

Problem 109C

A body with a typical length, L , is dragged through a viscous fluid (viscosity, μ , and density, ρ) at a velocity, U . By utilizing only the known dimensions of these quantities (in terms of kg , m and s if you wish) construct two groupings of these quantities which have the units of force. One should contain μ but not ρ ; the second should include ρ but not μ .

It could then be argued that the force required to drag the body through the fluid should be related to these two “typical forces”. The one which includes μ is a viscous force (F_v) and the other is an inertial force (F_i). Identify the parameter which we can use to determine the conditions under which either F_v or F_i are dominant.