

61. To be as general as possible, we denote the ratio of body density to water density as f (so that $f = \rho/\rho_w = 0.95$ in this problem). Floating involves an equilibrium of vertical forces acting on the body (Earth's gravity pulls down and the buoyant force pushes up). Thus,

$$F_b = F_g \implies \rho_w g V_w = \rho g V$$

where V is the total volume of the body and V_w is the portion of it which is submerged.

- (a) We rearrange the above equation to yield

$$\frac{V_w}{V} = \frac{\rho}{\rho_w} = f$$

which means that 95% of the body is submerged and therefore 5% is above the water surface.

- (b) We replace ρ_w with $1.6\rho_w$ in the above equilibrium of forces relationship, and find

$$\frac{V_w}{V} = \frac{\rho}{1.6\rho_w} = \frac{f}{1.6}$$

which means that 59% of the body is submerged and thus 41% is above the quicksand surface.

- (c) The answer to part (b) suggests that a person in that situation is able to breathe.
- (d) The thixotropic property is warning that slow motions are best. Reasonable steps are: lay back on the surface, slowly pull your legs free, and then roll to the shore.