



# **Die Flugsteuerung des Hubschraubers** von den Grundlagen bis zur Einzelblattsteuerung

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**Praxis-Seminar Luftfahrt**  
**Fachhochschule Hamburg**  
**Hamburg, d. 28.10.2004**



# Helicopter Flight Control – from primary to individual blade control

- **Overview**
- **History / Configuration and Performance of a Helicopter**
- **Main Rotor / Main Rotor Control Design**
- **Problems of the Main Rotor**
  - Aerodynamics
  - Vibrations
  - Noise
- **Individual Blade Control (IBC)**
  - Principle of Operation
  - Effects in Wind Tunnel and Flight Tests
  - IBC System Design
- **Conclusion and Outlook**



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## Comparison of 1930 Aircraft Maturity, Helicopter vs. Fixed Wing



### Do X giant seaplane:

MTOW: 48to  
Distance: 2800km  
Endurance: 14h

### Helicopter by C. d'Ascanio:

Altitude: 18m  
Distance: 1078m  
Endurance: 8:45min





# Helicopter Standard Configuration





# Lockheed AH-56A Cheyenne Compound Aircraft



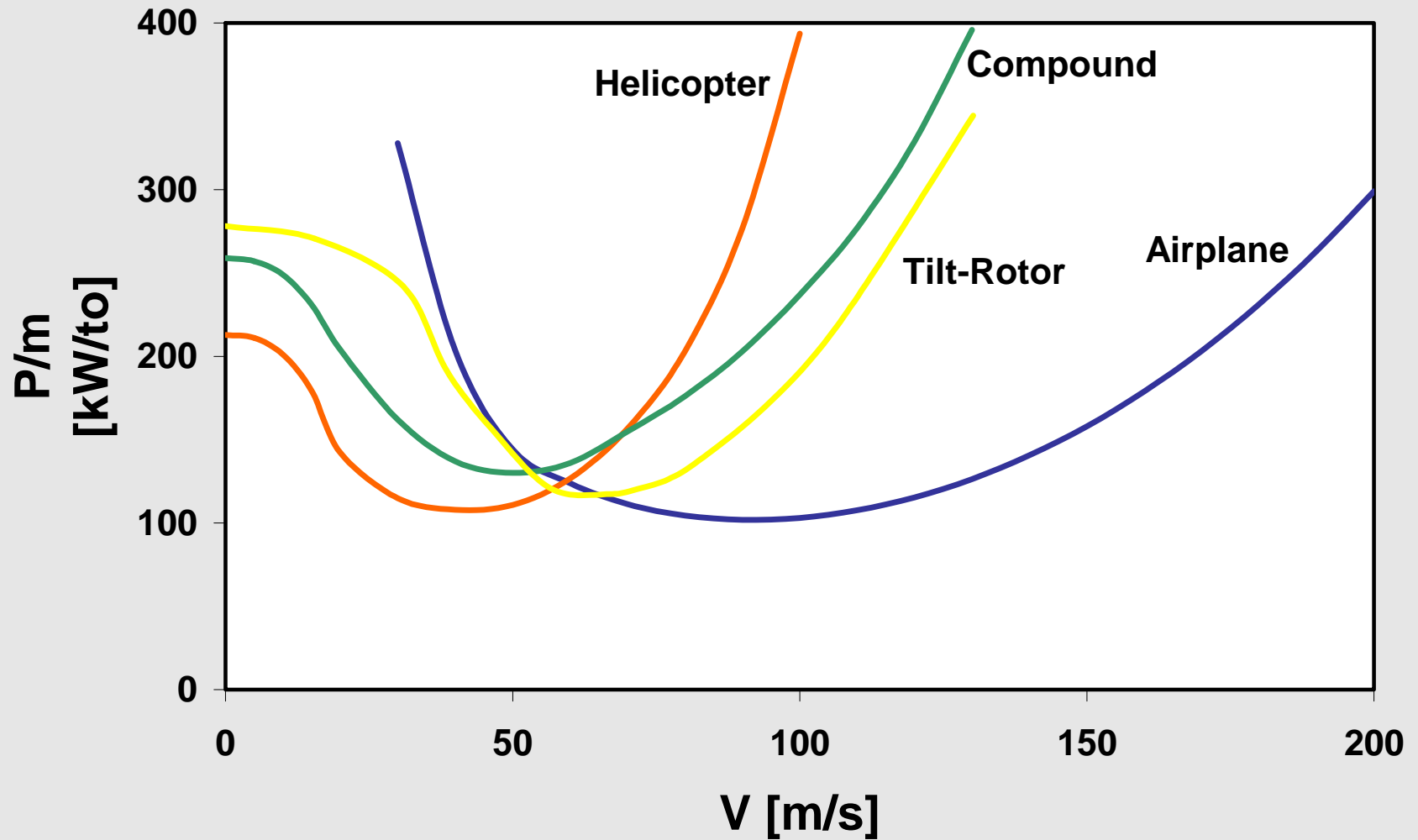


# Tiltrotor Aircraft Bell/Boeing V-22 Osprey





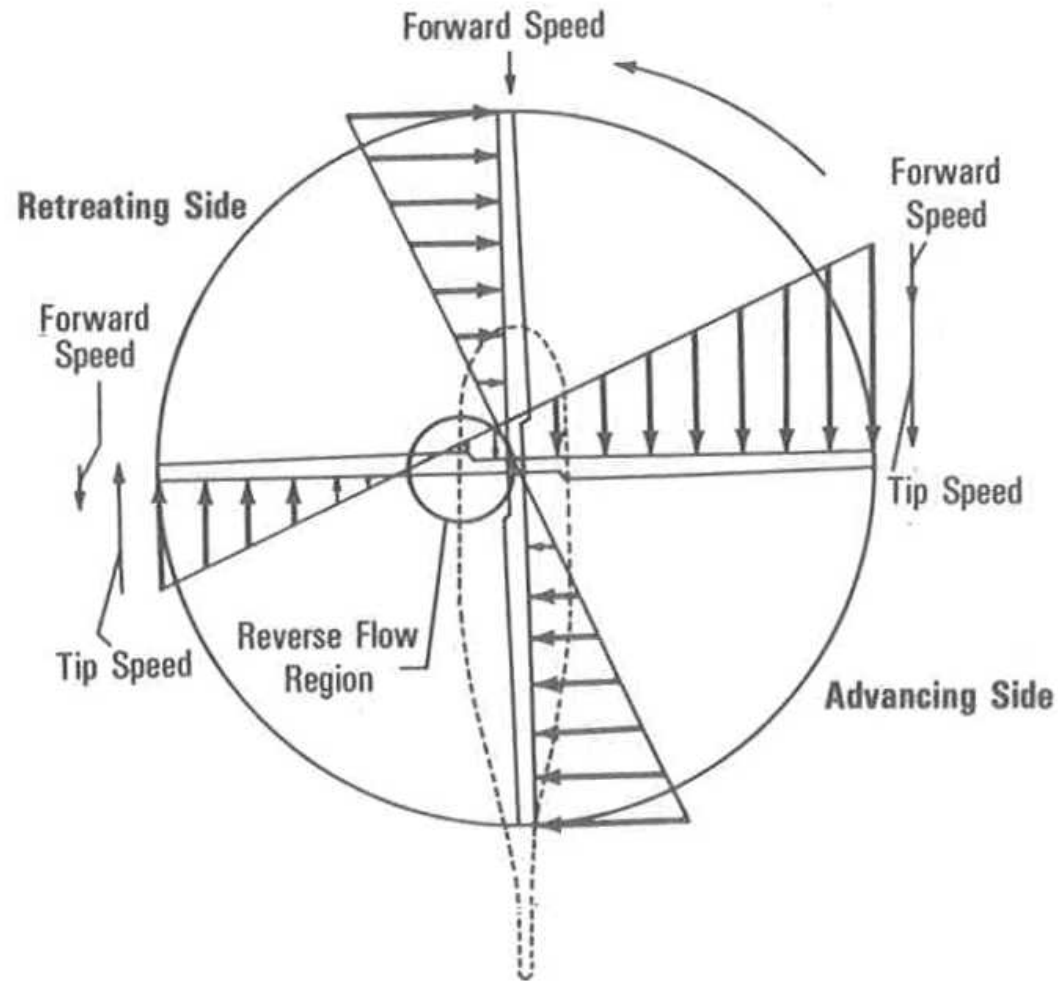
# Relative Power Required vs. Forward Speed







# Velocity Distribution over Rotor Disk (Advanced Ratio $\mu = \Omega R / V$ )



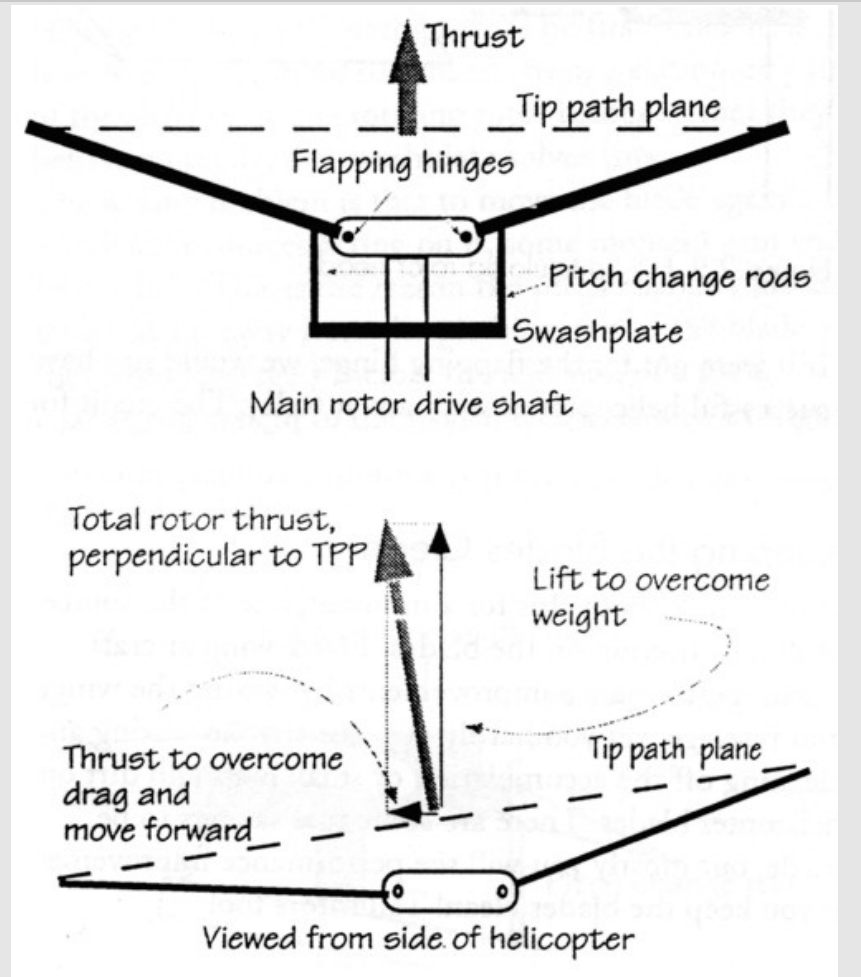
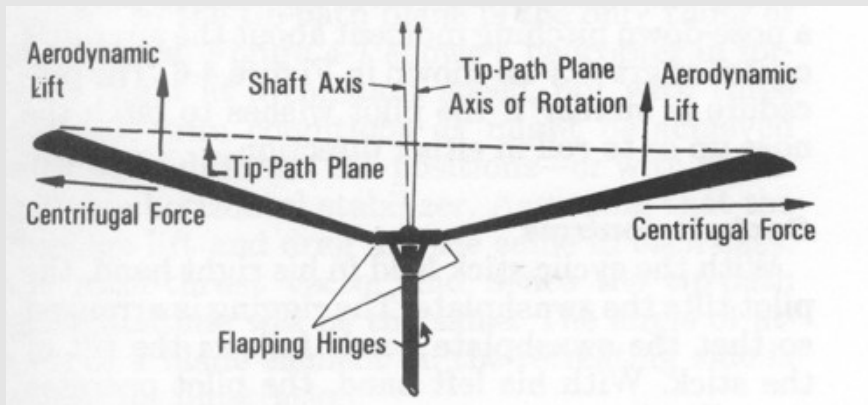


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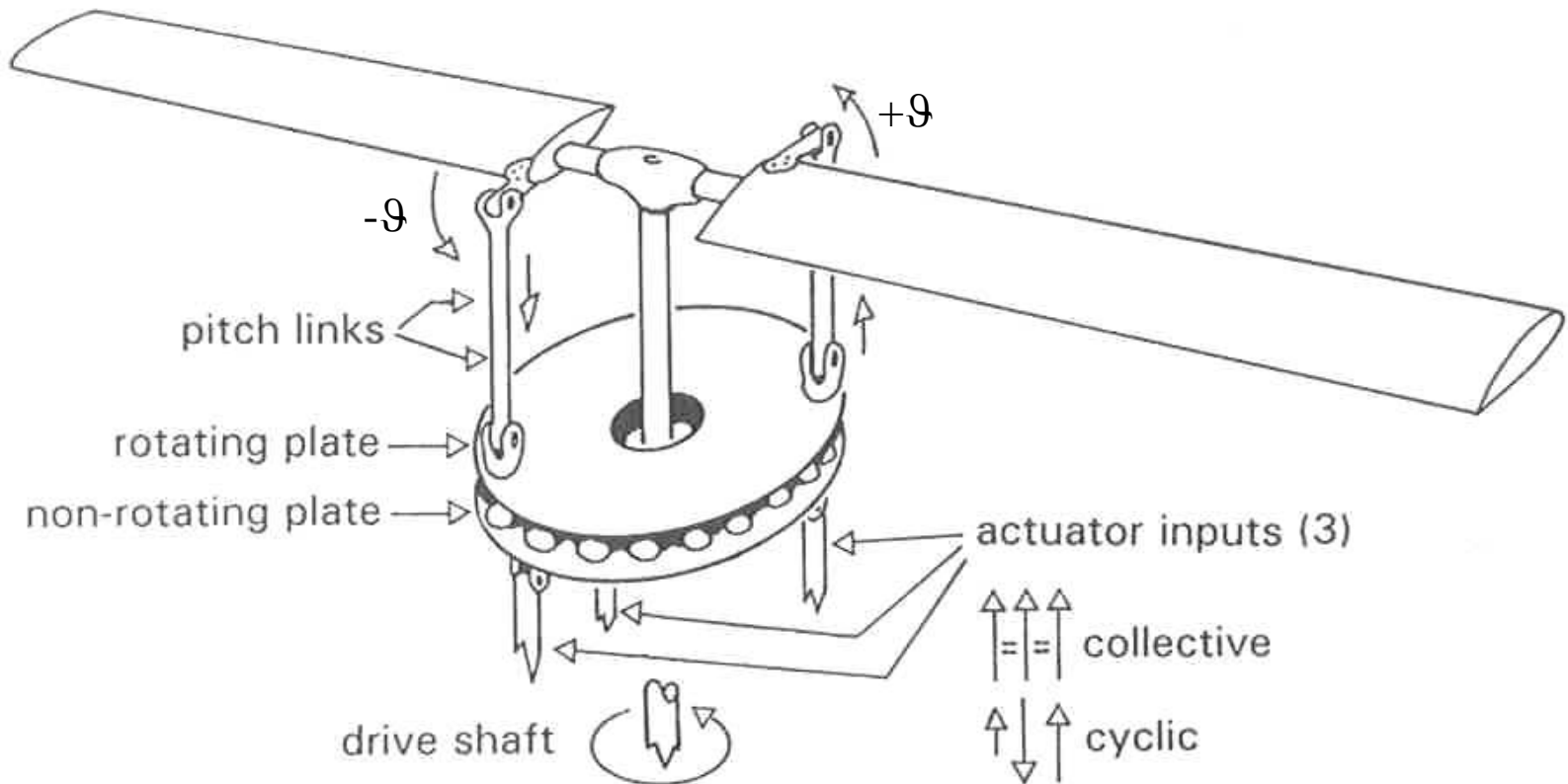


# Rotor Blade Lift and Flap



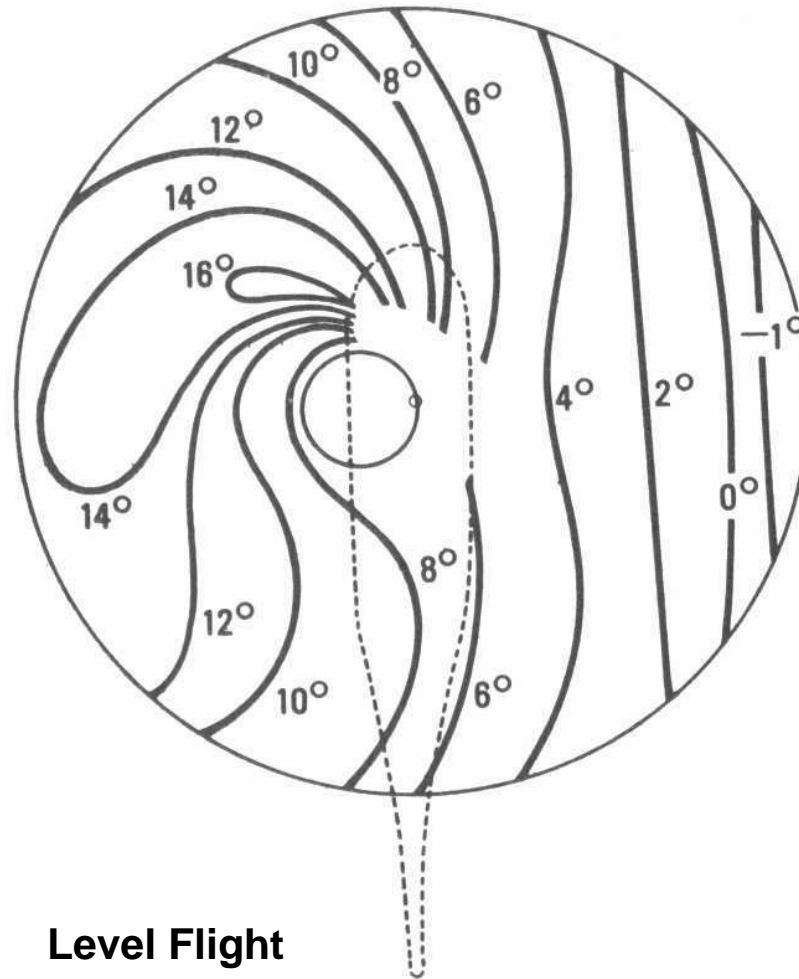


# Blade Control System Using a Conventional Swashplate Arrangement





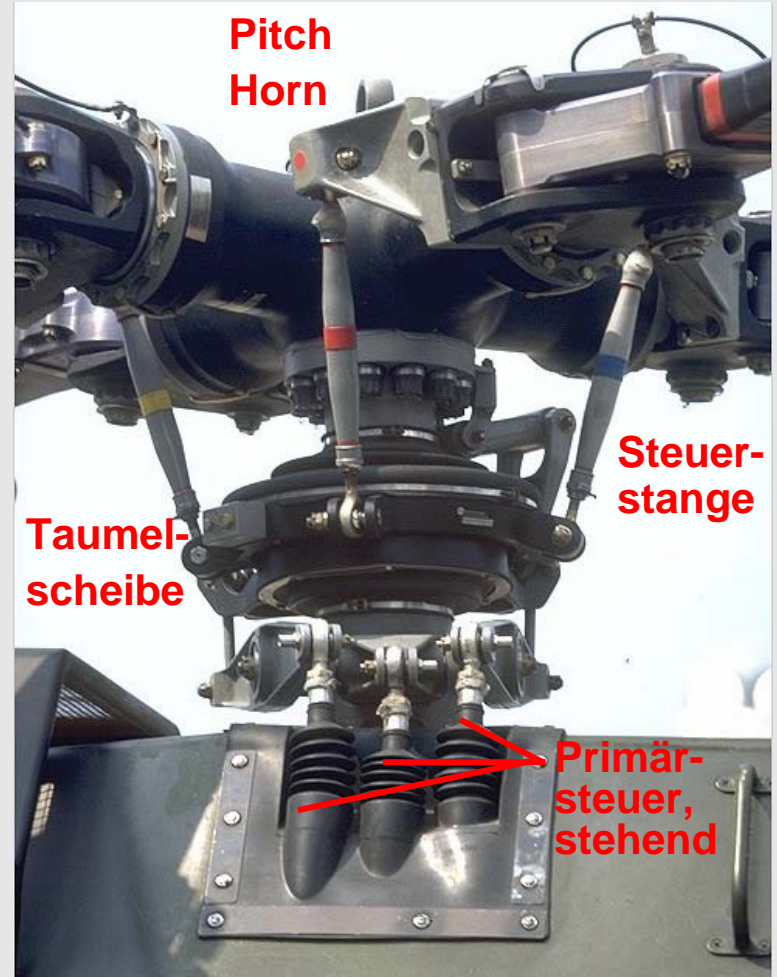
# Angle-of-Attack Distribution in Forward Flight



**Level Flight**

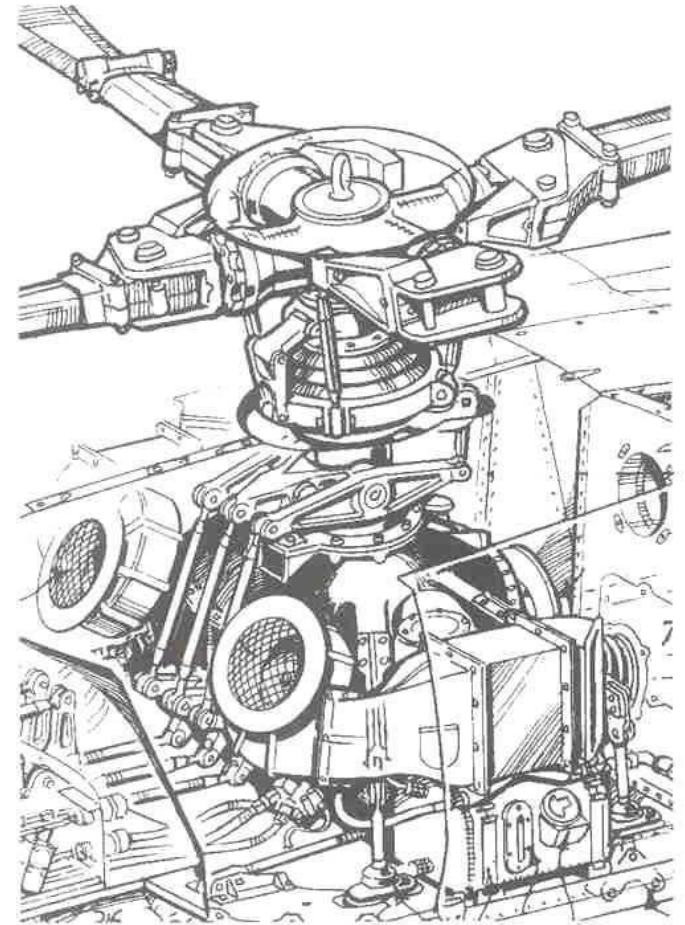
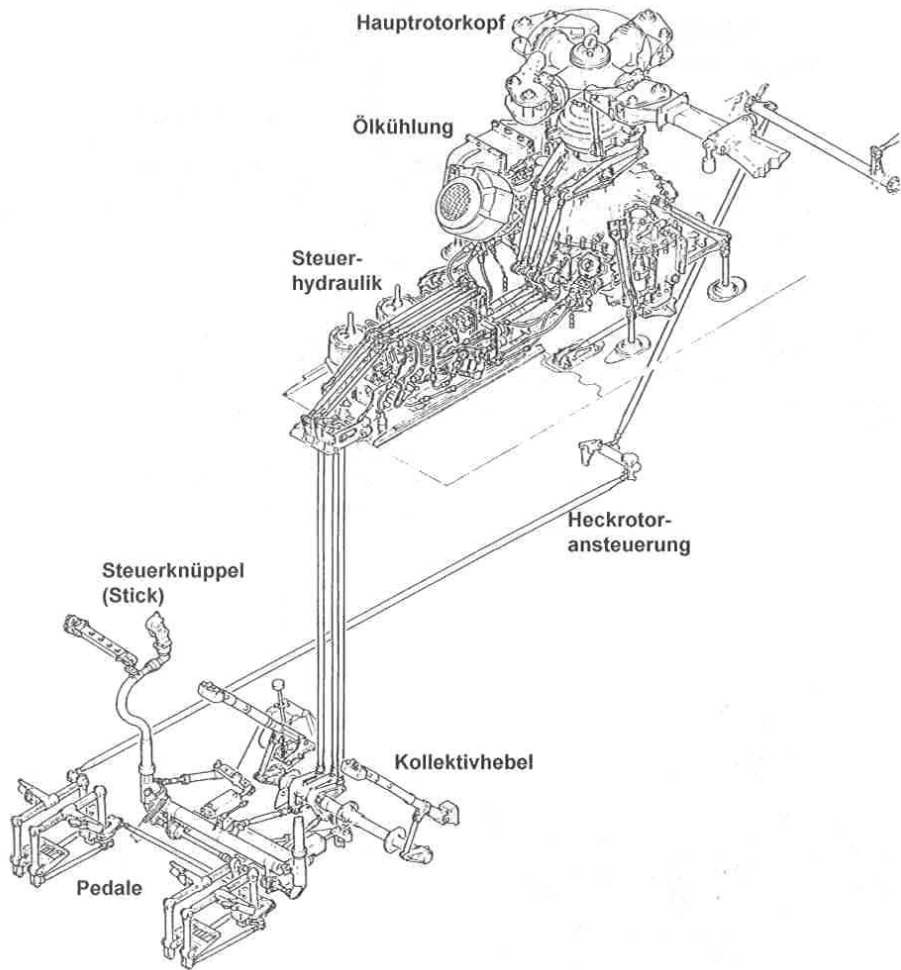


# Main Rotor Control System Eurocopter (MBB) BO105



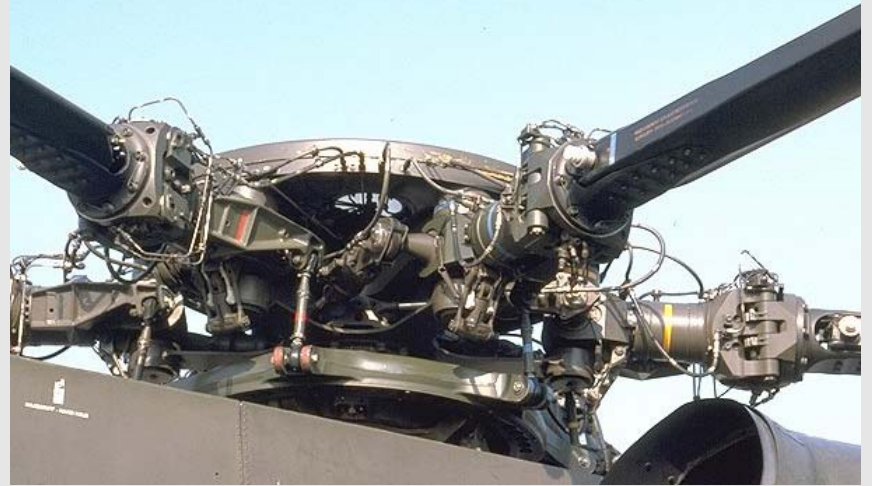
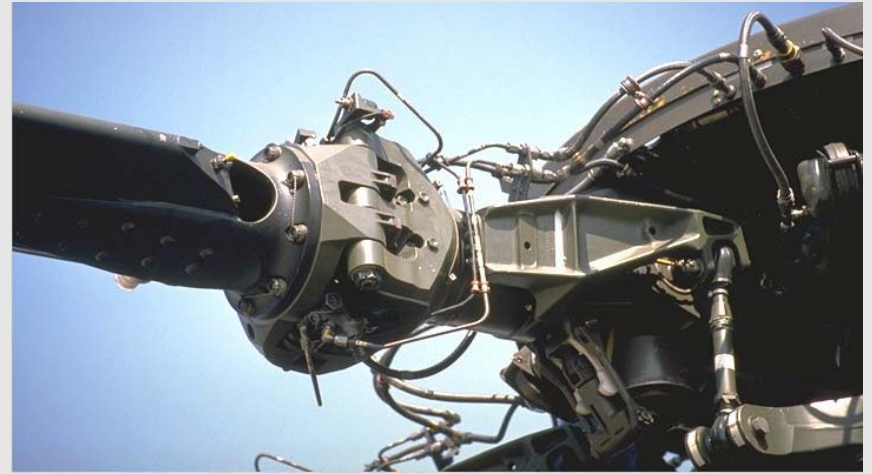


# Conventional Mechanical Primary Control System





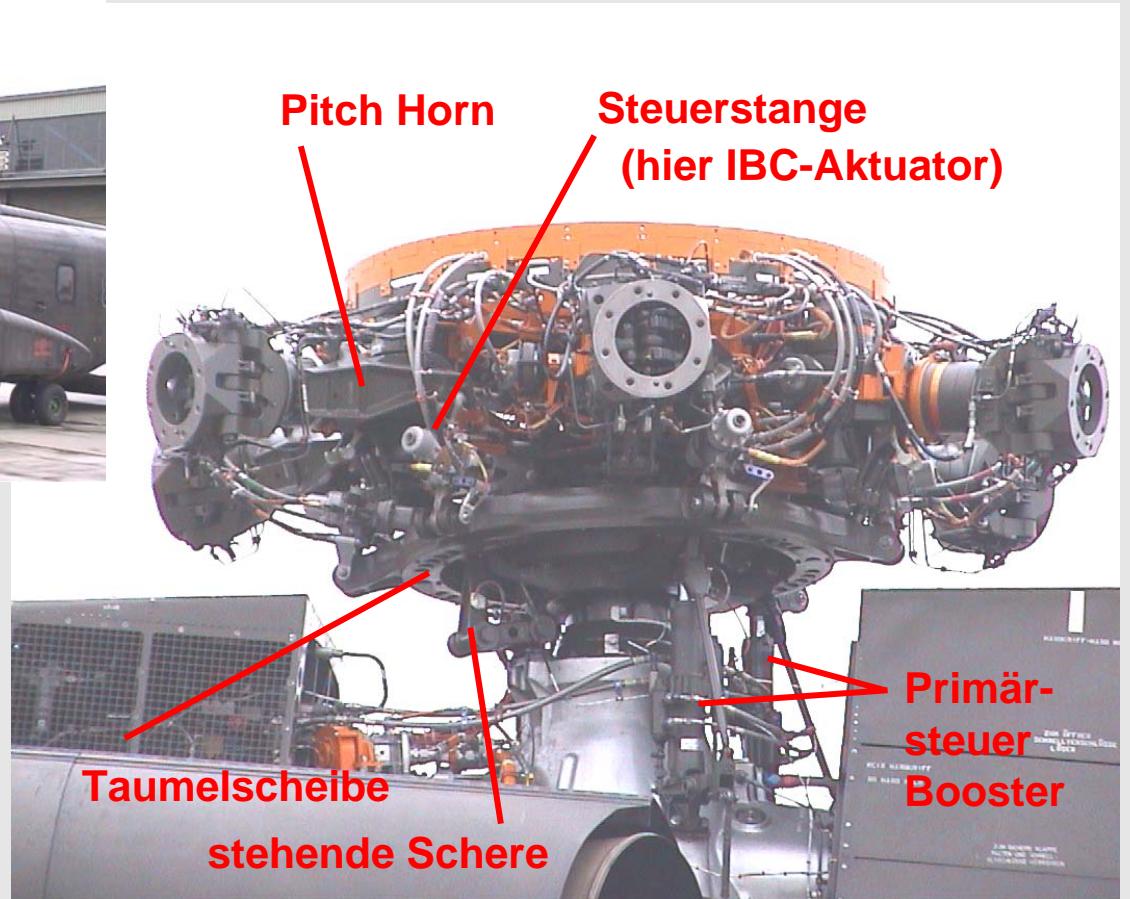
# Main Rotor Sikorsky CH-53G





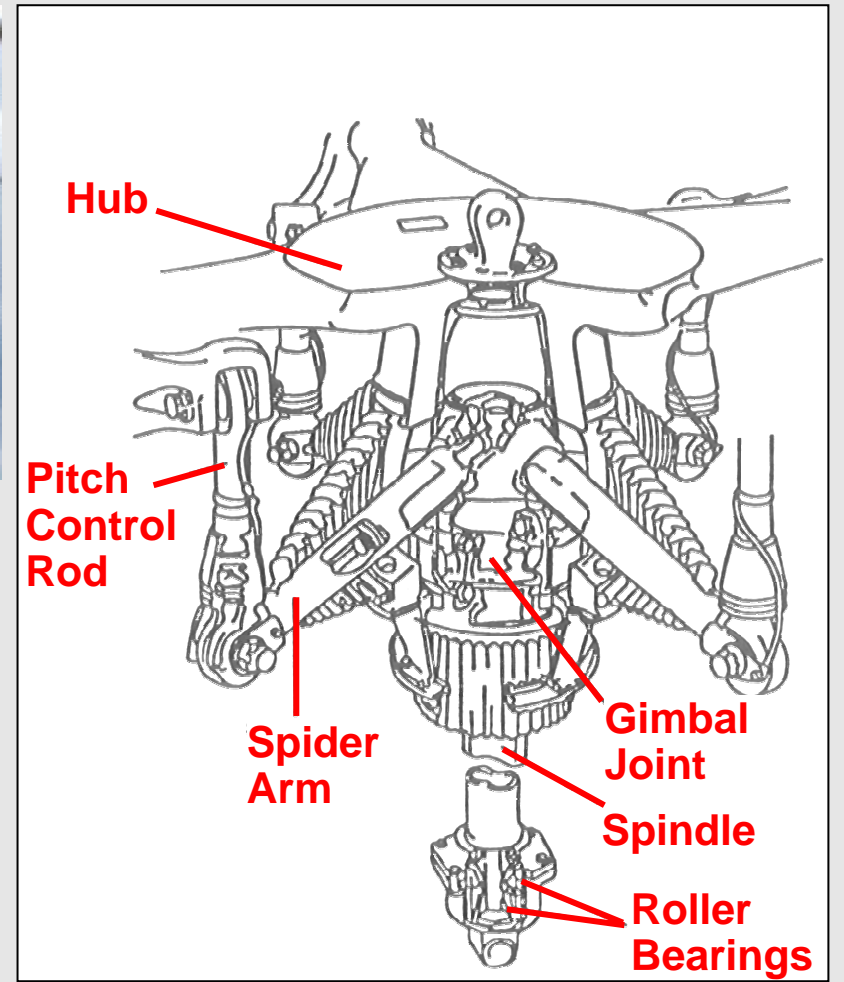


# Main Rotor Sikorsky CH-53G





# Main Rotor Control with Spider Westland Sea Lynx MK88





# NHI NH-90



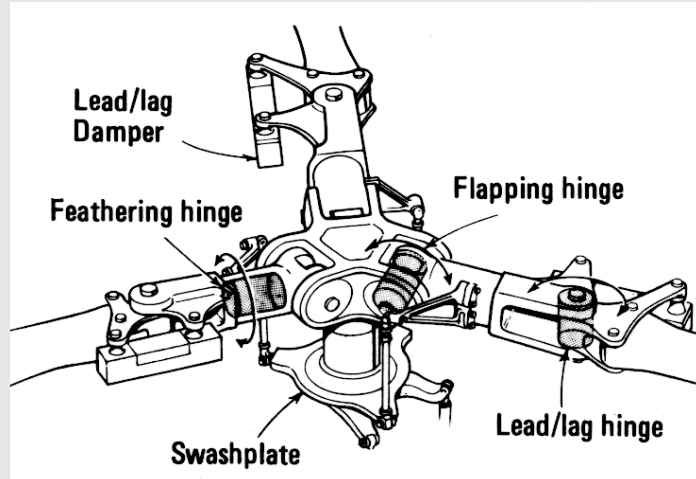
- ➔ Erstflug: 18. Dezember 1995
- ➔ Quadruplex fly-by-wire Steuerung



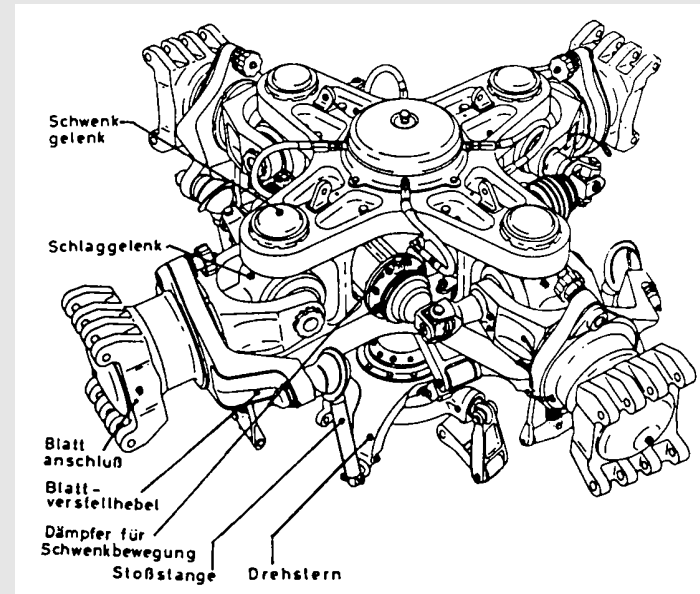


# Main Rotor Design – 1950/60s

AEROSPATIALE AS 341

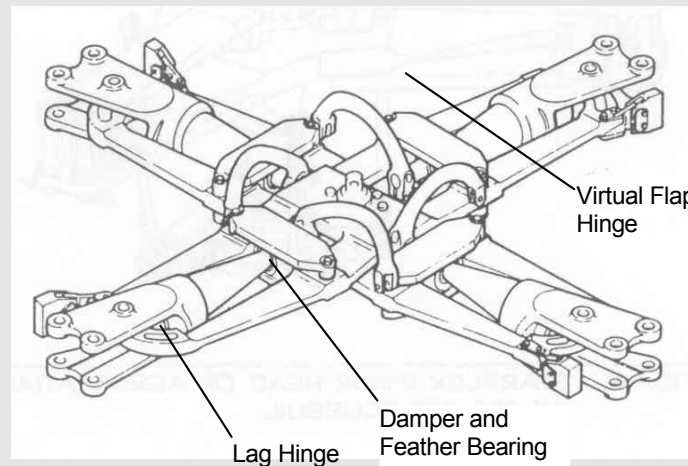


Sikorsky S-58





# Main Rotor Design – Bell 412



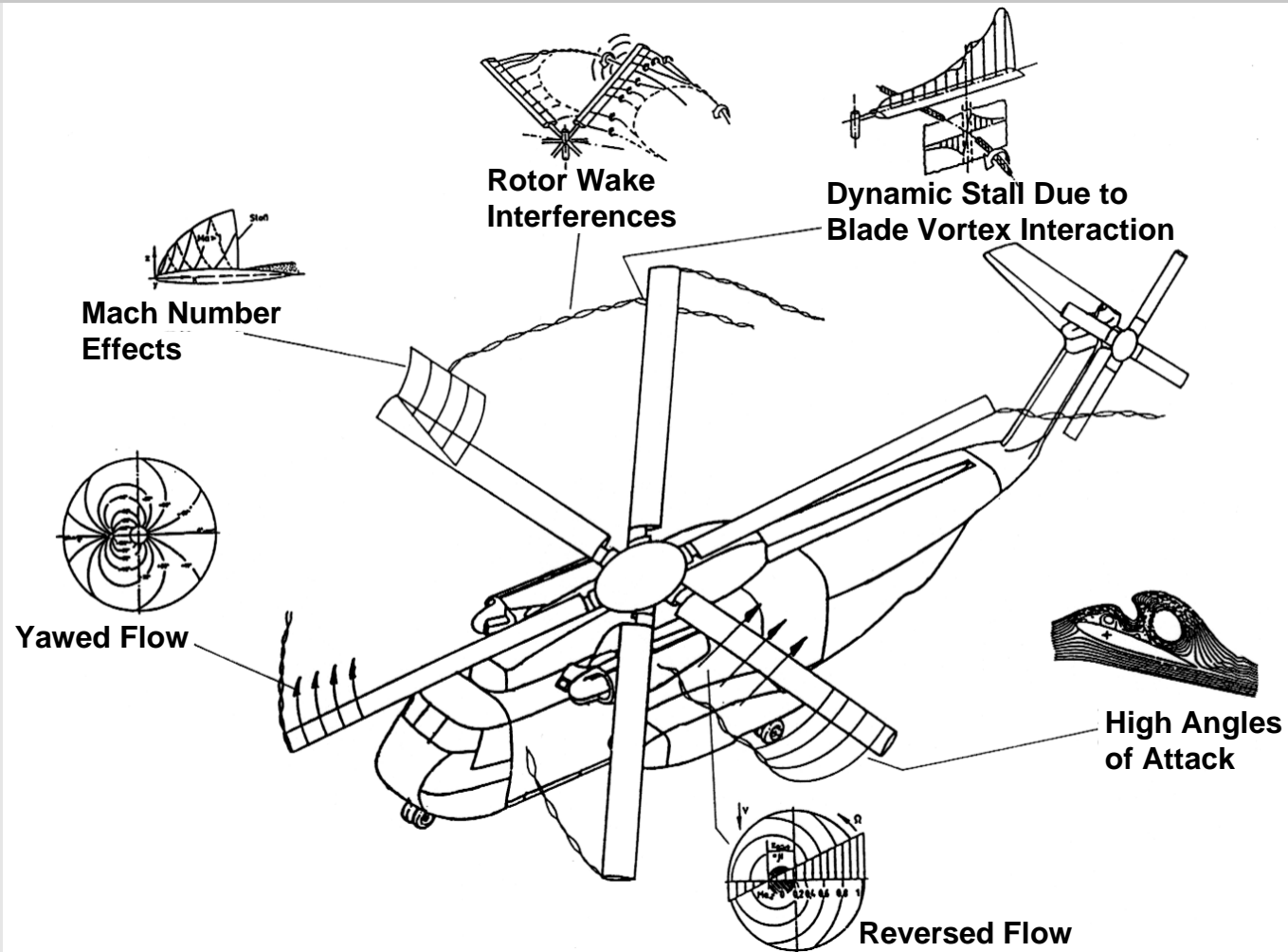


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# Limiting Phenomena Encountered by a Helicopter Rotor in Forward Flight

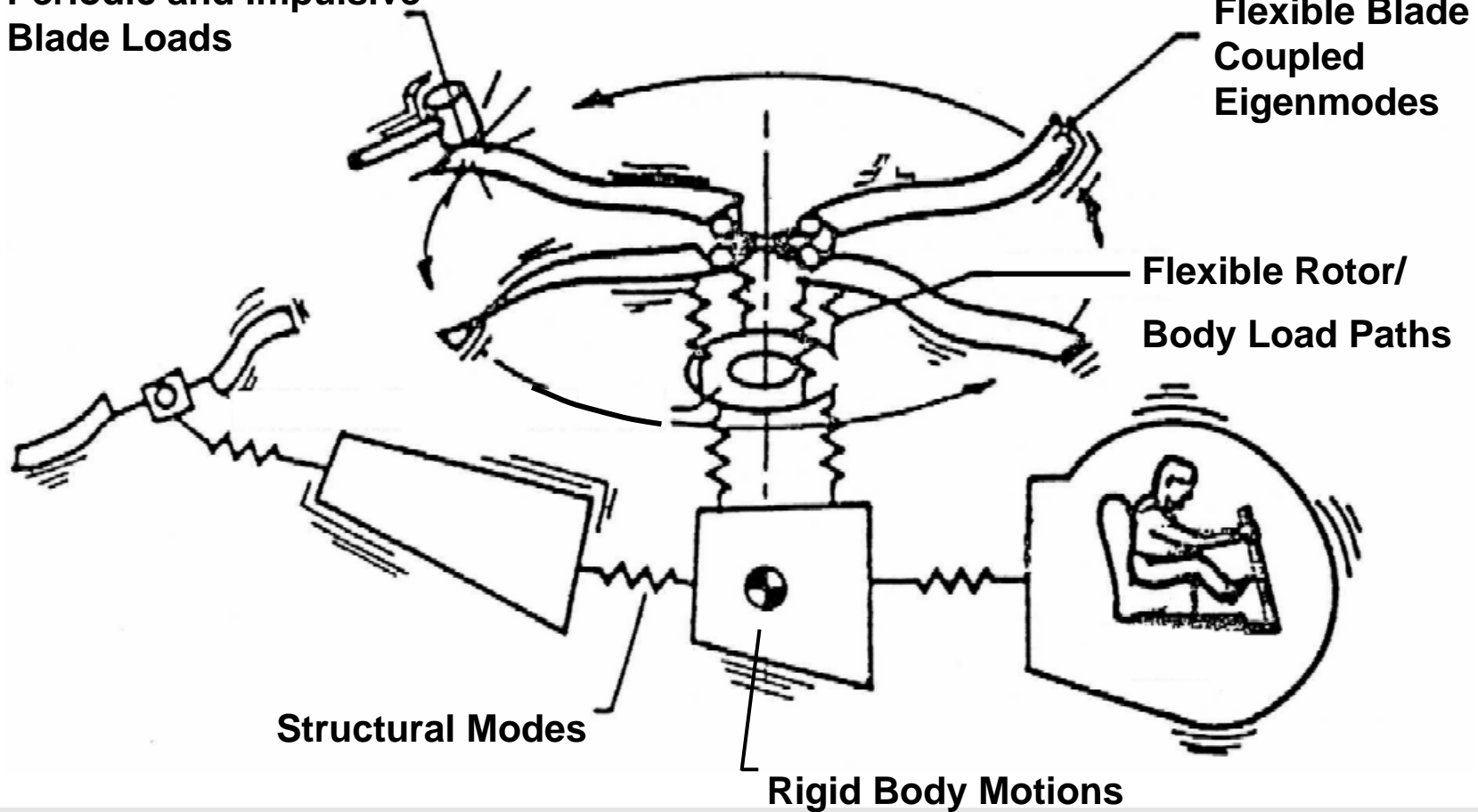




# Helicopter Vibrations: Source $\Rightarrow$ Flexible Structure $\Rightarrow$ Reaction

**Periodic and Impulsive  
Blade Loads**

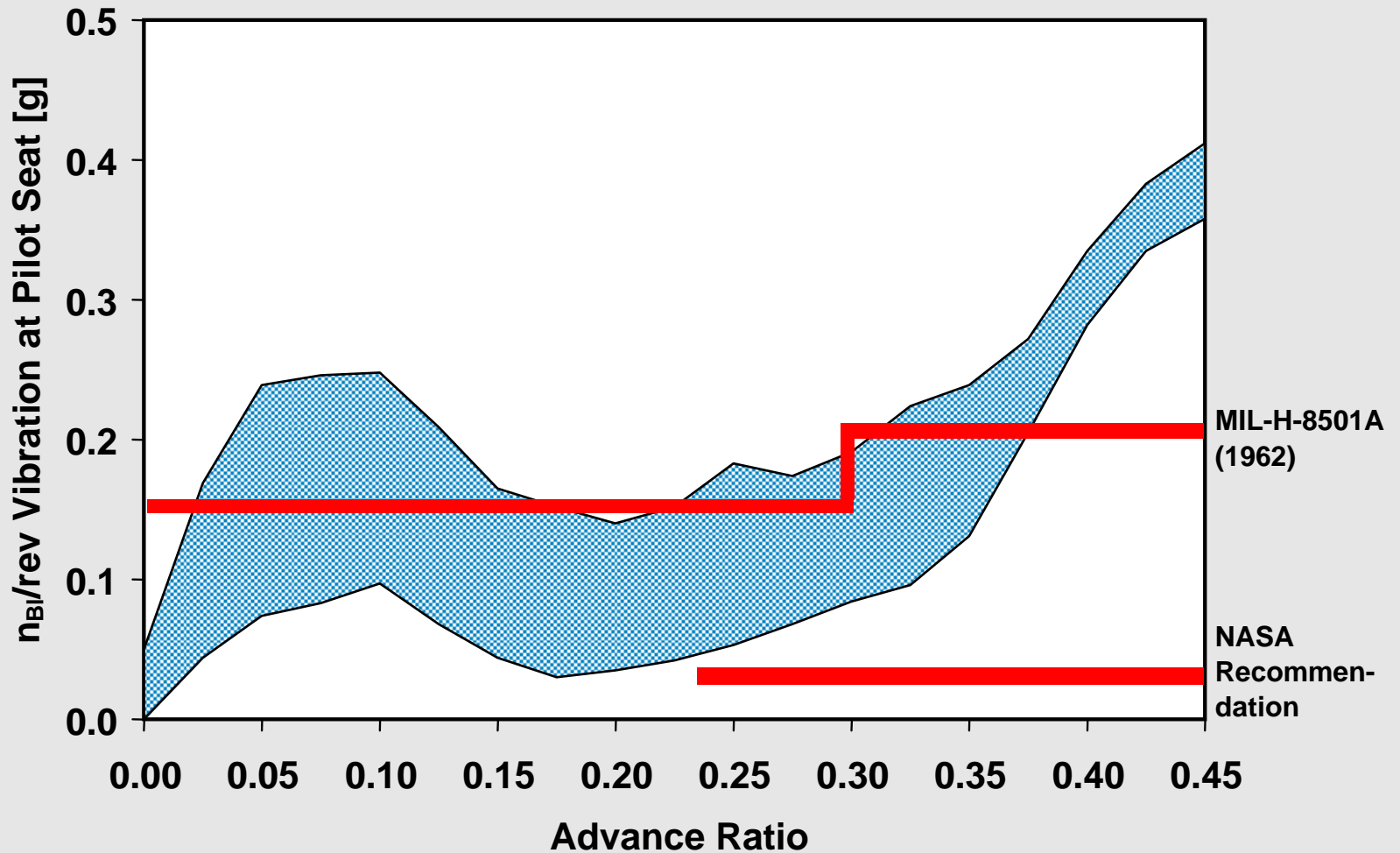
**Flexible Blade  
Coupled  
Eigenmodes**





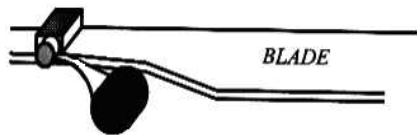


# Vibration Levels of 6 Different Helicopter Types (BO-105 4- and 5-Bladed, CH-53G Aluminium and IRB Blades, Tiger, UH-60)

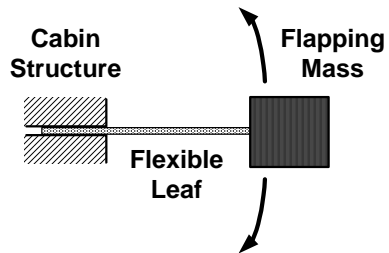




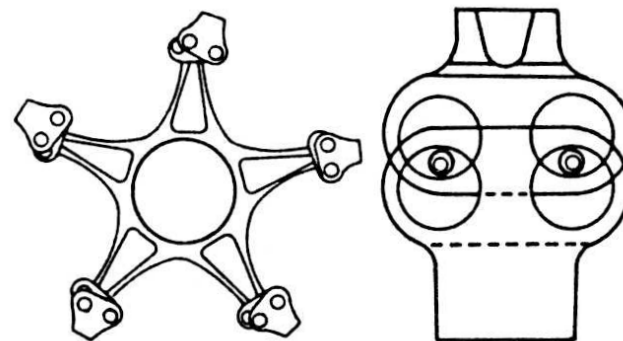
# Passive Vibration Absorber and Isolation Systems



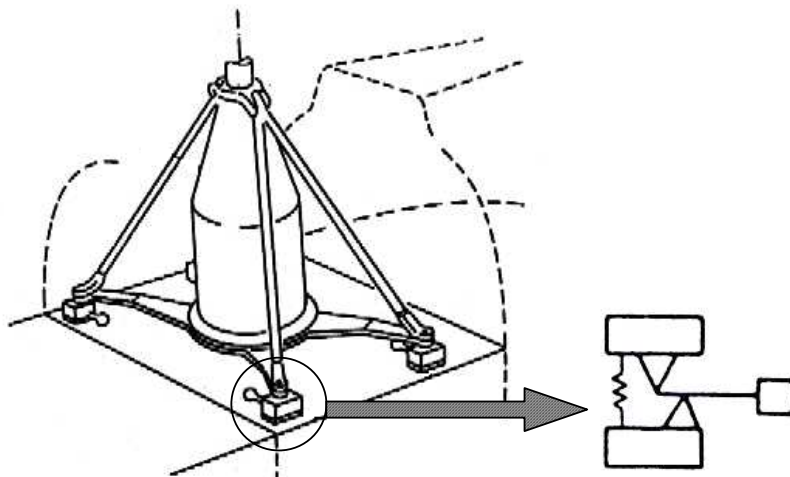
Pendulum Absorber



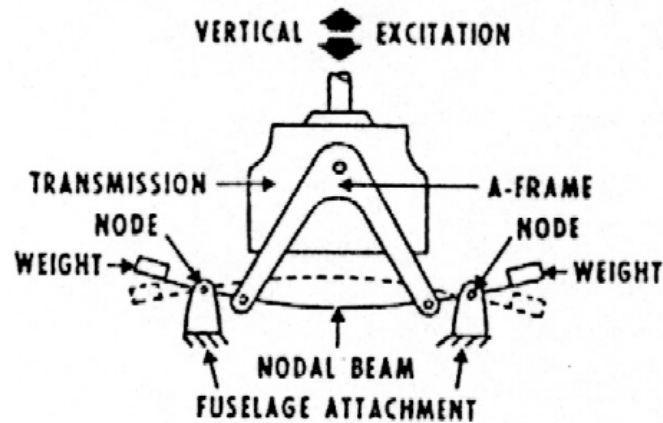
Cabin Absorber



Bifilar Absorber



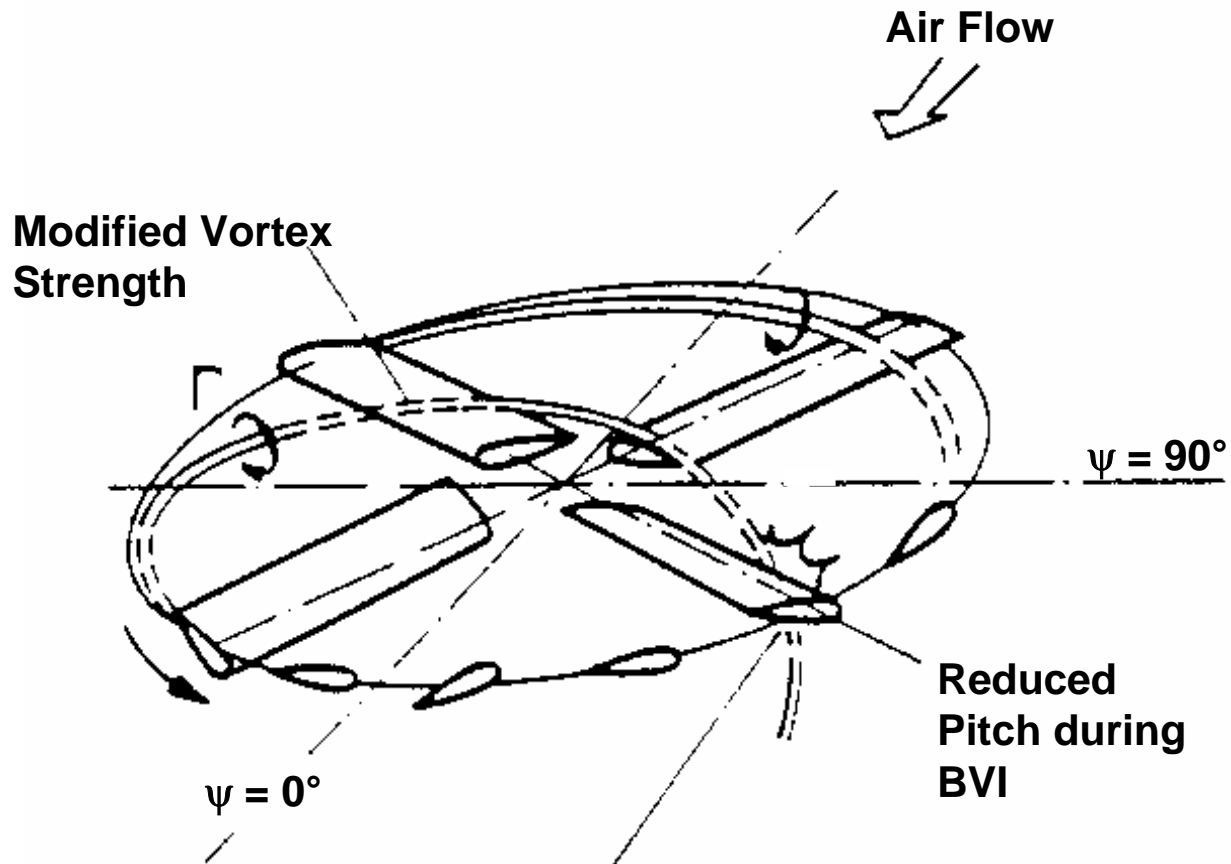
Antiresonance Isolation System



Nodal Beam Isolation System

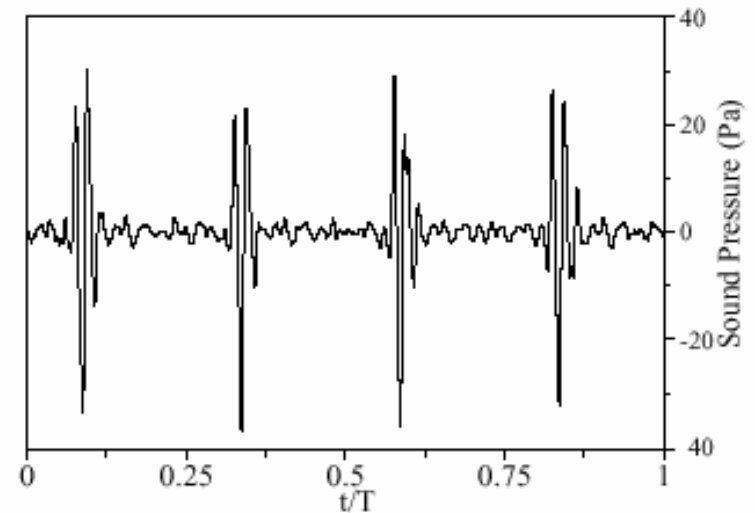
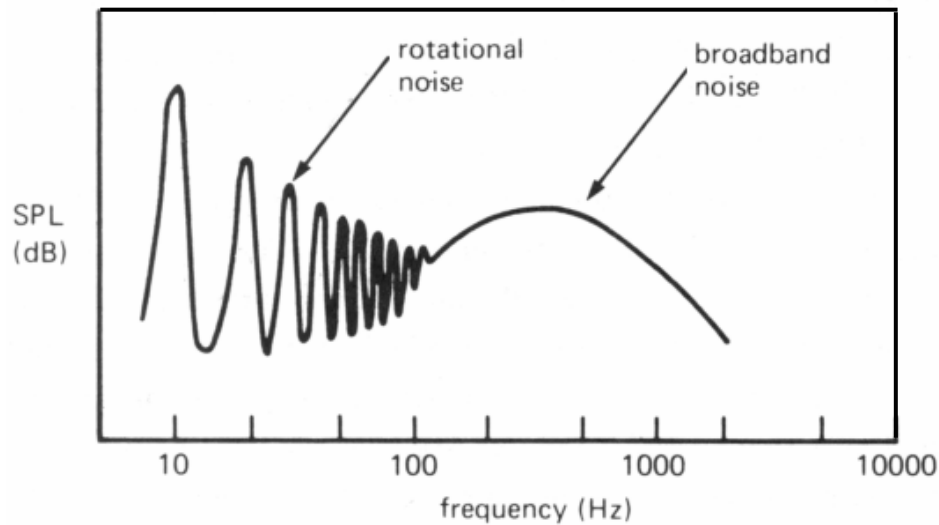


# BVI-Noise Generating Mechanism





# Example of Helicopter Rotor Sound Spectrum (l.h.s.) and Average Time History (r.h.s.)



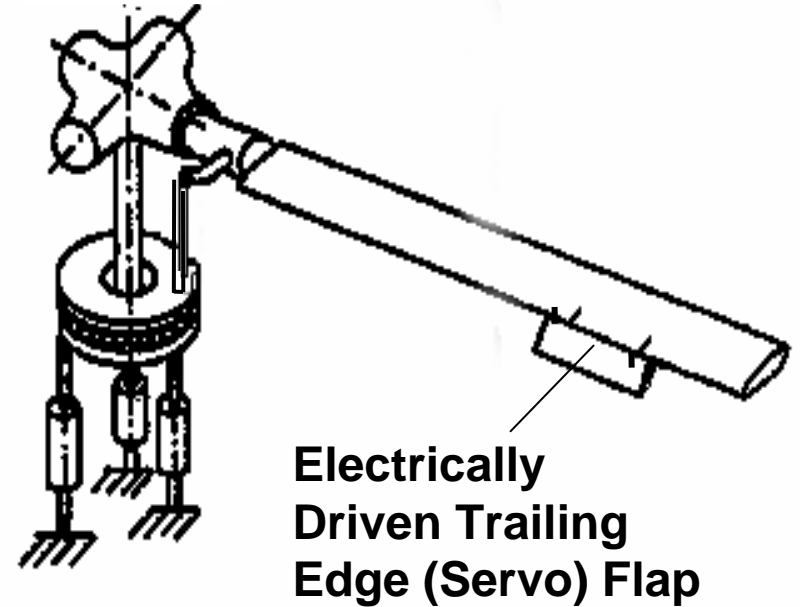
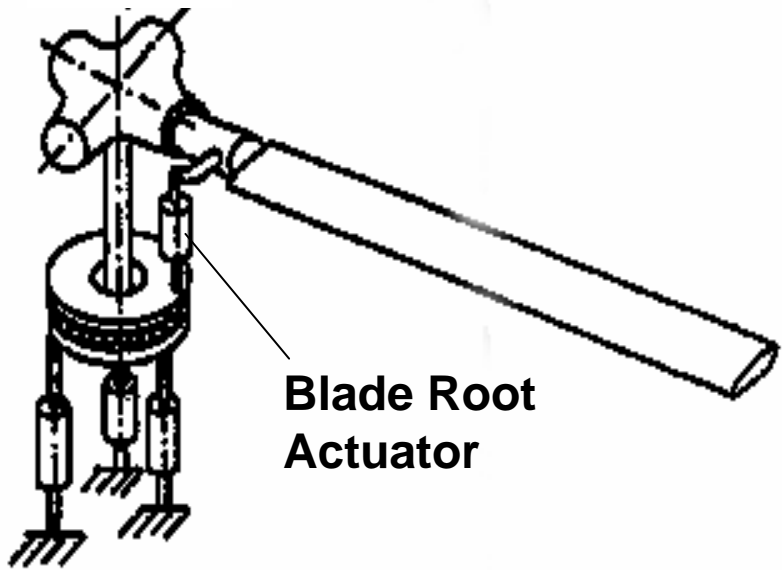


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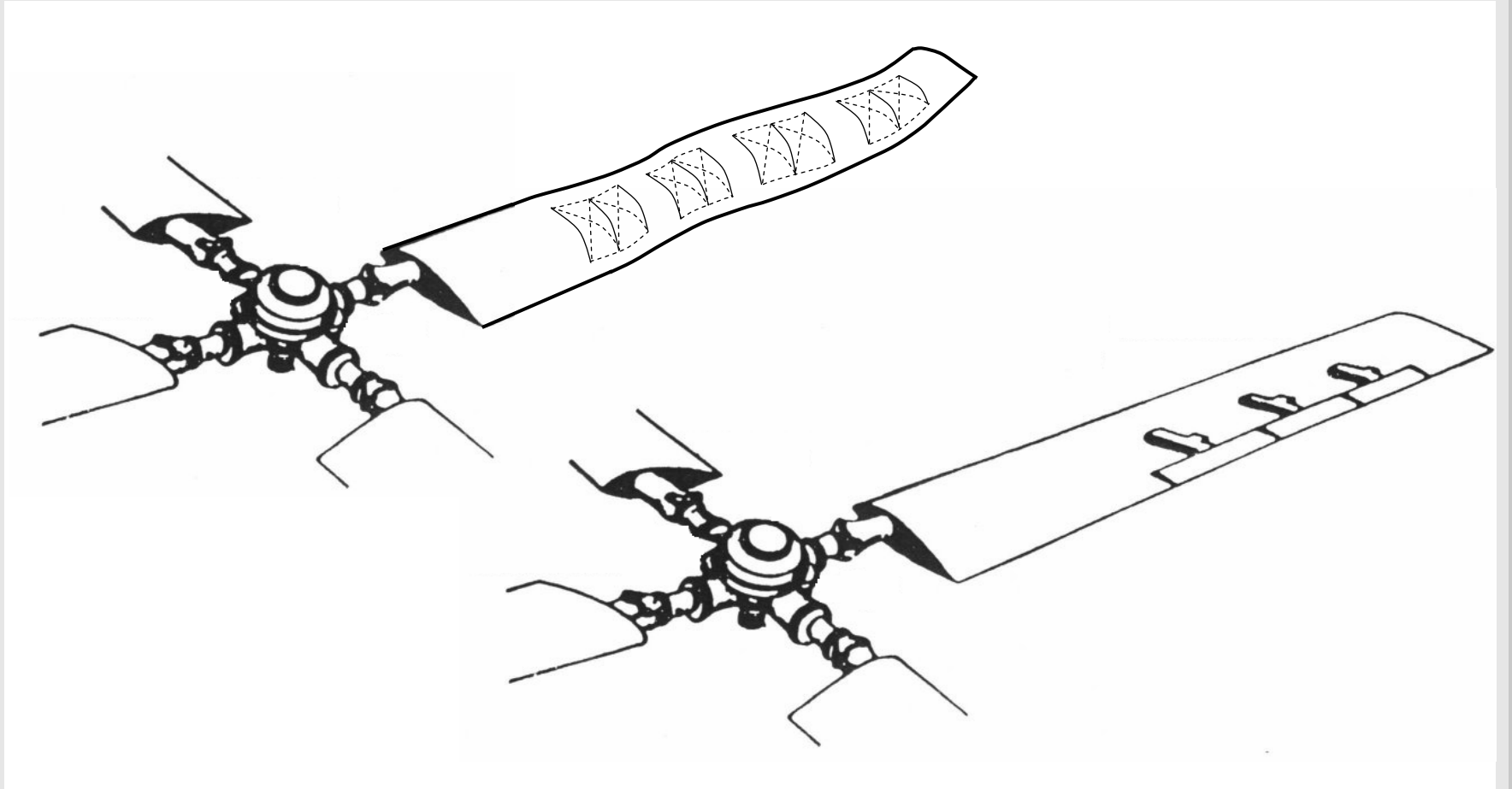


# Individual Blade Control through Blade Root or Trailing Edge Flap Actuation



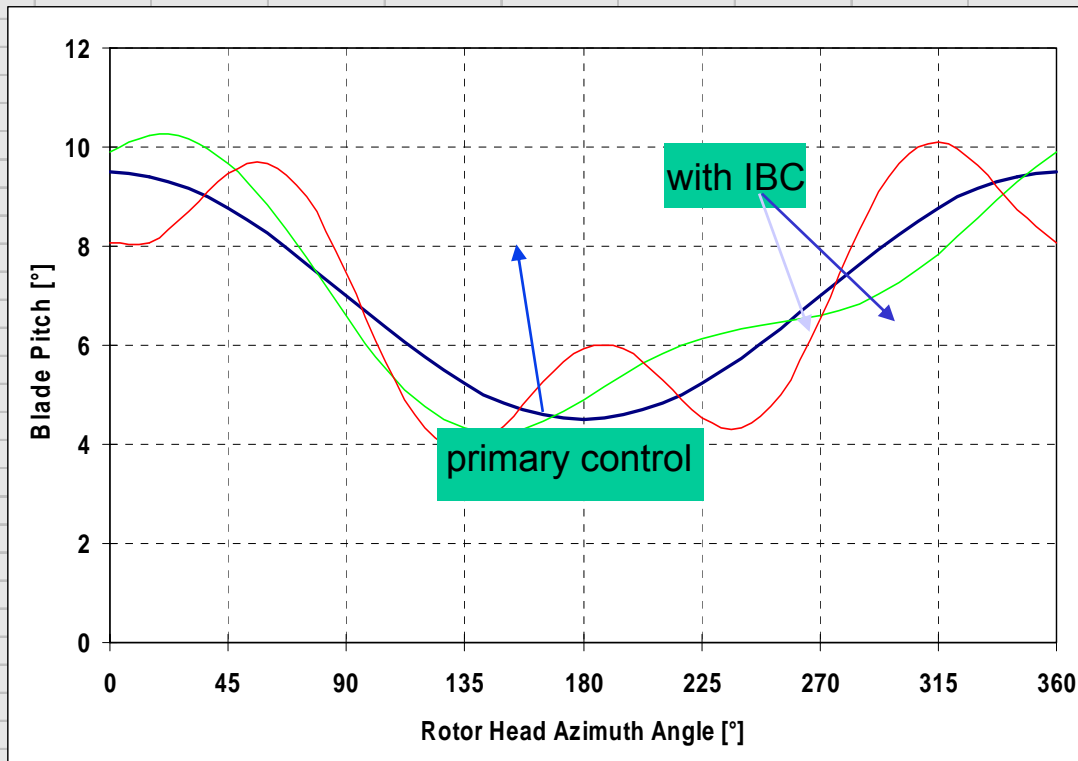


# Individual Blade Control through Blade Twist or Trailing Edge Flap Actuation





# IBC Blade Pitch Control with higher harmonic blade pitch movements

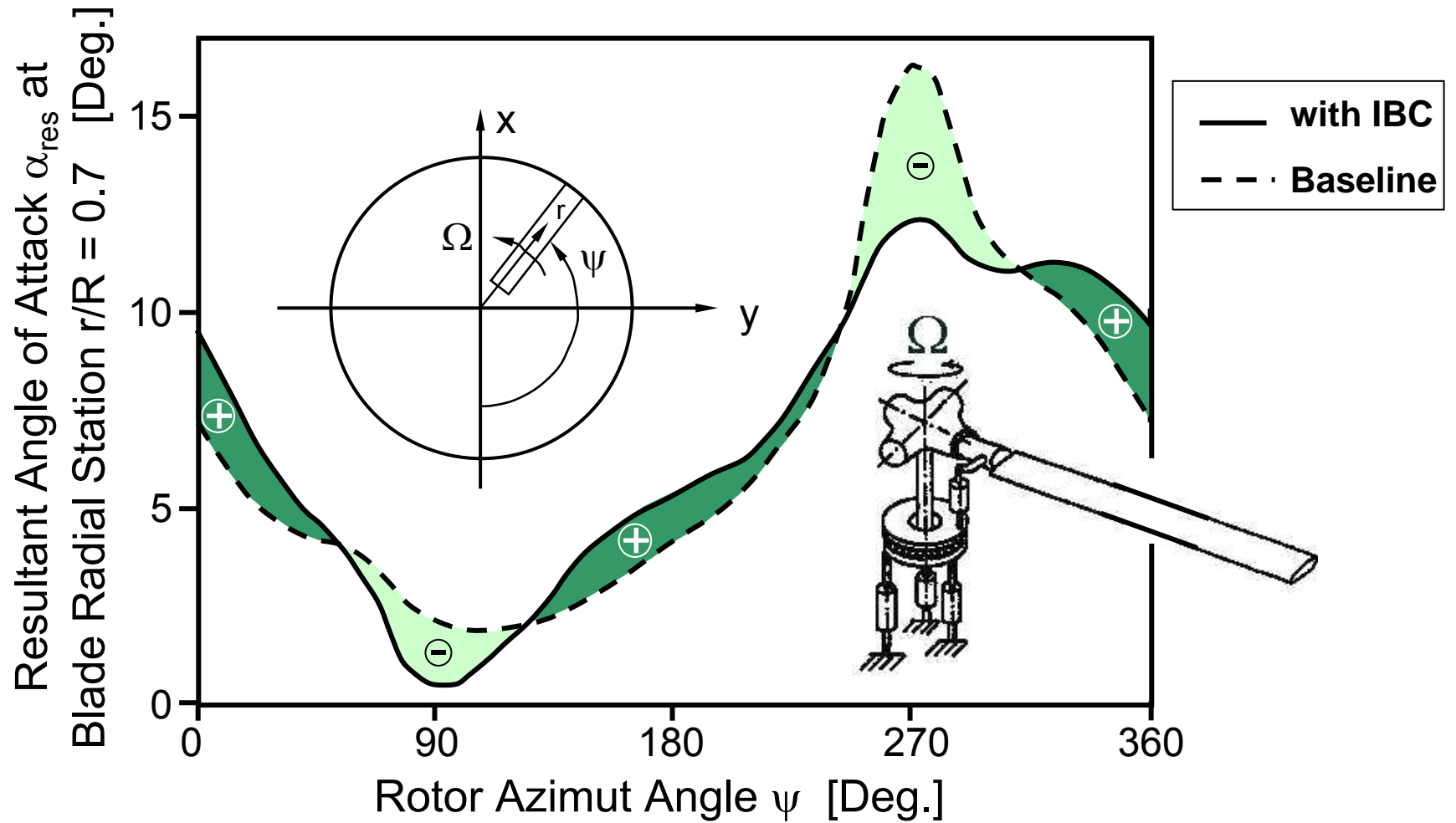


IBC Blade Pitch Movement characterization:

- frequency ( $2 \dots 7 \Omega_{\text{Rotor}}$ )
- amplitude ( $0 \dots 3 \dots 6^\circ$ )
- phase ( $0 \dots 360^\circ$ )

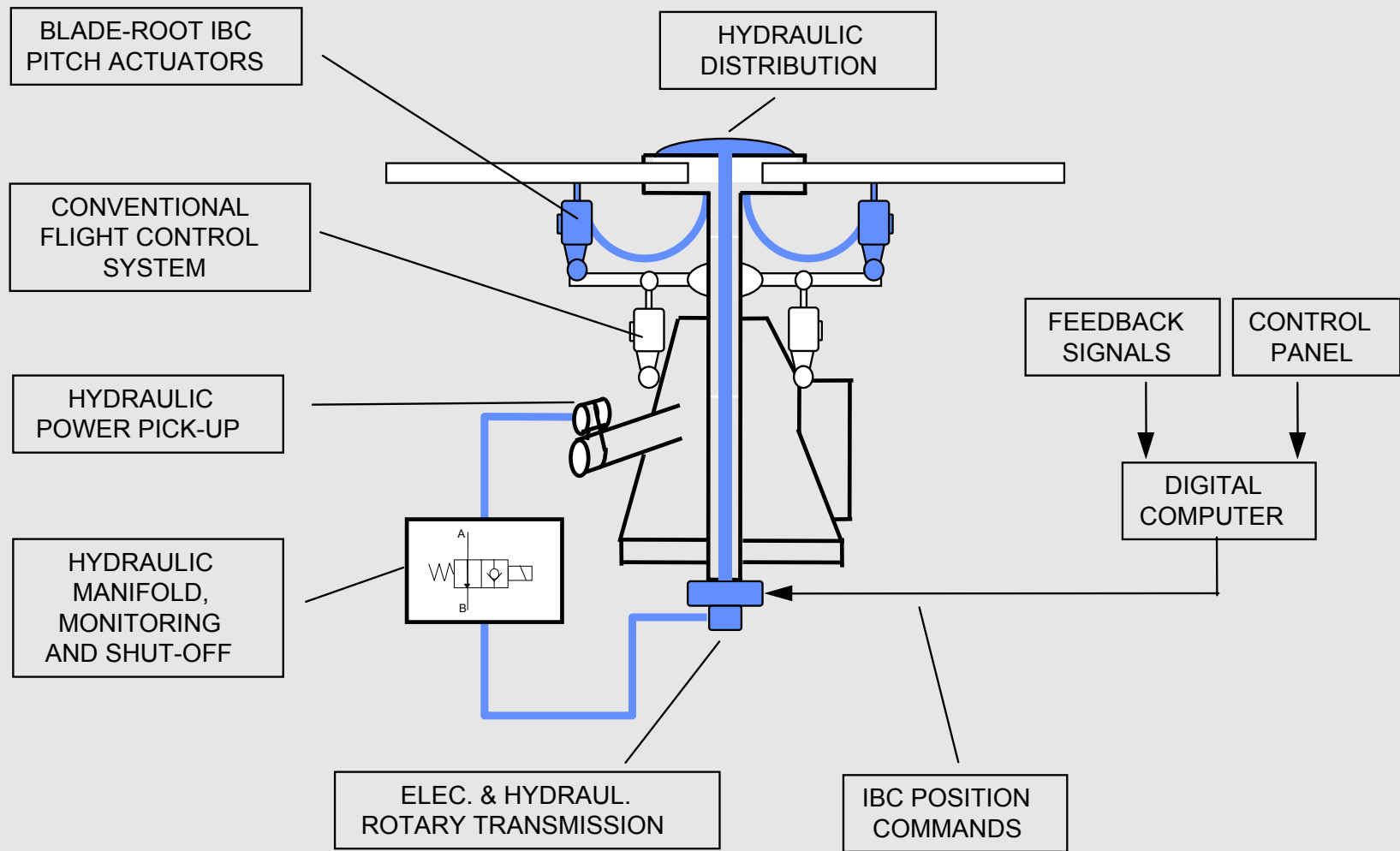


# Modification of Local Angle of Attack through IBC



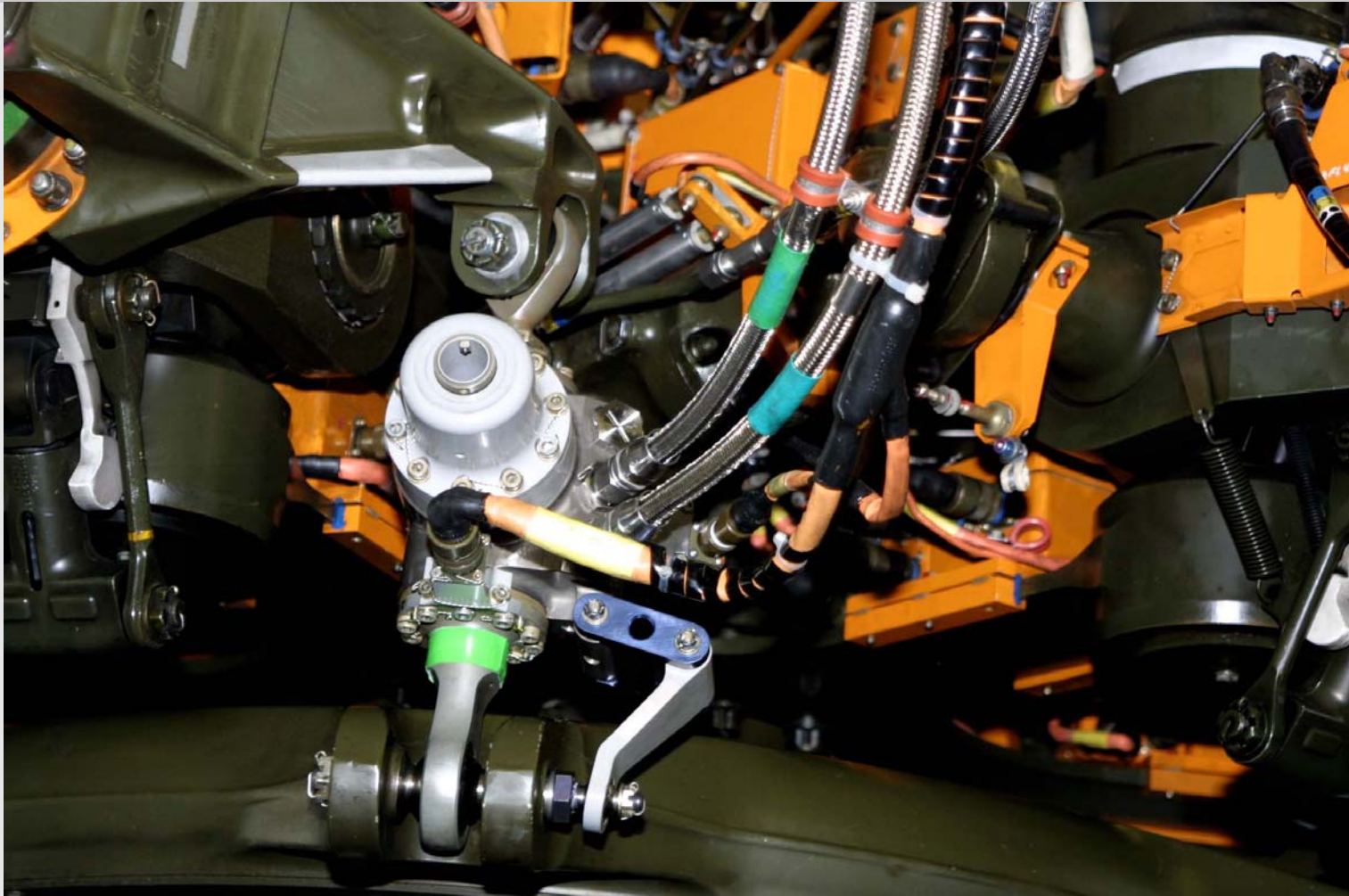


# Principle Layout of IBC System



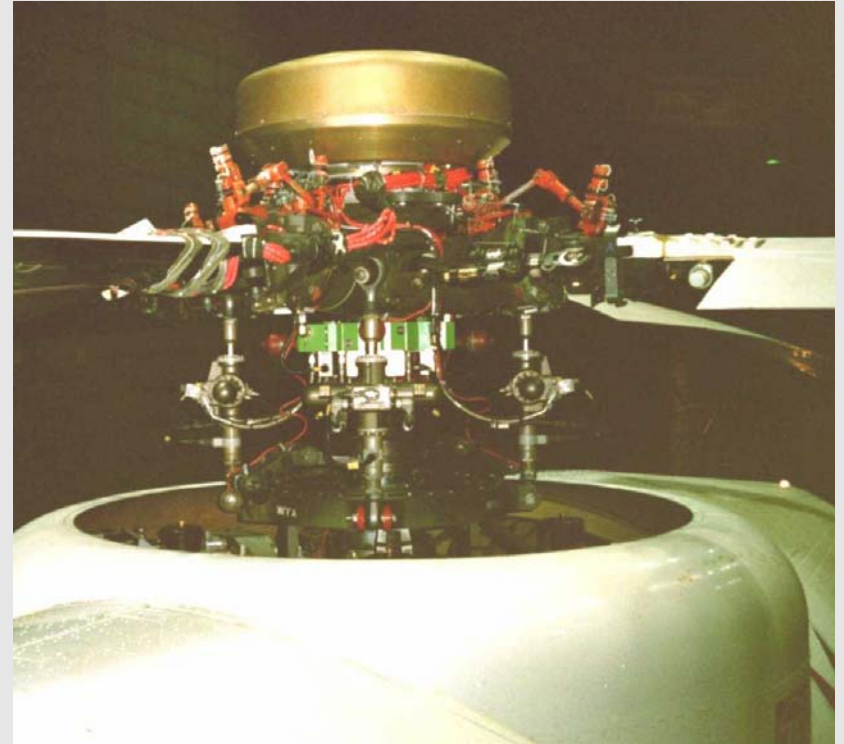


## IBC Actuator Mounted between Swashplate and Blade Pitch Horn Replacing the Rigid Pitch Rod





# Full Scale UH-60 Rotor Wind Tunnel Tests conducted at NASA Ames





# IBC Inputs and Test Conditions



Test Condition	Shaft Angles	IBC Harmonics and Max. Amp.	
Vibration	-3.0°	2/rev to ±1.0°	*
( $C_L/\sigma = 0.0725$ ;	-0.69°, -3.0°	3/rev to ±1.0°	*
Constant Hub	-0.69°, -3.0°	4/rev to ±1.0°	*
Moment & Propulsive Force at 46 kts)	-3.0°	5/rev to ±0.25°	
	-3.0°	6/rev to ±0.75°	
	-3.0°	7/rev to ±0.25°	
	-0.69°, -3.0°	2/rev + 3/rev	*
	-0.69°, -3.0°	3/rev + 4/rev	*
BVI Noise	4.0°, 7.0°	2/rev to ±3.0°	
( $C_T/\sigma = 0.09$ ;	7.0°	3/rev to ±0.5°	
Minimum Flapping & $M_{Tip} = 0.65$ at 75 kts)	7.0°	4/rev to ±0.5°	
	7.0°	5/rev to ±0.5°	
	7.0°	6/rev to ±0.5°	
	4.0°	2/rev + 5/rev	

\* Shaft angles adjusted up to ±0.5° to maintain rotor trim.



# Large Wind Tunnel at NASA Ames Research Center





# Testbed BO-105 S1 with IBC System





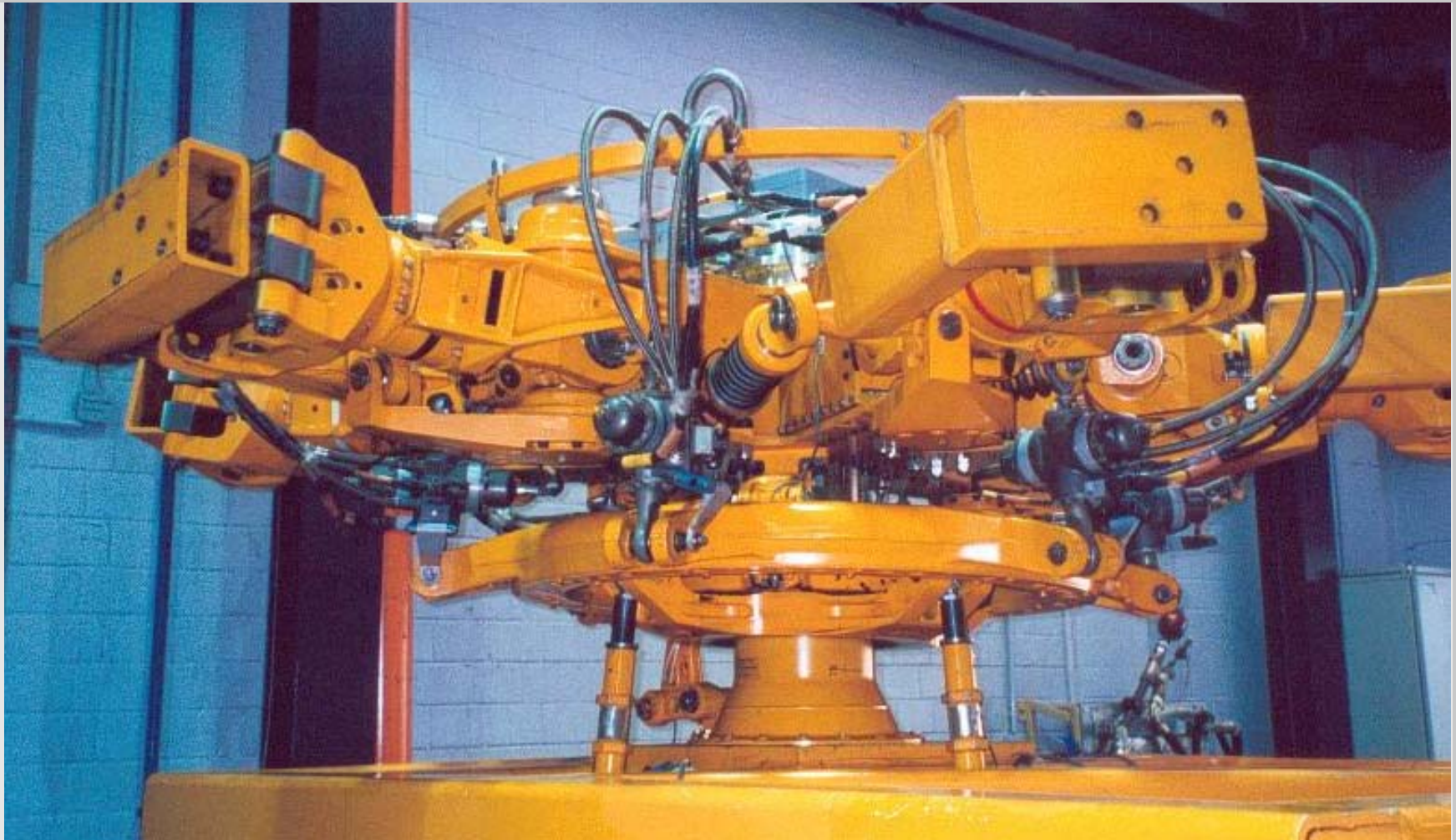
# IBC Testbed CH-53G 84+02 Operated by WTD 61







## Dynamic Components with IBC Mock-Up





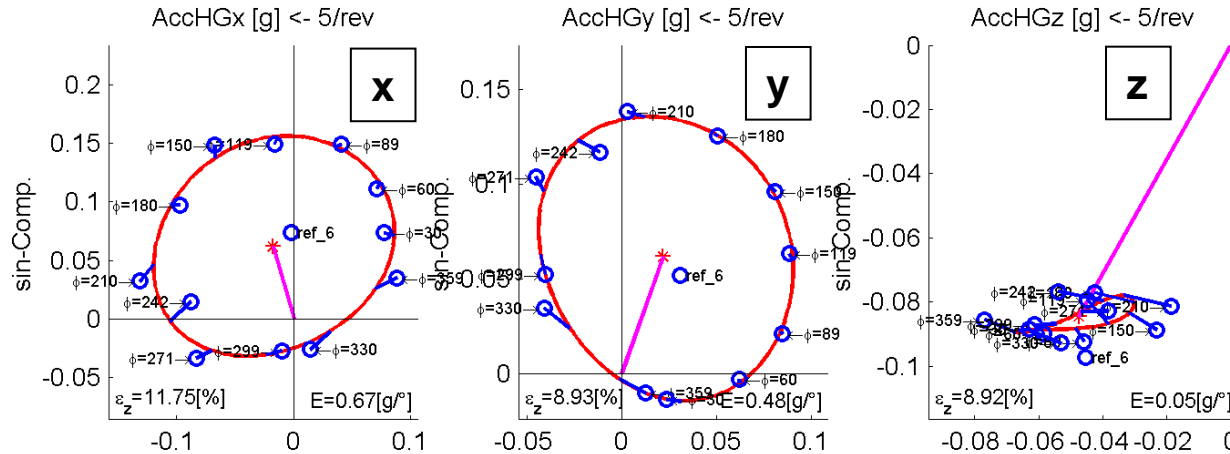
# IBC Data Processing and Control Computer (ZFL) and Data Gathering System (WTD 61)



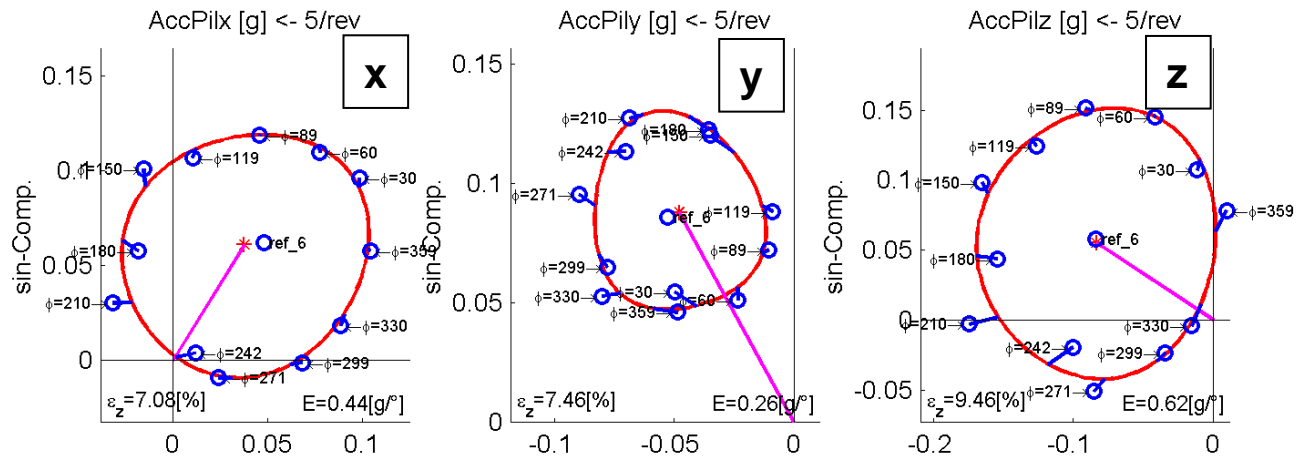


# Effect of 0.15deg 5/rev IBC on 6/rev Accelerations at Main Gear Box and Pilot Seat @120kts

MGB

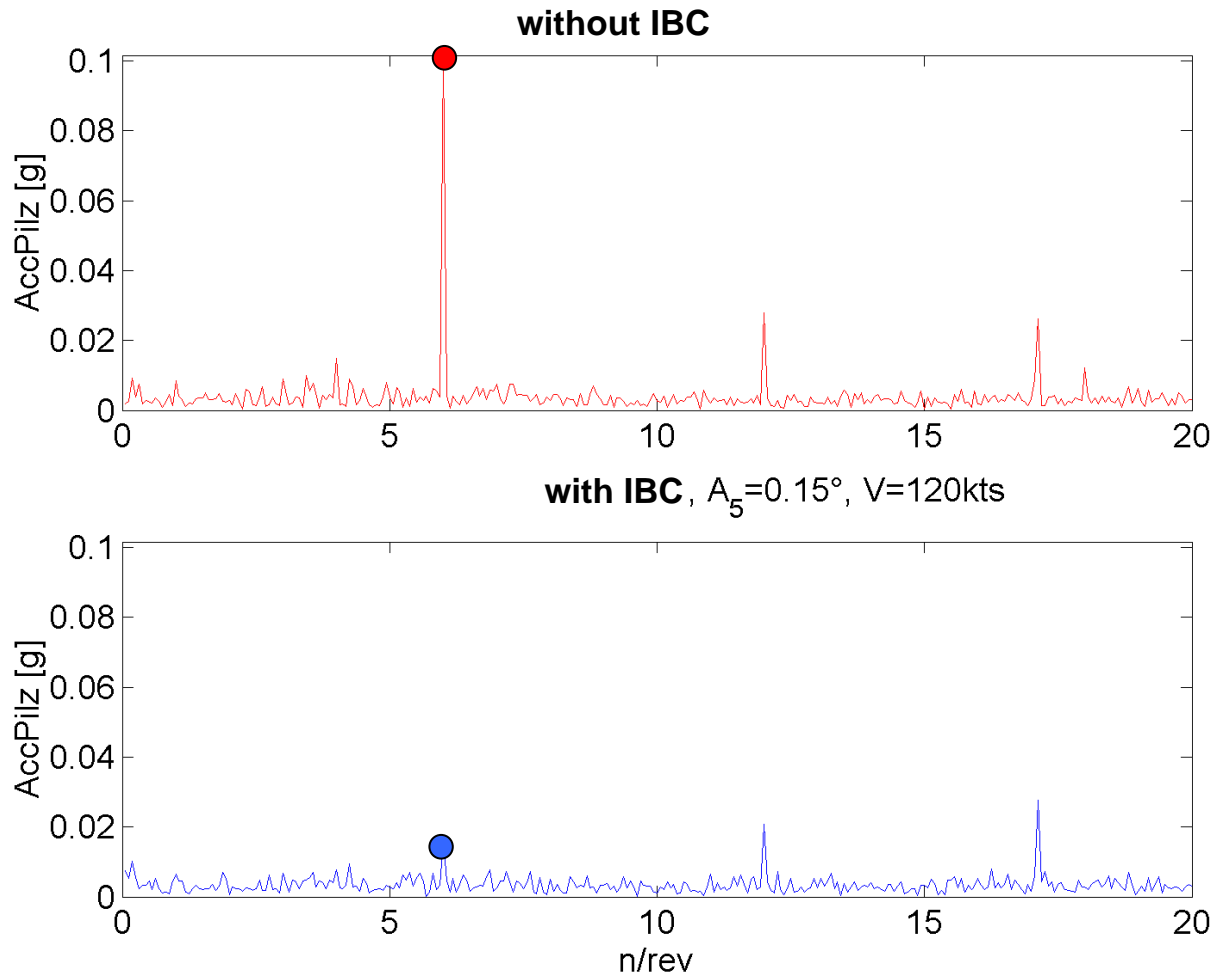


Pilot Seat



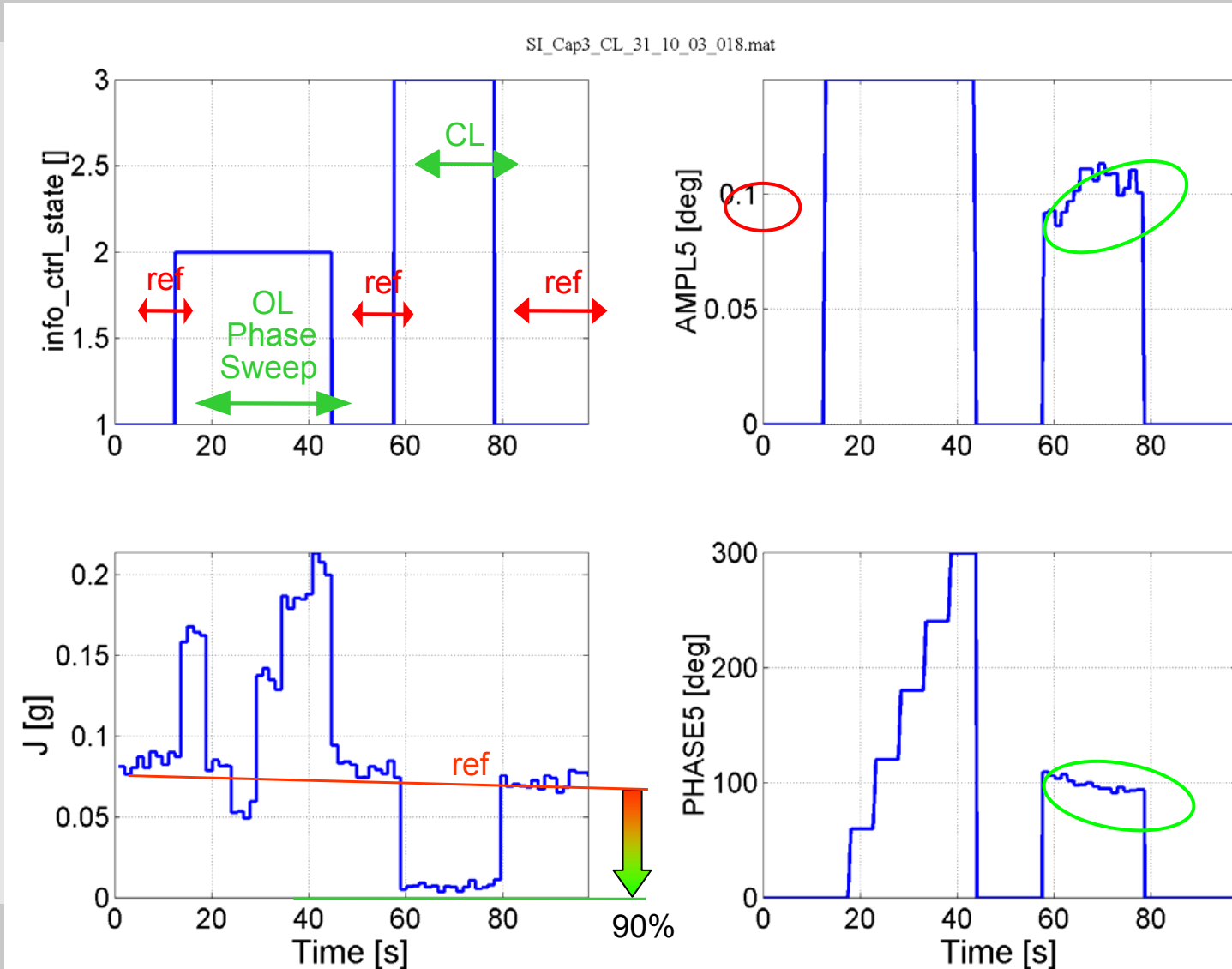


# Effect of 0.15deg 5/rev IBC on z-Vibration Spectrum at Pilot Seat @120kts



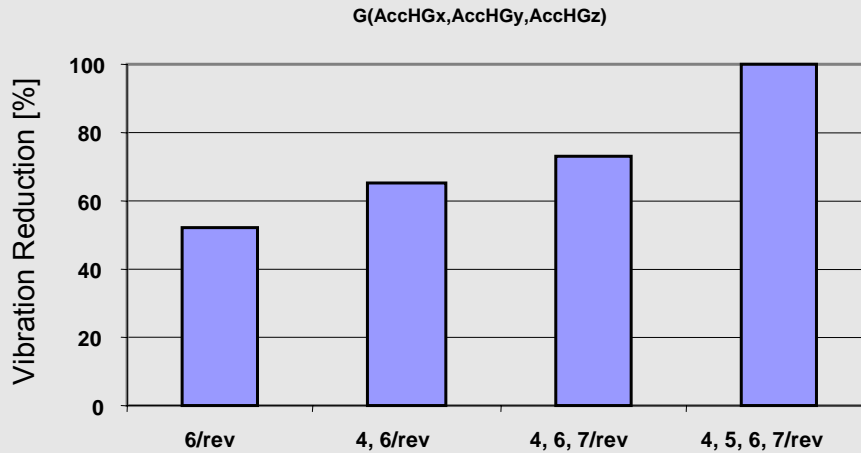


# C.L. Test Sequence @70kts, Single Mode 5/rev IBC Controlled Variable: 6/rev AccPilz

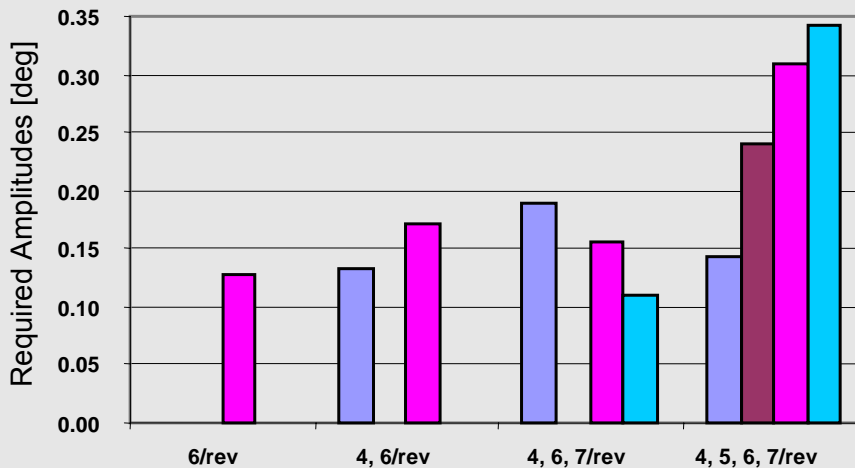




# Predicted Multi Harmonic Vibration Reduction at Main Gear Box Based on Single Harmonic Flight Test Data (0.15deg IBC at 90kts)



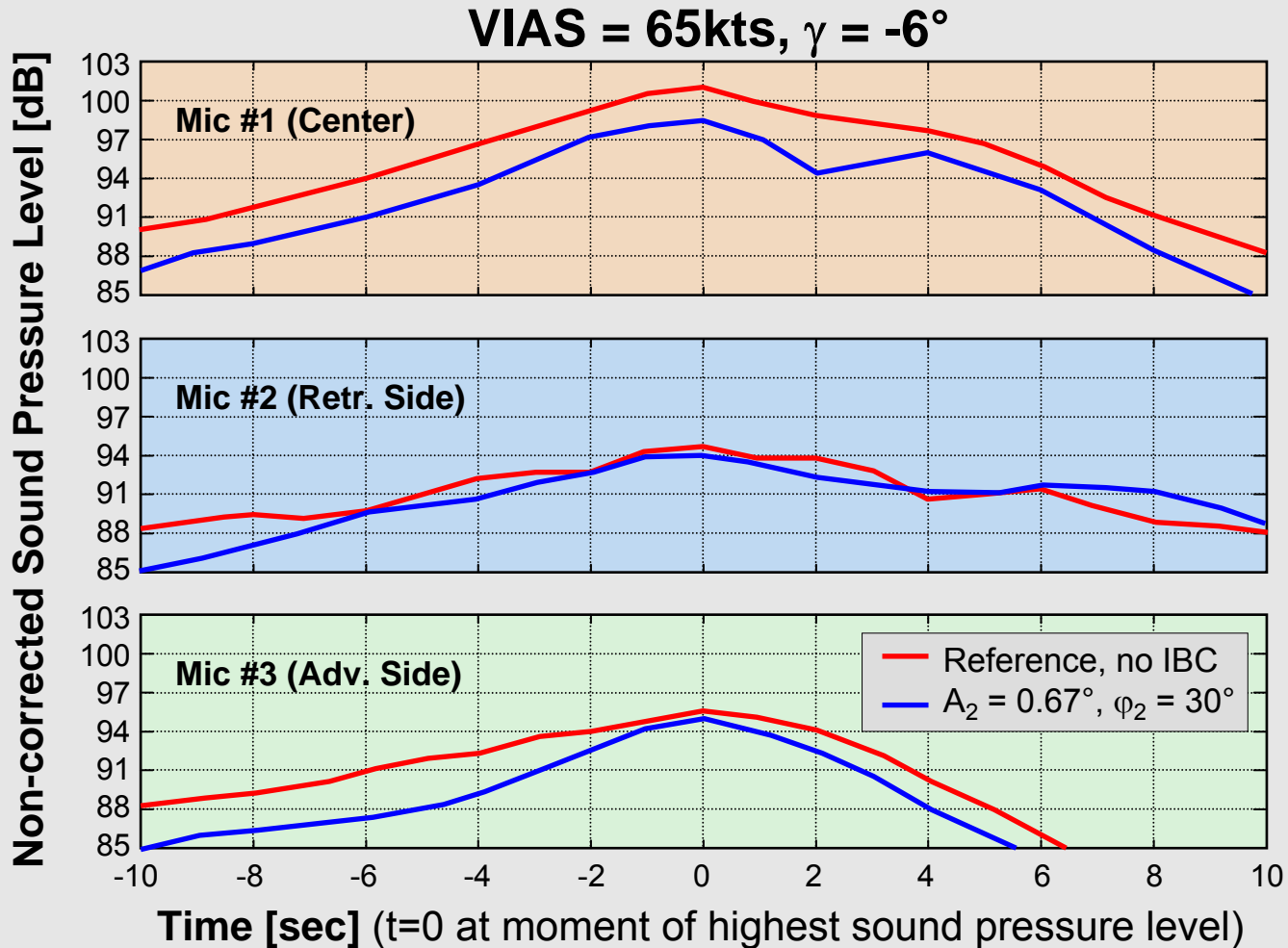
Numerically Predicted 6/rev Vibration Reduction at Main Gear Box (All Three Axes) Due to Different IBC Frequency Combinations



Corresponding Amplitudes Required



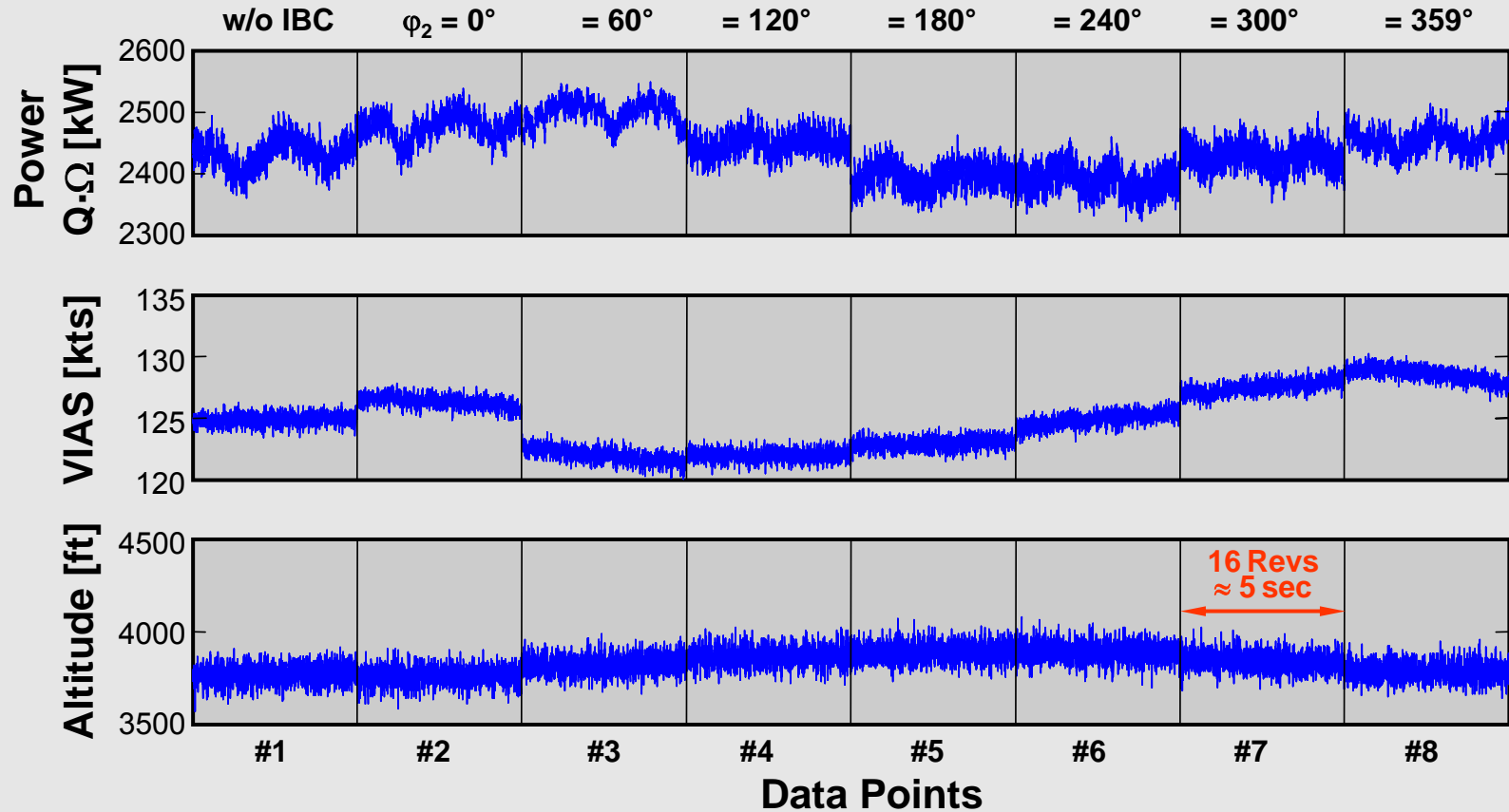
# Noise Reduction Due to 2/rev 0.66deg IBC at Three Microphones (65kts, -6deg, Optimum IBC Phase)





# Flight Performance Relevant Parameters During 2/rev IBC Phase Sweep

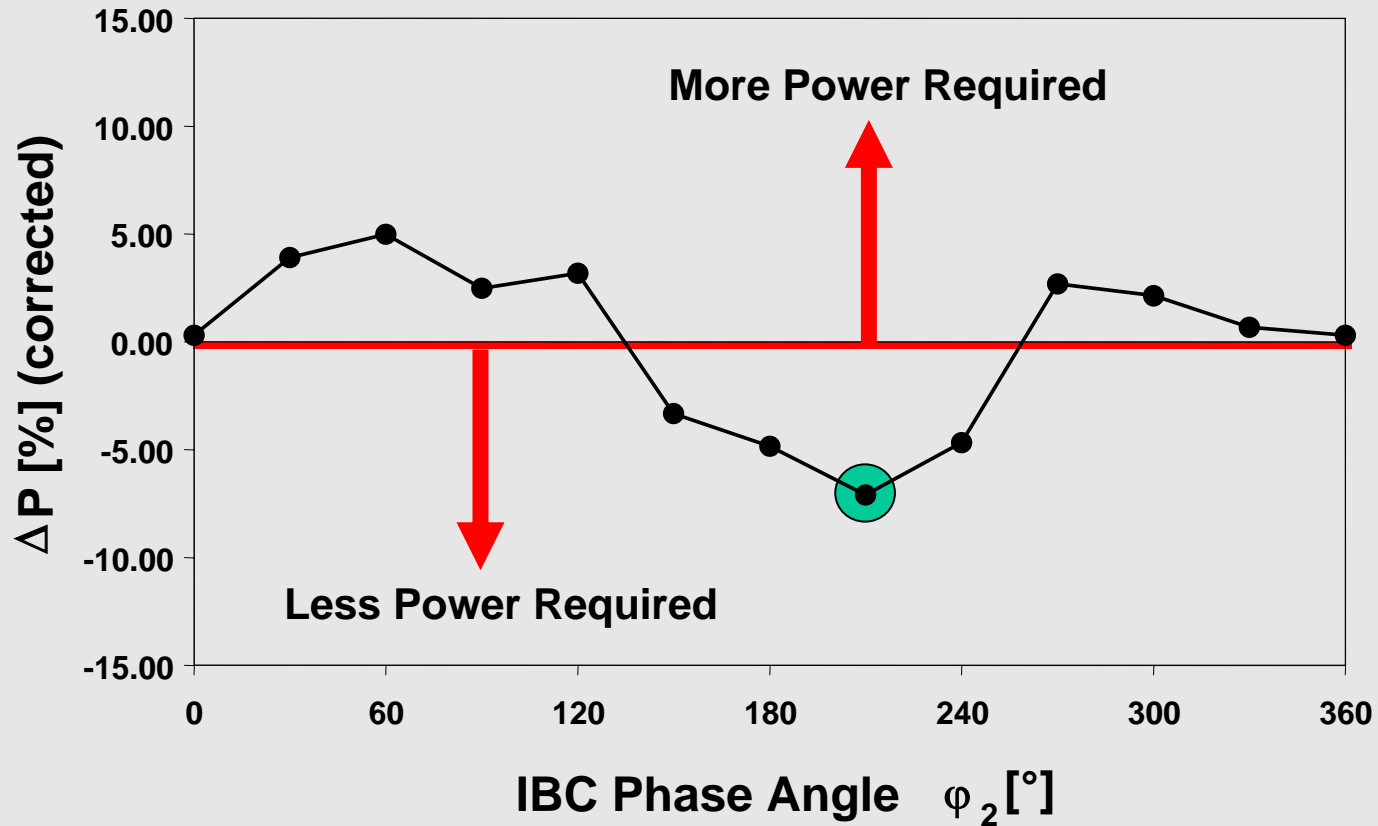
Level Flight VIAS = 125kts,  $A_2 = 0.67^\circ$





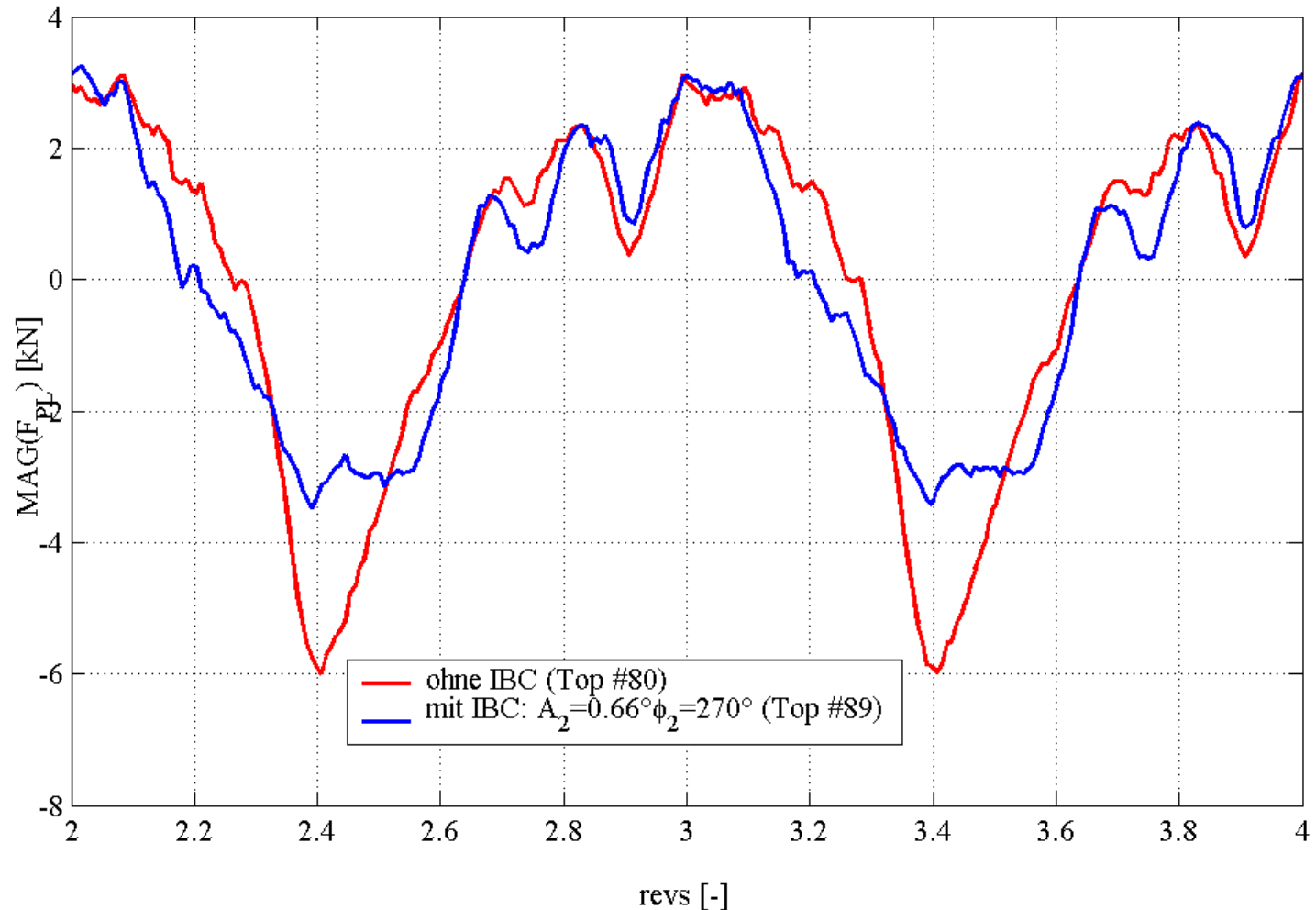


# Effect of 2/rev 0.66deg IBC on Power Required (125kts, Net Effect, Corrected by Speed, Accel. and Heave Effects)





# Reduction of Pitch Link / Actuator Load by Application of Optimum Phase 2/rev IBC ( $A_2 = 0.66^\circ$ $\phi_2 = 270^\circ$ )



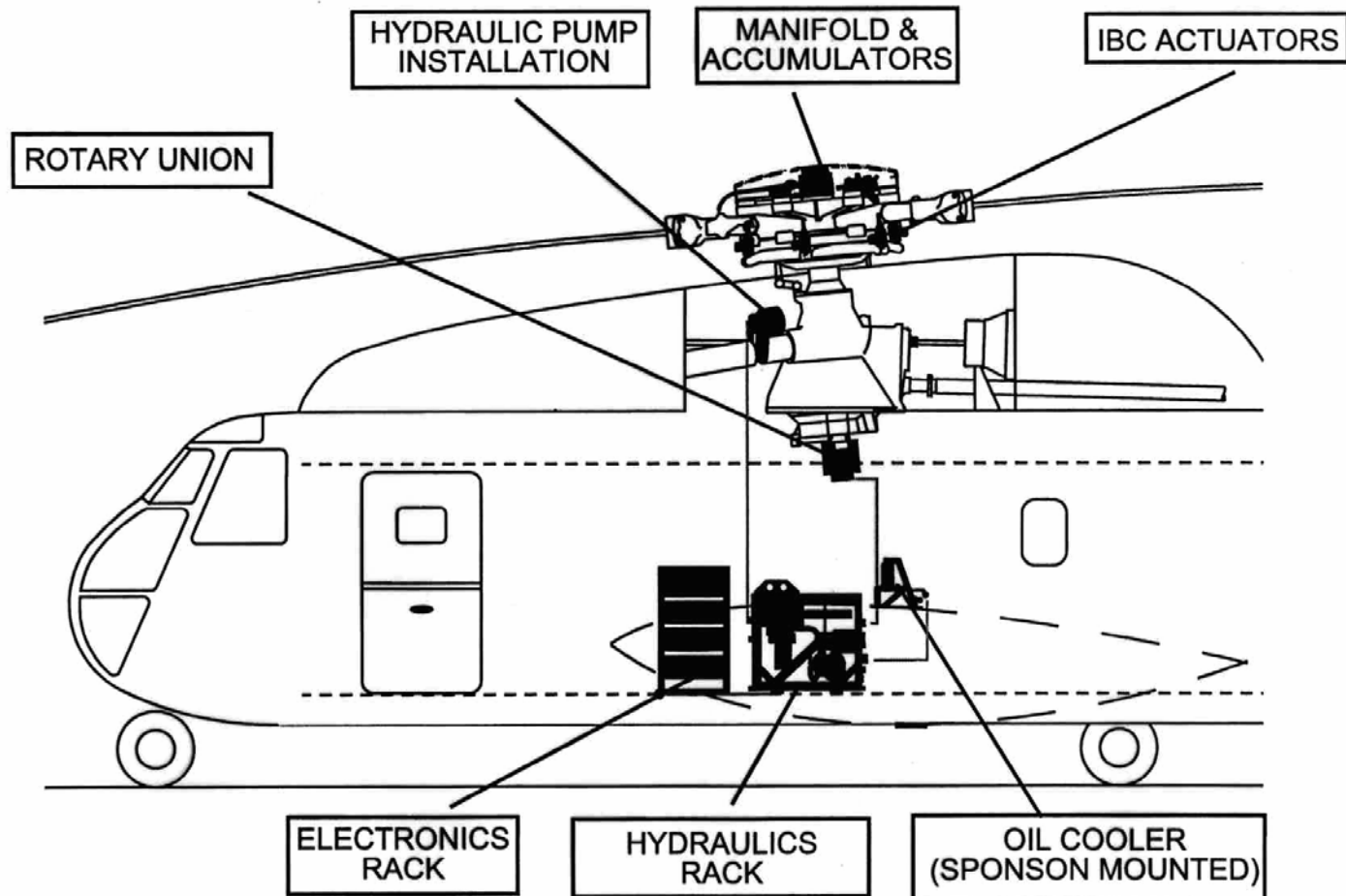


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# Integration of IBC-System into CH-53G Testbed



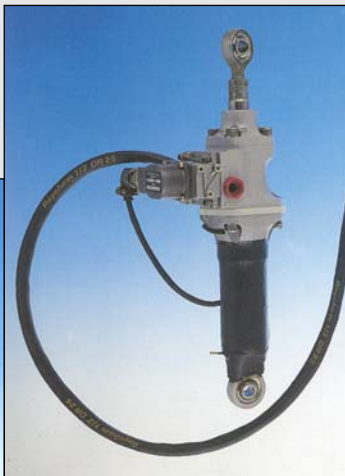


# ZFL's IBC Actuator Evolution

BO 105 WT/T



BO 105 F/T



TSS



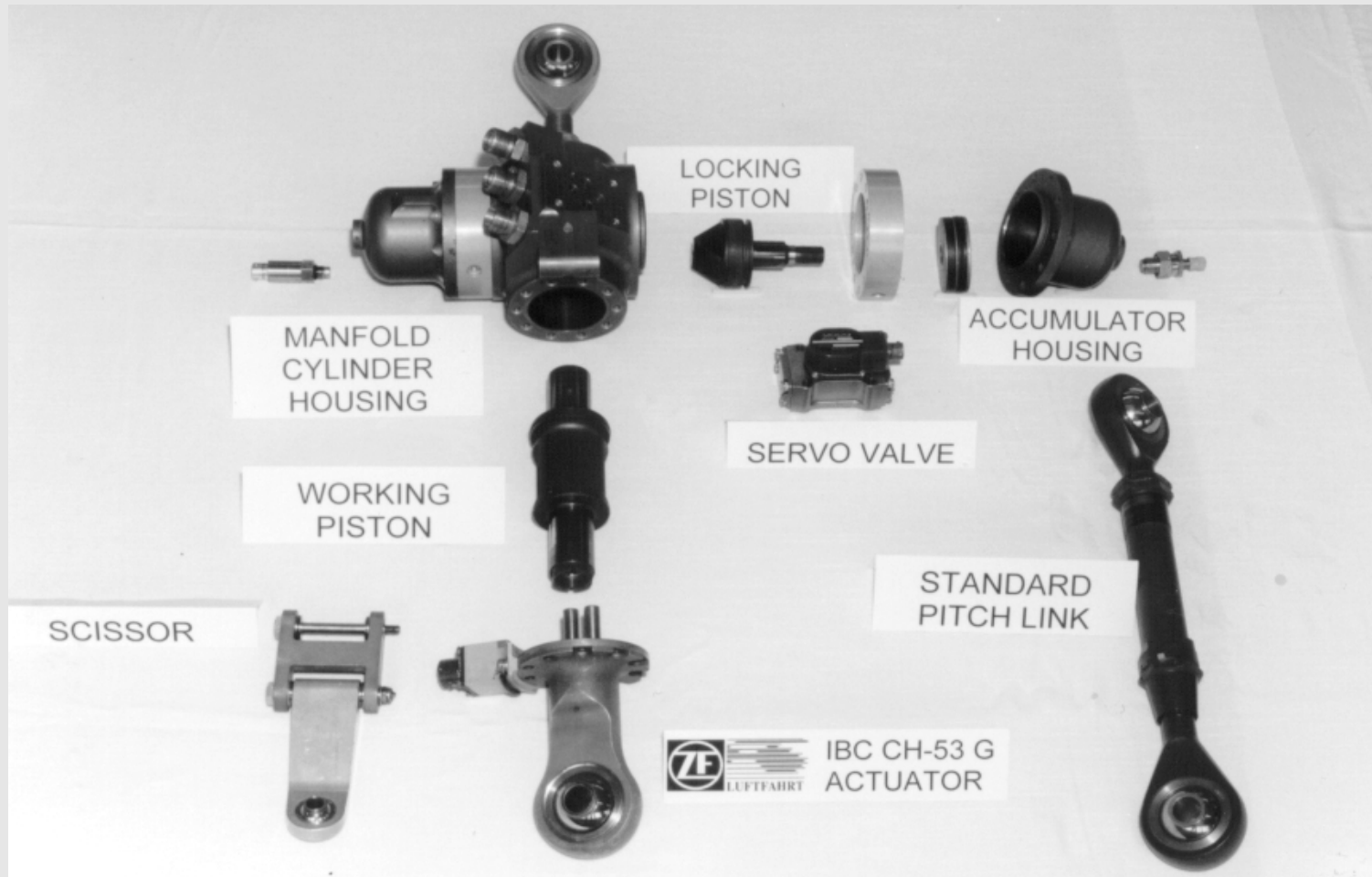
UH-60A WT/T



CH-53G F/T

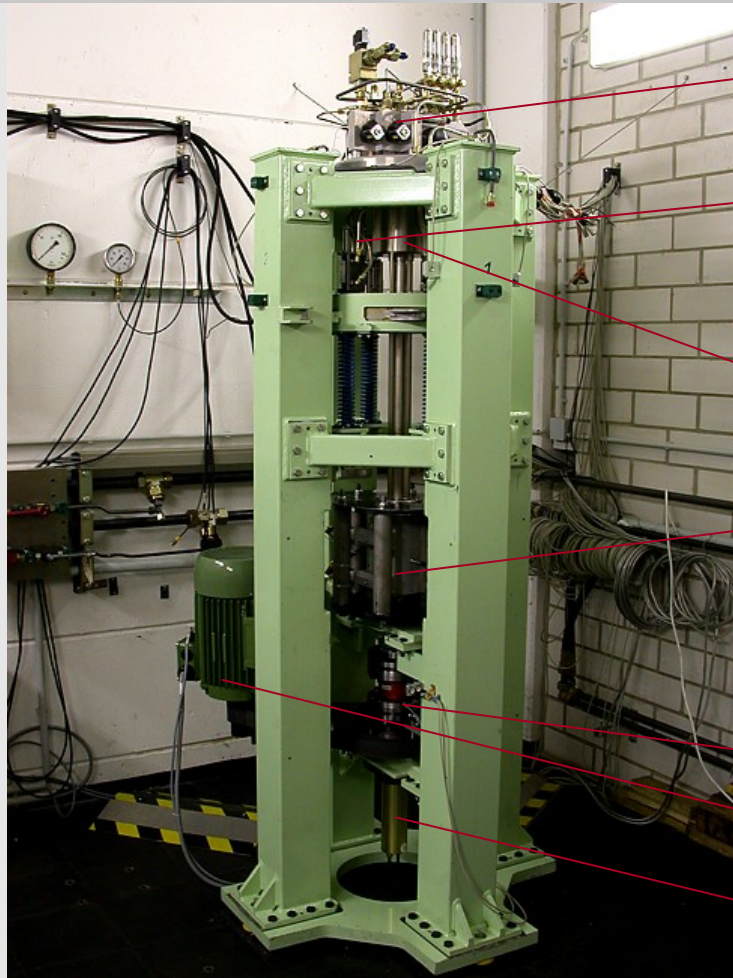


# CH-53G IBC Experimental System Actuator Design





# IDS IBC DC test bench with reversed kinematics non rotating ↔ rotating



hydraulic manifold

4 IBC actuators

IBC DC pump

pump control unit  
in drive cage

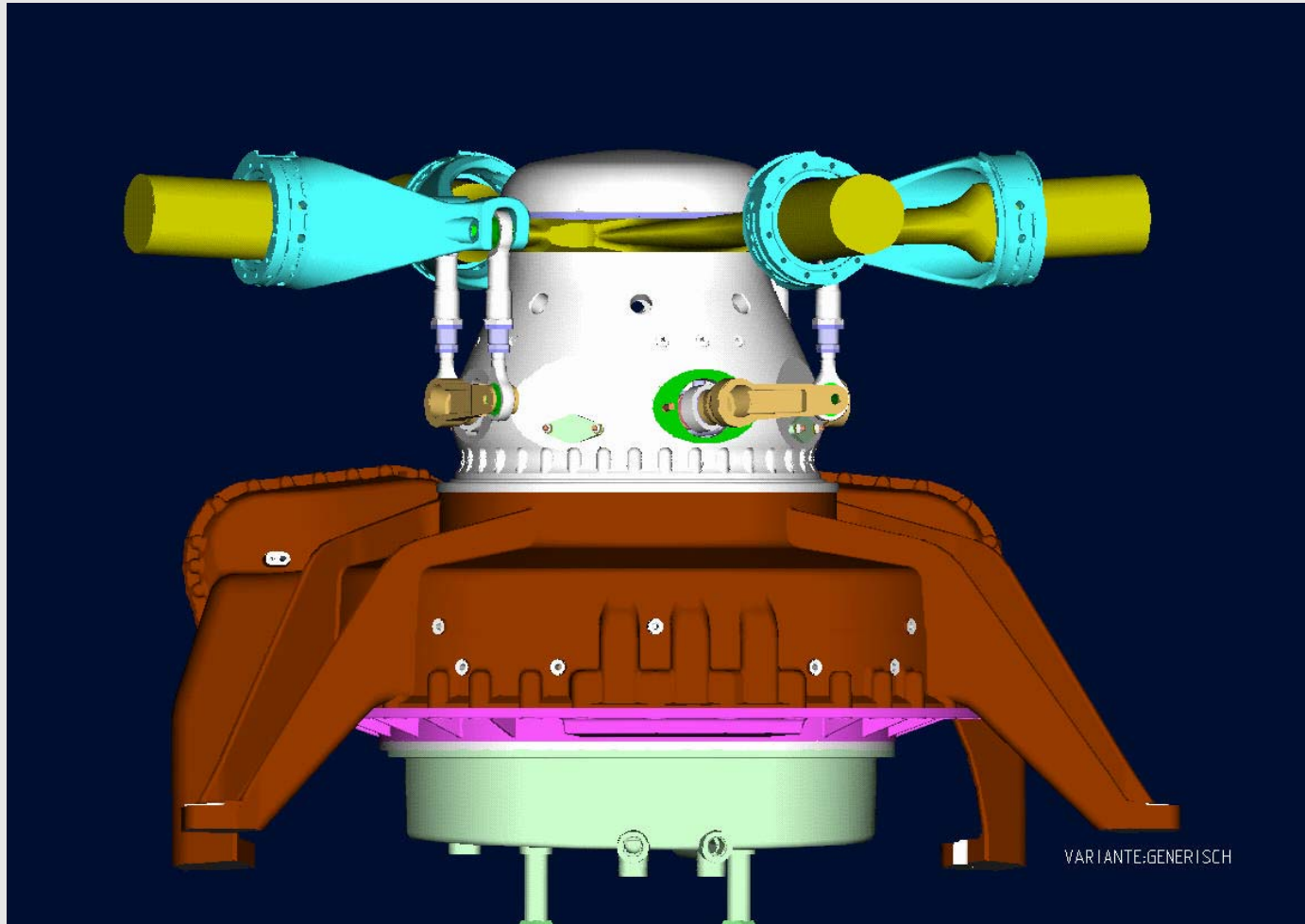
torque/speed sensor

11 kW electrical drive

electrical slip ring



# Adaptation of Existing IDS to Lynx Rotor Hub

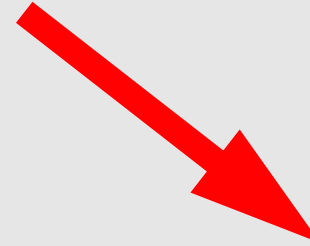
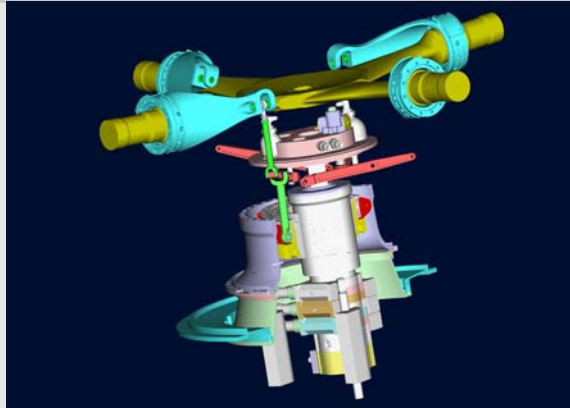






# InHuS: Innovative Integrated Primary and Individual Blade Control System for Helicopters

**IDS:**  
Integration of Both  
Primary Control and  
IBC into  
Gearbox/Rotorhub



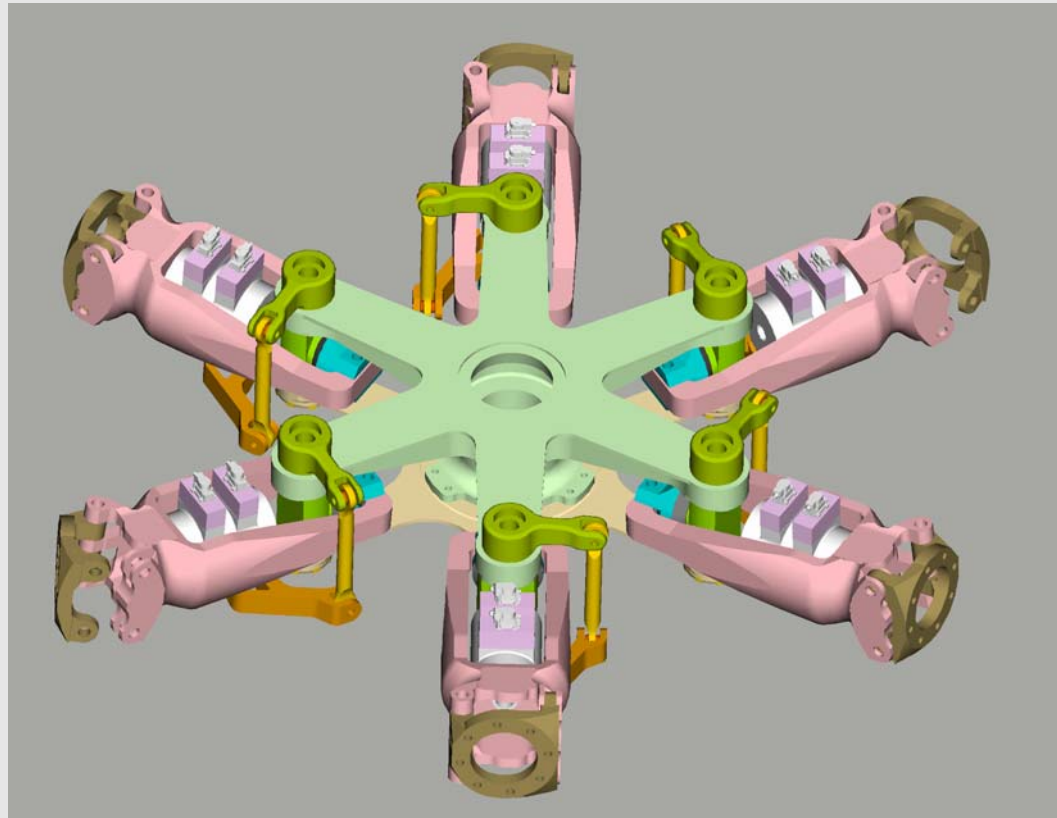
**InHuS:**  
Control System in the  
Rotating Frame at Blade  
Root, Combining Both  
Primary Control and IBC  
Using One Actuation System

**IBC:**  
Hydraulic and Electrical  
Individual Blade  
Control Systems with  
High Bandwidth but  
Low Authority





# InHuS: Innovative Integrated Primary and Individual Blade Control System for Helicopters (preliminary design)





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## Conclusion

- **Helicopter versatile aircraft**
- **Complex aerodynamics of main rotor in forward flight causes performance restrictions**
- **advanced main rotor blade control can reduce vibration & noise and extend flight envelope**
- **extensive research work on IBC effects has been done**
- **world-wide development activities of the helicopter industry in the field of application to production helicopters**