

Joint AFOSR/ONR/NASA HTP Boundary Layer Transition Workshop Summary for RAeS

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- Why boundary layer transition?
- Objectives and participant makeup
- Overview and History of the National Hypersonic Foundational Research Plan (NHFRP)
- Assessment of NHFRP Roadmap
- Highlights of "pre-work" discussions
- Subjects of interest for new notional roadmaps







- Difficult problem: need to account for initial conditions, boundary conditions
- Laminar vs. turbulent BL state has implications
 - Transitional and turbulent BL has higher surface heating (3-8x higher), increased viscous drag (10% laminar to 30% turbulent), increased aerooptical distortion
 - Laminar separation over control surfaces reduces effectiveness, increases pressure drag
 - Laminar flow reduces engine performance: unstart or reduced mixing





Why boundary layer transition?

Objectives and Participants

Overview and History of the National Hypersonic Foundational Research Plan

Assessment of NHFRP Roadmap

Highlights of "pre-work" discussions

Subjects of interest for new notional roadmaps





Assemble SMEs in highspeed boundary layer transition to assess the current state of research

Develop roadmap of high-speed boundary layer transition research







Flight Experiments

- Participants were mix of academia, industry, government agencies – split into teams
- Limited capacity in room
 - Helped foster discussion
 - Produced actual end products
- Members contributed information for discussion via "pre-work" questions
- Team "captains" organized responses:
 - Geometries: Lindsay Kirk, NASA Commercial Crew
 Program
 - Computational Methods: Pedro Paredes, NIA
 - Facilities/Diagnostics: Matthew Borg, AFRL RQHF
 - Flight Experiments: Bradley Wheaton, JHU/APL
 - Flow Control: Thomas Corke, University of Notre Dame
 - New Approaches: Joseph Nichols, University of Minnesota





Why boundary layer transition? Objectives and participant makeup

A look back

Overview and History of the National Hypersonic Foundational Research Plan

Assessment of NHFRP Roadmap

Highlights of "pre-work" discussions

Subjects of interest for new notional roadmaps





- Past efforts at coordinating national focus of hypersonics research were to be guided by the National Hypersonic Foundational Research Plan (NHFRP)
 - Participation included: NASA, Sandia, AFRL
 - Established in 2007, Hypersonic Academic Research Partnership (HARP) in 2009
- Effort was meant to sustain national hypersonic capabilities
 - Build a stable base of expertise to counteract decline of skill level due to volatile nature of hypersonic funding
 - Facilitate coordination of foundational research efforts across agencies supporting hypersonic research
 - Support national planning efforts and simulate investments from other agencies

The volatile history of hypersonic system development has resulted in a long-term erosion of the hypersonic skill base







Why boundary layer transition? Objectives and participant makeup Overview and History of the National Hypersonic Foundational Research Plan

What have we accomplished?

Assessment of NHFRP Roadmap

Highlights of "pre-work" discussions

Subjects of interest for new notional roadmaps





- Question of "what have we accomplished" is mixed
 - Defining what "accomplished" means: someone has a solution vs. the solution is used in standard practice
 - Many items have been studied, but not in full, and adoption into standard practice takes time
 - Defining how well-understood a phenomenon is has different meanings to different people: airframers may only care up to a certain degree, physicists will want to know the mechanisms responsible
 - What is accomplished may always be improved upon
 - Refinement of modeling
 - Creating tools and diagnostics that are turn-key or able to be used by outsiders to the BLT community accurately
- Gaps in our current knowledge are primarily in: chemistry/ablation effects, surface feature characterization and modeling, receptivity, viable flow control





Why boundary layer transition? Objectives and participant makeup Overview and History of the National Hypersonic Foundational Research Plan Assessment of NHFRP Roadmap

What do we need to know?

Highlights of "pre-work" discussions

Subjects of interest for new notional roadmaps



Geometries/Vehicles Team



- Focus was meant to be on big-picture systems-level impacts
- Team was to consist of airframers, program officers, vehicle designers
- What geometries are relevant to the community?
- How does boundary layer transition affect them?



Highlights from Geometries/Vehicles Team Pre-Work



- Why do we care about transition on these classes of vehicles? What parts of the vehicle are more sensitive and which mechanisms are relevant?
 - Vehicle performance and controllability: minimize total heat load and overall drag
 - Flow state preferences:
 - Turbulent flow is preferred over control surfaces for effectiveness, in airbreathing engines (promote mixing, avoid inlet/isolator separation: unstart)
 - Laminar flow is preferred over sensor apertures (less aero-optical distortion)



[credit: H. Hamilton et al., NASA-TP-3271]

 How are the effects of in-flight surface roughness and geometric features on boundary layer transition currently assessed?

- Look at before and after flown roughness, still no way to quantify changes in flight
- Defined as RMS or tallest peak or deepest valley





- Why are correlations still used in practice?
 - Implementation of higher-fidelity tools still has too large an entry barrier or are too slow to use in the design process





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[credit: Kegerise et al. AIAA 2014-2501, NASA]



 Industry, academia, OGAs – probably biggest team

- What tools do we have?
- What is missing from our knowledge?
- What is our way of accounting for what is not known?







- How well do we need to model something to understand or predict transition?
 - Case dependency: even for canonical geometries, some configurations are more sensitive to different surface or freestream conditions
 - More sensitivity studies are required
 - Conventional (not quiet) tunnels have limited value for transition studies. Flight data are sparse, limited.

Hot wire measurements (left) in the wake of sinusoidal "egg crate" roughness in a quiet tunnel validated against two methods of predicting instability growth (middle, right)



Vighlights from Computational Methods Team Pre-Work

- How can low- and high-fidelity tools be used synergistically?
 - High-fidelity tools are used for detailed analysis to help develop low-fidelity tools
 - New work in the Data Assimilation community, Machine Learning models to help build these bridges
 - Need to learn from the MDAO community to use high-fidelity tools to build ROMs

Consider BOLT-II at t = 399.6 sec

M = 5.924, $Re_{L} = 3.09 \times 10^{6}$

Flight data show **fully laminar flow** at this condition but **LORN Transition Criterion** expects turbulent flow



Predicted Regions of Turbulent Flow

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BOLT-II at Highest Re case: M = 7.36, Re_L = 11.53×10^6



Critical N-factor likely to vary with type of instability!

- Surface roughness effects (neglected herein) likely to be significant for CF and sideline streaks

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- OGAs and academia
 - Owners of hypersonic/high-speed facilities
 - Development of diagnostic tools

• Facilities are generally smaller/cheaper to operate for university tunnels



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- What measurement techniques do we have and are they sufficient?
 - High-bandwidth pressure, one high-bandwidth heat transfer, shear
 - Optical techniques: schlieren, PLIF, FLDI, etc.
 - Computational team was asked the types of measurements they want are global measurements of velocity, temperature, and pressure, etc. to a known uncertainty – difficult to achieve, so current capabilities are not sufficient



Conventional vs. focusing schlieren





NO PLIF at Mach 10 [credit: P. Danehy, NASA]



[credit: A. Berger, AFRL]

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HIFiRE-5



Quiet Flow

How can all classes of ground test facilities and flight testing increase the understanding of BLT and improve/validate modeling?

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• Continue using intentionally-coordinated common geometries that can be tested in multiple facilities, flight tested, and computed with several codes

Purdue University BAM6QT (Mach-6 Quiet Tunnel) 10.2×10⁶/m

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• Need a good way of sharing data across organizations

NASA LaRC 20-Inch Mach 6 Air Tunnel

Boundary Layer

Transition Front

Highlights from Facilities/Diagnostics Team Pre-Work technology roject





- OGAs, UARC, and Academia
- PIs for recent flight experiments







- What are the current operational limitations in flight testing?
 - Instrumentation, lead times, telemetry bandwidth
 - Recovery is not always available, encryption of TM data can increase chances of data loss
 - Costs and funding for boundary layer transition-specific flight testing



[credit: Bradley Wheaton, JHU/APL]





BOLT II Campaign Altitude Profiles

- How do we account for the fact that we will never know the initial and boundary conditions of the vehicle in flight to a high fidelity?
 - We can measure pre and post flight boundary conditions
 - AFOSR MURI showed we can measure pre-flight, during flight, and post-flight freestream disturbances
 - Need to identify parameters that most affect transition for various geometries, trajectories and assess/specify maximum uncertainties for those parameters

HYFLITS measurements before, during, and after BOLT-II campaign From Lawrence et al., AIAA 2023-480

39°

-atitude %

37°N

50 m

77°W





- This is an area that historically has not had a lot of funding for the high-speed community
- Primarily, work has been done in passive flow control, optimized for single condition
- Some active flow control has been done with plasma actuators
- Work would benefit from collaboration with materials, systems (e.g., FY24 ONR MURI "Understanding and Tailoring the Interactions between Metamaterials and Hypersonic Flows")













- What are methods that we have to promote or delay transition based on the knowledge we have of boundary layer instabilities?
 - First mode (typically oblique supersonic dominant instability): wall cooling stabilizes, introduce 3D waves to delay/promote transition
 - Second mode (typically 2D/axisymmetric hypersonic instability): wall cooling destabilizes, ultrasonic absorptive coatings to delay, 2D roughness trips to delay, CO₂ injection to delay
 - Crossflow instability (typically on swept leading edges and angle of attack): discrete roughness elements (DREs) or plasma actuators spaced at a stabilizing or destabilizing "wavelength"



Highlights from New Approaches Team Pre-Work

- Academia
 - Mostly computational, but incorporate experimental work
 - New research efforts, developmental









Highlights from New Approaches Team Pre-Work

- What are some new approaches toward predicting or understanding boundary layer transition?
 - Data Assimilation (DA): augment physical measurements and predict the flow field from limited data, provides sensitivity of measurements to unknown parameters
 - Uncertainty Quantification (UQ): is part of some DA strategies and provides important info regarding sensitivities
 - Machine Learning (ML): can be integrated within existing tools. Neural networks can learn functions and operators to work towards reduced order modeling, acceleration of existing optimization/DA, grid-free/automatic refinement solver of PDEs
 - Hierarchical I/O analysis for 3D receptivity of realistic freestream disturbances
 - Bayesian approaches dealing with the stochastic nature of transition

Machine learning to predict possible flow fields/missing data



I/O analysis to decompose complex physics into separate modes



[credit: J. Nichols, U Minnesota]

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What to focus on in the future?









Computational Methods



















- New roadmaps demonstrate a pivot, incorporating new technologies
- Need to define a set of realistic common geometries to work toward
 - AIAA working groups and discussion groups need to have a fully-open geometry
 - Need to have a smaller community working CUI
 - Some universities can work this (e.g., some UCAH guidelines limit openness)
 - NASA and OGAs could work, but may lose diversity/expertise of outside
- In-flight conditions are still a large unknown: atmospheric characterization, surface conditions, geometry changes, chemistry
 - These are not unique to boundary layer transition
 - Flow control is an area that has not historically been greatly funded at this speed regime need for more key players, investigation into robust methods of control
- Incorporate new methods and approaches as they evolve into computations and flight/ground experiments





Participants of the Workshop

- Organized by
 - Douglas Smith, AFOSR International Program Officer, Aeronautical Sciences
 - Eric Marineau, ONR Hypersonics Program Officer,
 - Amanda Chou, NASA HTP Vehicle Technologies Lead
- Participants were mix of academia, industry, government agencies
- Limited capacity in room
 - Helped foster discussion
 - Produced actual end products

AFRL	DARPA	NASA Hypersonic Technology Project	NASA Commercial Crew Program	ONR
NAWCWD China Lake	NSWC Dahlgren	Sandia National Laboratories	TRMC T&E/S&T	Caltech
Case Western Reserve University	Johns Hopkins University	The Ohio State University	Purdue University	Stevens Institute
Texas A&M University	University of Maryland	University of Minnesota	University of Notre Dame	University of Tennessee Space Institute
University Consortium for Applied Hypersonics	National Institute of Aerospace	Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab	Lockheed Martin	Raytheon

NHFRP RoComprehensive Technical Objectives: Laminar-Turbulent Transition



Hypersonic Foundational Research Plan

	Thrust Area	Near Term (2010)	Mid Term (2020)	Far Term (2030)
	Overall	 Semi-empirical estimation for mildly 3-D flows Characterize impact of single discrete roughness elements Idealized surface conditions 	 Semi-empirical estimation for large bluntness (reentry) vehicles and cones at AOA Estimate impact of realistic roughness – isolated and quasi-random distributed Exploration of flow control: shaping/passive/active (thermal bumps?) 	 Physics-based num. estimation of transition for actual systems, fully integrated within CFD solver Viable Laminar Flow Control
	Physics-Based Numerical Models	 Semi-empirical est. for mild 3-D flows Transient growth theory DNS for Receptivity and Breakdown 	 Semi-empirical est. for realistic flows Transient growth models Reduced order models for receptivity and breakdown/relaminarization Expand range of application of transient growth 	Integrated numerical models for entire transition process, including laminar flow control methods
Done for multiple geometries by multiple groups, in standard practice now for BLT	Receptivity Modeling and Experiments Material/Surface Influence	 Response to individual disturbances Well-defined, controlled free-stream perturbation Single isolated roughness element 	 Disturbance environment characterization in ground facilities Receptivity models for complex disturbances Measured flight dist environment Response to multiple inputs 	 Distributed roughness field Numerical prediction of receptivity for realistic aerothermodynamic environment, surface conditions and configurations
Some work has been done, but is not well-understood for multiple applications or is not in standard		Start addressing Impact of mfg tolerances Influence of surface chem Influence of surface blowing Characterize realistic TPS surface conditions 	Passive flow control – Ex. Ultrasonically Absorptive Coatings Response to ablated surface condition Modern blowing experiments Stability calculations for 3D flows with chemistry and radiation	 Active flow control via surface material interaction Numerically predicted response to ablated surface with chemistry and blowing
Not well-understood, only being investigated by one or two	Facilities & Instrumentation	 High-freq P, T and Cf sensors Advanced visualization techniques Quiet facilities at M=3.5, 6 	Field measurement of instabilities Next Gen Quiet Facility? Packaged off-the-shelf hi-freq sensors	 High-Enthalpy Quiet Facility? Alternate gases (e.g., CO₂)
groups	Flight Experiments		Moderate Mach, no chemistry Simple SWTBLI Series of affordable tests	 Basic research at high M + chemistry High-freq meas. of instabilities Participate in T & E flight testing

Highlights from Geometries/Vehicles Team Pre-Work



- What is a suitable process to generate non-sensitive geometries that exhibit relevant geometric complexity and boundary layer transition mechanisms without being directly traceable to sensitive (classified) systems?
 - 1. Break down the issues to the underlying physics and rebuild something that can provide a study of similar mechanisms: e.g., BOLT, ONR finned cone
 - 2. Ask someone with no knowledge of systems to propose a new geometry



[U] BOLT-II [credit: Dufrene et al., AIAA 2023-478, AFOSR/AFRL-funded]



[credit: F. D. Turbeville, NASA]

Highlights from Computational Methods Team Pre-Work



- Are there gaps in numerical methods and grid generation that need to be assessed?
 - Grid generation is a bottleneck, computing accurate grid-independent laminar solutions for 3D configurations is challenging and needs to be improved
 - Is e^N useful for real geometries that will never be limited by only one instability mode or one flight condition?



Highlights from Flight Test Team Pre-Work

- What are the results of unclassified, successful flight programs and how have they advanced our knowledge of boundary layer transition?
 - HIFIRE: 1, 5a, 5b pioneered modern instrumentation, hardware, software; second-mode-dominated transition on a cone; leading-edge and centerline transition for non-axisymmetric geometry
 - **BOLT**-II: transition on smooth wall complex geometries, high frequency measurements, concurrent atmospheric characterization
 - **HVP**: aerothermal turbulent heating at high supersonic speeds, transition at low hypersonic speeds
 - Note, some of the "failed" flights have a supersonic transition data in the Mach 2 3.5 range



HIFiRE-1 from AIAA 2011-2358 [credit: Adamczack et al., wyAvtFn Ral.gpv

Hypervelocity Projectile [credit: US Navy]

HIFiRE-5 from AIAA 2010-4985 [credit: Kimmel et al., AFRL]





Highlights from New Approaches Team Pre-Work

- · How can we use these new approaches to bridge differences between computations and ground/flight test?
 - Data assimilation techniques use a combination of experimental and computational data to ensure that computations predict true conditions (would be a stretch to do this for flight test, given paucity of data)
 - Uncertainty quantification places error bars on predictions to better relate computations to experiments: they are not always "measurement errors" if they are outside computed uncertainty bounds
 - Machine-learning provides a compromise between accuracy and speedup this may be useful for applications of real-time active flow control

Data Assimilation of reconstructed time-dependent 3D flow:

"optimize" free-stream noise disturbance field in DNS to match the experimental measurements



D. Buchta *et al., J. Fluid Mech., v.* 947, 2022

	Near (Now)	Mid (+10 Years)	Far (+20 Years)
Geometries /Vehicles	 Define/prioritize common geometries to study in the community, build a database/knowledge capture of existing geometries studied Work toward engineering-level tool that incorporates current understanding of BLT physics Define consistent, relevant parameters/ statistics to characterize roughness and shape changes 	 Systematic, coordinated characterization of common geometries to define important mechanisms Engineering-level tools with physics-based understanding of geometric impacts on transition mechanisms Coordinated characterization of roughness patterns and shape change on real geometries in ground, flight, computations 	 Integrate geometric impacts on transition into vehicle design process in early design cycles Incorporate systematic shape optimization robust to geometric uncertainties: flow control informed by physics-based roughness transition
Computational Methods	 Collaborative efforts to evaluate variable fidelity methods Transition analysis integrated with CFD available to engineers for analysis and design phase Obtain calibration/validation data (large quiet tunnel experiments and DNS), including transition zone 	 Obtain transition data from large quiet tunnels to build validated models with known error bars CFD with integrated transition analysis available to engineers with ROMS/ML to combine multifidelity approaches Fast transition tools for design Physics-based models for relevant surface geometry 	 Understanding/modeling of dynamically evolving surface geometry and high-enthalpy effects in flight High-fidelity transition assessment integrated with MDAO tools for rabid analysis and design
Facilities /Diagnostics	 Bring online planned facilities and characterization using DA and existing sensors Develop more high-bandwidth COTS sensors Develop diagnostics for 2D/3D measurements Correlate data between facilities and digital wind tunnels for common geometries Develop additive manufacturing (AM) techniques for models 	 Redundancy in high Reynolds number tunnels Time-resolved global measurements of velocity, density Validated UQ for common diagnostics Readily available, well-characterized COTS sensors AM of models combined with (printed) miniaturized sensors 	 Time-resolved global measurements of pressure, temperature, velocity, density, and their fluctuating components with widely- adopted UQ Turn-key diagnostics capable of implementation in T&E facilities
Flight Experiments	 Use existing platforms for common canonical and representative geometries Use existing limited point measurements and SCIFLI, develop instrumentation for flight Develop repository for data preservation, development of higher-bandwidth data systems Atmospheric characterization with balloon/HALAS system for each BLT experiment 	 Fly controlled trajectories, depressed trajectories for common geometries Next-gen point measurements integrated with real TPS, high framerate IR for ballistic ranges, global measurements, deformation sensing Utilization of higher-bandwidth testing, space-based TM systems, common high-speed TM and/or recovery. Active repository for flight testing. In-situ, onboard atmospheric characterization (density, temp., velocity) 	 Reusable large-scale flight platforms with high-rate telemetry infrastructure for representative high-speed vehicles Instrumentation implemented in programs/T&E flights Routine high-res, high-bandwidth measurements, on-board off-body measurements Routine, standard atmospheric characterization including p, T, rho, particulates, u, v, w, and their fluctuating components

Notional Roadmap of Geometries/Vehicles Team



 Three main areas: common geometry, engineering-level tools, and how to handle geometric/surface changes (roughness, FTSI, etc.)

Engineering-level tools

with physics-based

impacts on transition

computations

Identify common
 geometries to study in the

community

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Build a database/knowledge capture of existing geometries studied and important related mechanisms

Work toward **engineering**level tool that incorporates current understanding of BLT physics

Define consistent, relevant parameters/ statistics to characterize roughness and shape changes



mechanisms
 Coordinated characterization
 of roughness patterns and
 shape change on real
 geometries in ground, flight,

understanding of geometric

 Integrate geometric impacts on transition into vehicle design process in early design cycles
 Incorporate systematic shape optimization robust to geometric uncertainties: flow control informed by physics-based roughness transition

Notional Roadmap of Computational Methods Team



• Three main areas: CFD-integrated and multi-fidelity tools, implementation of new approaches, calibration/validation data



Transition analysis integrated with CFD available to engineers for

analysis and design phase

Robust, efficient, automatic generation of base-flow solutions on complex geometries

> Uncertainty quantification of currently available methods

Obtain calibration/validation data (flight/ground experiments and DNS), including transition zone



- Sensitivity analysis included for UQ
 - Physics-based models



geometry/topography



tunnels or flight to build validated models with known error bars Understanding/modeling of dynamically evolving surface geometry and high-enthalpy effects in flight

High-fidelity transition assessment integrated with MDAO tools for rapid analysis and design

> Exploit datadriven/machine learning approaches for BLT prediction with sensitivity and UQ

Notional Roadmap of Facilities/Diagnostics Team



• Three main areas: facility characterization and development, measurement techniques/diagnostic development, model fabrication techniques



Develop more highbandwidth COTS sensors (shear and heat transfer)

Develop diagnostics for 2D/3D measurements

Correlate data between facilities and digital wind tunnels for common geometries (holistic look)

Develop higher-accuracy additive manufacturing (AM) techniques for ground test models



Redundancy in high Reynolds number tunnels

- Time-resolved global
- measurements of velocity, density
- Validated UQ for common diagnostics
- Readily available, well-

characterized COTS sensors

AM of models combined with (printed) miniaturized sensors

Time-resolved global measurements of pressure, temperature, velocity, density, and their fluctuating components with widely-adopted UQ



Turn-key diagnostics capable of implementation in T&E facilities



AM of models and integrated, ultra-dense sensor configurations

Notional Roadmap of Flight Experiments Team



 Three main areas: Ability to fly certain trajectories, development of instrumentation and data systems, atmospheric characterization

Use existing platforms for \mathbb{O}

common canonical and representative geometries Use existing limited point measurements and flightbased IR/schlieren, develop instrumentation for flight



Develop repository for data preservation, development of higher-bandwidth data systems

Atmospheric characterization with **balloon + LiDAR** system for each BLT experiment



common geometries

measurements integrated

- with real TPS, high
- framerate IR for ballistic
- ranges, global
- measurements, deformation sensina

Utilization of higherbandwidth testing, spacebased TM systems, common high-speed TM and/or recovery. Active repository for flight testing.

In-situ, onboard atmospheric **characterization**

Reusable large-scale flight platforms with high-rate telemetry infrastructure for representative high-speed vehicles



Instrumentation implemented in programs/T&E flights



Routine high-res, highbandwidth measurements, on-board off-body measurements

Routine, standard atmospheric characterization including pressure, temperature, density, particulates, velocity, and their fluctuating

Notional Roadmap of Flow Control Team



• Goals are aligned with increasing TRL, multi-disciplinary barrier (materials) may arise, may need development of metamaterials



(crossflow, second mode) through flight testing

Develop mixed-mode control without TPS constraints



Control of transition via design (vehicle shaping)

Integrated passive flow control in vehicle design (shaping, porosity, roughness) **Develop tools** (e.g., open-loop control and sensors) for active flow control Successful flight

experiments to demonstrate robustness of passive flow control techniques

Closed-loop active flow control with 🖵 machine learning, **D** robust to uncertainties Integrate flow control



surfaces in TPS that respond to flow conditions appropriately

Possible Overall Impacts of New Approaches



Identifying Relevant Physics & Ranking Sensitivities/Uncertainti es

> Identify sensitivity to ICs/BCs: geometry changes, freestream conditions

Prioritization of computational method developments

Identify mechanisms of receptivity through decomposition of sensitivities for different geometries Integrated Multi-Fidelity Approaches

Optimization of parameter space exploration

Systematic methods for constructing ROMS

Uncertainty Propagation

Synergistic integration (overall prediction better than one fidelity)

New numerical approaches for solving Navier-Stokes equations

Enriching Experimental (Ground and Flight) Data Sets

Optimization of parameter-space exploration

Optimization of sensor placement

Assimilation of measurements to refine resolution, or backpropagation to infer difficult parameters to measure

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