

**A-Level  
Physics  
9702**

***DEFINITIONS &  
FORMULAS***

## **KEY:**

**Orange** – given in data booklet  
**Purple** – learn to derive

**Best of Luck for  
Your Exams! : )**

# Definitions

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- **Radian** → The angle subtended at the centre of a circle by an arc equal in length to the radius of the circle
- **Angular displacement** → The angle of arc through which the object has moved from its starting position
- **Angular velocity** → Angle swept out per unit time
- **Period** → Time taken to complete one full revolution of a circle
- **Angular frequency** → Number of revolutions completed per unit time
- **Tangential velocity** → The linear speed of any object moving along a circular path
- **Centripetal force** → A resultant force acting on an object moving in a circular path, always directed towards the centre of the circle
- **Centripetal acceleration** → Resultant acceleration directed towards the centre of the circular path, perpendicular to velocity
- **Minimum speed** → Least amount of speed necessary to maintain an object moving in a circular path
- **Maximum speed** → Maximum amount of speed an object moving in a circular path can possibly have

# Formulas

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- **Linear displacement**  $\rightarrow S = \theta r$
- **Angular velocity**  $\rightarrow \omega = \Delta\theta / \Delta t$  
- **Angular frequency**  $\rightarrow f = n / t$  (number of revolutions / total time)
- **Angular velocity (time period)**  $\rightarrow \omega = 2\pi / T$
- **Angular velocity (frequency)**  $\rightarrow \omega = 2\pi \times f$
- **Linear velocity**  $\rightarrow v = r\omega$
- **Centripetal acceleration**  $\rightarrow v^2 / r$
- **Centripetal force (linear velocity)**  $\rightarrow F_C = (m \times v^2) / r$
- **Centripetal force (angular velocity)**  $\rightarrow F_C = mr\omega^2$

# Definitions

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- **Gravitational force** → Force of attraction between two masses
- **Gravitational field** → A region of space around a (source) mass in which a another (test) mass experiences a force
- **Gravitational field lines** → Lines that represent direction of gravitational force exerted on a mass
- **Gravitational field strength** → Gravitational force exerted per unit test mass in a gravitational field
- **Newton's law of gravitation** → The gravitational force between two point masses is directly proportional to the product of the masses and inversely proportional to the square of distance between their centres
- **Apparent gravity / weight** → sensation of weight of an object, caused by the normal reaction force
- **Gravitational potential** → Amount of work done in bringing a unit test mass from infinity to a certain point inside the gravitational field
- **Gravitational potential energy** → Amount of work done in bringing a mass from infinity to a certain point inside the gravitational field
- **Escape velocity** → Minimum velocity with which an object *must be projected at*, so it could escape a gravitational field with no further energy input

# Formulas

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- **Gravitational field strength (basic)** →  $g = F / m$
- **Gravitational force** →  $F = (Gm_1m_2) / r^2$  
- **Gravitational field strength (above surface of earth)** →  $g = GM / r^2$
- **Gravitational field strength (below surface of earth)** →  $g = (4/3)\pi G\rho R$
- **Linear velocity** →  $v = \sqrt{GM / r}$  (to derive)
- **Angular velocity** →  $\omega = \sqrt{GM / r^3}$  (to derive)
- **Kinetic energy** →  $E_K = GMm / 2r$  (to derive)
- **Time period** →  $T^2 = (r^3 \times 4\pi^2) / GM$  (to derive)
- **Binary star system** →  $m_1r_1\omega = m_2r_2\omega$
- **Centripetal force - at earth's equator** →  $F_C = (GMm / r^2) - F_N$
- **Centripetal force - at earth's pole** → 0
- **Apparent weight - elevator at rest & at earth's pole** →  $F_N = mg$
- **Apparent weight - elevator moving upwards** →  $F_R = F_N - mg$
- **Apparent weight - elevator moving downwards** →  $F_R = mg - F_N$
- **Apparent weight - elevator falls freely** →  $F_R = mg$
- **Gravitational potential** →  $\Phi = - GM / r$
- **Gravitational potential Energy** →  $E_P = \Phi \times m$
- **Total energy** →  $E_T = - GMm / 2r$  (to derive)
- **Escape velocity** →  $V_{esc} = \sqrt{[(2GM) / R]}$  or  $\sqrt{(2gR)}$  (to derive)

# Definitions

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- **Temperature** → Measure of average kinetic energy of molecules of a substance
- **Internal energy** → Sum of the kinetic and potential energies of randomly moving molecules of a substance 
- **Thermal energy** → Energy transferred from one matter to another because of a difference in temperature
- **Thermodynamic equilibrium** → A state where two or more systems are at the same temperature, such that no net transfer of thermal energy occurs between them
- **Zerth law of thermodynamics** → If two systems are in thermodynamic equilibrium with a third, the two systems are in thermodynamic equilibrium with each other
- **Absolute zero** → Equal to 0 K, this is the temperature at which a system's molecules have zero kinetic energy
- **Triple point of water** → Unique combination of temperature and pressure at which water coexists in all three of its states - solid, liquid and gas - in thermodynamic equilibrium; the triple point of water occurs at a temperature 273.15 K and pressure 611 Pa
- **Sensitivity of a thermometer** → Amount of change in a thermometric property of a substance per unit change in temperature; more sensitive thermometers could detect smaller changes in temperature
- **Linearity of a thermometer** → Thermometric property of a substance varies by the same amount per unit change in temperature
- **Range of a thermometer** → Difference the maximum and minimum temperatures a thermometer can accurately measure

- **Responsiveness of a thermometer** → Ability of a thermometer to accurately respond to changes in temperature and register new readings
- **Change in state** → Change of a substance from one state of matter to another, without a change in temperature
- **Sublimation** → Change in state of a substance directly from a solid to a gas without passing through the liquid phase
- **Deposition** → Change in state of a substance transitions directly from a gas to a solid without passing through the liquid phase
- **Specific heat capacity** → Amount of heat energy required to raise the temperature of a unit mass of a substance by one degree Celsius
- **Specific latent heat of fusion** → Amount of heat energy required to change a unit mass of a substance from solid to liquid at its melting point, without a change in temperature
- **Specific latent heat of vaporization** → Amount of heat energy required to change a unit mass of a substance from liquid to a gas at its boiling point, without a change in temperature
- **Mole** → Amount of substance that contains the same number of particles as there are atoms in 12 grams of carbon-12
- **Brownian motion** → Perpetual random motion due to collision of smoke particles with air molecules or pollen grains with water molecules
- **Pressure of gas** → Force exerted by a gas per unit area of the walls of a container due to the collisions of gas molecules with the walls of container
- **Motion of gas (kinetic theory)** → Random movement of gas molecules at constant velocity
- **Boyle's law** → The pressure exerted by a (fixed mass of) gas is inversely proportional to its volume, provided its temperature remains constant
- **Charles's law** → The volume occupied by a (fixed mass of) gas is proportional to its volume, provided its pressure remains constant

- **Avogadro's law** → Equal volumes of (fixed masses of) gases at the same temperature and pressure contain an equal number of molecules
- **Pressure gas law** → The pressure exerted by a (fixed mass of) gas is proportional to its absolute temperature, provided volume it occupies remains constant
- **Ideal gas law** → Any (fixed mass of) gas behaving in accordance to equation  $PV = nRT$  for all values of pressure, volume and temperature
- **First law of thermodynamics** → The increase in the internal energy of a system equals the sum of net transfer of thermal energy into the system and net work done on the system

# Formulas

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- **Temperature - Kelvin to degrees Celsius** →  $T \text{ (K)} = \theta \text{ (}^\circ\text{C)} + 273.15$
- **Temperature - as measured by a thermistor** →  $\theta \text{ (}^\circ\text{C)} = (R_\theta - R_0) / (R_{100} - R_0)$  (' $R_\theta$ ' is resistance at unknown temperature, ' $R_0$ ' at 0 °C and ' $R_{100}$ ' at 100 °C)
- **Temperature - as measured by a thermocouple** →  $V_1 / \Delta\theta_{\text{known}} = V_2 / \Delta\theta_{\text{unknown}}$
- **Specific heat capacity** →  $c = Q / (m\Delta\theta)$
- **Specific latent heat of fusion** →  $l_f = Q / m$  ('m' is mass of liquid or solid melted)
- **Specific latent heat of vaporization** →  $l_v = Q / m$  ('m' is mass of gas or liquid boiled)
- **Specific latent heat of fusion / vaporization (heat lost to or gained from atmosphere considered)** →  $l_f / l_v = [t (l_1 V_1 - l_2 V_2)] / [m_1 - m_2]$  (to derive)
- **Number of moles** →  $n = M / Mr$  or  $n = N / N_A$
- **Boyle's law** →  $P_1 V_1 = P_2 V_2$  (to derive)
- **Charles's law** →  $T_1 / V_1 = T_2 / V_2$  (to derive)
- **Avogadro's law** →  $P_1 / T_1 = P_2 / T_2$  (to derive)
- **Pressure gas law** →  $V_1 / n_1 = V_2 / n_2$  (to derive)
- **Ideal gas law (number of moles)** →  $PV = nRT$
- **Ideal gas law (number of molecules)** →  $PV = NKT$  (to derive)
- **Pressure exerted by gas** →  $PV = (Nm \langle c^2 \rangle) / 3V$  (AND to also derive)
- **Root mean square of speed of gas molecules** →  $\langle c \rangle = \sqrt{[(3P) / \rho]}$  (to derive)

- **Average translational kinetic energy of gas molecules** →  $E_{Kavg} = (3KT) / 2$  (to derive)
- **Internal energy** →  $E_U = E_K + E_p$
- **Work done on / by gas** →  $W = P \times \Delta V$  (to derive)
- **First law of thermodynamics** →  $(+/- \Delta U) = (+/- \Delta Q) + (+/- \Delta W)$

# Definitions

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- **Restoring Force** → The force that brings an object back to its mean position
- **Periodic Motion** → When a motion repeats itself after equal intervals of time
- **Oscillated motion** → Repeated back & forth movements on either side of any equilibrium position
- **One complete oscillation** → When an oscillator passes the equilibrium from one side and back again fully from the other side
- **Displacement** → The distance of an oscillator from its equilibrium position
- **Amplitude** → The maximum displacement of an oscillator from its equilibrium position
- **Time Period** → Time taken for one complete oscillation, in seconds
- **Frequency** → The number of oscillations completed per unit time
- **Phase Difference** → The difference in the phases of two oscillating particles, expressed in degrees or radians
- **Angular Frequency (for oscillation)** → Angular Frequency ' $\omega$ ' =  $2\pi$  divided by time period 'T' or Angular Frequency ' $\omega$ ' =  $2\pi$  multiplied by frequency 'f'
- **Simple Harmonic Motion** → The acceleration of an oscillating system is directly proportional to the displacement of the oscillating system but acts in a direction that is opposite to the displacement of the oscillating system **OR** and is always directed towards the mean position
- **Forced Oscillations** → Periodic forces which are applied externally in order to sustain an oscillating system

- **Free Oscillations** → Oscillated motion of a body in the absence of any external force
- **Forced Frequency** → The frequency obtained when an object is made to oscillate by the periodic application of an external force
- **Natural Frequency** → The frequency obtained when an object is allowed to oscillate/vibrate freely i.e. in the absence of any external force
- **Resonance** → The maximum amplitude of an oscillating system that is obtained when the driving frequency applied to an oscillating system is equal to its natural frequency
- **Resonant frequency** → Frequency at which response amplitude is relatively maximum
- **Light Damping** → The gradual decrease in the amplitude of an oscillating system, due to the loss of energy caused by the forces acting in opposite direction to the motion
- **Heavy Damping** → A displaced system takes a longer time to return to its equilibrium position without oscillating
- **Critical Damping** → When the damping force is much greater than the restoring force, the displaced system, will return to rest at its equilibrium position in the shortest possible time without oscillating

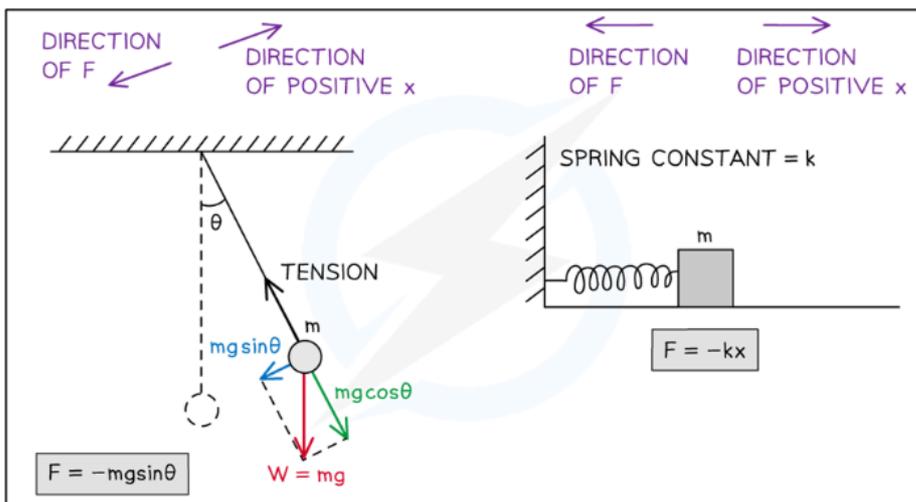
# Formulas

- **Applied force** →  $F_a = k x$  ( $x$  is extension)

- **Restoring force** ↓



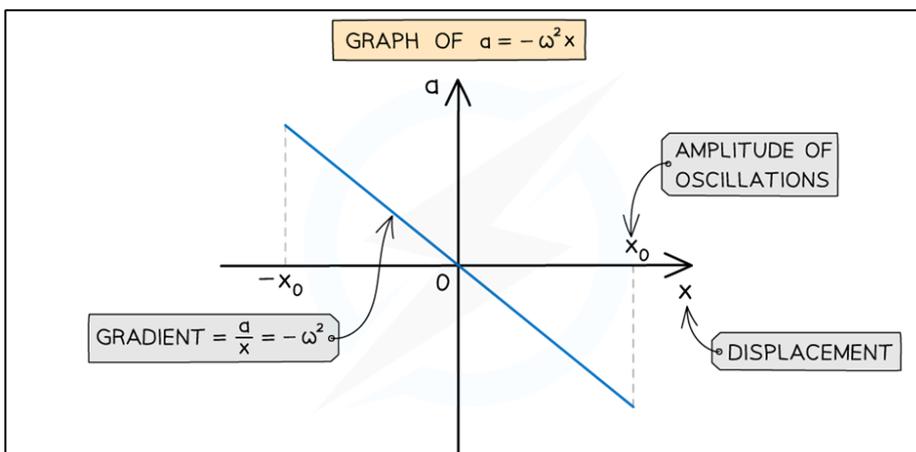
- $F_r = -k x$



- **Net force** →  $F_{\text{net}} = 2 (k x)$

- **Acceleration (Simple Harmonic Motion)** ↓

- $a = -\omega^2 x$



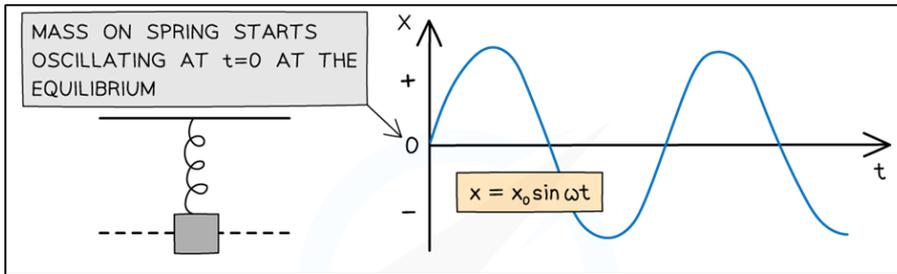
- **Acceleration (spring constant)** →  $a = (F_{\text{net}}) / m$

- **Acceleration (length of pendulum)** →  $a = (-g x) / \ell$  (to derive)

- **Frequency (length of pendulum)**  $\rightarrow f = \sqrt{g / \ell} \times (1 / 2\pi)$  (to derive)

- **Instantaneous displacement (x is zero at t = 0)**  $\downarrow$

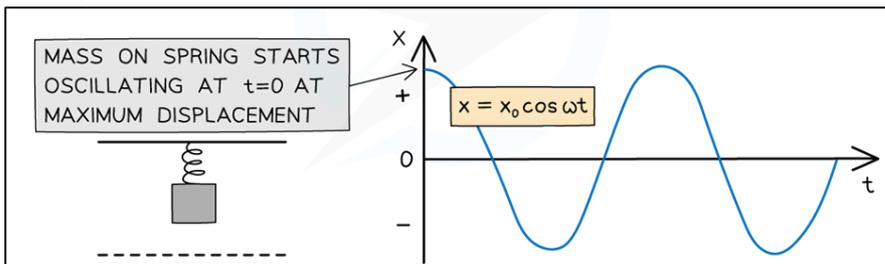
- $x = x_0 \sin(\omega t)$



- **Instantaneous velocity (x is zero at t = 0)**  $\rightarrow v = v_0 \cos(\omega t)$
- **Instantaneous acceleration (x is zero at t = 0)**  $\rightarrow a = -a_0 \sin(\omega t)$  (to derive)

- **Instantaneous displacement (x is max at t = 0)**  $\downarrow$

- $x = x_0 \cos(\omega t)$



- **Instantaneous velocity (x is max at t = 0)**  $\rightarrow v = -v_0 \sin(\omega t)$  (to derive)
- **Instantaneous acceleration (x is max at t = 0)**  $\downarrow$

- $a = -a_0 \cos(\omega t)$  (to derive)

		Object starts in centre of motion	Object starts at extremes of motion
<b>Displacement</b>		$x = x_0 \sin \omega t$	$x = x_0 \cos \omega t$
<b>Velocity</b>		$v = \omega x_0 \cos \omega t$ $v = \pm \omega \sqrt{(x_0^2 - x^2)}$	$v = -\omega x_0 \sin \omega t$ $v = \pm \omega \sqrt{(x_0^2 - x^2)}$
<b>Acceleration</b>		$a = -x_0 \omega^2 \sin \omega t$ $a = -\omega^2 x$	$a = -x_0 \omega^2 \cos \omega t$ $a = -\omega^2 x$

- **Instantaneous velocity (other equation)**  $\rightarrow v = \omega \sqrt{x_0^2 - x^2}$
- **Maximum velocity**  $\rightarrow v_0 = \omega x$
- **Instantaneous kinetic energy**  $\rightarrow E_K = (1 / 2) \times [m \omega^2 (x_0^2 - x^2)]$
- **Maximum kinetic energy**  $\rightarrow E_K = (1 / 2) \times (m \omega^2 x_0^2)$
- **Instantaneous potential energy**  $\rightarrow E_P = (1 / 2) \times (m \omega^2 x^2)$
- **Maximum potential energy**  $\rightarrow E_P = (1 / 2) \times (m \omega^2 x_0^2)$
- **Total energy of an oscillating system**  $\rightarrow E_{\text{Total}} = (1 / 2) \times (m \omega^2 x_0^2)$
- **Displacement at the instant  $E_K = E_P$**   $\rightarrow x = x_0 / \sqrt{2}$  (to derive)

# Definitions

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- **Electric Field** → A region of space around a (source) charge, in which a another (test) charge experiences a force
- **Electric Field Strength** → The electrostatic force exerted per unit positive test charge in an electric field
- **Uniform electric field** → A field of force throughout which the electric field strength and direction remains constant
- **Point charge** → For a point outside a spherical conductor, the charge of the sphere may be considered to be a point charge at its centre
- **Coulomb's Law of Electrostatic Force** → The electrostatic force between two point charges is directly proportional to the product of the charges and inversely proportional to the square of distance between their centres
- **Electric Potential** → Amount of work done, to bring a unit positive test charge from infinity, to a point inside the electric field
- **Potential difference (uniform electric field)** → Work done per unit charge in an electric field

# Formulas

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- **Electric field strength (basic)** →  $E = F / q$
- **Coulomb's law of electrostatic force** →  $E = (Q_1 \times Q_2) / (4\pi\epsilon_0 \times r^2)$
- **Electric field strength (point charge)** →  $E = Q / (4\pi\epsilon_0 \times r^2)$
- **Uniform electric field strength (uniform)** →  $\Delta V / \Delta d$
- **Non-uniform electric Field Strength** →  $-(\Delta V / \Delta d)$
- **Resultant electric field strength b/w two like charges** →  $E_{\text{Resultant}} = (+ E_1) + (- E_2)$
- **Resultant electric field strength b/w two unlike charges** →  $E_{\text{Resultant}} = (+ E_1) + (+ E_2)$
- **Electric potential** →  $Q / (4\pi\epsilon_0 \times r)$
- **Resultant electric potential b/w two point charges** →  $V_{\text{Resultant}} = (V_1) + (V_2)$
- **Electric potential (E / r graph)** → Area under graph
- **Electric field strength (V / r graph)** → negative of potential gradient
- **Electric potential energy (basic)** →  $W = q \times V$
- **Electric potential energy (point charge)** →  $E_p = (Q \times q) / (4\pi\epsilon_0 \times r)$
- **Electric potential energy (+q accelerates)** → Electrical potential energy ( $E_p = q \times V$ ) is lost to kinetic energy ( $E_k = (1 / 2) \times m \times v^2$ )
- **Potential difference (uniform electric field)** →  $V = W / q$
- **Acceleration of +q in a uniform electric field** →  $a = (E \times q) / m$  (to derive)
- **Mass to Charge ratio** →  $(m / q) = (E / a) = \Delta V / (a \times \Delta d)$  (to derive)
- **Initial vertical velocity  $u_y$  of +q** →  $u_y = 0$

- **Vertical acceleration  $a_y$  of +q** →  $a_y = v_y^2 / (2 \times S_y)$  (to derive)
- **Vertical displacement  $S_y$  of +q** →  $S_y = (1/2) \times a \times t^2$  (to derive)
- **Initial horizontal velocity  $u_x$  of +q** →  $u_x$  (constant) =  $u \cos \theta$
- **Horizontal acceleration  $a_x$  of +q** →  $a_x = 0$
- **Horizontal displacement  $S_x$  of +q** →  $u \cos \theta \times t$  (to derive)

# Capacitance

## • Definitions

- **Capacitance (parallel plate capacitor)** → Ratio of charge stored on one of the plates to the potential difference between the two plates of a parallel plate capacitor
- **Capacitance (isolated charged sphere)** → Ratio of charge stored to the potential at the surface of the spherical conductor

## • Formulas

- **Capacitance (parallel plate capacitor)** →  $C = Q / V$
- **Capacitance (isolated charged sphere)** →  $C = 4\pi\epsilon_0 r / k$  where  $k = 1 / 4\pi\epsilon_0$
- **Time constant** →  $\tau = RC$
- **Discharging capacitors - exponential decrease** →  $X = X_0 e^{-t/RC}$
- **Energy stored (area under graph)** →  $W = (Q \times V) / 2$
- **Energy stored (charge is constant)** →  $W = Q^2 / 2C$
- **Energy stored (voltage is constant)** →  $W = CV^2 / 2$
- **Combined capacitance (capacitors connected in series)** →  $(1 / C_{\text{Total}}) = (1 / C_1) + (1 / C_2) + (1 / C_3)$
- **Combined capacitance (capacitors connected in parallel)** →  $C_{\text{Total}} = C_1 + C_2 + C_3$

# Definitions

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- **Magnetic fields** → A field of force produced by a current carrying conductor, by moving charges or by permanent magnets
- **Magnetic flux** → The product of the number of turns of coil, magnetic flux density and the cross-sectional area of coil perpendicular to the direction of the magnetic flux density ( $\Phi = NBA$ ) 
- **Magnetic flux density** → Force acting per unit current per unit length on a wire placed at right angles to the magnetic field [ $B = F/(I \times L)$ ]
- **Tesla** → Unit of magnetic flux density whose field lines perpendicular to a straight wire carrying a current of one ampere exerts a force of one newton per unit length [ $T = N / (A \times m)$ ]
- **Faraday's law** → Induced e.m.f is proportional to rate of change of magnetic flux linkage
- **Lenz's law** → Direction of an induced current in a conductor is such that it opposes the change in magnetic flux that caused it

# Formulas

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- **Magnetic flux** →  $\Phi = NBA \cos \theta$  ( $\theta$  = angle b/w magnetic field lines & normal to cross-sectional area of coil)
- **Force exerted by magnetic field** →  $F = BIL \sin \theta / \cos \theta$  ( $\sin \theta$  - angle b/w magnetic field lines & length of wire;  $\cos \theta$  - angle b/w magnetic field lines & normal to length of wire)
- **Magnetic flux density - current carrying conductor** →  $B = (\mu_0 \times I) / (2\pi \times r)$
- **Magnetic flux density - solenoid** →  $B = ((\mu_0 \times I \times N) / L$
- **Magnetic flux density - flat coil** →  $B = ((\mu_0 \times I \times N) / (2 \times r)$
- **Force exerted by two current carrying conductors** →  $F = ((\mu_0 \times I_1 \times I_2 \times L) / (2\pi \times r)$
- **Force on a moving charged particle** →  $F = qvB \sin \theta$  (to derive)
- **Horizontal distance moved by charged particle** →  $S_x = u \times t$  (to derive)
- **Time taken to move one circular path by charged particle** →  $(2\pi \times r) / u \sin \theta$  (to derive)
- **Radius of circular path by charged particle** →  $r = mv / qB$  (to derive)
- **Time spent by charged particle in a B field is independent of its velocity** →  $(2\pi \times m) / qB$  (to derive)
- **Momentum of charged particle** →  $P = qBr$  (to derive)
- **Velocity selector** →  $v = E / B$
- **Hall voltage** →  $(I \times B) / (n \times t \times q)$  (to derive)
- **Induced e.m.f (Faraday's law)** →  $e.m.f = - (\Delta\Phi / \Delta t)$

# Definitions

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- **Direct current** → Current that flows in one direction only
- **Alternating current** → Current whose polarity reverses after fixed intervals of time
- **Rectification** → Process by which an alternating current (AC) is converted to direct current (DC)
- **Half wave rectification** → Process by which half the wave of an alternating current (AC) is converted to direct current (DC)
- **Full wave rectification** → Process by which the whole wave of an alternating current (AC) is converted to direct current (DC)
- **Smoothing** → Output voltage / current does not fall to zero
- **Ripple voltage** → Fluctuating output voltage superimposed on the direct current output of an alternating current source, after rectification
- **Root mean square of alternating current (DC)** → Value of direct current that produces the same mean power / heating in a resistor as alternating current
- **Root mean square of alternating current (heating effect)** → Value of direct current that dissipates heat energy across a resistor at the same rate as alternating current
- **Root mean square of alternating voltage (steady voltage)** → Value of steady / constant voltage that produces the same mean power / heating in a resistor as alternating voltage
- **Root mean square of alternating voltage (mathematical)** → If the alternating voltage was squared, then averaged out, the r.m.s would be the square root of this average value

# Formulas

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- **Instantaneous magnetic flux linkage** →  $\Phi = \Phi_0 \cos(\omega t)$
- **Instantaneous e.m.f induced** →  $\varepsilon = \varepsilon_0 \sin(\omega t)$
- **Torque on a coil manually rotated in a magnetic field** →  $T = BIL \sin \theta \times d$
- **Instantaneous current** →  $I = I_0 \sin(\omega t)$
- **Average power output** →  $P_{\text{avg}} = P_0 / 2$
- **Root mean square of alternating current** →  $\langle I \rangle = I_0 / \sqrt{2}$  (to derive)
- **Root mean square of alternating voltage** →  $\langle V \rangle = V_0 / \sqrt{2}$  (to derive)

# Definitions

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- **Mass defect** → Difference in mass between the nucleus of an atom and the sum of the masses of its individual protons and neutrons (P.S: Include neutron(s) released with nucleus)
- **Binding energy** → Energy required to infinitely split the protons and neutrons of a nucleus 
- **Radioactivity** → Phenomenon where unstable atomic nucleus randomly and spontaneously decays and emits  $\alpha$  or  $\beta$  particles, and  $\gamma$  radiation
- **Spontaneous** → Decay of a nucleus is not influenced by external factors such as temperature, pressure, chemical reactions or presence of other nuclei
- **Random** → Not possible to predict which particular nucleus will decay in the next second
- **Activity** → Rate at which a nucleus decays
- **Decay constant** → The probability that an individual nucleus will decay per unit of time
- **half-life** → Time taken for the number of undecayed nuclei or activity to fall to half of its initial value
- **unified atomic mass** →  $1/12^{\text{th}}$  of the mass of an atom of carbon-12
- **Nuclear fission** → A process in which the nucleus of an atom splits into two or more smaller nuclei of approximately equal mass, releasing a large amount of energy
- **Nuclear fusion** → Process in which two light nuclei combine to form a heavier nucleus, releasing a large amount of energy in the process

# Formulas

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- **Einstein's mass-energy equation**  $\rightarrow E = m \times c^2$
- **J to cV**  $\rightarrow 1 \text{ J} = 1 \text{ cV}$
- **J to eV**  $\rightarrow 1 \text{ eV} = 1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$
- **J to MeV**  $\rightarrow 1 \text{ eV} = 1.6 \times 10^{-13} \text{ J}$
- **Binding energy**  $\rightarrow \text{B.E} = \Delta m \times c^2$
- **Alpha decay equation** ↓
  - $${}^A_Z X \longrightarrow {}^{A-4}_{Z-2} Y + {}^4_2 \alpha$$
- **Beta (-) decay equation** ↓
  - $${}^A_Z X \longrightarrow {}^A_{Z+1} Y + {}^0_{-1} \beta$$
- **Beta (+) decay equation** ↓
  - $${}^A_Z X \longrightarrow {}^A_{Z-1} Y + {}^0_{+1} \beta$$
- **Activity**  $\rightarrow A = -\lambda N (= \Delta N / \Delta t)$
- **Radioactive decay**  $\rightarrow X = X_0 e^{-\lambda t}$
- **Fraction of undecayed nuclei**  $\rightarrow (N / N_0) = e^{-\lambda t}$
- **Decay constant**  $\rightarrow \lambda = 0.693 / t_{1/2}$

# Definitions

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- **Photons** → Discrete packets or quanta of energy of electromagnetic radiation
- **Photoelectric effect** → Phenomenon where electrons are emitted from the surface of a metal when it is exposed to EMR / photons whose frequency exceeds threshold frequency
- **Intensity** → Power intercepted per unit cross-sectional area
- **Threshold frequency** → Minimum frequency of incident EMR / photons required to eject electrons from a metal surface
- **Work function energy** → Minimum energy of incident EMR / photons required to eject electrons from a metal surface
- **Cut-off wavelength** → Maximum wavelength of incident EMR / photons that would result in emission of electrons from a metal surface; wavelengths greater than cut-off wavelength would not result in emission of electrons
- **Work function energy on a surface** → Energy of incident EMR / Photons equal to work function energy result in emission of electrons with zero kinetic energy from a metal surface
- **De Broglie wavelength** → Wavelength associated with fast moving particles
- **Excitation of e<sup>-</sup>** → Transitioning of an electron from a lower to a higher energy level within an atom
- **De-excitation of e<sup>-</sup>** → Transitioning of an electron from a higher to a lower energy level within an atom

- **Absorption line spectrum** → A series of dark lines on a background of all colours corresponding discrete wavelengths of radiations or photons absorbed when electrons of gaseous atoms cooled at low pressure transition from lower to higher energy levels; photons absorbed have energies equal to difference in energy levels between which electrons transition
- **Emission line spectrum** → A series of coloured lines on a black background corresponding discrete wavelengths of radiations or photons emitted when electrons of gaseous atoms heated at low pressure transition from higher to lower energy levels; photons emitted have energies equal to difference in energy levels between which electrons transition

# Formulas

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- **Energy (one photon)** →  $E = hf_0$  or  $E = (hc) / \lambda_0$
- **Total energy of photons** →  $E_T = n \times hf_0$  ('n' is number of photons incident)
- **Intensity** →  $I = P / A$  ('P' is power) 
- **Einstein's photoelectric equation** →  $E_K = hf - \Phi$
- **Momentum of a photon** →  $P = h / \lambda$
- **Momentum of an e- accelerated through a potential difference** →  $P = \sqrt{2mqV}$  (to derive)
- **Einstein's theory of relativity** →  $E = P \times c$  ('P' is momentum)

# Definitions

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- **Specific acoustic impedance** → The product of the speed of the ultrasound in the medium and the density of the medium
- **Intensity reflection coefficient** → The ratio of the intensity of the reflected wave relative to the incident wave 
- **Attenuation of ultrasound / x-ray** → The reduction of energy, and thus intensity of ultrasound / x-ray, due to the absorption of ultrasound / x-ray as it travels, over a distance, through a medium
- **80 KeV x-ray** → X-rays produced when high speed electrons of kinetic energy 80 KeV, accelerated through a potential difference 80 KV, hit target anode
- **Hardness of x-ray beam** → Penetrating power of x-ray beam; harder x-rays have greater penetrating power
- **Sharpness of x-ray image** → Associated with how well defined the boundaries of an x-ray image are
- **Contrast of x-ray image** → Difference in degree of blackening between different regions of an x-ray image
- **Tomography** → Medical imaging technique that produces a detailed three-dimensional cross-sectional images of slices of a body part or structure
- **PET scanning** → A type of nuclear procedure that images body tissues and organs by measuring metabolic activity of their cells
- **Tracer** → A radioactive substance, injected into the body in small amounts, absorbed by body tissues allowing for study of their structure and function
- **Annihilation** → When a particle collides with its equivalent antiparticle, the two are destroyed and their masses converted to pure energy in the form of photons

# Formulas

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- **Specific acoustic impedance** →  $Z = \rho \times c$  ('c' is speed of ultrasound in medium)
- **Intensity reflection coefficient** →  $\alpha = I_R / I_0$  or  $\alpha = (Z_1 - Z_2)^2 / (Z_1 + Z_2)^2$
- **Attenuation of ultrasound (one medium)** →  $I_R = I_0 e^{-\mu x}$  (' $I_R$ ' is intensity of ultrasound reflected)
- **Attenuation of x-ray** →  $I_T = I_0 e^{-\mu x}$  (' $I_T$ ' is intensity of x-ray transmitted)
- **Attenuation of ultrasound (two media)** →  $I_R = I_0 (e^{-\mu_1 x_1} \times e^{-\mu_2 x_2})$
- **Attenuation of x-ray (two media)** →  $I_T = I_0 (e^{-\mu_1 x_1} \times e^{-\mu_2 x_2})$
- **Kinetic energy of one x-ray photon at cut-off wavelength** →  $E_K = qV = hc / \lambda_0$
- **Total energy released in one annihilation event** →  $E_T = 2 \times \Delta mc^2$  (two  $\gamma$ -ray photons released)
- **Wavelength of each  $\gamma$ -ray photon released** →  $\lambda = hc / \Delta mc^2$  (' $\Delta mc^2$ ' = energy for one  $\gamma$ -ray photon released =  $E_T / 2$ )

# Definitions

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- **Luminosity** → Total power output of radiation emitted by a star
- **Radiant flux intensity** → The radiant power transmitted normally through a surface per unit of area, of radiation measured on Earth 
- **Standard candle** → An astronomical object which has a known luminosity due to a characteristic quality possessed by that class of object
- **Wien's displacement law** → The black body radiation curve for different temperatures peaks at a wavelength which is inversely proportional to the temperature
- **Stefan-Boltzmann Law** → The total energy emitted by a black body per unit area per second is proportional to the fourth power of the absolute temperature of the body
- **Doppler effect** → The apparent change in wavelength or frequency of the radiation from a source due to its relative motion away from or toward the observer
- **Redshift** → The fractional increase in wavelength (or decrease in frequency) due to the source and observer receding from each other
- **Blueshift** → The fractional decrease in wavelength (or increase in frequency) due to the source and observer moving towards each other
- **Hubble's Law** → The recession speed of galaxies moving away from Earth is proportional to their distance from the Earth

# Formulas

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- **Radiant flux intensity** →  $F = L / (4\pi d^2)$  ('d' is distance between star and Earth)
- **Wien's displacement law (relationship)** →  $\lambda_{\max} \propto 1 / T$
- **Wien's displacement law (equation)** →  $\lambda_{\max 1} T_1 = \lambda_{\max 2} T_2$  (to derive)
- **Stefan-Boltzmann Law** →  $L = 4\pi r^2 \sigma T^4$
- **Redshift** ↓
  - $(\Delta\lambda / \lambda) = (\Delta f / f) = (v / c)$
  - Where:
    - $\Delta\lambda$  = shift in wavelength (m)
    - $\lambda$  = wavelength emitted from the source (m)
    - $\Delta f$  = shift in frequency (Hz)
    - $f$  = frequency emitted from the source (Hz)
    - $v$  = speed of recession ( $\text{ms}^{-1}$ )
    - $c$  = speed of light in a vacuum ( $\text{ms}^{-1}$ )
- **Hubble's Law** →  $v = H_0 d$  (where 'd' is distance between galaxy and Earth)
- **Age of universe** →  $T_0 = 1 / H_0$