

- 4 (a) A spherical oil drop has a radius of $1.2 \times 10^{-6}\text{ m}$. The density of the oil is 940 kg m^{-3} .

- (i) Show that the mass of the oil drop is $6.8 \times 10^{-15}\text{ kg}$.

[2]

- (ii) The oil drop is charged. Explain why it is impossible for the magnitude of the charge to be $8.0 \times 10^{-20}\text{ C}$.

[1]

- (b) The charged oil drop in (a) is in a vacuum between two horizontal metal plates, as illustrated in Fig. 4.1.

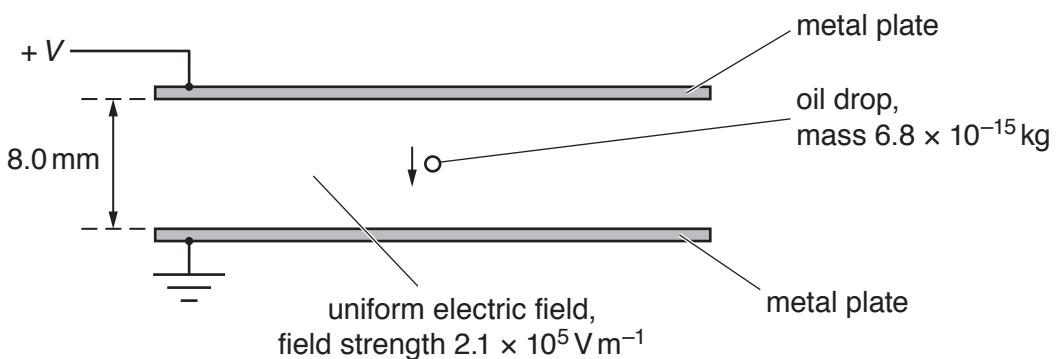


Fig. 4.1

The plates are separated by a distance of 8.0 mm . The electric field between the plates is uniform and has a field strength of $2.1 \times 10^5\text{ V m}^{-1}$.

The oil drop moves vertically downwards with a constant speed.

- (i) Calculate the potential difference V between the plates.

$$V = \dots \text{ V} \quad [2]$$

- (ii) Explain how the motion of the oil drop shows that it is in equilibrium.

[1]

- (iii) Determine the charge on the oil drop.

charge = C

sign of charge
[3]

- (c) The magnitude of the potential difference between the plates in (b) is decreased.

- (i) Explain why the oil drop accelerates downwards.

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[2]

- (ii) Describe the change to the pattern of the field lines (lines of force) representing the uniform electric field as the potential difference decreases.

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[1]

- (d) Two types of force, X and Y, can act on an oil drop when it is in air, but cannot act on an oil drop when it is in a vacuum. Force X can act on an oil drop when it is stationary or when it is moving. Force Y can only act on an oil drop when it is moving.

State the name of:

- (i) force X

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[1]

- (ii) force Y.

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[1]

[Total: 14]