

## PLANCK UNITS

These replace the SI fundamental units kg, m and s with ones that make the speed of light  $c$ , Planck's constant  $\hbar = h/2\pi$ , and the gravitational constant  $G$  all equal to unity. Sometimes  $h$  rather than  $\hbar$  is used (I prefer  $\hbar$  because  $\omega$  is more fundamental than  $f$  in the relation  $\hbar\omega = hf$ ).

The derivation is simply an application of dimensional analysis. Denoting the Planck units as  $M_p, L_p, T_p$  yields

$$L_p T_p^{-1} = c; \quad (1)$$

$$M_p L_p^2 T_p^{-1} = \hbar; \quad (2)$$

$$M_p^{-1} L_p^3 T_p^{-2} = G; \quad (3)$$

The Planck mass can also be expressed as the Planck energy  $E_p = M_p c^2$  and Planck temperature  $\theta_p = E_p / k_B$ .

Solving eqs. (1) - (3) for  $M_p, L_p, T_p$  yields

$$L_p^2 = \hbar G / c^3 = (1.06 \times 10^{-34}) (6.67 \times 10^{-11}) / (3 \times 10^8)^3 = 2.62 \times 10^{-70} \text{ m}^2 \Rightarrow \quad (4)$$

$$L_p = 1.6 \times 10^{-35} \text{ m}$$

$$M_p^2 = \hbar c / G = (1.06 \times 10^{-34}) (3.0 \times 10^8) / (6.67 \times 10^{-11}) = 4.77 \times 10^{-16} \text{ kg}^2 \Rightarrow \quad (5)$$

$$M_p = 2.18 \times 10^{-8} \text{ kg}$$

$$E_p = M_p c^2 = (2.18 \times 10^{-8} \text{ kg}) (3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s})^2 \quad (6)$$

$$E_p = 1.96 \times 10^9 \text{ J} = 1.23 \times 10^{28} \text{ eV}$$

$$\theta_p = M_p / k_B = 1.96 \times 10^9 / 1.38 \times 10^{-23} \Rightarrow \quad (7)$$

$$\theta_p = 1.42 \times 10^{32} \text{ K}$$

$$T_p = L_p / c = \hbar G / c^{2.5} \Rightarrow \quad (8)$$

$$T_p = 2.5 \times 10^{-46} \text{ s}$$