

## Buoyancy

Have you ever been close to drowning? It's because your buoyant force wasn't large enough!

This is an upward force resulting from an object being wholly or partially immersed in a fluid.

The difference in height between the top and bottom of the object yields a pressure (P = F/A) difference(more pressure lower, less pressure higher).

The imbalance in pressure results in this force.

Note: in weightless conditions, things don't float! In space, ice cubes are surrounded by the liquid they are put in (which won't stay in a glass); astronauts can't burp!

#### **Archimedes**

Archimedes of Syracuse was a Greek philosopher/ scientist tasked with determining whether the king's crown was pure gold, or an alloy.

Legend has it that the solution came to him during a bath, and he was so excited that he ran through the streets naked, shouting "Eureka!" (I have found it in Greek). He measured the density (a new concept at the time) of the

crown, and compared it to that of pure gold to make his judgment.

It is unknown whether the crown was pure gold or not.

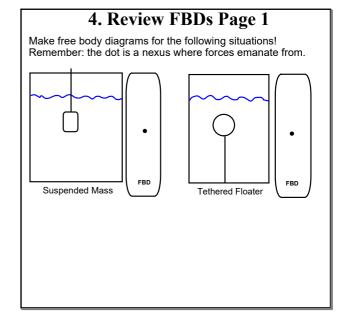


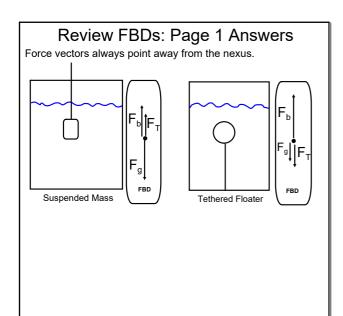
# Archimedes' Principle

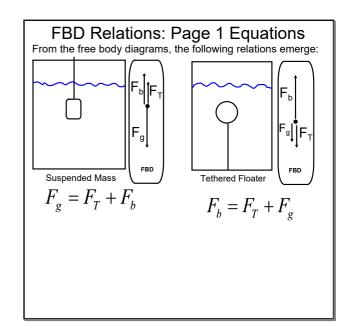
"A body immersed wholly or partially in a fluid experiences a buoyant force equal in magnitude to the weight of the volume of fluid displaced."

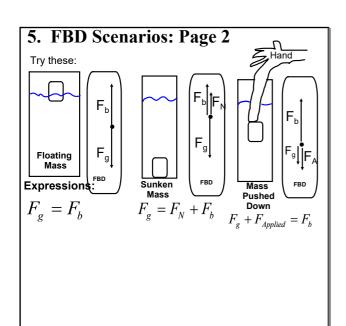
AP Equation	$F_b$ = buoyant force (N) $\rho_f$ = density of fluid (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )
$F_b = \rho_f V_f g$	$F_b = \text{buoyant force (N)}$ $\rho_f = \text{density of fluid (kg/m}^3)$ $V_f = \text{volume of fluid displaced (m}^3)$ $g = 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2$

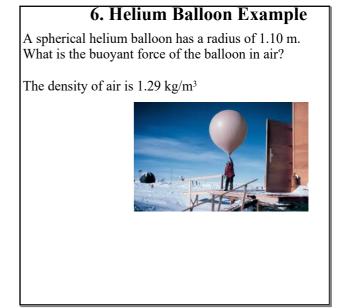
Note, "f" is added to this equation.











#### **Helium Balloon Answer**

Compute the balloon volume first, then use Archimedes' principle to solve:

Volume:

$$V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3 = \frac{4}{3}\pi (1.10 \, m)^3 = 5.58 \, m^3$$

Buoyant force:

$$F_b = (\rho_{air}V_f)g = (1.29 kg / m^3)(5.58 m^3) \cdot 9.81 m / s^2 = 70.5 N$$

## **Buoyancy and Density**

It is common to say that a helium balloon floats because it is 'lighter than air.' It's more accurate to say that it floats because it is less dense than air.

If an object is completely submerged in a fluid, where  $V_f = V_o$ , you can draw this relation for buoyant force:

$$F_{b} = \left(\frac{\rho_{f}}{\rho_{o}}\right) w_{o} \begin{cases} F_{b} = \text{buoyancy Force (N)} \\ \rho = \text{density (kg/m}^{3}) \\ f = \text{fluid} \\ o = \text{object} \\ w_{o} = \text{object weight (N) (m•g)} \end{cases}$$

## **3 Conditions of Buoyancy**

- 1. Objects float if their average density is less than the density of the fluid.  $\rho_o < \rho_f$
- 2. Objects sink if their average density is greater than the density of the fluid.  $\rho_o > \rho_f$
- 3. Objects are in equilibrium if their average density and the fluid's are equal.  $\rho_0 = \rho_f$

#### 7. Float or Sink Part 1

A solid 0.72 kg cube has a side length of 0.10 m. Will it float in fresh water?

Find the cube's volume, then its density:

$$V_c = l \cdot w \cdot h = (0.10 \, m)^3 = 0.0010 \, m^3$$
  
 $\rho_c = \frac{m}{V} = \frac{0.72 \, kg}{0.0010 \, m^3} = 720 \, kg \, / \, m^3$ 

The cube floats: its density is less than water's.  $(density_{H2O} = 1000 \text{ kg/m}^3)$ 

#### 8. Float or Sink Part 2

What percent of the cube's volume is below water? First determine how much water was displaced.

When it floats, weight equals buoyancy: 
$$F_G = F_b$$

$$F_G = mg = \rho_f V_f g = F_b$$

$$m = \rho_f V_f$$

$$\frac{m}{\rho_f} = V_f$$

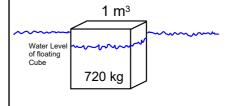
$$\frac{0.72 \, kg}{1000 \, kg \, / \, m^3} = V_f = 0.00072 \, m^3$$

Finally, percent: 
$$\frac{V_{H_2O}}{V_{cube}} \bullet 100\% = \frac{0.00072 \, m^3}{0.0010 \, m^3} \bullet 100\% = 72\%$$

## Float or Sink Conceptual Aid

When average density of object is less than water, consider a cubic meter with some percent water in it.

Ex: density =  $720 \text{ kg/m}^3$ , would be a cube with 720kg of water in it, so 28% would be empty, and 72% full.



# 9. Human Buoyancy in Air Example

Estimate the buoyancy of a 75-kg person in air, assuming that human density averages about that of water.

The density of air is 1.29 kg/m<sup>3</sup>

# **Human Buoyancy in Air Answer**

Compute the human volume first, then use Archimedes' principle to solve:

Volume: 
$$V_{human} = \frac{m}{\rho_{human}} = \frac{75 \, kg}{1000 \, kg / m^3} = 0.075 \, m^3$$

Buoyant force:

$$F_b = (\rho_{air}V_{human})g$$
  
=  $(1.29 kg/m^3)(0.075 m^3) \cdot 9.81 m/s^2 = 0.95 N$ 

This is about 0.23 pounds, so on a bathroom scale the person actually weighs a little more!

#### Homework 1.3

Preview 1.4

Problems 1.3 in your Booklet Due: Next Class