

#### 4. Conversion of units from one system to another:

##### MAGNITUDE

Magnitude of physical quantity = (numerical value) × (unit)

Magnitude of a physical quantity is always constant. It is independent of the type of unit.

$$n_1 u_1 = n_2 u_2 = \text{constant}$$

$$1 \text{ m} = 100 \text{ cm}$$

$$1 \text{ kg} = 1000 \text{ gm}$$

$$1 \text{ m} = 3.2 \text{ ft}$$

Ex-1 Dyne is the unit of force in the c.g.s. system and newton is the unit of force in the SI system. Convert 1 dyne into newton.

Given  
C.G.S.

$$n_1 = 1 \quad u_1 = \text{dyne}$$

Req.  
SI

$$n_2 = ? \quad u_2 = \text{Newton}$$

Physical Quantity = Force

$$n_1 u_1 = n_2 u_2$$

$$n_2 = n_1 \frac{u_1}{u_2}$$

$$n_2 = n_1 \frac{[\text{gm} \cdot \text{cm} \cdot \text{sec}^{-2}]}{[\text{kg} \cdot \text{m} \cdot \text{sec}^{-2}]}$$

$$= 1 \frac{[\cancel{\text{gm}} \cdot \cancel{\text{cm}}]}{[1000 \cancel{\text{gm}} \cdot 100 \cancel{\text{cm}}]}$$

$$n_2 = \frac{1}{10^5}$$

$$n_2 = 10^{-5} \text{ N}$$

$$1 \text{ dyne} = 10^{-5} \text{ N}$$

$$1 \text{ N} = 10^5 \text{ dyne}$$

method

$$F = 1 \text{ dyne}$$

$$= 1 \text{ gm} \cdot \frac{\text{cm}}{\text{sec}^2}$$

$$= 1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ kg} \cdot \frac{10^{-2} \text{ m}}{\text{sec}^2}$$

$$= 10^{-5} \left( \frac{\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}}{\text{sec}^2} \right)$$

$$F = 10^{-5} \text{ N} \quad \underline{\underline{\text{Ans}}}$$

$$1 \text{ dyne} = 10^{-5} \text{ N}$$

$$M^1 L^1 T^{-2}$$

General

$$N_1 U_1 = N_2 U_2$$

$$N_2 = N_1 \left[ \frac{U_1}{U_2} \right]$$

$$[M^a L^b T^c] = \text{Dim of Ph. Quant.}$$

$$N_2 = N_1 \frac{[M_1^a L_1^b T_1^c]}{[M_2^a L_2^b T_2^c]}$$

$$N_2 = N_1 \left[ \frac{M_1}{M_2} \right]^a \left[ \frac{L_1}{L_2} \right]^b \left[ \frac{T_1}{T_2} \right]^c$$

$$N_2 = 1 \left[ \frac{\text{gm}}{\text{kg}} \right]^1 \left[ \frac{\text{cm}}{\text{m}} \right]^1 \left[ \frac{\text{sec}}{\text{sec}} \right]^{-2}$$

$$= 1 \left[ \frac{10^{-3} \cancel{\text{kg}}}{\cancel{\text{kg}}} \right]^1 \left[ \frac{10^{-2} \cancel{\text{m}}}{\cancel{\text{m}}} \right]^1$$

$$N_2 = 10^{-5}$$

$$1 \text{ dyne} = 10^{-5} \text{ N}$$

Ex-2 Convert  $72 \text{ kmh}^{-1}$  into  $\text{ms}^{-1}$  by using the method of dimensions.

$$[V] = [M^0 L^1 T^{-1}]$$

$$a=0 \quad b=1 \quad c=-1$$

$$N_2 = 72 \left[ \frac{M_1}{M_2} \right]^a \left[ \frac{L_1}{L_2} \right]^b \left[ \frac{T_1}{T_2} \right]^c$$

$$= 72 \left[ \frac{m_1}{m_2} \right]^0 \left[ \frac{\text{km}}{\text{m}} \right]^1 \left[ \frac{\text{hr}}{\text{sec}} \right]^{-1}$$

$$= 72 \left[ 1 \right] \left[ \frac{1000 \cancel{\text{m}}}{\cancel{\text{m}}} \right]^1 \left[ \frac{3600 \text{ sec}}{\text{sec}} \right]^{-1}$$

$$= 72 \times 1000 \left[ 3600 \right]^{-1}$$

$$= \frac{72 \times 1000}{3600}$$

$$= 20$$

$$72 \frac{\text{km}}{\text{hr}} = 20 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}$$

$$72 \frac{\text{km}}{\text{hr}}$$

$$= 72 \times \frac{1000 \text{ m}}{60 \times 60 \text{ sec}}$$

$$= 20 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}} \quad \text{Ans}$$

$$72 \frac{\text{km}}{\text{hr}} = 20 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{sec}}$$

$$1 \frac{\text{km}}{\text{hr}} = \frac{5}{18} \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}$$

**Ex-3** If the units of force, energy and velocity are 10 N, 100 J and  $5 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ , find the units of length, mass and time.

$$\text{Unit of Force} = 10 \text{ N}$$

$$\text{Unit of Energy} = 100 \text{ J}$$

$$\text{Unit of Velocity} = 5 \text{ m/s}$$

$$\text{Energy} = \text{Force} \times \text{length}$$

$$100 \text{ J} = 10 \text{ N} \times \text{Length}$$

$$\boxed{\text{length} = 10 \text{ m}} \quad \underline{\text{Ans}}$$

$$\underline{\text{velocity}} = \frac{\text{displ}}{\text{time}}$$

$$5 \text{ m/s} = \frac{10 \text{ m}}{\text{time}} \Rightarrow \boxed{\text{time} = 2 \text{ sec}}$$

$$\text{Force} = \text{mass} \times \frac{\text{velocity}}{\text{time}}$$

$$10 \text{ N} = \text{mass} \times \frac{5 \text{ m/s}}{2 \text{ sec}}$$

$$\boxed{\text{mass} = 4 \text{ kg}}$$



Ex-4 The acceleration due to gravity is  $9.8 \text{ m s}^{-2}$ . Give its value in  $\text{ft s}^{-2}$

m  $9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$

$$= 9.8 \times \frac{3.2 \text{ ft}}{\text{sec}^2}$$

$$\approx 32 \left( \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}^2} \right)$$

m  $N_2 = N_1 \left[ \frac{M_1}{M_2} \right]^a \left[ \frac{L_1}{L_2} \right]^b \left[ \frac{T_1}{T_2} \right]^c$

$$[a] = [M^0 L^1 T^{-2}]$$

$$= 9.8 \left[ \frac{\text{Kg}}{\text{p}} \right]^0 \left[ \frac{\text{m}}{\text{ft}} \right]^1 \left[ \frac{\text{sec}}{\text{sec}} \right]^{-2}$$

$$= 9.8 \left[ \frac{3.2 \text{ ft}}{\text{ft}} \right]^1 \left[ 1 \right]^{-2}$$

$$= 9.8 \times 3.2$$

$$N_2 \approx 32$$

$$9.8 \text{ m/s}^2 = 32 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}^2}$$

Ex-5 The value of Gravitational constant  $G$  in MKS system is  $6.67 \times 10^{-11} \text{ N-m}^2/\text{kg}^2$ . What will be its value in CGS

M-1

$$6.67 \times 10^{-11} \frac{\text{N} \cdot \text{m}^2}{\text{kg}^2}$$

$$= 6.67 \times 10^{-11} \frac{(10^5 \text{ dyne} \cdot (100 \text{ cm})^2)}{(1000 \text{ gm})^2}$$

$$= 6.67 \times 10^{-11} \left[ \frac{10^5 \times 10^4}{10^6} \frac{\text{dyne} \cdot \text{cm}^2}{\text{gm}^2} \right]$$

$$= 6.67 \times 10^{-8} \left[ \frac{\text{dyne} \cdot \text{cm}^2}{\text{gm}^2} \right]$$

Ans

M-2

$$N_2 = 6.67 \times 10^{-11} \left[ \frac{M_1}{M_2} \right]^a \left[ \frac{L_1}{L_2} \right]^b \left[ \frac{T_1}{T_2} \right]^c$$

$$\text{Unit of } G = \frac{\text{m}^3}{\text{kg} \cdot \text{sec}^2} \quad \text{Dim } [M^{-1} L^3 T^{-2}]$$

$$N_2 = 6.67 \times 10^{-11} \left[ \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{gm}} \right]^{-1} \left[ \frac{\text{m}}{\text{cm}} \right]^3 \left[ \frac{\text{sec}}{\text{sec}} \right]^{-2}$$

$$= 6.67 \times 10^{-11} \left[ \frac{1000 \text{ gm}}{\text{gm}} \right]^{-1} \left[ \frac{100 \text{ cm}}{\text{cm}} \right]^3 [1]^{-2}$$

$$= \frac{6.67 \times 10^{-11}}{1000} \times 100 \times 100 \times 100$$

$$N_2 = 6.67 \times 10^{-8} \quad \text{Ans}$$

## NOTE ➤

1. Trigonometric function (sin, cos, tan, cot etc) are dimensionless. The arguments of these functions are also dimensionless
2. Exponential functions are dimensionless. Their exponents are also dimensionless

**Ex-1** When a plane wave travels in a medium, the displacement  $y$  of a particle located at  $x$  at time  $t$  is given by

$$y = a \sin(bt + cx)$$

where  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$  are constants. Find the dimensions of  $\frac{b}{c}$ .

$$[a] = [y] = [M^0 L^1 T^0]$$

$$[bt + cx] = [M^0 L^0 T^0]$$

$$[b] \propto \left[\frac{1}{t}\right] = [M^0 L^0 T^{-1}]$$

$$[c] \propto \left[\frac{1}{x}\right] = [M^0 L^{-1} T^0]$$

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \underline{\sin(\theta)} & \theta = \text{Dimensionless} \\
 \underline{e^{(2x+3)}} & \text{Dimensionless} \\
 \underline{\cos(2t+3)} & \text{Dimensionless}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left[\frac{b}{c}\right] &= \left[\frac{M^0 L^0 T^{-1}}{M^0 L^{-1} T^0}\right] \\
 &= [M^0 L^1 T^{-1}] \\
 &\underline{\underline{\text{Ans}}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Ex-2 In the expression

$$P = \frac{a^2}{b} e^{-ax}$$

$P$  is pressure,  $x$  is a distance and  $a$  and  $b$  are constants.  
Find the dimensional formula for  $b$ .

$$a \propto \frac{1}{x}$$

$$[a] = [M^0 L^{-1} T^0]$$

$$[P] = \left( \frac{a^2}{b} \right)$$

$$b = \left( \frac{a^2}{P} \right)$$

$$= \frac{[M^0 L^{-2} T^0]}{[M^1 L^{-1} T^{-2}]}$$

$$[b] = [M^{-1} L^{-1} T^2]$$



Ex-3

17. The velocity  $v$  of a particles is given in terms of time  $t$  by the equation.  $v = at + \frac{b}{t+c}$ . The dimension of  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$  are

- (A)  $L^2, T, L T^2$       (B)  $LT^2, LT, L$       (C)  $LT^{-2}, L, T$       (D)  $L, LT, T^2$

$$[at] = [v]$$

$$[a] = \left[ \frac{v}{t} \right]$$

$$= \left[ \frac{L}{t^2} \right]$$

$$[a] = [M^0 L^1 T^{-2}]$$

$$\left[ \frac{b}{t+c} \right] = [v]$$

$$[t] = [c] = [M^0 L^0 T^1]$$

$$[b] = [v] [t+c]$$

$$= [v] [t] \text{ or } [v] [c]$$

$$= \left[ \frac{L}{t} \right] [t]$$

$$= [L] = [M^0 L^1 T^0]$$

$$\text{Power} = \text{Force} \times \text{velocity}$$

$$(\text{Power})' = \left( \frac{\text{Force}}{2} \right) \times \left( \frac{\text{velocity}}{2} \right)$$

$$(\text{Power})' = \frac{\text{Power}}{4}$$

$$\text{ENERGY} = \text{force} \times \text{length}$$

$$E' = 4F \times 4L$$

$$E' = 16 (FL)$$

$$E' = 16 \text{ Energy}$$