

General Physics I

Classnotes

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1 Metric Prefixes

10^{12}	= 1, 000, 000, 000, 000	tera	T
10^9	= 1, 000, 000, 000	giga	G
10^6	= 1, 000, 000	mega	M
10^3	= 1, 000	kilo	k
10^0	= 1	—	—
10^{-2}	= 0.01	centi	c
10^{-3}	= 0.001	milli	m
10^{-6}	= 0.000, 001	micro	μ
10^{-9}	= 0.000, 000, 001	nano	n
10^{-12}	= 0.000, 000, 000, 001	pico	p

2 Basic Quantities

	Metric	English
Length	m = meter	ft = foot
Mass	kg = kilogram	sl = slug
Time	s = second	s = second

$$\begin{aligned}1\text{day} &= 24 \times 60 \times 60 = 86,400 \text{ } s \\1\text{day} &= 10 \times 100 \times 100 = 100,000 \text{ } s\end{aligned}$$

3 Derived Quantities

velocity/speed	mi/s	km/h	m/min	...	$[L]/[T]$
area	cm^2	m^2	$[L]^2$
density	g/cm^3	kg/m^3	$[M]/[L]^3$

4 Conversions

1 min	\equiv	60 s
1 h	\equiv	60 min
1 ft	\equiv	12 in
1 mi	\equiv	5280 ft
1 L	\equiv	$1,000 \text{ cm}^3$
1 mi^2	\equiv	640 acres
1 in	\equiv	2.54 cm

Example:

$$70 \text{ mi/h} = ? \text{ m/s}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= 70 \text{ mi/h} \times \left(\frac{5280 \text{ ft}}{1 \text{ mi}} \right) \times \left(\frac{12 \text{ in}}{1 \text{ ft}} \right) \times \left(\frac{2.54 \text{ cm}}{1 \text{ in}} \right) \times \left(\frac{1 \text{ m}}{100 \text{ cm}} \right) \\
 &\quad \times \left(\frac{1 \text{ h}}{60 \text{ min}} \right) \times \left(\frac{1 \text{ min}}{60 \text{ s}} \right) \\
 &= 31.2928 \text{ m/s}
 \end{aligned}$$

Example:

$$350 \text{ in}^3 = ? \text{ L}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= 350 \text{ in}^3 \times \left(\frac{2.54 \text{ cm}}{1 \text{ in}} \right)^3 \times \left(\frac{1 \text{ L}}{1000 \text{ cm}^3} \right) \\
 &= 5.7355 \text{ L}
 \end{aligned}$$

Homework:

$$\begin{aligned} 1 \text{ acre} &= ? \text{ in}^2 \\ &= 1 \text{ acre} \times \left(\frac{1 \text{ mi}^2}{640 \text{ acres}} \right) \times \left(\frac{5280 \text{ ft}}{1 \text{ mi}} \right)^2 \times \left(\frac{12 \text{ in}}{1 \text{ ft}} \right)^2 \\ &= 6,272,640 \text{ in}^2 \end{aligned}$$