

Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico – Orlando Campus  
**ME 3140 – Intermediate Fluid Mechanics**

# **Assignment 14**

## **External Flow (Examples 1, 2, and 4)**

**Instructor:** Dr. Joaquín Valencia Bravo

**Student:** Antonio Pérez

**ID:** 158655

**Date:** 6 de febrero de 2026

## Example 1. Drag coefficient of a car (Wind tunnel)

# Drag and Lift

### Example 1

The drag coefficient of a car at the design conditions of 1 atm, 70°F, and 60 mi/h is to be determined experimentally in a large wind tunnel in a full-scale test (Fig. E-1). The frontal area of the car is 22.26 ft<sup>2</sup>. If the force acting on the car in the flow direction is measured to be 68 lbf, determine the drag coefficient of this car.

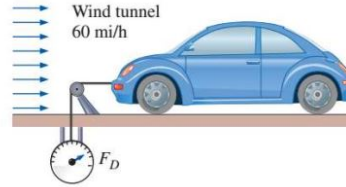


Figure E-1

Figura 1: Ensayo en túnel de viento a 60.00 mi/h.

### Enunciado

Se desea determinar el coeficiente de arrastre  $C_D$  de un carro en un túnel de viento grande. Condiciones:  $P = 1,00$  atm,  $T = 70,00$  °F,  $V = 60,00$  mi/h, área frontal  $A = 22,26$  ft<sup>2</sup>. La fuerza de arrastre medida es  $F_D = 68,00$  lbf. Hallar  $C_D$ .

### Datos (Given)

| Variable | Valor                                  | Nota                       |
|----------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| $P$      | 1,00 atm                               | condición de prueba        |
| $T$      | 70,00 °F                               | condición de prueba        |
| $V$      | 60,00 mi/h                             | velocidad del flujo        |
| $A$      | 22,26 ft <sup>2</sup>                  | área frontal               |
| $F_D$    | 68,00 lbf                              | fuerza de arrastre medida  |
| $\rho$   | 0,07 lbm/ft <sup>3</sup>               | de tabla a 70,00 °F (aire) |
| $g_c$    | 32,17 lbm · ft/(lbf · s <sup>2</sup> ) | constante gravitacional    |

### Supuestos

- Flujo estacionario (steady flow).
- Incompresible (a esta velocidad, aproximación usada en el ejemplo).
- Se asume túnel suficientemente grande (sin bloqueo significativo).

### Fórmulas

| ID | Fórmula                                                                                                                                    | Uso                                               |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| F1 | $C_D = \frac{F_D}{\frac{1}{2} \rho V^2 A}$                                                                                                 | definición con densidad (consistente en unidades) |
| F2 | $V \text{ [ft/s]} = V \text{ [mph]} \left( \frac{5280 \text{ ft}}{1 \text{ mi}} \right) \left( \frac{1 \text{ h}}{3600 \text{ s}} \right)$ | conversión de velocidad                           |
| F3 | $\rho_{\text{slug}} = \frac{\rho_{\text{lbm}}}{g_c}$                                                                                       | convertir $\rho$ a slugs/ft <sup>3</sup>          |

### Desarrollo

#### Paso 1. Convertir la velocidad a ft/s (F2)

$$V = 60,00 \text{ mi/h} \left( \frac{5280 \text{ ft}}{1 \text{ mi}} \right) \left( \frac{1 \text{ h}}{3600 \text{ s}} \right) = 88,00 \text{ ft/s}$$
$$V = 88,00 \text{ ft/s}$$

**Paso 2. Convertir densidad a slugs/ft<sup>3</sup> (F3)**

$$\rho_{\text{slug}} = \frac{\rho_{\text{lbm}}}{g_c} = \frac{0,07489}{32,17} = 0,00233 \text{ slug/ft}^3$$
$$\rho = 0,00233 \text{ slug/ft}^3$$

**Paso 3. Calcular  $C_D$  (F1)**

$$C_D = \frac{F_D}{\frac{1}{2} \rho_{\text{slug}} V^2 A} = \frac{68}{\frac{1}{2} (0,00233) (88^2) (22,26)} = 0,34$$
$$C_D \approx 0,34$$

**Resultado**

$$C_D \approx 0,34$$

## Example 2. Fuel efficiency improvement (reduce frontal area)

### Example 2

Two common methods of improving fuel efficiency of a vehicle are to reduce the drag coefficient and the frontal area of the vehicle. Consider a car (Fig. E-2) whose width ( $W$ ) and height ( $H$ ) are 1.85 m and 1.70 m, respectively, with a drag coefficient of 0.30. Determine the amount of fuel and money saved per year as a result of reducing the car height to 1.55 m while keeping its width the same. Assume the car is driven 18,000 km a year at an average speed of 95 km/h. Take the density and price of gasoline to be 0.74 kg/L and \$0.95/L, respectively. Also take the density of air to be 1.20 kg/m<sup>3</sup>, the heating value of gasoline to be 44,000 kJ/kg, and the overall efficiency of the car's drive train to be 30 percent.



Figure E-2

Figura 2: Figura E-2. Vehículo considerado para el análisis de arrastre.

### Enunciado

Se desea estimar el combustible y dinero ahorrado por año al reducir el área frontal del vehículo. Carro con ancho  $W = 1,85$  m, altura inicial  $H_1 = 1,70$  m y  $C_D = 0,30$ . Se reduce la altura a  $H_2 = 1,55$  m manteniendo el ancho. Se conduce  $D = 18\,000,00$  km/yr a  $\bar{V} = 95,00$  km/h. Datos:  $\rho_{air} = 1,20$  kg/m<sup>3</sup>, gasolina  $\rho_f = 0,74$  kg/L, costo \$0,95/L,  $HV = 44\,000,00$  kJ/kg, eficiencia global  $\eta = 0,30$ .

### Datos (Given)

| Variable     | Valor                  | Descripción                  |
|--------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| $W$          | 1,85 m                 | ancho del carro              |
| $H_1$        | 1,70 m                 | altura inicial               |
| $H_2$        | 1,55 m                 | altura rediseñada            |
| $C_D$        | 0,30                   | coeficiente de arrastre      |
| $\bar{V}$    | 95,00 km/h             | velocidad promedio           |
| $D$          | 18 000,00 km/yr        | distancia anual              |
| $\rho_{air}$ | 1,20 kg/m <sup>3</sup> | densidad del aire            |
| $\rho_f$     | 0,74 kg/L              | densidad gasolina            |
| $C_f$        | \$0,95/L               | precio gasolina              |
| $HV$         | 44 000,00 kJ/kg        | heating value                |
| $\eta$       | 0,30                   | eficiencia global drivetrain |

### Supuestos

- Flujo estacionario.
- Se usa el modelo de arrastre cuadrático:  $F_D = \frac{1}{2}\rho V^2 A C_D$ .
- El trabajo útil para vencer arrastre en el año es  $W_{drag} = F_D D$ .
- La energía química de entrada cumple  $\eta = W_{drag}/E_{in} \Rightarrow E_{in} = W_{drag}/\eta$ .

## Fórmulas

| ID | Fórmula                                                                     | Uso                           |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| F1 | $A = W H$                                                                   | área frontal aproximada       |
| F2 | $V [m/s] = V [km/h] \left( \frac{1000}{3600} \right)$                       | conversión velocidad          |
| F3 | $F_D = \frac{1}{2} \rho_{air} V^2 A C_D$                                    | fuerza de arrastre            |
| F4 | $W_{drag} = F_D D$                                                          | trabajo anual contra arrastre |
| F5 | $\eta = \frac{W_{drag}}{E_{in}} \Rightarrow E_{in} = \frac{W_{drag}}{\eta}$ | energía química requerida     |
| F6 | $m_f = \frac{E_{in}}{HV}$                                                   | masa de combustible           |
| F7 | $V_f [L] = \frac{m_f}{\rho_f}$                                              | volumen de combustible        |
| F8 | $\text{Costo} = V_f C_f$                                                    | costo anual                   |

## Desarrollo

### Paso 1. Velocidad promedio en m/s (F2)

$$V = 95,00 \text{ km/h} \left( \frac{1000}{3600} \right) = 26,39 \text{ m/s}$$

$$V = 26,39 \text{ m/s}$$

### Paso 2. Área frontal antes y después (F1)

$$A_1 = W H_1 = (1,85)(1,70) = 3,14 \text{ m}^2 \quad A_2 = W H_2 = (1,85)(1,55) = 2,87 \text{ m}^2$$

$$A_1 = 3,14 \text{ m}^2 \quad A_2 = 2,87 \text{ m}^2$$

### Paso 3. Arrastre antes y después (F3)

$$F_{D,1} = \frac{1}{2} (1,20) (26,39^2) (3,145) (0,30) = 394,25 \text{ N}$$

$$F_{D,2} = \frac{1}{2} (1,20) (26,39^2) (2,8675) (0,30) = 359,46 \text{ N}$$

$$F_{D,1} = 394,25 \text{ N} \quad F_{D,2} = 359,46 \text{ N}$$

### Paso 4. Trabajo anual contra arrastre (F4)

$$D = 18\,000,00 \text{ km/yr} = 1,80 \times 10^7 \text{ m/yr}$$

$$W_{drag,1} = F_{D,1} D = (394,25) (1,80 \times 10^7) = 7,10 \times 10^9 \text{ J/yr}$$

$$W_{drag,2} = F_{D,2} D = (359,46) (1,80 \times 10^7) = 6,47 \times 10^9 \text{ J/yr}$$

$$W_{drag,1} = 7,10 \times 10^9 \text{ J/yr} \quad W_{drag,2} = 6,47 \times 10^9 \text{ J/yr}$$

### Paso 5. Energía de entrada y masa de combustible (F5–F6)

$$E_{in,1} = \frac{W_{drag,1}}{\eta} = \frac{7,10 \times 10^9}{0,30} = 2,37 \times 10^{10} \text{ J/yr} \quad E_{in,2} = \frac{6,47 \times 10^9}{0,30} = 2,16 \times 10^{10} \text{ J/yr}$$

$$HV = 44\,000,00 \text{ kJ/kg} = 4,40 \times 10^7 \text{ J/kg}$$

$$m_{f,1} = \frac{E_{in,1}}{HV} = \frac{2,37 \times 10^{10}}{4,40 \times 10^7} = 537,62 \text{ kg/yr} \quad m_{f,2} = \frac{2,16 \times 10^{10}}{4,40 \times 10^7} = 490,19 \text{ kg/yr}$$

$$m_{f,1} = 537,62 \text{ kg/yr} \quad m_{f,2} = 490,19 \text{ kg/yr}$$

### Paso 6. Volumen y costo anual (F7–F8)

$$V_{f,1} = \frac{m_{f,1}}{\rho_f} = \frac{537,62}{0,74} = 726,51 \text{ L/yr} \quad V_{f,2} = \frac{490,19}{0,74} = 662,42 \text{ L/yr}$$

$$\Delta V_f = V_{f,1} - V_{f,2} = 64,09 \text{ L/yr}$$

$$\Delta \text{Costo} = \Delta V_f (\$0,95/\text{L}) = (64,09)(0,95) = 60,88 \$/\text{yr}$$

$$\Delta V_f = 64,09 \text{ L/yr} \quad \Delta \text{Costo} = \$ 60,88 \text{ yr}$$

### Resumen (resultados)

| Cantidad                          | Antes ( $H_1 = 1,70 \text{ m}$ ) | Después ( $H_2 = 1,55 \text{ m}$ ) | Ahorro |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------|
| Área frontal $A$ ( $\text{m}^2$ ) | 3.14                             | 2.87                               | —      |
| Arrastre $F_D$ (N)                | 394.25                           | 359.46                             | 34.79  |
| Volumen gasolina (L/yr)           | 726.51                           | 662.42                             | 64.09  |
| Costo anual (\$/yr)               | 690.18                           | 629.30                             | 60.88  |

$$\text{Fuel saved} \approx 64,09 \text{ L/yr} \quad \text{Money saved} \approx \$ 60,88 \text{ yr}$$

## Example 4. Drag force on a pipe spanning a river

### Example 4

A 2.2-cm-outer-diameter pipe is to span across a river at a 30-m-wide section while being completely immersed in water (Fig. E-4). The average flow velocity of water is 4 m/s, and the water temperature is 15°C. Determine the drag force exerted on the pipe by the river.

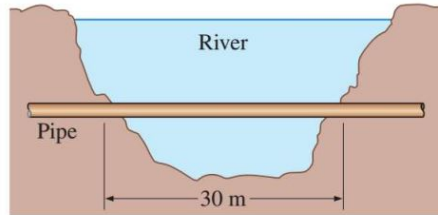


Figure E-4

Figura 3: Figure E-4. Pipe completely immersed in a river flow.

### Datos (Given)

| Variable | Valor                            | Descripción                    |
|----------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| $D$      | 0.02 m                           | Diámetro exterior del tubo     |
| $L$      | 30.00 m                          | Longitud (ancho del río)       |
| $V$      | 4.00 m/s                         | Velocidad promedio del agua    |
| Fluido   | Agua                             | Completamente inmerso          |
| $T$      | 15.00 °C                         | Temperatura del agua           |
| $\rho$   | 999.10 kg/m <sup>3</sup>         | Densidad del agua a 15.00 °C   |
| $\mu$    | $1.14 \times 10^{-3}$ kg/(m · s) | Viscosidad dinámica a 15.00 °C |

### Supuestos

- Flujo estacionario.
- Flujo incompresible.
- Superficie exterior lisa (smooth).

### Fórmulas

$$F_D = \frac{1}{2} \rho V^2 A C_D$$

$$Re = \frac{\rho V D}{\mu}$$

$$A = L D$$

### Desarrollo

#### Paso 1. Número de Reynolds

$$Re = \frac{\rho V D}{\mu} = \frac{(999,1)(4)(0,022)}{1,138 \times 10^{-3}} = 7,73 \times 10^4$$

$$Re \approx 7,7 \times 10^4$$

**Paso 2. Coeficiente de arrastre**

De la gráfica de cilindro en flujo cruzado (usando  $Re \approx 7,7 \times 10^4$ ):

$$C_D \approx 1$$

$$C_D \approx 1$$

**Paso 3. Área proyectada**

$$A = L D = (30)(0,022) = 0,66 \text{ m}^2$$

$$A = 0,66 \text{ m}^2$$

**Paso 4. Fuerza de arrastre**

$$F_D = \frac{1}{2}(999,1)(4^2)(0,66)(1) = 5275,20 \text{ N}$$

$$F_D = 5275,20 \text{ N}$$

**Resultado final**

$$F_D = 5,28 \times 10^3 \text{ N}$$