

GRAPHS:

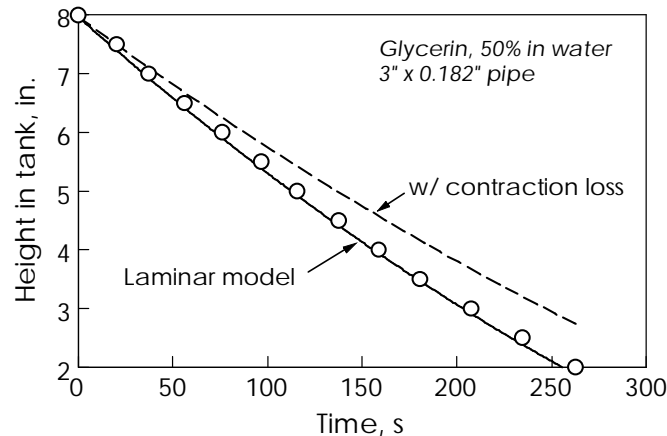


Figure 2. Comparison of experimental draining profile for glycerin solution (points) with prediction of laminar model (solid curve) for 3-in. pipe, 0.182 in. in diameter installed in the 8-in.-diameter tank. Contraction loss was included to generate the broken curve. Re is around 1000 for this flow.

Notes:

1. Large letters and symbols, easy to read even at large reduction (to save space, of course). Line thickness, fonts and delimiters are purely a matter of style as long as the result is easily readable and unambiguous.
2. Absolutely no extra clutter on graph. No extra zeroes, no polynomials, no cubic splines, no background (xeroxes black), no extra ticks, no grids, no extra ticks. There are, however, enough ticks to give the casual reader a fighting chance to interpolate (e.g., how long did it take to get to 3") and certainly enough for accurate digitizing, should that become necessary.
3. Model is depicted as a simple line—no “data” points. Remember, this is a function we are plotting. (On some very difficult computations involving possible numerical error, then individual results may be important.) If there are several lines, use texture to distinguish them, as color can disappear after high-contrast xeroxing. If there is room, label the curves directly on the graph (as shown), as it takes time to figure out keys.
4. Experimental points are always in front of model. (Remember, someone may want to digitize this figure in the future and get an accurate fix on the location of each experimental point.)
5. Short caption (optional) is permanently embedded in figure image so that figure can be used out of context (say in a Power-Point presentation) without mix-ups.
6. Long caption contains additional important information about the result shown, not the completely obvious “height vs. time.” In fact, it contains enough information so that someone could reproduce the calculation.
7. In caption and figure, note correct abbreviations for units and use of hyphen in compound adjective. (Wording has been exaggerated to point out the difference between the word “in” and the unit “in.” for inches.)

Some of these are admittedly small points, but doing things correctly does not take more time (once learned), so why not?