A Level Physics Notes

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SECTION I MEASUREMENT

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Chapter 1: Measurement

- SI Units
- **Errors and Uncertainties**

Scalars and Vectors

a. Recall the following base quantities and their units; mass (kg), length (m), time (s), current (A), temperature (K), amount of substance (mol).

b. Express derived units as products or quotients of the base units and use the named units listed in "Summary of Key Quantities, Symbols and Units" as appropriate.

A derived unit can be expressed in terms of products or quotients of base units.

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SECTION II NEWTONIAN MECHANICS

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{This explains also why the Moon does not fall towards the Earth}

j. Show an understanding of geostationary orbits and their application.

Geostationary satellite is one which is always above a certain point on the Earth (as the Earth rotates about its axis.)

For a **geostationary** orbit: T = 24 hrs, orbital radius (& height) are fixed values from the centre of the Earth, ang velocity w is also a fixed value; rotates fr west to east. However, the mass of the satellite is NOT a particular value & hence the ke, gpe, & the centripetal force are also not fixed values {ie their values depend on the mass of the geostationary satellite.}

A geostationary orbit must lie in the **equatorial plane** of the earth because it must accelerate in a plane where the *centre* of Earth lies since the *net* force exerted on the satellite is the Earth's gravitational force, which is directed towards the *centre* of Earth.

{Alternatively, may explain by showing why it"s impossible for a satellite in a non-equatorial plane to be geostationary.}

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Examples of Useful Purposes of Resonance

- (a) Oscillation of a child's swing.
- (b) Tuning of musical instruments.
- (c) Tuning of radio receiver Natural frequency of the radio is adjusted so that it responds resonantly to a specific broadcast frequency.
- (d) Using microwave to cook food Microwave ovens produce microwaves of a frequency which is equal to the natural frequency of water molecules, thus causing the water molecules in the food to vibrate more violently. This generates heat to cook the food but the glass and paper containers do not heat up as much.
- (e) Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is used in hospitals to create images of the human organs.
- (f) Seismography the science of detecting small movements in the Earth"s crust in order to locate centres of earthquakes.

Examples of Destructive Nature of Resonance

- (a) An example of a disaster that was caused by resonance occurred in the United States in 1940. The Tarcoma Narrows Bridge in Washington was suspended by huge cables across a valley. Shortly after its completion, it was observed to be unstable. On a windy day four months after its official opening, the bridge began vibrating at its resonant frequency. The vibrations were so great that the bridge collapsed.
- (b) High-pitched sound waves can shatter fragile objects, an example being the shattering of a wine glass when a soprano hits a high note.
- (c) Buildings that vibrate at natural frequencies close to the frequency of seismic waves face the possibility of collapse during earthquakes.

SECTION III THERMAL PHYSICS

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SECTION IV WAVES

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Air column

A tuning fork held at the mouth of a open tube projects a sound wave into the column of air in the tube. The length of the tube can be changed by varying the water level. At certain lengths of the tube, the air column resonates with the tuning fork. This is due to the formation of stationary waves by the incident and reflected sound waves at the water surface.

c. Explain the formation of a stationary wave using a graphical method, and identify nodes and antinodes.

Stationary (Standing) Wave) is one

- whose waveform/wave profile does not advance {move}.
- where there is no net transport of energy, and
- where the positions of antinodes and nodes do not change (with time).

A stationary wave is formed when two progressive waves of the same *frequency***,** *amplitude* and *speed*, travelling in *opposite directions* are superposed. {Assume boundary conditions are met}

Node is a region of destructive superposition where the waves always meet out of phase by π radians. Hence displacement here is permanently zero {or minimum}.

Antinode is a region of constructive superposition where the waves always meet in phase**.** Hence a particle here vibrates with maximum amplitude {but it is NOT a pt with a *permanent* large displacement!}

Dist between 2 successive nodes/antinodes = $\frac{\lambda}{2}$

Max pressure change occurs at the nodes {NOT the antinodes} because every node changes fr being a pt of compression to become a pt of rarefaction {half a period later}

d. Explain the meaning of the term diffraction.

j. Recall and solve problems by using the formula dsinθ = nλ and describe the use of a diffraction grating to determine the wavelength of light. (The structure and use of the spectrometer is not required.)

Diffraction: refers to the spreading {or bending} of waves when they pass through an opening {gap}, or round an obstacle (into the "shadow" region). {Illustrate with diag}

For significant diffraction to occur, the size of the gap $\approx \lambda$ of the wave

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Condition for **Constructive Interference** at a pt P:

phase difference of the 2 waves at $P = 0$ {or 2π , 4π , etc}

Thus, with 2 *in-phase* **sources**, * implies **path difference = n;** with 2 *antiphase* **sources**: **path** difference = $(n + \frac{1}{2})\lambda$

Condition for **Destructive Interference** at a pt P:

phase difference of the 2 waves at $P = \pi$ { or 3π , 5π , etc }

With 2 *in-phase* **sources**, + implies **path difference = (n+ ½),** with 2 *antiphase* **sources**: **path difference = n**

i. Recall and solve problems using the equation $\lambda = \frac{\lambda D}{a}$ for double-slit interference using light.

Fringe separation $x = \frac{\lambda D}{a}$ **,** if a<<D {applies **only** to Young's Double Slit interference of *light*, Ie, NOT for microwaves, sound waves, water waves}

Phase difference $\Delta\phi$ betw the 2 waves at any pt X {betw the central & 1st maxima) is (approx) proportional to the dist of X from the central maxima. {N01 & N06}

Using 2 sources of equal amplitude x_0 , the resultant amplitude of a bright fringe would be doubled $\{2x_0\}$, & the resultant intensity increases by 4 times {not 2 times}. $\{I_{\text{Resultant}} \propto (2 x_0)^2\}$ }

SECTION V ELECTRICITY & MAGNETISM

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EXAMPLE 13L1 Calculate the resistance of a nichrome wire of length 500 mm and diameter 1.0 mm, given that the resistivity of nichrome is 1.1 x 10⁻⁶ Ω m. Resistance, R = ρ l A $=\frac{(1.1 \times 10^{-6})(500 \times 10^{-3})}{(1 \times 10^{-3})}$ $\pi \left(\frac{1 \times 10^{-3}}{2} \right)$ 2 2 $= 0.70 \Omega$ **m. Define EMF in terms of the energy transferred by a source in driving unit charge round a complete circuit. Electromotive force Emf** is defined as the energy transferred/converted from non-electrical forms of energy into electrical energy when unit charge is moved round a complete circuit. ie EMF = Energy Transferred per unit charge**,** ie **E = W Q n. Distinguish between EMF and P.D. in terms of energy considerations.** EMF refers to the electrical energy generated from non-electrical energy forms, whereas PD refers to electrical energy being changed into non-electrical energy. For example, **EMF Sources Energy Change PD across Energy Change** Chemical Cell Chem -> Elec Bulb Elec -> Light

Generator Mech -> Elec Fan Elec -> Mech Generator Mech -> Elec Fan Thermocouple Thermal -> Elec Door Bell Elec -> Sound

Solar Cell Solar -> Elec Heating element Elec -> Thermal Heating element **o. Show an understanding of the effects of the internal resistance of a source of EMF on the terminal potential difference and output power.** Internal resistance is the resistance to current flow within the power source. It reduces the *potential difference* (not EMF) across the terminal of the power supply *when it is delivering a current*. Consider the circuit below: The voltage across the resistor, $V = IR$, The voltage lost to internal resistance $= I r$ Thus, the EMF of the cell, $E = IR + IT$ $= V + I r$ \therefore If I = 0 A or if r = 0 Ω , $V = E$ V I (Cell) ┑**╒╋╾**═╾┶_╍ Internal resistance of cell R

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Chapter 14: D.C. Circuits

- Practical Circuits
- Series and parallel arrangements
- Potential divider
- Balanced potentials

a. Recall and use appropriate circuit symbols as set out in SI Units, Signs, Symbols and Abbreviations (ASE, 1981) and Signs, Symbols and Systematics (ASE, 1995).

b. Draw and interpret circuit diagrams containing sources, switches, resistors, ammeters, voltmeters, and/or any other type of component referred to in the syllabus.

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Resistance for $Z = (\frac{1}{2})$ $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{4}$)⁻¹ = 0.923 Ω Therefore, the combination of resistors in order of increasing resistance is Z X Y. **e. Solve problems involving series and parallel circuits for one source of e.m.f. EXAMPLE 14E1 E.g. 4** Referring to the circuit drawn, determine the value of I₁, I and R, the combined resistance in the circuit. $E = I_1 (160) = I_2 (4000) = I_3 (32000)$ I_1 = $\frac{2}{160}$ = 0.0125 A $I_2 = \frac{2}{4000} = 5 \times 10^{-4} A$ $I_3 = \frac{2}{32000} = 6.25 \times 10^{-5} A$ Since $I = I_1 + I_2 + I_3$, $I = 13.1 \text{ mA}$ Applying Ohm's Law, $R = \frac{2}{13.4}$ 13.1×10^{-3} $= 153 \Omega$ **EXAMPLE 14E2** A battery with an EMF of 20 V and an internal resistance of 2.0 Ω is connected to resistors R₁ and R₂ as shown in the diagram. A total current of 4.0 A is supplied by the battery and R₂ has a resistance of 12 Ω . Calculate the resistance of R_1 and the power supplied to each circuit component. $E - I r = I_2 R_2$ $20 - 4 (2) = I₂ (12)$ $I_2 = 1A$ Therefore, $I_1 = 4 - 1 = 3$ A $E - I r = I_1 R_1$ $12 = 3 R₁$ Therefore, $R_1 = 4$ Power supplied to R_1 $2 R_1$ = 36 W Power supplied to R_2 = $2 R_2$ = 12 W **f. Show an understanding of the use of a potential divider circuit as a source of variable p.d.** For **potential divider** with 2 resistors in series, Potential drop across R₁, $V_1 = \frac{R_1}{R_1 + R_2}$ $\frac{N_1}{R_1 + R_2}$ X PD across R₁ & R₂ Potential drop across R₂, $V_1 = \frac{R_2}{R_1 + R_2}$ $\frac{R_2}{R_1 + R_2}$ X PD across R₁ & R₂ **EXAMPLE 14F1** Two resistors, of resistance 300 k Ω and 500 k Ω respectively, form a potential divider with outer junctions maintained at potentials of +3 V and –15 V. 2 Ω $R₁$ $R₂$ 20 V 4 A 32000 Ω 4000 I_1 160 Ω I 2 V I_2 I_3

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When the galvanometer shows a zero reading, the current through the galvanometer (and the device that is being tested) is zero and the potentiometer is said to be "balanced".

If the cell has negligible internal resistance, and if the potentiometer is balanced,

EMF / PD of the unknown source,
$$
V = \frac{L_1}{L_1 + L_2} \times E
$$

EXAMPLE 14H1

In the circuit shown, the potentiometer wire has a resistance of 60 Ω. Determine the EMF of the unknown cell if the balanced point is at B.

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EXAMPLE 15K1

A long length of aluminium foil ABC is hung over a wooden rod as shown below. A large current is momentarily passed through the foil in the direction ABC, and the foil moves.

(i) Draw arrows to indicate the directions in which AB and BC move

Since currents in AB and BC are 'unlike' currents (they are flowing in opposite directions), the two foil sections AB and BC will repel each other.

(ii) Explain why the foil moves in this way

The current in the left foil AB produces a magnetic field in the other (BC). According to the Right Hand Grip Rule & Fleming"s Left Hand Rule, the force on BC is away from and perpendicular to AB. By a similar consideration, the force on AB is also away from BC. Thus the forces between the foils are repulsive.

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magnetic field through the secondary coil is no longer zero and changes with time, since the current is ac. The changing magnetic flux causes an induced voltage to appear in the secondary coil, which triggers the circuit breaker to stop the current. ELCB works very fast (in less than a millisecond) and turn off the current before it reaches a dangerous level.

5 Eddy current brake

An **eddy current brake**, like a conventional friction brake, is responsible for slowing an object, such as a train or a roller coaster. Unlike friction brakes, which apply pressure on two separate objects, eddy current brakes slow an object by creating eddy currents through electromagnetic induction which create resistance, and in turn either heat or electricity.

Consider a metal disk rotating clockwise through a perpendicular magnetic field but confined to a limited portion of the disk area. (Compare this with the Faraday's disk earlier)

Sector Oa and Oc are not in the field, but they provide return conducting path, for charges displaced along Ob to return from b to O. The result is a circulation of eddy current in the disk. The current experiences a magnetic force that opposes the rotation of the disk, so this force must be to the right. The return currents lie outside the field, so they do not experience magnetic forces. The interaction between the eddy currents and the field causes a braking action on the disk.

SECTION VI MODERN PHYSICS

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e. Use band theory to account for the electrical properties of metals, insulators and intrinsic semiconductors, with reference to conduction electrons and holes.

Properties of Conductors, Insulators and Semi-conductors at 0 K {"low temp"}:

How band theory explains the relative conducting ability of a metal, intrinsic semiconductor & insulator:

- For a (good)*conductor* {ie a metal}, when an electric field is applied, electrons in the **partially-filled conduction band** can very easily gain energy from the field to "jump" to unfilled energy states since they are **nearby**.
- The ease at which these electrons may move to a nearby unfilled/unoccupied energy state, plus the fact that there is a high number density of free electrons make metals very good electrical conductors**.**
- *For an insulator*, the conduction band is completely unoccupied by electrons; the valence band is completely occupied by electrons; and the energy gap between the two bands is very large.
- Since the conduction band is **completely empty**, and
- It requires a lot of energy to excite the electrons from the valence band to the conduction band across the wide energy gap,
- When an electric field is applied, no conduction of electricity occurs. {Thus, insulators make poor conductors of electricity.}
- For *intrinsic semi-conductors*, the energy gap between the two bands is **relatively small** {compared to insulator}
- As such even at room temp, some electrons in the valence band gain enough energy by thermal excitation to jump to the unfilled energy states in the conduction band, leaving vacant energy states in the valence band known as holes.
- When an electric field is applied, the electrons which have jumped into the conduction band and holes {in the valence band} act as *negative* and *positive* charge carriers respectively and conduct electricity.
- {Thus, for *intrinsic* semiconductors, the ability to conduct vary with temperature {or even light}, as light can cause photo-excitation}.

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