

# Measurement of $e$ and $m$ for Electron



First experiment by R. Millikan (1913)

Method used here: balancing weight and electric force on oil drop

Radius of oil drop:  $r = 1.64\mu\text{m}$

Mass density of oil:  $\rho = 0.851\text{g/cm}^3$

Electric field:  $E = 1.92 \times 10^5\text{N/C}$

Mass of oil drop:  $m = \frac{4\pi}{3}r^3\rho = 1.57 \times 10^{-14}\text{kg}$

Equilibrium of forces:  $neE = mg$

Number of excess elementary charges (integer):  $n = 5$

Elementary charge:  $e = \frac{mg}{nE} \simeq 1.6 \times 10^{-19}\text{C}$

Mass of electron:  $m \simeq 9.1 \times 10^{-31}\text{kg}$

