



# Section 14.5

## Similitude

---



# SIMILITUDE

---

## **Small Model:**

- Easy to model
- Cheaper
- Tractable

## **Real-Size Model:**

- Too costly
- May not be implementable the first time



# SIMILITUDE

---

**Idea**: If the 2 models (small vs. real) are similar, then all dimensionless  $\pi$ -groups must be equal.

**Ex (cont)**: Detonating the same bomb on Earth vs. one on the Moon. How bigger/smaller is the size?

## Solution:

---

$$\pi_2^{moon} = \pi_2^{earth}$$

$$\frac{P_{moon}}{V_{moon}^{7/6} \rho_{moon} g_{moon}^{3/2}} = \frac{P_{earth}}{V_{earth}^{7/6} \rho_{earth} g_{earth}^{3/2}}$$

## Solution:

---

Suppose  $g_e = 6g_m$  ,  $\rho_e = 3\rho_m$  .

$$V_m^{7/6} = V_e^{7/6} \frac{\rho_e}{\rho_m} \left( \frac{g_e}{g_m} \right)^{3/2}$$

$$\Rightarrow V_m^{7/6} = V_e^{7/6} \frac{3\rho_m}{\rho_m} \left( \frac{6g_m}{g_m} \right)^{3/2}$$

## Solution:

---

So,

$$V_m = \left( 6^{3/2} \bullet 3 \right)^{6/7} V_e = 25.67 \bullet V_e$$

## Part (b) of explosive analysis example

If the same dynamite is exploded on the moon and its depth is measured to be 7 times of that on Earth. How is soil density of the Moon compared to that on Earth?

---

➤ Solution:

$$\Pi_2^{\text{Moon}} = \Pi_2^{\text{Earth}}$$

$$\frac{P_M}{\sqrt{D_M^7 \rho_M^2 g_M^3}} = \frac{P_E}{\sqrt{D_E^7 \rho_E^2 g_E^3}}$$

Now we solve for  $\rho_M$

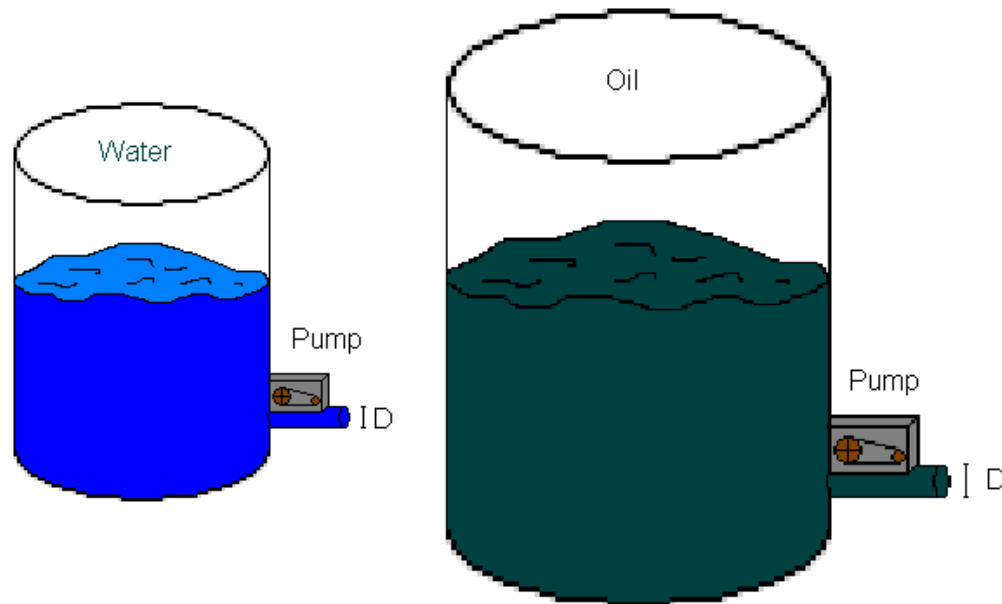
$$\begin{aligned}\rho_M &= \rho_E \frac{P_M}{P_E} \sqrt{\frac{D_E^7 g_E^3}{D_M^7 g_M^3}} \\ &= \rho_E \frac{P_M}{P_E} \left(\frac{D_E}{D_M}\right)^{7/2} \left(\frac{g_E}{g_M}\right)^{3/2} \\ &= \rho_E \bullet 1 \bullet \left(\frac{1}{7}\right)^{7/2} \bullet \left(\frac{6}{1}\right)^{3/2} = \sqrt{\frac{6^3}{7^7}} \rho_E = 0.0162 \bullet \rho_E\end{aligned}$$

So, the density of the area of impact on the moon is a hundredth of that of Earth.

# Similitude

---

In many physical and engineering applications where the scaled model is too **EXPENSIVE** to build, the concept of similitude is extremely helpful in using the prototype to predict the true-scale values.





Example: Suppose the six derived variables are given as  $\rho$ ,  $\mu$ ,  $L$ ,  $D$ ,  $V$  and  $P$ . There are three principle units  $L$ ,  $M$  and  $T$ .  $L$  is the length the oil or water must be pumped,  $D$  is the diameter of the tube,  $V$  is the velocity it is pumped at, and  $P$  is the power of the pump.  $\rho$  and  $\mu$  are the density and bulk viscosity of the oil and water.

---

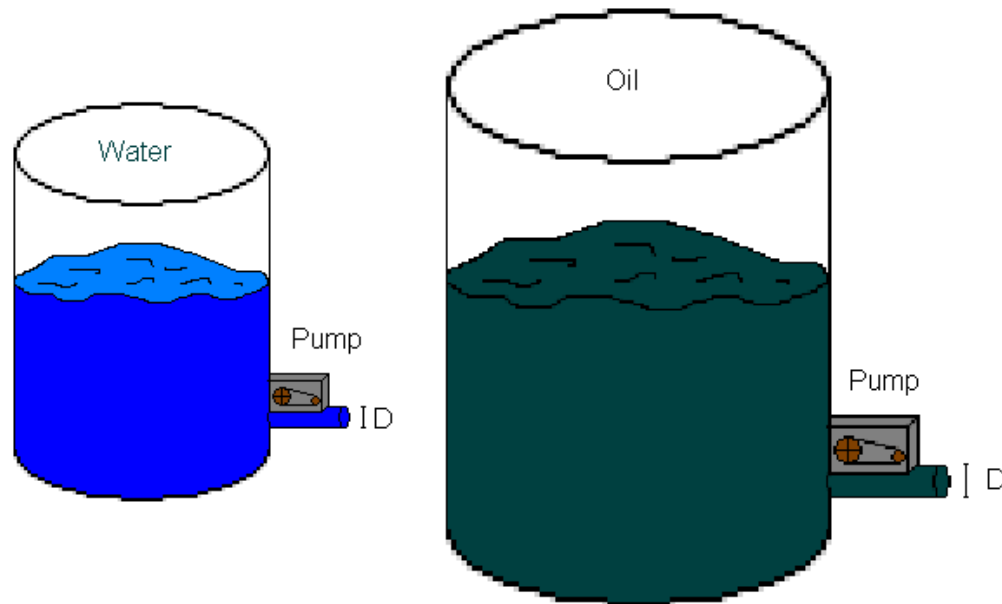
a) Given the  $l_{\text{oil}} = 1 \text{ km}$ ,  $D_{\text{oil}} = 2.5 \text{ m}$  and  $D_{\text{water}} = 0.05 \text{ m}$ ,


What is the  $l_{\text{water}}$  ?

b) If  $\mu_{\text{water}} = 0.98\mu_{\text{oil}}$ ,  $\rho_{\text{water}} = \frac{10}{7}\rho_{\text{oil}}$ ,  $V_{\text{water}} = 10 \text{ m/s}$

what is  $V_{\text{oil}}$  ?

c) If Power to pump water at 10 m/s is 9.7 kwatts, what is the actual power required to pump oil?





---

In this case we choose  $D$  ,  $\mu$  ,  $\rho$   
as our principal generators:

$$\begin{array}{c} D \quad \rho \quad \mu \\ L \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 3 & -1 \\ M & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ T & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{array} \right] \end{array}$$

We can show that:

$$\Pi_1 = \frac{l}{D}, \Pi_2 = \frac{\rho VD}{\mu}, \Pi_3 = \frac{P\rho^2 D}{\mu^3}$$

a) Given the  $l_{\text{oil}} = 1 \text{ km}$ ,  $D_{\text{oil}} = 2.5 \text{ m}$  and  $D_{\text{water}} = 0.05 \text{ m}$ ,

What is the  $l_{\text{water}}$  ?

---

Solution:

$$\frac{l_{\text{oil}}}{D_{\text{oil}}} \Pi_1 = \frac{l_{\text{water}}}{D_{\text{water}}} \Rightarrow l_{\text{water}} = l_{\text{oil}} \left( \frac{D_{\text{water}}}{D_{\text{oil}}} \right)$$
$$= 1000\text{m} \left( \frac{0.05\text{m}}{2.5\text{m}} \right) = 20\text{m}$$

b) If  $\mu_{\text{water}} = 0.98\mu_{\text{oil}}$ ,  $\rho_{\text{water}} = \frac{10}{7}\rho_{\text{oil}}$ ,  $V_{\text{water}} = 10 \text{ m/s}$   
what is  $V_{\text{oil}}$  ?

---

$$\frac{\rho_{\text{water}} V_{\text{water}} D_{\text{water}}}{\mu_{\text{water}}} \stackrel{\Pi_2}{=} \frac{\rho_{\text{oil}} V_{\text{oil}} D_{\text{oil}}}{\mu_{\text{oil}}}$$

Now we solve for  $V_{\text{oil}}$  :

$$\begin{aligned} V_{\text{oil}} &= V_{\text{water}} \left( \frac{\rho_{\text{water}}}{\rho_{\text{oil}}} \right) \left( \frac{D_{\text{water}}}{D_{\text{oil}}} \right) \left( \frac{\mu_{\text{oil}}}{\mu_{\text{water}}} \right) \\ &= 10 \left( \frac{10}{7} \right) \left( \frac{0.05}{2.5} \right) \left( \frac{1}{0.98} \right) \\ &= 0.28 \text{ m/s} \end{aligned}$$

c) If Power to pump water at 10 m/s is 9.7 kwatts, what is the actual power required to pump oil?

---

$$\frac{P_{\text{water}} \rho_{\text{water}}^2 D_{\text{water}}}{\mu_{\text{water}}^3} \Pi_3 = \frac{P_{\text{oil}} \rho_{\text{oil}}^2 D_{\text{oil}}}{\mu_{\text{oil}}^3}$$

Now we solve for  $P_{\text{oil}}$  :

$$\begin{aligned} P_{\text{oil}} &= P_{\text{water}} \left( \frac{\rho_{\text{water}}}{\rho_{\text{oil}}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{D_{\text{water}}}{D_{\text{oil}}} \right) \left( \frac{\mu_{\text{oil}}}{\mu_{\text{water}}} \right)^3 \\ &= 9.7 \left( \frac{10}{7} \right)^2 \left( \frac{0.05}{2.5} \right) \left( \frac{1}{0.98} \right)^3 \\ &= 0.420656 \quad \text{kwatts} \end{aligned}$$

# Homework

- 1) Section 14.5 problems 1 & 2
- 2) Derive the dimensionless pi-groups for the pump power.
- 3) In an example with a prototype and a full-scale hydroplane, consider  $F$ ,  $\rho$ ,  $V$ ,  $L$ , and  $g$ . Given that they are both on water in the same gravity and the full-scale one is 25 times the length of the prototype along with:

$$V_{prot} = 6 \frac{m}{s} \quad F_{prot} = 1.8 N$$

- a) What is the velocity of the full-scale model?
- b) What is the corresponding force at that speed?



Since we wish to find  $V$  and  $F$  we get the  $\Pi$ -groups to be:



$$\Pi_1 = \rho^{\alpha_1} L^{\beta_1} g^{\gamma_1} V, \quad \Pi_2 = \rho^{\alpha_2} L^{\beta_2} g^{\gamma_2} F$$