

Density

Anytime a scientist says a “density” of anything, they mean whatever that thing is, divided by volume.

Energy density $u = \text{Energy/volume}$ Units: J/m³

Number density $N = \text{Number/volume}$

Examples:

Air (at STP) has a number density $N = 2.69 \times 10^{25}$ molecules/m³.

Interstellar space has a number density $N \sim 1 \text{ atom/cm}^3 = 10^6 \text{ atoms/m}^3$

Mass density ρ = mass/volume

Whenever anyone says just “density,” they usually mean mass density.

Examples:

Liquid water at STP has: $\rho = 1 \text{ gram/cm}^3 = 1 \text{ g/cm}^3$

Solid iron has: $\rho = 7 \text{ g/cm}^3$.

Solid lead has: $\rho = 14 \text{ g/cm}^3$.