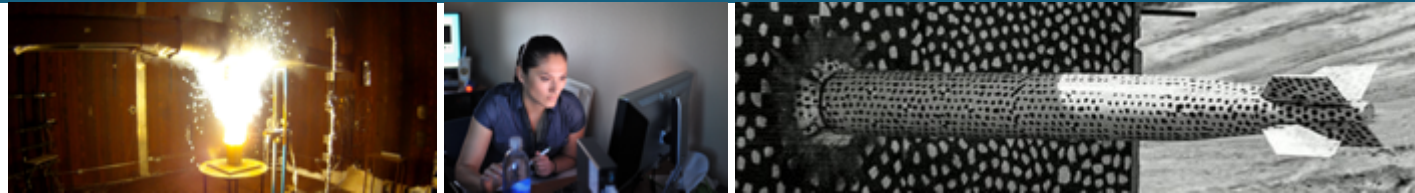


# WEC Design Optimization ("WecOptTool")



*Presented by*

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

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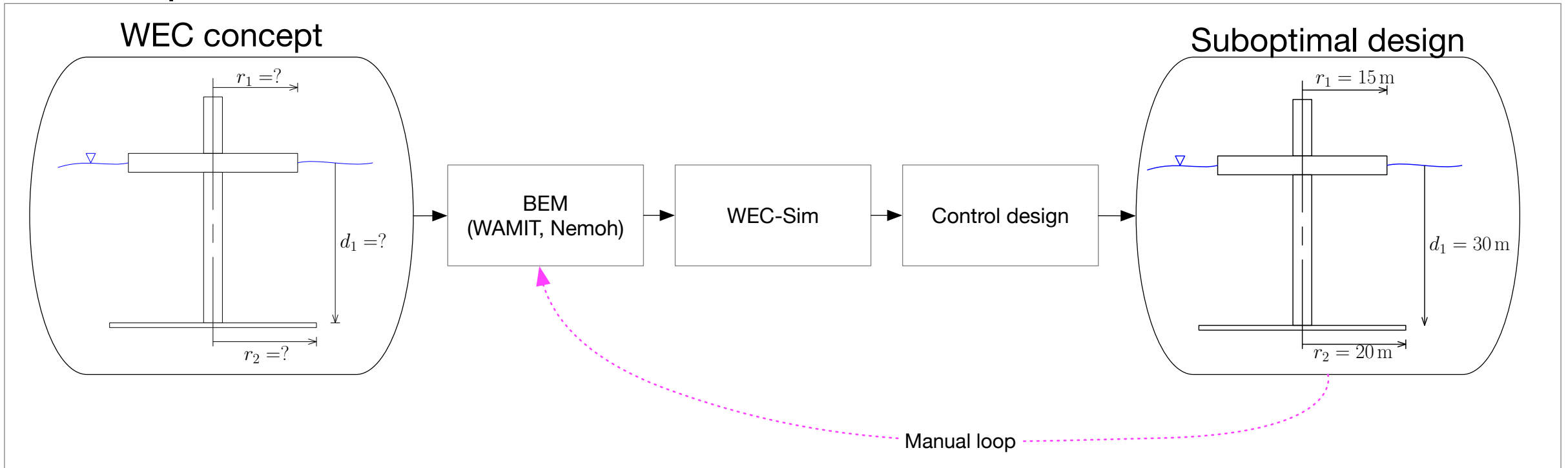
SAND2020-10553 PE

## 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

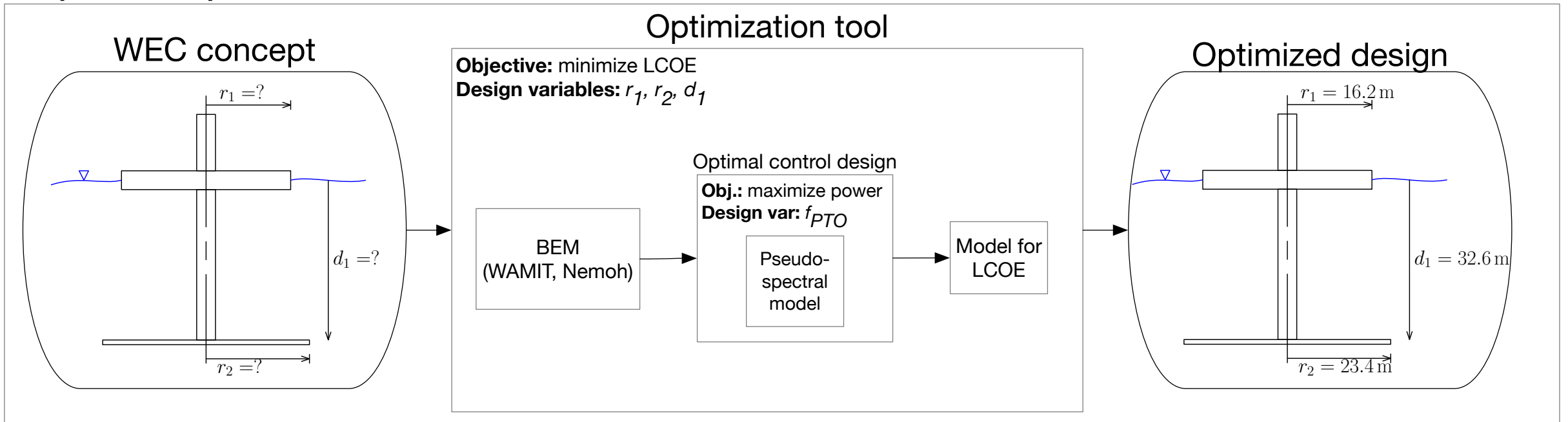


### 3 Problem statement



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

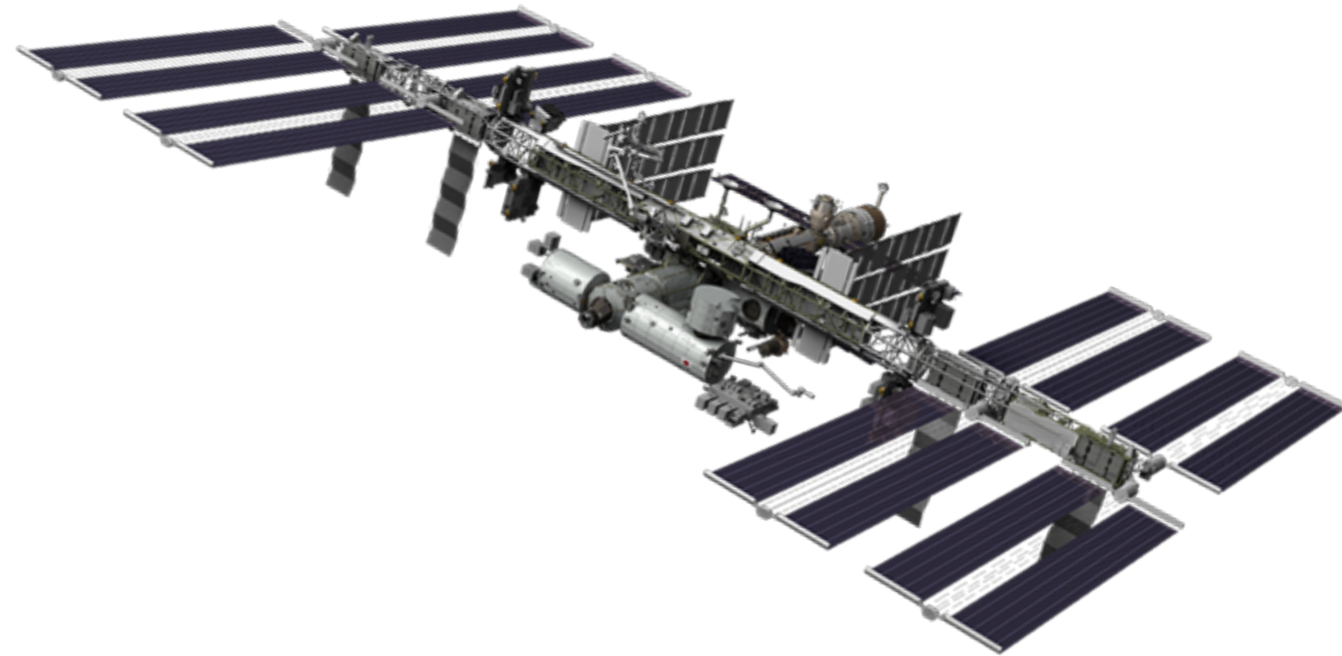
### Improved process



# Technical Approach



- Pseudo spectral method<sup>1</sup> allows for efficient optimal control solution with constraints
- Allows for co-design, with arbitrary structure “stand-in” controller



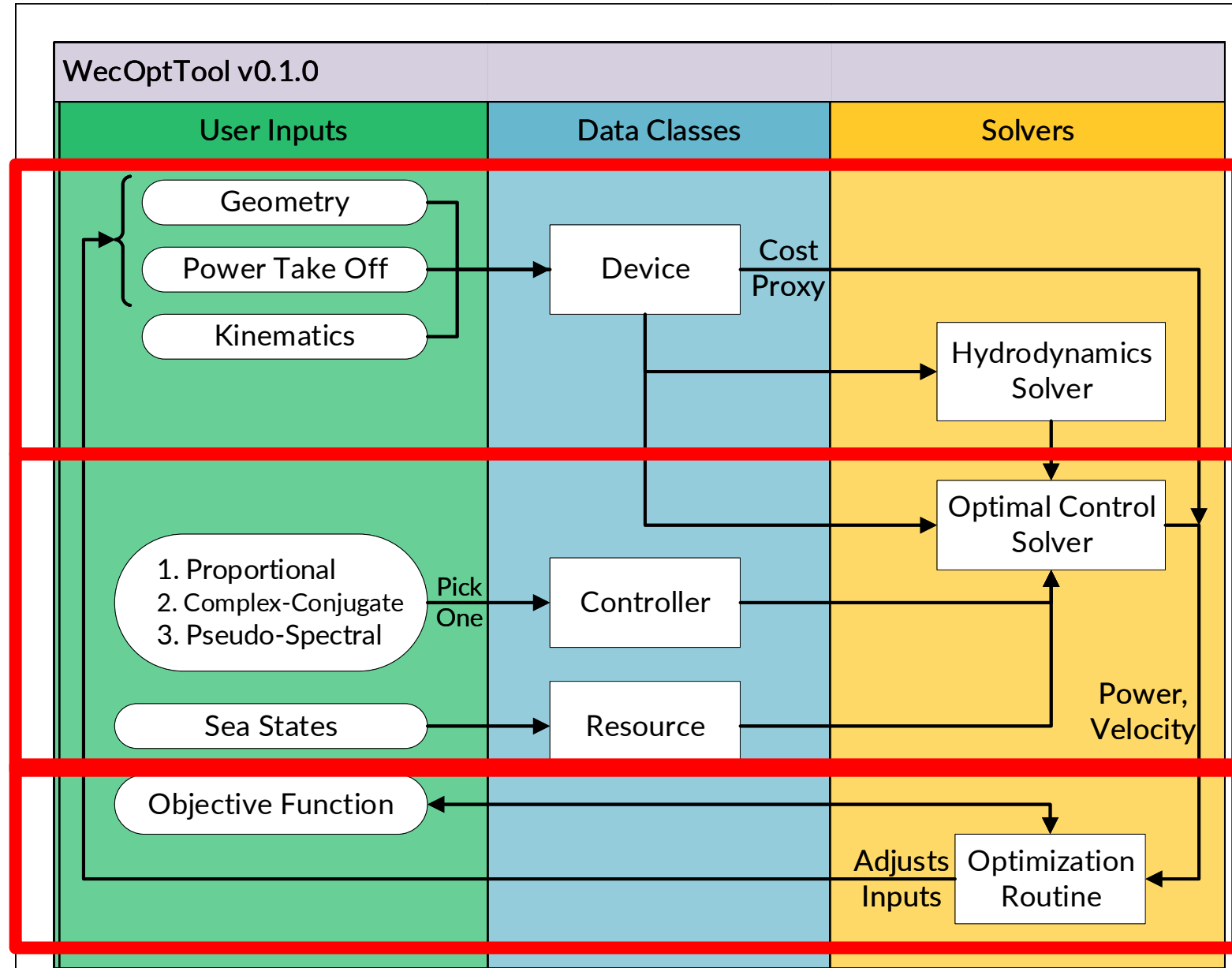
*<sup>1</sup>Recently leveraged for International Space Station maneuver using gyroscopes (no fuel)*



Design device

Simulate performance

Distill results & pass to optimization solver





# Github repository

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

WEC Design Optimization Toolbox

snl-waterpower.github.io/w...

Readme

GPL-3.0 License

Releases 2

Version 1.0.0 Released (Latest)

Contributors 4

H0R5E Mathew Topper

# Documentation

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

WecOptTool 1.0

Search docs

View page source

## WecOptTool

The WEC Design Optimization MATLAB Toolbox (WecOptTool) allows users to perform wave energy converter (WEC) device design optimization studies while including different control strategies. In particular, this tool's key feature is the usage of a pseudo spectral solution method capable of dealing with both constraints and nonlinear dynamics. This allows for the optimization study to find the best possible power capture performance within the system constraints (e.g., maximum power take-off force).

Applications of WecOptTool include design optimization studies of the WaveBot point absorber and RM3 point absorber (see the [Optimizing an Existing WEC Model](#) section for further details). These examples illustrate how WecOptTool can be applied to arbitrary devices of the user's choosing (see the [WEC Model Architecture](#) section).

### Developers

WecOptTool is developed by Sandia National Laboratories, with support from Data Only Greater. The developers would also like to acknowledge benefit from past collaborations with the Oregon State University Design Engineering Lab.

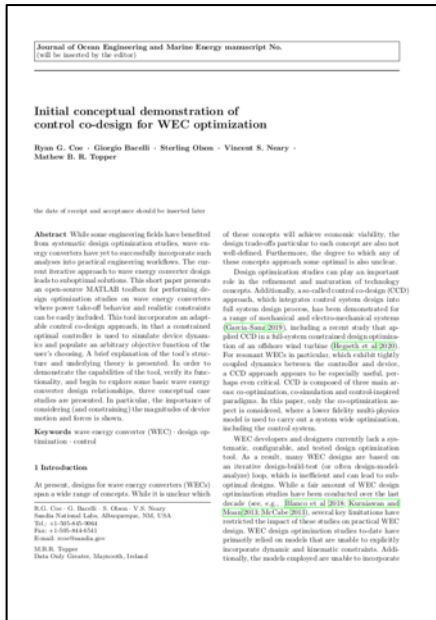
### User Guide

1. Setup
2. Optimizing an Existing WEC Model
3. WEC Model Architecture
4. API
5. License
6. References

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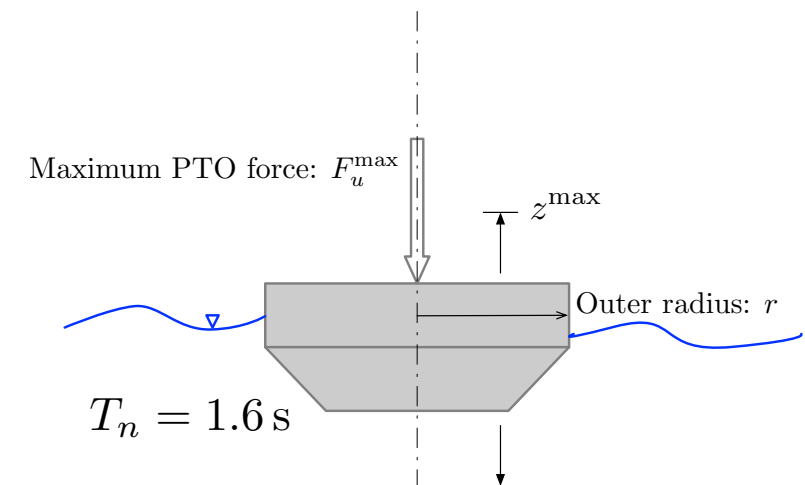
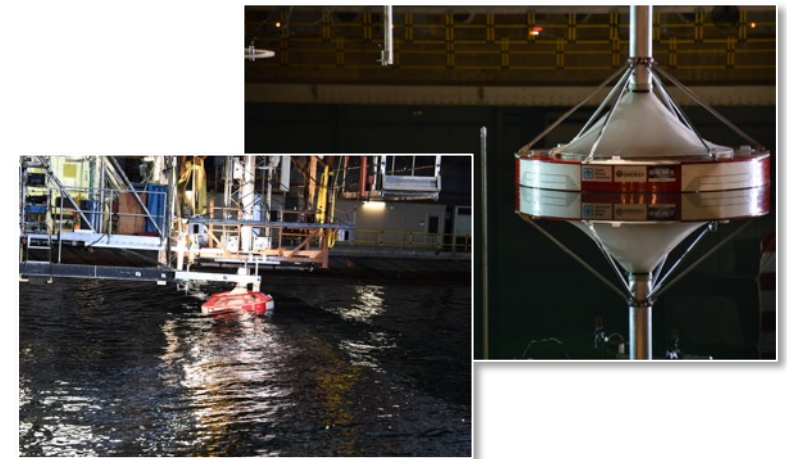
<https://doi.org/10.36227/techrxiv.12928898>

## 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

Regular wave:  $A = 0.0625$  m,  $T = 3.33$  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

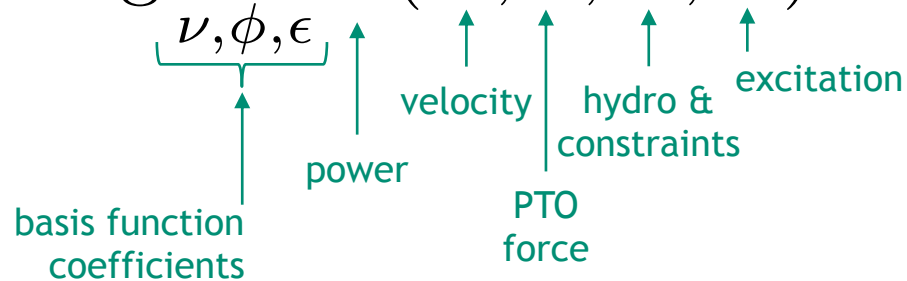
$$F_u(\omega) = -Z_i^*(\omega) u(\omega)$$

P: Proportional damping

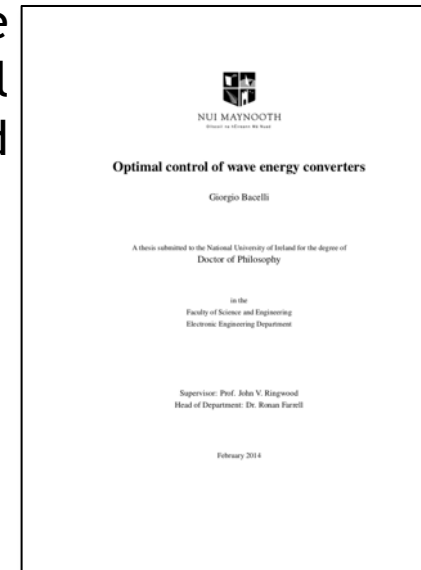
$$F_u = -B_{pto} V$$

PS: pseudo-spectral

$$\arg \min P(X, \Gamma, G, E)$$



For more on the pseudo-spectral method

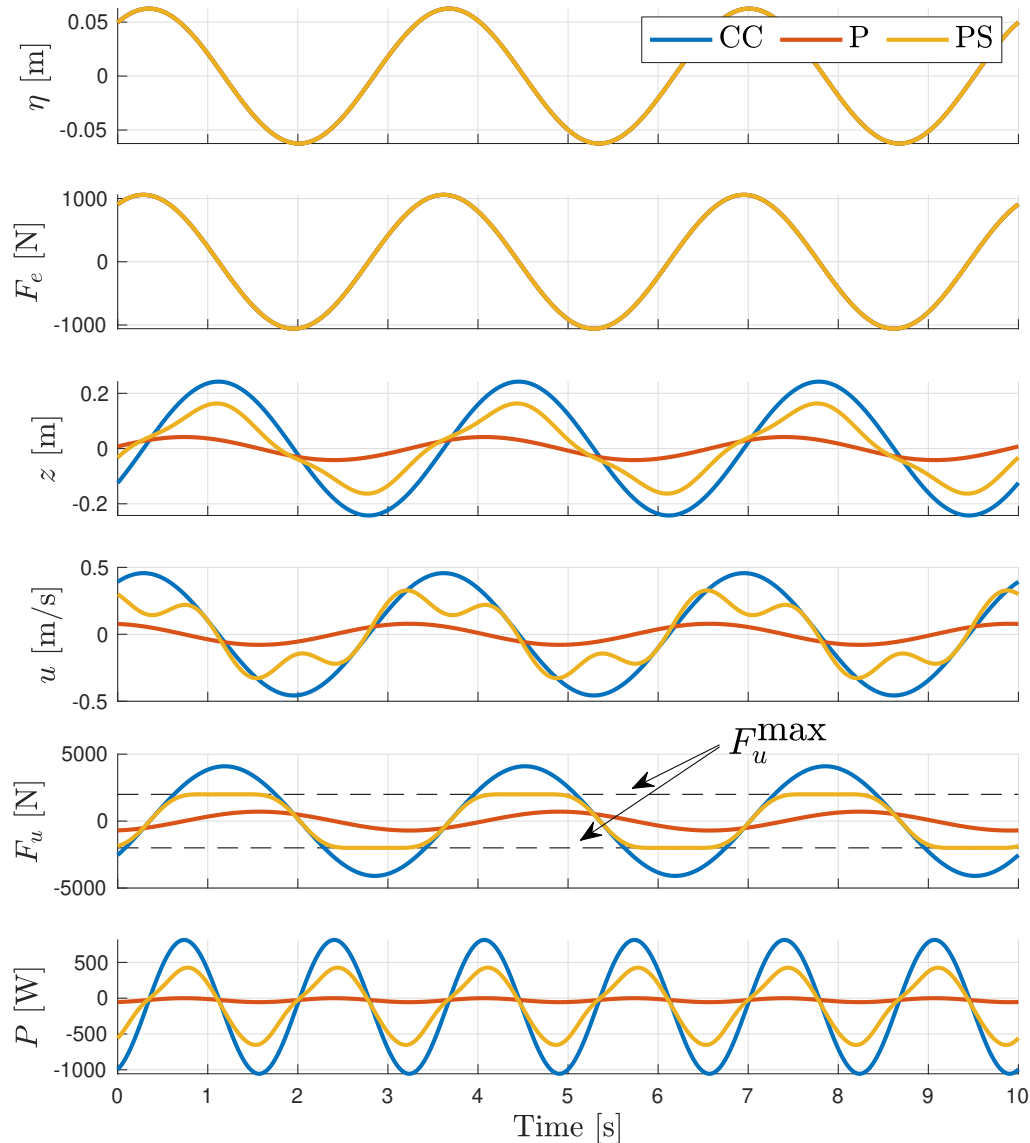


<http://mural.maynoothuniversity.ie/6753/>



# Case A, results

Performance with CC, P, and PS controllers



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]	$z^{\max} = \infty$	$z^{\max} = 0.6$	$z^{\max} = \infty$

Free surface elevation

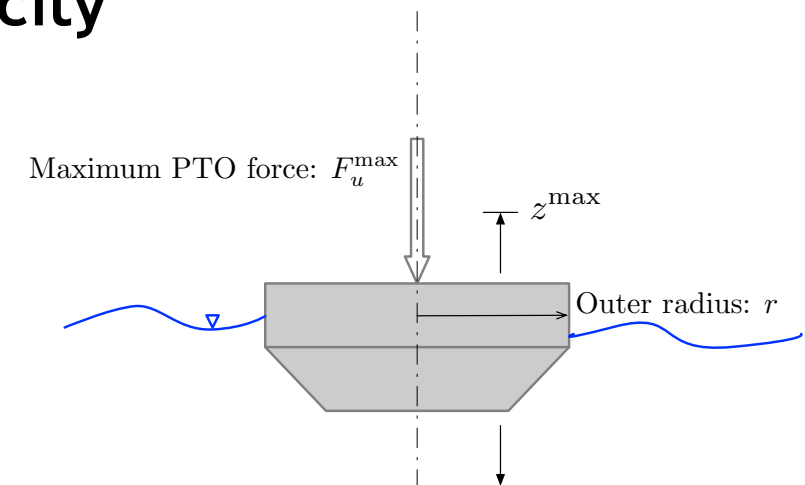
Excitation force

WEC vertical position

WEC vertical velocity

PTO force

Power



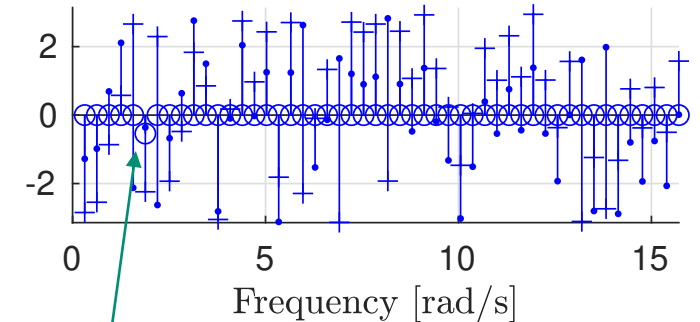
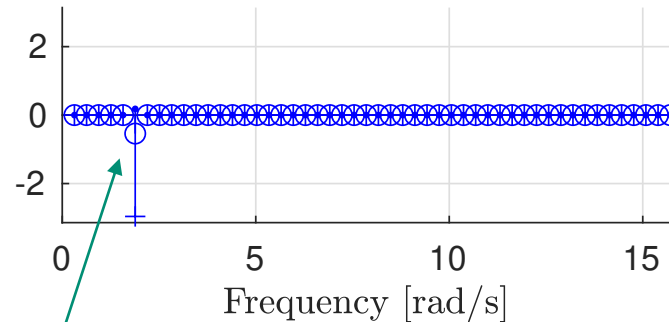
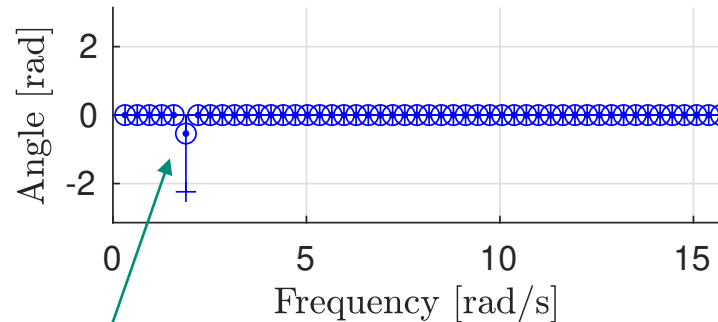
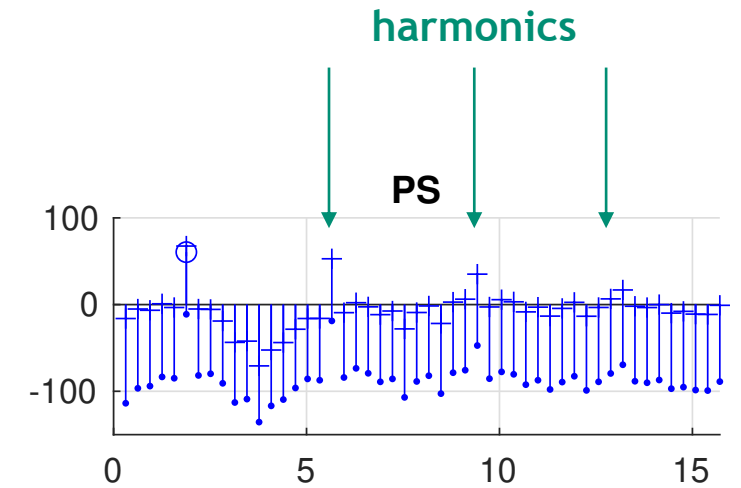
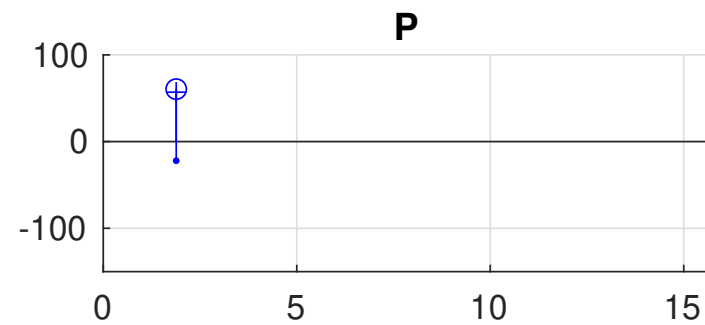
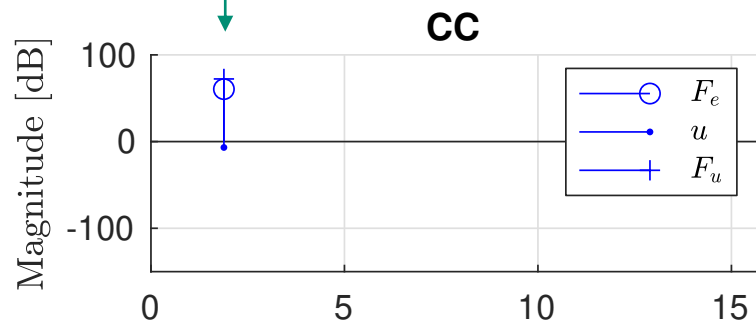
# Case A, results

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]	$z^{\max} = \infty$	$z^{\max} = 0.6$	$z^{\max} = \infty$



excited frequency  
( $T=3.33s$ )



resonance :)

not resonance :(

almost resonance ;)

# Case B

Optimal design for CC, P, and PS controllers

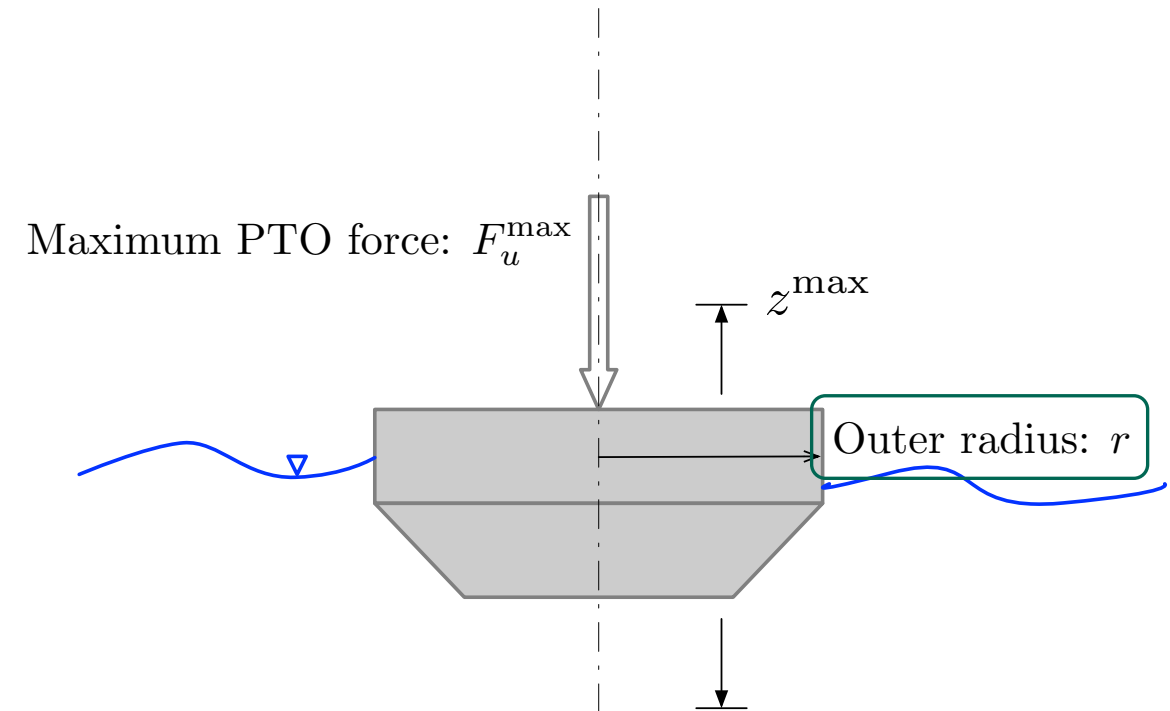
Design variable	Case A	Case B	Case C
Outer radius, $r$ [m]	$r = 0.88$	$r \in [0.25, 2]$	$r \in [0.25, 2]$
Maximum PTO force, $F_u^{\max}$ [kN]	$F_u^{\max} = 2$	$F_u^{\max} = \infty$	$F_u^{\max} \in [0.1, 1]$
Maximum stroke, $z^{\max}$ [m]	$z^{\max} = \infty$	$z^{\max} = 0.6$	$z^{\max} = \infty$

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

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

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

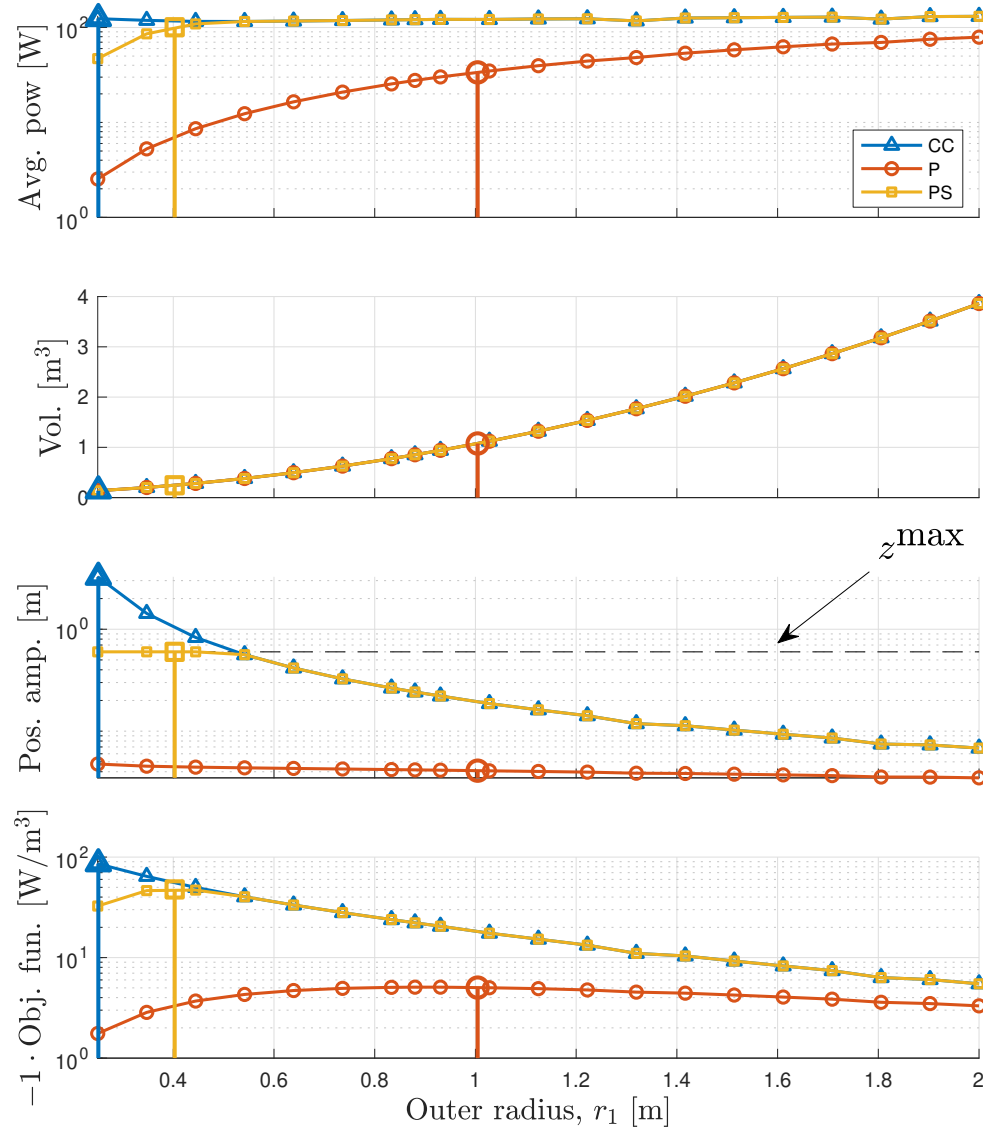
Brute force (“Monte Carlo”) and `fminbnd`



# 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]	$z^{\max} = \infty$	$z^{\max} = 0.6$	$z^{\max} = \infty$



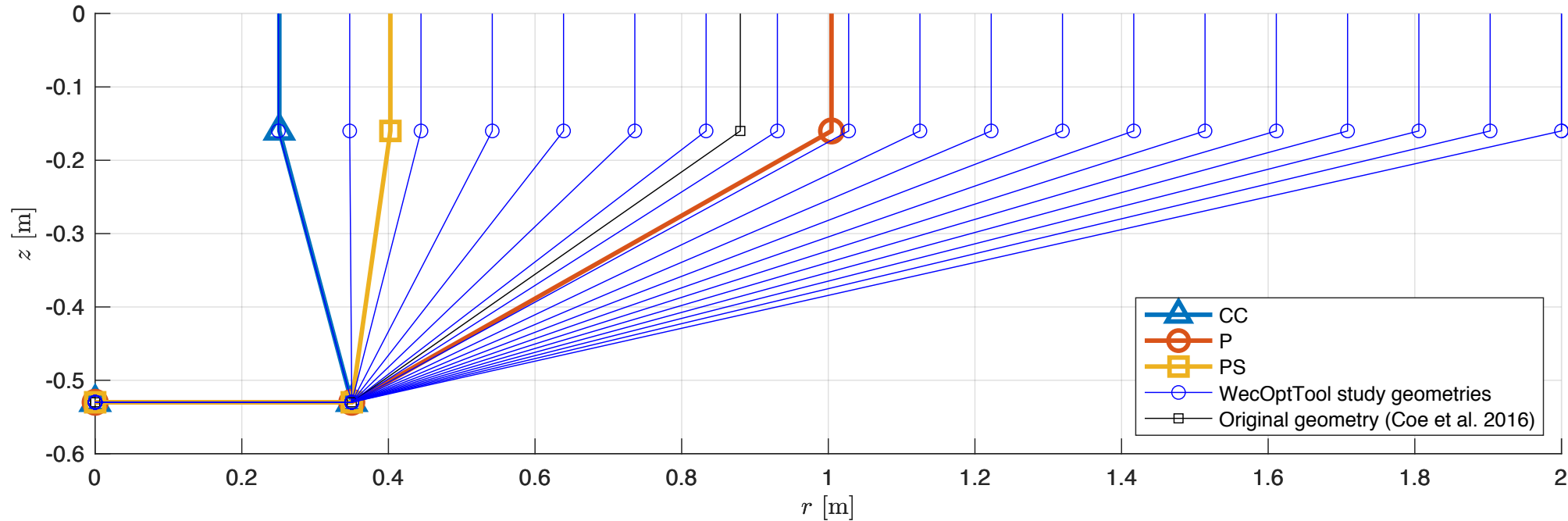
$$\frac{\bar{P}(r)}{(r_0 + r)^3}$$

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

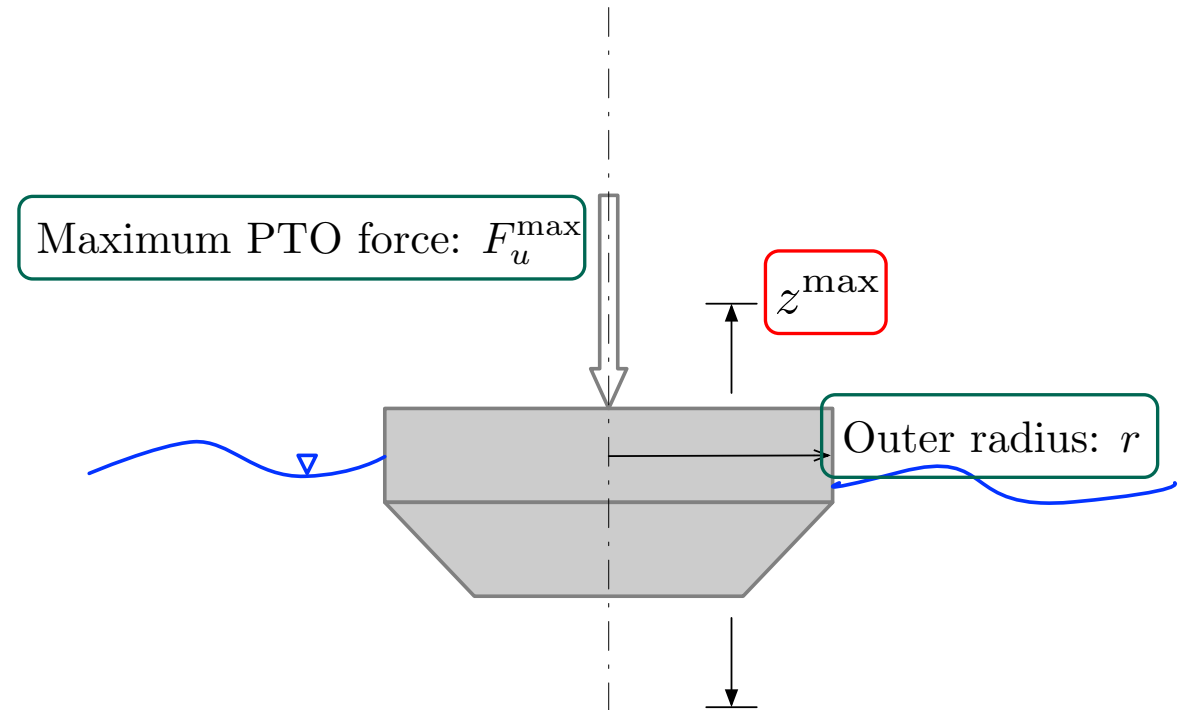
## Case C

## 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

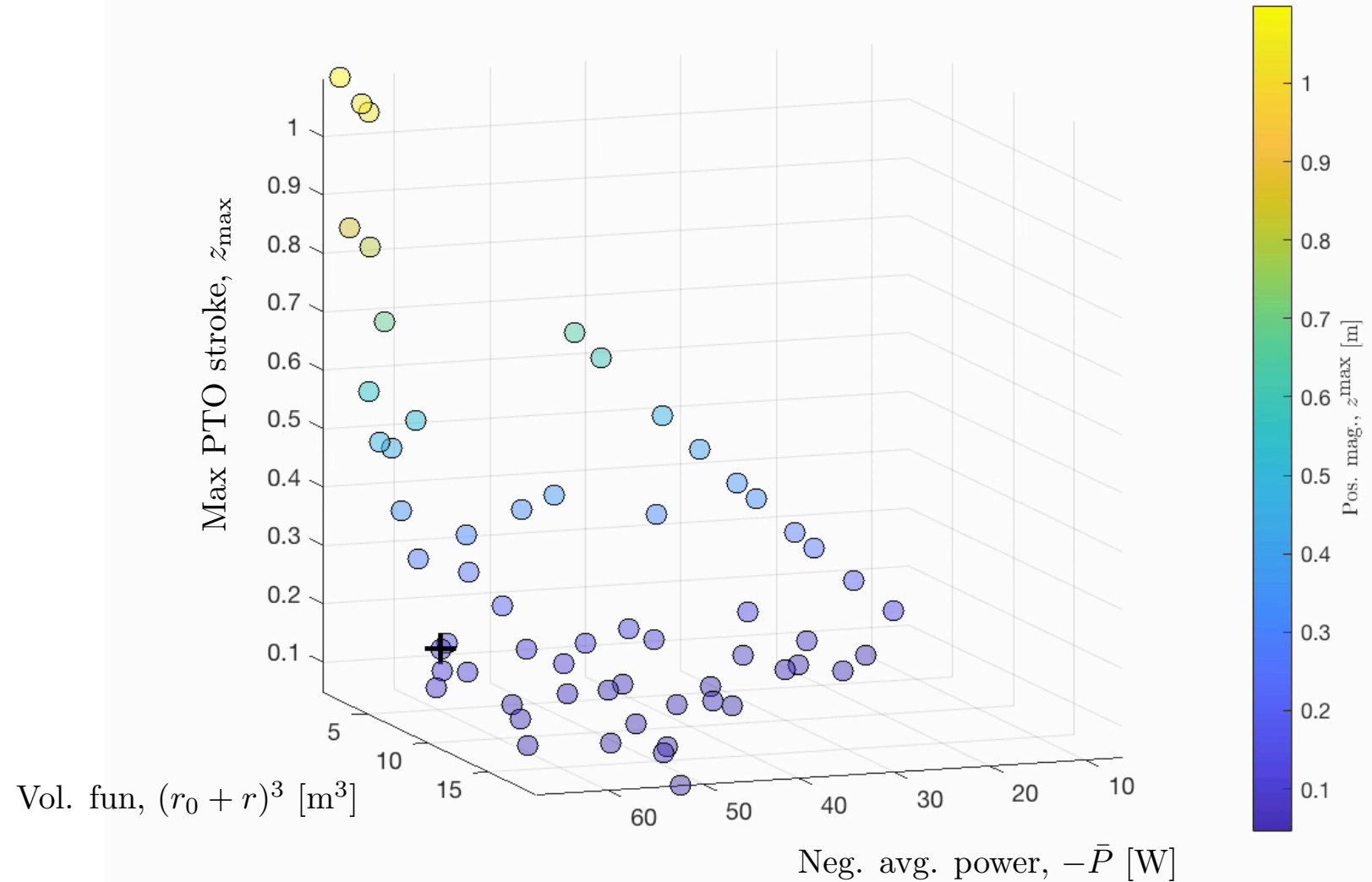
$$\begin{aligned}
 & \begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{power} & \text{volume*} & \text{max PTO stroke} \\
 \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\
 \min_{r, F_u^{\max}} & (\bar{P}, (r_0 + r)^3, z^{\max}) \\
 \text{s.t.} & r \in [0.25, 2] \\
 & F_u^{\max} \in [0.1, 1] \times 10^3
 \end{array}
 \end{aligned}$$



# 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]	$z^{\max} = \infty$	$z^{\max} = 0.6$	$z^{\max} = \infty$

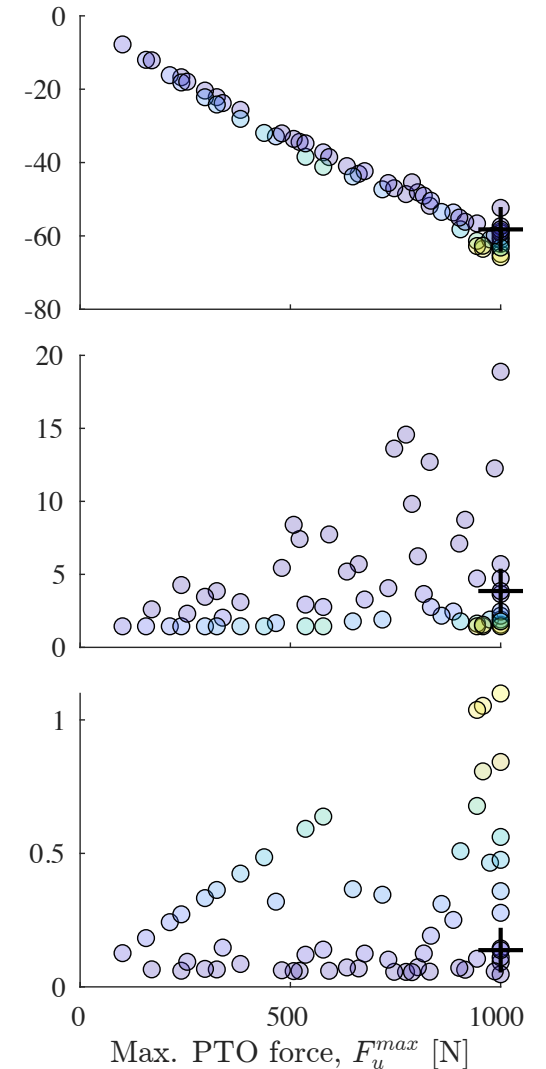
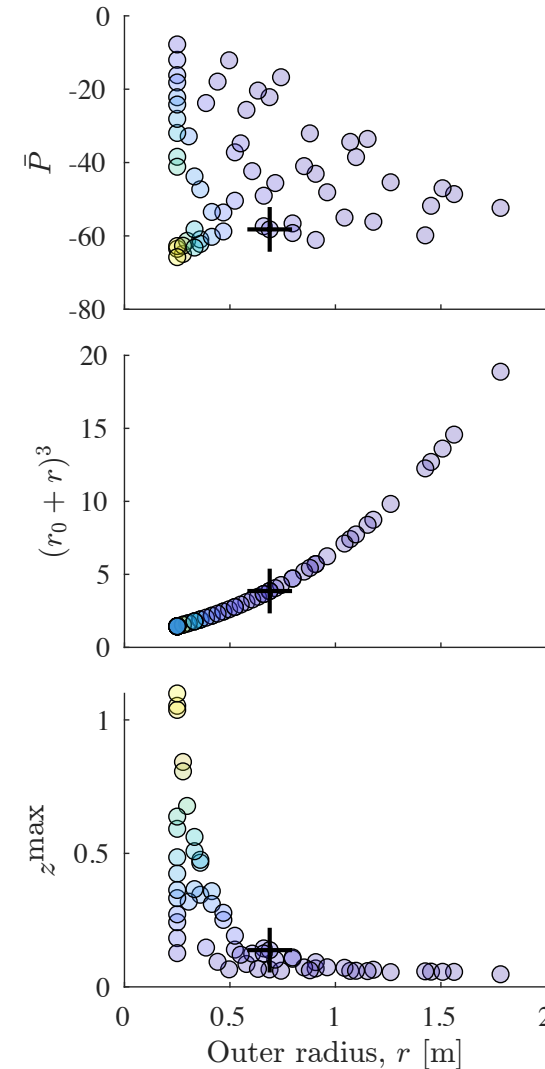
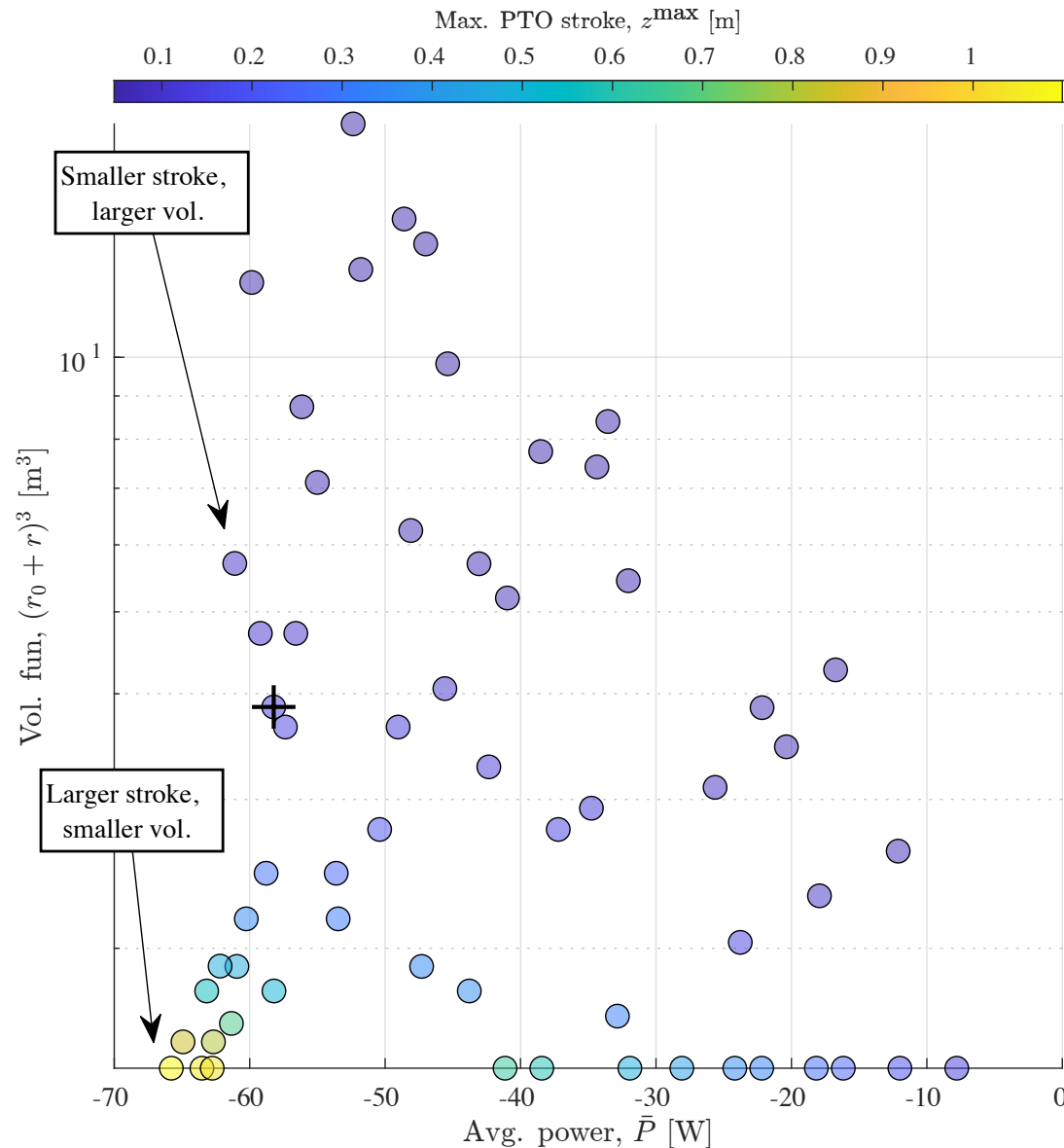




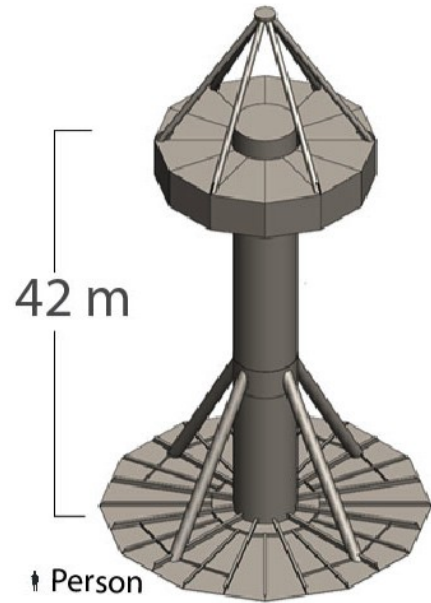
# Case C, results pt. 2

## Multi-objective design study

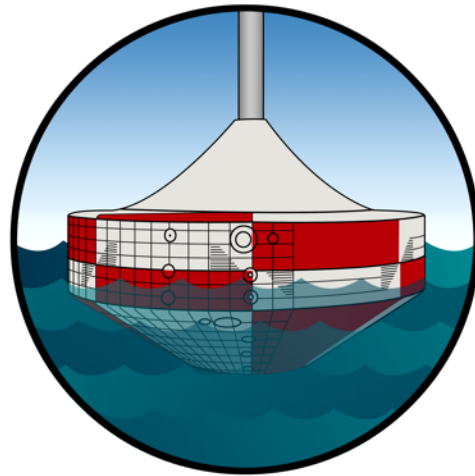
Design variable	Case A	Case B	Case C
Outer radius, $r$ [m]	$r = 0.88$	$r \in [0.25, 2]$	$r \in [0.25, 2]$
Maximum PTO force, $F_u^{\max}$ [kN]	$F_u^{\max} = 2$	$F_u^{\max} = \infty$	$F_u^{\max} \in [0.1, 1]$
Maximum stroke, $z^{\max}$ [m]	$z^{\max} = \infty$	$z^{\max} = 0.6$	$z^{\max} = \infty$



## Existing examples

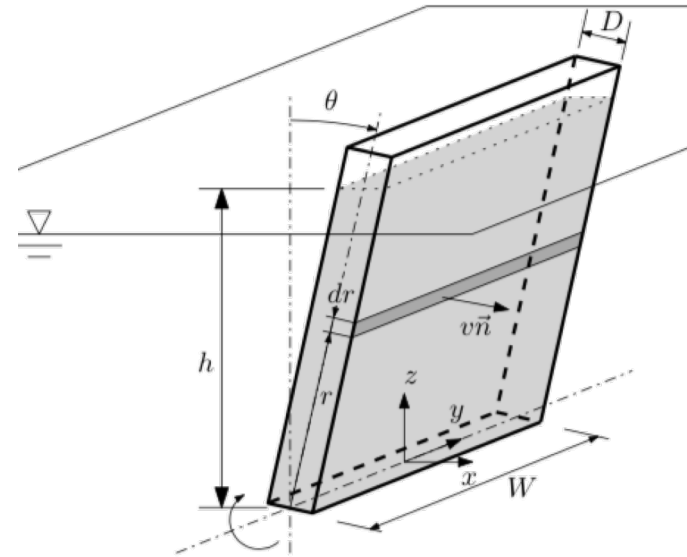


**RM3**



**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/fbWecCntrl/tree/codesign>)
- Fundamental concepts and objective functions
- Fixed-structure controllers



## Thank you for your time

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