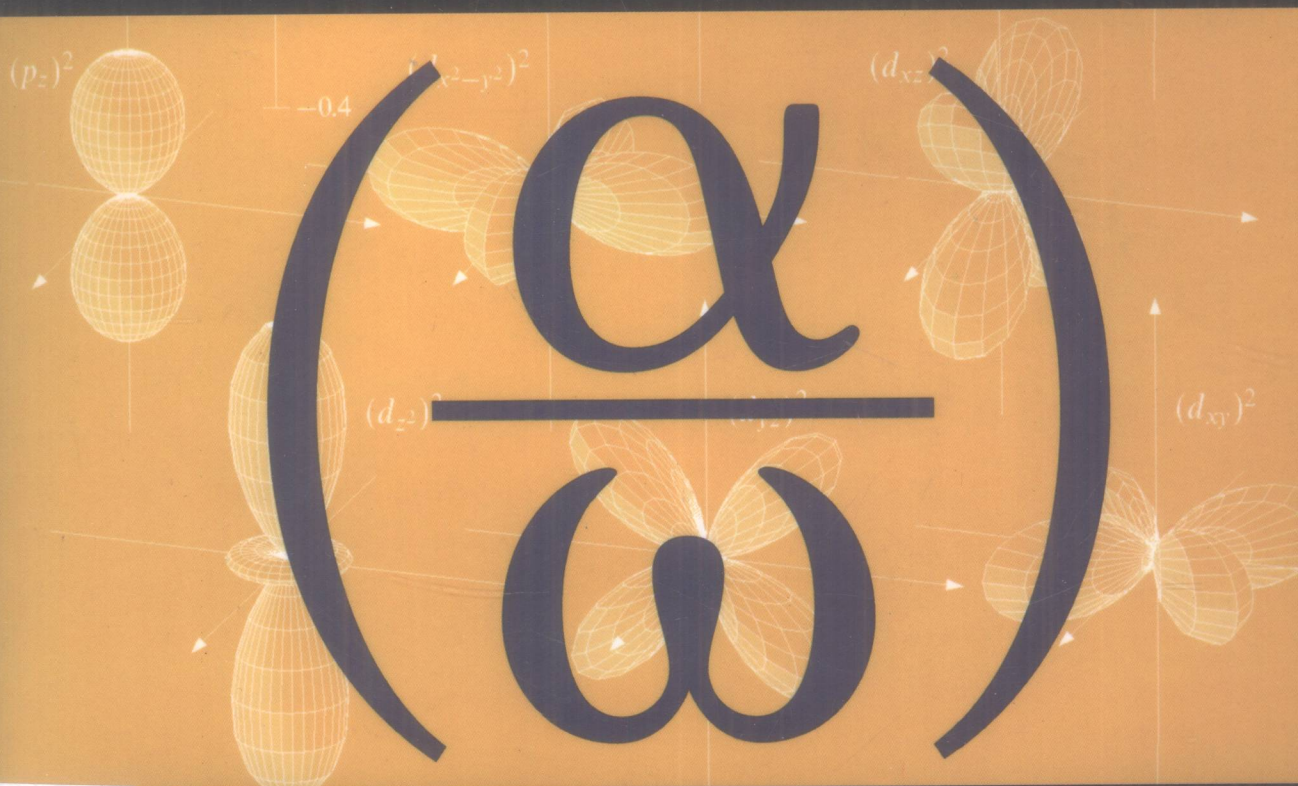


Graham Woan

THE CAMBRIDGE HANDBOOK OF PHYSICS FORMULAS

剑桥物理公式手册



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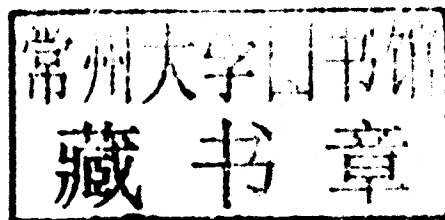
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The Cambridge Handbook of Physics Formulas

2003 Edition

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The Cambridge Handbook of Physics Formulas

The Cambridge Handbook of Physics Formulas is a quick-reference aid for students and professionals in the physical sciences and engineering. It contains more than 2000 of the most useful formulas and equations found in undergraduate physics courses, covering mathematics, dynamics and mechanics, quantum physics, thermodynamics, solid state physics, electromagnetism, optics, and astrophysics. An exhaustive index allows the required formulas to be located swiftly and simply, and the unique tabular format crisply identifies all the variables involved.

The Cambridge Handbook of Physics Formulas comprehensively covers the major topics explored in undergraduate physics courses. It is designed to be a compact, portable, reference book suitable for everyday work, problem solving, or exam revision. All students and professionals in physics, applied mathematics, engineering, and other physical sciences will want to have this essential reference book within easy reach.

Graham Woan is a senior lecturer in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Glasgow. Prior to this he taught physics at the University of Cambridge where he also received his degree in Natural Sciences, specialising in physics, and his PhD, in radio astronomy. His research interests range widely with a special focus on low-frequency radio astronomy. His publications span journals as diverse as *Astronomy & Astrophysics*, *Geophysical Research Letters*, *Advances in Space Science*, the *Journal of Navigation* and *Emergency Prehospital Medicine*. He was co-developer of the revolutionary CURSOR radio positioning system, which uses existing broadcast transmitters to determine position, and he is the designer of the Glasgow Millennium Sundial.

Preface

In *A Brief History of Time*, Stephen Hawking relates that he was warned against including equations in the book because “each equation... would halve the sales.” Despite this dire prediction there is, for a scientific audience, some attraction in doing the exact opposite.

The reader should not be misled by this exercise. Although the equations and formulas contained here underpin a good deal of physical science they are useless unless the reader *understands* them. Learning physics is not about remembering equations, it is about appreciating the natural structures they express. Although its format should help make some topics clearer, this book is not designed to teach new physics; there are many excellent textbooks to help with that. It is intended to be useful rather than pedagogically complete, so that students can use it for revision and for structuring their knowledge *once they understand the physics*. More advanced users will benefit from having a compact, internally consistent, source of equations that can quickly deliver the relationship they require in a format that avoids the need to sift through pages of rubric.

Some difficult decisions have had to be made to achieve this. First, to be short the book only includes ideas that can be expressed succinctly in equations, without resorting to lengthy explanation. A small number of important topics are therefore absent. For example, Liouville’s theorem can be algebraically succinct ($\dot{q} = 0$) but is meaningless unless \dot{q} is thoroughly (and carefully) explained. Anyone who already understands what \dot{q} represents will probably not need reminding that it equals zero. Second, empirical equations with numerical coefficients have been largely omitted, as have topics significantly more advanced than are found at undergraduate level. There are simply too many of these to be sensibly and confidently edited into a short handbook. Third, physical data are largely absent, although a periodic table, tables of physical constants, and data on the solar system are all included. Just a sighting of the marvellous (but dimensionally misnamed) *CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics* should be enough to convince the reader that a good science data book is thick.

Inevitably there is personal choice in what should or should not be included, and you may feel that an equation that meets the above criteria is missing. If this is the case, I would be delighted to hear from you so it can be considered for a subsequent edition. Contact details are at the end of this preface. Likewise, if you spot an error or an inconsistency then please let me know and I will post an erratum on the web page.

Acknowledgments This venture is founded on the generosity of colleagues in Glasgow and Cambridge whose inputs have strongly influenced the final product. The expertise of Dave Clarke, Declan Diver, Peter Duffett-Smith, Wolf-Gerrit Früh, Martin Hendry, Rico Ignace, David Ireland, John Simmons, and Harry Ward have been central to its production, as have the linguistic skills of Katie Lowe. I would also like to thank Richard Barrett, Matthew Cartmell, Steve Gull, Martin Hendry, Jim Hough, Darren McDonald, and Ken Riley who all agreed to field-test the book and gave invaluable feedback.

My greatest thanks though are to John Shakeshaft who, with remarkable knowledge and skill, worked through the entire manuscript more than once during its production and whose legendary red pen hovered over (or descended upon) every equation in the book. What errors remain are, of course, my own, but I take comfort from the fact that without John they would be much more numerous.

Contact information A website containing up-to-date information on this handbook and contact details can be found through the Cambridge University Press web pages at us.cambridge.org (North America) or uk.cambridge.org (United Kingdom), or directly at radio.astro.gla.ac.uk/hbhome.html.

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Comments on the 2003 edition I am grateful to all those who have suggested improvements, in particular Martin Hendry, Wolfgang Jitschin, and Joseph Katz. Although this edition contains only minor revisions to the original its production was also an opportunity to update the physical constants and periodic table entries and to reflect recent developments in cosmology.

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How to use this book

The format is largely self-explanatory, but a few comments may be helpful. Although it is very tempting to flick through the pages to find what you are looking for, the best starting point is the index. I have tried to make this as extensive as possible, and many equations are indexed more than once. Equations are listed both with their equation number (in square brackets) and the page on which they can be found. The equations themselves are grouped into self-contained and boxed “panels” on the pages. Each panel represents a separate topic, and you will find descriptions of all the variables used at the right-hand side of the panel, usually adjacent to the first equation in which they are used. You should therefore not need to stray outside the panel to understand the notation. Both the panel as a whole and its individual entries may have footnotes, shown below the panel. Be aware of these, as they contain important additional information and conditions relevant to the topic.

Although the panels are self-contained they may use concepts defined elsewhere in the handbook. Often these are cross-referenced, but again the index will help you to locate them if necessary. Notations and definitions are uniform over subject areas unless stated otherwise.

Chapter 1 Units, constants, and conversions

1.1 Introduction

The determination of physical constants and the definition of the units with which they are measured is a specialised and, to many, hidden branch of science.

A quantity with dimensions is one whose value must be expressed relative to one or more standard units. In the spirit of the rest of the book, this section is based around the International System of units (SI). This system uses seven base units¹ (the number is somewhat arbitrary), such as the kilogram and the second, and defines their magnitudes in terms of physical laws or, in the case of the kilogram, an object called the "international prototype of the kilogram" kept in Paris. For convenience there are also a number of derived standards, such as the volt, which are defined as set combinations of the basic seven. Most of the physical observables we regard as being in some sense fundamental, such as the charge on an electron, are now known to a relative standard uncertainty,² u_r , of less than 10^{-7} . The least well determined is the Newtonian constant of gravitation, presently standing at a rather lamentable u_r of 1.5×10^{-3} , and the best is the Rydberg constant ($u_r = 7.6 \times 10^{-12}$). The dimensionless electron g -factor, representing twice the magnetic moment of an electron measured in Bohr magnetons, is now known to a relative uncertainty of only 4.1×10^{-12} .

No matter which base units are used, physical quantities are expressed as the product of a numerical value and a unit. These two components have more-or-less equal standing and can be manipulated by following the usual rules of algebra. So, if $1 \text{ eV} = 160.218 \times 10^{-21} \text{ J}$ then $1 \text{ J} = [1/(160.218 \times 10^{-21})] \text{ eV}$. A measurement of energy, U , with joule as the unit has a numerical value of U/J . The same measurement with electron volt as the unit has a numerical value of $U/\text{eV} = (U/\text{J}) \cdot (\text{J}/\text{eV})$ and so on.

¹The **metre** is the length of the path travelled by light in vacuum during a time interval of $1/299\,792\,458$ of a second. The **kilogram** is the unit of mass; it is equal to the mass of the international prototype of the kilogram. The **second** is the duration of $9\,192\,631\,770$ periods of the radiation corresponding to the transition between the two hyperfine levels of the ground state of the caesium 133 atom. The **ampere** is that constant current which, if maintained in two straight parallel conductors of infinite length, of negligible circular cross-section, and placed 1 metre apart in vacuum, would produce between these conductors a force equal to 2×10^{-7} newton per metre of length. The **kelvin**, unit of thermodynamic temperature, is the fraction $1/273.16$ of the thermodynamic temperature of the triple point of water. The **mole** is the amount of substance of a system which contains as many elementary entities as there are atoms in 0.012 kilogram of carbon 12; its symbol is "mol." When the mole is used, the elementary entities must be specified and may be atoms, molecules, ions, electrons, other particles, or specified groups of such particles. The **candela** is the luminous intensity, in a given direction, of a source that emits monochromatic radiation of frequency 540×10^{12} hertz and that has a radiant intensity in that direction of $1/683$ watt per steradian.

²The relative standard uncertainty in x is defined as the estimated standard deviation in x divided by the modulus of x ($x \neq 0$).

1.2 SI units

SI base units

<i>physical quantity</i>	<i>name</i>	<i>symbol</i>
length	metre ^a	m
mass	kilogram	kg
time interval	second	s
electric current	ampere	A
thermodynamic temperature	kelvin	K
amount of substance	mole	mol
luminous intensity	candela	cd

^aOr "meter".

SI derived units

<i>physical quantity</i>	<i>name</i>	<i>symbol</i>	<i>equivalent units</i>
catalytic activity	katal	kat	mol s ⁻¹
electric capacitance	farad	F	C V ⁻¹
electric charge	coulomb	C	A s
electric conductance	siemens	S	Ω ⁻¹
electric potential difference	volt	V	J C ⁻¹
electric resistance	ohm	Ω	V A ⁻¹
energy, work, heat	joule	J	N m
force	newton	N	m kg s ⁻²
frequency	hertz	Hz	s ⁻¹
illuminance	lux	lx	cd sr m ⁻²
inductance	henry	H	V A ⁻¹ s
luminous flux	lumen	lm	cd sr
magnetic flux	weber	Wb	V s
magnetic flux density	tesla	T	V s m ⁻²
plane angle	radian	rad	m m ⁻¹
power, radiant flux	watt	W	J s ⁻¹
pressure, stress	pascal	Pa	N m ⁻²
radiation absorbed dose	gray	Gy	J kg ⁻¹
radiation dose equivalent ^a	sievert	Sv	[J kg ⁻¹]
radioactive activity	becquerel	Bq	s ⁻¹
solid angle	steradian	sr	m ² m ⁻²
temperature ^b	degree Celsius	°C	K

^aTo distinguish it from the gray, units of J kg⁻¹ should not be used for the sievert in practice.

^bThe Celsius temperature, T_C , is defined from the temperature in kelvin, T_K , by $T_C = T_K - 273.15$.

SI prefixes^a

<i>factor</i>	<i>prefix</i>	<i>symbol</i>	<i>factor</i>	<i>prefix</i>	<i>symbol</i>
10 ²⁴	yotta	Y	10 ⁻²⁴	yocto	y
10 ²¹	zetta	Z	10 ⁻²¹	zepto	z
10 ¹⁸	exa	E	10 ⁻¹⁸	atto	a
10 ¹⁵	peta	P	10 ⁻¹⁵	femto	f
10 ¹²	tera	T	10 ⁻¹²	pico	p
10 ⁹	giga	G	10 ⁻⁹	nano	n
10 ⁶	mega	M	10 ⁻⁶	micro	μ
10 ³	kilo	k	10 ⁻³	milli	m
10 ²	hecto	h	10 ⁻²	centi	c
10 ¹	deca ^b	da	10 ⁻¹	deci	d

^aThe kilogram is the only SI unit with a prefix embedded in its name and symbol. For mass, the unit name “gram” and unit symbol “g” should be used with these prefixes, hence 10⁻⁶ kg can be written as 1 mg. Otherwise, any prefix can be applied to any SI unit.

^bOr “deka”.

Recognised non-SI units

<i>physical quantity</i>	<i>name</i>	<i>symbol</i>	<i>SI value</i>
area	barn	b	10 ⁻²⁸ m ²
energy	electron volt	eV	≈ 1.602 18 × 10 ⁻¹⁹ J
length	ångström	Å	10 ⁻¹⁰ m
	fermi ^a	fm	10 ⁻¹⁵ m
	micron ^a	μm	10 ⁻⁶ m
plane angle	degree	°	(π/180) rad
	arcminute	'	(π/10 800) rad
	arcsecond	"	(π/648 000) rad
pressure	bar	bar	10 ⁵ N m ⁻²
time	minute	min	60 s
	hour	h	3 600 s
	day	d	86 400 s
mass	unified atomic mass unit	u	≈ 1.660 54 × 10 ⁻²⁷ kg
	tonne ^{a,b}	t	10 ³ kg
volume	litre ^c	l, L	10 ⁻³ m ³

^aThese are non-SI names for SI quantities.

^bOr “metric ton.”

^cOr “liter”. The symbol “l” should be avoided.

1.3 Physical constants

The following 1998 CODATA recommended values for the fundamental physical constants can also be found on the Web at physics.nist.gov/constants. Detailed background information is available in *Reviews of Modern Physics*, Vol. 72, No. 2, pp. 351–495, April 2000.

The digits in parentheses represent the 1σ uncertainty in the previous two quoted digits. For example, $G = (6.673 \pm 0.010) \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^3 \text{ kg}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-2}$. It is important to note that the uncertainties for many of the listed quantities are correlated, so that the uncertainty in any expression using them in combination cannot necessarily be computed from the data presented. Suitable covariance values are available in the above references.

Summary of physical constants

speed of light in vacuum ^a	c	2.997 924 58	$\times 10^8 \text{ m s}^{-1}$
permeability of vacuum ^b	μ_0	4π $=12.566 370 614 \dots$	$\times 10^{-7} \text{ H m}^{-1}$ $\times 10^{-7} \text{ H m}^{-1}$
permittivity of vacuum	ϵ_0	$1/(\mu_0 c^2)$ $=8.854 187 817 \dots$	F m^{-1} $\times 10^{-12} \text{ F m}^{-1}$
constant of gravitation ^c	G	6.673(10)	$\times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^3 \text{ kg}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-2}$
Planck constant	h	6.626 068 76(52)	$\times 10^{-34} \text{ J s}$
$\hbar/(2\pi)$	\hbar	1.054 571 596(82)	$\times 10^{-34} \text{ J s}$
elementary charge	e	1.602 176 462(63)	$\times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$
magnetic flux quantum, $h/(2e)$	Φ_0	2.067 833 636(81)	$\times 10^{-15} \text{ Wb}$
electron volt	eV	1.602 176 462(63)	$\times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$
electron mass	m_e	9.109 381 88(72)	$\times 10^{-31} \text{ kg}$
proton mass	m_p	1.672 621 58(13)	$\times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$
proton/electron mass ratio	m_p/m_e	1 836.152 667 5(39)	
unified atomic mass unit	u	1.660 538 73(13)	$\times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$
fine-structure constant, $\mu_0 ce^2/(2h)$	α	7.297 352 533(27)	$\times 10^{-3}$
inverse	$1/\alpha$	137.035 999 76(50)	
Rydberg constant, $m_e c \alpha^2/(2h)$	R_∞	1.097 373 156 854 9(83)	$\times 10^7 \text{ m}^{-1}$
Avogadro constant	N_A	6.022 141 99(47)	$\times 10^{23} \text{ mol}^{-1}$
Faraday constant, $N_A e$	F	9.648 534 15(39)	$\times 10^4 \text{ C mol}^{-1}$
molar gas constant	R	8.314 472(15)	$\text{J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$
Boltzmann constant, R/N_A	k	1.380 650 3(24)	$\times 10^{-23} \text{ J K}^{-1}$
Stefan–Boltzmann constant, $\pi^2 k^4/(60 \hbar^3 c^2)$	σ	5.670 400(40)	$\times 10^{-8} \text{ W m}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-4}$
Bohr magneton, $e \hbar/(2m_e)$	μ_B	9.274 008 99(37)	$\times 10^{-24} \text{ J T}^{-1}$

^aBy definition, the speed of light is exact.

^bAlso exact, by definition. Alternative units are N A^{-2} .

^cThe standard acceleration due to gravity, g , is defined as exactly $9.806 65 \text{ m s}^{-2}$.

General constants

speed of light in vacuum	c	2.997 924 58	$\times 10^8 \text{ m s}^{-1}$
permeability of vacuum	μ_0	4π $=12.566\,370\,614\dots$	$\times 10^{-7} \text{ H m}^{-1}$ $\times 10^{-7} \text{ H m}^{-1}$
permittivity of vacuum	ϵ_0	$1/(\mu_0 c^2)$ $=8.854\,187\,817\dots$	F m^{-1} $\times 10^{-12} \text{ F m}^{-1}$
impedance of free space	Z_0	$\mu_0 c$ $=376.730\,313\,461\dots$	Ω Ω
constant of gravitation	G	6.673(10)	$\times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^3 \text{ kg}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-2}$
Planck constant	h	6.626 068 76(52)	$\times 10^{-34} \text{ J s}$
in eV s		4.135 667 27(16)	$\times 10^{-15} \text{ eV s}$
$h/(2\pi)$	\hbar	1.054 571 596(82)	$\times 10^{-34} \text{ J s}$
in eV s		6.582 118 89(26)	$\times 10^{-16} \text{ eV s}$
Planck mass, $(\hbar c/G)^{1/2}$	m_{Pl}	2.176 7(16)	$\times 10^{-8} \text{ kg}$
Planck length, $\hbar/(m_{\text{Pl}} c) = (\hbar G/c^3)^{1/2}$	l_{Pl}	1.616 0(12)	$\times 10^{-35} \text{ m}$
Planck time, $l_{\text{Pl}}/c = (\hbar G/c^5)^{1/2}$	t_{Pl}	5.390 6(40)	$\times 10^{-44} \text{ s}$
elementary charge	e	1.602 176 462(63)	$\times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$
magnetic flux quantum, $h/(2e)$	Φ_0	2.067 833 636(81)	$\times 10^{-15} \text{ Wb}$
Josephson frequency/voltage ratio	$2e/h$	4.835 978 98(19)	$\times 10^{14} \text{ Hz V}^{-1}$
Bohr magneton, $e\hbar/(2m_e)$	μ_{B}	9.274 008 99(37)	$\times 10^{-24} \text{ J T}^{-1}$
in eV T ⁻¹		5.788 381 749(43)	$\times 10^{-5} \text{ eV T}^{-1}$
μ_{B}/k		0.671 713 1(12)	K T^{-1}
nuclear magneton, $e\hbar/(2m_p)$	μ_{N}	5.050 783 17(20)	$\times 10^{-27} \text{ J T}^{-1}$
in eV T ⁻¹		3.152 451 238(24)	$\times 10^{-8} \text{ eV T}^{-1}$
μ_{N}/k		3.658 263 8(64)	$\times 10^{-4} \text{ K T}^{-1}$
Zeeman splitting constant	$\mu_{\text{B}}/(hc)$	46.686 452 1(19)	$\text{m}^{-1} \text{ T}^{-1}$

Atomic constants^a

fine-structure constant, $\mu_0 c e^2/(2h)$	α	7.297 352 533(27)	$\times 10^{-3}$
inverse	$1/\alpha$	137.035 999 76(50)	
Rydberg constant, $m_e c \alpha^2/(2h)$	R_∞	1.097 373 156 854 9(83)	$\times 10^7 \text{ m}^{-1}$
$R_\infty c$		3.289 841 960 368(25)	$\times 10^{15} \text{ Hz}$
$R_\infty hc$		2.179 871 90(17)	$\times 10^{-18} \text{ J}$
$R_\infty hc/e$		13.605 691 72(53)	eV
Bohr radius ^b , $\alpha/(4\pi R_\infty)$	a_0	5.291 772 083(19)	$\times 10^{-11} \text{ m}$

^aSee also the Bohr model on page 95.^bFixed nucleus.

Electron constants

electron mass	m_e	9.109 381 88(72)	$\times 10^{-31}$ kg
in MeV		0.510 998 902(21)	MeV
electron/proton mass ratio	m_e/m_p	5.446 170 232(12)	$\times 10^{-4}$
electron charge	$-e$	-1.602 176 462(63)	$\times 10^{-19}$ C
electron specific charge	$-e/m_e$	-1.758 820 174(71)	$\times 10^{11}$ C kg $^{-1}$
electron molar mass, $N_A m_e$	M_e	5.485 799 110(12)	$\times 10^{-7}$ kg mol $^{-1}$
Compton wavelength, $h/(m_e c)$	λ_C	2.426 310 215(18)	$\times 10^{-12}$ m
classical electron radius, $\alpha^2 a_0$	r_e	2.817 940 285(31)	$\times 10^{-15}$ m
Thomson cross section, $(8\pi/3)r_e^2$	σ_T	6.652 458 54(15)	$\times 10^{-29}$ m 2
electron magnetic moment	μ_e	-9.284 763 62(37)	$\times 10^{-24}$ J T $^{-1}$
in Bohr magnetons, μ_e/μ_B		-1.001 159 652 186 9(41)	
in nuclear magnetons, μ_e/μ_N		-1 838.281 966 0(39)	
electron gyromagnetic ratio, $2 \mu_e /\hbar$	γ_e	1.760 859 794(71)	$\times 10^{11}$ s $^{-1}$ T $^{-1}$
electron g-factor, $2\mu_e/\mu_B$	g_e	-2.002 319 304 3737(82)	

Proton constants

proton mass	m_p	1.672 621 58(13)	$\times 10^{-27}$ kg
in MeV		938.271 998(38)	MeV
proton/electron mass ratio	m_p/m_e	1 836.152 667 5(39)	
proton charge	e	1.602 176 462(63)	$\times 10^{-19}$ C
proton specific charge	e/m_p	9.578 834 08(38)	$\times 10^7$ C kg $^{-1}$
proton molar mass, $N_A m_p$	M_p	1.007 276 466 88(13)	$\times 10^{-3}$ kg mol $^{-1}$
proton Compton wavelength, $h/(m_p c)$	$\lambda_{C,p}$	1.321 409 847(10)	$\times 10^{-15}$ m
proton magnetic moment	μ_p	1.410 606 633(58)	$\times 10^{-26}$ J T $^{-1}$
in Bohr magnetons, μ_p/μ_B		1.521 032 203(15)	$\times 10^{-3}$
in nuclear magnetons, μ_p/μ_N		2.792 847 337(29)	
proton gyromagnetic ratio, $2\mu_p/\hbar$	γ_p	2.675 222 12(11)	$\times 10^8$ s $^{-1}$ T $^{-1}$

Neutron constants

neutron mass	m_n	1.674 927 16(13)	$\times 10^{-27}$ kg
in MeV		939.565 330(38)	MeV
neutron/electron mass ratio	m_n/m_e	1 838.683 655 0(40)	
neutron/proton mass ratio	m_n/m_p	1.001 378 418 87(58)	
neutron molar mass, $N_A m_n$	M_n	1.008 664 915 78(55)	$\times 10^{-3}$ kg mol $^{-1}$
neutron Compton wavelength, $h/(m_n c)$	$\lambda_{C,n}$	1.319 590 898(10)	$\times 10^{-15}$ m
neutron magnetic moment	μ_n	-9.662 364 0(23)	$\times 10^{-27}$ J T $^{-1}$
in Bohr magnetons	μ_n/μ_B	-1.041 875 63(25)	$\times 10^{-3}$
in nuclear magnetons	μ_n/μ_N	-1.913 042 72(45)	
neutron gyromagnetic ratio, $2 \mu_n /\hbar$	γ_n	1.832 471 88(44)	$\times 10^8$ s $^{-1}$ T $^{-1}$