

# Fundamental Constants and Data

**TABLE II.1 FUNDAMENTAL CONSTANTS**

Quantity	Symbol or definition	Value
Atomic mass unit	amu	$1.66054 \times 10^{-24}$ g 931.494 MeV
Avagadro's number	$N_A$	$0.6022137 \times 10^{24}$ (g-mole) $^{-1}$
Boltzmann's constant	$k$	$1.38066 \times 10^{-23}$ J/ $^{\circ}$ K
Compton's wavelength of the electron	$\lambda_C$	$8.61707 \times 10^{-5}$ eV/ $^{\circ}$ K $2.42631 \times 10^{-10}$ cm
Electron rest mass	$m_e$	$9.10939 \times 10^{-31}$ Kg $5.485799 \times 10^{-4}$ amu 0.510999 MeV
Elementary charge	$e$	$1.602192 \times 10^{-19}$ coul
Neutron rest mass	$M_n$	$1.674929 \times 10^{-27}$ Kg 1.008665 amu 939.56563 MeV
Planck's constant	$h$	$6.626075 \times 10^{-34}$ J-sec $4.13572 \times 10^{-15}$ eV-sec
Proton rest mass	$M_p$	$1.67262 \times 10^{-27}$ Kg 1.007276 amu 938.27231 MeV
Speed of light	$c$	$2.997925 \times 10^8$ m/sec

\*"Reviews of Particle Properties." *Phys. Rev. D* 80, No. 3 (1994).

TABLE II.2 CROSS-SECTIONS OF SOME IMPORTANT NUCLIDES IN NUCLEAR ENGINEERING

Atomic number	Nuclide	Abundance <i>a/o</i>	Half-life*	$\sigma_a$ , † barns	$\sigma_f$ , ‡ barns
0	n		12 m		
1	<sup>1</sup> H	99.985		333 mb	
	<sup>2</sup> H	0.015		0.53 mb	
	<sup>3</sup> H		12.33 y		
3	<sup>6</sup> Li	92.5		941	
	<sup>7</sup> Li	7.42		45.7 mb	
5	<sup>10</sup> B	19.6		3840	
	<sup>11</sup> B	80.4		5.5 mb	
6	<sup>12</sup> C	98.89		3.4 mb	
	<sup>13</sup> C	1.11		1.37 mb	
	<sup>14</sup> C		5736 y		
7	<sup>14</sup> N	99.64		1.9	
	<sup>15</sup> N	0.36		24 $\mu$ b	
8	<sup>16</sup> O	99.756		0.190 mb	
	<sup>17</sup> O	0.039		0.239	
	<sup>18</sup> O	0.204		0.16 mb	
53	<sup>135</sup> I		6.7 h		
54	<sup>135</sup> Xe		9.17 h	2.65 $\times 10^6$ †	
61	<sup>143</sup> Pm		53.1 h		
62	<sup>149</sup> Sm	13.83		41,000†	
90	<sup>232</sup> Th	100	1.41 $\times 10^{10}$ y	5.13	
	<sup>233</sup> Th		23.3 m	1465	15
92	<sup>233</sup> U		1.592 $\times 10^5$ y	575†	529†
	<sup>234</sup> U	0.0055	2.46 $\times 10^5$ y	103.47	0.465
	<sup>235</sup> U	0.72	7.038 $\times 10^8$ y	687.0†	587†
	<sup>236</sup> U		2.34 $\times 10^7$ y	5.2	
	<sup>238</sup> U	99.27	4.68 $\times 10^9$ y	2.73†	
	<sup>239</sup> U		23.5 m	36	14
94	<sup>239</sup> Pu		24110 y	1020†	749†
	<sup>240</sup> Pu		6564 y	289.5	0.064
	<sup>241</sup> Pu		14.35 y	1378	1015
	<sup>242</sup> Pu		3.733 $\times 10^5$ y	10.3	<0.002

\*m = minute, h = hour, y = year.

†Cross sections at 0.0253 eV or 2200 m/sec.

‡Non-1/v absorber, see table 3.2 for non-1/v factor.

TABLE II.3 PROPERTIES OF THE ELEMENTS AND CERTAIN MOLECULES

Element or Molecule	Symbol	Atomic Number	Atomic or Molecular Weight*	Nominal Density, g/cm <sup>3</sup>	Atoms or Molecules per cm <sup>3</sup> † ( $\times 10^{24}$ )	$\sigma_a$ , #barns	$\sigma_s$ , ‡ barns	$\Sigma_a$ , fcm <sup>-1</sup>	$\Sigma_s$ , ‡ cm <sup>-1</sup>
Actinium	Ac	89	227			515			
Aluminum	Al	13	26.9815	2.699	0.06024	0.230	1.49	0.01386	0.08976
Antimony	Sb	51	121.75	6.62	0.03275	5.4	4.2	0.1769	0.1376
Argon	Ar	18	39.948	Gas		0.678	0.644		
Arsenic	As	33	74.9216	5.73	0.04606	4.3	7	0.1981	0.3224
Barium	Ba	56	137.34	3.5	0.01535	1.2		0.01842	
Beryllium	Be	4	9.0122	1.85	0.1236	0.0092	6.14	0.001137	0.7589
Bismuth	Bi	83	208.980	9.80	0.02824	0.033		0.0009319	
Boron	B	5	10.811	2.3	0.1281	759	3.6	97.23	0.4612
Bromine	Br	35	79.909	3.12	0.02351	6.8	6.1	0.1599	0.1434
Cadmium	Cd	48	112.40	8.65	0.04635	2450	5.6	113.56	0.2596
Calcium	Ca	20	40.08	1.55	0.02329	0.43		0.01001	
Carbon (graphite)	C	6	12.01115	1.60	0.08023	0.0034	4.75	0.0002728	0.3811
Cerium	Ce	58	140.12	6.78	0.02914	0.63	4.7	0.01836	0.1370
Cesium	Cs	55	132.905	1.9	0.008610	29.0		0.2497	
Chlorine	Cl	17	35.453	Gas		33.2			
Chromium	Cr	24	51.996	7.19	0.08328	3.1	3.8	0.2582	0.3165
Cobalt	Co	27	58.9332	8.8	0.08993	37.2	6.7	3.345	0.6025
Copper	Cu	29	63.54	8.96	0.08493	3.79	7.9	0.3219	0.6709
Deuterium	D	1	2.01410	Gas		0.00053			
Dysprosium	Dy	66	162.50	8.56	0.03172	930	100	29.50	3.172
Erbium	Er	68	167.26	9.16	0.03203	162	11.0	5.189	0.3523
Europium	Eu	63	151.96	5.22	0.02069	4600	8.0	95.17	0.1655
Fluorine	F	9	18.9984	Gas		0.0095	4.0		

(continued)



Nitrogen	N	7	14.0067	Gas	0.07124	1.85	10.6	1.090	
Osmium	Os	76	190.2	22.5		15.3			
Oxygen	O	8	15.9994	Gas	0.00027	0.00027	3.76		0.3396
Palladium	Pd	46	106.4	12.0	0.06792	6.9	5.0	0.4686	
Phosphorus	P	15	30.9738	1.82	0.03539	0.180		0.006370	
(yellow)									
Platinum	Pt	78	195.09	21.45	0.06622	10.0	11.2	0.622	0.7167
Plutonium	Pu	94	239.0522	19.6	0.04938	$\sigma_a = 1011.3$	7.7	49.93	0.3902
Polonium	Po	84	209	9.51	0.02727	$\sigma_f = 742.5$		36.66	
Potassium	K	19	39.095	0.86	0.01325	2.10	1.5	0.02783	0.01988
Praseodymium	Pr	59	140.907	6.78	0.02898	11.5	3.3	0.3333	0.09563
Promethium	Pm	61	145						
Protactinium	Pa	91	231.0359			210			
Radium	Ra	88	226.0254	5.0	0.01332	11.5		0.1532	
Rhenium	Re	75	186.2	20	0.06596	88	11.3	5.804	0.7453
Rhodium	Rh	45	102.905	12.41	0.07263	150		10.89	
Rubidium	Rb	37	85.47	1.53	0.01078	0.37	6.2	0.003989	0.06684
Ruthenium	Ru	44	101.07	12.2	0.07270	2.56		0.1861	
Samarium	Sm	62	150.35	6.93	0.02776	5800		161.0	
Scandium	Sc	21	44.956	2.5	0.03349	26.5	24	0.8875	0.8038
Selenium	Se	34	78.96	4.81	0.03669	11.7	9.7	0.4293	0.3559
Silicon	Si	14	28.086	2.33	0.04996	0.16	2.2	0.007994	0.1099
Silver	Ag	47	107.870	10.49	0.05857	63.6		3.725	
Sodium	Na	11	22.9898	0.97	0.02541	0.530	3.2	0.01347	0.08131
Strontium	Sr	38	87.62	2.6	0.01787	0.530	10	0.02162	0.1787
Sulfur	S	16	32.064	2.07	0.03888	0.520	0.975	0.02022	0.03791
(yellow)									
Tantalum	Ta	73	180.948	16.6	0.05525	21.0	6.2	1.160	0.3426
Technetium	Tc	43	99			19			
Tellurium	Te	52	127.60	6.24	0.02945	4.7		0.1384	
Terbium	Tb	65	158.925	8.33	0.03157	25.5	20	0.8050	0.6314

(continued)

TABLE II.3 (CONTINUED)

Element or Molecule	Symbol	Atomic Number	Atomic or Molecular Weight*	Nominal Density, g/cm <sup>3</sup>	Atomic or Molecules per cm <sup>3</sup> † ( $\times 10^{24}$ )	$\sigma_a$ , ‡ barns	$\sigma_s$ , ‡ barns	$\Sigma_a$ , fcm <sup>-1</sup>	$\Sigma_s$ , ‡ cm <sup>-1</sup>
Thallium	Tl	81	204.37	11.85	0.03492		3.4	0.1187	0.3387
Thorium	Th	90	232.038	11.71	0.03039		7.40	0.2249	0.3850
Thulium	Tm	69	168.934	9.35	0.03314		103	3.413	0.3977
Tin	Sn	50	118.69	7.298	0.03703		0.63	0.02333	
Titanium	Ti	22	47.90	4.51	0.05670		6.1	0.3459	0.2268
Tungsten	W	74	183.85	19.2	0.06289		18.5	1.163	
Uranium	U	92	238.03	19.1	0.04833		$\sigma_a = 7.59$ $\sigma_f = 4.19$	0.3668	0.4301
Vanadium	V	23	50.942	6.1	0.07212		5.04	0.2025	0.3556
Water	H <sub>2</sub> O		18.0153	1.0	0.03343		0.664	0.3635	3.443
Xenon	Xe	54	131.30	Gas			24.5	0.02220	
Ytterbium	Yb	70	173.04	7.01	0.02440		36.6	0.8930	0.6100
Yttrium	Y	39	88.906	5.51	0.03733		1.28	0.04778	0.2837
Zinc	Zn	30	65.37	7.133	0.06572		1.10	0.07230	0.2760
Zirconium	Zr	40	91.22	6.5	0.04291		0.185	0.007938	0.2746

\*Based on <sup>12</sup>C = 12.00000.

†Four-digit accuracy for computational purposes only; last digit(s) usually is not meaningful.

‡Cross-sections at 0.0253 eV or 2200 m/sec. The scattering cross sections, except for those of H<sub>2</sub>O and D<sub>2</sub>O, are measured values in a thermal neutron spectrum and are assumed to be 0.0253 eV values because  $\sigma_s$  is usually constant at thermal energies. The errors in  $\sigma_s$  tend to be large, and the tabulated values of  $\sigma_s$  should be used with caution. (From BNL-325, 3rd ed., 1973).The value of  $\sigma_a$  given in the table is for pure graphite. Commercial, reactor-grade graphite contains varying amounts of contaminants and  $\sigma_a$  is somewhat larger, say, about 0.0048 barns, so that  $\Sigma_a \approx 0.0003851$  cm<sup>-1</sup>.The value of  $\sigma_a$  given in the table is for pure D<sub>2</sub>O. Commercially available heavy water contains small amounts of ordinary water and  $\sigma_a$  in this case is somewhat larger.



TABLE II.4 THE MASS ATTENUATION COEFFICIENT ( $\mu/\rho$ ) FOR SEVERAL MATERIALS, IN CM<sup>2</sup>/G\*†

Material	Gamma-ray energy, MeV																	
	0.1	0.15	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.25	1.50	2	3	4	5	6	8	10
H	.295	.265	.243	.212	.189	.173	.160	.140	.126	.113	.103	.0876	.0691	.0579	.0502	.0446	.0371	.0321
Be	.132	.119	.109	.0945	.0847	.0773	.0715	.0628	.0565	.0504	.0459	.0394	.0313	.0266	.0234	.0211	.0181	.0161
C	.149	.134	.122	.106	.0953	.0870	.0805	.0707	.0636	.0568	.0518	.0444	.0356	.0304	.0270	.0245	.0213	.0194
N	.150	.134	.123	.106	.0955	.0869	.0805	.0707	.0636	.0568	.0517	.0445	.0357	.0306	.0273	.0249	.0218	.0200
O	.151	.134	.123	.107	.0953	.0870	.0806	.0708	.0636	.0568	.0518	.0445	.0359	.0309	.0276	.0254	.0224	.0206
Na	.151	.130	.118	.102	.0912	.0833	.0770	.0676	.0608	.0546	.0496	.0427	.0348	.0303	.0274	.0254	.0229	.0215
Mg	.160	.135	.122	.106	.0944	.0860	.0795	.0699	.0627	.0560	.0512	.0442	.0360	.0315	.0286	.0266	.0242	.0228
Al	.161	.134	.120	.103	.0922	.0840	.0777	.0683	.0614	.0548	.0500	.0432	.0353	.0310	.0282	.0264	.0241	.0229
Si	.172	.139	.125	.107	.0954	.0869	.0802	.0706	.0635	.0567	.0517	.0447	.0367	.0323	.0296	.0277	.0254	.0243
P	.174	.137	.122	.104	.0928	.0846	.0780	.0685	.0617	.0551	.0502	.0436	.0358	.0316	.0290	.0273	.0252	.0242
S	.188	.144	.127	.108	.0958	.0874	.0806	.0707	.0635	.0568	.0519	.0448	.0371	.0328	.0302	.0284	.0266	.0255
Ar	.188	.135	.117	.0977	.0867	.0790	.0730	.0638	.0573	.0512	.0468	.0407	.0338	.0301	.0279	.0266	.0248	.0241
K	.215	.149	.127	.106	.0938	.0852	.0786	.0689	.0618	.0552	.0505	.0438	.0365	.0327	.0305	.0289	.0274	.0267
Ca	.238	.158	.132	.109	.0965	.0876	.0809	.0708	.0634	.0566	.0518	.0451	.0376	.0338	.0316	.0302	.0285	.0280
Fe	.344	.183	.138	.106	.0919	.0828	.0762	.0664	.0595	.0531	.0485	.0424	.0361	.0330	.0313	.0304	.0295	.0294
Cu	.427	.206	.147	.108	.0916	.0820	.0751	.0654	.0585	.0521	.0476	.0418	.0357	.0330	.0316	.0309	.0303	.0305
Mo	1.03	.389	.225	.130	.0998	.0851	.0761	.0648	.0575	.0510	.0467	.0414	.0365	.0349	.0344	.0344	.0349	.0359
Sn	1.58	.563	.303	.153	.109	.0886	.0776	.0647	.0568	.0501	.0459	.0408	.0367	.0355	.0355	.0358	.0368	.0383
I	1.83	.648	.339	.165	.114	.0913	.0792	.0653	.0571	.0502	.0460	.0409	.0370	.0360	.0361	.0365	.0377	.0394
W	4.21	1.44	.708	.293	.174	.125	.101	.0763	.0640	.0544	.0492	.0437	.0405	.0402	.0409	.0418	.0438	.0465
Pt	4.75	1.64	.795	.324	.191	.135	.107	.0800	.0659	.0554	.0501	.0445	.0414	.0411	.0418	.0427	.0448	.0477
Tl	5.16	1.80	.866	.346	.204	.143	.112	.0824	.0675	.0563	.0508	.0452	.0420	.0416	.0423	.0433	.0454	.0484
Pb	5.29	1.84	.896	.356	.208	.145	.114	.0836	.0684	.0569	.0512	.0457	.0421	.0420	.0426	.0436	.0459	.0489
U	10.60	2.42	1.17	.452	.259	.176	.136	.0952	.0757	.0615	.0548	.0484	.0445	.0440	.0446	.0455	.0479	.0511
Air	.151	.134	.123	.106	.0953	.0868	.0804	.0706	.0636	.0567	.0517	.0445	.0357	.0307	.0274	.0250	.0220	.0202
NaI	1.57	.568	.305	.155	.111	.0901	.0789	.0657	.0577	.0508	.0465	.0412	.0367	.0351	.0347	.0347	.0354	.0366
H <sub>2</sub> O	.167	.149	.136	.118	.106	.0966	.0896	.0786	.0706	.0630	.0575	.0493	.0396	.0339	.0301	.0275	.0240	.0219
Concrete	.169	.139	.124	.107	.0954	.0870	.0804	.0706	.0635	.0567	.0517	.0445	.0363	.0317	.0287	.0268	.0243	.0229
Tissue	.163	.144	.132	.115	.100	.0936	.0867	.0761	.0683	.0600	.0556	.0478	.0384	.0329	.0292	.0267	.0233	.0212

\*From L. T. Templin, editor, *Reactor Physics Constants*, ANL-5800, 2nd ed., 1963; based on G. W. Grodzstein National Bureau of Standards circular 583, 1957.

†Nominal densities of the elements are given in Table II.3. For air at 1 atm and 0°C,  $\rho = 1.293 \times 10^{-3}$  g/cm<sup>3</sup>;  $\rho$  (NaI) = 3.67 g/cm<sup>3</sup>,  $\rho$  (tissue)  $\approx 1$  (H<sub>2</sub>O) = 1 g/cm<sup>3</sup>;  $\rho$  (concrete)  $\approx 2.25 - 2.40$  g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

TABLE II.5 THE MASS ABSORPTION COEFFICIENT ( $\mu_a/\rho$ ) FOR SEVERAL MATERIALS, IN CM<sup>2</sup>/G\*

Material	Gamma-ray energy, MeV																	
	0.1	0.15	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.25	1.50	2	3	4	5	6	8	10
H	.0411	.0487	.0531	.0575	.0589	.0591	.0590	.0575	.0557	.0533	.0509	.0467	.0401	.0354	.0318	.0291	.0252	.0255
Be	.0183	.0217	.0237	.0256	.0263	.0264	.0263	.0256	.0248	.0237	.0227	.0210	.0283	.0164	.0151	.0141	.0127	.0118
C	.0215	.0246	.0267	.0288	.0296	.0297	.0296	.0289	.0280	.0268	.0256	.0237	.0209	.0190	.0177	.0166	.0153	.0145
N	.0224	.0249	.0267	.0288	.0296	.0297	.0296	.0289	.0280	.0268	.0256	.0236	.0211	.0193	.0180	.0171	.0158	.0151
O	.0233	.0252	.0271	.0289	.0296	.0297	.0296	.0289	.0280	.0268	.0257	.0238	.0212	.0195	.0183	.0175	.0163	.0157
Na	.0289	.0258	.0266	.0279	.0283	.0284	.0284	.0276	.0268	.0257	.0246	.0229	.0207	.0194	.0185	.0179	.0171	.0168
Mg	.0335	.0276	.0278	.0290	.0294	.0293	.0292	.0285	.0276	.0265	.0254	.0237	.0215	.0203	.0194	.0188	.0182	.0180
Al	.0373	.0283	.0275	.0283	.0287	.0286	.0286	.0278	.0270	.0259	.0248	.0232	.0212	.0200	.0192	.0188	.0183	.0182
Si	.0435	.0300	.0286	.0291	.0293	.0290	.0290	.0282	.0274	.0263	.0252	.0236	.0217	.0206	.0198	.0194	.0190	.0189
P	.0501	.0315	.0292	.0289	.0290	.0290	.0287	.0280	.0271	.0260	.0250	.0234	.0216	.0206	.0200	.0197	.0194	.0195
S	.0601	.0351	.0310	.0301	.0301	.0300	.0298	.0288	.0279	.0268	.0258	.0242	.0224	.0215	.0209	.0206	.0206	.0206
Ar	.0729	.0368	.0302	.0278	.0274	.0272	.0270	.0260	.0252	.0242	.0233	.0220	.0206	.0199	.0195	.0195	.0194	.0197
K	.0909	.0433	.0340	.0304	.0298	.0295	.0291	.0282	.0272	.0261	.0251	.0237	.0222	.0217	.0214	.0212	.0215	.0219
Ca	.111	.0489	.0367	.0318	.0309	.0304	.0300	.0290	.0279	.0268	.0258	.0244	.0230	.0225	.0222	.0223	.0239	.0250
Fe	.225	.0810	.0489	.0340	.0307	.0294	.0287	.0274	.0261	.0250	.0242	.0231	.0224	.0224	.0227	.0231	.0237	.0248
Cu	.310	.107	.0594	.0368	.0316	.0296	.0286	.0271	.0261	.0247	.0237	.0229	.0223	.0227	.0231	.0237	.0248	.0261
Mo	.922	.294	.141	.0617	.0422	.0348	.0315	.0281	.0263	.0248	.0239	.0233	.0237	.0250	.0262	.0274	.0296	.0316
Sn	1.469	.471	.222	.0873	.0534	.0403	.0346	.0294	.0268	.0248	.0239	.0233	.0243	.0259	.0276	.0291	.0316	.0339
I	1.726	.557	.260	.100	.0589	.0433	.0366	.0303	.0274	.0252	.0241	.0236	.0247	.0265	.0283	.0299	.0327	.0353
W	4.112	1.356	.631	.230	.1219	.0786	.0599	.0426	.0353	.0302	.0281	.0271	.0287	.0311	.0335	.0355	.0390	.0426
Pt	4.645	1.556	.719	.262	.138	.0892	.0666	.0465	.0375	.0315	.0293	.0280	.0296	.0320	.0343	.0365	.0400	.0438
Tl	5.057	1.717	.791	.285	.152	.0972	.0718	.0491	.0393	.0326	.0301	.0288	.0304	.0326	.0349	.0354	.0406	.0446
Pb	5.193	1.753	.821	.294	.156	.0994	.0738	.0505	.0402	.0332	.0306	.0293	.0305	.0330	.0352	.0373	.0412	.0450
U	9.63	2.337	1.096	.392	.208	.132	.0968	.0628	.0482	.0383	.0346	.0324	.0332	.0352	.0374	.0394	.0443	.0474
Air	.0233	.0251	.0268	.0288	.0296	.0297	.0296	.0289	.0280	.0268	.0256	.0238	.0211	.0194	.0181	.0172	.0160	.0153
NaI	1.466	.476	.224	.0889	.0542	.0410	.0354	.0299	.0273	.0253	.0242	.0235	.0241	.0254	.0268	.0281	.0303	.0325
H <sub>2</sub> O	.0253	.0278	.0300	.0321	.0328	.0330	.0329	.0321	.0311	.0298	.0285	.0264	.0233	.0213	.0198	.0188	.0173	.0165
Concrete	.0416	.0300	.0289	.0284	.0297	.0296	.0295	.0287	.0278	.0272	.0256	.0239	.0216	.0203	.0194	.0188	.0180	.0177
Tissue	.0271	.0282	.0293	.0312	.0317	.0320	.0319	.0311	.0300	.0288	.0276	.0256	.0220	.0206	.0192	.0182	.0168	.0160

\*From L. T. Templin, editor, *Reactor Physics Constants*, ANL-5800, 2nd ed., 1963; based on G. W. Grodzstein, National Bureau of Standards Circular 583, 1957.