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CHEMICAL ENGINEERING SERIES

# Fluid Mechanics for Chemical Engineers

THIRD EDITION

Noel de Nevers

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# FLUID MECHANICS FOR CHEMICAL ENGINEERS

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THIRD EDITION

**Noel de Nevers**

*Department of Chemical and Fuels Engineering  
University of Utah*



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# **FLUID MECHANICS FOR CHEMICAL ENGINEERS**

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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**Noel de Nevers** received a B.S. from Stanford in 1954, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan in 1956 and 1959, all in chemical engineering.

He worked for the research arms of the Chevron Oil Company from 1958 to 1963 in the areas of chemical process development, chemical and refinery process design, and secondary recovery of petroleum. He has been on the faculty of the University of Utah from 1963 to the present in the Department of Chemical and Fuels Engineering, becoming emeritus in 2002.

He has worked for the National Reactor Testing Site, Idaho Falls, Idaho, on nuclear problems, for the U.S. Army Harry Diamond Laboratory, Washington DC, on weapons, and for the Office of Air Programs of the U.S. EPA in Durham, NC, on air pollution.

He was a Fulbright student of Chemical Engineering at the Technical University of Karlsruhe, Germany, in 1954–1955, a Fulbright lecturer on Air Pollution at the Universidad del Valle, in Cali, Colombia, in the summer of 1974, and at the Universidad de la República, Montevideo Uruguay and the Universidad Nacional Mar del Plata, Argentina in the Autumn of 1996.

His areas of research and publication are in fluid mechanics, thermodynamics, air pollution, technology and society, energy and energy policy, and explosions and fires. He regularly consults on air pollution problems, explosions, fires and toxic exposures.

In 1993 he received the Corcoran Award from the Chemical Engineering Division of the American Society for Engineering Education for the best paper (“‘Product in the Way’ Processes”) that year in *Chemical Engineering Education*.

In 2000 his textbook, *Air Pollution Control Engineering*, Second Edition, was issued by McGraw-Hill.

In 2002 his textbook, *Physical and Chemical Equilibrium for Chemical Engineers* was issued by John Wiley.

In addition to his serious work he has three “de Nevers’s Laws” in the latest “Murphy’s Laws” compilation, and won the title “Poet Laureate of Jell-O Salad” at the Last Annual Jell-O Salad Festival in Salt Lake City in 1983. He is the official discoverer of Private Arch in Arches National Park.

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# NOTATION

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$a$	acceleration	ft / s <sup>2</sup>	m / s <sup>2</sup>
$a$	some arbitrary direction or length (Sec. 2.1)	ft	m
$a$	resistance of filter medium (Sec. 11.4)	1 / ft	1 / m
$a_x, a_y, a_z$	$x$ , $y$ , and $z$ components of acceleration	ft / s <sup>2</sup>	m / s <sup>2</sup>
$a_c$	centrifugal acceleration	ft / s <sup>2</sup>	m / s <sup>2</sup>
$a, b, c, d$	exponents in algebraic procedure (Sec. 9.3)	—	—
$A$	area or cross-sectional area perpendicular to flow	ft <sup>2</sup>	m <sup>2</sup>
$A$	independent variable (Sec. 9.3)	various	various
$A, B, C, D$	arbitrary constants	various	various
$b$	background concentration (Sec. 3.6)	lbm / ft <sup>3</sup>	kg / m <sup>3</sup>
$B$	dependent variable (Sec. 9.3)	various	various
$c$	volume fraction in hindered settling	—	—
$c$	speed of light (Chap. 4 only)	ft / s	m / s
$c$	speed of sound	ft / s	m / s
$c$	concentration	lbm / ft <sup>3</sup>	kg / m <sup>3</sup>
$C$	heat capacity	Btu / lbm · °F or Btu / lbmol · °F	J / kg · K or J / mol · K
$C_d$	drag coefficient (Sec. 6.13)	—	—
$C_i$	constants of integration	various	various
$C_l$	lift coefficient (Sec. 6.13)	—	—
$C_f$	integrated drag coefficient (Sec. 17.2)	—	—
$C'_f$	local drag coefficient (Sec. 17.2)	—	—
$C_P$	heat capacity at constant pressure	Btu / lbm · °F or Btu / lbmol · °F	J / kg · K or J / mol · K
$C_v$	orifice or venturi coefficient (Sec. 5.8)	—	—
$C_V$	heat capacity at constant volume	Btu / lbm · °F or Btu / lbmol · °F	J / kg · K or J / mol · K
CC	capital cost factor (Sec. 6.12)	1 / yr	1 / yr
$D$	diameter	ft	m
$D_p$	particle diameter	ft	m
$D / Dt$	Stokes or substantive or convective derivative	1 / s	1 / s
$\mathcal{D}$	diffusivity, molecular or turbulent	ft <sup>2</sup> / s	m <sup>2</sup> / s
erf	gauss error function (see Fig. 19.5)	—	—
$E$	energy	Btu or equivalent	J
$E$	voltage	volt	volt
$E_s$	surface energy	ft · lbf / ft <sup>2</sup>	J / m <sup>2</sup>
$f$	Fanning friction factor (Sec. 6.4)	—	—
$f_{P.M.}$	friction factor for porous medium (Sec. 11.1)	—	—
$f(n)$	spectrum function (Sec. 18.4)	1 / hertz	1 / hertz



$^{\circ}\text{F}$	temperature or temperature interval, degrees Fahrenheit	$^{\circ}\text{F}$	
$F$	force	lbf	N
$\mathcal{F}$	friction heating per lbm	ft · lbf / lbm	J / kg
		or equivalent	
$F_x, F_y, F_z$	$x$ , $y$ , and $z$ components of force	lbf	N
$F_{\theta}$	tangential component of force	lbf	N
$F_I, F_V, F_G, F_S, F_E, F_P$	inertia, viscous, gravity, surface, elastic, and pressure forces (Sec. 9.3)	lbf	N
$F(n)$	spectrum function (Sec. 18.4)	—	—
$\mathcal{F}r$	Froude number	—	—
$g$	acceleration of gravity	ft / s <sup>2</sup>	m / s <sup>2</sup>
$g_c$	conversion factor = 1 = 32.2 lbm · ft / lbf · s <sup>2</sup>	—	—
$h$	height or depth	ft	m
$h$	enthalpy per unit mass or mole ( $u + Pv$ )	Btu / lbm or Btu / lbmol	J / kg or J / mol
$h_c$	centroid depth measured from free surface (Prob. 2.26)	ft	m
$H$	enthalpy ( $U + PV$ )	Btu	J
$H$	height	ft	m
$H$	effective stack height (Chap. 19)	ft	m
$H$	mixing height (Chap. 3)	ft	m
hp	horsepower	ft · lbf / s	
$\mathcal{H}e$	Hedstrom number (Chap. 13)	—	—
HR	hydraulic radius	ft	m
<b>i, j, k</b>	unit vectors in the $x$ , $y$ , and $z$ directions	—	—
$I$	electric current ( $dQ / dt$ )	amp	amp
$I$	angular moment of inertia (Chap. 7)	lbm · ft <sup>2</sup>	kg · m <sup>2</sup>
$I_{sp}$	specific impulse	lbf · s / lbm	N · s / kg
$J_x, J_y, J_z$	$x$ , $y$ , and $z$ components of the electric current density (Sec. 16.3)	amp / m <sup>2</sup>	amp / m <sup>2</sup>
$k$	number of independent dimensions (Sec. 9.3)	—	—
$k$	ratio of specific heats, $C_p / C_v$ (Sec. 8.1)	—	—
$k$	thermal conductivity (Sec. 16.3)	Btu / hr · °F · ft	W / m · K
$k$	permeability (Sec. 16.3 and Chap. 11)	ft <sup>2</sup>	m <sup>2</sup>
$k$	ratio of radii in a Couette viscometer	—	—
$k$	turbulent k.e. per unit mass	Btu / lbm	J / kg
ke	kinetic energy per unit mass	Btu / lbm	J / kg
$K$	arbitrary constant in “power law” (Chap. 13)	lbf · s <sup>n</sup> / ft <sup>2</sup>	N · s <sup>n</sup> / m <sup>2</sup>
$K$	bulk modulus (Sec. 8.1)	lbf / in <sup>2</sup>	Pa
$K$	resistance coefficient (Sec. 6.9)	—	—
$K$	arbitrary constant in jet equation (Chap. 19)	—	—
KE	kinetic energy	Btu	J
$l$	length	ft	m
$L$	length or lever arm	ft	m
$L$	angular momentum (Chap. 7)	lbm · ft <sup>2</sup> / s	kg · m <sup>2</sup> / s
$m$	mass	lbm	kg
$\dot{m}$	mass flow rate	lbm / s	kg / s
$M$	molecular weight	lbm / lbmol	g / mol
$\mathcal{M}$	Mach number	—	—
$n$	number of independent variables	—	—
$n$	number of moles	lbmol	mol
$n$	arbitrary power in “power law” (Chap. 13)	—	—
$n$	frequency	cyc / s	hertz
$n$	constant in Chézy Eq. (Chap. 6)	—	—

$N$	$4f \Delta x / D$ (Sec. 8.4)	—	—
$N$	rotation rate (rpm or rps)	1 / min; 1 / s	1 / min; 1 / s
pe	potential energy per unit mass	Btu / lbm	J / kg
$P$	pressure	lbf / in <sup>2</sup>	Pa
$P_o$	power	ft · lbf / s	W
PE	potential energy	Btu	J
PC	pumping cost (Sec. 6.12)	\$ / yr · hp	
PP	purchased price factor for a pipe (Sec. 6.12)	\$ / in · ft	
$q$	emission rate per unit area (Sec. 3.6)	lbm / s · ft <sup>2</sup>	kg / s · m <sup>2</sup>
$q_x, q_y, q_z$	$x, y,$ and $z$ components of heat flux (Sec. 16.3)	Btu / h · ft <sup>2</sup>	W / m <sup>2</sup>
$Q$	volumetric flow rate	ft <sup>3</sup> / s	m <sup>3</sup> / s
$Q$	heat	Btu	J
$Q$	charge	coul	coul
$r$	radius	ft	m
$R$	universal gas constant	See inside back cover	See inside back cover
$R$	correlation coefficient (Sec. 18.5)	—	—
$R$	radius of curvature (Chap. 14)	ft	m
$Re$	Reynolds number	—	—
$Re_p$	particle Reynolds number	—	—
$Re_{P.M.}$	Reynolds number for porous media	—	—
$Re_x$	Reynolds number based on distance from leading edge	—	—
$Re_{\text{power law}}$	Reynolds number for power law fluids	—	—
$Re_{\text{Bingham}}$	Reynolds number for Bingham plastics	—	—
$Re_{\text{impeller}}$	Reynolds number for a mixer impeller	—	—
$s$	entropy per unit mass or per mole	Btu / lbm · °R or Btu / lbmol · °R	J / kg · K or J / mol · K
$s$	cake compressibility coefficient (Sec. 11.4)	—	—
SG	specific gravity	—	—
$t$	time	s	s
$t$	wall thickness (Sec. 2.4)	ft	m
$T$	absolute temperature	°R or K	K
$T$	relative intensity of turbulence (Sec. 18.4)	—	—
$u$	internal energy per unit mass or per mole	Btu / lbm or Btu / lbmol	J / kg or J / mol
$u^*$	friction velocity (Sec. 17.4)	ft / s	m / s
$u^+$	$V_x / u^*$ (Sec. 17.4)	—	—
$U$	internal energy	Btu	J
$v$	volume per unit mass	ft <sup>3</sup> / lbm	m <sup>3</sup> / kg
$v$	fluctuating component of velocity (Chaps. 17 and 18)	ft / s	m / s
$V$	velocity	ft / s	m / s
$V$	volume	ft <sup>3</sup>	m <sup>3</sup>
$V_x, V_y, V_z$	$x, y,$ and $z$ components of velocity	ft / s	m / s
$V_\theta$	tangential component of velocity	ft / s	m / s
$V_r$	radial velocity	ft / s	m / s
$V_{\text{avg}}$	average velocity	ft / s	m / s
$V_{\text{centerline}}$	centerline velocity in a pipe	ft / s	m / s
$V_\infty$	free-stream velocity	ft / s	m / s
$V_s$	superficial velocity (Sec. 11.1)	ft / s	m / s
$V_l$	interstitial velocity (Sec. 11.1)	ft / s	m / s
$V_{\text{mf}}$	minimum fluidizing velocity (Sec. 11.5)	ft / s	m / s
$W$	work	ft · lbf	J
$W$	weight	lbf	N
$W$	width	ft	m

$W_{n.f.}$	non-flow work (excluding injection work)	ft · lbf	J
$W$	volumetric solids content of slurry (Sec. 11.4)	—	—
$x, y, z$	directions of coordinate axes, or lengths	ft	m
$x$	distance	ft	m
$y$	distance perpendicular to the flow direction	ft	m
$y^+$	$(r_{\text{wall}} - r)u^* / \nu$ (Sec. 17.4)	—	—
$z$	elevation	ft	m
$\alpha$	coefficient of thermal expansion	1 / °F	1 / K
$\alpha$	specific resistance of filter cake (Sec. 11.4)	1 / lbf	1 / N
$\alpha$	small angle, jet angle (Chap. 19)	rad	rad
$\alpha$	thermal diffusivity	ft <sup>2</sup> / s	m <sup>2</sup> / s
$\alpha$	constant in Chézy Eq. (Chap. 6)	—	—
$\beta$	isothermal compressibility = 1 / (bulk modulus)	1 / (lbf / in <sup>2</sup> )	1 / Pa
$\gamma$	specific weight = $\rho g$	lbf / ft <sup>3</sup>	N / m <sup>3</sup>
$\Gamma$	torque	ft · lbf	N · m
$\delta$	boundary-layer thickness (Chap. 17)	ft	m
$\delta^*$	displacement thickness (Sec. 17.2)	ft	m
$\varepsilon$	absolute roughness	ft	m
$\varepsilon$	porosity or void fraction or volume fraction of gas	—	—
$\varepsilon$	eddy (kinematic) viscosity	ft <sup>2</sup> / s	m <sup>2</sup> / s
$\varepsilon$	turbulent dissipation rate	ft <sup>2</sup> / s <sup>3</sup>	m <sup>2</sup> / s <sup>3</sup>
$\zeta$	vorticity = $2\omega$	1 / s	1 / s
$\eta$	efficiency	—	—
$\eta$	$y(V_x / \nu_x)^{1/2}$ (Sec. 17.2)	—	—
$\eta$	viscosity (non-Newtonian fluids)	lbm / ft · s or cP	Pa · s
$\theta$	angle	rad	rad
$\theta$	momentum thickness (Sec. 17.2)	ft	m
$\theta$	contact angle (Sec. 17.3)	rad	rad
$\mu$	viscosity	lbm / ft · s or cP	Pa · s
$\nu$	kinematic viscosity ( $\mu / \rho$ )	ft <sup>2</sup> / s or cSt	m <sup>2</sup> / s
$\pi$	number of dimensionless groups (Chap. 9)	—	—
$\rho$	density	lbm / ft <sup>3</sup>	kg / m <sup>3</sup>
$\rho$	resistivity (Sec. 16.3)	—	ohm · m
$\sigma$	surface tension	lbf / ft	N / m
$\sigma$	stress	lbf / in <sup>2</sup>	Pa
$\sigma$	shear rate	1 / s	1 / s
$\sigma_x, \sigma_y, \sigma_z$	turbulent dispersion coefficients (Chap. 19)	ft	m
$\sigma_{xx}$	normal stress in $x$ direction	lbf / in <sup>2</sup>	Pa
$\tau$	shear stress	lbf / in <sup>2</sup>	Pa
$\tau_{xy}$	shear stress in the $x$ direction on a face perpendicular to the $y$ axis	lbf / in <sup>2</sup>	Pa
$\tau_{\text{wall}}$	shear stress at a solid wall	lbf / in <sup>2</sup>	Pa
$\tau_0$	shear stress at a solid surface	lbf / in <sup>2</sup>	Pa
$\tau_{\text{yield}}$	yield stress for a Bingham fluid	lbf / in <sup>2</sup>	Pa
$\phi$	potential	ft <sup>2</sup> / s for fluid flow	m <sup>2</sup> / s for fluid flow
$\phi(t)$	arbitrary function of time (Sec. 16.2)	—	—
$\psi$	stream function	ft <sup>2</sup> / s	m <sup>2</sup> / s
$\omega$	angular velocity	rad / s	rad / s
<i>Superscripts</i>			
*	sonic condition (Chap. 8)		
$\bar{X}$	time average of $X$	various	various

xx NOTATION

<i>Subscripts</i>			
<i>R</i>	reservoir state in Chap. 8		
<i>S</i>	isentropic condition (speed of sound)		
1, 2	arbitrary states		
<i>x, y</i>	conditions before and after a normal shock in Chap. 8		
<i>Vector</i>			
<b>boldface</b>	indicates a vector	various	various
$\nabla$	$\nabla = \mathbf{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \mathbf{j} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \mathbf{k} \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$	1 / ft	1 / m

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## PREFACE

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This book presents an introduction to fluid mechanics for undergraduate chemical engineering students.

Throughout the text, emphasis is placed on the connection between physical reality and the mathematical models of reality, which we manipulate. The ultimate test of a mathematical solution is its ability to predict the results of future experiments. Because a mathematically correct consequence of inapplicable assumptions is often simply wrong, the text occasionally offers intentionally wrong solutions to caution the student.

The simplest mathematical approaches are used, consistent with technical vigor.

Considerable attention is paid to the units of quantities in the equations because students usually have trouble with them, and because this reminds them that each symbol in our equations stands for a real physical quantity.

The book is divided into four sections. Section I, preliminaries, provides background for the study of flowing fluids. It includes a separate chapter on the balance equation. One might think that this is such a simple topic that it deserves only a few lines. However, it is a continual source of trouble to students. Furthermore, it is the most all-pervasive concept of chemical engineering, forming the basic mathematical framework for the application of the laws of thermodynamics, Newtonian mechanics, stoichiometry, and for the study of chemically reacting systems. There is also a chapter on the first law of thermodynamics. In the undergraduate program at the University of Utah, the students study basic engineering thermodynamics before they are introduced to fluid mechanics; thus, Chapter 4 is merely a review for them.

Section II discusses flows that are practically one-dimensional or can be treated as such. This organization of the book is radically different from the organization of fluids books written by mechanical and civil engineers, who begin with three-dimensional fluid mechanics and work their way down to one-dimensional fluid mechanics. The reasons for this organization, which fits better with the background of chemical engineers, are spelled out in Section 1.11. Sections I and II are the core of the book, covering all the basic ideas in fluid mechanics, and many of the problems of greatest interest to chemical engineers.

Section III discusses some other topics that can be viewed by the methods of one-dimensional fluid mechanics. These six chapters introduce other areas of fluid

mechanics that are of great practical interest to some chemical engineers but that are not covered in an introductory course for want of time. They can be assigned, in any order, as supplementary reading, or covered briefly in class, introducing students to the terminology and basic ideas of these fields and helping them to read related matters in the current literature.

Section IV introduces the student to two- and three-dimensional fluid mechanics. It shows the relations between the methods used for these flows and the simpler approaches used in Sections II and III. It shows what two- and three-dimensional problems can be solved by hand (a small number) and shows the basis on which most such problems are currently solved by Computational Fluid Mechanics programs. A separate chapter introduces the student to mixing, which is basic chemical engineering, but not routinely covered in fluid mechanics texts.

Computers do not make hand calculations unnecessary. No new or unfamiliar computer solution should be believed until manual plausibility checks have shown that the computer is indeed solving the problem we think it is solving and that its solution is physically reasonable. Simply plugging values into available computer packages does not build physical insight, which is one of the most important tools of the successful engineer. Good pedagogy begins with hand solutions of simplified versions of the real problem, which build physical insight and some understanding of physical magnitudes, followed by computer solutions, which can relax the simplifications and cover a wider variety of conditions, followed by manual plausibility checks of the computer solutions.

After an initial rush of enthusiasm for SI, engineering educators seem to be deciding that the English system of units is not likely to vanish overnight. For this reason our students must become like educated Europeans, who speak more than one language fluently and can read and understand one or two additional languages. Our students must be fluent in SI and in the English system of units and must understand traditional metric and cgs, and be able to read and understand texts using the slug and the poundal. This book has a long discussion of these various systems of units. Examples are presented in both SI and English units. This is unlikely to please purists of any persuasion, but it probably serves our students as well as any other approach and better than some.

My goal is to present a text that average chemical engineering undergraduates can read and understand and from which they can attack a variety of meaningful problems. I have tried to help the student develop a physical insight into the processes of fluid mechanics and develop the understanding that the equations on these pages truly describe what nature does. I have tried to choose examples from the student's own experiences, or that relate to things they can observe in their everyday lives. The home is a wonderful place to observe the principles of chemical engineering; good teachers help students interpret what they see in the home in terms of chemical engineering principles.

The true test of the quality of a textbook is whether it becomes the most worn and tattered book on a practicing engineer's bookshelf. Former students tell me that the first two editions of this book pass that test. I hope copies of this edition will become even more worn and tattered.

For instructor resources visit the text's Web site at <http://www.mcgraw-hill.engineeringcs.com>.

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Johannes Khinast, Rutgers University

Hossain Khoroosi, University of Minnesota

David W. Murhammer, University of Iowa

Thuan Nguyen, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Russell Ostermann, University of Kansas

Ravi Saraf, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Karsten E. Thompson, Louisiana State University

*Noel de Nevers*

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# CONTENTS

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	Notation	xvii
	Preface	xxiii
<b>Chapter 1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	What Is Fluid Mechanics?	1
1.2	What Good Is Fluid Mechanics?	2
1.3	Basic Ideas in Fluid Mechanics	3
1.4	Liquids and Gases	4
1.5	Properties of Fluids	5
	<i>1.5.1 Density / 1.5.2 Specific Gravity / 1.5.3 Viscosity /</i>	
	<i>1.5.4 Kinematic Viscosity / 1.5.5 Surface Tension</i>	
1.6	Pressure	16
1.7	Force, Mass, and Weight	19
1.8	Units and Conversion Factors	19
1.9	Principles and Techniques	25
1.10	Engineering Problems	26
1.11	Why This Book Is Different from Other Fluid Mechanics Books	28
1.12	Summary	30
<b>PART I</b>	<b>PRELIMINARIES</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>Fluid Statics</b>	<b>37</b>
2.1	The Basic Equation of Fluid Statics	38
2.2	Pressure-Depth Relationships	40
	<i>2.2.1 Constant-Density Fluids / 2.2.2 Ideal Gases</i>	
2.3	Pressure Forces on Surfaces	44
2.4	Pressure Vessels and Piping	47
2.5	Buoyancy	52
2.6	Pressure Measurement	54
2.7	Manometer-like Situations	59
2.8	Variable Gravity	63



2.9	Pressure in Accelerated Rigid-Body Motions	63
2.10	More Problems in Fluid Statics	68
2.11	Summary	69
<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>The Balance Equation and the Mass Balance</b>	<b>81</b>
3.1	The General Balance Equation	81
3.2	The Mass Balance	84
3.3	Steady-State Balances	86
3.4	The Steady-State Flow, One-Dimensional Mass Balance	87
	<i>3.4.1 Average Velocity / 3.4.2 Velocity Distributions</i>	
3.5	Unsteady-State Mass Balances	91
3.6	Mass Balances for Mixtures	95
3.7	Summary	98
<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>The First Law of Thermodynamics</b>	<b>103</b>
4.1	Energy	103
4.2	Forms of Energy	104
	<i>4.2.1 Internal Energy / 4.2.2 Kinetic Energy / 4.2.3 Potential Energy / 4.2.4 Electrostatic Energy / 4.2.5 Magnetic Energy / 4.2.6 Surface Energy / 4.2.7 Nuclear Energy</i>	
4.3	Energy Transfer	107
4.4	The Energy Balance	108
	<i>4.4.1 The Sign Convention for Work</i>	
4.5	Kinetic and Potential Energies	110
4.6	Internal Energy	113
4.7	The Work Term	115
4.8	Injection Work	116
4.9	Enthalpy	118
4.10	Restricted Forms	119
4.11	Other Forms of Work and Energy	122
4.12	Limitations of the First Law	125
4.13	Summary	126
<b>PART II</b>	<b>FLOWS OF FLUIDS THAT ARE ONE-DIMENSIONAL, OR THAT CAN BE TREATED AS IF THEY WERE</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>Bernoulli's Equation</b>	<b>133</b>
5.1	The Energy Balance for a Steady, Incompressible Flow	133
5.2	The Friction-Heating Term	134
5.3	Zero Flow	137
5.4	The Head Form of B.E.	138
5.5	Diffusers and Sudden Expansions	138
5.6	B.E. for Gases	141