

# Lesson 1

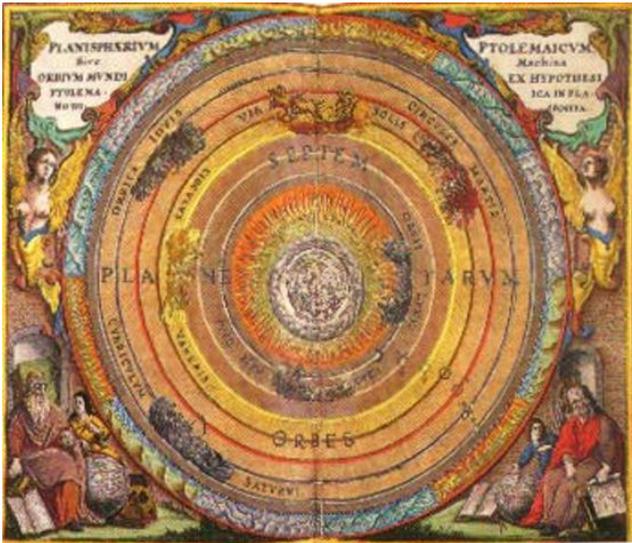
Tooling up:

- Fundamental Units
- Scientific Notation

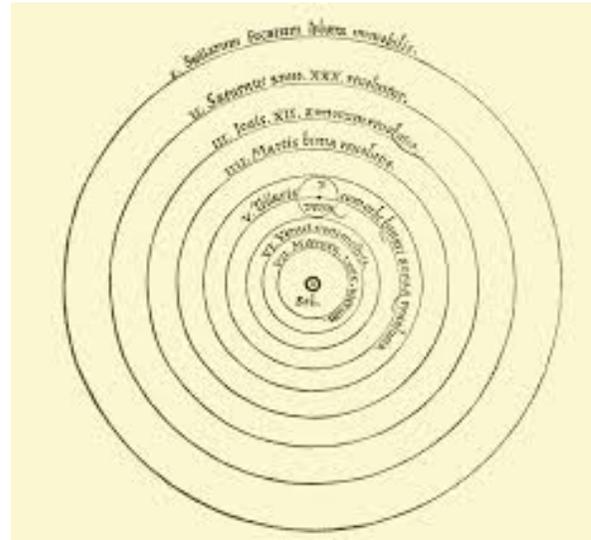
# Why Science?



# Copernicus, Galileo and the birth of modern science



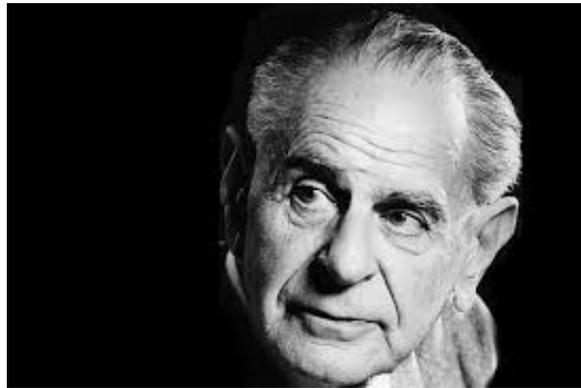
“Sun Stand Still”  
Joshua 10-12



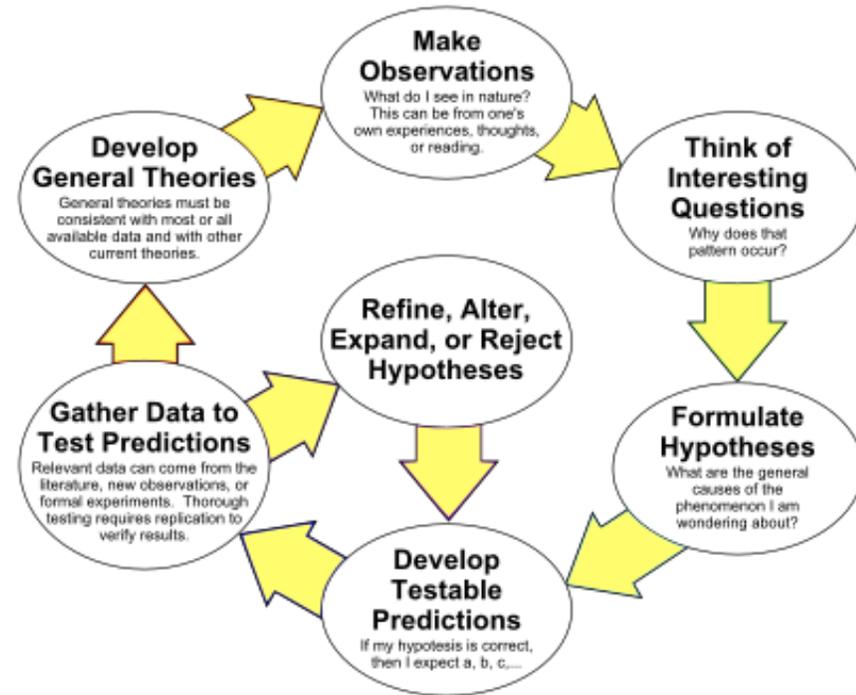
## [The Sun Stands Still](#)

**11**As they fled from before Israel, while they were at the descent of Beth-horon, the LORD threw large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died; there were more who died from the hailstones than those whom the sons of Israel killed with the sword. **12**[Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, "O sun, stand still at Gibeon, And O moon in the valley of Aijalon."](#) **13**So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, Until the nation avenged themselves of their enemies. Is it not written in the book of Jashar? And the sun stopped in the middle of the sky and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day....

# Scientific Method



## The Scientific Method as an Ongoing Process



Our understanding of the natural world moves along two fronts:

1. New concepts are built.
2. Better experimental techniques.

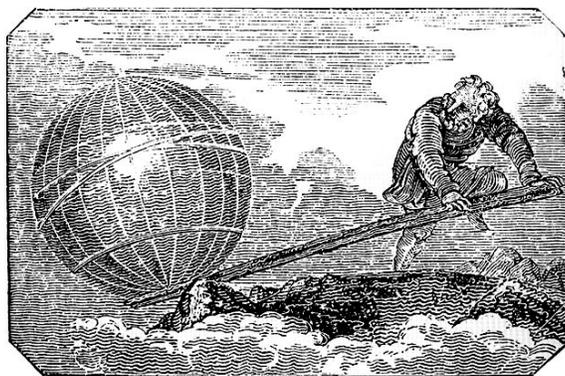
# The 3 Periods of Physics (so far)

## Physics in Antiquity

Aristotle

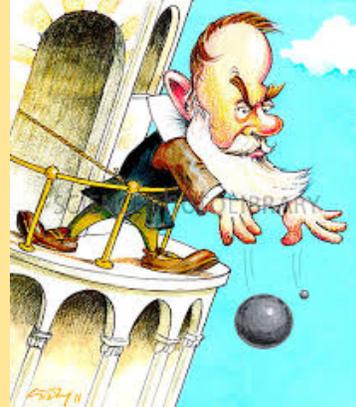


Archimedes

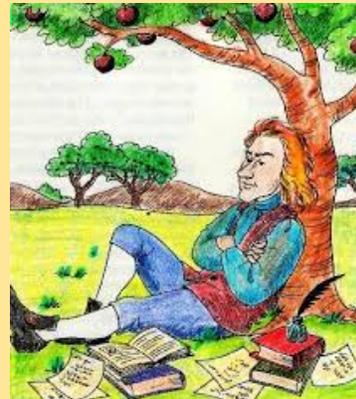


## Classical Physics (Pre-1920)

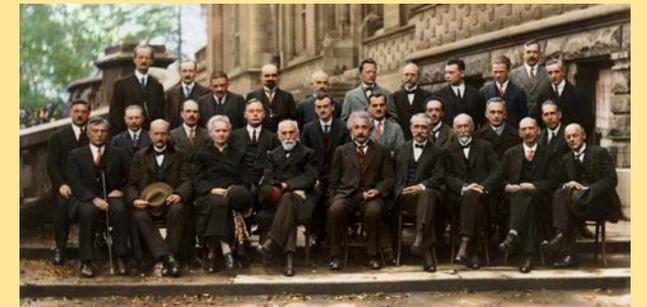
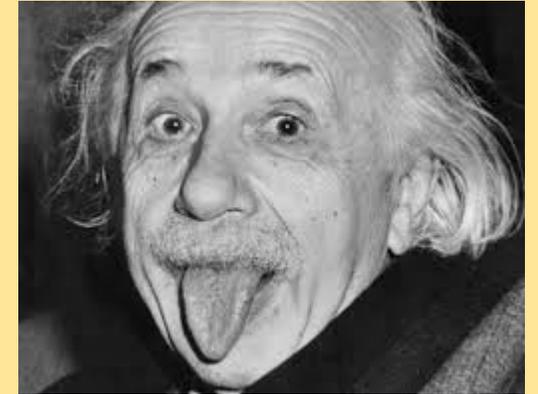
Galileo



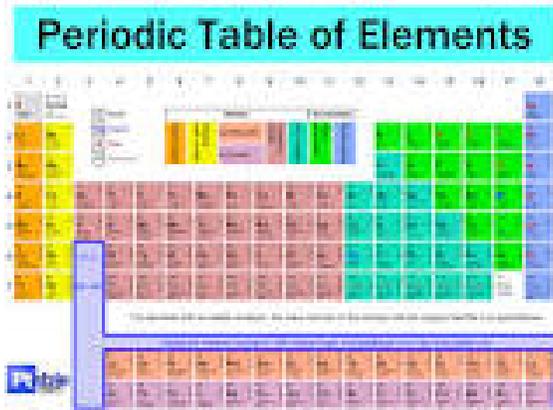
Newton



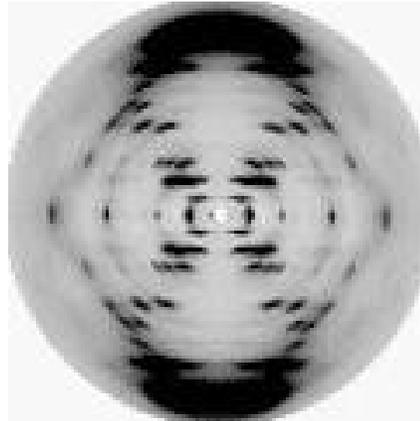
## Modern Physics (post 1920)



# Physics in relation to other sciences



Chemistry



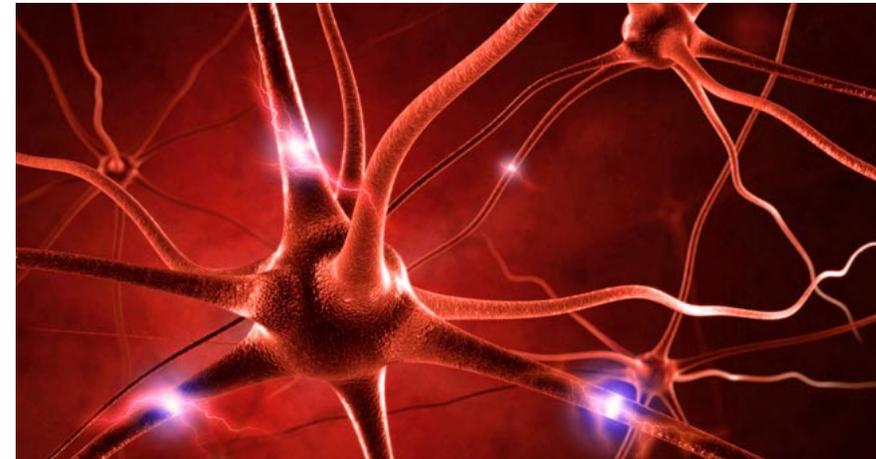
Biology



Astronomy

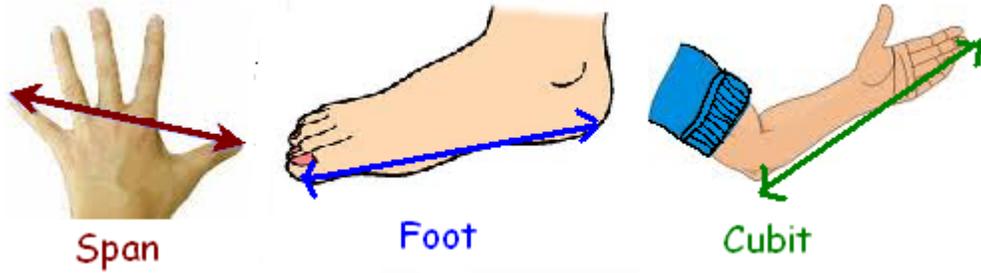


Geology

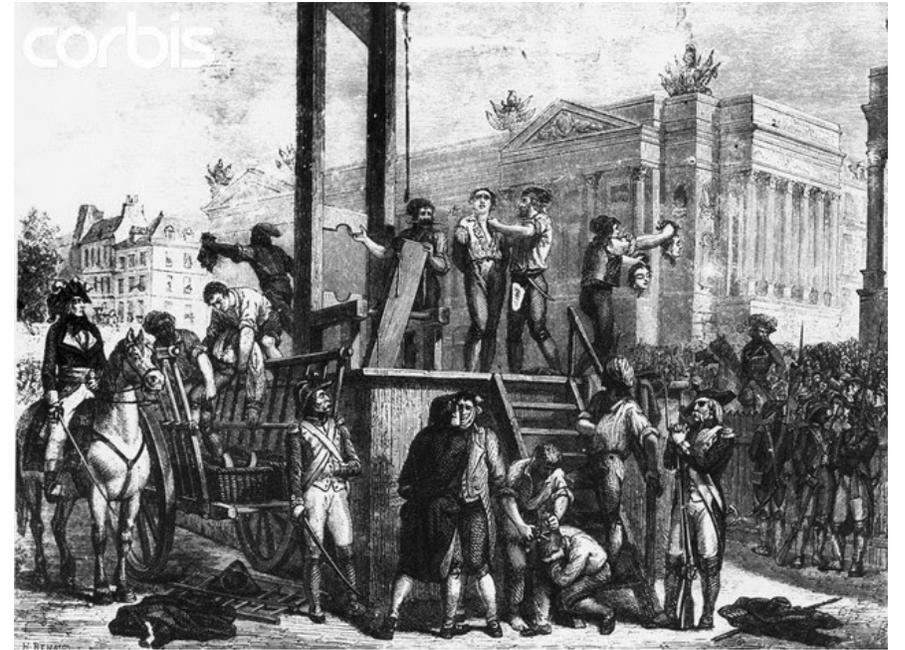


Neuro-science

# The Need for Standards and Units



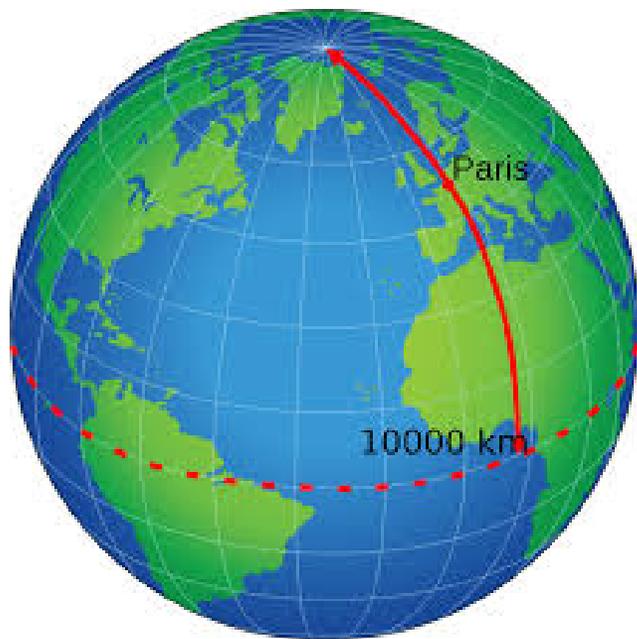
Henry I (1100-1135)



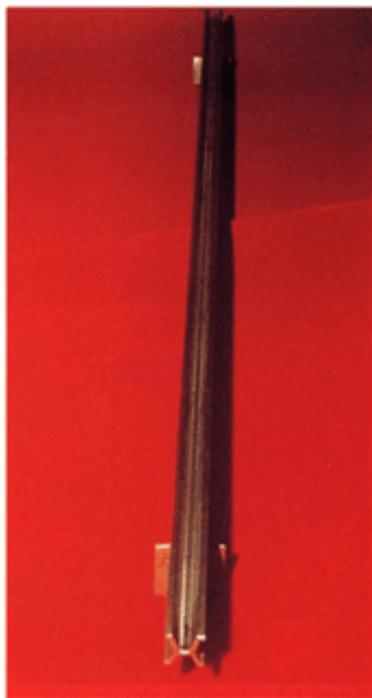
**NIST**

# Length (m)

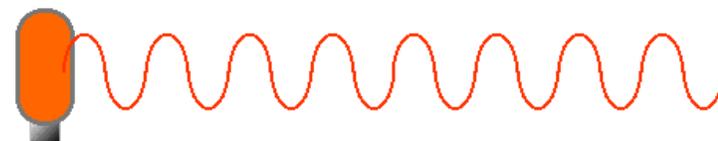
1790



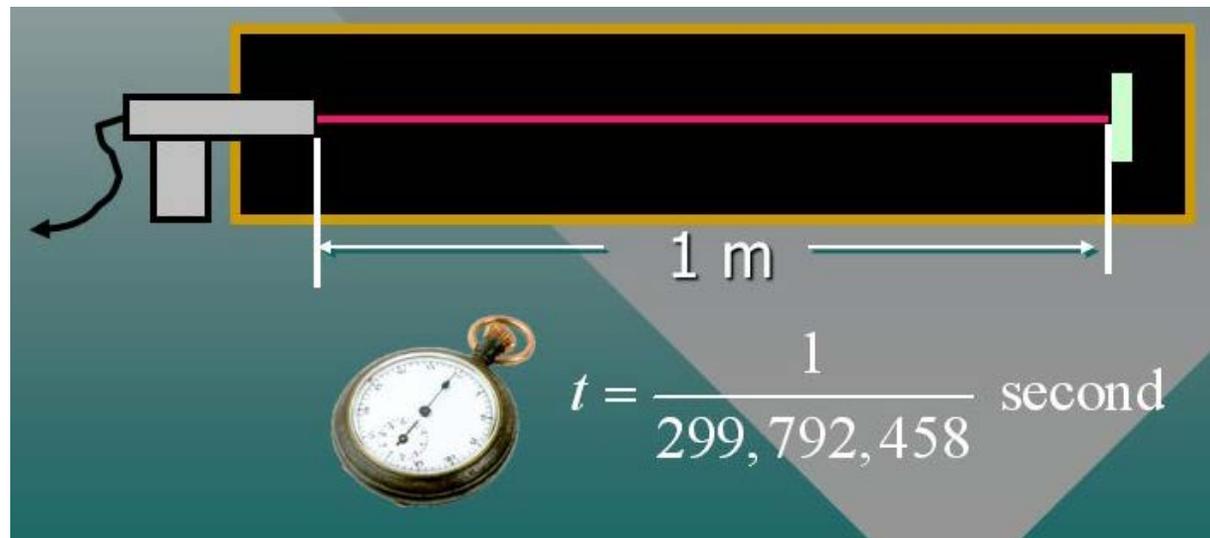
1790



1960  
 $^{86}\text{Kr}$

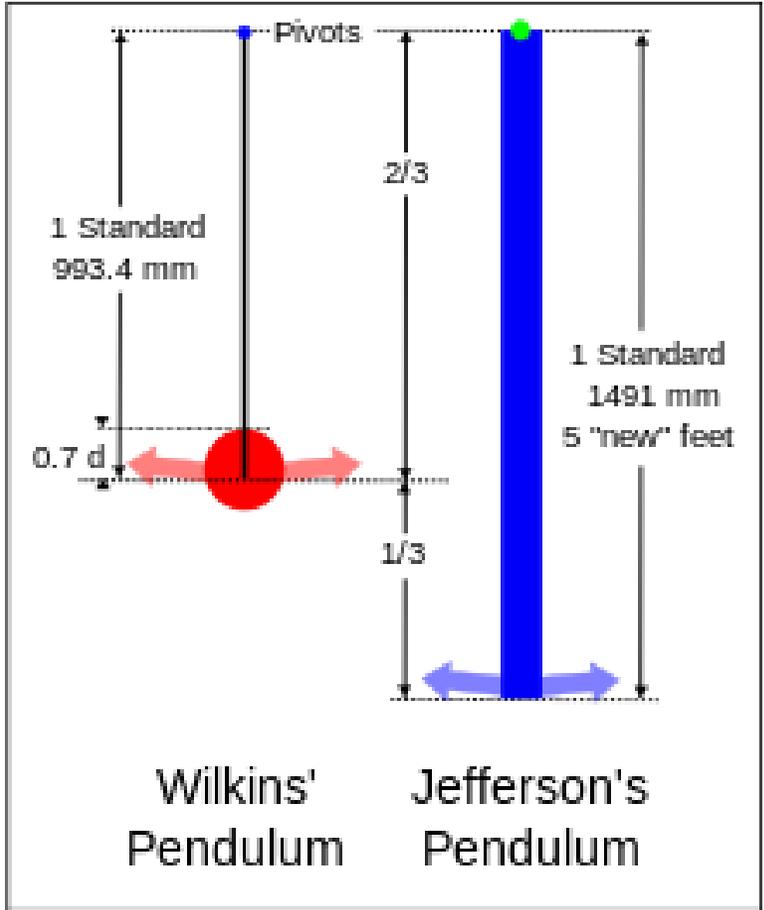
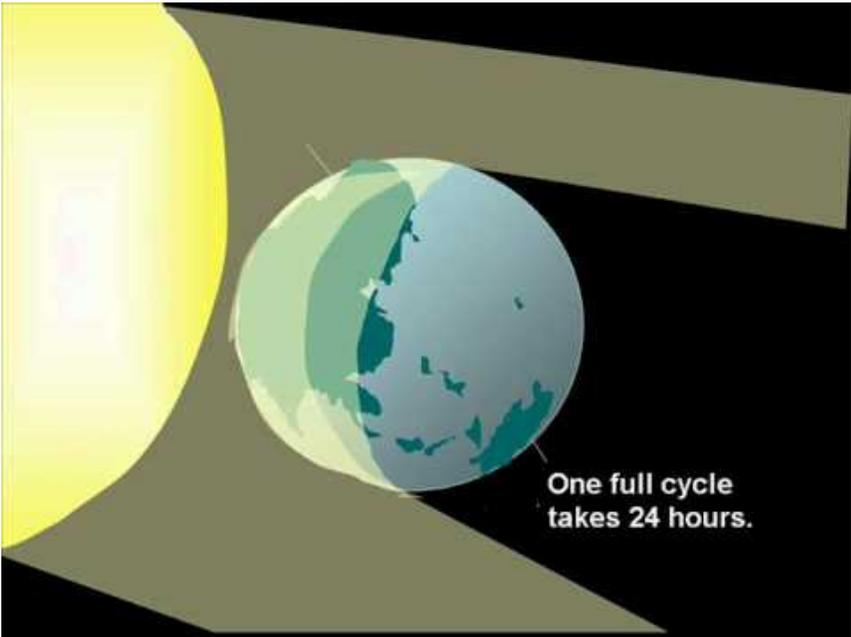


Current definition: 1984

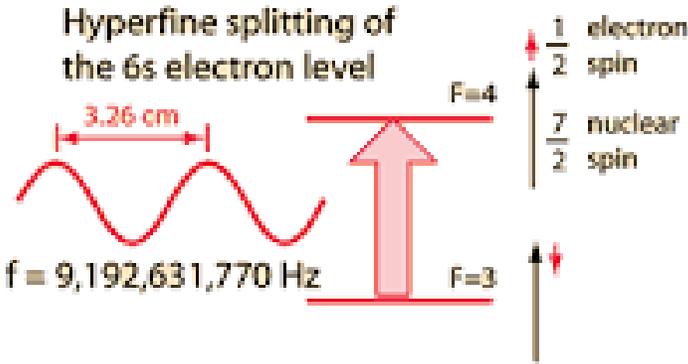
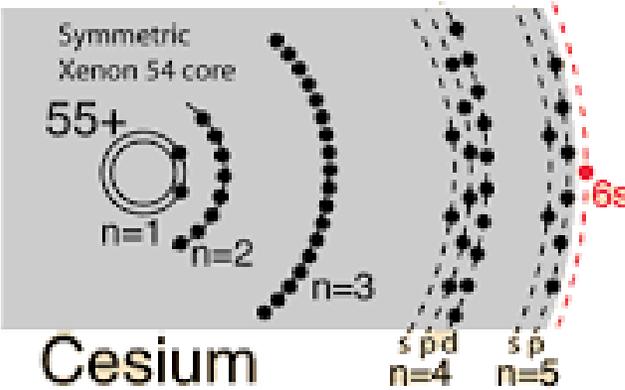


# Time (s)

1/86 400  
of "mean solar day"



1967  
<sup>133</sup>Kr

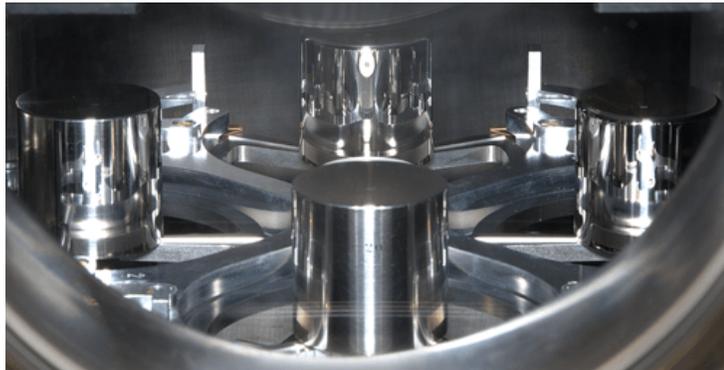


# Mass (kg)

Gram=mass of 1 cm<sup>3</sup> of water at 4 °C.



1890



Future Standard?  
<sup>28</sup>Si



# Other Fundamental Units

**TABLE 1.4 • SI Base Units**

Physical Quantity		Name of Unit	Abbreviation
Mass		Kilogram	kg
Length	MKS or SI	Meter	m
Time		Second	s or sec
Temperature		Kelvin	K
Amount of substance		Mole	mol
Electric current		Ampere	A or amp
Luminous intensity		Candela	cd

**TABLE 1.5 • Prefixes Used in the Metric System and with SI Units**

Prefix	Abbreviation	Meaning	Example
Peta	P	$10^{15}$	1 petawatt (PW) = $1 \times 10^{15}$ watts <sup>a</sup>
Tera	T	$10^{12}$	1 terawatt (TW) = $1 \times 10^{12}$ watts
Giga	G	$10^9$	1 gigawatt (GW) = $1 \times 10^9$ watts
Mega	M	$10^6$	1 megawatt (MW) = $1 \times 10^6$ watts
Kilo	k	$10^3$	1 kilowatt (kW) = $1 \times 10^3$ watts
Deci	d	$10^{-1}$	1 deciwatt (dW) = $1 \times 10^{-1}$ watt
Centi	c	$10^{-2}$	1 centiwatt (cW) = $1 \times 10^{-2}$ watt
Milli	m	$10^{-3}$	1 milliwatt (mW) = $1 \times 10^{-3}$ watt
Micro	$\mu^b$	$10^{-6}$	1 microwatt ( $\mu$ W) = $1 \times 10^{-6}$ watt
Nano	n	$10^{-9}$	1 nanowatt (nW) = $1 \times 10^{-9}$ watt
Pico	p	$10^{-12}$	1 picowatt (pW) = $1 \times 10^{-12}$ watt
Femto	f	$10^{-15}$	1 femtowatt (fW) = $1 \times 10^{-15}$ watt
Atto	a	$10^{-18}$	1 attowatt (aW) = $1 \times 10^{-18}$ watt
Zepto	z	$10^{-21}$	1 zeptowatt (zW) = $1 \times 10^{-21}$ watt

# Scientific Notation

In scientific notation all numbers are written in the form:

$$\textit{mantissa} \rightarrow m \times 10^n \leftarrow \textit{Order of magnitude}$$

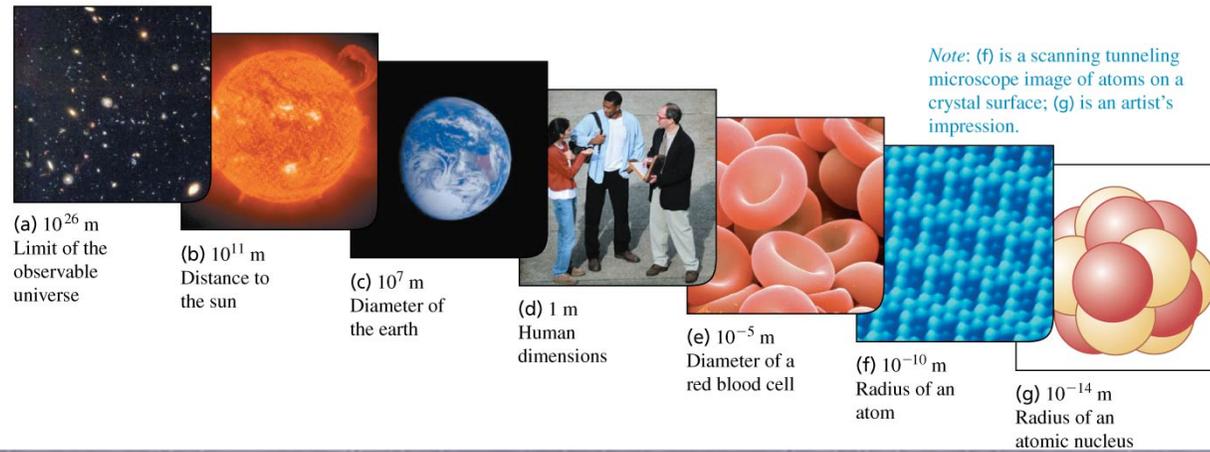
Here  $m$  satisfies

$$1 \leq m < 10$$

Any physical quantity must be accompanied by units:

$$\text{Mass of the sun} = \underbrace{1.99}_{\text{mantissa}} \times 10^{30} \text{kg}$$

*This mantissa contains 3 significant figures.*



**TABLE 1-1 • Orders of Magnitude for Length**

Parameter	Length (m)	Parameter	Length (m)
Proton	$10^{-15}$	Earth–Moon distance	$10^9$
Hydrogen atom	$10^{-10}$	Earth–Sun distance	$10^{11}$
Flu virus	$10^{-7}$	Diameter of solar system	$10^{13}$
One bit on a DVD	$10^{-6}$	Distance to nearest star (Proxima Centauri)	$10^{17}$
Raindrop	$10^{-3}$	Diameter of our galaxy (Milky Way)	$10^{21}$
Height of person	$10^0$	Distance to nearest galaxy	$10^{22}$
One mile	$10^3$	Distance to edge of observable universe	$10^{26}$
Diameter of Earth	$10^7$		

**TABLE 1-2 • Orders of Magnitude for Time**

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Time (s)</b>	<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Time (s)</b>
Time for light to cross proton	$10^{-23}$	Class lecture	$10^3$
Time for light to cross atom	$10^{-19}$	One Earth day	$10^5$
Period of visible light wave	$10^{-15}$	One Earth year	$10^7$
Period of vibration for standard cesium clock	$10^{-10}$	Age of Greek antiquities	$10^{11}$
Time required for one operation in a personal computer	$10^{-9}$	Age of first humanoids	$10^{14}$
Half-life of muon	$10^{-6}$	Age of Earth	$10^{17}$
Period of highest audible sound	$10^{-4}$	Age of universe	$10^{18}$
Period of human heartbeat	$10^0$		

**TABLE 1–3 • Orders of Magnitude for Mass**

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Mass (kg)</b>	<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Mass (kg)</b>
Electron	$10^{-30}$	Battleship	$10^8$
Hydrogen atom	$10^{-27}$	Moon	$10^{23}$
Uranium atom	$10^{-24}$	Earth	$10^{25}$
Dust particle	$10^{-13}$	Sun	$10^{30}$
Raindrop	$10^{-6}$	Our galaxy (Milky Way)	$10^{41}$
Piece of paper	$10^{-2}$	Observable universe	$10^{52}$
Human	$10^2$		

# Uncertainty in Measurements



Good accuracy  
Good precision



Poor accuracy  
Good precision



Poor accuracy  
Poor precision

**It is understood that the last digit is always the result of approximation:**

**7.61011**

# Identifying Significant Figures

- Any non zero digit is significant.

- Zeros:

- Zeros *between* significant figures all zeros are **always** significant:

10.05 m has four significant figures

- Zeros *at the beginning* are **never** significant:

0.025 kg has two significant figures.

- Zeros *at the end* are significant if the number has a decimal point:

0.70 s has two significant figures

- Problem: Zeros at the end without decimal point is ambiguous:

4200 cm could have two or four figures.

To avoid this ambiguity use scientific notation.

$4.2 \times 10^3$  cm two significant figures

$4.20 \times 10^3$  cm three significant figures

$4.200 \times 10^3$  cm four significant figures

# Significant Figures in Calculations

Addition and subtraction.

$$20.42 + 1.322 + 83.1$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 20.42 \\ + 1.322 \\ + 83.1 \\ \hline 104.842 \\ \hline 104.8 \end{array}$$

The result has the same number of decimal places as the measurement with the fewest decimal places.

Multiplication and division

$$6.221 \times 5.2$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 6.221 \\ \times 5.2 \\ \hline 12442 \\ + 31105 \\ \hline 32.3492 \\ 32. \end{array}$$

The result contains the same number of significant figures as the measurement with the fewest significant figures.



Q1.1

The density of a material is equal to its mass divided by its volume. What is the density in  $\text{kg/m}^3$  of a rock of mass 1.80 kg and volume  $6.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^3$ ?

- A.  $3 \times 10^3 \text{ kg/m}^3$
- B.  $3.0 \times 10^3 \text{ kg/m}^3$
- C.  $3.00 \times 10^3 \text{ kg/m}^3$
- D.  $3.000 \times 10^3 \text{ kg/m}^3$
- E. Any of these — all of these answers are mathematically equivalent.

A1.1

The density of a material is equal to its mass divided by its volume. What is the density in  $\text{kg/m}^3$  of a rock of mass 1.80 kg and volume  $6.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^3$ ?

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# Some SI Derived Units

Area is measured in:  $\text{m}^2$   $\longrightarrow$   $[A] = [L^2]$

Volume is measured in:  $\text{m}^3$   $\longrightarrow$   $[V] = [L^3]$

Density is measured in:  $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$   $\longrightarrow$   $[\rho] = \left[\frac{M}{L^3}\right] = [ML^{-3}]$

Speed is measured in:  $\frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}$   $\longrightarrow$   $[v] = \left[\frac{L}{T}\right] = [LT^{-1}]$

Acceleration is measured in:  $\frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}^2}$   $\longrightarrow$   $[a] = \left[\frac{L}{T^2}\right] = [LT^{-2}]$

Energy is measured in Joules:  $J = \frac{\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^2}{\text{s}^2}$   $\longrightarrow$   $[E] = \left[\frac{ML^2}{T^2}\right] = [ML^2T^{-2}]$

Power is measured in Watts:  $W = \frac{\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^2}{\text{s}^3}$   $\longrightarrow$   $[P] = \left[\frac{ML^2}{T^3}\right] = [ML^2T^{-3}]$

# Dimensional Analysis

- The dimensions of one side of the equation must be the same as those on the other side of the equation:

For example:

$$a h = \frac{v^2}{2}$$

$$[h] = [L]$$

$$[a] = [LT^{-2}]$$

$$[ah] = [L^2T^{-2}]$$

Numbers are dimensionless

$$[v] = [LT^{-1}]$$

$$[v^2] = [L^2T^{-2}]$$

The dimensions are the same.

You can not add or subtract different units, but you can multiply them or divide them.

# Conversion Factors

- Suppose we needed to change a speed in “US units” of 55 mph, to SI units (m/s).
- We know the following relations:

$$1 \text{ mi} = 1.609 \text{ km}$$

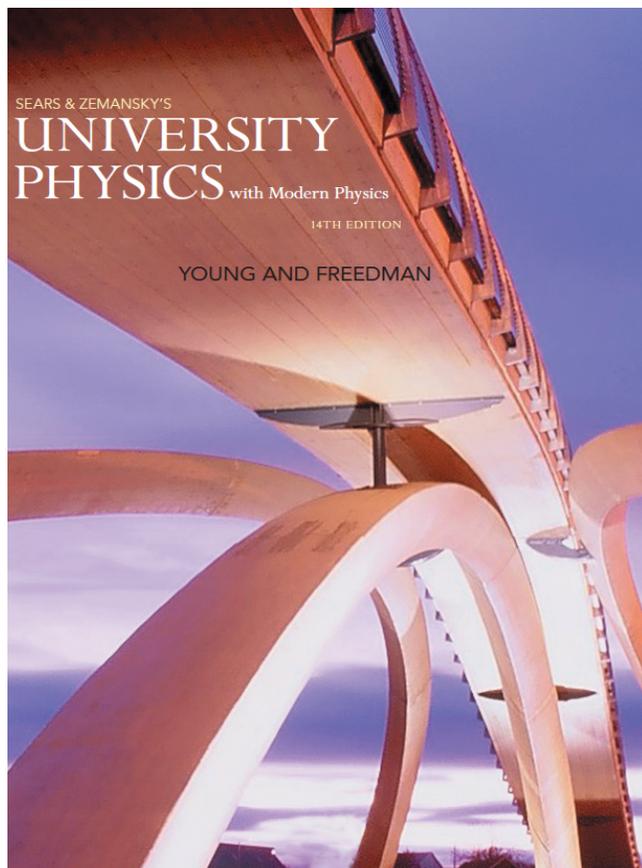
$$1 \text{ km} = 1000 \text{ m}$$

$$1 \text{ hour} = 60 \text{ min}$$

$$1 \text{ min} = 60 \text{ s}$$

- We multiply by expressions that are equal to 1

$$55 \left( \frac{\text{mi}}{\text{hr}} \right) = 55 \left( \frac{\text{mi}}{\text{hr}} \right) \left( \frac{1.609 \text{ km}}{1 \text{ mi}} \right) \left( \frac{1000 \text{ m}}{1 \text{ km}} \right) \left( \frac{1 \text{ hr}}{60 \text{ min}} \right) \left( \frac{1 \text{ min}}{60 \text{ s}} \right)$$
$$25 \left( \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}} \right)$$



## Solving Problems in Physics

- All of the **Problem-Solving Strategies** and **Examples** in the textbook will follow these four steps:
- **Identify** the relevant concepts, target variables, and known quantities, as stated or implied in the problem.
- **Set Up** the problem: Choose the equations that you'll use to solve the problem, and draw a sketch of the situation.
- **Execute** the solution: This is where you “do the math.”
- **Evaluate** your answer: Compare your answer with your estimates, and reconsider things if there's a discrepancy.

# Estimation

## “Back of the Envelope Calculations”

- Estimate the average area available to each person
  - in the USA.
  - In the World.
- IDENTIFY:
  - We need:
    - Approximate number of people in the USA
    - Approximate number of people in the World
    - Approximate area of the USA
    - Approximate area of the world.
  - Execute:
    - We only care about the orders of magnitude.