

NAMES FOR SOME BIG AND SMALL NUMBERS

In STEM (tech dudes!), we use the following prefixes

10^1	deka	
10^2	hecto	
10^3	kilo	
10^6	mega	
10^9	giga	
10^{12}	tera	
10^{15}	peta	
10^{18}	exa	
10^{21}	zetta	
10^{24}	yotta	
10^{100}	googol	Different spelling than the name of a well known tech company!

10^{-1}	deci
10^{-2}	centi
10^{-3}	milli
10^{-6}	micro
10^{-9}	nano
10^{-12}	pico
10^{-15}	femto
10^{-18}	atto
10^{-21}	zepto
10^{-24}	yocto

EXAMPLES

We measure distances and lengths in such as kilometres, centimetres and millimetres.

Computer hard drives now have capacities of about 2 terabytes

Human red blood cells are 8 micrometres in diameter

Viruses range in size from 20 nanometres to 500 nanometres

The speed of light is 3×10^8 metres per second

Sound travels about 1 foot in a millisecond

A Rubik's Cube has just over 43×10^{18} combinations

Distance from planet Earth to Proxima Centauri, our next nearest star is 1.582×10^{18} miles

The diameter of our galaxy, the Milky Way is 10^{21} metres

The estimated diameter of our universe is 88×10^{25} metres

Can you see where the term nanotechnology comes from?