

Use 4:

To find the dimension of constants in a given relation.

Using dimensional analysis, we can find the unknown dimension from a given (or established) relation.

Question:

1. Find the dimensional formula of gravitational constant.
2. Find the dimension of specific heat capacity.
3. In the relation $F = 6\pi\eta r v$, find the dimension of η .

Arbitrary basic quantities:

According to SI system, the basic fundamental quantities chosen for dimensional analysis are *mass, length, and time*. However, we can choose other quantities as basic quantity in arbitrary manner so the dimensional formula of a quantity can be expressed in a new system. Those arbitrarily chosen basic quantities are called as arbitrary basic quantities.

Question: Considering force (F), mass (M), and velocity (V) as basic quantities, find the dimension of length.

Solution:

Let us consider the dimensional EQUATION of length be:

$$[L] = [F^a M^b V^c] \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

Equation (1) can be written in terms of original dimensional form (fundamental basic quantities) as:

$$[L] = [[M^1 L^1 T^{-2}]^a \quad M^b \quad [M^0 L^1 T^{-1}]^c]$$

Or $[L] = [M^a L^a T^{-2a}] \quad M^b \quad [M^0 L^c T^{-c}]$

Or $[L^1] = [M^{a+b} \quad L^{a+c} \quad T^{-2a-c}]$

On comparing the dimensions on both sides, we get

On comparing M: $a + b = 0 \dots \dots \dots (i)$

On comparing L: $a + c = 1 \dots \dots \dots (ii)$

On comparing T: $-2a - c = 0 \dots \dots (iii)$

Solving equations (i), (ii), and (iii), we get

$$a = -1, \quad b = 1, \quad c = 2$$

Finally, using these values in equation (1), we get

$$[L] = [F^{-1} M^1 V^2]$$

Hence, the dimension of length is: -1 in force, 1 in mass and 2 in velocity.

Questions:

- a. Considering force, mass and time as fundamental quantities, find the dimensional formula of velocity.
- b. Obtain a dimensional formula of displacement considering mass M , energy E and acceleration A as basic quantity.