

The LUA-PHYSICAL library

Version 0.1

Thomas Jenni

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Abstract

`lua-physical` is a pure Lua library which provides functions and object for doing computation with physical quantities. It has been written to simplify the creation problem sets. The package provides units of the SI and the imperial system. Furthermore an almost complete set of international currencies are supported, however without online exchange rates. In order to display the numbers with measurement uncertainties, the package is able to perform gaussian error propagation.

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1 Introduction

The author of this package is a teacher at the high school *Kantonsschule Zug* in Switzerland. The main use of this package is to write physics problem sets. Lua_{La}T_EX does make it possible to integrate physical calculations directly. The package has been in use since 2016. Many bugs have been found and fixed. Nevertheless it still is possible, that some were not found yet. Therefore the author recommends not to use this package industry or science. If one does so, it's the responsibility of the user to check results for plausability. If the user finds some bugs, they can be reported at github.com or directly to the author ([thomas.jenni\(at\)ksz.ch](mailto:thomas.jenni@ksz.ch)).

2 Loading

This package is a pure Lua library. Therefore one has to require it explicitly by calling `require("physical")`. For printing results, the `siunitx` package can be used. It's recommended to define a macro like `\q` to convert the lua quantity object to a `siunitx` expression.

The following Latex preambel loads the `lua-physical` package and creates a macro `\q` for printing physical quantities.

Listing 1: basic preamble

```
1  \usepackage{lua-physical}
2  \usepackage{siunitx}
3
4  % configure siunitx
5  \sisetup{
6    output-decimal-marker = {.,},
7    per-mode = symbol,
8    separate-uncertainty = true,
9    add-decimal-zero = true,
10   exponent-product = \cdot,
11   round-mode = off
12 }
13
14 % load lua-physical package
15 \begin{luacode*}
16   physical = require("physical")
17   N = physical.Number
18 \end{luacode*}
19
20 % print physical quantities
21 \newcommand{\q}[1]{%
22   \directlua{tex.print(physical.Quantity.tosiunitx(#1,"scientific-
23     notation=fixed,exponent-to-prefix=false"))}%
24 }
```

2.1 Dependencies

This is a standalone package. If a pretty print to Lua^AT_EX is wanted, the package `siunitx` could be installed.

3 Usage

Given the basic preamble, units can be used in lua code directly. By convention, all units have an underscore in front of them, i.e. Meter is `_m`, Second is `_s`. All available units are listed in chapter 4. The Result of the calculation can be printed to Lua^AT_EX by using the macro `\q{}`.

Listing 2: The velocity of a car.

```
1  \begin{luacode}
2      s = 10 * _m
3      t = 2 * _s
4      v = s/t
5  \end{luacode}
6
7  A car travels $\q{s}$ in $\q{t}$. calculate its velocity.
8  $$
9      v=\frac{s}{t} = \frac{\q{s}}{\q{t}} = \q{v}
10  $$
```

A car travels 10 m in 2 s. Calculate its velocity.

$$v = \frac{s}{t} = \frac{10 \text{ m}}{2 \text{ s}} = 5 \text{ m/s}$$

In the above listing 2, the variable `s` stands for displacement and has the unit meter `_m`. The variable `t` stands for time and is given in second `_s`. If mathematical operations are done on them, new physical quantities are created. In the problem above, the velocity `v` is calculated by dividing `s` by `t`. The instance `v` has the derived unit m/s. By using the macro `\q{}` all quantities can be printed to the Lua^AT_EX code directly.

3.1 Unit conversion

Very often the result of a calculation is needed in different unit, than the given quantities are. In the following listing 3 the task is to calculate the volume of a cuboid with lengths given in different units. If the volume is calculated by multiplying all three lengths, the unit of the result is `cm mm m`. If the unit `cm3` is preferred, it has to be converted explicitly. The conversion function is called `to()` and is available on all physical quantity instances. At first this looks a bit cumbersome. The reason of this behaviour is, that the software is not able to guess the unit of the result. In many cases, like in the example here, it's not clear

what unit the result should have. Therefore the user has always to give the target unit explicitly.

Listing 3: The volume of a cuboid.

```

1  \begin{luacode}
2      a = 12 * _cm
3      b = 150 * _mm
4      c = 1.5 * _m
5
6      V = a*b*c
7  \end{luacode}
8
9  Find the volume of a rectangular cuboid with lengths  $\text{\textbackslash q{a}}\text{\$}$ ,
10  $\text{\textbackslash q{b}}\text{\$}$  and  $\text{\textbackslash q{c}}\text{\$}$ .
11  $\text{\textbackslash\textbackslash}$ 
12      V= a \cdot b \cdot c
13      = \text{\textbackslash q{a}} \cdot \text{\textbackslash q{b}} \cdot \text{\textbackslash q{c}}
14      = \text{\textbackslash q{V}}
15      = \uuline{\text{\textbackslash q{V:to}(\_dm^3)}}
16  $\text{\textbackslash\textbackslash}$ 

```

Find the volume of a rectangular cuboid with lengths 12 cm, 150 mm and 1.5 m.

$$V = a \cdot b \cdot c = 12 \text{ cm} \cdot 150 \text{ mm} \cdot 1.5 \text{ m} = 2700 \text{ cm mm m} = \underline{\underline{27 \text{ dm}^3}}$$

3.1.1 Temperature Conversion

In the following problem, listing 4 , the task is to convert a temperature given in the unit degree Celsius to Kelvin. As can be seen in the listing, the conversion function has two parameters.

The first argument is the target unit. The second is a boolean that tells the `to`-function to call a unit specific conversion function. By default the second argument is `false`.

Most units do not have a conversion function. Exceptions are the unit degree Celsius `_degC` and degree Fahrenheit `_degF`. These units are ambiguous and can be interpreted as temperature differences or as an absolute temperatures. In the latter case, the conversion to base units is not a linear, but an affine transformation. This is because degree Celsius and degree Fahrenheit scales have their zero points at different temperatures compared to the unit Kelvin. Therefore these units have their own conversion functions.

By default `_degC` and `_degF` units are standing for temperature differences. If one wants to have it converted absolutely, the conversion function `to()` should have the second argument set to true.

Listing 4: Temperature conversion.

```

1  \begin{luacode}

```

```

2   T = 20 * _degC
3   \end{luacode}
4
5   A thermometer shows  $\text{\q{T}}$ . Convert this quantity to Kelvin.
6   $$
7   T = \text{\q{T:to(_K)}} + \text{\q{273.15 * _K}}
8   = \text{\q{T:to(_K,true)}}
9   $$

```

A thermometer shows 20 °C. Convert this quantity to Kelvin.

$$T = 20 \text{ K} + 273.15 \text{ K} = 293.15 \text{ K}$$

3.1.2 Uncertainty

The package supports uncertainty propagation. To create a number with an uncertainty, an instance of `physical.Number` has to be created, see listing 5. It has to be remembered, that `N` is a alias for `physical.Number`. The first argument of the constructor `N(mean, uncertainty)` is the mean value and the second one the uncertainty of the measurement. If the proposed preamble is used, the uncertainty is by default separated from the mean value by a plus-minus sign.

For the uncertainty propagation the gaussian formula

$$\Delta f = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} \cdot \Delta x_1\right)^2 + \dots + \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \cdot \Delta x_n\right)^2}$$

is used. This formula is a good estimation for the uncertainty Δf , if the quantities x_1, \dots, x_n the function f depends on, have no correlation. Further, the function f has to behave linear, if the quantities x_i are changed in the range of their uncertainties.

Listing 5: Uncertainty in area calculation.

```

1   \begin{luacode}
2     a = N(2,0.1) * _m
3     b = N(3,0.1) * _m
4
5     A = (a*b):to(_m^2)
6   \end{luacode}
7
8   Calculate the area of a rectangle with lengths  $\text{\q{a}}$  and  $\text{\q{b}}$ .
9   $$
10  A = a \cdot b
11  = \text{\q{a} \cdot \q{b}}
12  = \uuline{\q{A}}
13  $$

```

Calculate the area of a rectangle with lengths $(2.00 \pm 0.10) \text{ m}$ and $(3.00 \pm 0.10) \text{ m}$.

$$A = a \cdot b = (2.00 \pm 0.10) \text{ m} \cdot (3.00 \pm 0.10) \text{ m} = \underline{\underline{(6.0 \pm 0.4) \text{ m}^2}}$$

Instead of printing always the uncertainties, one can use the uncertainty calculation to provide significant numbers.

In the following problem, listing 6, the task is to calculate the volume of an ideal gas. Given are pressure p in `_bar`, amount of substance n in `_mol` and temperature T in degree celsius `_degC`. In order to do the calculation, one has to convert T , which is given as an absolute temperature in degree celsius to the base unit Kelvin first. By setting `N.omitUncertainty = true`, all uncertainties are not printed.

Listing 6: Volume of an ideal gas.

```

1  \begin{luacode}
2      N.omitUncertainty = true
3      p = N(1.013,0.0001) * _bar
4      n = N(1,0.01) * _mol
5      T = N(30,0.1) * _degC
6
7      V = ( n * _R * T:to(_K,true) / p ):to(_L)
8  \end{luacode}
9
10 An ideal gas ( $\text{\textbackslash q{n}}$ ) has a pressure of  $\text{\textbackslash q{p}}$  and a temperature
    of  $\text{\textbackslash q{T}}$ . Calculate the volume of the gas.
11 $$
12 V=\frac{\text{\textbackslash q{n}} \cdot \text{\textbackslash q{R}} \cdot \text{\textbackslash q{T:to(_K,true)}}}{\text{\textbackslash q{p}}}
13 = \text{\textbackslash q{V}}
14 = \underline{\underline{\text{\textbackslash q{V}}}}
15 $$
```

An ideal gas (1.0 mol) has a pressure of 1.013 bar and a temperature of 30°C . Calculate the volume of the gas.

$$V = \frac{1.0 \text{ mol} \cdot 8.31 \text{ J}/(\text{mol K}) \cdot 303 \text{ K}}{1.013 \text{ bar}} = \underline{\underline{25 \text{ L}}}$$

4 Supported Units

All supported units are listed in this chapter. Subchapter 4.1 lists the seven base units of the International System of Units (SI). In subchapter 4.2 mathematical and physical constants are defined. The subchapter ?? contains all derived units from the SI system. Subchapter ?? lists units, which are common but outside of the SI system. The subchapters 4.6 and 4.7 are dedicated to imperial and U.S. customary units. The last subchapter 4.8 contains international currencies.

4.1 Base Units

Quantity	Unit	Symbol	Dim.	Definition
time	second	<code>_s</code>	T	The SI unit of time. It is defined by taking the fixed numerical value of the caesium frequency $\Delta\nu_{Cs}$, the unperturbed ground-state hyperfine transition frequency of the caesium 133 atom, to be 9 192 631 770 when expressed in the unit 1/s.
length	meter	<code>_m</code>	L	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 of 1 m/s.
mass	kilogram	<code>_kg</code>	M	The SI unit of mass. It is defined by taking the fixed numerical value of the Planck constant h to be $6.626\,070\,15 \cdot 10^{-34}$ when expressed in $\text{m}^2 \text{kg/s}$.
electric current	ampere	<code>_A</code>	I	The SI unit of electric current. It is defined by taking the fixed numerical value of the elementary charge e to be $1.602\,176\,634 \cdot 10^{-19}$ when expressed in A s.
thermodynamic temperature	kelvin	<code>_K</code>	Θ	The SI unit of the thermodynamic temperature. It is defined by taking the fixed numerical value of the Boltzmann constant k_B to be $1.380\,649 \cdot 10^{-23}$ when expressed in $1 \text{ kg m}^2/(\text{s}^2 \text{ K})$

Quantity	Unit	Symbol	Dim.	Definition
amount of substance	mole	<code>_mol</code>	N	The SI unit of amount of substance. One mole contains exactly $6.022\,140\,76 \cdot 10^{23}$ elementary entities. This number is the fixed numerical value of the Avogadro constant N_A when expressed in 1/mol.
luminous intensity	candela	<code>_cd</code>	J	The SI unit of luminous intensity in a given direction. It is defined by taking the fixed numerical value of the luminous efficacy of monochromatic radiation of frequency $5.4 \cdot 10^{14}$ Hz, K_{cd} , to be 683 when expressed in the unit $\text{cd sr s}^3/(\text{kg m}^2)$.
number	–	<code>_1</code>	1	The dimensionless number one.
information	bit	<code>_bit</code>	B	The smallest amount of information.
currency	euro	<code>_EUR</code>	C	The value of the currency Euro.

Table 1: Base units of the International System of Units (SI) [3], information, currency and the dimensionless number one.

4.2 Constants

Almost all physical constants are taken from the NIST webpage [1]. The nominal values of solar, terrestrial and jovial quantities are taken from IAU Resolution B3 [4].

Name	Symbol	Dim.	Definition	Source
pi	π	1	$3.1415926535897932384626433832795028841971 \dots$	[1]
eulersnumber	e	1	$2.7182818284590452353602874713526624977572 \dots$	[1]
speedoflight	c	$L^1 T^{-1}$	299792458 m/s	[1]
gravitationalconstant	G	$L^3 M^{-1} T^{-2}$	$N(6.67408e-11, 3.1e-15) \text{ m}^3/(\text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^2)$	[1]
planckconstant	h	$L^2 M^1 T^{-1}$	$6.62607015e-34 \text{ J} \cdot \text{s}$	[1]
reducedplanckconstant	\hbar	$L^2 M^1 T^{-1}$	$h/(2\pi)$	[1]
elementarycharge	e	$T^1 I^1$	$1.602176634e-19 \text{ C}$	[1]
vacuumpermeability	μ_0	$L^1 M^1 T^{-2} I^{-2}$	$4e-7\pi \text{ N/A}^2$	[1]
vacuumpermittivity	ϵ_0	$L^{-3} M^{-1} T^4 I^2$	$1/(\mu_0 c^2)$	[1]
atomicmassunit	u	M^1	$N(1.66053904e-27, 2e-35) \text{ kg}$	[1]
electronmass	m_e	M^1	$N(9.10938356e-31, 1.1e-38) \text{ kg}$	[1]
protonmass	m_p	M^1	$N(1.672621898e-27, 2.1e-35) \text{ kg}$	[1]
neutronmass	m_n	M^1	$N(1.674927471e-27, 2.1e-35) \text{ kg}$	[1]
bohrmagneton	μ_B	$L^2 I^1$	$\hbar/(2m_e)$	[1]
nuclearmagneton	μ_N	$L^2 I^1$	$\hbar/(2m_p)$	[1]

Name	Symbol	Dim.	Definition	Source
electronmagneticmoment	$_u_e$	$L^2 I^1$	$N(-928.4764620e-26, 5.7e-32) * _J/_T$	[1]
protonmagneticmoment	$_u_p$	$L^2 I^1$	$N(1.4106067873e-26, 9.7e-35) * _J/_T$	[1]
neutronmagneticmoment	$_u_n$	$L^2 I^1$	$N(-0.96623650e-26, 2.3e-26) * _J/_T$	[1]
finestructureconstant	$_alpha$	1	$_u_0 * e^2 * _c / (2 * _h_P)$	[1]
rydbergconstant	$_Ry$	L^{-1}	$_alpha^2 * _m_e * _c / (2 * _h_P)$	[1]
avogadronumber	$_N_A$	N^{-1}	$6.02214076e23 / _mol$	[1]
boltzmanncostant	$_k_B$	$L^2 M^1 T^{-2} \Theta^{-1}$	$1.380649e-23 * _J/_K$	[1]
molargascostant	$_R$	$L^2 M^1 T^{-2} \Theta^{-1} N^{-1}$	$N(8.3144598, 4.8e-6) * _J / (_K * _mol)$	[1]
stefanboltzmannconstant	$_sigma$	$L^2 M^1 T^{-2} \Theta^{-1} N^{-1}$	$Pi^2 * _k_B^4 / (60 * _h_Pbar^3 * _c^2)$	[1]
standardgravity	$_g_0$	$L^1 T^{-2}$	$9.80665 * _m / _s^2$	[1]
nonsolradius	$_R_S_nom$	L^1	$6.957e8 * _m$	[4]
nonsolirradiance	$_S_S_nom$	$M^1 T^{-3}$	$1361 * _W / _m^2$	[4]
nonsolluminosity	$_L_S_nom$	$L^2 M^1 T^{-3}$	$3.828e26 * _W$	[4]
nonsoleffttemperature	$_T_S_nom$	Θ^1	$5772 * _K$	[4]
nonsolmassparam	$_GM_S_nom$	$L^3 T^{-2}$	$1.3271244e20 * _m^3 * _s^{-2}$	[4]
nonterrerqradius	$_Re_E_nom$	L^1	$6.3781e6 * _m$	[4]
nonterrrpolradius	$_Rp_E_nom$	L^1	$6.3568e6 * _m$	[4]
nonterrmasparam	$_GM_E_nom$	$L^3 T^{-2}$	$3.986004e14 * _m^3 * _s^{-2}$	[4]

Name	Symbol	Dim.	Definition	Source
nomjovianegradius	_Re_J_nom	L^1	$7.1492e7 * _m$	[4]
nomjovianpolradius	_Rp_J_nom	L^1	$6.6854e7 * _m$	[4]
nomjovianmassparam	_GM_J_nom	$L^3 T^{-2}$	$1.2668653e17 * _m^3 s^{-2}$	[4]

Table 2: Physical and mathematical constants.

4.3 Coherent derived units in the SI

All units in this section are coherent derived units from the SI base units with special names, [2, 118].

Quantity	Unit	Symbol	Definition
Plane Angle ¹	radian	<code>_rad</code>	<code>_1</code>
Solid Angle ²	steradian	<code>_sr</code>	<code>_rad^2</code>
Frequency	hertz	<code>_Hz</code>	<code>1/_s</code>
Force	newton	<code>_N</code>	<code>_kg*_m/_s^2</code>
Pressure	pascal	<code>_Pa</code>	<code>_N/_m^2</code>
Energy	joule	<code>_J</code>	<code>_N*_m</code>
Power	watt	<code>_W</code>	<code>_J/_s</code>
Electric Charge	coulomb	<code>_C</code>	<code>_A*_s</code>
Electric Potential Difference	volt	<code>_V</code>	<code>_J/_C</code>
Electric Capacitance	farad	<code>_F</code>	<code>_C/_V</code>
Electric Resistance	ohm	<code>_Ohm</code>	<code>_V/_A</code>
Electric Conductance ³	siemens	<code>_S</code>	<code>_A/_V</code>
Magnetic Flux	weber	<code>_Wb</code>	<code>_V*_s</code>
Magnetic Flux Density	tesla	<code>_T</code>	<code>_Wb/_m^2</code>
Inductance	henry	<code>_H</code>	<code>_Wb/_A</code>
Celsius Temperature ⁴	celsius	<code>_degC</code>	<code>_K</code>
Luminous Flux	lumen	<code>_lm</code>	<code>_cd*_sr</code>
Illuminance	lux	<code>_lx</code>	<code>_lm/_m^2</code>

¹In the SI system, the quantity Plane Angle has the dimension of a number.

²In the SI system, the quantity Solid Angle has the dimension of a number.

³The unit `_PS` stands for peta siemens and is in conflict with the german version of the unit horsepower (Pferdestärke). Since the latter is more common than peta siemens, `_PS` is defined as the german version of horsepower.

⁴The unit `_degC` is by default interpreted as a temperature difference. For absolute temperature conversion, set the second parameter of the `to`-function, i.e. `(15*_degC):to(_K,true)`.

Quantity	Unit	Symbol	Definition
Activity	becquerel	<code>_Bq</code>	<code>1/_s</code>
Absorbed Dose	gray	<code>_Gy</code>	<code>_J/_kg</code>
Dose Equivalent	sievert	<code>_Sv</code>	<code>_J/_kg</code>
Catalytic Activity	katal	<code>_kat</code>	<code>_mol/_s</code>

Table 3: Coherent derived units of the SI

4.4 Non-SI units accepted for use with the SI

There are a few units with dimension 1. The unit Bel is only available with prefix decibel, because `_B` is the unit byte.

Quantity	Unit	Symbol	Definition
Time	minute	<code>_min</code>	<code>60*_s</code>
	hour	<code>_h</code>	<code>60*_min</code>
	day	<code>_d</code>	<code>24*_h</code>
Plane Angle	degree	<code>_deg</code>	<code>(_Pi/180)*_rad</code>
	arcminute	<code>_arcmin</code>	<code>_deg/60</code>
	arcsecond	<code>_arcsec</code>	<code>_arcmin/60</code>
Area	hectare	<code>_hectare</code>	<code>1e4*_m^2</code>
Volume	liter	<code>_L</code>	<code>1e-3*_m^3</code>
Mass	tonne	<code>_t</code>	<code>1e3*_kg</code>

Table 4: Units outside of the International System of Units (SI)

4.5 Other Non-SI units

Quantity	Unit	Symbol	Definition
Time	svedberg	<code>_svedberg</code>	$1\text{e-}13\text{*}_\text{s}$
	week	<code>_wk</code>	7*_d
	year	<code>_a</code>	365.25*_d
Length	angstrom	<code>_angstrom</code>	$1\text{e-}10\text{*}_\text{m}$
	fermi	<code>_fermi</code>	$1\text{e-}15\text{*}_\text{m}$
	astronomicalunit	<code>_au</code>	$149597870700\text{*}_\text{m}$
	lightsecond	<code>_ls</code>	$\text{c}\text{*}_\text{s}$
	lightyear	<code>_ly</code>	$\text{c}\text{*}_\text{a}$
	parsec	<code>_pc</code>	$(648000/\text{Pi})\text{*}_\text{au}$
Area	barn	<code>_barn</code>	$1\text{e-}28\text{*}_\text{m}^2$
	are	<code>_are</code>	$1\text{e}2\text{*}_\text{m}^2$
Volume	metricteaspoon	<code>_tsp</code>	$5\text{e-}3\text{*}_\text{L}$
	metrictablespoon	<code>_Tbsp</code>	3*_tsp
Plane Angle	gradian	<code>_gon</code>	$(\text{Pi}/200)\text{*}_\text{rad}$
	turn	<code>_tr</code>	$2\text{*Pi}\text{*}_\text{rad}$
Solid Angle	spat	<code>_sp</code>	$4\text{*Pi}\text{*}_\text{sr}$

Quantity	Unit	Symbol	Definition
Pressure	bar	<code>_bar</code>	<code>1e5*_Pa</code>
	standardatmosphere	<code>_atm</code>	<code>101325*_Pa</code>
	technicalatmosphere	<code>_at</code>	<code>_kp/_cm^2</code>
	millimeterofmercury	<code>_mmHg</code>	<code>133.322387415*_Pa</code>
	torr	<code>_Torr</code>	<code>(101325/760)*_Pa</code>
Force	kilopond	<code>_kp</code>	<code>_kg*_g_0</code>
Energy	thermochemicalcalorie	<code>_cal</code>	<code>4.184*_J</code>
	internationalcalorie	<code>_cal_IT</code>	<code>4.1868*_J</code>
	gramoftnt	<code>_g_TNT</code>	<code>1e3*_cal</code>
	tonoftnt	<code>_t_TNT</code>	<code>1e9*_cal</code>
	electronvolt	<code>_eV</code>	<code>_e*_V</code>
	wattsecond	<code>_Ws</code>	<code>_W*_s</code>
	watthour	<code>_Wh</code>	<code>_W*_h</code>
Power	voltampere	<code>_VA</code>	<code>_V*_A</code>
Electric Charge	amperesecond	<code>_As</code>	<code>_A*_s</code>
	amperehour	<code>_Ah</code>	<code>_A*_h</code>
Information	nibble	<code>_nibble</code>	<code>4*_bit</code>
	byte	<code>_B</code>	<code>8*_bit</code>
Information Transfer Rate	bitpersecond	<code>_bps</code>	<code>_bit/_s</code>
Number	percent	<code>_percent</code>	<code>1e-2*_1</code>
	permille	<code>_permille</code>	<code>1e-3*_1</code>
	partspmillion	<code>_ppm</code>	<code>1e-6*_1</code>
	partspbillion	<code>_ppb</code>	<code>1e-9*_1</code>
	partstrillion	<code>_ppt</code>	<code>1e-12*_1</code>
	partsquadrillion	<code>_ppq</code>	<code>1e-15*_1</code>
	decibel	<code>_dB</code>	<code>_1</code>

4.6 Imperial Units

Quantity	Unit	Symbol	Definition
Length	inch	<code>_in</code>	$0.0254*_m$
	thou	<code>_th</code>	$0.001*_in$
	pica	<code>_pica</code>	$_in/6$
	point	<code>_pt</code>	$_in/72$
	hand	<code>_hh</code>	$4*_in$
	foot	<code>_ft</code>	$12*_in$
	yard	<code>_yd</code>	$3*_ft$
	rod	<code>_rd</code>	$5.5*_yd$
	chain	<code>_ch</code>	$4*_rd$
	furlong	<code>_fur</code>	$10*_ch$
	mile	<code>_mi</code>	$8*_fur$
	league	<code>_lea</code>	$3*_mi$
	nauticalmile	<code>_nmi</code>	$1852 *_m$
	nauticalleague	<code>_nlea</code>	$3*_nmi$
	cable	<code>_cbl</code>	$_nmi/10$
	fathom	<code>_ftm</code>	$6*_ft$
Velocity	knot	<code>_kn</code>	$_nmi/_h$
Area	acre	<code>_ac</code>	$43560*_ft^2$
Volume	gallon	<code>_gal</code>	$4.54609*_L$
	quart	<code>_qt</code>	$_gal/4$
	pint	<code>_pint</code>	$_qt/2$
	cup	<code>_cup</code>	$_pint/2$
	gill	<code>_gi</code>	$_pint/4$
	fluidounce	<code>_fl_oz</code>	$_gi/5$
	fluid dram	<code>_fl_dr</code>	$_fl_oz/8$

Quantity	Unit	Symbol	Definition
Mass	grain	<code>_gr</code>	$64.79891 \times \text{mg}$
	pound	<code>_lb</code>	$7000 \times \text{gr}$
	ounce	<code>_oz</code>	$\text{lb}/16$
	dram	<code>_dr</code>	$\text{lb}/256$
	stone	<code>_st</code>	$14 \times \text{lb}$
	quarter	<code>_qtr</code>	$2 \times \text{st}$
	hundredweight	<code>_cwt</code>	$4 \times \text{qtr}$
	longton	<code>_ton</code>	$20 \times \text{cwt}$

Table 5: Imperial units

4.7 U.S. customary units

In the U.S., the length units are bound to the meter differently than in the imperial system. The following definitions are taken from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_customary_units.

Quantity	Unit	Symbol	Definition
Length	ussurveyinch	<code>_in_US</code>	<code>_m/39.37</code>
	ussurveyhand	<code>_hh_US</code>	<code>4*_in_US</code>
	ussurveyfoot	<code>_ft_US</code>	<code>3*_hh_US</code>
	ussurveylink	<code>_li_US</code>	<code>0.66*_ft_US</code>
	ussurveyyard	<code>_yd_US</code>	<code>3*_ft_US</code>
	ussurveyrod	<code>_rd_US</code>	<code>5.5*_yd_US</code>
	ussurveychain	<code>_ch_US</code>	<code>4*_rd_US</code>
	ussurveyfurlong	<code>_fur_US</code>	<code>10*_ch_US</code>
	ussurveymile	<code>_mi_US</code>	<code>8*_fur_US</code>
	ussurveyleague	<code>_lea_US</code>	<code>3*_mi_US</code>
	ussurveyfathom	<code>_ftm_US</code>	<code>72*_in_US</code>
	ussurveycable	<code>_cbl_US</code>	<code>120*_ftm_US</code>
Area	ussurveyacre	<code>_ac_US</code>	<code>_ch_US*_fur_US</code>
Volume	usgallon	<code>_gal_US</code>	<code>231*_in^3</code>
	usquart	<code>_qt_US</code>	<code>_gal_US/4</code>
	uspint	<code>_pint_US</code>	<code>_qt_US/2</code>
	uscup	<code>_cup_US</code>	<code>_pint_US/2</code>
	usgill	<code>_gi_US</code>	<code>_pint_US/4</code>
	usfluidounce	<code>_fl_oz_US</code>	<code>_gi_US/4</code>
	ustablespoon	<code>_Tbsp_US</code>	<code>_fl_oz_US/2</code>
	usteaspoon	<code>_tsp_US</code>	<code>_Tbsp_US/3</code>
	usfluid dram	<code>_fl_dr_US</code>	<code>_fl_oz_US/8</code>

Quantity	Unit	Symbol	Definition
Mass	usquarter	<code>_qtr_US</code>	<code>25*_1b</code>
Mass	ushundredweight	<code>_cwt_US</code>	<code>4*_qtr_US</code>
Mass	uston	<code>_ton_US</code>	<code>20*_cwt_US</code>

Table 6: U.S. customary units

4.8 International Currencies

Quantity	Unit	Symbol	Dimension	Definition
currency	Afghan afghani	_AFN	C	0.012*_EUR
	Albanian lek	_ALL	C	0.008*_EUR
	Armenian Dram	_AMD	C	0.0018*_EUR
	Angolan Kwanza	_AOA	C	0.0028*_EUR
	Argentine Peso	_ARS	C	0.021*_EUR
	Australian dollar	_AUD	C	0.63*_EUR
	Azerbaijani Manat	_AZN	C	0.63*_EUR
	Bosnian Mark	_BAM	C	0.51*_EUR
	Bangladeshi Taka	_BDT	C	0.011*_EUR
	Burundian Franc	_BIF	C	0.00049*_EUR
	Bolivian Boliviano	_BOB	C	0.13*_EUR
	Brazilian Real	_BRL	C	0.23*_EUR
	Botswana Pula	_BWP	C	0.083*_EUR
	Belarusian Ruble	_BYN	C	0.42*_EUR
	Canadian Dollar	_CAD	C	0.66*_EUR
	Congolese Franc	_CDF	C	0.00055*_EUR
	U.S. dollar	_USD	C	0.89*_EUR
	Japanese yen	_JPY	C	0.008*_EUR
	British pound	_GBP	C	1.17*_EUR
	Canadian dollar	_CAD	C	0.66*_EUR
	Swiss franc	_CHF	C	0.88*_EUR
	Chinese yuan	_CNY	C	0.13*_EUR
	Swedish krona	_SEK	C	0.094*_EUR
	New Zealand dollar	_NZD	C	0.60*_EUR

Table 7: Currency units based on exchange rates from 7.3.2019, 21:00 UTC.

5 Lua Documentation

In this chapter, the following shortcuts will be used.

```
1 local D = physical.Dimension
2 local U = physical.Unit
3 local N = physical.Number
4 local Q = physical.Quantity
```

The term **number** refers to a lua integer or a lua float number. By **string** a lua string is meant and by **bool** a lua boolean.

5.1 physical.Quantity

The quantity class is the main part of the library. Each physical Quantity and all units are represented by an instance of this class.

Q.new(q=nil)

Copy Constructor

Parameters

q : Q or **number**, optional
Optional argument is either Q, a **number** or **nil**.
return : Q
The created Q instance

Note

As an argument it takes Q, **number** or **nil**. If Q is given, a copy of it is made and returned. If a **number** is given, the function creates a dimensionless quantity with that value. In the case **nil** is given, the quantity **_1** is returned.

Example

```
1 myOne = Q()
2 myNumber = Q(42)
3 myLength = Q(73*_m)
```

Q.defineBase(symbol,name,dimension)

This function is used to declare the base units. Units are represented as Q instances.

Parameters

```

symbol : string
    symbol of the base quantity

name : string
    name of the base quantity

dimension : D
    Instance of the D class, which represents the dimension of the
    quantity.

return : Q
    The created Q instance.

```

Note

The function creates a global variable, an underscore concatenated with the **symbol** argument, e. g. **m** becomes the global variable **_m**.

The **name** is used for example in the **siunitx** conversion function, e.g **meter** will be converted to **\meter**.

Each quantity has a dimension associated with it. The argument **dimension** allows any dimension to be associated to base quantities. By default, the SI convention is used.

Example

```

1 Q.defineBase("m", "meter", L)
2 Q.defineBase("kg", "kilogram", M)

```

Quantity.define(symbol, name, q, tobase=nil, frombase=nil)

Creates a new derived unit from an expression of other units. For affine quantities like the temperature in celcius, one can give conversion functions to and from base units.

Parameters

```

symbol : string
    Symbol of the base quantity

name : string
    Name of the base quantity

q : physical.Quantity
    Definition of the unit

tobase : function, optional
    to convert a quantity to base units

frombase : function, optional
    to convert a quantity from the base units

```

```
return : Quantity
    The defined quantity
```

Examples

```
1  Q.define("L", "liter", _dm^3)
2  Q.define("Pa", "pascal", _N/_m^2)
3  Q.define("C", "coulomb", _A*_s)
4
5  Q.define(
6      "degC",
7      "celsius",
8      _K,
9      function(q)
10         q.value = q.value + 273.15
11         return q
12     end,
13     function(q)
14         q.value = q.value - 273.15
15         return q
16     end
17 )
```

Quantity.definePrefix(symbol,name,factor)

Defines a new prefix.

symbol : string, Symbol of the base quantity
name : string, Name of the base quantity
factor : number, the factor which corresponds to the prefix

```
1  Q.definePrefix("c", "centi", 1e-2)
2  Q.definePrefix("a", "atto", 1e-18)
```

Quantity.addPrefix(prefixes, units)

Create several units with prefixes from a given unit.

prefixes : string, list of unit symbols
units : Quantity, list of quantities

```
1  Q.addPrefix({"n","u","m","k","M","G"},{_m,_s,_A})
```


Quantity.to(self,q,usefunction=false)

Converts the quantity self to the unit of the quantity q. If the boolean usefunction is true, the conversion function is used for conversion.

```
self : Quantity
q : Quantity
usefunction : Bool
```

```
1 s = 1.9 * _km
2 print( s:to(_m) )
3 1900 * _m
4
5 T = 10 * _degC
6 print( T:to(_K) )
7 10 * _K
8 print( T:to(_K,true) )
9 283.15 * _K
```

Quantity.tosiunitx(self,param,mode)

Converts the quantity into a siunitx string.

```
self : Quantity
param : string
mode : Number, 0:\SI, 1:\num, 2:\si
```

```
1 s = 1.9 * _km
2
3 print( s:tosiunitx() )
4 \SI{1.9}{\kilo\meter}
5
6 print( s:tosiunitx(nil,1) )
7 \num{1.9}
8
9 print( s:tosiunitx(nil,2) )
10 \si{\kilo\meter}
```

Quantity.isclose(self,q,r)

Checks if this quantity is close to another one. The argument r is the maximal relative deviation.

```
self : Quantity
q : Quantity, Number
r : Number
```

```

1 s_1 = 1.9 * _m
2 s_2 = 2.0 * _m
3 print( s_1:isclose(s_2,0.1) )
4 true
5 print( s_1:isclose(s_2,0.01) )
6 false

```

Quantity.min(q1, q2, ...)

Returns the smallest quantity of several given ones. The function returns **q1** if the Quantities are equal.

q1 : Quantity,Number, first argument

q2 : Quantity,Number, second argument

```

1 s_1 = 15 * _m
2 s_2 = 5 * _m
3 print(s_1:min(s_2))
4 5 * _m

```

Quantity.max(q1, q2, ...)

Returns the biggest quantity of several given ones. The function returns **q1** if the Quantities are equal.

q1 : Quantity,Number, first argument

q2 : Quantity,Number, second argument

```

1 s_1 = 15 * _m
2 s_2 = 5 * _m
3 print(s_1:max(s_2))
4 15 * _m

```

Quantity.abs(q)

Returns the absolute value of the given quantity **q**.

q : Quantity,Number, argument

```

1 U = -5 * _V
2 print(U)
3 -5 * _V
4 print(U:abs())
5 5 * _V

```

Quantity.sqrt(q)

Returns the square root of the given quantity.

q : Quantity, Number argument

```
1 A = 25 * _m^2
2 s = sqrt(A)
3 print(s)
4
```

Quantity.log(q, base)

Returns the logarithm of the given quantity. If no base is given, the natural logarithm is calculated.

q : Quantity, Number dimensionless argument

base : Quantity, Number dimensionless argument

```
1 I = 1 * _W/_m^2
2 I_0 = 1e-12 * _W/_m^2
3 print(10 * (I/I_0):log(10) * _dB )
4 120 * _dB
```

Quantity.exp(q)

Returns the value of the exponential function of the given quantity.

q : Quantity, Number dimensionless argument

```
1 x = 2 * _1
2 print( x:exp() )
3 7.3890560989307
```

Quantity.sin(q)

Returns the value of the sinus function of the given quantity.

q : Quantity, Number dimensionless argument

```
1 alpha = 30 * _deg
2 print( alpha:sin() )
3 0.5
```

Quantity.cos(q)

Returns the value of the cosinus function of the given quantity. The quantity has to be dimensionless.

`q : Quantity, Number dimensionless argument`

```
1 alpha = 60 * _deg
2 print( alpha:cos() )
3 0.5
```

Quantity.tan(q)

Returns the value of the tangent function of the given quantity. The quantity has to be dimensionless.

`q : Quantity, Number dimensionless argument`

```
1 alpha = 45 * _deg
2 print( alpha:tan() )
3 1
```

Quantity.asin(q)

Returns the value of the arcus sinus function of the given quantity. The quantity has to be dimensionless.

`q : Quantity, Number dimensionless argument`

```
1 x = 0.5 * _1
2 print( x:asin():to(_deg) )
3 30 * _deg
```

Quantity.acos(q)

Returns the value of the arcus cosinus function of the given quantity. The quantity has to be dimensionless.

`q : Quantity, Number dimensionless argument`

```
1 x = 0.5 * _1
2 print( x:acos():to(_deg) )
3 60 * _deg
```

Quantity.atan(q)

Returns the value of the arcus tangent function of the given quantity. The quantity has to be dimensionless.

q : **Quantity**, **Number** dimensionless argument

```
1 x = 1 * _1
2 print( x:atan():to(_deg) )
3 45 * _deg
```

Quantity.sinh(q)

Returns the value of the hyperbolic sine function of the given quantity. The quantity has to be dimensionless. Since lua doesn't implement the hyperbolic functions the following formula is used

$$\sinh(x) = 0.5 \cdot e^x - 0.5/e^x \quad .$$

q : **Quantity**, **Number** dimensionless argument

```
1 x = 1 * _1
2 print( x:sinh() )
3 1.1752011936438
```

Quantity.cosh(q)

Returns the value of the hyperbolic cosine function of the given quantity. The quantity has to be dimensionless. Since lua doesn't implement the hyperbolic functions the following formula is used

$$\cosh(x) = 0.5 \cdot e^x + 0.5/e^x \quad .$$

q : **Quantity**, **Number** dimensionless argument

```
1 x = 1 * _1
2 print( x:cosh() )
3 1.5430806348152
```

Quantity.tanh(q)

Returns the value of the hyperbolic tangent function of the given quantity. The quantity has to be dimensionless. Since lua doesn't implement the hyperbolic functions the following formula is used

$$\tanh(x) = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{e^x + e^{-x}} \quad .$$

q : **Quantity,Number** dimensionless argument

```
1  x = 1 * _1
2  print( x:tanh() )
3  0.76159415595576
```

Quantity.asinh(q)

Returns the value of the inverse hyperbolic sine function of the given quantity. The quantity has to be dimensionless. Since lua doesn't implement the hyperbolic functions the following formula is used

$$\operatorname{asinh}(x) = \ln \left(x + \sqrt{x^2 + 1} \right) \quad .$$

q : **Quantity,Number** dimensionless argument

```
1  x = 1 * _1
2  print( x:asinh() )
3  0.88137358701954
```

Quantity.acosh(q)

Returns the value of the inverse hyperbolic cosine function of the given quantity. The quantity has to be dimensionless. Since lua doesn't implement the hyperbolic functions the following formula is used

$$\operatorname{acosh}(x) = \ln \left(x + \sqrt{x^2 - 1} \right) \quad , x > 1 \quad .$$

q : **Quantity,Number** dimensionless argument bigger than or equal to one.

```
1  x = 2 * _1
2  print( x:acosh() )
3  1.3169578969248
```

Quantity.atanh(q)

Returns the value of the inverse hyperbolic cosine function of the given quantity. The quantity has to be dimensionless. Since lua doesn't implement the hyperbolic functions the following formula is used

$$\operatorname{atanh}(x) = \ln \left(\frac{1+x}{1-x} \right) \quad , -1 < x < 1 \quad .$$

q : **Quantity**, **Number** dimensionless argument with magnitude smaller than one.

```
1  x = 0.5 * _1
2  print( x:atanh() )
3  0.54930614433405
```

5.2 physical.Dimension

All physical quantities do have a physical dimension. For example the quantity *Area* has the dimension L^2 (length to the power of two). In the SI-System there are seven base dimensions, from which all other dimensions are derived. Each dimension is represented by an n -tuple, where n is the number of base dimensions. Each physical quantity has an associated dimension object. It is used to check if two quantities can be added or subtracted and if they are equal.

Dimension.new(q=nil)

Constructor of the **Dimension** class.

Parameters

q : **Dimension** or **string**, optional

The name or symbol of the dimension. If **q** is a dimension, a copy of it is made. If no argument is given, a dimension *zero* is created.

return : **Dimension**

The created **Quantity** object

Notes

—

Examples

```
1  V_1 = D("Velocity")
2  L = D("L")
3  V_2 = D(L/T)
```

5.3 physical.Unit

The task of this class is keeping track of the unit term. The unit term is a fraction of units. The units in the enumerator and denominator can have an exponent.

Unit.new(u=nil)

Copy Constructor. It copies a given unit object. If nothing is given, an empty unit is created.

Parameters

u : Unit

The unit object which will be copied.

return : Unit

The created Unit object

Unit.new(symbol, name, prefixsymbol=nil, prefixname=nil)

Constructor. A new Unit object with symbol is created. The prefixsymbol and prefixname are optional.

Parameters

symbol : String

The symbol of the unit.

name : String

The name of the unit.

prefixsymbol : String

The optional symbol of the prefix.

prefixname : String

The optional name of the prefix.

return : Unit

The created Unit object

Unit.tosiunitx(self)

The unit term will be compiled into a string, which the LaTeX package siunitx can understand.

Parameters

return : String

The siunitx representation of the unit term.

5.4 physical.Number

It does arithmetics with gaussian error propagation. A number instance has a mean value called **x** and an uncertainty called **dx**.

Number.new(n=nil)

This is the copy Constructor. It copies a given number object. If **n** is **nil**, an instance representing number zero with uncertainty zero is created.

Parameters

n : **Number**
The number object to be copied.
return : **Number**
The created **Number** instance.

Number.new(x, dx)

This constructor, creates a new instance with mean value **x** and uncertainty **dx**.

Parameters

x : **number**
mean value
dx : **number**
uncertainty value
return : **Number**
The created **Number** instance.

Examples

```
1  n = N(12,0.1)
2  print(n)
```

Number.new(str)

This constructor creates a new instance from a string. It can parse strings of the form 3.4, 3.4e-3, 5.4e-3 +/- 2.4e-6, 5.45(7)e-23.

Parameters / Return

str : **string**
The number as a string.

```
return : Number
        The created Number object
```

Examples

```
1  n_1 = N("12.3e-6")
2  print(n_1)
3
4  n_2 = N("12 +/- 0.1")
5  print(n_2)
6
7  n_3 = N("12.0(1)")
8  print(n_3)
```

Number.mean(n)

Returns the mean value

Parameters / Return

```
return : number
        The mean value
```

Number.uncertainty(n)

Returns the uncertainty value

Parameters / Return

```
return : number
        The uncertainty value
```

Number.abs(n)

Returns the absolute value of the number.

Parameters / Return

```
return : number
        The absolute value
```

Number.sqrt(n)

Returns the square root of the number.

Parameters / Return

```
return : number
        The square root
```

References

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- [4] Prša et al. Nominal values for selected solar and planetary quantities: IAU 2015 resolution B3. The Astronomical Journal, 152:41, August 2016.