



## Lecture-Two

### Dimensional Analysis

#### 1- The Application of D.S and the Dimensional Analysis.

##### A- The concept.

A physical problem may be characterized by a group of dimensionless similarity parameters or variables rather than by the original dimensional variables. This gives a clue to reduction in the number of parameters requiring separate consideration in an experimental investigation.

Ex:-  $Re = \frac{\rho V D h}{\mu}$        $Re$  2000 ~ 4000 by varying  $V$  without change in any other independent dimensional variable .

In fact, the variation in the  $Re$  physically implies the variation in any of the dimensional parameters defining it.

##### B- Dimensional Analysis.

The dimensional analysis is a mathematical technique by which can be determining many dimensionless parameters and solving several engineering problems.

There are two existing approaches:-

- 1- Indicial method. (Method One)
- 2- Buckingham's *pi* theorem. (Method Two)

The dimensional analysis can be explain by the following,

- The Various physical quantities used in fluid phenomenon can be expressed in terms of fundamental quantities or primary quantities.
- Fundamental quantities are Mass (M), Length (L), Time (T), Temperature ( $\theta$ ) is used for compressible flow.
- The quantities which are expressed in terms of the fundamental or primary quantities are called derived or secondary quantities as (velocity, area, acceleration)
- The expression for a derived quantities in terms of the primary quantities is called the dimension of the physically quantities.
- A quantity may either be expressed dimensionally in M-L-T or F-L-T system.

##### Ex.1

Determine the dimensions of the following quantities.

- (i) Discharge.
- (ii) Kinematic viscosity.
- (iii) Force.
- (iv) Specific weight.

##### Sol.

(i) Discharge = area \* velocity  
 $= L^2 * \frac{L}{T} = \frac{L^3}{T} = L^3 T^{-1}$

(ii) Kinematic Viscosity( $\nu$ )= $\mu/\rho$



Where ( $\mu$ ) given by ( $\tau$ ) =  $\mu \frac{du}{dy}$

$$\mu = \frac{\tau}{du/dy} = \frac{\text{shearstress}}{\frac{L \times \frac{1}{T}}{\frac{1}{T}}} = \frac{\text{force}}{\frac{1}{T}}$$

$$\mu = \frac{\text{mass} \times \text{acceleration}}{\text{Area} \times \frac{1}{T}} = \frac{M \times \frac{L}{T^2}}{L^2 \times \frac{1}{T}} = \frac{M \times L}{L^2 T^2 \times \frac{1}{T}}$$

$$\mu = \frac{M}{LT} = ML^{-1}T^{-1}$$

$$\text{and } \rho = \frac{\text{mass}}{\text{volume}} = \frac{M}{L^3} = ML^{-3}$$

$$\therefore \nu = \frac{\mu}{\rho} = \frac{ML^{-1}T^{-1}}{ML^{-3}} = L^2T^{-1}$$

(iii) Force = mass \* acceleration

$$= M * \frac{\text{length}}{\text{Time}^2} = \frac{ML}{T^2} = MLT^{-2}$$

$$(iv) \text{ Specific weight} = \text{Weight/volume} = \text{force/volume} = \frac{MLT^{-2}}{L^3} = ML^{-2}T^{-2}$$

## 2- Buckingham's Pi Theorem. (Method-2)

Assume, a physical phenomenon is described by

$n$  = number of independent variables like  $x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n$  the phenomenon may be expressed as

$$F(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n) = 0 \quad (1)$$

$m$  = number of fundamental dimensions like mass, time, length and temperature or force, length, time and temperature.

Buckingham's theorem defining as the phenomenon can be described in terms of ( $n-m$ ) independent dimensionless group like  $\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_{n-m}$  where  $\pi$  terms, represent the dimensionless parameters and consist of different combinations of a number of dimensional variables out of the  $n$  independent variables.

Therefore Eq.(1) can be reduced to

$$f(\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_{n-m}) = 0 \quad (2)$$

## 3- Procedure for Determination $\pi$ Terms.

$m$  = Number of fundamental dimensions like mass, (M), time (T), Length (L), temperature( $\theta$ )

$n$  = number of independent variables or quantities included in physical problem such as ( $A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots, A_n$ ) where  $A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots, A_n$  as pressure, viscosity and velocity, can also be expressed as

$$F_1(A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots, A_n) = 0 \quad (3)$$

( $n-m$ ) = number of dimensionless parameter ( $\pi$ ) like  $\pi_1, \pi_2, \pi_3, \dots, \pi_{n-m}$

$\pi$ , is represent the dimensionless parameters and consist of different combinations of a number of dimensional variable. Mathematically, if any variable  $A_1$ , depends on independent variable  $A_2, A_3, \dots, A_n$  the function  $A_1 = F(A_2, A_3, \dots, A_n)$

According to  $\pi$ -theorem, Eq. (3) can be written in terms of  $\pi$ - terms (dimensionless groups). Therefore the above equation can reduced to

$$F_1(\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_{n-m}) = 0 \quad (4)$$

The method of determining  $\pi$  parameters is

- Select ( $m$ ) of the (A) quantities with different dimensions
- The above selection which contains among them ( $m$ ) dimensions



- Using the ( $m$ ) selection as repeating variables together with one of the other  $A$  quantities for each ( $\pi$ ). Each  $\pi$ -term contains ( $m+1$ ) variables.

**Note-1,** It is essential that no one of the  $m$  selected quantities used as repeating variable be derived from the other repeating variables.

**Note-2,** Let  $A_1, A_2, A_3$  contain M,L and T, not necessarily in each one, but collectively.

Then the first  $\pi$  parameter is made up as

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \pi_1 &= A_2^{x_1} A_3^{y_1} A_4^{z_1} A_1 \\ \text{The second } \pi_2 &= A_2^{x_2} A_3^{y_2} A_4^{z_2} A_5 \\ \text{And so on until } \pi_{n-m} &= A_2^{x_{n-m}} A_3^{y_{n-m}} A_4^{z_{n-m}} A_n \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (5)$$

In a bove eqn's the exponents are to be determined

- The dimensions of (A) quantities are substituted
- The exponents of M,L and T are set equal to zero in  $\pi$  parameters

There produce three equations in three unknowns for each  $\pi$  parameter, so that the x,y,z exponents can be determined, and Hence the  $\pi$  parameter.

#### 4- Selection of Repeating Variables (R.V).

- 1- ( $m$ ) repeating variable must contain jointly all the fundamental dimension
- 2- The repeating variable must not form the non-dimensional parameter among them.
- 3- As far as possible, the dependent variable should not be selected as repeating variable
- 4- No two repeating variables should have the same dimensions
- 5- The repeating variables should be chosen in such a way that one variable contains geometric property ( e.g , length , L, diameter, d, height, h ), other variable contains flow property (e.g velocity V, acceleration a ) and the third variable contains fluid property ( e.g mass density  $\rho$ , weight density W , dynamic viscosity  $\mu$ )

- (i) L,V, $\rho$
- (ii) d,V, $\rho$
- (iii) l, V,m
- (iv) d,V, $\mu$

#### Ex.2

Show that the lift force  $F_L$  on airfoil can be express as  $F_L = \rho V^2 d^2 \phi \left( \frac{\rho V d}{\mu}, \alpha \right)$

Where  $\rho$ = mass density , V = velocity of flow  
 $\mu$ = dynamic viscosity  $\alpha$ = Angle of incidence  
 d = A characteristic depth

#### Sol.

Left force  $F_L$  is function of; $\rho, V, d, m, \alpha$  mathematically,  $F_L = f( \mu, V, d, \rho, \alpha ) - - - - (i)$

Or  $F_1( F_L, \rho, V, d, \mu, \alpha ) = 0 - - - - - (ii)$

$\therefore$  Total number of variable, we have  $n=6$

Writing dimensions of each variable

$$F_L = M L T^{-2}, \rho = M L^{-3}, V = L T^{-1}, d = L, \mu = M L^{-1} T^{-1}, \alpha = M^0 L^0 T^0$$

Thus, number of fundamental dimensions,  $m=3$

$$\therefore \text{Number of } \pi \text{ - terms} = n - m = 6 - 3 = 3$$

Eq. (ii) can be written as :  $F_1(\pi_1, \pi_2, \pi_3) = 0 \text{ --- (iii)}$

Each  $\pi$ -term contains  $(m+1)$  variables, where  $m=3$  and also equal to repeating variables (R.V). Choosing (d, V,  $\rho$ ) as R.V

$$\pi_1 = d^{a_1} \cdot V^{b_1} \cdot \rho^{c_1} \cdot F_L$$

$$\pi_2 = d^{a_2} \cdot V^{b_2} \cdot \rho^{c_2} \cdot \mu$$

$$\pi_3 = d^{a_3} \cdot V^{b_3} \cdot \rho^{c_3} \cdot \alpha$$

$\pi$  - term:

$$\pi_1 = d^{a_1} \cdot V^{b_1} \cdot \rho^{c_1} \cdot F_L$$

$$M^0 L^0 T^0 = L^{a_1} (L T^{-1})^{b_1} (ML^{-3})^{c_1} (MLT^{-2})$$

Equating the exponents of M,L,T respectively, we get

$$\text{for } M: 0 = c_1 + 1 \text{ ---} \rightarrow c_1 = -1$$

$$\text{for } L: 0 = a_1 + b_1 - 3c_1 + 1$$

$$\text{for } T: 0 = -b_1 - 2 \text{ ---} \rightarrow b_1 = -2$$

$$\therefore a_1 = -b_1 + 3c_1 - 1 = 2 - 3 - 1 = -2$$

Substituting the values of  $a_1, b_1$  and  $c_1$  in  $\pi_1$ , we get

$$\pi_1 = d^{-2} \cdot V^{-2} \cdot \rho^{-1} \cdot F_L = \frac{F_L}{\rho V^2 d^2}$$

$\pi_2$  - term:

$$\pi_2 = d^{a_2} \cdot V^{b_2} \cdot \rho^{c_2} \cdot \mu$$

$$M^0 L^0 T^0 = L^{a_2} \cdot (LT^{-1})^{b_2} \cdot (ML^{-3})^{c_2} \cdot (ML^{-1}T^{-1})$$

Equating the exponents of M,L and T respectively , we get

$$\text{for } M: 0 = c_2 + 1 \text{ ---} \rightarrow c_2 = -1$$

$$\text{FOR } L: 0 = a_2 + b_2 - 3c_2 - 1$$

$$\text{For } T: 0 = -b_2 - 1 \text{ ---} \rightarrow b_2 = -1$$

$$\therefore a_2 = -b_2 + 3c_2 + 1 = 1 - 3 + 1 = -1$$

Substituting the values of  $a_2, b_2$ , and  $c_2$  in  $\pi_2$ , we get

$$\pi_2 = d^{-1} \cdot V^{-1} \cdot \rho^{-1} \cdot \mu = \frac{\mu}{\rho V d}$$

$$\text{or } \pi_2 = \frac{\rho V d}{\mu}$$

$\pi_3$  - term

$$\pi_3 = d^{a_3} \cdot V^{b_3} \cdot \rho^{c_3} \cdot \alpha$$

$$M^0 L^0 T^0 = L^{a_3} \cdot (LT^{-1})^{b_3} \cdot (ML^{-3})^{c_3} \cdot (M^0 L^0 T^0)$$

Equating the exponents of M, L and T respectively , we get

$$\text{for } M: 0 = c_3 + 0 \text{ ---} \rightarrow c_3 = 0$$

$$\text{for } L: 0 = a_3 + b_3 - 3c_3 + 0$$

$$\text{for } T: 0 = -b_3 + 0 \text{ ---} \rightarrow b_3 = 0$$

$$\therefore a_3 = 0$$

$$\therefore \pi_3 = d^0 \cdot v^0 \rho^0 \cdot \alpha = \alpha$$

Substituting the values of  $\pi_1, \pi_2$  and  $\pi_3$  in Eq. (iii), we get

$$f_1 \left( \frac{F_L}{\rho V^2 d^2}, \frac{\rho V d}{\mu}, \alpha \right) = 0$$



$$\frac{F_L}{\rho V^2 d^2} = \Phi\left(\frac{\rho V d}{\mu}, \alpha\right)$$

or  $F_L = \rho V^2 d^2 \Phi\left(\frac{\rho V d}{\mu}, \alpha\right)$

**Ex.3**

The discharge through a horizontal capillary tube is thought to depend upon the pressure drop per unit length, the diameter and the viscosity. Find the form of the discharge equation.

**Sol.**

Quantity	Dimensions
Discharge Q	$L^3 T^{-1}$
Pressure drop/length $\Delta p/l$	$M L^{-2} T^{-2}$
Diameter D	L
Viscosity $\mu$	$M L^{-1} T^{-1}$

Then  $F\left(Q, \frac{\Delta p}{L}, D, \mu\right) = 0$

Three dimension are used, and with four quantities these will be one  $\pi$  parameter

$n = 4, m = 3 \rightarrow \pi = n - m = 4 - 3 = 1$

$\pi = Q^{X_1} \left(\frac{\Delta p}{L}\right)^{Y_1} D^{Z_1} \mu$

Substituting in the dimension gives

$\pi = (L^3 T^{-1})^{X_1} (M L^{-2} T^{-2})^{Y_1} (L^{Z_1})(M L^{-1} T^{-1}) = M^0 L^0 T^0$

The exponents of each dimension must be the same on both sides of the equation.

With L;  $3X_1 - 2Y_1 + Z_1 - 1 = 0 \dots\dots(i)$

M;  $Y_1 + 1 = 0 \rightarrow Y_1 = -1$

T;  $-X_1 - 2Y_1 - 1 = 0 \rightarrow X_1 = 1$

From Eq. (i)  $Z_1 = -4$

$\pi = Q \frac{\mu}{\left(\frac{\Delta p}{L}\right) D^4}$

After solving for Q

$Q = C \frac{\Delta p}{L} \frac{D^4}{\mu}$

**Ex.4**

Consider pressure drop in a tube of length l, hydraulic diameter d, surface roughness  $\epsilon$ , with fluid of density  $\rho$  and viscosity  $\mu$  moving with average velocity U. Using Buckingham's  $\pi$  - theorem obtain an expression for  $\Delta p$  .

**Sol.**

This can be expressed as

$f(\Delta p, U, d, l, \epsilon, \rho, \mu) = 0$

Now  $n=7$  since the phenomenon involves 7 independent parameters.



We select  $\rho, U, d$  as repeating variables (so that all 3 dimensions are represented)

Now, 4  $\pi$  ----  $\rightarrow$  (7-3) parameters are determined as

$$\pi_1 = \rho^{a_1} U^{b_1} d^{c_1} \Delta p$$

$$\pi_2 = \rho^{a_2} U^{b_2} d^{c_2} \mu$$

$$\pi_3 = \rho^{a_3} U^{b_3} d^{c_3} l$$

$$\pi_4 = \rho^{a_4} U^{b_4} d^{c_4} \epsilon$$

Now basic units

$$\rho \text{ --- } \rightarrow ML^{-3}$$

$$U \text{ --- } \rightarrow LT^{-1}$$

$$d \text{ --- } \rightarrow L$$

$$\Delta p \text{ --- } \rightarrow ML^{-1}T^{-2}$$

$$\mu \text{ --- } \rightarrow ML^{-1}T^{-1}$$

$$\epsilon \text{ --- } \rightarrow L$$

$$l \text{ --- } \rightarrow L$$

All  $\pi$  parameters ----  $\rightarrow M^0L^0T^0$

$$a_1 = -1; b_1 = -2; c_1 = 0$$

$$a_2 = -1; b_2 = -1; c_2 = -1$$

$$a_3 = 0; b_3 = 0; c_3 = -1$$

$$a_4 = 0; b_4 = 0; c_4 = -1$$

Thus writing  $\pi_1 = f(\pi_2, \pi_3, \pi_4)$

$\therefore$  The  $\pi$  group can be written as follows,

$$\pi_1 = d^0 V^{-2} \rho^{-1} \Delta p = \frac{\Delta p}{\rho V^2} \quad \mathbf{Eu} \quad \mathbf{No.}$$

$$\pi_2 = \frac{\mu}{dV\rho} \text{ or } \frac{dV\rho}{\mu} \quad \mathbf{Re} \quad \mathbf{No.}$$

$$\pi_3 = d^{-1} V^0 \rho^0 l = \frac{l}{d}$$

$$\pi_4 = \frac{\epsilon}{d}$$

$\therefore$  The new relation can be writing

$$f_1 \left( \frac{\Delta p}{\rho V^2}, \frac{dV\rho}{\mu}, \frac{l}{d}, \frac{\epsilon}{d} \right) = 0$$

When conclude  $\Delta p$

$$\frac{\Delta p}{\rho V^2} = f_2 \left( Re, \frac{l}{d}, \frac{\epsilon}{d} \right)$$

$$\rho = \frac{W}{g}$$

$$\frac{\Delta p}{W} = \frac{V^2}{2g} \cdot f_2 \left( Re, \frac{l}{d}, \frac{\epsilon}{d} \right)$$

The pressure drop is function of (L/d) exponent to(1) in darcy equation

$$\frac{\Delta p}{W} = \frac{V^2}{2g} \cdot \frac{l}{d} \cdot f_3 \left( Re, \frac{\epsilon}{d} \right)$$

Therefore

$$\frac{\Delta p}{W} = (\mathbf{Factor} \mathbf{f}) \left( \frac{l}{d} \left( \frac{V^2}{2g} \right) \right)$$



**Ex.5**

Assume the input power to a pump is depend on the fluid weight per unit volume, flow rate and head produced by the pump. Create a relation by dimensional analysis between the power and other variables by two methods.

**Method-2**

$$F(P, W, Q, H) = 0$$

The variables in dimensions are

$$P \longrightarrow FLT^{-1}$$

$$Q \longrightarrow L^3T^{-1}$$

$$W \longrightarrow FL^{-3}$$

$$H \longrightarrow L$$

The four variables in 3 fundamental dimensional  $\therefore \pi$  group is  $(4 - 3) = 1$

Choice Q, W, H as variable with unknown exponent

$$\therefore \pi_1 = (Q)^{a_1} (W)^{b_1} (H)^{c_1} P$$

$$\text{or } \pi_1 = (L^{3a_1} T^{-a_1})(F^{b_1} L^{-3b_1})(L^{c_1})(F L T^{-1}) = F^0 L^0 T^0$$

Exponent equality foe F,L,T producing

$$a_1 = -1, b_1 = -1, c_1 = -1$$

$$\therefore \pi_1 = Q^{-1} W^{-1} H^{-1} P = \frac{P}{QWH}$$

$$\pi_1 = F\left(\frac{P}{QWH}\right)$$

$$P = K(QWH)$$

**Ex.6**

Assume the input power to a pump is depend on the fluid weight (W), flow rate (Q) and head produced by pump (H), create a relation by dimension analysis between the power input and other variables by using FLT system.

**Sol.**

**Step-1**

Quantities	Dimensions
Power (P)	$F L T^{-1}$
Flow rate (Q)	$L^3 T^{-1}$
Weight(W) per unit volume	$F L^{-3}$
Head (H)	L

**Step-2:-** there are four variables & (3) fundamental dimensions

$$\therefore \pi \text{ group is } (4 - 3) = 1$$

**Step-3:**

Choice Q, W, H as variable with unknown exponent.



$$F_1(P, W, Q, H) = 0 \rightarrow F_2(\pi_1) = 0$$

$$\therefore \pi_1 = (Q)^{a_1} (W)^{b_1} (H)^{c_1} P$$

$$\text{Or } \pi_1 = (L^3 T^{-1})^{a_1} (F L^{-3})^{b_1} (L)^{c_1} (F L T^{-1})^1 = F^0 L^0 T^0$$

$$\text{F]} \quad b_1 + 1 = 0 \rightarrow b_1 = -1$$

$$\text{L]} \quad 3a_1 - 3b_1 + c_1 + 1 = 0 \rightarrow 3a_1 + c_1 = -4$$

$$\text{T]} \quad -a_1 - 1 = 0 \rightarrow a_1 = -1$$

$$\therefore c_1 = -1$$

$$\therefore \pi_1 = Q^{-1} W^{-1} H^{-1} P = \frac{P}{QWH}$$

$$\pi_1 = f\left(\frac{P}{QWH}\right)$$

$$P = K(Q, W, H)$$

**Ex.7**

Assuming the resistant force for a body submerged in a fluid is function of (density  $\rho$ , velocity  $V$ , viscosity  $\mu$  and characteristic length  $L$ ). Conclude a general equation of resistant force by using FLT system.

**Sol.**

**Step.1**

Quantities	Dimension
Force(F)	F
Density( $\rho$ )	$F L^{-4} T^2$
Velocity(V)	$L T^{-1}$
Viscosity( $\mu$ )	$F L^{-2} T$
Length(L)	L

$$F_1(F, \rho, V, L, \mu) = 0 \quad n = 5, m = 3$$

**Step-2**

We have 5 variables with 3 fundamental dimensions

$$\therefore \pi \text{ groups} = 5 - 3 = 2$$

We choice 3 repeated variables of unknown exponents

$$\pi_1 = (L)^{a_1} (V)^{b_1} (\rho)^{c_1} F = (L)^{a_1} (L T^{-1})^{b_1} (F T^2 L^{-4})^{c_1} (F) = F^0 L^0 T^0$$

$$\text{F]} \quad C_1 + 1 = 0 \rightarrow C_1 = -1$$

$$\text{L]} \quad a_1 + b_1 - 4c_1 = 0 \rightarrow a_1 + b_1 = -4$$

$$\text{T]} \quad -b_1 + 2C_1 = 0 \rightarrow b_1 = -2; \therefore a_1 = -2$$

$$\therefore \pi_1 = L^{-2} V^{-2} \rho^{-1} F = F/L^2 V^2 \rho$$

$$\pi_2 = (L)^{a_2} (V)^{b_2} (\rho)^{c_2} \mu = (L)^{a_2} (L T^{-1})^{b_2} (F L^{-4} T^2)^{c_2} (F L^{-2} T) = F^0 L^0 T^0$$

$$\text{F]} \quad C_2 + 1 = 0 \rightarrow C_2 = -1$$

$$\text{L]} \quad a_2 + b_2 - 4C_2 - 2 = 0$$

$$a_2 + b_2 + 2 = \rightarrow a_2 + b_2 = -2$$





$$T] \quad -b_2 + 2C_2 + 1 = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad b_2 = -1$$

$$\therefore a_2 = -1$$

$$\therefore \pi_2 = L^{-1}V^{-1}\rho^{-1}\mu = \frac{\mu}{LV\rho} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \pi_2^{-1} = R_e$$

$$\therefore f(\pi_1, \pi_2) = 0$$

$$F_1(\pi_1, \pi_2^{-1}) = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad F_1\left(\frac{F}{L^2V^2\rho}, R_e\right) = 0$$

$$\therefore F = L^2V^2\rho F_2(R_e)$$