Scientific Notation

Provides a compact way of expressing very large and very small numbers

Large numbers

$2.0 \times 10^{6} = 2{,}000{,}000$

Move the decimal point 6 places to the right

$2.0 \times 10^{6} = 2000000.$

Small numbers

$7.0 \times 10^{-5} = 0.00007$

Move the decimal point 5 places to the left

$7.0 \times 10^{-5} = 0.00007$

Length scales in Nature

1 mm

Grain of sugar, small insects, etc

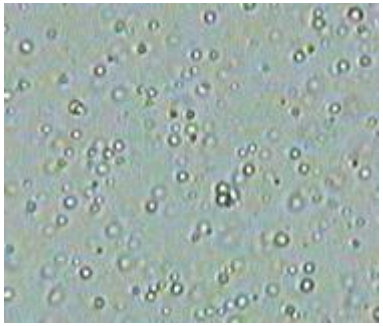
1 km

Brooklyn bridge

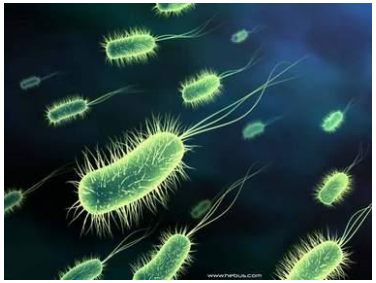
10^{-3} m 1 m 10^{3} m

1 micron (1μm)

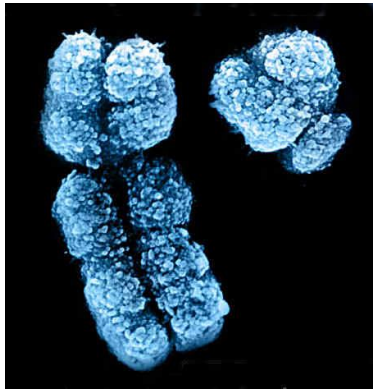
Particles in smoke, milk, etc
(1-20 μm)



Bacteria
(1-10 μm)



Human Chromosome
(2 -10 μm)



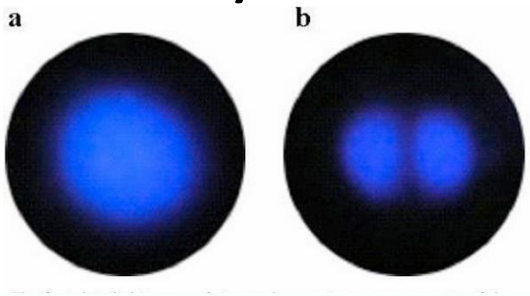
1000 km

10^{-6} 10^{-3} 1 m 10^{3} 10^{6}

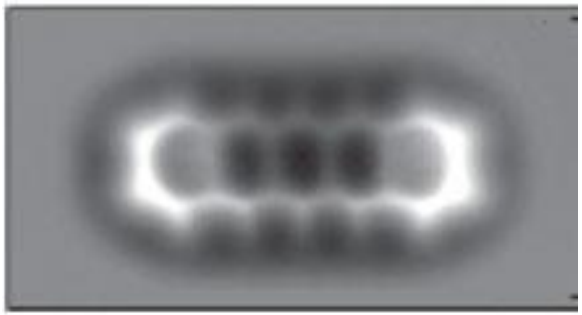
1 nanometer = 10 Angstrom
(1 nm =10 Å)

1,000,000 km
(3 light seconds)

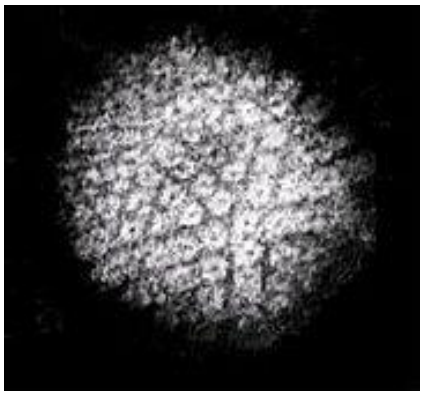
Atom (1 Å)

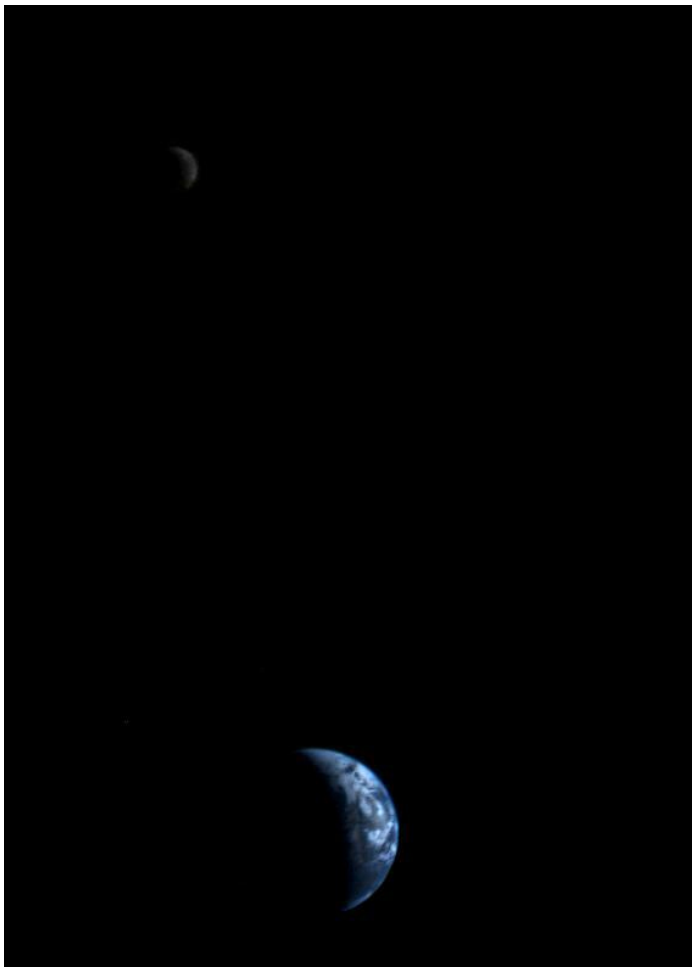


Molecule
(1nm)



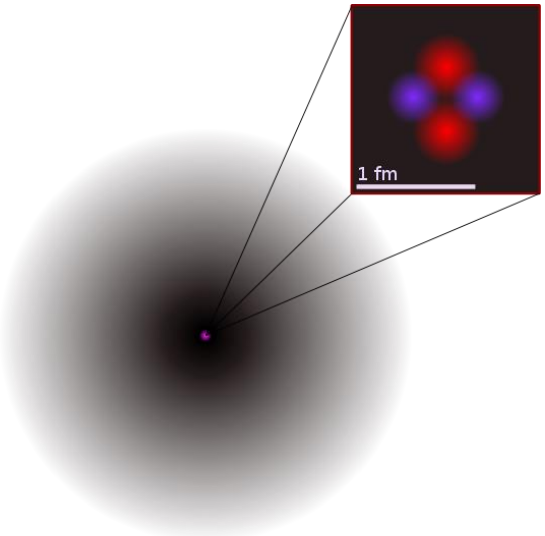
Virus (>10 nm)





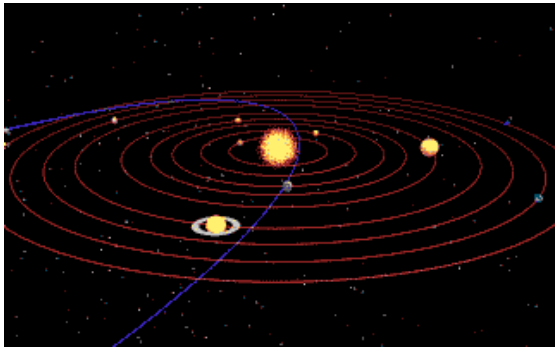
10^{-9} 10^{-6} 10^{-3} 1 m 10^{3} 10^{6} 10^{9}

Proton, neutron, atomic nucleus

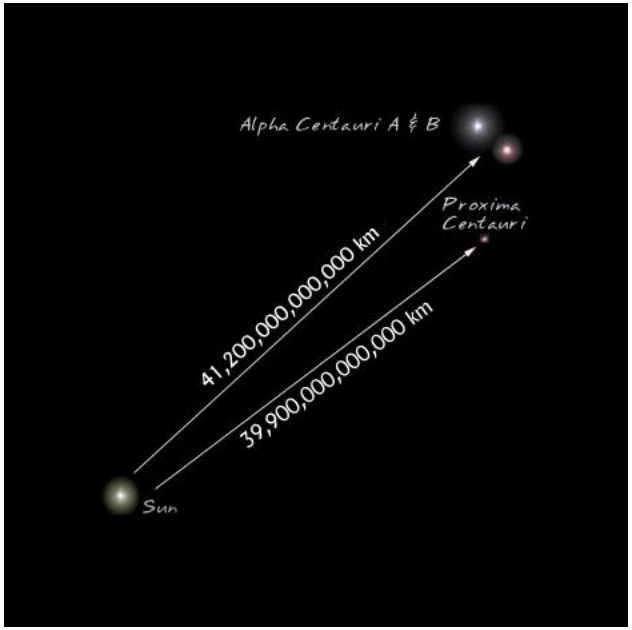


1 Å = 100,000 fm

10^{12} m = 1 billion km ≈ 1 light hour



10^{16} m ≈ 1 light year



10^{-15} 10^{-12} 10^{-9} 10^{-6} 10^{-3} 1 m 10^{3} 10^{6} 10^{9} 10^{12} 10^{15}

Homework 2

Problem 0.
Watch the documentary called “Cosmic Voyage” at
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTiDfxATYa4
paying particular attention to the length scales displayed.
Now, it is time for you to explore the different scales of the universe by going to
http://htwins.net/scale2/

Problem 1.
Estimate the number of atom in a grain of salt. Assume the grain to be a cube 1x1x1 mm, and each atom to be a cubic brick.

Problem 2.
Estimate the number of cells in your body, if a typical human cell is about 10 micron in size.

Problem 3 (optional, but fun).
Come up with a way to experimentally measure width of a sheet of paper. Explain your method, perform the measurement using your method and report the results. Please write which type of paper did you use (book, printer paper, etc.)