

Appendix A: Units

SI System of Units and Prefixes

The SI system of units (Système International), also commonly called the metric system, uses prefixes to indicate scale. Learn the prefixes, and unit conversion will become easy. For example, 1 kN is 10^3 newtons, 1 MPa is 10^6 pascals, and 1 Pa is 1 N/m². If you are converting 600 kN/m² to MPa, you can either convert everything to the lowest level of meters and newtons:

$$\frac{600 \text{ kN}}{\text{m}^2} \left| \frac{10^3 \text{ N}}{\text{kN}} \right| \left| \frac{\text{MPa} \cdot \text{m}^2}{10^6 \text{ N}} \right| = 0.6 \text{ MPa}$$

or you can recognize that 1 MPa is 10^3 kPa and take fewer steps:

$$\frac{600 \text{ kN}}{\text{m}^2} \left| \frac{\text{MPa} \cdot \text{m}^2}{10^3 \text{ kN}} \right| = 0.6 \text{ MPa}$$

Prefix	Abbrev.	=	Multiplier
nano-	n	=	10^{-9}
micro-	μ	=	10^{-6}
milli-	m	=	10^{-3}
centi-	c	=	10^{-2}
kilo-	k	=	10^3
Mega-	M	=	10^6
Giga-	G	=	10^9
Tera-	T	=	10^{12}

Quantity	Unit	Symbol	Definition
Length	meter	m	
Mass	gram	g	
Force or Weight	newton	N	kg · m/s ²
Stress or Pressure	pascal	Pa	N/m ²
Moment or Torque	newton meter	N · m	

A very useful SI conversion factor for stress: 1 MPa = 1 N/mm²

US Customary System of Units and Prefixes

The US Customary system of units, also commonly called the English system, does not use prefixes to indicate scale, except for "kips" for "kilopounds" (1000 lb.). Instead, we use conversion factors to go from one scale to the next. US Most customary unit symbols are abbreviations with periods: "ft." not "ft", "in." not "in"; exceptions include "psi" and "ksi" which have no periods.

In the construction trades, the term "yard" is an abbreviation for "cubic yard", so 3 yards of concrete is actually 3 cubic yards, or 27 cubic feet.

Quantity	Unit	Symbol	Definition
Length	foot	ft.	
Mass	slug	S	
Force or Weight	pound	lb.	
Stress or Pressure	pounds per sq. in.	psi	lb./in. ²
Moment or Torque	foot pound	ft. · lb.	

Unit	Equivalent
1 ft.	= 12 in.
1 yd.	= 3 ft.
1 kip	= 1,000 lb.
1 ksi	= 1,000 psi
1 ton	= 2,000 lb.

Conversions Between Unit Systems

U.S. Unit	=	S.I. Unit	SI Unit	=	U.S. Unit
1 in.	=	2.54 cm	1 cm	=	0.3937 in.
1 ft.	=	30.48 cm	1 m	=	3.2808 ft.
1 lb.	=	4.448 N	1 N	=	0.2248 lb.
1 psi	=	6,895 Pa	1 MPa	=	145 psi
1 ksi	=	6,895 kPa			
1 ksi	=	6.895 MPa			

Appendix B: Materials Properties

Apply a load to a material and measure the response to obtain *Mechanical Properties* such as yield strength, Young's modulus, elongation, hardness, impact resistance, and fatigue life. All other properties are called *Physical Properties*, including thermal expansion, electrical conductivity, density, color, corrosion resistance, and specific heat. Some properties vary very little, while others have large ranges. For example, published values of Young's modulus for steels vary less than $\pm 1\%$ because this property is related to bond strength at the atomic level. On the other hand, the yield strength of a particular grade of steel can vary $\pm 15\%$ or more due to variations in composition and processing. The weakest, softest steels have a yield strength below 25 ksi, while the strongest have a yield strength greater than 300 ksi.

The numbers in the tables below are either typical or minimum values, for use in homework problems only. Use standards published by ASTM, SAE, et al., for materials property values before designing anything.

Metals, Concrete, & Stone

Table B1: Materials Properties at Room Temperature (U.S. Customary units)

Material	Specific weight	Yield strength (tension)	Ultimate strength (tension)	Ultimate strength (compression)	Ultimate strength (shear)	Young's modulus	Shear modulus	Thermal expansion coefficient	Poisson's ratio
	γ (lb./in. ³)	σ_{YS} (ksi)	σ_{UTS} (ksi)	σ_{CCS} (ksi)	τ_{ult} (ksi)	E (10 ³ psi)	G (10 ³ psi)	α (10 ⁻⁶ in./in. ² °F)	ν -
Steels									
ASTMA36	0.284	36	58	-	-	30	12	6.5	0.25
ASTMA992 (HSLA)	0.284	50	65	-	-	30	12	6.5	0.25
AISI 80Y (HSLA)	0.284	80	100	-	-	30	11.6	6.5	0.28
AISI 1020, annealed	0.284	43	57	-	-	30	12	6.8	0.25
AISI 1020, cold rolled	0.284	48	65	-	-	30	12	6.8	0.25
AISI 1040, annealed	0.284	51	75	-	-	30	12	6.3	0.25
AISI 1040, cold rolled	0.284	60	90	-	-	30	12	6.3	0.25
AISI 4140, annealed	0.284	61	95	-	-	30	12	6.8	0.25
AISI 8620, annealed	0.284	56	78	-	-	30	12	6.2	0.25
Stainless steels									
Type 304, annealed	0.290	30	75	-	-	28	12.5	9.6	0.29
Type 304, cold rolled	0.290	110	150	-	-	28	12.5	9.6	0.29
Type 409, annealed	0.280	30	55	-	-	28	11.3	6.5	0.28
Cast irons									
Grade 4 austempered ductile iron	0.260	155	200	-	-	24.4	9.4	5.9	0.25
Class 35 gray cast iron	0.260	-	35	125	48.5	16.9	6.4	7.2	0.29
Aluminum alloys									
2024-T4	0.101	47	68	-	41	10.6	4.0	12.9	0.33
6061-T6	0.098	40	45	-	30	10.0	3.8	13.1	0.33
7075-T6	0.101	73	83	-	48	10.4	3.9	13.1	0.33
Magnesium alloys									
AZ30A, as extruded	0.065	36	40	-	22	6.5	2.4	14.0	0.35
AZ30A, T5 temper	0.065	40	55	-	24	6.5	2.4	14.0	0.35
Copper alloys									
C26000 cartridge brass, annealed	0.308	16	48	-	34	16.0	6.0	11.1	0.38
C26000 cartridge brass, rolled	0.308	52	70	-	42	16.0	6.0	11.1	0.38
C63000 aluminum bronze, annealed	0.274	53	111	-	-	17.0	6.4	9.0	0.33
Titanium alloys									
Ti-6Al-4V, annealed	0.160	120	130	-	80	16.5	6.1	8.0	0.34
Ti-6Al-4V, heat treated	0.160	160	170	-	-	16.5	6.1	8.0	0.34
Concrete & Stone									
Unreinforced concrete (range of grades)	0.0862		$0.1 \times \sigma_{CCS}$	3 to 4	$0.5 \times \sigma_{CCS}$	2.5 to 4		5.5	0.1 to 0.20
Granite (typical)	0.0972			25		7.0		3.6	0.28
Limestone (typical)	0.0651			3 to 16		6.0		2.8	0.21
Sandstone (typical)	0.0903			6		2.5		5.2	0.28

Table B2: Materials Properties at Room Temperature (SI units)

Material	Density	Yield strength (tension)	Ultimate strength (tension)	Ultimate strength (compression)	Ultimate strength (shear)	Young's modulus	Shear modulus	Thermal expansion coefficient	Poisson's ratio
	ρ (g/cm ³)	σ_{YS} (MPa)	σ_{UTS} (MPa)	σ_{UCS} (MPa)	τ_{ult} (MPa)	E (GPa)	G (GPa)	α (10 ⁻⁶ mm/ mm°C)	ν -
Steels									
ASTM A36	7.85	250	400	-	-	207	83	11.7	0.25
ASTM A992 (HSLA)	7.85	345	450	-	-	207	83	11.7	0.25
AISI 80X (HSLA)	7.85	550	690	-	-	207	80	11.7	0.28
AISI 1020, annealed	7.85	295	395	-	-	207	83	11.7	0.25
AISI 1020, cold rolled	7.85	330	450	-	-	207	83	11.7	0.25
AISI 1040, annealed	7.85	350	520	-	-	207	83	11.3	0.25
AISI 1040, cold rolled	7.85	415	620	-	-	207	83	11.3	0.25
AISI 4140, annealed	7.85	420	655	-	-	207	83	12.3	0.25
AISI 8620, annealed	7.85	385	540	-	-	207	83	11.1	0.25
Stainless steel									
Type 304, annealed	8.00	205	515	-	-	193	80	17.2	0.29
Type 304, cold rolled	8.00	760	1035	-	-	193	86	17.2	0.20
Type 409, annealed	7.80	205	380	-	-	200	78	11.7	0.28
Cast irons									
Grade 4 austempered ductile iron	7.1	1100	1400	-	-	168	65	10.6	0.25
Class 35 gray cast iron	7.1		241	855	334	110	44	13.0	0.29
Aluminum alloys									
2024-T4	2.78	325	470	-	235	73	28.0	23.2	0.33
6061-T6	2.70	275	310	-	205	69	26.0	23.6	0.33
7075-T6	2.80	505	570	-	330	72	26.9	23.6	0.33
Magnesium alloys									
AZ80A, as extruded	1.80	250	340	-	150	45	17	26.0	0.35
AZ80A, T5 temper	1.80	275	380	-	165	45	17	26.0	0.35
Copper alloys									
C26000 cartridge brass, annealed	8.53	110	330	-	235	110	40	19.9	0.38
C26000 cartridge brass, rolled	8.53	360	480	-	290	110	40	19.9	0.38
C63600 aluminum bronze, annealed	7.58	370	766	-		115	44	16.2	0.33
Titanium alloys									
Ti-6Al-4V, annealed	4.43	830	900	-	550	114	42	4.8	0.34
Ti-6Al-4V, heat treated	4.43	1100	1170	-	-	114	42	4.8	0.34
Concrete & Stone									
Unreinforced concrete (range of grades)	2.40		0.1 < σ_{UCS}	21 to 28	0.5 < σ_{UCS}	17 to 28		6.0	0.1 to 0.20
Granite (typical)	2.69			170		48		6.5	0.28
Limestone (typical)	2.65			55 to 110		40		5.0	0.21
Sandstone (typical)	2.50			40		17		6.4	0.28

For most metals, the ultimate strength in compression is equal to the ultimate strength in tension.

Concrete, stone, and gray cast iron are significantly stronger in compression than in tension. The elastic portion of their stress-strain curves are not linear, so Young's modulus is not clearly defined for these materials.

Table B3: Descriptions of Materials and their Common Uses

Steels

ASTM A36	Low-carbon, low-strength, low-cost rolled structural steel used for W-beams, I-beams, C-channels, etc.
ASTM A992 (HSLA)	High-strength, low-alloy steels contain grain-refining elements such as boron which create very small grains. The smaller the grain, the stronger the steel. Reheating to welding temperatures causes grains to grow, ruining the strength of the steel. Used for structural steel applications in buildings and large trucks. Must be bolted or riveted, never welded. By definition, few alloying elements are added, keeping costs low.
AISI 1020	Low-carbon steel containing 0.30% carbon, 0.45% manganese. Cold rolling increases strength & decreases ductility.
AISI 1040	Medium-carbon steel containing 0.40% carbon, 0.75% manganese. Added carbon makes the alloy stronger than AISI 1020. Cold rolling further increases strength and decreases ductility.
AISI 4140	Add 0.95% chromium, 0.30% molybdenum, and a little manganese to AISI 1040 steel. Cost and strength increase. Quench & temper heat treatment can raise yield strength above 230 ksi. Used for machine parts.
AISI 1620	Add 0.55% nickel, 0.50% chromium, 0.30% molybdenum, and a little manganese to AISI 1020 steel. Cost and strength increase. Used for gears and bearings which are carburized to create a hard, wear-resistant high-carbon surface.

Stainless steels

Type 304	Most common stainless steel, with 18% Cr, 8% Ni for corrosion resistance. Used for food handling equipment (cafeteria, pots and pans), tubing, cryogenic equipment. Not magnetic. Hardenable by cold work (rolling, drawing, etc.), but not through heat treatment.
Type 409, annealed	Contains 11% Cr, 1% Ni, therefore cheaper than type 304, with less corrosion resistance. Widely used for stainless exhaust pipes on cars and trucks. Magnetic.

Cast irons

Grade 4 eutectemper ductile iron	Contains 3 to 4% carbon in the form of spherical graphite particles which reduce stress concentrations within the alloy. Austempering heat treatment further strengthens the material, giving it the strength and wear resistance of steels with the low cost and castability of cast irons. Used for crankshafts and other machine parts.
Class 35 gray cast iron	Contains 2.5 to 4% carbon in the form of graphite flakes which help absorb vibration, but create stress concentrations which reduce strength. Widely used for engine blocks and machinery bases. Gray cast iron does not have a linear elastic stress-strain curve, so yield strength is not reported. The stress-strain curve is a continuous arc.

Aluminum alloys

2024-T4	Contains 4.4% copper, 1.5% magnesium, 0.6% manganese. Used widely in the aircraft industry owing to its high strength to weight ratio. T4 heat treatment quadruples yield strength of the soft annealed condition.
6061-T6	Contains 1% magnesium, 0.6% silicon, 0.2% copper, 0.2% chromium. Used in canoes, trucks, pipelines, and other structural applications where good strength to weight ratio, corrosion resistance, and weldability are needed. T6 heat treatment increases yield strength 3x times that of the soft annealed condition.
7075-T6	Contains 5.0% zinc, 2.5% magnesium, 1.6% copper, 0.23% chromium. Used widely in the aircraft industry owing to its high strength to weight ratio and corrosion resistance. T6 heat treatment quadruples yield strength of the soft annealed condition.

Magnesium alloys

AZ80A	Contains 8.5% aluminum, 0.5% zinc. Commonly used as an extrusion. T5 heat treatment increases strength about 10%.
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Copper alloys

C26900 cartridge brass	Contains 70% copper, 30% zinc. Cold work (rolling) and heat treatment can substantially change mechanical properties. Widely used in electrical, hardware, ammunition (hence the name), plumbing, and automotive industries. Susceptible to stress-corrosion cracking in the presence of ammonia.
C63000 aluminum bronze	Contains 82% copper, 10% aluminum, 5% nickel, 3% iron. Used for pump parts, valve seats, faucet balls, gears, coars, and steam condensers.

Titanium alloys

Ti-6Al-4V	Titanium alloys are expensive to produce, in part because liquid titanium is explosive in air. Ti-6-4 is widely used in the aerospace industry because it has half the density of steel, but higher strength and stiffness (Young's modulus and shear modulus) than aluminum aerospace alloys.
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Concrete & Stone

Unreinforced concrete	10 times stronger in compression than in tension; commonly reinforced with steel to improve tensile strength. Wet curing increases strength as the concrete ages; 90% of strength reached within 28 days of pouring.
Granite	Igneous rock. Hard, strong, durable material used for building exteriors and curbstones. Resistant to acid rain.
Limestone	Sedimentary rock. Softer than granite, used for building exteriors and gravel for paving. Sensitive to acid rain.
Sandstone	Sedimentary rock. Easier to carve than other rock. Used for paving and building exteriors.

For more information, consult ASTM Standards, SAE Standards, the ASM Handbook series published by ASM International, and other engineering handbooks.