

### 3.5 SIMILITUDES AND MODEL LAWS

Similitude is basically defined as the similarity between model and its prototype in each and every respect. It suggests us that model and prototype will have similar properties or we can say that similitude explains that model and prototype will be completely similar.

Three types of similarities must exist between model and prototype and these similarities are as mentioned here.

Geometric similarity

Kinematic similarity

Dynamic similarity

#### Geometric similarity

Geometric similarity is the similarity of shape. Geometric similarity is said to exist between model and prototype, if the ratio of all respective linear dimension in model and prototype are equal.

Ratio of dimension of model and corresponding dimension of prototype will be termed as scale ratio i.e.  $L_r$ .

Let us assume the following linear dimension in model and prototype.

$$\frac{L_p}{L_m} = \frac{B_p}{B_m} = \frac{D_p}{D_m} = L_r$$

$$\frac{A_p}{A_m} = L_r^2$$

$$\frac{V_p}{V_m} = L_r^3$$

where  $L_r$  is Scale Ratio

$L_m$  = Length of model,  $L_p$  = Length of prototype

$B_m$  = Breadth of model,  $B_p$  = Breadth prototype

$D_m$  = Diameter of model,  $D_p$  = Diameter of prototype

$A_m$  = Area of model,  $A_p$  = Area of prototype

$V_m$  = Volume of model,  $V_p$  = Volume of prototype

#### Kinematic Similarity

The Kinematic similarity is said to exist between model and prototype, if the ratios of velocity and acceleration at a point in model and at the respective point in the prototype are the same.

We must note it here that the direction of velocity and acceleration in the model and prototype must be identical.

$$\frac{V_p}{V_m} = V_r$$

where  $V_r$  is Velocity Ratio

$$\frac{a_p}{a_m} = a_r$$

where  $a_r$  is Acceleration Ratio

$V_m$  = Velocity of fluid at a point in model

$V_p$  = Velocity of fluid at respective point in prototype

$a_m$  = Acceleration of fluid at a point in model

$a_p$  = Acceleration of fluid at respective point in prototype

### Dynamic Similarity

The dynamic similarity is said to exist between model and prototype, if the ratios of corresponding forces acting at the corresponding points are the same.

We must note it here that the direction of forces at the corresponding points in the model and prototype must be same.

$$\frac{F_p}{F_m} = F_r$$

where  $F_r$  is Force Ratio

$F_m$  = Force at a point in model,  $F_p$  = Force at respective point in prototype

### *Model laws or similarity laws*

For the dynamic similarity between the model and the prototype, ratio of corresponding forces acting on corresponding points in the model and the prototype should be same.

Ratios of the forces are dimensionless numbers. Therefore we can say that for the dynamic similarity between the model and the prototype, dimensionless numbers should be equal for the model and the prototype.

However, it is quite difficult to satisfy the condition that all the dimensionless numbers should be equal for the model and the prototype.

However for practical problems, it is observed that one force will be most significant as compared to others and that force is considered as predominant force. Therefore for dynamic similarity, predominant force will be considered in practical problems.

Therefore, models are designed on the basis of ratio of force which is dominating in the phenomenon.

Hence, we can define the model laws or similarity laws as the law on which models are designed for the dynamic similarity.

### **There are following types of model laws**

Reynold's Model law

Froude Model law

Euler Model law

Weber Model law

Mach Model law

### **Reynold's Model law**

Reynold's model law could be defined as a model law or similarity law where models are designed on the basis of Reynold's numbers.

According to the Reynold's model law, for the dynamic similarity between the model and the prototype, Reynold's number should be equal for the model and the prototype.

In simple, we can say that Reynold's number for the model must be equal to the Reynold's number for the prototype.

As we know that Reynold's number is basically the ratio of inertia force and viscous force, therefore a fluid flow situation where viscous forces are alone predominant, models will be designed on the basis of Reynold's model law for the dynamic similarity between the model and the prototype.

$$(\text{Re})_p = (\text{Re})_m \text{ or } \frac{V_p L_p}{\nu_p} = \frac{V_m L_m}{\nu_m}$$

Where,

$V_m$  = Velocity of the fluid in the model

$L_m$  = Length of the model

$\nu_m$  = Kinematic viscosity of the fluid in the model

$V_p$  = Velocity of the fluid in the prototype

$L_p$  = Length of the prototype

$\nu_p$  = Kinematic viscosity of the fluid in the prototype

*Models based on the Reynold's model law*

Pipe flow

Resistance experienced by submarines, airplanes etc.

**Froude Model law**

Froude model law could be defined as a model law or similarity law where models are designed on the basis of Froude numbers.

According to the Froude model law, for the dynamic similarity between the model and the prototype, Froude number should be equal for the model and the prototype.

In simple, we can say that Froude number for the model must be equal to the Froude number for the prototype.

As we know that Froude number is basically the ratio of inertia force and gravity force, therefore a fluid flow situation where gravity forces are alone predominant, models will be designed on the basis of Froude model law for the dynamic similarity between the model and the prototype.

$$(F e)_p = (F e)_m \text{ or } \frac{V_p}{\sqrt{g_p L_p}} = \frac{V_m}{\sqrt{g_m L_m}}$$

Where,

$V_m$  = Velocity of the fluid in the model

$L_m$  = Length of the model

$g_m$  = Acceleration due to gravity at a place where model is tested

$V_p$  = Velocity of the fluid in the prototype

$L_p$  = Length of the prototype

$g_p$  = Acceleration due to gravity at a place where prototype is tested

*Models based on the Froude model law*

Free surface flows such as flow over spillways, weirs, sluices, channels etc,

Flow of jet from an orifice or from a nozzle,

Where waves are likely to be formed on surface

Where fluids of different densities flow over one another

## Euler's Model law

Euler's model law could be defined as a model law or similarity law where models are designed on the basis of Euler's numbers.

According to the Euler's model law, for the dynamic similarity between the model and the prototype, Euler's number should be equal for the model and the prototype.

In simple, we can say that Euler's number for the model must be equal to the Euler's number for the prototype.

As we know that Euler's number is basically the ratio of pressure force and inertia force, therefore a fluid flow situation where pressure forces are alone predominant, models will be designed on the basis of Euler's model law for the dynamic similarity between the model and the prototype.

$$\frac{V_m}{\sqrt{P_m / \rho_m}} = \frac{V_p}{\sqrt{P_p / \rho_p}}$$

Where,

$V_m$  = Velocity of the fluid in the model

$P_m$  = Pressure of fluid in the model

$\rho_m$  = Density of the fluid in the model

$V_p$  = Velocity of the fluid in the prototype

$P_p$  = Pressure of fluid in the prototype

$\rho_p$  = Density of the fluid in the prototype

### *Models based on the Euler's model law*

Euler's model law will be applicable for a fluid flow situation where flow is taking place in a closed pipe, in which case turbulence will be fully developed so that viscous forces will be negligible and gravity force and surface tension force will be absent.

## Weber Model law

Weber model law could be defined as a model law or similarity law where models are designed on the basis of Weber numbers.

According to the Weber model law, for the dynamic similarity between the model and the prototype, Weber number should be equal for the model and the prototype.

In simple, we can say that Weber number for the model must be equal to the Weber number for the prototype.

As we know that Weber number is basically the ratio of inertia force and surface tension force, therefore a fluid flow situation where surface tension forces are alone predominant, models will be designed on the basis of Weber model law for the dynamic similarity between the model and the prototype.

$$\frac{V_m}{\sqrt{\sigma_m / \rho_m L_m}} = \frac{V_p}{\sqrt{\sigma_p / \rho_p L_p}}$$

Where,

$V_m$  = Velocity of the fluid in the model

$\sigma_m$  = Surface tension force in the model

$\rho_m$  = Density of the fluid in the model

$L_m$  = Length of surface in the model

$V_p$  = Velocity of the fluid in the prototype

$\sigma_p$  = Surface tension force in the prototype

$\rho_p$  = Density of the fluid in the prototype

$L_p$  = Length of surface in the prototype

*Models based on the Weber model law*

Capillary rise in narrow passage

Capillary movement of water in soil

Capillary waves in channels

Flow over weirs for small heads

### **Mach Model law**

Mach model law could be defined as a model law or similarity law where models are designed on the basis of Mach numbers.

According to the Mach model law, for the dynamic similarity between the model and the prototype, Mach number should be equal for the model and the prototype.

In simple, we can say that Mach number for the model must be equal to the Mach number for the prototype.

As we know that Mach number is basically the ratio of inertia force and Elastic force, therefore a fluid flow situation where elastic forces are alone predominant, models will

be designed on the basis of Mach model law for the dynamic similarity between the model and the prototype.

$$\frac{V_m}{\sqrt{K_m / \rho_m}} = \frac{V_p}{\sqrt{K_p / \rho_p}}$$

Where,

$V_m$  = Velocity of the fluid in the model

$K_m$  = Elastic stress for model

$\rho_m$  = Density of the fluid in the model

$V_p$  = Velocity of the fluid in the prototype

$K_p$  = Elastic stress for prototype

$\rho_p$  = Density of the fluid in the prototype

*Models based on the Mach model law*

Water hammer problems

Under water testing of torpedoes

Aerodynamic testing

Flow of aeroplane and projectile through air at supersonic speed

