

### Error.

The uncertainty in measurements is called error.

### Accuracy.

The accuracy of a measurement is a measure of how close the measured value is to the true value of the quantity.

### Precision.

Precision tells us to what resolution or limit the quantity is measured.

### Systematic Error.

The errors whose causes are known are called Systematic error.

#### a) Instrumental error

The errors that arise from the measuring instrument, is called Instrumental error.

#### b) Imperfection in experimental technique or procedure.

The external or internal causes which may effect the results of measurement are called known categorised in this cause.

#### c) Personal errors.

Errors that arise due to an individual's bias, lack of proper observations or without proper precautions, are called Personal errors.

### Random Errors.

The errors which occur irregularly and hence are random with respect to sign and size. In other words, errors whose causes are not known are called Random errors.

- Absolute Error, Relative error, Percentage error.

Suppose the values obtained in several measurements

are  $a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n$ .

$$\therefore a_{\text{mean}} = (a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \dots + a_n) / n$$

$$\Rightarrow a_{\text{mean}} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n a_i}{n}$$

i) The magnitude of difference between the individual measurement and the true value of the quantity is called the absolute error of the measurement.

i.e.,

$$\Delta a_1 = a_1 - a_{\text{mean}}$$

$$\Delta a_2 = a_2 - a_{\text{mean}},$$

$$\dots \dots \dots$$

$$\dots \dots \dots$$

$$\Delta a_n = a_n - a_{\text{mean}},$$

ii) The relative error is the <sup>ratio</sup> absolute error of the mean absolute error  $\Delta a_{\text{mean}}$  to the mean value of  $a_{\text{mean}}$  of the quantity measured,

i.e.,

$$\text{Relative error} = \Delta a_{\text{mean}} / a_{\text{mean}}$$

iii) When the relative error is expressed in percentage, it is referred as the percentage error. ( $\delta a$ )

i.e.,

$$\delta a = (\Delta a_{\text{mean}} / a_{\text{mean}}) \times 100\%.$$