

# **Integrated Physical and Control System Design: A Strategy for New Performance Levels in Renewable Energy Systems**

**Prof. James T. Allison**

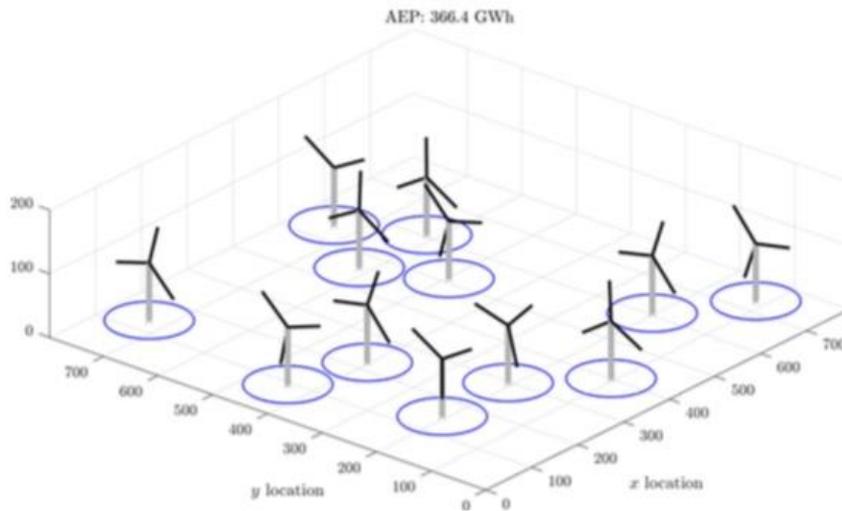
**Engineering System Design Laboratory  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

[www.systemdesign.illinois.edu](http://www.systemdesign.illinois.edu)

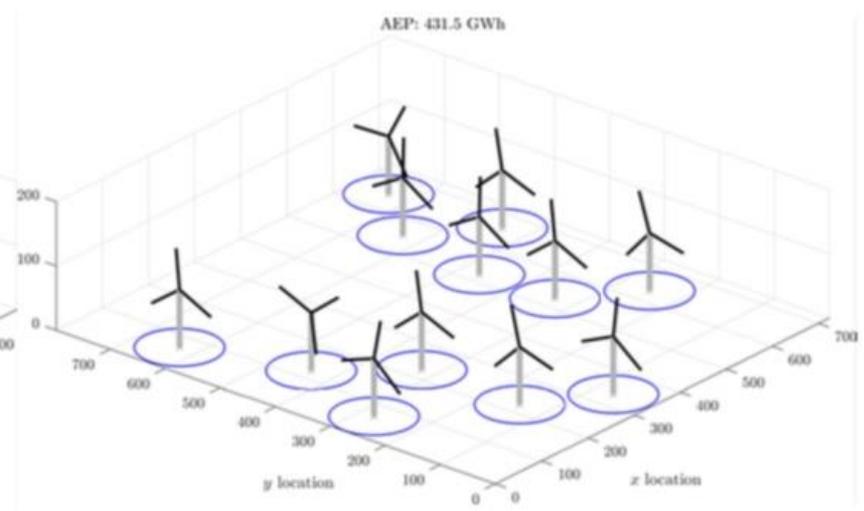
# Why integrated design methods?

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- It makes a big difference in performance



Layout only (AEP: 366.4 GWh)



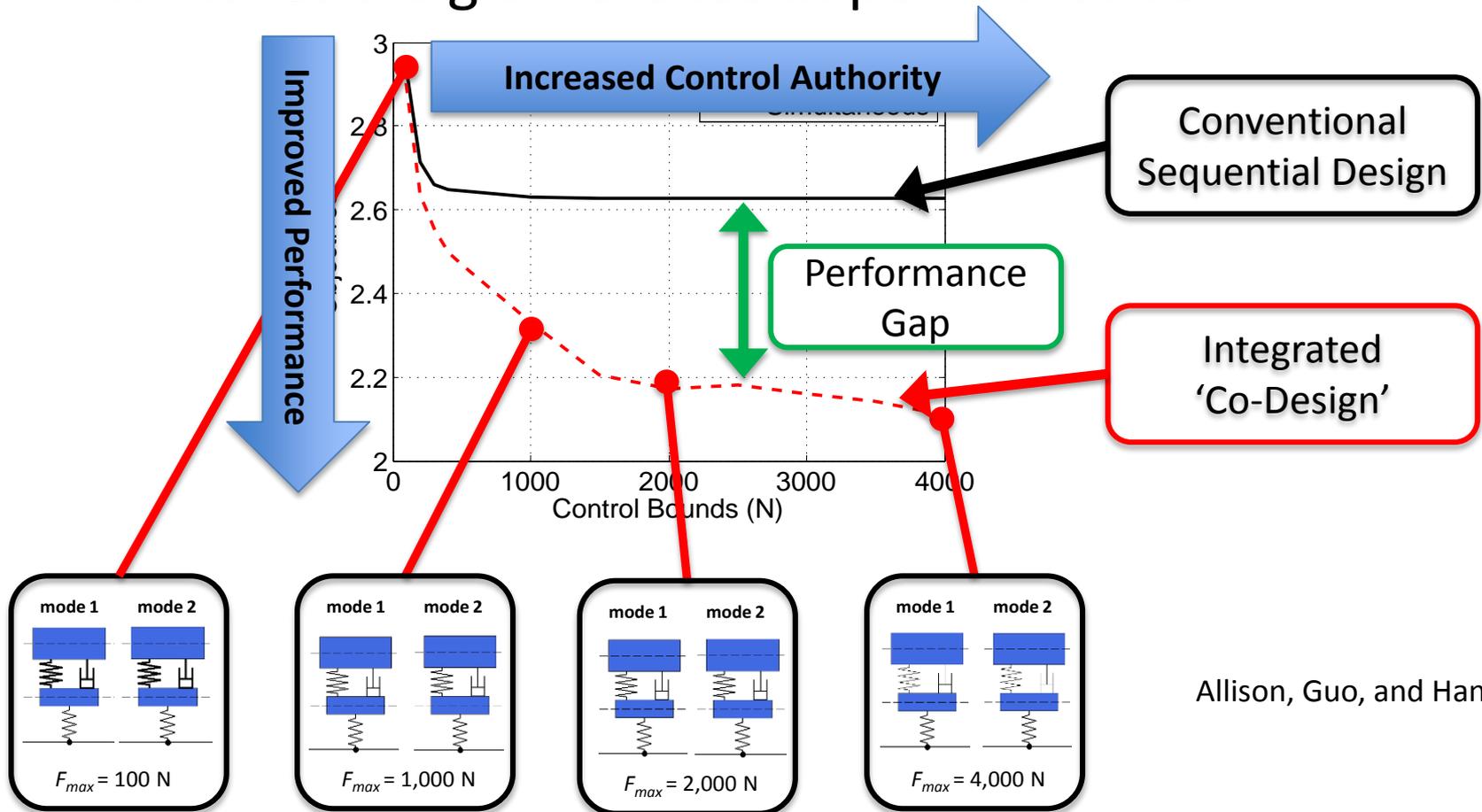
Layout + Control (AEP: 431.5 GWh)

Layout + Control AEP: + 17.7 % ↑

Deshmukh and Allison (2017)

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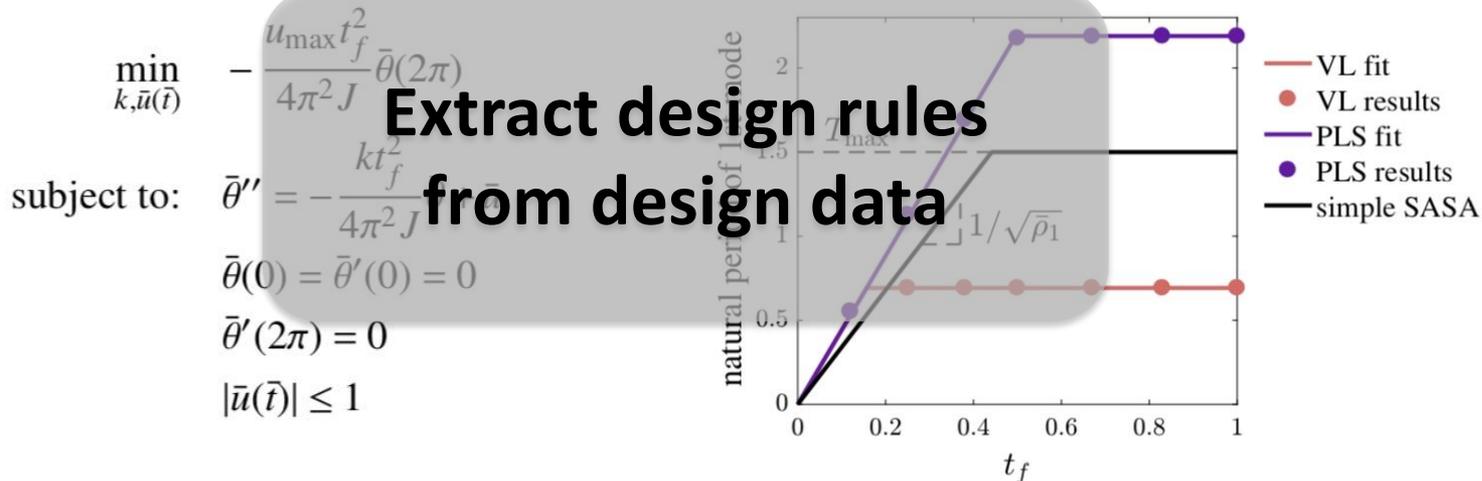
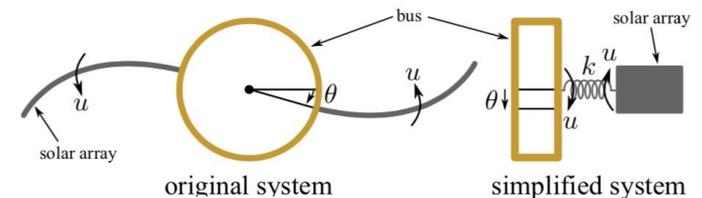


Allison, Guo, and Han (2013)

# Why integrated design methods?

- It makes a big difference in performance
- Helps engineers identify ultimate performance limits (e.g., fair technology evaluation)
- New design insights for unprecedented systems

**Example:** design rules identified via non-dimensional co-design study of strain-actuated solar array attitude control system – Herber and Allison (2017)



# Why integrated design methods?

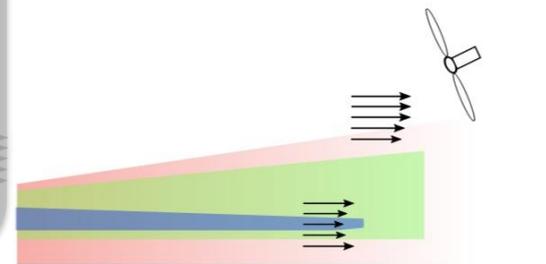
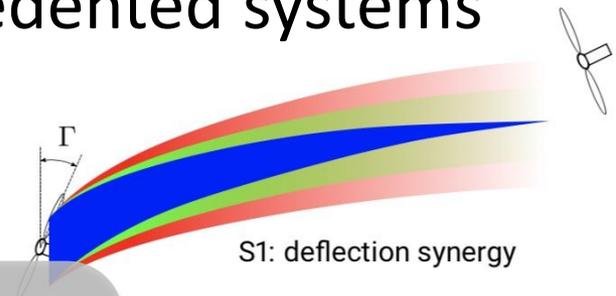
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**Example:** identify *synergy mechanisms* through systematic numerical studies – Allison, Herber, and Deshmukh (2015), Deshmukh and Allison (2017)

*A specific underlying design mechanism that facilitates overall system performance improvements when two or more design elements are varied synergistically.*

**Reveal and understand synergy mechanisms**

Engineers can use the resulting intuition to pursue increased system performance.



**What are integrated active system design (co-design) methods?**

# What are integrated active system design (co-design) methods?

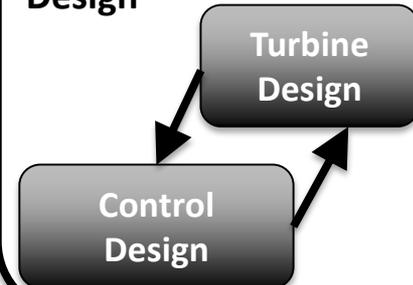
- Different from design for controllability
- Beyond control design based on detailed plant models
- Simultaneous consideration of both plant and control design decisions
- Understanding and full use of *design coupling* between physical and control design decisions

## Design Coupling:

Exists if changing one element of a system design impacts how another system element *should* be designed

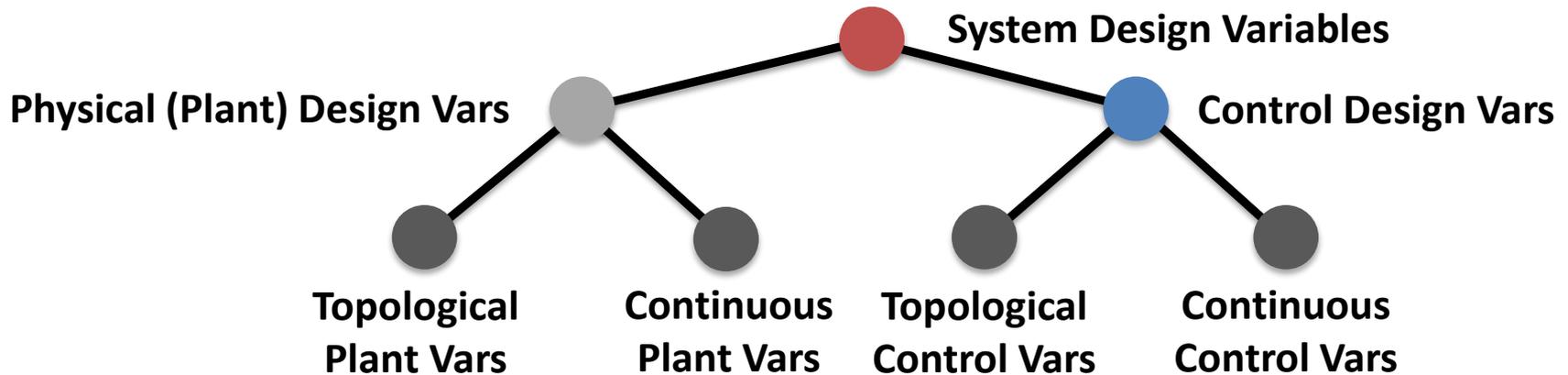
Strong design coupling → integrated design methods make a big difference in system performance

## Example: Wind Turbine Design



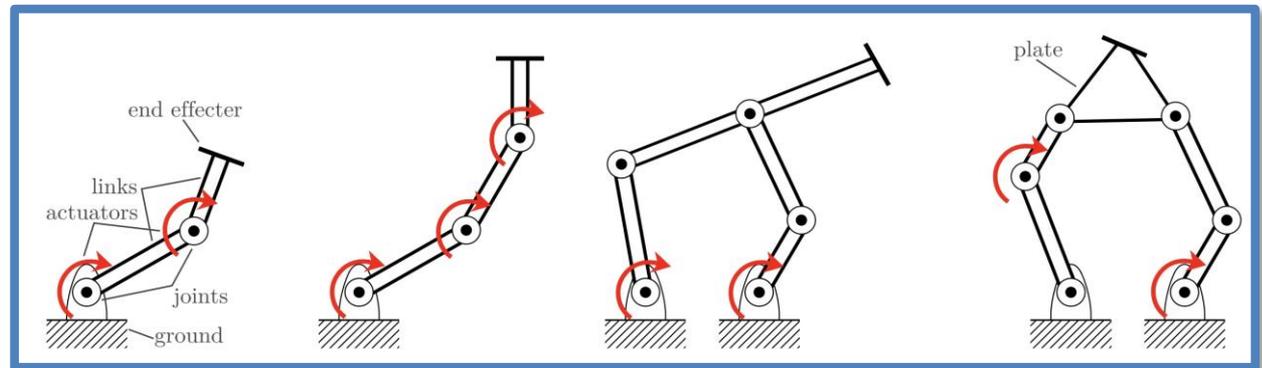
# Co-design problem properties

Simultaneous consideration of multiple sets of design decision variables:



## Example: robotic manipulator design

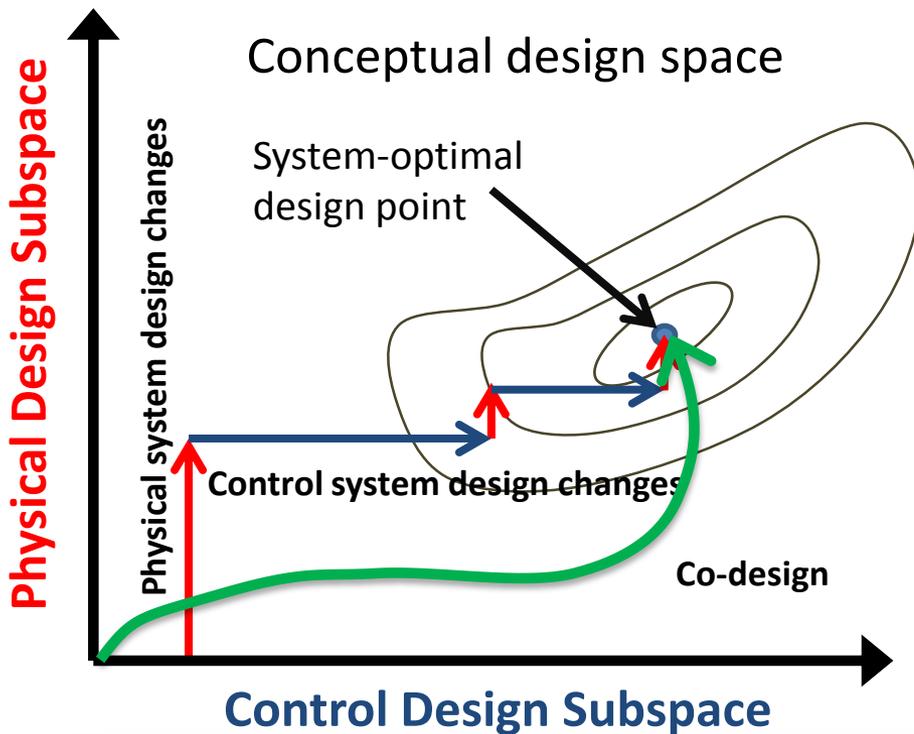
(Herber 2017)



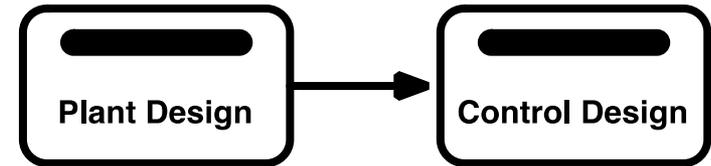
**Design decisions:** #/arrangement of links, link geometry, joint types, sensors/actuators, control architecture/laws)

**Aim for fully-integrated design:** physics, design, subsystem interactions

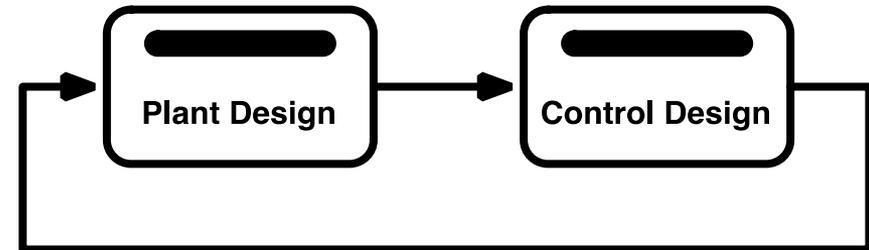
# Design process options:



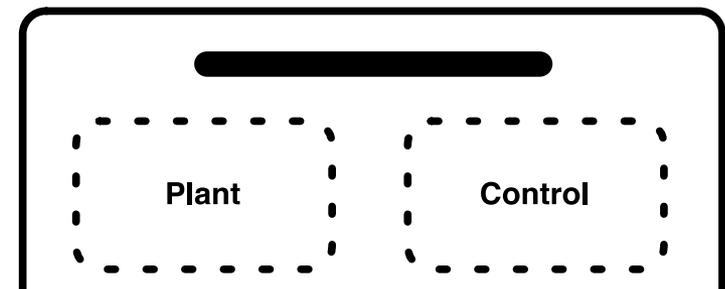
## Conventional Sequential Design



## Iterated Sequential Design



## Simultaneous Co-Design



### Simultaneous Co-Design Problem Formulation:

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}_p, \mathbf{x}_c} \Psi = \int_{t_0}^{t_f} \mathcal{L}(t, \boldsymbol{\xi}, \mathbf{x}_c, \mathbf{x}_p) dt + \mathcal{M}(\boldsymbol{\xi}(t_0), \boldsymbol{\xi}(t_f), \mathbf{x}_c, \mathbf{x}_p)$$

$$\text{s.t. } \dot{\boldsymbol{\xi}} - \mathbf{f}(t, \boldsymbol{\xi}, \mathbf{x}_c, \mathbf{x}_p) = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\mathbf{C}(t, \boldsymbol{\xi}, \mathbf{x}_c, \mathbf{x}_p) \leq \mathbf{0}$$

$$\phi(\boldsymbol{\xi}(t_0), \boldsymbol{\xi}(t_f), \mathbf{x}_c, \mathbf{x}_p) \leq \mathbf{0}$$

Apply the same system objective function consistently across both design domains

# Current state-of-the-art in co-design

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Building upon earlier related work:

**Control-Structure  
Interaction  
(1980s-1990s)**

**Multidisciplinary  
Design Optimization  
(1990s-present)**

**Initial Co-Design  
Theory and Methods  
(early 2000's)**

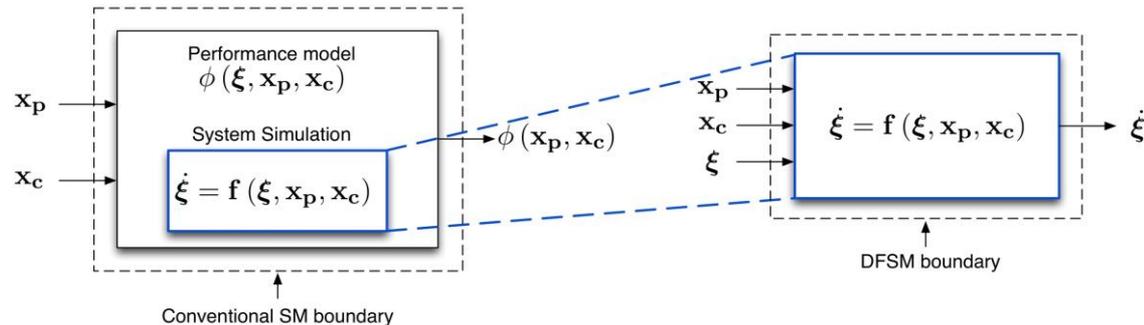
Previous gaps addressed to produce present significant capabilities:

**More general/  
comprehensive  
problem solution**

**Efficient solution  
using high-fidelity  
simulations**

## Example method for high-fidelity co-design problems:

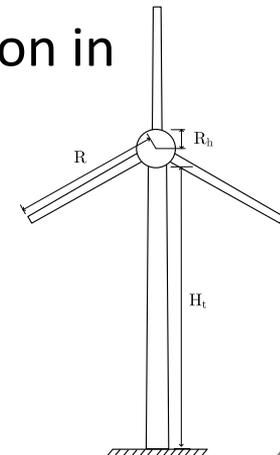
- Derivative Function Surrogate Modeling
- Capitalize on structure of dynamic system design problems to enable use of accurate simulations



## HAWT Co-Design: order of magnitude reduction in computational expense

	DT using $f(\cdot)$	DFSM using $\hat{f}(\cdot)$	SM using $\hat{\phi}(\cdot)$
No. $f(\cdot)$ evaluations	25160	2800	N/A
Solution time	419 min	124 min	618 min
FAST evaluation time	50.9%	18.8%	87.1%

Anand P Deshmukh, James T Allison. 'Design of Dynamic Systems using Surrogate Models of Derivative Functions.' ASME Journal of Mechanical Design, 139(10), p. 101402-101402-12, Aug 2017.



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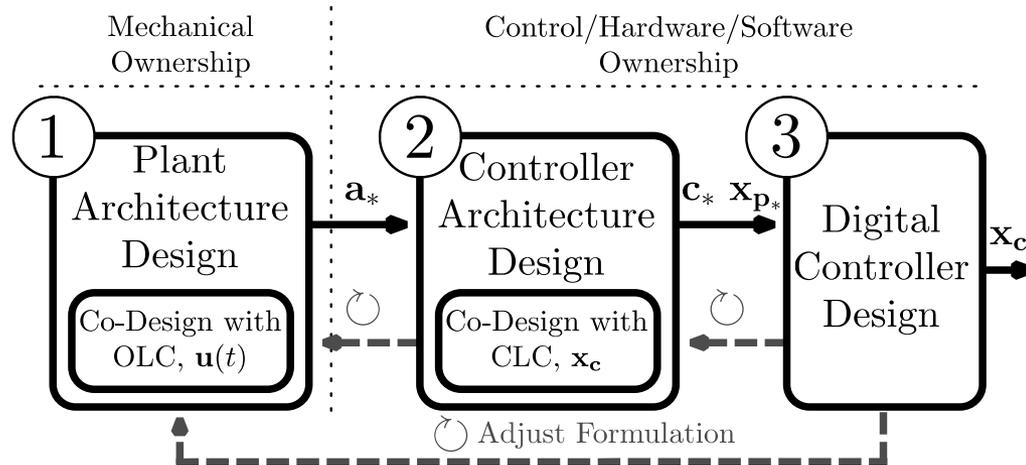
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**Bridging the gap to  
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## Bridging the gap to systems engineering practice:

**Concept:** Use co-design for early-stage plant development, inform reformulation at later stages



Deshmukh, Herber, and Allison (2015)

**Infusing co-design with experimental data**

(Chris Vermillion, NC State)

**What else? What impedes adoption in practice?**

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**What are we missing? What work is left to be done?**

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Control-Str  
Inter  
(1980

Multi-...

Initial Co-Design  
and Methods  
(2000's)

Previous

More  
compr  
problem

**Why?**

- **Technical limitations?**
- **Not enough potential value?**  
(design coupling, market impact)
- **Organizational challenges?**
- **Perception/psychology?**

capabilities:

the gap to  
engineering  
ctice

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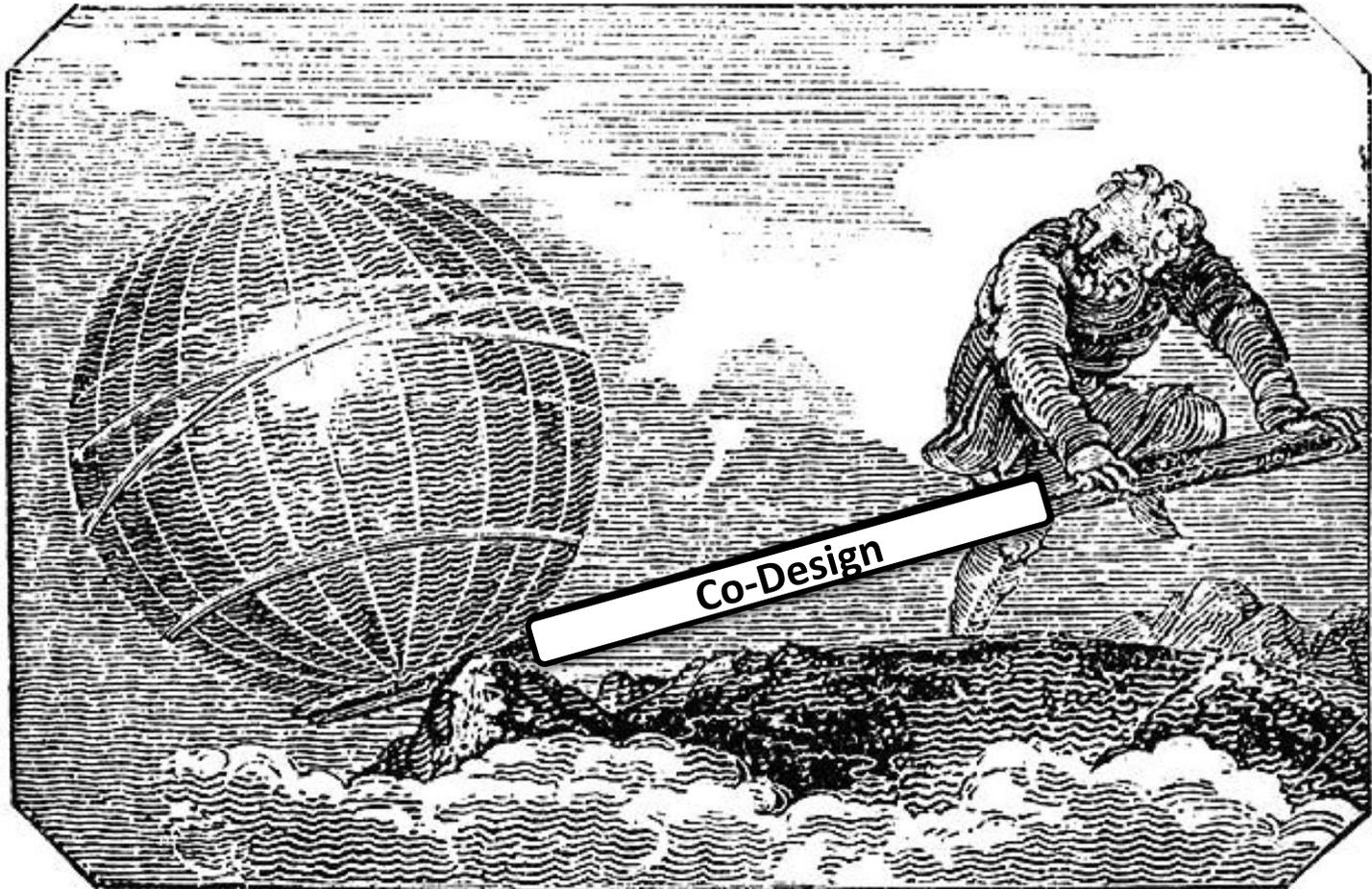
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No existing demonstration  
of co-design using a large-  
scale engineering system

# Vision for Co-Design of Renewable Energy Systems



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## **Strong present technical capabilities in co-design**

- Solution of highly-integrated, comprehensive co-design problems using high-fidelity simulations (including architecture decisions)

## **Renewable energy systems have strong design coupling**

- Performance gains available, rich design interactions

## **Industry adoption is limited – what is missing?**

- Convincing demonstration? Alignment with existing design organizations/processes?

## **ARPA-E: Pivotal opportunity for co-design**

- Translate co-design principles and methods into real systems
- **Doable:** strong design coupling, capable methods, high-impact application
- **Strategic collaborations:** discover what advances are needed at interfaces (realize next level of co-design capability)