



*MEC516/BME516:
Fluid Mechanics I*

*Chapter 5: Dimensional Analysis &
Similarity
Part 4*

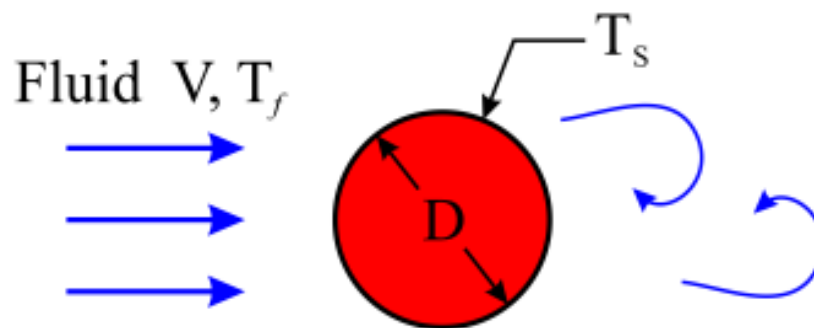
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Overview

- Solved Example Dimensional Analysis
 - Pi parameters for forced convective heat transfer from an isothermal cylinder in cross flow.
 - Correlation of experimental data
- Dimensionless Parameters in Heat Transfer
 - Nusselt number
 - Reynolds number
 - Prandtl number



Wilhelm Nusselt (1882-1952)

Dimensional Analysis Example

Convective Heat Transfer from a Cylinder

The convective heat transfer \dot{Q} from an isothermal cylinder can be expressed as:

$$\dot{Q} = h A (T_s - T_f) \quad \left(W, \frac{J}{s} \right)$$

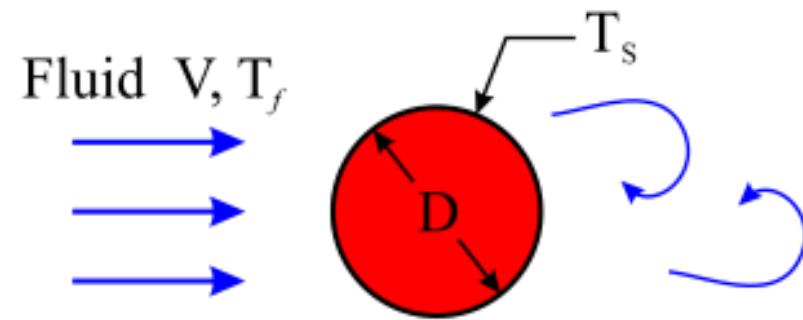
where h is the convective heat transfer coefficient $\left(\frac{W}{m^2 K} \right)$.

A is the surface area of the cylinder (m^2)

$(T_s - T_f)$ is the surface to fluid temperature difference (K or $^{\circ}C$)

This is called *Newton's Law of Cooling*.

(The mechanical engineers will see this again in MEC701 Heat Transfer)



Example: Heat Transfer from a Cylinder

Problem Statement:

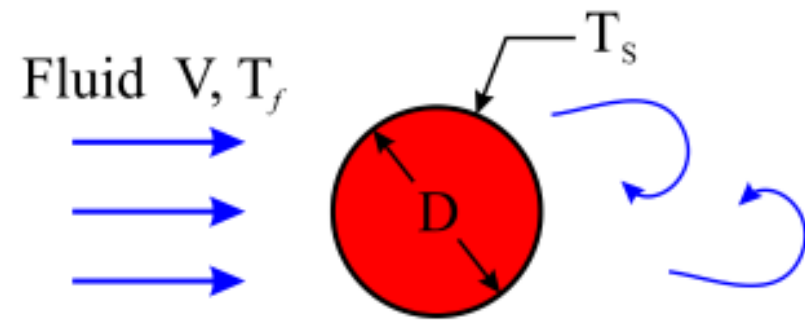
Newton's Law of Cooling $\dot{Q} = h A (T_s - T_f)$

The heat transfer coefficient h is a function of:

- Geometry: D
- Fluid Properties: specific heat, c_p dyn. viscosity, μ thermal conductivity, k density, ρ
- External Effects: free stream velocity, V

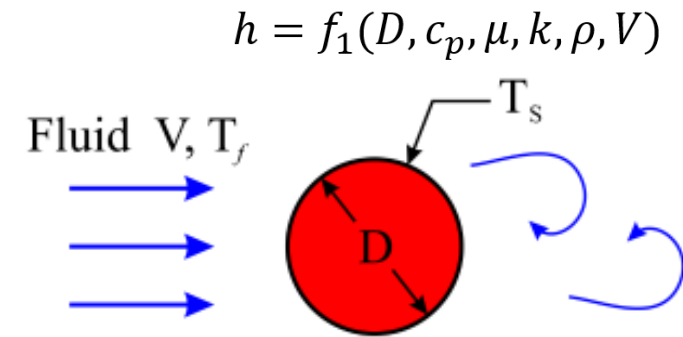
Given that $h = f_1(D, c_p, \mu, k, \rho, V)$ find the Pi terms that characterize forced convective heat transfer.

To obtain the classical dimensionless parameters use D, μ, k, ρ for the repeating variables. (Recall, the Pi parameters are not unique and may depend upon your selection of repeaters).



Example: Heat Transfer from a Cylinder

Solution by Method of Repeating Variables (Six Steps)



Step 1: List the n variables in the problem

- You are told in the problem statement: $h = f_1(D, c_p, \mu, k, \rho, V)$
- So, we have $n = 7$ variables (including h)
- ✓ All variables are independent.
- ✓ Include relevant geometric effects, fluid properties, and external effects.
(gravity g is not included. Buoyancy effects are assumed to be small).

Step 2: Express the variables in terms of basic dimensions:

Start with the obvious ones: $\{D\} = \{L\}$ $\{V\} = \left\{\frac{L}{T}\right\}$ $\{\mu\} = \left\{\frac{M}{LT}\right\}$ $\{\rho\} = \left\{\frac{M}{L^3}\right\}$

Example: Heat Transfer from a Cylinder

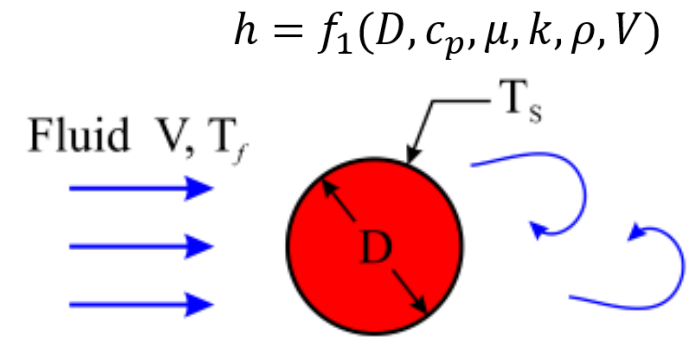
$$h \quad \frac{W}{m^2 K} = \frac{J}{s} \frac{1}{m^2 K} = \frac{Nm}{s m^2 K} = \frac{kg m}{s^2} \frac{1}{smK} \left\{ \frac{M}{T^3 \Theta} \right\}$$

$$k \quad \frac{W}{mK} = \frac{J}{s} \frac{1}{mK} = \frac{Nm}{s mK} = \frac{kg m}{s^2} \frac{1}{sK} \left\{ \frac{ML}{T^3 \Theta} \right\}$$

$$c_p \quad \frac{J}{kgK} = \frac{Nm}{kgK} = \frac{kg m}{s^2} \frac{m}{kgK} \left\{ \frac{L^2}{T^2 \Theta} \right\}$$

$$\text{Thus: } \{D\} = \{L\}, \quad \{V\} = \left\{ \frac{L}{T} \right\}, \quad \{\mu\} = \left\{ \frac{M}{LT} \right\}, \quad \{\rho\} = \left\{ \frac{M}{L^3} \right\}$$

$$\{h\} = \left\{ \frac{M}{T^3 \Theta} \right\}, \quad \{k\} = \left\{ \frac{ML}{T^3 \Theta} \right\}, \quad \{c_p\} = \left\{ \frac{L^2}{T^2 \Theta} \right\}$$



Example: Heat Transfer from a Cylinder

$$\{D\} = \{L\}, \quad \{V\} = \left\{\frac{L}{T}\right\}, \quad \{\mu\} = \left\{\frac{M}{LT}\right\}, \quad \{\rho\} = \left\{\frac{M}{L^3}\right\}$$

$$\{h\} = \left\{\frac{M}{T^3\Theta}\right\}, \quad \{k\} = \left\{\frac{ML}{T^3\Theta}\right\}, \quad \{c_p\} = \left\{\frac{L^2}{T^2\Theta}\right\}$$

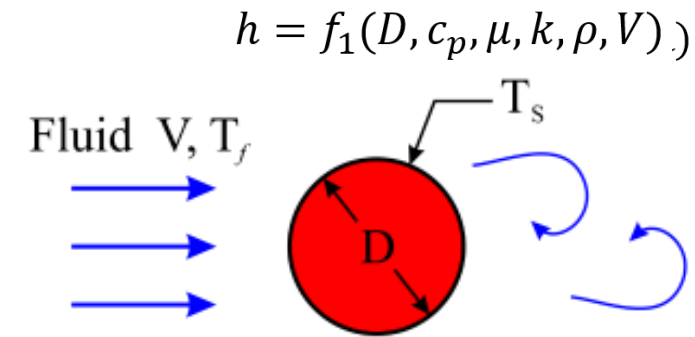
Step 3: Determine the number of Π parameters, $k = n - j$

We have $j = 4$ basic dimensions: M, L, T, Θ .

We have $n = 7$ variables.

\therefore From Buckingham Pi Theorem: $k = n - j = 7 - 4 = 3$

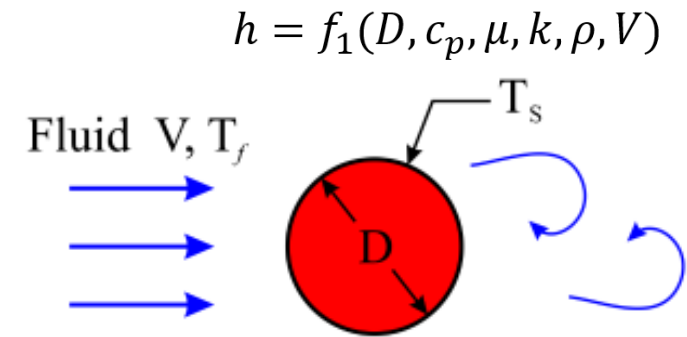
We will get three dimensionless Pi terms.



Example: Heat Transfer from a Cylinder

$$\{D\} = \{L\}, \quad \{V\} = \left\{\frac{L}{T}\right\}, \quad \{\mu\} = \left\{\frac{M}{LT}\right\}, \quad \{\rho\} = \left\{\frac{M}{L^3}\right\}$$

$$\{h\} = \left\{\frac{M}{T^3\Theta}\right\}, \quad \{k\} = \left\{\frac{ML}{T^3\Theta}\right\}, \quad \{c_p\} = \left\{\frac{L^2}{T^2\Theta}\right\}$$



Step 4: Select " $j = 4$ " repeating variables from the " $n = 7$ " variables

To get the classical Pi parameters, you are told to pick D, μ, k, ρ as the repeating variables.

Checks:

- ✓ All reference dimensions M, L, T, Θ must be included in the "repeaters".
- ✓ The repeating variables cannot themselves form a dimensionless product. A Rigorous check:

$$D^a \mu^b k^c \rho^d = \{L\}^a \left\{\frac{M}{LT}\right\}^b \left\{\frac{ML}{T^3\Theta}\right\}^c \left\{\frac{M}{L^3}\right\}^d = M^0 L^0 T^0 \Theta^0$$

There are no non-zero values of a, b, c and d that can form a dimensionless product.

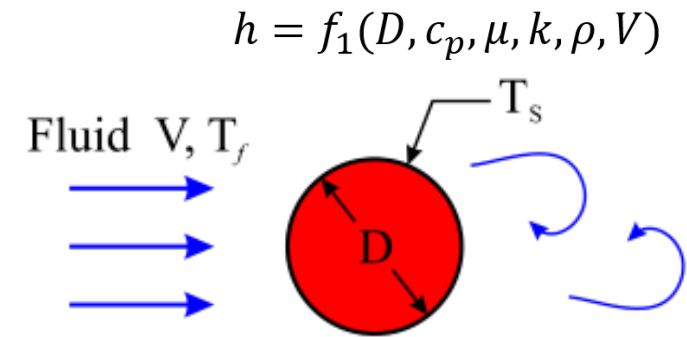
$$\begin{array}{l} \Theta \quad \therefore c=0 \\ T \quad -b-3c=0 \quad \therefore b=0 \\ M \quad b+c+d=0 \quad \therefore d=0 \\ L \quad a-b+c-3d=0 \quad \therefore a=0 \end{array}$$

Example: Heat Transfer from a Cylinder

Step 5: Form $k = n - j = 7 - 4 = 3$ Pi terms.

- We have three non-repeating variables: h, V, c_p

start with the dependent variable to form Π_1



$$\Pi_1 = hD^a \mu^b k^c \rho^d = \left\{ \frac{M}{T^3 \Theta} \right\} \underbrace{\{L\}^a \left\{ \frac{M}{LT} \right\}^b \left\{ \frac{ML}{T^3 \Theta} \right\}^c \left\{ \frac{M}{L^3} \right\}^d}_{4 \text{ repeating variables}} = M^0 L^0 T^0 \Theta^0$$

Exponents for Θ : $-1 - c = 0 \quad \therefore c = -1$

Exponents for T : $-3 - b - 3c = 0 \quad b = -3 - 3c = -3 - 3(-1) \quad \therefore b = 0$

Exponents for M : $1 + b + c + d = 0 \quad d = -1 - b - c = -1 - 0 - (-1) \quad \therefore d = 0$

Exponents for L : $a - b + c - 3d = 0 \quad a = b - c + 3d \quad a = 0 - (-1) + 3(0) \quad \therefore a = 1$

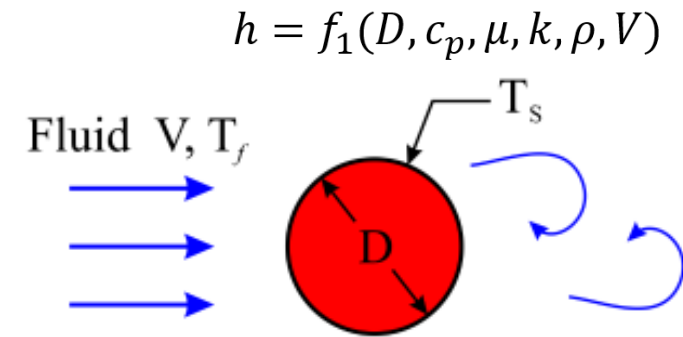
$$\Pi_1 = hD^1 \mu^0 k^{-1} \rho^0$$

$$\Pi_1 = \frac{hD}{k}$$

Example: Heat Transfer from a Cylinder

Step 5: Form $k = n - j = 7 - 4 = 3$ Pi terms.

- We have three non-repeating variables: h, V, c_p



$$\Pi_2 = VD^a \mu^b k^c \rho^d = \left\{ \frac{L}{T} \right\} \{L\}^a \left\{ \frac{M}{LT} \right\}^b \left\{ \frac{ML}{T^3 \Theta} \right\}^c \left\{ \frac{M}{L^3} \right\}^d = M^0 L^0 T^0 \Theta^0$$

Exponents for Θ :

$$\therefore c = 0$$

Exponents for T :

$$-1 - b - 3c = 0 \quad b = -1 - 3c \quad \therefore b = -1$$

Exponents for M :

$$b + c + d = 0 \quad d = -b - c \quad \therefore d = 1$$

Exponents for L :

$$1 + a - b + c - 3d = 0 \quad a = -1 + b - c + 3d \quad \therefore a = -1 - 1 + 3 = 1$$

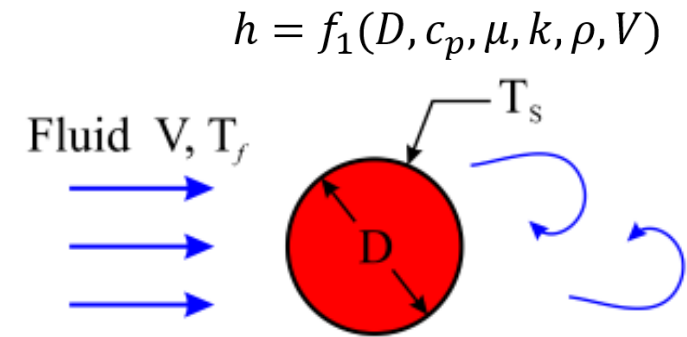
$$\Pi_2 = VD^1 \mu^{-1} k^0 \rho^1$$

$$\Pi_2 = \frac{VD\rho}{\mu} = Re \quad (\text{Recognize as Reynolds number})$$

Example: Heat Transfer from a Cylinder

Step 5: Form $k = n - j = 7 - 4 = 3$ Pi terms.

- We have three non-repeating variables: h, V, c_p



$$\Pi_3 = c_p D^a \mu^b k^c \rho^d = \left\{ \frac{L^2}{T^2 \Theta} \right\} \{L\}^a \left\{ \frac{M}{LT} \right\}^b \left\{ \frac{ML}{T^3 \Theta} \right\}^c \left\{ \frac{M}{L^3} \right\}^d = M^0 L^0 T^0 \Theta^0$$

Exponents for Θ : $-1 - c = 0 \therefore c = -1$

Exponents for T : $-2 - b - 3c = 0 \quad b = -2 - 3c = -2 - 3(-1) \therefore b = 1$

Exponents for M : $b + c + d = 0 \quad d = -b - c = -1 - (-1) \therefore d = 0$

Exponents for L : $2 + a - b + c - 3d = 0 \quad a = -2 + b - c + 3d \therefore a = -2 + 1 - (-1) = 0$

$$\Pi_3 = c_p D^0 \mu^1 k^{-1} \rho^0$$

$$\Pi_3 = \frac{c_p \mu}{k}$$

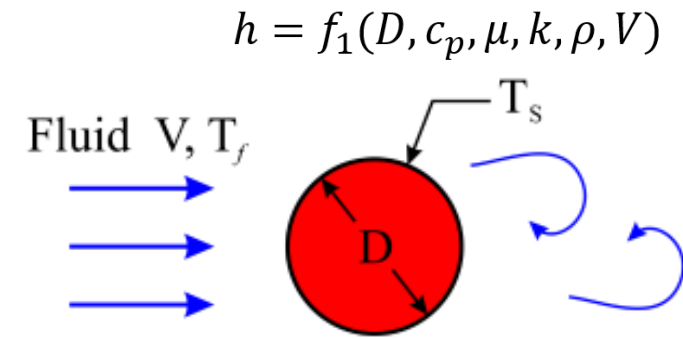
Example: Heat Transfer from a Cylinder

We have shown: $\Pi_1 = \frac{hD}{k}$ $\Pi_2 = \frac{VD\rho}{\mu}$ $\Pi_3 = \frac{c_p\mu}{k}$

Step 6: Express the final form: $\Pi_1 = f_2(\Pi_2, \Pi_3, \dots)$

- Put the dependent variable (h) in the numerator of Π_1 .
- So, we get the result:

$$\frac{hD}{k} = f_2\left(\frac{VD\rho}{\mu}, \frac{c_p\mu}{k}\right)$$



Ans.

- That is as far as you would go on an exam. But, I will make some extra comments here.

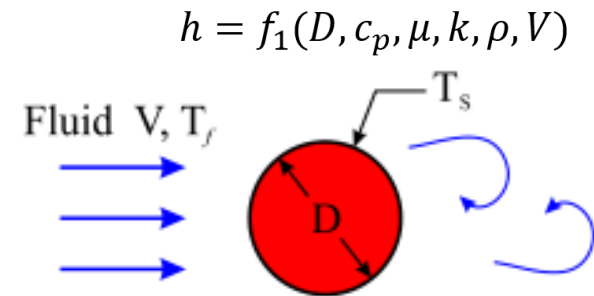
Example: Heat Transfer from a Cylinder

$$\frac{hD}{k} = f_2\left(\frac{VD\rho}{\mu}, \frac{c_p\mu}{k}\right) \text{ Ans.}$$

Π_1 is the Nusselt number: $Nu = \frac{hD}{k}$

Π_2 is the Reynolds number: $Re = \frac{VD\rho}{\mu}$

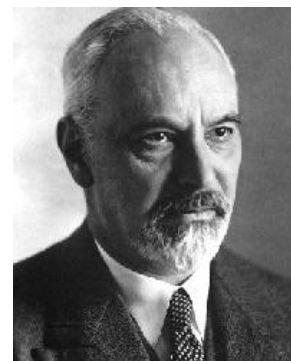
Π_3 is the Prandtl number: $Pr = \frac{c_p\mu}{k}$



Wilhelm Nusselt (1882-1952)



Osborne Reynolds (1842-1912)

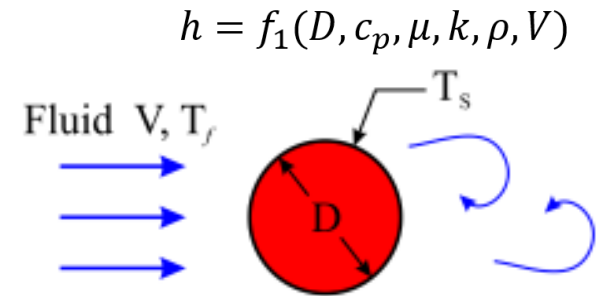


Ludwig Prandtl (1875-1953)

Example: Heat Transfer from a Cylinder

$$\frac{hD}{k} = f_2 \left(\frac{VD\rho}{\mu}, \frac{c_p\mu}{k} \right)$$

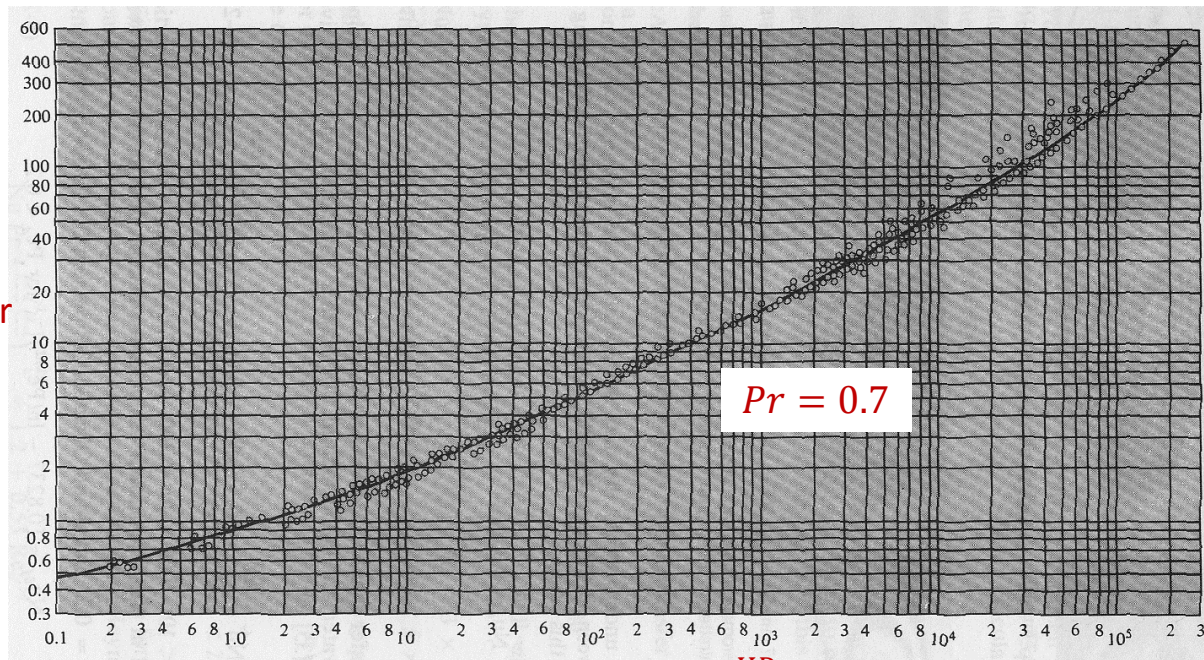
$$Nu = f_2(Re, Pr)$$



For air (fixed $Pr=0.7$) this complex problem can be reduced to a single curve!

Nusselt number

$$Nu = \frac{hD}{k}$$



$Pr = 0.7$

$$\text{Reynolds number } Re = \frac{VD\rho}{\mu}$$

<http://www.herbrich.com>

END NOTES

Presentation prepared and delivered by Dr. David Naylor.

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