

Килограмм уже не тот

Переопределение международной системы единиц СИ

Андрей Суржиков

Technische Universität Braunschweig /
Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB)



New system of units SI

The collage includes:

- A screenshot of the znak.com website with the headline: "Мир переходит на новую систему единиц измерений. Почему это важно и участвует ли в этом Россия?" (The world is transitioning to a new system of units of measurement. Why is it important and does Russia participate in this?).
- A BBC News Russia snippet from June 6, 2019, titled "Прощай, килограмм! Почему наша единица массы безнадежно устарела" (Goodbye, kilogram! Why our unit of mass is hopelessly outdated), featuring Nikolai Voronin.
- A photograph of three black metal weight blocks labeled 1kg, 2kg, and 500g.
- A graphic showing two circular diagrams representing the SI system. The left diagram shows the seven base units: kg, m, s, A, K, mol, and cd. The right diagram shows the derived units: h, c, ΔL, N^A, K, e, and A.
- A graphic of a balance scale with the word "SI" on its pan.
- A dark banner with the text "Э | Л | Е_e | М_m | Е_e | Н_n | Т_t | ы_y" (E | L | E_e | M_m | E_e | N_n | T_t | y_y) next to the circular unit diagrams.
- A snippet from the "НАУКА И ЖИЗНЬ" magazine library section with the headline: "Последним сдался килограмм" (The kilogram has finally given up).
- A graphic of the same circular unit diagrams as the top-right image.

What it is all about? What is the system of units and why it requires revision?

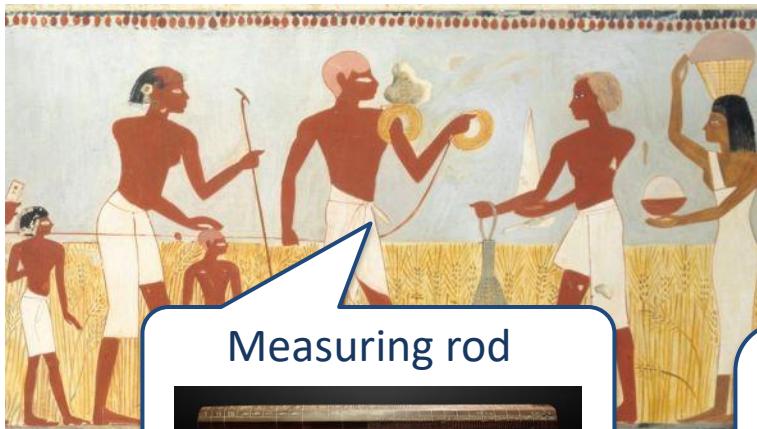
Standards of measurements

The measurements have been known and strongly demanded from the earliest days of human history: in religion, in farming, in trade.



Feather of Ma'at

Anubis weighing the souls of the dead.



Land surveying (1400 B.C.)

Measuring rod



Weight from Gela

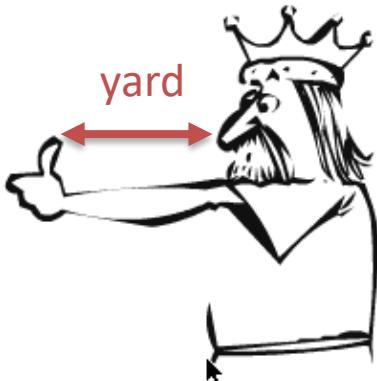


Weight from Gela

In order to make measurements and compare their results one needs to define the **standard of measurement**.

Obsolete length measures

In ancient and medieval Europe, there were no common standard length measures: each region could have its own.



The yard was introduced by King Edgar the Peaceful and defined as the distance from the tip of His Majesty's nose to the tip of the finger stretched out towards the hand. But kings change... And the yard, respectively, also changed.

The unification of the standards was required!

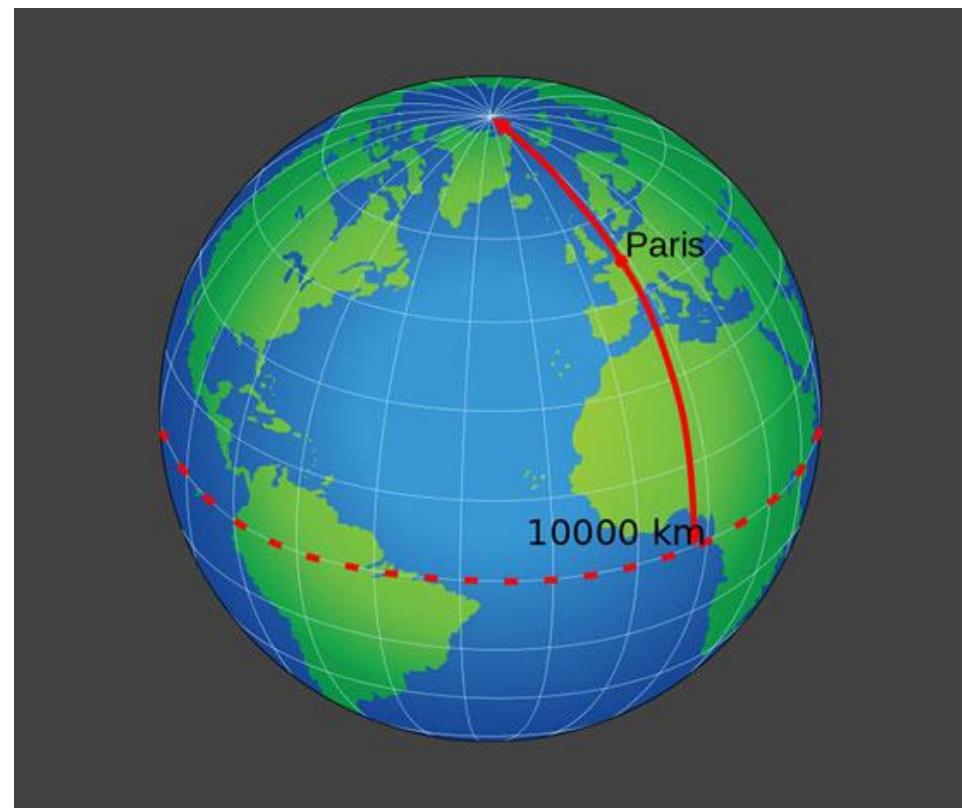
Universal length measure



Fait à l'Académie le 19 mars 1791. Signé BORDA,
LA GRANGE, LA PLACE, MONGE, CONDORCET.

“...The idea of referring all measurements to a unit of length taken from Nature was seized upon by mathematicians as soon as the existence of such a unit and the possibility of determining it became known...”

The French revolution has led to the idea of a universal measure of length – **meter** as one forty-millionth part of the Paris meridian.

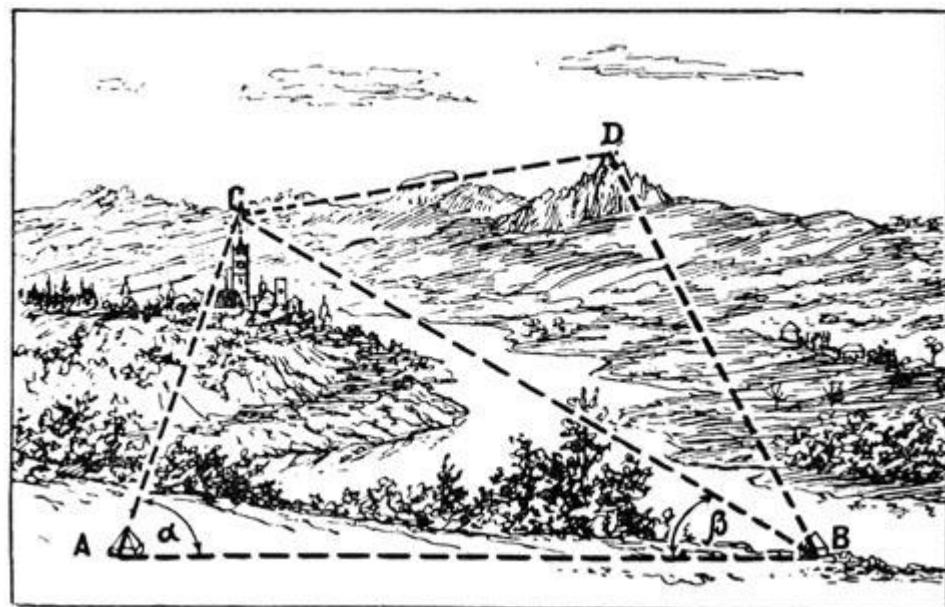


Terry Quinn's translation of the original French text of the report made to the Académie Royale des Sciences “on the choice of a unit of measurement”

Parisian meridian: Length measurement



In 1792-1797, Delambre and Méchain measured the arc of the Parisian meridian length of $9^\circ 40'$ from Dunkirk to Barcelona, laying a chain of 115 triangles across all of France and part of Spain.

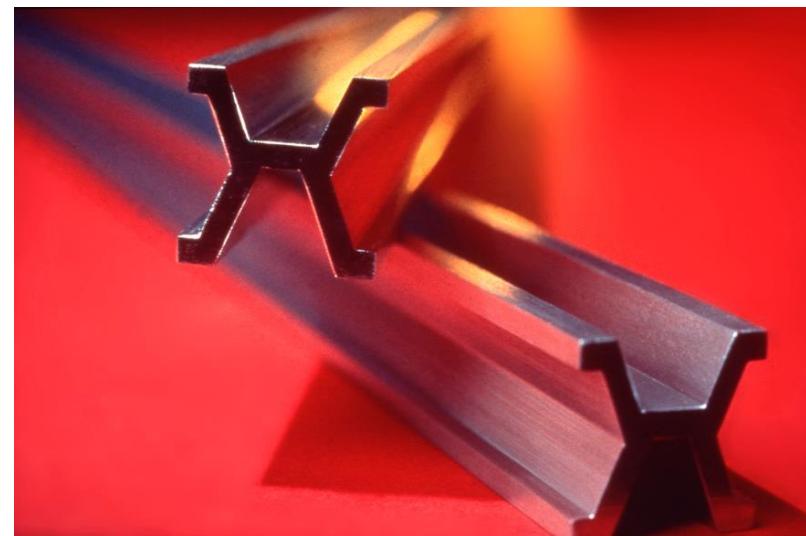


Standard meter



On December 10, 1799, the introduction of a new **metric system** was announced. That year, the first ever standard meter was created. Thousand copies of the new unit of measurement were made and sent to the entire country, and then to the world.

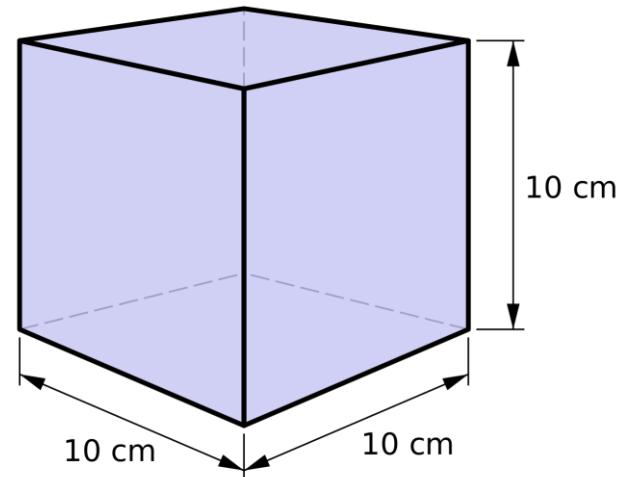
There is no need to measure the meridian length every time we need to determine what a meter is. You can create a **standard** for a meter.



From meter to kilogram

We can now define a kilogram as the mass of one cubic decimeter of distilled water at the temperature of melting ice.

Please note: we determine kilogram based on the meter!



Again, it is not very convenient to measure the mass of one liter of water each time.

The "main" standard is made of platinum-iridium alloy and is stored in the International Bureau of Weights and Measures.

For all times, for all people

In 1875 in Paris was signed an international treaty "Metric Convention", which serves to ensure the unity of metrological standards in different countries.



For all times, for all people

КРЕСТЬЯНЕ И РАБОЧИЕ!

Научитесь пользоваться метрическими мерами: эти меры будут в ходу в Советской России с октября 1924 года.

ЗАЧЕМ НУЖНА МЕТРИЧЕСКАЯ СИСТЕМА МЕР И ВЕСОВ

Основная международная мера веса—**КИЛОГРАММ**

Основная международная мера длины—**МЕТР**



1 АРШИН = 71,1 САНТИМЕТРА

на юбку нужно 6 аршин или
бери 4 метра 30 сантиметров
на брюки идет 1 арш.
или
нужно 1 метр и 25 сантиметров

мешок муки весом в 4 п. 35 ф.
весит 80 килограммов
бочонок масла весом в 3½ пуда
весит 57 килограммов 330 граммов

ПРОЩЕ СЧИТАТЬ—МЕНЬШЕ ВРЕМЕНИ ТЕРЯТЬ!

Заграницей нашего советского способа мер и взвешивания проще, чем у нас, однаково в разных странах:

это особенно важно, когда государства торгуют друг с другом, их счет легко вспоминать и ему легко обучать:

тысяча метров—КИЛОМЕТР
сотня граммов—САНТИМЕТР

ЗАПОМИНИ

МЕТР

КИЛОГРАММ

ЛИТР

ГЕКТАР

тысяча километров—ТОННА

тысячные части килограмма—ГРАММ

ПРИМЕРНО:

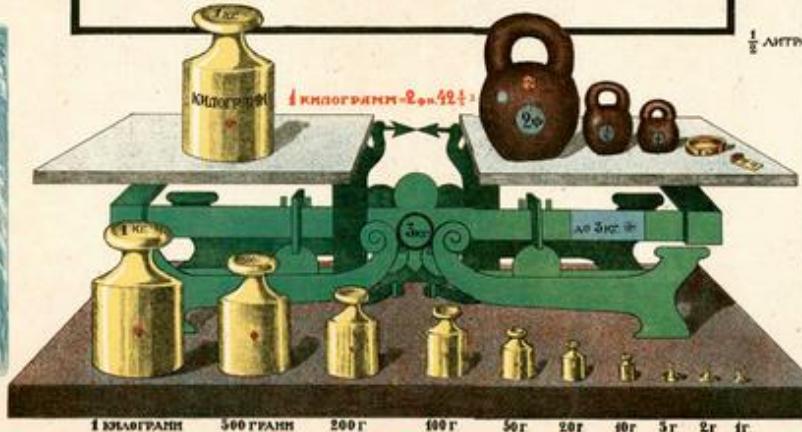
тысяча километров—ТОННА

тысячные части килограмма—ГРАММ

ОТПЕЙ 5 стаканов
ПОЛУЧИШЬ новую меру
ОДИН ЛИТР



1 ЛИТР ЧИСТОЙ ВОДЫ
ВЕСИТ 1 КИЛОГРАММ
или 2 фн. 42½ золотника



МЫЛО

в кусках
ВЕСОМ



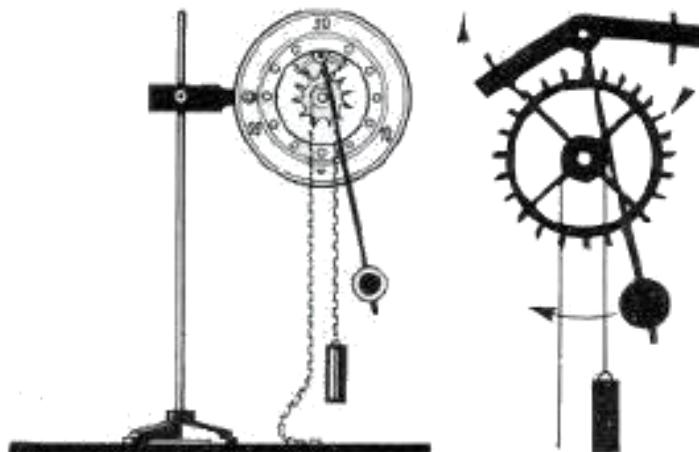
1 КИЛОГРАММ
(2 фн. 42½)

на все времена: для всех народов



Time measurements

So far, we haven't touched the time units. It is clear that we need some kind of **cyclic process** to measure time. Since ancient times, people observed such processes: the alternation of night and day, seasons...



In the Age of Discovery, more and more precise mechanical watches have been developed. But the period of oscillation of the pendulum depends on the geographical latitude. And, much more seriously, it is impossible to create several the same mechanisms.

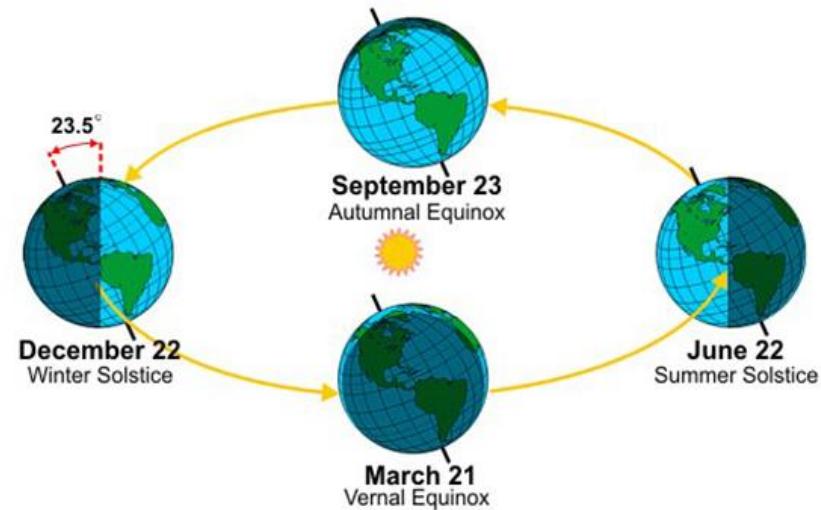
Day, year and... second

Over many centuries of astronomical observations, very accurate data on the movement of the Sun have been accumulated. It seemed natural to define a second as a certain proportion of the year.

For example, in 1960, the second was defined as

„the fraction $1/31,556,925.9747$ of the tropical year for 1900 January 0 at 12 hours ephemeris time“

Why is that such a strange definition? What does 1900 have to do with this? The reason is that the Earth's speed of rotation is not constant, but changes over time.



International System of Units

The extension of the metric system is the international system of units (SI), which we all know since our school physics classes.

International System of Units (SI)						
SI Base Units			SI Prefixes			
Base Quantity	Name	Symbol	Factor	Name	Symbol	Numerical Value
Length	meter	m	10^{12}	tera	T	1 000 000 000 000
Mass	kilogram	kg	10^3	giga	G	1 000 000 000
Time	second	s	10^6	mega	M	1 000 000
Electric current	ampere	A	10^3	kilo	k	1 000
Temperature	K	10^2	hecto	h	100	
Amount of substance	mole	mol	10^1	deka	da	10
Luminous intensity	candela	cd	10^{-1}	deci	d	0.1
			10^{-2}	centi	c	0.01
			10^{-3}	milli	m	0.001
			10^{-6}	micro	μ	0.000 001
			10^{-9}	nano	n	0.000 000 001
			10^{-12}	pico	p	0.000 000 000 001
SI Derived Units						
Derived Quantity	Name	Symbol	Equivalent SI units			
Frequency	hertz	Hz	s^{-1}			
Force	newton	N	$m \cdot kg \cdot s^{-2}$			
Pressure	pascal	Pa	N/m^2			
Energy	joule	J	$N \cdot m$			
Power	watt	W	J/s			
Electric charge	coulomb	C	$s \cdot A$			
Electric potential	volt	V	W/A			
Electric resistance	ohm	Ω	V/A			
Celsius temperature	degree Celsius	$^{\circ}C$	K*			

*Unit degree Celsius is equal in magnitude to unit Kelvin.

• Adapted from NIST Special Publication 811
• SI rules and style conventions recommend using spaces rather than commas to separate groups of three digits.

FLINN
SCIENTIFIC, INC.
Your Online Source for Science Supplies
© 2008 Flinn Scientific, Inc. All Rights Reserved
APR08

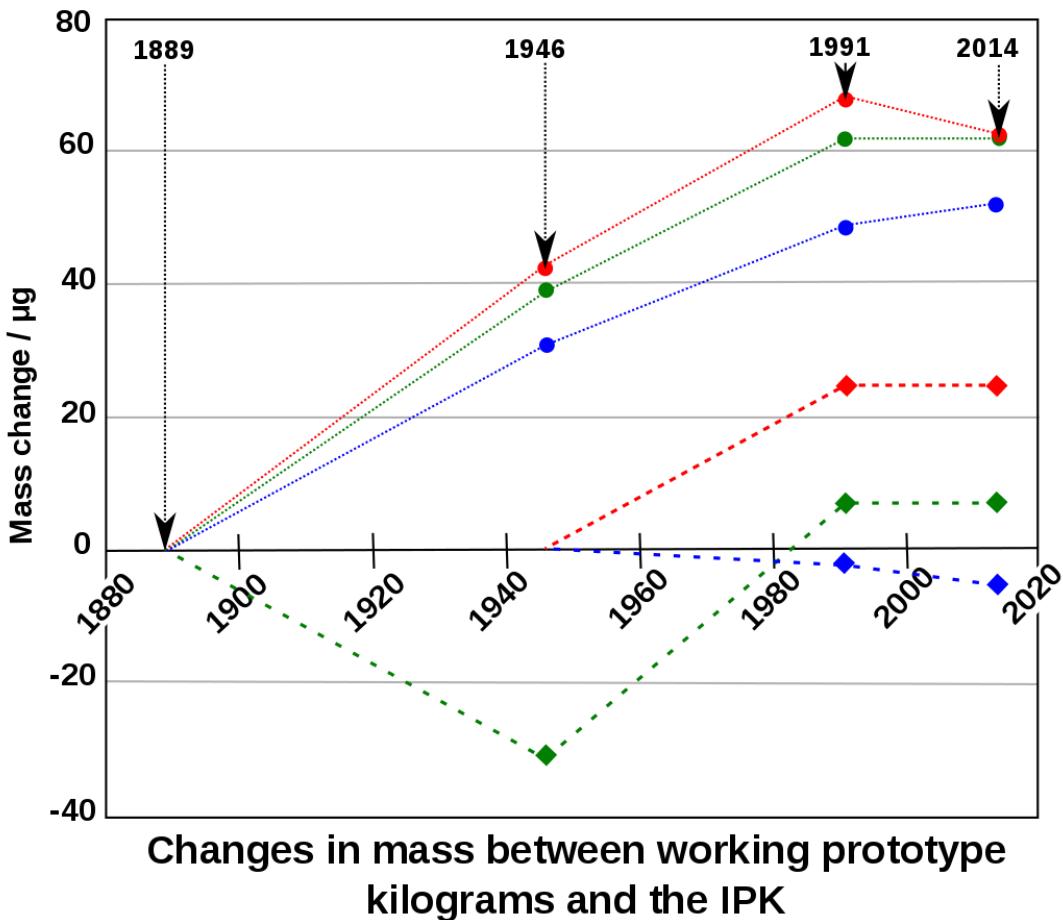
Is that all? Is this the end of our history? Not at all!



Problems with artifacts

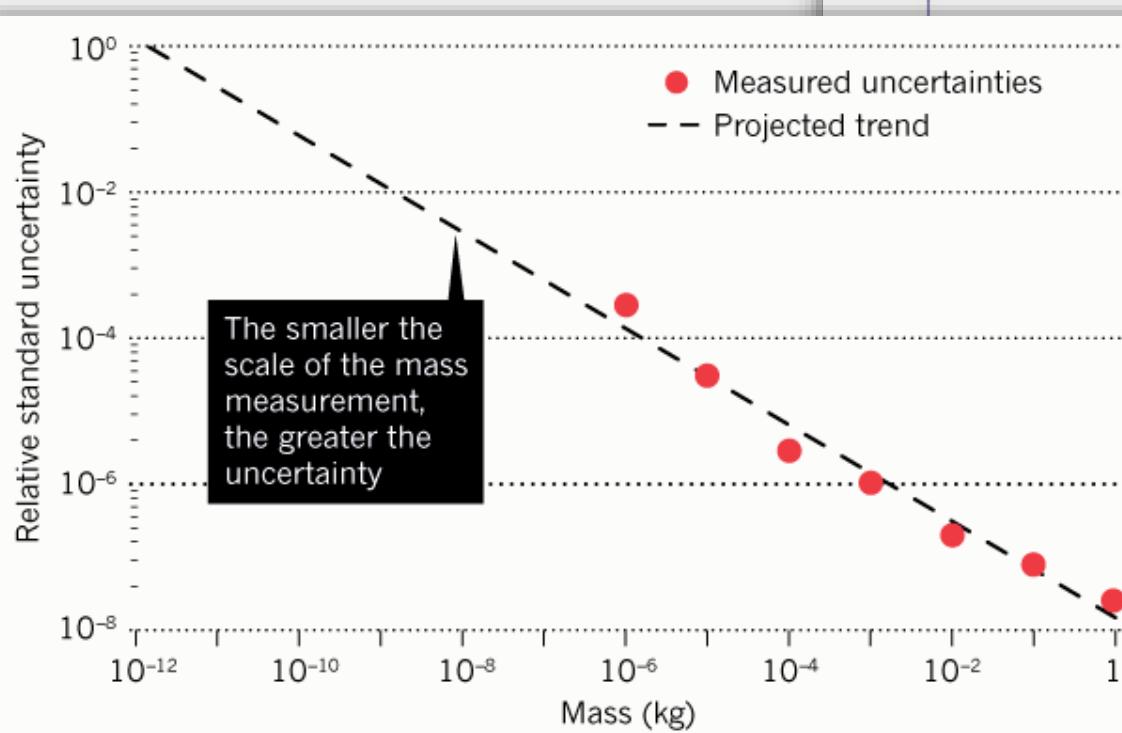
Old standards are physical objects (artifacts) whose properties can change over time.

For example, the Parisian (main) standard of the kilogram has "become lighter" in a hundred years.

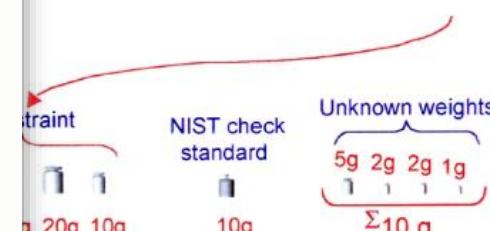
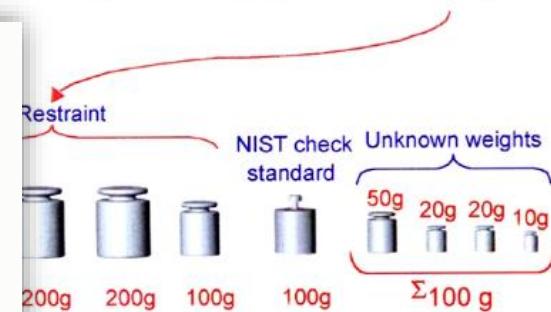
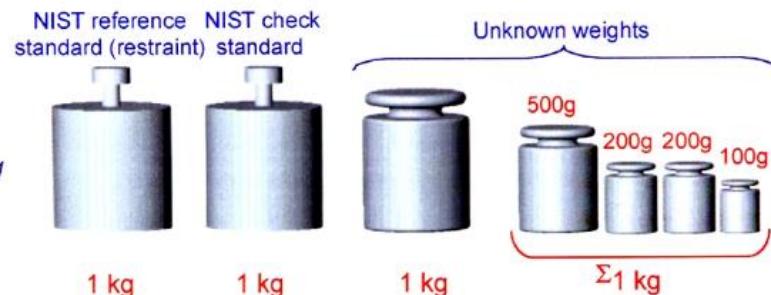


Problems with scalability of measurements

Yet another problem with artifacts as standards: how to measure very small/very large (comparing to an artifact) quantities?



Volume 106, Number 1, January–February 2001
Journal of Research of the National Institute of Standards and Technology

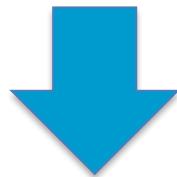
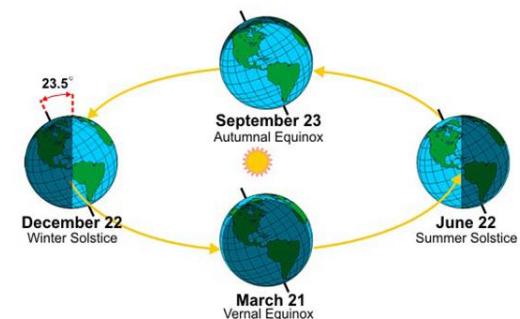


of the weighing designs used in the dissemination to submultiples of the

New system of units

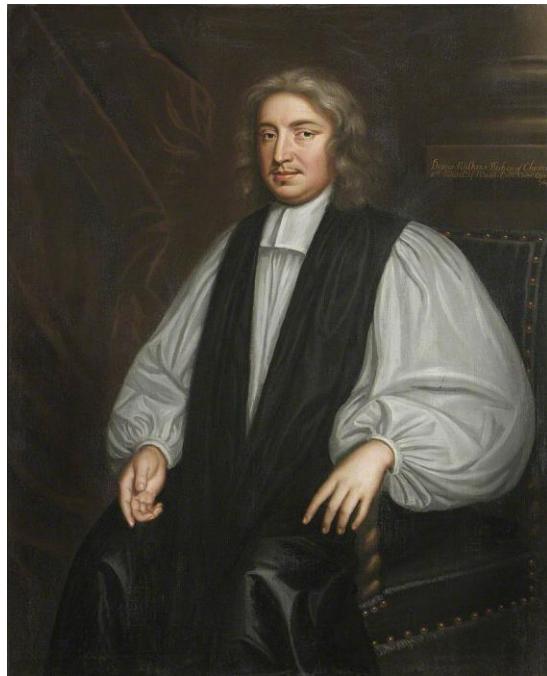
Over the last hundred years, the system of SI units has been modified step by step. In May 2019, this modification was completed. **What is its main meaning of this modification?**

From the artifacts



To physical phenomena

Measures based on natural phenomena



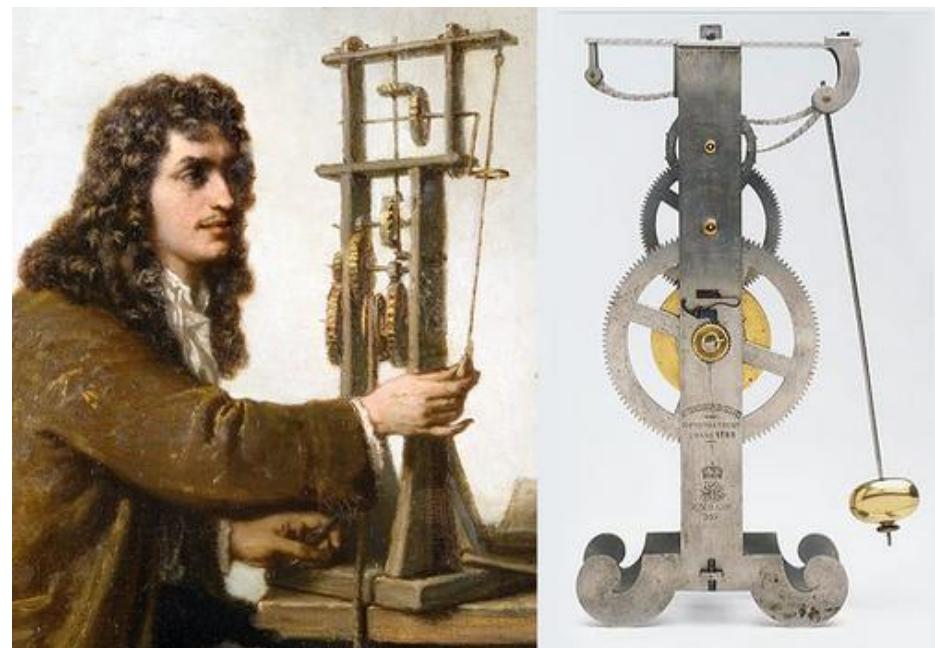
John Wilkins (1614-1672)

The idea didn't work: the oscillation period depends on the geographical latitude.

But the idea was right!

John Wilkins offered to choose for the unit length the pendulum with a half-period of oscillations equal to 1 s.

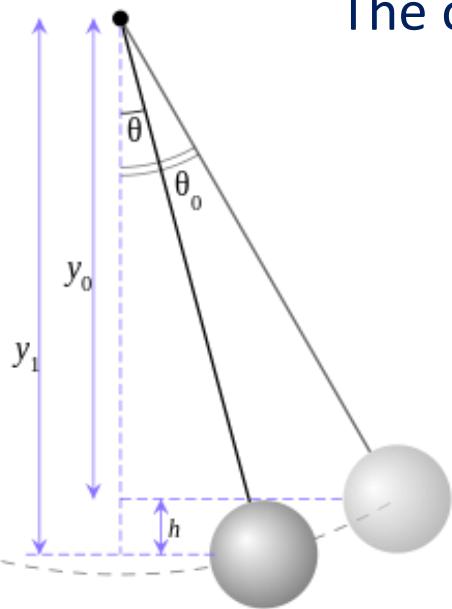
Just at that time, Christian Huygens perfected the pendulum clock.



Simple model: Mathematical pendulum

The oscillation period of the mathematical pendulum:

$$T = 2\pi\sqrt{l/g}$$



If we could accurately measure the oscillation time, we determine the length unit through the length of the pendulum l .

But! In addition to the formula linking T and l , we need to know the value of the physical constant g - acceleration of gravity.

Very important moment. The introduction of a system of units based on natural phenomena requires us to know:

The laws of physics
(formulas)



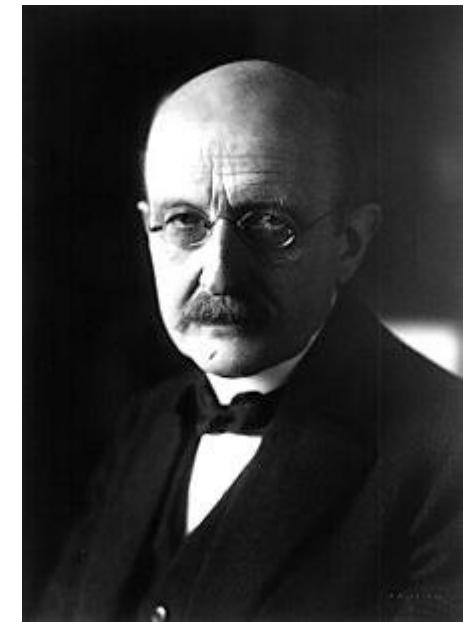
The physical constants that enter these formulas

Units based on natural phenomena

4. *Ueber irreversible Strahlungsvorgänge;* *von Max Planck.*

(Nach den Sitzungsber. d. k. Akad. d. Wissensch. zu Berlin vom 4. Februar 1897, 8. Juli 1897, 16. December 1897, 7. Juli 1898, 18. Mai 1899 und nach einem auf der 71. Naturf.-Vers. in München gehaltenen Vortrage für die Annalen bearbeitet vom Verfasser.)

Die nachfolgende Arbeit enthält eine Darlegung der Hauptergebnisse meiner unter dem obigen Titel veröffentlichten Untersuchungen über die Bedeutung des zweiten Hauptsatzes der Thermodynamik für die Erscheinungen der Wärmestrahlung, vom Standpunkt der elektromagnetischen Lichttheorie betrachtet.



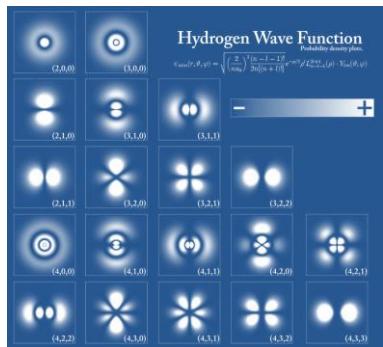
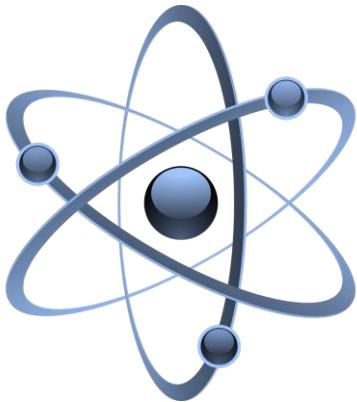
Max Planck (1858-1947)

“...On the other hand, it should be of interest to remark that **with the help of the two constants a and b , we have the possibility of establishing units for length, mass, time, and temperature which—** independent of special bodies and substances—necessarily maintain their validity for all time and for all cultures, even extra-terrestrial and nonhuman.”

Quantum physics and relativity

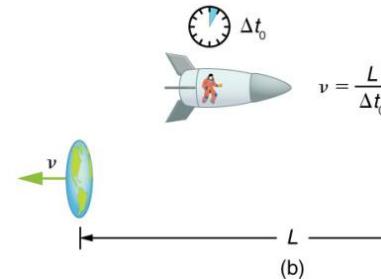
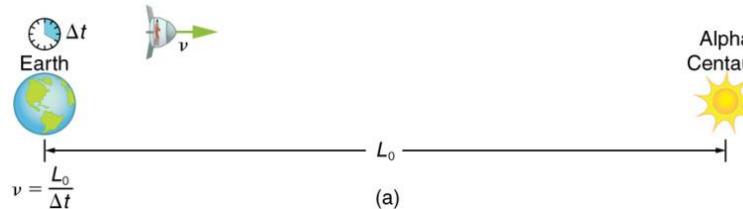
Two theories define the modern physics: quantum theory and relativity.

Quantum theory



Going deeper and deeper into the microscopic world.

Theory of relativity



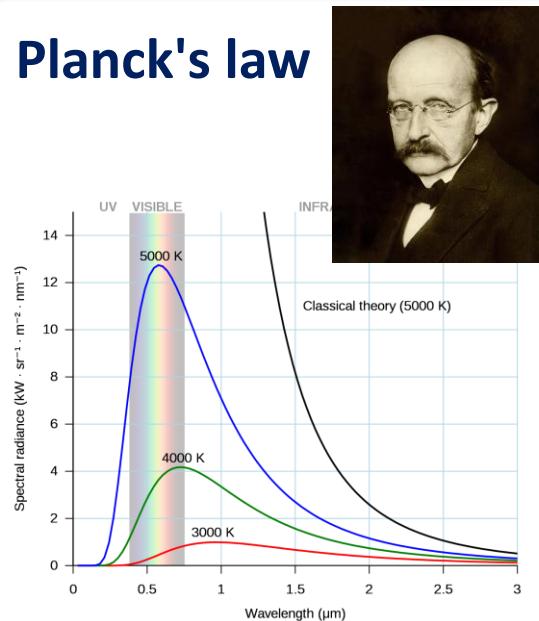
<https://openstax.org/details/books/university-physics-volume-3>

Going faster and faster.

Which constants of Nature were “originated” from these two theories?
And which role do they play in metrology?

Quantum physics and Planck constant

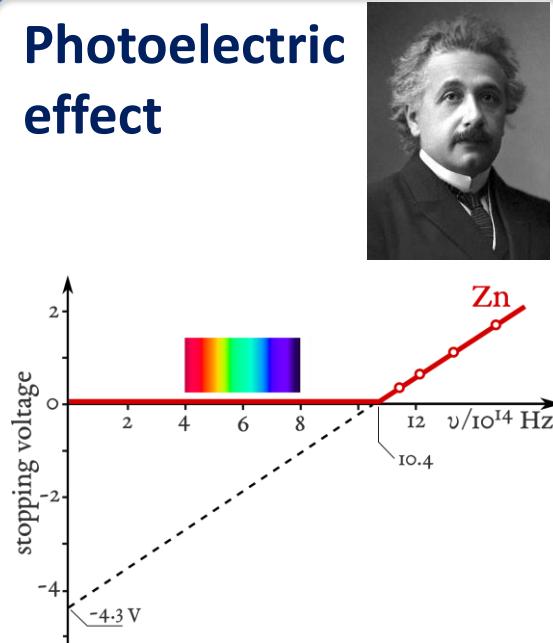
Planck's law



h as fitting parameter

$$B(\lambda, T) = \frac{2hc^2}{\lambda^5} \frac{1}{e^{\frac{hc}{\lambda k_B T}} - 1}$$

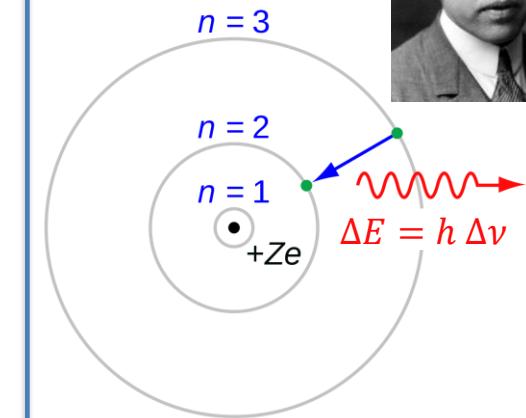
Photoelectric effect



Idea of light quanta

$$E_{kin} = h\nu - E_b$$

Atomic spectra



Atomic transition energies are quantized

$$E_a - E_b = h \Delta\nu_{ab}$$

Concept of quantization of atomic levels and, hence, transition energies (frequencies) allowed modern definition of the second:

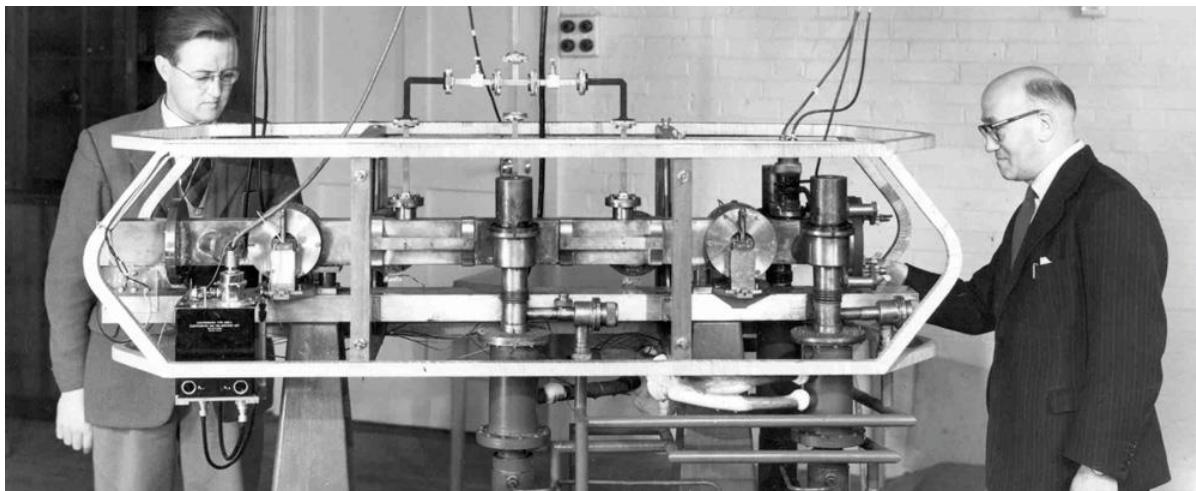
$$\Delta\nu_{Cs} = 9\,192\,631\,770\,1/\text{s}$$

Cesium atomic clocks

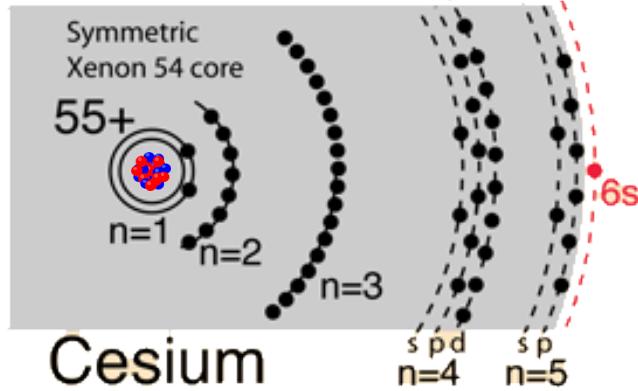
A second is defined as the duration of 9192631770 cycles of microwave radiation absorbed or emitted during the hyperfine transition in cesium-133 atom undisturbed by external fields:

$$\Delta\nu_{Cs} = 9192631770 \text{ Hz}$$

The relative standard uncertainty of the Cs clocks is about 10^{-16} .

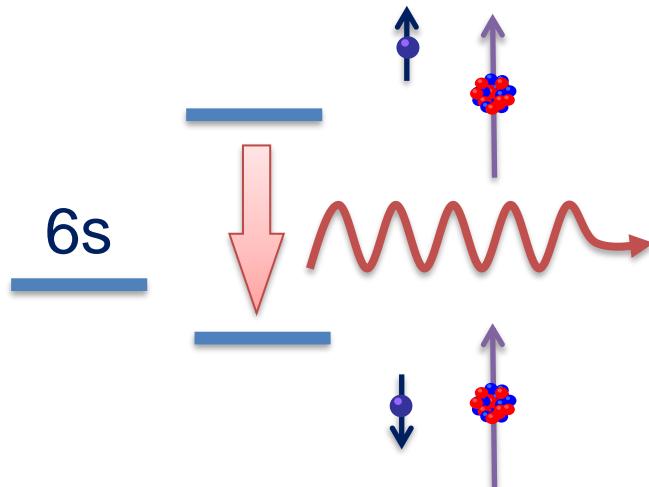


First cesium clock built in 1953 at the NPL by Louis Essen and Jack Parry.

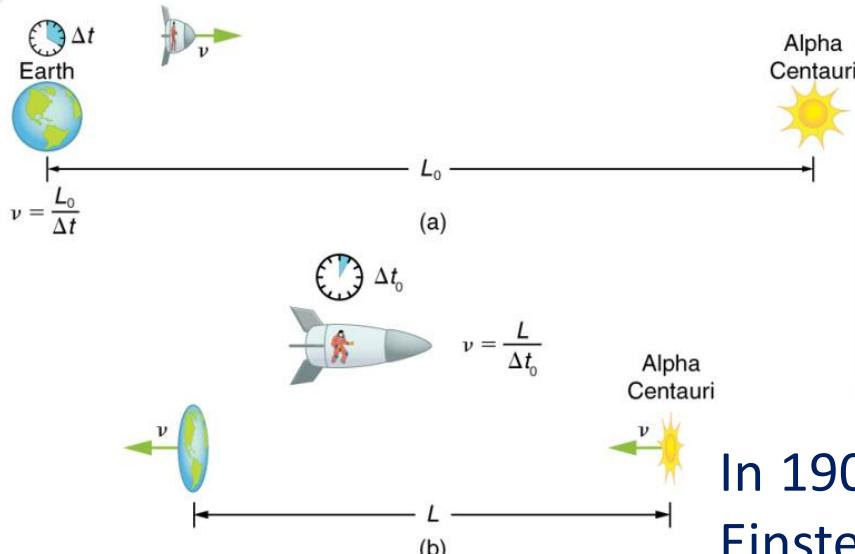


Cesium

Quelle des Bildes: hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu



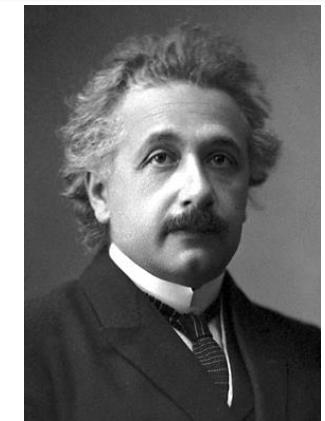
Theory of relativity and speed of light



<https://openstax.org/details/books/university-physics-volume-3>

3. Zur Elektrodynamik bewegter Körper; von A. Einstein.

Daß die Elektrodynamik Maxwell's — wie dieselbe gegenwärtig aufgefaßt zu werden pflegt — in ihrer Anwendung auf bewegte Körper zu Asymmetrien führt, welche den Phänomenen nicht anzuhafthen scheinen, ist bekannt. Man denke z. B. an die elektrodynamische Wechselwirkung zwischen einem Magneten und einem Leiter. Das beobachtbare Phänomen hängt hier nur ab von der Relativbewegung von Leiter und Magnet, während nach der üblichen Auffassung die beiden Fälle, daß der eine oder der andere dieser Körper der bewegte sei, streng voneinander zu trennen sind. Bewegt sich nämlich der Magnet



In 1905, in two of his *Annus Mirabilis* papers, Einstein has postulated the invariance of **speed of light c** on observer's system and derived mass-energy equivalence: $E = mc^2$

The concept of speed **c** of light as fundamental constant, that defines the upper limit, allows definition of the **meter**:

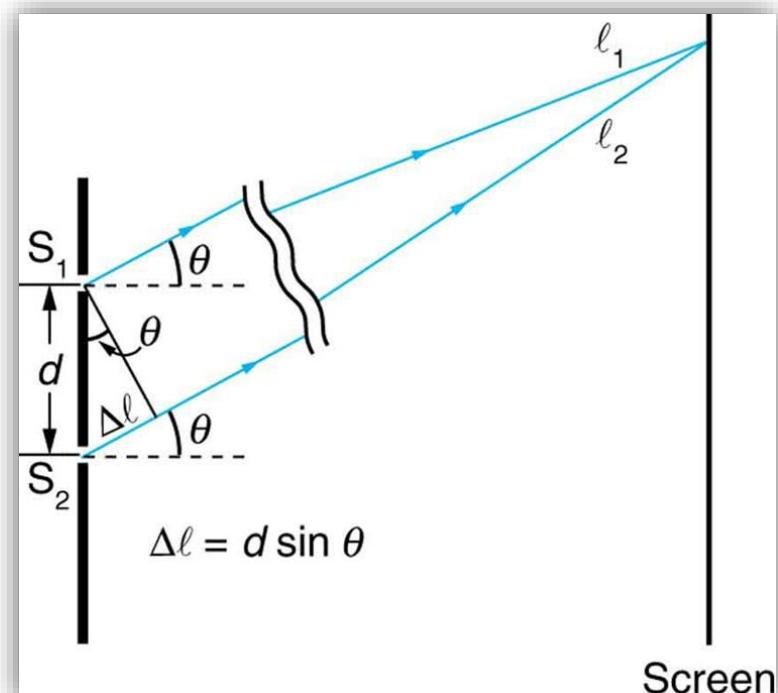
The meter is the length of the path travelled by light in vacuum during a time interval of $1/299792458$ of a second

Implementation of the meter: Interference



We remember Young's double slit experiment, which demonstrates the interference of light.

What determines the alternation of light and dark stripes on the screen?



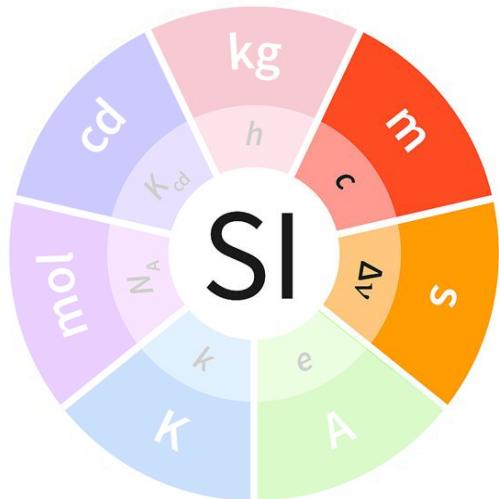
Travelled path difference:

$$\Delta l = d \sin \theta$$

leads to the relative phase difference:

$$\delta\varphi = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \Delta l = \frac{2\pi}{c} v \Delta l$$

What is with kilogram?

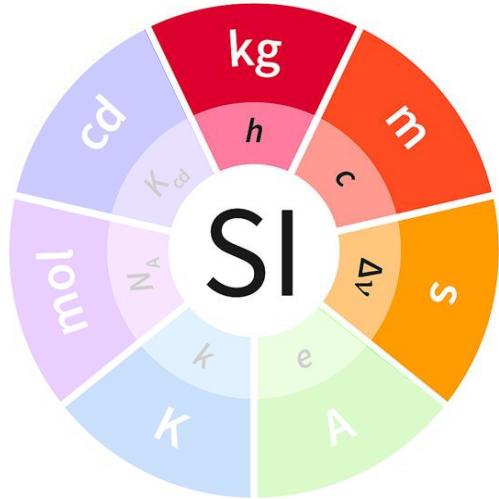


Two main physics theories of 20th century, quantum theory and relativity, “gave birth” to the concepts of quantization of frequency $\Delta\nu$ and of the upper limit of speed c ...

...and allowed to define the second and the meter.

What is with kilogram? Do we need one more theory?

What is with kilogram?



We can realize kilogram by connecting (relativistic) energy of a particle or object to a frequency!

Quantum theory

$$E = h \Delta\nu$$



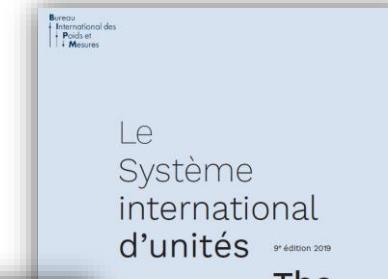
Theory of relativity

$$E = mc^2$$

$$m = \frac{\Delta\nu h}{c^2}$$

Note that Planck constant h comes into play!

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 $6.626\ 070\ 15 \times 10^{-34}$ when expressed in the unit J s, which is equal to $\text{kg m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$, where the metre and the second are defined in terms of c and $\Delta\nu_{\text{Cs}}$.

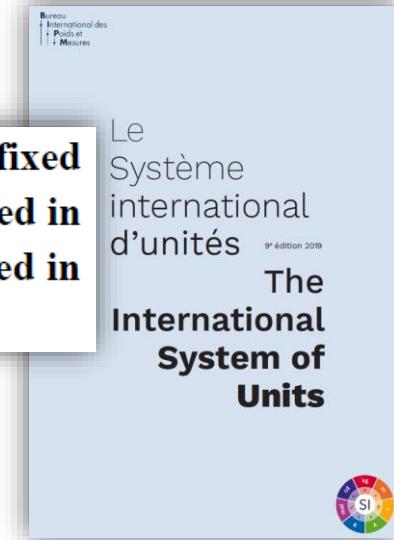


The International
System of
Units



Redefinition of the kilogram

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 $6.626\ 070\ 15 \times 10^{-34}$ when expressed in the unit J s, which is equal to $\text{kg m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$, where the metre and the second are defined in terms of c and $\Delta\nu_{\text{Cs}}$.



Before we go further, let us note:

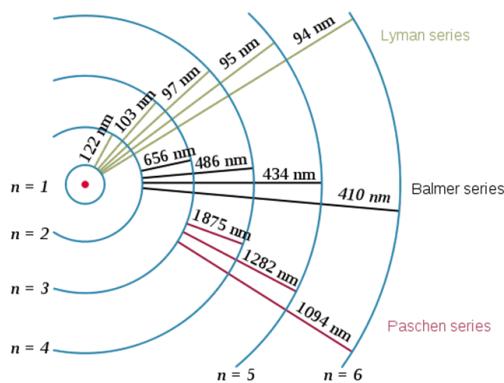
- The definition fixes exact value of the Planck constant.
- The definition relies on definitions of the meter and second.
- The definition does **not** suggest the realization of the unit!

From atoms to kilogram: Avogadro project

Idea is simple: mass of a body = number of atoms \times mass of atom

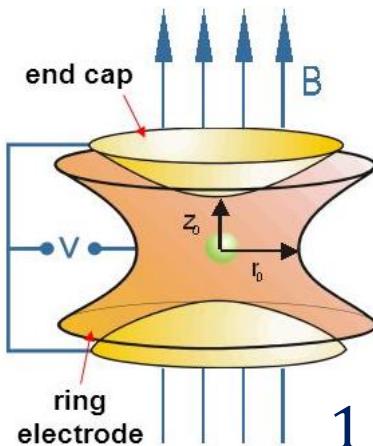
Electron mass from atomic spectroscopy

$$hcR_{\infty} = \frac{1}{2} m_e (\alpha Z)^2$$



Rydberg constant can be measured with a precision of 10^{-12}

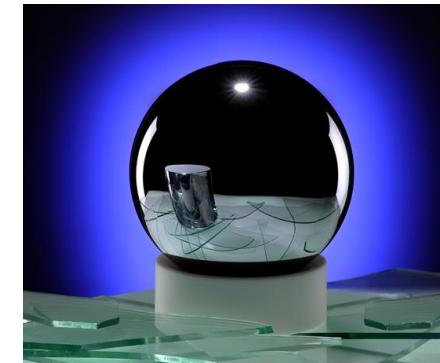
Atom mass from electron mass



$$f_c = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{q}{m} B$$

Measuring of cyclotron frequencies in Penning trap (for e^- and ions)

Mass of object from atom mass

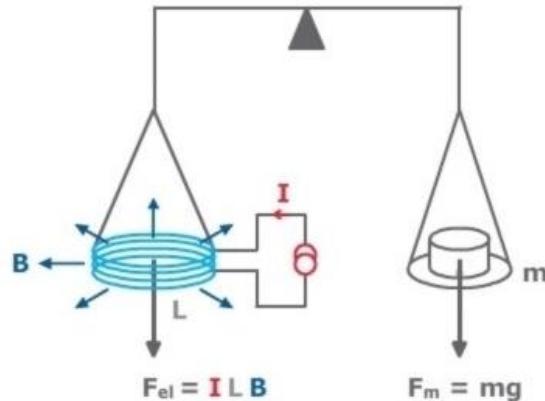


$$M = m_e \frac{M_{Si}}{m_e} \frac{8V}{a^3}$$

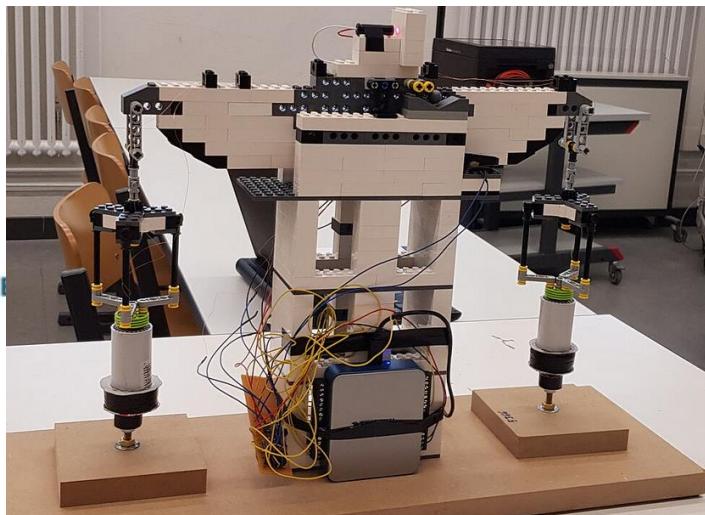
Number of Si atoms in sphere with volume V
→ Avogadro project

Kibble balance: Very basic ideas

Weighing



Moving experiment



By running the Kibble balance in weighing and velocity modes we can find the relation between (virtual) electrical power and a mechanical power:

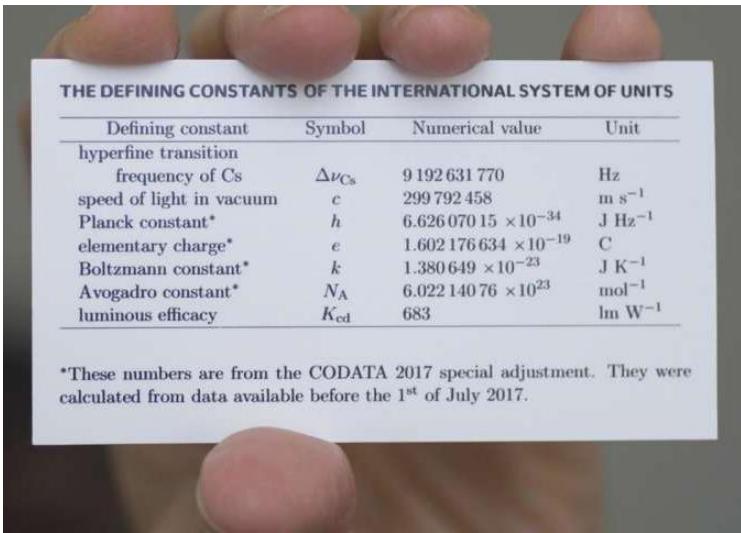
$$IU = mgv$$

The voltage and current are measured by using two macroscopic quantum phenomena, the Josephson effect and the quantum Hall effect.

$$m = \frac{1}{gv} \frac{n_1 f_1 n_2 f_2}{r'} \frac{h}{4}$$

Quantities related to the measurement
of the voltage and current

For all times and all cultures ?

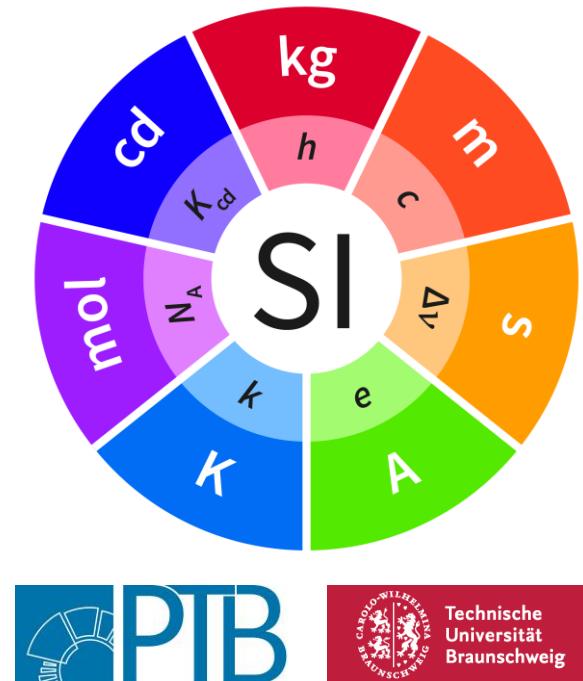


With revised SI we made one more step towards the Planck's vision of units, based on fundamental constants, that "will certainly retain their relevance for all times and for all cultures".

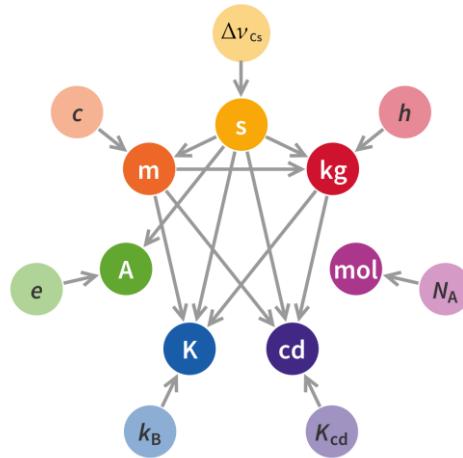
But... the way is not over! We have many open questions.

- Are defining constants of SI fundamental?
- Are defining/fundamental constants constant?
- Do we understand well related constants?
- Do we go beyond Cesium standard?

These and many other questions are related to our understanding of fundamental physics



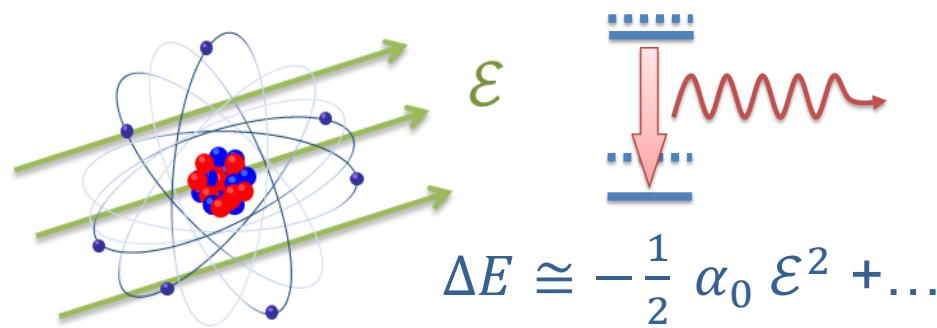
“Future of time”: Going beyond Cesium



The second, as defined based on the Cs standard, is the key base unit of the new SI.

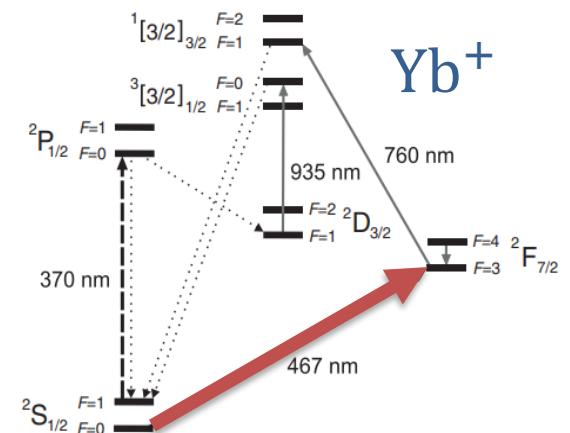
The relative standard uncertainty of the Cs clocks is about 10^{-16} . Can the accuracy of atomic clocks be further improved and why do we need it?

External fields lead to the shift of the energy levels and, hence, of frequencies.



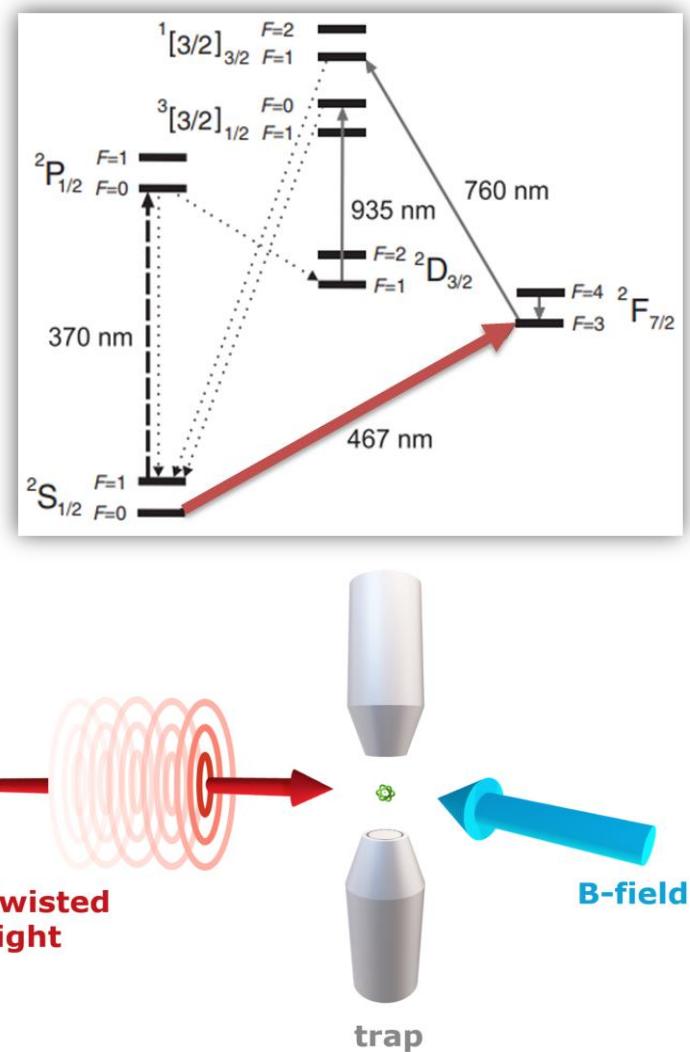
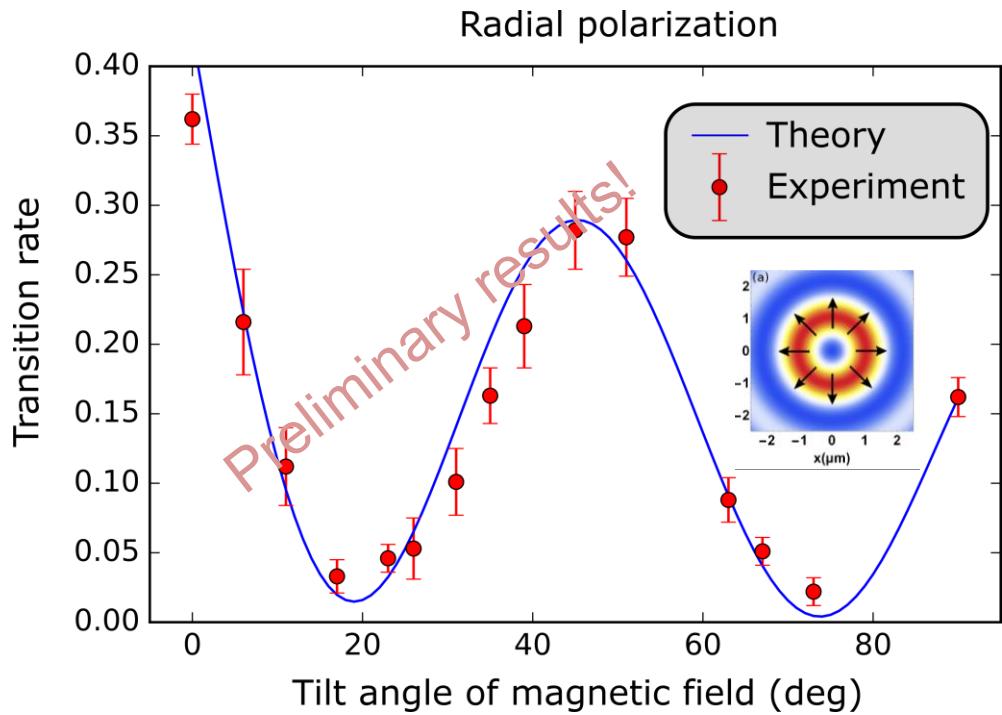
We need atomic systems that are **less “coupled” to external fields.**

We need narrow transitions in
optical domain (higher frequency
= higher accuracy!)



Inducing atomic-clock transitions by twisted light

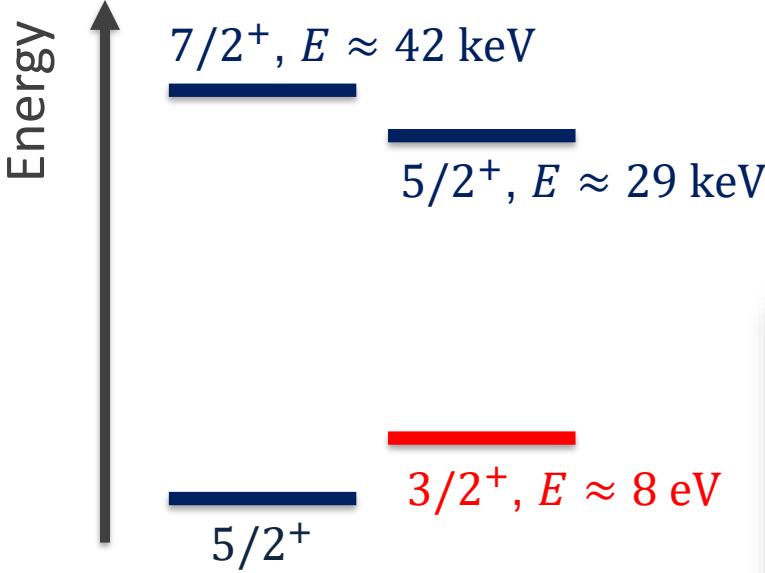
The electric octupole (E3) transition in Yb^+ has attracted much attention as a candidate for a novel frequency standard, and the use of the twisted light may suppress the AC-Stark shift of its frequency.



S. A.-L. Schulz, A. A. Peshkov, R. A. Müller, R. Lange, N. Huntemann, Chr. Tamm, E. Peik, and A. Surzhykov, Phys. Rev. A **102**, 012812 (2020)

R. Lange, E. Peik, A. Surzhykov, A. A. Peshkov *et al*, in preparation (2021)

Thorium-229 nuclear clocks



Since 1990's the ^{229}Th isotope attracts considerable attention as a promising candidate for the development of nuclear clocks.

Physica Scripta. Vol. 53, 296–299, 1996

Processes of the Nuclear Isomer $^{229\text{m}}\text{Th}(3/2^+, 3.5 \pm 1.0 \text{ eV})$ Resonant Excitation by Optical Photons

E. V. Tkalya¹ and V. O. Varlamov

Laboratory of Theory of Radiation Processes, Nuclear Safety Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences, Bolshaya Tulskaya – 52, Moscow, 113191, Russia
and

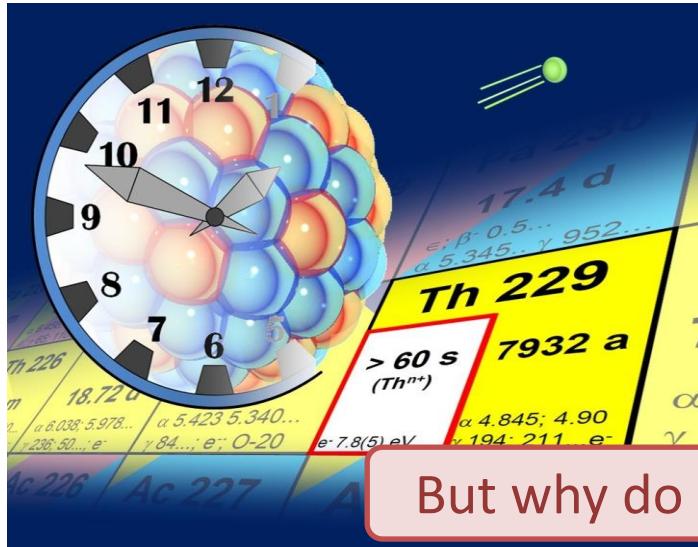
V. V. Lomonosov and S. A. Nikulin

Institute of General Nuclei Physics, Kosygin Str. 4, 117334 Moscow, Russia
Received June 29, 1995; accepted August 28, 1995

properties of solids by means of measuring the half-life time of isomeric levels and energies of emitted photons; development of a high stability nuclear source of light for metrology; creation of γ -laser in the optical range, and so on.

But... still many open questions about energy of isomeric state and its excitation by laser or atomic processes.

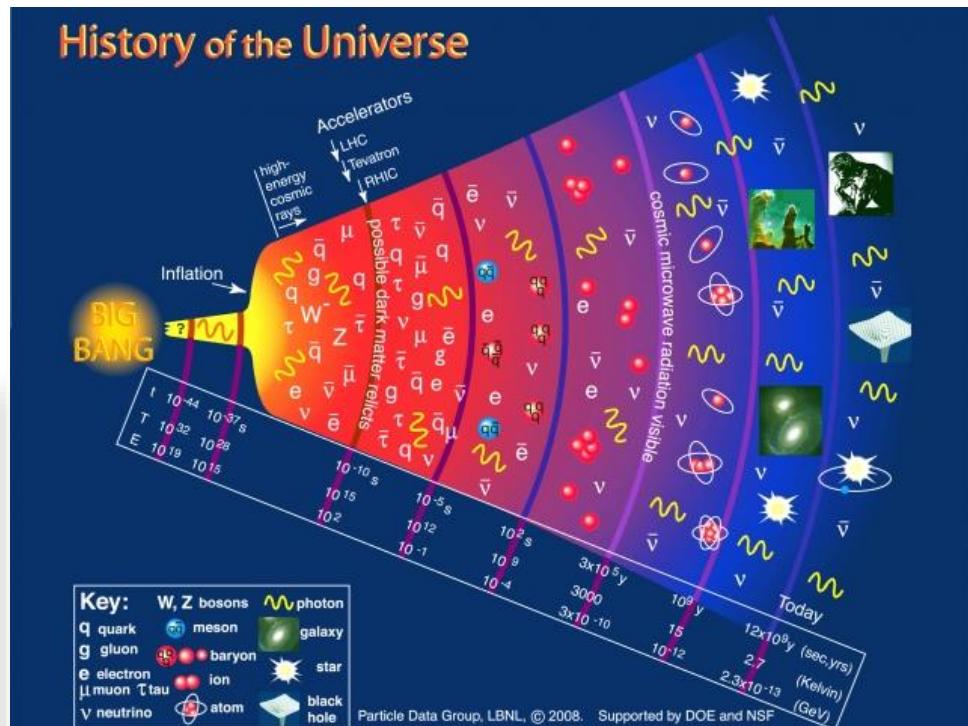
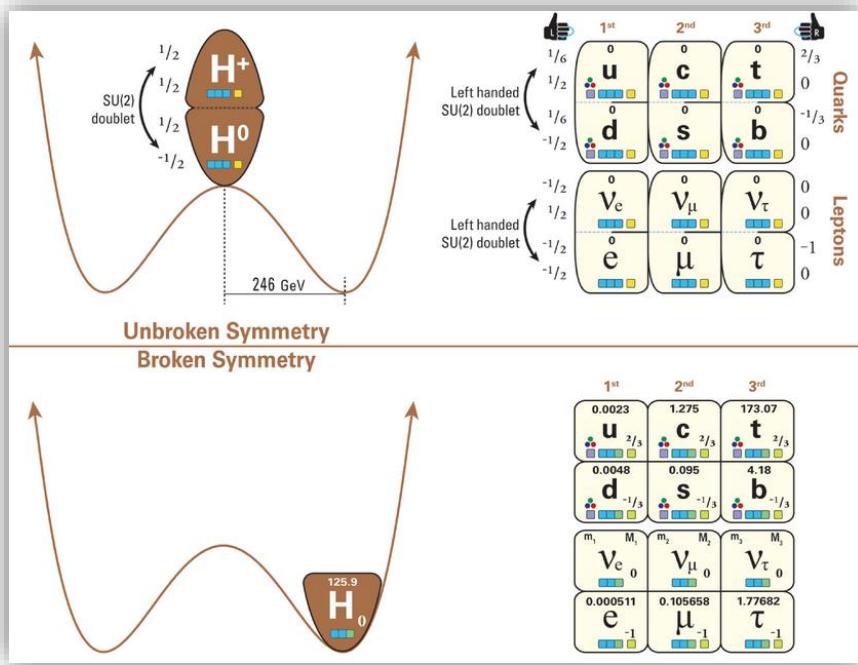
But why do we need more accurate clocks?



Are constants of Nature constant?

From the viewpoint of Standard Model the answer is clear:

Constants are **not** constant!



In early hot Universe masses of leptons and coupling constants are the same.

Physically correct question would be: how strong is **present variation** of constants?

One more time about constants

There are two kinds of constants of Nature:

- dimensionless (coupling constants)
- dimensionful (for example c , \hbar , G)

For new SI the latter constants are of importance. However, discussion of variation of dimensionful constants has usually no meaning.

TABLE I An abbreviated list of the CODATA recommended values of the fundamental constants of physics and chemistry based on the 2014 adjustment.

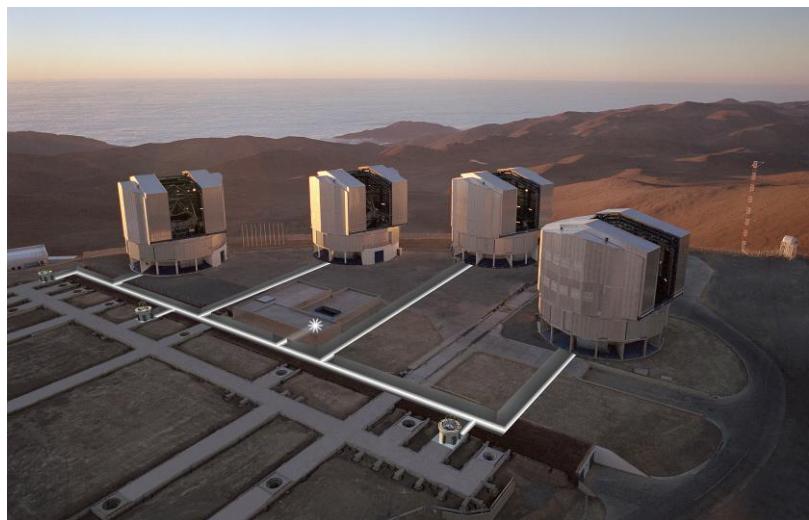
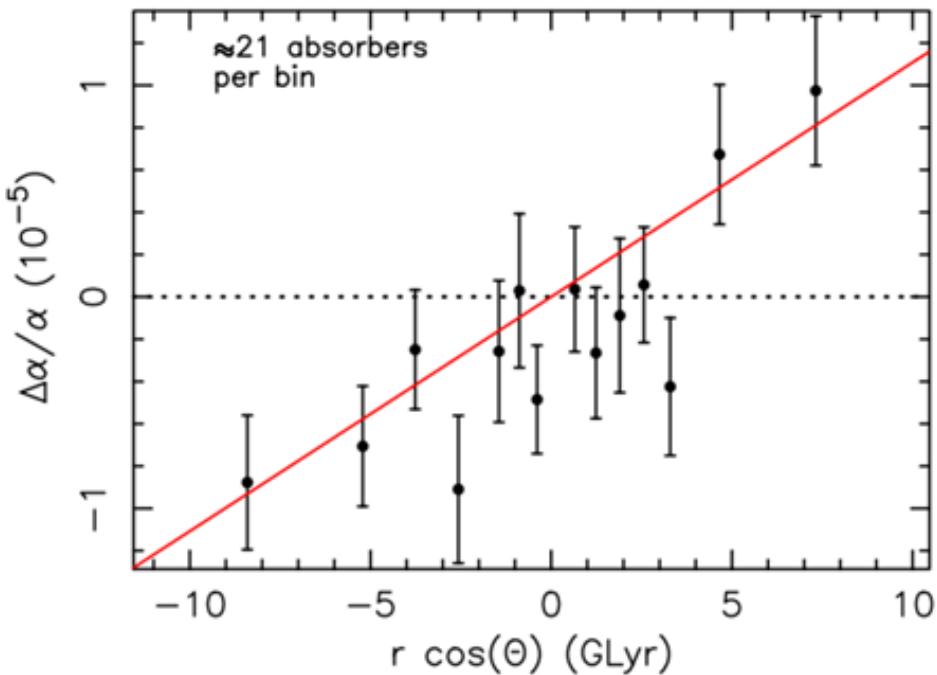
Quantity	Symbol	Numerical value	Unit	Relative std. uncert. u_r
speed of light in vacuum	c, c_0	299 792 458	m s^{-1}	exact
magnetic constant	μ_0	$4\pi \times 10^{-7}$ $= 12.566 370 614... \times 10^{-7}$	N A^{-2}	N A^{-2}
electric constant $1/\mu_0 c^2$	ϵ_0	$8.854 187 817... \times 10^{-12}$	F m^{-1}	exact
Newtonian constant of gravitation	G	$6.674 08(31) \times 10^{-11}$	$\text{m}^3 \text{kg}^{-1} \text{s}^{-2}$	4.7×10^{-5}
Planck constant	h	$6.626 070 040(81) \times 10^{-34}$	J s	1.2×10^{-8}
$h/2\pi$	\hbar	$1.054 571 800(13) \times 10^{-34}$	J s	1.2×10^{-8}
elementary charge	e	$1.602 176 6208(98) \times 10^{-19}$	C	6.1×10^{-9}
magnetic flux quantum $h/2e$	ϕ_0	$2.067 833 831(13) \times 10^{-15}$	Wb	6.1×10^{-9}
conductance quantum $2e^2/h$	G_0	$7.748 091 7310(18) \times 10^{-5}$	S	2.3×10^{-10}
electron mass	m_e	$9.109 383 56(11) \times 10^{-31}$	kg	1.2×10^{-8}
proton mass	m_p	$1.672 621 898(21) \times 10^{-27}$	kg	1.2×10^{-8}
proton-electron mass ratio	m_p/m_e	$1836.152 673 89(17)$		9.5×10^{-11}
fine-structure constant $e^2/4\pi\epsilon_0\hbar c$	α	$7.297 352 5664(17) \times 10^{-3}$		2.3×10^{-10}
inverse fine-structure constant	α^{-1}	$137.035 999 139(31)$		2.3×10^{-10}
Rydberg constant $\alpha^2 m_e c^2 / h$	R_∞	$10.973 731.568 508(65)$	m^{-1}	5.9×10^{-12}
Avogadro constant	N_A, L	$6.022 140 857(74) \times 10^{23}$	mol^{-1}	1.2×10^{-8}
Faraday constant $N_A e$	F	$96 485.332 89(59)$	C mol^{-1}	6.2×10^{-9}
molar gas constant	R	$8.314 4598(48)$	$\text{J mol}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$	5.7×10^{-7}
Boltzmann constant R/N_A	k	$1.380 648 52(79) \times 10^{-23}$	J K^{-1}	5.7×10^{-7}
Stefan-Boltzmann constant $(\pi^2/60)k^4/h^3c^2$	σ	$5.670 367(13) \times 10^{-8}$	$\text{W m}^{-2} \text{K}^{-4}$	2.3×10^{-6}
Non-SI units accepted for use with the SI				
electron volt (e/C) J	eV	$1.602 176 6208(98) \times 10^{-19}$	J	6.1×10^{-9}
(unified) atomic mass unit $\frac{1}{12}m(^{12}\text{C})$	u	$1.660 539 040(20) \times 10^{-27}$	kg	1.2×10^{-8}

We focus on variation of the fine-structure constant α and on the electron to proton mass ratio m_e/m_p .

But why these variations are important?

Variation of fine-structure constant

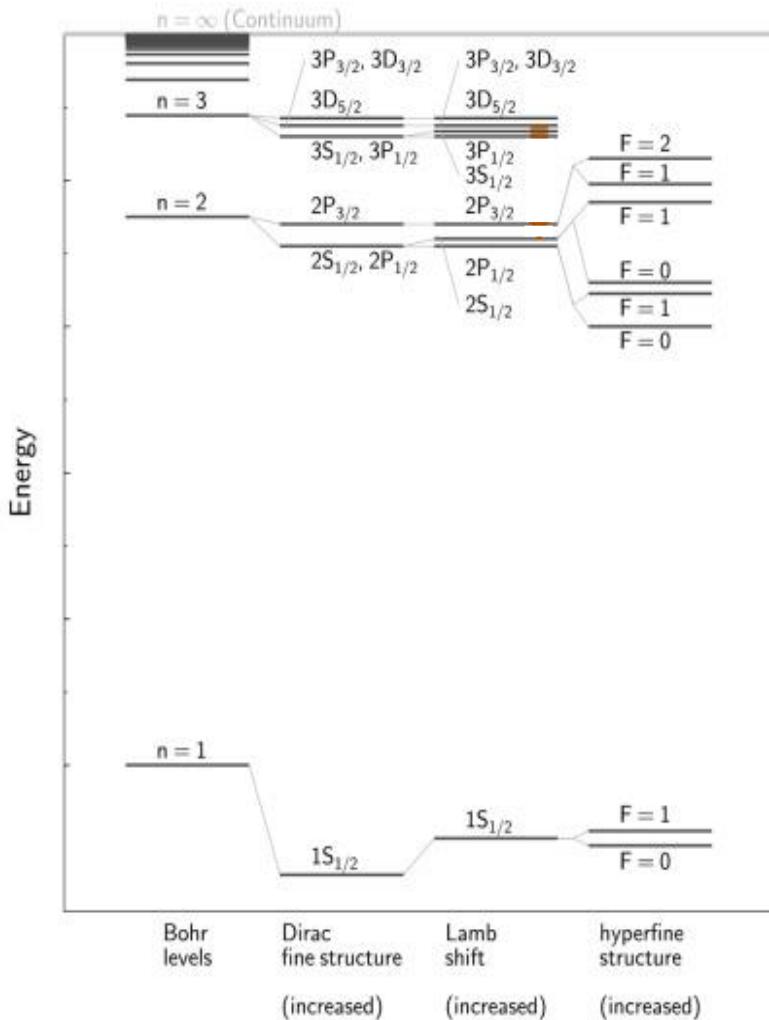
Based on the data on quasars obtained by the Very Large Telescope a dipole-like structure in the variation of the fine-structure constant across the observable universe was reported in 2010.



The approaches, made in this work, are under discussion.

We need other methods to search for the variation of constants!

Variation of constants: Atomic spectroscopy



We know that even hydrogen atom is more complicated as described in simple Bohr formula:

$$\nu_{ik} = R_\infty c \left[\frac{1}{n_i^2} - \frac{1}{n_k^2} \right]$$

We can consider transitions between:

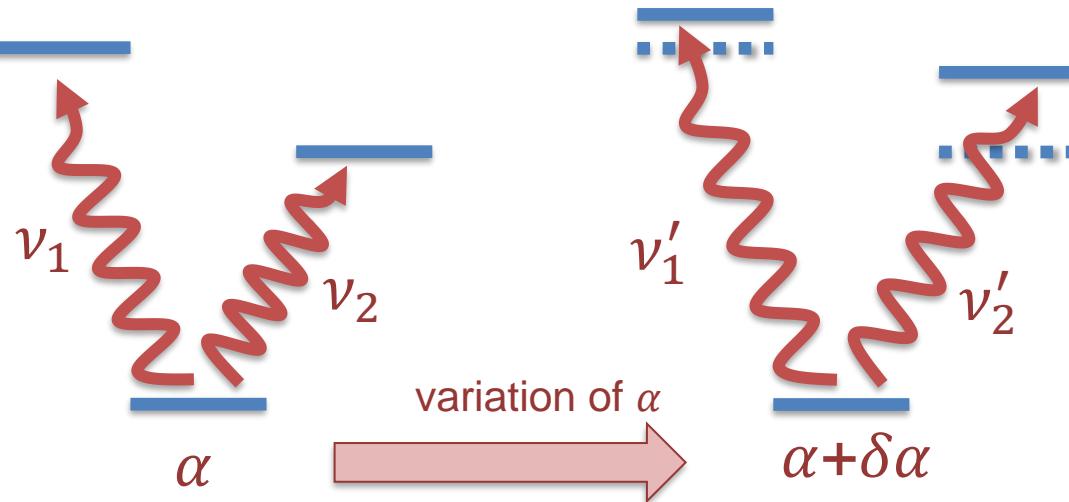
- Fine-structure levels:

$$\nu_{ik} = R_\infty c F_{fs}(\alpha, r_p, Z \dots)$$

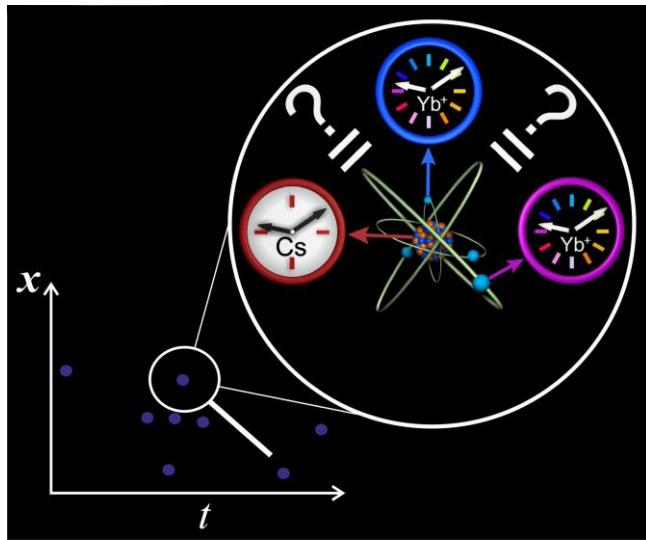
- Hyperfine-structure levels:

$$\nu_{ik} = R_\infty c \alpha^2 \frac{m_e}{m_p} g F_{hfs}(\alpha, r_p, Z \dots)$$

Variation of constants: Atomic spectroscopy



Different atomic levels can be shifted in different ways under the variation of the fine structure constant (as well as other constants).

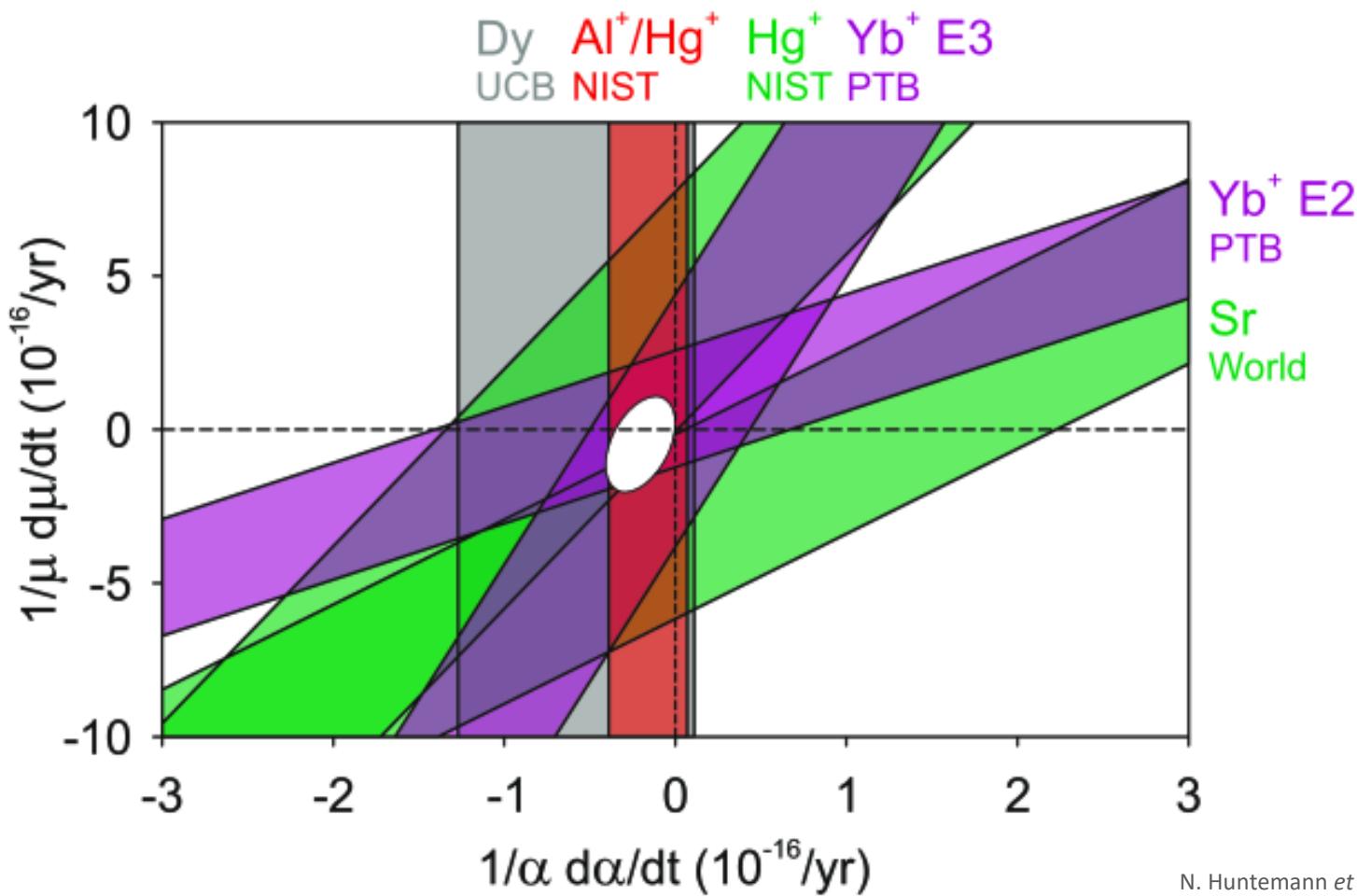


Recent experiment with Yb^+ atomic clocks have improved the limit on the time variation of α and $\mu = m_e/m_p$:

$$\frac{1}{\alpha} \frac{d\alpha}{dt} = 1.0(1.1) \times 10^{-18}/\text{yr}$$

$$\frac{1}{\mu} \frac{d\mu}{dt} = -8(36) \times 10^{-18}/\text{yr}$$

Constraints on temporal variations of constants



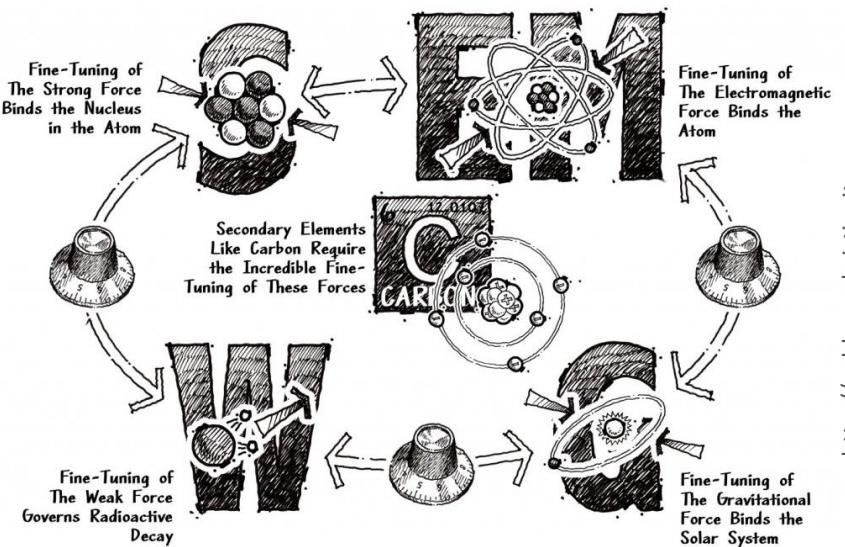
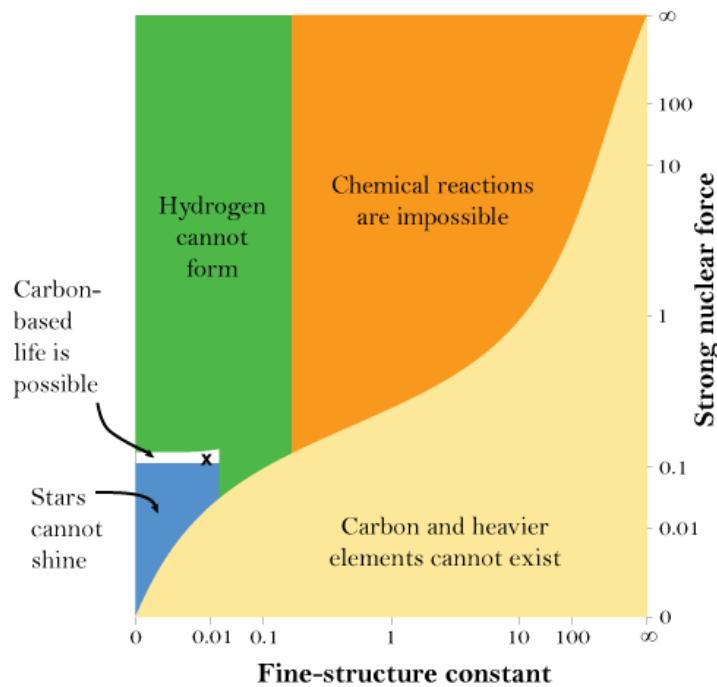
N. Huntemann *et al.*,
Phys. Rev. Lett. 113, 210802 (2014)

Constraints on temporal variations of α and $\mu = m_e/m_p$
from comparisons of atomic transition frequencies.

Fine tuning of fundamental constants

Only a very narrow range of fundamental constants are consistent with Universe that contains life.

There are many examples of how even a minor change of one (of few) constants would make life impossible.



We and our World can exist in extremely small parameter range!

What does it mean actually?



“... UNITS FOR ALL TIMES
AND FOR ALL CULTURES,
EVEN EXTRATERRESTRIAL
AND NONHUMAN ...”

Max Planck, 1900

Thank you very much!