

CSE 291 (SP23)
Topics in CSE:
Dimensional Analysis

Albert Chern

What is Dimensional Analysis?

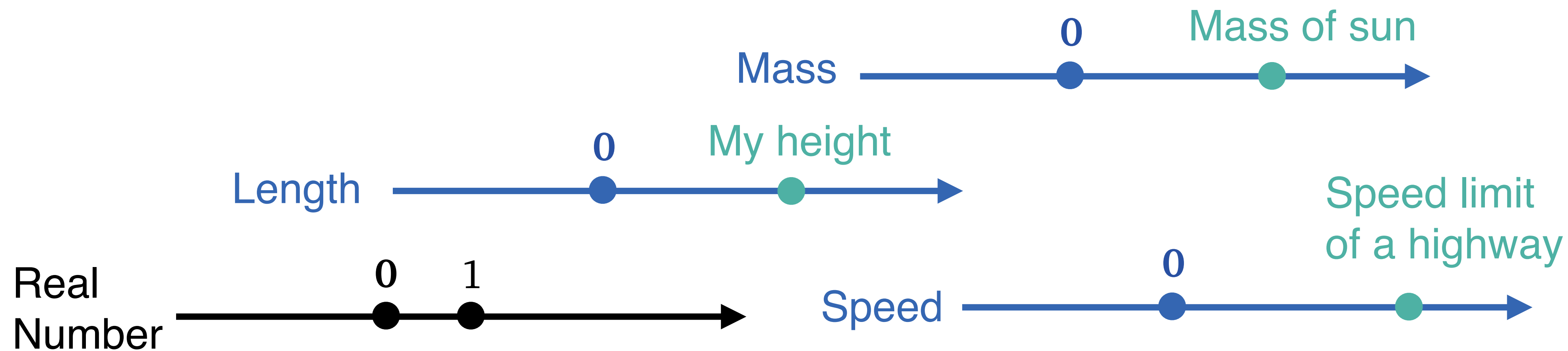
- It is a powerful tool for modeling and analysis.
- It allows us to
 - ▶ find the dimensionless quantities
 - ▶ reduce the number of parameters
 - ▶ perform equivalent system in a scaled model

Dimensions and Units

- Dimensions and units
- Dimension homogeneity
- Dimensionless equations
- Buckingham Pi Theorem

Dimension

- A (physical) **dimension** is
 - a collection of measurements of one type of physical quantity.
- Example of dimension
 - Length, mass, speed, acceleration, force, energy,...
- Mathematically, a dimension is a one-dimensional vector space.
 - Every element of each 1D vector space is a physical measurement



Unit

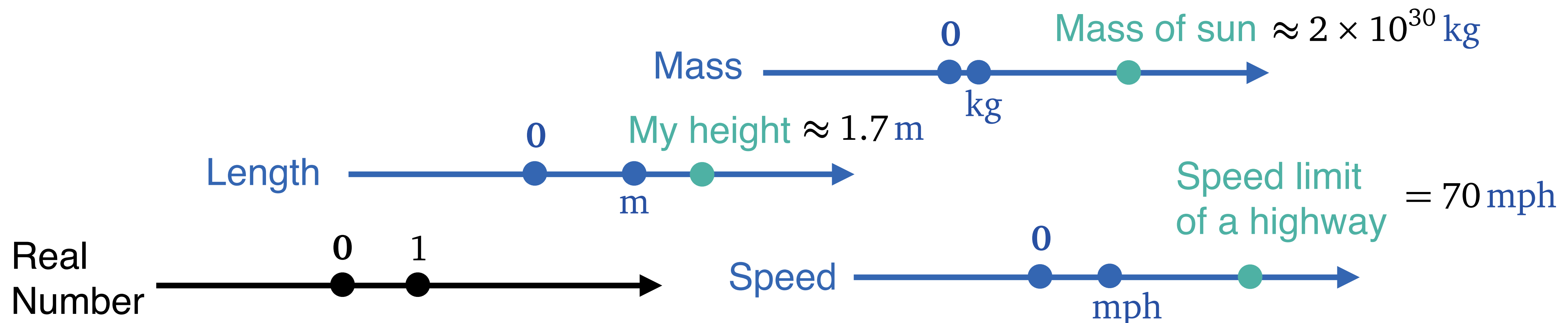
- A (physical) **unit** for a dimension is
a basis for the 1D vector space representing the dimension

- A unit is a way to assign number for each measurement

- Given any two element of the same dimension

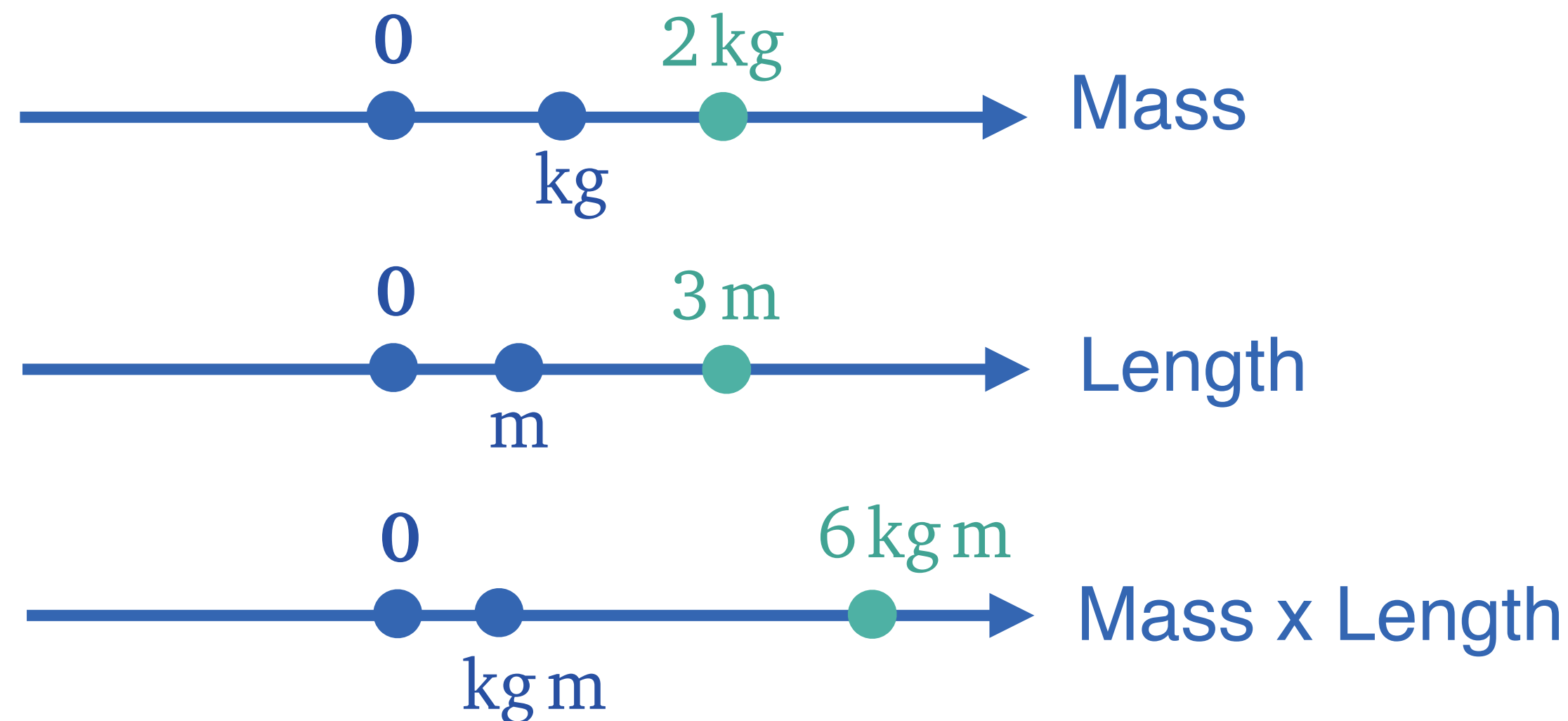
$$x, y \in D \quad y \neq 0$$

there exists a unique scalar $s \in \mathbb{R}$ so that $x = s y$



Multiplication between dimensions

- We can multiply/divide two measurements of different dimensions
- We don't add/subtract measurements of different dimensions



$$(2 \text{ kg})(3 \text{ m}) = 6 \text{ kg m}$$

- The collection of all possible dimensions involved in a context form a (multiplicative) abelian group

$$\{\mathbb{R}, \text{Mass}, \text{Length}, \text{Mass Length}, \text{Mass}^2 \text{ Length}, \text{Mass Length}^{-1}, \dots\}$$

Abelian groups

- (Blackboard) Group, abelian group, generator of abelian group

Notation

- A dimension is denoted by sans serif font D .
- Each element $x \in D$ is a measurement.
- The dimensionless dimension is \mathbb{R} which has a standard unit 1.
- The bracket of a measurement is the dimension it is in:

$$D = [x] \qquad [kg] = [5 \text{ kg}] = [1b] = M$$

- Products of measurements produce products in dimensions

$$[x][y] = [xy]$$

- We can consider a collection of all dimensions that can be involved

$$\mathcal{D} = \{\mathbb{R}, D_1, D_2, \dots\} \quad \text{which should be closed under multiplication, forming an abelian group}$$

Physical dimension

- In physics, the space of dimensions is a finitely generated free Abelian group by 7 standard base dimensions

| Primary dimension | Symbol | SI Unit |
|-------------------|----------|---------------|
| Mass | M | kg (kilogram) |
| Length | L | m (meter) |
| Time | T | s (second) |
| Temperature | Θ | K (Kelvin) |
| Electric current | I | A (Ampere) |
| Amount of light | C | cd (candela) |
| Amount of matter | N | mol (mole) |

- Every physical dimension takes the form of

$$M^{n_1} L^{n_2} T^{n_3} \Theta^{n_4} I^{n_5} C^{n_6} N^{n_7}$$

- Represent it as a 7D vector $(n_1, \dots, n_7)^T \in \mathbb{R}^7$

- ▶ Multiplications between dimensions become additions between 7D vectors

Physical dimension

- What is the 7D vector representation of the “force” dimension?
- What is the 7D vector representation of the dimension of a dimensionless number?

Dimension Homogeneity

- Dimensions and units
- Dimension homogeneity
- Dimensionless equations
- Buckingham Pi Theorem

Dimension homogeneity

In an equation or inequality, every additive term must have the same dimension.

Dimension homogeneity: Example 1

- Example: Bernoulli equation

In a steady incompressible fluid flow,

the measurements at each point

ρ : density

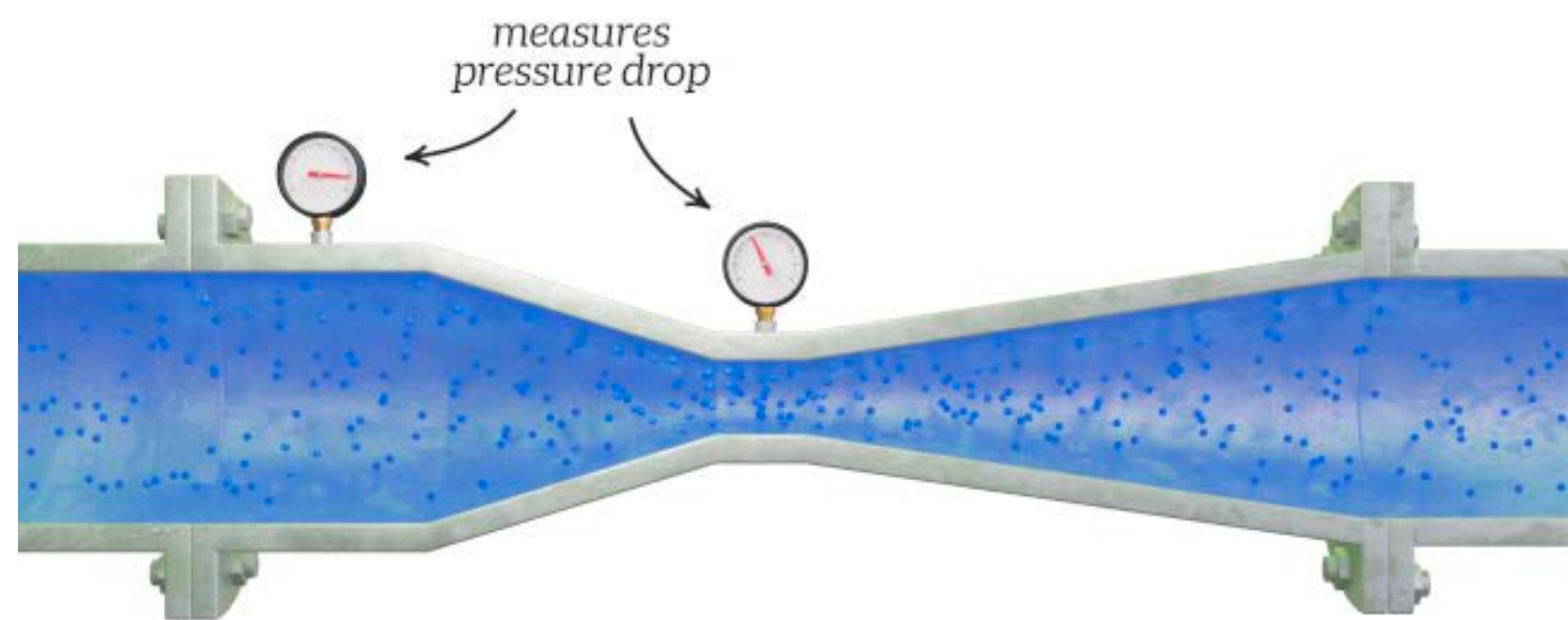
g : gravity

v : velocity

z : height

p : pressure

satisfy



$$\frac{1}{2}\rho v^2 + p + \rho g z = \text{Constant}$$

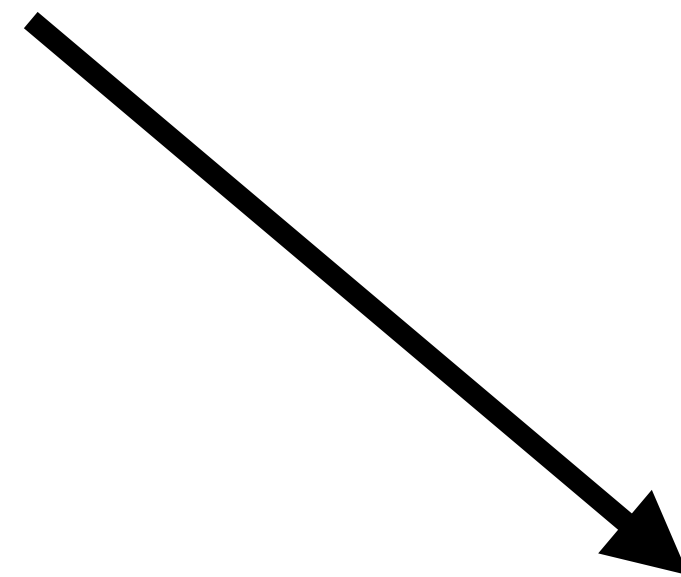
Dimension homogeneity: Example 2

- Example: Sobolev embedding

Sobolev space of functions is defined by

$$W^{k,p}(\mathbb{R}^n) = \left\{ f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |D^k f|^p dx_1 \dots dx_n < \infty \right\}$$

- Can you get the relationship between p, q given k, l, n ?



Sobolev inequality 3 languages

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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

In [mathematics](#), there is in [mathematical analysis](#) a class of **Sobolev inequalities**, relating norms including those of [Sobolev spaces](#). These are used to prove the **Sobolev embedding theorem**, giving inclusions between certain [Sobolev spaces](#), and the [Rellich–Kondrachov theorem](#) showing that under slightly stronger conditions some Sobolev spaces are [compactly embedded](#) in others. They are named after [Sergei Lvovich Sobolev](#).

Sobolev embedding theorem [\[edit\]](#)

Let $W^{k,p}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ denote the Sobolev space consisting of all real-valued functions on \mathbb{R}^n whose first k [weak derivatives](#) are functions in L^p . Here k is a non-negative integer and $1 \leq p < \infty$. The first part of the Sobolev embedding theorem states that if $k > \ell$, $p < n$ and $1 \leq p < q < \infty$ are two real numbers such that

$$\frac{1}{p} - \frac{k}{n} = \frac{1}{q} - \frac{\ell}{n},$$

then

$$W^{k,p}(\mathbb{R}^n) \subseteq W^{\ell,q}(\mathbb{R}^n)$$

Graphical representation of the

Dimensionless Equations

- Dimensions and units
- Dimension homogeneity
- Dimensionless equations
- Buckingham Pi Theorem

Dimensionless equations

- Rescale the physical variables so that they are all dimensionless. Rescale the equation so that it becomes a ***relationship between dimensionless variables***.
- The process will leave us ***as few parameters as possible***.
- We obtain the ***same result*** when the dimensionless parameters matches, even if the original problems are ***at vastly different scale***.

Parabolic free fall

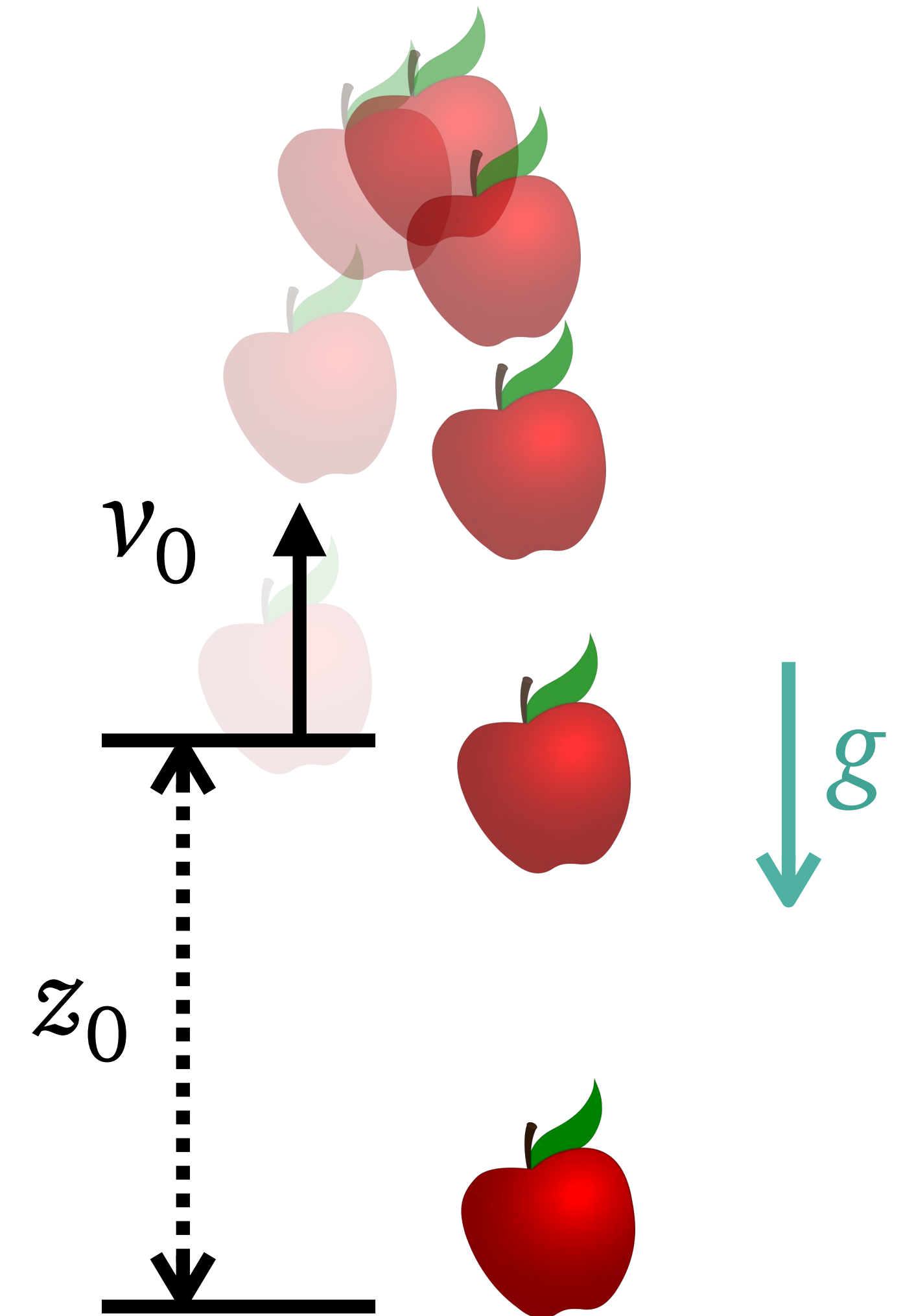
- Height as a function of time, initial velocity, initial height, and gravity:

$$z(t) = z_0 + v_0 t - \frac{g}{2} t^2$$

- It's the solution to

$$z''(t) = -g, \quad z(0) = z_0, \quad z'(0) = v_0$$

- There are 3 parameters, but we can reduce them into 1 parameter!



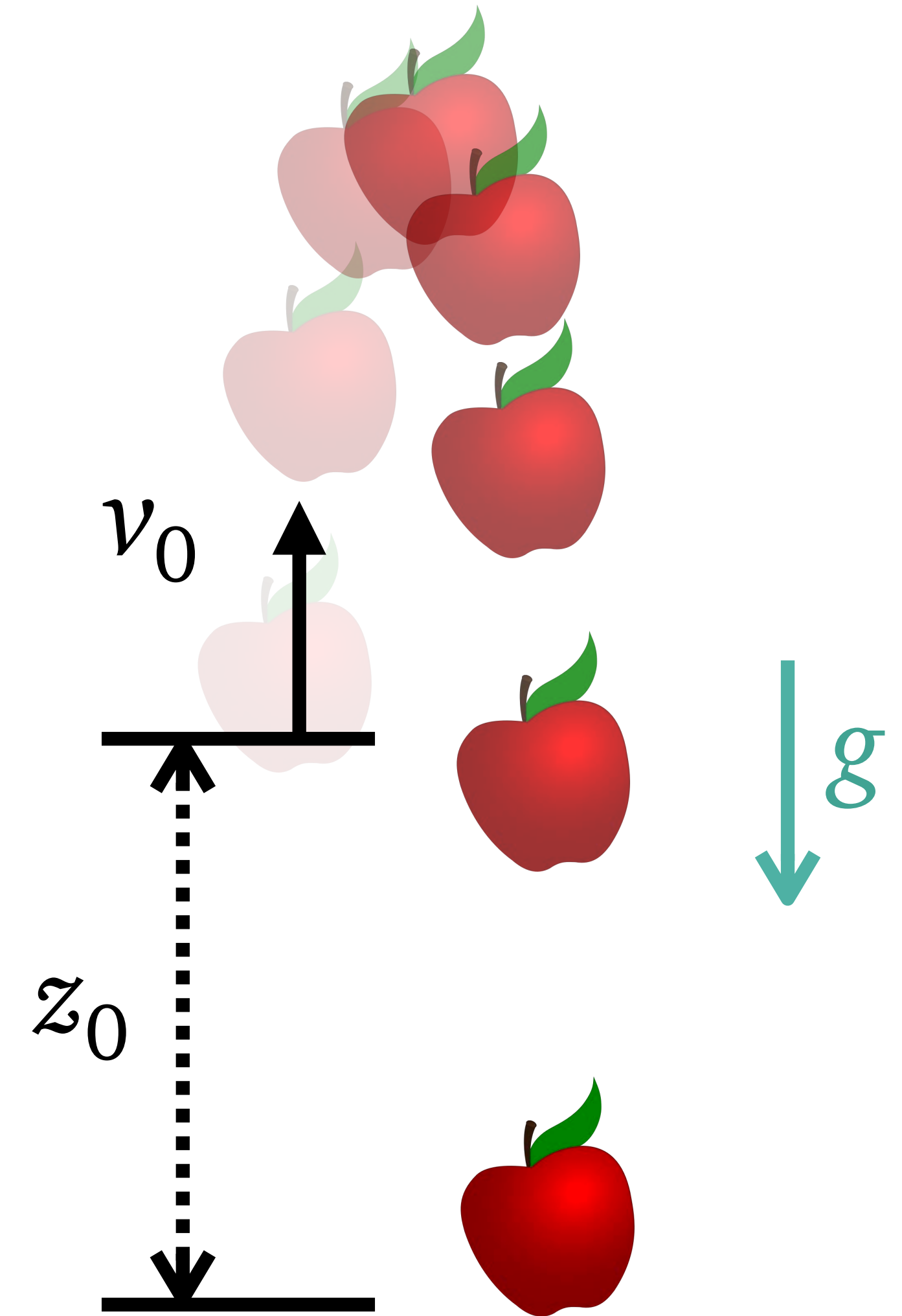
Parabolic free fall

$$z^* = \frac{z}{z_0} \quad t^* = \frac{tv_0}{z_0}$$

- Froude number $Fr = \frac{v_0}{\sqrt{gz_0}}$

$$z^* = 1 + t^* - \frac{1}{2Fr^2} t^{*2}$$

$$z_{\max}^* = 1 + \frac{Fr^2}{2}$$



Navier–Stokes equation

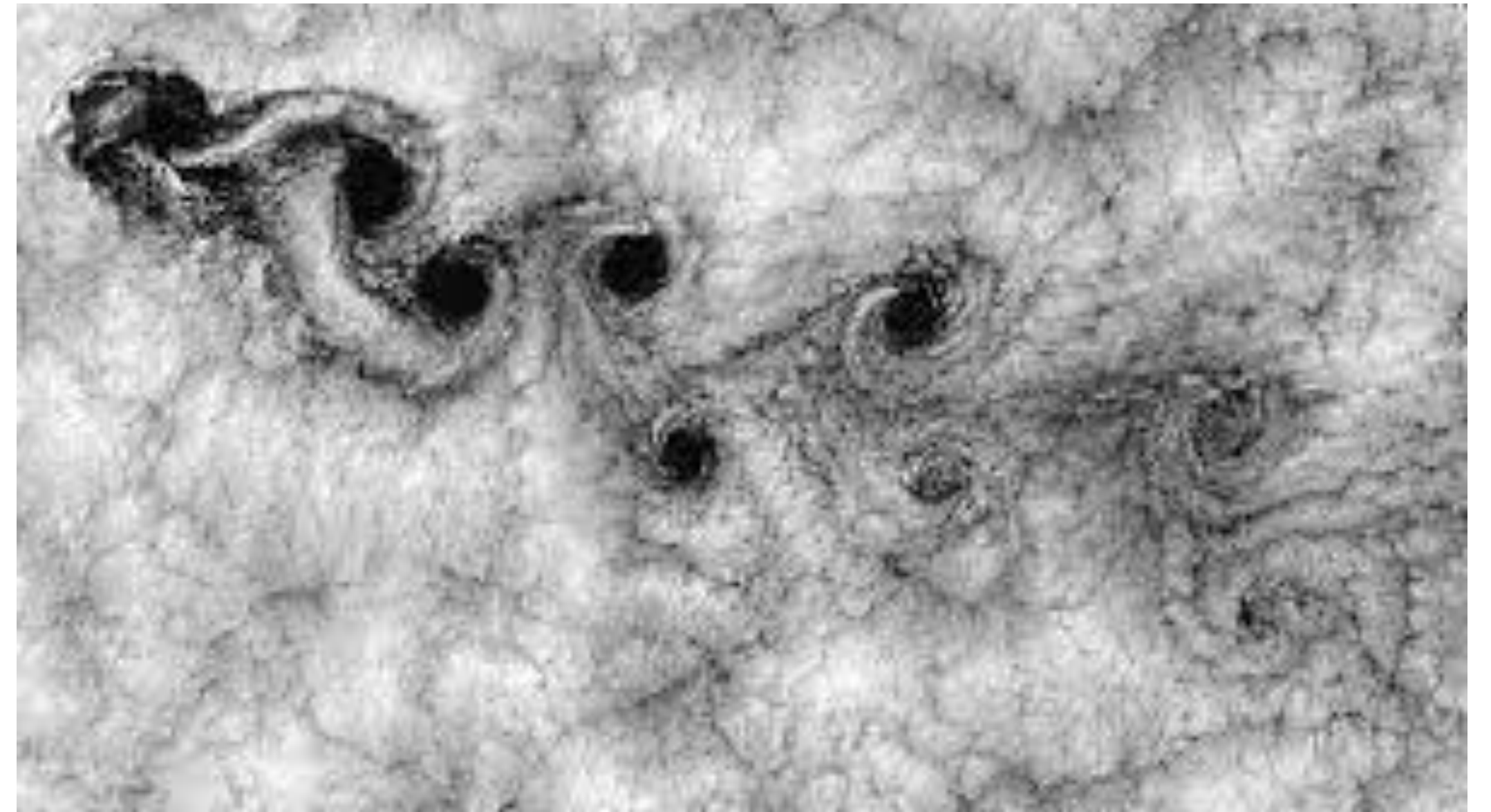
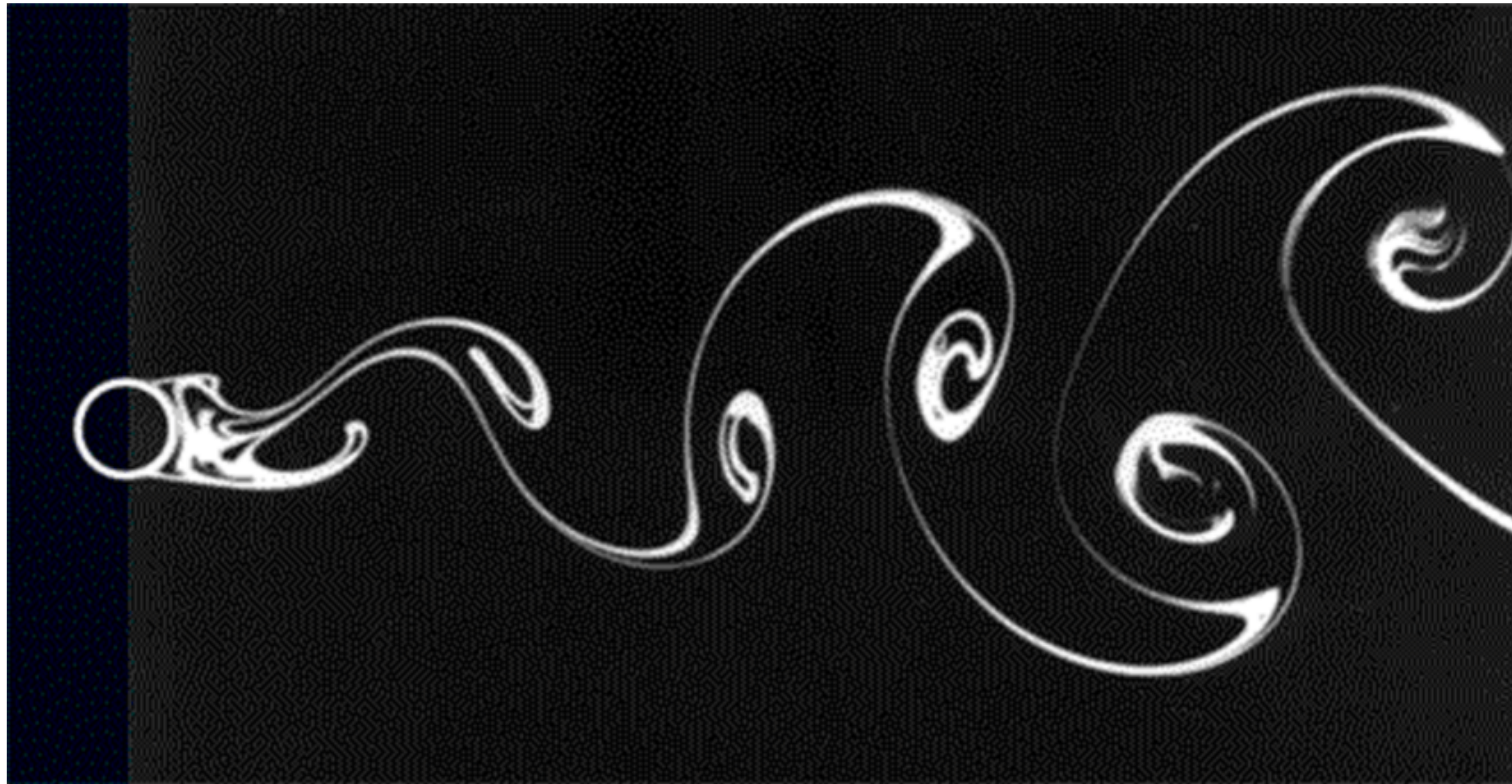
- Navier–Stokes equation

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = -\frac{\nabla p}{\rho} + \frac{\mu}{\rho} \nabla \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}$$

- ▶ Time and time derivative: $[t] = T$ $[\frac{\partial}{\partial t}] = T^{-1}$
- ▶ Space and spatial derivatives: $[\mathbf{x}] = L$ $[\nabla] = L^{-1}$ $[\nabla \cdot \nabla] = L^{-2}$
- ▶ Velocity: $[\mathbf{u}] = LT^{-1}$
- ▶ Density and pressure: $[\rho] = ML^{-3}$ $[p] = ML^{-1}T^{-2}$
- ▶ Viscosity (stress per speed gradient) $[\mu] = ML^{-1}T^{-1}$
- (Assume density and viscosity are constant)

Navier–Stokes equation

- Characteristic length L and characteristic speed U
- They can be the diameter of obstacle and the background speed



Von Karman vortex street

Navier–Stokes equation

$$\mathbf{x}^* := \mathbf{x}/L$$

$$t^* := (U/L)t$$

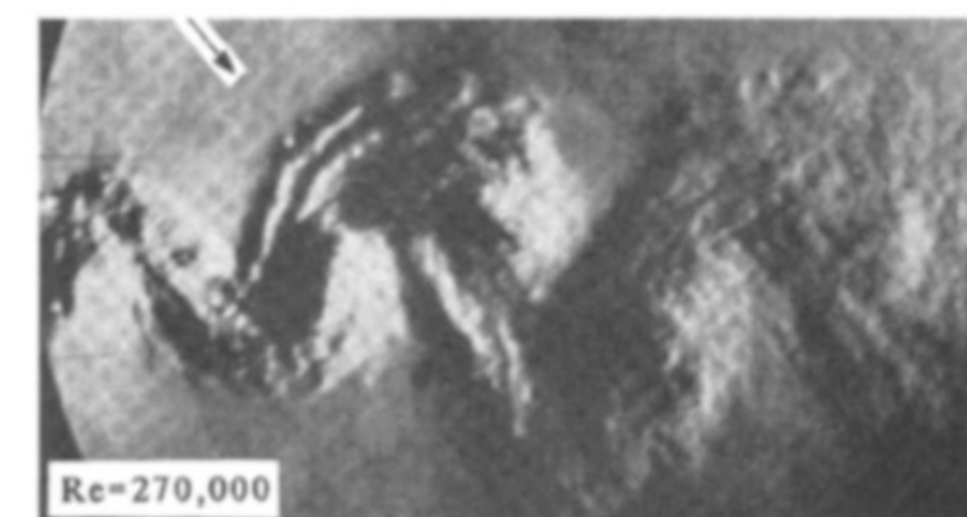
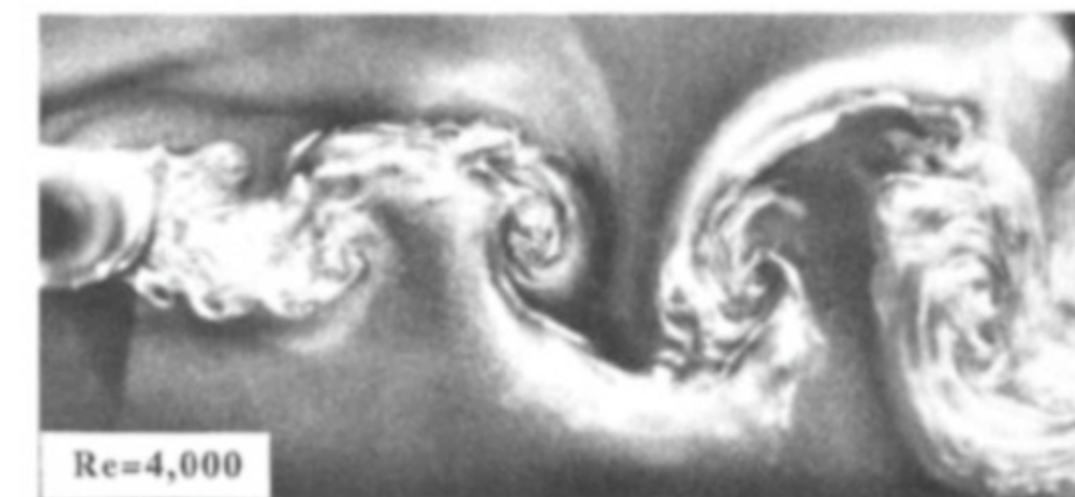
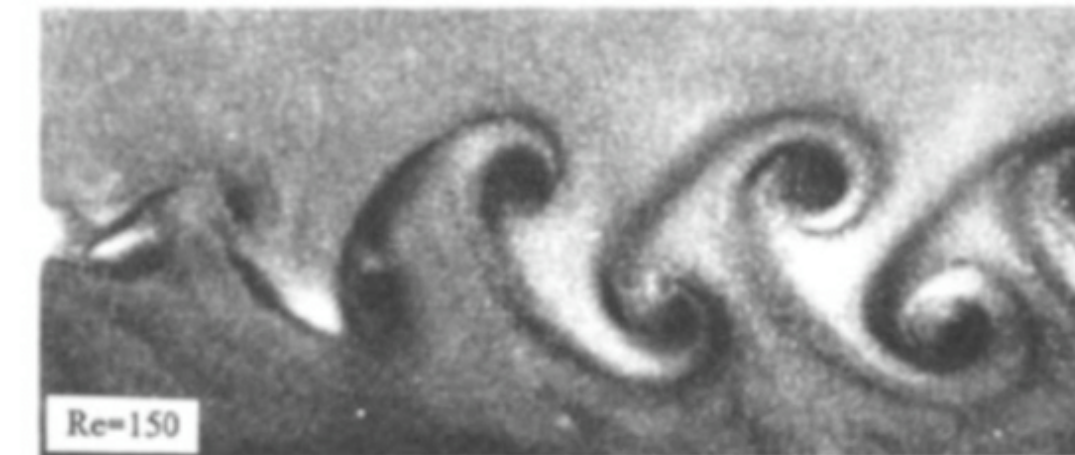
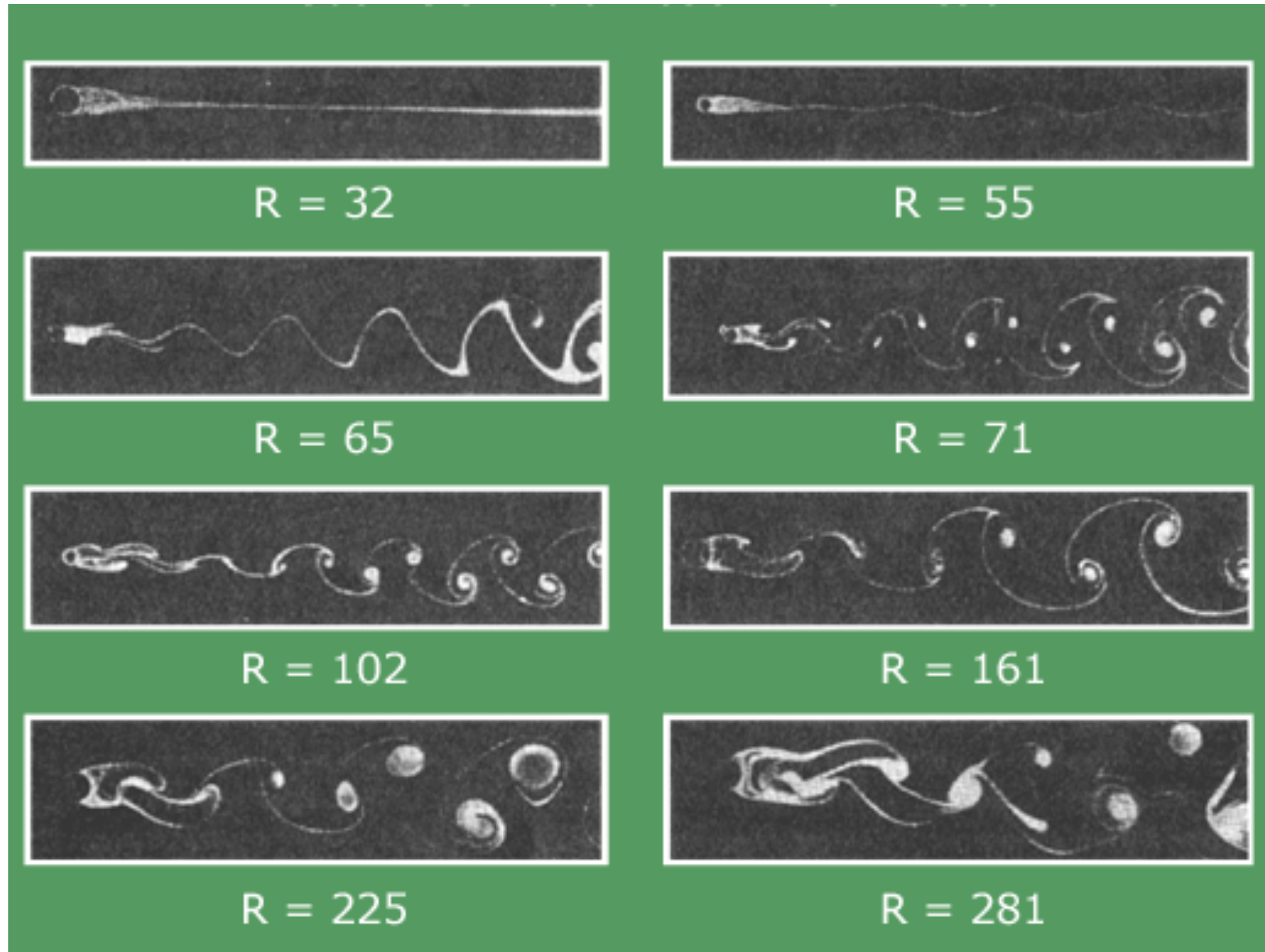
$$\mathbf{u}^* := \mathbf{u}/U$$

$$p^* := \frac{p}{\rho U^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}^*}{\partial t^*} + \mathbf{u}^* \cdot \nabla^* \mathbf{u}^* = -\nabla^* p^* + \frac{1}{\text{Re}} \nabla^* \cdot \nabla^* \mathbf{u}^*$$

- Reynolds number: $\text{Re} = \frac{\rho U L}{\mu}$

Navier–Stokes equation



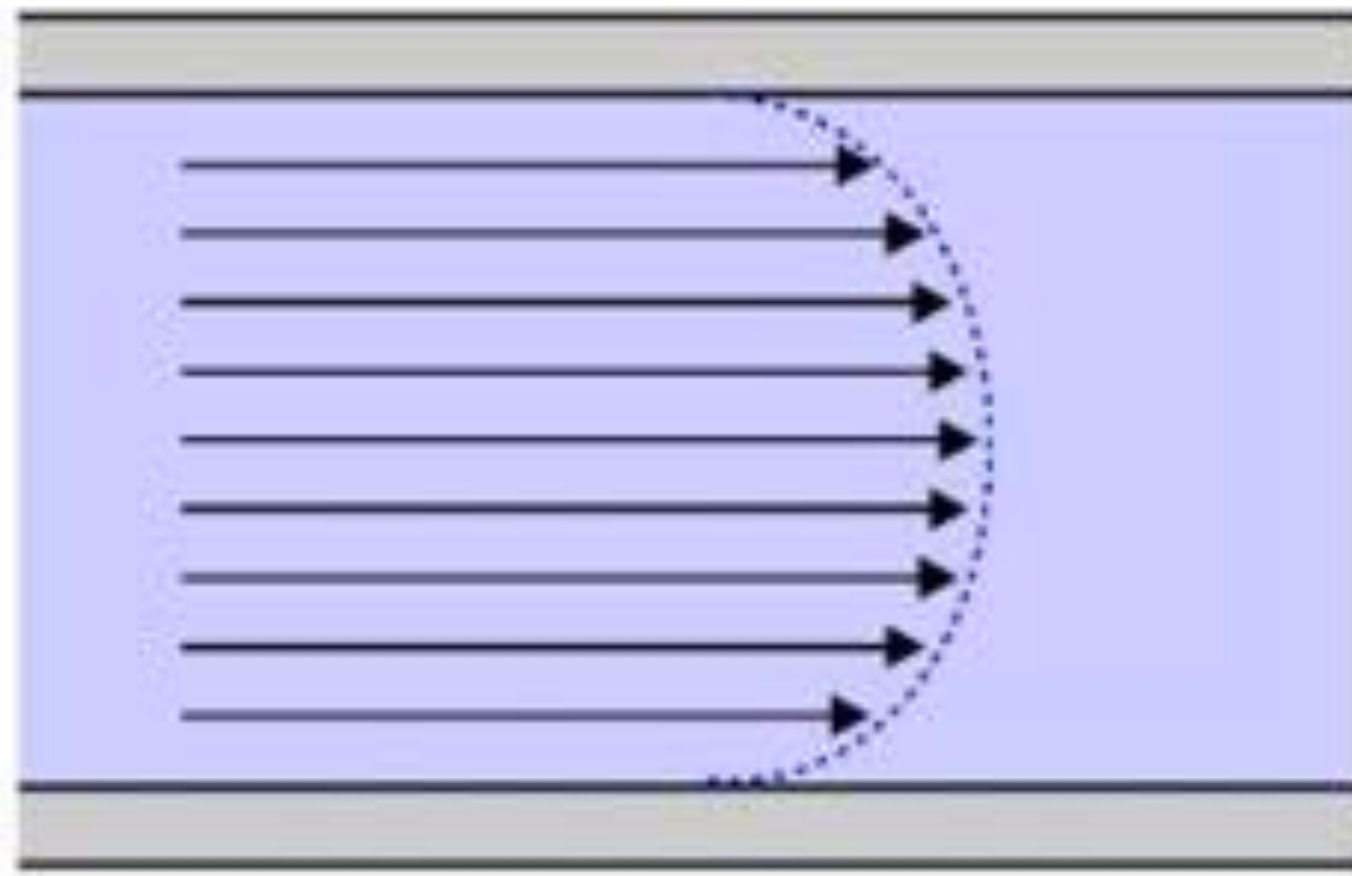
Navier–Stokes equation



$$\text{Re} = \frac{\rho U L}{\mu}$$

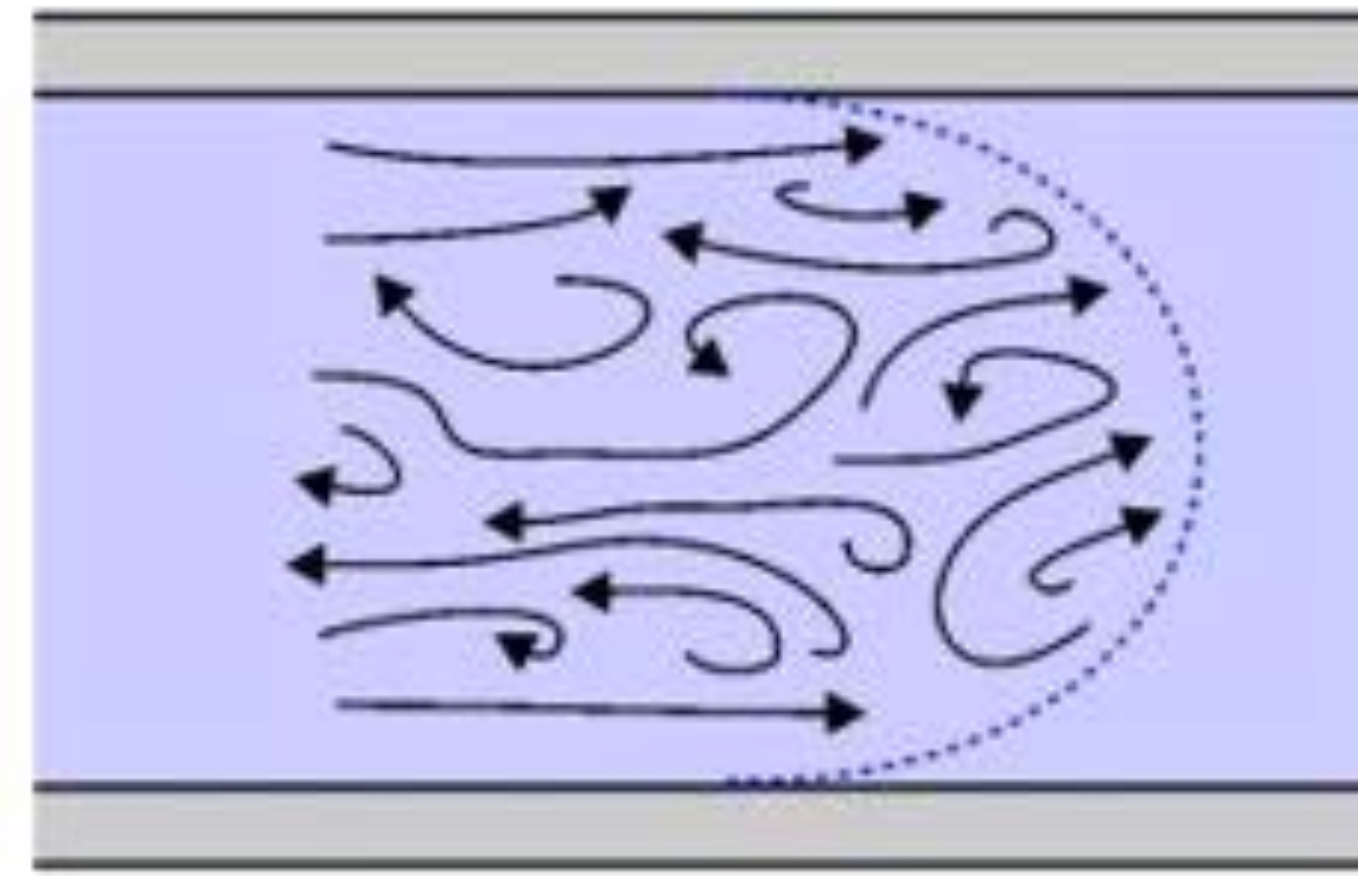
Navier–Stokes equation

Laminar flow
(low Reynolds)



Efficient fluid transport

Turbulent flow
(high Reynolds)

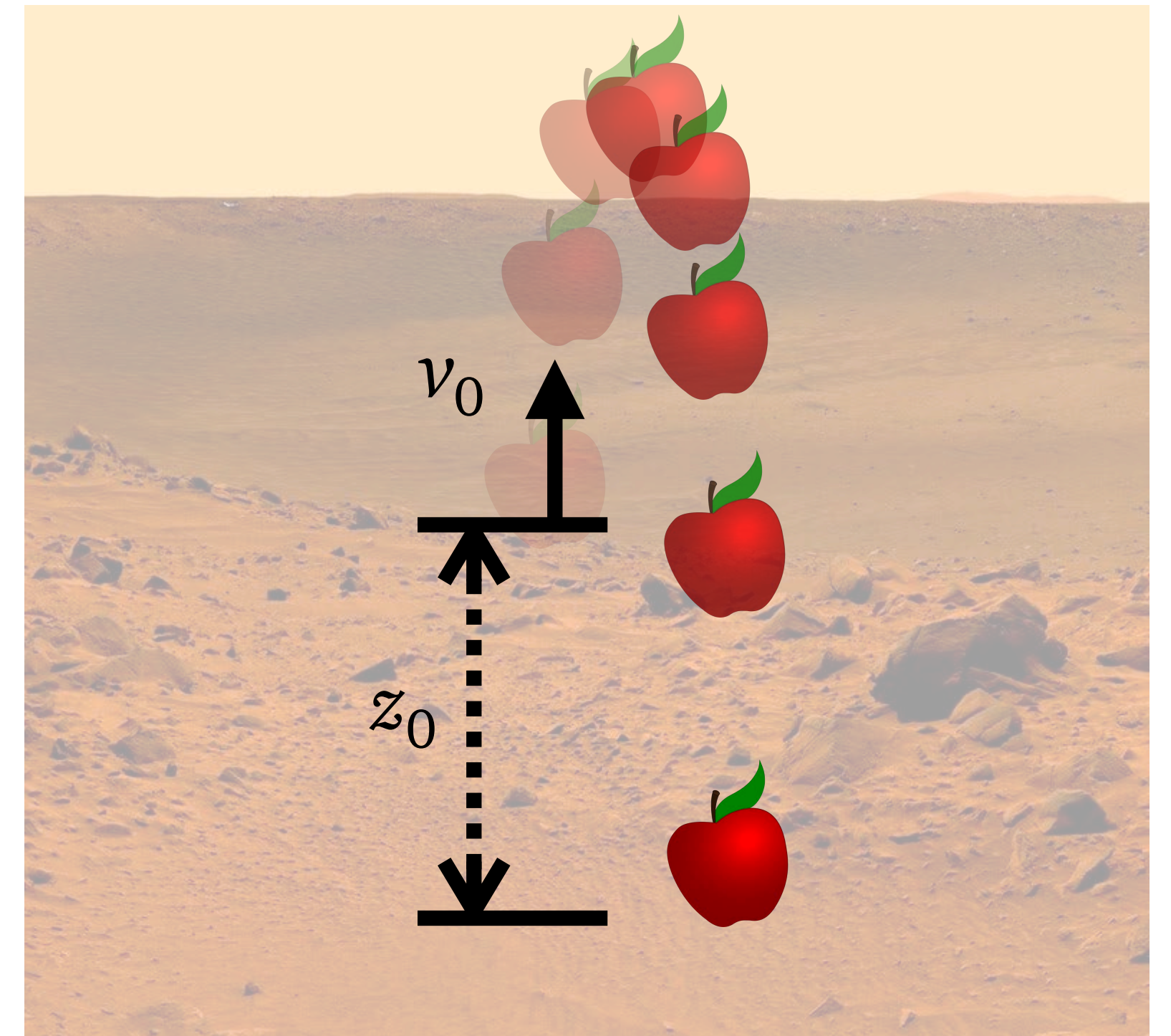


Inefficient transport
(causing Asthma)

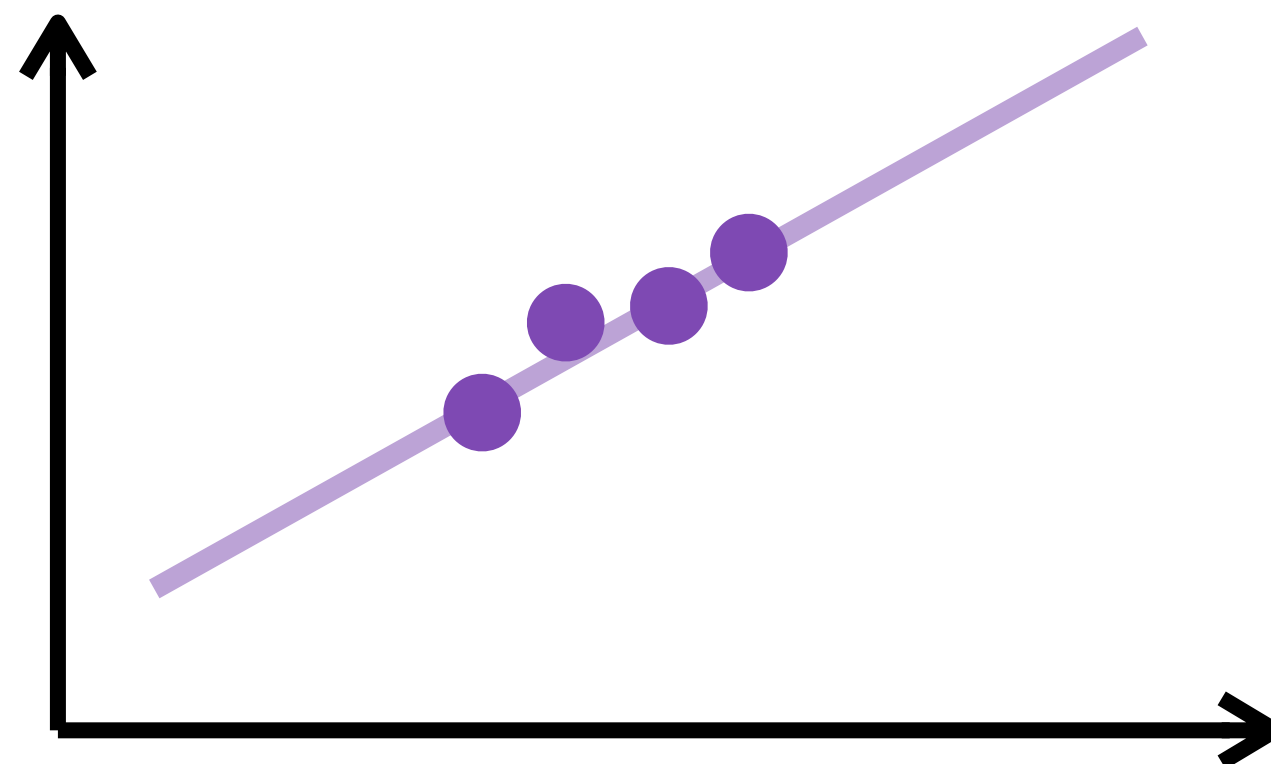
$$\text{Re} = \frac{\rho U L}{\mu}$$

Dimensionless equations: summary

- Reduction of parameters
- Similarity between systems



- Extrapolation of data



Buckingham Pi Theorem

- Dimensions and units
- Dimension homogeneity
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Buckingham Pi Theorem

Buckingham Π -theorem

- Suppose we have a physical equation relating n quantities

$$f(q_1, \dots, q_n) = 0$$

- Suppose the n quantities only involve k independent physical dimensions.
- Then the equation can be restated as

$$F(\Pi_1, \dots, \Pi_p) = 0$$

for some $p = n - k$ dimensionless variables/parameters

$$\Pi_1, \dots, \Pi_p$$

Buckingham Pi Theorem

$$f(q_1, \dots, q_n) = 0$$

- Consider base dimension (e.g. the 7 base dimension)

$$B_1, \dots, B_\ell$$

- Expand the dimensions of the quantities in this base

$$[q_i] = B_1^{m_{1i}} \dots B_\ell^{m_{\ell i}}$$

Buckingham Pi Theorem

- Expand the dimensions of the quantities in this base

$$[q_i] = B_1^{m_{1i}} \dots B_\ell^{m_{\ell i}}$$

- Take log: $\log[q_i] = m_{1i} \log B_1 + \dots + m_{\ell i} \log B_\ell$
- This is a change of basis formula

$$(\log[q_1] \quad \dots \quad \log[q_n]) = (\log B_1 \quad \dots \quad \log B_\ell) \begin{pmatrix} m_{11} & \dots & m_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ m_{\ell 1} & \dots & m_{\ell n} \end{pmatrix}$$

M dimension matrix

Buckingham Pi Theorem

$$(\log[q_1] \quad \cdots \quad \log[q_n]) = (\log B_1 \quad \cdots \quad \log B_\ell) \begin{pmatrix} m_{11} & \cdots & m_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ m_{\ell 1} & \cdots & m_{\ell n} \end{pmatrix}$$

M dimension matrix

- The physical quantities involve only k independent dimension
 \iff **M** has rank k (dimension of the image)
- Rank–Nullity Thm: The null space of **M** has dimension $p = n - k$
- Find a basis for the null space $\mathbf{a}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} \\ \vdots \\ a_{n1} \end{pmatrix}, \dots, \mathbf{a}_p = \begin{pmatrix} a_{1p} \\ \vdots \\ a_{np} \end{pmatrix}$
 $\mathbf{M}\mathbf{a}_j = \mathbf{0}$

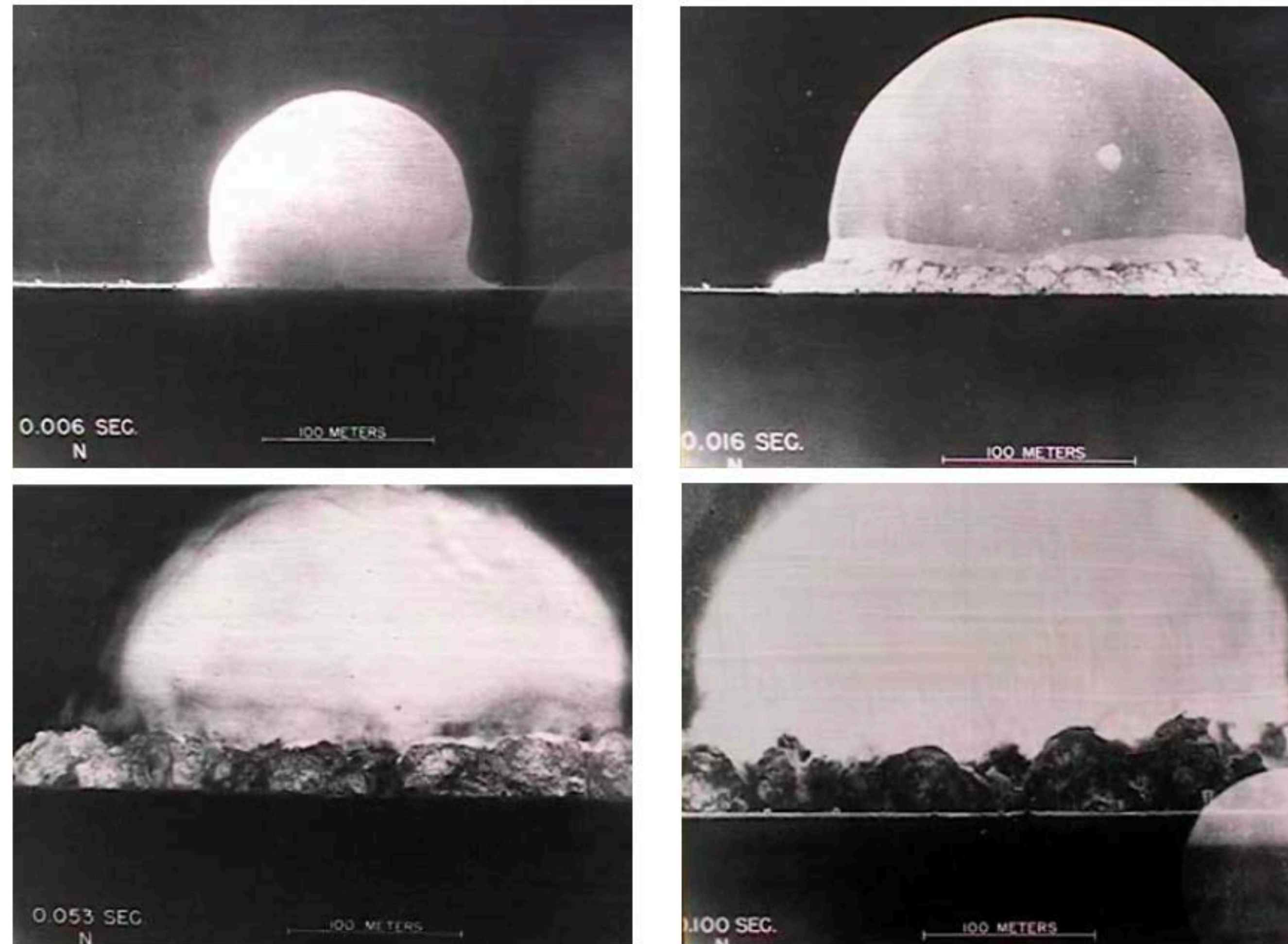
Buckingham Pi Theorem

$$(\log[q_1] \quad \cdots \quad \log[q_n]) = (\log B_1 \quad \cdots \quad \log B_\ell) \begin{pmatrix} m_{11} & \cdots & m_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ m_{\ell 1} & \cdots & m_{\ell n} \end{pmatrix}$$

M dimension matrix

- Find a basis for the null space $\mathbf{a}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} \\ \vdots \\ a_{n1} \end{pmatrix}, \dots, \mathbf{a}_p = \begin{pmatrix} a_{1p} \\ \vdots \\ a_{np} \end{pmatrix}$
 $\mathbf{M}\mathbf{a}_j = \mathbf{0}$
- Then $(\log[q_1] \quad \cdots \quad \log[q_n])\mathbf{a}_j = \mathbf{0}$
- That is, $\Pi_j := C_j q_1^{a_{1j}} \cdots q_n^{a_{nj}}$ are dimensionless

Example 1: Atomic bomb



Trinity test (1945)

From the released photograph
G.I. Taylor estimated the energy (which was confidential)

Example 1: Atomic bomb

- Assume that the relevant variables are

- ▶ Radius r of the fireball

$$[r] = M^0 L^1 T^0$$

- ▶ Density ρ of surrounding air

$$[\rho] = M^1 L^{-3} T^0$$

- ▶ Energy E released by the bomb

$$[E] = M^1 L^2 T^{-2}$$

- ▶ Time t since the ignition

$$[t] = M^0 L^0 T^1$$

- Dimension matrix

$$\mathbf{M} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -3 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

- One dimensional null space spanned by

$$\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Example 1: Atomic bomb

- Assume that the relevant variables are
 - ▶ Radius r of the fireball
 - ▶ Density ρ of surrounding air
 - ▶ Energy E released by the bomb
 - ▶ Time t since the ignition

- One dimensional null space spanned by $\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} -5 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$
- Found a dimensionless quantity $\Pi = r^{-5} \rho^{-1} E^1 t^2 = \frac{Et^2}{r^5 \rho}$

- Physical law takes the form $F(\Pi) = 0$

- This mathematically implies $\Pi = \text{Constant}$

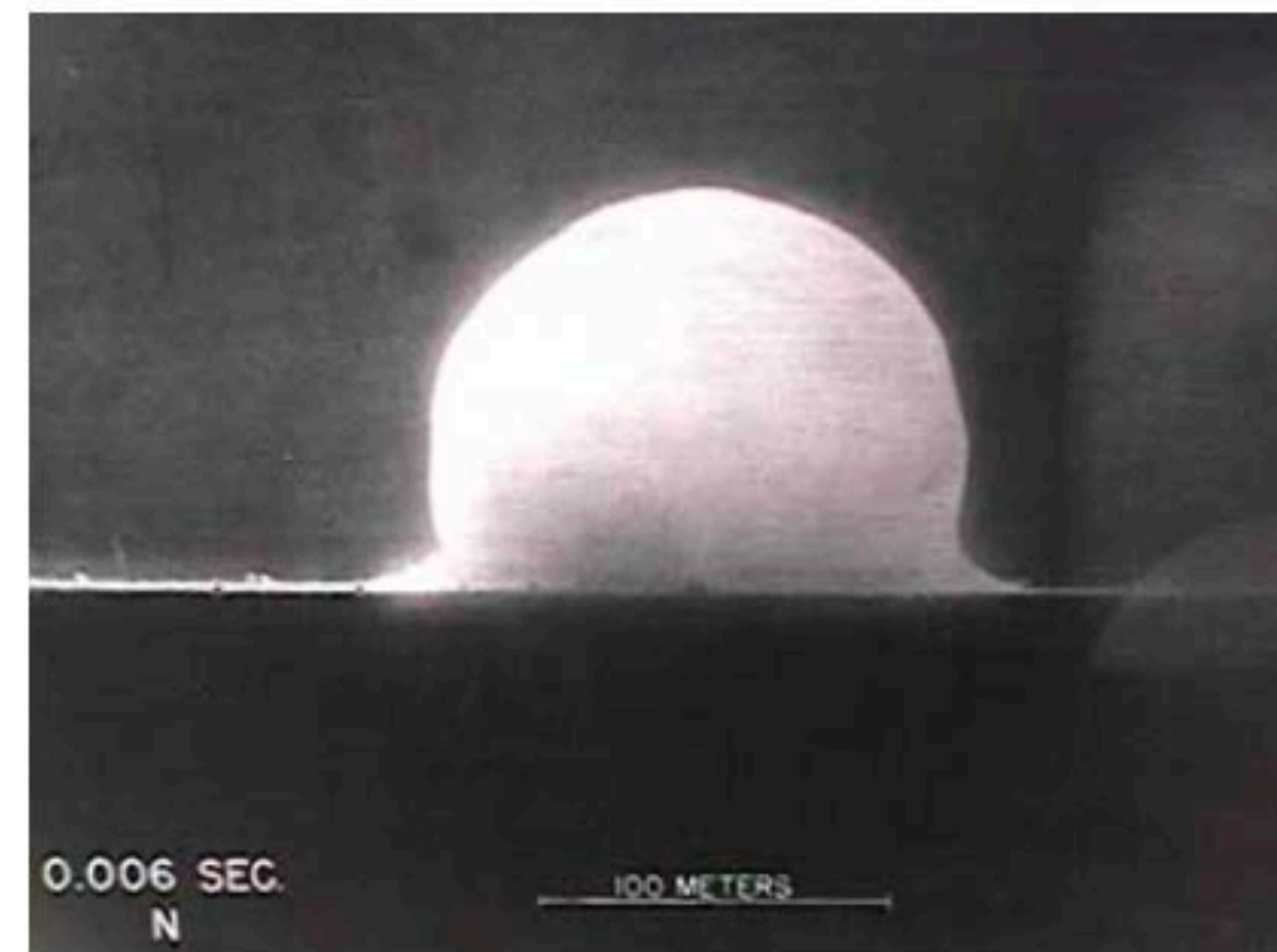
Example 1: Atomic bomb

- Any explosion satisfies $\frac{Et^2}{r^5\rho} = C$
- Some smaller experiments suggest $C \approx 1.033$
- Given the photograph indicating

$$t = 0.006 \text{ s} \quad r = 80 \text{ m} \quad \rho_{\text{TestSite}} = 1.1 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$E \approx \frac{Cr^5\rho}{t^2} \approx 10^{14} \text{ J}$$
$$\approx 24 \text{ kilotons of TNT}$$

- Taylor got 22 kilotons TNT using more frames
- Ground truth is 20 kilotons TNT



Example 2: Drag of a car

- A moving car will experience aerodynamic drag
- Reasonable postulate: there exists a function relating the following 5 quantities



- ▶ Car's length scale L $[L] = M^0 L^1 T^0$
- ▶ Car speed V $[V] = M^0 L^1 T^{-1}$
- ▶ Air density ρ $[\rho] = M^1 L^{-3} T^0$
- ▶ Air viscosity μ $[\mu] = M^1 L^{-1} T^{-1}$
- ▶ Drag force F $[F] = M^1 L^1 T^{-2}$

- Find a set of dimensionless parameters (how many?)
- Given a scaled wind tunnel experiment, deduce the drag force in real-life.