



# Machine Learning in Fluid Dynamics

Dr.-Ing. Andre Weiner, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Rolf Radespiel  
Technische Universität Braunschweig | Institut für Strömungsmechanik  
a.weiner@tu-braunschweig.de | Telefon +49 (0) 531 391-94266



Stiftung  
Innovation in der  
Hochschullehre

Stiftung Innovation in der Hochschullehre

This lecture is funded by the [foundation for innovation in higher education](#).

### Machine learning in computational fluid dynamics

This repository contains resources accompanying the lecture [machine learning in computational fluid dynamics](#) provided by the Institute of Fluid Mechanics at TU Braunschweig. **Note that slides, notebooks, and other resources will be regularly updated throughout the term.**

**Lectures**

If equations in the lecture notebooks do not get rendered properly on Github, download the notebook and open it using `jupyter-lab` (refer to the first exercise session for an overview of dependencies and installation instructions).

#	topic	slides	notebook
1	Course overview and motivation	<a href="#">link</a>	<a href="#">view</a>
2+3	Finite-volume-based simulations in a nutshell	<a href="#">link</a>	<a href="#">view</a>
4+5	Introduction to machine learning	<a href="#">link</a>	<a href="#">view</a>
6	Surrogate modeling for discrete predictions	<a href="#">link</a>	<a href="#">view</a>

## Concept and starting point

- Application of state-of-the-art machine learning techniques for the analysis, modelling, and optimization of fluid flow applications
- Story telling – machine learning and simulation techniques introduced in the context of real world problems and applications
- Direct knowledge transfer from latest research to engineering curriculum
- Targets mainly computational, mechanical, and aerospace engineers
- Hybrid format – recorded in-person/online lecture and exercise sessions
- Lecture material and communication in English language
- Lecture started in 2021/2022 winter term and got significantly revised and extended during the 2022/2023 winter term thanks to **ProDigi**
- Currently 15 lectures and exercises (11 revised, 2 new, 2 in preparation)

← Left: The lecture content is organized as a Github repository. The lecture material is freely available at <https://github.com/AndreWeiner/ml-cfd-lecture>.

## Technology stack

- Slides are created with **Reveal.js** and hosted on Github → slides are device independent (laptop, tablet, phone), platform independent (Windows, Linux, MacOS, Android, iOS) and always accesible online via web browser
- **Jupyter notebooks** as lecture and exercise scripts → Jupyter notebooks are interactive documents containing text, formulas, source code, and interactive visualizations; the notebooks can be viewed online (static mode) or locally on a laptop/workstation (interactive)
- Version control with **Git** and **Github** → lecture material is version-controlled and gets updated regularly throughout term; students are required to check for the latest updates and to “pull” if necessary
- Reproducibility of scientific data through **virtualization** → software and programming libraries are distributed as software containers
- Open-source only → the lecture material is published under a non-restrictive Creative Commons license; free simulation (OpenFOAM, Basilisk) and machine learning packages (PyTorch, ScikitLearn)

## Challenges

**Compatibility** – issues between BigBlueButton, iPad and Linux/Ubuntu

**Time** – update and creation of content is demanding

**Technical requirements** – many students don't have access to a Linux PC

**Access** – there is demand for thrid-party access but no legal basis for participation

**Active engagement** – most students don't interact hands-on with material (exercises and notebooks)

## Future skills

hands-on **programming** in Python and C++

**Data analysis** and **visualization** of real data

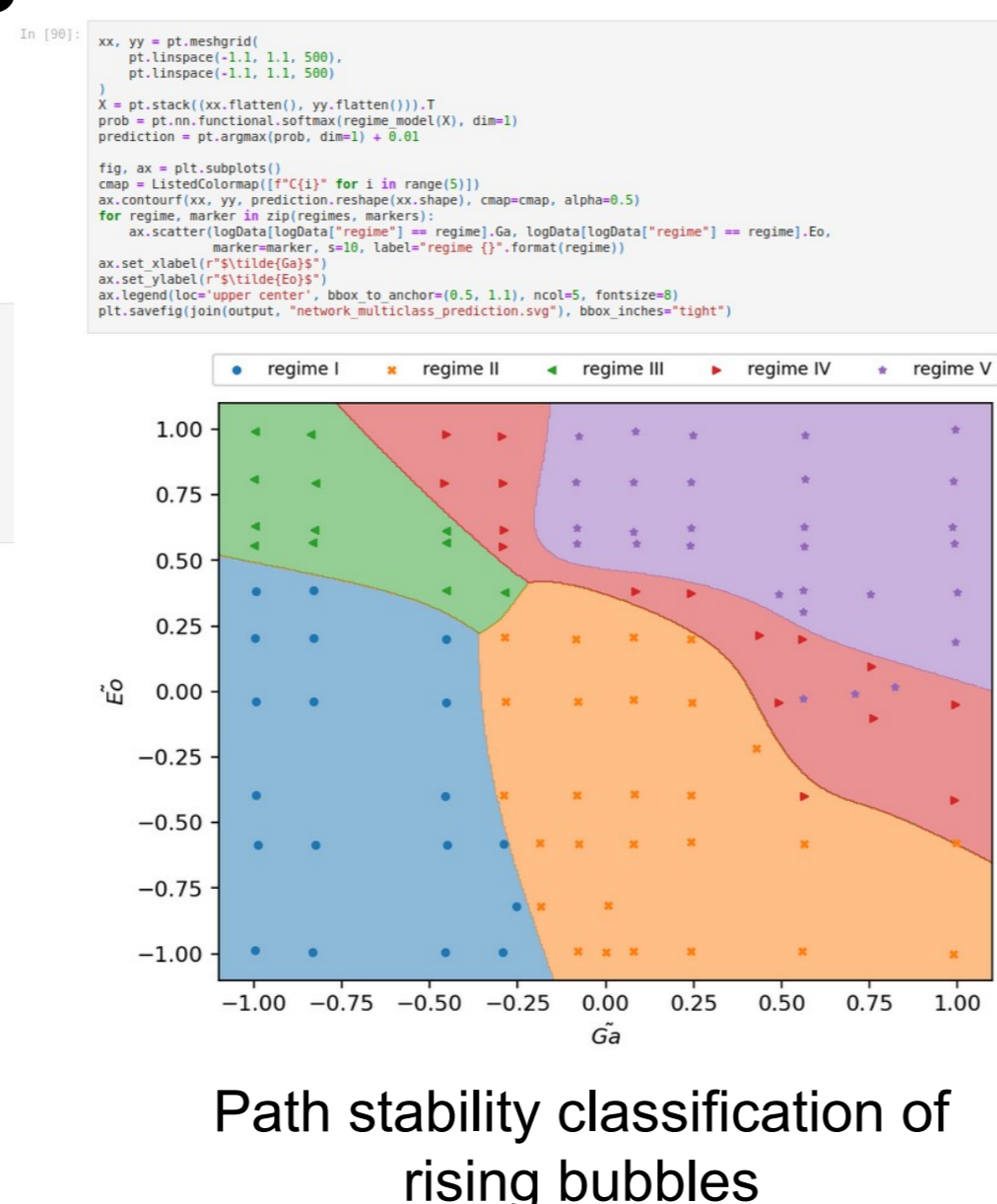
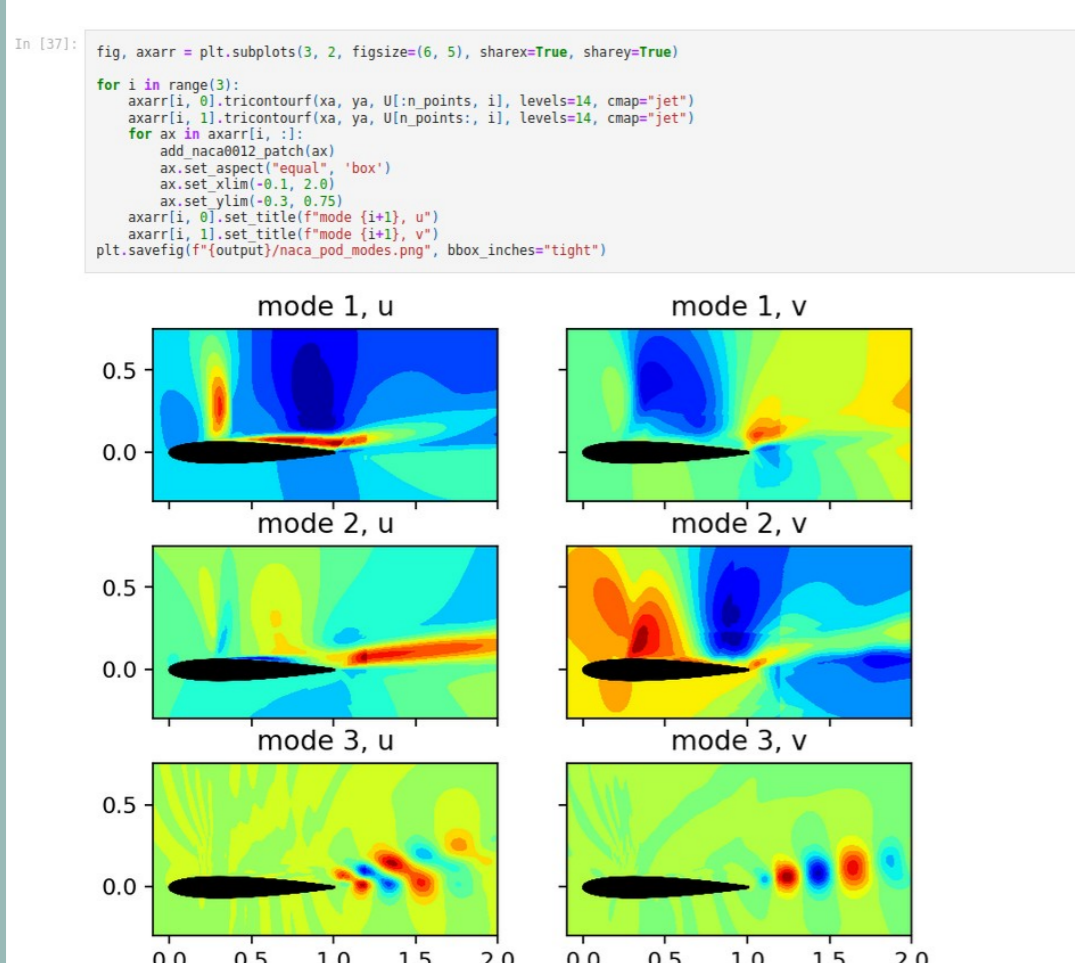
**Machine learning** in action – transfer of cutting edge research to teaching

**Data literacy** – state-of-the-art technology stack

Professional online **communication**

## Lecture notebooks

Modal analysis of transonic shock buffet on airfoils

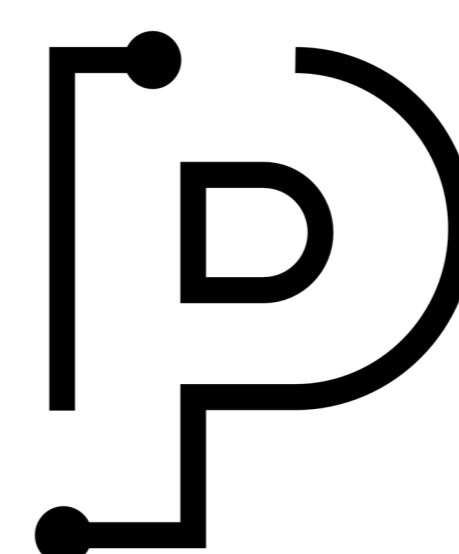


## Just the numbers

72 enrolled students from computational, mechanical, aerospace, electrical and other engineering diciplines

Lecture repository has ~ 85 unique visitors per week and gets “cloned” ~15 times per week

~ 640 weekly visualizations of lecture material



PROMOTING  
DIGITAL EDUCATION  
THROUGH GLOBAL  
INTERCONNECTION