

Astronomy Formula Sheet

Intensity Ratio:	$m_B - m_A = 2.5 \log \left(\frac{I_A}{I_B} \right)$ $\frac{I_A}{I_B} = 10^{0.4(m_B - m_A)}$	m = Magnitude I = Intensity
Small Angle Formula:	$\theta = 206265 \frac{D}{d}$	θ = Angular Diameter (arcsecs) D = Diameter d = Distance
Circular Velocity:	$v = \sqrt{\frac{GM}{r}}$	v = circular velocity (m/s) G = Gravitational Constant M = Mass (kg) r = radius (meters)
Resolving Power:	$\Delta\theta = 251643 \frac{\lambda}{d}$	$\Delta\theta$ = Angular separation (arcsecs) λ = Wavelength d = Optic Diameter
Compare LGP:	$\frac{LGP_A}{LGP_B} = \left(\frac{D_A}{D_B} \right)^2$	LGP = Light Gathering Power D = Optic Diameter
Magnification:	$M = \frac{F_O}{F_E}$	M = Magnification Power F_O = Objective focal length F_E = Eyepiece focal length
Wien's Law:	$\lambda_{peak} = \frac{2900000}{T}$	λ_{peak} = Peak wavelength (nm) T = Temperature (K)
Stefan-Boltzmann Law:	$F = \sigma T^4$ $L = 4\pi\sigma R^2 T^4$ $\frac{L}{L_\odot} = \left(\frac{R}{R_\odot} \right)^2 \left(\frac{T}{T_\odot} \right)^4$	F = Flux (luminosity/area) (W/m ²) σ = Stefan-Boltzmann Constant T = Temperature (K) L = Luminosity (W) R = Radius (m)
Redshift:	$z + 1 = \frac{\lambda_O}{\lambda_E}$	z = Redshift λ_O = Observed Wavelength λ_E = Emitted Wavelength
Doppler Formula:	$v = cz$	v = Velocity (m/s) c = Speed of light (m/s) z = Redshift
Relativistic Doppler Shift:	$z + 1 = \sqrt{\frac{1 + (v/c)}{1 - (v/c)}}$	v = Velocity (m/s) c = Speed of light (m/s) z = Redshift
Hubble's Law:	$v = H_0 d$	v = Recessional velocity (km/s) H_0 = Hubble's Constant d = Distance
Fusion Explained:	$E = mc^2$	E = Energy (J) m = Mass (kg) c = Speed of light (m/s)

Parallax:	$d = \frac{1}{p}$	$d = \text{Distance (pc)}$ $p = \text{Parallax Angle (arcseconds)}$
F Ratio:	$\frac{L_f}{D_O}$	$L_f = \text{Focal Length}$ $D_O = \text{Objective Diameter}$
Distance Modulus:	$m - M = -5 + 5\log(d)$ $d = 10^{\frac{m-M+5}{5}}$	$m = \text{Apparent magnitude}$ $M = \text{Absolute Magnitude}$ $d = \text{Distance (pc)}$
Orbit Eccentricity:	$e = \frac{c}{a}$	$e = \text{Orbital Eccentricity}$ $c = \text{Distance from focus to center}$ $a = \text{semimajor axis}$
Aphelion/Perihelion:	$R_a = a(1 + e)$ $R_p = a(1 - e)$	$R_a = \text{Orbit Aphelion}$ $R_p = \text{Orbit Perihelion}$ $a = \text{Semimajor Axis}$ $e = \text{Eccentricity}$
Kepler's 3rd Law:	$M_A + M_B = \frac{a^3}{p^2}$ $p^2 = \frac{a^3}{M_A + M_B}$	$M = \text{Mass (solar masses)}$ $a = \text{Semimajor axis (AU)}$ $p = \text{Orbital Period (years)}$
Mass-Luminosity Relation:	$L = M^{3.5}$	$M = \text{Mass (solar masses)}$ $L = \text{Luminosity (Solar luminosity)}$
Stellar Lifetime:	$\tau = 10^{10} M^{-2.5}$	$M = \text{Mass (solar masses)}$ $\tau = \text{Stellar Lifetime (years)}$
Schwarzschild Radius:	$r_s = \frac{2Gm}{c^2}$	$r_s = \text{Schwarzschild Radius (meters)}$ $G = \text{Gravitational Constant}$ $c = \text{Speed of light}$ $r = \text{radius (meters)}$
Universal Gravitation:	$F = G \frac{m_A m_B}{r^2}$	$F = \text{Gravitational Force (N)}$ $G = \text{Gravitational Constant}$ $m = \text{mass (kg)}$ $r = \text{radius (meters)}$
Inverse-Squares Law:	$I = \frac{L}{4\pi d^2}$	$I = \text{Light Intensity (W/m}^2\text{)}$ $L = \text{Luminosity (W)}$ $d = \text{Distance (m)}$
Vacuum Frequency:	$f = \frac{c}{\lambda}$	$f = \text{Wave frequency (Hz)}$ $c = \text{Speed of Light (m/s)}$ $\lambda = \text{wavelength (m)}$
Hubble Time:	$T_U = \frac{9.778 \times 10^{11}}{H_0}$	$T_U = \text{Age of the Universe (years)}$ $H_0 = \text{Hubble Constant (km/s/Mpc)}$

Astronomical Constants and Conversions

Constants

Speed of Light = $c = 3 \times 10^8$ m/s

Gravitational Constant = $G = 6.67 \times 10^{-11}$ N m²/kg²

Mass of Earth = $M_{\oplus} = 5.97 \times 10^{24}$ kg

Radius of Earth = $R_{\oplus} = 6378$ km

Mass of the sun = $M_{\odot} = 1.99 \times 10^{30}$ kg

Radius of the sun = $R_{\odot} = 6.96 \times 10^5$ km

Effective Temperature of the sun = $T_{\odot} = 5778$ K

Luminosity of the sun = $L_{\odot} = 3.9 \times 10^{26}$ W

Mass of the Moon = $M_{\text{L}} = 7.346 \times 10^{22}$ kg

Radius of the Moon = $R_{\text{L}} = 1738.1$ km

Mass of a proton = $m_p = 1.6726 \times 10^{-27}$ kg

Mass of an Electron = $m_{e^-} = 9.109 \times 10^{-31}$ kg

Hubble's Constant = $H_0 = 70$ km/s/Mpc (**Note:** There is ongoing debate about the actual value)

Stefan-Boltzmann Constant = $\sigma = 5.67 \times 10^{-8}$ W/m²K⁴

Planck's Constant = $h = 6.626 \times 10^{-34}$ J s

Boltzmann Constant = $k_B = 1.380 \times 10^{-23}$ m² kg s⁻² K⁻¹

H α Spectral Line = 656.28 nm

Type Ia Supernova Absolute Magnitude = -19.3

Unit Conversions

1 Astronomical Unit = 1 AU = 1.5×10^8 km

1 Parsec = 1 pc = 3.09×10^{13} km = 3.26 ly

1 Light Year = 1 ly = 9.46×10^{12} km

1 Arc Minute = 1' = $(\frac{1}{60})^\circ = (1.667 \times 10^{-2})^\circ$

1 Arcsecond = 1'' = $(\frac{1}{60})' = (1.667 \times 10^{-2})'$

1 year = 31557600 seconds

1 Megaton (energy) = 1,000,000 tons of TNT = 4.184×10^{15} J

Important Note:

If constants or unit conversions are provided on the exam, use those instead of these.