



Handbook of Physics

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For course:
Condensed Matter Physics for Engineers

Fundamental Constants

All the constants in this table are taken from *The NIST Reference on Constants, Units & Uncertainty* found in <http://physics.nist.gov/constants>.

Quantity	Symbol	Value	Unit
Speed of light in vacuum	c	299 792 458	m s^{-1}
Magnetic constant	μ_0	$4\pi \times 10^{-7}$	N A^{-2}
Electric constant $1/\mu_0 c^2$	ϵ_0	$8.854 187 817 \times 10^{-12}$	F m^{-1}
Newtonian constant of gravitation	G	$6.673 84 \times 10^{-11}$	$\text{m}^3 \text{kg}^{-1} \text{s}^{-2}$
Planck constant	h	$6.626 069 57 \times 10^{-34}$	J s
$h/2\pi$	\hbar	$1.054 571 726 \times 10^{-34}$	J s
Elementary charge	e	$1.602 176 565 \times 10^{-19}$	C
Bohr magneton $e\hbar/2m_e$	μ_B	$9.27.400 968 \times 10^{-26}$	J T^{-1}
Nuclear magneton $e\hbar/2m_p$	μ_N	$5.050 783 53 \times 10^{-27}$	J T^{-1}
Fine-structure constant $e^2/4\pi\epsilon_0\hbar c$	α	$7.297 352 569 8 \times 10^{-3}$	
Rydberg constant $\alpha^2 m_e c/2h$	R_∞	10 973 731.568 539	m^{-1}
Bohr radius $a_0 = 4\pi\epsilon_0\hbar^2/m_e e^2$	a_0	$0.529 177 210 92 \times 10^{-10}$	m
Electron mass	m_e	$9.109 382 91 \times 10^{-31}$	kg
energy equivalent	$m_e c^2$	0.510 998 928	MeV
Proton mass	m_p	$1.672 621 777 \times 10^{-27}$	kg
energy equivalent	$m_p c^2$	938.272 046	MeV
Neutron mass	m_n	$1.674 927 351 \times 10^{-27}$	kg
energy equivalent	$m_n c^2$	939.565 379	MeV



Quantity	Symbol	Value	Unit
Avogadro constant	N_A	$6.022 141 29 \times 10^{23}$	mol^{-1}
Atomic mass constant $m_u = \frac{1}{12} m(^{12}\text{C}) = 1\text{u}$	m_u	$1.660 538 921 \times 10^{-27}$	kg
energy equivalent	$m_u c^2$	$1.492 417 954 \times 10^{-10}$	J
		931.494 061	MeV
Faraday constant $N_A e$	F	96 485.336 5	C mol^{-1}
Universal gas constant	R_u	8.314 462 1	$\text{J mol}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$
Boltzmann constant R/N_A	k	$1.380 648 8 \times 10^{-23}$	J K^{-1}
Stefan-Boltzmann constant $(\pi^2/60)k^4/\hbar^3 c^2$	σ	$5.670 373 \times 10^{-8}$	$\text{W m}^{-2} \text{K}^{-4}$
First radiation constant $2\pi\hbar c^2$	c_1	$3.741 771 53 \times 10^{-16}$	W m^2
Second radiation constant hc/k	c_2	$1.438 777 0 \times 10^{-2}$	m K
Wien displacement law constant $b = \lambda_{\text{max}} T$	b	$2.897 772 1 \times 10^{-3}$	m K
constant $b' = v_{\text{max}}/T$	b'	$5.878 925 4 \times 10^{10}$	Hz K^{-1}
Molar mass constant	M_u	1×10^{-3}	kg mol^{-1}
Molar mass of ^{12}C	$M(^{12}\text{C})$	12×10^{-3}	kg mol^{-1}
Standard atmosphere		101.325	kPa
Standard acceleration of gravity	g	9.806 65	m s^{-2}

Quantum Mechanics

Quantity	Formula	Glossary
Planck's formula for the blackbody radiation: Power radiated per unit area per unit solid angle per unit frequency by a black body at temperature T :	$U(\nu, T) = \frac{8\pi h \nu^3 / c^3}{\left[\exp\left(\frac{h\nu}{kT}\right) - 1 \right]}$	h = Planck constant c = speed of light in vacuum k = Boltzmann constant ν = frequency of the electromagnetic radiation

Einstein's fundamental equation for photoelectric effect:	$E_K = h\nu - \Phi$	E_K = kinetic energy of the ejected electron ν = frequency of photon Φ = work function of the metal
Energy of the discrete emission or absorption of radiation by atoms:	$h\nu = E_i - E_f $	E_i = initial state energy E_f = final state energy
Energy of the emitted photon:	$E = h\nu = \frac{hc}{\lambda}$	λ = wavelength of the emitted photon
Compton formula:	$\lambda' - \lambda = \frac{h}{m_e c} (1 - \cos \theta)$	λ = wavelength of the incident photon λ' = wavelength after scattering m_e = electron rest mass c = speed of light θ = scattering angle
Compton wavelength of the electron:	$\lambda_e = \frac{h}{m_e c}$ $= 2.43 \times 10^{-12} \text{ m}$	
Compton formula in terms of the energies:	$E_{\gamma'} = \frac{E_\gamma}{1 + \frac{E_\gamma}{m_e c^2} (1 - \cos \theta)}$	$E_\gamma = hc/\lambda$ = incident energy $E_{\gamma'}$ = scattered photon energy
de Broglie wavelength:	$\lambda = \frac{h}{p}$ $\lambda = \frac{h}{\sqrt{2mqV}}$	p = momentum of the particle m = mass of the particle q = charge of the particle V = potential with which the particle is accelerated
Phase velocity:	$v_p = \frac{\omega}{k} = v\lambda$	ω = angular frequency $k = 2\pi/\lambda$ = wave number ν = frequency
Group velocity:	$v_g = \frac{d\omega}{dk}$	

Relation between group velocity and phase velocity:	$v_g = v_p - \frac{2\pi}{k} \left(\frac{dv_p}{d\lambda} \right)$	
Heisenberg uncertainty relationships:	$\Delta x \Delta p_x \geq \frac{h}{4\pi}$ $\Delta E \Delta t \geq \frac{h}{4\pi}$ $\Delta J \Delta \theta \geq \frac{h}{4\pi}$	$\Delta x, \Delta p_x, \Delta E, \Delta t, \Delta J$ and $\Delta \theta$ are the uncertainties in the measurement of the position, momentum, energy, time, angular momentum and angular position respectively.
Time independent Schrödinger wave equation in one dimension:	$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \frac{8\pi^2m}{h^2} (E - V)\psi = 0$	$\psi \equiv \psi(x)$ = wave function E = total energy V = potential energy
Probability density:	$P(x, t) = \Psi^* \Psi = \Psi(x, t) ^2$	
Normalization condition:	$\int_x \Psi(x, t) ^2 dx = 1$	
Schrödinger equation in operator form:	$\hat{H}\psi = E\psi$	\hat{H} = Hamiltonian operator
Particle in one-dimensional potential well of infinite depth:		
a) Differential equation:	$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + k^2\psi = 0$ $k^2 = \frac{8m\pi^2E}{h^2}$	
b) Solution:	$\psi = A \cos(kx) + B \sin(kx)$	
c) Energy eigen values:	$E = \frac{n^2 h^2}{8ma^2}$ $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$	a = width of the well
d) Normalized wave function:	$\psi_n = \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}x\right)$	

Electrical Conductivity in Solids and Band Theory of Solids

Quantity	Formula	Glossary
Ohm's Law:	$V = IR$	V = voltage applied I = current flowing R = resistance A = area of cross-section L = length of the material n = carrier concentration e = electronic charge v_d = drift velocity m = mass of the electron τ = mean collision time E = energy level E_F = Fermi level k = Boltzmann constant T = temperature of the material m = mass of the electron
Resistivity:	$\rho = \frac{RA}{L}$	
Conductivity:	$\sigma = \frac{1}{\rho} = \frac{L}{RA}$	
Electric field:	$E = \frac{V}{L}$	
Current density:	$J = \frac{I}{A} = \sigma E$	
Electric current in a conductor:	$I = nev_d A$	
Drift velocity:	$v_d = \frac{eE}{m}\tau$	
Electrical conductivity of a conductor:	$\sigma = \frac{ne^2\tau}{m}$	
Mobility of electrons:	$\mu = \frac{v_d}{E} = \frac{e\tau}{m}$	
Fermi factor:	$f(E) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp\left(\frac{E-E_F}{kT}\right)}$	
Density of states in a material in the energy range E & $E + dE$:	$g(E)dE = \frac{4\pi}{h^3}(2m)^{3/2}E^{1/2}dE$	
Number of free electrons per unit volume in the energy range E & $E + dE$:	$N(E)dE = g(E)f(E)dE$	
Total number of free electrons per unit volume in metals:	$n = \frac{8\pi}{3h^3}(2m)^{3/2}E_F^{3/2}$	

Fermi energy at 0 K:	$E_F = \frac{h^2}{8m} \left(\frac{3n}{\pi} \right)^{2/3}$	
Carrier concentration in intrinsic semiconductor:		N_C and N_V are effective density of states in the conduction and valence band. m_e^* = effective mass of electron in the material m_h^* = effective mass of hole in the material E_C = lowest energy level in the conduction band E_V = is the highest energy level in the valence band E_g = is the energy gap
a) for electrons:	$n = N_C e^{-(E_C - E_F)/kT}$ $N_C = 2 \left[\frac{2\pi m_e^* kT}{h^2} \right]^{3/2}$	
b) for holes:	$p = N_V e^{-(E_F - E_V)/kT}$ $N_V = 2 \left[\frac{2\pi m_h^* kT}{h^2} \right]^{3/2}$	
Fermi level in intrinsic semiconductor:	$E_F = \left(\frac{E_C + E_V}{2} \right) + \frac{3}{4} kT \ln \left(\frac{m_h^*}{m_e^*} \right)$	
a) For small kT :	$E_F = \frac{E_C + E_V}{2}$	
b) With $E_C - E_V = E_g$:	$E_F = \frac{E_g}{2} + E_V$	
Intrinsic charge carrier concentration:	$n_i = \sqrt{np} = 2 \left(\frac{2\pi k}{h^2} \right)^{3/2} (m_e^* m_h^*)^{3/4} T^{3/2} e^{-E_g/2kT}$	
Conductivity of an intrinsic semiconductor:	$\sigma_i = en_i(\mu_e + \mu_h)$	
Fermi energy for extrinsic semiconductors:		
a) n-type	$E_{F_n} = \frac{E_C + E_D}{2} - \frac{kT}{2} \ln \frac{N_C}{N_d}$	N_d = donor concentration
b) p-type	$E_{F_p} = \frac{E_V + E_A}{2} + \frac{kT}{2} \ln \frac{N_V}{N_a}$	N_a = acceptor concentration
Law of Mass Action:	$np = n_i^2 = \text{constant}$	

Hall voltage:	$V_H = R_H \frac{BI}{t}$	R_H = Hall coefficient B = applied magnetic field I = current flowing t = thickness of the material
Hall coefficient:		
a) For metals and n -type semiconductors:	$R_H = \frac{-1}{ne}$	
b) For p -type semiconductors:	$R_H = \frac{1}{pe}$	

Semiconductor Devices

Quantity	Formula	Glossary
Internal Potential barrier:	$V_0 = \frac{kT}{e} \ln \left(\frac{N_D N_A}{n_i^2} \right)$	k = Boltzmann constant T = temperature e = electronic charge N_D = donors concentration N_A = acceptors concentration
The diode equation:	$I = I_0 \left[\exp \left(\frac{eV}{kT} \right) - 1 \right]$	n_i = intrinsic carrier concentration
Wavelength of light emitted by LED:	$\lambda = \frac{hv}{E_g}$	V = voltage across the diode
Relation between currents in a transistor:	$I_E = I_B + I_C$	I = current through the diode
Common base current gain factor:	$\alpha_{dc} = \frac{I_C}{I_E}$	I_0 = reverse saturation current
Common emitter dc current gain:	$\beta_{dc} = \frac{I_C}{I_B}$	E_g = energy gap
Voltage gain of an amplifier:	Gain = $\frac{\text{Output Voltage}}{\text{Input Voltage}}$	I_E = emitter current I_B = base current I_C = collector current

Dielectrics and Transducers

Quantity	Formula	Glossary
Dipole moment of two charges $-q$ and $+q$:	$\mu = (2a)q$	$2a$ distance between the charges
Induced dipole moment:	$\mu = \alpha E$	α = polarizability
Torque on the dipole in an electric field:	$\tau = qE2a \sin \theta = \mu E \sin \theta$	E = applied electric field
Polarization (total dipole moment / unit volume):	$P = \frac{\mu_{\text{total}}}{V}$	V = volume of the dielectric
Electric displacement:	$D = \epsilon_0 \epsilon_r E$	ϵ_0 = permittivity of free space ϵ_r = relative permittivity
Relation for dielectric susceptibility, χ , for linear dielectrics:	$P = \chi \epsilon_0 E$	
Relation between ϵ_r and χ :	$\epsilon_r = 1 + \chi$	
Electronic or Atomic Polarization:	$P_e = N \alpha_e E$	N = number of atoms per unit volume
Electronic polarizability:	$\alpha_e = \frac{\epsilon_0 (\epsilon_r - 1)}{N}$	α_e = electronic polarizability
Ionic Polarization:	$P_i = N \alpha_i E$	α_i = ionic polarizability
Orientation or dipole Polarization:	$P_o = \frac{N \mu^2 E}{3kT}$	k = Boltzmann constant T = temperature
Orientation polarizability:	$\alpha_o = \frac{\mu^2}{3kT}$	μ = dipole moment
Internal field in a solid for one dimensional infinite array of dipoles:	$E_i = E + \frac{1.2\mu}{\pi \epsilon_0 d^3}$	d = thickness of the dielectric slab
Clausius Mosotti equation:	$\frac{\epsilon_r - 1}{\epsilon_r + 2} = \frac{N \alpha_e}{3 \epsilon_0}$	

Piezoelectric transducer formula: The charge generated Q is given by,		F = applied force d = piezoelectric coefficient of the crystal ($d_{\text{quartz}} = 2.3 \times 10^{-12}$ C/N) b/a = thickness/width
a) For longitudinal arrangement:	$Q = Fd$	
b) For transverse arrangement:	$Q = Fd(b/a)$	

Lasers

Quantity	Formula	Glossary
Boltzmann factor:	$\frac{N_2}{N_1} = e^{-h\nu/kT}$	h = Planck constant k = Boltzmann constant
Einstein's coefficients:	$\frac{A_{21}}{B_{21}} = \frac{8\pi h\nu^3}{c^3}$ $B_{12} = B_{21}$	T = temperature ν = frequency of the electromagnetic radiation
Energy density at thermal equilibrium:	$U(\nu, T) = \frac{A}{B} \frac{1}{\exp\left(\frac{h\nu}{kT}\right) - 1}$	$A = A_{21}$ $B = B_{21}$
Length of the resonator cavity:	$L = n \frac{\lambda}{2}, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$	λ = wavelength

Optical Fibers

Quantity	Formula	Glossary
Snell's law:	$n_1 \sin \theta_1 = n_2 \sin \theta_2$	n_1 and n_2 are the refractive indices. θ_1 and θ_2 are angle of incidence & refraction.
Absolute refractive index:	$n = \frac{c}{v}$	c and v are velocities of light in vacuum and the medium.

Numerical aperture:	$NA = \sin \theta_0 = \frac{\sqrt{n_1^2 - n_2^2}}{n_0}$	θ_0 = acceptance angle n_0, n_1 and n_2 are the refractive indices of surrounding medium, core and cladding.
Fraction Index Change:	$\Delta = \frac{n_1 - n_2}{n_1}$	
Relation between NA and Δ :	$NA = n_1 \sqrt{2\Delta}$	
V-number if surrounding medium is air:	$V = \frac{\pi d}{\lambda} NA$	d = core diameter λ = wavelength of light
Number of modes for step index fiber:	$\approx \frac{V^2}{2}$	
Number of modes for graded index fiber:	$\approx \frac{V^2}{4}$	
Attenuation co-efficient (loss per unit length):	$\alpha = -\frac{10}{L} \log \left(\frac{P_{\text{out}}}{P_{\text{in}}} \right)$	P_{out} = output power P_{in} = input power L = length of the optical fiber