

Scale reading
uncertainty

Random
uncertainty

1

2

Systematic
uncertainty

Absolute
uncertainty

3

4

Percentage
Uncertainty

Uncertainty in a
final answer.

5

6

Prefixes

Prefixes

pico (p)

nano (n)

7

8

Prefixes

Prefixes

micro (μ)

milli (m)

9

10

The uncertainty that occurs due to variations in repeated measurements.

$$\text{random uncertainty} = \frac{\text{max. value} - \text{min. value}}{\text{number of values}}$$

Uncertainty in a measurement due to the scale used.
= ± 1 of smallest division for digital scales.
= $\pm 1/2$ of smallest division for analogue scales.

An uncertainty given with the appropriate unit.

E.g. $6.5 \text{ V} \pm 0.1 \text{ V}$

$$(6.5 \pm 0.1) \text{ V}$$

When readings taken are all too large or too small. This can be caused by measurement techniques or experiment design

The largest percentage uncertainty of all the individual uncertainties.

An uncertainty given as a percentage.

E.g. $6.5 \text{ V} \pm 1.5 \%$

$$1 \times 10^{-9}$$

$$1 \times 10^{-12}$$

$$1 \times 10^{-3}$$

$$1 \times 10^{-6}$$

Prefixes

kilo (k)

11

Prefixes

mega (M)

12

Prefixes

giga (G)

13

Prefixes

tera (T)

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

1×10^6

1×10^3

1×10^{12}

1×10^9