

Course: ME 5160, Fall 2024

The exam is closed book and closed notes.

The power P generated by a certain windmill design depends upon its diameter D , the air density ρ , the wind velocity V , the rotation rate Ω , and the number of blades n .

(a) Write this relationship in dimensionless form using D , ρ , and V as repeating variables (note that n is already dimensionless and therefore can be used directly as one of the Pi groups).

(b) A model windmill, of diameter 50 cm, develops 2.7 kW at sea level for $V = 40$ m/s and when rotating at 4800 rev/min. A geometrically and dynamically similar prototype has diameter 5 m and operates in winds of 12 m/s at 2000 m standard altitude. What is the appropriate rotation rate, and the power delivered by the prototype? Use $\rho = 1.0067$ kg/m³ at 2000 m altitude and $\rho = 1.2255$ kg/m³ at sea level.

Quantity	Symbol	Dimensions	
		$MLT\Theta$	$FLT\Theta$
Length	L	L	L
Area	A	L^2	L^2
Volume	\mathcal{V}	L^3	L^3
Velocity	V	LT^{-1}	LT^{-1}
Acceleration	dV/dt	LT^{-2}	LT^{-2}
Speed of sound	a	LT^{-1}	LT^{-1}
Volume flow	Q	L^3T^{-1}	L^3T^{-1}
Mass flow	\dot{m}	MT^{-1}	FTL^{-1}
Pressure, stress	p, σ, τ	$ML^{-1}T^{-2}$	FL^{-2}
Strain rate	$\dot{\epsilon}$	T^{-1}	T^{-1}
Angle	θ	None	None
Angular velocity	ω, Ω	T^{-1}	T^{-1}
Viscosity	μ	$ML^{-1}T^{-1}$	FTL^{-2}
Kinematic viscosity	ν	L^2T^{-1}	L^2T^{-1}
Surface tension	Υ	MT^{-2}	FL^{-1}
Force	F	MLT^{-2}	F
Moment, torque	M	ML^2T^{-2}	FL
Power	P	ML^2T^{-3}	FLT^{-1}
Work, energy	W, E	ML^2T^{-2}	FL
Density	ρ	ML^{-3}	FT^2L^{-4}
Temperature	T	Θ	Θ
Specific heat	c_p, c_v	$L^2T^{-2}\Theta^{-1}$	$L^2T^{-2}\Theta^{-1}$
Specific weight	γ	$ML^{-2}T^{-2}$	FL^{-3}
Thermal conductivity	k	$MLT^{-3}\Theta^{-1}$	$FT^{-1}\Theta^{-1}$
Thermal expansion coefficient	β	Θ^{-1}	Θ^{-1}

Name : _____

Quiz: No. 8

Time: 20 minutes

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Solution

KNOWN: dimensional parameters, geometrical and dynamic similarity between model and prototype, $(D, \rho, V, \Omega, P)_m, (D, \rho, V)_p$

FIND: Pi groups, $(\Omega, P)_p$

ASSUMPTIONS: the problem is only a function of the above dimensional variables

ANALYSIS:

(a) For the function $P = f(D, \rho, V, \Omega, n)$ the appropriate dimensions are

$$\{P\} = \{M L^2 T^{-3}\}; \{D\} = \{L\}; \{\rho\} = \{M L^{-3}\}; \{V\} = \{L T^{-1}\}; \{\Omega\} = \{T^{-1}\}; \{n\} = \{1\} \quad (1.5)$$

$$n = 6$$

$$j = 3$$

$$k = n - j = 3 \quad (1)$$

Using repeating variables D, ρ , and V find the Pi groups:

$$\Pi_1 = D^a \rho^b V^c P = \{(L)^a (M L^{-3})^b (L T^{-1})^c (M L^2 T^{-3})\} = \{M^0 L^0 T^0\} \quad (0.5)$$

$$a = -2; b = -1; c = -3$$

$$\Pi_1 = \frac{P}{\rho D^2 V^3} \quad (1)$$

$$\Pi_2 = D^a \rho^b V^c \Omega = \{(L)^a (M L^{-3})^b (L T^{-1})^c (T^{-3})\} = \{M^0 L^0 T^0\} \quad (0.5)$$

$$a = 1; b = 0; c = -1$$

$$\Pi_2 = \frac{\Omega D}{V} \quad (1)$$

$$\Pi_3 = D^a \rho^b V^c n = \{(L)^a (M L^{-3})^b (L T^{-1})^c (M^0 L^0 T^0)\} = \{M^0 L^0 T^0\} \quad (0.5)$$

$$a = 0; b = 0; c = 0$$

$$\Pi_3 = n \quad (1)$$

The dimensionless function is

$$\frac{P}{\rho D^2 V^3} = f\left(\frac{\Omega D}{V}, n\right)$$

(b) For the geometric similarity, the number of blades n (Π_3) is the same between model and prototype. For the dynamic similarity, model and prototype have the same advance ratio (Π_2).

$$\left(\frac{\Omega D}{V}\right)_m = \left(\frac{\Omega D}{V}\right)_p \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{(4800 \text{ rev/min})(0.5 \text{ m})}{(40 \text{ m/s})} = \frac{\Omega_p (5 \text{ m})}{(12 \text{ m/s})}$$

$$\Omega_p = 144 \text{ rev/min} \quad (0.5)$$

Model and prototype also have the same non-dimensional power (Π_1).

$$\left(\frac{P}{\rho D^2 V^3}\right)_m = \left(\frac{P}{\rho D^2 V^3}\right)_p \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{(2700 \text{ W})}{(1.2255 \text{ kg/m}^3)(0.5 \text{ m})^2(40 \text{ m/s})^3} = \frac{P_p}{(1.0067 \text{ kg/m}^3)(5 \text{ m})^2(12 \text{ m/s})^3}$$

$$P_p = 5990 \text{ W} \approx 6 \text{ kW} \quad (0.5)$$