Why study biology? for new engineering ideas

- Nature is ahead of us in technical developments
- Millions of years of evolution has generated incredible diversity of functions
- functional biodiversity can be a fertile source of ideas for new technology.
- **Biomimicry**: imitation/copying/adaptation of nature

Infrasound

- Infrasound is sound lower than 20 Hz (20-20 k Hz acoustic)
- Infrasound has the ability to cover long distance and go through the obstacles without much dissipation.

- **Avalanches, earthquakes, water falls, volcanoes, hurricanes, tornadoes, upper atmospheric lightning, aurora, ocean wave and storm, meteorite strike, nuclear explosion, sea waves** etc

Some animals use infrasound

- Elephant, Whale, Hippo, Rhino produce and detect infrasound to communicate, sometimes upto 100 km (whale)

- Migrating birds can hear storms at least 2 days in advance (400-900 Km away) by hearing infrasound emanating from turbulent airflow

Current Biology, 25(1) 98-102 (2015)

- Most of the elephants survived the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami: they were reported to flee long before the tsunami wave hit the shore

Infrasound and human

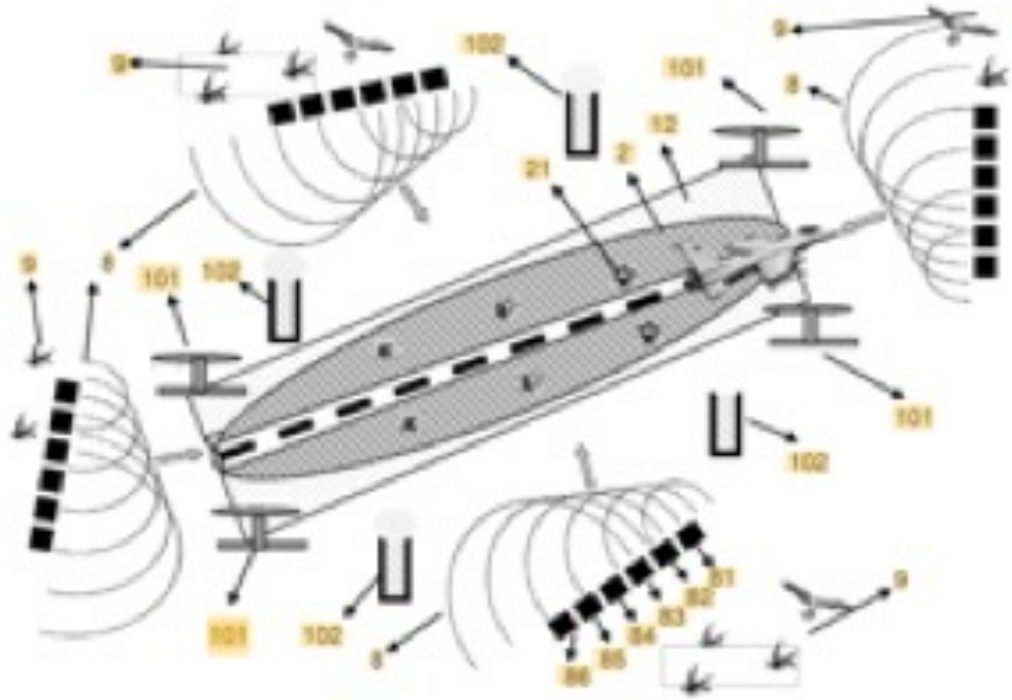
- As infrasound is not consciously perceived, it causes a feeling of motion sickness, anxiety in human
- People living close proximity to to wind turbines experience motion sickness-like symptoms

Think of one new application of infrasound that you would like to do as an engineer

Horror film soundtrack often uses infrasound to produce unease and disorientation

Making infrasound-based bird hit protection

US patent
US20140185414A1

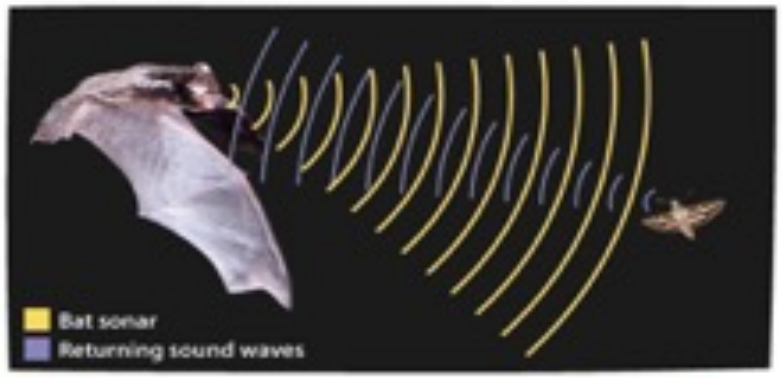


Birds responds to infrasound not-audible to human

<u>Infrasound generators</u> broadcast continuous infrasound to create a bird-free area

Echolocation by Bats

- **Sonar (SOund Navigation And Ranging)**
- Dolphins and whales uses to locate fish
- **Echolocation** is <u>OPEN AIR sonar</u>: use of sound waves and echoes to determine where objects are in space.
- Bats use echolocation to navigate and find food (mosquitoes) in the dark.

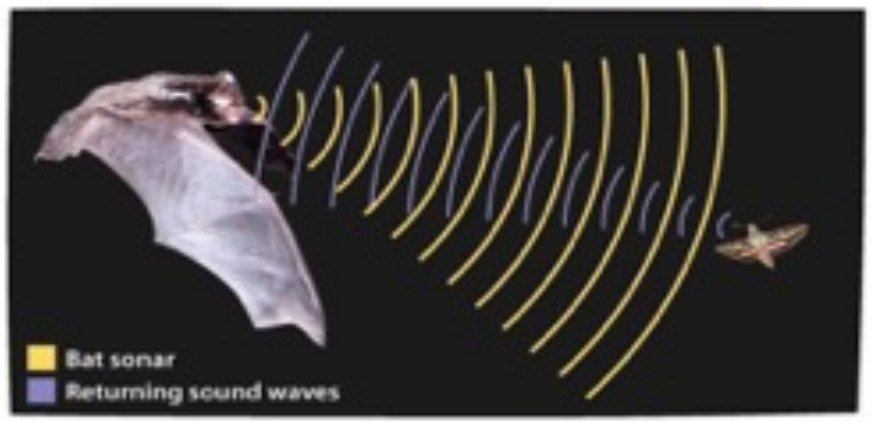


Think of one new application of Echolocation

Drone navigation by Echolocation

Drones can be piloted manually using line of sight, video cameras, global positioning satellites and laser-based radar

More reliable under <u>smoky or dusty areas</u> or <u>inside buildings or tunnels</u>



Dr Dieter Vanderelst
University of Cincinnati

Nature-inspired fastener

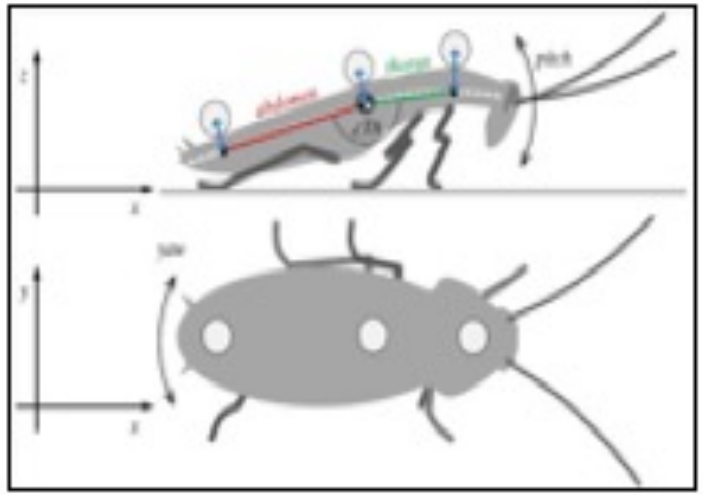
Many plant seeds have hooks (burr) that attach to an animal's fur and carried by the animal to another location

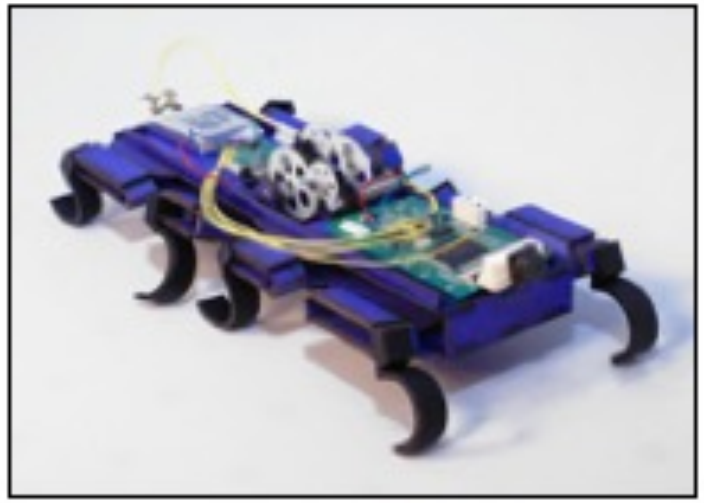
Georges Mestral patented (1955) "Velcro,"

French words velours (velvet) and crochet (hook)

Legged locomotion & milli-robots

- For smooth surfaces, wheels remain the most efficient way to move.
- But on steep or uneven terrain (e,g., in disaster zones) wheeled bots are limited.

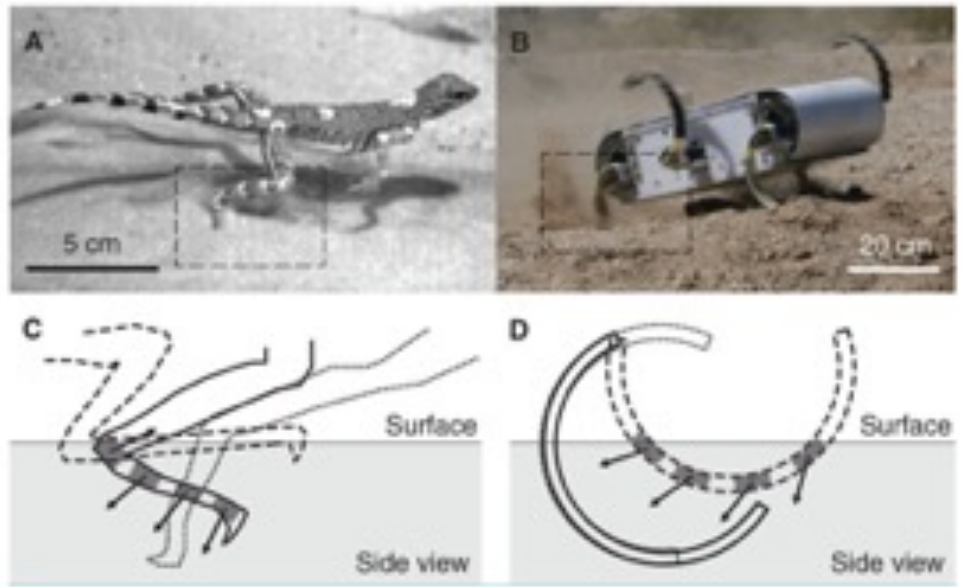




- Biomimetic Millisystems, UC Berkeley

Legged locomotion on sand

- Locomotion mud or sand is not efficient with wheel



- *UC Berkeley*

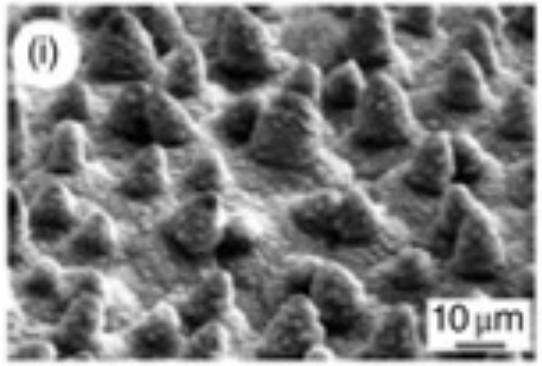
Li et al Science (2013), 339 (6126) 1408-1412.

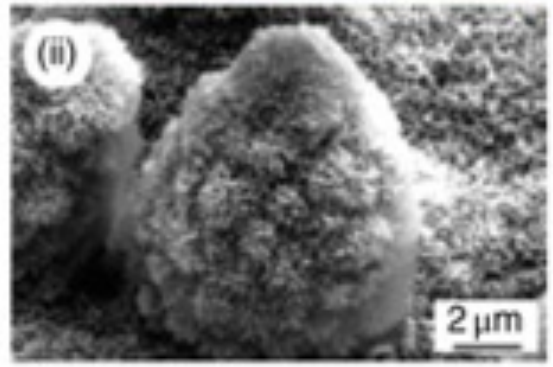
Whale-inspired wind turbines and fan blades

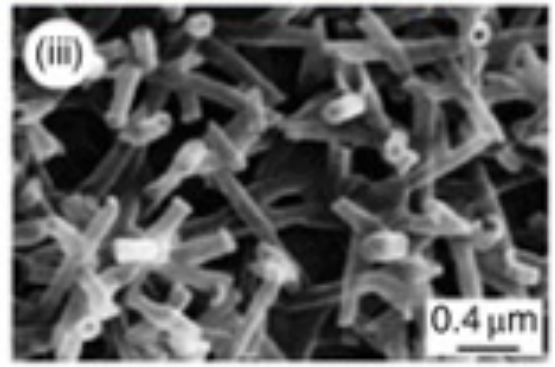
- conventional aerodynamics: the leading edge of propellers, blades and turbines should be **as smooth as possible** to limit air resistance.
- **Humpback whale** flippers have tubercles or bumps.
- Specially placed bumps can deliver **32% less drag** and an **8% more lift** compared to the smooth leading-edge
- Patented (2018)

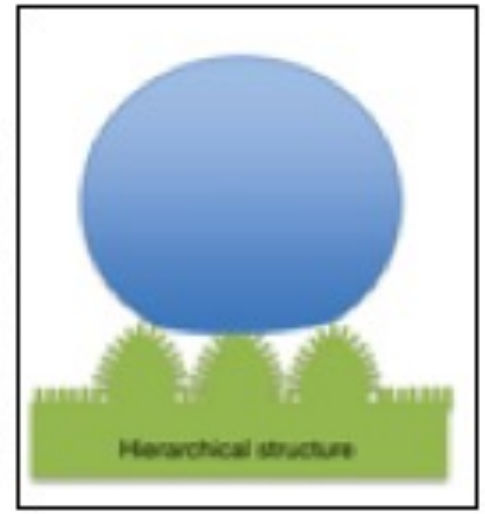
Self-cleaning materials

- Some biological materials exhibit a superhydrophobicity-induced self-cleaning property,
- Example: lotus leaf is the best self-cleaning model.



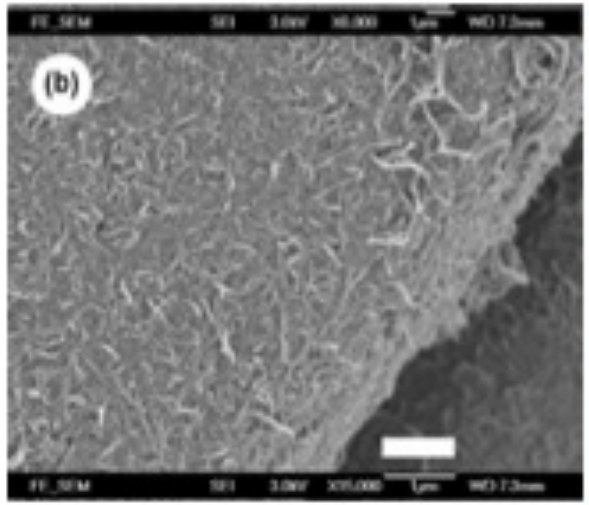


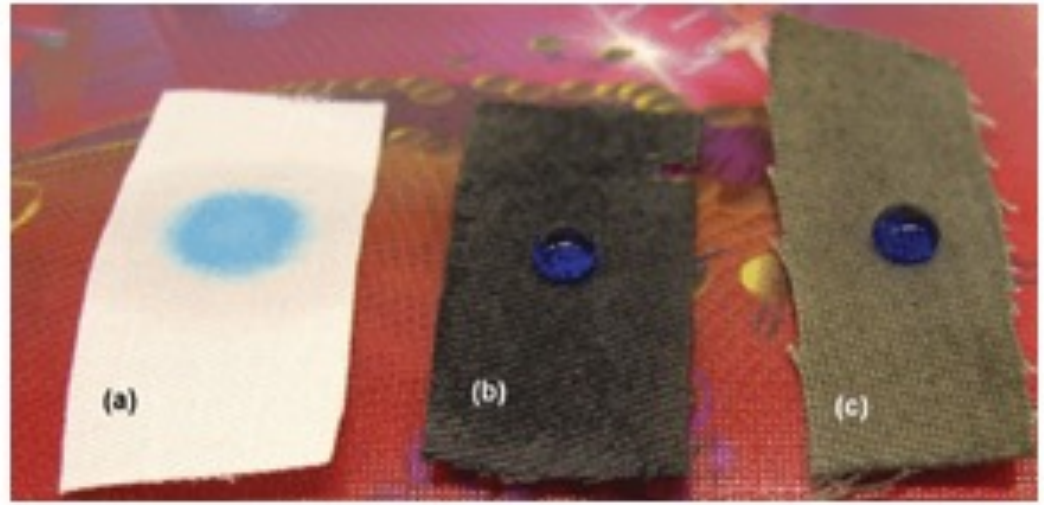




Nature-inspired self-cleaning textiles

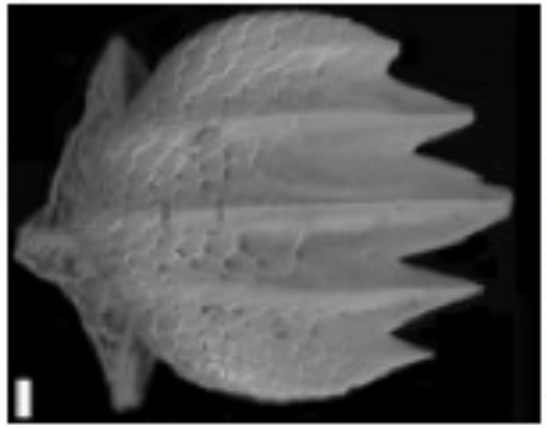
- **Carbon nanotubes (CNT)** with **poly-butylacrylate (PBA)** were prepared and these PBA-carbon nanotubes (PBA-CNTs) were applied to the surface of cotton textiles

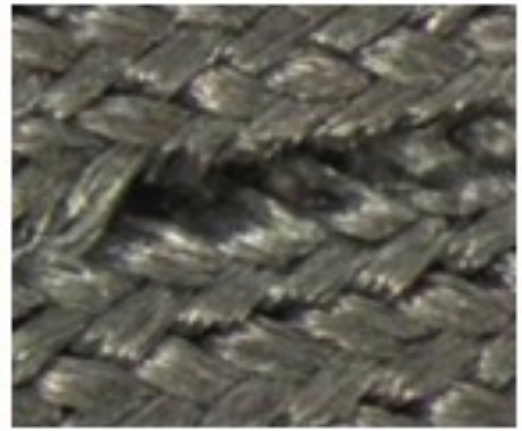




J. Mater. Chem., 2007,**17**, 1071-1078

Shark-skin and Riblet surface

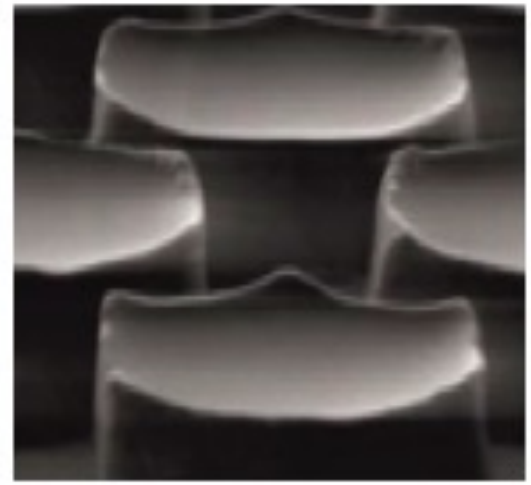





- Microscopic scales allow the water flow through the grooves without whirling and they effectively **reduce the drag**
- Riblet effect is inspired by the unique structure of shark skin.
- Riblet effect is used for the development of the **wing skin of Airbus** aircrafts
- The effect of **6 % less air drag** & significant fuel savings.
- At the Beijing Olympics in 2008, two-thirds of the swimmers wore swimsuits with Riblet effect and a large number of world records were broken

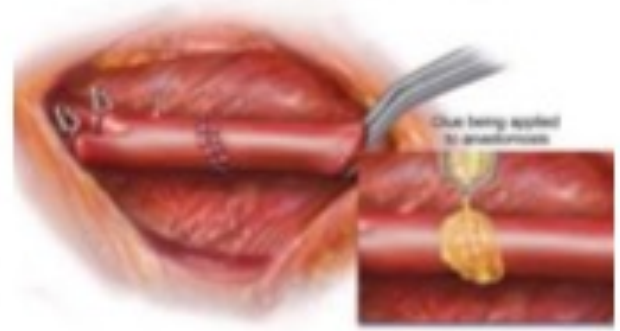
Tree frog and Car tire






- Biomimetic tire: Patented by Continental tire has a better performance on icy surfaces, the optimal grip and reduced stopping distance.
- These is a replica of the surface structure of the **toe pads of tree frog** which lives on trees and is known for its climbing skills in wet conditions near waterfalls

Vascular Surgery glue from sandcastle worm



- **Sandcastle worm** use an instant glue-like secretions to make underwater sandcastle using sand grains
- Vascular surgery is very difficult due to constant blood flow, Setalum being hydrophobic and instant, very useful in joining veins and arteries.
- Biomimetic surgical sealant Setalum: Patented by French company Tissium

Summary

How to do biomimicry?