

Python For Chemical Engineering

Assignment 1:

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Aim: To calculate the terminal velocity of a spherical object falling in a fluid

Given:

Mass of the object= m

Viscosity of the fluid= N

Density of fluid= ρ_l

Density of spherical object= ρ_s

Radius of the spherical object= r

Calculations:

The drag force on the spherical object,

$$F_d = 6\pi r \eta v$$

The buoyant force on the object,

$$F_b = \rho_l V g$$

The weight of the object,

$$F_g = m g$$

Net force on the spherical object in the downward direction,

$$F_{net} = F_g - F_b - F_d$$

By Newton's law of motion,

$$m \frac{dv}{dt} = (\rho_s - \rho_l) V g - 6\pi r \eta v$$

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = \frac{(\rho_s - \rho_l)}{\rho_s} g - \frac{9\eta v}{2\rho_s r^2}$$

Algorithm:

- 1) Assuming a reasonable value of tolerance and dt
- 2) Taking the initial guess of $v(0)=v_{\text{prev}}=0$
- 3) While error > tolerance (we run the following code till error becomes less than tolerance)

- a) We calculate dv/dt using following equation,

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = \frac{(\rho_s - \rho_l)}{\rho_s} g - \frac{9\eta v}{2\rho_s r^2}$$

- b) We calculate v using v_{prev} and dv/dt using following equation,

$$v(t) = v(t-1) + \frac{dv}{dt} \cdot \Delta t$$

- c) We calculate error by using the following equation,

$$error = \frac{v(t) - v(t-1)}{v(t)}$$

- d) Update $v_{\text{prev}}=v$