

(Naïve) Aerodynamic Concepts in class & in-game: The Flight Physics Concept Inventory (FlIP-Coin)

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Introduction

Naïve concepts are particularly hard to elicit in the physics of flight, due to their complexity and overlap. The "Flight Physics Concept Inventory" (FlIP-Coin) is a new automatically scored multiple-choice test for the context of fluid dynamics. It was developed for both online and paper-pencil use as well as for pre- and/or post-evaluation. In gamified form, it serves as a formative assessment and collaborative team building event.

The distractor answers were based on naïve student concepts; The instrument validity and reliability was tested at three big tertiary institutions in the U.S. and Germany specialized for fluid dynamics and aerodynamics.

FlIP-Coin was developed as a multiple-choice single-response instrument with automated scoring. In the online version teachers get instant access to class comparisons via the "PhysPort.org data explorer." A scoring sheet with a coding mask streamlines the visualization of results.

How to get the instrument?

For individual support of the English and German instrument email us via: flip-coin@uni-koeln.de
The Flight Physics Concept Inventory now is also available on PhysPort.org for direct download or online implementation:

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Flight Physics Concept Inventory (FlIP-Coin)
Developed by Florian Genz & Kathleen Ann Falconer

Purpose To assess students' understanding of flight physics concepts (lift, drag, stall, center of mass) using naïve student concepts as distractors.

Format Multiple-choice

Duration 28 min

Focus Mechanics Content knowledge (fluid dynamics, aviation)

Level Upper-level, Intermediate, Intro college

Examples Resources Scoring Research Translations Versions

In the following sketch, aerodynamic lift is pointing in the direction of...

o A
o B
o C
o D

Submit

Created with the audience response system particify.de

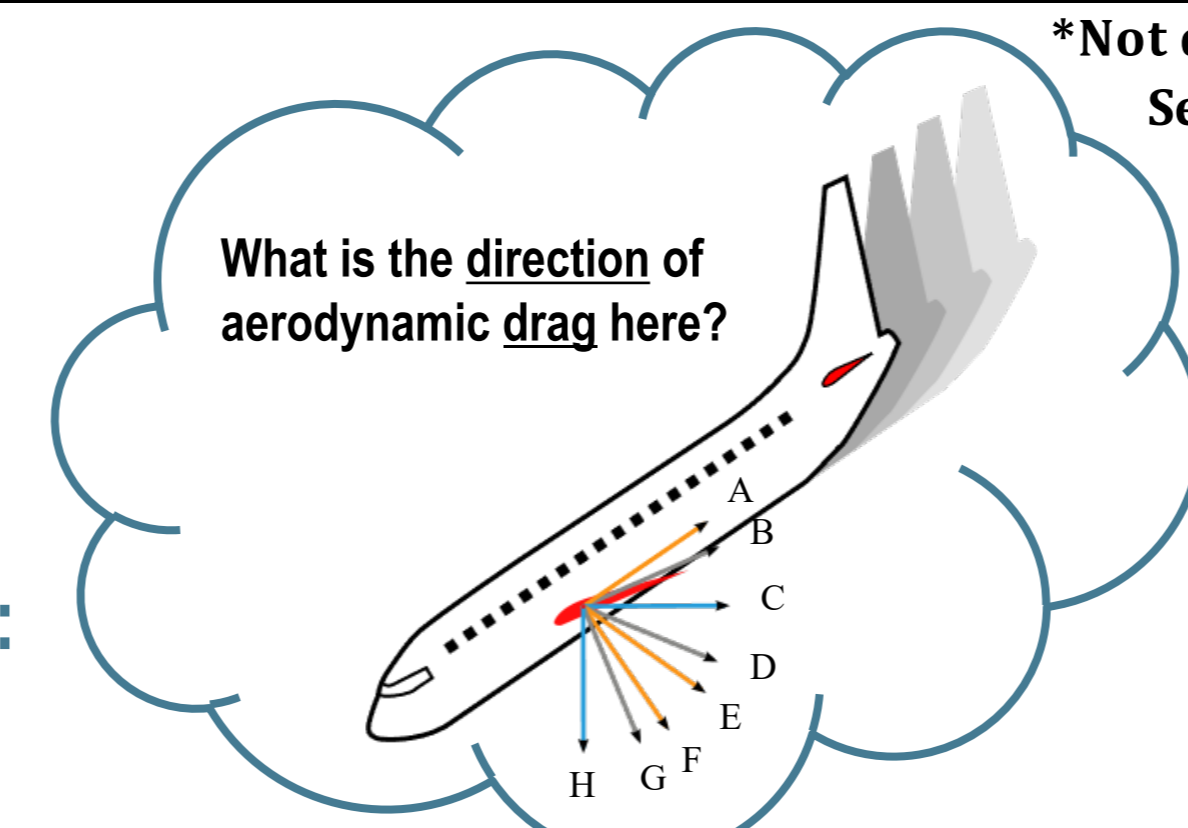
Demo quizzes:
For online implementation we prepared ready-to-use example quizzes for aerodynamic lift, drag and angle of attack with the audience response system "Particify": partici.fi/56763245



Concepts covered & prevalence

Concepts assessed by the FlIP-Coin (excerpt)

Concept domain	sub domain	Phrase summarizing the concept	Answer	Prevalence of concept	
					AV
Aerodynamic Lift	Direction:	Naïve: up / away from earth center	15b	16%	
		Naïve: perpendicular to the wing's upper surface	16a	19%	
		Naïve: up / perpendicular to the wing surface currently upwards	15c	42%	
		Naïve: in direction of travel	*16b	33%	
		Expert: the lift force points perpendicular to the direction of flight.	15a	15%	
	Cause:	Naïve: air under the wing is accelerated horizontally (nozzle theory)	*16b	33%	
		Naïve: air over the wing has a longer path length	16e	4%	
		Naïve: air has the same horizontal speed over and under the wing	*15d	27%	
		Expert: air over the wing is accelerated	*16c	26%	
		Expert: air is displaced along and around the wings	2b	24%	
Aerodynamic Drag	Direction:	Naïve: to the tail end of the airplane	*2c	10%	
		Expert: drag force points against the direction of flight	2a	66%	
		Expert: drag force points in the direction of the undisturbed flow	12a	58%	
		Naïve: to the tail end of the airfoil	*1a	59%	
		Naïve: always horizontal	*1a	59%	
	Factors	Naïve: a mixture of concepts (uncertain or compromise)	1b	15%	
		Naïve: down from the airplane bottom side	1c	14%	
		Naïve: down from the airfoil bottom side	1d	1%	
		Naïve: always down	1e	2%	
		Naïve: always down	1f	4%	
Stall	1g	2%	
	1h	3%	



Further concept domains assessed:

- Center of mass,
- Angle of attack,
- Flight experience discriminating questions,
- Streamlines & airfoil profiles.

Every question covers at least one concept domain aspect ("phenomenological primitives" (diSessa, 1988))

Which flight physics concepts do YOU find hard to teach?

Leave a feedback if you like:

Implementation in a gamified lecture

The core idea is an online or offline quiz, with team scores presented after each question. In this manner student teams will know whether they have an expert concept there or need to pay more attention to this part during the lecture. We even recommend splitting up the lecture and interweaving the questions to create many phase changes and isles of active learning.

a) **Framing:** Emphasize that the focus of the quiz is not on how much they get correct but why.

b) **Motivation** can be raised by a fun prize or extra credit.

c) **Team building:** We prefer heterogeneous or randomized groups of 3-4 students.

d) **Team identification:** let groups find a creative team name.

e) **Interim scores:** For best learning gains, we present team scores after each question and give time to let students talk to other groups before moving on. Groups who picked a wrong answer will now be eager to know exactly what they

misunderstood. Groups who were correct will feel empowered to explain their concept behind the correct answer.

f) **Contrast misconceptions 1st:** After each question, we explicitly name the underlying misconceptions and give vivid examples where they fail.

g) **Expert concepts 2nd:** We let student groups present them. Encourage visual examples, metaphors and/or storytelling while referring back to the differences between naïve and expert explanations. These techniques have been proven to be of great value in terms of overcoming sticky misconceptions (Muller, 2008, 2012).

Here you find a presentation and video for a gamified lesson including explanations after some questions:

is.gd/Z0RHf6



Literature & Links

Flight Physics Concept Inventory (FlIP-Coin) Project Page: <https://www.researchgate.net/project/Flight-Physics-Concept-Inventory-FlIP-Coin> & flip-coin.uni-koeln.de

Genz & Falconer. (2021). Naive concepts of aerodynamic lift – data lessons from different (learning) cultures. PERC Proc. <https://doi.org/10.1118/perc.2021.pr.Genz>

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