

MAE 171A
Mechanical Engineering Laboratory (4 units)

Class/Laboratory Schedule: three lecture hours per week, nine hours lab. 12 hours/week total

Course Coordinator(s): Kal Seshadri, Vitali Nesterenko

Textbook, Required Materials: Lecture notes on water tunnel, wind tunnel, materials and control experiments. Lecture notes and copies of Fundamentals of Measurement Error, James L. Taylor, NEFF instrument Corp., 1988 for error analysis. Lecture notes are available on the MAE171A web page at <http://www.maecourses.ucsd.edu/labcourse> and in soft reserves.

Catalog Description: Design and analysis of experiments in fluid mechanics, solid mechanics, linear circuits and control engineering. Experiments in wind tunnel, water tunnel, vibration table and material testing machines, and refined electronic and electromechanical systems. Laboratory report writing; error analysis; engineering ethics.

Prerequisites: Grade of C- or better in MAE101C or CENG 101B, MAE160 or MAE 131B, MAE 130C or SE 101C, MAE 140, MAE143B or CENG 120, MAE170 and senior standing in engineering major.

- Required Course
- Technical Elective Course
- Other: _____

Performance Criteria:

Objective 1

1. During the duration of the course, students are exposed to three out of the five different laboratory experiments (water tunnel; wind tunnel; material testing, linear circuits and control design).
2. Experimental work is constructed in such a way that theoretical background of underlying engineering principles is tested thoroughly.

Objective 2

1. Experimental data is compared with theoretical simulations in Matlab to verify estimated parameters and validity of the models being used.
2. Both National Instruments VI interfaces, Matlab and Excel are used to conduct and analyze experimental data.
3. Statistics and Error analysis is presented in separate lectures and applied to experimental data gathered in the laboratory environment.

Objective 3

1. Students learn how to use the laboratory equipment to perform standard data acquisition and to use this data in the more advanced laboratory course MAE171b.
2. Experimental data is analyzed by using the data to estimate parameters of the system under investigation.

Objective 4

1. Experiments are planned and designed in coordination with the group of students and the course advisors
2. The control experiments are used to design control algorithms and implement these algorithms on the electromechanical system

Objective 5

1. Students demonstrate team work by requiring to work in groups of up to four and motivate coordination and cooperation between students
2. Students will present their progress and work in the form of written reports to motivate the writing and organization skills of the students

Objective 6

1. Three mandatory special lectures are devoted to discuss engineering ethics
2. Engineering ethics issues are discussed on the basis of a case study and are accompanied with a questionnaire

Objective 7

1. Experience in operating large experimental facilities for engineering fluid studies (water and wind tunnel) is obtained
2. Experience in operating load frame facilities for stress and strain experiments
3. Experience with electromechanical vibration systems, linear feedback circuits and control system design is evaluated in this course

Course Objectives:

(Numbers in parenthesis refer to MAE Program Outcomes)

Objective 1: Application of the theoretical concepts of fluid, solid and electromechanical control systems in a laboratory environment (1a, 2b).

Objective 2: Working with real experimental data and compare experiments with predictions and simulations based on theoretical models and perform statistical and error analysis (1a, 2b).

Objective 3: Students operate laboratory facilities themselves to teach operation of laboratory equipment and perform data analysis (2b).

Objective 4: Design and planning of experiments and design of feedback control algorithms (2b, 11k).

Objective 5: Planning of laboratory work in a group of four students to promote coordination and communication between students (2b, 4d).

Objective 6: Discussion of professional and engineering ethics in lectures and laboratory environment (6f).

Objective 7: To provide students with experience in an engineering laboratory along with data analysis and modeling (2b, 11k).

Course Topics:

1. Operation of laboratory facilities
2. Data acquisition processes
3. Error analysis
4. Statistics
5. Report writing
6. Group coordination
7. Engineering ethics
8. Measurements on and analysis of fluid mechanic systems
9. Measurements on and analysis of solid mechanic systems
10. Measurements on vibration systems and analysis of feedback control systems

Prepared by: R.A. de Callafon, R. Cattolica and K. Vecchio, March 2001.

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