



Development of Hybrid Flight Simulator with Multi Degree-of-Freedom Robot

Kohei KAKIZAKI, Naoki TSUKABE, Ryota NAKAJIMA, Naohiro INOMATA,
Daiju NOGUCHI, Takahiro SENZAKI, Shota NARASAKI

Department of Aerospace Engineering/ Department of Mechanical System Design Engineering
Department of Mechanical System Design Engineering
Tohoku University

Background (1)

■ Unsteady Aerodynamics

- The field of use of aircrafts are dramatically expanding
- Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) have a capability of acrobatic flights (Hovering, Turn-around flight, Post-stall maneuver)
- The conventional linear theory based on stability derivatives can not be applied

⇒ **Unsteady aerodynamics**



UAV

(Uchiyama Lab, Tohoku univ.)



Post-stall maneuver

Background (2)

■ Experimental Fluid Dynamics (EFD)

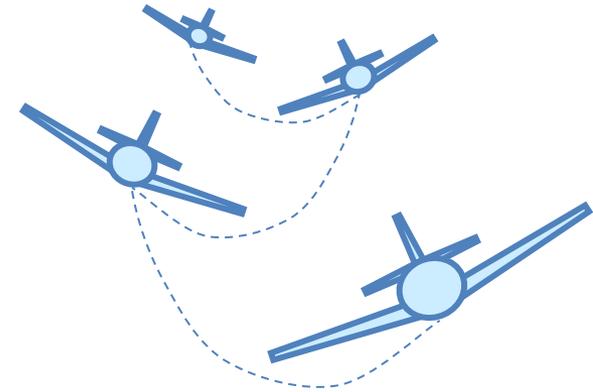
- Dynamic Wind-tunnel testing (DWT)
- Free Flight



MPM(DNW)

■ Flight Dynamics

- Calculate behavior of the aircraft



Dutch Roll Motion

EFD + Flight Dynamics = Hybrid Motion Simulation

■ Hybrid Motion Simulation

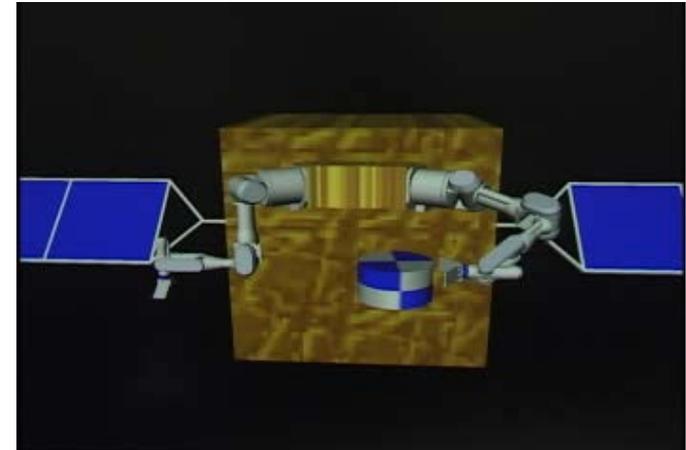
- Merge experimental fluid dynamics and numerical simulation
- Arbitrary flights can be demonstrated in the wind tunnel



Past Researches(1)

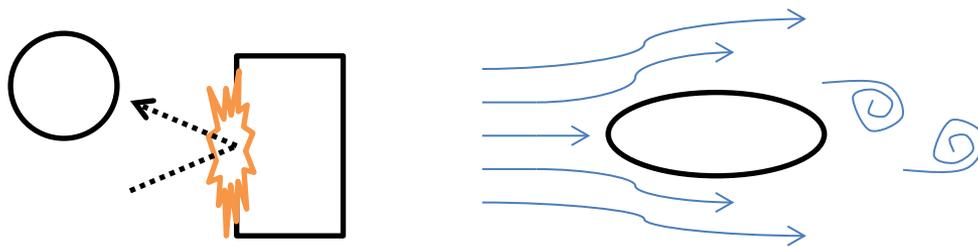
■ Contact phenomena of a satellite

- Only contact phenomena are taken out as a physical model
- Since movement of a model is determined by numerical computation, mass, moment of inertia, etc. can be set up arbitrarily
- This approach can replace other physical models



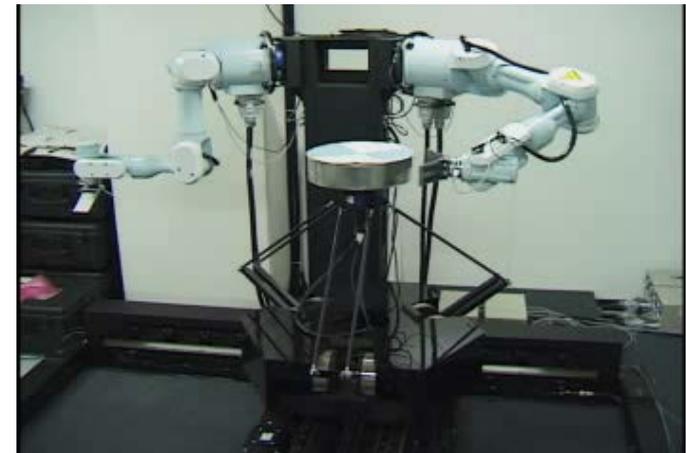
Numerical model

■ Hybrid Flight Simulation



Contact phenomena → Aerodynamic phenomena

New application



Physical model

Past Researches(2)

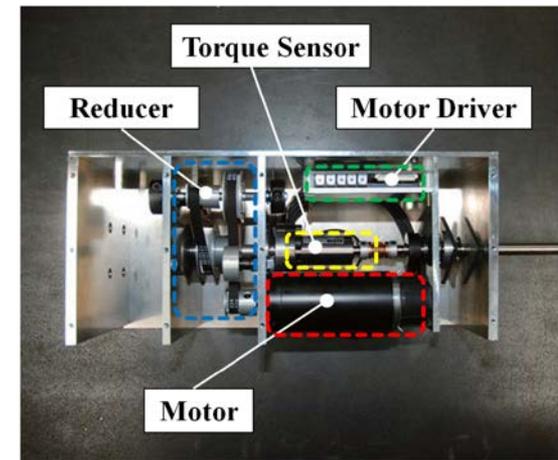
■ Wing Rock Phenomenon

- Wing Rock is a dynamic behavior of delta wing model at high angle of attack
- Self-induced limit cycle oscillation
- Rotational movement of yaw and roll axes

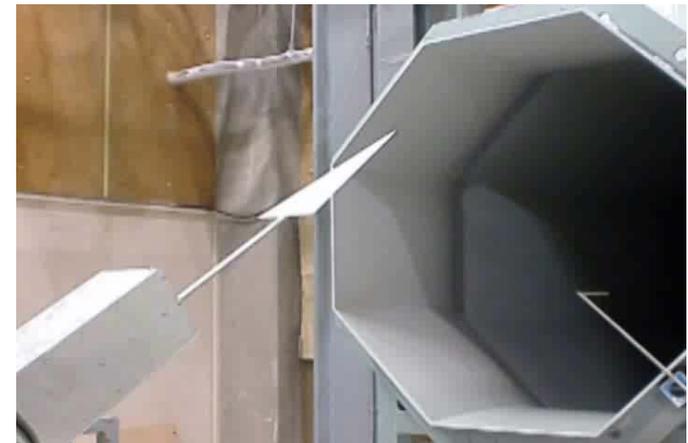
■ 1-DOF Hybrid Flight Simulation

- Using simple delta wing model
- Motion is restricted within roll axis
- AoA=35 [deg], $u=10$ [m/s]
- Limit cycle can be confirmed

⇒ **Increasing Degree of Freedom**



Rolling motion device



Hybrid Motion Simulation



Objectives

Development of Hybrid Flight Simulator with Multi-Degree-of-Freedom Robot

Reproduce simulated flight tests in Wind-tunnel using a multi degree-of-freedom robot

- Forced Oscillation Wind-Tunnel Testing
 - To investigate the stability properties of the model
- Flight Testing
 - To obtain the real flight data
- Initial Hybrid Flight Simulation in Wind-Tunnel
 - To verify the problems developed for the Hybrid Flight Simulator

Multi-DOF Hybrid Motion Simulation

■ System Concept

- Using 6-DOF robot manipulator
- Evaluates as compared with R/C model



Get flight data from R/C model

Hybrid Motion Simulation

Experimental model

R/C model

Wind-tunnel

Demonstrate the unsteady motion using by robot

Robot manipulator

Numerical model

Calculate the flight dynamics the obtain data

Force and Torque sensor

Measuring aerodynamic force and torque





Development of 6-DOF Robot Manipulator

■ HEXA-X2

- Uchiyama Lab
- HEXA-X2 is a

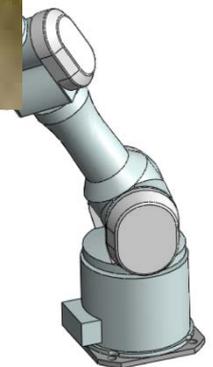
■ The merit of

- Supported by r
- Light weight a



Dutch Roll Motion (3Hz)

High-output geared motors



HEXA-X2 (Parallel Robot)

PA-10 (Serial Robot)

R/C Aircraft Model

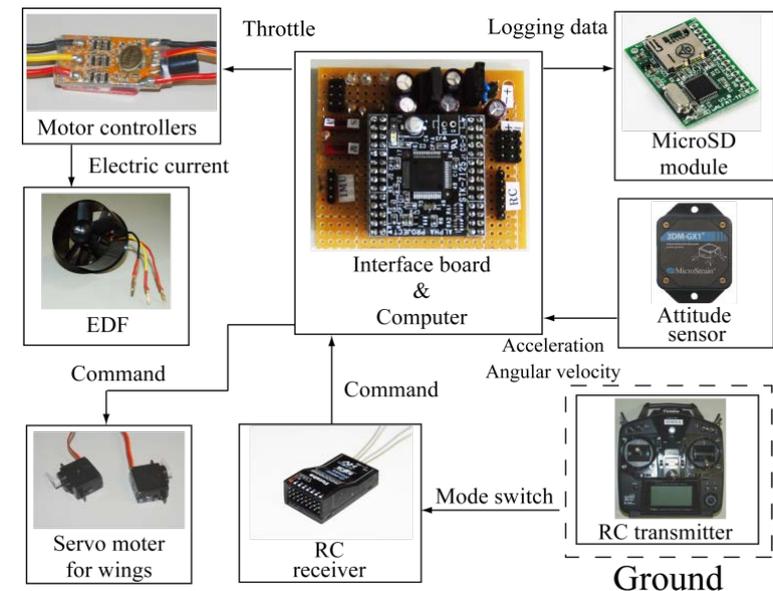
■ Requirement

- (1) Delta-wing aircraft
- (2) High mobility capable for high AoA flight
- (3) Blockage rate is under 20%

Model	Mini JAS-39 Gripen EDF Fighter Jet
Length [mm]	700
Wing chord [mm]	300
Wing span [mm]	510
Sweep angle [deg]	55
Weight [g]	360



Mini JAS-39 Gripen EDF Fighter Jet



On-board electronics system

■ Electronics system

- IMU measure the model's attitude, acceleration and velocity

Numerical Calculation

■ Equation of motion

- Translation

$$m\dot{V} + m(\omega \times V) = F$$

- Rotation

$$I\dot{\omega} + \omega \times I\omega = G$$

M : Mass

I : Inertia tensor

F : Force

G : Torque

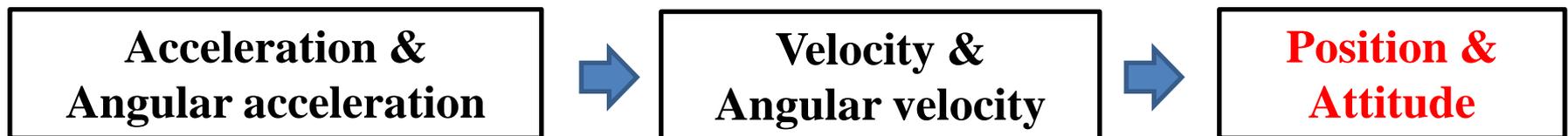
V : Velocity

ω : Angular velocity



■ Calculate model's position and attitude

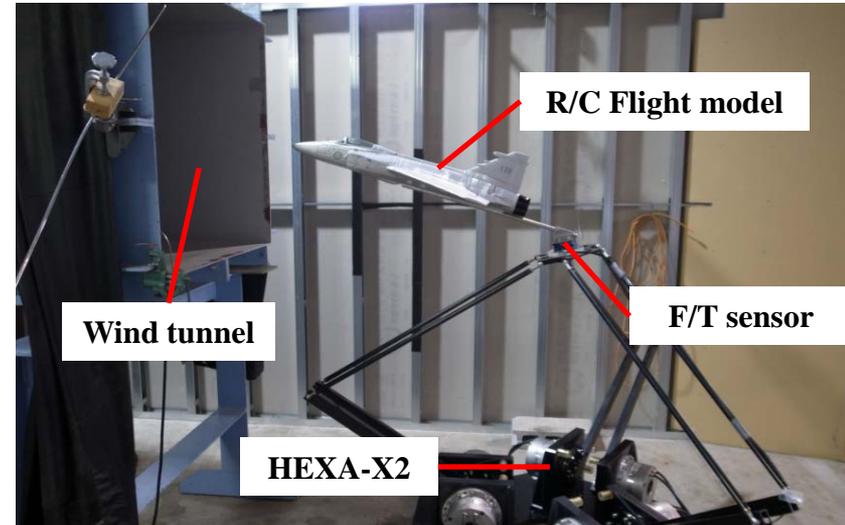
- The position and attitude of the model are calculated by integrating acceleration and angular acceleration.



Forced Oscillation Wind-Tunnel Test

■ Experimental Setup

- Frontier Wind-tunnel
 - Test section size : 790 [mm] × 790 [mm]
 - Blockage rate : 18% (at AoA=40 [deg])
- HEXA-X2
- F/T sensor (Fx, Fy, Fz, Nx, Ny, Nz)

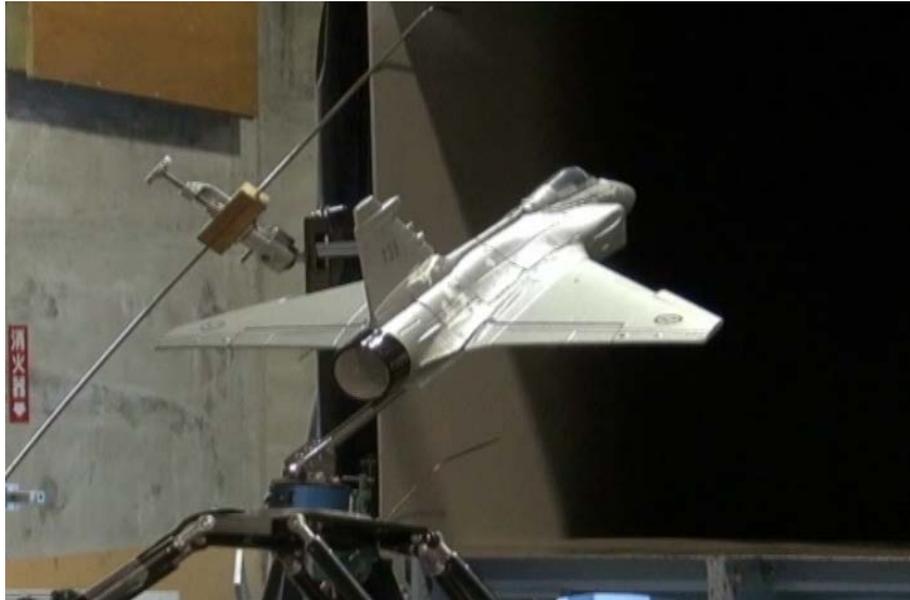


■ Test Condition

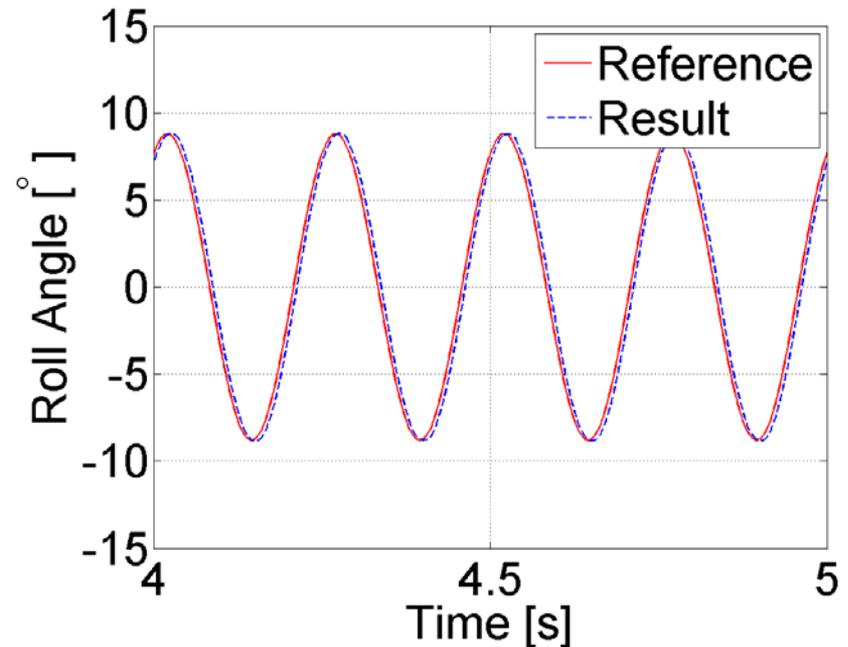
- Evaluation of moving frequency
- Forced oscillation test
 - The effect of angle of attack
 - The effect of frequency

Parameters	
Wind velocity [m/s]	10
AoA [deg]	10, 20, 30, 40
Oscillation Frequency [Hz]	0.5, 1.0, 1.5
EDF Thrust [%]	100

Result (Evaluation of Moving Frequency)



$f=4\text{Hz}$, $\Delta\phi=10\text{deg}$

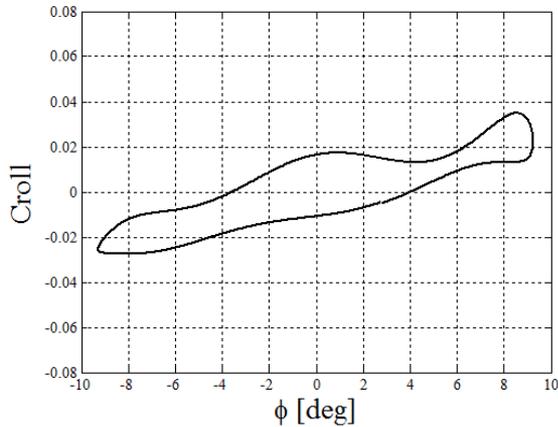


Time-series data of roll angle

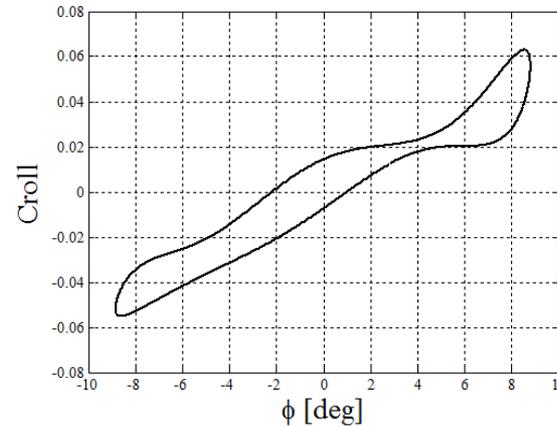
- The control of the robot HEXA-X2 functioned well and the commanded roll angle profile was well traced.
- This result verified the capability of the developed robot for tests with high speed (4Hz).



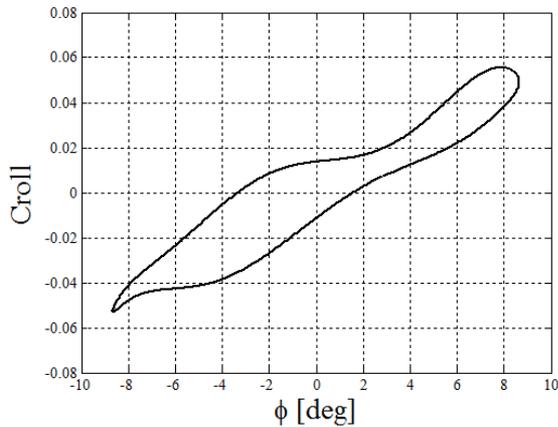
Result (The effect of AoA)



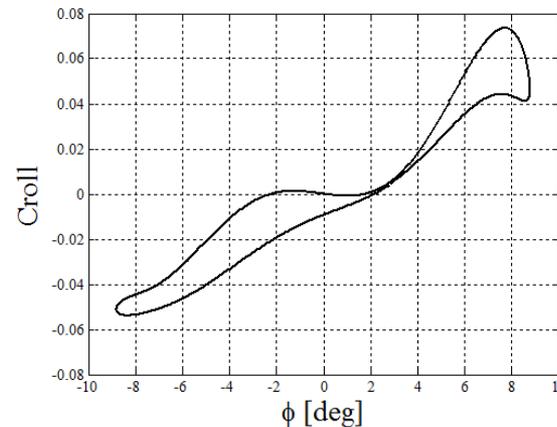
AoA= 10°



AoA= 20°



AoA= 30°

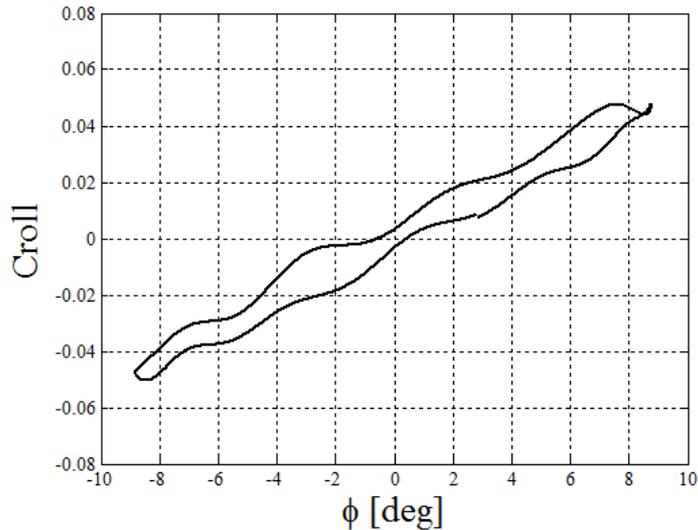


AoA= 40°

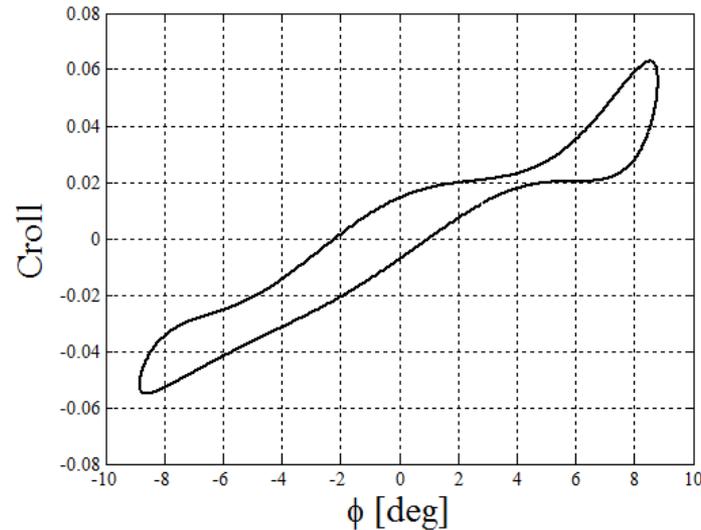
$f = 1\text{Hz}$
 $\Delta\phi = 10\text{deg}$
 $u = 10\text{m/s}$
Thrust=100%
LPF=5Hz

▪ This result indicates that while the angle of attack is increased, the amplitude is increased and the symmetry of hysteresis loop is broken.

Result (The effect of frequency)



f=0.5 Hz



f=1.0 Hz

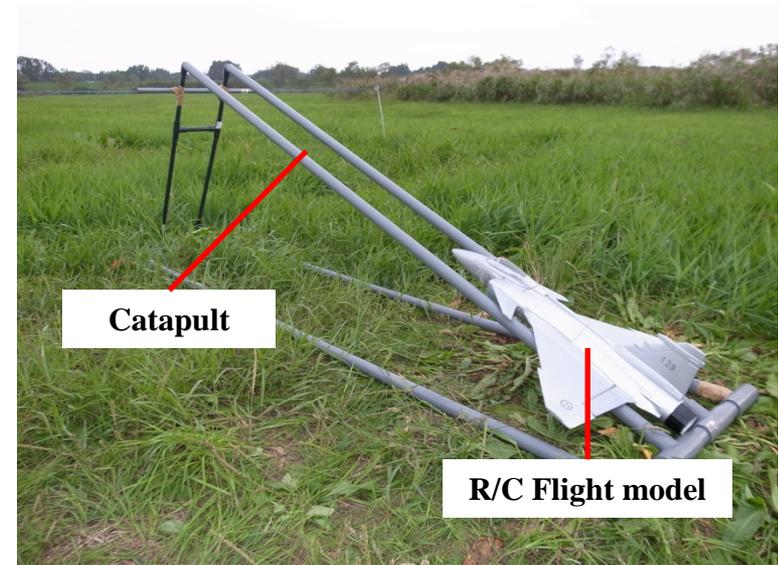
$AoA=20^\circ$
 $\Delta\phi=10\text{deg}$
 $u=10\text{m/s}$
Thrust=100%
LPF=5Hz

- The hysteresis becomes large with increasing frequency, while the area of loop is increased.
- It is considered that this nonlinear behavior of the rolling moment is due to the number and position of breaking down of a leading-edge and tip of the model separation vortex.

Flight Testing

■ Experimental Setup

- Flight test was conducted at a reverbed of Osato town, Miyagi.
- Using a catapult in order to give the initial velocity for R/C model. (about 3 m/s)
- The wind disturbance was low.



■ Test Condition

- The R/C model was launched toward the windward.
- IMU was initialized when the R/C model is horizontal state.

Parameters	
Atomospheric pressure [hPa]	1019.82
Wind velocity [m/s]	1.93
Temperature [degC]	22.2
Model weight [g]	360
Battery capacity [mAh]	550



Result of Flight Testing



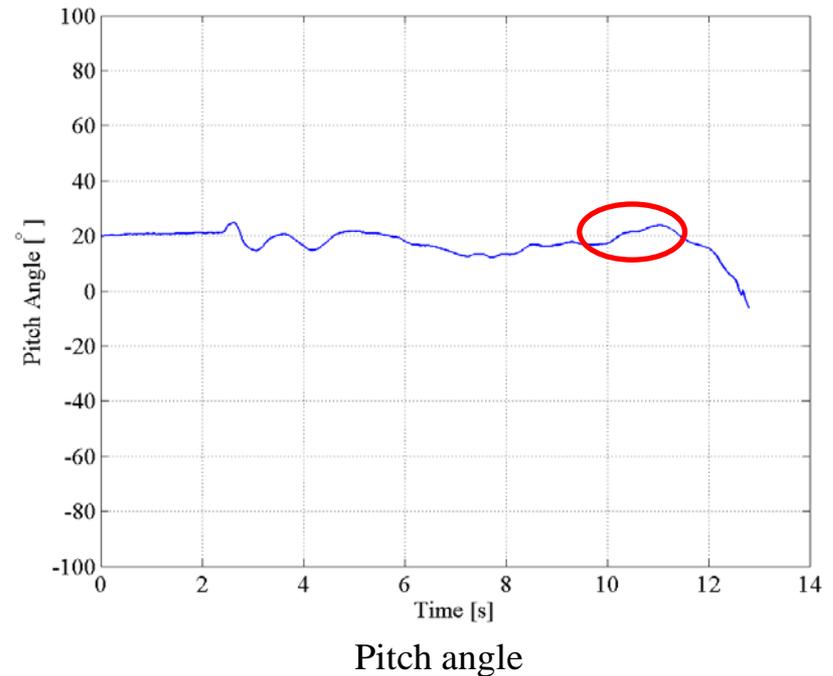
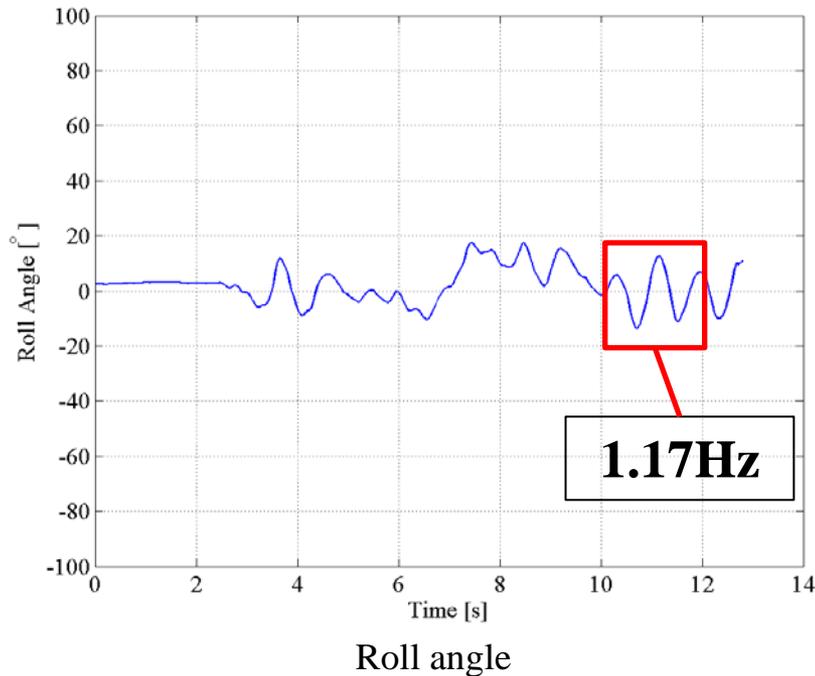


Result of Flight Testing



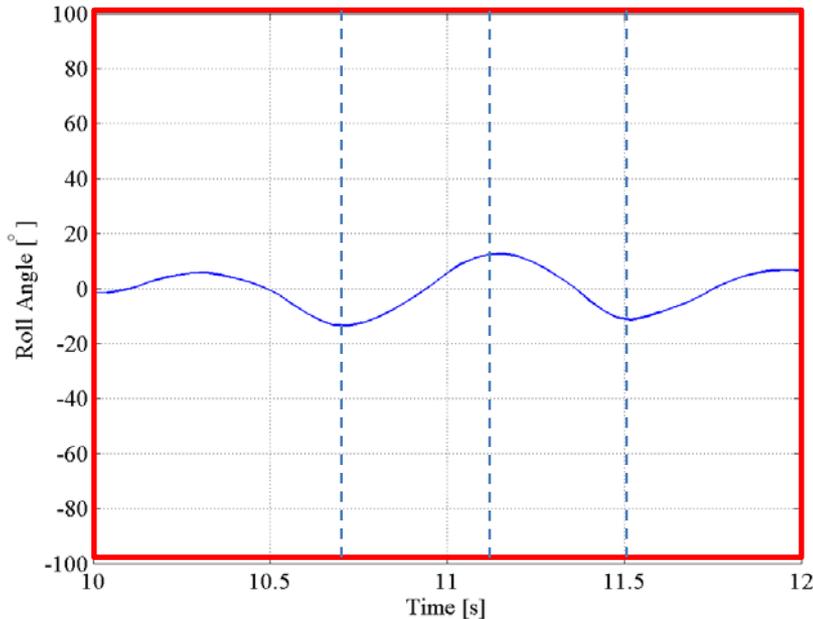


Analysis of Unsteady Behavior

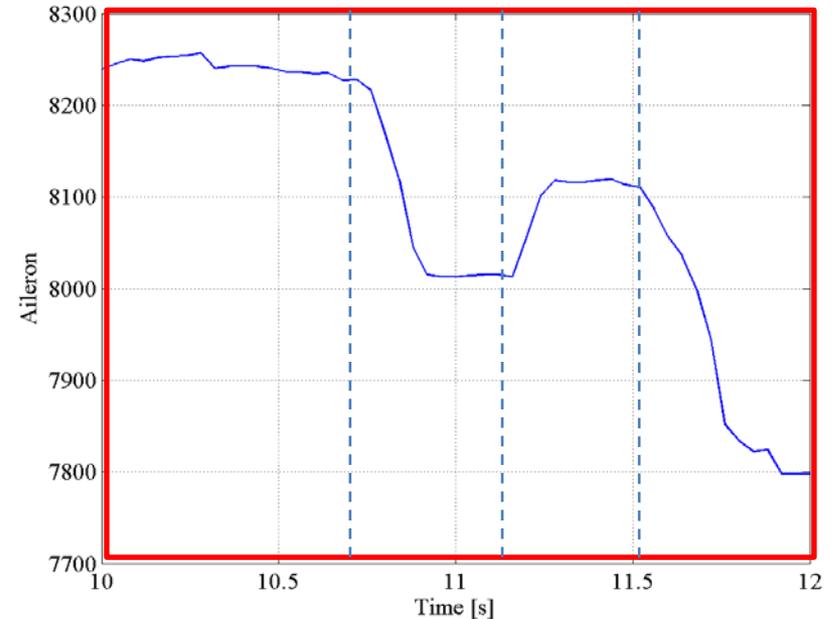


- It can be seen that unsteady behavior is identified in roll axis at around 12x seconds.
- Pitch angle is increased slightly at the same time, which indicates the instability of the R/C model in roll axis.

Analysis of Unsteady Behavior



Roll angle (10-12 sec)



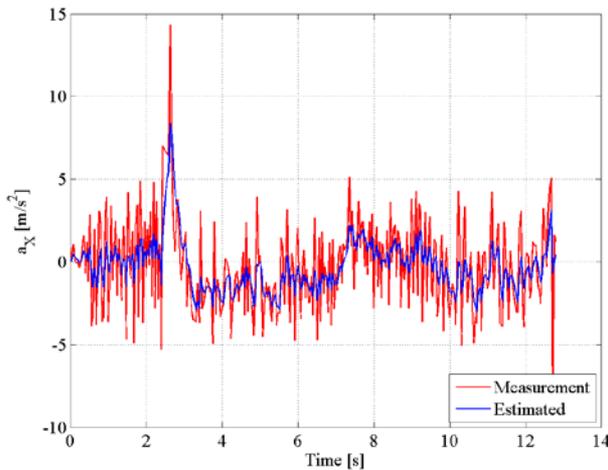
Time history of Aileron (10-12 sec)

- It can be seen that the control surface (aileron) is input in response to changes in the roll angle.
- It is necessary to introduce the automatic control instead of the control of pilot.

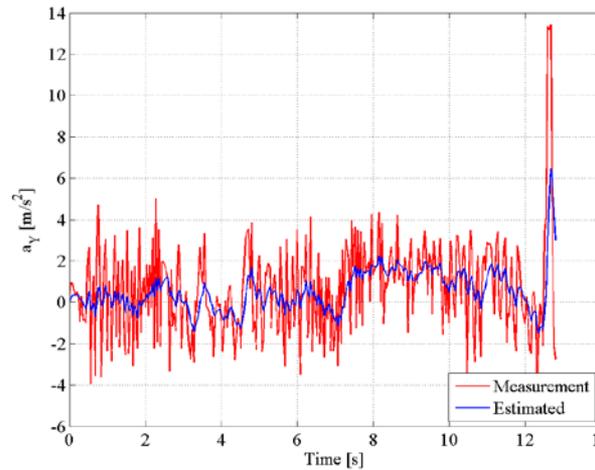
Result (Flight data of Acceleration)



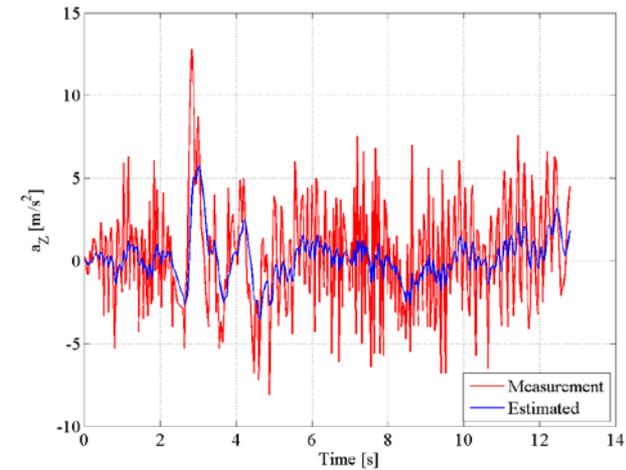
Red line = Raw data
Blue line = Filtered data



X-direction



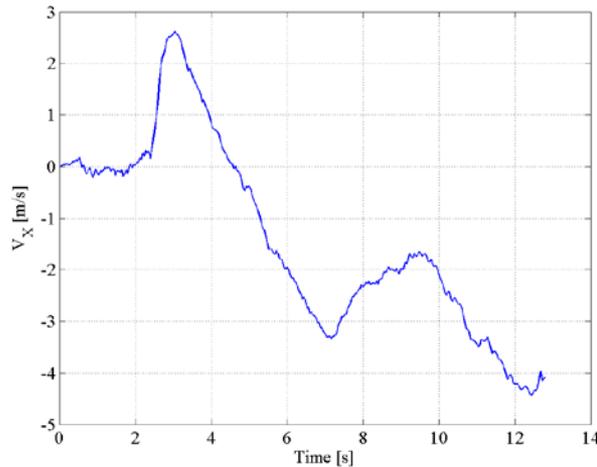
Y-direction



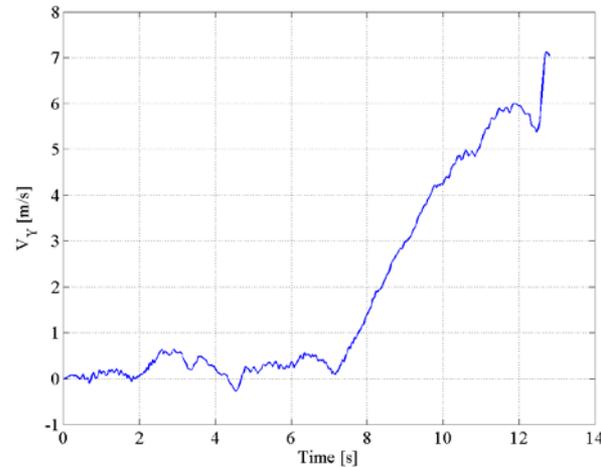
Z-direction

- In order to acquire more probable value, we used Kalman filter because raw data of acceleration is so noisy.
- The flight model launched from the catapult system at around 2 seconds and crashed at around 13 seconds.
- A large acceleration can be considered as the moment of launch and crash.

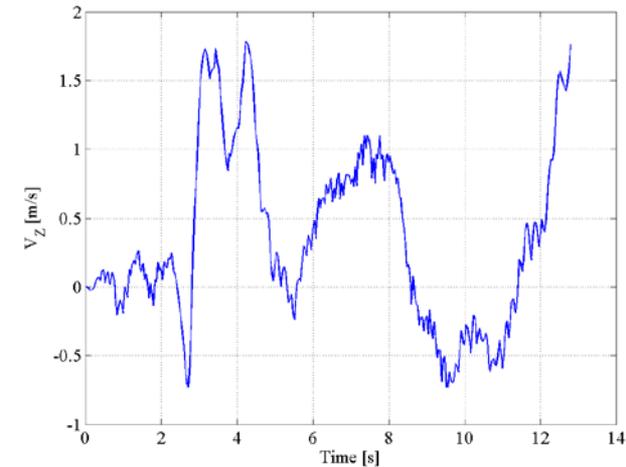
Result (Flight data of Velocity)



X-direction



Y-direction



Z-direction

- It is impossible to calculate the flight speed with sufficient accuracy by simply integrating these data.
- In order to improve the accuracy of the velocity measurement, it is needed to be equipped with some more accurate devices.

Hybrid Motion Simulation Testing

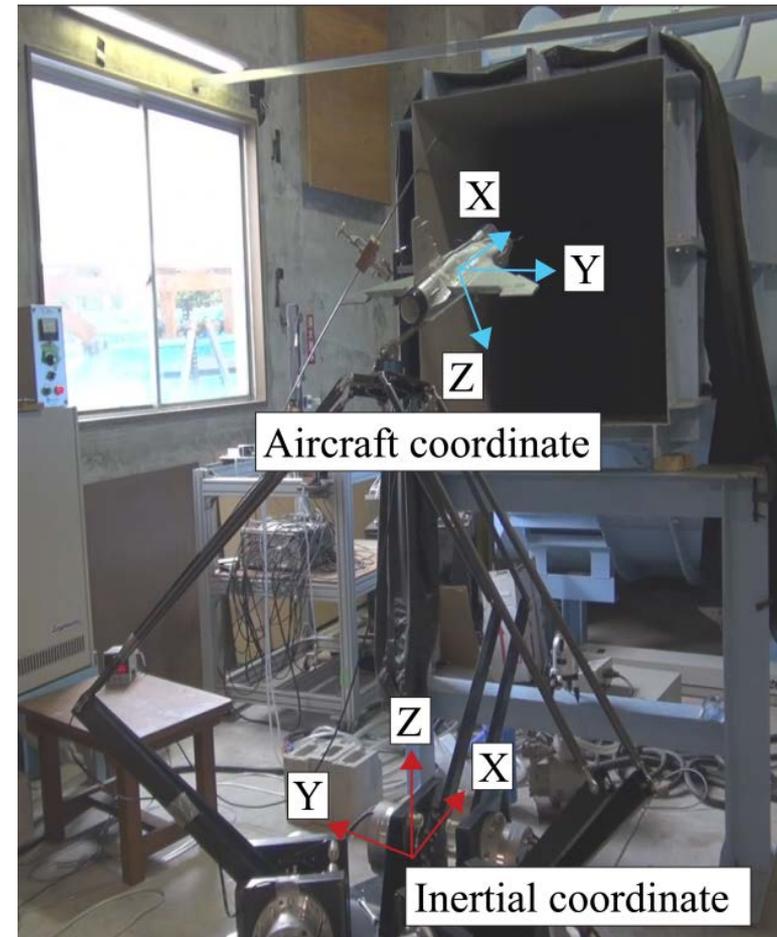
■ Experimental Setup

- Frontier Wind-tunnel
- HEXA-X2
- F/T sensor (F_x , F_y , F_z , N_x , N_y , N_z)

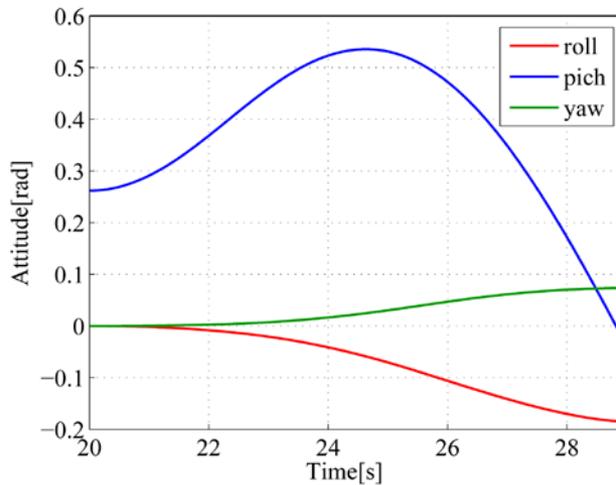
■ Test Condition

- The operator input the elevator to change pitch angle.

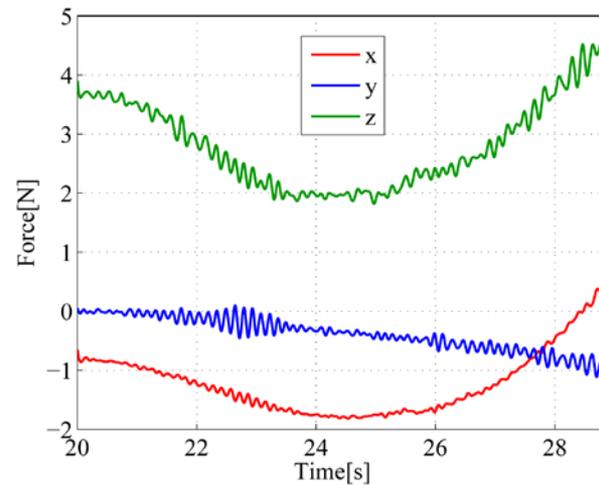
Parameters	
Angle of attack [deg]	15
Wind velocity [m/s]	10



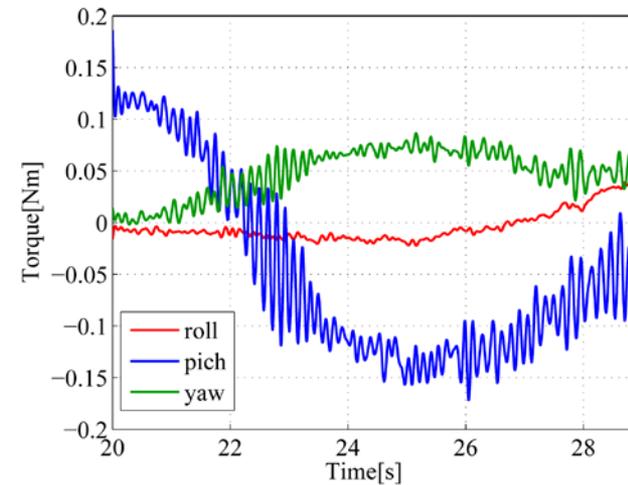
Result of HMS



Attitude



Force



Torque

- In order to process the force/ moment measurement a low pass filter of the cut-off frequency 10 [Hz] is employed.
- The data measured in the experiments indicates that when the operator tried to change the orientation of R/C model, it behaved accordingly as if in the condition of real flight.



Conclusion

- We have developed a hybrid flight simulator for dynamic wind-tunnel testing.
- In order to realize multi degree-of-freedom motion, we developed HEXA-X2, 6 degree-of-freedom robot manipulator, and it can realize 4[Hz] rolling.
- Forced oscillation wind-tunnel testing results indicated that nonlinear behavior of the rolling moment can be identified and the reason for it is considered as the number and position of break down of a leading-edge and tip of the model separation vortex.
- Flight test of R/C model to gather the flight data for validation is necessary for hybrid motion simulation. Roll-direction unsteady behavior of R/C model was observed at the high angle of attack.
- As for the hybrid motion simulation, currently initial tests were completed, in which physical parameters larger than the practical value are used in order to ensure stability.



Future Works

■ Forced Oscillation Wind-tunnel Testing

- In order to elucidate this phenomenon, we will conduct flow visualization experiment and determine the structure of leading-edge and tip of the model separation vortex.

■ Flight Testing

- In order to improve the accuracy of the velocity measurement, it is needed to be equipped with some devices.

■ Hybrid Motion Simulation

- After some further improvements, for example the delay of system, it is expected that the proposed hybrid flight simulator can be used as a powerful tool for aerodynamics research.



Thank you for your attentions!