

S. V. Gupta

Units of Measurement

History, Fundamentals and Redefining
the SI Base Units

Second Edition



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S. V. Gupta
National Physical Laboratory
New Delhi, India

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In loving memory of my wife Mrs. Prem Gupta

Preface to the Second Edition

Doing well in the first edition of the book has inspired me to write the second edition. The necessity and urgency arose due to redefining the SI base units in terms of fundamental constants and realization of the base units in terms of the defining constants. Each of the SI base units has been redefined in terms of a fundamental constant. Some of the units like second and metre were derived from the fundamental constants. Like the second was the duration of 9 192 631 770 periods of the radiation corresponding to the transition between the two hyperfine levels of the ground state of the cesium-133 atom. Now only the wording has changed. Same was the case of the base unit of length—metre, it was the distance travelled by light in vacuum during the interval of $1/299\,792\,458$ of a second. Now the second is such that velocity of light is $299\,792\,458\text{ ms}^{-1}$. In case of base units of mass, electric current and temperature, there are drastic changes. The unit of mass—kilogram—is such that Planck's constant has a predefined value. Similarly unit of electric current—ampere—is such that electronic charge is $1.602\,176\,634 \times 10^{-19}\text{ C}$. Boltzmann constant is used to define kelvin—the unit of temperature.

Realization of kilogram is drastically changed. The two methods, namely, electromechanical method through Kibble balance and XRCD (X-ray-crystal-density) method, have been described. Basics of Boltzmann constant and its determination by various methods have been described. Any of the methods preferably acoustic gas thermometry may be used to establish kelvin in terms of Boltzmann. On taking Planck's constant and electronic charge as redefining constants, i.e. each has a fixed value in SI units with zero uncertainty, Josephson constant and quantum Hall resistance have also become constant, so can be used to define as other electrical SI units.

I wish to thank Dr. D. K. Aswal, Director of National Physical Laboratory and President of the Metrology Society of India, New Delhi, who agreed to bring out this book.

Delhi
January 2020

S. V. Gupta

Preface to the First Edition

Professor A. R. Verma, former Director National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi inspired me for writing about the units of measurements as a chapter in my forthcoming book on Practical mass measurement. While travelling through India I have found excellent examples of metrology in our historical monuments and old temples. In Tiruchirappalli, I visited a temple which was in the centre of the city and had several identical big arch-shaped gates. The pathways were perpendicular to each other and all the gates along the road were exactly in one straight line. Inside the innermost sanctuary where the main deity was placed there was a small opening in the roof. The opening was positioned in such a way that every morning when the sun rose its first ray would pass through this opening and fall on the deity round the year. This made me think about the metrology in ancient times. So I wrote a chapter on metrology in olden days and its development in brief up to the present.

The International System of Units of measurement adopted in 1962 has seven base units as well as a host of derived and dimensionless units. The International Bureau of Weights and Measures occasionally publishes a booklet, which is an authentic document. Most of the National Measurement Laboratories like those in the USA and the UK strictly copy it and, in some cases, translate the document in their national languages. To make it clear that the number of base units need not be seven all the time, I discussed various three- and four-dimensional measuring systems. I established that minimum four base units are required in terms of which all other units of measurements can be expressed.

I have also attempted to provide a brief history of CGS and FPS systems. It has been found that FPS system is a few hundred years older than CGS or metric systems. Most of the national laboratories have strictly followed the latest available BIPM document. I have also followed the BIPM document on SI units 8th Edition of 2006. In this edition, a chapter on quantities, units and dimensions along with units used in specialized fields of health, biology and human health have been included. I have included them as such with all their notes and explanations. The new elements that I have added are the reasoning to arrive at the derived units, the explanation of base unit of ampere and the intensity of illumination, and the

unification of electrostatic and electromagnetic units. Chapter 8 of the book deals with the future definitions of base units and their effects. One of the chapters also gives the brief life history of scientists who have been honoured by assigning their name to a unit.

The book is written in such a way that it caters to the need of one and all. Students of class X and above can profitably use Chapters 1 to 8 barring certain portions of Chapter 1, 2, 3 and 5. Biographies of the scientists associated with units of measurements will definitely be inspiring to young students and metrologists. The last two chapters are for specialists who are interested in redefining the units of measurements or in the evolution of a new measurement system based on fundamental constants. Metrologists at all levels will be delighted to know the origin of the names for base units and derived units.

I acknowledge the great help which I received from Dr. R. S. Davis, Head of Mass BIPM, Professor A. J. Wallard, Director BIPM, and Dr. Claudine Thomas, Secretary Consultative Committee of Units (CCU) at BIPM. They explained to me the meaning of the redefinition of the unit, keeping the same name and effect as the old unit. I wish to thank Dr. Vikram Kumar, Director National Physical Laboratory and President of the Metrology Society of India, New Delhi, who agreed to bring out this document. I will fail in my duty if I do not express my most sincere thanks to the referees to whom manuscript was sent. Each of them has gone into minute details and offered editorial suggestions. My thanks are also due to my daughter Mrs. Reeta Gupta, Scientist, National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi.

Delhi
June 2009

S. V. Gupta

Contents

1	Old Units of Measurement in India	1
1.1	Time Intervals	1
1.1.1	Introduction	1
1.1.2	Time Intervals.	3
1.1.3	Sidereal Metrics	9
1.1.4	Time Intervals in Chanakiya Arthsashtra.	9
1.1.5	Multiplicity in Smaller Time Intervals.	10
1.1.6	Realization of Naadika: A Standard of a Time Interval	10
1.1.7	Lunar Metrics.	11
1.1.8	Adjustment in Calendars	12
1.1.9	Middle-Level Time Intervals	12
1.1.10	Bigger Time Intervals.	13
1.1.11	Names of 14 Manvantar	15
1.1.12	Time Intervals in Terms of Kalp	15
1.1.13	Summary of Bigger Time Intervals	16
1.1.14	The Time Elapsed Since Creation of Universe	17
1.1.15	Date of Commencement of the Present Kaliyug	18
1.2	Length Intervals	19
1.2.1	Introduction	19
1.2.2	Sets of Smaller Length Intervals	19
1.2.3	Units of Length in Multiples of Angul.	20
1.2.4	Two Kinds of Danush.	25
1.2.5	Scale of Mohenjo-Daro	26
1.2.6	Supportive Evidences for Taking 1 Angul Equal to 16.764 mm	27
1.2.7	Various Yojan	28
1.2.8	Length in Terms of Latitude.	29
1.2.9	Pre-Akbar Length Measures	31
1.2.10	Weights and Measures in Akbar Time	32

1.2.11	Length Units Used by Tailors.	33
1.2.12	Length Units in Dependent India.	34
1.3	Units of Weight and Volume	35
1.3.1	Introduction	35
1.3.2	Weights Nomenclature from Manusmriti.	36
1.3.3	Weights in Terms of <i>Tresarenu</i>	39
1.3.4	Charak System of Weights	39
1.3.5	Weight Measurement in Ancient India.	41
1.3.6	Weights in Terms of Grain of Rice (<i>chawal</i>)	43
1.3.7	Weights Used in Pre-Akbar Period	46
1.3.8	Weights in Colonial (Pre-Independence) Years	46
1.3.9	Conventions Followed by Public for Weights	48
1.3.10	Weights and Volume Measures by Chanakiya	49
1.3.11	Conversion Factors.	56
	References.	57
2	System of Quantities and Units	61
2.1	Quantities	61
2.2	System of Quantities	62
2.2.1	Quantity	62
2.2.2	Base Quantity	62
2.2.3	System of Base Quantities	62
2.2.4	Derived Quantity	62
2.2.5	Quantity Equation	63
2.2.6	Quantity Value Equation	63
2.2.7	Dimension of Derived Unit	64
2.3	Measurement Unit	64
2.3.1	System of Measurement Units	64
2.3.2	System of Base Units	65
2.3.3	Derived Unit.	65
2.3.4	Unit Equation	66
2.3.5	Properties of Units of Measurement	66
2.3.6	Coherent Derived Unit	67
2.4	Quantity of Dimension 1 or Dimensionless Quantity	68
2.4.1	Dimension of a Quantity	68
2.4.2	Quantities of Dimension 1 or Dimensionless Quantities	69
2.4.3	Ordinal Quantity.	70
2.4.4	Quantity Scale, Measurement Scale.	70
2.4.5	Ordinal Quantity Scale, Ordinal Scale.	71
2.4.6	Nominal Property	71
2.5	Conversion Factor Between Units	71
2.6	Quantity Relations	72
2.6.1	Quantity Value	72

2.6.2	Numerical Quantity Value	72
2.6.3	Quantity Calculus.	73
2.7	Units Used in Biology, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Forensic Science Biological Effects	73
2.7.1	Photochemical or Photo-Biological Quantities and Their Units	74
2.7.2	Conversion of Radiometric to Photometric Quantities.	75
2.7.3	Photometry and Photon-Number-Based Quantities	76
2.7.4	Units Used in Photometry	76
2.7.5	Actinic Action Spectrum	77
2.7.6	Types of Visions	77
2.7.7	Unit in the Field of Sound	78
2.7.8	Units in the Field of Ionizing Radiations.	78
2.8	SI Units in the Framework of General Relativity	78
	References.	79
3	Various Systems of Units	81
3.1	Introduction	81
3.2	Relations Between the Quantities	81
3.2.1	Derived Quantities by Definition	82
3.2.2	Derived Quantities by a Phenomenon	84
3.3	Three-Dimensional System of Units	86
3.3.1	Gauss System.	86
3.3.2	CGS System.	86
3.3.3	FPS System	87
3.4	Four-Dimensional Systems of Units	88
3.4.1	Giorgi System of Units.	89
3.4.2	Maxwell System.	89
3.4.3	Hartree System.	89
3.4.4	Units for Atomic and Molecular Measurements	89
3.4.5	McWeeny System of Units.	90
3.4.6	Ohm, Ampere, Second and Metre System	90
3.4.7	Force, Length and Time System.	90
3.4.8	System in Terms of Universal Constants (G, H, E and Q)	91
3.4.9	System in Terms of Electric Charge, Flux, Length and Time	92
3.4.10	System in Terms of L , M , T and R	94
3.5	Derived Quantities in Terms of L , M , T and R —An Example	94
3.6	Measurement System in Terms of Length Time Flux and Charge.	96
	References.	96

4	Metre Convention and Evolution of Base Units	97
4.1	BIPM and Metre Convention	97
4.1.1	General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM)	98
4.1.2	International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM)	98
4.1.3	Consultative Committees	98
4.1.4	International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM)	100
4.1.5	Linkages of Various Organs of Metre Convention	102
4.2	International System of Units SI	102
4.2.1	Base Units	104
4.2.2	Latest Definitions of SI Base Units	104
4.3	Evolution of Base Units	104
4.3.1	Unit of Time	106
4.3.2	Unit of Length	107
4.3.3	Unit of Mass	110
4.3.4	Unit of Electric Current	112
4.3.5	Unit of Temperature	113
4.3.6	Unit of Amount of Substance (Mole)	114
4.3.7	Unit of Luminous Intensity	116
4.3.8	Dependence of Base Units	117
	References	118
5	New Definitions of SI Base Units	119
5.1	Seven Defining Constants and SI Base Units	119
5.2	Importance of Defining Constants	120
5.2.1	Caesium Frequency	120
5.2.2	Velocity of Light	120
5.2.3	Planck's Constant	120
5.2.4	Elementary Charge	120
5.2.5	Boltzmann Constant	120
5.2.6	Avogadro Constant	121
5.2.7	Luminous Efficacy	121
5.3	Magnitude of Defining Constant in SI Units	121
5.4	Formal Definitions of SI Units	121
5.4.1	The Second	122
5.4.2	The Metre	122
5.4.3	The Kilogram	122
5.4.4	The Ampere	122
5.4.5	The Kelvin	122
5.4.6	The Mole	123
5.4.7	The Candela	123

5.5	Effect of the New Definition	123
5.5.1	Second	123
5.5.2	Metre	124
5.5.3	Kilogram	124
5.5.4	Ampere	124
5.5.5	The Kelvin	125
5.5.6	The Mole	125
5.5.7	The Candela	126
5.6	Expressing SI Base Units in Defining Constants	126
5.6.1	The Second in Terms of $\Delta\nu Cs$	126
5.6.2	The Metre in Terms of C and S	127
5.6.3	The Kilogram in Terms of H	127
5.6.4	The Ampere in Terms of E and S	127
5.6.5	The Kelvin in Terms of K	127
5.6.6	Mole in Terms of N_A	128
5.6.7	Candela in Terms of K_{cd}	128
5.7	Relationship Matrix	128
5.7.1	Defining Constants in Terms of Base Units	129
5.7.2	Base Units in Terms of Defining Constants	129
5.7.3	Use of the Matrix	129
5.8	Inter-Dependence of Base Units	129
5.8.1	New SI Units	130
5.8.2	Old SI Units	130
6	Realization of the SI Base Units (S, M, Kilogram)	133
6.1	Practical Realization of the Unit of Time	133
6.1.1	Atomic Clocks	133
6.1.2	Primary Frequency Standards	133
6.1.3	Secondary Representations of the Second	134
6.1.4	International Atomic Time (TAI)	134
6.1.5	Terrestrial Time (TT), Geocentric Coordinate Time (TCG)	135
6.1.6	Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)	136
6.2	Practical Realization of the Metre	136
6.2.1	Standard Radiations	138
6.3	Practical Realization of the Kilogram (via Kibble Balance)	138
6.3.1	Electromechanical (Kibble) Balances	138
6.3.2	Constant Magnetic Field (Generation)	145
6.3.3	Change of the Reluctance of the Yoke	150
6.3.4	Temperature Change of the Rare Earth Magnet	150
6.3.5	Temperature Change of the Yoke Material	151
6.3.6	Engineering of Magnets with Smaller Temperature Coefficients	151
6.3.7	Actively Controlling the Temperature	152

6.3.8	Voltage Measurements	152
6.3.9	Voltmeter	154
6.3.10	Current Generation and Measurement	156
6.3.11	Results	161
6.4	Practical Realization of the Kilogram (via XRCD Method)	162
6.4.1	Principle	162
6.4.2	Sphere	164
6.4.3	Obtaining ^{28}Si -Enriched Polycrystal	164
6.4.4	Single Crystal Growth	165
6.4.5	Isotopic Composition of Silicon	166
6.4.6	Crystal Perfection: Evaluation of Point Defects	166
6.4.7	MSL Layers	168
6.4.8	Molar Mass	170
6.4.9	Lattice Parameter	171
	References (Kibble Balance)	174
	References (XRCD)	176
7	Realization of SI Base Unit Ampere and Other Electric Units	179
7.1	Introduction	179
7.2	Definition of the Electrical/Magnetic Units	179
7.2.1	Practical Realization of Ampere, SI Base Unit of Electric Current	179
7.2.2	Derived Units	180
7.3	Mole	185
7.4	Realization of Mole	186
7.4.1	Pure Sample	186
7.4.2	Pure Gas	187
7.4.3	Chemical Electrolysis	187
7.5	Primary Method	188
	References	188
8	Boltzmann Constant Defining Kelvin K	189
8.1	Introduction to Boltzmann Constant	189
8.2	Acoustic Gas Thermometry AGT	190
8.2.1	Measurement at NPL, UK	191
8.2.2	Main Uncertainty Components	193
8.3	Radiation Thermometry	194
8.3.1	Total Radiation Thermometry TRT (Stefan–Boltzmann Measurement)	195
8.3.2	Spectral-Band-Limited Radiation Thermometry	196
8.4	Thermal-Equation-of-State Methods	197
8.4.1	Constant-Volume Gas Thermometry (CVGT)	197
8.4.2	Dielectric-Constant Gas Thermometry	197
8.4.3	Results	199
8.5	Refractive-Index Gas Thermometry RIGT	200
8.6	Doppler-Broadening Thermometry	202
8.7	Noise Thermometry	204

8.8	Realization of K (Hierarchy of Temperature)	206
8.8.1	Temperature Scale	207
8.8.2	Different Temperature Scales	207
8.8.3	Hierarchy in Temperature Measurement	208
	References.	208
9	Radiometry, Photometry and Realization of Candela and Mole	213
9.1	SI Units Used in Radiometry and Photometry	213
9.2	Traceability and Realization of Photometric Units	214
9.2.1	Traceability Routes for the Practical Realization of Photometric Units	214
9.3	Realization of the Candela (Cd)	215
9.4	Realization of the Lumen (Lm), SI Derived Unit of Luminous Flux Φ_v	217
9.5	Realization of the Lux (Lx), SI Derived Unit of Illuminance Ev.	218
	References.	218
10	Derived Quantities and Their Units	219
10.1	Derived Quantities	219
10.2	Units of Derived Quantities	219
10.3	SI Derived Units.	220
10.3.1	Units Expressed in Terms of Base Units	220
10.3.2	Derived Units with Special Names	221
10.3.3	Derived Units Formed from the Derived Units with Special Names	224
10.3.4	Derived Quantities of Dimension 1	227
10.4	Units Outside the SI.	228
10.4.1	Units Accepted for Use with the SI	229
10.4.2	Non-SI Units with Experimentally Obtained Values	233
10.4.3	Non-SI Units Used by Special Groups.	234
10.4.4	Other Non-SI Units with Special Names.	235
10.4.5	Other Non-SI Units Found in Old Literature	235
	References.	235
11	Expressing SI Units.	237
11.1	Introduction	237
11.2	SI Prefixes	237
11.2.1	Rules for Using SI Prefixes	237
11.2.2	Prefix About the Kilogram	239
11.3	Writing of SI Unit Symbols.	239
11.3.1	Unit Symbols and Their Combinations	239
11.3.2	Names of Units.	240
11.3.3	Quantity Calculus.	241

11.3.4	Stating Values of Quantities of Dimension One.	244
11.4	Expression of Numbers	245
11.4.1	Formatting Numbers and the Decimal Marker	246
11.4.2	Expressing the Measurement Uncertainty	246
11.5	Advantages of SI Units	247
11.5.1	Harmonization of Units	247
11.5.2	Expressing the Values of μ_o and ϵ_o in Terms of SI Units	249
11.5.3	Magnetic Flux Density/Magnetizing Force	250
11.5.4	Intensity of Magnetization	251
11.5.5	Homogenizing of Units of Energy in Heat	252
11.5.6	Coherent System	252
11.5.7	Coherent Derived Unit	252
11.5.8	Well-Defined Units.	253
11.6	Expressing Electrostatic and Electromagnetic Quantities in SI Units	253
11.6.1	Charge and Current	254
11.6.2	Potential	255
11.6.3	Electrical Resistance	256
11.6.4	Electrical Capacitance	257
11.6.5	Emu of Magnetic Flux	257
11.6.6	Magnetic Field Strength (Flux Density)	257
11.6.7	Electric Field	258
11.6.8	Inductance	258
11.6.9	Oersted	258
	References.	259
12	Past Efforts in Redefining of SI Units	261
12.1	In Terms of Physical Constants	261
12.1.1	Basis of SI Units.	261
12.2	From a Single Source.	262
12.2.1	In Terms of Hydrogen Atom	262
12.2.2	In Terms of Only One Standard (Frequency).	263
12.2.3	In Terms of Fundamental Constants Using Maxwell Equations.	263
12.2.4	A Consistent Set of Fundamental Constants by BIPM	264
12.3	CIPM Recommendation 1 (CI-2005).	264
12.4	A Proposal to Redefine Kilogram, Ampere, Kelvin and Mole.	266
12.4.1	Kilogram	266
12.4.2	Ampere.	266
12.4.3	Kelvin.	266
12.4.4	Mole	266

12.5	The Values of h , e , k and N_A	267
12.5.1	Observations.	268
12.6	Practical Standards to Realize Kilogram	268
12.6.1	Other Methods of Redefining Kilogram	268
	References.	269
13	Scientists Associated with Units of Measurements.	271
13.1	Scientists Associated with Base Units	271
13.1.1	Anders Celsius	271
13.1.2	Andre Marie Ampere	273
13.1.3	Avogadro	273
13.1.4	Boltzmann Ludwig Eduard	275
13.1.5	Lord Kelvin	276
13.1.6	Planck, Karl Ernst Ludwig Marx (Max)	277
13.2	Scientists Associated with Derived Units	279
13.2.1	Sir Isaac Newton	279
13.2.2	Heinrich Rudolf Hertz	280
13.2.3	Blaise Pascal.	281
13.2.4	James Prescott Joule.	282
13.2.5	James Watt	283
13.2.6	Charles Augustin Coulomb	284
13.2.7	Alessandro Volta.	285
13.2.8	Michael Faraday.	286
13.2.9	Wilhelm Eduard Weber	287
13.2.10	Nickola Tesla	288
13.2.11	Joseph Henry	289
13.2.12	Antoine Henri Becquerel	290
13.2.13	Louis Harold Gray	291
13.2.14	Rolf M. Sievert.	292
13.2.15	Georg Simon Ohm	294
13.2.16	Werner Von Siemens	295
13.3	Some Units Not Named After Any Scientist	296
	Index.	297

Acronyms

Acronyms for International Organizations

BAAS	British Association for the Advancement of Science
BIH	Bureau International de l'Heure
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CIE	International Commission on Illumination/Commission Internationale de l'Éclairage
IAU	International Astronomical Union
ICRP	International Commission on Radiological Protection
ICRU	International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission/Commission Électrotechnique Internationale
IERS	International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
IUPAC	International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry
IUPAP	International Union of Pure and Applied Physics
OIML	International Organization of Legal Metrology/Organisation Internationale de Métrologie Légale
SUNAMCO	Commission for Symbols, Units, Nomenclature, Atomic Masses and Fundamental Constants, IUPAP
TAI	International Atomic Time/Temps Atomique International
WHO	World Health Organization

Acronyms for Metre Convention and Associated Organizations

BIPM	International Bureau of Weights and Measures/Bureau International des Poids et Mesures
CCAUV	Consultative Committee for Acoustics, Ultrasound and Vibration/Comité Consultatif de l'Acoustique, des Ultrasons et des Vibrations

CCDS*	Consultative Committee for the Definition of the Second/Comité Consultatif pour la définition de la Seconde, see CCTF
CCE*	Consultative Committee for Electricity/Comité Consultatif d'Électricité, see CCEM
CCEM	(formerly the CCE) Consultative Committee for Electricity and Magnetism/Comité Consultatif d'Électricité et Magnétisme
CCL	Consultative Committee for Length/Comité Consultatif des Longueurs
CCM	Consultative Committee for Mass and Related Quantities/Comité Consultatif pour la Masse et les Grandeurs Apparentées
CCPR	Consultative Committee for Photometry and Radiometry/Comité Consultatif de Photométrie et Radiométrie
CCQM	Consultative Committee for Amount of Substance: Metrology in Chemistry/Comité Consultatif pour la Quantité de Matière : Métrologie en Chimie
CCRI	Consultative Committee for Ionizing Radiation/Comité Consultatif des Rayonnements Ionisants
CCT	Consultative Committee for Thermometry/Comité Consultatif de Thermométrie
CCTF	(formerly the CCDS) Consultative Committee for Time and Frequency/Comité Consultatif du Temps et des Fréquences
CCU	Consultative Committee for Units/Comité Consultatif des Unités
CGPM	General Conference on Weights and Measures/Conférence Générale des Poids et Mesures
CIPM	International Committee for Weights and Measures/Comité International des Poids et Mesures
CODATA	Committee on Data for Science and Technology IAU
CR	Comptes Rendus of the Conférence Générale des Poids et Mesures, CGPM
PV	Procès-Verbaux of the Comité International des Poids et Mesures, CIPM

Note: * Organizations marked with an asterisk either no longer exist or operate under a different acronym.

Acronyms for Scientific Terms

CGS	Three-dimensional coherent system of units based on the three
EPT-76	Provisional Low Temperature Scale of 1976/Échelle provisoire de température de 1976
IPTS-68	International Practical Temperature Scale of 1968
ITS-90	International Temperature Scale of 1990 mechanical units centimetre, gram and second

MKS	System of units based on the three mechanical units metre, kilogram and second
MKSA	Four-dimensional system of units based on the metre, kilogram, second and the ampere
SI	International System of Units/Système International d'Unités
TCG	Geocentric Coordinated Time/Temps-coordonnée Géocentrique
TT	Terrestrial Time
UTC	Coordinated Universal Time
VSMOW	Vienna Standard Mean Ocean Water

Chapter 1

Old Units of Measurement in India



The examples of old units of measurement have been divided into three parts, namely, Sect. 1.1 is for time intervals, Sect. 1.2 is for length intervals and Sect. 1.3 is for weight and volume.

1.1 Time Intervals

1.1.1 Introduction

1.1.1.1 Source of Information

Religious activities and scientific activities are also made part of the religious routine. Hindu religion is basically the way of living through various faiths. All literature regarding measurement is also hidden in the old religious books. There are 4 *Veda* and 18 *purans* like *Srimad Bhagwad Puran*, *Bhavishya Puran*, *Agni Puran*, *Narad Puran*, *Vishnu Puran*, *Harivans Puran* and so on. *Srimad Bhagwad Gita*, *Mahabharat* and *Ramayan* are the other scriptures where knowledge is hidden under slokas (verses). Many Sastras like *Surya Siddhant* need to be mentioned.

Astronomy was the most advanced field out of the best of six sciences enunciated in *Vedas* [1]. So measurement of time and length was of paramount importance to ancient Indians.

1.1.1.2 Concept of Time

According to *Surya Siddhant* [2], the time is of two kinds. The former is continuous endless cycle with no origin or end, which destroys all (animates and

in-animates) and is also the cause of creation and preservation of everything. It is a continuous entity with no beginning or end. The second one is the time interval, which can be known; this is again of two kinds. One is measurable and the other is immeasurable. It may be immeasurable due to either its largeness like the day of *Brahma* of 4.32 billion years or being very small like *truti* 0.031 μ s in Table 1.8.

1.1.1.3 Types of Time Scales

According to Surya Siddhant [2], there are nine types of standard time scales. Their names are (1) *Brahma*, (2) *Divya*, (3) *Prajapati*, (4) *Pitra*, (5) Jupiter, (6) Solar, (7) Terrestrial, (8) Lunar and (9) Sidereal. Each of these depends upon how the day is defined. Out of these nine scales, four, namely, Sidereal, Lunar, Terrestrial and Solar, are mostly used [2].

Terrestrial Day

The time between two consecutive sunrises is the terrestrial day. Its Hindi name is *Savan*.

Sidereal Day

Duration of one complete revolution of starry sphere is the Sidereal day. The sidereal day, in terms of SI units, is 23 h 56 m 4.1 s, slightly shorter than the solar day. The reason is the Earth's orbital motion about the Sun.

Solar Day

The solar day is the duration of time, which the Earth takes to make one complete revolution on its axis relative to the Sun. The solar day is the duration of day plus night at the equinoctial time (when the duration of day and night is equal).

Lunar Day

The lunar day is the time interval which Earth's Moon takes to complete one rotation on its axis with respect to the Sun. Due to tidal locking, it is also the time the Moon takes to complete one orbit around Earth and return to the same phase [3]. Lunar day is also the duration which Moon takes to describe 12° from the Sun.

1.1.2 Time Intervals

Oldest system for time measurement comes from India. Indian scriptures are full of information about the use of different time intervals. Smaller time intervals are in terms of the fractions of the day, while larger time intervals are multiples of a day or year. The span of time intervals is vast. *Vedic* and *Puranic* texts describe units of time intervals from *truti*, which is as small as $0.031 \mu\text{s}$, to the age of *Brahma*, which is as large as 311.04 trillion years.

There are quite a few versions of smaller time intervals especially time intervals which are fraction of a day. From a day onward, the time intervals are practically the same.

1.1.2.1 Mention of Permanu, Anu and Treserenu in Shrimad Bhagwad Puran

The verse 1 of the *Srimad Bhagwad Puran* [5] states that the smallest particle of material substance, which has not yet combined with any other similar particles, is called “*permanu*, परमाणु” (a sub-atomic particle of matter). *Permanu* exists in both the dormant and manifest states of material existence. It is the combination of more than one *permanu* (sub-atomic particle) which gives rise to the illusory concept of a (material) unit. A combination of two *permanu* constitutes an “*anu*, अणु” (atom); and three “*anu*” (atoms) make one “*tresrenu*, त्रसरणु” [6]. *Tresrenu* is visible to the naked eye and can be seen wandering in the air while viewed through rays of sunlight entering a dark room through a latticed window. Perhaps, this was the beginning of concept of defining time intervals in terms of *permanu* and *anu*.

1.1.2.2 Time Intervals as Fraction of a Day

Two sets of time intervals in which day has been divided into 182,250,000 parts [6–8], smallest part being named as *truti* equal to $473 \mu\text{s}$ approximately, are given in Tables 1.1 and 1.2.

Similar to the above table, there is another set of time intervals in which *permanu* and *anu* have been replaced by celestial atoms [8].

1.1.2.3 Time Intervals in Terms of Nimesh

In some scriptures, it is given that 1 निमेष is the time taken to pronounce a letter with one syllable *maatras* मात्रा or time taken for twinkling of eye.

Table 1.1 Smaller time intervals as given in Bhagwat

Name in Roman script		In Hindi	Equivalence in SI
<i>permanu</i>		परमाणु	Sub-atomic particle, indivisible and cannot contain life
2 <i>permanu</i>	1 <i>anu</i>	अणु	Combination of <i>permanu</i> is the smallest particle, which can freely exist
3 <i>anu</i>	1 <i>tresreṇu</i>	असरेणु	A particle of dust; this can be seen coming from a window flying around in sunrays, can contain life and is divisible
3 <i>tresareṇu</i>	<i>truṭi</i>	त्रुटि	Whatever time the Sun takes to cross 3 Tresarenu is Truti, which equals nearly 473 μ s
100 <i>truṭi</i>	<i>vedha</i>	वेघ	47.3 ms
3 <i>vedha</i>	<i>lava</i>	लव	0.14 s
3 <i>lava</i>	<i>nimesh</i>	निमेष	0.43 s
3 <i>nimesh</i>	<i>kṣaṇa</i> or <i>chhun</i>	क्षण	1.28 s
5 <i>kṣaṇa</i> or <i>chhun</i>	<i>kaaṣṭhaa</i>	काषठा	6.4 s
15 <i>kāṣṭhā</i>	<i>laghu</i>	लघू	1.6 min
15 <i>laghu</i>	<i>dand</i> , <i>nadika</i>	दण्ड, नाडिका	24 min
2 <i>dand</i> or <i>nadika</i>	<i>muhoort</i>	महूरत	48 min
6 or 7 <i>nadika</i>	<i>prahar</i>	प्रहर	Variable value depends upon time of the year
30 <i>muhoort</i>	<i>ahorātram</i> (Day)	अहोरातरम	24 h
30 <i>ahorātram</i>	<i>maash</i> (Month)	मास	30 days
2 <i>maash</i>	<i>ritu</i> (Season)	रितु	2 months
3 <i>ritu</i>	<i>ayan</i>	अयन	6 months
2 <i>ayan</i>	<i>samvatsara</i> (year)	समवत्सर	360 days

Note *Depending upon the increase or decrease of the day time, there are 6 or 7 *nadika* in a *prahar*, which is also called as *yam*. *Prahar* is one-fourth of the day or night. The *prahar* is not of a fixed time. It depends upon whether we are talking about it for a day or for a night. In summer daytime, its value will be bigger in comparison to that at night time. The reverse will happen in winter season

**Dividing 86,400 s (the duration of the complete day) by number of partitions made of the day gives the value of the smallest time interval. The value of other time intervals is calculated by multiplying with successive multiplication numbers

Time Interval from Vishnu Puran

There is a set of time intervals given in *Vishnu Puran* [9] and *Harivans Puran* [10]; the day has been divided into 405,000.

Table 1.2 Smaller units of time used in the Vedas

Name in Roman script		In Hindi	Equivalence in SI
Celestial atom अणु		It is the smallest particle, which can freely exist	
6 celestial atoms	<i>tresrenu</i> असरेणु	A particle of dust; this can be seen coming from a window flying around in sunrays, can contain life and is divisible	
3 <i>tresrenu</i>	1 <i>truti</i>	जुटि	473 μ s
100 <i>truti</i>	1 <i>vedha</i>	वेघ	47.3 ms
3 <i>vedha</i>	1 <i>lava</i>	लव	0.14 s
3 <i>lava</i>	1 <i>nimesh</i>	निमेष	0.43 s
3 <i>nimesh</i>	1 <i>kshana</i>	क्षण	1.28 s
5 <i>kshana</i>	1 <i>kaashthaa</i>	काषठा	6.4 s
15 <i>kashtha</i>	1 <i>laghu</i>	लघू	1.6 min
15 <i>laghu</i>	1 <i>nadika</i> or <i>dand</i>	नाडिका दण्ड	24 min
2 <i>dand</i>	1 <i>muhoort</i>	महूरत	48 min
6 or 7 <i>dand</i>	1 <i>yam</i>	यम	Variable
4 <i>yam</i>	1 day or night	दिन य रात	Variable
8 <i>yam</i>	1 day and night	दिन और रात	24 h

Table 1.3 Time intervals in Vishnu Puraan

Name in Roman script		In Hindi	Equivalence in SI
<i>nimesh</i>		निमेष	0.2133 s
15 <i>nimesh</i>	<i>kaashthaa</i>	काषठा	3.2 s
30 <i>kaashthaa</i>	<i>kalaa</i>	कला	1.6 min
30 <i>kalaa</i>	<i>muhoort</i>	महूरत	48 min
30 <i>muhoort</i>	day and night	दिन और रात	24 h
15 days	1 <i>paksh</i>	पक्ष	
2 <i>paksh</i>	1 <i>maash</i>	मास	
2 <i>maash</i>	<i>ritu</i>	रितु	
3 <i>ritu</i>	1 <i>ayan</i>	अयन	
2 <i>ayan</i>	1 year	वर्ष	

Two ayans are, respectively, named as *Uttarayan* उत्तरायन, and *Dakshinayan* दक्षिणायन.

Time Intervals from Bhavishya Puran

Verse 231.15 of *Vishnu Puran* [9] states that for humans, Sun divides time into day and night. The day is for work and night is for sleep. A similar set of time intervals as given in Table 1.3 with two added steps from *kalaa* कला to *chhun* क्षन

Table 1.4 Smaller time intervals given in Bhavishya Puraan

Name in Roman script		Hindi	Equivalence in SI
<i>nimesh</i>		निमेष	0.018 s
15 <i>nimesh</i>	1 <i>kaashthaa</i>	काषठा	0.266 s
30 <i>kaashthaa</i>	1 <i>kalaa</i>	कला	8 s
30 <i>kalaa</i>	1 <i>kshan or chhan</i>	क्षण	4 min
12 <i>kshan or chhan</i>	<i>muhoort</i>	महूरत	48 min
30 <i>muhoort</i>	1 day and night	दिन और रात	24 h
30 day	1 month	मास	
2 months	1 <i>ritu</i>	रितु	
3 seasons	1 <i>ayan</i>	अयन	
2 <i>ayan</i>	1 <i>samvatsar</i>	समवतसर	

Table 1.5 Smaller time interval with an extra step Chhun and muhoort

Name in Roman script		In Hindi	Equivalence in SI
1 <i>nimesh</i>		निमेष	0.018 s
15 <i>nimesh</i>	1 <i>kaashthaa</i>	काषठा	2.7 s
30 <i>kaashthaa</i>	1 <i>kalaa</i>	कला	8 s
30 <i>kalaa</i>	1 <i>chhun</i>	क्षण	4 min
6 <i>chhun</i>	1 <i>ghadi</i>	घड़ि	24 min
2 <i>ghadi</i>	1 <i>muhoort</i>	महूरत	48 min
30 <i>muhoort</i>	1 day	दिन	24 h
30 days	1 month	मास	
15 days	1 <i>paksh</i>	पक्ष	
2 <i>paksh</i>	1 month	मास	
2 months	1 season	रितु	
3 seasons	1 <i>ayan</i>	अयन	
2 <i>ayan</i>	1 year, Samvatsar	समवतसर	

and *chun* to *muhoort* महूरत are given in *Bhavishya Puraan* [11]. These are given in Table 1.4 (4,860,000 parts in day).

A similar table with an extra step from *kala* कला to *chhunn* क्षन, *chhun* क्षन to *ghadi* घड़ि and *ghadi* to *muhoort* महूरत [10] is given Table 1.5. A day is 4 860 000 parts.

1.1.2.4 Smaller Time Intervals in Steps of 60

Time Intervals Given in Steps of 60

Shushma [12] gave a set of time intervals in steps of 60. These are given in Table 1.6. Here we see that smallest time interval is *tatpar* तत्पर. It is 777 600 000th part of the day i.e. 0.111 ms.

Table 1.6 Smaller time intervals in terms of tatpar

Name in Roman script		In Hindi	Equivalence in SI
<i>tatpar</i>		त्तपर	0.111 ms
60 <i>tatpar</i>	1 <i>paraa</i>	परा	6.667 ms
60 <i>paraa</i>	1 <i>vilipt</i>	विलिपत	0.4 s
60 <i>vilipt</i>	1 <i>lipt</i>	लिपत	24 s
60 <i>lipt</i>	1 <i>ghatika</i> or <i>dand</i>	घटिका	1440 s
60 <i>ghatika</i>	1 day and night	दिन और रात	86,400 s

Table 1.7 Smaller time intervals from Surya Siddhant

Name in Roman script		Hindi	Equivalence in SI
<i>pran</i>		प्राण	4 s
6 <i>pran</i>	1 <i>pal</i>	पल	24 s
60 <i>pal</i>	1 <i>ghatika</i>	घटिका	24 min
60 <i>ghatika</i>	1 <i>nakshatra</i> sidereal day	नक्षत्र आहोरात्रम	24 h
30 <i>nakshatra</i>	1 <i>maash</i>	मास	30 days

A set of smaller time intervals is given by Sushma Gupta [12]. In which the complete day has been divided into 291,600,000 parts in six unequal steps, the smallest of the time interval is *truti* which is approximately 0.0296 ms.

Yet, another set of smaller time intervals is given by the same author [12], in which the day is divided into 725,920,000 parts, smallest time interval named as *truti* which is equivalent to 0.0033333 s (Table 1.7).

Time Intervals from Surya Siddhant

A set of smaller time intervals is given in *Surya Siddhant* [13] and reproduced in Table 1.7. It may be seen that steps are in terms of 60 or its sub-multiple. Smallest time interval is 4 s, which is suitable for day-to-day use.

Time Intervals with Multiple Names

In the following Table 1.8, it may be seen that different names have been assigned to the same time interval. Source is Hindu units of time from Wikipedia [14].

Time Interval in Steps of 30

A set of time intervals in steps of 30 except the first step for *truti* [14] is given in Table 1.9. Here, a complete day is divided into 2,430,000,000 parts.

Table 1.8 Smaller time intervals with multiple names

Name in Roman script		Hindi	Equivalence in SI
<i>truti</i>		जुटि	0.031 μ s
60 <i>truti</i>	<i>renu</i>	रेणु	1.86 μ s
60 <i>renu</i>	<i>lava</i>	लव	0.11 ms
60 <i>lava</i>	<i>likṣaka</i>	लिकषक	6.696 ms
60 <i>likshaka</i>	<i>lipta</i>	लिपत	0.401 s
	<i>vipala</i>	विपल	
60 <i>lipta</i>	<i>pal</i>	पल	24.1056 s
	<i>vighaṭi</i>	विघटि	
	<i>vinaadī</i>	विनाडि	
60 <i>vighati</i>	<i>ghaṭi</i>	घटि	24 min
	<i>naadī</i>	नाडि	
	<i>dand</i>	दँड	
2 <i>ghati</i>	<i>muhoort</i>	महूरत	48 min
60 <i>ghati</i>	<i>nakṣatra</i>	नक्षत्र	24 h
30 <i>muhoort</i>	<i>ahorātram</i>	आहौरात्रम	24 h

Table 1.9 Time intervals in steps of 30

Name in Roman script		In Hindi	Equivalence SI
<i>truti</i>		जुटि	35.5 μ s
100 <i>truti</i>	<i>tatpara</i>	तत्पर	3.55 ms
30 <i>tatpara</i>	<i>nimesh</i>	निमेष	106.7 ms
30 <i>nimesh</i>	<i>kaasṭhaa</i>	काषठा	3.2 s
30 <i>kaasṭhaa</i>	<i>kalaa</i>	कला	1.6 min
30 <i>kala</i>	<i>muhoort</i>	महूरत	48 min
30 <i>muhoort</i>	<i>nakṣatra, ahorātram</i>	नक्षत्र आहौरात्रम	24 h

Ahorātram आहौरात्रम is the sidereal day

Table 1.10 Smaller range of Time intervals

Name in Roman script		In Hindi	Equivalence in SI
1 <i>vipal</i>		विपल	0.4 s
60 <i>vipal</i>	1 <i>pal</i>	पल	24 s
2 <i>pal</i>	1 <i>kalaa</i>	कला	48 s
30 <i>kalaa</i>	1 <i>ghati</i>	घटि	24 min
2.5 <i>ghati</i>	1 <i>hora</i>	हौरा	1 h

Another set of time intervals given in [15] with fewer steps is cited in Table 1.10. In this set, the day has been divided into 9000 parts, smallest time interval is vital equivalent to 0.4 s.

1.1.3 Sidereal Metrics

Time measurement in ancient India under the heading sidereal metrics [16] is given in Table 1.11. The sidereal day is the duration between two consecutive sunrises. In this case, one complete day has been divided into 21,600 parts.

1.1.4 Time Intervals in Chanakiya Arthsashtra

The time intervals as given by Chanakiya [17] are tabulated in Table 1.12. Here, a day is 1,440,000 parts.

Table 1.11 Sidereal metrics

Name in Roman script		In Hindi	Equivalence in SI
<i>permanu</i>		परमाणू	4 s
6 <i>permanu</i>	<i>vighati</i>	वघटि	24 s
60 <i>vighati</i>	<i>Gadhuya</i>	घडि	1440
2 <i>gadhuya</i>	<i>muhoort</i>	महूरत	2880 s
30 <i>muhoort</i>	<i>nakshatra ahoratram</i>	नक्षत्र आहौरात्रम	86,400 s

Table 1.12 Time intervals

Name of the units		SI equivalent	By Patrick
<i>tuta</i>		0.06 s	0.053 s
2 <i>tuta</i>	1 <i>lava</i>	0.12 s	0.107 s
2 <i>lava</i>	1 <i>nimesa</i>	0.24 s	0.2133 s
5 <i>nimesa</i>	1 <i>kasta</i>	1.2 s	3.2 s
30 <i>kasta</i>	1 <i>kala</i>	36 s	36 s
40 <i>kala</i>	1 <i>nalika</i>	24 min	24 min
2 <i>nalika</i>	1 <i>muhurta</i>	48 min	48 min
15 <i>Muhurta</i>	1 day or 1 night of the month of <i>Chaitra</i> or <i>Asvayuja</i>	12 h	12 h
30 <i>muhurta</i>	One day and night	24 h 86,400 s	24 h
15 complete days	1 fortnight	15 × 24 h	360 h
2 fortnights	1 month	30 × 24 h	720 h
2 months	1 season	60 × 24 h	1440 h
3 seasons	1 <i>ayan</i>	180 × 24 h	4320 h
2 <i>ayan</i>	1 year	360 × 24 h	8664 h
5 year	1 <i>yug</i>		5 years