

# Flat Plate Convection

Thermal Fluids and Energy  
Systems Lab

(ME EN 4650)

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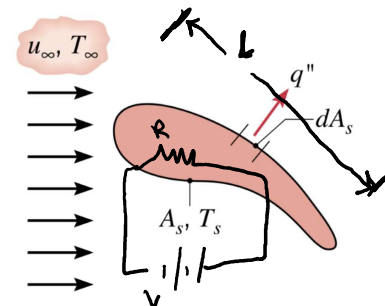
# Convective Heat Transfer

What we want to know:

- $Nu = f(Re, Pr)$
- $q''$  (heat flux)
- $T_s$  (surface temperature)

What we can measure:

- $P_{dm}$  : Pitot-static probe →  $V_\infty$
- $T_s(x)$  : thermocouples
- $q''$  :  $V, R$  multimeter
- $T_\infty$  : thermocouples



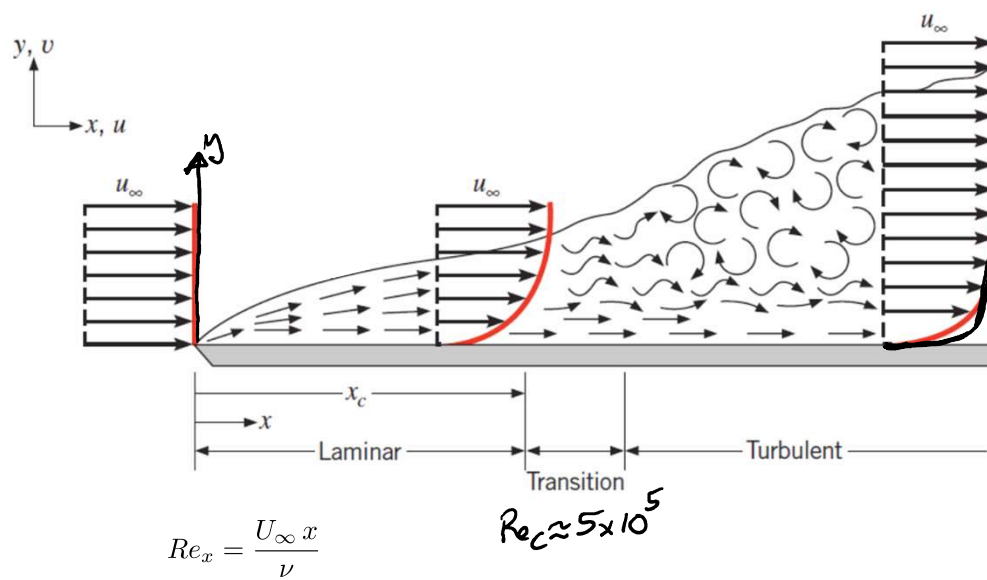
$$Nu = \frac{h L}{k}$$

$$Re = \frac{U_\infty L}{\nu}$$

$$Pr = \frac{\nu}{\alpha}$$

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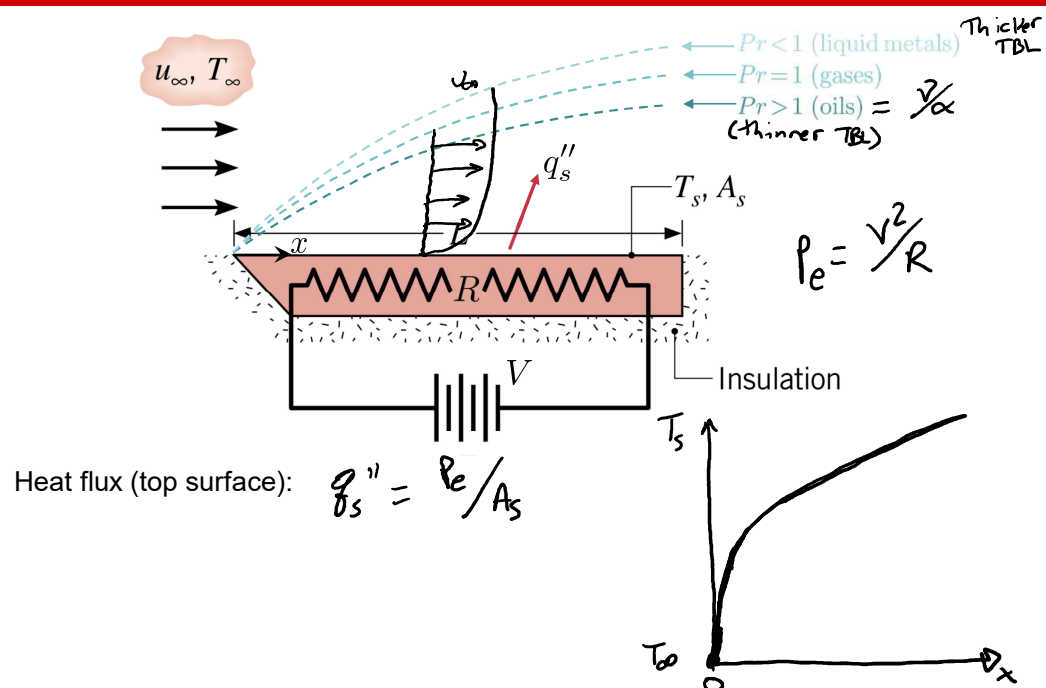
# Flow over a Flat Plate



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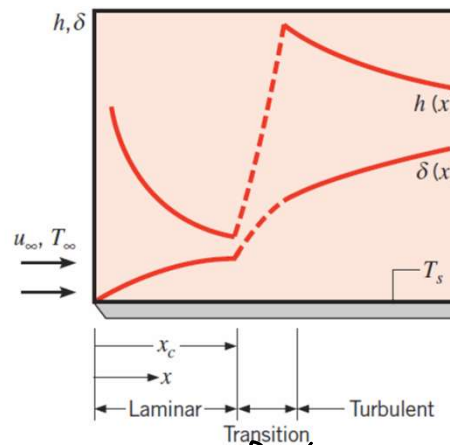
# Heat Transfer from Heated Plate



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# Heat Transfer from Heated Plate



Heat flux (top surface):

$$q_s'' = \dot{Q} / A_s$$

Newton's Law of Cooling:

$$q_s'' = h_x(x) [T_s(x) - T_{\infty}]$$

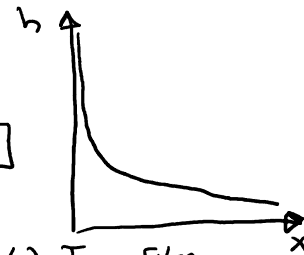
local heat transfer coefficient:

$$h_x(x) = q_s'' / [T_s(x) - T_{\infty}]$$

local Nusslet number:

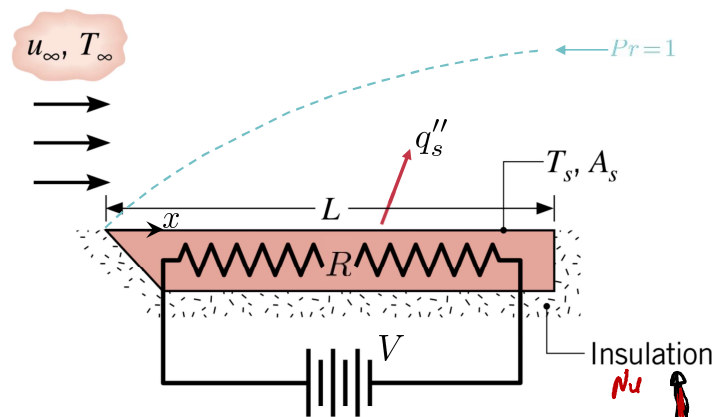
$$Nu_x = \frac{h_x(x) x}{(k/x)}$$

$$T_f = \frac{T_s(x) + T_{\infty}}{2} \quad \text{Film temperature}$$


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# Heat Transfer from Heated Plate



Heat flux (top surface):  $q_s'' = P_e / A_s$

Newton's Law of Cooling:  $q_s'' = h_x(x) [T_s(x) - T_{\infty}]$

local heat transfer coefficient:  $h_x(x) = q_s'' / [T_s(x) - T_{\infty}]$

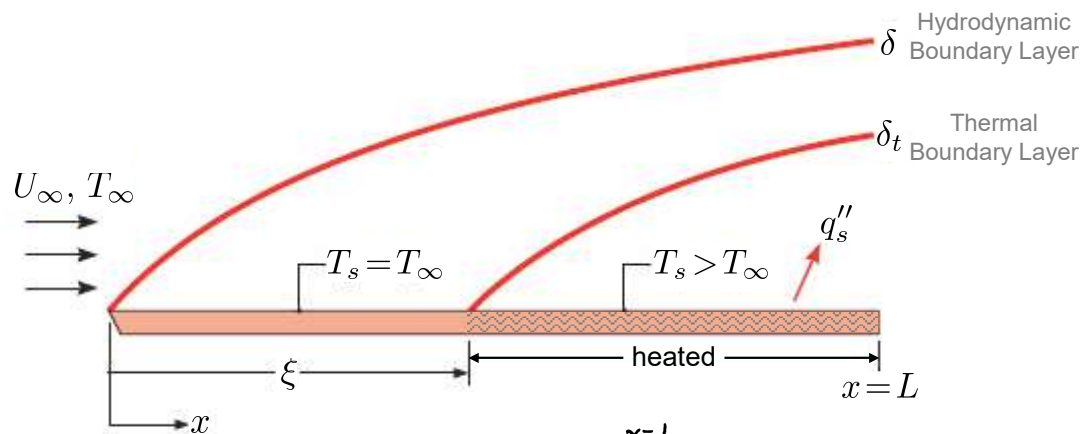
local Nusslet number:  $Nu_x = \frac{h_x(x)}{(k/x)}$

$T_f = \frac{T_s(x) + T_{\infty}}{2}$  Film temperature

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# Flat Plate with Unheated Starting Length



average heat transfer coefficient:

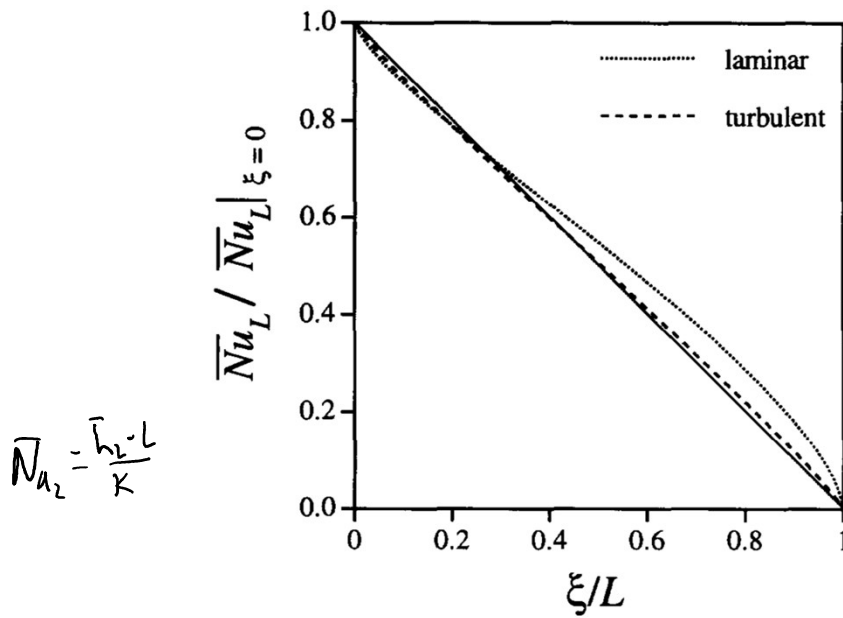
$$\bar{h}_L = \frac{1}{L - \xi} \int_{\xi}^{x=L} h_x(x) dx$$

average Nusslet number:

$$\bar{Nu}_L = \bar{h}_L \cdot L / k$$

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## Effect of Unheated Starting Length on Average Nusselt Number



Ameel, *Int. Comm. Heat Mass Transfer* (1997)

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# Measurements

Quantity	Symbol	Units	Instrument
Freestream dynamic pressure	$P_{\text{dyn}}$	mmHg	Pitot-static probe
Plate surface temperature	$T_s(x)$	°C	thermocouple
Freestream temperature	$T_\infty$	°C	thermocouple
Heater voltage	$V$	VAC	multimeter
Heater resistance	$\Omega$	Ohm	multimeter

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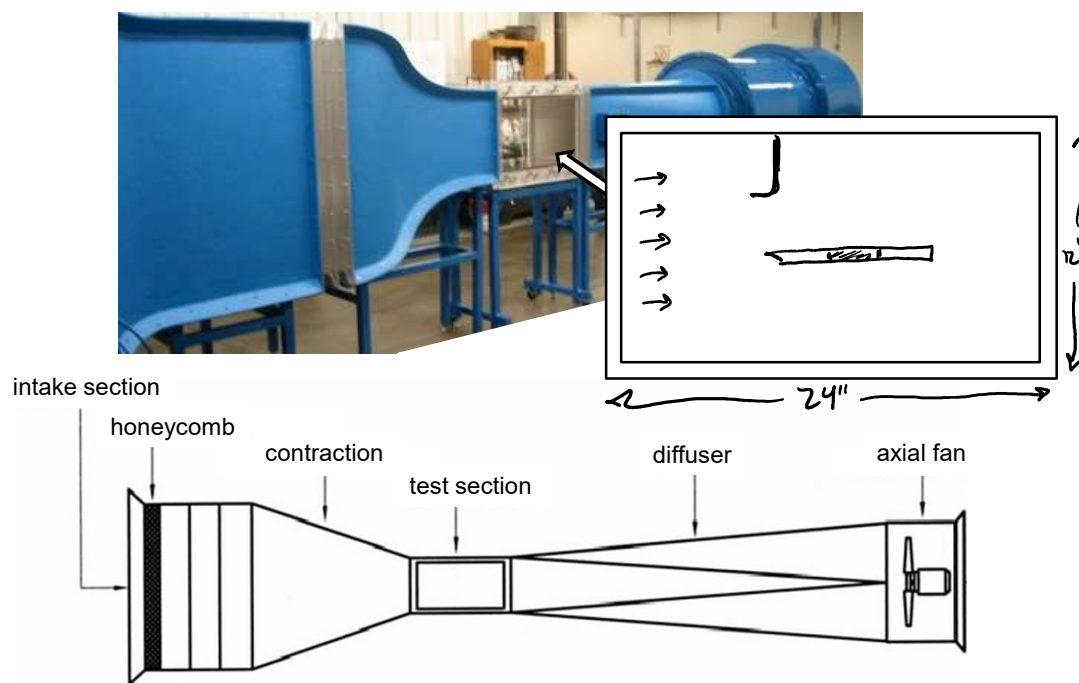
$$U_\infty = \sqrt{2 P_{\text{dyn}} / \rho}$$



VAC

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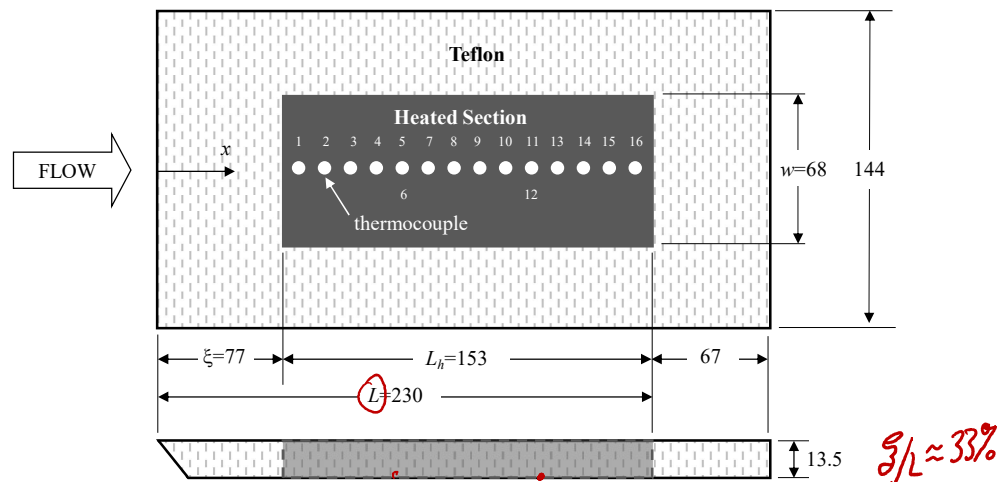
## Wind Tunnel Experiment

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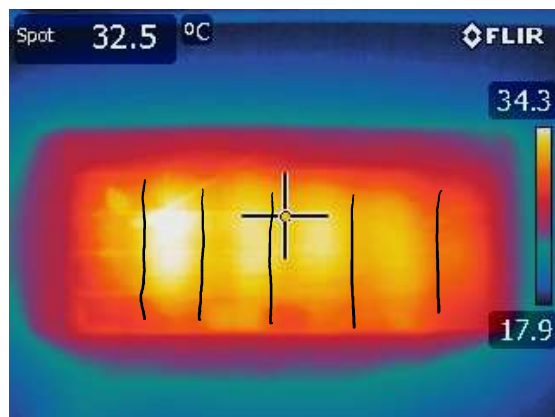
# Flat Plate with Heated Section in Middle



Laminar Flow:  $Re_L < 5 \times 10^5$   
 $\frac{U_\infty L}{\nu} < 5 \times 10^5 \Rightarrow U_\infty < \frac{5 \times 10^5 (1.85 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2/\text{s})}{0.23 \text{ m}} \Rightarrow U_\infty < 40 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}$

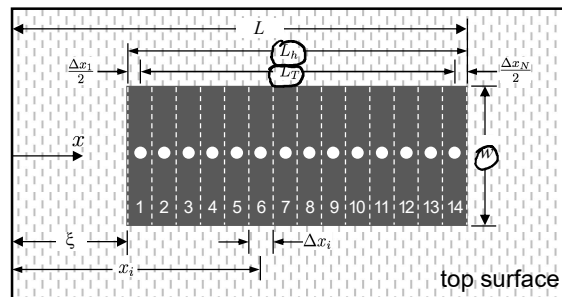
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## Photographs of Heated Plate



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## Data Analysis: Measurements



$$L_T = x_{14} - x_1$$

Heat flux from top surface:  $q_s'' = \frac{V^2}{R^2 L_h w}$

Local heat transfer coefficient:  $h_x(x_i) = q_s'' / [T_s(x_i) - T_\infty]$  for  $i=1, \dots, 14$

Avg heat transfer coefficient:  $\bar{h}_L = \frac{1}{L_T} \int_{x=x_1}^{x_{14}} h_x(x) dx$  Trapezoidal Rule  
Do NOT use mean()

Local Nusselt number:  $Nu_x(x) = h_x(x) \cdot x / k_x$  ← use local  $T_f(x)$   
"Air Properties.m"

Avg Nusselt number:  $\bar{Nu}_L = \frac{\bar{h}_L \cdot L}{\bar{k}}$  ← can use mean()

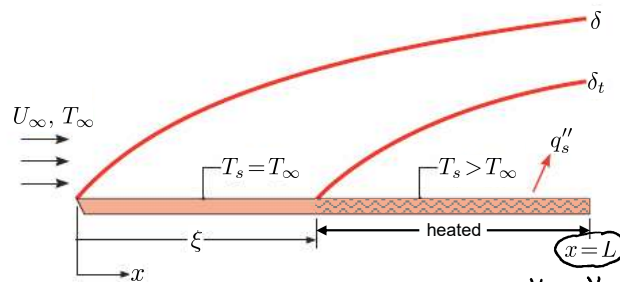
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## Data Analysis: Theoretical Formulas

(Kays & Crawford, 1993; Ameel, 1997)



Local Nusselt number:  $Nu_{x,m}(x) = \frac{0.453 Re_x^{1/2} Pr^{1/3}}{[1 - (\xi/x)^{3/4}]^{1/3}}$

Local heat transfer coefficient:  $h_{x,m}(x) = \left(\frac{k}{x}\right) Nu_{x,m}(x)$

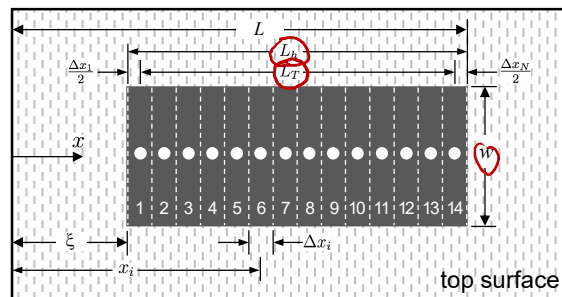
Avg heat transfer coefficient:  $2 \left(\frac{\bar{k}}{L-\xi}\right) \left(0.453 Re_L^{1/2} Pr^{1/3}\right) [1 - (\xi/L)^{3/4}]^{2/3} = \bar{h}_{L,m}$

Avg Nusselt number:  $\bar{Nu}_{L,m} = \bar{h}_{L,m} \cdot L / \bar{k}$

for  
laminar  
flow  
use avg  
film temp. for  
fluid properties

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## Data Analysis: Predictions from Theory



### Newton's Law of Cooling

#### Estimate Heat Flux

(given measurements of surface temperature)

$$q_{s,th}'' = h_{x,th}(x_i) \underbrace{[T_s(x_i) - T_\infty]}_{\text{measurements}}$$

$$q_{s,th} = \frac{L_h \cdot w}{L_T} \int_{x=x_1}^{x_{14}} q_{s,th}''(x) dx \quad \text{use trapezoidal rule}$$

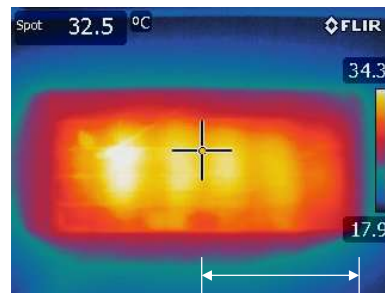
#### Estimate Surface Temperature

(given measurements of heat flux)

$$T_{s,th}(x) = T_\infty + \underbrace{\frac{q_{s,th}''}{h_{x,th}(x)}}_{\text{measured}}$$

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## Effect of Thermal Radiation



Radiation heat flux (top surface):  $q''_{\text{rad}}(x_i) = \epsilon \sigma (T_s^4(x_i) - T_\infty^4)$

$\uparrow$   $\uparrow$   $\uparrow$   
 $\epsilon = 0.7$   $\sigma = 5.6703 \times 10^{-8} \text{ W/m}^2 \cdot \text{K}^4$

Corrected surface temperature:  $T_{s,m}(x) = T_\infty + \frac{q_s' - q''_{\text{rad}}}{h_{x,m}(x)}$

Radiation heat transfer rate:  $\frac{L_h \cdot w}{L_T} \int_{x=x_1}^{x_1+y} q''_{\text{rad}}(x) dx$



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## Questions??

**Thank you for your attention!**

Let me or the TAs know if you have questions