

# **Linking the International System of Units to Fundamental Constants**

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**President of PTB, Physikalisch-technische Bundesanstalt**

**Vice President of the CIPM**

**President of the Consultative Committee of Units**

**Vice President of DIN, the German Standardisation Organisation**

# The Metre Convention

**Meter Convention: 1875**

**CGPM: General Conference of Weights and Measures**

**CIPM: International Committee of Weights and Measures**

**BIPM: International Bureau of Weights and Measures**

**CCF: Consultative Committee for**

**Provides a global measurement infrastructure**

# Quantities and Measurement Units

Measurement units

number

unit

quantity

$$Q = \{Q\} [Q]$$

$$m = 10.1(2) \text{ kg}$$

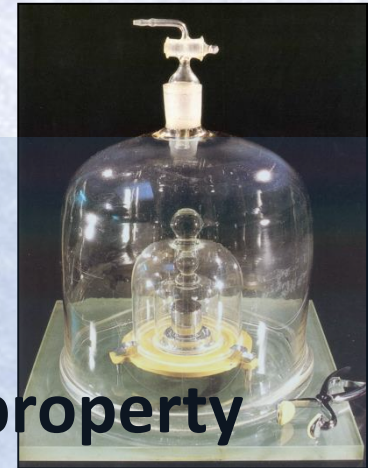
$$t = 55.4(1) \text{ s}$$

artefact

material property

measur. prescription

defining constant

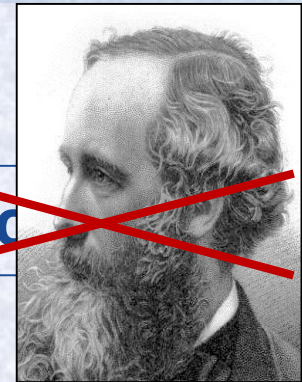


$$\Delta \nu (^{133}\text{Cs})_{\text{hfs}} = 9\,192\,631\,770.5(6) \text{ s}^{-1}$$

constant  
of nature

$$1 \text{ s} = \frac{9\,192\,631\,770}{\Delta \nu (^{133}\text{Cs})_{\text{hfs}}}$$

~~unc~~

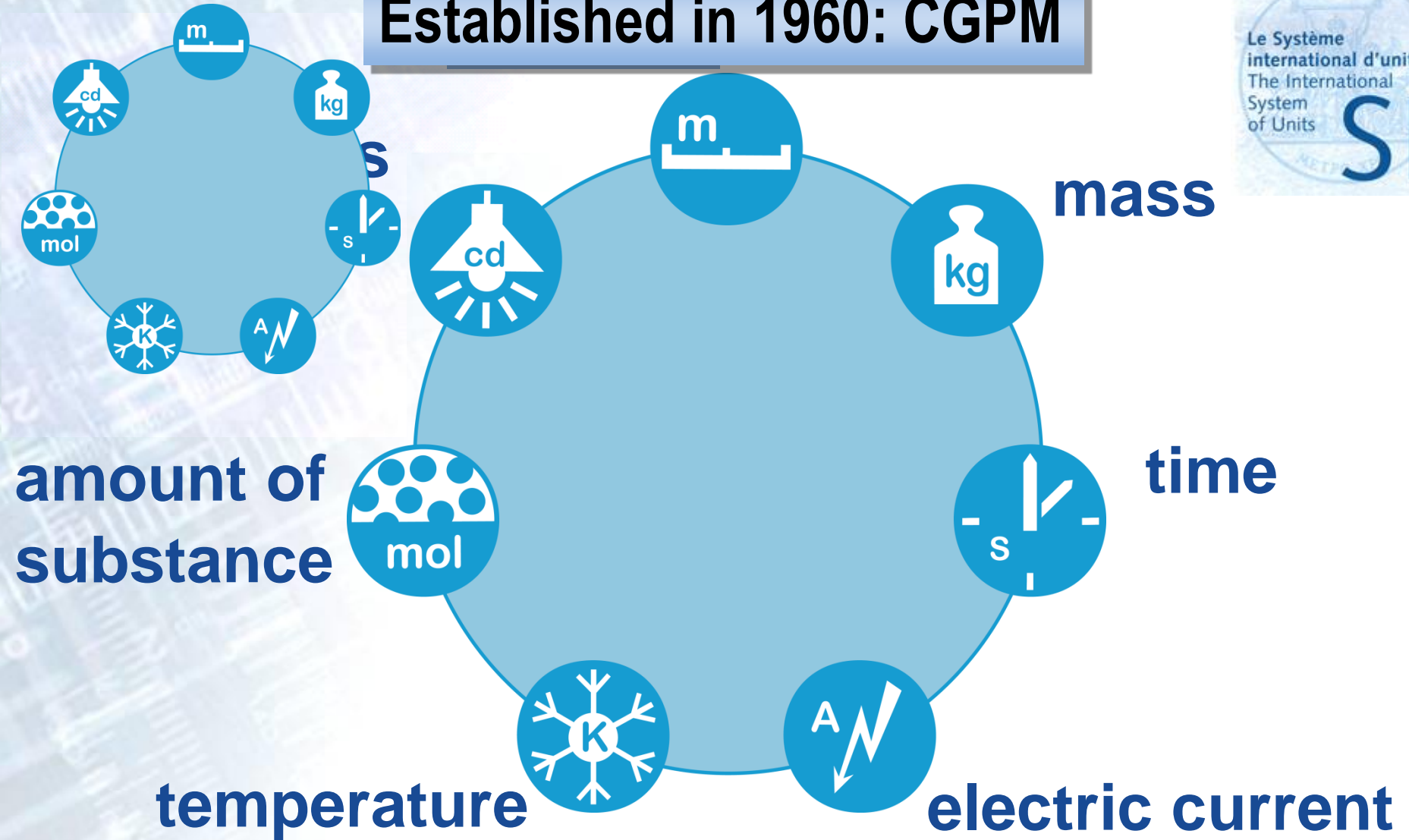


J. C. Maxwell 1870

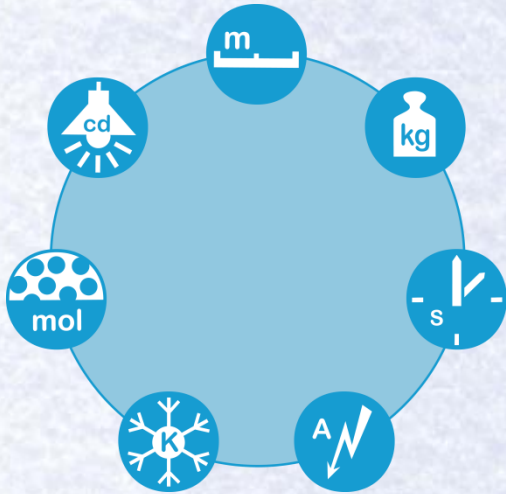
Define a unit by fixing the numerical value of a constant of nature

# The International System of Units: SI

Established in 1960: CGPM



# The International System of Units: SI



## Base units

SI base unit

## Derived units with special names

Symbol

## Dimensions of quantities

SI coherent derived unit<sup>(a)</sup>

## → A set of coherent SI units

Expressed in terms of SI units

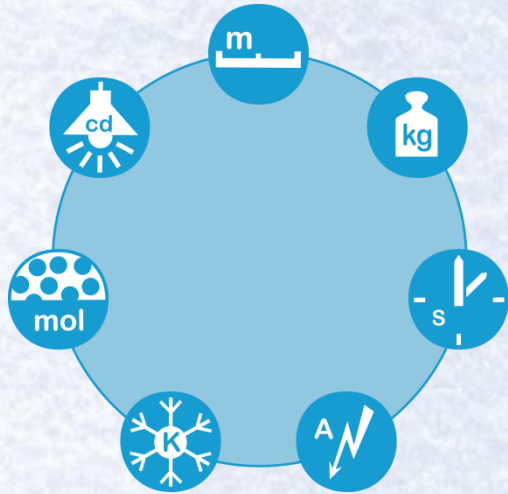
Expressed in terms of SI base units

solid angle	steradian <sup>(b)</sup>	sr <sup>(c)</sup>	1 <sup>(b)</sup>	m/m m <sup>2</sup> /m <sup>2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
frequency	hertz <sup>(d)</sup>	Hz		
force	newton	N		m kg s <sup>-2</sup>
pressure, stress	pascal	Pa	N/m <sup>2</sup>	m <sup>-1</sup> kg s <sup>-2</sup>
energy, work, amount of heat	joule	J	N m	m <sup>2</sup> kg s <sup>-2</sup>
power, radiant flux	watt	W	J/s	m <sup>2</sup> kg s <sup>-3</sup>
electric charge, amount of electricity	coulomb	C		s A
electric potential difference, electromotive force	volt	V	W/A	m <sup>2</sup> kg s <sup>-3</sup> A <sup>-1</sup>
capacitance	farad	F	C/V	m <sup>-2</sup> kg <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>4</sup> A <sup>2</sup>
frequency	hertz <sup>(d)</sup>	Hz		s <sup>-1</sup>
force	newton	N		m kg s <sup>-2</sup>
magnetic flux density	tesla	T	Wb/m <sup>2</sup>	kg s <sup>-2</sup> A <sup>-1</sup>
inductance	henry	H	Wb/A	m <sup>2</sup> kg s <sup>-2</sup> A <sup>-2</sup>

Le Système international d'unités  
The International System of Units

SI

# The International System of Units: SI



Base units

Derived units with special names

Dimensions of quantities

→ A set of coherent SI units

- A global measurement infrastructure
- Valid world wide
  - Intensity of light from an LED
  - CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the air
  - Creatinine concentration in blood serum
  - Dose equivalent outside nuclear reactors
  - ....

Le Système  
international d'unités  
The International  
System  
of Units

SI

8<sup>e</sup> édition  
2006

Bureau  
international  
des poids  
et mesures

Organisation  
intergouvernementale  
de la Convention  
du Mètre

# CCU: Consultative Committee for Units

## President:

Prof. Dr Joachim Ullrich

## Former President:

Prof. Dr Ian Mills

## Executive Secretary:

Dr Estefania de Mirandes

## Date established:

1964, to replace the  
"Commission for the System of  
Units", set up by the CIPM in 1954

- provide advice about **units of measurement**
- develop the **International System of Units (SI)**
- prepare the ***SI Brochure***



Le Système  
international d'unités  
The International  
System  
of Units

SI

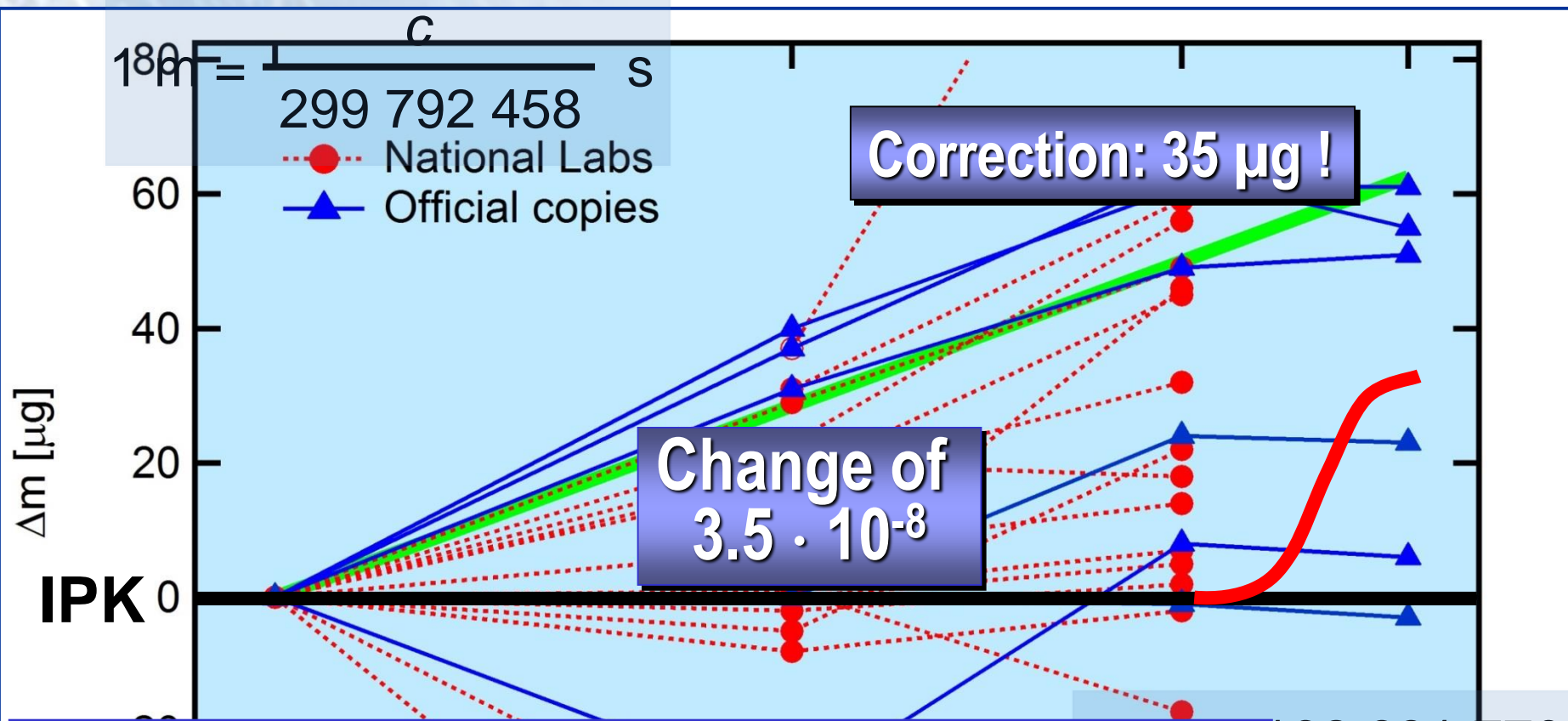
# CCU: Consultative Committee for Units



21<sup>st</sup> meeting: 11 and 12 June 2013: 43 participants



# The New International System of Units



amount of substance

92 631-770

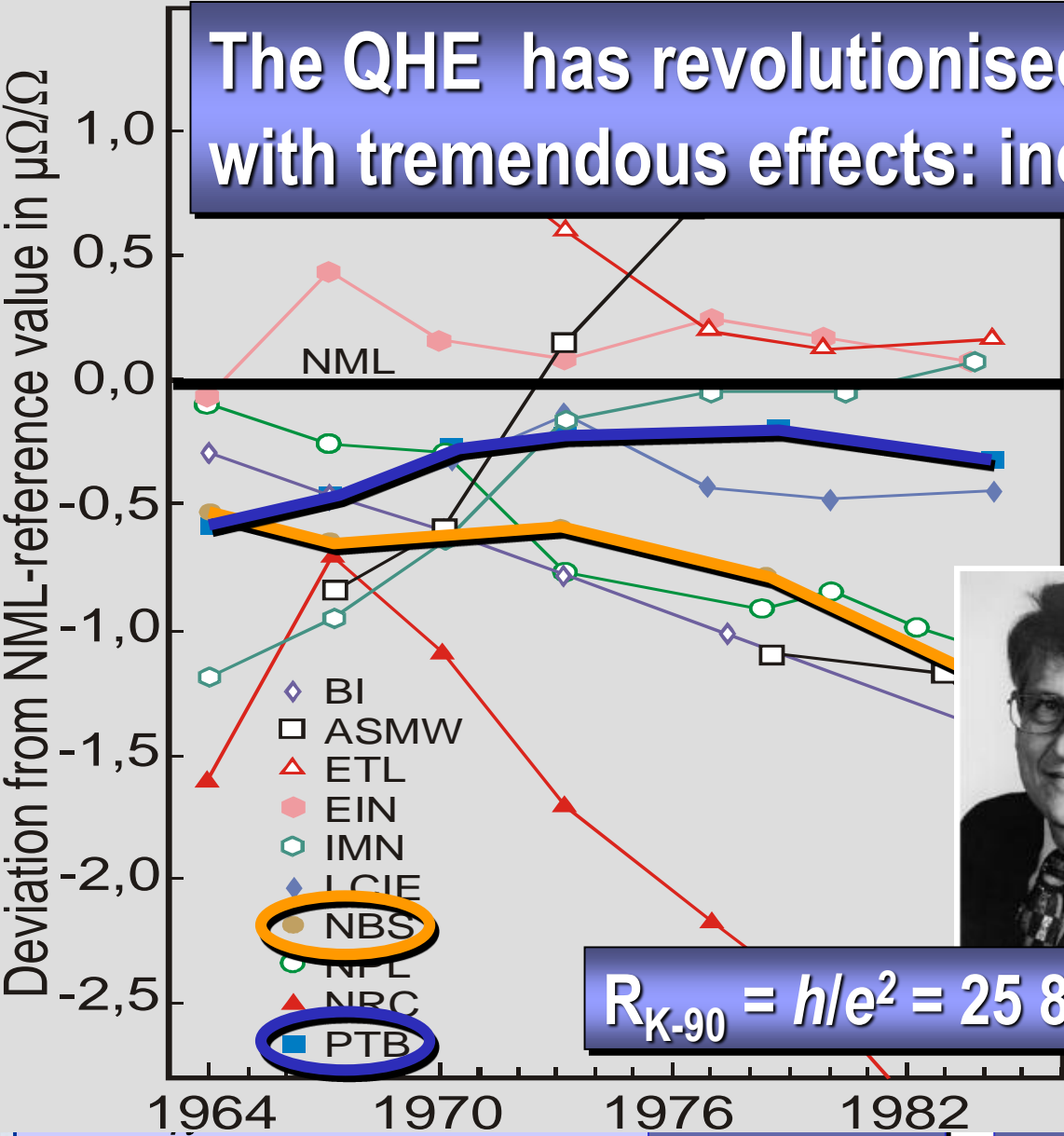
The kg “as maintained” had to be corrected substantially!

a system which contains as many elementary entities as there are atoms in 0.012 kilogram of carbon 12.

situation!

# The New International System of Units

The QHE has revolutionised electrical metrology with tremendous effects: industry & innovation



Some  $10^{-8}$  do matter!



$$R_{K-90} = h/e^2 = 25\,812,807 \, \Omega$$

Reproducibility:  $10^{-9}$

# ANNALEN DER PHYSIK.

VIERTE FOLGE. BAND 1.



## *irreversible Strahlungsvorgänge; von Max Planck.*

Dem gegenüber dürfte es nicht ohne Interesse sein zu  
bemerken, dass mit Zuhilfenahme der beiden in dem Aus-  
druck (41) der Strahlungsentropie auftretenden Constanten  $g$

und  $h$   
Zeit  
spe  
Zeit  
Cul  
lich

...with the help of **fundamental constants** we  
have the possibility of establishing units of  
length, time, mass, and temperature, which  
necessarily retain their validity for all times and  
cultures, even extraterrestrial and nonhuman...

# ANNALEN DER PHYSIK.

VIERTE FOLGE. BAND 1



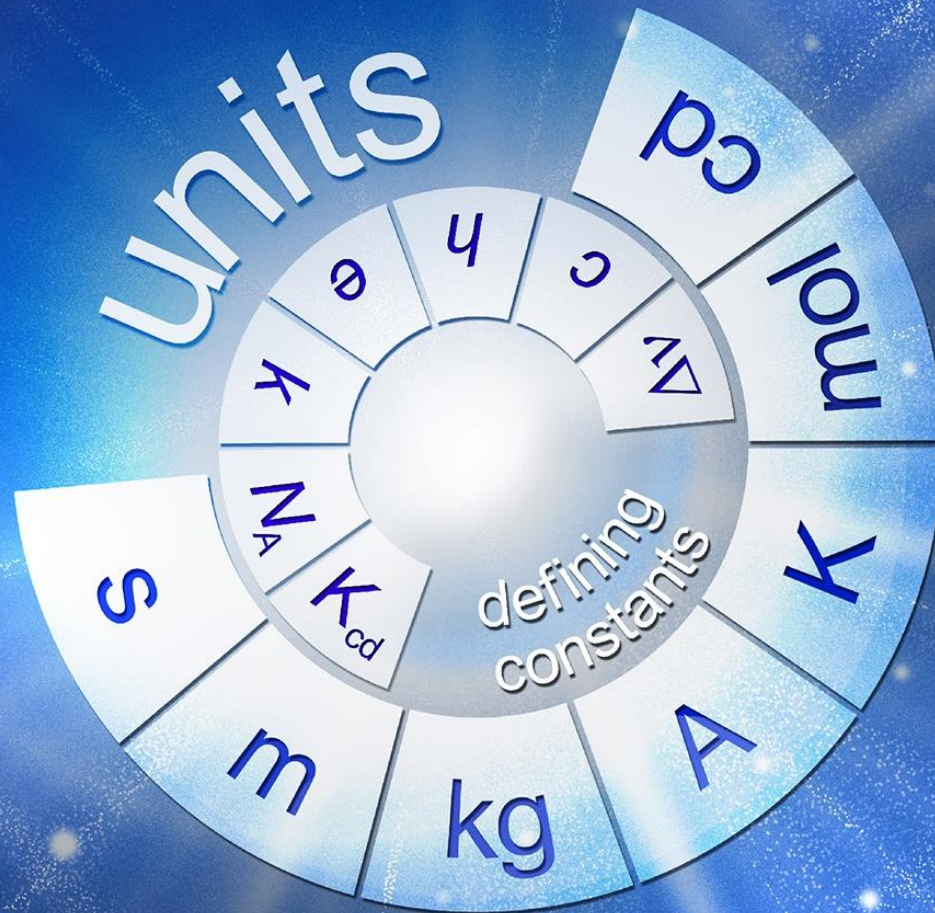
Member of PTR  
Advisory Board

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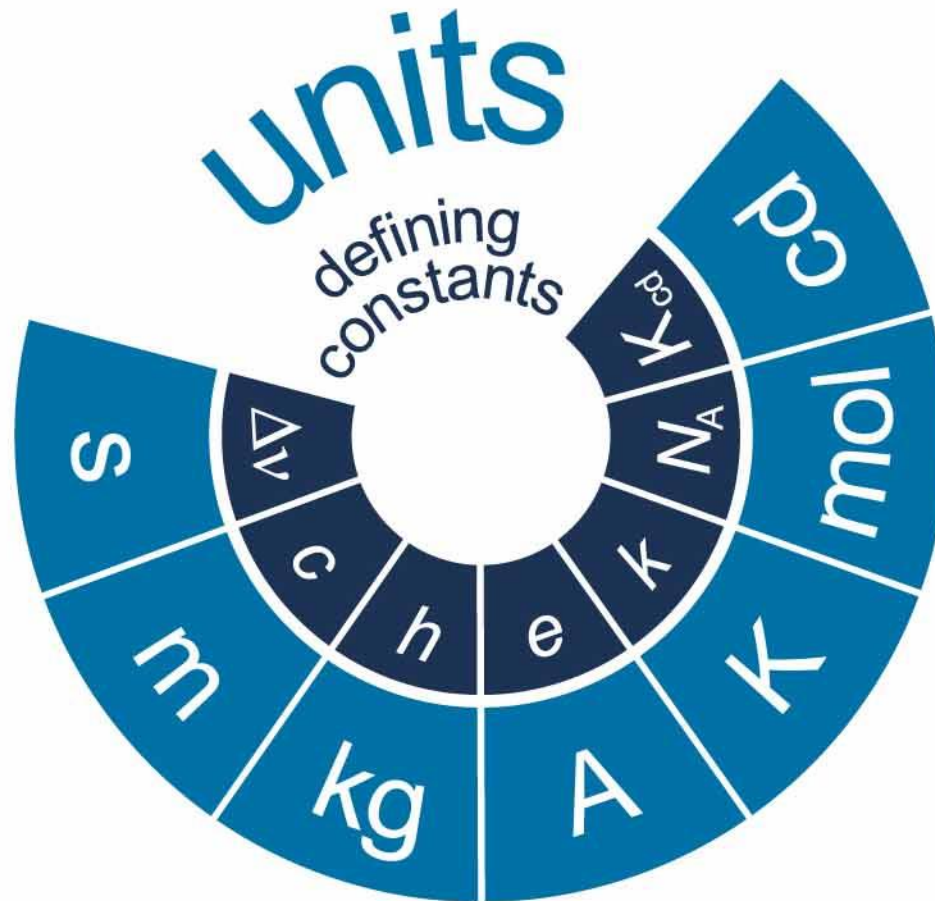
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Cul cultures, even extraterrestrial and nonhuman...  
lich

# SI International System of Units



...for all times and cultures...

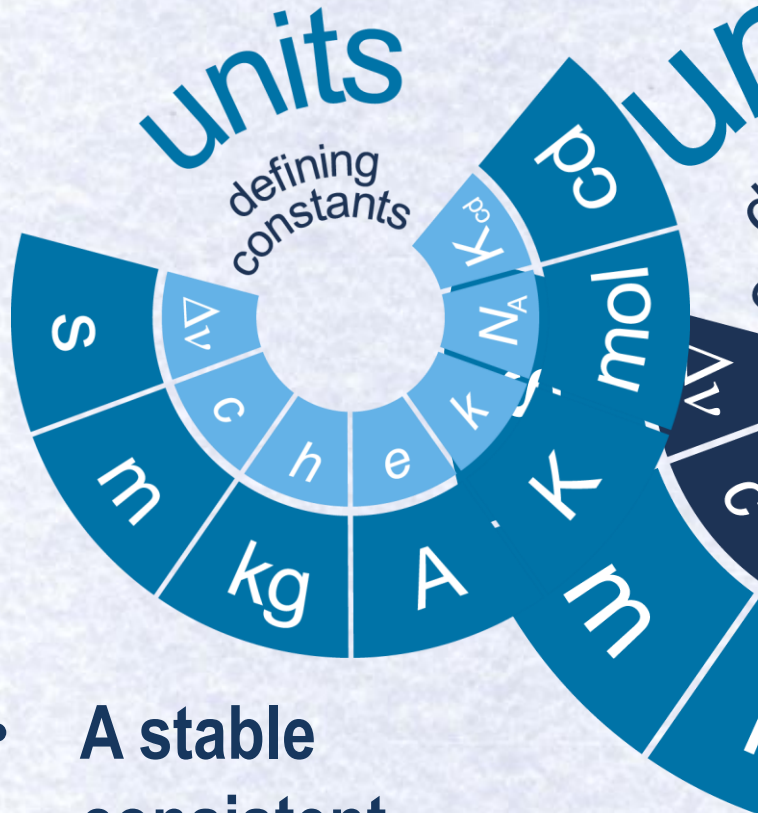
# The New International System of Units



...for all times and cultures...

# The New International System of Units

## The defining constants

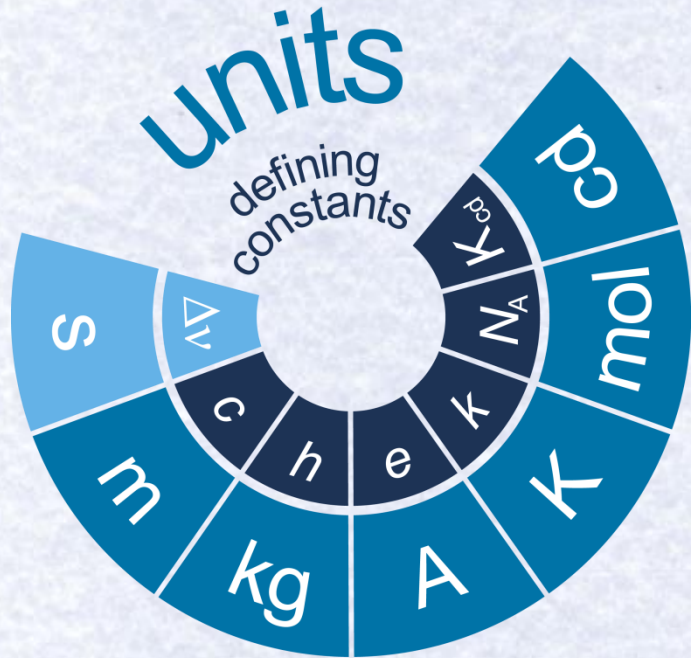


hyperfine splitting of Cs	$\Delta\nu(^{133}\text{Cs})_{\text{hfs}}$
speed of light in vacuum	$c$
Planck constant	$h$
elementary charge	$e$
Boltzman constant	$k$
Avogadro constant	$N_A$
luminous efficacy	$K_{\text{cd}}$

- A stable
- consistent
- and coherent set of units
- based on our present theoretical understanding of nature.

# The New International System of Units

## The SI unit of time, the second



The second, symbol s, is the SI unit of time. It is defined by taking the fixed numerical value of the caesium frequency  $\Delta\nu_{\text{Cs}}$ , the unperturbed ground-state hyperfine splitting frequency of the caesium 133 atom, to be 9 192 631 770 when expressed in the unit Hz, which is equal to  $\text{s}^{-1}$ .

Thus we have the exact relation  $\Delta\nu(^{133}\text{Cs})_{\text{hfs}} = 9\,192\,631\,770\text{ Hz}$ . Inverting this relation gives an expression for the unit second in terms of the value of the defining constant  $\Delta\nu(^{133}\text{Cs})_{\text{hfs}}$ :

$$1\text{ Hz} = \frac{\Delta\nu(^{133}\text{Cs})_{\text{hfs}}}{9\,192\,631\,770} \quad \text{or} \quad 1\text{ s} = \frac{9\,192\,631\,770}{\Delta\nu(^{133}\text{Cs})_{\text{hfs}}}$$

The effect of this definition is that the second is the duration of 9 192 631 770 periods of the radiation corresponding to the transition between the two hyperfine levels of the unperturbed ground state of the caesium 133 atom.

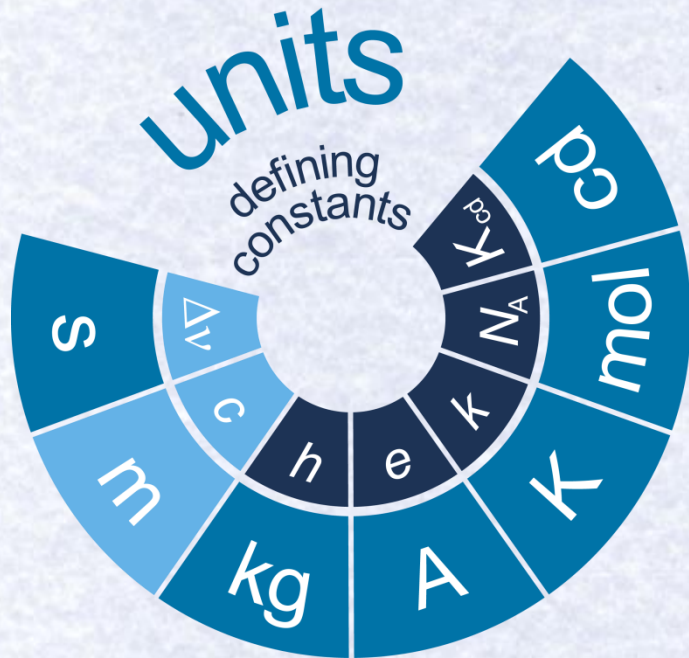
\* From the Draft *Brochure*

The second, symbol s, is the SI unit of time. It is defined by taking the fixed numerical value of the caesium frequency  $\Delta\nu_{\text{Cs}}$ , the unperturbed ground-state hyperfine splitting frequency of the caesium 133 atom, to be 9 192 631 770 when expressed in the unit Hz, which is equal to  $\text{s}^{-1}$ .



# The New International System of Units

## The SI unit of length, the meter



The metre, symbol m, is the SI unit of length. It is defined by taking, in addition to the fixed numerical value of the caesium frequency  $\Delta\nu_{\text{Cs}}$ , that of the speed of light in vacuum  $c$  to be 299 792 458 when expressed in the unit  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ .

Thus we have the exact relation  $c = 299\,792\,458 \text{ m/s}$ . Inverting this relation gives an exact expression for the unit metre in terms of the defining constants  $c$  and  $\Delta\nu(^{133}\text{Cs})_{\text{hfs}}$ :

$$1 \text{ m} = \left( \frac{c}{299\,792\,458} \right) \text{ s} = 30.663\,318\dots \frac{c}{\Delta\nu(^{133}\text{Cs})_{\text{hfs}}}$$

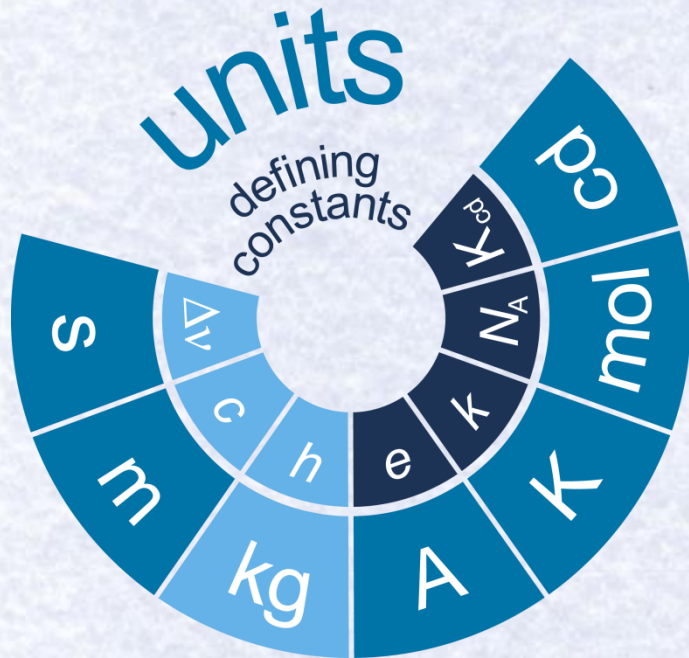
The effect of this definition is that the metre is the length of the path travelled by light in vacuum during a time interval of  $1/299\,792\,458$  of a second.

\* From the Draft *Brochure*

The metre, symbol m, is the SI unit of length. It is defined by taking the fixed numerical value of the speed of light in vacuum  $c$  to be 299 792 458 when expressed in the unit  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ , where the second is already defined in terms of  $\Delta\nu_{\text{Cs}}$ .

# The New International System of Units

## The SI unit of mass, the kilogram



The kilogram, symbol kg, is the SI unit of mass. It is defined by taking, in addition to the fixed numerical values of the caesium frequency  $\Delta\nu_{\text{Cs}}$ , and the speed of light,  $c$ , that of the Planck constant  $h$  to be  $6.626\,069\,XX \times 10^{-34}$  when expressed in the unit J s, which is equal to  $\text{kg m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$ .

Thus we have the exact relation  $h = 6.626\,069\,57 \times 10^{-34} \text{ kg m}^2 \text{s}^{-1} = 6.626\,069\,57 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J s}$ . Inverting this equation gives an exact expression for the kilogram in terms of the three defining constants  $h$ ,  $\Delta\nu(^{133}\text{Cs})_{\text{hfs}}$  and  $c$ :

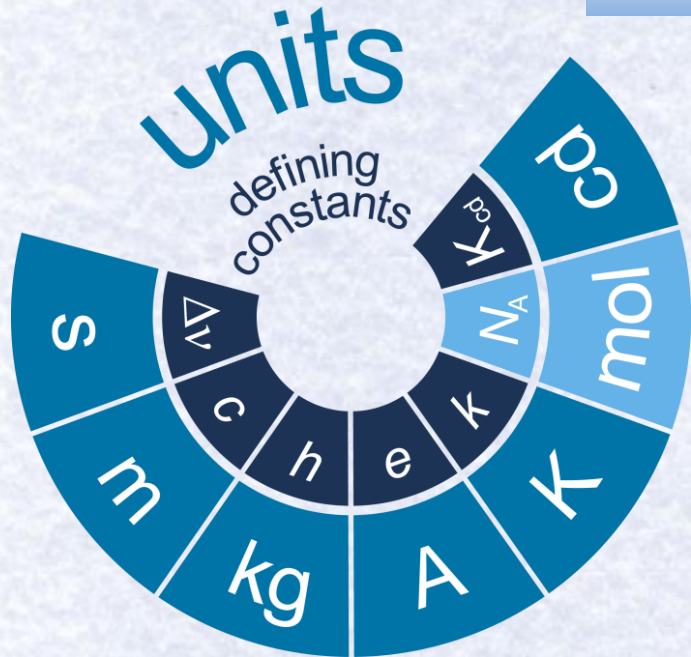
$$1 \text{ kg} = \left( \frac{h}{6.626\,069\,57 \times 10^{-34}} \right) \text{m}^2 \text{s} = 1.475\,521\dots \times 10^{40} \frac{h \Delta\nu(^{133}\text{Cs})_{\text{hfs}}}{c^2}$$

\* From the Draft *Brochure*

The kilogram, symbol kg, is the SI unit of mass. It is defined by taking the fixed numerical value of the Planck constant  $h$  to be  $6.626\,069\,XX \times 10^{-34}$  when expressed in the unit J s, which is equal to  $\text{kg m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$ , where the metre and second are defined in terms of  $c$  and  $\Delta\nu_{\text{Cs}}$ .

# The New International System of Units

## The SI unit of amount of substance, the mole



The mole, symbol mol, is the SI unit of amount of substance of a specified elementary entity, which may be an atom, molecule, ion, electron, any other particle or a specified group of such particles. It is defined by taking the numerical value of the Avogadro constant  $N_A$  to be  $6.022\,141\,XX \times 10^{23}$  when expressed in the unit  $\text{mol}^{-1}$ .

Thus we have the exact relation  $N_A = 6.022\,141\,29 \times 10^{23} \text{ mol}^{-1}$ . Inverting this equation gives an exact expression for the mole in terms of the defining constant  $N_A$ :

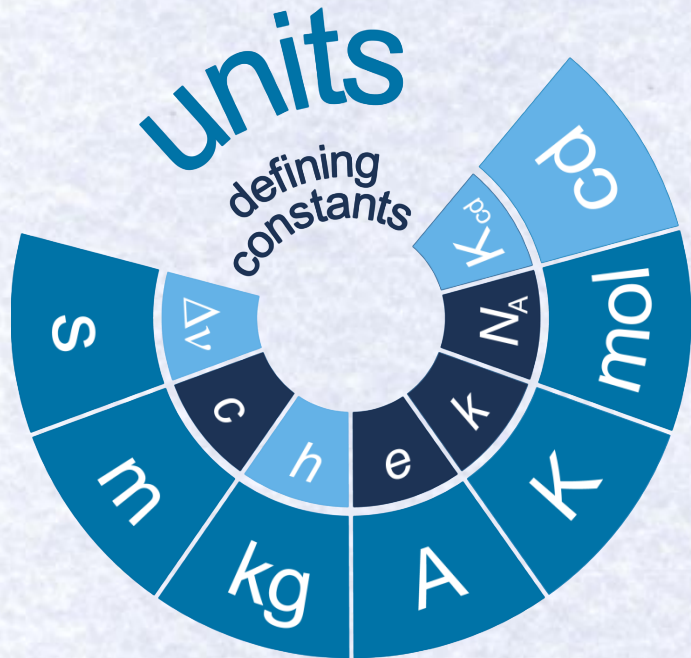
$$1 \text{ mol} = \frac{6.022\,141\,29 \times 10^{23}}{N_A}$$

The effect of this definition is that the mole is the amount of substance of a system that contains  $6.022\,141\,29 \times 10^{23}$  specified elementary entities.

\* From the Draft *Brochure*

The mole, symbol mol, is the SI unit of amount of substance of a specified elementary entity, which may be an atom, molecule, ion, electron, any other particle or a specified group of such particles. It is defined by taking the numerical value of the Avogadro constant  $N_A$  to be  $6.022\,141\,XX \times 10^{23}$  when expressed in the unit  $\text{mol}^{-1}$ .

# The New International System of Units



**A fundamentally improved concept!**

- Guarantees long-time stability
- A set of “defining constants” establish the units in general

# The Silicon Route: Avogadro Collaboration

$$N_A = \frac{M_{Si} \cdot V_{sphere}}{\sqrt{8} \cdot d_{220}^3 m_{sphere}}$$

$$N_A \cdot h = \frac{\alpha^2 M(e^-) c}{2R_\infty}$$

$$u_{rel}(N_A \cdot h) = 4.5 \cdot 10^{-10}$$

(CODATA 2014)



## Realizing the kilogram and the mol!

One mol of  $^{28}\text{Si}$  atoms is equivalent to the number of  $^{28}\text{Si}$  atoms that is contained in a sample of **12.05867069** cm<sup>3</sup> at 293.15 K with a relative uncertainty of this volume of 10<sup>-8</sup>.

**..count the number of atoms in a crystal sphere of enriched  $^{28}\text{Si}$**



# The Silicon Route: Avogadro Collaboration

$$N_A = \frac{M_{Si} \cdot V_{sphere}}{\sqrt{8} \cdot d_{220}^3 m_{sphere}}$$

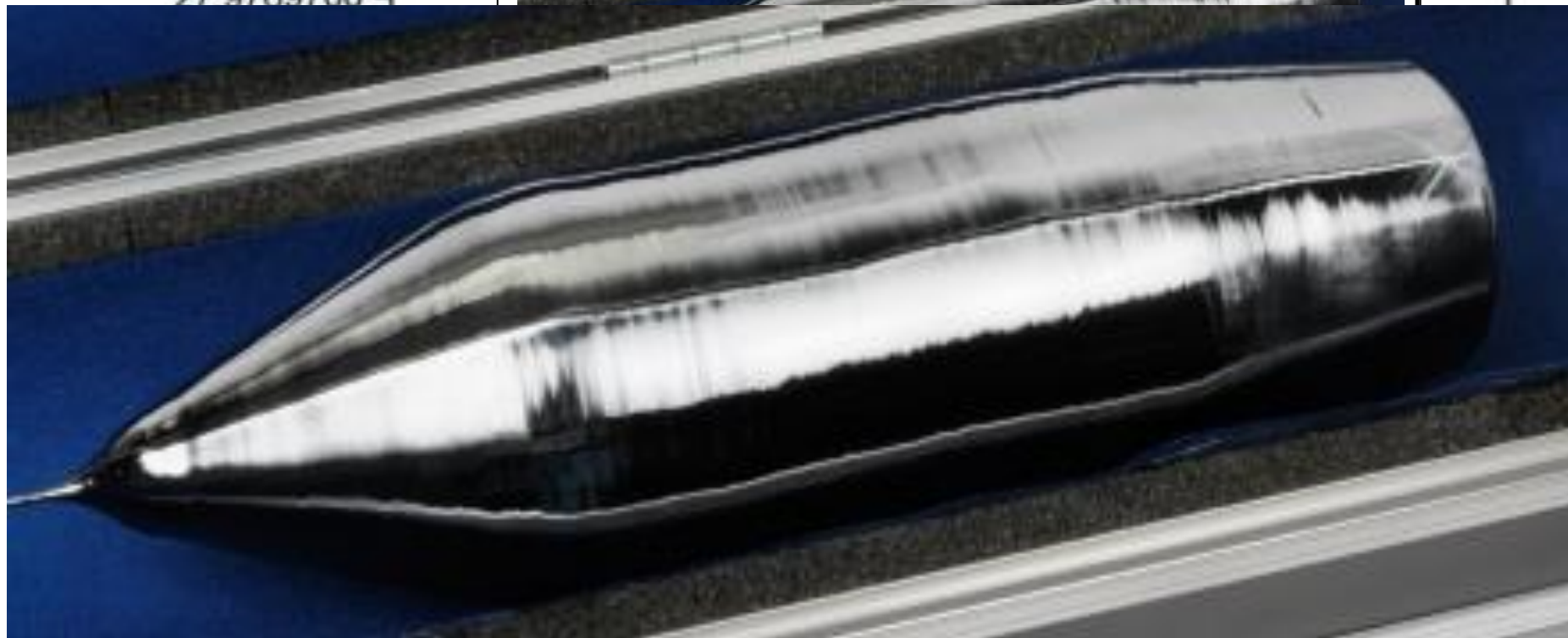
See talk of B. Güttler



# The Molar Mass

27.9769710

27.9769708



27.9769694

4.11.1

4.11.2

4.11.3

4.11.4

4.11.5

7.4.1

7.4.2

7.4.3

7.4.4

7.4.5

9.9.1

9.9.2

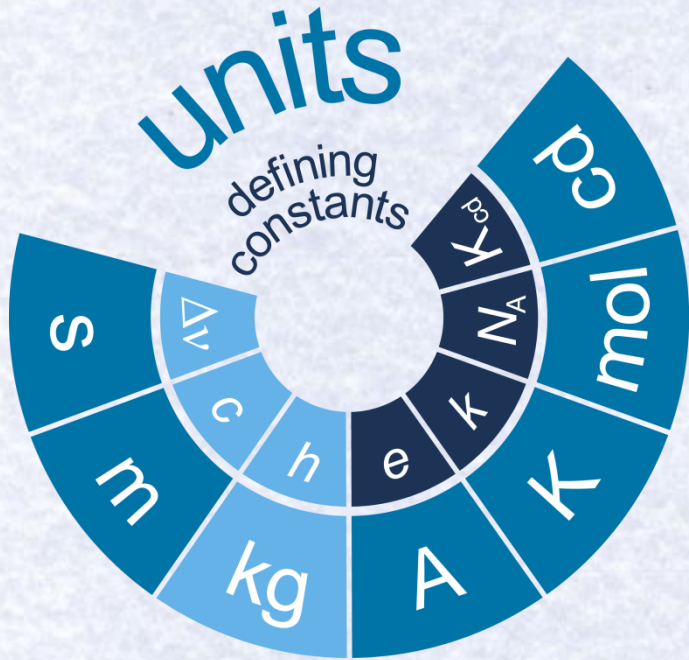
9.9.3

9.9.5

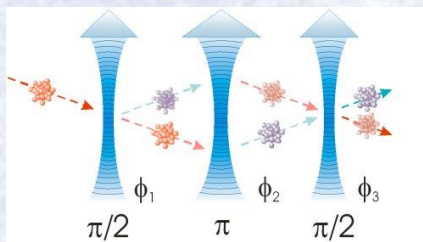
# The New International System of Units

**A fundamentally improved concept!**

- Guarantees long-time stability
- A set of “defining constants” establish the units in general
- Different realisations
- Realisation everywhere (Universe...!)
  - Atomic masses



“De Broglie”



“Photon recoil”

$$p_{\text{photon}} = p_{\text{atom}}$$

$$\hbar \cdot k = m_{\text{atom}} \cdot v_{\text{atom}}$$

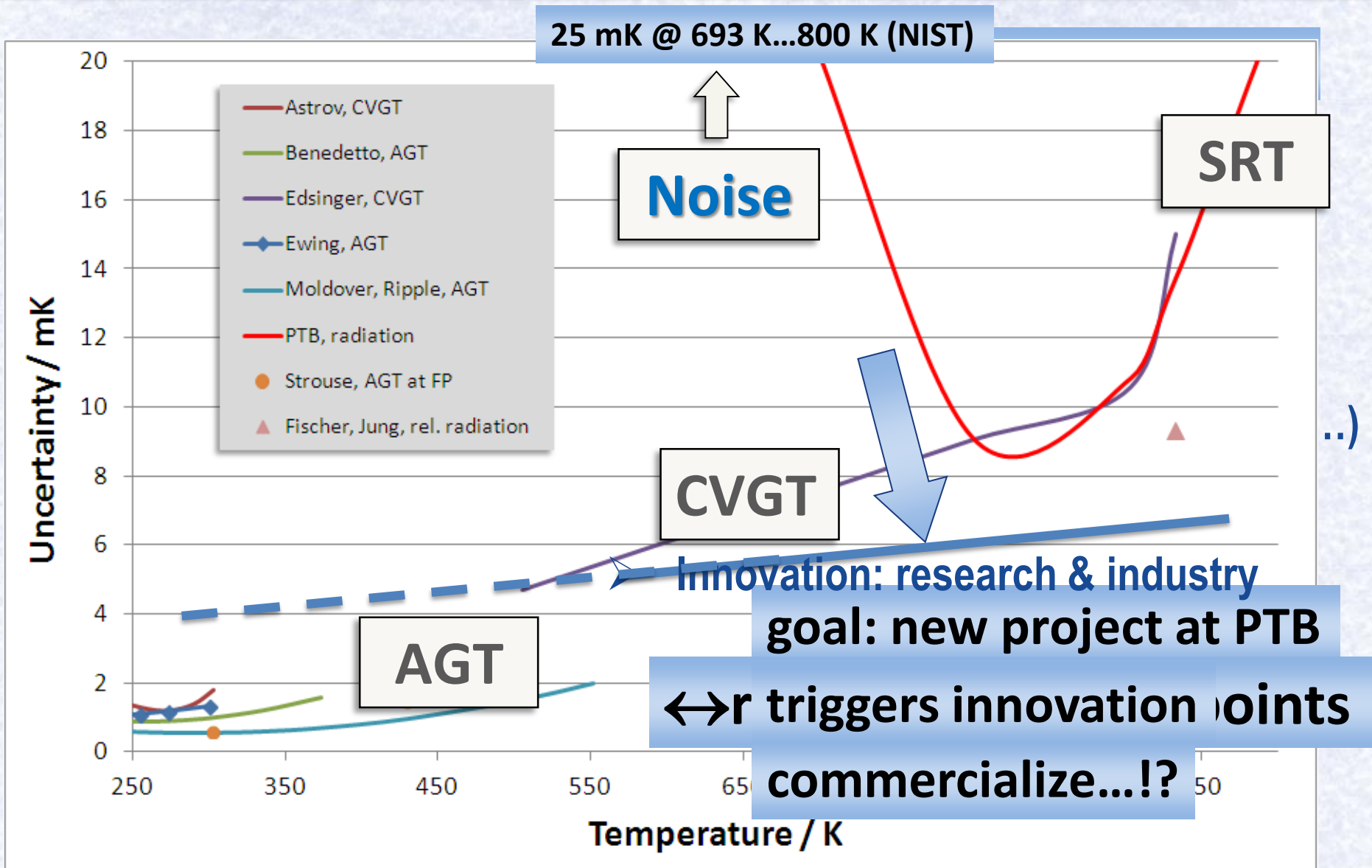
$$m_{\text{atom}} = h / (\lambda \cdot \nu_{\text{atom}})$$

“Silicon crystal”

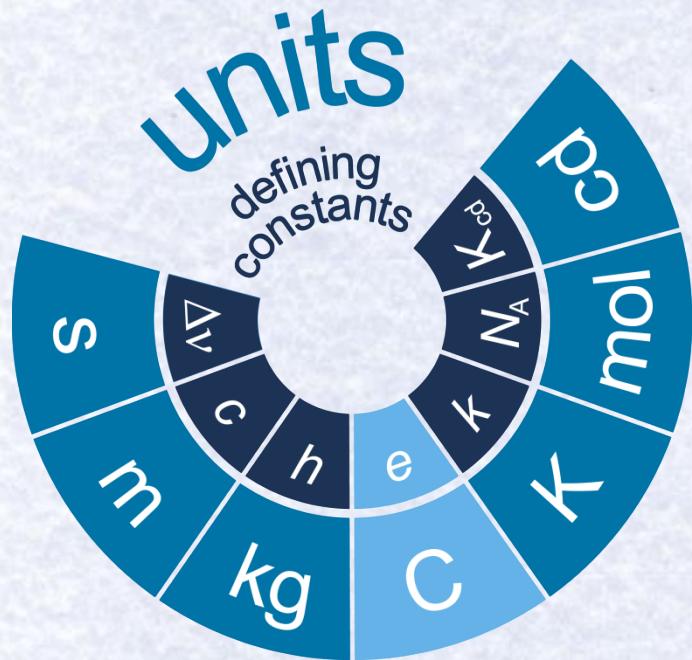
“watt balance”



# The New International System of Units



# The New International System of Units



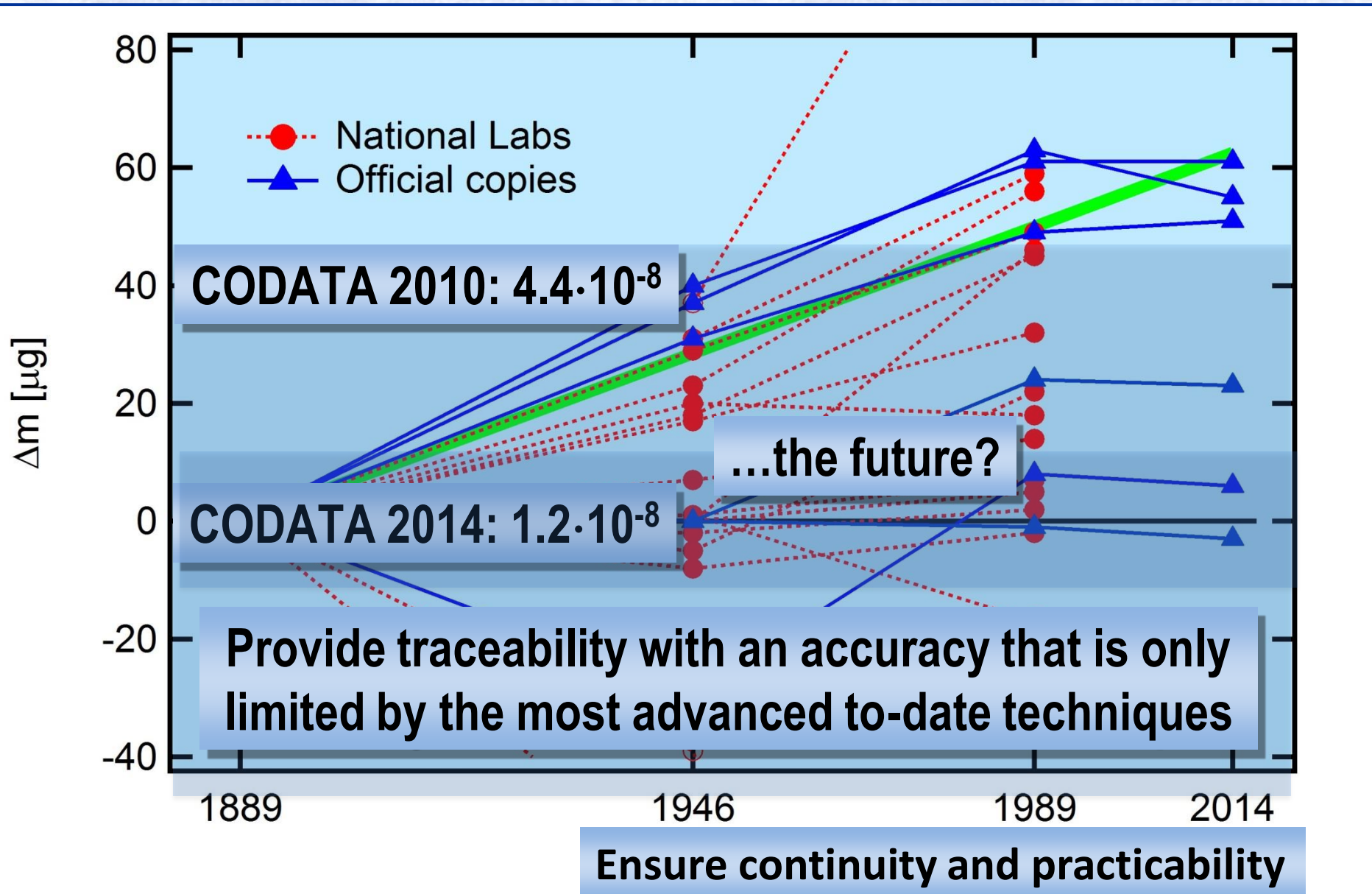
$$R_K = \frac{h}{e^2} \approx 25\,813 \, \Omega \Leftrightarrow R_{K-90}$$

$$K_J = \frac{2e}{h} \approx 483\,598 \, \text{GHz/V} \Leftrightarrow K_{J-90}$$

## A fundamentally improved concept!

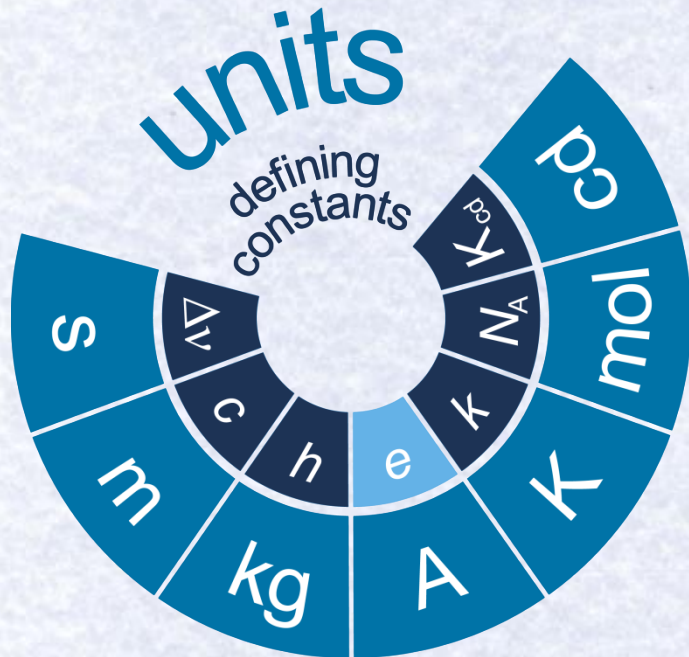
- Guarantees long-time stability
- A set of “defining constants” establish the units in general
- Different realisations
- Realisation everywhere (Universe...)
- Throughout the entire scale
- Innovation: research & industry
- Base units are only a convention
- Electric units are “back in the SI”
  - Consistency check of the whole system:
    - Si-kilogram  $\leftrightarrow$  Watt balance
    - Quantum metrological triangle, ...

# The New International System of Units



# The New International System of Units

Establish the constants



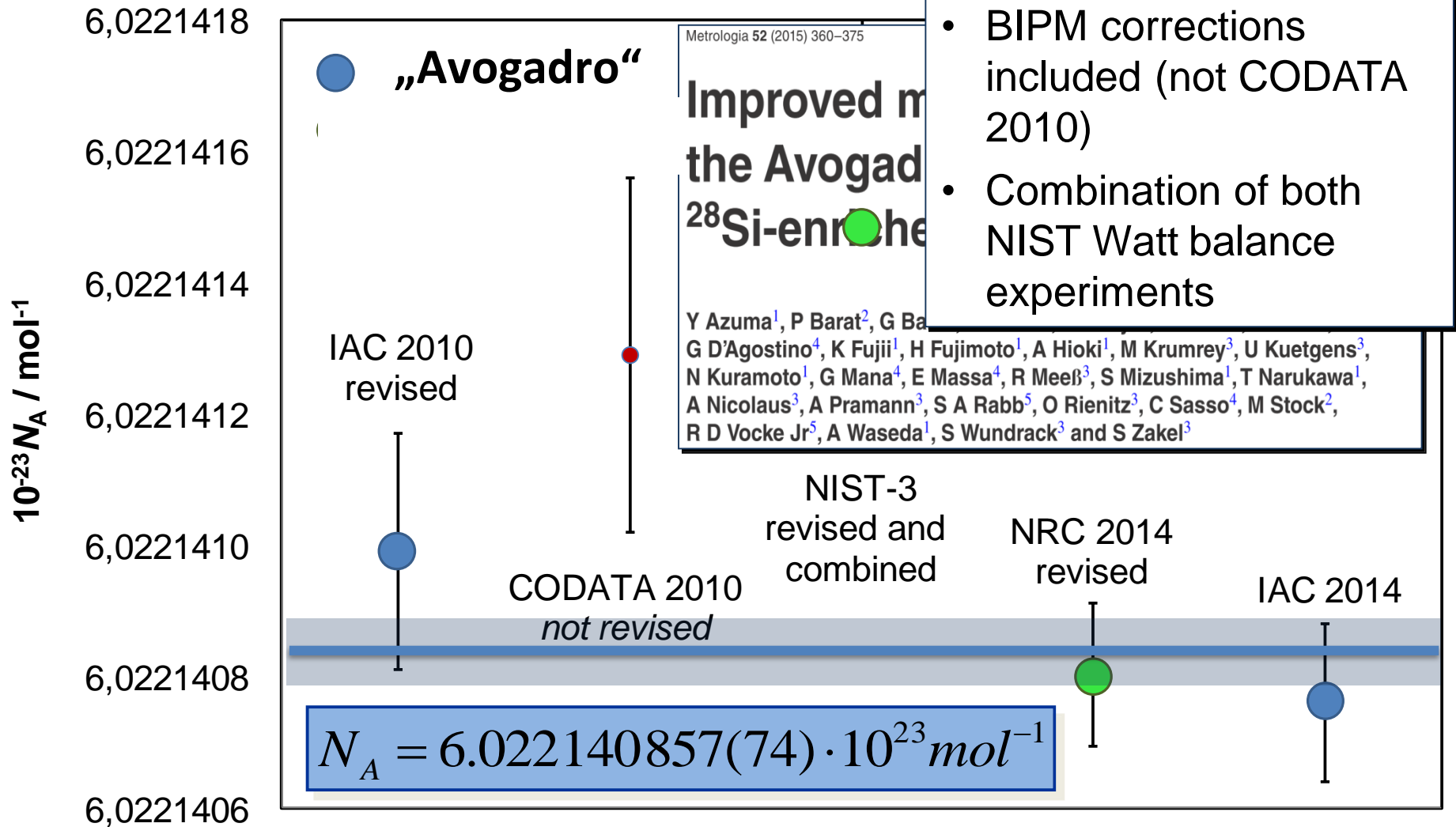
$$u_{rel}(e) = 1.2 \cdot 10^{-8}$$

A fundamentally improved concept!

- Guarantees long-time stability
- A set of “defining constants” establish the units in general
- Different realisations
- Realisation everywhere (Universe...)
- Throughout the entire scale
- Innovation: research & industry
- Base units are only a convention
- Electric units are “back in the SI”
- Better experiment → better realization

Ensure continuity and practicability

# The New International System of Units



# SI International System of Units



Guaranteeing:

- long-time stability
- realization everywhere

- with ever-increasing accuracy as technology proceeds

- thus triggering innovation in science, industry and technology

**for all times and cultures**

# End



**B**ureau  
International des  
Poids et  
Mesures

## Why using the Planck-Constant

- One of the **most fundamental constants** in physics (see also  $R_K$ ,  $K_J$ ).
- Together with the electron charge and the speed of light, both fixed as well in the new SI, they form **the fine-structure constant**:

$$\alpha = \frac{e^2}{2\varepsilon_0 \cdot h \cdot c}$$

- QED coupling constant, QED is the most precise, generic theory in physics!
- Describes all our everyday macro- and microscopic world apart from gravity.
- Brings **electrical units** consistently “back to the SI”.
- Determined by **macroscopic experiments** → direct connection to the kg.
- Two very different macroscopic experiments
  - consistency check for  $R_K$ ,  $K_J$
  - key comparisons with essentially no correlation.





## Why not using an atomic mass

- **No fundamental constant** (depends e.g. on gravity, many masses)
- You need to **relate the macroscopic world**: only the Avogadro experiment!
  - No key comparisons
  - Correlations, danger of unknown systematic uncertainties
- But: better to understand?

$$m_{\text{sphere}} = \frac{8V}{a_{220}^3} \cdot \frac{2hR_\infty}{c\alpha^2} \cdot \frac{\sum_i f_i A_r^i}{A_r^e}$$

**relative mass of Si**  
**relative electron mass**

**number of atoms** | **electron mass**

$$u_{\text{rel}}(\alpha) = 3.2 \cdot 10^{-10} \quad (\text{CODATA 2010})$$

$$u_{\text{rel}}(R_\infty) = 5.5 \cdot 10^{-12} \quad (\text{CODATA 2010})$$

→ **Not really!**

## Why not using an atomic mass

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- You need to **relate the macroscopic world**: only the Avogadro experiment!
  - No key comparisons
  - Correlations, danger of unknown systematic uncertainties
- But: better to understand?

• **Metrology serves high-tech industry, economy and society**

• **More than 60 % of economy depends on quantum mechanics**

→ **The new SI, sometimes called “quantum SI” perfectly serves these needs !**



# The New International System of Units

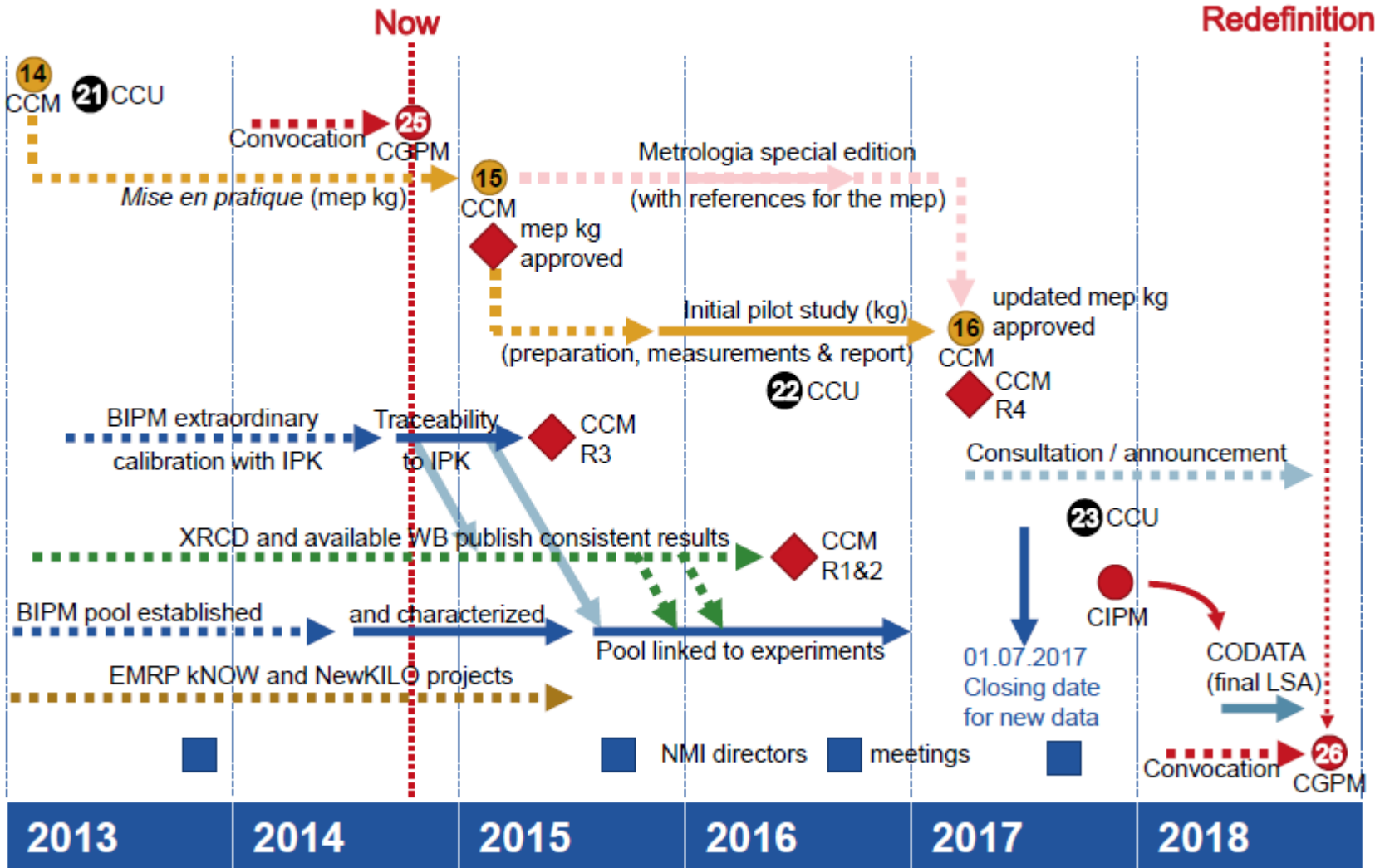


## Relative uncertainties of constants in the new SI in parts in $10^{-8}$

constant	now	new	constant	now	new
$m(K)$	0	4,4	$R$	91	0
$T_{TPW}$	0	91	$F$	2,2	0
$M(^{12}C)$	0	0,07	$\sigma$	360	0
$\mu_0$	0	0,032	$K_J$	2,2	0
$\epsilon_0$	0	0,032	$R_K$	0,032	0
$Z_0$	0	0,032	$N_A h$	0,07	0
$\Delta V(^{133}Cs)_{hfs}$	0	0	$m_e$	4,4	0,064
$c$	0	0	$m_u$	4,4	0,07
$K_{cd}$	0	0	$m(^{12}C)$	4,4	0,07
$h$	4,4	0	$\alpha$	0,032	0,032
$e$	2,2	0	$J \leftrightarrow m^{-1}$	4,4	0,0
$k_B$	91	0	$J \leftrightarrow Hz$	4,4	0,0
$N_A$	4,4	0	$J \leftrightarrow K$	91	0,0

# Towards the New SI: CCM roadmap

## Joint CCM and CCU roadmap for the new SI



◆ Conditions from CCM Recommendation G1 (2013)

# CCU: Consultative Committee for Units



- **Present 9<sup>th</sup> edition of *SI Brochure* in French and English to the CGPM in 2018.**

**March 2014:** Suggest to the CIPM to invite **CCs to read and comment** on the present version of the first three chapters of the *SI Brochure* by **March 2015**.

**February 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015:** Meeting of CCU WG on “dimensionless quantities”

**June 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015:** **Comments and CCU WG suggestions will be considered** during a meeting of the *Brochure* Drafting Group,

**June 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016:** CCU meeting to **approve a close-to-final** version of the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the *SI Brochure*, including units for dimensionless quantities, the policy for truncating the numerical values of the defining constants, the texts of the mises en pratique, new developments, etc.

**September 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> 2017:** CCU meeting to **approve the final draft**.

- 1) deciding about the fixed numerical values of the defining constants (rounding),
- 2) deciding upon the final version of the complete 9th SI Brochure,
- 3) creating the wording of a Draft Resolution to be provided to the CIPM

**November 2018:** 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the *SI Brochure* is ready in French and English

# Towards the New SI

- 31 August 2015 and 1st September 2015: CODATA TGFC meeting for 2015 (BIPM)
- **14 - 16 June 2016: 22<sup>nd</sup> CCU meeting** with the aim of discussing the content of the complete 9<sup>th</sup> *SI Brochure* including units for dimensionless quantities, the policy for truncating the numerical values of the defining constants, the texts of the *mises en pratique*, etc.
- 16 July 2016: CODATA TGFC meeting for 2016 (CPEM'2016 Ottawa)
- **1<sup>st</sup> July 2017:** closing date for data to be adjusted by TGFC in order to prepare the redefinition
- **1<sup>st</sup> September 2017:** TGFC provides the adjustment to CCU
- **5 - 7 September 2017: 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the CCU** with the aim of 1) deciding about the fixed numerical values of the defining constants (rounding), 2) deciding upon the final version of the complete 9<sup>th</sup> *SI Brochure*, and 3) creating the wording of a Draft Resolution to be provided to the CIPM (for the Convocation of the CGPM 2018) on the redefinition.
- **Mid-October 2017: CIPM meeting**, discussion of the CCU proposals and approval of the Draft Resolution for the Convocation
- **1<sup>st</sup> July 2018:** TGFC closes for the first fit of the constants under the New SI, this fit will be the official CODATA fit for 2018 having occurred 6 months earlier than usual
- **CGPM 2018:** redefinition with the vote of the Resolution, push-button for publication of the definitive 9<sup>th</sup> *SI Brochure*, and for the publication of the corresponding CODATA TGFC adjustment

# CCU: Consultative Committee for Units

## Future scan (2013-2023)

→ Please see the poster!



- Convince the **academic, scientific** and **economic communities** of the need to depart from artefacts and prototypes.
- Review the **membership composition of CCU** with the CIPM in order to better involve its stakeholders in the discussions, and attain their support.
- Advice on the **accuracy and consistency of the defining constants** to ensure a smooth transition from the present to the “New SI”.
- Providing advise on the **numerical values of the defining constants**.

$$\Delta \nu ({}^{133}\text{Cs})_{\text{hfs}} = 9\,192\,631\,770. \cancel{5(6)} \text{ s}^{-1}$$