



**A-level**

# **Physics data and formulae**

**For use in exams from the June 2017 Series onwards**

**[Turn over]**

## DATA - FUNDAMENTAL CONSTANTS AND VALUES

Quantity	Symbol	Value	Units
speed of light in vacuo	$c$	$3.00 \times 10^8$	$\text{m s}^{-1}$
permeability of free space	$\mu_0$	$4\pi \times 10^{-7}$	$\text{H m}^{-1}$
permittivity of free space	$\epsilon_0$	$8.85 \times 10^{-12}$	$\text{F m}^{-1}$
magnitude of the charge of electron	$e$	$1.60 \times 10^{-19}$	C
the Planck constant	$h$	$6.63 \times 10^{-34}$	J s
gravitational constant	$G$	$6.67 \times 10^{-11}$	$\text{N m}^2 \text{kg}^{-2}$
the Avogadro constant	$N_A$	$6.02 \times 10^{23}$	$\text{mol}^{-1}$
molar gas constant	$R$	8.31	$\text{J K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}$
the Boltzmann constant	$k$	$1.38 \times 10^{-23}$	$\text{J K}^{-1}$
the Stefan constant	$\sigma$	$5.67 \times 10^{-8}$	$\text{W m}^{-2} \text{K}^{-4}$
the Wien constant	$\alpha$	$2.90 \times 10^{-3}$	m K
electron rest mass (equivalent to $5.5 \times 10^{-4}$ u)	$m_e$	$9.11 \times 10^{-31}$	kg

electron charge/mass ratio	$\frac{e}{m_e}$	$1.76 \times 10^{11}$	$\text{C kg}^{-1}$
proton rest mass (equivalent to 1.00728 u)	$m_p$	$1.67(3) \times 10^{-27}$	kg
proton charge/mass ratio	$\frac{e}{m_p}$	$9.58 \times 10^7$	$\text{C kg}^{-1}$
neutron rest mass (equivalent to 1.00867 u)	$m_n$	$1.67(5) \times 10^{-27}$	kg
gravitational field strength	$g$	9.81	$\text{N kg}^{-1}$
acceleration due to gravity	$g$	9.81	$\text{m s}^{-2}$
atomic mass unit (1u is equivalent to 931.5 MeV)	u	$1.661 \times 10^{-27}$	kg

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**ALGEBRAIC EQUATION**

quadratic equation  $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$

**ASTRONOMICAL DATA**

<b>Body</b>	<b>Mass/kg</b>	<b>Mean radius/m</b>
<b>Sun</b>	$1.99 \times 10^{30}$	$6.96 \times 10^8$
<b>Earth</b>	$5.97 \times 10^{24}$	$6.37 \times 10^6$

**GEOMETRICAL EQUATIONS**

arc length  $= r\theta$

circumference of circle  $= 2\pi r$

area of circle  $= \pi r^2$

curved surface area of cylinder  $= 2\pi rh$

area of sphere  $= 4\pi r^2$

volume of sphere  $= \frac{4}{3} \pi r^3$

## PARTICLE PHYSICS

Class	Name	Symbol	Rest energy/MeV
photon	photon	$\gamma$	0
lepton	neutrino	$\nu_e$	0
		$\nu_\mu$	0
	electron	$e^\pm$	0.510999
	muon	$\mu^\pm$	105.659
mesons	$\pi$ meson	$\pi^\pm$	139.576
		$\pi^0$	134.972
	K meson	$K^\pm$	493.821
		$K^0$	497.762
baryons	proton	p	938.257
	neutron	n	939.551

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**PROPERTIES OF QUARKS**  
antiquarks have opposite signs

Type	Charge	Baryon number	Strangeness
u	$+\frac{2}{3}e$	$+\frac{1}{3}$	0
d	$-\frac{1}{3}e$	$+\frac{1}{3}$	0
s	$-\frac{1}{3}e$	$+\frac{1}{3}$	-1

## PROPERTIES OF LEPTONS

		Lepton number
Particles:	$e^-, \nu_e; \mu^-, \nu_\mu$	+ 1
Antiparticles:	$e^+, \bar{\nu}_e, \mu^+, \bar{\nu}_\mu$	- 1

## PHOTONS AND ENERGY LEVELS

photon energy	$E = hf = \frac{hc}{\lambda}$
photoelectricity	$hf = \phi + E_{k(\max)}$
energy levels	$hf = E_1 - E_2$
de Broglie wavelength	$\lambda = \frac{h}{p} = \frac{h}{mv}$

[Turn over]

**WAVES**

<b>wave speed</b>	$c = f\lambda$	<b>period</b>	$f = \frac{1}{T}$
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<b>first harmonic</b>	$f = \frac{1}{2l} \sqrt{\frac{T}{\mu}}$
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<b>fringe spacing</b>	$w = \frac{\lambda D}{s}$	<b>diffraction grating</b>	$d \sin \theta = n\lambda$
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**refractive index of a substance  $s$ ,**  $n = \frac{c}{c_s}$

**for two different substances of refractive indices  $n_1$  and  $n_2$ ,**

**law of refraction**  $n_1 \sin \theta_1 = n_2 \sin \theta_2$

**critical angle**  $\sin \theta_c = \frac{n_2}{n_1}$  for  $n_1 > n_2$



**MECHANICS****moments**

$$\text{moment} = Fd$$

**velocity and  
acceleration**

$$v = \frac{\Delta s}{\Delta t}$$

$$a = \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t}$$

**equations of  
motion**

$$v = u + at$$

$$s = \left( \frac{u + v}{2} \right) t$$

$$v^2 = u^2 + 2as$$

$$s = ut + \frac{at^2}{2}$$

**force**

$$F = ma$$

**force**

$$F = \frac{\Delta(mv)}{\Delta t}$$

**impulse**

$$F \Delta t = \Delta(mv)$$

**work, energy  
and power**

$$W = F s \cos \theta$$

$$E_k = \frac{1}{2} m v^2$$

$$\Delta E_p = mg\Delta h$$

$$P = \frac{\Delta W}{\Delta t}, P = Fv$$

$$\text{efficiency} = \frac{\text{useful output power}}{\text{input power}}$$

**[Turn over]**

**MATERIALS**

density  $\rho = \frac{m}{v}$

Hooke's law  $F = k \Delta L$

Young modulus =  $\frac{\text{tensile stress}}{\text{tensile strain}}$

tensile stress =  $\frac{F}{A}$

tensile strain =  $\frac{\Delta L}{L}$

energy stored  $E = \frac{1}{2} F \Delta L$

**ELECTRICITY**

current and pd  $I = \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta t}$      $V = \frac{W}{Q}$      $R = \frac{V}{I}$

resistivity  $\rho = \frac{RA}{L}$

resistors in series  $R_T = R_1 + R_2 + R_3 + \dots$

resistors in parallel  $\frac{1}{R_T} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \frac{1}{R_3} + \dots$

power  $P = VI = I^2 R = \frac{V^2}{R}$

emf  $\varepsilon = \frac{E}{Q}$      $\varepsilon = I(R + r)$

**CIRCULAR MOTION**

magnitude of  
angular speed

$$\omega = \frac{v}{r}$$

$$\omega = 2\pi f$$

centripetal  
acceleration

$$a = \frac{v^2}{r} = \omega^2 r$$

centripetal  
force

$$F = \frac{mv^2}{r} = m\omega^2 r$$

**SIMPLE HARMONIC MOTION**

acceleration

$$a = -\omega^2 x$$

displacement

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

speed

$$v = \pm \omega \sqrt{(A^2 - x^2)}$$

maximum speed

$$v_{\max} = \omega A$$

maximum acceleration

$$a_{\max} = \omega^2 A$$

for a mass-spring system

$$T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{m}{k}}$$

for a simple pendulum

$$T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{l}{g}}$$

[Turn over]

**THERMAL PHYSICS**

energy to change  
temperature

$$Q = mc\Delta\theta$$

energy to change  
state

$$Q = ml$$

gas law

$$pV = nRT$$

$$pV = NkT$$

kinetic theory  
model

$$pV = \frac{1}{3}Nm(c_{\text{rms}})^2$$

kinetic energy of  
gas molecule

$$\frac{1}{2}m(c_{\text{rms}})^2 = \frac{3}{2}kT = \frac{3RT}{2N_A}$$

**GRAVITATIONAL FIELDS**

force between two  
masses

$$F = \frac{Gm_1m_2}{r^2}$$

gravitational field  
strength

$$g = \frac{F}{m}$$

magnitude of  
gravitational field  
strength in a radial  
field

$$g = \frac{GM}{r^2}$$

work done

$$\Delta W = m\Delta V$$

gravitational  
potential

$$V = -\frac{GM}{r}$$

$$g = -\frac{\Delta V}{\Delta r}$$

**ELECTRIC FIELDS AND CAPACITORS**

force between  
two point  
charges

$$F = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{r^2}$$

force on a charge

$$F = EQ$$

field strength for  
a uniform field

$$E = \frac{V}{d}$$

work done

$$\Delta W = Q\Delta V$$

field strength for  
a radial field

$$E = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Q}{r^2}$$

electric potential

$$V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Q}{r}$$

field strength

$$E = \frac{\Delta V}{\Delta r}$$

capacitance

$$C = \frac{Q}{V}$$

$$C = \frac{A\epsilon_0\epsilon_r}{d}$$

capacitor energy  
stored

$$E = \frac{1}{2}QV = \frac{1}{2}CV^2 = \frac{1}{2} \frac{Q^2}{C}$$

[Turn over]

capacitor charging  $Q = Q_0(1 - e^{-\frac{t}{RC}})$

decay of charge  $Q = Q_0 e^{-\frac{t}{RC}}$

time constant  $RC$

## MAGNETIC FIELDS

force on a current  $F = BIl$

force on a moving charge  $F = BQv$

magnetic flux  $\Phi = BA$

magnetic flux linkage  $N\Phi = BAN \cos \theta$

magnitude of induced emf  $\varepsilon = N \frac{\Delta\Phi}{\Delta t}$

$$N\Phi = BAN \cos \theta$$

emf induced in a rotating coil  $\varepsilon = BAN\omega \sin \omega t$

alternating current  $I_{\text{rms}} = \frac{I_0}{\sqrt{2}} \quad V_{\text{rms}} = \frac{V_0}{\sqrt{2}}$

transformer equations  $\frac{N_s}{N_p} = \frac{V_s}{V_p}$

$$\text{efficiency} = \frac{I_s V_s}{I_p V_p}$$

**NUCLEAR PHYSICS**

inverse square law  
for  $\gamma$  radiation

$$I = \frac{k}{x^2}$$

radioactive decay

$$\frac{\Delta N}{\Delta t} = -\lambda N, N = N_0 e^{-\lambda t}$$

activity

$$A = \lambda N$$

half-life

$$T_{1/2} = \frac{\ln 2}{\lambda}$$

nuclear radius

$$R = R_0 A^{1/3}$$

energy-mass  
equation

$$E = mc^2$$

[Turn over]

## OPTIONS

## ASTROPHYSICS

$$1 \text{ astronomical unit} = 1.50 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}$$

$$1 \text{ light year} = 9.46 \times 10^{15} \text{ m}$$

$$1 \text{ parsec} = 2.06 \times 10^5 \text{ AU} = 3.08 \times 10^{16} \text{ m} = 3.26 \text{ ly}$$

$$\text{Hubble constant, } H = 65 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$$

$$M = \frac{\text{angle subtended by image at eye}}{\text{angle subtended by object at unaided eye}}$$

$$\text{telescope in normal adjustment} \quad M = \frac{f_o}{f_e}$$

$$\text{Rayleigh criterion} \quad \theta \approx \frac{\lambda}{D}$$

$$\text{magnitude equation} \quad m - M = 5 \log \frac{d}{10}$$

$$\text{Wien's law} \quad \lambda_{\text{max}} T = 2.9 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m K}$$

$$\text{Stefan's law} \quad P = \sigma AT^4$$

$$\text{Schwarzschild radius} \quad R_s \approx \frac{2GM}{c^2}$$



Doppler shift for  $v \ll c$   $\frac{\Delta f}{f} = -\frac{\Delta \lambda}{\lambda} = \frac{v}{c}$

red shift  $z = -\frac{v}{c}$

Hubble's law  $v = Hd$

[Turn over]

**MEDICAL PHYSICS**

**lens equations**  $P = \frac{1}{f}$

$$m = \frac{v}{u}$$

$$\frac{1}{f} = \frac{1}{u} + \frac{1}{v}$$

**threshold of hearing**  $I_0 = 1.0 \times 10^{-12} \text{ W m}^{-2}$

**intensity level**  $\textit{intensity level} = 10 \log \frac{I}{I_0}$

**absorption**  $I = I_0 e^{-\mu x}$

$$\mu_m = \frac{\mu}{\rho}$$

**ultrasound imaging**  $Z = p c$

$$\frac{I_r}{I_i} = \left( \frac{Z_2 - Z_1}{Z_2 + Z_1} \right)^2$$

**half-lives**  $\frac{1}{T_E} = \frac{1}{T_B} + \frac{1}{T_P}$

**ENGINEERING PHYSICS**

moment of inertia  $I = \Sigma mr^2$

angular kinetic energy  $E_k = \frac{1}{2} I\omega^2$

equations of angular motion  $\omega_2 = \omega_1 + \alpha t$

$$\omega_2^2 = \omega_1^2 + 2\alpha\theta$$

$$\theta = \omega_1 t + \frac{\alpha t^2}{2}$$

$$\theta = \frac{(\omega_1 + \omega_2) t}{2}$$

torque  $T = I \alpha$

$$T = F r$$

angular momentum angular momentum =  $I \omega$

angular impulse  $T\Delta t = \Delta(I\omega)$

work done  $W = T\theta$

power  $P = T\omega$

thermodynamics  $Q = \Delta U + W$

$$W = p\Delta V$$

adiabatic change  $pV^\gamma = \text{constant}$

isothermal change  $pV = \text{constant}$

[Turn over]

**heat engines**

$$\text{efficiency} = \frac{W}{Q_H} = \frac{Q_H - Q_C}{Q_H}$$

$$\text{maximum theoretical efficiency} = \frac{T_H - T_C}{T_H}$$

**work done per cycle = area of loop**

**input power = calorific value × fuel flow rate**

**indicated power = (area of  $p - V$  loop)  
 × (number of cycles per second)  
 × (number of cylinders)**

**output or brake power  $P = T\omega$**

**friction power = indicated power – brake power**

**heat pumps and refrigerators**

$$\text{refrigerator: } COP_{\text{ref}} = \frac{Q_C}{W} = \frac{Q_C}{Q_H - Q_C}$$

$$\text{heat pump: } COP_{\text{hp}} = \frac{Q_H}{W} = \frac{Q_H}{Q_H - Q_C}$$

## TURNING POINTS IN PHYSICS

electrons in fields

$$F = \frac{eV}{d}$$

$$F = Bev$$

$$r = \frac{mv}{Be}$$

$$\frac{1}{2}mv^2 = eV$$

Millikan's  
experiment

$$\frac{QV}{d} = mg$$

$$F = 6\pi\eta rv$$

Maxwell's formula

$$c = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu_0 \epsilon_0}}$$

$$\lambda = \frac{h}{p} = \frac{h}{\sqrt{2meV}}$$

[Turn over]

special relativity

$$t = \frac{t_0}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$$

$$l = l_0 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}$$

$$E = mc^2 = \frac{m_0 c^2}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$$

**ELECTRONICS**resonant  
frequency

$$f_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi \sqrt{LC}}$$

Q-factor

$$Q = \frac{f_0}{f_B}$$

operational  
amplifiers: open  
loop

$$V_{\text{out}} = A_{\text{OL}} (V_+ - V_-)$$

inverting amplifier

$$\frac{V_{\text{out}}}{V_{\text{in}}} = - \frac{R_f}{R_{\text{in}}}$$

**non-inverting amplifier**  $\frac{V_{\text{out}}}{V_{\text{in}}} = 1 + \frac{R_f}{R_1}$

**summing amplifier**  $V_{\text{out}} = -R_f \left( \frac{V_1}{R_1} + \frac{V_2}{R_2} + \frac{V_3}{R_3} + \dots \right)$

**difference amplifier**  $V_{\text{out}} = (V_+ - V_-) \frac{R_f}{R_1}$

**Bandwidth requirement:**

for AM                      bandwidth =  $2f_M$

for FM                      bandwidth =  $2(\Delta f + f_M)$

**END OF FORMULAE**

**There are no formulae printed on this page**

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