

Physics Formula Sheet

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Contents

1	Physical Quantities and Their Measurements	4
1.1	Equations of the Vernier Scale:	4
1.1.1	Derivation of the Vernier Constant:	4
1.1.2	Measuring Length with the Vernier Scale:	4
1.1.3	Length of an Object with Measurement Errors:	4
1.2	Measuring Diameter with a Screw Gauge:	5
1.2.1	Least Count of a Screw Gauge:	5
1.2.2	Diameter of a Wire:	5
1.3	Measurement Errors:	5
1.3.1	Actual Length of an Object with Measurement Errors:	5
1.3.2	Absolute Error:	5
1.3.3	Relative Error:	5
2	Motion	6
2.1	Basic Definitions:	6
2.1.1	Average Velocity:	6
2.1.2	Acceleration:	6
2.1.3	Displacement:	6
2.2	Laws of Motion:	6
2.3	Galileo's Laws:	7
2.3.1	1st Law:	7
2.3.2	2nd Law:	7
2.3.3	3rd Law:	7
2.4	Laws of Falling Bodies:	7
2.5	Laws of Thrown Bodies:	8
2.5.1	The peak of a thrown object's height:	8
2.5.2	The time taken to ascend to the peak of the height:	8
2.5.3	The total fall time of a thrown object:	8
3	Force	9
3.1	The Statements Of Newton's Laws:	9
3.1.1	1st Law:	9
3.1.2	2nd Law:	9
3.1.3	3rd Law:	9
3.2	Momentum and Conservation:	9
3.2.1	Definition of Momentum:	9
3.2.2	Definition of Kinetic Energy:	9
3.2.3	Conservation of Momentum:	9
3.2.4	Conservation of Kinetic Energy:	9
3.2.5	Velocity of Objects after Collision:	10
3.3	Mathematical Forms of Newton's Laws:	10
3.3.1	1st Law:	10
3.3.2	2nd Law:	10
3.3.3	3rd Law:	10

3.4	Gravity:	10
3.4.1	Derivation of the Gravitational Force:	10
3.4.2	Equations of Gravitational Acceleration:	10
3.4.3	Gravitational Acceleration under Surface:	10
3.4.4	Weight of an Object:	11
3.5	Springs:	11
3.5.1	Force applied by a spring:	11
3.5.2	Potential Energy Stored in a Spring:	11
3.6	Friction:	11
3.6.1	Derivation of the Static Friction Coefficient:	11
3.6.2	Derivation of the Sliding Friction Coefficient:	11
3.6.3	Acceleration of an Object on a Surface that has Friction:	11
4	Work, Power and Energy	12
4.1	Derivation of Work and Energy:	12
4.1.1	Derivation of Work:	12
4.1.2	Derivation of Potential Energy from Height:	12
4.1.3	Potential Energy Stored in a Spring:	12
4.1.4	Derivation of Kinetic Energy:	12
4.1.5	Relation between Kinetic Energy and Work:	12
4.2	Conservation of Energy and Mass:	12
4.2.1	Conservation of Kinetic Energy:	12
4.2.2	Relation between Mass and Energy:	12
4.3	Power and Efficiency:	12
4.3.1	Derivation of Power:	12
4.3.2	Derivation of Efficiency:	13
5	States of Matter and Pressure	14
5.1	Derivation of Pressure and Density:	14
5.1.1	Derivation of Pressure:	14
5.1.2	Derivation of Density:	14
5.1.3	Pressure felt on a Point on a Column of Fluid:	14
5.1.4	Force applied by a Column of Standing Fluid:	14
5.2	Pistons and Pascal's Law:	14
5.2.1	Pascal's Law:	14
5.2.2	Mechanical Advantage of a pair of Hydraulic Pistons:	14
5.2.3	Mechanical Advantage of a Hydraulic Press:	14
5.3	Derivation of Buoyancy:	15
5.3.1	Archimedes' Principle:	15
5.3.2	Mass of the Fluid expelled by an Object:	15
5.3.3	Weight of the Fluid expelled by an Object:	15
5.3.4	Buoyancy on an Object:	15
5.3.5	Buoyancy on a Cylindrical Object:	15
5.4	Derivation of Specific Gravity:	15
5.4.1	True Specific Gravity of an Object:	15
5.4.2	Apparent Specific Gravity of an Object:	15
5.5	Stress and Strain:	16
5.5.1	Derivation of Strain:	16
5.5.2	Derivation of Stress:	16
5.5.3	Hooke's Law of Stress:	16
5.5.4	Cases of Hooke's Law of Stress:	16
7	Waves and Sound	17
7.0.1	Simple Harmonic Motion:	17
7.0.2	Equations of Sound Waves:	17

8	Reflection of Light	18
8.0.1	Laws of Reflection:	18
8.0.2	Image Formation:	18
11	Current Electricity	20
11.1	Electric Current, Voltage and Resistance:	20
11.1.1	Derivation of Electric Current:	20
11.1.2	Derivation of Electromotive Force:	20
11.1.3	Ohm's Law:	20
11.1.4	Laws of Resistance:	21
11.2	Circuit Laws:	21
11.2.1	Total Resistance of a Set of Joined Resistors:	21
11.2.2	Total Current Flow through a Set of Joined Resistors:	21
11.2.3	Total Potential Difference between 2 Endpoints of a Set of Joined Resistors:	21
11.2.4	Total Capacitance of a Set of Joined Capacitors:	22
11.2.5	Current Flow through an Individual Resistor:	22
11.2.6	Potential Difference between 2 endpoints of an Individual Resistor:	22
11.2.7	Kirchhoff's Laws:	22
11.3	Work and Energy in Circuits:	23
11.3.1	Work Done by a Circuit:	23
11.3.2	Energy Used by a Circuit:	23
11.3.3	Heat Produced by a Circuit:	23

Chapter 1

Physical Quantities and Their Measurements

1.1 Equations of the Vernier Scale:

1.1.1 Derivation of the Vernier Constant:

$$V_c = \frac{s}{n} \quad (1.1)$$

where

V_c is the Vernier constant,

s is the lowest value in the main scale, and

n is the division count of the Vernier scale.

1.1.2 Measuring Length with the Vernier Scale:

$$L = M + (V \times V_c) \quad (1.2)$$

where

L is the length of the object,

M is the read of the main scale,

V is the read of the Vernier scale, and

V_c is the Vernier constant.

1.1.3 Length of an Object with Measurement Errors:

$$L = M + (V \times V_c) - (\pm e) \quad (1.3)$$

where

L is actual length of the object,

M is the read of the main scale,

V is the read of the Vernier scale,

V_c is the Vernier constant, and

e is systematic measurement error.

1.2 Measuring Diameter with a Screw Gauge:

1.2.1 Least Count of a Screw Gauge:

$$C = \frac{P}{n} \quad (1.4)$$

where

C is the least count of the screw gauge.

P is the pitch of the screw gauge (usually the number is 1 mm), and

n is the division count of the circular scale (usually the count is 100) .

1.2.2 Diameter of a Wire:

$$d = L + n \times C \quad (1.5)$$

where

d is the diameter of the wire,

L is the read on the linear scale,

n is the read of the circular scale, and

C is the least count of the screw gauge (usually $C = 0.01 \text{ mm}$).

Using the common values, the equation stands

$$d = (L + 0.01 \times n) \text{ mm} \quad (1.6)$$

1.3 Measurement Errors:

1.3.1 Actual Length of an Object with Measurement Errors:

$$L = L_1 - (\pm e) \quad (1.7)$$

where

L is actual length of the object,

L_1 is apparent length of the object, and

e is systematic measurement error.

1.3.2 Absolute Error:

$$e_A = L_a - L \quad (1.8)$$

where

e_A is absolute error,

L_a is the apparent measured value, and

L is the actual value.

1.3.3 Relative Error:

$$e_R = \frac{e_A}{L} \times 100 \quad (1.9)$$

where

e_R is relative error,

e_A is absolute error, and

L is the actual value of the measured quantity.

Chapter 2

Motion

2.1 Basic Definitions:

These are the basic symbols that are used in the following equations.

1. u is the initial velocity of the object,
2. v is the resultant velocity of the object,
3. \bar{v} is the average velocity of the object,
4. a is the acceleration of the object,
5. s is the displacement of the object, and
6. t is the time passed.

Now, the basic definitions of some of these terms are as follows:

2.1.1 Average Velocity:

$$\bar{v} = \frac{s}{t} = \frac{2}{\frac{1}{v_1} + \frac{1}{v_2}} \quad (2.1)$$

2.1.2 Acceleration:

$$a = \frac{v - u}{t} \quad (2.2)$$

2.1.3 Displacement:

$$s = \left(\frac{v + u}{2}\right)t = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^2 \quad (2.3)$$

2.2 Laws of Motion:

The terms displacement(s), initial velocity(u), resultant velocity(v), acceleration(a) and time(t) can be derived individually from the following equations if the other terms are given. These equations are known as the SUVAT equations or the laws of motion. The equations are as follows:

$$v = u + at \quad (2.4)$$

$$s = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^2 = \left(\frac{u+v}{2}\right)t \quad (2.5)$$

$$v^2 = u^2 + 2as \quad (2.6)$$

2.3 Galileo's Laws:

Galileo derived these laws from the laws of motion, and these apply for any object that is free-falling as long as there's no air friction.

2.3.1 1st Law:

In a vacuum, any free-falling object (i.e having no initial velocity) will traverse the same amount of height in the same amount of time.

Meaning, if

$$u = 0 \text{ and } t_1 = t_2$$

then

$$h_1 = h_2 \tag{2.7}$$

2.3.2 2nd Law:

Starting from rest, the velocity of a free-falling body is proportional to the time it takes to fall.

In equation form,

$$v \propto t \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{v_1}{t_1} = \frac{v_2}{t_2} \tag{2.8}$$

2.3.3 3rd Law:

Starting from rest, the height traversed by a free-falling body is proportional to the square of the time it takes to fall.

In equation form,

$$h \propto t^2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{h_1}{t_1^2} = \frac{h_2}{t_2^2} \tag{2.9}$$

2.4 Laws of Falling Bodies:

In case of free-falling bodies, the acceleration on the falling object is the gravitational acceleration g , the initial velocity u is zero, and the displacement of the object is the height traversed which is h . Plugging these values into the laws of motion gives us the following equations, that we may call the laws of falling bodies:

$$v = gt \tag{2.10}$$

$$h = \frac{1}{2}gt^2 \tag{2.11}$$

$$v^2 = 2gh \tag{2.12}$$

2.5 Laws of Thrown Bodies:

In case of thrown bodies, the acceleration acting on the object is actually $-g$, as the acceleration is acting in the opposite way of the object's initial velocity. The initial velocity of the object is u , and the displacement of the object is its height h . Plugging these values into the laws of motion gives us the following equations, that we may call the laws of thrown bodies:

$$v = u - gt \tag{2.13}$$

$$h = ut - \frac{1}{2}gt^2 \tag{2.14}$$

$$v^2 = u^2 - 2gh \tag{2.15}$$

Also, we can derive some extra equations from these laws, which are as follows:

2.5.1 The peak of a thrown object's height:

$$H = \frac{u^2}{2g} \tag{2.16}$$

2.5.2 The time taken to ascend to the peak of the height:

$$t = \frac{u}{g} \tag{2.17}$$

2.5.3 The total fall time of a thrown object:

$$T = \frac{2u}{g} \tag{2.18}$$

Chapter 3

Force

3.1 The Statements Of Newton's Laws:

3.1.1 1st Law:

If external force is not applied, every object at rest will always stay at rest and every moving object will always move at the same velocity.

3.1.2 2nd Law:

The rate of change of momentum of an object is proportionate to the force applied to the said object, and the direction of the change of the momentum occurs in the direction of the applied force.

3.1.3 3rd Law:

Every action has an equal and opposite reaction.

3.2 Momentum and Conservation:

3.2.1 Definition of Momentum:

$$p = mv \quad (3.1)$$

3.2.2 Definition of Kinetic Energy:

$$E_k = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 \quad (3.2)$$

3.2.3 Conservation of Momentum:

$$m_1u_1 + m_2u_2 = m_1v_1 + m_2v_2 \quad (3.3)$$

3.2.4 Conservation of Kinetic Energy:

$$\frac{1}{2}m_1u_1^2 + \frac{1}{2}m_2u_2^2 = \frac{1}{2}m_1v_1^2 + \frac{1}{2}m_2v_2^2 \quad (3.4)$$

3.2.5 Velocity of Objects after Collision:

$$v_1 = \frac{(m_1 - m_2)u_1 + 2m_2u_2}{m_1 + m_2} \quad (3.5)$$

$$v_2 = \frac{(m_2 - m_1)u_2 + 2m_1u_1}{m_1 + m_2} \quad (3.6)$$

3.3 Mathematical Forms of Newton's Laws:

3.3.1 1st Law:

If

$$\vec{F} = 0 \quad (3.7)$$

, then

$$\vec{a} = 0 \quad (3.8)$$

3.3.2 2nd Law:

$$F = \frac{mv - mu}{t} = ma \quad (3.9)$$

3.3.3 3rd Law:

$$\vec{F}_1 = -\vec{F}_2 \quad (3.10)$$

3.4 Gravity:

3.4.1 Derivation of the Gravitational Force:

Gravitational force, $F \propto m_1m_2$ and $F \propto \frac{1}{r^2}$. So we get,

$$\begin{aligned} F &\propto \frac{m_1m_2}{r^2} \\ \Rightarrow F &= k \frac{m_1m_2}{r^2} \\ \Rightarrow F &= G \frac{m_1m_2}{r^2} \end{aligned} \quad (3.11)$$

where G is the Gravitational Constant, which has a value of $6.673 \times 10^{-11} \text{ Nm}^2\text{s}^{-2}$

In case of a planet and another object, the gravitational force will be

$$F = G \frac{Mm}{R^2} \quad (3.12)$$

3.4.2 Equations of Gravitational Acceleration:

Gravitational Acceleration at Surface:

$$g = \frac{GM}{R^2} \quad (3.13)$$

Gravitational Acceleration above surface:

$$g' = \frac{GM}{(R+h)^2} = \frac{g}{(1+\frac{h}{R})^2} \quad (3.14)$$

3.4.3 Gravitational Acceleration under Surface:

$$g' = \frac{GM}{(R-h)^2} = g(1-\frac{h}{R}) \quad (3.15)$$

3.4.4 Weight of an Object:

$$W = mg \quad (3.16)$$

3.5 Springs:

3.5.1 Force applied by a spring:

$$F = -kx \quad (3.17)$$

3.5.2 Potential Energy Stored in a Spring:

$$E_s = \frac{1}{2}kx^2 \quad (3.18)$$

3.6 Friction:

3.6.1 Derivation of the Static Friction Coefficient:

$$\mu_s = \frac{F_s}{mg} \quad (3.19)$$

3.6.2 Derivation of the Sliding Friction Coefficient:

$$\mu_k = \frac{F_k}{mg} \quad (3.20)$$

3.6.3 Acceleration of an Object on a Surface that has Friction:

$$a = \frac{F - F_k}{m} \quad (3.21)$$

Chapter 4

Work, Power and Energy

4.1 Derivation of Work and Energy:

4.1.1 Derivation of Work:

$$W = Fs \cos\theta \quad (4.1)$$

4.1.2 Derivation of Potential Energy from Height:

$$E_p = mgh \quad (4.2)$$

4.1.3 Potential Energy Stored in a Spring:

$$V = \frac{1}{2}kx^2 \quad (4.3)$$

4.1.4 Derivation of Kinetic Energy:

$$E_k = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 \quad (4.4)$$

4.1.5 Relation between Kinetic Energy and Work:

$$\frac{1}{2}mv^2 = \frac{1}{2}mu^2 + W \quad (4.5)$$

4.2 Conservation of Energy and Mass:

4.2.1 Conservation of Kinetic Energy:

$$\frac{1}{2}m_1u_1^2 + \frac{1}{2}m_2u_2^2 = \frac{1}{2}m_1v_1^2 + \frac{1}{2}m_2v_2^2 \quad (4.6)$$

4.2.2 Relation between Mass and Energy:

$$E = mc^2 \quad (4.7)$$

4.3 Power and Efficiency:

4.3.1 Derivation of Power:

$$P = \frac{W}{t} \quad (4.8)$$

4.3.2 Derivation of Efficiency:

$$\eta = \frac{E_a}{E} = \frac{E - E_w}{E} \quad (4.9)$$

where

η is the efficiency.

E is the applied energy,

E_a is the available energy, and

E_w is the wasted energy.

Chapter 5

States of Matter and Pressure

5.1 Derivation of Pressure and Density:

5.1.1 Derivation of Pressure:

$$P = \frac{F}{A} \quad (5.1)$$

5.1.2 Derivation of Density:

$$\rho = \frac{m}{V} \quad (5.2)$$

5.1.3 Pressure felt on a Point on a Column of Fluid:

$$P = h\rho g \quad (5.3)$$

5.1.4 Force applied by a Column of Standing Fluid:

$$F = Ah\rho g = V\rho g \quad (5.4)$$

5.2 Pistons and Pascal's Law:

5.2.1 Pascal's Law:

The external pressure applied to an enclosed fluid at rest is transmitted equally in all directions throughout the fluid, and the pressure works vertically on the surface of the enclosure.

5.2.2 Mechanical Advantage of a pair of Hydraulic Pistons:

$$M.A. = \frac{F_2}{F_1} = \frac{A_2}{A_1} \quad (5.5)$$

5.2.3 Mechanical Advantage of a Hydraulic Press:

$$M.A. = \frac{F_2}{F_1} = \frac{A_2}{A_1} \times \frac{y}{x} \quad (5.6)$$

5.3 Derivation of Buoyancy:

5.3.1 Archimedes' Principle:

Any object partially or fully submerged in a fluid loses an amount of weight that is equal to the weight of the fluid expelled by said object.

5.3.2 Mass of the Fluid expelled by an Object:

$$m = V\rho \quad (5.7)$$

5.3.3 Weight of the Fluid expelled by an Object:

$$W = V\rho g \quad (5.8)$$

5.3.4 Buoyancy on an Object:

$$F_b = V\rho g \quad (5.9)$$

5.3.5 Buoyancy on a Cylindrical Object:

$$F_b = Ah\rho g \quad (5.10)$$

5.4 Derivation of Specific Gravity:

5.4.1 True Specific Gravity of an Object:

As measured against water at $4^\circ C$ and of the same volume and at 1 atm.,

$$S = \frac{W}{W_{H_2O}} = \frac{\rho}{\rho_{H_2O}} \quad (5.11)$$

where

S is the true specific gravity of the object,

W is the weight of the object,

W_{H_2O} is the weight of water of the same volume as the object,

ρ is the density of the object, and

ρ_{H_2O} is the density of water.

5.4.2 Apparent Specific Gravity of an Object:

As measured against water at $\theta^\circ C$ and of the same volume,

$$S_\theta = \frac{\rho}{\rho_{\theta, H_2O}} \quad (5.12)$$

where

S_θ is the apparent specific gravity of the object,

ρ is the density of the object, and

ρ_{θ, H_2O} is the density of water at $\theta^\circ C$.

In this case, the true specific gravity stands

$$S = S_\theta \times \rho_{\theta, H_2O} \quad (5.13)$$

5.5 Stress and Strain:

5.5.1 Derivation of Strain:

$$e = \frac{\Delta L}{L_0} = \frac{L - L_0}{L_0} \quad (5.14)$$

where

e is the strain on the length of the object,

ΔL is the change in length of the object,

L is the new length of the object, and

L_0 is the original length of the object

5.5.2 Derivation of Stress:

$$\sigma = \frac{T}{A} \quad (5.15)$$

where

σ is the stress on the object,

T is the tension, ie. force applied on the object, and

A is the area on which the force is applied.

5.5.3 Hooke's Law of Stress:

The stress on an object is proportional to the strain on the said object.

Mathematical form of Hooke's Law:

$$\sigma \propto e \quad (5.16)$$

5.5.4 Cases of Hooke's Law of Stress:

In Case of Solids:

$$\sigma = Y e \quad (5.17)$$

where

σ is the stress on the solid,

Y is the Young's Modulus of the solid, and

e is the strain on the solid.

In case Of Fluids:

$$P = \sigma = B \left(\frac{\Delta V}{V} \right) = B e \quad (5.18)$$

where

σ is the stress on of the fluid, which is equal to pressure P in case of fluids,

e is the strain on of the fluid, which is equal to the rate of change of volume $\frac{\Delta V}{V}$ in case of fluids, and

B is the Bulk Modulus of the fluid.

Chapter 7

Waves and Sound

7.0.1 Simple Harmonic Motion:

Hooke's Law of Springs:

$$F = -kx \quad (7.1)$$

Oscillation Period of a Spring:

$$T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{m}{k}} \quad (7.2)$$

Oscillation Period of a Simple Pendulum:

$$T = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{l}{g}} \quad (7.3)$$

Frequency of a Simple Harmonic Oscillator:

$$f = \frac{1}{T} = \frac{N}{t} \quad (7.4)$$

7.0.2 Equations of Sound Waves:

Frequency of a Wave:

$$f = \frac{1}{T} = \frac{N}{t} \quad (7.5)$$

Velocity of a Wave:

$$v = \frac{\lambda}{T} = f\lambda \quad (7.6)$$

Relation between Temperature of Air and the Velocity of Sound:

$$v \propto \sqrt{T} \Rightarrow \frac{v_1}{v_2} = \sqrt{\frac{T_1}{T_2}} \quad (7.7)$$

On the old textbooks, the approximation for this equation was given as:

$$v = v_0 + 0.6\Delta T \quad (7.8)$$

Chapter 8

Reflection of Light

8.0.1 Laws of Reflection:

1st Law:

Upon reflection from a smooth surface, the reflected ray is always in the plane defined by the incident ray and the normal to the surface at the point of contact of the incident ray.

2nd Law:

Upon reflection from a smooth surface, the angle of the reflected ray is equal to the angle of the incident ray, with respect to the normal to the surface that is to a line perpendicular to the surface at the point of contact.

Mathematical form of the 2nd law:

$$\theta_i = \theta_r \quad (8.1)$$

8.0.2 Image Formation:

Focus Distance:

In case of convex and concave mirrors:

$$f = \frac{r}{2} \quad (8.2)$$

In case of plane mirrors:

$$f = 0 \quad (8.3)$$

Lens-maker's Equation (also works for mirrors)

$$\frac{1}{u} + \frac{1}{v} = \frac{1}{f} \quad (8.4)$$

Here,

u is the distance between the object and the mirror,

v is the distance between the image and the mirror, which is:

- a. $+ve$ if the image is real and inverted, and
- b. $-ve$ if the image is imaginary and straight.

f is the focus distance of the mirror, which is:

- a. $+ve$ if the mirror is concave,
- b. $-ve$ if the mirror is convex, and
- c. 0 if the mirror is plane.

Law of Linear Magnification:

$$m = \left| \frac{v}{u} \right| = \frac{l'}{l} \quad (8.5)$$

Chapter 11

Current Electricity

11.1 Electric Current, Voltage and Resistance:

11.1.1 Derivation of Electric Current:

$$I = \frac{Q}{t} \quad (11.1)$$

where

I is the resultant electric current flowing through a conductor,

Q is the amount of charge flowing through the conductor within a specific amount of time, and

t is the specific amount of time.

11.1.2 Derivation of Electromotive Force:

$$EMF = V = \frac{W}{Q} \quad (11.2)$$

where

EMF is the electromotive force of the electric cell,

V is the electric potential difference between the two points of the cell, and

W is the work done to move Q amounts of charge from the end having the least potential to the end having the most potential of the cell.

Electromotive Force of a Cell having Internal Resistance:

$$EMF = I(R + r) \quad (11.3)$$

where R is the resistance of the circuit and r is the internal resistance of the cell.

11.1.3 Ohm's Law:

In a fixed temperature, the current through a conductor between two points is directly proportional to the potential difference across the two points.

In mathematical terms,

$$\begin{aligned} I &\propto V \\ \Rightarrow I &= GV \end{aligned}$$

where

G is the conductance of the conductor, and

R is the resistance of the conductor, which is equal to $\frac{1}{G}$.

From this we can say that

$$I = \frac{V}{R} \quad (11.4)$$

which is the mathematical form of the Ohm's Law.

11.1.4 Laws of Resistance:

1. $R \propto L$ where T and A are constant.

2. $R \propto \frac{1}{A}$ where T and L are constant.

From the 2 rules above, we can say that

$$\begin{aligned} R &\propto \frac{L}{A} \\ \Rightarrow R &= \rho \frac{L}{A} \end{aligned} \quad (11.5)$$

where ρ is the conductor's resistivity and σ is the conductivity of the conductor, which is defined as $\frac{1}{\rho}$.

11.2 Circuit Laws:

11.2.1 Total Resistance of a Set of Joined Resistors:

Series Combination:

$$R = R_1 + R_2 + R_3 + \dots + R_n = \sum_{n=1}^n R_n \quad (11.6)$$

Parallel Combination:

$$R = \left(\frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \frac{1}{R_3} + \dots + \frac{1}{R_n} \right)^{-1} = \left(\sum_{n=1}^n \frac{1}{R_n} \right)^{-1} \quad (11.7)$$

11.2.2 Total Current Flow through a Set of Joined Resistors:

Series Combination:

$$I = I_1 + I_2 + I_3 + \dots + I_n = \sum_{n=1}^n I_n \quad (11.8)$$

Parallel Combination:

$$I = V \left(\frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \frac{1}{R_3} + \dots + \frac{1}{R_n} \right)^{-1} = V \sum_{n=1}^n \frac{1}{R_n} \quad (11.9)$$

11.2.3 Total Potential Difference between 2 Endpoints of a Set of Joined Resistors:

Series Combination:

$$V = V_1 + V_2 + V_3 + \dots + V_n = \sum_{n=1}^n V_n \quad (11.10)$$

Parallel Combination:

$$V = V_1 = V_2 = V_3 = \dots = V_n \quad (11.11)$$

11.2.4 Total Capacitance of a Set of Joined Capacitors:

Series Combination:

$$C = \left(\frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2} + \frac{1}{C_3} + \dots + \frac{1}{C_n} \right)^{-1} = \left(\sum_{n=1}^n \frac{1}{C_n} \right)^{-1} \quad (11.12)$$

Parallel Combination:

$$C = C_1 + C_2 + C_3 + \dots + C_n = \sum_{n=1}^n C_n \quad (11.13)$$

11.2.5 Current Flow through an Individual Resistor:

Series Combination:

$$I_x = I = \frac{V_x}{R_x} \quad (11.14)$$

Parallel Combination:

$$I_x = \frac{V}{R_x} = I \frac{R}{R_x} \quad (11.15)$$

11.2.6 Potential Difference between 2 endpoints of an Individual Resistor:

Series Combination:

$$V_x = IR_x = V \frac{R_x}{R} \quad (11.16)$$

Parallel Combination:

$$V_x = V = I_x R_x \quad (11.17)$$

11.2.7 Kirchhoff's Laws:

Kirchhoff's Current Law:

The algebraic sum of current flow in a node of conductors is zero.

In layman's terms, in a node of conductors, the total current flowing towards the node must be equal to the total current flowing out of the said node. In mathematical terms,

$$\sum I = 0 \quad (11.18)$$

Kirchhoff's Voltage Law:

The algebraic sum of all potential differences around any closed loop is zero.

In layman's terms, in a closed loop of multiple resistors, the algebraic sum of all the potential differences in each resistor must be zero. In mathematical terms,

$$\sum V = 0 \quad (11.19)$$

11.3 Work and Energy in Circuits:

11.3.1 Work Done by a Circuit:

$$W = VQ \quad (11.20)$$

Derivation of Electric Power:

$$P = \frac{W}{t} = \frac{VQ}{t} = VI = \frac{V^2}{R} = I^2R \quad (11.21)$$

11.3.2 Energy Used by a Circuit:

$$E = Pt \quad (11.22)$$

11.3.3 Heat Produced by a Circuit:

$$H = VIt = \frac{V^2}{R}t = I^2Rt = Pt \quad (11.23)$$