

# Numbers Large and Small

## A. Scientific Notation

In science, numbers are typically expressed as the product of a number between 1 and 10 and 10 raised to a power. For example, the number  $1350 = 1.350 \times 10^3$ ;  $0.002 = 2 \times 10^{-3}$ . Such a way of expressing numbers is much more efficient and also simplifies calculations.

When numbers written in such notation are multiplied, the first factors are multiplied and the exponents of 10 are added. For example,  $(2 \times 10^4)(3 \times 10^5) = 6 \times 10^9$ . When such numbers are divided, the first factors are divided and the exponent of the 10 in the denominator is subtracted from the exponent of the 10 in the numerator.

For example,  $\frac{8 \times 10^7}{2 \times 10^3} = 4 \times 10^4$ .

1. Convert the following measured quantities from ordinary notation to scientific notation.

	ORDINARY NOTATION	SCIENTIFIC NOTATION
Mean wavelength of sodium light	0.000 000 5893 meters	
Speed of light in a vacuum	299 793 000 meters/second	
Half-life of uranium-235	710 000 000 years	
Atomic mass unit	0.000 000 000 000 000 000 000 001 660 531 grams	
Avogadro's number	602 300 000 000 000 000 000 000	
Melting point of tungsten	3410°C	

2. Convert each of the following measured quantities from scientific notation to ordinary notation.

	SCIENTIFIC NOTATION	ORDINARY NOTATION
Mass of an electron	$9.109 \times 10^{-31}$ kg	
Temperature at which atomic fusion occurs	$1.5 \times 10^7$ °C	
Lowest possible temperature	$-2.73 \times 10^2$ °C	
Diameter of the Andromeda galaxy	$1.9 \times 10^{18}$ km	
Radius of a hydrogen energy level	$5.3 \times 10^{-11}$ m	
Charge of a proton	$1.6 \times 10^{-19}$ coulomb	

3. Express each of the following numbers in scientific notation.

2370

\_\_\_\_\_

0.03

\_\_\_\_\_

0.000 000 000 000 274

\_\_\_\_\_

985 000 000 000 000 000 000

\_\_\_\_\_

15.045

\_\_\_\_\_

6003

\_\_\_\_\_

0.000 045

\_\_\_\_\_

0.000 000 007 07

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Express each of the following numbers in ordinary notation.

$5.63 \times 10^{-3}$

\_\_\_\_\_

$6.7 \times 10^5$

\_\_\_\_\_

$1.01 \times 10^3$

\_\_\_\_\_

$9.899 \times 10^{-6}$

\_\_\_\_\_

$2 \times 10^6$

\_\_\_\_\_

$7.85 \times 10^{-2}$

\_\_\_\_\_

$3.444 \times 10^{10}$

\_\_\_\_\_

$2.0002 \times 10^{-4}$

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Perform the indicated operations.

$10^3 \times 10^6 =$  \_\_\_\_\_

$\frac{10^2}{10^8} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

$10^{-2} \times 10^5 =$  \_\_\_\_\_

$10^{-1} \times 10^{10} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

$\frac{10^7}{10^3} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

$\frac{10^2}{10^{-5}} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

6. Perform the indicated operations. Convert all answers to scientific notation, showing the correct number of significant digits.

$(5.4 \times 10^2) (2.5 \times 10^9) =$  \_\_\_\_\_

$(1.2 \times 10^{-5}) (5.4 \times 10^6) =$  \_\_\_\_\_

$(3.3 \times 10^{-7}) (6.6 \times 10^{-7}) =$  \_\_\_\_\_

$(2.56 \times 10^3) (1.00 \times 10^{-1}) =$  \_\_\_\_\_

$7.25 (5.5 \times 10^{12}) =$  \_\_\_\_\_

$\frac{(1.5 \times 10^7)}{(4.5 \times 10^5)} =$  \_\_\_\_\_

$\frac{(9.6 \times 10^2)}{(3.2 \times 10^4)} =$  \_\_\_\_\_