

Water flows at 10 L/min through a horizontal 15 mm diameter tube. The pressure drop along a 20 m length of tube is 85 kPa. Calculate the head loss in meters.



SOLUTION:

Apply the Extended Bernoulli Equation from one end of the tube to the other,

$$\left(\frac{p}{\rho g} + \alpha \frac{\bar{v}^2}{2g} + z\right)_2 = \left(\frac{p}{\rho g} + \alpha \frac{\bar{v}^2}{2g} + z\right)_1 - H_{L,12} + H_{S,12} \quad (1)$$

where,

$$\Delta p = p_2 - p_1 = -85 \text{ kPa},$$

$$\left(\alpha \frac{\bar{v}^2}{2g}\right)_2 = \left(\alpha \frac{\bar{v}^2}{2g}\right)_1 \quad (\text{the mass flow rate and pipe diameter are constant})$$

The flow is turbulent at both locations: $Re_D = \frac{\bar{v}D}{\nu} = \frac{4Q}{\pi D\nu} = 7860$ so $\alpha_2 \approx \alpha_1 \approx 1$ ($\nu = 1.8 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$).

$$z_2 = z_1,$$

$$H_{S,12} = 0.$$

Substitute and solve for the head loss,

$$\frac{\Delta p}{\rho g} = -H_{L,12} \Rightarrow H_{L,12} = -\frac{\Delta p}{\rho g} \quad (2)$$

Using the given data,

$$\Delta p = -85 \text{ kPa},$$

$$\rho = 1000 \text{ kg/m}^3,$$

$$g = 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2,$$

$$\Rightarrow H_{L,12} = 8.66 \text{ m}$$