

## measurement

A description of a property of a system by means of a set of specified rules, that maps the property onto a scale of specified values, by direct or 'mathematical' comparison with specified reference(s). The demand for rules makes 'measurement' a scientific concept in contrast to the mere colloquial sense of 'description'. However, in the present definition, 'measurement' has a wider meaning than given in elementary physics. Even a very incomplete description of, for instance, a patient (at a stated time) has to be given by a set of measurements, that are easier to manage and grasp.

**Source:**

PAC, 1995, 67, 1563 (*Properties and units in the clinical laboratory sciences-I. Syntax and semantic rules (IUPAC-IFCC Recommendations 1995)*) on page 1565