
On the physical meaning of Reynolds number and other criteria of hydrodynamic similarity

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The paper considers physical interpretation of Reynolds number as the ratio of momentum flux of fluid enclosed in the volume of a unit length along the flux towards the viscous friction force per unit length along the flux. Within such interpretation there is no contradiction between the “energy” and “power” interpretations of the physical meaning of Reynolds number. The study justifies logical correctness of this interpretation and investigates the physical meaning of the other parameters of the hydrodynamic similarity.

Keywords: hydrodynamic similarity, Reynolds number, Froude number, Newton number, Euler number.

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