

6. Atomic and Nuclear Properties of Materials

Table 6.1: Abridged from <https://pdg.lbl.gov/current/AtomicNuclearProperties> by D.E. Groom (2023). See web pages for more detail about entries in this table and for several hundred others. Parentheses in the dE/dx and density columns indicate gases at 20° C and 1 atm. Boiling points are at 1 atm. Refractive indices n are evaluated at the sodium D line blend (589.2 nm); values $\gg 1$ in brackets indicate $(n - 1) \times 10^6$ for gases at 0° C and 1 atm.

Material	Z	A	$\langle Z/A \rangle$	Nucl.coll. length λ_T {g cm ⁻² }	Nucl.inter. length λ_I {g cm ⁻² }	Rad.len. $dE/dx _{\min}$ X_0 {g cm ⁻² }	$dE/dx _{\min}$ { MeV g ⁻¹ cm ² }	Density {g cm ⁻³ }	Melting point (K)	Boiling point (K)	Refract. index @ Na D
H ₂	1	1.008(7)	0.99212	42.8	52.0	63.05	(4.103)	0.071(0.084)	13.81	20.28	1.11[132.]
D ₂	1	2.014101764(8)	0.49650	51.3	71.8	125.97	(2.053)	0.169(0.168)	18.7	23.65	1.11[138.]
He	2	4.002602(2)	0.49967	51.8	71.0	94.32	(1.937)	0.125(0.166)		4.220	1.02[35.0]
Li	3	6.94(2)	0.43221	52.2	71.3	82.78	1.639	0.534	453.6	1615.	
Be	4	9.0121831(5)	0.44384	55.3	77.8	65.19	1.595	1.848	1560.	2744.	
C diamond	6	12.0107(8)	0.49955	59.2	85.8	42.70	1.725	3.520			2.419
C graphite	6	12.0107(8)	0.49955	59.2	85.8	42.70	1.742	2.210	Sublimes at 4098. K		
N ₂	7	14.007(2)	0.49976	61.1	89.7	37.99	(1.825)	0.807(1.165)	63.15	77.29	1.20[298.]
O ₂	8	15.999(3)	0.50002	61.3	90.2	34.24	(1.801)	1.141(1.332)	54.36	90.20	1.22[271.]
F ₂	9	18.998403163(6)	0.47372	65.0	97.4	32.93	(1.676)	1.507(1.580)	53.53	85.03	[195.]
Ne	10	20.1797(6)	0.49555	65.7	99.0	28.93	(1.724)	1.204(0.839)	24.56	27.07	1.09[67.1]
Al	13	26.9815385(7)	0.48181	69.7	107.2	24.01	1.615	2.699	933.5	2792.	
Si	14	28.0855(3)	0.49848	70.2	108.4	21.82	1.664	2.329	1687.	3538.	3.95
Cl ₂	17	35.453(2)	0.47951	73.8	115.7	19.28	(1.630)	1.574(2.980)	171.6	239.1	[773.]
Ar	18	39.948(1)	0.45059	75.7	119.7	19.55	(1.519)	1.396(1.662)	83.81	87.26	1.23[281.]
Ti	22	47.867(1)	0.45961	78.8	126.2	16.16	1.477	4.540	1941.	3560.	
Fe	26	55.845(2)	0.46557	81.7	132.1	13.84	1.451	7.874	1811.	3134.	
Cu	29	63.546(3)	0.45636	84.2	137.3	12.86	1.403	8.960	1358.	2835.	
Ge	32	72.630(1)	0.44053	86.9	143.0	12.25	1.370	5.323	1211.	3106.	
Sn	50	118.710(7)	0.42119	98.2	166.7	8.82	1.263	7.310	505.1	2875.	
Xe	54	131.293(6)	0.41129	100.8	172.1	8.48	(1.255)	2.953(5.483)	161.4	165.1	1.39[701.]
W	74	183.84(1)	0.40252	110.4	191.9	6.76	1.145	19.300	3695.	5828.	
Pt	78	195.084(9)	0.39983	112.2	195.7	6.54	1.128	21.450	2042.	4098.	
Au	79	196.966569(5)	0.40108	112.5	196.3	6.46	1.134	19.320	1337.	3129.	
Pb	82	207.2(1)	0.39575	114.1	199.6	6.37	1.122	11.350	600.6	2022.	
U	92	[238.02891(3)]	0.38651	118.6	209.0	6.00	1.081	18.950	1408.	4404.	
Air (dry, 1 atm)			0.49919	61.3	90.1	36.62	(1.815)	(1.205)		78.80	[289]
Shielding concrete			0.50274	65.1	97.5	26.57	1.711	2.300			
Borosilicate glass (Pyrex)			0.49707	64.6	96.5	28.17	1.696	2.230			
Lead glass SF5			0.44522	84.0	133.4	10.07	1.406	4.080			1.6727
Standard rock			0.50000	66.8	101.3	26.54	1.688	2.650			
Methane (CH ₄)			0.62334	54.0	73.8	46.47	(2.417)	(0.667)	90.68	111.7	[444.]
Ethane (C ₂ H ₆)			0.59861	55.0	75.9	45.66	(2.304)	(1.263)	90.36	184.5	
Propane (C ₃ H ₈)			0.58962	55.3	76.7	45.37	(2.262)	0.493(1.868)	85.52	231.0	
Butane (C ₄ H ₁₀)			0.59497	55.5	77.1	45.23	(2.278)	(2.489)	134.9	272.6	
Octane (C ₈ H ₁₈)			0.57778	55.8	77.8	45.00	2.123	0.703	214.4	398.8	
Paraffin (CH ₃ (CH ₂) _n ≈23CH ₃)			0.57275	56.0	78.3	44.85	2.088	0.930			
Nylon (type 6, 6/6)			0.54790	57.5	81.6	41.92	1.973	1.18			
Polycarbonate (Lexan)			0.52697	58.3	83.6	41.50	1.886	1.20			
Polyethylene ([CH ₂ CH ₂] _n)			0.57034	56.1	78.5	44.77	2.079	0.89			
Polyethylene terephthalate (Mylar)			0.52037	58.9	84.9	39.95	1.848	1.40			
Polyimide film (Kapton)			0.51264	59.2	85.5	40.58	1.820	1.42			
Polymethylmethacrylate (acrylic)			0.53937	58.1	82.8	40.55	1.929	1.19			1.49
Polypropylene			0.55998	56.1	78.5	44.77	2.041	0.90			
Polystyrene ([C ₆ H ₅ CHCH ₂] _n)			0.53768	57.5	81.7	43.79	1.936	1.06			1.59
Polytetrafluoroethylene (Teflon)			0.47992	63.5	94.4	34.84	1.671	2.20			
Polyvinyltoluene			0.54141	57.3	81.3	43.90	1.956	1.03			1.58
Aluminum oxide (sapphire)			0.49038	65.5	98.4	27.94	1.647	3.970	2327.	3273.	1.77
Barium fluoride (BaF ₂)			0.42207	90.8	149.0	9.91	1.303	4.893	1641.	2533.	1.47
Bismuth germanate (BGO)			0.42065	96.2	159.1	7.97	1.251	7.130	1317.		2.15
Carbon dioxide gas (CO ₂)			0.49989	60.7	88.9	36.20	1.819	(1.842)			[449.]
Solid carbon dioxide (dry ice)			0.49989	60.7	88.9	36.20	1.787	1.563	Sublimes at 194.7 K		
Cesium iodide (CsI)			0.41569	100.6	171.5	8.39	1.243	4.510	894.2	1553.	1.79
Lithium fluoride (LiF)			0.46262	61.0	88.7	39.26	1.614	2.635	1121.	1946.	1.39
Lithium hydride (LiH)			0.50321	50.8	68.1	79.62	1.897	0.820	965.		
Lead tungstate (PbWO ₄)			0.41315	100.6	168.3	7.39	1.229	8.300	1403.		2.20
Silicon dioxide (SiO ₂ , fused quartz)			0.49930	65.2	97.8	27.05	1.699	2.200	1986.	3223.	1.46
Sodium chloride (NaCl)			0.47910	71.2	110.1	21.91	1.847	2.170	1075.	1738.	1.54
Sodium iodide (NaI)			0.42697	93.1	154.6	9.49	1.305	3.667	933.2	1577.	1.77
Water (H ₂ O)			0.55509	58.5	83.3	36.08	1.992	1.000	273.1	373.1	1.33
Silica aerogel			0.50093	65.0	97.3	27.25	1.740	0.200	(0.03 H ₂ O, 0.97 SiO ₂)		
Epoxy (Epotek-301-1)			0.53409	58.1	83.0	41.22	1.925	1.190			
G10			0.51166	56.8	78.4	32.17	1.762	1.800			

Material	Dielectric constant ($\kappa = \epsilon/\epsilon_0$) () is $(\kappa-1)\times 10^6$ for gas	Young's modulus [10^6 psi]	Coeff. of thermal expansion [$10^{-6}\text{cm/cm-}^\circ\text{C}$]	Specific heat [cal/g- $^\circ\text{C}$]	Electrical resistivity [$\mu\Omega\text{cm}(@^\circ\text{C})$]	Thermal conductivity [cal/cm- $^\circ\text{C-sec}$]
H ₂	(253.9)	—	—	—	—	—
He	(64)	—	—	—	—	—
Li	—	—	56	0.86	8.55(0 $^\circ$)	0.17
Be	—	37	12.4	0.436	5.885(0 $^\circ$)	0.38
C	—	0.7	0.6–4.3	0.165	1375(0 $^\circ$)	0.057
N ₂	(548.5)	—	—	—	—	—
O ₂	(495)	—	—	—	—	—
Ne	(127)	—	—	—	—	—
Al	—	10	23.9	0.215	2.65(20 $^\circ$)	0.53
Si	11.9	16	2.8–7.3	0.162	—	0.20
Ar	(517)	—	—	—	—	—
Ti	—	16.8	8.5	0.126	50(0 $^\circ$)	—
Fe	—	28.5	11.7	0.11	9.71(20 $^\circ$)	0.18
Cu	—	16	16.5	0.092	1.67(20 $^\circ$)	0.94
Ge	16.0	—	5.75	0.073	—	0.14
Sn	—	6	20	0.052	11.5(20 $^\circ$)	0.16
Xe	—	—	—	—	—	—
W	—	50	4.4	0.032	5.5(20 $^\circ$)	0.48
Pt	—	21	8.9	0.032	9.83(0 $^\circ$)	0.17
Pb	—	2.6	29.3	0.038	20.65(20 $^\circ$)	0.083
U	—	—	36.1	0.028	29(20 $^\circ$)	0.064