

Equation relating speed, frequency, and wavelength of a wave

$$c = f\lambda$$

Definition of
PERIOD (T)

Time taken for one complete oscillation (measured in seconds)

Definition of
FREQUENCY (f)

Number of complete oscillations per second

Equation relating frequency and period of an oscillation

$$f = \frac{1}{T}$$

Equation for finding the frequency of the first harmonic for stationary waves on a string

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

Equation for the double slit experiment, relating fringe separation, slit spacing, distance from screen, and wavelength of light.

$$w = \frac{\lambda D}{S}$$

Equation for diffraction
grating

$$d \sin\theta = n\lambda$$

Formula for refractive
index of a substance

$$n = \frac{c}{c_s}$$

Law of Refraction

$$n_1 \sin \theta_1 = n_2 \sin \theta_2$$

Critical Angle

$$\sin \theta_c = \frac{n_2}{n_1}$$

for $n_1 > n_2$

Moment of a Force

*Force \times perpendicular
distance from the pivot,
 Fd*

Word definition of
velocity

Rate of change of
displacement

Definition of velocity in symbols

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

Word definition of acceleration

Rate of change of velocity

Definition of acceleration in symbols

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

Equations of motion
for uniform
acceleration (the
“suvat” equations)

$$v = u + at$$

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

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

$$s = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^2$$

Equation relating force,
mass, and acceleration

$$F = ma$$

*Definition of
momentum (p)*

momentum = mass × velocity

$$p = mv$$

*Definition of
impulse*

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

Equation relating force,
momentum, and time
in words

*Force = rate of change
of momentum*

Equation relating force,
momentum, and time
in symbols

$$F = \frac{mv - mu}{t}$$

or

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

Equation relating work done, force, and distance

$$w = Fs$$

or

$$w = Fs \cos \theta$$

Equation for kinetic energy

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

Equation for gravitational potential energy

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

*Definition of
POWER in words*

Power is the rate of
conversion of energy

*Definition of
POWER (P) in symbols*

$$P = \frac{\Delta w}{\Delta t}$$

Equation relating
power, force, and
velocity

$$P = Fv$$

*Definition of
EFFICIENCY*

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

$$\text{percentage efficiency} = \frac{\text{useful power output}}{\text{total power input}} \times 100 \%$$

*Definition of
DENSITY*

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

*Hooke's
Law*

$$F = k\Delta L$$

*Young
Modulus*

$$\frac{\textit{tensile stress}}{\textit{tensile strain}} = \frac{F \times L}{A \times \Delta L}$$

*Tensile
Stress*

$$\frac{F}{A}$$

*Tensile
Stress*

$$\frac{\Delta L}{L}$$

Equation for calculating energy stored in a stretched or compressed material obeying Hooke's Law

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

$$E = \frac{1}{2}k\Delta L^2$$

*Equation for calculating energy stored **per unit volume** for a stretched or compressed material obeying Hooke's Law*

$$\frac{1}{2} \text{ stress} \times \text{ strain}$$

*Definition of
WEIGHT*

$$W = mg$$

Equation for energy of
a photon

$$E = hf = \frac{hc}{\lambda}$$

Photoelectric effect
equation

$$hf = \phi + E_{k(\max)}$$

de Broglie wavelength

$$\lambda = \frac{h}{p} = \frac{h}{mv}$$

*Definition of
Work Function*

ϕ = the minimum amount of energy needed to release an electron from the surface of a metal

$$\phi = hf_0$$

*Definition of
Stopping Potential*

Stopping potential, V_s is the potential difference needed to stop the fastest moving electron in a photocell experiment

$$E_{k(max)} = eV_s$$

*Definition of
Specific Charge*

$$\frac{Q}{m}$$

Equation relating
current, charge, and
time

$$I = \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta t}$$

Equation relating p.d.,
work done, and charge

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

*Definition of
the VOLT*

1 joule per coulomb

Equation relating p.d.,
current, and resistance

$$V = IR$$

Equation defining
resistivity

$$\rho = \frac{RA}{l}$$

Equation for calculating
total resistance of
resistors in series

$$R_T = R_1 + R_2 + R_3 \dots$$

Equation for calculating total resistance of resistors in parallel

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

or

$$R_T = \left(\frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \frac{1}{R_3} + \dots \right)^{-1}$$

Three equations for electrical power in a circuit

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

Equation relating p.d. and current to the total energy transferred by a component in a time, t.

$$E = ItV$$

*Definition of
electromotive force
(emf) in words and
symbols*

amount of energy supplied per
coulomb *by* a power source

$$\varepsilon = \frac{E}{Q}$$

units: volts

Equation relating emf
of a power supply, its
internal resistance and
the external resistance
in a circuit

$$\varepsilon = I(R + r)$$

Equation relating emf of a
power supply, its internal
resistance, the current
through the circuit, and the
p.d. across the external
components

$$V = \varepsilon - Ir$$

Equation defining angular speed

$$\omega = \frac{\theta}{t}$$

Equation relating angular speed to frequency of orbit

$$\omega = 2\pi f$$

Equation relating angular speed to period of orbit

$$\omega = \frac{2\pi}{T}$$

Equation relating angular speed to linear velocity and radius of orbit

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

Equation for centripetal force

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

Equations for centripetal acceleration

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

Criteria for
Simple Harmonic
Motion (SHM)

Acceleration is proportion to
the displacement, and always
directed in the opposite
direction, towards the
equilibrium position

Equation relating
acceleration and
angular frequency
in SHM

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

Equation for
displacement in
SHM

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

Equation for speed
in SHM

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

Equation for
maximum speed in
SHM

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

Equation for
maximum
acceleration in SHM

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

Equation for period
of SHM in a mass-
spring system

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

Equation for period
of SHM of a simple
pendulum

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

Definition of
specific heat
capacity

Definition of
specific latent heat
of fusion

Definition of
specific latent heat
of vaporisation

Energy needed to
change
temperature of a
substance

$$Q = mc\Delta\theta$$

Energy needed to
change state of a
substance

$$Q = ml$$

Gas Law with
Boltzmann
Constant

$$pV = NkT$$

Gas Law with molar
gas constant

$$pV = nRT$$

Kinetic Theory
Equation

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

Kinetic Energy of a
Gas Molecule

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

Relationship
between Pressure,
Temperature, and
Volume

$$\frac{P_1V_1}{T_1} = \frac{P_2V_2}{T_2}$$

Gravitational force
between two
masses

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

Word definition of
gravitational field
strength

Force per unit mass

Equation defining of
gravitational field
strength

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

magnitude of
gravitational field
strength in a radial
field

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

Work done in
moving a mass in a
gravitational field

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

Word definition of
gravitational
potential

the work done per unit mass
in bringing a point mass from
infinity to a point in a
gravitational field
(unit: Jkg^{-1})

Equation for
gravitational
potential

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

Why is gravitational potential
always negative?

zero gravitational potential is defined as being as being at infinity, and since work has to be done to a mass to get it to infinity, gravitational potential is always negative

Equation relating gravitational field strength and gravitational potential

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

Equation for escape velocity

$$v_{esc} = \sqrt{\frac{2GM}{r}}$$

Equation relating period of satellite orbit to radius of orbit

$$T^2 = \frac{4\pi^2}{GM} r^3$$

Equation for
gravitational potential
energy in a radial field

$$E_p = -\frac{Gm_1m_2}{r}$$

force between two
point charges

$$F = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Q_1Q_2}{r^2}$$

Word definition of
electric field
strength

Force per unit charge

definition of electric field strength in symbols

$$E = \frac{F}{Q}$$

Formula for electric field strength between two parallel plates

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

definition of uniform field

Field strength and direction same at all points

Work done in moving a charge in an electric field

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

Equation for field strength for a radial field

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

Equation for electric potential

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

Equation relating electric field strength and electric potential

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

Equation for electric potential **energy** at a point in a radial field

$$E_p = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{r}$$

Equation relating capacitance, charge, and voltage

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

Equation relating capacitance to area of plates, separation of plates, and permittivity of dielectric

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

Energy stored in a capacitor

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

Equations describing discharging a capacitor

$$Q = Q_0 e^{-\frac{t}{RC}}$$
$$V = V_0 e^{-\frac{t}{RC}}$$
$$I = I_0 e^{-\frac{t}{RC}}$$

Equations describing charging up a capacitor

$$Q = Q_0(1 - e^{-\frac{t}{RC}})$$
$$V = V_0(1 - e^{-\frac{t}{RC}})$$
$$I = I_0 e^{-\frac{t}{RC}}$$

Word definition of the **time constant** for a resistor-capacitor (RC) circuit

Time taken for the charge or potential difference or current to fall to $1/e$ of its original value for a discharging capacitor

Equation for calculating time constant for a discharging capacitor

$$\tau = RC$$

Time taken for a capacitor to discharge 99% of its charge or current or potential difference

5 time constants

Equations defining relative permittivity

$$\epsilon_r = \frac{C}{C_0} = \frac{Q}{Q_0} = \frac{\epsilon_1}{\epsilon_0}$$