Department of Aerospace Engineering

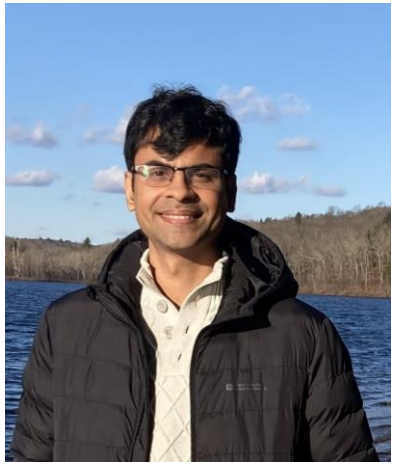
Research Topics from Faculty Members Interested in New PhD Students
Admission Cycle: Spring 2024 - 25

Aerodynamics

Prabhu Ramachandran

- Hiring this season? **Yes**
- **Research Areas:**
  - Particle and meshless methods for continuum mechanics
  - Parallel and high-performance scientific computing (HPC)
  - AI and ML for PDEs
- **Skills/experience**: Background/interest in mathematical physics, numerical methods, and scientific computing
- More information: https://www.aero.iitb.ac.in/~prabhu/

Dhwanil Shukla



- Hiring this season? **Yes**
- **Research Areas:**
  - Rotor Aerodynamics
  - Experimental Aerodynamics
  - UAV Design
- **Skills/experience**:
  - Good grasp of fluid mechanics/aerodynamics, design of experiments, design & fabrication of electro-mechanical systems, signal processing and interpretation.
- More information: https://sites.google.com/iitb.ac.in/exp-aero-lab/

Prof. Vineeth Nair

Hiring this season?: **Yes**

Research Areas: Thermoacoustics, Supercritical/transcritical fluid flows, Optical flow diagnostics

Research projects:

(1) Synchronization behaviour in confined premixed flames (experimental)

- Skills required: Experimental background, basic Python/MATLAB programming skills for data post-processing, critical thinking aptitude.
- Preferred skills: Fundamentals of acoustics and combustion, DAQ usage, working knowledge of PLIF/PIV laser systems.

(2) LES of LCH4/LOx combustion (cryogenic engine conditions) in OpenFOAM (computational)

- Skills required: Background in OpenFOAM

URL to Lab Website / Profile: https://www.aero.iitb.ac.in/~vineeth

Primary nature of research project: Experimental/ computational

Prof. Aniruddha Sinha

Hiring this season?: **Yes**

Current Research Focus: Reduced-order modelling of flows and Aeroacoustics

Skills/experience: Background/interest in mathematical physics, numerical methods, scientific computing, theoretical fluid dynamics

URL to Lab Website/Profile: https://www.aero.iitb.ac.in/~aniruddha/

Primary nature of research project: Theoretical and moderately computational

Prof. Rajkumar S. Pant

- **Hiring this season: Yes.**
- **Research areas: Lighter-than-Air (LTA) Systems, Aircraft Design, Optimization, Air Transportation**
- **Essential background: B.Tech/M.Tech in Aerospace Engineering or Mechanical Engineering.**
- **Specific domain of work (current hiring): Optimum Design of Cargo Airships, Hybrid Unmanned Aerial Systems, LTA Systems for planetary exploration**
- **Nature of work: Design and Analysis, Computational studies using open-source codes.**
- **URL: https://www.aero.iitb.ac.in/~rkpant/**

Prof. Avijit Chatterjee

Hiring this season?: **Yes**

Research Areas: CFD, Computational Electromagnetics (CEM), Aircraft Design, Aerodynamics

- **Current Hiring**: Modelling and mitigation of communications/telemetry blackout in hypersonic vehicles
  - Skills required: CFD, high-speed flow, exposure and/or willingness to model electromagnetics/plasma physics, optimization.

URL to Lab Website / Profile: https://www.aero.iitb.ac.in/~avijit

Primary nature of research project: computational, design & analysis

Dynamics and Control

Prof. Shashi Ranjan Kumar

Hiring this season?: **Yes**

Research Areas:

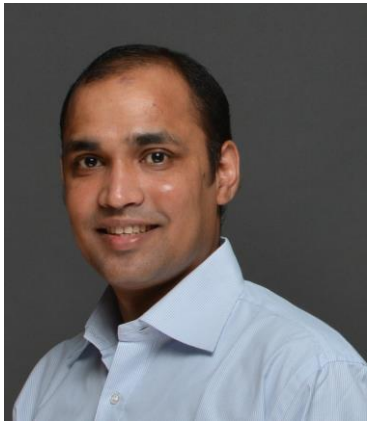
- Guidance and Control of Autonomous Vehicles
- Aerial Robotics: UAVs/ Drones
- Cooperative Control, Collision and Obstacle Avoidance, and Path Planning
- Nonlinear and Robust Control, Sliding Mode Control

URL to Profile: https://www.aero.iitb.ac.in/~shashi

Primary nature of research project: Theoretical/Computer Simulations

Useful skills/experience: Basic knowledge of control theory

Prof. Arnab Maity



Hiring this season?: **Yes**

Research Areas:

- Guidance, Navigation and Control of Aerospace Vehicles
- Drones/Anti-Drones: Swarm Intelligence, Vision Aided Landing, Sense and Avoid, UAV Traffic Management, Geofencing, Drone Corridor
- Optimal and Adaptive Control
- Control and Estimation of Distributed and Cyber Physical Systems
- Fault Tolerant Control and Estimation, Fault Detection and Diagnosis

URL to Lab Website/ Profile: https://www.aero.iitb.ac.in/home/people/faculty/arnab

Primary nature of research project: Theoretical / Simulation / Experimental

Rohit Gupta

- Hiring this season? **Yes**
- **Research Areas:**
    1. Dynamical systems
    2. Geometric mechanics
    3. Geometric control theory and applications
    4. Optimal control theory and applications
    5. Optimization theory and applications
- **Primary nature of work:** Theoretical

Propulsion

Kowsik Bodi

Hiring this session? **Yes**

Projects available in: Plasma propulsion, High enthalpy flows

Primary nature of research project: code development, numerical simulations

URL to Lab website/profile: https://www.aero.iitb.ac.in/~kbodi/

Useful Skills/Experience: Numerical Methods, Programming experience (C++/fortran/python)

Hrishikesh Gadgil

Hiring this session? **Yes**

Projects available in:

1. Spray interactions in multi-injector configuration of rocket combustors
2. Atomization and combustion of gel propellants (non-Newtonian liquids)
3. Fundamental studies on the onset of pulsation and its response to the external periodic forcing in swirl coaxial injector

Primary nature of research project: Experimental and analytical, computational

Useful Skills/Experience: Experimental methods, flow diagnostics, fluid mechanics

Krishnendu Sinha

Hiring this session? **Yes**

Projects available in:

1. High-enthalpy flows
2. Shock-turbulence interaction
3. Heat transfer
4. Scramjet application

URL to Lab website/profile:
https://www.aero.iitb.ac.in/~krish/

Primary nature of research project: Computational and analytical

Useful Skills/Experience: Code development, CFD simulation

Sudarshan Kumar

Hiring this session → YES

Project available

1. Flame speed measurement at high pressure and temperature conditions
2. Flameless combustion and its applications to gas turbines
3. Endothermic fuel development
4. Flame instabilities in micro-channels

Primary nature of work: Largely experimental and partly computational

Useful Skills/Experience: Experimental methods, flow diagnostics, Kinetic modeling, Image processing, Combustion modeling

URL: www.aero.iitb.ac.in/~sudar

Nagendra Kumar

Hiring this session → **Yes**

Projects available:

1. Combustion modelling of solid propellants
2. Two Phase Losses in solid rocket motor (experimental and Computations)
3. Artificial ageing of solid propellants
4. Barrel and muzzle velocity of artillery/Air gun
5. Laser ignition

Primary nature of work: Experimental and Computational
Useful Skills/Experience: Experimental methods, programming (Fortran), use of computational tools (Ansys-Fluent etc.), data analysis.

URL: https://www.aero.iitb.ac.in/home/people/faculty/nagendra

A M Pradeep

Hiring this session → **Yes**

Projects available:

1. Effect of surface irregularities on axial compressor performance
2. Aerodynamics of tandem + contra-rotating compressors

Primary nature of work: Experimental and Computational

Useful Skills/Experience: Familiarity with experimental techniques, data analysis and interpretation, Use of computational tools such as Ansys-CFX or Numeca

URL: https://www.aero.iitb.ac.in/~ampradeep/

T. Chandra Sekar

Hiring this session → **Yes**

Projects available:

1. Flutter prediction and Active Flutter Suppression in isolated wing and Turbomachines
2. Configuration design and performance prediction of next generation propulsion systems
3. Development of methods for wall corrections in wind tunnels.
4. Development of performance prediction models for aircraft and rocket propulsion systems

Primary nature of work: Experimental and Analytical

Useful Skills/Experience: Familiarity with experimental techniques, data analysis. Knowledge on computational tools (Ansys-Fluent/CFX) is desirable.

URL: https://www.aero.iitb.ac.in/home/people/faculty/tchandra

Structures

Prof. Chandra Sekher Yerramalli

Hiring this season?: **YES**

Research Areas : Life and fatigue analysis, 3D composites for ballistics/crash, environmental damage analysis of composites

Google Scholar Link : https://scholar.google.co.in/citations?user=36hicnUAAAAJ&hl=en

URL to Lab Website / Profile: https://iitb.irins.org/profile/59571

Primary nature of research project: Modeling and Experimentation

Preferred Background : MTech with focus on Structures from either Civil or Aerospace or Mechanical. Background in Fiber composites and solid mechanics.

Prof. Abhijit Gogulapati

Hiring this season?: **YES**

Research Areas :

A. Computational aeroelasticity and related topics
B. Numerical optimization

Primary nature of research projects: Numerical modeling and simulations; development of computational frameworks.

Potential topics of research: Several, depending on student interest, background, and capabilities.

Preferred Background : Competence in programming and algorithms. Interest in numerical optimization strategies. Willingness to learn multiple disciplines as required.

Prof. Krishnendu Haldar

Hiring this season?: **YES**

Research Areas : Continuum mechanics, multiphysics coupling, computational mechanics

Primary nature of research project: Physics-based material modeling, computational mechanics. Please visit my webpage.

Potential topic of research: Will be discussed based on your interview performance.

Preferred Background : Good math and physics knowledge. Coding skill such as ABAQUS UMAT will be a plus.