

VISUAL PHYSICS ONLINE

EQUATION MINDMAPS

Equations are essential part of physics, without them, we can't start to explain our physical world and make predictions. An equation tells a story – a collection of a few symbols contains a wealth of information. Many examination questions can be answered by having an in-depth understanding of equations. To help you maximize your examination marks, you should use the equation mindmaps to gain this in-depth understanding. You need to commit to memory much of the information contained in the equation mindmaps so that you can appreciate the story told by each equation.

- State what the symbols represent (meaning & interpretation), S.I. units, other units, typical values, vector or scalar, positive or negative quantity.
- A visualisation of what the equation is about, is it a definition or a law, when is it applicable, comments and an interpretation.
- Alternative forms of the equation.
- Graphical representations of the equation.
- Numerical examples.

MECHANICS (Kinematics and Dynamics)



$$v_{av} = \frac{\Delta r}{\Delta t}$$

Average velocity

$$v_x = \frac{dx}{dt}$$

Instantaneous velocity in X direction

$$a_{avg} = \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t} = \frac{v - u}{t}$$

Average acceleration

$$a = \frac{dv}{dt}$$

Instantaneous acceleration in X direction

$$\sum \vec{F} = m\vec{a}$$

Newton's Second Law

$$\vec{a} = \frac{\sum \vec{F}}{m}$$

acceleration



$$F = mg$$

Weight of an object

$$F_c = m \frac{v^2}{r}$$

Centripetal force: uniform circular motion

$$a_c = \frac{F_c}{m} = \frac{v^2}{r}$$

Centripetal acceleration

$$\vec{F}_{AB} = -\vec{F}_{BA}$$

Newton's Third Law



$$F_{rocket} = -F_{gases} \quad \text{eg rocket propulsion}$$



$$\vec{p} = m\vec{v}$$

Momentum of a moving object

$$\text{impulse } \vec{J} = \vec{F}t$$

Impulse of a force F acting for a time interval t

$$J = F \Delta t = mv - mu$$

Impulse = change in momentum

$$\sum \vec{F} = 0 \Rightarrow \Delta \vec{p} = 0$$

Law of Conservation of momentum



$$W = F s$$

Work done by a force during a displacement (force and displacement in same direction [1D])

$$E_K = K = \frac{1}{2} m v^2$$

Kinetic energy of a moving object

$$W = F \Delta s = \frac{1}{2} m v^2 - \frac{1}{2} m u^2$$

Work done = change in KE [1D] only

$$W = qV$$

Work done on a charge in an electric field

$$E_K = K = \frac{1}{2} m v^2 = e V$$

Gain in KE electron due to a constant accelerating voltage



$$v = u + at \quad u \equiv v_0$$

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

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

$$v_{av} = \frac{u + v}{2}$$

$$s = v_{av} t = \frac{u + v}{2} t$$

Equation for uniform accelerated motion in one-dimension

$a = \text{constant}$



$$+ \rightarrow a_x = 0$$

$$u_x = u \cos \theta$$

$$v_x = u_x \quad x = u_x t$$

$$+ \uparrow a_y = -g$$

$$u_y = u \sin \theta$$

$$v_y = u_y + a_y t$$

$$v_y^2 = u_y^2 + 2a_y \Delta y$$

$$y = u_y t + \frac{1}{2}a_y t^2$$

$$y = \frac{u_y + v_y}{2} t$$

Equations for Projectile Motion

$$g = 9.8 \text{ m.s}^{-2}$$

$$a_y = -g = -9.8 \text{ m.s}^{-1}$$

$$s^2 = s_x^2 + s_y^2 \quad \tan \theta_s = \frac{s_y}{s_x}$$

$$v^2 = v_x^2 + v_y^2 \quad \tan \theta_v = \frac{v_y}{v_x}$$



$$F = \frac{G m_1 m_2}{r^2}$$

Gravitational force

$$g_{\text{planet}} = \frac{GM_{\text{planet}}}{R_{\text{planet}}}$$

Acceleration due to gravity
at surface of a planet

$$E_p = U = -G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r}$$

Gravitational potential
energy

$$E_p = U = m g h$$

Gravitational potential
energy near Earth's surface

$$g = \frac{GM_E}{r^2} = \frac{GM_E}{(R_E + h)^2}$$

Acceleration due to gravity
(Earth)

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

Period of pendulum $\rightarrow g$



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

Kepler's Third Law for satellite motion

$$\frac{r_1^3}{T_1^2} = \frac{r_2^3}{T_2^2}$$

$$\frac{r_1^3}{T_1^2} = \frac{r_2^3}{T_2^2}$$

$$T_2 = T_1 \left(\frac{r_2}{r_1} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}}$$

$$v_{orb} = \sqrt{\frac{GM}{r}}$$

orbital velocity

$$T = \frac{2\pi r}{v_{orb}}$$

orbital period


geostationary satellite

T = 24 hours

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

escape velocity

SPECIAL RELATIVITY


$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}} \quad \beta = \frac{v}{c}$$

mass m is a constant

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

time dilation

$$L = L_0 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}} = \frac{L_0}{\gamma}$$

length contract

$$E = mc^2$$

total energy

$$p = \frac{mv}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}} = \gamma mv$$

momentum

$$E^2 = p^2 c^2 + m^2 c^4 = p^2 c^2 + E_0^2$$

total energy

$$K = E - E_0 = \frac{mc^2}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}} - mc^2$$

kinetic energy

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

kinetic energy $v \ll c$

$$E_0 = 0 \quad E = pc \quad p = \frac{E}{c}$$

photon

ELECTRICITY



$$R = \frac{V}{I}$$

Resistance

$$P = V I$$

Electrical power

$$\text{Energy} = V I t$$

Electrical energy

MAGNETISM



$$\frac{F}{L} = k \frac{I_1 I_2}{d}$$

Magnetic force between two parallel conductors



$$F = B I L \sin \theta$$

Magnetic force on a conductor

$$B = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2 \pi r}$$

Magnetic field surrounding a long straight conductor

$$\tau = F d$$

$$\tau = n B I A \cos \theta$$

Torque
Torque on a coil in a magnetic field



$$\Phi_B = B A \cos \theta$$

Magnetic flux

$$\varepsilon = - \frac{\Delta \Phi_B}{\Delta t}$$

average induced emf

$$\varepsilon = - \frac{d\Phi_B}{dt}$$

induced emf

$$\Phi_B = B A \cos(\omega t) \quad \theta = \omega t$$

$$\varepsilon = \omega B A \sin(\omega t)$$

$$\varepsilon_{\text{battery}} = I R + \varepsilon_{\text{back}}$$

electric motor: back

emf $\varepsilon_{\text{back}}$



$$\frac{V_p}{V_s} = \frac{n_p}{n_s}$$

Transformer equation:
step up or step down
voltages

$$V_s = \frac{n_s}{n_p} V_p \quad I_s = \frac{n_p}{n_s} I_p$$

ideal transformer

$$P_s = P_p \quad V_s I_s = V_p I_p$$

$$P_{loss} = I^2 R$$

Power loss (eddy currents
– transformer, induction
heating; transmission
lines)



$F = qvB \sin \theta$ Force on a charged particle
moving in a magnetic field

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

Electric field

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

Electric field (constant) between
two parallel charged plates

NATURE OF LIGHT



$$E = hf$$

Energy of a photon

$$c = f\lambda$$

Speed of light
Speed of electromagnetic radiation

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

Gain in KE of electron due to accelerating voltage

$$hf = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 + W$$

$$hf = \frac{1}{2}mv_{\max}^2 + W_{\min}$$

$$\frac{1}{2}mv_{\max}^2 = hf - W_{\min}$$

Photoelectric Effect



$$eV_s = \frac{1}{2}mv_{\max}^2$$

$$V_s = \frac{hf}{e} - \frac{W_{\min}}{e}$$

Stopping voltage

$$eV_s = \frac{1}{2}mv_{\max}^2 = 0$$

$$hf_c = W_{\min} \quad f_c = \frac{W_{\min}}{h}$$

Cut-off (critical) frequency

THE ATOM



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

Bragg's Law – crystal structure (constructive interference)



$$\frac{1}{\lambda} = R \left(\frac{1}{n_f^2} - \frac{1}{n_i^2} \right)$$

Hydrogen atom - spectrum

$$|E_2 - E_1| = hf$$

Energy levels

Bohr Model of atom

$$L = mvr = \frac{h}{2\pi}$$

Angular momentum quantized

$$E_n = -\frac{|E_1|}{n^2} \quad |E_1| = 13.6 \text{ eV}$$

$n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

Energy levels hydrogen atom

$$r_n = r_1 n^2 \quad r_1 = 5.29 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}$$

Allowed orbits for electrons in hydrogen atom



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

de Broglie wavelength
de Broglie relationship

$$E = hf \quad c = f\lambda \quad p = \frac{h}{\lambda}$$

Photon

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

Matter wave

$$\Delta x \Delta p \geq \frac{h}{4\pi}$$

Heisenberg Uncertainty
Principle

The NUCLUES

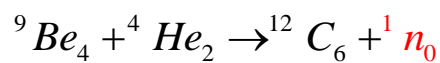


$$\Delta m = M_{\text{products}} - M_{\text{reactants}}$$

Mass defect

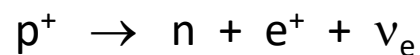
$$E = \gamma mc^2$$

Einstein –
mass/energy

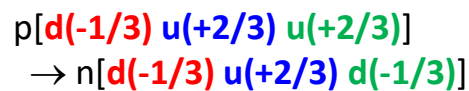
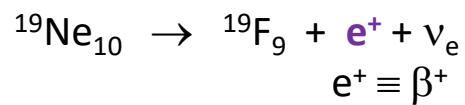


Chadwick
discovers **neutron**

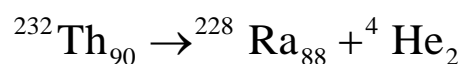
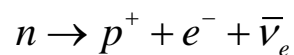
Beta plus decay



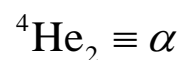
Beta decay
Pauli & Fermi
neutrino



Beta minus decay



Alpha decay



proton

d (-1/2)

u (+2/3)

u (+2/3)

Standard model

Proton

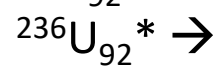
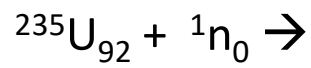
neutron

d (-1/3)

u (+2/3)

d (-2/3)

Neutron



Nuclear fission