

Source:

MEASUREMENTS OF EXTRAGALACTIC BACKGROUND LIGHT FROM THE FAR-UV TO THE FAR-IR FROM DEEP GROUND- AND SPACE-BASED GALAXY COUNTS, Simon P. Driver et al.
<http://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/icrar.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/09152012/ebfinal.pdf>

Definition of terms in this article:

CMB	= Cosmic Microwave Background (<i>radiation left over from the Big Bang</i>)	
EBL	= Extra-galactic Background Light	[intro@p1]
COB	= Cosmic Optical Background (<i>star- and AGN-light, AGN = Active Galactic Nucleus</i>)	[intro@p2]
CIB	= Cosmic Infrared Background (<i>attenuated first and, then re-radiated by dust near source</i>)	

Values/results given this article:

EBL	≈ CMB/20	[intro@p1]
COB	= 24 ± 4 nW/m ² /sr	[\$3.7@p12]
CIB	= 26 ± 5 nW/m ² /sr	[\$3.7@p12]

Values from other sources:

CMB density	≈ 4·10 ⁻¹⁴ J/m ³ ≅ 400-500 fotons/cm ³	[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cosmic_microwave_background]
	412 ± 1 fotons/cm ³ , energy density = 0.261 eV/cm ³ ≅ 4.66·10 ⁻³¹ kg/m ³	
	[Douglas Scott @ http://hypertextbook.com/facts/2004/HeatherFriedberg.shtml]	
h	= 6.626 070 040·10 ⁻³⁴ kg·m ² /s	
c	= 299 792 458 m/s	
hc	= 1.986 445 820·10 ⁻¹⁶ J·nm	

Calculations by HR:

formula: *foton flux = foton density times speed of light* (result in fotons per square metre per second)

$$\text{CMB-foton-flux} = 412 \text{ fotons/cm}^3 \times c = 1.235 \cdot 10^{17} \text{ fotons/m}^2/\text{s}$$

$$\text{CMB-energy-flux} = (4 \cdot 10^{-14} \text{ J/m}^3) \times c = 1.199 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ W/m}^2$$

N.B. <http://www.icrar.org/cosmic-suntan> (which is about the very same article) mentions:

Leftover from the Big Bang: 10,000,000,000,000 photons per square metre per second
 which is about a factor 10 (ten) lower...

In the following I use the "green foton" with a wavelength of 500 nm as a unit with symbol "gf", and consider electromagnetic radiation as if it were green light, whatever wavelength it actually has.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Foton energy:} \quad E &= h \cdot \nu = hc/\lambda \\ \text{therefore:} \quad 1 \text{ nJ} &= 2.5171 \cdot 10^9 \text{ gf} \\ \text{and:} \quad 1 \text{ gf} &= 3.9729 \cdot 10^{-19} \text{ J} \end{aligned}$$

I convert "per steradian" the easy way: we see half of the sky, which occupies 2π sr

$$\text{EBL} = \text{COB} + \text{CIB} = 50 \text{ nW/m}^2/\text{sr} \cong 50 \times 2.517 \cdot 10^9 \times 2\pi = 7.91 \cdot 10^{11} \approx 10^{12} \text{ gf/m}^2/\text{s}$$

N.B. <http://www.icrar.org/cosmic-suntan> (which is about the very same article) mentions:

Extra-galactic background light: 10,000,000,000 photons per square metre per second
 which is about a factor 100 (hundred) lower than what follows from the article they refer to...

$$\begin{aligned} \text{all-sky EBL-energy-flux:} \quad 4\pi \times 50 \text{ nW/m}^2 &= 6.283 \cdot 10^{-7} \text{ W/m}^2 \cong \text{energy-density of } 2.096 \cdot 10^{-15} \text{ J/m}^3 \\ \text{CMB/EBL (energy-flux)} &= 19.085, \text{ which corresponds to the value of 20 mentioned above} \\ &\text{for EBL} = \text{CMB}/20. \end{aligned}$$

Conclusions:

- I see no discrepancies in the original scientific publication
<http://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/icrar.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/09152012/ebfinal.pdf>
 (it assumes nearly all ever transmitted photons still exist (COB) or have be re-radiated (CIB))
- My own calculations in <http://henk-reints.nl/astro/documents/aantal-fotonen-in-het-heelal.pdf> (in dutch) assumes the same and gives an energy-density of 4.9·10⁻¹⁵ J/m³, a factor 2.3 higher than what's mentioned above, which is certainly not bad since it is based only on the age of the universe, the number of stars in the universe (≈10²²) and the power of our Sun (3.828·10²⁶ W).
- The "suntan"-website <http://www.icrar.org/cosmic-suntan> shows numbers that differ by factors 10 and 100. It might however be correct if they calculated only the UV part of the spectrum, which is the actual cause of your suntan. But I wouldn't rely on tanning by EBL during the night...