Physics 111

Exam #1

September 22, 2025

Name___________________________________

Please read and follow these instructions carefully:

- Read all problems carefully before attempting to solve them.
- Your work must be legible, and the organization clear.
- You must show all work, including correct vector notation.
- You will not receive full credit for correct answers without adequate explanations.
- You will not receive full credit if incorrect work or explanations are mixed in with correct work. So, erase or cross out anything you don't want graded.
- Make explanations complete but brief. Do not write a lot of prose.
- Include diagrams.
- Show what goes into a calculation, not just the final number. For example, $\left|\vec{p}\right| \approx m\left|\vec{v}\right| = (5kg)\times\left(2\,\tfrac{m}{s}\right) = 10\,\tfrac{kg\cdot m}{s}$
- Give standard SI units with your results unless specifically asked for a certain unit.
- Unless specifically asked to derive a result, you may start with the formulas given on the formula sheet including equations corresponding to the fundamental concepts.
- Go for partial credit. If you cannot do some portion of a problem, invent a symbol and/or value for the quantity you can't calculate (explain that you are doing this), and use it to do the rest of the problem.
- Each free-response part is worth 6 points.

Problem #1	/24
Problem #2	/24
Problem #3	/24
Total	/72

I affirm that I have carried out my academic endeavors with full academic honesty.

____

1. Calcium chloride ($CaCl_2$) is an ionic salt. In aqueous solutions it separates into Ca^{+2} and Cl^- ions. These ions are essential for cellular functions. Consider building a molecule of calcium chloride by arranging the charges in a line according to chlorine – calcium – chlorine, with each calcium – chlorine ion separated by a distance $s = 0.295nm$.

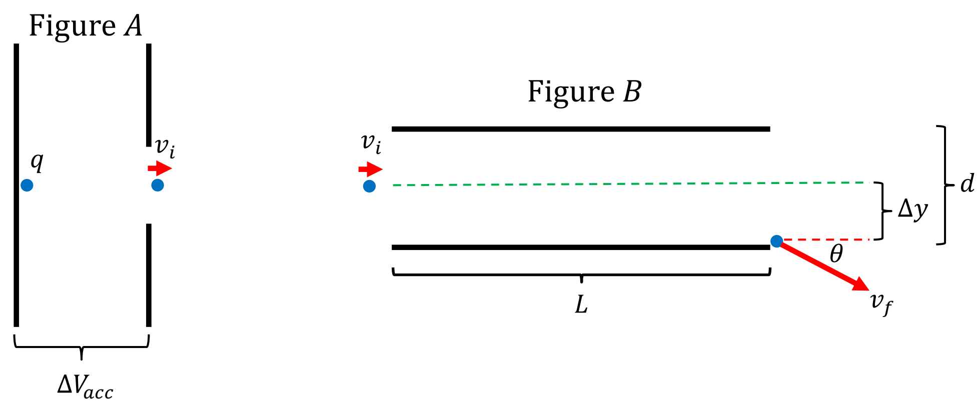
   a. How much work (in electron volts) is done to build $CaCl_2$? Hints: The charges of the calcium and chlorine ions are $+2e$ and $-1e$ respectively and suppose that each charge is brought in from very far away and placed in their final locations.

   b. What is the electric potential energy (in eV) stored in the system? In addition to calculating or stating a value, explain the significance of the sign of the electric potential energy.

c. What is the net electric field (magnitude and direction) at the right most chlorine ion due to the left most chlorine ion and the calcium ion?

d. What is the net force on the right most chlorine ion due to the left most chlorine ion and the calcium ion?

2. Suppose an electron is accelerated horizontally from rest using a set of vertical parallel plates. The electron is accelerated from rest at the left vertical plate through a potential difference and the electron emerges from a small hole in the right vertical plate as shown in Figure A below. After the electron emerges from the small hole in the right plate it passes between a set of parallel horizontal plates shown if Figure B below. The electron emerges from these horizontal plates with a speed $v = 9 \times 10^6 \frac{m}{s}$ directed at an angle $\theta = 60^0$ below the horizontal, as shown below.



   a. Through what potential difference ΔV_{acc} was the electron accelerated in Figure A?

   b. If the electron was accelerated over a vertical distance of $\Delta y = -12cm$, What is the magnitude and direction of the electric field in the horizontal set of plates in Figure B?

c. How long does the electron spend crossing the horizontal set of plates and what is the length L of the horizontal plates in Figure B?

d. If the horizontal set of plates were square and separated by a distance $d = 30cm$, which plate is at the higher electric potential and what is the potential difference across the horizontal set of plates? Justify our choice of which plate is at the higher electric potential with a sentence or two.

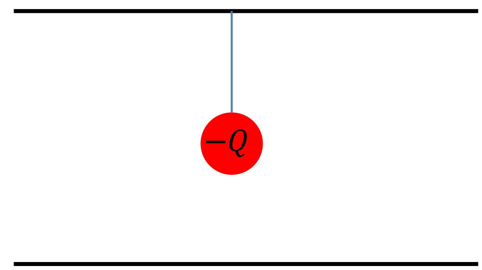
3. An air-filled parallel plate capacitor is constructed out of two parallel circular metal plates of radius $r = 1m$ separated by a distance of $d = 10cm$.

   a. What is the capacitance of the system and how much charge could be stored in the capacitor when it is fully charged if the capacitor was connected to a $1000V$ battery?

   b. Assuming that the capacitor is fully charged, what is the magnitude of the electric field between the plates of the capacitor?

c. Suppose we orient the capacitor as shown below in Figure C. From the upper plate we suspend a conducting sphere of mass $m = 0.8kg$ at the end of an insulating string. A charge $-Q$ is then placed on the conducting sphere. The system is in equilibrium and when the system is in equilibrium, the tension measured in the string has a value $F_T = 4.6N$. What is the magnitude of the charge that was placed on the conducting sphere?

Figure C



d. For the situation in part c, fully explain what is the direction of the electric field between the plates and which plate (upper or lower) has the positive charge on it.

Physics 111 Formula Sheet

Electrostatics

$F = k\frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2}$

$\vec{F} = q\vec{E}; \quad E_{pc} = k\frac{q}{r^2}; \quad E_{plate} = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0 A}$

$E = -\frac{\Delta V}{\Delta x}$

$V_{pc} = k\frac{q}{r}$

$U_e = k\frac{q_1 q_2}{r} = qV$

$W = -q\Delta V = -\Delta U_e = \Delta K$

Electric Circuits - Capacitors

$Q = CV; \quad C = \frac{\kappa\epsilon_0 A}{d}$

$C_{parallel} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} C_i$

$\frac{1}{C_{series}} = \sum_{i=1}^{N}\frac{1}{C_i}$

$Q_{charging}(t) = Q_{max}\left(1 - e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}\right)$

$Q_{discharging}(t) = Q_{max}e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$

$I(t) = I_{max}e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}} = \frac{Q_{max}}{\tau}e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$

$\tau = RC$

$U_C = \frac{1}{2}qV = \frac{1}{2}CV^2 = \frac{Q^2}{2C}$

Light as a Wave

$c = f\lambda$

$S(t) = \frac{\text{Energy}}{\text{time}\times\text{Area}} = c\epsilon_0 E^2(t) = c\frac{B^2(t)}{\mu_0}$

$I = S_{avg} = \frac{1}{2}c\epsilon_0 E_{max}^2 = c\frac{B_{max}^2}{2\mu_0}$

$P = \begin{cases} \frac{S}{c}; & \text{absorbed} \\ \frac{2S}{c}; & \text{reflected} \end{cases}$

$S = S_0 \cos^2 \theta$

$v = \frac{c}{n}$

$\theta_{\text{incident}} = \theta_{\text{reflected}}$

$n_1 \sin\theta_1 = n_2 \sin\theta_2$

$P = \frac{1}{f} = \frac{1}{d_0} + \frac{1}{d_i}$

$M = \frac{d_i}{d_0}; \quad |M| = \frac{h_i}{h_0}$

Magnetism

$\vec{F} = q\vec{v}\times\vec{B} \rightarrow F = qvB\sin\theta$

$\vec{F} = I\vec{L}\times\vec{B} \rightarrow F = ILB\sin\theta$

$V_{Hall} = wv_d B$

$B = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi r}$

$\varepsilon = \Delta V = -N\frac{\Delta\phi_B}{\Delta t}$

$\phi_B = BA\cos\theta$

Electric Circuits - Resistors

$I = \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta t}$

$I = neAv_d; \quad n = \frac{\rho N_A}{m}$

$V = IR$

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

$R_{series} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} R_i$

$\frac{1}{R_{parallel}} = \sum_{i=1}^{N}\frac{1}{R_i}$

$P = \frac{\Delta E}{\Delta t} = IV = I^2 R = \frac{V^2}{R}$

Light as a Particle/Relativity

$E = hf = \frac{hc}{\lambda}$

$K_{max} = hf - \phi$

$\Delta\lambda = \lambda' - \lambda = \frac{h}{mc}(1 - \cos\phi)$

$\frac{1}{E'} = \frac{1}{E} + \frac{(1-\cos\phi)}{E_{rest}}; \quad E_{rest} = mc^2$

$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$

$p = \gamma mv$

$E_{total} = E_{rest} + K = \gamma mc^2$

$K = (\gamma - 1)mc^2$

$E_{total}^2 = p^2c^2 + m^2c^4$

Nuclear Physics

$N = N_0 e^{-\lambda t}$

$m = m_0 e^{-\lambda t}$

$A = A_0 e^{-\lambda t}$

$A = \lambda N$

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

Constants

$g = 9.8\frac{m}{s^2}$

$1e = 1.6 \times 10^{-19} C$

$k = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} = 9 \times 10^9 \frac{Nm^2}{C^2}$

$\epsilon_0 = 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \frac{C^2}{Nm^2}$

$1eV = 1.6 \times 10^{-19} J$

$\mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \frac{Tm}{A}$

$c = 3 \times 10^8 \frac{m}{s}$

$h = 6.63 \times 10^{-34} Js = 4.14 \times 10^{-15} eVs$

$N_A = 6.02 \times 10^{23}$

$1u = 1.66 \times 10^{-27} kg = 931.5 \frac{MeV}{c^2}$

$m_p = 1.67 \times 10^{-27} kg = 937.1 \frac{MeV}{c^2}$

$m_n = 1.69 \times 10^{-27} kg = 948.3 \frac{MeV}{c^2}$

$m_e = 9.11 \times 10^{-31} kg = 0.511 \frac{MeV}{c^2}$

Physics 110 Formulas

$\vec{F} = m\vec{a}; \quad F_G = \frac{GM_1 m_2}{r^2}; \quad F_s = -ky; \quad a_c = \frac{v^2}{r}$

$W = -\Delta U_g - \Delta U_s = \Delta K$

$U_g = mgy$

$U_s = \frac{1}{2} k y^2$

$K = \frac{1}{2} m v^2$

$\vec{r}_f = \vec{r}_i + \vec{v}_i t + \frac{1}{2}\vec{a} t^2$

$\vec{v}_f = \vec{v}_i + \vec{a} t$

$v_f^2 = v_i^2 + 2a_r \Delta r$

Common Metric Units

$nano\ (n) = 10^{-9}$

$micro\ (\mu) = 10^{-6}$

$milli\ (m) = 10^{-3}$

$centi\ (c) = 10^{-2}$

$kilo\ (k) = 10^{3}$

$mega\ (M) = 10^{6}$

Geometry/Algebra

Circles: $A = \pi r^2$ $\quad C = 2\pi r = \pi$

Spheres: $A = 4\pi r^2$ $\quad V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$

Triangles: $A = \frac{1}{2} bh$

Quadratics: $ax^2 + bx + c = 0 \rightarrow x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$