| Unit <br> (s) | Multiple | Symb ol | Definition | Comparative examples \& common units |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $10^{-44}$ | 1 Planck time | $t_{p}$ | The time required to travel one Planck length at the speed of light (c) | $10^{-20} y s=10^{-44}$ s: One Planck time $t_{p}=\quad \approx 5.4 \times 10^{-44} \mathrm{~s}^{[2]} \mathrm{s}$ the briefest physically meaningful span of time. It is the unit of time in the natural units system known as Planck units. |
| $10^{-24}$ | 1 yoctosecond | ys ${ }^{[3]}$ | Yoctosecond, (yocto+ second), is one septillionth of a second | 0.3 ys: mean life of the W and Z bosons. ${ }^{[4 /[5] \text { la }]}$ 0.5 ys: time for top quark decay, according to the Standard Model. <br> 1 ys: time taken for a quark to emit a gluon. <br> 23 ys: half-life of ${ }^{7} \mathrm{H}$. |
| $10^{-21}$ | 1 zeptosecond | zs | Zeptosecond, (zepto+ second), is one sextillionth of one second | 7 zs : half-life of helium-9's outer neutron in the second nuclear halo. <br> 17 zs : approximate period of electromagnetic radiation at the boundary between gamma rays and X-rays. <br> 300 zs : approximate typical cycle time of X-rays, on the boundary between hard and soft X-rays. <br> 500 zs : current resolution of tools used to measure speed of chemical bonding ${ }^{[6]}$ <br> 850 zs :The time it takes the electron to change its quantum state from the very constricted, bound state around the atom to a free state, ${ }^{[7]}$ which is currently the quickest time ever observed. |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $10^{-18}$ | 1 attosecond | as | One quintillionth of one second | 12 attoseconds: best timing control of laser pulses. ${ }^{[8]}$ |
| $10^{-15}$ | 1 femtosecond | fs | One quadrillionth of one second | 1 fs: Cycle time for 300 nanometre light; ultraviolet light; light travels 0.3 micrometres ( $\mu \mathrm{m}$ ). <br> 140 fs: Electrons have localized onto individual bromine atoms $6 \AA$ apart after laser dissociation of $\mathrm{Br}_{2}{ }^{[9]}$ |
| $10^{-12}$ | 1 picosecond | ps | One trillionth of one second | 1 ps: half-life of a bottom quark; light travels 0.3 millimeters (mm) <br> 1 ps : lifetime of a transition state <br> 4 ps : Time to execute one machine cycle by an IBM Silicon-Germanium transistor |
| $10^{-9}$ | 1 nanosecond | ns | One billionth of one second | 1 ns: Time to execute one machine cycle by a 1 GHz microprocessor 1 ns: Light travels 30 centimetres (12 in) |
| $10^{-6}$ | 1 microsecond | $\mu \mathrm{S}$ | One millionth of one second | $1 \mu \mathbf{s}$ : Time to execute one machine cycle by an Intel 80186 microprocessor 4-16 $\mu \mathrm{s}$ : Time to execute one machine cycle by a 1960s minicomputer |


| $10^{-3}$ | 1 millisecond | ms | One thousandth of one second | 1 ms : time for a neuron in human brain to fire one impulse and return to rest ${ }^{[10]}$ 4-8 ms: typical seek time for a computer hard disk |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $10^{-2}$ | 1 centisecond | CS | One hundredth of one second | 18-300 ms (=0.02-0.3 s): Human reflex response to visual stimuli <br> 20 ms : cycle time for European 50 Hz AC electricity |
| $10^{-1}$ | 1 decisecond | ds | One tenth of a second | 100-400 ms (=0.1-0.4 s): Blink of an eye ${ }^{[11]}$ <br> 150 ms : recommended maximum time delay for telephone service <br> 185 ms : the duration of a full rotation of the main rotor on Bell 205, 212 and 412 helicopters (normal rotor speed is 324 RPM) |
| $10^{0}$ | 1 second | S | The duration of 9,192,631,770 periods of the radiation corresponding to the transition between the two hyperfine levels of the ground state of the caesium 133 atom. | $\mathbf{1 s :} 9,192,631,770$ periods of the radiation corresponding to the transition between the two hyperfine levels of the ground state of the cesium-133 atom. ${ }^{112}$ <br> 6 s: time it takes for a human to breathe |
| $10^{1}$ | 1 decasecond | das | Ten seconds | 19.54 s : Half-life of Carbon-10 40 s: Time until cyanide starts acting <br> 60 s : 1 minute |
| $10^{2}$ | 1 hectosecond | hs | One hundred seconds | 494 s: Time it takes for light to reach the sun <br> 600 s : Half-life of Neutronium |


| $10^{3}$ | 1 kilosecond (16.7 minutes) | ks | One thousand seconds | 3.6 ks: 3600 s or 1 hour 86.4 ks: 86400 s or 1 day 604.8 ks: 1 week |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $10^{6}$ | 1 megasecond (11.6 days) | Ms | One million seconds | 2.6 Ms: approximately 1 month 31.6 Ms : approximately 1 year $\approx 10^{7.50} \mathrm{~s}$ |
| $10^{9}$ | 1 gigasecond (3.2 decades) | Gs | One billion seconds | 2.1 Gs: average human life expectancy at birth (2011 estimate) ${ }^{[13]}$ <br> 3.16 Gs: approximately 1 century <br> 31.6 Gs: approximately 1 millennium |
| $10^{12}$ | 1 terasecond (32 Millenniums) | Ts | One trillion seconds | 6 Ts: Time since the appearance of Homo sapiens (approximately) 80 Ts: Time it takes for light to travel from the Andromeda Galaxy to the Milky Way. ${ }^{[14]}$ 160-220 Ts: Time since the divergence of the human and chimpanzee lineages. ${ }^{[15]}$ |
| $10^{15}$ | 1 petasecond (32 thousand Millen niums) | Ps | One quadrillion seconds | 2.1 Ps: (66 million years) Time elapsed since the CretaceousPaleogene extinction event, during which all nonavian dinosaurs became extinct. ${ }^{[16]}$ <br> 7.1-7.9 Ps: 1 galactic year (225-250 million years) ${ }^{[17]}$ 143 Ps: the age of the Earth ${ }^{[18 /[19][20]}$ <br> 144 Ps: the approximate age of the Solar system ${ }^{[21]}$ and the Sun. ${ }^{[22]}$ <br> 430 Ps : the approximate age of the Universe <br> 440 Ps: the half-life of thorium 232 |


| $10^{18}$ | 1 exasecond <br> $(32$ <br> million Millenniu <br> ms) | Es | One quintillion <br> seconds | 312 Es: Estimated lifespan of a <br> 0.1 solar mass red dwarf star. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $10^{21}$ | 1 zettasecond <br> $(32$ <br> billion Millenniu <br> ms) | Zs | One sextillion <br> seconds | 3 Zs: Estimated duration <br> of Stelliferous Era. |
| $10^{24}$ | 1 yottasecond <br> $(32$ <br> trillion Millenniu <br> ms) | Ys | One septillion <br> seconds | 1.6416 Ys: Estimated half- <br> life of the meta- <br> stable ${ }^{209}{ }_{83}$ Bi radioactive <br> isotope. <br> $6.616 \times 10^{50}$ Ys: Time required <br> for a 1 solar mass black hole to <br> evaporate completely due <br> to Hawking radiation, if nothing <br> more falls in. |

