

(6.69)  $10^{24}$  atoms of carbon 12

• Kilogram =  $5.01 \times 10^{25}$  atoms of carbon 12

↳ UNCERTAINTY = 1 part in 20 000

2 THE CENTIMETER-GRAM-SECOND DIFFERS FROM MKS ONLY IN USING CENTIMETER AND GRAM.

3 THE FOOT-POUND-SECOND (FPS) SYSTEM:

POUND = 1/2.2046 OF A KILOGRAM. (SINCE 1892)

FOOT = 1200/3937 m = 2.54000508... cm

↳ INCH = 2.54 cm

→ Pg 9 (1-5)  
21/06/2013  
Pg 10

### 1-5 THE EQUATIONS AND FORMULAS OF PHYSICS

• Example 1.1: DISTANCE TRAVELED BY A FALLING BODY

$$S = \frac{1}{2} v_0 t^2 + v_0 t$$

$S$  = DISTANCE FALLEN

MAKING A DIMENSIONAL CHECK AND

$t$  = ELAPSED TIME

IGNORING THE  $\frac{1}{2}$  FACTOR (HAS NO DIMENSION)

$v_0$  = FINAL VELOCITY

USING FRACTIONS:  $[L] \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{[L]}{[t]} [t]^2 + \frac{[L]}{[t]} [t]$

$$[L] \stackrel{?}{=} [LT] + [L]$$

Using negative exponents:  $[L] \stackrel{?}{=} [LT^{-1}][T^2] + [LT^{-1}][T]$

$$[L] \stackrel{?}{=} [LT] + [L]$$

THE DIMENSIONS ARE INCORRECT, SO THE EQUATION IS WRONG.

→ FIXED WITH CALCULUS.

• Example 1.2: A falling raindrop reaches a steady speed which depends on its size and the coefficient of the viscosity of air. Check the following equation for possible correctness:

$$v_{st} = \frac{2}{9\pi} \frac{r^2 g \rho}{\eta}$$

$v_{st}$  = STEADY SPEED (cm/s)

$r$  = RADIUS OF THE DROP (cm)

$g$  = GRAVITY ACCELERATION (cm/s<sup>2</sup>)

$\rho$  = DENSITY (g/cm<sup>3</sup>)

$\eta$  = COEF. VISC. OF AIR (g/cm s)

Using fractions:

$$\frac{[L]}{[t]} \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{[L]^2}{[t]} \frac{[L]}{[t]^2} \frac{[M]}{[L]^3} \frac{[L]}{[M]} \frac{[M]}{[L] [t]}$$

$$\frac{[L]}{[t]} \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{[L]}{[t]}$$

Using negative exponents:

$$[LT^{-1}] \stackrel{?}{=} [L^2][L^{-1}][L^{-2}][L^{-3}][L^1][M^{-1}][M][L^{-1}][t^{-1}]$$

$$[LT^{-1}] \stackrel{?}{=} [LT^{-1}]$$

THE EQUATION IS NOT WRONG FROM A DIMENSIONAL POINT OF VIEW. AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT IS NOT RIGHT, EITHER, SINCE THE NUMERICAL FACTOR  $2/9\pi$  IS INCORRECT. DIMENSIONAL ANALYSIS DOES GIVE INFO ABOUT NUMERICAL CONSTANTS.

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