

# Forchheimer equation @model

[@wikipedia](#)

The [momentum balance equation](#) relating a [pressure gradient](#)  $\nabla p$  in [porous medium](#) with induced [fluid flow](#) ([percolation](#)) with velocity  $\mathbf{u}$

$$(1) \quad -\nabla p = \frac{\mu}{k} \mathbf{u} + \beta \rho |\mathbf{u}| \mathbf{u}$$

where

|         |                                         |
|---------|-----------------------------------------|
| $k$     | <a href="#">formation permeability</a>  |
| $\mu$   | <a href="#">fluid viscosity</a>         |
| $\beta$ | <a href="#">Forchheimer coefficient</a> |

[Forchheimer coefficient](#) depends on flow regime and [formation permeability](#) as:

$$(2) \quad \beta = \frac{C_E}{\sqrt{k}}$$

where  $C_E$  is [dimensionless quantity](#) called [Ergun constant](#) accounting for inertial (kinetic) effects and depending on [flow regime](#) only.

$C_E$  is small for slow [percolation](#) (thus reducing [Forchheimer equation](#) to [Darcy equation](#)) and grows quickly with high flow velocities.

[Forchheimer equation](#) can be approximated by non-linear permeability model as:

|                                                      |                                                            |                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| $(3) \quad \mathbf{u} = -\frac{k}{\mu} k_f \nabla p$ | $(4) \quad k_f( \nabla p ) = \frac{2}{w} [1 - \sqrt{1-w}]$ | $(5) \quad w = 4 \left( \frac{k}{\mu} \right)^2 \beta \rho  \nabla p  < 1$ |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## See also

[Physics](#) / [Fluid Dynamics](#) / [Percolation](#)

[ [Darcy Flow Equation](#) ]

## Reference

[Philipp Forchheimer](#) (1886). "Über die Ergiebigkeit von Brunnen-Anlagen und Sickerschlitzten". Z. Architekt. Ing.-Ver. Hannover. 32: 539–563.

