



Quiz 15. A thin flat plate 55 by 110 cm is immersed in a 6-m/s stream of SAE 10 oil at 20°C. Compute the boundary layer thickness δ at the end of the plate and the total friction drag D_f if the stream is parallel to (a) the long side and (b) the short side. Transition to turbulent flow may occur at Re = 5×10⁵. (ρ = 891 kg/m³, μ = 0.29 kg/m·s)



Solution:

(a) Long side

$$Re_{L} = \frac{\rho UL}{\mu} = \frac{(891)(6)(1.1)}{(0.29)} = 20,300 \text{ (laminar)}$$
(+2 points)

$$\delta = \frac{5L}{\sqrt{Re_{L}}} = \frac{(5)(1.1)}{\sqrt{20300}} = 0.039 m$$
(+2 points)

$$D_{f} = \frac{1}{2}\rho U^{2}AC_{f} = \frac{1}{2}\rho U^{2}(2Lb)\frac{1.328}{\sqrt{Re_{L}}}$$
(+3 points)

$$= \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)(891)(6)^{2}(2 \times 1.1 \times 0.55)\left(\frac{1.328}{\sqrt{20300}}\right) = 181 N$$
(+3 points)

(b) Short side

$$Re_{L} = \frac{\rho Ub}{\mu} = \frac{(891)(6)(0.55)}{(0.29)} = 10,140 \text{ (laminar)}$$

$$\delta = \frac{5b}{\sqrt{Re_{L}}} = \frac{(5)(0.55)}{\sqrt{10140}} = \mathbf{0}.\,\mathbf{027}\,\mathbf{m}$$

$$D_{f} = \frac{1}{2}\rho U^{2}AC_{f} = \frac{1}{2}\rho U^{2}(2Lb)\frac{1.328}{\sqrt{Re_{L}}}$$

$$= \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)(891)(6)^{2}(2 \times 1.1 \times 0.55)\left(\frac{1.328}{\sqrt{10140}}\right) = \mathbf{256}\,\mathbf{N}$$
(+3 points)

Note: The drag is 41% *more* if we align the flow with the short side.