

Drag force (air resistance)

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Drag force occurs when a body moves through a fluid. The particles of the fluid exert a force on the surface of the body, opposing its motion. It is also called fluid resistance.

Drag force depends on the

- density of fluid
- Objects
- Nature of surface

turbulence is ignored, hence we only consider the drag force from a smooth spherical object with small radius travelling at a relatively small velocity inside the fluid.

Viscosity

- Fluid resistance to flow

Unit: Pa

Pa s = (Kg m⁻¹ s⁻¹)

Greater viscosity increases the drag force experienced by the moving object.

Stoke law

$$F_d = 6\pi\eta rv$$

Where F_d = viscous drag force (N)

η = viscosity (Pa s)

r = radius (m)

v = velocity (m s⁻¹)

Radius: for object

Velocity: for object

In fluid -

downward force weight

Up force Buoyancy and drag force

$F_w = F_d + F_b$ (in constant speed)

Therefore: $mg = 6\pi\eta rv + \rho Vg$

Mg bigger, sink

$F_b + F_d$ bigger, float