# Dylan Rubini

# Mechanical Engineer

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## Research Focus

- Developing machine-learning-enhanced numerical tools to accelerate modelling, design optimisation, and control of complex flows within thermochemical, aerospace and turbomachinery applications.
- O Working at the intersection between machine learning, computational science and aerothermochemical design to develop multiphysics & multidisciplinary numerical tools accelerate the net-zero transition.
- Investigating complex transonic turbulent flow interactions using high-fidelity computations within internal and external flows to help inform design decisions.

#### **Academic Positions**

2024-Present IAA Doctoral Impact Postdoctoral Scholar, University of Oxford.

- Research Projects:
  - 1. Commercialisation of machine-learning-accelerated aerochemical modelling platform.
  - 2. Collaborative Project: Automating engineering design & simulation using multi-agent large language model systems.
  - 3. Collaborative Project: Computational multiphysics modelling of multiscale nanomembrane flow phenomena within  $CO_2$  direct air capture systems.

#### Education and Research

2020-Present **PhD** in Engineering Science on EPSRC scholarship, University of Oxford.

- o Supervisors: Budimir Rosic (Oxford) and Liping Xu (Cambridge).
- o Lab: Oxford Thermofluids Institute leading thermofluids & heat transfer lab
- Main Thesis: pioneering work developing multi-fidelity machine-learning-assisted model to accelerate multiphysics coupling in a new class of turbomachines for zerocarbon high-temperature chemical processes. This enables aerochemically-guided design optimisation for the first time in turbomachinery.

- Further Research Contributions:
  - 1. developed unstructured computational fluid dynamics solver using highlyoptimised code generation for both multi-core CPU & GPU backends.
  - 2. developed Python-based numerical tool for chemical kinetic analysis in turbomachines.
  - 3. numerically investigated complex aerothermal flow interactions and quantified aerodynamic loss mechanisms in turbomachines for high-temperature processes.
  - 4. implemented and leveraged multiobjective chemical-reaction-guided design optimisation for a new class of turbomachines.

#### 2016–2020 MEng Engineering Science, First Class, University of Oxford.

- Final Year Dissertation: first work computationally modelling the uniquely complex aerothermodynamics for a new class of high-speed turbomachines to decarbonise industry. This helped inform aerodynamic design decisions.
- $\circ$  *Achievements*: top mark in the cohort for the 4<sup>th</sup> year project (scoring **93%**), as well as scoring above an average of **80%** overall.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-year Advanced Courses: Electronic Devices, Circuits & Communications, Software Engineering, Information Engineering Systems, Fluid Mechanics (Turbulence, Compressible Flow and Turbomachinery)
- o 4<sup>th</sup>-year Advanced Courses: Aerothermal Engineering, Hydraulics, Sustainable Energy, Microelectronics, Machine Learning, Electrochemical Energy Technology

2008–2016 **A-Levels**, *A\*A\*A*, **GCSEs** *8A\*s*, *4As*.

## Awards and Achievements

- 2024 Awarded competitive IAA Doctoral Impact prize, University of Oxford.
- 2024 **Presented at Reynolds competition**, *University of Manchester*.
- 2024 **Best paper award**, ASME Journal of Turbomachinery, Ref. [4].
- 2023-Present Awarded 20k computing research grant, UKRI ARCHER2 HPC access.
  - 2023 **Best paper award**, Global Power and Propulsion Society, Ref. [3].
  - 2022 **Best poster award**, ASME Turbo Expo: Power for Land, Sea and Air.
- 2020–Present **Doctoral scholarship**, *UKRI DTP EPSRC*.
  - 2020 Prestigious IMechE Project Award, Institution of Mechanical Engineers.
  - 2020 Top mark in 4<sup>th</sup> year MEng project (93%), Engineering Science Dept.
  - 2020 **Best project poster award**, Oxford Engineering Science Dept.
  - 2018–2020 Academic prize awards, Oriel College, University of Oxford.

# Research Experience

Summer 2019 **Research Intern**, *Oxford Thermofluids Institute*, Advisor: Budimir Rosic.

MPI-parallelised an in-house computational fluid dynamics solver

Summer 2018 **Research Intern**, Oxford Thermofluids Institute, Advisor: Peter Ireland.

Designed flow measurement and instrumentation systems within a new wind tunnel

## Journal Publications

- [1] **D. Rubini**, B. Rosic, and L. Xu. Efficiently Modelling Aerochemical Interactions in Turbomachines. 2024. In Preparation.
- [2] **D. Rubini**, B. Rosic, and L. Xu. Energy Conversion Mechanisms in Turbomachines for High-Temperature Endothermic Reactions: Redefining Energy Quality. *Appl. Therm. Eng.*, 2024. Under Review.
- [3] **D. Rubini**, N. Karefyllidis, B. Rosic, L. Xu, and E. Nauha. Decarbonisation of High-Temperature Endothermic Chemical Reaction Processes Using a Novel Turbomachine: Robustness of the Concept to Feed Variability. *J. Glob. Power Propuls. Soc.*, 2024 (Best Paper).
- [4] N. Karefyllidis, **D. Rubini**, B. Rosic, L. Xu, and V.-M. Purola. A Novel Axial Energy-Imparting Turbomachine for High-Enthalpy Gas Heating: Robustness of the Aerodynamic Design. *ASME J. Turbomach.*, 2023 (Best Paper).
- [5] D. Rubini, N. Karefyllidis, L. Xu, B. Rosic, and H. Johannesdahl. Accelerating the Development of a New Turbomachinery Concept in an Environment With Limited Resources and Experimental Data: Challenges. In ASME Turbo Expo, 2022.
- [6] D. Rubini, N. Karefyllidis, L. Xu, B. Rosic, and H. Johannesdahl. A New Robust Regenerative Turbo-Reactor Concept for Clean Hydrocarbon Cracking. J. Glob. Power Propuls. Soc., 2022.
- [7] **D. Rubini**, L. Xu, B. Rosic, and H. Johannesdahl. A New Turbomachine for Clean and Sustainable Hydrocarbon Cracking. *ASME J. Eng. Gas Turbines Power*, 2021.

## Talks and Conference Presentations

- 2024 **Invited Talk**, *The University of Tokyo, Japan*, "Enabling the Net-Zero Transition: Integrating Complex Aerochemistry Efficiently at the Design Optimisation Level".
- 2023 Conference, Global Power and Propulsion Society, Hong Kong, "Ref. [3]".
- 2023 **Invited Talk**, *Mitsubishi Heavy Industries*, *Japan*, "Ultra-Fast Multiphysics Coupling Tools Required for the Future Decarbonised World".
- 2022 **Invited Talk**, *Osney Thermofluids Institute, Oxford*, "Designing a Turbo-Reactor to Selectively Control Chemical Reactions".
- 2022 **Invited Talk**, *Coolbrook Oy, Finland*, "Accelerated Aerochemistry Coupling Toolchain Enabling a Controllable, Selective and High-Yield Turbo-Reactor Design".
- 2022 **Conference**, ASME Turbo Expo, Rotterdam, "Ref. [5]".
- 2021 **Conference**, Global Power and Propulsion Society, Xi'an, "Ref. [6]".
- 2021 **Conference**, ASME Turbo Expo, London, "Ref. [7]".

# Industry Experience

Autumn 2024 Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Japan, Placement.

 Two-month placement working on numerical design & modelling of novel ammonia combustors.

2019-Present Coolbrook Oy, Finland, Collaborator.

 Collaborating on developing new numerical tools for modelling complex aerothermochemical flows within a new class of high-speed turbomachines.

Summer 2017 GNL Quintero, Chile, Intern.

• Investigated failures in pipes used for liquefied natural gas transport.

## Academic Community Contributions

Session Chair, Combustion - GPPS Turbomachinery Technical Conference, Greece 2024

Reviewer, Organic Rankine Cycles - Journal of the Global Power and Propulsion Society 2023

Reviewer, Elsevier Journal of Cleaner Production 2023

# Teaching and Mentoring

Spring 2025 1st year mathematics (Planned)

2020-Present Mentoring PhD & MEng students and prospective Oxford applicants

#### Technical Skills

Languages 1 Experienced: Python, Fortran, Matlab, MPI programming, Domain Specific Languages, LATEX, Shell scripting

Languages 2 Familiar: C/C++, Cuda, OpenMP programming

ML libraries TENSORFLOW, PYMOO (multiobjective genetic optimisation)

#### Software

Fluids Ansys Fluent (CFD), BoxerMesh (meshing), Icem (meshing), in-house code Tblock (CFD), Lattice Boltzmann OpenLB (CFD), SolidWorks CAD, ParaView (Post-processing)

Chemistry RMG-PY (generating kinetics), CANTERA (solving kinetics)

General Git, Visual Studio Code, Sublime Text, CorelDraw, Inkscape, Overleaf

HPC Facilities ARCHER2, Advanced Research Computing Facility (Oxford)

OS Linux (Ubuntu & CentOS), Windows, macOS

#### Certified Courses

OPENLB Learnt to develop custom lattice Boltzmann PDE solvers

#### Referees

Available upon request