

41. We take the positive direction to be to the right in the figure. The acceleration of the proton is $a_p = eE/m_p$ and the acceleration of the electron is $a_e = -eE/m_e$, where E is the magnitude of the electric field, m_p is the mass of the proton, and m_e is the mass of the electron. We take the origin to be at the initial position of the proton. Then, the coordinate of the proton at time t is $x = \frac{1}{2}a_pt^2$ and the coordinate of the electron is $x = L + \frac{1}{2}a_et^2$. They pass each other when their coordinates are the same, or $\frac{1}{2}a_pt^2 = L + \frac{1}{2}a_et^2$. This means $t^2 = 2L/(a_p - a_e)$ and

$$\begin{aligned}
 x &= \frac{a_p}{a_p - a_e} L = \frac{eE/m_p}{(eE/m_p) + (eE/m_e)} L = \frac{m_e}{m_e + m_p} L \\
 &= \frac{9.11 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg}}{9.11 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg} + 1.67 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}} (0.050 \text{ m}) \\
 &= 2.7 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m} .
 \end{aligned}$$