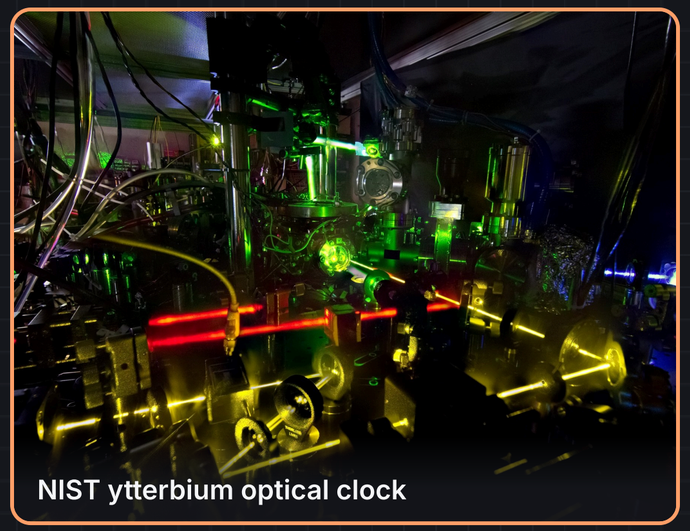
Pi & Planck

π HOW BIG IS IT

A Billion Seconds

One billion seconds is about 31.7 years, while one million seconds is only 11.6 days.

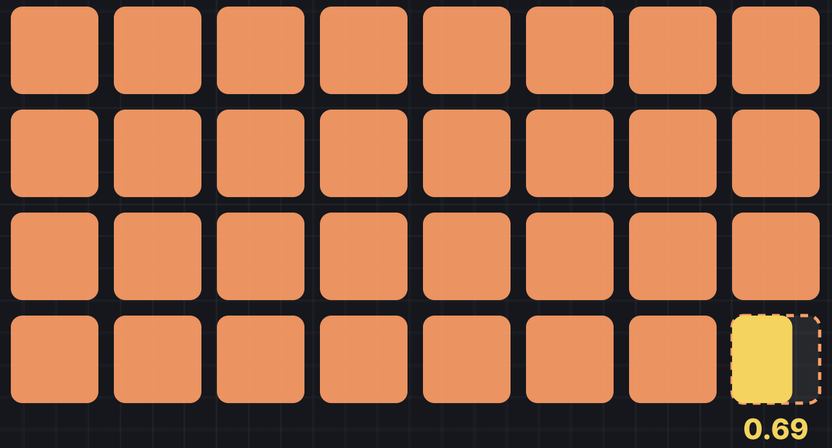
THE SECOND



NIST ytterbium optical clock

9,192,631,770
periods of caesium-133 radiation make exactly one second

31.7 YEARS, ONE SQUARE PER YEAR



31.7 years
= 1,000,000,000 seconds
Each square is one year: 31,556,952 seconds

WHERE A BILLION SITS

1 minute	60
1 hour	3,600
1 day	86,400
1 week	604,800
1 million seconds · 11.6 days	1,000,000
1 year	31,556,952
1 billion seconds · 31.7 years	1,000,000,000
1 trillion seconds · 31,700 years	1,000,000,000,000

Bar length is the logarithm of the number of seconds

11.6 days — One million seconds

31.7 years — One billion seconds

31,700 years — One trillion seconds

Sources: BIPM, *The International System of Units* (SI Brochure, 9th ed., v4.01, 2026) · IAU SOFA, *Time Scale and Calendar Tools* (mean Gregorian year 365.2425 days) · Image: N. Phillips/NIST

@piandplanck