



Dimensional Analysis:

It is a method of dimensions. It is a mathematical technique used in research work for design and for conducting model tests.

It deals with the dimensions of the physical quantities involved. It uses three fixed dimensions in Fluid Mechanics viz Length L, mass M and time T.

Fixed dimensions are also known as fundamental dimensions.

Secondary or derived quantities:

These are those quantities which possess more than one fundamental dimension.

Determine the dimensions of the quantities below
 (i) Discharge (ii) kinematic viscosity (iii) Force (iv) specific weight (v) Dynamic viscosity.

Discharge: $Q = a \times v$
 $= L^2 \times \frac{M}{S}$
 $= L^2 L T^{-1} = L^3 T^{-1}$

(1) (63)

Kinematic viscosity: $\nu = \frac{\mu}{\rho}$
 $\mu = \frac{\tau}{\frac{du}{dy}} = \frac{F}{A} = \frac{M \times \frac{L}{T^2}}{L^2} = \frac{M \times \frac{1}{T^2} \times \frac{1}{L^2}}{\frac{1}{T}}$

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$= \frac{M \times \frac{1}{T^2} \times \frac{1}{L}}{\frac{1}{T}} = M L^{-1} T^{-1}$

$\rho = \frac{M}{V} = \frac{M}{L^3} = M L^{-3}$

$\nu = \frac{M L^{-1} T^{-1}}{M L^{-3}} = M L^{-1} T^{-1} M^{-1} L^3$

iii) Force = Mass x Acceleration

Mass = ~~is~~ M

Acceleration = ~~is~~ $\frac{\text{metre}}{\text{sec}^2} = \frac{L}{T^2}$ (2)

\therefore Force = $\frac{M}{1} \times \frac{L}{T^2} = ML T^{-2}$ //

(iv) Specific Weight = $\frac{\text{Weight}}{\text{Volume}}$

Weight = ~~is~~ $\frac{\text{Mass}}{\text{sec}^2} \times \text{Gravity (acceleration)}$;

= $\frac{M}{1} \times \frac{m}{\text{sec}^2} = ML T^{-2}$ (3)

Volume = L^3

\therefore Sp. Weight = $\frac{ML T^{-2}}{L^3} = ML^{-2} T^{-2}$

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(v) Dynamic viscosity = $\mu = \frac{\tau}{\frac{du}{dy}} = \frac{\frac{F}{A}}{\frac{M}{T} \cdot \frac{L}{L}} = \frac{M \times \frac{L}{T^2}}{\frac{L^2}{T} \cdot \frac{L}{L}}$

(4)
 $= \frac{M \times \frac{L}{T^2} \times \frac{1}{L^2}}{\frac{L}{T} \times \frac{1}{L}} = \frac{MT^{-2} L^{-1}}{T^{-1}} = MT^{-2} L^{-1} T^1$

= $MT^{-1} L^{-1}$ //

Dimensional Homogeneity :

It means the dimensions of each terms in an equation on both sides equal.

If the dimensions of each terms on both sides of an equation are the same, the equation is known as dimensionally homogeneous equation. The powers of fundamental dimensions (i.e. L, M, T) on both sides of the equation will be identical for a dimensionally homogeneous equation



Prove that $V = \sqrt{2gh}$ is a dimensionally homogeneous equation.

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$$V = \sqrt{2gh}$$

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$$\text{LHS, } V = \frac{L}{T} = LT^{-1},$$

$$\text{RHS } \sqrt{2gh} = \sqrt{\frac{L}{T^2} \times L} = \sqrt{\frac{L^2}{T^2}} = \frac{L}{T} = LT^{-1},$$

LHS = RHS, hence it is a dimensionally homogeneous equation.

Methods of dimensional Analysis:

Two methods of dimensional analysis

1. Rayleigh's method and
2. Buckingham's Π -theorem.

Rayleigh's method:

This method is used for determining the expression for a variable which depends upon maximum three or four variables only.

Let X is a variable, which depends on X_1, X_2, X_3 variables.

$$\text{Mathematically, } X = f[X_1, X_2, X_3]$$

also

$$X = K X_1^a \cdot X_2^b \cdot X_3^c$$

K - constant; a, b, c - arbitrarily powers.

Find the expression for the Power P , developed by a pump depends upon the head H , the discharge Q and specific weight w of the fluid.

Power = Head ' H ', Discharge ' Q ', Specific weight ' w '

$$P = K H^a \cdot Q^b \cdot w^c$$

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~~MLT³ P³ = K L³~~

$$\text{Power} = \frac{\text{Force} \times \text{distance}}{\text{time } T} = \frac{\text{Workdone}}{\text{time}} = \text{ML}^2 \text{T}^{-3}$$

$$\text{Head} = L$$

$$\text{Discharge} = \text{Area} \times \text{Velocity} = L^2 \times L \times T^{-1} = L^3 T^{-1}$$

$$\text{Specific weight} = \frac{\text{Weight}}{\text{Volume}} = \frac{\text{Density} \times \text{Acceleration}}{\text{Volume}}$$

~~MLT³ P³ = K L³~~

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$$= \text{MLT}^{-2} \text{L}^{-3}$$

$$= \text{ML}^{-2} \text{T}^{-2}$$

$$\text{ML}^2 \text{T}^{-3} = K L^a (L^3 T^{-1})^b (\text{ML}^{-2} \text{T}^{-2})^c$$

$$\text{Power of } M \quad 1 = c$$

$$\text{Power of } L \quad 2 = a + 3b - 2c \rightarrow (1)$$

$$\text{Power of } T \quad -3 = -b - 2c \rightarrow (2)$$

$$c = 1 \text{ in } (2)$$

$$b = 3 - 2c$$

$$= 3 - 2$$

$$\boxed{b = 1}$$

$$c = 1 \text{ and } b = 1 \text{ in } (1)$$

$$a + 3 - 2 = 2$$

$$a + 1 = 2$$

$$a = 2 - 1$$

$$\boxed{a = 1}$$

Substituting all in (1)

$$P = K H^1 Q^1 W^1$$

$$\boxed{P = KHQW}$$

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The time period (t) of a pendulum depends upon the length (L) of the pendulum and acceleration due to gravity (g).
Derive an expression for the time period.

Solution:

Time period (t) \propto Length (L), Acceleration (g)

$$t = k L^a \cdot g^b$$

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Time period = T

Length = L

Acceleration = $L T^{-2}$

$$T = k L^a \cdot (L T^{-2})^b$$

Power of T $1 = -2b \rightarrow$ (1)

Power of L $0 = a + b \rightarrow$ (2)

Taking (1)

$$b = -\frac{1}{2}$$

Substituting $b = -\frac{1}{2}$ in (2)

$$0 = a - \frac{1}{2}$$

$$a = \frac{1}{2}$$

Substituting $a = \frac{1}{2}$ and $b = -\frac{1}{2}$ in (I)

$$t = k L^{\frac{1}{2}} \cdot g^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$t = k \sqrt{\frac{L}{g}}$$

From experiment $k = 2\pi$

$$\therefore t = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{L}{g}}$$

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Find an expression for the drag force on smooth sphere of diameter D , moving with a uniform velocity v in a fluid of density ρ and dynamic viscosity μ .

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Given data:

Drag Force = Sphere Diameter D , Uniform velocity v ,
Density ρ , Dynamic viscosity μ

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Solution:

$$F = K D^a \cdot v^b \cdot \rho^c \cdot \mu^d \quad \text{--- (I)}$$

Force = MLT^{-2}

Diameter = L

Velocity = $L T^{-1}$

Density = ML^{-3}

Viscosity = $ML^{-1}T^{-1}$

$$MLT^{-2} = K L^a \cdot (LT^{-1})^b \cdot (ML^{-3})^c \cdot (ML^{-1}T^{-1})^d$$

Power of M $1 = c + d \rightarrow \textcircled{1}$

Power of L $1 = a + b - 3c - d \rightarrow \textcircled{2}$

Power of T $-2 = -b - d \rightarrow \textcircled{3}$

[4 Variable = 3 equations
not possible for solving]

$$\boxed{c = 1 - d} \rightarrow \text{from } \textcircled{1}$$

$$\boxed{b = 2 - d} \rightarrow \text{from } \textcircled{3}$$

$$a = 1 - b + 3c + d$$

$$= 1 - 2 + d + 3(1 - d) + d$$

$$= 1 - 2 + d + 3 - 3d + d$$

$$\boxed{a = 2 - d}$$

$$F = K D^{2-d} \cdot v^{2-d} \cdot \rho^{1-d} \cdot \mu^d$$

$$= K D^2 \cdot v^2 \cdot \rho^1 (D^{-d} \cdot v^{-d} \cdot \rho^{-d} \cdot \mu^d) = \dots$$

$$\boxed{F = K \rho D^2 v^2 \left(\frac{\mu}{\rho v D} \right)^d}$$

Buckingham's Π theorem

It states, ~~Wash~~, "If there are n variables (independent and dependent variables) in a physical phenomenon and if these variables contains m fundamental dimensions (M, L, T), then the variables are arranged into $(n-m)$ dimensionless terms. Each term is called Π -term".

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Let x_1 = dependent variable
 x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n = independent variables, then

$$x_1 = f(x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n)$$

Can also be written as

$$f(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n) = 0$$

According to Buckingham's Π theorem it can be written as

$$f(\Pi_1, \Pi_2, \dots, \Pi_{n-m}) = 0 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

Each Π term contains $m+1$ variables, where m is the number of fundamental dimensions and also called as repeating variables.

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \Pi_1 &= x_2^{a_1} \cdot x_3^{b_1} \cdot x_4^{c_1} \cdot x_1 \\ \Pi_2 &= x_2^{a_2} \cdot x_3^{b_2} \cdot x_4^{c_2} \cdot x_1 \\ \Pi_{n-m} &= x_2^{a_{n-m}} \cdot x_3^{b_{n-m}} \cdot x_4^{c_{n-m}} \cdot x_1 \end{aligned} \right\} \text{Equations}$$

Each equation is solved by the principle of dimensional homogeneity and values of a_1, b_1, c_1 , etc are obtained. Then these values are substituted in equation and values of $\Pi_1, \Pi_2, \Pi_3, \dots, \Pi_{n-m}$ are then substituted in equation (1). These values of Π 's are then substituted in equation (1). Final equation is

as follows

$$\Pi_1 = \phi[\Pi_2, \Pi_3, \dots, \Pi_{n-m}]$$

$$\Pi_2 = \phi_2[\Pi_1, \Pi_3, \dots, \Pi_{n-m}]$$