

# The re-definition of the base units of the SI: - using the rules of nature to create the rules of measurement

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10<sup>th</sup> October 2018



# Outline

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**01** – The metric system and the Metre Convention



**02** - The re-definition of the SI in 2018



**03** – The impact of the new definitions



# Why was the Metric system of so much interest?



The Metric System was first introduced after the French Revolution:  
to allow fair trade by weight and length.



- **The metre** = one ten millionth part of the arc of the meridian between the north pole and the equator (through Paris).
- **The kilogram** = the mass of  $1\text{dm}^3$  of water (at its temperature of maximum density).



# Why was the Metric system of so much interest?

IV. Il sera frappé une médaille pour transmettre à la postérité l'époque à laquelle le système métrique a été porté à sa perfection, et l'opération qui lui sert de base. L'inscription, du côté principal de la médaille, sera, *A tous les temps, à tous les peuples; et dans l'exergue, République française, an VIII.* Les Consuls de la République sont chargés d'en régler les autres accessoires.

LOI 3456 DU  
19 FRIMAIRE AN VIII  
(1799)

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But, in 1812 – Napoleon abandoned the Metric System !

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... in 1837 it was re-introduced

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**USAGE EXCLUSIF DES MESURES  
DECIMALES  
LOI DU 4 JUILLET 1837.  
CONVENTION NATIONALE  
– DECRET DU 14 THERMIDOR AN 1 DE LA  
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But confusion developed about the definitions of the metre and the kilogram.  
Were they:

- ❖ the old revolutionary standards? or
- ❖ the artefact standards held in the National Archives?



# Why was the Metric system of so much interest?

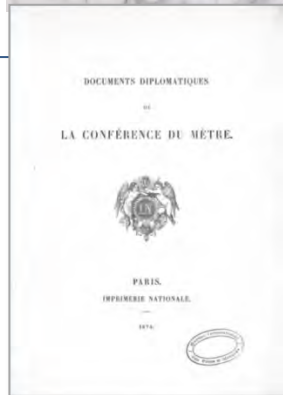


And  
there were new  
demands for more  
accurate measurements.



Provost, Exposition universelle de 1855, vue de la grande nef du Palais de l'Industrie, 1855.

20 May 1875



The Metre Convention was signed in Paris  
by 17 nations

**“TO ASSURE THE INTERNATIONAL  
UNIFICATION AND PERFECTION OF THE  
METRIC SYSTEM”**





# the Metre Convention

**20 May 1875** - The Metre Convention was signed in Paris by 17 nations

## ARTICLE PREMIER (1875)

Les Hautes Parties contractantes s'engagent à fonder et entretenir, à frais communs, un *Bureau international des poids et mesures*, scientifique et permanent, dont le siège est à Paris<sup>(1)</sup>.

**Article 1** *The High Contracting Parties undertake To create and maintain, at their common expense, a scientific and permanent International Bureau of Weights and Measures with its headquarters in Paris.*

## ART. 3 (1875)

Le Bureau international fonctionnera sous la direction et la surveillance exclusives d'un *Comité international des poids et mesures*, placé lui-même sous l'autorité d'une *Conférence générale des poids et mesures*, formée de délégués de tous les Gouvernements contractants.

**Article 3** *states that The BIPM shall operate under the authority of the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) and the supervision of the International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM)*



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**ART. 7.** — « Le personnel du Bureau se composera d'un directeur, de deux adjoints et du nombre d'employés nécessaires.

» A partir de l'époque où les comparaisons des nouveaux prototypes auront été effectuées et où ces prototypes auront été répartis entre les divers États, le personnel du Bureau sera réduit dans la proportion jugée convenable.

» Les nominations du personnel du Bureau seront notifiées par le Comité international aux Gouvernements des Hautes Parties contractantes. »

**Article 7** *states that The personnel of the Bureau shall be a Director, two assistants and the number of employees necessary.*

*... and will be reduced when the work on the new prototypes is finished and they are distributed to the States.*

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20 May 1875 - The Metre Convention was signed in Paris by 17 nations



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**Article 7 revised in 1920** *the Bureau will be charged with*

- *the establishment and the conservation of standards of electrical units ...*
- *determinations related to physical constants for which more accurate knowledge might serve to increase the precision and ensure better uniformity in the fields to which the units mentioned above belong.*
- *the work of coordinating similar determinations made in other institutes.*

# The BIPM – an international organisation

Established in 1875 when 17 States signed the Metre Convention, now with 60 Member States.



**CGPM – Conférence Générale des Poids et Mesures**

*Official representatives of Member States.*



**CIPM – Comité International des Poids et Mesures**

*Eighteen individuals of different nationalities elected by the CGPM.*



**BIPM Staff**

- *International coordination and liaison*
- *Technical coordination – laboratories*
- *Capacity building*

**Consultative Committees (CCs)**

*CCAUV – Acoustics, US & Vibration*

*CCEM – Electricity & Magnetism*

*CCL – Length*

*CCM – Mass and related*

*CCPR – Photometry & Radiometry*

*CCQM – Amount of substance*

*CCRI – Ionizing Radiation*

*CCT – Thermometry*

*CCTF – Time & Frequency*

*CCU – Units*

# World-famous scientists at **the BIPM**



**Dmitri Mendeleev**  
was a CIPM  
Member  
(1895-1901)



Five CIPM Members have won the Nobel prize including **De Broglie** and **Michelson**

**Charles Édouard Guillaume**  
BIPM Director,  
won the Nobel Prize in 1920



**Marie and Pierre Curie**  
collaborated with the  
BIPM

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**01 - The need for Measurements and the Meter Convention**



**02 - A re-definition of the SI in 2018**



**03 – The impact of the new definitions**





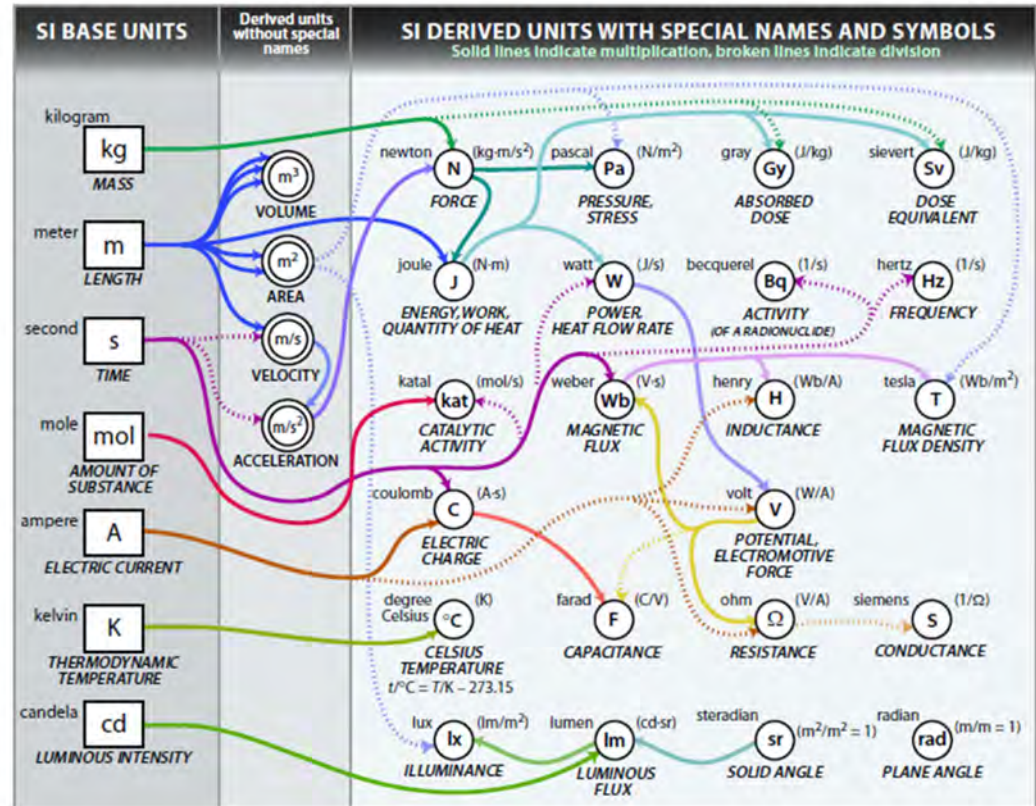
# The International System of Units (SI)



The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the SI Brochure is available from the BIPM website.

## Prefixes

Factor	Name	Symbol	Factor	Name	Symbol
$10^1$	deca	da	$10^{-1}$	deci	d
$10^2$	hecto	h	$10^{-2}$	centi	c
$10^3$	kilo	k	$10^{-3}$	milli	m
$10^6$	mega	M	$10^{-6}$	micro	$\mu$
$10^9$	giga	G	$10^{-9}$	nano	n
$10^{12}$	tera	T	$10^{-12}$	pico	p
$10^{15}$	peta	P	$10^{-15}$	femto	f
$10^{18}$	exa	E	$10^{-18}$	atto	a
$10^{21}$	zetta	Z	$10^{-21}$	zepto	z
$10^{24}$	yotta	Y	$10^{-24}$	yocto	y



From NIST -<http://physics.nist.gov/cuu/Units/SIdiagram.html>

# Seven base units - that are linked together

## 3 definitions based on **fundamental (or conventional) constants**:

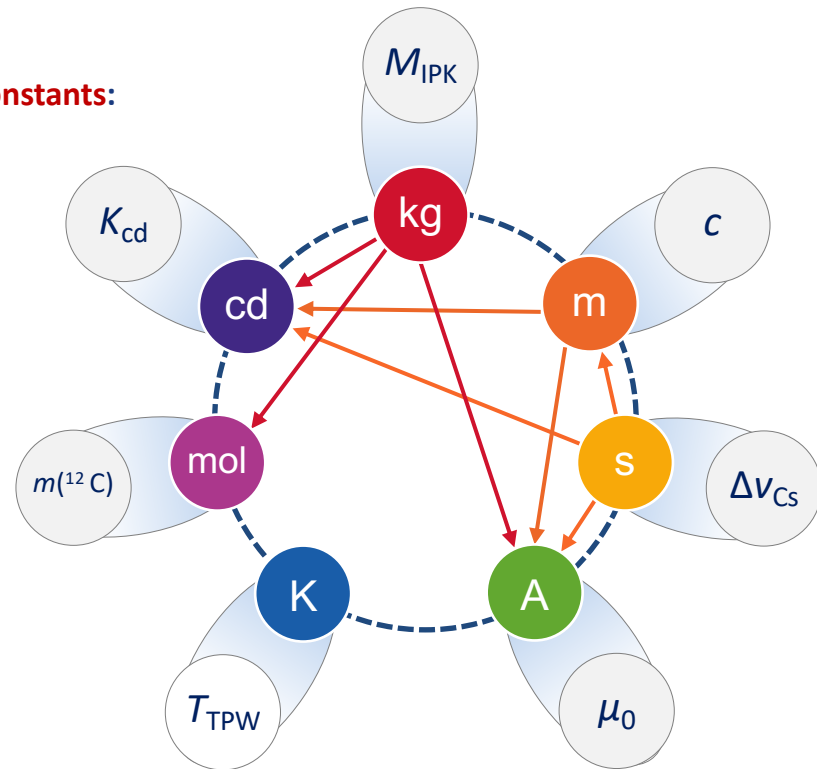
- metre ( $c$ )
- ampere ( $\mu_0$ )
- candela ( $K_{cd}$ )

## 3 definitions based on **atomic or material properties**:

- second ( $\Delta\nu_{Cs}$ )
- kelvin ( $T_{TPW}$ )
- mole ( $m^{12C}$ )

## 1 definition based on **an artefact**:

- kilogram ( $M_{IPK}$ )



# Seven base units

*We propose to change the definitions of four of them*

## 3 definitions based on **fundamental (or conventional) constants:**

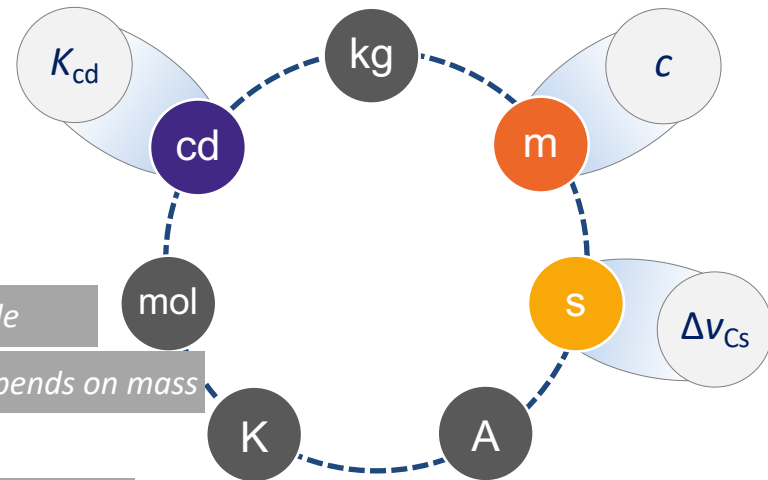
- metre (c)
- ampere ( $\mu_0$ ) - *Superseded by the 1990 convention*
- candela ( $K_{cd}$ )

## 3 definitions based on **atomic or material properties:**

- second ( $\Delta\nu_{Cs}$ )
- kelvin ( $T_{TPW}$ ) - *Implemented through the ITS-90 scale*
- mole ( $m^{12C}$ ) - *definition is often misunderstood – depends on mass*

## 1 definition based on **an artefact:**

- kilogram ( $M_{IPK}$ ) - *artefact – may not be stable ?*



# Seven base units

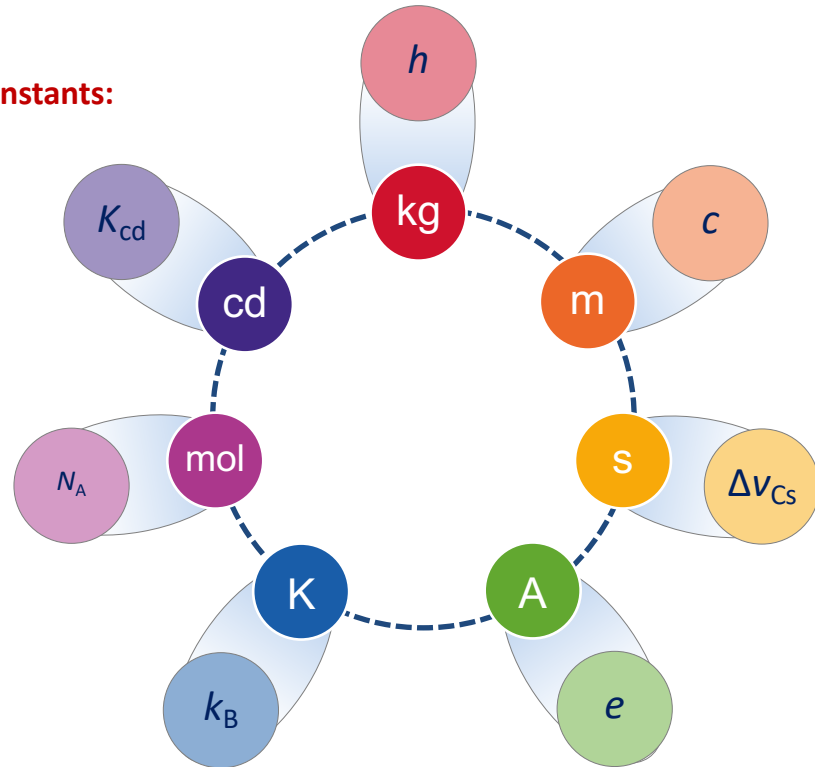
*Introducing 4 new definitions*

6 definitions based on **fundamental (or conventional) constants**:

- metre ( $c$ )
- candela ( $K_{\text{cd}}$ )
- kilogram ( $h$ )
- ampere ( $e$ )
- kelvin ( $k_{\text{B}}$ )
- mole ( $N_{\text{A}}$ )

1 definition based on **atomic property**:

- second ( $\Delta\nu_{\text{Cs}}$ )



# Seven base units

...same base units but different links

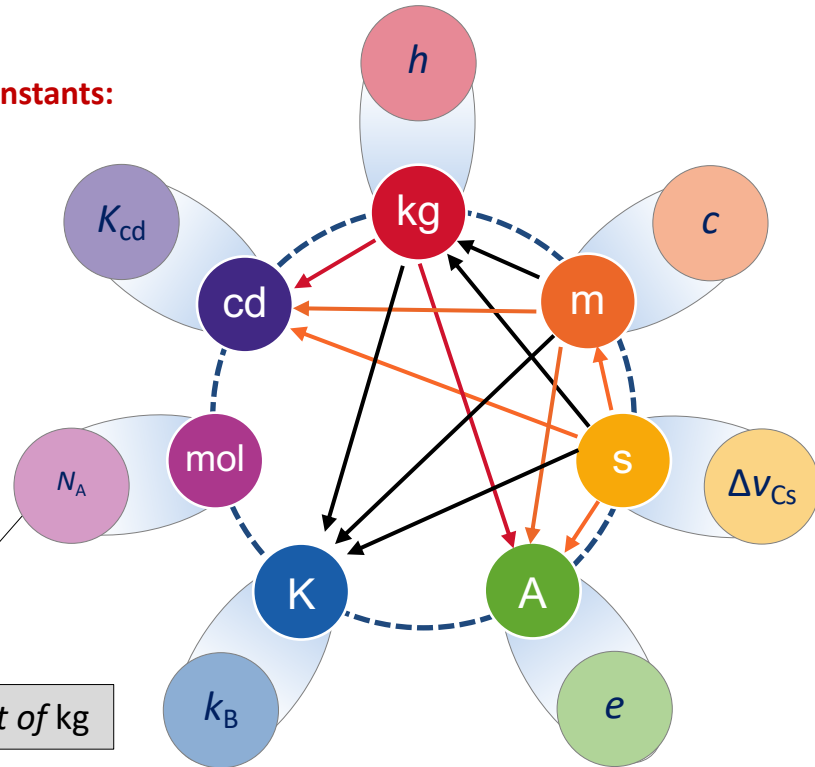
## 6 definitions based on **fundamental (or conventional) constants**:

- metre ( $c$ )
- candela ( $K_{cd}$ )
- kilogram ( $h$ )
- ampere ( $e$ )
- kelvin ( $k_B$ )
- mole ( $N_A$ )

## 1 definition based on **atomic property**:

- second ( $\Delta\nu_{Cs}$ )

*mol is now independent of kg*



*How difficult will it be to achieve?*

*Is it worth doing ?*





kg

# The definition of the kilogram in the SI

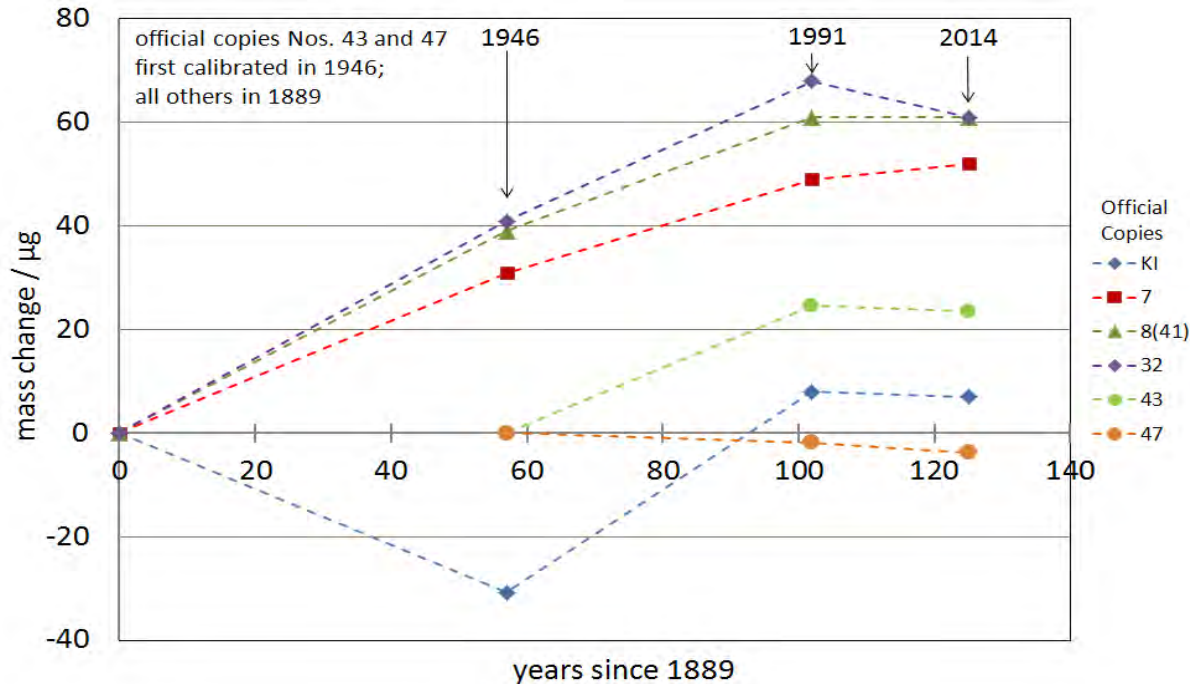
**The kilogram is the unit of mass -  
it is equal to the mass of the international  
prototype of the kilogram.**

- ❖ manufactured around 1880 and ratified in 1889
- ❖ represents the mass of 1 dm<sup>3</sup> of H<sub>2</sub>O at its maximum density (4 °C)
- ❖ alloy of 90% Pt and 10% Ir
- ❖ cylindrical shape,  $\varnothing = h \sim 39$  mm
- ❖ kept in ambient air at the BIPM

**The kilogram is the last SI base  
unit defined by a material artefact.**



# Why make the change ? – the International Prototype kg



standard deviation of changes  
between 1991 and 2014 = 3  $\mu\text{g}$



The IPK and the six official  
copies form a very consistent  
set of mass standards

# Why make the change ? – the size of the kg (!)

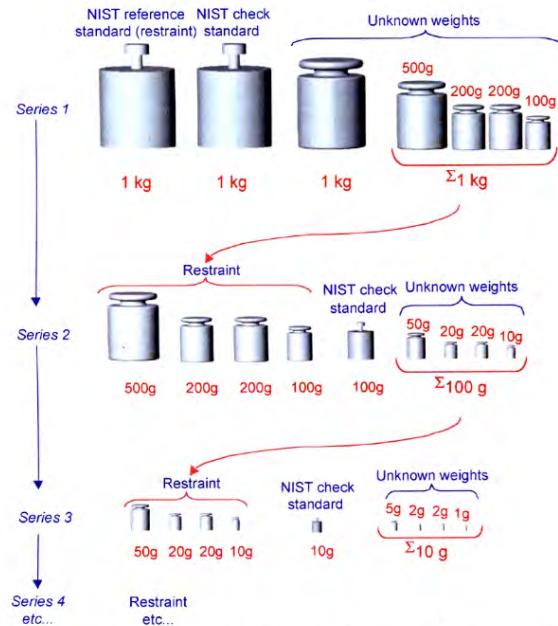


Fig. 3. A schematic description of the weighing designs used in the dissemination to submultiples of the kilogram.

Z. J. Jabbour and S. L. Yaniv,  
*J. Res. Natl. Inst. Stand. Technol.* 106, 25–46 (2001)]

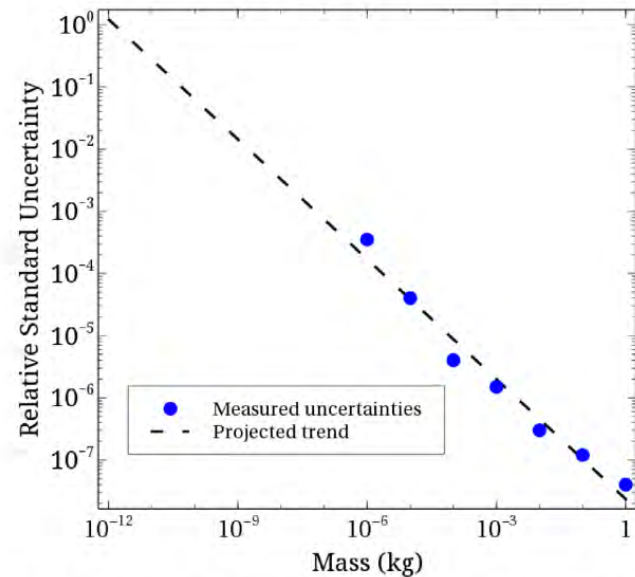


Figure 1. Relative uncertainty in mass as a function of mass value. Dashed line is a linear fit to the data shown.

Gordon A Shaw et al  
*Metrologia* 53 (2016) A86–A94

A

Bureau  
International des  
Poids et  
Mesures

# Why make the change ? – the electrical units.

*The ampere is that constant current which, if maintained in two straight parallel conductors of infinite length, of negligible circular cross-section, and placed 1 metre apart in vacuum, would produce between these conductors a force equal to  $2 \times 10^{-7}$  newton per metre of length.*

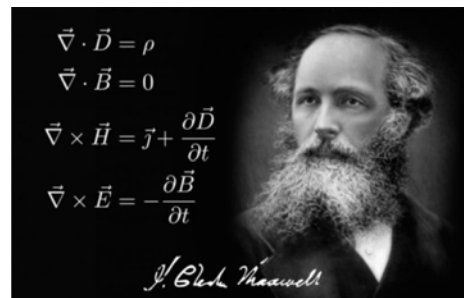
The definition of the ampere gives us:-

❖ Ampere's law

$$\frac{dF}{dl} = \frac{\mu_0}{2\pi} \frac{II'}{r}$$

❖ Coulomb's law

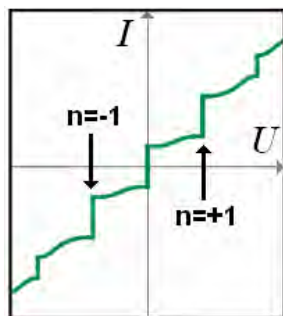
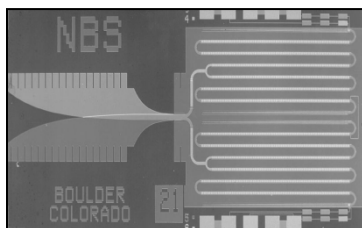
$$F = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{qq'}{r^2}$$





# Since 1990, macroscopic quantum effects have been the basis for the reproduction of the electrical units

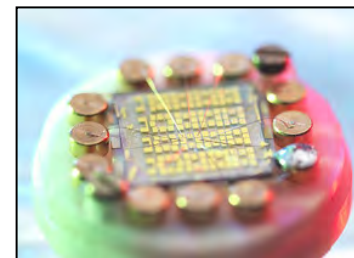
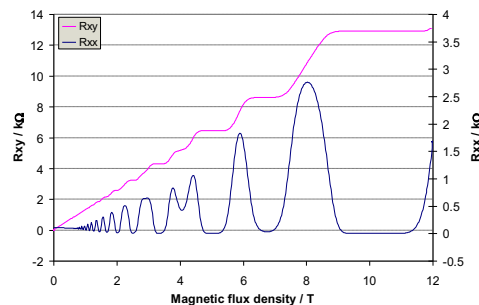
## Josephson effect Nobel Prize 1973



$$U_J = n \frac{f}{K_J}, \quad K_J = \frac{2e}{h}$$

$$K_{J-90} \equiv 483\,597.9 \text{ GHz/V}$$

## Quantum-Hall effect Nobel Prize 1985



$$R_H(i) = \frac{R_K}{i}, \quad R_K = \frac{h}{e^2}$$

$$R_{K-90} \equiv 25\,812.807 \, \Omega$$

- **But:** this convention is not within the SI (because they may not lead to  $\mu_0 \equiv 4\pi \cdot 10^{-7} \text{ N A}^{-2}$ )

# A new way to link electrical units to mechanical units

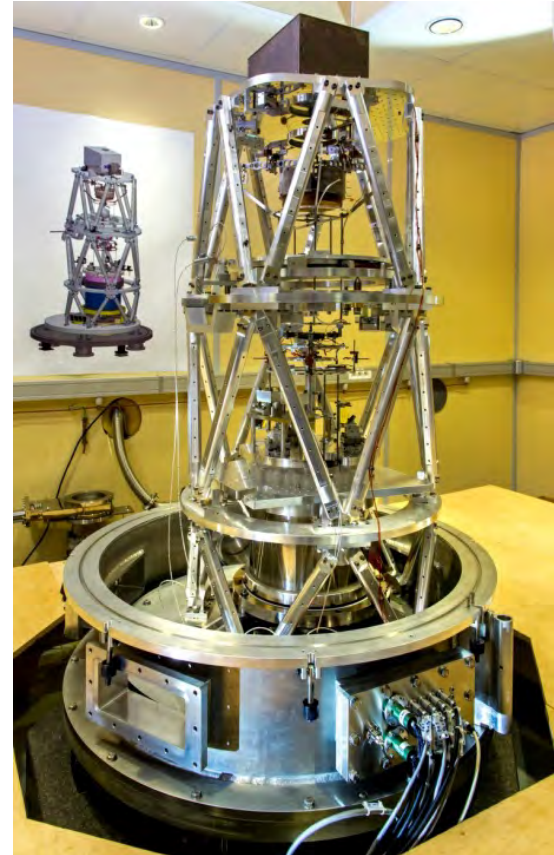
- An experiment that links electrical power to mechanical power.

kg



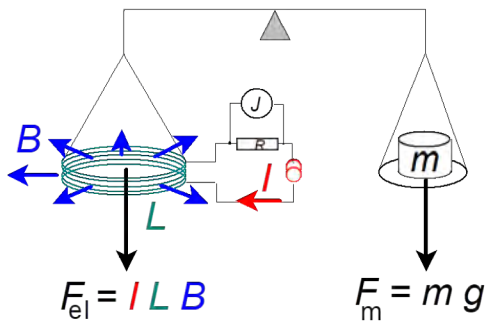
A

- The « moving coil watt balance »
- Now named the Kibble Balance after its inventor.



# The Kibble balance – a 2-phase experiment

## Phase 1: static experiment (weighing or force mode)



Ampere's Law

$$mg = -I \frac{d\Phi}{dz}$$

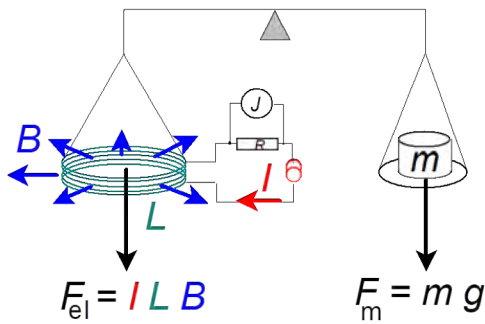
In a radial magnetic field,  
this can be simplified to

$$mg = ILB$$

current → wire length → flux density →

# The Kibble balance – a 2-phase experiment

## Phase 1: static experiment (weighing or force mode)



### Ampere's Law

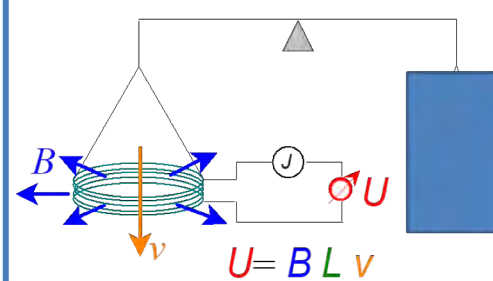
$$mg = -I \frac{d\Phi}{dz}$$

In a radial magnetic field, this can be simplified to

$$mg = ILB$$

current → flux density  
wire length

## Phase 2: dynamic experiment (velocity mode)



### Faraday's Law

$$U = -\frac{d\Phi}{dt} = -v \frac{d\Phi}{dz}$$

In a radial magnetic field, this can be simplified to

$$U = BLv$$

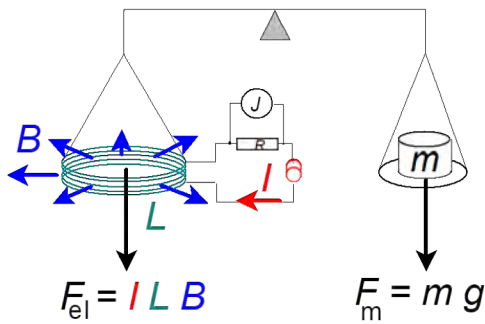
ind. voltage → flux density → wire length → velocity

Coil is moved through the magnetic field and a voltage is induced.

$$mgv_z = UI$$

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### Ampere's Law

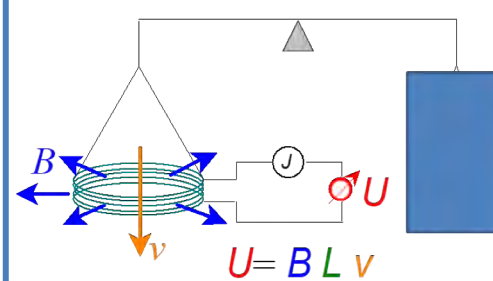
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In a radial magnetic field, this can be simplified to

$$U = BLv$$

ind. voltage      flux density      velocity  
wire length

Coil is moved through the magnetic field and a voltage is induced.

$$mgv_z = UI = \frac{h}{4} f_1 f_2 n_1 n_2 p.$$

by use of:

the Josephson effect (twice)  
the Quantum Hall effect

# A new way to link electrical units to mechanical units

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- ◆ The Kibble balance can set

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Mechanical} & = & \text{Electrical} \\ \text{Power} & & \text{Power} \end{array}$$

$$m g v$$

# A new way to link electrical units to mechanical units

◆

Why didn't we agree to implement  
this many years ago?



$$m g v = \frac{h}{4} f_1 f_2$$



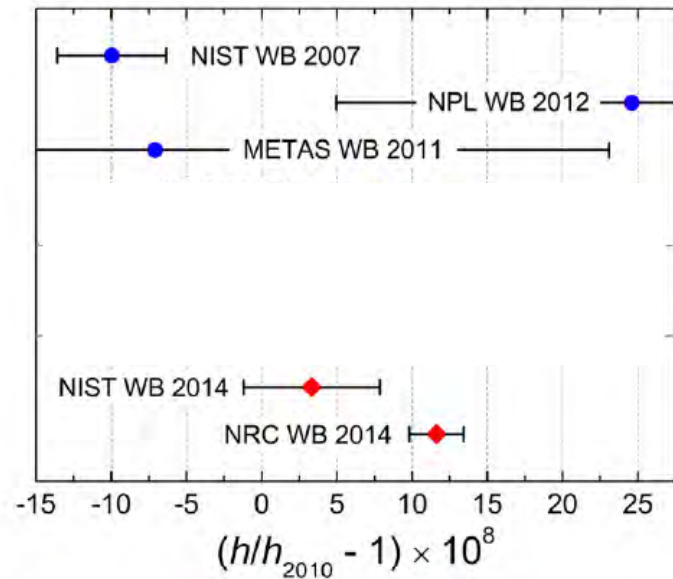
$h$

length and time

- ◆ If we can measure  $h$  with an uncertainty of some parts in  $10^8$ .
- ◆ Then the Kibble Balance can define the kilogram to some part in  $10^8$
- if we fix the Planck Constant.

# It has not been easy to agree on the best value of the Planck constant

Metrologia 51 (2014) R21



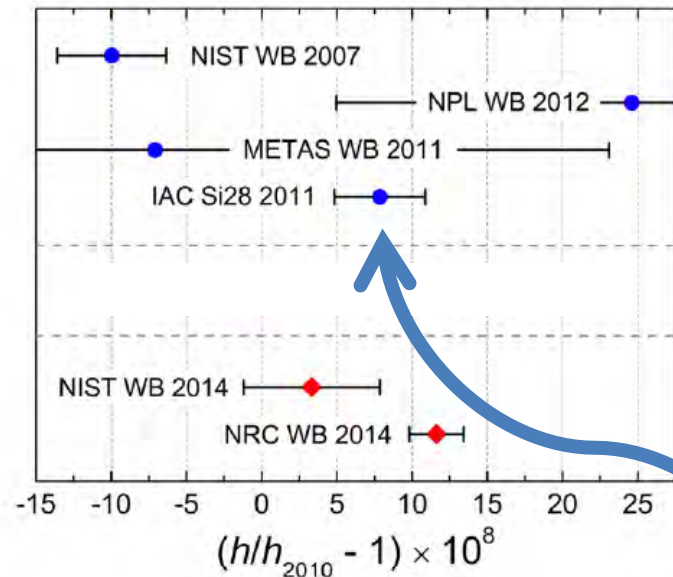
Many Kibble balances have been commissioned to resolve the discrepancy – and hence to realise the kg.



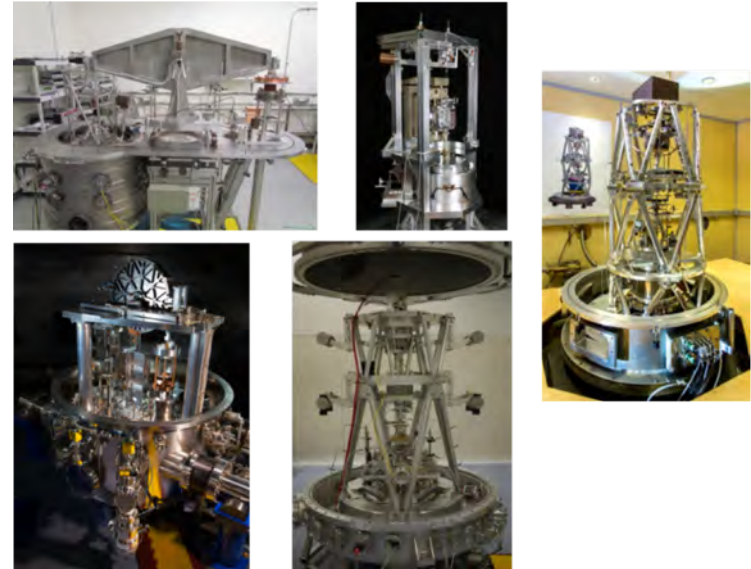


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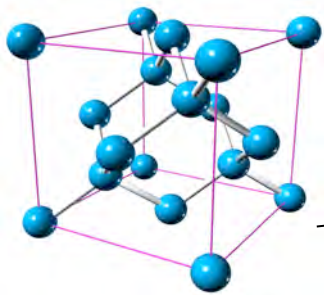
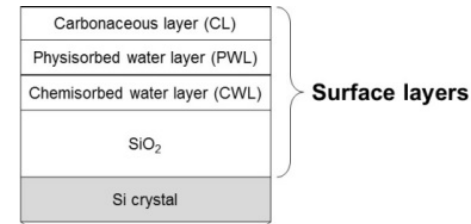
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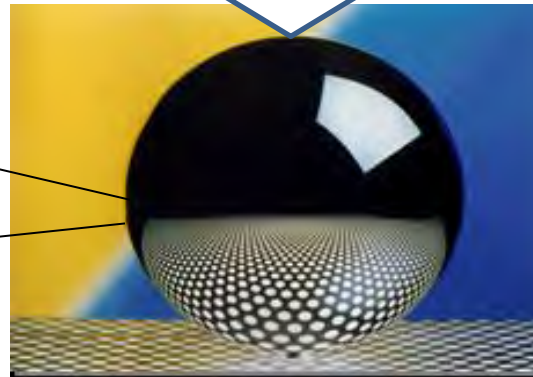
Values for  $h$  are available from other methods, including one that can be used to realise the kg.

# The X-ray crystal density (XRCD) method

$$m_{\text{sphere}} = m_{\text{core}} + m_{\text{SL}}$$



**8 atoms  
per unit cell**



## Five sets of measurements

1. Molar mass measurement at PTB (Germany) and NMIJ (Japan) with NIST (USA)
2. Lattice spacing measurement at INRIM (Italy)
3. Surface measurement at PTB (Germany) and NMIJ (Japan)
4. Volume measurement at PTB (Germany) and NMIJ (Japan)
5. Mass measurement at PTB (Germany) and NMIJ (Japan)

**All must be more accurate than 2 parts in 10<sup>8</sup>**

# The X-ray crystal density (XRCD) method

Quantity	Relative uncertainty/10 <sup>-9</sup>		
	Si28kg01a (NMIJ)	Si28kg01a (PTB)	Si28kg01b (PTB)
Molar mass	1.5	1.5	1.3
Lattice parameter	5.2	5.2	5.2
Surface	7.9	7.6	6.0
Sphere volume	19.5	7.0	7.0
Sphere mass	5.9	6.1	6.1
Point defects	4.7	4.7	6.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>14.0</b>

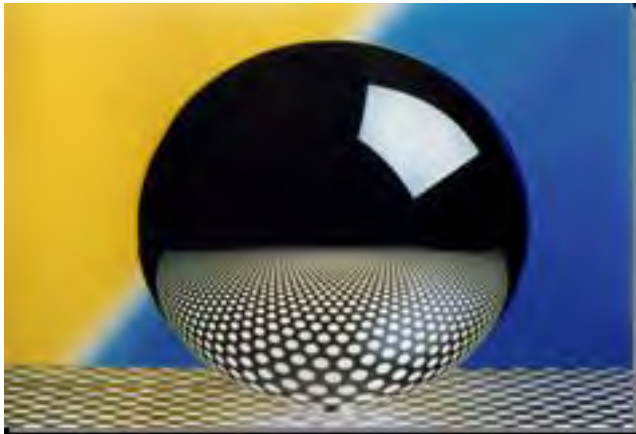
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**All must be more accurate than 2 parts in 10<sup>8</sup>**

# The X-ray crystal density (XRCD) method

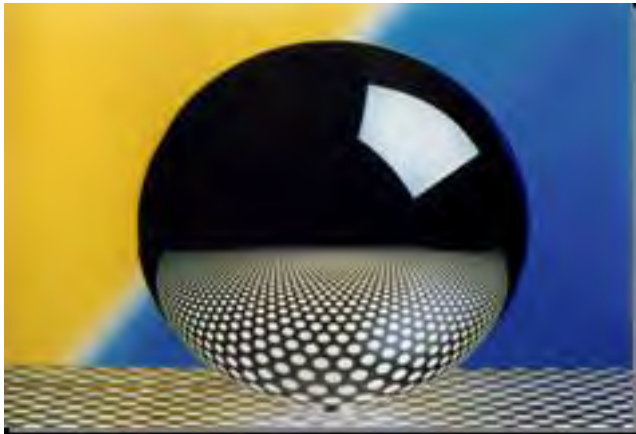
## The silicon sphere



1. links macroscopic mass (1kg) to macroscopic mass ( $m_{\text{Si}}$ )

# The X-ray crystal density (XRCD) method

## The silicon sphere

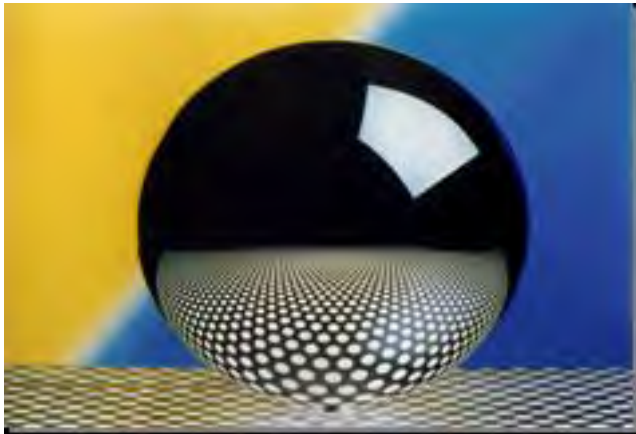


1. links macroscopic mass (1kg) to macroscopic mass ( $m_{Si}$ )
2. uses the Rydberg constant,  $R_\infty$ , to link  $m_{Si}$  to  $h$

$$m_{Si} = A_r(Si) \cdot \frac{2h}{c} \cdot \frac{R_\infty}{A_r(e) \cdot \alpha^2}$$

# The X-ray crystal density (XRCD) method

## The silicon sphere

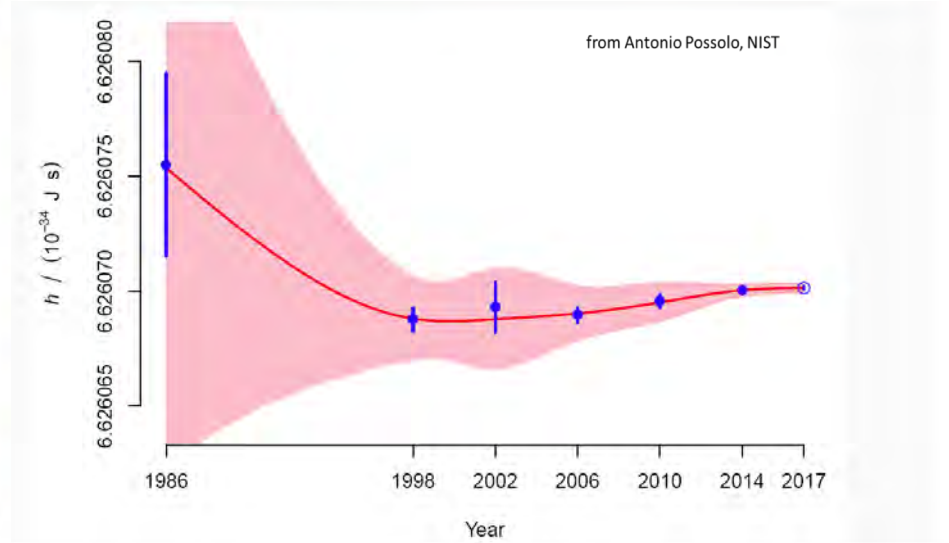
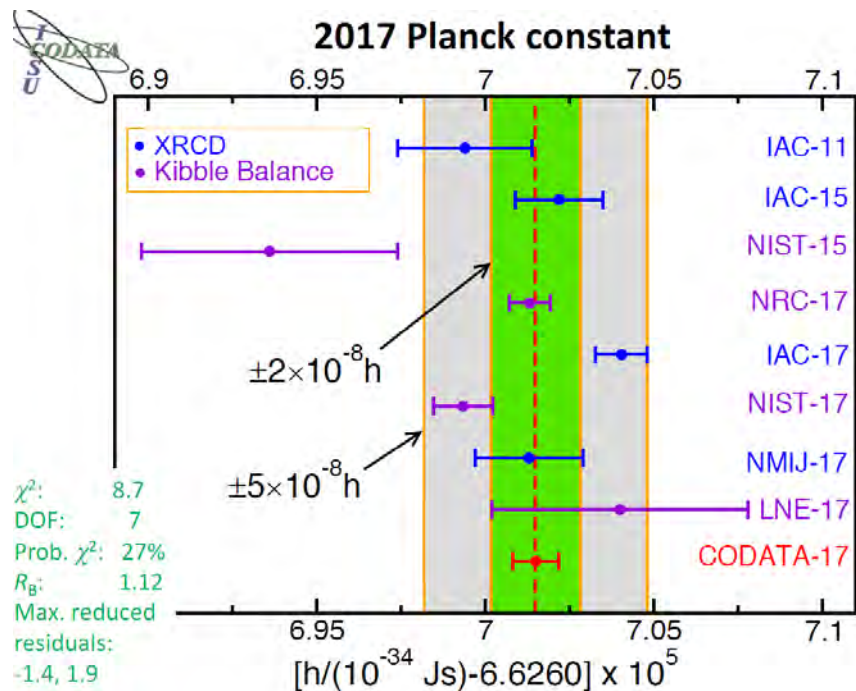


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$u_r \sim 10^{-10}$

# Progress with the measurement of the Planck constant



$$h = 6.626\,070\,150(69) \times 10^{-34} \text{ J s} \quad 1.0 \times 10^{-8}$$

Data from CODATA 2017

# Outline

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**01 - The need for Measurements and the Meter Convention**



**02 - A re-definition of the SI in 2018**



**03 – The impact of the new definitions**





# Writing the new definitions eg **the ampere**

“The ampere ... is defined by taking the fixed numerical value of the elementary charge  $e$  to be  $1.602\,176\,620\,8 \times 10^{-19}$  when expressed in the unit C, which is equal to A s, where the second is defined in terms of  $\Delta\nu_{\text{Cs}}$ ”.

## How does this work in practice?

Since  $h$  is fixed by the definition of the kilogram and  $e$  by the definition of the ampere:

- The Josephson effect defines a voltage in terms of  $2e/h$
- The quantum Hall effect defines an impedance in terms of  $h/e^2$

**Note –there will be very small changes to the volt and the ohm**

$2e/h$  will be smaller than  $K_{\text{J-90}}$  by the fractional amount  $107 \times 10^{-9}$

$h/e^2$  will be larger than  $R_{\text{K-90}}$  by the fractional amount  $18 \times 10^{-9}$

# Writing the new definitions eg **the kilogram**

---

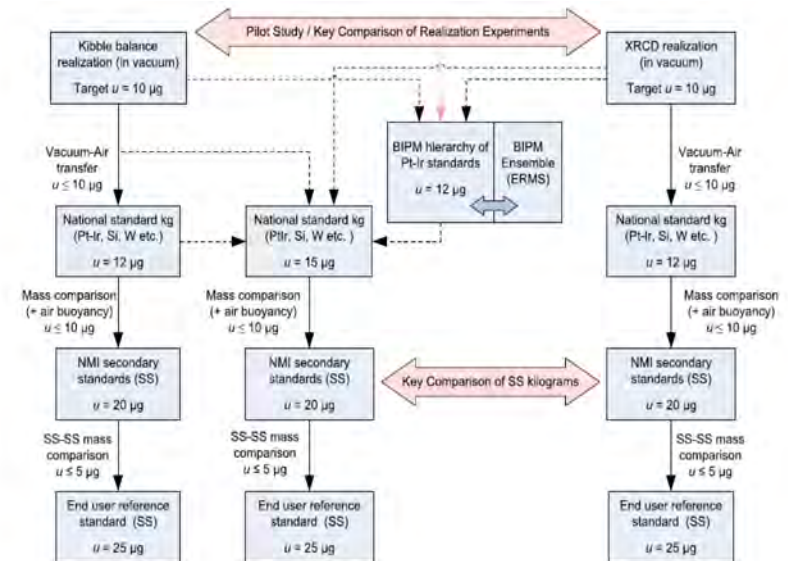
“The kilogram ... is defined by taking the fixed numerical value of the Planck constant  $h$  to be  $6.626\,070\,15 \times 10^{-34}$  when expressed in the unit J s, which is equal to  $\text{kg m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$ , where the metre and the second are defined in terms of  $c$  and  $\Delta\nu_{\text{Cs}}$ ”.

# Writing the new definitions eg the kilogram

“The kilogram ... is defined by taking the fixed numerical value of the Planck constant  $h$  to be  $6.626\,070\,15 \times 10^{-34}$  when expressed in the unit  $\text{J s}$ , which is equal to  $\text{kg m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$ , where the metre and the second are defined in terms of  $c$  and  $\Delta\nu_{\text{Cs}}$ ”.

## How does this work in practice?

- The Kibble balance or the Si-XRCD method can be used to realise the kilogram.
- A protocol will be in place to ensure there is no change in the value of the kg.



# The International System of Units

By stating the fixed values of the 7 constants, the whole system is defined.

## The SI, is the system of units in which:

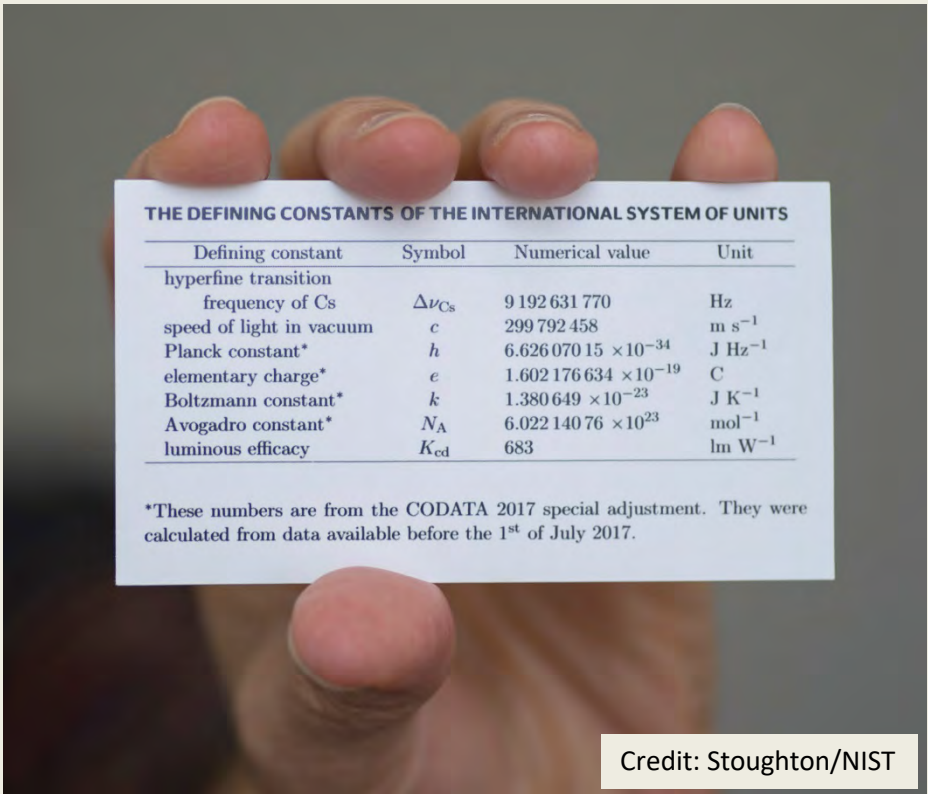
- the unperturbed ground state hyperfine transition frequency of the caesium 133 atom  $\Delta\nu_{\text{Cs}}$  is 9 192 631 770 Hz,
- the speed of light in vacuum  $c$  is 299 792 458 m/s,
- the Planck constant  $h$  is  $6.626\,070\,15 \times 10^{-34}$  J s,
- the elementary charge  $e$  is  $1.602\,176\,634 \times 10^{-19}$  C,
- the Boltzmann constant  $k$  is  $1.380\,649 \times 10^{-23}$  J/K,
- the Avogadro constant  $N_{\text{A}}$  is  $6.022\,140\,76 \times 10^{23}$  mol<sup>-1</sup>,
- the luminous efficacy of monochromatic radiation of frequency  $540 \times 10^{12}$  hertz  $K_{\text{cd}}$  is 683 lm/W.

where the hertz, joule, coulomb, lumen, and watt, with unit symbols Hz, J, C, lm, and W, respectively, are related to the units second, metre, kilogram, ampere, kelvin, mole, and candela, with unit symbols s, m, kg, A, K, mol, and cd, respectively, according to  $\text{Hz} = \text{s}^{-1}$ ,  $\text{J} = \text{m}^2 \text{kg s}^{-2}$ ,  $\text{C} = \text{A s}$ ,  $\text{lm} = \text{cd m}^2 \text{m}^{-2} = \text{cd sr}$ , and  $\text{W} = \text{m}^2 \text{kg s}^{-3}$ .

The numerical values of the seven defining constants have no uncertainty.

# The International System of Units

By stating the fixed values of the 7 constants, the whole system is defined.



**THE DEFINING CONSTANTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF UNITS**

Defining constant	Symbol	Numerical value	Unit
hyperfine transition frequency of Cs	$\Delta\nu_{\text{Cs}}$	9 192 631 770	Hz
speed of light in vacuum	$c$	299 792 458	m s <sup>-1</sup>
Planck constant*	$h$	$6.626\,070\,15 \times 10^{-34}$	J Hz <sup>-1</sup>
elementary charge*	$e$	$1.602\,176\,634 \times 10^{-19}$	C
Boltzmann constant*	$k$	$1.380\,649 \times 10^{-23}$	J K <sup>-1</sup>
Avogadro constant*	$N_{\text{A}}$	$6.022\,140\,76 \times 10^{23}$	mol <sup>-1</sup>
luminous efficacy	$K_{\text{cd}}$	683	lm W <sup>-1</sup>

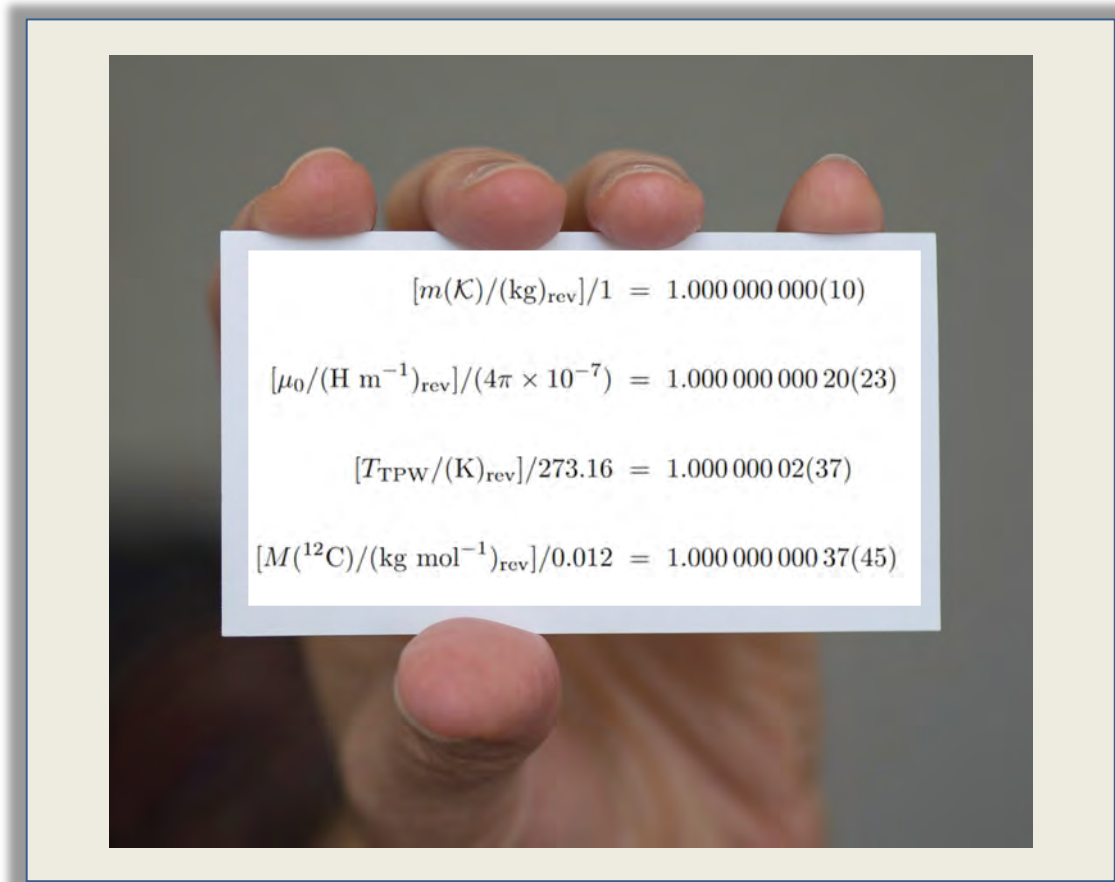
\*These numbers are from the CODATA 2017 special adjustment. They were calculated from data available before the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2017.

Credit: Stoughton/NIST

# The International System of Units

**BUT**

We have 4 new experimental quantities.



# Why does the “quantum” SI depend on very complicated mechanical experiments?



## Why a mechanical experiment?

- ◆ The kilogram is macroscopic
- ◆ The present definition of the ampere is mechanical.

## Why a two-phase experiment?

$$m g v = \frac{h}{4} f_1 f_2$$

- ◆ It must be independent of the present definition of the ampere
- ◆ It is also independent of the charge of the electron

# Towards an “atomic” or “quantum” SI



**1960**

The name adopted by the 11<sup>th</sup> CGPM in 1960 for the system with 6 base units.

- kilogram
- second
- metre,
- ampere
- kelvin
- candela

**1967**

The second was redefined – the atomic second

**1972**

the mole was introduced – to provide a unit for chemistry

**1979**

the candela – redefined as monochromatic radiation.

**1983**

the meter was redefined – the first fundamental constant.

**1990**

conventions for the volt and the ohm adopted

the International Temperature Scale (ITS90) was adopted

**1980**

“New Method for High-Accuracy Determination of the Fine-Structure Constant Based on Quantized Hall Resistance”

*K. v. Klitzing, G. Dorda, and M. Pepper*

**2018**

## metrologia

Vol. 3 No. 4 October 1967

### On the Use of the AC Josephson Effect to Maintain Standards of Electromotive Force\*

B. N. TAYLOR

RCA Laboratories, Princeton, New Jersey

and

W. H. PARKER, D. N. LANGENBERG, and A. DENKESFEN

Department of Physics and Laboratory for Research on the Structure of Matter, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

Received June 6, 1967

#### Abstract

It is shown how a particular phenomenon arising from the ac Josephson effect in superconductors can be used to provide a comparatively simple and inexpensive means for (1) checking on the constancy in time of reference standards of electromotive force, and (2) relating the reference standard of one country to that of another country, thereby contributing to a better international assignment of the volt. The results of recent high accuracy (4 ppm) measurements of the phenomenon in question and the relative ease with which the techniques used in these measurements can be extended to the 1 ppm level will be presented as evidence that these two goals can be reached in the near future.

For the past six years, NBS has utilized the gyro-magnetic ratio of the proton ( $\gamma_p$ ) to check on the constancy of the United States legal volt. To within the 1 ppm uncertainty of the measurements, NBS finds that the United States legal volt has not changed during this period (2). However, the many important implications of this result have not yet been acted upon since constancy checks using  $\gamma_p$  have not been duplicated by either BIPM or the other national laboratories maintaining reference standards of emf. This is primarily due to the expense and complexities



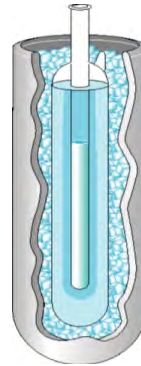


# The kelvin – present definition

## The current definition – from 1954.

The kelvin, unit of thermodynamic temperature, is the fraction  $1/273.16$  of the thermodynamic temperature of the triple point of water. The 1954 definition

$$T_{\text{TPW}} = 273.16 \text{ K}$$



## Limitations of the Triple Point of Water

- Defines only one temperature,
- Based on uncontaminated water with a specified isotopic content,
- Can be influenced by: gradients, annealing etc.

In order to measure temperatures away from  $T_{\text{TPW}} = 273.16 \text{ K}$  we use the

## International Practical Temperature Scale (ITS-90).

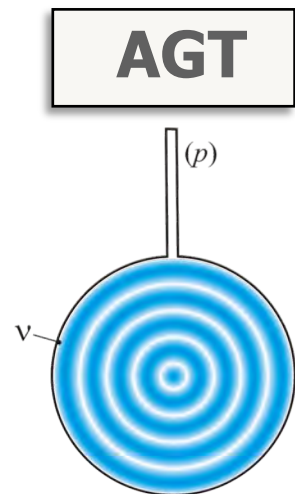
But ITS-90 is decoupled from the present definition of the kelvin.

## The principal of primary thermometry

If an energy  $E$  is measured at a thermodynamic temperature  $T$  and if  $E$  is described by a function  $f(kT)$

- At present,  $k$  is determined from  $E = f(kT_{\text{TPW}})$  :  $T_{\text{TPW}}$  is exact.
- In the revised SI,  $T$  measured from  $E = f(kT)$  :  $k$  is exact.

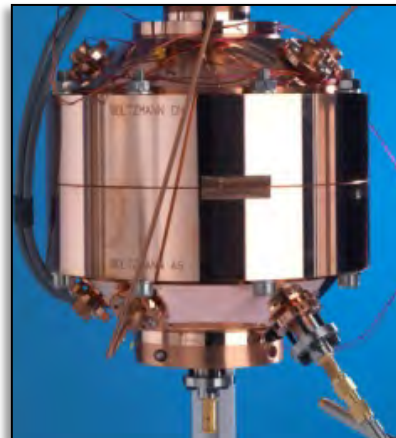
# The acoustic gas thermometer



$$u_0^2 = \gamma kT / m$$

$$\gamma = c_p / c_v$$

Courtesy of Joachim Fischer, PTB



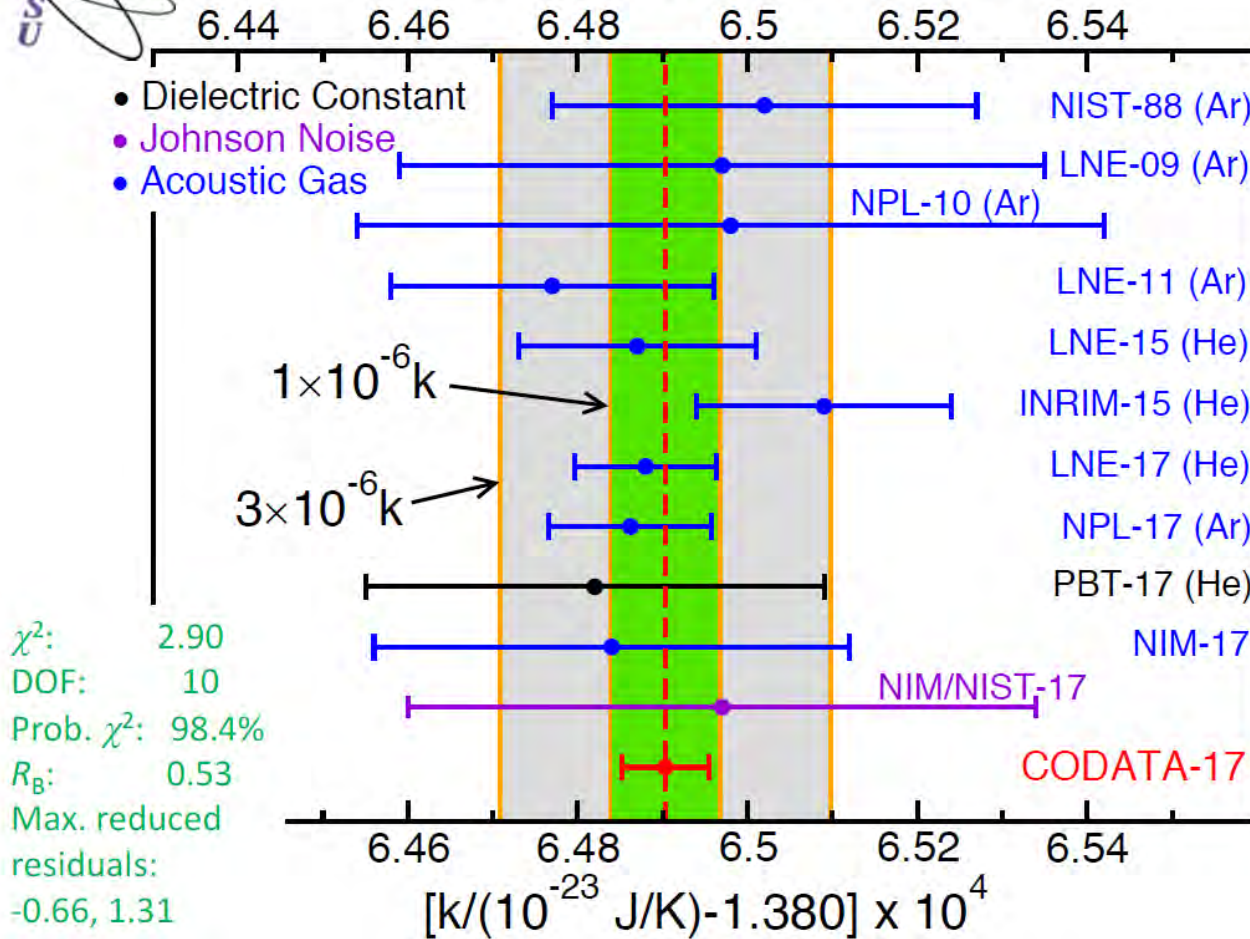
## The NPL Acoustic Gas Thermometer (with Argon)

		Estimate	$u_R/10^{-6}$	Weight
$M$	$\text{g mol}^{-1}$	39.947 727(19)	0.373	28.3%
$T$	K	273.160 000(99)	0.364	26.8%
$c_0^2$	$\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-2}$	94756.245(45)	0.470	44.9%
$R$	$\text{J K}^{-1} \text{mol}^{-1}$	8.314 460 3 (58)	0.702	

M. de Podesta, D.F. Mark, R.C. Dymock, R. Underwood, T. Bacquart, G. Sutton, S. Davidson, G. Machin  
 Metrologia **54** 683-692 (2017)  
 $u(k)/k = 0.70 \text{ ppm}$



## 2017 Boltzmann constant



The data is consistent

Two independent methods with  $u_r < 3 \cdot 10^{-6}$

$$u_{rel}(k) = 3.7 \cdot 10^{-7}$$

Data from CODATA 2017

# Writing the new definitions eg **the kelvin**

“The kelvin ... is defined by taking the fixed numerical value of the Boltzmann constant  $k$  to be  $1.380\,649 \times 10^{-23}$  when expressed in the unit  $\text{J K}^{-1}$ , which is equal to  $\text{kg m}^2 \text{s}^{-2} \text{K}^{-1}$ , where the kilogram, metre and second are defined in terms of  $h$ ,  $c$  and  $\Delta\nu_{\text{Cs}}$ ”.

## How does this work in practice?

- Primary thermometers can be used to make measurements in kelvin.
- The ITS-90 will remain in use.





## 26th meeting of the CGPM: 13-16 November 2018

### Meeting logistics

- Attendance and registration
  - Provisional timetable
  - Map/location
  - Hotels in Versailles



### Working documents

- BIPM strategic plan
- Convocation
- Draft Resolutions

### Work of the BIPM

- Mission, Role and Objectives
- Organigram
- Member States
- Associate States and Economies
- Financial Report
- Annual Director's Report
- Compendium of main rules and practices applicable to the BIPM
- Calculating Member State contributions
- Calculating Associate subscriptions

### The CIPM

- List of members
- Process for election of CIPM members
- Reports of the CIPM
- The Consultative Committees

### Impact of metrology

- The CIPM Mutual Recognition Arrangement
- Impact and case studies related to metrology

## List of Draft Resolutions

- A** On the revision of the International System of Units (SI)
- B** On the definition of time scales
- C** On the objectives of the BIPM
- D** On the dotation of the BIPM for the years 2020 to 2023
- E** On financial arrears of Member States and the process of exclusion

General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM)

Palais des Congres, Versailles

Friday 16th November 2018

Open session to consider the re-definition of the SI base units.



# General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM)

Palais des Congrès, Versailles  
Friday 16th November 2018

Open session to consider the re-definition of the SI base units.

## 8:30 - Start of session

Opening of the session

Sébastien Candell (*Président de l'Académie des sciences*)/Barry Inglis (CIPM Preside)

Progress towards a redefinition of the SI and report from the CCU

Joachim Ullrich (CIPM Vice-President)

Achievements in the measurement of  $k$  and report from the CCT

Yuning Duan (CIPM)

Achievements with the quantum electrical effects and report from the CCEM

Gert Rietveld (CIPM)

Achievements in the measurement of  $h$  and report from the CCM

Philippe Richard (CIPM)

*Questions and discussion followed by coffee*



## 10:50 - Start of webcast

### Keynote lectures

**"The quantum Hall effect and the revised SI"**

Klaus von Klitzing (Nobel laureate, Max Planck Institute, Stuttgart)

**"The role of the Planck constant in physics"**

Jean-Philippe Uzan (*Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS)*, Paris)

**"Optical atomic clocks – opening new perspectives on the quantum world"**

Jun Ye (JILA, Boulder)

**"Measuring with fundamental constants; how the revised SI will work"**

Bill Phillips (Nobel laureate, NIST, Gaithersburg)

Introduction to the Resolution "On the revision of the International System of Units (SI)"

Martin Milton (BIPM Director)

Voting on Draft Resolution A and closing remarks

Barry Inglis

## 13:25 - End of session

# Summary

**The new definitions use “the rules of nature to create the rules of measurement”.**

- They will tie measurements at the atomic (and quantum) scales to those at the macroscopic level.

**The new definitions will provide long-term stability**

- The realisation of units will be possible using new methods.

**The challenge in the future will be to maintain comparability of “primary realisations”**

- This is the same challenge that we have had with (all) other measurement units.





*Thank you ... and tune in on 16<sup>th</sup> November*

General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM)  
Palais des Congres, Versailles  
Friday 16th November 2018

Open session to consider the re-definition of the SI base units.



# The Avogadro constant

