

# What is UAM?

- Urban Air Mobility (UAM) is a field that aims to improve movement of people and goods with in cities by relieving congestion with in transportation networks
- Facilitated by:
  - 1. Distributed electric propulsion
  - 2. Autonomous Technologies



### What does a UAM vehicle look like?













### Ten Areas of Technological Development



KR Antcliff, SKS Whiteside, LW Kohlman, and CSilva. Baseline Assumptions and Future Research Areas for Urban Air Mobility Vehicles. In AIAA Scitech 2019 Forum, pages 1–18, San Diego, California, 2019.

### How can OpenMDAO help solve the noise problem?

### UAM Vehicle Design Process



# What type of work does the MDO Lab do?

In the MDO Lab:



• Electro-propulsive design optimization

• Aerodynamic optimization with packaging

• Aero-propulsive design optimization



• Trajectory optim ization

• Aero-therm al shape optim ization



Slide adapted from : Martins et al, Exploiting Aircraft Electrification via Multidisciplinary Design Optimization

# Why do I care about MDO?

Electric vehicles are highly-coupled systems ulletthat must be designed and optimized considering all aspects of the vehicle and configuration



Fig. 2. Notional electric propulsion architectures.

Reproduced from : Brelje & Martins, Electric, hybrid, and turboelectric fixed-wing aircraft: A review of concepts, models, and design approaches

#### Table 5

Electric aircraft modeling and simulation [164]

Electric anerare mo	dening and simulation [104].					
	GT-HEAT [142,154,164]	NASA X-57	NASA N-3X	ESAero [67]	Bauhaus Luftfahrt	
Aerodynamics	FLOPS/drag polar; BLI benefit based on flat-plate momentum thickness	Design using vortex lattice/ boundary layer codes; some CED for analysis [5] 85 158]	CFD results from similar configuration, with increment	Drag polar	L/D correction methods from Torenbeek [16]	(
Structures	NA	6 DOF beam FEM [158]	NA	NA (for MDAO); detailed analysis of split-wing published in NASA report	NA	_
Weights	FLOPS tops-down methods	Parametric wing weight (from Raymer) [51], sized beam model [158]	WATE for propulsion flowpaths; tops-down kg/kW estimates for electrics/TMS [90,91]	WATE for fan weight [81]; low-fidelity radiator model; tops-down empirical for all others	Semi-empirical structural methods; tops- down kg/kW methods for electrics [20]	
GNC	Engine, motor, TMS control variables for on- and off- design analysis	Full-mission optimal control [141]	NA; some discussion of off- design conditions in [57]	NA	NA	Pump*
Electrical	Moderate fidelity motor/ inverter loss modeling; equivalent-circuit battery	Transient battery model based on Thevenin equiv. circuits (cell-level). Assumed efficiencies for wire/motors [141]	Conceptual: efficiency stackup method with estimates for future tech. Transient: RLC circuit model in SimPowerSystems [90,95]	Efficiency stackup; battery model unclear	Low-fidelity efficiency stackup with empirical battery discharge curve [20]	
Turbo/Propulsion	NPSS	Propeller map from manuf.; prop efficiency from theory [141], blade element momentum theory [158]	NPSS [59]	2D fan analysis using velocity triangles [81]; efficiency maps for turbomachinery	Single prop efficiency parameter [20]	
Thermal	TMS sizing considering various heat sources and types of heat sinks	Analytical model for optimization; thermal FEM of motor [141,153]	Coolant system load based on efficiency stackup (assume 100% to heat) [90]	Cooling based on flight cond. [79]; TMS model discussed in [119]	NA	
Cash operating cost	NA except for fuel/energy	NA except for fuel/energy	NA	NA	Considers relative cost of fuel/elec; cash operating cost [25]	
Ownership cost Noise	NA NA	NA NA	NA ANOPP noise simulation prompted redesign [91]	NA NA	NA NA	Radiator*
Safety	ΝΑ	Comprehensive FMEA [52,53]	FMEA and FTA for loss of thrust; more work needed for other hazards [94,96]	Qualitative	NA	(c) Series

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### Why do we need gradients specifically?



Lyu, Xu, and Martins. Benchmarking optimization algorithms for wing aerodynamic design optimization. ICCFD8-2014-0203.

### Coupled Aerodynamic and Aeroacoustic Optimization

eXtended Design Structure Matrix:



# How can we predict UAM vehicle noise?

### How can we characterize rotor noise?



R J Pegg. A Sum mary and Evaluation of Sem i-Empirical Methods for the Prediction of Helicopter Rotor Noise. Technical report, NASA Langley Research Center, 1979.

### Tonal Noise Sources



### **Broadband Noise Sources**



for the Prediction of Helicopter Rotor Noise. Technical report, NASA Langley Research Center, 1979.

Publication 1218 Airfoil Self-Noise and Prediction. Technical report, NASA, Hampton, Virginia, 1989.

#### We are in the process of implementing a broadband noise model into our toolkit

### Computational Aeroacoustics

- Techniques for aeroacoustic analysis:
  - 1. Direct Numerical Simulation from Navier-Stokes Equation
  - 2. Integral-Based Formulations
    - i. Lighthill's Analogy
      - Exact rearrangement of the Navier-Stokes equation
    - ii. Kirchhoff Method
      - Simplified acoustic source enclosed by a source-surface
    - iii. Ffowcs Williams and Hawkings Model (FWH)
      - Based on Navier-Stokes equation with Lighthill's analogy with surface integrals over monopole, dipole, and quadrupole noise sources

Solution Structure Used (and validated) extensively for rotorcraft applications

Inaccurate for rotorcraft applications

Kenneth S. Brentner. Modeling aerodynamically generated sound: Recent advances in rotor noise prediction. In 38th Aerospace Sciences Meeting and Exhibit, num ber January, pages 1–11, Reno, Nevada, 2000.1

Computationally Prohibitive for Multidisciplinary Design Optimization

## Tonal Noise Modeling

Ffowcs Williams and Hawkings:

$$4\pi a_0^2 p' = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_0^2} \int_{q' q''} \frac{\mu^{p' q''}}{|1 - M_r||} d^3 \eta - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} \int_{s'} \frac{P_{ij} + pv_i(v_j - u_j)}{r|1 - M_r|} n_j dS(\eta) + \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{s'} \frac{\rho_0 u_i + \rho(v_i - u_i)}{r|1 - M_r|} n_i dS(\eta)$$
Quadrupole
Noise due to density
Roise due to loading
Noise due to thickness
Far as sat Form ulation 1A:
$$p_L'(\vec{x}, t) = \frac{1}{4\pi a_0} \int_{s'} \left[ \frac{L_i l_i^2}{r(1 - M_r)^2} \right]_{r'} dS + \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{s'} \left[ \frac{L_i (l_i - M_i)}{r^2(1 - M_r)^2} \right]_{r'} dS + \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{s'} \left[ \frac{P_u u_i}{r^2(1 - M_r)^2} \right]_{r'} dS + \frac{1}{4\pi a_0} \int_{s'} \left[ \frac{L_i l_i^2 (r\dot{M}_i l_i^2 + a_0 (M_i l_i^2 - M_i M_i))}{r^2(1 - M_r)^3} \right]_{r'} dS$$

$$p_r'(\vec{x}, t) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{s'} \left[ \frac{P_0 u_n}{r(1 - M_r)^2} \right]_{r'} dS + \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{s'} \left[ \frac{\rho u_n}{r^2(1 - M_r)^3} \right]_{r'} dS + \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{s'} \left[ \frac{\rho u_n}{r^2(1 - M_r)^3} \right]_{r'} dS$$
This work uses a compact model for monopole noise, as opposed to the monopole component of Farassat Formulation 1A
Noise Metric: Sound Pressure Level [d B]:
$$sPL = 10 \cdot \log_{10} \left( \left[ \frac{p' m_n}{P_{reg}} \right]^2 \right)$$
This work as and D L Hawkings. Sound Generation by Turbulence and Surfaces in Arbitrary Motion. Technical Report 1151, Royal Society, 1960.

# Noise Modeling is a Time-Accurate Problem

- Evaluate the pressure perturbation due to the rotor at each observer point of interest
- Compute the total sound pressure level based on the tim e-history of the pressure perturbation at each observer point



### Aerodynam ic Modeling

### Hybrid Blade Element Momentum Theory (HBEM)

Momentum Theory

• Models a rotor as a disk, operating within a stream tube



 $C_{T,MT} = \frac{T_{des}}{\pi o V_{t}^2 R^2}$ 

Coefficient of Thrust:



• Considers blade section data to compute aerodynamic loads along rotor blade span



→ This analysis is quasi-steady, making it more efficient and easier to manage than fully unsteady methods

# Computing Derivatives



→ Derivatives computed using algorithm ic differentiation, leveraging graph coloring

# Coupled Aerodynamic and Aeroacoustic Optimization

- Aerodynamic and aeroacoustic analysis tools wrapped with Open MDAO for model coupling
- Derivatives computed and passed between models internally within OpenMDAO



How does this workflow perform?

Example Optimization Problem: NASA N+1UAM Quadrotor Concept Vehicle

- Single-passenger
- Fully electric
- RPM control



# Quadrotor Optim ization: Baseline Analysis

- Performed simulations and optimizations at three spanwise design variable resolutions: 5, 10, 15 variables.
- Blade loads and SPL for 15 spanwise variable analyses:

Maximum SPL[dB]	Thrust [N]
80.464555	1438.324294



Johnson, W., Silva, C., and Solis, E., "Concept Vehicles for VTOL Air Taxi Operations," Aeromechanics Design for Transformative Vertical Flight, San Francisco, California, 2018, pp. 1–24

### Quadrotor Optim ization: Result

#### Optimization Problem Statement:

	Function or Varia	ble Units	Description	Quantity
Min im ize	KS(SPL)		KS aggregated sound pressure level	1
With respect to	Twist	o	Blade twist distribution	5/10/15
	Chord	m	Blade chord distribution	5/10/15
	ω	rad/s	Rotor rotation rate	1
			Total design variables	11/21/31
Subject to	Th ru st <sub>z</sub> = $1429.1753$	345 N	Single rotor thrust required for ¼ vehicle weight	1
			1	
	13.030033	- 20		
Thrust <sub>z</sub> [N] ω [rad/s]	14 29 .174 531 6 1.128 3 16	20 ts 10 -10 0.20 E 0.15 p 0.10 y 0.05 0.00		
Thrust <sub>z</sub> [N] ω [rad/s]	14 29 .17 4 53 1 6 1.12 8 3 16	20 tsi 10 0 -10 0.20 E 0.15 E 0.10 0.005 0.00 0.2	0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 Radial Location (r/R)	0.9 1.0

#### Blade Loading





How can we implement this for aero-structural-acoustic optimization?

### Aero-structural-acoustic Optimization

• Mixed-fidelity analysis to combine time-accurate and steady-state analyses within a single optimization



 $\rightarrow$  Built into the MPhys framework

### Aerodynamic Analysis

• Analyzing the NASA Tiltwing Concept vehicle performance using DAFoam and actuator disk theory



# DAFoam + TACS: Aerostructural Optimization

Adapted MPhys, DAFoam, and aerostructural coupling with FUNtoFEM and TACS to allow for ٠ propeller deflection under wing deformation



# Conclusions and Next Steps

- Implemented a set of gradient-based optimization tools within OpenMDAO to work towards enabling aero-structural-acoustic optimization
- Working to implement our adjoint-based HBEM solver and aeroacoustic analysis tool into MPHYS
- Actively working towards aero-structural-acoustic optimization of a UAM tiltwing vehicle
  - We'll have more to say about this tomorrow during the MPhys workshop
- Broader methods development needed to move to higher fidelity aerodynamic analysis
  - How do we implement a coupled unsteady adjoint?



# BACKUP

# A<sup>3</sup> Vahana: Parametric Noise Study



# Aerodynamic Analysis Tool

DUSTMid-Fidelity Aerodynam ic Analysis Tool

- Relies on Helm holtz decomposition of velocity field
- Mixed boundary elements vortex particle method and based on free vorticity evolution
- Allows for range of different fidelity aerodynamic models





Reproduced with permission by the authors from : D Montagnani, M Tugnoli, F Fonte, A Zanotti, M Syal, and G Droandi. Mid-Fidelity Analysis of Unsteady Interactional Aerodynamics of Complex Vtol Configurations. In 45th European Rotorcraft Forum, pages 1–11, Warsaw, Poland, 2019.

# Single Fan Aerodynamic Analysis

Particle evolution in hover flight condition

Cut plane of averaged velocity contours in hover flight



# Single Fan Aeroacoustic Analysis

- Contour plots of Sound Pressure Levelon planes below and in front of fan
  - Observer plane in front of fan:
    - [X,Y,Z] = [-250, 100, -250] [250, 100, 250][m]
    - Grid of [50 x 50] observer probes
  - Observer plane below fan:
    - [X,Y,Z] = [-250, -250, -50] [250, 250, -50][m]
    - Grid of [50 x 50] observer probes



Two Fan Aerodynamic Analysis

Particle evolution and wake interaction in hover flight condition

Cut plane of averaged velocity contours showing wake interaction in hover flight



### Two Fan Aeroacoustic Analysis

- Contour plot of Sound Pressure Levelon plane below fans
- [X,Y,Z] = [-300, -300, -100] [300, 300, -100][m]
- Grid of [20 x 20] observer probes



## Parametric Study

• Study of the change in noise footprint with respect to horizontal, vertical, and phase offset between fans



Case	Param.	Sam pled Values	Units
Case 1	$\Delta Y$	2.00, 2.50, 3.00, 3.50, 4.00	[m]
	$\Delta Z$	0.00, 0.25, 0.50, 0.75, 1.00	[m]
	$\phi$	0.00	[0]
	$\Delta Y$	2.00, 2.50, 3.00, 3.50, 4.00	[m]
Case	$\Delta Z$	0.00	[m]
2	$\phi$	0, 24, 48, 72, 96	[0]
	$\Delta Y$	3.00	[m]
Case	ΔZ	0.00, 0.25, 0.50, 0.75, 1.00	[m]
3	$\phi$	0, 24, 48, 72, 96	[0]

### Parametric Study: Results

• Slices of the design space recording the average sound pressure level on the plane below the vehicle



- Clear contours that show noise increases with increasing Y-offset
- Slight Z-offset dependence especially at low values of Y-offset
- Clear dependence on phase offset at large values of Y-offset
  - In phase: increased noise
  - Out of phase: decreased noise

- Phase offset has distinct effect
  - In phase: increased noise
  - Out of phase: decreased noise
- Z-offset has only m in im al effect
- → Without even changing the rotor design or operating conditions, we can substantially change the noise footprint of multiple rotors in operation

### Hybrid Blade Element Momentum Theory

Momentum Theory 
$$C_T$$
:  $C_{T,MT} = \frac{T_{des}}{\pi \rho V_t^2 R^2}$ 

Inflow Ratio:  $\lambda_0 = \lambda_c + \frac{C_T}{2\sqrt{\mu^2 + \lambda_0^2}}$  Where:  $\mu = \frac{\sqrt{V_x^2 + V_y^2}}{V_{tip}}$  and  $\lambda_c = -\frac{V_z}{V_{tip}}$ 

=> Iteratively solve for  $\lambda_0$  using Newton-Raphson method

Linear Inflow Model:  $\lambda = \lambda_0 (1 + k_x r \cos(\psi) + k_y r \sin(\psi))$ Coefficient of Lift:

For each cross-section at each azimuthal angle:  $C_l = C_{l\alpha} \alpha_{eff}$ Stall Model:

Adjust  $C_l$  for each section using stall model:

$$C_{l} = (1 - \sigma)C_{l\alpha}\alpha_{eff} + \sigma[2sign(\alpha_{eff} - \alpha_{L=0})sin^{2}(\alpha_{eff} - \alpha_{L=0})cos(\alpha_{eff} - \alpha_{L=0})$$
  
Where:  $\sigma = \frac{1 + e^{-M(\alpha_{eff} - \alpha_{L=0} - \alpha_{0})} + e^{M(\alpha_{eff} - \alpha_{L=0} + \alpha_{0})}{[1 + e^{-M(\alpha_{eff} - \alpha_{L=0} - \alpha_{0})}][1 + e^{-M(\alpha_{eff} - \alpha_{L=0} + \alpha_{0})}]}$ 

Blade Element Theory  $C_T$ :

Integrate Lift over rotor disk for Thrust:

$$C_{T,BET} = \frac{N_b}{4R\pi^2} \int_{r_{min}}^1 \int_0^{2\pi} C_l u^2 c(r) \cos(\phi) \, d\psi dr$$

Davoudi, B., and Duraisamy, K., "A Hybrid Blade Element Momentum Model for Flight Simulation of Rotary Wing Unmanned Aerial Vehicles," AIAA Aviation Forum, Dallas, Texas, 2019, pp. 1–21. doi:10.2514/6.2019-2823.



Where:  $k_{\chi} = \frac{15\pi}{23} \tan\left(\frac{\chi}{2}\right)$ ;  $k_{\chi} = 0$ ;  $\chi = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{\mu}{\lambda_{0}}\right)$ 

 $\mathcal{R}(T_{\text{mag}}) = C_{T,BET}(T_{\text{mag}}) - C_{T,MT}(T_{\text{mag}}) \Rightarrow 0$ 

### Brent's Method

Bracket root of function f(x) within domain a, b:

Repeat until f(b or s) = 0 or |b - a| is small enough: If  $f(a) \neq f(c)$  and  $f(b) \neq f(c)$  then: Inverse Quadratic Interpolation:  $s = \frac{af(b)f(c)}{(f(a) - f(b))(f(a) - f(c))} + \frac{bf(a)f(c)}{(f(b) - f(a))(f(b) - f(c))} + \frac{cf(a)f(b)}{(f(c) - f(a))(f(c) - f(b))}$ Else:

Secant Method

$$s = b - f(b) \frac{b-a}{f(b)-f(a)}$$

If s is not between  $\frac{3a+b}{4}$  and b or mflag is set and  $|s-b| \ge \frac{|b-c|}{2}$  or mflag is cleared and  $|s-b| \ge \frac{|c-d|}{2}$  or mflag is set and  $|b-c| < |\delta|$  or mflag is cleared and  $|c-d| < |\delta|$ : Bisection Method

$$s = \frac{a+b}{2}$$
; Set mflag

Else:

Clear mflag

#### Bracket root using linesearch starting at x = 0 and searching for change in sign of residual function

Brent, R. P., Algorithms for Minimization without Derivatives, Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ, 1973.

# Compact Aeroacoustic Formulation

- Elements such as lifting-lines and flat plates can be reconstructed using a compact source-sink method
  - A source-sink pair is 'placed' at each discretized airfoil section to mimic the actual airfoil geometry



F H Schmitz and Y H Yu. Helicopter Impulsive Noise: Theoretical and Experimental Status. Technical report, NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California, 1983.

### Airfoil Sectional Data

- Simulated baseline hover operating condition at each airfoil section
- Viscous formulation with **0.1**° analysis steps
- Values needed for Hybrid Blade Element Momentum Theory model:
  - Lift-curve slopes ( $C_l vs. \alpha$ ) values
  - Stall onset angle of attack
- Sections 3 & 4 are more challenging to converge – assumed to stall approximately where XFoil fails to converge



### Quadrotor Optim ization: Rotor Data

- Rotor blade data defined at radial locations along span, obtained from OpenVSP model
  - Four airfoil sections, interpolated across span
- Airfoil sections simulated using pyXLIGHT / XFoil in hover flight condition ( $\omega = 75 \ rad/s$ )



### Kreisselm eier-Steinhauser (KS) Aggregation

- Minimizing a maximum value can be challenging as it may be discontinuous
- The Kreisselmeier-Steinhauser (KS) function aggregates all of the recorded values and smooths the design space so the overall function is continuous
- Each independent function,  $g_j(x)$ , is aggregated using an aggregation parameter,  $\rho$ , in the equation below:

$$KS\left(g_j(x)\right) = \frac{1}{\rho}\log_e\left(\sum_{i}^{n_g} e^{\rho g_j(x)}\right)$$

•  $KS(g_j(x))$  represents the maximum function value that can be constrained or minimized

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