Problem 54

Suppose $[V] = L^3$, $[\rho] = ML^{-3}$, and [t] = T. (a) What is the dimension of $\int \rho dV$? (b) What is the dimension of dV/dt? (c) What is the dimension of $\rho(dV/dt)$?

Solution

Part (a)

Consider the dimensions of this expression.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \int \rho dV \end{bmatrix} = [\rho][V]$$
$$= (ML^{-3}) \cdot L^{3}$$
$$= M$$

Part (b)

Consider the dimensions of this expression.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{dV}{dt} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{\begin{bmatrix} \frac{dV}{dt} \end{bmatrix}}{\begin{bmatrix} \frac{dV}{dt} \end{bmatrix}}$$
$$= \frac{L^3}{T}$$
$$= L^3 T^{-1}$$

Part (c)

Consider the dimensions of this expression.

$$\left[\rho \frac{dV}{dt}\right] = \left[\rho\right] \left[\frac{dV}{dt}\right]$$
$$= \left[\rho\right] \frac{\left[dV\right]}{\left[dt\right]}$$
$$= (ML^{-3}) \cdot \frac{L^3}{T}$$
$$= MT^{-1}$$