



Useful Information

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Important Constants

Stated values are according to the National Institute of Standards and Technology Reference on Constants, Units, and Uncertainties ([NIST](#) (accessed May 18, 2012)). Values in parentheses are the uncertainties in the last digits. Numbers without uncertainties are exact.

Symbol	Meaning	Best Value	Approximate Value
c	Speed of light in vacuum	2.99792458×10^8 m/s	3.00×10^8 m/s
G	Gravitational constant	$6.67384(80) \times 10^{-11}$ N · m ² /kg ²	6.67×10^{-11} N · m ² /kg ²
N_A	Avogadro's number	$6.02214129(27) \times 10^{23}$	6.02×10^{23}
k	Boltzmann's constant	$1.3806488(13) \times 10^{-23}$ J/K	1.38×10^{-23} J/K
R	Gas constant	8.3144621(75) J/ mol · K	8.31 J/ mol · K = 1.99 cal/ mol · K
σ	Stefan-Boltzmann constant	$5.670373(21) \times 10^{-8}$ W/m ² · K	5.67×10^{-8} W/m ² · K

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Symbol	Meaning	Best Value	Approximate Value
k	Coulomb force constant	$8.987551788... \times 10^9 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^2/\text{C}^2$	$8.99 \times 10^9 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^2/\text{C}^2$
q_e	Charge on electron	$-1.602176565(35) \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$	$-1.60 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$
ϵ_0	Permittivity of free space	$8.854187817... \times 10^{-12} \text{ C}^2/\text{N} \cdot \text{m}^2$	$8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C}^2/\text{N} \cdot \text{m}^2$
μ_0	Permeability of free space	$4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ T} \cdot \text{m} / \text{A}$	$1.26 \times 10^{-6} \text{ T} \cdot \text{m} / \text{A}$
h	Planck's constant	$6.62606957(29) \times 10^{-34} \text{ J} \cdot \text{s}$	$6.63 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J} \cdot \text{s}$

Submicroscopic Masses

Stated values are according to the National Institute of Standards and Technology Reference on Constants, Units, and Uncertainty, www.physics.nist.gov/cuu (accessed May 18, 2012). Values in parentheses are the uncertainties in the last digits. Numbers without uncertainties are exact as defined.

Symbol	Meaning	Best Value	Approximate Value
m_e	Electron mass	$9.10938291(40) \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg}$	$9.11 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg}$
m_p	Proton mass	$1.672621777(74) \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$	$1.6726 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$
m_n	Neutron mass	$1.674927351(74) \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$	$1.6749 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$
u	Atomic mass unit	$1.660538921(73) \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$	$1.6605 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$

Solar System Data

Sun	mass	$1.99 \times 10^{30} \text{ kg}$
	average radius	$6.96 \times 10^8 \text{ m}$
	Earth-sun distance (average)	$1.496 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}$
Earth	mass	$5.9736 \times 10^{24} \text{ kg}$
	average radius	$6.376 \times 10^6 \text{ m}$
	orbital period	$3.16 \times 10^7 \text{ s}$
Moon	mass	$7.35 \times 10^{22} \text{ kg}$

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	average radius	$1.74 \times 10^6 \text{m}$
	orbital period (average)	$2.36 \times 10^6 \text{s}$
	Earth-moon distance (average)	$3.84 \times 10^8 \text{m}$

Metric Prefixes for Powers of Ten and Their Symbols

Prefix	Symbol	Value	Prefix	Symbol	Value
tera	T	10^{12}	deci	d	10^{-1}
giga	G	10^9	centi	c	10^{-2}
mega	M	10^6	milli	m	10^{-3}
kilo	k	10^3	micro	μ	10^{-6}
hecto	h	10^2	nano	n	10^{-9}
deka	da	10^1	pico	p	10^{-12}
—	—	$10^0 (= 1)$	femto	f	10^{-15}

The Greek Alphabet

Alpha	A	α	Eta	H	η	Nu	N	ν	Tau	T	τ
Beta	B	β	Theta	Θ	θ	Xi	Ξ	ξ	Upsilon	Y	υ
Gamma	Γ	γ	Iota	I	ι	Omicron	O	\omicron	Phi	Φ	ϕ
Delta	Δ	δ	Kappa	K	κ	Pi	Π	π	Chi	X	χ
Epsilon	E	ϵ	Lambda	Λ	λ	Rho	P	ρ	Psi	Ψ	ψ
Zeta	Z	ζ	Mu	M	μ	Sigma	Σ	σ	Omega	Ω	ω

SI Units

	Entity	Abbreviation	Name
Fundamental units	Length	m	meter
	Mass	kg	kilogram
	Time	s	second
	Current	A	ampere

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	Entity	Abbreviation	Name
Supplementary unit	Angle	rad	radian
Derived units	Force	$N = \text{kg} \cdot \text{m} / \text{s}^2$	newton
	Energy	$J = \text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^2 / \text{s}^2$	joule
	Power	$W = \text{J/s}$	watt
	Pressure	$\text{Pa} = \text{N} / \text{m}^2$	pascal
	Frequency	$\text{Hz} = 1 / \text{s}$	hertz
	Electronic potential	$V = \text{J/C}$	volt
	Capacitance	$F = \text{C/V}$	farad
	Charge	$C = \text{s} \cdot \text{A}$	coulomb
	Resistance	$\Omega = \text{V/A}$	ohm
	Magnetic field	$T = \text{N} / (\text{A} \cdot \text{m})$	tesla
	Nuclear decay rate	$\text{Bq} = 1 / \text{s}$	becquerel

Selected British Units

Length	1 inch (in.) = 2.54 cm (exactly)
	1 foot (ft) = 0.3048 m
	1 mile (mi) = 1.609 km
Force	1 pound (lb) = 4.448 N
Energy	1 British thermal unit (Btu) = $1.055 \times 10^3 \text{ J}$
Power	1 horsepower (hp) = 746 W
Pressure	$1 \text{ lb} / \text{in}^2 = 6.895 \times 10^3 \text{ Pa}$

Other Units

Length	1 light year (ly) = $9.46 \times 10^{15} \text{ m}$
	1 astronomical unit (au) = $1.50 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}$
	1 nautical mile = 1.852 km
	1 angstrom(\AA) = 10^{-10} m

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Area	1 acre (ac) = $4.05 \times 10^3 \text{ m}^2$
	1 square foot (ft ²) = $9.29 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m}^2$
	1 barn (<i>b</i>) = 10^{-28} m^2
Volume	1 liter (<i>L</i>) = 10^{-3} m^3
	1 U.S. gallon (gal) = $3.785 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}^3$
Mass	1 solar mass = $1.99 \times 10^{30} \text{ kg}$
	1 metric ton = 10^3 kg
	1 atomic mass unit (<i>u</i>) = $1.6605 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$
Time	1 year (<i>y</i>) = $3.16 \times 10^7 \text{ s}$
	1 day (<i>d</i>) = 86,400 s
Speed	1 mile per hour (mph) = 1.609 km/h
	1 nautical mile per hour (naut) = 1.852 km/h
Angle	1 degree (°) = $1.745 \times 10^{-2} \text{ rad}$
	1 minute of arc (′) = 1 / 60 degree
	1 second of arc (″) = 1 / 60 minute of arc
	1 grad = $1.571 \times 10^{-2} \text{ rad}$
Energy	1 kiloton TNT (kT) = $4.2 \times 10^{12} \text{ J}$
	1 kilowatt hour (kW · h) = $3.60 \times 10^6 \text{ J}$
	1 food calorie (kcal) = 4186 J
	1 calorie (cal) = 4.186 J
	1 electron volt (eV) = $1.60 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$
Pressure	1 atmosphere (atm) = $1.013 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa}$
	1 millimeter of mercury (mm Hg) = 133.3 Pa
	1 torricelli (torr) = 1 mm Hg = 133.3 Pa
Nuclear decay rate	1 curie (Ci) = $3.70 \times 10^{10} \text{ Bq}$

Useful Formulae

Circumference of a circle with radius r or diameter d	$C = 2\pi r = \pi d$
Area of a circle with radius r or diameter d	$A = \pi r^2 = \pi d^2 / 4$
Area of a sphere with radius r	$A = 4\pi r^2$
Volume of a sphere with radius r	$V = (4/3)(\pi r^3)$