

Abstract Submitted
for the DFD06 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

Efficiency of flapping flight UMBERTO PESAVENTO, Department of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, Cornell University, Z. JANE WANG, Department of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, Cornell University — We analyze the efficiency of flapping and fixed wing kinematics at Reynolds numbers of about 100, as appropriate for insect flight. In particular we solve the two dimensional Navier-Stokes equations and minimize the average aerodynamic power required to support the typical weight of a fruitfly. We find that carefully designed periodic kinematics can be more efficient than fixed wing kinematics.

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Date submitted: 25 Jul 2006

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