A-level Physics data and formulae

For use in exams from the June 2017 Series onwards

DATA - FUNDAMENTAL CONSTANTS AND VALUES

Quantity	Symbol	Value	Units
speed of light in vacuo	c	3.00×10^{8}	$\mathrm{m\ s^{-1}}$
permeability of free space	μ_0	$4\pi \times 10^{-7}$	$\mathrm{H\ m^{-1}}$
permittivity of free space	ε_0	8.85×10^{-12}	$\mathrm{F\ m^{-1}}$
magnitude of the charge of electron	e	1.60×10^{-19}	C
the Planck constant	h	6.63×10^{-34}	J s
gravitational constant	G	6.67×10^{-11}	$\mathrm{N\ m^{2}\ kg^{-2}}$
the Avogadro constant	N_A	6.02×10^{23}	$\mathrm{mol^{-1}}$
molar gas constant	R	8.31	$\mathrm{J\ K^{-1}\ mol^{-1}}$
the Boltzmann constant	k	1.38×10^{-23}	$\mathrm{J\ K^{-1}}$
the Stefan constant	σ	5.67×10^{-8}	$\mathrm{W\ m^{-2}\ K^{-4}}$
the Wien constant	α	2.90×10^{-3}	m K
electron rest mass (equivalent to 5.5×10^{-4} u)	m_e	9.11×10^{-31}	kg
magnitude of electron charge/mass ratio	$\frac{e}{m_e}$	1.76×10^{11}	$\mathrm{C\ kg^{-1}}$
proton rest mass (equivalent to 1.00728 u)	m_p	$1.67(3) \times 10^{-27}$	kg
proton charge/mass ratio	$\frac{e}{m_p}$	9.58×10^{7}	$\mathrm{C\ kg^{-1}}$
neutron rest mass (equivalent to 1.00867 u)	m_n	$1.67(5) \times 10^{-27}$	kg
gravitational field strength	g	9.81	$\mathrm{N\ kg^{-1}}$
acceleration due to gravity	g	9.81	$\mathrm{m\ s^{-2}}$
atomic mass unit (1u is equivalent to 931.5 MeV)	u	1.661×10^{-27}	kg

ALGEBRAIC EQUATION

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

ASTRONOMICAL DATA

Body	Mass/kg	Mean radius/m
Sun	1.99×10^{30}	6.96×10^{8}
Earth	5.97×10^{24}	6.37×10^{6}

GEOMETRICAL EQUATIONS

arc length	$= r\theta$
circumference of circle	$= 2\pi r$
area of circle	$= \pi r^2$
curved surface area of cylinder	$= 2\pi rh$
surface 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	γ	0
lepton	neutrino	ν_e	0
		ν_μ	0
	electron	$e^\pm$	0.510999
	muon	$\mu^\pm$	105.659
mesons	π meson	$\pi^\pm$	139.576
		π^0	134.972
	K meson	$K^\pm$	493.821
		K^0	497.762
baryons	proton	p	938.257
	neutron	n	939.551

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^-, ν_e ; μ^-, ν_μ	$+1$
Antiparticles:	e^+, $\overline{\nu_e}$, μ^+, $\overline{\nu_\mu}$	-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 $\lambda = \frac{h}{p} = \frac{h}{mv}$

Waves

wave speed $c = f\lambda$ *period* $f = \frac{1}{T}$

first harmonic $f = \frac{1}{2l}\sqrt{\frac{T}{\mu}}$

fringe spacing $w = \frac{\lambda D}{s}$ *diffraction grating* $d \sin\theta = n\lambda$

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

$E_k = \frac{1}{2}m\,v^2$ $\Delta E_p = mg\Delta h$

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

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

Materials

density $\rho = \frac{m}{V}$ *Hooke's law* $F = k\,\Delta L$

Young modulus $= \frac{tensile\ stress}{tensile\ strain}$ *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	$R_T = R_1 + R_2 + R_3 + \ldots$
resistors in parallel	$\frac{1}{R_T} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \frac{1}{R_3} + \cdots$
power	$P = VI = I^2R = \frac{V^2}{R}$
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	$v_{\mathrm{max}} = \omega A$
maximum acceleration	$a_{\mathrm{max}} = \omega^2 A$
for a mass-spring system	$T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{m}{k}}$
for a simple pendulum	$T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{l}{g}}$

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	$pV = \frac{1}{3}Nm(c_{\mathrm{rms}})^2$
kinetic energy of gas molecule	$\frac{1}{2}m(c_{\mathrm{rms}})^2 = \frac{3}{2}kT = \frac{3RT}{2N_A}$

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	$F = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0}\frac{Q_1Q_2}{r^2}$
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	$E = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0}\frac{Q}{r^2}$
electric potential	$V = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0}\frac{Q}{r}$
field strength	$E = \frac{\Delta V}{\Delta r}$
capacitance	$C = \frac{Q}{V}$
	$C = \frac{A\varepsilon_0\varepsilon_r}{d}$
capacitor energy stored	$E = \frac{1}{2}QV = \frac{1}{2}CV^2 = \frac{1}{2}\frac{Q^2}{C}$
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	$\varepsilon = N\dfrac{\Delta\Phi}{\Delta t}$
	$N\Phi = BAN\cos\theta$
emf induced in a rotating coil	$\varepsilon = BAN\omega\sin\omega t$
alternating current	$I_{rms} = \dfrac{I_0}{\sqrt{2}}$ $V_{rms} = \dfrac{V_0}{\sqrt{2}}$
transformer equations	$\dfrac{N_s}{N_p} = \dfrac{V_s}{V_p}$
	$efficiency = \dfrac{I_s V_s}{I_p V_p}$

Nuclear physics

inverse square law for γ radiation	$I = \dfrac{k}{x^2}$
radioactive decay	$\dfrac{\Delta N}{\Delta t} = -\lambda N$, $N = N_0 e^{-\lambda t}$
activity	$A = \lambda N$
half-life	$T_{½} = \dfrac{\ln 2}{\lambda}$
nuclear radius	$R = R_0 A^{1/3}$
energy-mass equation	$E = mc^2$

OPTIONS

Astrophysics

1 astronomical unit = 1.50×10^{11} m

1 light year = 9.46×10^{15} m

1 parsec = 2.06×10^5 AU = 3.08×10^{16} m = 3.26 ly

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

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

telescope in normal adjustment	$M = \dfrac{f_o}{f_e}$
Rayleigh criterion	$\theta \approx \dfrac{\lambda}{D}$
magnitude equation	$m - M = 5\log\dfrac{d}{10}$
Wien's law	$\lambda_{max}T = 2.9 \times 10^{-3}$ m K
Stefan's law	$P = \sigma A T^4$
Schwarzschild radius	$R_s \approx \dfrac{2GM}{c^2}$
Doppler shift for v << c	$\dfrac{\Delta f}{f} = -\dfrac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda} = \dfrac{v}{c}$
red shift	$z = -\dfrac{v}{c}$
Hubble's law	$v = Hd$

Medical physics

lens equations	$P = \dfrac{1}{f}$
	$m = \dfrac{v}{u}$
	$\dfrac{1}{f} = \dfrac{1}{u} + \dfrac{1}{v}$
threshold of hearing	$I_0 = 1.0 \times 10^{-12}$ W m^{-2}
intensity level	$intensity\ level = 10\log\dfrac{I}{I_0}$
absorption	$I = I_0 e^{-\mu x}$
	$\mu_m = \dfrac{\mu}{\rho}$
ultrasound imaging	$Z = \rho c$
	$\dfrac{I_r}{I_i} = \left(\dfrac{Z_2 - Z_1}{Z_2 + Z_1}\right)^2$
half-lives	$\dfrac{1}{T_E} = \dfrac{1}{T_B} + \dfrac{1}{T_P}$

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	$pV = \text{constant}$

heat engines

efficiency = $\frac{W}{Q_\mathrm{H}} = \frac{Q_\mathrm{H} - Q_\mathrm{C}}{Q_\mathrm{H}}$

maximum theoretical efficiency = $\frac{T_\mathrm{H} - T_\mathrm{C}}{T_\mathrm{H}}$

work done per cycle = area of loop

input power = calorific value × fuel flow rate

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

output or brake power $P = T\omega$

friction power = indicated power – brake power

heat pumps and refrigerators

refrigerator: $COP_\mathrm{ref} = \frac{Q_\mathrm{C}}{W} = \frac{Q_\mathrm{C}}{Q_\mathrm{H} - Q_\mathrm{C}}$

heat pump: $COP_\mathrm{hp} = \frac{Q_\mathrm{H}}{W} = \frac{Q_\mathrm{H}}{Q_\mathrm{H} - Q_\mathrm{C}}$

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	$c = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu_0\varepsilon_0}}$
	$\lambda = \frac{h}{p} = \frac{h}{\sqrt{2meV}}$
special relativity	$t = \frac{t_0}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$
	$l = l_0\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}$
	$E = mc^2 = \frac{m_0c^2}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$

Electronics

resonant frequency	$f_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{LC}}$
Q-factor	$Q = \frac{f_0}{f_\mathrm{B}}$
operational amplifiers: open loop	$V_\mathrm{out} = A_\mathrm{OL}(V_+ - V_-)$
inverting amplifier	$\frac{V_\mathrm{out}}{V_\mathrm{in}} = -\frac{R_\mathrm{f}}{R_\mathrm{in}}$
non-inverting amplifier	$\frac{V_\mathrm{out}}{V_\mathrm{in}} = 1 + \frac{R_\mathrm{f}}{R_\mathrm{l}}$
summing amplifier	$V_\mathrm{out} = -R_\mathrm{f}\left(\frac{V_1}{R_1} + \frac{V_2}{R_2} + \frac{V_3}{R_3} + \cdots\right)$
difference amplifier	$V_\mathrm{out} = (V_+ - V_-)\frac{R_\mathrm{f}}{R_\mathrm{l}}$

Bandwidth requirement:

for AM	$bandwidth = 2f_\mathrm{M}$
for FM	$bandwidth = 2(\Delta f + f_\mathrm{M})$