

Practice Calculations Test Problems - Solutions
Do-overs Allowed - only 3 significant figures in answers needed.

In the following formulas, use $G=6.67 \times 10^{-11} \frac{\text{N} \cdot \text{m}^2}{\text{kg}^2}$ and $c=3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$.

1. Calculate the gravitational force in newtons using the formula $F=G \frac{m_1 m_2}{d^2}$ where,
 $m_1=5.3 \times 10^{23} \text{ kg}$, $m_2=64.9 \text{ kg}$ and $d=8.3 \times 10^8 \text{ m}$.

$$F = \left(6.67 \times 10^{-11} \frac{\text{N} \cdot \text{m}^2}{\text{kg}^2} \right) \frac{(5.3 \times 10^{23} \text{ kg}) \cdot (64.9 \text{ kg})}{(8.3 \times 10^8 \text{ m})^2} = 3.330 \times 10^{-3} \text{ N} = 3.330 \text{ mN}$$

2. Calculate the dimensionless relativistic factor $\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$ where $v=2.8 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$.

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{(2.8 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s})^2}{(3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s})^2}}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{2.8 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}}{3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}} \right)^2}} = 2.785$$

3. Using $E=mc^2$, calculate the energy in joules released when $3.7 \times 10^{-3} \text{ kg}$ is converted to energy.

$$E = (3.7 \times 10^{-3} \text{ kg}) \cdot (3.00 \times 10^8)^2 = 3.33 \times 10^{14} \frac{\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^2}{\text{s}^2} = 3.330 \times 10^{14} = 3.33 \times 10^{14} \text{ N} \cdot \text{m} = 3.33 \times 10^{14} \text{ J} = 333 \text{ TJ}$$

4. Using $\lambda = \frac{c}{f}$, calculate the wavelength in meters of a photon that has a frequency of $5 \times 10^{15} \text{ Hz}$.

$$\lambda = \frac{3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}}{5 \times 10^{15} \text{ Hz}} = 6.00 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m} = 0.06 \mu \text{ m} = 60 \text{ nm}$$