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EDUCATION

KONKUK UNIVERSITY (KU), SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Doctor of Philosophy, Smart Vehicle Engineering (2022 – Expected Feb 2026)

- GPA: 4.00/4.00

Master of Science, Smart Vehicle Engineering (2019 – 2021)

- GPA: 3.88/4.00 – Graduate thesis grade: 95/100

VIETNAM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, HCM CITY UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (VNU-HCMUT), HCM, VIETNAM

Bachelor of Engineering, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (2013 – 2018)

- GPA: 3.18/4.00 – Graduate thesis grade: 9.07/10
- The Vietnam – France Training Program for Excellent Engineers (PFIEV) is accredited by France's Engineering Degree Commission (Commission des Titres d'Ingénieur – CTI, 2004 – 2022) and designated as a *EUR – ACE* Master Program by the European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education (ENAE, 2010 – 2022).
- This five-year training program offers a high-quality engineering education, comprising 274 ECTS.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PH.D. PROGRAM, KONKUK UNIVERSITY, SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Project-2024: Flapping-wing (FW) robot in fast forward flight

Ongoing collaboration with Prof. [Dario Floreano's lab, EPFL, Switzerland](#)

01 co-authored paper ([Expected](#))

- Conducted the computational fluid dynamics (CFD) simulation using the measured wing kinematics of the FW robot under tethered, stroke-plane tilting conditions with inflow speeds varying from 2 to 4 m/s by a wind tunnel.

Project-2024 (Invited): Out-of-plane motion and aerodynamics of hummingbird-like FW

Short-term collaboration with Prof. [Dirk Vandepitte's lab, KU Leuven, Belgium](#)

01 co-authored paper ([Manuscript circulated for internal review](#))

- Advised on CFD simulations to analyze the effects of wing deviation on the hummingbird-like FW aerodynamics.

Project-2022: Development of a biomimetic underwater robot platform (5-year ongoing project)

01 first-authored paper after 2 years ([Manuscript completed and ready for the professional English review](#))

- Developed a robotic fish that can reach a target swimming speed of 1.79 m/s (5.6 BL/s) at 12.2 Hz using a comprehensive design approach, ranking it among the top-speed and most efficient tail-beating robotic fishes.

Project-2021: Flapping flights on Mars (ongoing)

01 co-authored paper ([Expected, data 80% finished](#))

02 first-authored papers:

- 1st paper: [Published in 2024, JCR Q1, IF = 5.0 \(Link\)](#)
- 2nd paper: [Expected, data 90% completed.](#)

- Investigated stability characteristics of a FW hover under Martian atmospheric conditions by CFD simulations.
- Studied aerodynamics of a FW robot during takeoff under low air densities using CFD simulations (ongoing).

Project-2020: Leaping robotic fish

01 first-authored paper: [2023, JCR Q1, IF = 4.6 \(Link\)](#)

01 co-authored paper: [2023, JCR Q1, IF = 4.6 \(Link\)](#)

- Conducted CFD simulations to estimate body drag using measured undulatory swimming kinematics.
- Performed CFD analyses to explore the feasibility of gliding in a flying-fish-like robot utilizing submerged tail beating and fixed wings after fast swimming underwater and leaping from water.

M.S. PROGRAM, KONKUK UNIVERSITY, SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Project-2020: Aerodynamic improvement

01 first-authored paper: [2021, JCR Q1, IF = 5.0 \(Link\)](#)

- Numerically proposed an optimal wing kinematics (WK) to improve aerodynamic performance of a flapping-wing hover by 31%, maintaining lift and reducing drag.
- Modifications include spanwise corrugation, adjusted wing motion, and exclusion of the clap-fling mechanism.

Project-2019: Stability of a flapping-wing robot

01 first-authored paper: [2021, JCR Q1, IF = 5.0 \(Link\)](#)

- Conducted CFD simulation to compare the longitudinal and lateral stability characteristics of two flappers hovering using different stroke-plane-change and trailing-edge-change mechanisms.

GRADUATE RESEARCH, VNU – HO CHI MINH CITY UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, VIETNAM

Project-2018: Aerodynamics of UAV-HOPE: fixed wings in forward flight

01 co-authored paper: [2024, JCR Q3, IF = 0.9 \(Link, contribution: original draft, editing, review, and revisions\).](#)

- Investigated the aerodynamics of the UAV-HOPE's fixed wings during forward flight using OpenFOAM.

- Analyzed laminar purple separation and flow detachment along both the chordwise and spanwise positions.

Project-2018: Aerodynamics of UAV–HOPE: tricopter frame in forward flight

01 co-authored paper: 2020, SJR: Q3, IF = 0.3 ([Link](#))

- Co-supervised an aerodynamic investigation of the tricopter, the main UAV–HOPE frame, during forward flight using Virtual Blade Method (VBM) in OpenFOAM.
- Developed an iterative MATLAB program to predict a tip path plane angle in forward flight using inputs of mass, lift, and drag coefficients computed by CFD.

B.E. PROGRAM, VNU – HO CHI MINH CITY UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, VIETNAM

Thesis-2018: Aerodynamics of UAV–HOPE: tricopter frame during takeoff

01 conference paper: presented at Southeast Asia Workshop on Aerospace Engineering (SAWAE, Thailand, 2018).

- Modelled the geometric characteristics of a 3-rotor propulsion system in OpenFOAM.
- Performed CFD analysis of tricopter taking off under the speeds of 0.1–6.0 m/s using VBM method.
- At 6833 RPM, the CFD thrust deviated by 5% from manufacturer data, while the calculated thrust by Blade Element Momentum Theory showed a 12% difference.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Postdoctoral Fellowship, KU, Republic of Korea (RoK) (Verbally awarded)	Feb 2026 – Aug 2027
Doctoral Fellowship, KU, RoK (living cost + 50% tuition)	2022 – 2026
Teaching Assistant Fellowship, KU, RoK	2024
Best Paper Award, Korea Society for Aeronautical and Space Sciences Conference (RoK, KSAS)	2024
Best Paper Award, International Conference on Intelligent Unmanned Systems (Japan, ICIUS)	2022
Language Proficiency Award upon Ph.D. Admission (50% tuition), KU, RoK	Spring, 2022
Merit Award for Academic Achievement (50% tuition), KU, RoK	Fall, 2019 – 2021 & Fall, 2022 – 2024
Graduate Research Assistant, KU, RoK (living cost + 50% tuition)	2019 – 2021
Graduate Research Assistant, University of Ulsan, RoK (declined)	2019
Term-Time Research Fellowship, VNU – HCMUT, Vietnam	8 months, 2018
Teaching Assistant Fellowship, VNU – HCMUT, Vietnam	Spring, 2018
Excellent Student of VNU – HCMUT, Vietnam (150% tuition)	Spring, 2018
Merits for Quintessential Student, VNU – HCMUT, Vietnam (125% tuition)	Fall, 2014 & 2017

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Journal Reviewer, Ocean Engineering (invited in 2024).
 Journal Reviewer, Journal of Aeronautics Astronautics and Aviation (2023, 2024).
 Journal Reviewer, International Journal of Intelligent Unmanned Systems (2021).
 Conference Reviewer, International Conference on Intelligent Unmanned Systems (2021).

UNIVERSITY SERVICES

Teaching Assistant

Assisted in grading assignments (KU): Basics of mechanics (Fall, 2020), Finite Element Method (Spring, 2025).
 Facilitated students understanding assignments (VNU – HCMUT): Fluid Mechanics (delivered in English, 2018).

Research Assistant

Advised CFD work and reviewed manuscript on the FW simulations in collaboration with the KU Leuven team (2024).
 Co-advised two undergraduate students on their graduation theses at VNU – HCMUT (Tran DKK, Nguyen TN, 2018).

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming Languages: MATLAB, C, HTML, CSS.

Development Tools: Visual Studio, VS Code.

Meshing Generators: ANSYS-ICEM, Salome, snappyHexMesh.

Simulation and Post-Processing Tools: ANSYS-Fluent, CFD-Post, OpenFOAM, ParaFoam.

Manufacturing Tools: Mill, Match3Mill, CNC Machine Tool, 3D Printing, Direct Linear Transformation Digitizing Tool.

Software: AutoCAD, ANSYS-Design Modeler, Adobe Photoshop, Cubicreator, MS Office, SolidWorks.

Processes: Silicone Mold Making, High Speed Camera Operation, Transducer Measurement, Image Processing.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Roelandt T, **Nguyen K**, Park HC, Vanierschot M, Vandepitte D. [Out-of-plane wing motion effects on aerodynamic performance of a hummingbird-like flapping wing](#). In progress.
- Nguyen K**, Ha G, Park HC. [Aerodynamics of flapping wings under low-density air conditions](#). In progress.
- Nguyen K**, Park HC. [A comprehensive design process for developing a tail-beat fast-swimming robot: scaling-based design approach](#). In progress.
- Le THH, **Nguyen K**, Vuong THN. [Numerical analysis for aerodynamic characteristics of the unmanned aerial vehicle \(UAV\) in forward flight](#). J. Aeronaut. Astronaut. Aviat. 1081 **2024** (JCR, Q3, IF = 0.9, main contributor).
- Nguyen K**, Ha G, Kang T, Park HC. [Analysis of hovering flight stability of an insect-like flapping-wing robot in Martian condition](#). Aerosp. Sci. Technol. 152 109371 **2024**. (JCR, Q1, IF = 5.0)

6. **Nguyen K**, Park HC, [Feasibility study on mimicking the tail-beating supported gliding flight of flying fish](#). Ocean Eng. 287 115745 **2023**. (JCR, Q1, IF = 4.6)
7. Pham TH, **Nguyen K**, Park HC. [A robotic fish capable of fast underwater swimming and water leaping with high Froude number](#). Ocean Eng. 268 113512 **2023**. (JCR, Q1, IF = 4.6)
8. **Nguyen K**, Au LTK, Phan HV, Park HC. [Comparative dynamic flight stability of insect-inspired flapping-wing micro air vehicles in hover: Longitudinal and lateral motions](#). Aerosp. Sci. Tech. 119 107085 **2021**. (JCR, Q1, IF = 5.0)
9. **Nguyen K**, Au LTK, Phan HV, Park SH, Park HC. [Effects of wing kinematics, corrugation, and clap-and-fling on aerodynamic efficiency of a hovering insect-inspired flapping-wing micro air vehicle](#). Aerosp. Sci. Technol. 118 106990 **2021**. (JCR, Q1, IF = 5.0)
10. Tran DKK, **Nguyen K**, Le THH, Nguyen NH. [Numerical simulation for the forward flight of the tri-copter using virtual blade model](#). J. Adv. Res. Fluid Mech. Therm. Sci. 67 1 1-32 **2020**. (SJR, Q3, IF = 0.3)

CONFERENCE PAPERS

1. **Nguyen K**, Ha G, Park HC, [Design and demonstration of a high-speed aquatic swimmer using tail-beat propulsion](#), ICIUS, Indonesia, 2025. (Presenter)
2. Ha G, **Nguyen K**, Park HC, [A study on the takeoff of an insect-like flapping-wing system under low air density and low gravity conditions](#), Proceedings of KSAS, Korea, 2024. (Best paper award).
3. **Nguyen K**, Ha G, Park HC, [Design and fabrication of high-thrust tail-beating mechanism for fish-inspired swimming robot](#), ICIUS, Indonesia, 2024. (Presenter)
4. **Nguyen K**, Park HC, [Analytical and experimental performance verifications of a fast-swimming robotic fish](#), ICIUS, Indonesia, 2024. (Presenter)
5. **Nguyen K**, Kang, TS, Park HC, [Hovering characteristics of an insect-like flapping-wing robot on Mars](#), Proceedings of KSAS, Korea, 2023. (Presenter)
6. **Nguyen K**, Ha G, Park HC, [Preliminary design of a fish-like fast robot by scaling of the KUFish](#), ICIUS, AU, 2023.
7. **Nguyen K**, Park HC, [Roles of hydrodynamic forces generated by tail-beating motion in gliding flight of flying-fish-mimicking robot](#), ICIUS, Adelaide, Australia, 2023. (Presenter)
8. Ha G, **Nguyen K**, Park HC, [Thrust generation by flapping-wings under the low-air density condition](#), ICIUS, Australia, 2023.
9. Le THH, **Nguyen K**, Tran MH, [Numerical analysis for aerodynamic characteristics of the unmanned aerial vehicle \(UAV\) in forward flight](#), SAWAE, Thailand, 2023.
10. **Nguyen K**, Pham TH, Park HC, [Numerical investigation of hydrodynamics for a fish-like robot under undulatory forward swimming](#), Proceedings of the Korean Society of Mechanical Engineers Annual Meeting, Jeju, Korea, 2022. (Presenter)
11. Pham TH, **Nguyen K**, Park HC, [Leaping out of water of the KUFish: Prediction and demonstration](#), ICIUS, Japan, 2022. (Best paper award).
12. **Nguyen K**, Pham TH, Park HC, [Numerical estimation of hydrodynamic thrust using the measured tail-beating kinematics of a fish-like robot](#), ICIUS, Japan, 2022. (Presenter)
13. **Nguyen K**, Au LTK, Phan HV, Park HC, [Wing kinematics modulation in an insect-like tailless flapping wing micro air vehicle \(FW-MAV\) for higher aerodynamic efficiency](#), ICIUS, Vietnam, 2021. (Presenter)
14. **Nguyen K**, Au LTK, Park HC, [Three-dimensional wing kinematics for improved aerodynamic performance of insect-like flapping-wing micro air vehicle](#), KSAS, Korea, 2020. (Presenter)
15. Tran, DKK, **Nguyen K**, Le THH, [Numerical simulation for the forward flight of the tri-copter using Virtual Blade Model](#), SAWAE, Malaysia, 2019.
16. **Nguyen K**, Nguyen NH, Le THH, [Numerical approach for the vertical take-off and landing UAVs using the virtual blade model](#), SAWAE, Thailand, 2018. (Presenter)

REFERENCES

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