2. Astrophysical Constants and Parameters

Table 2.1: Revised August 2021 by D.E. Groom (LBNL) and D. Scott (U. of British Columbia). The figures in parentheses after some values give the 1-σ uncertainties in the last digit(s). Physical constants are from Ref. [1]. While every effort has been made to obtain the most accurate current values of the listed quantities, this table does not represent a critical review or adjustment of the constants, and is not intended as a primary reference. The values and uncertainties for the cosmological parameters depend on the exact data sets, priors, and basis parameters used in the fit. Many of the derived parameters reported in this table have non-Gaussian likelihoods and parameters may be highly correlated, so care must be taken in propagating errors. Unless otherwise specified, cosmological parameters are derived from a 6-parameter ΛCDM cosmology fit to *Planck* cosmic microwave background 2018 temperature (TT) + polarization (TE,EE+lowE) + lensing data [2]. For more information see Ref. [3] and the original papers.

Quantity	Symbol, equation	Value	Reference, footnote
Newtonian constant of gravitation	G_N	$6.674\,30(15) \times 10^{-11} \mathrm{m}^3\,\mathrm{kg}^{-1}\,\mathrm{s}^{-2}$	[1]
Planck mass	$M_P = \sqrt{\hbar c/G_N}$	$1.220\,890(14) \times 10^{19}$ GeV/$c^2 = 2.176\,434(24) \times 10^{-8}$ kg	[1]
Planck length	$l_P = \sqrt{\hbar G_N/c^3}$	$1.616\,255(18) \times 10^{-35}$ m	[1]
tropical year (equinox to equinox, 2020)	yr	31 556 925.1 s = 365.242 189 days	[4]
sidereal year (period of Earth around Sun relative to stars)		31 558 149.8 s $\approx \pi \times 10^7$ s	[4]
mean sidereal day (Earth rotation period relative to stars)		$23^{\mathrm{h}}\,56^{\mathrm{m}}\,04\overset{\mathrm{s}}{.}090\,53$	[4]
astronomical unit	au	149 597 870 700 m	exact [5]
parsec (1 au/1 arc sec)	pc	$3.085\,677\,581\,49\ldots \times 10^{16}$ m = 3.261 56... ly	exact [6]
light year (deprecated unit)	ly	0.306 601 ... pc = $0.946\,073\ldots \times 10^{16}$ m	[7]
solid angle	$\deg^2$	$(\pi/180)^2$ sr = $3.046\,17\ldots \times 10^{-4}$ sr	[8]
Schwarzschild radius of the Sun	$2G_N M_\odot/c^2$	2.953 250 1 km	[9]
Solar mass	$M_\odot$	$1.988\,41(4) \times 10^{30}$ kg	[10]
nominal Solar equatorial radius	$\mathcal{R}_\odot$	6.957×10^8 m	exact [11]
nominal Solar constant	$\mathcal{S}_\odot$	1361 W m^{-2}	exact [11, 12]
nominal Solar photosphere temperature	$\mathcal{T}_\odot$	5772 K	exact [11]
nominal Solar luminosity	$\mathcal{L}_\odot$	3.828×10^{26} W	exact [11, 13]
Schwarzschild radius of the Earth	$2G_N M_\oplus/c^2$	8.870 056 mm	[9]
Earth mass	$M_\oplus$	$5.972\,17(13) \times 10^{24}$ kg	[10]
nominal Earth equatorial radius	$\mathcal{R}_\oplus$	6.3781×10^6 m	exact [11]
Chandrasekhar mass	M_{Ch}	$3.097\,972\,\mu^{-2}\,M_P^3/m_H^2 = 1.433\,77(6)\,(\mu/2)^{-2}\,M_\odot$	[14, 15]
Eddington luminosity	L_{Ed}	$1.257\,065\,179\,8(12) \times 10^{31}\,(M/M_\odot)$ W $= 3.283\,869\,330\,8(31) \times 10^4\,(M/M_\odot)\,\mathcal{L}_\odot$	[16, 17]
jansky (flux density)	Jy	10^{-26} W m^{-2} Hz^{-1}	definition
luminosity conversion	f_0	$3.0128 \times 10^{28} \times 10^{-0.4\,M_{\mathrm{Bol}}}$ W (M_{Bol} = absolute bolometric magnitude = bolometric magnitude at 10 pc)	exact [18]
flux conversion	$\mathcal{F}$	$2.518\,021\,002 \times 10^{-8} \times 10^{-0.4\,m_{\mathrm{Bol}}}$ W m^{-2} (m_{Bol} = apparent bolometric magnitude)	exact [18]
ABsolute monochromatic magnitude	AB	$-2.5\log_{10} f_\nu - 56.10$ (for f_ν in W m^{-2} Hz^{-1}) $= -2.5\log_{10} f_\nu + 8.90$ (for f_ν in Jy)	[19]
Solar angular velocity around Galactic center	Θ_0/R_0	27.1(5) km s^{-1} kpc^{-1}	[20]
Solar distance from Galactic center	R_0	8.178 ± 0.013(stat.) ± 0.022(sys.) kpc	[21, 22]
circular velocity at R_0	v_0 or Θ_0	240(8) km s^{-1}	[22, 23]
escape velocity from the Galaxy	v_{esc}	492 km s^{-1} $< v_{\mathrm{esc}} <$ 587 km s^{-1} (90%)	[24]
local disk density	ρ_{disk}	6.6(9) $\times 10^{-24}$ g cm^{-3} = 3.7(5) GeV/c^2 cm^{-3}	[25]
local dark matter density	ρ_χ	canonical value 0.3 GeV/c^2 cm^{-3} within factor 2–3	[26]
present-day CMB temperature	T_0	2.7255(6) K	[27, 28]
present-day CMB dipole amplitude	d	3.3621(10) mK	[27, 29]
Solar velocity with respect to CMB	$v_\odot$	369.82(11) km s^{-1} towards (l, b)=(264.021(11)°, 48.253(5)°)	[29]
Local Group velocity with respect to CMB	v_{LG}	620(15) km s^{-1} towards (l, b) = (271.9(20)°, 29.6(14)°)	[29]
number density of CMB photons	n_γ	410.73(27) $(T/2.7255\,\mathrm{K})^3$ cm^{-3}	[30]
density of CMB photons	ρ_γ	4.645(4) $(T/2.7255\,\mathrm{K})^4 \times 10^{-34}$ g cm^{-3} ≈ 0.260 eV cm^{-3}	[30]
entropy density/Boltzmann constant	s/k	2 891.2 $(T/2.7255\,\mathrm{K})^3$ cm^{-3}	[30]
present-day Hubble expansion rate	H_0	100 h km s^{-1} Mpc^{-1} = $h \times (9.777\,752$ Gyr$)^{-1}$	[31]
scaling factor for Hubble expansion rate	h	0.674(5)	[2, 32]
Hubble length	c/H_0	$0.925\,0629 \times 10^{26}\,h^{-1}$ m = $1.372(10) \times 10^{26}$ m	
scaling for cosmological constant	$c^2/3H_0^2$	$2.85247 \times 10^{51}\,h^{-2}$ m^2 = $6.28(9) \times 10^{51}$ m^2	
critical density of the Universe	$\rho_{\mathrm{crit}} = 3H_0^2/8\pi G_N$	$1.878\,34(4) \times 10^{-29}\,h^2$ g cm^{-3} $= 1.053\,672(24) \times 10^{-5}\,h^2$ (GeV/c^2) cm^{-3} $= 2.77536627 \times 10^{11}\,h^2\,M_\odot$Mpc^{-3}	
baryon-to-photon ratio (from BBN)	$\eta = n_{\mathrm{b}}/n_\gamma$	$6.14(19) \times 10^{-10}$	[33, 34]
number density of baryons	n_{b}	$2.515(17) \times 10^{-7}$ cm^{-3} (from CMB)	[2, 35]
		$2.52(8) \times 10^{-7}$ cm^{-3} (from BBN, $\eta \times n_\gamma$)	[3, 33]
CMB radiation density of the Universe	$\Omega_\gamma = \rho_\gamma/\rho_{\mathrm{crit}}$	$2.473 \times 10^{-5}(T/2.7255\,\mathrm{K})^4\,h^{-2} = 5.38(15) \times 10^{-5}$	[30]
- - - *Planck* 2018 6-parameter fit to flat ΛCDM cosmology - - -			
baryon density of the Universe	$\Omega_{\mathrm{b}} = \rho_{\mathrm{b}}/\rho_{\mathrm{crit}}$	‡ 0.02237(15) h^{-2} = † 0.0493(6)	[2, 3, 27]
cold dark matter density of the Universe	$\Omega_{\mathrm{c}} = \rho_{\mathrm{c}}/\rho_{\mathrm{crit}}$	‡ 0.1200(12) h^{-2} = † 0.265(7)	[2, 3, 27]
100 × approximation to r_*/D_{A}	$100 \times \theta_{\mathrm{MC}}$	‡ 1.04092(31)	[2, 3, 27]
reionization optical depth	τ	‡ 0.054(7)	[2, 3, 27]
ln(power prim. curv. pert.) ($k_0 = 0.05\,\mathrm{Mpc}^{-1}$)	$\ln(10^{10}\Delta_{\mathcal{R}}^2)$	‡ 3.044(14)	[2, 3, 27]
scalar spectral index	n_{s}	‡ 0.965(4)	[2, 3, 27]
pressureless matter parameter	$\Omega_{\mathrm{m}} = \Omega_{\mathrm{c}} + \Omega_{\mathrm{b}}$	† 0.315(7)	[2, 3]
dark energy density parameter	Ω_Λ	† 0.685(7)	[2, 3]
energy density of dark energy	ρ_Λ	† 5.83(16) $\times 10^{-30}$ g cm^{-3}	[2]
cosmological constant	Λ	† 1.088(30) $\times 10^{-56}$ cm^{-2}	[2]
fluctuation amplitude at 8 h^{-1} Mpc scale	σ_8	† 0.811(6)	[2, 3]

Quantity	Symbol, equation.	Value	Reference,footnote
redshift of matter-radiation equality	$z_{\rm eq}$	† 3402(26)	[2, 36]
age at matter-radiation equality	$t_{\rm eq}$	† 51.1(8) kyr	[2, 37]
redshift at which optical depth equals unity	z_*	† 1089.92(25)	[2]
comoving size of sound horizon at z_*	r_*	† 144.43(26) Mpc	[2, 38]
age when optical depth equals unity	t_*	† 372.9(10) kyr	[2, 37]
redshift at half reionization	$z_{\rm i}$	† 7.7(7)	[2, 39]
age at half reionization	$t_{\rm i}$	† 690(90) Myr	[2]
redshift when acceleration was zero	z_q	† 0.636(18)	[2, 37]
age when acceleration was zero	t_q	† 7.70(10) Gyr	[2]
age of the Universe today	t_0	† 13.797(23) Gyr	[2]
effective number of neutrinos	$N_{\rm eff}$	♯ 2.99(17)	[2, 40, 41]
sum of neutrino masses	Σm_ν	♯ < 0.12 eV (95%, CMB + BAO); ≥ 0.06 eV (mixing)	[2, 41–43]
neutrino density of the Universe	$\Omega_\nu = h^{-2}\Sigma m_\nu/93.14\,{\rm eV}$	♯ < 0.003 (95%, CMB + BAO); ≥ 0.0012 (mixing)	[2, 42, 43]
curvature	Ω_K	♯ 0.0007(19)	[2]
running spectral index, $k_0 = 0.05\,{\rm Mpc}^{-1}$	$dn_{\rm s}/d\ln k$	♯ −0.004(7)	[2]
tensor-to-scalar perturbation ratio	$r_{0.05} = T/S$	< 0.036 (95% CL, $k_0 = 0.05\,{\rm Mpc}^{-1}$)	[2, 44–47]
dark energy equation of state parameter	w	♯ −1.028(31)	[2, 48]
primordial helium fraction	$Y_{\rm p}$	0.2453(34)	[49]

‡ Parameter in 6-parameter ΛCDM fit; † derived parameter in 6-parameter ΛCDM fit; ♯ extended model parameter, *Planck* + BAO data [2].

References

[1] CODATA recommended 2018 values of the fundamental physical constants: `physics.nist.gov/cuu/Constants/index.html`.

[2] Planck Collab. 2018 Results VI, Astron. Astrophys. **641**, A6 (2020), [arXiv:1807.06209].

[3] O. Lahav and A. R. Liddle, "The Cosmological Parameters," Sec. 25.1 in this *Review.*

[4] *The Astronomical Almanac for the year 2020.*

[5] The astronomical unit of length (au) in meters is re-defined (IAU XXVIII General Assembly 2012, Resolution B2) to be a conventional unit of length in agreement with the value adopted in IAU XXVII 2009 Resolution B2. It is to be used with all time scales.

[6] The distance at which 1 au subtends 1 arc sec: 1 au divided by $\pi/648\,000$.

[7] IAU XVI GA 1976, Recommendations.

[8] The number of square degrees on a sphere is $360^2/\pi = 41\,259.9\ldots$.

[9] Observationally determined mass parameter $G_N M \times 2/c^2$ [1] for either the Sun or the Earth, using the nominal values $\mathcal{GM}_\odot = 1.327\,124\,4 \times 10^{20}\ {\rm m^3\,s^{-2}}$ and $\mathcal{GM}_\oplus = 3.986\,004 \times 10^{14}\ {\rm m^3\,s^{-2}}$ [50]. The combination $G_N M$ is known much more precisely than either G_N or M individually. The digits are truncated here at the point where one would need to distinguish between Barycentic Coordinate Time (TCB) and Barycentric Dynamical Time (TDB).

[10] $G_N M \div G_N$ [1].

[11] IAU XXIX GA, 2015, Resolution B3, "on recommended nominal conversion constants ..." The calligraphic symbol indicates the recommended nominal value.

[12] See also G. Kopp and J. L. Lean, Geophys. Res. Lett. **38**, L01706 (2011), who give $(1360.8 \pm 0.6)\ {\rm W\,m^{-2}}$; see paper for caveats and other measurements.

[13] $4\pi\,(1\ {\rm au})^2 \times \mathcal{S}_\odot$, assuming isotropic irradiance.

[14] S. Chandrasekhar, Astrophys. J. **74**, 81 (1931).

[15] This value assumes an ideal Fermi gas, using a numerical constant from the Lane-Emden equation [51], and with μ the average molecular weight per electron, defined relative to the mass of the single-proton hydrogen atom.

[16] A. S. Eddington, Mon. Not. Roy. Astron. Soc. **77**, 16 (1916).

[17] The maximum luminosity assuming pure electron scattering for the outward force arising from radiation pressure: $4\pi G_N M m_p c/\sigma_T$.

[18] IAU XXIX GA, 2015, Resolution B2, "on recommended zero points for the absolute and apparent bolometric magnitude scales".

[19] J. B. Oke and J. E. Gunn, Astrophys. J. **266**, 713 (1983).

[20] J. Bovy, Mon. Not. Roy. Astron. Soc. **468**, 1, L63 (2017), [arXiv:1610.07610].

[21] R. Abuter *et al.*, Astron., Astrophys. **625**, L10 (2019), [arXiv:1904.05721].

[22] IAU XIX GA (1985) suggested that "in cases where standardization on a common set of galactic parameters is desirable" that the values $R_0 = (8.5 \pm 1.0)$ kpc and $\theta_0 = (220 \pm 20)\ {\rm km\,s^{-1}}$ should be used.

[23] M. J. Reid *et al.*, Astrophys. J. **783**, 130 (2014), [arXiv:1401.5377].

[24] T. Piffl *et al.*, Astron. Astrophys. **562**, A91 (2014), [arXiv:1309.4293].

[25] C. F. McKee, A. Parravano and D. J. Hollenbach, Astrophys. J. **814**, 1, 13 (2015), [arXiv:1509.05334]; this is representative of other published estimates.

[26] J. I. Read, J. Phys. **G41**, 063101 (2014), [arXiv:1404.1938]; A. M. Green, J. Phys. **G44**, 8, 084001 (2017), [arXiv:1703.10102]; the conclusion is $\rho_{\rm DM}^{\rm local} = 0.39 \pm 0.03\ {\rm GeV\,cm^{-3}}$.

[27] D. Scott and G. F. Smoot, "Cosmic Microwave Background," Sec. 29 in this *Review.*

[28] D. J. Fixsen, Astrophys. J. **707**, 916 (2009), [arXiv:0911.1955].

[29] Planck Collab. 2018 Results I, Astron. Astrophys. **641**, A1 (2020), [arXiv:1807.06205].

[30] $n_\gamma = \frac{2\zeta(3)}{\pi^2}\left(\frac{kT}{\hbar c}\right)^3$; $\rho_\gamma = \frac{\pi^2 kT}{15\,c^2}\left(\frac{kT}{\hbar c}\right)^3$; $s/k = \frac{2\cdot 43\cdot\pi^2}{11\cdot 45}\left(\frac{kT}{\hbar c}\right)^3$; $kT/\hbar c = 11.90\,235(T/2.7255)$/cm.

[31] Conversion using length of sidereal year.

[32] Distance-ladder estimates of H_0 tend to give higher values than derived from the CMB, *e.g.* Riess *et al.*, Astrophys. J. **908**, L6 (2021) give $h = 0.732 \pm 0.013$; for discussion see O. Lahav and A. R. Liddle, "The Cosmological Parameters," Sec. 25.1 in this *Review.*

[33] B. D. Fields *et al.*, JCAP **03**, 010 (2020), [Erratum: JCAP 11, E02 (2020)], [arXiv:1912.01132].

[34] B. D. Fields, P. Molaro and S. Sarkar, "Big-Bang Nucleosynthesis," Sec. 24 in this *Review.*

[35] $n_{\rm b}$ depends only upon the measured $\Omega_{\rm b}h^2$, the average baryon mass at the present epoch (G. Steigman, J. Cosmol. Astropart. Phys., **0610**, 016 (2006), [astro-ph/0606206]), and G_N: $n_{\rm b} = (\Omega_{\rm b}h^2)(h^{-2}\rho_{\rm crit})/(0.93711\ {\rm GeV}/c^2$ per baryon).

[36] Here "radiation" includes three species of light neutrinos as well as photons.

[37] D. Scott, A. Narimani and D. N. Page, Phys. Canada **70**, 258 (2014), [arXiv:1309.2381].

[38] D. H. Weinberg and M. White, "Dark Energy," Sec. 28 in this *Review.*

[39] Planck Collab. Interm. Results XLVI, Astron. Astrophys., **596**, A108 (2016) extend the range by $\Delta z \approx 1$, depending on the reionization model.

[40] Summary Tables in this *Review* list $N_\nu = 2.984(8)$ (Standard Model fits to LEP-SLC data). Because neutrinos are not completely decoupled at $e^\pm$ annihilation, the effective number of massless neutrino species is 3.044, rather than 3.

[41] J. Lesgourgues and L. Verde, "Neutrinos in Cosmology," Sec. 26 in this *Review.*

[42] The sum is over all neutrino mass eigenstates, the lower limit following from neutrino mixing results reported in this *Review* combined with the assumptions that there are three light neutrinos and that the lightest neutrino is substantially less massive than the others.

[43] Astrophysical determinations of Σm_ν, reported in the Full Listings of this *Review* under "Sum of the neutrino masses," range from < 0.17 eV to < 2.3 eV in papers published since 2003.

[44] P. A. R. Ade *et al.* (BICEP2, Keck Array), Phys. Rev. Lett. **121**, 221301 (2018), [arXiv:1810.05216].

[45] M. Tristram *et al.*, Astron. Astrophys. **647**, A128 (2021), [arXiv:2010.01139].

[46] BICEP/Keck Collaboration, Phys. Rev. Lett. **127**, 151301 (2021), [arXiv:2110.00483].

[47] *Planck* data alone give $r < 0.056$, using all power spectra; the currently tightest constraint comes from BICEP/Keck data, using *WMAP* and *Planck* to remove foregrounds.

[48] This constraint uses BAO and SNe data, as described in Ref. [2]; see discussion in D. H. Weinberg and M. White, "Dark Energy," Sec. 28 in this *Review.*

[49] E. Aver *et al.*, JCAP **03**, 027 (2021), [arXiv:2010.04180].

[50] IAU XXIX GA 2015, Resolution B2.

[51] G. P. Horedt, Astrophys. Space Sci. **126**, 2, 357 (1986).