



# Redefinition of the SI for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

**Murray Early**

**Electrical Metrology**

World Metrology Day, 22 May 2018

Acknowledgements: Greta (Library), Vladimir and rest of  
Electrical Standards Team, and MSL colleagues

A business of

**CallaghanInnovation**

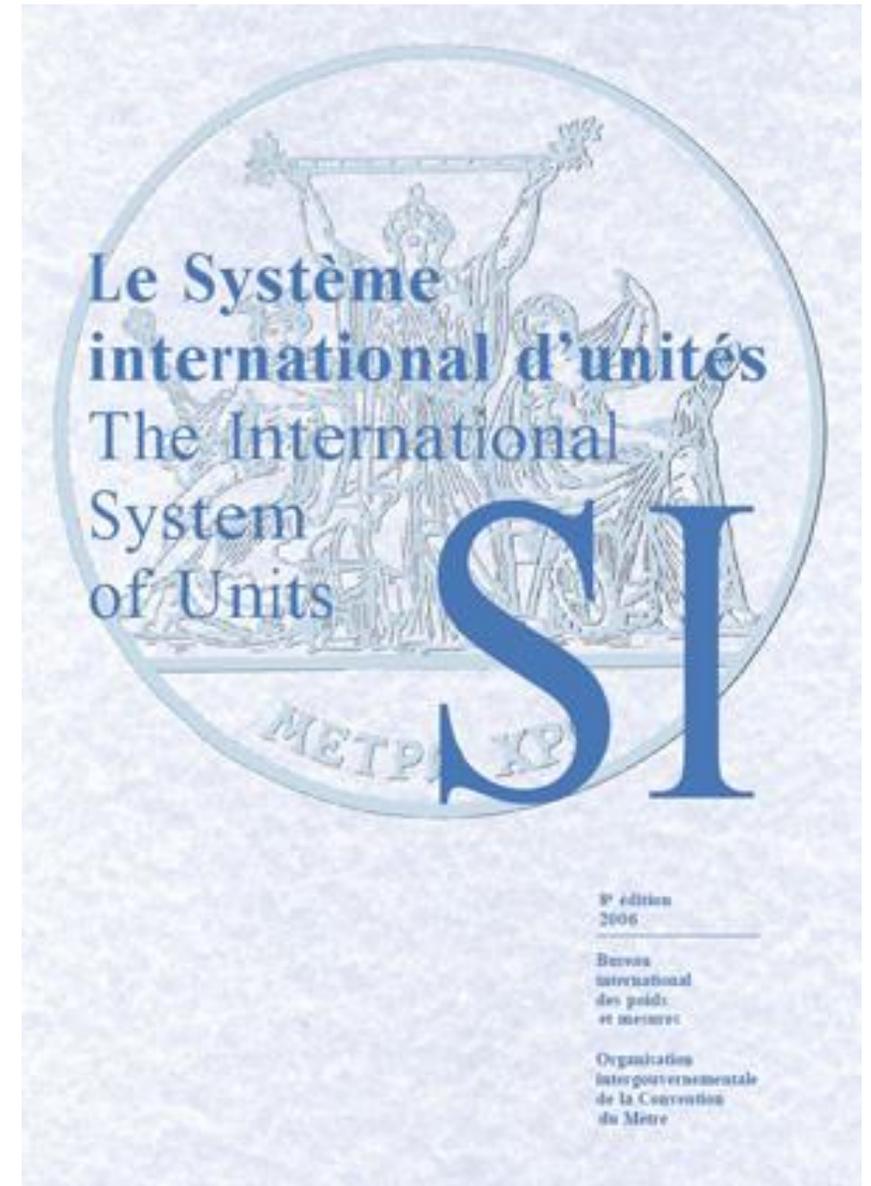
## Redefinition of the SI.....Overview

- A bit of SI history
- The need for change to the SI
- Preparations for change
- Consequences for users
- The challenge of electrical units

French: **S**ystème **I**nternational d'Unités (hence 'the **SI**')

English: The International System of Units

Metrology: the science of measurement  
(...or the science of not being wrong)



## Another Revolution is Coming....

- 20<sup>th</sup> May 1875: the signing of the “Convention du Mètre”



2<sup>nd</sup> CGPM 1895 (www.bipm.fr)

- 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019: (144<sup>th</sup> anniversary) implementation of an extensive overhaul of the SI

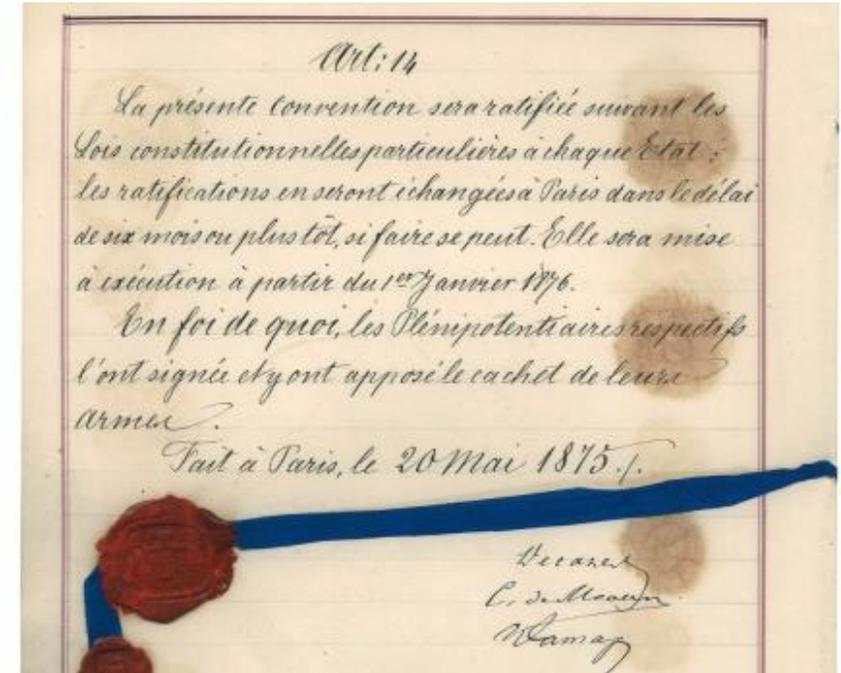
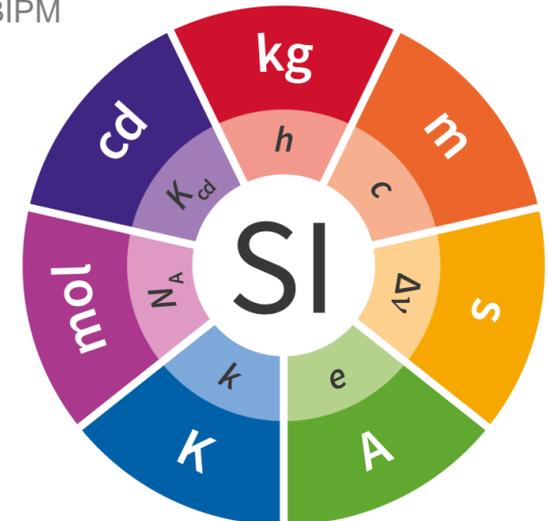


Image: BIPM



## The Metre Convention

- ▶ 20<sup>th</sup> May 1875: 17 countries signed the Metre Convention....
  - signed by the USA, but Britain (1884), Australia (1947)
  - New Zealand signed when? **1991**
- ▶ 80 years prior to 1875 the idea of common measures caught up in the utopian ideals of the French Revolution (1789-1799)



*“A tous les temp. A tous les peoples.”*  
(For all time. For all people.)  
Condorcet, Académie des Sciences, ~1792

- ▶ Turned to the Académie des Sciences: Coulomb, Lavoisier, Lagrange, Laplace, Cassini...



*“The Metric system grew directly from the most radical period of the French Revolution; scientific revolutions often go hand-in-hand with political upheaval”*

J H Williams, Defining and Measuring Nature, 2014



## Standardisation of Units

- ▶ Multiplicity of units a major problem (hundreds of local units)

Braunschweig Market Length Standard (the Elle): 57.07 cm  
*“The required length measure for use at the market at least since the 16th century”*

(by 1810 there were 112 different standards for the Elle around Germany)

- ▶ Initially covered length, mass and time (m, kg, s)

### CGS vs SI

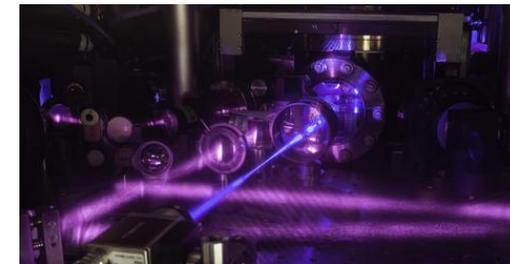
- Base units – same in practice (e.g. both have 1 g and 1 kg)
- Derived units – different names, vary by powers of 10

e.g. (CGS force) 1 dyne = 1 g x 1 cm/s<sup>2</sup> = 10<sup>-3</sup> kg x 10<sup>-2</sup> m/s<sup>2</sup> = 10<sup>-5</sup> N (SI force)



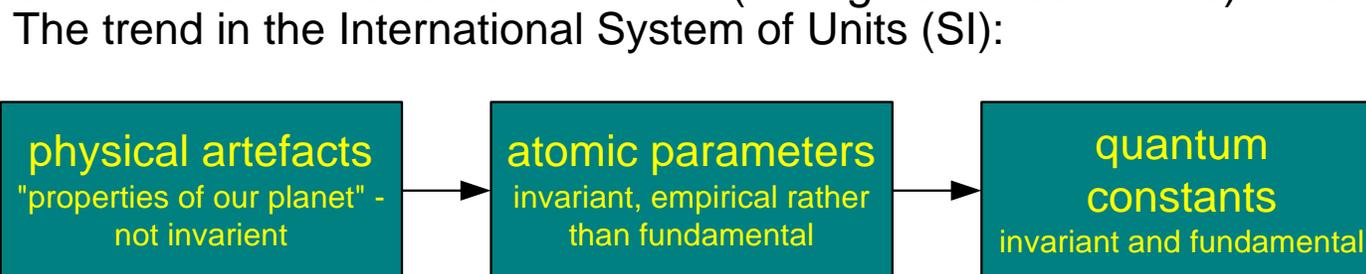
# Unit Systems

- ▶ Purpose – compromise to ensure common global language/understanding:
  - ▶ Trade – critical
    - NB: could once tax by using different units for buying and selling
    - niche units still widespread (e.g. diamonds by 1 carat = 0.2 g)
  - ▶ Science – simplicity if stay in the SI (SI units, SI equations)
    - niche units suit certain disciplines – e.g. natural units  $h=c=1$
  - ▶ Public good – fair, trustworthy and coherent society
    - regulations, speed, medicine, safety etc
- ▶ Unit systems are science-led/informed but not scientifically derived
  - quite a lot of freedom how we express quantities (and units and formulae)
- ▶ Choose unit scales to suit us (prefer smallish numbers  $> 1$ )
  - e.g. SI base units: 1 m, 1 s, 1 kg, change of 1 K, 1 mol, 1 Cd, 1 A



## Development of the Metric System

- ▶ 1790: meter defined as one ten-millionth of the distance between the North Pole and the Equator
- ▶ 1875: metre and kilogram artefacts (Platinum Iridium)
- ▶ 1921: all physical quantities (including ampere)
- ▶ 1949: ampere becomes 4<sup>th</sup> base unit (Giorgi)
- ▶ 1960: kelvin and candela added to base units
  - now called the “Système international d’unités” (the SI)
  - meter defined as 1 650 763.73 wavelengths of the orange-red line of the krypton-86 atom
- ▶ 1971: mole becomes 7<sup>th</sup> base unit
- ▶ 1983: speed of light defined – the metre is based on a fundamental constant
- ▶ 1990: conventional values for electrical units (voltage and resistance) ~ non-SI...



# Report on the Calibration of a 100 $\Omega$ resistor by the BIPM March 2017

$u$  is calculated by addition in quadrature of:

- The relative standard uncertainty  $u_1$  determined from the relative standard deviation of the mean (on the mean date) of the series of measurements. It is calculated after removal of any possible short-term drift:

$$u_1 = 2.0 \times 10^{-9}$$

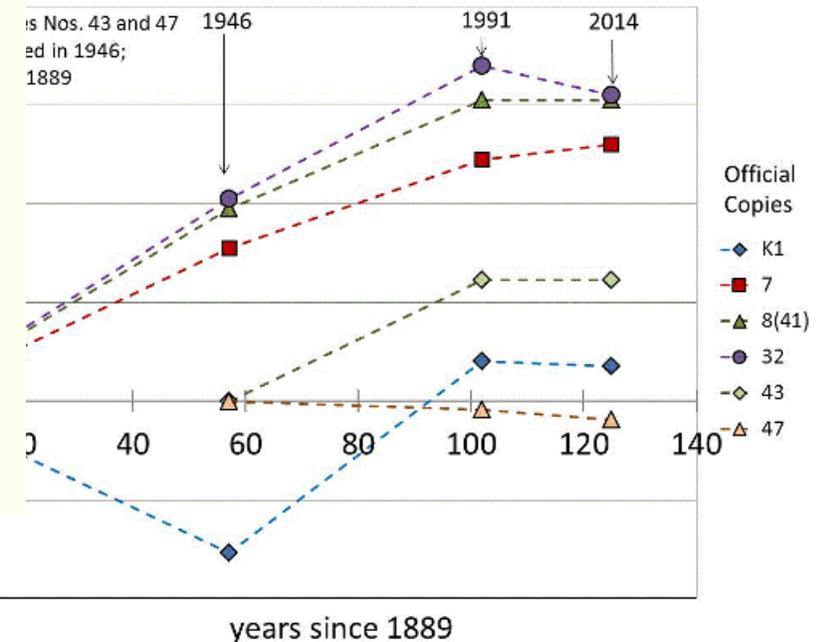
- The relative standard uncertainty  $u_2$  arising from the combined contributions associated with the BIPM measurement facility and the traceability:

$$u_2 = 18 \times 10^{-9}$$

All the uncertainties given in this certificate are estimated standard uncertainties, without the application of a coverage factor  $k$ .

The standard uncertainty associated with the use of the recommended value of  $R_{K-90}$ , which has a relative value of  $1 \times 10^{-7}$ , has not been included.

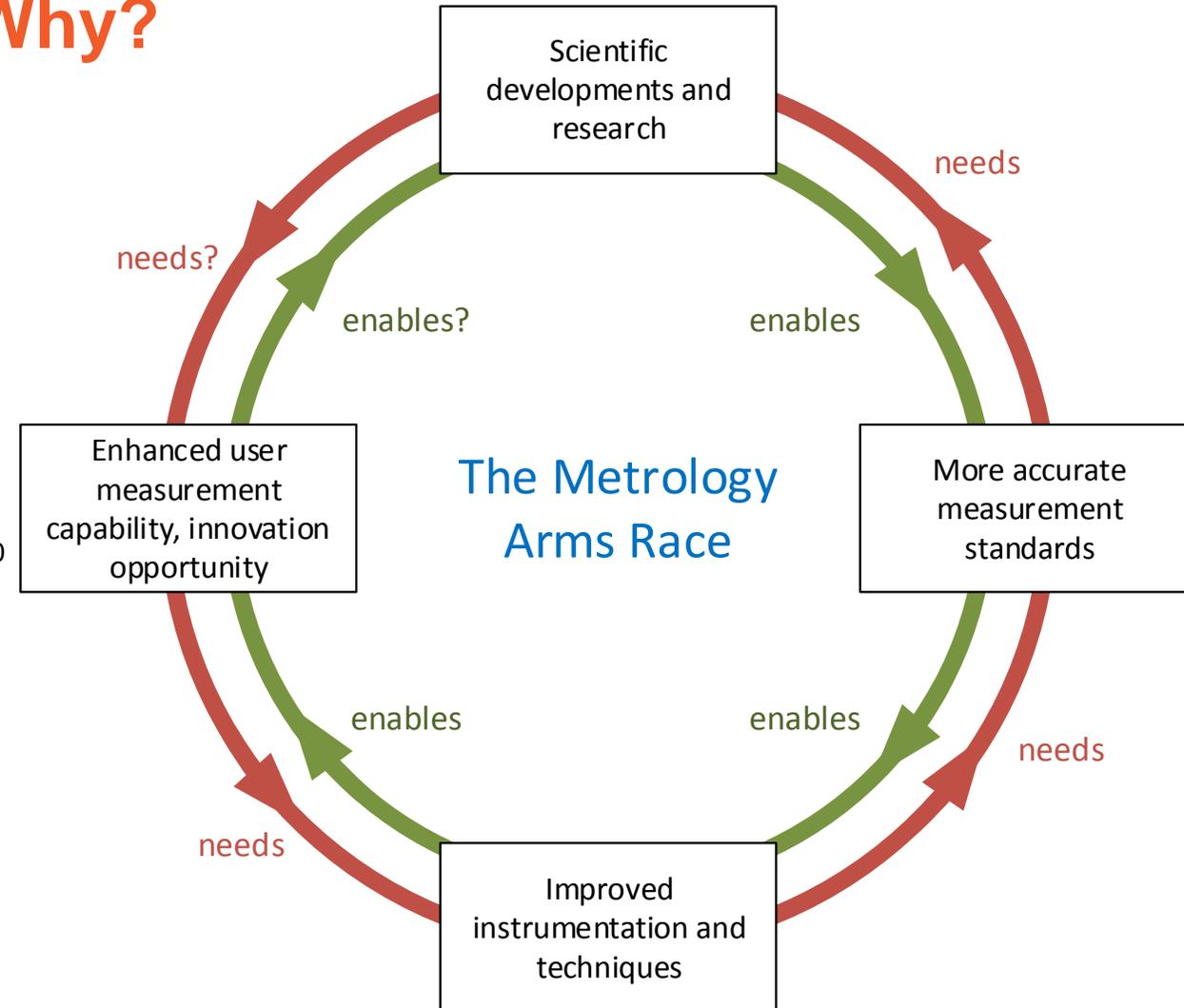
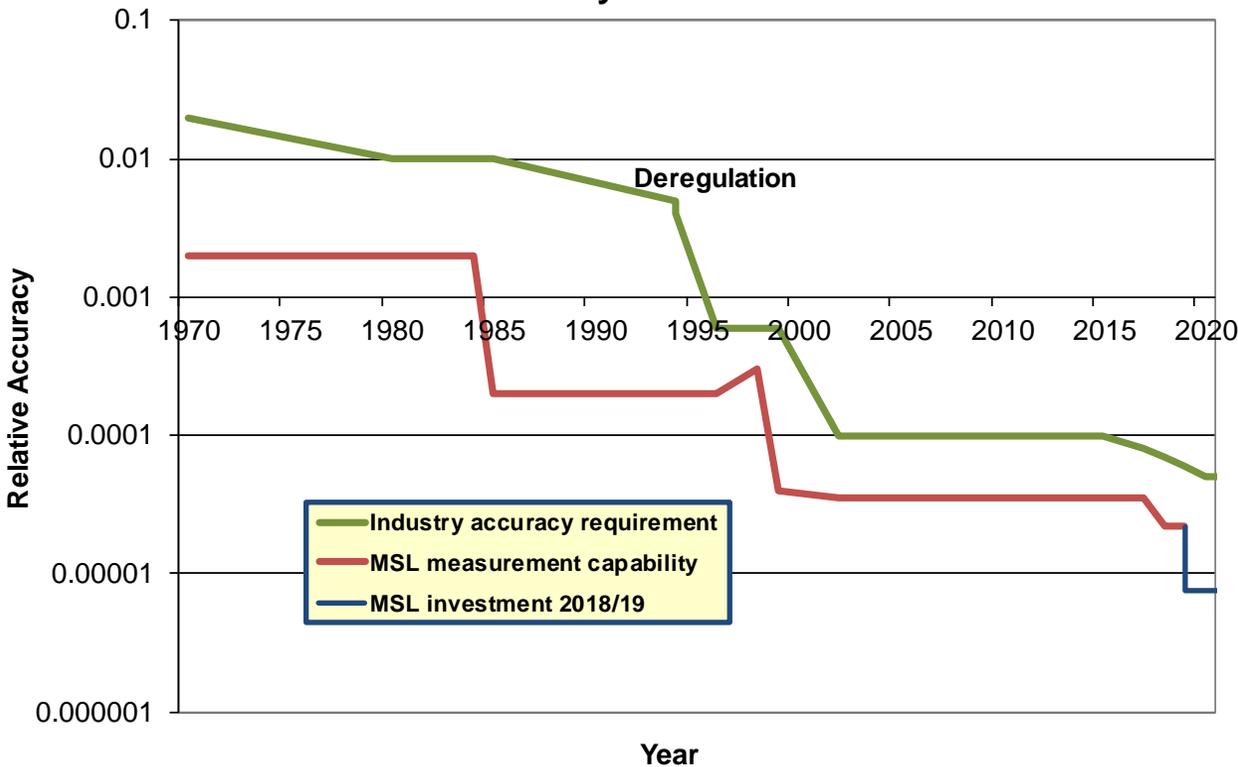
M. Kool



# Aside: Improving Accuracy – Why?

## 1. Metrological ‘arms race’

Accuracy of Watt Meters

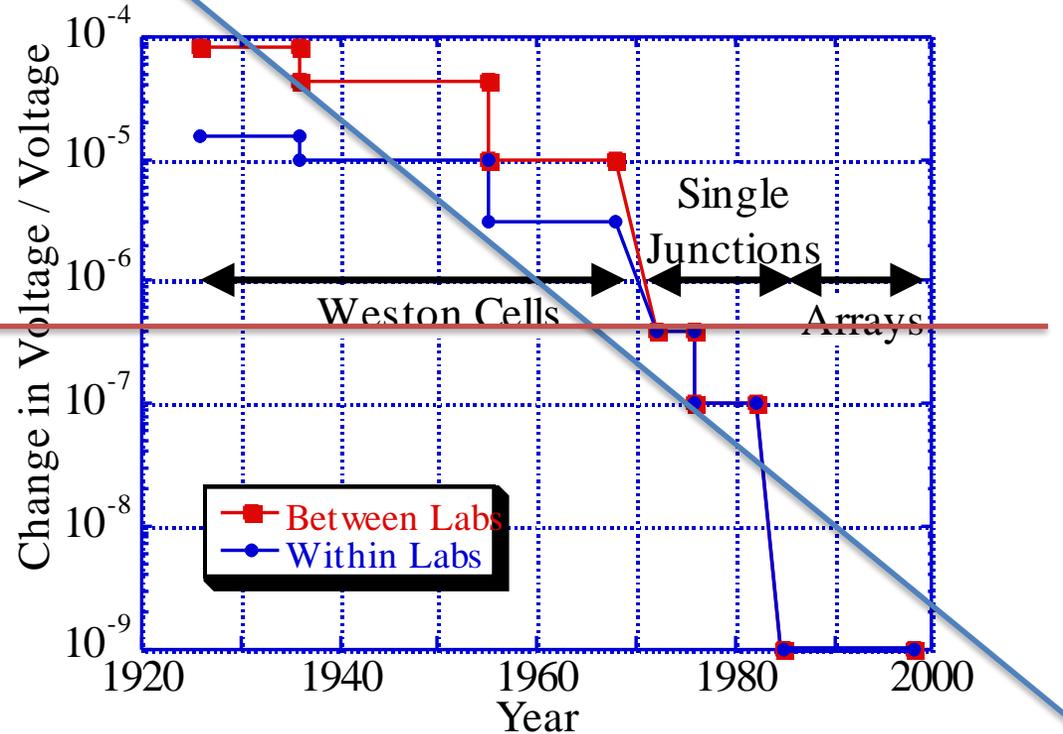


## Aside: Improving Accuracy – Why?

2. Metrological Moore's Law:  $\frac{\Delta u}{u} = 10^{-\Delta t/15 \text{ years}}$   
 (improve accuracy by about a factor of 10 every 15 years)

Example: dc voltage

$K_{J-90}$  uncertainty (conventional value of  $2e/h$ )



From Bachmair, 1988 and Hamilton, 1998

8.5 digit Digital Multimeters



$$\frac{\Delta u}{u} = 10^{-\Delta t/15 \text{ years}}$$

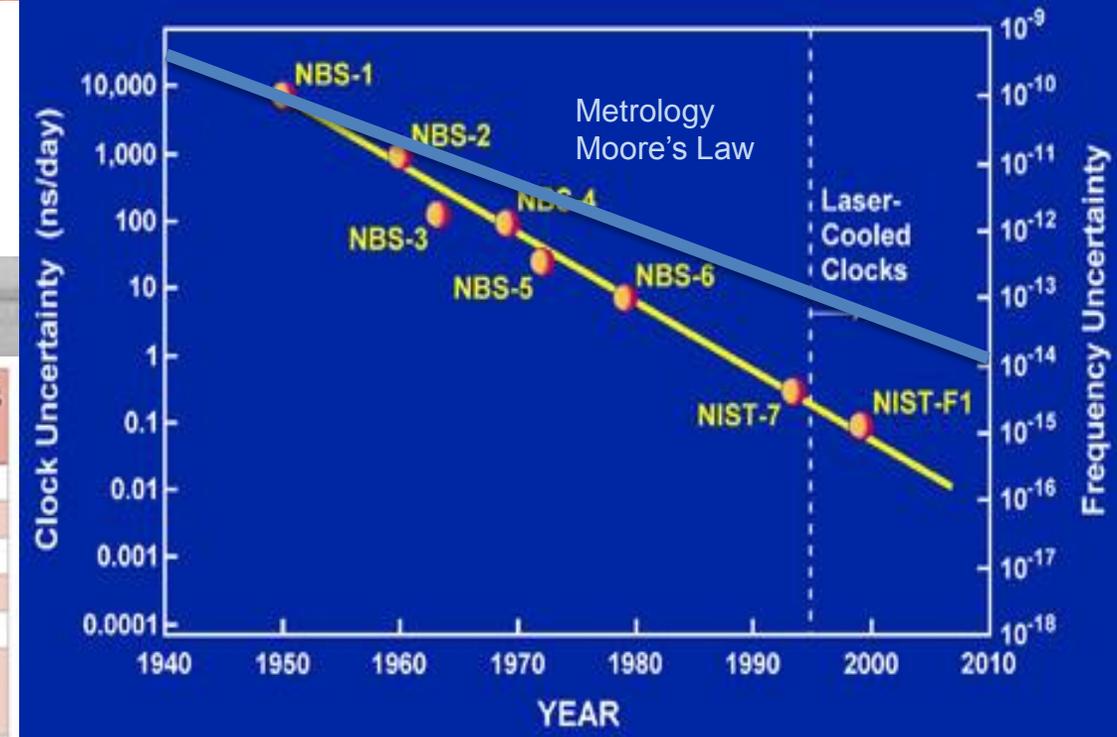
# Aside: Improving Accuracy – Why?

## 3. Basis for genuine innovation

### Value of GPS – 2013 US Economic Benefits

Application Category	Range of Benefits (\$billions)	Mid-range Benefits (\$billions)
A Precision Agriculture — grain*	10.0–17.7	13.7
A Construction — earthmoving with machine guidance*	2.2–7.7	5.0
A Surveying	9.8–13.4	11.6
A Air Transportation	.119–.168	0.1
C Rail Transportation — positive train control	.010–.100	0.1
C Maritime Transportation — private-sector use of nautical charts and related marine information*	.106–.263	0.2
A Fleet vehicle connected telematics*	7.6–16.3	11.9
A Timing — average of eLoran and GEOs estimates	.025–.050	0.1
A, B Consumer and Other Non-Fleet Vehicle — average of estimates based on willingness-to-pay and value of time*	7.3–18.9	13.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37.1–74.5</b>	<b>55.8</b>

A = confident, B = indicative, C = notional.  
 \*Includes benefits from purchase input cost savings.  
 Note: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.



**Precision Measurement...**

**...brings the world into focus**

**Concept: Michael de Podesta, NPL**

**Photo: Hamish Edgar, MSL**



## Electrical Units – Accuracy Drivers

- Electrical measurements revolutionised by quantum effects:

Year		Equation		Constant
1962	Josephson effect	$V = n \left( \frac{h}{2e} \right) f$	Josephson constant	$K_J = \frac{2e}{h}$
1980	Quantum Hall effect	$R = \frac{1}{i} \left( \frac{h}{e^2} \right)$	von Klitzing constant	$R_K = \frac{h}{e^2} = \frac{\mu_0 c}{2\alpha}$
1987	Single electron counting	$I = nef$	Electronic charge	$e$

NB:  $\alpha \cong 1/137$ , is the fine structure constant

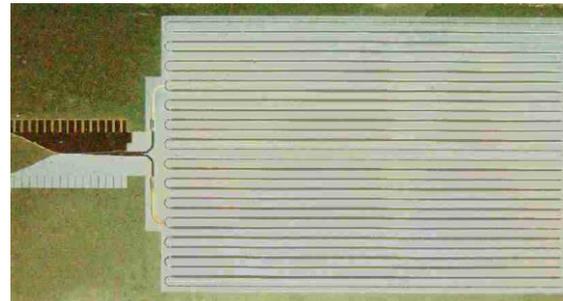
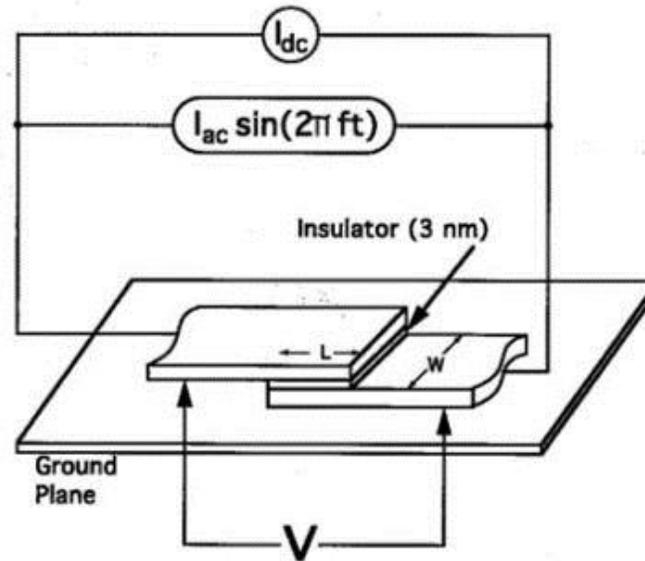
- 1990 - Conventional values defined: [NB: could redefinition have occurred then?]
  - $K_{J-90} = 483\,597.9 \text{ GHz/V}$  ( $u_r = 0.4 \text{ ppm}$ )
  - $R_{K-90} = 25\,812.807 \text{ } \Omega$  ( $u_r = 0.1 \text{ ppm}$ )
  - uncertainties dominated by link to mechanical units (force, energy, power) reproducibility > 1000 times better!
  - best calibrations beyond the SI

# The Josephson Effect

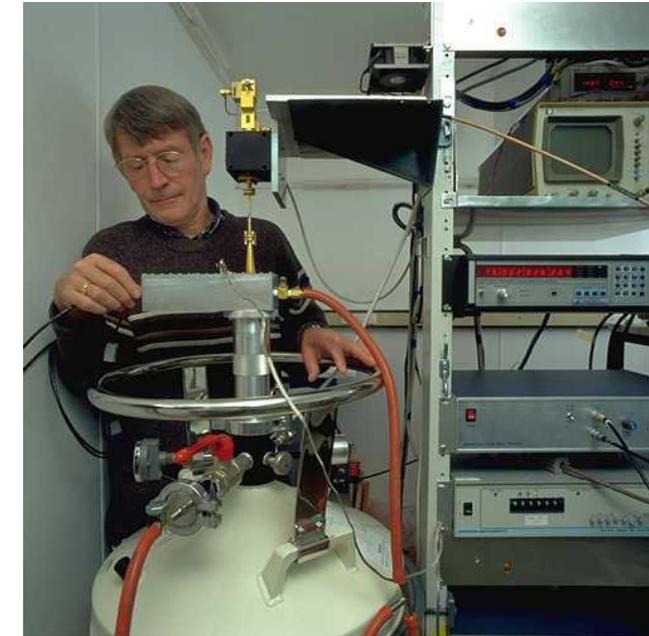
- ▶ Josephson **SIS** junction:
  - **S**uperconductor-**I**nsulator-**S**uperconductor sandwich
  - radiated by microwaves, frequency  $f$
  - small dc voltage generated
- ▶ 1990s key advance: put  $10^4$  to  $> 10^5$  in a series array – 10 V output!
  - Mature technology:  $> 70$  arrays in use world wide (NMI, industry and the military)
  - Various kinds of junctions (SNS, SINIS,...)
  - Various array designs (conventional, programmable, pulse)
  - Programmable AC voltages – applied to impedance and power standards

$$\left(\frac{h}{2e}\right)f = 0.14 \text{ mV}$$

(for  $f = 70 \text{ GHz}$ , step  $n = 1$ )



10 V SIS array



Brian Josephson (1973)

"for his theoretical predictions of the properties of a supercurrent through a tunnel barrier, in particular those phenomena which are generally known as the Josephson effects"



# The Quantum Hall Effect

## Quantum Hall Resistor:

- 2D electron layer
- Large magnetic field (~10 T)
- Low temperatures (< 2.3 K)

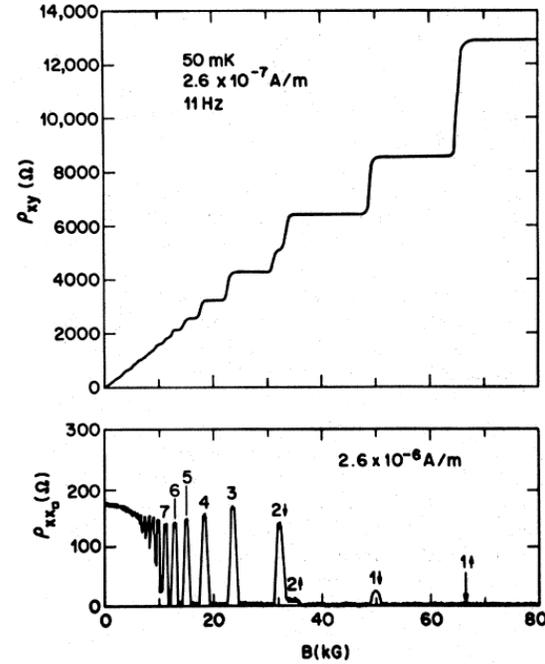
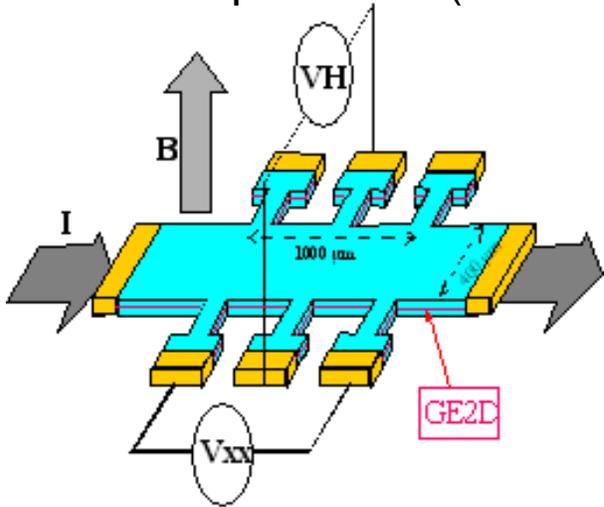
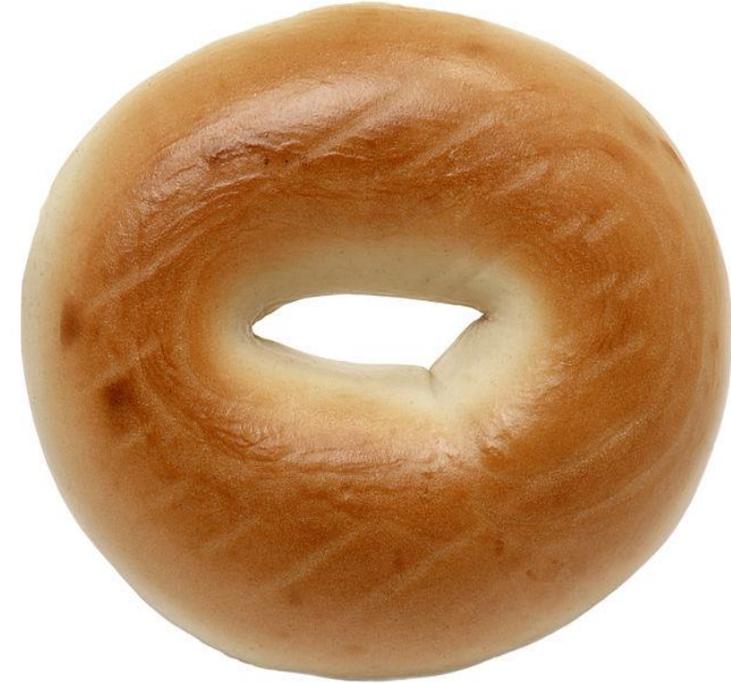


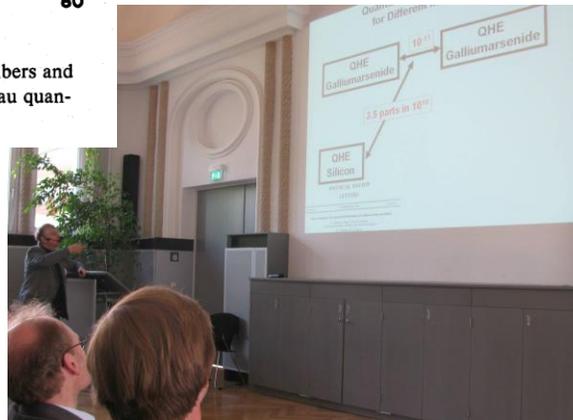
FIG. 1.  $\rho_{xx}$  and  $\rho_{xy}$  as a function of  $B$ . The numbers and the arrows above the  $\rho_{xx}$  maxima refer to the Landau quantum number and the spin polarization of the levels.

$$\frac{h}{e^2} = 25.8 \text{ k}\Omega$$



Thouless, Haldane, Kosterlitz (2016)

”for theoretical discoveries of topological phase transitions and topological phases of matter”



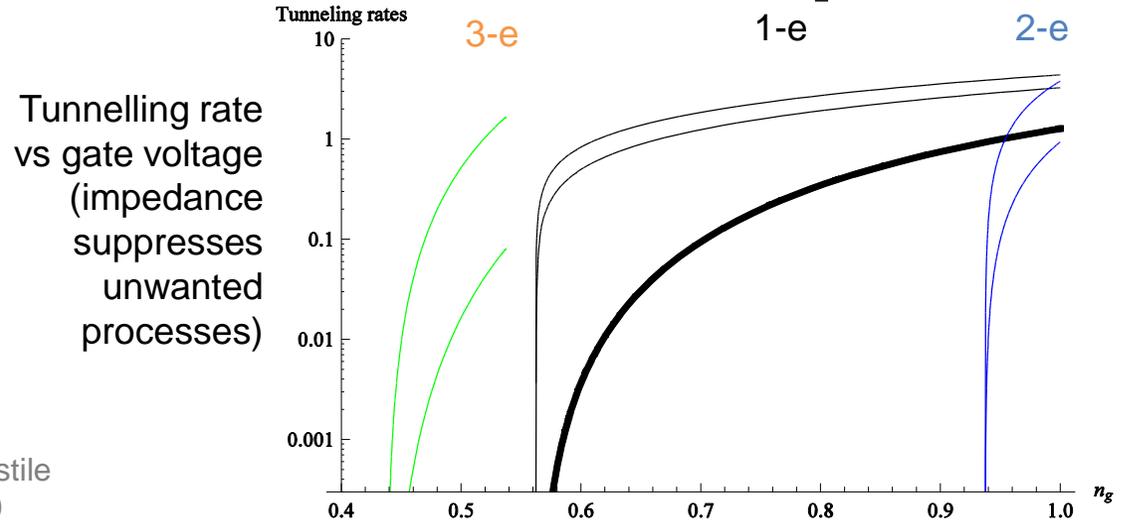
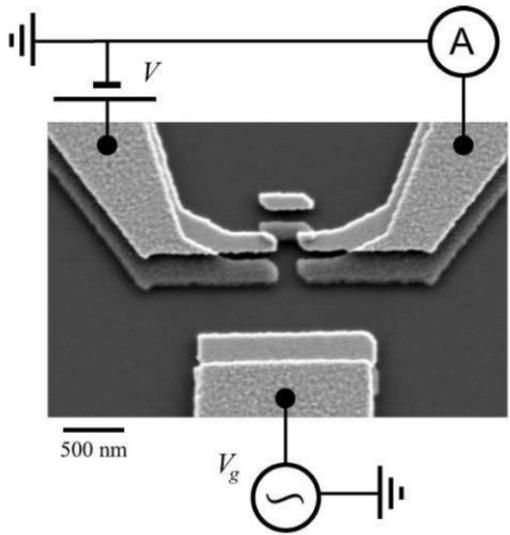
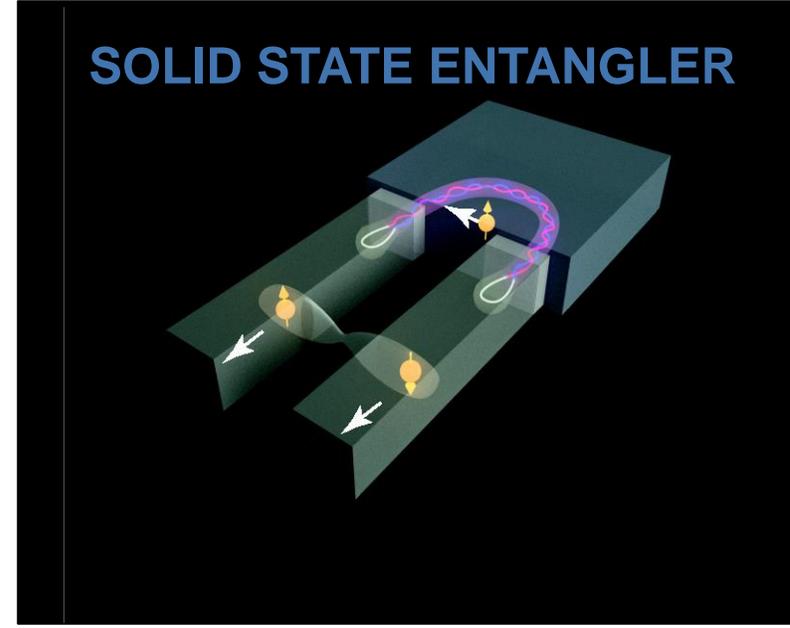
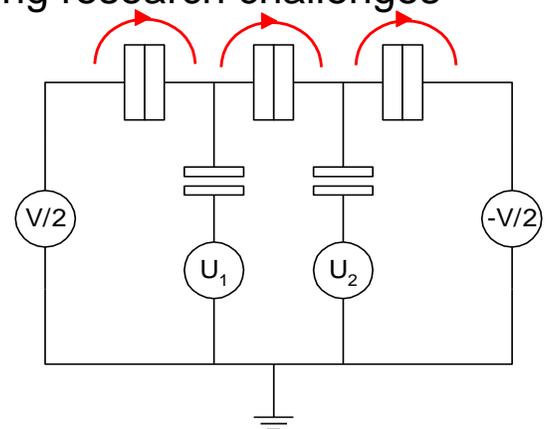
Directly compare Graphene and GaAs devices: (Janssen *et al*, NPL)

$$(R_{\text{GaAs/AlGaAs}} - R_{\text{Graphene}}) / (h/2e^2) = (-4.7 \pm 8.6) \times 10^{-11}$$

# Quantum Current Source

- Clocking electrons one by one
  - Currents still too small for high accuracy - ongoing research challenges
- Various device technologies
  - SET (single electron tunneling) turnstile
  - SAW (surface acoustic wave)
  - Tunable barrier pumps, carbon nanotubes etc

$ef = 1.6 \text{ pA}$   
(for  $f = 10 \text{ MHz}$ )



- These technologies have strong relevance to:
- future electronic devices (e.g. memory)
  - new physics (e.g. qubits for quantum computing)
  - manipulation of entanglement – fully quantum

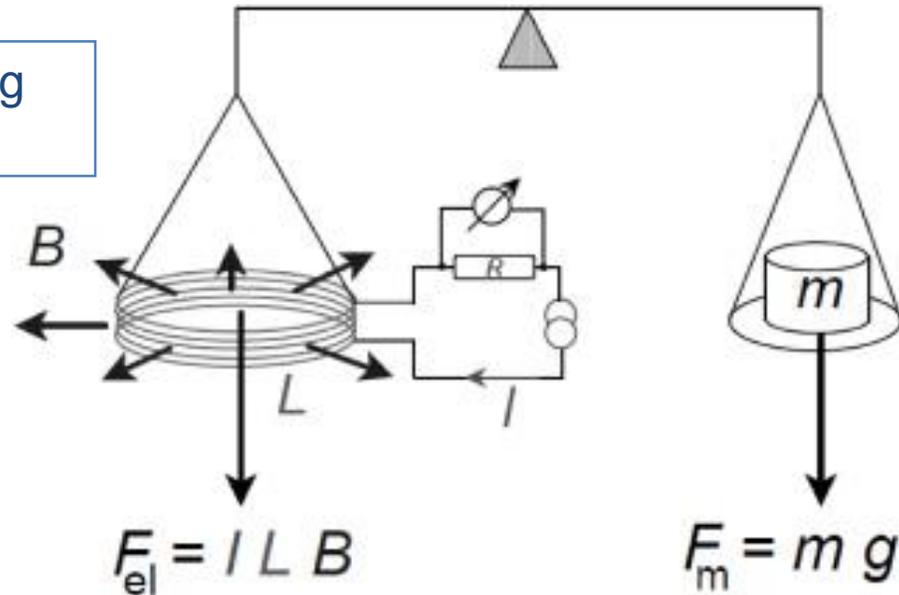
Hybrid superconductor-normal-metal turnstile  
Pekola *et al*, Nature Physics 4 (2008) 120

# Linking Electrical Units to the SI

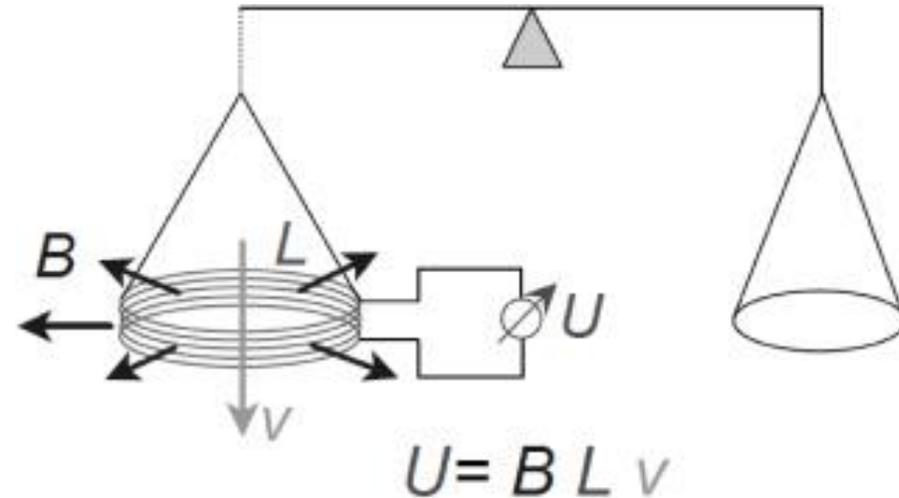
➤ Mechanical versus electrical force (power)

- Kelvin Current Balance (force generated via mutual inductance of two coils)
- Kibble: two modes: weighing (static) and calibration (dynamic) – eliminates geometry of magnetic field and coil
- Weighing current  $I$ , induced voltage  $U$ , coil velocity  $v$

Weighing mode



Calibration mode



$$\gamma = \frac{m g}{I} = \frac{U}{v}$$

so

$$m = \frac{U I}{g v}$$

(these all known to  $< 10^{-8}$ )

Images from: Watt balance experiments for the determination of the Planck constant and the redefinition of the kilogram, M Stock 2013 Metrologia 50 R1

# The Kibble Balance

$$m = \frac{UI}{g v}$$

Equivalence of Electrical and Mechanical Power:  $UI = P_{elec} \equiv P_{mech} = mg v$

Virtual electrical power:  $P_{elec} \sim \frac{U^2}{R}$  since:  $I = \frac{U_s}{R}$

Measure resistance in terms of quantum Hall effect:

$$R \sim \frac{h}{e^2}$$

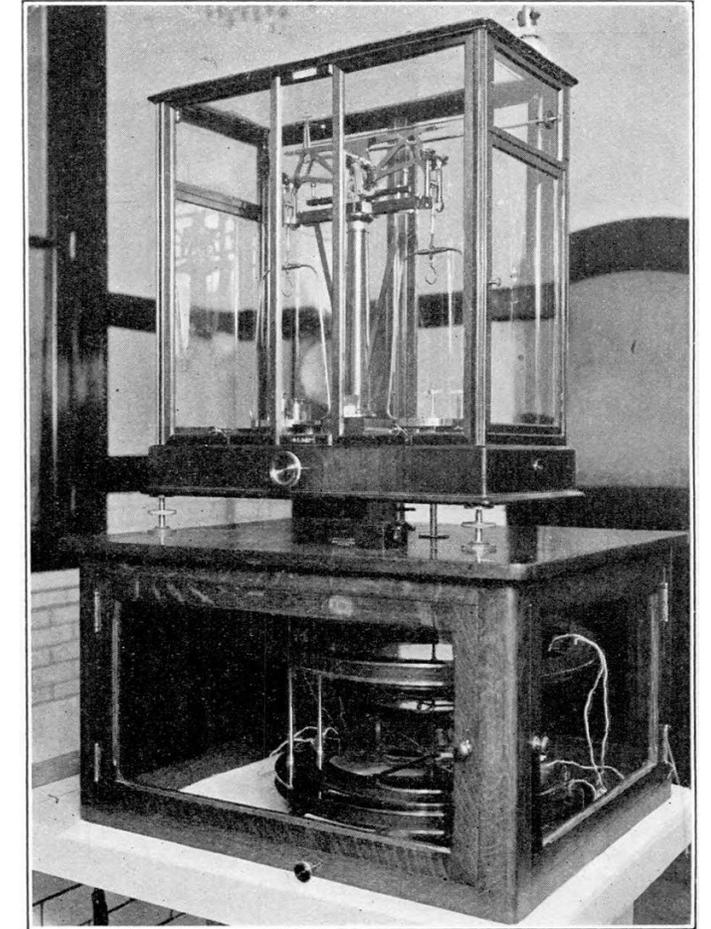
Measure voltages in terms of Josephson effect:

$$U \sim \frac{h}{2e} f$$

Then the electrical power is related to Planck's constant:  
(actually a measure of the Planck constant  $h$ )

$$P_{elec} \sim \frac{\left(\frac{h}{2e}\right)^2}{\frac{h}{e^2}} \sim h$$

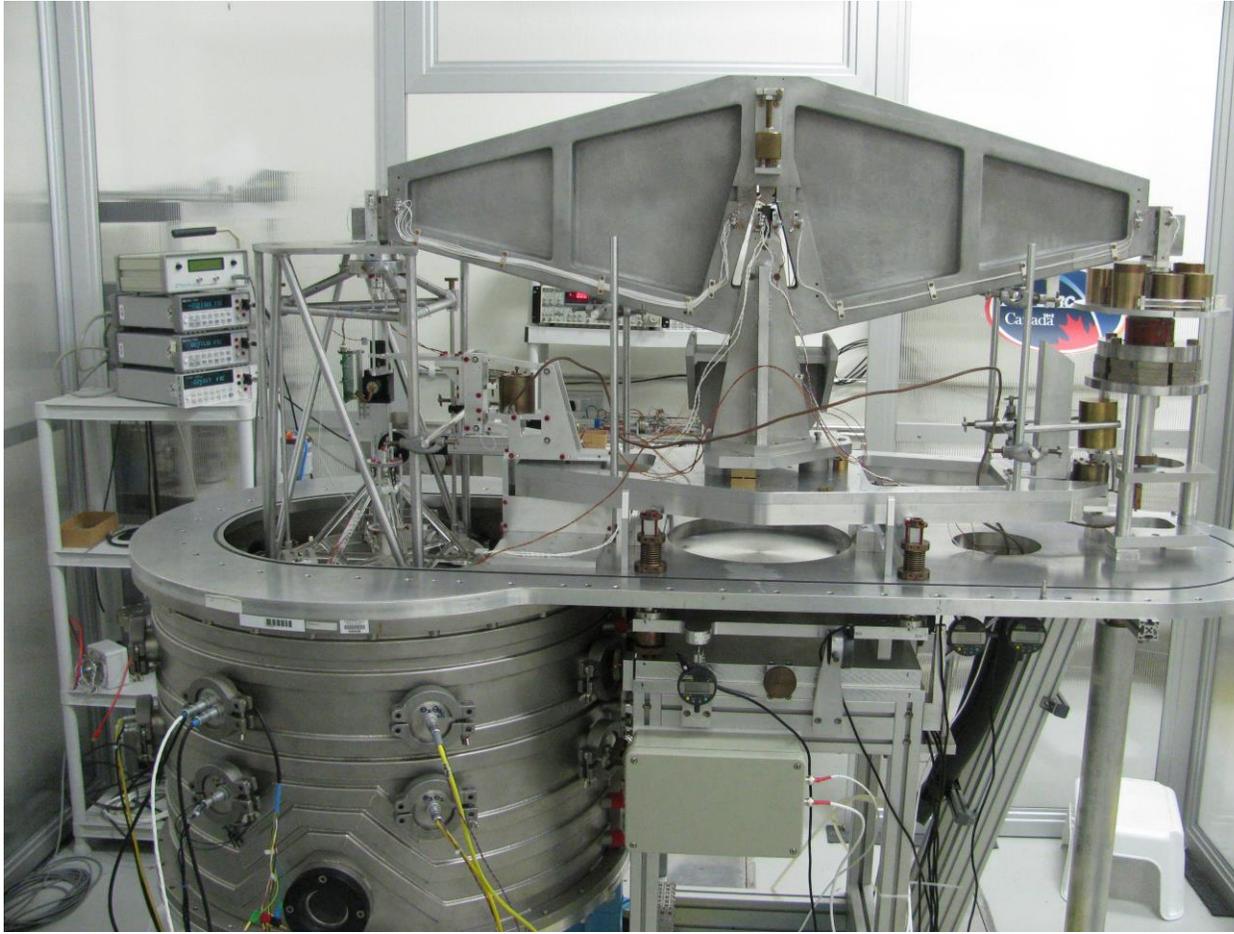
**Post Redefinition:** define  $h$  and derive mass scale



MSL Kibble Balance Project – next talk!

# The NRC Kibble Balance

- NRC 2017:  $h = 6.626\ 070\ 133\ (60)\ \text{Js}$   
(standard relative uncertainty:  $9.1 \times 10^{-9}$ )



**Table A1.** The uncertainty budget of the 6th Planck constant determination performed in november 2016 with a 1 kg AuCu mass. The uncertainty index,  $k$ , is listed in the first column. The  $k$ th uncertainty components are listed in the fourth column are in  $u/h_{90} \times 10^9$  and represent  $u_{k,6}$ . The last seven columns represent the cross correlation vector  $CC_{k,6}$ .

#	Category	Description	Uncertainty $u/h_{90} \times 10^9$	Correlation with mass#6 determination						
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Type A	Type A	1.8	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
2	Alignment	$F_x u_x / F_z u_z$	0.08	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
3	Alignment	$F_y u_y / F_z u_z$	0.05	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
4	Alignment	$\tau_x \omega_x / F_z u_z$	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
5	Alignment	$\tau_y \omega_y / F_z u_z$	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
6	Alignment	Abbe error correction	0.31	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
7	Alignment	Mass pan alignment	1.46	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
8	Alignment	Laser vertical alignment	0.80	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
9	Alignment	Laser vertical vacuum tilt	1.63	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
10	Alignment	Horizontal displacements	5.31	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
11	Alignment	Vertical displacement	2.80	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
12	Alignment	Changes in $\theta_z$	1.52	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
13	Alignment	Changes in $\theta_x$ and $\theta_y$	1.15	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
14	Voltage	Frequency of microwave source	0.21	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
15	Voltage	Filter leakage resistance	0.00	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
16	Voltage	Nano voltmeter gain stability	0.26	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
17	Voltage	Voltmeter non-linearity	0.40	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
18	Voltage	Correlated voltage components	0.40	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
19	Resistance	Measurement versus QHR	3.8	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
20	Resistance	QHR sample dissipation	0.25	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
21	Resistance	Resistor stability	2.6	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
22	Resistance	Resistor power coefficient (1 kg)	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
23	Velocity	Laser calibration	0.03	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
24	Velocity	Mode leakage	0.01	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
25	Velocity	Diffraction correction	0.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
26	Velocity	Retro reflector imperfections	0.20	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
27	Velocity	Beam shear	0.30	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
28	Velocity	Frequency measurement	0.13	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
29	Velocity	Position measurement	0.90	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
30	Velocity	Index of refraction	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
31	Velocity	Modeling uncertainty	1.00	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
32	Velocity	Velocity dependence	2.60	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
33	Velocity	Trigger delay	0.06	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
34	Mass	Traceability to IPK	3.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
35	Mass	Prototype drift model	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
36	Mass	Balance uncertainties	2.0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
37	Mass	Vacuum calibration cycling stability	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
38	Mass	Watt balance transfer mass stability	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
39	Mass	Pressure dependence	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
40	Mass corr.	Sorption on reference mass	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
41	Mass corr.	Center of gravity	0.1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
42	Mass corr.	Weighing range sensitivity	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
43	Gravity	Absolute gravity measurement	2.7	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
44	Gravity	Horizontal transfer	2.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
45	Gravity	Vertical transfer	3.0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
46	Grav. corr.	Balance attractions	1.00	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
47	Grav. corr.	Earth tides	0.01	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
48	Grav. corr.	Polar motion	0.10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
49	Grav. corr.	Ocean loading	0.29	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
50	Grav. corr.	Atmospheric pressure	0.25	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
51	Gravity	Site dependence	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
52	Weighing	Mass exchange errors	1.70	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
53	Weighing	Knife edge hysteresis	0.98	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
54	Weighing	Buoyancy in watt balance	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
55	Weighing	Magnetization 1st order	0.00	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
56	Weighing	Magnetization 2nd order	5.26	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
57	Weighing	Mag. hysteresis correction uncertainty	0.37	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
58	Weighing	Susceptibility	0.06	1	0	1	0	0	1	1

## Link between $N_A$ and $h$

- alternative route to  $h$  through silicon sphere
- Isotopically purified (Si-28)
  - cost ~ €1M each? (PTB getting 5)
- Measure lattice spacing and density (XRCD)



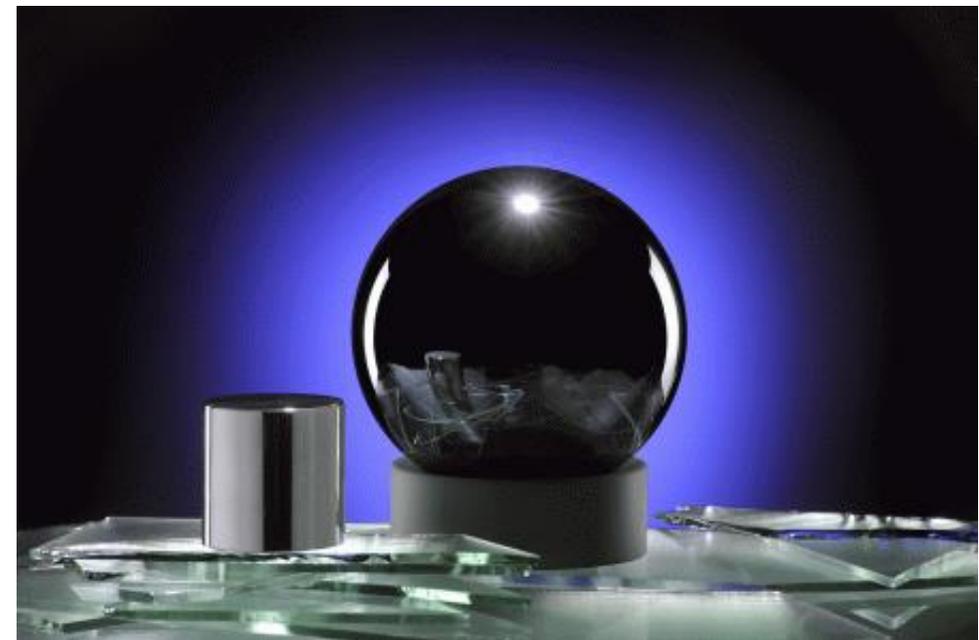
Link between  $N_A$  and  $h$ :

$$N_A = \frac{A_r(e)M_u c \alpha^2}{2R_\infty h}$$

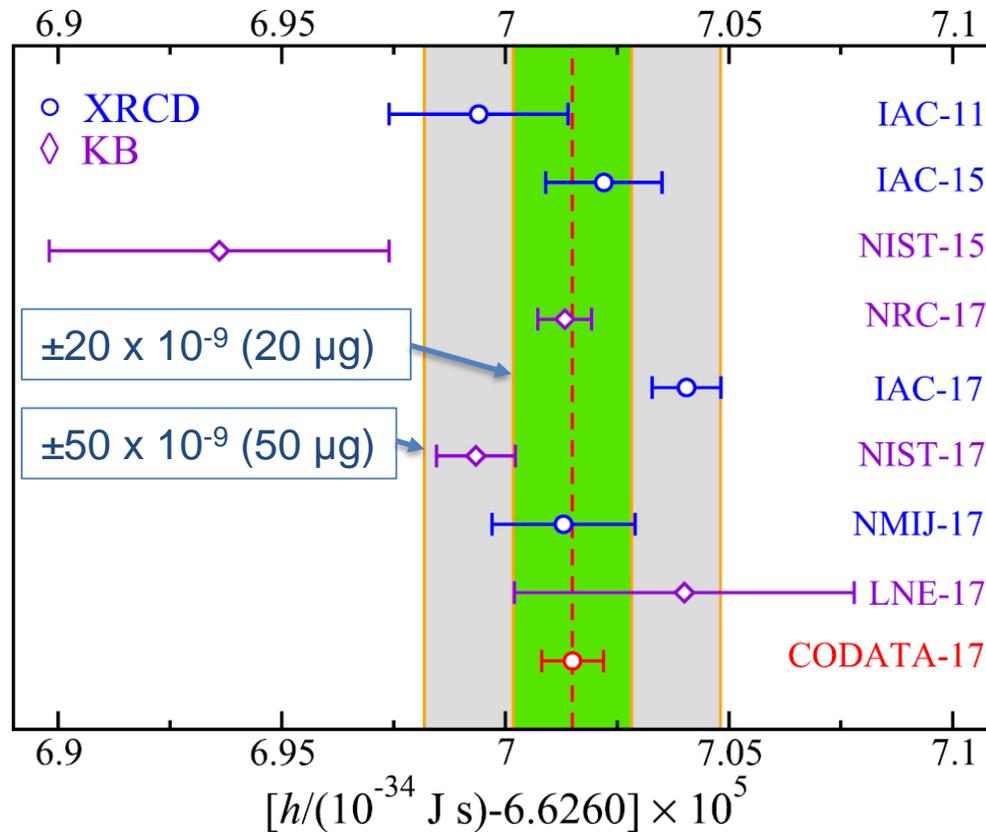
$$M_u = 1 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mol}} \text{ (exact)}$$

$R_\infty$  = Rydberg constant

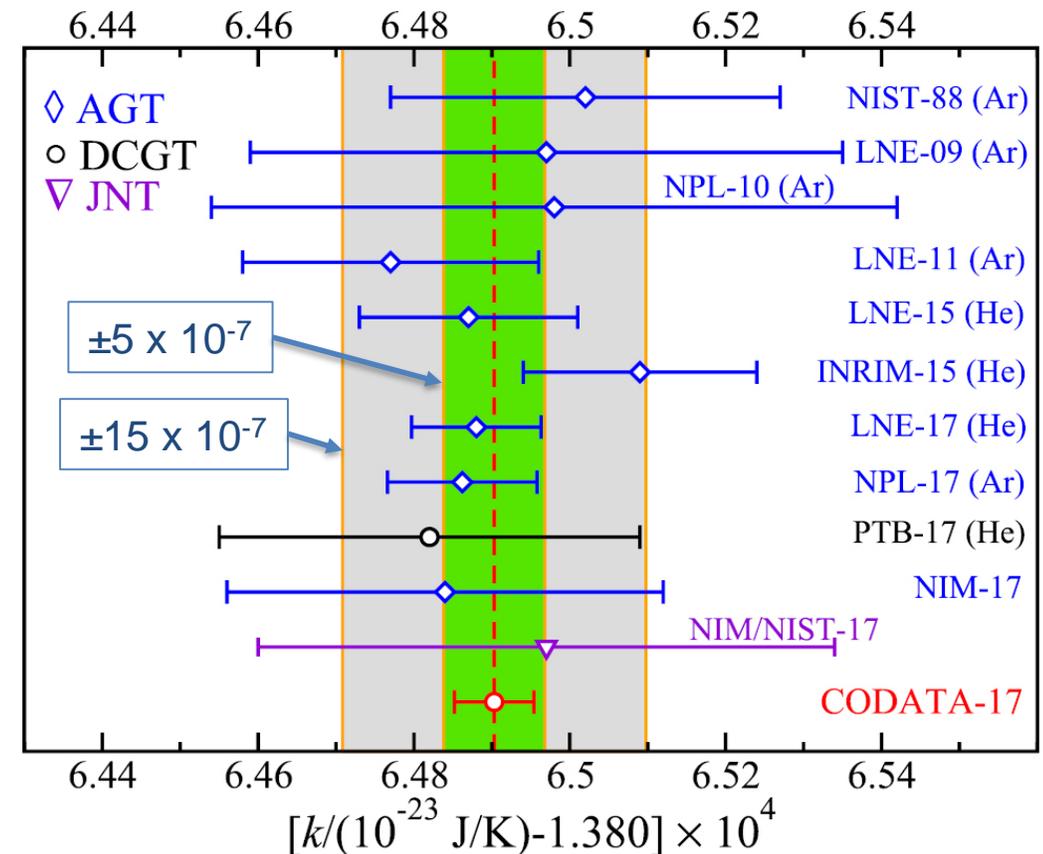
$A_r(e)$  = relative atomic mass of the electron



# CODATA 2017 Results



Planck constant results (in chronological order)  
(KB: Kibble balance; XRC: x-ray-crystal-density)



Boltzmann constant results (in chronological order)  
(AGT: acoustic gas thermometry; DCGT: dielectric constant gas thermometry; JNT: Johnson noise thermometry)

# Proposed Changes to the SI

► To be based on 7 fixed constants:

	To be fixed in 2019		Already fixed
1	Planck's constant (the central constant of quantum mechanics) $h = 6.626\ 070\ 15 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J s}$	5	Speed of light (the central constant of relativity) $c = 299\ 792\ 548 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ (1983)
2	The elementary charge (the central constant of matter) $e = 1.602\ 176\ 634 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$	6	Hyperfine splitting of Caesium 133 $\Delta\nu_{\text{Cs}} = 9\ 192\ 631\ 770 \text{ Hz}$ (1967)
3	Boltzmann's constant ( $E_{\text{thermal}} \sim kT$ ) $k = 1.380\ 649 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J K}^{-1}$	7	Luminous efficacy of 540 THz radiation $K_{\text{cd}} = 683 \text{ lm W}^{-1}$ (1979)
4	Avogadro's constant $N_{\text{A}} = 6.022\ 140\ 76 \times 10^{23} \text{ mol}^{-1}$		

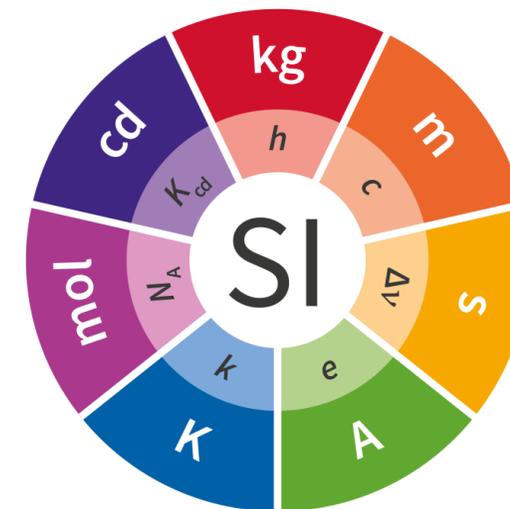


Table 2. The CODATA 2017 adjusted values of  $h$ ,  $e$ ,  $k$ , and  $N_{\text{A}}$ .

Quantity	Value	Rel. stand. uncert $u_r$
$h$	$6.626\ 070\ 150(69) \times 10^{-34} \text{ J s}$	$1.0 \times 10^{-8}$
$e$	$1.602\ 176\ 6341(83) \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$	$5.2 \times 10^{-9}$
$k$	$1.380\ 649\ 03(51) \times 10^{-23} \text{ J K}^{-1}$	$3.7 \times 10^{-7}$
$N_{\text{A}}$	$6.022\ 140\ 758(62) \times 10^{23} \text{ mol}^{-1}$	$1.0 \times 10^{-8}$

Table 3. The CODATA 2017 values of  $h$ ,  $e$ ,  $k$ , and  $N_{\text{A}}$  for the revision of the SI.

Quantity	Value
$h$	$6.626\ 070\ 15 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J s}$
$e$	$1.602\ 176\ 634 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$
$k$	$1.380\ 649 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J K}^{-1}$
$N_{\text{A}}$	$6.022\ 140\ 76 \times 10^{23} \text{ mol}^{-1}$

*“The revision of the SI will ensure that the SI continues to meet the needs of science, technology, and commerce in the 21st century.”*  
(BIPM)

changes small but conceptually very different basis

## Proposed Electrical Changes to the SI

- ▶  $K_J$  will change by ~0.1 ppm – will affect voltage references slightly  $K_J = \frac{2e}{h}$
- ▶  $R_K$  will change by ~0.02 ppm – only affect QHR realisations?  $R_K = \frac{h}{e^2}$
- ▶  $\mu_0$ ,  $\epsilon_0$ , and  $Z_0$  will become experimentally determined  $Z_0 = \sqrt{\frac{\mu_0}{\epsilon_0}}$

  - $\mu_0 = 4\pi [1 + 0.0(2.3) \times 10^{-10}] \times 10^{-7} \text{ N A}^{-2}$
  - uncertainty:  $u_r(\mu_0) = u_r(\alpha)$  since:  $\mu_0 = \alpha \frac{2h}{ce^2}$
- ▶ voltage and resistance uncertainties < 0.1 ppm will be fully traceable to the SI

## SI Revision: Timeline

- ▶ July 1, 2017: Deadline of acceptance of new data. ✓
  - ▶ Sept 4, 2017: CODATA TGFC meeting, manuscripts must be already accepted and publicly available. ✓
  - ▶ Sept 5-6, 2017: CCU reviews values recommends digits etc. ✓
  - ▶ Oct 16-20, 2017: CIPM meeting – recommendation to the CGPM. ✓
  - ▶ Nov 13-24, 2018: CGPM approves the ‘Revised SI’ (*fait accompli?*).
  - ▶ May 20, 2019: Implementation day.
- WMD 2018 to WMD 2019: one year period for promotion (international)
  - MSL will be hosting WMD events (like this) and supporting the change
  - Possibility for new data during this time....?

# Responsibilities

- CGPM makes the decision (diplomatic level)
- Consultative Committees of the BIPM are responsible for operational aspects (MSL represented on CCEM, CCM, CCPR and CCT)
- Draft *Mise en Pratique* (practical implementation) for kg, A, mol, K (for post definition)
  - Evolve with technology changes without affecting definition
  - These are the techniques used by MSL and other NMIs to realise the definitions



## *Mise en pratique* of the definition of the kilogram

Consultative Committee for Mass and Related Quantities (CCM)  
Working Group on the Realization of the Kilogram (WGR-kg)

(Editor's note 0.1: In the following text, all digits in red are meant to be place holders for the final digits to be inserted at the time of approval of the redefinition.)

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Definition of the kilogram

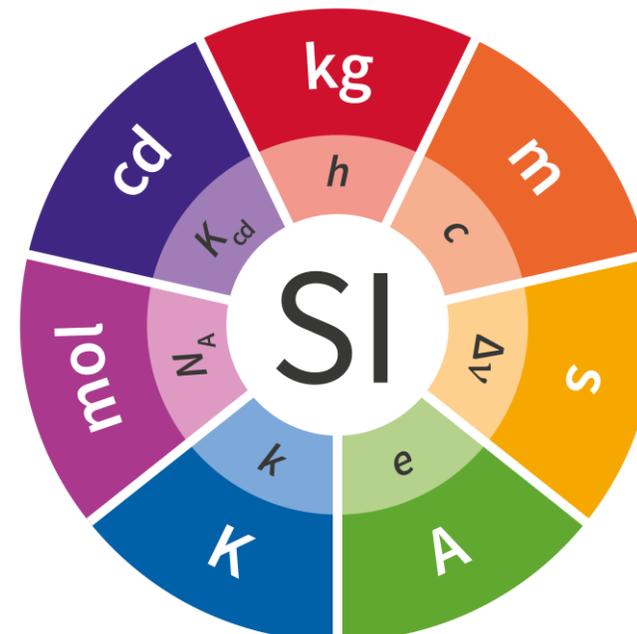
## *Mise en pratique* for the ampere and other electric units in the International System of Units (SI)

CCEM Working Group on the SI  
Draft #1

**1. Introduction.** Resolution AA of the 24th General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM), which convened in October 2011, abrogated the then existing definitions of the four base units kilogram, ampere, kelvin, and mole of the International System of Units (SI) and replaced them with new definitions that fix the values of the Planck constant  $h$ , elementary charge  $e$ , Boltzmann constant  $k$ , and Avogadro constant  $N_A$ , respectively. The exact values of  $h$ ,  $e$ ,  $k$ , and  $N_A$  are fixed to be  $6.62607015 \times 10^{-34}$  J s,  $1.602176634 \times 10^{-19}$  C,  $1.380658 \times 10^{-23}$  J K<sup>-1</sup>, and  $6.02214076 \times 10^{23}$  mol<sup>-1</sup>, respectively.

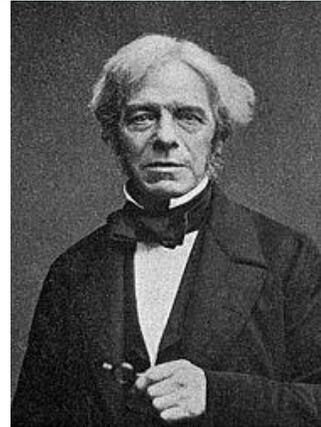
## Resources – see [www.bipm.org](http://www.bipm.org)

- ▶ 8<sup>th</sup> edition of SI Brochure (2014): <http://www.bipm.org/en/publications/si-brochure/>
- ▶ Draft 9<sup>th</sup> edition: <http://www.bipm.org/utils/common/pdf/si-brochure-draft-2016b.pdf>
- ▶ Brandbook: <http://www.bipm.org/utils/common/pdf/SI-Brand-Book.pdf>
- ▶ Website (articles, videos etc): <http://www.bipm.org/en/measurement-units/rev-si/>



# The Particular Challenge of Electrical Units

- ▶ The discovery of electromagnetism (Faraday 1812, Ørsted 1820)
  - Multiple units systems e.g. Electrostatic-CGS, Electromagnetic-CGS, Gaussian, Heaviside...
  - Freedom in choice of unit, numbers and constants in equations (e.g.  $4\pi$ )
  - Controversy involving some great names (Gauss, Weber, Maxwell, Heaviside, Lorentz, ....)
- ▶ CGS has certain advantages – some prefer to teach electromagnetism in CGS
  - $1.5 \text{ volt} = 0.005 \text{ statvolt (ESU)} = 1.5 \times 10^8 \text{ abvolt (EMU)}$
  - $1 \text{ ampere} = 3 \times 10^9 \text{ statampere (ESU)} = 0.1 \text{ abampere (EMU)}$
- ▶ Consistent use of SI works well – convenient measures but conceptual difficulties



Michael Faraday



James Clerk Maxwell

“Scientists have spent almost a century disagreeing about the units for electromagnetism” (J H Williams)

# Electrical Units – the Ampere

- Force laws – defines link to mechanical quantities (also via energy or power)

- Two choices:

Coulomb's Law:  $F_e = k_e \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2}$

Ampère's Force Law:  $\frac{dF_m}{dl} = 2k_m \frac{I_1 I_2}{d}$

linked by:  $I = \frac{dq}{dt}$

requiring:  $\frac{k_e}{k_m} = c^2$

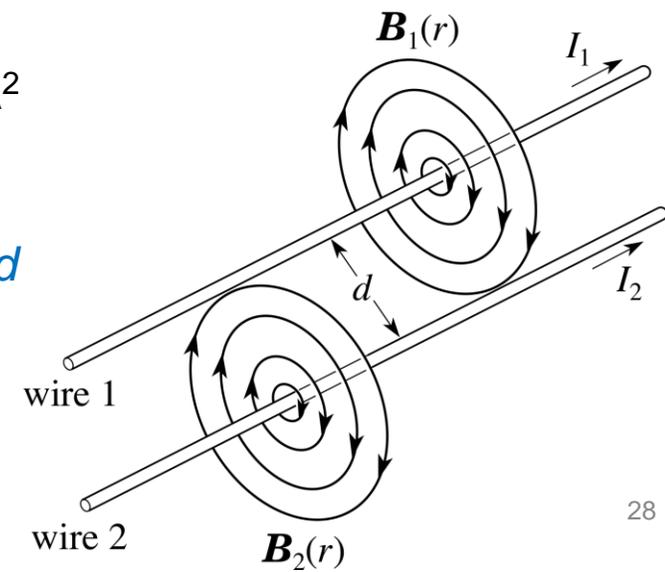
$d = 1 \text{ m}$   
 $I_1 = I_2 = 1 \text{ ampere}$   
 $dF/dl = 2 \times 10^{-7} \text{ N/m}$

(free to define  $k_e$  or  $k_m$  but not both)

- SI Definition of the ampere employs Ampère's force law with  $k_{mSI} = 10^{-7} \text{ N/A}^2$

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

- Why  $k_{mSI} = 10^{-7} \text{ N/A}^2$  ?



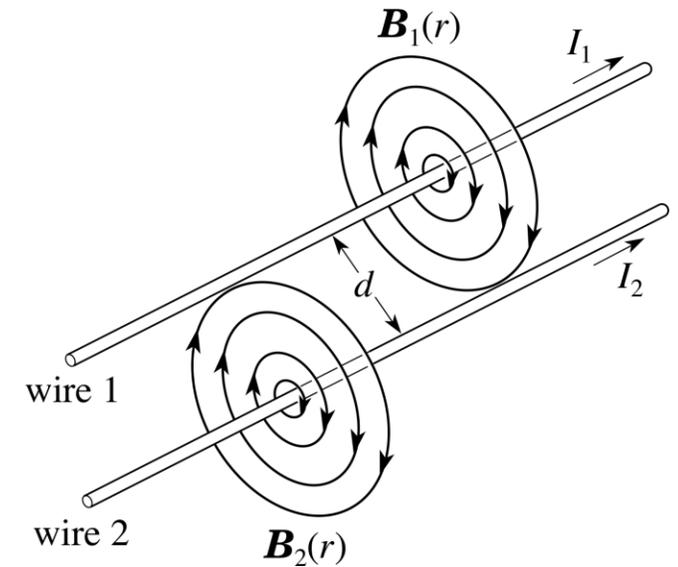
## Electrical Units – CGS

- Using CGS-EMU for Ampère's Law:

$$k_{mCGS} = 1 \quad \frac{dF_{mCGS}}{dl} = 2 \frac{I_{1CGS} I_{2CGS}}{d_{CGS}}$$

- For  $I_{1CGS} = I_{2CGS} = 1$  abampere,  $d_{CGS} = 1$  cm then  $dF_{mCGS}/dl = 2$  dyne/cm
- Not really a base unit (depends on force)
- Maxwell: *“Every electromagnetic quantity may be defined with reference to the fundamental units of Length, Mass and Time”*
  - In CGS dimensions of  $I$  are:  $g^{1/2} cm^{1/2} s^{-1}$  (messy)
- For MKSA Giorgi's proposal: derive ampere from force law then call it a base unit (simplifies)

$$\begin{aligned} d_{CGS} &= 1 \text{ cm} \\ I_{1CGS} &= I_{2CGS} = 1 \text{ abampere} \\ dF_{mCGS}/dl &= 2 \text{ dyne/cm} \end{aligned}$$



# Electrical Units – Convert CGS Definition to SI

▶  $dF_{mCGS}/dl = 2 \text{ dyne/cm}$

- convert to SI: (1 dyne =  $10^{-5}$  N, 1 cm =  $10^{-2}$  m) so  $dF_{mCGS}/dl = 2 \times 10^{-3}$  N/m

▶ Express quantities in SI units:  $2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ N/m} = 2k_{mSI} \frac{I_{1SI}I_{2SI}}{d_{SI}}$

▶ Since  $I_{1SI} = I_{2SI} = 10$  ampere (using 1 abampere = 10 A),  $d_{SI} = 10^{-2}$  m, then  $2k_{mSI} = 2 \times 10^{-7} \text{ N/A}^2$

▶ To avoid factors of  $\pi$  in field relationships, write:  $2k_m = \frac{\mu_0}{2\pi}$   
(called “rationalisation”)

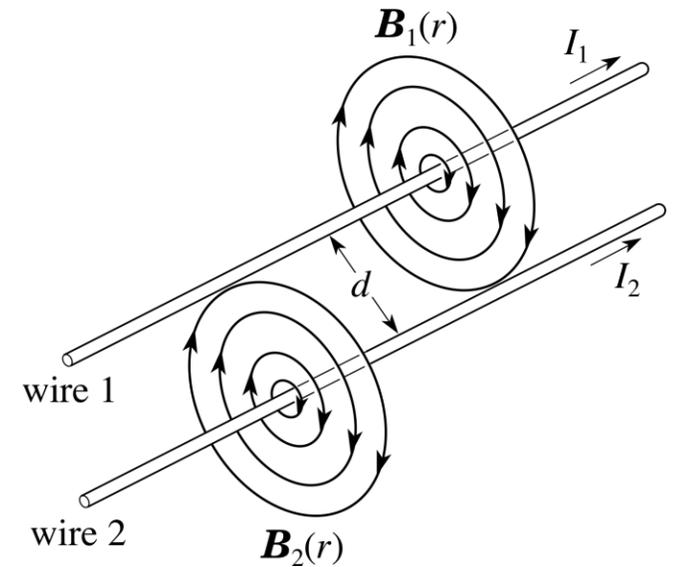
▶ Then:  $\mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ N/A}^2$  (the magnetic constant, conversion factor for the SI)

▶ Similarly the electric constant for Coulomb’s Law:  $k_e = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}$  so  $\frac{1}{\mu_0\epsilon_0} = c^2$  and  $\sqrt{\frac{\mu_0}{\epsilon_0}} = Z_0$

$$d_{SI} = 10^{-2} \text{ m}$$

$$I_{1SI} = I_{2SI} = 10 \text{ ampere}$$

$$dF_{mCGS}/dl = 2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ N/m}$$



## Curious about $\epsilon_0$ and $\mu_0$ ?

- $\mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ N/A}^2$  is called the 'permeability of free space'
- $\epsilon_0 = 8.854187 \times 10^{-12} \text{ F/m}$  is called the 'permittivity of free space'
- $\epsilon_0$  and  $\mu_0$  do not appear in other unit systems
- Just conversion factors for the SI – not fundamental constants
- Misinterpretation of  $c = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu_0 \epsilon_0}}$  (e.g.  $c$  does not depend on  $\epsilon_0$  and  $\mu_0$ )
- What about the impedance of free space?
- Trend to call  $\mu_0$  the 'magnetic constant' and  $\epsilon_0$  the 'electric constant'
- Redefinition:  $e_{\text{SI}}$  is fixed but not  $e_{\text{CGS}}$ !

We obtain wave equations for  $\mathbf{E}$  and  $\mathbf{H}$ , as in Section 10-10 by taking the curls of Eqs. 11-3 and 11-4:

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{E} + \epsilon_0 \mu_0 \omega^2 \mathbf{E} = 0, \quad (11-5)$$

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{H} + \epsilon_0 \mu_0 \omega^2 \mathbf{H} = 0. \quad (11-6)$$

These differential equations are those of an unattenuated wave traveling at the velocity  $1/(\epsilon_0 \mu_0)^{1/2}$ . It follows that the field vectors can be propagated as waves in free space at the velocity

$$c = \frac{1}{(\epsilon_0 \mu_0)^{1/2}}. \quad (11-7)$$

These are two remarkable results. We have deduced from our investigation of the basic electromagnetic phenomena: (a) the possibility of the existence of electromagnetic waves and (b) the velocity of such waves in free space.

The above expression for  $c$  is in itself remarkable. It links three basic constants of electromagnetism: the velocity of an electromagnetic wave  $c$ , the permittivity of free space  $\epsilon_0$ , which we first met in Section 2.1 while discussing Coulomb's law, and the permeability of free space  $\mu_0$ , which enters into the magnetic force law of Section 7.1.

From Sections 6.1 and 7.1 that the constant  $\mu_0$  was

## The SI Conceptual Difficulties

- The role of  $\mu_0$  and  $\epsilon_0$  – these do not exist in CGS
- The nature of various fields:
  - SI:  $B$  and  $H$  have different dimension (not so in CGS)
  - SI:  $E$  and  $D$  have different dimension (not so in CGS)
  - SI:  $B$  and  $E$  have different dimension (not so in CGS)
  - SI:  $E/H = Z_0$  (not so in CGS)
  - CGS: all fields have same dimension (some different units)

	SI	CGS
Electric Fields in Materials	$D = \epsilon_r \epsilon_0 E$	$D = \epsilon_r E$
Magnetic Fields in materials	$B = \mu_r \mu_0 H$	$B = \mu_r H$
Lorentz Force	$F = q(E + v \times B)$	$F = q \left( E + \frac{v}{c} \times B \right)$

*On the Establishment of Fundamental and Derived Units, with Special Reference to Electric Units. Part II*

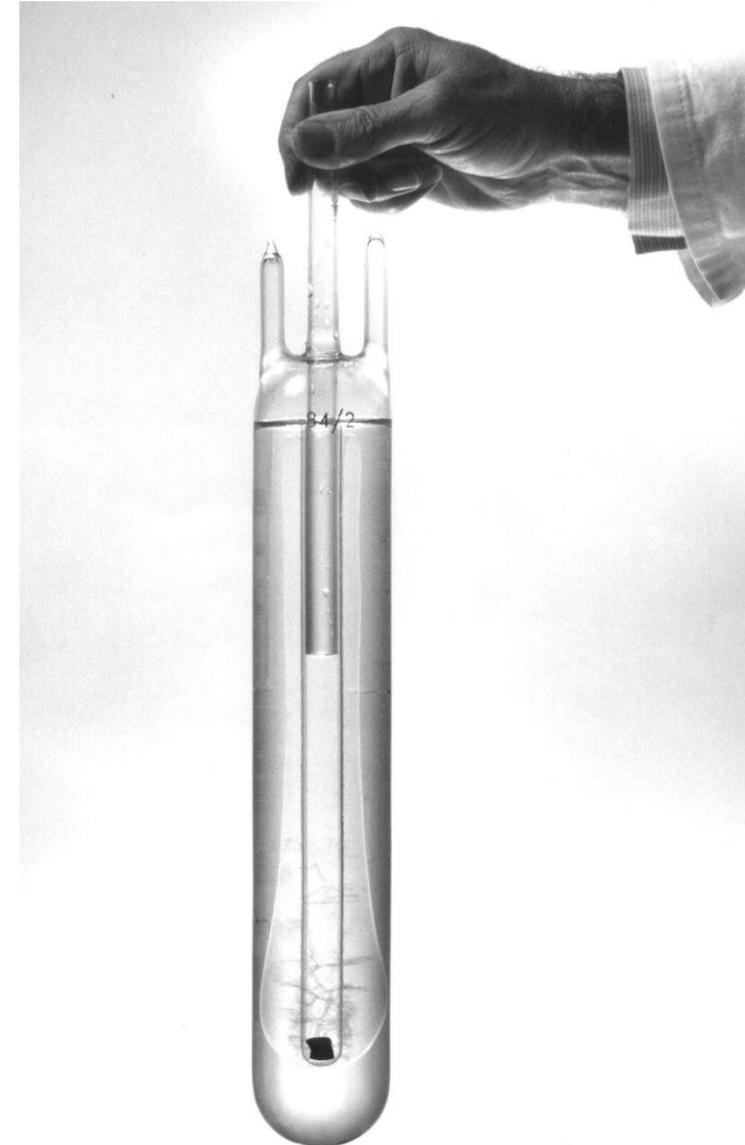
R T Birge, Am Phys Teacher 3, p171, 1935

*“The discussions of the IEC centred on the question as to whether the physical magnitudes  $B$  and  $H$  were of the same character or not. In spite of H. Abrahams’ clear and convincing reports to the contrary, the IEC decided that  $B$  and  $H$  had different physical characters. I do not agree with this decision....*

*Meanwhile one can hope that the point of view of the IEC will not be accepted by physical scientists.”*

## Consequences

- The last artefact, the IPK, will have been replaced.
  - Need for practical mass realisations derived from electrical quantities.
- Electrical measurements fully covered by the SI.
  - $\mu_0$  or  $\varepsilon_0$  will need to be determined experimentally
  - Exact relationship between SI and CGS broken (for electrical quantities)
  - Should avoid CGS magnetic units (Gauss etc)
- The triple point of water will become experimentally determined.
  - Previously the thermodynamic temperature of the triple point of water was defined as exactly 273.16 kelvin
  - CCT *Mise en pratique* will support use of ITS-90 for now
- Mole will no longer link to mass (role of  $^{12}\text{C}$  ends).



## Summary – is this the last SI revolution?

- Fundamental constant definitions unlikely to be usurped
  - As anticipated by Maxwell, Planck...
- Much better atomic clocks being developed (e.g. optical clocks)
  - A fundamental constant for the second?
- New discoveries – a new quantum effects?
- New physical theories (e.g. could reduce number of independent physical constants)
- Significant technology changes...
- But should be good for the 21<sup>st</sup> century (first half anyway...)

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