

Numerical Trajectory Optimization of Airborne Wind Energy Systems with Stroboscopic Averaging Methods

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universität freiburg





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Airborne Wind Energy



Image from Skysails Power

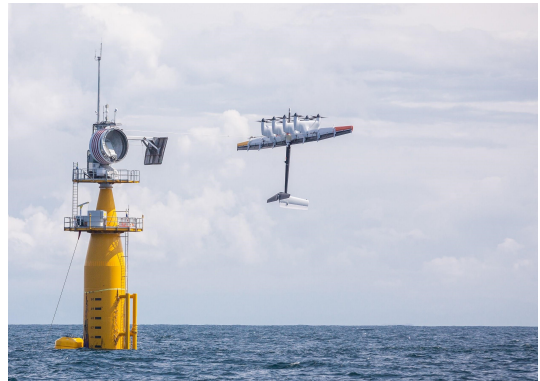
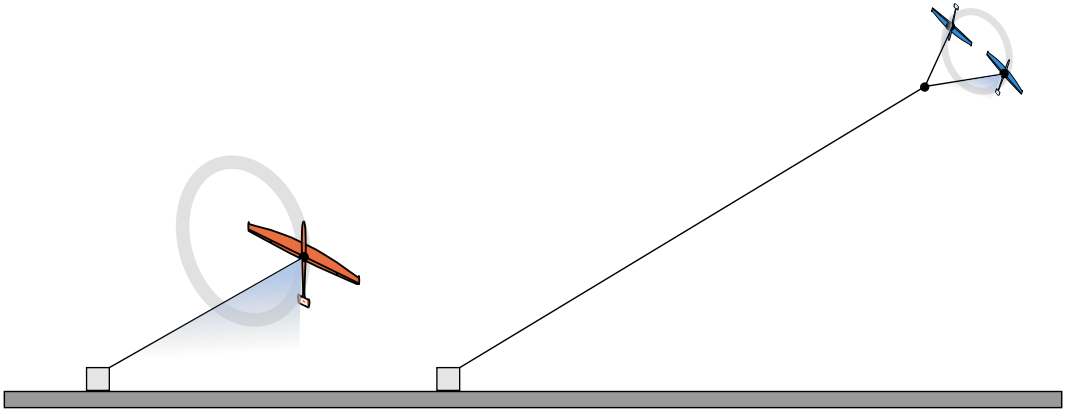
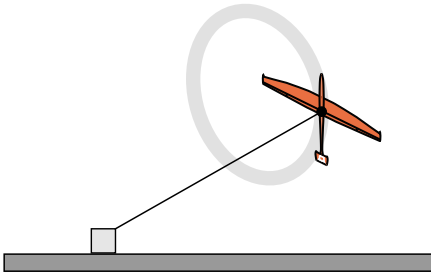


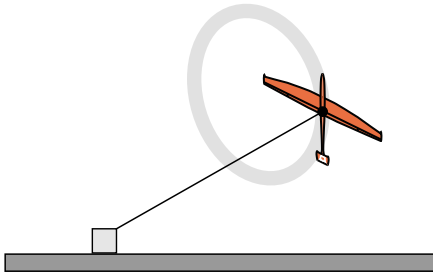
Image from Makani Power

Single vs Dual Kite Systems



- High-Fidelity 6-DOF model of the plane [5]



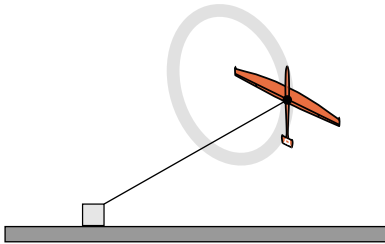


- ▶ High-Fidelity 6-DOF model of the plane [5]
- ▶ System Dynamics (Index-1 DAE)

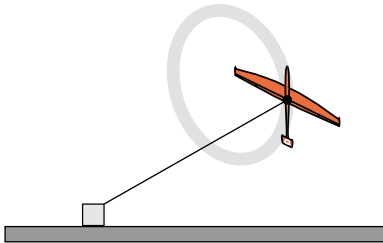
$$f(x, u, z) = 0$$

with $x \in \mathbb{R}^{23}$, $u \in \mathbb{R}^4$, $z \in \mathbb{R}^1$, based on
index-reduced Lagrangian dynamics

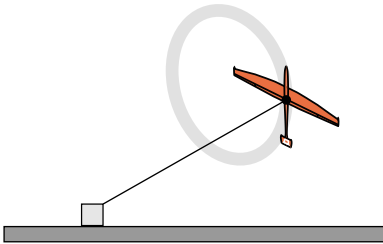
Trajectory Optimization



- Optimize a single pumping cycle of a single-kite AWE system



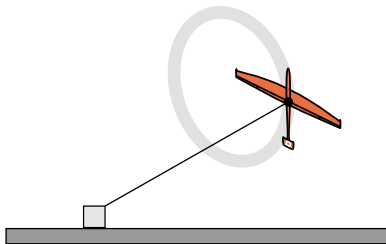
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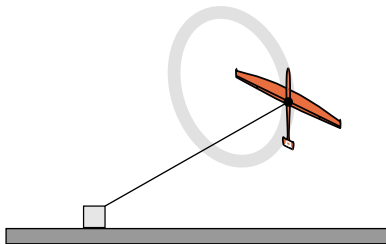
$$\max_{\substack{x(\cdot), u(\cdot), \\ z(\cdot), t_f}} P_{\text{gen}}(x, u, z, t_f)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{s.t.} \quad & 0 = f(\dot{x}(t), x(t), u(t), z(t)), \quad \forall t \in [0, t_f], \\ & 0 \leq h(\dot{x}(t), x(t), u(t), z(t)), \quad \forall t \in [0, t_f], \\ & 0 = p(x(0), x(t_f)) \end{aligned}$$



- ▶ Optimize a single pumping cycle of a single-kite AWE system
- ▶ Formulate OCP \rightarrow discretize to NLP

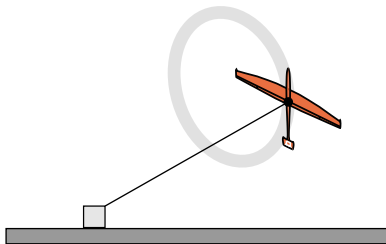
$$\begin{aligned} \min_w \quad & F(w) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & 0 = G(w), \\ & 0 \leq H(w) \end{aligned}$$



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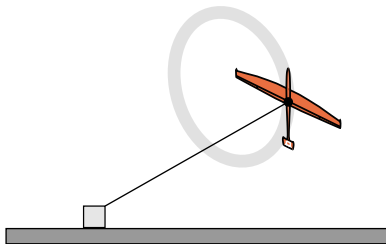
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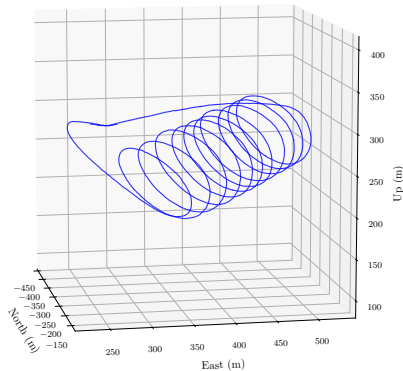
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- ▶ Very large, complicated nonlinear problem, need good strategy and initialization to solve
- ▶ Software Packages such as the AWEBox[2]

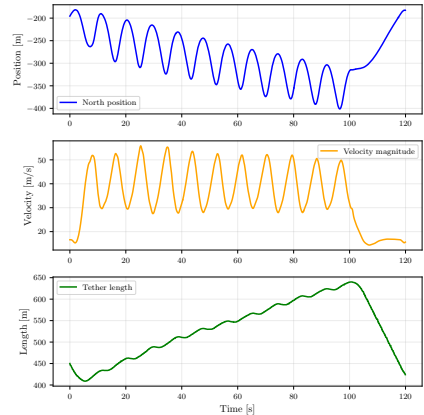


[IPOPT Video]

Some Observations from Real Data



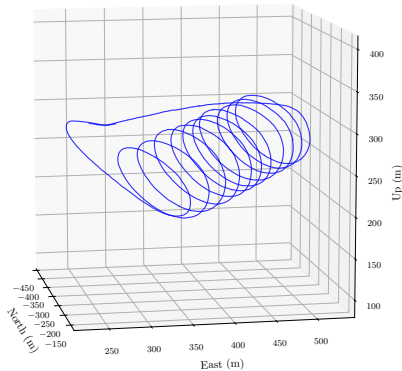
Produced from <https://github.com/kitemill/Flight-log>



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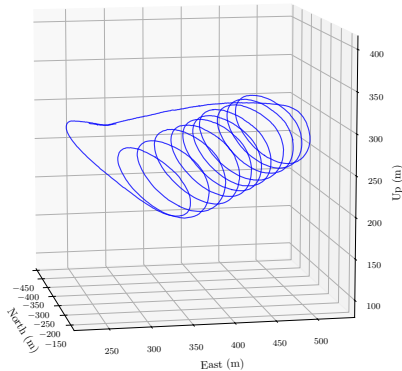


- Up to now: practically impossible to solve problems with many subcycles



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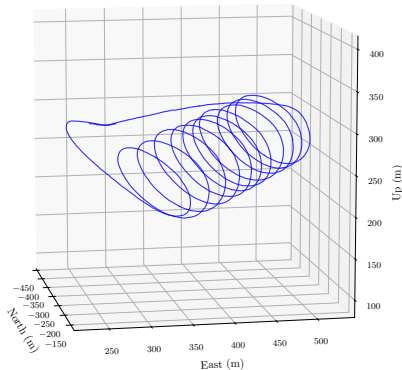
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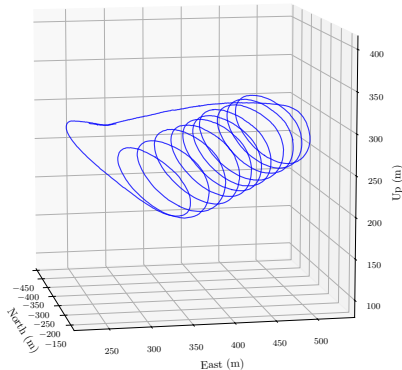
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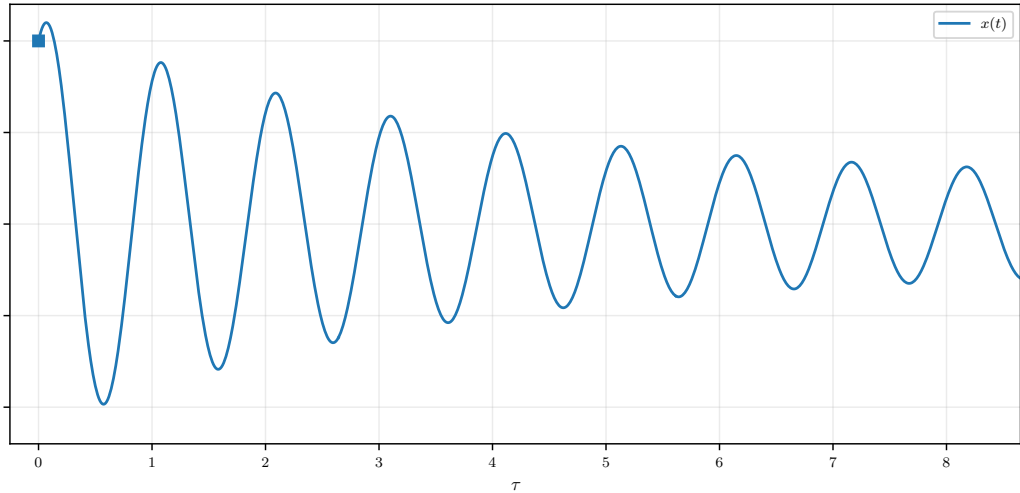
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Strong Assumption

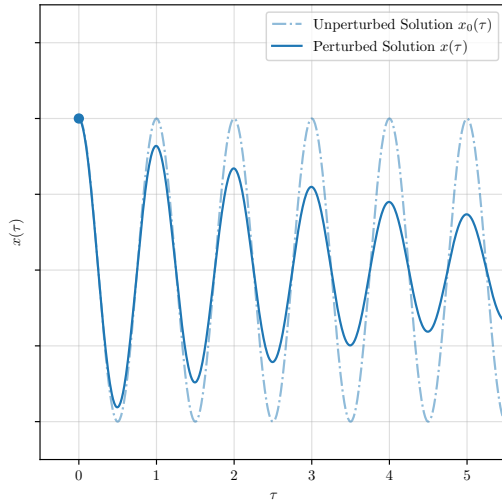
In the reel-out phase, the power optimal trajectory $x^*(t)$ and the corresponding control $u^*(t)$ consist of many similar, slowly changing cycles.

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Highly Oscillatory Systems

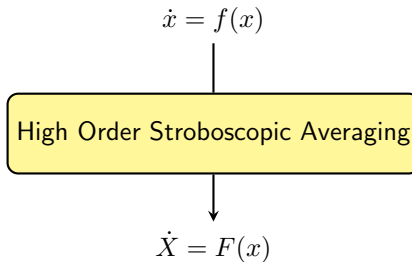
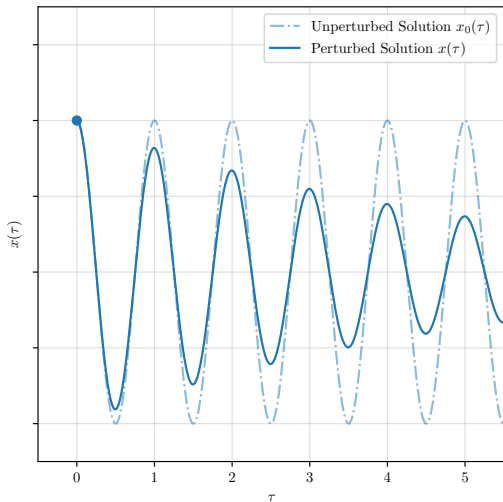


Averaging Methods for Highly Oscillatory Systems

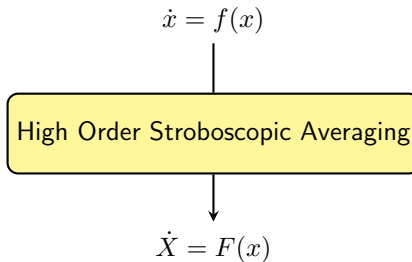
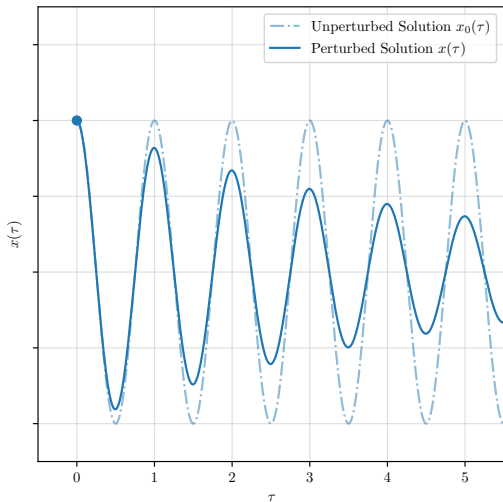


$$\dot{x} = f(x)$$

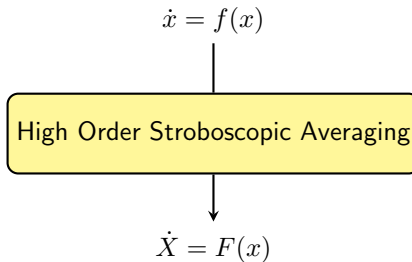
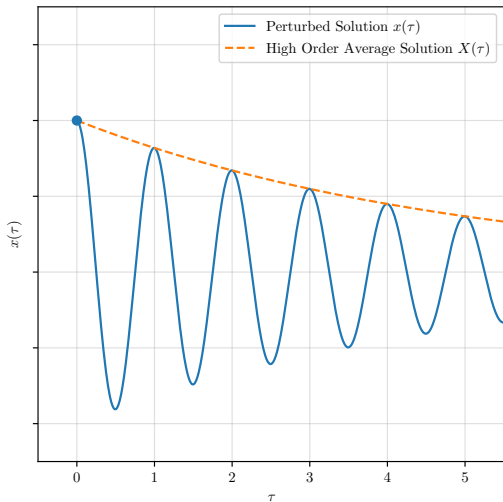
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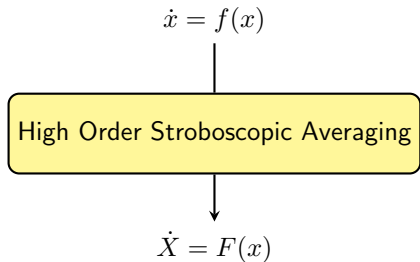
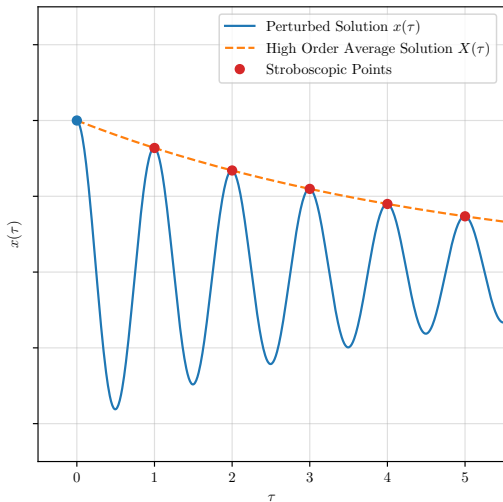
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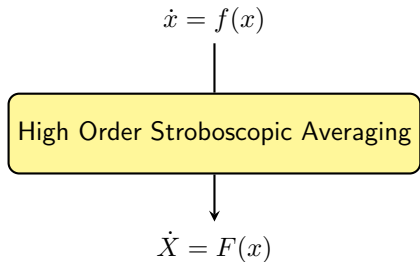
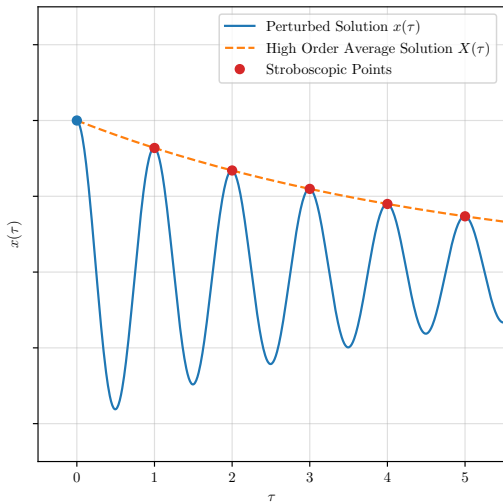
Averaging Methods for Highly Oscillatory Systems



- If $x(0) = X(0)$ then the solution to averaged system satisfies

$$x(k) = X(k), \quad k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

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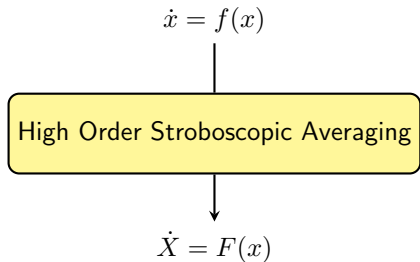
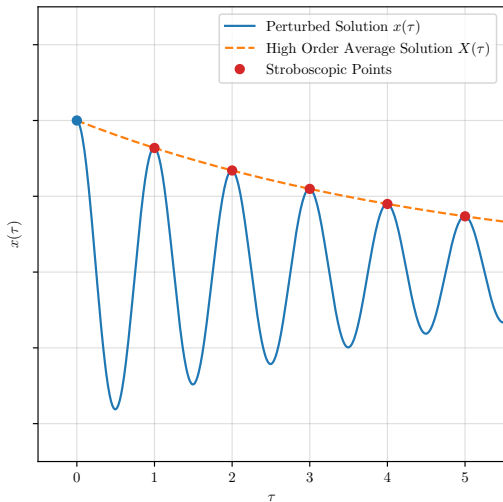


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- ▶ Original system f on a fast timescale

Averaging Methods for Highly Oscillatory Systems

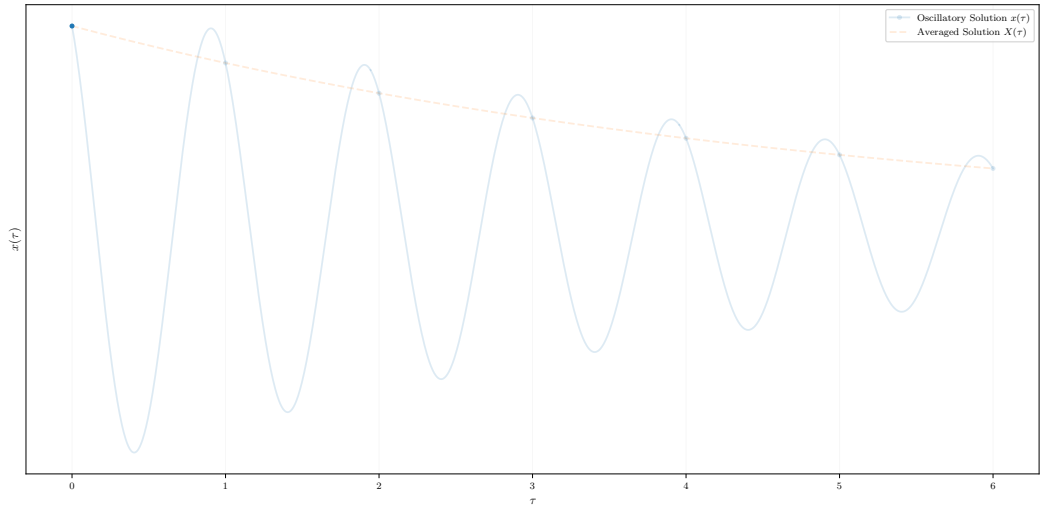


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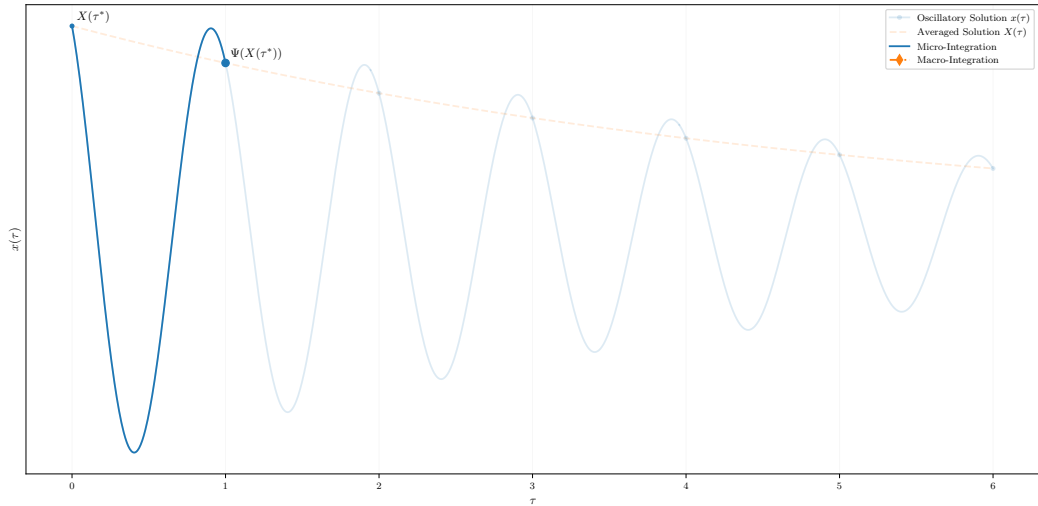
$$x(k) = X(k), \quad k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

- ▶ Averaged system F on slow timescale

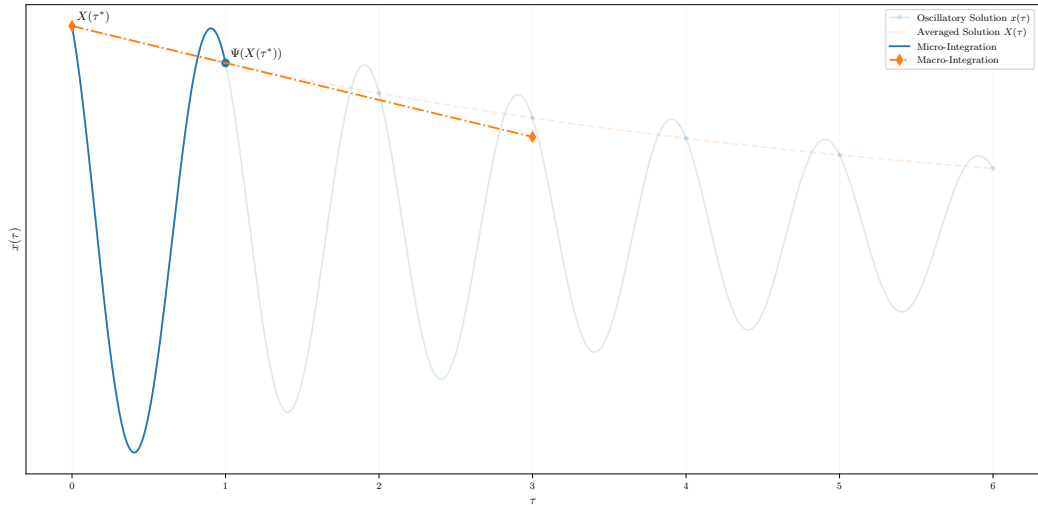
Stroboscopic Average Method (SAM)



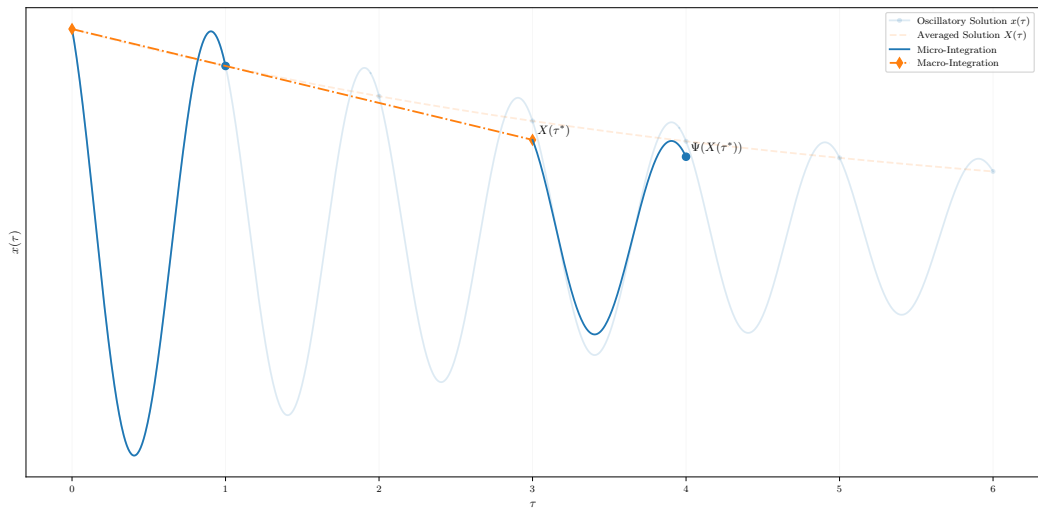
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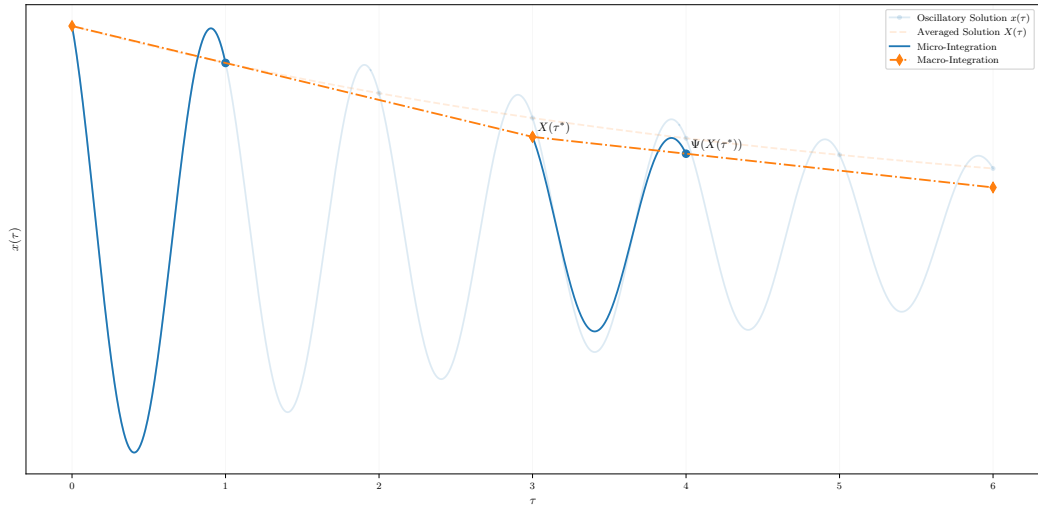
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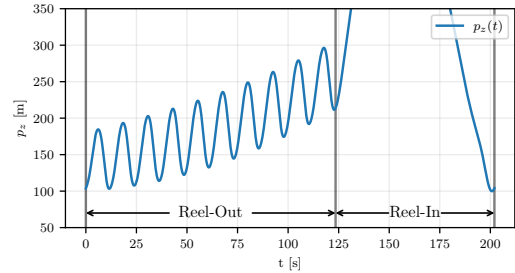
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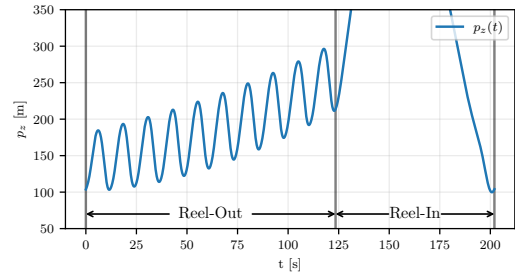
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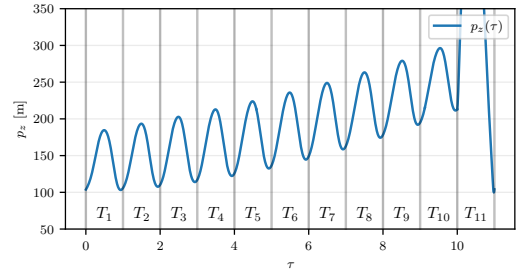
OCP Timescaling



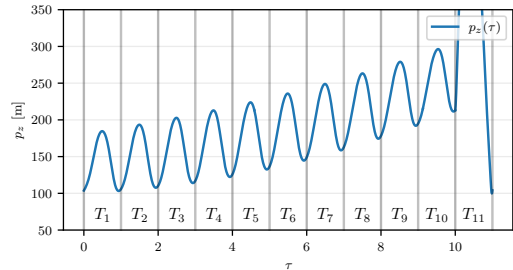
- Conceptually divide the trajectory into $N + 1$ section



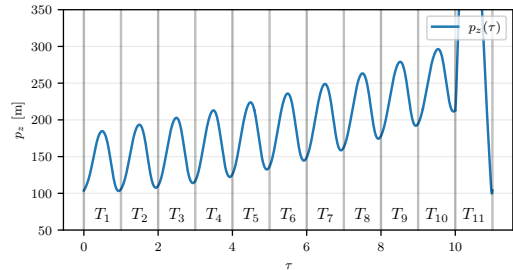
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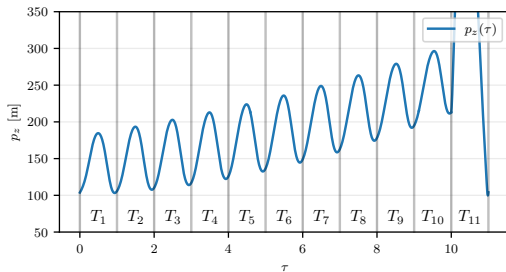
$$\min_{\substack{x(\cdot), u(\cdot), z(\cdot) \\ T_1, \dots, T_{N+1}}} \int_0^{N+1} l(x(\tau), u(\tau), z(\tau)) d\tau$$

s.t.

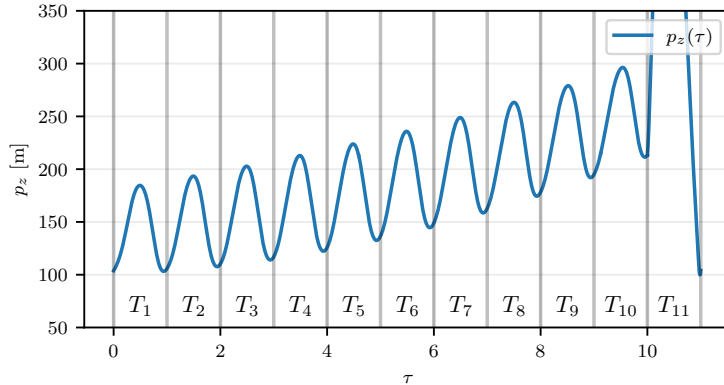
$$0 = f\left(\frac{1}{T(\tau)} \frac{dx(\tau)}{d\tau}, x(\tau), u(\tau), z(\tau)\right),$$

$$0 \leq h(x(\tau), u(\tau), z(\tau)),$$

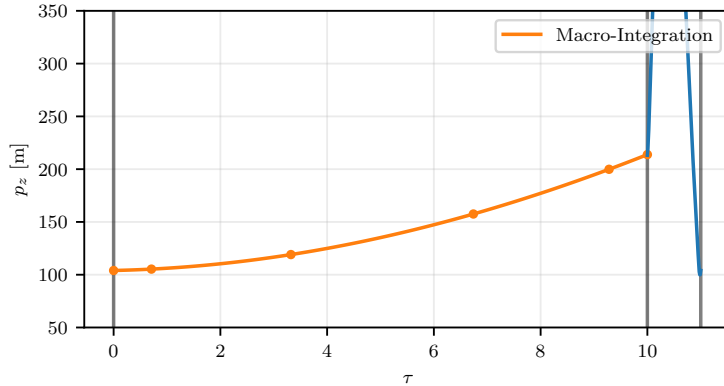
$$0 = x(0) - x(N + 1)$$



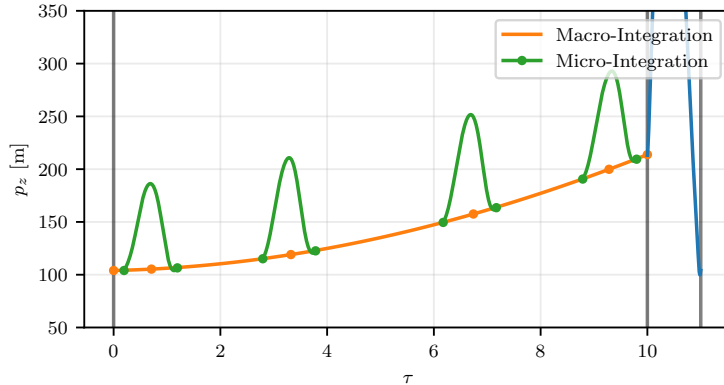
Stroboscopic Averaging for AWE System



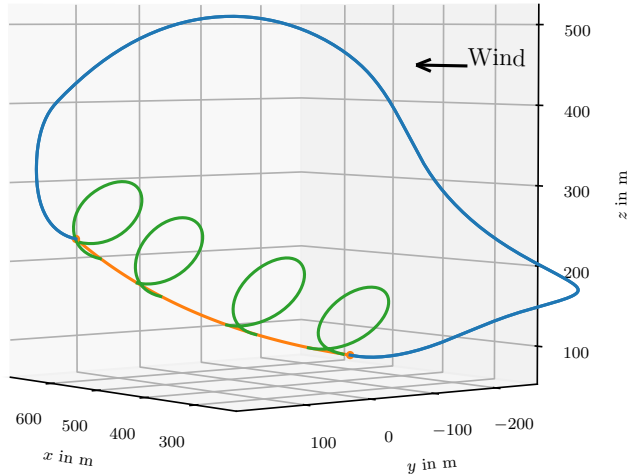
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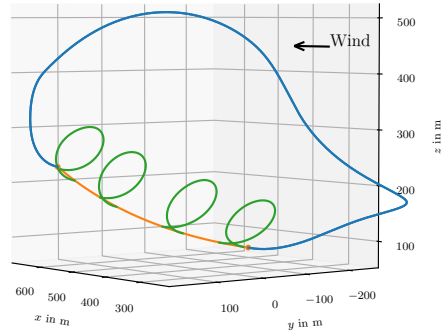


Regularization



Strong Assumption

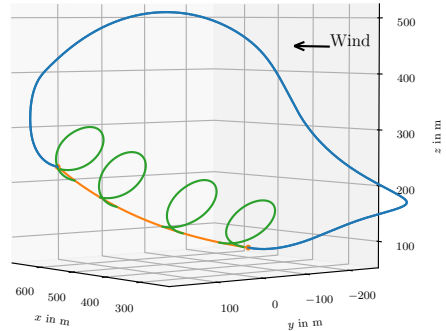
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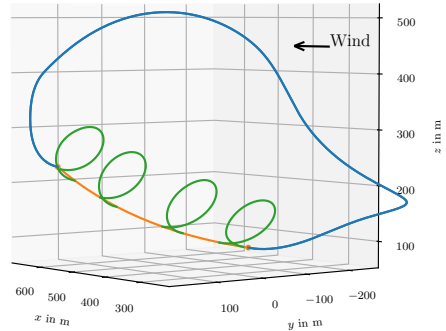


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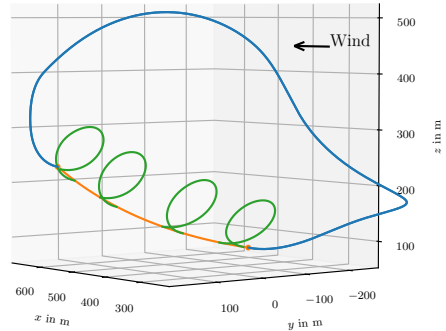


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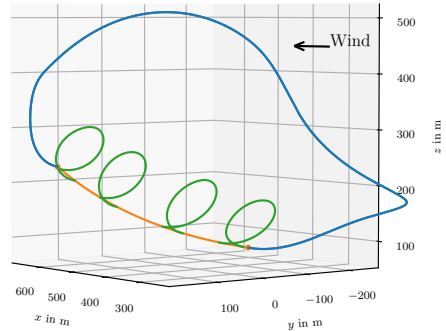


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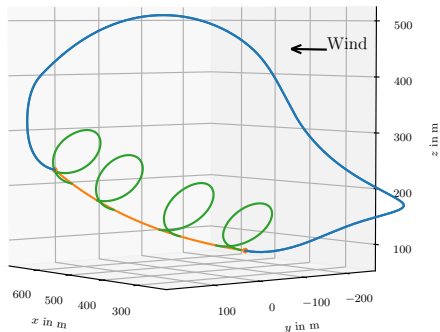


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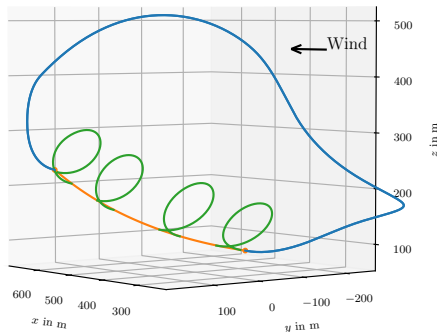
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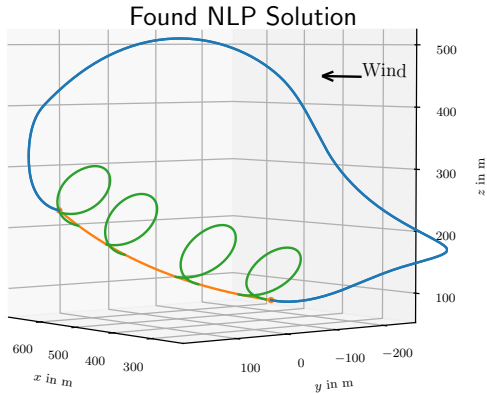
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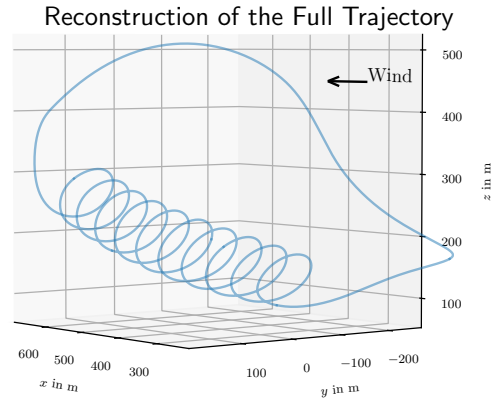
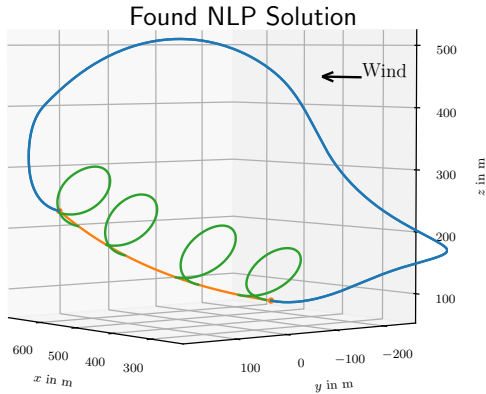


- Keeps the errors small
- Strong geometric assumption!

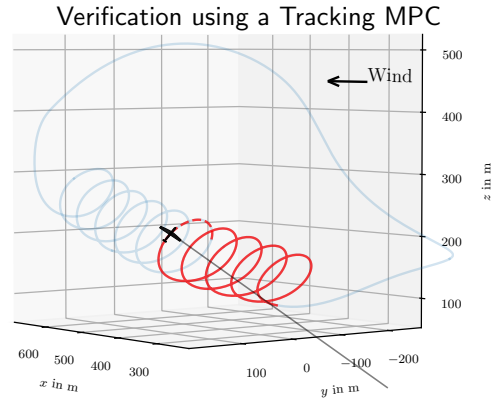
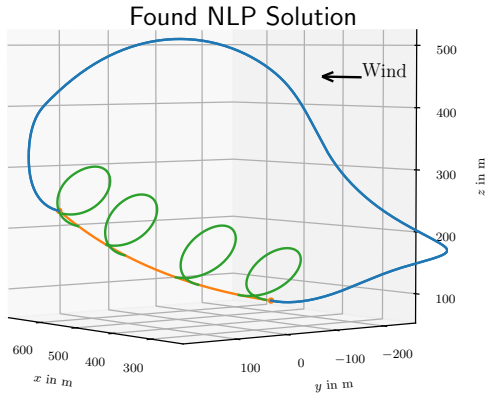
Stroboscopic Averaging for AWE System (cont.)



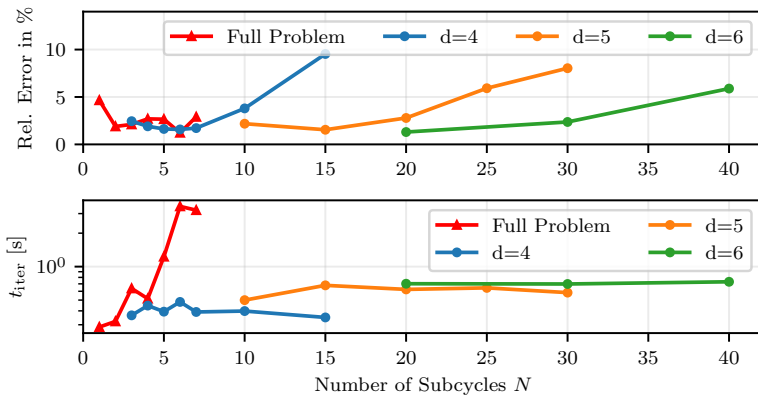
Stroboscopic Averaging for AWE System (cont.)



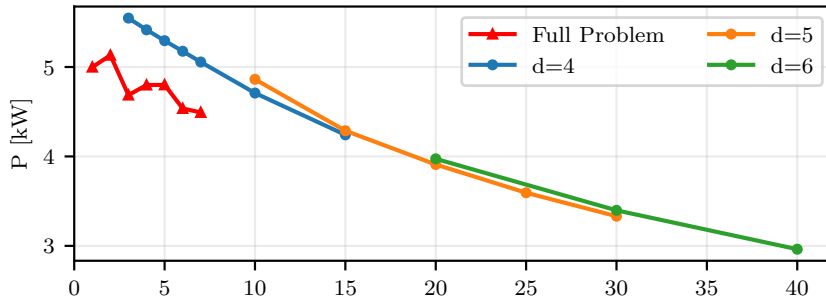
Stroboscopic Averaging for AWE System (cont.)



Results 1 - Computational Efficiency



Results 2 - Generated Power





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Open Problems:



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Thank you for your attention!



-  Mari Paz Calvo, Philippe Chartier, Ander Murua, and Jesús María Sanz-Serna.
A stroboscopic numerical method for highly oscillatory problems.
In Björn Engquist, Olof Runborg, and Yen-Hsi R. Tsai, editors, Numerical Analysis of Multiscale Computations, pages 71–85. Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 2012.
-  J. De Schutter, R. Leuthold, T. Bronnenmeyer, E. Malz, S. Gros, and M. Diehl.
AWEbox: An optimal control framework for single- and multi-aircraft airborne wind energy systems.
Energies, 16(4):1900, 2023.
-  Jakob Harzer, Jochem De Schutter, and Moritz Diehl.
Efficient numerical optimal control for highly oscillatory systems.
IEEE Control Systems Letters, 6:2719–2724, 2022.
-  U. Kirchgraber.
An ODE-solver based on the method of averaging.
Numerische Mathematik, 53:621–652, 1988.