

Engineering Tripos Part IIA Project, GA2: Turbo-expander, 2025-26

Leader

[Prof P Tucker](#) [1]

Timing and Structure

Thursdays 9-11am plus afternoons and Mondays 11-1pm

Prerequisites

3A1 & 3A3 useful

Aims

The aims of the course are to:

- To introduce students to the basic ideas governing the design of turbomachinery and teach them to make measurements both of overall performance and of the detailed fluid flow in such machines.

Objectives

As specific objectives, by the end of the course students should be able to:

- work in groups to design different builds of both the compressors and the turbines for one set of apparatus.

Content

This project involves the theory and design of turbomachinery.

The basic theory necessary to design a centrifugal compressor and a radial inflow turbine will be given. Students will then prepare designs of both compressor and turbine blades to fit onto a prescribed impeller. The resulting combination will be manufactured and tested by sucking air through using a vacuum cleaner. There will be scope for detailed experimental investigation of the fluid flow and for the results to be used to modify the design. Group design will be chosen and the sensitivity of design to manufacturing variations will be explored. This design will then be refined and contrasted with the optimal designs of other groups.

The project has the following aspects/elements:

- Test the vacuum cleaner to measure the variation of pressure rise with flow rate. Hence decide on the flow rate for the turboexpander with robust design in mind. Write a short report on this.
- Lectures on the aerodynamic design of turbomachinery with special emphasis on radial flow machines. Decide on the design rotational speed and type of blading. Design of rotor and stator blades for both a turbine and a compressor and produce an optimal group design. Write a short report on this.
- Make multiple builds of the same design. Test combinations of different rotors and explore influence manufacturing variations. Measure the overall performance and details of the

casing pressure distribution and flow direction. Write a short report on this.

- Modify the blades as necessary and retest for final optimal group design contrasting with best design from other groups. Final report.

Coursework

Coursework	Due date	Marks
Interim report 1	21 May	15
Interim report 2	28 May	25
Interim report 3	4 June	20
Final summary report	Thursday 11 June 2023	20
		25% of the marks are allocated to the final report

Examination Guidelines

Please refer to [Form & conduct of the examinations](#) [2].

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Links

[1] <mailto:pgt23@cam.ac.uk>

[2] <https://teaching.eng.cam.ac.uk/content/form-conduct-examinations>