MASS, DIMENSIONS, AND OTHER PARAMETERS OF THE EARTH

This table is a collection of data on various properties of the Earth. Most of the values are given in SI units. Note that 1 ua (astronomical unit) = 149,597,870 km.

References

1. Seidelmann, P. K., Ed., *Explanatory Supplement to the Astronomical Almanac*, University Science Books, Mill Valley, CA, 1992.
2. Lang, K. R., *Astrophysical Data: Planets and Stars*, Springer-Verlag, New York, 1992.

Quantity	Symbol	Value	Unit
Mass	M	$5.9723 \cdot 10^{27}$	g
Major orbital semi-axis	a_{orb}	1.000000	ua
		$1.4959787 \cdot 10^{8}$	km
Distance from sun at perihelion	r_{π}	0.9833	ua
Distance from sun at aphelion	r_{α}	1.0167	ua
Moment of perihelion passage	T_{π}	Jan. 2, 4 h 52 min	
Moment of aphelion passage	T_{α}	July 4, 5 h 05 min	
Siderial rotation period around sun	P_{orb}	$31.5581 \cdot 10^{6}$	s
		365.25636	d
Mean rotational velocity	U_{orb}	29.78	km/s
Mean equatorial radius	$\bar{a}$	6378.140	km
Mean polar compression (flattening factor)	α	1/298.257	
Difference in equatorial and polar semi-axes	$a - c$	21.385	km
Compression of meridian of major equatorial axis	α_a	1/295.2	
Compression of meridian of minor equatorial axis	α_b	1/298.0	
Equatorial compression	ε	1/30 000	
Difference in equatorial semi-axes	$a - b$	213	m
Difference in polar semi-axes	$c_{\text{N}} - c_{\text{S}}$	~70	m
Polar asymmetry	η	$\sim 1.10^{-5}$	
Mean acceleration of gravity at equator	g_{e}	9.78036	m/s^2
Mean acceleration of gravity at poles	g_{p}	9.83208	m/s^2
Difference in acceleration of gravity at pole and at equator	$g_{\text{p}} - g_{\text{e}}$	5.172	cm/s^2
Mean acceleration of gravity for entire surface of terrestrial ellipsoid	g	9.7978	m/s^2
Mean radius	R	6371.0	km
Area of surface	S	$5.10 \cdot 10^{8}$	km^2
Volume	V	$1.0832 \cdot 10^{12}$	km^3
Mean density	ρ	5.515	g/cm^3
Siderial rotational period	P	86,164.09	s
Rotational angular velocity	ω	$7.292116 \cdot 10^{-5}$	rad/s
Mean equatorial rotational velocity	v	0.46512	km/s
Rotational angular momentum	L	$5.861 \cdot 10^{33}$	J s
Rotational energy	E	$2.137 \cdot 10^{29}$	J
Ratio of centrifugal force to force of gravity at equator	q_{c}	0.0034677 = 1/288	
Moment of inertia	I	$8.070 \cdot 10^{37}$	$kg\ m^2$
Relative braking of earth's rotation due to tidal friction	$\Delta\omega_e/\omega$	$-4.2 \cdot 10^{-8}$	$century^{-1}$
Relative secular acceleration of earth's rotation	$\Delta\omega_i/\omega$	$+1.4 \cdot 10^{-8}$	$century^{-1}$
Not secular braking of earth's rotation	$\Delta\omega/\omega$	$-2.8 \cdot 10^{-8}$	$century^{-1}$
Probable value of total energy of tectonic deformation of earth	E_{t}	$\sim 1 \cdot 10^{23}$	J/century
Secular loss of heat of earth through radiation into space	$\Delta' E_{\text{k}}$	$1 \cdot 10^{23}$	J/century
Portion of earth's kinetic energy transformed into heat as a result of lunar and solar tides in the hydrosphere	$\Delta'' E_{\text{k}}$	$1.3 \cdot 10^{23}$	J/century
Differences in duration of days in March and August	ΔP	0.0025 (March-August)	s
Corresponding relative annual variation in earth's rotational velocity	$\Delta^*\omega/\omega$	$2.9 \cdot 10^{-8}$ (Aug.-March)	
Presumed variation in earth's radius between August and March	$\Delta^* R$	−9.2 (Aug.-March)	cm
Annual variation in level of world ocean	Δh_o	~10 (Sept.-March)	cm
Area of continents	S_C	$1.49 \cdot 10^{8}$	km^2
		29.2	% of surface

Quantity	Symbol	Value	Unit
Area of world ocean	S_o	$3.61 \cdot 10^8$	km^2
		70.8	% of surface
Mean height of continents above sea level	h_C	875	m
Mean depth of world ocean	h_o	3794	m
Mean thickness of lithosphere within the limits of the continents	$h_{c.l.}$	35	km
Mean thickness of lithosphere within the limits of the ocean	$h_{o.l.}$	4.7	km
Mean rate of thickening of continental lithosphere	$\Delta h/\Delta t$	10 – 40	$m/10^6$ y
Mean rate of horizontal extension of continental lithosphere	$\Delta l/\Delta t$	0.75 – 20	$km/10^6$ y
Mass of crust	m_l	$2.36 \cdot 10^{22}$	kg
Mass of mantle		$4.05 \cdot 10^{24}$	kg
Amount of water released from the mantle and core in the course of geological time		$3.40 \cdot 10^{21}$	kg
Total reserve of water in the mantle		$2 \cdot 10^{23}$	kg
Present content of free and bound water in the earth's lithosphere		$2.4 \cdot 10^{21}$	kg
Mass of hydrosphere	m_h	$1.664 \cdot 10^{21}$	kg
Amount of oxygen bound in the earth's crust		$1.300 \cdot 10^{21}$	kg
Amount of free oxygen		$1.5 \cdot 10^{18}$	kg
Mass of atmosphere	m_a	$5.136 \cdot 10^{18}$	kg
Mass of biosphere	m_b	$1.148 \cdot 10^{16}$	kg
Mass of living matter in the biosphere		$3.6 \cdot 10^{14}$	kg
Density of living matter on dry land		0.1	g/cm^2
Density of living matter in ocean		$15 \cdot 10^{-8}$	g/cm^3
Age of the earth		$4.55 \cdot 10^9$	y
Age of oldest rocks		$4.0 \cdot 10^9$	y
Age of most ancient fossils		$3.4 \cdot 10^9$	y