Prefixes

a=10^{-18}, f=10^{-15}, p=10^{-12}, n=10^{-9}, $\mu = 10^{-6}$, m=10^{-3}, c=10^{-2}, k=10^3, M=10^6, G=10^9, T=10^{12}, P=10^{15}

Physical Constants

$k = 1/4\pi\epsilon_0 = 8.988$ GN·m^2/C^2 (Coulomb's Law)

$\epsilon_0 = 1/4\pi k = 8.854$ pF/m (permittivity of space)

$e = 1.602 \times 10^{-19}$ C (proton charge)

$m_e = 9.11 \times 10^{-31}$ kg (electron mass)

$m_p = 1.67 \times 10^{-27}$ kg (proton mass)

Units

$N_A = 6.02 \times 10^{23}$/mole (Avagodro's #)

1 u = 1 g/N_A = 1.6605×10^{-27} kg (mass unit)

1.0 eV = 1.602×10^{-19} J (electron-volt)

1 V = 1 J/C = 1 volt = 1 joule/coulomb

1 F = 1 C/V = 1 farad = 1 C^2/J

1 A = 1 C/s = 1 ampere = 1 coulomb/second

1 Ω = 1 V/A = 1 ohm = 1 J·s/C^2

Vectors

Written $\vec{V}$ or $\mathbf{V}$, described by magnitude=V, direction=θ or by components (V_x, V_y).

$V_x = V\cos\theta, \quad V_y = V\sin\theta,$

$V = \sqrt{V_x^2 + V_y^2}, \quad \tan\theta = \frac{V_y}{V_x}.$ θ is the angle from $\vec{V}$ to $+x$-axis.

Addition: $\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B}$, head to tail. Subtraction: $\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}$ is $\mathbf{A} + (-\mathbf{B})$, $-\mathbf{B}$ is $\mathbf{B}$ reversed.

Trig summary

$\sin\theta = \frac{\text{(opp)}}{\text{(hyp)}}, \quad \cos\theta = \frac{\text{(adj)}}{\text{(hyp)}}, \quad \tan\theta = \frac{\text{(opp)}}{\text{(adj)}}, \quad \text{(opp)}^2 + \text{(adj)}^2 = \text{(hyp)}^2.$

$\sin\theta = \sin(180^\circ - \theta), \quad \cos\theta = \cos(-\theta), \quad \tan\theta = \tan(180^\circ + \theta), \quad \sin^2\theta + \cos^2\theta = 1.$

OpenStax Chapter 18 Equations

Charges:

$Q = \pm Ne, \quad \Delta Q_1 + \Delta Q_2 = 0, \quad e = 1.602 \times 10^{-19}$ C.

Electric Force:

$F = k\frac{Q_1 Q_2}{r^2}, \quad k = 8.988 \times 10^9$ N·m^2/C^2, $\quad F = \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}, \quad \epsilon_0 = \frac{1}{4\pi k} = 8.854$ pF/m.

$\vec{F} = \vec{F}_1 + \vec{F}_2 + \vec{F}_3 + ...$ superposition of many forces.

$F_x = F_{1x} + F_{2x} + F_{3x} + ...$ superposition of x-components of many forces.

$F_y = F_{1y} + F_{2y} + F_{3y} + ...$ superposition of y-components of many forces.

Electric Field:

$\vec{E} = \frac{\vec{F}}{q}$, q= test charge. Or: $\vec{F} = q\vec{E}$.

$|\vec{E}| = E = k\frac{Q}{r^2} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}$, due to point charge. Negative Q makes inward $\vec{E}$, positive Q makes outward $\vec{E}$.

$\vec{E} = \vec{E}_1 + \vec{E}_2 + \vec{E}_3 + ...$ superposition of many electric fields.

$E_x = E_{1x} + E_{2x} + E_{3x} + ...$ superposition of x-components of many electric fields.

$E_y = E_{1y} + E_{2y} + E_{3y} + ...$ superposition of y-components of many electric fields.

$E = k\frac{Q}{r^2}$ = electric field around a point charge or *outside* a spherical charge distribution.

OpenStax Chapter 19 Equations

Potential Energy and Work:

$W_{ba} = F_E d\cos\theta$ = work done by electric force F_E on test charge, in displacement d from a to b.

$W_{ba} = -q\Delta V = -q(V_b - V_a)$ = work done by electric force on a test charge, moved from a to b.

$\Delta\text{PE} = q\Delta V = q(V_b - V_a)$ = change in electric potential energy of the system. Also: $\Delta\text{PE} = -W_{ba}$.

$\Delta\text{KE} + \Delta\text{PE} = 0$, or, $\Delta\text{KE} = -\Delta\text{PE} = -q\Delta V$, principle of conservation of mechanical energy.

$\Delta\text{KE} + \Delta\text{PE} = W_{\text{nc}}$, change in mechanical energy when nonconservative forces are present.

Potential:

$\Delta V = \frac{\Delta\text{PE}}{q}$ = definition of change in electric potential.

$\Delta V = Ed$ = potential change in a uniform electric field.

$V = k\frac{Q}{r}$ = potential produced by a point charge or *outside* a spherical charge distribution.

$\text{PE} = qV$ = potential energy for a test charge at a point in a field.

$\text{PE} = k\frac{Q_1 Q_2}{r_{12}}$ = potential energy of a pair of charges.

Capacitance:

$Q = CV$, $C = \kappa\epsilon_0\frac{A}{d}$, $E = V/d$, capacitor equations.

$U = \frac{1}{2}QV = \frac{1}{2}CV^2 = \frac{1}{2}\frac{Q^2}{C}$ = stored energy.

$E = \frac{Q/A}{\epsilon_0}$ = electric field strength very near a charged conductor.

$C_{\text{parallel}} = C_1 + C_2 + C_3 + ...$ = capacitance of capacitors in parallel (same voltages).

$1/C_{\text{series}} = 1/C_1 + 1/C_2 + 1/C_3 + ...$ = capacitance of capacitors in series (same charges).

OpenStax Chapter 20 Equations

Electric current:

$I = \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta t}$, or $\Delta Q = I\Delta t$, definition of current.

$V = Ed$ = voltage applied to a conductor.

$V = IR$, or $I = V/R$, Ohm's law.

$R = \rho\frac{L}{A}$ = calculation of resistance.

$\rho_T = \rho_0[1 + \alpha(T - T_0)]$ = temperature-dependent resistivity.

Electric power:

$P = IV$, $P = I^2R$, $P = V^2/R$, P = instantaneous energy/time.

Alternating current:

$V = V_0\sin(2\pi ft)$ = time-dependent AC voltage. $I = I_0\sin(2\pi ft)$ = time-dependent AC current.

$V_{\text{rms}} = \sqrt{\overline{V^2}} = V_0/\sqrt{2}$ = root-mean-square voltage. $I_{\text{rms}} = \sqrt{\overline{I^2}} = I_0/\sqrt{2}$ = root-mean-square current.

AC power in resistors:

$\overline{P} = \frac{1}{2}I_0^2R = \frac{1}{2}V_0^2/R = \frac{1}{2}I_0V_0$ = average power. $\overline{P} = I_{\text{rms}}^2R = V_{\text{rms}}^2/R = I_{\text{rms}}V_{\text{rms}}$ = average power.