

A Textbook of Mechatronics

For Engineering Students of B.Tech/B.E. Courses

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Introduction to SI Units and Conversion Factors

A. INTRODUCTION TO SI UNITS

SI, the international system of units are divided into three classes :

1. Base units
2. Derived units
3. Supplementary units.

From the scientific point of view division of SI units into these classes is to a certain extent arbitrary, because it is not essential to the physics of the subject. Nevertheless the General Conference, considering the advantages of a single, practical, world-wide system for international relations, for teaching and for scientific work, decided to base the international system on a choice of six well-defined units given in Table 1 below :

Table 1. SI Base Units

<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Symbol</i>
length	metre	m
mass	kilogram	kg
time	second	s
electric current	ampere	A
thermodynamic temperature	kelvin	K
luminous intensity	candela	cd
amount of substance	mole	mol

The second class of SI units contains derived units, *i.e.*, units which can be formed by combining base units according to the algebraic relations linking the corresponding quantities. Several of these algebraic expressions in terms of base units can be replaced by special names and symbols can themselves be used to form other derived units.

Derived units may, therefore, be classified under three headings. Some of them are given in Tables 2, 3 and 4.

Table 2. Examples of SI Derived Units Expressed in Terms of Base Units

Quantity	SI Unit	
	Name	Symbol
area	square metre	m ²
volume	cubic metre	m ³
speed, velocity	metre per second	m/s
acceleration	metre per second squared	m/s ²
density, mass density	kilogram per cubic metre	kg/m ³
concentration (of amount of substances)	mole per cubic metre	mol/m ³
activity (radioactive)	1 per second	s ⁻¹
specific volume	cubic metre per kilogram	m ³ /kg
luminance	candela per square metre	cd/m ²

Table 3. SI Derived Units with Special Names

Quantity	SI Units			
	Name	Symbol	Expression in terms of other units	Expression in terms of SI base units
frequency	hertz	Hz	–	s ⁻¹
force	newton	N	–	m.kg.s ⁻²
pressure	pascal	Pa	N/m ²	m ⁻¹ .kg.s ⁻²
energy, work, quantity of heat power	joule	J	N.m	m ² .kg.s ⁻²
radiant flux, quantity of electricity	watt	W	J/s	m ² .kg.s ⁻³
electric charge	coloumb	C	A.s	s.A
electric tension, electric potential	volt	V	W/A	m ² .kg.s ⁻³ .A ⁻¹
capacitance	farad	F	C/V	m ⁻² .kg ⁻¹ .s ⁴
electric resistance	ohm	Ω	V/A	m ² .kg.s ⁻³ .A ⁻²
conductance	siemens	S	A/V	m ⁻² .kg ⁻¹ .s ³ .A ⁻²
magnetic flux	weber	Wb	V.S.	m ² .kg.s ⁻² .A ⁻¹
magnetic flux density	tesla	T	Wb/m ²	kg.s ⁻² .A ⁻¹
inductance	henry	H	Wb/A	m ² .kg.s ⁻² .A ⁻²
luminous flux	lumen	lm	–	cd.sr
illuminance	lux	lx	–	m ⁻² .cd.sr

Table 4. Examples of SI Derived Units Expressed by Means of Special Names

Quantity	SI Units		
	Name	Symbol	Expression in terms of SI base units
dynamic viscosity	pascal second	Pa·s	$\text{m}^{-1} \cdot \text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$
moment of force	metre newton	N·m	$\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^{-2}$
surface tension	newton per metre	N/m	$\text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^{-2}$
heat flux density, irradiance	watt per square metre	W/m^2	$\text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^{-3}$
heat capacity, entropy	joule per kelvin	J/K	$\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^{-2} \cdot \text{K}^{-1}$
specific heat capacity, specific entropy	joule per kilogram kelvin	$\text{J}/(\text{kg} \cdot \text{K})$	$\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{s}^{-2} \cdot \text{K}^{-1}$
specific energy	joule per kilogram	J/kg	$\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{s}^{-2}$
thermal conductivity	watt per metre kelvin	$\text{W}/(\text{m} \cdot \text{K})$	$\text{m} \cdot \text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^{-3} \cdot \text{K}^{-1}$
energy density	joule per cubic metre	J/m^3	$\text{m}^{-1} \cdot \text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^{-2}$
electric field strength	volt per metre	V/m	$\text{m} \cdot \text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^{-3} \cdot \text{A}^{-1}$
electric charge density	coloumb per cubic metre	C/m^3	$\text{m}^{-3} \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{A}$
electric flux density	coloumb per square metre	C/m^2	$\text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{A}$
permittivity	farad per metre	F/m	$\text{m}^{-3} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^4$
current density	ampere per square metre	A/m^2	–
magnetic field strength	ampere per metre	A/m	–
permeability	henry per metre	H/m	$\text{m} \cdot \text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^{-2} \cdot \text{A}^{-2}$
molar energy	joule per mole	J/mol	$\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^{-2} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$
molar heat capacity	joule per mole kelvin	$\text{J}/(\text{mol} \cdot \text{K})$	$\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^{-2} \cdot \text{K}^{-1} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$

The SI units assigned to third class called “Supplementary units” may be regarded either as base units or as derived units. Refer to Table 5 and Table 6.

Table 5. SI Supplementary Units

Quantity	SI Units	
	Name	Symbol
plane angle	radian	rad
solid angle	steradian	sr

Table 6. Examples of SI Derived Units Formed by Using Supplementary Units

Quantity	SI Units	
	Name	Symbol
angular velocity	radian per second	rad/s
angular acceleration	radian per second squared	rad/s^2
radiant intensity	watt per steradian	W/sr
radiance	watt per square metre steradian	$\text{W} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{sr}^{-1}$

Table 7. SI Prefixes

Factor	Prefix	Symbol	Factor	Prefix	Symbol
10^{12}	tera	T	10^{-1}	deci	d
10^9	giga	G	10^{-2}	centi	c
10^6	mega	M	10^{-3}	milli	m
10^3	kilo	k	10^{-6}	micro	μ
10^2	hecto	h	10^{-9}	nano	n
10^1	deca	da	10^{-12}	pico	p
			10^{-15}	fasnto	f
			10^{-18}	atto	a

B. DEFINITIONS

The SI seven base units and two supplementary units are defined below :

- (i) **Metre.** The metre is the length equal to 1,650, 763.73 wavelengths in vacuum of the radiation corresponding to the transition between the levels $2p_{10}$ and $5d_5$ of the krypton-86 atom.
- (ii) **Kilogram.** One kilogram is equal to the mass of the international prototype of the kilogram.
- (iii) **Second.** 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 cesium-133 atom.
- (iv) **Ampere.** One ampere is that constant current which, if maintained in two straight parallel conductors of infinite length, of negligible circular cross-section and placed one metre apart in vacuum, would produce between these conductors a force equal to 2×10^{-7} newton per metre of length.
- (v) **Kelvin.** The kelvin is the fraction $\frac{1}{273.16}$ of thermodynamic temperature of the triple point of water.
- (vi) **Candela.** The candela is the luminous intensity, in the perpendicular direction, of a surface of a $\frac{1}{600,000}$ square metre of a black body at a temperature of freezing platinum under a pressure of 101, 325 newton per square metre.
- (vii) **Mole.** The mole is the amount of substance of a system which contains as many elementary entities as there are atoms in 0.012 kg, carbon 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.
- (viii) **Radian.** The radian is the plane angle between two radii of a circle that cut off on the circle an arc equal in length to the radius.
- (ix) **Steradian.** The steradian is the solid angle which having its vertex in the centre of a sphere, cuts off an area of the surface of the sphere equal to that of a square with sides of length equal to the radius of the sphere.

Some other Definitions

Newton. The newton (N) is a dervied unit of force and is defined as the unit of force which when acting on a mass of 1 kilogram gives it an acceleration of one metre per

second per second. Since acceleration due to gravity equals 9.81 m/s^2 , one kilogram force equals 9.81 newtons.

Joule. The joule (J) is a derived unit of energy, work or quantity of heat and is defined as the work done when a force of one newton acts so as to cause a displacement of one metre. Energy is defined as the capacity to do work. A unit of energy in nuclear physics is the electron volt (eV) which is defined as the energy gained by an electron in rising through a potential difference of one volt.

$$1 \text{ eV} = 1.6021 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J.}$$

Watt. The watt (W) is a unit of power (*i.e.*, rate of doing work)

$$\text{Power in watts} = \frac{\text{work (or energy) in joules}}{\text{time in seconds}}$$

Thus 1 watt equals 1 Joule/sec.

1 kilo watt-hour (kWh) = 1000 watt-hours = 3600000 joules.

Coulomb. The coulomb (C) is the derived unit of charge. It is defined as *the quantity of electricity passing a given point in a circuit when a current of 1 A is maintained for 1 second.*

$$Q = I.t$$

where Q = charge in coulombs,

I = current in ampees, and

t = time in seconds.

1 coulomb represents 6.24×10^{18} electrons.

Ohm. The ohm (Ω) is the unit of electric resistance and is defined as *the resistance in which a constant current of 1 A generates heat at the rate of 1 watt.*

Siemen. The siemen is a unit of electric conductance (*i.e.*, reciprocal of resistance). If a circuit has a resistance of 5 ohms, its conductance is 0.2 siemen. A more commonly used name for siemen is *mho* (\mathcal{U}).

Volt. The volt is a unit of potential difference and electromotive force. It is defined as *the difference of potential across a resistance of 1 ohm carrying a current of 1 ampere.*

Hertz. The hertz (Hz) is a unit of frequency. $1 \text{ Hz} = 1 \text{ cycle per second.}$

Horse-power. It is a practical unit of mechanical output. BHP (British horse power or brake horse power) equals 746 watts. The metric horse power equals 735.5 watts. To avoid confusion between BHP and metric horse power, the mechanical output of machines in SI units, is expressed in watts or kilowatts.

C. SALIENT FEATURES OF SI UNITS

The salient features of SI units are as follows :

1. It is a coherent system of units, *i.e.*, product or quotient of any two base quantities results in a unit resultant quantity. For example, unit length divided by unit time gives unit velocity.
2. It is a rationalised system of units, applicable to both, magnetism and electricity.
3. It is a non-gravitational system of units. It clearly distinguishes between the units of mass and weight (force) which are kilogram and newton respectively.
4. All the units of the system can be derived from the base and supplementary units.
5. The decimal relationship between units of same quantity makes possible to express any small or large quantity as a power of 10.

- For any quantity there is one and only one SI unit. For example, joule is the unit of energy of all forms such as mechanical, heat, chemical, electrical and nuclear. However, kWh will also continue to be used as unit of electrical energy.

Advantages of SI Units :

- Units for many different quantities are related through a series of simple and basic relationship.
- Being an absolute system, it avoids the use of factor 'g' i.e., acceleration due to gravity in several expressions in physics and engineering which had been a nuisance in all numericals in physics and engineering.
- Being a rationalised system, it ensures all the advantages of rationalised MKSA system in the fields of electricity, magnetism, electrical engineering and electronics.
- Joule is the only sole unit of energy of all forms and watt is the sole unit of power hence a lot of labour is saved in calculations.
- It is a coherent system of units and involves only decimal co-efficients. Hence it is very convenient and quick system for calculations.
- In electricity, all the practical units like volt, ohm, ampere, henry, farad, coulomb, joule and watt accepted in industry and laboratories all over the world for well over a century have become absolute in their own right in the SI system, without the need for any more practical units.

Disadvantages :

- The non-SI time units 'minute' and 'hour' will still continue to be used until the clocks and watches are all changed to kilo seconds and mega seconds etc.
- The base unit kilogram (kg) includes a prefix, which creates an ambiguity in the use of multipliers with gram.
- SI units for energy, power and pressure (i.e., joule, watt and pascal) are too small to be expressed in science and technology, and, therefore, in such cases the use of larger units, such as MJ, kW, kPa, will have to be made.
- There are difficulties with regard to developing new SI units for apparent and reactive energy while joule is the accepted unit for active energy in SI systems.

D. CONVERSION FACTORS

1. Force :

$$1 \text{ newton} = \text{kg-m/sec}^2 = 0.012 \text{ kgf}$$

$$1 \text{ kgf} = 9.81 \text{ N}$$

2. Pressure :

$$1 \text{ bar} = 750.06 \text{ mm Hg} = 0.9869 \text{ atm} = 10^5 \text{ N/m}^2$$

$$= 10^3 \text{ kg/m-sec}^2$$

$$1 \text{ N/m}^2 = 1 \text{ pascal} = 10^{-5} \text{ bar} = 10^{-2} \text{ kg/m-sec}^2$$

$$1 \text{ atm} = 760 \text{ mm Hg} = 1.03 \text{ kgf/cm}^2 = 1.01325 \text{ bar}$$

$$= 1.01325 \times 10^5 \text{ N/m}^2$$

3. Work, Energy or Heat :

$$1 \text{ joule} = 1 \text{ newton metre} = 1 \text{ watt-sec}$$

$$= 2.7778 \times 10^{-7} \text{ kW-h} = 0.239 \text{ cal}$$

$$= 0.239 \times 10^{-3} \text{ kcal}$$

$$1 \text{ cal} = 4.184 \text{ joule} = 1.1622 \times 10^{-6} \text{ kWh}$$

$$1 \text{ kcal} = 4.184 \times 10^3 \text{ joule} = 427 \text{ kgf m}$$

$$= 1.1622 \times 10^{-3} \text{ kWh}$$

$$1 \text{ kWh} = 8.6042 \times 10^5 \text{ cal} = 860.42 \text{ kcal}$$

$$= 3.6 \times 10^6 \text{ joule}$$

$$1 \text{ kgf-m} = \left(\frac{1}{427} \right) \text{ kcal} = 9.81 \text{ joules}$$

4. Power :

$$1 \text{ watt} = 1 \text{ joule/sec} = 0.860 \text{ kcal/h}$$

$$1 \text{ h.p.} = 75 \text{ m kgf/sec} = 0.1757 \text{ kcal/sec} = 735.3 \text{ watts}$$

$$1 \text{ kW} = 1000 \text{ watts} = 860 \text{ kcal/h}$$

5. Specific heat :

$$1 \text{ kcal/kg-}^\circ\text{K} = 0.4184 \text{ joules/kg-K}$$

6. Thermal conductivity :

$$1 \text{ watt/m-K} = 0.8598 \text{ kcal/h-m-}^\circ\text{C}$$

$$1 \text{ kcal/h-m-}^\circ\text{C} = 1.16123 \text{ watt/m-K} = 1.16123 \text{ joules/s-m-K.}$$

7. Heat transfer co-efficient :

$$1 \text{ watt/m}^2\text{-K} = 0.86 \text{ kcal/m}^2\text{-h-}^\circ\text{C}$$

$$1 \text{ kcal/m}^2\text{-h-}^\circ\text{C} = 1.163 \text{ watt/m}^2\text{-K.}$$

The following conversion factors may be used to convert the quantities in non-SI units into SI units.

To convert	To	Multiply by
angstroms	m	10^{-10}
atmospheres	kg/m ²	10332
bars	kg/m ²	1.02×10^4
Btu	joules	1054.8
Btu	kWh	2.928×10^{-4}
circular mils	m ²	5.067×10^{-10}
cubic feet	m ³	0.02831
dynes	newtons	10^{-5}
ergs	joules	10^{-7}
ergs	kWh	0.2778×10^{-13}
feet	m	0.3048
foot-pounds	joules	1.356
foot-pounds	kg-m	0.1383
gauss	tesla	10^{-4}
grams (force)	newton	9.807×10^{-3}
horse power (metric)	watts	735.5
lines/sq. inch	tesla	1.55×10^{-5}
Maxwell	webers	10^{-8}
mho	siemens	1
micron	metre	10^{-6}
miles	km	1.609
mils	cm	2.54×10^{-3}

poundals	newton	0.1383
pounds	kilogram	0.454
pounds (force)	newtons	0.448
pounds/sq. ft.	N/m ²	47.878
pounds/sq. inch	N/m ²	6894.43

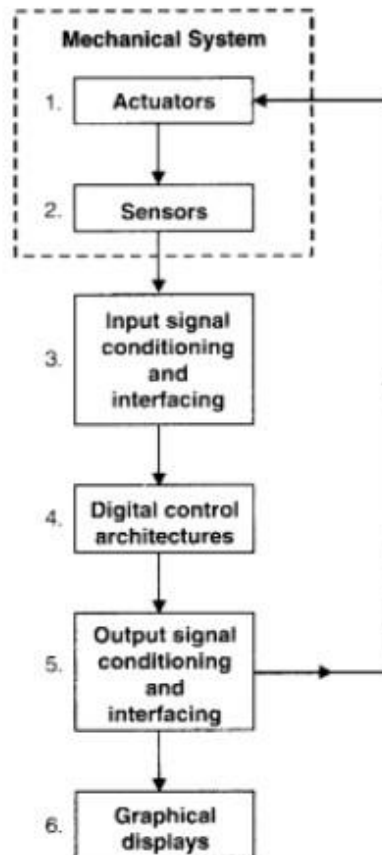
E. IMPORTANT ENGINEERING CONSTANTS AND EXPRESSIONS IN S.I. UNITS

Engineering Constants and Expressions	M.K.S. System	SI Units
1. Value of g_0	9.81 kg-m/kgf-sec ²	1 kg-m/N-sec ²
2. Universal gas constant	848 kgf-m/kg mol-°K	848 × 9.81 = 8314 J/kg-mole-K (∵ 1 kgf-m = 9.81 joules)
3. Gas constant (R)	29.27 kgf-m/kg-°K	$\frac{8341}{29} = 287$ joules/kg-K
4. Specific heat (for air)	for air $c_p = 0.17$ kcal/kg-°K $c_v = 0.24$ kcal/kg-°K	for air $c_p = 0.17 \times 4.184$ $= 0.71128$ kJ/kg-K $c_p = 0.24 \times 4.184$ $= 1$ kJ/kg-K
5. Flow through nozzle-Exit velocity (C_2)	91.5 U where U is in kcal	44.7 \sqrt{U} where U is the kJ
6. Refrigeration 1 ton	= 50 kcal/min	= 210 kJ/min
7. Heat transfer The Stefan Boltzmann Law is given by :	$Q = \sigma T^4$ kcal/m ² -h where $\sigma = 4.9 \times 10^{-8}$ kcal/h-m ² -°K ⁴	$Q = \sigma T^4$ kcal/m ² -h where $\sigma = 5.67 \times 10^{-8}$ W/m ² K ⁴

F. DIMENSIONS OF QUANTITIES

Different units can be represented dimensionally in terms of units of length L , mass M , time T and current I . The dimensions can be derived as under :

1. Velocity = length/time = $L/T = LT^{-1}$
2. Acceleration = velocity/time = $LT^{-1}/T = LT^{-2}$
3. Force = mass × acceleration = MLT^{-2}
4. Charge (coulomb) = current × time = IT
5. Work or energy = force × distance = ML^2T^{-2}
6. EMF or potential = work/charge
 $= ML^2T^{-2}/IT = ML^2I^{-1}T^{-3}$
7. Power = work/time = $ML^2T^{-2}/T = ML^2T^{-3}$
8. Current density = current/area = $I/L^2 = IL^{-2}$
9. Resistance = emf/current = $ML^2I^{-1}T^{-3}/I = ML^2I^{-2}T^{-3}$
10. Electric flux density = electric flux or charge/area = $IT/L^2 = ITL^{-2}$
11. MMF = current × number of turns = I
12. Conductance = 1/resistance = $1/ML^2I^{-2}T^{-3} = I^2T^3M^{-1}L^{-2}$



1. **Actuators** : Solenoids, voice coils ; d.c. motors ; Stepper motors ; Servomotor ; hydraulics; pneumatics.
2. **Sensors** : Switches ; Potentiometer ; Photoelectrics ; Digital encoder ; Strain guage ; Thermocouple ; accelerometer etc.
3. **Input signal conditioning and interfacing** : Discrete circuits ; Amplifiers, Filters ; A/D, D/D.
4. **Digital control architectures** : Logic circuits ; Microcontroller ; SBC ; PLC ; Sequencing and timing ; Logic and arithmetic ; Control algorithms ; Communication.
5. **Output signal conditioning and interfacing** : D/A, D/D ; Amplifiers ; PWM ; Power transistors ; Power Op-amps.
6. **Graphical displays** : LEDs ; Digital displays ; LCD ; CRT.

Fig. 1.1. Components of a typical "mechatronic system".

- The **actuators** produce motion or cause some action ;
- The **sensors** detect the state of the system parameters, inputs and outputs ;
- **Digital devices** control the system ;
- **Conditioning and interfacing circuits** provide connection between the control circuits and the input/output devices ;
- **Graphical displays** provide visual feedback to users.

1.1.8. Examples of Mechatronic Systems :

Following are the examples of mechatronics systems :

1. *Home appliances* :
 - Washing machines;
 - Bread machines etc.