

Physics Formula Sheet

Unit Conversions

Length: 1 meter = 39.37 inches = 3.281 feet, 1 km = 0.621 miles, 1 mile = 5280 feet = 1609 meters

Mass: 1 amu (u) = 1.66×10^{-27} kg

Mass-Energy: $(1 \text{ u}) \times 931.5 = \text{Energy (MeV)}$

Time: 1 hour = 3600 seconds, 1 year = 365.25 days = 3.16×10^7 sec

Volume: 1 Liter = 1000 cm³ = 10^{-3} m³, 1 gallon = 3.786 L = 3.786×10^{-3} m³ = 231 in³

Force: 1 Newton = 1 kg-m/s² = 0.2248 pounds

Angular Measure: 1 rev = 360° = 2π rad

Energy: 1 Joule = 0.239 cal = 0.738 ft·lb, 1 kw·hr = 3.6×10^6 J, 1 eV = 1.60×10^{-19} J

Pressure: 1 atm = 1.013×10^5 Pascals (N/m²) = 29.92 inches or 760 mm of Hg

Temperature: $T_F = 1.8 \cdot T_C + 32$, $T_C = 0.556 \cdot (T_F - 32)$, $T_K = T_C + 273$

Density: 1 g/cm³ = 1000 kg/m³

Radioactivity: 1 Bq = 2.7×10^{-11} Ci

Physical Constants

Mass of Earth: $M_E = 5.98 \times 10^{24}$ kg

Radius of Earth: $R_E = 6.38 \times 10^6$ m

Mass of Sun: $M_S = 1.99 \times 10^{30}$ kg

Earth-Sun distance: $r_E = 1.5 \times 10^{11}$ m

Gravitational Constant: $G = 6.67 \times 10^{-11}$ N·m²/kg²

Speed of Light: $c = 3.0 \times 10^8$ m/s

Electron mass: $m_e = 0.0005486 \text{ u} = 9.11 \times 10^{-31}$ kg

Proton mass: $m_p = 1.007276 \text{ u} = 1.67 \times 10^{-27}$ kg

Neutron mass: $m_n = 1.008665 \text{ u} = 1.67 \times 10^{-27}$ kg

Helium mass: $m_{He} = 4.002602 \text{ u} = 6.64 \times 10^{-27}$ kg

Boltzmann's Constant: $k_B = 1.38 \times 10^{-23}$ J/K

Avogadro's #: $N_A = 6.023 \times 10^{23}$ molecules/mole

Ideal Gas Constant: $R = 8.31$ J/mol·K = 0.0821 L·atm/mol·K

Stefan-Boltzmann Radiation Constant: $\sigma = 5.67 \times 10^{-8}$ W/m²·K⁴

Specific heat of water: $c_{\text{water}} = 4186$ J/kg·°C

Latent heat of fusion: $L_f = 333,000$ J/kg

Specific heat of ice: $c_{\text{ice}} = 2090$ J/kg·°C

Latent heat of vaporization: $L_v = 2.26 \times 10^6$ J/kg

Specific heat of steam: $c_{\text{steam}} = 2010$ J/kg·°C

Coulomb constant: $k_c = 8.99 \times 10^9$ N·m²/C²

Permittivity of free space: $\epsilon_0 = 8.85 \times 10^{-12}$ C²/N·m²

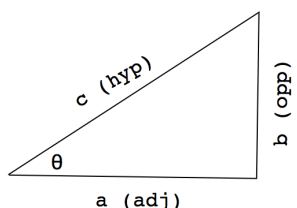
Fundamental charge: $e = 1.60 \times 10^{-19}$ C

Permeability of free space: $\mu_0 = 1.26 \times 10^{-6}$ T·m/A

Planck's constant: $h = 6.626 \times 10^{-34}$ J·s

Rydberg constant: $R_H = 1.097 \times 10^7$ m⁻¹

Basic Trigonometry



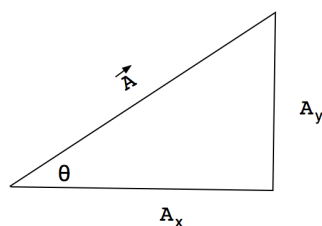
$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

$$\cos \theta = \text{adj/hyp}$$

$$\sin \theta = \text{opp/hyp}$$

$$\tan \theta = \text{opp/adj}$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}(\text{opp/adj})$$



$$A_x = A \cos \theta$$

$$A_y = A \sin \theta$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}(|A_y|/|A_x|)$$

Motion with Constant Acceleration

Average velocity: $v_{\text{avg}} = \Delta x / \Delta t$

Multi-part motion: $\Delta x_1 = v_{\text{avg},1} t_1$, $\Delta x_2 = v_{\text{avg},2} t_2$, ...

$$\Delta x_{\text{tot}} = \Delta x_1 + \Delta x_2 + \dots = v_{\text{avg,tot}} t_{\text{tot}}$$

Acceleration: $a = \Delta v / \Delta t = (v - v_0) / t$

If $a = \text{constant}$, then $v_{\text{avg}} = (v + v_0) / 2$

where Δx = displacement,

v = final velocity

v_0 = initial velocity

Equation of Motion

$$(1) \Delta x = \frac{1}{2}(v + v_0)t$$

$$(2) v = v_0 + at$$

$$(3) \Delta x = v_0 t + \frac{1}{2}at^2$$

$$(4) \Delta x = vt - \frac{1}{2}at^2$$

$$(5) v^2 = v_0^2 + 2a\Delta x$$

Missing

a

Δx

v

v_0

t

Forces (Newtons)

$$\sum \mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{a} \Rightarrow \sum \mathbf{F}_x = m\mathbf{a}_x, \sum \mathbf{F}_y = m\mathbf{a}_y \text{ or } \sum \mathbf{F}_{\parallel} = m\mathbf{a}_{\parallel}, \sum \mathbf{F}_{\perp} = m\mathbf{a}_{\perp}$$

Force Definitions (Magnitude and Direction)

Gravity: $\mathbf{F}_g = |mg|$, downward, where $g = 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$

Applied: $\mathbf{F}_{\text{App}} = |\text{variable}|$, $|\text{variable}|$ (must be defined in problem statement or solved for)

Tension: $\mathbf{F}_T = |\text{variable}|$, inward from each end of rope/string, equal and opposite at each end

Normal: $\mathbf{F}_N = |\sum \mathbf{F}_{\perp}|$ (sum of all other $\perp$ forces), $\perp$ to and out of surface.

Kinetic Friction: $\mathbf{F}_{KF} = |\mu_k \mathbf{F}_N|$, opposing motion, where μ_k is the coefficient of kinetic friction.

Static Friction: $\mathbf{F}_{SF} = |\sum \mathbf{F}_{\parallel}|$ (sum of all other $\parallel$ forces), opposite direction of $\sum \mathbf{F}_{\parallel}$.

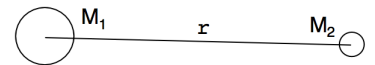
Static Friction (max value): $\mathbf{F}_{SF, \max} = |\mu_s \mathbf{F}_N|$ where μ_s is the coefficient of static friction.

Spring: $\mathbf{F}_{\text{spr}} = |k_s \Delta \mathbf{x}|$, restoring, k_s = spring constant (N/m) and $\Delta \mathbf{x}$ = displacement from equilibrium

"Centrifugal": $\mathbf{F}_{cf} = |m\mathbf{v}^2/r|$ or $|m\mathbf{r}\omega^2|$, radially outward, where r = radius of circular motion

Buoyancy: $\mathbf{F}_B = |\rho_f V_f g|$, upward. ρ_f = fluid density, V_f = volume of displaced fluid

Newtonian Gravity: $F_{\text{grav}} = \left| \frac{GM_1 M_2}{r^2} \right|$, attractive



where $G = 6.67 \times 10^{-11} \text{ N-m}^2/\text{kg}^2$,

r = distance between centers of M_1 and M_2 .

Electric: $F_{\text{electric}} = \left| \frac{k_c q_1 q_2}{r^2} \right|$, like charges repel, opposites attract.

where k_c = Coulomb constant ($8.99 \times 10^9 \text{ N-m}^2/\text{C}^2$),

r = distance between centers of charges q_1 and q_2

More generally, $F_{\text{Electric}} = qE$, where E = Electric field in which q is immersed

Magnetic: $\mathbf{F}_B = q\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}$ or $|q\mathbf{vB}\sin\theta|$ for moving charges,

or $|\ell \mathbf{I} \times \mathbf{B}|$ or $|\ell \mathbf{IB}\sin\theta|$ for current-carrying wires (ℓ = length of wire),

direction: right-hand rule #1 ($\mathbf{F}$ = palm, $\mathbf{v}$ or $\mathbf{I}$ = thumb, $\mathbf{B}$ = fingers)

where θ is the angle between $\mathbf{v}$ and $\mathbf{B}$ or between $\mathbf{I}$ and $\mathbf{B}$. (cross product)

Energy and Work (Joules)

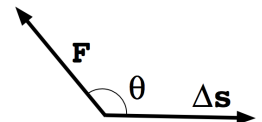
Work done by a Force

Work/Energy Units: 1 Joule = 1 kg-m²/s², 1 Watt = 1 Joule/sec

Method #1: $W_F = |\mathbf{F}| \cdot |\Delta \mathbf{s}| \cdot \cos\theta$, where θ is the angle between $\mathbf{F}$ and $\Delta \mathbf{s}$

Method #2: $W_F = -\Delta U_F$ or $U_{\text{initial}} - U_{\text{final}}$, where U_F is the potential energy related to the force

Method #3: $W_{F1} + W_{F2} + W_{F3} = W_{\text{tot}}$. Find W_{F1} , W_{F2} and W_{tot} , then solve for W_{F3} .



Potential Energy (only conservative forces have an associated potential energy)

Gravity (relative): $\Delta U_{\text{grav}} = mg\Delta y$ (only works for small distances over which $g = 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$)

Newtonian Gravity (absolute): $U_{\text{grav}} = -\frac{GM_1 M_2}{r}$ (see diagram above)

Spring: $U_{\text{spr}} = \frac{1}{2}k_s(\Delta \mathbf{x})^2$, where k_s = spring constant (N/m), $\Delta \mathbf{x}$ = displacement from equilibrium

Electric (relative): $\Delta U_{\text{electric}} = q_1 \Delta V_2$, where q_1 is a charge immersed in a potential V_2 .

Electric (absolute): $U_{\text{electric}} = \frac{k_c q_1 q_2}{r}$, where r = distance between centers of charges q_1 and q_2

Work-Energy and Energy Conservation: U = potential energy, $K = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$, kinetic energy

Mechanical Energy: $E = K + U$. E is conserved ($\Delta E = 0$) if only conservative forces do work

Work-Energy Theorem: $W_{\text{tot}} = \sum W_F = \Delta K$.

Power (Watts) and Energy

Power: $P = \text{Energy/time}$ or Work/time , $P = |\mathbf{F}| \cdot |\mathbf{v}| \cdot \cos\theta$, where θ is the angle between $\mathbf{F}$ and $\mathbf{v}$

Momentum (kg·m/s) and Collisions

Momentum: $\mathbf{p} = m\mathbf{v}$, where $\mathbf{p}$ = momentum (kg·m/s), $\mathbf{p}$ and $\mathbf{v}$ share the same direction.

Impulse: $\Delta\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{F}_{\text{avg}}\Delta t$ or $\mathbf{F}_{\text{avg}} = \Delta\mathbf{p}/\Delta t$, where $\Delta\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{p}_{\text{final}} - \mathbf{p}_{\text{initial}}$.

Momentum Conservation: If $\sum \mathbf{F}_{\text{ext}} = 0$, then $\Delta\mathbf{p} = 0$, where $\sum \mathbf{F}_{\text{ext}}$ = sum of all external forces.

If $\Delta\mathbf{p} = 0$, then: $\Delta\mathbf{p}_x = 0$ or $m_1\mathbf{v}_{1i,x} + m_2\mathbf{v}_{2i,x} = m_1\mathbf{v}_{1f,x} + m_2\mathbf{v}_{2f,x}$
and $\Delta\mathbf{p}_y = 0$ or $m_1\mathbf{v}_{1i,y} + m_2\mathbf{v}_{2i,y} = m_1\mathbf{v}_{1f,y} + m_2\mathbf{v}_{2f,y}$

If masses stick together after collision, then $\mathbf{v}_{1f} = \mathbf{v}_{2f} = \mathbf{v}_f$

Elastic Collisions: If $\Delta\mathbf{p} = 0$ and $\Delta K = 0$, then:

$$v_{1f} = \frac{m_1 - m_2}{m_1 + m_2} v_{1i} + \frac{2m_2}{m_1 + m_2} v_{2i} \quad \text{and} \quad v_{2f} = \frac{2m_1}{m_1 + m_2} v_{1i} + \frac{m_2 - m_1}{m_1 + m_2} v_{2i}$$

Shortcut: Note that if $m_1 = m_2$, then $v_{1f} = v_{2i}$ and $v_{2f} = v_{1i}$.

Rotational Motion and Newtonian Gravity

Angular equivalents: $\Delta\theta = \Delta s/r$, $\omega = v/r$, $\alpha = a_{\text{tan}}/r$

Centripetal acceleration: $a_{\text{cp}} = v^2/r$ or $r\omega^2$, directed radially inward

"Centrifugal force": $\mathbf{F}_{\text{cf}} = m\mathbf{v}^2/r$ or $m\mathbf{r}\omega^2$, directed radially outward

Motion with Constant α

$$\Delta\theta = \frac{1}{2}(\omega + \omega_0)t$$

$$\omega = \omega_0 + \alpha t$$

$$\Delta\theta = \omega_0 t + \frac{1}{2}\alpha t^2$$

$$\Delta\theta = \omega t - \frac{1}{2}\alpha t^2$$

$$\omega^2 = \omega_0^2 + 2\alpha\Delta\theta$$

Orbital Motion (Earth)

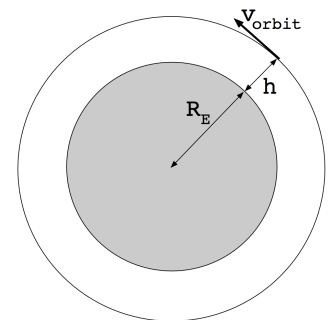
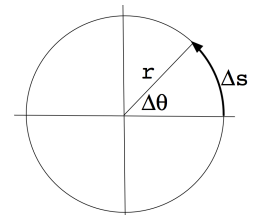
$r_{\text{orbit}} = R_E + h$, where R_E = Radius of Earth,

and h = altitude above surface

$2\pi r_{\text{orbit}} = v_{\text{orbit}}T$, where T = orbital period

Equation of Orbital Velocity: $v_{\text{orbit}} = \sqrt{\frac{GM}{r_{\text{orbit}}}}$

Kepler's 3rd Law of Orbits: $T^2 = \left(\frac{4\pi^2}{GM}\right)r_{\text{orbit}}^3$



Torque (Newton-meters)

Torque (Cross Product): $\tau = \mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{F}$ or $|\mathbf{r}| \cdot |\mathbf{F}| \cdot \sin\theta$, where

$\mathbf{r}$ = distance vector from pivot to point of application of the force, and

θ = angle between tails of vectors $\mathbf{r}$ and $\mathbf{F}$.

Torque (Lever Arm): $\tau = |\mathbf{F}\ell|$, where

ℓ = $\perp$ distance to line of action or "lever arm".

Sign Convention: τ is negative if directed clockwise (cw)

τ is positive if directed counter-clockwise (ccw).

Moment of Inertia: $I = AMR^2$ (kg·m²), where

R = radius of object and A = number from 0-1

depending upon the nature of the object

$$I_{\text{ring}} = MR^2$$

$$I_{\text{point mass}} = Mr^2, \text{ where } r = \text{distance from object to axis}$$

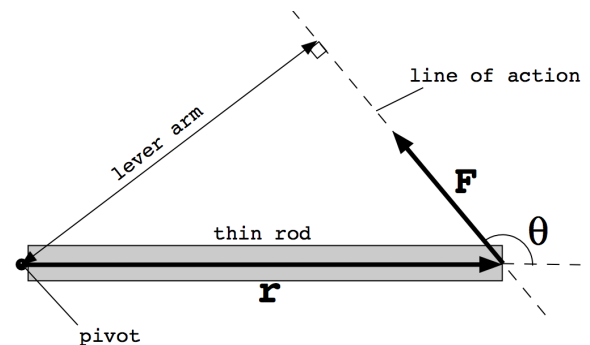
$$I_{\text{cylinder}} = \frac{1}{2}MR^2$$

$$I_{\text{sphere}} = 0.4MR^2$$

object is revolving around

Newton's 2nd Law (Angular Version): $\sum \tau = I\alpha$

Static Equilibrium: $\sum F_x = \sum F_y = \sum \tau = 0$



Rotational Kinetic Energy (Joules) and Angular Momentum (kg·m/s)

Rotational Kinetic Energy: $K = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$ (translational KE) + $\frac{1}{2}I\omega^2$ (rotational KE)

Rolling without slipping: $\mathbf{v}_{\text{center-of-mass}} = \mathbf{v}_{\text{tan}}$, at rim $= r\omega$.

Angular Momentum: $\mathbf{L} = I\omega$. Just as $\mathbf{F}_{\text{avg}} = \Delta\mathbf{p}/\Delta t$, $\tau = \Delta\mathbf{L}/\Delta t$.

Conservation Laws: if $\sum \mathbf{F}_{\text{ext}} = 0$, then $\Delta\mathbf{p} = 0$ and if $\sum \tau_{\text{ext}} = 0$, $\Delta\mathbf{L} = 0$.

If $\Delta\mathbf{L} = 0$, then $I_{1i}\omega_{1i} + I_{2i}\omega_{2i} = I_{1f}\omega_{1f} + I_{2f}\omega_{2f}$.

Harmonic Motion

Spring Period: $T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{m}{k_s}}$

Pendulum Oscillations: $T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{\ell}{g}}$

Spring Oscillations and Circular Motion:

Amplitude: $A = x_{\max}$

Position: $x(t) = A \cos(\omega t)$

Velocity: $v(t) = r\omega = A\omega \sin(\omega t)$

Acceleration: $a(t) = r\omega^2 = A\omega^2 \cos(\omega t)$

Frequency: $f = 1/T$

Angular Frequency: $\omega = 2\pi f = 2\pi/T$

Mechanical Energy: $E = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 + \frac{1}{2}kx^2 = \frac{1}{2}kA^2$

Fluids

Density: $\rho = \text{Mass/Volume (kg/m}^3\text{)}$. Since $m = \rho V$, $F_{\text{grav}} = mg = \rho Vg$ for fluids.

Pressure: $P = \text{Force/Area (N/m}^2\text{ or Pascals)}$

Pascal's Principle: $P_{\text{bot}} = P_{\text{top}} + \rho gh$, "gauge pressure" = $P_{\text{bot}} - P_{\text{top}}$.

Continuity Equation: Q (flow rate) = (area)*(velocity) = Av (m^3/s), $A_1v_1 = A_2v_2$

Bernoulli's Equation: $P_{\text{bot}} + \rho gy_{\text{bot}} + \frac{1}{2}\rho v_{\text{bot}}^2 = P_{\text{top}} + \rho gy_{\text{top}} + \frac{1}{2}\rho v_{\text{top}}^2$
or $(P_{\text{bot}} - P_{\text{top}}) + \rho g(y_{\text{bot}} - y_{\text{top}}) + \frac{1}{2}\rho(v_{\text{bot}}^2 - v_{\text{top}}^2) = 0$

Thermal Physics

Thermal Expansion (length): $\Delta L = L_0\alpha\Delta T$, where α = linear expansion coefficient, ΔT in $^{\circ}\text{C}$ or K .

Thermal Expansion (area): $\Delta A = A_0(2\alpha)\Delta T$ or $A_0\beta\Delta T$, where β = area expansion coefficient

Thermal Expansion (volume): $\Delta V = V_0(3\alpha)\Delta T$ or $V_0\gamma\Delta T$, where γ = volume expansion coefficient

Calorimetry and Phase Changes

Heat: Q (Joules), $\Delta Q = mc\Delta T$, where c = specific heat ($\text{J/kg}\cdot^{\circ}\text{C}$), ΔT in $^{\circ}\text{C}$ or K .

Phase changes: $\Delta Q = +mL_f$ (melting, solid $\rightarrow$ liquid), $-mL_f$ (freezing, liquid $\rightarrow$ solid)

$\Delta Q = +mL_v$ (boiling, liquid $\rightarrow$ gas), $-mL_v$ (condensing, gas $\rightarrow$ liquid)

where L_f = latent heat of fusion, L_v = latent heat of vaporization

Thermal Equilibrium: $\Delta Q_1 + \Delta Q_2 + \Delta Q_3 + \dots = 0$

Heat Transfer (Watts)

Conduction: Power (P) = $\Delta Q/\Delta t = \text{Area}\cdot\Delta T/R\text{-value}$, where $R\text{-value} = \ell_1/k_1 + \ell_2/k_2 + \ell_3/k_3 + \dots$

and ℓ = layer thickness, k = thermal conductivity ($\text{Joule/s}\cdot\text{m}\cdot^{\circ}\text{C}$) of each layer

Radiation: Power (P) = $\Delta Q/\Delta t = \sigma\cdot(\text{Area})\cdot e\cdot(T^4 - T_0^4)$, where σ = S-B constant ($5.67 \times 10^{-8} \text{ W/m}^2\cdot\text{K}^4$),

e = emissivity (0-1), T = object temperature, T_0 = temperature of surroundings

Ideal Gases

$PV = nRT$ or $PV = Nk_bT$

R = Ideal gas constant (see p1)

m = total gas mass (kg)

P = Pressure (N/m^2 or Pa)

k_b = Boltzmann's constant (see p1)

M = molar mass (kg/mole)

V = Volume (m^3)

n = # of moles

$n = m/M$

T = Temperature (K)

N = # of molecules

$n = N/N_A$ (see p1 for N_A)

Thermodynamics

Calculating Work: $W_{\text{by gas}} = +P_{\text{avg}}\Delta V$, $W_{\text{on gas}} = -P_{\text{avg}}\Delta V$

Internal Energy: $\Delta U = Q - W_{\text{by gas}} = Q + W_{\text{on gas}}$, where U = Internal Energy (Joules),
and Q = heat added to gas (system)

Cyclic Process: $\Delta U_{\text{cycle}} = 0$

Kinetic Energy of a Particle: $KE = \frac{1}{2}m_{\text{particle}}v_{\text{rms}}^2 = 1.5k_bT$

Internal Energy of a Gas: $U = 1.5nRT = 1.5PV$

Sound Waves

Sound Waves in Air: $v_{\text{wave}} = \sqrt{\frac{\gamma k_b T}{m}}$, $\gamma = 5/3$ for ideal monatomic gas, $7/5$ for ideal diatomic gas

k_b = Boltzmann's constant (see pl), m = molecular mass (kg)

Sound Intensity: β (decibels) = $10 \log (I/I_0)$, where I_0 = hearing threshold, 1.0×10^{-12} W/m².

$\Delta\beta$ (decibels) = $10 \log (I_{\text{big}}/I_{\text{small}})$

Intensity of a Point Source: I (Watts/m²) = Power/ $4\pi r^2$

Wave Equation: $v = f\lambda$

Electric Forces (Newtons) and Electric Fields (N/C or V/m)

Electric Field (point charge): $|\mathbf{E}| = k_c q/r^2$, direction: away from + charges, toward - charges

Electric Field (sheet of charge): $|\mathbf{E}| = 2\pi k_c \sigma$, where σ = surface charge density (Q/Area)

Parallel sheets/plates: $|\mathbf{E}| = 4\pi k_c \sigma$ inside, 0 outside, assuming equal and opposite Q on plates.

Conductors: $|\mathbf{E}| = 0$ inside, all charge resides on surface, no charge enclosed by surface.

Electric Potential (Volts) and Electric Potential Energy (Joules)

Absolute Potential (point charges): $V_{\text{abs}} = k_c q/r$

Relative Potential: $\Delta U_E = q_1 \Delta V_2$ for charge q_1 immersed in potential from source 2.

Uniform Electric Fields: $\Delta V = \pm \mathbf{E} \cdot (\text{distance})$, $\mathbf{E}$ points from higher V to lower V.

Sign Conventions: + charges tend to follow E lines from higher to lower potential (voltage)

+ charges tend to follow E lines from higher to lower potential energy

If - charges follow E lines, they go against electric force and move from

higher to lower potential (voltage), lower to higher potential energy

Work-Energy: $W_E = -\Delta U_E = -q_1 \Delta V_2$ for charge q_1 immersed in potential from source 2.

DC Circuits

Current: I (Amperes) = $\Delta Q/\Delta t$

Resistance: R (Ohms) = $\rho L/A$, where ρ = resistivity (Ohm·meters), L = wire length, A = wire area

Ohm's Law: ΔV (Volts) = $\pm IR$ (current travels from higher to lower voltage)

Power: P (Watts) = $I^2 R$ (power dissipated by resistor)

= $I \Delta V$ (power supplied by source)

Resistor Circuits

Series Resistors: $R_{\text{tot}} = R_1 + R_2$, $I_{\text{tot}} = I_1 = I_2$, $\Delta V_{\text{tot}} = \Delta V_1 + \Delta V_2$

Parallel Resistors: $1/R_{\text{tot}} = 1/R_1 + 1/R_2$, $I_{\text{tot}} = I_1 + I_2$, $\Delta V_{\text{tot}} = \Delta V_1 = \Delta V_2$

Kirchoff's Laws

Loop Rule: The sum of all voltage drops around a loop is zero. $\sum \Delta V = 0$.

Junction Rule: At any junction, the sum of incoming currents = sum of outgoing currents.

Capacitors

Capacitance: C (Farads) = $Q/\Delta V = \text{Area} \cdot \epsilon_0/d = \text{Area}/4\pi \cdot k_c \cdot d$

Dielectrics: κ (kappa) = Dielectric constant. $C_{\text{new}} = \kappa C_{\text{original}}$

Energy Stored by a Capacitor: $U_E = \frac{1}{2} C \Delta V^2 = \frac{1}{2} Q \Delta V = Q^2/2C$

RC Circuits (initially uncharged)

Capacitive Time Constant: $\tau_c = RC$

Charge: $Q(t) = C\mathcal{E}(1 - e^{-t/\tau_c})$, $Q_{\text{max}} = C\mathcal{E}$

Capacitor Voltage: $\Delta V_C = \mathcal{E}(1 - e^{-t/\tau_c})$, $\Delta V_{\text{max}} = \mathcal{E}$

Current: $I(t) = \left(\frac{\mathcal{E}}{R}\right)e^{-t/\tau_c}$, $I_{\text{max}} = \mathcal{E}/R$

Resistor Voltage: $\Delta V_R = \mathcal{E}e^{-t/\tau_c}$, $\Delta V_{\text{max}} = \mathcal{E}$

RL Circuits (with $I_{\text{initial}} = 0$ at $t = 0$)

Inductive Time Constant: $\tau_L = L/R$

Current: $I(t) = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{R}(1 - e^{-t/\tau_L})$, $I_{\text{max}} = \mathcal{E}/R$

Inductor Voltage: $\Delta V_L = \mathcal{E}e^{-t/\tau_L}$, $\Delta V_{\text{max}} = \mathcal{E}$

Magnetic Fields (Tesla) and Magnetic Forces (Newtons)

Right-hand rules

RHR #1 (cross products): $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C}$, $\mathbf{A}$ = palm, $\mathbf{B}$ = thumb, $\mathbf{C}$ = fingers

RHR #2 (magnetic field of straight wire): $\mathbf{I}$ = thumb, $\mathbf{B}$ = curl of fingers of right hand

RHR #3 (magnetic field of wire loop): $\mathbf{I}$ = curl of fingers of right hand, $\mathbf{B}_{\text{loop}}$ = thumb

Magnetic Field of a Wire: $|\mathbf{B}| = \mu_0 I / 2\pi r$, Direction: RHR #2

Magnetic Field of a Loop: $|\mathbf{B}| = \mu_0 I / 2R$ within the plane of the loop and inside loop,
where R = radius of loop, Direction: RHR #3

Magnetic Field of a Solenoid: $|\mathbf{B}| = \mu_0 N I / L$ within the cylindrical volume of solenoid,
 N = # of turns, L = length of solenoid, use RHR #3

Magnetic Force

Force on a moving charge: $\mathbf{F}_B = q\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}$, $|\mathbf{F}_B| = |q\mathbf{v}\mathbf{B}\sin(\theta)|$, θ = angle between $\mathbf{v}$ and $\mathbf{B}$. RHR #1

Circular motion: Circular path of charge in a magnetic field has radius $r = mv/qB$

Force on a current-carrying wire: $\mathbf{F}_B = \ell \mathbf{I} \times \mathbf{B}$, $|\mathbf{F}_B| = |\ell \mathbf{I}\mathbf{B}\sin(\theta)|$, ℓ = length of wire. RHR #1

Magnetic Torque

Magnetic Moment: $\boldsymbol{\mu}$ ($\text{T}\cdot\text{m}^2$) = $N\mathbf{I}\mathbf{A}$, where N = # of turns, $\mathbf{A}$ = area of loop,
direction is consistent with $\mathbf{B}_{\text{loop}}$ from RHR #3.

Area vector: $\mathbf{A}$ is normal to plane of loop, typically same direction as magnetic moment

Magnetic Torque: $|\boldsymbol{\tau}_B| = |\mathbf{N}\mathbf{B}_{\text{ext}}\mathbf{I}\mathbf{A}\sin(\theta)|$, θ = angle between area vector and external magnetic field
 $= \boldsymbol{\mu} \times \mathbf{B}_{\text{ext}} = |\boldsymbol{\mu}\mathbf{B}_{\text{ext}}\sin(\theta)|$

Direction: tends to align area vector (or $\boldsymbol{\mu}$) with $\mathbf{B}_{\text{ext}}$ direction.

Electromagnetic Induction

Magnetic Flux: $\Phi_B = |\mathbf{B}| \cdot |\mathbf{A}| \cdot \cos(\theta)$, where θ = angle between $\mathbf{B}$ and Area vector ($\mathbf{A}$).

Induced EMF: $\mathcal{E}_{\text{ind}} = N(\Delta\Phi/\Delta t)$, opposes $\Delta\Phi$.

Motional EMF: $\mathcal{E}_{\text{ind}} = BLv$, opposes $\Delta\Phi$.

Self-induction: $\mathcal{E}_{\text{ind}} = L(\Delta I/\Delta t)$, where L = self-inductance (Henrys), $L_{\text{loop}} = N\Phi/I$

Energy Stored by an Inductor: $E = \frac{1}{2}LI^2$

Finding direction of induced current:

1) Find initial direction of Φ_B .

2) Find direction of $\Delta\Phi_B$.

3) B_{ind} opposed $\Delta\Phi_B$.

4) I_{ind} is consistent with B_{ind} using RHR #3

Average voltage drop across inductor: $\Delta V_L = \pm L(\Delta I/\Delta t)$ (for instantaneous ΔV_L - see RL circuits)

Light and Optics

Energy Density of Light: $u_{\text{tot}} = u_{\text{electric}} + u_{\text{magnetic}} = \frac{1}{2}\epsilon_0 E_{\text{rms}}^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\frac{1}{\mu_0})B_{\text{rms}}^2$ or $u_{\text{tot}} = \epsilon_0 E_{\text{rms}}^2 = (\frac{1}{\mu_0})B_{\text{rms}}^2$

Intensity of Light: $S = \text{Power}/\text{Area} = c \cdot u_{\text{total}}$, for light spread out over sphere, $S = \text{Power}/4\pi r^2$

Doppler Effect

General case (both source and observer moving):

Plus sign when source and observer come closer (blueshift)

Minus sign when source and observer move apart (redshift)

$$f_{\text{obs}} = f_{\text{src}} \left(1 \pm \frac{v_{\text{rel}}}{v_{\text{wave}}} \right)$$

Alternate formula for Doppler effect: $\frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda} = \frac{v_{\text{relative}}}{c}$

Wave Equation: $v = f\lambda$

Index of refraction: $n = c/v$, where c = speed of light in vacuum, v = speed of light in medium

Wavelength of light: $\lambda_n = \lambda_0/n$ (wavelength of light shortens when it enters some medium)

Snell's Law: $n_1 \sin(\theta_1) = n_2 \sin(\theta_2)$, light turns toward normal when entering higher index

Critical Angle: $\theta_{\text{crit}} = \sin^{-1}(n_1/n_2)$, max angle of incidence for light to pass from $n_2 \rightarrow n_1$.

Polarization

Brewster's Angle: $\theta_B = \tan^{-1}(n)$. If $\theta_{\text{incidence}} = \theta_B$, ray is polarized parallel to surface

Unpolarized light through polarizer: $I_{\text{final}} = \frac{1}{2}I_{\text{initial}}$

Polarized light through polarizer: $I_{\text{final}} = I_{\text{initial}} \cos^2(\theta)$,

where θ = angle between polarized light and axis of polarizer

Lenses and Mirrors

p = object distance

q = image distance

f = focal length

R = radius of curvature = $2f$

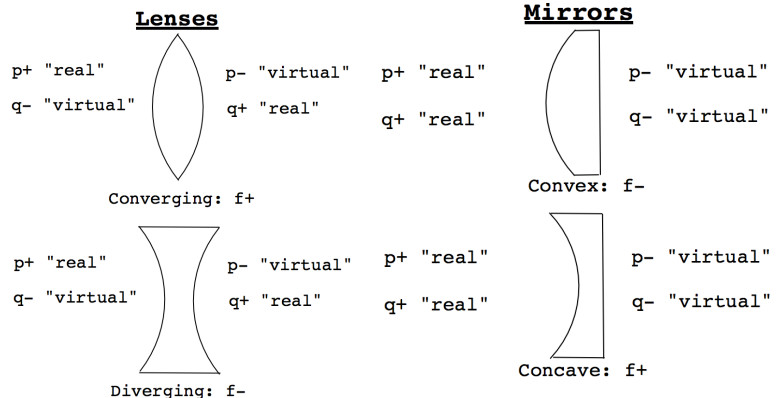
M = magnification = $-q/p$

If $M+$, image is upright

If $M-$, image is inverted

Image size: $h_{\text{image}} = |M|h_{\text{object}}$

Optics Equation: $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = \frac{1}{f}$



Interference and Diffraction (light waves)

d = slit separation, L = distance to screen, y = distance from center of pattern on wall,

δ = path difference between two sources of light, θ = angular distance from center of pattern.

Two-slit interference (m = order number)

Constructive Interference (bright fringes) where $\delta = d\sin\theta = dy/L = 0, \lambda, 2\lambda, 3\lambda, \dots (m\lambda)$

Destructive Interference (dark fringes) where $\delta = dy/L = 0.5\lambda, 1.5\lambda, 2.5\lambda, \dots (m + \frac{1}{2})\lambda$

Single-slit interference

a = slit width, dark fringes where $a \sin\theta = ay/L = \lambda, 2\lambda, 3\lambda, \dots$

Resolution: $\theta_{\text{min}} = \text{separation/distance} = \lambda/D$ (slit) or $1.22\lambda/D$ (circular aperture)

Diffraction grating

d = groove separation, bright light reflected where $d\sin\theta = \lambda, 2\lambda, 3\lambda, \dots$

Thin Films

Phase shift due to reflection: $\delta = \frac{1}{2}$ wave if reflecting off higher index, otherwise 0

Phase shift due to extra distance in film: $\delta = 2tn/\lambda_0$ waves where t = film thickness

Constructive Interference (CI): $\delta_2 - \delta_1 = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ waves, DI: $\delta_2 - \delta_1 = 0.5, 1.5, 2.5$ waves

Modern Physics

Photoelectric Effect

Photon Energy: $E = hf = hc/\lambda$, where h = Planck's constant (see p1)

Work Function: Φ = minimum KE needed for an electron to escape from a metal surface

Photoelectric Effect: $(KE)_{\max} = hf - \Phi$ for max KE of electrons emerging from a surface

If $hf < \Phi$, then no electrons escape

$hf = \Phi$ at cutoff frequency: $f_{\text{cutoff}} = \Phi/h$

Momentum of a photon: $p = \text{Energy}/c = h/\lambda$

Hydrogen spectrum

Energy levels in Hydrogen: $E_n = -13.6/n^2$ eV, where 1 eV = 1.60×10^{-19} J

Electron absorption/emission: $\frac{1}{\lambda} = R_H \left| \frac{1}{n_1^2} - \frac{1}{n_2^2} \right|$, where R_H = Rydberg constant ($1.097 \times 10^7 \text{ m}^{-1}$)

Blackbody Radiation - Wien's Law: $\lambda_{\max} T = 0.029 \text{ m}\cdot\text{K}$

Radioactivity

Half-life: $T_{1/2}$ = Time for half of the remaining radioactive atoms in a sample to decay

Decay constant: $\lambda = 0.693/T_{1/2} \text{ s}^{-1}$

Radioactive decay: $N(t) = N_0 e^{-\lambda t}$

Radioactivity: $a(t) = \lambda N(t)$, $a(t) = a_0 e^{-\lambda t}$, units: Becquerels or Bq (decays/sec)

Biological Effects of Radiation

Radiation Absorbed Dose (Grays): Dose = (Absorbed Energy)/(Mass of absorbing material)

1 rad = 0.01 J/kg = 0.01 Grays

Biologically Equivalent Dose (rems) = Absorbed Dose * (Relative Biological Effectiveness)

Nuclear Physics

Binding Energy: $BE = \Delta mc^2$, where $\Delta m = M_{\text{nucleus}} - N_{\text{protons}}m_{\text{proton}} - N_{\text{neutrons}}m_{\text{neutron}}$

Mass-Energy calculations: $E(\text{MeV}) = \text{Mass (u)} * 931.5 \text{ MeV/u}\cdot c^2$

Masses of Selected Isotopes:

Proton: 1.007276 u

Neutron: 1.008665 u

Electron: 0.0005486 u

Hydrogen (^1H): 1.007825 u Deuterium (^2H): 2.014102 u Tritium (^3H): 3.016050 u

Helium ^3He : 3.016030 u ^4He : 4.002602 u

Boron ^{11}B : 11.009305 u

Carbon ^{12}C : 12.000000 u ^{13}C : 13.003355 u ^{14}C : 14.003241 u

Manganese ^{55}Mn : 54.938047 u

Iron ^{56}Fe : 55.934939 u

Cobalt ^{59}Co : 58.933198 u ^{60}Co : 59.933819 u

Strontium ^{90}Sr : 89.907738 u

Krypton ^{92}Kr : 91.926270 u

Barium ^{141}Ba : 140.914363 u

Radium ^{226}Ra : 226.025402 u

Uranium ^{235}U : 235.043924 u ^{238}U : 238.050784 u

Plutonium ^{242}Pu : 242.058737 u