



ASTROLYMPICS

THE

www.nasa.gov

Definition: the accurate measurement of repeating patterns.

Units: seconds, years

OLYMPIC EXAMPLE

Time for 50 km (31 mi)
race walk: 12,939 sec



COSMIC EXAMPLE

Age of the globular cluster
47 Tucanae: about 13 billion
years or 4×10^{17} sec

Globular clusters like 47 Tucanae are the oldest star systems in our Milky Way galaxy. Astronomers think they formed about 13 billion years ago (4×10^{17} sec).

