

# Ch1-2 Dimensions and Viscosity

Ke Tang. All Rights Reserved.

## Objectives:

Reading: 1.2 - 1.6

- Dimensions and Units (Apply and Analyze)
- Viscosity (Identify and Explain)
- Density, Specific Weight, Specific Gravity (Text 1.4, study by yourself). (Apply and Analyze)

Recall:

Fluid: a <sup>①</sup> substance that <sup>②</sup> deforms <sup>③</sup> continuously when acted on by a shear stress of <sup>④</sup> any <sup>⑤</sup> magnitude.

Mechanics: force and motion.

Big Idea:  $\Sigma F = ma$

Dimensions and Units.

Poll: A) Units B) Dimensions

- ① Are meters, kilograms, and seconds units or dimensions? A
- ② Are length, mass, and time units or dimensions? B

Common dimensions  
in fluid mechanics

Units (SI)

Mass	,	M	kg
Length	,	L	m
Time	,	T	s
Force	,	F	N

FLT System

MLT System

"Big Idea"

$$F = ma$$

$$(m = F/a)$$

$$F \doteq M \frac{L}{T^2}, \quad M \doteq F \frac{T^2}{L}$$

Table 1.1 Dimensions Associated with Common Physical Quantities

	FLT System	MLT System
Acceleration	$LT^{-2}$	$LT^{-2}$
Angle	$F^0 L^0 T^0$	$M^0 L^0 T^0$
Angular acceleration	$T^{-2}$	$T^{-2}$
Angular velocity	$T^{-1}$	$T^{-1}$
Area	$L^2$	$L^2$
Density	$FL^{-3}T^0$	$ML^{-3}$
Energy	$FL$	$ML^2T^{-2}$
Force	$F$	$MLT^{-2}$
Frequency	$T^{-1}$	$T^{-1}$
Heat	$FL$	$ML^2T^{-2}$
Length	$L$	$L$
Mass	$FL^{-1}T^2$	$M$
Modulus of elasticity	$FL^{-2}$	$ML^{-1}T^{-2}$
Moment of a force	$FL$	$ML^2T^{-2}$
Moment of inertia (area)	$L^4$	$L^4$
Moment of inertia (mass)	$FLT^2$	$ML^2$
Momentum	$FT$	$MLT^{-1}$
Power	$FLT^{-1}$	$ML^2T^{-3}$
Pressure	$FL^{-2}$	$ML^{-1}T^{-2}$
Specific heat	$L^2T^{-2}\Theta^{-1}$	$L^2T^{-2}\Theta^{-1}$
Specific weight	$FL^{-3}$	$ML^{-2}T^{-2}$
Strain	$F^0 L^0 T^0$	$M^0 L^0 T^0$
Stress	$FL^{-2}$	$ML^{-1}T^{-2}$
Surface tension	$FL^{-1}$	$MT^{-2}$
Temperature	$\Theta$	$\Theta$
Time	$T$	$T$
Torque	$FL$	$ML^2T^{-2}$
Velocity	$LT^{-1}$	$LT^{-1}$
Viscosity (dynamic)	$FL^{-2}T$	$ML^{-1}T^{-1}$
Viscosity (kinematic)	$L^2T^{-1}$	$L^2T^{-1}$
Volume	$L^3$	$L^3$
Work	$FL$	$ML^2T^{-2}$

Example:

**Given** Density  $\rho = \frac{m}{V}$  ← mass  
← volume

**Find** i) dimensions of  $\rho$  in MLT system

ii) dimensions of  $\rho$  in FLT system

**Solution**

i)  $\rho \doteq \frac{M}{L^3}$

ii)  $\rho \doteq \frac{M}{L^3} \doteq M L^{-3}$  and  $M \doteq F \frac{T^2}{L} \doteq F L^{-1} T^2$

Thus,  $\rho \doteq (F L^{-1} T^2) (L^{-3}) \doteq F L^{-4} T^2$

General homogeneous equation and Restricted homogeneous equation

- "Homogeneous" here means dimensionally homogeneous.
- An equation is dimensionally homogeneous if the dimensions of its left side are the same as the dimensions of its right side.



\* General homogeneous equation: valid for any unit systems

\* Restricted homogeneous equation: restricted to particular unit system.

Unit systems  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{SI: International System} \\ \text{BG: British Gravitational System (slug)} \\ \text{EE: English Engineering System (lbm)} \end{array} \right\}$  Mass:  
Read Text 1.2.1  $1 \text{ slug} = 32.174 \text{ lbm}$

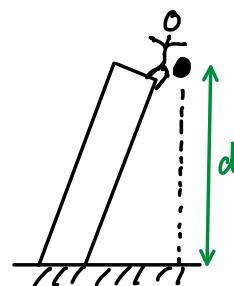
\* How to tell the general or restricted homogeneous equation?

Example:

**Given** Freely Falling Body

①  $d = \frac{gt^2}{2}$

②  $d = 16.1 t^2$



Galileo's  
Leaning Tower  
of Pisa Experiment

$d$ : distance,  $t$ : time,  $g$ : gravitational acceleration

- Find** i) The dimensions of the constant in the two equations.  
ii) Is it a general or restricted homogeneous equation?

**Solution**

$$\textcircled{1} \quad d = \frac{gt^2}{2}$$

$$2 = gt^2 d^{-1} \doteq \frac{L}{T^2} T^2 L^{-1} \doteq L^0 T^0 \quad \text{dimensionless}$$

Since the constant of 2 is dimensionless, the equation  $d = \frac{gt^2}{2}$  is valid for any unit system. That is, the equation  $d = \frac{gt^2}{2}$  is a general homogeneous equation.

$$\textcircled{2} \quad d = 16.1 t^2$$

$$16.1 = d t^{-2} \doteq L T^{-2} \quad \text{dimensional}$$

Since the constant of 16.1 is dimensional, the equation  $d = 16.1 t^2$  is restricted to particular unit system. That is, the equation  $d = 16.1 t^2$  is a restricted homogeneous equation.

What unit system is the equation  $d = 16.1 t^2$  restricted to?

For BG or EE unit system, we have  $g = 32.2 \text{ ft/s}^2$

$$d = \frac{gt^2}{2} = \frac{32.2 \text{ ft/s}^2}{2} t^2 = (16.1 \text{ ft/s}^2) t^2$$

The equation  $d = 16.1 t^2$  is restricted to  $d$  in ft and  $t$  in s.

**Comments**

\* The key is the dimensions of the constant in the equation.

Dimensionless constant  $\longrightarrow$  a general homogeneous equation.

Dimensional constant  $\longrightarrow$  a restricted homogeneous equation.

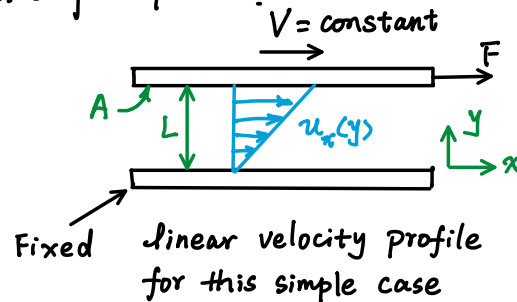
## Viscosity:



Key observations of fluid in motion:

- Viscosity leads to an internal friction that resists relative sliding motion of fluid, e.g. thumb-forefinger test.
- Fluids stick to boundaries:  $u|_{\text{boundary}} = 0$ . No-slip condition

Couette flow b/t flat plates:



Observations:

$$F \sim V$$

$$\frac{F}{A} \sim \frac{V - 0}{L - 0}$$

$$\tau_{yx} \sim \frac{du}{dy}$$

This is used to define Newtonian fluids.

- \* Fluids for which the shear stress  $\tau_{yx}$  is linearly related to (i.e. proportional to) the velocity gradient  $\frac{du}{dy}$  are designated as Newtonian fluids after Isaac Newton (1642-1727).
- \* All the other behaviors  $\rightarrow$  Non-Newtonian fluids.

For the abovementioned linear relationship, if we would like to get an equation, we need a proportional coefficient  $\mu$ .

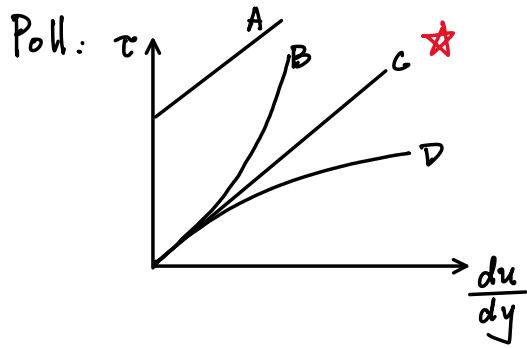
$$\tau_{yx} = \mu \cdot \frac{du}{dy}$$

Newton's viscosity law

shear stress  
( $\frac{\text{Force}}{\text{Area}}$ )

Viscosity  
(Proportionality coefficient)

Velocity gradient  
(Local slope of velocity profile, Rate of shear strain, or shear rate)  
(See supplements)



Which one is a Newtonian fluid?

\* The slope in the  $\tau - \frac{du}{dy}$  diagram is the viscosity.

\* For Newtonian fluids, the viscosity is independent to the velocity gradient  $\frac{du}{dy}$ .

Typical Newtonian fluids: water, alcohol, gasoline, air, etc.

Typical Non-Newtonian fluids: paint, water-corn starch mixture, slime, etc.

B: shear thickening fluid.

D: shear thinning fluid.