Energetically Optimal Flapping Flight via a Fully Discrete Adjoint Method with Explicit Treatment of Flapping Frequency

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Understand and design energetically optimal flapping motions

Energetically optimal flapping flight critical to

- understand biological systems
- design Micro Aerial Vehicles (MAVs)



Optimal flapping motion of micro aerial vehicle





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 $Flapping\ frequency\ critical\ consideration\ in\ energetically\ optimal\ flapping$





- N_t uniform timesteps per period required for accuracy
- Flapping frequency (period) is parametrized $f = f(\boldsymbol{\mu}) \ (T = T(\boldsymbol{\mu}))$

 $T(\boldsymbol{\mu}) = N_t \Delta t$





- N_t uniform timesteps per period required for accuracy
- Flapping frequency (period) is parametrized $f = f(\mu) \ (T = T(\mu))$

 $T(\boldsymbol{\mu}) = N_t \Delta t$

Fix N_t , parametrize $\Delta t = \Delta t(\boldsymbol{\mu})$





Generalization: PDE-constrained optimization with parametrized time domain

- Optimal control
- Determination of fundamental frequency, e.g., von Karman vortex shedding
- **Path/trajectory optimization**: find motion that achieves desired final position in least amount of time





Goal: Find the solution of the unsteady PDE-constrained optimization problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \underset{\boldsymbol{U},\ \boldsymbol{\mu}}{\text{minimize}} & \mathcal{J}(\boldsymbol{U},\boldsymbol{\mu}) \\ \text{subject to} & \boldsymbol{C}(\boldsymbol{U},\boldsymbol{\mu}) \leq 0 \\ & \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{U}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{F}(\boldsymbol{U},\nabla \boldsymbol{U}) = 0 \ \text{ in } \ v(\boldsymbol{\mu},t) \end{array}$$

where $t \in [0, T(\boldsymbol{\mu})]$ and

• U(x,t) PDE solution • μ design/control parameters • $\mathcal{J}(U,\mu) = \frac{1}{T(\mu)} \int_0^{T(\mu)} \int_{\Gamma} j(U,\mu,t) \, dS \, dt$ objective function • $C(U,\mu) = \frac{1}{T(\mu)} \int_0^{T(\mu)} \int_{\Gamma} \mathbf{c}(U,\mu,t) \, dS \, dt$ constraints





Optimizer

Primal PDE

Dual PDE









Dual PDE







Dual PDE













• Continuous PDE-constrained optimization problem

$$\begin{split} \underset{\boldsymbol{U}, \ \boldsymbol{\mu}}{\text{minimize}} & \mathcal{J}(\boldsymbol{U}, \boldsymbol{\mu}) \\ \text{subject to} & \boldsymbol{C}(\boldsymbol{U}, \boldsymbol{\mu}) \leq 0 \\ & \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{U}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{F}(\boldsymbol{U}, \nabla \boldsymbol{U}) = 0 \quad \text{in} \quad \boldsymbol{v}(\boldsymbol{\mu}, t) \end{split}$$

• Fully discrete PDE-constrained optimization problem

$$\begin{array}{l} \underset{u_{0}, \ldots, u_{N_{t}} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_{u}}, \\ k_{1,1}, \ldots, k_{N_{t},s} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_{u}}, \\ \mu \in \mathbb{R}^{n_{\mu}} \end{array} \qquad J(u_{0}, \ldots, u_{N_{t}}, k_{1,1}, \ldots, k_{N_{t},s}, \mu) \\ \text{subject to} \qquad C(u_{0}, \ldots, u_{N_{t}}, k_{1,1}, \ldots, k_{N_{t},s}, \mu) \leq 0 \\ u_{0} - \bar{u}(\mu) = 0 \\ u_{n} - u_{n-1} - \sum_{i=1}^{s} b_{i}k_{n,i} = 0 \\ Mk_{n,i} - \Delta t_{n}(\mu)r(u_{n,i}, \mu, t_{n,i}(\mu)) = 0 \end{array}$$



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Highlights of globally high-order discretization

• Arbitrary Lagrangian-Eulerian formulation: Map, $\mathcal{G}(\cdot, \boldsymbol{\mu}, t)$, from physical $v(\boldsymbol{\mu}, t)$ to reference V

$$\left. \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{U}_{\boldsymbol{X}}}{\partial t} \right|_{\boldsymbol{X}} + \nabla_{\boldsymbol{X}} \cdot \boldsymbol{F}_{\boldsymbol{X}}(\boldsymbol{U}_{\boldsymbol{X}}, \ \nabla_{\boldsymbol{X}} \boldsymbol{U}_{\boldsymbol{X}}) = 0$$

• Space discretization: discontinuous Galerkin

$$M \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = r(u, \mu, t)$$

• Time discretization: diagonally implicit RK

$$oldsymbol{u}_n = oldsymbol{u}_{n-1} + \sum_{i=1}^s b_i oldsymbol{k}_{n,i}$$
 $oldsymbol{M} oldsymbol{k}_{n,i} = \Delta t_n(oldsymbol{\mu}) oldsymbol{r} \left(oldsymbol{u}_{n,i}, \ oldsymbol{\mu}, \ t_{n,i}(oldsymbol{\mu})
ight)$

• Quantity of interest: solver-consistency

$$F(\boldsymbol{u}_0,\ldots,\boldsymbol{u}_{N_t},\boldsymbol{k}_{1,1},\ldots,\boldsymbol{k}_{N_t,s})$$



Mapping-Based ALE



DG Discretization

c_1	a_{11}			
c_2	a_{21}	a_{22}		
÷		÷	·.	
c_s	a_{s1}	a_{s2}	•••	a_{ss}
	b_1	b_2		b_s

Butcher Tableau for DIRK

- Consider the *fully discrete* output functional $F(u_n, k_{n,i}, \mu)$
 - $\bullet\,$ Represents either the ${\bf objective}$ function or a ${\bf constraint}$
- The *total derivative* with respect to the parameters μ , required in the context of gradient-based optimization, takes the form

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}F}{\mathrm{d}\mu} = \frac{\partial F}{\partial \mu} + \sum_{n=0}^{N_t} \frac{\partial F}{\partial u_n} \frac{\partial u_n}{\partial \mu} + \sum_{n=1}^{N_t} \sum_{i=1}^s \frac{\partial F}{\partial k_{n,i}} \frac{\partial k_{n,i}}{\partial \mu}$$

• The sensitivities, $\frac{\partial u_n}{\partial \mu}$ and $\frac{\partial k_{n,i}}{\partial \mu}$, are expensive to compute, requiring the solution of n_{μ} linear evolution equations

• Adjoint method: alternative method for computing $\frac{dF}{d\mu}$ that require one linear evolution evoluation for each quantity of interest, F





Adjoint equation derivation: outline

• Define **auxiliary** PDE-constrained optimization problem

$$\begin{array}{l} \underset{\boldsymbol{u}_{0}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{u}_{N_{t}} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_{\boldsymbol{u}}}, \\ \boldsymbol{k}_{1,1}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{k}_{N_{t},s} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_{\boldsymbol{u}}} \end{array} }{\text{F}(\boldsymbol{u}_{0}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{u}_{N_{t}}, \boldsymbol{k}_{1,1}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{k}_{N_{t},s}, \boldsymbol{\mu}) \\ \text{subject to} \qquad \boldsymbol{R}_{0} = \boldsymbol{u}_{0} - \bar{\boldsymbol{u}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}) = 0 \\ \boldsymbol{R}_{n} = \boldsymbol{u}_{n} - \boldsymbol{u}_{n-1} - \sum_{i=1}^{s} b_{i} \boldsymbol{k}_{n,i} = 0 \\ \boldsymbol{R}_{n,i} = \boldsymbol{M} \boldsymbol{k}_{n,i} - \Delta t_{n} \boldsymbol{r} \left(\boldsymbol{u}_{n,i}, \boldsymbol{\mu}, t_{n,i} \right) = 0 \end{array}$$

• Define Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{u}_n, \boldsymbol{k}_{n,i}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}_n, \boldsymbol{\kappa}_{n,i}) = F - \boldsymbol{\lambda}_0^T \boldsymbol{R}_0 - \sum_{n=1}^{N_t} \boldsymbol{\lambda}_n^T \boldsymbol{R}_n - \sum_{n=1}^{N_t} \sum_{i=1}^s \boldsymbol{\kappa}_{n,i}^T \boldsymbol{R}_{n,i}$$

• The solution of the optimization problem is given by the Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) sytem



$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial u_n} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial k_{n,i}} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \lambda_n} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \kappa_{n,i}} = 0$$



Dissection of fully discrete adjoint equations

- Linear evolution equations solved backward in time
- **Primal** state/stage, $u_{n,i}$ required at each state/stage of dual problem
- Heavily dependent on **chosen ouput**

$$\boldsymbol{\lambda}_{N_{t}} = \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{F}}{\partial \boldsymbol{u}_{N_{t}}}^{T}$$
$$\boldsymbol{\lambda}_{n-1} = \boldsymbol{\lambda}_{n} + \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{F}}{\partial \boldsymbol{u}_{n-1}}^{T} + \sum_{i=1}^{s} \Delta t_{n} \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{r}}{\partial \boldsymbol{u}} \left(\boldsymbol{u}_{n,i}, \ \boldsymbol{\mu}, \ t_{n-1} + c_{i} \Delta t_{n}\right)^{T} \boldsymbol{\kappa}_{n,i}$$
$$\boldsymbol{M}^{T} \boldsymbol{\kappa}_{n,i} = \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{F}}{\partial \boldsymbol{k}_{n,i}}^{T} + b_{i} \boldsymbol{\lambda}_{n} + \sum_{j=i}^{s} a_{ji} \Delta t_{n} \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{r}}{\partial \boldsymbol{u}} \left(\boldsymbol{u}_{n,j}, \ \boldsymbol{\mu}, \ t_{n-1} + c_{j} \Delta t_{n}\right)^{T} \boldsymbol{\kappa}_{n,j}$$

• Gradient reconstruction via dual variables

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}F}{\mathrm{d}\mu} = \frac{\partial F}{\partial \mu} + \lambda_0^T \frac{\partial \bar{\boldsymbol{u}}}{\partial \mu}(\mu) + \sum_{n=1}^{N_t} \Delta t_n \sum_{i=1}^s \kappa_{n,i}^T \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{r}}{\partial \mu}(\boldsymbol{u}_{n,i}, \ \boldsymbol{\mu}, \ t_{n,i})$$



Parametrized time domain: modifies gradient reconstruction from adjoint solution, not adjoint equations themselves

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\mathrm{d}F}{\mathrm{d}\mu} &= \frac{\partial F}{\partial \mu} + \lambda_0^T \frac{\partial \bar{\boldsymbol{u}}}{\partial \mu}(\boldsymbol{\mu}) + \sum_{n=1}^{N_t} \Delta t_n \sum_{i=1}^s \kappa_{n,i}^T \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{r}}{\partial \mu}(\boldsymbol{u}_{n,i}, \ \boldsymbol{\mu}, \ t_{n,i}) \\ &+ \sum_{n=1}^{N_t} \sum_{i=1}^s b_i \left[\Delta t_n \frac{\partial f^h}{\partial t}(\boldsymbol{u}_{n,i}, \ \boldsymbol{\mu}, \ t_{n,i}) \frac{\partial t_{n,i}}{\partial \mu}(\boldsymbol{\mu}) + f^h(\boldsymbol{u}_{n,i}, \ \boldsymbol{\mu}, \ t_{n,i}) \frac{\partial \Delta t_n}{\partial \mu}(\boldsymbol{\mu}) \right] \\ &+ \sum_{n=1}^{N_t} \sum_{i=1}^s \kappa_{n,i}^T \left[\Delta t_n \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{r}}{\partial t}(\boldsymbol{u}_{n,i}, \ \boldsymbol{\mu}, \ t_{n,i}) \frac{\partial t_{n,i}}{\partial \mu}(\boldsymbol{\mu}) + \boldsymbol{r}(\boldsymbol{u}_{n,i}, \ \boldsymbol{\mu}, \ t_{n,i}) \frac{\partial \Delta t_n}{\partial \mu}(\boldsymbol{\mu}) \right] \end{aligned}$$

where $f^h(\boldsymbol{u},\,\boldsymbol{\mu},\,t)$ is DG approximation to $\int_{\Gamma} j(\boldsymbol{U},\,\boldsymbol{\mu},\,t)\,dS$ and

$$F(\boldsymbol{u}_0, \ldots, \boldsymbol{u}_{N_t}, \boldsymbol{k}_{1,1}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{k}_{N_t,s}, \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \sum_{n=1}^{N_t} \Delta t_n(\boldsymbol{\mu}) \sum_{i=1}^s b_i f^h(\boldsymbol{u}_{n,i}, \boldsymbol{\mu}, t_{n,i}(\boldsymbol{\mu}))$$





Implementation details

• Implementation of the fully discrete adjoint method relies on the computation of the following terms from the **spatial discretization**

$$\boldsymbol{M}, \boldsymbol{r}, \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{r}}{\partial \boldsymbol{u}}, \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{r}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\mu}}, \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{r}}{\partial t}, f^h, \frac{\partial f^h}{\partial \boldsymbol{u}}, \frac{\partial f^h}{\partial \boldsymbol{\mu}}, \frac{\partial f^h}{\partial t},$$

and terms from the **temporal discretization**

$$t_{n,i}, \Delta t_n, \frac{\partial t_{n,i}}{\partial \mu}, \frac{\partial \Delta t_n}{\partial \mu}.$$

 $\bullet\,$ In the case of deforming domain problems treated with ${\bf ALE}$ formulation:

$$\begin{split} \boldsymbol{r} &= \boldsymbol{r}(\boldsymbol{u},\,\boldsymbol{x}(\boldsymbol{\mu},\,t),\,\dot{\boldsymbol{x}}(\boldsymbol{\mu},\,t))\\ f^h &= f^h(\boldsymbol{u},\,\boldsymbol{x}(\boldsymbol{\mu},\,t),\,\dot{\boldsymbol{x}}(\boldsymbol{\mu},\,t)) \end{split}$$

• Partial derivatives w.r.t. μ and t computed as:





- To properly optimize a cyclic, or periodic problem, need to simulate a **representative** period
- Necessary to avoid transients that will impact quantity of interest and may cause simulation to crash
- Task: Find initial condition, \bar{u} , such that flow is periodic, i.e. $u_{N_t} = \bar{u}$









Recall *fully discrete* PDE-constrained optimization problem

$$\begin{array}{l} \underset{u_{0}, \ \dots, \ \boldsymbol{u}_{N_{t}} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_{\boldsymbol{u}}}, \\ \boldsymbol{k}_{1,1}, \ \dots, \ \boldsymbol{k}_{N_{t},s} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_{\boldsymbol{u}}}, \\ \boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_{\boldsymbol{\mu}}} \end{array} \qquad J(\boldsymbol{u}_{0}, \ \dots, \ \boldsymbol{u}_{N_{t}}, \ \boldsymbol{k}_{1,1}, \ \dots, \ \boldsymbol{k}_{N_{t},s}, \ \boldsymbol{\mu}) \\ \text{subject to} \qquad \mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{u}_{0}, \ \dots, \ \boldsymbol{u}_{N_{t}}, \ \boldsymbol{k}_{1,1}, \ \dots, \ \boldsymbol{k}_{N_{t},s}, \ \boldsymbol{\mu}) \leq 0 \\ \boldsymbol{u}_{0} - \bar{\boldsymbol{u}}(\boldsymbol{\mu}) = 0 \\ \boldsymbol{u}_{n} - \boldsymbol{u}_{n-1} + \sum_{i=1}^{s} b_{i} \boldsymbol{k}_{n,i} = 0 \\ \boldsymbol{M} \boldsymbol{k}_{n,i} - \Delta t_{n} \boldsymbol{r}(\boldsymbol{u}_{n,i}, \ \boldsymbol{\mu}, \ t_{n,i}) = 0 \end{array}$$





Slight modification leads to fully discrete periodic PDE-constrained optimization

$$\begin{array}{ll} \underset{u_{0}, \dots, u_{N_{t}} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_{u}}, \\ k_{1,1}, \dots, k_{N_{t},s} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_{u}}, \\ \mu \in \mathbb{R}^{n_{\mu}} \end{array}}{ J(u_{0}, \dots, u_{N_{t}}, k_{1,1}, \dots, k_{N_{t},s}, \mu) } \\ \text{subject to} \qquad \mathbf{C}(u_{0}, \dots, u_{N_{t}}, k_{1,1}, \dots, k_{N_{t},s}, \mu) \leq 0 \\ u_{0} - u_{N_{t}} = 0 \\ u_{n} - u_{n-1} + \sum_{i=1}^{s} b_{i}k_{n,i} = 0 \\ Mk_{n,i} - \Delta t_{n}r(u_{n,i}, \mu, t_{n,i}) = 0 \end{array}$$





• Following identical procedure as for non-periodic case, the adjoint equations corresponding to the periodic conservation law are

$$\boldsymbol{\lambda}_{N_{t}} = \boldsymbol{\lambda}_{0} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial \boldsymbol{u}_{N_{t}}}^{T}$$
$$\boldsymbol{\lambda}_{n-1} = \boldsymbol{\lambda}_{n} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial \boldsymbol{u}_{n-1}}^{T} + \sum_{i=1}^{s} \Delta t_{n} \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{r}}{\partial \boldsymbol{u}} (\boldsymbol{u}_{n,i}, \boldsymbol{\mu}, t_{n-1} + c_{i} \Delta t_{n})^{T} \boldsymbol{\kappa}_{n,i}$$
$$\boldsymbol{M}^{T} \boldsymbol{\kappa}_{n,i} = \frac{\partial F}{\partial \boldsymbol{u}_{N_{t}}}^{T} + b_{i} \boldsymbol{\lambda}_{n} + \sum_{j=i}^{s} a_{ji} \Delta t_{n} \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{r}}{\partial \boldsymbol{u}} (\boldsymbol{u}_{n,j}, \boldsymbol{\mu}, t_{n-1} + c_{j} \Delta t_{n})^{T} \boldsymbol{\kappa}_{n,j}$$

- Dual problem is also periodic
- Solve *linear, periodic* problem using Krylov shooting method





Energetically optimal flapping under thrust constraint

$$\begin{array}{ll} \underset{\mu}{\text{minimize}} & -\frac{1}{T(\mu)} \int_{0}^{T(\mu)} \int_{\Gamma} \boldsymbol{f} \cdot \boldsymbol{v} \, dS \, dt \\ \text{subject to} & \frac{1}{T(\mu)} \int_{0}^{T(\mu)} \int_{\Gamma} \boldsymbol{f} \cdot \boldsymbol{e}_{1} \, dS \, dt = q \\ & \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{U}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{F}(\boldsymbol{U}, \nabla \boldsymbol{U}) = 0 \end{array}$$

- Isentropic, compressible, Navier-Stokes
- Re = 1000, M = 0.02
- $y(t), \theta(t)$ parametrized by single harmonic term
- Black-box optimizer: IPOPT



Airfoil schematic, kinematic description





Energy = 1.8445Thrust = 0.06729

 $\begin{array}{l} {\rm Energy} = 0.21934 \\ {\rm Thrust} = 0.0000 \end{array}$

 $\begin{array}{l} {\rm Energy} = 1.93826 \\ {\rm Thrust} = 1.0000 \end{array}$

Initial Guess

Optimal $T_x = 0$

Optimal $T_x = 1.0$





Energy = 1.8445Thrust = 0.06729

 $\begin{array}{l} {\rm Energy} = 0.21934 \\ {\rm Thrust} = 0.0000 \end{array}$

 $\begin{aligned} \text{Energy} &= 3.00404\\ \text{Thrust} &= 1.5000 \end{aligned}$

Initial Guess

Optimal $T_x = 0$

Optimal $T_x = 1.5$





Energy = 1.8445Thrust = 0.06729

 $\begin{array}{l} {\rm Energy} = 0.21934 \\ {\rm Thrust} = 0.0000 \end{array}$

Energy = 4.6522Thrust = 2.0000

Initial Guess

Optimal $T_x = 0$

Optimal $T_x = 2.0$





Energy = 1.8445Thrust = 0.06729

 $\begin{aligned} \text{Energy} &= 0.21934 \\ \text{Thrust} &= 0.0000 \end{aligned}$

Energy = 6.2869Thrust = 2.5000

Initial Guess

Optimal $T_x = 0$

Optimal $T_x = 2.5$





Energy = 0.21935Thrust = 0.0000

Energy = 3.00404Thrust = 1.5000

Energy = 6.2869Thrust = 2.5000

Optimal $T_x = 0$

Optimal $T_x = 1.5$

Optimal $T_x = 2.5$







Convergence of required flapping energy and thrust as a function of optimization iteration corresponding to the thrust constraint $\bar{T}_x = 1$. The final values are $W^* = 2.1961022$ and $T_x^* = 0.9999999$ and the first-order optimality conditions are satisfied to a tolerance of 10^{-8} . For a convergence tolerance of 10^{-4} , the optimization iterations could have been terminated after 20 iterations.





Energetically optimal flapping vs. required thrust: Trajectory



Optimal trajectories of y(t) and $\theta(t)$ for various value of the thrust constraint: $\bar{T}_x = 0.0$), $\bar{T}_x = 1.0$ (---), $\bar{T}_x = 1.5$ (----), $\bar{T}_x = 2.5$ (----).



The optimal flapping energy (W^*) , frequency (f^*) , maximum heaving amplitude (y^*_{\max}) , and maximum pitching amplitude (θ^*_{\max}) as a function of the thrust constraint \bar{T}_x .

Summary and future work

Summary

- Extended standard fully discrete adjoint framework to handle parametrization that affects the **time discretization**
- Alters reconstruction of $\nabla_{\mu} F$ from adjoint solution, not adjoint equations
- Implementation requires **velocity** of quantity of interest and residual
- Framework used to study energetically optimal flight
 - Optimal energy approximately linear in required thrust
 - Optimal frequency increases then plateaus as a function of the required thrust

Future work

- Study 3D flapping with frequency optimization
- Extension to general time domain/discretization parametrization
 - Trajectory/path optimization



