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# Stochastic response analysis and optimum design of nonlinear electromechanical energy harvesters: A Wiener path integral approach

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# Outline

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- Introduction
- Vibration Energy Harvesting
  - Modelling aspects
  - Optimization
- Wiener path integral (WPI) technique
  - Standard formulation
  - Modification
- Numerical Results
- Conclusions

# Outline

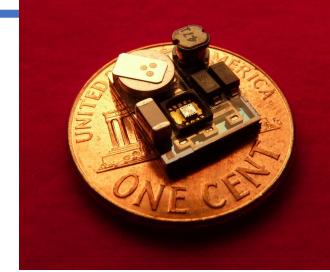
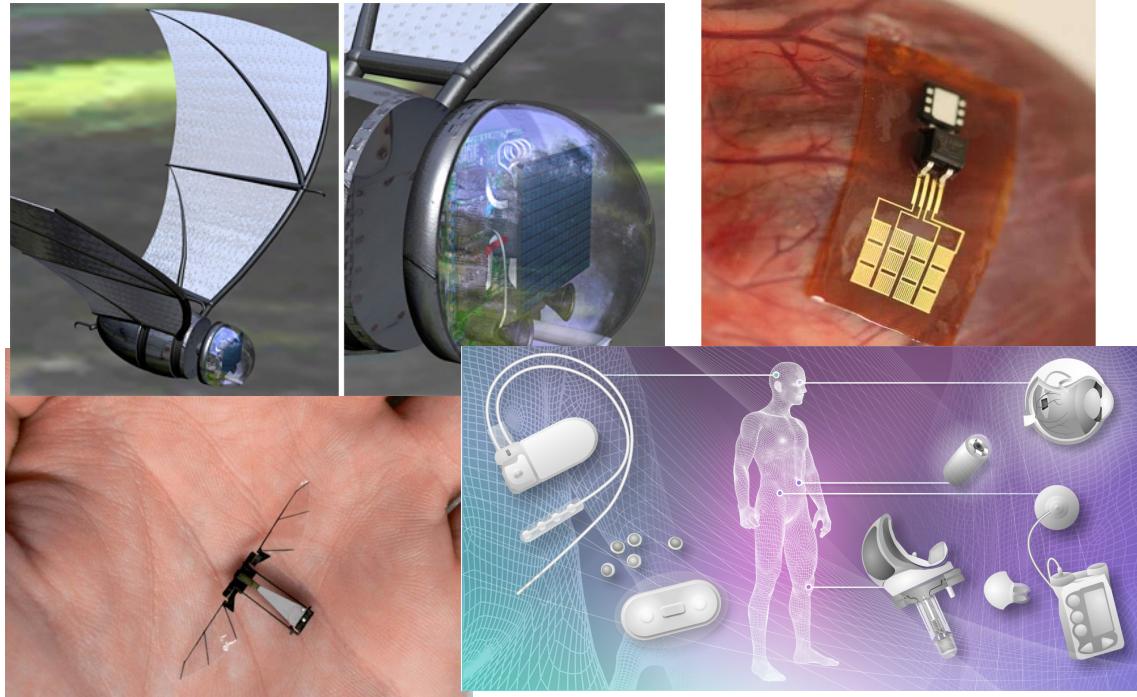
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# Introduction

- Vibration energy harvesting technology
- Potential applications

Micro-robotic applications and powering of biomedical implants

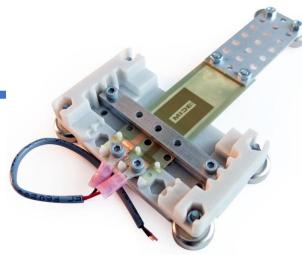
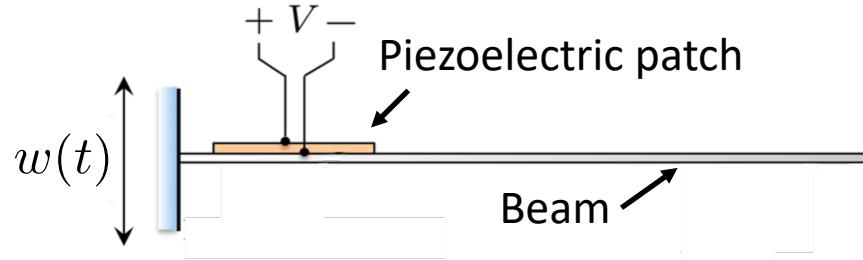


Wireless sensors networks for Structural Health Monitoring

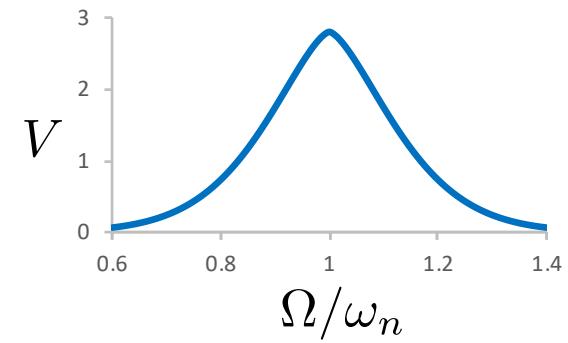
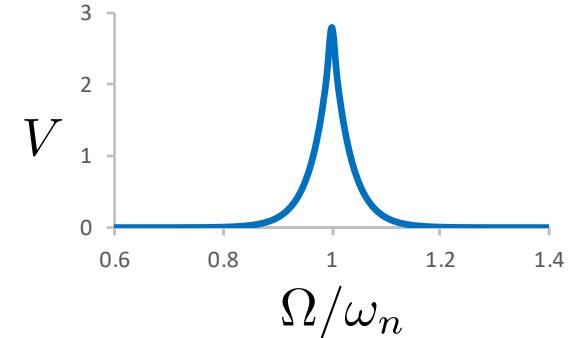
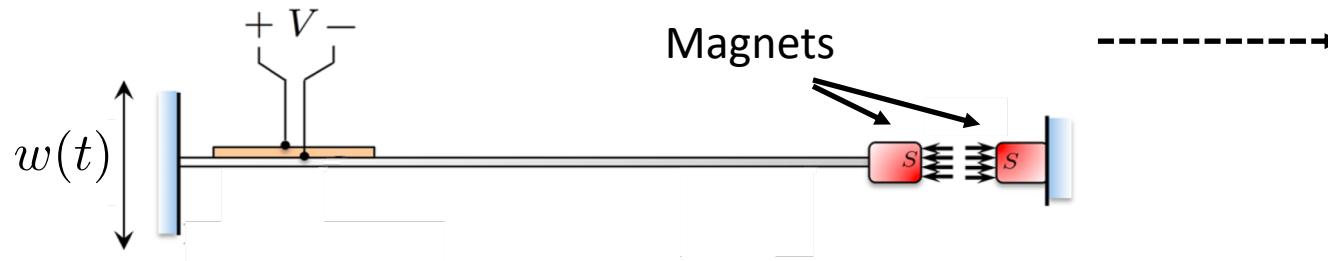


# Introduction

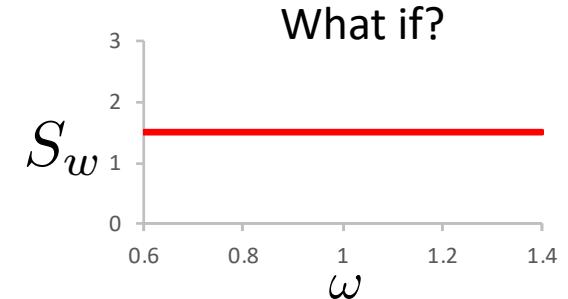
- Linear energy harvester



- Nonlinear energy harvester



- More realistic approach:  $w(t) \rightarrow$  stochastic process



# Outline

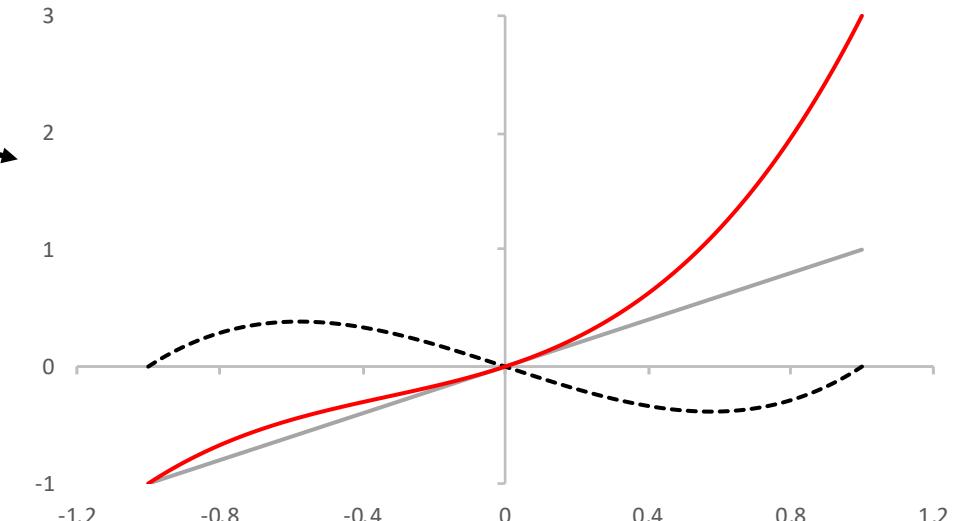
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# Energy Harvester – Modeling aspects

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \ddot{x} + 2\zeta\dot{x} + \frac{dU(x)}{dx} + \kappa^2 y = w(t) \\ \dot{y} + \alpha y - \dot{x} = 0 \end{array} \right\} \quad \text{Coupled electromechanical system (non-dimensional)}$$

Potential $U(x)$	Restoring force $\frac{dU(x)}{dx}$
monostable	Linear $x$
bistable	Nonlinear $-x + \delta x^3$
monostable if $0 < \lambda \leq 2\sqrt{\delta}$	Nonlinear $x + \lambda x^2 + \delta x^3$



- Nonlinear (Duffing) harvester with asymmetric monostable potential
- Maximum output for  $\lambda = 2\sqrt{\delta}$

He & Daraq (2016) Meccanica

# Energy Harvester – Optimization

Electromechanical system

$$\ddot{x} + 2\zeta\dot{x} + x + 2\sqrt{\delta}x^2 + \delta x^3 + \kappa^2 y = w(t)$$

$$\dot{y} + \alpha y - \dot{x} = 0$$

Mean harvested power

$$P_h = \alpha E[y^2]$$

- Ultimate goal: Maximize output  $\rightarrow P_h$
- Optimum design problem

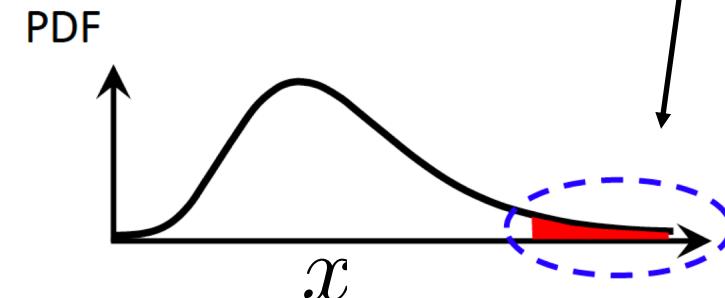
Find  $(\delta_*, \alpha_*)$  that maximize  $P_h$

Subject to:  $P_f \leq \epsilon$

- Additional design criteria
  - Prevent mechanical failure
  - Safeguard electrical equipment
  - Space limitations

Constraint on failure probability  $P_f$

- Response PDF  $\rightarrow$  accuracy at the tails  
Commonly used statistical linearization treatment  $\rightarrow$  PDF inaccurate at the tails



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# WPI technique - Standard formulation

- Wiener path integral (WPI) → Wiener (1921), Feynman (1948)

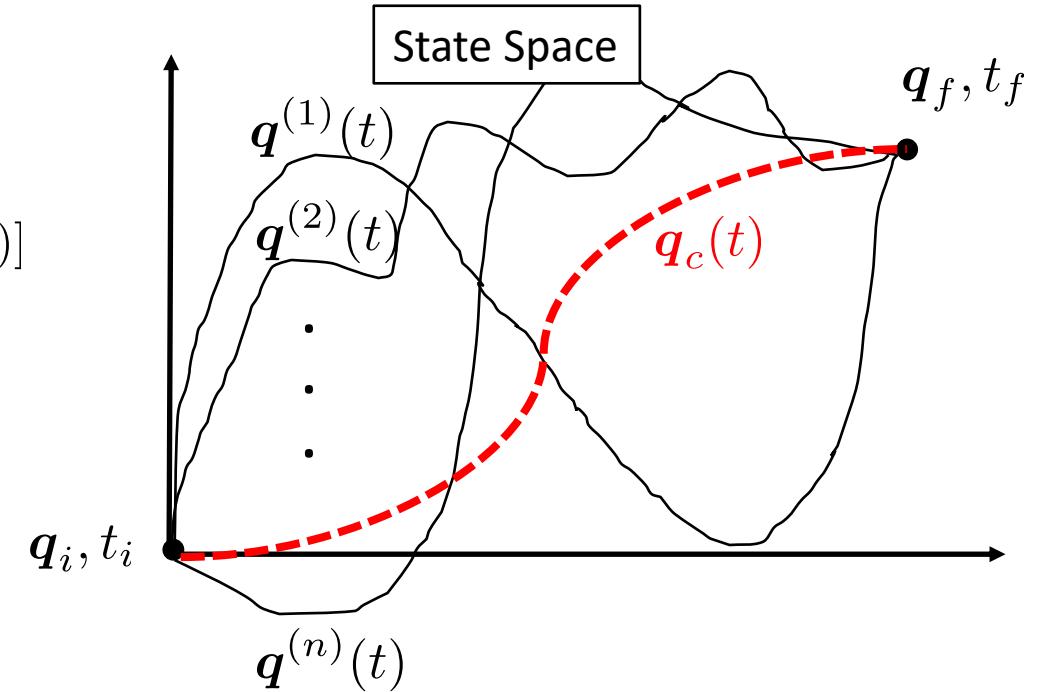
- Transition probability density  $p(\mathbf{q}_f, t_f | \mathbf{q}_i, t_i)$

$$= \int_{\mathcal{C}\{\mathbf{q}_i, t_i; \mathbf{q}_f, t_f\}} W[\mathbf{q}(t)][d\mathbf{q}(t)] = \int_{\mathcal{C}\{\mathbf{q}_i, t_i; \mathbf{q}_f, t_f\}} \Phi \exp \left( - \int_{t_i}^{t_f} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{q}) dt \right) [d\mathbf{q}(t)]$$

↑  
Lagrangian functional

$$\approx \Phi \exp \left( - \int_{t_i}^{t_f} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{q}_c) dt \right)$$

- Determine  $\mathbf{q}_c$  by solving:



Variational problem

$$\text{minimize } \mathcal{J}(\mathbf{q}) = \int_{t_i}^{t_f} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{q}) dt$$

Euler-Lagrange equations

Rayleigh-Ritz direct method

# WPI technique - Extension

Governing equations

$$\mathbf{D}[\mathbf{q}(t)] = \mathbf{w}(t) \longrightarrow \cancel{\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{q}) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{D}[\mathbf{q}]^T \mathbf{B}^{-1} \mathbf{D}[\mathbf{q}]}$$

Mechanical oscillator - Underdetermined SDE

$$\ddot{x} + 2\zeta\dot{x} + x + 2\sqrt{\delta}x^2 + \delta x^3 + \kappa^2 y = w(t)$$

Electrical circuit - Constraint

$$\dot{y} + \alpha y - \dot{x} = 0$$

$$\mathcal{L}(x, y) = \frac{1}{4\pi S_0} \left[ \ddot{x} + 2\zeta\dot{x} + x + 2\sqrt{\delta}x^2 + \delta x^3 + \kappa^2 y \right]^2$$

$\mathbf{w}(t)$  white noise process

$$E[\mathbf{w}(t_1)\mathbf{w}(t_2)] = \begin{bmatrix} 2\pi S_0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & 2\pi S_0 \end{bmatrix} \delta(t_2 - t_1)$$

$\mathbf{B}$

$$\mathbf{D}[\mathbf{q}(t)] = \begin{bmatrix} w(t) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\mathbf{B}$  singular

$$E\{[w(t_1) \ 0] \begin{bmatrix} w(t_2) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}\} = \begin{bmatrix} 2\pi S_0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \delta(t_2 - t_1)$$

Constrained variational problem

$$\text{minimize } \mathcal{J}(x, y) = \int_{t_i}^{t_f} \mathcal{L}(x, y) dt$$

$$\text{subject to } \dot{y} + \alpha y - \dot{x} = 0$$

# WPI technique - Extension

Constrained variational problem

$$\text{minimize } \mathcal{J}(x, y) = \int_{t_i}^{t_f} \mathcal{L}(x, y) dt$$

$$\text{subject to } \dot{y} + \alpha y - \dot{x} = 0$$

- Rayleigh-Ritz method and **nullspace** approach

Expansion in a polynomial basis:  $\begin{bmatrix} x(t) \\ y(t) \end{bmatrix} \approx \psi(t) + \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{h}(t)$

Functional  $\mathcal{J}(x, y)$ : function  $J(\mathbf{c})$  of  $\mathbf{c}$   $\longrightarrow$  minimize  $J(\mathbf{c})$

Constraint: polynomial function of  $t$ , linear in  $\mathbf{c}$   $\longrightarrow \mathbf{A}\mathbf{c} - \mathbf{b} = 0$

$$\frac{\partial J(\hat{\mathbf{c}})}{\partial \hat{\mathbf{c}}} = 0$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{c}} \in \text{Null}(\mathbf{A})$$

- Euler-Lagrange equations and **Lagrange multipliers**

Unconstrained variational problem

$$\text{minimize } \mathcal{J}^*(x, y) = \int_{t_i}^{t_f} \mathcal{L}^*(x, y) dt \quad \text{where} \quad \mathcal{L}^*(x, y) = \mathcal{L}(x, y) + \lambda(t)(\dot{y} + \alpha y - \dot{x})$$

Lagrange multiplier



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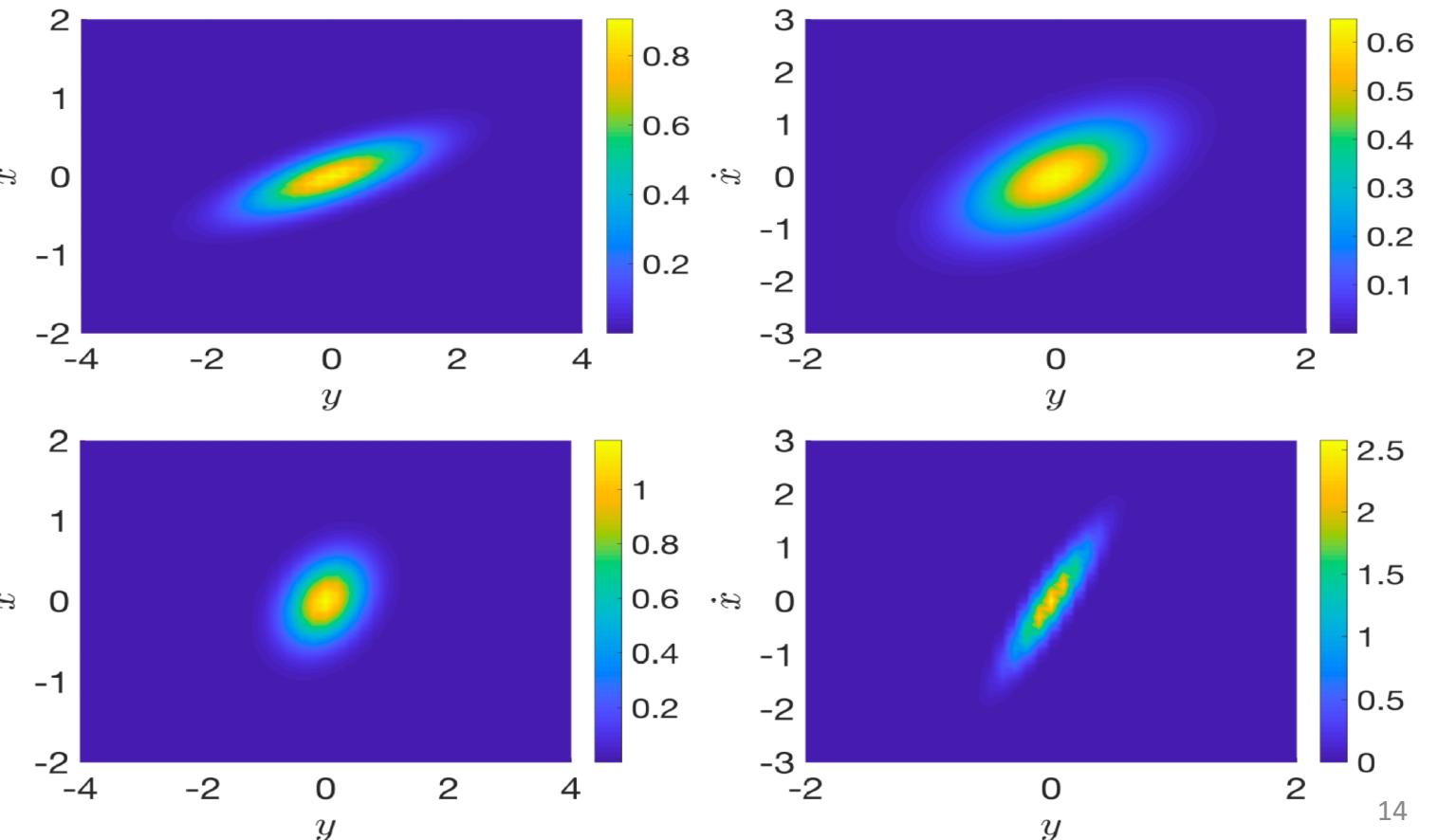
# Numerical results

- Transition PDF

$$p(x_f, y_f, \dot{x}_f, t_f | x_i, y_i, \dot{x}_i, t_i) \approx \Phi \exp \left( - \int_{t_i}^{t_f} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}_c, \mathbf{y}_c) dt \right) \longrightarrow p(x, y, \dot{x})$$

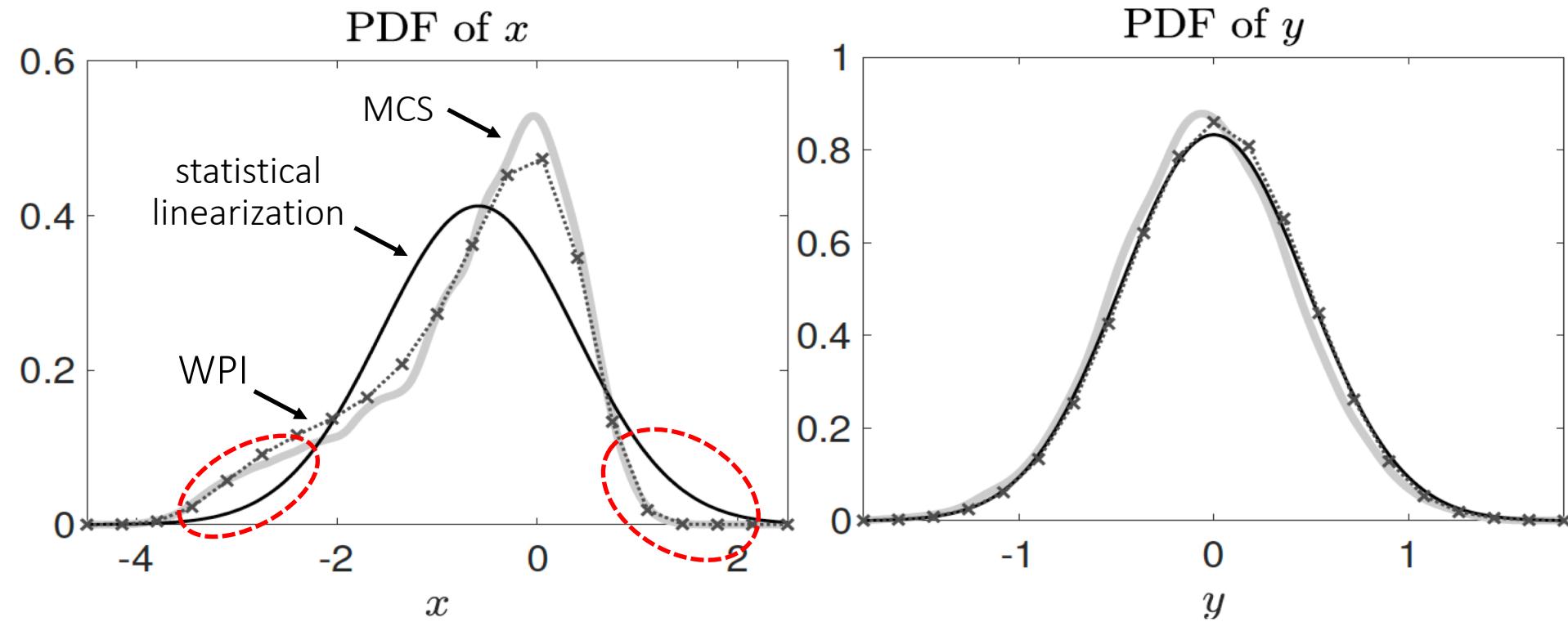
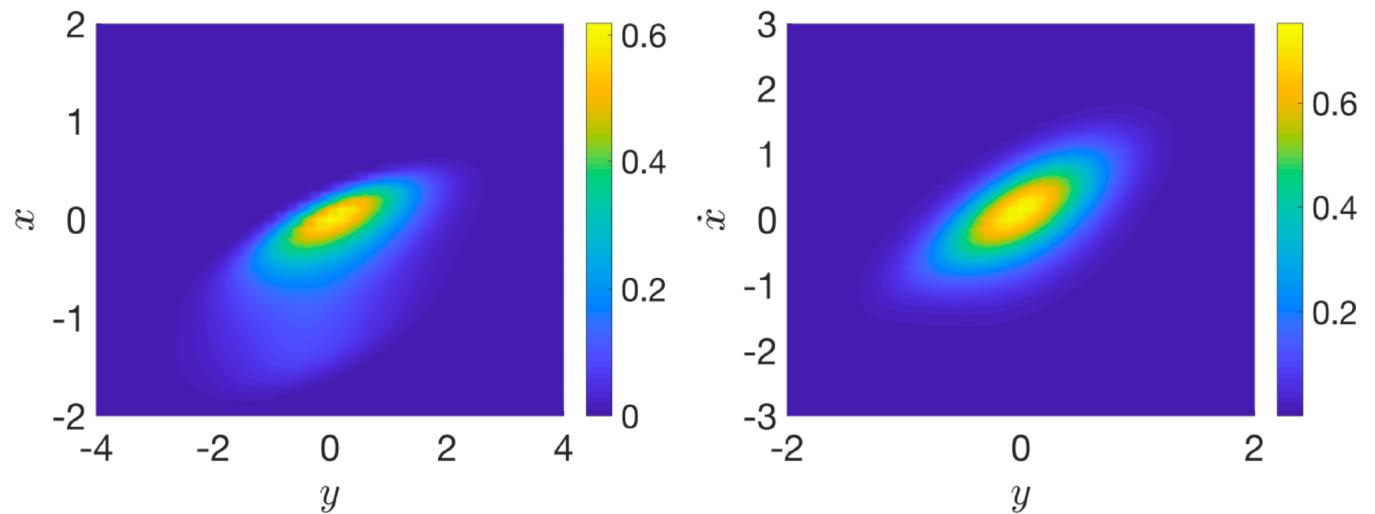
- Linear Harvester

$$\begin{array}{l} \alpha = 0.8 \\ \dot{y} + \alpha y - \dot{x} = 0 \end{array}$$



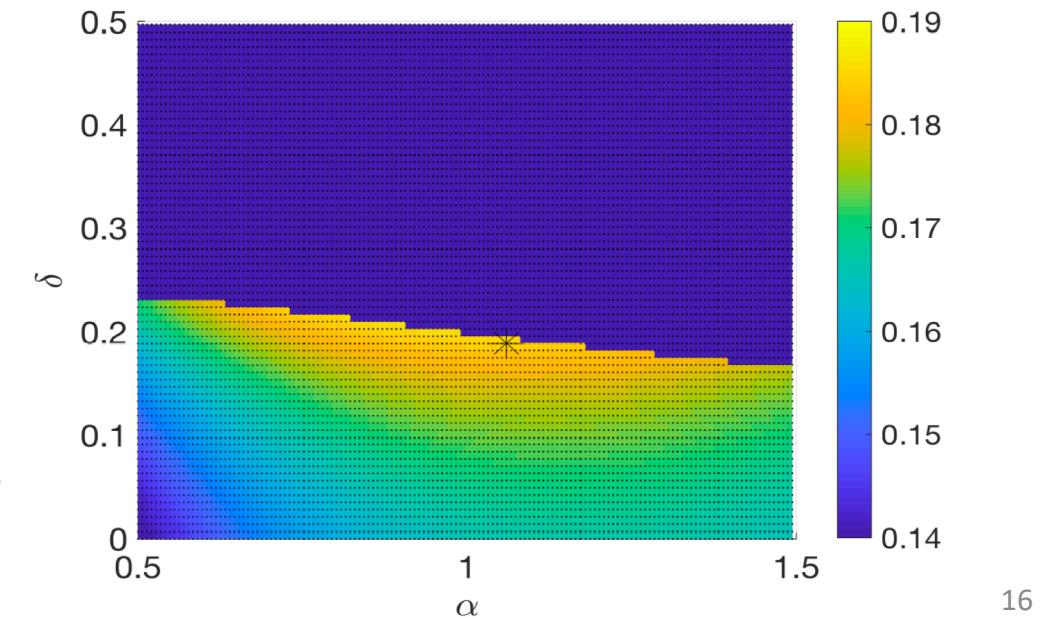
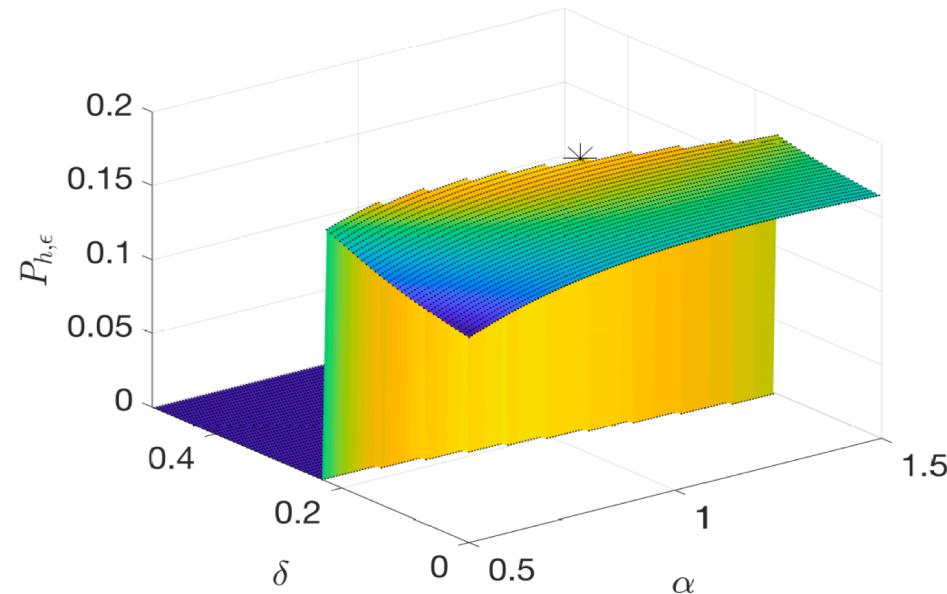
# Numerical results

- Nonlinear harvester
- Statistical linearization:  
inaccurate probability  
of failure  $P_f$



# Numerical results – Optimum design

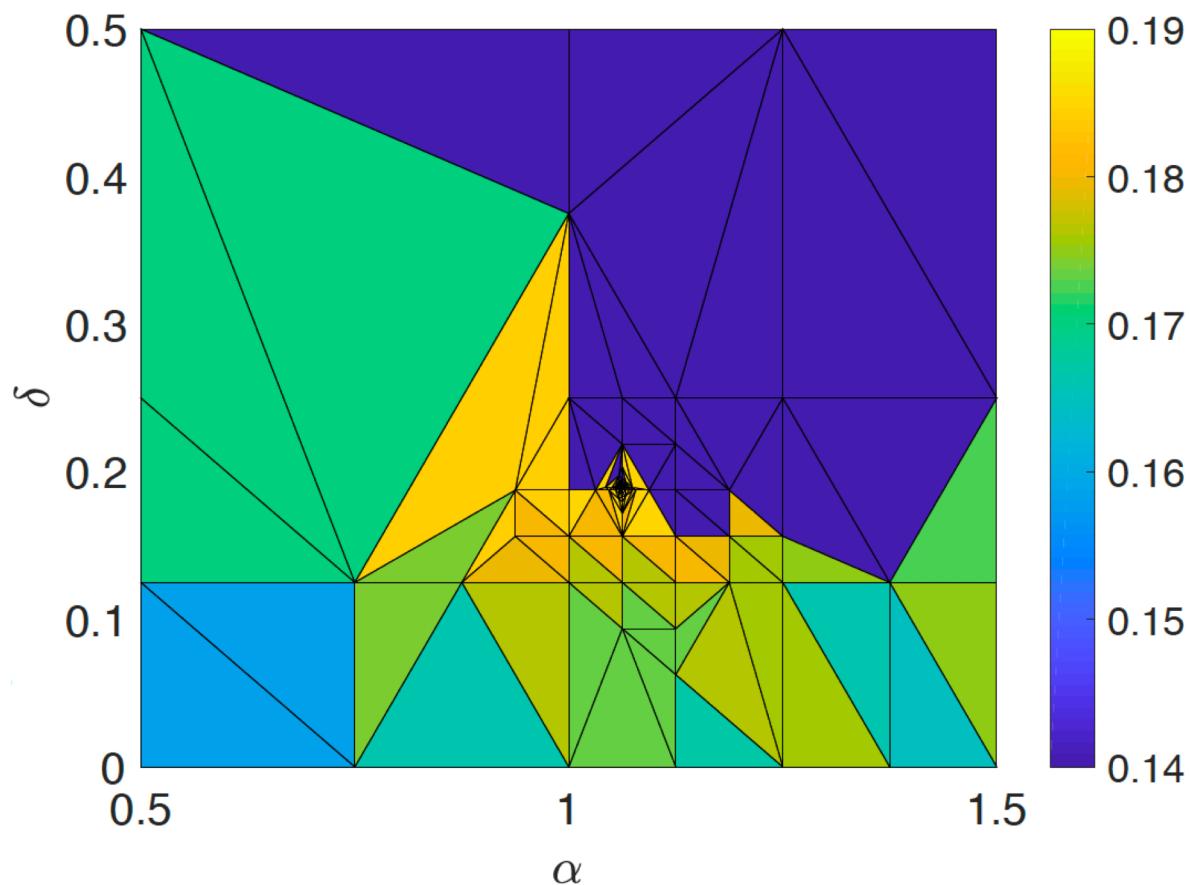
- Design of nonlinear energy harvester for maximum mean harvested power and constrained probability of failure.
- This is  $\max_{(\alpha, \delta)} P_h$  s.t.  $P(x < -3) \leq 10^{-2}$
- Full grid using **statistical linearization**: 10296 objective function evaluations



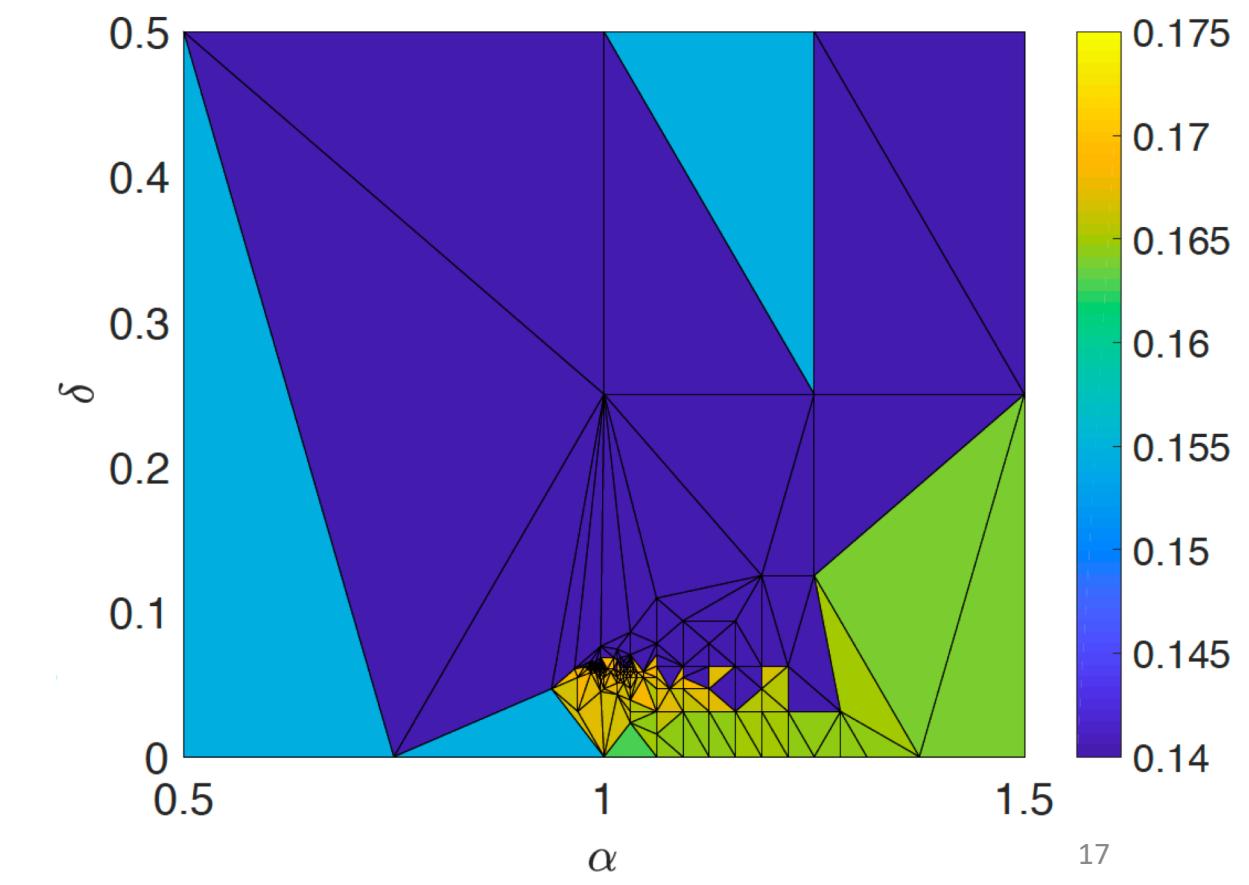
# Numerical results – Optimum design

- Gradient-free optimization algorithm: Generalized Pattern Search (GPS)

statistical linearization: 164 evaluations



WPI technique: 144 evaluations



# Numerical results – Optimum design

- Assessment of optimum designs using Monte-Carlo Simulation (50000 realizations)

Constraint: $P_f = P(x < -3.0) \leq 10^{-2}$		
	WPI optimum $(\alpha, \delta) = (0.9874, 0.0625)$	Stat. Lin. optimum $(\alpha, \delta) = (1.0580, 0.1907)$
$P_h$	0.16886	0.18530
$P_f$	0.00998	0.00999

$$P_f > 10^{-2}$$

↗ constraint violation

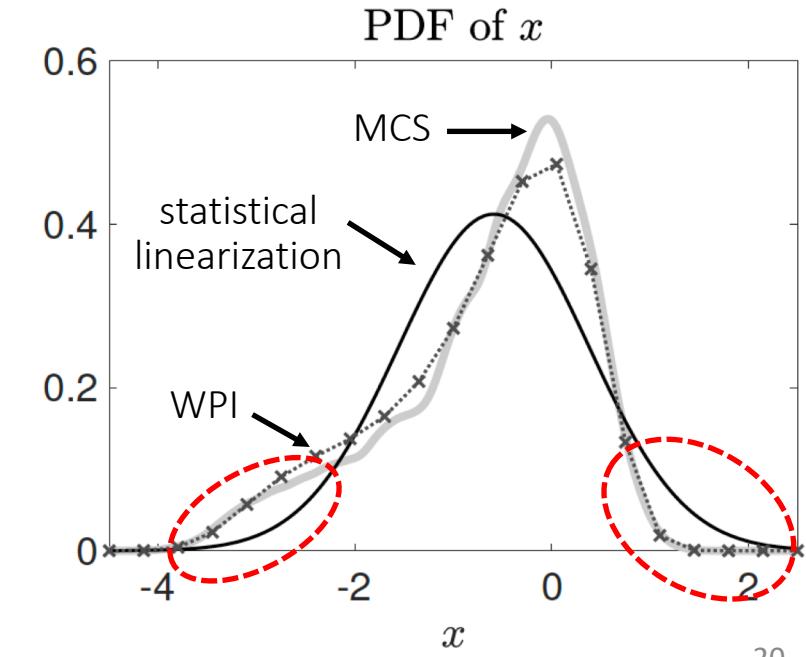
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# Conclusions

- Path integral technique modification to enable the analysis of vibratory energy harvesters
- Formulation of constrained variational problem
  - E-L equations and **Lagrange multipliers**  $\longrightarrow$  Calculus of Variations
  - Rayleigh-Ritz and **nullspace**  $\longrightarrow$  computationally efficient
- Efficient computational scheme for **accurate** determination of **response PDF**
- Design optimization for maximum output and **constrained** probability of failure  $P_f$
- **Path integral** significantly **outperforms** a commonly utilized statistical linearization solution treatment
- Statistical linearization based (constrained  $P_f$ ) optimum design yields either **sub-optimal** solutions, or solutions that **violate the constraint**.



Thank you!