

Department of Mechanical and Automation Engineering
Qualifying/Candidacy Examination (Written)

May 29, 2020 (Friday)

14:30 – 17:00

By ZOOM Meeting

< Remember to write your student number, course code and page number clearly on each page of answer sheets. >

Question 1 (Advanced Robotics) – ENGG 5402

1. **Dynamics** Consider a 2-DoF Prismatic-Revolute manipulator (PR Robot) shown in Fig. 1. Assume that all joints are frictionless. $q = [d, \theta]^T$ are the joint variables of the manipulator, where d is the displacement of the first link and θ is the angular position of the second link. $\tau = [\tau_1 \ \tau_2]^T$ are the generalized forces for the manipulator. We also assume that the mass is uniformly distributed in both links and the total mass for both link are equal such that $m_1 = m_2 = m$. Both links have the same length, width, and height such that $L_1 = L_2 = L$ and $w_1 = w_2 = h_1 = h_2 = a$.

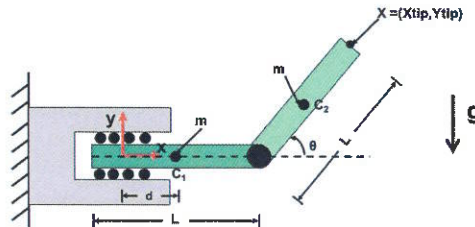


Figure 1: A 2-DoF Prismatic-Revolute planar arm (PR Robot)

- (a) (2%) For a common two-link manipulator, the inertial matrix has the form $M = m_1 J_{v1}^T J_{v1} + m_2 J_{v2}^T J_{v2} + J_{\omega 1}^T C_1 I_1 J_{\omega 1} + J_{\omega 2}^T C_2 I_2 J_{\omega 2}$ where J_{vi} is the linear Jacobian of the center of mass of link i , $J_{\omega i}$ is the Jacobian related to the angular velocity of link i , and $C_i I_i$ is the inertia tensor of link i expressed in frame $\{C_i\}$. Calculate ${}^0 J_{v1}$ and ${}^0 J_{v2}$.
- (b) (1%) Compute ${}^{C_1} J_{\omega 1}$ and ${}^{C_2} J_{\omega 2}$.

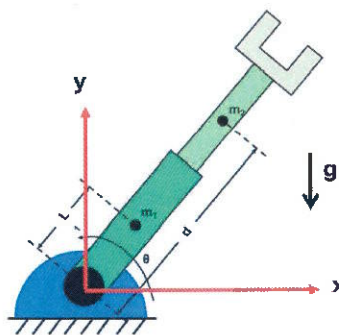


Figure 2: A 2-DoF Revolute-Prismatic planar arm (RP Robot)

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- (c) For the RP Robot in Fig. 2, the joint variables are $q = [\theta, d]^T$, while the operational space is chosen as $P = [x, y]^T$. The links for the RP Robot have inertia tensors

$$C_1 I_1 = \begin{bmatrix} I_{xx1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_{yy1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I_{zz1} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C_2 I_2 = \begin{bmatrix} I_{xx2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_{yy2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I_{zz2} \end{bmatrix},$$

and the total mass m_1 and m_2 , where $m_1 = m_2 = m$. The center of mass of link 1 is located at a distance L from the joint-1 axis. The center of mass of link 2 is at the “variable” distance d from the joint-1 axis as it can move in and out along the direction of the link 1. $T = [\tau_1, \tau_2]^T$ is the applied torques for each link. The direction of the gravity vector is also indicated in Fig. 2.

- i. (2%) Derive the equations of motion using Lagrange method in the following form:

$$M(q)\ddot{q} + C(q, \dot{q})\dot{q} + G(q) = T$$

Find $M(q)$, $C(q, \dot{q})$, $G(q)$ in terms of system parameters and joint variables. Verify that $\dot{M} - 2C$ of this robot is skew-symmetric.

- ii. (2%) Design a computed torque controller for the nonlinear system in (i) such that the resulting close-loop system is decoupled, critically damped, and with natural frequency $\omega = 30$.
- (d) (3%) In this question, we want to compare the inertial properties among a 2-DoF Prismatic-Revolute manipulator (PR Robot, Fig. 1), a 2-DoF Revolute-Prismatic manipulator (RP Robot, Fig. 2), a 2-DoF Prismatic-Prismatic manipulator (PP Robot, Fig. 3), and a 2-DoF Revolute-Revolute manipulator (RR Robot, Fig. 4). For a 2-DoF manipulator, the inertial matrix can be written as

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} M_{11} & M_{12} \\ M_{21} & M_{22} \end{bmatrix},$$

Please answer the following questions without calculating the inertial matrices $M(q)$

- i. (1%) Which robot(s) will it be if $M_{12} = M_{21} = 0$? PR Robot or RP Robot or PP robot or RR robot? Please provide corresponding explanation.
- ii. (1%) Which robot(s) will it be if $M_{22} = m_2 = m$? PR Robot or RP Robot or PP robot or RR robot? Please provide corresponding explanation.
- iii. (1%) Which robot will it be if $M_{11} = m_1 + m_2$? PR Robot or RP Robot? Please provide corresponding explanation.

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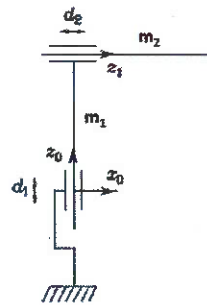


Figure 3: Example of a 2-DoF Planar Prismatic-Prismatic Manipulator (PP Robot)

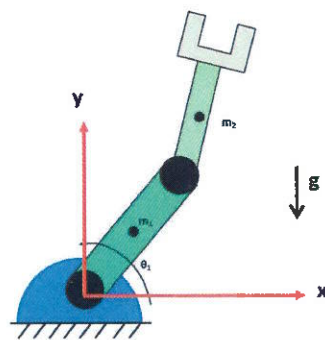


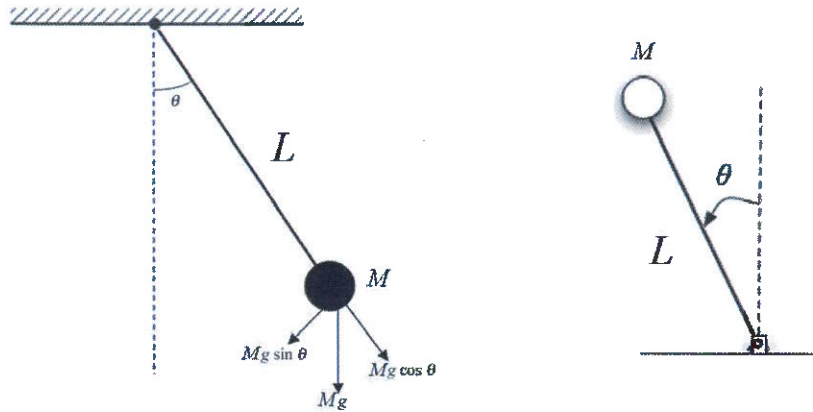
Figure 4: Example of a 2-DoF Planar Revolute-Revolute Manipulator (RR Robot)

End of Question 1 (Advanced Robotics) – ENGG 5402

Question 2 (Linear System Theory and Design) – ENGG 5403

Even if you are unable to prove the answer of one part, you may use that answer in other parts. Always justify your answers.

Consider a pendulum or inverse pendulum system below.



Let the input force applied to the system be $u(t)$ and the output variable be $\theta(t)$. For simplicity, we let $L = g$ and $ML^2 = 1$. It can be showed that the dynamic equation governing the system is nonlinear and is given by

$$\dot{x} = \begin{pmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ \ddot{\theta} \end{pmatrix} = f(x, u) = \begin{pmatrix} \dot{\theta} \\ -\sin \theta + u \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$y = \theta$$

(a) [1 point] Show that

$$(u_0, x_0, y_0) = \left(0, \begin{bmatrix} \pi \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \pi \right)$$

is one of the two operating points of the system. What is the other operating point?

(b) [2 points] Show that the linearized model of the system around the operating point in Part (a) is given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{\tilde{\theta}} \\ \ddot{\tilde{\theta}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{\theta} \\ \dot{\tilde{\theta}} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} u, \quad \tilde{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{\theta} \\ \dot{\tilde{\theta}} \end{pmatrix},$$

where $\tilde{\theta} = \theta - \pi$ and $\tilde{y} = y - \pi$.

(c) [2 points] Determine the controllability (or stabilizability), observability (or detectability) and the invariant zeros of the linearized system in Part (b).

(d) [2 points] Assume that both θ and $\dot{\theta}$ are available for feedback in the linearized system in Part (b), and

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad R = 1.$$

Find the corresponding LQR control law.

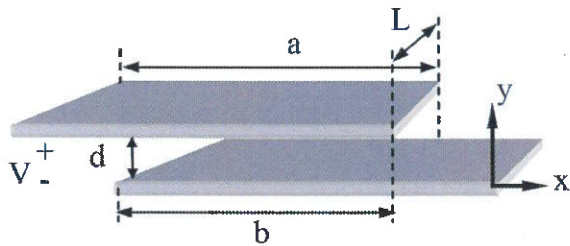
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- (e) [1 point] What are the guaranteed gain margin and phase margin of the control system obtained in Part (d)? Why?
 - (f) [1 point] Explain what the physical meanings of the gain and phase margins are in control systems, and why they are important.
 - (g) [1 point] How can one stabilize the system in Part (b) if only θ is available for feedback?
- Note:** There is no need to design an actual control law.
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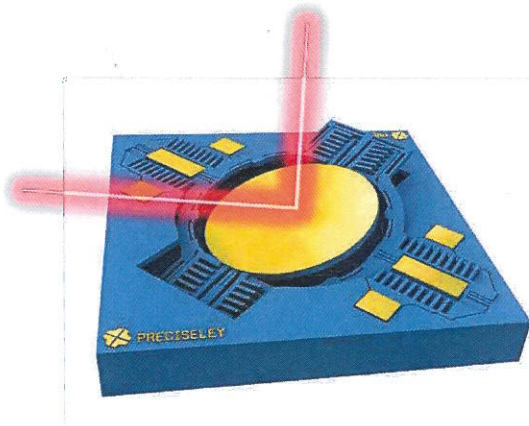
End of Question 2 (Linear System Theory and Design) – ENGG 5403

Question 3 (Micromachining and Microelectromechanical Systems)
– ENGG 5404

1. A microscale electrostatic actuator can be modeled by two parallel plates. As shown below, two parallel silicon plates separated by d overlap a distance b and have width L ; they are charged to a voltage V .



- (A) What is the force f_y [N] attracting the two plates in the y direction?
- (B) What is the force f_x [N] attracting the two plates in the x direction?
- (C) Discuss the pros and cons of the above two types of electrostatic actuators. Which one is better for high-speed operation? Which one is better for long range positioning application? Give reasons to justify your answer.
- (D) For the conceptual design of a 2-axis scanning MEMS mirror with a diameter of 500 microns shown below. Explain the actuation principles. If the actuators cannot provide sufficiently large actuation force, how can one generate large scan angle?
- (E) Propose processes to microfabricate the 2-axis MEMS mirror shown below.



End of Question 3 (Micromachining and Microelectromechanical Systems)
– ENGG 5404

Question 4 (Topics in Computer-Aided Geometric Design) – MAEG 5030

Given a point cloud as a set of points (x_i, y_i, z_i) ($i=1, \dots, n$), which are captured by a RGB-D camera with (x_i, y_i) being the pixel coordinate and (z_i) being the depth information obtained from the RGB-D image. Please describe the steps of approximation this point cloud by a cubic Bezier surface patch. (Hint: (x_i, y_i) gives a natural parameterization for each point - i.e., (u,v)).

End of Question 4 (Topics in Computer-Aided Geometric Design)
– MAEG 5030

Question 5 (Nonlinear Control Systems) – MAEG 5070

1. Assume $V(t)$ is continuously differentiable for $t \geq t_0$ for some t_0 , and $V(t)$ has a finite limit as $t \rightarrow \infty$, and \dot{V} is uniformly continuous for $t \geq t_0$. Show that $\dot{V}(t) \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$.

Hint: Assume $\dot{V}(t)$ does not approach zero as $t \rightarrow \infty$. Then $\exists \varepsilon_0 > 0$ with the property that $\forall T > 0, \exists t > T$ such that $|\dot{V}(t)| \geq \varepsilon_0$. Thus, there exists an infinite sequence t_1, t_2, \dots such that $t_i \rightarrow \infty$ as $i \rightarrow \infty$ with the property that $|\dot{V}(t_i)| \geq \varepsilon_0$.

2. Consider the system

$$\dot{x} = f(x) \tag{1}$$

where $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, f is continuous for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, and $f(0) = 0$. Let $V(x)$ be a scalar function with continuous first partial derivative such that

◊ for some $l > 0$, the region $\Omega_l \triangleq \{x \mid V(x) < l\}$ is bounded

◊ $\dot{V}(x) \leq 0, \forall x \in \Omega_l$

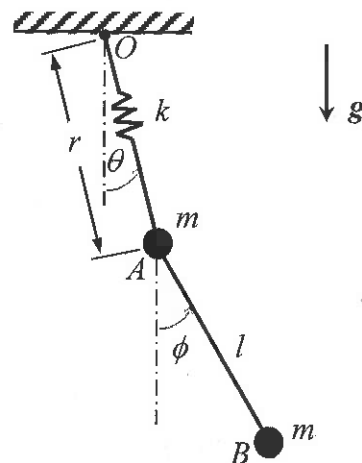
Show that every solution $x(t)$ originating in Ω_l is such that $\dot{V}(x(t))$ tends to zero as t tends to ∞ .

Hint: You can use the result of Problem 1.

End of Question 5 (Nonlinear Control Systems) – MAEG 5070

Question 6 (Smart Materials and Structures) – MAEG 5080

Two wheels A and B , each of mass m , are connected by a massless axle of length l . Each wheel is considered to have its mass concentrated as a particle at its hub. The hub of wheel A is attached by a spring of stiffness k and unstressed length r_o to a fixed point O . Using r , θ , and ϕ as generalized coordinates, obtain the differential equations of motion.



End of Question 6 (Smart Materials and Structures) – MAEG 5080

Question 7 (Topics in Robotics) – MAEG 5090

- a) Explain the main steps/idea of the Composite Rigid-Body Algorithm (CRBA) and why it is $O(N^3)$ where N is the number of links in the system. You can assume that there's a function $\tau = ID(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}, \ddot{\mathbf{q}})$ that solves the inverse dynamics.
- b) Explain why the Articulated Body Algorithm (ABA) is $O(N)$?

Hint: the following equations may help you.

$$\begin{aligned} I_i^A &= I_i + \sum_{j \in \mu(i)} (I_j^A - I_j^A S_j (S_j^T I_j^A S_j)^{-1} S_j^T I_j^A) \\ \mathbf{p}_i^A &= \mathbf{p}_i + \sum_{j \in \mu(i)} (\mathbf{p}_j^A + I_j^A S_j (S_j^T I_j^A S_j)^{-1} (\boldsymbol{\tau}_i - S_j^T \mathbf{p}_j^A)) \\ \mathbf{p}_j^A &= \mathbf{p}_j^A + I_j^A \dot{\mathbf{h}}_j \dot{\mathbf{q}}_j \\ \mathbf{a}_i &= \mathbf{a}_{\lambda(i)} + \dot{\mathbf{h}}_i \dot{\mathbf{q}}_i + \mathbf{h}_i \ddot{\mathbf{q}}_i \\ \mathbf{f}_i^J &= I_i^A \mathbf{a}_i + \mathbf{p}_i^A \\ \boldsymbol{\tau}_i &= \mathbf{h}_i^T \mathbf{f}_i^J = \mathbf{h}_i^T (I_i^A \mathbf{a}_i + \mathbf{p}_i^A) \end{aligned}$$

- c) For ZMP walking, formulate the equations (state space and constraints) for the Linear Inverted Pendulum Model (LIPM) in the form

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}_{k+1} &= A\mathbf{x}_k + B\mathbf{u}_k \\ \mathbf{y}_k &= C\mathbf{x}_k + D\mathbf{u}_k \end{aligned}$$

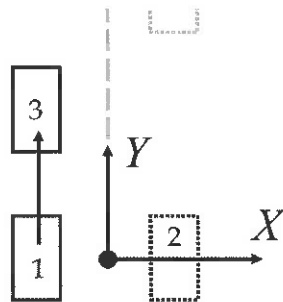
where $\mathbf{y}_k = [p_x \ p_y]^T$ is the ZMP position in x and y directions. Define $\mathbf{x}_k, \mathbf{u}_k$ and express A, B, C, D . Also state what constraints should be defined for walking.

- d) State two advantages of using MPC over model-based reactive control schemes (such as PID).
- e) For a system with the equations of motion $M(\mathbf{q})\ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{c}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) + \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) = \boldsymbol{\tau}$, define a Quadratic Programming optimisation problem with decision variables $\ddot{\mathbf{q}}, \boldsymbol{\tau}$ to solve for the following objectives and constraints:

- (objective) acceleration level motion tracking task for reference motion $\mathbf{x}_r(t), \dot{\mathbf{x}}_r(t), \ddot{\mathbf{x}}_r(t)$
- (constraint) constraints on the interaction force such that it is within a specified friction cone (define all necessary terms for the constraint with diagrams)

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- f) For a walking motion in the figure below, where the right foot is on the ground at position #2 while the left foot moves from position #1 to #3, an optimisation-based whole-body control problem will be defined:
- Describe the types (motion, torque, contact etc.) of tasks (objectives or constraints) in order to produce the walking motion
 - Describe the order of priorities for the tasks in part ii)



End of Question 7 (Topics in Robotics) – MAEG 5090

Question 8 (Nanomaterials and Nanotechnology: Fundamentals and Applications) – MAEG 5120

1.1 Scaling law is crucial for the design of devices/machines at the small scales. (i) List four forces which scale with the linear dimension (i.e. L), L^2 , L^3 and L^4 , respectively. (ii) Based on Trimmer's vertical bracket notation, we can write:

$$F = \left[\begin{array}{c} L^1 \\ L^2 \\ L^3 \\ L^4 \end{array} \right], \quad L: \text{dimension}$$

Derive the relationship between the acceleration (a), time (t), power per volume (P/V) and the linear dimension L in rigid-body dynamics. **(5 points)**

1.2 In comparison with Scanning Tunneling Microscopy (STM), list two main advantages of Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM) **(2 points)**. List three different applications of AFM other than a microscope for topography at nanoscale **(3 points)**.

End of Question 8 (Nanomaterials and Nanotechnology: Fundamentals and Applications) – MAEG 5120

Question 9 (Computational Mechanics) – MAEG 5130

1. For the 1D elastic problem with the strong form of:

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(2 \frac{du}{dx} \right) + 3x = 0, \quad 1 \leq x \leq 5$$

$$u(1) = 0.001$$

$$\frac{du}{dx} \Big|_{x=5} = 1$$

- Derive the weak form.
- If the domain is discretized by 2 2-node linear elements with the same length, approximate the displacement and strain fields.
- If the domain is discretized by 1 3-node quadratic element with equally spaced nodes, approximate the displacement and strain fields.
- Compare the results in b and c with analytical solution. What is your conclusion?

End of Question 9 (Computational Mechanics) – MAEG 5130

Question 10 (Materials Characterization Techniques) – MAEG 5140

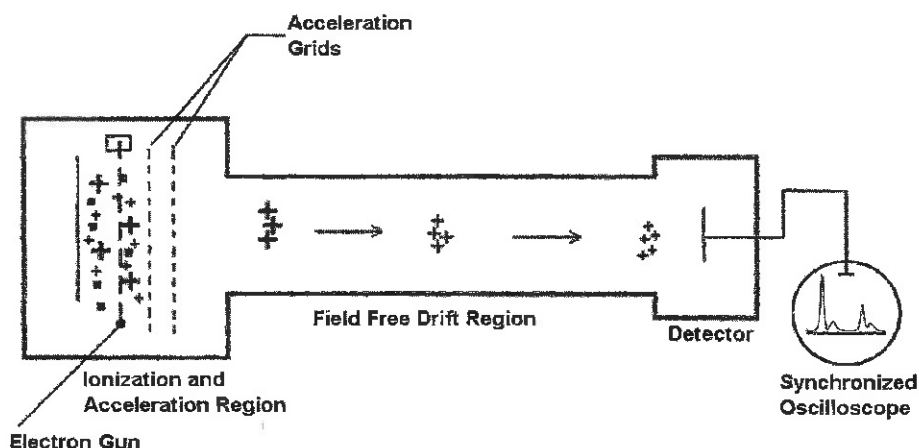
- a) The abundances of Br and Cl isotopes are given below:

| | | | |
|------------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| ^{35}Cl | 75% | ^{37}Cl | 25% |
|------------------|-----|------------------|-----|

| | | | |
|------------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| ^{79}Br | 50% | ^{81}Br | 50% |
|------------------|-----|------------------|-----|

Construct a mass spectrum for $(\text{ClBr}_2)^+$ ions. Make the intensity of the most intense peak 100.

- b) A major part of a mass spectrometry system is mass analyzer. (a) Show how a time-of-flight analyzer works (or in other words, how m/z value is measured by measuring the time of an ion travelling through some distance); (b) Assume that the acceleration potential is 300 V, and the free-field flight tube is 2 meters long, calculate the time-of-flight for ions with m/z values of 10, 20, 100, respectively; and (3) Discuss whether the settings in (2) would allow a resolution of 0.1 in m/z if the ion detector has a time resolution of 0.1 μs .

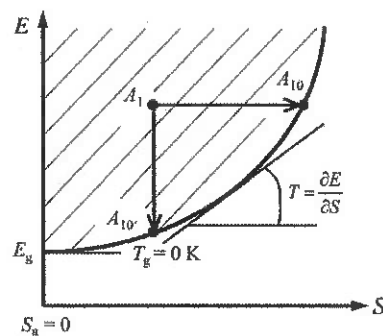


End of Question 10 (Materials Characterization Techniques) – MAEG 5140

Question 11 (Advanced Heat Transfer and Fluid Mechanics) – MAEG 5150

Answer each question concisely.

(1) Explain the physical meaning of the vertical line from A_1 to $A_{10'}$ on the following E-S graph.



(2) Recent research has indicated that freestanding graphene has a higher thermal conductivity than the graphene supported by a substrate. Explain the reason concisely.

(3) The molar analysis of a gas mixture at 25°C, 0.1 MPa is 50% N_2 , 25% CO_2 , and 25% O_2 . Determine the mass fraction and partial pressure of each component. Molecular weights of N_2 , CO_2 , and O_2 are 28, 44, and 32 kg/kmol, respectively.

(4) Butane (C_4H_{10}) burns completely with 200% of theoretical air. Determine the amount of N_2 in the products, in kmol per kmol of fuel.

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(5) Consider a steady and incompressible flow of a Newtonian fluid with the velocity field $u = -2xy$, $v = y^2 - x^2$, and $w = 0$. The gravitational acceleration is negligible.

(a) Does this flow satisfy conservation of mass?

(b) Find the pressure gradients in the all the dimensions at the point $(x, y, z) = (p^{-3}, p^{-3}, p^{-3})$.

Note: continuity and momentum equations for incompressible flow with constant viscosity:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = 0$$

$$\rho \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \right) = \rho g_x - \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \mu \left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} \right)$$

$$\rho \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} \right) = \rho g_y - \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} + \mu \left(\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial z^2} \right)$$

$$\rho \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} \right) = \rho g_z - \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} + \mu \left(\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial z^2} \right)$$

(6) To assess the time scale of the smallest eddy after the mesh filter, the Kolmogorov time, τ , can be used. It is related to the kinematic viscosity, ν , and the turbulence dissipation rate, ϵ .

Derive the relationship between Kolmogorov time and viscosity and dissipation rate using dimensional analysis.

(7) To derive the transport equations for Reynolds stresses, the following term needs to be derived:

$$\overline{u_i \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial t} + u_j \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial t}}$$

Simplify this term.

End of Question 11 (Advanced Heat Transfer and Fluid Mechanics)
- MAEG 5150