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# The application of Multi-body Dynamics Theory on fish locomotion

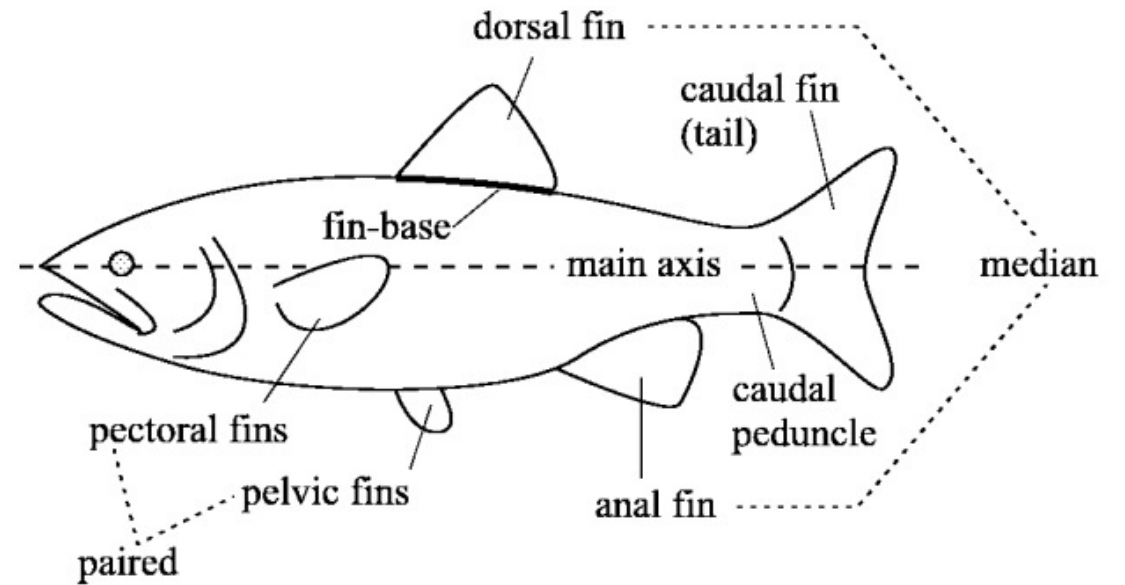
PhD Student: Ruoxin Li

Supervised by: Dr. Qing Xiao and Prof. Sandy Day

Department of Naval Architecture, Ocean and Marine Engineering

# Background

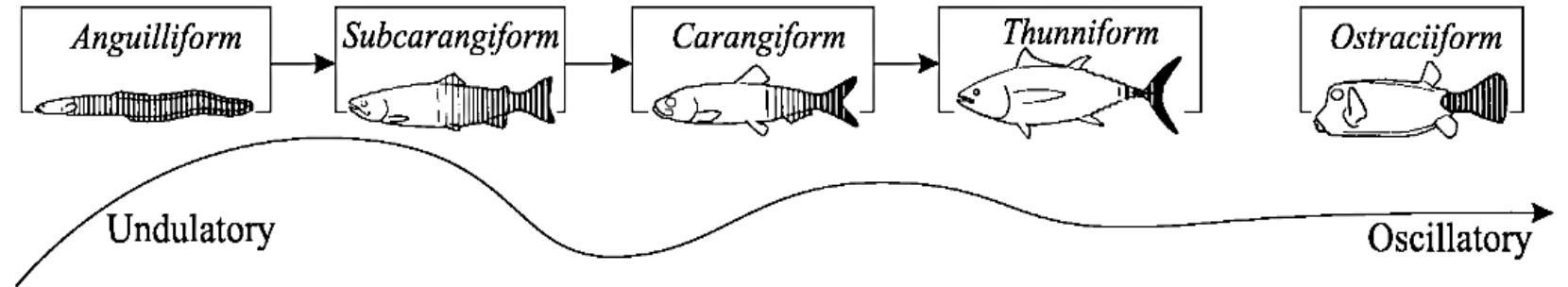
1. Excellent ability of propulsion and manoeuvring of fish.
2. Seeking the principles of fish swimming
3. Deep study of the fish locomotion in water
4. Previous studies: only fish body or fins
5. Current project: flexible body motion, meanwhile coupled with the motions of several fins



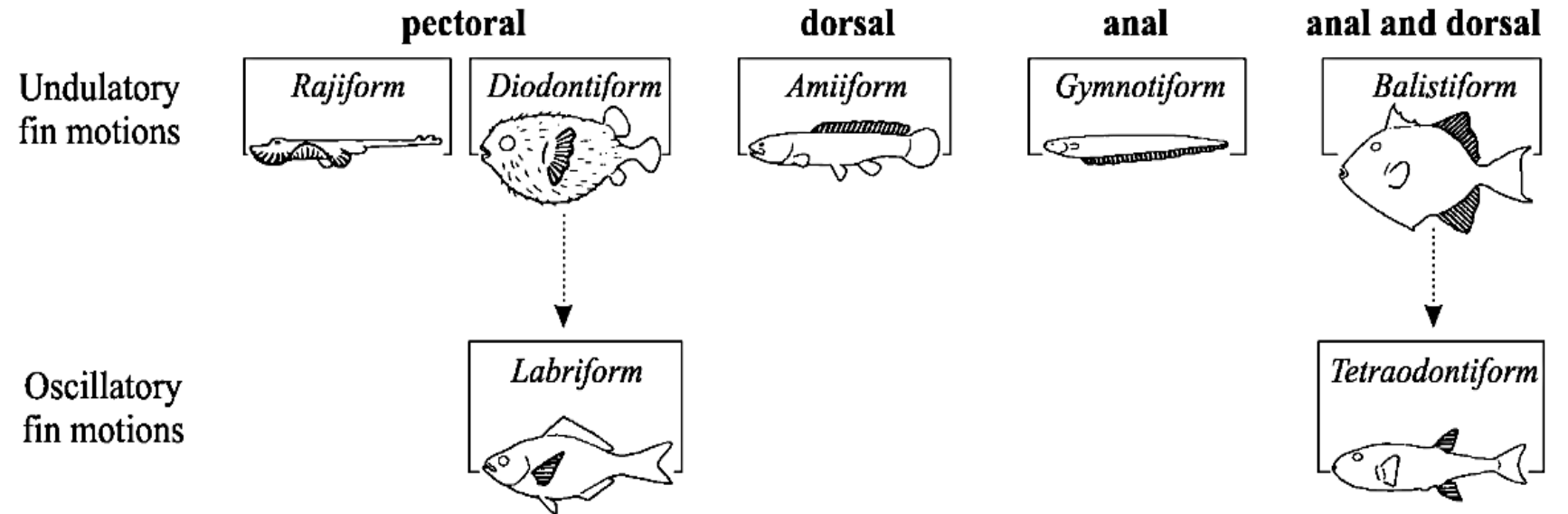
Construction of fish. Project focuses on the main body, dorsal fin, pectoral fins, anal fin and caudal fin.

## Two general swimming modes:

BCF Mode (Body and /or Caudal Fin): eel, tuna, boxfish. Corresponding to serial cases.

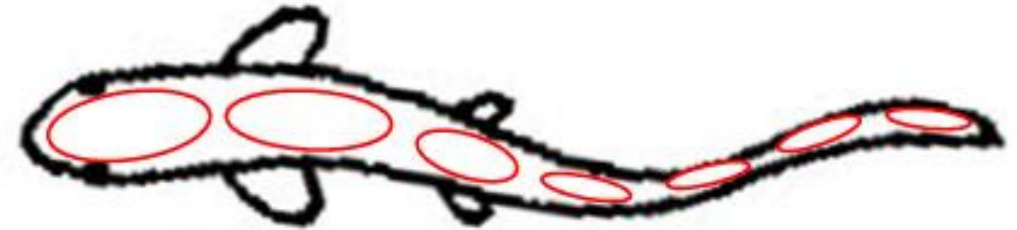


MPF Mode (median and /or Paired Fin) : pufferfish. Corresponding to tree-like cases.

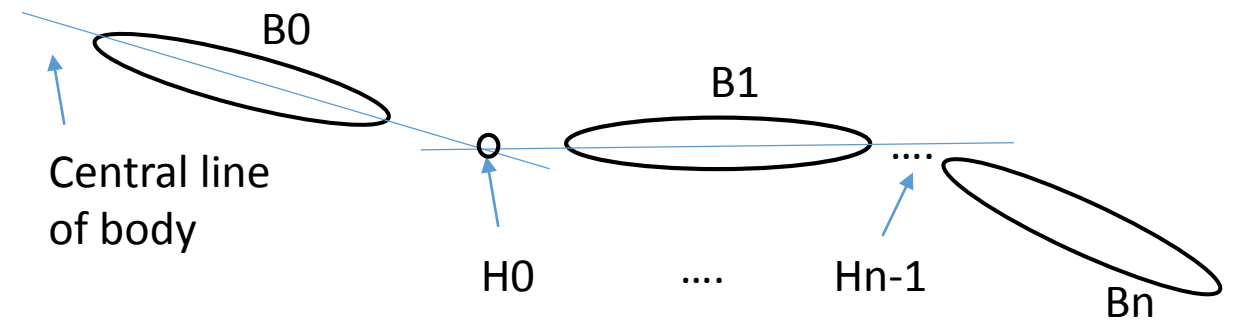


# Multi-body Dynamics Theory

- Split continuous body into several segments
- Number the segments from 0 to N
- Adjacent bodies are connected by a virtual hinge joint ( number from 0 to N-1)
- Each body has own body-fixed coordinate
- Commercial software FLUENT used to solve flow field



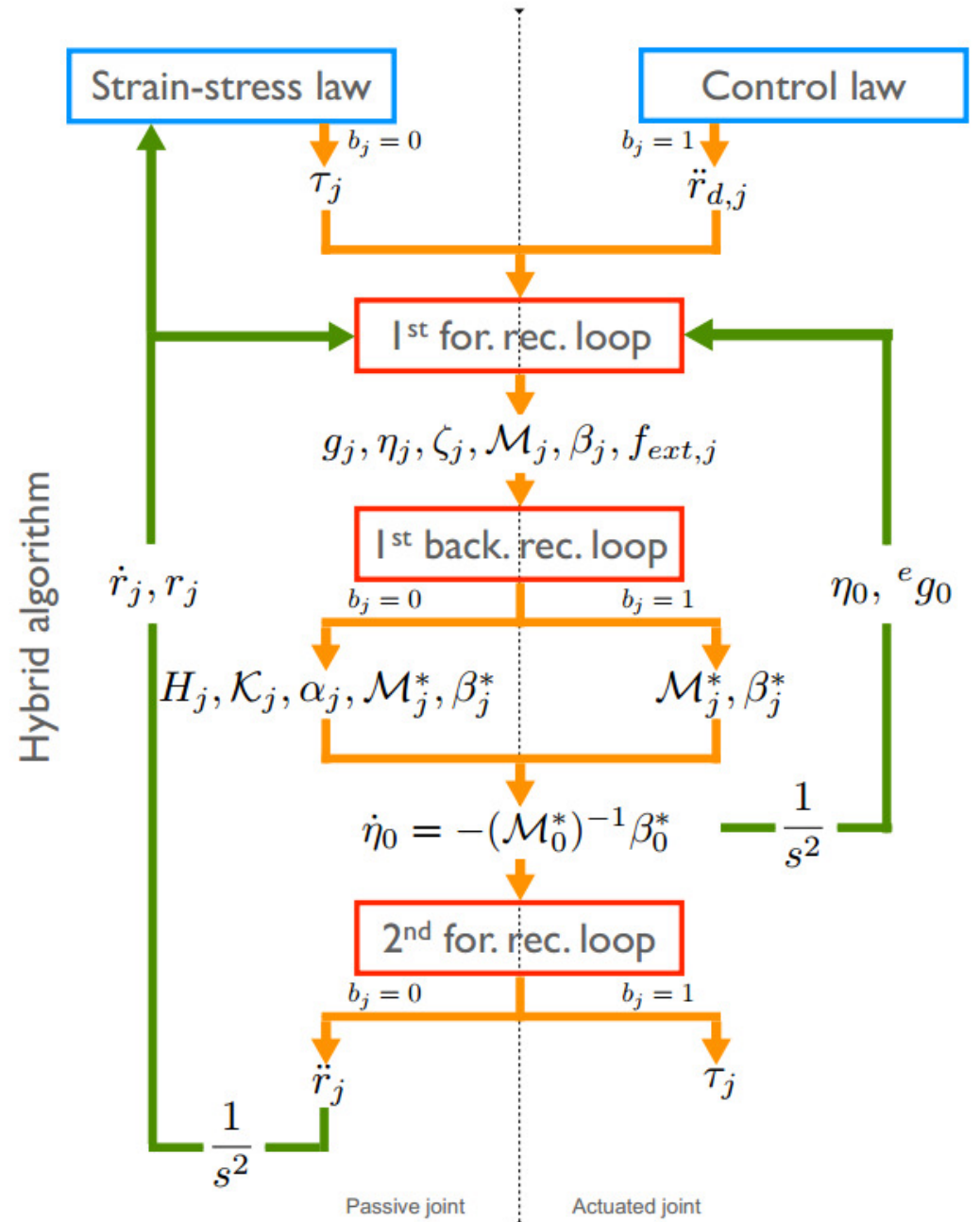
Current method to deal with flexible body



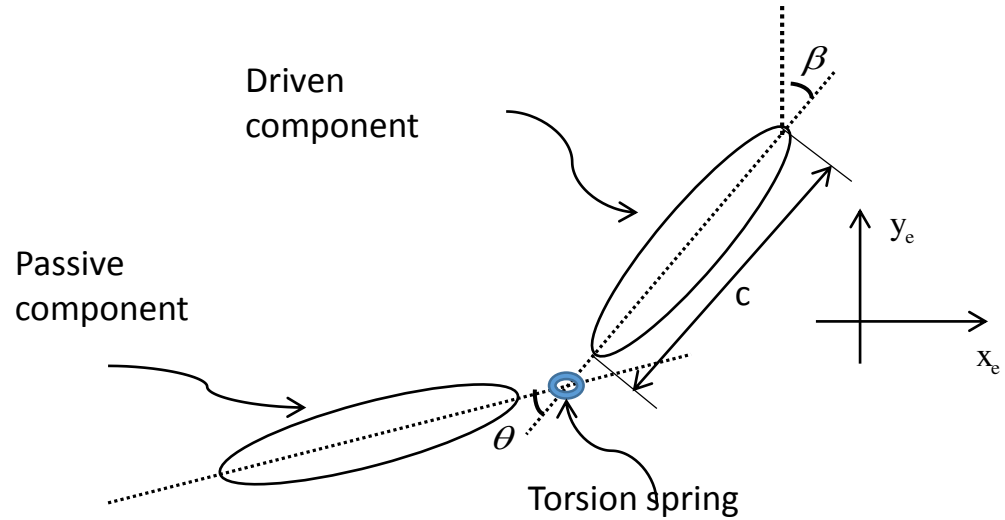
Schematic diagram of the fish model (serial case)

# Algorithm

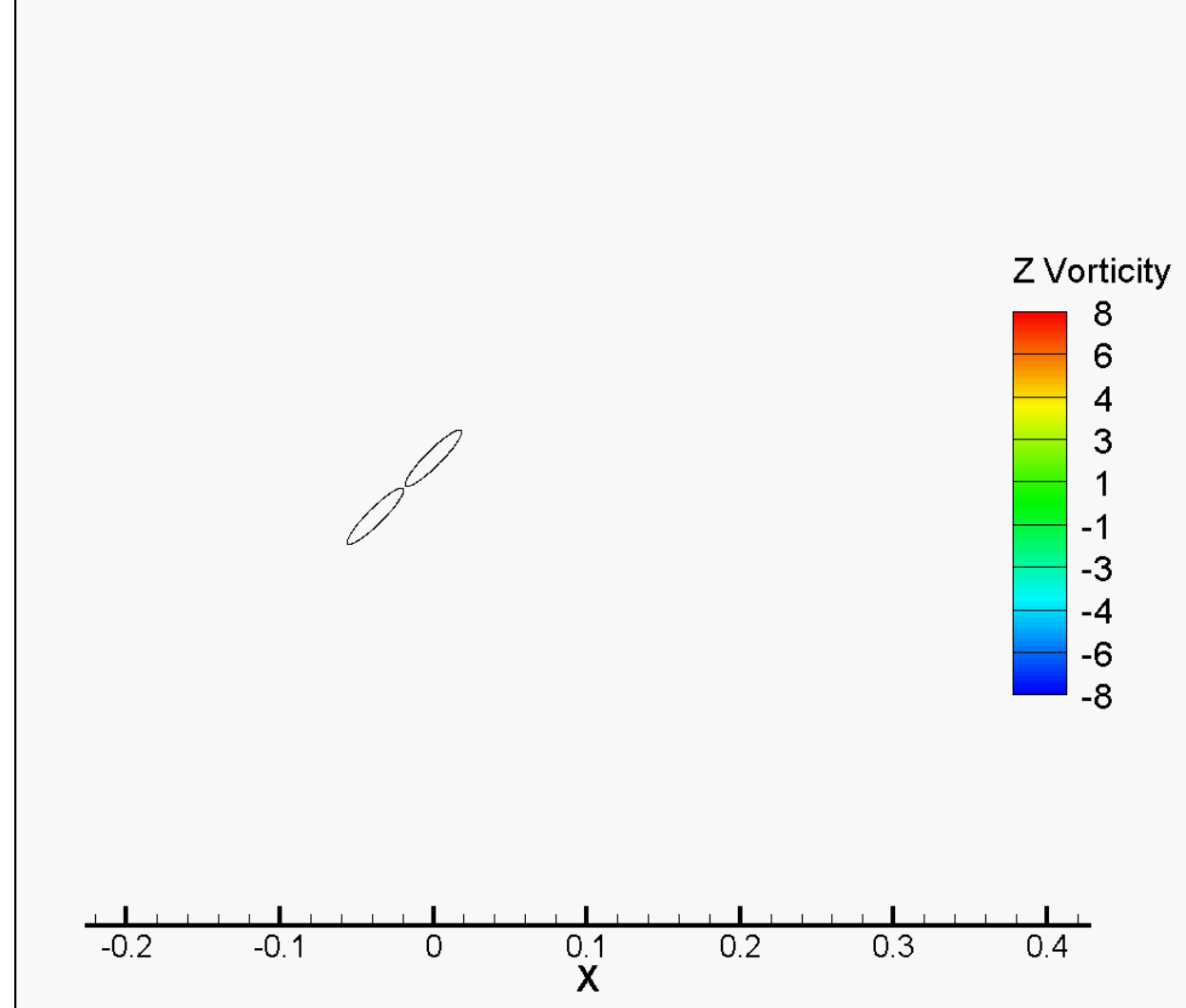
- Two ways for input  
Strain-stress law :torque input; passive joint  
Control law : angular acceleration input; actuated joint
- 1<sup>st</sup> forward recursion loop: information of each body under own body-fixed coordinate
- 1<sup>st</sup> backward recursion loop :superimposed the information from the last body to the first body
- Newton's Second Law : $\dot{a} = \frac{F}{M}$
- 2<sup>nd</sup> forward recursion loop :calculated out angular acceleration/ torque of each hinge



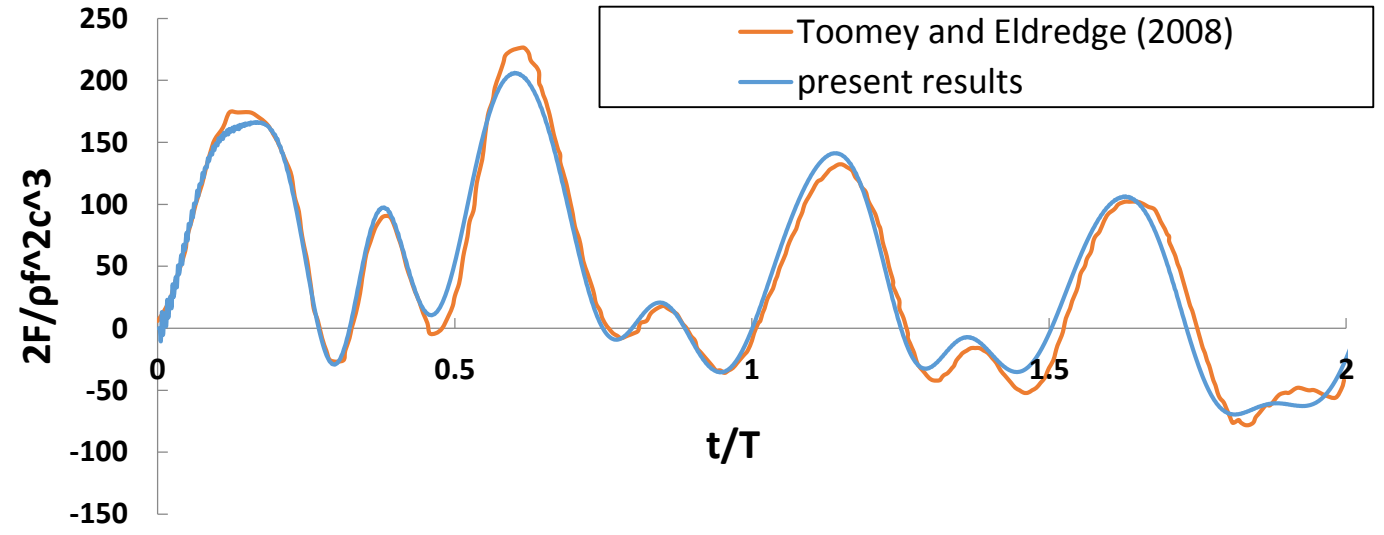
# Validation case



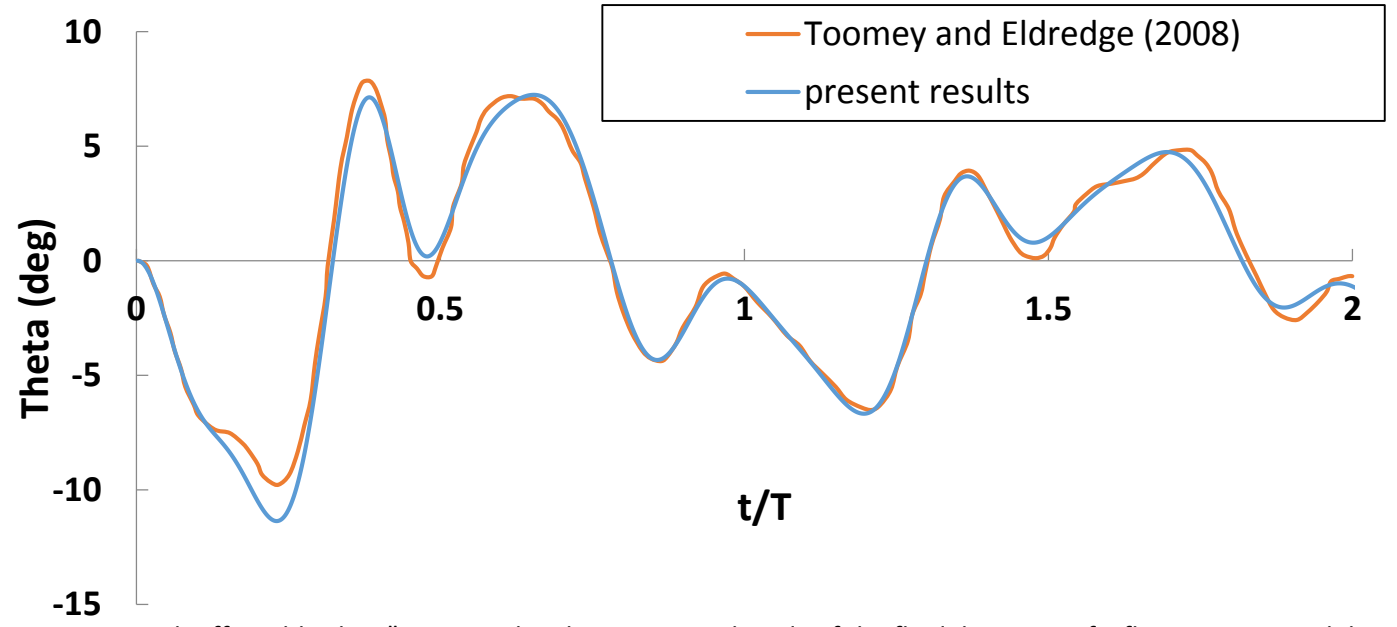
- Two-component wing structure connected by a single hinge with a damped torsion spring
- Prescribed translational and rotational motion on driven component



# Results comparison



Dimensionless force comparison



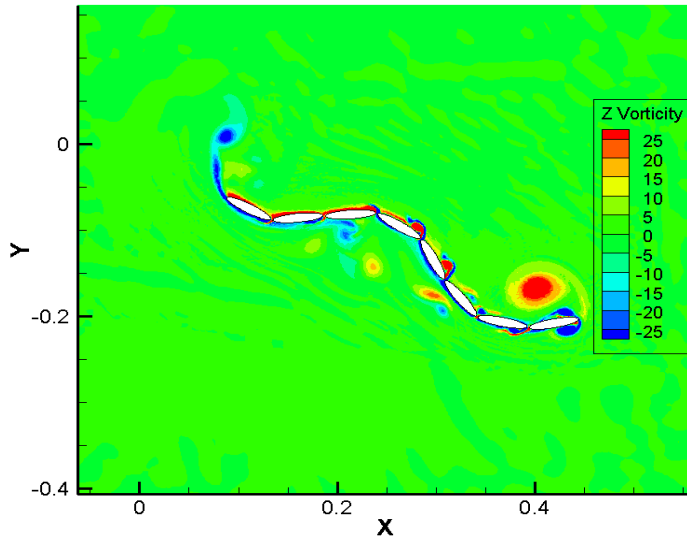
Hinge deflection angle

Jonathan Toomey and Jeff D. Eldredge. "Numerical and experimental study of the fluid dynamics of a flapping wing with low order flexibility." *Physics of Fluids (1994-present)* 20.7 (2008): 073603.

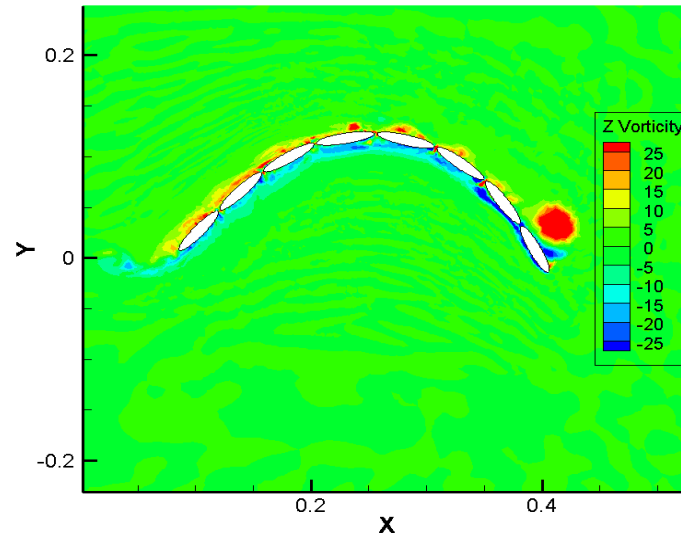


# Serial cases

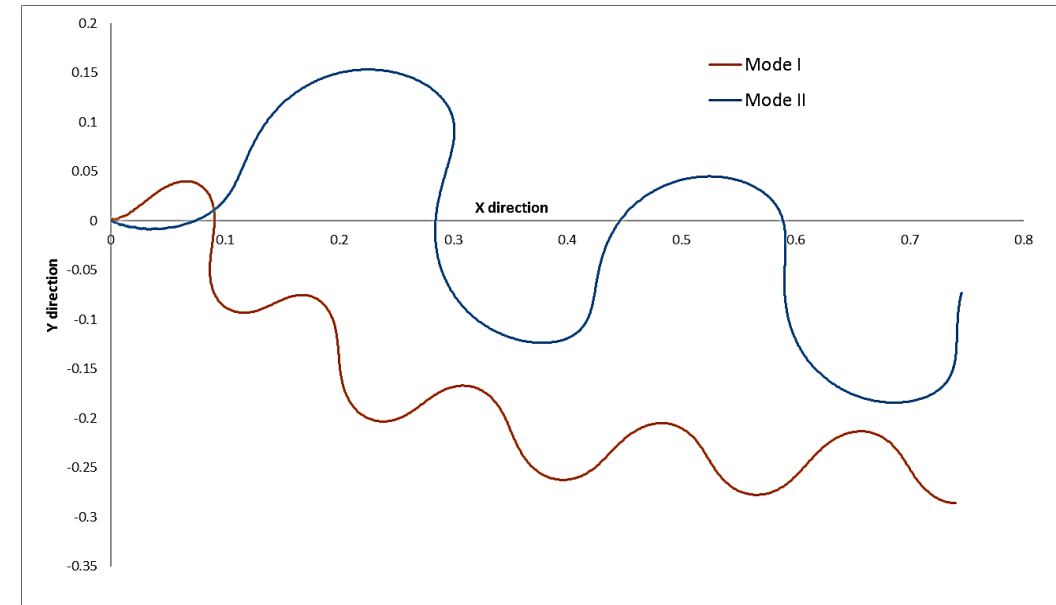
- Eight identical elements of fish model
- Gaps between each element is equal
- Two swimming modes
- Prescribed motions on hinges (Control law )



Mode I

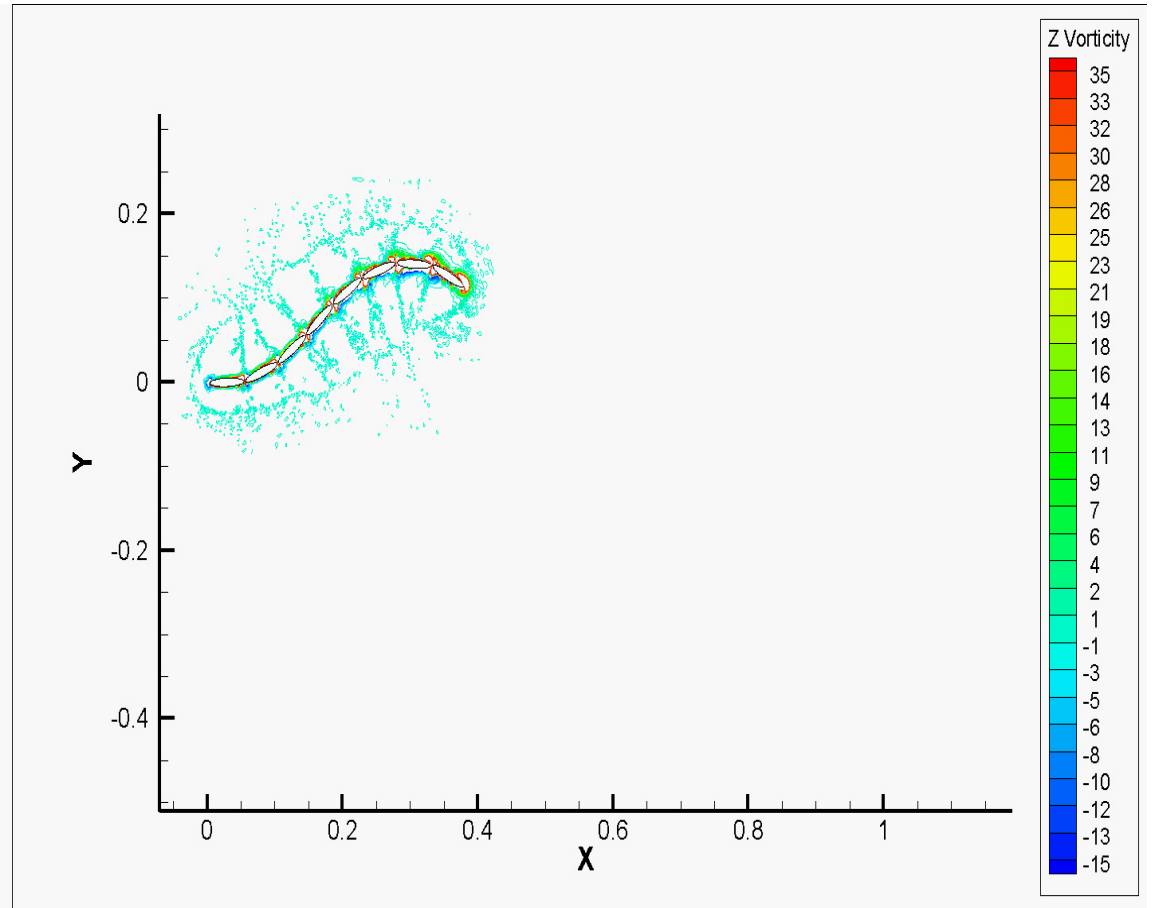
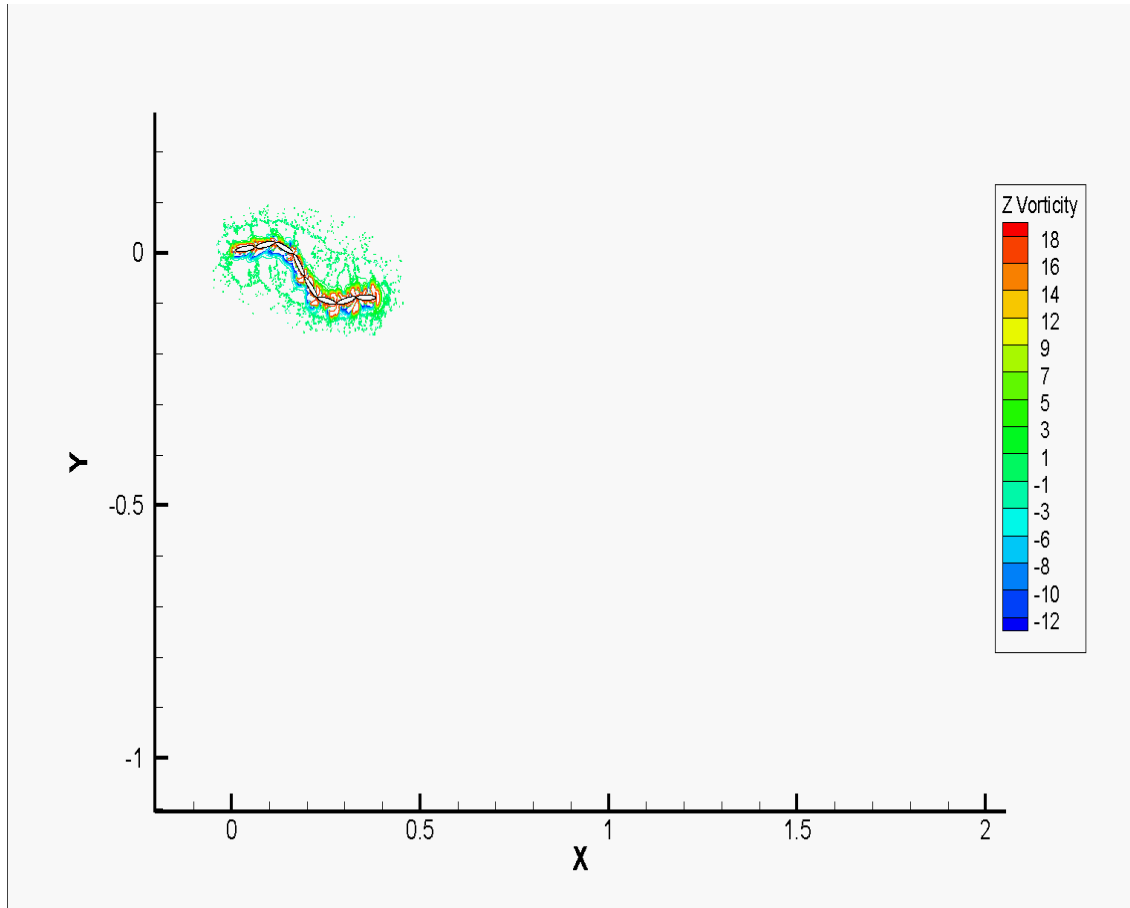


Mode II

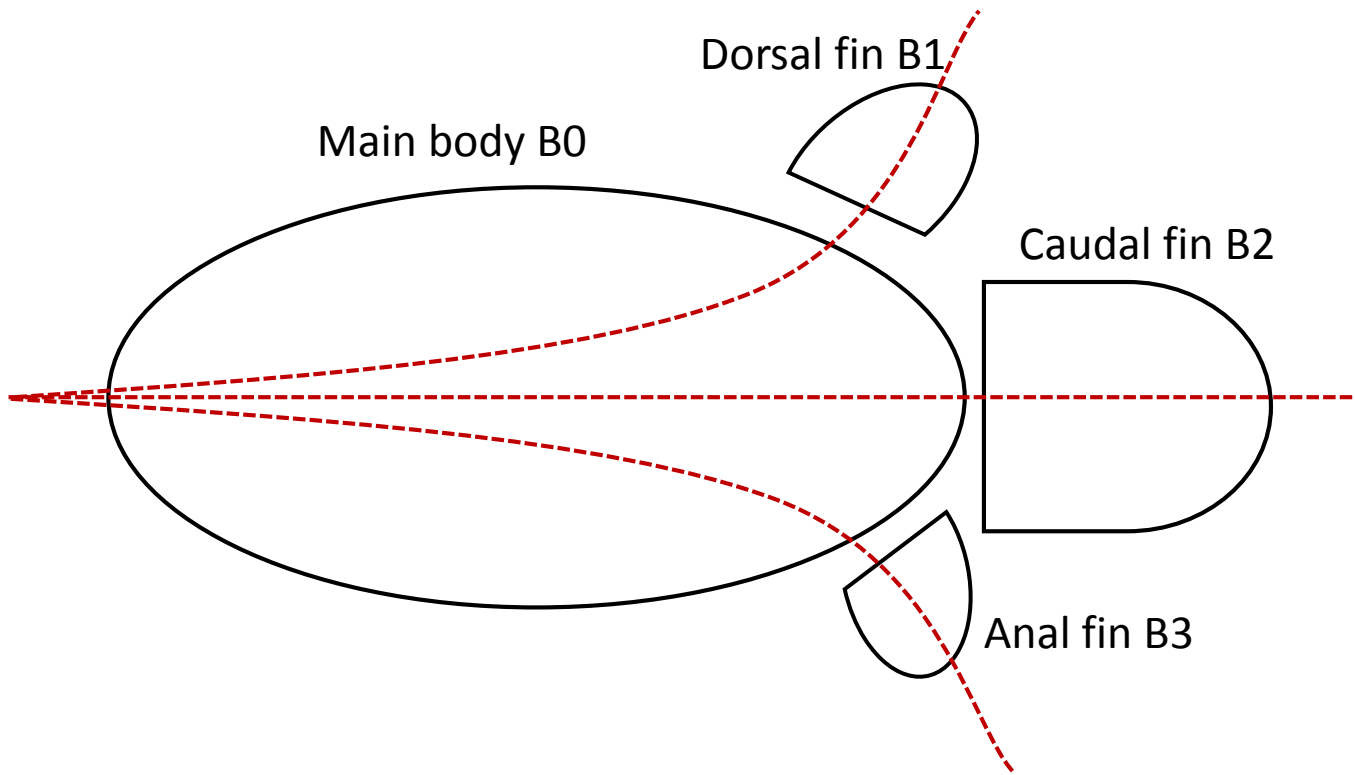


Predicted trajectories of two modes

# Different mode animations



# Tree-like case

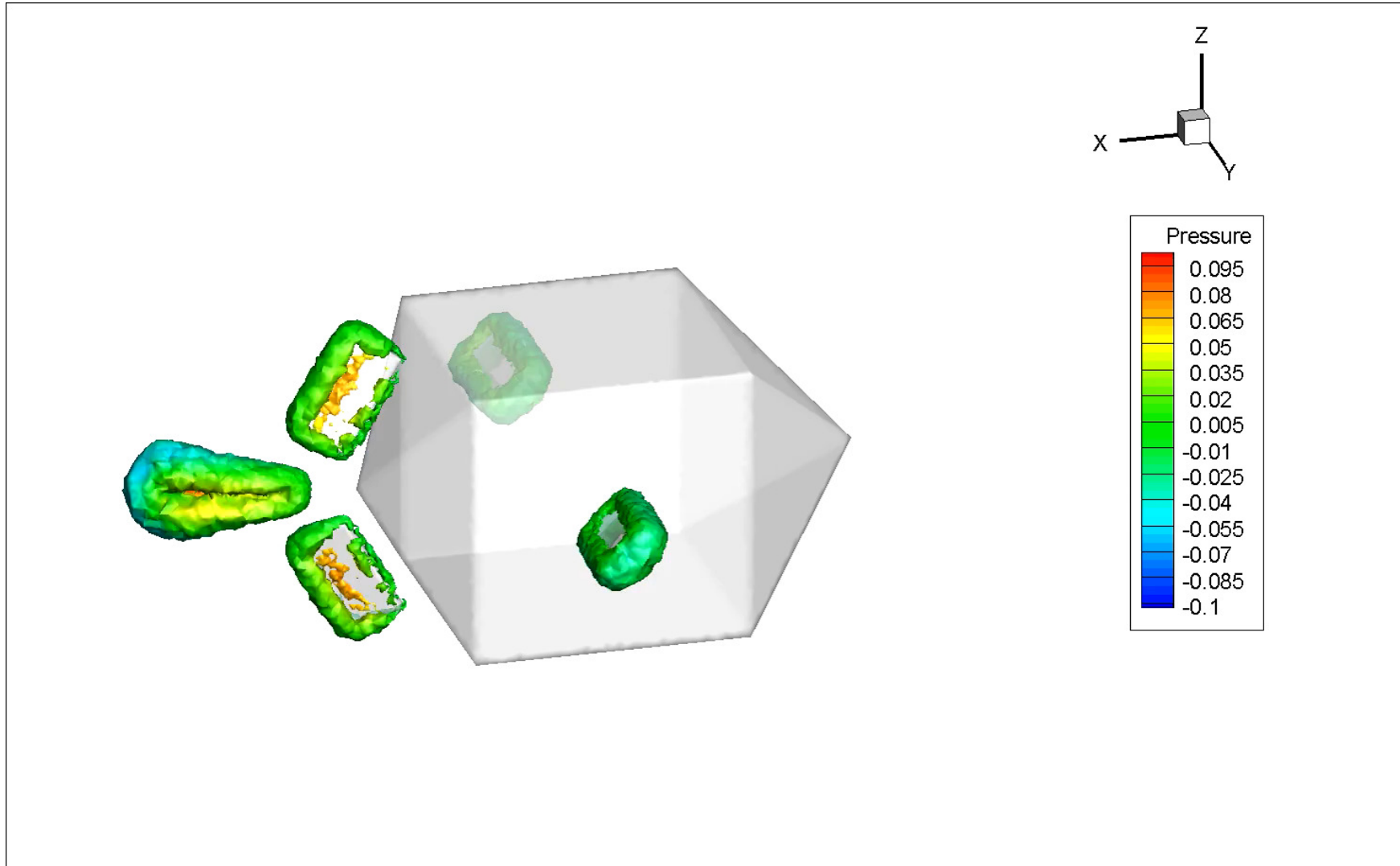


- Previous in-house code: only serial-structured multi-body function
- Current code status: tree-like function added
- Previous cases: 2D
- Current cases: 3D
- Application :fins can be taken into account ( pectoral, dorsal, anal)
- Advantage :Self-propelled locomotion more fish-liked

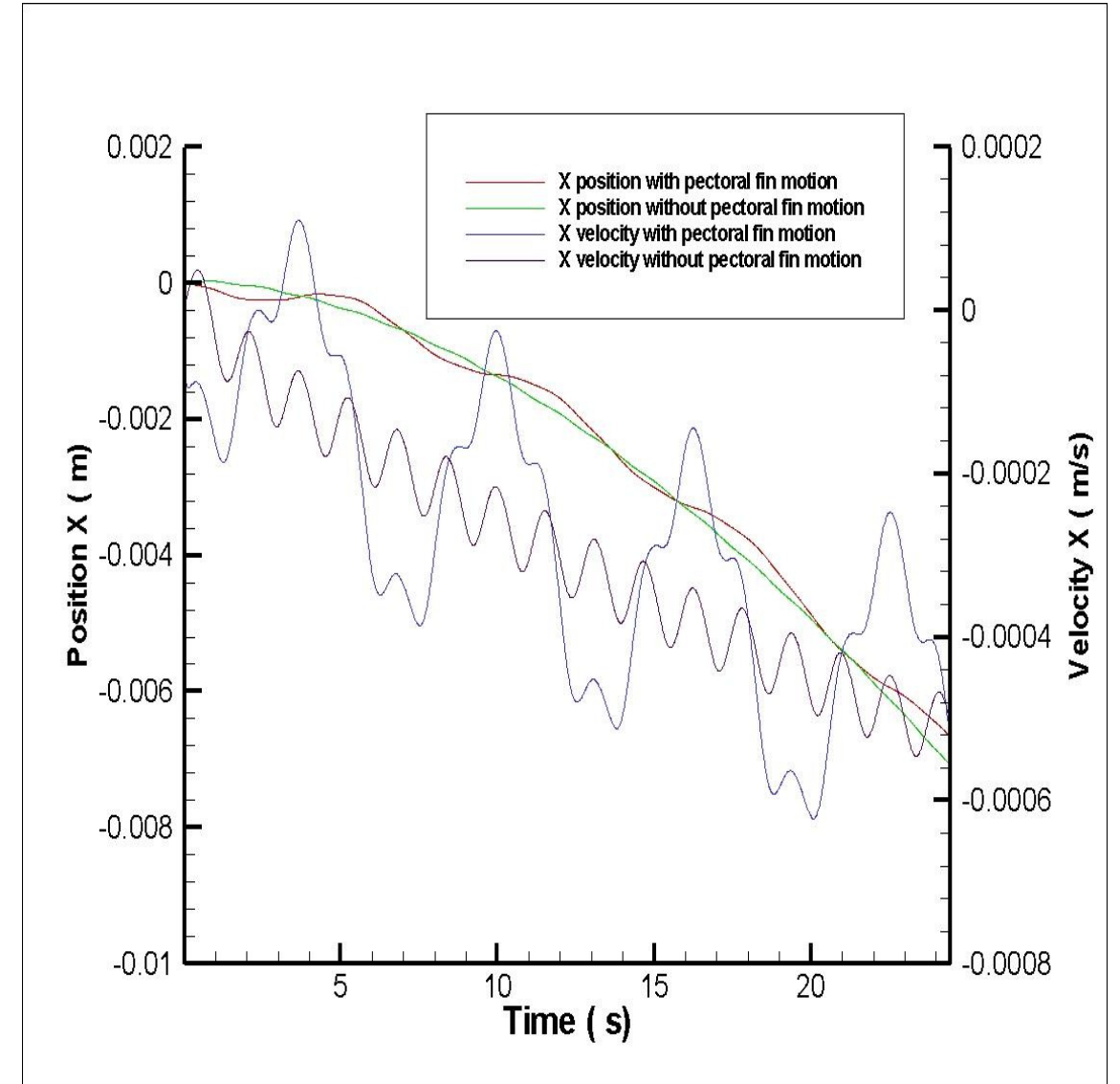
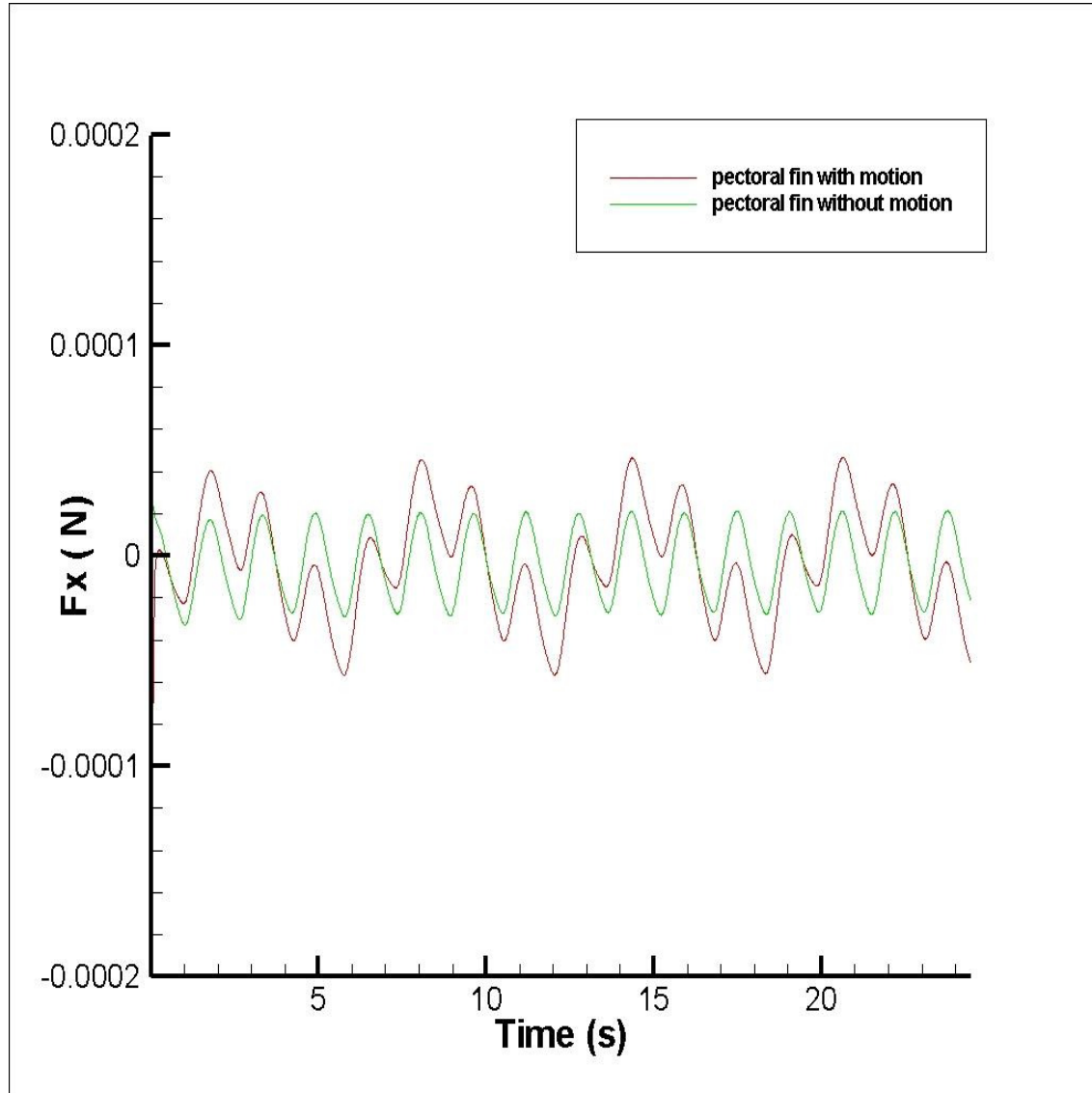
Sketch of a tree-like structure fish with dorsal, caudal and anal fin

# Boxfish

Pectoral, dorsal, caudal and anal fin flapping for self-propulsion

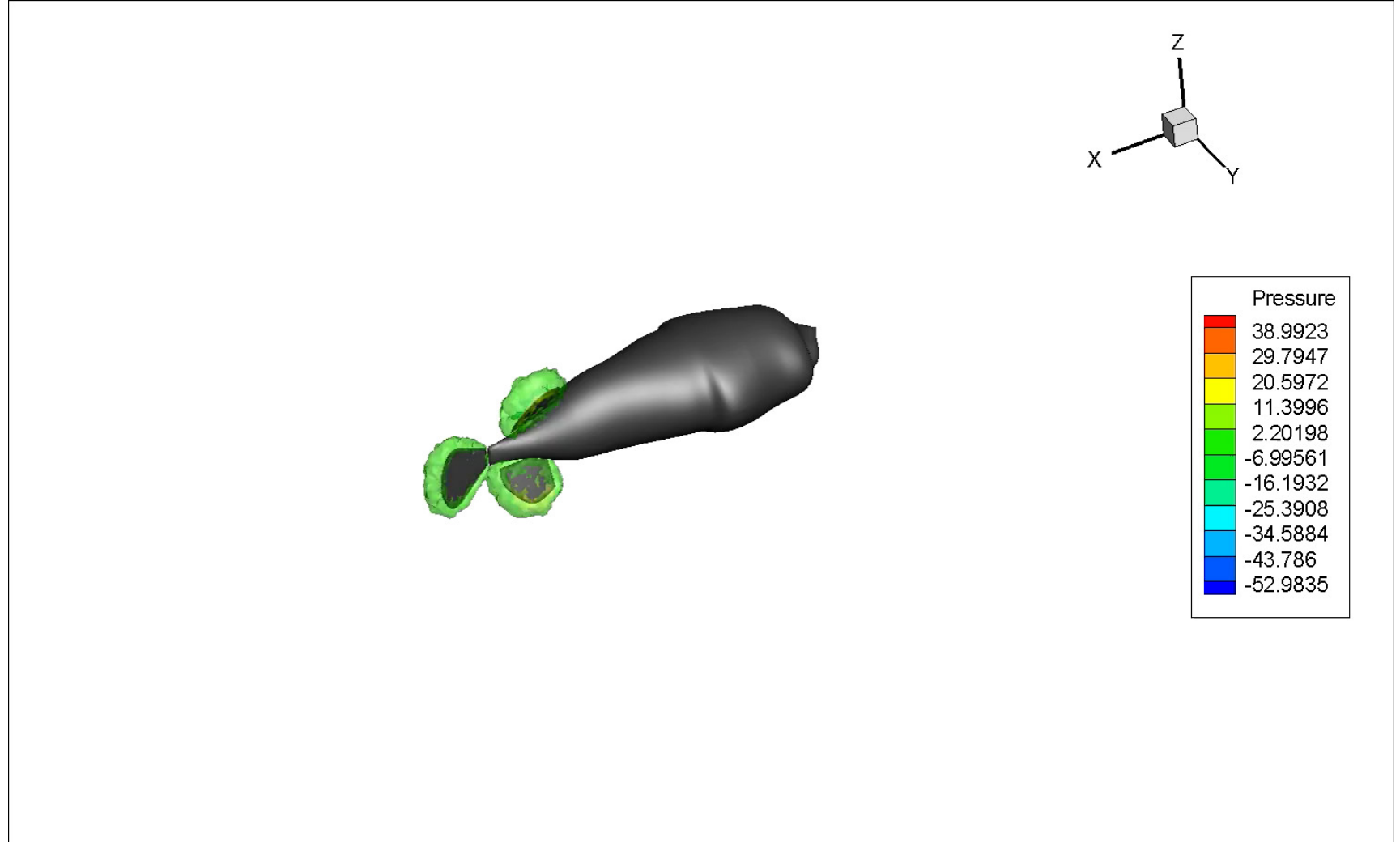


# Partial results



# Pufferfish

Dorsal, caudal and anal fin flapping for self-propulsion



Thank you!