

7.12

7.12 Water sloshes back and forth in a tank as shown in Fig. P7.12. The frequency of sloshing,  $\omega$ , is assumed to be a function of the acceleration of gravity,  $g$ , the average depth of the water,  $h$ , and the length of the tank,  $\ell$ . Develop a suitable set of dimensionless parameters for this problem using  $g$  and  $\ell$  as repeating variables.

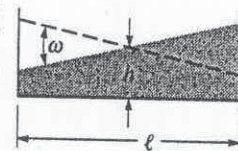


FIGURE P7.12

$$\omega = f(g, h, \ell)$$

$$\omega \doteq T^{-1} \quad g \doteq LT^{-2} \quad h \doteq L \quad \ell \doteq L$$

From the pi theorem,  $4 - 2 = 2$  dimensionless parameters required. Use  $g$  and  $\ell$  as repeating variables. Thus,

$$\pi_1 = \omega g^a \ell^b$$

$$\text{and } (T^{-1})(LT^{-2})^a(L)^b \doteq L^0 T^0$$

so that

$$a + b = 0 \quad (\text{for } L)$$

$$-1 - 2a = 0 \quad (\text{for } T)$$

It follows that  $a = -1/2$ ,  $b = 1/2$ , and therefore

$$\pi_1 = \omega \sqrt{\frac{\ell}{g}}$$

check dimensions:

$$\omega \sqrt{\frac{\ell}{g}} \doteq \frac{1}{T} \sqrt{\frac{L}{LT^{-2}}} \doteq L^0 T^0 \quad \therefore \text{OK}$$

For  $\pi_2$ :

$$\pi_2 = h g^a \ell^b$$

$$L (LT^{-2})^a (L)^b \doteq L^0 T^0$$

$$1 + a + b = 0 \quad (\text{for } L)$$

$$-2a = 0 \quad (\text{for } T)$$

It follows that  $a = 0$ ,  $b = -1$ , and therefore

$$\pi_2 = \frac{h}{\ell}$$

and  $\pi_2$  is obviously dimensionless. Thus,

$$\omega \sqrt{\frac{\ell}{g}} = \phi\left(\frac{h}{\ell}\right)$$