It is not possible to find density from this data, laminar pipe flow is independent of density.

6.13 A soda straw is 20 cm long and 2 mm in diameter. It delivers cold cola, approximated as water at 10°C, at a rate of 3 cm³/s. (a) What is the head loss through the straw? What is the axial pressure gradient $\partial p/\partial x$ if the flow is (b) vertically up or (c) horizontal? Can the human lung deliver this much flow?

Solution: For water at 10°C, take $\rho = 1000 \text{ kg/m}^3$ and $\mu = 1.307\text{E} - 3 \text{ kg/m} \cdot \text{s}$. Check Re:

Re =
$$\frac{4\rho Q}{\pi \mu d}$$
 = $\frac{4(1000)(3E-6 \text{ m}^3/\text{s})}{\pi (1.307E-3)(0.002)}$ = 1460 (OK, laminar flow)

Then, from Eq. (6.12),
$$h_f = \frac{128 \mu LQ}{\pi \rho g d^4} = \frac{128(1.307E-3)(0.2)(3E-6)}{\pi (1000)(9.81)(0.002)^4} \approx 0.204 \text{ m}$$
 Ans. (a)

If the straw is *horizontal*, then the pressure gradient is simply due to the head loss:

$$\frac{\Delta p}{L}\Big|_{horiz} = \frac{\rho g h_f}{L} = \frac{1000(9.81)(0.204 \text{ m})}{0.2 \text{ m}} \approx 9980 \frac{Pa}{m}$$
 Ans. (c)

If the straw is *vertical*, with flow *up*, the head loss and elevation change add together:

$$\frac{\Delta p}{L}\Big|_{\text{vertical}} = \frac{\rho g(h_f + \Delta z)}{L} = \frac{1000(9.81)(0.204 + 0.2)}{0.2} \approx 19800 \frac{Pa}{m} \quad Ans. \text{ (b)}$$

The human lung can certainly deliver case (c) and strong lungs can develop case (b) also.