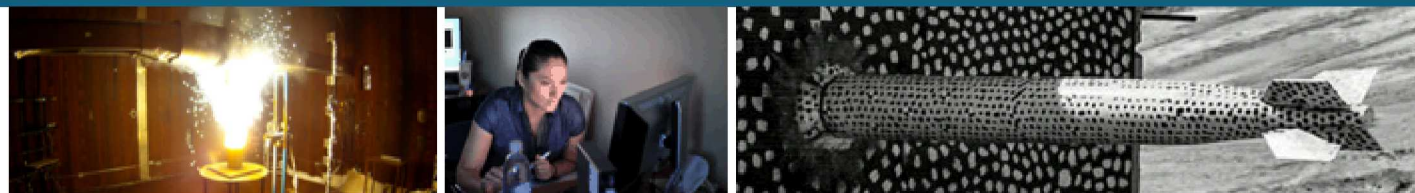


WEC Design Optimization ("WecOptTool")



Presented by

Ryan Coe, Giorgio Bacelli, Sterling Olson,
Vince Neary, & Mat Topper

Sept. 29 2020

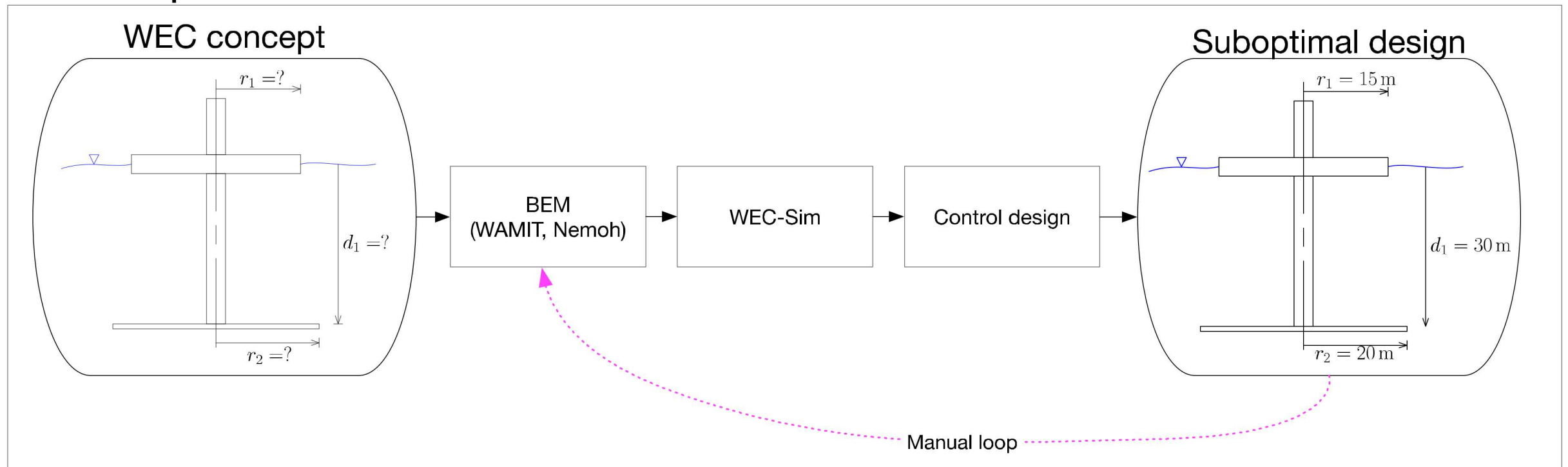


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2 Problem statement

Problem: there are many decisions required to design a WEC, and limited understanding of how these interact and play a role in performance

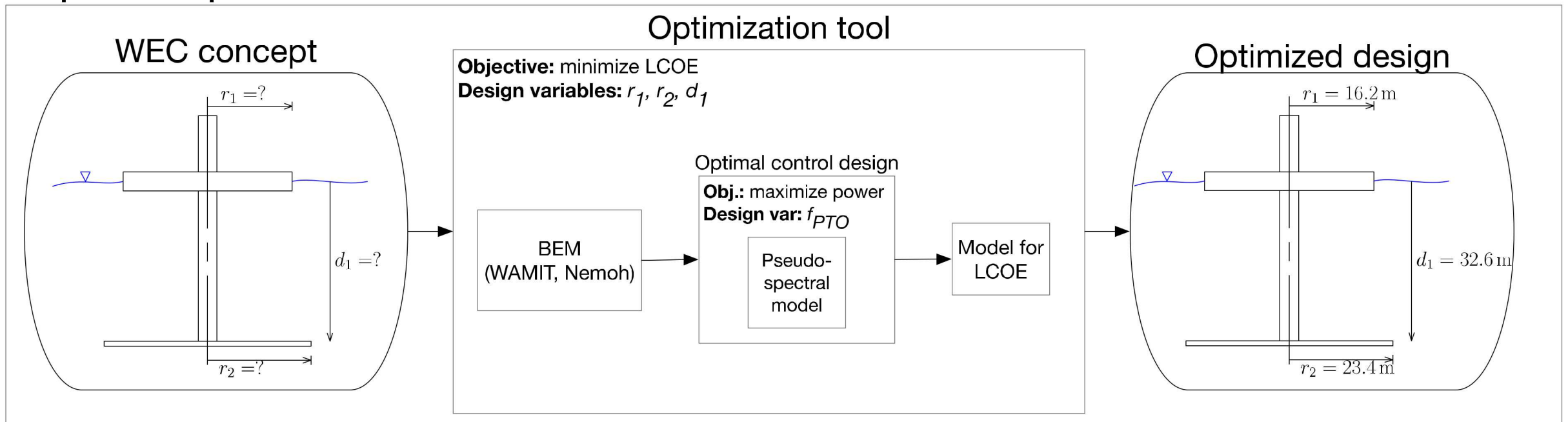
Current process



3 Problem statement

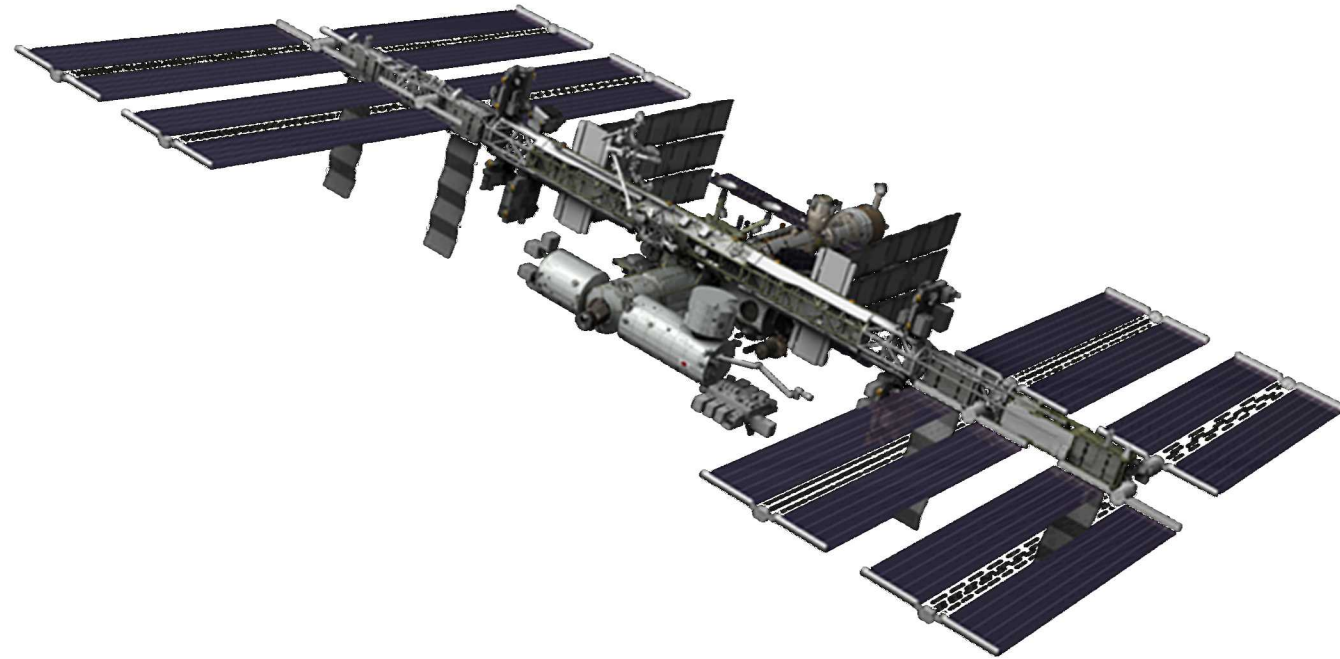
Solution: enable systematic design optimization studies using efficient models and arbitrary objective functions to suit specific users' needs

Improved process



Technical Approach

- Pseudo spectral method¹ allows for efficient optimal control solution with constraints
- Allows for co-design, with arbitrary structure “stand-in” controller

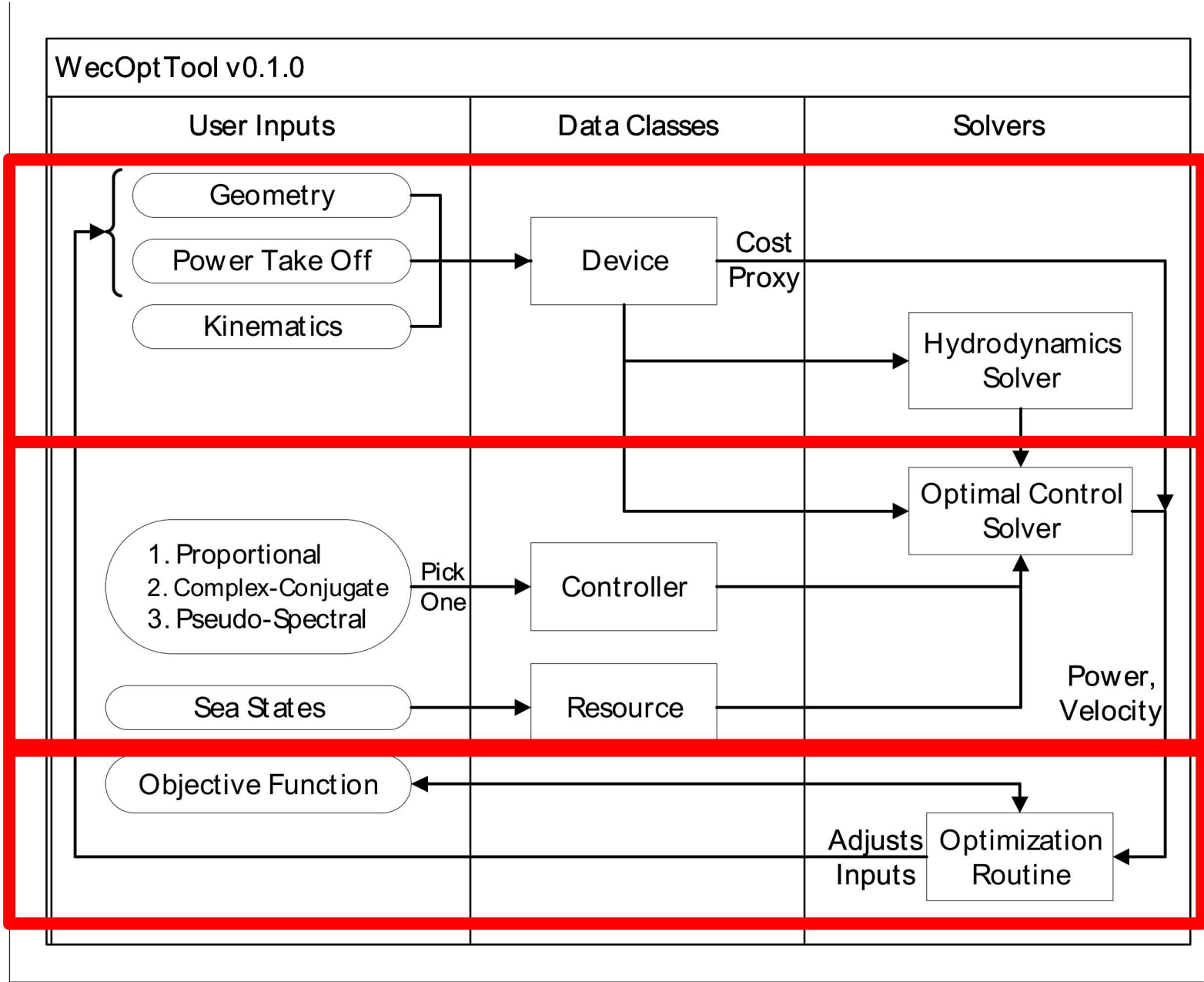


¹Recently leveraged for International Space Station maneuver using gyroscopes (no fuel)

Design device

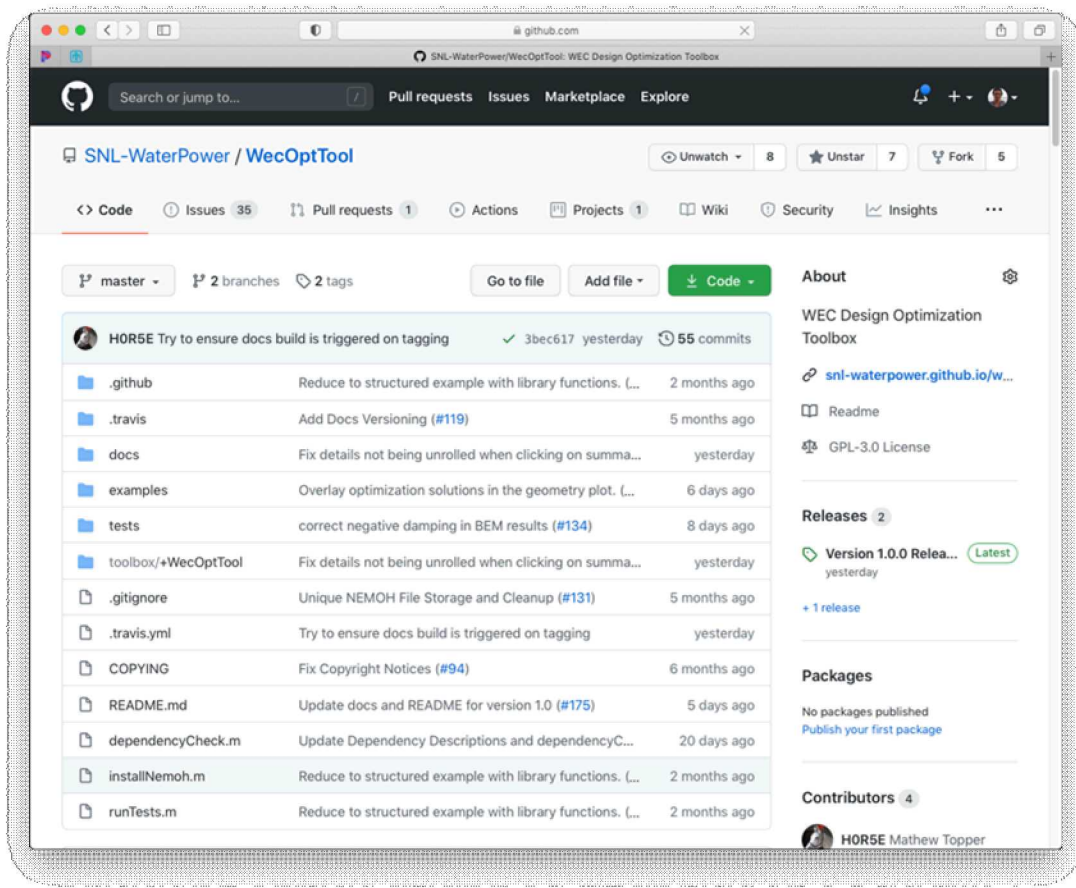
Simulate performance

Distill results & pass to optimization solver



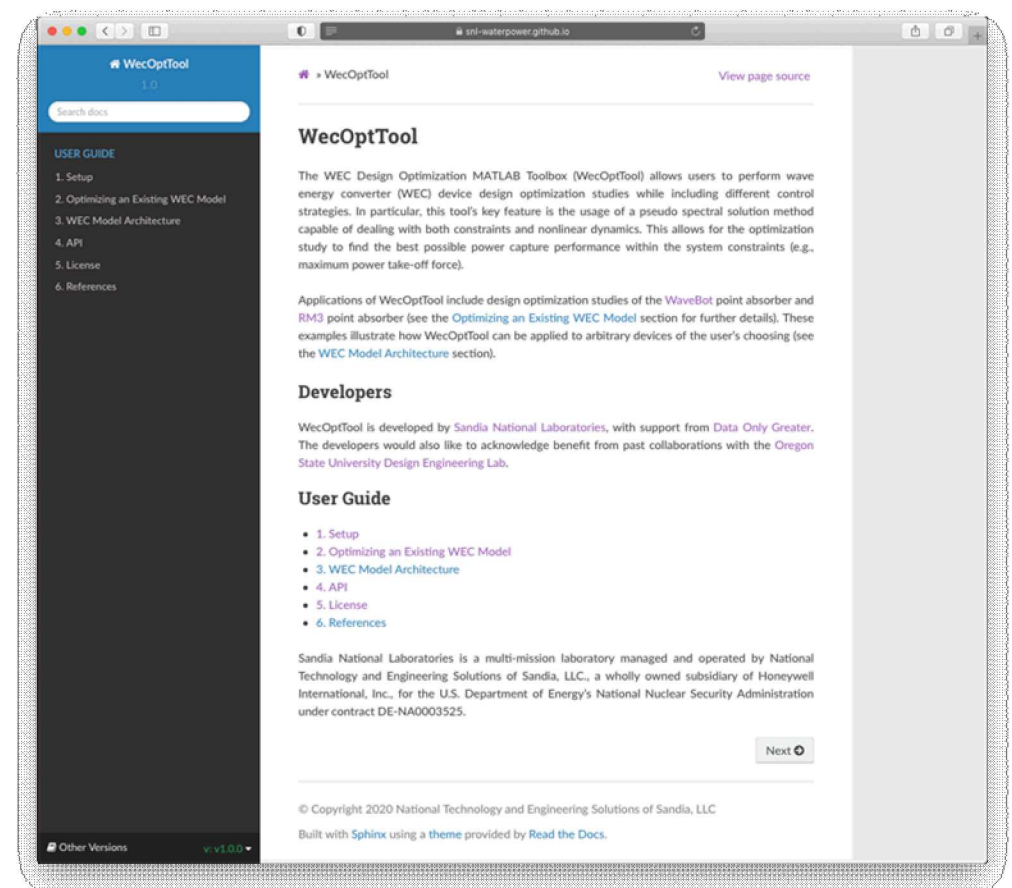
Github repository

<https://github.com/SNL-WaterPower/WecOptTool>



Documentation

<https://snl-waterpower.github.io/WecOptTool>



Journal of Ocean Engineering and Marine Energy manuscript No.
(will be inserted by the editor)

Initial conceptual demonstration of control co-design for WEC optimization

Ryan G. Orr · Giorgio Bacelli · Sterling Olson · Vincent S. Neeley · Matthew B. R. Topper

The date of receipt and acceptance should be inserted here

Abstract While some engineering fields have benefited from systematic design optimization studies, wave energy converters have yet to successfully incorporate such analyses into practical engineering workflows. The current iterative approach to wave energy converter design leads to suboptimal solutions. This short paper presents an open-source MATLAB toolbox for performing design optimization studies on wave energy converters where power take-off behavior and realistic constraints can be easily included. This tool incorporates an adaptable control co-design approach, in that a constrained optimal controller is used to simulate device dynamics and populate an arbitrary objective function of the user's choosing. A brief explanation of the tool's structure and underlying theory is provided. In order to demonstrate the capabilities of the tool, verify its functionality, and begin to explore some basic wave energy converter design relationships, three conceptual case studies are presented. In particular, the importance of considering (and minimizing) the magnitude of device motion and force is shown.

Keywords wave energy converter (WEC) · design optimization · control

1 Introduction

At present, designs for wave energy converters (WECs) span a wide range of concepts. While it is unclear which

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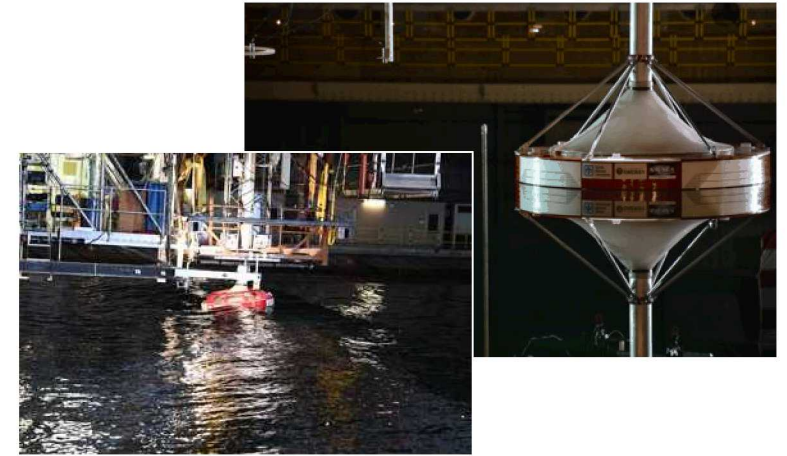
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Use WaveBot geometry

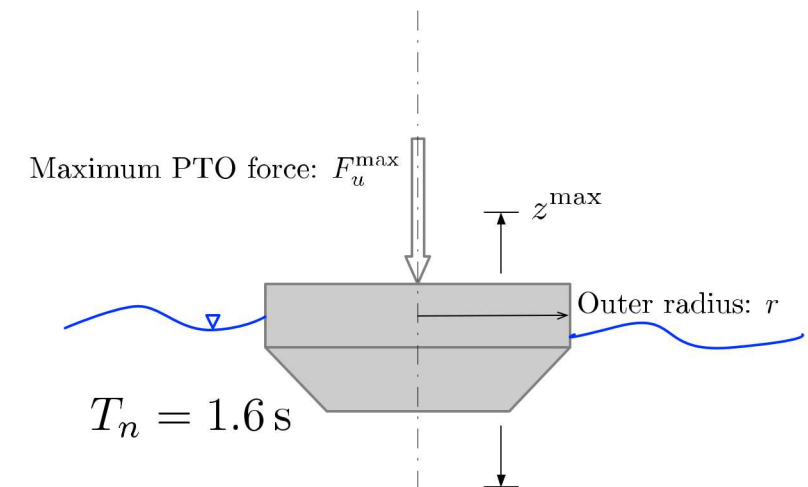
- **Case A:** Performance with CC, P, and PS controllers
- **Case B:** Optimal design for CC, P, and PS controllers
- **Case C:** Multi-objective design study



<https://doi.org/10.36227/techrxiv.12928898>

Regular wave: $A = 0.0625 \text{ m}$, $T = 3.33 \text{ s}$

Design variable	Case A	Case B	Case C
Outer radius, r [m]	$r = 0.88$	$r \in [0.25, 2]$	$r \in [0.25, 2]$
Maximum PTO force, $F_u^{\max}$ [kN]	$F_u^{\max} = 2$	$F_u^{\max} = \infty$	$F_u^{\max} \in [0.1, 1]$
Maximum stroke, $z^{\max}$ [m]	$z^{\max} = \infty$	$z^{\max} = 0.6$	$z^{\max} = \infty$



Case A

Performance with CC, P, and PS controllers

Design variable	Case A	Case B	Case C
Outer radius, r [m]	$r = 0.88$	$r \in [0.25, 2]$	$r \in [0.25, 2]$
Maximum PTO force, $F_u^{\max}$ [kN]	$F_u^{\max} = 2$	$F_u^{\max} = \infty$	$F_u^{\max} \in [0.1, 1]$
Maximum stroke, $z^{\max}$ [m]	$z^{\max} = \infty$	$z^{\max} = 0.6$	$z^{\max} = \infty$

Not a design optimization study

With fixed design, simulate device response using three different controllers

CC: Complex-conjugate

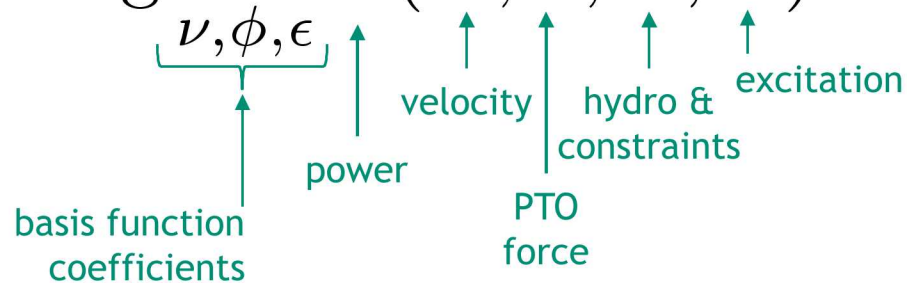
$$F_u(\omega) = -Z_i^*(\omega) u(\omega)$$

P: Proportional damping

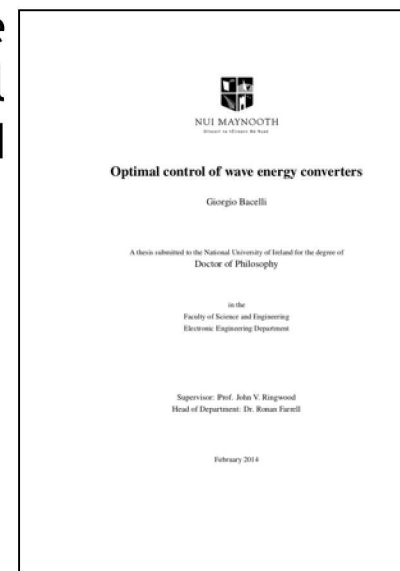
$$F_u = -B_{pto} V$$

PS: pseudo-spectral

$$\arg \min_{\nu, \phi, \epsilon} P(X, \Gamma, G, E)$$



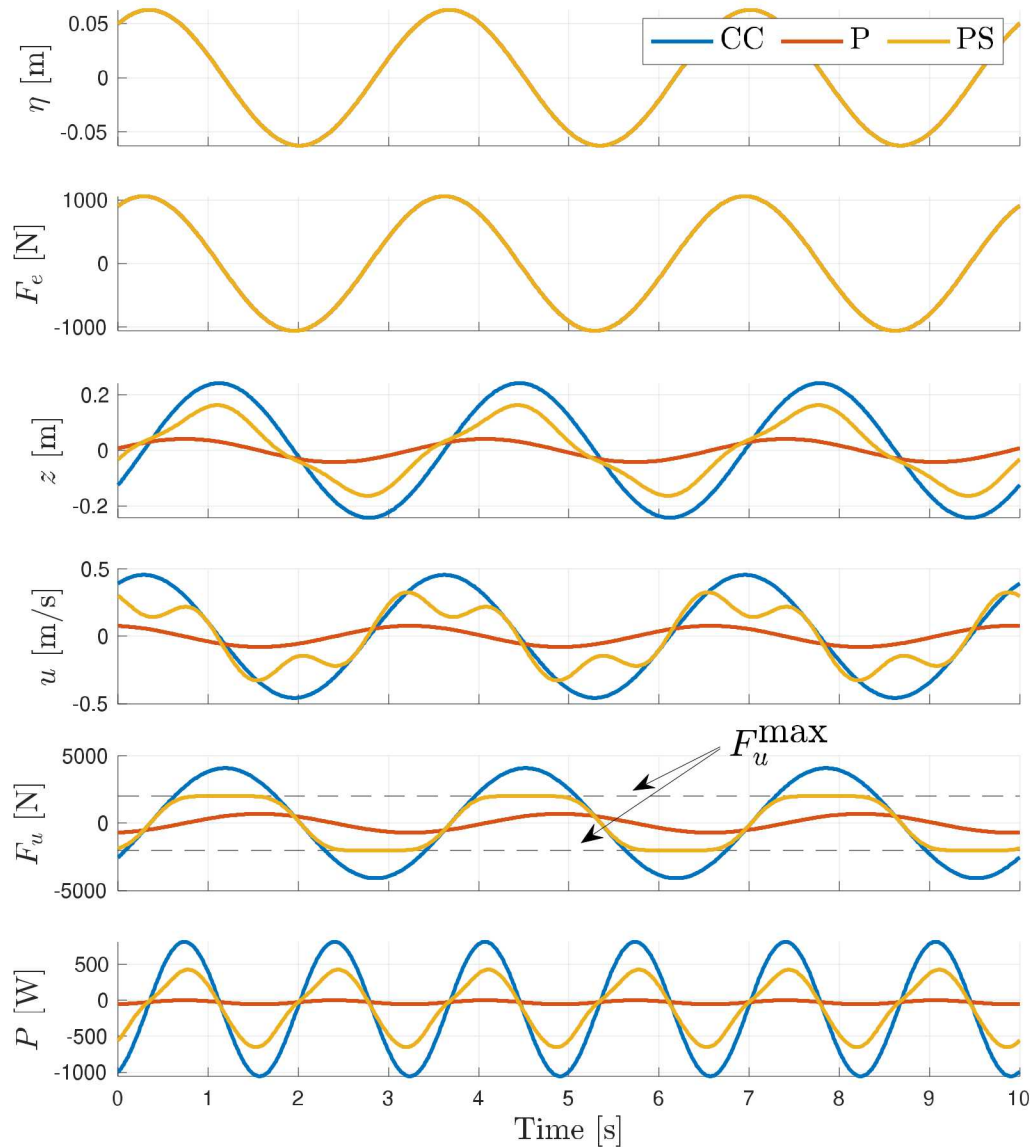
For more on the
pseudo-spectral
method



<http://mural.maynoothuniversity.ie/6753/>

Case A, results

Performance with CC, P, and PS controllers



Free surface elevation

Excitation force

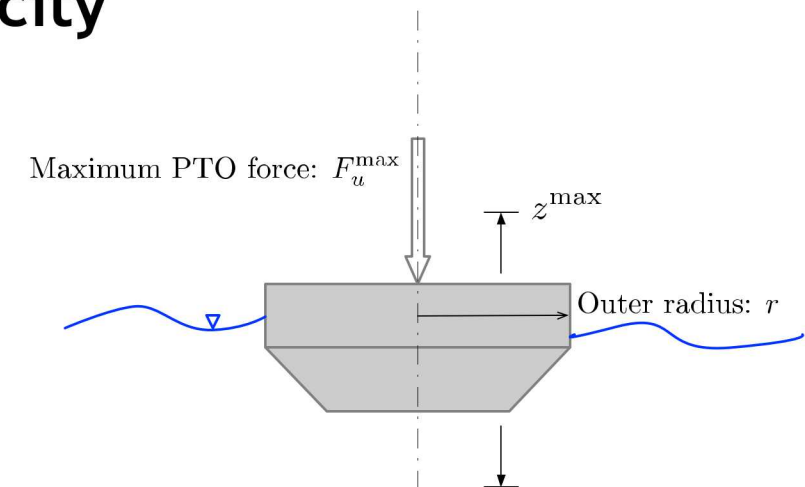
WEC vertical position

WEC vertical velocity

PTO force

Power

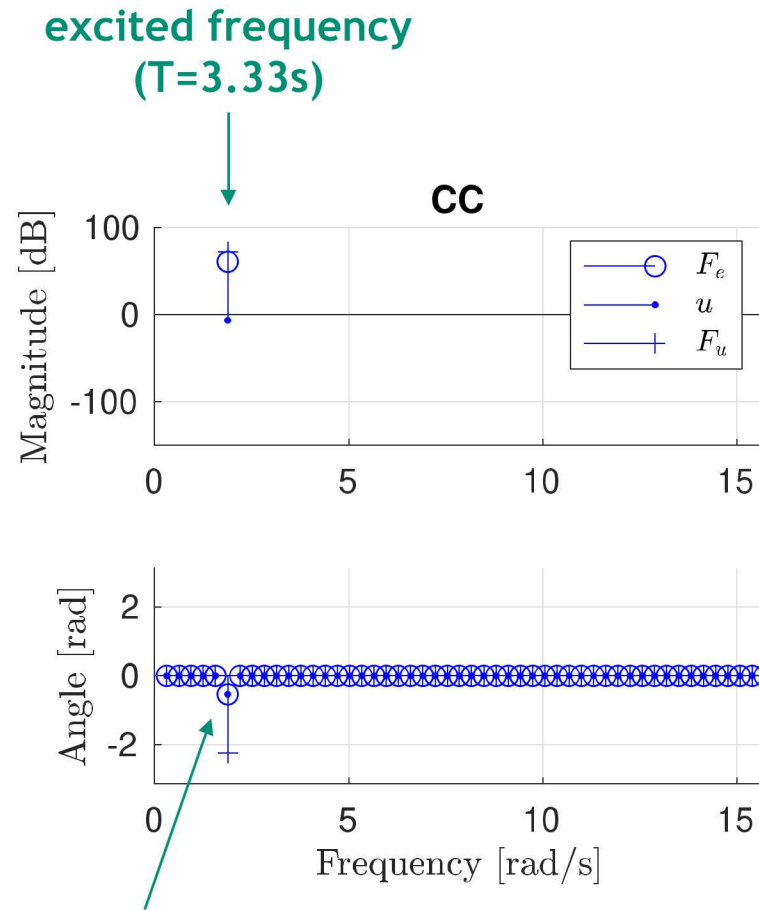
Design variable	Case A	Case B	Case C
Outer radius, r [m]	$r = 0.88$	$r \in [0.25, 2]$	$r \in [0.25, 2]$
Maximum PTO force, $F_u^{\max}$ [kN]	$F_u^{\max} = 2$	$F_u^{\max} = \infty$	$F_u^{\max} \in [0.1, 1]$
Maximum stroke, $z^{\max}$ [m]	$z^{\max} = \infty$	$z^{\max} = 0.6$	$z^{\max} = \infty$



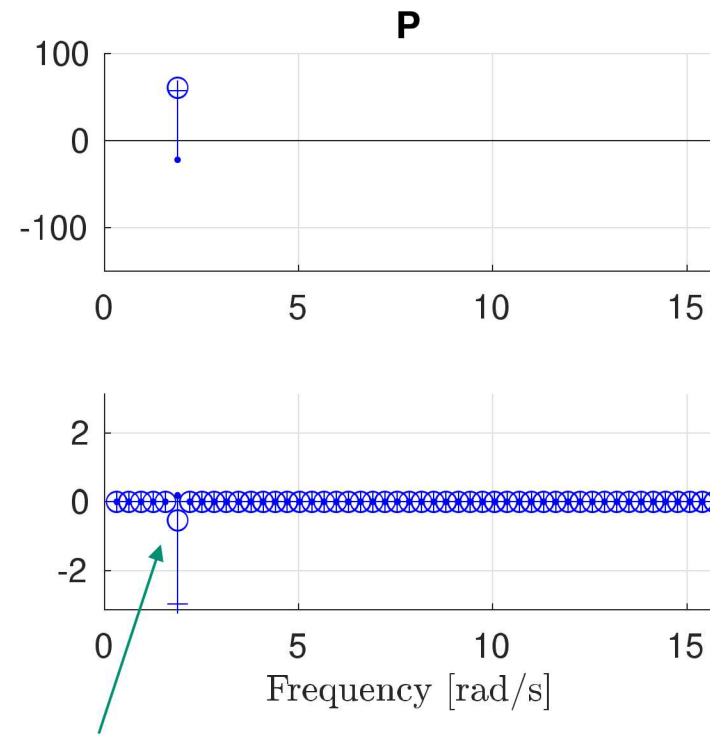
Case A, results

Performance with CC, P, and PS controllers

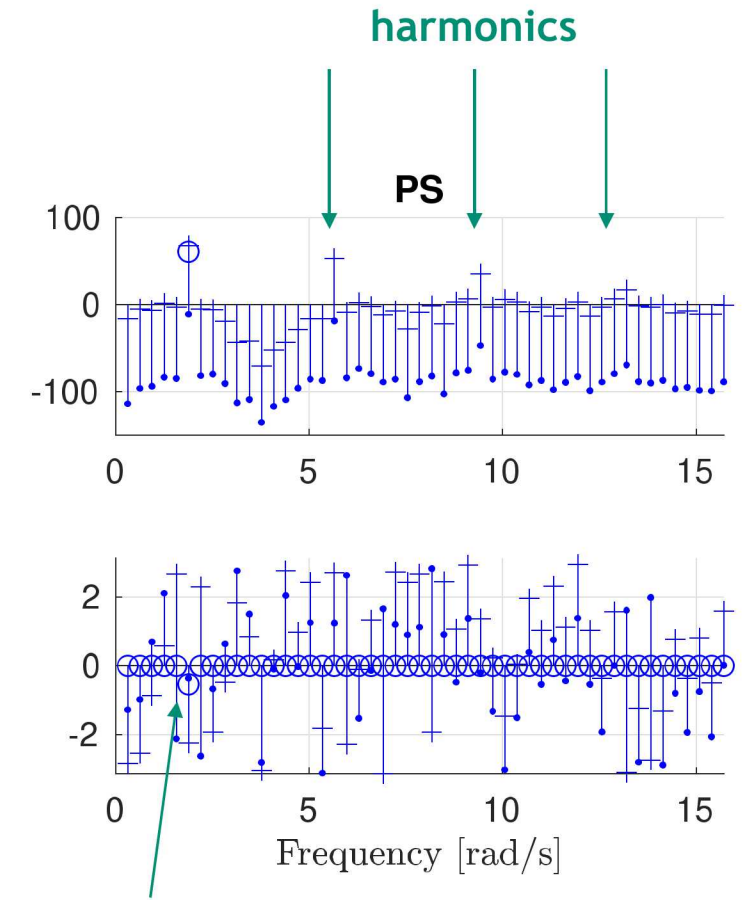
Design variable	Case A	Case B	Case C
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Maximum stroke, $z^{\max}$ [m]	$z^{\max} = \infty$	$z^{\max} = 0.6$	$z^{\max} = \infty$



resonance :)



not resonance :(



almost resonance ;)

Case B

Optimal design for CC, P, and PS controllers

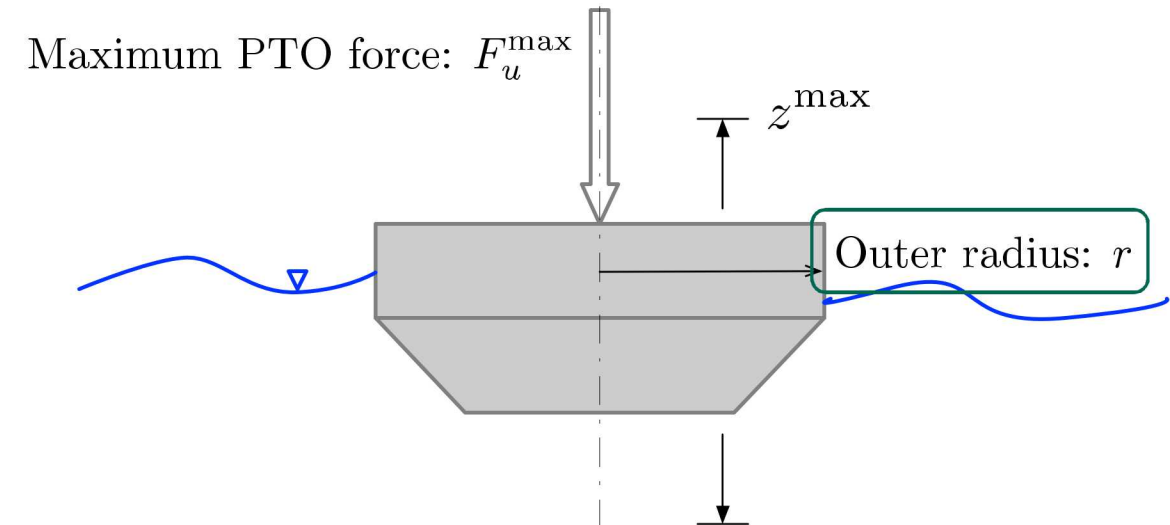
Design variable	Case A	Case B	Case C
Outer radius, r [m]	$r = 0.88$	$r \in [0.25, 2]$	$r \in [0.25, 2]$
Maximum PTO force, $F_u^{\max}$ [kN]	$F_u^{\max} = 2$	$F_u^{\max} = \infty$	$F_u^{\max} \in [0.1, 1]$
Maximum stroke, $z^{\max}$ [m]	$z^{\max} = \infty$	$z^{\max} = 0.6$	$z^{\max} = \infty$

Varying the outer radius, maximize the ratio of average power to volume*

$$\min_r \frac{\bar{P}(r)}{(r_0 + r)^3} \leftarrow \text{Does not go to zero quickly}$$

s.t. $r \in [0.25, 2]$

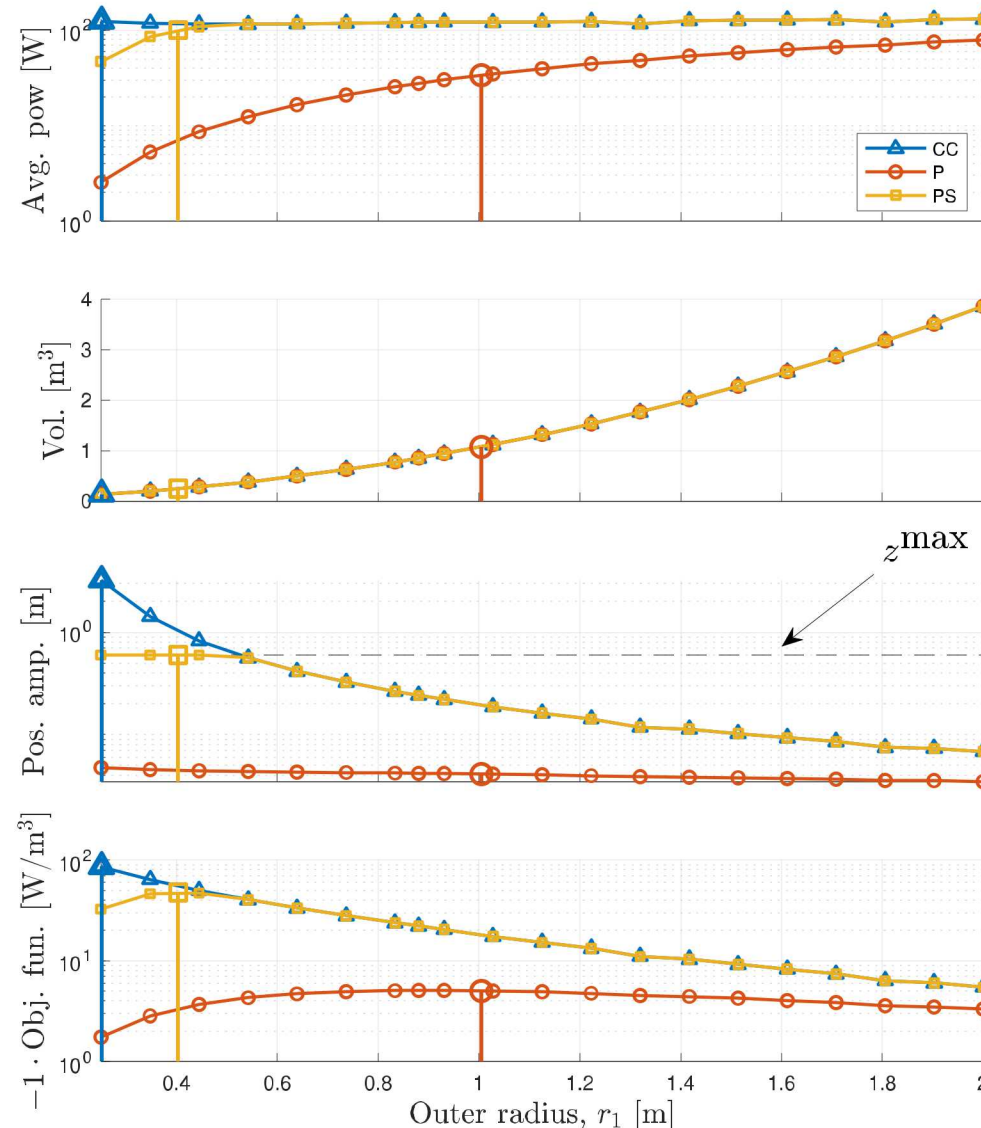
Brute force (“Monte Carlo”) and `fminbnd`



Case B, results pt. I

Optimal design for CC, P, and PS controllers

Design variable	Case A	Case B	Case C
Outer radius, r [m]	$r = 0.88$	$r \in [0.25, 2]$	$r \in [0.25, 2]$
Maximum PTO force, $F_u^{\max}$ [kN]	$F_u^{\max} = 2$	$F_u^{\max} = \infty$	$F_u^{\max} \in [0.1, 1]$
Maximum stroke, $z^{\max}$ [m]	$z^{\max} = \infty$	$z^{\max} = 0.6$	$z^{\max} = \infty$



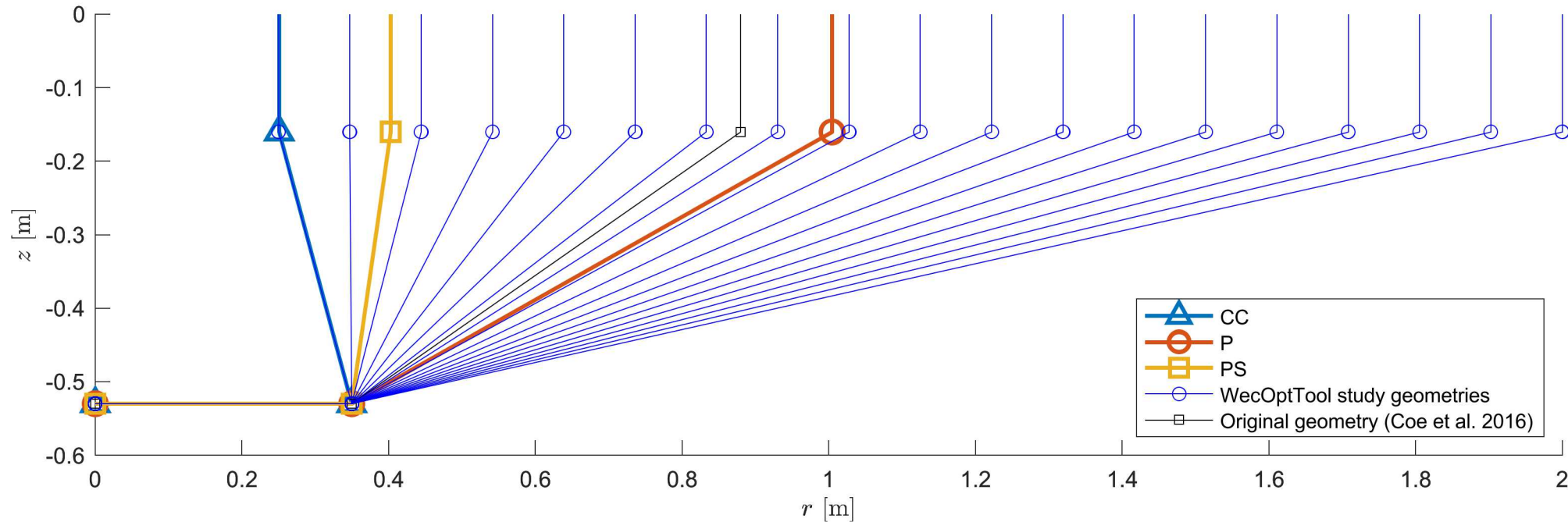
$$\frac{\bar{P}(r)}{(r_0 + r)^3}$$

Controller	Opt. radius, r_{opt}	Obj. fun. value
CC	0.25	-86.1
P	1.00	-5.0
PS	0.40	-47.7

Case B, results pt. 2

Optimal design for CC, P, and PS controllers

Design variable	Case A	Case B	Case C
Outer radius, r [m]	$r = 0.88$	$r \in [0.25, 2]$	$r \in [0.25, 2]$
Maximum PTO force, $F_u^{\max}$ [kN]	$F_u^{\max} = 2$	$F_u^{\max} = \infty$	$F_u^{\max} \in [0.1, 1]$
Maximum stroke, $z^{\max}$ [m]	$z^{\max} = \infty$	$z^{\max} = 0.6$	$z^{\max} = \infty$



$$\frac{\bar{P}(r)}{(r_0 + r)^3}$$

Controller	Opt. radius, r_{opt}	Obj. fun. value
CC	0.25	-86.1
P	1.00	-5.0
PS	0.40	-47.7

Case C

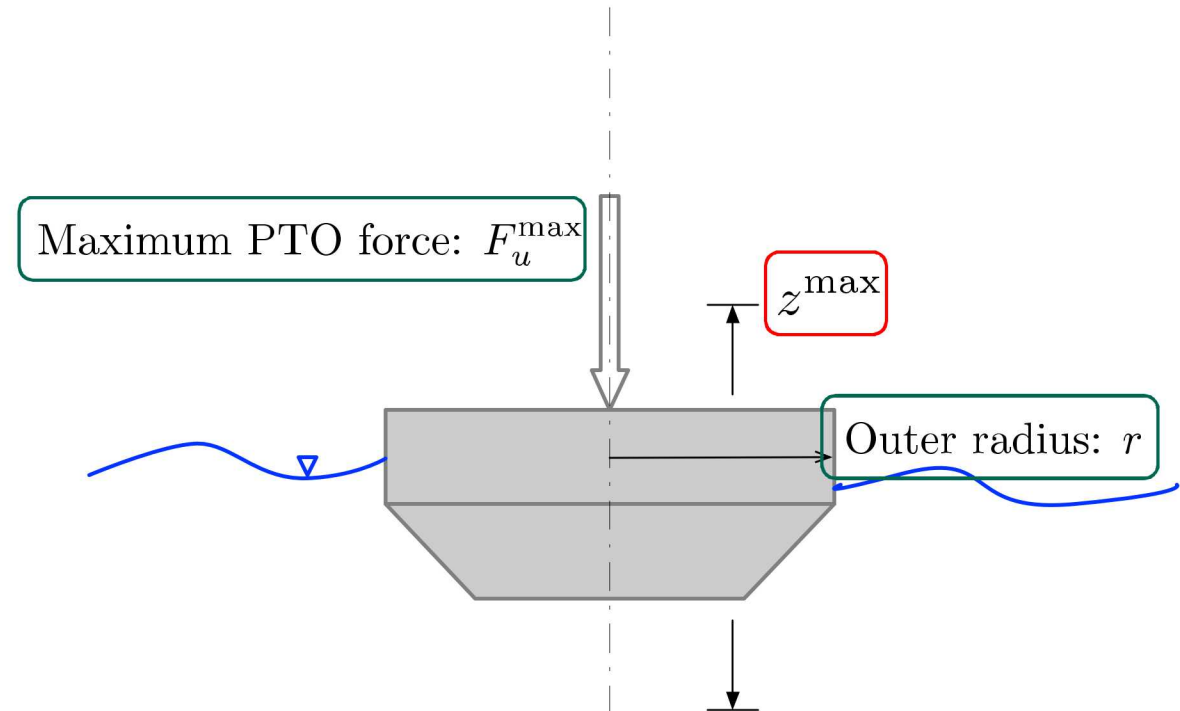
Multi-objective design study

Design variable	Case A	Case B	Case C
Outer radius, r [m]	$r = 0.88$	$r \in [0.25, 2]$	$r \in [0.25, 2]$
Maximum PTO force, $F_u^{\max}$ [kN]	$F_u^{\max} = 2$	$F_u^{\max} = \infty$	$F_u^{\max} \in [0.1, 1]$
Maximum stroke, $z^{\max}$ [m]	$z^{\max} = \infty$	$z^{\max} = 0.6$	$z^{\max} = \infty$

Varying the outer radius and maximum PTO force, find the Pareto front for power, volume*, and maximum PTO stroke

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \min_{r, F_u^{\max}} \quad \left(\bar{P}, (r_0 + r)^3, z^{\max} \right) \\
 & \text{s.t.} \quad r \in [0.25, 2] \\
 & \quad \quad F_u^{\max} \in [0.1, 1] \times 10^3
 \end{aligned}$$

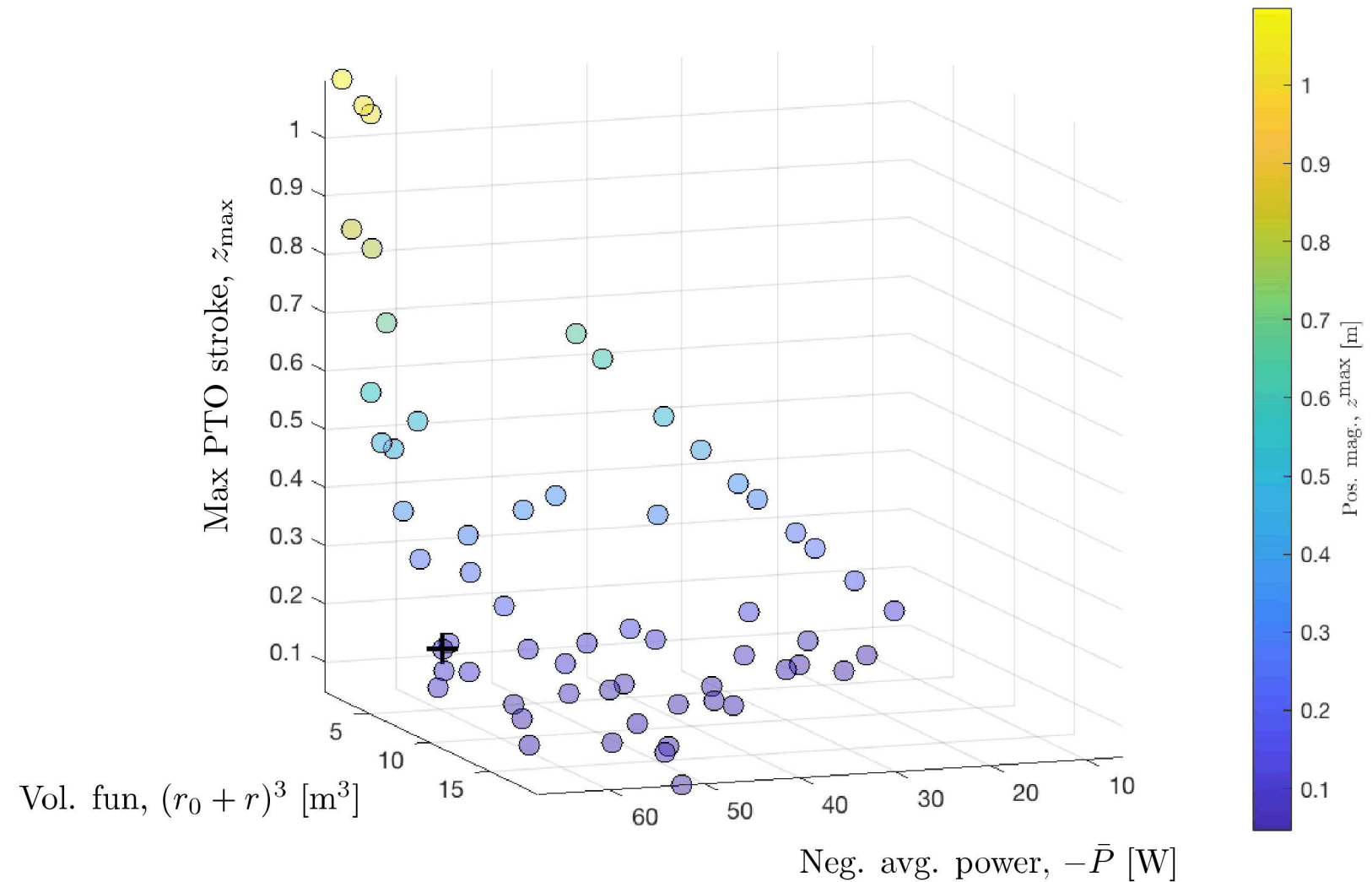
power volume* max PTO stroke
↓ ↓ ↓



Case C, results pt. I

Multi-objective design study

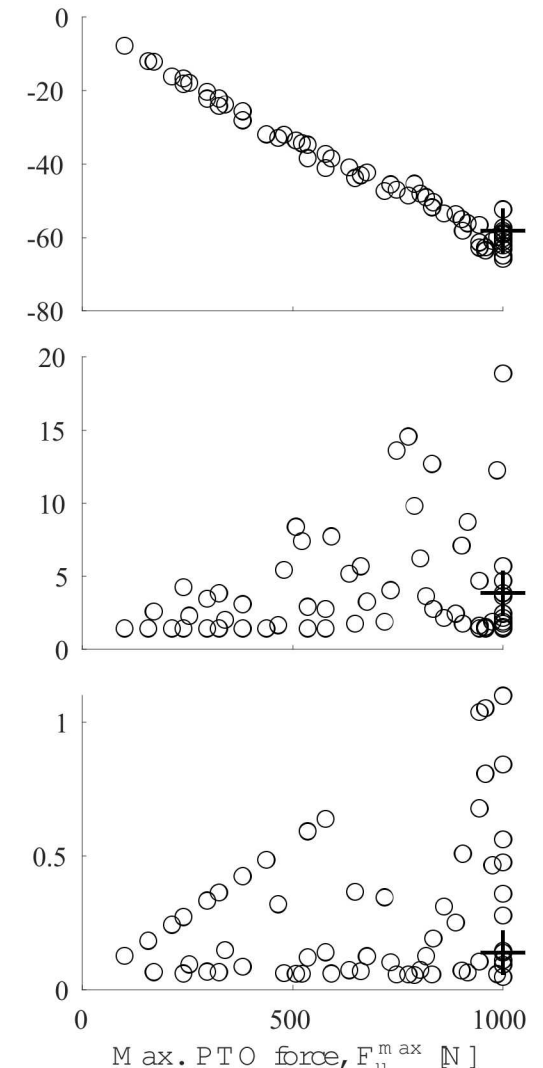
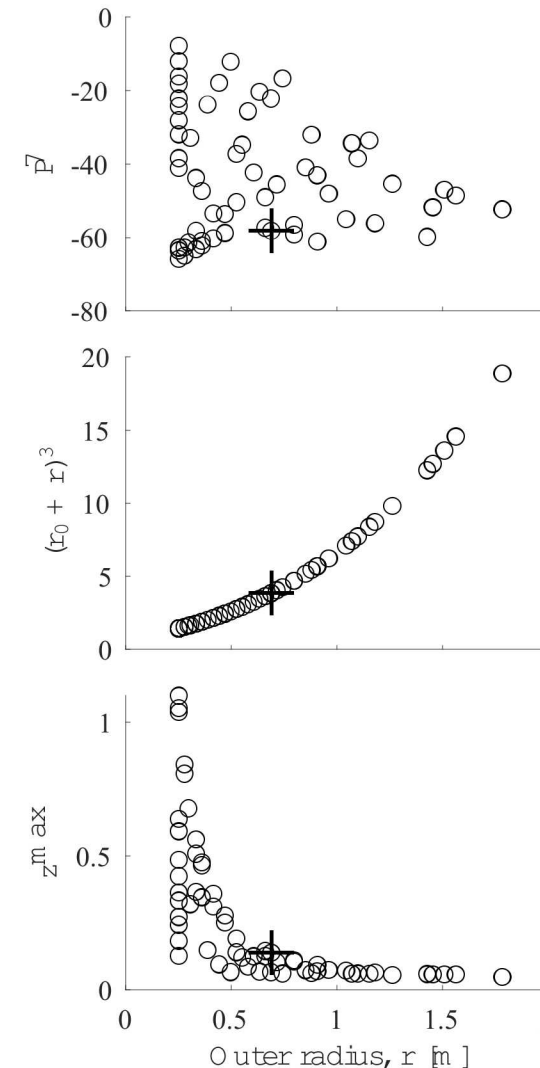
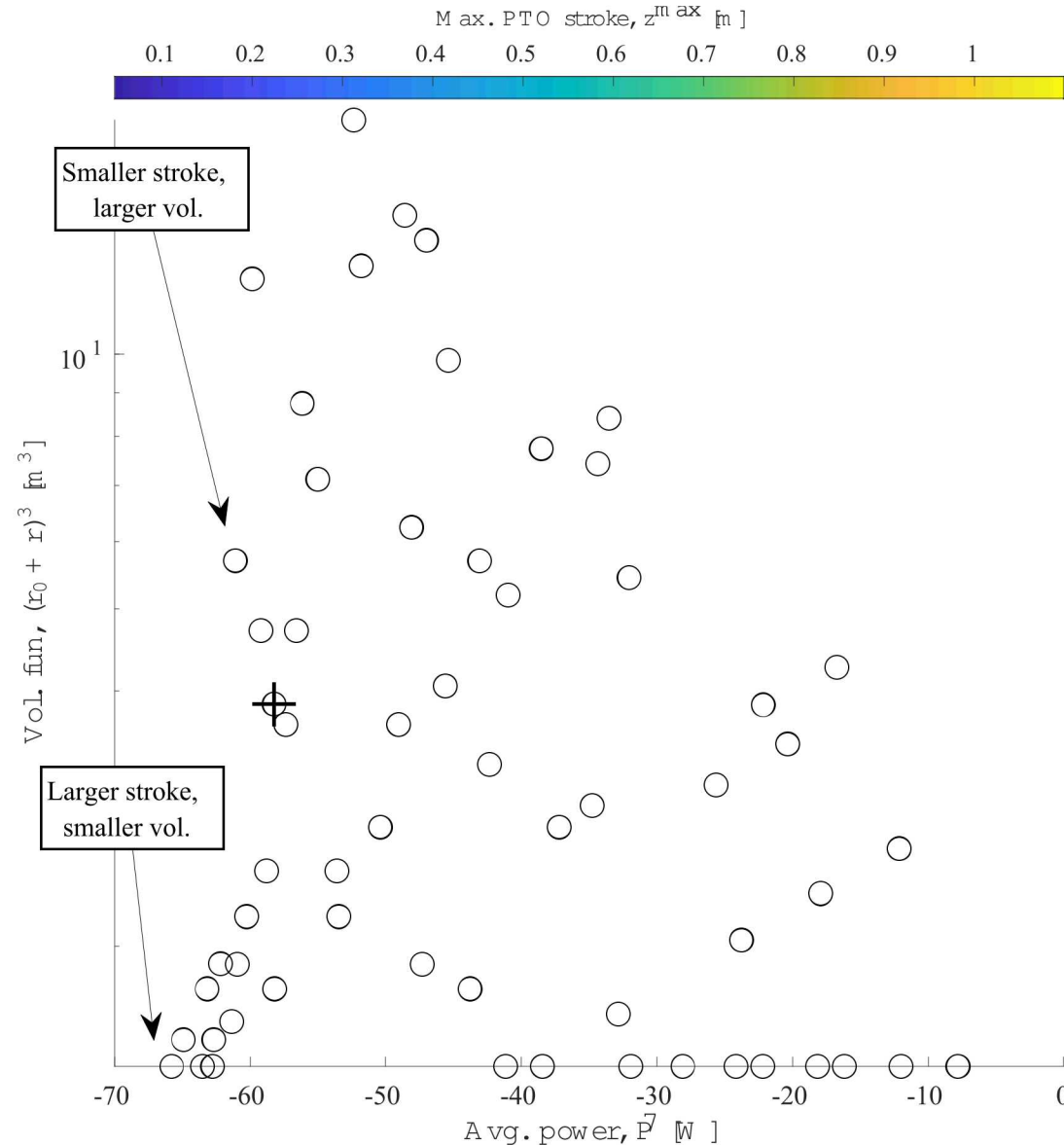
Design variable	Case A	Case B	Case C
Outer radius, r [m]	$r = 0.88$	$r \in [0.25, 2]$	$r \in [0.25, 2]$
Maximum PTO force, $F_u^{\max}$ [kN]	$F_u^{\max} = 2$	$F_u^{\max} = \infty$	$F_u^{\max} \in [0.1, 1]$
Maximum stroke, $z^{\max}$ [m]	$z^{\max} = \infty$	$z^{\max} = 0.6$	$z^{\max} = \infty$



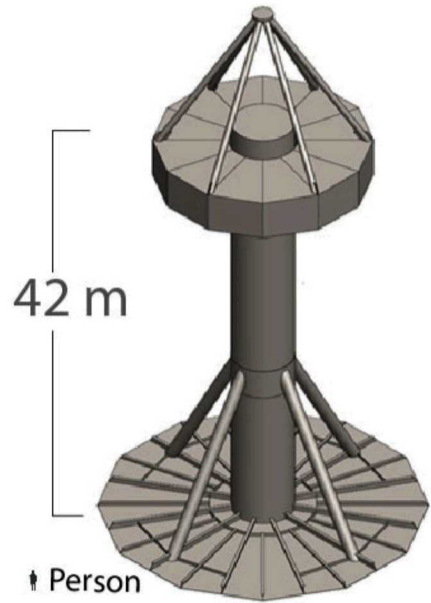
Case C, results pt. 2

Multi-objective design study

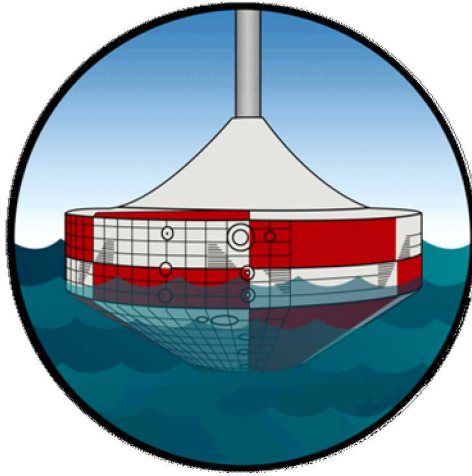
Design variable	Case A	Case B	Case C
Outer radius, r [m]	$r = 0.88$	$r \in [0.25, 2]$	$r \in [0.25, 2]$
Maximum PTO force, $F_u^{\max}$ [kN]	$F_u^{\max} = 2$	$F_u^{\max} = \infty$	$F_u^{\max} \in [0.1, 1]$
Maximum stroke, $z^{\max}$ [m]	$z^{\max} = \infty$	$z^{\max} = 0.6$	$z^{\max} = \infty$



Existing examples

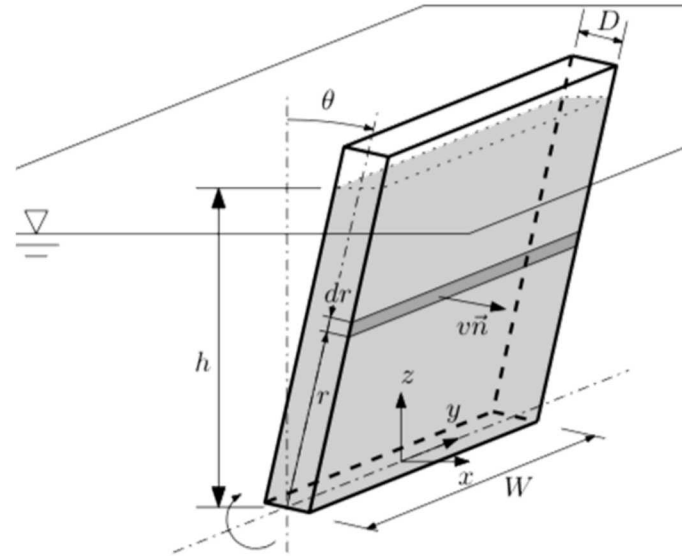


RM3



WaveBot

Upcoming examples



Flapper

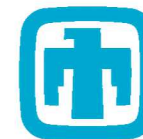
WecOptTool v1.0 and beyond (cont.)

- Additional examples
- Automated kinematics generation
(linearization of a Jacobian)
- PTO dynamics
(<https://github.com/SNL-WaterPower/fbWecCtrl/tree/codesign>)
- Fundamental concepts and objective functions
- Fixed-structure controllers



Thank you for your time

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