

|             |    |    |
|-------------|----|----|
| $V$ , mi/h: | 20 | 40 |
| Drag, lbf:  | 31 | 11 |

The same car travels in Colorado at 65 mi/h at an altitude of 3500 m. Using dimensional analysis, estimate (a) its drag force and (b) the horsepower required to overcome air drag.

**Solution:** For sea-level air in BG units, take  $\rho \approx 0.00238$  slug/ft<sup>3</sup> and  $\mu \approx 3.72E-7$  slug/ft·s. Convert the raw drag and velocity data into dimensionless form:

|                            |        |        |        |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| $V$ (mi/hr):               | 20     | 40     | 60     |
| $C_D = F/(\rho V^2 L^2)$ : | 0.237  | 0.220  | 0.211  |
| $Re_L = \rho VL/\mu$ :     | 1.50E6 | 3.00E6 | 4.50E6 |

Drag coefficient plots versus Reynolds number in a very smooth fashion and is well fit (to  $\pm 1\%$ ) by the Power-law formula  $C_D \approx 1.07 Re_L^{-0.106}$ .

(a) The new velocity is  $V = 65$  mi/hr = 95.3 ft/s, and for air at 3500-m Standard Altitude (Table A-6) take  $\rho = 0.001675$  slug/ft<sup>3</sup> and  $\mu = 3.50E-7$  slug/ft·s. Then compute the new Reynolds number and use our Power-law above to estimate drag coefficient:

$$Re_{Colorado} = \frac{\rho VL}{\mu} = \frac{(0.001675)(95.3)(8.0)}{3.50E-7} = 3.65E6, \quad \text{hence}$$

$$C_D \approx \frac{1.07}{(3.65E6)^{0.106}} = 0.2157, \quad \therefore F = 0.2157(0.001675)(95.3)^2(8.0)^2 = \mathbf{210 \text{ lbf}} \quad \text{Ans. (a)}$$

(b) The horsepower required to overcome drag is

$$\text{Power} = FV = (210)(95.3) = 20030 \text{ ft}\cdot\text{lbf/s} \div 550 = \mathbf{36.4 \text{ hp}} \quad \text{Ans. (b)}$$

**5.6** SAE 10 oil at 20°C flows past an 8-cm-diameter sphere. At flow velocities of 1, 2, and 3 m/s, the measured sphere drag forces are 1.5, 5.3, and 11.2 N, respectively. Estimate the drag force if the same sphere is tested at a velocity of 15 m/s in glycerin at 20°C.

**Solution:** For SAE 10 oil at 20°C, take  $\rho \approx 870$  kg/m<sup>3</sup> and  $\mu \approx 0.104$  kg/m·s. Convert the raw drag and velocity data into dimensionless form:

|                            |       |       |       |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| $V$ (m/s):                 | 1     | 2     | 3     |
| $F$ (newtons):             | 1.5   | 5.3   | 11.2  |
| $C_D = F/(\rho V^2 D^2)$ : | 0.269 | 0.238 | 0.224 |
| $Re_L = \rho VD/\mu$ :     | 669   | 1338  | 2008  |