

Mechanics of liquids and gases

Buoyancy

Detecting the effect of a buoyancy force in liquids -
Measurement with a precision dynamometer

Objects of the experiments

1. Detecting the effect of a buoyancy force when a body is immersed in a liquid step by step
2. Demonstrating the independence of the buoyancy force of a completely immersed body on the depth of immersion

Setup



Preparation of the aluminium body:

- Thread a 30 cm long piece of fishing line through the bore of the aluminium body and knot the ends together.
- In order to have well-defined depths of immersion, make marks on one side of the aluminium body with a spacing of 1.5 cm.

Stand setup:

- Slide the 400 mm long stand tube over the other one by about 10 cm, and connect the tubes using the universal bosshead.
- Clamp the stand tube with the smaller diameter in the stand base.
- Fasten the clamp with hook to the other stand tube.
- The height of the stand setup can now be adjusted continuously by carefully loosening the lower screw of the universal bosshead.

Apparatus

1 Aluminium block.....	362 32
1 Plastic beaker	590 06
1 Precision dynamometer, 1 N.....	314 141
1 Stand rod, V-shape, small.....	300 02
1 Stand tube, 450 mm, 10 mm diam., set of 2.....	666 609ET2
1 Stand tube, 400 mm, 13 mm diam.	666 607
1 Universal bosshead	666 615
1 Clamp with hook	301 08
1 Fishing line, set of 2	309 48ET2
1 Black felt-tip pens, medium size, set of 5	667 019ET5

Carrying out the experiment

1. Detecting the effect of a buoyancy force:
 - Determine the gravitational force of the aluminium body by means of the dynamometer.
 - Then immerse the body in the beaker, which is filled with water. Proceed step by step according to the marks on the body.
 - Each time read the force acting on the dynamometer.
2. Buoyancy force on a completely immersed body:
 - Slowly lower the completely immersed body in the water.
 - Observe the measured value at the dynamometer as the body is lowered.

Measuring example

1. Gravitational force of the aluminium body: $G = 1.0 \text{ N}$

Depth of immersion s in cm	Force F' in N
1.5	0.91
3.0	0.81
4.5	0.72
6.0	0.63

2. At any depth of immersion, a force F' of 0.63 N is read from the dynamometer.

Evaluation

1. When a body is immersed in a liquid, a force acts on it in the opposite direction of the gravitational force. This force is called buoyancy force F_b . The magnitude of the buoyancy force is obtained from the difference of G and F' :
 $F_b = G - F'$.
2. The buoyancy force acting on a body which is completely immersed in a liquid is independent of the depth of immersion.