



Kamila Zdybał, Ph.D.

kamilazdybal@gmail.com




 Google Scholar |  Personal website |  GitHub |  LinkedIn |  YouTube

My research interests are in using **representation learning** to **understand high-dimensional datasets** and **model high-dimensional systems** with computational efficiency. I am passionate about developing open-source scientific software, science outreach, and creating educational content.


Academic appointments

- Feb 2024 – Jan 2026, Postdoctoral researcher, Computational Engineering laboratory, Empa – Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology, Dübendorf, Switzerland
PI:  **Dr. Ivan Lunati**
- May 2023 – Jan 2024, Postdoctoral researcher, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium
PI:  **Prof. Alessandro Parente**

Education

- Sep 2018 – Apr 2023, Ph.D. student, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium
 - Jan 2020 – Apr 2020, research stay at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, USA**Advisors:**  **Prof. Alessandro Parente** and  **Prof. James C. Sutherland**
Dissertation: *Reduced-order modeling of turbulent reacting flows using data-driven approaches.*
 <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.18843.95521>
- Jul 2016 – Sep 2016, Research student, the von Karman Institute for Fluid Dynamics, Rhode-Saint-Genèse, Belgium
Advisor:  **Prof. Miguel A. Mendez**
Report: *POD and DMD decomposition of numerical and experimental data.*
 <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.34150.91201>
- Mar 2015 – Sep 2016, Master degree in Civil Engineering, Cracow University of Technology, Cracow, Poland
Thesis: *Quasi-static model of wind action in flutter of bridge structures.*
- Oct 2010 – Feb 2014, Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering, Cracow University of Technology, Cracow, Poland
Thesis: *Analysis of wind action on a support structure of a dual-rotor wind turbine.* Graduated with honors.

Teaching

- September 9–11 2024, Training school instructor for *Machine Learning for Reacting Flows* with ≈40 participants, Thessaloniki, Greece.
- Spring semester 2022, Master-level: *Data-driven engineering*, Exercise sessions for ≈40 students, Université Libre de Bruxelles
 <https://github.com/burn-research/data-driven-engineering-course>
- Fall semester 2019, Master-level: *Fluid mechanics and transport phenomena*, Exercise sessions for ≈40 students, Université Libre de Bruxelles

Work experience

- Feb 2017 – Aug 2018, Software test engineer, Nokia, Cracow, Poland
- May 2014 – Dec 2014, Civil structures intern, BMT Fluid Mechanics, Teddington, United Kingdom

Academic awards & grants

- 2023, Winner of the **18th ERCOFTAC da Vinci Competition** – Awarded for the best European Ph.D. thesis in flow, turbulence and combustion, and outstanding scientific contributions with engineering relevance (€1,000)
- 2023, 39th ISOC **Distinguished Paper Award** for Numerical Combustion
- 2023, Student Travel Award for the SIAM Conference on Computational Science and Engineering (\$700)
- 2022, Student Travel Award for the SIAM Conference on Mathematics of Data Science (\$800)
- 2020, Funding for an abroad research stay, CCCI, Université Libre de Bruxelles (€4,500)
- 2019, F.R.S.-FNRS Aspirant Research Fellow grant & grant renewal in 2021 (€125,000 + €10,000 ancillary costs)
- 2018, Scholarship for the first year of my Ph.D., Université Libre de Bruxelles (€25,000 + €3,000 ancillary costs) Granted to Ph.D. students who scored just below the threshold for obtaining a F.R.S.-FNRS grant in 2018 to encourage another application to F.R.S.-FNRS the following year.
- 2016, Funding for an abroad research stay, Erasmus+ (€500)
- 2016, Dean's scholarship for the best students, Cracow University of Technology (approx. €800)
- 2012, GE Foundation Scholar Leaders scholarship (€3,000)

Peer-reviewed journal articles (7)

- 2023 **K. Zdybał**, A. Parente, and J. C. Sutherland. Improving reduced-order models through nonlinear decoding of projection-dependent outputs. *Patterns*, 4:100859, 2023.
🔗 <https://github.com/kamilazdybal/nonlinear-decoding>
📄 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.patter.2023.100859>
- 2023 **K. Zdybał**, E. Armstrong, A. Parente, and J. C. Sutherland. PCAfold 2.0—Novel tools and algorithms for low-dimensional manifold assessment and optimization. *SoftwareX*, 23:101447, 2023.
🔗 <https://gitlab.multiscale.utah.edu/common/PCAfold>
📄 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.softx.2023.101447>
📺 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVF4QaLpc6k>
- 2023 **K. Zdybał**, G. D'Alessio, A. Attili, A. Coussement, J. C. Sutherland, and A. Parente. Local manifold learning and its link to domain-based physics knowledge. *Applications in Energy and Combustion Science*, 14:100131, 2023.
🔗 <https://github.com/kamilazdybal/local-manifold-learning>
📄 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaecs.2023.100131>
- 2023 A. C. Ispir, **K. Zdybał**, B. H. Saracoglu, T. Magin, A. Parente, and A. Coussement. Reduced-order modeling of supersonic fuel-air mixing in a multi-strut injection scramjet engine using machine learning techniques. *Acta Astronautica*, 202:564–584, 2023.
📄 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actaastro.2022.11.013>
- 2022 **K. Zdybał**, E. Armstrong, J. C. Sutherland, and A. Parente. Cost function for low-dimensional manifold topology assessment. *Scientific Reports*, 12:14496, 2022.
🔗 <https://github.com/kamilazdybal/cost-function-manifold-assessment>
📄 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-18655-1>
- 2022 **K. Zdybał**, J. C. Sutherland, and A. Parente. Manifold-informed state vector subset for reduced-order modeling. *Proceedings of the Combustion Institute*, 39(4):5145–5154, 2023.
This paper has received the Distinguished Paper Award from The Combustion Institute.
🔗 <https://github.com/kamilazdybal/manifold-informed-state-vector-subset>
📄 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.proci.2022.06.019>
- 2020 **K. Zdybał**, E. Armstrong, A. Parente, and J. C. Sutherland. PCAfold: Python software to generate, analyze and improve PCA-derived low-dimensional manifolds. *SoftwareX*, 12:100630, 2020.
🔗 <https://gitlab.multiscale.utah.edu/common/PCAfold>
📄 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.softx.2020.100630>

Book chapters (2)

- 2023 **K. Zdybał**, G. D'Alessio, G. Aversano, M. R. Malik, A. Coussement, J. C. Sutherland, and A. Parente. Advancing reactive flow simulations with data-driven models. In M. A. Mendez, A. Ianiro, B. R. Noack, and S. L. Brunton, editors, *Data-Driven Fluid Mechanics: Combining First Principles and Machine Learning*, chapter 15, pages 304–329. Cambridge University Press, 2023.
📄 <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108896214.022>
📄 <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2209.02051>
- 2023 **K. Zdybał**, M. R. Malik, A. Coussement, J. C. Sutherland, and A. Parente. Reduced-order modeling of reactive flows using data-driven approaches. In N. Swaminathan and A. Parente, editors, *Machine Learning and Its Application to Reacting Flows: ML and Combustion*, chapter 9, pages 245–278. Springer, 2023.
🔗 <https://github.com/kamilazdybal/ROM-of-reacting-flows-Springer>
📄 https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-16248-0_9

Articles currently under review (1)

- 2025 **K. Zdybał**, J. C. Sutherland, and A. Parente. Optimizing progress variables for ammonia/hydrogen combustion using encoding-decoding networks. *Combustion and Flame*, 2025.
📄 <https://github.com/kamilazdybal/pv-optimization>

Articles to be submitted in 2025 (2)

- 2025 **K. Zdybał**, C. Mucignat, and I. Lunati. Optimization of hyper-parameters and padding for a lightweight velocimetry network. *In preparation for Measurement Science and Technology*, 2025.
- 2025 **K. Zdybał**, C. Mucignat, and I. Lunati. **pykitPIV**: Machine-learning-compatible synthetic image generation for training optical flow estimation algorithms for velocimetry. *In preparation for SoftwareX*, 2025.

Software development

I am **the main developer** of the following packages:

- **pykitPIV** – a Python library for kinematic training for particle image velocimetry (PIV)
📄 <https://pykitpiv.readthedocs.io>
- **PCAfold** (★12) – a Python software package for generating, analyzing and improving low-dimensional manifolds
📄 <https://pcafold.readthedocs.io>
- **multiply** – an educational Python library for multicomponent mass transfer
📄 <https://multiply-lib.readthedocs.io>
- **reduced-order-modelling** – a collection of MATLAB® tools for data pre-processing, reduced-order modeling and results visualization
📄 <https://github.com/burn-research/reduced-order-modelling>
- **plotting** – a collection of MATLAB® functions for automating plotting scientific results
📄 <https://github.com/burn-research/plotting>
- **POD-DMD-GUI** – a MATLAB® GUI for POD and DMD decomposition of experimental or numerical data
📄 <https://github.com/kamilazdybal/POD-DMD-decompositions>

I am **a contributor** to the following package:

- **LIMA** – Lightweight Image Matching Architecture for velocimetry
📄 <https://lima-piv.readthedocs.io>

Contributions to science outreach

- 2023–present, Creating YouTube tutorials for our open-source Python software, **PCAfold**
📺 YouTube playlist: [PCAfold tutorials](#)
- 2023–present, Creating YouTube tutorials *Python for Academics*
📺 YouTube playlist: [Python for Academics](#)
📄 <https://github.com/kamilazdybal/python-for-academics>
- 2021, Developing Python software for a graduate course on multicomponent mass transfer
- 2018–present, Developing open-source educational materials
<https://kamilazdybal.github.io>
- 2018–present, Co-organizing annual *Pinguino Lecture Series* for fellow PhD students and academics
- 2016–2017, Leading *Arduino Study Group*, Jagiellonian University
 - 2017, A tutorial for one of our projects that uses Arduino and C++ can be found below:
📄 <https://github.com/kamilazdybal/objectif-morse/>
- 2013–2015, Developing online materials in STEM for high school students as part of the GE Foundation Scholar Leaders voluntary experience
<https://wszechswiatnauki.wordpress.com>
 - 2016, One of my educational articles is published in *Neutrino*, a popular science magazine issued by the Physics Department at the Jagiellonian University
📄 <http://www.neutrino.if.uj.edu.pl/archiwum/2016/33>

Graduate students supervised


- 2024-2028 Grégoire Corluy

Invited talks (15)



- 2025 **K. Zdybał**. Convolutions and particles: How can machine learning support PIV? In *ETSIAE-UPM*, Madrid, Spain, 2025 (**upcoming**).
- 2024 **K. Zdybał**. Representation learning in combustion and beyond. In *CERTH - The Centre for Research & Technology, Hellas*, Thessaloniki, Greece, 2024.
- 2024 **K. Zdybał**. The beauty and pitfalls of t-SNE. In *Université Libre de Bruxelles*, Online, 2024. Guest lecture in the master-level course MECA-H419 – Data-Driven Engineering.
■ Part 1: <https://youtu.be/tfk6Jo0pUQ8>
■ Part 2: <https://youtu.be/8fqk-3Z7J4Y>
- 2024 **K. Zdybał**. Introduction to artificial neural networks. In *Université Libre de Bruxelles*, Online, 2024. Guest lecture in the master-level course MECA-H419 – Data-Driven Engineering.
- 2024 **K. Zdybał**. Introduction to machine learning and artificial neural networks. In *The University of Utah*, Online, 2024. Guest lecture in the undergraduate course CHEN-2450 – Numerical Methods.
■ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGWE81FWMA>
- 2023 **K. Zdybał**. Efficient dimensionality reduction of combustion data. In *Machine Learning in Combustion*, Online, 2023. Technische Universität Darmstadt & RWTH Aachen University workshop.
■ <https://www.nhr4ces.de/machine-learning-in-combustion/>
- 2023 **K. Zdybał**. Modeling high-dimensional systems with data science and machine learning. In *Empa, Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology*, Dübendorf, Switzerland, 2023. Talk.
- 2023 **K. Zdybał**. Learning from high-dimensional data. In *Stanford University, School of Medicine*, Online, 2023. Seminar at Bendall Lab.
- 2023 **K. Zdybał**. How to project data? In *Université Libre de Bruxelles*, Brussels, Belgium, 2023. Seminar.
- 2023 **K. Zdybał**. Introduction to machine learning and artificial neural networks. In *The University of Utah*, Online, 2023. Guest lecture in the undergraduate course CHEN-2450 – Numerical Methods.
■ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPL2l1K6KPM>
- 2023 **K. Zdybał**. Improving reduced-order models, one manifold at a time. In *The von Karman Institute for Fluid Dynamics*, Rhode-Saint-Genese, Belgium, 2023. Research Master seminar.
- 2023 **K. Zdybał**. Modeling turbulent reacting flows: Data science to the rescue. In *University of Utah*, Online, 2023. Graduate seminar at the Department of Chemical Engineering.
- 2022 **K. Zdybał**. Adventures in low-dimensional manifolds and reduced-order modeling. In *Université Libre de Bruxelles*, Brussels, Belgium, 2022. Seminar.
- 2022 **K. Zdybał**. Cost function for low-dimensional manifold topology optimization. In *The von Karman Institute for Fluid Dynamics*, Rhode-Saint-Genese, Belgium, 2022. Seminar.
■ <https://www.vki.ac.be/index.php/vki-seminars>
- 2018 **K. Zdybał**. Principal Component Analysis for chemistry reduction. In *Pinguino Lecture Series*, Brussels, Belgium, 2018. Talk.

Conference presentations (17)

- 2024 **K. Zdybał**, C. Mucignat, and I. Lunati. Optimization of hyper-parameters and padding for a lightweight velocimetry network. In *APS Division of Fluid Dynamics Meeting*, Salt Lake City, UT, USA, 2024.
- 2024 J. C. Sutherland, **K. Zdybał**, and A. Parente. Optimizing progress variables for ammonia/hydrogen combustion using encoding-decoding networks. In *APS Division of Fluid Dynamics Meeting*, Salt Lake City, UT, USA, 2024.
- 2023 **K. Zdybał**, J. C. Sutherland, and A. Parente. On the effect of manifold topology in reduced-order modeling of turbulent combustion. In *Joint Meeting of the Belgian and Italian Sections of the Combustion Institute*, Florence, Italy, 2023.
- 2023 H. Dave, M. R. Malik, **K. Zdybał**, H. G. Im, and A. Parente. On the use of projection to latent structures (PLS) and gaussian process regression (GPR) to reduce combustion chemistry. In *Joint Meeting of the Belgian and Italian Sections of the Combustion Institute*, Florence, Italy, 2023.
- 2023 J. C. Sutherland, **K. Zdybał**, and A. Parente. Reduced-order modeling of reacting flows with a regression-aware autoencoder. In *13th U.S. National Combustion Meeting*, Texas A&M University in College Station, TX, USA, 2023.
- 2023 J. C. Sutherland and **K. Zdybał**. Topological characteristics of low-dimensional manifolds in reduced-order modeling of turbulent combustion. In *SIAM Conference on Computational Science and Engineering*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 2023.

- 2023 **K. Zdybał**, A. Parente, and J. C. Sutherland. Reduced-order modeling with a regression-aware autoencoder. In *SIAM Conference on Computational Science and Engineering*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 2023.
- 2023 **K. Zdybał**. Reduced-order modeling using regression-aware autoencoder. In *Université Libre de Bruxelles and Vrije Universiteit Brussel BRITE workshop*, Brussels, Belgium, 2023. Talk.
- 2022 **K. Zdybał**, E. Armstrong, J. C. Sutherland, and A. Parente. Cost function for assessing the quality of low-dimensional manifolds. In *SIAM Conference on Mathematics of Data Science*, San Diego, CA, USA, 2022.
- 2022 **K. Zdybał**, J. C. Sutherland, and A. Parente. Manifold-informed state vector subset for reduced-order modeling. In *39th International Symposium on Combustion*, Vancouver, Canada, 2022.
 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMldwMduCp0>
- 2022 **K. Zdybał**, M. R. Malik, E. Armstrong, J. C. Sutherland, and A. Parente. Characterizing manifold topologies for reduced-order modeling. In *18th International Conference on Numerical Combustion*, La Jolla, CA, USA, 2022.
- 2022 A. Parente, L. Donato, **K. Zdybał**, A. Procacci, and M. Savarese. Data-enhanced analysis, parameterisation and reduced-order modelling of turbulent reacting flows. In *18th International Conference on Numerical Combustion*, La Jolla, CA, USA, 2022.
- 2022 **K. Zdybał**. Manifold-informed state vector subset for reduced-order modeling. In *26th Journées D’Etudes of the Belgian Section of the Combustion Institute*, Ghent, Belgium, 2022.
- 2022 **K. Zdybał**. Cost function for low-dimensional manifold topology optimization. In *Université Libre de Bruxelles and Vrije Universiteit Brussel BRITE workshop*, Brussels, Belgium, 2022. Talk.
- 2022 E. Armstrong, **K. Zdybał**, A. Parente, and J. C. Sutherland. A cost function for optimizing manifold topology in reduced-order modeling. In *2022 WSSCI Spring Technical Meeting*, Stanford, CA, USA, 2022.
- 2021 **K. Zdybał**, J. C. Sutherland, and A. Parente. Manifold-informed state vector subset for reduced-order modeling. In *Combura Symposium*, pages 39–40, Soesterberg, The Netherlands, 2021.
- 2019 G. D’Alessio, G. Aversano, **K. Zdybał**, A. Cuoci, and A. Parente. Feature extraction in combustion applications. In *17th International Conference on Numerical Combustion*, Aachen, Germany, 2019.

Posters (2)

- 2021 **K. Zdybał**, E. Armstrong, A. Parente, and J. C. Sutherland. PCAfold: Python software to generate, analyze and improve PCA-derived low-dimensional manifolds. In *Combura Symposium*, pages 88–89, Soesterberg, The Netherlands, 2021.
 Poster file
- 2019 **K. Zdybał**, M. R. Malik, and A. Parente. Nonlinear regression of chemical source terms using Deep Neural Networks. In *Tsinghua-Princeton-CI 2019 Summer School on Combustion*, Beijing, China, 2019.
 Poster file

Journal reviewer

Journal of Computational Physics | Proceedings of the Combustion Institute | Data-Centric Engineering | Nonlinear Dynamics |

Society member

Belgian Section of the Combustion Institute | Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) | American Physical Society (APS) |

Technologies used

Programming languages

Python (7 years of experience) | Elixir (1 year of experience) | Julia (beginner) | C/C++ (beginner) |


Other


Jupyter notebook | Jupyter lab | TensorFlow | Keras | PyTorch | Sphinx | git | GitHub | GitLab | MATLAB® | Notion | LaTeX | texmaker | draw.io | ReadTheDocs | SLURM | Atom | PyCharm | Rhinoceros 3D | AutoCAD | SketchBook | Confluence | Jira | wandb |


Selected course certifications

- [The Basics of Transport Phenomena](#), Delft University of Technology
- [Advanced Transport Phenomena](#), Delft University of Technology
- [Learning Data Visualization](#), LinkedIn Learning
- [Deep Learning Fundamentals with Keras](#), IBM
- [Deep Learning with Tensorflow](#), IBM
- [Being a Good Mentor](#), LinkedIn Learning
- [Communicating through Disagreement](#), LinkedIn Learning

Professional references

 **Prof. Alessandro Parente**, Université Libre de Bruxelles
Alessandro.Parente@ulb.be

 **Prof. James C. Sutherland**, The University of Utah
James.Sutherland@utah.edu

 **Prof. Miguel A. Mendez**, The von Karman Institute for Fluid Dynamics
Miguel.Alfonso.Mendez@vki.ac.be