2. ASTROPHYSICAL CONSTANTS

Table 2.1. Written and revised with the help of K.R. Lang, K.A. Olive, J. Primack, S. Rudaz, E. M. Standish, Jr., and M.S. Turner. The figures in parentheses after some values give the 1-standard deviation uncertainties in the last digit(s). While every effort has been made to obtain the most accurate current values of the listed quantities, the table does not represent a critical review or adjustment of the constants, and is not intended as a primary reference.

Quantity	Symbol, equation	Value	Reference
speed of light	c	299 792 458 m s^{-1}	defined [1]
Newtonian gravitational constant	G_N	$6.672\,59(85) \times 10^{-11}$ $m^3\,kg^{-1}\,s^{-2}$	[2]
astronomical unit	AU	$1.495\,978\,706\,6(2) \times 10^{11}$ m	[3,4]
tropical year (equinox to equinox) (1994)	yr	31 556 925.2 s	[3]
sidereal year (fixed star to fixed star) (1994)		31 558 149.8 s	[3]
mean sidereal day		$23^h\,56^m\,04^s.090\,53$	[3]
Jansky	Jy	10^{-26} W $m^{-2}\,Hz^{-1}$	
Planck mass	$\sqrt{\hbar c/G_N}$	$1.221\,047(79) \times 10^{19}$ GeV/c^2	uses [2]
		$= 2.176\,71(14) \times 10^{-8}$ kg	
parsec (1 AU/1 arc sec)	pc	$3.085\,677\,580\,7(4) \times 10^{16}$ m = 3.262...ly	[5]
light year (deprecated unit)	ly	$0.306\,6\ldots$ pc $= 0.946\,1\ldots \times 10^{16}$ m	
Schwarzschild radius of the Sun	$2G_N M_\odot/c^2$	2.953 250 08 km	[6]
solar mass	$M_\odot$	$1.988\,92(25) \times 10^{30}$ kg	[7]
solar luminosity	$L_\odot$	3.846×10^{26} W	[8]
solar equatorial radius	$R_\odot$	6.96×10^8 m	[3]
Earth equatorial radius	$R_\oplus$	$6.378\,140 \times 10^6$ m	[3]
Earth mass	$M_\oplus$	$5.973\,70(76) \times 10^{24}$ kg	[9]
luminosity conversion	L	$3.02 \times 10^{28} \times 10^{-0.4\ M_b}$ W	[10]
		(M_b = absolute bolometric magnitude	
		= bolometric magnitude at 10 pc)	
flux conversion	$\mathscr{F}$	$2.52 \times 10^{-8} \times 10^{-0.4\ m_b}$ W m^{-2}	from above
		(m_b = apparent bolometric magnitude)	
$v_\odot$ around center of Galaxy	$\Theta_\circ$	220(20) km s^{-1}	[11]
solar distance from galactic center	$R_\circ$	8.0(5) kpc	[12]
Hubble constant†	H_0	$100\,h_0$ km s^{-1} Mpc^{-1}	
		$= h_0 \times (9.778\,13\ \mathrm{Gyr})^{-1}$	[13]
normalized Hubble constant†	h_0	$0.5 < h_0 < 0.85$	[14,15,16]
critical density of the universe†	$\rho_c = 3H_0^2/8\pi G_N$	$2.775\,366\,27 \times 10^{11}\,h_0^2\ M_\odot \mathrm{Mpc}^{-3}$	
		$= 1.878\,82(24) \times 10^{-29}\,h_0^2$ g cm^{-3}	
		$= 1.053\,94(13) \times 10^{-5}\,h_0^2$ GeV cm^{-3}	
local disk density	ρ_{disk}	3–12 $\times 10^{-24}$ g cm^{-3} $\approx$ 2–7 GeV/c^2 cm^{-3}	[17]
local halo density	ρ_{halo}	2–13 $\times 10^{-25}$ g cm^{-3} $\approx$ 0.1–0.7 GeV/c^2 cm^{-3}	[18]
density parameter of the universe†	$\Omega_0 \equiv \rho_0/\rho_c$	$0.1 < \Omega_0 < 2$	[19]
scaled cosmological constant†	$\lambda_0 = \Lambda c^2/3H_0^2$	$-1 < \lambda_0 < 2$	[20,21]
scale factor for cosmological constant†	$c^2/3H_0^2$	$2.853 \times 10^{51}\,h_0^{-2}$ m^2	
age of the universe†	t_0	15(5) Gyr	[10]
	$\Omega_0 h_0^2$	≤ 2.4 for $t_0 \geq 10$ Gyr	[10]
		≤ 1 for $t_0 \geq 10$ Gyr, $h_0 > 0.4$	[10]
cosmic background radiation (CBR) temperature†	T_0	2.726 ± 0.005 K	[22,23]
solar velocity with respect to CBR		369.5 ± 3.0 km s^{-1}	[23,24]
energy density of CBR	ρ_γ	$4.647\,7 \times 10^{-34}\,(T/2.726)^4$ g cm^{-3}	[10,23]
		$= 0.260\,71\,(T/2.726)^4$ eV cm^{-3}	
number density of CBR photons	n_γ	$410.89\,(T/2.726)^3$ cm^{-3}	[10,23]
entropy density/Boltzmann constant	s/k	$2\,892.4\ (T/2.726)^3$ cm^{-3}	[10]

† Subscript 0 indicates present-day values.

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5. 1 AU divided by $\pi/648\,000$; quoted error is from the JPL Planetary Ephemerides value of the AU [4].
6. Heliocentric gravitational constant from Ref. 3 times $2/c^2$. The given 9-place accuracy appears to be consistent with uncertainties in actually defining the earth's orbital parameters.
7. Obtained from the heliocentric gravitational constant [3] and G_N [2]. The error is the 128 ppm standard deviation quoted for G_N.
8. It is surprisingly difficult to find a definitive value for this important constant. In all cases, the solar luminosity is calculated as $4\pi \times (1\ \mathrm{AU})^2$ times the solar constant (or total solar irradiance, TSI). The luminosity given is reduced from TSI $= 1367.51 \pm 0.01$ W m^{-2}, obtained from SMM/ACRIMI spacecraft measurements during the interval 2/80–6/89 [25]. While the time constant for energy production by the sun is very long, radiation from the surface might be modulated or otherwise modified by sunspots; this has apparently not been taken into account. Accordingly, we quote 4-place accuracy. We do not know the actual error, but suppose it might be 5 or 10 in the last place. Sackmann *et al.* [26] use TSI $= 1370 \pm 2$ W m^{-2}, but conclude that the solar luminosity ($L_\odot = 3.853 \times 10^{26}$ J s^{-1}) has an uncertainty of 1.5%. Their value is based on three 1977–83 papers, and they comment that the error is based on scatter among the reported values, which is substantially in excess of that expected from the individual quoted errors. The conclusion of the 1971 review by Thekaekara and Drummond [27] ($1353 \pm 1\%$ W m^{-2}) is often quoted [28], and a luminosity based on this value was tabulated in the last two editions of this Review. The conversion to luminosity is not given in the Thekaekara and Drummond paper, and we cannot exactly reproduce the solar luminosity given in Ref. 28. Finally, a value based on the 1954 spectral curve due to Johnson [29] ($1395 \pm 1\%$ W m^{-2}, or $L_\odot = 3.92 \times 10^{26}$ J s^{-1}) has been used widely, and may be the basis for higher value of the solar luminosity and corresponding lower value of the solar absolute bolometric magnitude (4.72) still common in the literature [10].
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13. Conversion using length of tropical year.
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15. Kolb and Turner [10] give the more conservative limits $0.4 < h_0 < 1$. For other conclusions, see the recent reviews by Jacoby *et al.* [30], who say "Using the weighted or unweighted Virgo distances to bootstrap to the Coma cluster, we find the Hubble constant to be either 80 ± 11 or 73 ± 11 km s^{-1} Mpc^{-1}, respectively," and Huchra [31], who concludes that "Values are still clustered about two numbers, but these numbers are now 50 and 85. A preponderance of the newest local estimates favors the higher value of 85 km s^{-1} Mpc^{-1}...".
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18. E.I. Gates, G. Gyuk, and M.S. Turner (Astrophys. J. **449**, L133 (1995)) find the local halo density to be $9.2^{+3.8}_{-3.1} \times 10^{-25}$ g cm^{-3}, but also comment that previously published estimates are in the range $1\text{–}10 \times 10^{-25}$ g cm^{-3}.
The value 0.3 GeV/c^2 has been taken as "standard" in several papers setting limits on WIMP mass limits, *e.g.* in M. Mori *et al.*, Phys. Lett. **B289**, 463 (1992).
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