

# CALIFORNIA SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR 2018 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

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**Project Number** 

**J0121** 

#### **Project Title**

## A Unique Spin on Aerodynamics: Airfoil Augmented with Semi-Auto Rotating Leading Edge Cylinder

### Objectives/Goals

**Abstract** 

Determine if an airfoil with a semi-auto rotating leading edge can efficiently increase lift by 25%.

#### Methods/Materials

A low speed wind tunnel built of cardboard, wood, Plexiglas, and portable fan for wind generation. An apparatus was created to hold a rotating cylinder and airfoil suspended on a scale. The cylinders and airfoils are made from 3D printing. The data was collected utilizing weight, RPM, and wind speed measurements. Dry ice was used for flow visualization.

#### Results

The data from multiple test runs of both a stand-alone cylinder and an airfoil augmented with a leading-edge rotating cylinder resulted in a 7% increase in lift.

#### Conclusions/Discussion

The test results of 7% increase in lift varied from the predicted 25% increase in lift by approximately 70%. This discrepancy is primarily related to the inability to meet target RPM speeds due to instability.

#### **Summary Statement**

The addition of a semi auto-rotating leading-edge cylinder to an airfoil does increase lift.

#### Help Received

Help was received from a neighbor who is an aerospace engineer as well as from my father in correcting my airfoil assembly when excess vibration occurred.