

2 (a) State Coulomb's law.

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..... [2]

(b) Positronium is a system in which an electron and a positron orbit, with the same period, around their common centre of mass, as shown in Fig. 2.1.

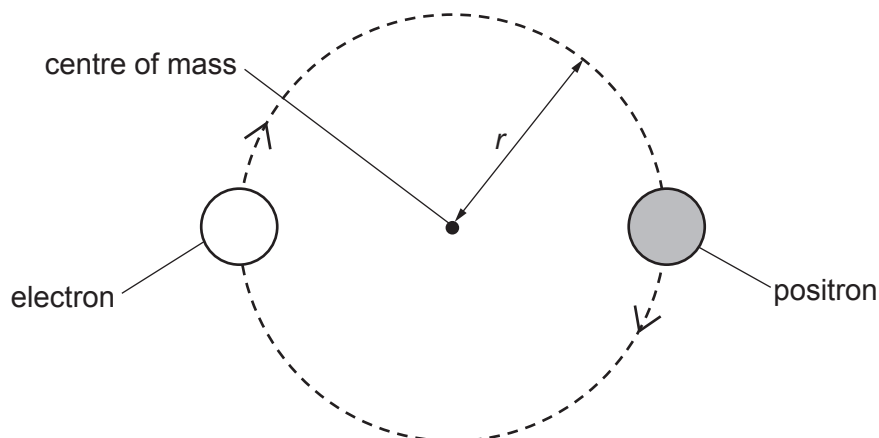


Fig. 2.1 (not to scale)

The radius r of the orbit of both particles is $1.59 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}$.

(i) Explain how the electric force between the electron and the positron causes the path of the moving particles to be circular.

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(ii) Show that the magnitude of the electric force between the electron and the positron is $2.28 \times 10^{-9} \text{ N}$.

[2]

- (iii) Use the information in **(b)(ii)** to determine the period of the circular orbit of the two particles.

period = s [3]

- (c) Positronium is highly unstable, and after a very short period of time it becomes gamma radiation.

- (i) Describe how gamma radiation is formed from the two particles in positronium.

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 [3]

- (ii) State **one** medical application of the process described in **(c)(i)**.

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