18 Nuclear Physics

Nucleon	A constituent of a nucleus, i.e. a proton or neutron.
Nuclide	A species of atom characterised by constituent of nucleus (no. of neutrons and protons).
Īsotope	Atoms with the same number of protons but different number of neutrons. $$
Unified Atomic Mass Unit	1 u is defined as $\frac{1}{12}$ of the mass of a Carbon-12 atom.
Binding Energy of Nucleus/Atom	The energy required to separate the nucleus/atom into its constituents .
Binding Energy per Nucleon	The average energy required to remove a nucleon from its nucleus.
Mass Defect	The difference between the mass of a nuclide and its constituent nucleons, representing binding energy.
Radioactive Decay	A spontaneous and random process where an unstable nucleus changes into a different nuclide by emitting radiation. Spontaneous means that it is not triggered by external factors or influences, and random means that it is impossible to predict which nucleus will decay and when a particular nucleus will decay.
	decay.

Activity

$$A = -\frac{dN}{dt} = \lambda N$$

The rate of decay, or number of disintegrations per unit time. SI unit is $\rm s^{-1}$ or the becquerel, Bq.

Decay Constant Probability per unit time that a nucleus will decay. SI unit is $\mathrm{s}^{-1}.$

$$\lambda = \frac{A}{N} = \frac{\text{disintegrations}}{\text{total}}$$

The **average** time taken for a number of **radioactive** nuclei to decay to **half** its original value.

Half-Life

$$t_{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{\ln 2}{\lambda}$$

Good luck! Don't panic, all is well. That's all folks!

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The Definitive Physics Definition List

Engineers of Dubious Quality Yudong, Yicheng, Samuel, and Walter

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1 Measurements

Express errors/uncertainties to 1 s.f. and write the measured value to the same decimal place as its error/uncertainty

A quantity that has a magnitude only .	Scalar Quantity
A quantity that has a magnitude and direction.	Vector Quantity
The agreement between the measured value and the true or accepted value of a quantity. An experiment which has small systematic errors is said to have high accuracy . The average value is close to the true value.	Accuracy
The reproducibility of a measurement. Repeated measurements which are very close to one another are precise measurements. Thus an experiment which has small random errors (i.e. small spread of readings) is said to have high precision .	Precision
An error that occurs as a scattering (or spreading) of readings about the average or mean value of the measurements.	Random Error
An error that occurs consistently more or consistently less than the actual reading.	Systematic Error

2 Kinematics

We define a coordinate system with defined reference positive directions, and we assume constant acceleration when we apply the kinematics equations.

Acceleration	Speed	Velocity	Displacement s
$\mathbf{a} = \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = \frac{d^2\mathbf{s}}{dt^2}$	$v = \mathbf{v} = \left \frac{d\mathbf{s}}{dt} \right $	$\mathbf{v} = \frac{d\mathbf{s}}{dt}$	φ
The rate of change of velocity with respect to time.	The rate of change of distance travelled with respect to time.	The rate of change of displacement with respect to time.	Displacement of an object from a reference point is the linear distance and direction of the object from the point.

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17 Lasers and Semiconductors

trons in the conduction band even at room temperature due to the large bandgap.	Insulators Insulators have a fully-filled valence band and empty conduction band at 0K, and also a large bandgap. There are very few elec-	Metals have a partially filled conduction band at $0\mathrm{K}$.	Valence Band Highest fully-filled energy band at $0\mathrm{K}$	Conduction Band Empty or partially filled band just above the valence band.	Metastable State Excited state with longer life-time than other excited states.	Population Inversion Condition where there are more atoms in the upper energy state/level.	Stimulated Emission Emission of photons from excited atoms as triggered by an incident photon with energy exactly equal to the difference between the excited state and the lower energy state. Emitted photon has exactly the same phase, energy, polarisation and direction of travel as incident photon.	Spontaneous Emission Emission of photons through random de-excitation of excited atoms. These photons are of random phase, direction and plane of polarisation.
	nce band and empty conduction dgap. There are very few elec- en at room temperature due to	duction band at $0\mathrm{K}.$	d at 0K.	st above the valence band.	ne than other excited states.	re atoms in the upper energy rgy state/level.	d atoms as triggered by an inciequal to the difference between energy state. Emitted photon gy, polarisation and direction of	andom de-excitation of excited dom phase, direction and plane

bandgap.

16.6 Schrödinger Model and Wave Function

The wave function Ψ is obtained when one solves the Schrödinger equation.

Significance of the wave function Ψ

: $|\Psi|^2$ is the probability density function (of finding the particle). Hence, the probability of find the particle between x=a and x=b is given by

 $\int_{a}^{b} |\Psi|^{2} dx$

Quantum Tunnelling

Classically, a particple of total energy E incident on potential energy barrier U, where U>E, will not be able to cross the barrier, since that would mean that the particle has negative KE when it is crossing the barrier

However, when one solves the Schrödinger equation to obtain the particle's wave function Ψ , one realizes that there is a probability of finding the particle on the other side of the barrier.

$$T \propto e^{-2kd} \; , \; \; \mbox{where} \; k = \sqrt{\frac{8\pi^2 m (U-E)}{h^2}} \label{eq:T}$$

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Dynamics

3.1 Newton's Laws of Motion

The rate of change of linear momentum of a body is directly proportional to the resultant force acting on it, and its direction is in the same direction as this resultant force.	2 nd Law
A property of that determines the objects inertia.	→ Mass
The resistance to change in the state of motion of an object	\rightarrow Inertia
A body will continue in its state of rest, or move at constant speed in a straight line unless an external resultant force acts on it.	1 st Law

 $\mathbf{F} \propto \frac{d\mathbf{p}}{dt}, \ \mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{a} \ (\text{if constant mass})$

momentum of an object.

 3^{rd} Law

Note: Action-Reaction Pairs act on different bodies and are of the same nature.

ght The gravitational force acting on the object.

Weightlessness There is no contact force acting on the object. A body experiences apparent weightlessness when the resultant force acting on it is its weight, or it is undergoing freefall.

3.2 Momentum

	Impulse	Linear Momentum
6 6	$\mathbf{J} = \int_{t1}^{t2} \mathbf{F} \ dt = \mathbf{p}_f - \mathbf{p}_i$	$\mathbf{p} = m\mathbf{v}$
is being applied.	$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} \mathbf{F} dt = \mathbf{p}_f - \mathbf{p}_i$ The product of the average force acting on	The product of an object's mass and its velocity.

Principle of Con- The total momentum of the system is a constant when no external servation of Lin- resultant force acts on it.

ear Momentum

Forces

It is the point at which the weight of the body appears to act.	It is the point at whic	Center of gravity of a body
The product of the magnitude of one of the forces of the couple and the perpendicular distance between the forces .	The product of the m and the perpendicul	Torque of a couple
A couple always consists of 2 parallel forces which are equal in magnitude and opposite in direction (their lines of action do not coincide)	A couple always con magnitude and oppos coincide)	Couple
Moment of a force about a point (the pivot) is the product of the magnitude of the force and the perpendicular distance of the line of action of the force to the point.	$ au = \mathbf{r} imes \mathbf{F}$	Moment of a force (Torque)
It is the force resisting an object moving relative to a fluid. It always opposes motion, and its magnitude is dependent on the velocity of the object.	$\mathbf{F_D} = k\mathbf{v}$ (Laminar Flow)	Drag
This holds true for an object floating in equilibrium in a fluid.	$mg = U = \rho V_{dis}g$	Principle of Floatation
The net upward force exerted by a fluid on a body partially or fully submerged in the fluid.	$U = m_f g = \rho V_{dis} g$	Upthrust
The force acting per unit area by the fluid on a body submerged at a depth in the fluid.	$\Delta P = h \rho g$	Pressure due to Fluid

4.1 **Equilibrium of Forces**

For a rigid body to be in static equilibrium, 2 conditions must be satisfied:

The **net external** force acting on the body is 1. Translational equilibrium The **net torque** on the body about \overline{ANY} 2. Rotational Equilibrium **point** is zero.

 $\sum F = 0$ $\sum \tau = 0$

Principle of Moments The principle of moments states that when in (rotational) equilibrium the total sum of the anti-clockwise moment is equal to the total sum of the clockwise moment.

16.3 X-Ray Spectra

atoms X-Ray Spectra is produced due to energy changes in electrons close to the nucleus of metal

Characteristic Lines Peaks resulting as a result of photons emitted from outer shell electrons falling into vacancies in the inner shells (e.g. L ightarrow K). The positions of the peaks depend solely on the type of metal.

 \Rightarrow Energy differences in the inner shells are large \Rightarrow shorter λ

(Bremsstrahlung)Continuous Radiation Result of the loss in KE when the energetic bombarding electrons decelerate as they hit the metal target. The photon has λ_{min} when all the KE of the electron is converted to energy in the form of a

 $hf_{max} = \frac{hc}{\lambda_{min}} = eV$

16.4Wave-Particle Duality

Waves can exhibit particle-like characteristics and particles can exhibit wave-like characteris-

de Broglie wavelength
$$\lambda = \frac{h}{p} = \frac{h}{mv}$$

16.5 Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle

Uncertainty Principle Uncertainty Principle Position-Momentum $\Delta E \Delta t \geq rac{h}{4\pi}$ $\Delta x \Delta p \ge \frac{h}{4\pi}$ ΔE is the uncertainty in the energy of the system, If a measurement of position of a particle is made with unperturbed. Definition is similar to that of the one and Δt is the time during which the system exists than $\frac{n}{4\pi}$. the product of the 2 uncertainties can never be smaller uncertainty Δx and a simultaneous measurement of linear momentum is made with uncertainty Δp , then

Energy-Time

Linewidth is a result of this uncertainty principle.

16 Quantum Physics

16.1 Photoelectric Effect

 $hf = \Phi + KE_{max}$

incident on it. This provides evidence of the particulate nature of metal surface when EM radiation of sufficiently high frequency is The Photoelectric Effect is the liberation of electrons from a cool

Work Function Energy Φ

The minimum amount of energy needed to remove an electron EM radiation. $KE_{max} = \frac{1}{2}mv_{max}^2 = eV_s$

Stopping Potential V_s The minimum pd between the emitter and the collecter that will prevent even the most energetic photoelectrons from reaching the collector.

from a metal surface. This varies with the metal.

16.2 Line Spectra

Line Spectra provides the evidence for the existence of **discrete** energy levels in the atom (interactions with the outermost electrons).

Conditions of the experiment:

· Atoms sufficiently isolated so that they do not interact with one another and the energy level remain discrete.

• Low-pressure gas is needed.

Emission Spectrum

Bright coloured lines on dark background.

This is due to the photons produced when de-excitation takes place from a higher to a lower energy state.

Absorption Spectrum Dark lines on bright coloured (rainbow) background.

Only frequencies corresponding to the difference between energy intervals can be absorbed.

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intersect at a common point unless the 3 forces are parallel. forces acting on an extended body in static equilibrium, the lines of action of the 3 forces must For a 3-forces system in static equilibrium, the 3 forces form a closed vector triangle. For 3

Work, Energy, and Power

$\sim dW$	It is a measure of the energy poss body by virtue of its position or the of the system that it is part of. [Ther Elastic, Gravitational and Electrical]	Potential Energy — The amount of work that wa give it that position.	Kinetic Energy $E_k = \tfrac{1}{2} m v^2 \qquad \text{Kinetic energy of a body is } \varepsilon$ ergy possessed by the body tion.	Total Mechanical Energy \sum KE + \sum PE The total mechanical energy of all types of kinetic energy ϵ	Work done by a Force $W=\int_C {\bf F}\cdot d{\bf s} \qquad \text{The product of the magnitud}$ the displacement s in the direction	Principle of Conservation Energy can be converted from one form to another, but it cannot of Energy be created or destroyed . The total energy of an isolated system is constant
Power is the rate at which work is done.	It is a measure of the energy possessed by the body by virtue of its position or the arrangement of the system that it is part of. [There are 3 types: Elastic, Gravitational and Electrical]	The amount of work that was done on a body to give it that position.	Kinetic energy of a body is a measure of the energy possessed by the body by virtue of its motion.	The total mechnical energy of a system is the sum of all types of kinetic energy and potential energy.	The product of the magnitude of the force ${\cal F}$ and the displacement s in the direction of the force.	n one form to another, but it cannot to total energy of an isolated system

Circular Motion

Always write "The forces provide the centripetal force".

Angular Displacement

Angular Velocity

$$\omega = \frac{d\theta}{dt} = \frac{2\pi}{T} = 2\pi f$$
 Rate of change of angular displacement with

Angle swept from a reference point.

respect to time.

Time taken for one complete revolution.

Period

Linear/Tangential Speed $v = \frac{2\pi r}{T} = r\omega$

(No need to know definition)

6.1 Uniform Circular Motion

Conditions: ω constant, r constant

Uniform Circular Motion It is the motion of an object travelling at constant (uniform) speed in a circular path.

Centripetal Acceleration/ Centripetal Force The centripetal acceleration/force is directed **radially inward** towards the centre of the circular path. The direction of the centripetal acceleration/force is continuously changing.

$$\sum a = a_{net} = a_c = \frac{v^2}{r} = r\omega^2 = v\omega$$

No acceleration/force in the tangential direction. \Rightarrow No work done.

15 Alternating Current

Alternating Current

Occurs when charge carriers periodically reverse their direction of motion.

Root-Mean-Square

To find the RMS value for any AC graph: 1. Square the I/t or V/t graph.

- 2. Find area under graph in 1 period.
- 3. Divide the area by 1 period.
- 4. Square root the above result.

 $\sqrt{\frac{f(t)^2}{T}}$

sipate the same power in a given resistive load. ply dividing the peak value by $\sqrt{2}$. The RMS value of an al-If the graph is sinusoidal, the RMS value can be found by simternating current is the equivalent constant DC that will dis-

AC to DC Conversion

Called rectification. Can be accomplished by placing a diode next to the AC source.

- Non-Ideality in Transformers Caused by: 1. Energy dissipated as heat due to resistance of windings in coils. Can be minimised by using thick coils.
- 2. Alternating magnetic flux induces eddy currents in iron core and causes heating. Can be minimised by using a laminated core.
- 3. Hysteresis loss whenever direction of magnetic flux is reversed causing some energy wastage. Can be minimised by using a soft iron core.
- 4. Flux leakage if core is badly designed.

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14 EM and EMI

14.1 Concepts

Magnetic Flux Density B	R	The force nor unit length nor unit current acting on
q	l	an infinitely long current carrying conductor placed perpendicular to the magnetic field. The SI unit is the tesla, T.
ightarrow Tesla	Т	The magnetic flux density of a magnetic field is said to be 1 T if the force acting per unit length on an in-
		finitely long conductor carrying a current of $1\mathrm{A}$ and placed perpendicular to the magnetic field is $1\mathrm{N}\mathrm{m}^{-1}.$
Magnetic Flux	$arphi = \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{A}$	The magnetic flux through a surface is the product of the magnetic flux density normal to the surface and
ightarrow Weber	Wb	The weber is defined as the magnetic flux through a surface of 1 m ² if a magnetic field of flux density 1 T exists nervendicular to the surface
Flux Linkage	$\Phi = N\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{A}$	The product of the magnetic flux through a coil and the number of turns of the coil. The SI unit is also the weber, Wb.
Faraday's Law	The magnitu of change of 1 flux.	The magnitude of the induced EMF is directly proportional to the rate of change of magnetic flux linkage or the rate of cutting of magnetic flux.
Lenz's Law	The polarity that creates a flux.	The polarity of the induced EMF is such that it may produce a current that creates a magnetic field so as to oppose the change in magnetic flux.

14.2 Equations

Induced EMF in a Faraday's Disc	Induced EMF in a Rod Cutting Flux	Induced EMF in AC Generator	Faraday's Law	Torque in DC Motor	Force on Moving Charge	Force on Current Carrying Conductor
$\varepsilon = BAf$	$\varepsilon = B_{\perp} L v$	$\varepsilon = NBA\omega\sin\left(\omega t\right)$	$\varepsilon \propto \frac{d\Phi}{dt}$	$\tau = NBIA\sin\theta$	$\mathbf{F} = q\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}$	$\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{I} L \times \mathbf{B}$

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7 Gravitation

The 'G's in the following left column stands for 'Gravitation', or 'Gravitational'.

A region of space surrounding a body possessing mass, in which any other body that has mass will experience a force of attraction. Mork done per unit mass by an external force in bringing a small mass from infinity to that point in a gravitational field without a change in kinetic energy. Work done by an external force in bringing a mass from infinity to that point in a gravitational field without a change in kinetic energy. A satellite in orbit that appears stationary to an observer on Earth. It has a period of 24 h, orbits the Earth along the plane containing the equator,	$\phi = \frac{U}{m} = -G\frac{\Lambda}{\eta}$ $g = -\frac{d\phi}{dr}$ $U = -G\frac{m_1 m_2}{r}$ $F_g = -\frac{dU}{dr}$	G Field G Potential G Potential Energy G Potential Energy
tances between them. M The GFS g at a point in a gravitational field is the gravitational force per unit mass acting on a small mass placed at that point.	$g = \frac{F_g}{m} = G\frac{M}{r^2}$	G Field Strength
Gravitational force between 2 objects is directly proportional to the product of their masses, and inversely proportional to the square of the dis-	$F_g = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$	Newton's Law of G

œ Oscillations

Simple Harmonic Motion $a=-\omega^2x$ A body oscillating with SHM has acceleration direction opposite to that of displacement from that is directly proportional to the displacement from equilibrium and the acceleration is in a

8.1 1 of Oscillations

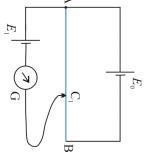
s.1 Types of Oscillations	Hations
Damped Oscillation	Oscillation in which the ${\bf amplitude}$ of the oscillations ${\bf decreases}$ with time.
ightarrow Light	In a lightly damped system, the total energy of the system decreases with time as energy is dissipated when the system oscillates against resistive forces. The amplitude of the system usually decreases <i>exponentially</i> with time.
\rightarrow Critical	The system is said to be critically damped when it returns to the equilibrium position in the shortest possible time without oscillating at all.
\rightarrow Heavy	The system is said to be $\it overdamped$ if the oscillator takes a very long time to return to it equilibrium position.

13 DC Circuits

The potential divider rule is summarised by the equation:

$$V_{\rm R1} = \frac{R_{\rm R1}}{R_{\rm total}} \times V_{\rm total}$$

A potentiometer can be used to find the electromotive force of an unknown cell as well as its internal resistance. The simplest and most common potentiometer setup is shown in the following figure.



can be found by: When the galvanometer shows zero deflection, i.e. no current passes through G, the emf of E_1

$$V_{E_1} = rac{L_{ ext{AC}_1}}{L_{ ext{AB}}} imes V_{E_0}$$

Resonance

natural frequency due to efficient transfer of energy.

to oscillate is achieved when the driver frequency is equal to the Phenomenon where the maximum amplitude of an object driven Forced Oscillation

An oscillation under the influence of an external periodic force is

called a forced oscillation.

the previously found electromotive force of E_1 , and the potential divider rule, the internal potential difference of E_1 can be found using the same equation as above. Using this value, creates two separate circuits, one around E_0AB and one from E_1 to the resistor. The terminal position of C_1 adjusted such that the galvanometer again shows no deflection. This effectively resistance can be found accordingly. To find the internal resistance of E_1 , a resistor of known resistance is added across E_1 , and the

12 Current of Electricity

		Potential Difference
between the 2 points.	energy converted to non-electrical energy per unit electric charge	The potential difference between 2 points in a circuit is the electrical

Current Rate of flow of charge.

$$I_{\text{instantaneous}} = \frac{dQ}{dt}$$

Resistance Ratio of potential difference across device to the current flowing through it

$$R = \frac{\rho L}{A}$$

Charge The charge passing through a given point is the product of current and time during which the current flows.

$$Q = It$$

Coulomb 1 C is the quantity of electric charge that pass a given point in a circuit when a steady current of
$$1\,\mathrm{A}$$
 passes through that point for $1\,\mathrm{s}$.

Ohm 1
$$\Omega$$
 is the resistance of a device through which a current of 1 A flows when a potential difference of 1 V exists across it.

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Waves and Superposition

9

Progressive Waves	Disturbance/Vibration which propagates , carrying energy without physically transferring the wave particle.
ightarrow Transverse Waves	Progressive wave in which particles or fields oscillate perpendicular to direction of wave propagation.
ightarrow Longitudinal Waves	Progressive wave in which particles oscillate parallel to direction of wave propagation. $ \\$
Intensity	Power per unit area
	$E \propto A^2 \Rightarrow I \propto A^2$
Polarisation	Vibrations in a transverse waves are restricted to only 1 direction in a plane normal to the direction of energy transfer.
Principle of Superposition	When 2 or more waves of the same type superimpose, the displacement of a resultant wave at any point at any instant is the vector sum of the displacements of the individual waves at that point at that instant.
Stationary/Standing Waves	Formed when 2 similar waves of same speed, frequency and amplitude travelling towards each other in opposite directions superimpose.
Interference	The overlap of 2 or more waves to give a resultant wave whose displacement at every point at any time is given by the Principle of Superposition. ⇒ Conditions: (i) Same kind of waves; (ii) overlap
ightarrow Observable Interference	 Same type, overlap Coherence Roughly same Amplitude Unpolarised or polarised in the same plane
	<u>Constructive</u> : Oscillation at that point has maximum resultant amplitude and maximum intensity. <u>Destructive</u> : Oscillation at that point has minimum resultant amplitude and minimum intensity.
Diffraction	Spreading of waves into "geometrical" shadow after passing through an aperture or around an obstacle as a result of a redistribution of energy.

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10 Thermal Physics

Sum of microscopic random kinetic energy and microscopic potential energy of molecules in system. For ideal gases: $U=\frac{3}{2}\ nRT$	U	Internal Energy
Amount of thermal energy per unit mass to convert the substance from liquid to gas without any change in temperature.	L_v	Specific latent heat of vaporisation
Amount of thermal energy per unit mass to convert the substance from solid to liquid without any change in temperature.	L_f	Specific latent heat of fusion
Amount of thermal energy per unit mass to increase the temperature of the unit mass of substance by one unit of temperature.	C	Specific Heat Capacity
All molecules possess minimal internal energy.	0K	Absolute Zero
Absolute temperature scale independent of thermometric properties.		Kelvin Scale
2 objects in thermal contact with no net exchange of heat.		Thermal Equilibrium
Thermal energy that naturally flows from regions of higher to lower temperature.	Q	Heat
Measure of the average kinetic energy the molecules in a system possess. $$	T	Temperature

10.1 Laws of Thermodynamics

- $0^{\rm th}$ $\,$ If two systems are in thermal equilibrium with a third system, they are in thermal equilibrium with each other.
- $1^{\mathfrak{A}}$ $\,$ Increase in internal energy of system is sum of heat absorbed by system and work done on system.

$$\Delta U = Q + W_{on}$$

We need not know the 3^{rd} and 4^{th} laws.

10

1

10.2 PV Graphs

We assume, for the following, that the arrow points towards the positive- $\!V$ direction.

Cyclic S	Adiabatic 7	Isothermal (Isochoric (Isobaric (
Start and end at the same state	Thermally Insulated	Constant Temperature	Constant Volume	Constant Pressure
$\Delta U = 0$	$W_{on} < 0 \; , \; \; Q = 0$	$W_{on} < 0$, $\Delta U = 0$	$W_{on} = 0$, $\Delta U > 0$	$W_{on} < 0$, $\Delta U > 0$

11 Electric Fields

Electric Potential Energy $U=rac{Q_1Q_2}{4\piarepsilon_0 r}$	Electric Potential $V=% {\displaystyle\int\limits_{-\infty}^{\infty}} \left[{\displaystyle\int\limits_{-\infty}^{\infty}} {\displaystyle\int\limits_{-\infty$		Coulomb's Law $F_E =$	Electric Field Strength $\qquad E=$
$\frac{Q_1Q_2}{4\pi\varepsilon_0r}$	$V = \frac{Q}{4\pi\varepsilon_0 r}$		$F_E = \frac{ Q_1 Q_2 }{4\pi\varepsilon_0 r^2}$	$E = \frac{Q}{4\pi\varepsilon_0 r^2}$
Work done by external force to bring small positive test charge from infinity to that point in an electric field without change in kinetic energy.	Work done per unit positive charge by an external force to bring a small positive test charge from infinity to that point in an electric field without change in kinetic energy.	$F_E = qE$	Magnitude of the electric force between 2 point charges is directly proportional to the product of the magnitude of their charges and inversely proportional to square of their distance.	Electric force per unit charge acting on small positive test charge at that point.

U = qV