

SI PREFIXES

Multipliers and sub-multiples for use together with SI units



All nations on Earth have agreed to measure things using the International System of Units (SI).

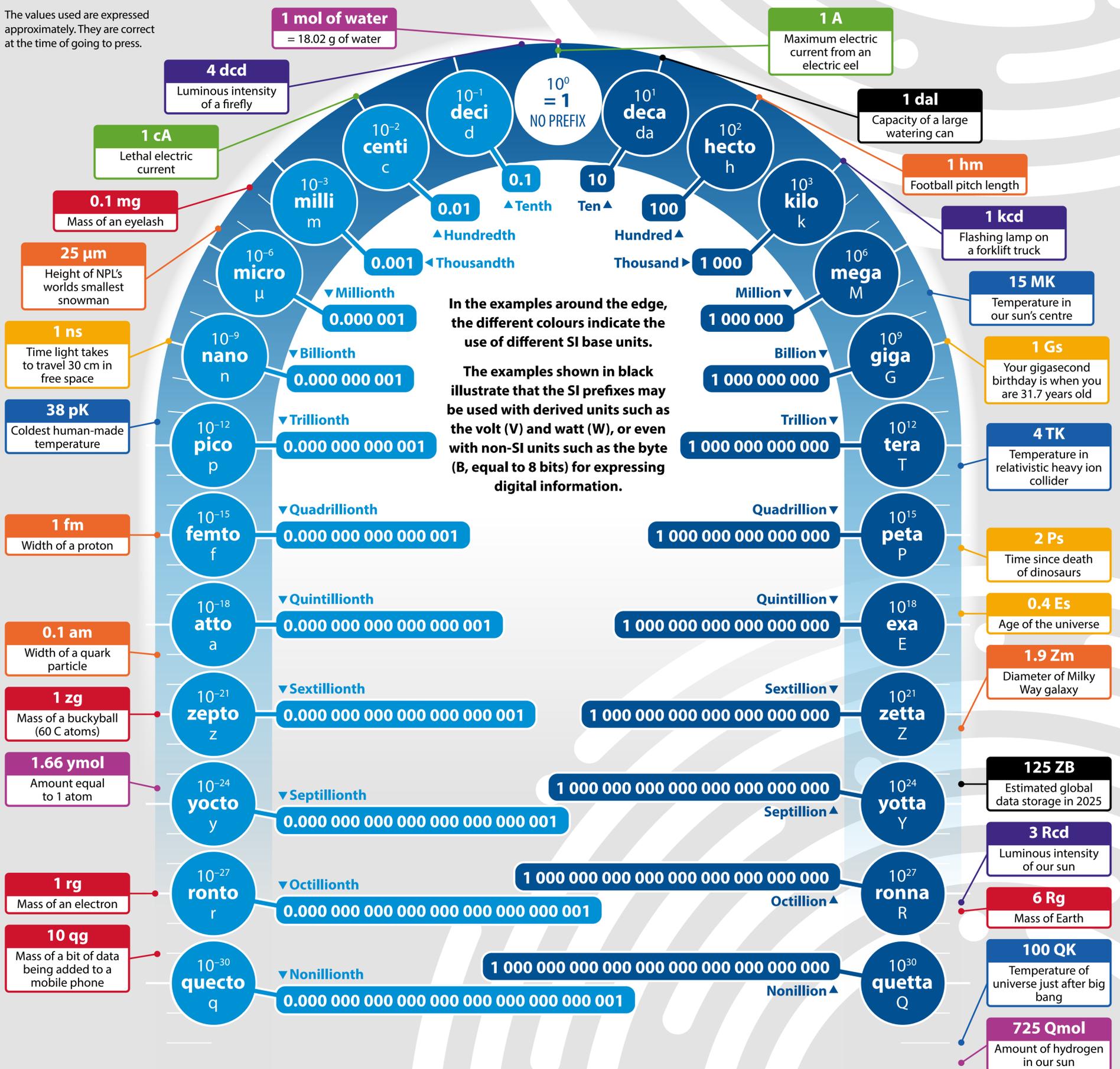
Prefixes in this system are used to give multiples or subdivisions of units.

The internationally agreed SI prefixes can be combined with every SI unit of measurement, for example:

name	symbol	multiplier
milli	m	one thousandth
kilo	k	one thousand

millimetre (mm) = 0.001 metre = 10^{-3} metre
milligram (mg) = 0.001 gram = 10^{-3} gram
kilometre (km) = 1 000 metres = 10^3 metres
kilogram (kg) = 1 000 grams = 10^3 grams

The values used are expressed approximately. They are correct at the time of going to press.



Did you know?

In November 2022 four new prefixes, proposed by NPL, were accepted for use worldwide. These were the ronna (10^{27}), quetta (10^{30}), ronto (10^{-27}) and quecto (10^{-30}). The change was largely driven by the growing requirements of digital storage.