

Solution to Problem 148A:

To model the aerodynamics of the boundary layers and other viscous effects in the flow of an automobile traveling at 60km/hr in a wind tunnel using a one third scale model, it is necessary to run at the same Reynolds number, $Re = UL/\nu$, where U is the velocity and L is the size of the model automobile. Assuming that air is the fluid in both cases with the same kinematic viscosity, ν , the wind tunnel velocity needs to be $60 \times 3 = 180\text{km/hr}$.

However, in a water tunnel in which the kinematic viscosity is half that of air, maintaining the appropriate Reynolds number would require a water velocity of $1/2 \times 60 \times 3 = 90\text{km/hr}$.

Note that both of these modeling options are very difficult if not impossible; a wind tunnel flow of 180km/hr combined with a one third scale model would be very difficult and a water tunnel at 90km/hr would be virtually impossible at one third scale.