

Physics data booklet

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Fundamental constants

Quantity	Symbol	Approximate value
Acceleration of free fall (Earth's surface)	g	9.81 m s ⁻²
Gravitational constant	G	$6.67 \times 10^{-11} \mathrm{N}\mathrm{m}^2\mathrm{kg}^{-2}$
Avogadro's constant	N _A	$6.02 \times 10^{23} \mathrm{mol}^{-1}$
Gas constant	R	8.31 J K ⁻¹ mol ⁻¹
Boltzmann's constant	k_{B}	$1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{J} \text{K}^{-1}$
Stefan–Boltzmann constant	σ	$5.67 \times 10^{-8}Wm^{-2}K^{-4}$
Coulomb constant	k	$8.99 \times 10^9 \mathrm{N}\mathrm{m}^2\mathrm{C}^{-2}$
Permittivity of free space	\mathcal{E}_0	$8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{C}^2 \text{N}^{-1} \text{m}^{-2}$
Permeability of free space	μ_0	$4\pi imes 10^{-7} T m A^{-1}$
Speed of light in vacuum	С	$3.00 imes 10^8 \mathrm{m s^{-1}}$
Planck's constant	h	6.63×10^{-34} Js
Elementary charge	е	$1.60 \times 10^{-19} \text{C}$
Electron rest mass	$m_{ m e}$	9.110×10^{-31} kg = 0.000549 u = 0.511 MeV c ⁻²
Proton rest mass	$m_{ m p}$	1.673×10^{-27} kg = 1.007276 u = 938 MeV c ⁻²
Neutron rest mass	$m_{ m n}$	1.675×10^{-27} kg = 1.008665 u = 940 MeV c ⁻²
Unified atomic mass unit	u	$1.661 \times 10^{-27} \mathrm{kg} = 931.5 \mathrm{MeV} \mathrm{c}^{-2}$
Solar constant	S	$1.36 \times 10^3 W m^{-2}$
Fermi radius	R ₀	$1.20 \times 10^{-15} \mathrm{m}$

Metric (SI) multipliers

Prefix	Abbreviation	Value
peta	Р	1015
tera	Т	1012
giga	G	10^{9}
mega	М	10^{6}
kilo	k	10^{3}
hecto	h	10 ²
deca	da	10^{1}
deci	d	10-1
centi	с	10-2
milli	m	10-3
micro	μ	10-6
nano	n	10-9
pico	р	10-12
femto	f	10-15

Unit conversions

1 radian (rad) $\equiv \frac{180^{\circ}}{\pi}$

Temperature (K) = temperature (°C) + 273

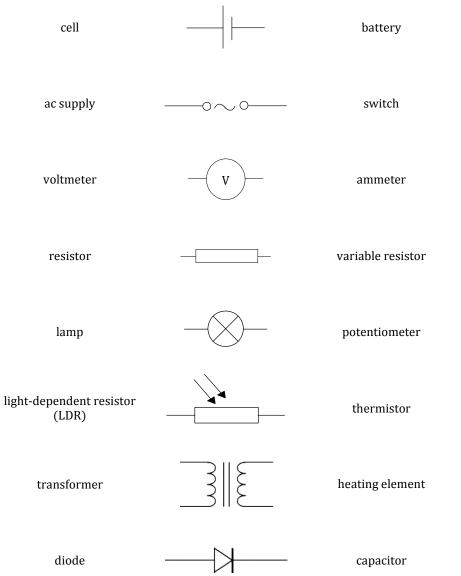
1 light year (ly) = 9.46×10^{15} m

1 parsec (pc) = 3.26 ly

1 astronomical unit (AU) = 1.50×10^{11} m

1 kilowatt-hour (kWh) = 3.60×10^6 J

 $hc = 1.99 \times 10^{-25} \text{ Jm} = 1.24 \times 10^{-6} \text{ eVm}$





А



Equations—Core

Note: All equations relate to the magnitude of the quantities only. Vector notation has not been used.

Sub-topic 1.2 – Uncertainties and errors	Sub-topic 1.3 – Vectors and scalars
If: $y = a \pm b$	
then: $\Delta y = \Delta a + \Delta b$	Av A
If: $y = \frac{ab}{c}$	A
then: $\frac{\Delta y}{y} = \frac{\Delta a}{a} + \frac{\Delta b}{b} + \frac{\Delta c}{c}$ If: $y = a^n$	
then: $\frac{\Delta y}{y} = \left n \frac{\Delta a}{a} \right $	$A_{\rm H} = A\cos\theta$
	$A_{\rm V} = A\sin\theta$
Sub-topic 2.1 – Motion	Sub-topic 2.2 – Forces
v = u + at	F = ma
$s = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^2$	$F_{\rm f} \le \mu_{\rm s} R$
$v^2 = u^2 + 2as$	$F_{\rm f} = \mu_{\rm d} R$
$s = \frac{(v+u)t}{2}$	
Sub-topic 2.3 – Work, energy and power	Sub-topic 2.4 – Momentum and impulse
$W = Fs \cos\theta$	p = mv
$E_{\rm K} = \frac{1}{2} m v^2$	$F = \frac{\Delta p}{\Delta t}$
$E_{\rm P} = \frac{1}{2} k \Delta x^2$	$E_{\rm K} = \frac{p^2}{2m}$
$\Delta E_{ m P} = mg\Delta h$	$E_{\rm K} = \frac{1}{2m}$
power = Fv	Impulse = $F\Delta t = \Delta p$
$Efficiency = \frac{\text{useful work out}}{\text{total work in}}$	
$= \frac{\text{useful power out}}{\text{total power in}}$	

Sub-topic 3.1 – Thermal concepts	Sub-topic 3.2 – Modelling a gas
$Q = mc\Delta T$	$p = \frac{F}{4}$
Q = mL	$n = \frac{N}{N}$
	$n = \frac{1}{N_{\rm A}}$ $pV = nRT$
	$\overline{E}_{\rm K} = \frac{3}{2} k_{\rm B} T = \frac{3}{2} \frac{R}{N_{\rm A}} T$
	2 2 N _A

Sub-topic 4.1 – Oscillations	Sub-topic 4.4 – Wave behaviour
$T = \frac{1}{f}$	$\frac{n_1}{n_2} = \frac{\sin \theta_2}{\sin \theta_1} = \frac{v_2}{v_1}$
Sub-topic 4.2 – Travelling waves	$s = \frac{\lambda D}{d}$
$c = f\lambda$	μ Constructive interference: path difference = $n\lambda$
Sub-topic 4.3 – Wave characteristics	•
$I \propto A^2$	Destructive interference: path difference = $(n + \frac{1}{2})\lambda$
$I \propto x^{-2}$	
$I = I_0 \cos^2 \theta$	

Sub-topic 5.1 – Electric fields	Sub-topic 5.2 – Heating effect of electric currents
$I = \frac{\Delta q}{\Delta t}$	Kirchhoff's circuit laws:
	$\Sigma V = 0$ (loop)
$F = k \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2}$	$\Sigma I = 0$ (junction)
$k = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0}$	$R = \frac{V}{I}$
$V = \frac{W}{q}$	$P = VI = I^2 R = \frac{V^2}{R}$
$E = \frac{F}{r}$	$R_{\text{total}} = R_1 + R_2 + \cdots$
$E = -\frac{1}{q}$	$\frac{1}{R_{\text{total}}} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \cdots$
I = nAvq	$R_{\text{total}} = R_1 + R_2$
	$\rho = \frac{RA}{L}$
Sub-topic 5.3 – Electric cells	Sub-topic 5.4 – Magnetic effects of electric currents
$\varepsilon = I(R+r)$	$F = qvB\sin\theta$
	$F = BIL \sin \theta$

Sub-topic 6.1 – Circular motion	Sub-topic 6.2 – Newton's law of gravitation
$v = \omega r$ $a = \frac{v^2}{r} = \frac{4\pi^2 r}{T^2}$ $F = \frac{mv^2}{r} = m\omega^2 r$	$F = G \frac{Mm}{r^2}$ $g = \frac{F}{m}$ $g = G \frac{M}{r^2}$

Sub-topic 7.1 – Discrete energy and radioactivity				Sub-topic 7	.2 – N	luclea	ar rea	ctions																				
E = hf						$\Delta E = \Delta m c^2$																						
$\lambda = \frac{hc}{E}$	$\lambda = \frac{hc}{E}$																											
				Sub-topi	ic 7.3	– The s	structure of	matte	er																			
	•																											
Charge	G	luark	S	Baryon number			Charge	•	L	epton	IS																	
2	u	с	t				-1		e	μ	τ																	
$\frac{2}{3}e$	-	Ľ	Ĩ	$\frac{1}{3}$			0		Ue	υμ	υτ																	
$-\frac{1}{3}e$	d	S	b	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$ All leptons have a lepton number of 1 and antileptons have a lepton																							
All quarks have a strangeness number of 0 except the strange quark that has a				number of –1																								
strangeness number of -1																												
					1																							
				Gravitation	al	1	Weak	El	ectro	magn	etic	Strong																
Particles exp	erier	ncing		All Q		Quarks, lepton		Quarks, leptons		Quarks, leptons		Quarks, leptons		Quarks, leptons		Quarks, leptons		Quarks, lepto		Quarks, leptons		Quarks, lept			Cha	arged		Quarks, gluons
Particles mee	diatir	ng		Graviton	n W+,		W		Graviton		+, W⁻, Z⁰			γ		Gluons												

Sub-topic 8.1 – Energy sources	Sub-topic 8.2 – Thermal energy transfer
Power = $\frac{\text{energy}}{\text{time}}$ Power = $\frac{1}{2}A\rho v^3$	$P = e\sigma AT^{4}$ $\lambda_{\max}(\text{metres}) = \frac{2.90 \times 10^{-3}}{T(\text{kelvin})}$
	$I = \frac{\text{power}}{A}$ albedo = $\frac{\text{total scattered power}}{\text{total incident power}}$

Equations—AHL

Sub-topic 9.1 – Simple harmonic motion	Sub-topic 9.2 – Single-slit diffraction
$\omega = \frac{2\pi}{T}$	$\theta = \frac{\lambda}{b}$
$a = -\omega^2 x$	Sub-topic 9.3 – Interference
$x = x_0 \sin \omega t; x = x_0 \cos \omega t$	$n\lambda = d\sin\theta$
$v = \omega x_0 \cos \omega t$; $v = -\omega x_0 \sin \omega t$	Constructive interference: $2dn = (m + \frac{1}{2}) \lambda$
$v = \pm \omega \sqrt{(x_0^2 - x^2)}$	Destructive interference: $2dn = m\lambda$
$E_{\rm K} = \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2(x_0^2 - x^2)$	
$E_{\rm T} = \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 x_0^2$	
Pendulum: $T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{l}{g}}$	
Mass-spring: $T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{m}{k}}$	
Sub-topic 9.4 – Resolution	Sub-topic 9.5 – Doppler effect
$\theta = 1.22 \frac{\lambda}{b}$	Moving source: $f' = f\left(\frac{v}{v \pm u_s}\right)$
$R = \frac{\lambda}{\Lambda \lambda} = mN$	Moving observer: $f' = f\left(\frac{v \pm u_0}{v}\right)$
	$\frac{\Delta f}{f} = \frac{\Delta \lambda}{\lambda} \approx \frac{\nu}{c}$

Sub-topic 10.1 – Describing fields	Sub-topic 10.2 – Fields at work
$W = q \Delta V_e$	
$W = m\Delta V_g$	$V_g = -\frac{GM}{r} \qquad \qquad V_e = \frac{kq}{r}$
	$g = -\frac{\Delta V_g}{\Delta r} \qquad \qquad E = -\frac{\Delta V_e}{\Delta r}$
	$E_{\rm P} = mV_g = -\frac{GMm}{r} \qquad \qquad E_{\rm P} = qV_{\rm e} = \frac{kq_1q_2}{r}$
	$F_{\rm G} = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2} \qquad \qquad F_{\rm E} = k \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2}$
	$v_{\rm esc} = \sqrt{\frac{2GM}{r}}$
	$v_{\text{orbit}} = \sqrt{\frac{GM}{r}}$

Sub-topic 11.1 – Electromagnetic induction	Sub-topic 11.3 – Capacitance
$\Phi = BA\cos\theta$	$C = \frac{q}{V}$
$\varepsilon = -N \frac{\Delta \Phi}{\Delta t}$	$C_{\text{parallel}} = C_1 + C_2 + \cdots$
$\varepsilon = Bvl$	$\frac{1}{C_{\text{series}}} = \frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2} + \cdots$
$\varepsilon = BvlN$	
Sub-topic 11.2 – Power generation and transmission	$C = \varepsilon \frac{A}{d}$
I I O	$E = \frac{1}{2}CV^2$
$I_{\rm rms} = \frac{I_0}{\sqrt{2}}$	au = RC
$V_{\rm rms} = \frac{V_0}{\sqrt{2}}$	$q = q_0 e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$
$R = \frac{V_0}{I_0} = \frac{V_{\rm rms}}{I_{\rm rms}}$	$I = I_0 e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$
$I_0 = I_{\rm rms}$	$V = V_0 e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$
$P_{\max} = I_0 V_0$	U U
$\bar{P} = \frac{1}{2} I_0 V_0$	
$\frac{\varepsilon_{\rm p}}{\varepsilon_{\rm s}} = \frac{N_{\rm p}}{N_{\rm s}} = \frac{I_{\rm s}}{I_{\rm p}}$	

Sub-topic 12.1 – The interaction of matter with radiation	Sub-topic 12.2 – Nuclear physics
E = hf	$R = R_0 A^{1/3}$
$E_{\max} = hf - \Phi$	$N = N_0 e^{-\lambda t}$
$E = -\frac{13.6}{n^2} eV$	$R = R_0 A^{1/3}$ $N = N_0 e^{-\lambda t}$ $A = \lambda N_0 e^{-\lambda t}$ $\sin \theta \approx \frac{\lambda}{D}$
$mvr = \frac{nh}{2\pi}$	$\sin\theta \approx \frac{\lambda}{D}$
$P(r) = \psi ^2 \Delta V$	
$\Delta x \Delta p \ge \frac{h}{4\pi}$	
$\Delta E \Delta t \ge \frac{h}{4\pi}$	

Equations—Options

Sub-topic A.1 – The beginnings of relativity	Sub-topic A.2 – Lorentz transformations
$ \begin{array}{l} x' = x - vt \\ u' = u - v \end{array} $	$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$
Sub-topic A.3 – Spacetime diagrams	$x' = \gamma(x - vt)$; $\Delta x' = \gamma(\Delta x - v\Delta t)$
$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{\nu}{c}\right)$	$t' = \gamma(t - \frac{vx}{c^2}); \Delta t' = \gamma(\Delta t - \frac{v\Delta x}{c^2})$
	$u' = \frac{u - v}{1 - \frac{uv}{c^2}}$
	$\Delta t = \gamma \Delta t_0$
	$L = \frac{L_0}{\gamma}$
	$(ct')^2 - (x')^2 = (ct)^2 - (x)^2$
Sub-topic A.4 – Relativistic mechanics (HL only)	Sub-topic A.5 – General relativity (HL only)
$E = \gamma m_0 c^2$	$\frac{\Delta f}{f} = \frac{g\Delta h}{c^2}$
$E_0 = m_0 c^2$, · · ·
$E_{\rm K} = (\gamma - 1)m_0c^2$	$R_s = \frac{2GM}{c^2}$
$p = \gamma m_0 v$	Δt_0
$E^2 = p^2 c^2 + m_0^2 c^4$	$\Delta t = \frac{\Delta t_0}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{R_s}{r}}}$
$qV = \Delta E_{\mathrm{K}}$	$\sqrt{1-r}$

Sub-topic B.1 – Rigid bodies and rotational dynamics	Sub-topic B.2 – Thermodynamics
$\Gamma = Fr\sin\theta$	$Q = \Delta U + W$
$I = \sum mr^2$	$U = \frac{3}{2} nRT$
$\Gamma = I\alpha$	$\Delta S = \frac{\Delta Q}{T}$
$\omega = 2\pi f$	$\Delta S = \frac{1}{T}$
$\omega_{\rm f} = \omega_{\rm i} + \alpha t$	$pV^{\frac{5}{3}} = $ constant (for monatomic gases)
$\omega_{\rm f}^2 = \omega_{\rm i}^2 + 2\alpha\theta$	$W = p \Delta V$
$\theta = \omega_{\rm i} t + \frac{1}{2} \alpha t^2$	$\eta = \frac{\text{useful work done}}{1}$
$L = I\omega$	$\eta =$
$E_{\rm K_{\rm rot}} = \frac{1}{2} I \omega^2$	$\eta_{\rm Carnot} = 1 - rac{T_{\rm cold}}{T_{\rm hot}}$
Sub-topic B.3 – Fluids and fluid dynamics (HL only)	Sub-topic B.4 – Forced vibrations and resonance (HL only)
$B = ho_{\rm f} V_{\rm f} g$	$Q = 2\pi \frac{\text{energy stored}}{\text{energy dissipated per cycle}}$
$P = P_0 + \rho_f g d$	
Av = constant	$Q = 2\pi \times \text{resonant frequency} \times \frac{\text{energy stored}}{\text{power loss}}$
$\frac{1}{2}\rho v^2 + \rho gz + p = \text{constant}$	power loss
$F_{\rm D} = 6\pi\eta r v$	
$R = \frac{vr\rho}{\eta}$	

Sub-topic C.1 – Introduction to imaging	Sub-topic C.2 – Imaging instrumentation
$\frac{1}{f} = \frac{1}{v} + \frac{1}{u}$	$M = \frac{f_{\rm o}}{f_{\rm e}}$
$P = \frac{1}{\epsilon}$	Sub-topic C.3 – Fibre optics
$m = \frac{h_{i}}{h_{o}} = -\frac{v}{u}$ $M = \frac{\theta_{i}}{\theta_{o}}$ $M_{\text{near point}} = \frac{D}{f} + 1; M_{\text{infinity}} = \frac{D}{f}$	$n = \frac{1}{\sin c}$ attenuation = 10 log $\frac{l}{l_0}$ Sub-topic C.4 – Medical imaging (HL only) $L_{\rm I} = 10 \log \frac{l_1}{l_0}$ $I = l_0 e^{-\mu x}$
	$I = I_0 e^{-\mu x}$ $\mu x_{\frac{1}{2}} = \ln 2$
	$Z = \rho c$

Sub-topic D.1 – Stellar quantities	Sub-topic D.2 – Stellar characteristics and stellar evolution
$d \text{ (parsec)} = \frac{1}{p \text{ (arc-second)}}$ $L = \sigma A T^{4}$ $b = \frac{L}{4\pi d^{2}}$	$\lambda_{\max}T = 2.9 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m K}$ $L \propto M^{3.5}$
Sub-topic D.3 – Cosmology	Sub-topic D.5 – Further cosmology (HL only)
$z = \frac{\Delta \lambda}{\lambda_0} \approx \frac{v}{c}$ $z = \frac{R}{R_0} - 1$ $v = H_0 d$ $T \approx \frac{1}{H_0}$	$v = \sqrt{\frac{4\pi G\rho}{3}}r$ $\rho_{\rm c} = \frac{3H^2}{8\pi G}$