

S357 Data

Fundamental physical constants

speed of light in a vacuum	$c = 3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ [exact 299 792 458 m s ⁻¹]
Planck's constant	$h = 6.63 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J s}$
gravitational constant	$G = 6.67 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^3 \text{ kg}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-2}$
electron mass	$m_e = 0.911 \times 10^{-30} \text{ kg} = 0.511 \text{ MeV}/c^2$
proton mass	$m_p = 1.67 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg} = 938 \text{ MeV}/c^2$
neutron mass	$m_n = m_p + 2.31 \times 10^{-30} \text{ kg} = m_p + 1.29 \text{ MeV}/c^2$
proton electric charge	$e = 1.60 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$
permittivity of free space	$\epsilon_0 = 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C}^2 \text{ N}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2}$
Coulomb's law factor	$1 / 4\pi\epsilon_0 = 8.99 \times 10^9 \text{ N m}^2 \text{ C}^{-2}$
permeability of free space	$\mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ kg m C}^{-2}$

Useful astronomical data

mass of Sun	$M_\odot = 1.99 \times 10^{30} \text{ kg}$
radius of Sun	$R_\odot = 6.96 \times 10^8 \text{ m}$
surface gravity of Sun	$g_\odot = 2.74 \times 10^2 \text{ m s}^{-2}$
mass of Earth	$M_\oplus = 5.98 \times 10^{24} \text{ kg}$
equatorial radius of Earth	$R_\oplus = 6.38 \times 10^6 \text{ m}$
surface gravity of Earth	$g = 9.81 \text{ m s}^{-2}$
period of rotation	1 sidereal day = $8.62 \times 10^4 \text{ s}$
orbital period of Earth around Sun	1 sidereal year = $3.16 \times 10^7 \text{ s}$
orbital velocity of Earth around Sun	29.8 km s^{-1}
distance of Earth to Moon	$3.84 \times 10^8 \text{ m}$
distance of Earth to Sun	1 AU = $1.50 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}$
distance to nearest star	$\approx 1.3 \text{ pc} \approx 4 \text{ ly}$
diameter of our Galaxy	$\approx 30 \text{ kpc} \approx 10^5 \text{ ly}$
distance to Andromeda galaxy	$\approx 0.67 \text{ Mpc} \approx 2.2 \times 10^6 \text{ ly}$
Hubble's constant	$H_0 = h \times 100 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ $H_0 = h \times 3.24 \times 10^{-18} \text{ s}^{-1}$
(1996 best value)	$h \approx 0.7$
critical density	$\rho_0^c \approx 10^{-26} \text{ kg m}^{-3}$

Conversion constants

1 year (y)	$= 3.16 \times 10^7 \text{ s}$
1 astronomical unit (AU)	$= 1.50 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}$
1 light-year (ly)	$= 9.46 \times 10^{15} \text{ m}$
1 parsec	$= 3.26 \text{ ly} = 3.09 \times 10^{16} \text{ m}$
1 second of arc	$= 4.85 \times 10^{-6} \text{ radians}$
1 electronvolt (eV)	$= 1.60 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$

Common geometrical relations

Conversion between spherical polar and Cartesian coordinates

$$x^1 = R \sin \theta \cos \phi, \quad x^2 = R \sin \theta \sin \phi, \quad x^3 = R \cos \theta$$

Scalar and vector products of vectors **a** and **b** at mutual angle θ

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = a^1 b^1 + a^2 b^2 + a^3 b^3 = |\mathbf{a}||\mathbf{b}| \cos \theta$$

$$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = (a^2 b^3 - a^3 b^2, a^3 b^1 - a^1 b^3, a^1 b^2 - a^2 b^1)$$

S357 Important Concepts

3K radiation
absolute magnitude
absorption spectrum
angular distribution
angular power spectrum
apparent magnitude
baryonic density
baryons
big bang
Cepheid variable
cluster of galaxies
cosmic microwave background radiation
cosmic variance
cosmological redshift
cosmology
decoupling
dipolar anisotropy
Doppler broadening
Doppler shift
emission spectrum
evolution of galaxies
flux density
galactic dust
galaxy
Hubble parameter, H
Hubble's law
luminosity
mass fraction
nuclear synthesis
size of radio galaxies
spectrum
temperature of matter
temperature of radiation
thermal spectrum
thermalization
Type Ia supernova
Type II supernova