

Chapter 5: Dimensional Analysis and Modeling

The Need for Dimensional Analysis

Dimensional analysis is a process of formulating fluid mechanics problems in terms of nondimensional variables and parameters.

1. Reduction in Variables:

If $F(A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n) = 0$,

F = functional form

A_i = dimensional
variables

Then $f(\Pi_1, \Pi_2, \dots, \Pi_{r < n}) = 0$

Π_j = nondimensional
parameters

Thereby reduces number of
experiments and/or simulations
required to determine f vs. F

$= \Pi_j (A_i)$
i.e., Π_j consists of
nondimensional
groupings of A_i 's

2. Helps in understanding physics

3. Useful in data analysis and modeling

4. Fundamental to concept of similarity and model testing

Enables scaling for different physical dimensions and
fluid properties

Dimensions and Equations

Basic dimensions: F, L, and t or M, L, and t

F and M related by $F = Ma = MLT^{-2}$

The principle of homogeneity of dimensions is a rule that states that the dimensions of all terms in a physical expression should be the same. This principle is based on the fact that only physical quantities of the same kind can be added, subtracted, or compared. This principle is used to check the correctness and consistency of equations and mathematical relationships in various scientific fields.

Buckingham Π Theorem

In a physical problem including n dimensional variables in which there are m dimensions, the variables can be arranged into $r = n - \hat{m}$ independent nondimensional parameters Π_r (where usually $\hat{m} = m$).

$$F(A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n) = 0$$

$$f(\Pi_1, \Pi_2, \dots, \Pi_r) = 0$$

A_i 's = dimensional variables required to formulate problems
($i = 1, n$)

Π_j 's = nondimensional parameters consisting of groupings
of A_i 's ($j = 1, r$)

F, f represents functional relationships between A_n 's and Π_r 's, respectively

$\hat{m}$ = rank of dimensional matrix
= m (i.e., number of dimensions) usually

Dimensional Analysis

Methods for determining Π_j 's

1. Functional Relationship Method

Identify functional relationships $F(A_i)$ and $f(\Pi_j)$ by first determining A_i 's and then evaluating Π_j 's

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| a. Inspection | intuition |
| b. Step-by-step Method | text |
| c. Exponent Method | class |

2. Nondimensionalize governing differential equations and initial and boundary conditions

Select appropriate quantities for nondimensionalizing the GDE, IC, and BC e.g. for M , L , and t

Put GDE, IC, and BC in nondimensional form

Identify Π_j 's

Exponent Method for Determining Π_j 's

- 1) determine the n essential quantities
- 2) select $\hat{m}$ of the A quantities, with different dimensions, that contain among them the $\hat{m}$ dimensions and use them as repeating variables together with one of the other A quantities to determine each Π .

For example, let A_1 , A_2 , and A_3 contain M, L, and t (not necessarily in each one, but collectively); then the Π_j parameters are formed as follows:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \Pi_1 &= A_1^{x_1} A_2^{y_1} A_3^{z_1} A_4 \\ \Pi_2 &= A_1^{x_2} A_2^{y_2} A_3^{z_2} A_5 \\ \Pi_{n-m} &= A_1^{x_{n-m}} A_2^{y_{n-m}} A_3^{z_{n-m}} A_n \end{aligned} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{Determine exponents} \\ \text{such that } \Pi_j \text{'s are} \\ \text{dimensionless} \\ \\ 3 \text{ equations and 3} \\ \text{unknowns for each } \Pi_i \end{array}$$

In these equations the exponents are determined so that each Π is dimensionless. This is accomplished by substituting the dimensions for each of the A_i in the equations and equating the sum of the exponents of M, L, and t each to zero. This produces three equations in three unknowns (x, y, z) for each Π parameter.

In using the above method, the designation of $\hat{m} = m$ as the number of basic dimensions needed to express the n variables dimensionally is not always correct. The correct value for $\hat{m}$ is the rank of the dimensional matrix, i.e., the next smaller square subgroup with a nonzero determinant.

Dimensional matrix =

	A_1		A_n
M	a_{11}		a_{1n}
L			
t	a_{31}		a_{3n}
	o		o
	:		:
	:		:
	:		:
	o		o

a_{ij} = exponent
 of M, L, or t in
 A_i

n x n matrix

Rank of dimensional matrix equals size of next smaller sub-group with nonzero determinant

In dimensional analysis, the designation of m as the number of basic dimensions is determined by the **rank of the dimensional matrix**—defined as the size of the largest square submatrix (subgroup) that possesses a non-zero determinant.

When finding the rank of a dimensional matrix (where rows typically represent fundamental dimensions like M, L, t and columns represent variables $A_1 \dots A_n$ with exponent entries a_{ij}), two primary methods are used: **Laplace Expansion** and **Gaussian Elimination**.

Method 1: Laplace Expansion (Cofactor Expansion Method)

The Laplace expansion method is analytical and works well for small dimensional matrices (such as $3 \times n$ or $4 \times n$ matrices common in fluid mechanics and engineering problems).

1. Identify Maximum Possible Rank:

Determine the maximum possible rank, which is limited by the smaller dimension of the matrix ($k = \min(\text{rows}, \text{cols})$). For standard dimensional matrices with rows M, L, t , the maximum rank is typically 3.

2. Form Square Submatrices (Minors):

Select square sub-groups of size $k \times k$ from the columns of the dimensional matrix.

3. Compute Determinants Using Laplace Expansion:

For each square submatrix, calculate its determinant using Laplace expansion along any row or column. The expansion formula for a matrix A along row i is:

$$\det(A) = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} C_{ij}$$

where $C_{ij} = (-1)^{i+j}M_{ij}$ is the cofactor, and M_{ij} is the determinant of the $(n-1) \times (n-1)$ submatrix formed by removing row i and column j .

4. Evaluate Rank:

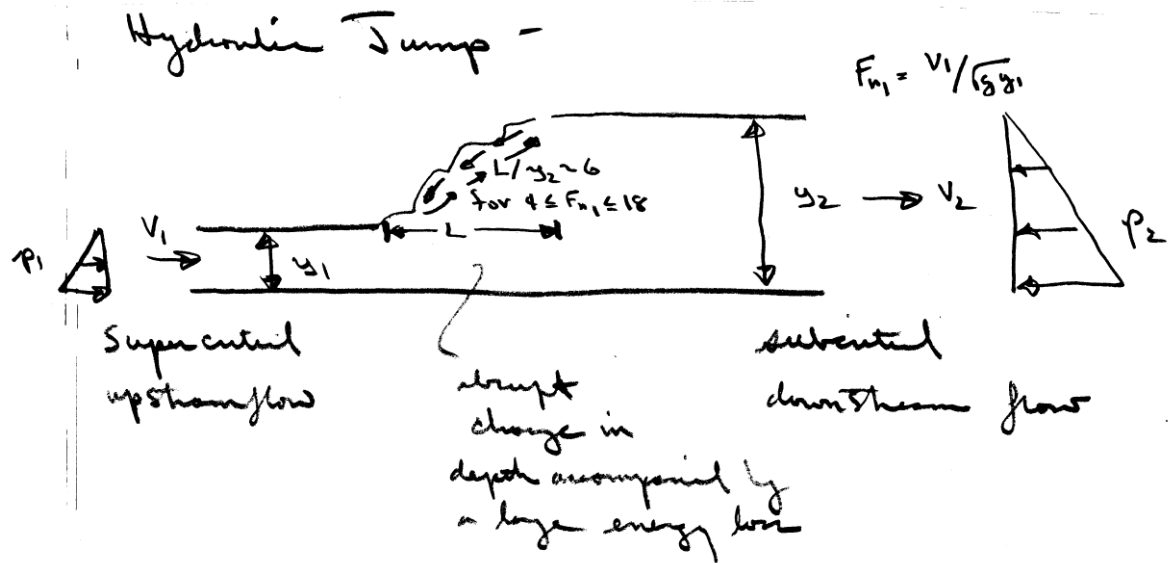
- If **at least one** $k \times k$ submatrix has a **non-zero determinant**, then the rank of the dimensional matrix is k .
- If *all* $k \times k$ submatrices yield a determinant of zero, test smaller submatrices of size $(k-1) \times (k-1)$ until you find a non-zero determinant.

Method 2: Gaussian Elimination (The Most Efficient Practical Method)

While Laplace expansion is useful for hand calculations on small matrices, **Gaussian elimination (row reduction)** is computationally the "best" and most robust method for larger matrices because it avoids heavy cofactor calculations.

1. **Set Up the Matrix:** Write out the dimensional matrix with variables in columns and fundamental dimensions (M, L, t) in rows.
2. **Apply Elementary Row Operations:** Use row operations (swapping rows, multiplying a row by a non-zero constant, or adding multiples of one row to another) to transform the matrix into **Row Echelon Form** (upper triangular form).
3. **Count Non-Zero Rows:** The number of non-zero rows remaining in the echelon form equals the rank of the matrix. This rank directly gives the correct value of m needed for applying theorems like the Buckingham Π Theorem.

Example: Hydraulic jump



$$HGL = p/\gamma + z; \quad EGL = HGL + \alpha V^2/2g; \quad EGL_1 = EGL_2 + h_L$$

for $h_t = h_p = 0$

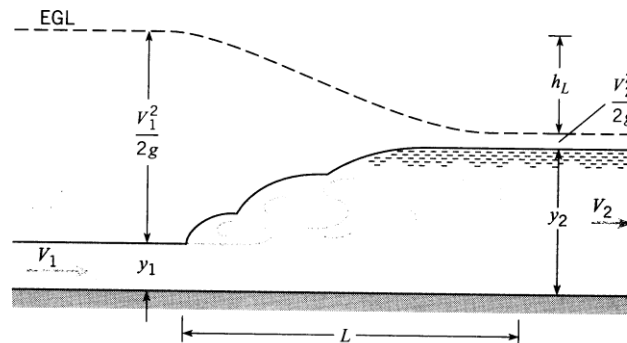


FIGURE 15.17
Definition sketch for the
hydraulic jump.

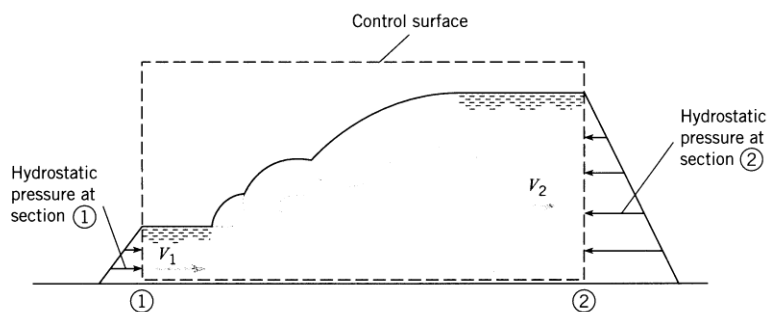


FIGURE 15.18
Control-volume analysis
for the hydraulic jump.

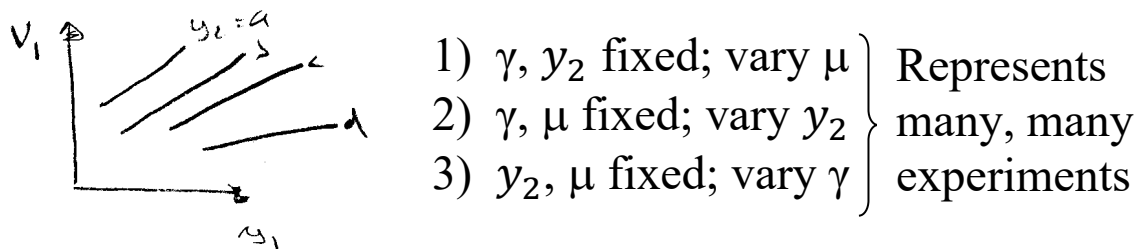
Say we assume that

$$V_1 = V_1(\gamma, \mu, y_1, y_2)$$

$$\swarrow \text{ or } V_2 = V_1 y_1 / y_2$$

$\gamma = \rho g$

Dimensional analysis is a procedure whereby the functional relationship can be expressed in terms of r nondimensional parameters in which $r < n = \text{number of dimensional variables}$. Such a reduction is significant since in an experimental or numerical investigation a reduced number of experiments or calculations is extremely beneficial



In general: $F(A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n) = 0$ dimensional form

$f(\Pi_1, \Pi_2, \dots, \Pi_r) = 0$ nondimensional
form with reduced

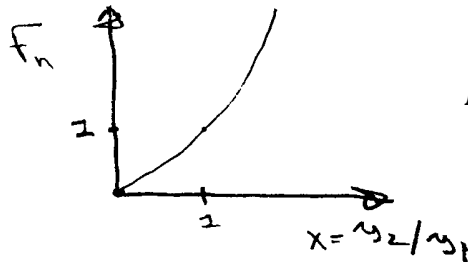
or $\Pi_1 = \Pi_1(\Pi_2, \dots, \Pi_r)$ # of variables

It can be shown that

$$F_r = \frac{V_1}{\sqrt{g y_1}} = F_r \left(\frac{y_2}{y_1} \right)$$

neglect μ (ρ drops out as will be shown)

Thus, only one experiment to determine the functional relationship



$$F_r = \left[\frac{1}{2} x(1+x) \right]^{1/2}$$

X	F _r
0	0
1/2	.61
1	1
2	1.7
5	3.9

For this application we can determine the functional relationship using a control volume analysis: (neglecting μ and bottom friction)

x-momentum equation: $\sum F_x = \sum V_x \rho \underline{V} \cdot \underline{A}$

$$\gamma \frac{y_1^2}{2} - \gamma \frac{y_2^2}{2} = V_1 \rho (-V_1 y_1) + V_2 \rho (V_2 y_2)$$

$$\frac{\gamma}{2} (y_1^2 - y_2^2) = \frac{\gamma}{g} (V_2^2 y_2 - V_1^2 y_1)$$

continuity equation: $V_1 y_1 = V_2 y_2$

$$V_2 = \frac{V_1 y_1}{y_2}$$

$$\frac{\gamma y_1^2}{2} \left[1 - \left(\frac{y_2}{y_1} \right)^2 \right] = V_1^2 \frac{\gamma}{g} y_1 \left(\frac{y_1}{y_2} - 1 \right)$$

pressure forces due to gravity = inertial forces

Note: each term in equation must have same units: principle of dimensional homogeneity, i.e., in this case, force per unit width N/m

now divide equation by $\frac{\gamma(1-\frac{y_2}{y_1})y_1^3}{y_2}$

$$\frac{V_1^2}{gy_1} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{y_2}{y_1} \left(1 + \frac{y_2}{y_1} \right) \longleftarrow \text{dimensionless equation}$$

ratio of inertia forces/gravity forces = (Froude number)²

note $F_r = F_r(y_2/y_1)$ do not need to know both y_2
 and y_1 , only ratio to get F_r

Also, shows in an experiment it is not necessary to vary γ , y_1 , y_2 , V_1 , and V_2 , but only F_r and y_2/y_1

Next, can get an estimate of h_L from the energy equation
 (along free surface from 1→2)

$$\frac{V_1^2}{2g} + y_1 = \frac{V_2^2}{2g} + y_2 + h_L$$

$$h_L = \frac{(y_2 - y_1)^3}{4y_1y_2}$$

≠ $f(\mu)$ due to assumptions made in deriving 1-D steady
 flow energy equations

Exponent method to determine Π_j 's for Hydraulic jump

use $V = V_1$, y_1 , ρ as
repeating variables

$$F(g, V_1, y_1, y_2, \rho, \mu) = 0$$

$$\frac{L}{T^2} \frac{L}{T} \quad L \quad L \quad \frac{M}{L^3} \frac{M}{LT}$$

$$n = 6$$

Assume $\hat{m} = m$ to
avoid evaluating
rank of 6 x 6
dimensional matrix

$$m = 3 \Rightarrow r = n - m = 3$$

$$\Pi_1 = V^{x_1} y_1^{y_1} \rho^{z_1} \mu$$

$$= (LT^{-1})^{x_1} (L)^{y_1} (ML^{-3})^{z_1} ML^{-1}T^{-1}$$

$$L \quad x_1 + y_1 - 3z_1 - 1 = 0 \quad y_1 = 3z_1 + 1 - x_1 = -1$$

$$T \quad -x_1 \quad -1 = 0 \quad x_1 = -1$$

$$M \quad z_1 \quad +1 = 0 \quad z_1 = -1$$

$$\Pi_1 = \frac{\mu}{\rho y_1 V} \quad \text{or} \quad \Pi_1^{-1} = \frac{\rho y_1 V}{\mu} = \text{Reynolds number} = \text{Re}$$

$$\Pi_2 = V^{x_2} y_1^{y_2} \rho^{z_2} g$$

$$= (LT^{-1})^{x_2} (L)^{y_2} (ML^{-3})^{z_2} LT^{-2}$$

$$L \quad x_2 + y_2 - 3z_2 + 1 = 0 \quad y_2 = -1 - x_2 = 1$$

$$T \quad -x_2 \quad -2 = 0 \quad x_2 = -2$$

$$M \quad z_2 = 0$$

$$\Pi_2 = V^{-2} y_1 g = \frac{gy_1}{V^2} \quad \Pi_2^{-1/2} = \frac{V}{\sqrt{gy_1}} = \text{Froude number}$$

$$= \text{Fr}$$

$$\Pi_3 = (LT^{-1})^{x_3} (L)^{y_3} (ML^{-3})^{z_3} y_2$$

$$L \quad x_3 + y_3 - 3z_3 + 1 = 0 \quad y_3 = -1$$

$$T \quad -x_3 = 0$$

$$M \quad z_3 = 0$$

$$\Pi_3 = \frac{y_2}{y_1} \quad \Pi_3^{-1} = \frac{y_1}{y_2} = \text{depth ratio}$$

$$f(\Pi_1, \Pi_2, \Pi_3) = 0$$

$$\text{or} \quad \Pi_2 = \Pi_2(\Pi_1, \Pi_3)$$

i.e., $F_r = F_r(\text{Re}, y_2/y_1)$ if we neglect μ then Re drops out

$$F_r = \frac{V_1}{\sqrt{gy_1}} = f\left(\frac{y_2}{y_1}\right)$$

Note that dimensional analysis does not provide the actual functional relationship. Recalling that previously we used control volume analysis to derive

$$\frac{V_1^2}{gy_1} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{y_2}{y_1} \left(1 + \frac{y_2}{y_1}\right)$$

the actual relationship between F_r vs. y_2/y_1

$$F = F(\text{Re}, F_r, y_1/y_2)$$

or $F_r = F_r(\text{Re}, y_1/y_2) = F_r(y_1/y_2)$ if μ neglected

Dimensional matrix:

	g	V_1	y_1	y_2	ρ	μ	
M	0	0	0	0	1	1	
L	1	1	1	1	-3	-1	
t	-2	-1	0	0	0	-1	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Size of next smaller subgroup with nonzero determinant = 3 = rank of matrix

Step 1: Write Down the Dimensional Matrix

The matrix represents the dimensions of the variables ($g, V_1, y_1, y_2, \rho, \mu$) with respect to the fundamental dimensions (M, L, t):

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & -3 & -1 \\ -2 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Step 2: Analyze the Rows

- **Rows 4, 5, 6** are entirely composed of zeros.
- Since the last three rows provide no linearly independent information, the maximum possible rank of the matrix is restricted to **3** (the number of non-zero rows).

Step 3: Choose a 3×3 Submatrix

To prove that the rank is indeed 3, we need to find at least one 3×3 submatrix (or "subgroup") formed by the non-zero rows with a **non-zero determinant**.

Let's select the columns corresponding to g , V_1 , and ρ across the first three rows:

$$A_{\text{sub}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & -3 \\ -2 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Step 4: Calculate the Determinant

Evaluate the determinant of this 3×3 submatrix by expanding along the first row:

$$\det(A_{\text{sub}}) = 0 \cdot \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ -1 & 0 \end{vmatrix} - 0 \cdot \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ -2 & 0 \end{vmatrix} + 1 \cdot \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -2 & -1 \end{vmatrix}$$

Simplify the remaining 2×2 determinant:

$$\det(A_{\text{sub}}) = 1 \cdot (1) = 1$$

Conclusion

Since the determinant of this 3×3 submatrix is **non-zero** ($\det = 1 \neq 0$) and all rows below the third row are zero, the size of the largest non-zero determinant subgroup is **3**.

Therefore, **the rank of the dimensional matrix is 3**.

Derivation of Kolmogorov Scales Using Dimensional Analysis

l_0 ---- length scales of the largest eddies

η ---- length scales of the smallest eddies (Kolmogorov scale)

u_0 ---- velocity associated with the largest eddies

u_η ---- velocity associated with the smallest eddies

τ_0 ---- time scales of the largest eddies

τ_η ---- time scales of the smallest eddies

Energy Cascade: Energy transferred from the largest to successively smaller scales until $Re_\eta = \frac{u_\eta \eta}{\nu} \sim 1$ such that eddy motion is stable and viscosity dissipates the turbulent kinetic energy.



Leonardo's Da Vinci: sketch of water falling into a pool. Note the different scales of motion, suggestive of the energy cascade.

Rate of dissipation ε is determined by the largest scales with energy u_0^2 and turn over time scale $\tau_0 = \frac{l_0}{u_0}$; therefore,

$$\varepsilon \approx \frac{u_0^2}{\tau_0} \approx \frac{u_0^3}{l_0} \neq f(\nu) \quad (\text{m}^2/\text{s}^3)$$

Important assumption is that both $u(l)$ and $\tau(l)$ decrease as l decreases.

1. Kolmogorov's hypothesis of local isotropy: At high Reynolds number, the small-scale turbulent motions ($l \ll l_0$) are statistically isotropic.
2. Kolmogorov's first similarity hypothesis: at high Reynolds number, small-scale motions ($l < l_{EI}$) have universal form uniquely $f(\varepsilon, \nu)$ = universal equilibrium range. EI indicates start universal equilibrium and inertial sub range.
3. Kolmogorov's second similarity hypothesis: at high Reynolds number, the statistics of the motions $l_0 \gg l \gg \eta$ are uniquely determined by ε and not $f(\nu)$: inertial sub range.

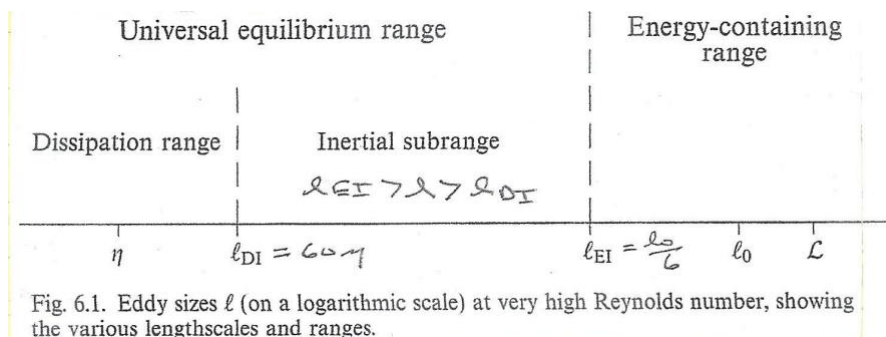
The rate of dissipation of energy at the smallest scale can also be expressed by

$$\varepsilon \equiv 2\nu s_{ij}s_{ij} \quad (1)$$

where $s_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial u_{\eta,i}}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_{\eta,j}}{\partial x_i} \right)$ is the rate of strain associated with the smallest eddies, $S_{ij} \equiv \frac{u_{\eta}}{\eta}$. Which yields:

$$\varepsilon \equiv \nu \left(\frac{u_{\eta}^2}{\eta^2} \right) \quad (2)$$

Based on **Kolmogorov's first similarity hypothesis**, the small scales of motion are function of $F(\eta, u_{\eta}, \tau_{\eta}, \nu, \varepsilon)$ and determined by ν and ε only.



In the inertial subrange, viscous effects are negligible. Herein, the exponent method is used with ν and ε are repeating variables. The dimensions for ν and ε are L^2T^{-1} and L^2T^{-3} , respectively.

$$F\left(\underbrace{\eta}_L, \underbrace{u_\eta}_{\frac{L}{T}}, \underbrace{\tau_\eta}_T, \underbrace{\nu}_{\frac{L^2}{T}}, \underbrace{\varepsilon}_{\frac{L^2}{T^3}}\right) = 0 \quad n = 5$$

$$m=2 \Rightarrow r=n-m=3$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_1 &= \nu^{x_1} \varepsilon^{y_1} \eta \\ &= (L^2T^{-1})^{x_1} (L^2T^{-3})^{y_1} L \\ L \quad &2x_1 + 2y_1 + 1 = 0 \\ T \quad &-x_1 - 3y_1 = 0 \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= -3/4 \text{ and } y_1 = 1/4 \\ \Pi_1 &= \eta \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{\nu^3}\right)^{1/4} \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_2 &= \nu^{x_2} \varepsilon^{y_2} u_\eta \\ &= (L^2T^{-1})^{x_2} (L^2T^{-3})^{y_2} (LT^{-1}) \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

$$\begin{aligned} L \quad &2x_2 + 2y_2 + 1 = 0 \\ T \quad &-x_2 - 3y_2 - 1 = 0 \end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x_2 &= y_2 = -1/4 \\ \Pi_2 &= u_\eta / (\varepsilon \nu)^{1/4} \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Pi_3 &= v^{x_3} \varepsilon^{y_3} \tau_\eta \\ &= \left(L^2 T^{-1} \right)^{x_3} \left(L^2 T^{-3} \right)^{y_3} (T)\end{aligned}\quad (10)$$

$$\begin{array}{l} L \quad 2x_3 + 2y_3 = 0 \\ T \quad -x_3 - 3y_3 + 1 = 0 \end{array}\quad (11)$$

$$\begin{aligned}x_3 &= -1/2 \text{ and } y_3 = 1/2 \\ \Pi_3 &= \tau_\eta \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{v} \right)^{1/2}\end{aligned}\quad (12)$$

Analysis of the Π parameters give,

$$\Pi_1 \times \Pi_2 = \frac{u_\eta \eta}{v} = Re_\eta \equiv 1 \quad (13)$$

$$\frac{\Pi_2}{\Pi_1} \times \Pi_3 = \frac{u_\eta}{\eta} \tau_\eta = 1 \quad (14)$$

$$\frac{\Pi_2}{\Pi_1} = \frac{u_\eta}{\eta} \left(\frac{v}{\varepsilon} \right)^{1/2} \equiv 1 \quad (15)$$

$$\xrightarrow{\text{yields}} \Pi_1 = \Pi_2 = \Pi_3 \equiv 1$$

Thus, Kolmogorov scales are:

$$\begin{aligned}\eta &\equiv \left(\frac{v^3}{\varepsilon} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}}, \\ u_\eta &\equiv (\varepsilon v)^{\frac{1}{4}}, \\ \tau_\eta &\equiv \left(\frac{v}{\varepsilon} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\end{aligned}\quad (16)$$

Ratios of the smallest to largest scales: The rate at which energy (per unit mass) is passed down the energy cascade from the largest eddies is,

$$\Pi \equiv \frac{u_0^2}{\left(\frac{l_0}{u_0}\right)} = \frac{u_0^3}{l_0} \quad (17)$$

Based on Kolmogorov's universal equilibrium theory,

$$\varepsilon = \frac{u_0^3}{l_0} \equiv \nu \left(\frac{u_\eta^2}{\eta^2} \right) \quad (18)$$

Replace ε in Eqn. (16) using Eqn. (18) and note $\tau_0 = \frac{l_0}{u_0}$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\eta}{l_0} &\equiv Re^{-\frac{3}{4}}, \\ \frac{u_\eta}{u_0} &\equiv Re^{-\frac{1}{4}}, \\ \frac{\tau_\eta}{\tau_0} &\equiv Re^{-\frac{1}{2}} \quad (19) \quad Re = \frac{u_0 l_0}{\nu} \end{aligned}$$

Cases	Re	η / l_0	l_0	η
Educational experiments	10^3	5.6×10^{-3}	~ 1 cm	0.056 mm
Model-scale experiments	10^6	3.2×10^{-5}	~ 1 m	0.032 mm
Full-scale experiments	10^9	1.8×10^{-7}	~ 100 m	0.018 mm

The smallest fluid motion scales for ship and airplane:

	U(m/s)	L(m)	ν (m ² /s)	Re	η (mm)	u_η (m/s)	τ_η (s)
Ship (Container: ALIANCA MAUA)	11.8 (23.3 knots)	272	9.76E-7	3.3E09	0.02	0.05	4E-4
Airplane (Airbus A300)	216.8 (Ma=0.64)	56.2	3.7E-5 (z=10Km)	0.3E09	0.023	1.64	1.4E-5

Much of the energy in this flow is dissipated in eddies which are less than fraction of a millimeter in size

Common Dimensionless Parameters for Fluid Flow Problems

Parameter	Definition	Qualitative ratio of effects	Importance
Reynolds number	$Re = \frac{\rho UL}{\mu}$	$\frac{\text{Inertia}}{\text{Viscosity}}$	Almost always
Mach number	$Ma = \frac{U}{a}$	$\frac{\text{Flow speed}}{\text{Sound speed}}$	Compressible flow
Froude number	$Fr = \frac{U^2}{gL}$	$\frac{\text{Inertia}}{\text{Gravity}}$	Free-surface flow
Weber number	$We = \frac{\rho U^2 L}{\gamma}$	$\frac{\text{Inertia}}{\text{Surface tension}}$	Free-surface flow
Rossby number	$Ro = \frac{U}{\Omega_{earth} L}$	$\frac{\text{Flow velocity}}{\text{Coriolis effect}}$	Geophysical flows
Cavitation number (Euler number)	$Ca = \frac{p - p_v}{\frac{1}{2}\rho U^2}$	$\frac{\text{Pressure}}{\text{Inertia}}$	Cavitation
Prandtl number	$Pr = \frac{\mu c_p}{k}$	$\frac{\text{Dissipation}}{\text{Conduction}}$	Heat convection
Eckert number	$Ec = \frac{U^2}{c_p T_0}$	$\frac{\text{Kinetic energy}}{\text{Enthalpy}}$	Dissipation
Specific-heat ratio	$k = \frac{c_p}{c_v}$	$\frac{\text{Enthalpy}}{\text{Internal energy}}$	Compressible flow
Strouhal number	$St = \frac{\omega L}{U}$	$\frac{\text{Oscillation}}{\text{Mean speed}}$	Oscillating flow
Roughness ratio	$\frac{\epsilon}{L}$	$\frac{\text{Wall roughness}}{\text{Body length}}$	Turbulent, rough walls
Grashof number	$Gr = \frac{\beta \Delta T g L^3 \rho^2}{\mu^2}$	$\frac{\text{Buoyancy}}{\text{Viscosity}}$	Natural convection
Rayleigh number	$Ra = \frac{\beta \Delta T g L^3 \rho^2 c_p}{\mu k}$	$\frac{\text{Buoyancy}}{\text{Viscosity}}$	Natural convection
Temperature ratio	$\frac{T_w}{T_0}$	$\frac{\text{Wall temperature}}{\text{Stream temperature}}$	Heat transfer
Pressure coefficient	$C_p = \frac{p - p_\infty}{\frac{1}{2}\rho U^2}$	$\frac{\text{Static pressure}}{\text{Dynamic pressure}}$	Aerodynamics, hydrodynamics
Lift coefficient	$C_L = \frac{L}{\frac{1}{2}\rho U^2 A}$	$\frac{\text{Lift force}}{\text{Dynamic force}}$	Aerodynamics, hydrodynamics
Drag coefficient	$C_D = \frac{D}{\frac{1}{2}\rho U^2 A}$	$\frac{\text{Drag force}}{\text{Dynamic force}}$	Aerodynamics, hydrodynamics
Friction factor	$f = \frac{h_f}{(V^2/2g)(L/d)}$	$\frac{\text{Friction head loss}}{\text{Velocity head}}$	Pipe flow
Skin friction coefficient	$c_f = \frac{\tau_{wall}}{\rho V^2/2}$	$\frac{\text{Wall shear stress}}{\text{Dynamic pressure}}$	Boundary layer flow

Nondimensionalization of the Basic Equation

It is very useful and instructive to nondimensionalize the basic equations and boundary conditions. Consider the situation for ρ and μ constant and for flow with a free surface

Continuity: $\nabla \cdot \underline{V} = 0$

Momentum: $\rho \frac{D\underline{V}}{Dt} = -\nabla(p + \gamma z) + \mu \nabla^2 \underline{V}$
 $\nwarrow \rho g = \text{specific weight}$

Boundary Conditions:

- 1) fixed solid surface: $\underline{V} = 0$
- 2) inlet or outlet: $\underline{V} = \underline{V}_o$ $p = p_o$
- 3) linearized free surface: $w = \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} p = p_o + \gamma(R_x^{-1} + R_y^{-1})$
 $(z = \eta)$ surface tension $\nearrow$

All variables are now nondimensionalized in terms of ρ and

$U = \text{reference velocity}$
 $L = \text{reference length}$

$$\underline{V}^* = \frac{\underline{V}}{U}$$

$$t^* = \frac{tU}{L}$$

$$\underline{x}^* = \frac{\underline{x}}{L}$$

$$p^* = \frac{p + \rho g z}{\rho U^2}$$

All equations can be put in nondimensional form by making the substitution

$$\underline{V} = \underline{V}^* U$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t^*} \frac{\partial t^*}{\partial t} = \frac{U}{L} \frac{\partial}{\partial t^*}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \hat{j} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \hat{k} \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x^*} \frac{\partial x^*}{\partial x} \hat{i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y^*} \frac{\partial y^*}{\partial y} \hat{j} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z^*} \frac{\partial z^*}{\partial z} \hat{k} \\ &= \frac{1}{L} \nabla^* \end{aligned}$$

and $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{L} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^*} (U u^*) = \frac{U}{L} \frac{\partial u^*}{\partial x^*}$ etc.

Result: $\nabla^* \cdot \underline{V}^* = 0$

$$\frac{D \underline{V}^*}{D t^*} = -\nabla^* p^* + \underbrace{\frac{\mu}{\rho U L} \nabla^{*2} \underline{V}^*}_{\text{Re}^{-1}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 1) \quad \underline{V}^* &= 0 \\ 2) \quad \underline{V}^* &= \frac{V_o}{U} \quad p^* = \frac{p_o + \rho g z}{\rho U^2} \\ 3) \quad w^* &= \frac{\partial \eta^*}{\partial t^*} \end{aligned}$$

$$p^* = \frac{p_o}{\rho U^2} + \frac{gL}{U^2} z^* + \frac{\gamma}{\rho U^2 L} (R_x^{*-1} + R_y^{*-1})$$

Pressure coefficient

Fr⁻²

We⁻¹

Similarity and Model Testing

Flow conditions for a model test achieve complete similarity if all relevant dimensionless parameters have the same corresponding values for model and prototype

$$\Pi_{j \text{ model}} = \Pi_{j \text{ prototype}} \quad j = 1, r = n - \hat{m} \text{ (m)}$$

Enables extrapolation from model to full scale

However, complete similarity is usually not possible

Therefore, often it is necessary to use Re, or Fr, or Ma scaling, i.e., select most important Π and accommodate others as best as possible

Types of Similarity:

1) Geometric Similarity (similar length scales):

A model and prototype are geometrically similar if and only if all body dimensions in all three coordinates have the same linear-scale ratios

$$\alpha = L_m/L_p \quad (\alpha < 1)$$

↖ 1/10 or 1/50

2) Kinematic Similarity (similar length and time scales):

The motions of two systems are kinematically similar if homologous (same relative position) particles lie at homologous points at homologous times

3) Dynamic Similarity (similar length, time and force (or mass) scales):

In addition to the requirements for kinematic similarity the model and prototype forces must be in constant ratio

Model Testing in Water (with a free surface)

$$F(D, L, V, g, \rho, \nu) = 0$$

$n = 6$ and $m = 3$ thus $r = n - m = 3$ π terms

In a dimensionless form,

$$f(C_D, Fr, Re) = 0$$

or

$$C_D = f(Fr, Re)$$

where

$$C_D = \frac{D}{\frac{1}{2}\rho V^2 L^2}$$

$$Fr = \frac{V}{\sqrt{gL}}$$

$$Re = \frac{VL}{\nu}$$

$$\text{If } Fr_m = Fr_p \text{ or } \frac{V_m}{\sqrt{gL_m}} = \frac{V_p}{\sqrt{gL_p}}$$

$$V_m = \frac{\sqrt{gL_m}}{\sqrt{gL_p}} V_p = \sqrt{\alpha} V_p \quad \text{Froude scaling}$$

$$\text{and } Re_m = Re_p \text{ or } \frac{V_m L_m}{v_m} = \frac{V_p L_p}{v_p}$$

$$\frac{v_m}{v_p} = \frac{V_m L_m}{V_p L_p} = \alpha^{1/2} \alpha = \alpha^{3/2}$$

Then,

$$C_{D_m} = C_{D_p} \text{ or } \frac{D_m}{\rho_m V_m^2 L_m} = \frac{D_p}{\rho_p V_p^2 L_p}$$

However, it is impossible to achieve, since

$$\text{if } \alpha = \frac{1}{10}, v_m = 3.1 \times 10^{-8} \frac{m^2}{s} < 1.2 \times 10^{-7} \frac{m^2}{s}$$

$$\text{For mercury } \nu = 1.2 \times 10^{-7} \frac{m^2}{s}$$

Alternatively, one could maintain Re similarity and obtain

$$V_m = V_p / \alpha$$

$$\text{But if } \alpha = \frac{1}{10}, V_m = 10V_p,$$

High speed testing is difficult and expensive.

$$\frac{V_m^2}{g_m L_m} = \frac{V_p^2}{g_p L_p}$$

$$\frac{g_m}{g_p} = \frac{V_m^2}{V_p^2} \frac{L_p}{L_m}$$

$$\frac{g_m}{g_p} = \frac{V_m^2}{V_p^2} \frac{L_p}{L_m}$$

$$\frac{g_m}{g_p} = \frac{1}{\alpha^2} \times \frac{1}{\alpha} = \alpha^{-3}$$

$$g_m = \frac{g_p}{\alpha^3}$$

But if $\alpha = \frac{1}{10}$, $g_m = 1000g_p$

Impossible to achieve

Model Testing in Air

$$F(D, L, V, \rho, \nu, a) = 0$$

$n = 6$ and $m = 3$ thus $r = n - m = 3$ pi terms

In a dimensionless form,

$$f(C_D, Ma, Re) = 0$$

or

$$C_D = f(Re, Ma)$$

where

$$C_D = \frac{D}{\frac{1}{2}\rho V^2 L^2}$$

$$Re = \frac{VL}{\nu}$$

$$Ma = \frac{V}{a}$$

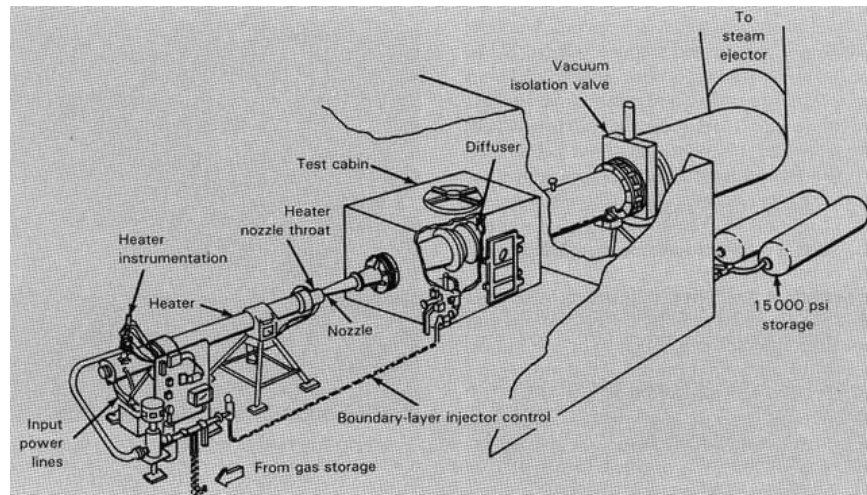
If $\frac{V_m L_m}{\nu_m} = \frac{V_p L_p}{\nu_p}$ and $\frac{V_m}{a_m} = \frac{V_p}{a_p}$

Then,

$$C_{D_m} = C_{D_p} \text{ or } \frac{D_m}{\rho_m V_m^2 L_m^2} = \frac{D_p}{\rho_p V_p^2 L_p^2}$$

However, $\frac{v_m}{v_p} = \frac{L_m}{L_p} \left[\frac{a_m}{a_p} \right] = \alpha$ ¹
not easily achieved. Need fluid with high speed of sound and low viscosity.

<https://history.nasa.gov/SP-440/ch6-15.htm>



This helium blowdown tunnel at Ames attained Mach 50. Despite its very low liquefaction point, the helium had to be heated to 1500 ° F to preclude any liquefaction during expansion.

Therefore, in wind tunnel testing Re scaling is also usually violated

In hydraulics model studies, Fr scaling used, but lack of We similarity can cause problems. Therefore, often models are distorted, i.e., vertical scale is increased by 10 or more compared to horizontal scale

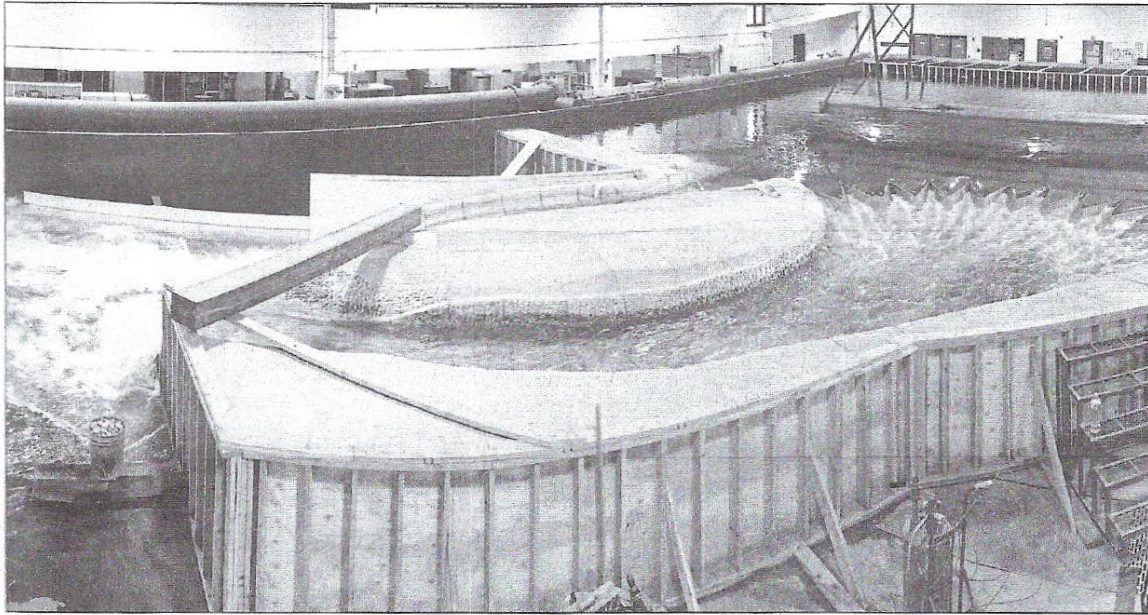


Fig. 5.8 Hydraulic model of the Isabella Lake Dam Safety Modification Project. The model scale is 1:45, and was built in 2014 at Utah State University's Water Research Laboratory. (Courtesy of the U.S. Army photo by John Prettyman/Released.)

Vertical scale distorted to avoid Weber number effects, i.e., horizontal scale is 1:1000 vs. vertical scale is 1:100; thus, model is deeper relative to its horizontal dimensions

Ship model testing:

$$C_T = (Re, Fr) = C_w(Fr) + C_v(Re)$$

V_m determined
 for Fr scaling

$$C_{wm} = C_{Tm} - C_v(Re_m)$$

$$C_{Ts} = C_{wm} + C_v(Re_s)$$

Based on flat plate of
 same surface area