

# 1. PHYSICAL CONSTANTS

## 1. PHYSICAL CONSTANTS

**Table 1.1.** Reviewed 2002 by P.J. Mohr and B.N. Taylor (NIST). Based mainly on the “CODATA Recommended Values of the Fundamental Physical Constants: 1998” by P.J. Mohr and B.N. Taylor, *J. Phys. Chem. Ref. Data* **28**, 1713 (1999) and *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **72**, 351 (2000). The last group of constants (beginning with the Fermi coupling constant) comes from the Particle Data Group. The figures in parentheses after the values give the 1-standard-deviation uncertainties in the last digits; the corresponding fractional uncertainties in parts per  $10^9$  (ppb) are given in the last column. This set of constants (aside from the last group) is recommended for international use by CODATA (the Committee on Data for Science and Technology). The full 1998 CODATA set of constants may be found at <http://physics.nist.gov/constants>

---

## 2 1. *Physical constants*

### $c$                    **speed of light in vacuum**

Value: 299 792 458 m s<sup>-1</sup>

Uncert. (ppb): exact\*

\* The meter is the length of the path traveled by light in vacuum during a time interval of 1/299 792 458 of a second.

### $h$                    **Planck constant**

Value: 6.626 068 76(52) × 10<sup>-34</sup> J s

Uncert. (ppb): 78

### $\hbar \equiv h/2\pi$                    **Planck constant, reduced**

Value: 1.054 571 596(82) × 10<sup>-34</sup> J s

Uncert. (ppb): 78

Value: = 6.582 118 89(26) × 10<sup>-22</sup> MeV s

Uncert. (ppb): 39

### $e$                    **electron charge magnitude**

Value: 1.602 176 462(63) × 10<sup>-19</sup> C = 4.803 204 20(19) × 10<sup>-10</sup> esu

Uncert. (ppb): 39, 39

### $\hbar c$                    **conversion constant**

Value: 197.326 960 2(77) MeV fm

Uncert. (ppb): 39

### $(\hbar c)^2$                    **conversion constant**

Value: 0.389 379 292(30) GeV<sup>2</sup> mbarn

Uncert. (ppb): 78

### $m_e$                    **electron mass**

Value: 0.510 998 902(21) MeV/ $c^2$  = 9.109 381 88(72) × 10<sup>-31</sup> kg

Uncert. (ppb): 40, 79

### $m_p$                    **proton mass**

Value: 938.271 998(38) MeV/ $c^2$  = 1.672 621 58(13) × 10<sup>-27</sup> kg

Uncert. (ppb): 40, 79

Value: = 1.007 276 466 88(13) u = 1836.152 667 5(39)  $m_e$

Uncert. (ppb): 0.13, 2.1

### $m_d$                    **deuteron mass**

Value: 1875.612 762(75) MeV/ $c^2$

Uncert. (ppb): 40

## 1. Physical constants 3

$(\text{mass } ^{12}\text{C atom})/12 = (1 \text{ g})/(N_A \text{ mol})$  **unified atomic mass unit (u)**  
 Value:  $931.494\,013(37) \text{ MeV}/c^2 = 1.660\,538\,73(13) \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$   
 Uncert. (ppb): 40, 79

---

$\epsilon_0 = 1/\mu_0 c^2$  **permittivity of free space**  
 Value:  $8.854\,187\,817 \dots \times 10^{-12} \text{ F m}^{-1}$   
 Uncert. (ppb): exact

$\mu_0$  **permeability of free space**  
 Value:  $4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ N A}^{-2} = 12.566\,370\,614 \dots \times 10^{-7} \text{ N A}^{-2}$   
 Uncert. (ppb): exact

---

$\alpha = e^2/4\pi\epsilon_0\hbar c$  **fine-structure constant**  
 Value:  $7.297\,352\,533(27) \times 10^{-3} = 1/137.035\,999\,76(50)^\dagger$   
 Uncert. (ppb): 3.7, 3.7

$^\dagger$  At  $Q^2 = 0$ . At  $Q^2 \approx m_W^2$  the value is approximately 1/128.

$r_e = e^2/4\pi\epsilon_0 m_e c^2$  **classical electron radius**  
 Value:  $2.817\,940\,285(31) \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}$   
 Uncert. (ppb): 11

$\lambda_e = \hbar/m_e c = r_e \alpha^{-1}$  **( $e^-$  Compton wavelength)/ $2\pi$**   
 Value:  $3.861\,592\,642(28) \times 10^{-13} \text{ m}$   
 Uncert. (ppb): 7.3

$a_\infty = 4\pi\epsilon_0 \hbar^2 / m_e e^2 = r_e \alpha^{-2}$  **Bohr radius ( $m_{\text{nucleus}} = \infty$ )**  
 Value:  $0.529\,177\,208\,3(19) \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}$   
 Uncert. (ppb): 3.7

$hc/(1 \text{ eV})$  **wavelength of 1 eV/c particle**  
 Value:  $1.239\,841\,857(49) \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}$   
 Uncert. (ppb): 39

$hcR_\infty = m_e e^4 / 2(4\pi\epsilon_0)^2 \hbar^2 = m_e c^2 \alpha^2 / 2$  **Rydberg energy**  
 Value:  $13.605\,691\,72(53) \text{ eV}$   
 Uncert. (ppb): 39

$\sigma_T = 8\pi r_e^2 / 3$  **Thomson cross section**  
 Value:  $0.665\,245\,854(15) \text{ barn}$   
 Uncert. (ppb): 22

---

## 4 1. Physical constants

$\mu_B = e\hbar/2m_e$                     **Bohr magneton**  
Value:  $5.788\,381\,749(43)\times 10^{-11}$  MeV T<sup>-1</sup>  
Uncert. (ppb): 7.3

$\mu_N = e\hbar/2m_p$                     **nuclear magneton**  
Value:  $3.152\,451\,238(24)\times 10^{-14}$  MeV T<sup>-1</sup>  
Uncert. (ppb): 7.6

$\omega_{\text{cycl}}^e/B = e/m_e$                     **electron cyclotron freq./field**  
Value:  $1.758\,820\,174(71)\times 10^{11}$  rad s<sup>-1</sup> T<sup>-1</sup>  
Uncert. (ppb): 40

$\omega_{\text{cycl}}^p/B = e/m_p$                     **proton cyclotron freq./field**  
Value:  $9.578\,834\,08(38)\times 10^7$  rad s<sup>-1</sup> T<sup>-1</sup>  
Uncert. (ppb): 40

$G_N$                     **gravitational constant**<sup>‡</sup>  
Value:  $6.673(10)\times 10^{-11}$  m<sup>3</sup> kg<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-2</sup>  
Uncert. (ppb):  $1.5 \times 10^6$

Value: =  $6.707(10)\times 10^{-39}$   $\hbar c$  (GeV/c<sup>2</sup>)<sup>-2</sup>  
Uncert. (ppb):  $1.5 \times 10^6$

<sup>‡</sup> Absolute lab measurements of  $G_N$  have been made only on scales of about 1 cm to 1 m.

$g_n$                     **standard gravitational accel.**  
Value:  $9.806\,65$  m s<sup>-2</sup>  
Uncert. (ppb): exact

$N_A$                     **Avogadro constant**  
Value:  $6.022\,141\,99(47)\times 10^{23}$  mol<sup>-1</sup>  
Uncert. (ppb): 79

$k$                     **Boltzmann constant**  
Value:  $1.380\,650\,3(24)\times 10^{-23}$  J K<sup>-1</sup>  
Uncert. (ppb): 1700

Value: =  $8.617\,342(15)\times 10^{-5}$  eV K<sup>-1</sup>  
Uncert. (ppb): 1700

$N_A k(273.15\text{ K})/(101\,325\text{ Pa})$                     **molar volume, ideal gas at STP**  
Value:  $22.413\,996(39)\times 10^{-3}$  m<sup>3</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup>  
Uncert. (ppb): 1700

$b = \lambda_{\max} T$                       **Wien displacement law constant**  
 Value:  $2.897\,768\,6(51) \times 10^{-3}$  m K  
 Uncert. (ppb): 1700

$\sigma = \pi^2 k^4 / 60 \hbar^3 c^2$                       **Stefan-Boltzmann constant**  
 Value:  $5.670\,400(40) \times 10^{-8}$  W m<sup>-2</sup> K<sup>-4</sup>  
 Uncert. (ppb): 7000

---

$G_F / (\hbar c)^3$                       **Fermi coupling constant\*\***  
 Value:  $1.166\,39(1) \times 10^{-5}$  GeV<sup>-2</sup>  
 Uncert. (ppb): 9000

\*\* See the discussion in Sec. 10, “Electroweak model and constraints on new physics.”

$\sin^2 \hat{\theta}(M_Z) (\overline{\text{MS}})$                       **weak-mixing angle**  
 Value:  $0.23113(15)^{\dagger\dagger}$   
 Uncert. (ppb):  $6.5 \times 10^5$

<sup>††</sup> The corresponding  $\sin^2 \theta$  for the effective angle is  $0.23143(15)$ .

$m_W$                        **$W^\pm$  boson mass**  
 Value:  $80.423(39)$  GeV/ $c^2$   
 Uncert. (ppb):  $4.8 \times 10^5$

$m_Z$                        **$Z^0$  boson mass**  
 Value:  $91.1876(21)$  GeV/ $c^2$   
 Uncert. (ppb):  $2.3 \times 10^4$

$\alpha_s(m_Z)$                       **strong coupling constant**  
 Value:  $0.1172(20)$   
 Uncert. (ppb):  $1.7 \times 10^7$

---

## 6 1. *Physical constants*

$$\pi = 3.141\ 592\ 653\ 589\ 793\ 238$$

$$e = 2.718\ 281\ 828\ 459\ 045\ 235$$

$$\gamma = 0.577\ 215\ 664\ 901\ 532\ 861$$

---

$$1\ \text{in} \equiv 0.0254\ \text{m}$$

$$1\ \text{\AA} \equiv 0.1\ \text{nm}$$

$$1\ \text{barn} \equiv 10^{-28}\ \text{m}^2$$

$$1\ \text{G} \equiv 10^{-4}\ \text{T}$$

$$1\ \text{dyne} \equiv 10^{-5}\ \text{N}$$

$$1\ \text{erg} \equiv 10^{-7}\ \text{J}$$

$$1\ \text{eV} = 1.602\ 176\ 462(63) \times 10^{-19}\ \text{J}$$

$$1\ \text{eV}/c^2 = 1.782\ 661\ 731(70) \times 10^{-36}\ \text{kg}$$

$$2.997\ 924\ 58 \times 10^9\ \text{esu} = 1\ \text{C}$$

$$kT\ \text{at}\ 300\ \text{K} = [38.681\ 686(67)]^{-1}\ \text{eV}$$

$$0\ \text{°C} \equiv 273.15\ \text{K}$$

$$1\ \text{atmosphere} \equiv 760\ \text{Torr} \equiv 101\ 325\ \text{Pa}$$

---