

Units

SI units: International system of units (French: “SI” means “Système Internationale”)

The seven SI base units are:

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|-----------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mass: | kg | Defined by the prototype “standard kilogram” located in Paris. The standard kilogram is made of Pt metal. |
| Length: | m | Originally defined by the prototype “standard meter” located in Paris. Then defined as 1,650,763.73 wavelengths of the orange-red radiation of Krypton ⁸⁶ under certain specified conditions. (<i>Official definition:</i> The distance traveled by light in vacuum during a time interval of $1 / 299\,792\,458$ of a second) |
| Time: | s | The second is defined as the duration of a certain number of oscillations of radiation coming from Cs atoms. (<i>Official definition:</i> The second is the duration of 9,192,631,770 periods of the radiation of the hyperfine-level transition of the ground state of the Cs ¹³³ atom) |
| Current: | A | Defined as the current that causes a certain force between two parallel wires. (<i>Official definition:</i> 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 meter apart in vacuum, would produce between these conductors a force equal to 2×10^{-7} Newton per meter of length. |
| Temperature: | K | One percent of the temperature difference between boiling point and freezing point of water. (<i>Official definition:</i> The Kelvin, unit of thermodynamic temperature, is the fraction $1 / 273.16$ of the thermodynamic temperature of the triple point of water. |
| Amount of substance: | mol | The amount of a substance that contains Avogadro’s number $N_{\text{Avo}} = 6.0221 \times 10^{23}$ of atoms or molecules. (<i>Official definition:</i> The mole is the amount of substance of a system which contains as many elementary entities as there are atoms in 12 grams of C ¹² . 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) |
| Luminous intensity: | cd | The candela was defined as the luminous intensity of one candle with standardized dimensions and construction. (<i>Official definition:</i> 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) |

Some SI-derived units and useful conversions

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|----------------------------|---------|---|----------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Force | Newton | = | N | = | kg m / s ² |
| Mechanical energy and work | Joule | = | J | = | N m = kg (m / s ²) m = kg m ² / s ² |
| Electrical energy and work | Joule | = | J | = | C V = V A s |
| Power | Watt | = | W | = | J / s = V A |
| Voltage | Volt | = | V | = | W / A |
| Capacitance | Faraday | = | F | = | C / V |
| Resistance | Ohm | = | Ω | = | V / A |
| The “electron Volt” | eV | = | eV | = | 1.602×10^{-19} CV where $e = 1.602 \times 10^{-19}$ C |

Work with units: Always “carry along” units. If units in an equation do not work out, it is erroneous.