MD



Next steps

- System identification:
 - Dynamic model of the device from experimental data



- Re-evaluate/tune control strategies with new model



- Test control strategies in wave tank



Thank you.

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