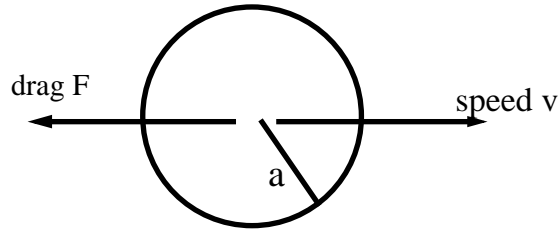


Worksheet #1: Dimensional Analysis

Say we suspect that drag force F depends only on a sphere's radius a , its speed v , and the surrounding fluid density ρ .



- What are the dimensions of a , v , ρ and F ?
- Create the dimensions matrix for this problem.
- Find a dimensionless combination of the quantities, π .
- Find $\boldsymbol{\alpha} = [\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_4]$ so that $\pi = a^{\alpha_1} v^{\alpha_2} \rho^{\alpha_3} F^{\alpha_4}$. Is this choice unique? Find the subspace of all such vectors and find a basis.

- e) What is the number of independent dimensionless parameters?
- f) What does the Pi Theorem tell us for this problem? How must F depend on a, v, ρ ?
- g) If F also depended on viscosity η (units $ML^{-1}T^{-1}$) Repeat part e).