

## ② Buckingham's $\pi$ -Theorem:-

Since Rayleigh's Method becomes laborious if variables are more than fundamental dimensions (MLT) so the difficulty is overcome by Buckingham's  $\pi$ -Theorem which states that:

"If there are  $n$  variables (independent and dependent) in a physical phenomenon and if these variables contain " $m$ " fundamental dimensions then the variables are arranged into  $(n-m)$  dimensionless terms called  $\pi$ -terms."

Let  $X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots, X_4, X_n$  are the variables involved in a physical problem - Let  $X_1$  be the dependent variable and  $X_2, X_3, X_4, \dots, X_n$  are the independent variables on which  $X_1$  depends. Mathematically it can be written

$$\text{as; } X_1 = f(X_2, X_3, X_4, X_n)$$

$$f(X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_n)$$

Above equation is dimensionally homogenous if it contain " $n$ " variables and if there are  $m$  fundamental dimensions then it can be written in terms of dimensionless groups called  $\pi$ -terms which are equal to  $(n-m)$

Hence;  $f(\pi_1, \pi_2, \pi_3, \dots, \pi_{n-m}) = 0$

Properties of  $\pi$  terms:-

- \* Each  $\pi$  term is dimension less and is independent of system of units.
- \* Division or multiplication by a constant does not change the character of the  $\pi$  terms.
- \* Each  $\pi$  term contains  $m+1$  variables, where  $m$  is the number of fundamental dimensions also called Repeating Variables.

Let in the above case  $X_2, X_3, X_4$  are repeating variables and if fundamental dimensions  $m=3$ , then each  $\pi$  term is written as

$$\pi_1 = X_2^{a_1} X_3^{b_1} X_4^{c_1} \cdot X_1$$

$$\pi_2 = X_2^{a_2} X_3^{b_2} X_4^{c_2} \cdot X_5$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\pi_{n-m} = X_2^{a(n-m)} X_3^{b(n-m)} X_4^{c(n-m)} \cdot X_n$$

Methods of Selecting Repeating Variables:-

The number of repeating variables are equal to number of fundamental dimensions of the problem. The choice of repeating variables is governed by following considerations;

- \* As far as possible, dependent variable should not be selected as repeating variables.

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\* The repeating variables should be chosen in such a way that one variable contains geometric property, other contains flow property and third contains fluid property.

\* The repeating variables together must contain all three fundamental dimensions  
(i.e.) MLT

Note:- In most of hydraulic engineering and Fluid Mechanics problems, the choice of repeating variables may be

(i)  $d, v, \rho$

(ii)  $l, v, \rho$

(iii)  $d, v, \mu$

Problem:- The resisting force  $R$  of a supersonic plane during flight can be considered as dependent upon the length of aircraft  $l$ , velocity  $v$ , air viscosity  $\mu$ , air density  $\rho$ , and bulk density of air  $k$ . Express the functional relationship b/w the variables and the resisting force.

Solution:-

$$R = f(l, v, \mu, \rho, k)$$

$$\Rightarrow f(R, l, v, \mu, \rho, k) = 0$$

$$\text{Total No of Variables} = 6 = n$$

No of fundamental dimension  $m=3$   
 No of dimension less  $\pi$  terms  $n-m=3$   
 Thus  $f(\pi_1, \pi_2, \pi_3) = 0$ .

No of Repeating variables =  $m=3$   
 Repeating variables =  $l, v, \rho$

Thus  $\pi$ -terms are written as

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_1 &= l^{a_1} v^{b_1} \rho^{c_1} R \\ \pi_2 &= l^{a_2} v^{b_2} \rho^{c_2} \mu \\ \pi_3 &= l^{a_3} v^{b_3} \rho^{c_3} K \end{aligned}$$

Now each  $\pi$  term is solved by the principle of dimensional homogeneity.

$\pi_1$  term  $M^0 L^0 T^0 = L^{a_1} (LT^{-1})^{b_1} (ML^{-3})^{c_1} MLT^{-2}$

equating the powers of MLT on both sides

Power of M	$0 = c_1 + 1 \Rightarrow \boxed{c_1 = -1} \rightarrow \textcircled{i}$
Power of L	$0 = a_1 + b_1 - 3c_1 + 1 \rightarrow \textcircled{ii}$
Power of T	$0 = -b_1 - 2 \Rightarrow \boxed{b_1 = -2} \rightarrow \textcircled{ii}$

put  $\textcircled{i}$  and  $\textcircled{ii}$  in  $\textcircled{iii}$

$$0 = a_1 - 2 - 3(-1) + 1$$

$$0 = a_1 + 1 + 1$$

$$\boxed{a_1 = -2}$$

$$\pi_1 = L^{-2} V^{-2} \rho^{-1} R$$

$$\boxed{\pi_1 = \frac{R}{\rho L V^2}}$$

$$\pi_2 \text{ term} = M^0 L^0 T^0 = L^{a_2} (LT^{-1})^{b_2} (ML^{-3})^{c_2} ML^{-1} T^{-1}$$

Equating the powers of MLT on both sides.

Power of M:  $0 = c_2 + 1 \Rightarrow \boxed{c_2 = -1}$

Power of L:  $0 = a_2 + b_2 - 3c_2 - 1 \rightarrow \textcircled{x}$

Power of T:  $0 = -b_2 - 1 \Rightarrow \boxed{b_2 = -1}$

put  $c_2$  and  $b_2$  in eq $\textcircled{x}$

$$0 = a_2 - 1 - 3(-1) - 1$$

$$0 = a_2 - 1 + 3 - 1$$

$$0 = a_2 + 1$$

$$\boxed{a_2 = -1}$$

$$\pi_2 = L^{a_2} V^{b_2} \rho^{c_2} \mu = L^{-1} V^{-1} \rho^{-1} \mu$$

$$\boxed{\pi_2 = \frac{\mu}{\rho L V}}$$

$$\pi_3 \text{ term} \Rightarrow M^0 L^0 T^0 = L^{a_3} (LT^{-1})^{b_3} (ML^{-3})^{c_3} ML^{-1} T^{-2}$$

Equating the powers of MLT on both sides

power of M:  $0 = c_3 + 1 \Rightarrow \boxed{c_3 = -1}$

power of L:  $0 = a_3 + b_3 - 3c_3 - 1$

power of T:  $0 = -b_3 - 2 \Rightarrow \boxed{b_3 = -2}$

$$0 = a_3 - 2 - 3(-1) - 1$$

$$0 = a_3 - 2 + 3 - 1 \Rightarrow \boxed{a_3 = 0}$$

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$$\pi_3 = l^{a_3} v^{b_3} \rho^{c_3} K$$

$$\pi_3 = l^0 v^{-2} \rho^{-1} K$$

$$\boxed{\pi_3 = \frac{K}{\rho v^2}}$$

Hence;

$$f(\pi_1, \pi_2, \pi_3) = f\left(\frac{R}{\rho l^2 v^2}, \frac{\mu}{l v \rho}, \frac{K}{v^2 \rho}\right) = 0$$

$$\text{or } \frac{R}{\rho l^2 v^2} = \phi \left[ \frac{\mu}{l v \rho}, \frac{K}{v^2 \rho} \right]$$

$$\boxed{R = \rho l^2 v^2 \phi \left[ \frac{\mu}{l v \rho}, \frac{K}{v^2 \rho} \right]}$$