

# PHAS0007 Reading Week Task 2018:

## Using a weighted fit to calculate $e/m$

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Dr Louise Dash [louise.dash@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:louise.dash@ucl.ac.uk)

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### 1. Weighted least-squares fit

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The fit we did in session 5 assumed that each of the data points were equally valid.

Frequently though, we find that experimental data do not have equal uncertainties, and some data points may have significantly larger uncertainties than others.

We can take the relative sizes of the error bars into account by weighting them proportionally. The weight we will give each data point is

$$w_i = \frac{1}{(\Delta y_i)^2}. \quad (1)$$

If these weights are included in the least-squares derivation, we end up with new expressions for the slope  $m$ :

$$m = \frac{\sum_i w_i \sum_i w_i x_i y_i - \sum_i w_i x_i \sum_i w_i y_i}{\sum_i w_i \sum_i w_i x_i^2 - (\sum_i w_i x_i)^2} \quad (2)$$

$$= \frac{\sum_i w_i \sum_i w_i x_i y_i - \sum_i w_i x_i \sum_i w_i y_i}{\delta}, \quad (3)$$

and the intercept  $c$ :

$$c = \frac{\sum_i w_i x_i^2 \sum_i w_i y_i - \sum_i w_i x_i \sum_i w_i x_i y_i}{\delta}, \quad (4)$$

where we have used an abbreviation for the denominator

$$\delta = \sum_i w_i \sum_i w_i x_i^2 - \left( \sum_i w_i x_i \right)^2, \quad (5)$$

The uncertainties in these quantities are given by

$$\Delta m = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_i w_i}{\delta}}, \quad (6)$$

and

$$\Delta c = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_i x_i^2 w_i}{\delta}}. \quad (7)$$

## 2. Task: calculate $e/m$

Download the data file “eovermdata2018.csv” from the assignment page on Moodle.

This data is from a student experiment to calculate  $e/m$ , the charge-to-mass ratio of the electron. This is a version of an experiment first performed in 1897 by J.J. Thomson (see for example [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J.\\_J.\\_Thomson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._J._Thomson)).

In this particular student experiment, a cathode ray tube was used to accelerate electrons through a voltage  $V$ . The electron beam was then bent into a circular path using a magnetic field  $B = 1.28 \pm 0.01 \times 10^{-3}$  Tesla. The students used a ruler to measure the radius  $r$  of the circular orbit of the electron beam. This was quite difficult to measure accurately, and so the uncertainties in the readings are quite large. However, for two of the readings, the student taking the measurement was distracted by a large crow flying past the window and misread the ruler. The student’s lab partner noticed this and recorded a much larger uncertainty for these data points.

Your task is to use this data to calculate the experimental value of  $e/m$  using two methods:

1. an unweighted least-squares fit (as in session 5)
2. a weighted least-squares fit that takes the uncertainties in the readings into account.

### 2.1 What you need to do

For this task, you need to prepare a **Jupyter Notebook**, clearly explaining what you are doing at each step, both in terms of code and your analysis of the problem. Your final notebook should read as a clear, self-contained document.

- The force experienced by the electrons is given by:

$$F_r = evB = \frac{mv^2}{r}. \quad (8)$$

The speed  $v$  of the electrons is given by:

$$\frac{1}{2}mv^2 = eV. \quad (9)$$

Rearrange these equations to give an expression involving  $e/m$  in the form of a straight line (hint: use  $\sqrt{V}$  as the  $x$ -axis quantity and  $r$  as the  $y$ -axis quantity).

- Write code to do the following (if you re-use code from your session 5 task you should state this clearly in the code comments):

- Load the data from the file—you will need to refer to the `np.loadtxt()` help function here to find the most appropriate way of doing this **without altering the data file itself**.
- Fit an unweighted straight line, outputting the slope, intercept and uncertainties at full precision.
- Fit a weighted straight line, outputting the slope, intercept and uncertainties at full precision.
- Plot the data, using errorbars, and both straight line fits on a *single* suitably labelled and formatted graph.
  - \* *Hint:* We covered error bars in the script for session 4.
- You should include the equation for the fit, with the fitted parameters quoted at the appropriate precision, either on the plot itself or in a code cell output, as well as quoted in a text cell.
- Use your results to calculate values of  $e/m$  for both the weighted and unweighted fits.
- The accepted value of  $e/m$  is  $(1.75882002 \pm 0.00000001) \times 10^{11}$  C/kg (CODATA Fundamental Constants 2014). Discuss how the results of both your weighted and unweighted calculations compare to this. In particular, which of your two results would you trust more? Which one should you consider more reliable?

## 2.2 Important things to note

- Your code should import the data from the same directory as the notebook. ***Do not rename the data file or make any changes to the data file itself.***
- The grading of this assignment is anonymised. ***Do not include your name in the filename or anywhere in the assignment itself.*** Instead, please use your student ID (the 8-digit number on your ID card, for most of you this will start with 18) as the filename. Make sure you type the number correctly. If you have an e-sticker from Student Disability Services, please copy and paste the wording (but not your name!) into a clearly labelled text cell at the top of your assignment.
- ***This is an individual assignment.*** You must work on this on your own, with no help from staff or other students. You may re-use sections of code from your own submitted session 5 assignment, and you may copy and paste equations from the provided notebook of equations, as long as these are referenced appropriately. Everything else in your submission must be *completely* your own work, or have the source explicitly acknowledged and suitably referenced. You may use any standard reference style, some examples are suggested here: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/library/docs/guides/references-plagiarism>.

We will be using several methods to check for any plagiarised or copied assignments. You should make sure you are familiar with the UCL guidelines on plagiarism at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/current-students/guidelines/plagiarism>, and in particular, note that working with another student on this assignment (for either code or text cells) constitutes “producing a piece of work based on someone else’s ideas without

citing them” and will be treated as plagiarism, for both anyone who allows their work to be copied or anyone who copies someone else’s work.

## 2.3 Assessment

Your work will be graded using a rubric markscheme based on the following assessment criteria:

- Whether the values you have calculated are correct (45% of available marks);
- The quality of your plot, code comments, and coding style (35% of available marks).
- The quality and coherence of the text commentary, discussion, and the conclusions you have drawn from your results. (20% of available marks).

The grading will be taking into account that you have significantly more time for this task than the in-session assignments, and you should bear this in mind, particularly when writing your text commentary. Remember that this is a formal assignment—your document should be clearly laid out in sections, with complete, grammatically correct sentences and paragraphs rather than using bullet point lists.

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## References and links

For a more in-depth discussion of the weighted least-squares fit, see Chapter 6 (and in particular section 6.3) of Hughes and Hase “Measurements and their uncertainties”, OUP 2010 ([e-book available via the UCL library catalogue](#)), or the “Experimental methods and data analysis” booklet from Lab 1.

You will need to include equations in your Jupyter notebook text cells. There is a separate notebook on Moodle that contains the equations from the script already in  $\text{\LaTeX}$  format that you may freely copy and paste from (in which case include this in your references). For the typesetting of any additional equations, you may find one of the following online  $\text{\LaTeX}$  equation editors useful (you can pick the maths symbols you want from a palette and then copy and paste the  $\text{\LaTeX}$  code into your notebook. See the notebook for Session 3 if you need a refresher).

<http://www.sciweavers.org/free-online-latex-equation-editor>

<http://www.codecogs.com/latex/eqneditor.php>