



## POWERS OF TEN & SCIENTIFIC NOTATION

|                     |                     |       |    |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------|----|---------------------------|
| 1000000000000000000 | $10^{18}$           | exa   | E  | one quintillion           |
| 100000000000000000  | $10^{17}$           |       |    | one hundred quadrillion   |
| 100000000000000000  | $10^{16}$           |       |    | ten quadrillion           |
| 10000000000000000   | $10^{15}$           | peta  | P  | one quadrillion           |
| 1000000000000000    | $10^{14}$           |       |    | one hundred trillion      |
| 100000000000000     | $10^{13}$           |       |    | ten trillion              |
| 10000000000000      | $10^{12}$           | tera  | T  | one trillion              |
| 1000000000000       | $10^{11}$           |       |    | one hundred billion       |
| 100000000000        | $10^{10}$           |       |    | ten billion               |
| 10000000000         | $10^9$              | giga  | G  | one billion               |
| 1000000000          | $10^8$              |       |    | one hundred million       |
| 100000000           | $10^7$              |       |    | ten million               |
| 10000000            | $10^6$              | mega  | M  | one million               |
| 1000000             | $10^5$              |       |    | one hundred thousand      |
| 100000              | $10^4$              |       |    | ten thousand              |
| 10000               | $10^3$              | kilo  | k  | one thousand              |
| 1000                | $10^2$              | hecto | h  | one hundred               |
| 100                 | $10^1$              | deca  | da | ten                       |
| 10                  | $10^0$              |       |    | one                       |
| 1                   | $10^{-1}$           | deci  | d  | one tenth                 |
| $10^{-1}$           | .1                  | centi | c  | one hundredth             |
| $10^{-2}$           | .01                 | milli | m  | one thousandth            |
| $10^{-3}$           | .001                |       |    | one ten thousandth        |
| $10^{-4}$           | .0001               |       |    | one hundred thousandth    |
| $10^{-5}$           | .00001              | micro | m  | one millionth             |
| $10^{-6}$           | .000001             |       |    | one ten millionth         |
| $10^{-7}$           | .0000001            |       |    | one hundred millionth     |
| $10^{-8}$           | .00000001           | nano  | n  | one billionth             |
| $10^{-9}$           | .000000001          |       |    | one ten billionth         |
| $10^{-10}$          | .0000000001         |       |    | one hundred billionth     |
| $10^{-11}$          | .00000000001        | pico  | p  | one trillionth            |
| $10^{-12}$          | .000000000001       |       |    | one ten trillionth        |
| $10^{-13}$          | .0000000000001      |       |    | one hundred trillionth    |
| $10^{-14}$          | .00000000000001     | femto | f  | one quadrillionth         |
| $10^{-15}$          | .000000000000001    |       |    | one ten quadrillionth     |
| $10^{-16}$          | .0000000000000001   |       |    | one hundred quadrillionth |
| $10^{-17}$          | .00000000000000001  | atto  | a  | one quintillionth         |
| $10^{-18}$          | .000000000000000001 |       |    |                           |

### SCIENTIFIC NOTATION — Here's how to do it:

- Move the decimal point of the original number so that it is to the right of the first [left] non-zero digit.
- Rewrite this first part of the number keeping in mind significant digits.
- Count how many places you moved the decimal point.
- Put this number as the exponent of 10 in the new multiplier.
- Rewrite the whole thing.

|                             |   |                        |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------|
| 149,600,000,000             | = | $1.496 \times 10^{11}$ |
| 0.0000000000000000000000021 | = | $2.1 \times 10^{-24}$  |
| 57,010                      | = | $5.701 \times 10^4$    |
| 3,333,330                   | = | $3.33333 \times 10^6$  |
| 0.567                       | = | $5.56 \times 10^{-1}$  |
| 0.00034                     | = | $3.4 \times 10^{-4}$   |

## SCIENTIFIC NOTATION

When you use the word astronomical to describe something, it means BIG! And for good reason; things in astronomy are big. Take for instance the average distance between the Sun and the Earth - 149,600,000,000 meters. It is a fairly clumsy number to have to use in calculations. Instead, scientists have a short hand way of writing and using really big numbers, called [oddly enough] scientific notation. The Sun-Earth distance could then be written as  $1.496 \times 10^{11}$  meters. This is easier than writing out all those zeros [less chance for error].

The same principle works with really small numbers. These are decimal numbers [numbers that are less than 1 but greater than 0]. In this case the exponent of 10 will be a negative number, to indicate that the decimal point is moved in the other direction. Try this one - the density of gas in interstellar space is  $0.000000000000000000000000021 \text{ g/cm}^3$ . Could you imagine having to work with that?

|                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| $149,600,000,000$               | $= 1.496 \times 10^{11}$ |
| $0.000000000000000000000000021$ | $= 2.1 \times 10^{-24}$  |

Here's how to do it:

|  | Example 1                                | Example 2                               |
|--|--|---|
| Recognize where the decimal point is in the number. The decimal point of any whole number is to the right of the number. | <b>149600000000.</b>                     | <b>0.000000000000000000000000021</b>    |
| Move the decimal point so that it is to the right of the first [left] non-zero digit                                     | <b>1.49600000000</b>                     | <b>000000000000000000000000021.</b>     |
| Rewrite this first part to the number of significant digits you want. [See SIG FIGURES]                                  | <b>1.496</b>                             | <b>2.1</b>                              |
| Count how many places you moved the decimal point.   | <b>11 places to the left</b>             | <b>24 places to the right</b>           |
| Put this number as the exponent of 10 in the new multiplier.   | <b><math>\times 10^{11}</math></b>       | <b><math>\times 10^{-24}</math></b>     |
| Rewrite the whole thing.   | <b><math>1.496 \times 10^{11}</math></b> | <b><math>2.1 \times 10^{-24}</math></b> |

### MULTIPLYING OR DIVIDING BY 10

|                  |     |         |
|------------------|-----|---------|
| $67 \times 10$   | $=$ | $670$   |
| $67 \times 1000$ | $=$ | $67000$ |
| $67 / 10$        | $=$ | $6.7$   |
| $67 / 1000$      | $=$ | $0.067$ |



## UNITS

You must always make sure your units match - in other words, don't use miles and kilometers in the same problem.

### CONVERT MISMATCHED UNITS FIRST!!!

#### LENGTH

1 m = 100 cm =  $10^{-3}$  km = 1000 mm  
 = 1.0936 yd = 3.281 ft = 39.37 in  
 1 in = 2.54 cm  
 1 ft = 12 in = 30.48 cm  
 1 yd = 3 ft = 91.44 cm  
 1 mi = 1.6093 km  
 1 km = 0.6215 mi

#### WAVELENGTH

1 nm =  $10^{-9}$  meter  
 1 Å =  $10^{-10}$  m = 0.1 nm

#### SURFACE AREA

A = length × width (rectangle)  
 =  $\pi r^2$  (circle)  
 =  $4\pi r^2$  (sphere)  
 units are squared units of length, ie- m<sup>2</sup> or cm<sup>2</sup>

#### VOLUME

V = length × width × height (rectangular solid)  
 =  $\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$  (sphere)  
 units are cubed units of length, ie- m<sup>3</sup>, cm<sup>3</sup>

#### ANGLES

1 degree = 60 arcminutes = 60' = 3600"  
 1 arcmin = 60 arcseconds = 60"  
 1 radian =  $360^\circ/2\pi = 57.30^\circ = 206,265''$

#### SPEED

speed = distance/time  
 1 km/hr = 0.2778 m/sec = 0.6215 mi/hr  
 1 mi/hr = 0.4470 m/sec = 1.609 km/hr

#### TIME

1 hr = 60 min = 3600 sec  
 1 day = 24 hr = 1440 min = 86,400 sec  
 1 year = 365.244 days = 8765.856 hr  
 = 525,951 min = 31,557,082 sec  $\approx 3 \times 10^7$  sec

#### TEMPERATURE

K is Kelvin, C is degrees Celsius,  
 and F is degrees Fahrenheit  
 $K = C + 273.15$   
 $F = 32 + 1.8 \times C$   
 $C = \frac{5}{9}(F - 32)$

#### MASS

weight  $\neq$  mass; weight = force  
 1 kg = 1000 g  $\approx$  2.205 lb (only at Earth's surface)  
 1 g =  $10^{-3}$  kg = 1000 mg  $\approx$  0.03527 oz  
 1 lb  $\approx$  453.59 g (pound is weight - not mass)

#### DENSITY

density = mass/volume units, ie- kg/m<sup>3</sup>

#### ENERGY

1 J = 0.2388 calories =  $10^7$  ergs  
 =  $6.2415 \times 10^{18}$  eV  
 1 erg = 1 g·cm<sup>2</sup>/sec<sup>2</sup> =  $10^{-7}$  J  
 1 kW·h = 3.6 MJ  
 1 eV =  $1.602 \times 10^{-19}$  J =  $1.602 \times 10^{-12}$  ergs

#### POWER

power = energy ÷ time  
 1 W =  $10^7$  erg/sec

SI stands for Système International; it is the metric system of units used internationally by most scientists.

#### THE BASIC SI UNITS ARE:

|           |     |             |
|-----------|-----|-------------|
| meters    | m   | length      |
| seconds   | sec | time        |
| kilograms | kg  | mass        |
| kelvin    | K   | temperature |

#### THE DERIVED SI UNITS ARE:

|        |   |        |   |
|--------|---|--------|---|
| newton | N | force  | N = kg·m/sec <sup>2</sup>                     |
| joule  | J | energy | J = N·m = kg·m <sup>2</sup> /sec <sup>2</sup> |
| watt   | W | power  | W = J/s = kg·m <sup>2</sup> /sec <sup>3</sup> |

|                        |                 |                  |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Å = Angstrom           | kg = kilogram   | mm = millimeter  |
| AU = astronomical unit | km = kilometer  | Mpc = megaparsec |
| C = coulomb (charge)   | kW = kilowatt   | nm = nanometer   |
| cm = centimeter        | lb = pound      | oz = ounces      |
| eV = electron volt     | ly = light-year | pc = parsec      |
| ft = feet              | m = meter       | sec = second     |
| g = gram               | mg = milligram  | W = watt         |
| hr = hour              | mi = mile       | yr = year        |
| in = inch              | min = minute    | yd = yard        |
| J = joule              | MJ = megajoule  |                  |

## CONSTANTS & ASTROPHYSICAL QUANTITIES

|  |                  |  |
|--|------------------|--|
| Velocity of light                      | $c$              | $= 3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/sec}$   |
| Gravitational constant                 | $G$              | $= 6.67 \times 10^{-11} \text{ N}\cdot\text{m}^2/\text{kg}^2$                                  |
| Planck constant                        | $h$              | $= 6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J}\cdot\text{sec}$   |
| Boltzmann constant                     | $k$              | $= 1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J/K}$   |
| Rydberg constant                       | $R$              | $= 1.097 \times 10^7 \text{ /m}$   |
| Stefan-Boltzmann constant              | $\sigma$         | $= 5.67 \times 10^{-8} \text{ W/m}^2\cdot\text{K}^4$   |
| Mass of hydrogen atom (proton)         | $m_{\text{H}}$   | $= 1.673 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$   |
| Mass of helium atom                    | $m_{\text{He}}$  | $= 6.645 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$   |
| Mass of electron                       | $m_e$            | $= 9.109 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg}$   |
| Charge of electron                     | $e$              | $= 1.602 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$  |
| Electron volt                          | 1 eV             | $= 1.602 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$  |
| Astronomical Unit (Sun-Earth distance) | AU               | $= 1.496 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}$   |
| Parsec                                 | pc               | $= 206,265 \text{ AU}$<br>$= 3.262 \text{ ly}$<br>$= 3.086 \times 10^{16} \text{ m}$           |
| Light-year                             | ly               | $= 6.324 \times 10^4 \text{ AU}$<br>$= 0.307 \text{ pc}$<br>$= 9.461 \times 10^{15} \text{ m}$ |
| Mass of Earth                          | $M_{\oplus}$     | $= 5.98 \times 10^{24} \text{ kg}$   |
| Radius of Earth at equator             | $R_{\oplus}$     | $= 6378 \text{ km}$  |
| Orbital velocity of Earth              | $V_{\oplus}$     | $= 29.8 \text{ km/sec}$  |
| Mass of Sun                            | $M_{\odot}$      | $= 1.99 \times 10^{30} \text{ kg}$   |
| Radius of Sun                          | $R_{\odot}$      | $= 6.96 \times 10^5 \text{ km}$  |
| Luminosity of Sun                      | $L_{\odot}$      | $= 3.90 \times 10^{26} \text{ W}$  |
| Effective temperature of Sun           | $T_{\text{eff}}$ | $= 5780 \text{ K}$   |
| Mass of Moon                           | $M_{\text{J}}$   | $= 7.35 \times 10^{22} \text{ kg}$<br>$= 0.0123 M_{\oplus}$                                    |
| Radius of Moon                         | $R_{\text{J}}$   | $= 1738 \text{ km}$<br>$= 0.272 R_{\oplus}$  |
| Distance from Earth to Moon            | $d_{\text{J}}$   | $= 3.84 \times 10^5 \text{ km}$  |
| Sidereal month                         | $P_{\text{J}}$   | $= 27.3 \text{ days}$  |
| Synodic month                          |                  | $= 29.5 \text{ days}$  |
| Distance of Sun from center of Galaxy  | $R_{\odot}$      | $= 8.5 \text{ kpc}$  |
| Velocity of Sun about galactic center  | $V_{\odot}$      | $= 220 \text{ km/sec}$   |
| Diameter of Galaxy                     | $D_{\odot}$      | $= 120 \text{ kpc}$  |
| Mass of Galaxy                         | $M_{\odot}$      | $= 7 \times 10^{11} M_{\odot}$   |

Many of these constants are known to better accuracy, however, for the purposes of this course, the given accuracy will be sufficient.