



Section (I)

Physics (I)

Question 1:

Which of the following equations are dimensionally correct?

(a) $v_f = v_i + ax$

(b) $y = (2m)\cos(kx), \text{ where } k = 2m^{-1}$

Solution Q1:

(a) $v_f = v_i + ax$

This is incorrect since the dimensions of $[ax]$ are L^2/T^2 , while the dimensions of $[v]$ are L/T .

(b) $y = (2m)\cos(kx), \text{ where } k = 2m^{-1}$

This is correct since the dimension of $[y]$ are L , and $\cos(kx)$ is dimensionless if k is in m^{-1} .

Question 2:

- a) A worker is to paint the walls of a square room 8.00 ft high and 12.0 ft along each side. What surface area in square meters must she cover?
- b) The volume of a wallet is 8.50 in^3 . Convert this value to m^3 , using the definition $1 \text{ in.} = 2.54 \text{ cm}$.

Solution Q2:

- a) Each of the four walls has area $(8.00 \text{ ft})(12.0 \text{ ft}) = 96.0 \text{ ft}^2$. Together, they have area $4(96.0 \text{ ft}^2) \left(\frac{1 \text{ m}}{3.28 \text{ ft}} \right)^2 = 35.7 \text{ m}^2$
- b) $8.50 \text{ in.}^3 = 8.50 \text{ in.}^3 \left(\frac{0.0254 \text{ m}}{1 \text{ in.}} \right)^3 = 1.39 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^3$

Question 3:

41. The distance from our Galaxy to the Andromeda galaxy is 2.2×10^6 light-years. Express this distance in meters.

Answer:

The distance is $2.2 \times 10^6 \text{ (ly)} \times 3 \times 10^8 \text{ (m/s)} \times 365 \times 24 \times 60 \times 60 = 2.1 \times 10^{22} \text{ m}$.

Suppose we are told that the acceleration a of a particle moving with uniform speed v in a circle of radius r is proportional to some power of r , say r^n , and some power of v , say v^m . Determine the values of n and m and write the simplest form of an equation for the acceleration.

Solution Let us take a to be

$$a = kr^n v^m$$

where k is a dimensionless constant of proportionality. Knowing the dimensions of a , r , and v , we see that the dimensional equation must be

$$\frac{\text{L}}{\text{T}^2} = \text{L}^n \left(\frac{\text{L}}{\text{T}} \right)^m = \frac{\text{L}^{n+m}}{\text{T}^m}$$

This dimensional equation is balanced under the conditions

$$n + m = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad m = 2$$

Therefore $n = -1$, and we can write the acceleration expression as

$$a = kr^{-1}v^2 = k \frac{v^2}{r}$$

When we discuss uniform circular motion later, we shall see that $k = 1$ if a consistent set of units is used. The constant k would not equal 1 if, for example, v were in km/h and you wanted a in m/s^2 .

A nanosecond is:

- A. 10^9 s
- B. 10^{-9} s
- C. 10^{-10} s
- D. 10^{-10} s
- E. 10^{-12}

Ans: B

Suppose $A = B^n C^m$, where A has dimensions LT , B has dimensions $L^2 T^{-1}$, and C has dimensions LT^2 . Then the exponents n and m have the values:

- A. $2/3; 1/3$
- B. $2; 3$
- C. $4/5; -1/5$
- D. $1/5; 3/5$
- E. $1/2; 1/2$

Ans: D