

Name: _____

You may answer the questions in the space provided here, or if you prefer, on your own notebook paper.

Short answers

1. If you are measuring an astrophysical phenomenon, say an exploding star that triggers another star to explode, and your friend was doing so in a rocket traveling at speed $0.9c$ relative to you, in what way could your readings of the distance between the stars and the time between explosions differ?

2. What are the two postulates of relativity?

3. Proper length is
 - A. Found in the frame at rest relative to the Universe.
 - B. Found in the rest-frame of the object or distance between events/objects that is being measured.
 - C. Found in the frame in which the time of an incident would be the longest.
 - D. Found in the frame in which the object or distance between events/objects being measured is in motion.
 - E. I like apples.

Please go on to the next page...

Short Problems

4. When Uranium-235 is hit by a neutron, it becomes Uranium-236 for a very short period. U-236 has a very short half-life and decays into Barium and Krypton (Ba-141 and Kr-92) while releasing 3 neutrons, which means that we could have up to 3 more U-235 atoms hit resulting in 9 more projectile neutrons ready to split other atoms, and so on. That's the concept of a "chain-reaction".

Interestingly, the sum of the rest mass of the original particles (neutron plus U-235) is **more** than the sum of the rest mass of the outputted particles (Ba-141, Kr-92, and 3 neutrons). That missing mass was converted into energy.

Suppose that the energy released from a fission event (splitting described above) is 190 MeV, what is the corresponding change in mass? The conversion from electron volts (eV) to Joules is $1 \text{ eV} = 1.602 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$. Recall that $1J = N \cdot m$.

5. What will be the half-life of a Mamahuhu particle as measured in a laboratory if the particle is seen traveling at $v = 0.8c$ with respect to the laboratory?

For this particle, the half-life is $1.8 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}$.

Longer problems

6. Help the esteemed physicist Mace Windu find the work function of a mysterious metal. Dr. Windu has two light sources, one with 500.0 nm light and another with 300.0 nm light.
- (a) What is the energy of a photon of the 500.0 nm light (solve for this in eV, not Joules)?
- (b) What is the energy of a photon of the 300.0 nm light (in eV)?
- (c) Dr. Windu sets up his voltage plates so that the positive plate is the material from which the electrons are leaving and the negative plate is the plate to which they are heading. As you know, this will slow the electrons down, and if he turns the voltage up high enough, it will slow them to a complete stop and we won't have emitted electrons. In such a case, we have $KE = e \cdot \Delta V$.
Dr. Windu finds that it takes 5.52×10^9 V to terminate the flow of electrons from the plate being illuminated with his 300.0 nm light. What is the work function ϕ of the mysterious material?
- (d) How much voltage across the plates must Dr. Windu apply in order to stop the emission of electrons for the case where he is illuminating the material with 500.0 nm photons?

7. A sinusoidal planer electromagnetic wave with frequency 90.0×10^6 Hz, in free space, traveling in the $\hat{\mathbf{i}}$ direction has a maximum electric field amplitude of 430.0 N/C and is oriented in the $\hat{\mathbf{j}}$ direction. Recall that in sinusoidal planer waves, the \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{B} fields are perpendicular to each other, and to the direction of motion.

(a) Find the wavelength and period of the wave.

(b) Find the maximum amplitude and direction of the magnetic field of the wave.

(c) Find the average value of the intensity of the wave.

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8. (a) Find the rest energy of a proton in units of electron volts. Given: $m_p = 1.672 \times 10^{-27}$ kg, $c = (2.99 \times 10^8) \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}$, $1.00\text{eV} = 1.602 \times 10^{-19}\text{J}$.
- (b) If the total energy of a proton in this particular case is 6.0 times its rest energy, what is the speed of the proton relative to the lab from which it is launched?
- (c) An event taking place in the proton's rest frame is clocked at 5.0 s, how long would that event seem to take in the lab frame? *Hint: The shortest time you can measure is in the rest frame*
- (d) Determine the kinetic energy of this proton in units of electron volts.
- (e) What is the proton's momentum?

Some possibly useful equations.

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

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

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

$$\Delta E_0 = \Delta mc^2$$

$$B = \frac{E}{c}$$

$$c = \lambda f$$

$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2$$

$$T = \frac{1}{f}$$

$$p = \frac{mu}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{u^2}{c^2}}}$$

$$\mu_0 = (4 \times \pi \times 10^{-7} \text{Tm/A})$$

$$c = (2.99 \times 10^8) \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}$$

$$2nt = \left(m + \frac{1}{2}\right) \lambda, m = 0, 1, 2 \dots$$

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

$$KE = E_{\text{photon}} - \phi$$

$$hc = 1240 \text{eV} \cdot \text{nm}$$

$$m_p = 1.672 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$$

$$q_p = 1.602 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$$

$$m_e c^2 = 0.511 \text{ MeV}$$

$$K = \gamma mc^2$$

$$K = E - mc^2$$

$$E^2 = p^2 c^2 + (m_p c^2)^2$$

$$x' = \gamma(x - vt)$$

$$t' = \gamma\left(t - \frac{vx}{c^2}\right)$$

$$L' = \frac{L_p}{\gamma}$$

$$t' = \gamma t_p$$