

# Physics 101 Formula Sheet – Digital format draft

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## Constants

$$g = 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2 \text{ (near Earth's surface)}$$

$$G = 6.7 \times 10^{-11} \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^2/\text{kg}^2 \text{ (Universal Gravitational Constant)}$$

$$\rho_{\text{water}} = 1000 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$v_{\text{sound,air}} = 343 \text{ m/s (speed of sound in air)}$$

$$v_{\text{light}} = 3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s (speed of electromagnetic wave in vacuum)}$$

$$N_A = 6.022 \times 10^{23} \text{ molecules/mole (Avogadro's number)}$$

$$R = 8.31 \text{ J/(mol} \cdot \text{K)} \text{ (Ideal gas constant)}$$

$$k_B = \frac{R}{N_A} = 1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J/K (Boltzmann constant)}$$

$$\sigma = 5.67 \times 10^{-8} \text{ J/(s} \cdot \text{m}^2 \cdot \text{K}^4) \text{ (Stefan-Boltzmann constant)}$$

## Useful conversions

$$\text{Change of an arbitrary quantity } x: \Delta x = x_{\text{final}} - x_{\text{initial}}$$

$$\text{Period and frequency: } \omega = 2\pi f \quad T = 1/f$$

$$\text{Units of pressure: } 1 \text{ atm} = 1.01 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa} \quad 1 \text{ Pa} = 1 \text{ N/m}^2$$

$$\text{Units of volume: } 1 \text{ m}^3 = 1000 \text{ liters}$$

$$\text{Area of a circle of radius } r: A = 2\pi r^2$$

$$\text{Volume of a sphere of radius } r: V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$$

$$\text{Surface area of a sphere of radius } r: A = 4\pi r^2$$

$$\text{Fahrenheit } (T_F) \text{ to Celsius } (T_C): T_C = \frac{5}{9}(T_F - 32^\circ)$$

$$\text{Celsius } (T_C) \text{ to Kelvin } (T_K): T_K = T_C + 273.15$$

## Greek letter variable names

$\alpha$  – alpha (use: angular acceleration, linear expansion)

$\beta$  – beta (use: volume expansion)

$\theta$  – theta (use: angle, angular displacement)

$\lambda$  – lambda (use: wavelength)

$\mu$  – mu (use: coefficient of friction, linear density)

$\pi$  – pi (use: as a constant)

$\rho$  – rho (use: volume density)

$\tau$  – tau (use: torque)

$\phi$  – phi (use: angle)

$\omega$  – omega (use: angular speed, angular frequency)

$\Delta$  – delta (use: to represent change in a variable)

$\Sigma$  – Sigma (use: the sum of the variable that follows)

$\sigma$  – sigma (use: as a constant)

$\kappa$  – kappa (use: as a constant)

# Linear Equations

## Kinematics

$$v_{avg} \equiv \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} \quad a_{avg} \equiv \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t}$$

$$v = v_0 + at$$

$$x = x_0 + v_0t + \frac{1}{2}at^2$$

$$v^2 = v_0^2 + 2a\Delta x$$

Centripetal acceleration around a circular path of radius  $R$ :  $a_c = \frac{v^2}{R} = \omega^2 R$

## Dynamics

Newton's 2<sup>nd</sup> Law:  $\Sigma \vec{F} = m\vec{a}$       x direction:  $\Sigma F_x = ma_x$       y direction:  $\Sigma F_y = ma_y$

Force definitions (magnitudes):

Weight near the surface of Earth:  $W = mg$

Friction:  $f_{s,max} = \mu_s F_N$        $f_k = \mu_k F_N$

Spring force for a stretch  $x$  from equilibrium:  $\vec{F}_s = -k\vec{x}$

## Work and Energy

Work done by a force  $F$  across a distance  $d$ :  $W \equiv Fd \cos \theta$

Kinetic energy:  $K \equiv \frac{1}{2}mv^2 = \frac{p^2}{2m}$

Gravitational potential energy near Earth's surface:  $U_g = mgy$

Spring potential energy:  $U_s = \frac{1}{2}kx^2$

Work-Kinetic Energy theorem:  $W_{total} = \Delta K$

Definition of mechanical energy:  $E = K + U$

Effect of non-conservative work on mechanical energy:  $W_{nc} = \Delta E$

Definition of Power:  $P \equiv \frac{W}{t}$

## Impulse and Momentum

Definition of momentum:  $\vec{p} \equiv m\vec{v}$

Impulse:  $\vec{I} = \overline{\Delta \vec{p}} = \vec{F}_{avg} \Delta t$

$\Sigma \vec{F}_{ext} \Delta t = \Delta \vec{P}_{total}$       x direction:  $\Sigma F_{ext,x} \Delta t = \Delta P_{total,x}$       y direction:  $\Sigma F_{ext,y} \Delta t = \Delta P_{total,y}$

When  $\Sigma \vec{F}_{ext} = 0$  momentum is conserved

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# Rotational Equations

## Conversion between linear and rotational quantities

For rotating objects:  $x$ ,  $v$ , and  $a$  describe translational values at some radius  $R$

For objects rolling without slipping:  $x$ ,  $v$ , and  $a$  describe center of mass values

$$\Delta x = R\Delta\theta \quad v = R\omega \quad a = R\alpha$$

1 revolution =  $2\pi$  radians

$$\text{Location of center of mass: } x_{cm} = \frac{m_1\vec{x}_1 + m_2\vec{x}_2 + \dots}{m_1 + m_2 + \dots}$$

## Rotational Kinematics

$$\omega_{avg} \equiv \frac{\Delta\theta}{\Delta t} \quad \alpha_{avg} \equiv \frac{\Delta\omega}{\Delta t}$$

$$\omega = \omega_0 + \alpha t$$

$$\theta = \theta_0 + \omega_0 t + \frac{1}{2}\alpha t^2$$

$$\omega^2 = \omega_0^2 + 2\alpha\Delta\theta$$

## Rotational Statics and Dynamics

Newton's 2<sup>nd</sup> Law:  $\Sigma\vec{\tau} = I\vec{\alpha}$       When  $\Sigma\vec{\tau} = 0$  and  $\Sigma\vec{F} = 0$  the object is in static equilibrium

Torque definition (magnitude):  $\tau \equiv Fr \sin\theta$

Work done by a torque:  $W = \tau\Delta\theta$

## Rotational Energy and Angular Momentum

$$\text{Rotational Kinetic energy: } K_{rot} \equiv \frac{1}{2}I\omega^2 = \frac{L^2}{2I}$$

$$\text{Total Kinetic energy: } K_{total} = K_{trans} + K_{rot} = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 + \frac{1}{2}I\omega^2$$

Definition of angular momentum:  $\vec{L} \equiv I\vec{\omega}$

$$\text{Impulse: } \vec{I} = \vec{\Delta p} = \vec{F}_{avg}\Delta t$$

$$\Sigma\vec{\tau}_{ext}\Delta t = \Delta\vec{L}_{total} \quad \text{When } \Sigma\vec{\tau}_{ext} = 0 \text{ angular momentum is conserved}$$

## Moments of Inertia ( $I$ )

$$\text{Parallel axis theorem: } I = I_0 + Mh^2$$

$$I = \frac{2}{3}MR^2 \text{ (hollow sphere or ball)}$$

$$I = \Sigma mr^2 \text{ (collection of point particles)}$$

$$I = MR^2 \text{ (hoop or hollow cylinder)}$$

$$I = \frac{1}{2}MR^2 \text{ (solid disk or cylinder)}$$

$$I = \frac{1}{12}ML \text{ (uniform rod about center)}$$

$$I = \frac{2}{5}MR^2 \text{ (solid sphere or ball)}$$

$$I = \frac{1}{3}ML^2 \text{ (uniform rod about one end)}$$

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## Fluids

Definition of pressure:  $P \equiv \frac{F}{A}$

Definition of density:  $\rho \equiv \frac{m}{V}$

Pressure at a depth  $d$  below a point with pressure  $P_0$ :  $P = P_0 + \rho g d$

Force definition: Buoyant force (magnitude)  $F_B = W_{displaced\ fluid} = \rho_{fluid} g V_{displaced}$

Volume flow rate:  $Q = vA$

Flow continuity equation:  $v_1 A_1 = v_2 A_2$

Bernoulli equation:  $P_1 + \frac{1}{2}\rho v_1^2 + \rho g y_1 = P_2 + \frac{1}{2}\rho v_2^2 + \rho g y_2$

See [Constants](#) and [Conversions](#)

## Heat and Thermodynamics

### Temperature

Convert from degrees Fahrenheit ( $T_F$ ) to degrees Celsius ( $T_C$ ):  $T_C = \frac{5}{9}(T_F - 32^\circ)$

Convert from degrees Celsius ( $T_C$ ) to Kelvin ( $T_K$ ):  $T_K = T_C + 273.15$

Thermal expansion:  $\Delta L = \alpha L_0 \Delta T$        $\Delta V = \beta V_0 \Delta T$       ( $\beta = 3\alpha$ )

### Heat

First law of thermodynamics:  $\Delta U = Q + W$

Specific heat capacity:  $Q = cM\Delta T$

Latent heat of fusion (solid $\leftrightarrow$ liquid):  $Q = L_f M$

Latent heat of vaporization (liquid $\leftrightarrow$ gas):  $Q = L_v M$

Rate of heat transfer by conduction (magnitude):  $H = \frac{Q}{t} = \frac{\kappa A(T_{hot} - T_{cold})}{L}$

Rate of heat transfer by radiation:  $H = \frac{Q}{t} = e\sigma T^4 A$        $\sigma = 4.67 \times 10^{-8} \text{ J}/(\text{s} \cdot \text{m}^2 \cdot \text{K}^4)$

Net heat transfer rate by a radiating object in an environment with  $T_0$ :  $P_{net} = e\sigma A(T^4 - T_0^4)$

### Ideal Gas Law and Kinetic Theory

$PV = nRT = Nk_B T$  (see [Constants](#))

For monatomic gases:  $K_{avg} = \frac{3}{2}k_B T = \frac{1}{2}m v_{rms}^2$

$U = \frac{3}{2}Nk_B T = \frac{3}{2}nRT$

# Simple Harmonic Motion

## Springs

Force exerted by a stretched spring (Hooke's Law):  $\vec{F}_s = -k\vec{x}$

Potential energy stored in a stretched spring:  $U_s = \frac{1}{2}kx^2$

Angular frequency:  $\omega = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$       Period:  $T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega} = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{m}{k}}$

Equations of motion (depend on initial conditions):

Common option 1:

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

$$v(t) = -A\omega \sin(\omega t)$$

$$a(t) = -A\omega^2 \cos(\omega t)$$

Common option 2:

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

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

$$a(t) = -A\omega^2 \sin(\omega t)$$

Maximum values:  $x_{max} = A$

$v_{max} = A\omega$

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

## Simple Pendulums

Angular frequency:  $\omega = \sqrt{\frac{g}{L}}$       Period:  $T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{L}{g}}$

## Waves and Sound

Speed of a wave on a string:  $v = \sqrt{\frac{F_T}{m/L}}$

Relationship between speed, wavelength, and frequency:  $v = \lambda f$

Resonator wavelengths:

Resonator with nodes at both ends:  $\lambda_n = \frac{2}{n}L$  ( $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ )

Resonator with a node at one end, antinode on the other:  $\lambda_n = \frac{4}{n}L$  ( $n = 1, 3, 5, \dots$ )

Sound intensity:  $I = \frac{P}{4\pi r^2}$

Loudness:  $\beta = (10 \text{ dB}) \log_{10}\left(\frac{I}{I_0}\right)$       Change in loudness:  $\beta_2 - \beta_1 = (10 \text{ dB}) \log_{10}\left(\frac{I_2}{I_1}\right)$

[Converting with log base ten:  $x = \log_{10}(y) \leftrightarrow y = 10^x$  ]

Frequency shift due to Doppler Effect:

$$f_{observer} = \left( \frac{v_{sound} \pm v_{observer}}{v_{sound} \mp v_{source}} \right) f_{source}$$

In the numerator:

Use + if the observer moves toward the source

Use – if the observer moves away from the source

In the denominator:

Use – if the source moves toward the observer

Use + if the source moves away from the observer

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