



POLITÉCNICA

Universidad **Politécnica** de Madrid

“**Engineering** the future”



CENTRO DE AUTOMÁTICA Y ROBÓTICA

*Robot fishes' escape from flatland, Claudio Rossi, William Coral, 2nd FitFish workshop, Barcelona, October 2013*

**POLITÉCNICA**

Div. de Automática  
(DISAM)



Inst. de Automática  
Industrial (IAI)

~50 staff  
~100 researchers



Est. 2009

CENTRE FOR AUTOMATION AND ROBOTICS

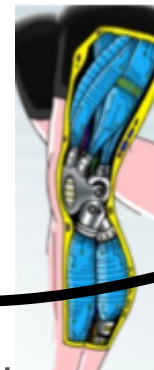
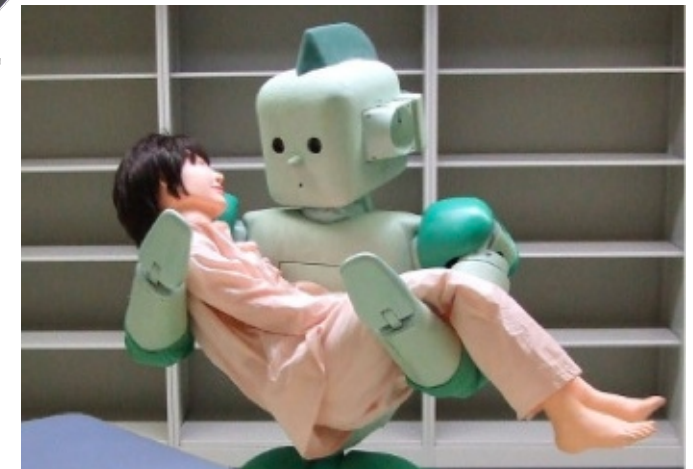
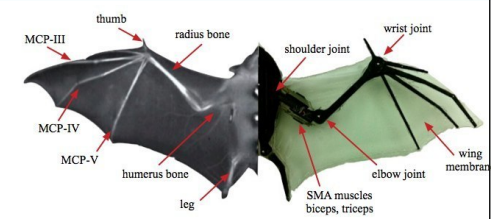
Robotics&Cybernetics Group

Est. 2010

**Bioinspired Systems Lab**

1 staff (+2)  
2 Ph.D. students  
~4 undergrad

## Testbed for alternative technologies



## Long-term view

\* *motor-less* and *gear-less* robots

- devoid of “conventional” electro-magnetic/pneumatic/hydraulic technology, no rotating parts → lighter, simpler, safer

# *Robot fishes' escape from flatland*

**Claudio Rossi, William Coral**

*2nd FitFish workshop, Barcelona, October 2013*



CENTRE FOR AUTOMATION AND ROBOTICS

bio-inspired  
systems lab

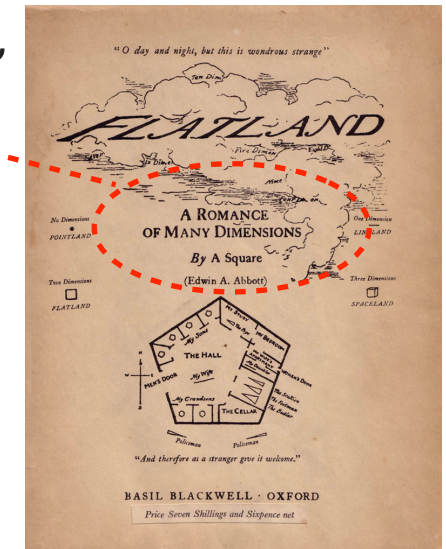
**POLITÉCNICA**

 **CSIC**  
CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS

*"A romance of many dimensions..."*

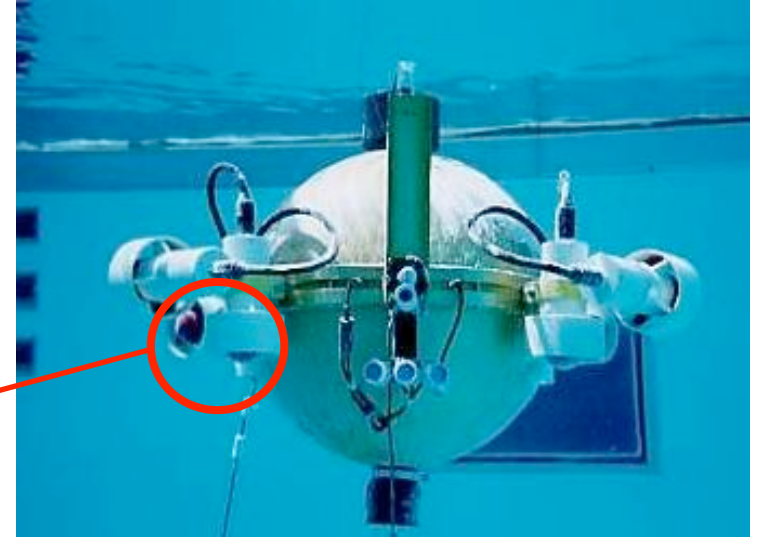
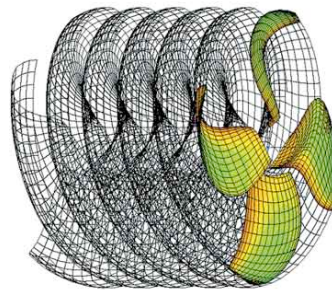
## Outline

- Robot fishes in **1D**: propulsion
- Robot fishes in **2D**: turning in the horizontal plane
- Robot fishes in **3D**: Escape from flatland
- Our work (in progress...)



## Underwater **robots**: propellers mainly used

- ▶ Problems of cavitation, noise, efficiency, dangerous, can get tangled with vegetation



Underwater **living** creatures: high performance movements, efficient



- ➔ A promising approach: taking inspiration from the mechanisms of fish locomotion



CENTRO DE AUTOMÁTICA Y ROBÓTICA

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## 1D: propulsion

## First specimens

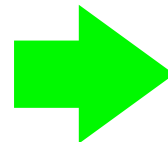


RoboTuna, MIT, 1993



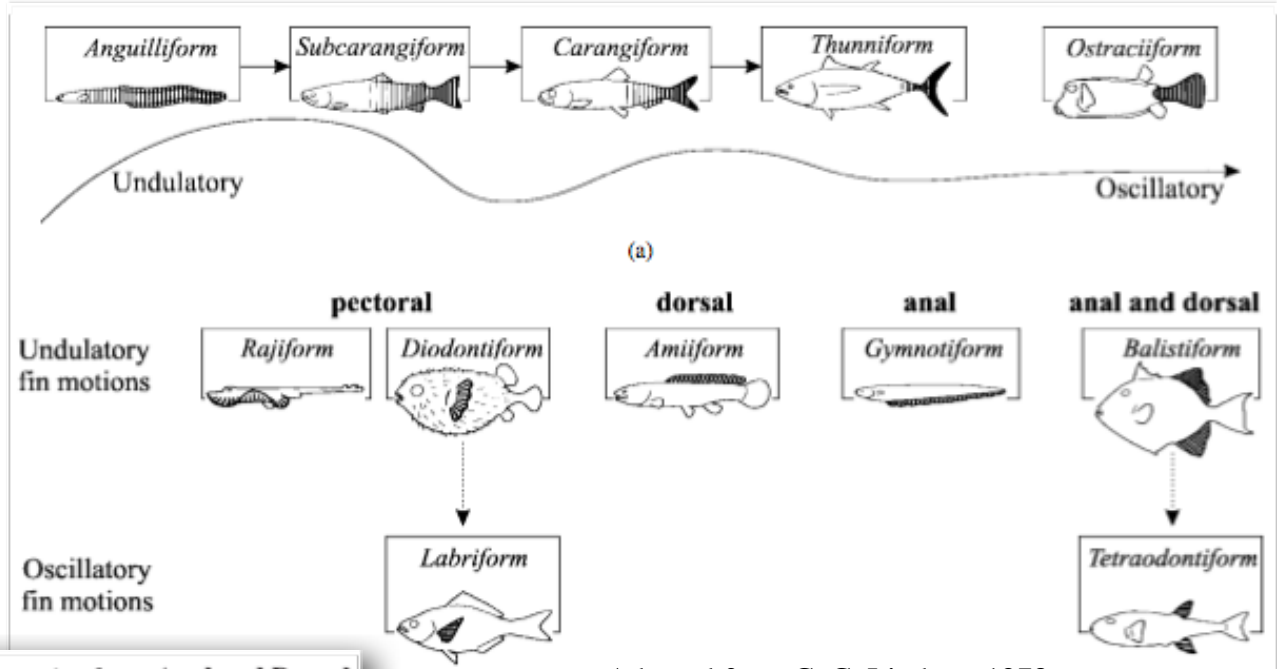
Robo pike, *"the world's first free-swimming robot fish"*, MIT, (year?)

Many others since then !



Main focus on propulsion !

**Bio-inspiration is a hot topic in robotics**



Adapted from C. C. Lindsey, 1978

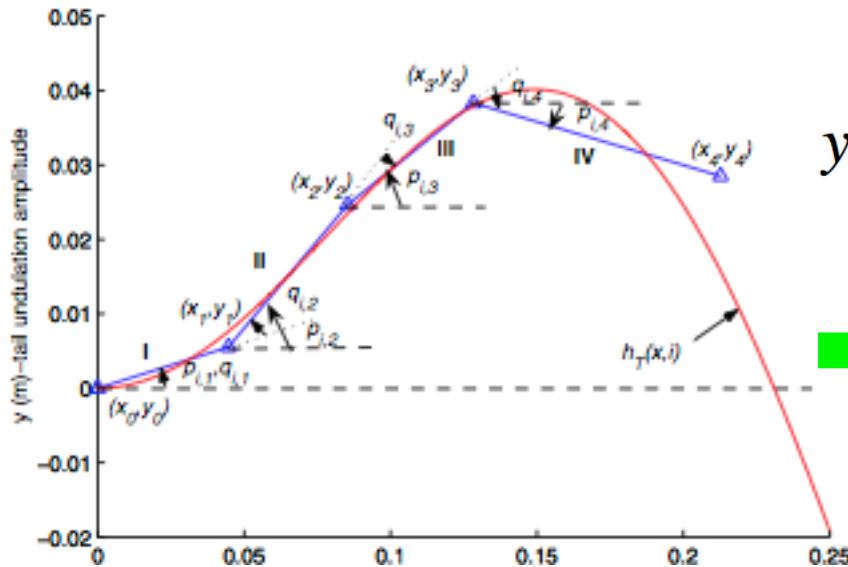
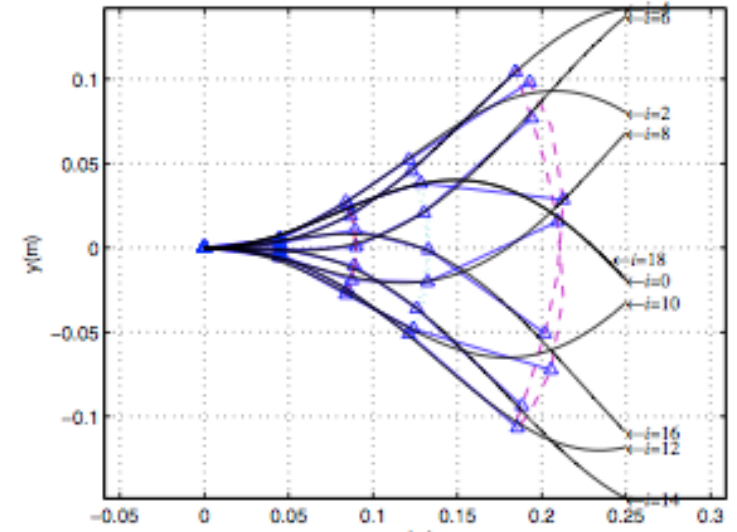
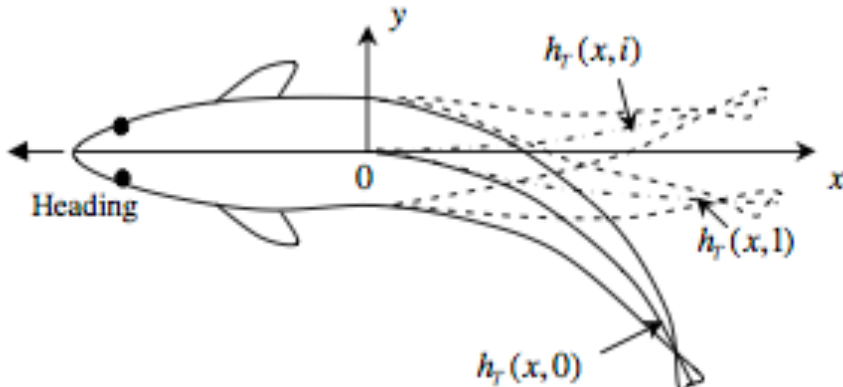


Adapted from C. C. Sfakiotakis et al., 1999

**Diagrams like these, and terms as "CARANGIFORM", "LABRIFORM", etc. are now quite common in robotics papers!**

# Robot fishes: undulatory propulsion

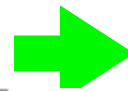
From: J. Liu and H. Hu, 2007



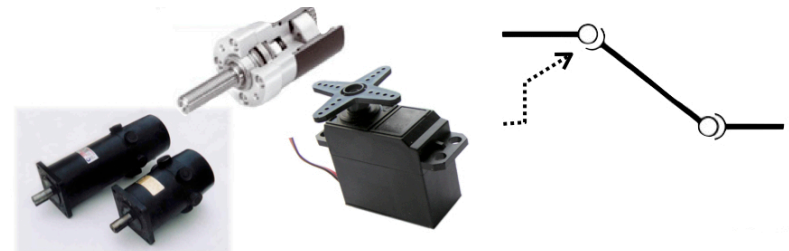
$$y = f_S(x, t) = (c_1x + c_2x^2) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}x + \omega t\right)$$

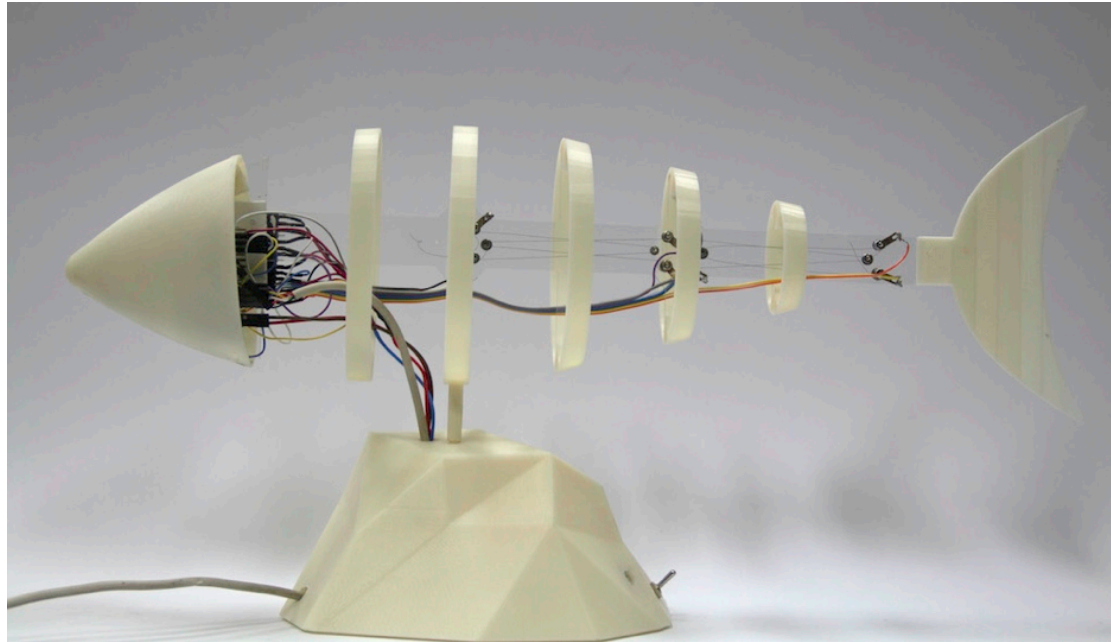
Approximation of  $f_S$  with rigid segments

( $q_j$ =joint position):

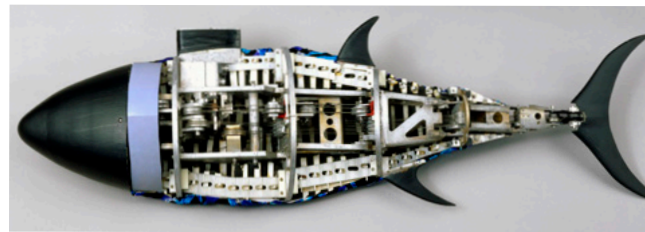


$$q_j(t) = a_j \cdot \sin(\omega t + \phi_j), \quad j = 1..number\ of\ joints$$



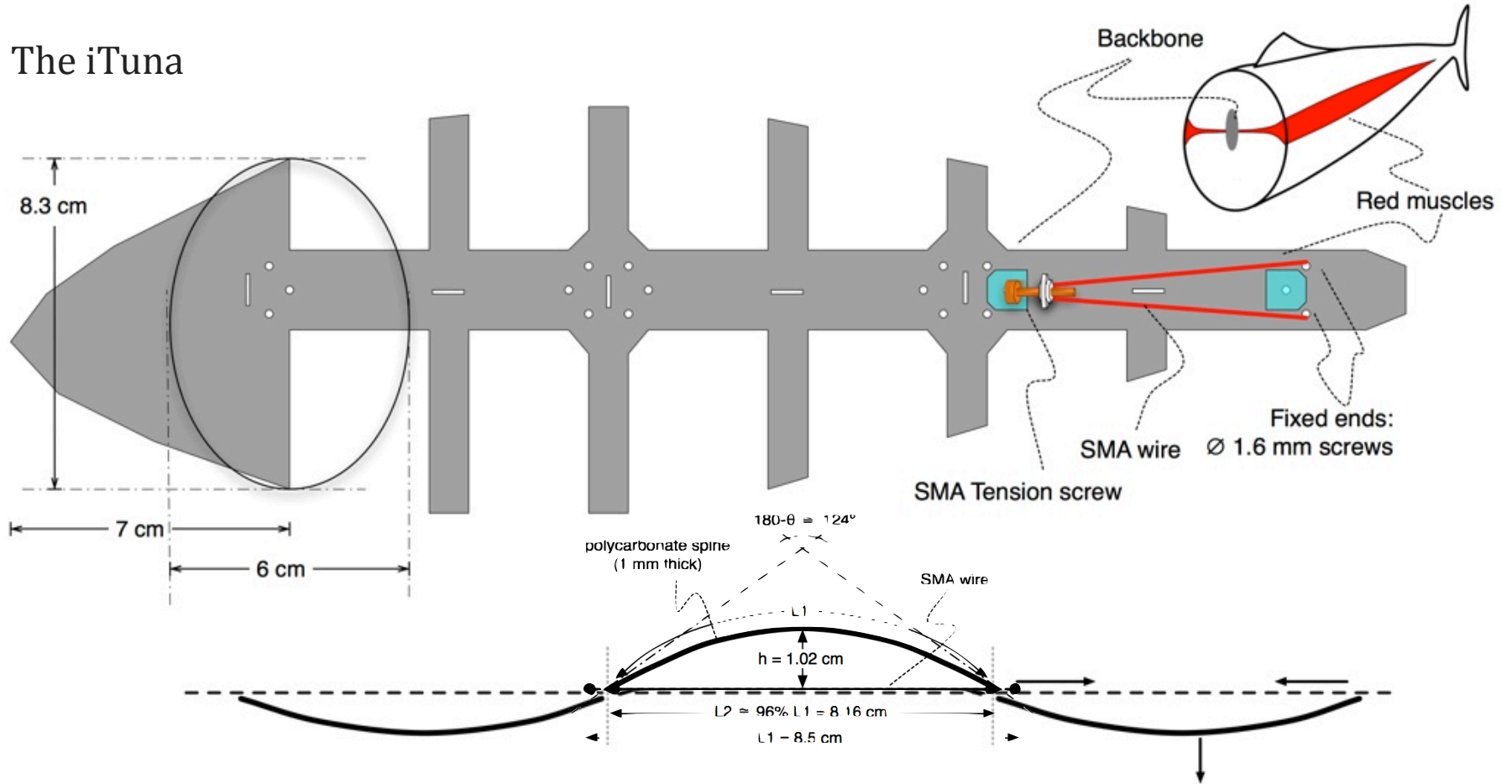


**iTuna**, UPM, 2010: **1** mechanical part, **0** rotating motors (6 Shape Memory Alloys -SMA- linear artificial muscles)



**Robotuna**, MIT, 1994: **2,843** parts controlled by **six** (rotating) motors

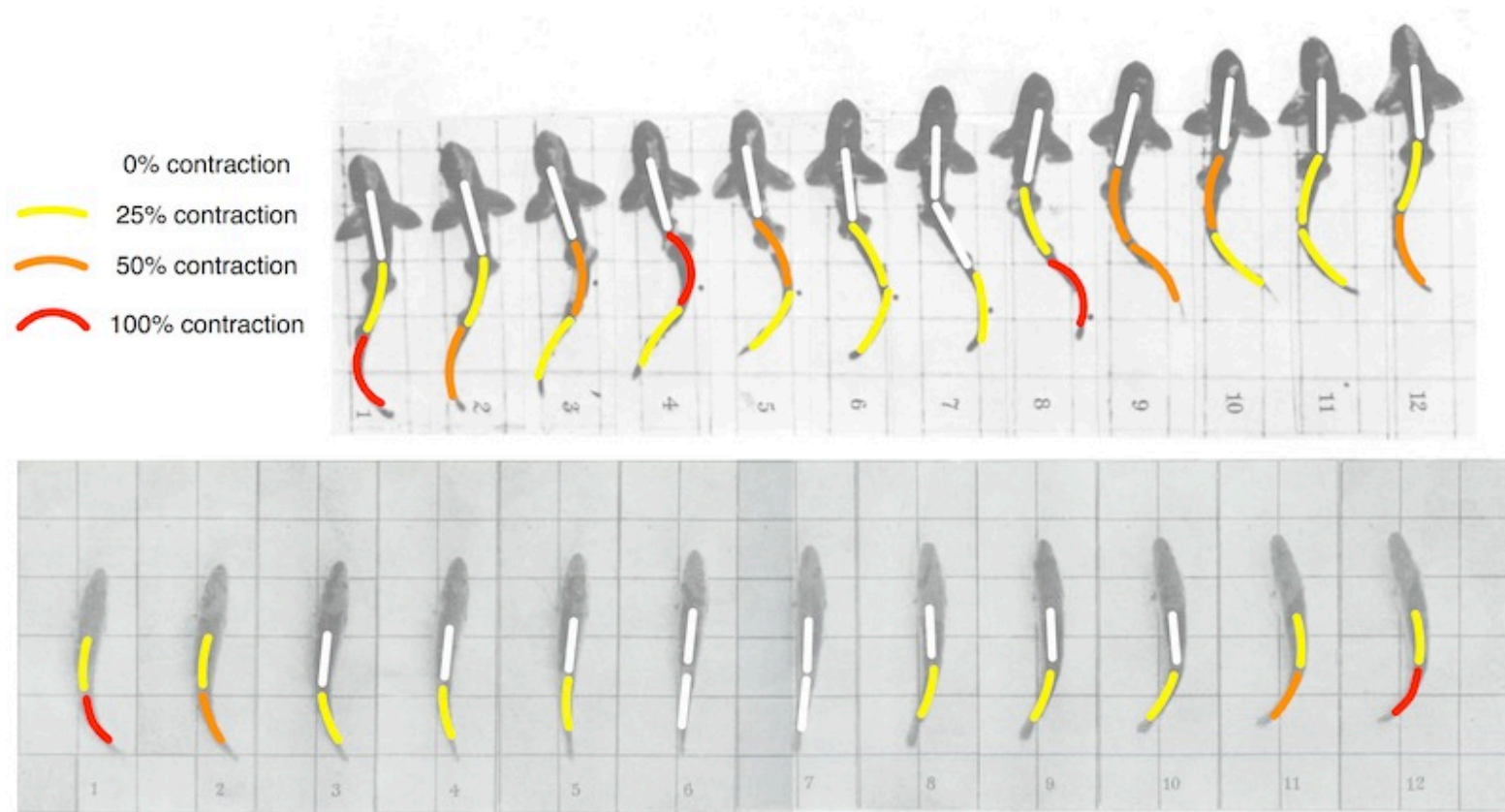
## The iTuna



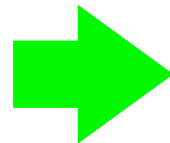
3 segments, length: 30 cm + caudal fin

Elastic polycarbonato notochord (1 mm thick)

## The iTuna

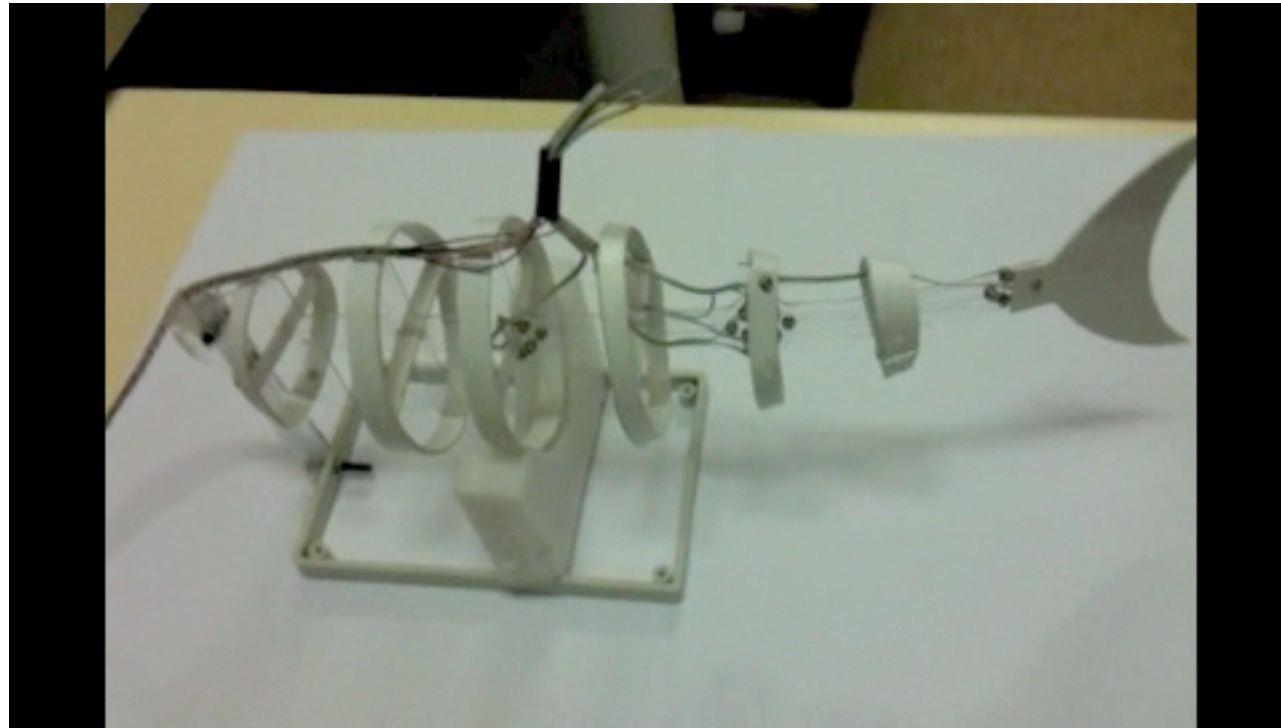


From Rossi et al., 2011 (adapted from Grey, 1933)

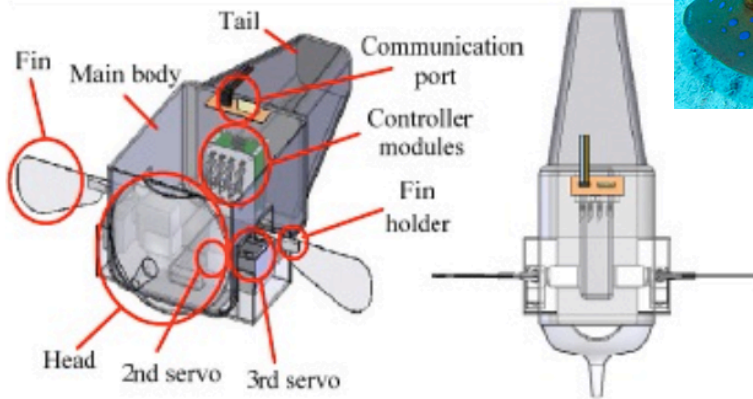


**Main focus on propulsion !**

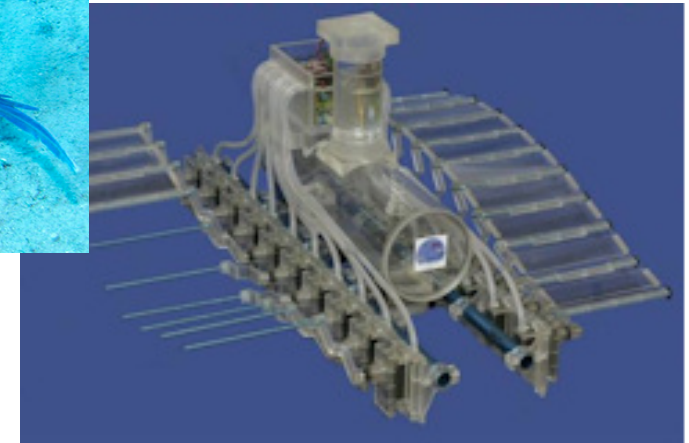
## The iTuna



Budyono, 2009

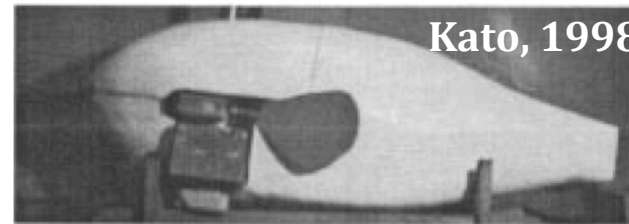
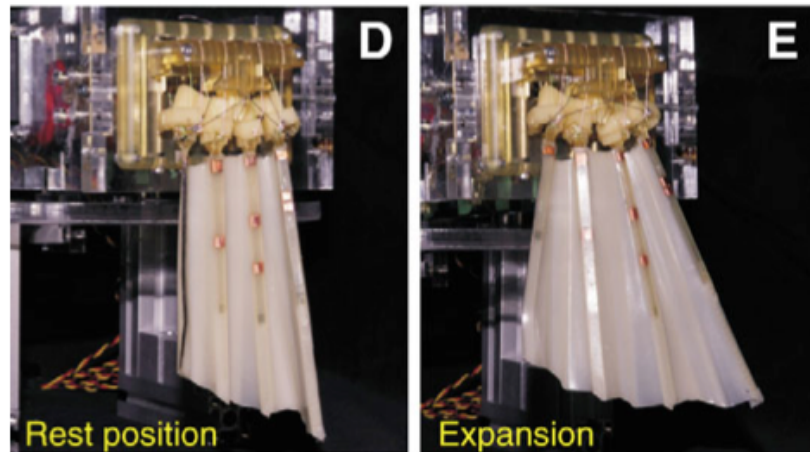


KH Low, 2006



Stingray NCF-I - Nanyang Technological Univ.

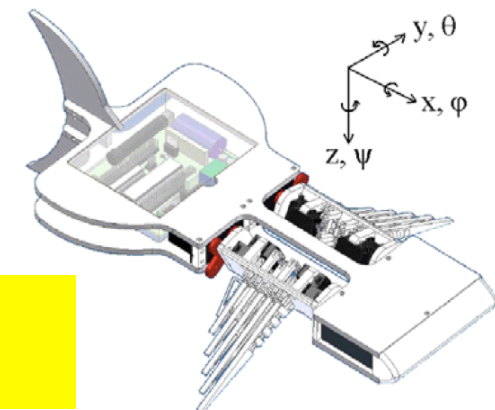
Lauder et al., 2007



Kato, 1998

Geder et al., 2007

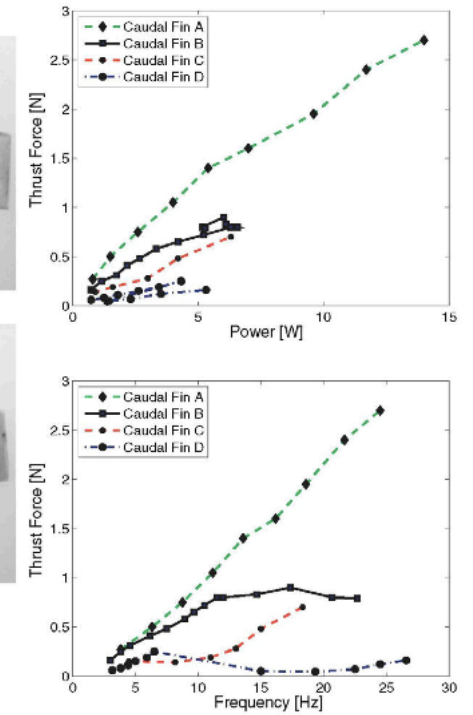
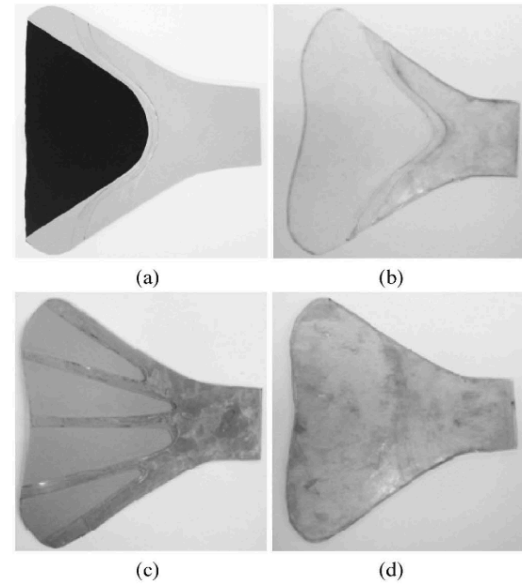
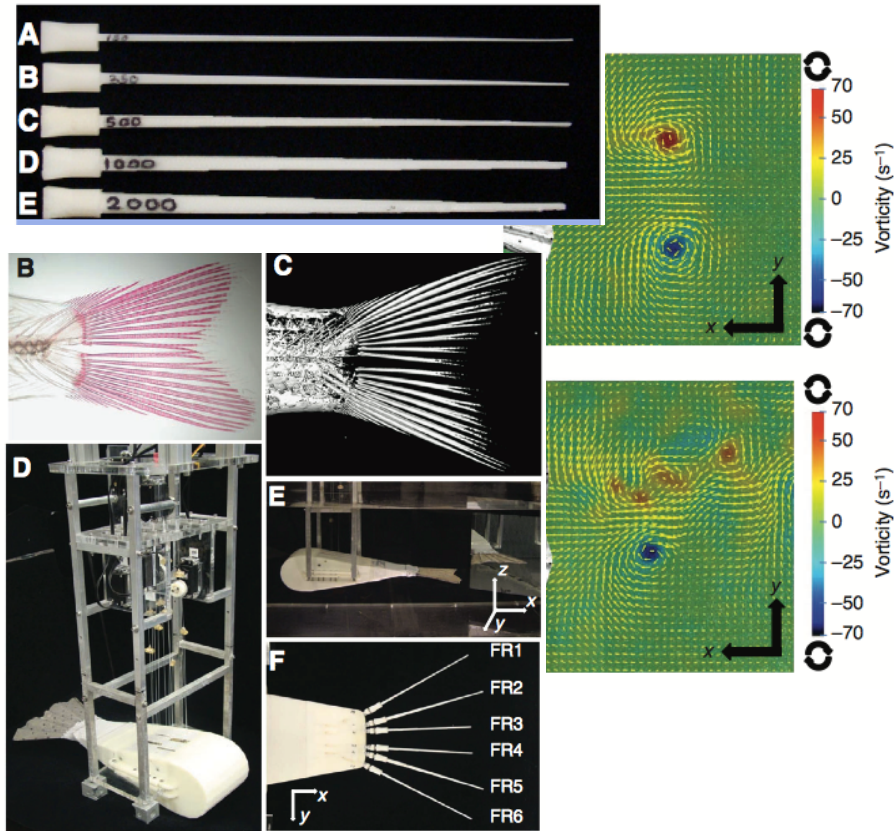
Dr. S. Zhang



**Many others !** (see, e.g., *Fish biorobotics: kinematics and hydrodynamics of self-propulsion*, George V. Lauder et al., 2007)

# Robot fishes: effects of (caudal) fins on propulsion

Robot fishes' escape from flatland, Claudio Rossi, William Coral, 2nd FitFish workshop, Barcelona, October 2013

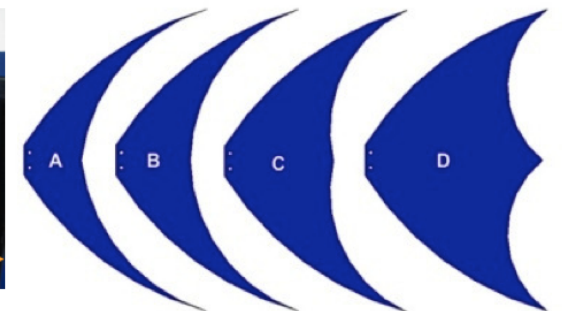
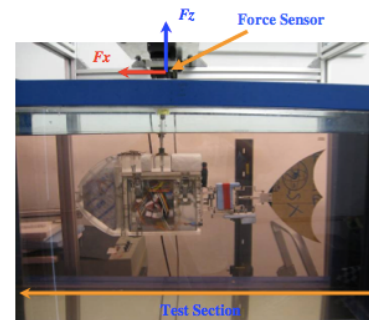


Esposito et al., A robotic fish caudal fin: effects of stiffness and motor program on locomotor performance, 2012

Apalkov et al., Mechanical actuator for biomimetic propulsion and the effect of the caudal fin elasticity on the swimming performance, 2012

**Similar research un other fins, (mainly pectoral fins)**

K.H. Low, 2010





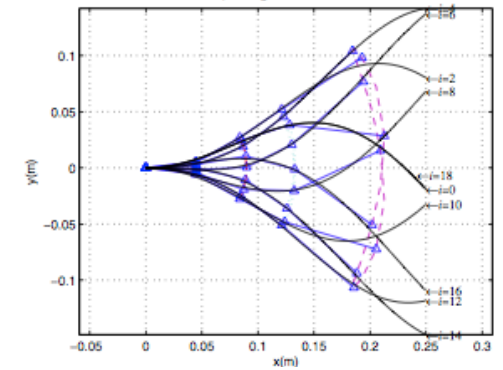
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*Robot fishes' escape from flatland, Claudio Rossi, William Coral, 2nd FitFish workshop, Barcelona, October 2013*

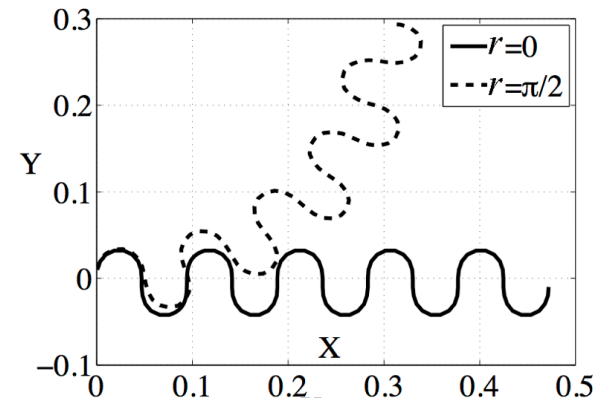
## 2D: Turning

## “In-cruise” turning (undulatory swimming)

$$y = f_S(x, t) = (c_1x + c_2x^2) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}x + \omega t\right)$$



$$y = f_S(x, t) + d(x)$$



Approximation of  $f_S$  with rigid segments  
( $q_j$ =joint position):

$$q_j(t) = a_j \cdot \sin(\omega t + \phi_j) + b_j$$

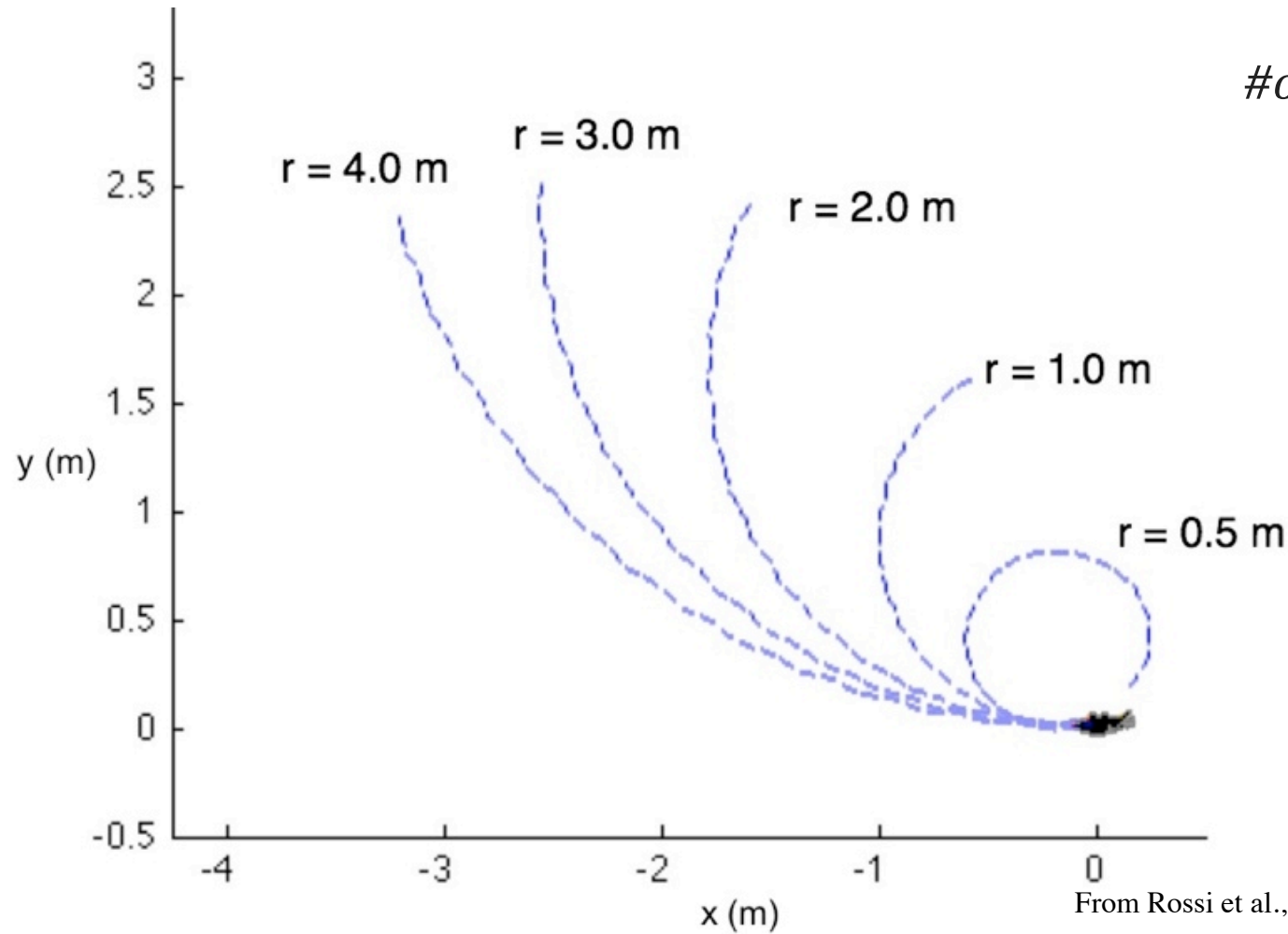
The iTuna

$$q_j(t) = a_j \cdot \sin(\omega t + \phi_j) + b_j$$

Body length

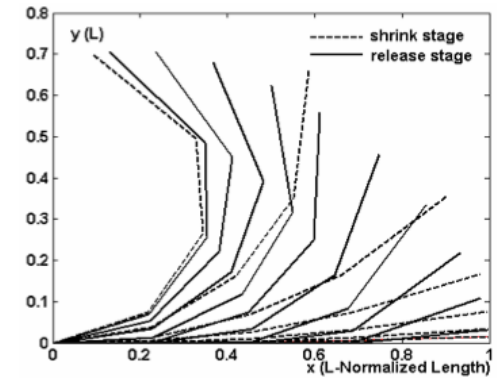
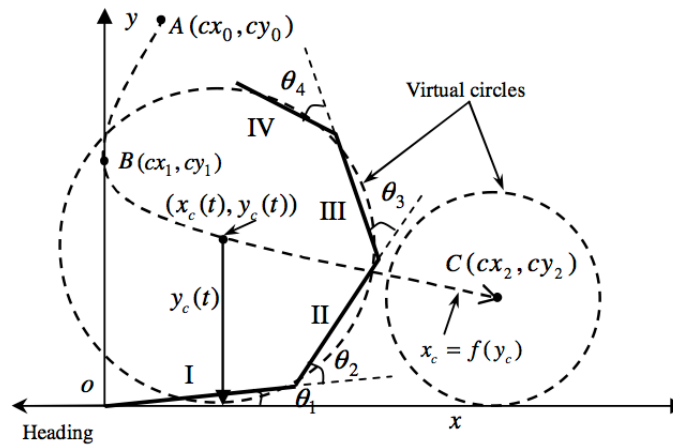
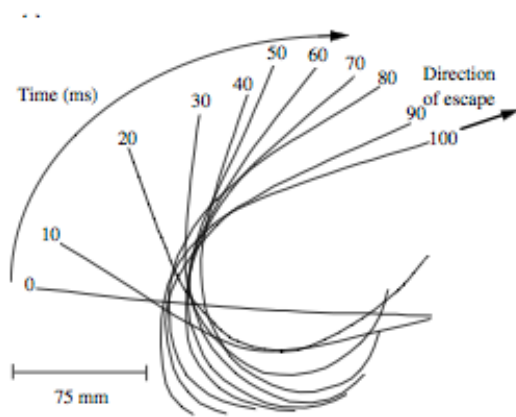
$$b_j = \frac{L}{n \cdot r}$$

#of segments      curve radius

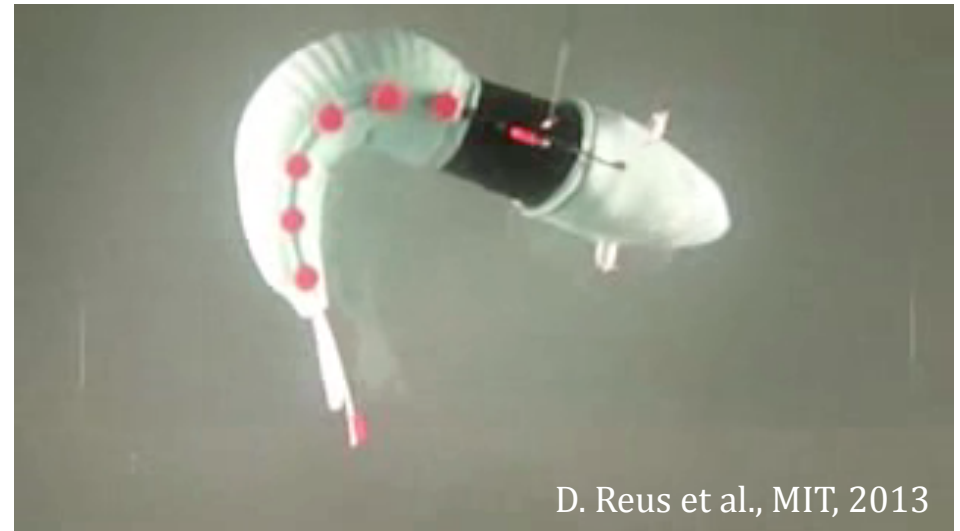


From Rossi et al., 2011

## “Snap” turns or sharp turns/starts



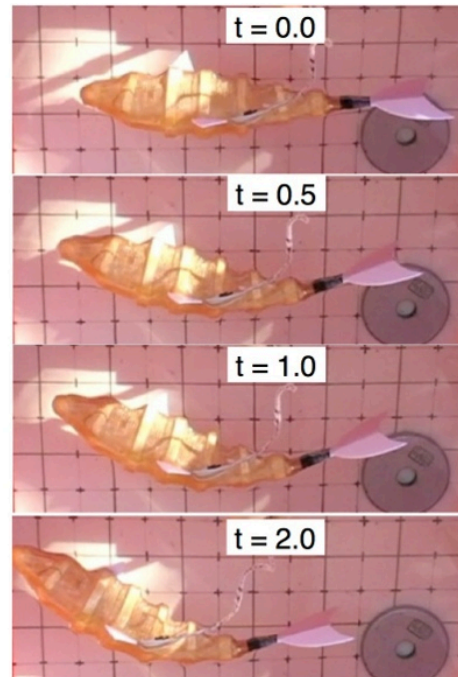
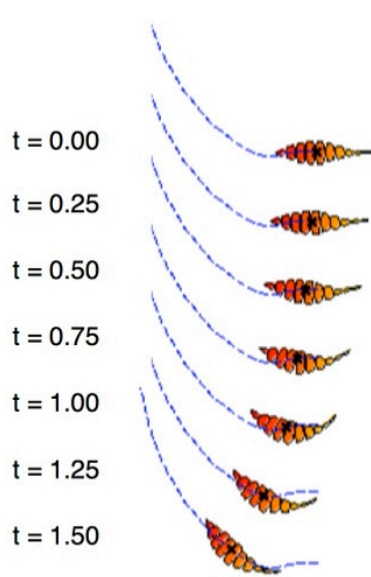
From: J. Liu and H. Hu, 2007



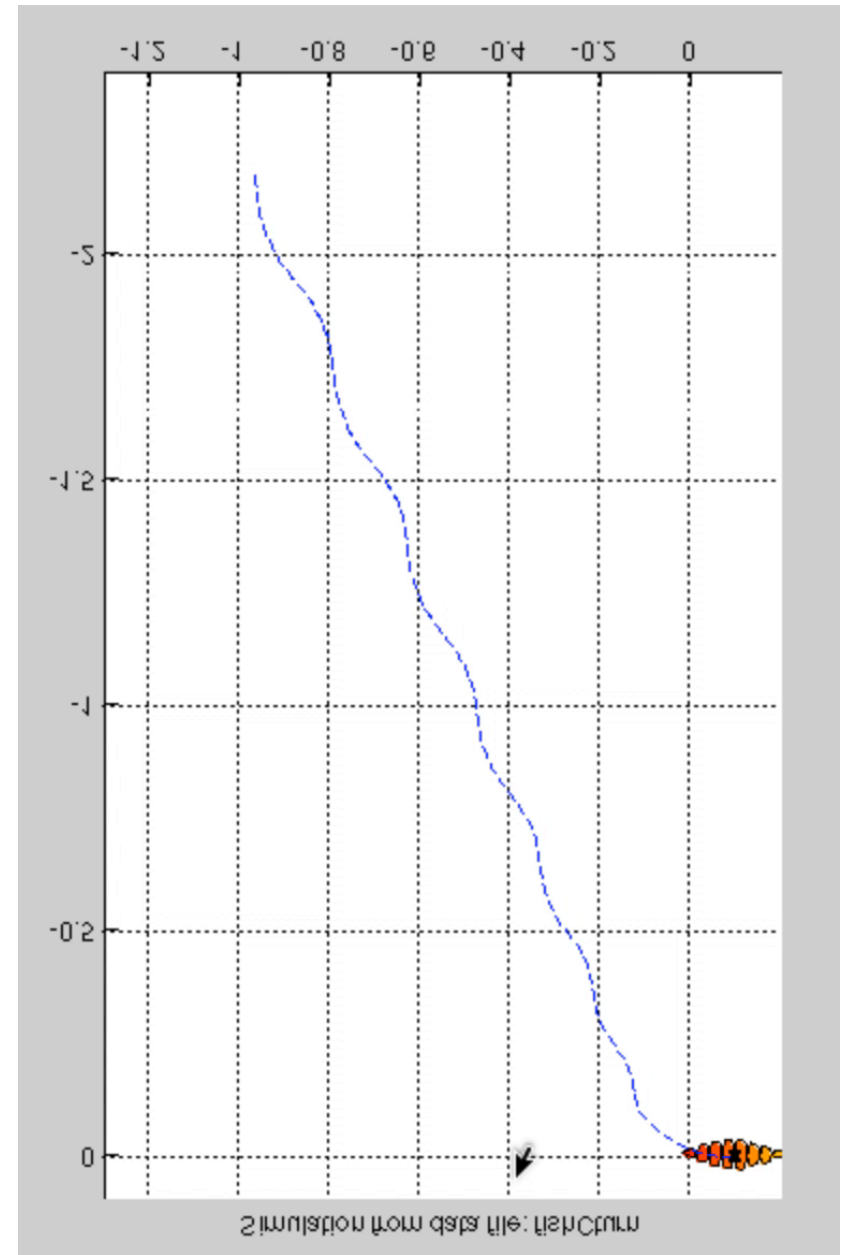
D. Reus et al., MIT, 2013

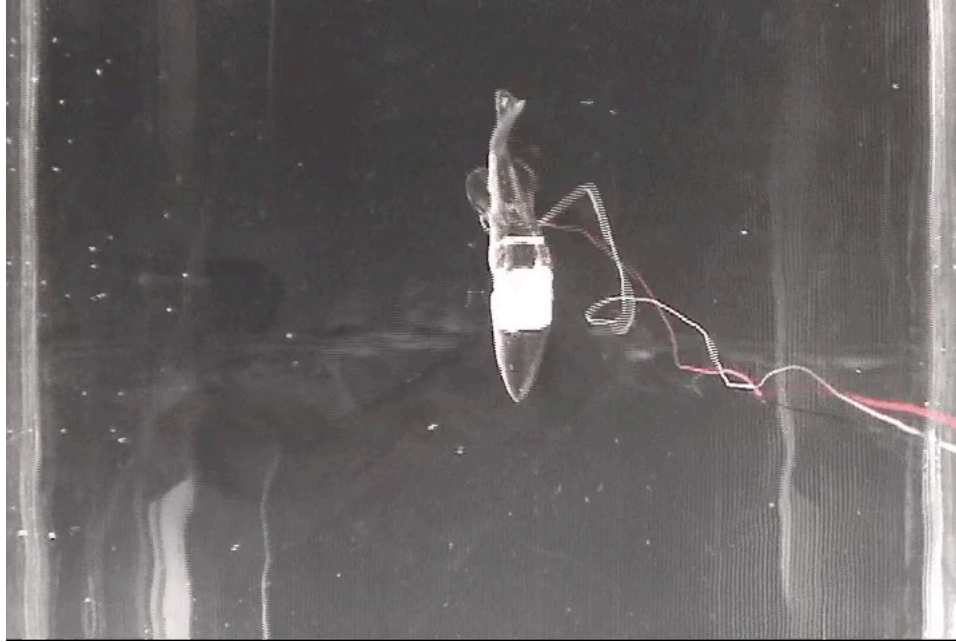
## The iTuna

Simulations performed with the "Biohydrodynamics MATLAB Toolbox" by A. Munnier and B. Pinçon



From Rossi et al., 2011



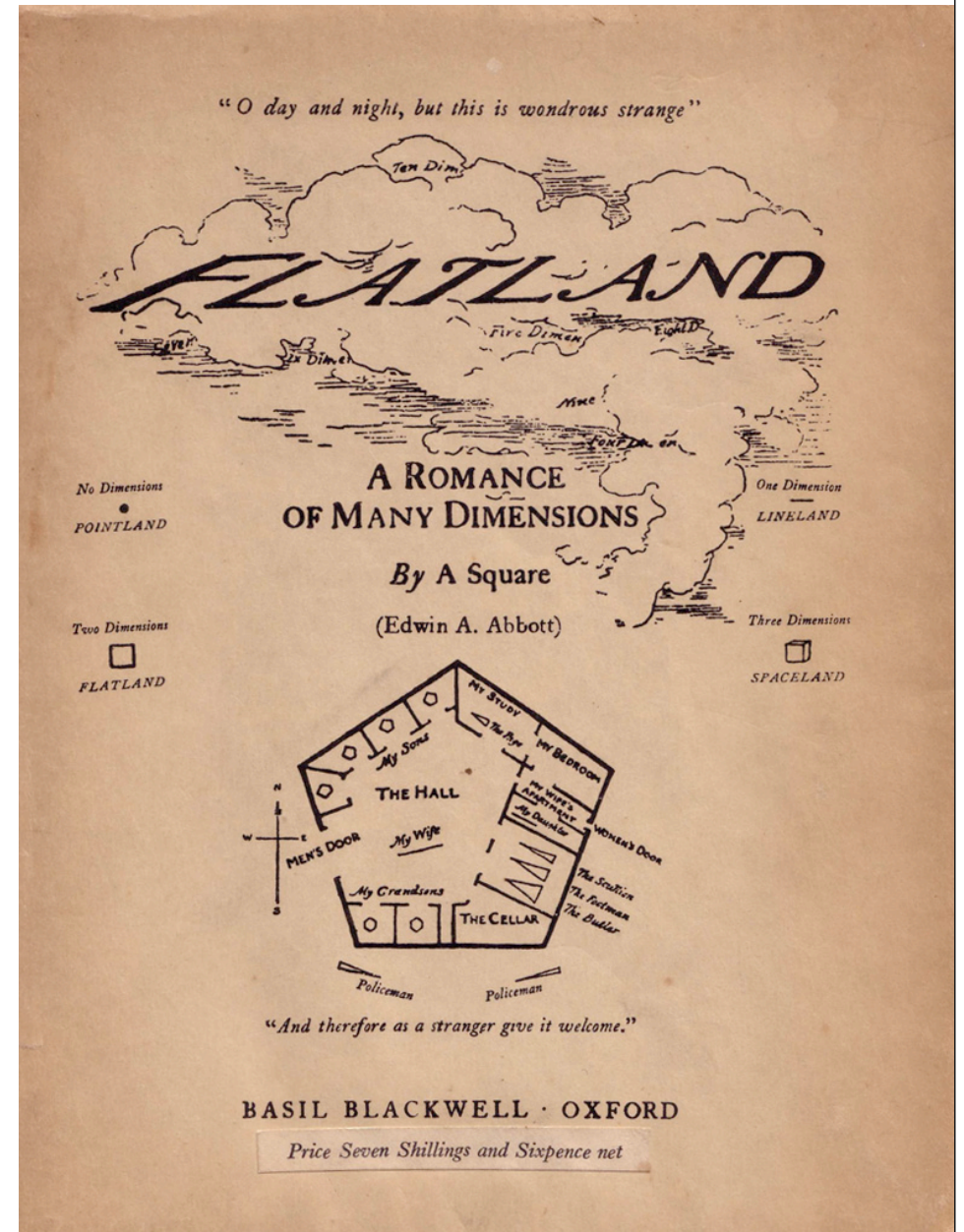


Videos of robot fishes living in Flatland

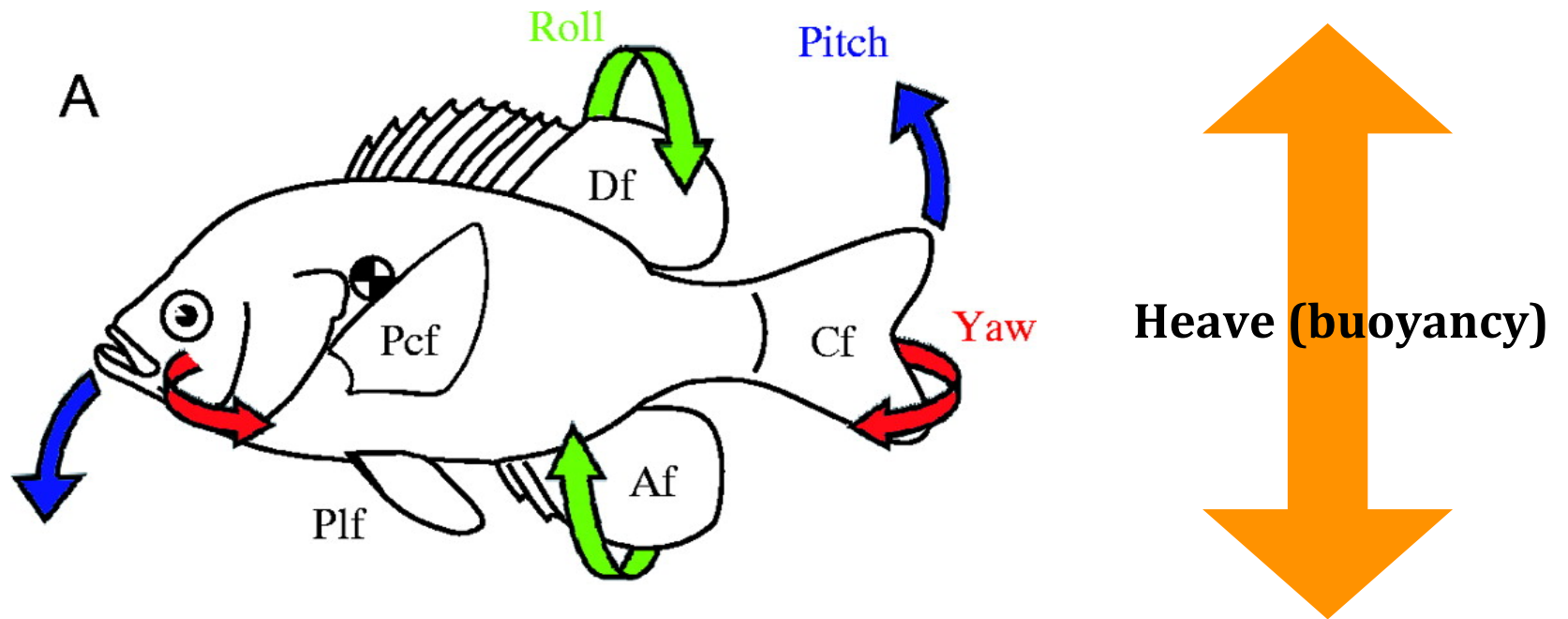




# 3D: Escaping from flatland

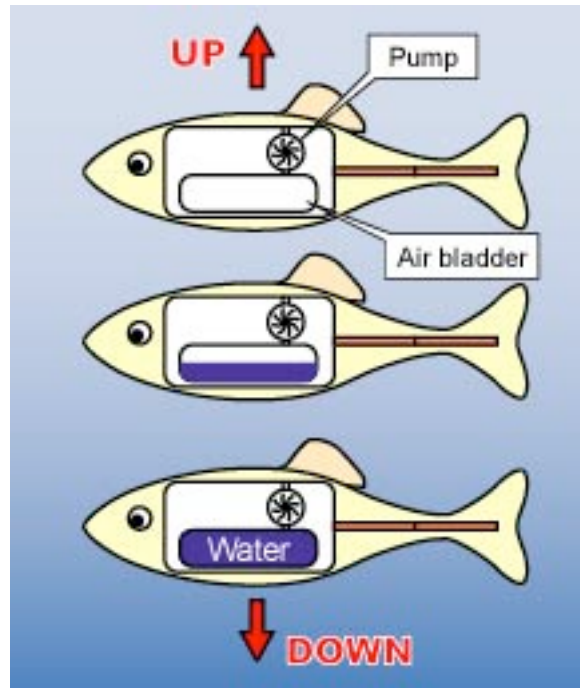


## Terminology

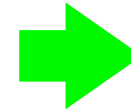


*Image from Standen and Lauder, 2005*

### Heave (buoyancy): changing body's density



- Water pumping

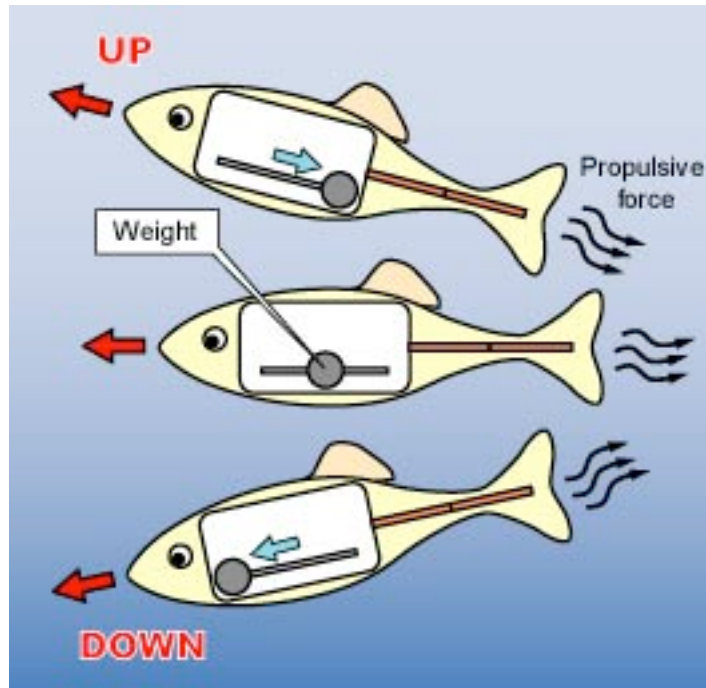


- Compressed air tanks

- Changing density of a given material (e.g., oil) by heating/cooling

Drawings from: Up-down Motion for a Fish Robot, 2001, by Koichi Hirata, <http://www.nmri.go.jp/eng/khirata/fish/>

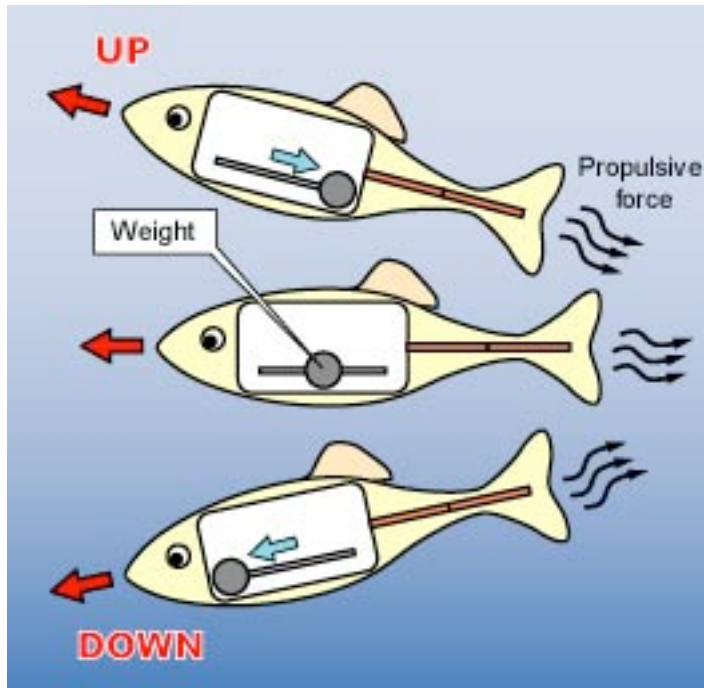
## Moving ballast



<<A weight block inside of the fish head can be moved forward and backward linearly by a DC motor so that the COG of the robotic fish is altered>>

*(Design of 3D Swim Patterns for Autonomous Robotic Fish, Huosheng Hu, 2006)*

## Moving ballast

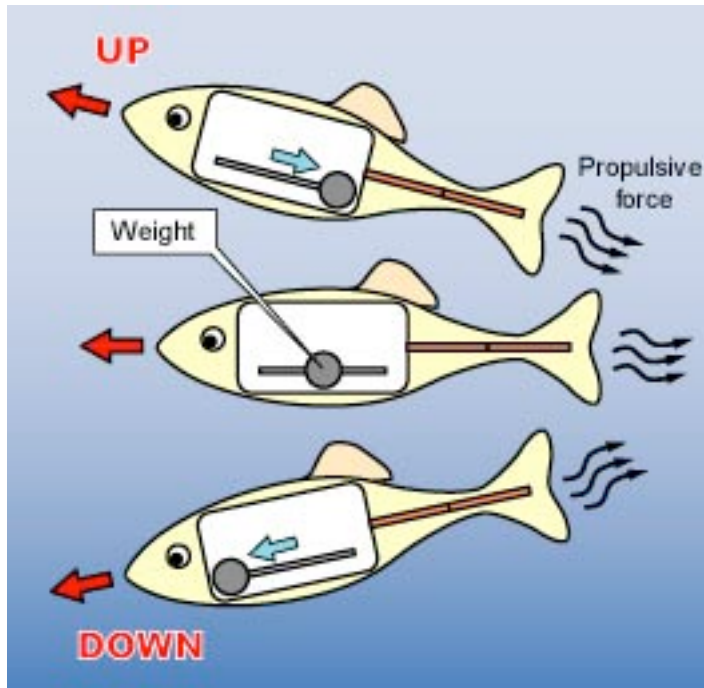


Hu, 2006



Magnetic fish, SH Kim,  
Tohoku University, 2012

## Moving ballast



Jessiko robot fish,  
by Robotswim



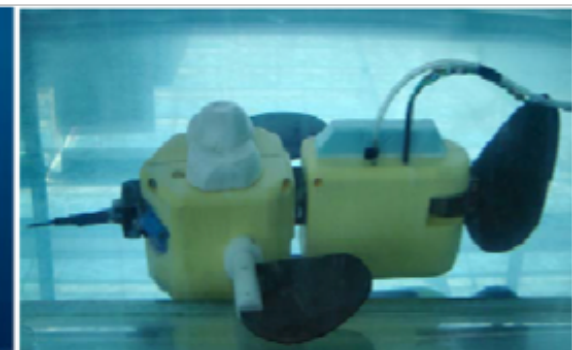
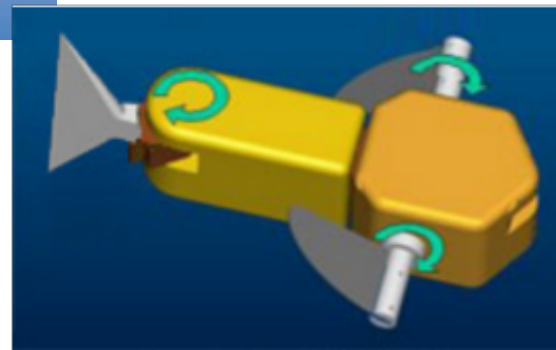
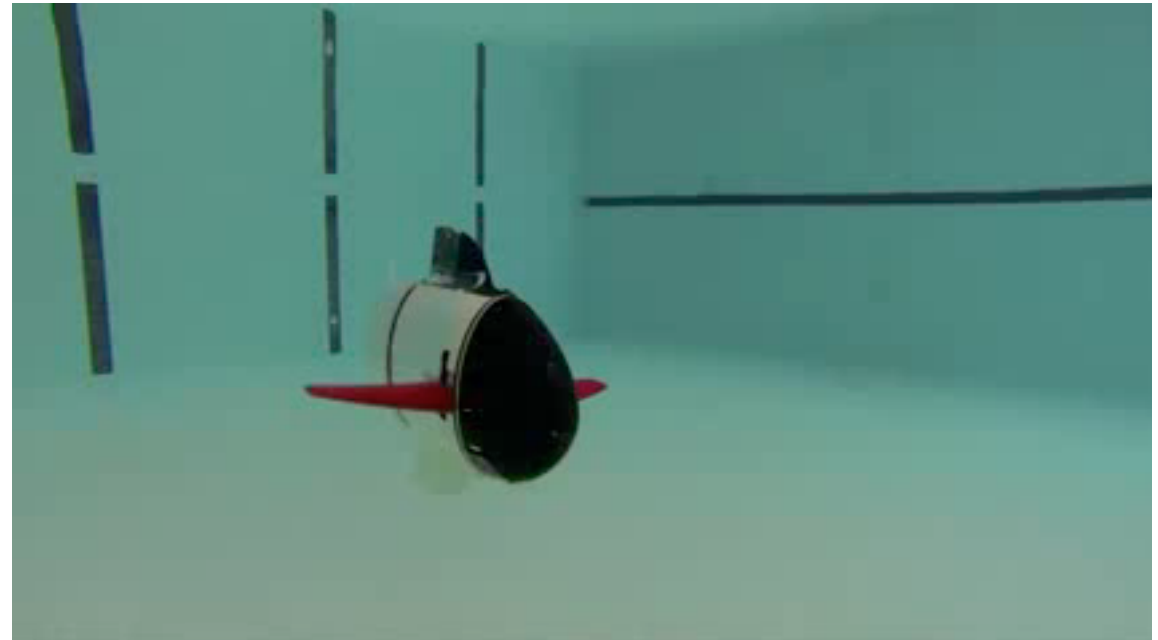
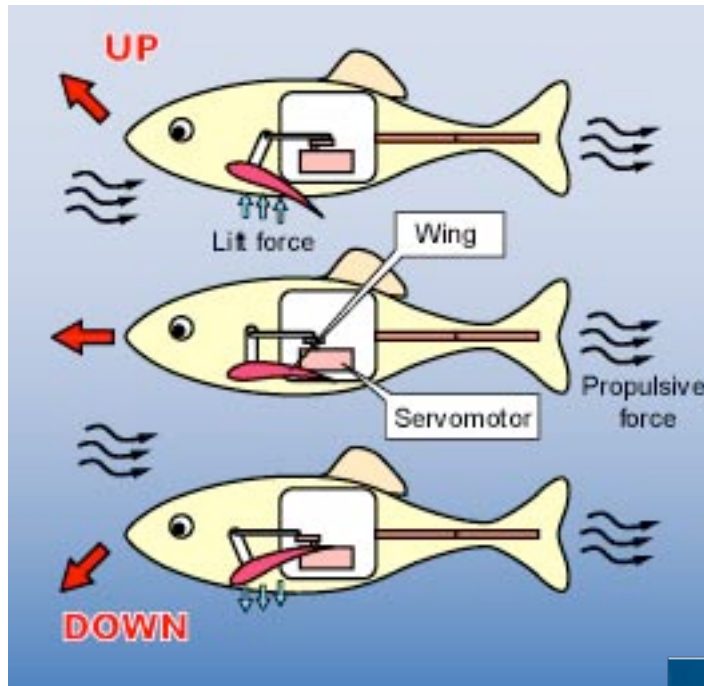
South Korea EXPO, 2012



Jessiko robotic fish in the exhibition at YEOSEU 2013

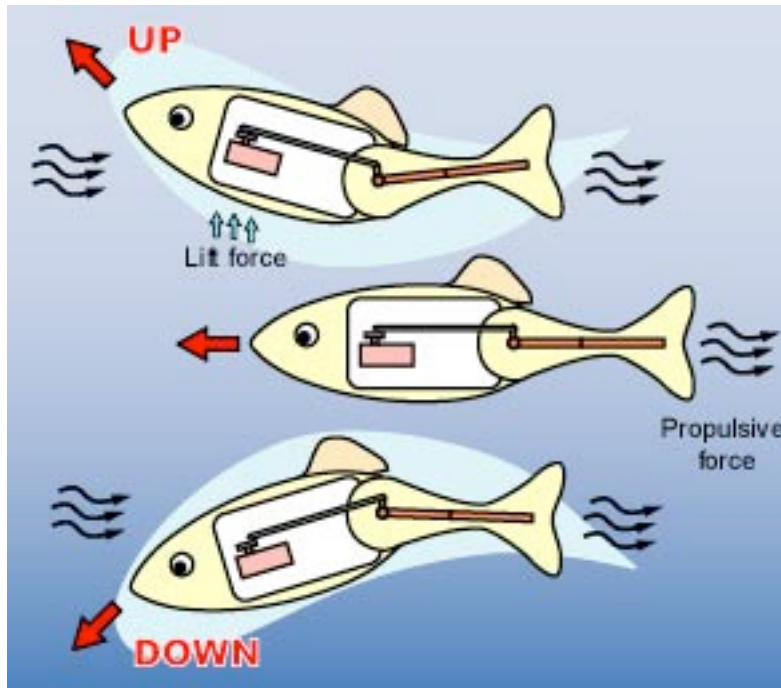
## (Rigid) Rudders

MIT Distrib. Robotics Lab



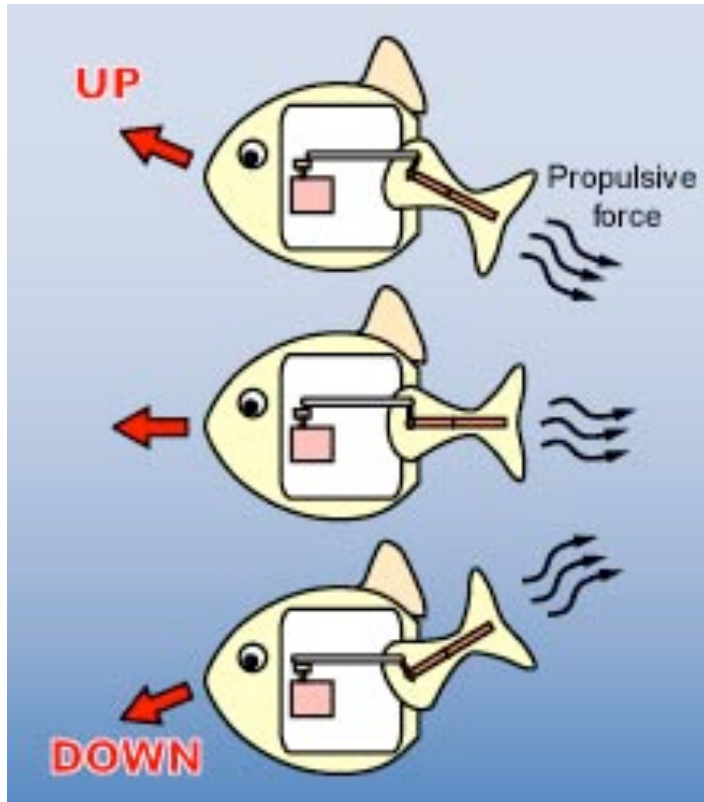
Boxybot (from boxfish), Daisy Lachat, BIRG - EPFL, Swiss

## Twisting body



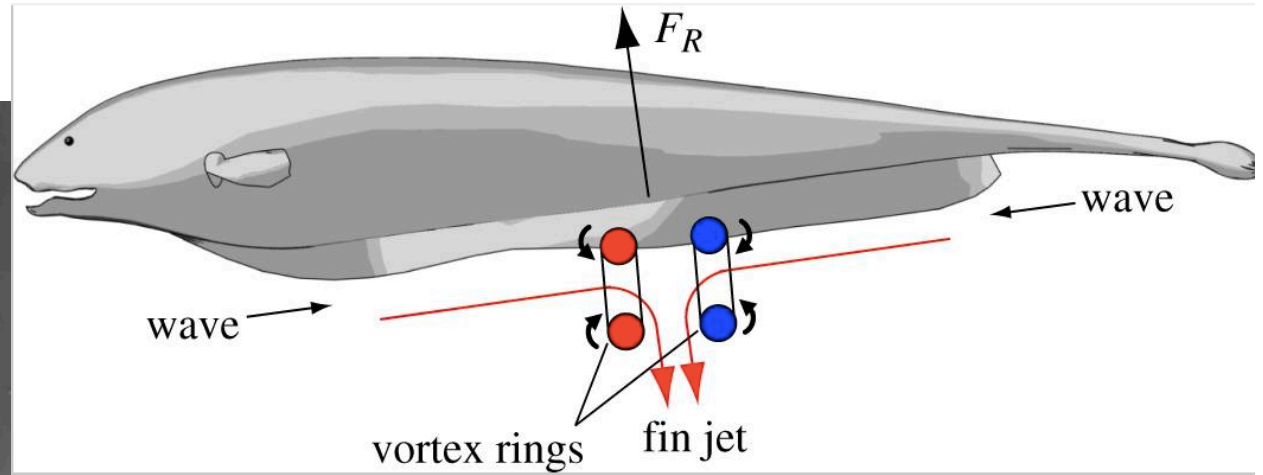
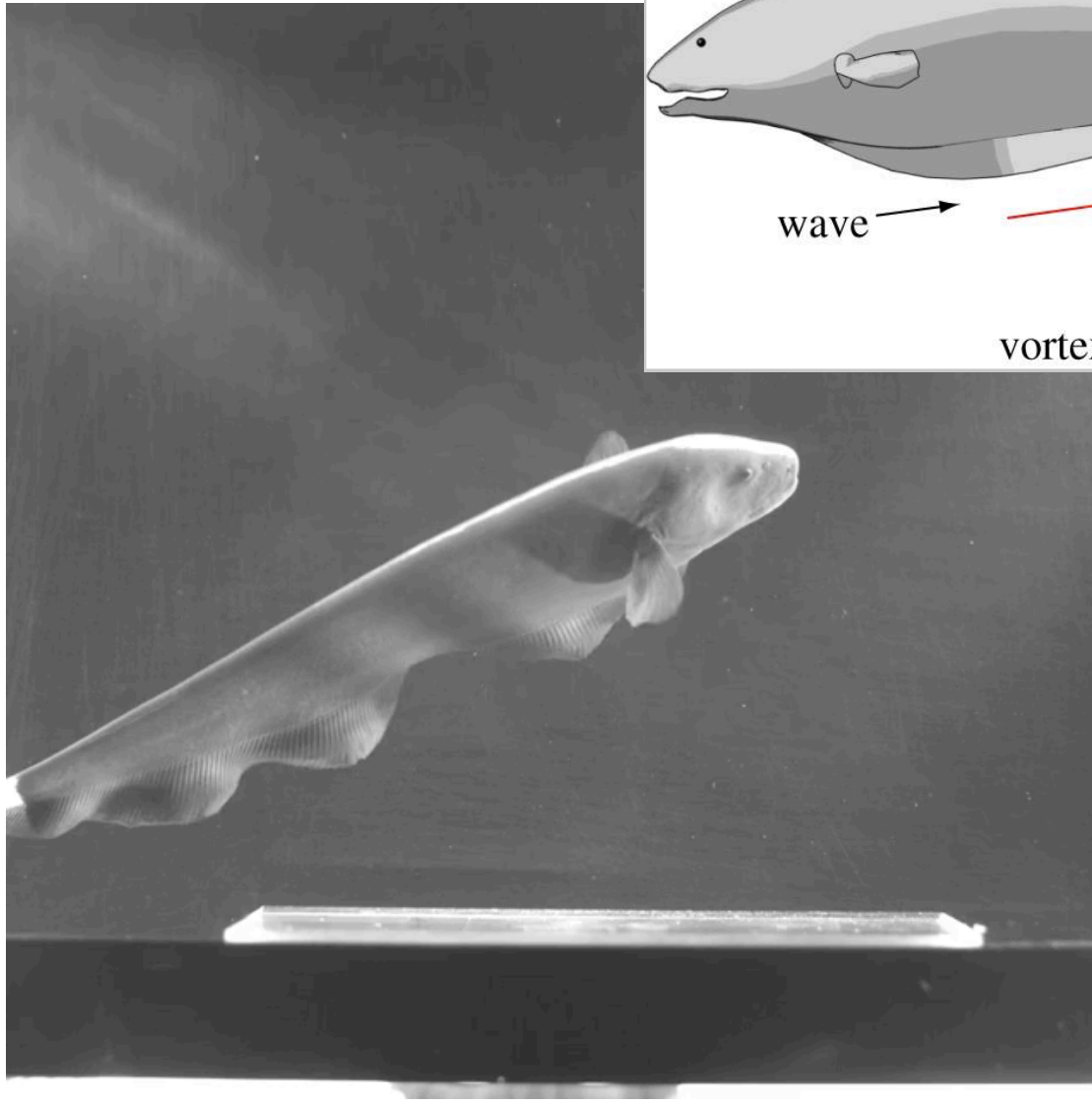
No prototype found

## Bending caudal fin



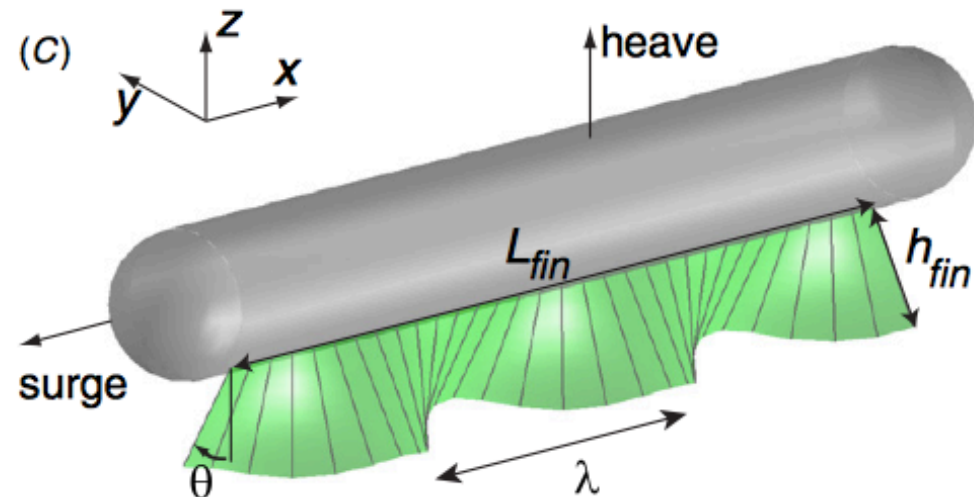
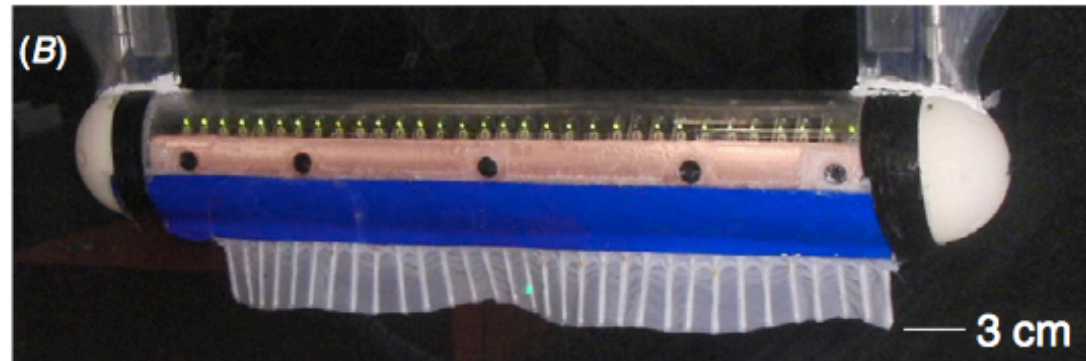
No prototype found

## Knifefish



From: Aquatic manoeuvring with counter-propagating waves: a novel locomotive strategy, Oscar M. Curet et al., 2010

From: Mechanical properties of a bio-inspired robotic knife fish with an undulatory propulsor, Curet et al., 2011

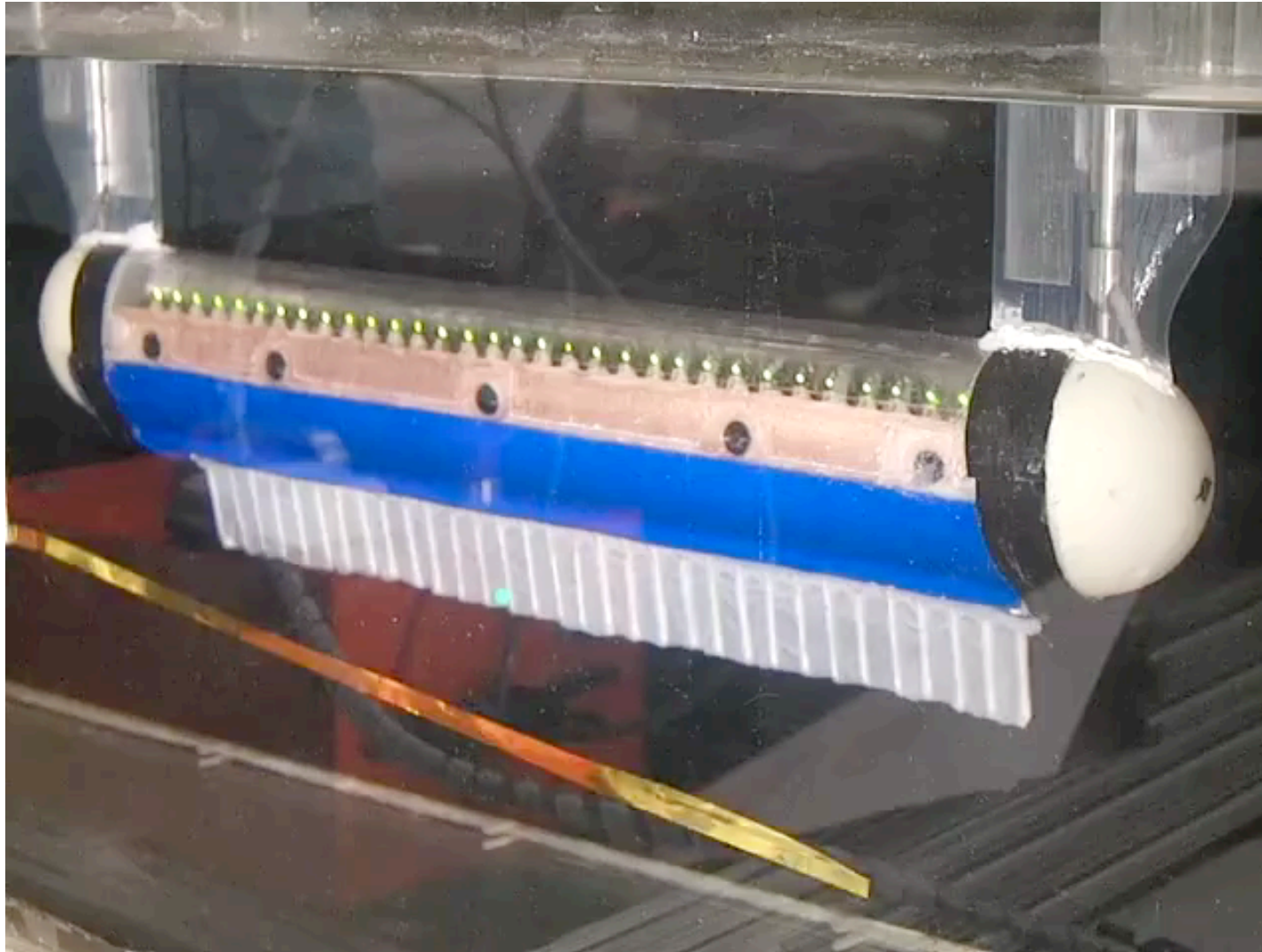




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## Escaping from flatland

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*Robot fishes' escape from flatland, Claudio Rossi, William Coral, 2nd FitFish workshop, Barcelona, October 2013*



From: Mechanical properties of a bio-inspired robotic knifefish with an undulatory propulsor, Curet et al., 2011



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**Our research  
line** | bio-inspired  
systems lab

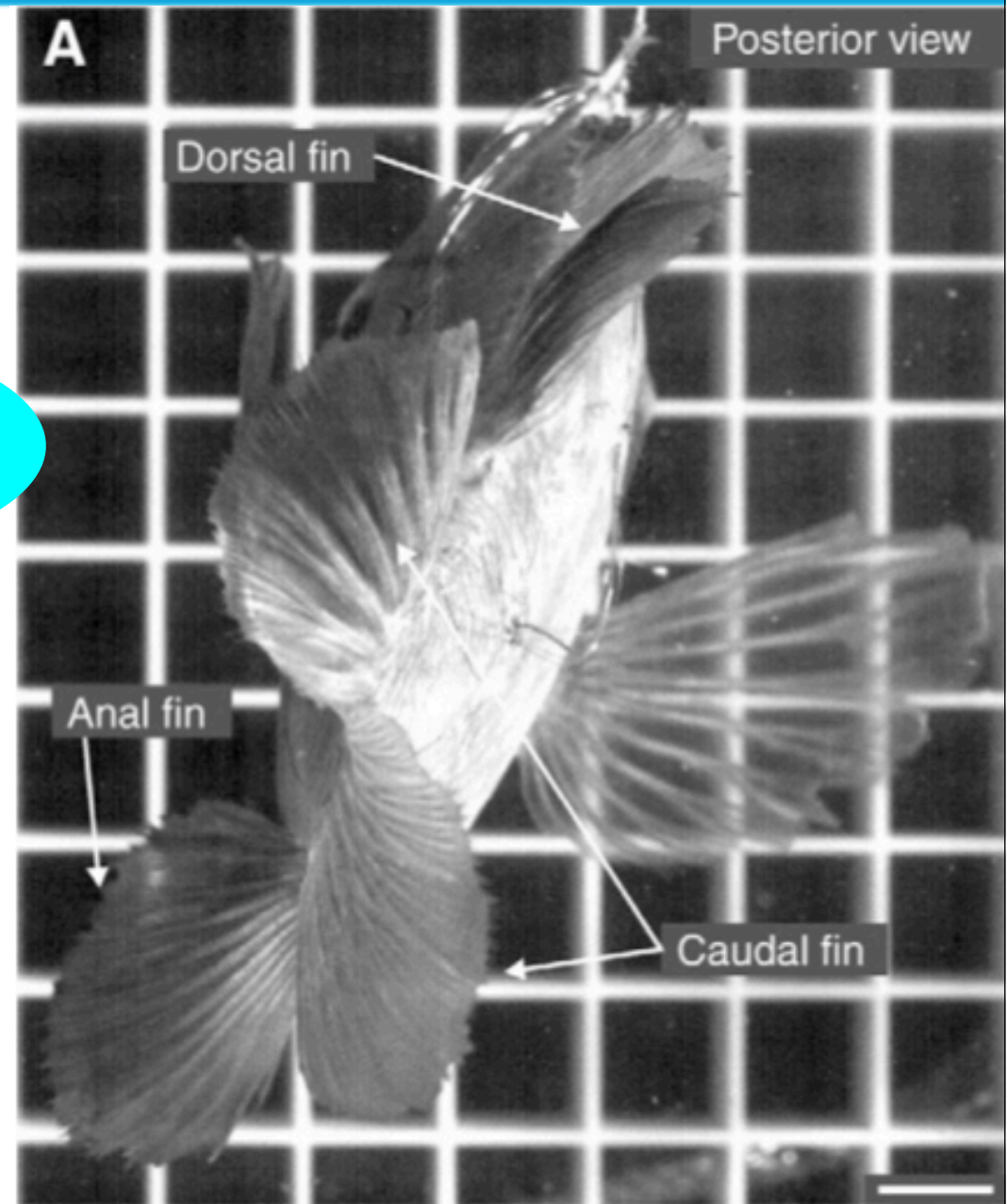
# Fin-based maneuvering: a reductionist approach

# Fin-based maneuvering: a reductionist approach

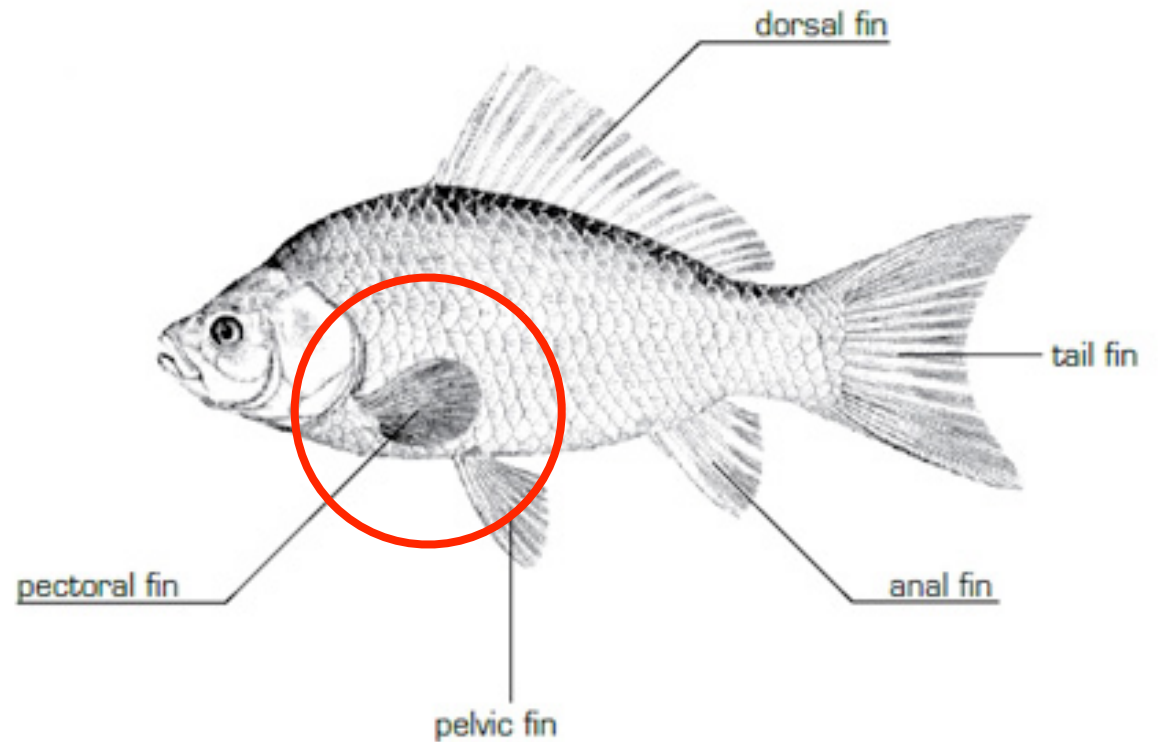
*The title of this talk was subconsciously inspired by the title of this paper...*

Image from ***“Escaping Flatland: three-dimensional kinematics and hydrodynamics of median fins in fishes”***, Eric D. Tytell, Emily M. Standen and George V. Lauder, 2008

(breaking configuration of a bluegill sunfish)



## (1) Pitch control using pectoral fins



*Image from [ptbestaribiology.blogspot.com.es](http://ptbestaribiology.blogspot.com.es)*

## Pitching: pectoral fins

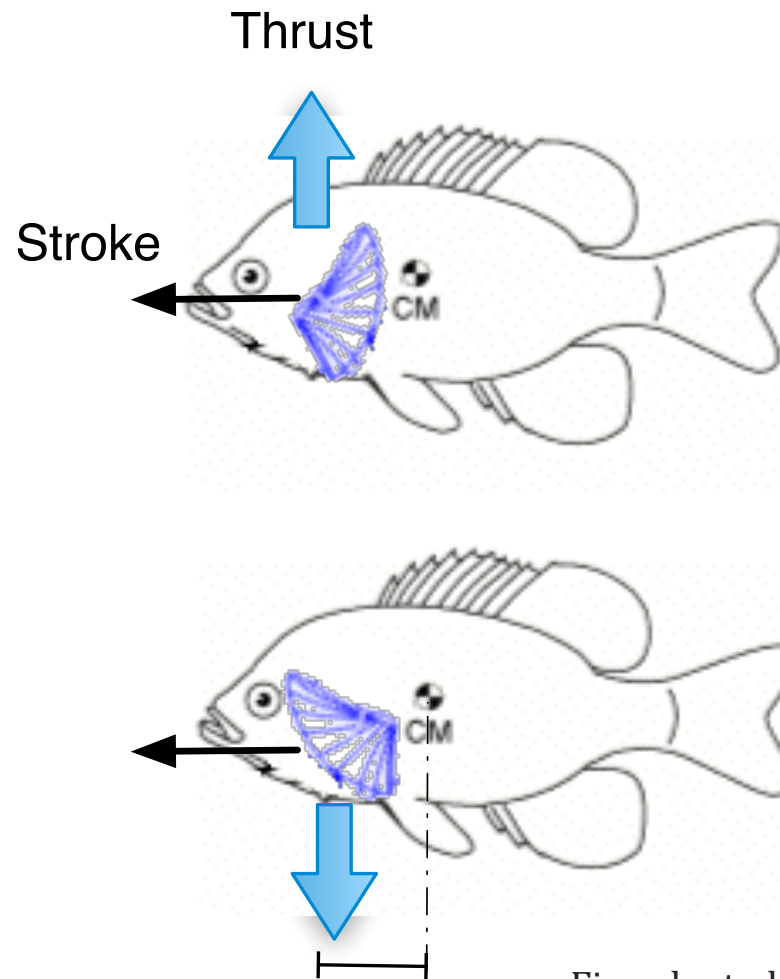


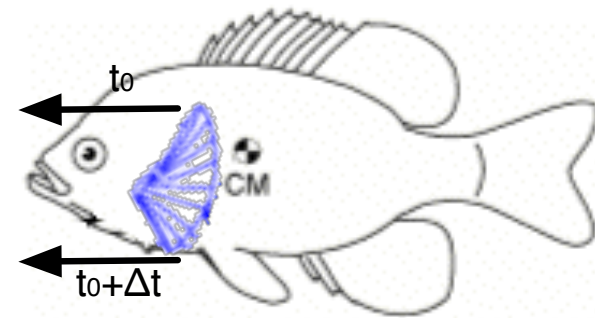
Fig. adapted from Drucker and Lauder, 2002

## Pitching: pectoral fins

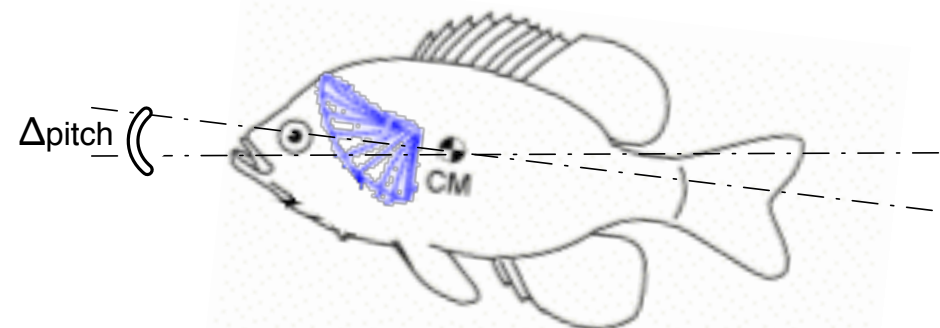
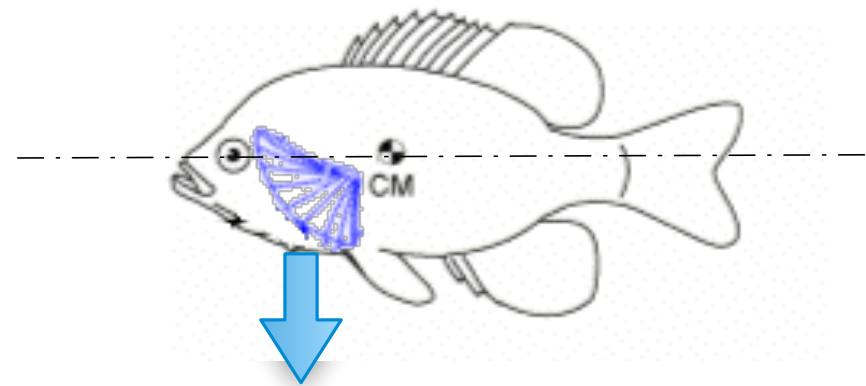
$$\Delta pitch = f(\Delta t, v, \Delta x)$$

$f = ?$  (control)

$$\Delta pitch = p \Rightarrow \Delta t, v, \Delta x, n = ?$$



$t_0 + \Delta t$



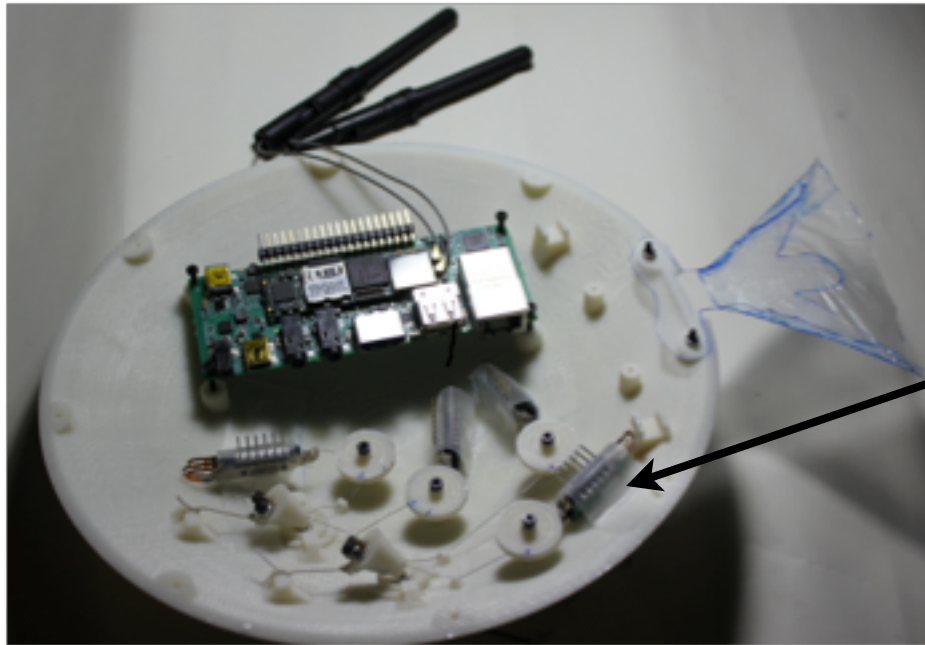
## Heniochus acuminatus

AKA

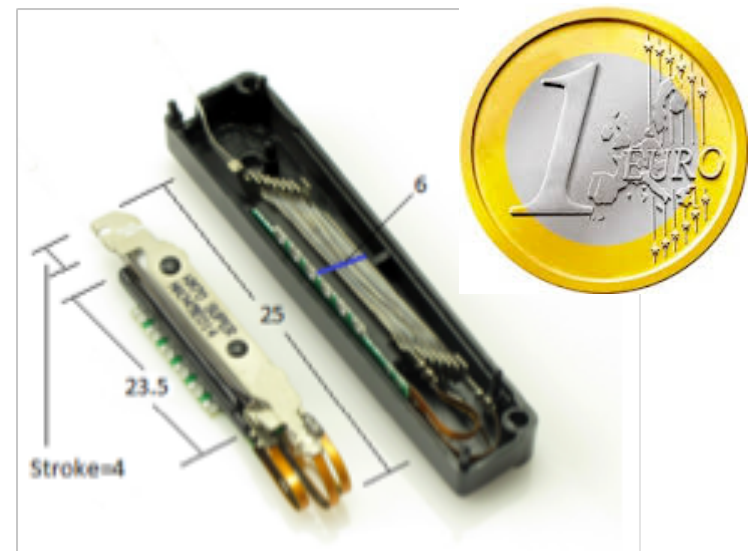
- Longfin bannerfish
- Butterflyfish
- Pennant corafish

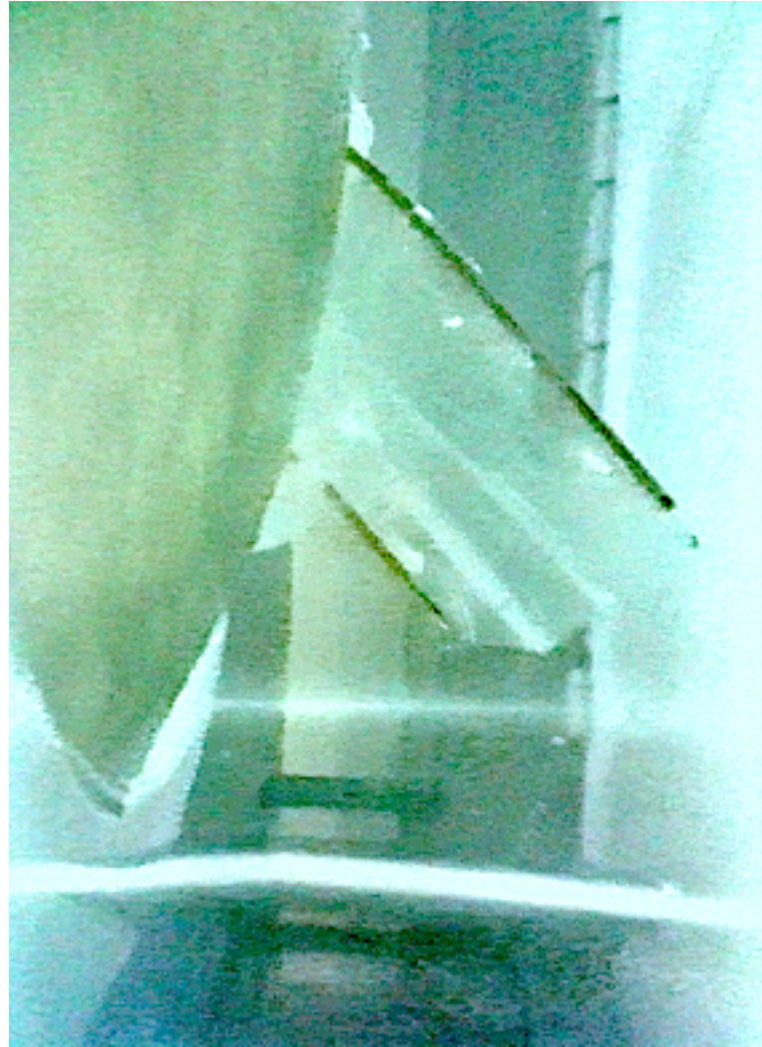
<http://www.fishbase.org>

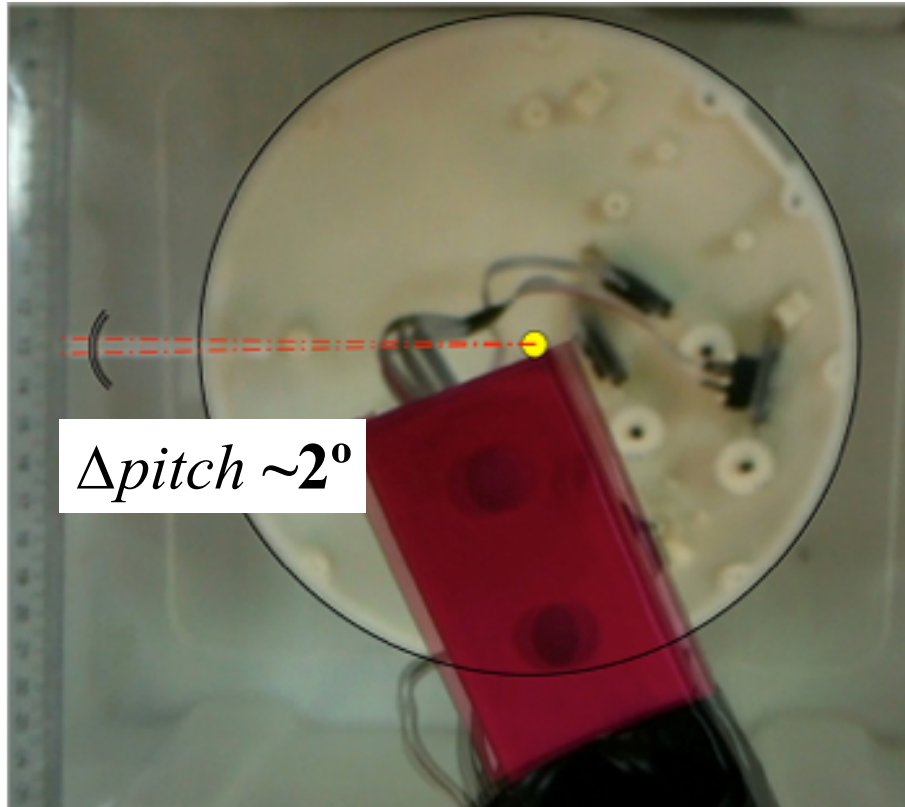




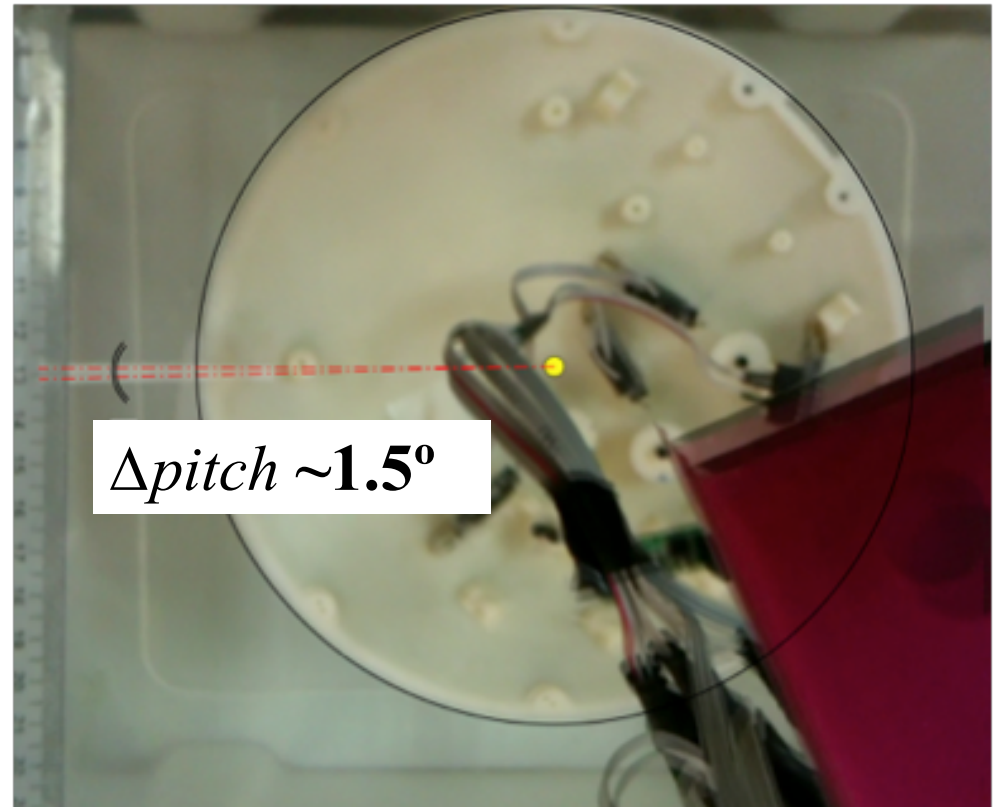
4 SMA-based artificial muscles (NM-706)





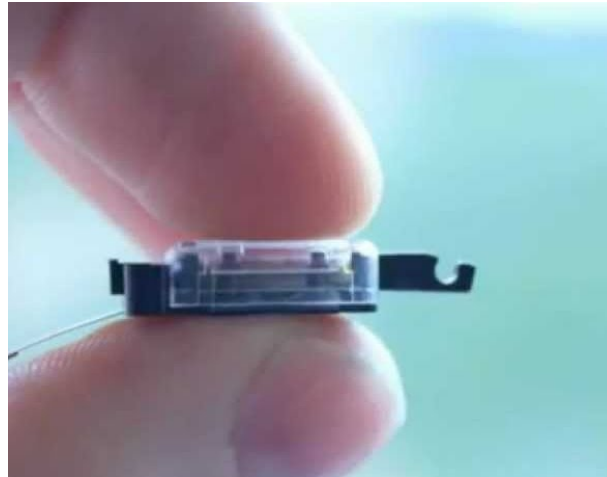


$\Delta t_1$

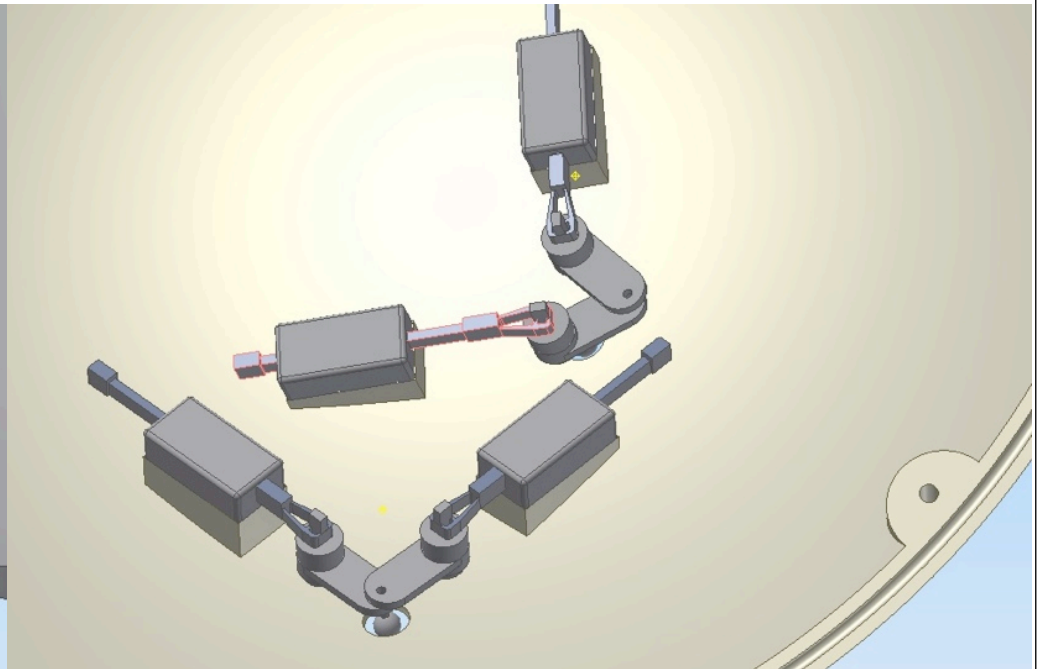
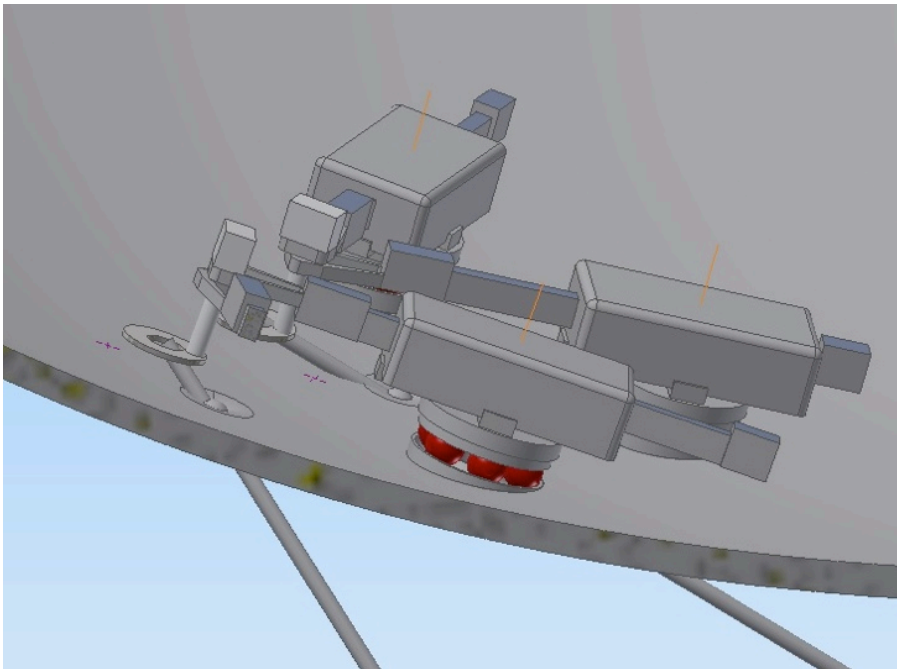


$\Delta t_2$

## Current work



Piezowave, by  
PiezoMotors



## Roll control: actuated caudal fin

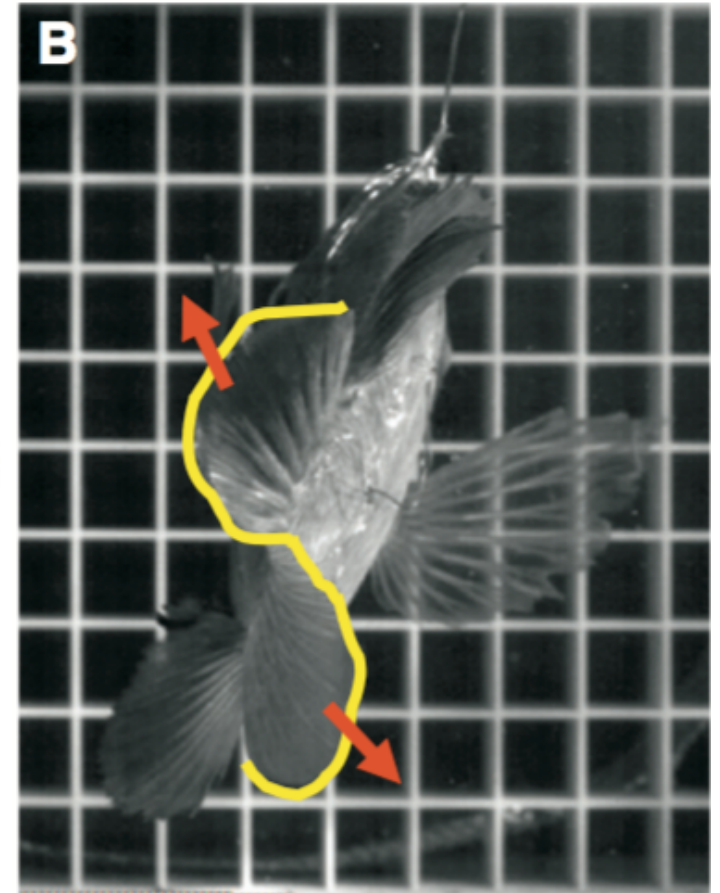
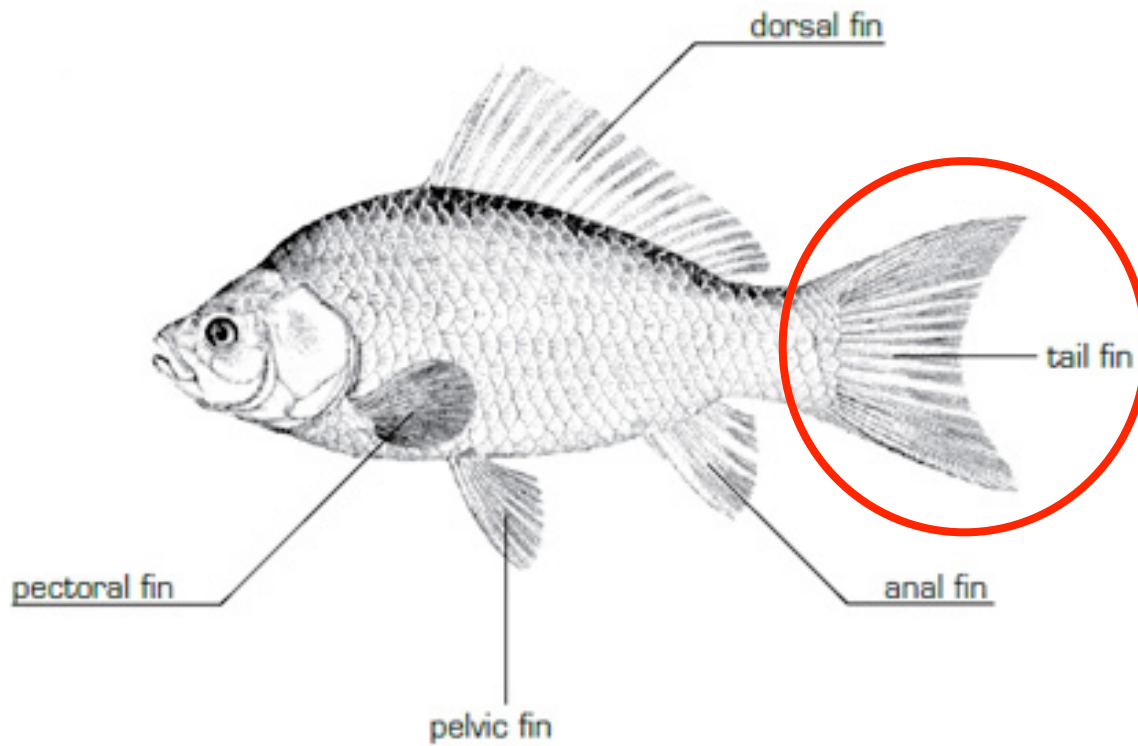
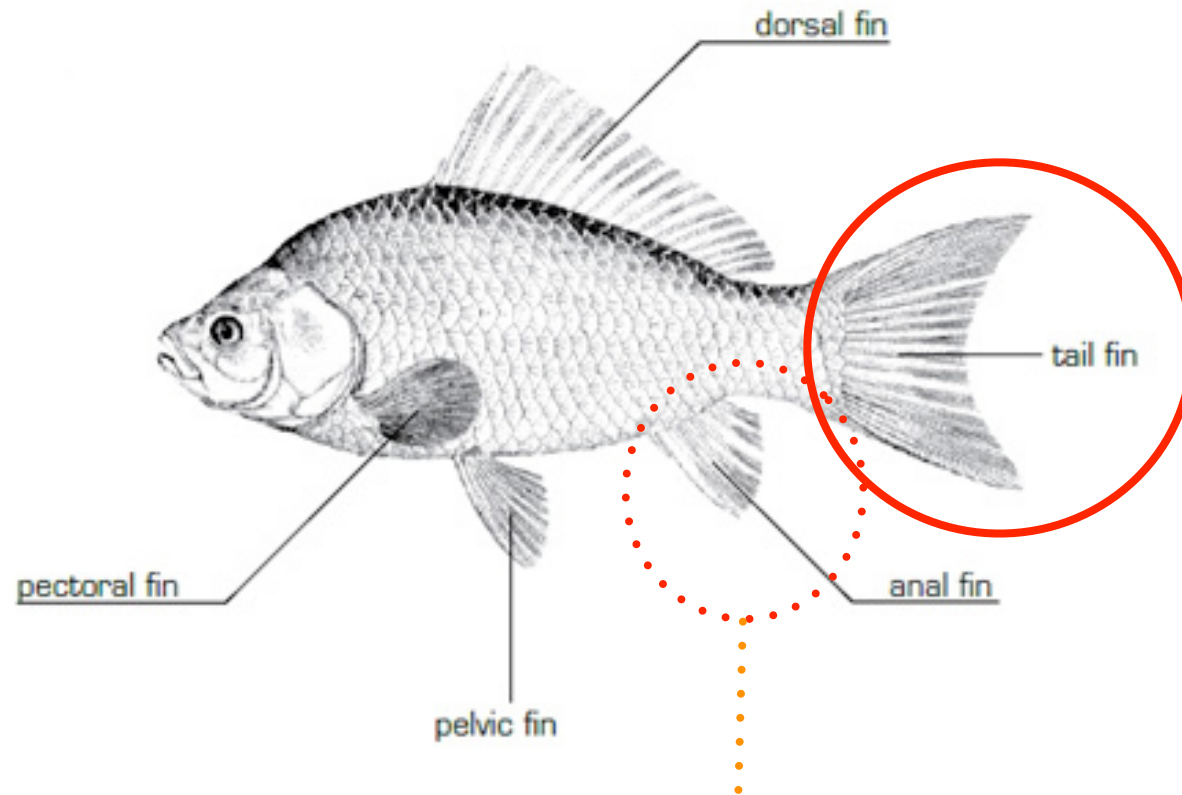


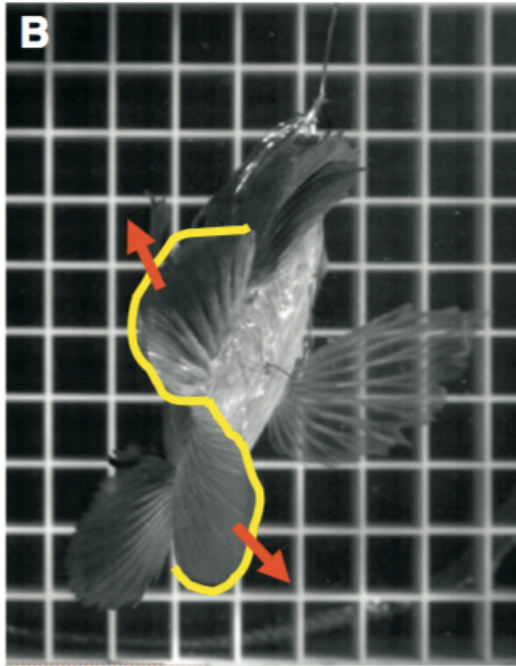
Image from Standen and Lauder, 2008

## Roll control: actuated caudal fin

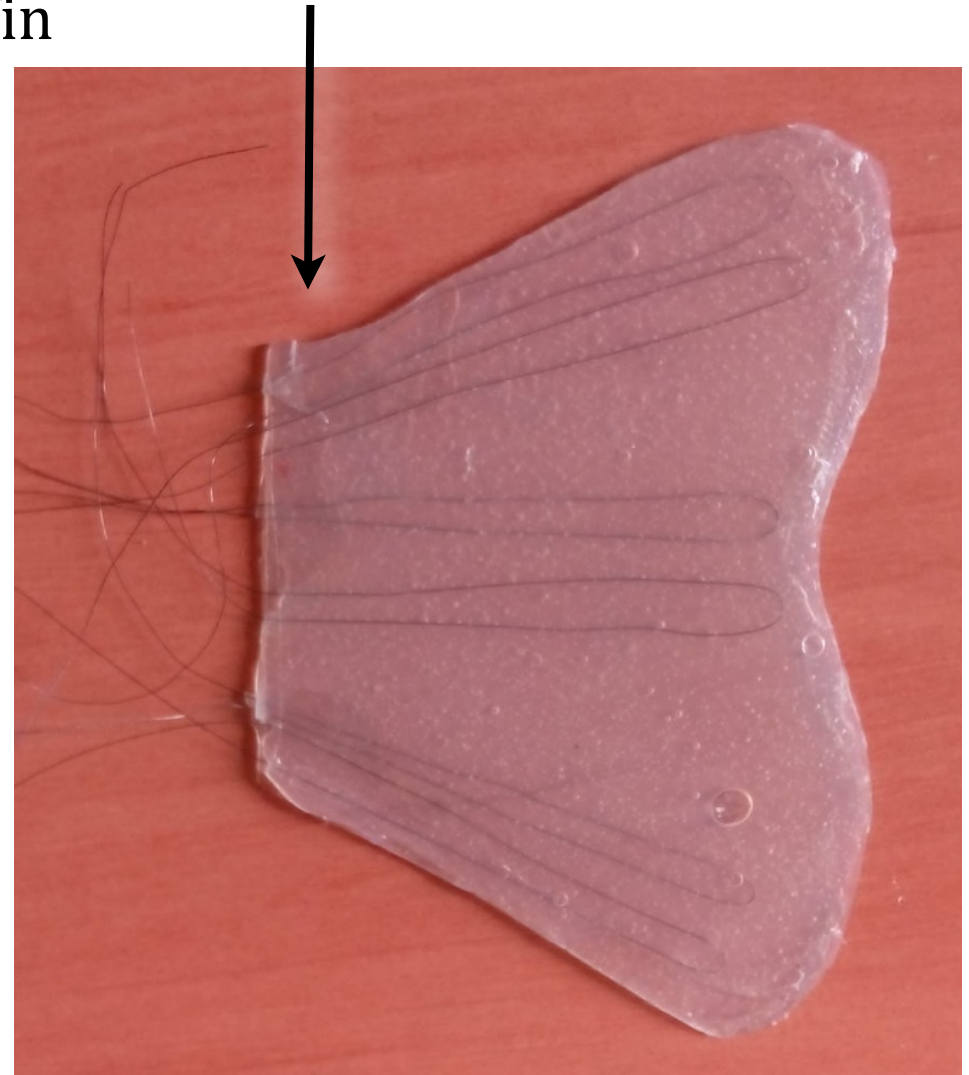


“(…) we hypothesize that the anal fin is also producing lateral fluid jets. Any jet produced lateral to the fish’s longitudinal axis and above or below the COM will induce a rolling moment away from the direction of the jet”. From Standen and Lauder, 2005

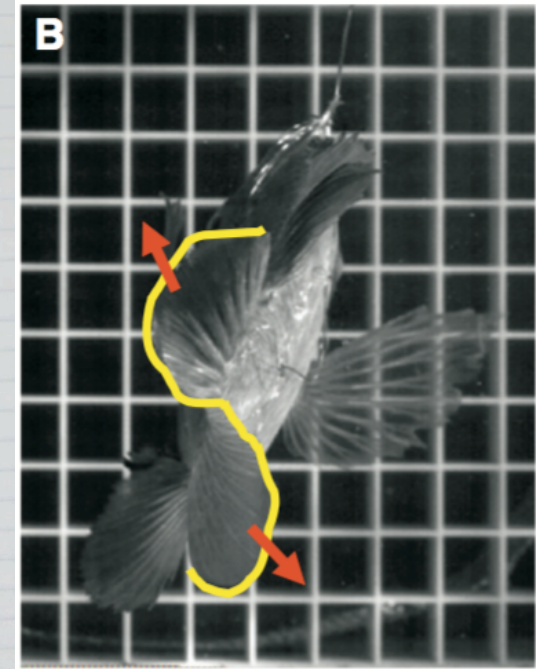
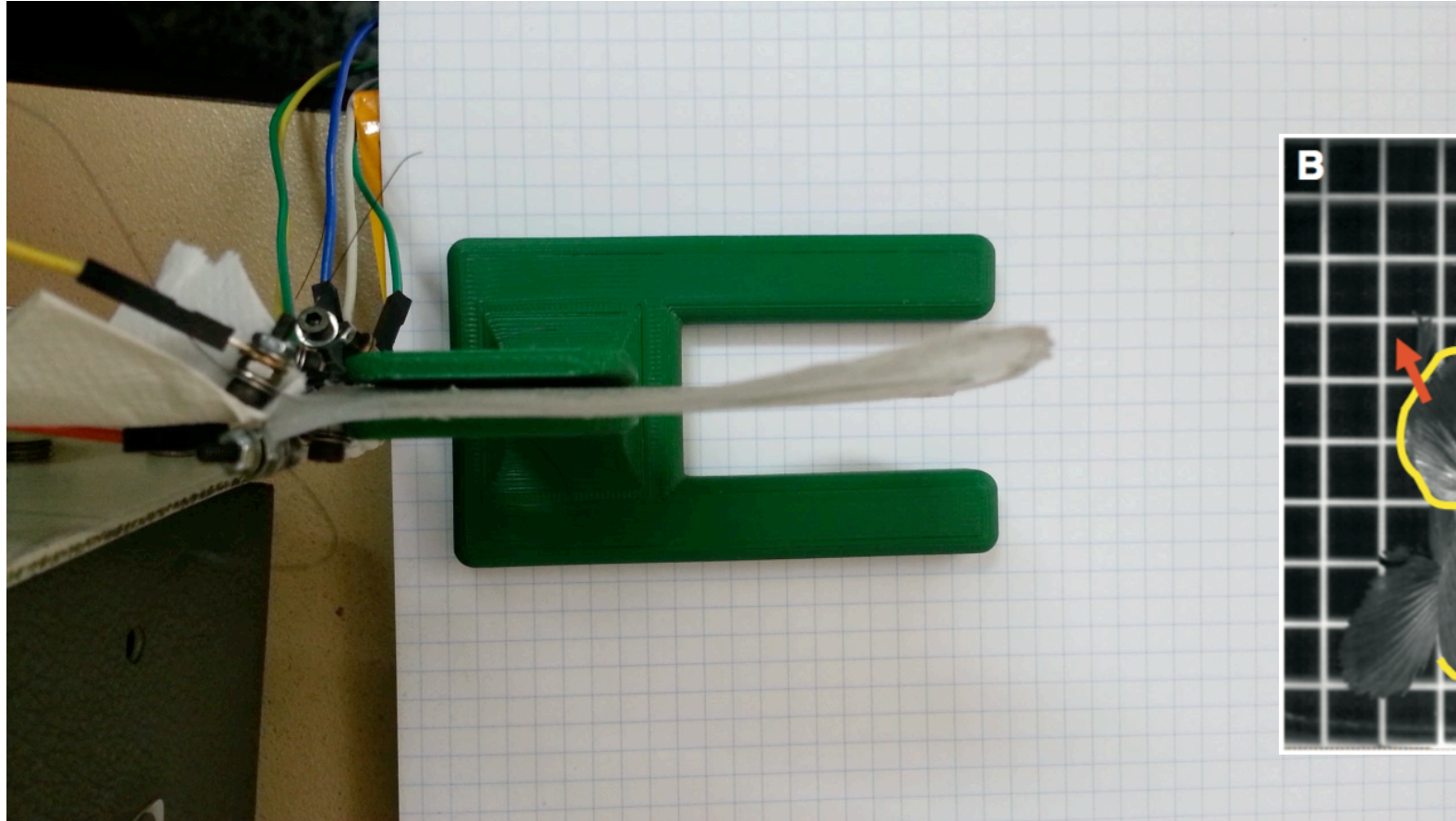
## Roll control: actuated caudal fin

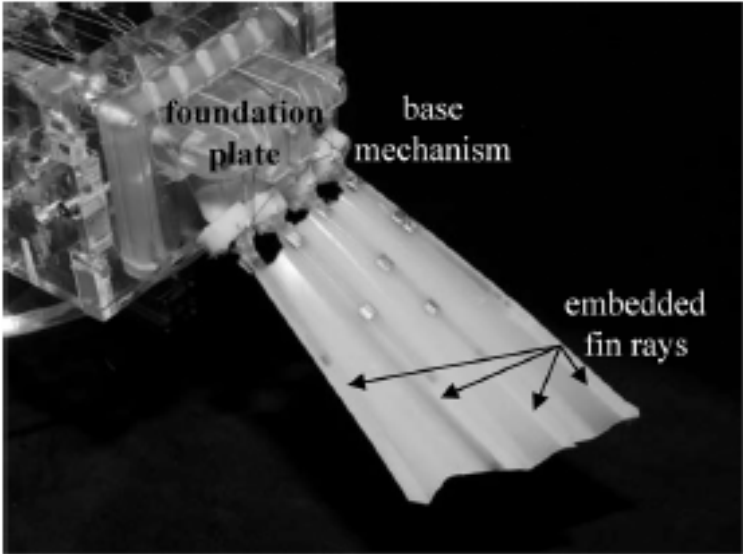
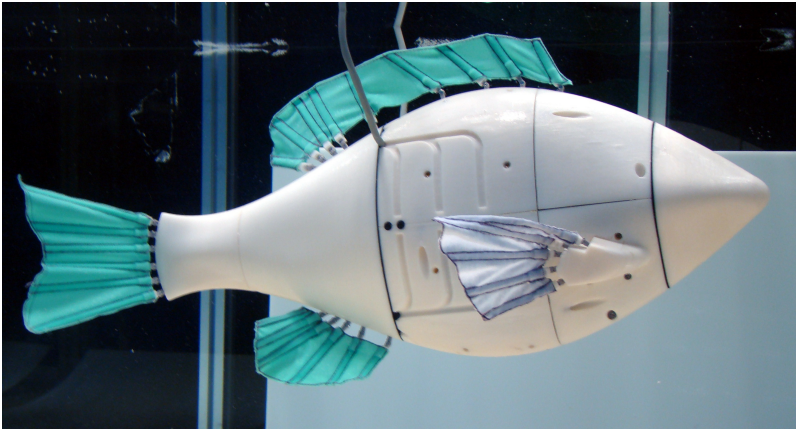


SMA wires embedded in silicon

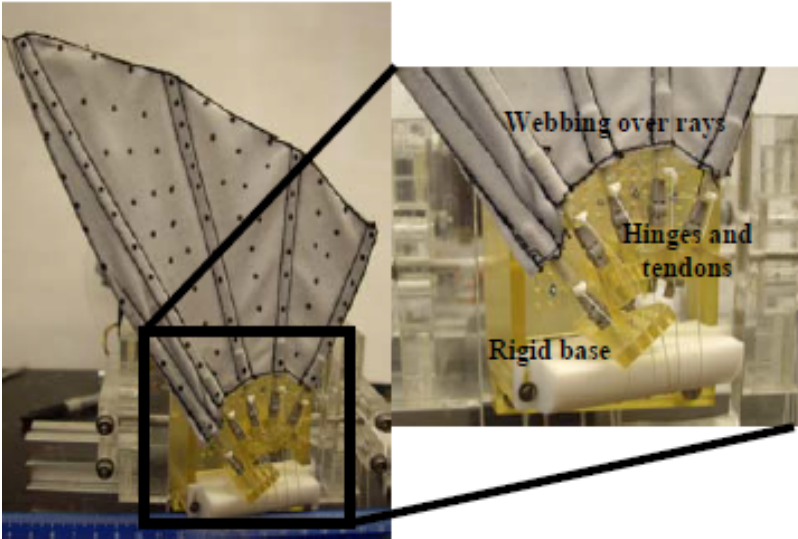


## Roll control: actuated caudal fin





Biorobotic Model for Investigations of Multi-fin Swimming, J. Tangorra, Lab for Biological Systems Analysis, Drexel Univ.



- ▶ Most of the work on robot fishes focuses on propulsion (1D)
- ▶ Some work on turning (2D)
- ▶ Few works on 3D maneuvering
  - Mostly non-biologically inspired
- ▶ We (and few others) are working on that !
  - Challenging issues in control, navigation, (bio-inspired) mechatronics design



CENTRO DE AUTOMÁTICA Y ROBÓTICA

Robot fishes' escape from flatland, Claudio Rossi, William Coral, 2nd FitFish workshop, Barcelona, October 2013

# *Robot fishes' escape from flatland*

*2nd Fitfish workshop, Barcelona, October 2014*

**Claudio Rossi**

- ▶ **Willam Coral**
- ▶ **Juan Antonio Jenaro**
- ▶ **Virginia Rodriguez**
- ▶ **Irene Perrino**

## **CONTACT**

Prof. **Claudio Rossi**  
Robotics & Cybernetics Research Group  
***Bioinspired Systems Lab***  
Centre for Automation and Robotics  
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid - CSIC

**Claudio.Rossi@upm.es**

[http://www.disam.upm.es/~crossi/Bio\\_Inspired\\_Robots](http://www.disam.upm.es/~crossi/Bio_Inspired_Robots)



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