

Physics formulae and data booklet

Scalars and vectors

force due to gravity (weight)

$$F_g = mg$$

gravitational field strength near the surface of the Earth

$$g = 9.8 \text{ N kg}^{-1}$$

Linear motion

displacement

s = final position – initial position

average speed

$$v_{\text{av}} = \frac{d}{\Delta t}$$

average velocity

$$v_{\text{av}} = \frac{s}{\Delta t}$$

$$v_{\text{av}} = \frac{u + v}{2}$$

average acceleration

$$a_{\text{av}} = \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t}$$

equations of motion with constant acceleration

$$v = u + at$$

$$s = \frac{1}{2} (u + v)t$$

$$s = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^2$$

$$s = vt - \frac{1}{2}at^2$$

$$v^2 = u^2 + 2as$$

acceleration due to gravity at Earth's surface

$$g = 9.8 \text{ m s}^{-2}$$

Momentum and force

Newton's second law

$$F_{\text{net}} = ma$$

$$F_{\text{net}} = \frac{m(v - u)}{\Delta t}$$

momentum

$$p = mv$$

law of conservation of momentum

$$\Sigma p_{\text{before}} = \Sigma p_{\text{after}}$$

where two objects collide and remain separate

$$m_1u_1 + m_2u_2 = m_1v_1 + m_2v_2$$

where two objects collide and combine together

$$m_1u_1 + m_2u_2 = m_3v_3$$

where one object breaks apart into two objects in an explosive collision

$$m_1u_1 = m_2v_2 + m_3v_3$$

impulse

$$I = \Delta p = mv - mu = F\Delta t$$

Equilibrium of forces

torque

$$\tau = r_{\perp} F$$

translational equilibrium in one dimension

$$F_{\text{net}} = 0$$

translational equilibrium in two dimensions

$$F_{\text{net}, x} = 0 \text{ and } F_{\text{net}, y} = 0$$

static equilibrium

$$F_{\text{net}} = 0 \text{ and } \tau_{\text{net}} = 0$$

rotational equilibrium

$$\Sigma \tau_{\text{clockwise}} = \Sigma \tau_{\text{anticlockwise}}$$

Energy, work and power

work

$$W = Fs$$

kinetic energy

$$E_k = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$$

gravitational potential energy

$$E_g = mg\Delta h$$

Hooke's law

$$F = -k\Delta x$$

elastic potential energy

$$E_s = \frac{1}{2}k\Delta x^2$$

power required to keep an object moving at a constant speed

$$P = Fv_{\text{av}}$$

efficiency of energy transfer (in %)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{efficiency } (\eta) &= \frac{\text{useful energy transferred}}{\text{total energy supplied}} \times 100\% \\ &= \frac{\text{useful energy out}}{\text{total energy in}} \times 100\% \end{aligned}$$