

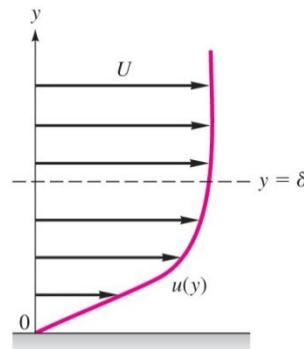
The exam is closed book and closed notes.

An approximation for the boundary-layer shape is the formula:

$$u(y) \approx U \sin\left(\frac{\pi y}{2\delta}\right), \quad 0 \leq y \leq \delta$$

Where  $U$  is the stream velocity far from the wall and  $\delta$  is the boundary layer thickness, as in the Figure below. If the fluid is helium at 20°C and 1 atm ( $\rho = 0.1664 \text{ kg/m}^3$ ;  $\mu = 1.97\text{E-}5 \text{ kg/m-s}$ ), and if  $U = 7.9 \text{ m/s}$  and  $\delta = 4.5 \text{ cm}$ , use the formula to (a) estimate the wall shear stress  $\tau_w$  in Pa, and (b) find the position in the boundary layer where  $\tau$  is one-half of  $\tau_w$ .

**Hint:**  $\tau = \mu \frac{du}{dy}$



**Solution:**

(a)

$$\tau_w = \mu \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \Big|_{y=0} = \mu \left( U \frac{\pi}{2\delta} \cos \frac{\pi y}{2\delta} \right)_{y=0} = \frac{\pi \mu U}{2\delta} \quad +4$$

$$\text{Numerical values : } \tau_w = \frac{\pi (1.97E-5 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m-s}}) (7.9 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}})}{2(0.045\text{m})} = 5.43E-3 \text{ Pa} \quad +3$$

(b)

The variation of shear stress across the boundary layer is a cosine wave,  $\tau = \mu (du/dy)$ :

$$\tau(y) = \frac{\pi \mu U}{2\delta} \cos\left(\frac{\pi y}{2\delta}\right) = \tau_w \cos\left(\frac{\pi y}{2\delta}\right) = \frac{\tau_w}{2} \text{ when } \frac{\pi y}{2\delta} = \frac{\pi}{3}, \text{ or : } y = \frac{2\delta}{3} = 0.03 \text{ m} \quad +3$$