
Preface	<i>page 5</i>
Principal symbols	8
1. Introductory survey	13
1.1. Units and dimensions	13
1.2. Dimensional analysis	16
1.3. Physically similar systems: scale models	17
1.4. General conclusions	19
2. Fundamental and derived units and dimensions in mechanics	20
2.1. Scope of chapter	20
2.2. Explicit or self-evident dimensions	20
2.3. Law-derived dimensions	23
2.4. Length, mass and time as fundamental units	25
2.5. Units derived from those of mass, length and time	26
2.6. Force-based units systems	27
2.7. Standards	28
2.8. Conversion factors for derived units	32
2.9. Mixed units	34
2.10. Equations in physics and engineering	35
2.11. Alternative formulations of law-derived units and dimensions	37
2.12. Number of fundamental quantities	39
3. Units and dimensions in other subjects than mechanics	40
3.1. Scope of chapter	40
3.2. Heat and thermodynamics	40
3.3. Magnetism and electricity	43
3.4. Electromagnetic system	43
3.5. Electrostatic system	46
3.6. Relationship between electromagnetic and electrostatic systems	47
3.7. Photometry: the candela	49
3.8. Atomic physics	50

Contents

4. Analytical techniques based on principle of dimensional homogeneity	53
4.1. Scope of chapter	53
4.2. Dimensional homogeneity	53
4.3. Significance of inhomogeneity	54
4.4. Other simple applications of homogeneity principle	55
4.5. Situations with insufficient indicial equations	58
4.6. Dimensionless products in relation to physically similar systems	61
4.7. Scale factors	63
4.8. Indicial method: a generalized example	66
4.9. A simple approach to Buckingham's 'pi' theorem	68
5. Dimensionless products: formation, function and physical significance	70
5.1. Scope of chapter	70
5.2. Dimensionless products: indicial method	70
5.3. Manipulation of dimensionless quantities	71
5.4. Direct derivation of dimensionless products from explicit physical equations	72
5.5. Physical derivation and interpretation of dimensionless ratios	76
5.6. Various types of similarity	77
5.7. General basis of scale-model testing	80
5.8. Number of variables needed in experimental programme or theoretical analysis	82
6. Dimensionless quantities and scale factors in fluid dynamics	83
6.1. Scope of chapter	83
6.2. Range of flow regimes in present-day fluid dynamics	83
6.3. Changes in flow regime revealed by dimensionless plotting	86
6.4. Principal dimensionless quantities of fluid dynamics	87
6.5. Oscillatory and other time-variant flows	90
6.6. Flows with heat transfer, chemical reactions, elastic body deformations or electromagnetic effects	91
6.7. Liquids and free surfaces	91
6.8. Derivation of incompressible-flow parameters from basic flow equations	93
6.9. Deduction of similarity conditions from basic equations: incompressible flow	94
6.10. Further remarks on the 'pi' theorem	95
6.11. Parameters for steady viscous, compressible flow: indicial method	96

Contents

6.12. Insufficiency of Reynolds number and Mach number conditions alone	97
6.13. Methods of scale-model testing in fluid dynamics	97
6.14. Hydraulic engineering	100
7. Heat transfer; combustion; elasticity; electromagnetic phenomena	105
7.1. Scope of chapter	105
7.2. Heat transfer	105
7.3. Combustion	109
7.4. Elasticity	112
7.5. Electromagnetic phenomena	116
8. Retrospect	122
8.1. Object of chapter	122
8.2. Scope of dimensional analysis	122
8.3. Applications	123
8.4. Limitations	124
8.5. Partial similarity	126
Appendix 1:	
Reference table of dimensions and units in mechanics, based on the law of force	129
Appendix 2:	
Reference table of dimensions in heat and thermodynamics	131
Appendix 3:	
Reference table of units and dimensions in magnetism and electricity	132
Appendix 4:	
Reference table of dimensions in atomic physics	133
Appendix 5:	
Named dimensionless products	134
References	139
Bibliography	140
Index	143