

# **Flight Physics**

Fritz-Olaf Lehmann

Department of Neurobiology BioFuture Research Group The University of Ulm, Germany

# Insect variety: What is a good model for a biomimetic MAV?

# 30,000,000 species



### Biomimetic MAVs: Visuo-motor reflexes of a fruit fly

## Visual environment

20 cm Stationary





1 mm

Body mass = 1.0 mg Forward speed = 300 body lengths / s Angular speed = 1200 % Pay load = 100% Total flight efficiency = 3% Reaction time = 5-30 ms Endurance = several hours

Biomimetic MAVs: Visuo-motor reflexes of 1.0 mg fruit fly



# Digital Particle Image Velocimetry (DPIV) – Imaging of Drosophila wake





Force enhancement during 3-D wing translation: leading edge vortex (LEV)

$$L = \rho U \Gamma$$

$$U = \sigma U \Gamma$$

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$$U = \sigma U C \sin(\alpha)$$

$$+ C = \sigma U C \sin(\alpha$$

LEV is not sufficient to explain performance of flapping low AR wings

LEV may explain only 35- 50% of total flight force production in biomimetic robotic models of insects.

LEV can not explain why maximum force peaks in insects occur at the end of each halfstroke (stroke reversals) and not during wing translation.

Biomimetic robotics: Wing rotation is a source for enhanced lift production



Rotational circulation changes with rotational axis of an insect wing



# Flight force production at different rotational timings



# Modifications of unsteady aerodynamics: wing-wing & wing-wake interactions



Wing configuration

Single wing Stroke reversal

Fluid dynamic mechanism

Recapture of flow produced during preceding half stroke, momentum transfer



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#### Modifications of unsteady aerodynamics: wing-wing & wing-wake interactions







Wing configuration

Single wing Stroke reversal

Fluid dynamic mechanism

- Recapture of flow produced during preceding half stroke, momentum transfer
- lpsi-contral lateral Stroke reversal
- LEV induction and alteration in wake capture

- Fore-hind
- Entire stroke cycle
- LEV desctruction and fore wing wake capture by hind wing

Ispi-contral lateral wing-wing interaction (clap and fling)

I. "force control without changes in kinematics"

# Wing-wing interaction: A source for lift enhancement?



# Lift enhancement by wing-wing interaction using a 3-D robotic model (Re=134)







Values scaled to performance of 1 wing

# Lift enhancement and velocity differential image (2-D DPIV, 2-1 wing)



# Ispilateral tandem wing-wake interaction

II. "force control without changes in kinematics"

Stroke kinematics in four winged insects (dragon and damsel flies)



# Wing-wake interaction in tandem wings: Hindwing lift





# Hind wing force production and lift enhancement



# DPIV measures of hindwing LEV and local flow at 15 and 65% stroke cycle



## DPIV measures of hindwing LEV and local flow at 35 and 85% stroke cycle



... what did we learn from these results for the construction of hovering biomimetic MAVs based on flapping wing motion ....

Biomimetic MAVs: Design strategies derived from aerodynamic analysis



Wing hinge design: Tandem wing MAV simplifies implementation of control



Wing shape: Tubby low aspect ratio wings: High C<sub>L</sub>, low inertial costs



*Kinematics:* Gross pattern depends on task and desired clap/fling effect



# Flight control:

- 1. Kinematic phase shift (no changes in rotational timing, angle of attack, stroke amplitude required)
- 2. Rotational control provides enhanced maneuverability
- 3. Clap and fling: Pitch control and burst performance

