



Defence School of  
Aeronautical Engineering

Aerosystems Engineer & Management  
Training School

Academic Principles Organisation

MATHEMATICS

BOOK 9

Further Transposition of Formula

## **WARNING**

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## KEY LEARNING POINTS

KLP	Description
MA3.11	Transpose a formula to change the subject.
MA3.12	Use formulae to obtain engineering and scientific data

To recap the subject please follow the worked examples.

### Example 1

If  $A = LB$  transpose the formula to make  $L$  the subject.

Divide both sides by  $B$ :  $\frac{A}{B} = \frac{L\cancel{B}}{\cancel{B}}$

Giving  $L = \frac{A}{B}$

Note  $\frac{B}{B} = 1$

### Example 2

If  $Y = \frac{X}{Z}$  transpose the formula to make  $X$  the subject.

Multiply both sides by  $Z$ :  $YZ = \frac{X\cancel{Z}}{\cancel{Z}}$

Giving  $X = YZ$

### Example 3

If  $a = \frac{b}{c}$  transpose the formula to make  $c$  the subject.

Multiply both sides by  $c$ :  $ac = \frac{b\cancel{c}}{\cancel{c}}$

Divide both sides by  $a$ :  $\frac{\cancel{a}c}{\cancel{a}} = \frac{b}{a}$

Giving  $c = \frac{b}{a}$

#### Example 4

If  $y = x + c$ , transpose this formula to make  $x$  the subject.

Subtract  $c$  from both sides  $y - c = x + c - c$

Giving  $x = y - c$

Note  $+c - c = 0$  and  $-c + c = 0$

#### Example 5

If  $p = \frac{q - m}{r}$  transpose the formula to make  $q$  the subject.

Multiply both sides by  $r$ :  $pr = \frac{r(q - m)}{r}$

Add  $m$  to both sides:  $pr + m = q - m + m$

Giving  $q = pr + m$

#### Example 6

If  $y - x = m$ , transpose this formula to make  $x$  the subject.

Subtract  $y$  from both sides:  $y - x - y = m - y$

Multiply both sides by  $-1$ :  $-x = m - y$

Giving  $x = y - m$

Note If, after transposition, the subject is negative it can be made positive by multiplying both sides by  $-1$ .

### Example 7

If  $A = \pi r^2$  transpose this formula to make  $r$  the subject.

Divide both sides by  $\pi$ :

$$\frac{A}{\pi} = \frac{\cancel{\pi} r^2}{\cancel{\pi}}$$

Square root both sides:

$$\sqrt{\frac{A}{\pi}} = \sqrt{r^2}$$

Giving  $\sqrt{\frac{A}{\pi}} = r$

### Example 8

If  $A = \pi r l + \pi r^2$  transpose this formula to make  $l$  the subject.

Subtract  $\pi r^2$  from both sides:

$$A - \pi r^2 = \pi r l + \pi r^2 - \pi r^2$$

Divide both sides by  $\pi r$ :

$$\frac{A - \pi r^2}{\pi r} = \frac{\cancel{\pi} r l}{\cancel{\pi} r}$$

Giving  $\frac{A - \pi r^2}{\pi r} = l$

# TRANSPOSITION OF FORMULAE (COMMON FACTORS)

1. When the subject exists in **two or more terms** the formula can only be transposed correctly when the **subject is taken out as a common factor**. For example:

- a. Transpose the formula  $bc + c = a$  to make  $c$  the subject.

Take out  $c$  as a common factor:

$$c(b+1) = a$$

$$c = \frac{a}{b+1}$$

- b. If  $2r = pq + rs$ , make  $r$  the subject:

Subtract  $rs$  from both sides:

$$2r - rs = pq$$

Take out  $r$  as a common factor:

$$r(2 - s) = pq$$

$$r = \frac{pq}{2-s}$$

- c. If  $X = \frac{ab+c}{a+c}$  make  $c$  the subject:

Multiply both sides by  $(a + c)$ :

$$X(a + c) = ab + c$$

Remove brackets

$$aX + cX = ab + c$$

Collect terms containing  $c$  onto one side

$$cX - c = ab - aX$$

$$c(X - 1) = ab - aX$$

$$c = \frac{ab - aX}{X - 1}$$

$$c = \frac{a(b - X)}{X - 1}$$

## Exercise 1

Transpose the following formulae to make the letter in brackets the subject:

1.  $XY + Y = 7$  (X)

2.  $ab - b = c$  (b)

3.  $p = st - pq$  (p)

4.  $X = \frac{Y+3}{Y}$  (Y)

5.  $\frac{a-b}{a} = c$  (a)

6.  $d = \frac{t-u}{u}$  (u)

7.  $\frac{1}{a} = \frac{2}{b} + \frac{3}{c}$  (b)

8.  $\frac{1}{R} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2}$  ( $R_1$ )

9.  $A_F = \frac{A_0}{1 + A_0\beta}$  ( $A_0$ )

10.  $f = f_0 \left( \frac{c+v}{c-u} \right)$  (c)

11.  $\frac{1}{f} = \frac{1}{u} + \frac{1}{v}$  (u)



## TRANSPOSITION OF FORMULAE (LONGER EQUATIONS)

2. In previous periods, you were shown some of the basic types of situations that can arise when changing the subject of a formula. These basic types are often combined into a single problem. Such problems can be treated in a variety of ways, but, if you are in any doubt at all, the following sequence should be followed:

- a. **First.** Remove root signs. These three steps may be carried out in a different order for certain problems, but all roots, fractions and brackets should be removed before carrying out the fourth step.
- b. **Second.** Remove fractions.
- c. **Third.** Remove brackets.
- d. **Fourth.** Re-arrange formula, collecting all terms containing the required letters on one side of the equation and **all** other terms on the other side.
- e. **Fifth.** Take the subject out as a **common factor**.
- f. **Sixth.** **Divide** through by the coefficient of the subject.
- g. **Seventh.** Take roots (if necessary).

3. If may not always be necessary to use all the above steps, but nevertheless, the sequence should be followed. For example:

a. Transpose  $V^2 = u^2 + 2fs$  to make  $u$  the subject.

There are no root signs, fractions or brackets, therefore re-arranging:

$$u^2 = V^2 - 2fs$$

There are no common factors or coefficients, therefore take roots:

$$u = \sqrt{V^2 - 2fs}$$

*Note: This does not equal  $u = V - \sqrt{2fs}$*

b. Transpose  $T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{l}{g}}$ , to make  $g$  the subject:

Square both sides: 
$$T^2 = (2\pi)^2 \left( \sqrt{\frac{l}{g}} \right)^2$$

$$= 4\pi^2 \left( \sqrt{\frac{l}{g}} \right)^2$$

$$= 4\pi^2 \frac{l}{g}$$

Multiply through by  $g$ : 
$$T^2 g = 4\pi^2 l$$

Divide through by coefficient  $T^2$ : 
$$g = \frac{4\pi^2 l}{T^2}$$

## Exercise 2

Transpose the following formula to make the letter in brackets, the subject:  
(You may assume that all variables can only take positive values)

1.  $v^2 = 2gh$  (v)

2.  $C = \frac{5}{9} (F - 32)$  (F)

3.  $I = \frac{E}{r + R}$  (R)

4.  $v = \sqrt{2gh}$  (h)

5.  $Q = \frac{1}{R} \sqrt{\frac{L}{C}}$  (C)

6.  $\frac{1}{u} + \frac{1}{v} = \frac{1}{j}$  (u)

7.  $T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{\ell}{g}}$  ( $\ell$ )

8.  $S = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^2$  (a)

9.  $X = \sqrt{\frac{s-a}{s-b}}$  (s)

10.  $I = \frac{PTR}{100}$  (R)

11.  $V = I \sqrt{r^2 + X_L}$  (r)

12.  $t = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{h^2 + g^2}{h}}$  (g)

13.  $f = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{1}{LC} - \frac{R^2}{L^2}}$  (R)

### Exercise 3

Using the formula and the data given, find the required quantity below:  
Give answers in engineering form.

1. if  $v^2 = u^2 + 2as$  Find  $s$ , given  
 $u = 20\text{m/s}$   
 $a = 30\text{m/s}^2$   
 $v = 32\text{m/s}$
2. if  $s = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^2$  Find  $a$ , given  
 $u = 17\text{m/s}$   
 $t = 20\text{s}$   
 $s = 1250\text{m}$
3. if  $X_L = 2\pi fL$  Find  $f$ , given  
 $L = 10 \times 10^{-3}\text{H}$   
 $X_L = 1.88 \times 10^6 \Omega$
4. if  $X_C = \frac{1}{2\pi fC}$  Find  $C$ , given  
 $f = 50\text{Hz}$   
 $X_C = 145\Omega$
5. if  $L = \frac{1}{2}\rho v^2 SC_L$  Find  $C_L$ , given  
 $L = 737.28\text{kN}$   
 $\rho = 0.9\text{kg/m}^3$   
 $v = 200\text{m/s}$   
 $S = 51.2\text{m}^2$
6. if  $D = \frac{1}{2}\rho v^2 SC_D$  Find  $v$ , given  
 $D = 4896\text{N}$   
 $\rho = 0.85\text{kg/m}^3$   
 $S = 51.2\text{m}^2$   
 $C_D = 0.01$
7. if  $KE = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$  Find  $v$ , given  
 $KE = 781.25\text{kJ}$   
 $m = 2.5\text{tonne}$

8. if  $f_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{LC}}$

Find  $L$ , given

$$C = 470 \times 10^{-6} \text{ F}$$

$$f_0 = 50 \text{ Hz}$$

9. if  $Q_0 = \frac{1}{R} \sqrt{\frac{L}{C}}$

Find  $C$ , given

$$R = 220 \Omega$$

$$L = 50 \times 10^{-3} \text{ H}$$

$$Q_0 = 2.2$$

10. if  $V_1 = \frac{V_2 T_1}{T_2}$

Find  $V_2$ , given

$$T_1 = 524 \text{ K}$$

$$T_2 = 290 \text{ K}$$

$$V_1 = 0.75 \text{ m}^3$$

## Answers

### Exercise 1

1.  $X = \frac{7}{y} - 1$  or  $X = \frac{7-y}{y}$
2.  $b = \frac{c}{a-1}$
3.  $p = \frac{st}{1+q}$
4.  $Y = \frac{3}{X-1}$
5.  $a = \frac{b}{1-c}$
6.  $u = \frac{t}{d+1}$
7.  $b = \frac{2ac}{c-3a}$
8.  $R_1 = \frac{RR_2}{R_2 - R}$
9.  $A_0 = \frac{A_F}{1-A_F\beta}$
10.  $c = \frac{f_0v + fu}{f - f_0}$
11.  $u = \frac{fv}{v-f}$

### Exercise 2

1.  $v = \sqrt{2gh}$
2.  $F = \frac{9}{5}c + 32$
3.  $R = \frac{E - Ir}{I} = \frac{E}{I} - r$
4.  $h = \frac{v^2}{2g}$
5.  $C = \frac{L}{Q^2R^2}$
6.  $u = \frac{jv}{v-j}$
7.  $\ell = \frac{T^2g}{4\pi^2}$
8.  $a = \frac{2(s-ut)}{t^2}$
9.  $s = \frac{X^2b - a}{X^2 - 1}$
10.  $R = \frac{100I}{PT}$
11.  $r = \sqrt{\frac{V^2}{I^2} - X_L}$
12.  $g = \sqrt{\left(\frac{t}{2\pi}\right)^2 h - h^2}$
13.  $R = \sqrt{\frac{L}{C} - 4\pi^2 f^2 L^2}$

### Exercise 3

1. 10.4m
2. 4.55m/s<sup>2</sup>
3. 29.9 x 10<sup>6</sup>Hz
4. 22 x 10<sup>-6</sup> F
5. 0.8
6. 150m/s
7. 25m/s
8. 21.6 x 10<sup>-3</sup>H
9. 213 x 10<sup>-9</sup>F
10. 415 x 10<sup>-3</sup>m<sup>3</sup>

## Notes