

Use dimensional analysis to derive an expression for the height of capillary rise in a glass tube.

Step 1: $f'(h, r, \sigma, \gamma) = 0$, so no. of variables, $n = 4$. Using FLT:

$$\text{Step 2: } h = [L], r = [L], \sigma = \left[\frac{F}{L}\right], \gamma = \left[\frac{F}{L^3}\right]; m = 2$$

Step 3: The 3 variables h , r , and σ can not be formed into a dimensionless group, so the reduction number $k = 3$.

Step 4: No. of Π groups = $n - k = 1$, $\therefore f(\Pi) = 0$.

$$\text{Steps 5 and 6: For } \Pi = r^a \sigma^b \gamma^c h: F^0 L^0 T^0 = (L)^a \left(\frac{F}{L}\right)^b \left(\frac{F}{L^3}\right)^c (L)^1$$

$$F: 0 = b + c; L: 0 = a - b - 3c + 1; T: 0 = 0$$

$$\text{Solving: } a = 2c - 1, b = -c. \text{ So } \Pi = r^{2c-1} \sigma^{-c} \gamma^c h = (h/r)(\gamma r^2 / \sigma)^c$$

Step 7: We can write $f(\Pi) = 0$, or $\Pi = C = \text{const.}$ Then $h = Cr \left(\frac{\sigma}{\gamma r^2}\right)^c \quad \leftarrow$

Experimental observation suggests that $c = 1$ (see Sec 2.12), in which case $h = \frac{C\sigma}{\gamma r}$

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Derive an expression for the drag on an aircraft flying at supersonic speed.

At supersonic speed the volume modulus of elasticity E_v is also a factor (see Eq 7.10). \therefore we expect both M and R to govern.

Step 1: $f(F_D, L, V, \rho, \mu, E_v) = 0$, so no. of variables, $n = 6$. Using FLT:

Step 2: $F_D = [F]$, $L = [L]$, $V = \left[\frac{L}{T}\right]$, $\rho = \left[\frac{FT^2}{L^4}\right]$, $\mu = \left[\frac{FT}{L^2}\right]$, $E_v = \left[\frac{F}{L^2}\right]$; $m = 3$

Step 3: The 3 variables V , L , and ρ can not be formed into a dimensionless group, so the reduction number $k = 3$.

Step 4: No. of Π groups = $n - k = 3$, $\therefore f(\Pi_1, \Pi_2, \Pi_3) = 0$

Steps 5 and 6: Select for the 3 ($=k$) primary (repeating) variables: ρ , L , V

$$\text{For } \Pi_1 = \rho^a L^b V^c \mu: F^0 L^0 T^0 = \left(\frac{FT^2}{L^4}\right)^a (L)^b \left(\frac{L}{T}\right)^c \left(\frac{FT}{L^2}\right)^1$$

$$F: 0 = a + 1; \quad L: 0 = -4a + b + c - 2; \quad T: 0 = 2a - c + 1$$

$$\text{Solving: } a = -1, \quad b = -1, \quad c = -1. \quad \text{So } \Pi_1 = \rho^{-1} L^{-1} V^{-1} \mu = \mu / (LV\rho) = R^{-1}$$

$$\text{For } \Pi_2 = \rho^a L^b V^c F_D: F^0 L^0 T^0 = \left(\frac{FT^2}{L^4}\right)^a (L)^b \left(\frac{L}{T}\right)^c (F)^1$$

$$F: 0 = a + 1; \quad L: 0 = -4a + b + c; \quad T: 0 = 2a - c$$

$$\text{Solving: } a = -1, \quad b = -2, \quad c = -2. \quad \text{So } \Pi_2 = \rho^{-1} L^{-2} V^{-2} F_D = F_D / (\rho L^2 V^2)$$

$$\text{For } \Pi_3 = \rho^a L^b V^c E_v: F^0 L^0 T^0 = \left(\frac{FT^2}{L^4}\right)^a (L)^b \left(\frac{L}{T}\right)^c \left(\frac{F}{L^2}\right)^1$$

$$F: 0 = a + 1; \quad L: 0 = -4a + b + c - 2; \quad T: 0 = 2a - c$$

$$\text{Solving: } a = -1, \quad b = 0, \quad c = -2. \quad \text{So } \Pi_3 = \rho^{-1} L^0 V^{-2} E_v = E_v / (\rho V^2) = M^{-2}$$

Step 7: We can write $\Pi_2 = \phi(\Pi_1^{-1}, \Pi_3^{-1/2})$, i.e. $F_D / (\rho L^2 V^2) = \phi(R, M)$, or $F_D = \rho L^2 V^2 \phi(R, M)$ ◀

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Derive an expression for small flow rates over a spillway, in the form of a function including dimensionless quantities. Use dimensional analysis with the following parameters: height of spillway P , head on the spillway H , viscosity of liquid μ , density of liquid ρ , surface tension σ , and acceleration due to gravity g .

Step 1: $f'(q, P, H, g, \mu, \rho, \sigma) = 0$, so no. of variables, $n = 7$. Using MLT:

Step 2: $q = \left[\frac{L^2}{T} \right]$, $\rho = [L]$, $H = [L]$, $g = \left[\frac{L}{T^2} \right]$, $\mu = \left[\frac{M}{LT} \right]$, $\rho = \left[\frac{M}{L^3} \right]$, $\sigma = \left[\frac{M}{T^2} \right]$; $m = 3$

Step 3: The 3 variables q , H , and ρ can not be formed into a dimensionless group, so the reduction number $k = 3$.

Step 4: No. of Π groups needed = $n - k = 4$, $\therefore f(\Pi_1, \Pi_2, \Pi_3, \Pi_4) = 0$.

Steps 5 and 6: Select for the 3 ($=k$) primary (repeating) variables: q , H , ρ .

For $\Pi_1 = q^a H^b \rho^c P$: $M^0 L^0 T^0 = \left(\frac{L^2}{T} \right)^a (L)^b \left(\frac{M}{L^3} \right)^c (L)^1$

$M: 0 = c$; $L: 0 = 2a + b - 3c + 1$; $T: 0 = -a$

Solving: $a = 0$, $b = -1$, $c = 0$. So $\Pi_1 = q^0 H^{-1} \rho^0 P = P/H$

For $\Pi_2 = q^a H^b \rho^c g$: $M^0 L^0 T^0 = \left(\frac{L^2}{T} \right)^a (L)^b \left(\frac{M}{L^3} \right)^c \left(\frac{L}{T^2} \right)^1$

$M: 0 = c$; $L: 0 = 2a + b - 3c + 1$; $T: 0 = -a - 2$

Solving: $a = -2$, $b = 3$, $c = 0$. So $\Pi_2 = q^{-2} H^3 g = gH^3/q^2$

For $\Pi_3 = q^a H^b \rho^c \mu$: $M^0 L^0 T^0 = \left(\frac{L^2}{T} \right)^a (L)^b \left(\frac{M}{L^3} \right)^c \left(\frac{M}{LT} \right)^1$

$M: 0 = c + 1$; $L: 0 = 2a + b - 3c - 1$; $T: 0 = -a - 1$

Solving: $a = -1$, $b = 0$, $c = -1$. So $\Pi_3 = q^{-1} H^0 \rho^{-1} \mu = \mu/q\rho = R^{-1}$ (as $q = HV$)

For $\Pi_4 = q^a H^b \rho^c \sigma$: $M^0 L^0 T^0 = \left(\frac{L^2}{T} \right)^a (L)^b \left(\frac{M}{L^3} \right)^c \left(\frac{M}{T^2} \right)^1$

$M: 0 = c + 1$; $L: 0 = 2a + b - 3c$; $T: 0 = -a - 2$

Solving: $a = -2$, $b = 1$, $c = -1$. So $\Pi_4 = q^{-2} H \rho^{-1} \sigma = \sigma H / (\rho q^2) = W^{-2}$ (as $q = HV$)

Step 7: We can write $\Pi_2^{-1/2} = \phi(\Pi_1, \Pi_3^{-1}, \Pi_4^{-1/2})$

i.e., $q/(g^{1/2} H^{3/2}) = \phi(H/P, R, W)$ or $q = g^{1/2} H^{3/2} \phi(H/P, R, W)$ ◀